



Higgs Boson Rare Production and Decay at ATLAS and CMS


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on behalf of the
ATLAS & CMS Collaborations
LHCP2023

Rare Higgs Decays & Production

- Rare Decays

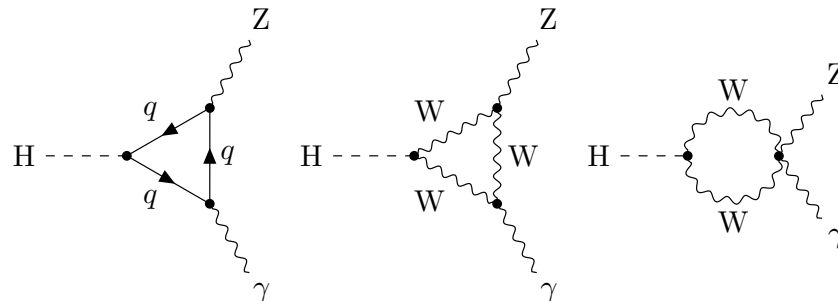
- $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$: ATLAS + CMS Combination HIG-23-002 
- $H \rightarrow cc$: CMS HIG-21-008 + HIG-21-012; ATLAS HIGG-2021-12
- $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$: CMS HIG-19-006; ATLAS HIGG-2019-14
- $H \rightarrow ee / e\mu$: CMS HIG-21-015; ATLAS HIGG-2018-58
- $H \rightarrow e\tau, \mu\tau$: ATLAS HIGG-2019-11
- $H \rightarrow \text{quarkonia}$: CMS HIG-20-008; ATLAS ATL-PHYS-PUB-2023-004

- Rare Production

- γH : CMS SMP-22-006 

ATLAS + CMS $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$

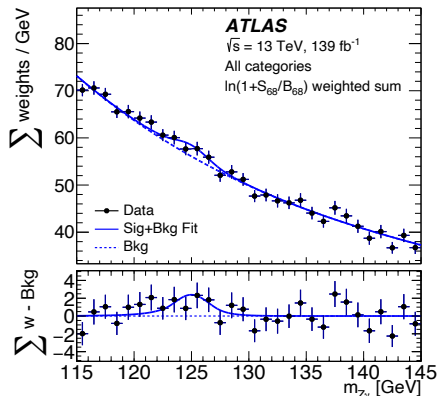
- **Production:** gluon fusion & VBF
- **Expected BR:** $\sim 1.5 \times 10^{-3}$
- $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$, like $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, is purely loop induced, and thus sensitive to new physics



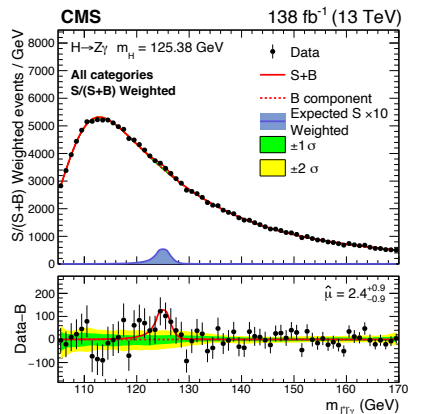
- **Analysis strategy:**

- Z decays to e or μ pairs with $m_{ll} > 50$ GeV; provides clean signature and good mass resolution
- Dominant backgrounds from DY + ISR γ and DY + jets
- Events are categorized & simultaneous S+B fits to $m_{Z\gamma}$ across categories

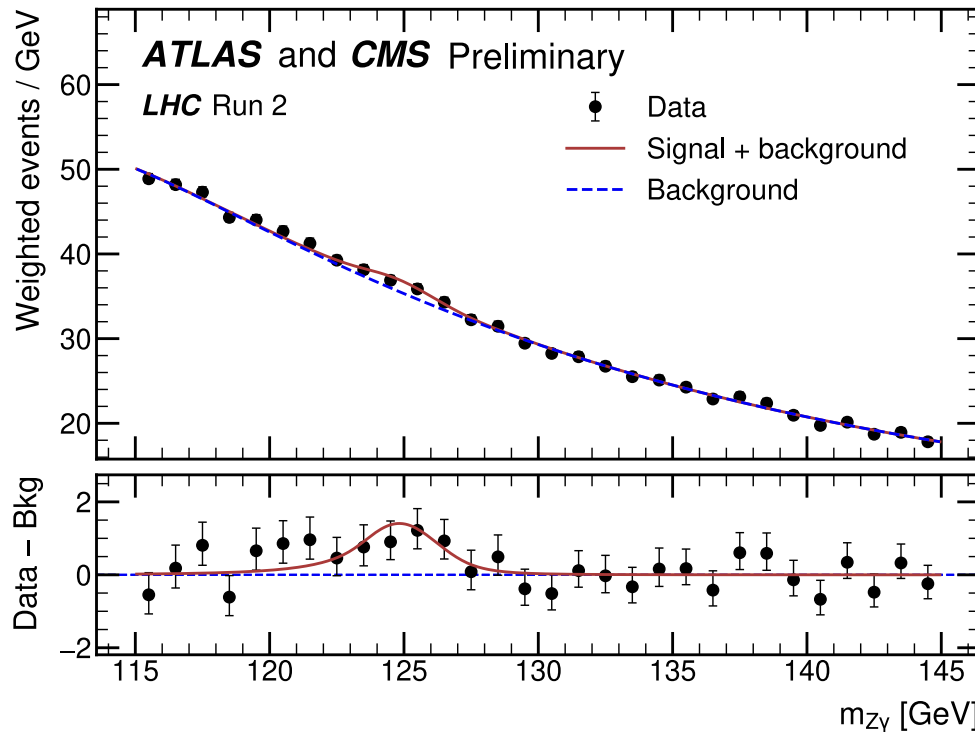
ATLAS + CMS $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$



HIGG-2018-42
(Phys. Lett. B 809 (2020) 135754)



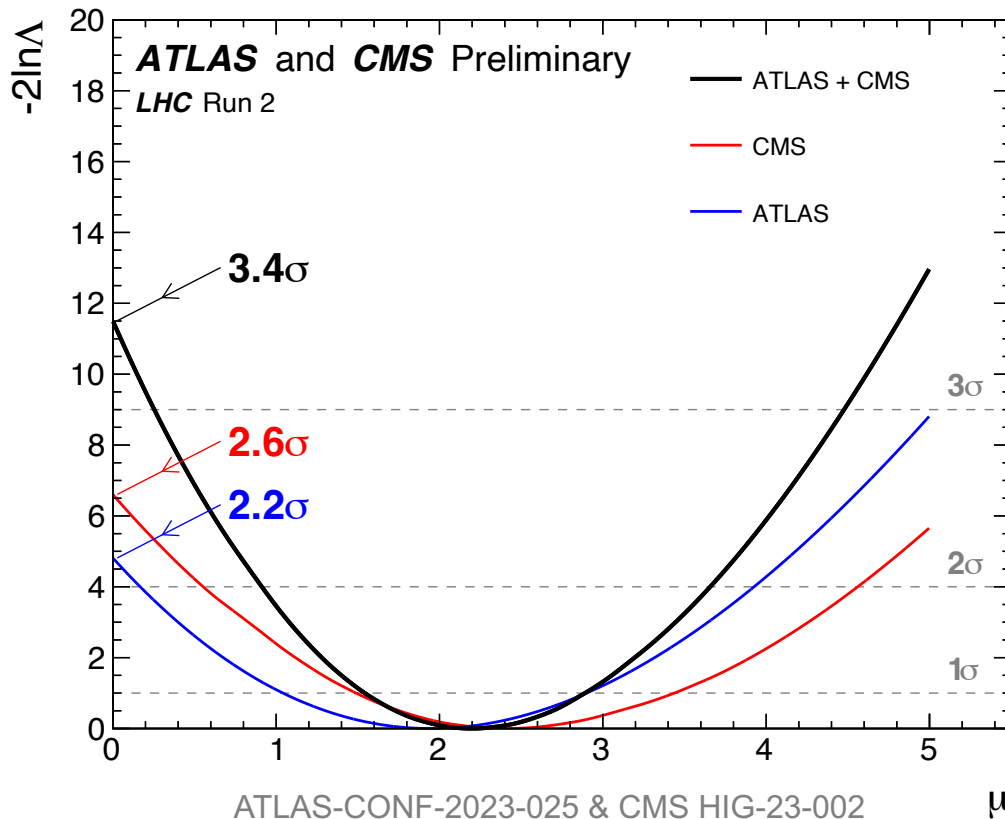
HIG-19-004
 (Accepted for JHEP)



