

The hunt for Higgs boson pairs at ATLAS: current status and perspectives

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Outline

1. Introduction

1. The Higgs boson
2. The Higgs potential role in the universe evolution
3. Higgs-boson pair production

2. ATLAS Run 2 HH searches ($b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$, $b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$, $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$)

1. The ATLAS detector and object reconstruction
2. The Run 2 $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$, $b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ and $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ searches
3. Run 2 combination and non-resonant constraints
4. Heavy resonance searches ($X \rightarrow HH$)
5. H+HH combinations

3. Future prospects for HH measurements (Run 3 and HL-LHC)

1. Run 3 ATLAS improvements (reconstruction and triggers)
2. Expected sensitivities at the HL-LHC (3000 fb^{-1})

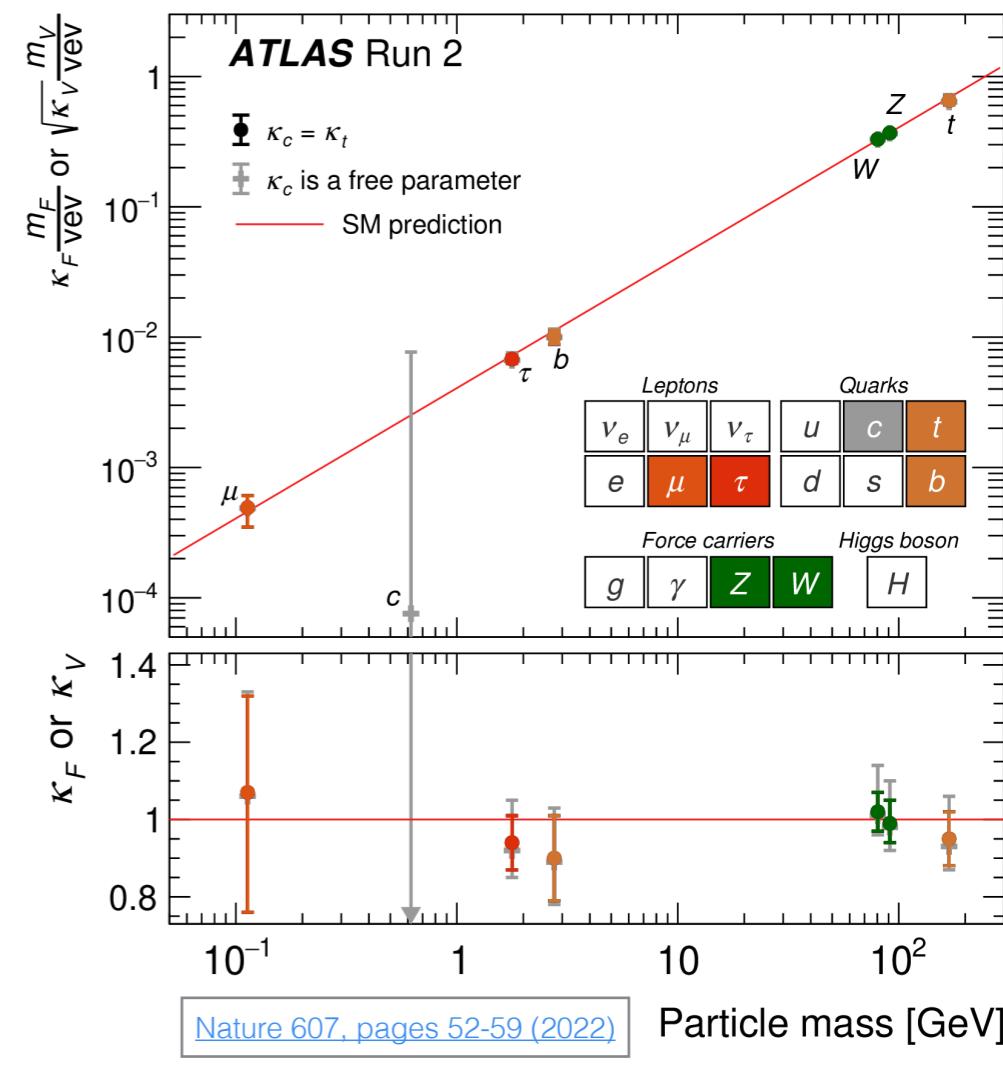
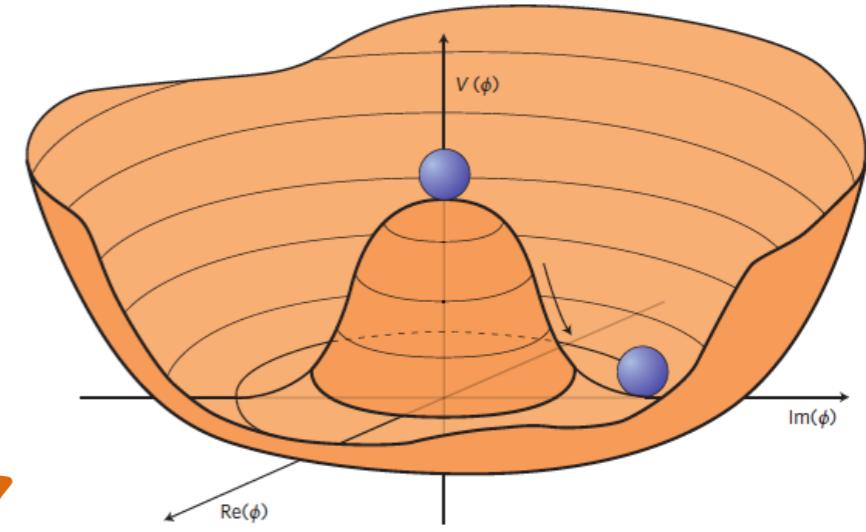
4. Conclusions and outlook



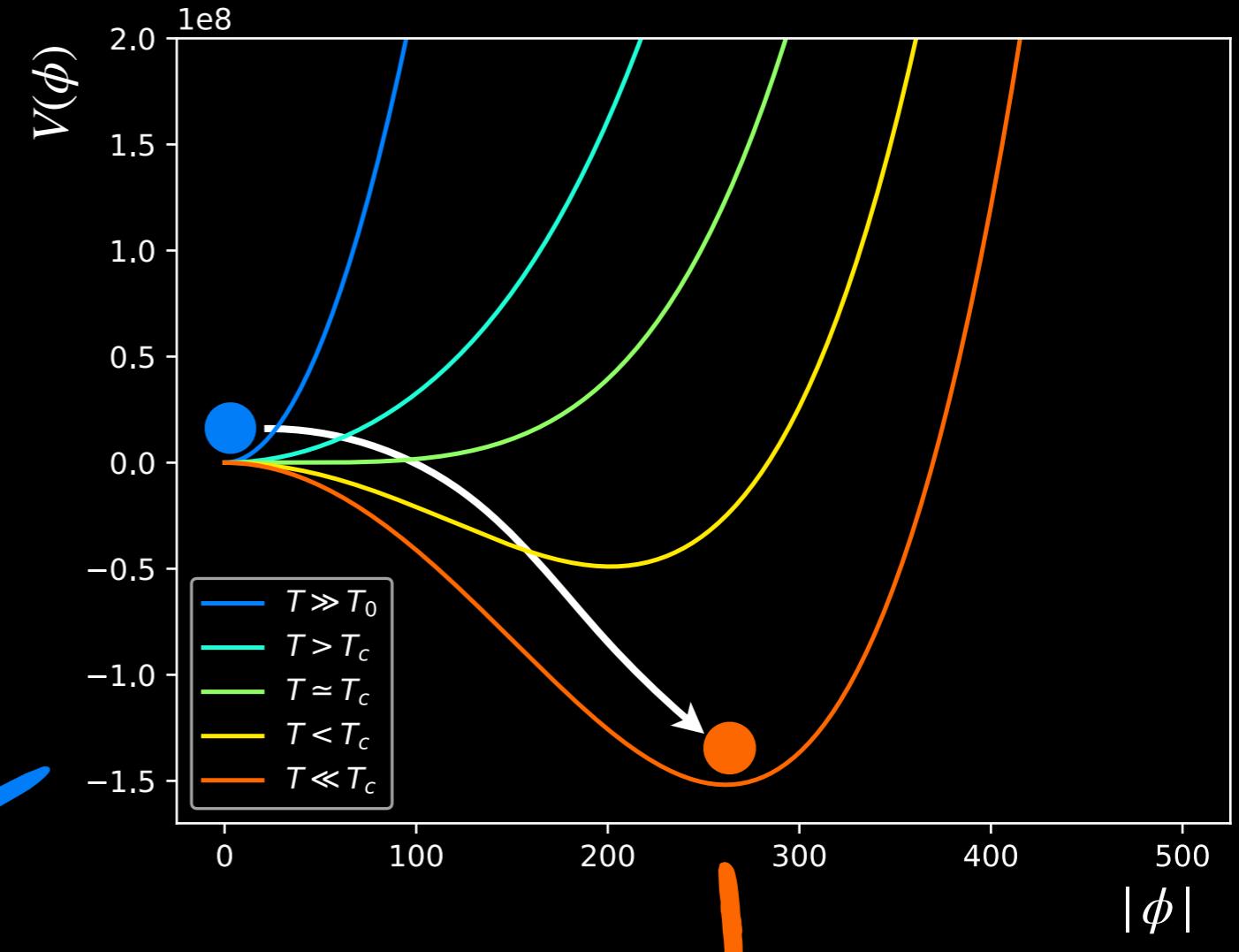
Introduction (1)

The Higgs boson discovery

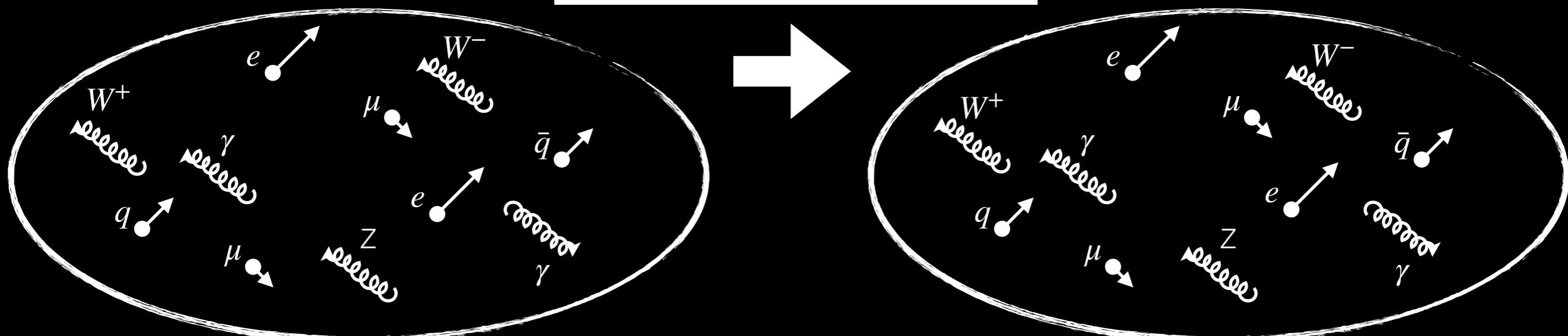
- In 2012, nature brought us a new scalar particle: the **Higgs boson**.
 - In the Standard Model (SM), vacuum state of $V(\phi^\dagger \phi)$ breaks electroweak (EWK) symmetry
- $$V(\phi^\dagger \phi) = -\mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi + \lambda (\phi^\dagger \phi)^2$$
- Weak bosons (W/Z) and fermions **acquire masses**.
 - The Higgs boson **mass observed at ~ 125 GeV**.
 - So far, **all observed couplings (W, Z, b, t, τ) are consistent with SM Higgs!**



- The Higgs discovery also established that a **second order electroweak phase transition (EWPT) happened** in the early phases of the universe.
- Unique process**, different than the standard matter freeze-out!



Electroweak
Phase Transition (EWPT)



**So, have we learned everything about
the Higgs?**



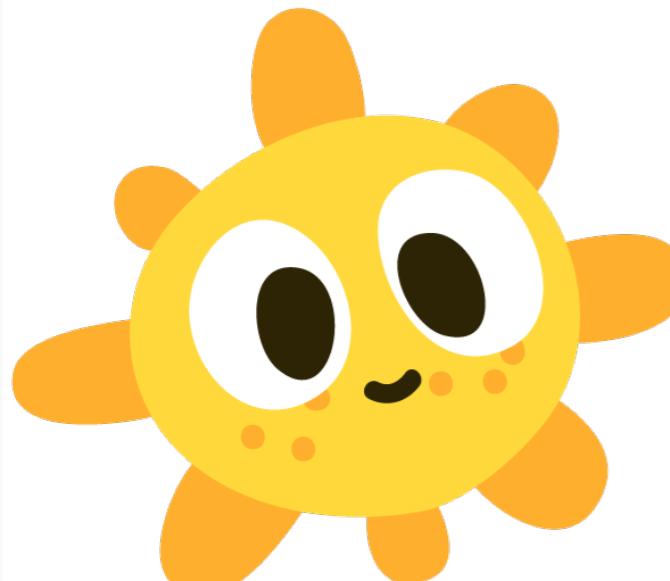
The Higgs questions

What do we still have to understand about the Higgs?

- **No**, we haven't learned everything about the Higgs!
- The simple existence of the Higgs in the SM **makes it really puzzling**:
 - Are there **more Higgs bosons**?
 - Why is the **Higgs mass so small**?
 - Did the the **Higgs potential alone trigger EWSB**?
 - And more!

Two Higgs Doublet model (2HDM)

Supersymmetry



Composite Higgs



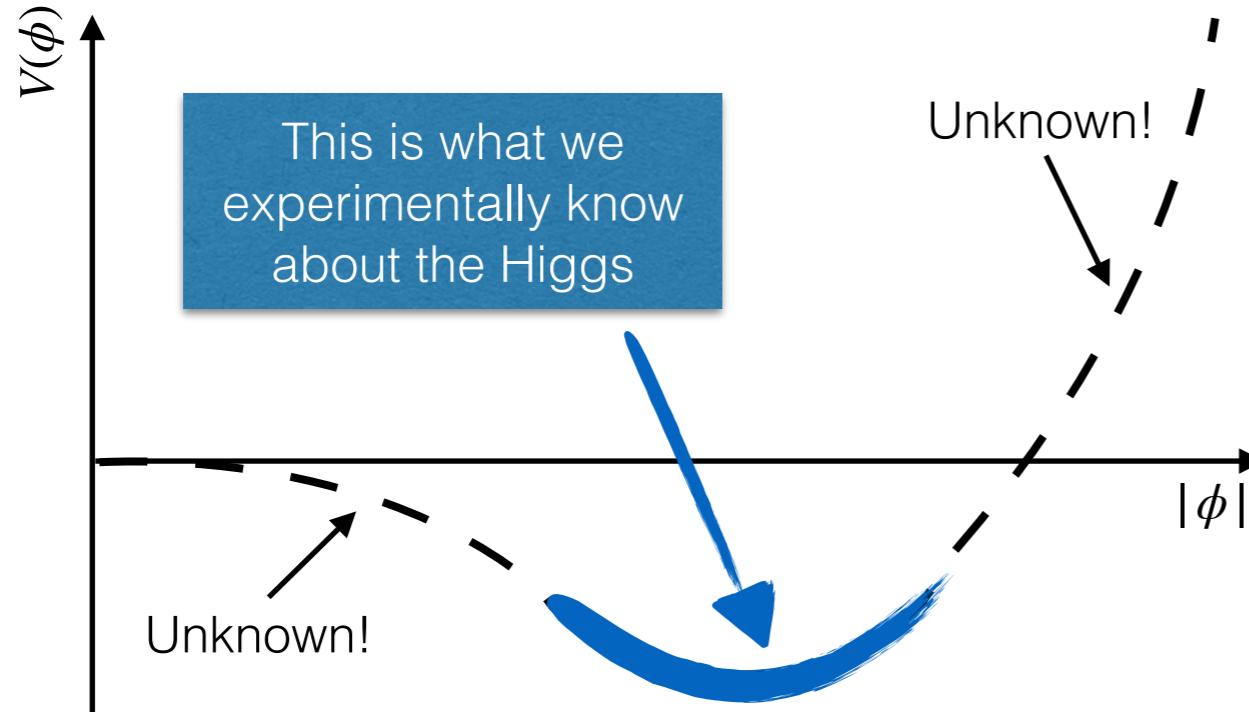
Scalar inflation



Is this effectively the SM Higgs boson?

The Higgs minimum and the potential shape

- So far, we only **established where the minimum of the Higgs potential is.**

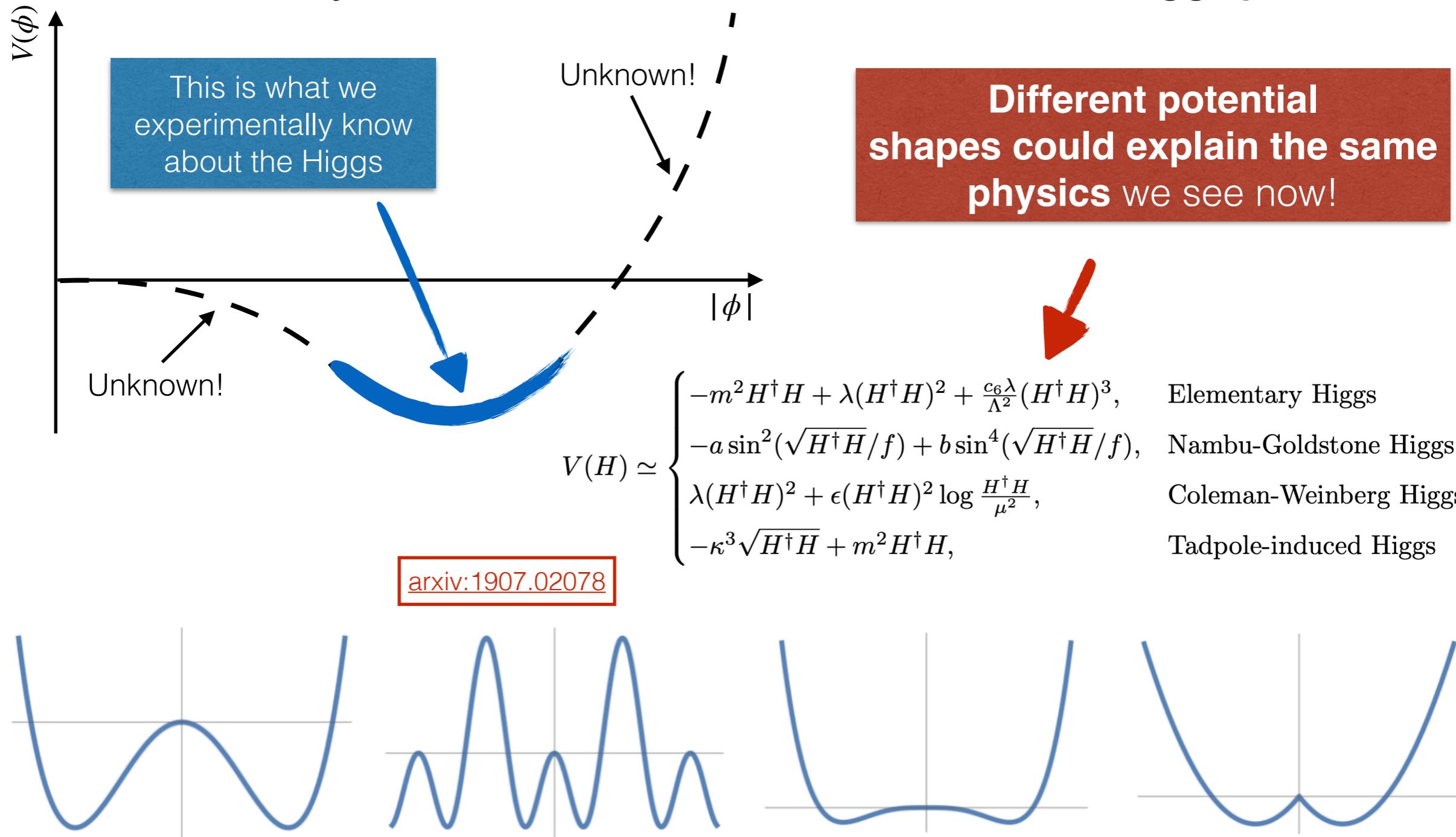


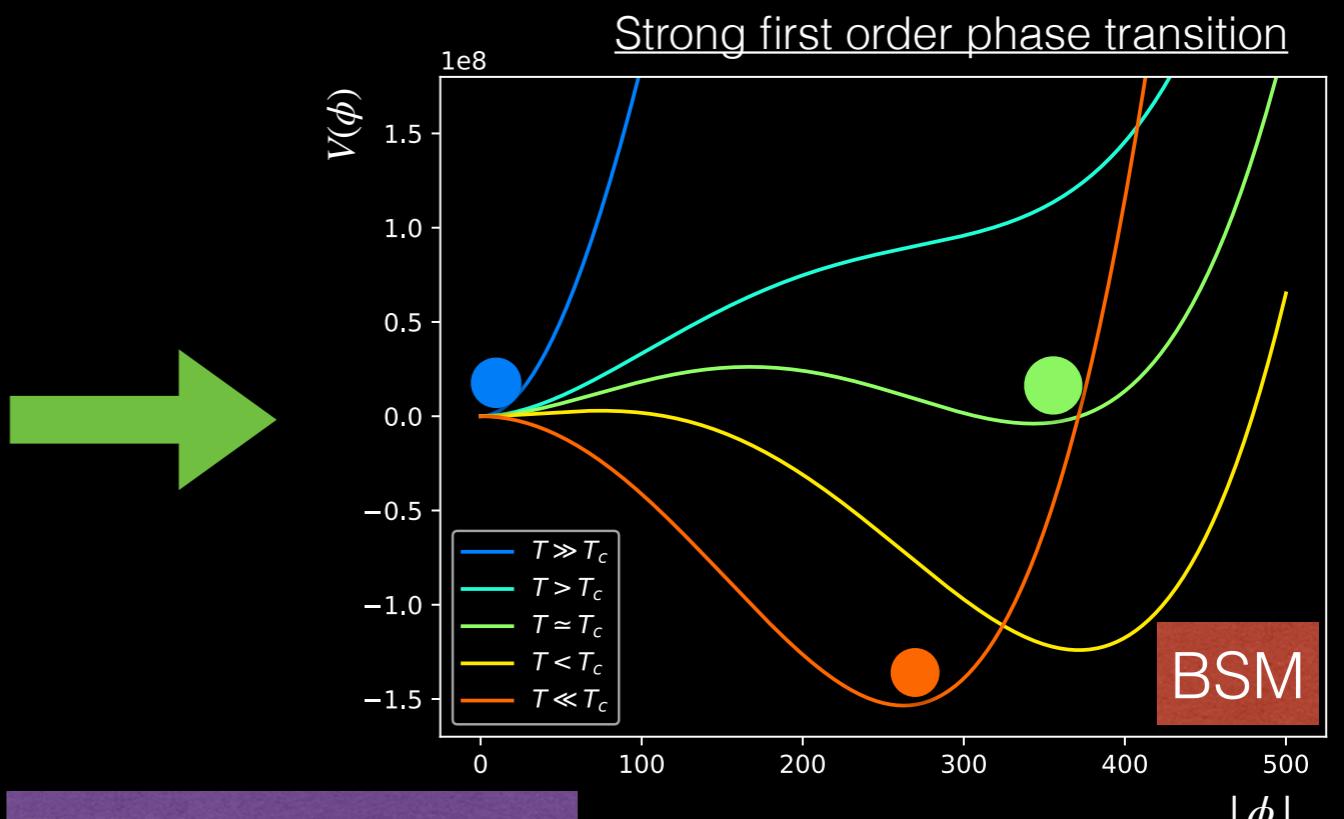
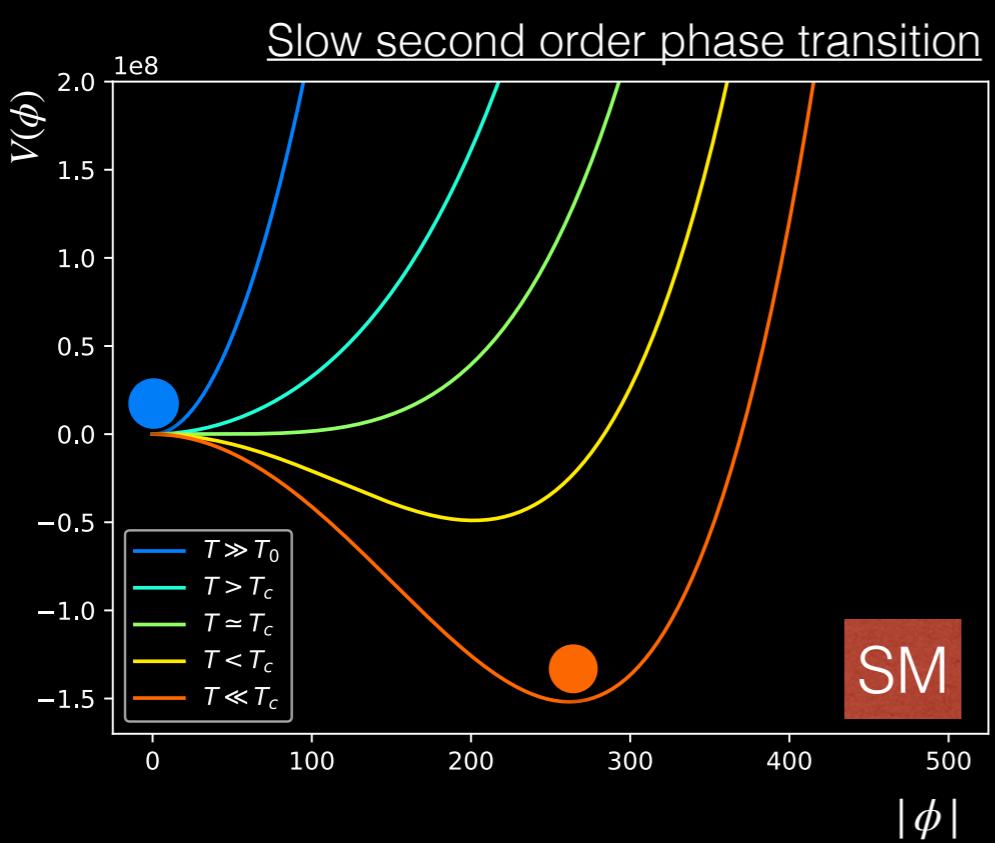


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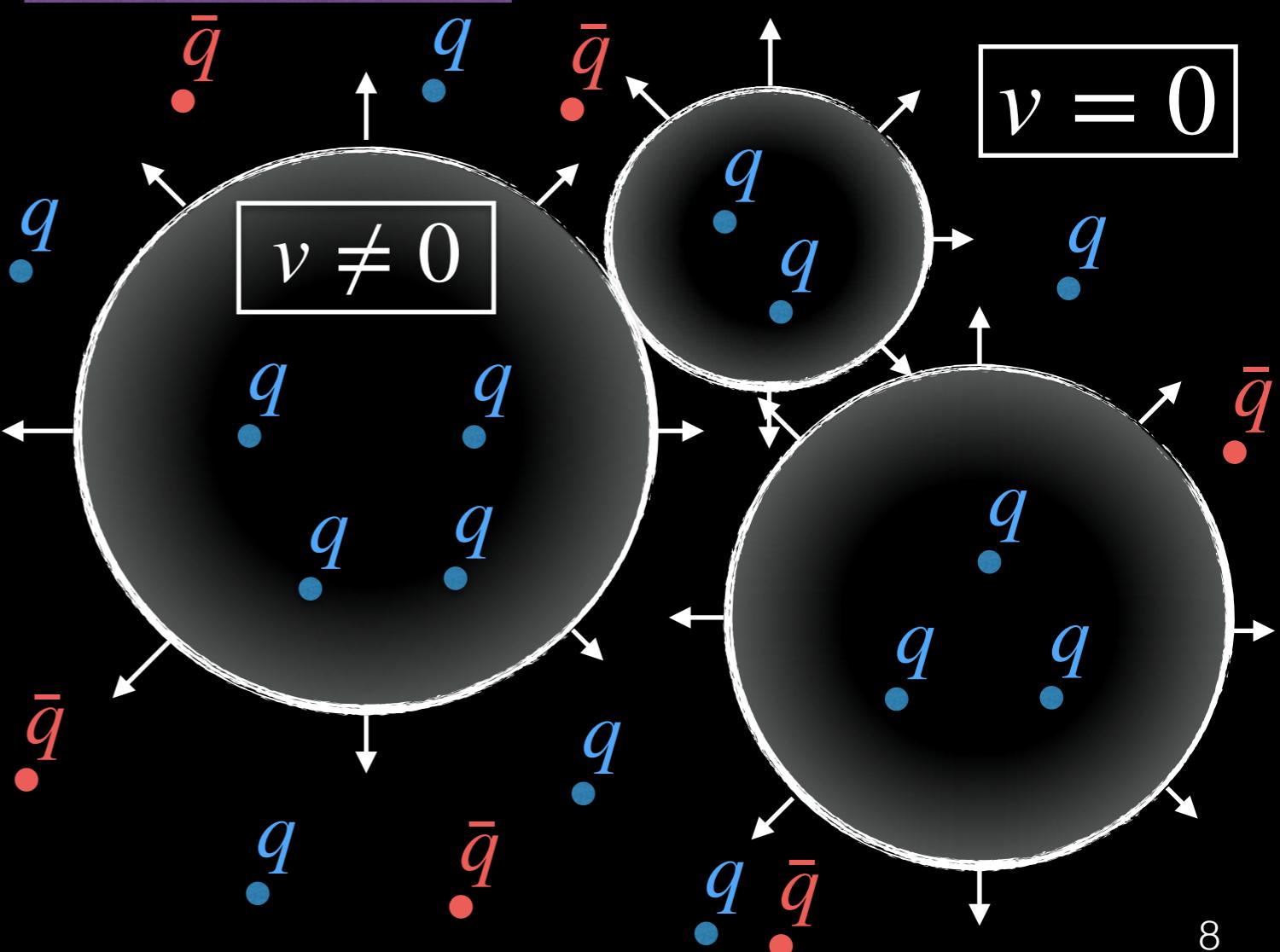
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- **BSM effect in the Higgs potential could explain the matter-antimatter asymmetry** of the universe.
 - BSM physics acting on the Higgs potential would enable EWK bubble nucleation.

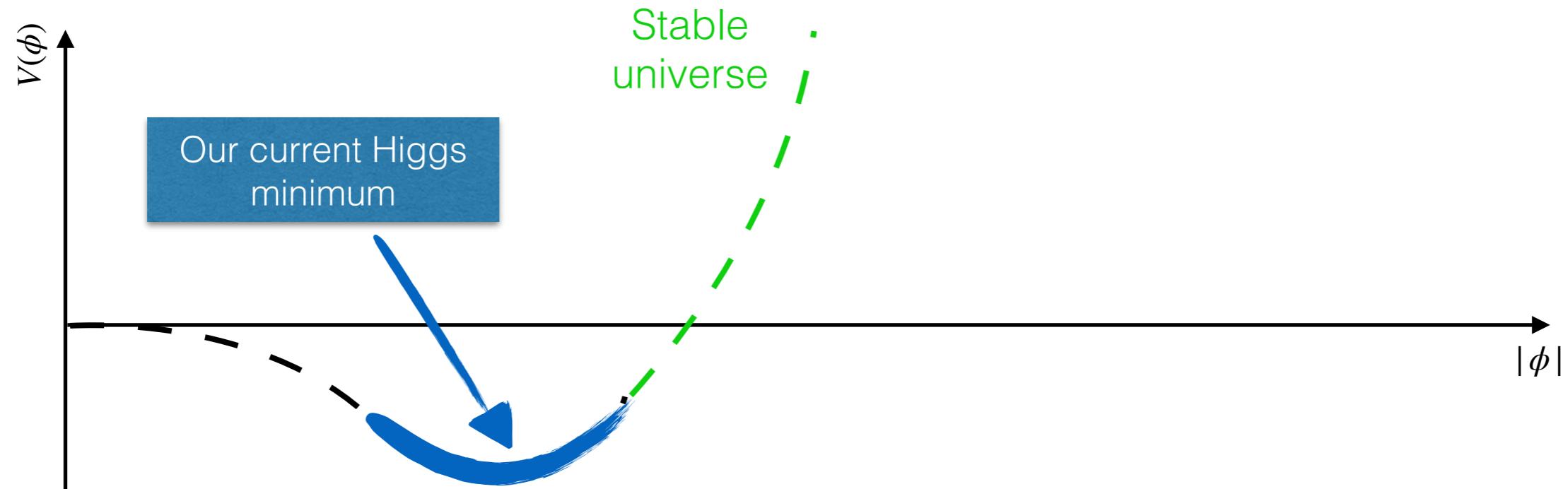




Is the Higgs vacuum stable?

