# **VBF SM Higgs boson searches with ATLAS**

# Stefania Xella (Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen) on behalf of the ATLAS collaboration

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29/09/2008



# Following results on SM Higgs discovery reach in VBF channel obtained with :

- > full GEANT4 simulation with realistic detector geometry and misalignment / distortion effects , large statistics (Computing System Commissioning)
- > Detailed trigger simulation (including lvl1 firmware trigger)
- > most recent reconstruction and identification methods
- > LO/NLO ME generators (Alpgen, Sherpa, MC @ NLO) matched to PS generators (Herwig) for backgrounds
- > All tau decay final states combinations considered

# **VBF SM Higgs boson production**



### focus on $\tau\tau$ final state here First time all $\tau$ decay modes considered ! Cross section x Br = 0.4 - 0.5 pb

### **Characteristics of signal :**

- + Central tau decay products
- + high  $\textbf{p}_{\textbf{T}}$  forward quark initiated jets, separated in  $\eta$
- + other jets between the two quark initiated jets suppressed (no colour flow between two quark jets)
- + missing energy in the transverse plane (due to taus)

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## **Main backgrounds**

Z+jets : 2 taus and q jets as in signal Handle : different kinematic tt : 2 taus as in signal, but no q,g jets Handle : different kinematic and jet flavour



### **Analysis Strategy**

Backgrounds are large. Need to achieve rejection factor > 10<sup>5</sup> (Z,W,... > 10<sup>11</sup> (QCD)

### **Example: Against QCD**

**II** (both taus decay leptonically): (10<sup>3</sup> (e/mu))  $^2$  x 10<sup>2</sup> (VBF jets) x 10<sup>3</sup> (missing E<sub>T</sub>)°

### **Ih** (one tau decays leptonically):

10<sup>3</sup> (e/mu) x 10<sup>2</sup> (VBF jets) x 10<sup>2</sup> (tau jet) x  $10^3$  (missing E<sub>T</sub>) x high p<sub>T</sub> tau jet

### **hh** (both taus decay hadronically):



10<sup>2</sup> (VBF jets) x (10<sup>2</sup> (tau jet))<sup>2</sup> x 10<sup>3</sup> (missing  $E_T$ ) x (high  $p_T$  tau jet)<sup>2</sup>

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### **Tau lepton decays & identification**



Tau identification=  $35 \% \begin{array}{c} \tau \rightarrow v_{\tau} + v_{e} + e \\ \tau \rightarrow v_{\tau} + v_{\mu} + \mu \end{array} \begin{array}{c} (17.4\%) \\ (17.8\%) \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Electron/muon identification} \\ (\epsilon = 80/90\%, rejection q(g) jet ~ 0.1\%) \end{array}$ 

#### Hadronic decay mode



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### **Rapidity gap in VBF processes**



### **Trigger and signal selection&yield**

| Trigger menu          | Efficiency × Acceptance(%) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| e22i                  | $9.08 \pm 0.03$            |
| mu20                  | $9.88 \pm 0.04$            |
| L1_TAU30_xE40_softHLT | 3.67±0.02                  |

### Robust trigger strategy: electron, muon, or tau jet plus missing $E_T$ . Soft identification used. Cope with higher rates by moving to tighter signatures or using combined trigger items (like e/mu+tau jet, tau jet+tau jet)

#### II channel, mH=120 GeV

| Cross section (fb)               | 309.1   |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Trigger                          | 57.2(1) |
| Trigger lepton                   | 49.5(1) |
| Dilepton                         | 5.46(3) |
| Missing $E_T \ge 40 \text{ GeV}$ | 3.17(3) |
| Collinear Approx.                | 2.15(2) |
| N jets $\geq 2$                  | 1.77(2) |
| Forward jet                      | 1.34(2) |
| B-jet veto                       | 1.16(2) |
| Jet kinematics                   | 0.63(1) |
| Central jet veto                 | 0.56(1) |
| Mass window                      | 0.45(1) |

