

Introduction to Statistical Analysis

The background is a complex 3D abstract scene. It features a central point from which numerous thin, bright yellow lines radiate outwards, creating a starburst or explosion effect. Scattered around this central point are several red dice with white pips. The scene is composed of various geometric shapes, including yellow and green rectangular blocks and beams, some of which are stacked or arranged in a way that suggests a complex structure or a game board. The overall color palette is dominated by yellow, green, and red, with a dark, almost black, background that makes the other colors stand out.

Lecture 2

Outline

Previously in these lectures

Statistical modeling

Estimating parameters

Testing for discovery

Confidence intervals

Today

Upper limits

Expected results

Reparameterization and presentation of results

Profiling

Highlights : Discovery

Given a statistical model $P(\text{data}; \mu)$, define likelihood $L(\mu) = P(\text{data}; \mu)$

To estimate a parameter, use the value $\hat{\mu}$ that maximizes $L(\mu) \rightarrow$ best-fit value

To decide between hypotheses H_0 and H_1 , use the **likelihood ratio** $\frac{L(H_0)}{L(H_1)}$

To test for **discovery**, use $q_0 = -2 \log \frac{L(S=0)}{L(\hat{S})} \quad \hat{S} \geq 0$

For large enough datasets ($n > \sim 5$), $Z = \sqrt{q_0}$

For a **Gaussian** measurement, $Z = \frac{\hat{S}}{\sqrt{B}}$

For a **Poisson** measurement, $Z = \sqrt{2 \left[(\hat{S} + B) \log \left(1 + \frac{\hat{S}}{B} \right) - \hat{S} \right]}$

Highlights: Confidence intervals

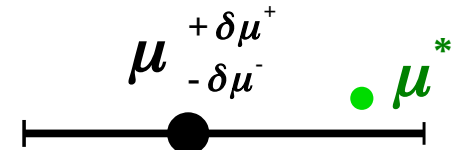
Contain the true value with given probability

To obtain, **compute the log-likelihood ratio** as a function of μ_0 .

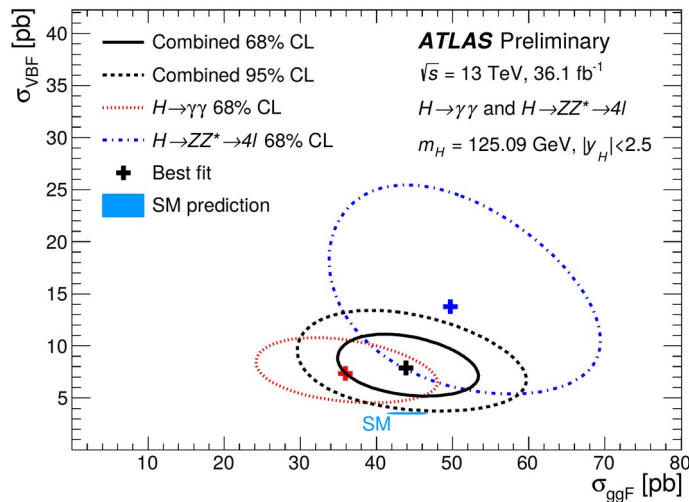
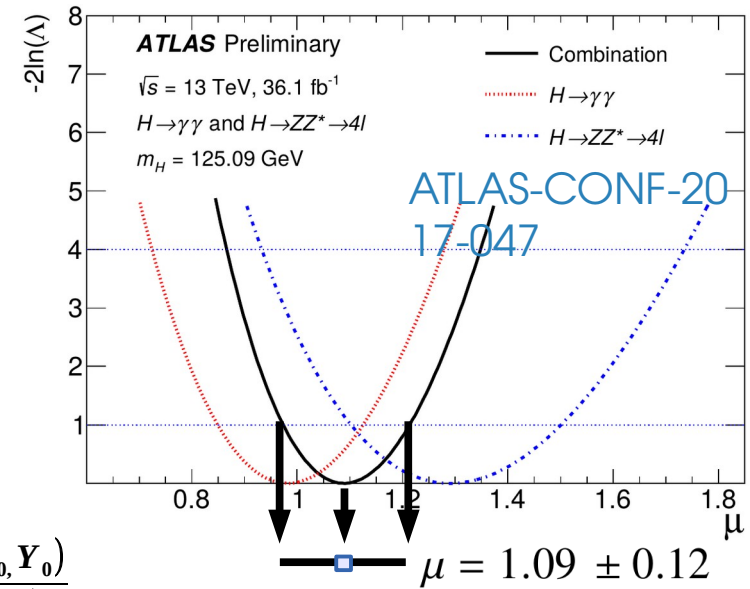
Interval endpoints = μ^\pm for which $t_{\mu^\pm} = 1$

Gaussian case : $\hat{\mu} \pm \sigma$

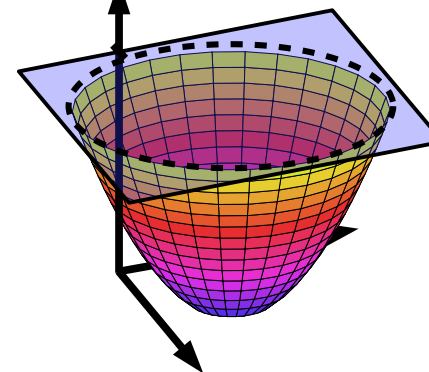
Works also to obtain **contours in 2D**:



$$t_{\mu_0} = -2 \log \frac{L(\mu = \mu_0)}{L(\hat{\mu})}$$



$$t = -2 \log \frac{L(X_0, Y_0)}{L(\hat{X}, \hat{Y})}$$



Outline

Computing statistical results

Confidence intervals

Upper limits on signal yields

Expected Limits

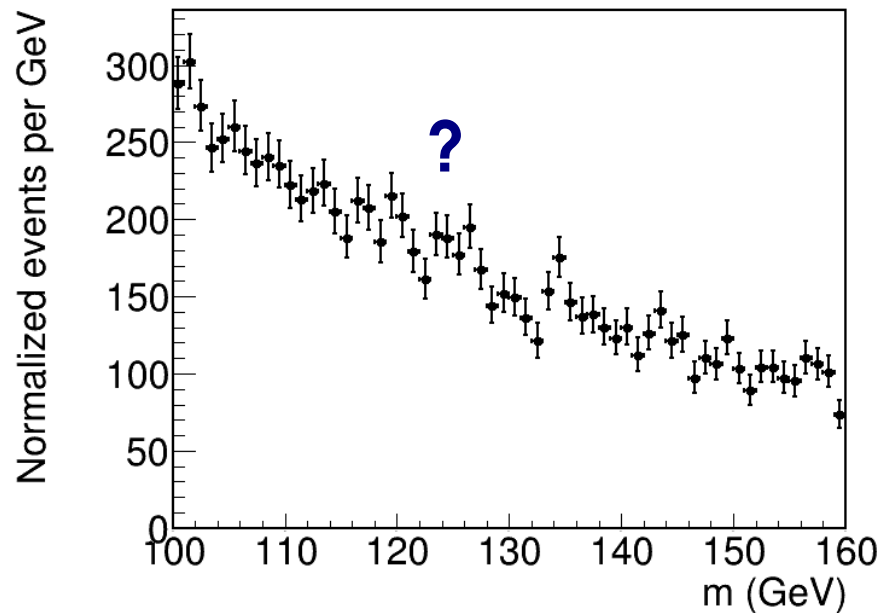
Hypothesis tests for Limits

If no signal in data, testing for discovery not very relevant (report 0.2σ excess ?)

→ More interesting to **exclude large signals**

⇒ **Upper limits on signal yield**

→ Typically report **95% CL** upper limit (p-value = 5%) : “ $S < S_0$ @ 95% CL”



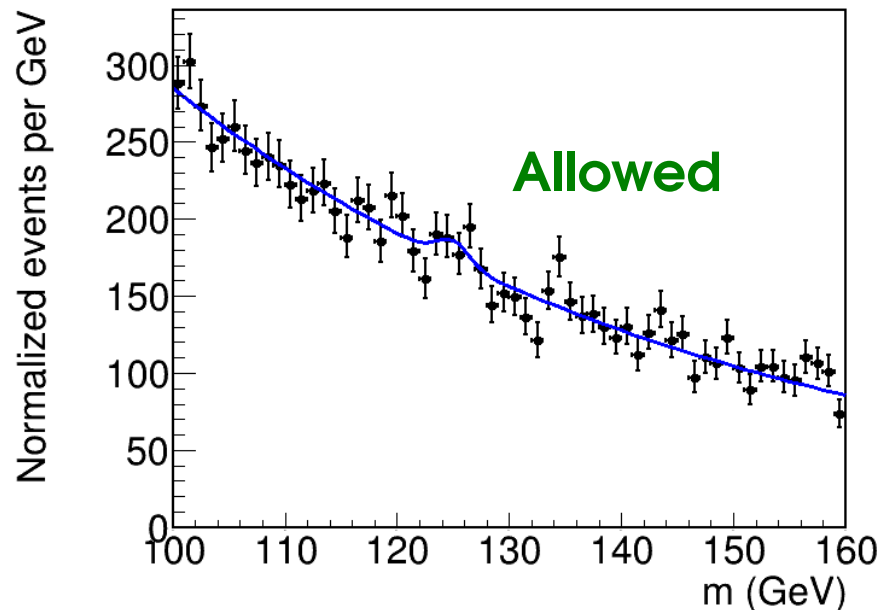
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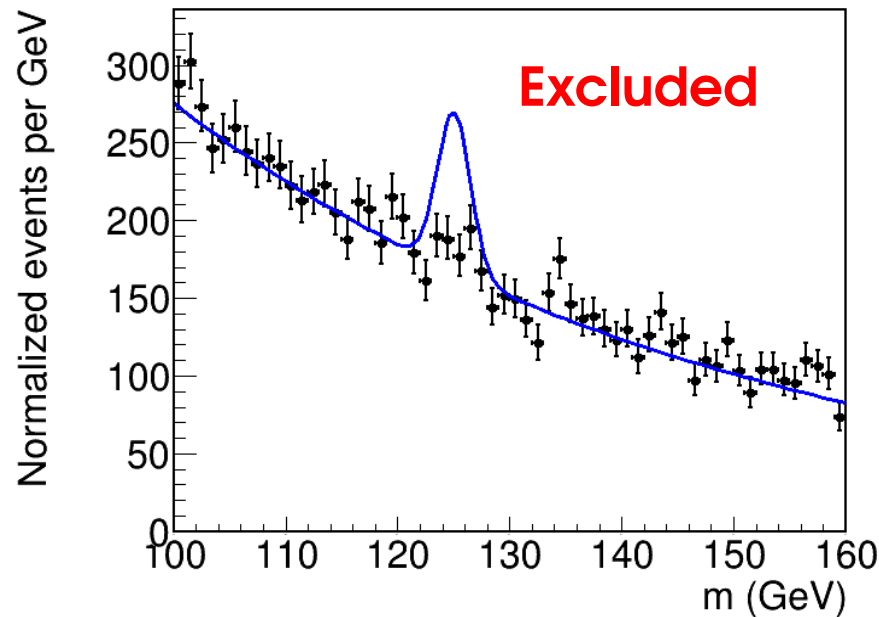
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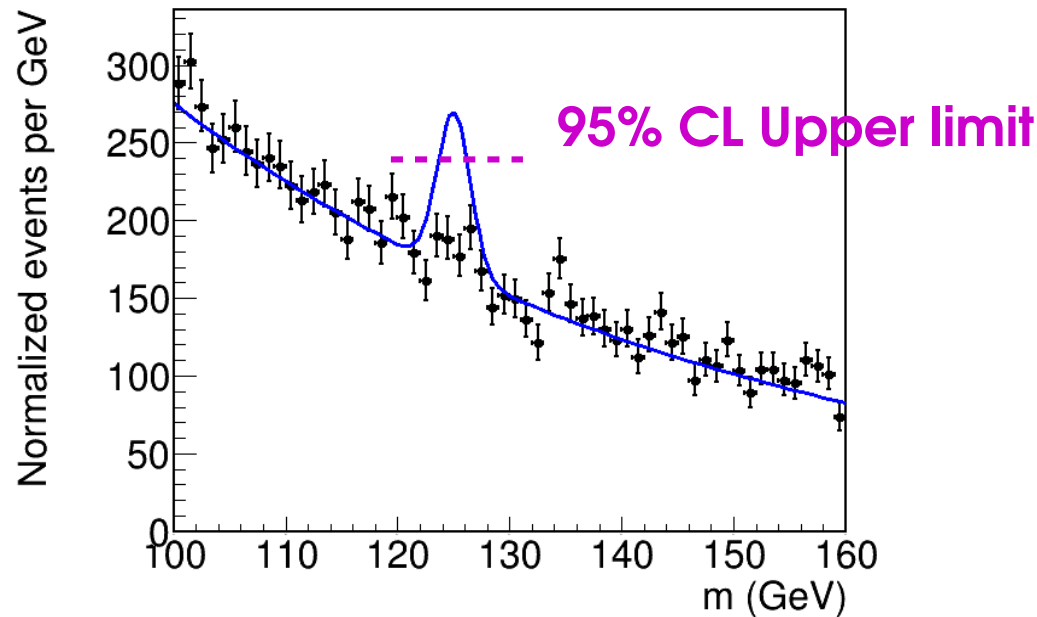
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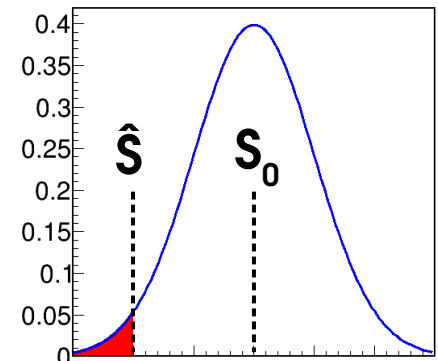
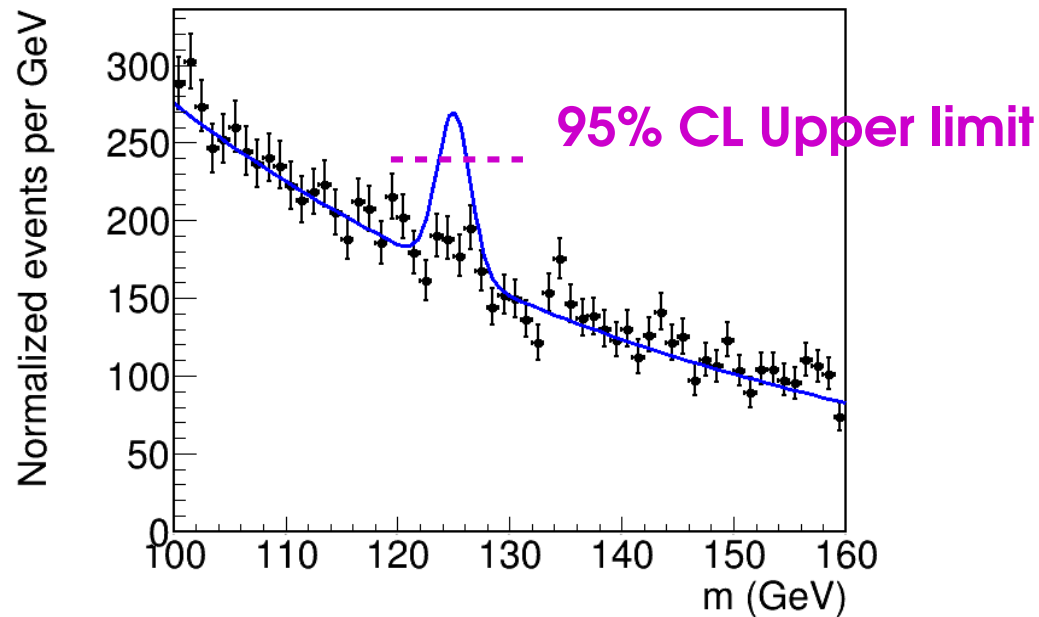
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⇒ **Upper limits on signal yield**

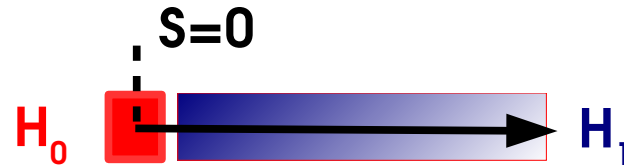
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Test Statistic for Limit-Setting

Discovery :

- $H_0 : S = 0$
- $H_1 : S > 0$



$$q_0 = -2 \log \frac{L(S=0)}{L(\hat{S})}$$

Compare

← Likelihood of H_0 ($\hat{S} > 0$)

← Likelihood of H_1

Limit-setting

- $H_0 : S = S_0$
- $H_1 : S < S_0$



$$q_{S_0} = -2 \log \frac{L(S=S_0)}{L(\hat{S})}$$

Compare

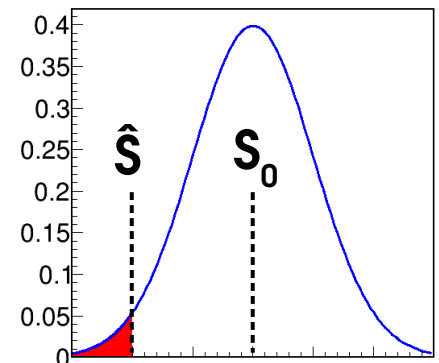
← Likelihood of H_0 ($\hat{S} < S_0$)

← Likelihood of H_1

Same as q_0 :

→ large values \Rightarrow good rejection of H_0 .

