

1st Year PhD Report

**Using $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ events to calculate Tau
ID scale factors using high p_T Tau
leptons**

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Declaration

I hereby declare, that I am the sole author and composer of my thesis and that no other sources or learning aids, other than those listed, have been used. Furthermore, I declare that I have acknowledged the work of others by providing detailed references of said work.

I hereby also declare, that my Thesis has not been prepared for another examination or assignment, either wholly or excerpts thereof.

Place, Date

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Abstract

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1 Introduction

2 Tau physics overview

This chapter is a review of the Tau lepton properties. They include the nature of this particle, its interactions with other the Standard Model (SM) particles, its main decay modes and the physics implications of the so called Lepton Universality (LU), one of the SM predictions.

2.1 The Tau Lepton

The Tau is a spin- $\frac{1}{2}$, electrically charged particle that belongs to the same family of particles as the electron, the muon and the neutrinos, they are all called *leptons*. Leptons are elementary particles that interact only via the weak and electromagnetic interactions, for the latter case only if they have electric charge.

The first hints for the tau existence came from experiments conducted at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory [3]. They discovered 64 events of the form:

$$e^+ + e^- \rightarrow e^\pm + \mu^\mp + \geq 2 \text{ undetected particles}, \quad (1)$$

for which there was no conventional explanation at the time. Later on, it was discovered that these events came from the production of a pair of new particles,

two taus that subsequently decayed onto one electron, a muon and four neutrinos. Events like,

$$e^+ + e^- \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^- \rightarrow e^\pm + \mu^\mp + 4\nu, \quad (2)$$

were later explored to derive tau mass and spin, confirming the existence of a third generation of leptons.

The tau mass being 1776.86 ± 0.12 MeV allows this lepton not only to decay into the other lighter lepton generations (*leptonic tau decays*), as its shown on Fig.1 , but into *hadrons*. These are particles made of quarks, all the decay channels of the tau containing hadrons in the final state are called *hadronic tau decays*. An example of this decay mode is shown in Fig.2

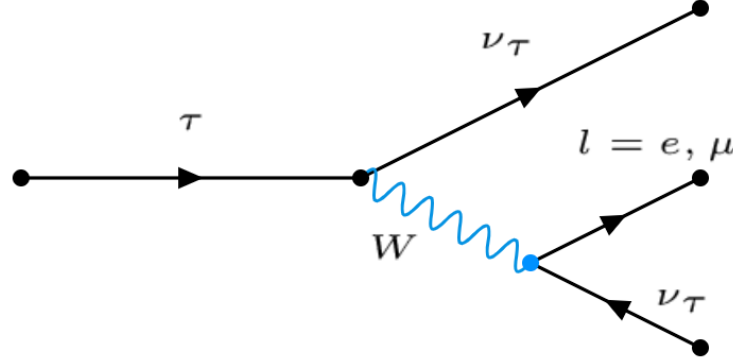


Figure 1: Tau leptonic decay mode. Tau lepton is kinematically allowed to decay into muons or electrons, not that in this decay mode two neutrinos of different flavour are produced.

Naively, if we were to estimate the branching fraction for hadronic and leptonic tau decay modes, defined as:

$$\beta(\tau \rightarrow X\nu_\tau) = \frac{\Gamma(\tau \rightarrow X\nu_\tau)}{\Gamma_{\text{tot}}}, \quad (3)$$

where X could be any group of leptons or hadrons and Γ_{tot} is the total decay width for the tau, we could argue that the contribution from the hadronic decays triples the contribution for one of the leptonic modes. This is because in any hadronic decay,

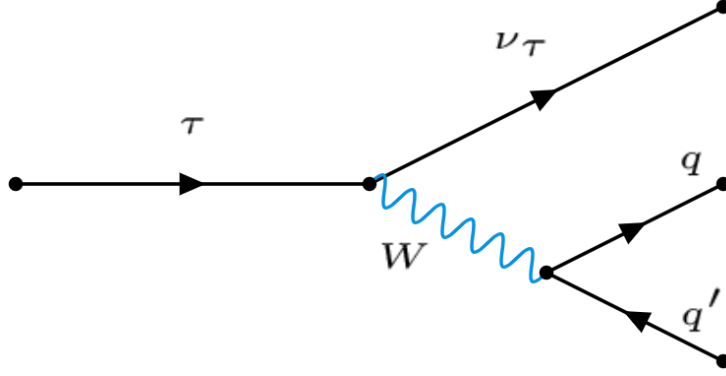


Figure 2: Tau hadronic decay mode. Tau lepton is kinematically allowed only to decay into hadrons containing up, down and strange quarks. This results on final states containing multiple pions or kaons [1].

we would have to count 3 different diagrams, like the one in Fig.2 because of the 3 colour possibility for the quarks.

