

Probing new physics with the Higgs-to- vector-boson coupling

Jiayi Chen

Collider Physics in the Northwest

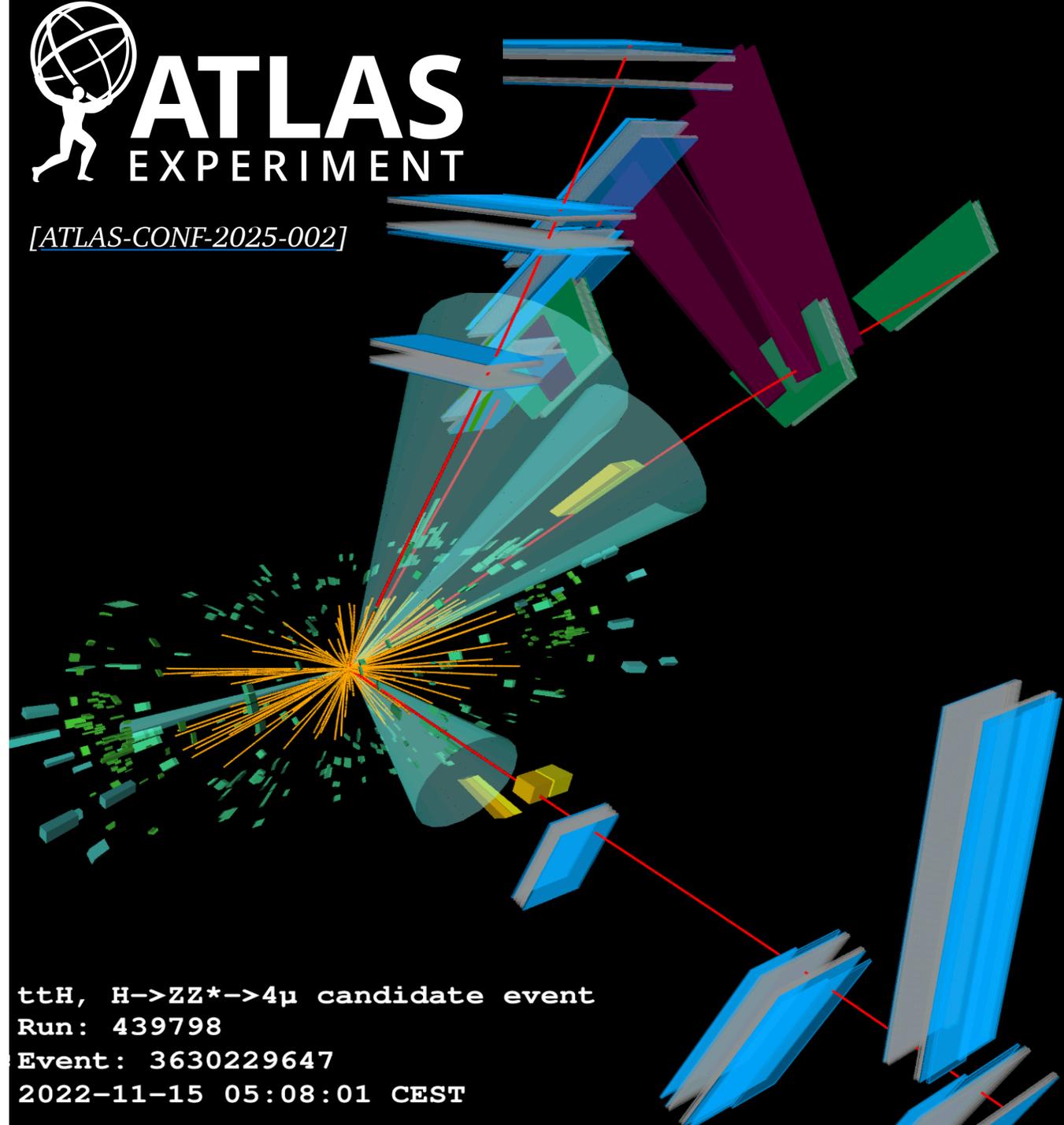
Feb 18, 2026



SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY



[ATLAS-CONF-2025-002]

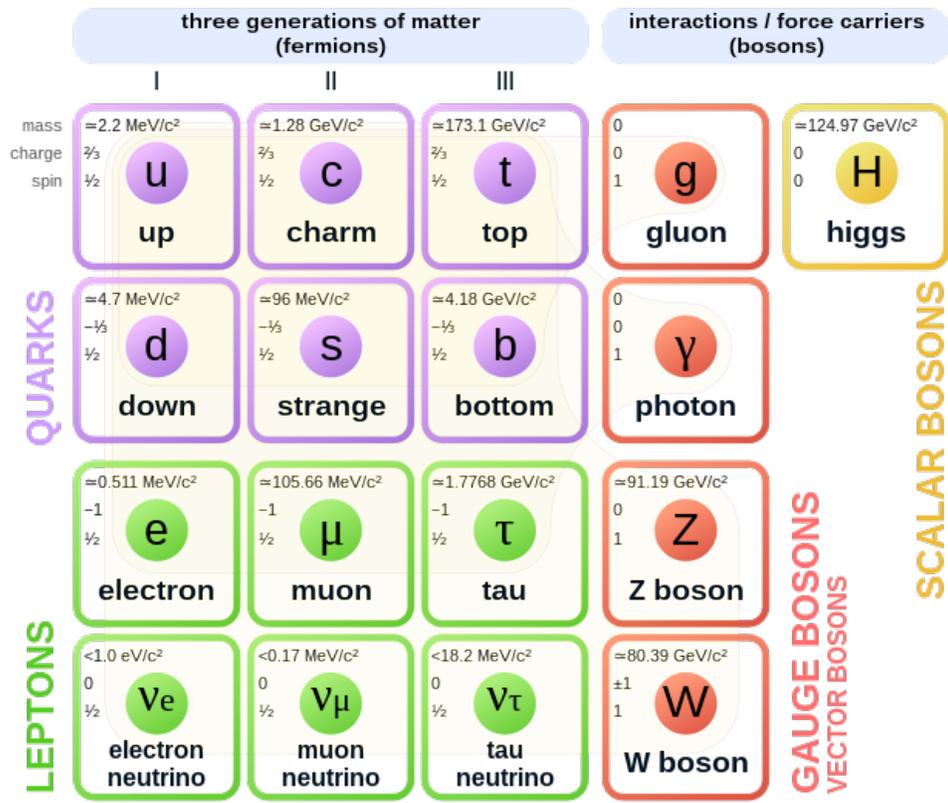


ttH, H→ZZ*→4μ candidate event
Run: 439798
Event: 3630229647
2022-11-15 05:08:01 CEST

Introduction

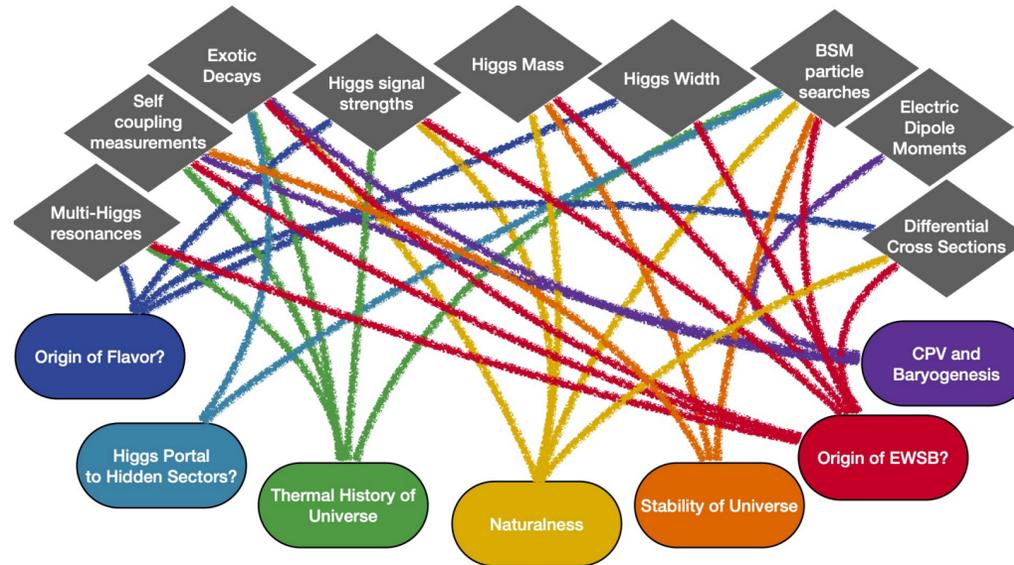
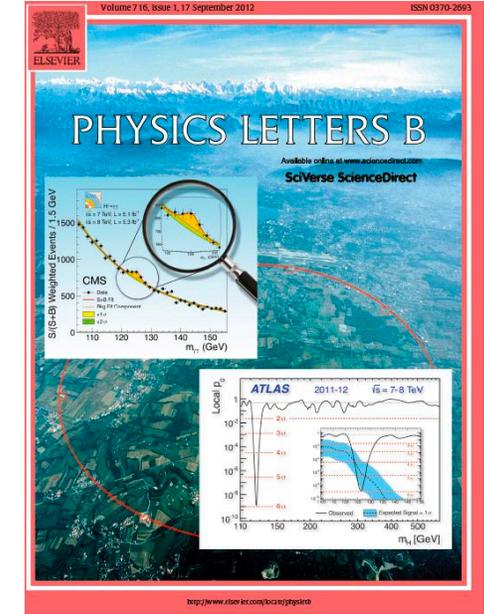
- The Standard Model (SM) is a successful model describing the past 50 years of experimental data

Standard Model of Elementary Particles



[Wikipedia contributors.](#)

- Higgs**, the last missing piece co-discovered by ATLAS and CMS collaborations in 2012 - a particle that gives mass to fermions and gauge bosons
- Many unexplained physics phenomena call for the precise determination of the Higgs boson nature



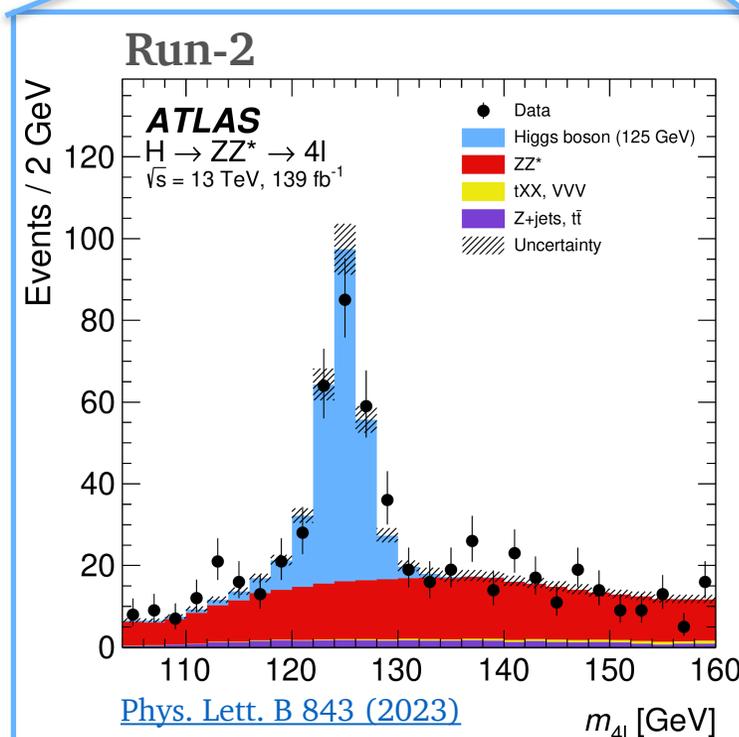
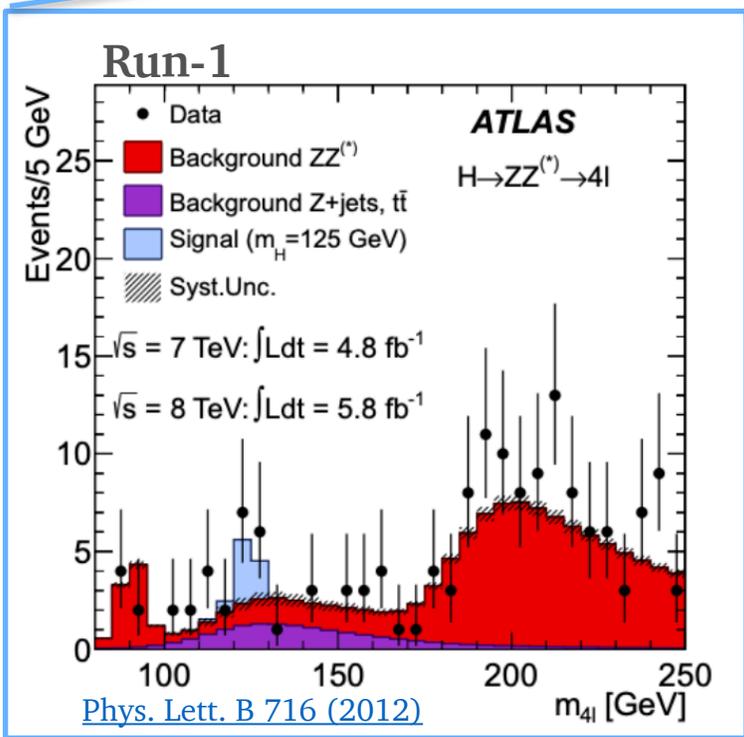
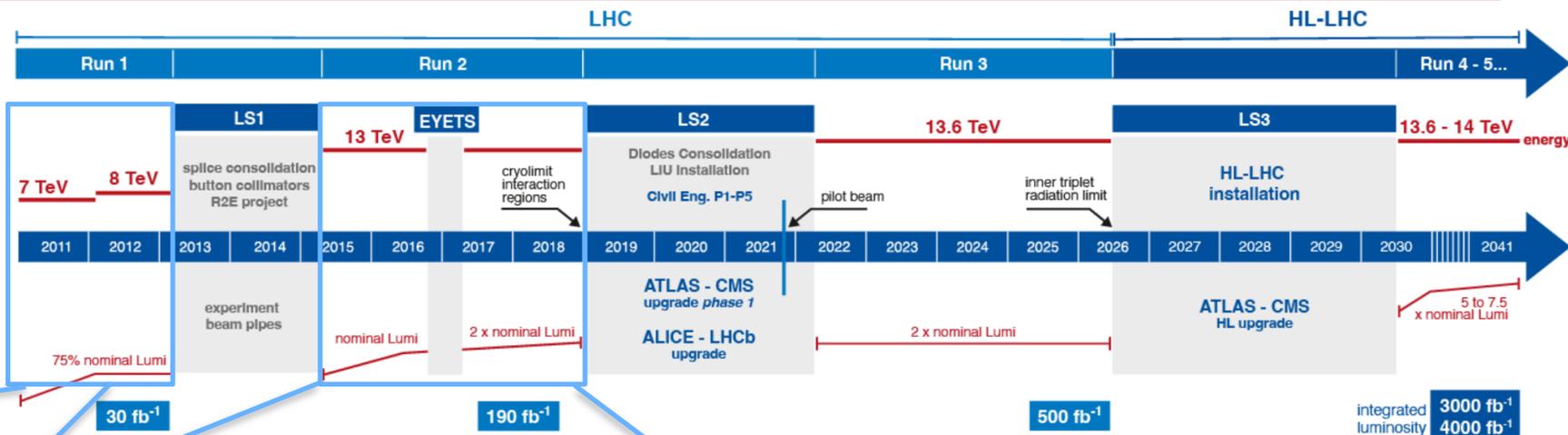
Snowmass
[[arXiv:2209.07510](https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.07510)]

Higgs measurements - past, present and future

[High Lumi LHC Project]

- During Run-2, expected amount of Higgs boson events is ~ 30 times larger than at the time of its discovery

* $1 \text{ fb}^{-1} \sim 100$ trillion pp interactions

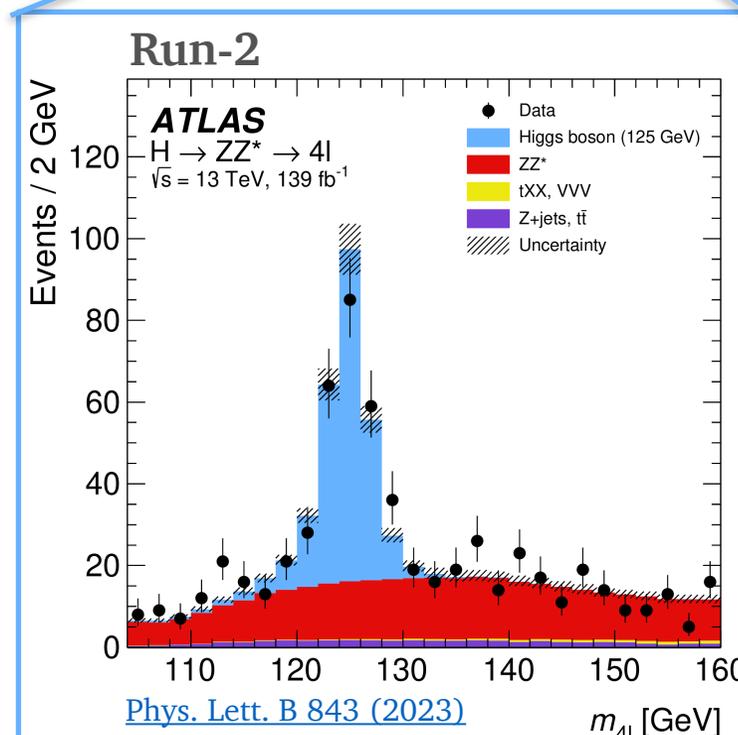
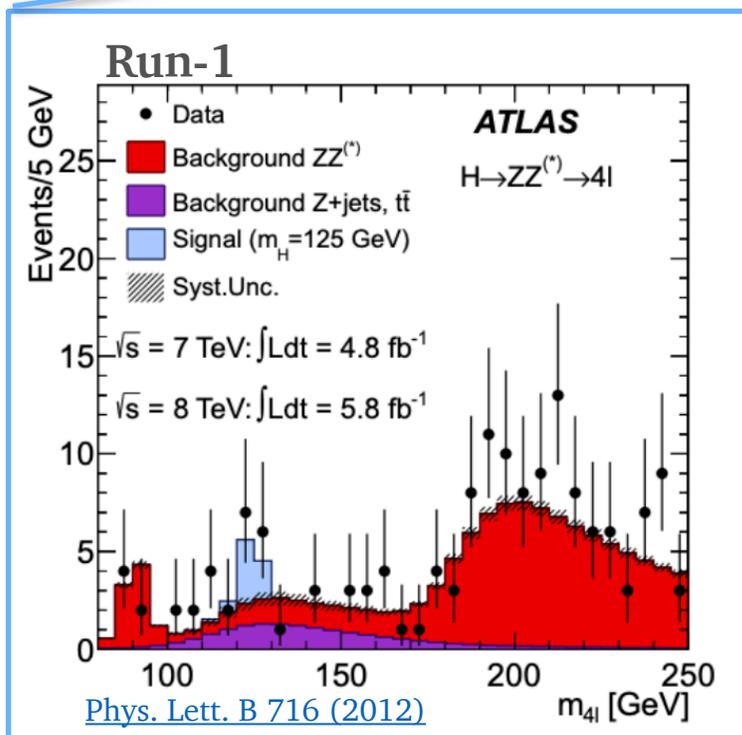
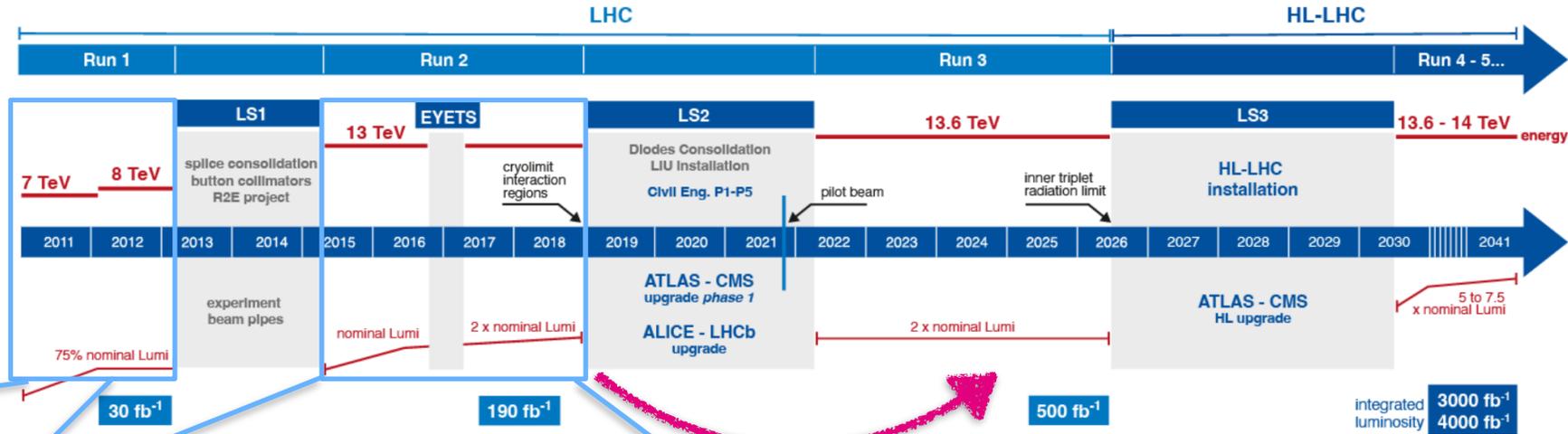