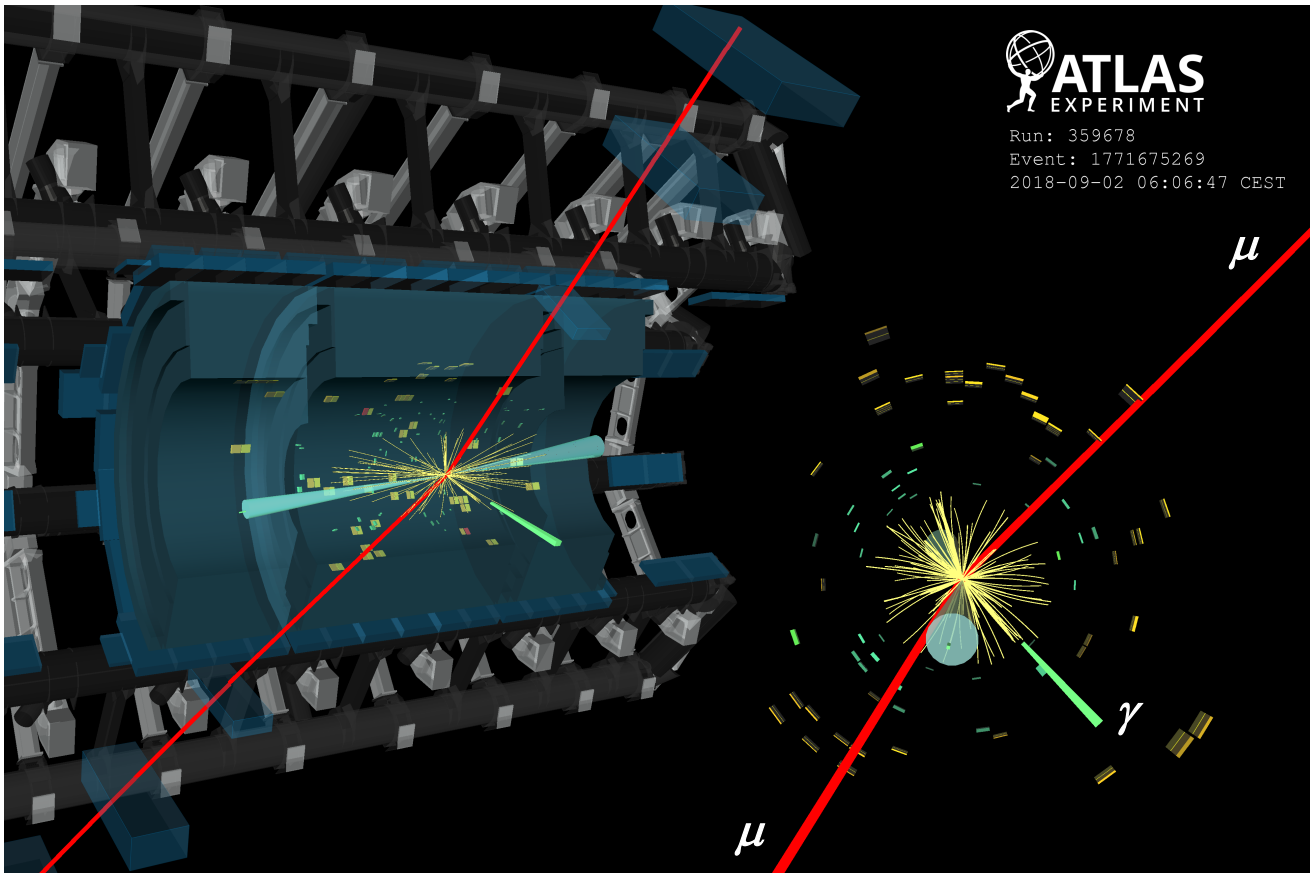
ATLAS-CONF-2023-025 & CMS HIG-23-002

ATLAS + CMS $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$

- Observed (expected) signal yield is 2.2 ± 0.7 (1.0 ± 0.6) x SM
- $B(H \rightarrow Z\gamma)$ is measured to be $(3.4 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-3}$, in agreement within 1.9 standard deviations of the SM prediction
- **First evidence for $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$, with statistical significance of 3.4 standard deviations**



ATLAS + CMS $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$

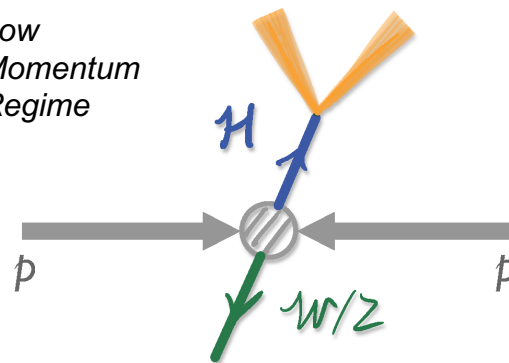


CMS $H \rightarrow cc$

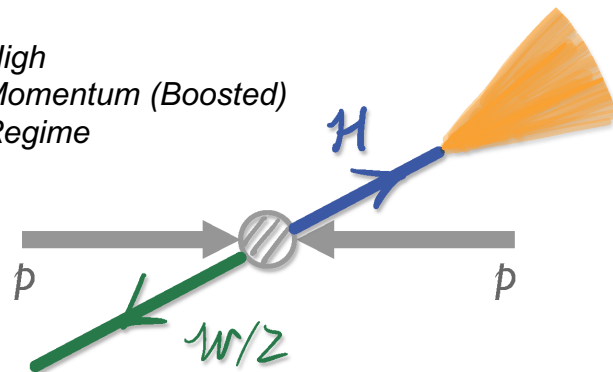
- **Production:** with W/Z decaying leptonically
- **Expected BR:** $\sim 3\%$
- **Two regimes:**
 - Low momentum: resolved charm quark jets
 - Boosted ($p_T > 300$ GeV): merged, single jet
- Novel charm jet identification and analysis methods using ML (GNN)
- Validated by searching for $Z \rightarrow cc$ in VZ events

[arXiv:2205.05550](https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.05550) (Accepted by PRL)

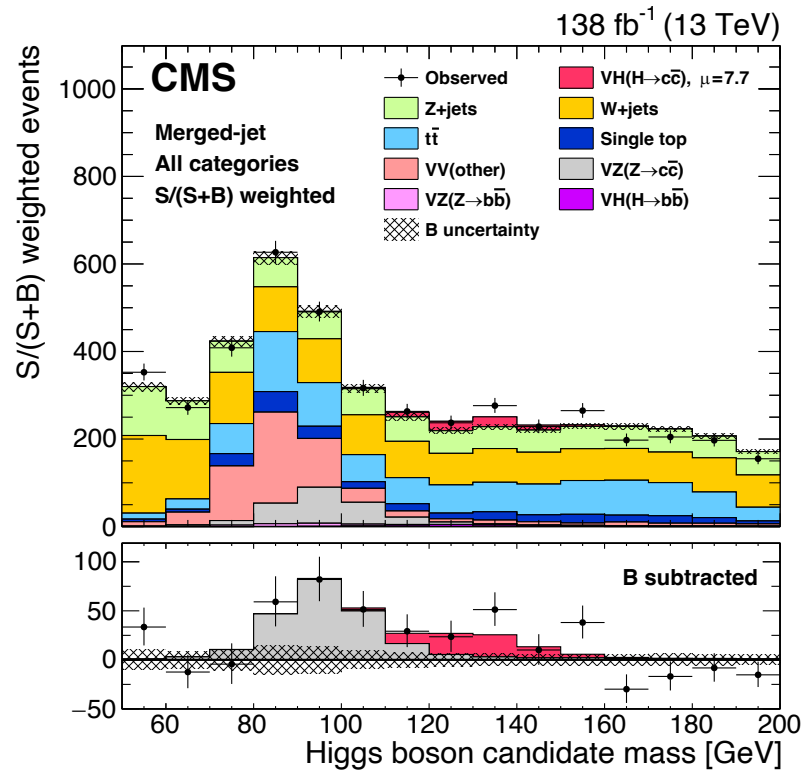
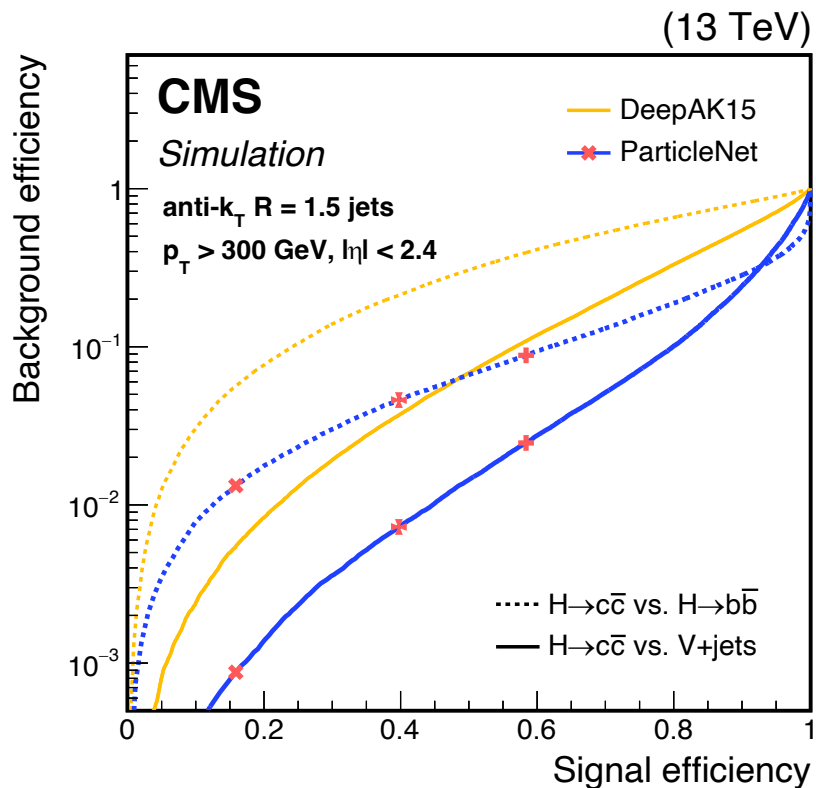
*Low
Momentum
Regime*



