

**Higgs boson production in
ultraperipheral ion collisions
at the LHC, HE-LHC, FCC**

**PHOTON'19 Intl. Conference
Frascati, June 2019**

David d'Enterria (CERN)

Daniel Martins (UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro)

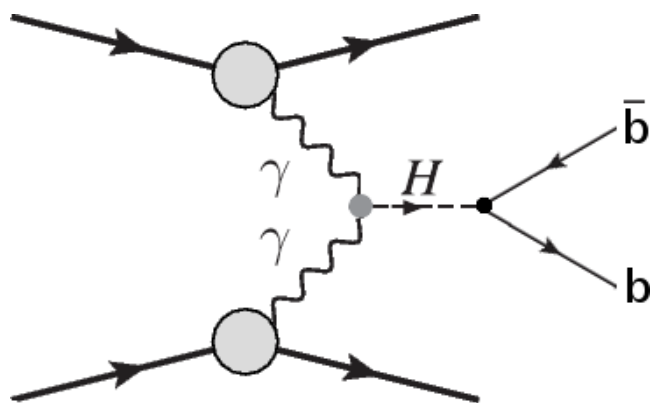
Patricia Rebello (UERJ, Rio de Janeiro)

Based on: D.d'E. & J.Ph. Lansberg, PRD 81 (2010) 014004.

D.d'E, D.E. Martins, P. Rebello, CERN Proc. 1 (2018) 33; and arXiv:1904.11936 [hep-ph]

Higgs boson production in $\gamma\gamma$ collisions

- The **s-channel production of the Higgs boson** in photon-photon collisions has always been one of the key channels of study at a **photon collider** (Compton-backscattering laser-light off $e^\pm$ beams):



- Independent **measurement of the H - γ loop-induced coupling** based not on the Higgs decay (LHC) but on its s-channel production mode.
- Model-independent **extraction of total Higgs width** combining $\Gamma(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$ partial width: $\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H \rightarrow b\bar{b}) \propto \Gamma(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \cdot \text{BR}(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})$ with $\text{BR}(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$ from LHC:

$$\Gamma_H^{\text{tot}} = \Gamma(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) / \text{BR}(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$$

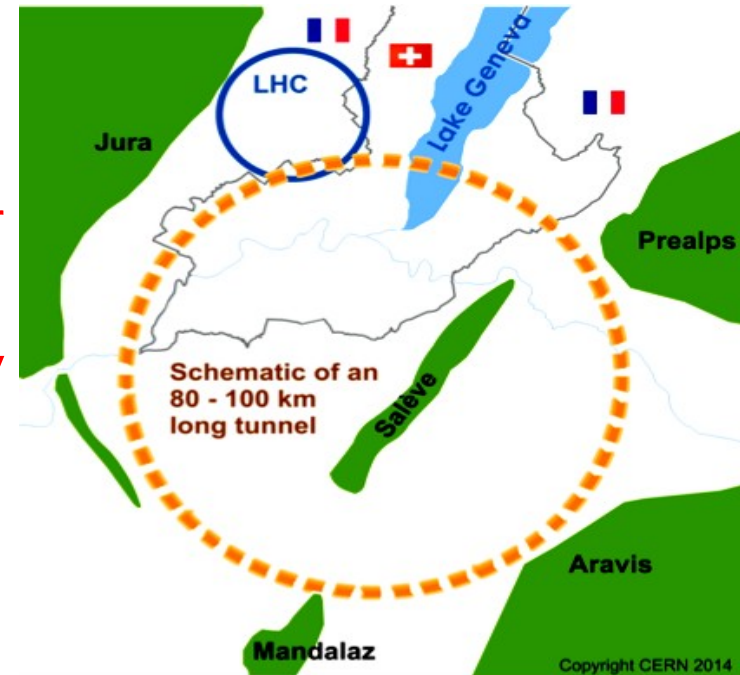
- Before the γ -collider comes to reality, is it possible to observe it using the equiv. γ fluxes of **e.m. p,A interactions at LHC or future colliders?**

CERN Future Circular Collider (FCC) project

- The next collider project at CERN:



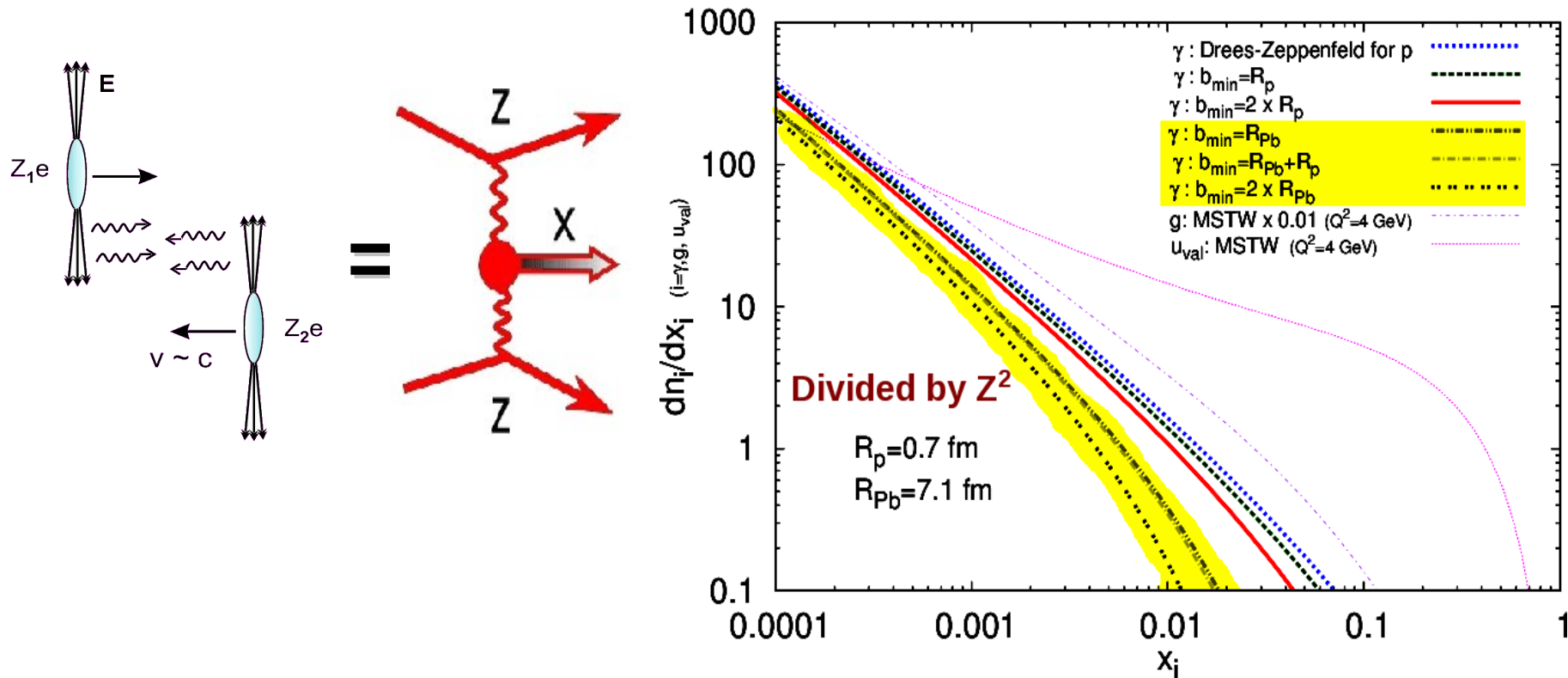
- FCC: 100 km ring, Nb₃Sn 16 T magnets, LHC used as injector:
 - pp at $\sqrt{s}=100$ TeV, $L \sim 2 \times 10^{35}$, $L_{\text{int}} = 2 \text{ ab}^{-1}/\text{yr}$ plus pPb, PbPb at $\sqrt{s}_{\text{NN}} = 39\text{--}63$ TeV
 - e⁺e⁻ option (before pp) at $\sqrt{s}=90\text{--}350$ GeV $L \sim 10^{35}\text{--}4 \cdot 10^{36}$, $L_{\text{int}} = 1\text{--}40 \text{ ab}^{-1}/\text{yr}$ for H, Z
- HE-LHC: LHC + 16 T magnets:
 - pp at $\sqrt{s}=27$ TeV, PbPb at $\sqrt{s}_{\text{NN}}=10.6$ TeV