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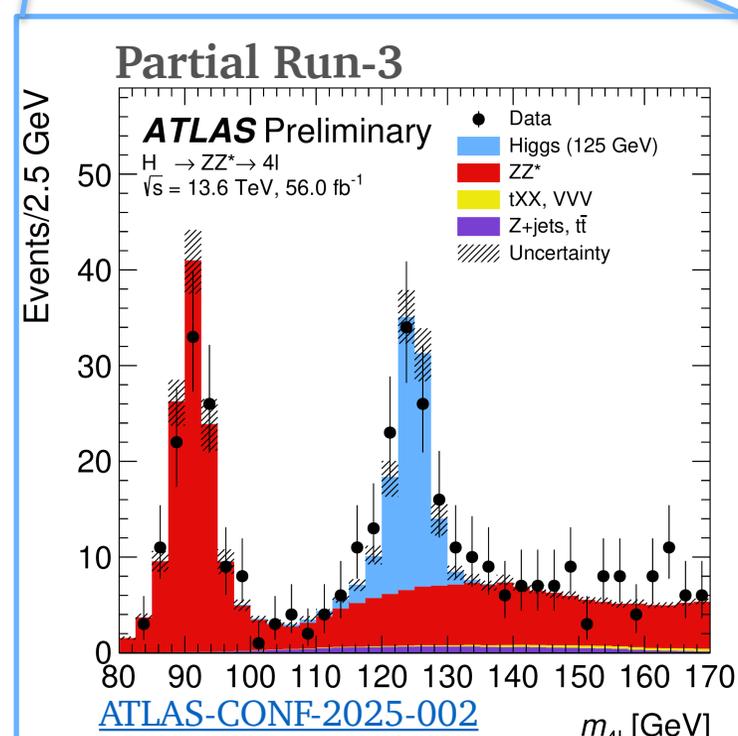
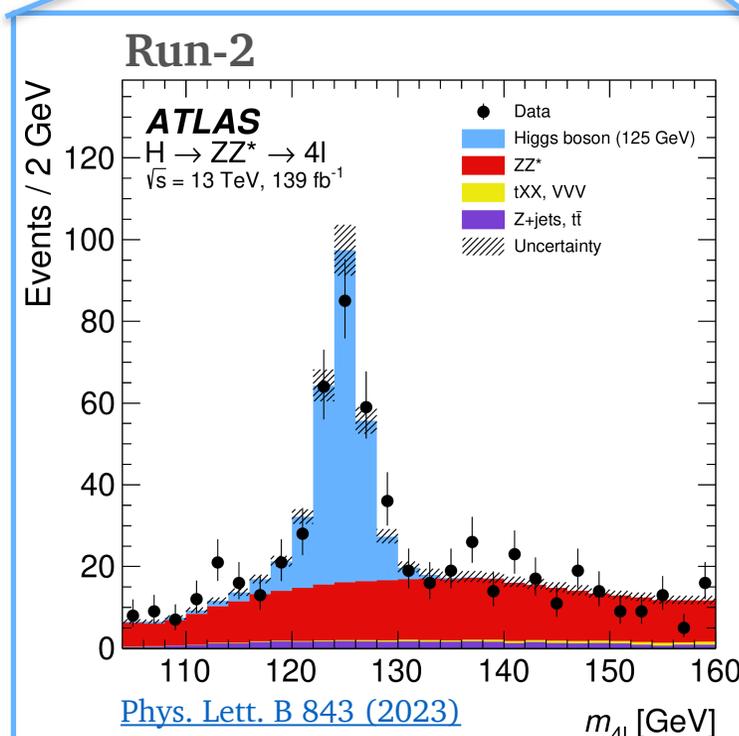
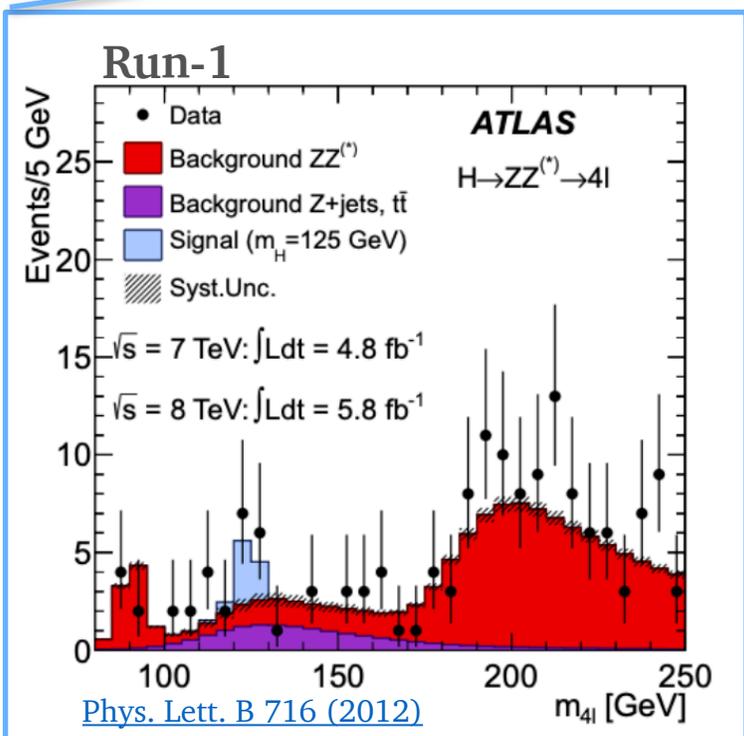
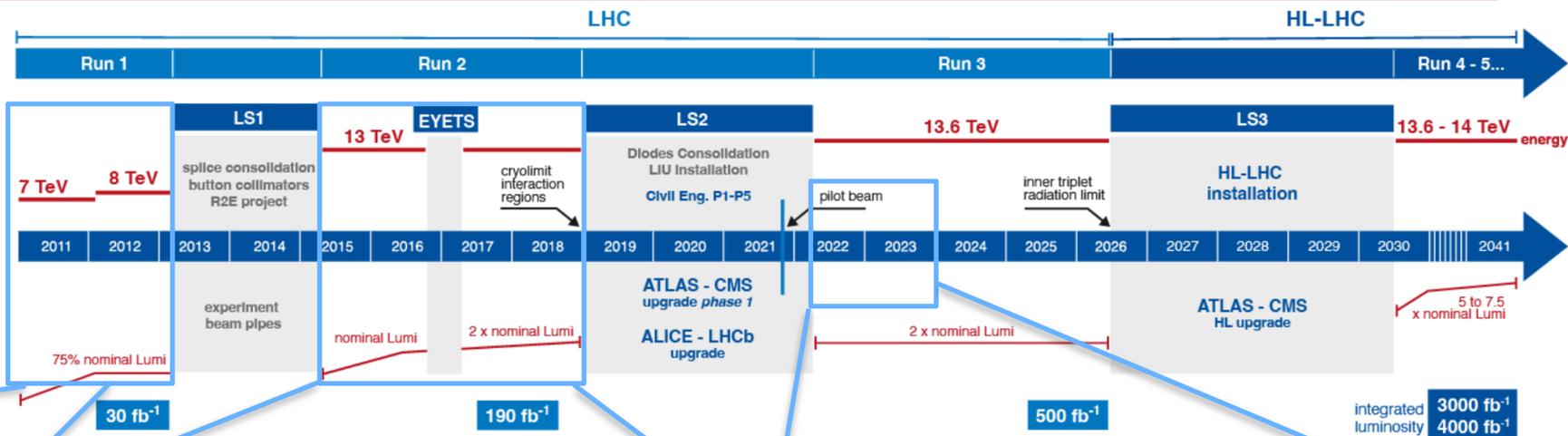


Many channel published re-analysis with improved technique and strategy using the same Run-2 dataset

Higgs measurements - past, present and future

[High Lumi LHC Project]

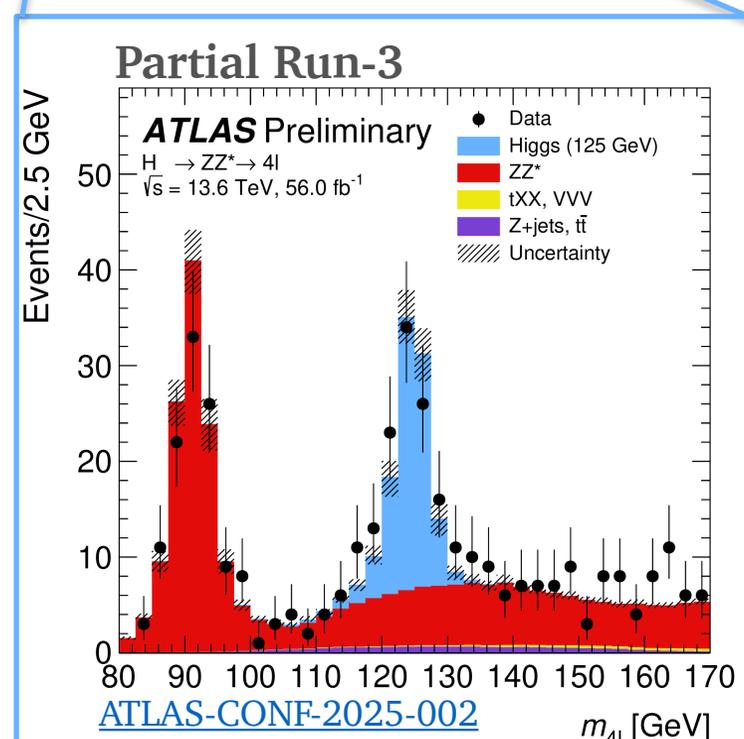
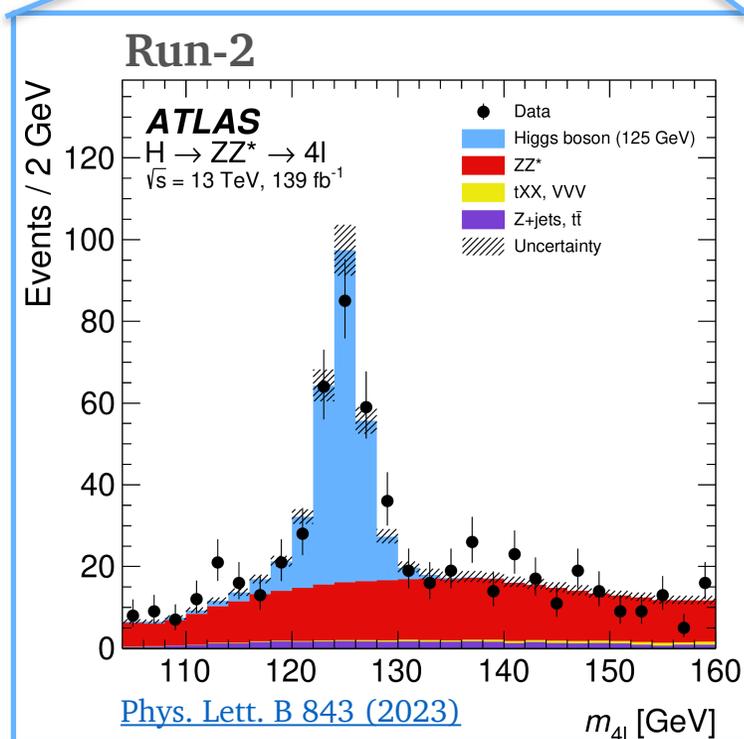
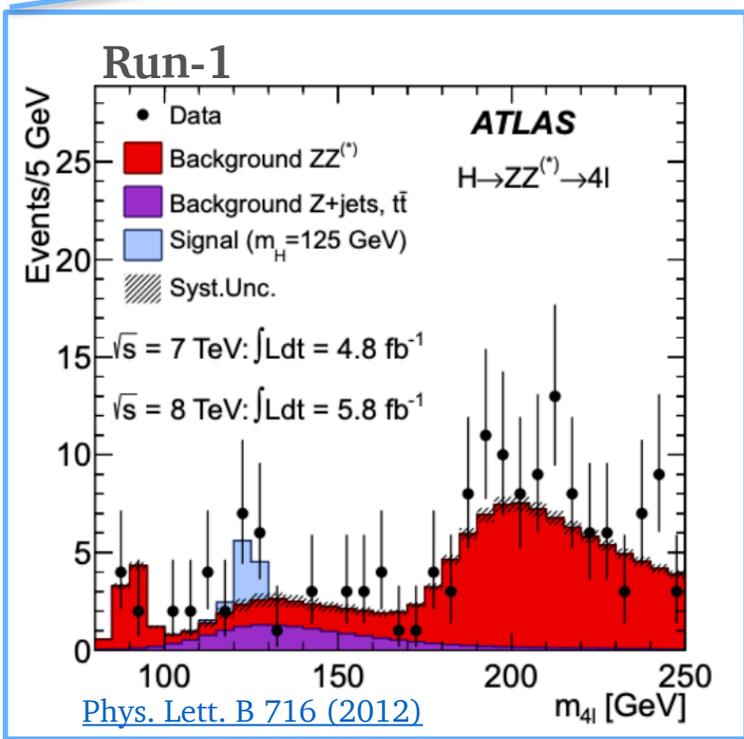
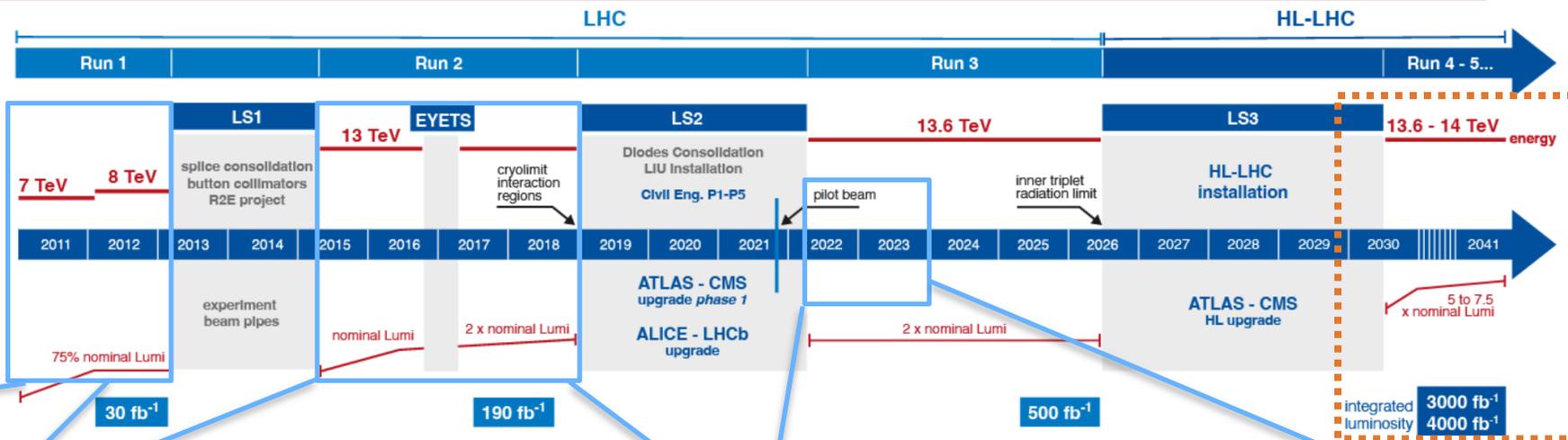
- During Run-2, expected amount of Higgs boson events is ~ 30 times larger than at the time of its discovery
- Partial Run-3 analysis are reported



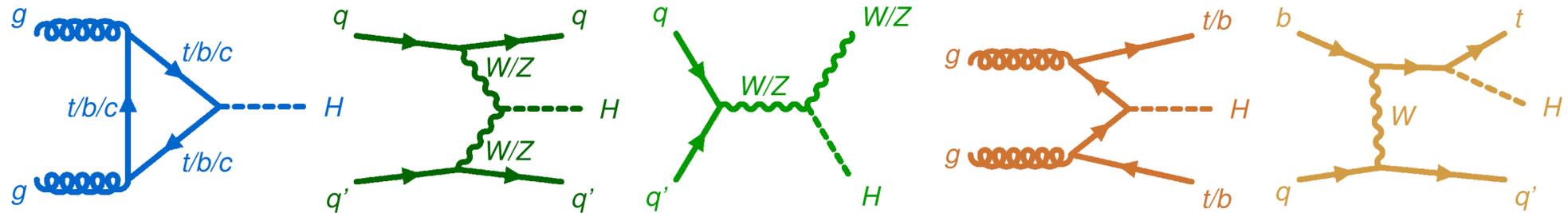
Higgs measurements - past, present and future

[High Lumi LHC Project]

- During Run-2, expected amount of Higgs boson events is ~ 30 times larger than at the time of its discovery
- Partial Run-3 analysis are reported
- HL-LHC increment the data statistics by 10 folds



- Experimental data further verified this 125 GeV particle follows the predicted production and decay mechanism



Dominant production modes (at 13 TeV center-of-mass energy):

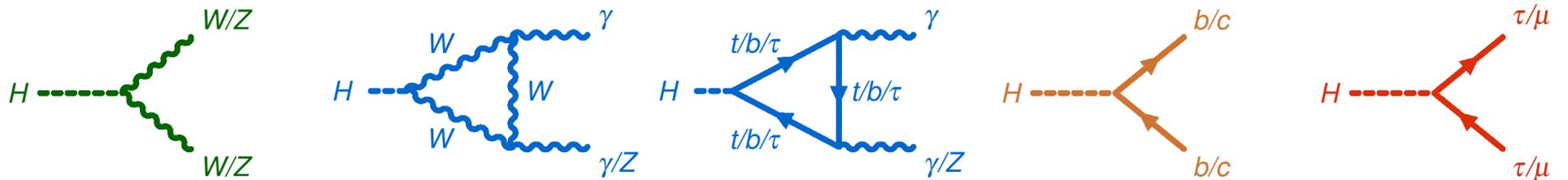
gluon-gluon fusion (ggF): 87%

vector boson fusion (VBF): 7%

in-association with weak boson (VH): 4%

in-association with t/b-quark pair (tH): 1%

in-association with single top (tH): 0.05%



Decay channels branching ratio at $m_H = 125$ GeV:

$H \rightarrow WW: 22\%$
 $H \rightarrow ZZ: 3\%$

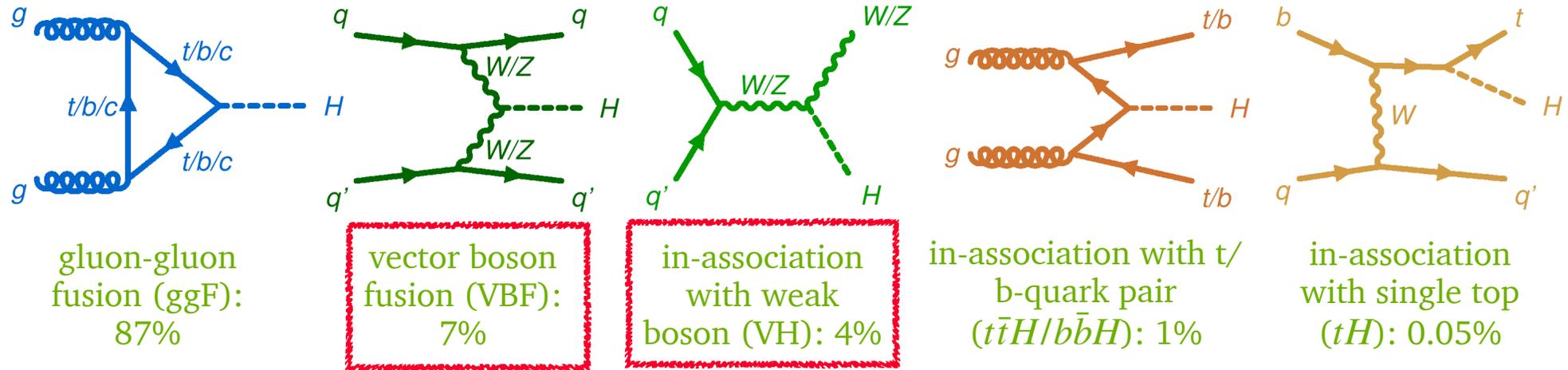
$H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma: 0.2\%$
 $H \rightarrow Z\gamma: 0.2\%$

$H \rightarrow bb: 58\%$
 $H \rightarrow cc: 3\%$

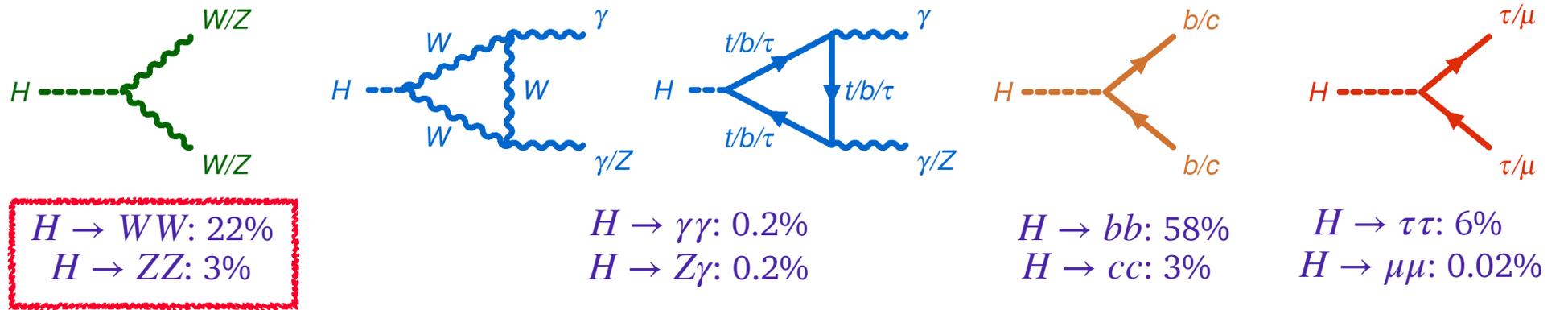
$H \rightarrow \tau\tau: 6\%$
 $H \rightarrow \mu\mu: 0.02\%$

This talk has particular focus to H-V coupling vertices

- Experimental data further verified this 125 GeV particle follows the predicted production and decay mechanism