*High
Momentum (Boosted)
Regime*

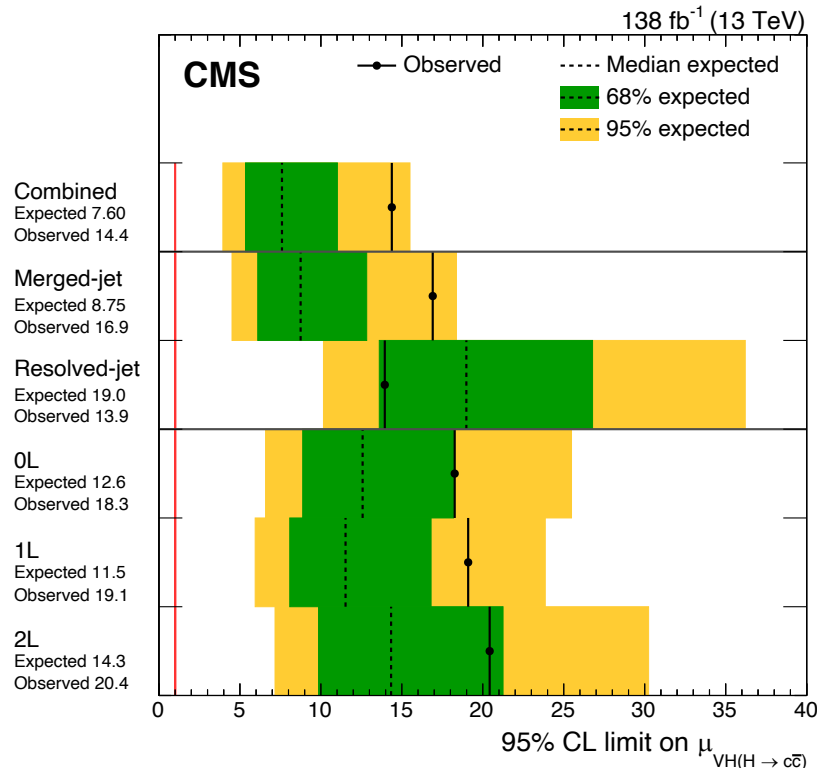


CMS $H \rightarrow cc$

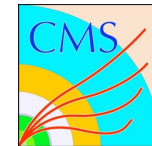


CMS $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$

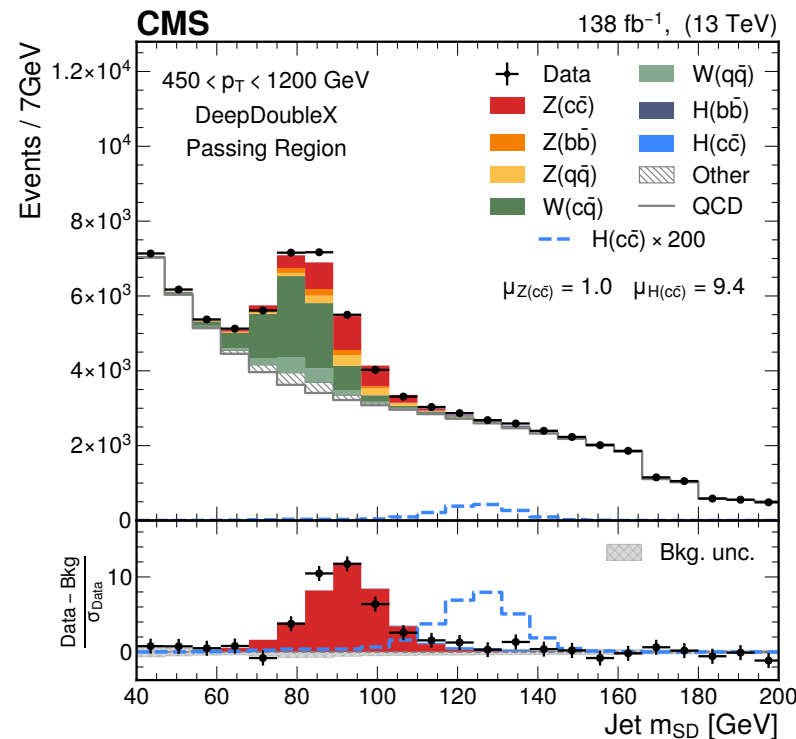
- Observed (expected) upper limit on $\sigma(VH) B(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$ is $0.94 (0.50_{-0.15}^{+0.22})$ pb at 95% CL
- Corresponding to $14 (7.6_{-2.3}^{+3.4}) \times SM$
- For Higgs-charm Yukawa coupling modifier (κ_c), observed (expected) 95% CL interval is $1.1 < |\kappa_c| < 5.5$ ($|\kappa_c| < 3.4$)
- **Most stringent constraint to date**



CMS (More) Boosted $H \rightarrow cc$

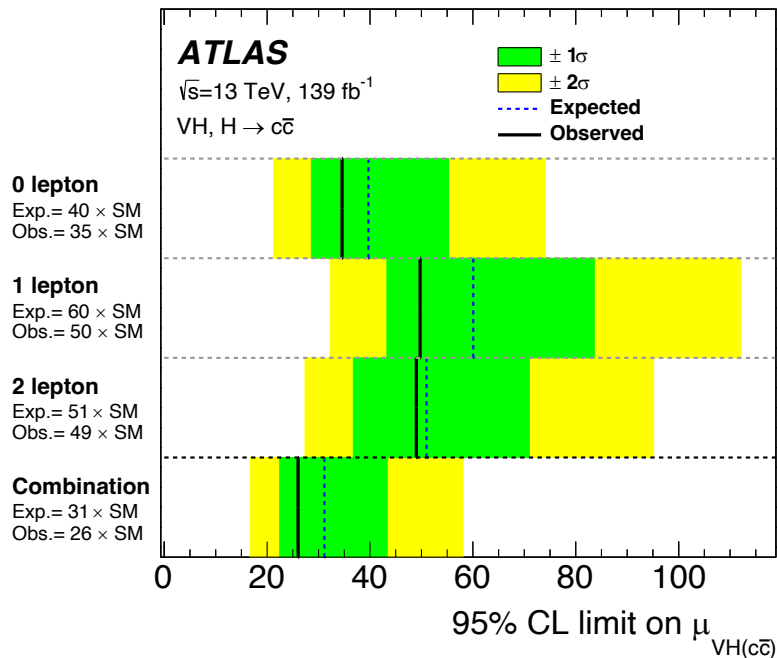


- Boosted $H \rightarrow cc$ reconstructed as a single large-radius jet
- Identified using a deep neural network charm tagging technique
- Validated by measurement of $Z \rightarrow cc$, observed with signal strength of: $1.00^{+0.17}_{-0.14}$ (syst) ± 0.08 (theo) ± 0.06 (stat)
- **Observed (expected) upper limit on $\sigma(H) B(H \rightarrow cc)$ is 47 (39) x SM**

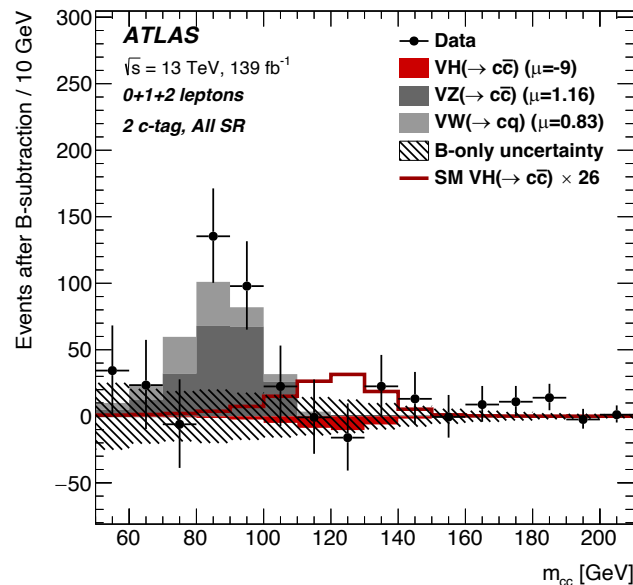
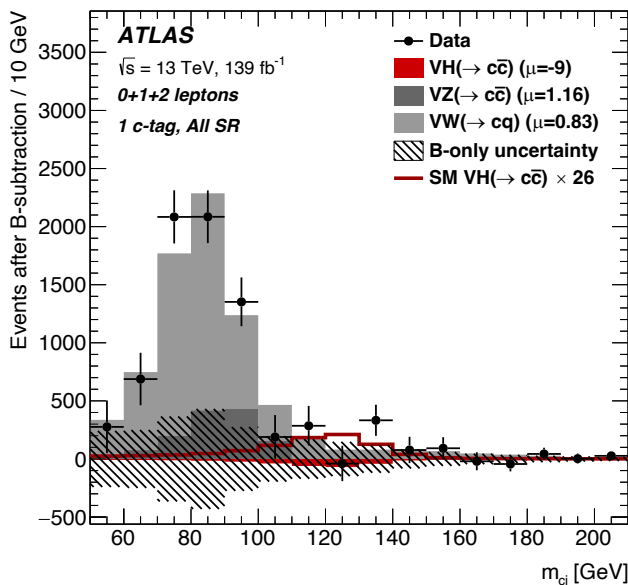


ATLAS $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$

- Validated with simultaneous measurement of WW , WZ , ZZ production
- Observed (expected) upper limit on $(W/Z)Z(\rightarrow c\bar{c})$ is 2.6 (2.2) standard deviations above background-only prediction and for $(W/Z)W(\rightarrow c\bar{q})$ 3.8 (4.6)
- $(W/Z)H(\rightarrow c\bar{c})$ search yields observed (expected) upper limit of 26 (31) \times SM
- For Higgs-charm Yukawa coupling modifier (κ_c), observed (expected) constraint is $|\kappa_c| < 8.5$ (12.4) at 95% CL



