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# Searching for Higgs boson decays to charm quark pairs with charm jet tagging at ATLAS

CMS Flavour Tagging Workshop, IIHE Brussels

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Andy Chisholm (CERN)

on behalf of the ATLAS collaboration

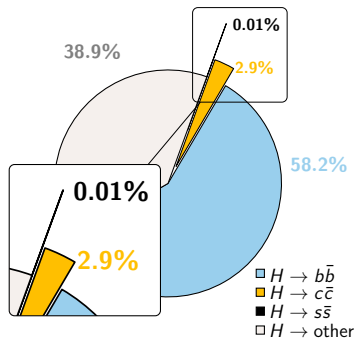
## Why is the charm quark Yukawa coupling important?

- The smallness of the charm ( $c$ ) quark coupling ( $y_c = \frac{\sqrt{2}m_c(m_H)}{v} \approx 4 \times 10^{-3}$ ) make it **highly susceptible to modifications from potential new physics**
- $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  decays constitute the **largest part of the SM prediction for  $\Gamma_H$  for which we have no experimental evidence**
- To date, we **only have experimental evidence for 3rd generation Yukawa couplings!**

## What are the existing indirect constraints?

- Constraints on unobserved Higgs decays impose around  $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c}) < 20\%$ , global fits to LHC data indirectly bound  $\Gamma_H$  leading to  $y_c/y_c^{SM} < 6$ , **assuming SM Higgs production and no BSM decays** (arXiv:1310.7029, arXiv:1503.00290)
- Direct bound of around  $\Gamma_H < 1$  GeV from  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  and  $H \rightarrow 4\ell$  lineshapes impose around  $y_c/y_c^{SM} < 120$ , **but this is model independent** (arXiv:1503.00290)

How can we constrain these couplings in a more direct way?



Cartoon of SM 125 GeV  $H \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  branching fractions,  $H \rightarrow u\bar{u}/d\bar{d}$  too small to show!

## How can we constrain the charm Yukawa couplings in a more direct way?

### Exclusive $H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma$ decays

- Exclusive radiative Higgs decays to  $J/\psi$  are sensitive to  $Hc\bar{c}$  couplings, very rare in SM with  $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma) = (2.8 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-6}$  (arXiv:1407.6695)
- Both ATLAS (arXiv:1501.03276) and CMS (arXiv:1507.03031) have searched for such decays, both leading to limits of  $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma) < 1.5 \times 10^{-3}$
- Implies bound on charm Yukawa coupling of  $y_c/y_c^{SM} < 220$  at 95% CL (arXiv:1503.00290)
- **Side Note:** The analogous decays  $H \rightarrow \phi \gamma$  and  $H \rightarrow \rho \gamma$  are sensitive to the light quark Yukawa couplings (see arXiv:1712.02758)

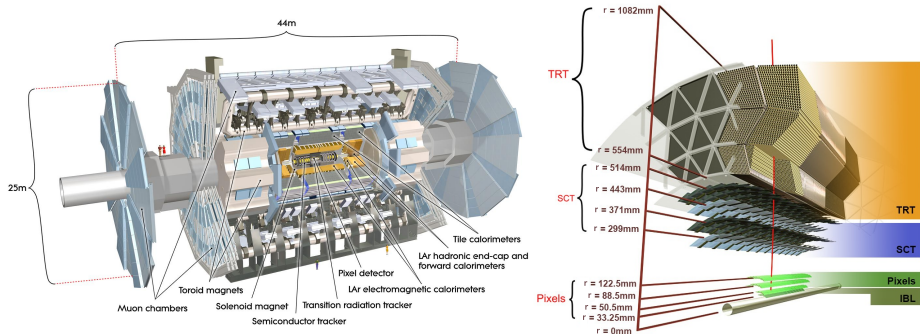
### Kinematic distributions in inclusive production

- Modifications to the heavy quark  $Q = c, b$  Yukawa couplings could change the shape of the inclusive  $p_T^H$  spectrum due to enhanced  $gQ \rightarrow HQ$  contribution (arXiv:1606.09621)
- $p_T^H$  well measured in the  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  and  $H \rightarrow 4\ell$  channels, which imposes a 95% CL bound of  $-16 < y_c/y_c^{SM} < 18$ , based on Run 1 ATLAS + CMS results (arXiv:1606.09253)