Dominant production modes (at 13 TeV center-of-mass energy):



Decay channels branching ratio at $m_H = 125$ GeV:

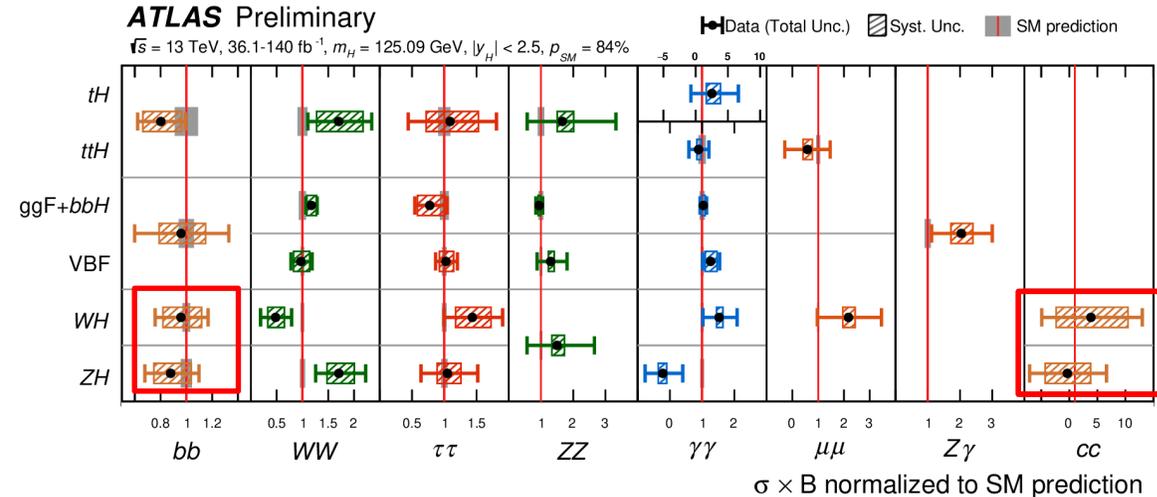
This talk has particular focus to H-V coupling vertices

- Latest combination reported 10% improvement in single Higgs signal strength compared to the “10th year anniversary” Nature paper:

$$\mu = 1.023^{+0.056}_{-0.053} = 1.023 \pm 0.028 \text{ (stat.) }^{+0.026}_{-0.025} \text{ (exp.) }^{+0.039}_{-0.036} \text{ (sig. theo.) } \pm 0.012 \text{ (bkg. theo.)}$$

Analysis	Prod. modes	\mathcal{L} (fb ⁻¹)	STXS stage	Improvements relative to Ref.
$H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$	All	140	1.2	-
$H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$	ggF,VBF	140	0	Reanalysis
$H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$	VH	140	1.2	Full Run 2
$H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	All	140	1.2	-
$H \rightarrow Z\gamma$	All	140	0	-
$H \rightarrow \tau\tau$	All	140	1.2	Reanalysis
$H \rightarrow \tau\tau$	VH	140	0	New analysis
$H \rightarrow \mu\mu$	All	140	0	-
$H \rightarrow bb$	VBF	126	1.2	-
$H \rightarrow bb, cc$	VH	140	1.2	Reanalysis
$H \rightarrow \text{multileptons}$	ttH	36.1	0	-
$H \rightarrow bb$	ttH	140	1.2	Reanalysis

29 simultaneous measured cross-section times branching ratios

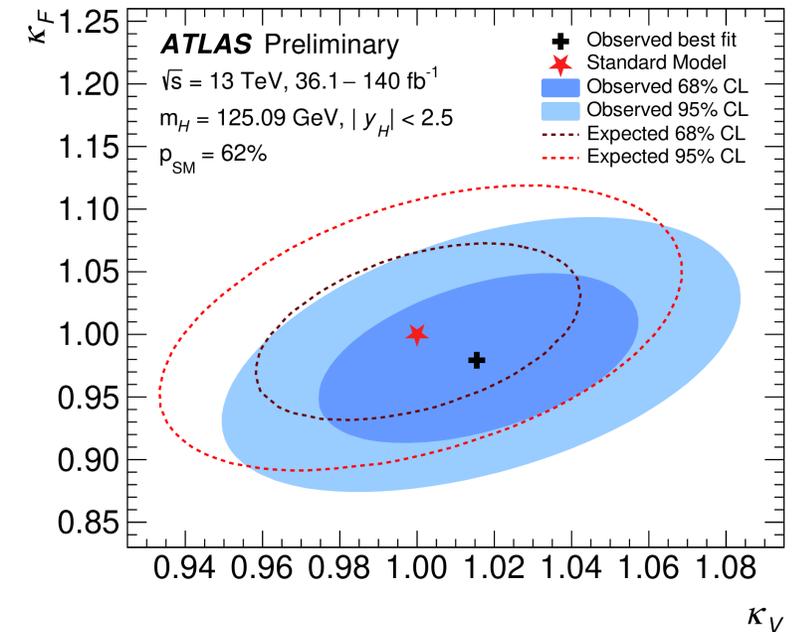
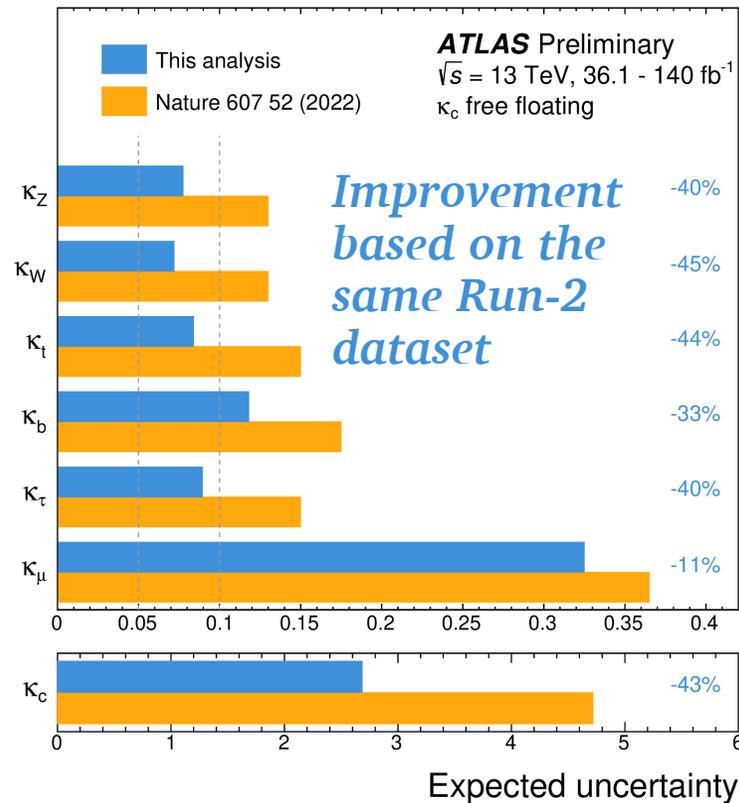
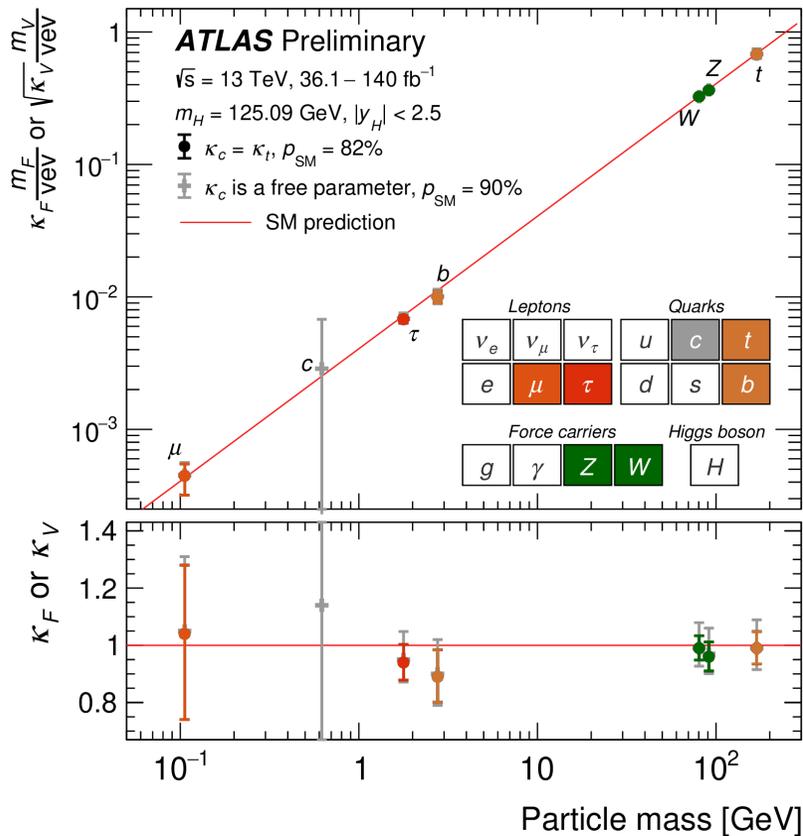


- Measurement also split by 5 production cross-sections, or 7 branching ratios
 - WH (ZH) sensitivity improved by 30% (20%) thanks to updated **VH bb/cc analysis**
 - Uncertainties on $H \rightarrow WW^*$ and $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ branching ratios reduced by 20% and 10% respectively, thanks to improved analysis strategies

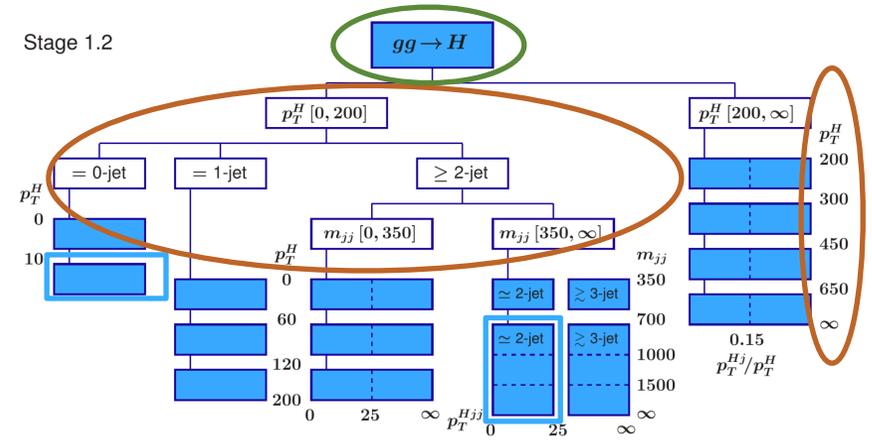
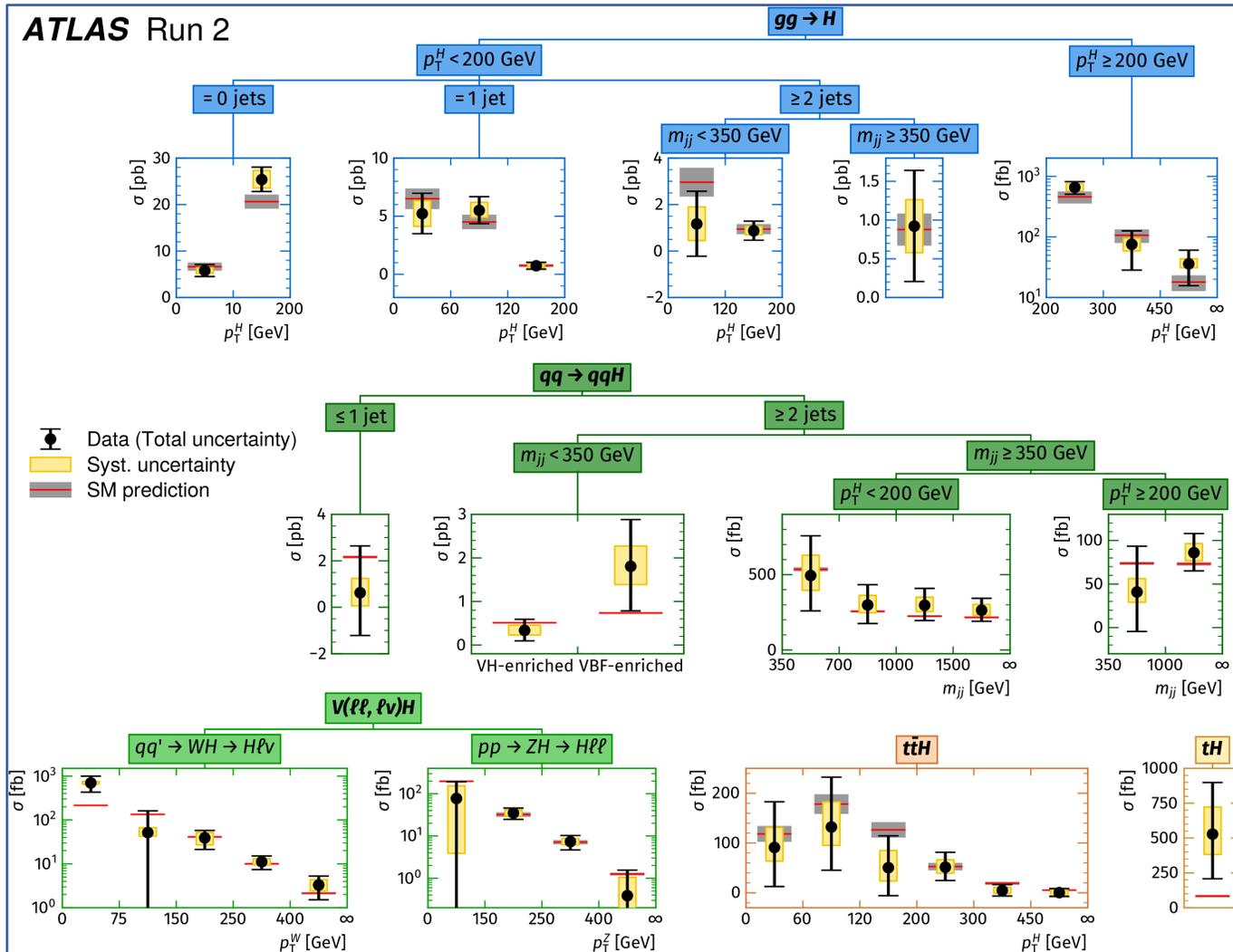
- The **κ -framework** introduces coupling modifiers for the Higgs coupling with the fermions (κ_f) and bosons (κ_V)

$$\sigma \cdot \mathcal{B}(i \rightarrow H \rightarrow f) = \kappa_i^2 \cdot \kappa_f^2 \cdot \sigma_i^{\text{SM}} \cdot \frac{\Gamma_f^{\text{SM}}}{\Gamma_H(\kappa_i^2, \kappa_f^2)}$$

$$\kappa_i^2 = \frac{\sigma_i}{\sigma_i^{\text{SM}}} \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa_f^2 = \frac{\Gamma_f}{\Gamma_f^{\text{SM}}}$$



- STXS *bin* defined by *production mode* and *kinematic selections*

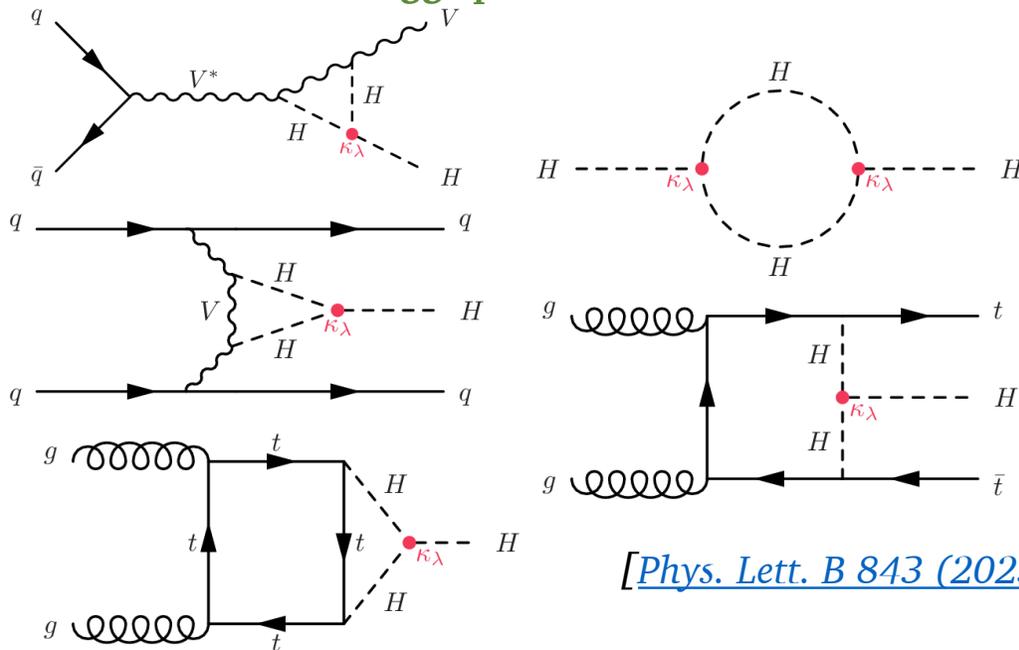


- The STXS binning minimize measurement dependency on theory predictions
- STXS also maximize BSM sensitivity
- Run2 measurements are designed around Stage1.2 of the STXS
- Run3 with planned Stage1.3 and HL-LHC with Stage2.0

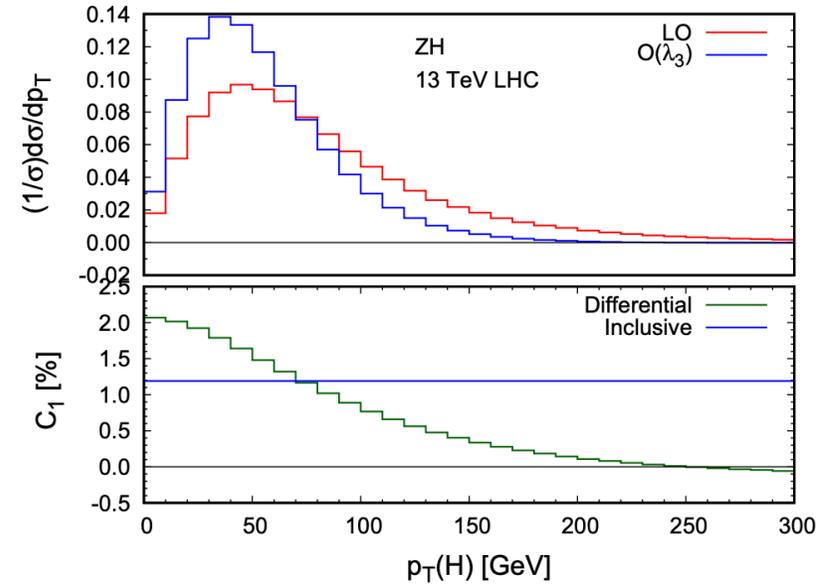
Single-Higgs helping to constrain Higgs self-coupling

- Higgs self-coupling (coupling modifier κ_λ) can be probed not only directly via di-Higgs production but also indirectly via **NLO EW corrections on single-Higgs**
- Low p_T^V of ZH STXS bins are particularly sensitive to κ_λ
 - Addition of $VH HWW$ will provide more sensitivity (not in Nature paper)

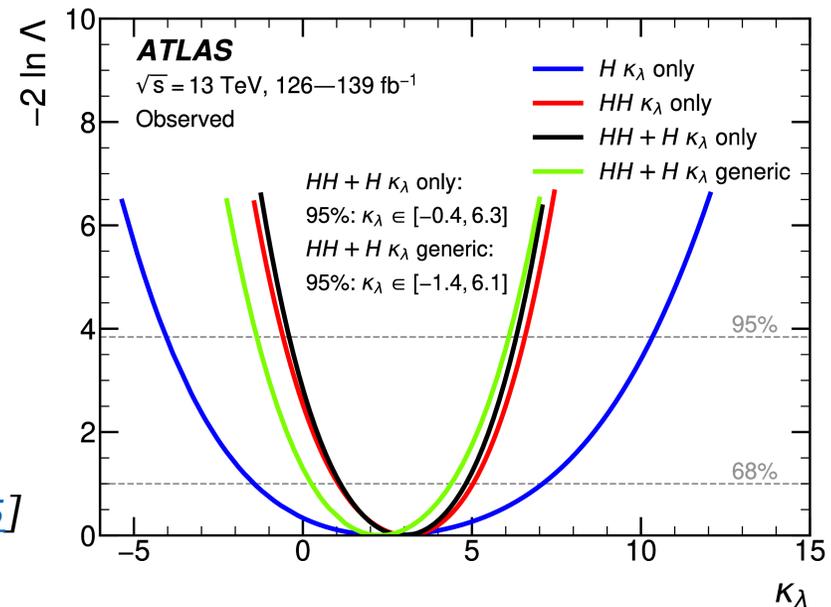
One-loop κ_λ dependent diagrams of single-Higgs production



[Phys. Lett. B 843 (2023) 137745]