Is the Higgs going to destroy our universe?

- Fermions (in particular tops) **contribute to the Higgs potential** with a negative sign.

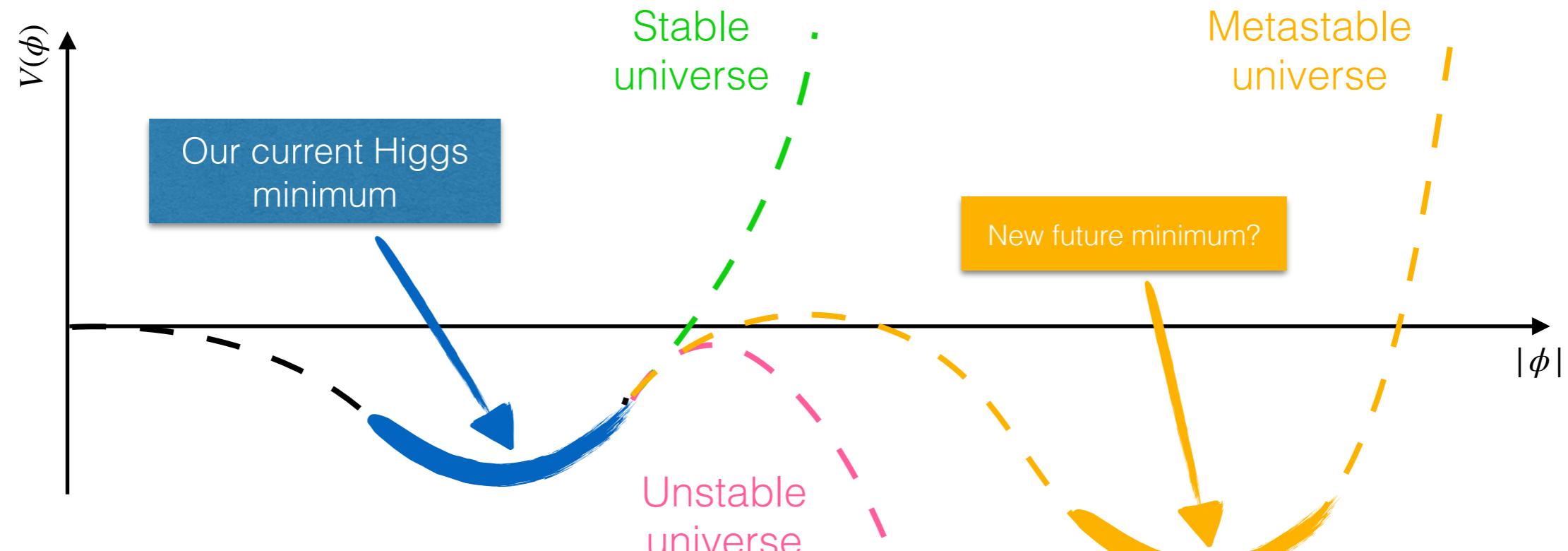




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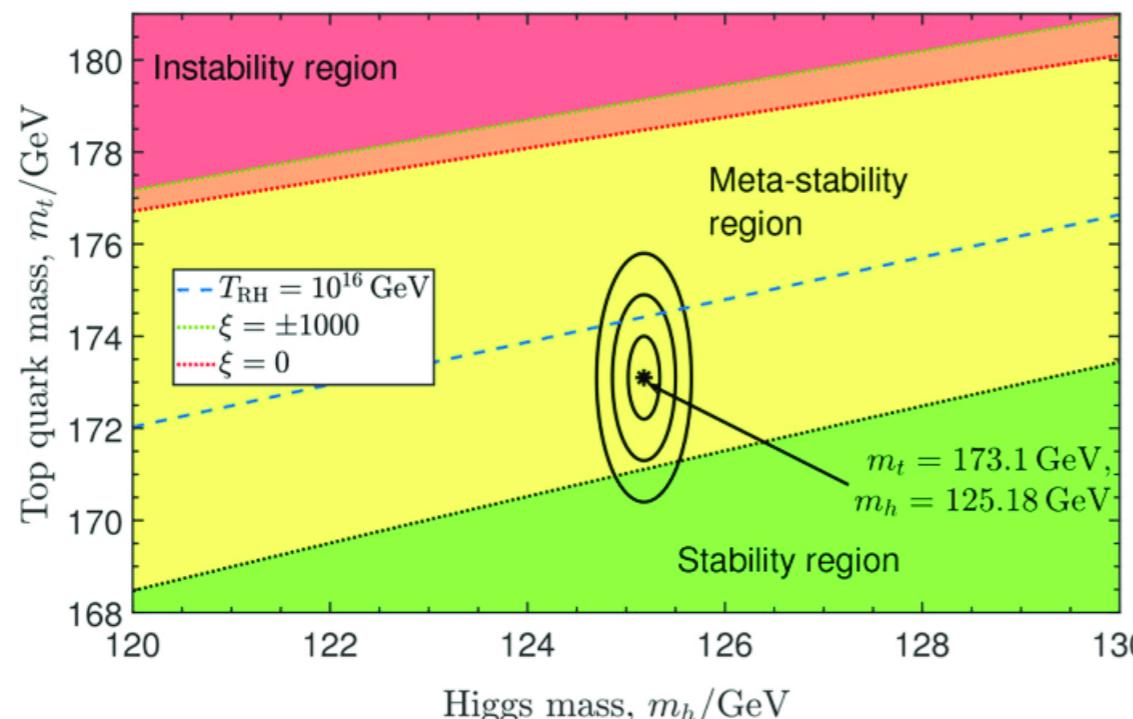
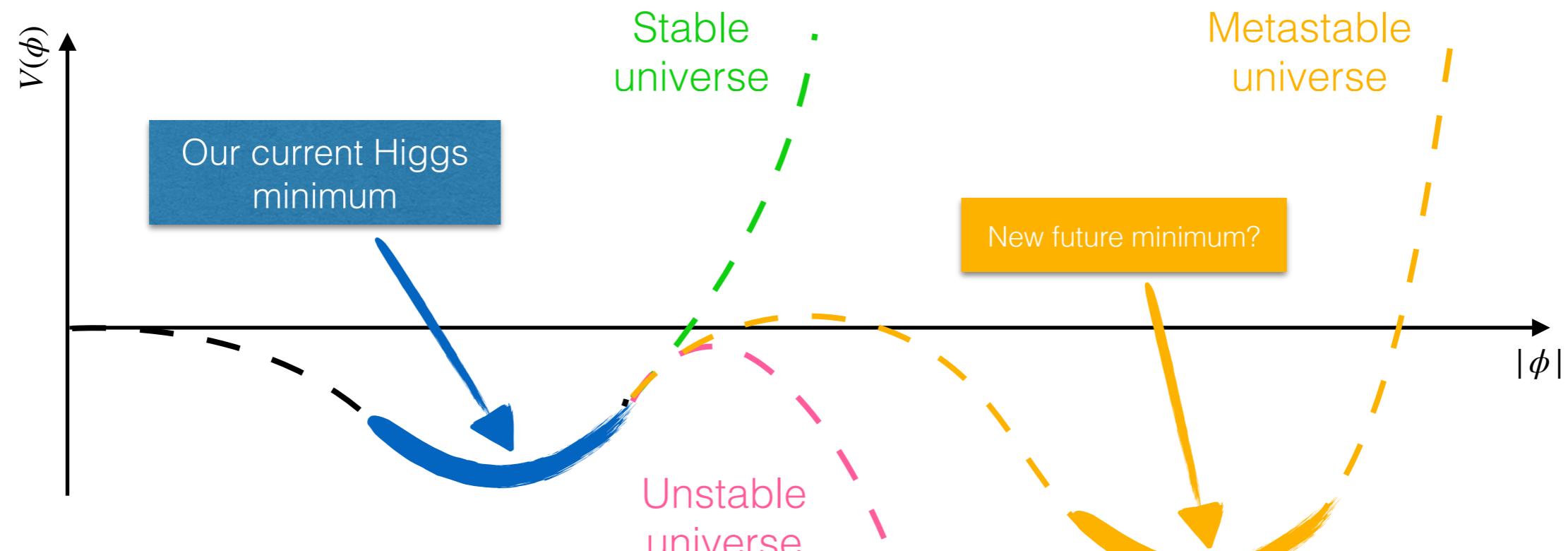




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Current measurements suggest that we live in a **metastable** universe!

However, universe **decay expected in a larger time than the current universe age** 😎

But it will eventually decay 😢

Measuring the Higgs potential is crucial to fully understand EWSB, and also how the **universe began** and it might **finish!**

**But so... how can we measure the
Higgs potential?**

How to measure the Higgs potential

Multiple-Higgs events

We **need to access the λ parameter** of the Higgs potential.

$$V(h) = -\mu^2 |\phi|^2 + \lambda |\phi|^4 \approx \frac{1}{2} m_h^2 h^2 + \lambda v h^3 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda h^4 + \dots$$





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 $\Rightarrow m_H = \sqrt{2\lambda v} \approx 125$ GeV means $\lambda_{SM} \approx 0.13$



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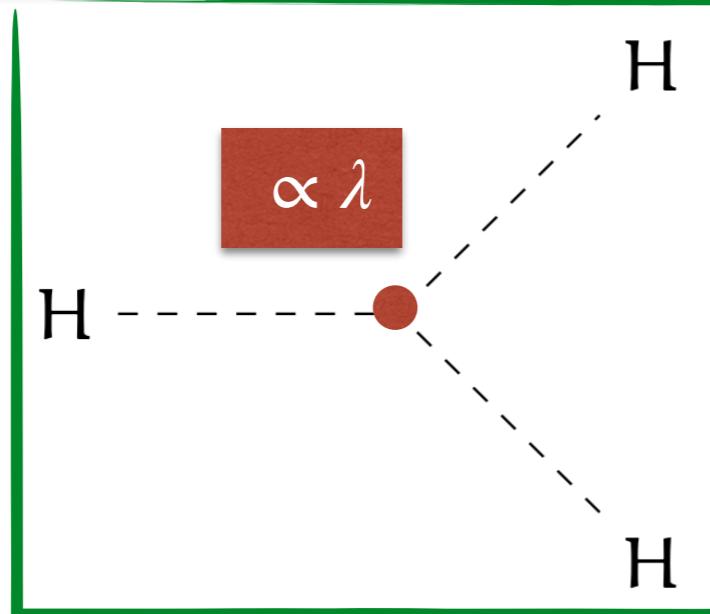
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Trilinear Higgs self-coupling



Access to λ through **3-Higgs interactions**

We generally look more at κ_λ rather than λ directly

$$\kappa_\lambda \equiv \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_{SM}}$$



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Multiple-Higgs events

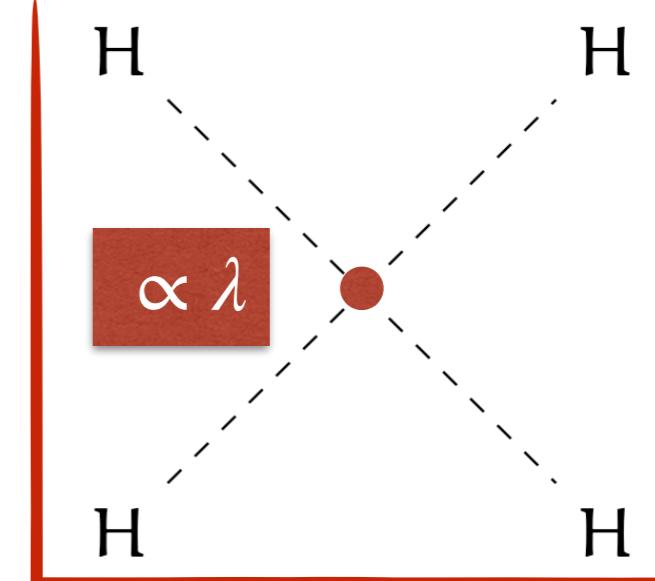
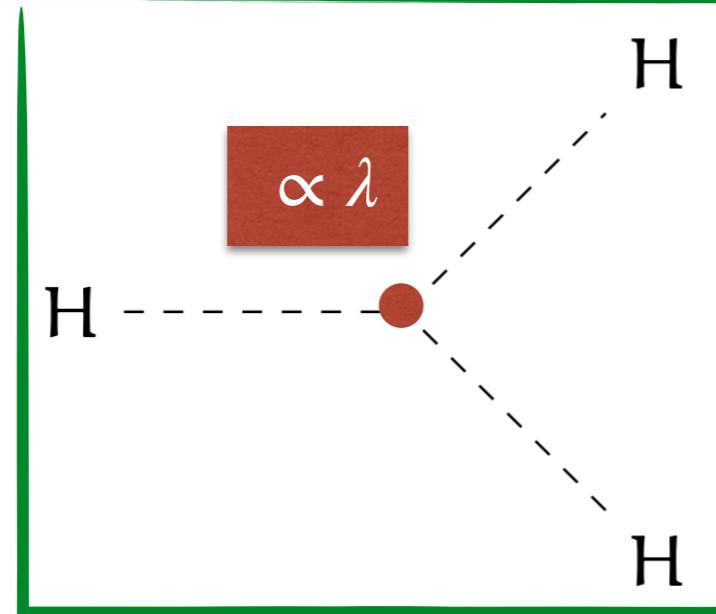
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Quadrilinear Higgs self-coupling

Trilinear Higgs self-coupling



Out of the reach of (HL)-LHC (and even most of future collider scenarios)

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$$\kappa_\lambda \equiv \frac{\lambda}{\lambda_{SM}}$$



HH production at the LHC

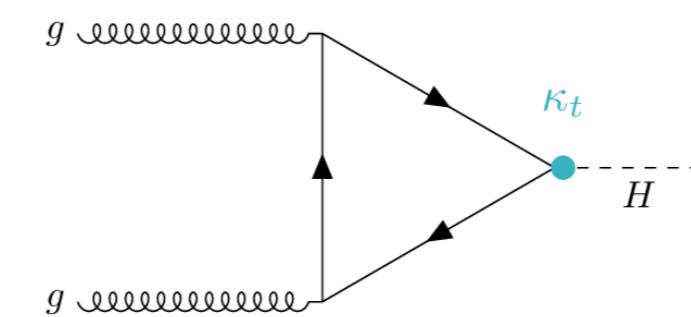
Non-resonant HH production

Gluon-gluon fusion (ggF)

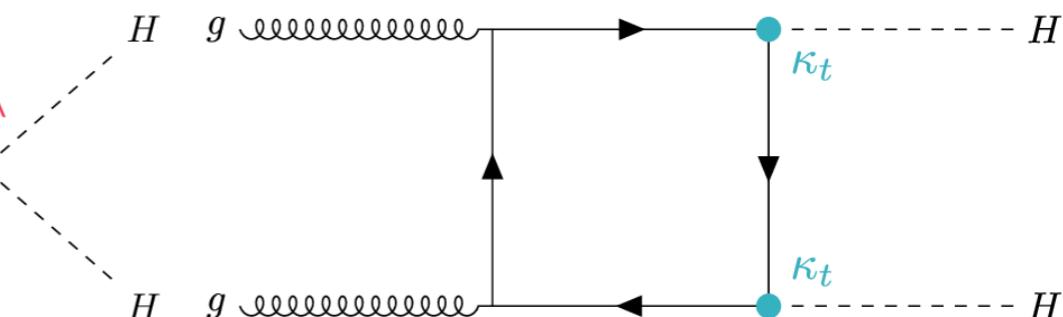
- Destructive interference leads to small cross-section:

$$\sigma_{\text{ggF}} = 31.05 \text{ fb}$$

Triangle diagram



Box diagram

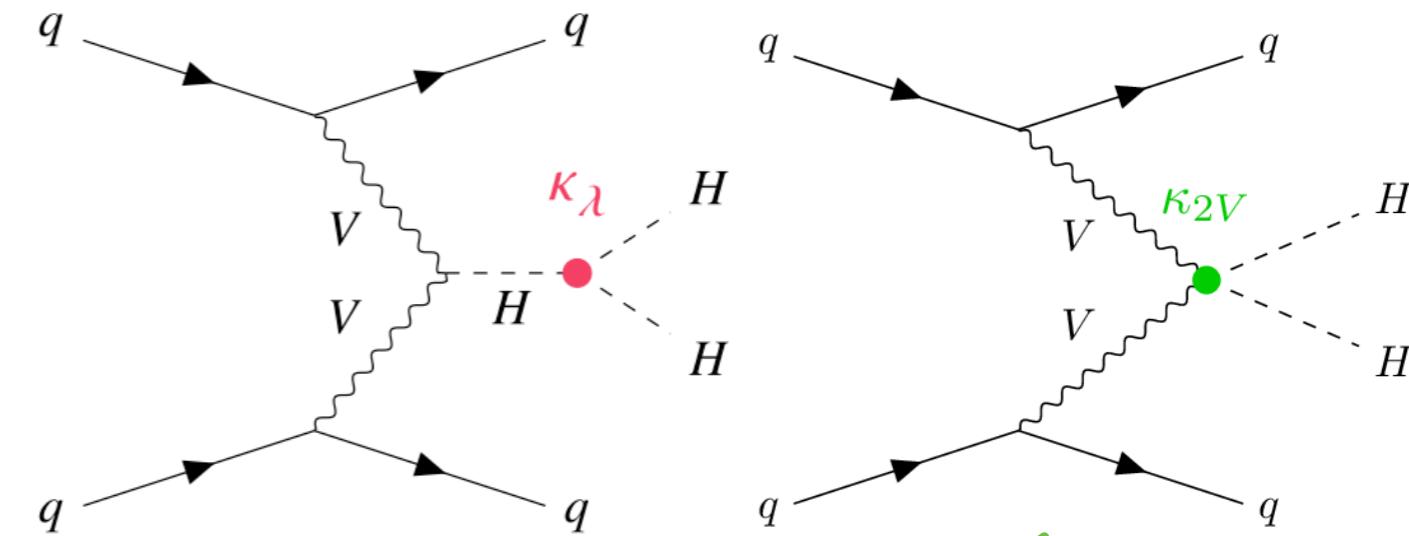


1 HH event every 1000 single-H events!

Vector-boson fusion (VBF)

- Signature: 2 Higgs + 2 quarks close to the LHC proton beams.
- Access to κ_λ , but also to **VVHH process** (never measured!) which could provide test **of SM unitarity via measurement of k_{2V}** .
- Very tiny** cross-section:

$$\sigma_{\text{VBF}} = 1.72 \text{ fb}$$



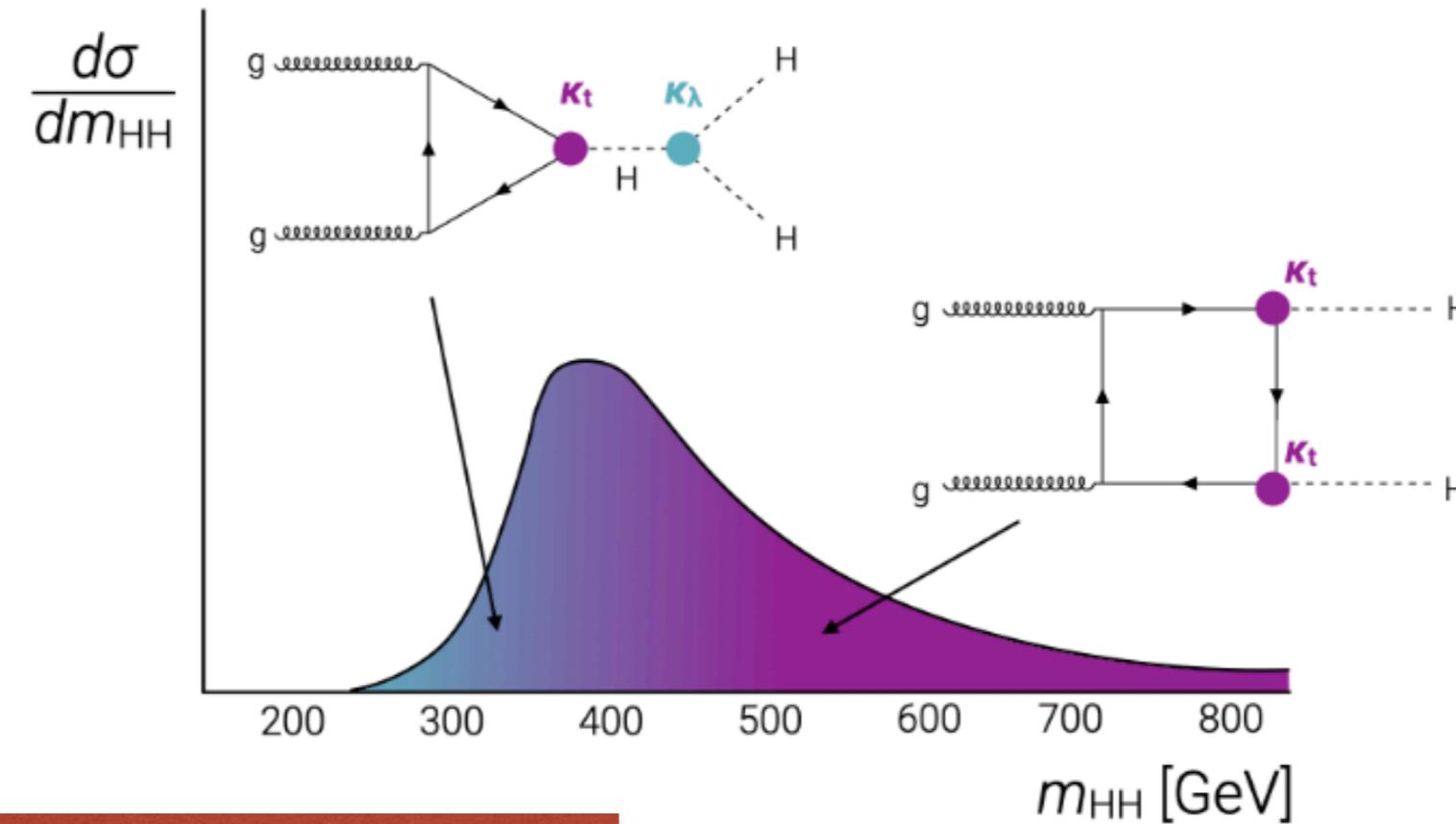
$$\kappa_{2V} \equiv \frac{c_{2V}}{c_{2V}^{SM}}$$



Challenges of HH production at the LHC

The unbearable lightness of HH

Not only small cross-section, **but also complex signal kinematic** due to diagram interference!

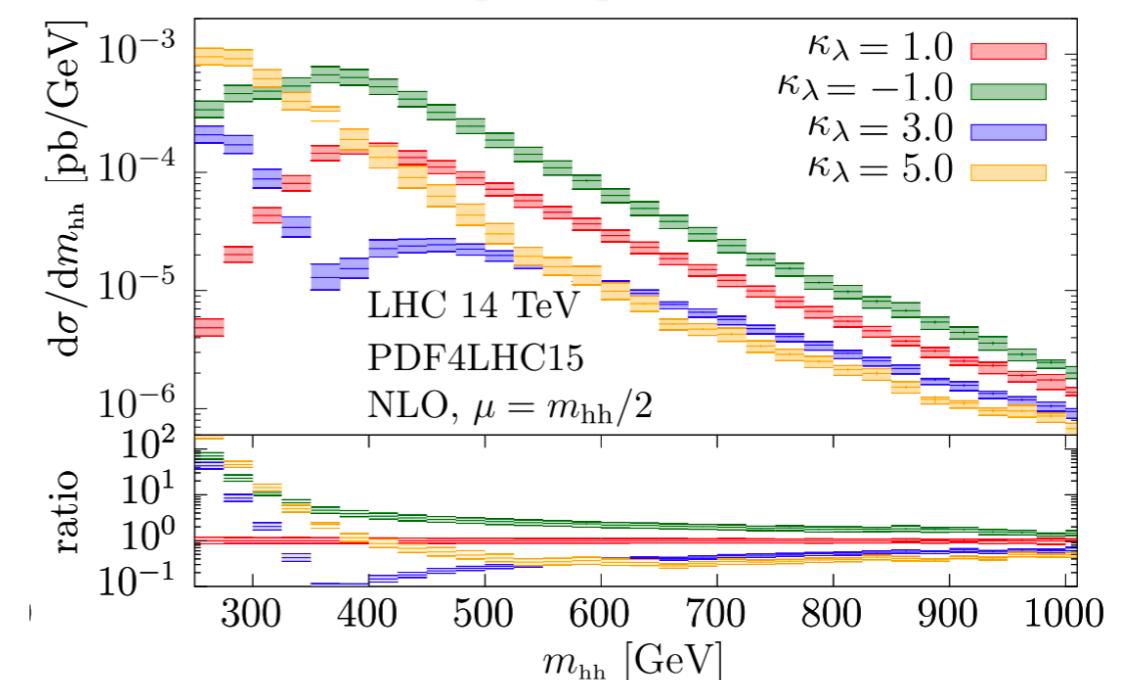


arXiv:1903.08137

Impact of κ_λ more visible
in soft part (i.e. low p_T) of the
 m_{HH} spectrum



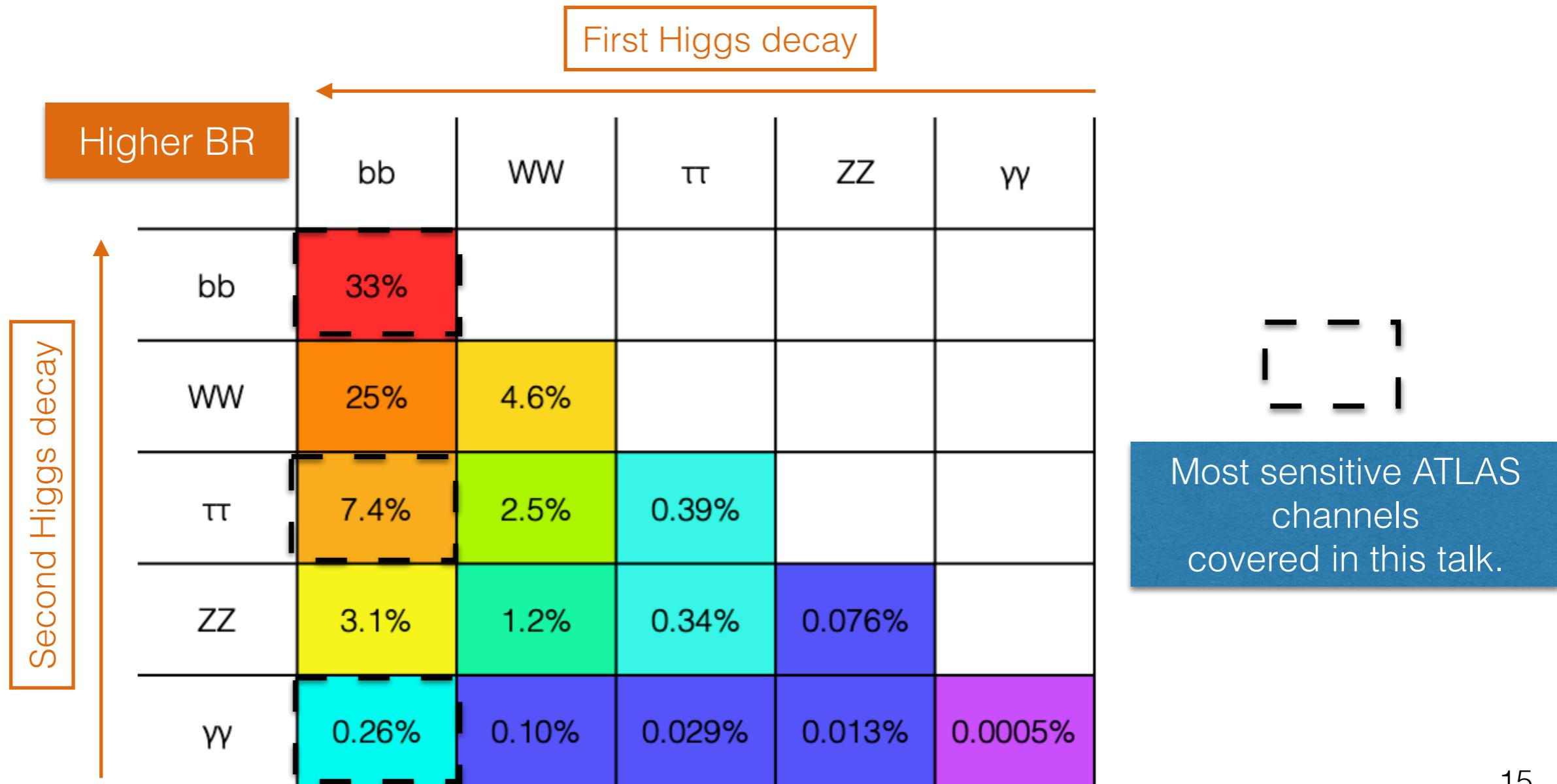
Access low m_{HH} events is hard due
to soft Higgs kinematics!





The HH final states

- With $\sigma(HH) \approx 31 \text{ fb}$ and $\mathcal{L}^{int} = 139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$, **~4k HH events produced** in the LHC Run 2.
 - Maximal sensitivity requires multiple analysis channels** targeting different decays.





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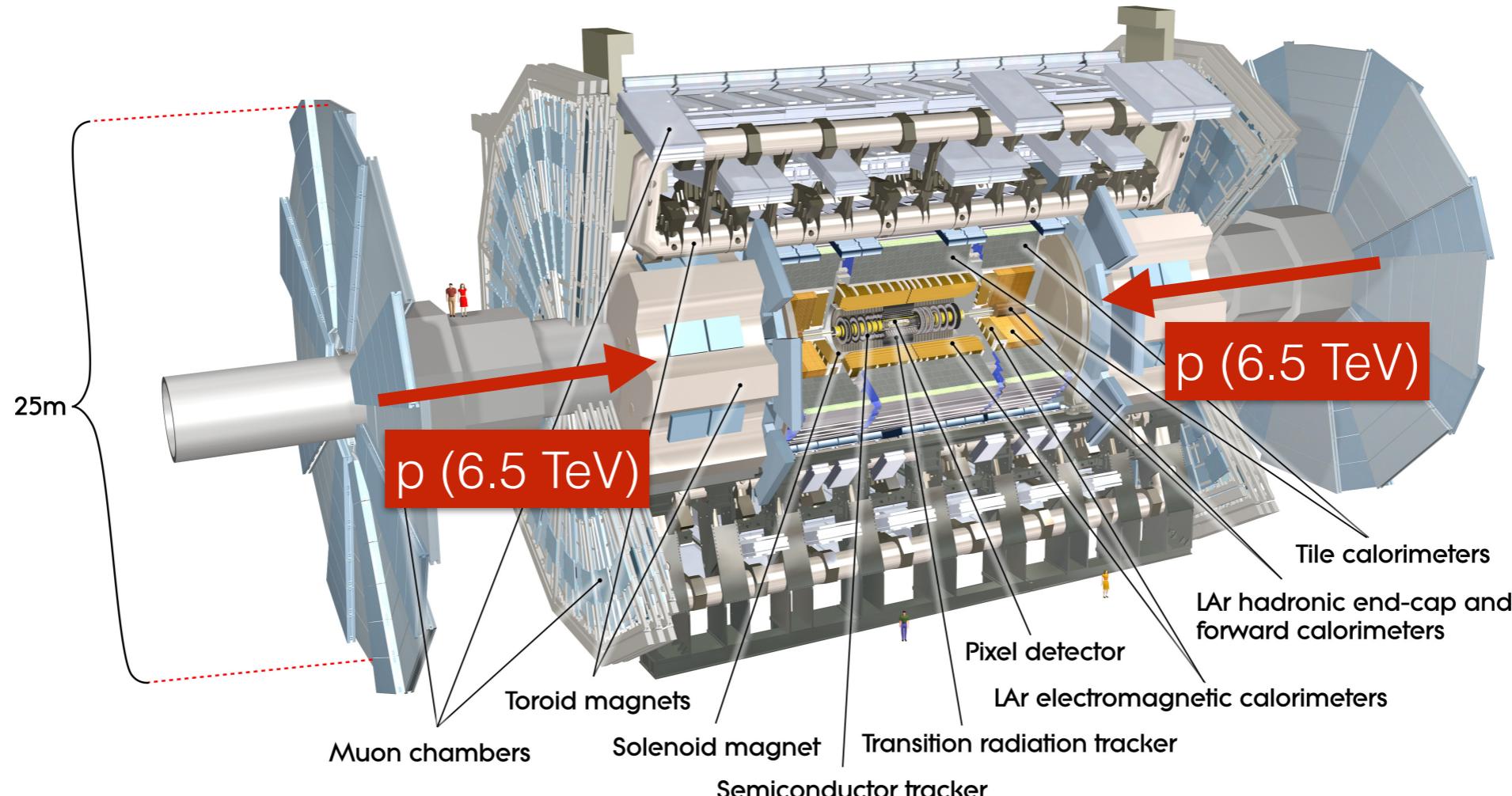
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A Toroidal LHC Apparatus (ATLAS)

The kind giant

- Different (independent) sub-detectors:
 - **Inner Detector:** providing tracking for charged particles.
 - **Calorimeters:** electromagnetic (ECAL) and hadronic (HCAL), providing the energy measurement of neutral and charged particles.
 - **Muon detectors:** providing muon measurements.
- **Trigger and Data Acquisition system:** selection of interesting collisions (events).

