

Searches of Lepton-Flavour-Violating Decays of the Higgs Boson with the ATLAS Detector at the HL-LHC

based on [ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054](#)

New Frontiers in Lepton Flavour, Pisa 2023

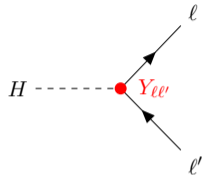
Naman Kumar Bhalla
on behalf of the ATLAS Collaboration

Physikalisches Institut, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Monday 15th May, 2023



- ▶ Lepton flavour \rightarrow accidental symmetry of the SM ($Y_{\ell\ell'} \propto \delta_{\ell\ell'}$)
- ▶ Violation observed in nature \rightarrow neutrino oscillations
 - \Rightarrow Motivates searches for LFV involving charged leptons (cLFV)
- ▶ LFV decays of the Higgs boson predicted by various extensions of the SM
- ▶ Search for independent signals:
 - $H \rightarrow e\tau$
 - $H \rightarrow \mu\tau$
 - \Rightarrow Limits on $H \rightarrow e\mu$ already too strong
- ▶ Obtain expected sensitivities at HL-LHC
 - Extrapolated from Run 2* [arXiv:2302.05225](https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.05225)
- ▶ Two channels: $H \rightarrow \ell\tau_{\text{had}}$ and $H \rightarrow \ell\tau_{\ell'}$
- ▶ Two methods for background estimation:
 - MC-template method
 - Symmetry method

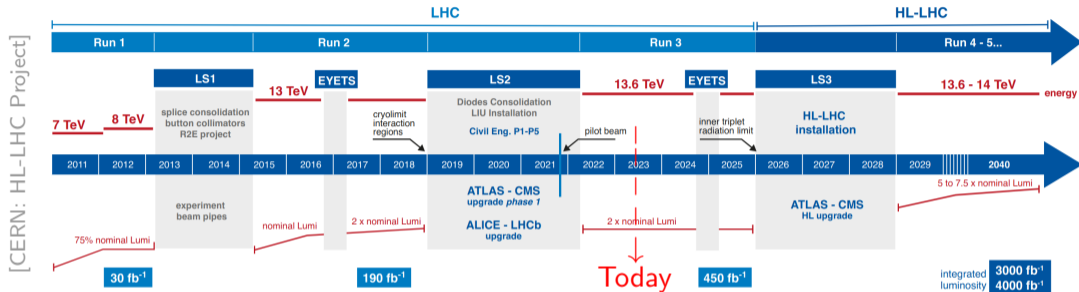


Most stringent limits on $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \ell\ell')$

Decay	95% C.L. upper limit	
$H \rightarrow e\mu$	0.0044 %	[CMS-PAS-HIG-22-002]
$H \rightarrow e\tau$	0.20 %	[arXiv:2302.05225]
$H \rightarrow \mu\tau$	0.15 %	[Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 032013]

*See [Antonio's talk](#) for details on Run 2 analysis

High Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC)



- ▶ Upgrade the LHC for 5 to 7.5 times nominal instantaneous luminosity
- ▶ Integrated luminosity ≈ 20 times higher than Run 2
- ▶ Allows more accurate measurements of new particles and observations of rarer processes
- ▶ Upgrade detectors to cope with high collision and pileup rates
- ▶ Physics runs scheduled to start in 2029 with higher beam energy

- ▶ Scale Run 2 measurement inputs
 - ⇒ Inputs for HL-LHC fits
- ▶ Correct for following effects:
 - Larger integrated luminosity
 - Higher center-of-mass energy
 - Reduced uncertainties:
 - ⇒ Higher statistical precision
 - ⇒ Upgrades of the detector
 - ⇒ More precise theory calculations

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Integrated Luminosity

$$SF_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}} = \frac{\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}(\text{HL-LHC})}{\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}(\text{Run 2})} = \frac{3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}}{138.4 \text{ fb}^{-1}} = 21.68$$

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Center-of-Mass Energy

$$SF_{\sqrt{s}} = \frac{\sigma(14 \text{ TeV})}{\sigma(13 \text{ TeV})} \in [1.10, 1.21]$$