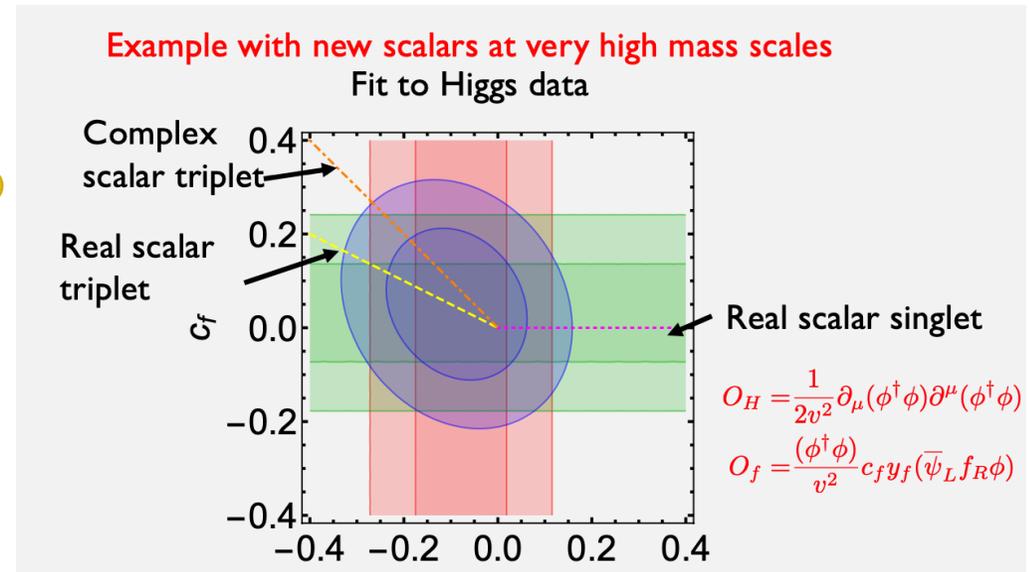
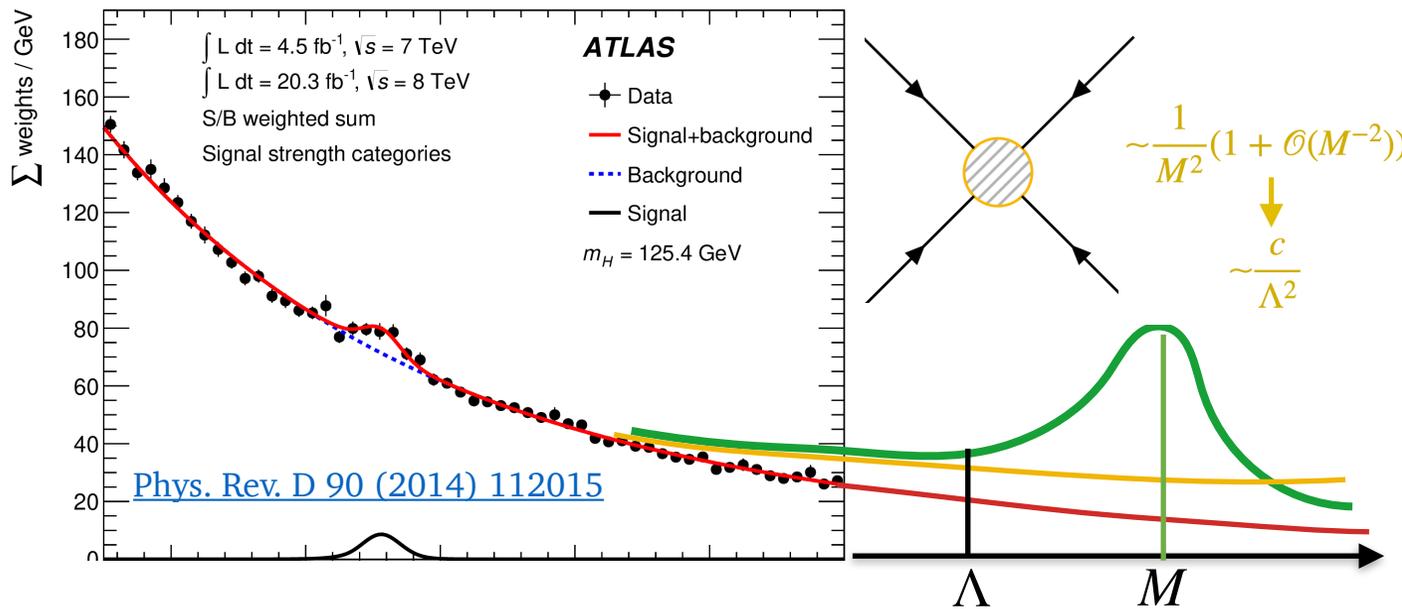


[Eur. Phys. J. C 77, 887 (2017)]



Effective Field Theory framework

- The **SM** with no new resonance
- **Complete BSM** theory with new resonance with mass M
- The **effective theory** “integrates out” the heavy new particle field; equivalently describes the phenomena below cut-off scale Λ
- Precision measurement of the Higgs helps to narrow the window of new physics (constrain the Wilson coefficients c)
- One can “translate” EFT constraint to specific new physics model



Slide credit: Sally Dawson; paper:
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.07851>

Standard Model EFT framework

- Expand SM Lagrangian with higher dimensional operators (assuming conservation laws, such as baryon/lepton number) using SM gauge fields - SM-EFT framework

Dimensional-6 operators

$$|\mathcal{M}_{\text{SMEFT}}|^2 = |\mathcal{M}_{\text{SM}}|^2 + 2 \sum_i \frac{c_i}{\Lambda^2} \text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_{\text{SM}}^* \mathcal{M}_i) + \sum_{i,j} \frac{c_i c_j}{\Lambda^4} \text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_i^* \mathcal{M}_j)$$

SM contribution

Interference between SM and EFT operators (linear)

Pure BSM from square of individual EFT operators or cross-terms of different operators (quadratic)

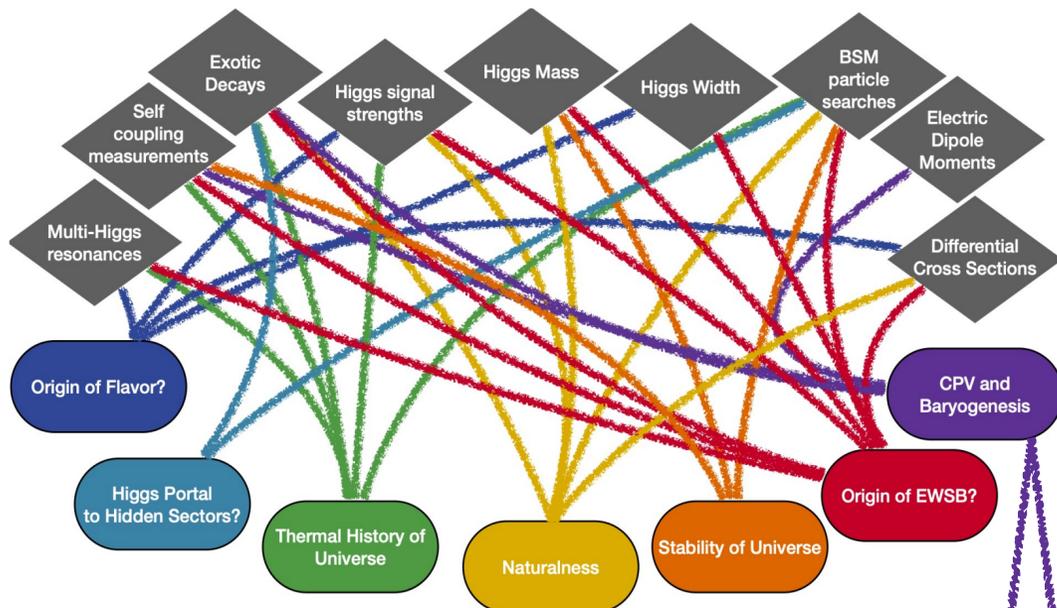
- Anomalous (CP-conserving) couplings of the H - V vertices in the Warsaw basis:

Wilson coefficient	Operator	Effect or affected diagram
c_{HB}	$H^\dagger H B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}$	
c_{HW}	$H^\dagger H W_{\mu\nu}^I W^{I\mu\nu}$	
c_{HWB}	$H^\dagger \tau^I H W_{\mu\nu}^I B^{\mu\nu}$	

Modification of SM vertices

Insertion of BSM vertices

Zoom in on the Higgs charge-parity property



- CP property studied in 5 different decay channels using the Run-2 ATLAS dataset under the SMEFT framework
- This talk will highlight techniques for $H \rightarrow WW^*$, $WH H \rightarrow bb$, and $H \rightarrow ZZ^*$

• Key ingredient to forbid same amount of anti-matter at early Universe by breaking **charge-parity (CP)** symmetry.

• But CP-violating component in the SM is too small (via CKM mixing matrix for the three generations of quarks).

• **Higgs CP-violating coupling is considered Beyond Standard Model.**

[[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2025-031](#)]

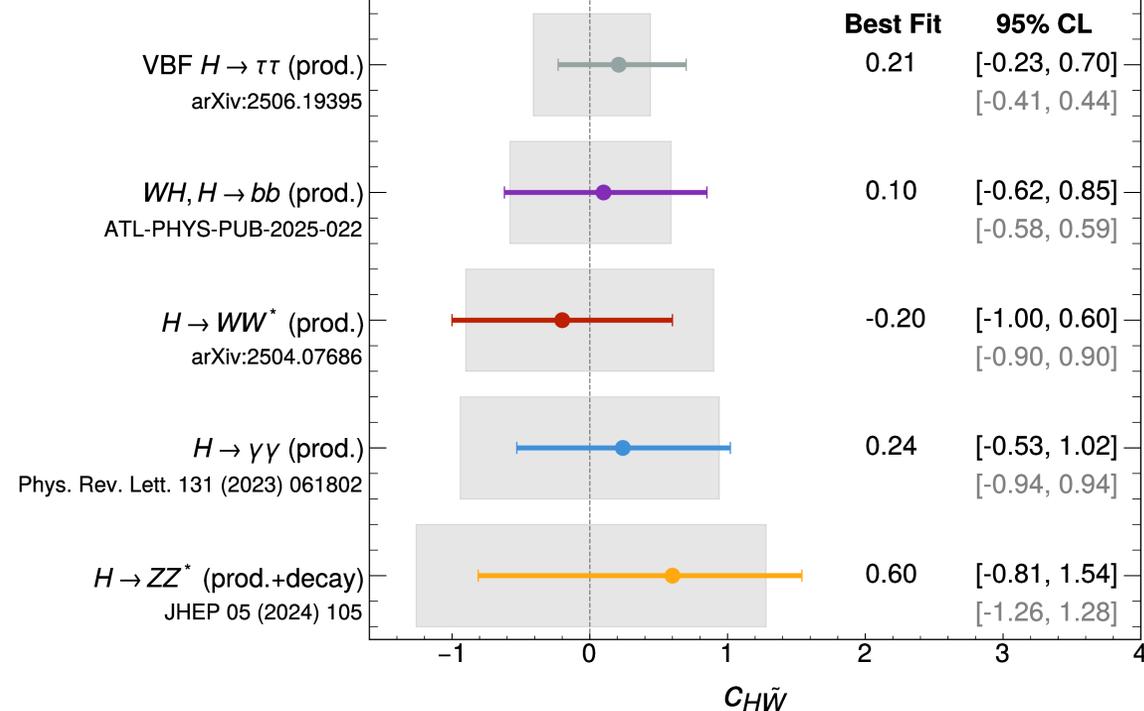
ATLAS Preliminary

$\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$, $139\text{-}140 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

$\Lambda = 1 \text{ TeV}$

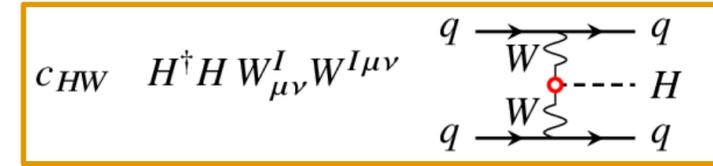
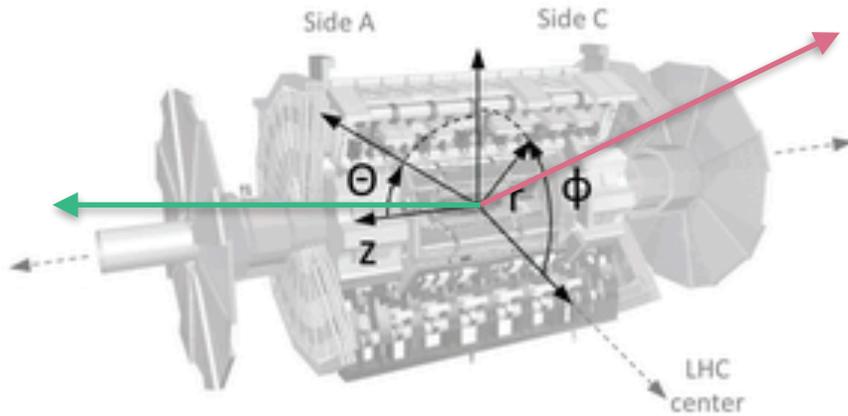
95% confidence level

Expected Observed

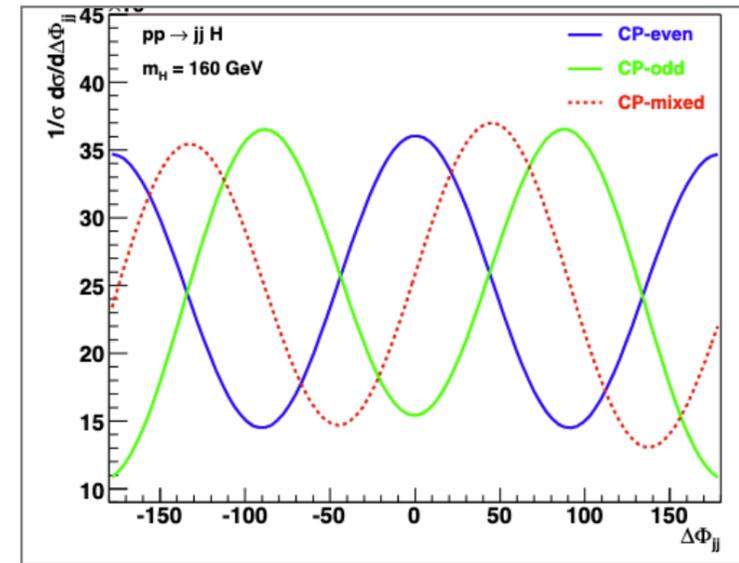


Signed $\Delta\phi_{jj}$ as the CP-sensitive observable

- Wilson coefficient that characterize the CP coupling of the H - W vertex
 - Warsaw basis CP even: c_{HW} ; CP odd: $c_{H\tilde{W}}$
- The signed $\Delta\phi_{jj}$ provides distinct feature for CP-even vs CP-odd coupling
 - “signed”: the azimuthal angle of the “away” jet minus the angle of the “toward” jet



[[hep-ph/0703202](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0703202)]

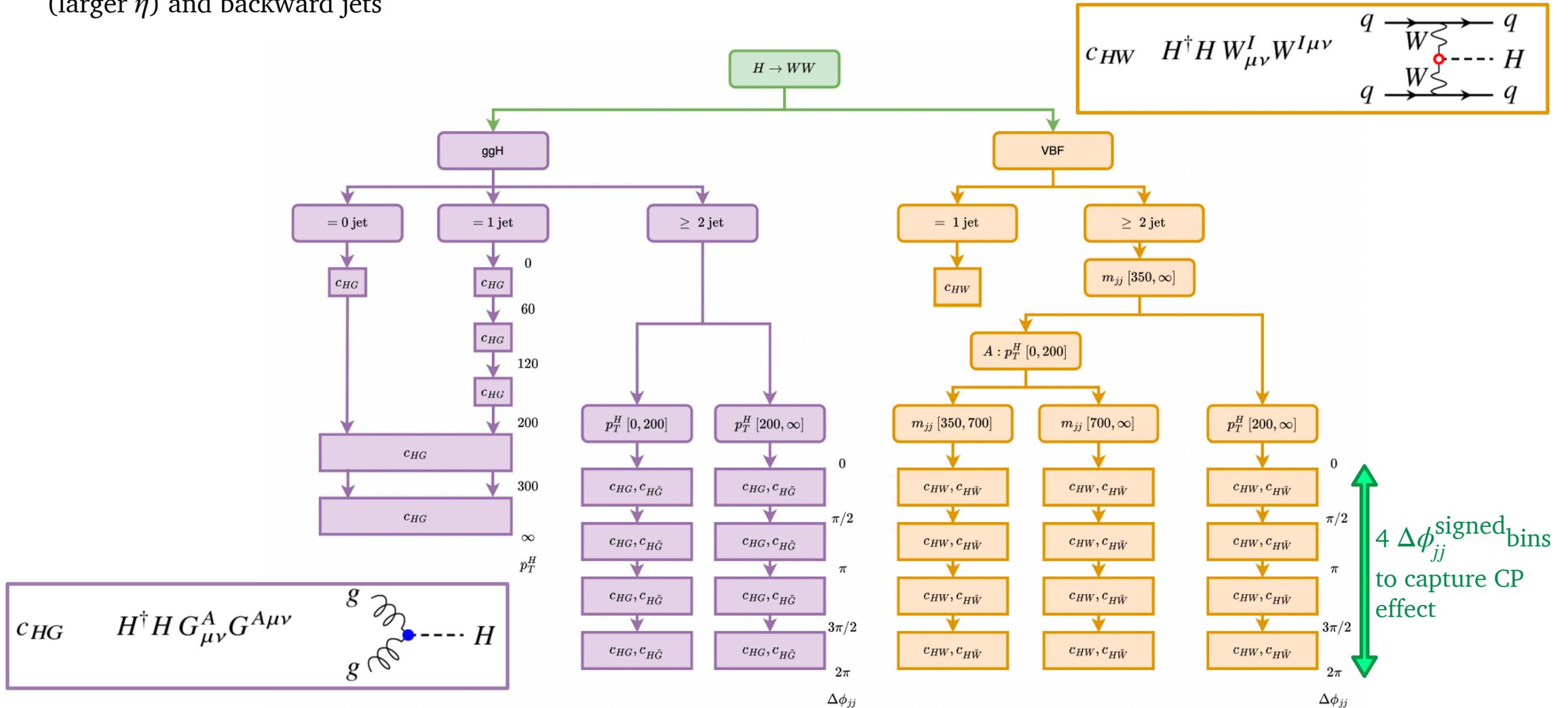


Pure CP-even and CP-odd symmetric about $\Delta\phi_{jj}^{\text{signed}} = 0$ with phase shift

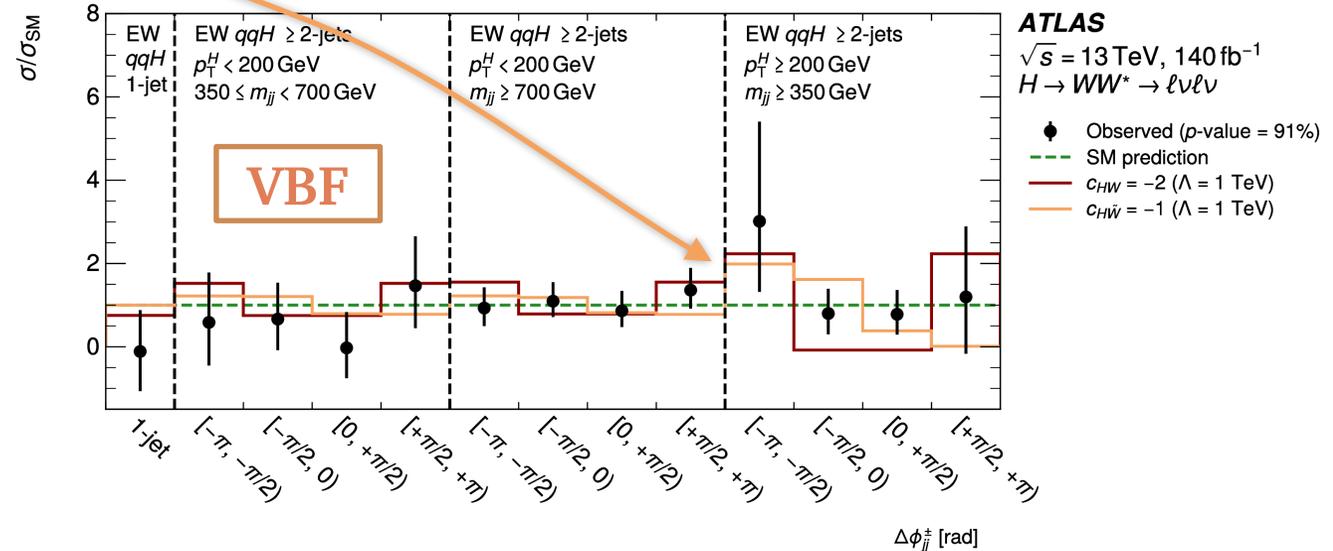
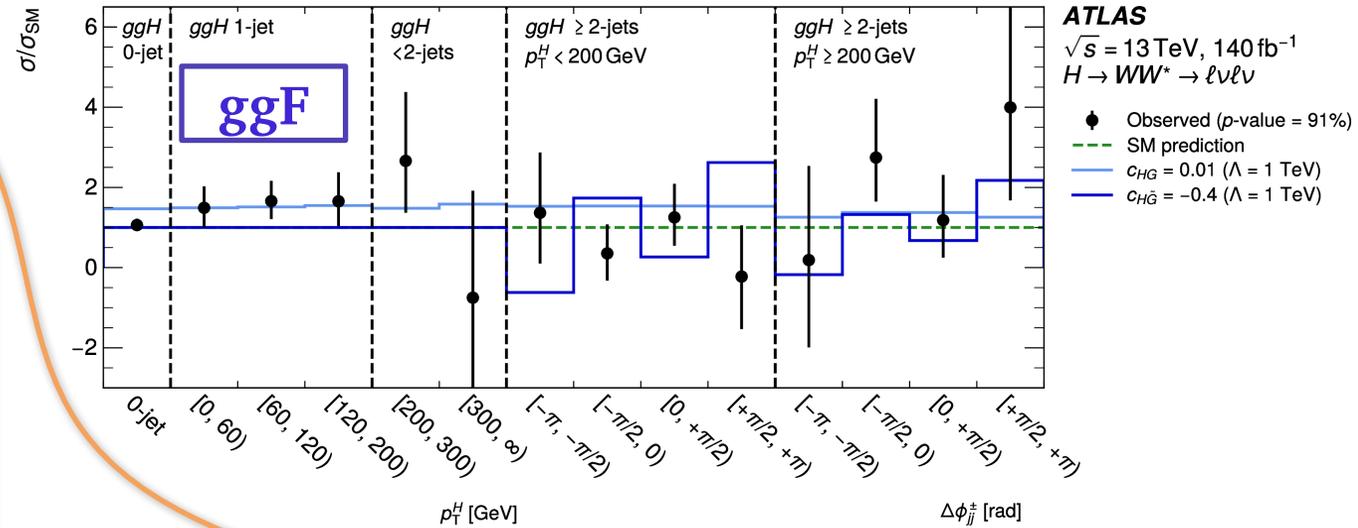
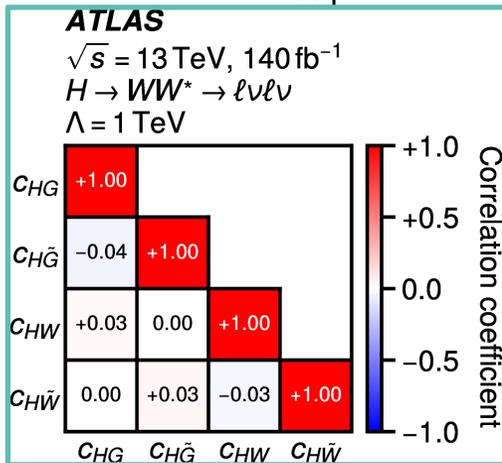
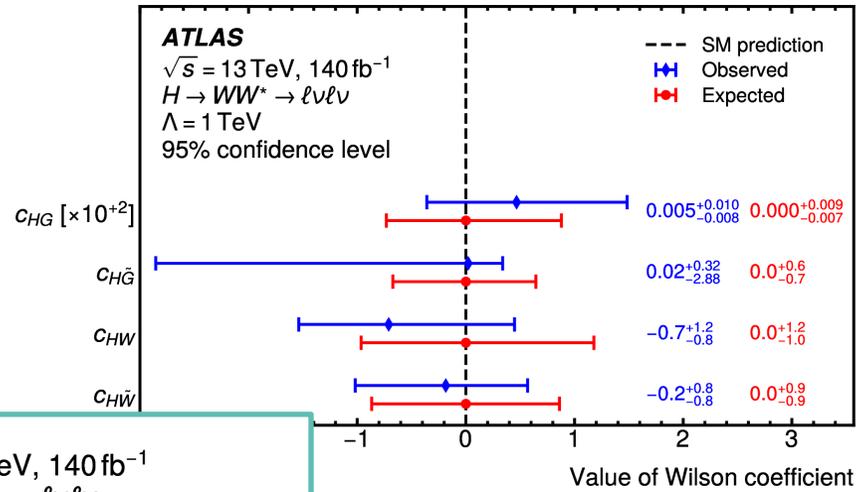
CP-mixed asymmetric

ggF + VBF $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow l\nu l\nu$ - CP-sensitive STXS

