

# Search for a new resonance decaying into two Higgs boson like particles

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**seminario INFN, 15/01/2024**

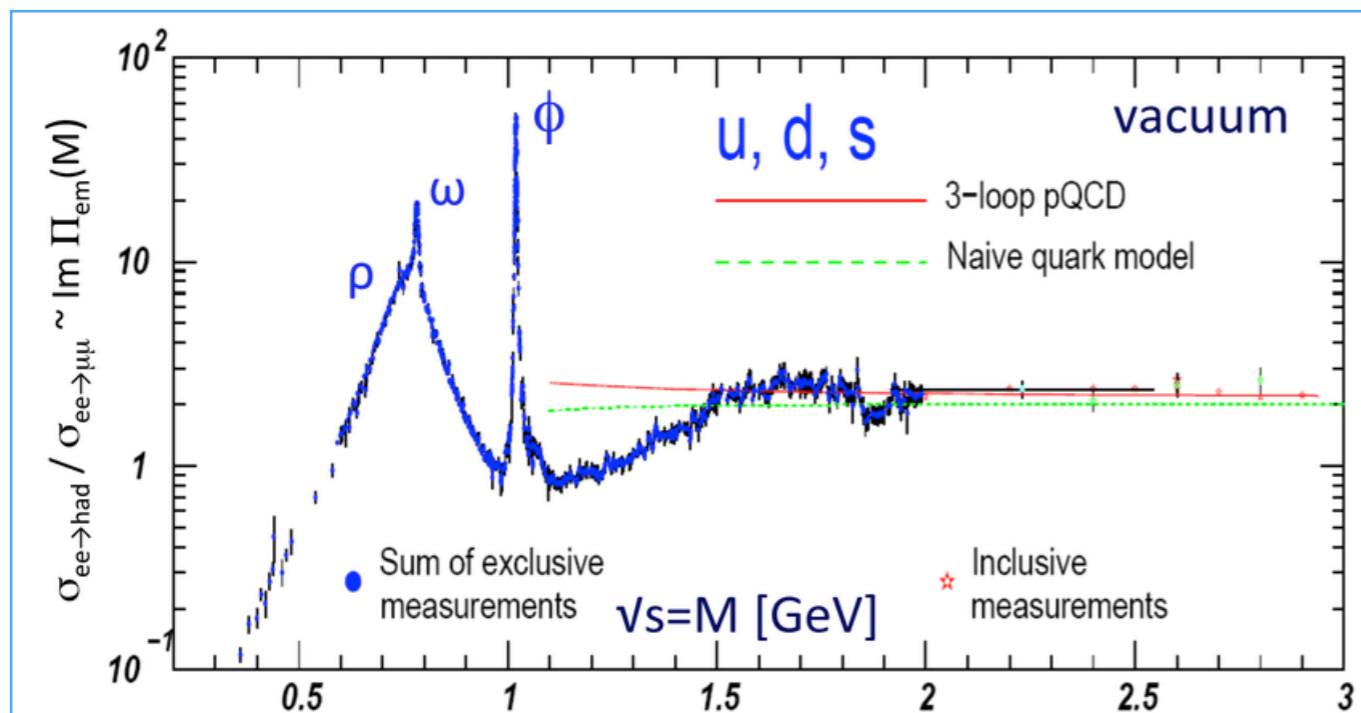
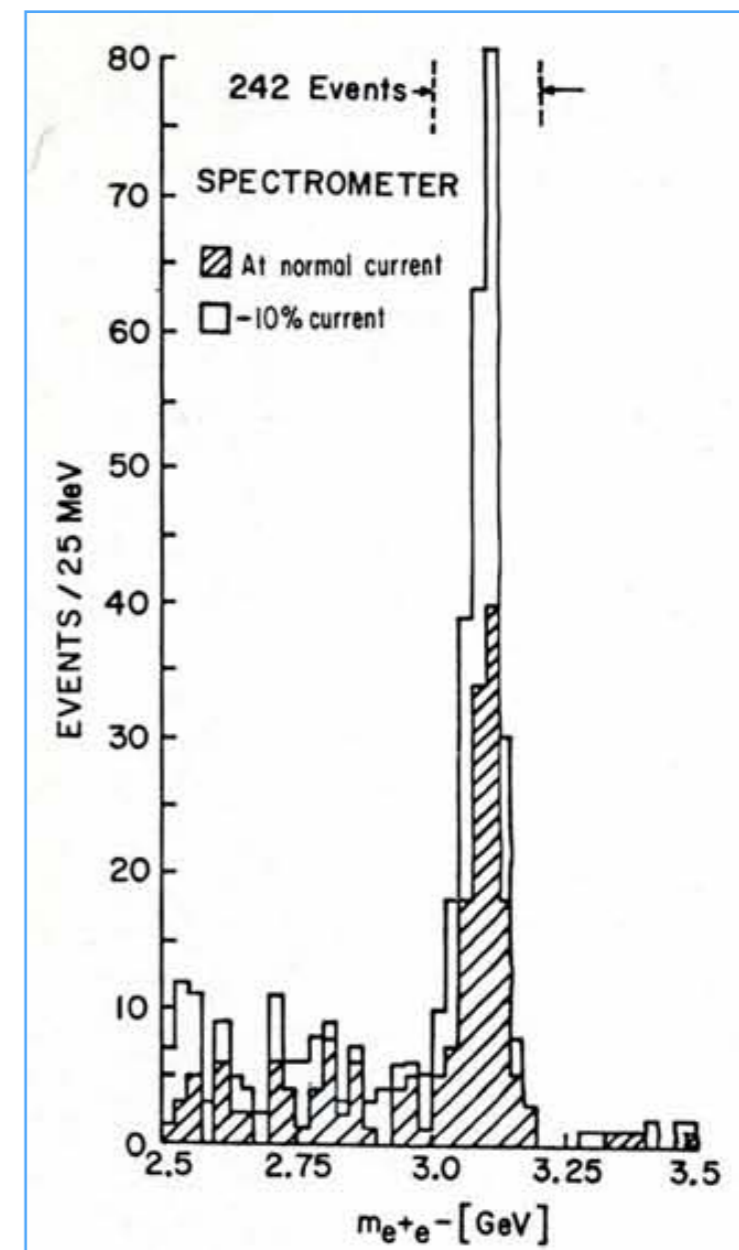
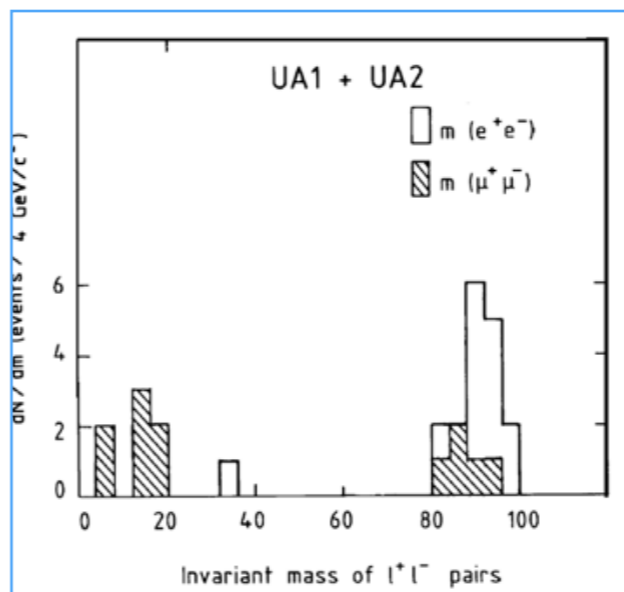
Observation of a resonance as a narrow peak in the cross section has always been a step forward in particle physics

## Bound states of elementary particles:

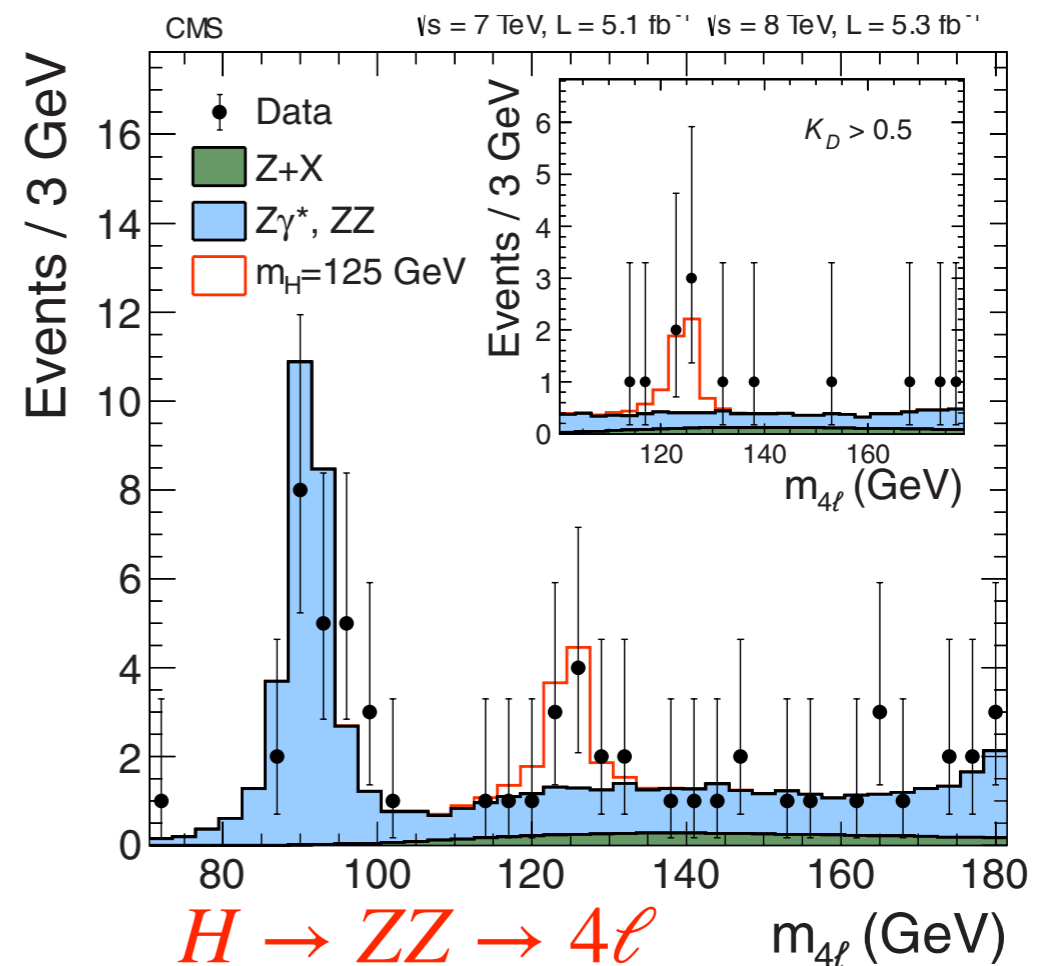
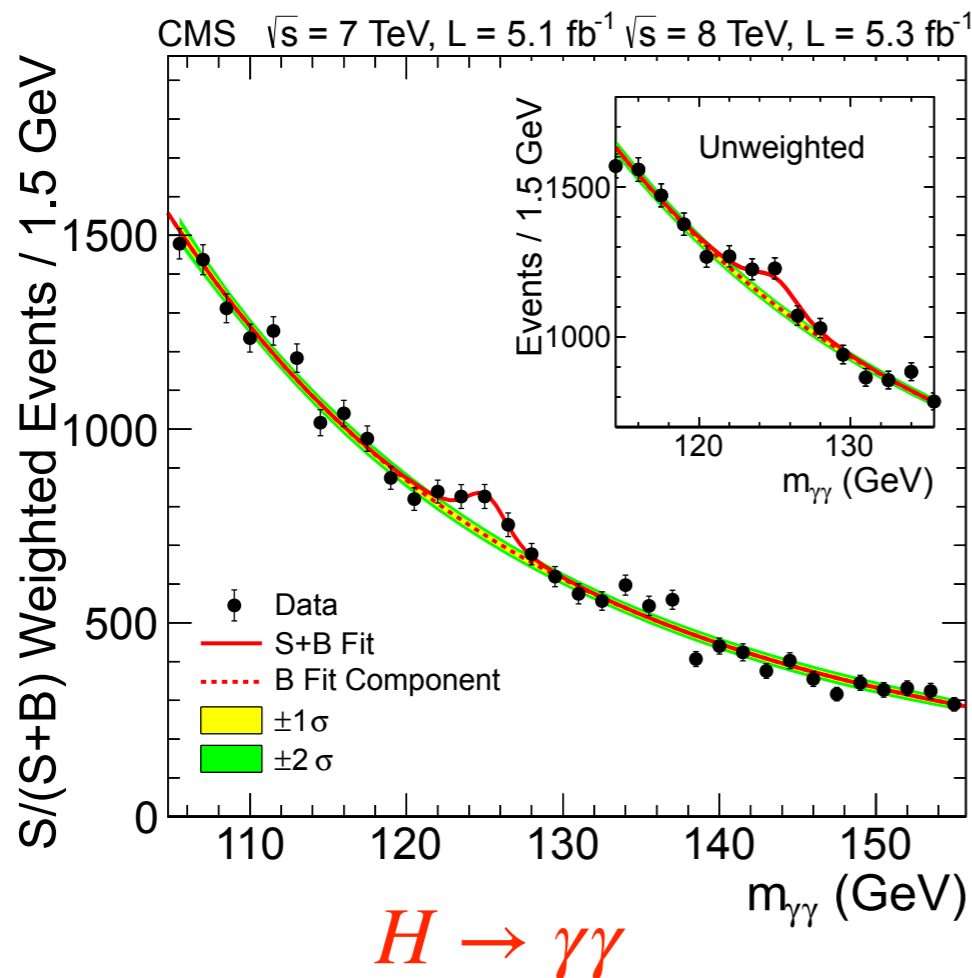
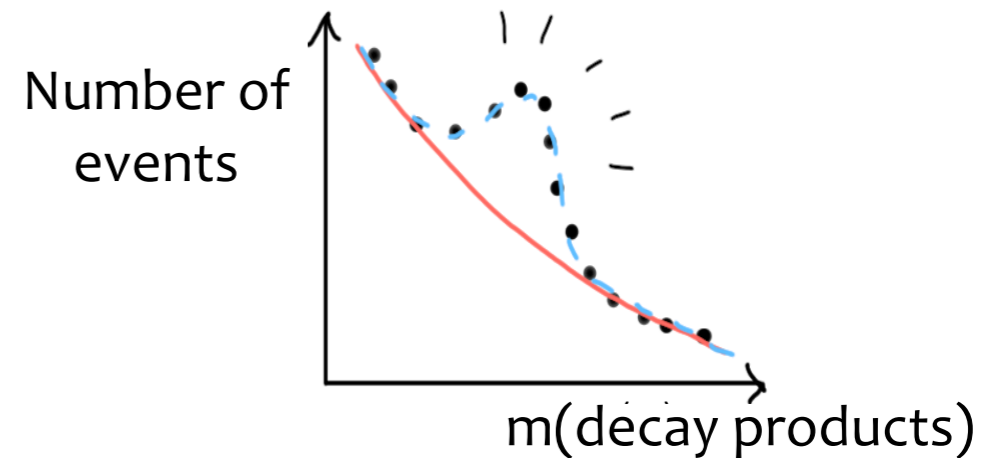
- e.g. mesons:  $\rho(770)$ ,  $J/\psi(c\bar{c})$ ,
- e.g. baryons:  $\Delta(1232)$ , i.e. 3 u/d-type quarks