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Uncertainties

- ▶ Stat. unc. on data-driven prediction
$$SF_{\text{StatUnc}}^{\text{DataDriven}} = 1/\sqrt{SF_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}}} = 0.21$$
- ▶ Stat. unc. on MC prediction (two cases)
$$SF_{\text{StatUnc}}^{\text{MC, Nom.}} = 0, \quad SF_{\text{StatUnc}}^{\text{MC, Alt.}} = 0.21$$
- ▶ Scale systematics for predicted detector upgrades and theory precision (SF_{Syst})

- ▶ Experimental uncertainties affected by
 - Harsher experimental conditions
 - Upgrades in detector
 - Better object reconstruction
 ⇒ Expect E_T^{miss} and flavour tagging unc. to improve
- ▶ Stat.-related unc. on $\tau_{\text{had-vis}}$
 ⇒ Expected to be negligible
- ▶ Stat.-related unc. on data-driven estimates
 ⇒ Scaled by $SF_{\text{StatUnc}}^{\text{DataDriven}} = 0.21$
- ▶ Higher precision in theory calculations predicted[†]
- ▶ Assume 1.0% uncertainty on luminosity
 ⇒ 1.7% in the Run 2 analysis

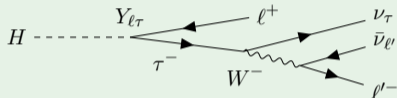
Uncertainties	SF _{Syst}
E_T^{miss}	0.50
Flavour tagging c - and b -jets	0.50
Jet, others	1.00
Electron and muon	1.00
$\tau_{\text{had-vis}}$ ID, stat.-related	0.00
$\tau_{\text{had-vis}}$, others	1.00
Data-driven estimates, stat.-related	0.21
Data-driven estimates, others	1.00
Bkg. modelling, PDF	0.40
Sig. modelling, PDF	[0.41, 0.46]
Modelling, others	0.50
Luminosity	0.59

Abstracted from [ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]

[†][Eur. Phys. J. C 78 (2018) 962]

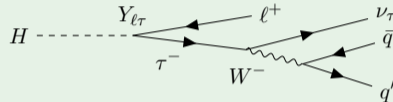
$H \rightarrow \ell\tau_{\ell'}$ Channel

$$H \rightarrow \ell\tau \rightarrow \ell\ell'2\nu \quad \ell, \ell' \in e, \mu$$



$H \rightarrow \ell\tau_{\text{had}}$ Channel

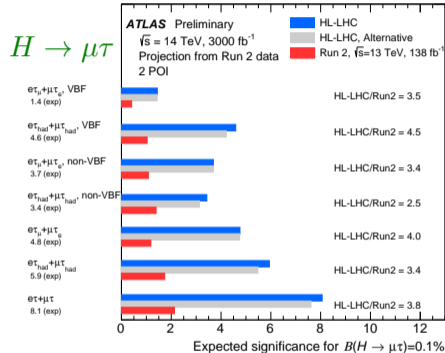
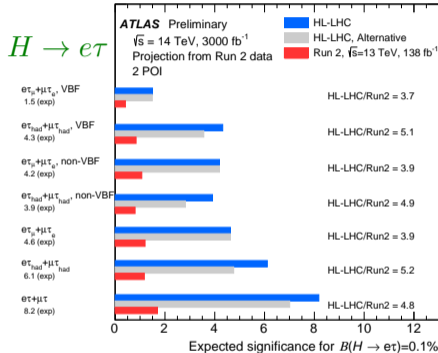
$$H \rightarrow \ell\tau \rightarrow \ell\nu + \text{hadrons} \quad \ell \in e, \mu$$



- ▶ Most backgrounds estimated via MC templates
- ▶ 4 regions per search: $(\tau_{\ell'}, \tau_{\text{had}}) \times (\text{VBF, non-VBF})$
- ▶ Final discriminant: Boosted Decision Tree score
- ▶ Perform profile likelihood fits with scaled inputs
 - ⇒ Simultaneously for 2 POI: $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow e\tau)$ and $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \mu\tau)$
 - ⇒ Using Asimov data set = \sum weighted backgrounds
- ▶ Obtain expected significances for $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \ell\tau) = 0.1\%$ at HL-LHC

- ▶ Compare sensitivity for $H \rightarrow e\tau$ and $H \rightarrow \mu\tau$ signal at HL-LHC