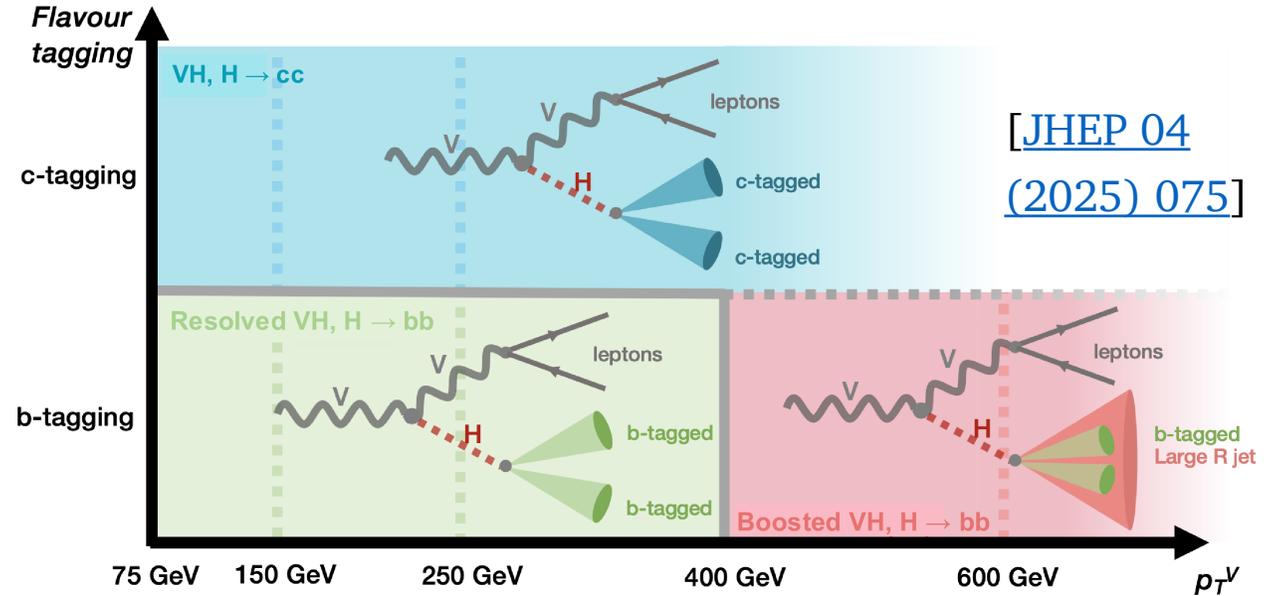
- An alternative STXS scheme is developed to probe the Higgs CP property: p_T^H vs m_{jj} vs $\Delta\phi_{jj}^{\text{signed}}$
 - $\Delta\phi_{jj}^{\text{signed}}$ is a charge-parity (CP) sensitive observable, which is defined as azimuthal angle difference between the forward (larger η) and backward jets



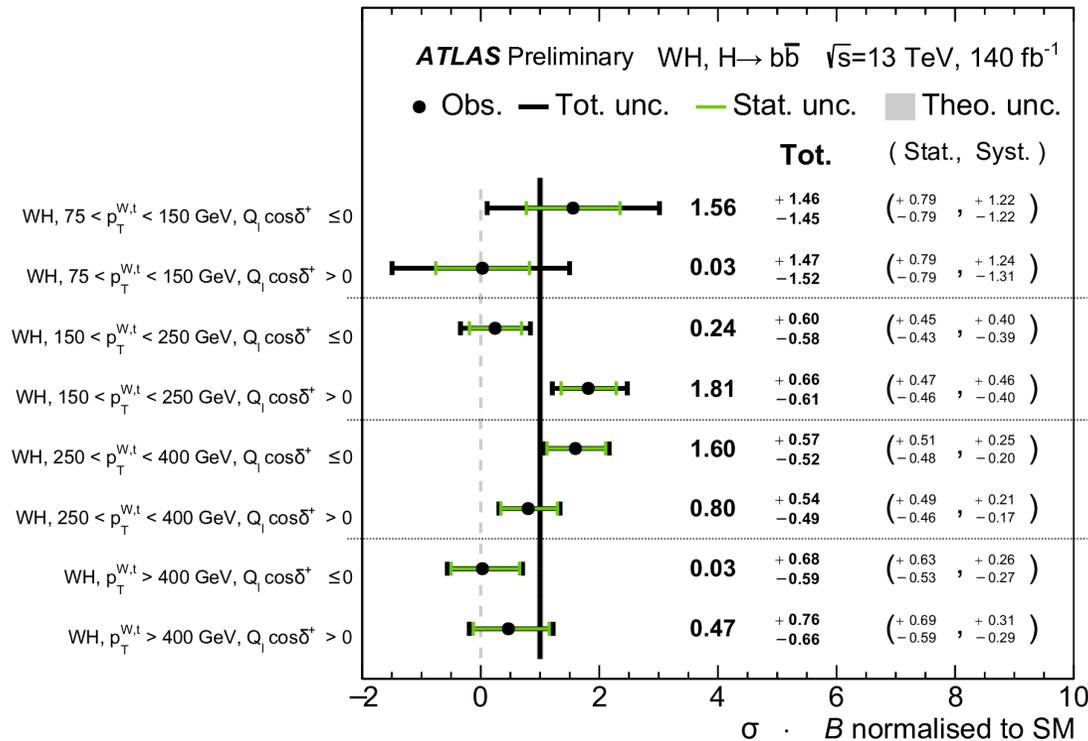
- Multi-dimensional differential improved $c_{H\tilde{W}}$ limits by >50% compared to the 1-dimensional $\Delta\phi_{jj}$ sensitivity
- H - W CP-odd effect is magnified at high Higgs p_T (>3times larger effect than low Higgs p_T)
- Distinct shapes of EFT impact from the four CP operators make their correlation small



- The object definition and event selection follows the improved VH bb/cc analysis closely
 - Including improved b/c-tagger as well as optimized MVA strategy



[JHEP 04 (2025) 075]

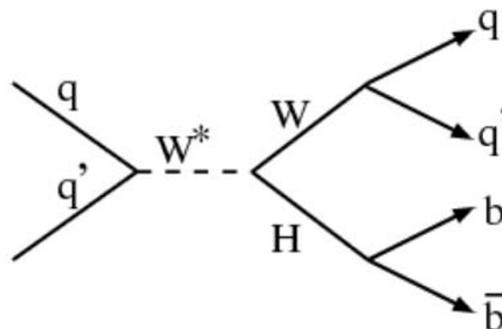


- Similar strategy as HWW: STXS measurement with the addition of CP-sensitive observable:

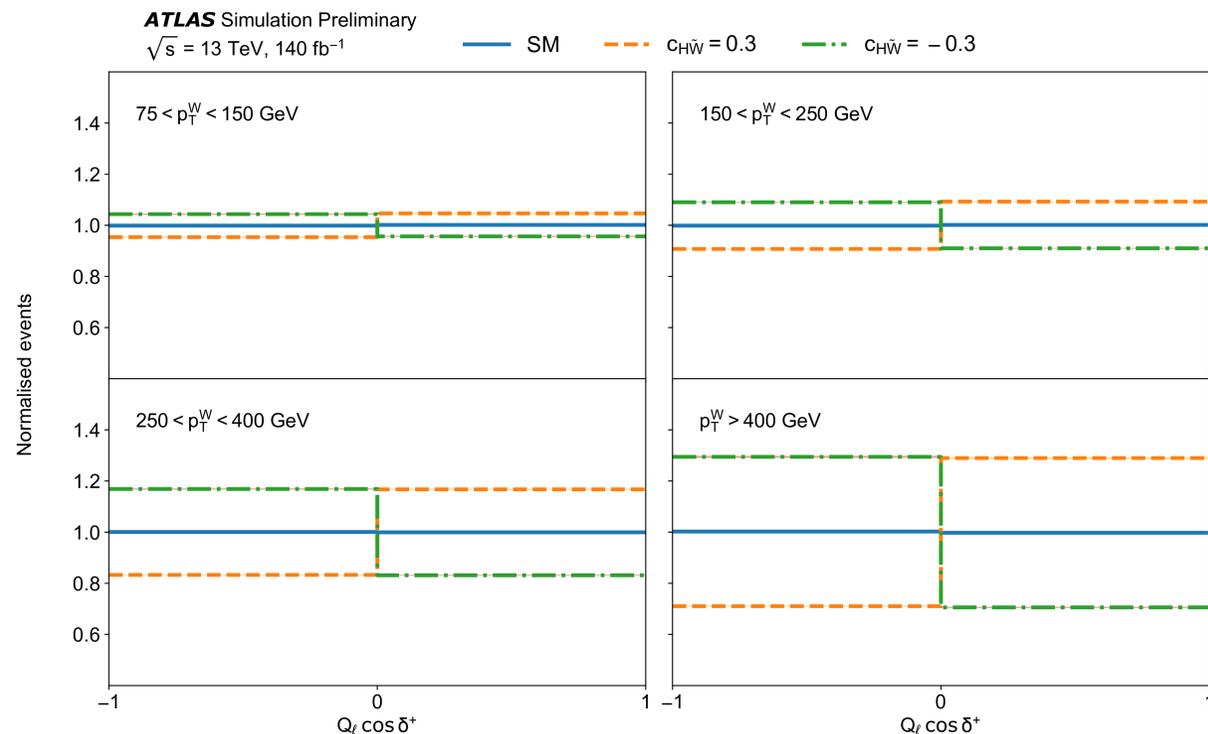
$$Q_\ell \cos\delta^+ = Q_\ell \frac{\vec{p}_\ell^{(W)} \cdot (\vec{p}_H \times \vec{p}_W)}{|\vec{p}_\ell^{(W)}| |\vec{p}_H \times \vec{p}_W|}$$

- Cross-section measurement compatible with SM prediction

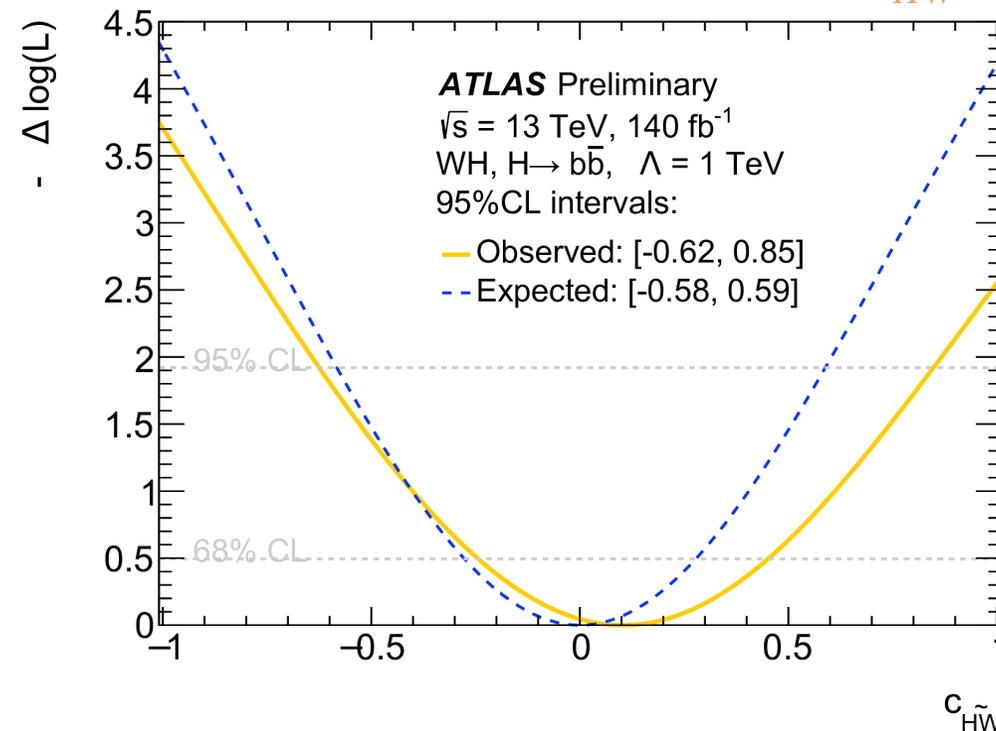
- WH particularly sensitive to $c_{H\tilde{W}}$ as the process is not diluted by ZH



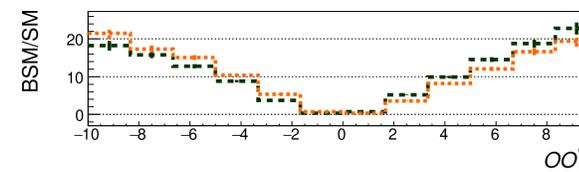
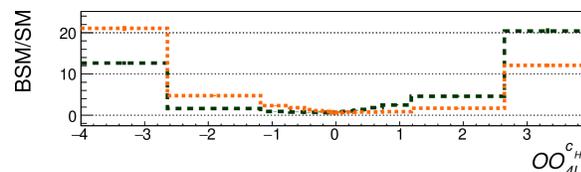
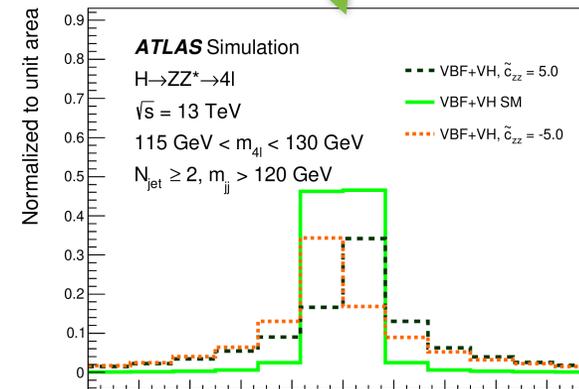
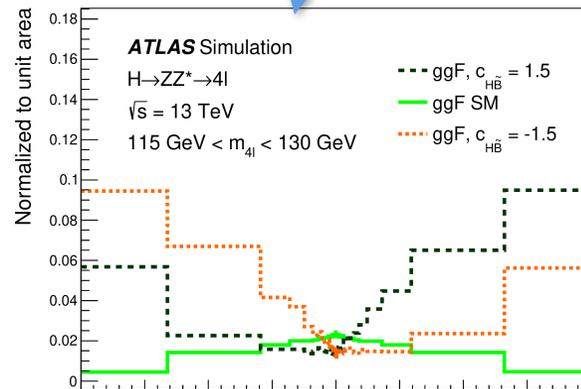
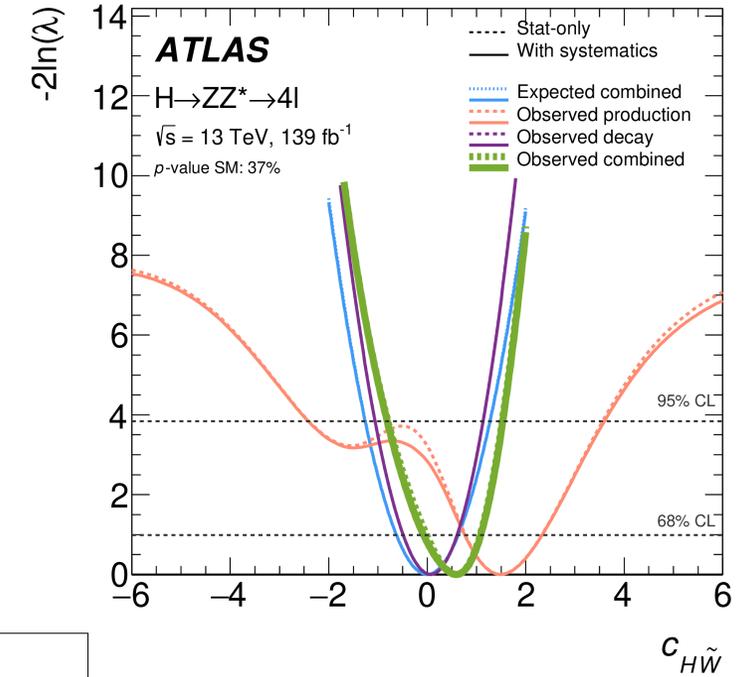
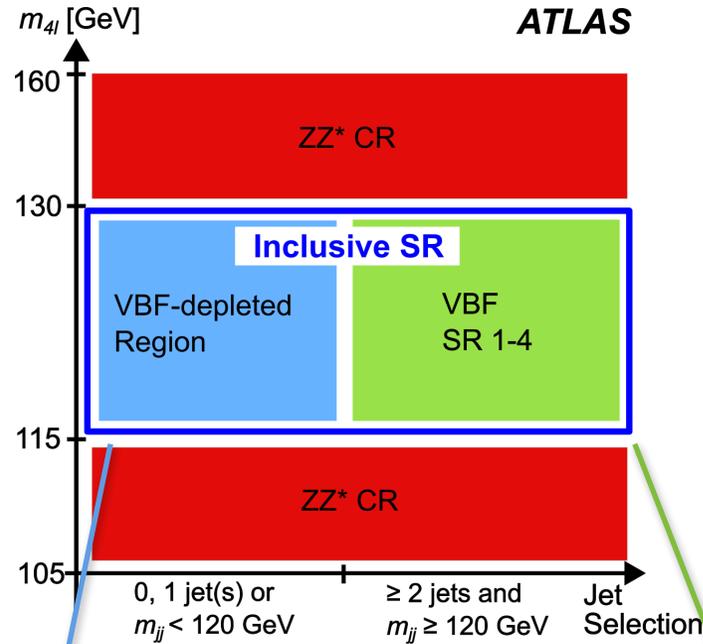
- Only shape of the CP observable is used to constrain $c_{H\tilde{W}}$