Asymptotic case: p-value $p_{S_0} = 1 - \Phi(\sqrt{q_{S_0}})$



Inversion : Getting the limit for a given CL

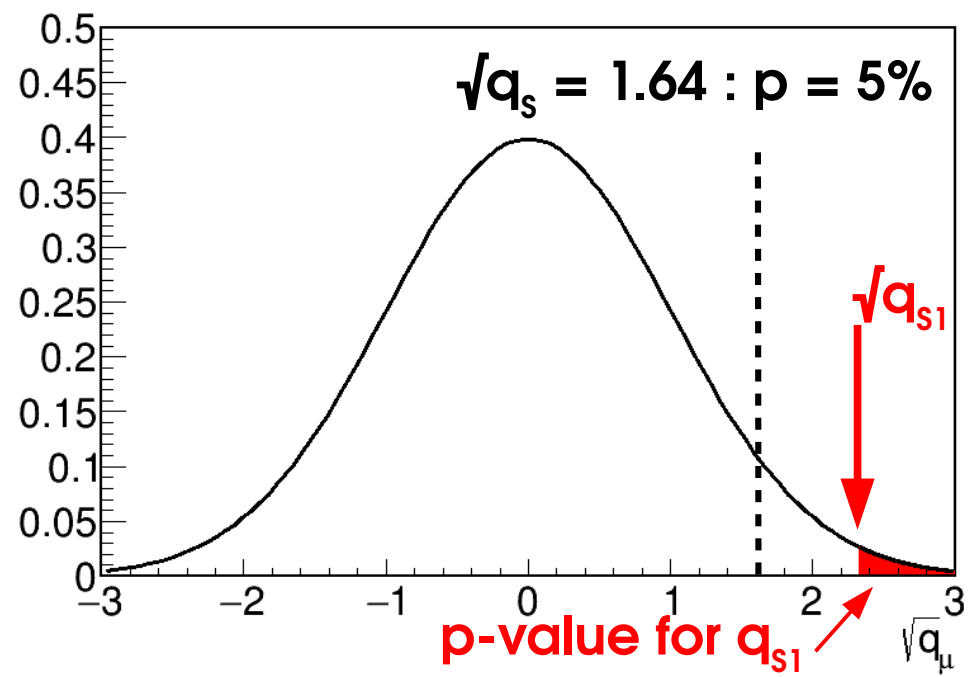
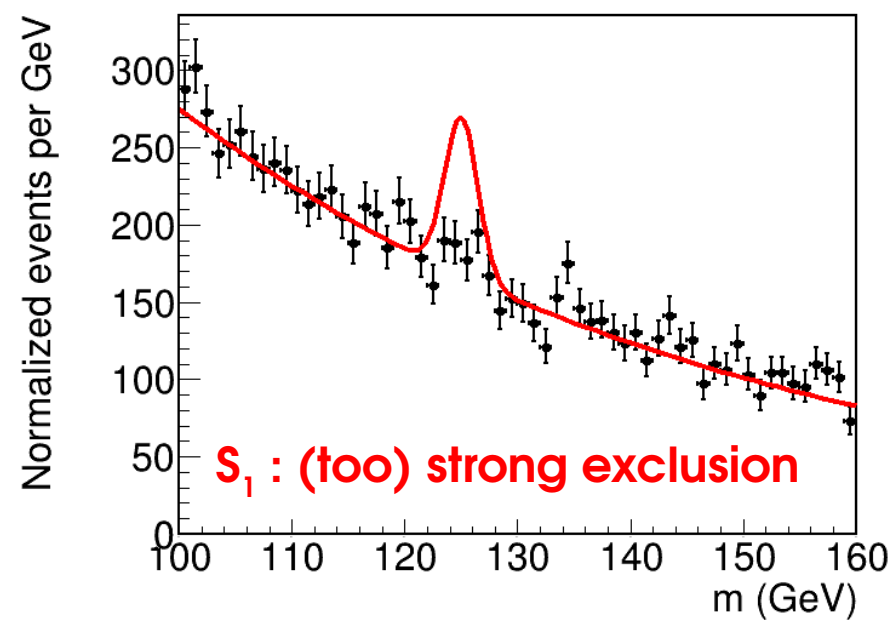
Procedure:

- Compute q_{s_0} for some S_0 , get the **exclusion p-value p_{s_0}** .
- Adjust S_0 until 95% CL exclusion ($p_{s_0} = 5\%$) is reached
- Asymptotic case: need $\sqrt{q_{s_0}} = 1.64$

Asymptotics

$$\sqrt{q_{s_0}} = \Phi^{-1}(1 - p_0)$$

CL	Region
90%	$\sqrt{q_s} > 1.28$
95%	$\sqrt{q_s} > 1.64$
99%	$\sqrt{q_s} > 2.33$



Inversion : Getting the limit for a given CL

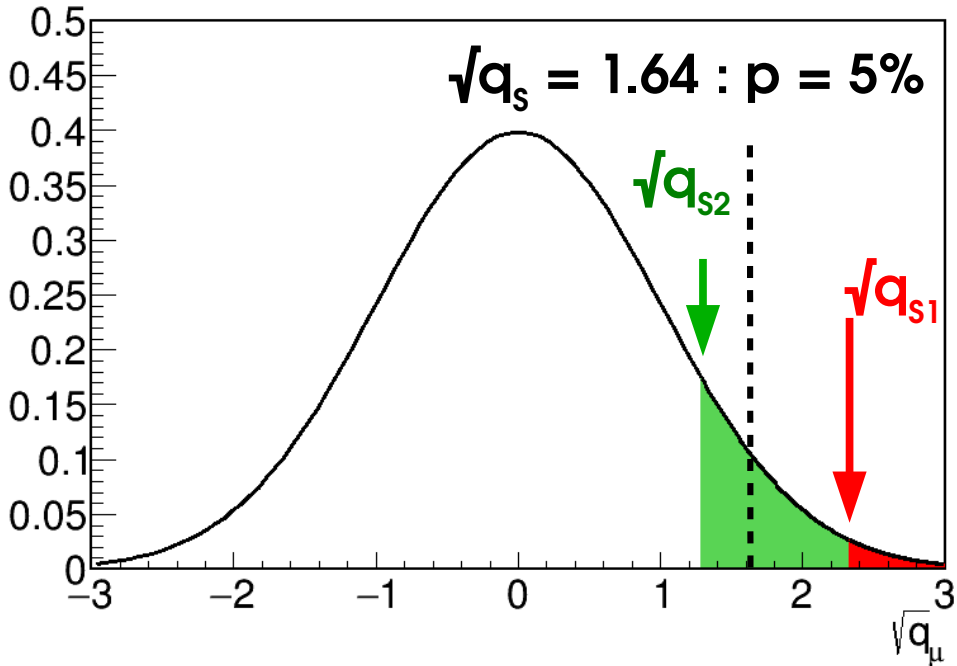
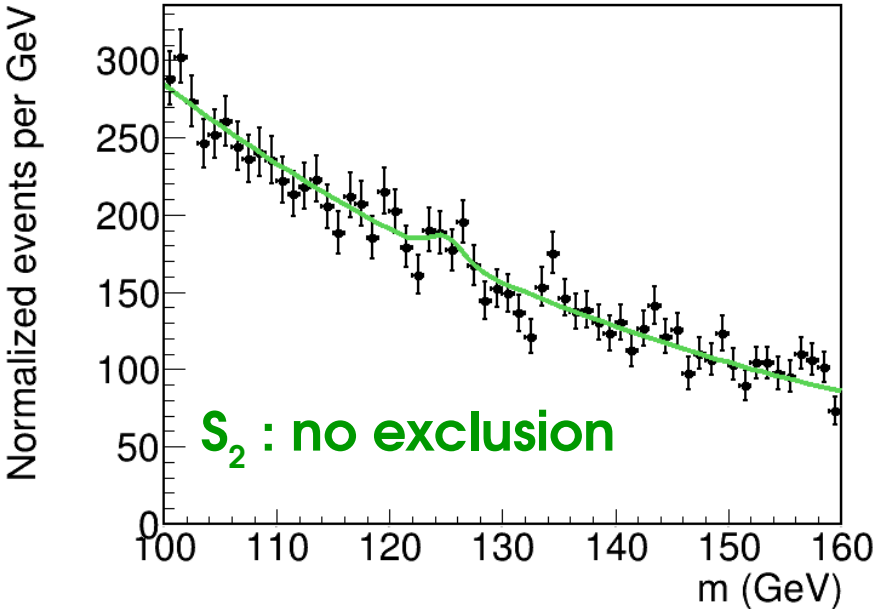
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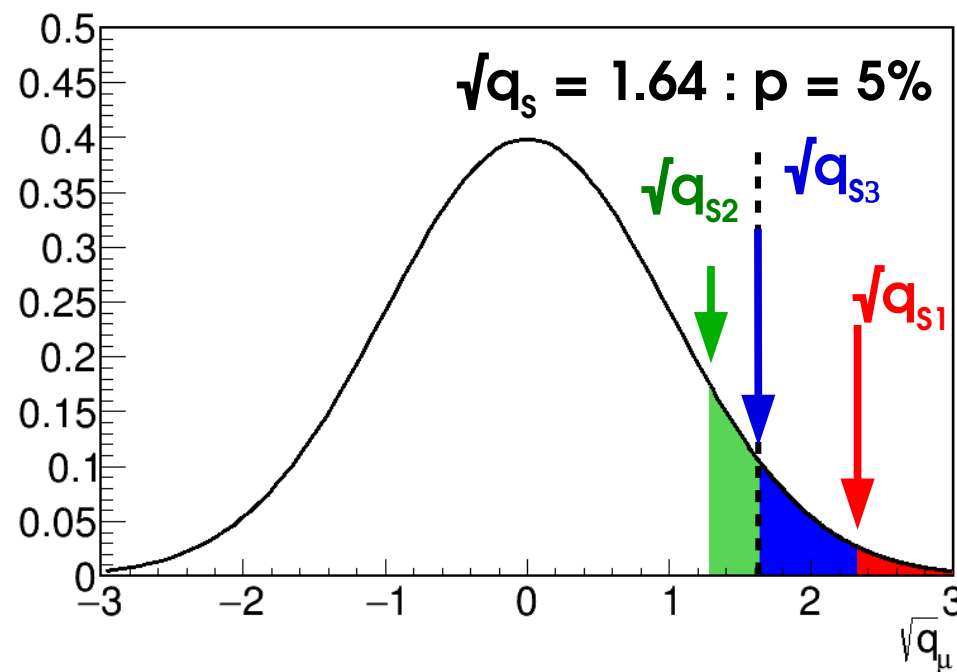
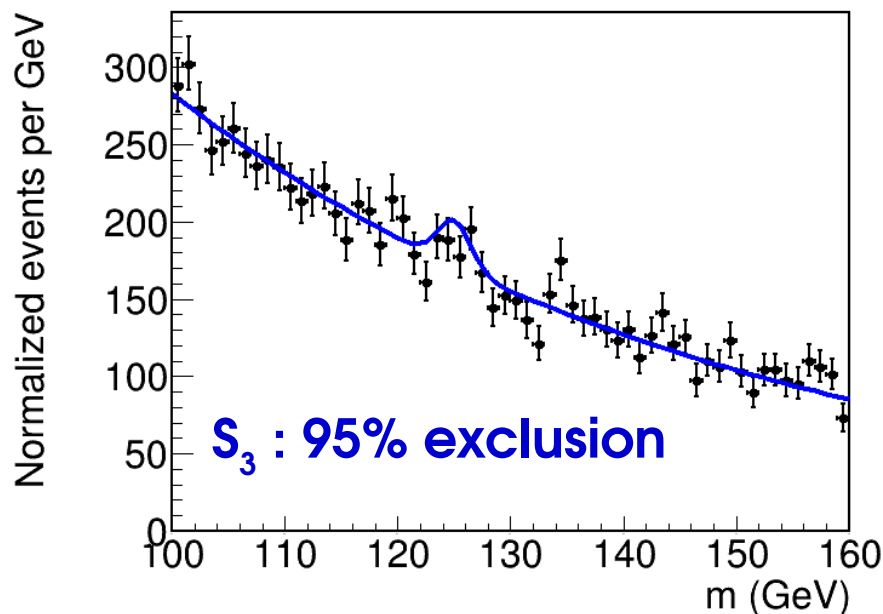
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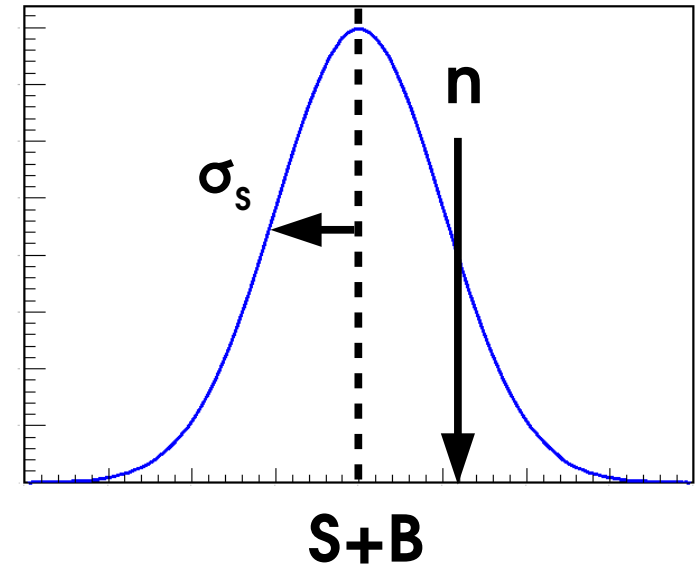
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90%	$\sqrt{q_s} > 1.28$
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Homework 4: Gaussian Example

Usual Gaussian counting example with known B:

$$L(S; n) = e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{n - (S+B)}{\sigma_s} \right)^2} \quad \sigma_s \sim \sqrt{B} \text{ for small } S$$



Reminder: Significance: $Z = \hat{S} / \sigma_s$

→ Compute q_{s0}

→ Compute the 95% CL upper limit on S , S_{up} , by solving $\sqrt{q_{s0}} = 1.64$.

Solution: $S_{up} = \hat{S} + 1.64 \sigma_s$ at 95 % CL

Upper Limit Pathologies

Upper limit: $S_{\text{up}} \sim \hat{S} + 1.64 \sigma_s$.