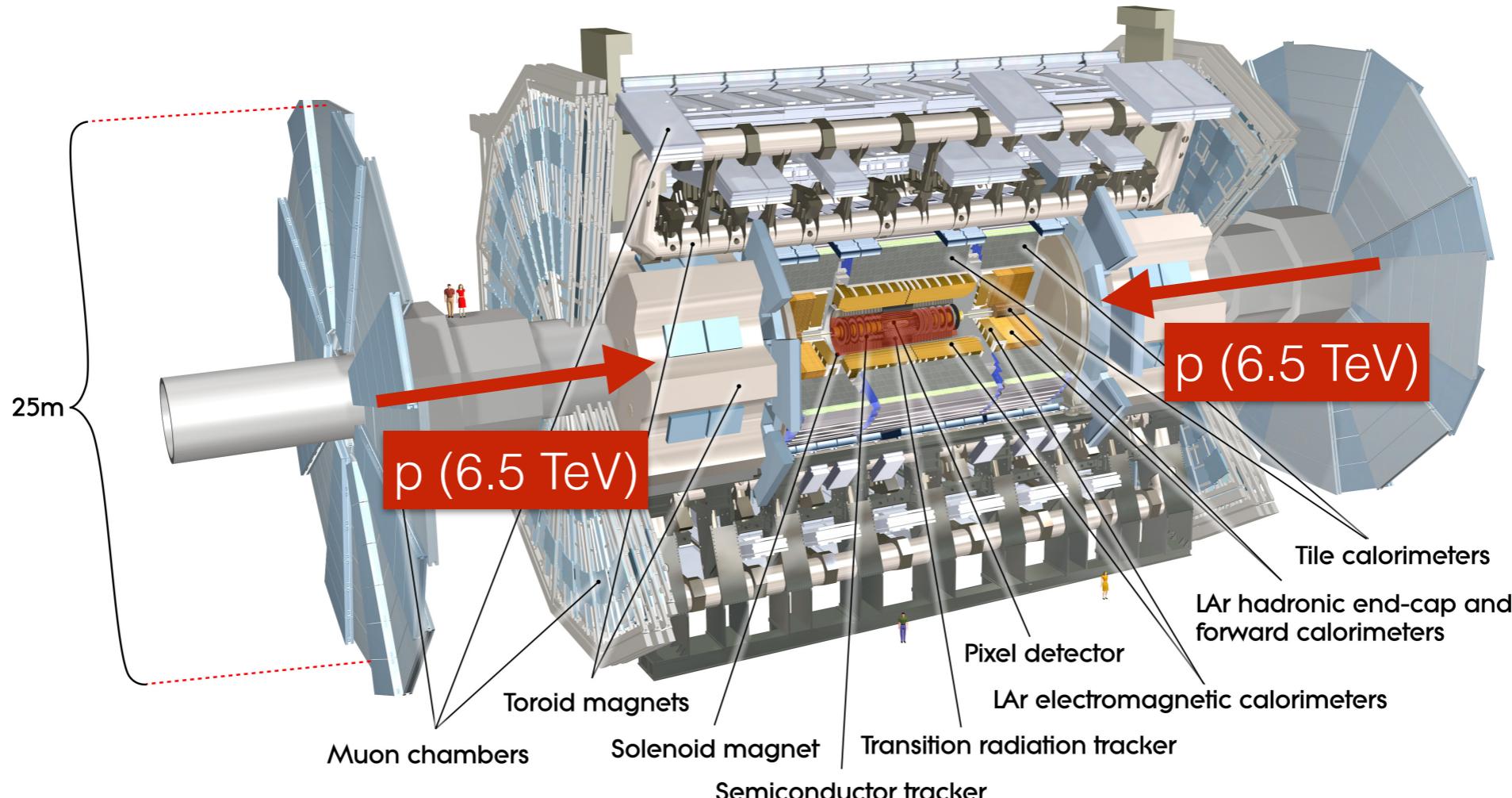




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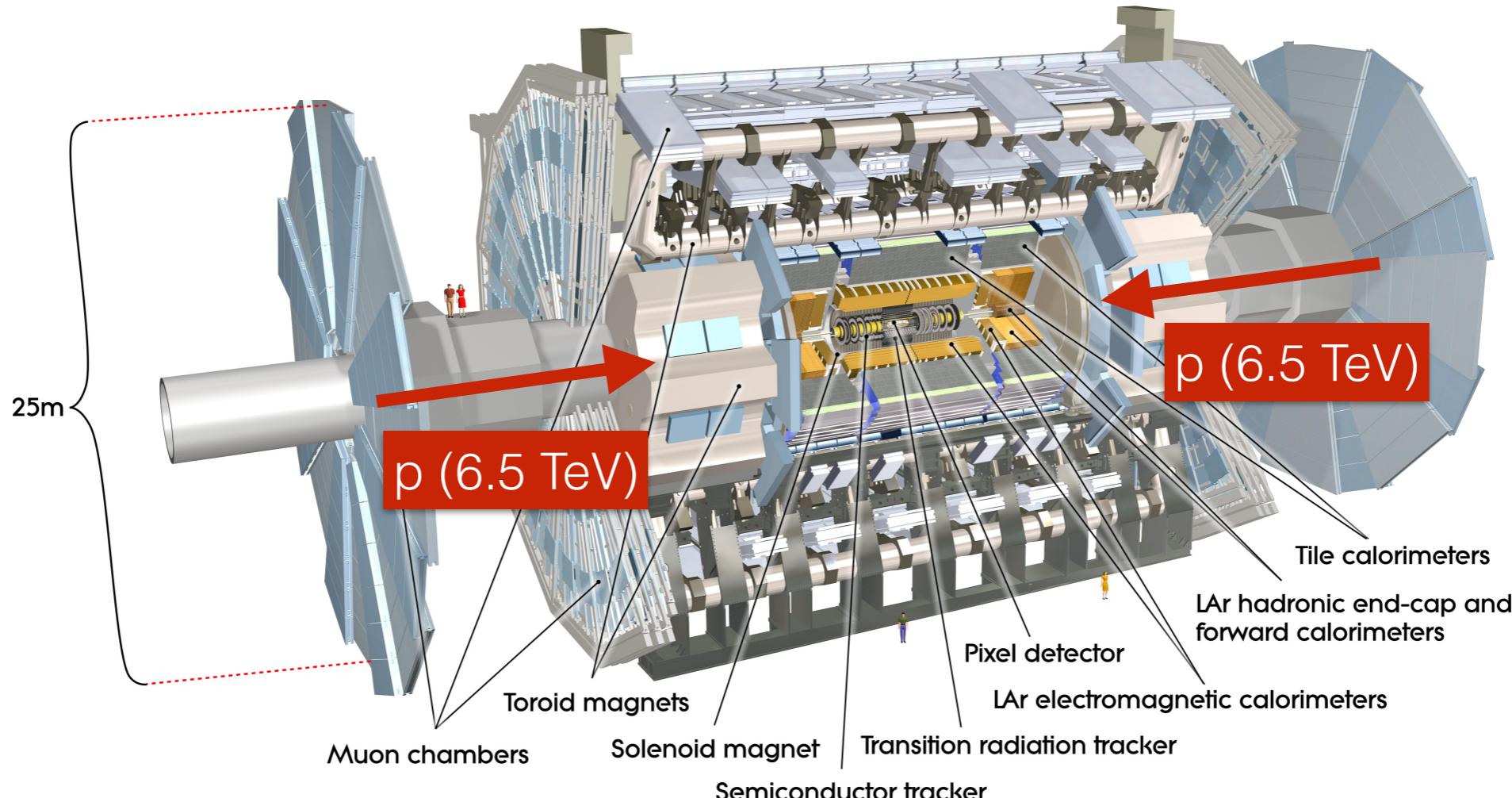




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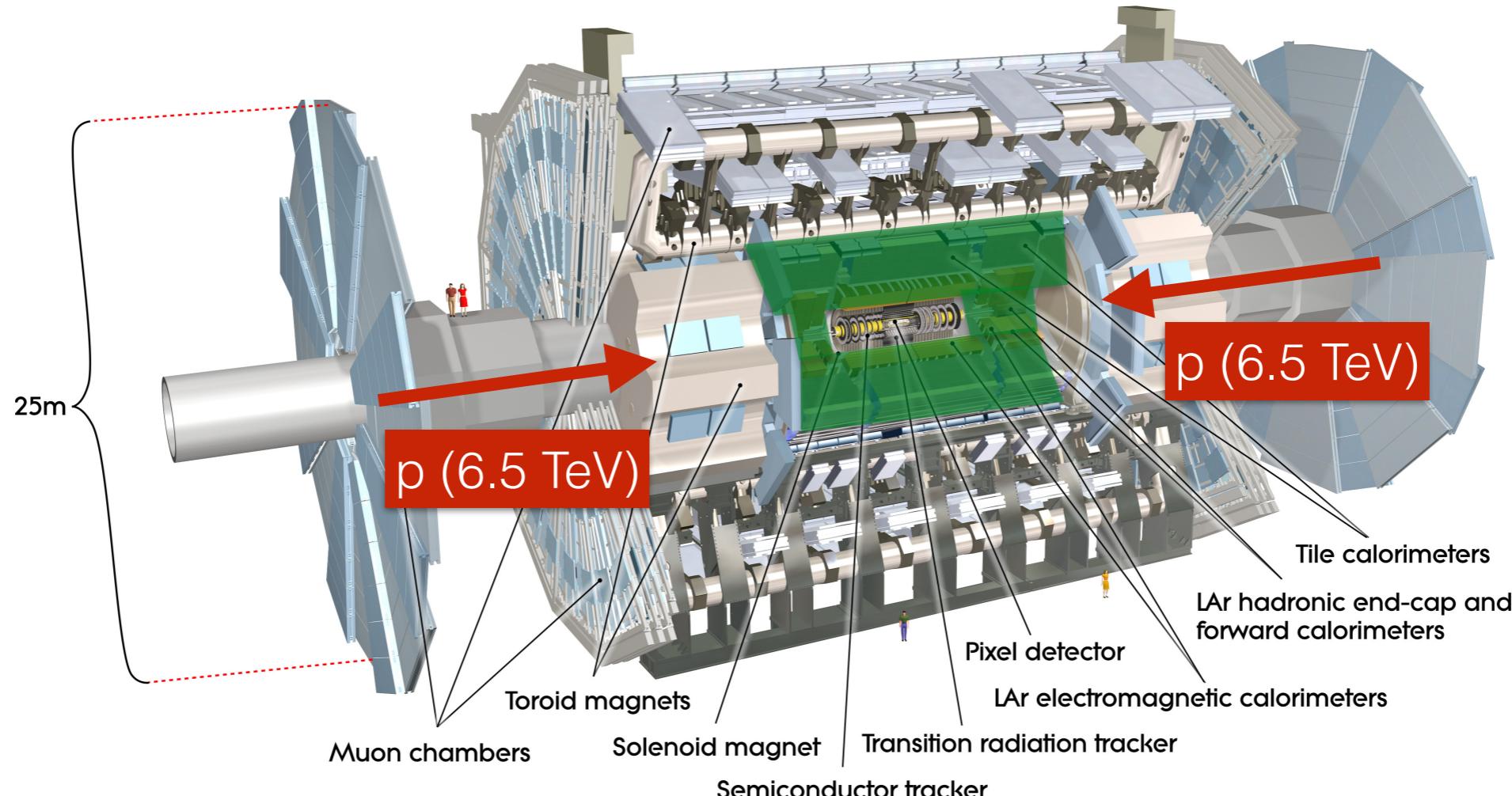




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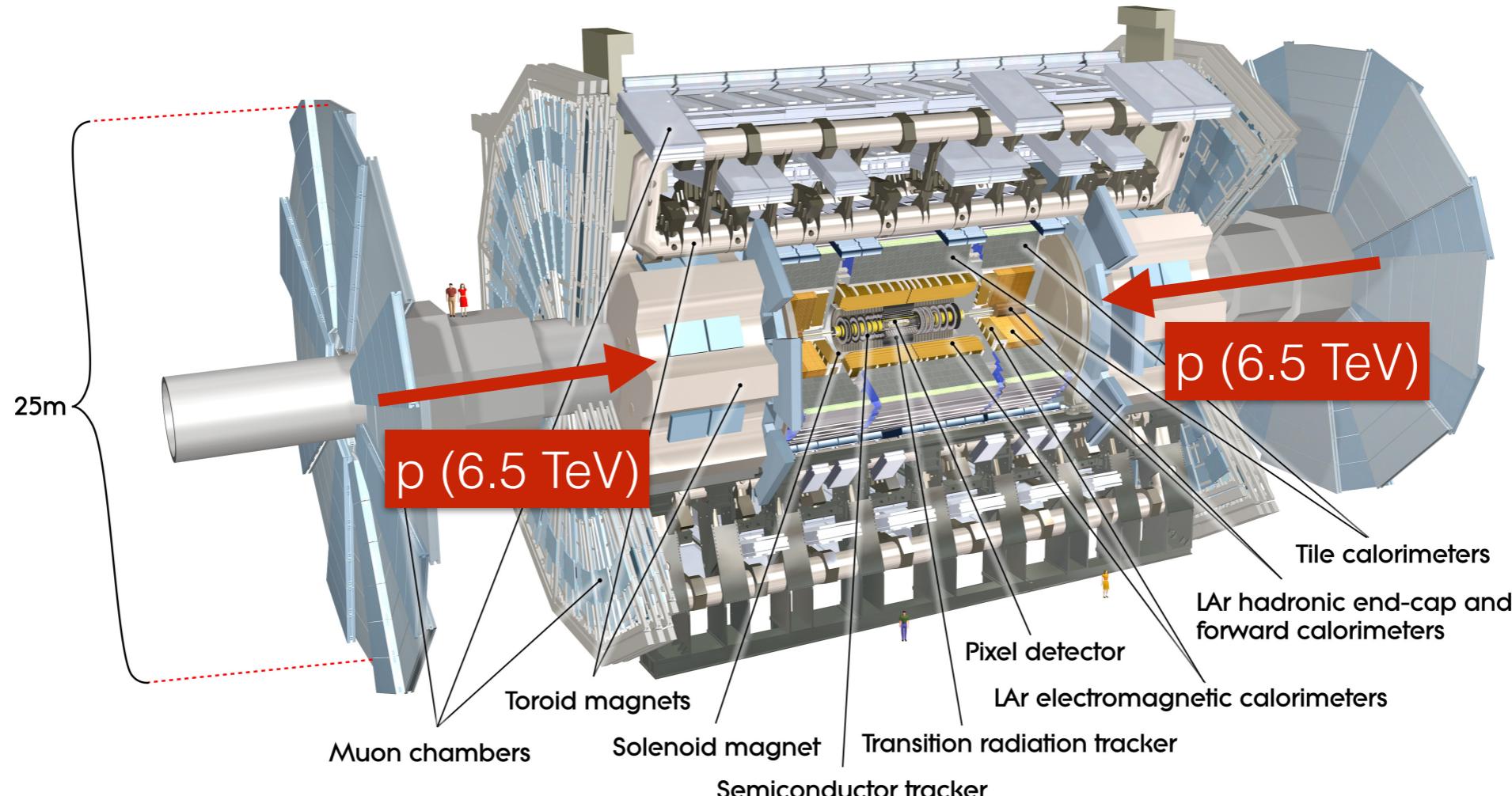




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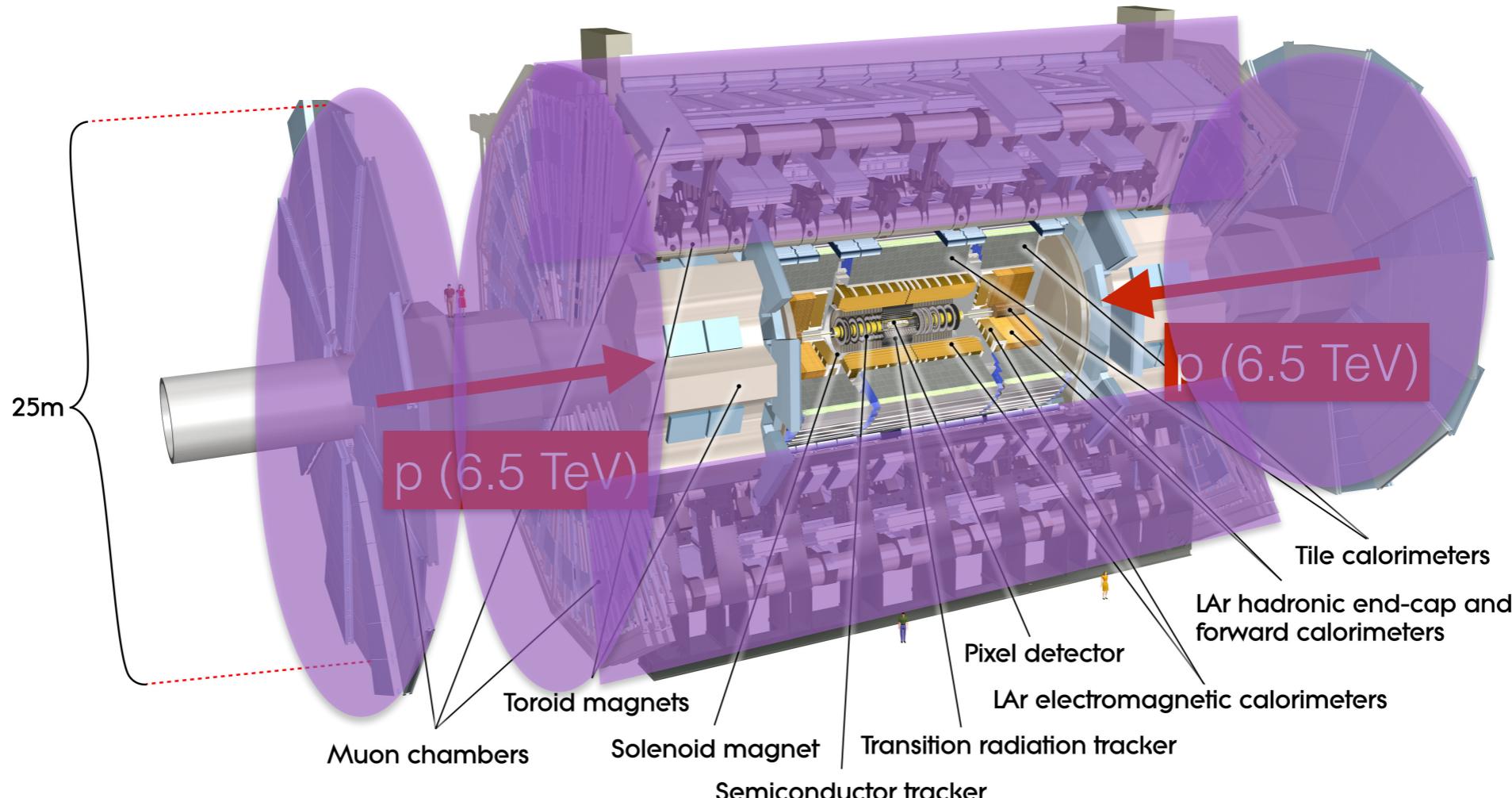
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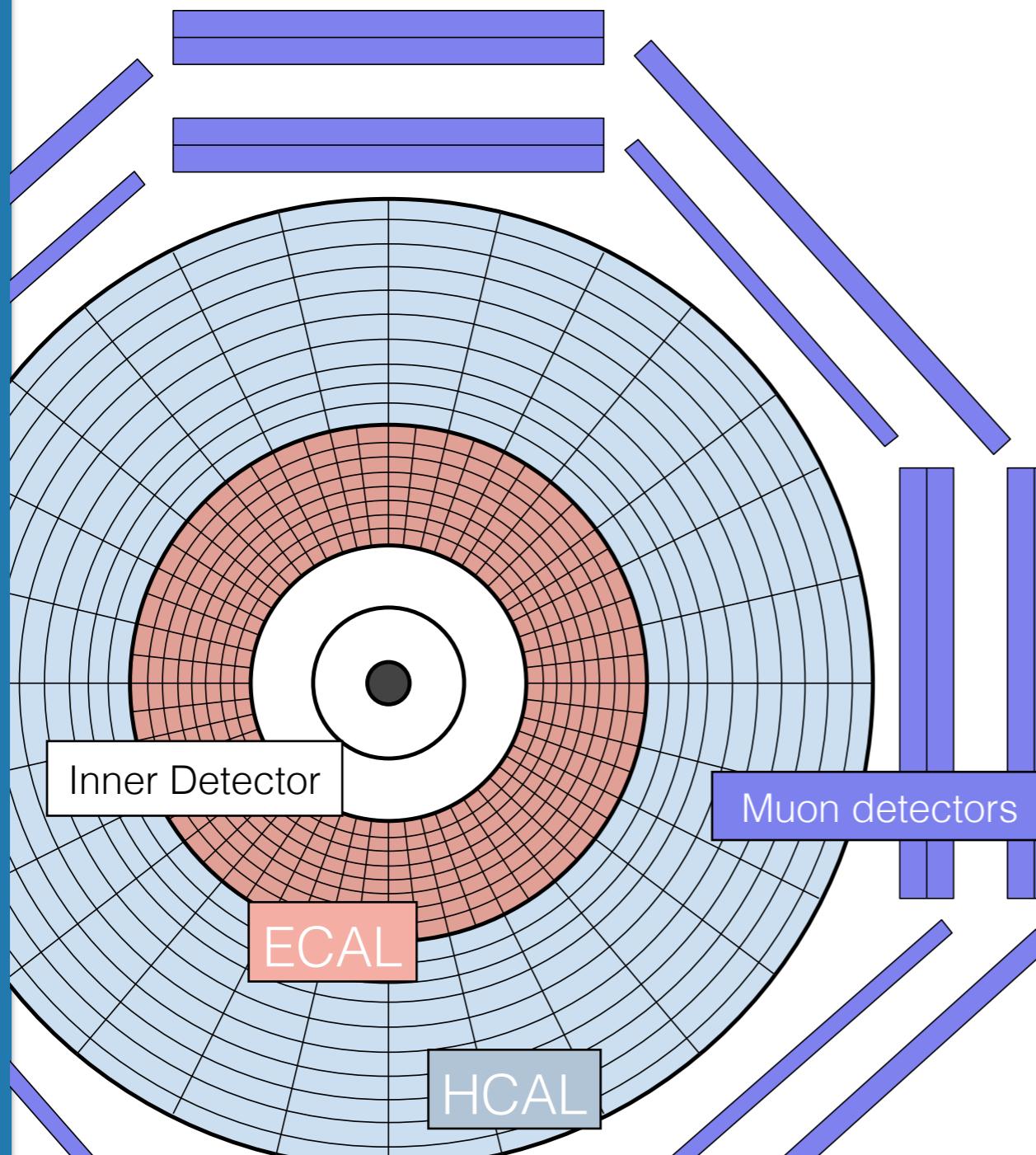
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HH final state reconstruction

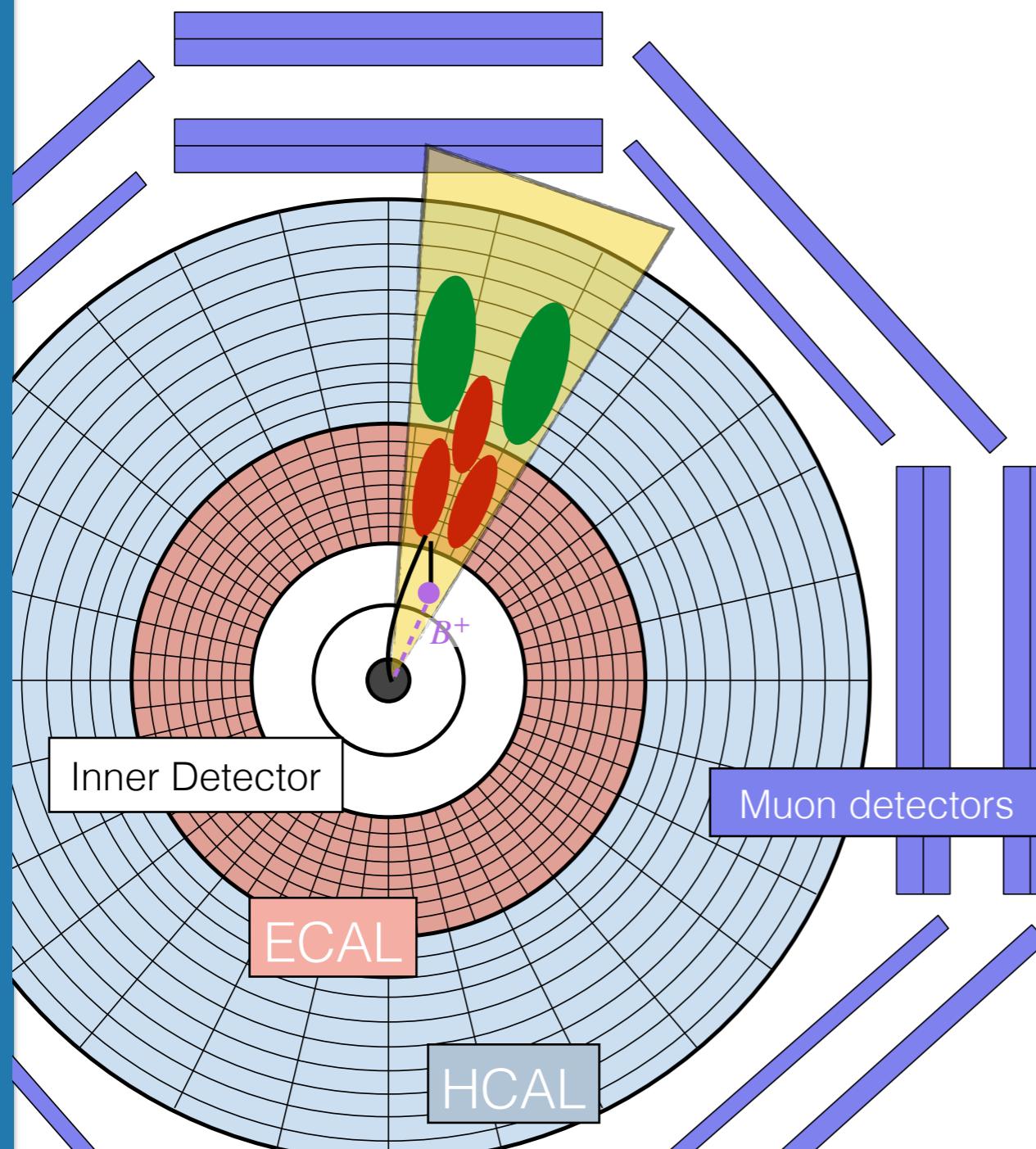
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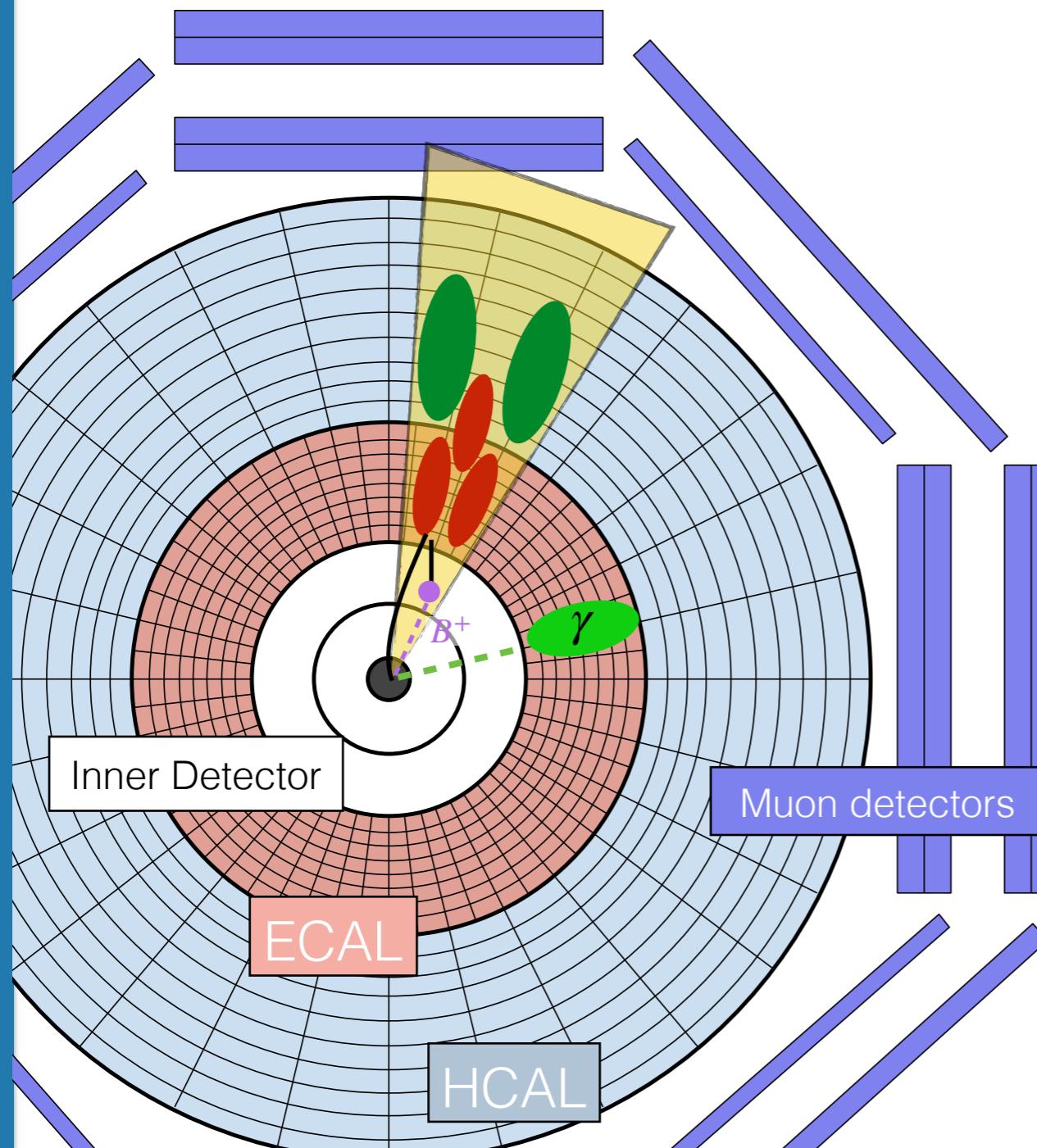


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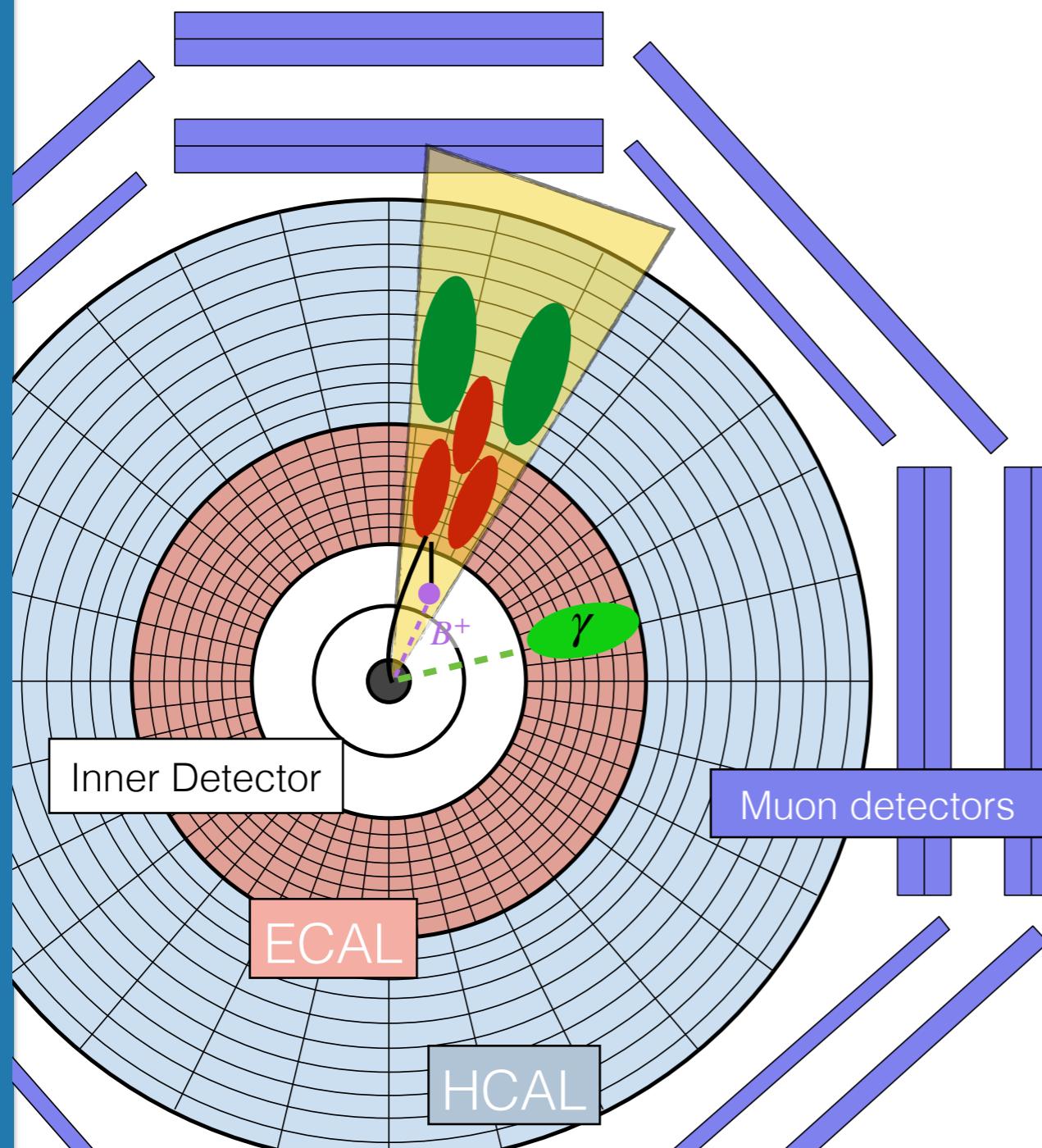