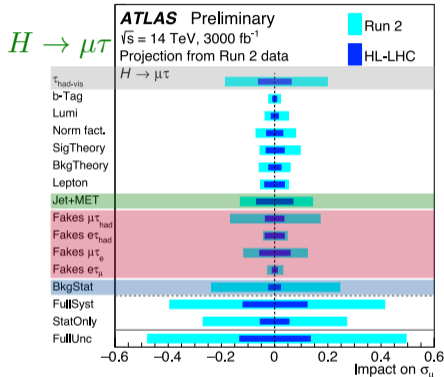
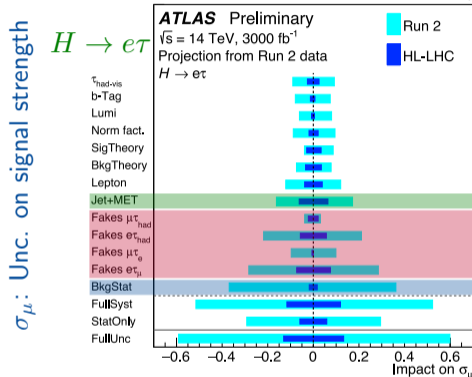
Significance for $\mathcal{B} = 0.1\%$



[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]

- ▶ Expected significance $> 8\sigma$ at HL-LHC for $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \ell\tau) = 0.1\%$
 - VBF category of $\ell\tau_{had}$ most sensitive with largest improvements
 - VBF (non-VBF) category dominant in $\ell\tau_{had}$ ($\ell\tau_{\ell}$) channel
- ▶ Alternative case with $SF_{StatUnc}^{MC, Alt.} = 0.21$ worse by 15% (5%) for $H \rightarrow e\tau$ ($H \rightarrow \mu\tau$)

- ▶ Compare impact of uncertainties on σ_μ between Run 2 and HL-LHC scenarios

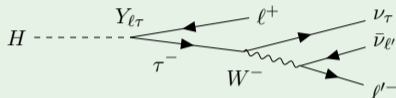


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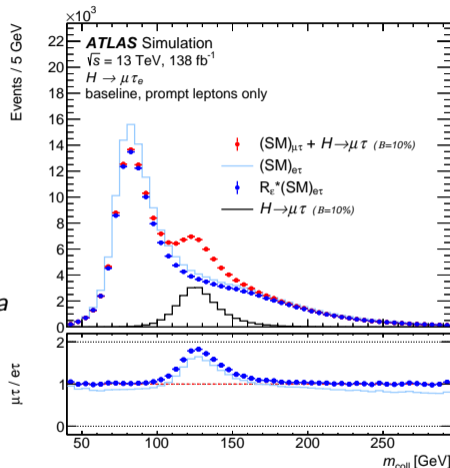
- ▶ Dominated by systematic uncertainties in both scenarios
 - Leading contributors at HL-LHC: $Jet + E_T^{\text{miss}}$ and $Fakes$ uncertainties
 - Significant contributions from uncertainties on $\tau_{\text{had-vis}}$ in $H \rightarrow \mu\tau$
- ▶ Stat. unc. on background prediction ($BkgStat$) strongly reduced at HL-LHC

$H \rightarrow \ell\tau\ell'$ Channel

$$H \rightarrow \ell\tau \rightarrow \ell\ell'2\nu \quad \ell, \ell' \in e, \mu$$

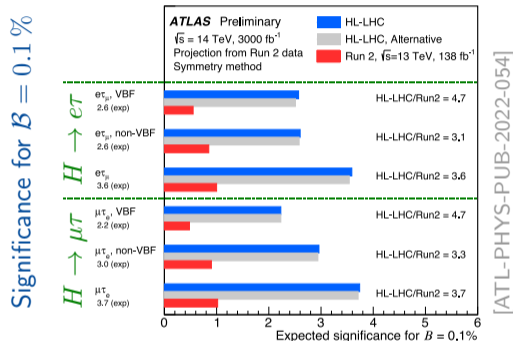


- ▶ Data-driven approach for most backgrounds
 $\Rightarrow e\tau\mu$ acts as background for $\mu\tau e$ and vice-versa
- ▶ Currently only includes $\ell\tau\ell'$ channel
- ▶ 2 regions per search: VBF and non-VBF
- ▶ Final discriminant: Neural Network score
- ▶ Directly sensitive to $\Delta\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \ell\tau\ell')$
 $\Rightarrow H \rightarrow e\tau$ and $H \rightarrow \mu\tau$ anti-correlated \Rightarrow Perform 1 POI fits assuming other $\mathcal{B} = 0$
- ▶ Obtain expected significances for $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \ell\tau) = 0.1\%$ from profile likelihood fits