### Inclusive $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ decays

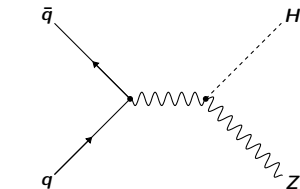
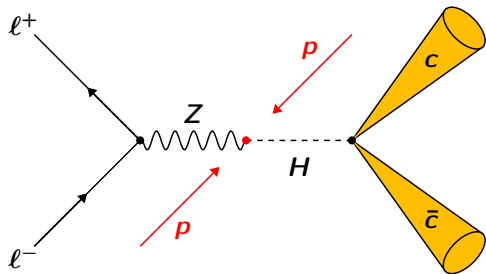
- Study inclusive  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  decays with  $c$ -tagged jets, direct sensitivity to  $Hc\bar{c}$  coupling
- First search from LHCb, though only sensitive to  $\sim 5000 \times$  SM rate (LHCb-CONF-2016-006)
- Recent ATLAS search for  $Z(\ell\ell)H(c\bar{c})$  production (arXiv:1802.04329), **focus of this talk!**

General purpose detector, well suited to studying heavy flavour jets



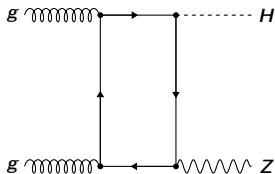
- **Inner Detector (ID):** Silicon Pixels and Strips (SCT) with Transition Radiation Tracker (TRT)  $|\eta| < 2.5$  and (new for Run 2) Insertable B-Layer (IBL)
- **LAr EM Calorimeter:** Highly granular + longitudinally segmented (3-4 layers)
- **Had. Calorimeter:** Plastic scintillator tiles with iron absorber (LAr in fwd. region)
- **Muon Spectrometer (MS):** Triggering  $|\eta| < 2.4$  and Precision Tracking  $|\eta| < 2.7$
- **Jet Energy Resolution:** Typically  $\sigma_E/E \approx 50\%/\sqrt{E(\text{GeV})} \oplus 3\%$
- **Track IP Resolution:**  $\sigma_{d_0} \approx 60 \mu\text{m}$  and  $\sigma_{z_0} \approx 140 \mu\text{m}$  for  $p_T = 1 \text{ GeV}$  (with IBL)

Given the success of the  $W/Z$  associated production channel in providing evidence for  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decays<sup>†</sup>, this channel is an obvious first candidate for a  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  search



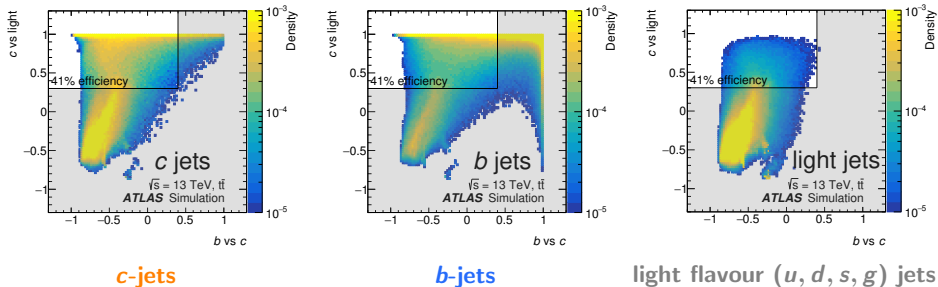
$pp \rightarrow ZH$  dominated  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZH$  processes,  
 $\sigma \approx 0.76$  pb at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV

- Focus on  $ZH$  production with  $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$  and  $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$  decays for first ATLAS analysis
- Low exposure to experimental uncertainties, main backgrounds from  $Z + \text{jets}$ ,  $Z(W/Z)$  and  $t\bar{t}$
- Pioneer use of **new c-tagging algorithms** developed by ATLAS for Run 2 to identify the experimental signature of an inclusive  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  decay



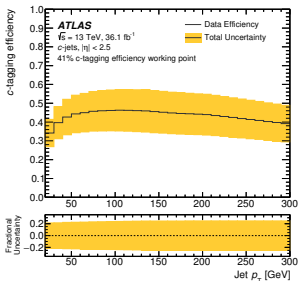
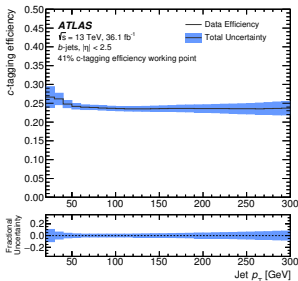
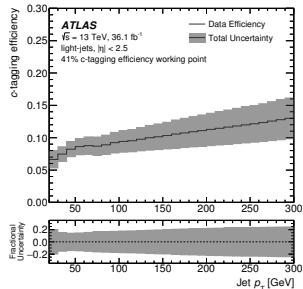
Smaller contributions from  $gg \rightarrow ZH$ , but harder  $p_T^H$ ,  $\sigma \approx 0.12$  pb at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV

<sup>†</sup> ATLAS: arXiv:1708.03299 CMS: arXiv:1708.04188

New  $c$ -tagging algorithms developed by ATLAS for Run 2!