## Elementary particles:

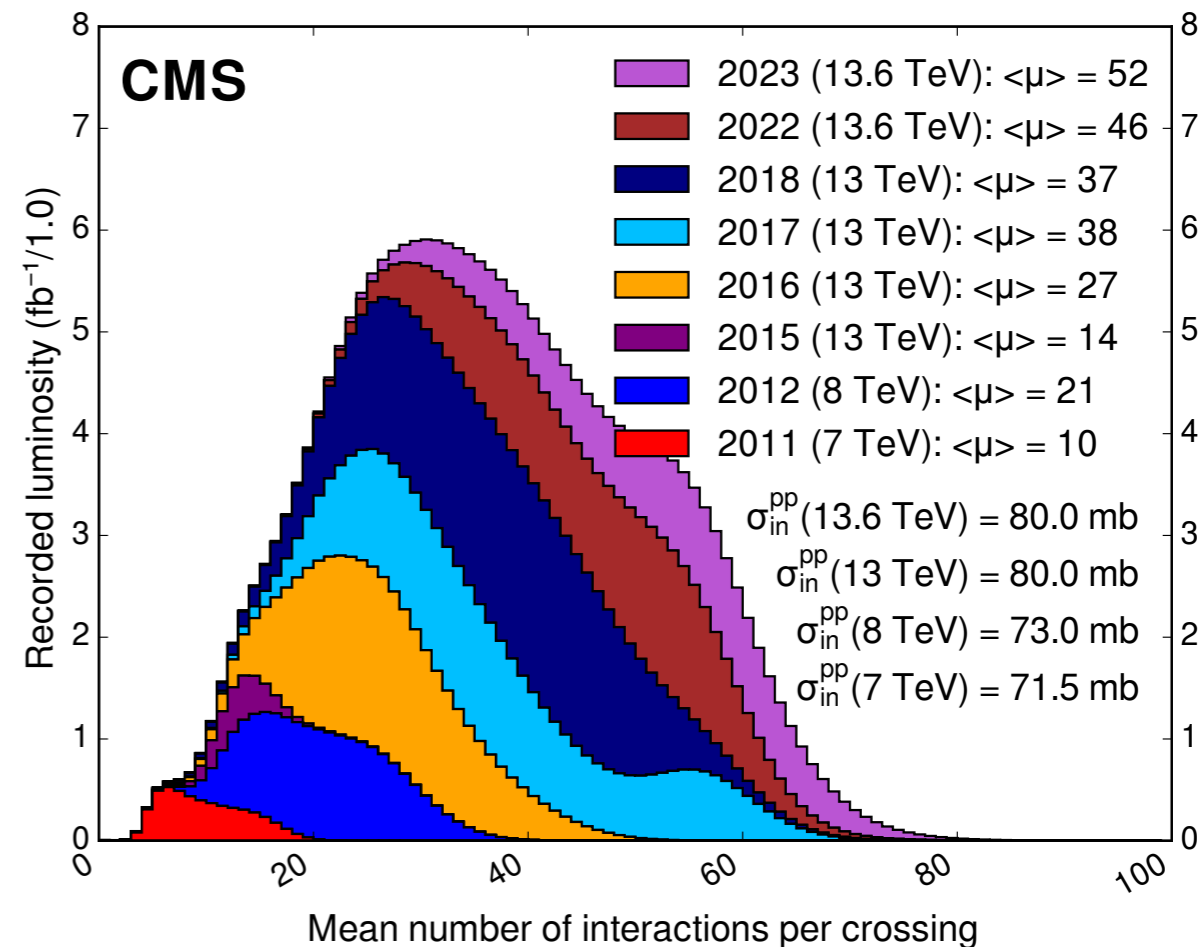
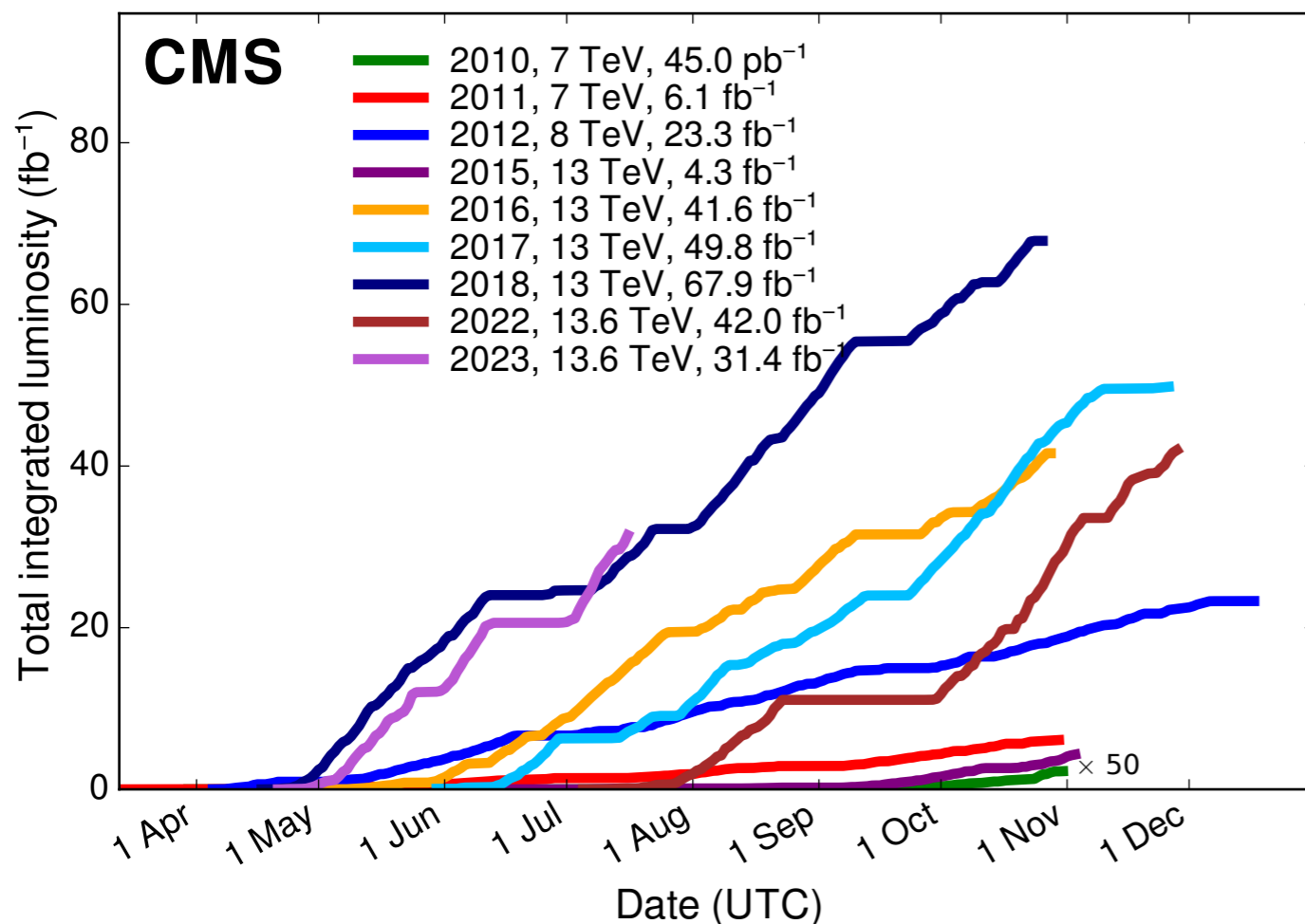
- W, Z, H bosons



- LHC pp collisions can produce new particles, and search for them as a resonance in the mass of the decay products is a robust signature (bump hunt)
- Higgs discovery:
  - $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  (di-photon resonance),
  - $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$  (4-lepton resonance)



