



# LHC Physics – Higgs

*DESY Summer Student Lectures, 10.08-11.08.2023*

*Claudia Seitz*



# This lecture

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*Measure*

*Standard Model*

*parameters with  
high precision*

*Search for the*

***Higgs boson***

*and measure its  
properties*

*Search for*

*New Physics*

*Beyond the  
Standard Model*

*Study*

*Quark-Gluon  
Plasma*

**Large Hadron Collider**

# The Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism in the SM

three generations of matter (fermions)			interactions / force carriers (bosons)				
	I	II	III				
QUARKS	mass $\approx 2.2 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ charge $\frac{2}{3}$ spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>u</b> up	mass $\approx 1.28 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ charge $\frac{2}{3}$ spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>c</b> charm	mass $\approx 173.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ charge $\frac{2}{3}$ spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>t</b> top	mass 0 charge 0 spin 1 <b>g</b> gluon	SCALAR BOSONS	mass $\approx 124.97 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ charge 0 spin 0 <b>H</b> higgs	
	mass $\approx 4.7 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ charge $-\frac{1}{3}$ spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>d</b> down	mass $\approx 96 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ charge $-\frac{1}{3}$ spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>s</b> strange	mass $\approx 4.18 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ charge $-\frac{1}{3}$ spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>b</b> bottom	mass 0 charge 0 spin 1 <b><math>\gamma</math></b> photon			
	mass $\approx 0.511 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ charge -1 spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>e</b> electron	mass $\approx 105.66 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ charge -1 spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\mu</math></b> muon	mass $\approx 1.7768 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ charge -1 spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\tau</math></b> tau	mass $\approx 91.19 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ charge 0 spin 1 <b>Z</b> Z boson			GAUGE BOSONS VECTOR BOSONS
	mass $< 1.0 \text{ eV}/c^2$ charge 0 spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\nu_e</math></b> electron neutrino	mass $< 0.17 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ charge 0 spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\nu_\mu</math></b> muon neutrino	mass $< 18.2 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ charge 0 spin $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\nu_\tau</math></b> tau neutrino	mass $\approx 80.433 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ charge $\pm 1$ spin 1 <b>W</b> W boson			

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \psi \not{D} \psi + h.c. + \psi_i \gamma_j \psi_j \phi + h.c. + |D_\mu \phi|^2 - V(\phi)$$

*Higgs-fermion interactions*

*Higgs-self interactions/potential*

*Higgs-gauge boson (W,Z) interactions*

# The Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism in the SM

- Introduction of the presence of a scalar field into the SM leads to
  - Particles acquire mass
    - Bosons: 3 out of 4 through electroweak symmetry breaking
    - Fermions: described by Yukawa  $y_{ij}$  couplings
  - Prediction of the existence of a particle → Higgs boson
    - Higgs boson interacts with itself

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} = & -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \\ & + \psi \not{D} \psi + h.c. \\ & + \psi_i y_{ij} \psi_j \phi + h.c. \\ & + |D_\mu \phi|^2 - V(\phi)\end{aligned}$$

*Higgs-fermion interactions*

*Higgs-self interactions/  
potential*

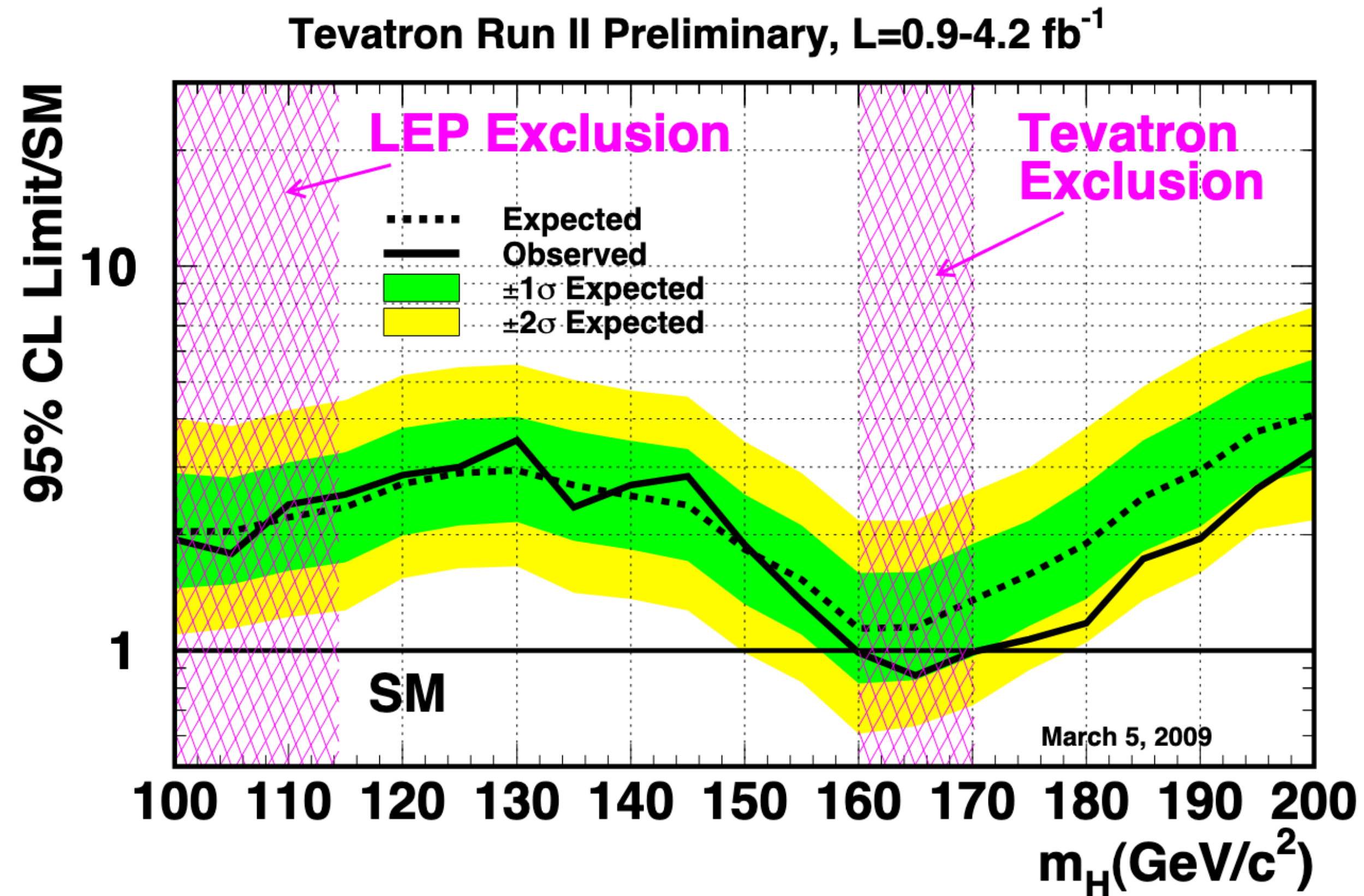
*Higgs-gauge boson (W,Z) interactions*



# The situation before the LHC

► Prediction from EW fits 2012:  
SM Higgs mass  $95^{+30}_{-23}$  GeV

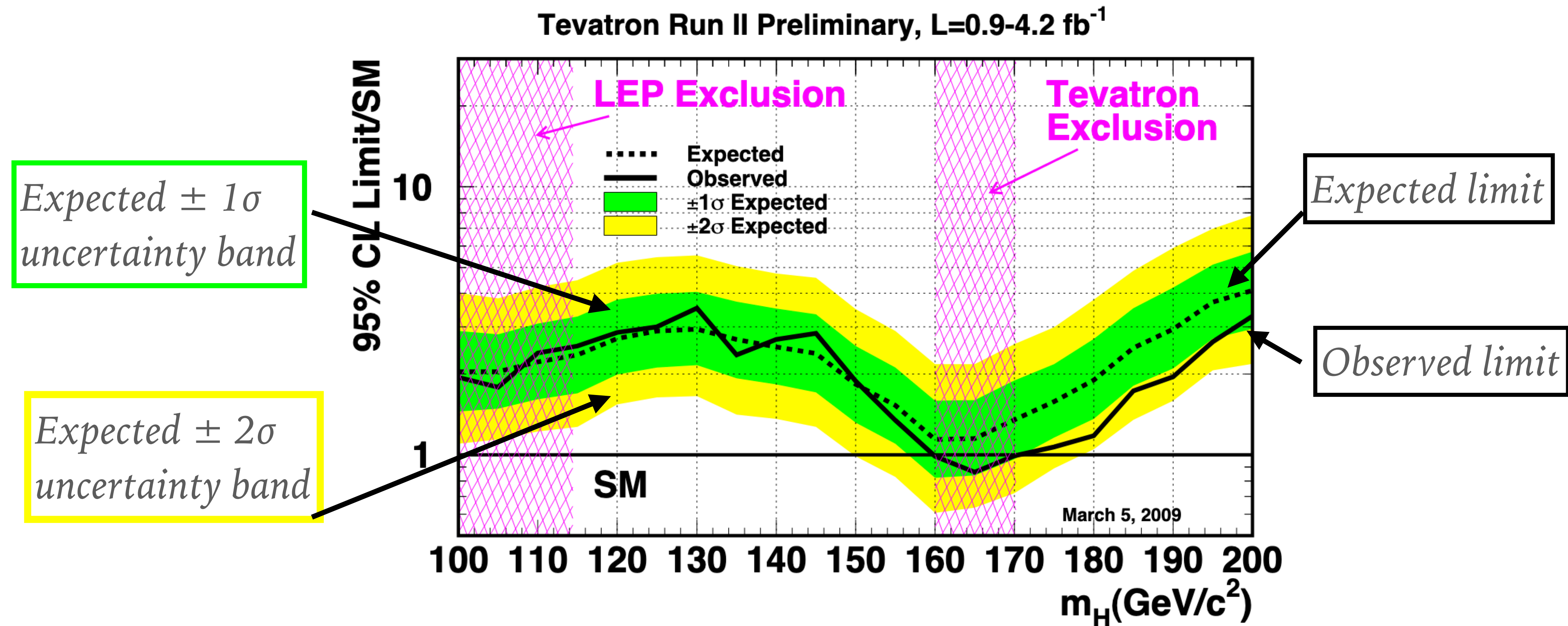
► Status 2009: SM Higgs mass above 114 GeV, and NOT in the range 160-170 GeV





# Interlude: Limits, how to read them and how to make them

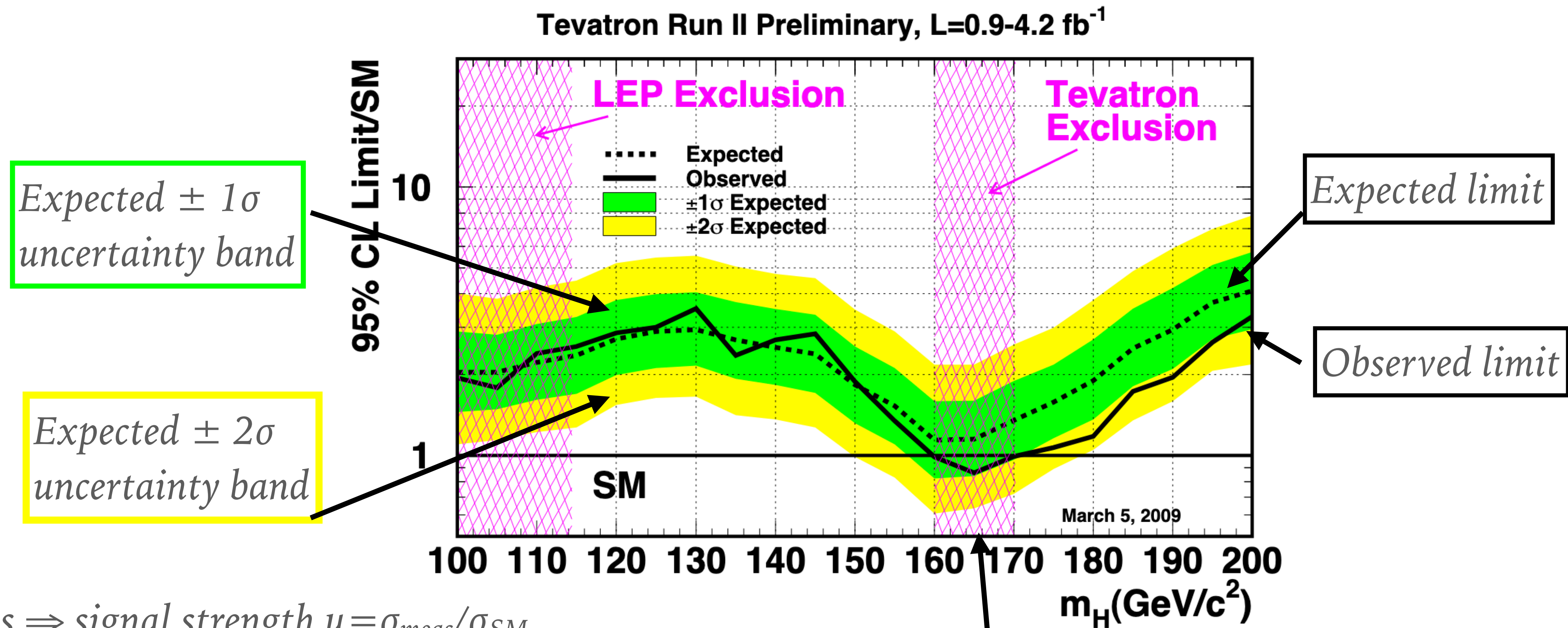
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# Interlude: Limits, how to read them and how to make them

- Status 2009: SM Higgs mass above 114 GeV, and NOT in the range 160-170 GeV



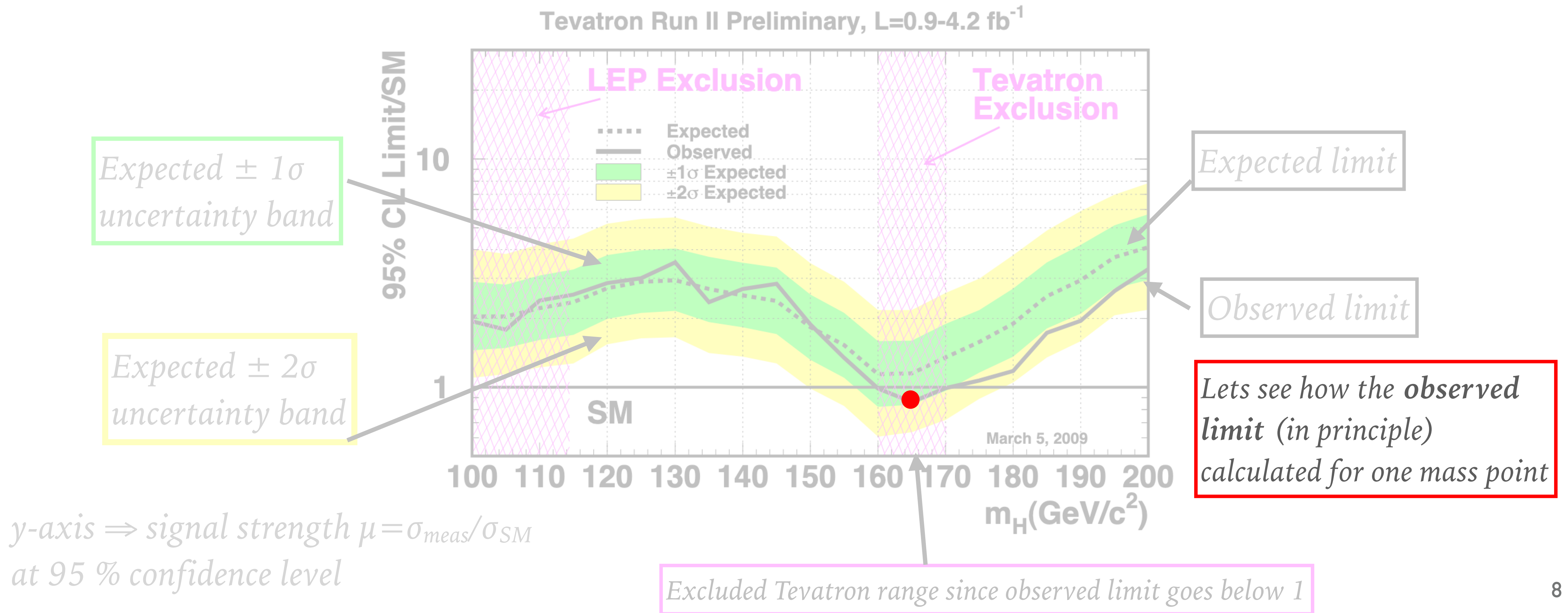
*y-axis ⇒ signal strength  $\mu = \sigma_{meas}/\sigma_{SM}$   
at 95 % confidence level*

*Excluded Tevatron range since observed limit goes below 1*



# Interlude: Limits, how to read them and how to make them

- Status 2009: SM Higgs mass above 114 GeV, and NOT in the range 160-170 GeV





# Interlude: Calculate observed limit

- Construct a likelihood  $\mathcal{L}(\text{data} | \mu, \theta) = \text{Poisson}(\text{data} | \mu \cdot s(\theta) + b(\theta)) \cdot p(\tilde{\theta} | \theta)$
- Compare the measured data with two hypothesis

- $H_0$  (**b** only,  $\mu=0$ )

- $H_1$  ( $\mu \times s + b$ )

- Define test statistic  $\tilde{q}_\mu = -2 \ln \frac{\mathcal{L}(\text{data} | \mu, \hat{\theta}_\mu)}{\mathcal{L}(\text{data} | \hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta})}$   
(based on the profile likelihood ratio)

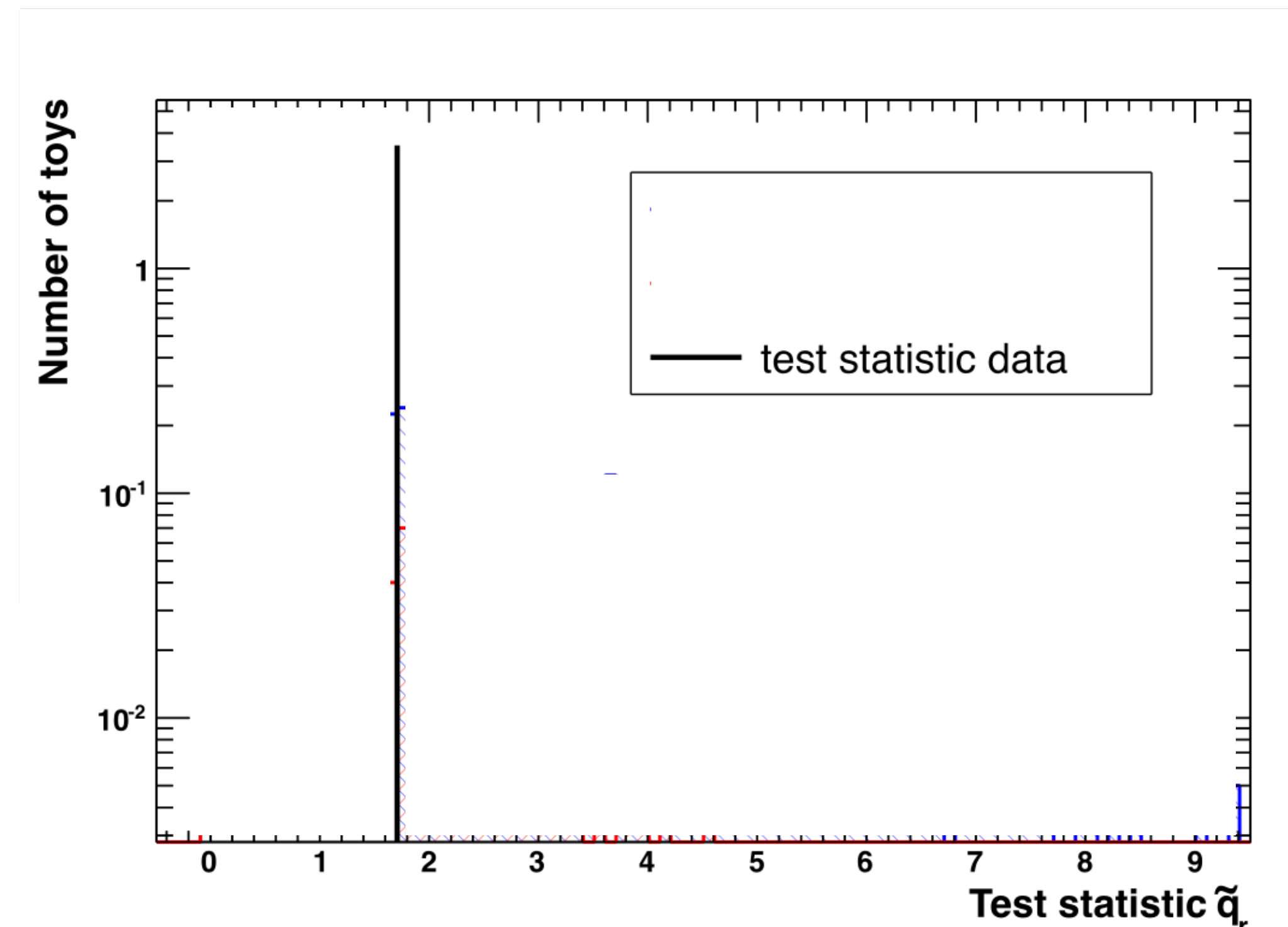
- Calculate  $\tilde{q}_\mu^{obs}$  for a specific  $\mu$  under test

$s =$  number of expected signal events

$\mu =$  signal strength modifier

$b =$  number of expected background events

$\theta =$  nuisance parameters





# Interlude: Calculate observed limit

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(based on the profile likelihood ratio)

- Calculate  $\tilde{q}_\mu^{obs}$  for a specific  $\mu$  under test

- Generate pdfs for the test statistic for  $H_0$  and  $H_1$  for specific  $\mu$

- Asymptotic approximation (i.e. a formula) or throwing toys (i.e. using computer generated random numbers)

- Integrate pdfs of  $H_0$  and  $H_1$  from  $\tilde{q}_\mu^{obs} \rightarrow \infty$  to obtain  $CL_B$  and  $CL_{S+B}$

- Exclude a  $\mu$ -value if  $CL_S < \alpha$  (i.e.  $\mu^{95\%}$  or  $\mu$  at 95% confidence level)

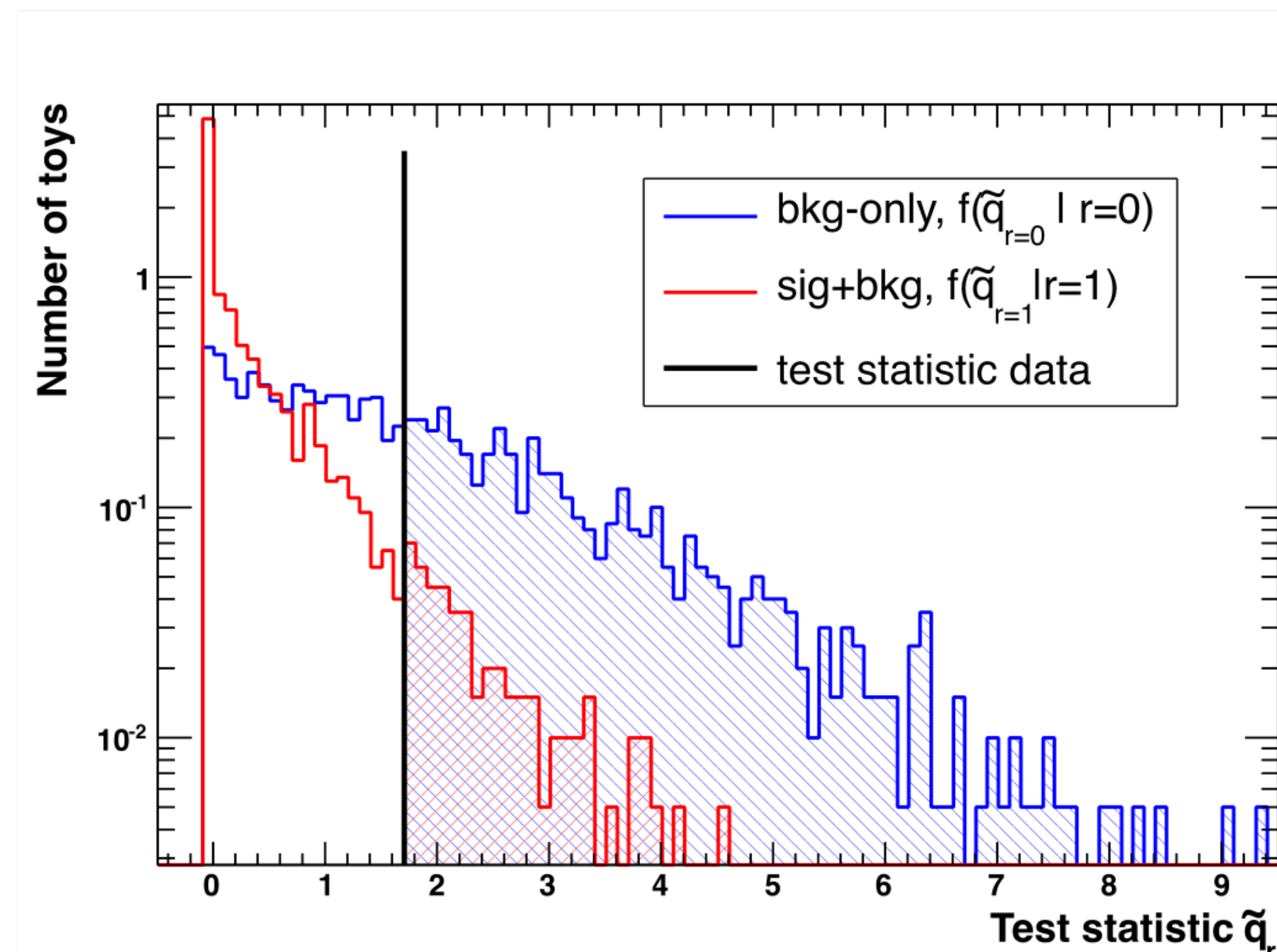
- Repeat for next  $\mu$  under test

$s =$  number of expected signal events

$\mu =$  signal strength modifier

$b =$  number of expected background events

$\theta =$  nuisance parameters



$$CL_S = CL_{S+B} / CL_B < \alpha$$

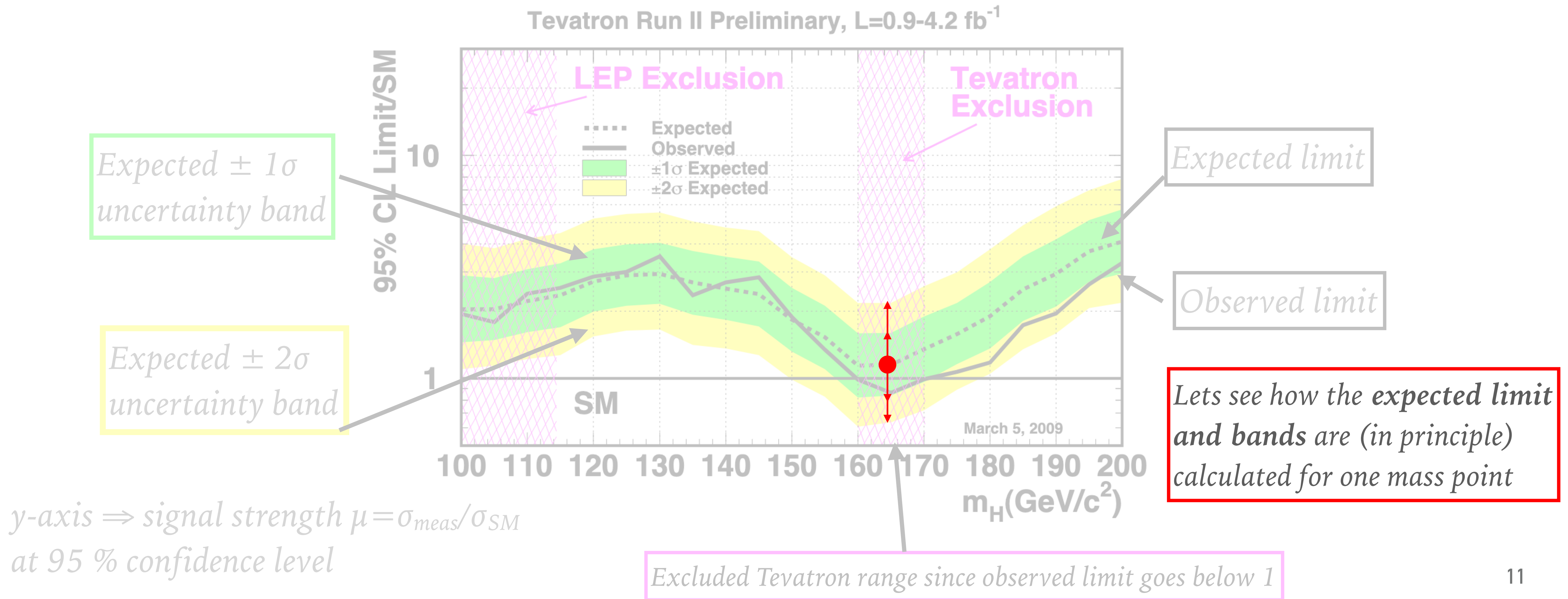
$\alpha$  conventionally chosen to be 0.05