Photon-photon collisions at colliders

- **Electromagnetic** ultra-peripheral collisions (UPCs): $b_{\min} > R_A + R_B$
- HE ions generate **huge EM fields** (10^{14} T) from coherent action of $Z=82$ p:

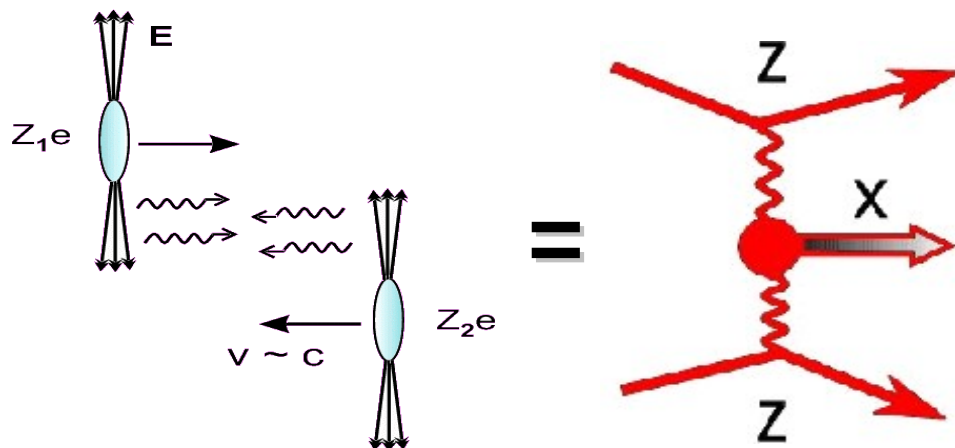
Weizsäcker-Williams (EPA) power-law photon flux:



- **Quasi-real** photons (coherence): $Q \approx 1/R \approx 0.06$ GeV (Pb), 0.28 GeV (p)
- Maximum γ energies (LHC): $\omega < \omega_{max} \approx \frac{\gamma}{R} \approx 80$ GeV (Pb), ≈ 2.5 TeV (p)

Photon-photon collisions at the LHC

- **Electromagnetic** ultra-peripheral collisions (UPCs): $b_{\min} > R_A + R_B$
- HE ions generate **huge EM fields** (10^{14} T) from coherent action of $Z=82$ p:



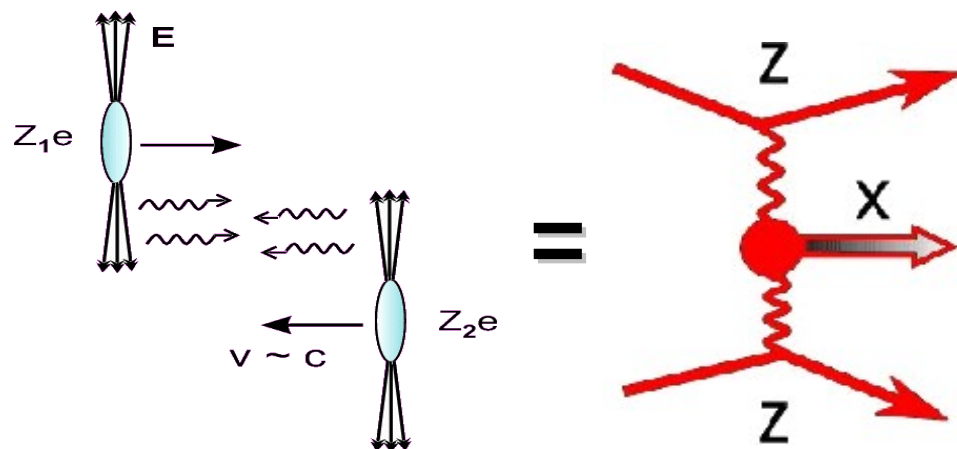
- **Huge photon fluxes:**
 $\sigma(\gamma-\gamma) \sim Z^4$ ($\sim 5 \cdot 10^7$ for PbPb)
 larger than $p, e^\pm$
- **Beam-energy dependence:**
 Photon luminosities
 increase as $\propto \log^3(\sqrt{s})$

- **Quasi-real** photons (coherence): $Q \approx 1/R \approx 0.06$ GeV (Pb), 0.28 GeV (p)
- Maximum γ energies (LHC): $\omega < \omega_{\max} \approx \frac{\gamma}{R} \approx 80$ GeV (Pb), ≈ 2.5 TeV (p)

System	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (TeV)	γ	R_A (fm)	$\omega_{\max}$ (GeV)	$\sqrt{s_{\gamma\gamma}^{\max}}$ (GeV)
$p-p$	14	7455	0.7	2450	4500
p -Pb	8.8	4690	7.1	130	260
Pb-Pb	5.5	2930	7.1	80	160

Photon-photon collisions at the FCC

- **Electromagnetic** ultra-peripheral collisions (UPCs): $b_{\min} > R_A + R_B$
- HE ions generate **huge EM fields** (10^{14} T) from coherent action of $Z=82$ p:



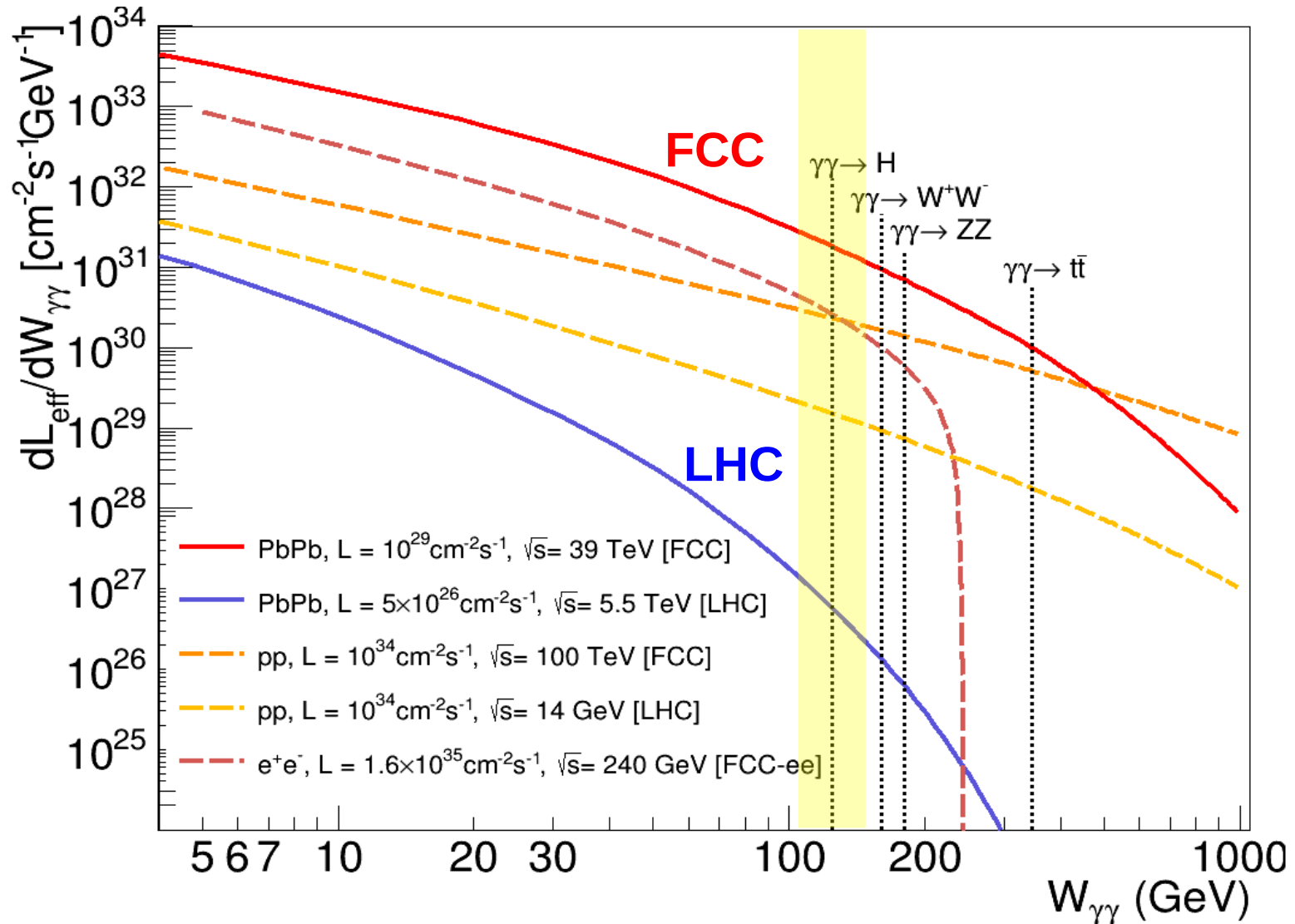
- **Huge photon fluxes:**
 $\sigma(\gamma-\gamma) \sim Z^4$ ($\sim 5 \cdot 10^7$ for PbPb)
 larger than $p, e^\pm$
- **Beam-energy dependence:**
 Photon luminosities
 increase as $\propto \log^3(\sqrt{s})$