## A collider to produce new resonances: LHC

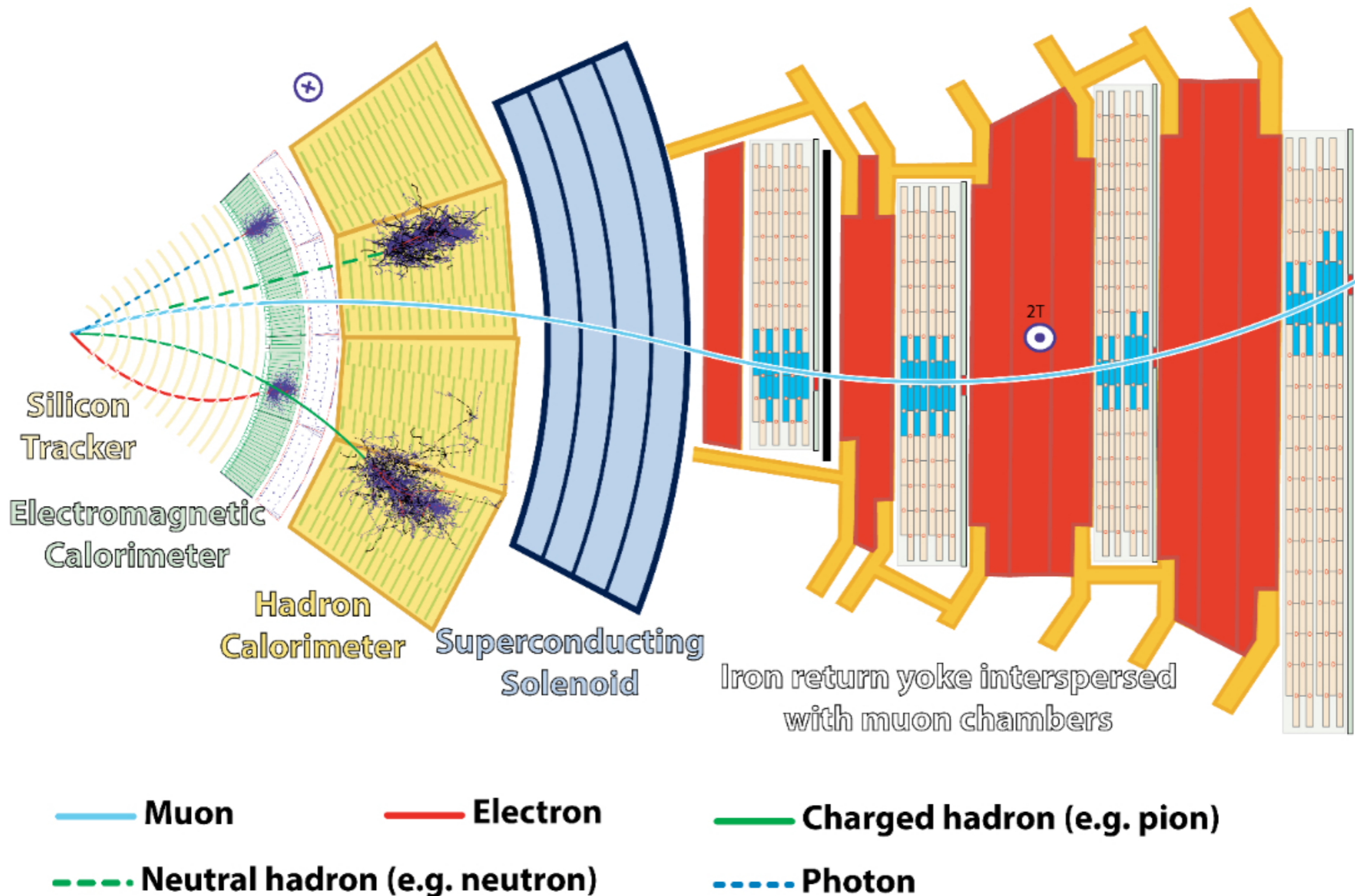


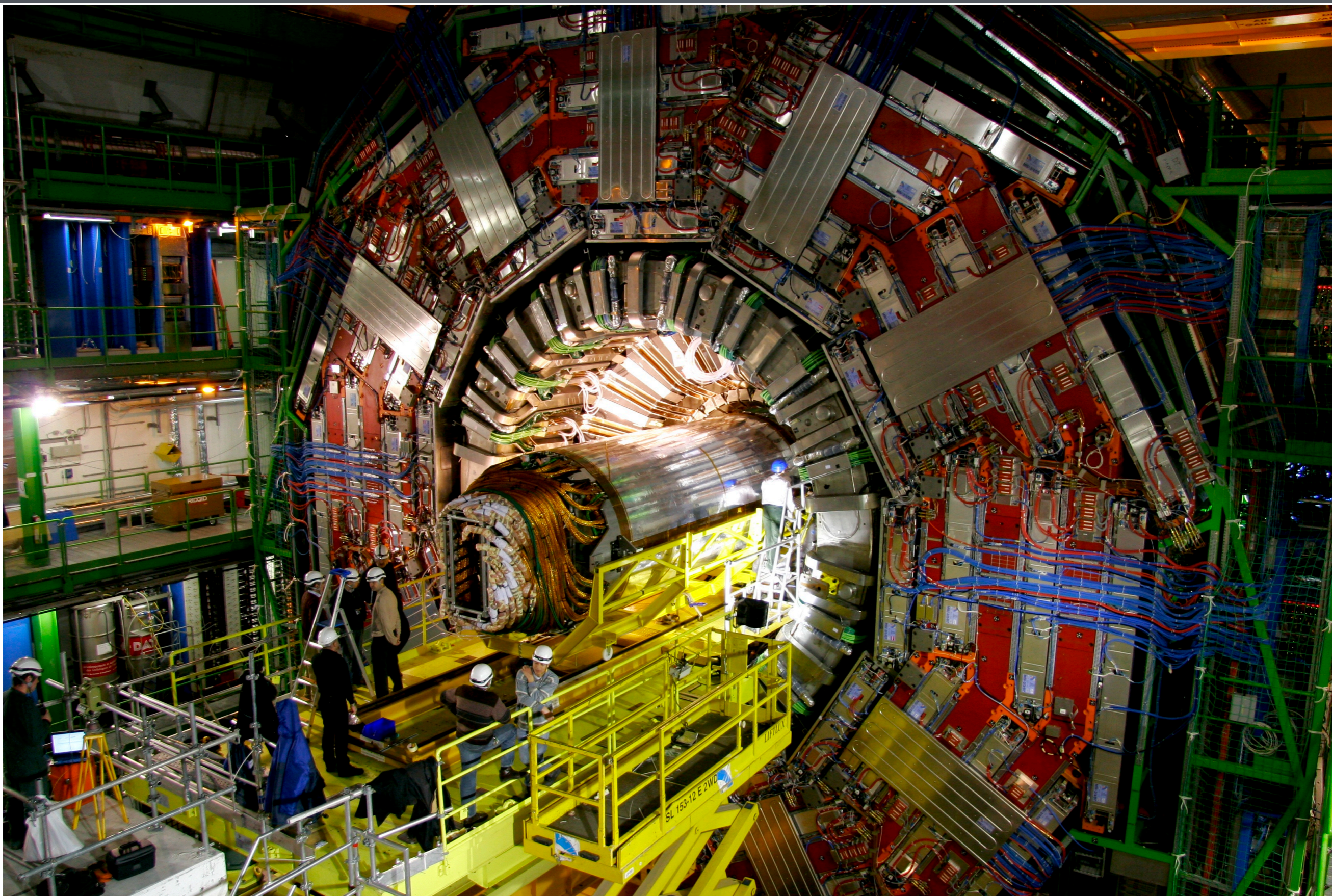
### LHC collisions recorded by CMS:

- Run-1, 7 TeV: 6 fb<sup>-1</sup>
- Run-1, 8 TeV: 23 fb<sup>-1</sup>
- Run-2, 13 TeV: 151 fb<sup>-1</sup>
- Run-3, 13.6 TeV: 73 fb<sup>-1</sup> (and counting)

**Pileup:**  
up to 80 interactions / LHC bunch crossing

## Schematics of particle interactions with CMS material





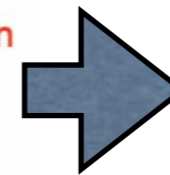
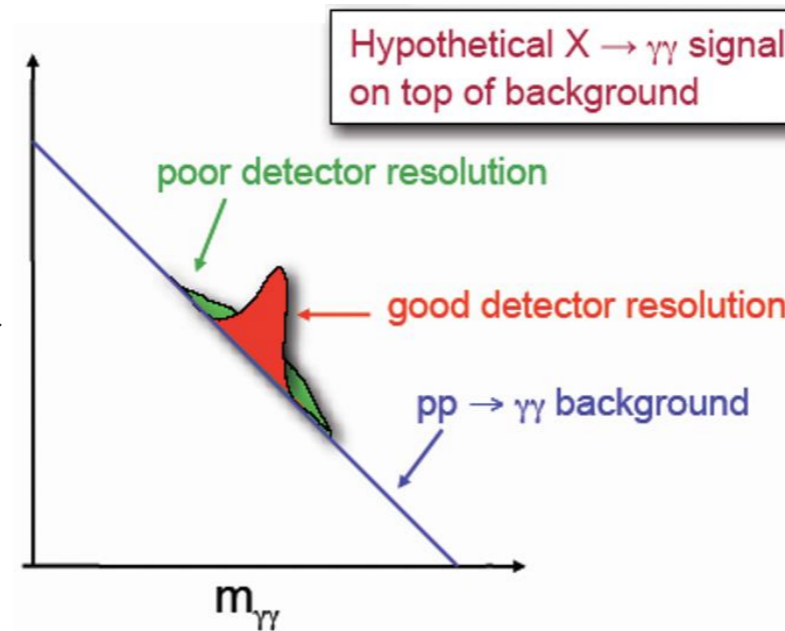
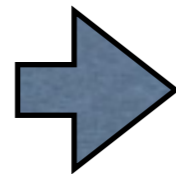
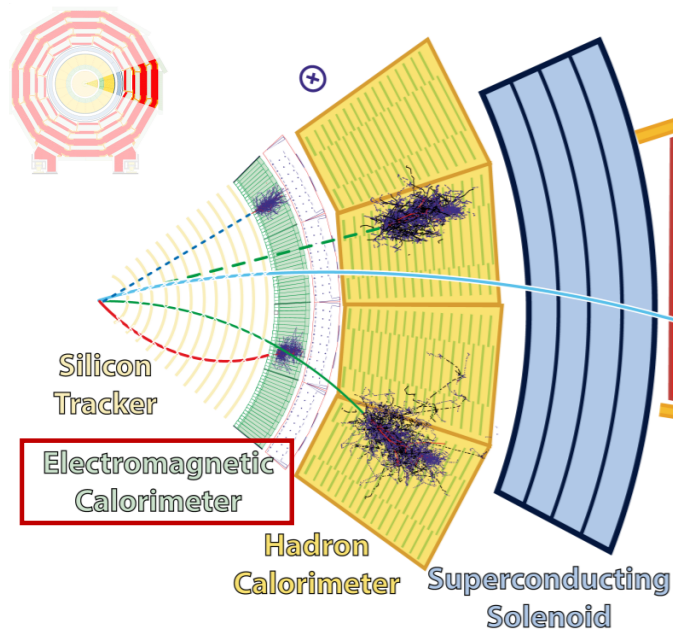
1. Select a clean sample of candidates  $X$  into  $n$  stable particles:

$$X \rightarrow f_1, \dots, f_n \quad (f_i = \text{photon, lepton, b-jets, } \dots) \Rightarrow \text{Particle identification}$$

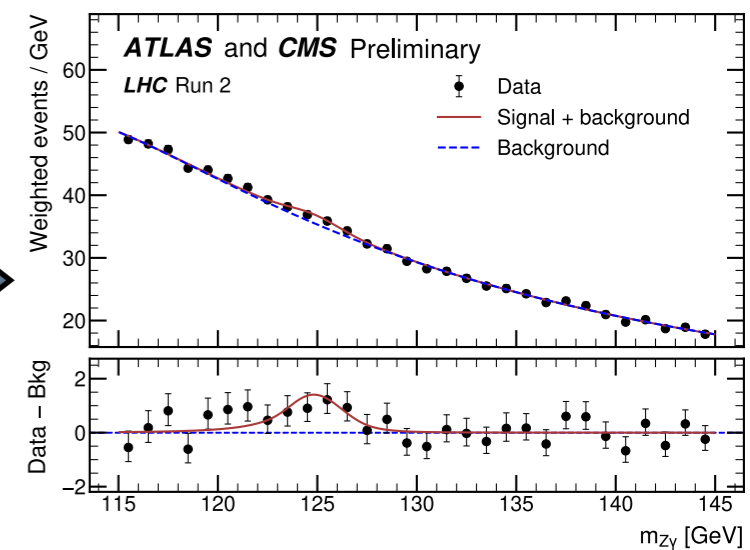
2. Compute the invariant mass of the final state (if  $n = 2$ :  $M_X = \sqrt{2E_1E_2(1 - \cos \theta)}$ )

- => better **energy resolution** means narrower peak => higher S / B
- => precise vertexing defines the particle direction