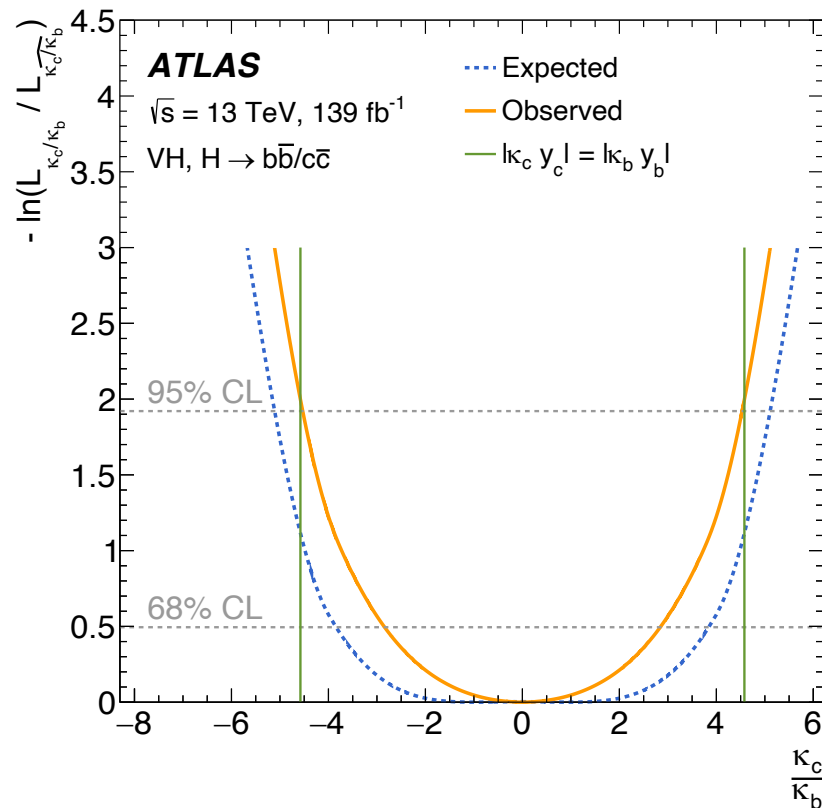
ATLAS $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$



Post-fit $m_{c\bar{c}}$ distribution summed over all signal regions after subtracting backgrounds, leaving only the $VH(\rightarrow c\bar{c})$, $VW(\rightarrow cq)$, $VZ(\rightarrow c\bar{c})$ processes, for events with (left) one c -tag and (right) two c -tags

ATLAS $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$

- **Combination with the ATLAS (W/Z) $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ analysis**, allowing the ratio κ_c/κ_b to be constrained without assumptions about width of the Higgs boson
- $|\kappa_c/\kappa_b| < 4.5$ at 95% CL, smaller than the ratio of the b- and c-quark masses
- Determines the Higgs-charm coupling to be weaker than the Higgs-bottom coupling at 95% CL

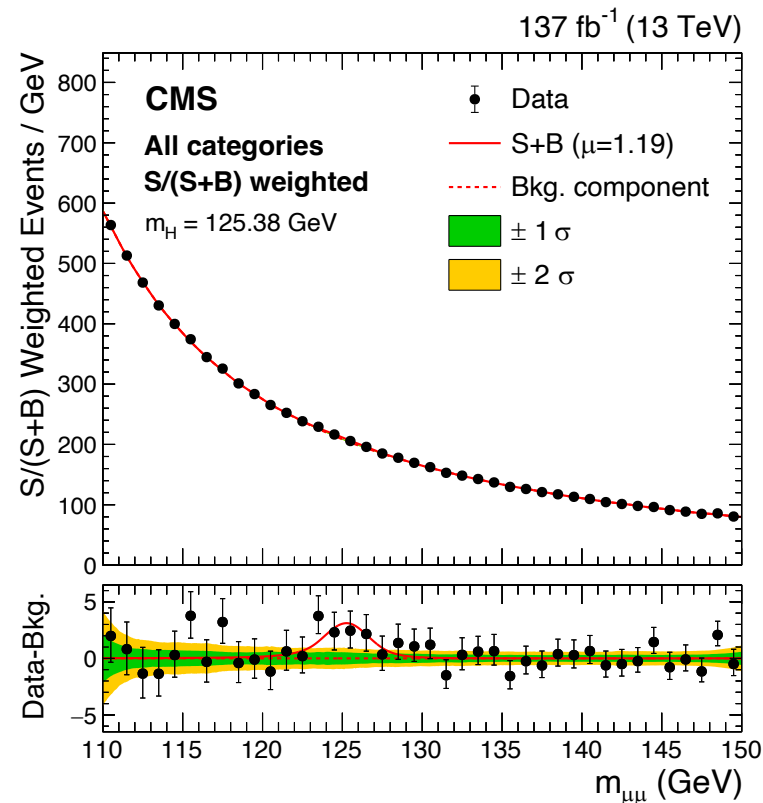


Eur. Phys. J. C 82 (2022) 717

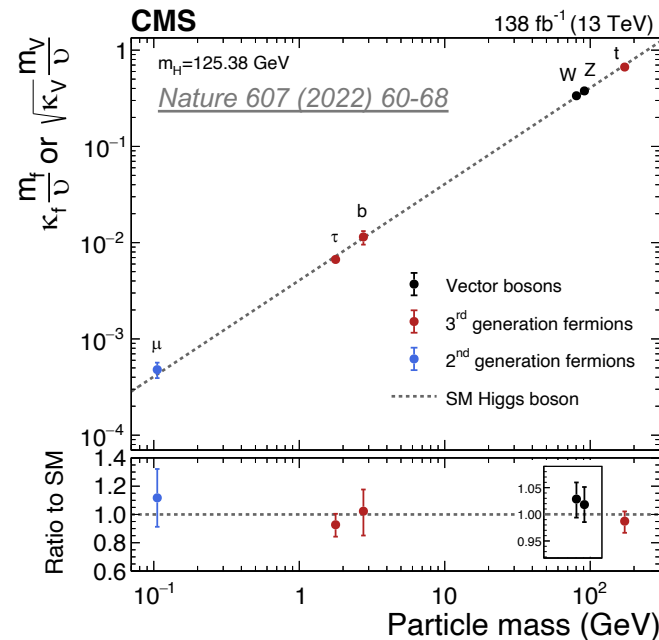
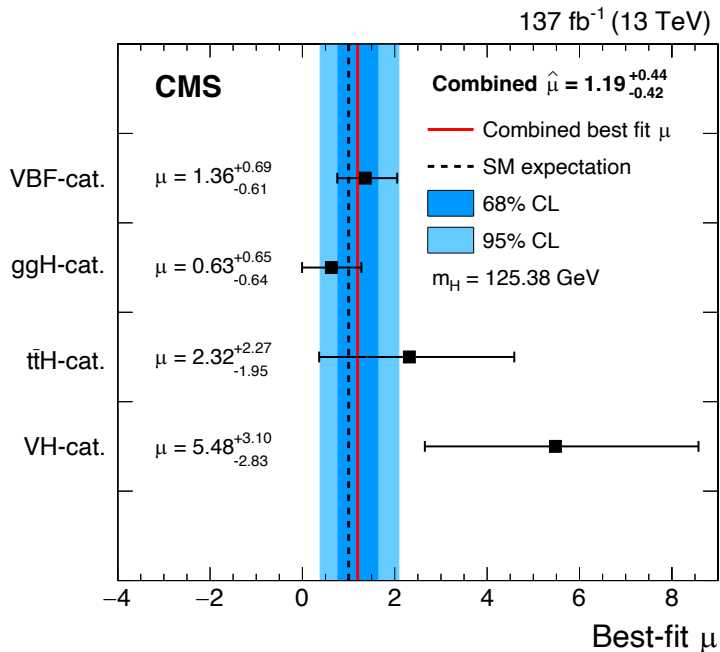
CMS $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$



- **Production:** gluon fusion & VBF
- **Expected BR:** 2.17×10^{-4}
- **Analysis strategy:**
 - Indistinguishable DY background with signal to background $\approx 10^{-3}$
 - Background modeling essential to search for narrow mass peak
 - Multiple categories based on production processes
 - VBF uses DNN

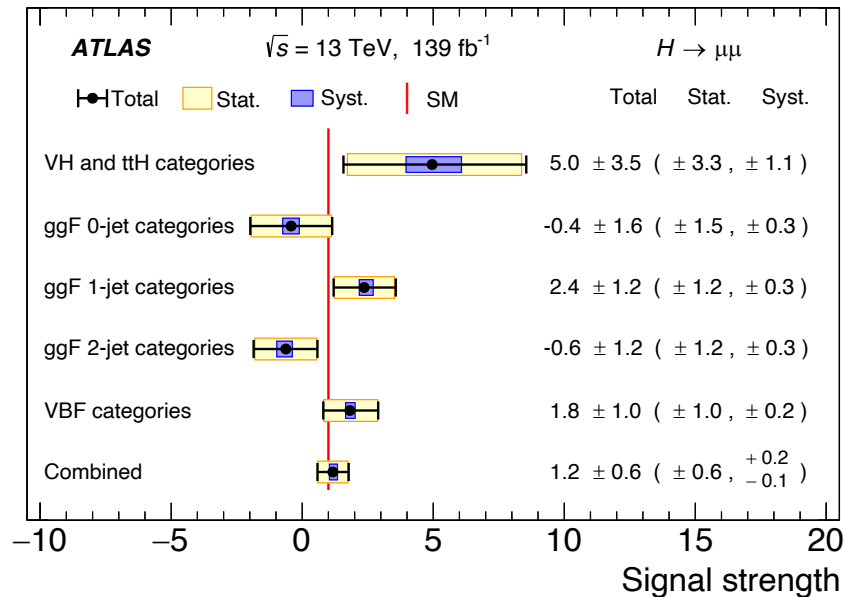
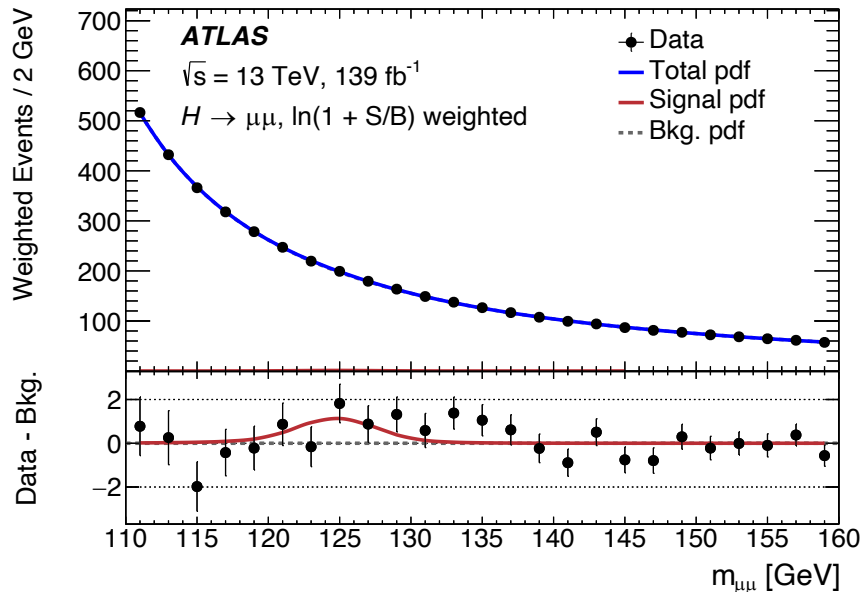