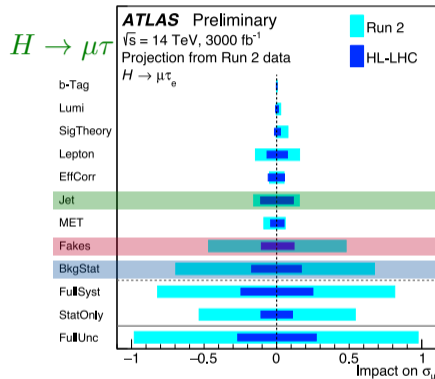
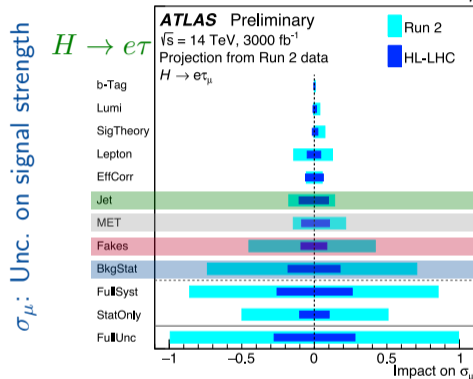
[arXiv:2302.05225] (Auxiliary Material)

- ▶ Compare sensitivity for $H \rightarrow e\tau$ and $H \rightarrow \mu\tau$ signal at HL-LHC



- ▶ Expected significance $> 3.5\sigma$ at HL-LHC for $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \ell\tau) = 0.1\%$
 - Largest improvements in VBF category \rightarrow statistically limited in Run 2
 - Both categories competitive for $e\tau_\mu$, but non-VBF better for $\mu\tau_e$
- ▶ Alternative case with $SF_{\text{StatUnc}}^{\text{MC, Alt.}} = 0.21$ worse by only 1.5% for both signals

- ▶ Compare impact of uncertainties on σ_μ between Run 2 and HL-LHC scenarios



[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]

- ▶ Dominated by systematic uncertainties in both scenarios

- Leading contributor: Stat. unc. on background prediction (*BkgStat*)

⇒ Data-driven method → indirectly dominated by statistical uncertainties in data

- ▶ Other significant contributors: E_T^{miss} (only in $H \rightarrow e\tau$), *Fakes* and *Jet* uncertainties

- ▶ Compare sensitivities of the two background estimation methods
 - ⇒ Performed in $H \rightarrow \ell\tau_{\ell'}$ channel only

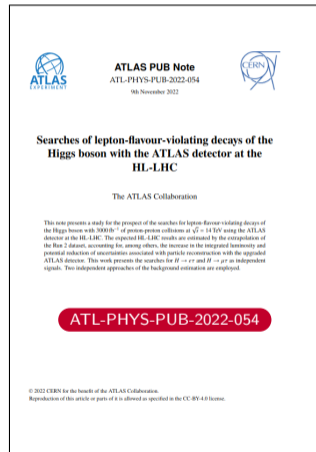
Significance for $\mathcal{B} = 0.1\%$

Case		Symmetry method				MC-template method			
		$e\tau_{\mu}$		$\mu\tau_e$		$e\tau_{\mu}$		$\mu\tau_e$	
		Value	Ratio	Value	Ratio	Value	Ratio	Value	Ratio
Run 2	VBF	0.55		0.48		0.41		0.41	
	Non-VBF	0.85		0.90		1.07		1.08	
	Combined	1.00		1.02		1.20		1.18	
HL-LHC	VBF	2.57	4.67	2.23	4.65	1.50	3.66	1.44	3.51
	Non-VBF	2.60	3.06	2.96	3.29	4.19	3.92	3.69	3.42
	Combined	3.59	3.59	3.74	3.67	4.63	3.86	4.76	4.03

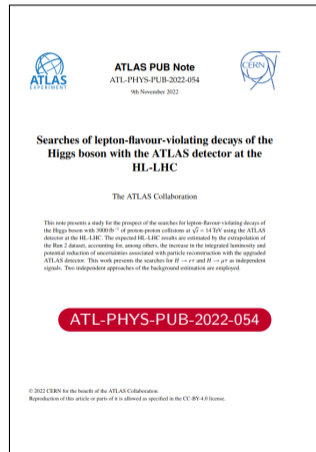
[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]