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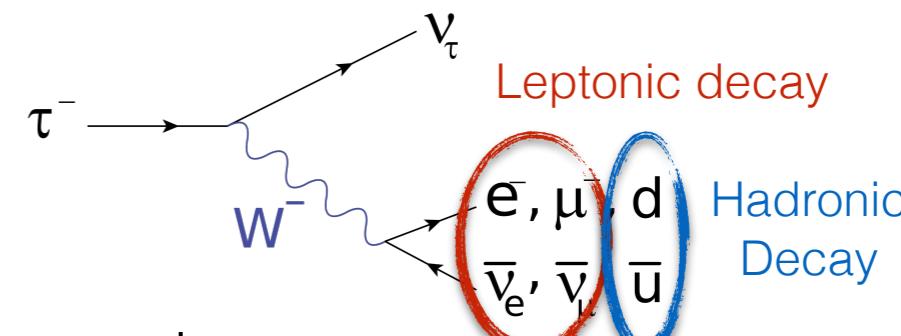


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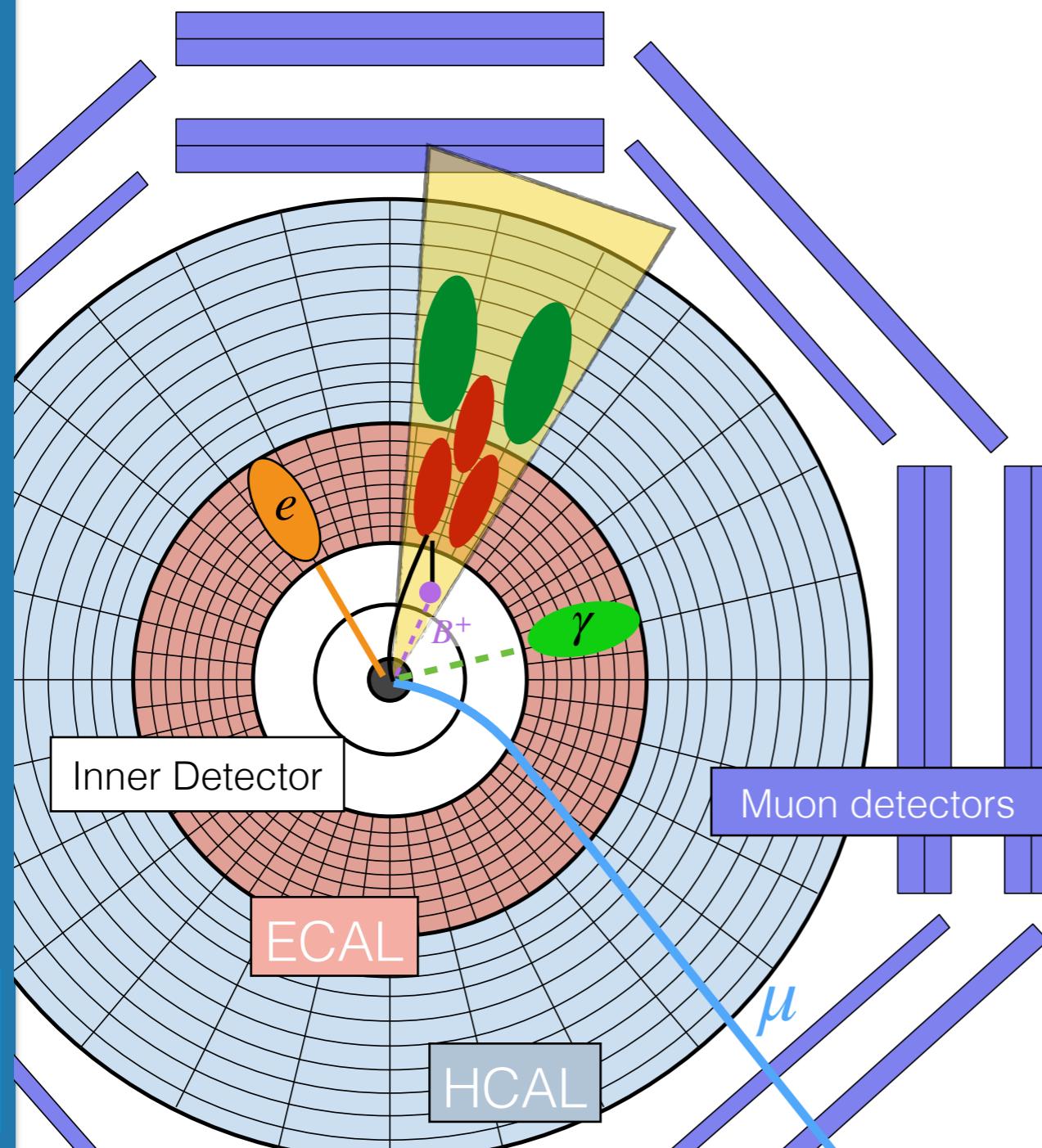
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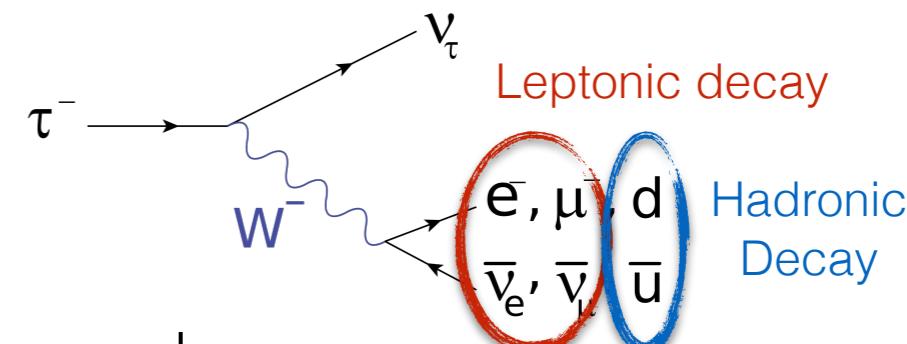


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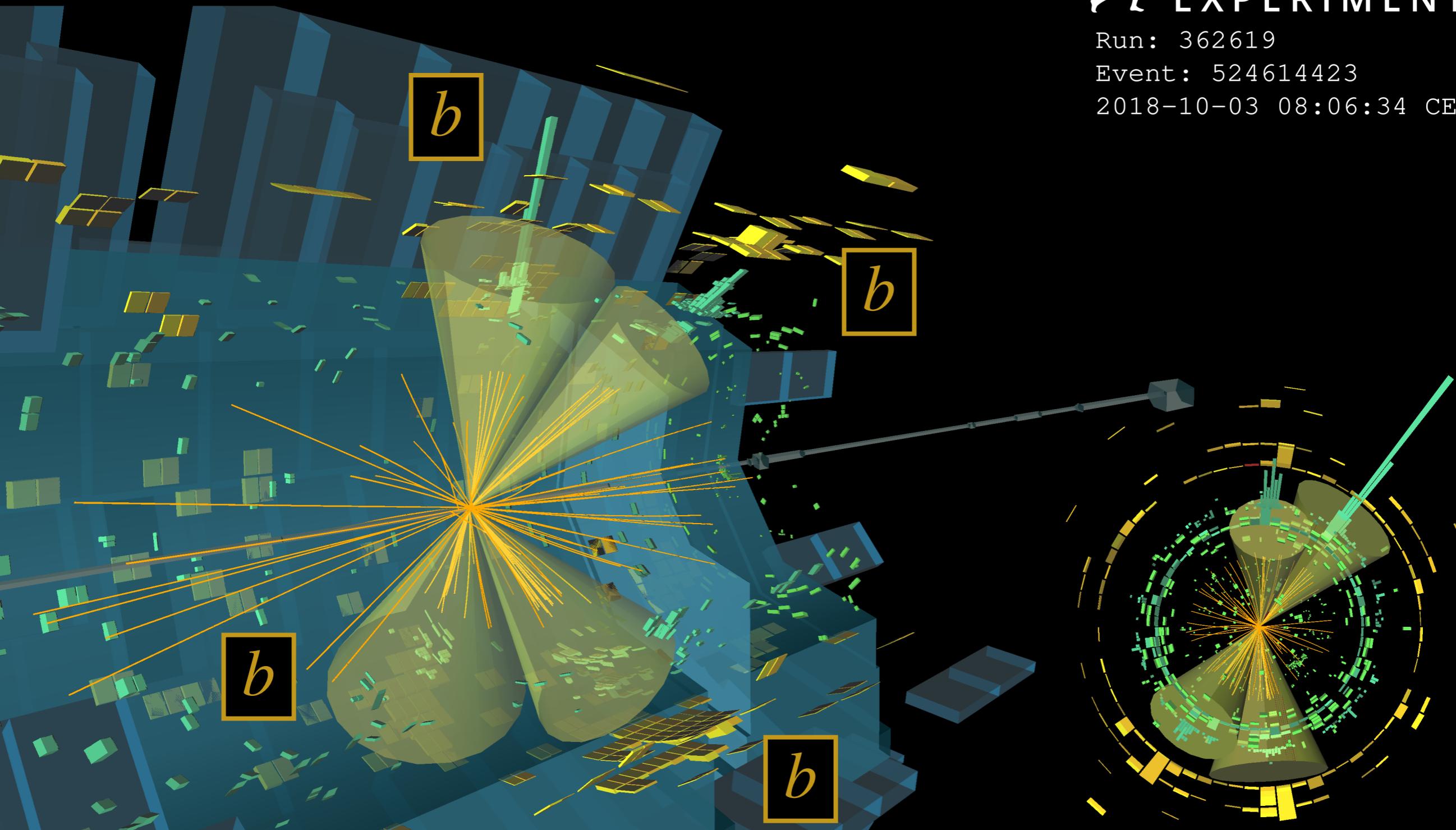
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So, let's move to the analyses!

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ analysis (126 fb^{-1})

arXiv:2301.03212



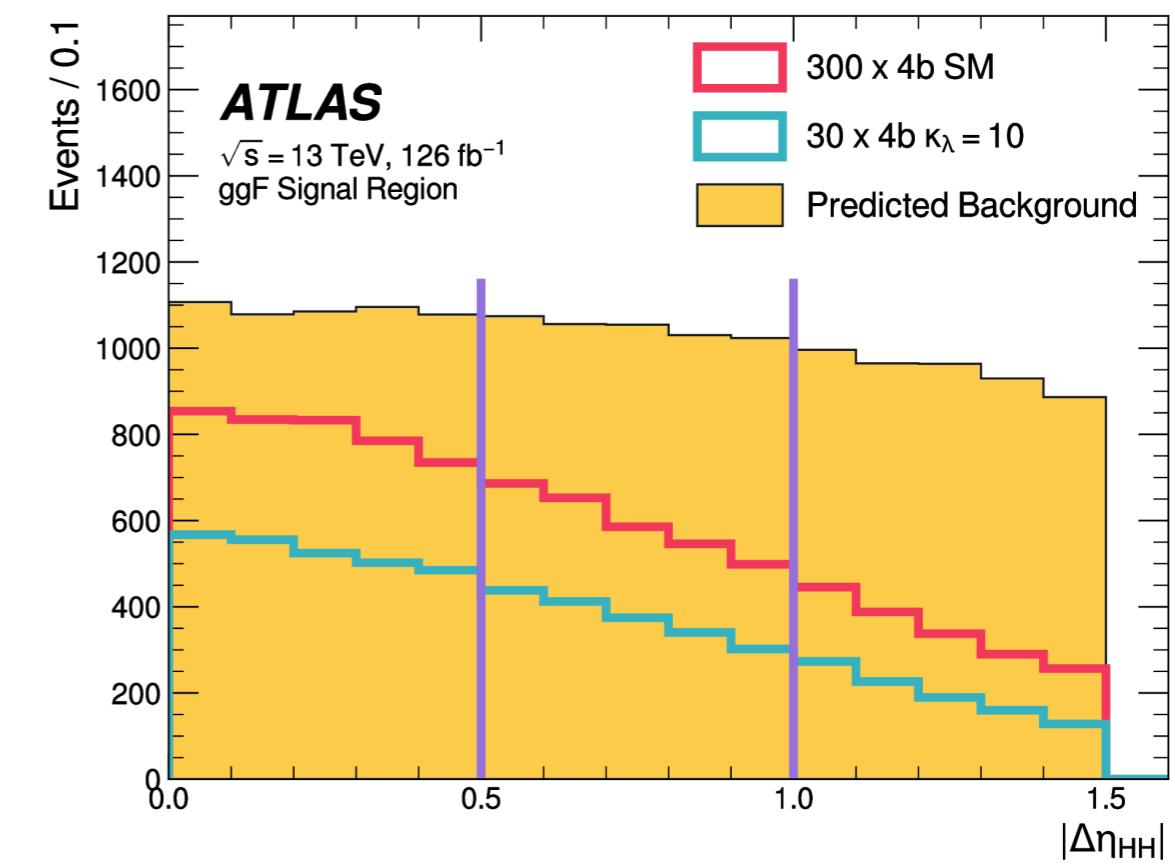
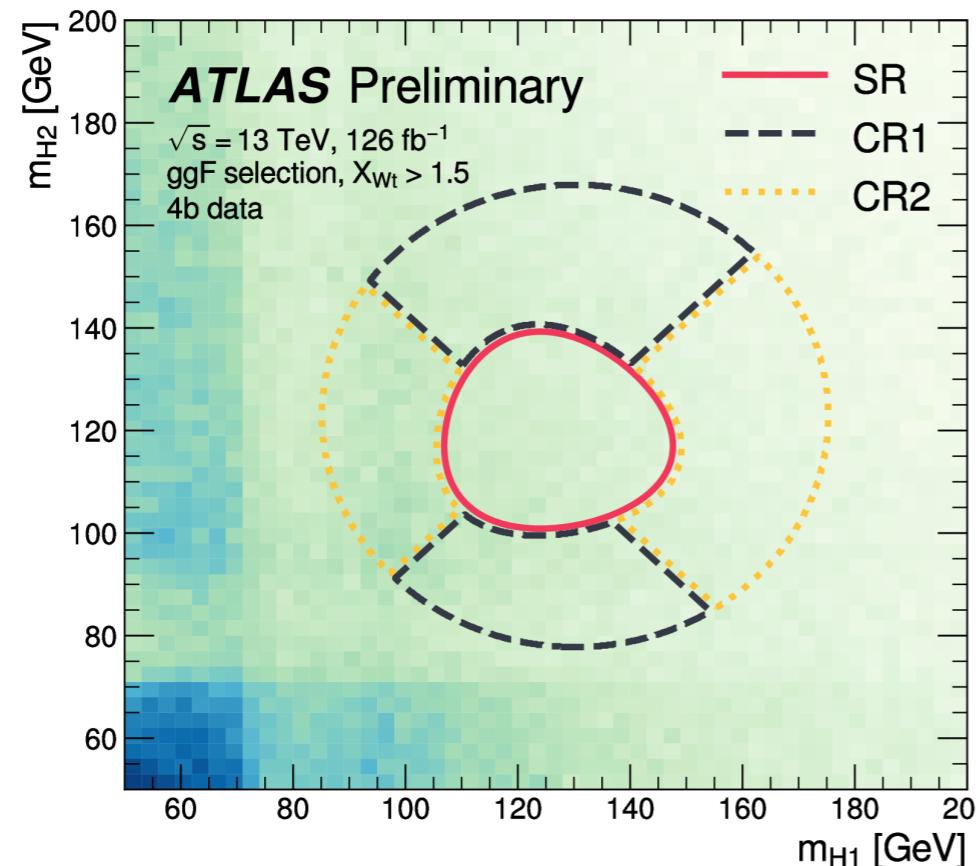
Run: 362619
Event: 524614423
2018-10-03 08:06:34 CEST



$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ analysis (1)

Selection and analysis categories

- **Largest HH BR** (34%), but **large multi-jet background** and challenging jet-pairing combinatorics.
- Selection:
 - Combination of **jet and b-jet triggers**.
 - At least **4 central ($|\eta| < 2.5$) b-jets** (77% eff. DL1r) for ggF.
 - VBF selection requires **two additional jets** close to the beam ($|\Delta\eta_{jj}| > 3$).
 - **HH mass plane selection used for signal region (SR) definition.**
- Categories: **6 binned in $(\Delta\eta_{HH}, X_{HH})$ for ggF and 2 binned in $(\Delta\eta_{HH})$ for VBF** to enhance signal sensitivity.

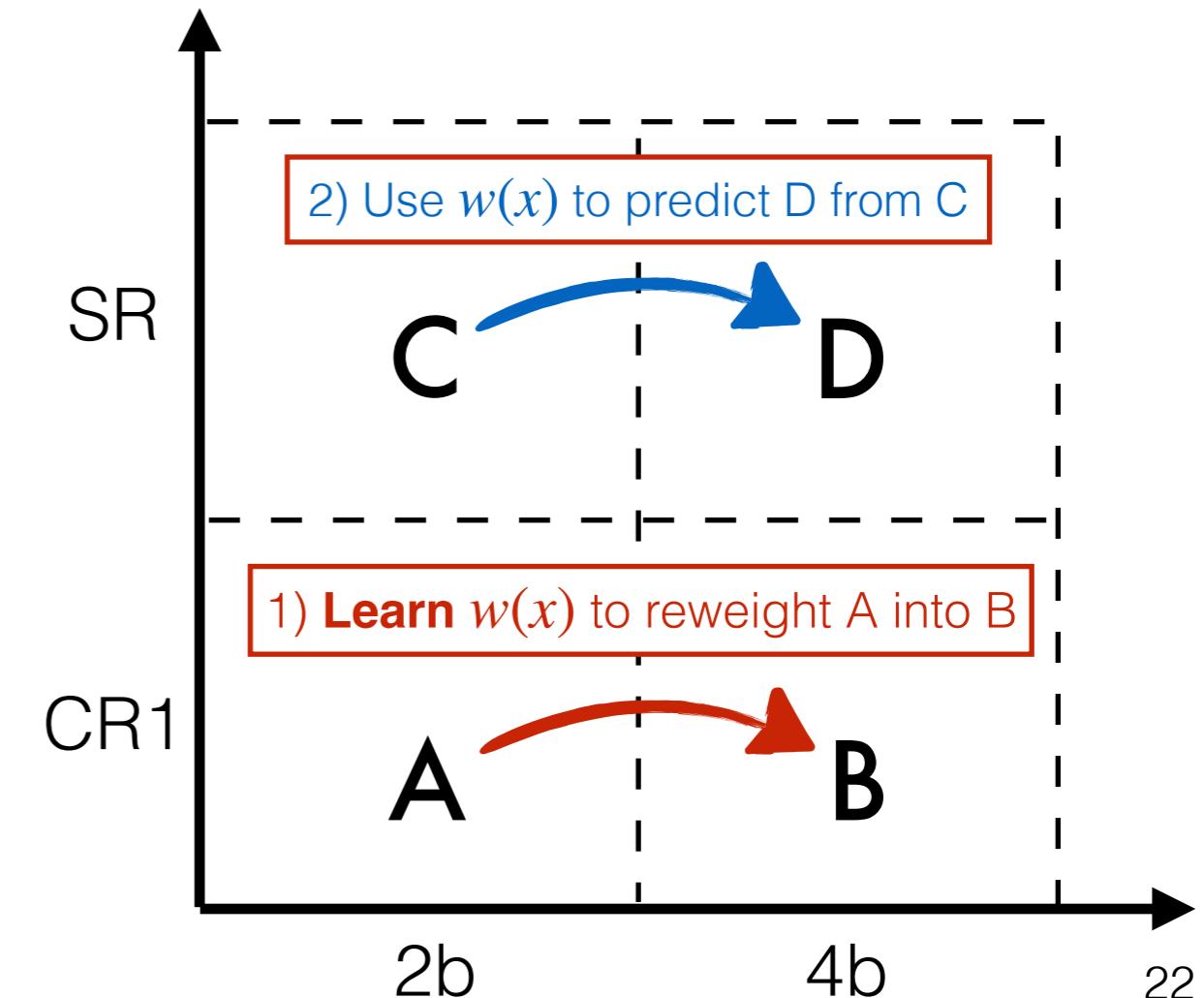
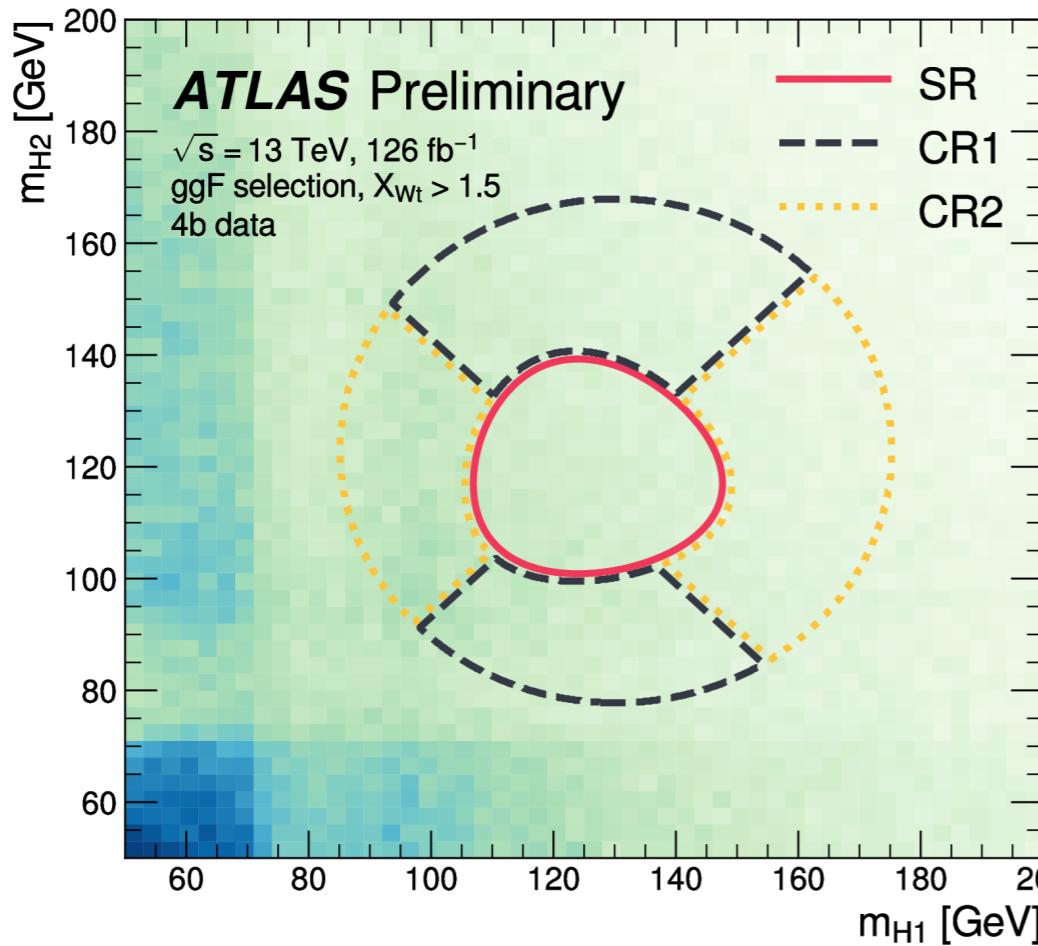




$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ analysis (2)

Background estimation

- Background: QCD multijet (90%) and $t\bar{t}$ (10%) estimated using a **fully data-driven** method.
 - **Machine-learning algorithm learns weight $w(x)$** , where x are different event kinematic variables, to **reweight CR1- 2b into CR1-4b** events
 - $w(x)$ **applied to SR-2b** to obtain SR-4b background estimation.
- Alternative $w'(x)$ from CR2 used to estimate systematics uncertainties.

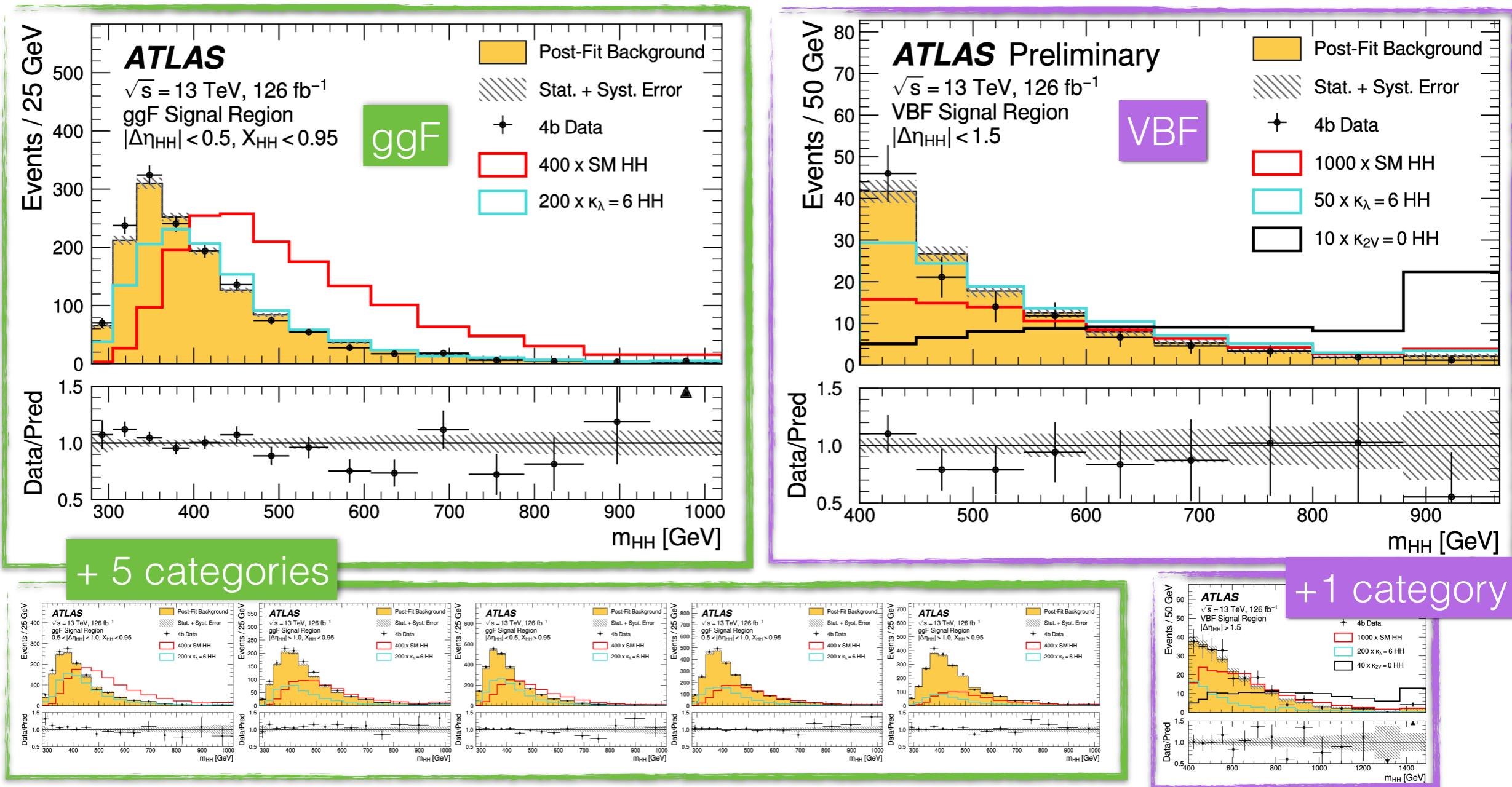




Results

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ analysis (3)

Final observation: **simultaneous likelihood fit of m_{HH}** in all ggF and VBF categories



- **No significant excess** above SM prediction.
- Dominant uncertainties: background modelling and theoretical uncertainties of $\sigma(HH)$.