- Multivariate discriminant(s) built from input variables from low-level  $b$ -tagging algorithms (e.g. track impact parameter likelihood, secondary vertex finder)
- Trained with the same input variables used by the standard ATLAS Run 2  $b$ -tagging algorithm (see [ATL-PHYS-PUB-2015-022](#) for details)
- Implemented as two BDT discriminants, one trained to separate  $c$ -jets from  $b$ -jets ( $x$ -axis), another to separate  $c$ -jets from light-jets ( $y$ -axis)

“ $c$ -tag” jets by making a cut in the 2D discriminant space, working point optimised for  $ZH, H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  is shown in the rectangular selection (shaded region rejected)

 $c$ -jets $b$ -jetslight flavour ( $u, d, s, g$ ) jets

## Efficiency of $c$ -tagging algorithm for $b$ -, $c$ - and light flavour jets measured in data $\uparrow$

- Working point for  $ZH, H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  exhibits a  $c$ -jet tagging efficiency of around 40%
- Rejects  $b$ -jets by around a factor  $4\times$  and light jets by around a factor  $10\times$
- Efficiency calibrated in data with samples of  $b$ -jets from  $t \rightarrow Wb$  (ATLAS-CONF-2014-004) and  $c$ -jets from  $W \rightarrow cs, cd$  in  $t\bar{t}$  events (ATLAS-CONF-2018-001)
- Typical total relative uncertainties of around 20%, 5% and 20% for  $c$ -,  $b$ - and light jets, respectively

Use a  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV  $pp$  collision sample collected during 2015 and 2016 corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $36.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

### $Z \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$ Selection

- Trigger with lowest available  $p_T$  single electron or muon triggers
- Exactly two same flavour reconstructed leptons ( $e$  or  $\mu$ )
- Both leptons  $p_T > 7$  GeV and at least one with  $p_T > 27$  GeV
- Require opposite charges (dimuons only)
- $81 < m_{\ell\ell} < 101$  GeV
- $p_T^Z > 75$  GeV

### $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ Selection

- Consider anti- $k_T$   $R = 0.4$  calorimeter jets with  $|\eta| < 2.5$  and  $p_T > 20$  GeV
- At least two jets with leading jet  $p_T > 45$  GeV
- Form  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  candidate from the two highest  $p_T$  jets in an event
- At least one  $c$ -tagged jet from  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  candidate
- Dijet angular separation  $\Delta R_{jj}$  requirement which varies with  $p_T^Z$

Split events into 4 categories (with varying S/B) based on  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  candidates with 1 or 2  $c$ -tags and  $p_T^Z$  above/below 150 GeV

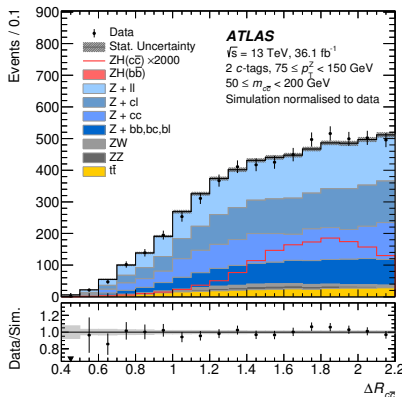


## Background Modelling

- Background dominated by  $Z + \text{jets} \rightarrow$  (enriched in heavy flavour jets)
- Smaller contributions from  $ZZ(q\bar{q})$ ,  $ZW(q\bar{q}')$  and  $t\bar{t}$
- Negligible ( $< 0.5\%$ ) contributions from  $W + \text{jets}$ ,  $WW$ , single-top and multi-jet