- **Quasi-real** photons (coherence): $Q \approx 1/R \approx 0.06$ GeV (Pb), 0.28 GeV (p)
- Maximum γ energies (FCC): $\omega < \omega_{\max} \approx \frac{\gamma}{R} \approx 0.6$ TeV (Pb), ≈ 18 TeV (p)

System	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (TeV)	$\mathcal{L}_{AB} \cdot \Delta t$ (per year)	γ ($\times 10^3$)	$\omega_{\max}$ (TeV)	$\sqrt{s_{\gamma\gamma}^{\max}}$ (TeV)
p-p	100	1 fb $^{-1}$	53.	17.6	35.2
p-Pb	64	1 pb $^{-1}$	33.5	0.95	1.9
Pb-Pb	39	5 nb $^{-1}$	21.	0.60	1.2

Effective $\gamma\gamma$ luminosities in UPCs at LHC/FCC

- Effective $\gamma\gamma$ lumi vs. $\sqrt{s_{\gamma\gamma}}$. Threshold m_{Higgs} surpassed for first time



Theoretical setup

- **MadGraph 5.0** (v.2.6.5) MC event generator.

→ Equivalent photon approximation (**EPA**):

$$\sigma_{A_1 A_2 \rightarrow H} = \int dx_1 dx_2 f_{\gamma/A_1}(x_1) f_{\gamma/A_2}(x_2) \hat{\sigma}_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H}$$

→ **Photon fluxes**:

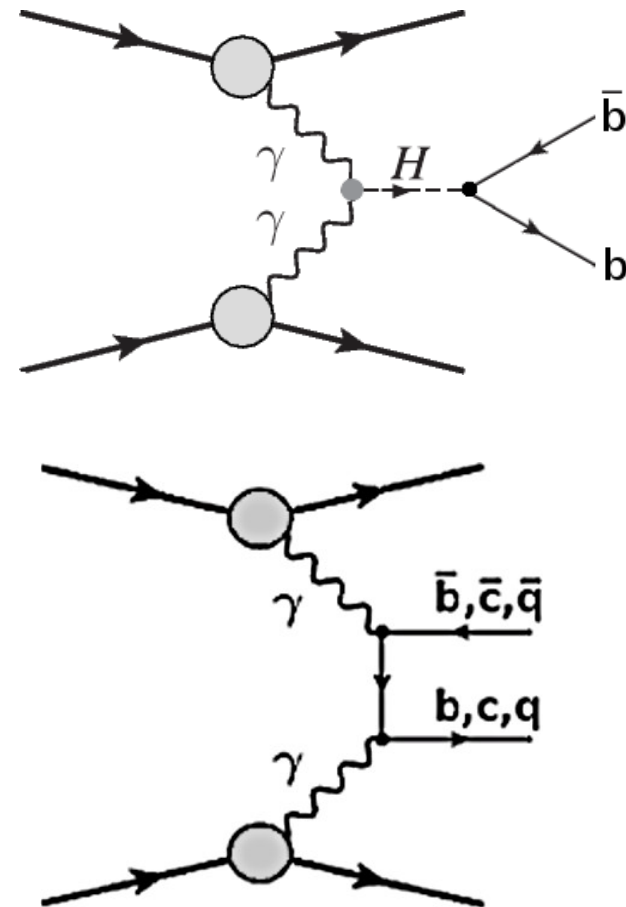
p: (elastic FF) $f_{\gamma/p}(x) = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \frac{1-x+1/2x^2}{x} \int_{Q_{\min}^2}^{\infty} \frac{Q^2 - Q_{\min}^2}{Q^4} |F(Q^2)|^2 dQ^2$

A: $f_{\gamma/A}(x) = \frac{\alpha Z^2}{\pi} \frac{1}{x} \left[2x_i K_0(x_i) K_1(x_i) - x_i^2 (K_1^2(x_i) - K_0^2(x_i)) \right]$

→ $\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H)$ cross section in the HEFT-approximation:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\gamma\gamma H}^{\text{eff}} = -\frac{1}{4} g F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} H$$

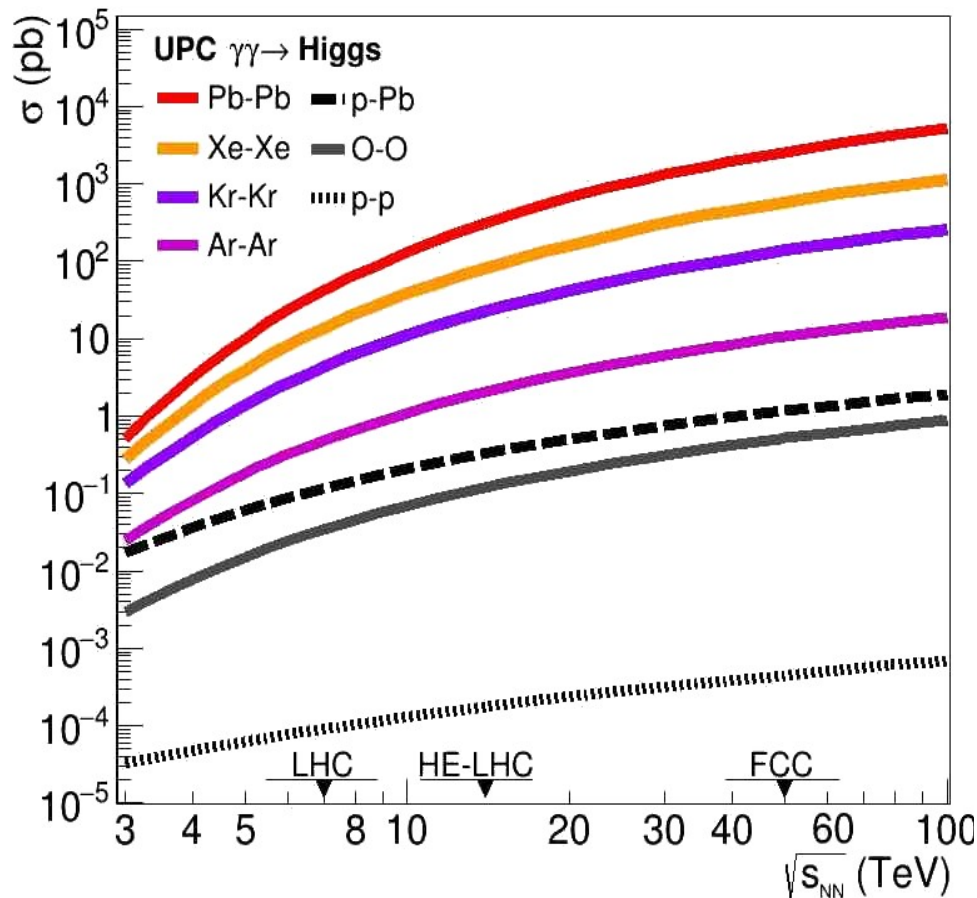
- **HDECAY**: $\text{BR}(H \rightarrow b\bar{b}) \approx 56\%$
- **Backgrounds** ($\gamma\gamma \rightarrow b\bar{b}, c\bar{c}, q\bar{q}$) directly computed by **MadGraph 5.0**.
- **PYTHIA-8.2**: Shower & hadronization of b (and c, uds) quarks.
- **FastJet**: Durham jet algo (exclusive $n_j=2$)