3. **Extract the signal yield** on top of background in a robust way



$H \rightarrow Z\gamma$  bump,  
ATLAS+CMS

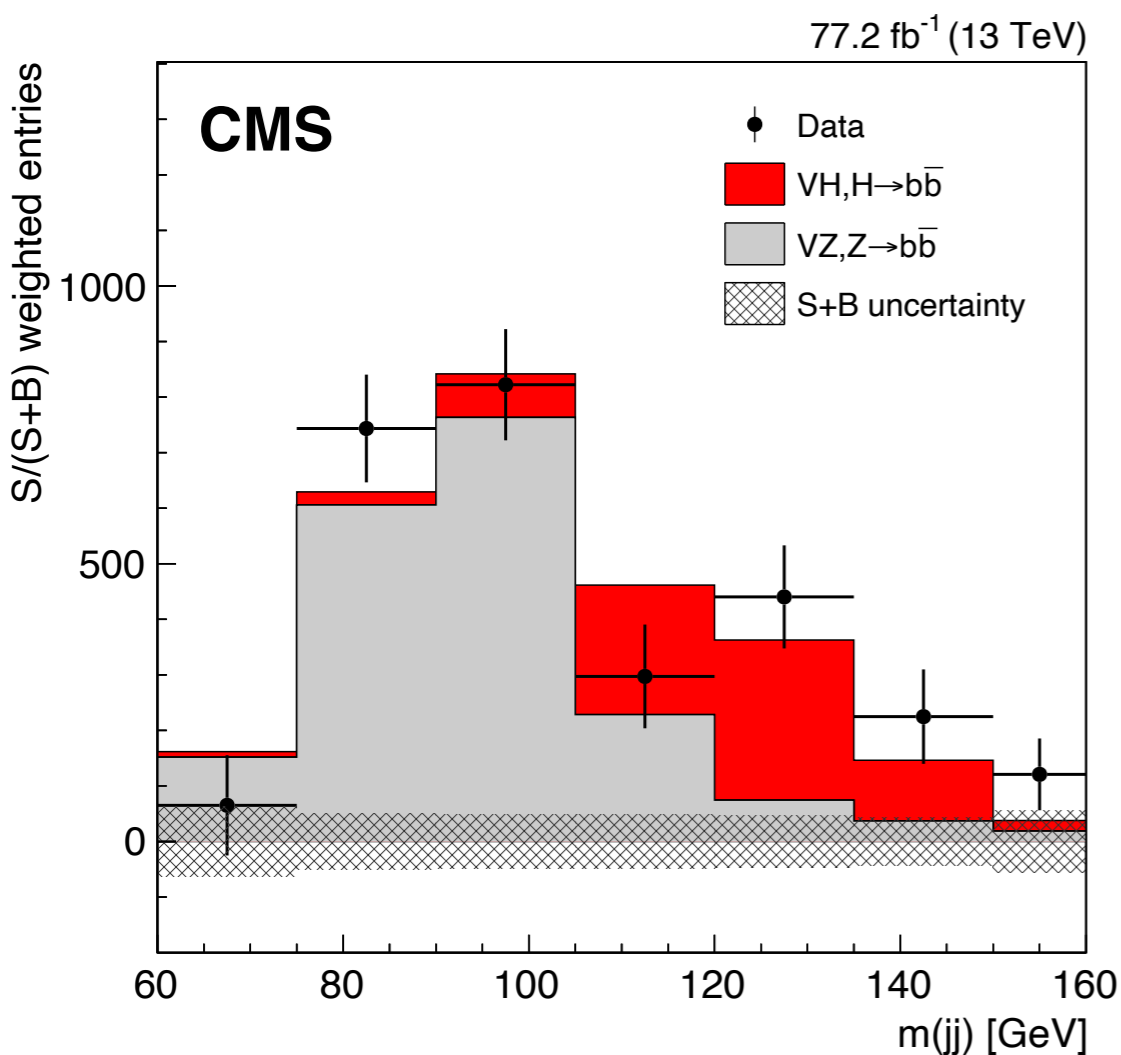


1) identify final state particles

2) calibrate the detector to improve the resolution

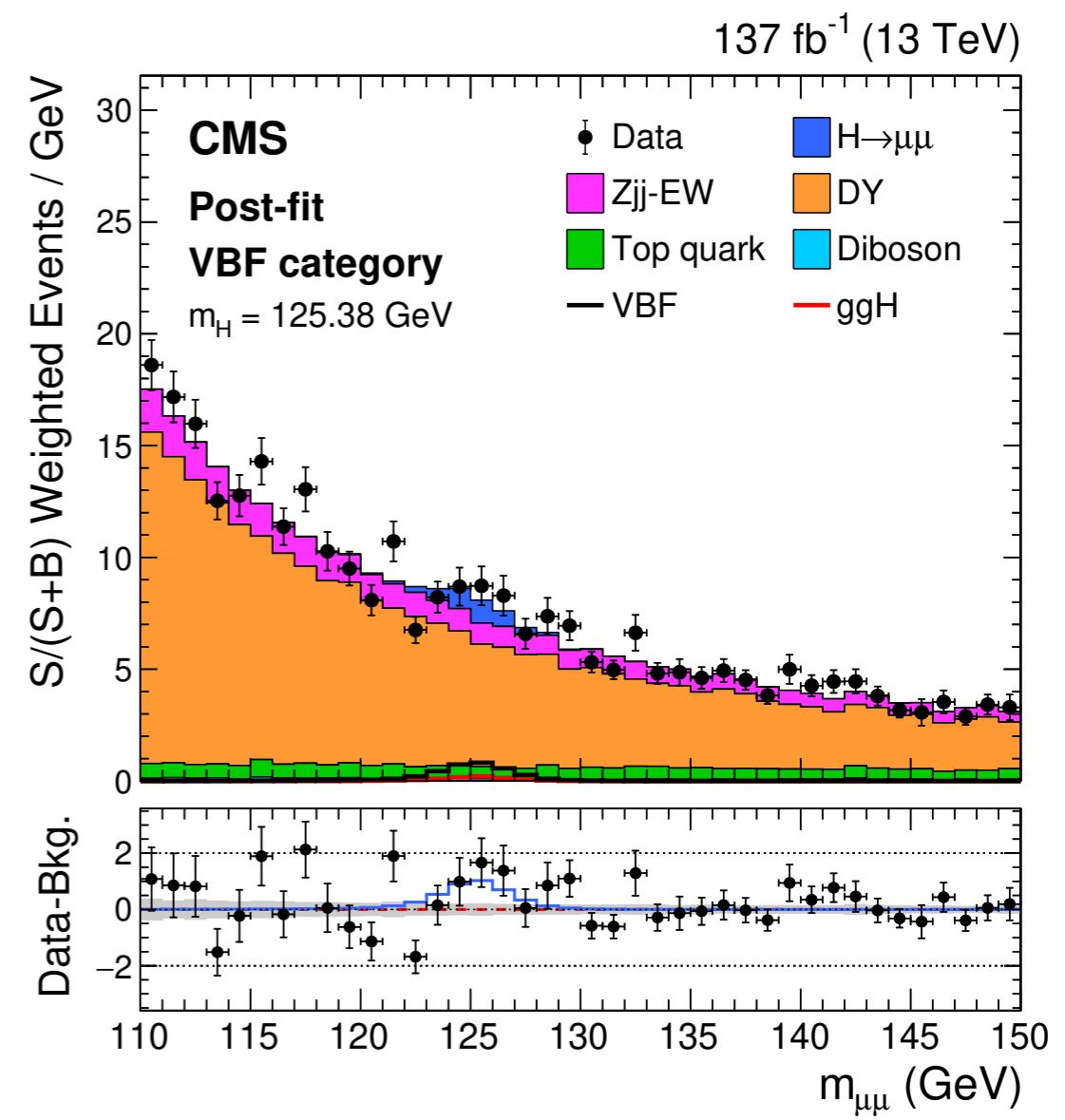
3) fit for a narrow peak on a smooth background

- After discovery, more modes have been used to measure Higgs couplings to ordinary particles, with more data (LHC Run-2)



bottom-quarks:  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$

overwhelming QCD di-jet background  
 -> need rare productions (WH,ZH) to suppress it  
 -> need advanced b-tagging



2<sup>nd</sup> generation fermions:  $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$

overwhelming DrellYan background  
 -> need optimised event selection  
 -> need to use ALL production modes



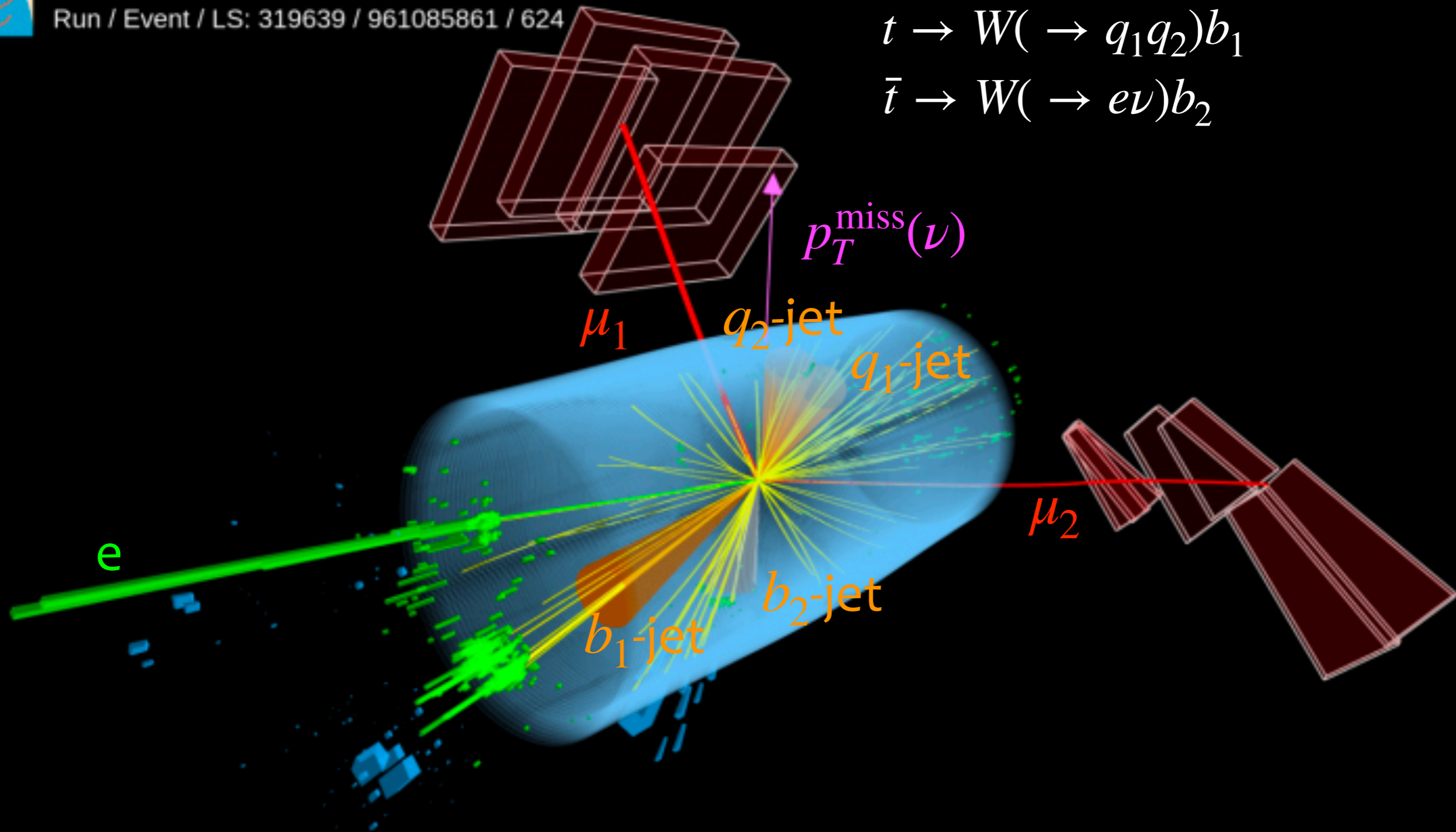


CMS Experiment at the LHC, CERN  
 Data recorded: 2018-Jul-14 22:42:55.530432 GMT  
 Run / Event / LS: 319639 / 961085861 / 624

$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}H(\rightarrow \mu\mu)$  candidate

