Prospects for exotic light scalar measurements at the e^+e^- Higgs factory

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Second ECFA Workshop on e^+e^- Higgs/EW/Top Factories

WG1-SRCH - Physics Potential:
Feebly interacting particles, direct low mass searches
October 11, 2023

Prospects for exotic light scalar measurements...

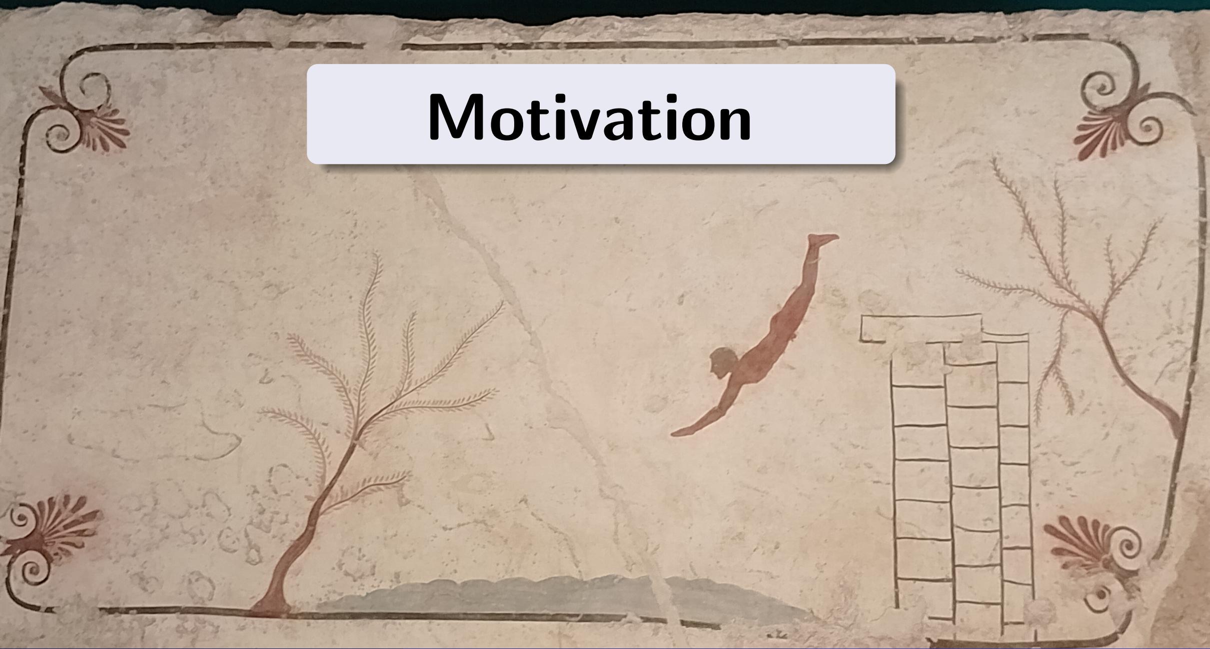
Outline:

1. Motivation
2. Analysis
3. Results
4. Conclusions

Work carried out in the framework of the ILD concept group

All presented results are "work in progress"...

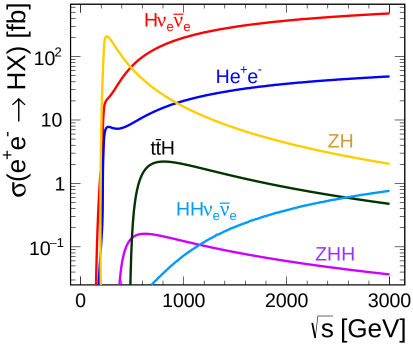
Motivation



Motivation

e^+e^- Higgs factory

Precision Higgs measurements are clearly the primary target for future Higgs factory.



In the ZH production channel (dominant below 450 GeV) we can use "Z-tagging" for unbiased selection of events.

New channels open at higher energies allowing for direct access to top Yukawa coupling and Higgs self-coupling.

Precision Higgs boson, top quark and electroweak measurements will result in indirect constraints on BSM or possible hints...

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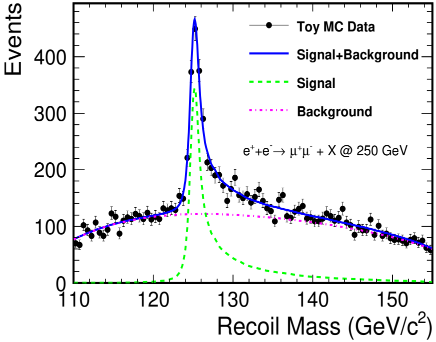
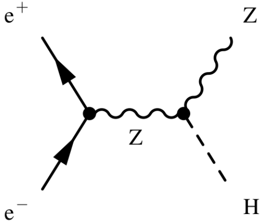


At 250 GeV we will focus on H_{125} production



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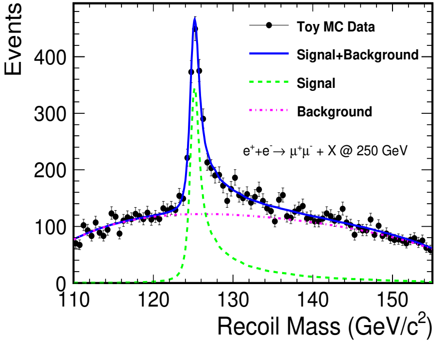