#### Ih channel, mH=120 GeV

| Cross section (fb)               | 309.1   |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Trigger                          | 57.2(1) |
| Trigger lepton                   | 49.5(1) |
| Dilepton veto                    | 43.4(1) |
| Hadronic $\tau$                  | 8.02(7) |
| Missing $E_T \ge 30 \text{ GeV}$ | 4.96(5) |
| Collinear Approx.                | 3.34(5) |
| Transverse mass                  | 2.46(4) |
| N jets $\geq 2$                  | 2.02(4) |
| Forward jet                      | 1.52(3) |
| Jet kinematics                   | 0.82(2) |
| Central jet veto                 | 0.72(2) |
| Mass window                      | 0.61(2) |

#### hh channel, mH=120 GeV

| Cross section (fb)               | 309.1   |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Trigger tau & MET                | 11.4(1) |
| 2 Hadronic τs                    | 1.83(4) |
| Missing $E_T \ge 40 \text{ GeV}$ | 1.43(3) |
| Collinear Approx.                | 1.03(3) |
| Di-tau Transverse mass           | 1.03(3) |
| N jets $\geq 2$                  | 0.86(3) |
| Total $p_T$                      | 0.83(3) |
| Forward jet                      | 0.72(2) |
| Jet kinematics                   | 0.45(2) |
| Central jet veto                 | 0.39(2) |
| Mass window                      | 0.34(2) |

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|                                  | $Z \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^- + jets(\geq 1)$ |         | tī          |                   | $Z \rightarrow l^+ l^- + n$ jets | $W \rightarrow l\nu + n$ jets | diboson                 |
|----------------------------------|--|---------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                  | QCD  | ELWK    | Full        | Fast              | $(n \ge 1)$                      | (n ≥ 1)                       | WW/ZZ/WZ                |
| Cross section (fb)               | 168.4×10 <sup>3</sup>                        | 1693    | 833×        | 10 <sup>3</sup>   | 768.6×10 <sup>3</sup>            | 8649×10 <sup>3</sup>          | $174.1 \times 10^{3}$   |
| Trigger                          | 51.5(1)×10 <sup>3</sup>                      | 230(1)  | 209.8(2)    | )×10 <sup>3</sup> | 633.8(4)×10 <sup>3</sup>         | 4411(9)×10 <sup>3</sup>       | 32.0(1)×10 <sup>3</sup> |
| Trigger lepton                   | 42.7(1)×10 <sup>3</sup>                      | 190(1)  | 179.1(2)    | )×10 <sup>3</sup> | 588.0(4)×10 <sup>3</sup>         | 3815(9)×10 <sup>3</sup>       | 28.0(1)×10 <sup>3</sup> |
| Dilepton                         | 4.25(5)×103                                  | 19.2(4) | 21.7(1)     | ×10 <sup>3</sup>  | 369.9(5)×10 <sup>3</sup>         | 2.5(2)×10 <sup>3</sup>        | 3.95(6)×10 <sup>3</sup> |
| Missing $E_T \ge 40 \text{ GeV}$ | 744(18)                                      | 9.9(3)  | 16847       | (99)              | 2683(67)                         | 1148(176)                     | 1744(49)                |
| Collinear Approx.                | 454(14)                                      | 6.2(2)  | 1817(33)    | Atlfast           | 104(12)                          | 46(21)                        | 73(9)                   |
| N jets $\ge 2$                   | 262(8)                                       | 5.8(2)  | 1722(32)    | 1699(4)           | 73(8)                            | 14(6)                         | 51(8)                   |
| Forward jet                      | 39(2)  | 2.0(1)  | 294(13)     | 324(1)            | 10(3)                            | $\geq 1.2(2)^*$               | 8(3)                    |
| B-jet veto                       | 30(2)  | 1.5(1)  | 89(7)       | 90.3(9)           | 9(3)                             | $\geq 1.0(2)^*$               | 5(2)                    |
| Jet kinematics                   | 2.71(5)                                      | 0.57(5) | 11.8(3)*    | 26.7(5)           | 0.66(3)*                         | 0.19(4)*                      | 0.33(5)*                |
| Central jet veto                 | 1.24(3)                                      | 0.43(4) | 1.9(1)*     | 2.6(1)            | 0.27(1)*                         | 0.10(2)*                      | $0.18(4)^*$             |
| Mass window                      | 0.23(1)                                      | 0.04(1) | $0.10(2)^*$ | 0.06(2)           | 0.058(3)*                        | 0.01(1)*                      | $0.002(1)^*$            |