- ▶ Even at HL-LHC MC-template (Symmetry) method dominated by systematic (stat.) unc.
- ▶ With the current extrapolation
 - MC-template method shows slight advantage with both regions **combined**
 - ⇒ Sensitivity driven by the **non-VBF region** in $\ell\tau_{\ell'}$ channel
 - Symmetry method expected to perform better in the **VBF region**
- ▶ In reality it will depend on how systematic and statistical uncertainties evolve

- ▶ Study sensitivity for LFV decays of Higgs boson at HL-LHC
 - Extrapolated from Run 2 measurements [arXiv:2302.05225](https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.05225)
- ▶ Two independent methods for background estimation
 - MC-template method: Both $\ell\tau_{\text{had}}$ and $\ell\tau_{\ell'}$ channels
 - ⇒ Expected $Z > 8\sigma$ at HL-LHC for $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \ell\tau) = 0.1\%$
 - ⇒ Dominated by systematic uncertainties
 - Symmetry method: Only $\ell\tau_{\ell'}$ channel (for now)
 - ⇒ Expected $Z > 3.5\sigma$ at HL-LHC for $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \ell\tau) = 0.1\%$
 - ⇒ Indirectly dominated by statistical uncertainties
- Would have to see how different uncertainties evolve
- ▶ Improvements in methods could further augment sensitivities



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Thank You!!

Backup

Selection	$\ell\tau_{\ell'}$	$\ell\tau_{\text{had}}$
	exactly 1e and 1 μ , OS τ_{had} -veto	exactly 1 ℓ and 1 $\tau_{\text{had-vis}}$, OS τ_{had} Tight ID
<i>Baseline</i>	<i>b</i> -veto $p_{\text{T}}^{\ell_1} > 45$ (35) GeV MC-template (Symmetry method) $p_{\text{T}}^{\ell_2} > 15$ GeV $30 \text{ GeV} < m_{\ell_1\ell_2} < 150 \text{ GeV}$ $0.2 < p_{\text{T}}^{\text{track}}(\ell_2 = e)/p_{\text{T}}^{\text{cluster}}(\ell_2 = e) < 1.25$ (MC-template) track d_0 significance requirement (see text) $ z_0 \sin \theta < 0.5 \text{ mm}$	Medium eBDT ($e\tau_{\text{had}}$) <i>b</i> -veto $p_{\text{T}}^{\ell} > 27.3 \text{ GeV}$ $p_{\text{T}}^{\tau_{\text{had-vis}}} > 25 \text{ GeV}$, $ \eta^{\tau_{\text{had-vis}}} < 2.4$ $\sum_{i=\ell, \tau_{\text{had-vis}}} \cos \Delta\phi(i, E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}) > -0.35$ $ \Delta\eta(\ell, \tau_{\text{had-vis}}) < 2$
	<i>Baseline</i>	
<i>VBF</i>	≥ 2 jets, $p_{\text{T}}^{j_1} > 40 \text{ GeV}$, $p_{\text{T}}^{j_2} > 30 \text{ GeV}$ $ \Delta\eta_{jj} > 3$, $m_{jj} > 400 \text{ GeV}$	
<i>non-VBF</i>	<i>Baseline</i> plus fail <i>VBF</i> categorisation – – veto events if $90 < m_{\text{vis}}(e, \tau_{\text{had-vis}}) < 100 \text{ GeV}$	

[arXiv:2302.05225]

Sample	Scale factor for \sqrt{s} change	MC template method	Symmetry method
ggF H	1.12	✓	✓
VBF H	1.13	✓	✓
VH	1.10	✓	✓
ttH	1.21	✓	-
Z+jets	1.10	✓	-
Diboson	1.10	✓	-
Top-quark	1.16	✓	-
W+jets	1.10	✓	-
Fake bkg.	1.10	✓	✓
Symm bkg.	1.12	-	✓

[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]