→ 95% confidence level (C.L.) limits



# Interlude: Limits, how to read them and how to make them

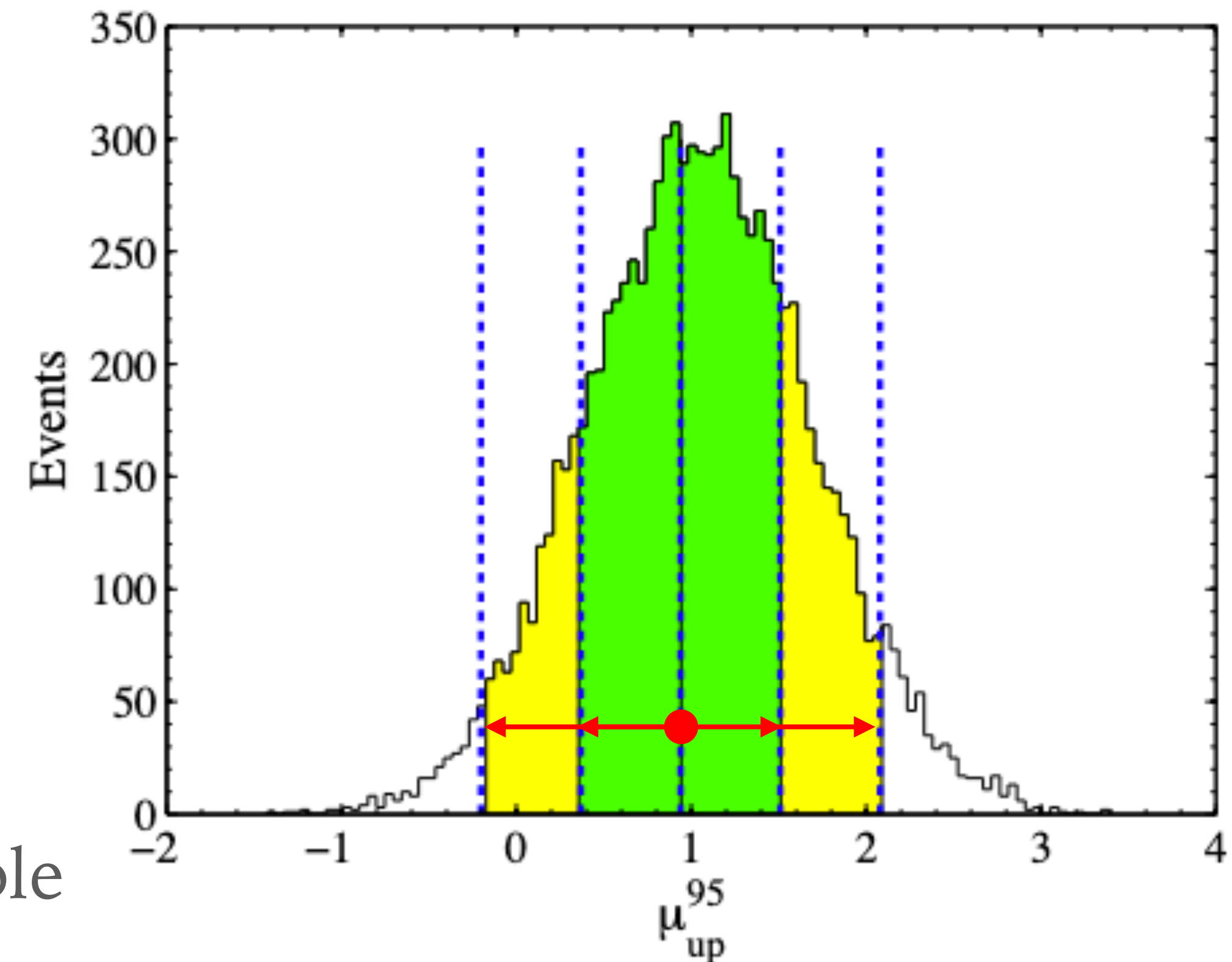
- Status 2009: SM Higgs mass above 114 GeV, and NOT in the range 160-170 GeV





# Interlude: Calculate expected limits

- Repeat the same previous procedure **but** assuming now that the background only hypothesis  $H_0$  ( $\mathbf{b}$  only,  $\mu=0$ ) represents the real data
  - generate large set of toys (or pseudo data)
  - calculate  $\mu^{95\%}$  for each one of them
  - find mean 50%, 68% (1 sigma), 95% (2 sigma) ranges
- In absence of signal, observed and expected limit should be very similar
- pseudo-data are very time-intensive, preferable to do this analytically where possible

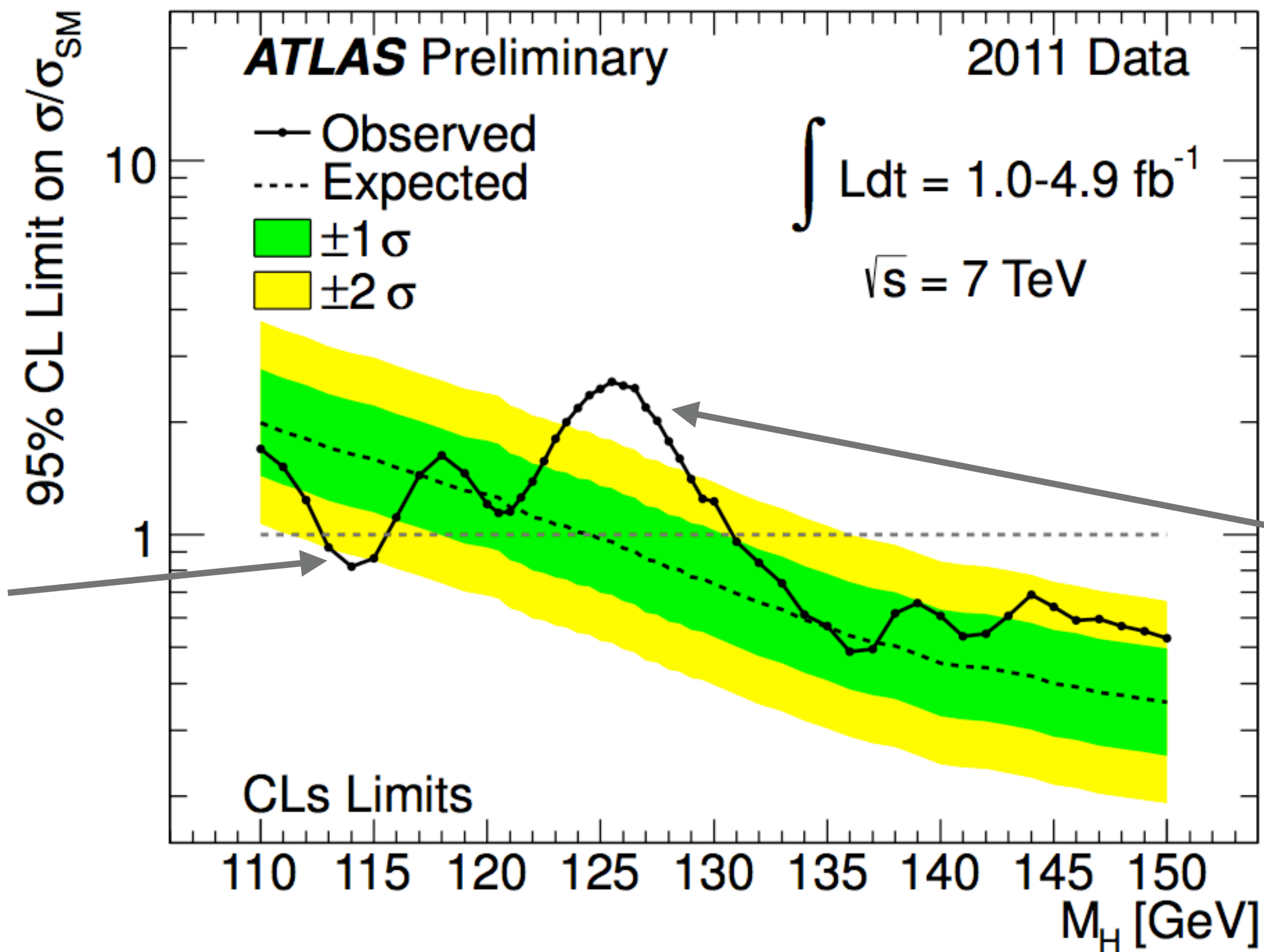




# Fun fact: it gets worse before it gets better

- The limit for a given model will improve by adding more data
  - However if a signal is there the observed limit does not improve anymore

➤ If the expected limit is worse than the observed  
⇒ you have a deficit

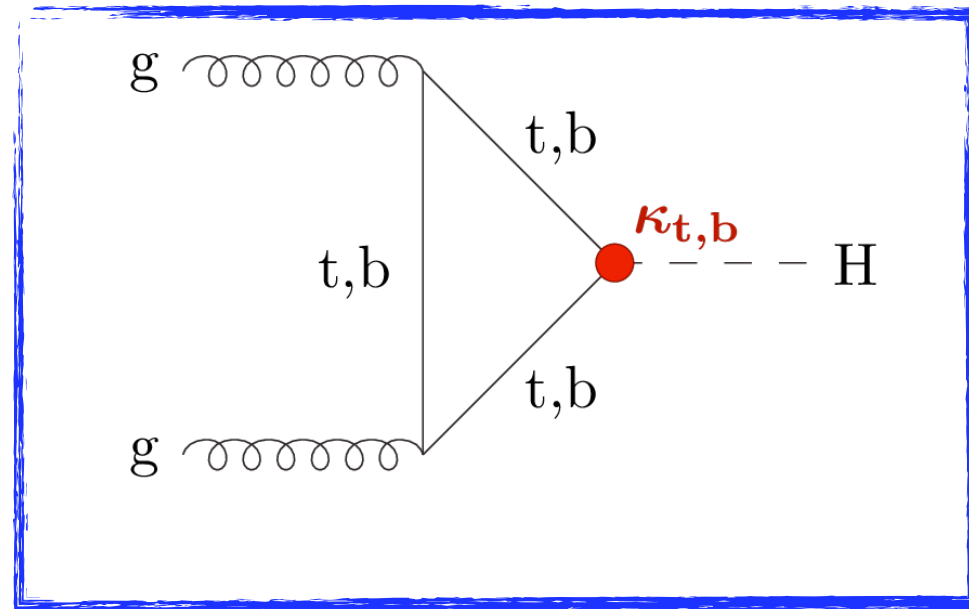


➤ If the expected limit is better than the observed  
⇒ you have an excess

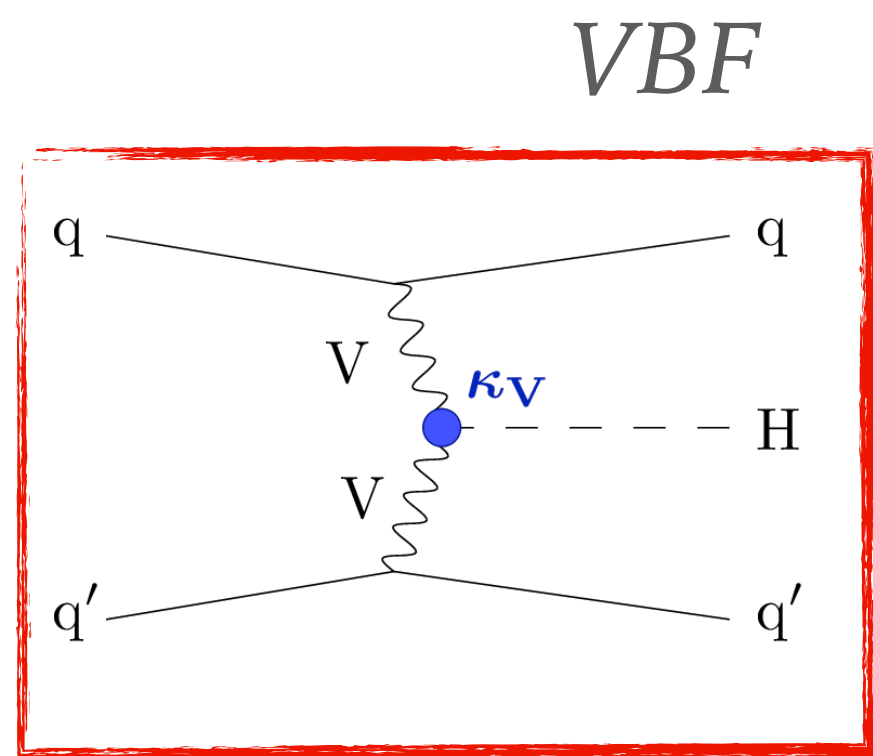
“better” = lower on the y-axis here



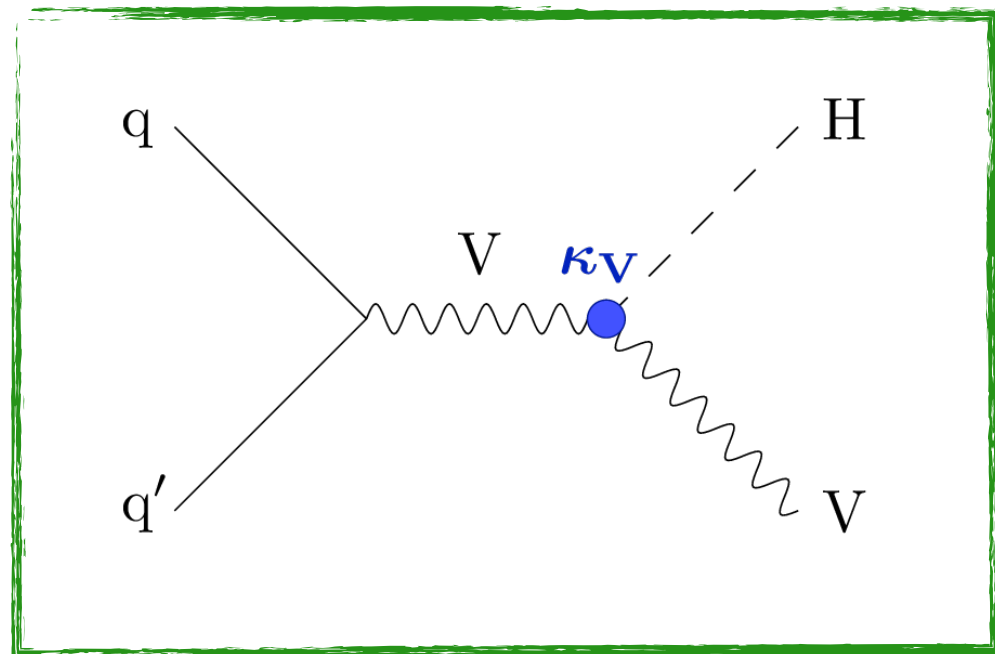
# Higgs production modes at the LHC



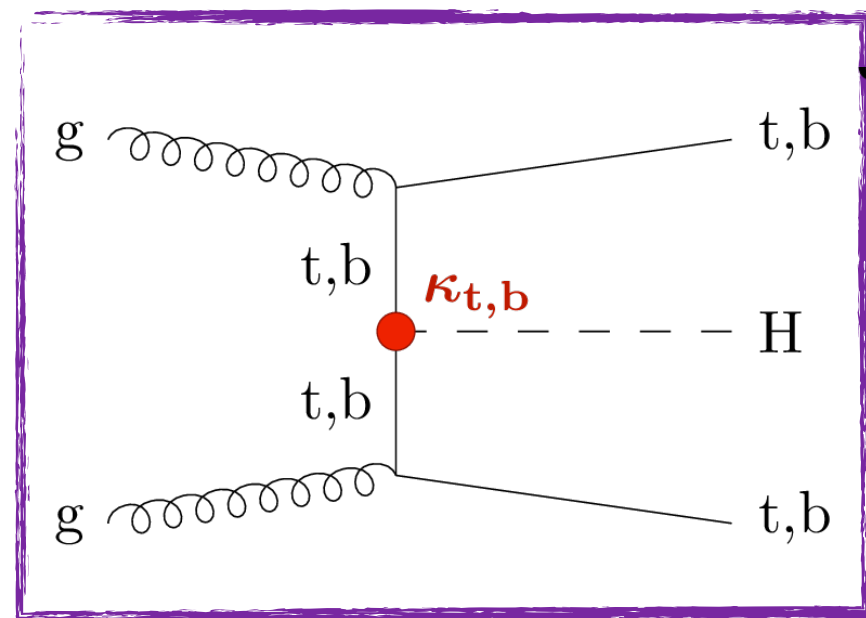
ggF



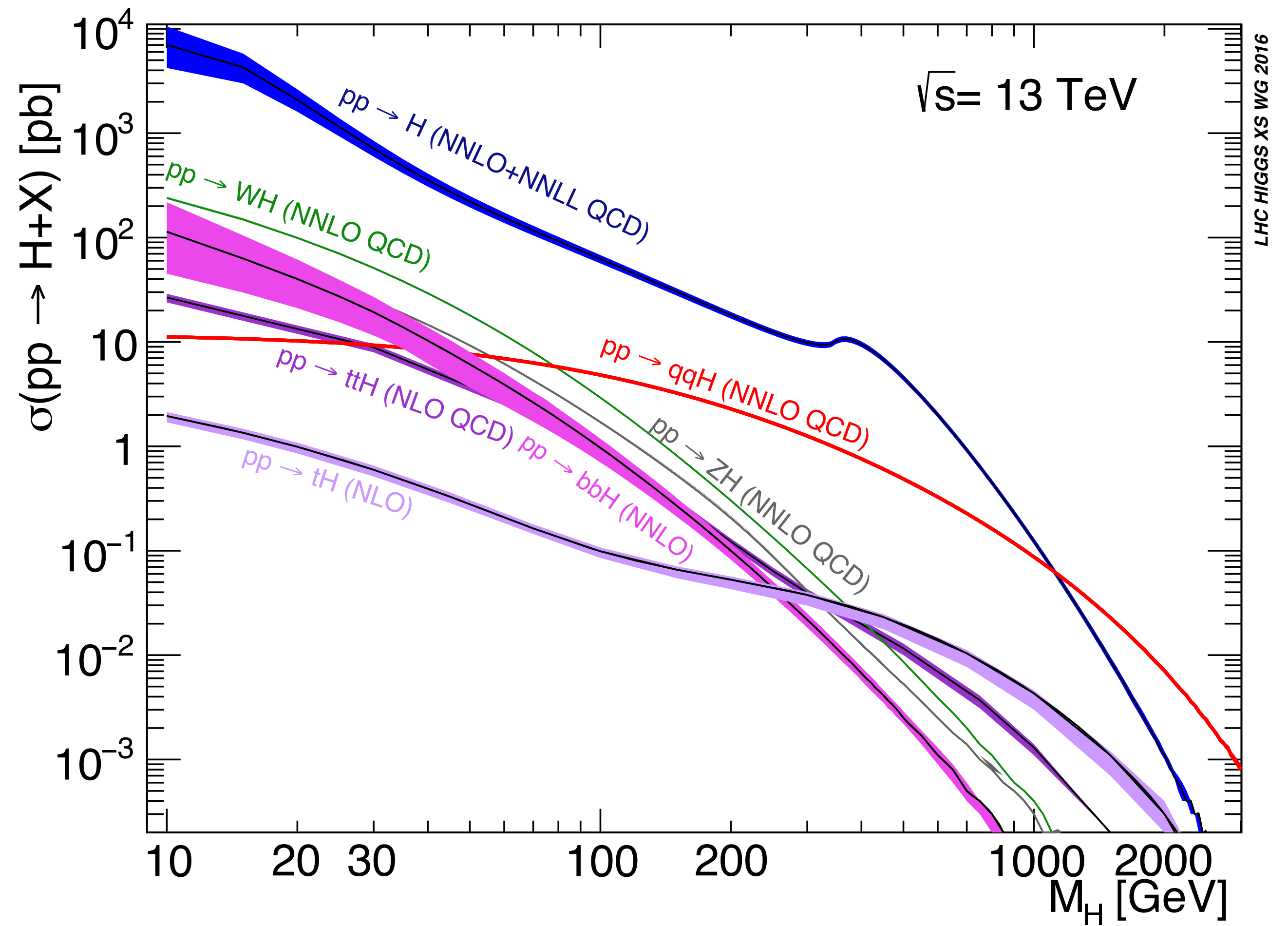
VBF



Higgs strahlung



ttH

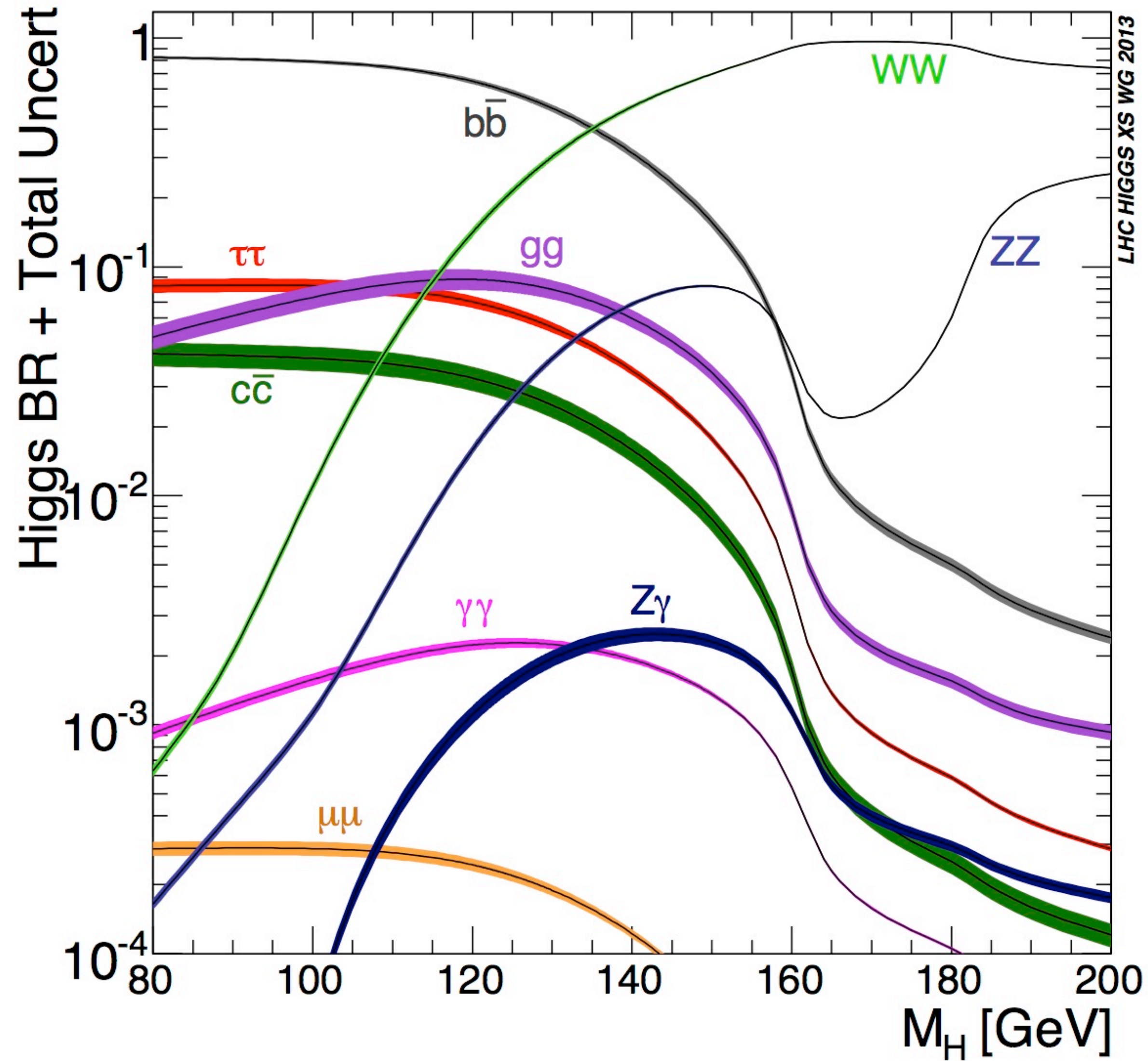


LHC HIGGS XS WG 2016

➤ Higgs production cross section as a function of  $m_H$

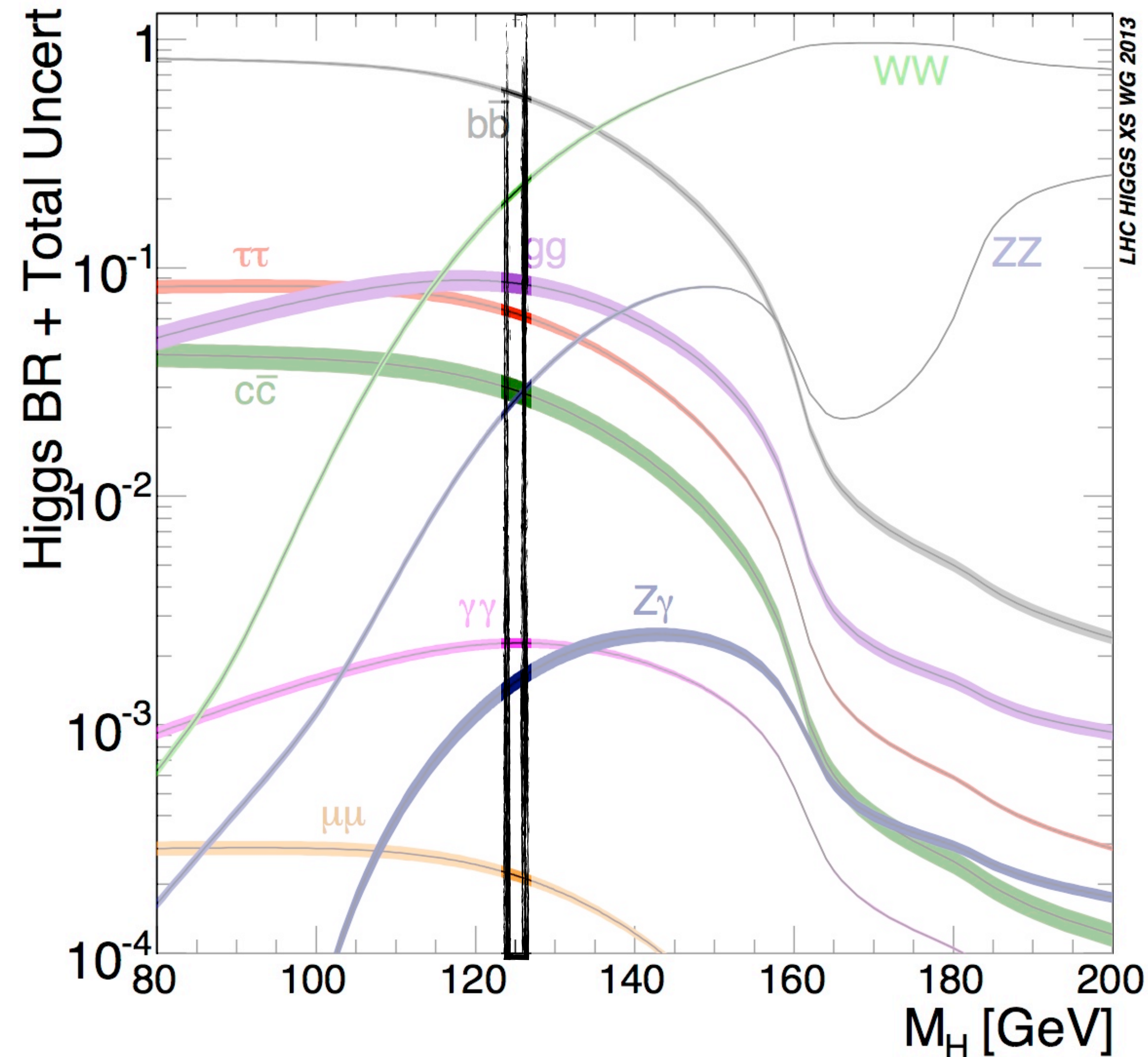


# Higgs decay modes: a little bit of everything





# Higgs decay modes: a little bit of everything



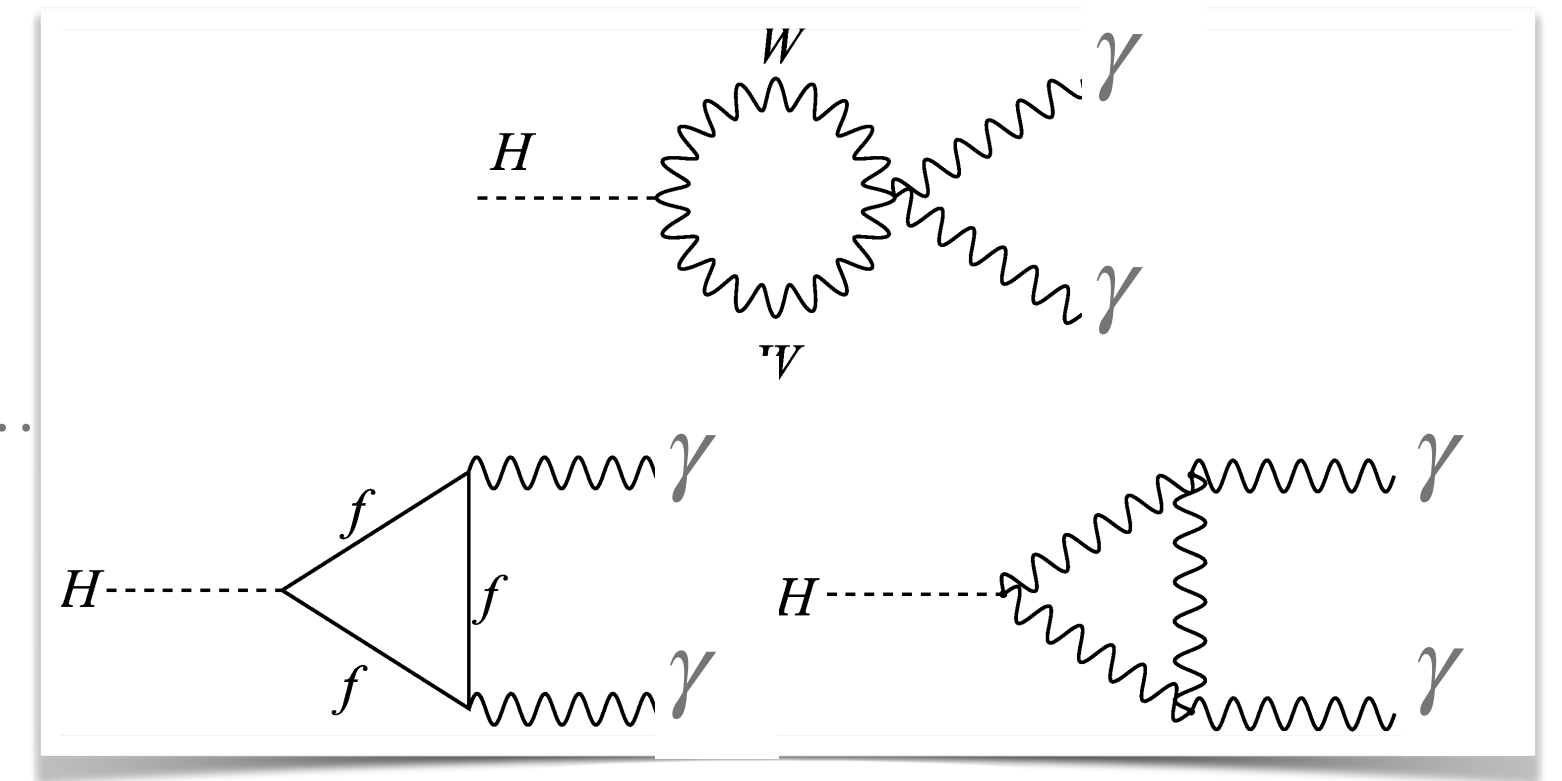
Decay channel	Branching ratio	Rel. uncertainty
$H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	$2.28 \times 10^{-3}$	+5.0% -4.9%
$H \rightarrow ZZ$	$2.64 \times 10^{-2}$	+4.3% -4.1%
$H \rightarrow W^+W^-$	$2.15 \times 10^{-1}$	+4.3% -4.2%
$H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$	$6.32 \times 10^{-2}$	+5.7% -5.7%
$H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$	$5.77 \times 10^{-1}$	+3.2% -3.3%
$H \rightarrow Z\gamma$	$1.54 \times 10^{-3}$	+9.0% -8.9%
$H \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$	$2.19 \times 10^{-4}$	+6.0% -5.9%