Simulation of  $ZH(c\bar{c}/b\bar{b})$ 

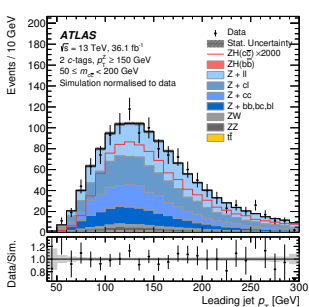
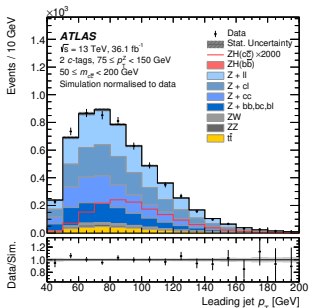
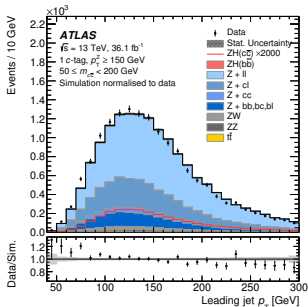
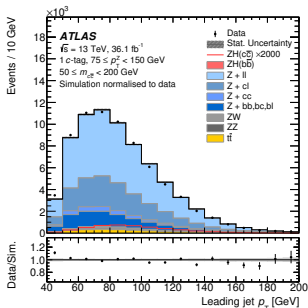
- Normalised with LHC Higgs XS WG YR4 recommendations (arXiv:1610.07922)
- $ZH(b\bar{b})$  treated as background normalised to SM expectation (with  $\sigma \times \mathcal{B}$  uncertainty)



| Process                                      | MC Generator               | Normalisation Cross section |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| $q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZH(c\bar{c}/b\bar{b})$ | Powheg+GoSaM+MiNLO+Pythia8 | NNLO (QCD) NLO (EW)         |
| $gg \rightarrow ZH(c\bar{c}/b\bar{b})$       | Powheg+Pythia8             | NLO+NLL (QCD)               |
| $Z + \text{jets}$                            | Sherpa 2.2.1               | NNLO                        |
| $ZZ$ and $ZW$                                | Sherpa 2.2.1               | NLO                         |
| $t\bar{t}$                                   | Powheg+Pythia8             | NNLO+NNLL                   |

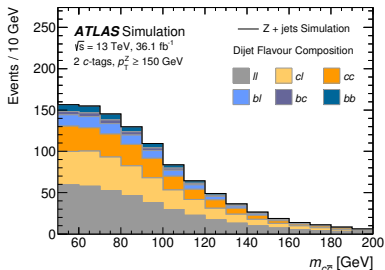
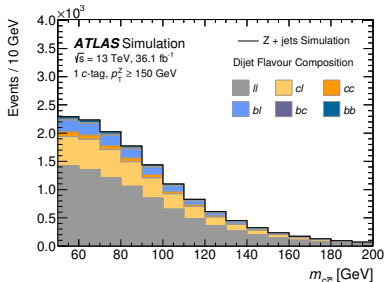
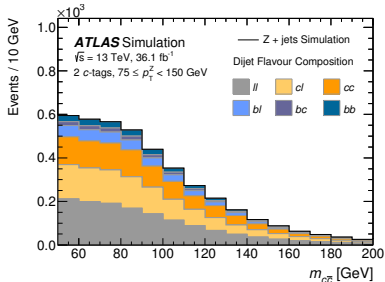
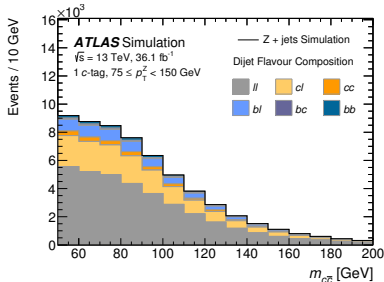
The nominal MC generators used to model the signal and backgrounds

↓ Left: 1  $c$ -tag events



↑ Right: 2  $c$ -tag events

## Flavour composition of the Z + jets sample enriched with c-jets

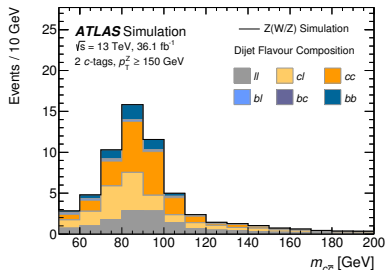
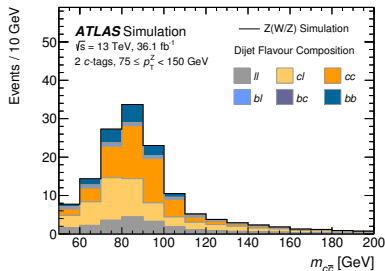
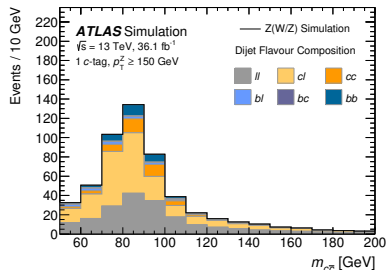
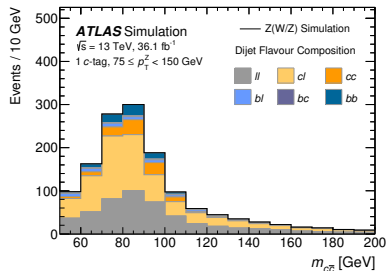