- 1) TH uncertainties: ~20% from form-factors, nuclear overlap, ...
- 2) Semielastic production ($\times 2$ yields; p,Pb breakup) not included.

$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \text{Higgs}$ x-sections in A-A, p-A, p-p UPCs

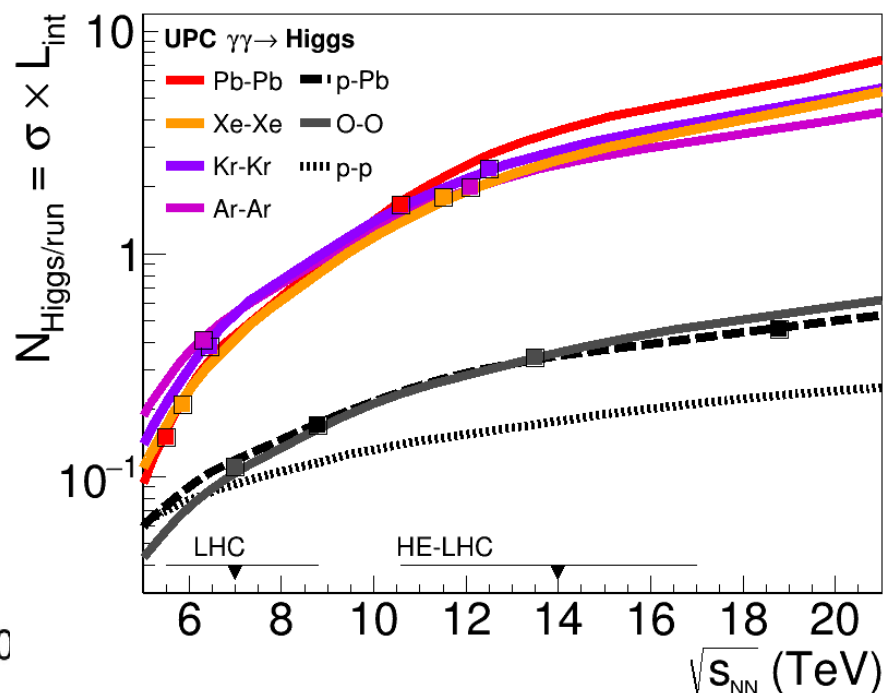
■ Total $\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \text{H})$ vs. c.m. energy:



► Z^4 factor enhances significantly the cross-section in Pb-Pb UPCs compared to p-p & lighter ions.

■ Total $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \text{H}$ yields vs. c.m. energy per system:

0.1–0.4 Higgs/month at the LHC
1.5–2.5 Higgs/month at HE-LHC



► Larger beam luminosity for lighter ions compensates for smaller x-sections: Larger Higgs yields/mo. for Ar-Ar, Kr-Kr

$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$ Higgs yields in A-A, p-A, p-p UPCs

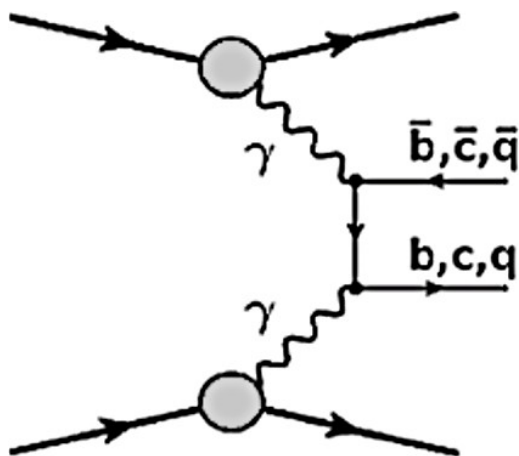
- Total Higgs cross sections & yields per colliding system:

	System	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	$\mathcal{L}_{int}$	$E_{beam1} + E_{beam2}$	γ_L	R_A	ω_{max}	$\sqrt{s_{\gamma\gamma}^{max}}$	$\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H)$	$N(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H)$
LHC	Pb-Pb	5.5 TeV	10 nb ⁻¹	2.75 + 2.75 TeV	2950	7.1 fm	80 GeV	160 GeV	15 pb	0.15
	Xe-Xe	5.86 TeV	30 nb ⁻¹	2.93 + 2.93 TeV	3150	6.1 fm	100 GeV	200 GeV	7 pb	0.21
	Kr-Kr	6.46 TeV	120 nb ⁻¹	3.23 + 3.23 TeV	3470	5.1 fm	136 GeV	272 GeV	3 pb	0.36
	Ar-Ar	6.3 TeV	1.1 pb ⁻¹	3.15 + 3.15 TeV	3400	4.1 fm	165 GeV	330 GeV	0.36 pb	0.40
	O-O	7.0 TeV	3.0 pb ⁻¹	3.5 + 3.5 TeV	3750	3.1 fm	240 GeV	490 GeV	35 fb	0.11
	p-Pb	8.8 TeV	1 pb ⁻¹	7.0 + 2.75 TeV	7450, 2950	0.7, 7.1 fm	2.45 TeV, 130 GeV	2.6 TeV	0.17 pb	0.17
	p-p	14 TeV	1 fb ⁻¹	7.0 + 7.0 TeV	7450	0.7 fm	2.45 TeV	4.5 TeV	0.18 fb	0.18
HE-LHC	Pb-Pb	10.6 TeV	10 nb ⁻¹	5.3 + 5.3 TeV	5700	7.1 fm	160 GeV	320 GeV	150 pb	1.5
	Xe-Xe	11.5 TeV	30 nb ⁻¹	5.75 + 5.75 TeV	6200	6.1 fm	200 GeV	400 GeV	60 pb	1.8
	Kr-Kr	12.5 TeV	120 nb ⁻¹	6.25 + 6.25 TeV	6700	5.1 fm	260 GeV	530 GeV	20 pb	2.4
	Ar-Ar	12.1 TeV	1.1 pb ⁻¹	6.05 + 6.05 TeV	6500	4.1 fm	320 GeV	640 GeV	1.7 pb	1.9
	O-O	13.5 TeV	3.0 pb ⁻¹	6.75 + 6.75 TeV	7300	3.1 fm	470 GeV	940 GeV	0.11 pb	0.33
	p-Pb	18.8 TeV	1 pb ⁻¹	13.5 + 5.3 TeV	14 400, 5700	0.7, 7.1 fm	4.1 TeV, 160 GeV	4.2 TeV	0.45 pb	0.45
	p-p	27 TeV	1 fb ⁻¹	13.5 + 13.5 TeV	14 400	0.7 fm	4.1 TeV	8.2 TeV	0.30 fb	0.30
FCC	Pb-Pb	39 TeV	110 nb ⁻¹	19.5 + 19.5 TeV	21 000	7.1 fm	600 GeV	1.2 TeV	1.8 nb	200
	p-Pb	63 TeV	29 pb ⁻¹	50. + 19.5 TeV	53 300, 21 000	0.7, 7.1 fm	15.2 TeV, 600 GeV	15.8 TeV	1.5 pb	45
	p-p	100 TeV	1 fb ⁻¹	50. + 50. TeV	53 300	0.7 fm	15.2 TeV	30.5 TeV	0.70 fb	0.70