Scale Factors for Systematic Uncertainties

Uncertainties	Extrapolation SF	MC template method	Symmetry method
$\tau_{\text{had-vis}}$ ID, stat.-related	0.00	✓	-
$\tau_{\text{had-vis}}$, others	1.00	✓	-
Electron and muon	1.00	✓	✓
Flavour tagging c - and b -jets	0.50	✓	✓
Jet, others	1.00	✓	✓
E_T^{miss}	0.50	✓	✓
Fake bkg., stat.-related	0.21	✓	✓
Fake bkg., others	1.00	✓	✓
Lepton eff. corr., stat.-related	0.21	-	✓
Lepton eff. corr., others	1.00	-	✓
Z bkg. modelling, PDF	0.40	✓	-
Z bkg. modelling, others	0.50	✓	-
Top-quark bkg. modelling, PDF	0.40	✓	-
Top-quark bkg. modelling, others	0.50	✓	-
Higgs modelling, PDF, ggF	0.41	✓	✓
Higgs modelling, PDF, VBF H	0.46	✓	✓
Higgs modelling, PDF, VH	0.46	✓	✓
Higgs modelling, others	0.50	✓	✓
Luminosity	0.59	✓	✓

[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]

► Significance (Z) for $\mathcal{B} = 0.1\%$:

- Test statistic for quantifying significance:

$$t_0 = \begin{cases} -2 \ln \lambda(\mu = 0), & \hat{\mu} \geq 0 \\ 0, & \hat{\mu} < 0 \end{cases}, \quad p_0 = \int_{t_0^{\text{obs}}}^{\infty} f(t_0 | \mu = 0) dt_0$$

- Z is # of std. dev. after which one-sided gauss $\text{AUC} = p_0$
- Claim evidence at $\geq 3\sigma$, discovery at $\geq 5\sigma$

► 95% CL upper limits (μ_{95}) on $\mathcal{B}[\%]$:

- Test statistic for setting upper limits:

$$t_\mu = \begin{cases} -2 \ln \lambda(\mu), & \mu \geq \hat{\mu} \\ 0, & \mu < \hat{\mu} \end{cases}, \quad p_\mu = \frac{\int_{t_\mu^{\text{obs}}}^{\infty} f(t_\mu | \mu) dt_\mu}{\int_0^{t_0^{\text{obs}}} f(t_0 | \mu = 0) dt_0}$$

- μ_{95} is the smallest μ value with $p_\mu \leq 0.05$

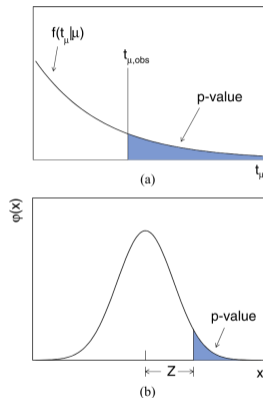
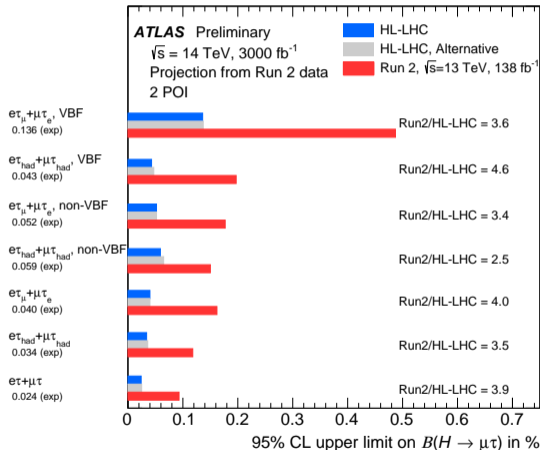
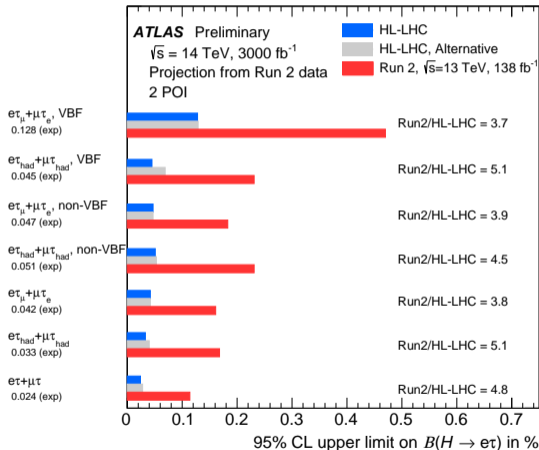