Problem: for negative \hat{S} , get **very** good observed limit.

→ For \hat{S} sufficiently negative, even $S_{\text{up}} < 0$!

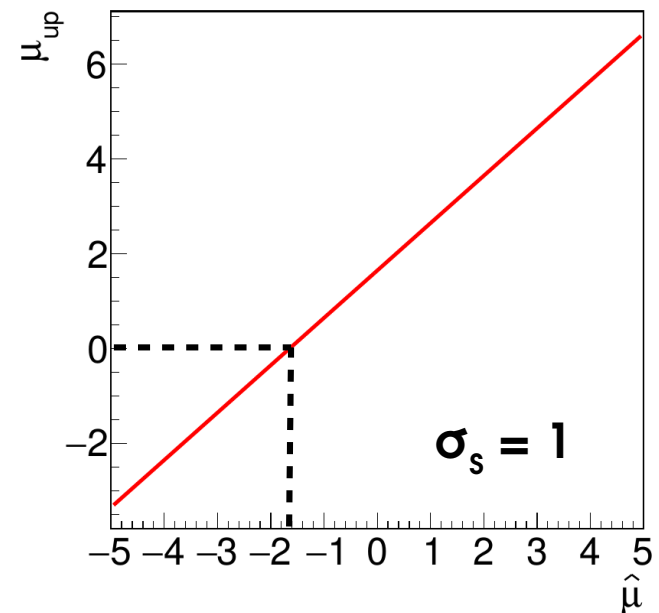
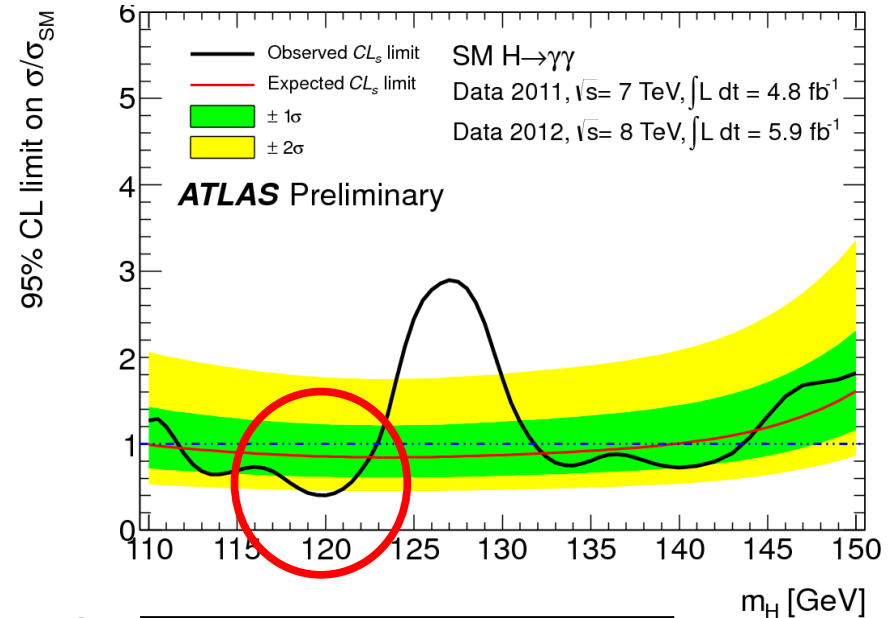
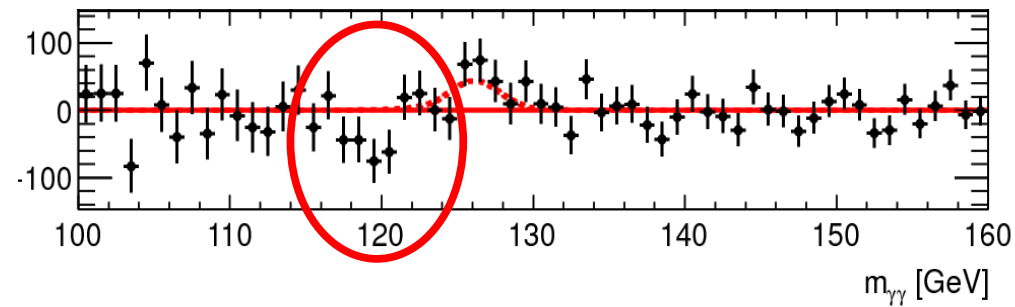
How can this be ?

→ **Background modeling issue ?...** Or:

→ This is a **95%** limit \Rightarrow **5% of the time, the limit wrongly excludes the true value**, e.g. $S^*=0$.

Options

- **live with it:** sometimes report limit < 0
- **Special procedure to avoid these cases**, since if we assume S must be > 0 , we know a priori this is just a fluctuation.



Usual solution in HEP : **CL_s**.

→ Compute modified p-value

$$p_{CL_s} = \frac{p_{S_0}}{(1 - p_B)}$$

The usual p-value under $H(S=S_0)$ (=5%)
 The p-value computed under $H(S=0)$

⇒ **Rescale** exclusion at S_0 by exclusion at $S=0$.

→ Somewhat ad-hoc, but good properties...

\hat{S} compatible with 0 : $p_B \sim O(1)$

$p_{CL_s} \sim p_{S_0} \sim 5\%$, no change.

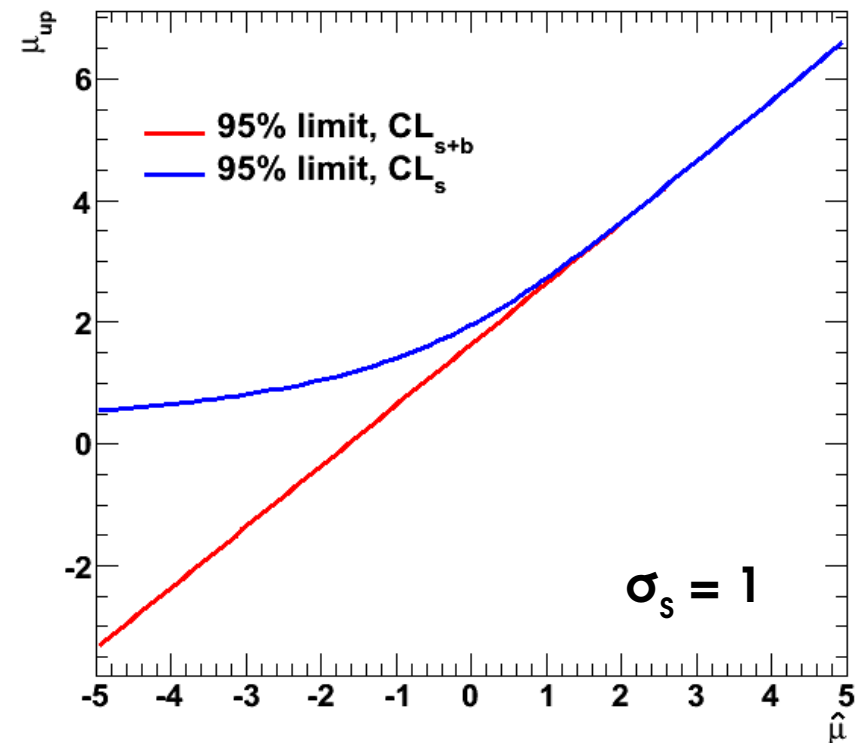
Far-negative \hat{S} : $1 - p_B \ll 1$

$p_{CL_s} \sim p_{S_0} / (1 - p_B) \gg 5\%$

→ lower exclusion ⇒ higher limit,
usually >0 as desired

Drawback: overcoverage

→ limit is claimed to be 95% CL, but actually $>95\%$ CL for small $1 - p_B$.



Homework 5: CL_s : Gaussian Case

Usual Gaussian counting example with known B:

$$L(S; n) = e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{n - (S+B)}{\sigma_s} \right)^2} \quad \sigma_s \sim \sqrt{B} \text{ for small } S$$

Reminder

CL_{s+b} limit: $S_{up} = \hat{S} + 1.64 \sigma_s$ at 95 % CL

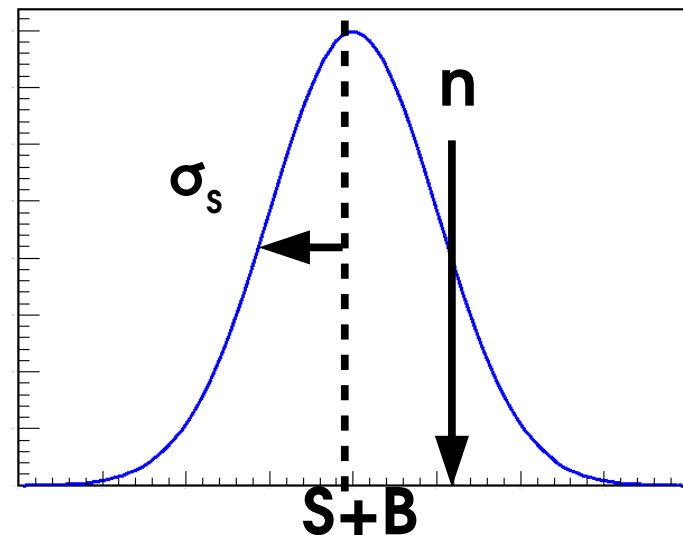
CL_s upper limit :

→ Compute p_{s0} (same as for CL_{s+b})

→ Compute $1-p_B$ (hard!)

Solution: $S_{up} = \hat{S} + \left[\Phi^{-1} \left(1 - 0.05 \Phi \left(\hat{S} / \sigma_s \right) \right) \right] \sigma_s$ at 95 % CL

for $\hat{S} \sim 0$, $S_{up} = \hat{S} + 1.96 \sigma_s$ at 95 % CL



Homework 6: CL_s Rule of Thumb for $n_{\text{obs}}=0$

Same exercise, for the Poisson case with $n_{\text{obs}} = 0$. Perform an exact computation of the 95% CLs upper limit based on the definition of the p-value:

p-value : *sum probabilities of cases at least as extreme as the data*

Hint: for $n_{\text{obs}}=0$, there are no “more extreme” cases (cannot have $n < 0$!), so

$p_{S_0} = \text{Poisson}(n=0 \mid S_0+B)$ and $1 - p_B = \text{Poisson}(n=0 \mid B)$

$$S_{\text{up}}(n_{\text{obs}}=0) = \log(20) = 2.996 \approx 3$$

Solution:

⇒ **Rule of thumb**: when $n_{\text{obs}} = 0$, the 95% CL_s limit is **3** events (for any B)

Outline

Computing statistical results

Discovery

Confidence intervals

Upper limits

Reparameterization and presentation of results

Expected results

Profiling

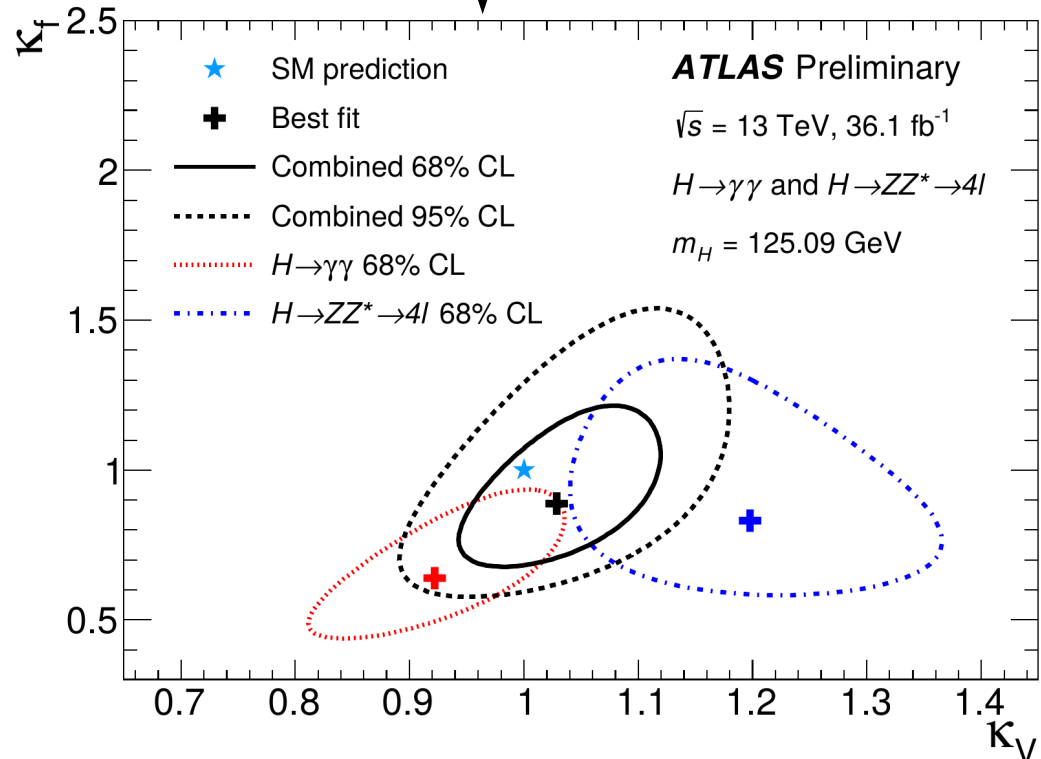
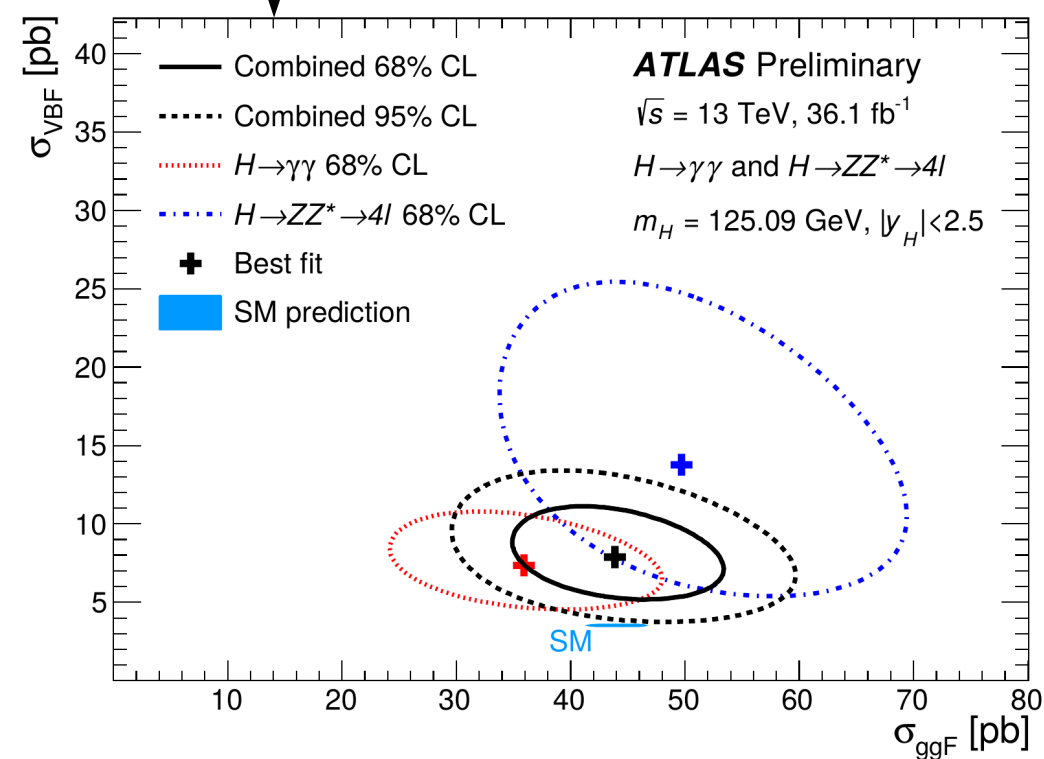
Reparameterization

Start with basic measurement in terms of e.g. $\sigma \times \mathbf{B}$

→ How to measure derived quantities (couplings, parameters in some theory model, etc.) ? → **just reparameterize the likelihood:**