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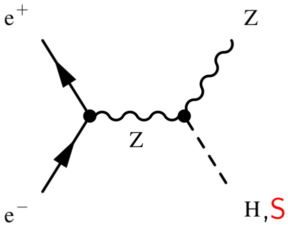
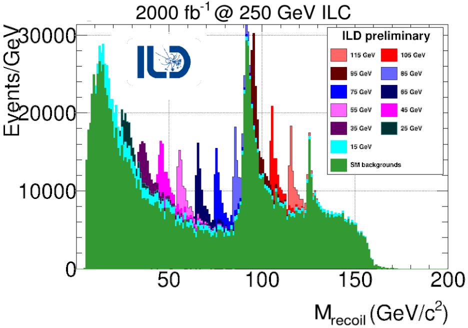


But production of additional, light exotic scalar states is still not excluded by the existing data!

Previous studies

Prospects for their observation only partially explored so far...

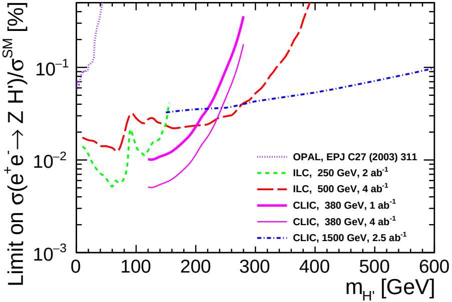
ILD study arXiv:1903.01629 arXiv:2005.06265



Search independent on the scalar decay:

$$e^+e^- \to Z\ S^0 \to \mu^+\mu^- + X$$

Expected sensitivities of ILC and CLIC



CLIC search assuming invisible decays

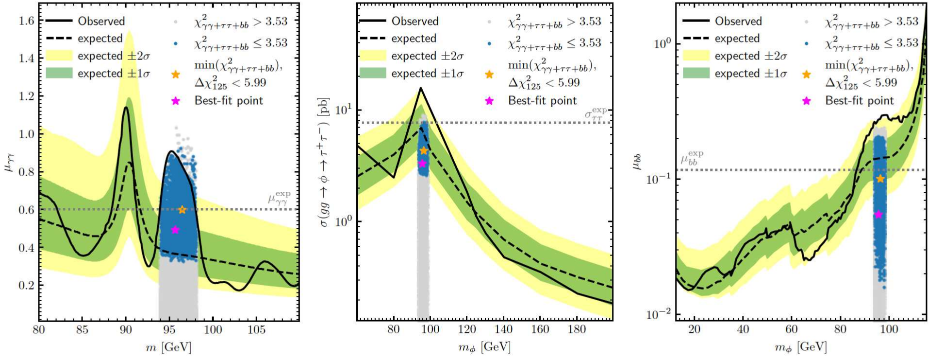
arXiv:2002.06034 arXiv:2107.13903

Experimental hints...

T. Biekötter, S.Heinemeyer, G. Weiglein arXiv:2203.13180

Some discrepancies point to new scalar with mass of ∼95 GeV and dominant decay to $\tau\tau$...

$pp \to h_{95} \to \gamma\gamma$ $\quad$ $gg \to h_{95} \to \tau^+\tau^-$ $\quad$ $e^+e^- \to Zh_{95} \to Zb\bar{b}$



Sven Heinemeyer @ First ECFA WS on e^+e^- Higgs/EW/top factories, October 2022

N2HDM scenario arXiv:2203.13180

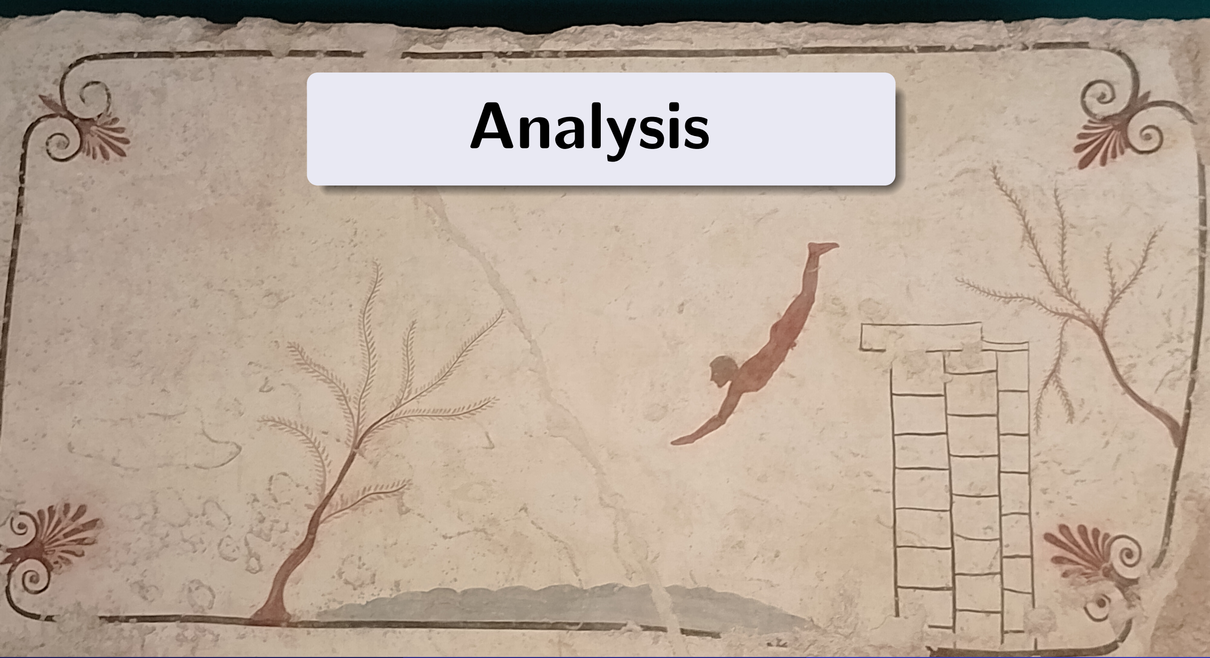
Parameters of the best-fit point (minimal value of χ^2)