CMS $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$



- Measured signal strength, relative to SM: $1.19^{+0.40}_{-0.39}$ (stat) $^{+0.15}_{-0.14}$ (syst)
- First evidence for $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$: 3.0σ (2.5σ observed (expected))

ATLAS $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$

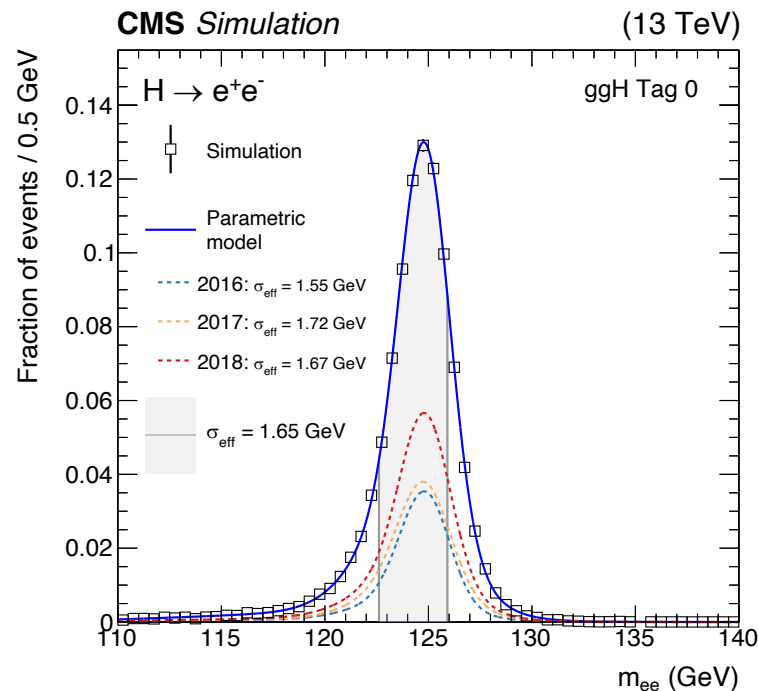


- Observed upper limit on the $\sigma \times B$ for $pp \rightarrow H \rightarrow \mu\mu$: **$2.2 \times \text{SM}$ at 95% CL**
- Best-fit signal strength: **$\mu = 1.2 \pm 0.6$**
- Observed (expected) significance: **2.0σ (1.7σ)**

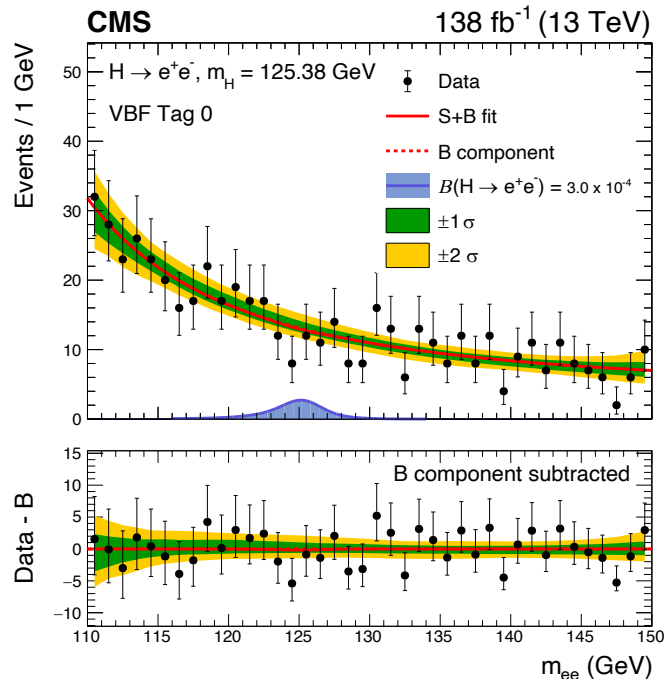
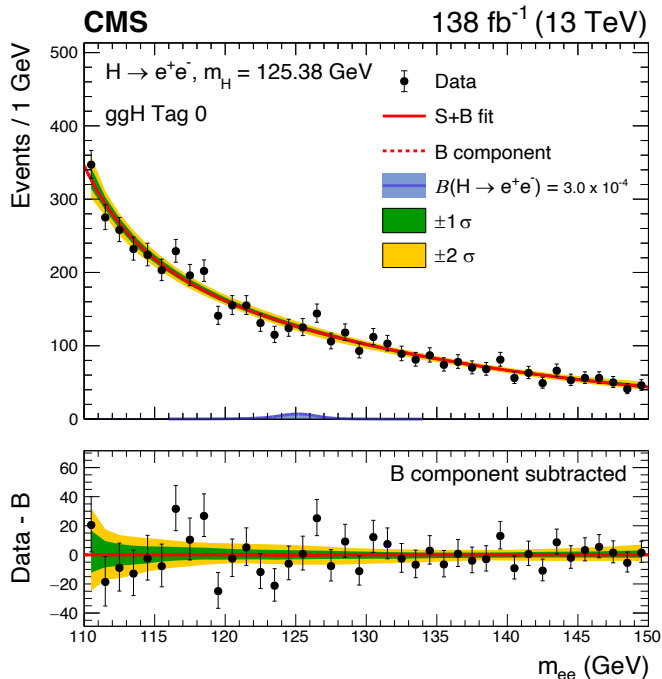
(*Phys. Lett. B* 812 (2021) 135980)

CMS $H \rightarrow ee$

- **Production:** gluon fusion & VBF
- **Expected BR:** $\sim 5 \times 10^{-9}$
- ATLAS & CMS searches currently provide the only direct probe of Higgs Yukawa coupling to electrons, which is enhanced in several BSM scenarios; indirect probes from EDM, etc.
- **Analysis strategy:** similar to $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$
 - MVA-based classifiers to reduce background
 - Classifiers are used to define categories
 - Maximum likelihood fit performed to m_{ee} distribution in each category simultaneously



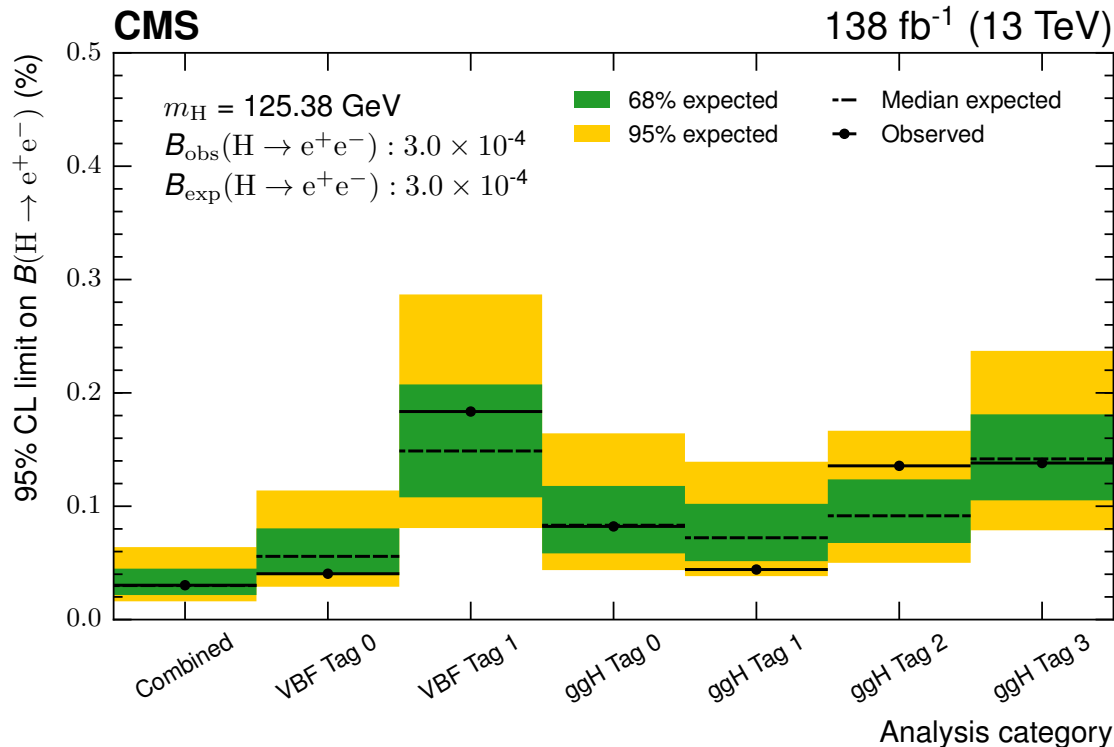
CMS $H \rightarrow ee$



Signal-plus-background model fit to m_{ee} distribution for the highest S/B categories targeting the ggH (left) and VBF (right) processes