- At  $m_H = 125$  GeV
  - $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ : dominant decay, however large backgrounds
  - $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  and  $H \rightarrow ZZ$ ,  $H \rightarrow WW$  are the “discovery channels”



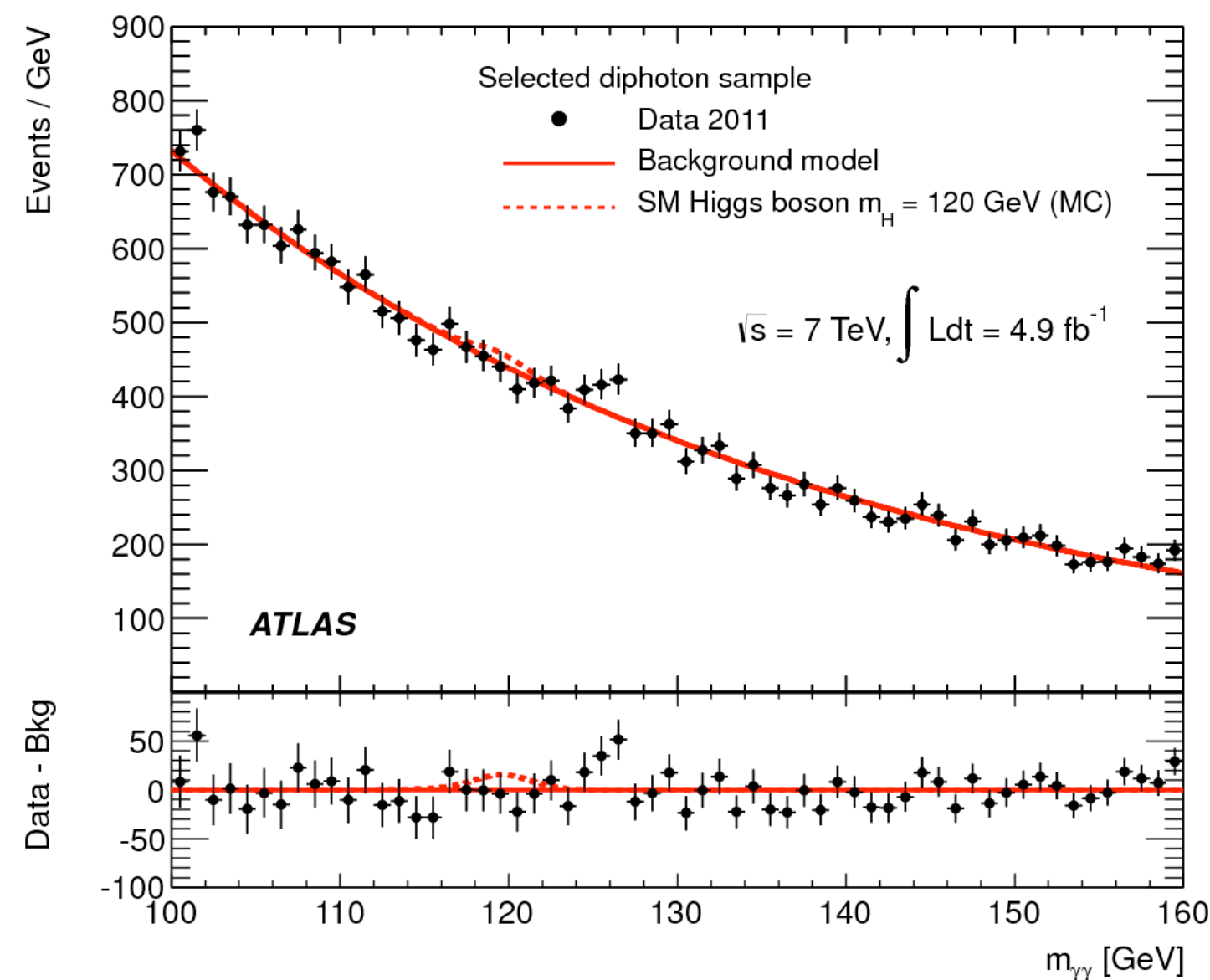
# Higgs to $\gamma\gamma$

- Fairly clean signature: 2 photons + reconstruct their invariant mass
  - Lots of work goes into dedicated photon reconstruction and calibration
  - Very good mass resolution  $\Rightarrow$  excellent channel for mass measurement
- Large but smoothly falling di-photon background

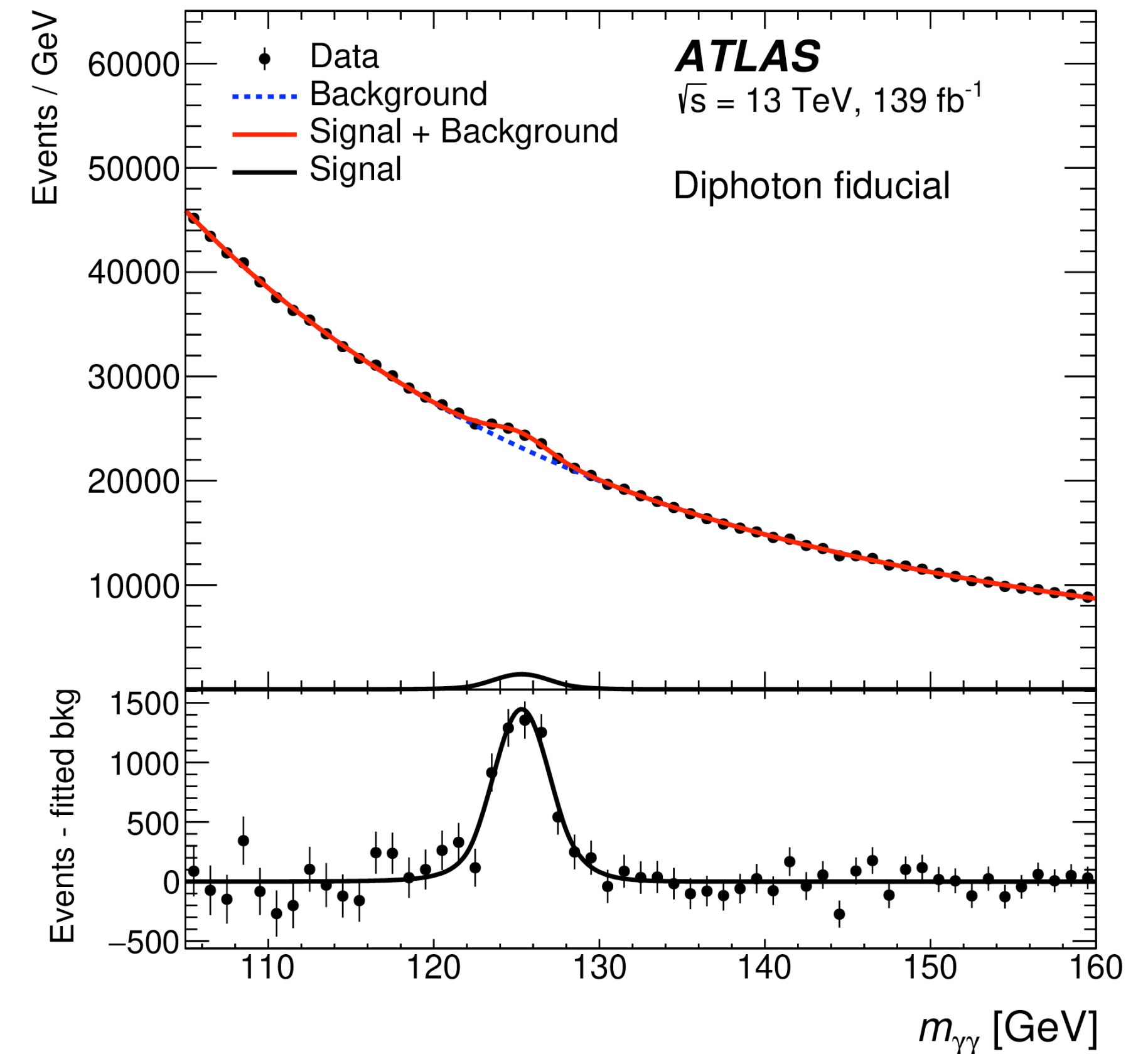
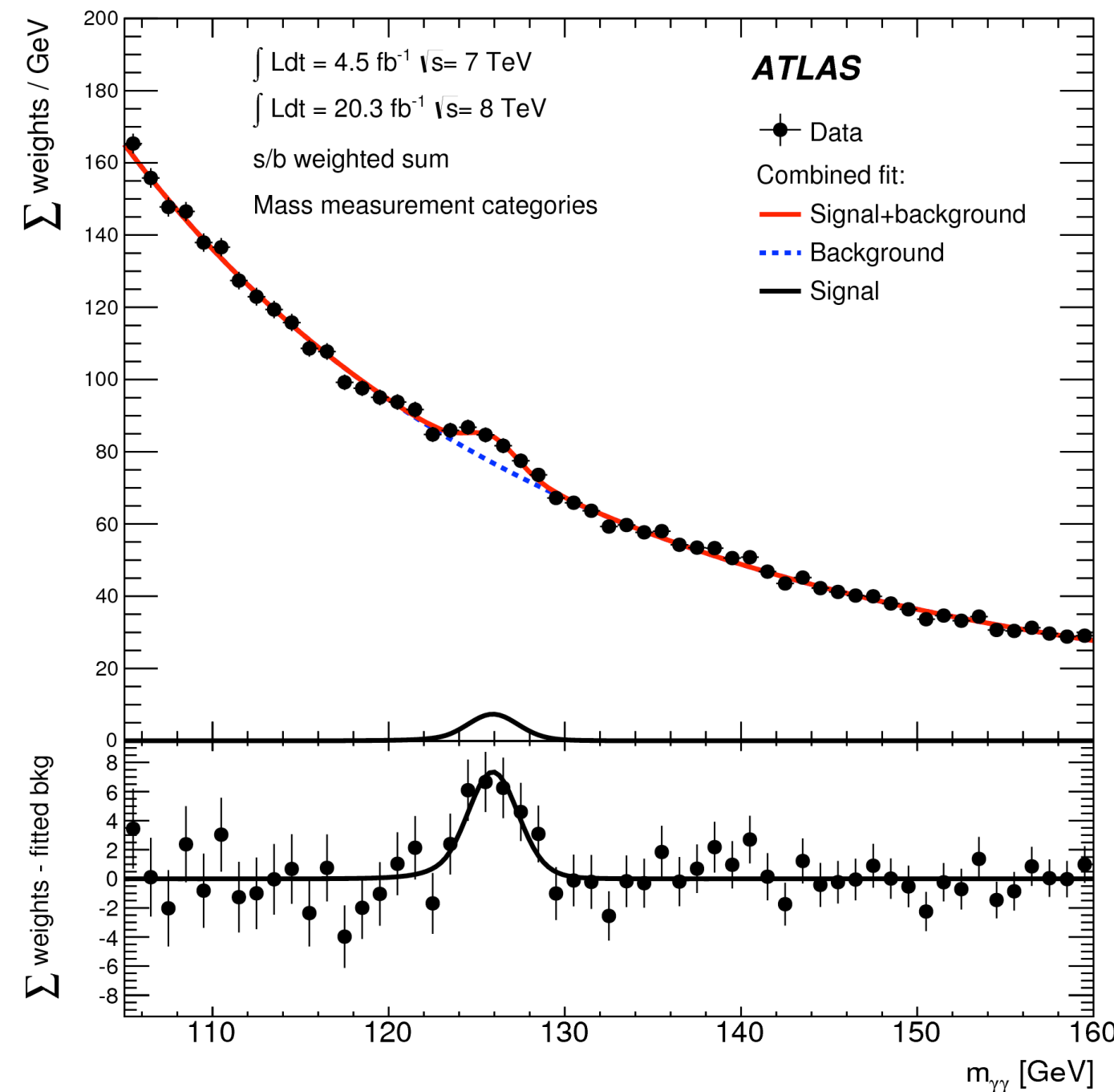


Full Run2 @ 13 TeV

5fb<sup>-1</sup> @ 7 TeV



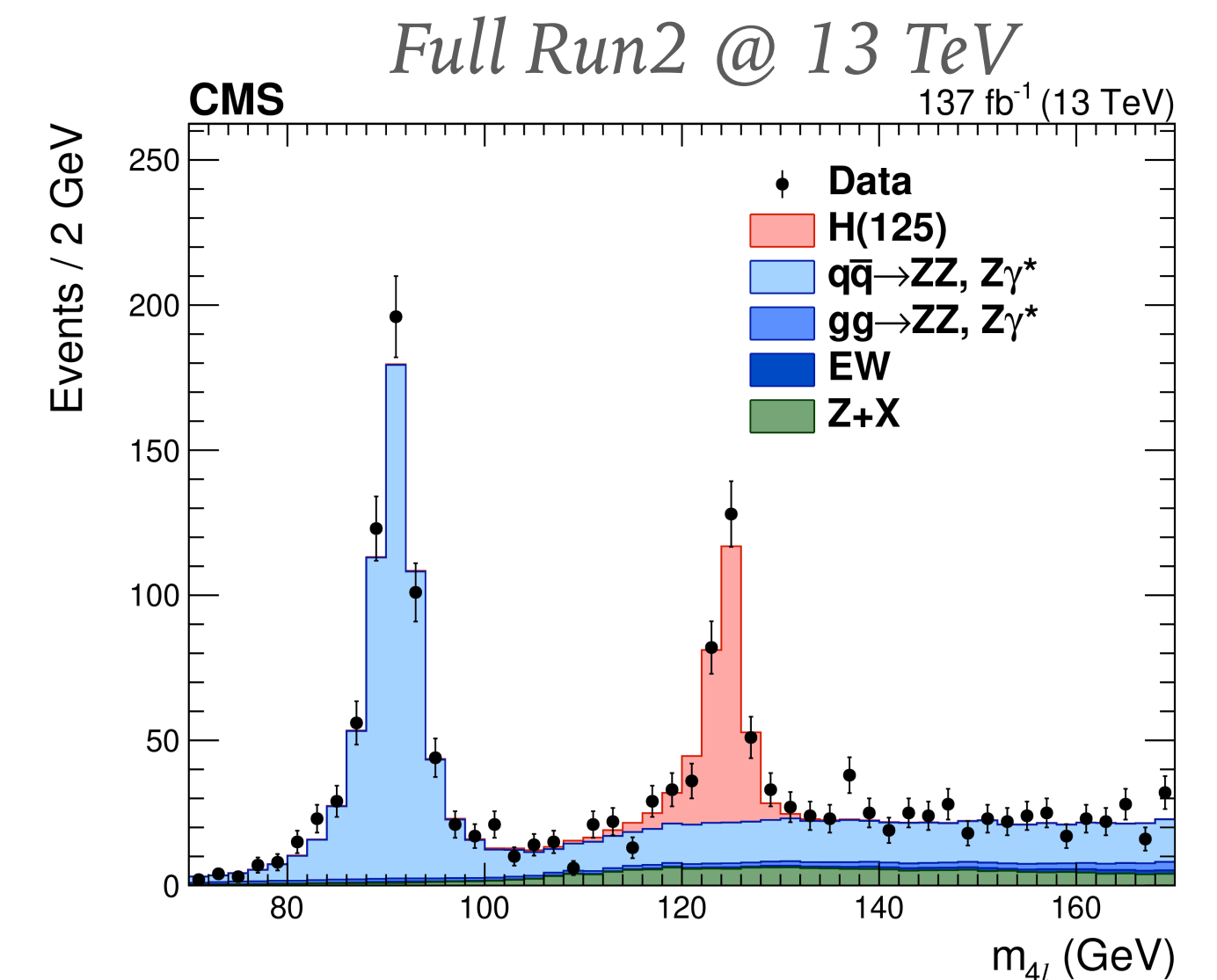
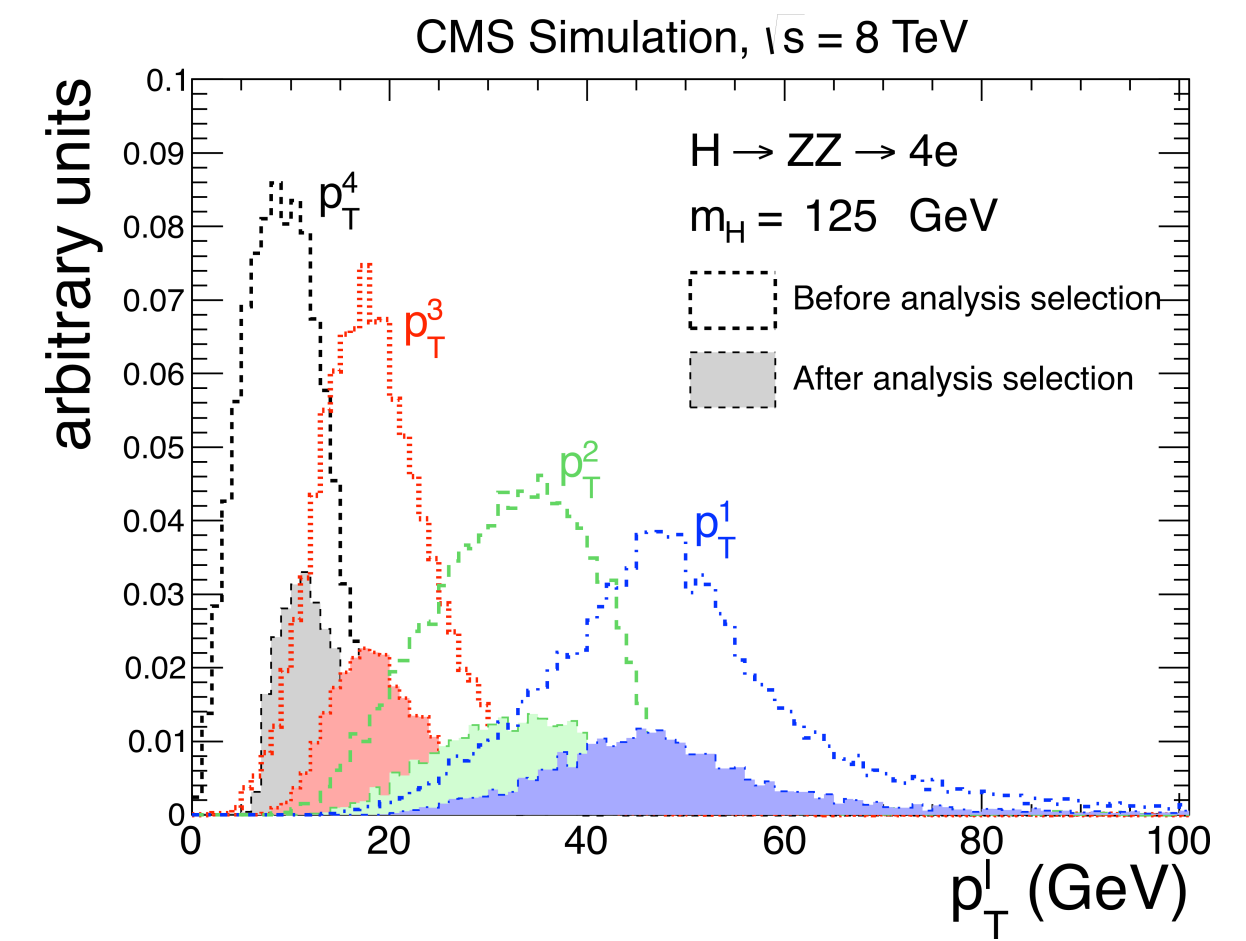
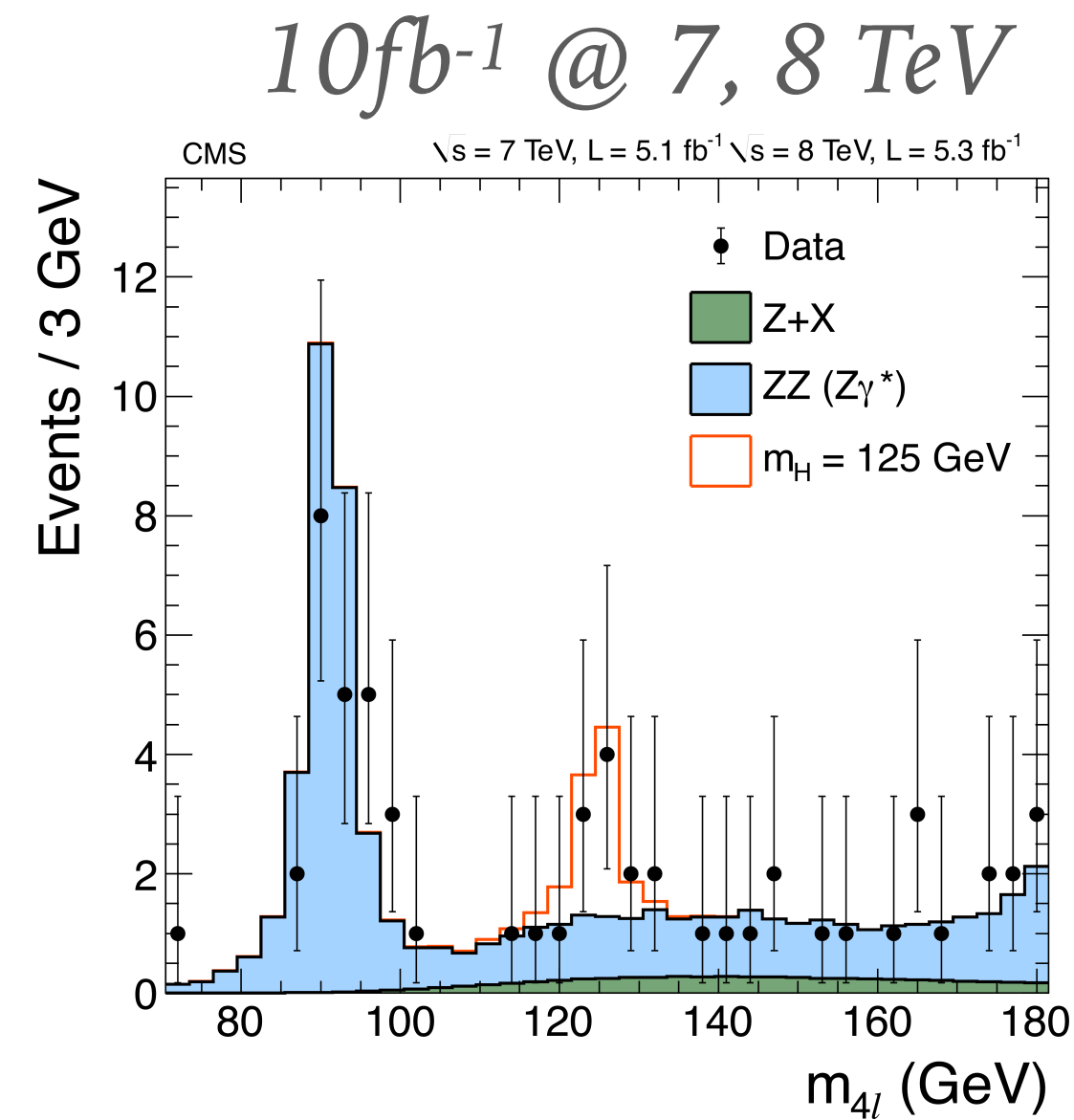
Full Run1 @ 7, 8 TeV





# Higgs to ZZ

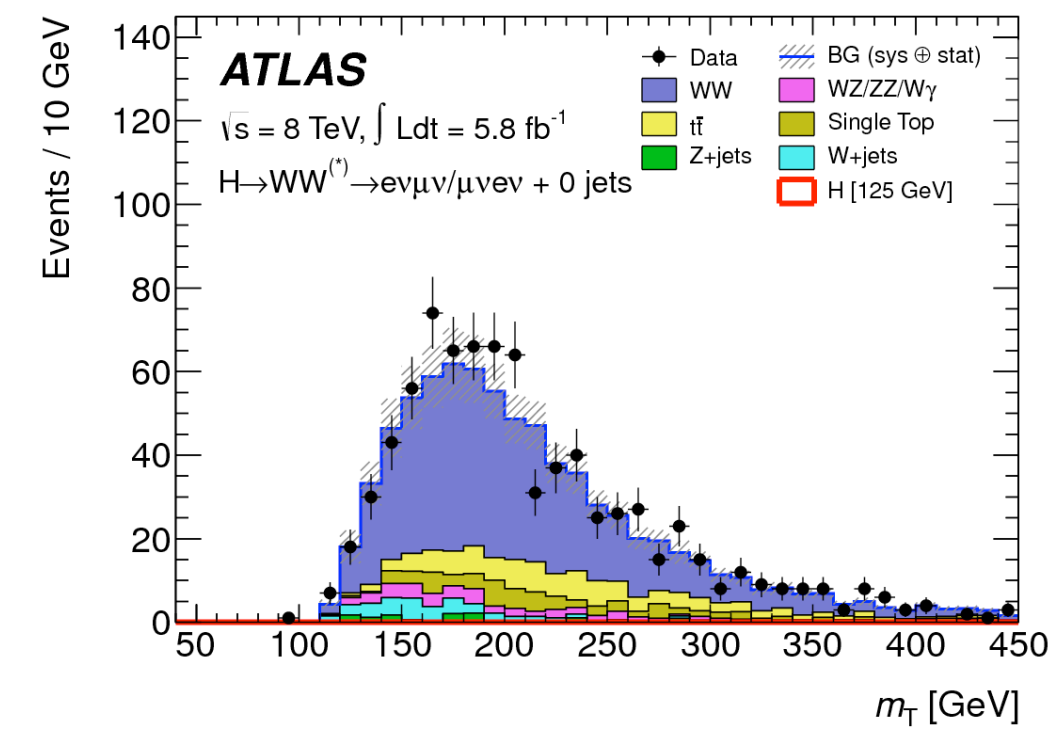
- Very clean signature: 4 leptons (electrons and muons, 2 same flavor opposite sign pairs)
- Channel with high S/B ratio
- Other important features:
  - Very low rate due to branchings of ZZ and Z to leptons
  - The trailing lepton is at low  $p_T$
  - The polarisation of the two Z can be reconstructed
  - Typically one Z is on-mass shell



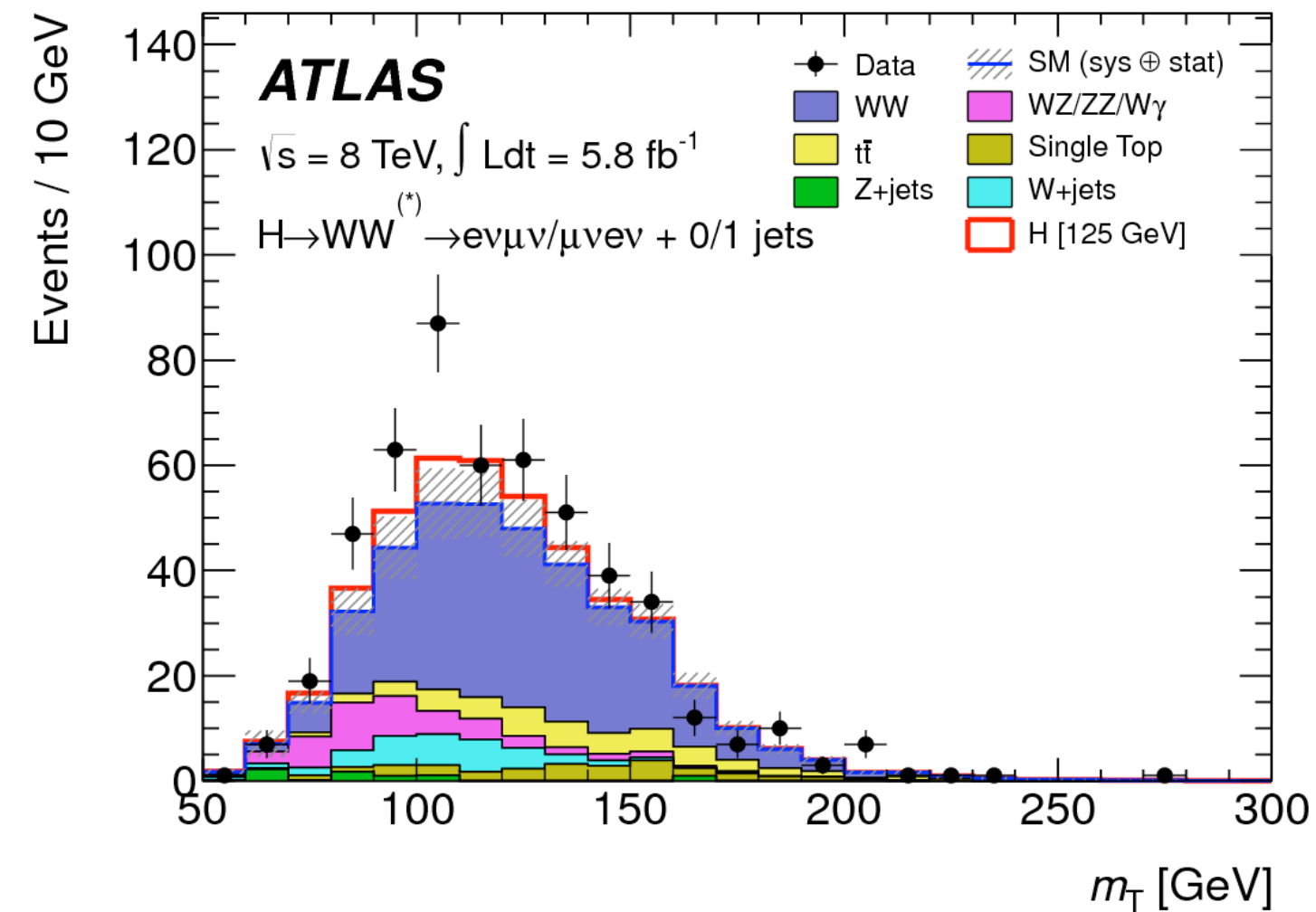


# Higgs to WW

- Final states including two leptons and two neutrinos
- Higgs mass diluted by the presence of neutrinos  
⇒  $m_T$  variable is used
- Large event rate, but also large backgrounds from SM WW and top production
- Control regions in data needed to estimate these backgrounds