m_{h_1}	m_{h_2}	m_{h_3}	m_A	$m_{H^\pm}$		
95.68	125.09	713.24	811.20	677.38		
$\tan\beta$	α_1	α_2	α_3	m_{12}	v_S	
10.26	1.57	1.22	1.49	221.12	1333.47	
$\mathrm{BR}_{h_1}^{bb}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_1}^{gg}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_1}^{cc}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_1}^{\tau\tau}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_1}^{\gamma\gamma}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_1}^{WW}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_1}^{ZZ}$
$\Rightarrow$ 0.005	0.348	0.198	$\Rightarrow$ 0.412	$6.630 \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.025	$3.382 \cdot 10^{-3}$
$\mathrm{BR}_{h_2}^{bb}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_2}^{gg}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_2}^{cc}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_2}^{\tau\tau}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_2}^{\gamma\gamma}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_2}^{WW}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_2}^{ZZ}$
0.553	0.085	0.032	0.069	$2.537 \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.228	0.028
$\mathrm{BR}_{h_3}^{tt}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_3}^{bb}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_3}^{\tau\tau}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_3}^{h_1h_1}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_3}^{h_1h_2}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_3}^{h_2h_2}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{h_3}^{WW}$
0.123	0.739	0.000	0.002	0.072	0.030	0.022
BR_{A}^{tt}	BR_{A}^{bb}	$\mathrm{BR}_{A}^{\tau\tau}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{A}^{Zh_1}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{A}^{Zh_2}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{A}^{Zh_3}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{A}^{WH^\pm}$
0.053	0.173	0.000	0.024	0.001	0.015	0.734
$\mathrm{BR}_{H^\pm}^{tb}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{H^\pm}^{\tau\nu}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{H^\pm}^{Wh_1}$	$\mathrm{BR}_{H^\pm}^{Wh_2}$			
0.922	0.000	0.073	0.003			

Table 1: Parameters of the best-fit point for which the minimal value of χ^2 is found ($\chi^2 = 88.07$, $\chi^2_{125} = 86.24$) and branching ratios of the scalar particles in the type IV scenario. Dimensionful parameters are given in GeV, and the angles are given in radian.

Interesting pattern for light Higgs (h_1): no $b\bar{b}$ decays, $\tau^+\tau^-$ decays dominate...

Analysis



Signal scenarios

Consider production of light scalar in scalar-strahlung process:

$$e^+e^- \quad \rightarrow \quad Z\ S$$

with hadronic Z decays (for statistics) and scalar decays to tau lepton pairs:

$$Z \rightarrow q\,\bar{q} \qquad S \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$$

⇒ look for fully hadronic ($jjjj$), semi-leptonic (ℓjjj) or leptonic ($\ell\ell jj$) final state depending on the decays of two tau leptons

Considered mass range $M_S = 15 - 140$ GeV

Event samples

Signal and background samples generated with WHIZARD 3.1.2 using built-in SM_CKM model.

Signal samples generated by varying H mass in the model and forcing its decay to $\tau^+\tau^-$.

All relevant four-fermion final states considered as background.
SM-like Higgs boson contribution included in the background estimate.
Contribution from two-fermion and six-fermion processes found to be small.

ISR and luminosity spectra for ILC running at 250 GeV taken into account

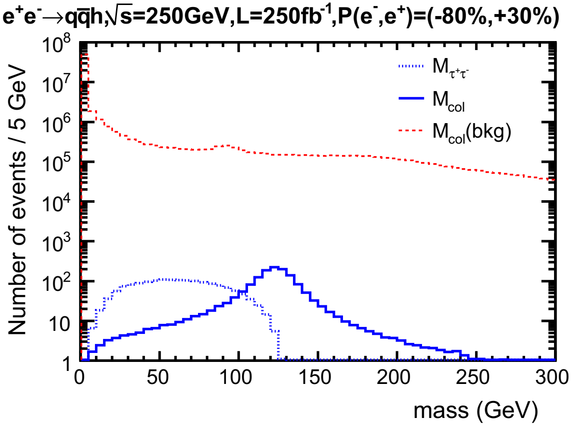
Total lumionsity of $2\,\mathrm{ab}^{-1}$, with $\pm 80\% / \pm 30\%$ polarisation for e^-/e^+ (H-20 scenario).

Fast detector simulation with Delphes ILCgen model.