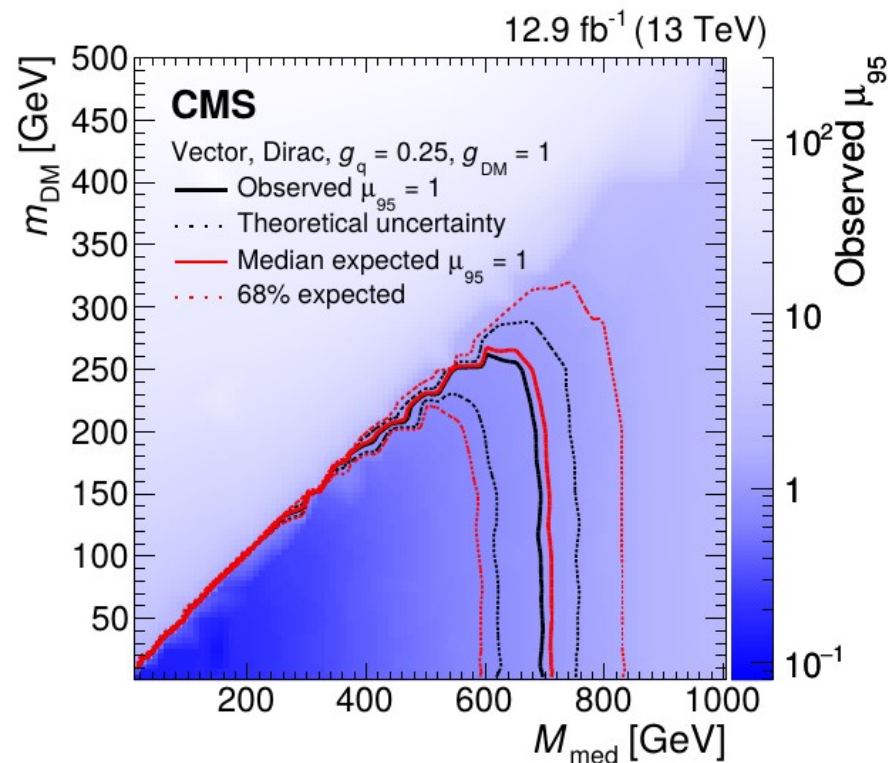
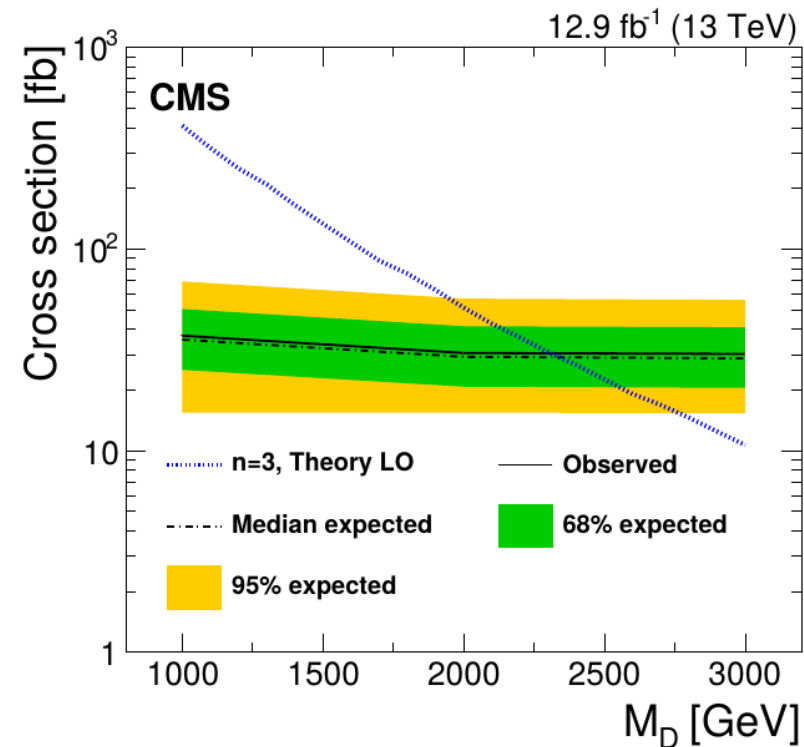
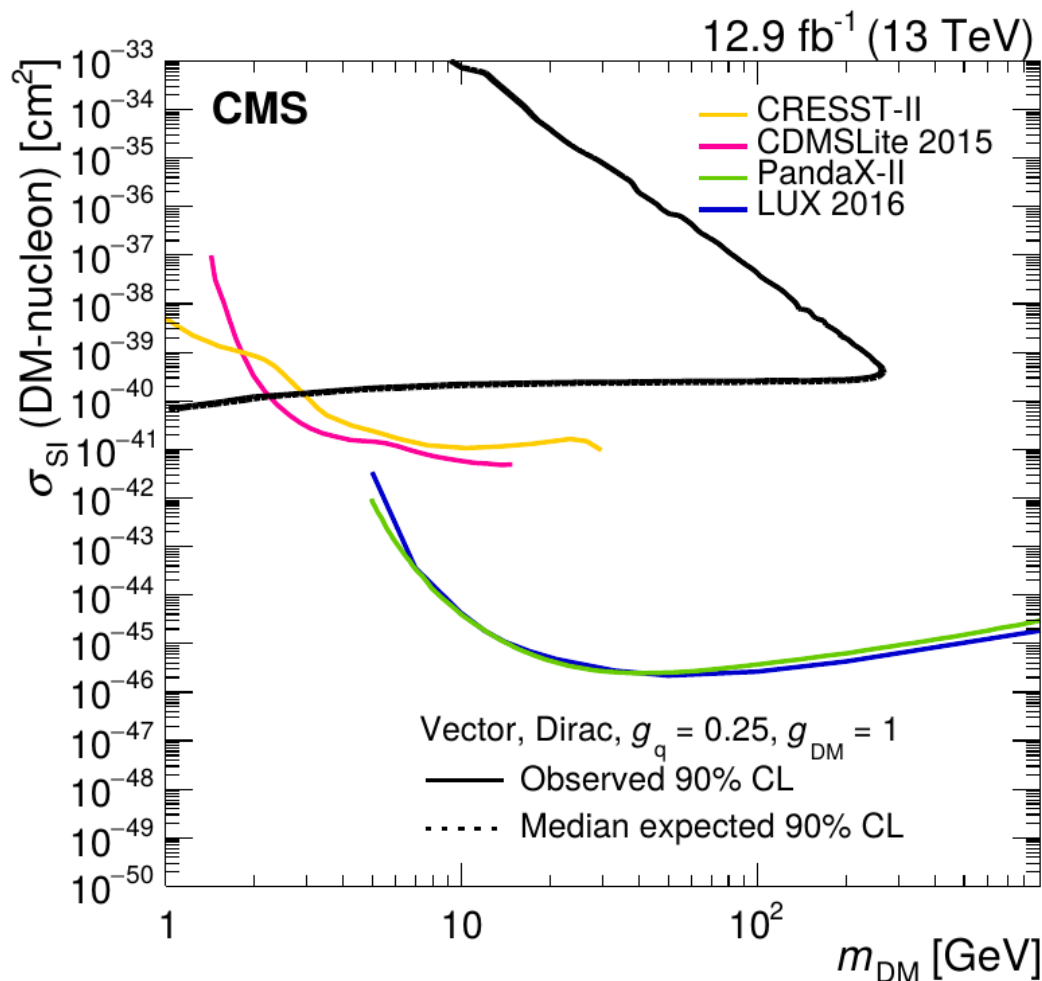
e.g. Higgs couplings: σ_{ggF} , σ_{VBF} sensitive to Higgs coupling modifiers κ_V , κ_F .

$$L(\sigma_{ggF}, \sigma_{VBF}) \xrightarrow[\sigma_{VBF} \rightarrow \sigma_{VBF}(\kappa_V, \kappa_F)]{\sigma_{ggF} \rightarrow \sigma_{ggF}(\kappa_V, \kappa_F)} L(\sigma_{ggF}(\kappa_V, \kappa_F), \sigma_{VBF}(\kappa_V, \kappa_F)) \equiv L'(\kappa_V, \kappa_F)$$



Reparameterization: Limits

CMS Run 2 Monophoton Search: measured $\mathbf{N_s}$ in a counting experiment reparameterized according to various DM models

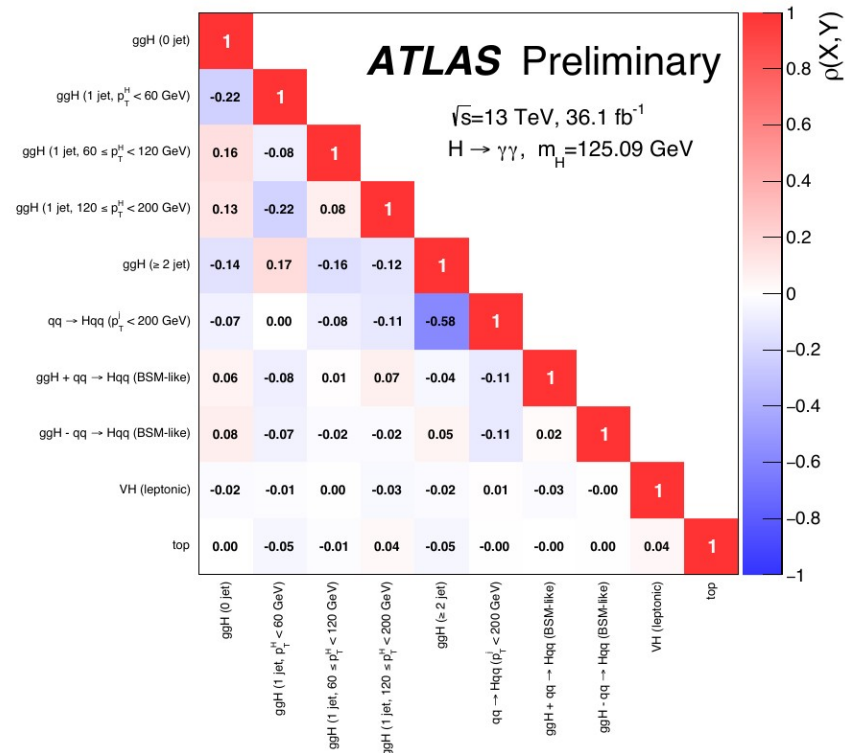
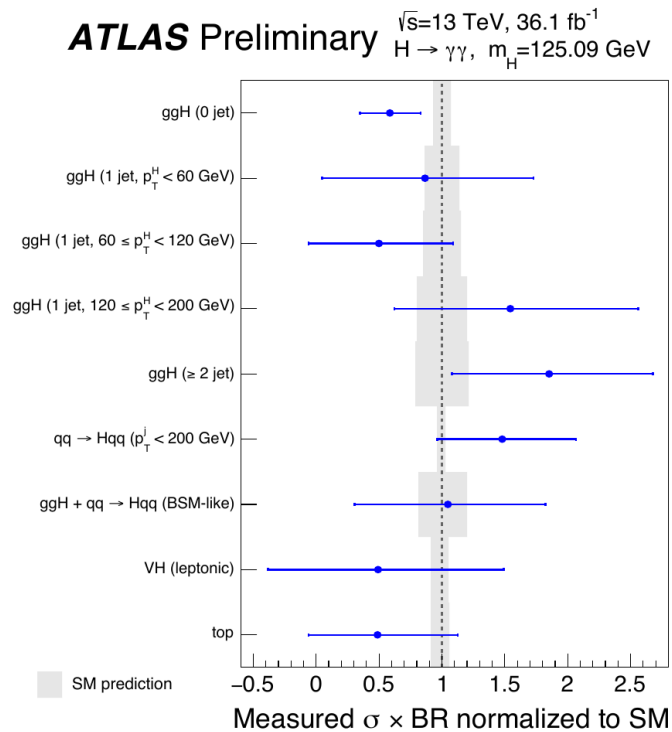


Presentation of Results

→ Cannot test every model : need to make enough information public so that others (theorists) are able to do it independently

⇒ **Gaussian case**: sufficient to provide measurements + covariance matrix

→ For example using the [HEPData](#) repository.



Non-Gaussian case: not so simple, but can publish full likelihood (e.g. [here](#))

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Generating Pseudo-data

Model describes the distribution of the observable: $P(\text{data}; \text{parameters})$

⇒ Possible outcomes of the experiment, for given parameter values

Can draw random events according to PDF : **generate** *pseudo-data*

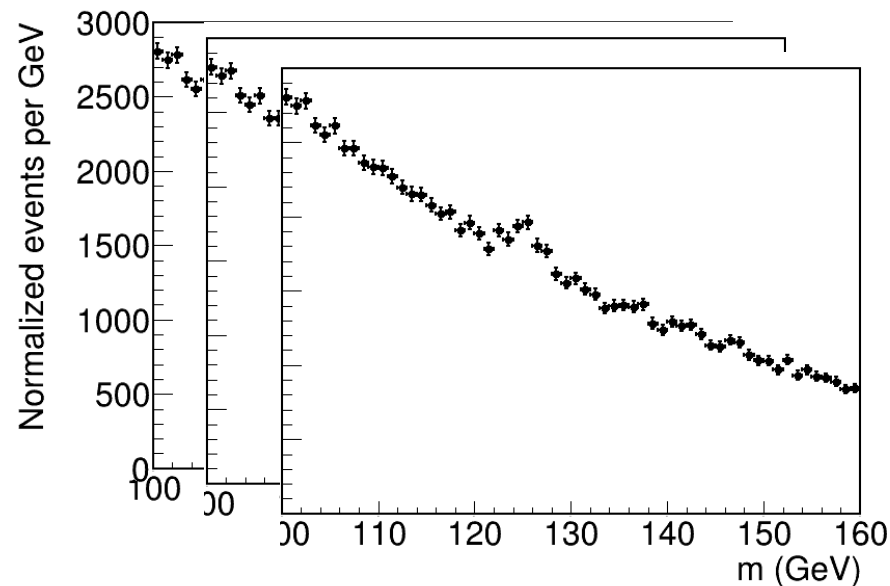
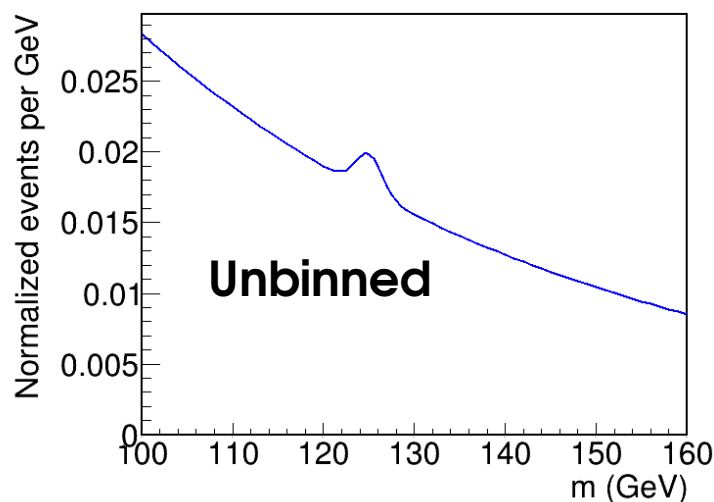
$$P(\lambda=5)$$



2, 5, 3, 7, 4, 9, ...

Each entry = separate “experiment”

Generate



Expected Limits: Toys

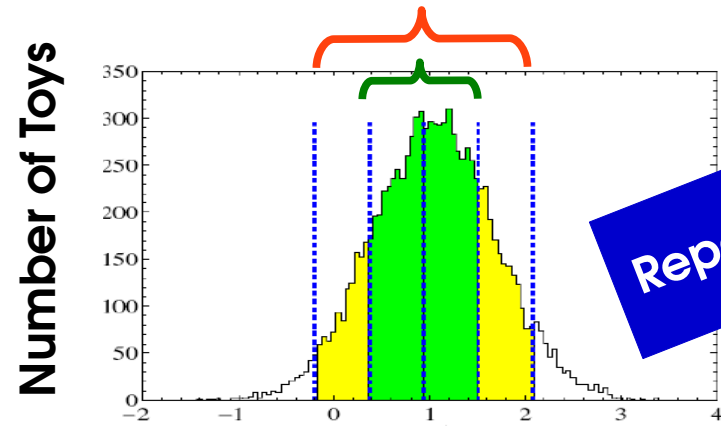
Expected results: median outcome under a given hypothesis
→ usually B-only for searches, but other choices possible.