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ analysis (139 fb^{-1})

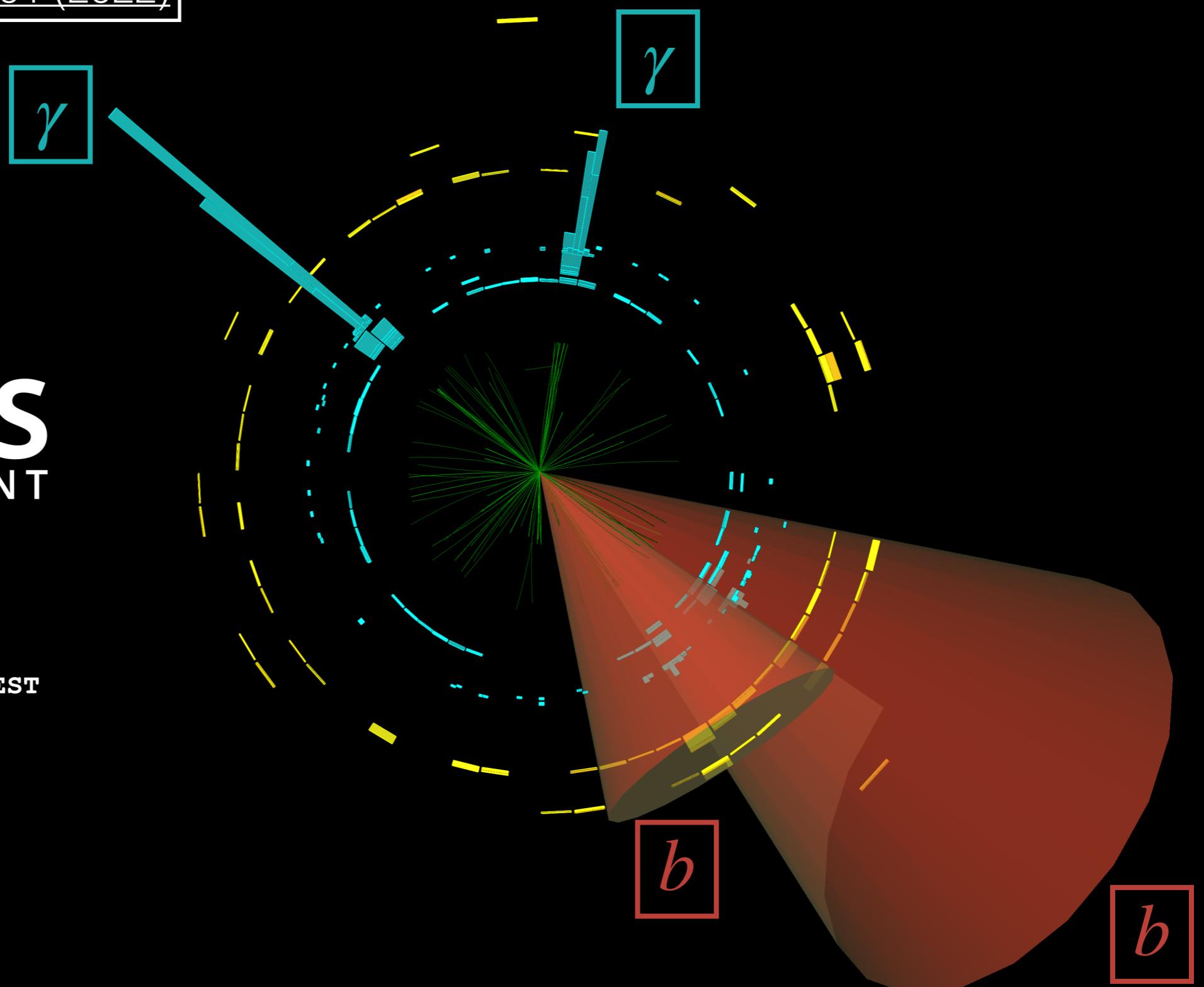
Phys. Rev. D 106, 052001 (2022)



Run: 329964

Event: 796155578

2017-07-17 23:58:15 CEST

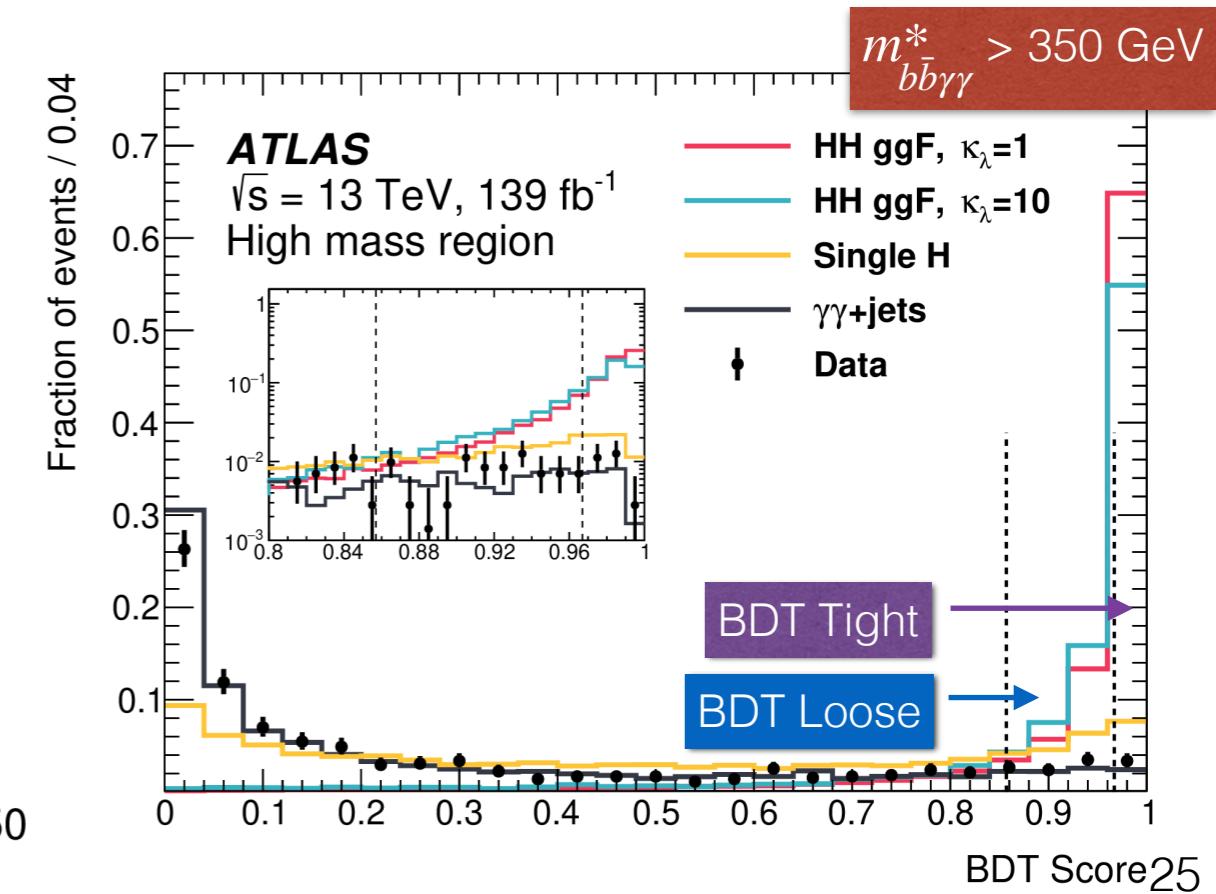
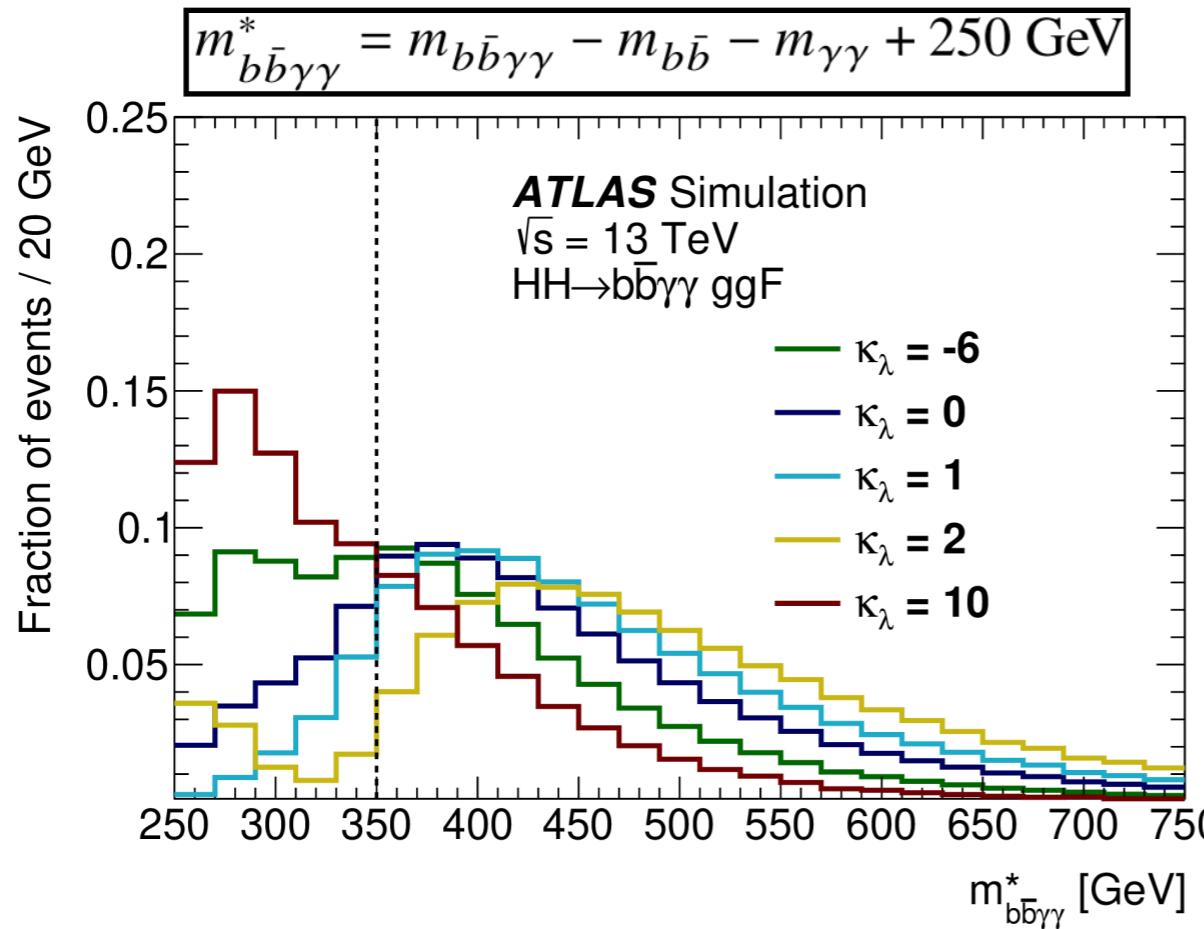




$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ analysis (1)

Analysis selection and categories

- Very tiny HH BR (0.26%), but excellent acceptance ($\gamma\gamma$ triggers) and low backgrounds.
- Selection:
 - Di-photon trigger ($E_T > 35, 25$ GeV).
 - 2 photons + 2 b-jets (77% eff DL1r).
 - BDTs to separate backgrounds and signals.
- Categories: 4 regions split in $m_{b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma}^*$ (350 GeV) and BDT output (Loose and Tight).



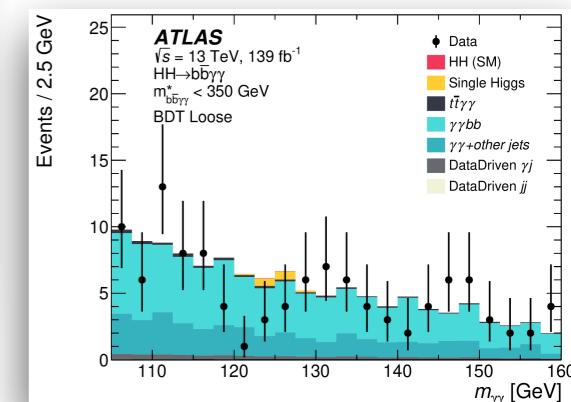
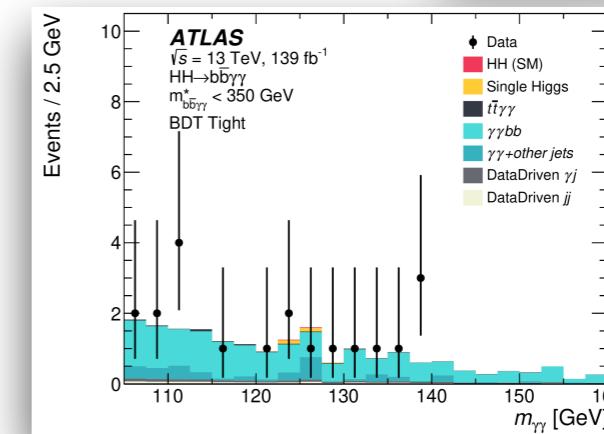
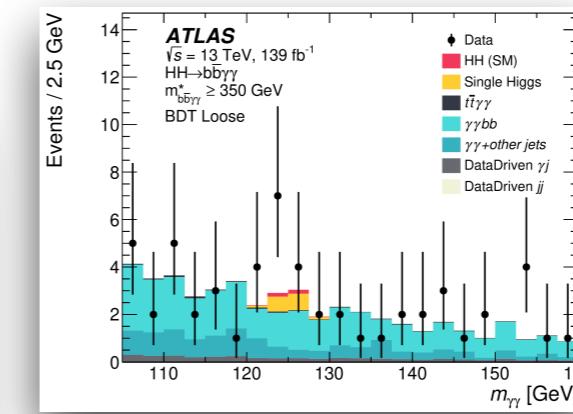
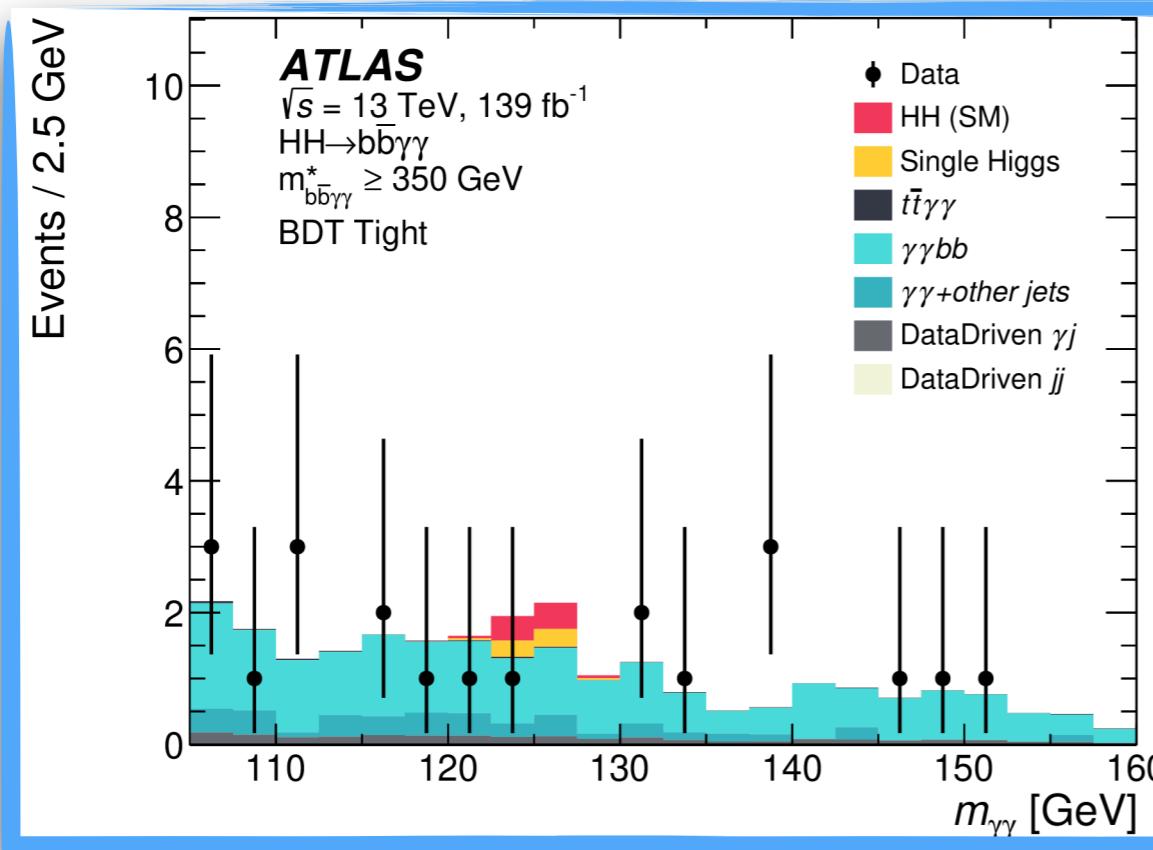


$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ analysis (2)

Background estimation and results

- Main backgrounds: $\gamma\gamma + \text{jets}$ (MC and data-driven) and **SM** $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ (MC).

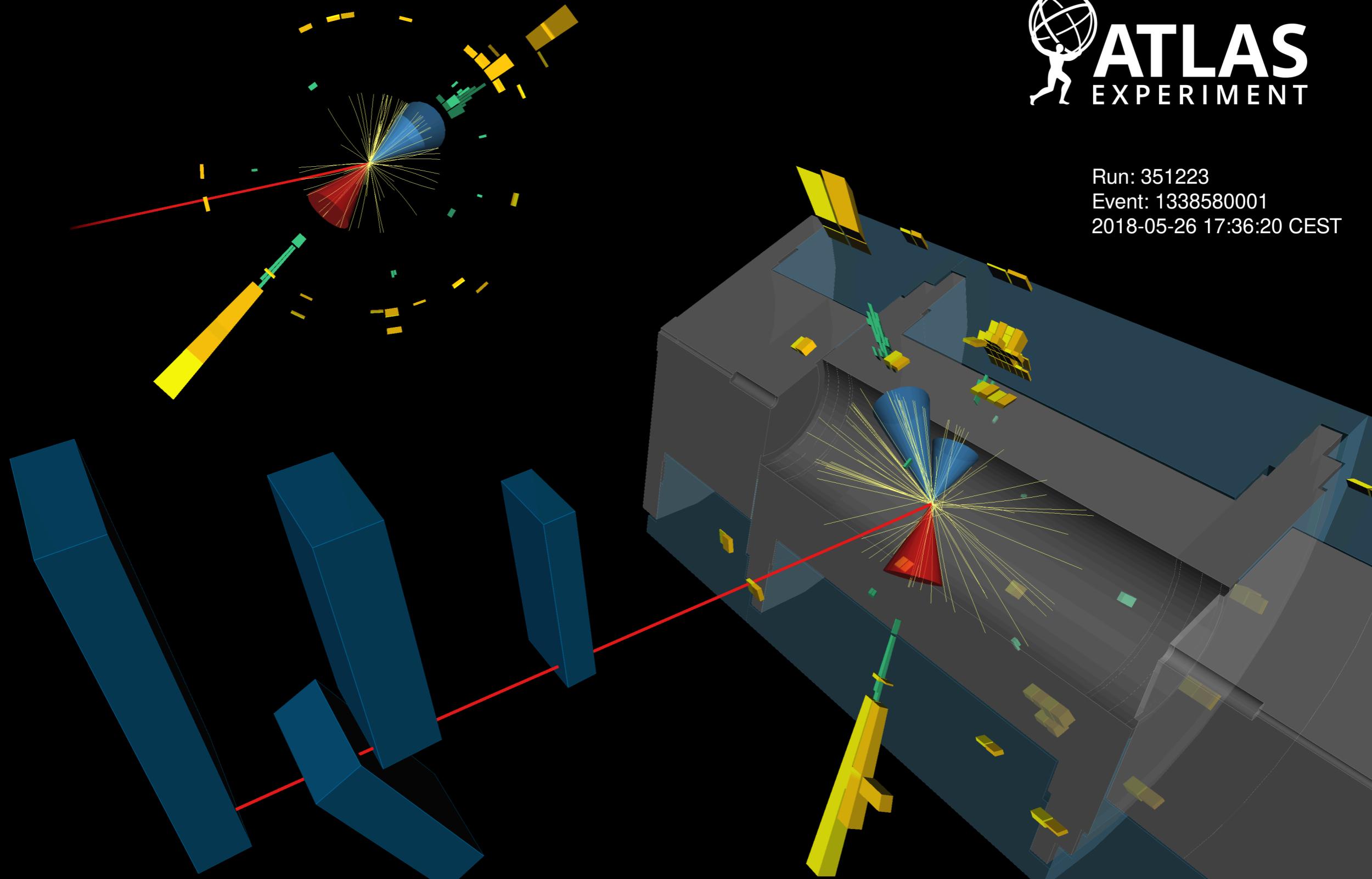
Final observation: **simultaneous likelihood fit of $m_{\gamma\gamma}$** in all $m_{b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma}^*$ and BDT categories.



- No significant excess above SM prediction.
- Dominant uncertainty: data statistics

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ analysis (139 fb^{-1})

arXiv:2209.10910



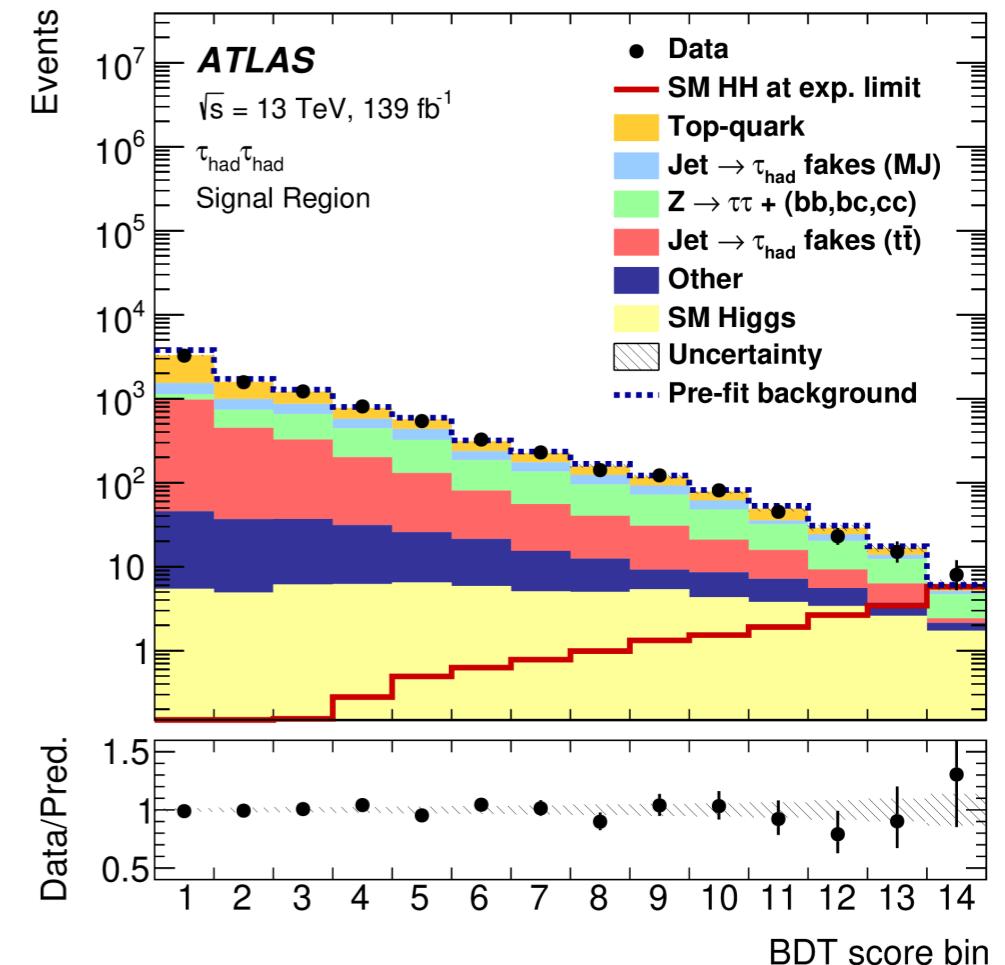
Run: 351223
Event: 1338580001
2018-05-26 17:36:20 CEST



$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau\tau$ analysis (1)

Event selection and analysis categories

- **Good trade between HH BR (7.3%) and moderate background.**
- Selection:
 - **Triggers:** 1 or 2 τ leptons (τ_{had} and τ_{lep}).
 - **2 b-jets** (77% eff DL1r) and 2 τ -leptons (τ_{had} and τ_{lep})
 - **MVA techniques** used to separate background and signals.
 - **3 categories** split by τ decay mode and trigger.



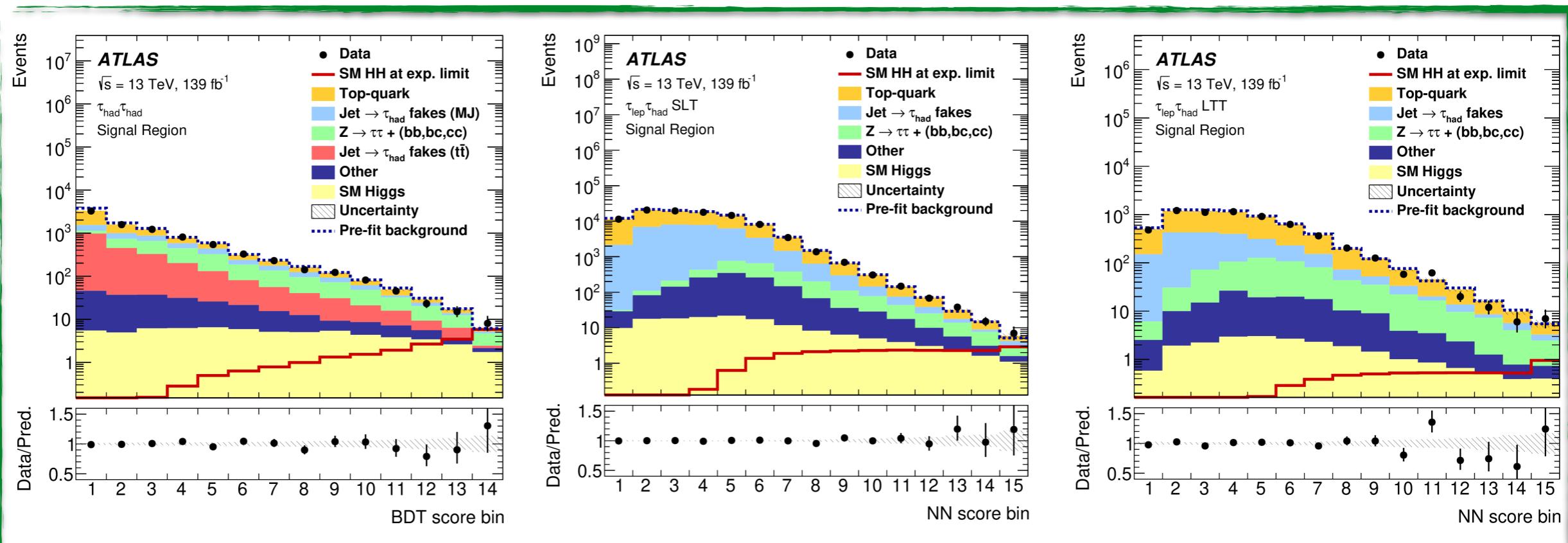
Category	Triggers
$b\bar{b}\tau_{\text{had}}\tau_{\text{had}}$	Single-tau + di-tau triggers
$b\bar{b}\tau_{\text{lep}}\tau_{\text{had}}$ SLT	Single lepton trigger (SLT)
$b\bar{b}\tau_{\text{lep}}\tau_{\text{had}}$ LTT	Lepton+tau trigger (LTT)



$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau\tau$ analysis (2)

Background estimation and results

- Dominant backgrounds: true τ ($t\bar{t}$ and $Z+bb/bc/cc$) estimated from MC simulations, fake τ ($t\bar{t}$ and multijet) from data.
- Final observation: **binned fit of MVA scores in all 3 categories**.
 - **Control region for $Z+bb/bc/cc$** included in likelihood fit.
 - **No significant excess** above SM prediction observed.



- Dominant uncertainties: **stat (81%)** and systematics (59%)

Upper limits and interpretations

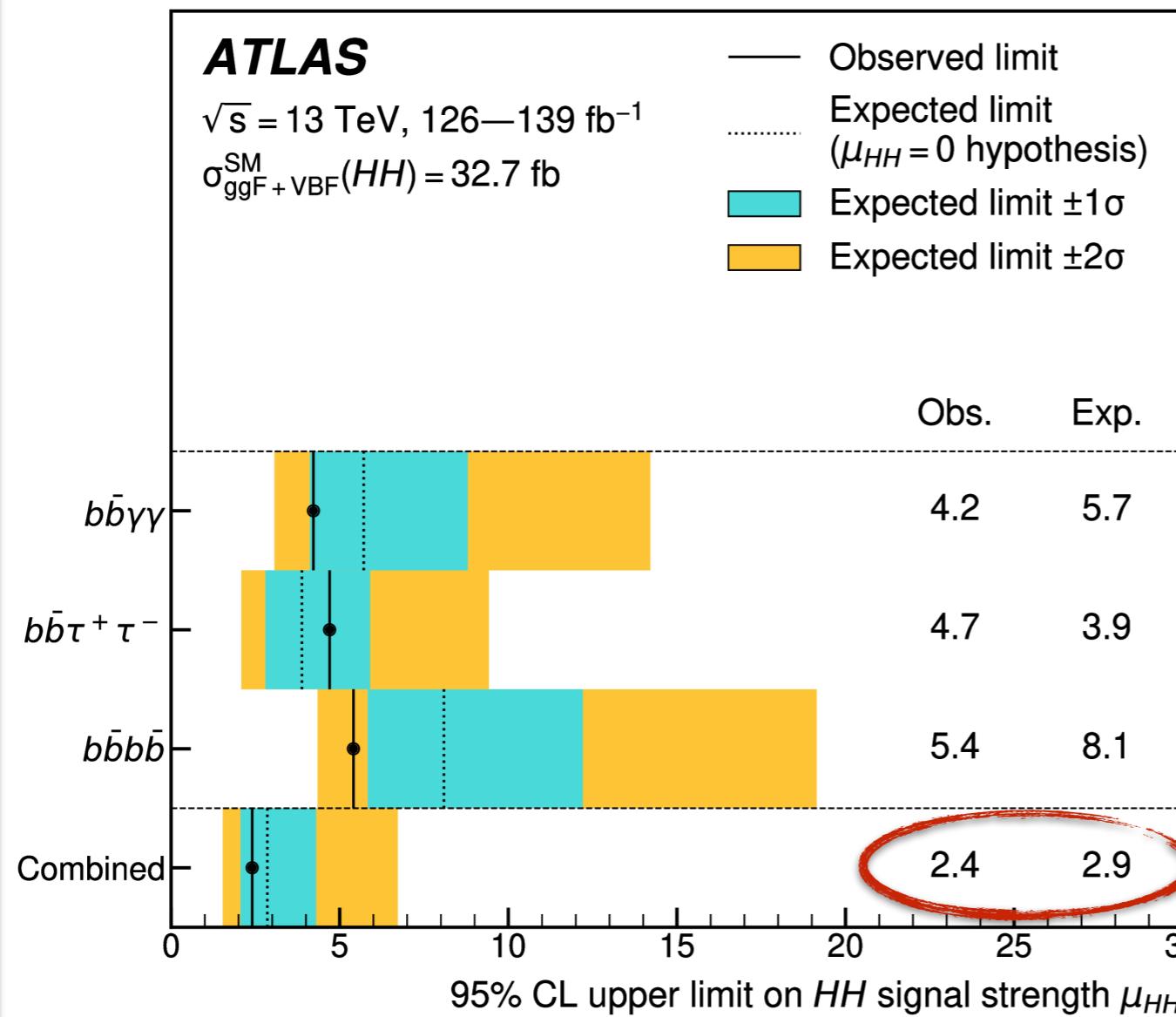


SM cross-section upper limits

Results

- Statistical **combination maximises sensitivity** to SM (and BSM) HH production

[arxiv:2211.01216](https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.01216)



$$\mu_{\text{HH}} = \frac{\sigma^{\text{obs}}(pp \rightarrow HH)}{\sigma^{\text{SM}}(pp \rightarrow HH)}$$

Currently observing $\mu_{\text{HH}}^{95\% \text{ CL}} < 2.4$

Previous result (36 fb^{-1})

Expected: 26xSM
Observed: 20.3xSM

Expected: 15xSM
Observed: 12.5xSM

Expected: 20.7xSM
Observed: 12.9xSM

Expected: 10xSM
Observed: 6.9xSM

Large improvement (x3.5) thanks to
luminosity, better **reconstruction** (b-jet, τ) and **analysis improvements**

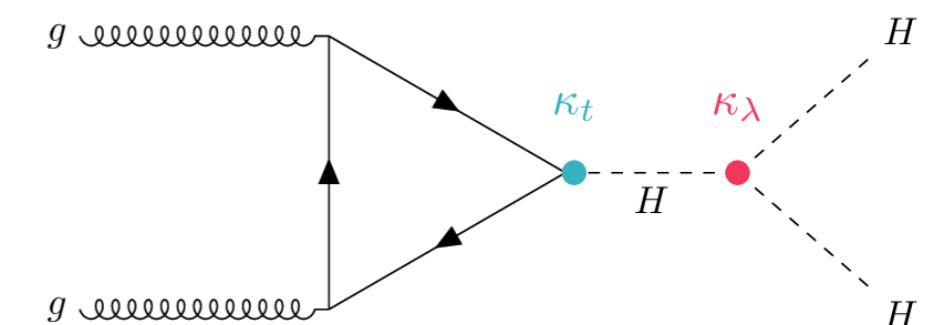
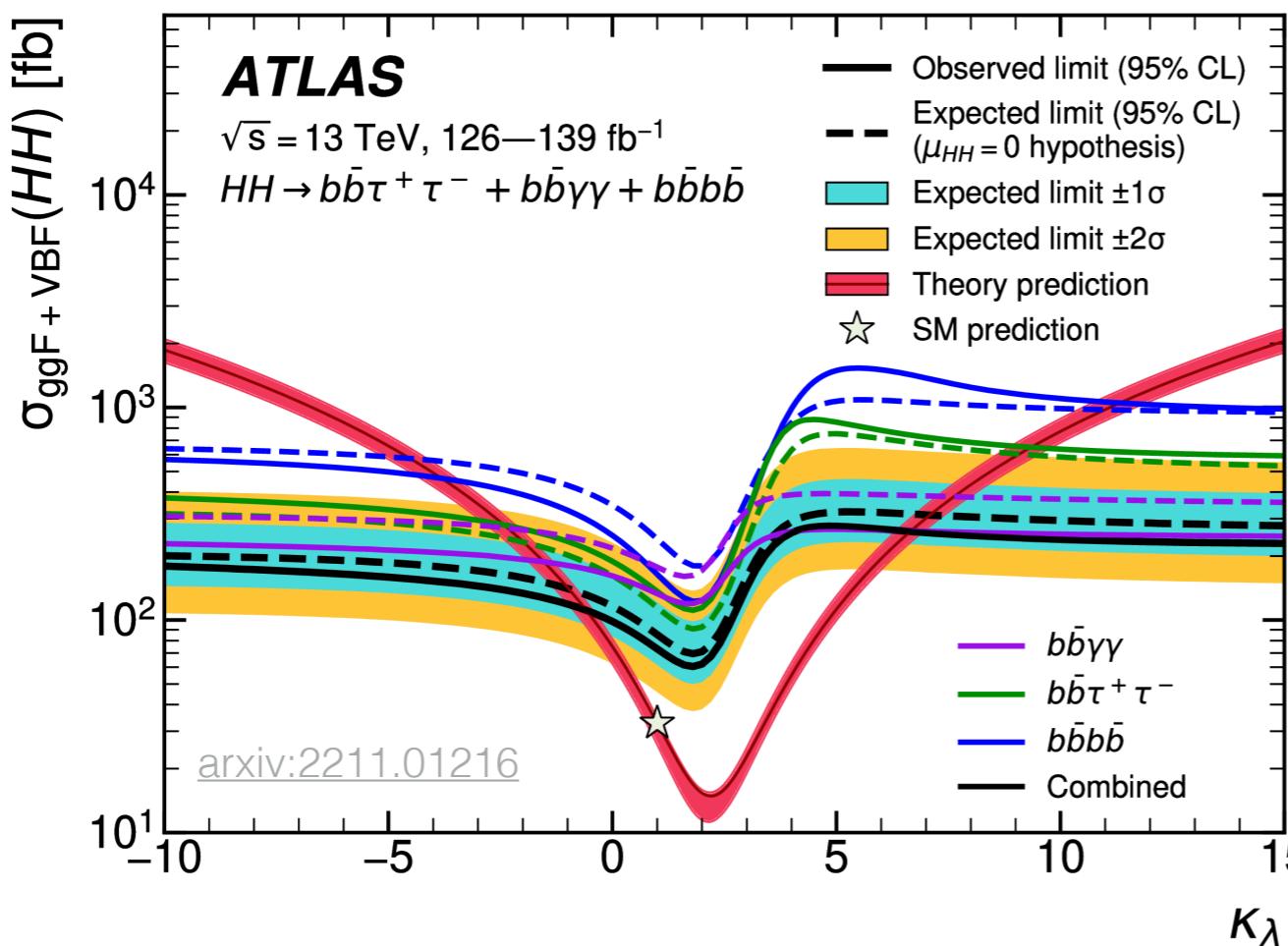
Getting very close to the SM ($\mu_{\text{HH}} = 1$)!