Collinear approximation

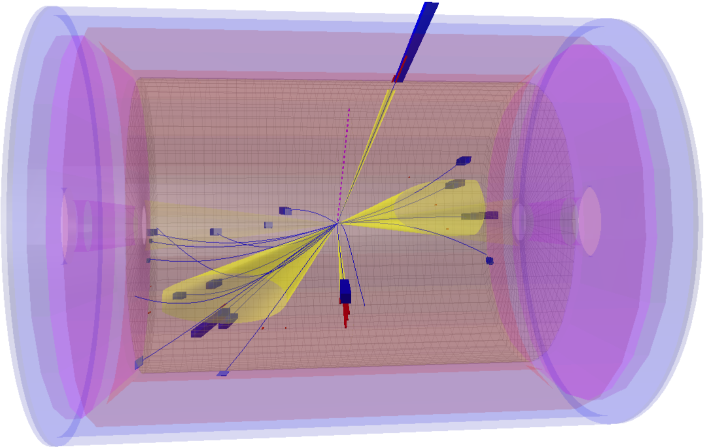
arXiv:1509.01885

Used in the study of Higgs boson decaying into tau pairs at the ILC:



Collinear approximation

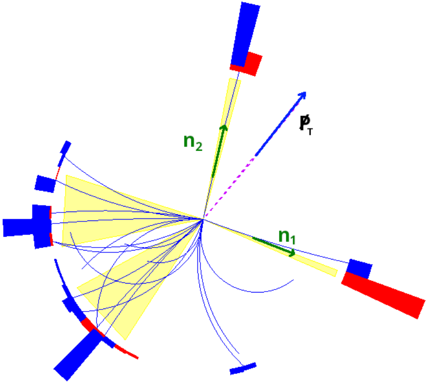
Example signal event with hadronic tau decays (four jets).



Tau reconstruction

arXiv:1509.01885

Example signal event with hadronic tau decays



Tau leptons are very boosted ⇒ collinear approximation

Assume tau neutrinos are emitted in the tau jet direction.

Their energies can be found from transverse momentum balance:

$$\vec{p\!\!\!/}_T = E_{\nu_1} \cdot \vec{n_1} + E_{\nu_2} \cdot \vec{n_2}$$

where $\vec{n_1}$ and $\vec{n_2}$ are directions of the two tau jets.

Unique solution !

Tau reconstruction

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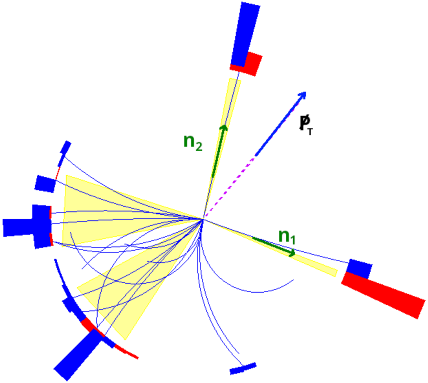
Example signal event with hadronic tau decays



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where $\vec{n_1}$ and $\vec{n_2}$ are directions of the two tau jets.

Unique solution !

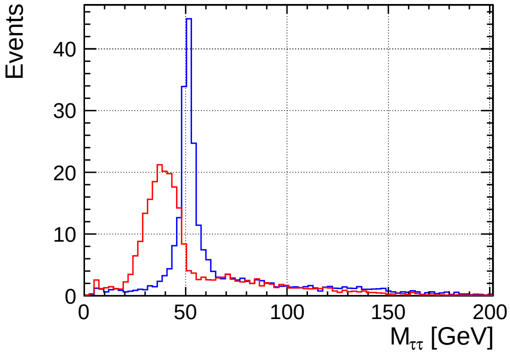
Works also for semi-leptonic and leptonic events!

Because of small tau mass ⇒ small invariant mass of neutrino pair

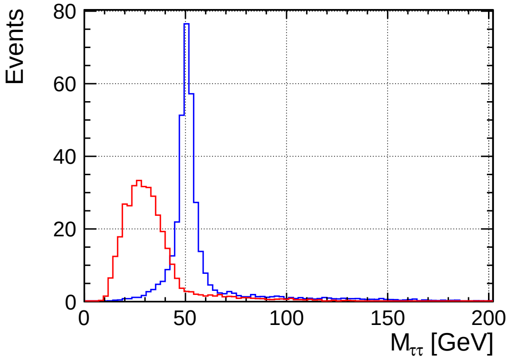
Tau reconstruction

Distribution of the raw and corrected mass of the tau candidate pair for $M_S = 50\,\text{GeV}$

Hadronic events (two tagged jets)



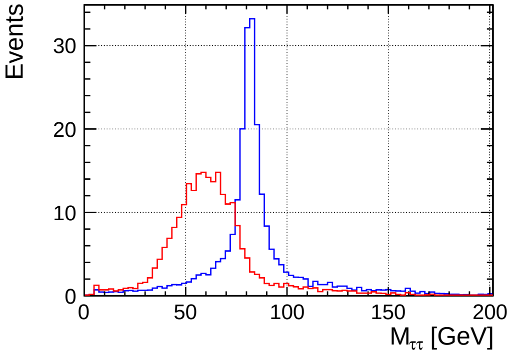
Semi-leptonic events (lepton and one tagged jet)



Tau reconstruction

Distribution of the raw and corrected mass of the tau candidate pair for $M_S = 80\,\text{GeV}$