# Backgrounds yields

II ~ 0.5

# lh~ 0.2

|                                  | $Z \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^- + j$ | ets(≥1) | tī        |                   | $Z \rightarrow l^+l^-+n$ jets | $W \rightarrow lv+n$ jets | diboson                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                  | QCD                               | ELWK    | Full      | Fast              | (n ≥ 1)                       | (n ≥ 1)                   | WW/ZZ/WZ                |
| Cross section (fb)               | 168.4×10 <sup>3</sup>             | 1693    | 833×      | 10 <sup>3</sup>   | $768.6 \times 10^{3}$         | 8649×10 <sup>3</sup>      | $174.1 \times 10^{3}$   |
| Trigger                          | 51.5(1)×103                       | 230(1)  | 209.8(2)  | )×10 <sup>3</sup> | 633.8(4)×10 <sup>3</sup>      | 4411(9)×10 <sup>3</sup>   | 32.0(1)×10 <sup>3</sup> |
| Trigger lepton                   | 42.7(1)×103                       | 190(1)  | 179.1(2)  | )×10 <sup>3</sup> | 588.0(4)×103                  | 3815(9)×103               | 28.0(1)×103             |
| Dilepton veto                    | 38.4(1)×103                       | 171(1)  | 156.4(2)  | )×10 <sup>3</sup> | 216.5(4)×103                  | 3811(9)×103               | 23.7(1)×10 <sup>3</sup> |
| Hadronic T                       | 3062(42)                          | 19.3(4) | 5224(     | 56)               | 20250(156)                    | 32537(1012)               | 704(30)                 |
| Missing $E_T \ge 30 \text{ GeV}$ | 850(20)                           | 12.1(3) | 4251(50)  |                   | 468(26)                       | 21001(801)                | 474(26)                 |
| Collinear Approx.                | 514(15)                           | 7.8(2)  | 606(19)   |                   | 17(3)                         | 324(46)                   | 32(6)                   |
| Transverse mass                  | 415(13)                           | 6.5(2)  | 176(10)   | Atlfast           | 11(2)                         | 67(18)                    | 14(3)                   |
| N jets $\geq 2$                  | 235(7)                            | 6.0(2)  | 162(9)    | 167(1)            | 8(1)                          | 49(11)                    | 7(1)                    |
| Forward jet                      | 40(3)                             | 2.3(1)  | 32(4)     | 26.1(4)           | 1.3(6)                        | $\geq 2.9(3)^*$           | 3(1)                    |
| Jet kinematics                   | 2.7(1)                            | 0.72(6) | 1.8(1)*   | 3.6(1)            | 0.10(1)*                      | 0.7(1)*                   | 0.06(1)*                |
| Central jet veto                 | 1.2(1)                            | 0.49(5) | 0.25(4)*  | 0.43(5)           | 0.047(6)*                     | 0.43(6)*                  | 0.02(1)*                |
| Mass window                      | 0.11(2)                           | 0.04(1) | 0.012(5)* | 0.03(1)           | 0.008(1)*                     | 0.020(6)*                 | 0.001(1)*               |