CMS $H \rightarrow ee$

- Observed (expected) upper limit on $B(H \rightarrow ee)$ is 3.0×10^{-4} (3.0×10^{-4}) at the 95% CL
- Most stringent limit on this branching fraction to date

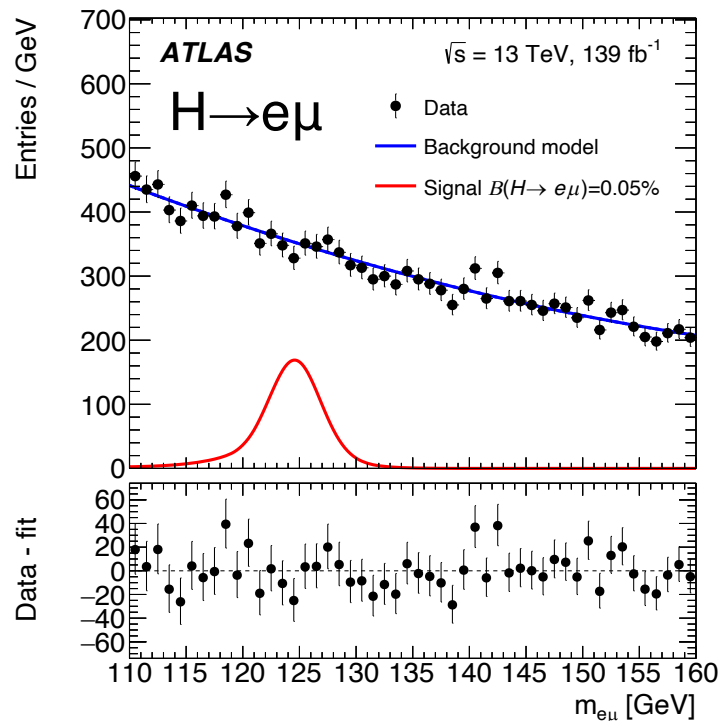
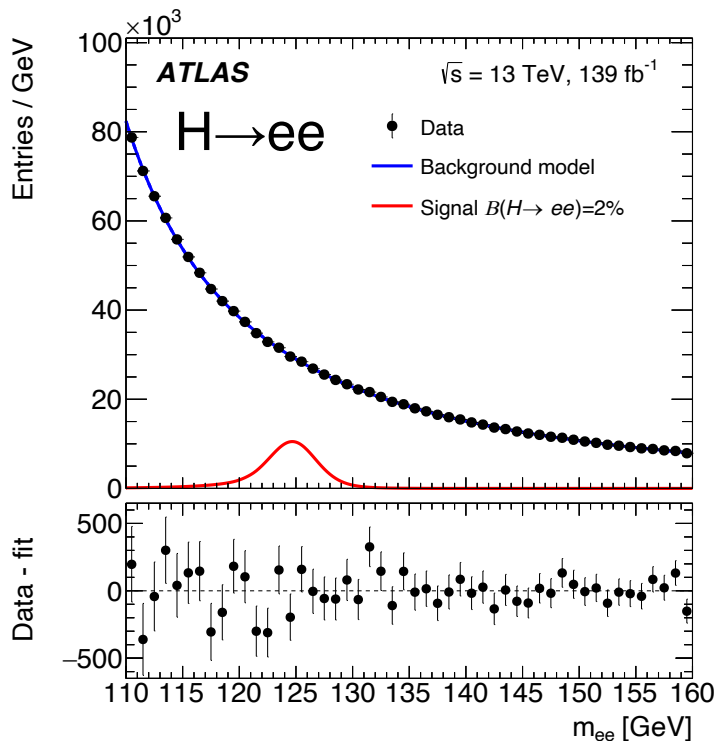


ATLAS $H \rightarrow ee, e\mu$

- Observed (expected) upper limits at 95% CL:

- $B(H \rightarrow ee)$:
 3.6×10^{-4}
 (3.5×10^{-4})

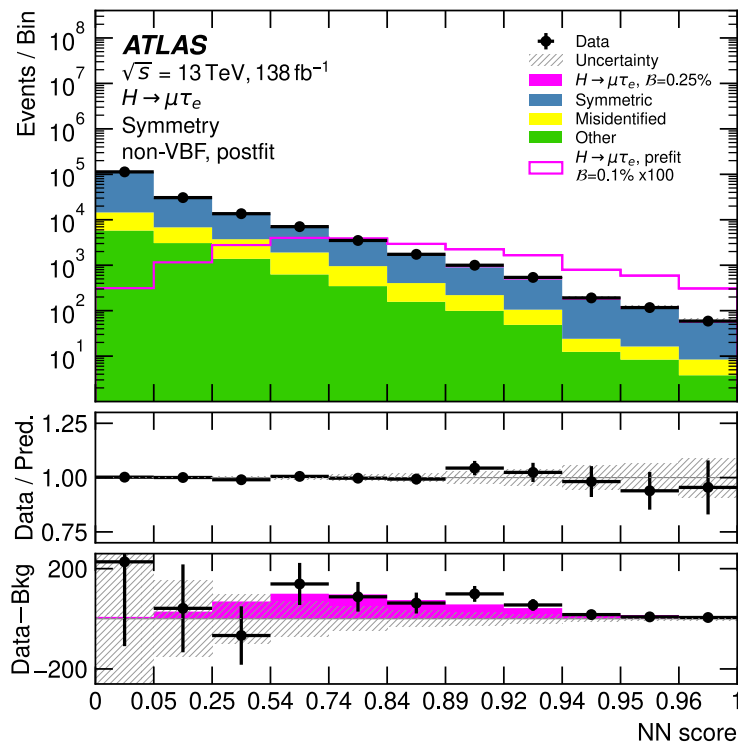
- $B(H \rightarrow e\mu)$:
 6.2×10^{-5}
 (5.8×10^{-5})



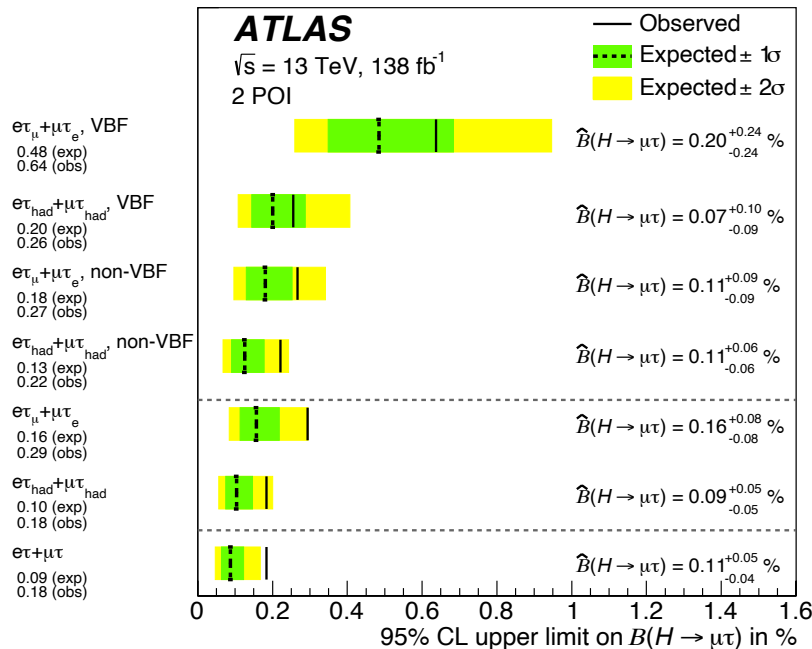
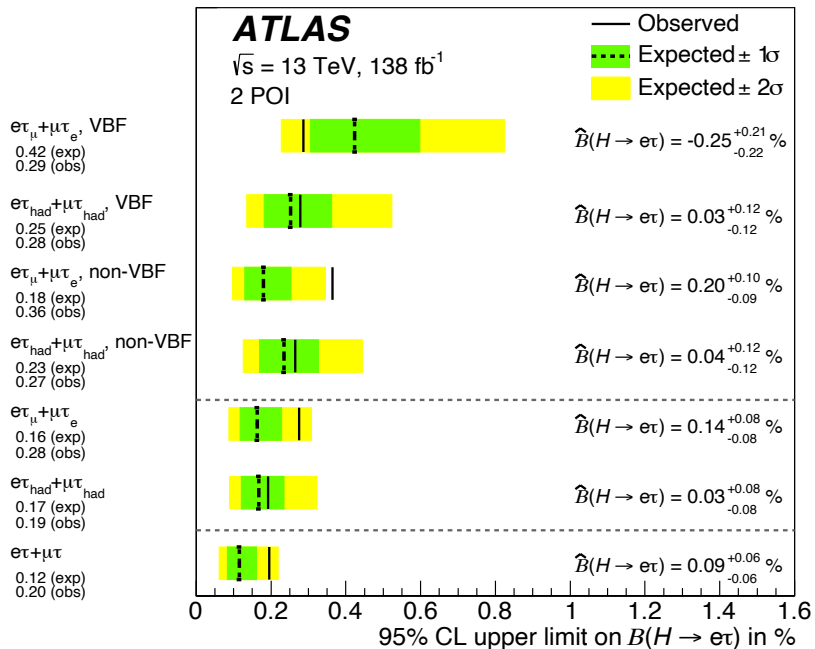
Phys. Lett. B 801 (2020) 135148