Hadronic events (two tagged jets)



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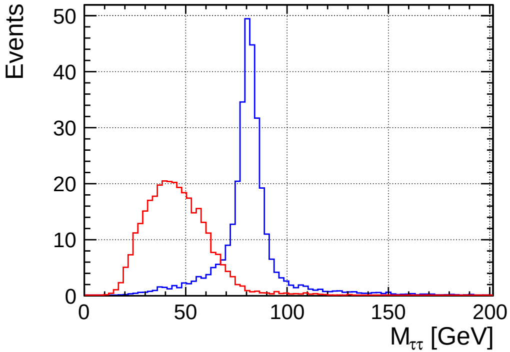
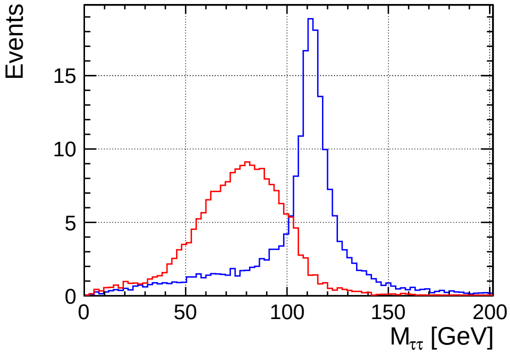


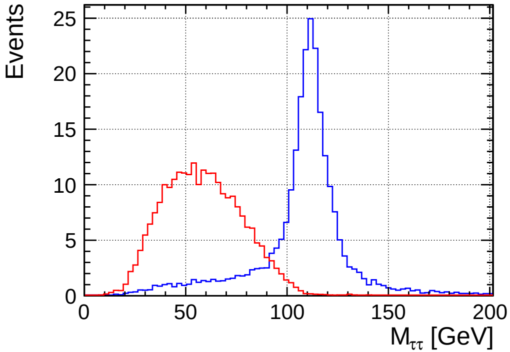
Tau reconstruction

Distribution of the raw and corrected mass of the tau candidate pair for $M_S = 110\,\mathrm{GeV}$

Hadronic events (two tagged jets)



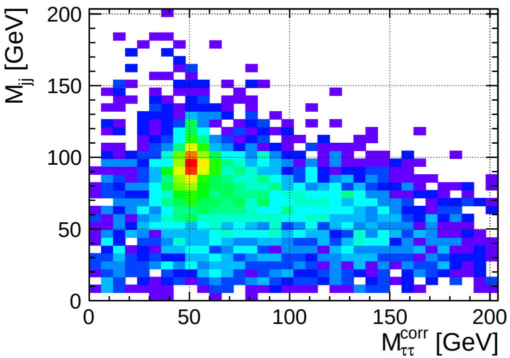
Semi-leptonic events (lepton and one tagged jet)



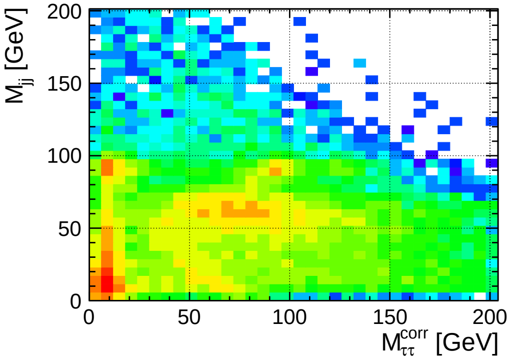
Kinematic distributions

Distribution of the reconstructed Z boson and scalar masses for $M_S = 50\,\mathrm{GeV}$

Hadronic signal events



Background events



Kinematic distributions

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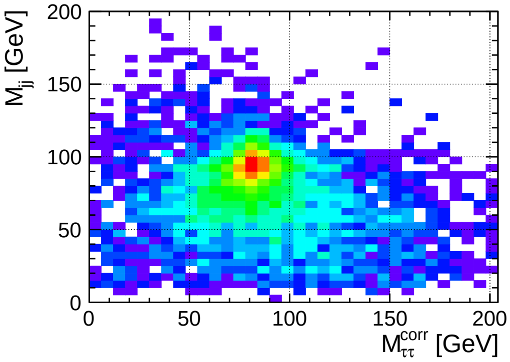
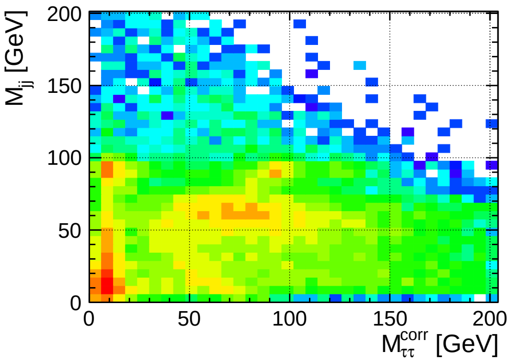
Hadronic signal events