Thus,

$$\beta(\tau \rightarrow l \nu_l \nu_\tau) \approx 20\% \quad l = e, \mu; \quad (4)$$

$$\beta(\tau \rightarrow X \nu_\tau) \approx 60\% \quad X = \text{hadrons} + \text{neutrinos}. \quad (5)$$

In fact, this naive estimation is not so bad. Actual values for the leptonic branching ratios are [4]:

$$\beta(\tau \rightarrow e \nu_e \nu_\tau) = 17.82 \pm 0.04\% \quad (6)$$

$$\beta(\tau \rightarrow \mu \nu_\mu \nu_\tau) = 17.39 \pm 0.04\%, \quad (7)$$

and the small difference is due to the mass variation between the muon and the electron.

On the other hand, the hadronic decays of the tau are more varied and can contain much more particles in the final states. The vast majority of hadronic tau decays have charged or neutral pions in the final states, but more exotic decays including

Decay mode	Branching fraction
$\pi^\pm \nu_\tau$	11.1 %
$\pi^\pm \pi^0 \nu_\tau$	25.4%
$\pi^\pm \geq 2\pi^0 \nu_\tau$	9.1%
$3\pi^\pm \nu_\tau$	9.1%
$3\pi^\pm \geq 1\pi^0 \nu_\tau$	4.6%
others	5.5%

Table 1: Tau hadronic decay modes branching fractions.

kaons also happen. Branching ratios for the most important tau hadronic decays are showed in Table 1.

2.2 Lepton Universality

The SM predicts that all charged leptons (e, μ, τ) interact via the electromagnetic and weak forces and explains that this interactions can be seen as the interchange of *vector bosons*, the photon (γ) and the W and Z bosons respectively. Specifically, in the SM the form of the interaction does not depend on the lepton generation. This feature of the SM is called *lepton universality* and it can be understand as that many physical process for electrons, muons and taus are almost identical copies of each other (although some small discrepancies arise from the fact that lepton masses are different and extrictly speaking lepton universality is not a exact symmetry).

For instance, tau leptonic decay widths are an outstanding way to test lepton universality hypothesis. If we start considering muon decay, at low energy we can consider this process to be a point like interaction well described by Fermi theory [5]. In this case, if we approximate the electron and neutrinos as being massless particles, a dimensionally correct expression for the width will be of the form:

$$\Gamma(\mu \rightarrow e + \nu_e + \nu_\mu) = K G_F^2 m_\mu^5, \quad (8)$$

where $G_F = 1.1666 \times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$ is the Fermi coupling constant and K is a constant that depends on the form of the interaction. If we assume lepton universality holds, the respective widths for the leptonic tau decay modes, will have the form:

$$\Gamma(\tau \rightarrow e + \nu_e + \nu_\tau) = KG_F^2 m_\tau^5 \quad (9)$$

$$\Gamma(\tau \rightarrow \mu + \nu_\mu + \nu_\tau) = \Gamma(\tau \rightarrow e + \nu_e + \nu_\tau), \quad (10)$$

and this explains why to a good approximation leptonic branching fractions for tau decay are equal. Moreover, we can obtain a relation between tau and muon lifetimes. We know that,

$$\tau_l = \frac{1}{\Gamma_{\text{Tot}}} = \frac{\beta(l \rightarrow e \nu_e \nu_l)}{\Gamma(l \rightarrow e \nu_e \nu_l)}, \quad (11)$$

also that $\beta(\mu \rightarrow e \nu_e \nu_\mu) = 1$ and taking into account eq.(6) we can take the ratio between eq.(11) for $l = \tau, \mu$ to obtain:

$$\frac{\tau_\tau}{\tau_\mu} = \frac{\beta(\tau \rightarrow e \nu_e \nu_\tau)}{\beta(\mu \rightarrow e \nu_e \nu_\mu)} \left(\frac{m_\mu}{m_\tau} \right)^5 = (1.328 \pm 0.004) \times 10^{-7}. \quad (12)$$

This is consistent with the experimental lifetimes ratio $(1.3227 \pm 0.0005) \times 10^{-7}$. This agreement on lifetimes that differ on 7 orders of magnitude is a good proof that lepton universality holds on W decays at the tau mass scale.

Nonetheless, measurements from LHCb, BaBar and Belle experiments have shown consistent deviations from the SM predictions [6]. This experiments have independently measured a deviation on \bar{B} meson semi-leptonic branching ratios, specifically:

$$R_D = \frac{\beta(\bar{B} \rightarrow D \tau^- \bar{\nu}_\tau)}{\beta(\bar{B} \rightarrow D e^- \bar{\nu}_e)} \quad (13)$$

$$R_{D^*} = \frac{\beta(\bar{B} \rightarrow D^* \tau^- \bar{\nu}_\tau)}{\beta(\bar{B} \rightarrow D^* e^- \bar{\nu}_e)}. \quad (14)$$

The combined results for the different experiments are shown in Fig.3 . These measurements represent a 3.08σ deviation from the SM predictions, but even though they represent a hint of new physics, these results also have to be taken with care

since at this point it could be that systematic uncertainties are being underestimated or statistical deviations are larger than expected. In this matters, future analysis from experiments like LHCb and Belle with larger available datasets will be very important to untangle this situation.

