

SEARCH FOR LEPTON FLAVOR VIOLATING DECAYS OF
STANDARD MODEL HIGGS TO A MUON AND A TAU LEPTON
OR TO AN ELECTRON AND A TAU LEPTON

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Graduate School
of the University of Notre Dame
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

by

Prasanna Kumar Siddireddy

Colin Philip Jessop, Director

Graduate Program in Physics

Notre Dame, Indiana

August 2020


SEARCH FOR LEPTON FLAVOR VIOLATING DECAYS OF
STANDARD MODEL HIGGS TO A MUON AND A TAU LEPTON
OR TO AN ELECTRON AND A TAU LEPTON

Abstract

by

Prasanna Kumar Siddireddy

This dissertation presents searches for Lepton Flavor Violating decay of the Standard Model Higgs Boson (H) into a muon and a tau lepton or to an electron and a tau lepton. Data collected by the CMS detector in 2016-2018, in proton-proton collisions at the LHC, at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV was used to perform the search. Observed (expected) upper limits on the branching fraction of H decaying into a muon and a tau lepton, $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \mu\tau)$, was set at **XX**(0.13) % at 95% CL and branching fraction of H decaying into an electron and a tau lepton, $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow e\tau)$, was set at **XX**(0.15) % at 95% CL. These are the most stringent limits set on these processes till date.



Numbers indicate which to produce first in schedule

CONTENTS

| | | |
|---|----|-----|
| ✓ Figures | | iii |
| ✓ Tables | | iv |
| ✓ Chapter 1: Introduction | 10 | 1 |
| ✓ Chapter 2: Theoretical Motivation | 8 | 2 |
| ✓ Chapter 3: LHC and the CMS detector | 7 | 3 |
| ✓ Chapter 4: Monte Carlo Event Generation and Embedded Event Production | 5 | 4 |
| ✓ Chapter 5: Event Reconstruction | 6 | 5 |
| ✓ Chapter 6: Event Selection | 1 | 6 |
| ✓ Chapter 7: Background Estimation | 2 | 7 |
| ✓ Chapter 8: Systematic Uncertainties | 3 | 8 |
| ✓ Chapter 9: Results | 4 | 9 |
| ✓ Chapter 10: Conclusion | 9 | 10 |
| ✓ Bibliography | | 11 |

FIGURES

TABLES

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL MOTIVATION

CHAPTER 3

LHC AND THE CMS DETECTOR

CHAPTER 4

MONTE CARLO EVENT GENERATION AND EMBEDDED EVENT PRODUCTION

CHAPTER 5

EVENT RECONSTRUCTION

CHAPTER 6

EVENT SELECTION

CHAPTER 7

BACKGROUND ESTIMATION

CHAPTER 8

SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

CHAPTER 9

RESULTS

CHAPTER 10

CONCLUSION

BIBLIOGRAPHY