↓ Left: 1 c-tag events

↑ Right: 2 c-tag events

$c$ -tagged ZZ and ZW production enriched in  $Z \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  and  $W \rightarrow cs, cd$  decays

↓ Left: 1  $c$ -tag events



↑ Right: 2  $c$ -tag events

## Statistical Model

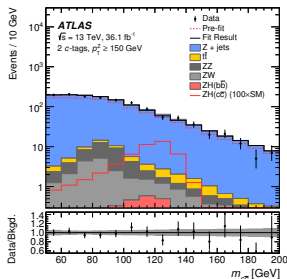
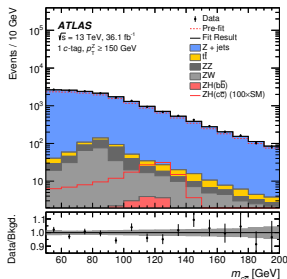
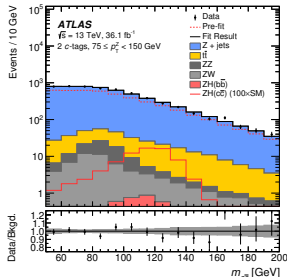
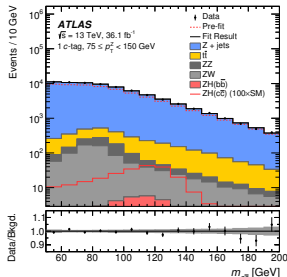
- Use the  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  candidate invariant mass  $m_{c\bar{c}}$  as S/B discriminant
- Perform simultaneous binned likelihood fit to 4 categories within region  $50 < m_{c\bar{c}} < 200$  GeV
- $ZH(c\bar{c})$  signal parameterised with free signal strength parameter,  $\mu$ , common to all categories
- $Z + \text{jets}$  background determined directly from data with separate free normalisation parameter for each of the four categories

## Systematic Uncertainties

- Included in the fit model as constrained nuisance parameters which parametrize the constraints from auxiliary measurements (e.g. lepton/jet calibrations)
- Experimental uncertainties associated with luminosity,  $c$ -tagging, lepton and jet performance are all included in the model
- Normalisation, acceptance and  $m_{c\bar{c}}$  shape uncertainties associated with signal and background simulation are also included

1 c-tag

2 c-tags

 $p_T^Z > 150 \text{ GeV}$  $75 < p_T^Z < 150 \text{ GeV}$ 

- No significant evidence for  $ZH(c\bar{c})$  production
- Data consistent with background only hypothesis

SM expected number  
of  $ZH(c\bar{c})$  events

1 c-tag  $75 < p_T^Z < 150 \text{ GeV}$   
**2.1**

1 c-tag  $p_T^Z > 150 \text{ GeV}$   
**1.2**

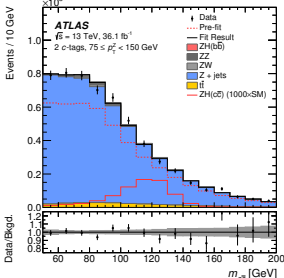
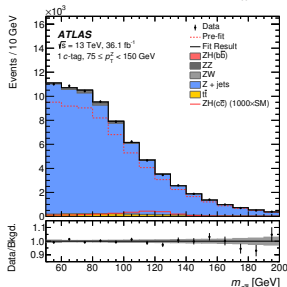
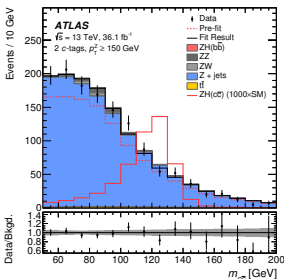
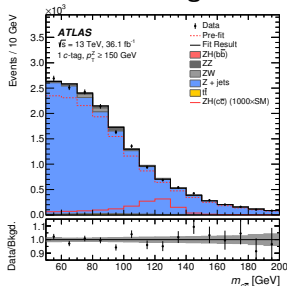
2 c-tags  $75 < p_T^Z < 150 \text{ GeV}$   
**0.5**