Higgs self-coupling constraints

Allowed κ_λ ranges

- What did we learn about the Higgs self-coupling?
- κ_λ scan: upper-limits on σ_{HH} assuming signal normalisation and kinematic at each value of κ_λ



- Observed allowed κ_λ range is measured to be $-0.6 < \kappa_\lambda < 6.6$
- Previous Run 2 result (36 fb^{-1})
 $-5.0 < \kappa_\lambda < 12.0$
 - x10 improvement on lower bound
 - x2 improvement on higher bound

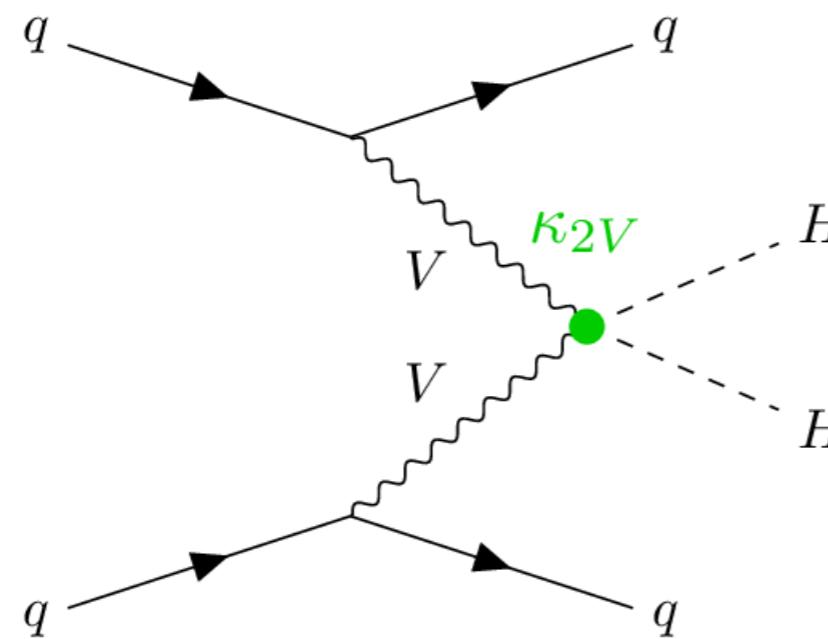
Almost excluding $\kappa_\lambda = 0$ at 95% CL (i.e. no Higgs self-coupling)!



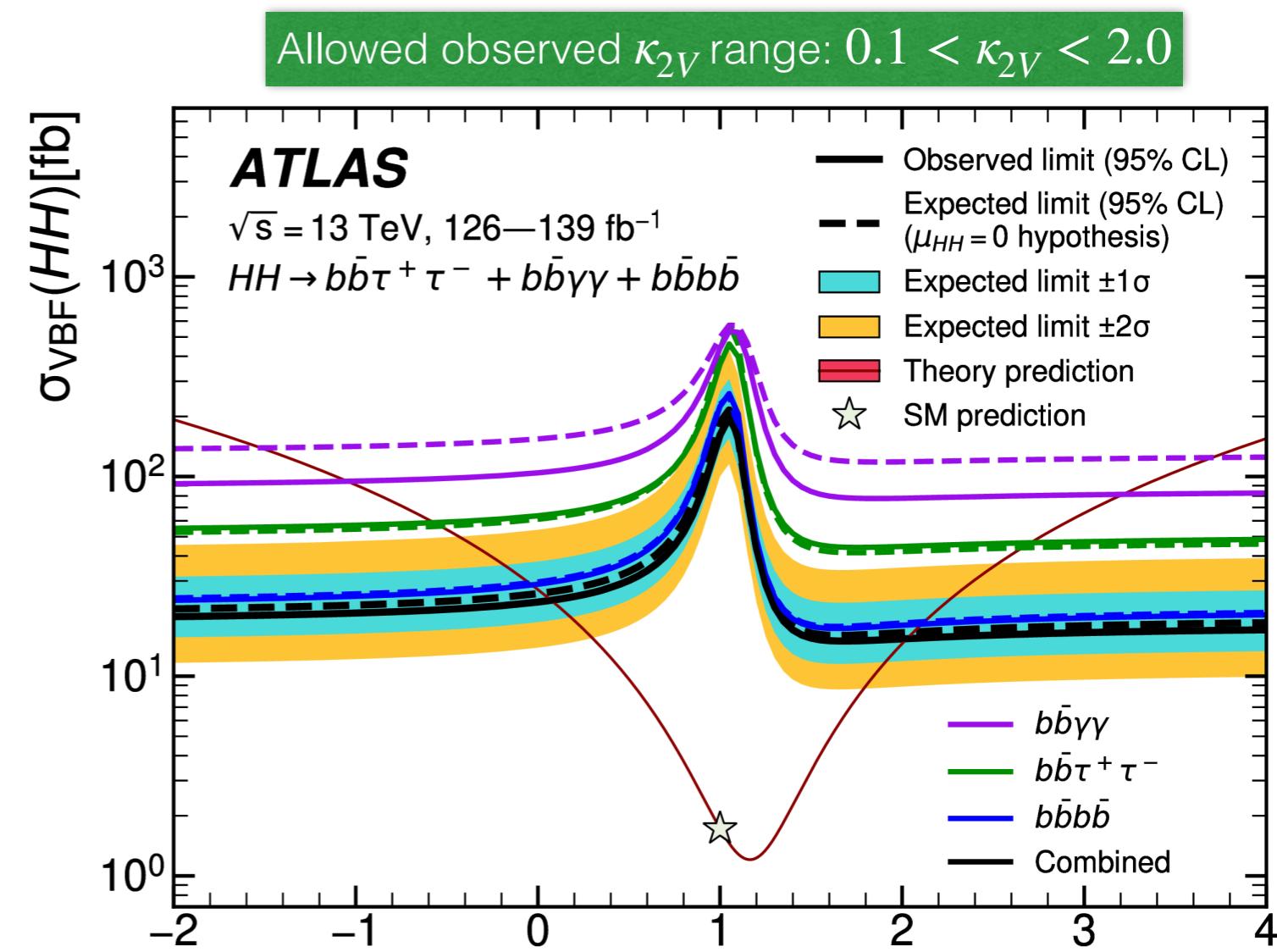
κ_{2V} constraints

Allowed κ_{2V} ranges

- Extracted also **constraints on VVHH Higgs coupling** through scan of κ_{2V} .
 - $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ has the best sensitivity** overall due to dedicated κ_{2V} categories and high $\text{BR}(\text{HH})$ and acceptance in VBF regime.



$\kappa_{2V} = 0$ excluded at 95%
CL with complete Run 2
statistic (139 fb^{-1})

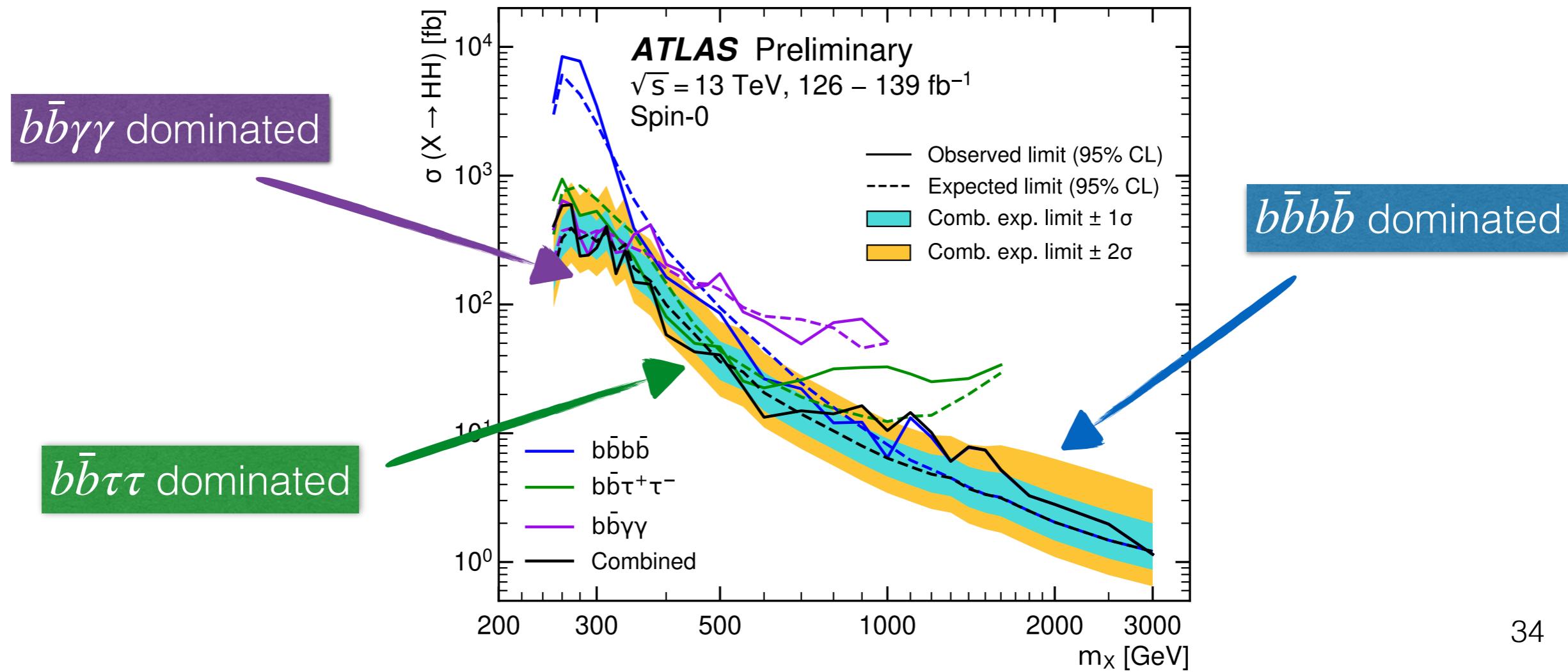
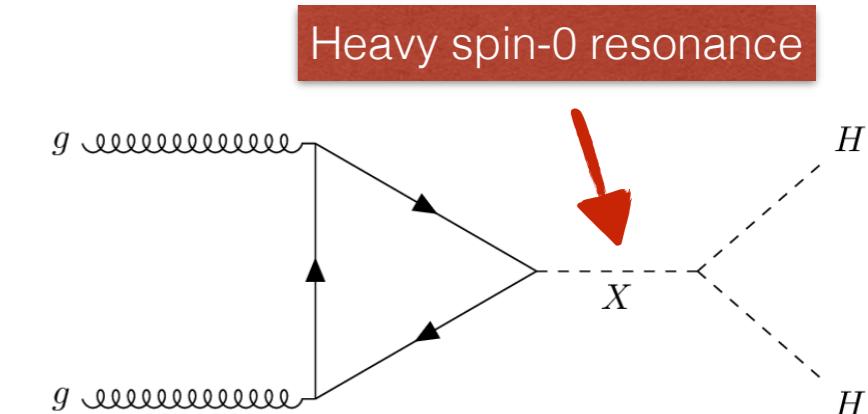




Resonant interpretation

Resonant upper limits

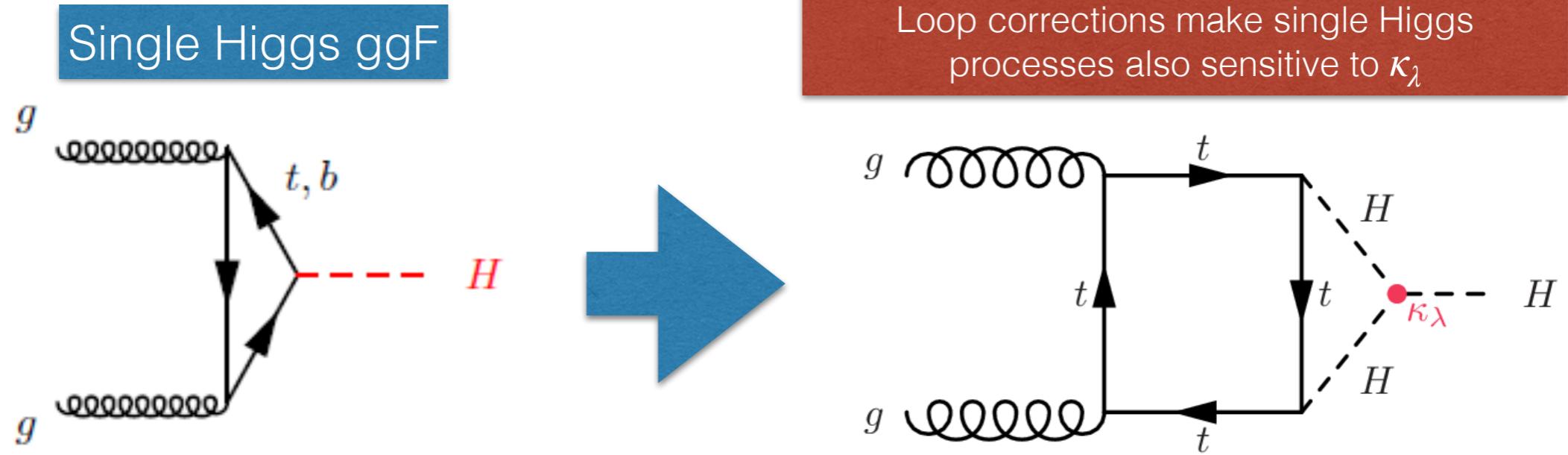
- BSM models also predict **possible heavy resonances decaying to HH**
 - Re-optimised analyses to target these scenarios.
 - Complementarity between channels allow to obtain **optimal exclusion** across m_X .
- **No statistically significant excess** found: largest excess at $m_X = 1.1$ TeV, with local (global) significance of 3.2σ (2.1σ).



Is there a way to constrain κ_λ even further with Run 2 data?

Single-Higgs contributions to κ_λ (1)

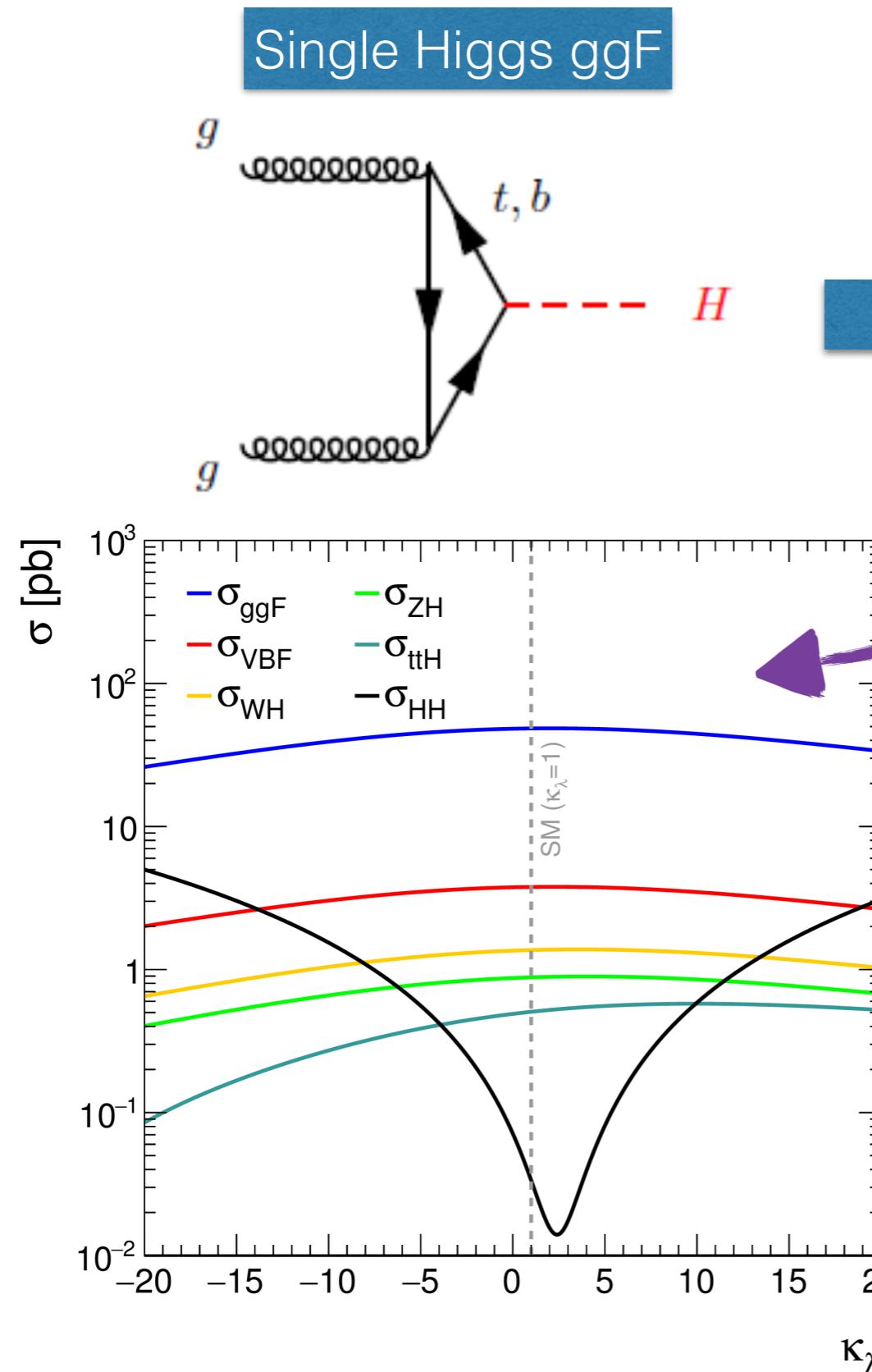
arxiv:2211.01216



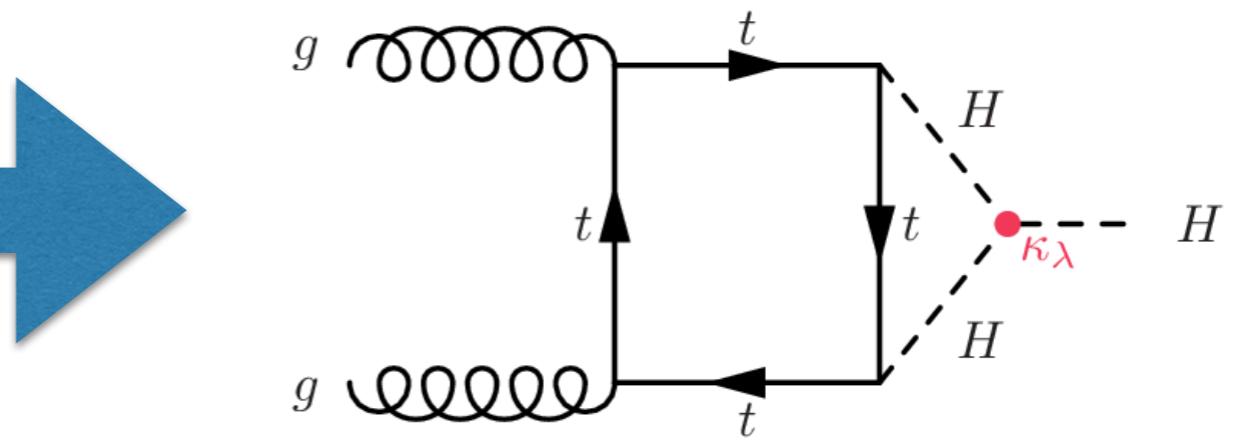


Single-Higgs contributions to κ_λ (1)

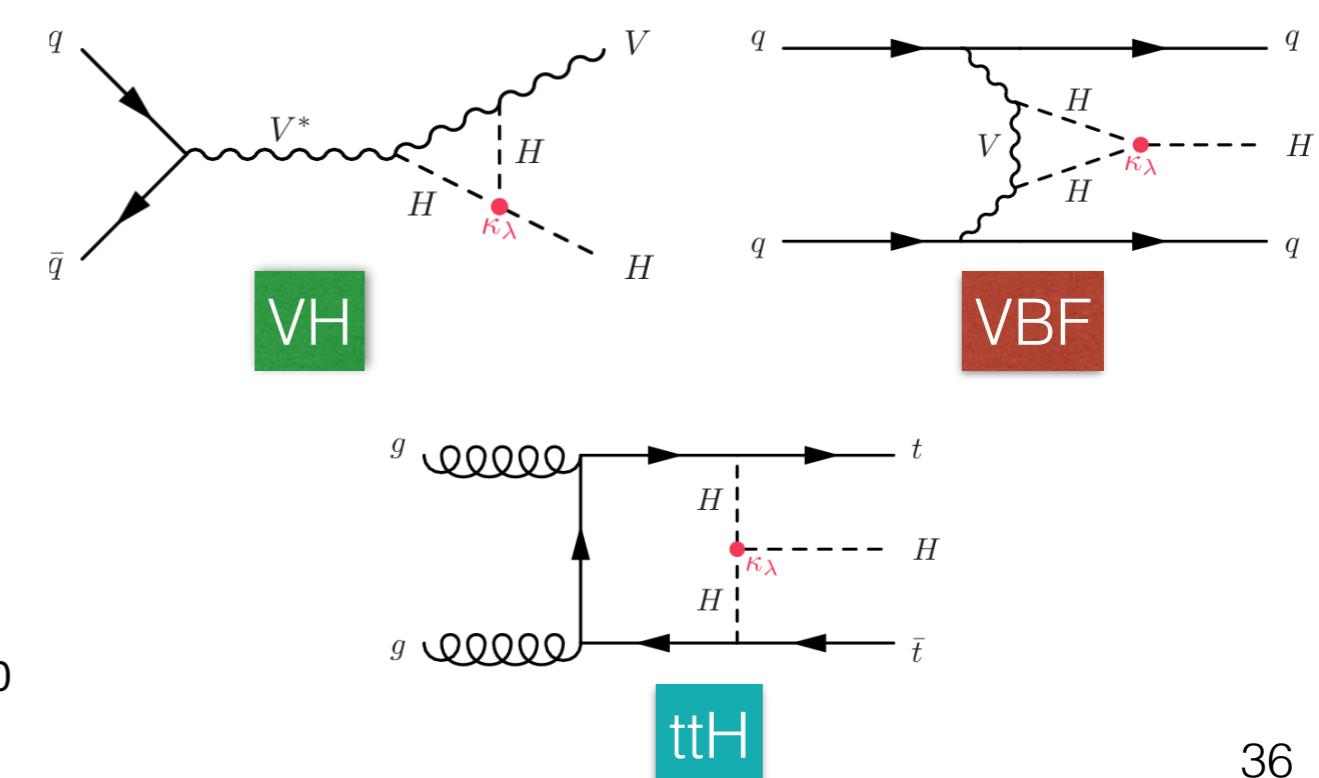
arxiv:2211.01216



Loop corrections make single Higgs processes also sensitive to κ_λ



σ_{HH} more κ_λ -dependent, but larger precision on $\sigma_{\text{single-H}}$ due to high statistics.

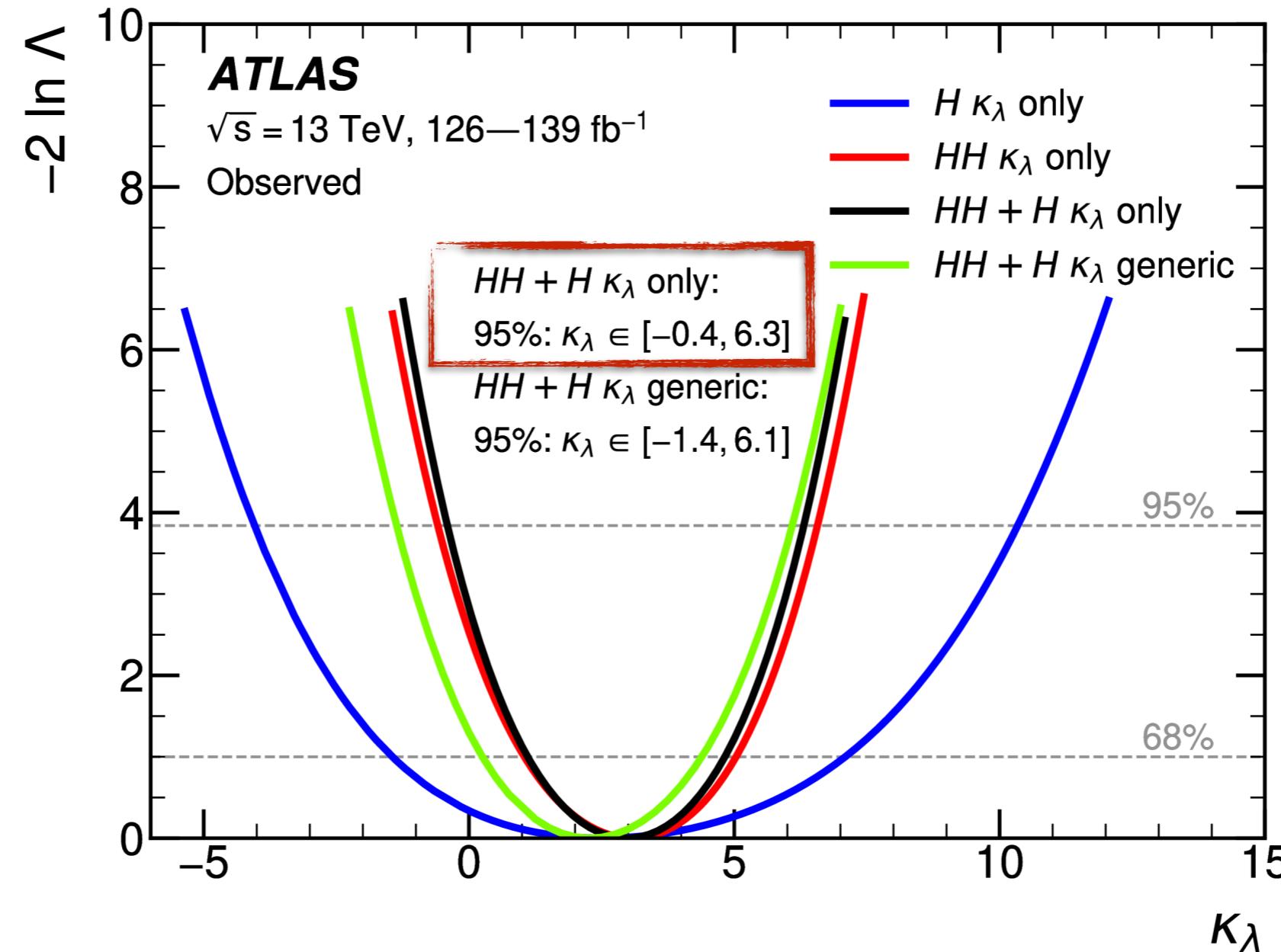




Single-Higgs constraints to κ_λ (2)

Results

- **Improvements on κ_λ constraint achieved combining HH and single-H measurements!**
- New 95% CL allowed κ_λ range: $-0.4 < \kappa_\lambda < 6.3$



**So no unexpected Higgs self-coupling
value for now.**

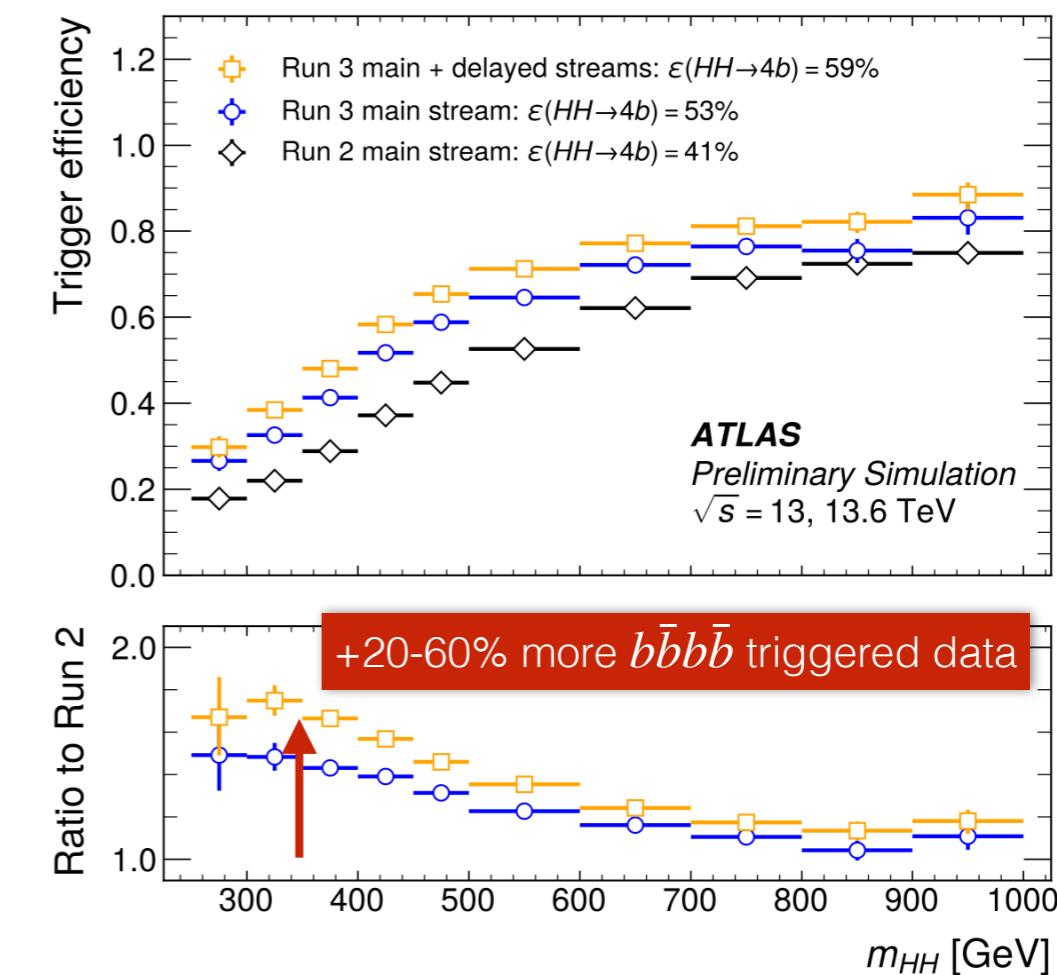
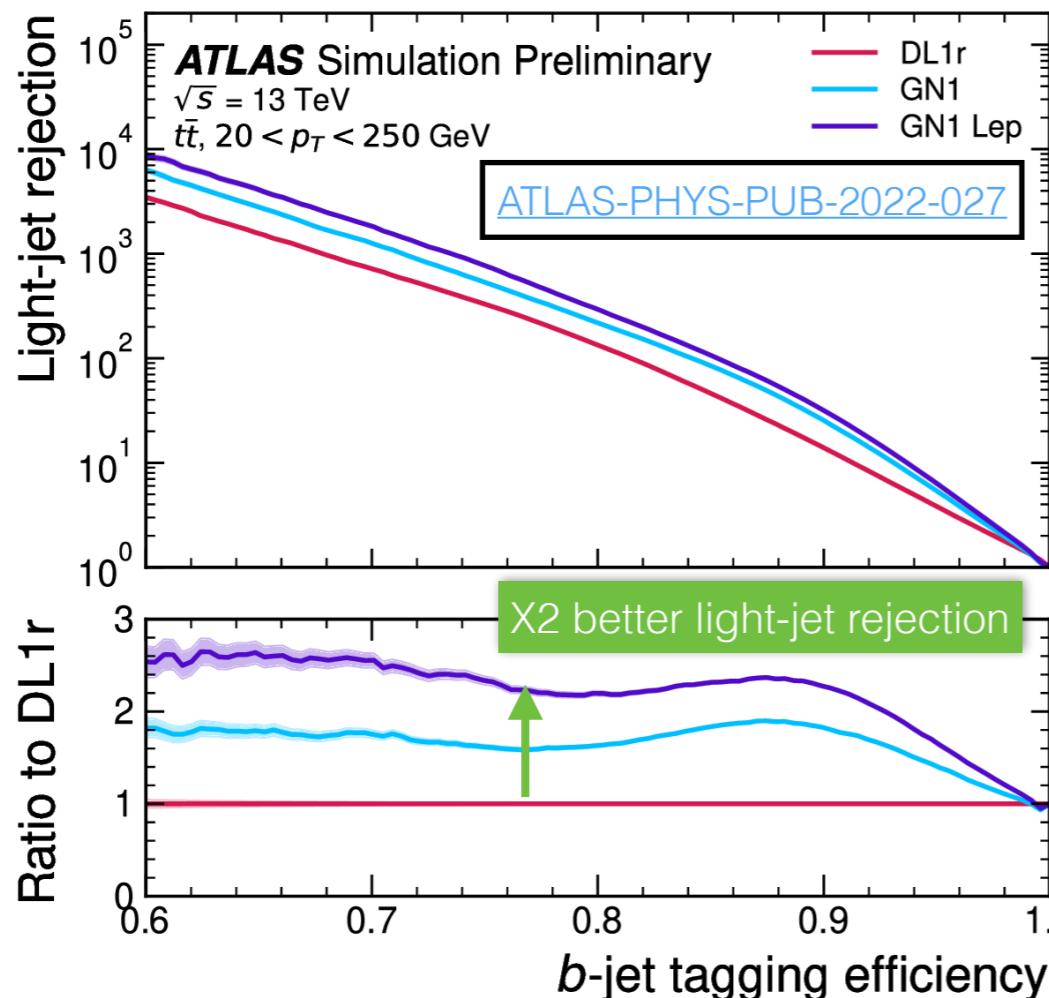
Can we improve the precision in future?