Two main ways to compute:

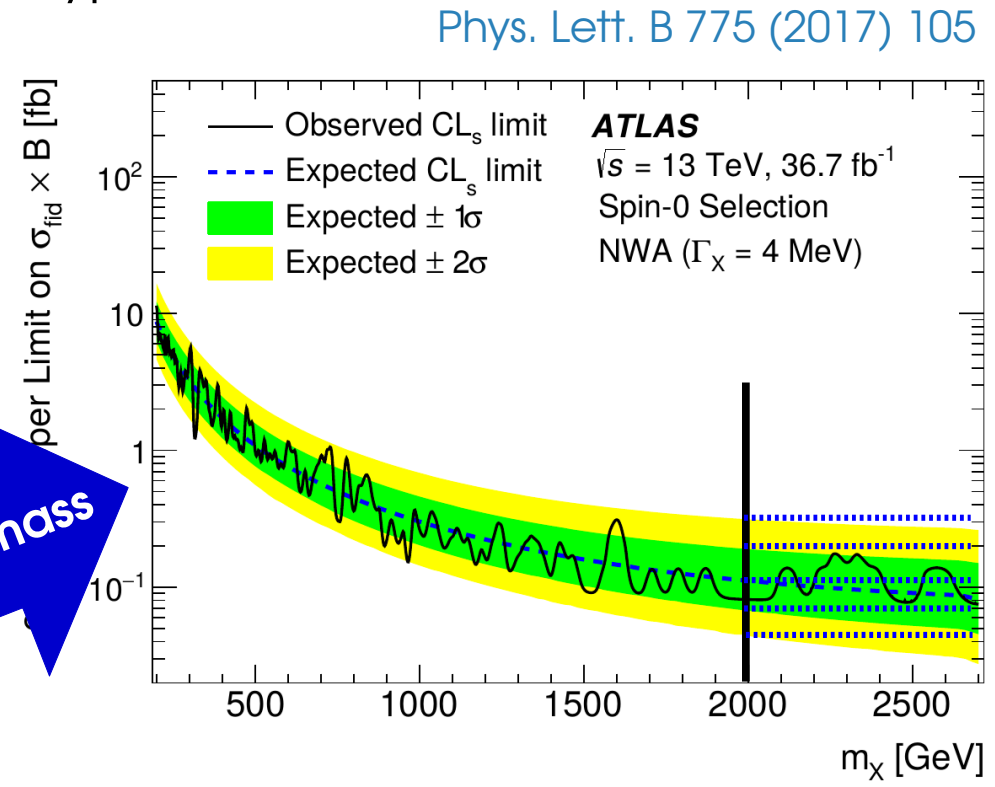
→ **Pseudo-experiments (toys):**

- Generate a pseudo-dataset in B-only hypothesis
- Compute limit
- Repeat and histogram the results
- Central value = median, bands based on quantiles

68% of toys 95% of toys



Repeat for each mass



Expected Limits: Asimov Datasets

Expected results: median outcome under a given hypothesis

→ usually B-only for searches, but other choices possible.

Two main ways to compute:

Strictly speaking, Asimov dataset if

$$\hat{X} = X_0 \text{ for all parameters } X,$$

where X_0 is the generation value

→ **Asimov Datasets**

- Generate a “perfect dataset” – e.g. for binned data, set bin contents carefully, no fluctuations.

- Gives the median result immediately:

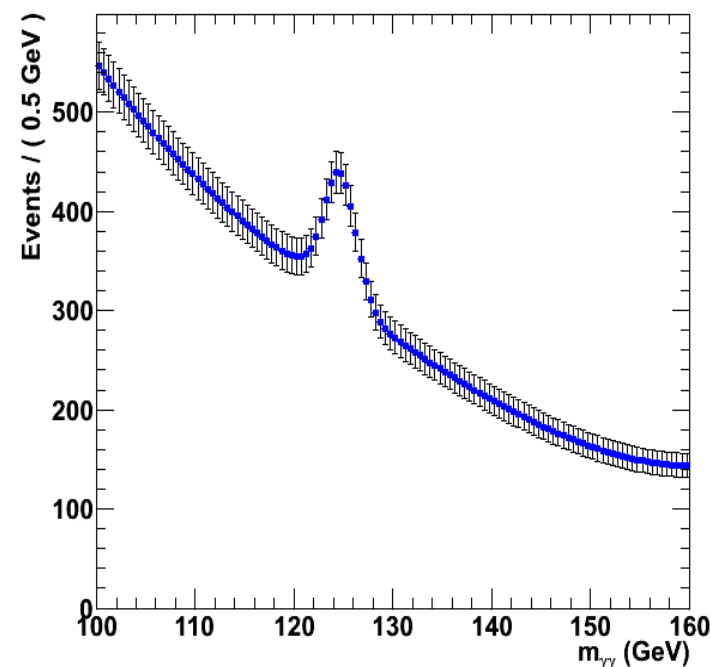
$$\text{median}(\text{toy results}) \leftrightarrow \text{result}(\text{median dataset})$$

- Get bands from asymptotic formulas:
Band width

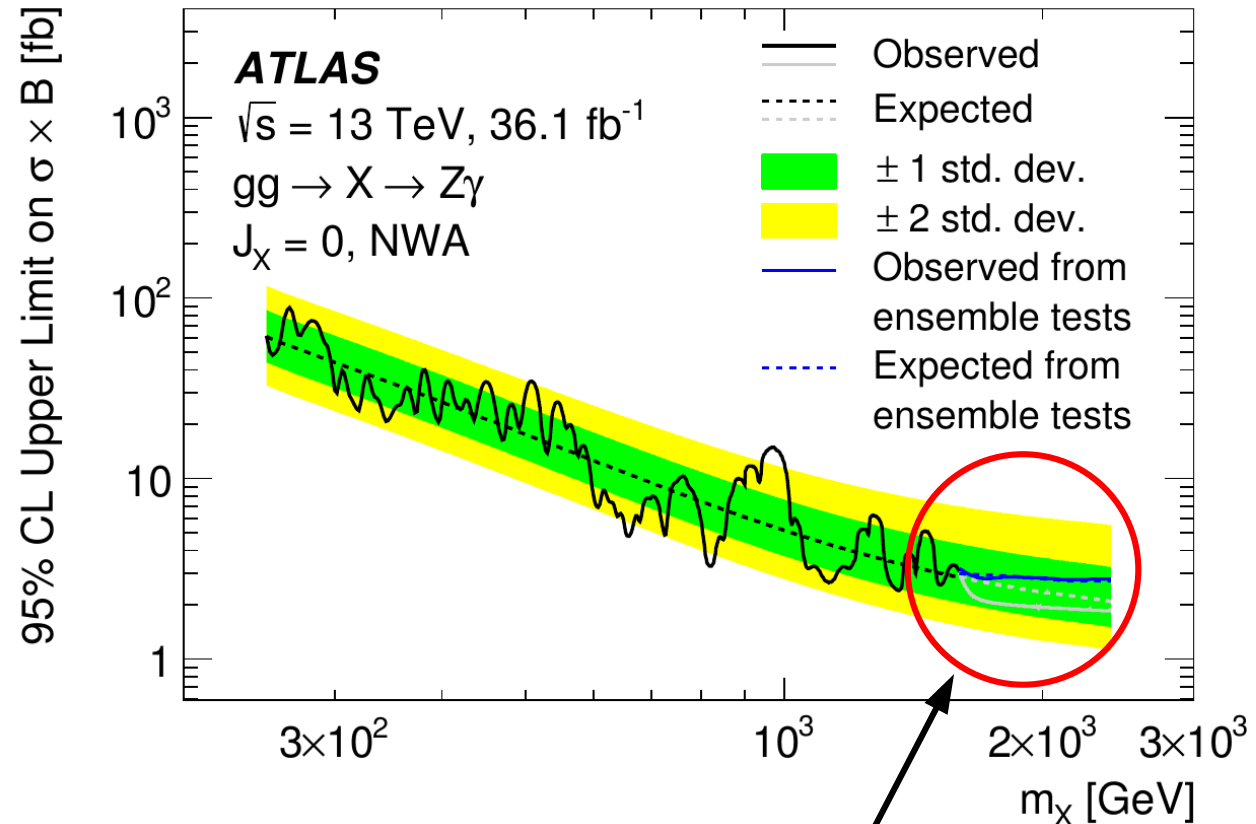
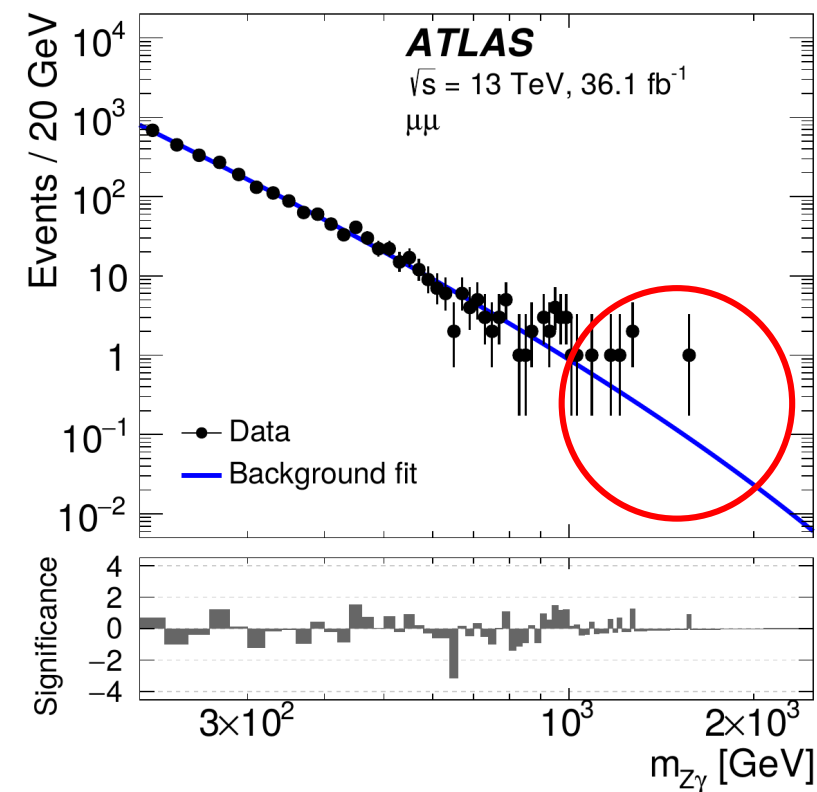
$$\sigma_{S_0, A}^2 = \frac{S_0^2}{q_{S_0}(\text{Asimov})}$$

⊕ Much faster (1 “toy”)

⊖ Relies on Gaussian approximation



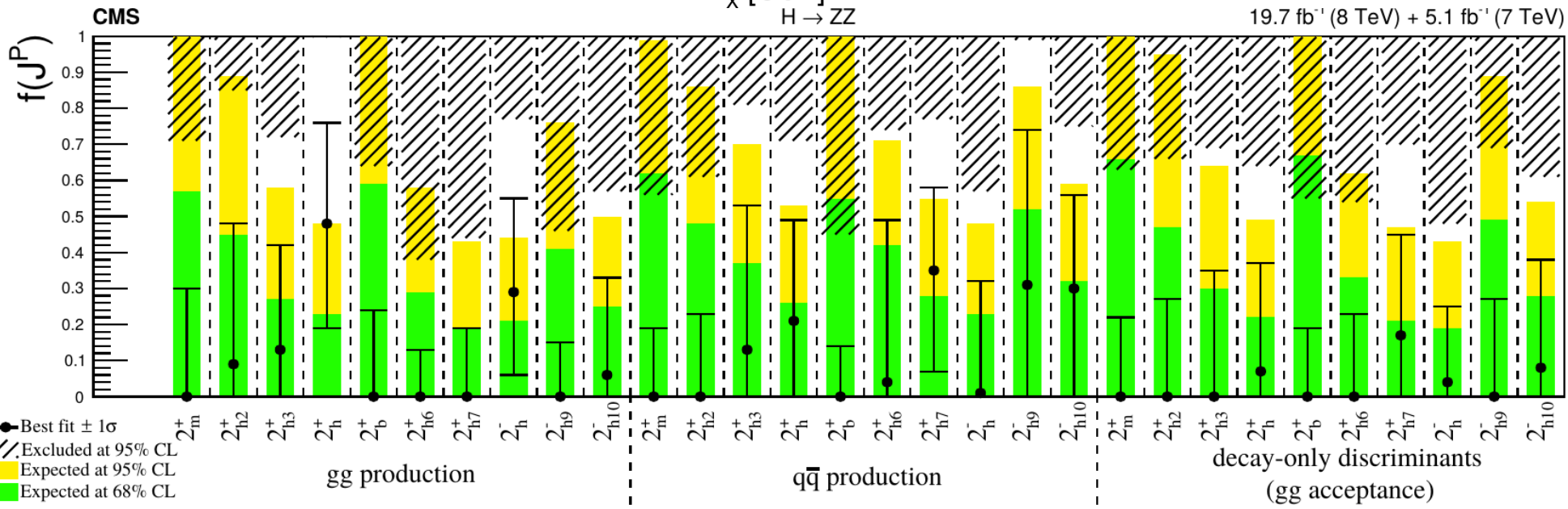
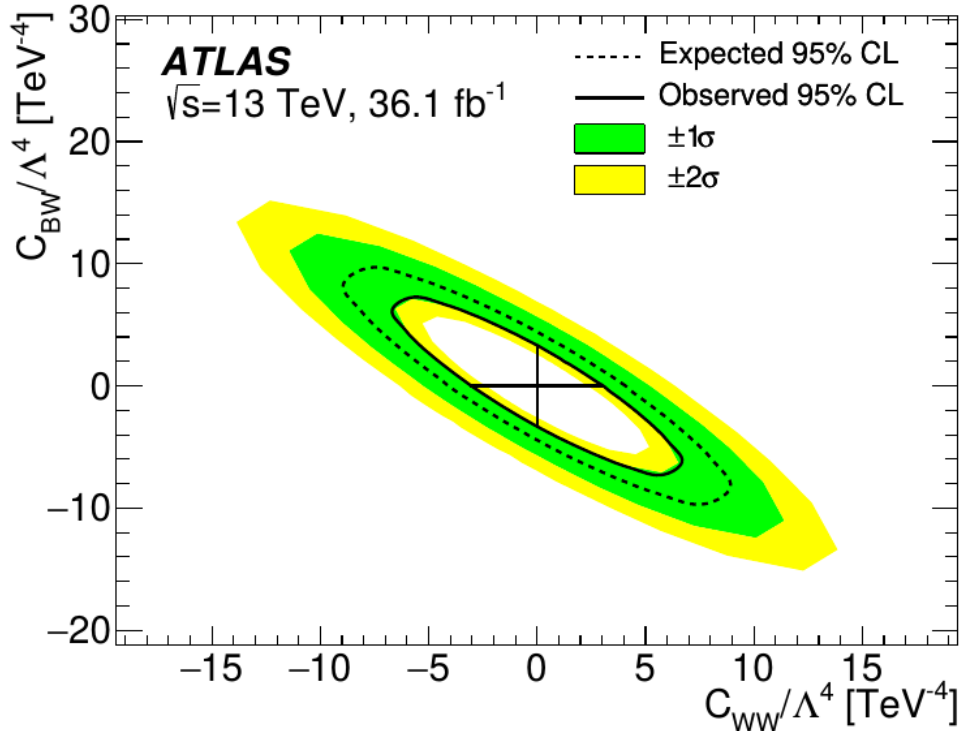
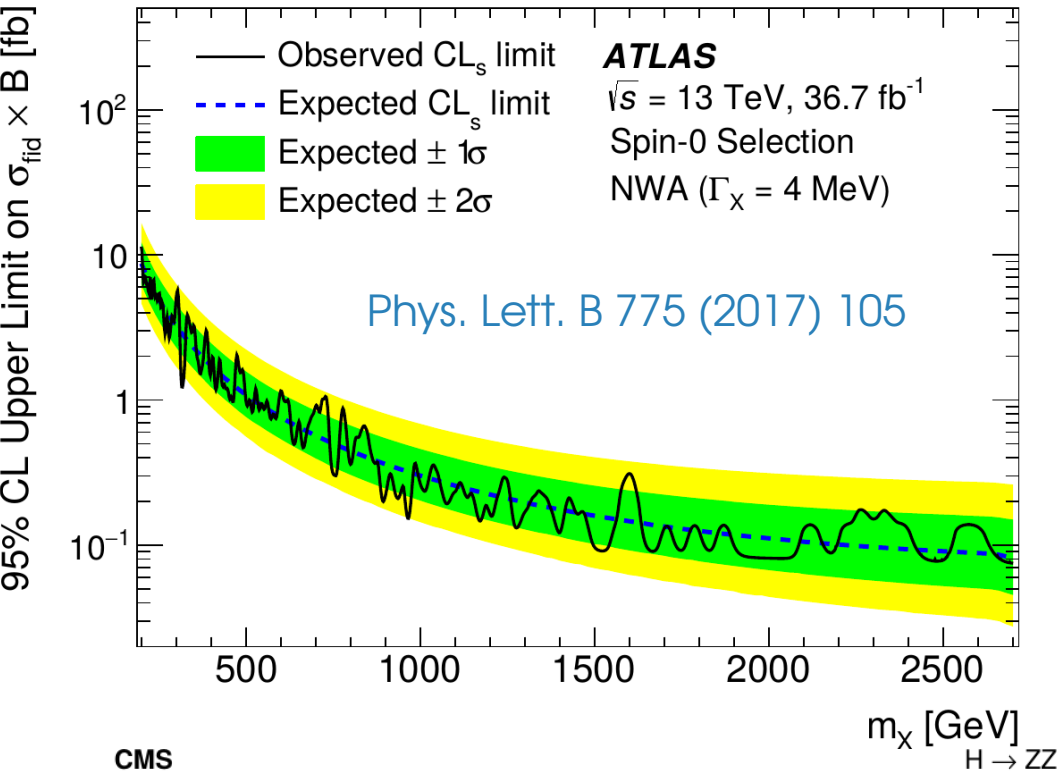
ATLAS $X \rightarrow Z\gamma$ Search: covers $200 \text{ GeV} < m_X < 2.5 \text{ TeV}$
 \rightarrow for $m_X > 1.6 \text{ TeV}$, low event counts \Rightarrow derive results from toys