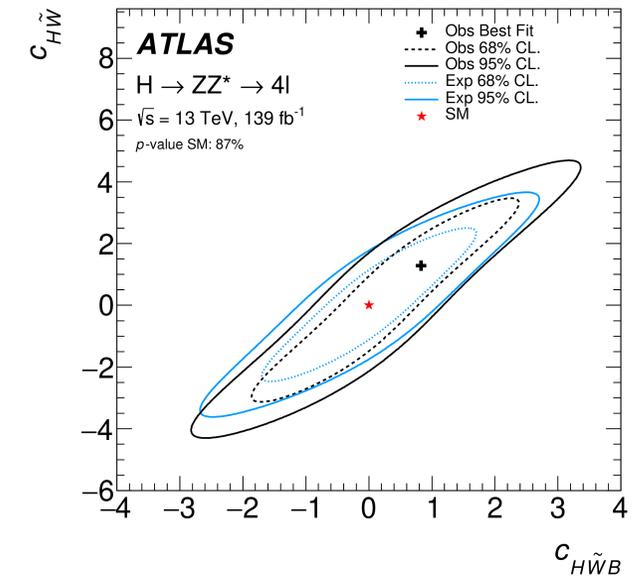
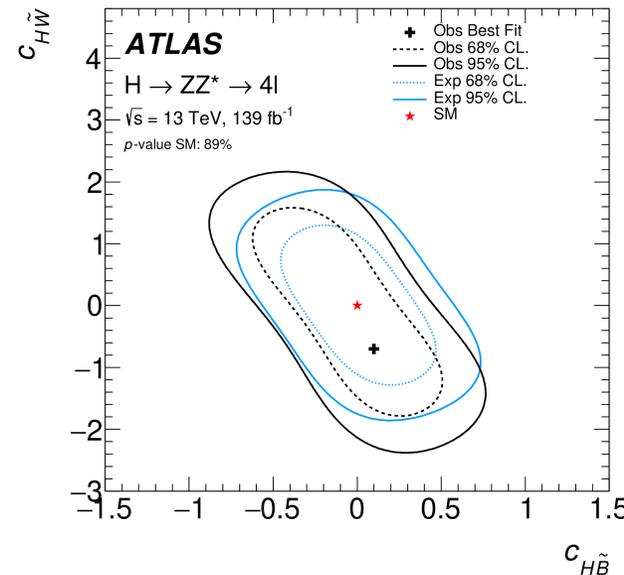
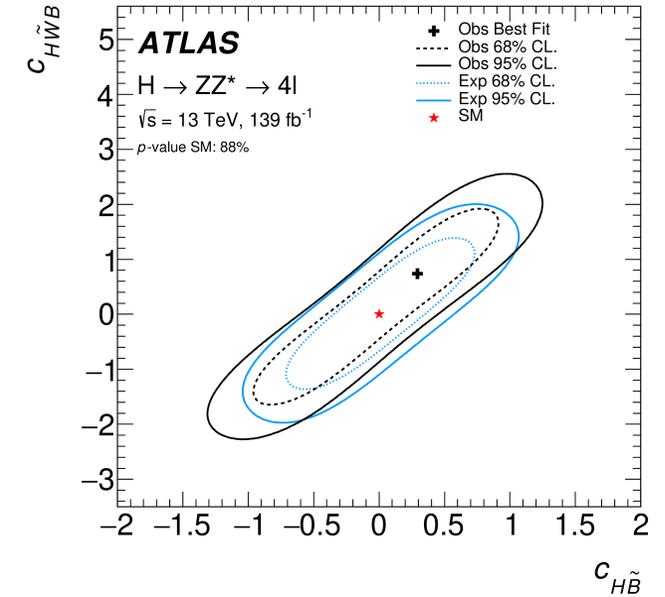
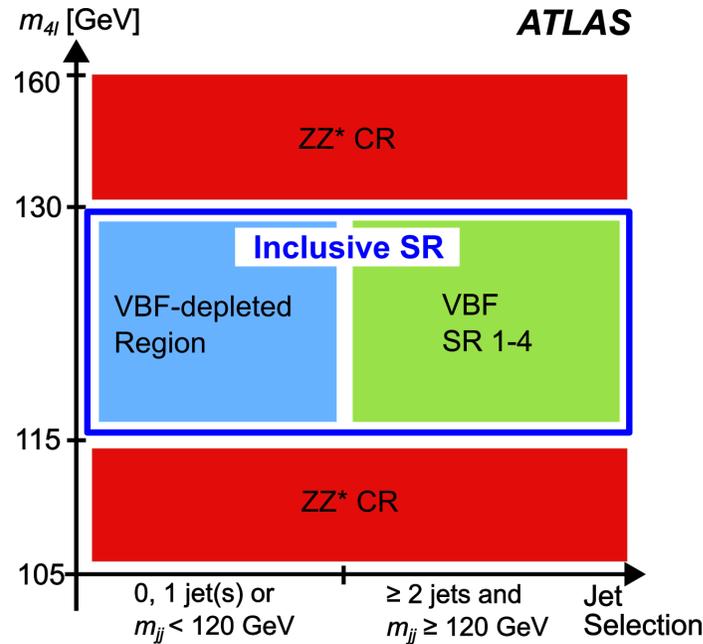
Most stringent limits on $c_{H\tilde{W}}$



- Use Matrix-Element based optimal observable (OO) to compress full event kinematics into statistically optimal quantities
- Use VBF dominant SR measure production OO (VBF)
- Use VBF-depleted region to measure decay OO ($H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4l$)

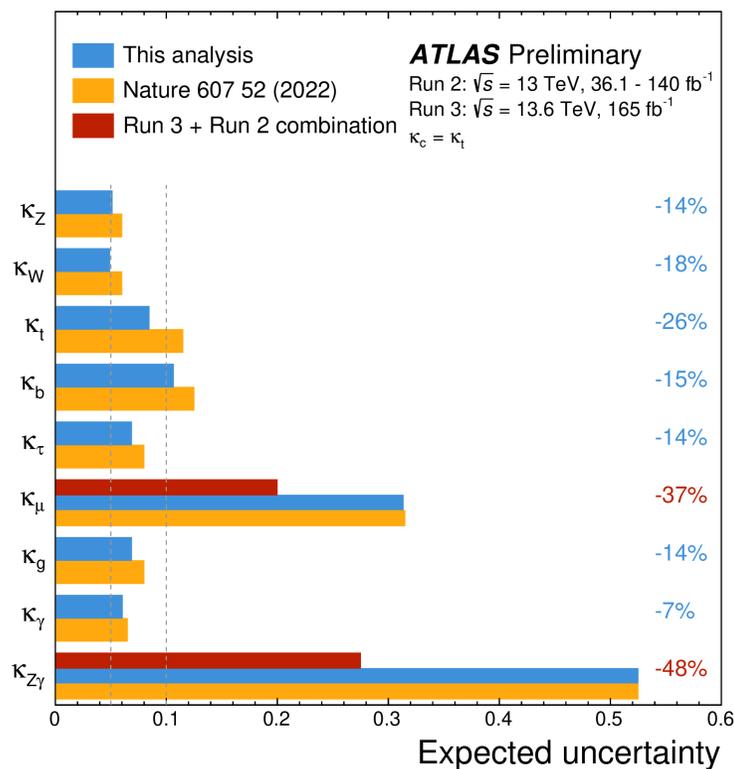


- Use Matrix-Element based optimal observable (OO) to compress full event kinematics into statistically optimal quantities
- Use **Inclusive region** to measure decay OO ($H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4l$)
- 2-dimensional OOs for $c_{H\tilde{W}}$ and $c_{H\tilde{B}}$ used to constrain three CP-odd H - V anomalous couplings



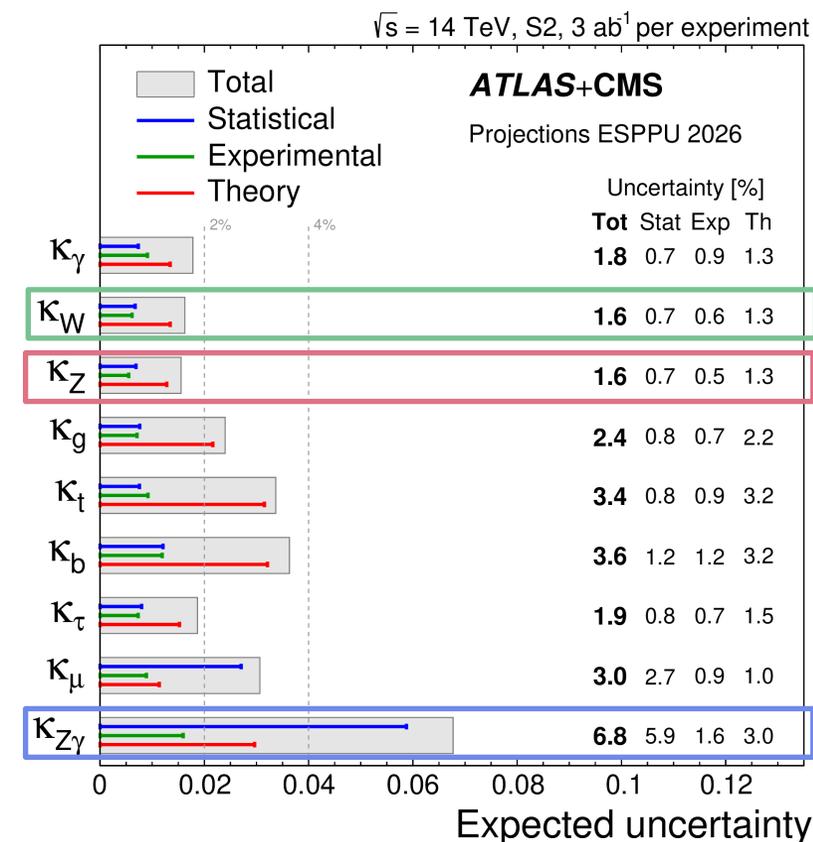
Higgs at High-Luminosity LHC

- **Projecting** the ATLAS Run-2 measurement (*Nature paper*) to HL-LHC (ATLAS+CMS), sensitivity improvements for Higgs coupling to
 - W boson, from 9% to **percent level**
 - Z boson, from 9% to **percent level**
 - $Z\gamma$, from $>50\%$ ($\sim 30\%$ combined with partial Run3) to **$<10\%$**



Parameter	Resolved $\kappa_g, \kappa_\gamma, \kappa_{Z\gamma}$		Effective $\kappa_g, \kappa_\gamma, \kappa_{Z\gamma}$
	Free κ_c	$\kappa_c = \kappa_t$	$\kappa_c = \kappa_t$
κ_Z	$0.97^{+0.09}_{-0.07}$	0.96 ± 0.05	0.96 ± 0.05
κ_W	$0.99^{+0.09}_{-0.06}$	0.99 ± 0.04	1.00 ± 0.05
κ_t	$0.99^{+0.10}_{-0.08}$	$0.99^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$	0.99 ± 0.09
κ_b	$0.90^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$	0.89 ± 0.09	$0.89^{+0.10}_{-0.09}$
κ_τ	$0.95^{+0.10}_{-0.08}$	0.94 ± 0.06	0.94 ± 0.06
κ_c	$1.1^{+1.6}_{-3.8}$	—	—
κ_μ	$1.05^{+0.25}_{-0.31}$	$1.04^{+0.24}_{-0.30}$	$1.04^{+0.23}_{-0.30}$
κ_g	—	—	$0.99^{+0.07}_{-0.06}$
κ_γ	—	—	0.97 ± 0.06
κ_{Z/γ^*}	—	—	$1.36^{+0.30}_{-0.36}$

[ATLAS-CONF-2025-006]

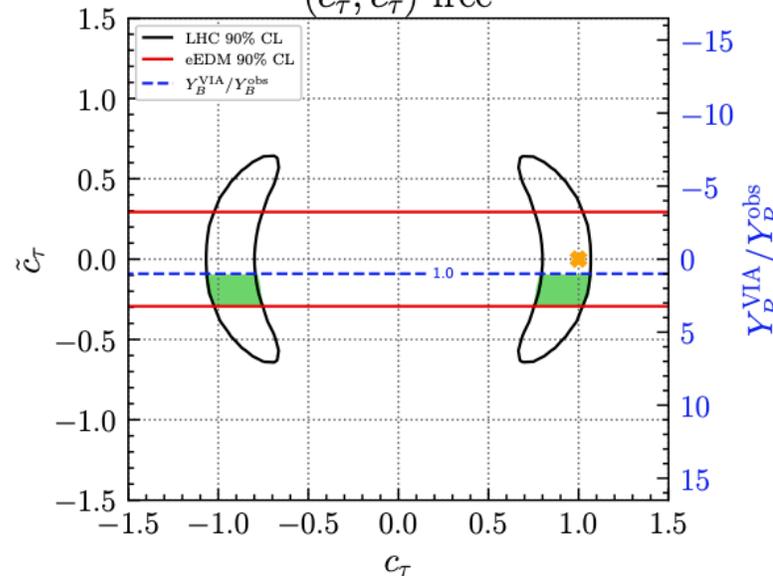


[Europe Strategy 2025]

Summary and outlook on single-Higgs

- Lessons from Run-2 to carry to Run-3 and HL-LHC:
 - Experimental advancement: analysis improvements alone can deliver sensitivity comparable to (very roughly) $\sim 3x$ more data (such as $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}/c\bar{c}$)
 - Higgs self-coupling: Single-Higgs (in particular VH) can help to constrain Higgs self-coupling on top of di-Higgs productions
 - Evolution of STXS: constant evolution of STXS staging is needed to improve BSM sensitivity (boosted region, self-coupling) and add CP-sensitive splitting
- Natural future directions include:
 - Combined Run-2 CPV interpretations
 - $Z\gamma$ for a more global constraints on all H - V anomalous couplings
 - Dedicated H - g and Higgs-lepton CPV analysis and combination
- Final remark: can we map the current HVV CP constraints onto specific benchmark scenarios, so we can quantify the physics reach from constraints on EFT Wilson coefficients?

“Constraining the CP structure of **Higgs-fermion** couplings with a global LHC fit, the electron EDM and baryogenesis”
 (c_τ, \tilde{c}_τ) free



Eur. Phys. J. C 82 (2022) 604

Below blue line is requirement for observed baryon asymmetry

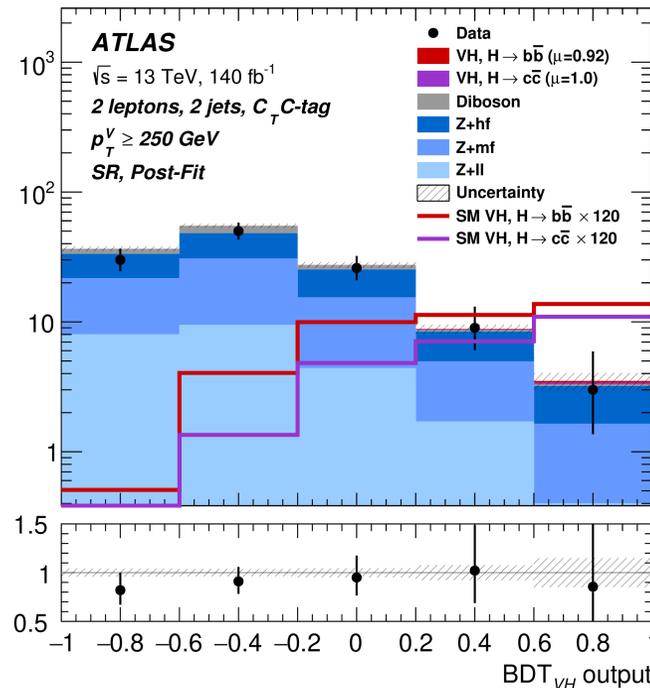
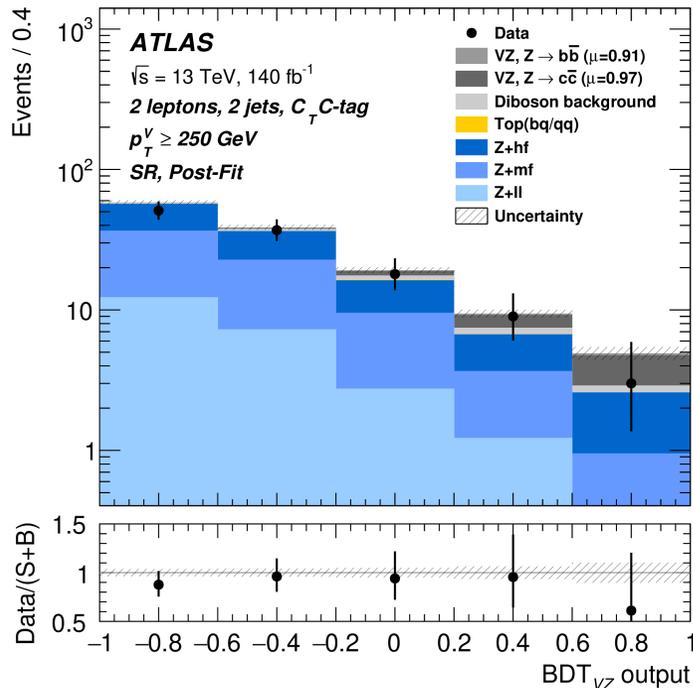
eEDM constraint

Current LHC sensitivity

Free space from theoretical and other exp. source

Backup

- Improvement from previous Run-2 analyses:
 - combined resolved and boosted $H \rightarrow bb$ as well as $H \rightarrow cc$; new flavor tagger; new or re-optimized MVA; better control of the background through updated analysis categorization
- Categorization based on number of leptons, number of b/c-tagged jets, flavor tagging efficiency and p_T^V
- Simultaneous fit from 59 signal regions and 97 control regions
- Analysis strategy verified with VZ, $Z \rightarrow bb/cc$ using the same categorization but switch between two BDTs which treat either VH or VZ as the signal against the background processes
 - First observation of WZ, $Z \rightarrow bb$ 6.4 (6.5) σ and VZ, $Z \rightarrow cc$ 5.2 (5.3) σ



VZ, $Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}/c\bar{c}$ signal strength

$$\mu_{VZ}^{bb} = 0.92_{-0.11}^{+0.13} = 0.92 \pm 0.05 \text{ (stat.)}_{-0.10}^{+0.12} \text{ (syst.)}$$

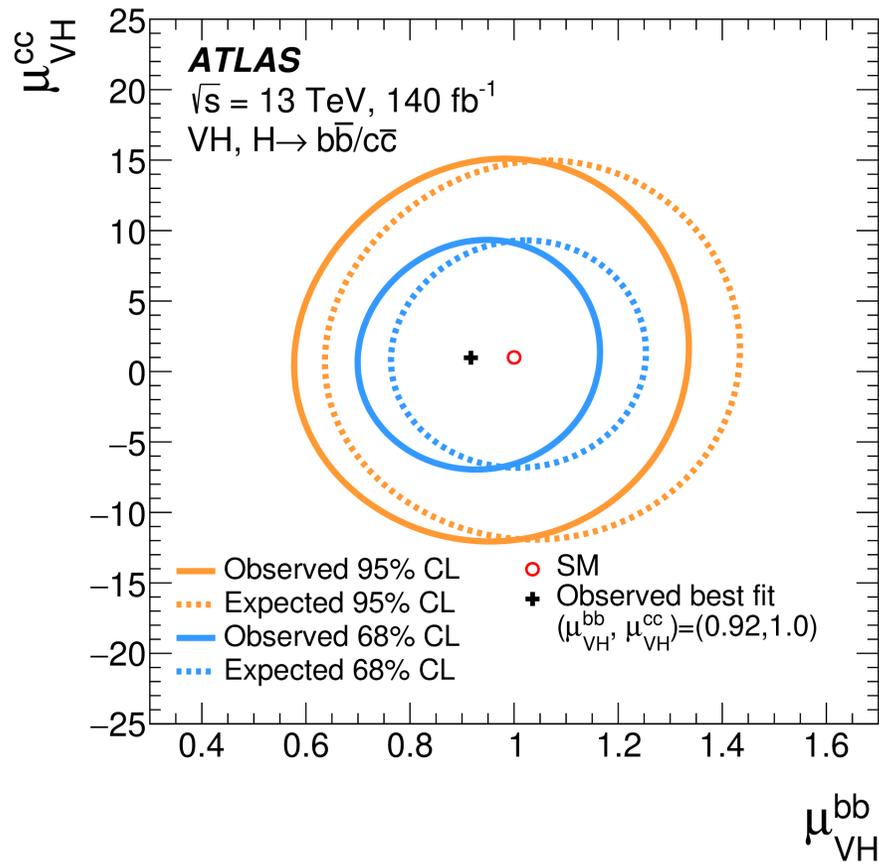
$$\mu_{VZ}^{cc} = 0.98_{-0.22}^{+0.25} = 0.98 \pm 0.13 \text{ (stat.)}_{-0.18}^{+0.22} \text{ (syst.)}$$

VH, $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}/c\bar{c}$ signal strength

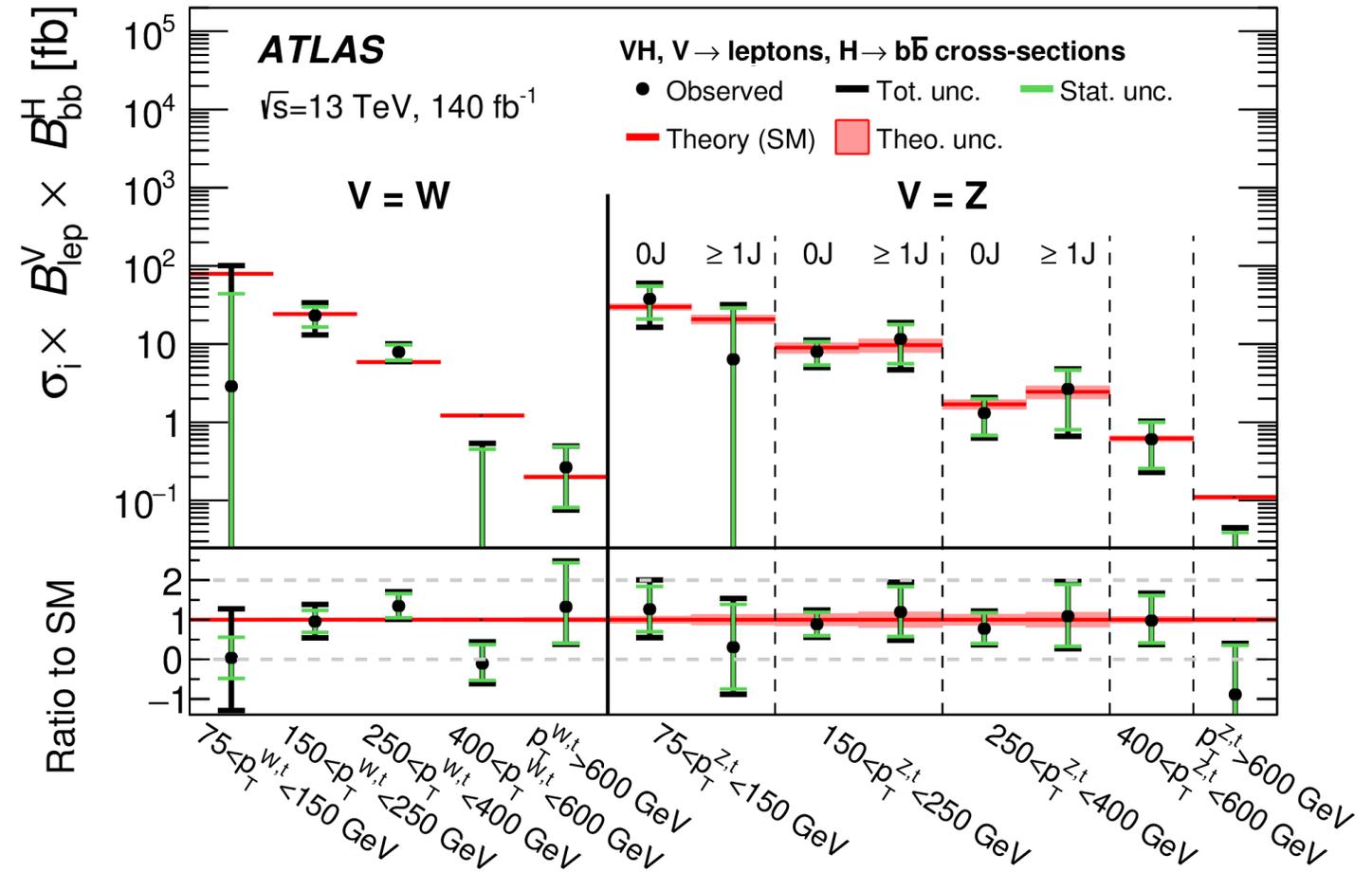
$$\mu_{VH}^{bb} = 0.92_{-0.15}^{+0.16} = 0.92 \pm 0.10 \text{ (stat.)}_{-0.11}^{+0.13} \text{ (syst.)},$$

$$\mu_{VH}^{cc} = 1.0_{-5.2}^{+5.4} = 1.0_{-3.9}^{+4.0} \text{ (stat.)}_{-3.5}^{+3.7} \text{ (syst.)}.$$