2 c-tags  $p_T^Z > 150 \text{ GeV}$   
**0.3**

$p_T^Z > 150 \text{ GeV}$  $75 < p_T^Z < 150 \text{ GeV}$ 

1 c-tag

2 c-tags



- No significant evidence for  $ZH(c\bar{c})$  production
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1.2

2 c-tags  $75 < p_T^Z < 150 \text{ GeV}$

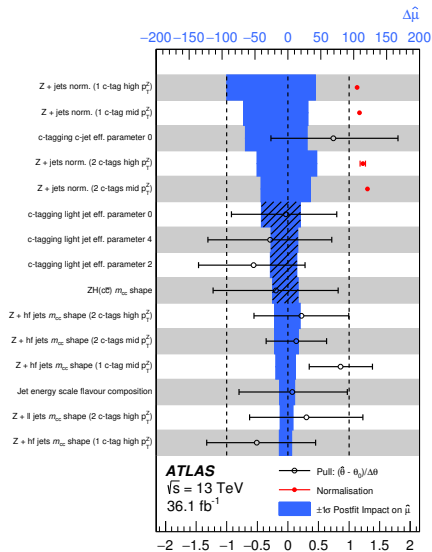
0.5

2 c-tags  $p_T^Z > 150 \text{ GeV}$

0.3

# Understanding the Sensitivity

Sensitivity dominated by systematic uncertainties, clear that these uncertainties should be reduced in order to fully exploit a larger dataset in the future



| Source                          | $\sigma/\sigma_{\text{tot}}$ |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Statistical</b>              | 49%                          |
| Floating Z + jets Normalisation | 31%                          |
| <b>Systematic</b>               | 87%                          |
| Flavour Tagging                 | 73%                          |
| Background Modeling             | 47%                          |
| Lepton, Jet and Luminosity      | 28%                          |
| Signal Modeling                 | 28%                          |
| MC statistical                  | 6%                           |

Note: correlations between nuisance parameters

within groups leads to  $\sum_i \sigma_i^2 \neq \sigma_{\text{sys}}^2$ .

- c-tagging uncertainties and background modelling (particularly Z + jets  $m_{c\bar{c}}$  shape) have the dominant impact
- However, we can expect many of these uncertainties (e.g. Z + jets normalisation) to reduce with a larger dataset



### Cross check with $ZV$ production

- To validate background modelling and uncertainty prescriptions, measure production rate of the sum of  $ZZ$  and  $ZW$  relative to the SM expectation
- Observe (expect)  $ZV$  production with significance of  $1.4\sigma$  ( $2.2\sigma$ )
- Measure  $ZV$  signal strength of  $0.6^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$ , consistent with SM expectation

### Limits on $ZH(c\bar{c})$ production

| 95% CL $CL_s$ upper limit on $\sigma(pp \rightarrow ZH) \times \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$ [pb] |                 |                     |                     |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Observed   | Median Expected | Expected $+1\sigma$ | Expected $-1\sigma$ |
| <b>2.7</b>   | 3.9             | 6.0                 | 2.8                 |

- No evidence for  $ZH(c\bar{c})$  production with current dataset (as expected)
- Upper limit of  $\sigma(pp \rightarrow ZH) \times \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c}) < 2.7 \text{ pb}$  set at 95% CL, to be compared to an SM value of  $2.55 \times 10^{-2} \text{ pb}$
- Corresponds to **110** $\times$  the SM expectation

**World's most stringent direct constraint on inclusive  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  decays!**

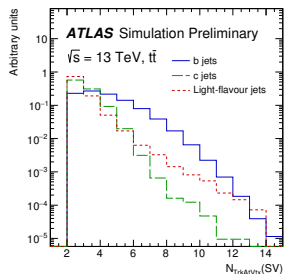
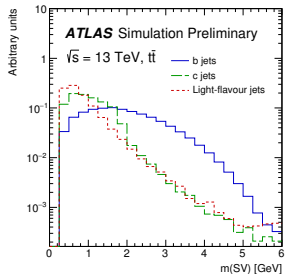
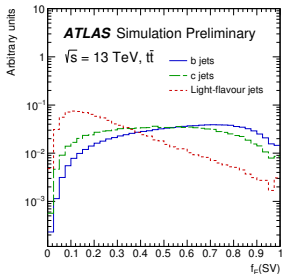
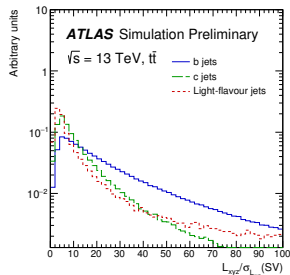
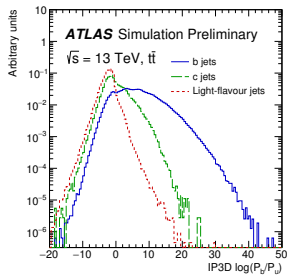
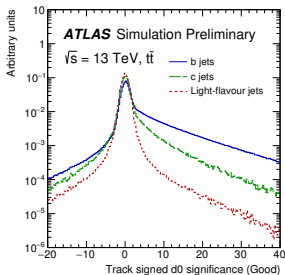
## Summary