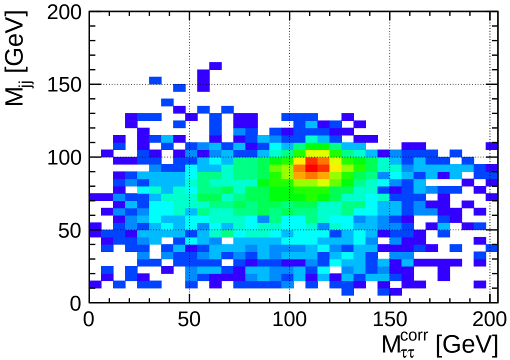
Background events



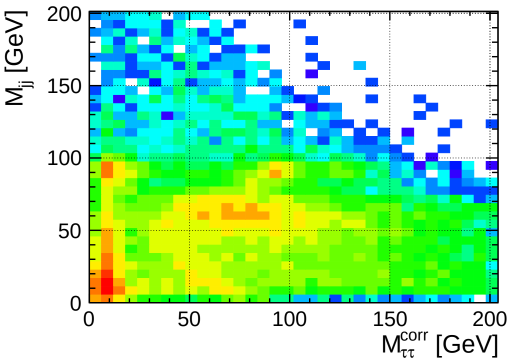
Kinematic distributions

Distribution of the reconstructed Z boson and scalar masses for $M_S = 110\,\mathrm{GeV}$

Hadronic signal events



Background events

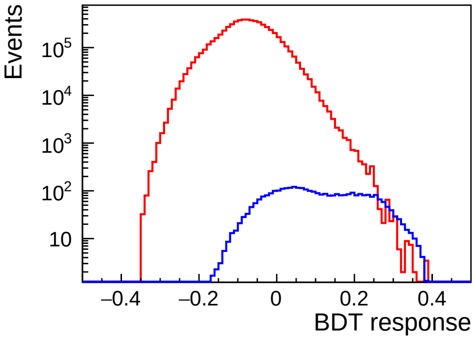


Signal event selection

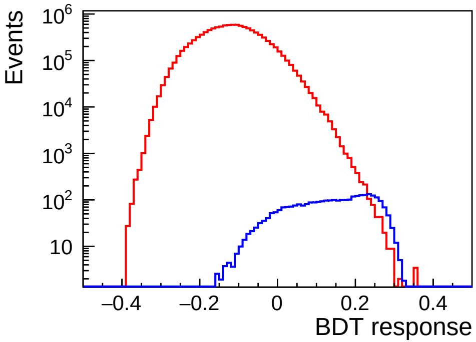
see backup slides for list of BDT input variables

Example of BDT response distribution for signal and background events, for $M_S = 50\,\text{GeV}$

Hadronic events

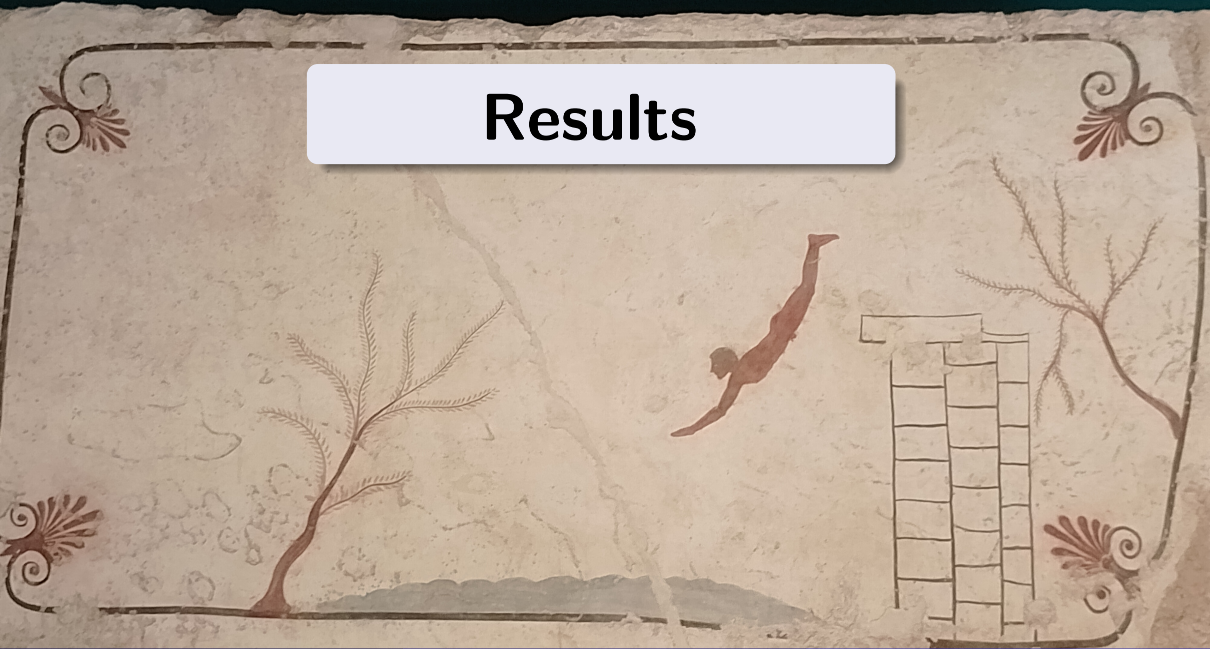


Semi-leptonic events



Signal normalized to $\sigma(e^+e^- \to Z\,S) \cdot BR(S \to \tau\tau)/\sigma_{SM} = 1\%$

Results



Results

Two analysis scenarios

Tight selection:
events with two tau candidates (leptons or jets with tau-tag) and two quark jets (no tau-tag)

Loose selection:
events with one or two tau candidates and two or three quark jets, respectively
(for one tau candidate, jet with the lowest invariant mass is taken as a second candidate!)