Asimov results (in gray) give optimistic result compared to toys (in blue)

Upper Limit Examples

ATLAS 2015-2016 4l aTGC Search



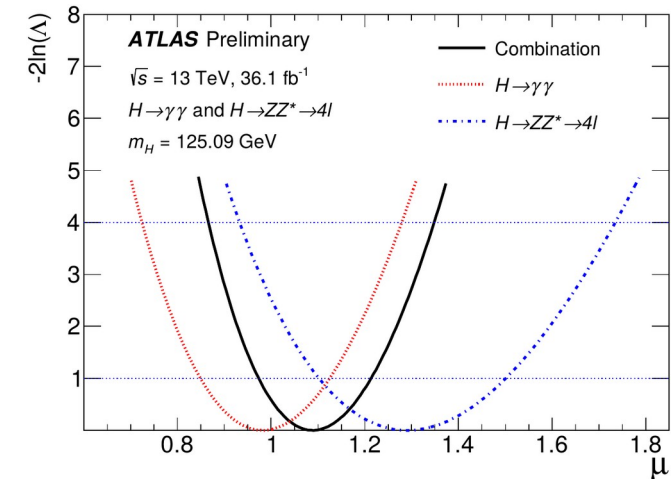
Phys. Rev. D 92 (2015) 012004

Takeaways

Confidence intervals: use $t_{\mu_0} = -2 \log \frac{L(\mu = \mu_0)}{L(\hat{\mu})}$

→ Crossings with $t_{\mu_0} = Z^2$ for $\pm Z\sigma$ intervals (in 1D)

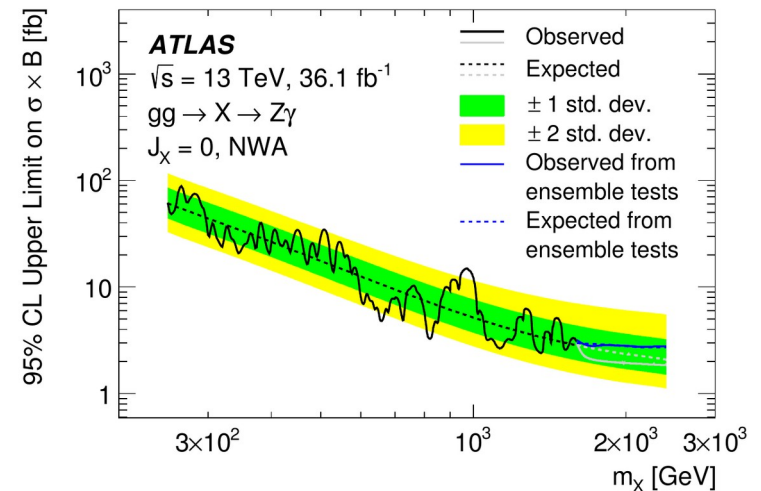
Gaussian regime: $\mu = \hat{\mu} \pm \sigma_\mu$ (1σ interval)



Limits : use LR-based test statistic: $q_{s_0} = -2 \log \frac{L(S=S_0)}{L(\hat{S})}$ $S_0 \geq \hat{S}$

→ Use **CL_s procedure** to avoid negative limits

Poisson regime, $n=0$: $S_{\text{up}} = 3 \text{ events}$



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Nuisances and Systematics

Phys. Rev. Lett. 119 (2017) 051802

Likelihood typically includes

- **Parameters of interest** (POIs) : $\mathbf{S}, \sigma \times \mathbf{B}, m_W, \dots$
- **Nuisance parameters** (NPs) : other parameters needed to define the model
→ Ideally, **constrained by data** like the POI

What about systematics ?

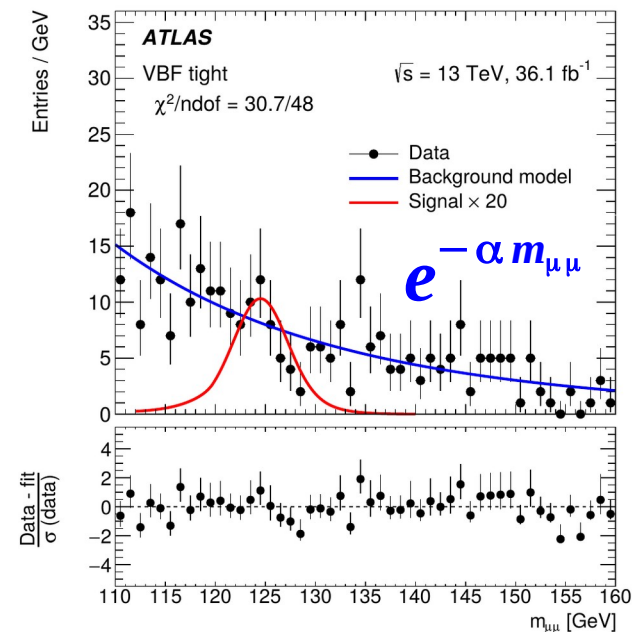
= what we don't know about the random process

⇒ **Parameterize using additional NPs**

⇒ Add constraints in the likelihood

$$L(\underbrace{\mu}_{\text{POI}}, \underbrace{\theta}_{\text{Systematics NP}}; \text{data}) = \underbrace{L_{\text{measurement}}(\mu, \theta; \text{data})}_{\text{Measurement Likelihood}} \underbrace{C(\theta)}_{\text{NP Constraint term}}$$

$C(\theta)$ represents extra knowledge about the NP



"Systematic uncertainty is, in any statistical inference procedure, the uncertainty due to the incomplete knowledge of the probability distribution of the observables.

G. Punzi, *What is systematics ?*

Frequentist Systematics

Prototype: NP measured in a separate *auxiliary experiment*

e.g. luminosity measurement

→ Build the combined likelihood of the main+auxiliary measurements

$$L(\mu, \theta; \text{data}) = L_{\text{main}}(\mu, \theta; \text{main data}) L_{\text{aux}}(\theta; \text{aux. data})$$

Independent
measurements:
⇒ just a product

Gaussian form often used by default: $L_{\text{aux}}(\theta; \text{aux. data}) = G(\theta^{\text{obs}}; \theta, \sigma_{\text{syst}})$

In the combined likelihood, **systematic NPs are constrained**

→ now same as e.g. NPs constrained in sidebands.

→ Often no clear setup for auxiliary measurements

e.g. theory uncertainties on missing HO terms from scale variations

→ **Implemented in the same way nevertheless** (“pseudo-measurement”)

Likelihood, the full version (binned case)

$$L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \{\boldsymbol{\theta}_j\}_{j=1 \dots n_{NP}}; \{n_i^{(k)}\}_{i=1 \dots n_{data}^{(k)}}^{k=1 \dots n_{cat}}, \{\boldsymbol{\theta}_j^{obs}\}_{j=1 \dots n_{NP}}) =$$

Expected
bin yield

$$\prod_{k=1}^{n_{cat}} P[n_i; \boldsymbol{\mu} \epsilon_{i,k}(\vec{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) N_{S,i,k}(\vec{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) + B_{i,k}(\vec{\boldsymbol{\theta}})] \prod_{j=1}^{n_{syst}} G(\boldsymbol{\theta}_j^{obs}; \boldsymbol{\theta}_j; 1)$$

Bin Yields or
Observable
values

POI

Sig/Bkg Shapes,
efficiencies

NPs

Systematics

Pseudo-
experiments

Data

MC

Auxiliary
Data

× number of categories!

Reminder: Wilks' Theorem

Cowan, Cranmer, Gross & Vitells
Eur.Phys.J.C71:1554,2011

Consider
$$t_{S_0} = -2 \log \frac{L(S=S_0)}{L(\hat{S})}$$

→ Assume **Gaussian regime** (e.g. large n_{evts} , Central-limit theorem) : then:

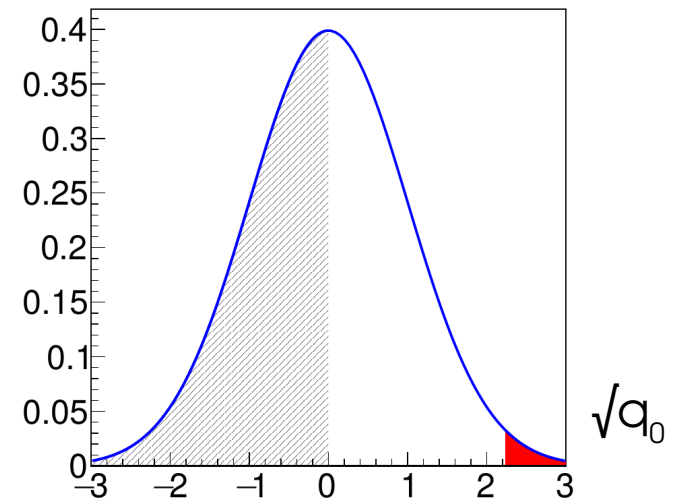
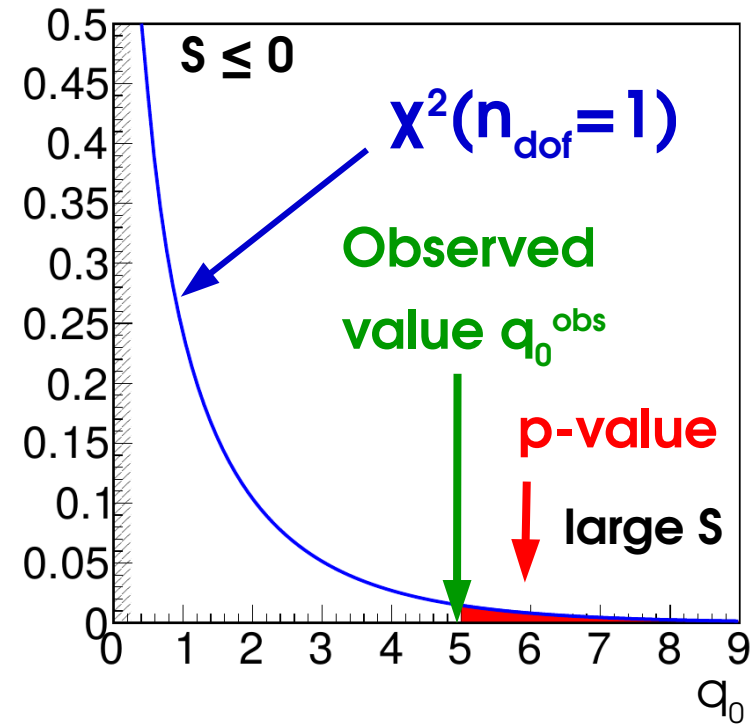
Wilk's Theorem: t_{S_0} is distributed as a χ^2

under $H_{S_0}(S=S_0)$:

$$f(t_{S_0} | S=S_0) = f_{\chi^2(n_{\text{dof}}=1)}(t_{S_0})$$

⇒ The significance is:

$$Z = \sqrt{q_0}$$



Profiling

How to deal with nuisance parameters in likelihood ratios ?