$t \rightarrow W(\rightarrow q_1q_2)b_1$

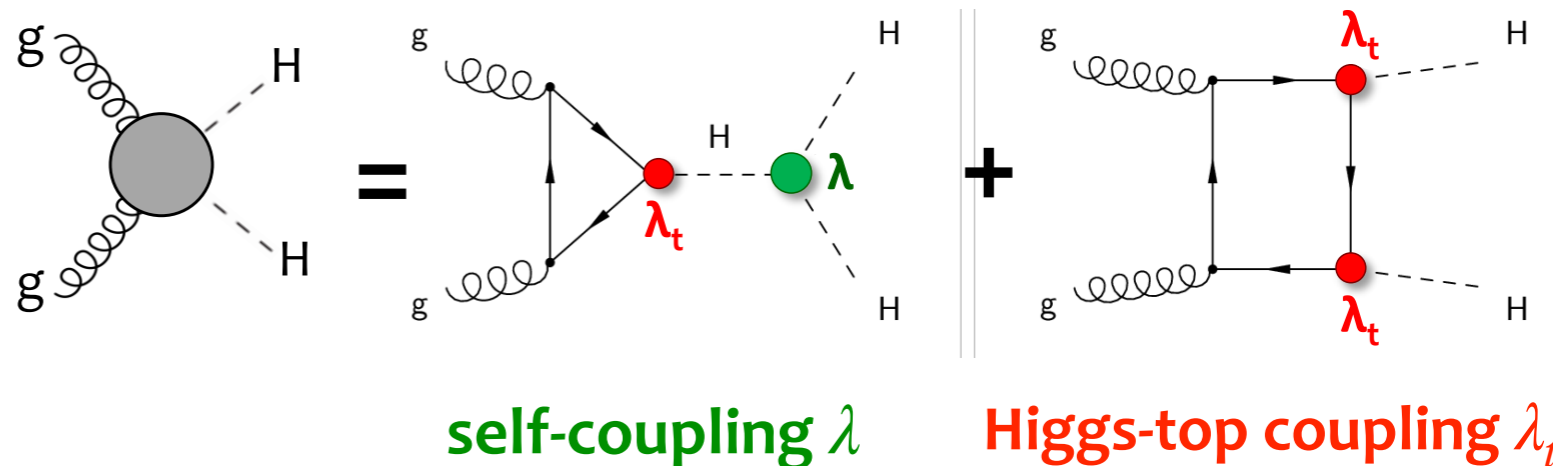
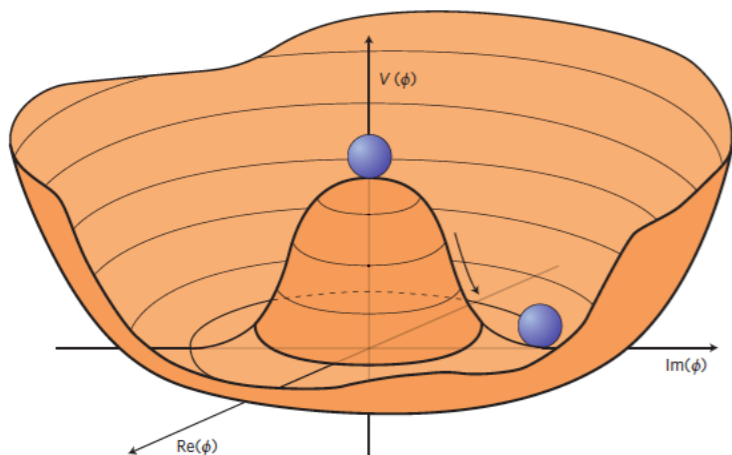
$\bar{t} \rightarrow W(\rightarrow e\nu)b_2$



- From single-Higgs to di-Higgs production: the long way for the Higgs self-coupling
  - fundamental test of the SM: defines the Higgs potential

**largest production mode in SM (gluon fusion) is rare:**  
 $\sigma(ggHH) = 31 \text{ fb} \approx 1/1500 \times \sigma(ggH)$

$$V(\Phi) = \mu^2\Phi^2 + \lambda\Phi^4$$



$\lambda$  defines the shape of the potential, once the H mass is determined

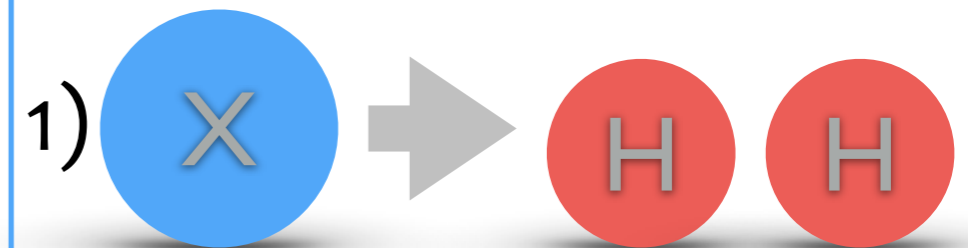
Direct non-resonant HH is still experimentally non-observed:

- 1) need a large dataset (i.e. HL-LHC)
- 2) and/or use all possible combination of di-H decay modes

HH can appear, beyond the Standard Model, as decay of unknown massive particles, produced at LHC: “resonant”  $X \rightarrow HH$  production

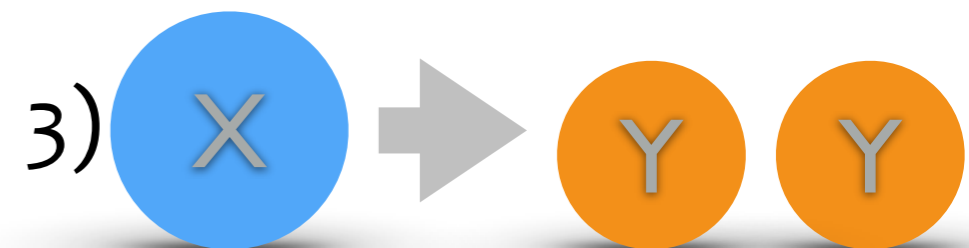
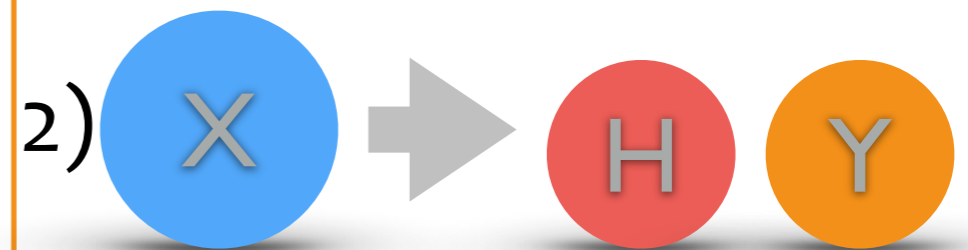
## 1) $X \rightarrow HH$ ( $H = H_{125}$ )

- Appears in all extended Higgs sectors if  $m_X > 250$  GeV: 2HDM (including MSSM), real singlet  
 -> *suppressed in alignment limit*
- Also generic resonances, e.g. in warped-extra-dimension models

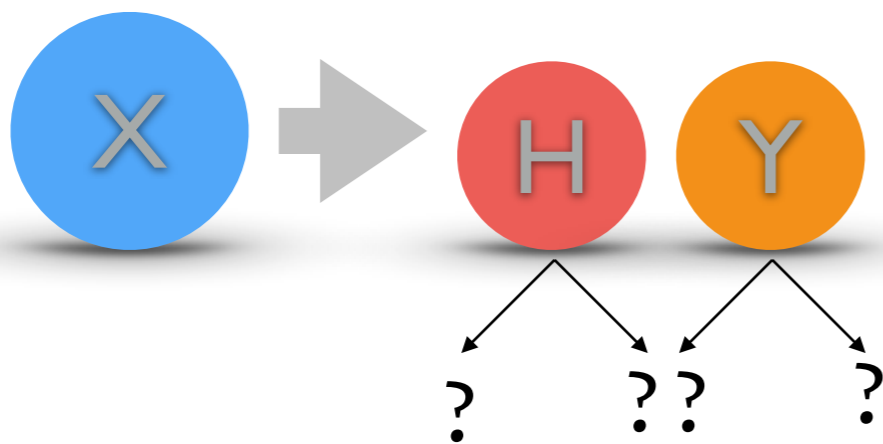
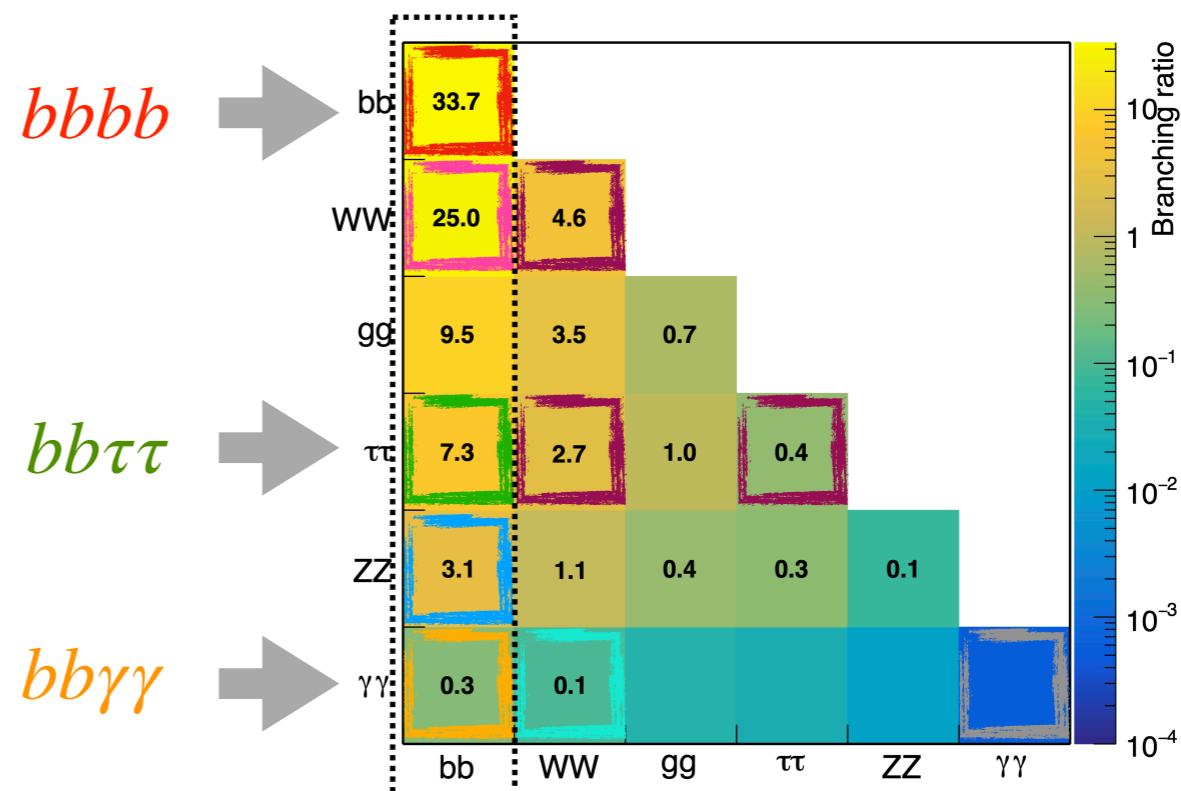
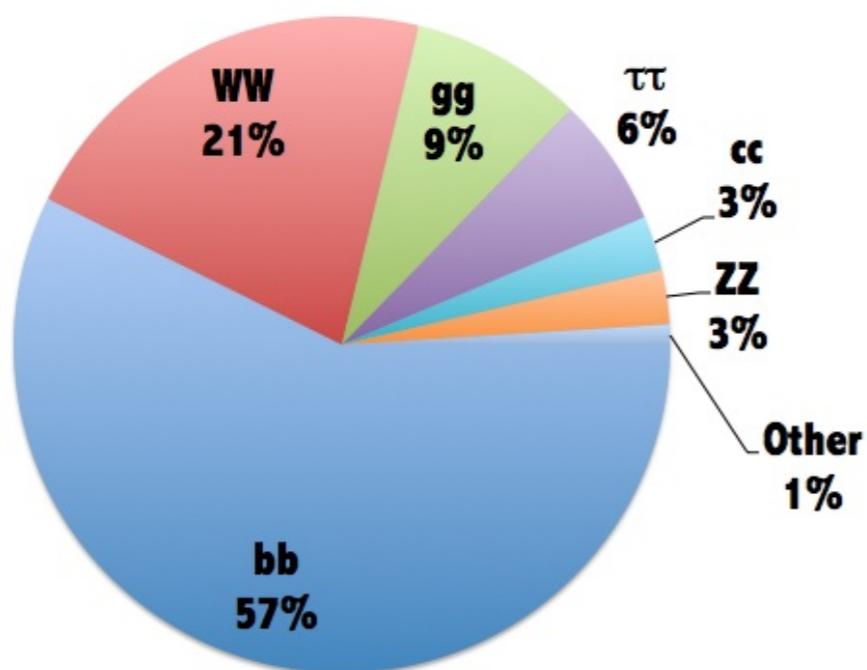


## 2) $X \rightarrow YH$ and 3) $X \rightarrow YY$

- Larger extended Higgs sectors: E.g. two additional singlets (TRSM), 2-Higgs-doublet + singlet (2HDM+S including NMSSM)  
 -> not suppressed in alignment limit, hence often discovery channel if kinematically allowed

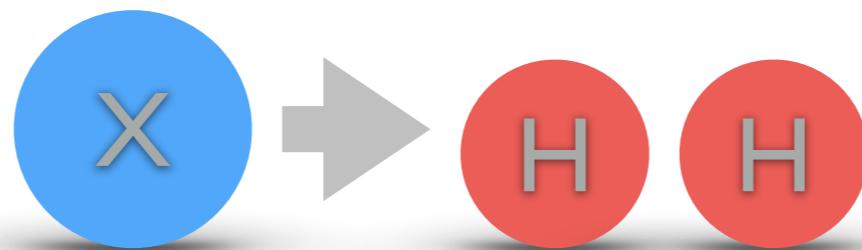


- Combine a high BR channel ( $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ ) with a high resolution channel (e.g.  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ )
- the most sensitive channels are  $bb\gamma\gamma$ ,  $bbbb$ ,  $bb\tau\tau$



if  $Y \neq H_{125}$ , BRs can be different, but typically assumed similar (model dependency!)