- Z^4 factor enhances significantly the $\gamma\gamma$ x-section for Pb-Pb compared to lighter systems: $\sigma(H)=15$ pb (LHC) $\times_{10}$ 150 pb (HE-LHC) $\times_{10}$ 1.8 nb (FCC).
- Larger beam lumis for lighter systems ($L_{NN} \approx 1$ fb⁻¹ compared to ≈ 0.1 fb⁻¹) favor Ar-Ar (~ 0.4 Higgs/mo) at LHC and Xe-Xe (~ 2 Higgs/mo) at HE-LHC.
- FCC: Large x-sections & lumis: ~ 45 – 200 Higgs/mo. in pPb, PbPb

$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow b\bar{b}, c\bar{c}, q\bar{q}$ irreducible backgrounds

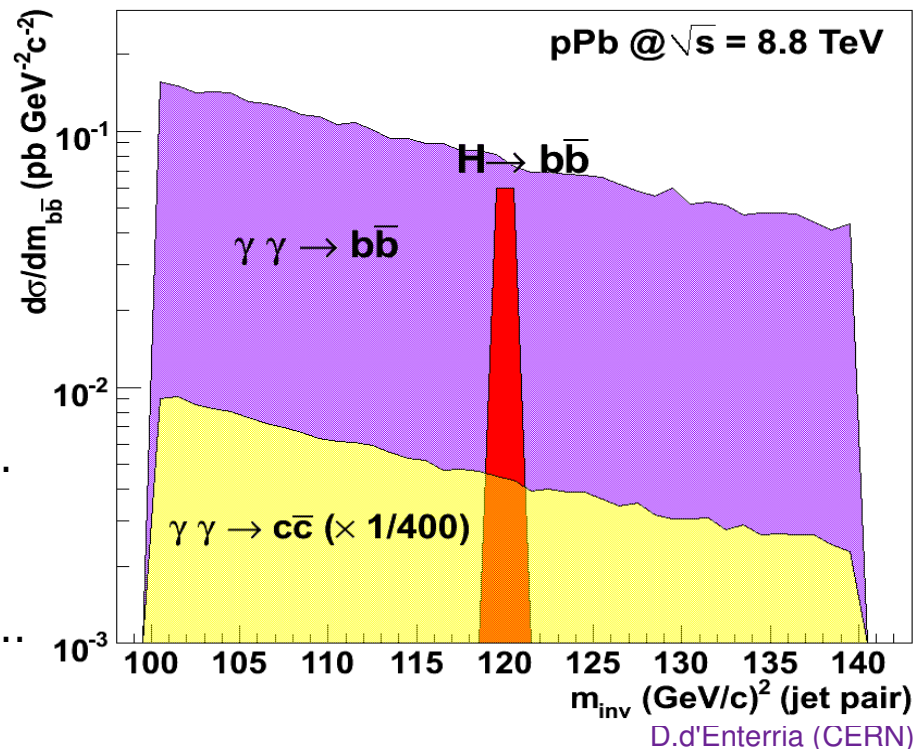
■ Heavy-Q pair continuum in photon-photon collisions:



System	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (TeV)	$\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow b\bar{b})$ (pb) [$m_{b\bar{b}}=100-140$ GeV/c ²]		$\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow c\bar{c})$ (pb) [$m_{c\bar{c}}=100-140$ GeV/c ²]	$\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q})$ (pb) [$m_{q\bar{q}}=100-140$ GeV/c ²]	$\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow t\bar{t})$ (pb) [all $m_{t\bar{t}}$]
		elastic	semielastic	elastic	elastic	elastic
pp	14	$3.4 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$7.9 \cdot 10^{-2}$	0.2	$0.36 \cdot 10^{-3}$
pO	9.9	$6.8 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$9.5 \cdot 10^{-2}$	1.6	3.9	$2.7 \cdot 10^{-3}$
pAr	9.4	0.27	0.36	6.1	15.8	$8.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$
pPb	8.8	3.4	4.5	78.	200.	$6.2 \cdot 10^{-2}$
PbPb	5.5	420	–	$9.4 \cdot 10^3$	$2.5 \cdot 10^4$	$1.8 \cdot 10^{-2}$

■ x-sections ($m_{jj}=100-140$ GeV/c²):

- 1) $b\bar{b}$ continuum: $\sim 25 \times \sigma(\text{Higgs})$
- 2) $c\bar{c}$ continuum: ~ 600 times Higgs
 $\sim 1.5 \times \sigma(\text{Higgs})$ after double-mistag prob.
- 3) $q\bar{q}$ continuum: ~ 1600 times Higgs
 $\sim 1/3 \times \sigma(\text{Higgs})$ after double-mistag prob..

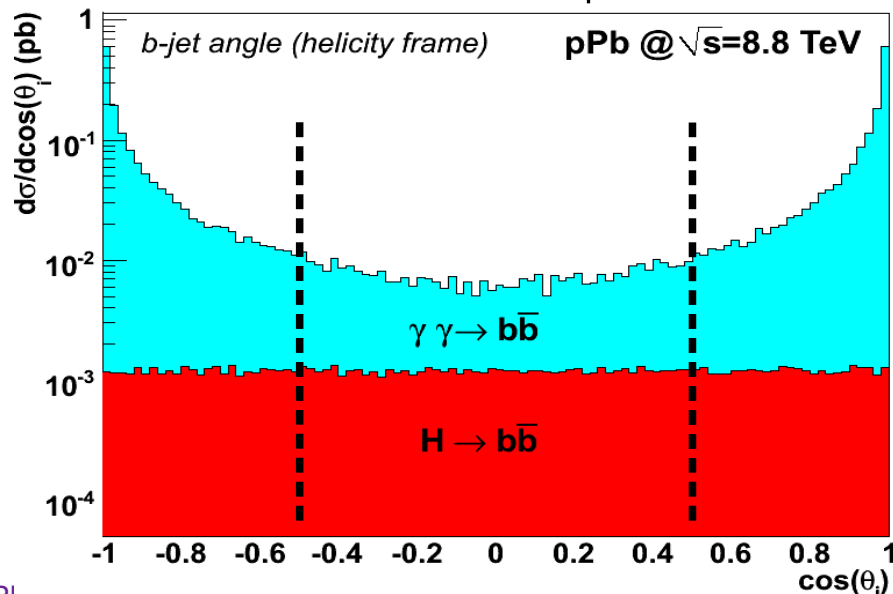
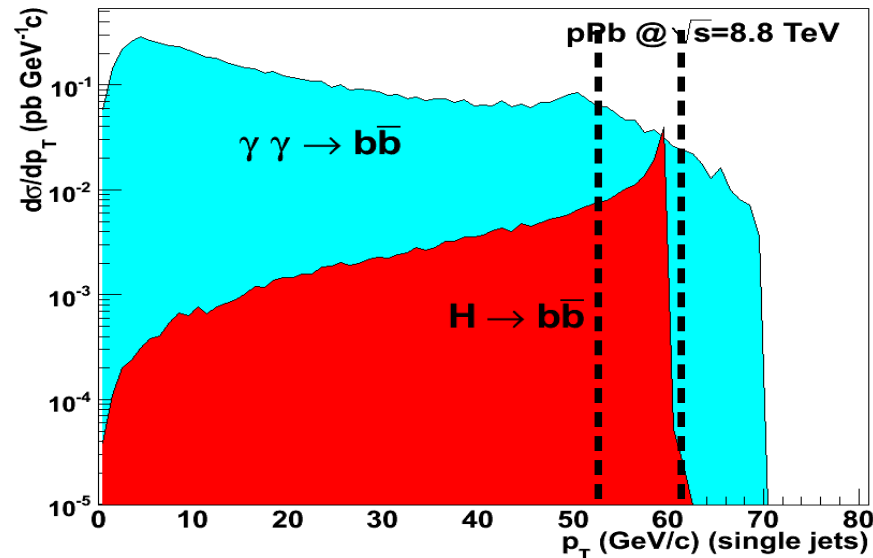