- Measured $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}/c\bar{c}$ signal strengths agree with SM and have also small correlation: 5%

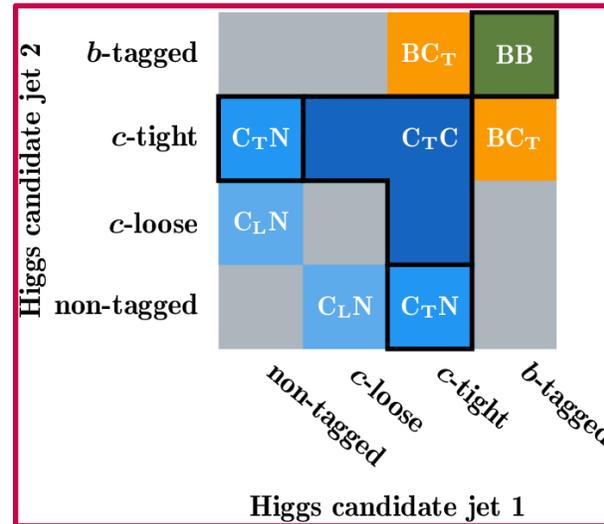
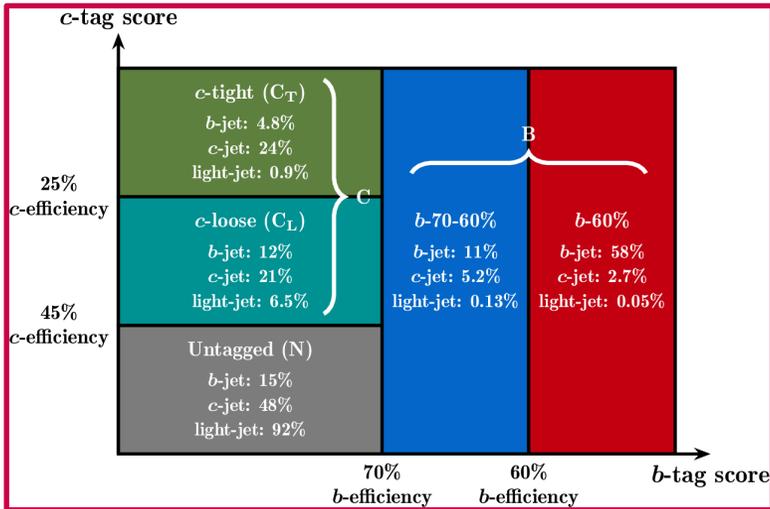
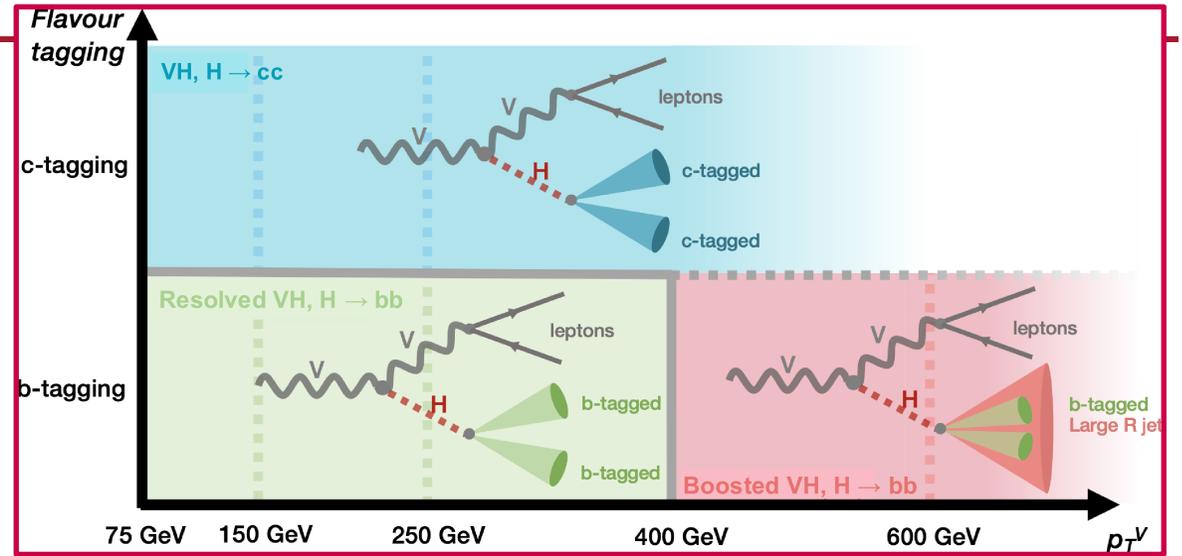


- $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ channel measured in very granular STXS bins also agree with SM
- Dominated by statistical uncertainty



VH H → bb/cc - strategy overview

- Improvement from previous Run-2 analyses:
 - combined resolved and boosted Hbb as well as Hcc ; new flavor tagger; re-optimized or new MVA; better constraint on background through updated analysis categorization
 - Hbb : extended STXS on p_T^V and 0 or ≥ 1 additional jet
 - Hcc : large improvement in limit and κ_C

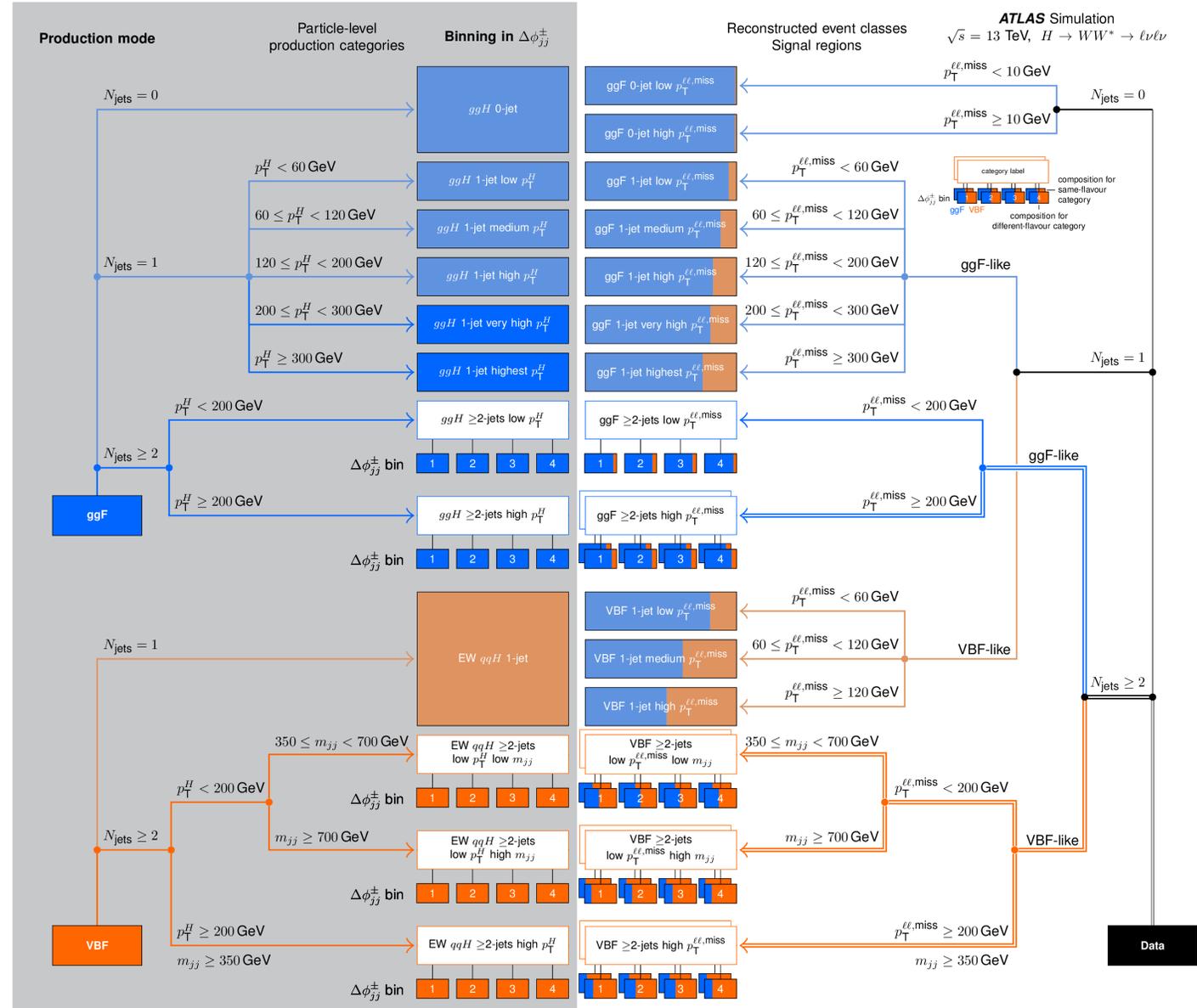


- Categorization based on number of leptons, number of b/c-tagged jets, flavor tagging efficiency and p_T^V
- Simultaneous fit from 59 signal regions and 97 control regions

ggF contamination in the CP analysis

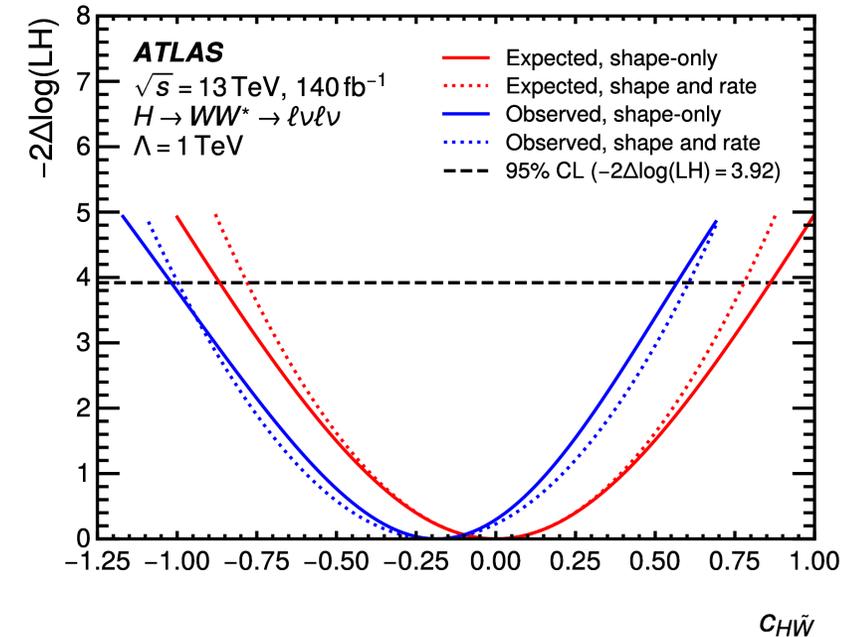
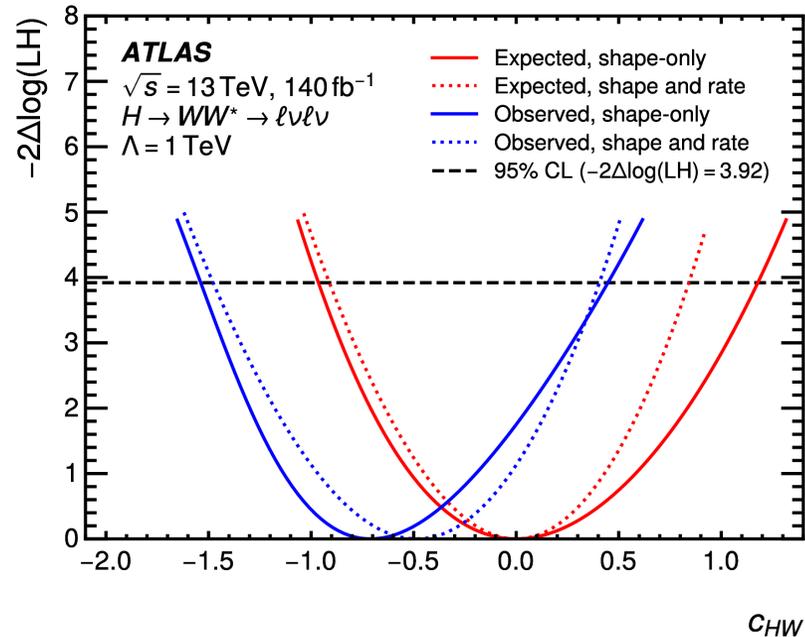
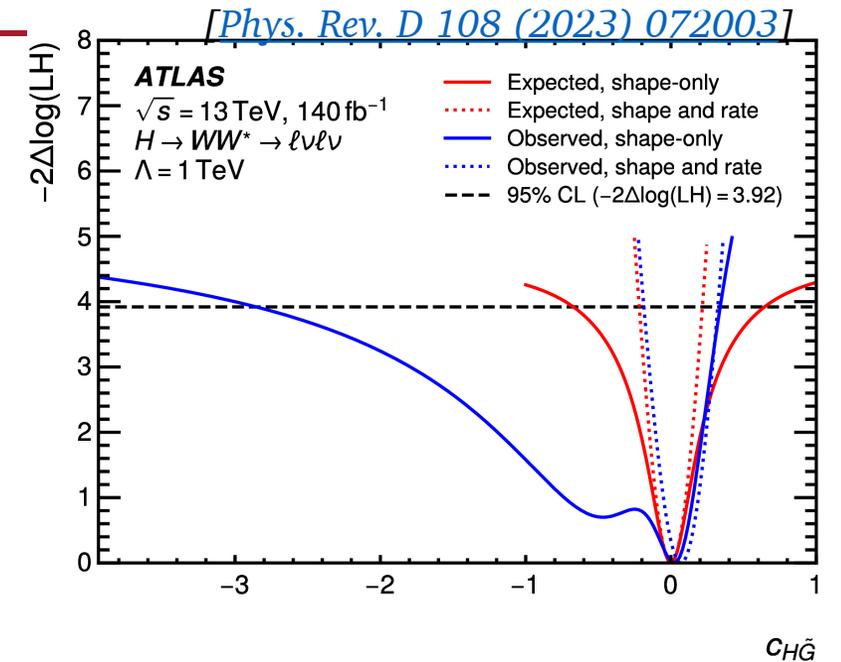
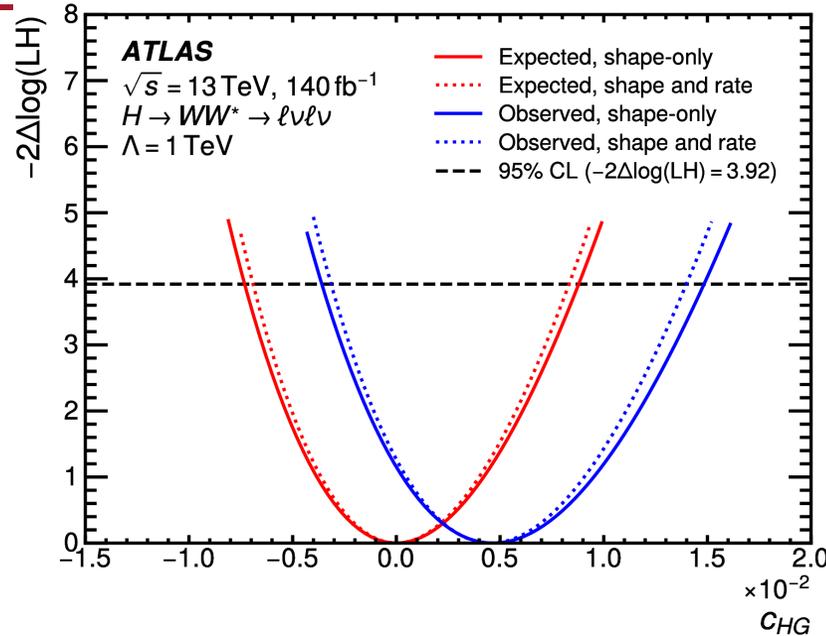
[Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 072003]