→ **Let the data choose** ⇒ use the best-fit values (*Profiling*)

⇒ **Profile Likelihood Ratio** (PLR)

$$t_{S_0} = -2 \log \frac{L(S=S_0, \hat{\hat{\theta}}(S_0))}{L(\hat{S}, \hat{\theta})}$$

$\hat{\hat{\theta}}(S_0)$ best-fit value for $S=S_0$
(conditional MLE)

$\hat{\theta}$ overall best-fit value
(unconditional MLE)

Wilks' Theorem: *same properties as plain likelihood ratio*

$$f(t_{S_0} | S=S_0) = f_{\chi^2(n_{dof}=1)}(t_{S_0}) \quad \text{also with NPs present}$$

→ Profiling “builds in” the effect of the NPs

⇒ Can use t_{S_0} to compute limits, significance, etc. in the same way as before

Homework 7: Gaussian Profiling

Counting experiment with background uncertainty: $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{B}$:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \text{Signal region (SR)}: \mathbf{n}_{\text{obs}} \sim \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{B}, \sigma_{\text{stat}}) \\ \rightarrow \text{Control region (CR)}: \mathbf{B}_{\text{obs}} \sim \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{B}, \sigma_{\text{bkg}}) \end{array} \right\} L(S, B) = G(n_{\text{obs}}; S + B, \sigma_{\text{stat}}) G(B_{\text{obs}}; B, \sigma_{\text{bkg}})$$

Recall: Signal region only (fixed B): $t_s = \left(\frac{S - n_{\text{obs}}}{\sigma_{\text{stat}}} \right)^2$ $S = (n_{\text{obs}} - B) \pm \sigma_{\text{stat}}$

→ Compute the best-fit (MLEs) for S and B

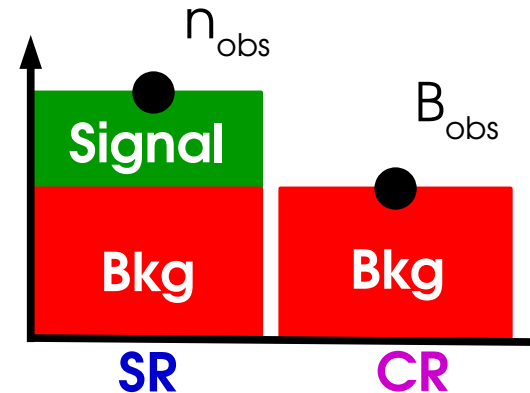
→ Show that the conditional MLE for B is

$$\hat{B}(S) = B_{\text{obs}} + \frac{\sigma_{\text{bkg}}^2}{\sigma_{\text{stat}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{bkg}}^2} (\hat{S} - S)$$

→ Compute the profile likelihood t_s

→ Compute the 1σ confidence interval on S

$$S = (n_{\text{obs}} - B_{\text{obs}}) \pm \sqrt{\sigma_{\text{stat}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{bkg}}^2} \quad \sigma_S = \sqrt{\sigma_{\text{stat}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{bkg}}^2}$$

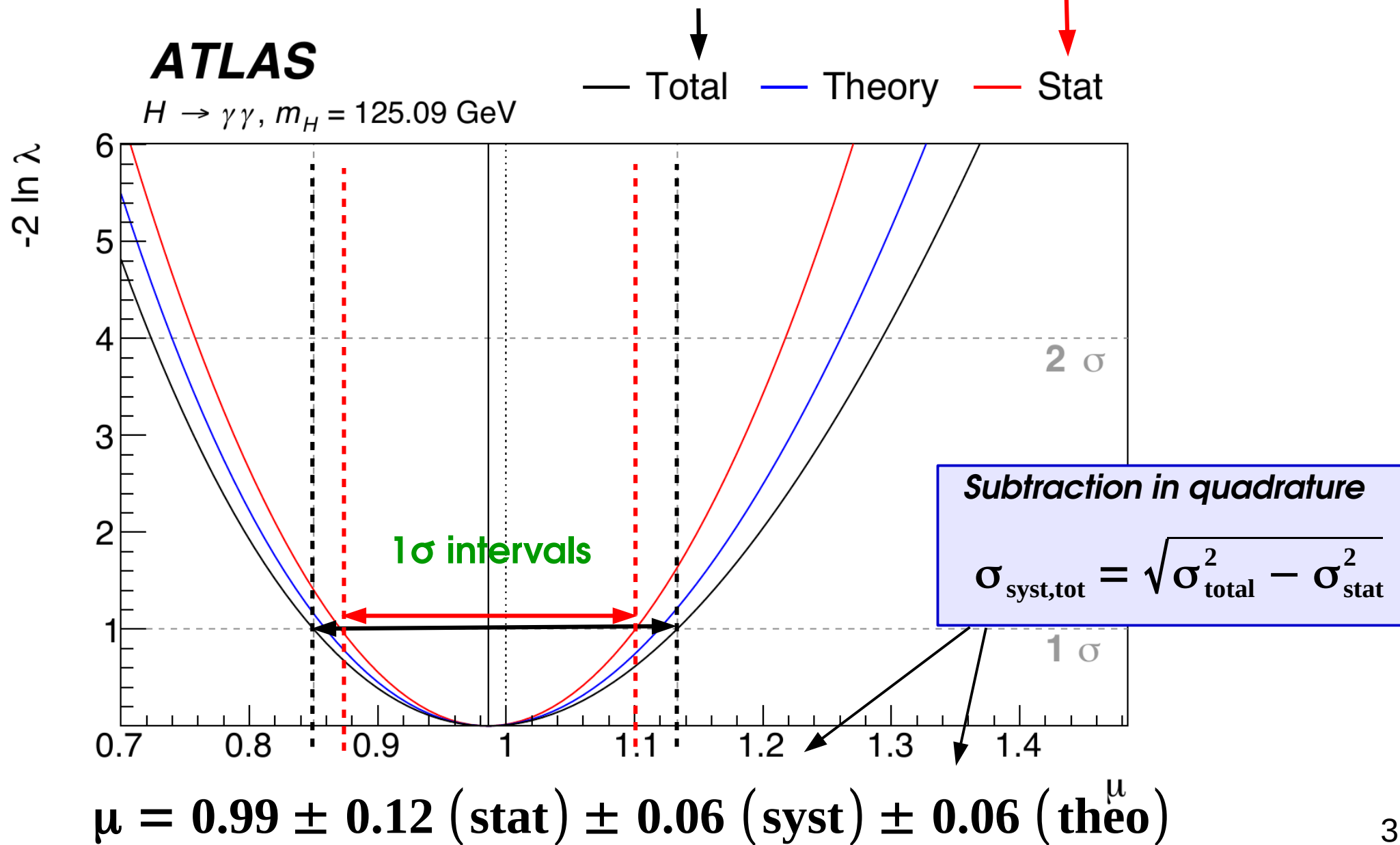


Stat uncertainty (on n) and systematic (on B) add in quadrature

Uncertainty decomposition

All systematics NPs excluded : statistical uncertainty only

All systematics NPs included: stat+syst uncertainties



Pull/Impact plots

Systematics are described by NPs included in the fit. Define **pull** as

$$(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) / \sigma_{\theta}$$

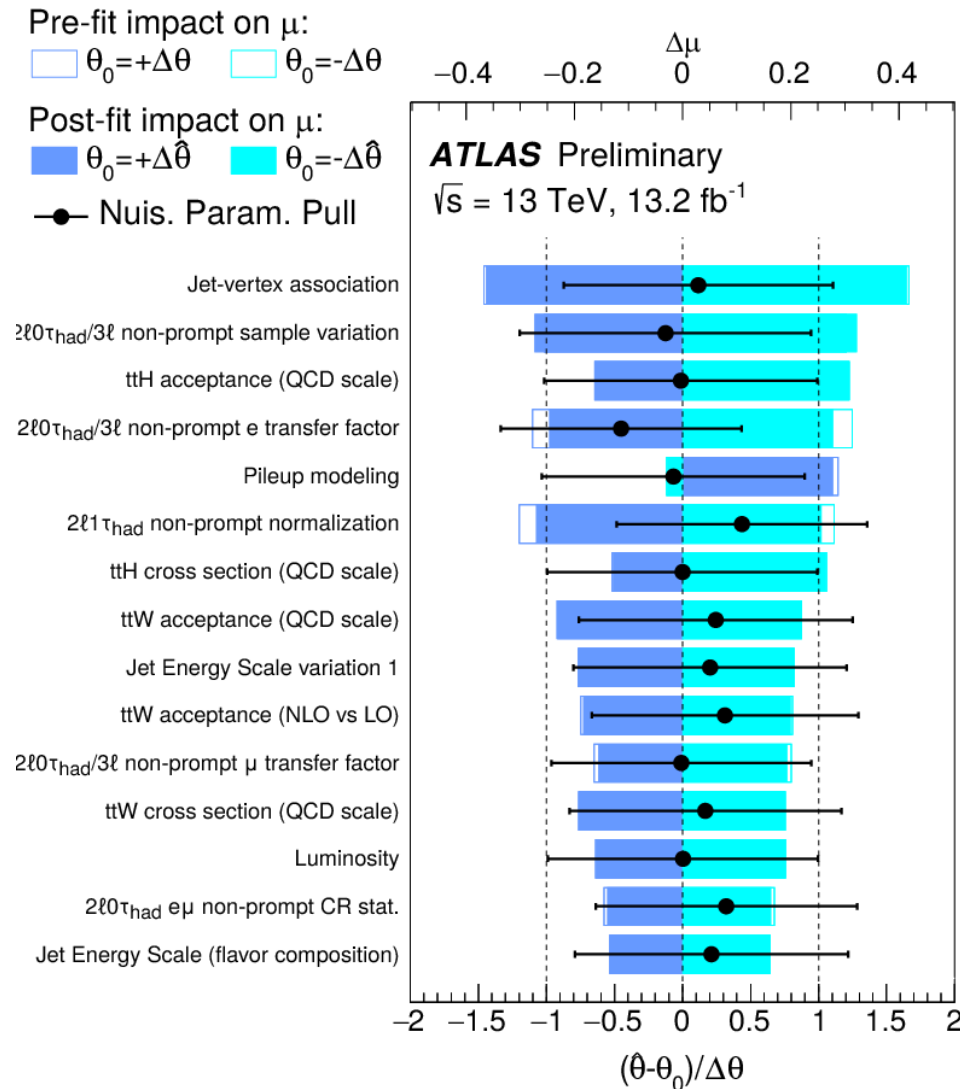
Nominally:

- **pull = 0** : i.e. the pre-fit expectation
- **pull uncertainty = 1** : from the Gaussian

However fit results may be different:

- **Central value $\neq 0$** : some data feature differs from MC expectation
⇒ Need investigation if large
- **Uncertainty < 1** : effect is *constrained* by the data ⇒ Needs checking if this legitimate or a modeling issue
-

→ **Impact on result** of $\pm 1\sigma$ shift of NP allows to gauge which NPs matter most .



Pull/Impact plots

13 TeV single- t XS ([arXiv:1612.07231](https://arxiv.org/abs/1612.07231))

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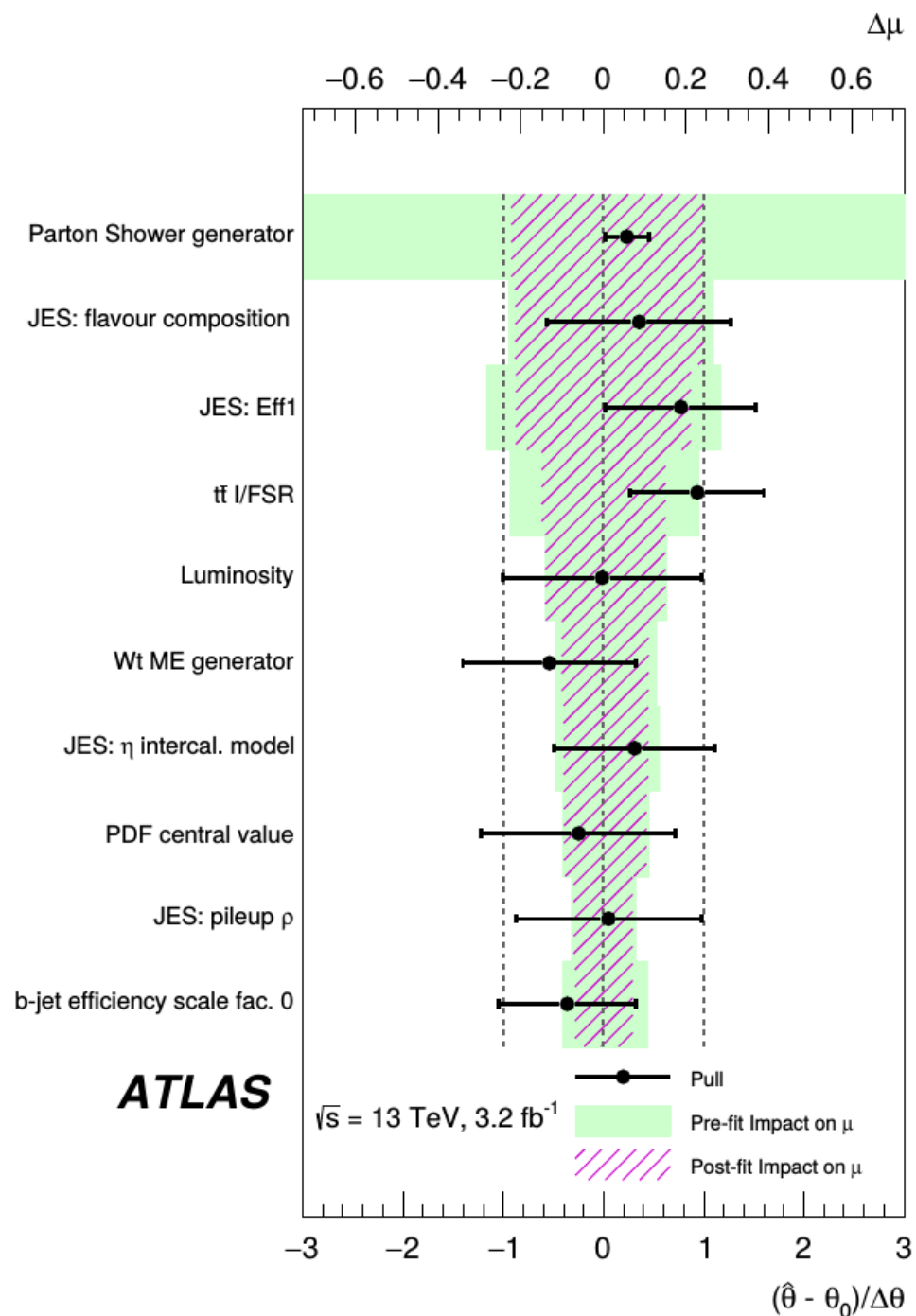
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→ **Impact on result** of $\pm 1\sigma$ shift of NP allows to gauge which NPs matter most .



Profiling Takeaways

When testing a hypothesis, use the best-fit values of the nuisance parameters: *Profile Likelihood Ratio*.

$$\frac{L(\mu = \mu_0, \hat{\hat{\theta}}_{\mu_0})}{L(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta})}$$

Allows to include systematics as uncertainties on nuisance parameters.

Profiling systematics includes their effect into the total uncertainty.

Gaussian:

$$\sigma_{\text{total}} = \sqrt{\sigma_{\text{stat}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{syst}}^2}$$

Guaranteed to work well as long as everything is Gaussian, but typically also robust against non-Gaussian behavior.

Profiling can have unintended effects – need to carefully check behavior

Extra Slides

CL_s : Gaussian Bands

Usual Gaussian counting example with known B:

95% CL_s upper limit on S:

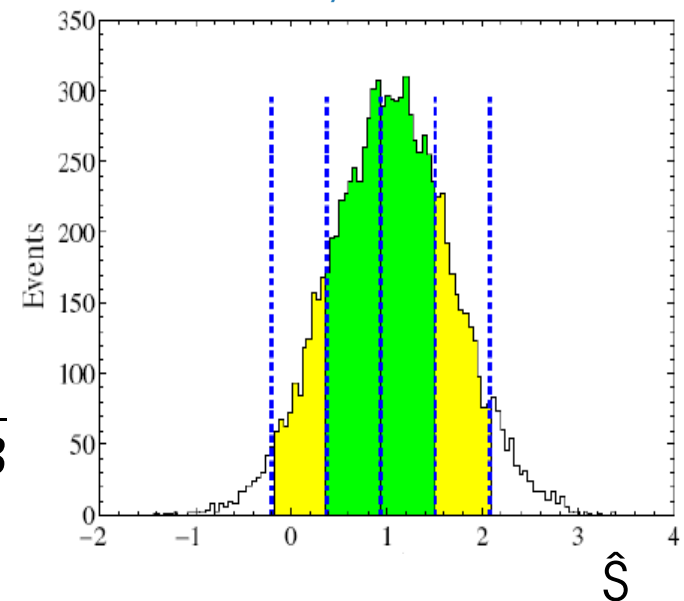
$$S_{\text{up}} = \hat{S} + \left[\Phi^{-1} \left(1 - 0.05 \Phi \left(\hat{S} / \sigma_S \right) \right) \right] \sigma_S \quad \text{with} \quad \sigma_S = \sqrt{B}$$

Compute expected bands for S=0:

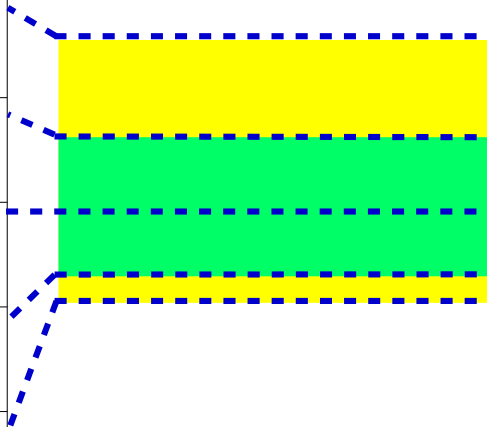
→ **Asimov dataset** $\Leftrightarrow \hat{S} = 0$: $S_{\text{up,exp}}^0 = 1.96 \sigma_S$

→ **$\pm n \sigma$ bands**:

$$S_{\text{up,exp}}^{\pm n} = \left(\pm n + \left[1 - \Phi^{-1} \left(0.05 \Phi(\mp n) \right) \right] \right) \sigma_S$$



n	$S_{\text{exp}}^{\pm n} / \sqrt{B}$
+2	3.66
+1	2.72
0	1.96
-1	1.41
-2	1.05



CLs :

- Positive bands somewhat reduced,
- Negative ones more so

Band width from depends on S, for $\sigma_{S,A}^2 = \frac{S^2}{q_S(\text{Asimov})}$
 non-Gaussian cases, different values for each band...