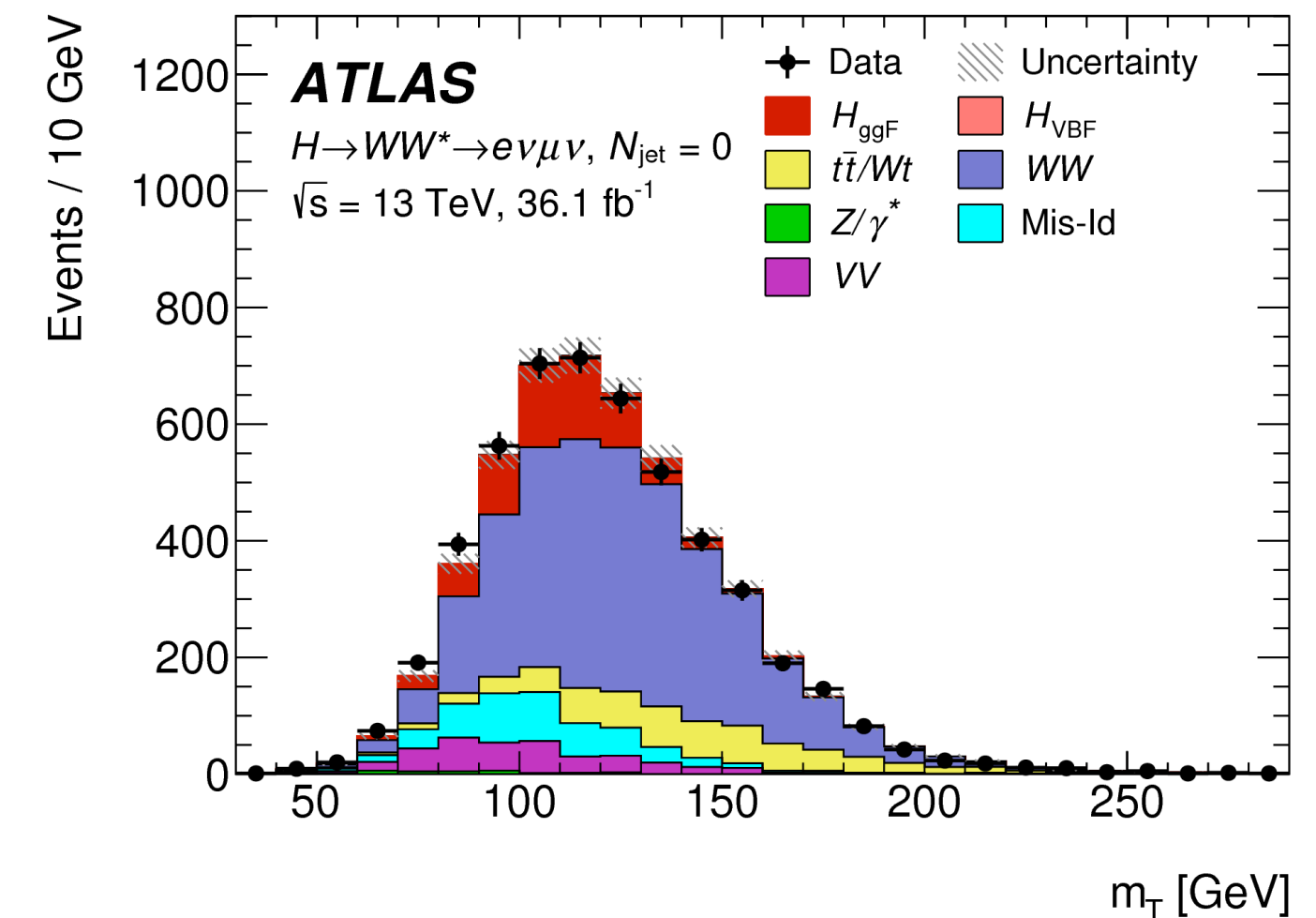


*WW control region  
 - no signal expected  
 - orthogonal to the SR*



*5fb<sup>-1</sup> @ 8 TeV*

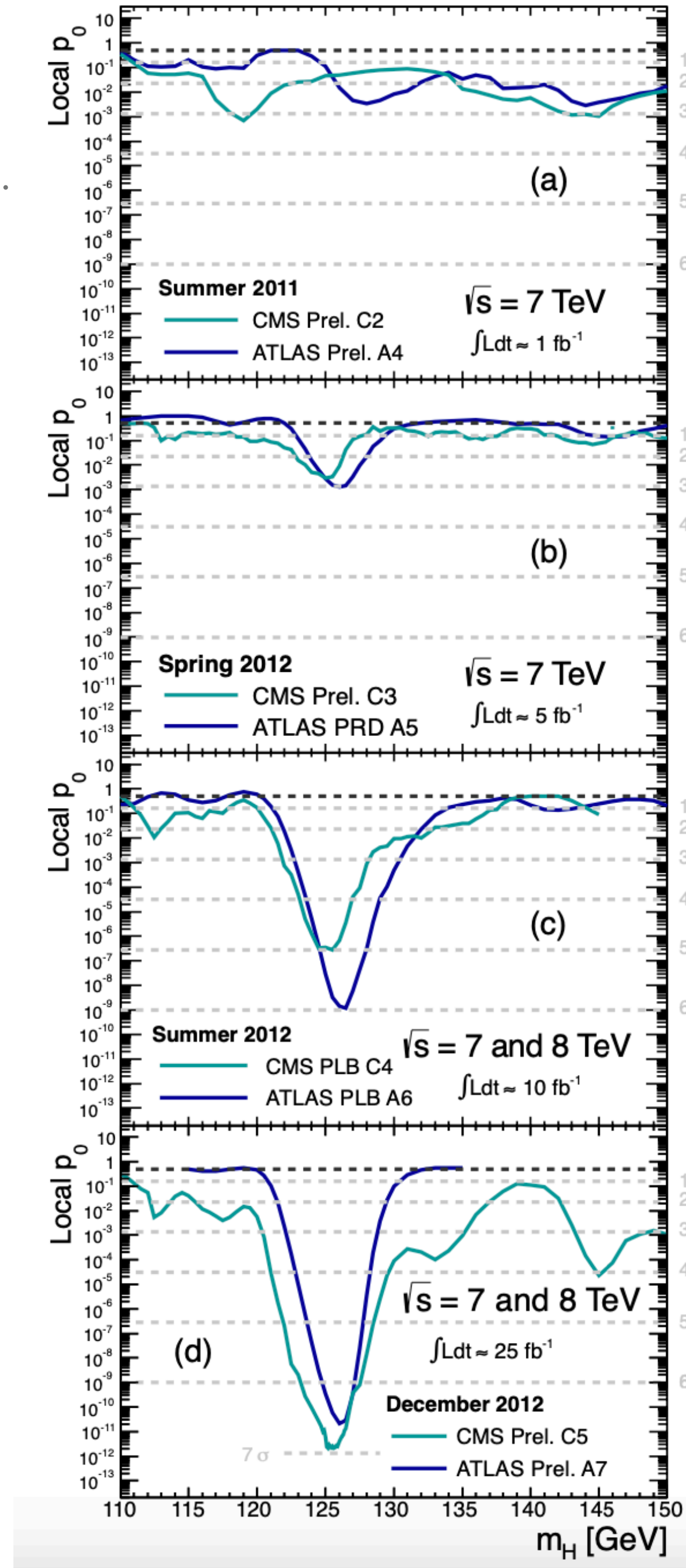
*36fb<sup>-1</sup> @ 13 TeV*





# A textbook discovery

- ▶ Summer 2011 EPS and Lepton-Photon  
⇒ **Still focused on limits**
- ▶ December 2011 CERN Council:  
⇒ **First hints**
- ▶ Summer 2012 CERN Council and ICHEP  
⇒ **Discovery!**
- ▶ December 2012 CERN Council  
⇒ **Beginning of a new era!**



- ▶ Strongly Motivated
- ▶ Significance increased with luminosity to reach unambiguous levels
- ▶ Two experiments
- ▶ Several channels



# The Higgs turned 10!



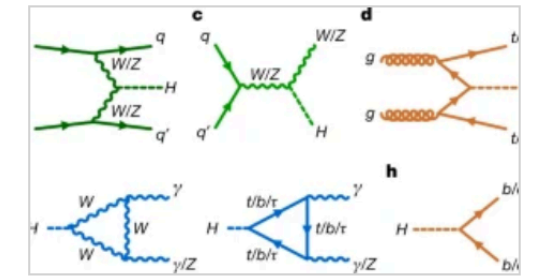
## Research Articles

Article  
[Open Access](#)  
4 Jul 2022  
[Nature](#)

### A detailed map of Higgs boson interactions by the ATLAS experiment ten years after the discovery

Ten years after the discovery of the Higgs boson, the ATLAS experiment at CERN probes its kinematic properties with a significantly larger dataset from 2015–2018 and provides further insights on its interaction with other known particles.

The ATLAS Collaboration

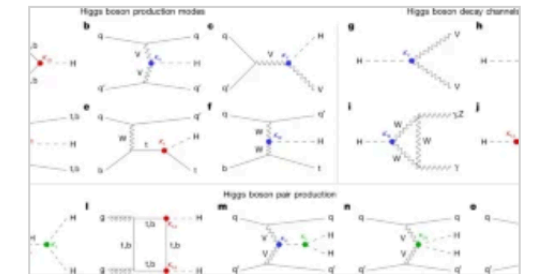


Article  
[Open Access](#)  
4 Jul 2022  
[Nature](#)

### A portrait of the Higgs boson by the CMS experiment ten years after the discovery

The most up-to-date combination of results on the properties of the Higgs boson is reported, which indicate that its properties are consistent with the standard model predictions, within the precision achieved to date.

The CMS Collaboration





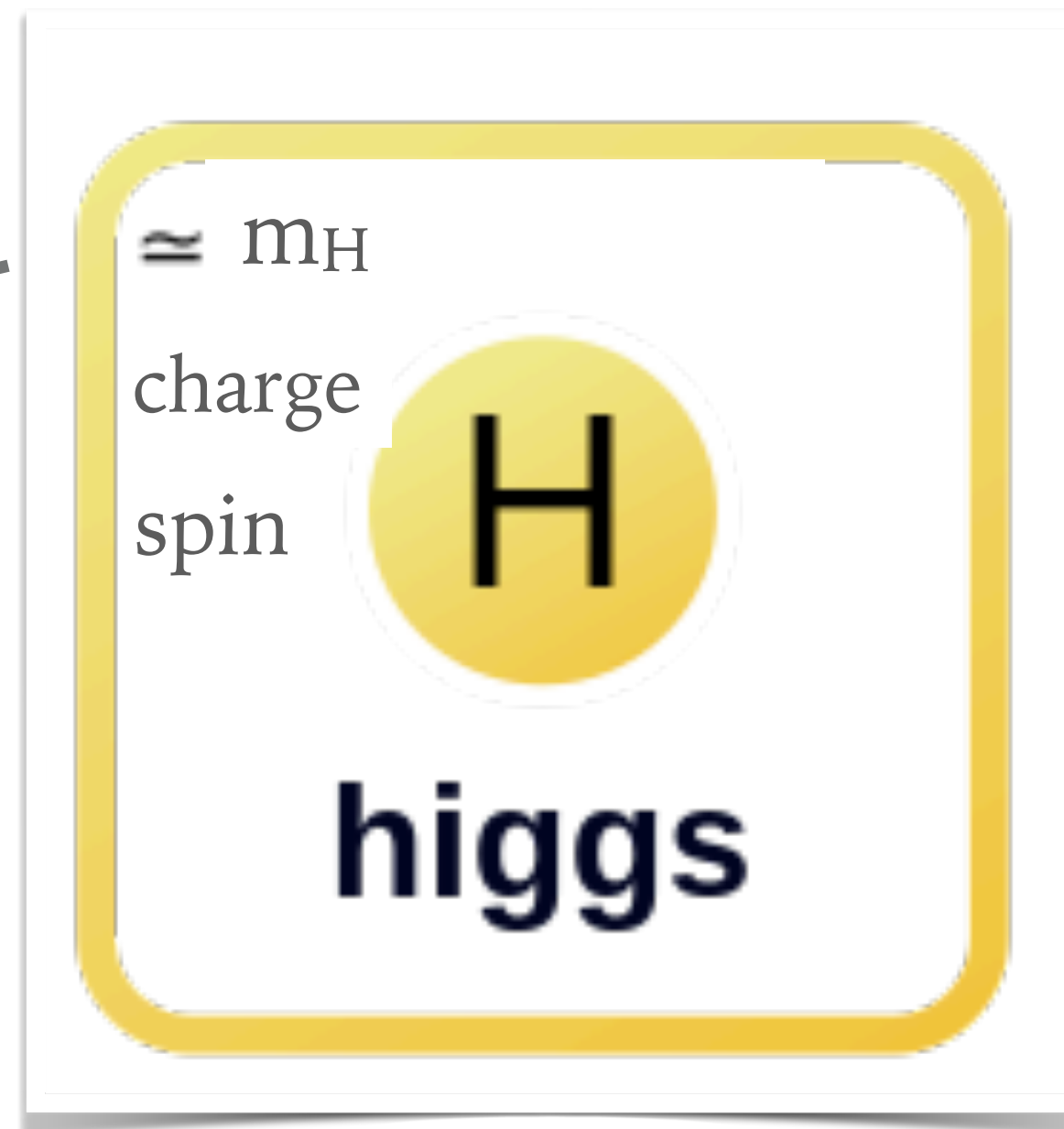
# Adding more and more pieces of the puzzle

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- What does the SM predict for the Higgs?

**Width**

Depends on the mass



**Spin and CP**

scalar: spin 0, CP even

**Couplings**

Higgs-Fermion couplings  $\sim$  fermion mass  
Higgs-Boson couplings  $\sim$  boson mass<sup>2</sup>

⇒ SM Higgs sector is overall very predictive:  
Knowing the fermion masses, only free parameter is  $m_H$



# Let's test these predictions

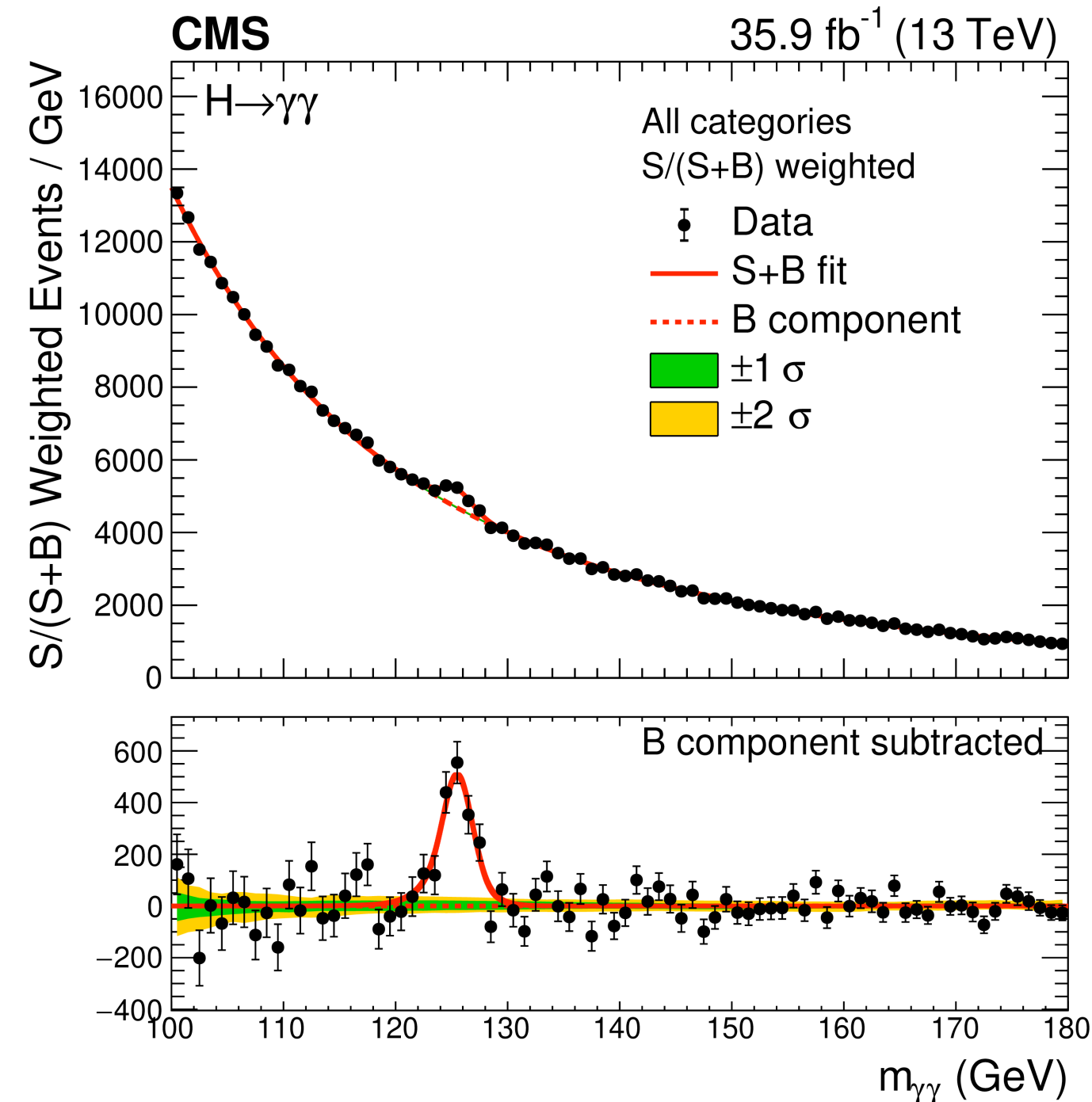
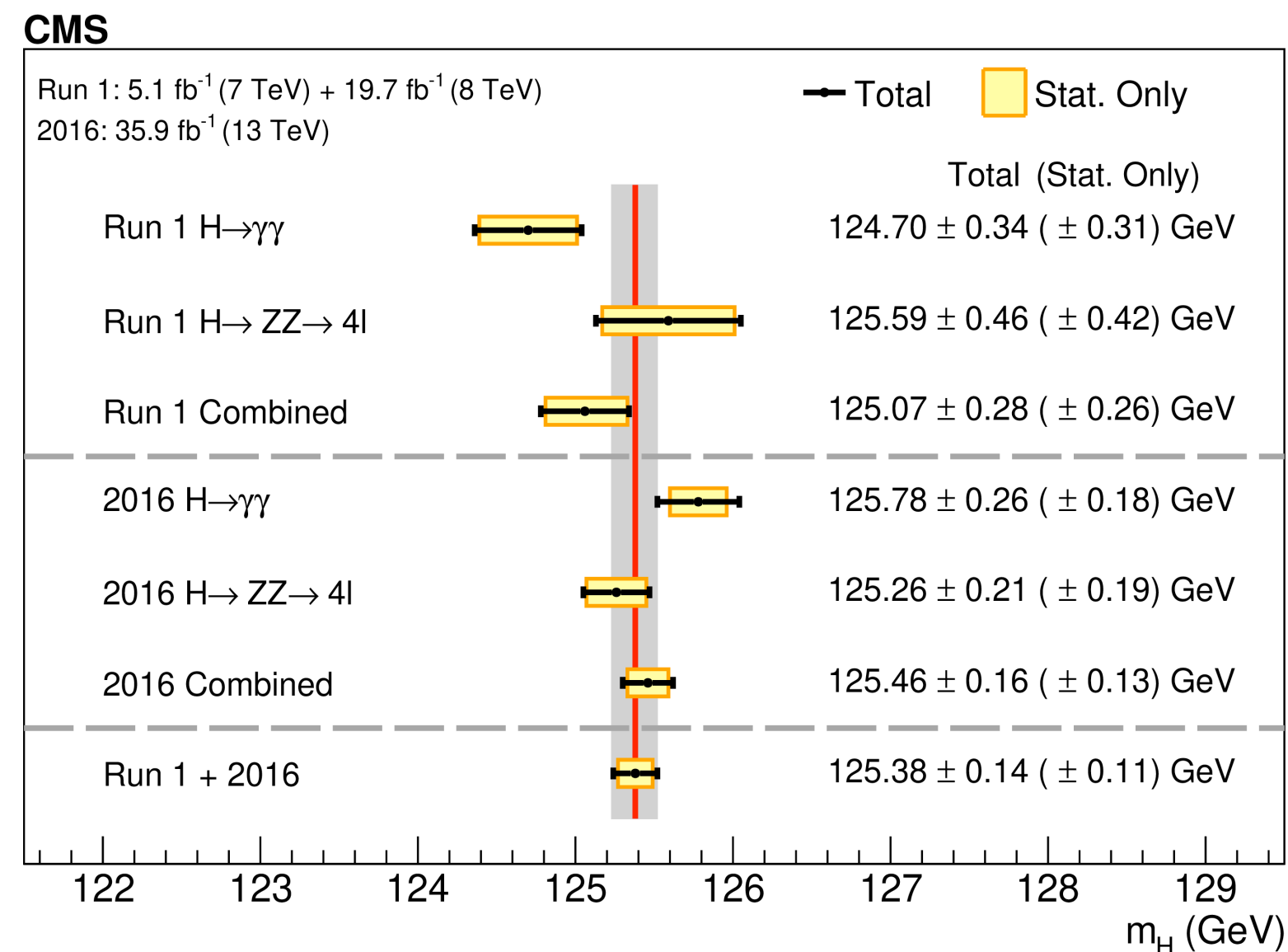
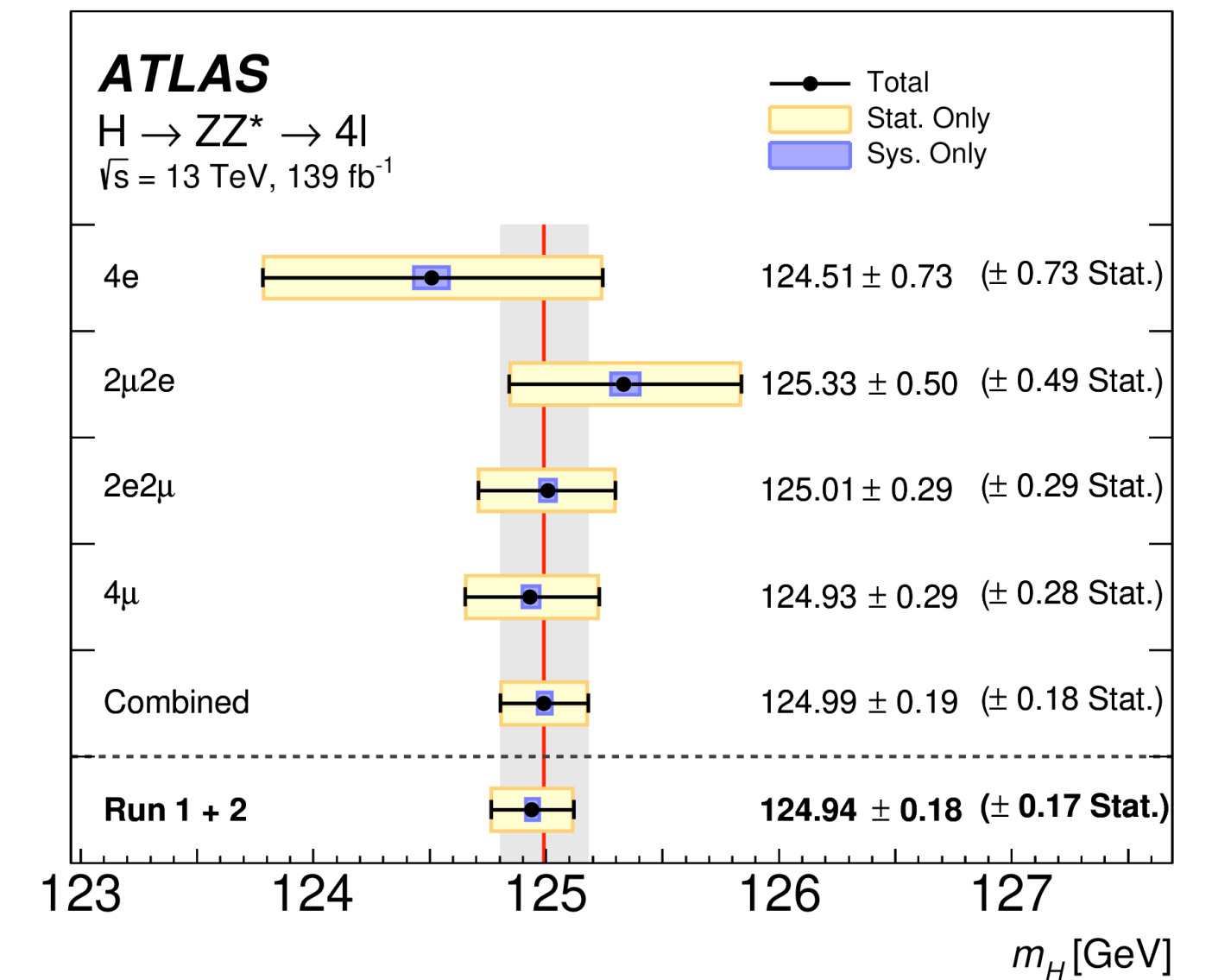
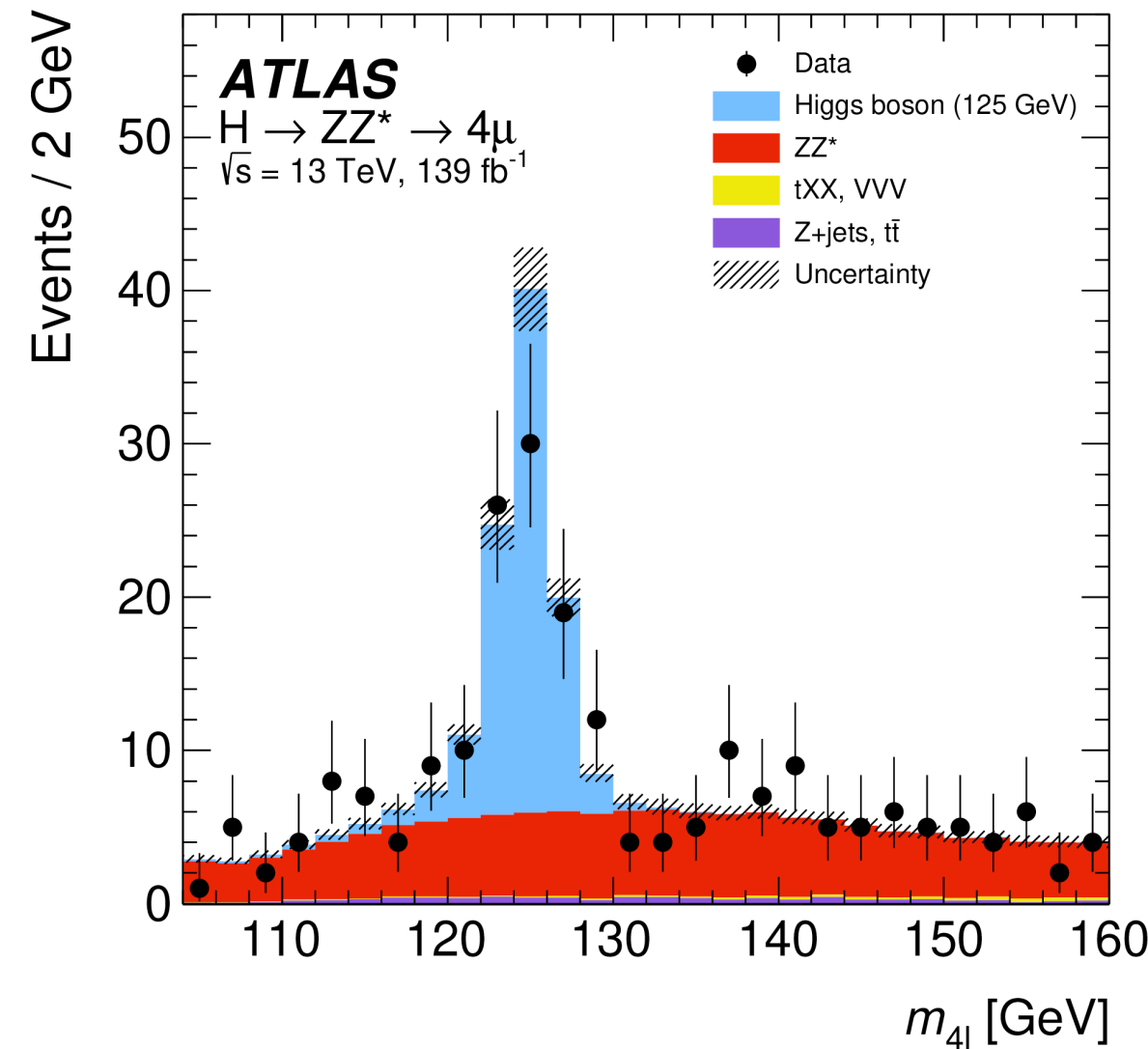
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- Measure all properties:
  - Mass, spin, CP, couplings
- Deviations could point to physics beyond the SM
- Higgs can also play an important role in searches for New Physics