ATLAS $H \rightarrow e\tau, \mu\tau$

- **Lepton flavor violating decays**
- **Analysis strategy:**
 - MVA-based classifiers to reduce background
 - Two background estimation techniques:
 - 1) MC-template method, based on data-corrected simulation samples; BDT
 - 2) Symmetry method, exploiting the symmetry between e & μ in SM backgrounds; NN



ATLAS $H \rightarrow e\tau, \mu\tau$

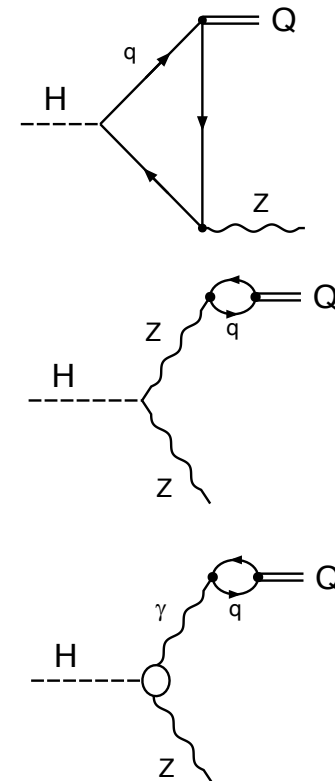


- Obs (exp) limits at 95% CL: $B(H \rightarrow e\tau) < 0.20\%$ (0.12%) & $B(H \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.18\%$ (0.09%)
- Best-fit $B(H \rightarrow \mu\tau) - B(H \rightarrow e\tau) = (0.25 \pm 0.10)\%$, compatible with zero within 2.5σ

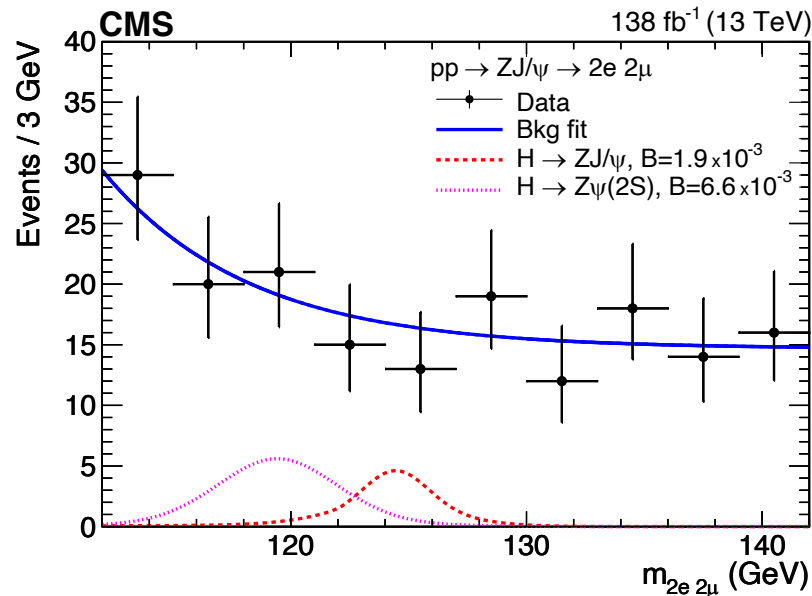
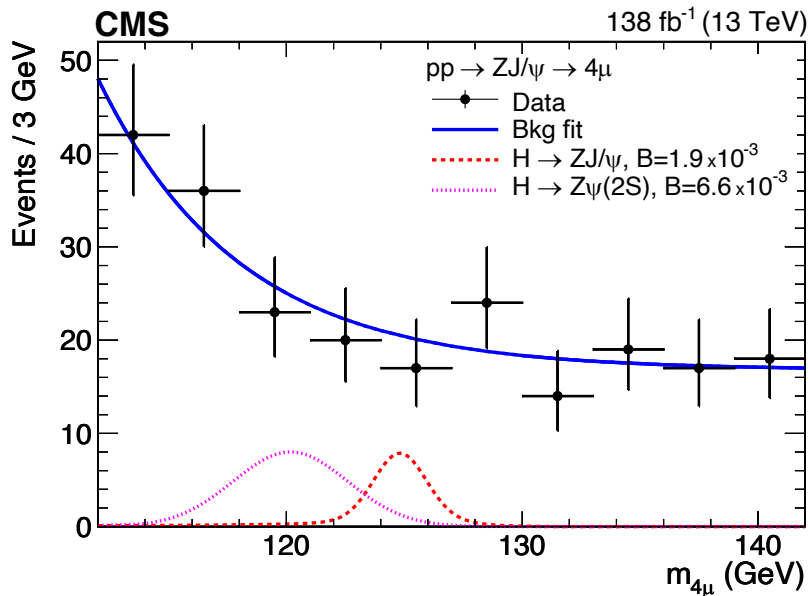
CMS $H \rightarrow$ quarkonia



- **$H \rightarrow Z J/\psi \rightarrow 4$ leptons**
 - $B(H \rightarrow Z J/\psi) = 2.3 \times 10^{-6}$; $B(H \rightarrow Z \psi(2S)) = 1.7 \times 10^{-6}$
- **H & $Z \rightarrow J/\psi J/\psi$ or $\Upsilon\Upsilon$**
 - $B(H \rightarrow J/\psi J/\psi) = 1.5 \times 10^{-10}$; $B(H \rightarrow \Upsilon\Upsilon) = 2 \times 10^{-9}$
 - Also search for Higgs or Z decays where, before decaying into muon pairs, one or both J/ψ could be the result of an inclusive $\psi(2S)$ to J/ψ transition
 - $\Upsilon(nS)(n=1,2)$ mesons could be the result of inclusive transitions from $\Upsilon(nS)(n=2,3)$
- New physics could affect the direct boson couplings or could enter through loops and enhance the BF wrt SM



CMS $H \rightarrow$ quarkonia



Four-lepton invariant mass distributions for (left) 4μ and (right) $2e2\mu$ channels, with maximum likelihood fit to background superimposed

CMS $H \rightarrow$ quarkonia

Process	Observed	Expected	Observed	Observed
Higgs boson channel	Longitudinal	Longitudinal	Unpolarized	Transverse
$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow ZJ/\psi)$	1.9×10^{-3}	$(2.6^{+1.1}_{-0.7}) \times 10^{-3}$	2.4×10^{-3}	2.8×10^{-3}
$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow Z\psi(2S))$	6.6×10^{-3}	$(7.1^{+2.8}_{-2.0}) \times 10^{-3}$	8.3×10^{-3}	9.4×10^{-3}
$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow J/\psi J/\psi)$	3.8×10^{-4}	$(4.6^{+2.0}_{-0.6}) \times 10^{-4}$	4.7×10^{-4}	5.2×10^{-4}
$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \psi(2S)J/\psi)$	2.1×10^{-3}	$(1.4^{+0.6}_{-0.4}) \times 10^{-3}$	2.6×10^{-3}	2.9×10^{-3}
$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \psi(2S)\psi(2S))$	3.0×10^{-3}	$(3.3^{+1.5}_{-0.9}) \times 10^{-3}$	3.6×10^{-3}	4.7×10^{-3}
$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow Y(nS)Y(mS))$	3.5×10^{-4}	$(3.6^{+0.2}_{-0.3}) \times 10^{-4}$	4.3×10^{-4}	4.6×10^{-4}
$\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow Y(1S)Y(1S))$	1.7×10^{-3}	$(1.7^{+0.1}_{-0.1}) \times 10^{-3}$	2.0×10^{-3}	2.2×10^{-3}
Z boson channel				
$\mathcal{B}(Z \rightarrow J/\psi J/\psi)$	11×10^{-7}	$(9.5^{+3.8}_{-2.6}) \times 10^{-7}$	14×10^{-7}	16×10^{-7}
$\mathcal{B}(Z \rightarrow Y(nS)Y(mS))$	3.9×10^{-7}	$(4.0^{+0.3}_{-0.3}) \times 10^{-7}$	4.9×10^{-7}	5.6×10^{-7}
$\mathcal{B}(Z \rightarrow Y(1S)Y(1S))$	1.8×10^{-6}	$(1.8^{+0.1}_{-0.0}) \times 10^{-6}$	2.2×10^{-6}	2.4×10^{-6}