$X \rightarrow HH$  searches

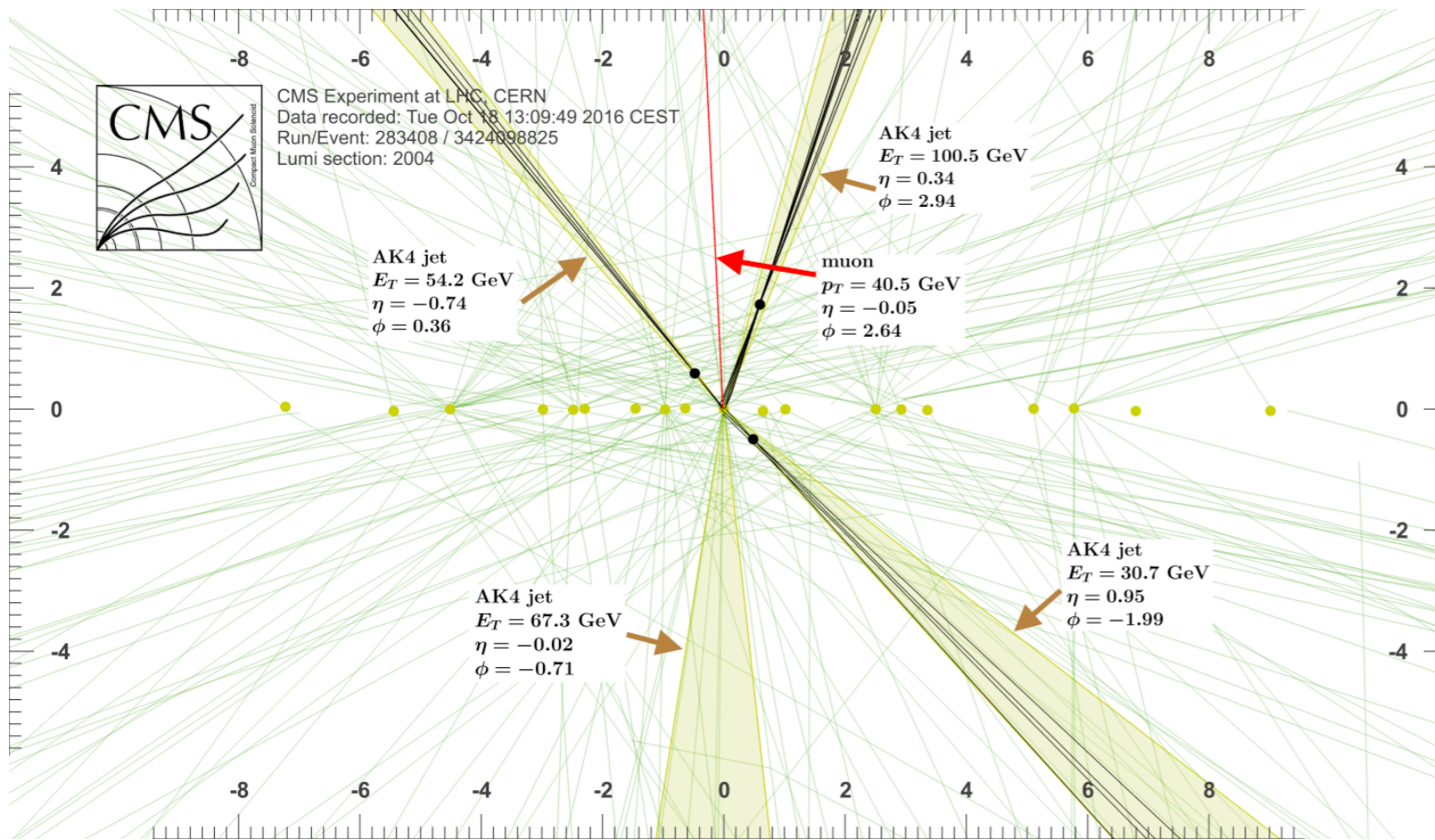


- Three major final states:  
 $bb\gamma\gamma$ ,  $bb\tau\tau$ ,  $bbbb$  (from low to high mass)
  - $bb\gamma\gamma$ :  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  high purity and resolution +  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  high BR, use b-tagging for QCD di-jet background rejection
    - -> yields BR=0.23% for  $X \rightarrow HH$  search
  - $bb\tau\tau$ : multiple decay modes of the  $\tau$  leptons (full hadronic, semi-leptonic, fully leptonic)
    - -> sensitive in the same mass range of  $bb\gamma\gamma$
  - $bbWW$ : helps in intermediate mass range
  - $bbbb$ : full-hadronic complicate final state at LHC
    - Exploit b-tagging at maximum
    - Increased reach in  $bbbb$  merged-jet analysis from using ParticleNet tagger



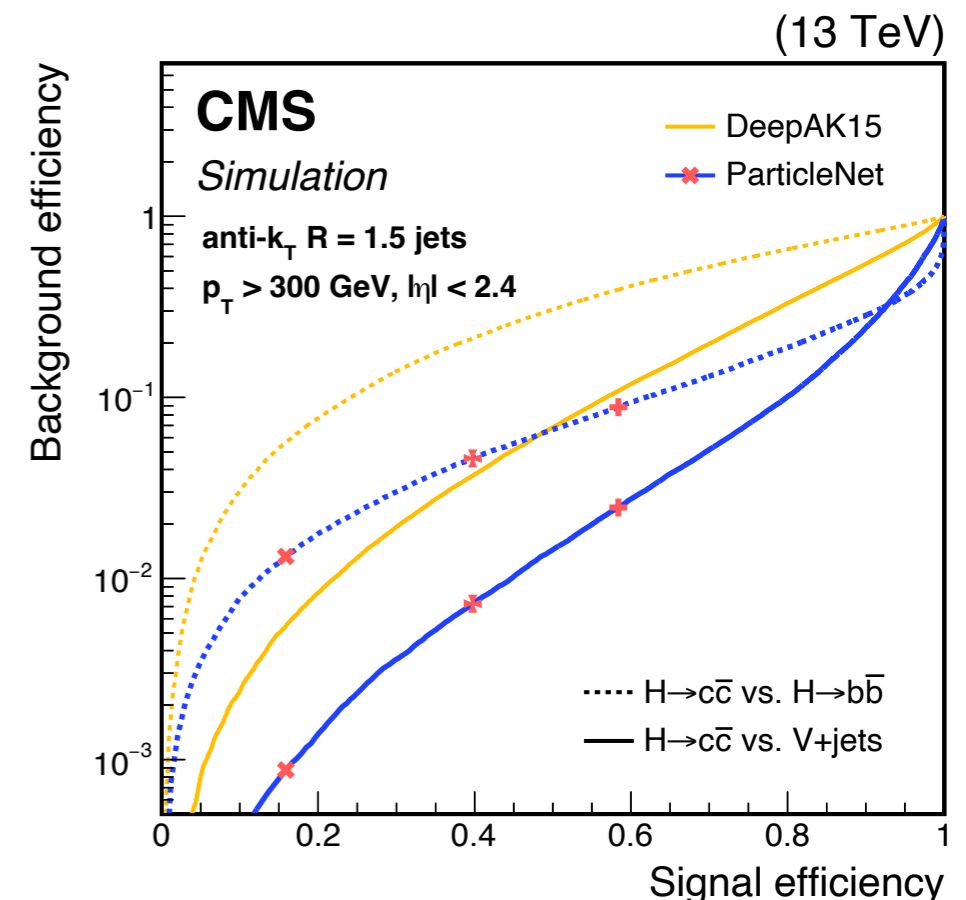
- Hadrons containing b-quarks and c-quarks have a measurable lifetime
  - b-hadrons:  $c\tau \sim 450 - 500 \mu\text{m}$
  - c-hadrons:  $c\tau \sim 120 - 300 \mu\text{m}$
  - -> use information about displaced vertex of decay tracks in sophisticated neural net (NN) to tag a jet as a **light-flavor** / **b-tagged** / **c-tagged**

CMS-DP-2016-032



19 reconstructed vertices  
2 b-tagged jets, 1-c-tagged jet

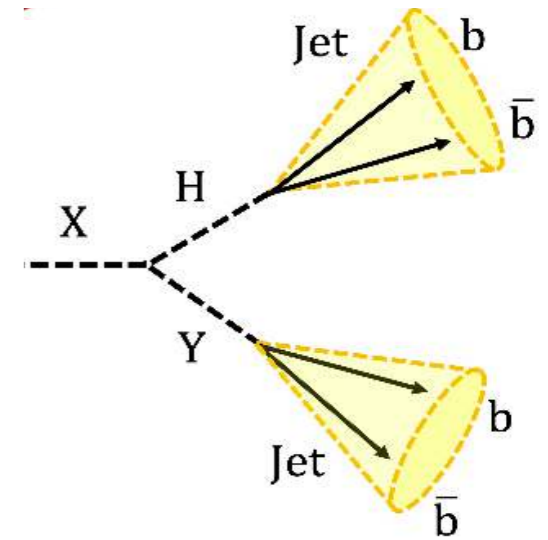
For c-tag efficiency ~50%:  
mistag rate vs b ~10%, vs light quark ~1%