|                                  | $Z \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau$<br>QCD | +jets(≥ 1)<br>ELWK | tī                   | $W \rightarrow \tau v + njets$<br>$(n \ge 1)$ | OCD-di-jet<br>(× 5)       |          | To be assessed |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Cross section (fb)               | $40.3 \times 10^{-5}$              | 1693               | 833 ×10 <sup>5</sup> | 922×10 <sup>5</sup>                           | 19.1 10                   |          | with data      |
| Trigger tau & MET                | 1756(15)                           | 126(1)             | 78177(232)           | 39600(400)                                    |                           |          | Willi uala     |
| 2 Hadronic τs                    | 161(4)                             | 4.9(2)             | 373(16)              | 317(33)                                       | 2.756(3) 10°*             |          |                |
| Missing $E_T \ge 40 \text{ GeV}$ | 108(4)                             | 3.7 (2)            | 335(15)              | 243(29)                                       | 0.97(3) 10 <sup>3</sup> * |          |                |
| Collinear Approx.                | 72(3)                              | 2.3(1)             | 43(5)                | 20(7)   | 1.7(2) 10 <sup>2</sup> *  |          | hh ~ 1_2       |
| Di-tau Transverse mass           | 72(3)                              | 2.3(1)             | 39(5)                | 18(7)   | 1.6(2) 10 <sup>2</sup> *  |          |                |
| N jets $\geq 2$                  | 46(2)*                             | 2.1(1)             | 34(5)*               | 8(3)*   | 0.86(4) 10 <sup>2</sup> * |          |                |
| Total $p_T$                      | 40(2)*                             | 1.9(1)             | 24(4)*               | 8(3)*   | 0.75(3) 102*              |          |                |
| Forward jet                      | 17(1)*                             | 1.1(1)             | 9(2)*                | 3(1)*   | 23(3)*                    |          |                |
| Jet kinematics                   | 1.4(1)*                            | 0.43(6)            | 0.6(2)*              | 0.5(4)*                                       | 8(3)*                     | th ATLAS |                |
| Central jet veto                 | 0.7(1)*                            | 0.36(6)            | 0.16(9)*             | 0.3(3)*                                       | 4(1)*                     |          |                |
| Mass window                      | 0.08(3)*                           | 0.03(1)            | 0.03(3)*             | 0.1(1)*                                       | 1(1)*                     |          |                |

### **Details of background estimation on simulation**

Full simulation statistics not enough to test the full rejection factor on backgrounds.

→ factorization method applied (\* in previous tables is step where it is applied)
3 categories of selection cuts :

- 1. tau decays
- 2. forward jets
- 3. Correlated tau decays forward jets

Total rejection rate is product of three categories rejection. Effect on signal (strongest expected) shows agreement between sequential and factorized within 50%. Discrepancy smaller for bkgr. (30% Z, 50% tt)

#### Additionally, for hh final state :

- No tau identification applied, parametrized efficiency -> event weight factor
- Pythia vs ME : factor 2-3 difference in VBF jet cuts => factor 5 (x2 safety factor)

Uncertainty on this affects only current estimates of significance, real measurement will not be affected by lack of background sample statistics

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## **Details of background estimation on data**

#### PRELIMINARY

#### **Example : Z→**ττ + jets





- Rerun Tauola
- Resimulate again

#### Missing $\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{T}}$ modelled by data

-> tails well described



#### QCD: OS = SS

this can have large difference and systematic (eg Tevatron, W+jets, 40%)

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### **Mass reconstruction & collinear approximation**



### **Mass distribution after all cuts**



### Systematic effects on Higgs boson mass determination

### and on signal selection efficiency

| Source                                | Relative uncertainty                                      | Effect on signal efficiency |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| luminosity                            | ±3%   | ± 3%                        |
| muon energy scale                     | ± 1%  | $\pm 1\%$                   |
| muon energy resolution                | $\sigma(p_T) \oplus 0.011 p_T \oplus 1.7 \ 10^{-4} p_T^2$ | $\pm 0.5\%$                 |
| muon ID efficiency                    | ±1 %  | ± 2%                        |
| electron energy scale                 | $\pm 0.5\%$   | $\pm 0.4$ %                 |
| electron energy resolution            | $\sigma(E_T) \oplus 7.3 \ 10^{-3} E_T$                    | ± 0.3 %                     |
| electron ID efficiency                | $\pm 0.2\%$   | $\pm 0.4\%$                 |
| tau energy scale                      | $\pm 5\%$   | $\pm 4.9\%$                 |
| tau energy resolution                 | $\sigma(E) \oplus 0.45\sqrt{E}$                           | $\pm 1.5\%$                 |
| tau ID efficiency                     | ± 5%  | $\pm 5\%$                   |
|                                       | $\pm 7\% ( \eta  \le 3.2)$                                |                             |
| jet energy scale <sup>†</sup>         | $\pm 15\% \; ( \eta  \ge 3.2)$                            | $^{+16\%}/_{-20\%}$         |
|                                       | $\pm$ 5% (on $\not\!\!\!E_T$ )                            |                             |
| jet energy resolution                 | $\sigma(E) \oplus 0.45\sqrt{E} \; ( \eta  \le 3.2)$       |                             |
|                                       | $\sigma(E) \oplus 0.67 \sqrt{E} \; ( \eta  \ge 3.2)$      | $\pm 1\%$                   |
| b-tagging efficiency                  | ± 5%  | ± 5%                        |
| forward tagging efficiency            | ±2%   | $\pm 2\%$                   |
| central jet reconstruction efficiency | ± 2 %   | ± 2%                        |
| total summed in quadrature            |   | ±20%                        |
|                                       |   |                             |