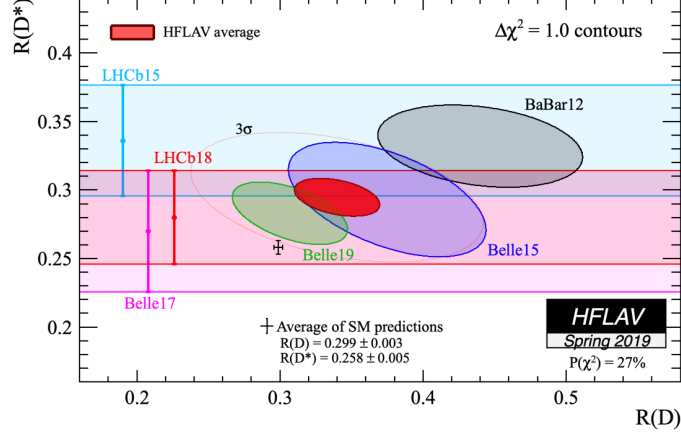


Figure 3: Combined results from BABAR, Belle and LHCb with $1\text{-}\sigma$ contour. The average calculated by the Heavy Flavour Averaging Group [2] is compared with the SM predictions.

3 Analysis

At the beginning of this chapter, a review of the ATLAS detector at the LHC and a description of the reconstruction and identification of hadronic Tau decays on ATLAS are discussed. The last sections are devoted to describe the Analysis methodology of using $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ events to measure Monte Carlo correction factors for Tau identification algorithms on the high- p_T region.

3.1 The LHC and the ATLAS experiment

3.2 Tau Reconstruction and Identification on the ATLAS detector

Leptonically decaying taus (τ_{lep}), may have a higher impact parameter and tend to have a softer p_T spectrum compared with prompt W or Z boson decays to muons or electrons. These variables are not sufficient in principle to differentiate between τ_{lep} and prompt muons or electrons. In the case of hadronically decaying taus (τ_{had}), as we will see, there are a lot more variables we could use to tag the presence of a τ_{had} .

As we saw in section 2.1, τ_{had} decays can be classified in 1-prong or 3-prong, depending on the number of charged particles in the decay. A detailed review of the reconstruction procedure is discussed on REF TAU RECO. τ_{had} candidates are

seeded by jets using the anti- k_t algorithm REF ANTI KT, with a distance parameter of 0.4. Jets are required to have $p_T > 10$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$. Candidates between the barrel and forward calorimeter ($1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$) are excluded due to poor instrumentation in this region.

The axis of the seed jet is defined by the energy-weighted barycentre of all clusters of calorimeter cells, called *TopoClusters* REF TOPO CLUSTERS. The τ_{had} vertex is defined as the vertex with the highest p_T -weighted fraction of all tracks with $p_T > 0.5$ GeV within a cone of $R = 0.2$ around the seed jet axis. Tracks within a cone of $R = 0.4$ are classified with a set of boosted decision trees (BDTs) into core and isolation tracks, the number of core tracks defines the number of prongs. Candidates with neither one or three tracks are rejected. Additionally, the sum of the charge of the tracks is required to be ± 1 .

3.3 Monte Carlo Samples

3.4 The Collinear Approximation

3.5 Event Selection

4 Results

The approach usually starts with the problem definition and continues with what you have done. Try to give an intuition first and describe everything with words and then be more formal like ‘Let g be ...’.

4.1 $\mu\tau$ Final state

4.2 $e\tau$ Final state

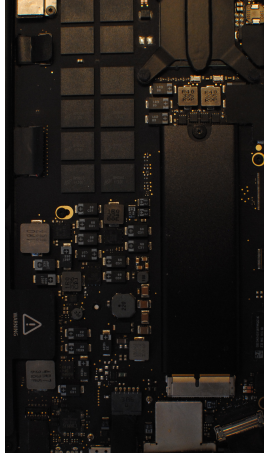
Start with a very short motivation why this is important. Then, as stated above, describe the problem with words before getting formal.

4.3 Monte Carlo and data discrepancies

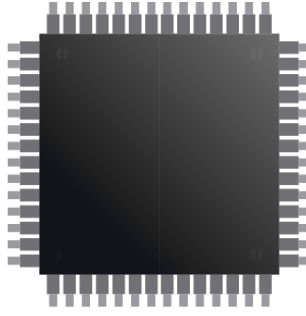
5 Conclusions and prospects

Type	Accuracy
A	82.47 ± 3.21
B	78.47 ± 2.43
C	84.30 ± 2.35
D	86.81 ± 3.01

Table 2: Table caption. foo bar...



(a) Some cool graphic



(b) Some cool related graphic

Figure 4: Caption that appears under the fig Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetur id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices. Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus. Morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci dignissim rutrum.

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