Decay channel	Branching ratio	Rel. uncertainty
$H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ✓	$2.28 \times 10^{-3}$	+5.0% -4.9%
$H \rightarrow ZZ$ ✓	$2.64 \times 10^{-2}$	+4.3% -4.1%
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# Higgs mass measurements

- Not predicted by the SM
- Mass measurements in the “golden channels”  
 $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  and  $H \rightarrow ZZ$
- Optimized analyses in categories with best mass resolution (photon, electron and muons energy response)
- Reached a 0.2% precision

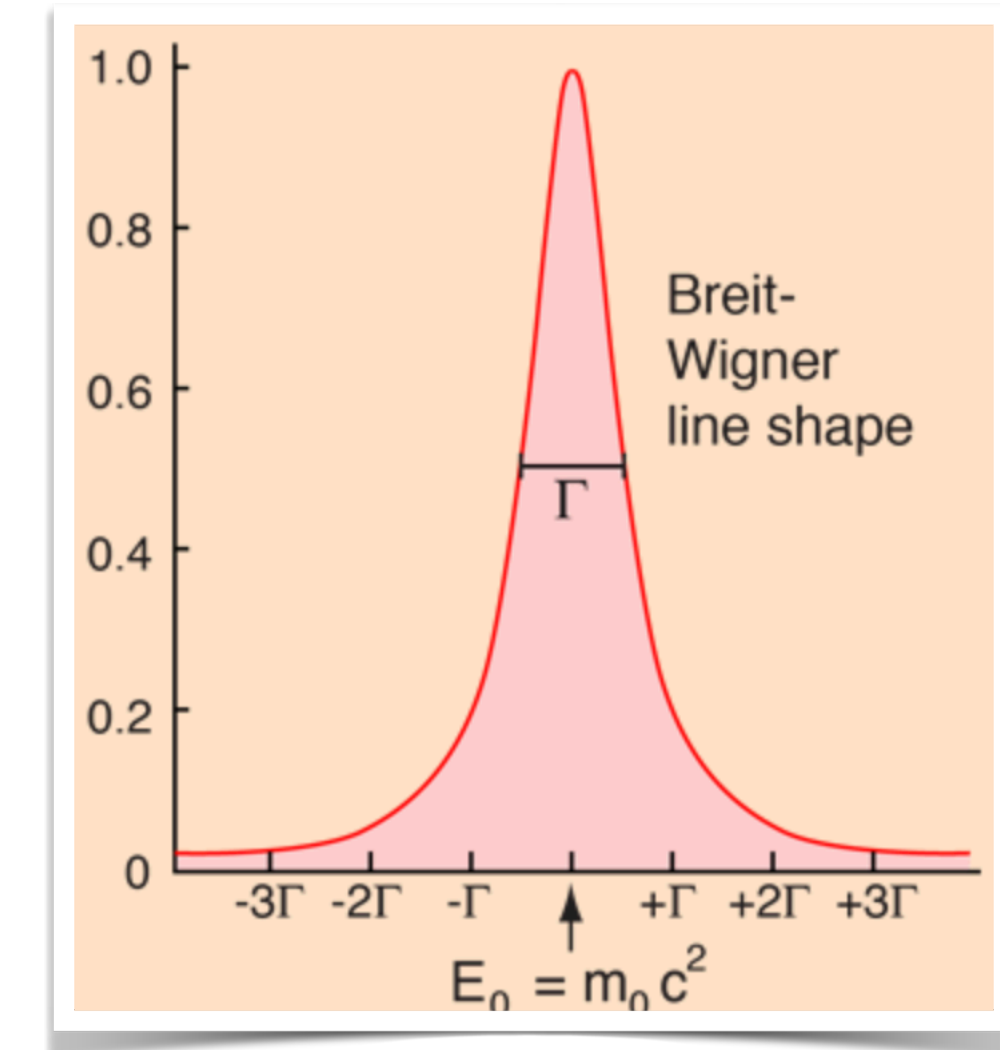




# Higgs width

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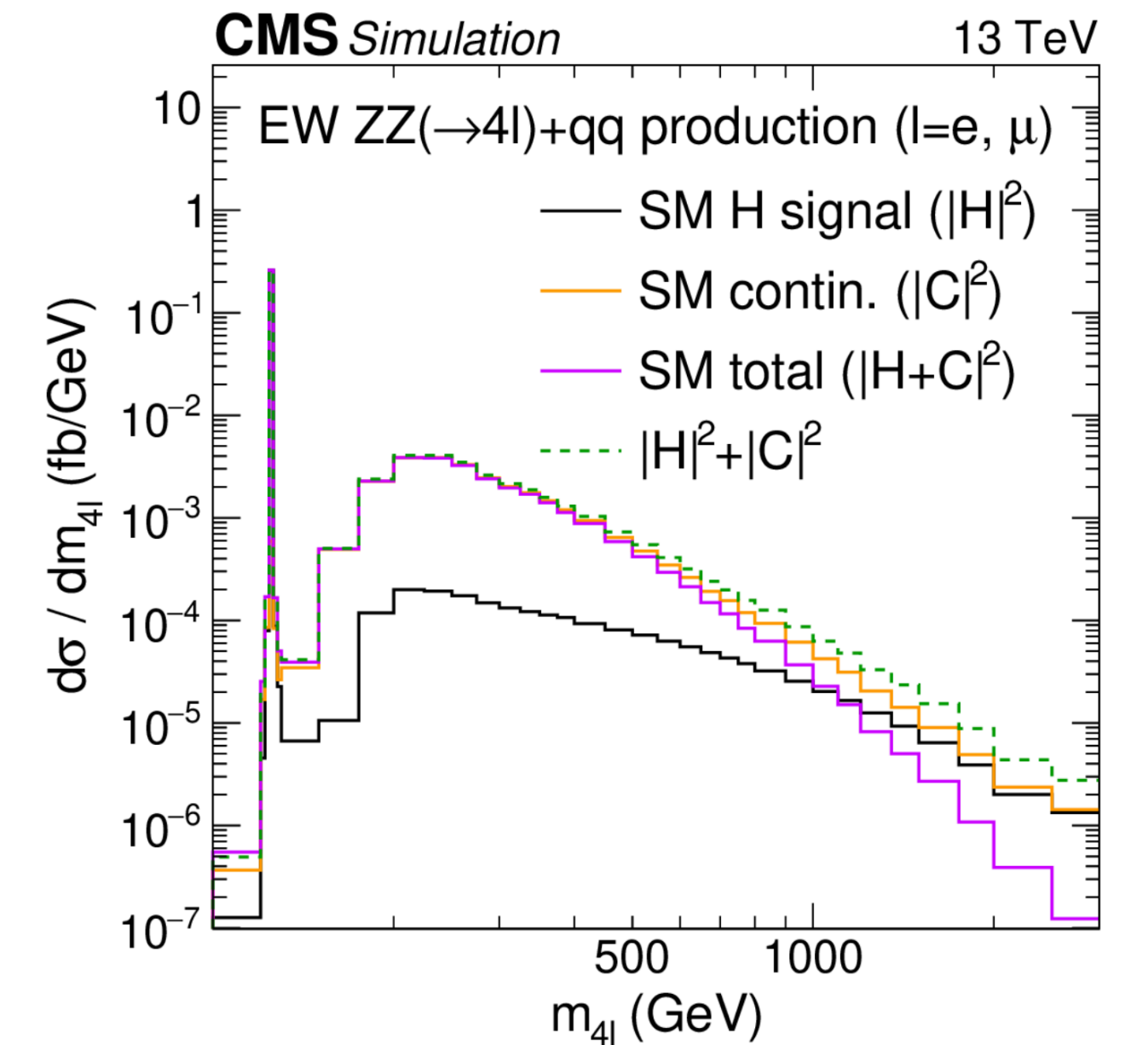
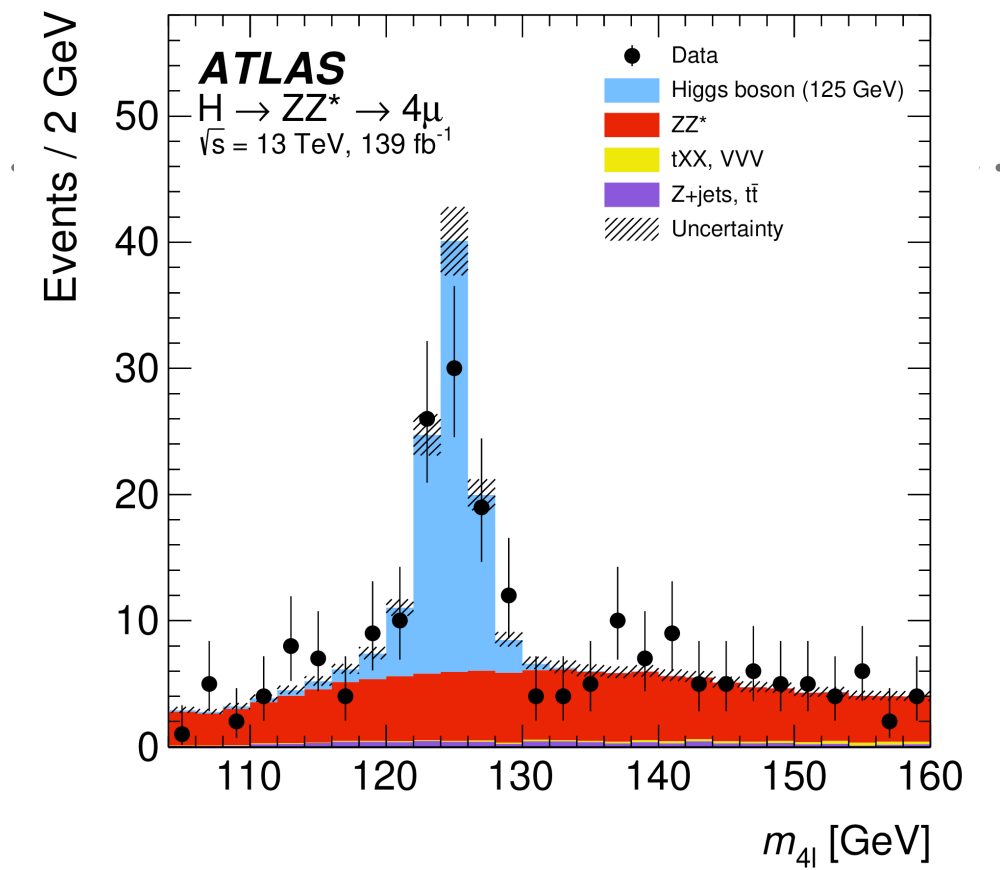
- What is the “width” of a particle?
  - Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle implies that the energy (i.e. also mass) of all unstable particles must have an uncertainty  $\Rightarrow$  inversely proportional to their lifetime
  - the larger the width the smaller the lifetime
  
- Higgs width is predicted to be 4 MeV
  - If Higgs width is larger than SM predicts  $\Rightarrow$  possible new physics decay channels



# Higgs width

- Two ways to access Higgs width
  - Direct mass measurement
    - Limited by experimental resolution to around 1-2 GeV
  - Indirect methods exist, p.ex. using off-shell signal strength offshell: away from the peak
    - on-shell cross section depends on width, off-shell does not  $\Rightarrow$  ratio is sensitive to width!
  - Latest CMS result:

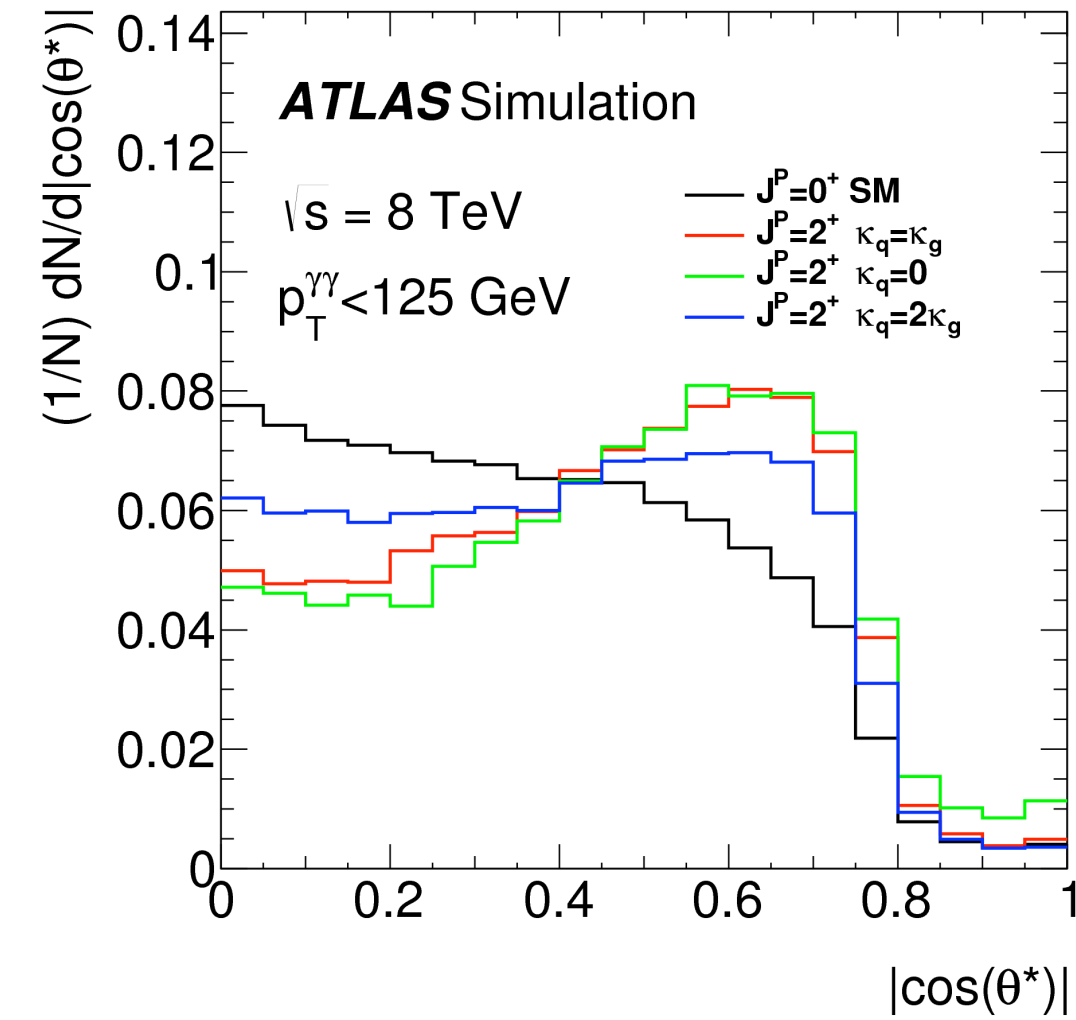
$$\Gamma_H = 3.2^{+2.4}_{-1.7} \text{ MeV}$$





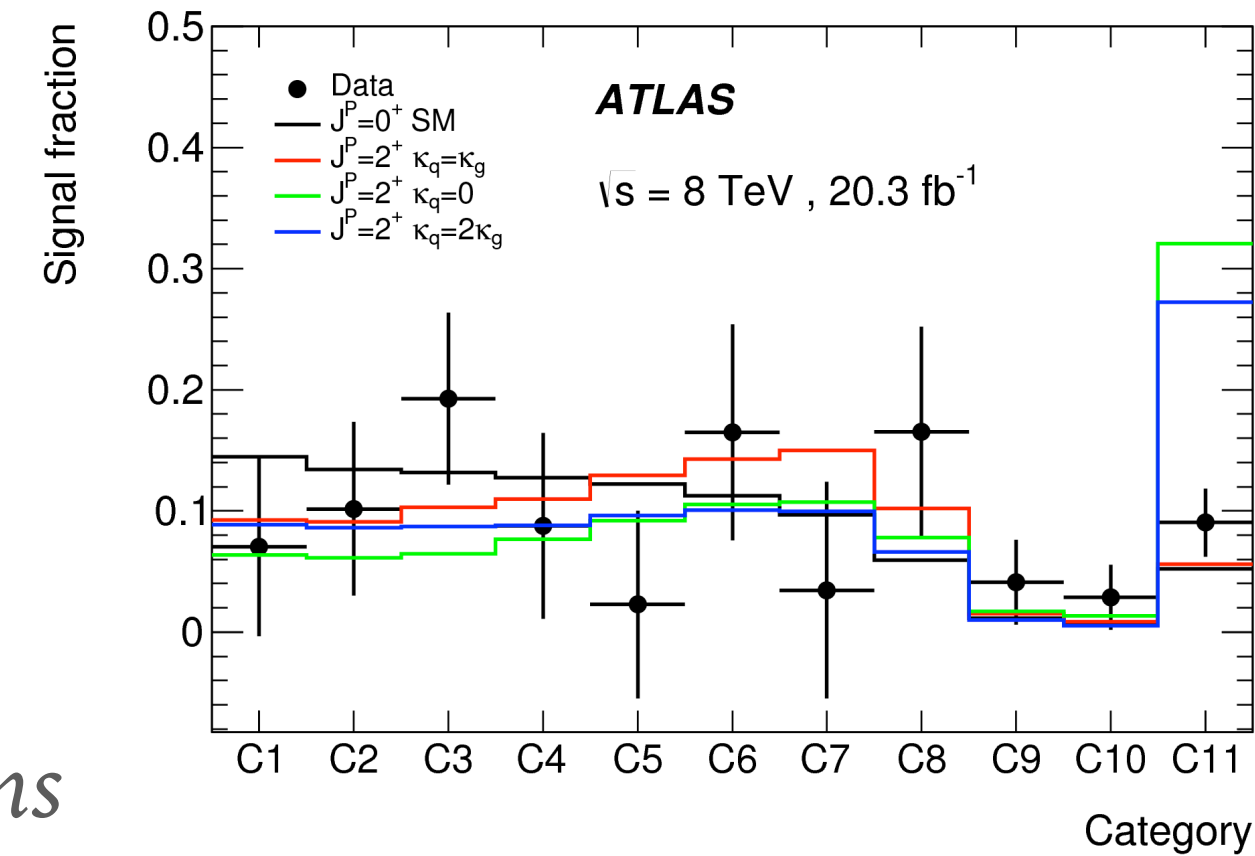
# Spin and CP

- Spin (SM = 0)
- Spin 1 excluded using ZZ, WW decays (and by the fact that Higgs decays into photons)
- Spin 2 excluded for a number of different tensor structures (~ 99.9%)  
=> Spin 0 as predicted for the SM Higgs



Effect of Spin on  $|\cos\theta^*|$  of the two photons

$$|\cos\theta^*| = \frac{|\sinh(\Delta\eta^{\gamma\gamma})|}{\sqrt{1 + (p_T^{\gamma\gamma}/m_{\gamma\gamma})^2}} \frac{2p_T^{\gamma 1} p_T^{\gamma 2}}{m_{\gamma\gamma}^2} \dots$$



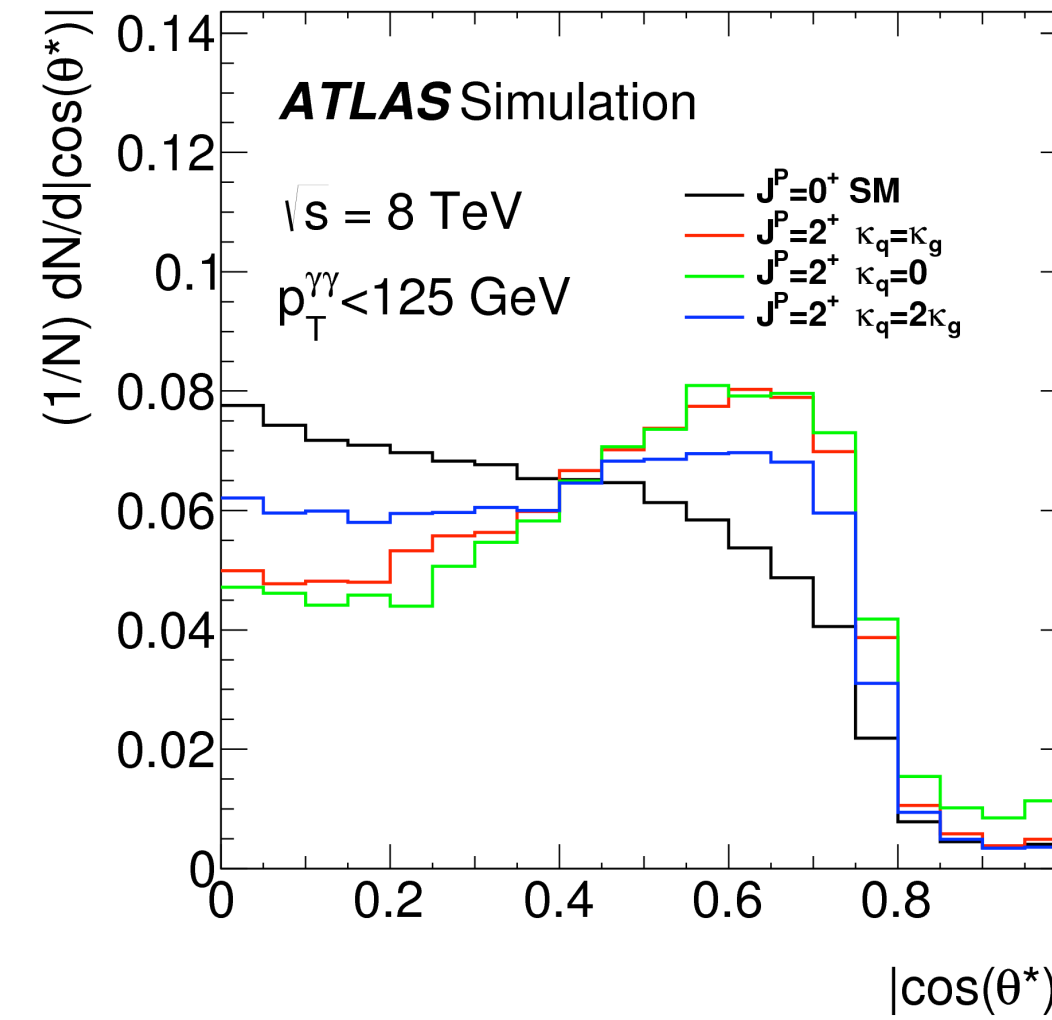
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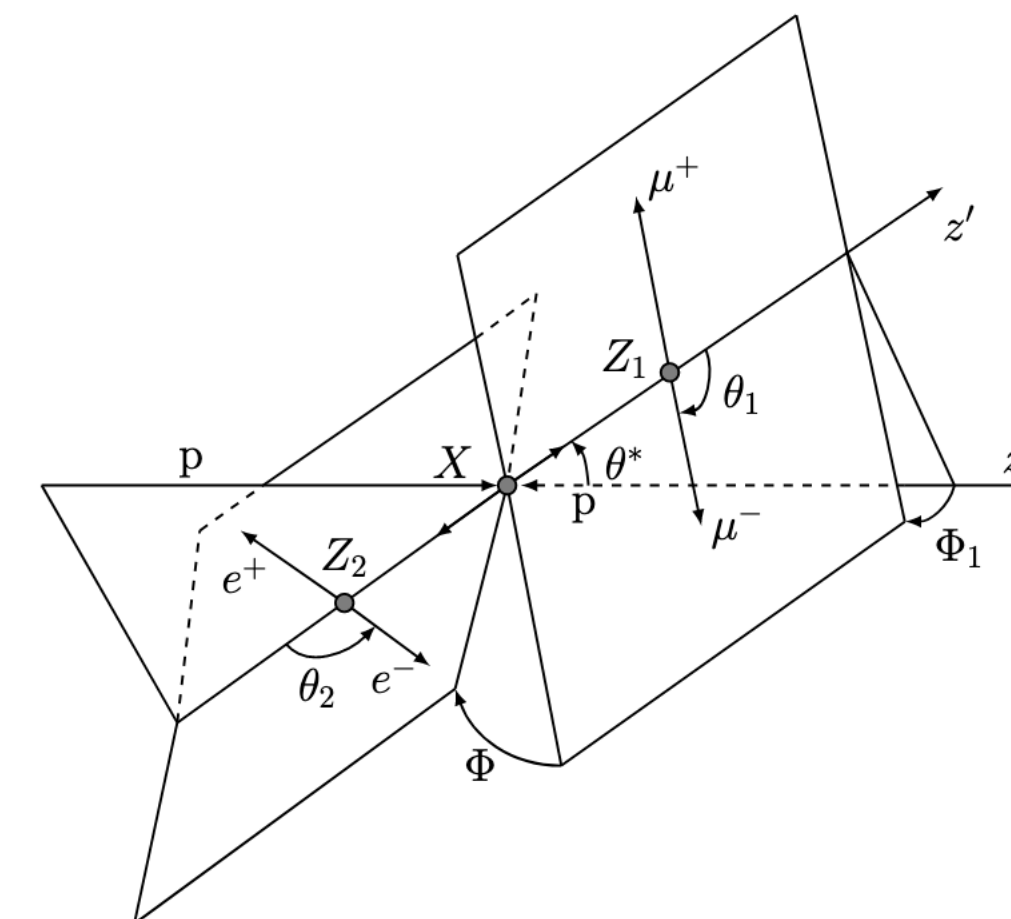
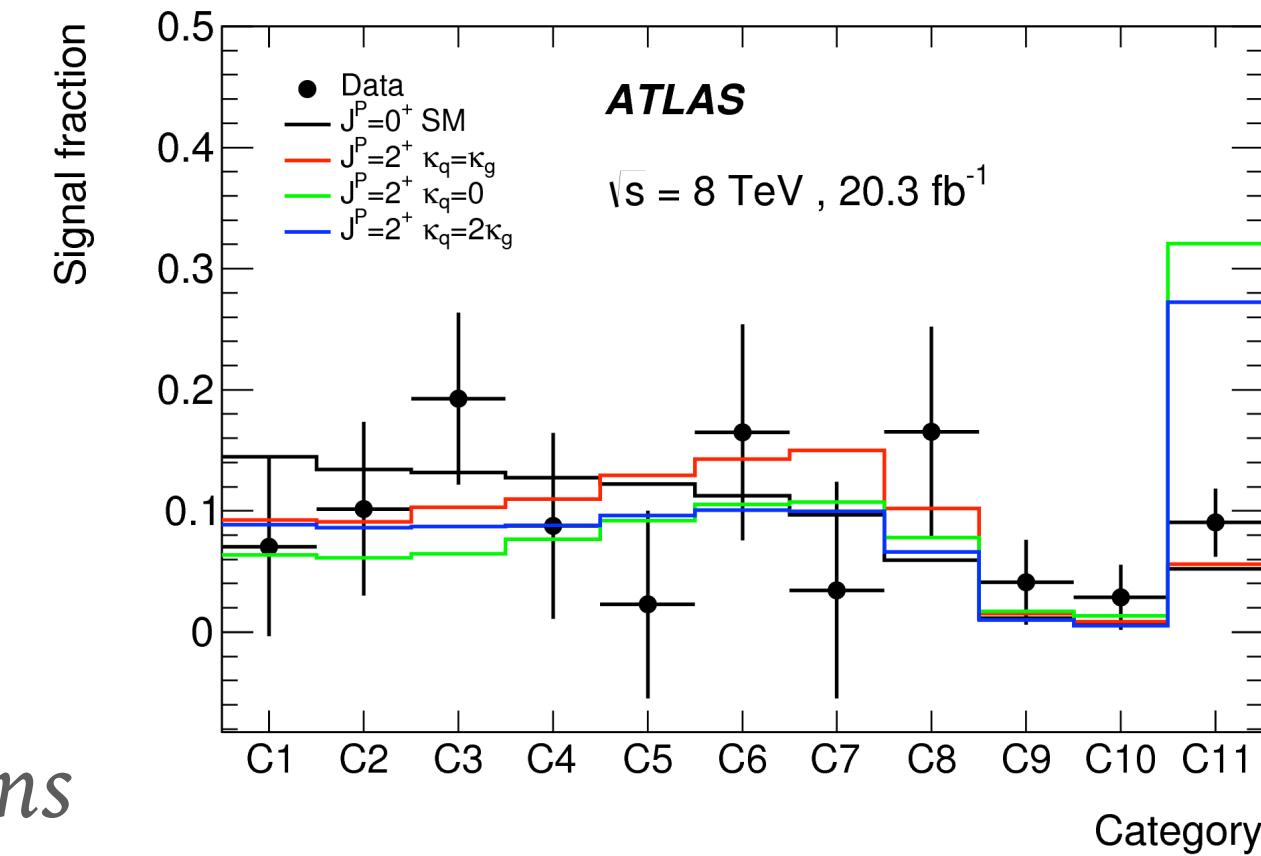
## ➤ Parity (SM: even)

- Parity odd excluded at > 99.9% (ATLAS, CMS) Admixtures (CP even and CP odd couplings) still possible (fermion channel play important role in these studies!)