UPC $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$ Higgs data analysis (I)

- **Trigger** signal signature: 2 exclusive back-to-back high- p_T (b-)jets
- Experimental **reconstruction performance**:
 - b-jets reconstructed over $|\eta| < 2$ (5) at LHC (FCC).
 - 70% b-jet tagging efficiency, 5% (1.5%) b-jet mistagging probability for charm (light-flavour q) quarks.
 - 7% b-jet energy resolution (mass resolution $\sigma_{jj} \approx 6$ GeV at Higgs peak)
- **Acceptance & efficiency losses**:
 - Acc ≈ 0.8 for signal (central jets), 0.3 for background (fwd-bckwd jets)
 - Eff ≈ 0.5 for signal, 1/400 (for $b\bar{b}$), 1/4500 (for $c\bar{c}$)
- **Luminosities**:
 - Nominal p-A, A-A lumis at LHC, HE-LHC/FCC (from CDRs)
Note: **Negligible pileup** running in ion-ion mode.
 - p-p: 1 fb^{-1} (1% of L_{int} , at possibly low pileup). Exploiting **full pp L_{int}** requires proton taggers at 420m in LHC tunnel.
- After all these cuts **only $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H(bb)$, $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ continuum remain...**

UPC $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$ Higgs data analysis (II)

Further kinematical cuts:



b-jet transverse momentum cut:

At least 1 jet with

$$p_T \approx m_H/2 \approx 52 - 67 \text{ GeV}/c$$

Eff ≈ 0.5 for signal, 1/20 (for $b\bar{b}$)

b-jet acoplanarity cut:

$|\cos(\theta)| < 0.5$ in the helicity-frame.

Higgs decays: isotropic

Continuum: u-,t-exchange (fwd/bckw)

Further S/B increase.

UPC $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$ Higgs data analysis (II)

- Event count flow for **signal & backgds** after each set of cuts:

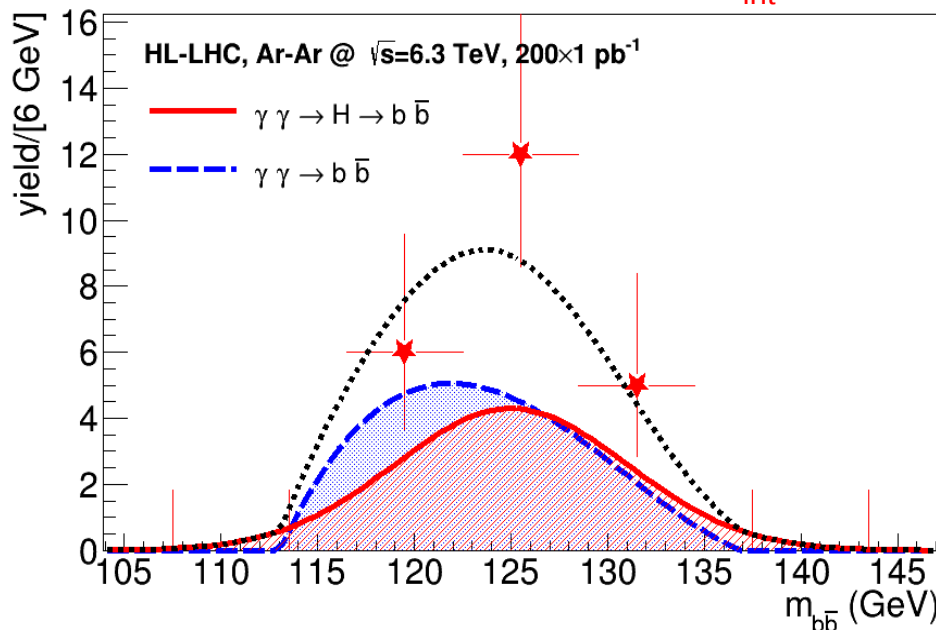
Ar-Ar at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 6.3$ TeV	cross section (b-jet (mis)tag effic.)	visible cross section after $\eta^j, p_T^j, \cos \theta_{jj} , m_{jj}$ cuts	N_{evts} ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = 1.1 \text{ pb}^{-1}$)
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$	0.20 pb (0.10 pb)	0.045 pb	0.05
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ [$m_{b\bar{b}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	8.2 pb (4.0 pb)	0.06 pb	0.06
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ [$m_{c\bar{c}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	61 pb (0.15 pb)	0.005 pb	0.006
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ [$m_{q\bar{q}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	70 pb (0.016 pb)	$< 10^{-3}$	$< 10^{-3}$
Kr-Kr at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 12.5$ TeV			N_{evts} ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = 0.12 \text{ pb}^{-1}$)
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$	11 pb (5.5 pb)	2.5 pb	0.30
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ [$m_{b\bar{b}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	364 pb (178 pb)	2.8 pb	0.34
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ [$m_{c\bar{c}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	2.7 nb (6.7 pb)	0.24 pb	0.03
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ [$m_{q\bar{q}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	3.1 nb (0.70 pb)	$< 10^{-3}$	$< 10^{-4}$
Pb-Pb at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 39$ TeV			N_{evts} ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = 110 \text{ nb}^{-1}$)
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$	1.0 nb (0.50 nb)	0.19 nb	21.1
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ [$m_{b\bar{b}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	24.3 nb (11.9 nb)	0.23 nb	25.7
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ [$m_{c\bar{c}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	525 nb (1.31 nb)	0.02 nb	2.3
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ [$m_{q\bar{q}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	590 nb (0.13 nb)	0.002 nb	0.25
p-Pb at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 63$ TeV			N_{evts} ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = 29 \text{ pb}^{-1}$)
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$	0.87 pb (0.42 pb)	0.16 pb	4.8
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ [$m_{b\bar{b}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	21.8 pb (10.7 pb)	0.22 pb	6.3
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ [$m_{c\bar{c}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	410 pb (1.03 pb)	0.011 pb	0.3
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ [$m_{q\bar{q}}=100\text{--}150$ GeV]	510 pb (0.114 pb)	0.001 pb	0.04

- Final **Signal/Backgd ~ 1** , but $N_{\text{Higgs}} \gg 1$ only at FCC

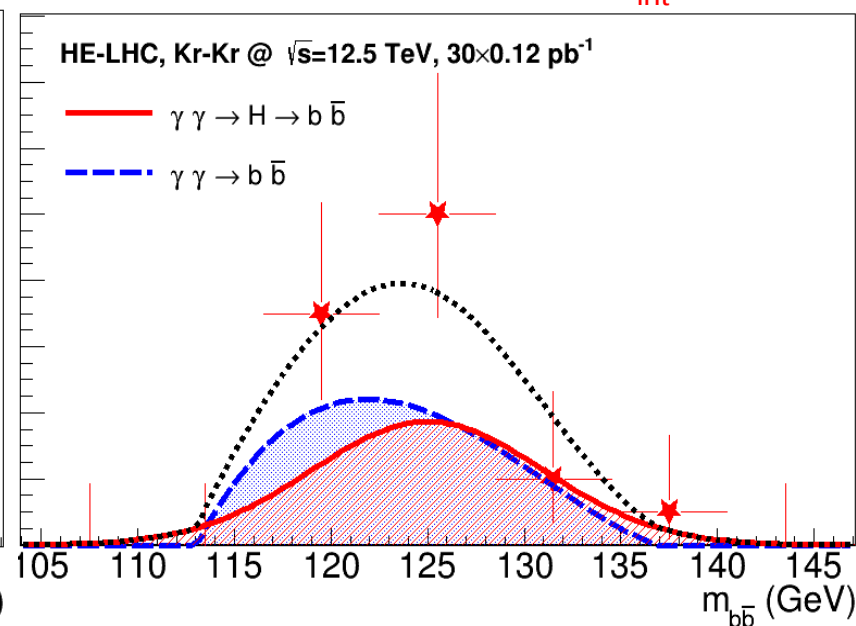
Expected dijet mass spectrum (LHC, HE-LHC)