Run 3 ATLAS improvements

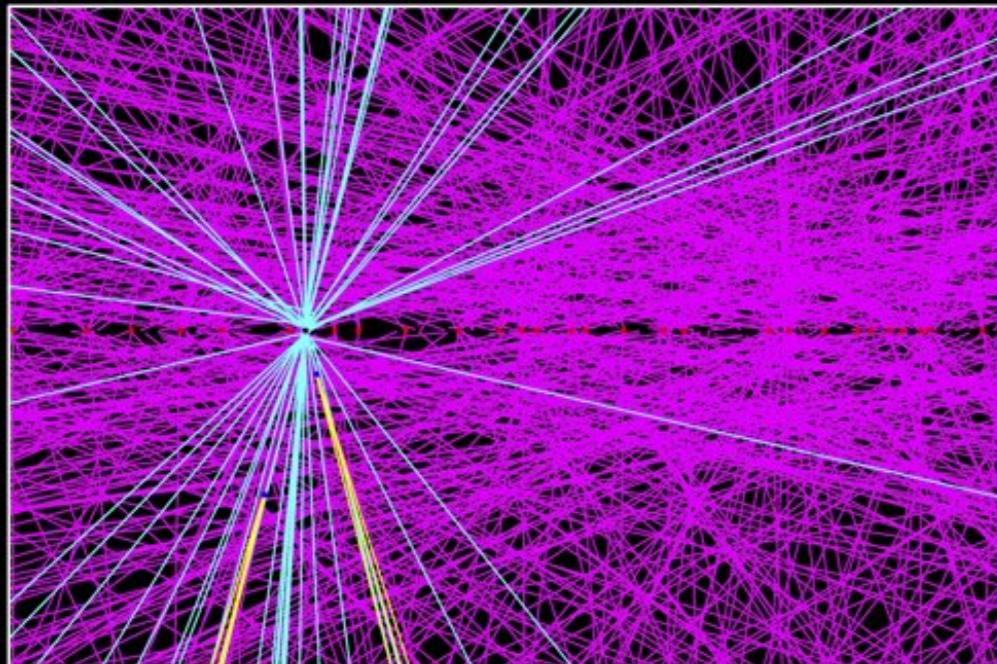
More data, better reconstruction and triggers

- Expect a **large number of improvements** by the end of Run 3 (2022-2025).
 - More data** ($150 - 250 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ in Run 3) and $+10\% \sigma(HH)$ with $\sqrt{s} = 13.6 \text{ TeV}$
 - b-tagging largely improved** with Graph Neural Networks (GN1)!
 - Triggers significantly improved** (e.g. asymmetric $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ triggers)!
 - New channels** to explore (e.g. boosted $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$)





x 5 more luminosity
at the HL-LHC (2029 - 2040)!



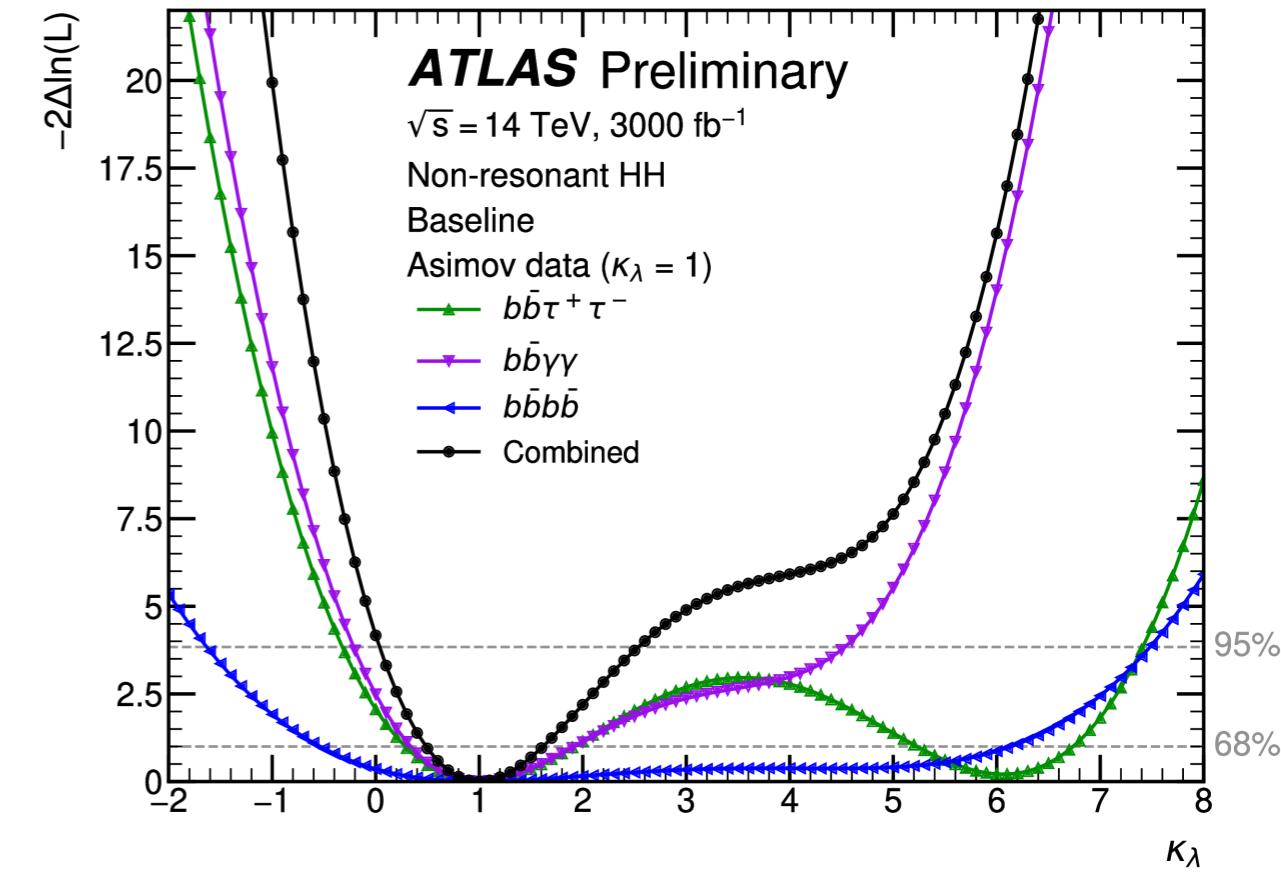
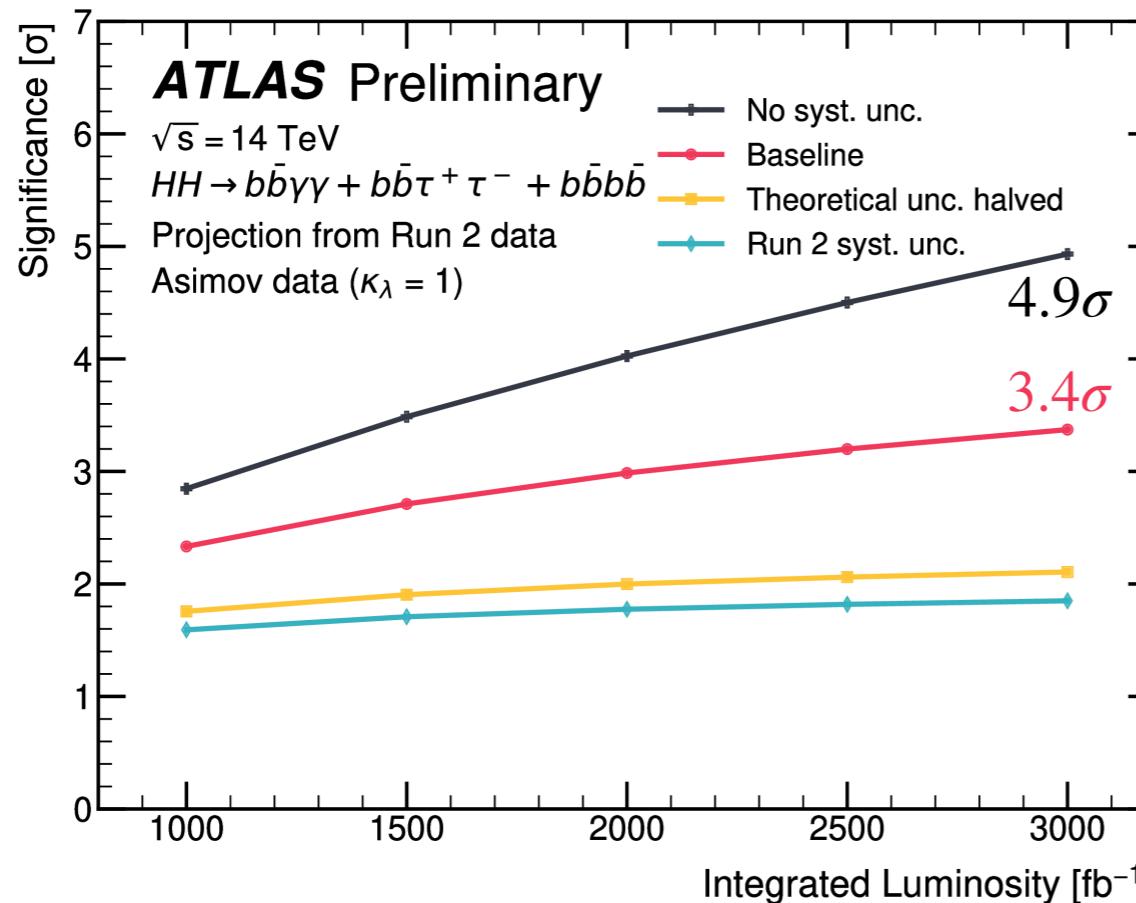
Many HH events in 3000 fb^{-1} of
 $\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}$ of HL-LHC data!



Updated HL-LHC projections for HH

[ATLAS-PHYS-PUB-2022-053](#)

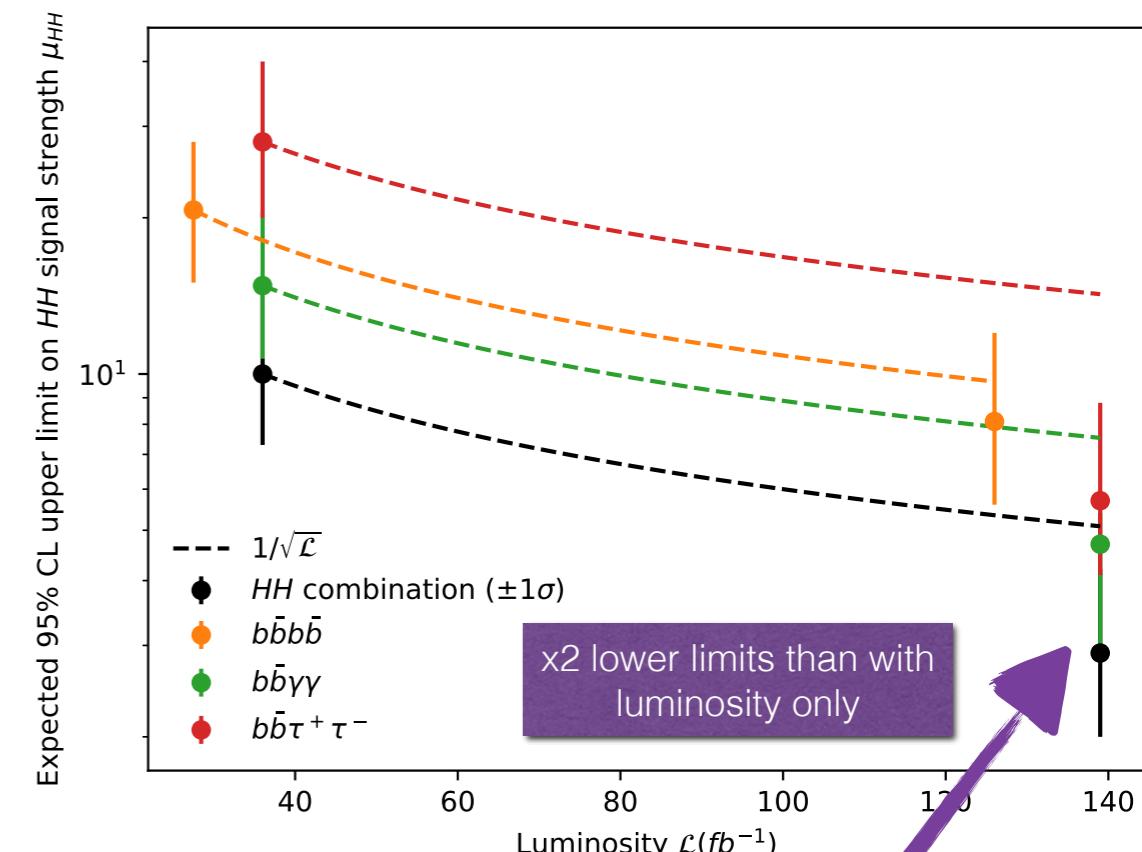
- Assuming Run 2 detector performance and expected reduction of systematics, **statistical evidence (3.4σ) is expected for SM HH ($\kappa_\lambda = 1$)** with 3000 fb^{-1} .
 - SM signal strength μ_{HH}^{SM} measured with **30% precision**.
 - κ_λ constrained to [0.5,1.6] at 68% CL.
- Reduction of systematic uncertainties** could bring us **close to discovery** (4.9σ with stat. only). And we still have to combine with CMS! 😊





Conclusion and outlook

- The Higgs sector is **UNIQUE** and still **largely unexplored!**
 - Shape of the **Higgs potential** **essential** to fully understand EWSB and the evolution of the universe.
- Only started to understand the Higgs!
- **HH searches** at the (HL-)LHC are currently the **best tool** to constrain $V(\phi)$:
 - Huge improvements on κ_λ constraints achieved with Run 2 ATLAS dataset.
 - On track to discover (5σ) HH at the HL-LHC (ATLAS+CMS) and constrain κ_λ to $[0.5, 1.6]$ at 68% CL (ATLAS only).



The human factor is important!

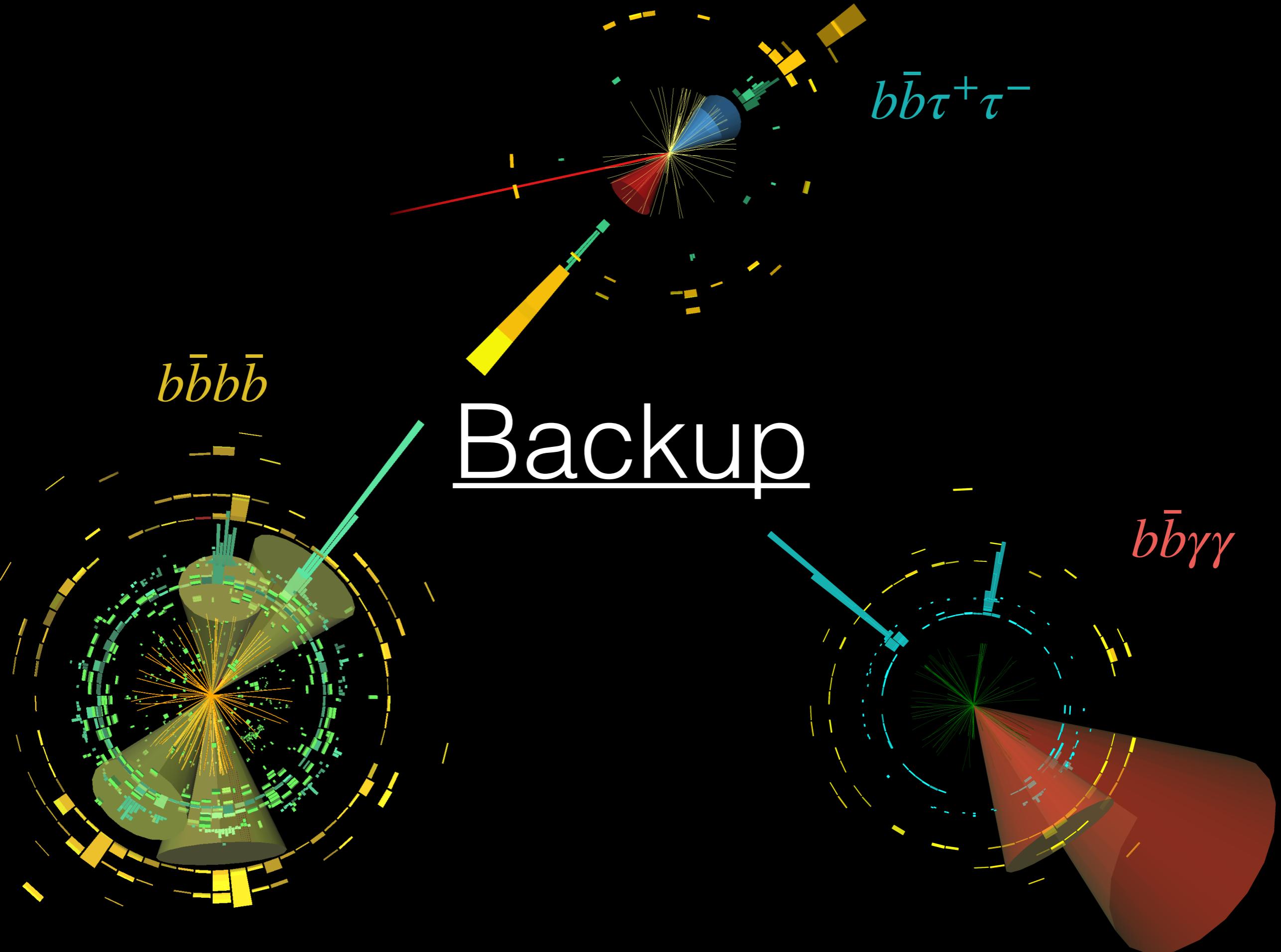
If something is unexpected in the Higgs, Run 3 might already reveal this to us!



**STAY
TUNED**

COMING SOON

Thank you for your attention!



$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ analysis

Additional material

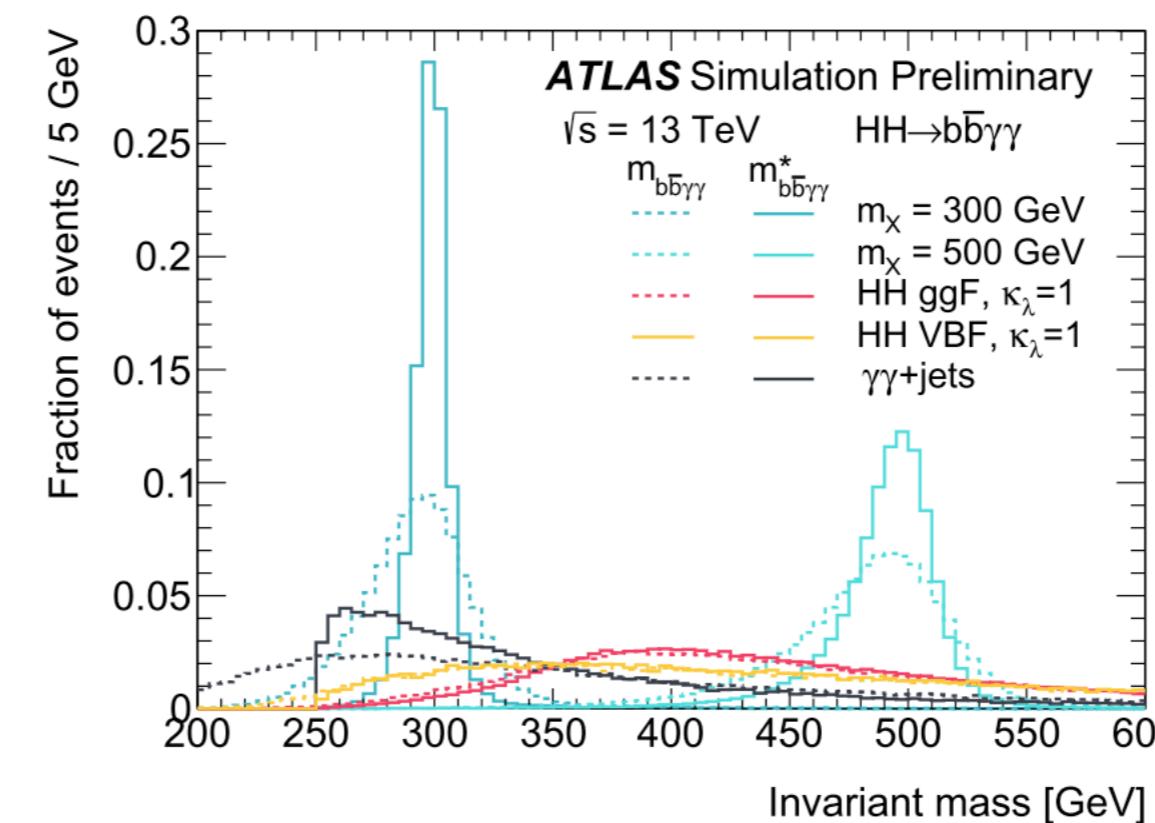
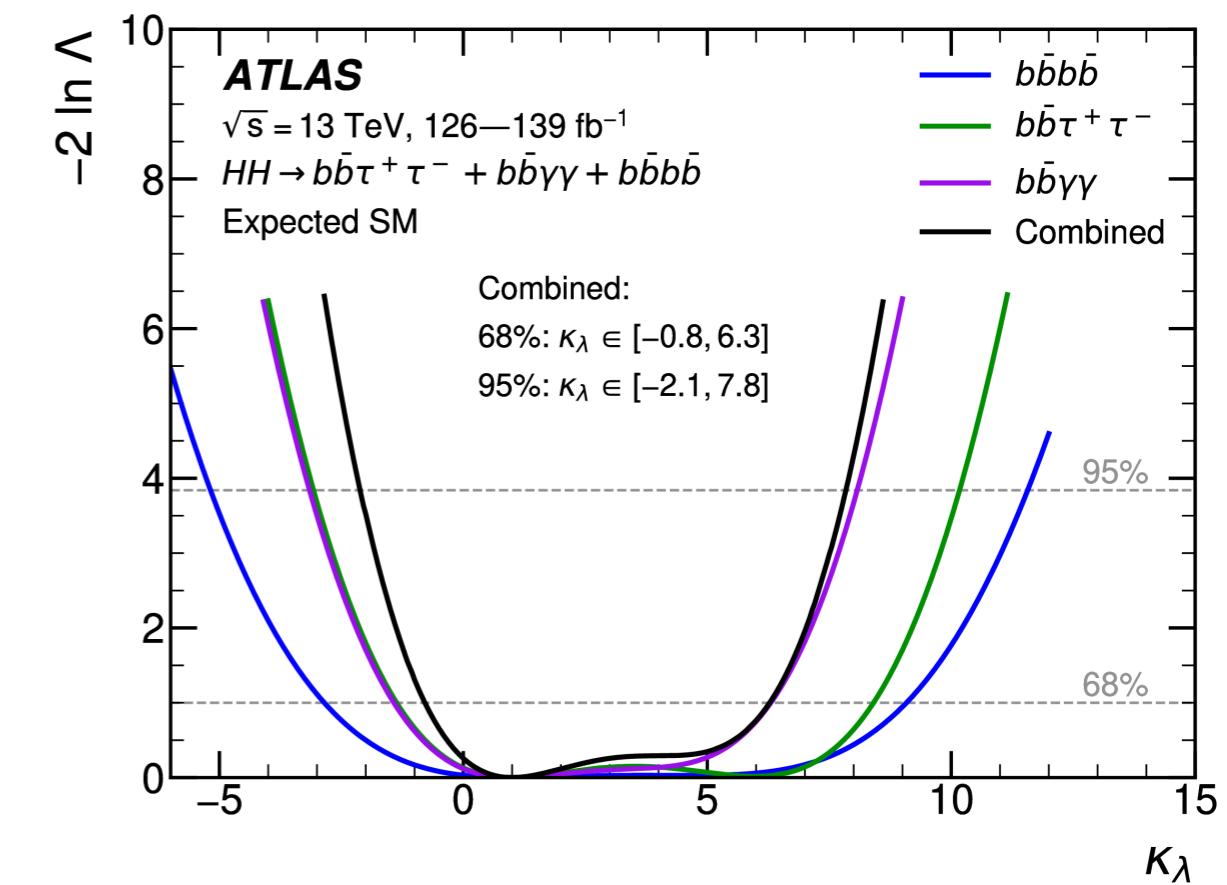
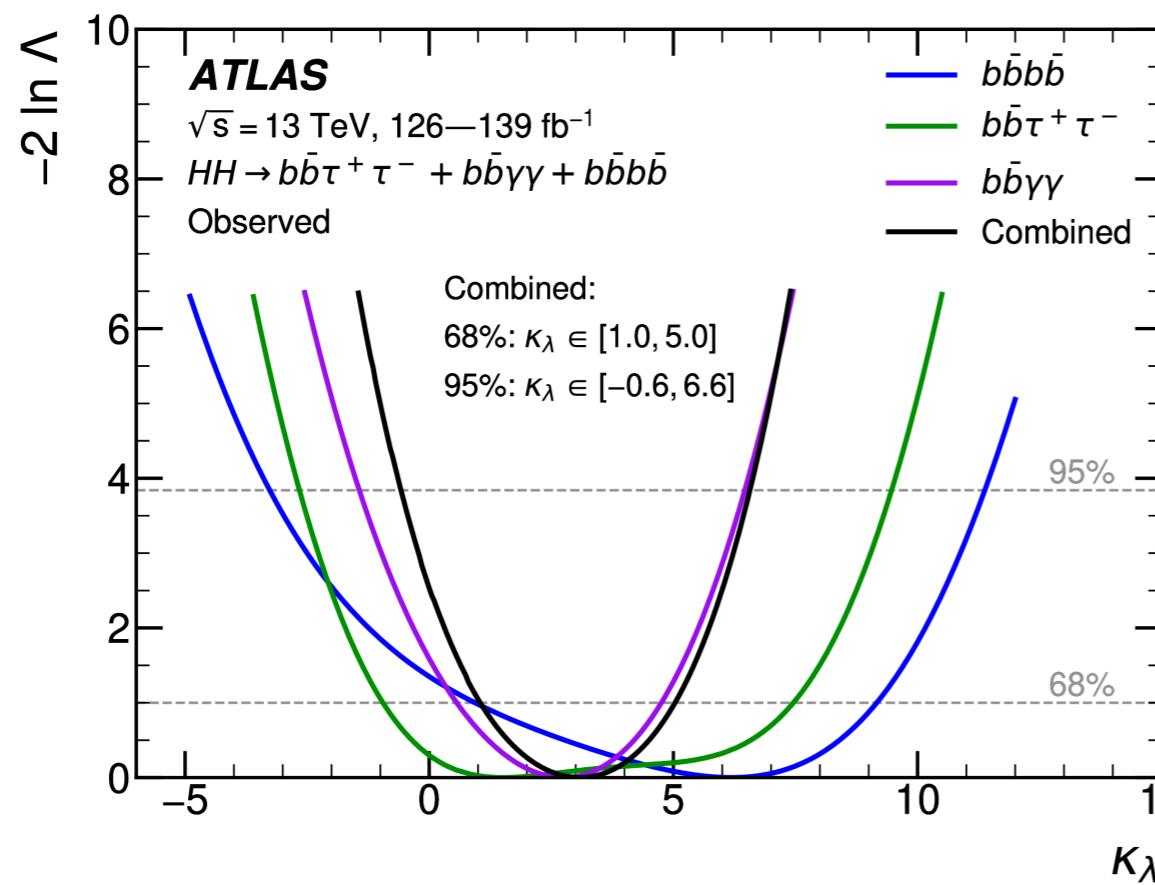


Figure 4: Reconstructed four-body mass for $m_X = 300 \text{ GeV}$ and $m_X = 500 \text{ GeV}$ resonant signal benchmarks and for the $\gamma\gamma + \text{jets}$ background. Dashed lines represent the distribution of $m_{b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma}$ while solid lines represent the distribution of $m_{b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma}^*$, defined in Section 4.2.1. Distributions are normalized to unit area.