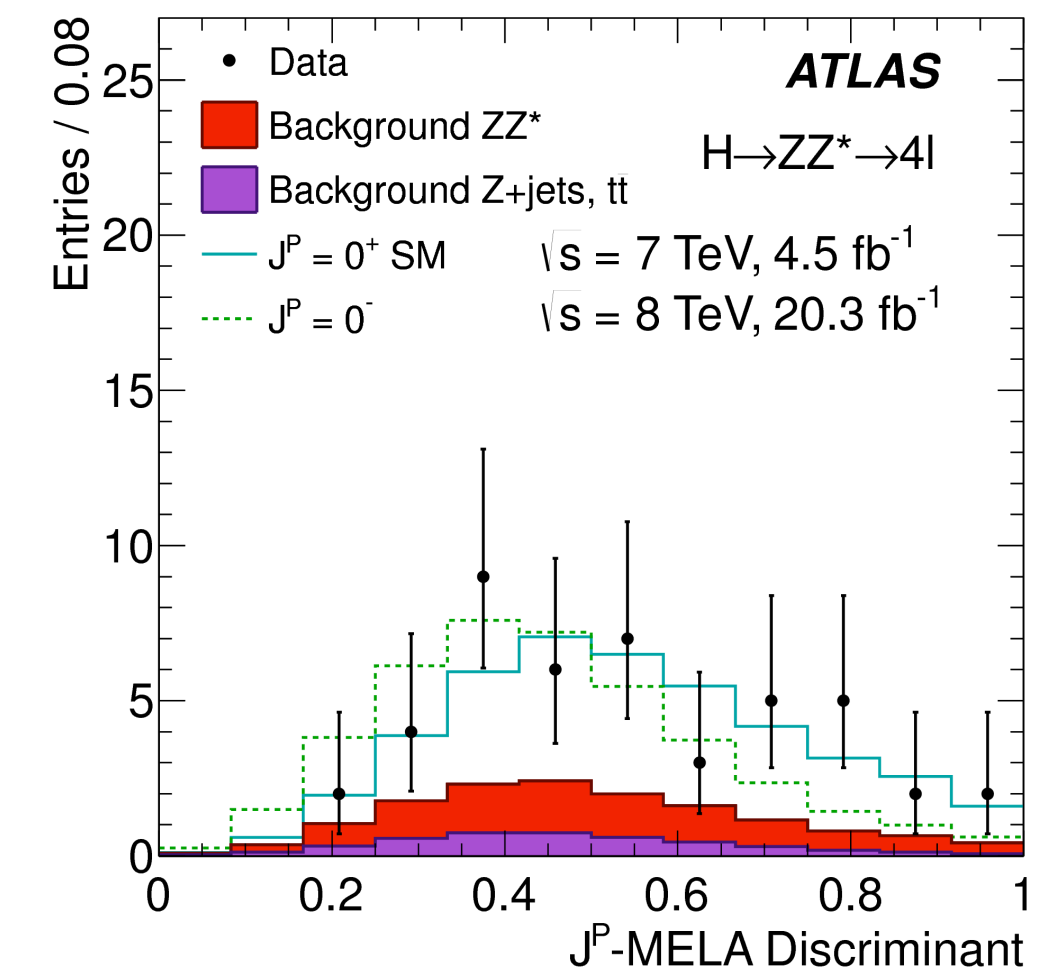


Effect of Spin on  $|\cos\theta^*|$  of the two photons

$$|\cos\theta^*| = \frac{|\sinh(\Delta\eta^{\gamma\gamma})|}{\sqrt{1 + (p_T^{\gamma\gamma}/m_{\gamma\gamma})^2}} \frac{2p_T^{\gamma 1} p_T^{\gamma 2}}{m_{\gamma\gamma}^2} \dots$$



Variables can be defined in the  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  decay that are sensitive to spin and parity

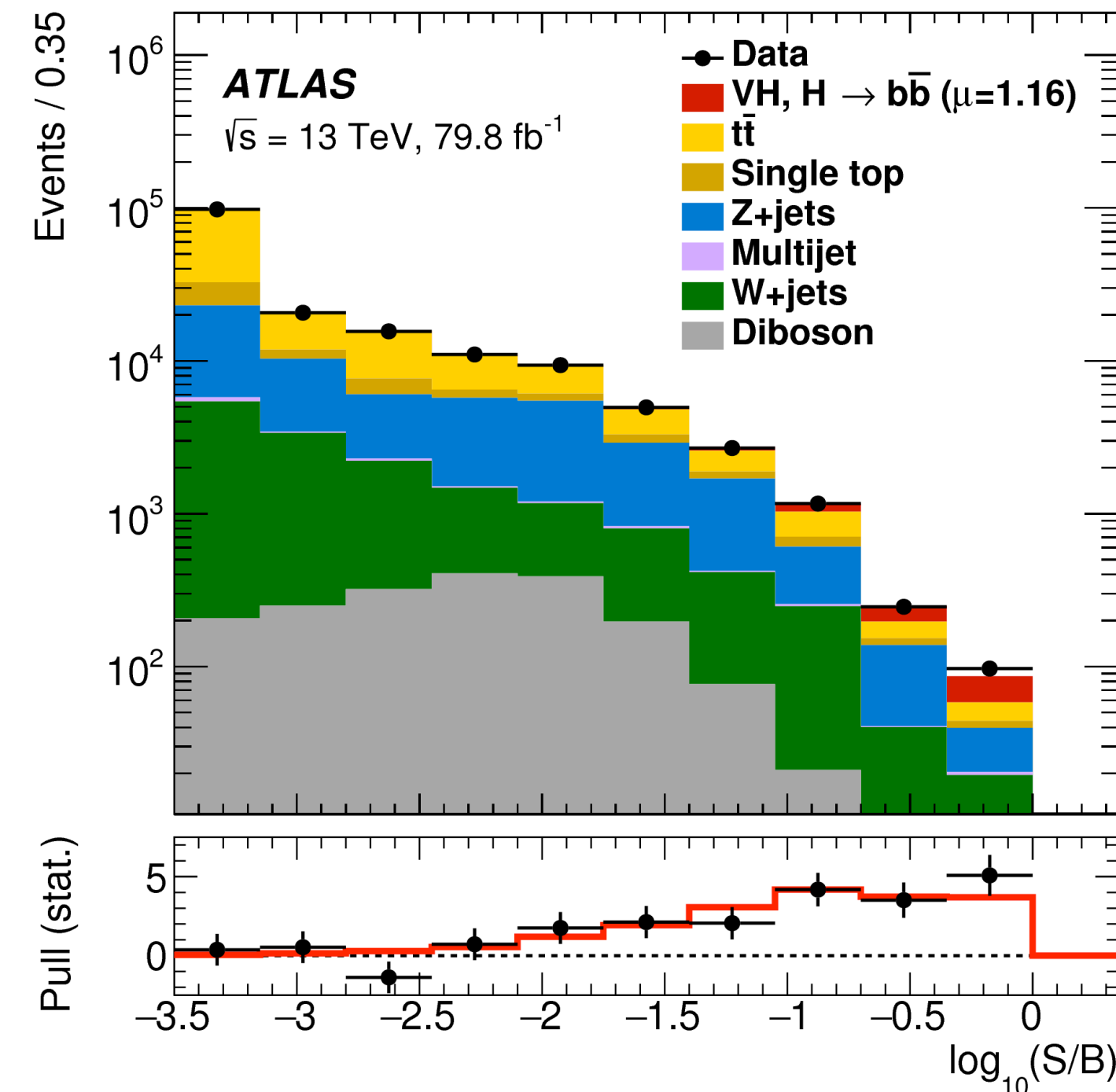
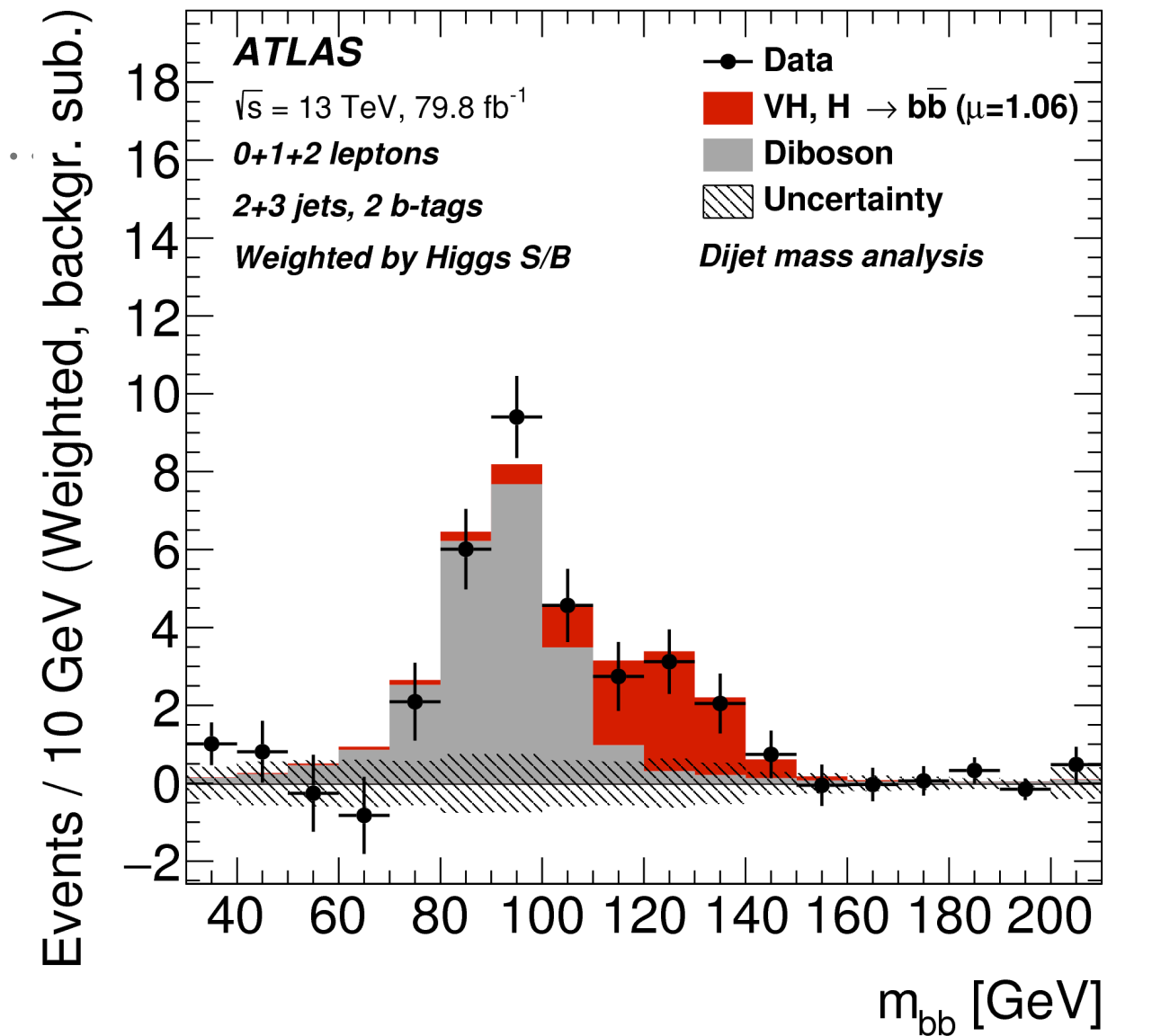




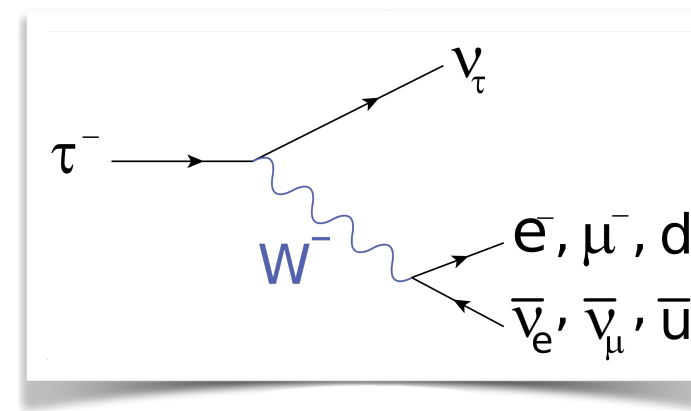
# Higgs to $b\bar{b}$

- Highest branching ratio of Higgs decays to two b-quarks
  - large SM backgrounds
  - statistical combination of various “channels” or “regions”
  - often machine learning techniques used
  
- Analysis based on three main channels targeting WH and ZH production:
  - 0 leptons ( $Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$ )
  - 1-lepton ( $W \rightarrow \mu\nu, e\nu$ )
  - 2-leptons ( $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu, ee$ )

Analysis is sensitive to  $Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ , can be used to validate the techniques



# Higgs to $\tau\tau$



►  $\tau$  leptons are complicated to reconstruct

► Various decay modes  
all including neutrinos

*leptonic*

$\tau^- \rightarrow e^- + \bar{\nu}_e + \nu_\tau$	(17,82 ± 0,04) %
$\tau^- \rightarrow \mu^- + \bar{\nu}_\mu + \nu_\tau$	(17,39 ± 0,04) %

*hadronic*

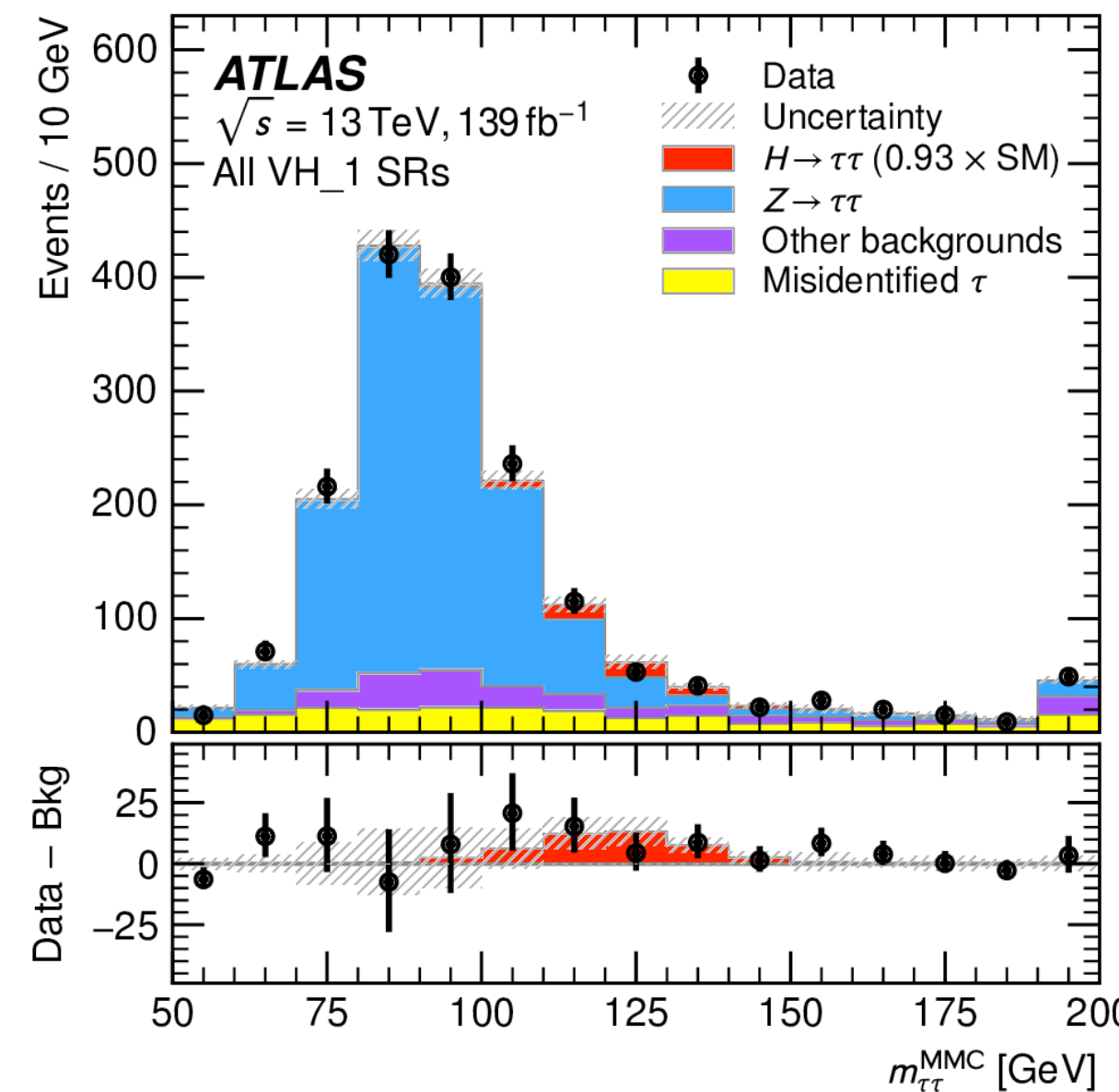
$\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- + \pi^0 + \nu_\tau$	(25,49 ± 0,09) %
$\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- + \nu_\tau$	(10,82 ± 0,05) %
$\tau^- \rightarrow 2\pi^- + \pi^+ + \nu_\tau$	(9,31 ± 0,05) %
$\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- + 2\pi^0 + \nu_\tau$	(9,26 ± 0,10) %

► Analysis through statistical combination of a variety of channels

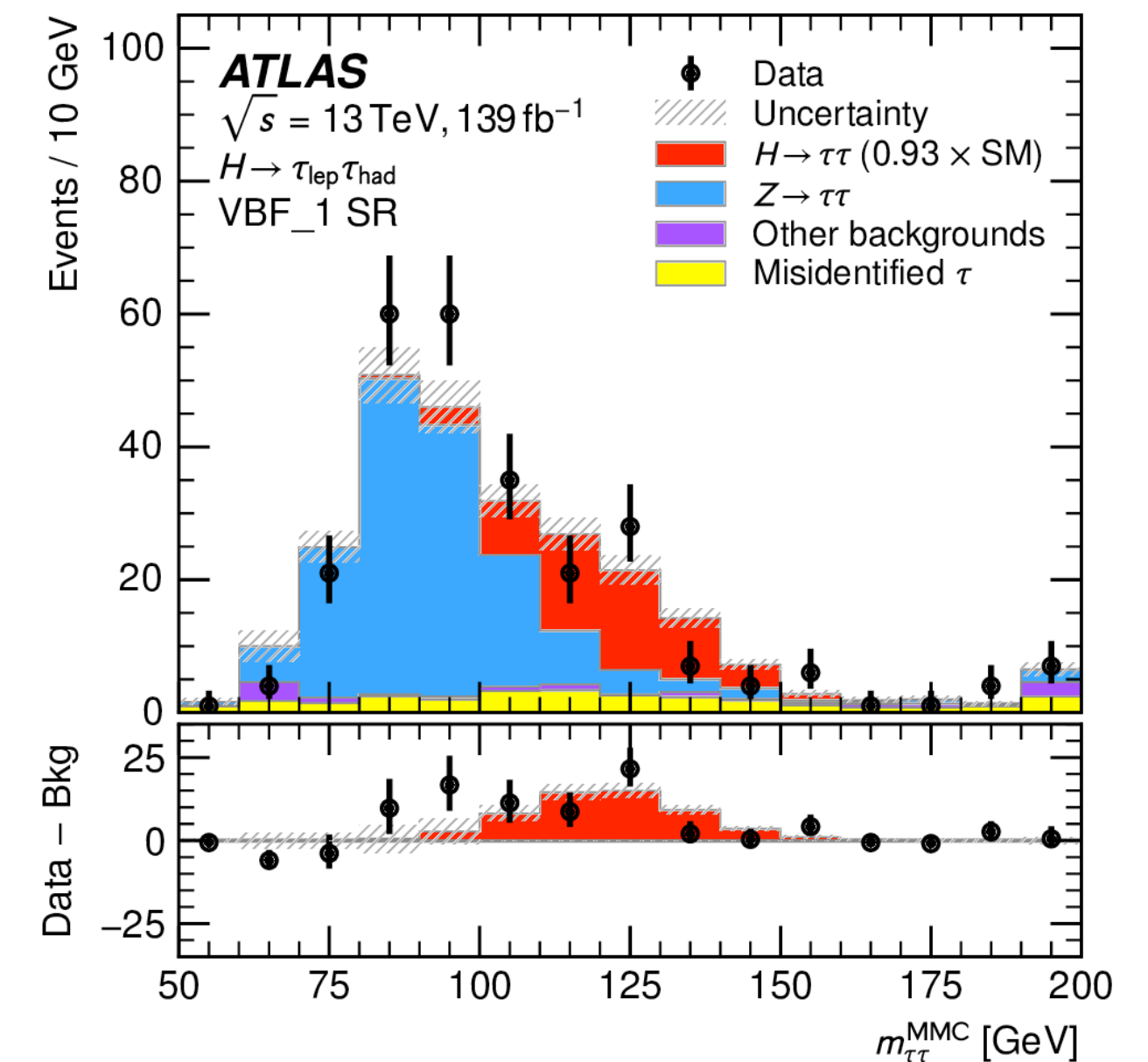
► Large backgrounds from **Z+jets**  
**production with  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$**   
need to be understood

► Embedding techniques employed where muons in data ( $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ ) are replaced by simulated taus

*VH all  $\tau$*

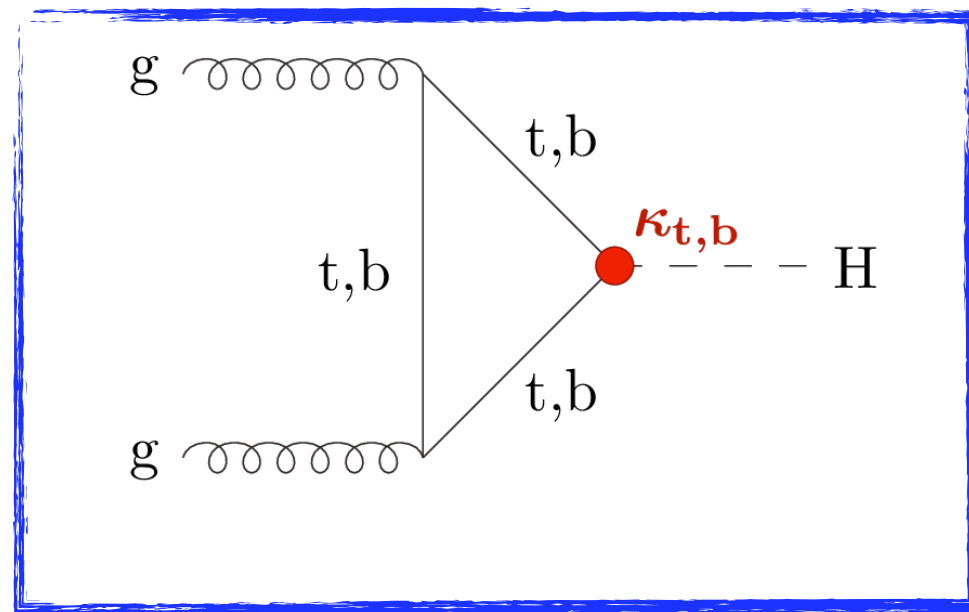


*VBF tau lep tau had*

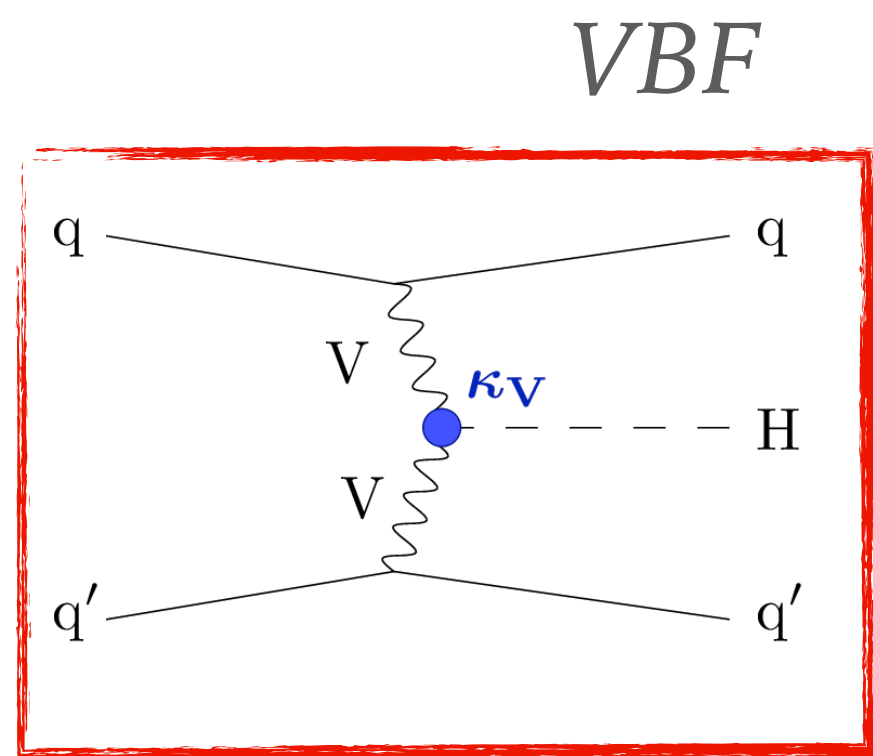




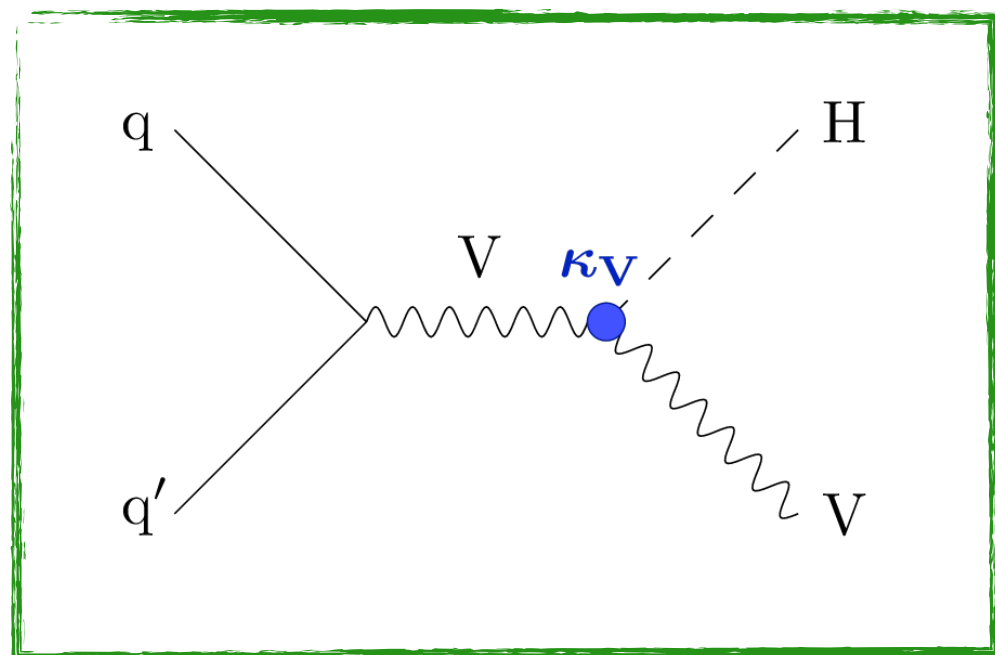
# Higgs production modes at the LHC



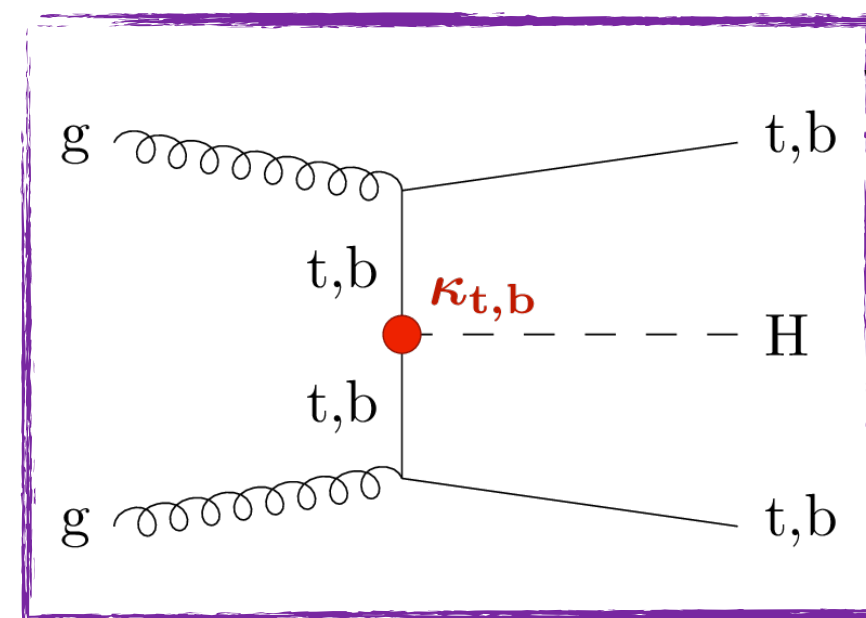
*ggF*



*VBF*



*Higgs strahlung*

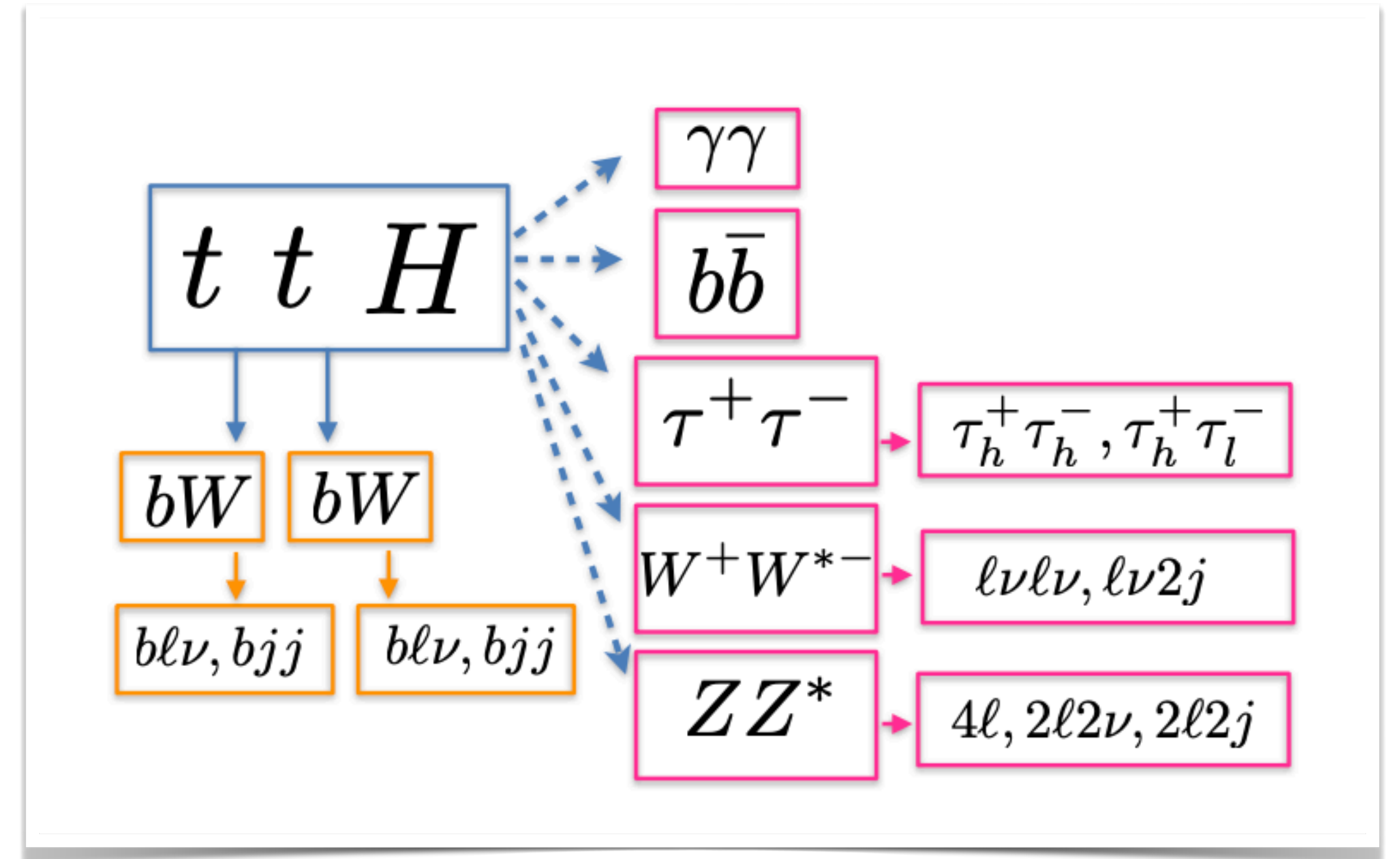


*ttH*

- Most analyses so far were carried out in the **ggF**, **VBF** and **Higgs strahlung (VH)** production modes
- Observation of the **ttH** process would provide direct access to the top Yukawa coupling of the Higgs