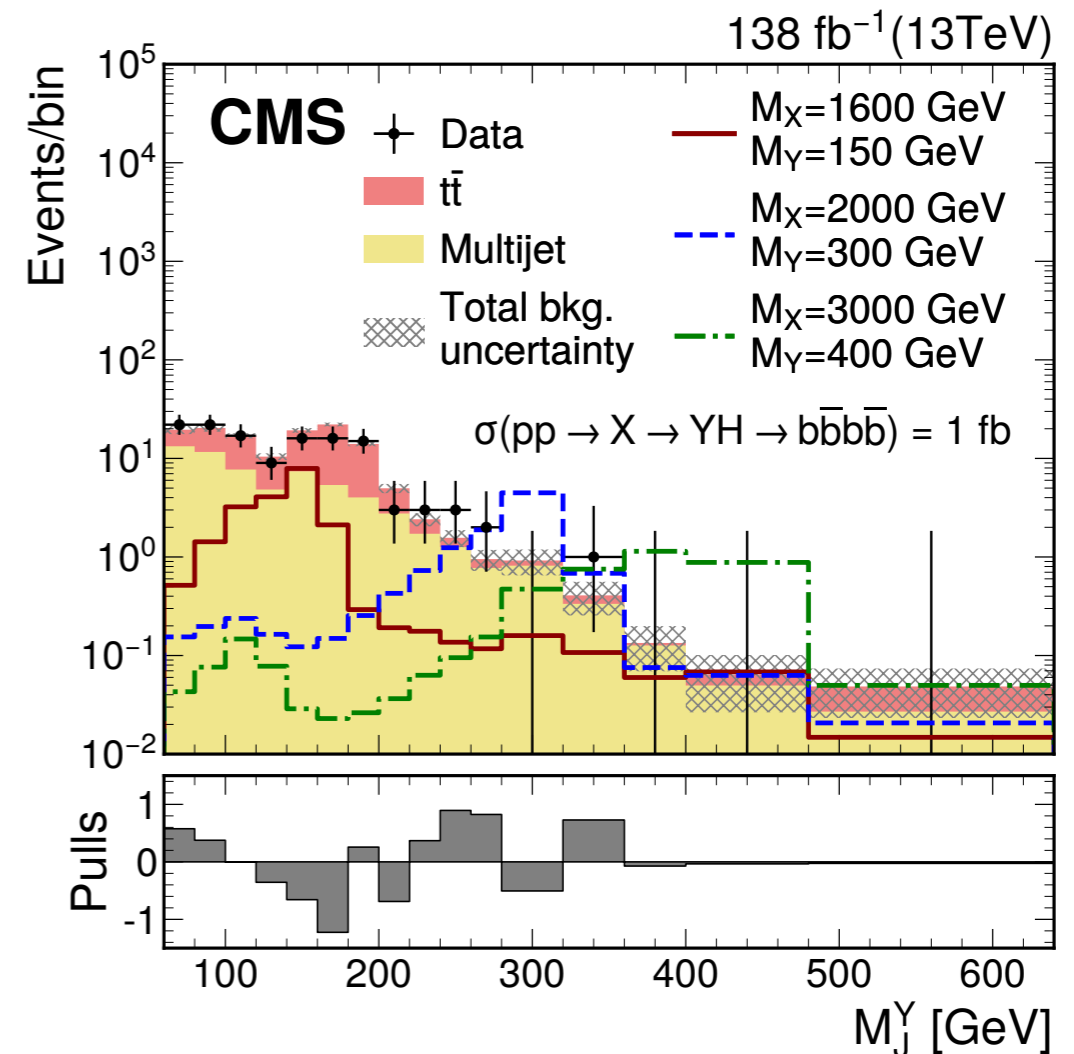
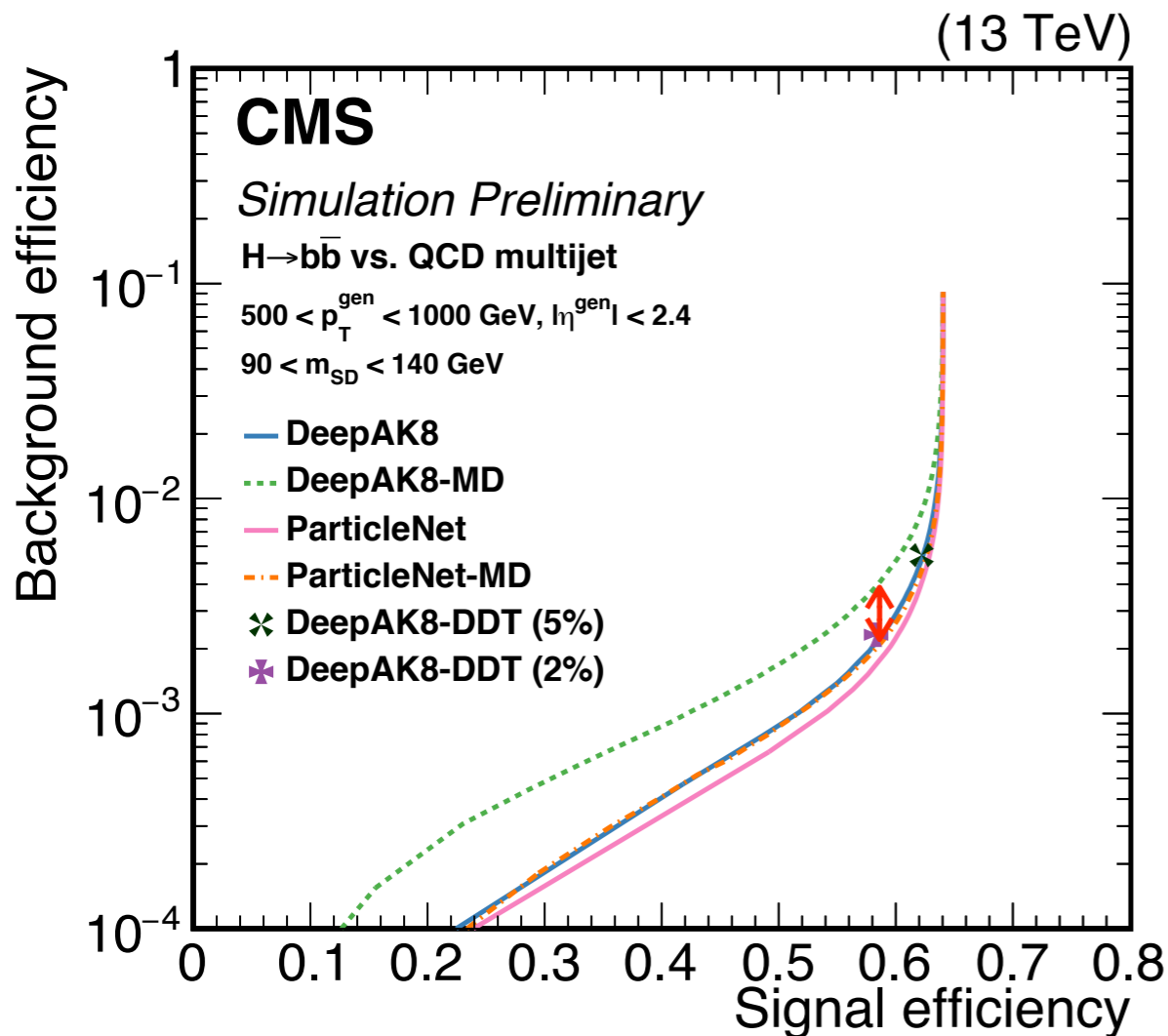
GNN-based c-tagger for  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$

# $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow 4b$ boosted

- For very high  $X$  mass ( $M_X \gg M_H$ ),  $b$ -jets are Lorentz-boosted  $\rightarrow$  2  $b$ -jets merge in one large jet
- Increased reach in **bbbb** analysis using ParticleNet tagger



e.g. at  $\sim 60\%$  efficiency, **1/2 mis-tag** of previous tagger (DeepAK8)



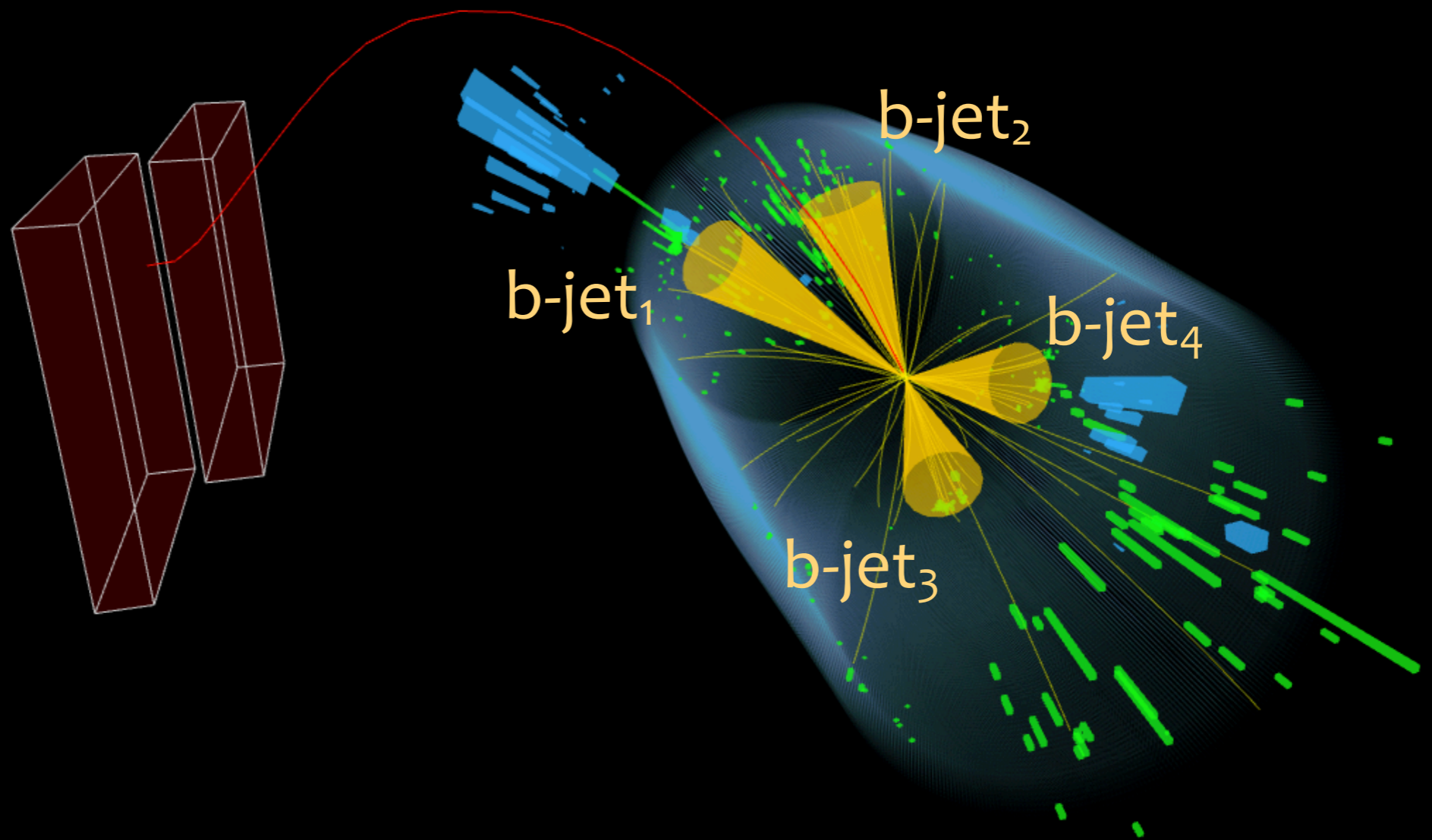


# $HH \rightarrow 4b$ candidate



CMS Experiment at the LHC, CERN  
Data recorded: 2016-Aug-13 15:04:59.113664 GMT  
Run / Event / LS: 278802 / 7164845 / 11