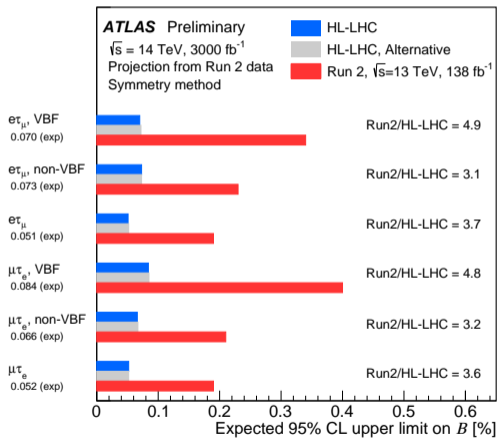
Fig. 1 (a) Illustration of the relation between the p -value obtained from an observed value of the test statistic t_μ . (b) The standard normal distribution $\varphi(x) = (1/\sqrt{2\pi}) \exp(-x^2/2)$ showing the relation between the significance Z and the p -value

$\lambda(\mu)$: Profile likelihood ratio for signal strength μ

MC-Template Method Sensitivity



[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]



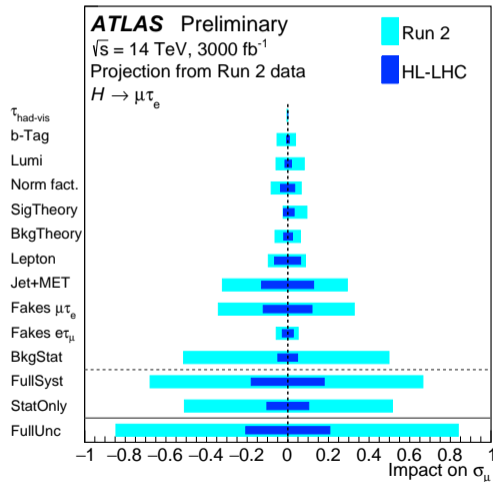
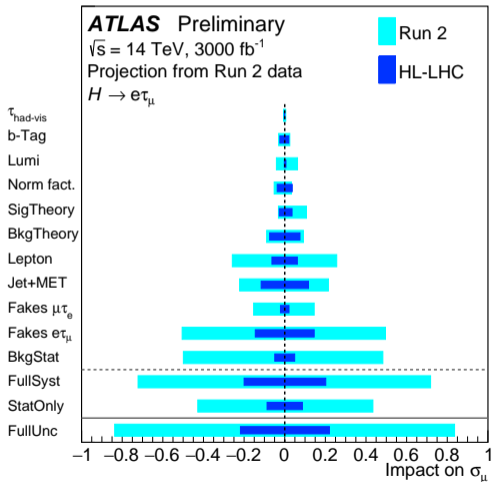
[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]

Sensitivity Comparison of Methods ($H \rightarrow \ell\tau\ell$)

Case		Symmetry method				MC-template method			
		$e\tau_\mu$		$\mu\tau_e$		$e\tau_\mu$		$\mu\tau_e$	
		Value [%]	Ratio	Value [%]	Ratio	Value [%]	Ratio	Value [%]	Ratio
Run 2	VBF	$0.34^{+0.14}_{-0.10}$		$0.40^{+0.16}_{-0.11}$		$0.47^{+0.19}_{-0.13}$		$0.49^{+0.20}_{-0.14}$	
	Non-VBF	$0.230^{+0.092}_{-0.064}$		$0.214^{+0.084}_{-0.060}$		$0.183^{+0.073}_{-0.051}$		$0.177^{+0.068}_{-0.050}$	
	Combined	$0.190^{+0.075}_{-0.053}$		$0.188^{+0.074}_{-0.053}$		$0.161^{+0.063}_{-0.045}$		$0.162^{+0.063}_{-0.045}$	
HL-LHC	VBF	$0.070^{+0.028}_{-0.020}$	4.83	$0.084^{+0.034}_{-0.024}$	4.79	$0.128^{+0.050}_{-0.036}$	3.67	$0.136^{+0.054}_{-0.038}$	3.60
	Non-VBF	$0.073^{+0.028}_{-0.020}$	3.16	$0.066^{+0.026}_{-0.019}$	3.22	$0.047^{+0.018}_{-0.013}$	3.91	$0.052^{+0.020}_{-0.014}$	3.43
	Combined	$0.051^{+0.020}_{-0.014}$	3.70	$0.052^{+0.020}_{-0.014}$	3.65	$0.042^{+0.016}_{-0.012}$	3.86	$0.040^{+0.016}_{-0.011}$	4.03

[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]

Impact of Uncertainties with MC-Template Method ($\ell\tau\nu$)



[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-054]