Two analysis scenarios

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Limit setting approach

Cut on the BDT classifier response was optimized for signal significance assuming:

$$\sigma(e^+e^- \to Z\,S) \cdot BR(S \to \tau\tau)/\sigma_{SM}(M_S) \quad = \quad 1\%$$

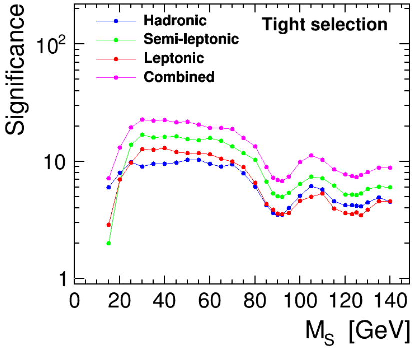
95% CL cross section limit was then calculated as the signal cross section corresponding to the significance of 1.64 (with the fixed BDT response cut)

Significance

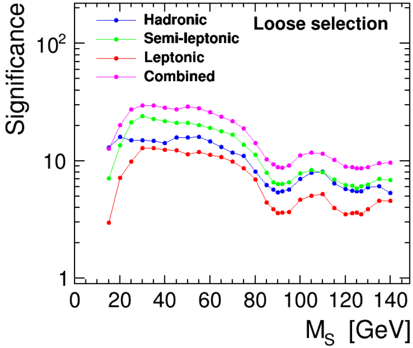
Combined data, polarisation not taken into account!

Signal significance after optimized BDT response cut (assuming signal at 1% level)

Tight selection



Loose selection

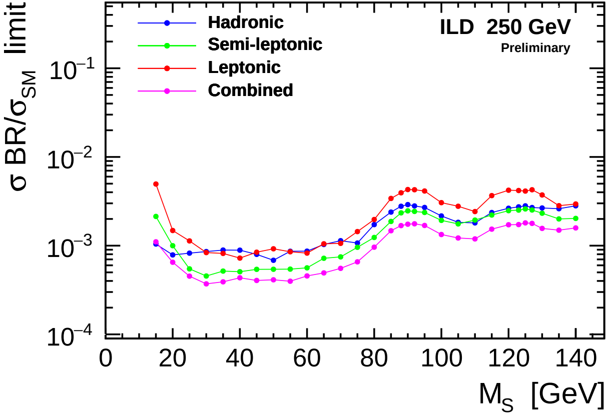


Loose selection results in higher significance

Cross section limits

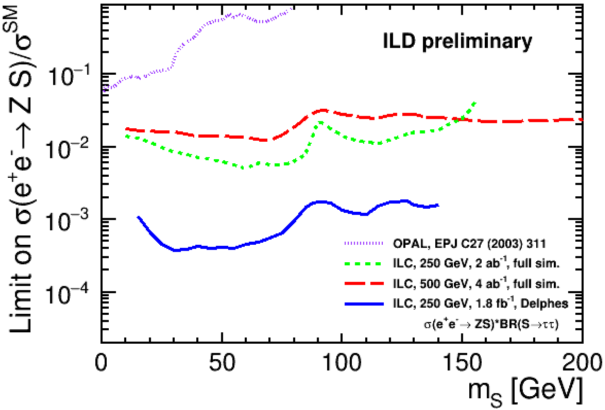
Combined data, polarisation not taken into account!

Cross section limits with BDT response cut (optimized for 1% signal level)



Cross section limits

Cross section limits for $\sigma(e^+e^- \to Z\,S) \cdot BR(S \to \tau\tau)$
compared with decay independent limits on σ/σ_{SM} from earlier studies

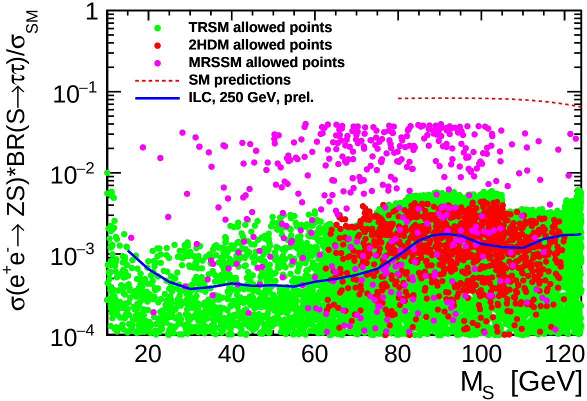


Targeted analysis results in order of magnitude increase in sensitivity...

Possible gain in discovery reach depends on the BR!