- What **integrated luminosity is needed for evidence** (significance $S/\sqrt{B} \sim 3\sigma$) of Higgs signal on top of continuum backgrounds after cuts:

Ar-Ar at 6.3 TeV ($\times 200 L_{\text{int}}$):



Kr-Kr at 6.3 TeV ($\times 30 L_{\text{int}}$):



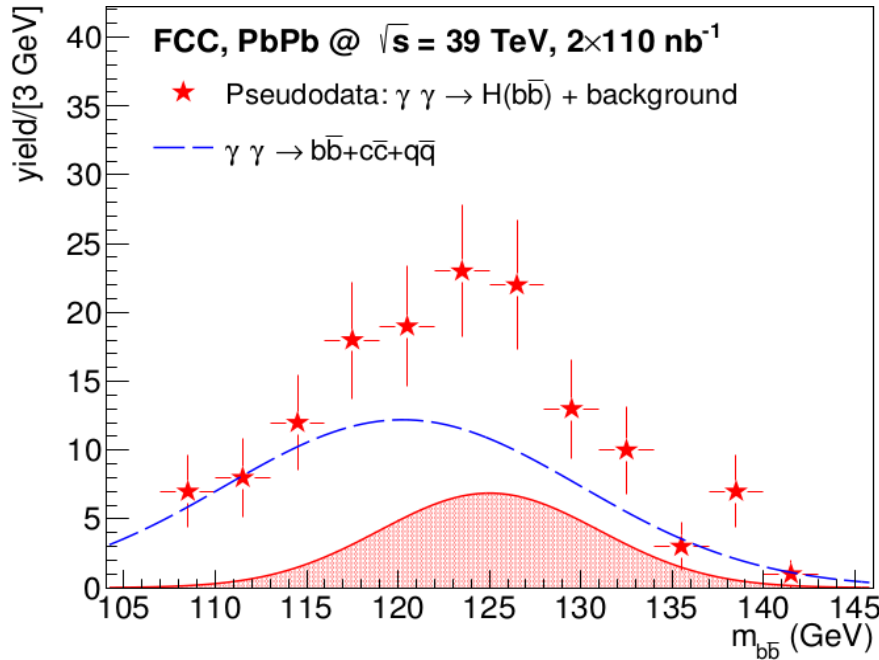
- A factor $\times 10$ more **integrated lumi** easily reached by running for the **duration of a pp (not 1-month heavy-ion) run**. **But**, UPC Higgs observation will **very likely remain elusive** at the HL-LHC and HE-LHC.

Note: More advanced multivariate studies (and parametric-shape-based significances), rather than simple “cut-based” criteria used here, would enhance $S/\sqrt{B}$ but not by $\times 10$ factor.

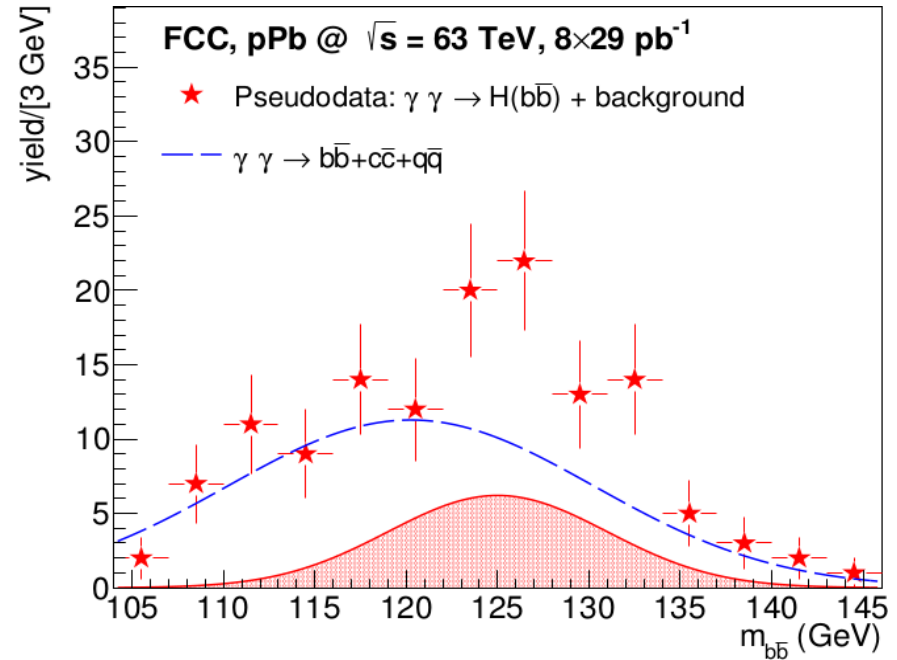
Expected dijet mass spectrum (FCC)

- **5 σ Higgs observation** on top of continuum backgrounds after cuts:

Pb-Pb at 6.3 TeV ($\times 2 L_{\text{int}}$):