Comparison with LEP/TeVatron definitions

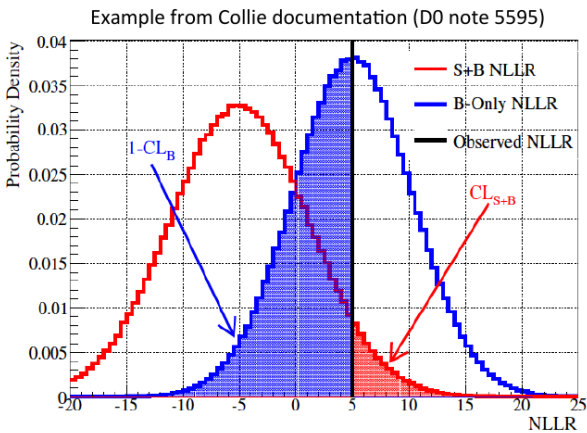
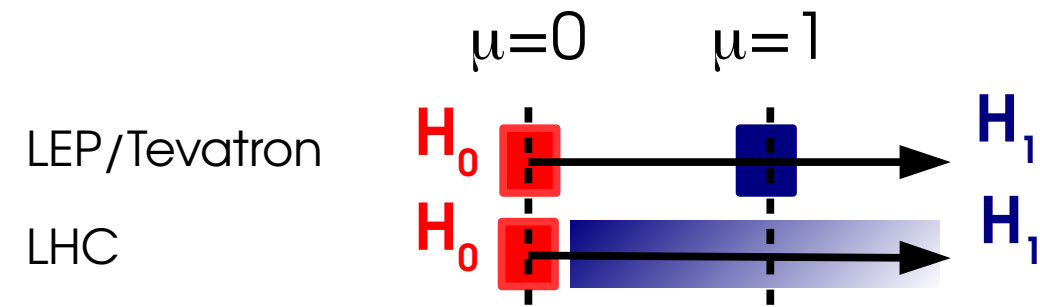
Likelihood ratios are not a new idea:

- **LEP**: Simple LR with NPs from MC
 - Compare $\mu=0$ and $\mu=1$
- **TeVatron**: PLR with profiled NPs

$$q_{LEP} = -2 \log \frac{L(\mu=0, \tilde{\theta})}{L(\mu=1, \tilde{\theta})}$$

$$q_{TeVatron} = -2 \log \frac{L(\mu=0, \hat{\theta}_0)}{L(\mu=1, \hat{\theta}_1)}$$

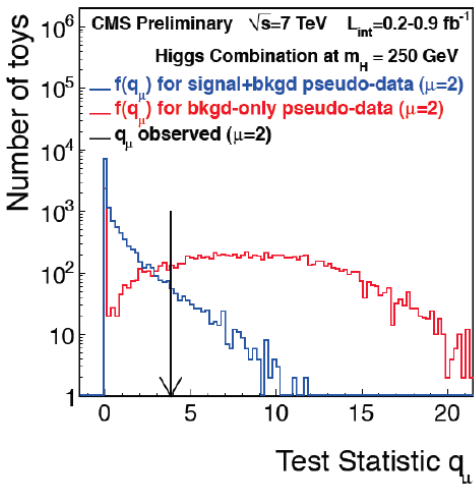
Both compare to $\mu=1$ instead of best-fit $\hat{\mu}$



→ Asymptotically:

- **LEP/TeVatron**: q linear in $\mu \Rightarrow \sim \text{Gaussian}$
- **LHC**: q quadratic in $\mu \Rightarrow \sim \chi^2$

→ Still use TeVatron-style for discrete cases



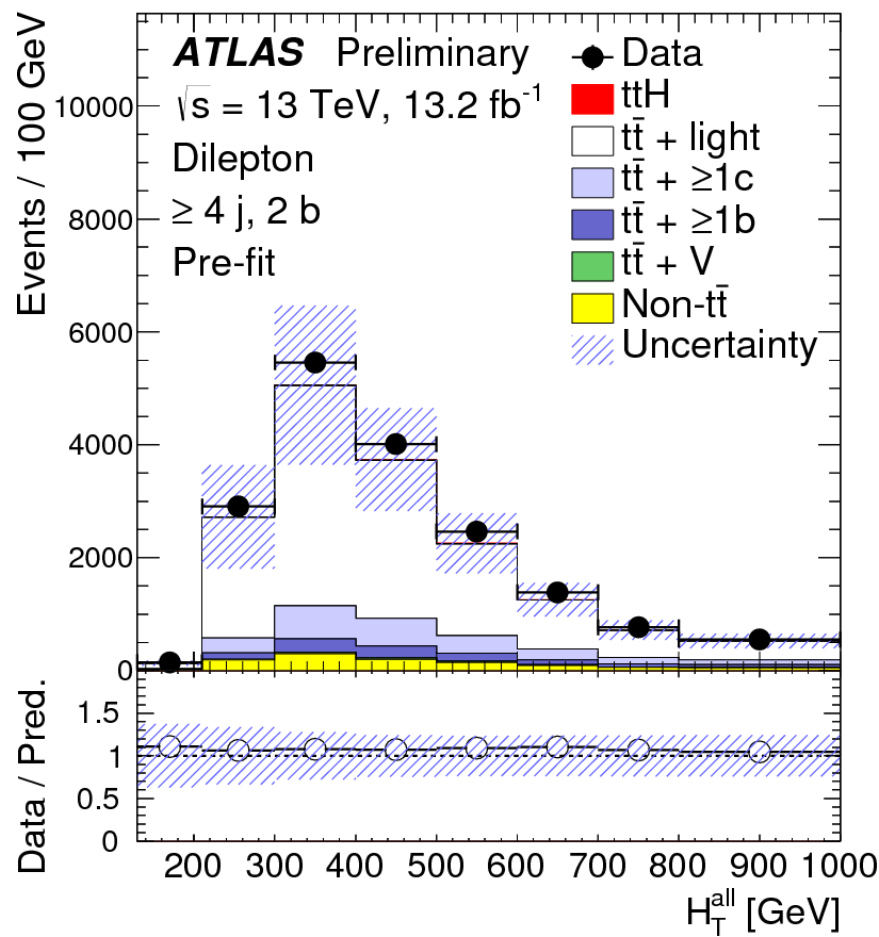
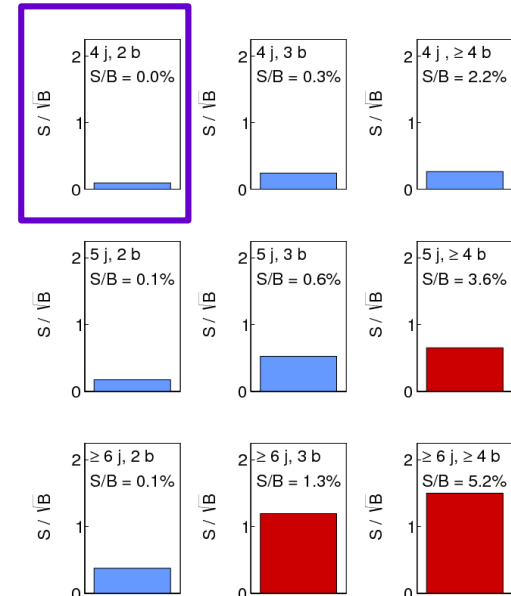
Profiling Example: $t\bar{t}H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$

Analysis uses low-S/B categories to constrain backgrounds.

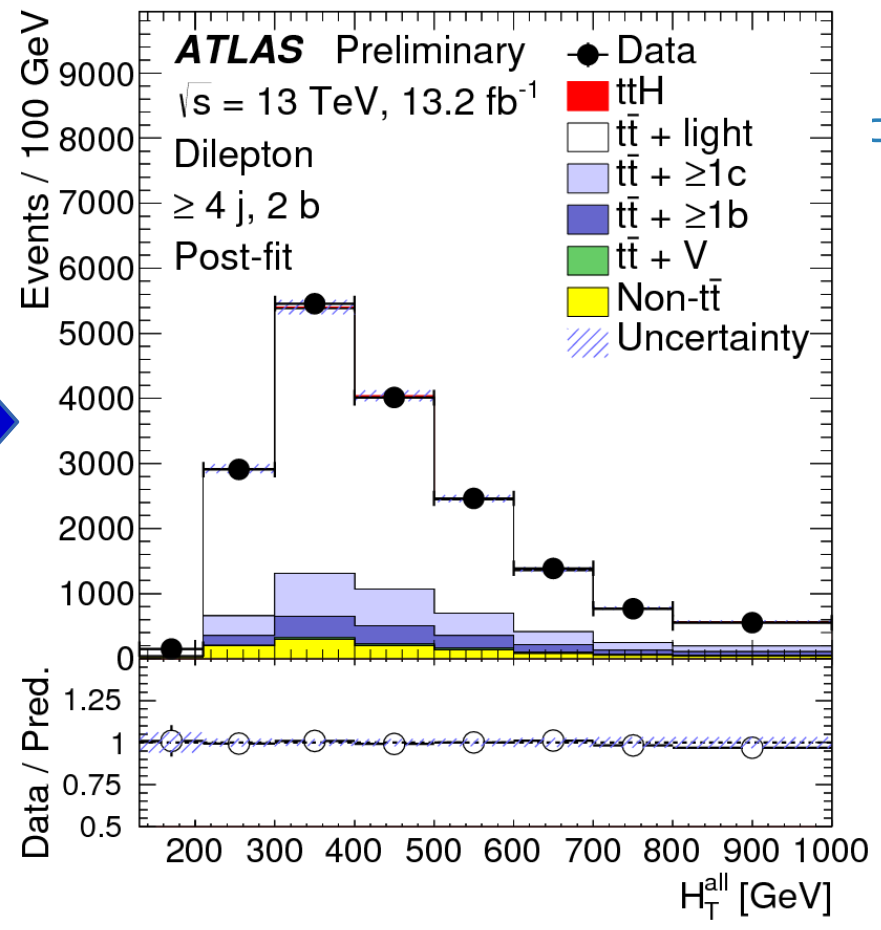
→ **Reduction in large uncertainties on $t\bar{t}$ bkg**

→ **Propagates to the high-S/B categories** through the statistical modeling

⇒ **Care needed in the propagation** (e.g. different kinematic regimes)



Fit

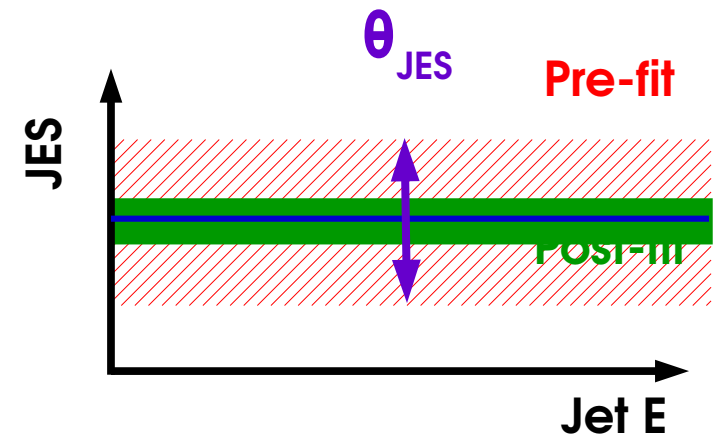


Profiling Issues

Too simple modeling can have unintended effects

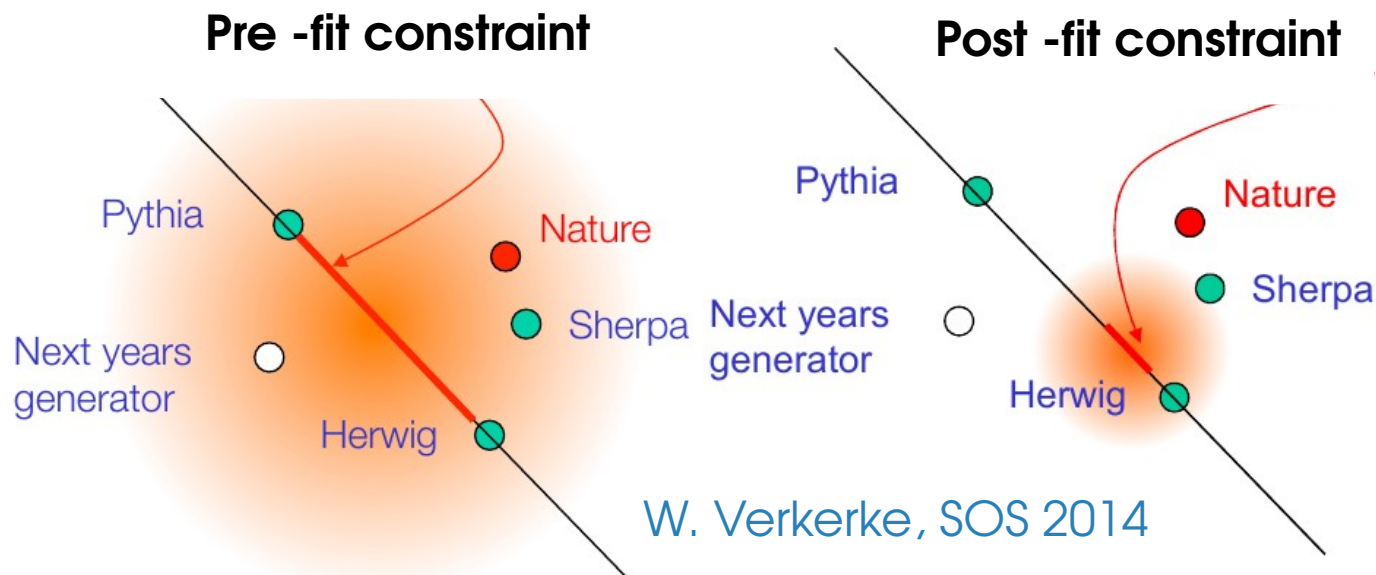
→ e.g. single Jet E scale parameter:

⇒ Low-E jets calibrate high-E jets – intended ?



Two-point uncertainties:

→ Interpolation may not cover full configuration space
space, can lead to too-strong constraints

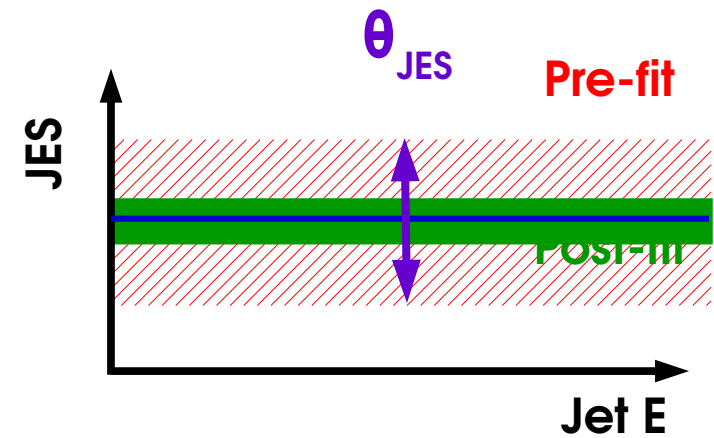


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