| Source                             | Relative uncertainty | Effect on signal efficiency |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| PDF uncertanties                   | $\pm 3.5\%$          | ±3.5%                       |
| scale dependence on cross-section  | ±3%                  | $\pm 3\%$                   |
| scale dependence CJV efficiency    | $\pm 1\%$            | $\pm 1\%$                   |
| parton-shower and underlying event | $\pm \le 10\%$       | $\pm < 10\%$                |
| total summed in quadrature         |                      | $\pm < 10\%$                |

### **Significance using II and Ih final state**



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····· II-channel

0 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140

χ<sup>2</sup>/ndf 17.401/5

p0 -3.099, p1 0.135

input Mass (GeV)

#### combined *lh*-channel *ll*-channel $m_H$ 105 1.95 2.413.10 3.35 4.15 110 2.44 115 2.984.07 5.04 4.85 1202.92 3.87 125 2.75 3.75 4.65 130 3.38 4.18 2.46 3.99 135 2.213.32 1.80 2.70 3.24 140

5<sup>40</sup> 935

Wass Mass

di 25 120

115

110

105

100E





····· II-channel

100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140

x<sup>2</sup>/ndf 4.922/5

p0 1.105, p1 0.988

input Mass (GeV)

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## **Effect of pile-up**

#### Sources :

- Other soft p-p collisions in same bunch crossing
- p-p collisions in neighbouring bunch crossings
- multi-parton scattering and soft activity in p-p interaction itself

#### **Effects:**

- Additional p-p interactions can produce hadronic activity in central region, signal events fail the jet veto cut
- pile-up interactions degrade the missing  $\mathbf{E}_{\mathrm{T}}$  determination, hence the mass distribution
- pile-up degrades the tau identification performance

Tau identification performance on signal vs rejection of q(g) jets appears rather stable when considering pile-up conditions (eff. const, half rejection wrt w/o pileup), but still needs to be optimized

### **Effect of pile-up**



# Outlook

• Recent review of discovery potential for VBF SM Higgs production with tau leptons in final state has been performed in ATLAS

#### For the first time:

- Full simulation including correct material budget and realistic misalignement and noise effects has been used for this review, together with most recent reconstruction and identification tools
- All tau decay final states are considered, and most up-to-date trigger simulation is used
- Strategy for determining most important backgrounds from data is in place

ATLAS can discover as a 5 sigma effect the existence of a SM Higgs boson with mass 120 GeV within the first 3 years of operation at peak luminosity  $10^{33}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

## **Back-up**

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### **Event selection**

### lh

$$m_T = \sqrt{2 p_T^{lep} \not\!\!\!E_T \cdot (1 - \cos \Delta \phi)} \le 30 \text{ GeV}$$
(7)

is required, where  $p_T^{lep}$  is the transverse momentum of the lepton in the *lh*-channel and  $\Delta \phi$  is the angle between that lepton and  $\vec{E}_T$  in the transverse plane. The shape of the control samples used to estimate the signal sensitivity are obtained after these cuts; additional details of the data-driven

### hh

 Di-tau transverse mass: in order to further suppress fake-τ candidates from W + jets and tt backgrounds, a cut on the di-tau transverse mass

$$m_T^{hh} = \sqrt{2 \, p_T^{hh} \not\!\!\!E_T \cdot (1 - \cos \Delta \phi)} \le 80 \, \text{GeV}$$
(8)

is required, where  $p_T^{hh}$  is the transverse momentum of the two hadronic tau system and  $\Delta \phi$  represents the azimuthal angle between  $p_T^{hh}$  and  $\vec{E_T}$ . This variable has been identified as potentially useful for the analysis. The optimal value of this cut depends heavily on the relative amount of the W+jets,  $t\bar{t}$  and QCD backgrounds, therefore, the requirement is kept fairly loose.