# ttH: direct probe of the top Yukawa coupling

- Very small production cross section: one of the latest discoveries
- Large number of complex final states: mixture of b-jets, leptons, taus and photons
- Many different channels: many different backgrounds and different systematic uncertainties → excellent way to cross check each other

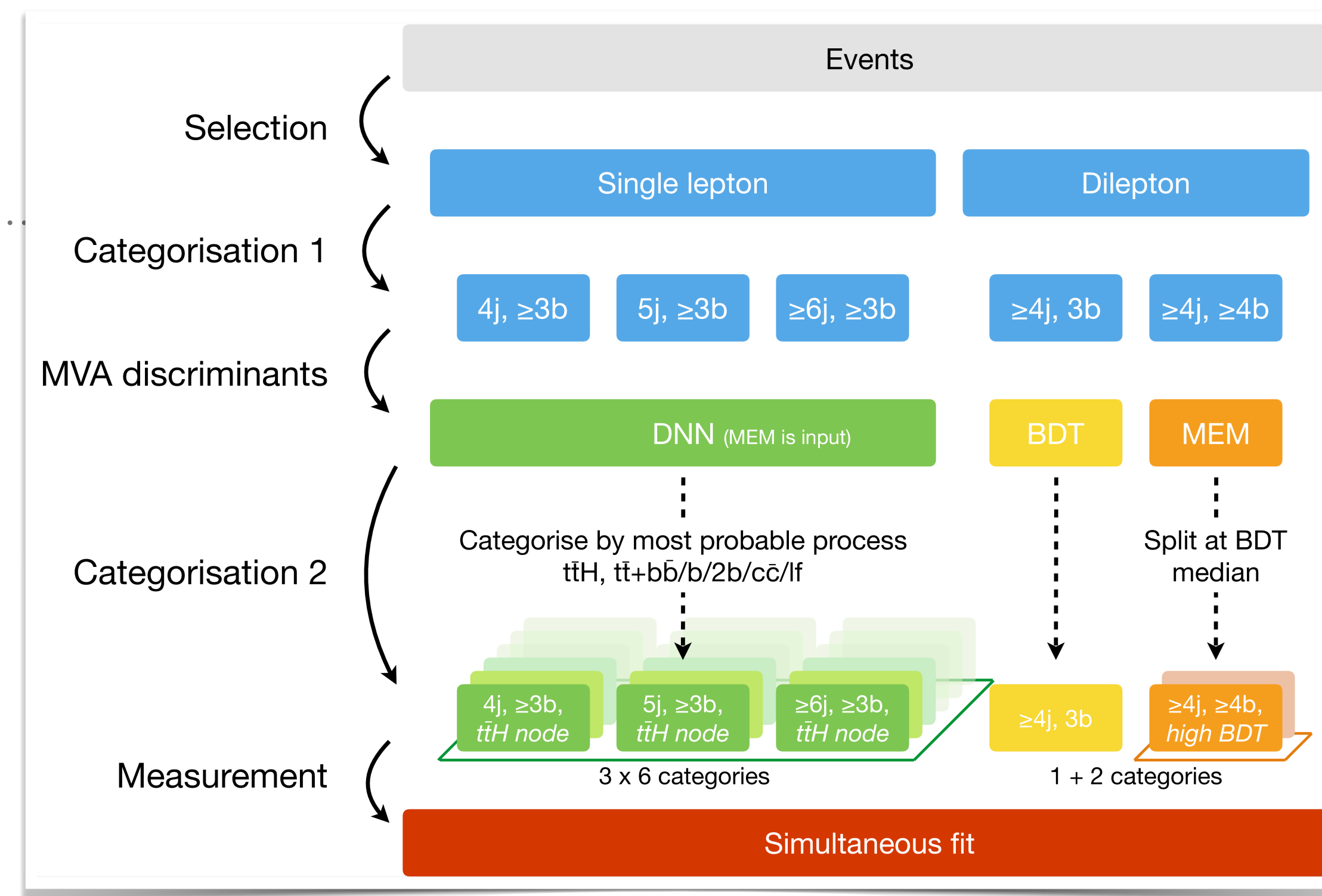


Marumi Kado



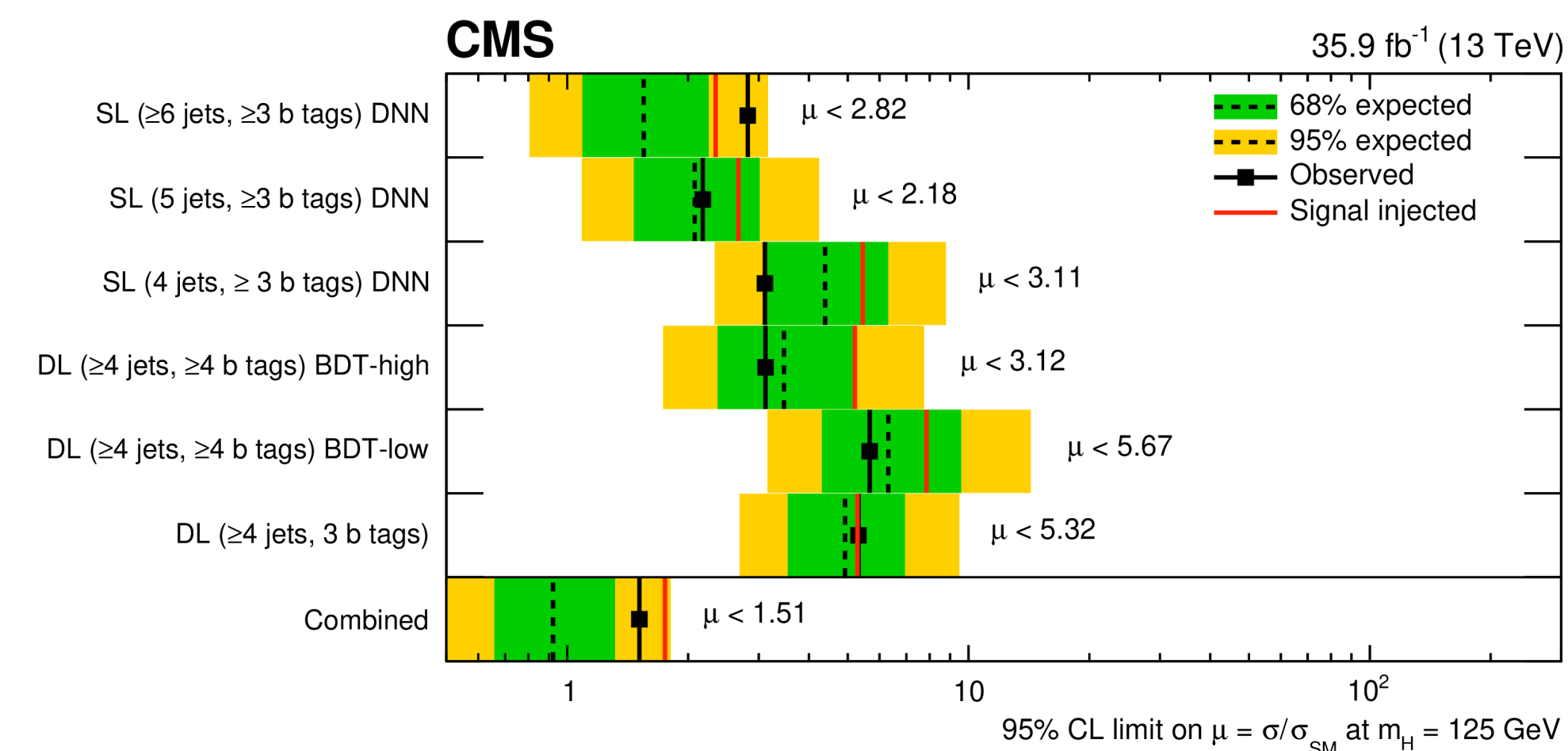
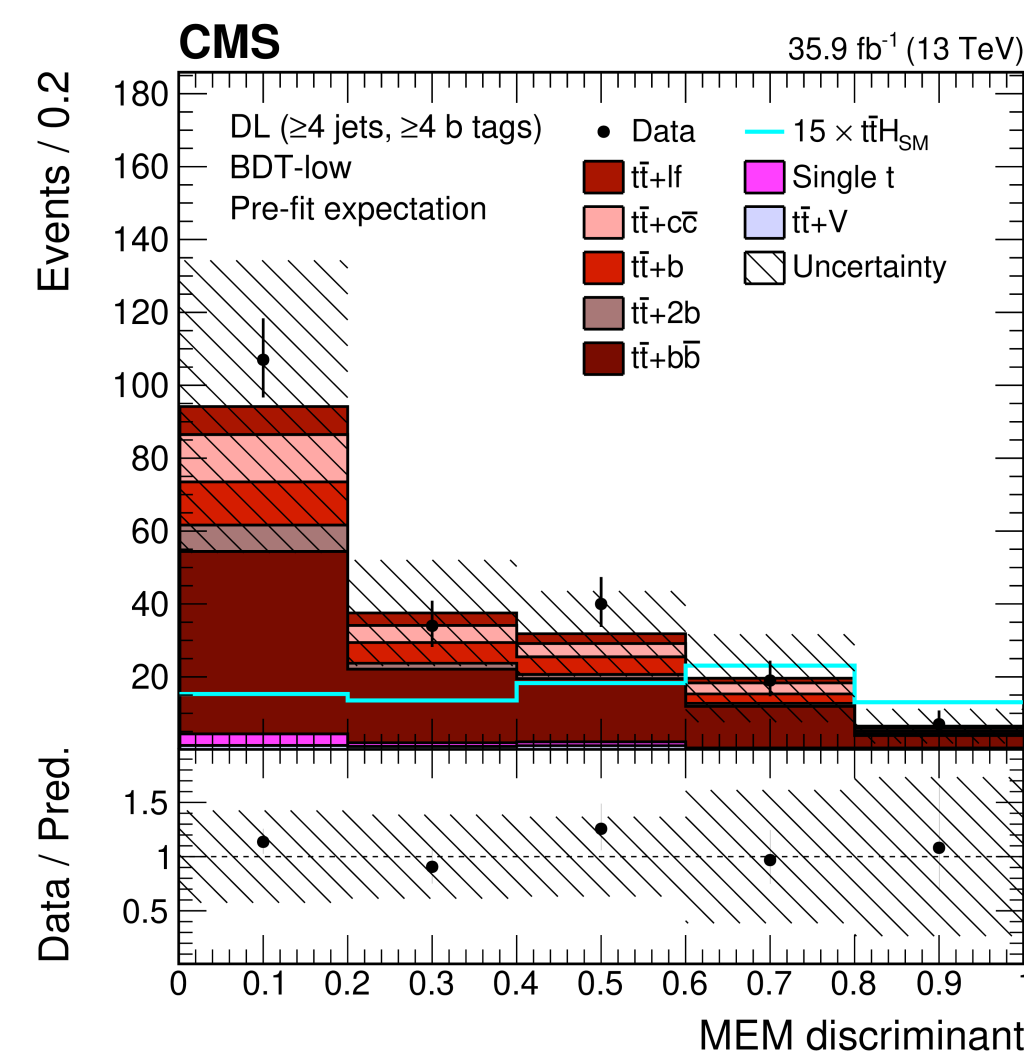
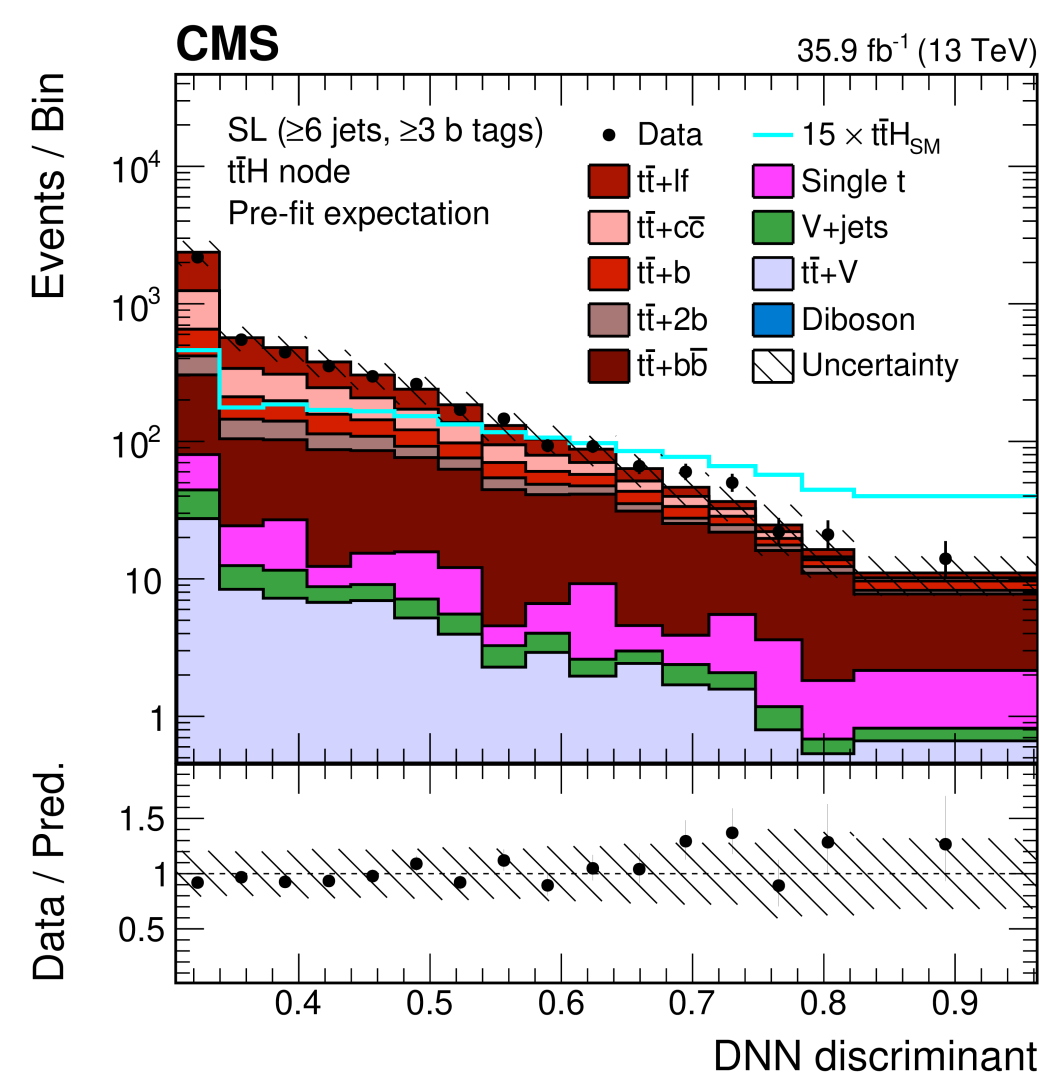
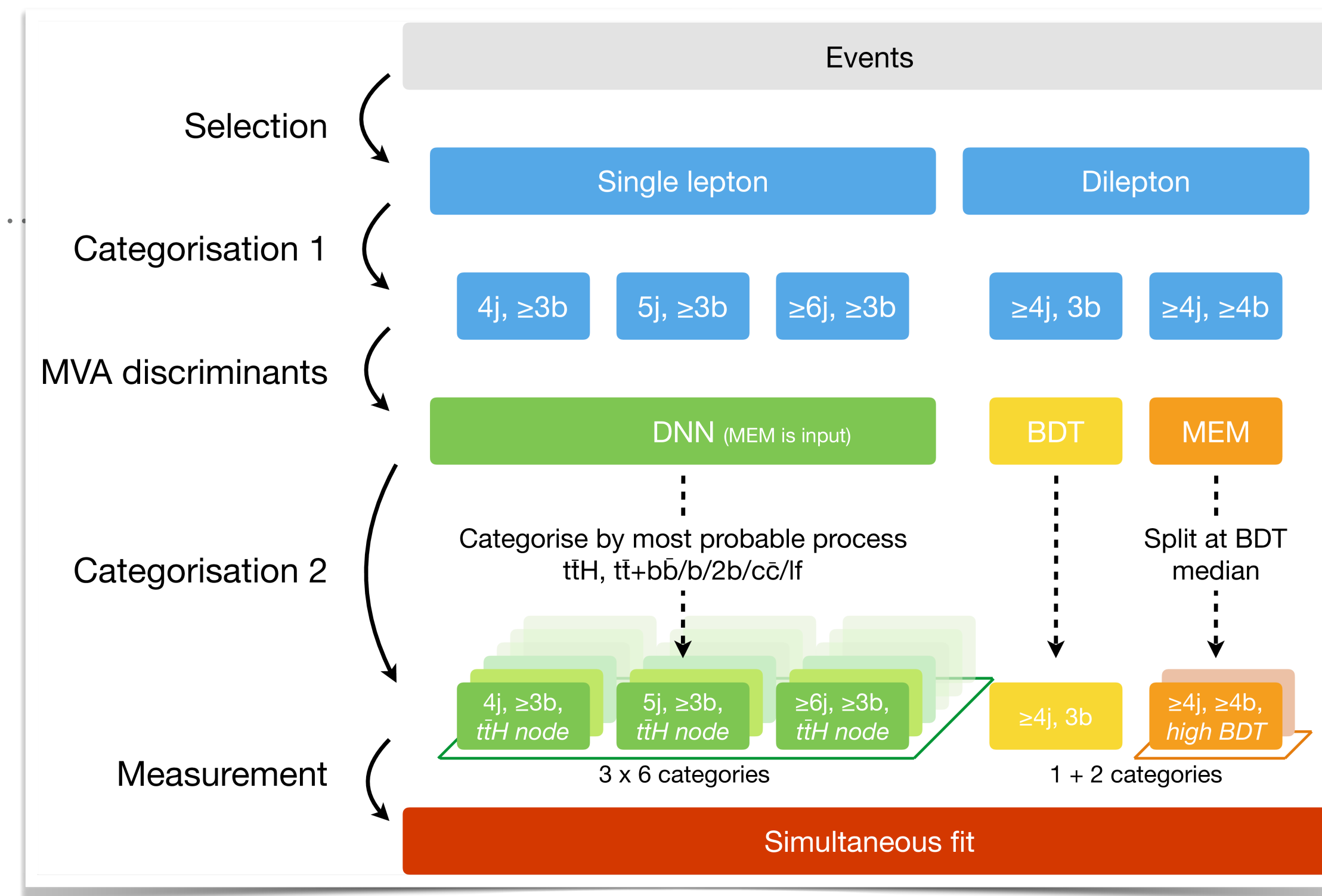
## $t\bar{t}H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ : squeezing the most out of the data

- Many different event categories
- Use of sophisticated machine learning techniques
- Combined fit of various different categories (all statistically independent)
- SM  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  + light and heavy flavor are main backgrounds



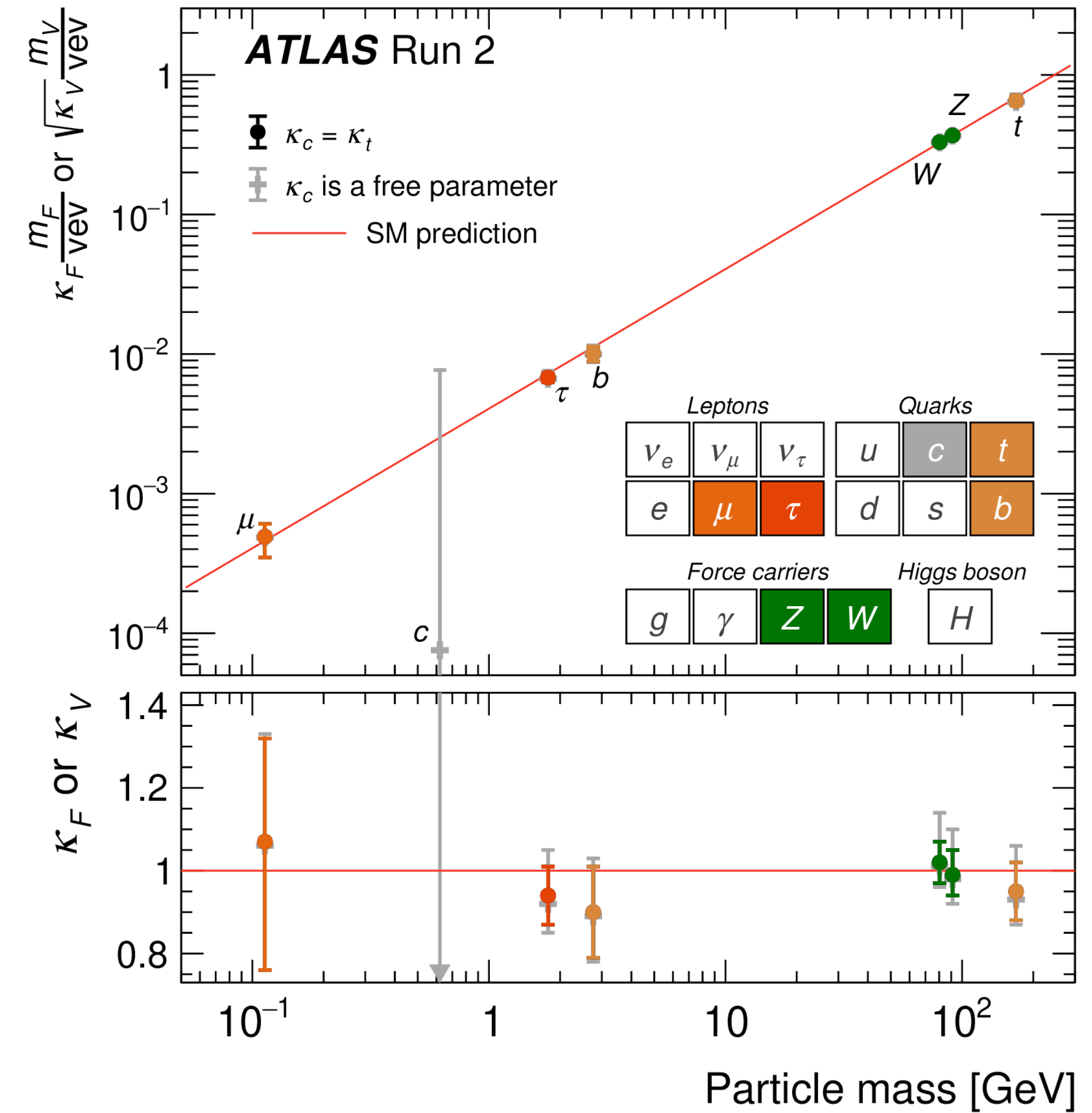
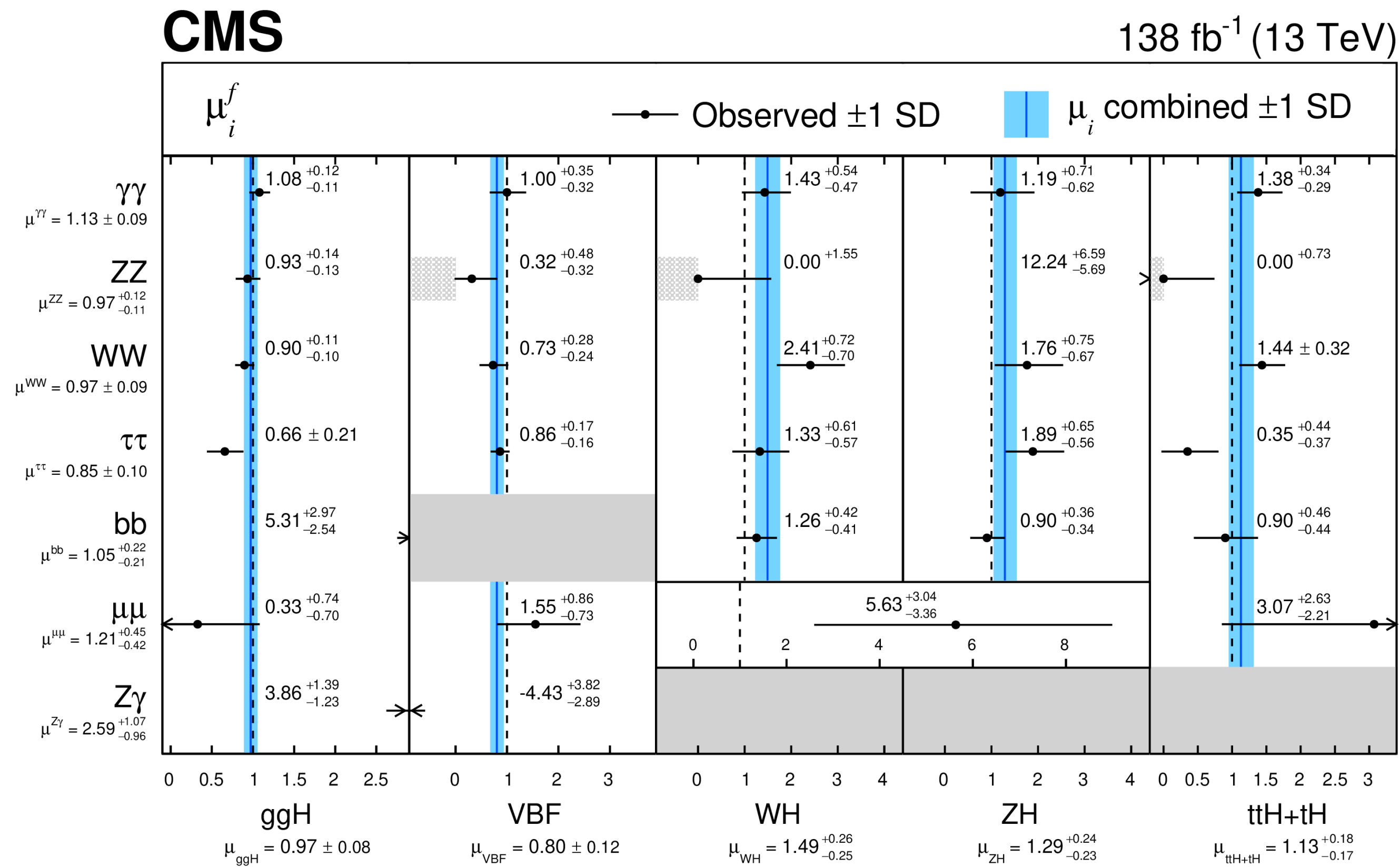
# ttH → bb: squeezing the most out of the data

- Many different event categories
- Use of sophisticated machine learning techniques
- Combined fit of various different categories (all statistically independent)
- SM ttbar + light and heavy flavor are main backgrounds