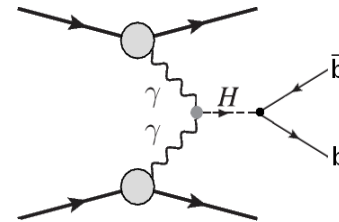
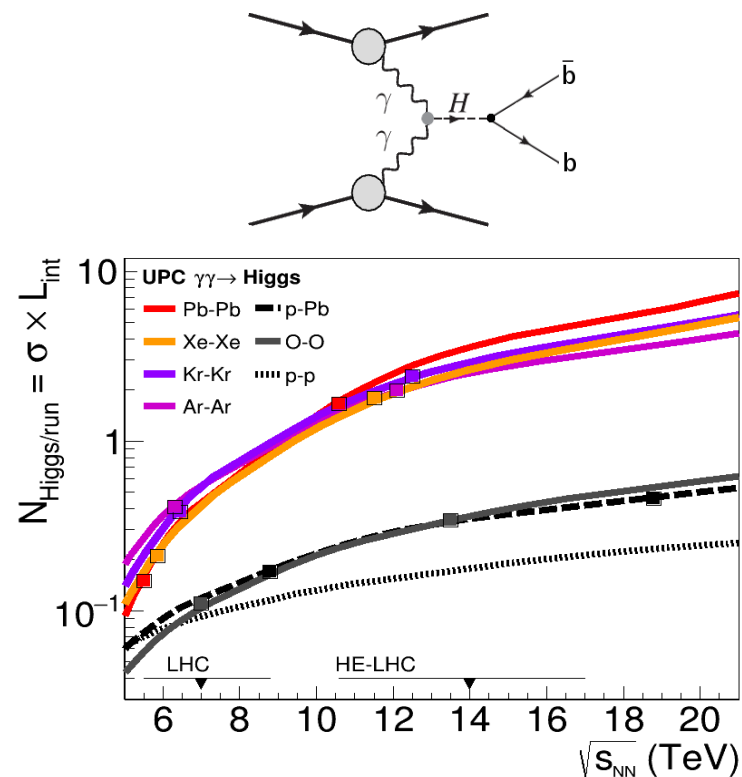
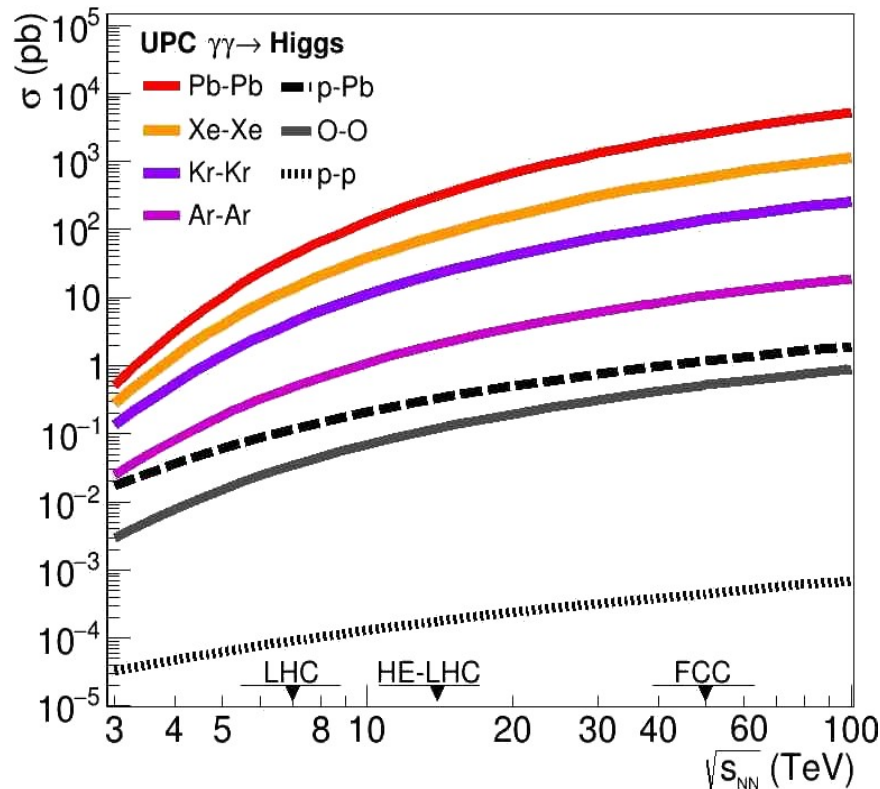
p-Pb at 6.3 TeV ($\times 8 L_{\text{int}}$):



- **~20 (5) signal counts** above backgds after cuts in Pb-Pb (p-Pb) collisions
- **Observation at 5 σ -level achievable in the first FCC run** by combining 2 experiments in Pb-Pb (**1 month**), and by running for about 8 months (or 4 months and combining 2 experiments) in p-Pb.

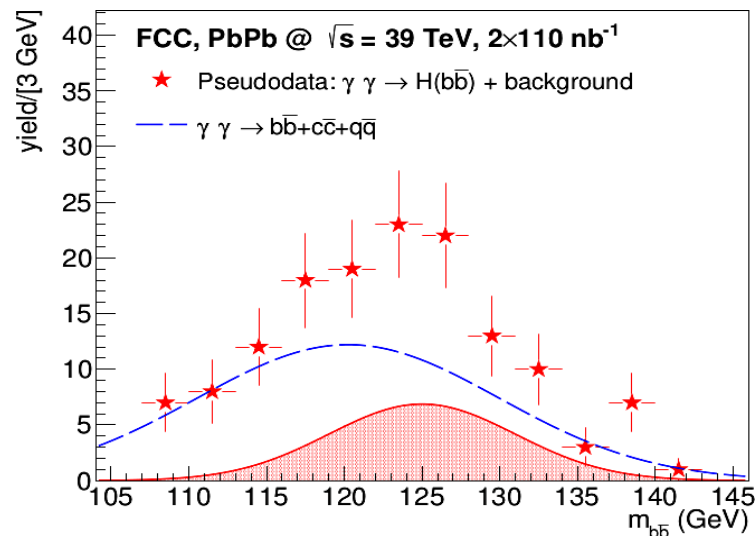
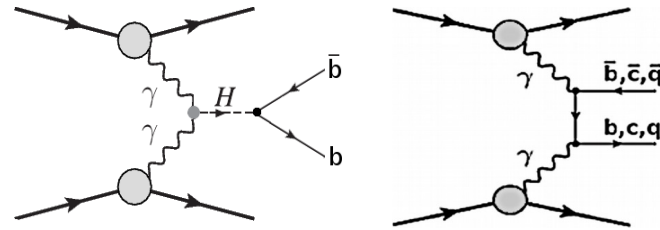
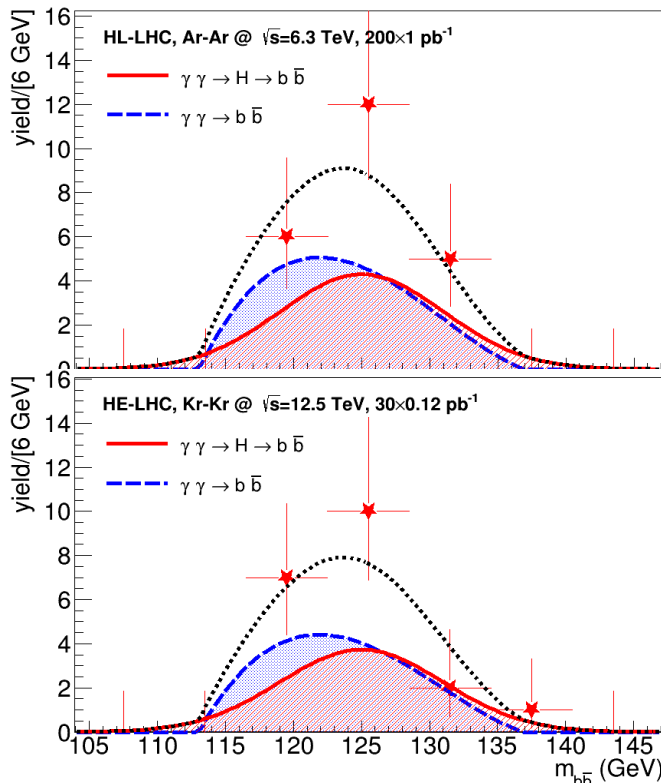
Conclusions (I)

- Is s-channel Higgs boson production **observable in UPCs** ?
 $p\text{-}p, p\text{-}A, A\text{-}A \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \rightarrow H(bb)$, $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3\text{--}100$ TeV (LHC, HE-LHC, FCC)
- **Cross sections** computed with MadGraph 5.0 (EPA ions + HEFT):
LHC: Highest x-sections for **Pb-Pb (15 pb)**. Largest rates for **Ar-Ar (~ 0.4 Higgs/mo.)**
HE-LHC: Highest x-sections for **Pb-Pb (150 pb)**. Largest rates for **Kr-Kr (~ 2 Higgs/mo.)**
FCC: Very large x-sections. p-Pb, Pb-Pb rates: **45–200 Higgs/mo.**



Conclusions (II)

- Is s-channel Higgs boson production **observable in UPCs** ?
 $p\text{-}p, p\text{-}A, A\text{-}A \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \rightarrow H(bb)$, $\sqrt{s}_{\text{NN}} = 3\text{--}100$ TeV (LHC, HE-LHC, FCC)
- Expected yields for signal & $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow bb, cc, qq$ backgds after analysis cuts:
LHC: 3σ evidence requires $\times 200$ more integrated luminosities in Ar-Ar
HE-LHC: 3σ evidence requires $\times 30$ more integrated luminosities in Kr-Kr
FCC: 20 (5) signal counts after cuts in Pb-Pb (p-Pb) colls. 5σ warranted in 1st year.



Back-up slides