- Search for  $ZH(c\bar{c})$  production exploiting new  $c$ -tagging techniques provides limit of  $\sigma(pp \rightarrow ZH) \times \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c}) < 2.7 \text{ pb}$  excluding  $110\times$  SM expectation
- Demonstrates that this inclusive channel is likely more sensitive to the charm quark Yukawa coupling than the exclusive  $H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma$  channel
- Not yet able to compete with constraints obtained from interpreting measurements of Higgs boson kinematic distributions in terms of modified  $gc \rightarrow Hc$  production
- Clear that **no single approach can yet claim it will manage to probe the charm quark Yukawa coupling down to the SM prediction** by the end of the LHC era
- Likely that multiple approaches will be required, this channel will become ever more important as larger datasets are collected!

What next for inclusive  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  decays?

- Large gains in sensitivity possible with multivariate techniques and other  $VH$  channels (e.g.  $W(\ell\nu)/Z(\nu\nu)$ ) or a dedicated search/category in the high  $p_T^H$  boosted regime
- If future  $c$ -tagging algorithms can reach the performance of today's  $b$ -tagging, one could probably expect to observe  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  decays by the end of the LHC programme!
- Performance of  $c$ -tagging is developing rapidly, next generation algorithms already exploit advanced ML techniques (ATL-PHYS-PUB-2017-013), huge scope for innovation!

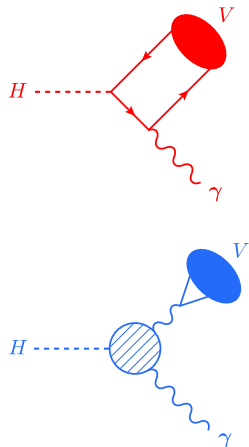
# **Additional Slides**



More details in [ATL-PHYS-PUB-2016-012](#)

$H \rightarrow Q \gamma$  decays could provide a clean probe of the charm and light quark couplings

- $Q$  is a vector ( $J^{PC} = 1^{--}$ ) light meson or quarkonium state such as  $V = J/\psi, \phi, \rho(770)$
- **Interference** between **direct** ( $H \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ ) and **indirect** ( $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma^*$ ) contributions
- **Direct** (upper diagram) amplitude provides sensitivity to the **magnitude and sign** of the  $Hq\bar{q}$  couplings (i.e.  $Q = J/\psi$  sensitive to  $Hc\bar{c}$  coupling)
- **Indirect** (lower diagram) amplitude provides dominant contribution to the width, not sensitive to Yukawa couplings
- Very rare decays in the SM!

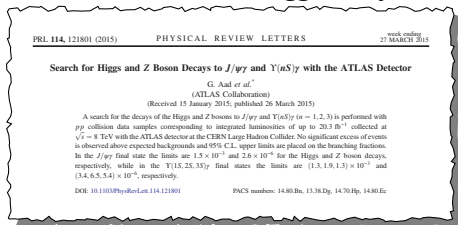


$$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma) = (2.8 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-6} \quad \ddagger$$

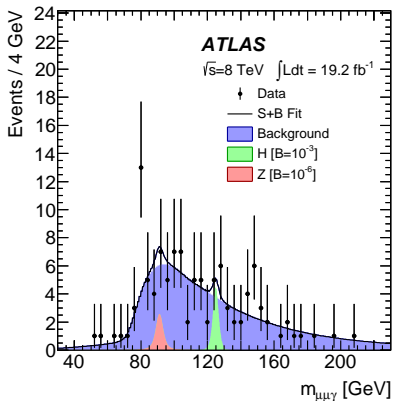
$$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \phi \gamma) = (2.3 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-6} \quad \dagger$$

$$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \rho \gamma) = (1.7 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-5} \quad \dagger$$