# Putting it all together



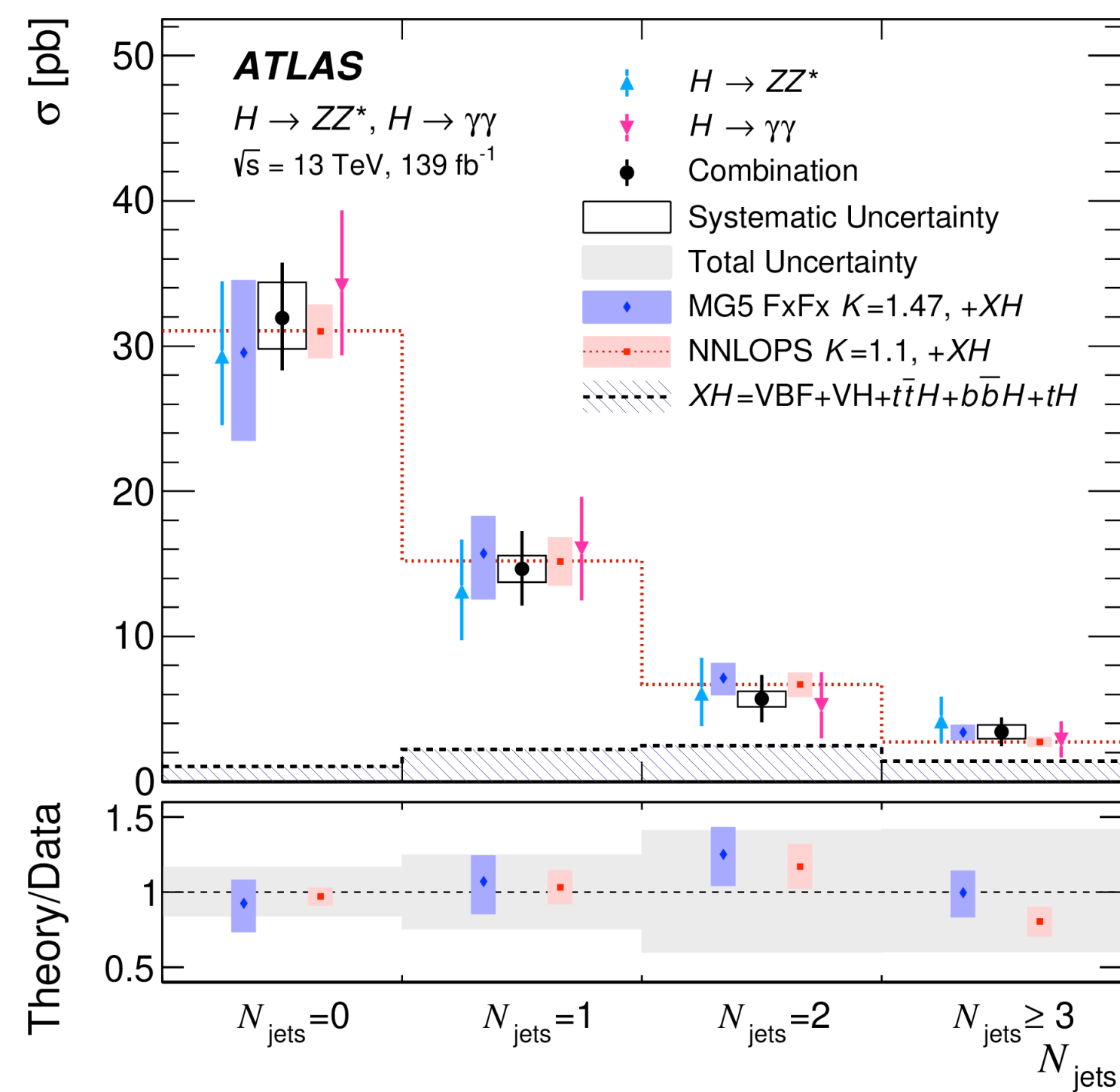
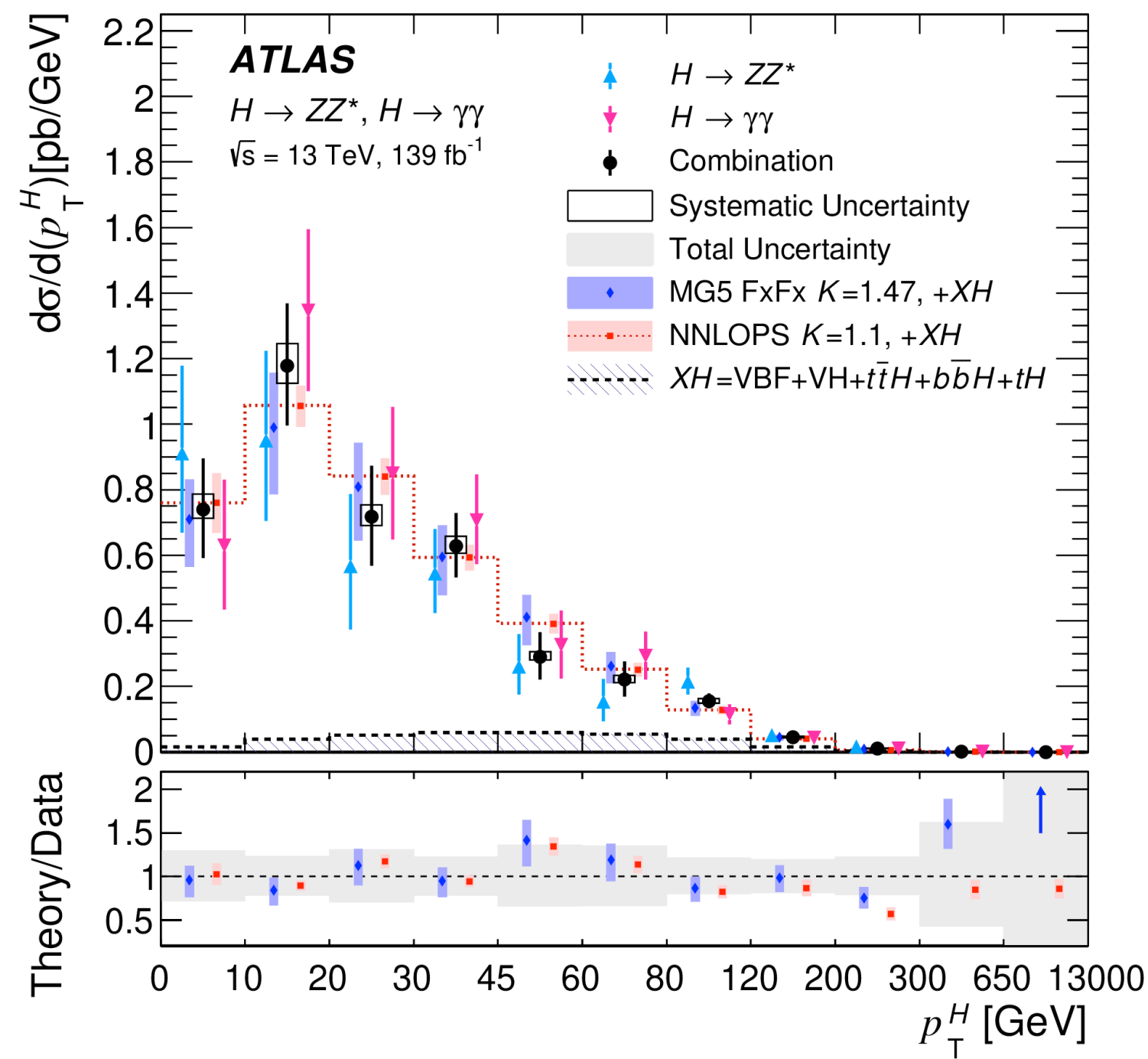
Almost all production modes established

So far all measured couplings consistent with the SM

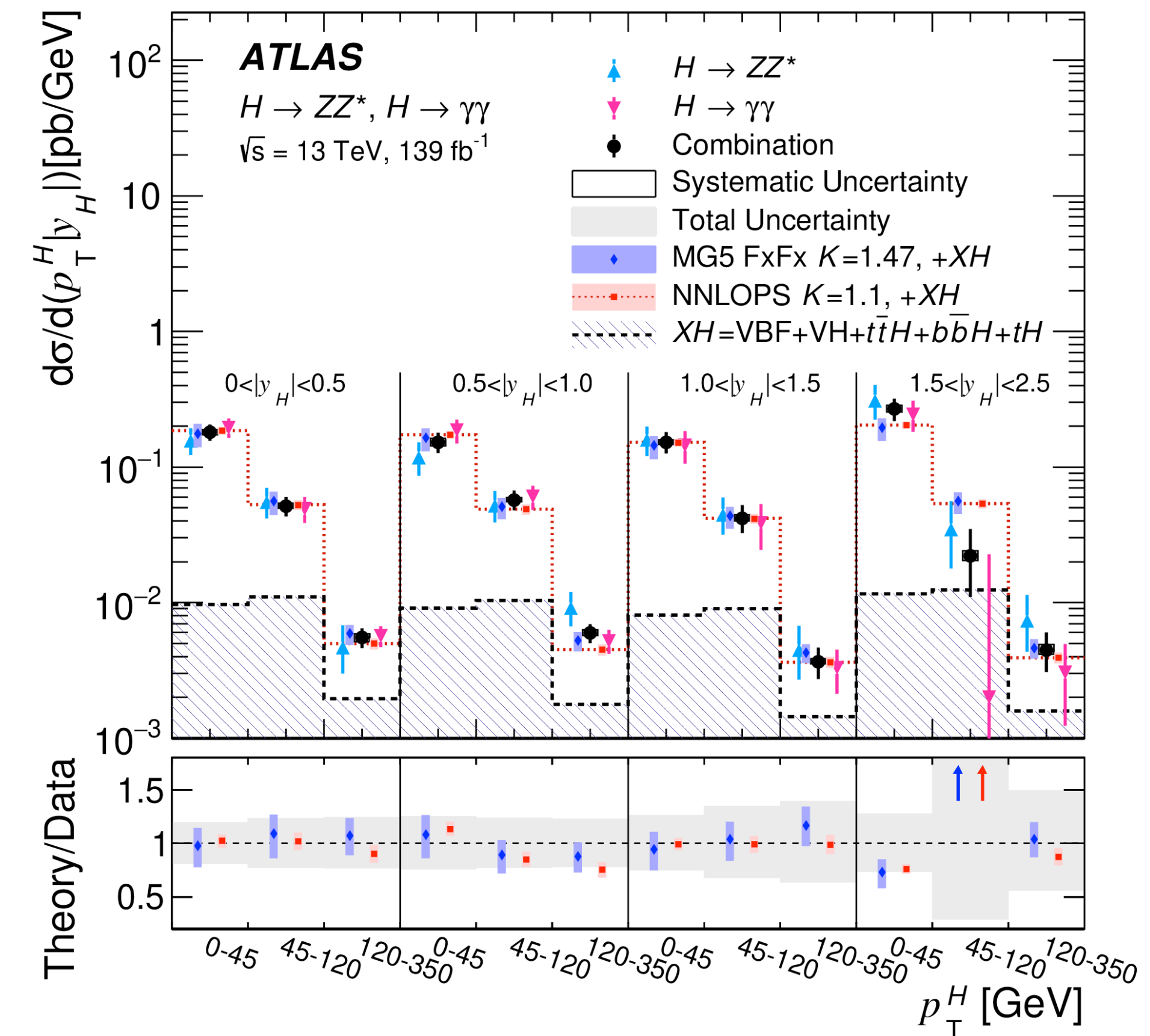
# Differential Higgs measurement

- Enough Higgs candidates collected to perform differential measurements for a variety of observables

1-dimensional

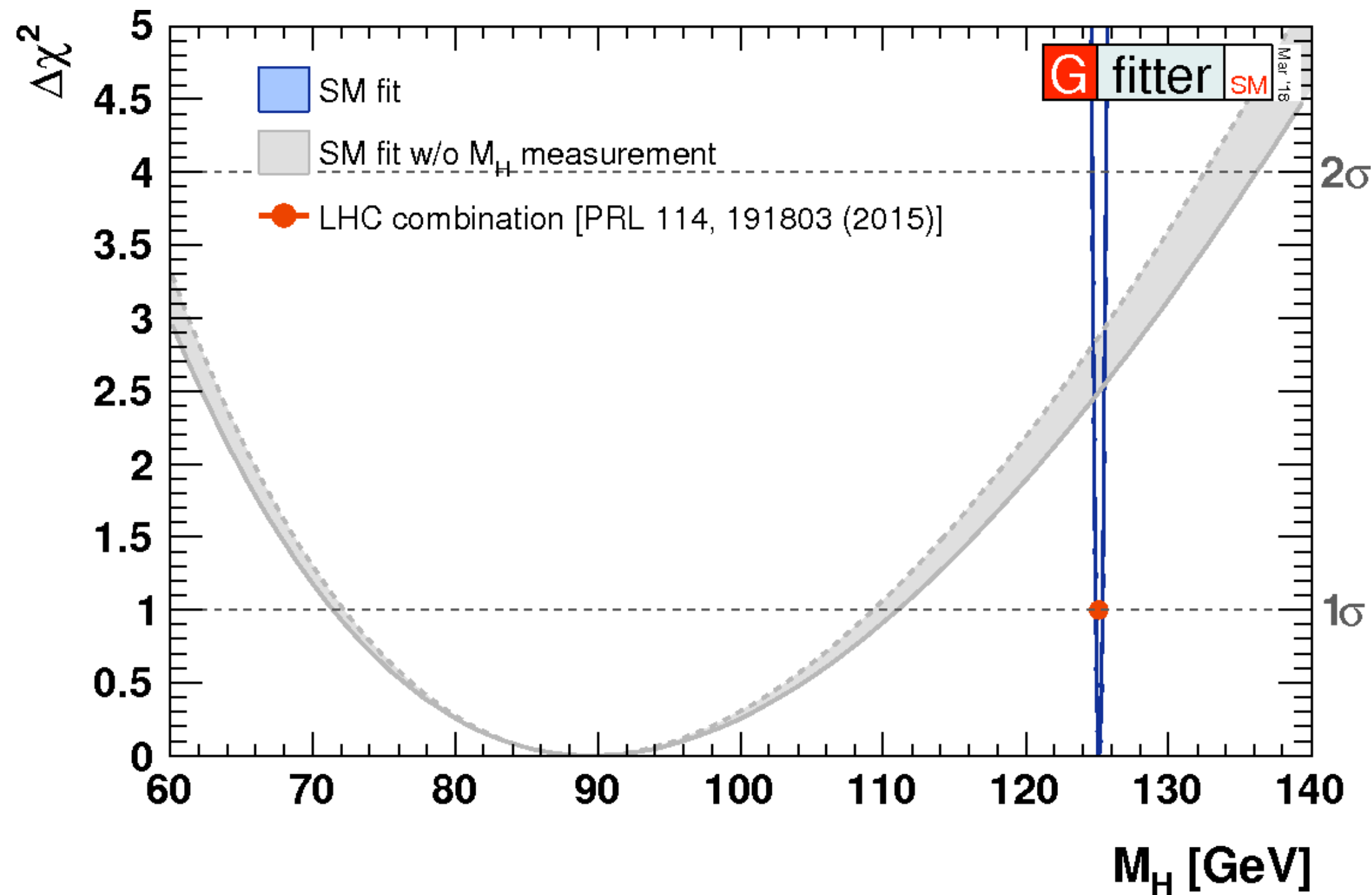


2-dimensional

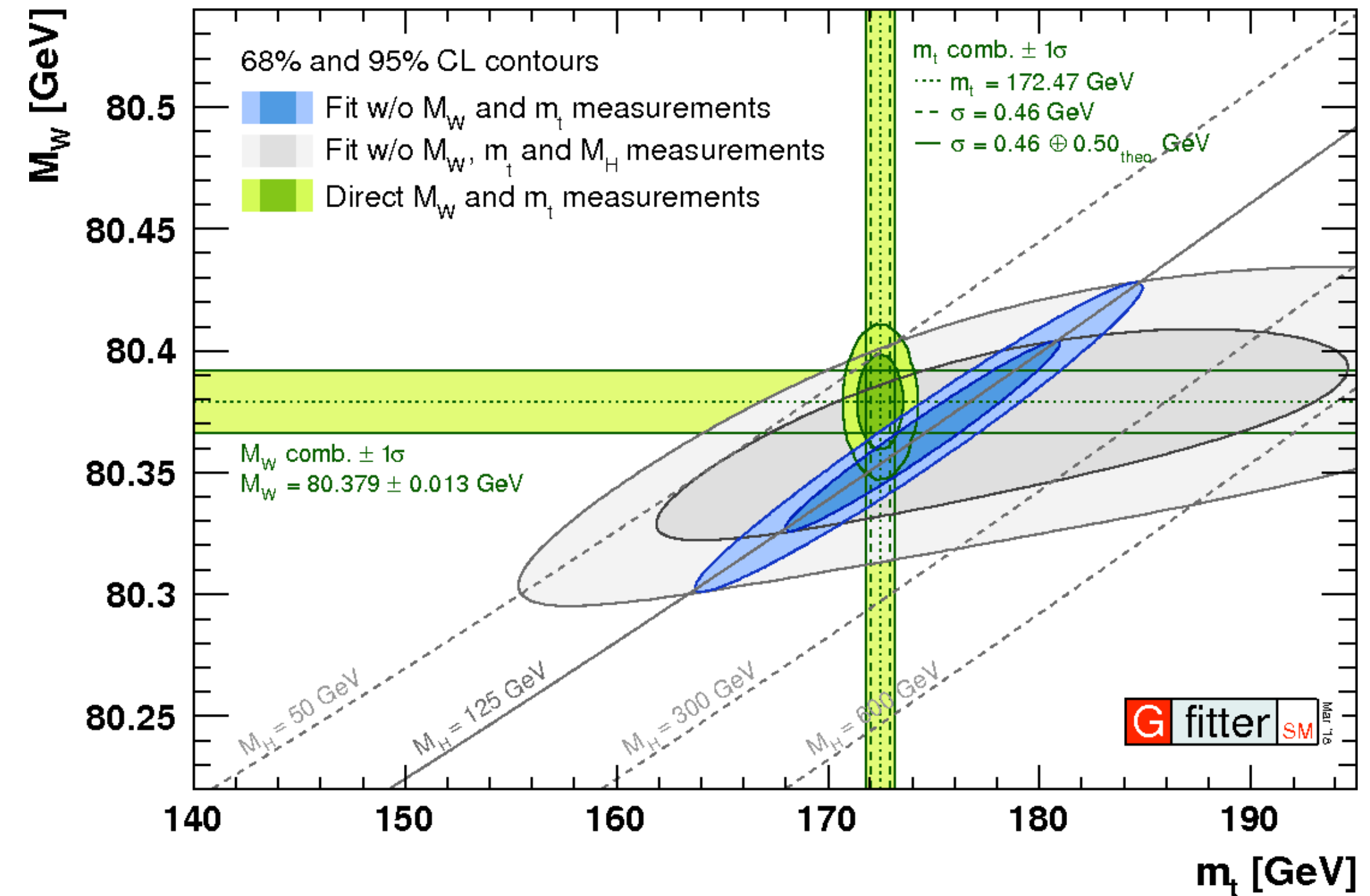




# Standard Model fits after the Higgs discovery: 2022



*Higgs mass measured with excellent precision*



*Knowing the Higgs boson mass has a large impact on global fits (compare grey vs blue)*

# Next Lecture

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*Measure*

*Standard Model*

*parameters with  
high precision*

*Search for the*

*Higgs boson*

*and measure its  
properties*

*Search for*

*New Physics*

*Beyond the  
Standard Model*

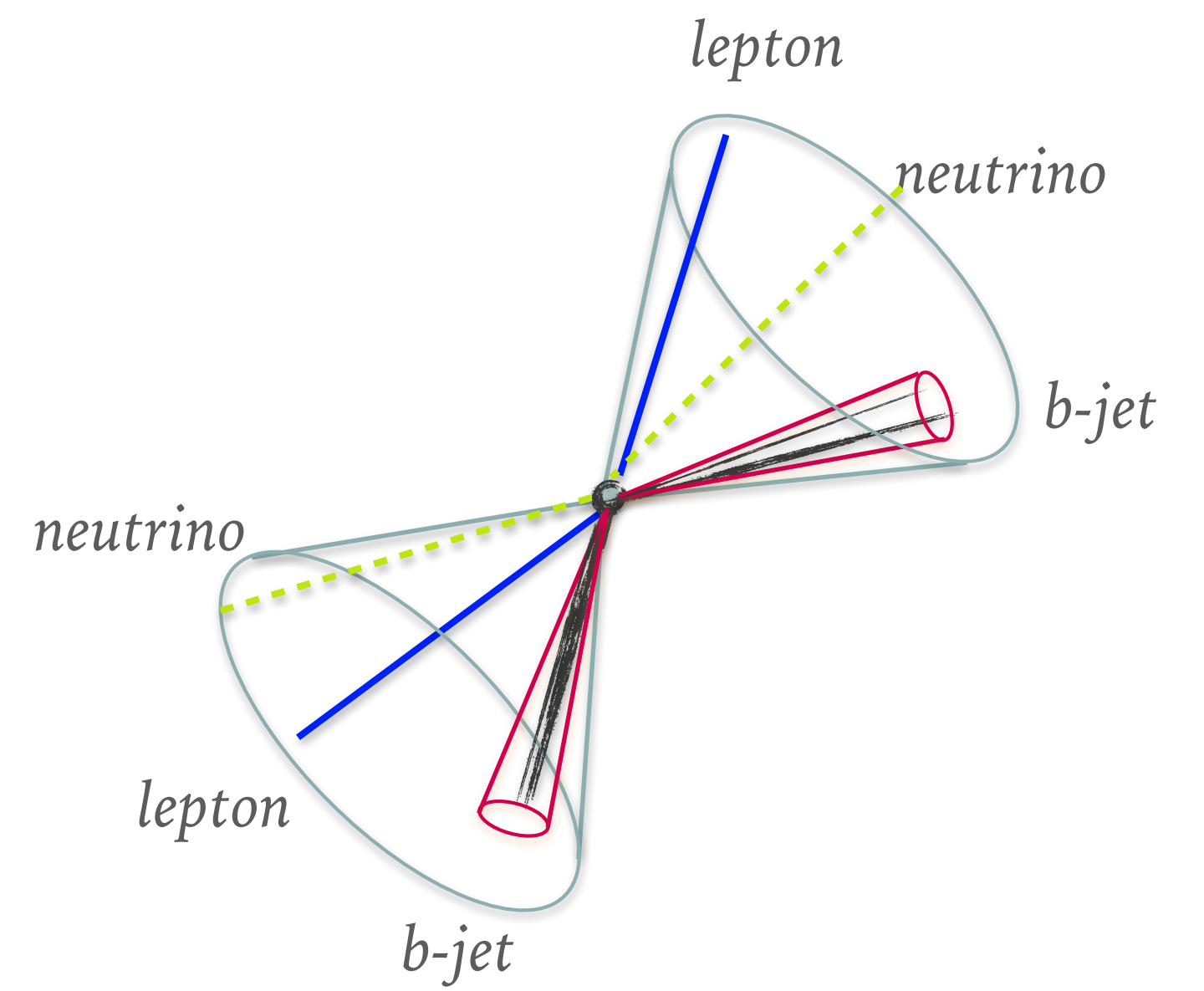
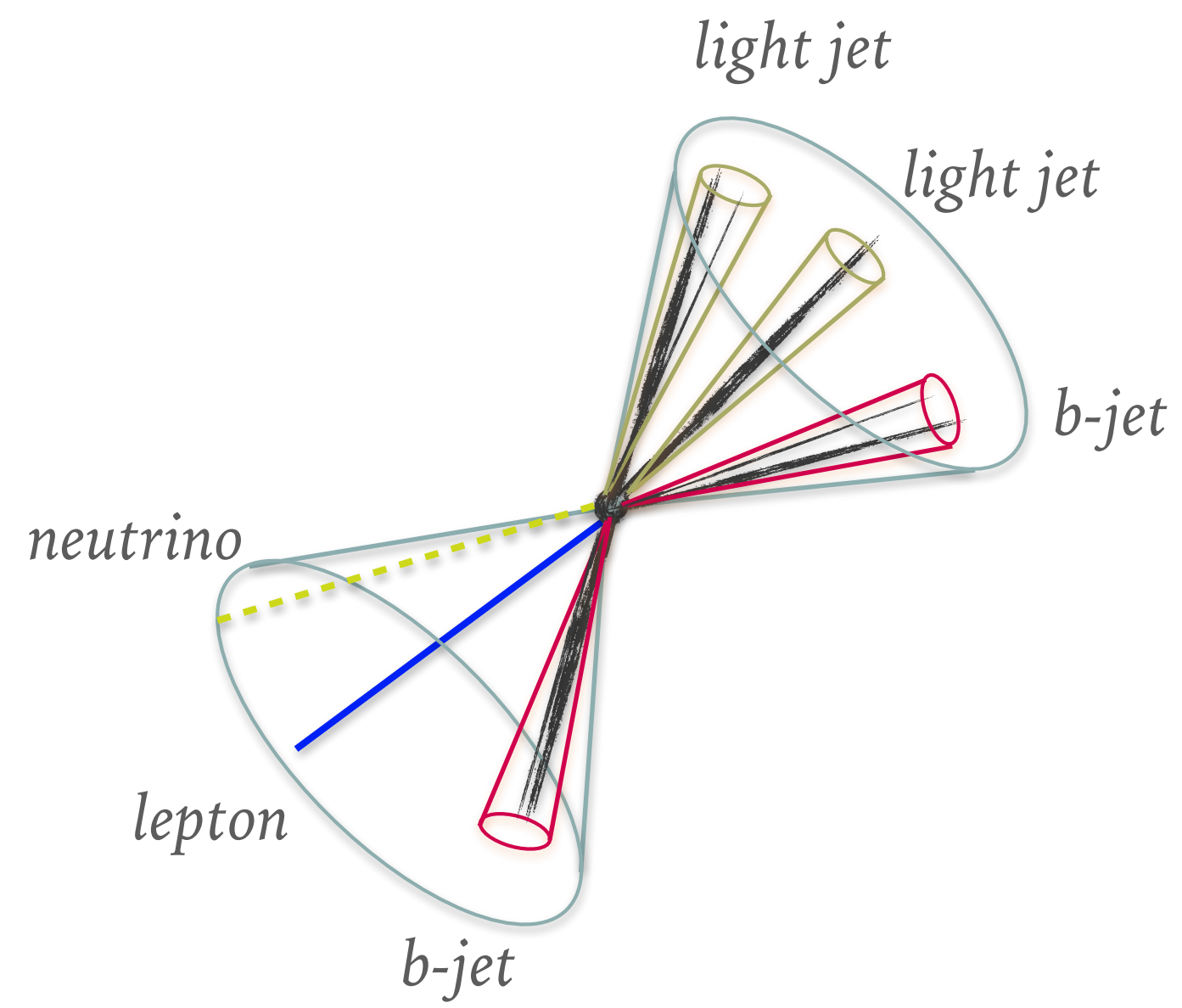
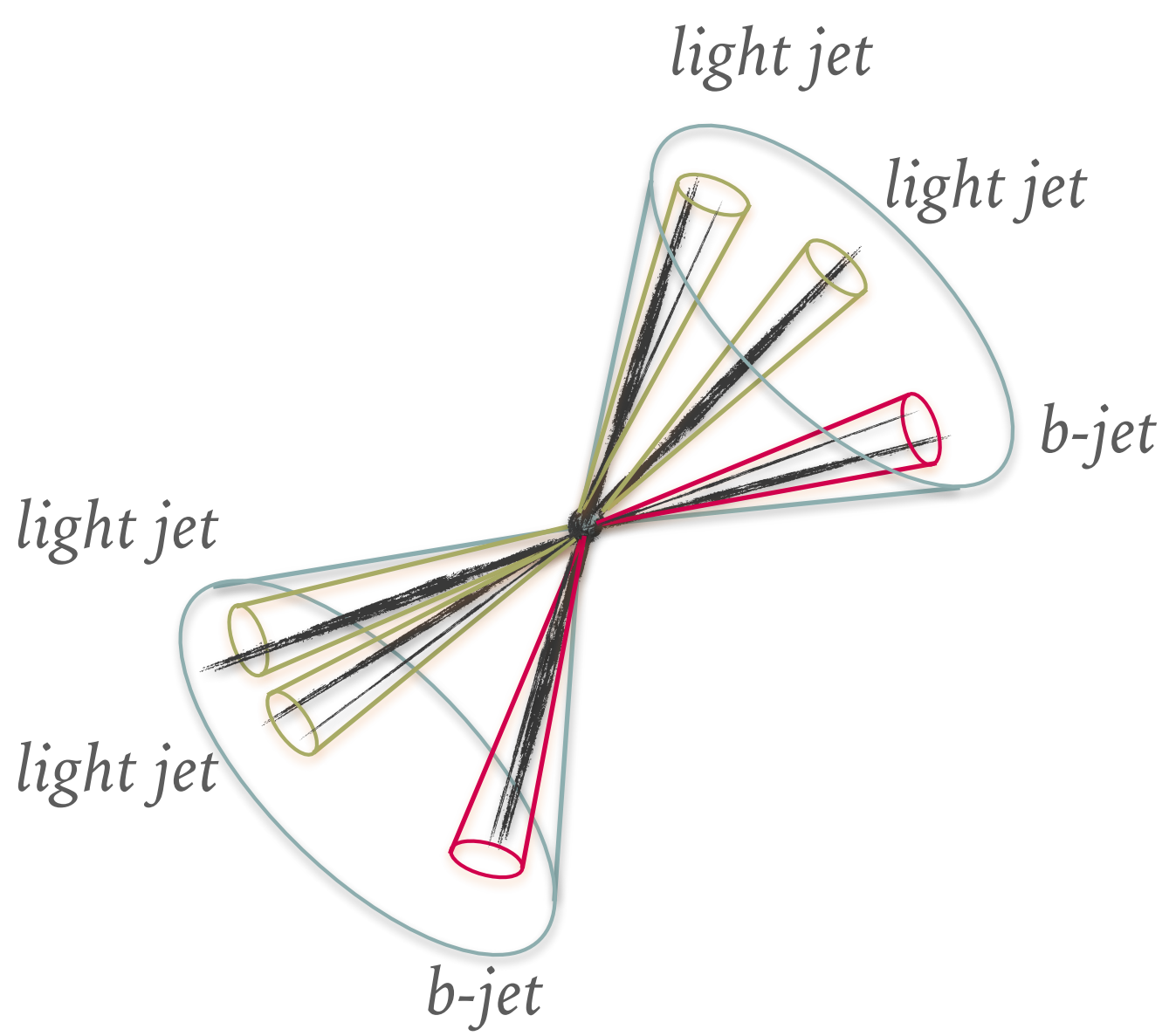
*Study*

*Quark-Gluon  
Plasma*

**Large Hadron Collider**









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- [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/75/Standard\\_Model\\_Feynman\\_Diagram\\_Vertices.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/75/Standard_Model_Feynman_Diagram_Vertices.png)