HH combined and separate likelihoods

[arxiv:2211.01216](https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.01216)

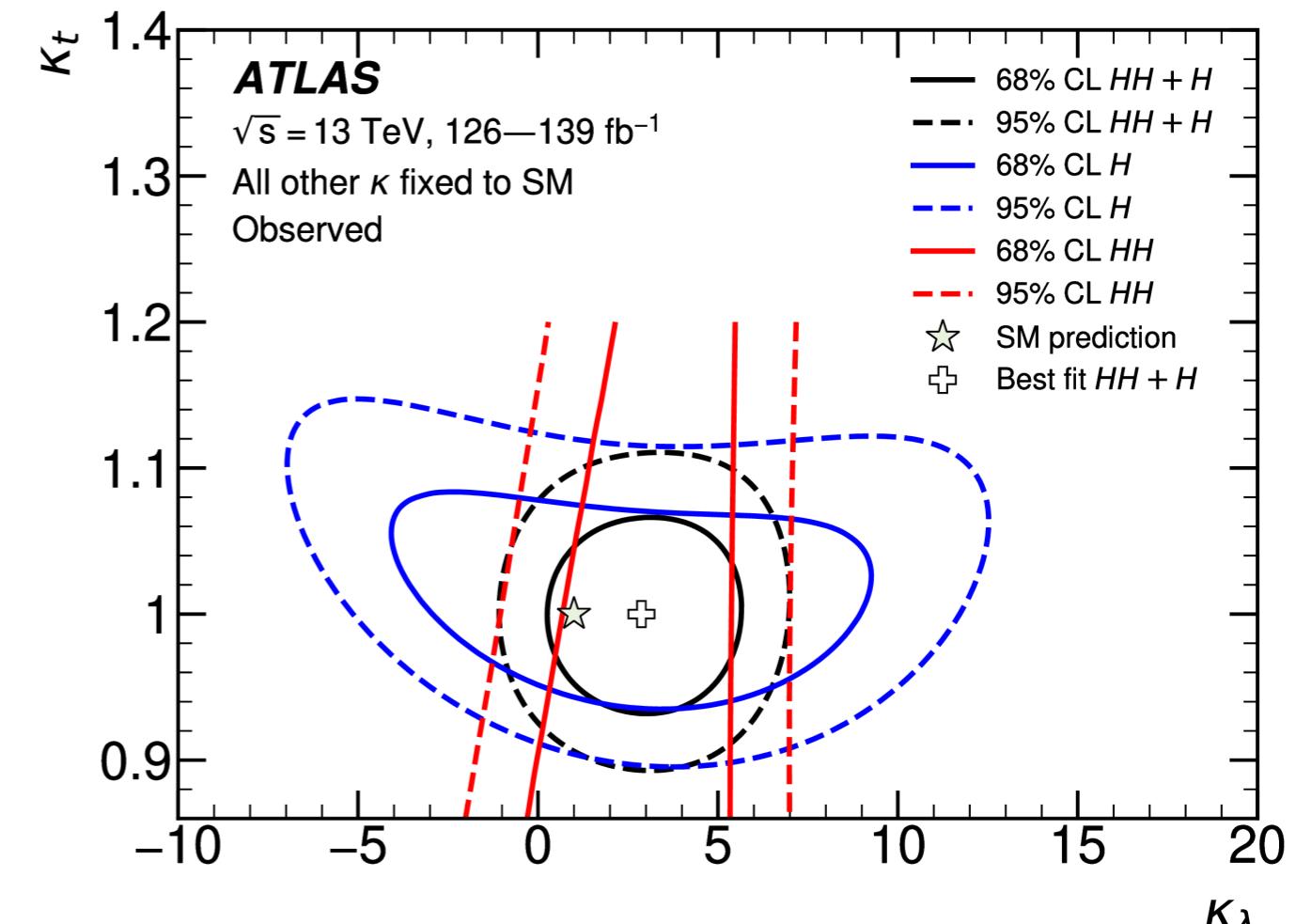
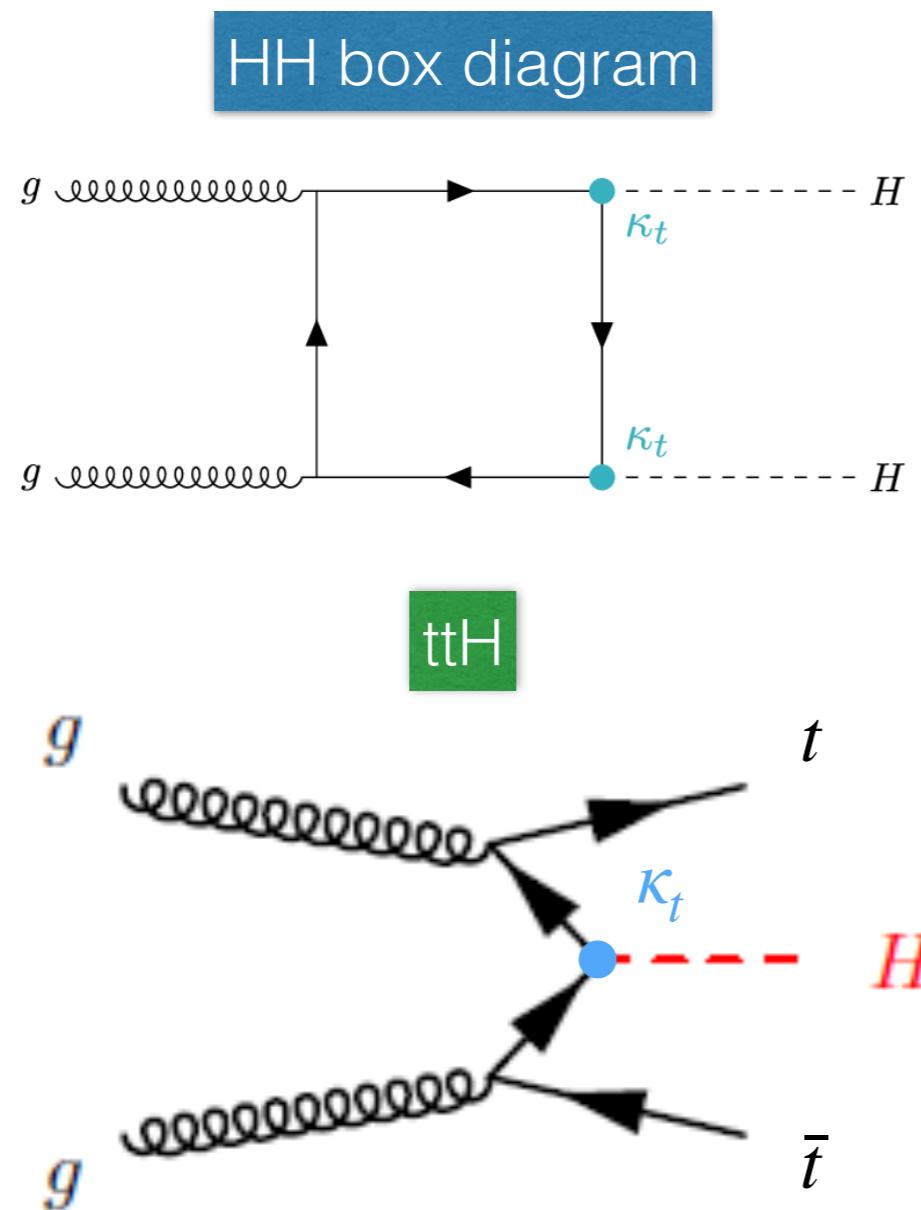




Single-Higgs constraints to κ_λ and κ_t

Results

- Combination with ttH also allow to constrain HH box-diagram effects via direct measurement of κ_t

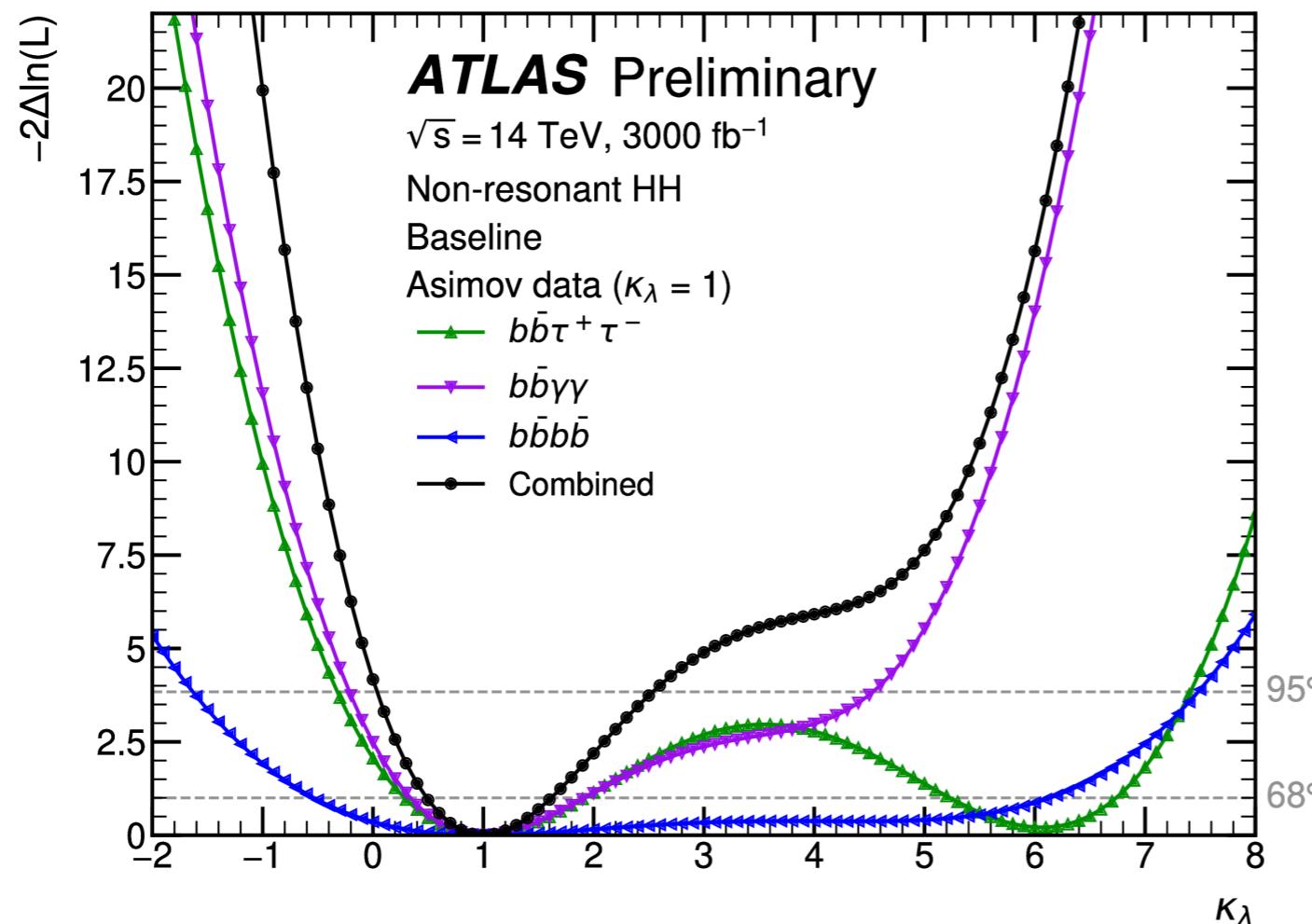




Updated projections for HL-LHC

[ATLAS-PHYS-PUB-2022-053](#)

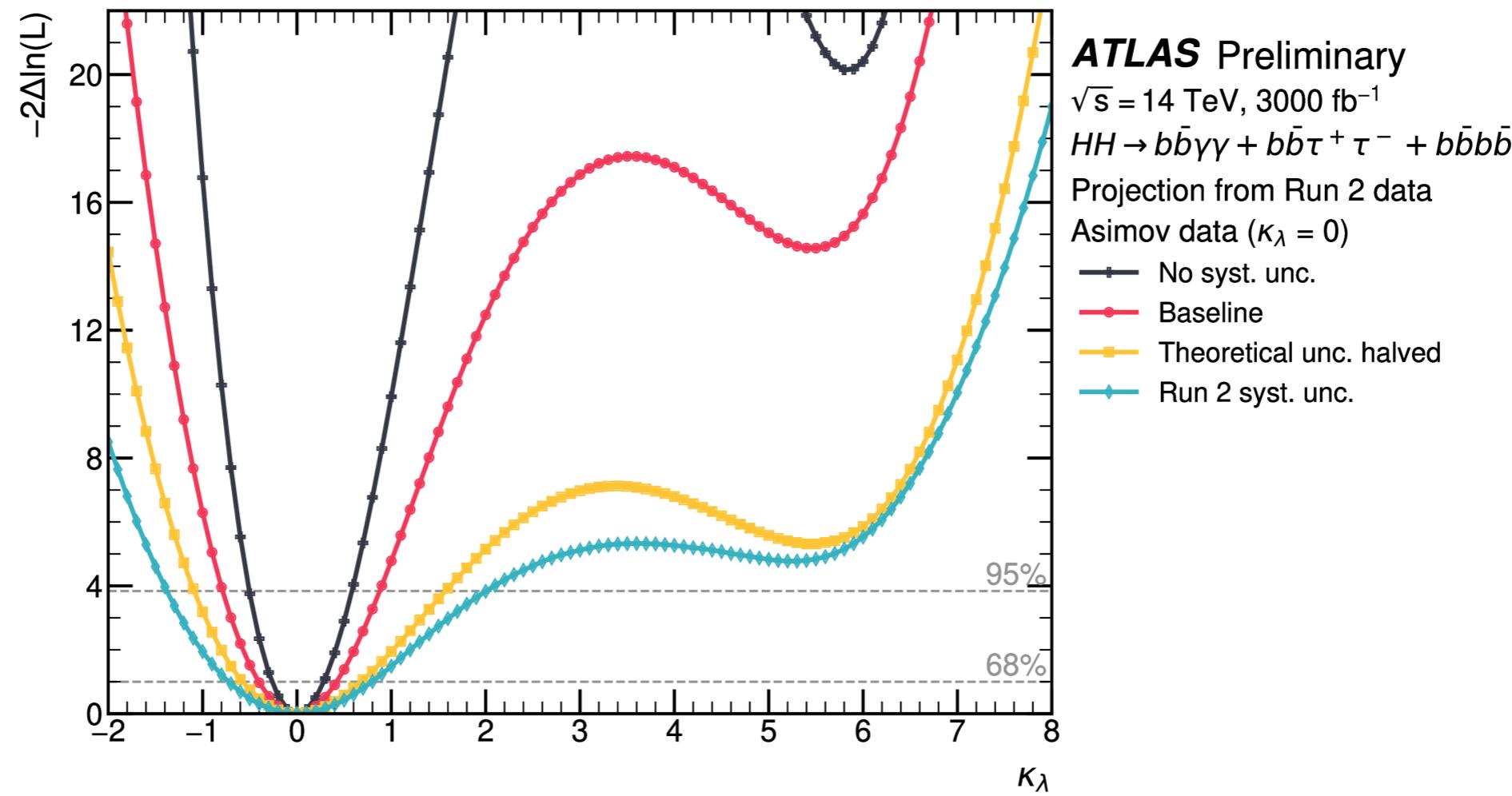
Uncertainty scenario	Significance [σ]				Combined signal strength precision [%]
	$b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$	$b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$	$b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$	Combination	
No syst. unc.	2.3	4.0	1.8	4.9	-21/+22
Baseline	2.2	2.8	0.99	3.4	-30/+33
Theoretical unc. halved	1.1	1.7	0.65	2.1	-47/+48
Run 2 syst. unc.	1.1	1.5	0.65	1.9	-53/+65



Uncertainty scenario	κ_λ 68% CI	κ_λ 95% CI
No syst. unc.	[0.7, 1.4]	[0.3, 1.9]
Baseline	[0.5, 1.6]	[0.0, 2.5]
Theoretical unc. halved	[0.3, 2.2]	[-0.3, 5.5]
Run 2 syst. unc.	[0.1, 2.4]	[-0.6, 5.6]

Updated projections for HL-LHC

[ATLAS-PHYS-PUB-2022-053](#)

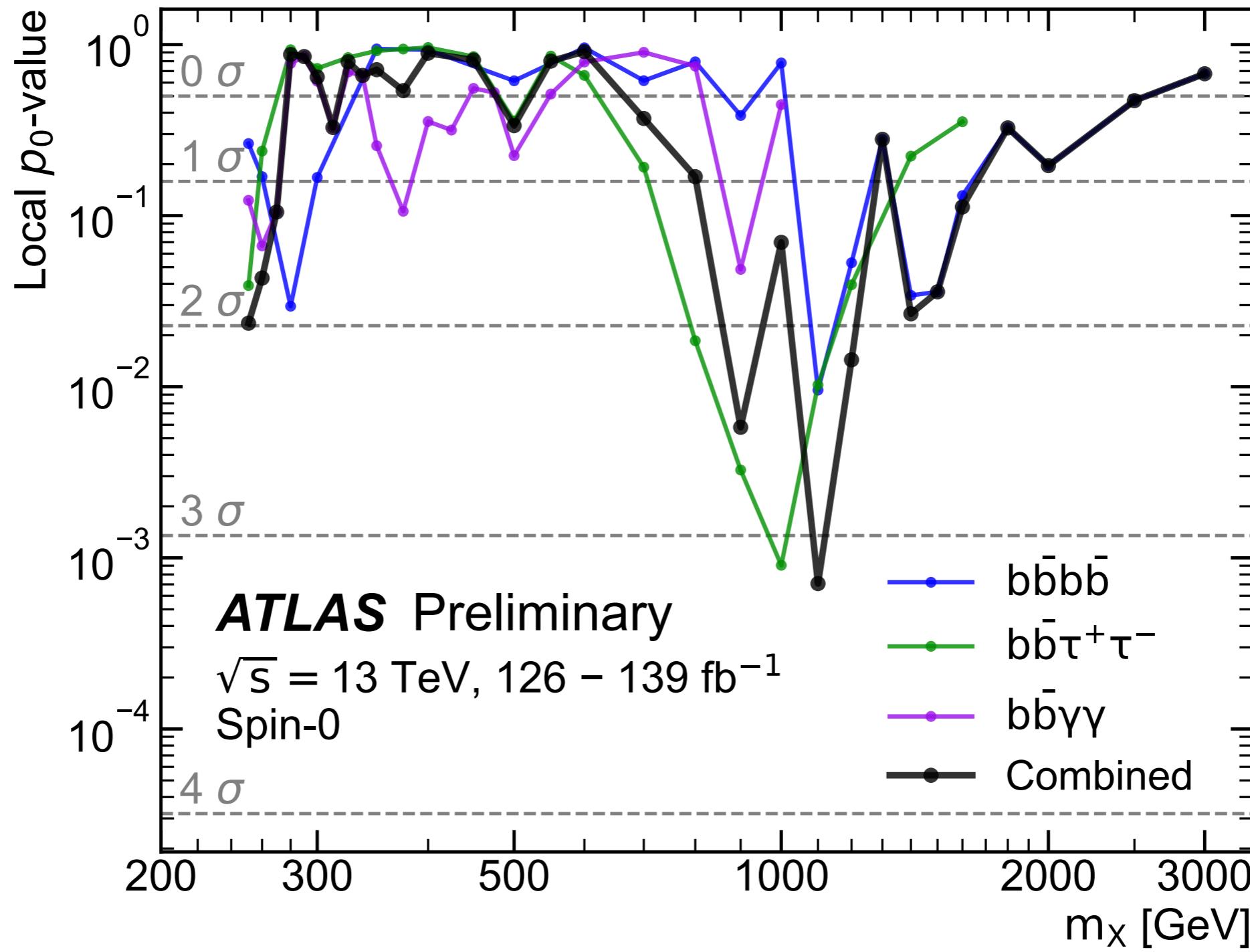


Uncertainty scenario	κ_λ 68% CI	κ_λ 95% CI
No syst. unc.	[-0.3, 0.3]	[-0.5, 0.6]
Baseline	[-0.4, 0.4]	[-0.8, 0.9]
Theoretical unc. halved	[-0.6, 0.7]	[-1.1, 1.6]
Run 2 syst. unc.	[-0.7, 0.8]	[-1.4, 2.0]



Combination p-value

Additional material (resonant)





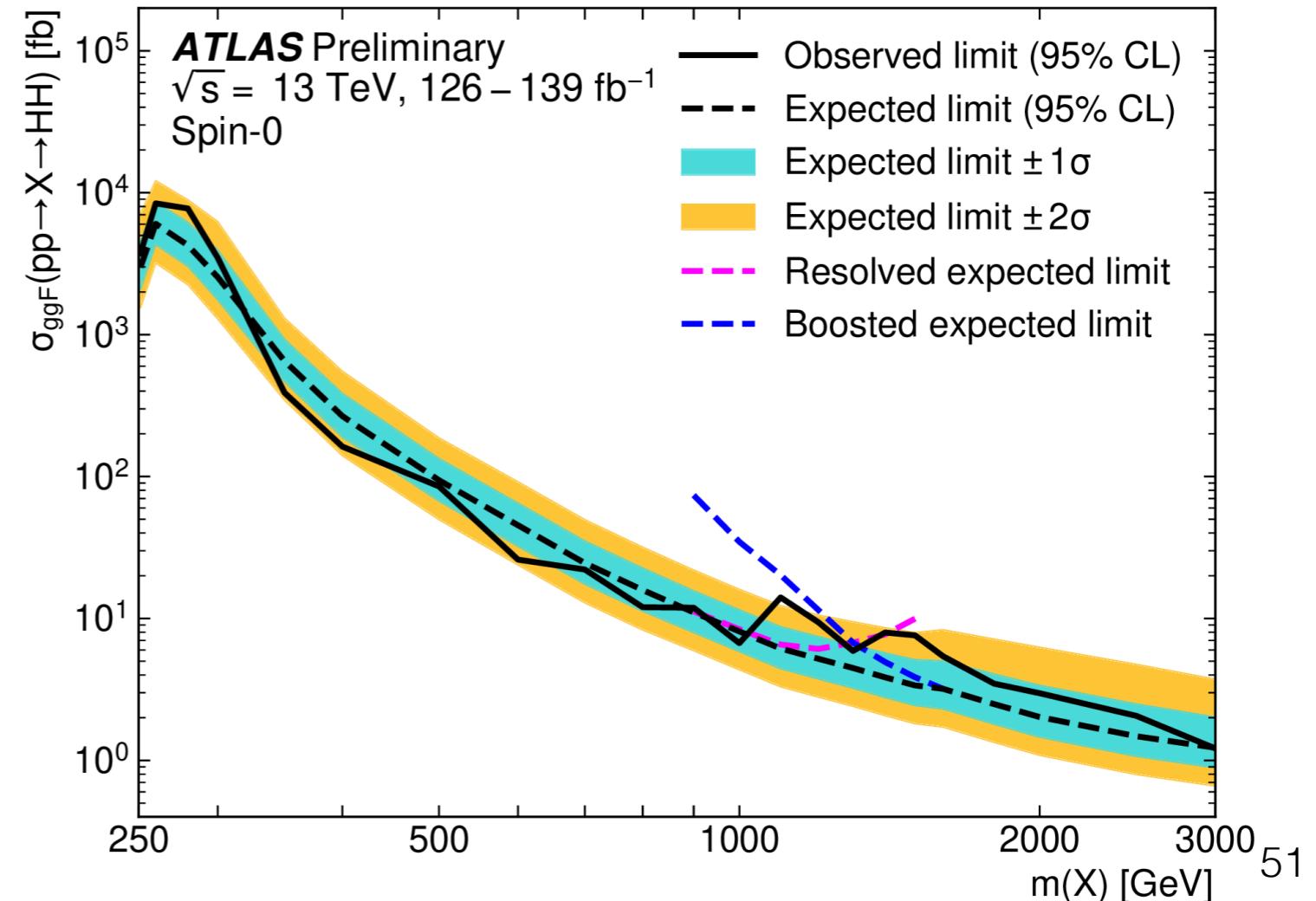
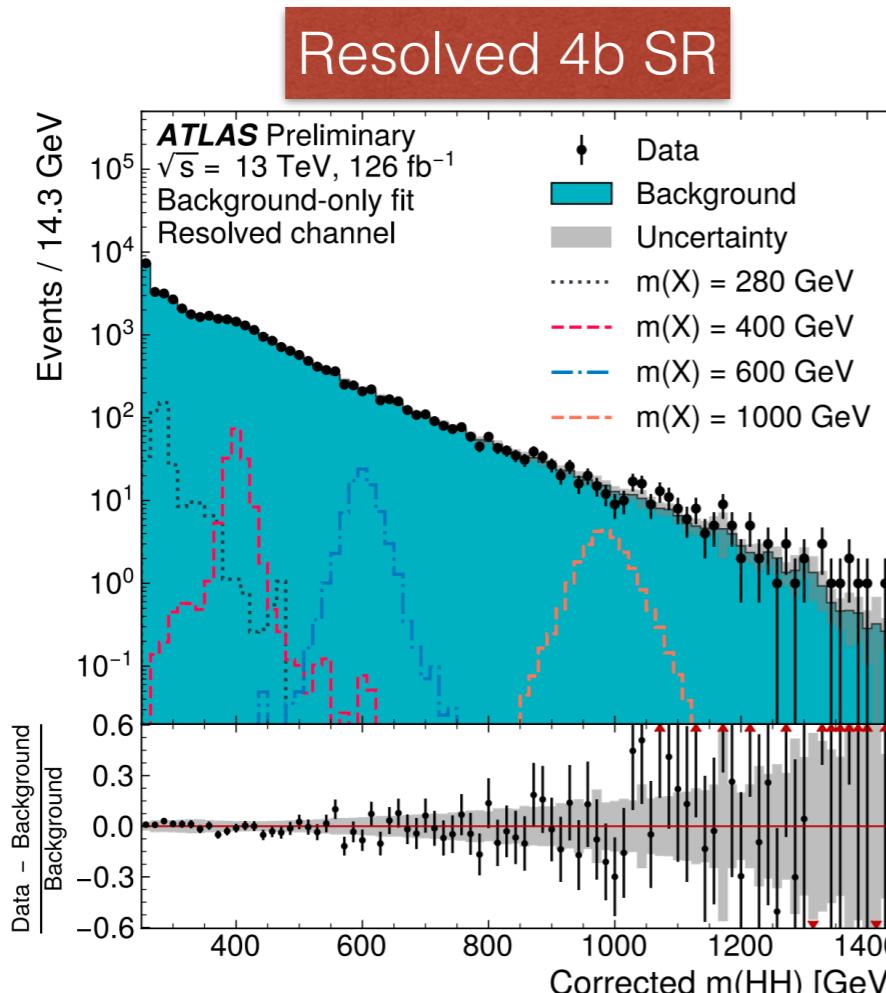
$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ analysis (1)

Results (resonant)

- Statistical combination of 2 analyses provided in the overlapping region ($900 \text{ GeV} < m_X < 1.5 \text{ TeV}$).
- **No significant excess** observed.
- **Largest excess at $m_X = 1.1 \text{ TeV}$**
- **5x improvement at high mass** with respect to [previous result](#) (36 fb^{-1}): 2x due to luminosity, the rest to better reconstruction techniques.

Local (global) significance
at 1.1 TeV

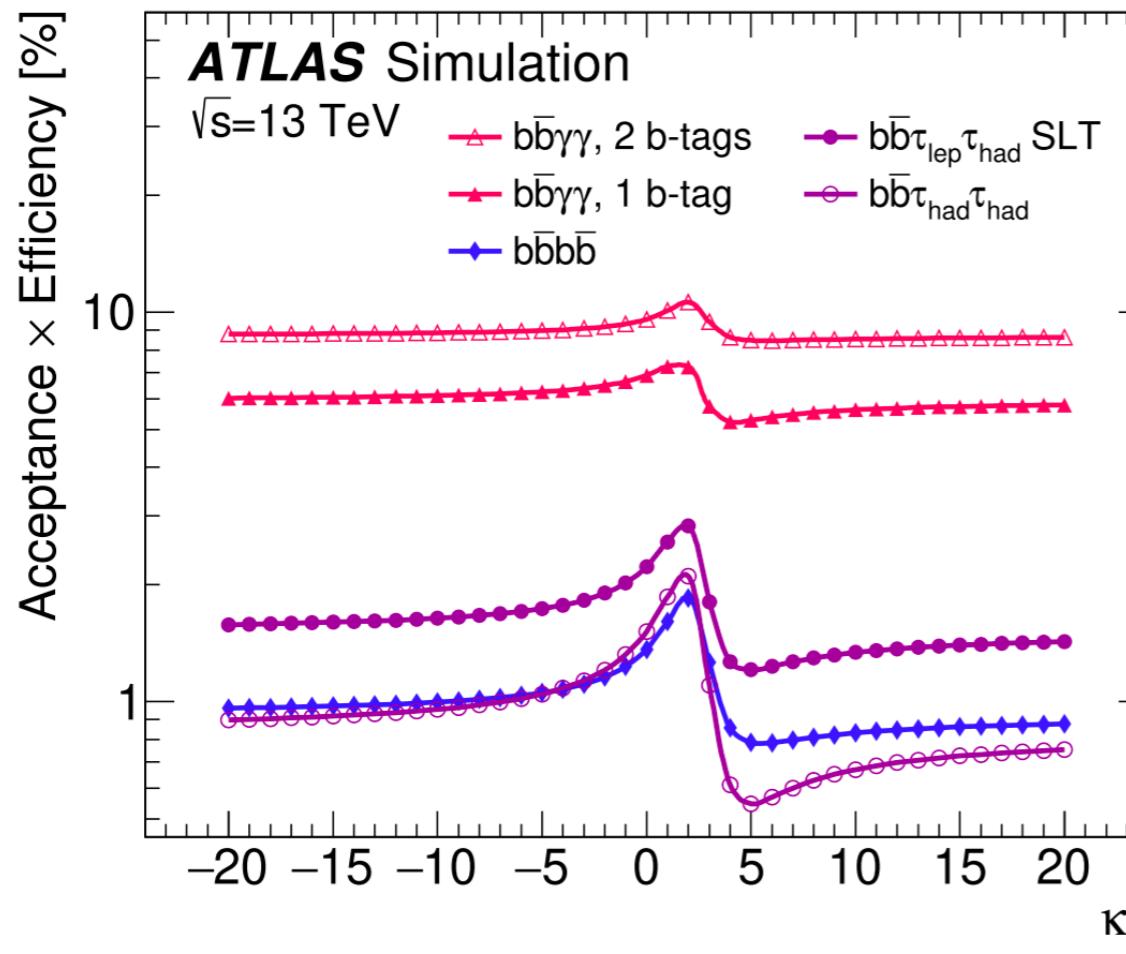
2.6σ (1.0σ)



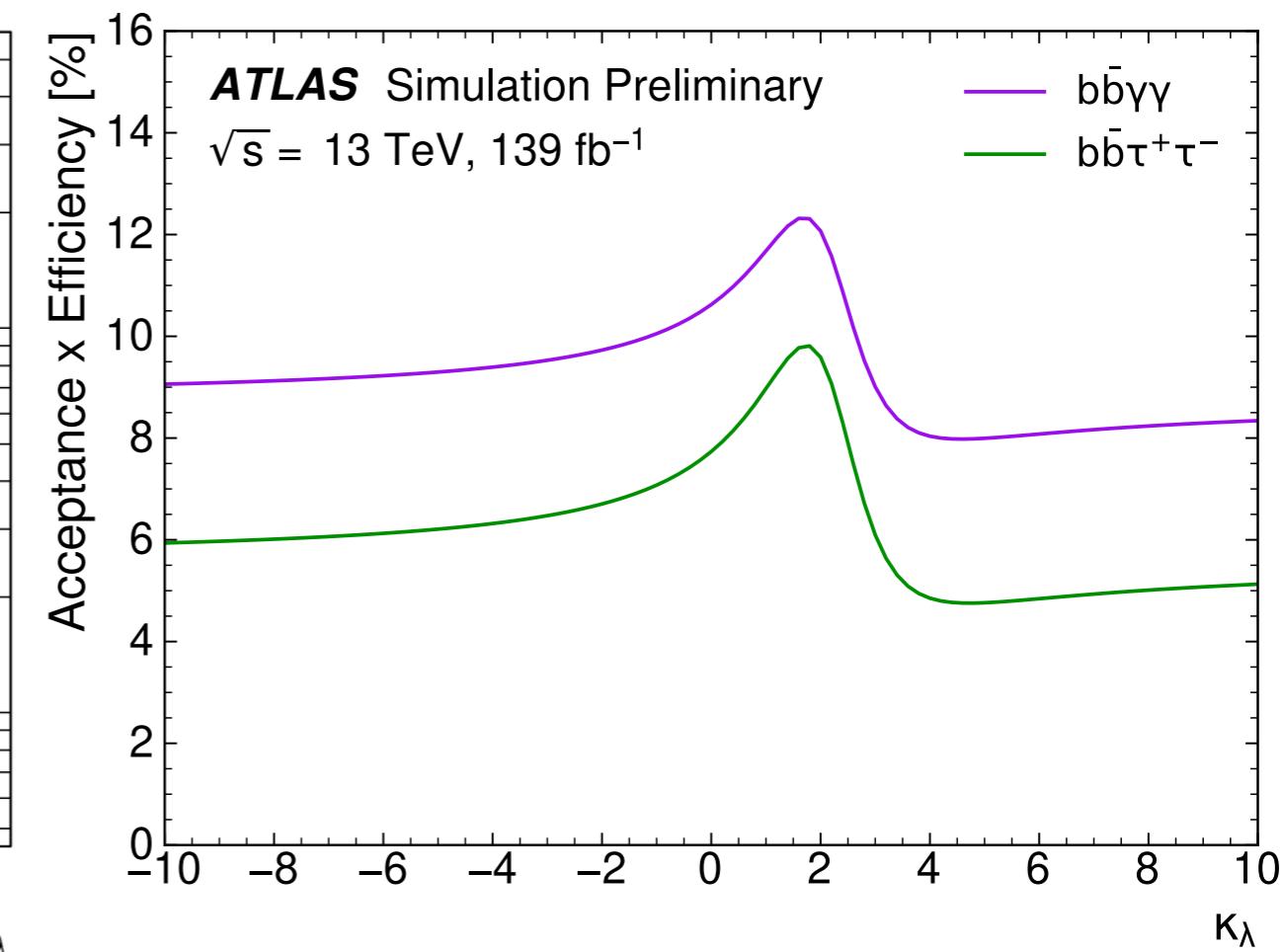


Combination acceptances vs κ_λ

Partial Run 2 combination (36 fb^{-1})



Full Run 2 combination



κ_λ constraints at future colliders

[arxiv:2209.07510](https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.07510)

collider	Indirect- h	hh	combined
HL-LHC [77]	100-200%	50%	50%
ILC ₂₅₀ /C ³ -250 [50, 51]	49%	—	49%
ILC ₅₀₀ /C ³ -550 [50, 51]	38%	20%	20%
CLIC ₃₈₀ [53]	50%	—	50%
CLIC ₁₅₀₀ [53]	49%	36%	29%
CLIC ₃₀₀₀ [53]	49%	9%	9%
FCC-ee [54]	33%	—	33%
FCC-ee (4 IPs) [54]	24%	—	24%
FCC-hh [78]	—	3.4-7.8%	3.4-7.8%
μ (3 TeV) [63]	—	15-30%	15-30%
μ (10 TeV) [63]	—	4%	4%

TABLE IX: Sensitivity at 68% probability on the Higgs cubic self-coupling at the various future colliders. Values for indirect extractions of the Higgs self-coupling from single Higgs determinations below the first line are taken from [2]. The values quoted here are combined with an independent determination of the self-coupling with uncertainty 50% from the HL-LHC.