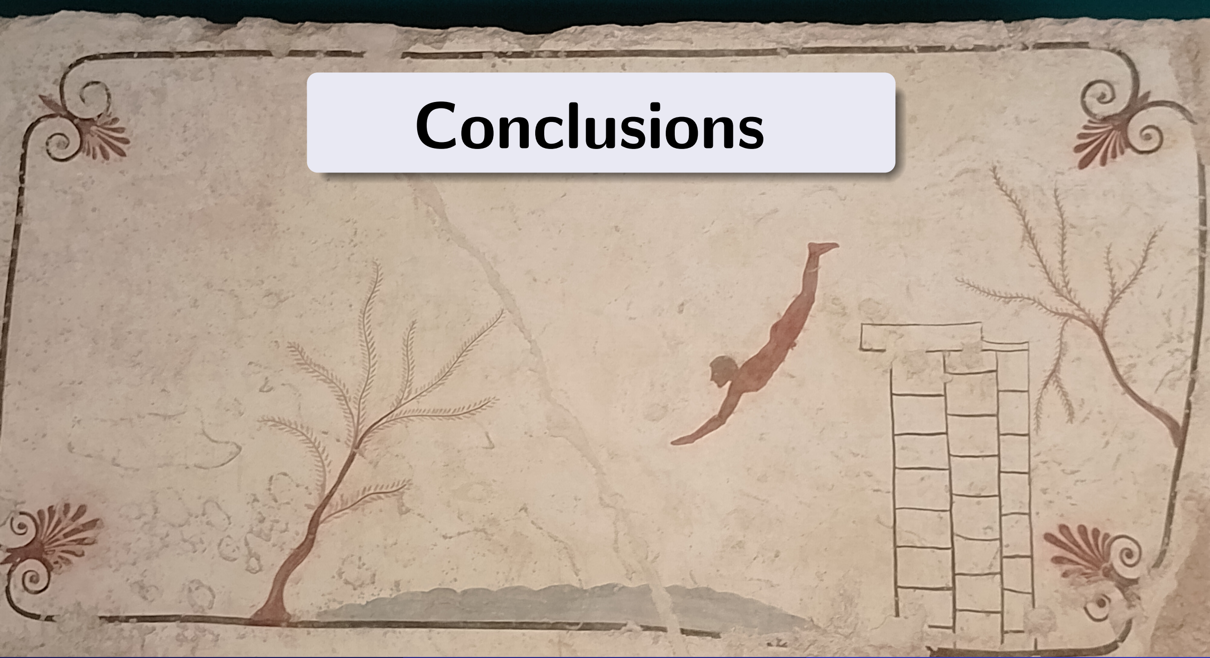
Cross section limits

Cross section limits for $\sigma(e^+e^- \to Z\,S) \cdot BR(S \to \tau\tau)$
compared with allowed scenarios in different models



See earlier presentation on EXscalar focus topic for details

Conclusions



Conclusions

BSM scenarios with light scalars still not excluded by existing data

Sizable production cross sections for new scalars can coincide with non-standard decay...

Light scalar decays to tau pairs seem a challenging scenario
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Order of magnitude limit improvement already with the very simple limit setting approach
Should improve further when properly combining results from different event samples
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Comparison with full simulation needed to confirm the results...

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Other decay channels of the light scalar still to be explored !

Thank you!

ILC running scenario

The unique feature of the ILC is the possibility of having both electron and positron beams polarised! This is crucial for many precision measurements as well as BSM searches.

Four independent measurements instead of one:

- increase accuracy of precision measurements
- more input to global fits and analyses
- remove ambiguity in many BSM studies
- reduce sensitivity to systematic effects

Integrated luminosity planned with different polarisation settings [fb^{-1}]

H-20 $\sqrt{s}$	$\text{sgn}(P(e^-), P(e^+))$ $(-,+)$	$(+,-)$	$(-,-)$	$(+,+)$	Total
250 GeV	900	900	100	100	2000
350 GeV	135	45	10	10	200
500 GeV	1600	1600	400	400	4000

arXiv:1903.01629

Signal event selection

Selection based on BDT classifier trained with following input variables:

- measured di-tau mass (before correction)
- corrected di-tau mass (scalar candidate mass)
- measured di-jet mass (Z boson mass)
- recoil mass calculated from Z boson four-momentum
- total event energy (after tau energy correction)
- jet clustering parameter y_{34}
- polar angle of the Z boson emission
- decay angles in the scalar rest frame
- azimuthal distance between two tau candidates

BDT selection

Selection results for **hadronic events** (loose selection), signal hypothesis with $M_S = 50\,\mathrm{GeV}$.
Combined $2\,\mathrm{ab}^{-1}$ of data, polarisation not taken into account.

Sample	N_{pres}	N_{BDT}	ε_{BDT} [%]
Signal	3404	823	24
$qq\tau\tau$	113990	725	0.64
$qqll$	263320	70.9	0.027
$qqqq$	1851500	1370	0.074
$qq\tau\nu$	2509100	52.7	0.0021
$qql\nu$	1381200	125	0.0091
Total	6119200	2347	**Sig = 14.6**

N_{pres} - events expected after preselection, N_{BDT} - after optimized BDT response cut

BDT selection

Selection results for **semi-leptonic events** (loose selection), for signal with $M_S = 50\,\text{GeV}$.
Combined $2\,\text{ab}^{-1}$ of data, polarisation not taken into account.

Sample	N_{pres}	N_{BDT}	ε_{BDT} [%]
Signal	3079	999	32
$qq\tau\tau$	69160	860	1.2
$qqll$	359900	152	0.042
$qqqq$	2213	15.1	0.68
$qq\tau\nu$	1337700	79.1	0.0059
$qql\nu$	9366300	43.1	0.00046
Total	11135300	1149	**Sig = 21.6**

N_{pres} - events expected after preselection, N_{BDT} - after optimized BDT response cut