## First search for such rare Higgs decays was performed by ATLAS with Run 1 dataset



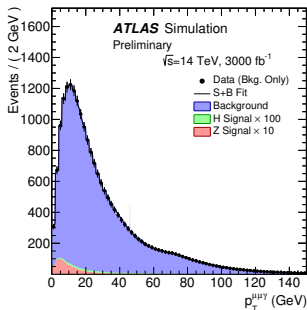
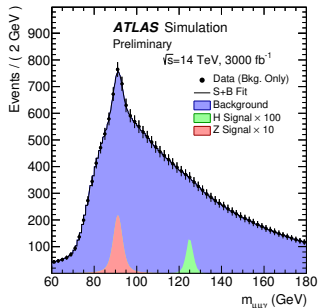
- Studied quarkonium decays, in particular  $H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma$  (with  $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ )
- Similar limit subsequently found by CMS<sup>†</sup>
- First direct information on decay modes sensitive to the  $Hc\bar{c}$  coupling
- Interpreted as  $Hc\bar{c}$  coupling limit of  $y_c/y_c^{SM} < 220$  at 95% CL<sup>‡</sup> (assuming dependence on  $\sigma(pp \rightarrow H)/\Gamma_H$  is removed by considering ratio with  $H \rightarrow 4\ell$  rate)



Branching fraction limit (95% CL):  
 $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma) < 1.5 \times 10^{-3}$   
 Around  $500 \times$  the SM expectation

<sup>†</sup> Phys. Lett. B753 (2016) 341 (arXiv:1507.03031)

<sup>‡</sup> Phys. Rev. D92, 033016 (2015) (arXiv:1503.00290)

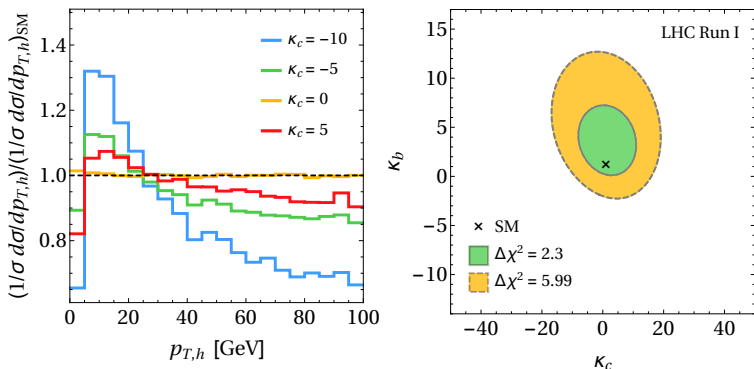


Run 1  $H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma$  analysis projected to  
 $\sqrt{s} = 14$  TeV scenario with  $300(0) \text{ fb}^{-1}$

| Expected branching ratio limit at 95% CL |  |                       |  |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
|  | $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma) [10^{-6}]$ |                       | $\mathcal{B}(Z \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma) [10^{-7}]$ |
|  | Cut Based  | Multivariate Analysis | Cut Based  |
| $300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$                    | $185^{+81}_{-52}$                                    | $153^{+69}_{-43}$     | $7.0^{+2.7}_{-2.0}$                                  |
| $3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$                   | $55^{+24}_{-15}$                                     | $44^{+19}_{-12}$      | $4.4^{+1.9}_{-1.1}$                                  |
| Standard Model expectation               |  |                       |  |
|  | $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma) [10^{-6}]$ |                       | $\mathcal{B}(Z \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma) [10^{-7}]$ |
|  | $2.9 \pm 0.2$  |                       | $0.80 \pm 0.05$                                      |

- Optimistic scenario with MVA analysis still only sensitive to  $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma)$  **15 $\times$  SM value with  $3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$**
- New ideas likely required to reach SM sensitivity in a HL-LHC scenario!

More details in [ATL-PHYS-PUB-2015-043](#)



↑ Left: Effect of modified  $\kappa_c$  on  $p_T^H$  from  $cg \rightarrow Hc$  diagrams Right: bounds from Run 1 data (both from arXiv:1606.09253)

- In the case of a modified heavy quark  $Q = c, b$  Yukawa coupling, the shape of the inclusive  $p_T^H$  spectrum would change due to the modified  $gQ \rightarrow HQ$  contribution
- $p_T^H$  can be measured in the  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  and  $H \rightarrow 4\ell$  channels, which imposes a 95% CL bound of  $-16 < y_c/y_c^{SM} < 18$  (arXiv:1606.09253, based on ATLAS+CMS Run 1)
- Projecting to HL-LHC scenario with  $3 \text{ ab}^{-1}$ , bound evolves to  $-0.6 < y_c/y_c^{SM} < 3.0$