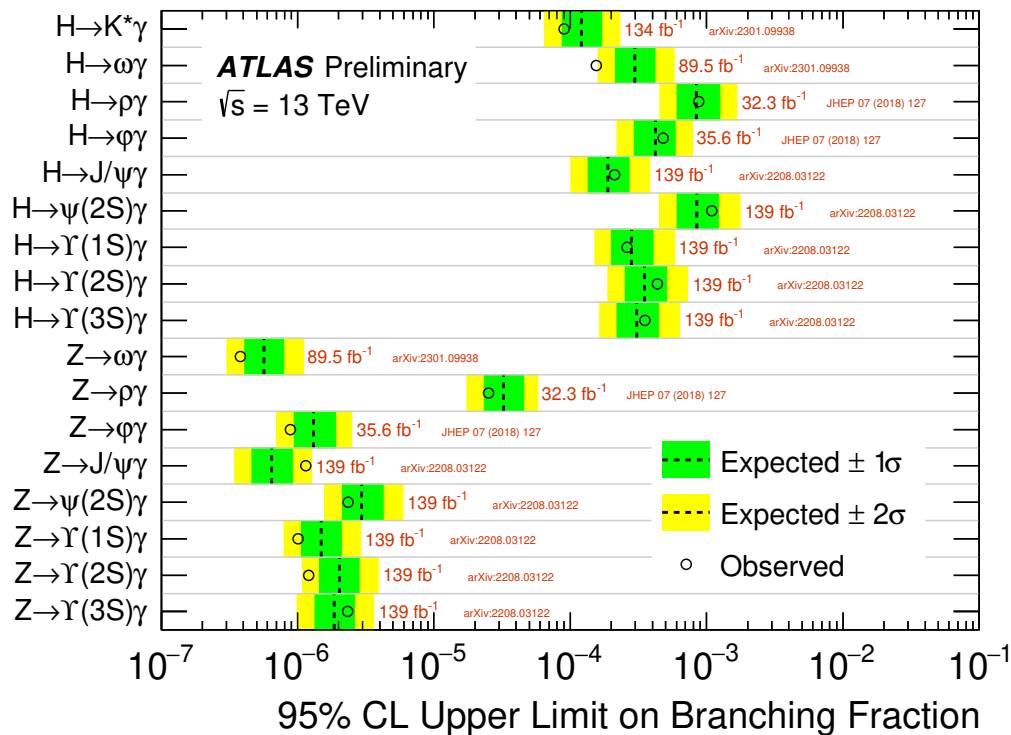
- Observed upper limit branching fraction for $H \rightarrow Z J/\psi$ is ~ 800 x SM
- For $H \rightarrow Y(nS) Y(mS)$, upper limit is $\sim O(10)$ x earlier SM predictions

ATLAS $H \rightarrow \mathcal{M}\gamma$

- $H(Z) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}\gamma$, $\mathcal{M} = J/\psi, \psi(2S), \Upsilon(1S, 2S, 3S), \phi, \rho, \omega$
- These radiative decays have a distinct experimental signature, which helps suppress the large multi-jet backgrounds that affect direct $H \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ searches

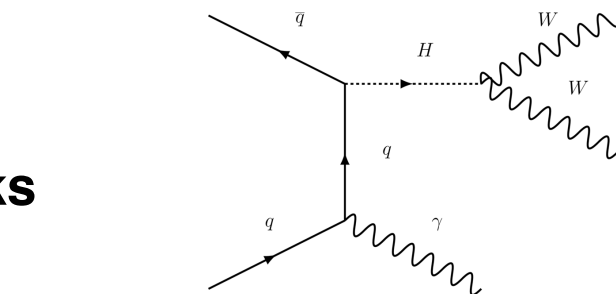
• Summary of 3 results:

- $H(Z) \rightarrow \omega\gamma$ & $H \rightarrow K^*\gamma$: [HDBS-2019-33](#)
- $H(Z) \rightarrow Q\gamma$: [HDBS-2018-53](#)
- $H(Z) \rightarrow \phi\gamma$ & $\rho\gamma$: [HIGG-2016-13](#)



CMS γ H Production

- **Production: γ H, with $H \rightarrow WW$**
- $WW\gamma$ analysis, extended to include γ H
- **Sensitive to Higgs coupling to light quarks**
- **Analysis strategy:**



- Similar to $WW\gamma$, but targets Higgs characteristics by requiring $\Delta\phi_{//} < 2.5$, $\Delta R_{//} < 2.3$, and $\Delta R_{l\gamma} > 0.8$
- Profile likelihood ratio test statistic is built in bins of $\Delta R_{//}$ and m_T^{WW}

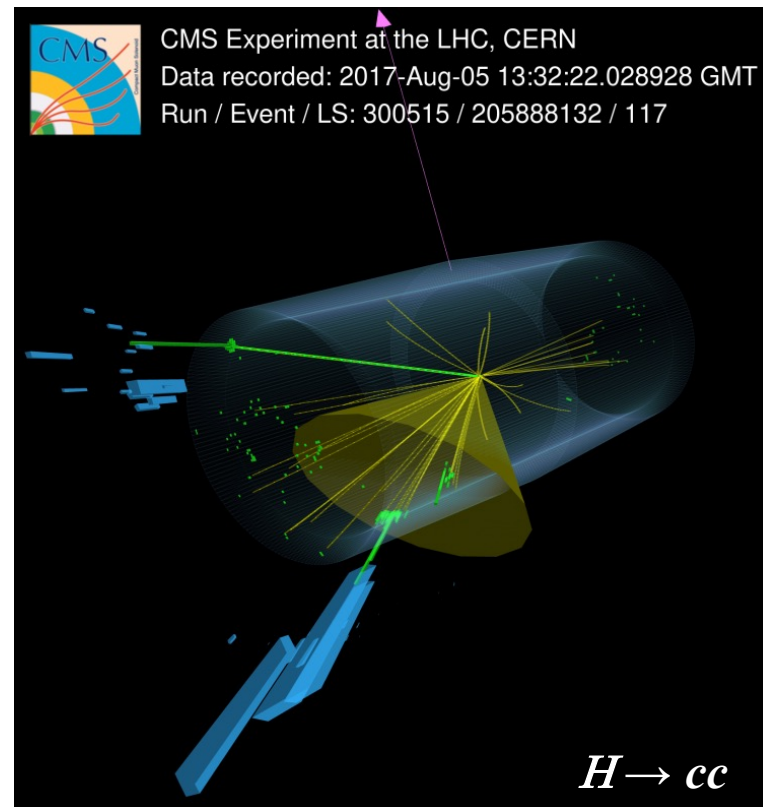
Process	σ_{up} pb exp.(obs.)	Yukawa couplings limits exp.(obs.)
$u\bar{u} \rightarrow H + \gamma \rightarrow e\mu\gamma$	0.067 (0.085)	$ \kappa_u \leq 13000$ (16000)
$d\bar{d} \rightarrow H + \gamma \rightarrow e\mu\gamma$	0.058 (0.072)	$ \kappa_d \leq 14000$ (17000)
$s\bar{s} \rightarrow H + \gamma \rightarrow e\mu\gamma$	0.049 (0.068)	$ \kappa_s \leq 1300$ (1700)
$c\bar{c} \rightarrow H + \gamma \rightarrow e\mu\gamma$	0.067 (0.087)	$ \kappa_c \leq 110$ (200)

Summary



- **Studies of rare Higgs decays are essential to LHC physics program**
- **ATLAS & CMS are making impressive progress in rare Higgs**
- Improvements not only come from a larger data set, but also from using innovative analysis techniques
- Run 3 will consolidate the evidence in some decay channels and will bring further improvement in sensitivity

*"Searches for BSM scalars" -- [ATLAS: Nicholas Kyriacou](#); [CMS: Ram Krishna Sharma](#)
 "Exotic production & decays of the 125 GeV Higgs" -- [ATLAS: Rocky Bala Garg](#); [CMS: Pallabi Das](#)*



Analysis	Experiment	Reference	Obs (Exp) 95% CL
$H \rightarrow Z\gamma$	ATLAS + CMS	ATLAS-CONF-2023-025 & CMS HIG-23-002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $\mu = 2.2 \pm 0.7$ (1.0 ± 0.6) x SM $B(H \rightarrow Z\gamma) = (3.4 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-3}$, within 1.9σ of SM
$H \rightarrow cc$	CMS	Eur. Phys. J. C 82 (2022) 717	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $\sigma(\text{VH}) B(H \rightarrow cc)$: 14 ($7.6^{+3.4}_{-2.3}$) x SM $1.1 < \kappa_c < 5.5$ ($\kappa_c < 3.4$)
	CMS	arXiv:2211.14181 (Accepted by PRL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $\sigma(\text{VH}) B(H \rightarrow cc)$: 47 (39) x SM
	ATLAS	Eur. Phys. J. C 82 (2022) 717	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $(W/Z)H(\rightarrow cc)$: 26 (31) x SM $\kappa_c < 8.5$ (12.4)
$H \rightarrow \mu\mu$	CMS	JHEP 01 (2021) 148	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$: 3.0σ (2.5σ) $\mu = 1.19^{+0.40}_{-0.39}$ (stat)$^{+0.15}_{-0.14}$ (syst)
	ATLAS	(Phys. Lett. B 812 (2021) 135980)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$: 2.0σ (1.7σ) $\mu = 1.2 \pm 0.6$
$H \rightarrow ee, e\mu$	CMS	arXiv:2208.00265 (Accepted by PLB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $B(H \rightarrow ee) < 3.0 \times 10^{-4}$ (3.0×10^{-4})
	ATLAS	Phys. Lett. B 801 (2020) 135148	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $B(H \rightarrow ee) < 3.6 \times 10^{-4}$ (3.5×10^{-4}) $B(H \rightarrow e\mu) < 6.2 \times 10^{-5}$ (5.8×10^{-5})
$H \rightarrow e\tau, \mu\tau$	ATLAS	arXiv:2302.05225	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $B(H \rightarrow e\tau) < 0.20\%$ (0.12%) & $B(H \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.18\%$ (0.09%) $B(H \rightarrow \mu\tau) - B(H \rightarrow e\tau) = (0.25 \pm 0.10)\%$
$H \rightarrow \text{quarkonia}$	CMS	arXiv:2206.03525 (Accepted by PLB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $H \rightarrow ZJ/\psi < \sim 800$ x SM $H \rightarrow \Upsilon(nS) \Upsilon(mS) < \sim O(10)$ x SM
	ATLAS	ATL-PHYS-PUB-2023-004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See table
γH	CMS	CMS-SMP-22-006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> $\kappa_u \leq 13000$ (16000) $\kappa_d \leq 14000$ (17000) $\kappa_s \leq 1300$ (1700) $\kappa_c \leq 110$ (200)