### **QCD** fake rate from data



Figure 11: Track multiplicity distribution for QCD Figure 12: Expected errors of the fraction  $r_{tau}$  as a fake events and electron-fake events as well as the  $\tau$  signal.

function of luminosity. The QCD events are scaled to  $\times 2$  and  $\times 5$ .

Given a sample of tau candidates, the relative abundance of taus, electrons, and jets can be found by fitting the track multiplicity distribution with the extended likelihood function

$$L_{track}(r_{QCD}, r_{tau}) = \prod_{i}^{N} Pois(n_{exp}^{tot} \times (r_{tau} f_{tau}^{i} + r_{QCD} f_{jet}^{i} + (1 - r_{tau} - r_{QCD}) f_{lep}^{i}) |N_{obs}^{i}) \times Gaus(N_{obs}^{tot} | n_{exp}^{tot}, \sqrt{n_{exp}^{tot}})$$

$$(10)$$

$$\times Gaus(N_{lep}^{measured} | n_{exp}^{tot}(1 - r_{tau} - r_{QCD}), \Delta_{lep} n_{exp}^{tot}(1 - r_{tau} - r_{QCD}))$$

where  $n_{exp}^{tot}$  is the total number of events estimated by the fit,  $r_{tau}$  ( $r_{QCD}$ ) is the fraction of the tau (jet) contribution with respect to the estimated total number of events,  $\Delta_{lep} = 10\%$  is the relative uncertainty on lepton measurement, and  $f^i$  is the normalized probability for the  $i^{th}$  bin of the track multiplicity 29/09/20 distribution. The second term constrains the normalization, and the third term is an additional constraint term for the lepton contribution estimated by an independent analysis. The fit is performed to find the



### tt and W+jets background shapes

Figure 14: Figure (a) shows that the shapes are similar for these backgrounds and that the shape is stable in the final stages of the cut flow. The  $m_{\tau\tau}$  spectrum for  $t\bar{t}$  and W+jets backgrounds after all cuts for the *ll*-channel (b) and *lh*-channel (c) with a fit to the spectrum. The solid and dashed curves show the result of the simultaneous fit to the control sample and signal candidates with and without the signal contribution, respectively.

### The Profile Likelihood Ratio



Define  $\mu$  to be signal rate in units of SM expectation Define  $\nu$  to be the shape parameters (nuisance parameters)

- ${\scriptstyle \bullet}$  but this variable is sensitive to uncertainty on  $\nu$
- Alternatively, one can define profile likelihood ratio

$$\lambda(\mu = 0) = rac{L(data|\mu = 0, \hat{\hat{b}}(\mu = 0), \hat{\hat{v}}(\mu = 0))}{L(data|\hat{\mu}, \hat{b}, \hat{v})}$$

ightarrow where  $\hat{\hat{
u}}$  is best fit with  $\mu$  fixed to 0

- and  $\hat{\nu}$  is best fit with  $\mu$  left floating
- + note:  $\lambda > 0$  unlike  $\mathbf{Q}_{\text{LEP}}$

$$-2\log\lambda(\mu=0)\sim\chi_1^2$$

### **Exclusion**

# Using $-2 \log \lambda(\mu_{95}) = 1.64$ for exclusion No gg contribution included





Figure 18: The ratio of expected p-values for the floating and fixed mass fits as a function of the Higgs boson mass. This plot summarizes the impact of the "look-elsewhere" effect in this analysis.

Figure 19: Expected 95% exclusion of the signal rate in units of the Standard Model expectation,  $\mu$ , as a function of the Higgs boson mass for the *ll* and *lh*-channels with 10 fb<sup>-1</sup> of data. The exclusion takes into account the uncertainty on the signal efficiency described in Section 5.