- ggF contamination large at low p_T^H

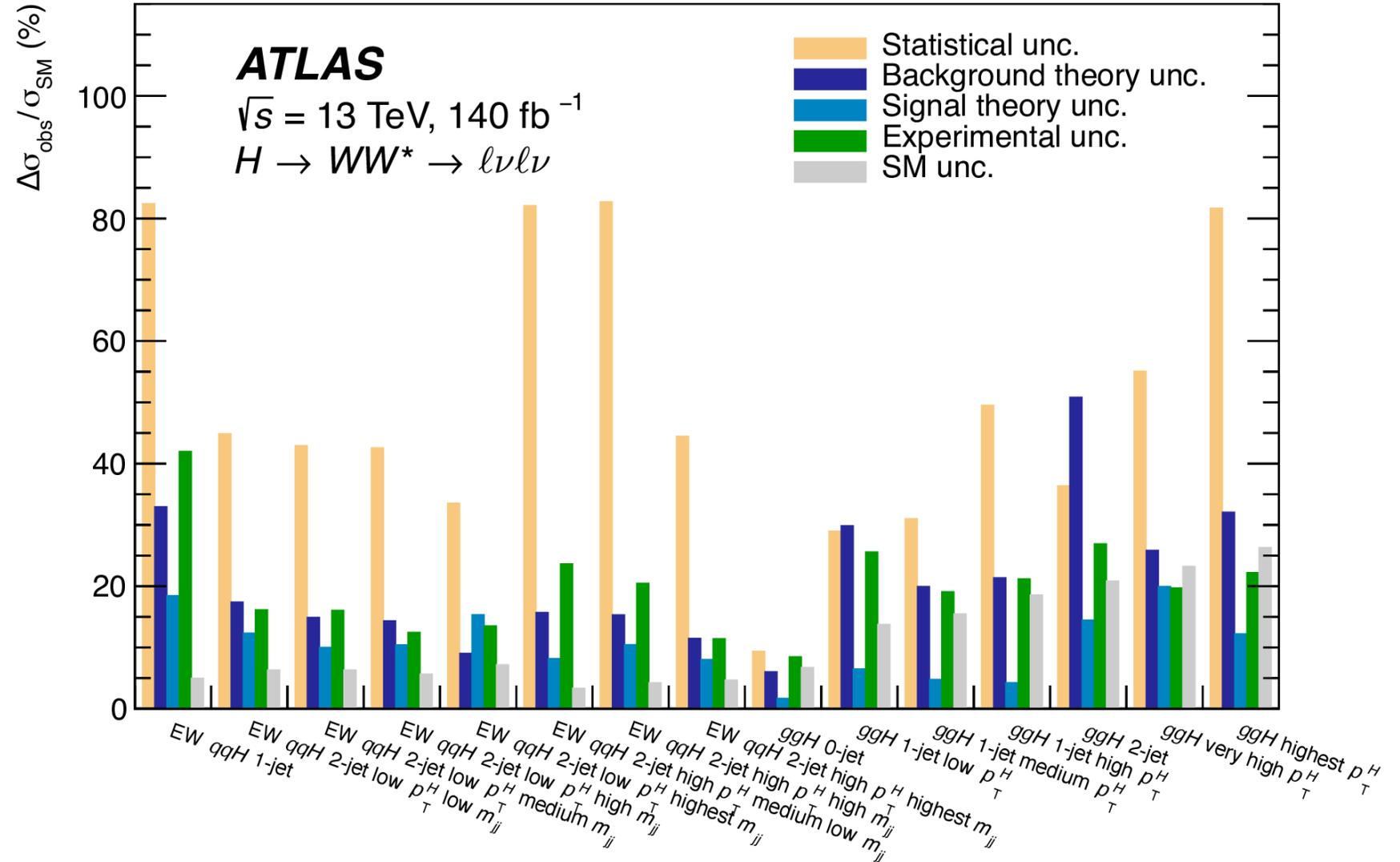


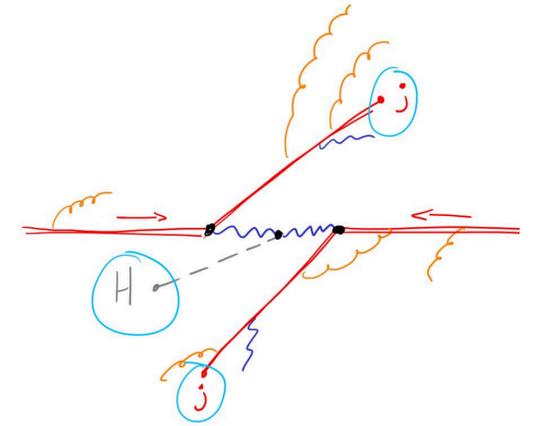
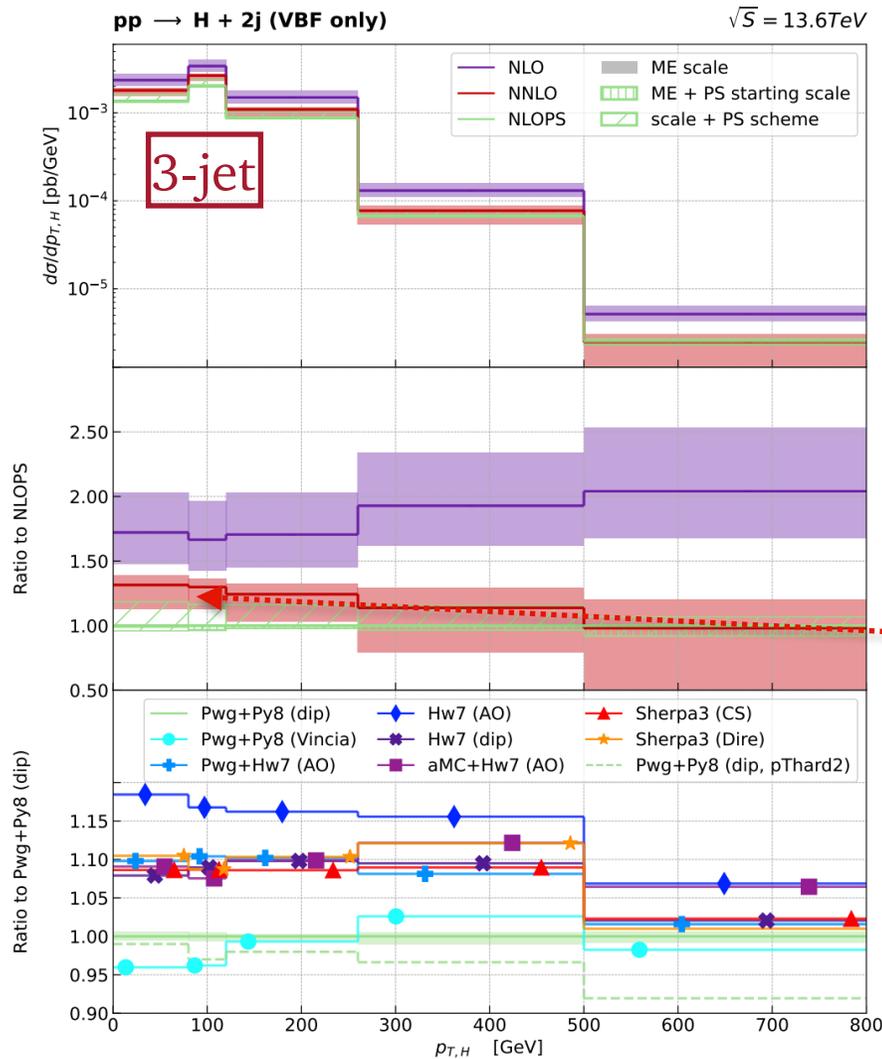
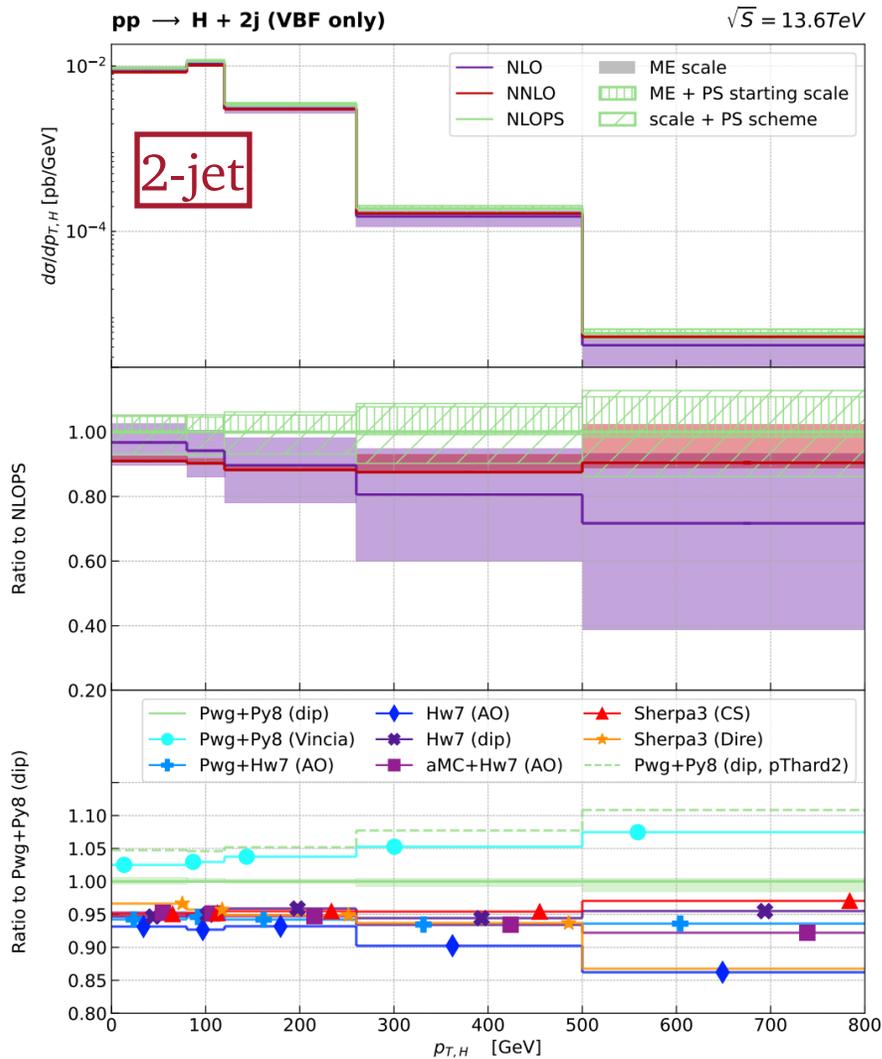
ggF+VBF $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ - CP results

- Second local minimum for $c_{H\tilde{G}}$ and using only the shape of $\Delta\phi_{jj}$ induced the large asymmetric limits



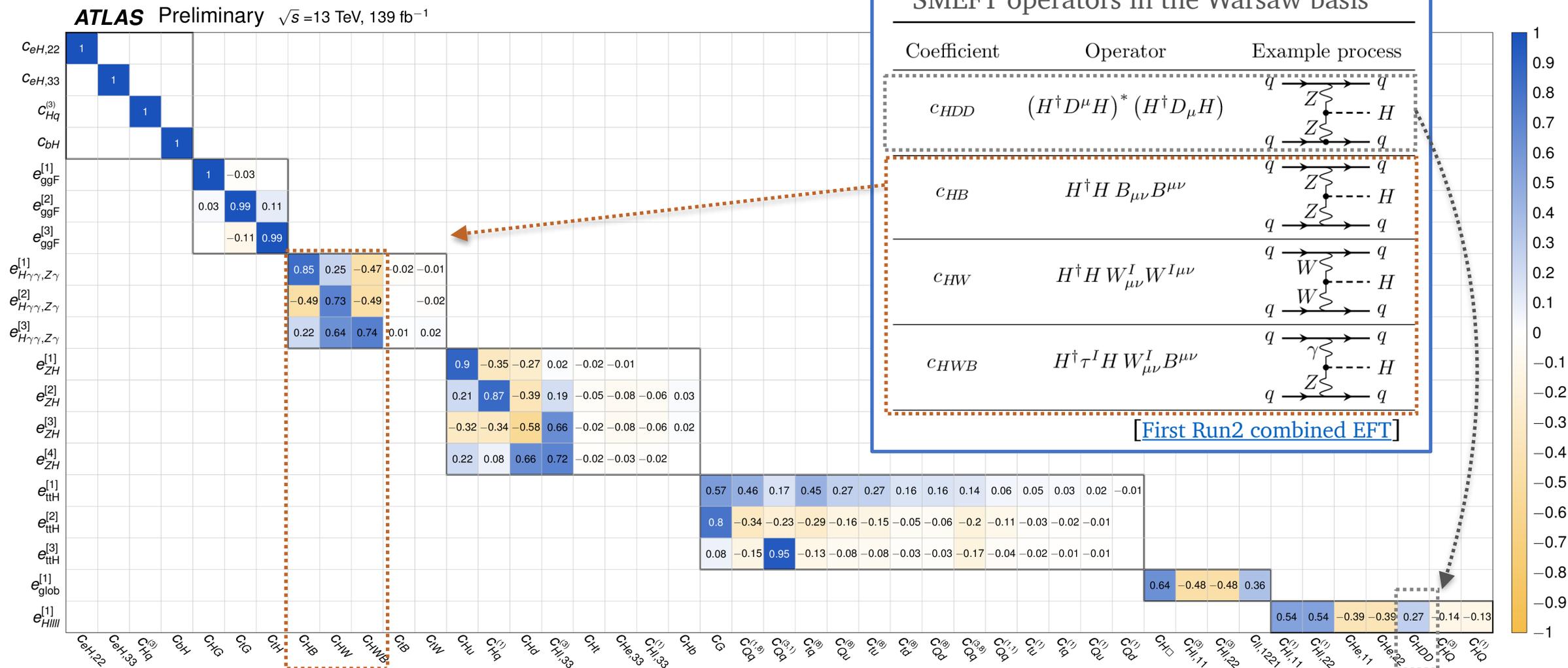
- Dominated by statistical uncertainty





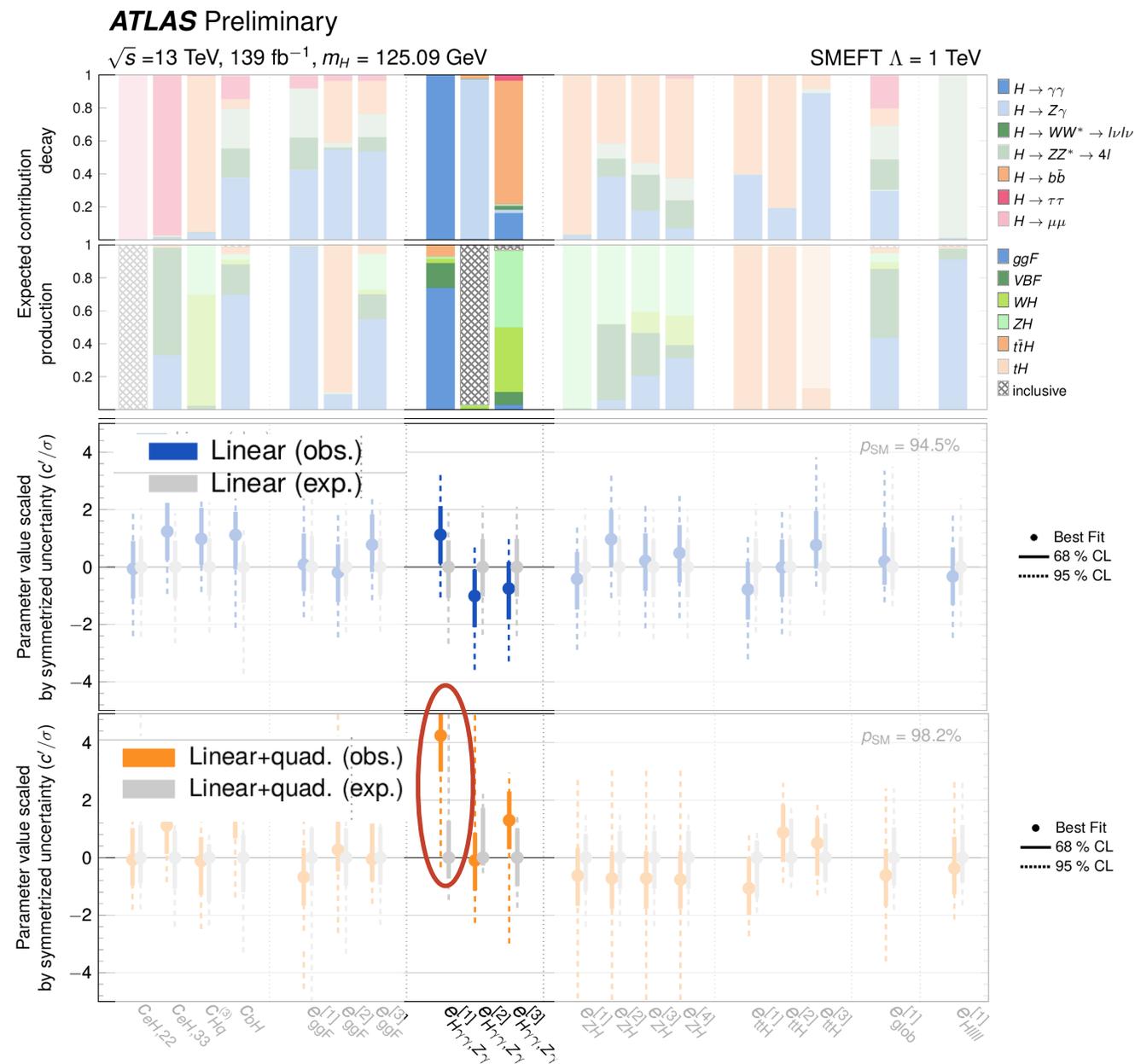
- Modeling of the 3rd jet with NLOPS problematic
- PS uncertainty doesn't cover the difference between NLOPS and NNLO
- Uncertainty reaches > 15%
- Experimental measurements need to reconsider the central jet veto selection for next round

- This talk will focus on the status of constraining \mathcal{O}_{HW} , \mathcal{O}_{HB} and \mathcal{O}_{HWB} , and their CP odd counter parts
- \mathcal{O}_{HDD} effect relatively small and similar effect as $HZee$ and $HZ\mu\mu$ anomalous coupling

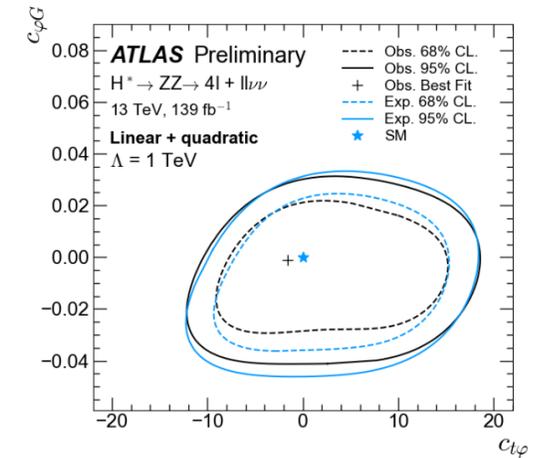
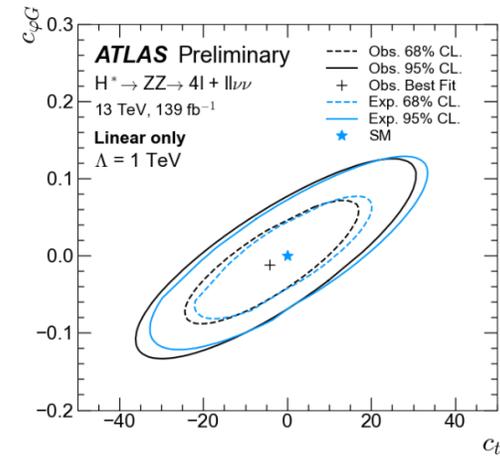
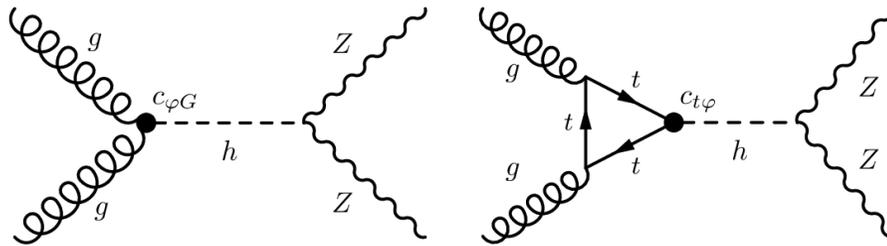


- All HVV PCA directions are measured to be compatible with SM
- At linear+quadratic, the **local minimum** of $e_{H\gamma\gamma, Z\gamma}^{[1]}$ further from zero is also the global minimum
- The ggF, VBF and VH production modes plus $\gamma\gamma, Z\gamma, bb$ decay channel contributed the most to constraining these HVV anomalous couplings

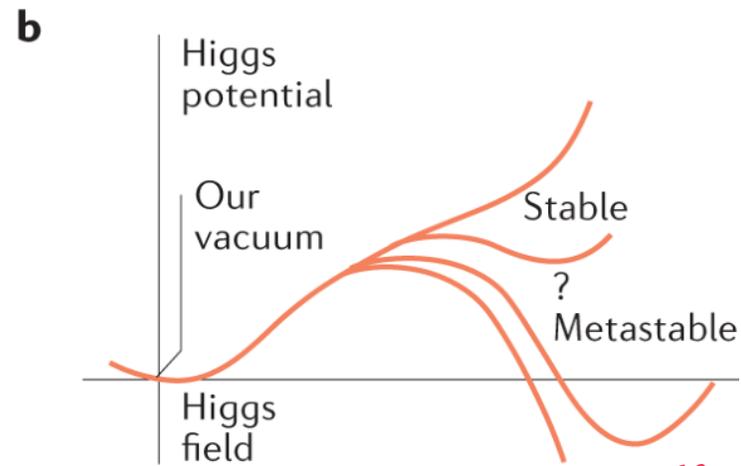
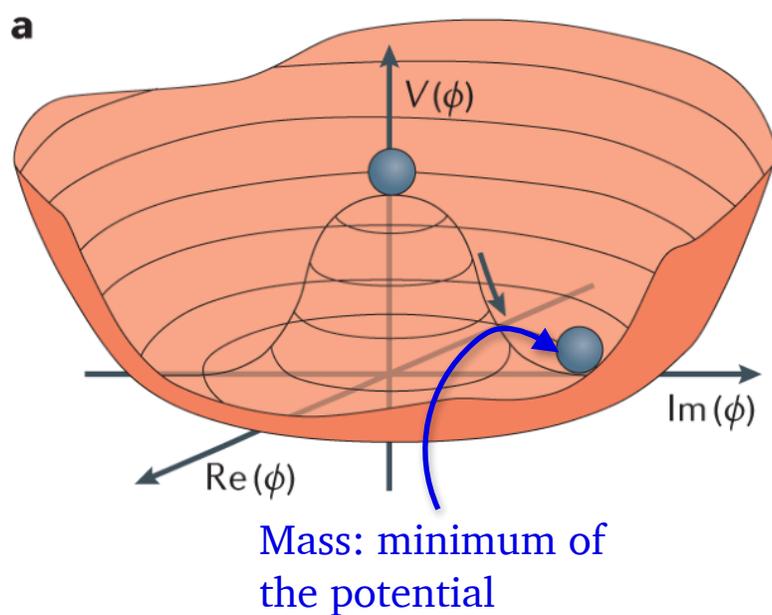
$e_{H\gamma\gamma, Z\gamma}^{[1]}$	0.85	0.25	-0.47	-0.02	-0.01
$e_{H\gamma\gamma, Z\gamma}^{[2]}$	-0.49	0.73	-0.49		-0.02
$e_{H\gamma\gamma, Z\gamma}^{[3]}$	0.22	0.64	0.74	0.01	0.02
	CHB	CHW	CHWB	CtB	CtW



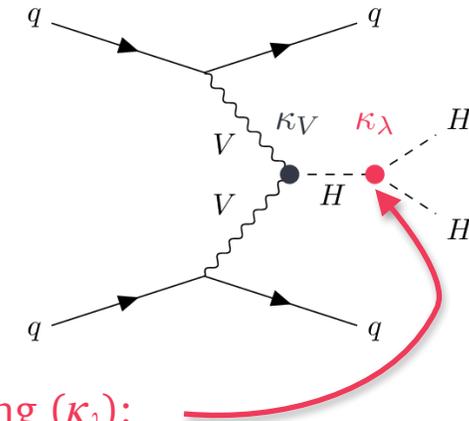
- HVV off-shell analysis probe higher energy regime and has the potential to decouple H-t and H-g anomalous coupling
- HZZ off-shell provided constraints on the two Wilson coefficients
- HWW off-shell is on-going and plan for a similar interpretation



Di-Higgs search



Self-coupling (κ_λ):
shape of the potential



[Nature Reviews Physics volume 3, pages608–624 \(2021\)](#)

[Phys. Rev. Lett. 133 \(2024\) 101801](#)

Combination of search for di-Higgs

- Expected di-Higgs production cross-section is ~ 1000 times smaller than single-Higgs production
 - combination of different decays is the key

Symmetry 2022, 14(2), 260

	bb	WW	$\tau\tau$	ZZ	$\gamma\gamma$
bb	34%				
WW	25%	4.6%			
$\tau\tau$	7.3%	2.7%	0.39%		
ZZ	3.1%	1.1%	0.33%	0.069%	
$\gamma\gamma$	0.26%	0.10%	0.028%	0.012%	0.0005%

- Combination sets upper limit on HH production at 2.9 (2.4) times SM value
- Self-coupling constrained to $[-1.2, 7.2]$ ($[-1.6, 7.2]$)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 133 (2024) 101801

