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Search for associated production of a Higgs boson with a single top quark at $\sqrt{\mathbb{N}} = 13$ TeV with the ATLAS detector

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An analysis is presented concerning the search for the associated production of a Higgs boson with a single top quark (tH), a process highly sensitive to the complex phase of the top-quark Yukawa coupling. The analysis uses the full 140 fb⁻¹ of ATLAS data at $\sqrt{\mathbb{N}}=13$ TeV, targeting H \rightarrow bb, WW, ZZ, $\tau\tau$ decays. Advanced multivariate analysis techniques were employed to achieve optimal sensitivity and to separate the tiny tH signal from the large background. The measured signal strength is $\mathbb{N}_{\infty} = 8.1 \pm 2.6$ (stat.) ± 2.0 (syst.). The observed (expected) significance of the tH signal over the background-only hypothesis is 2.8σ (0.4 σ). The observed (expected) upper limit on the tH production cross-section is 13.9 (6.1) times the SM prediction at the 95% confidence level. Interpretations for both Standard Model and inverted top-quark Yukawa coupling scenarios also are presented.

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