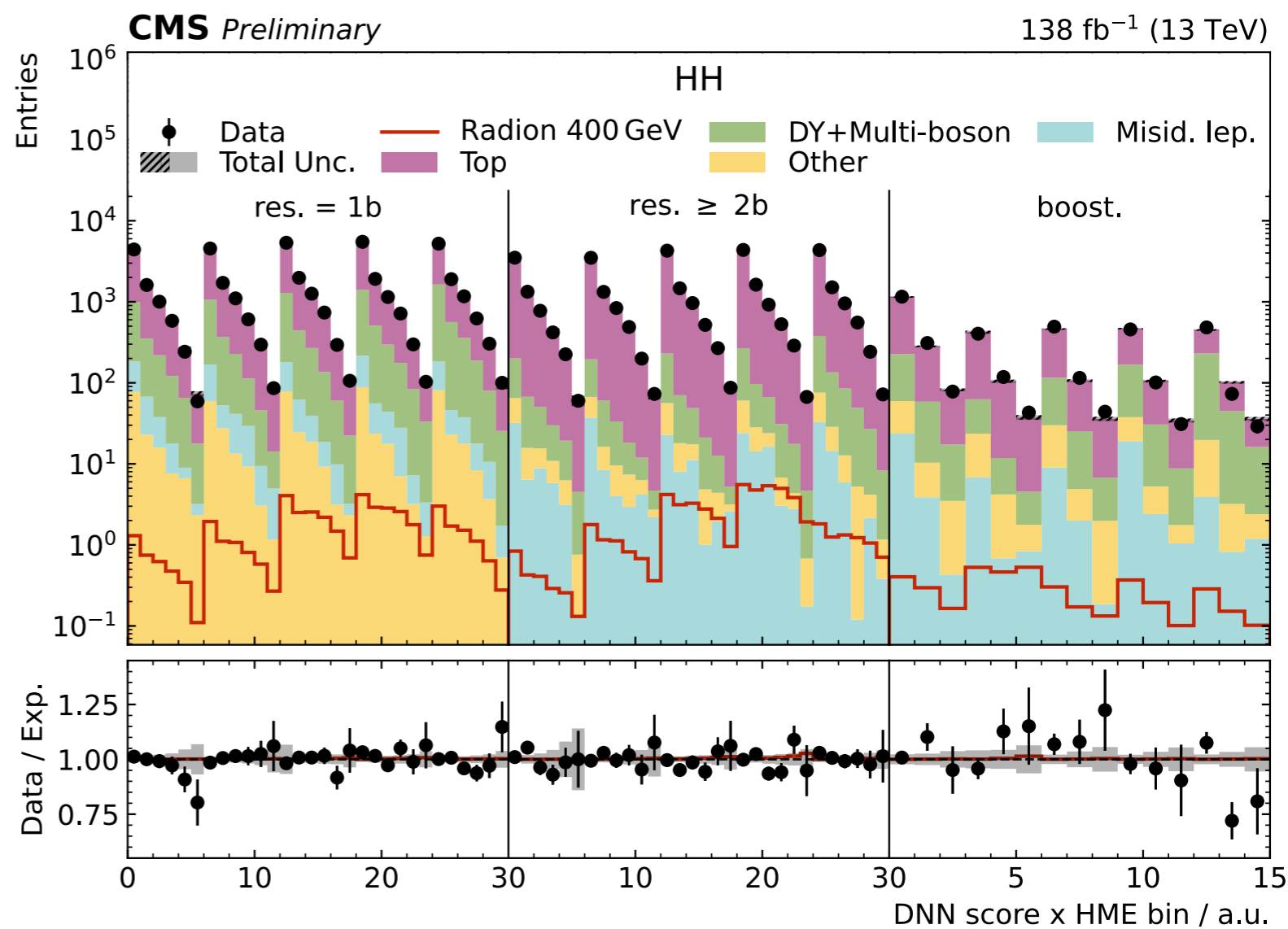
$\mu$  from b decay



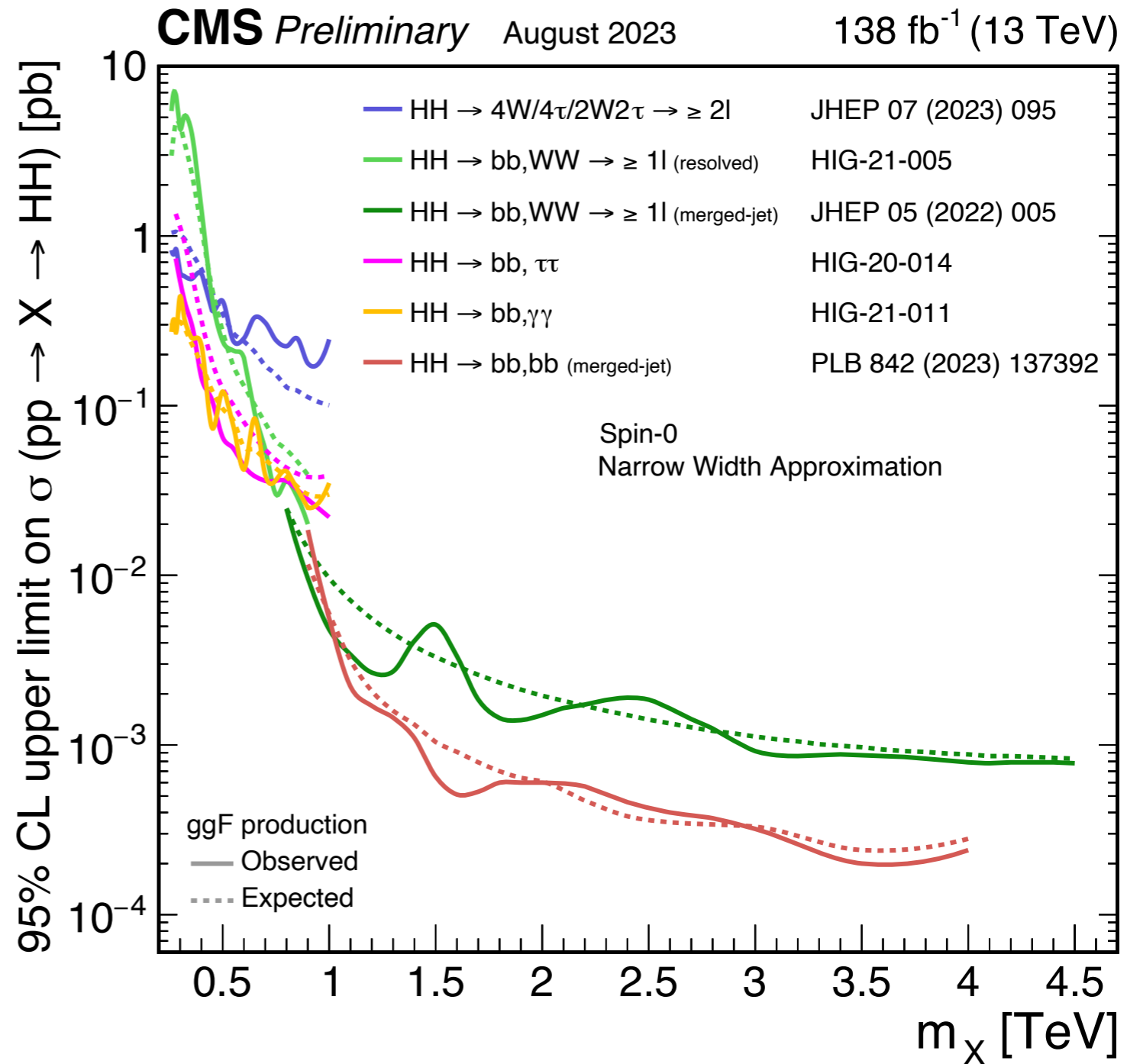
In addition to the three most important final states  $bby\gamma$ ,  $bb\tau\tau$ ,  $bbbb$ , also results in **bbWW** and **multilepton** final states help

## bbWW resolved:

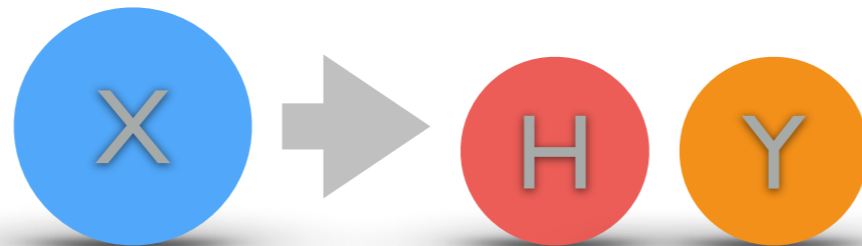
- Di-lepton and single-lepton channels
- Fit DNN scores (times  $X$  mass estimator in di-lepton channel) in three signal regions (1b, 2b, boosted) and two control regions
- $t\bar{t}$  is main background

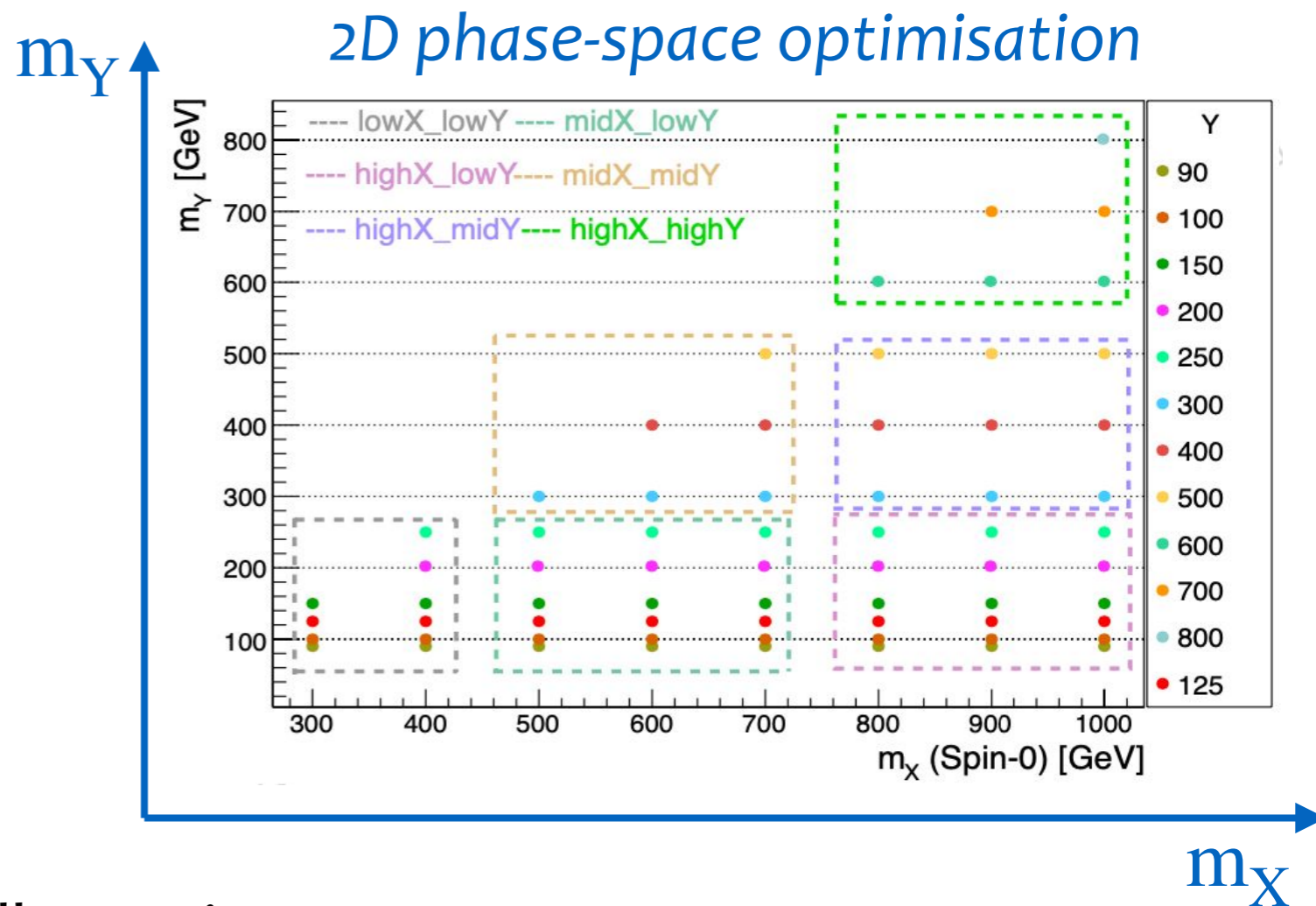
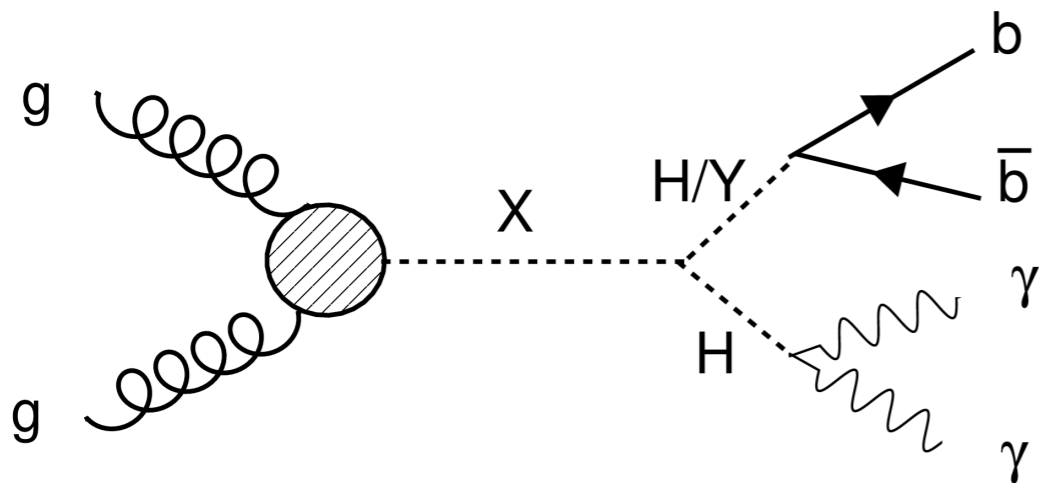


- $bb\gamma\gamma$  2310.01643 (subm. to JHEP)
- $bb\tau\tau$  JHEP 11 (2021) 057
- $bbbb$  (merged-jet) Phys. Lett. B 842 (2023) 137392
- $4W/4\tau/2W2\tau$  JHEP 07 (2023) 095
- $bbWW$  (merged-jet) JHEP 05 (2022) 005
- $bbWW$  HIG-21-005 (March 2023)



$X \rightarrow HY$  searches





## Compared to $X \rightarrow HH$ :

- $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ ,  $b\bar{b}\tau\tau$ ,  $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$  generally still most important
- However,  $Y$  branching fractions can be very non-SM-H-like, so other final states can be most sensitive depending on  $Y$  mass and the model!
- Asymmetry: often only one  $H$  decay probed (e.g.  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  for  $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$  result)
- Two masses to scan: Large phase space to probe, larger look-elsewhere effect

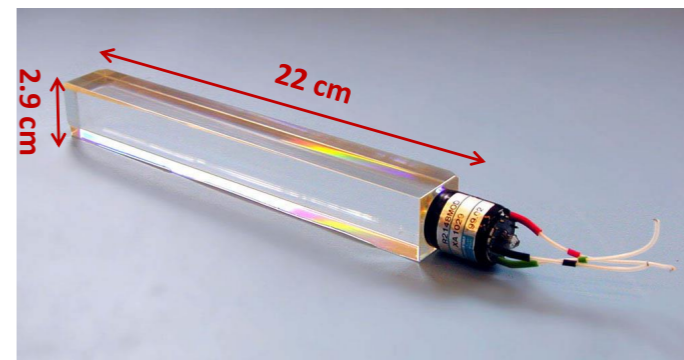
Use  $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$  in the following as an example

# ECAL: the key photon detector

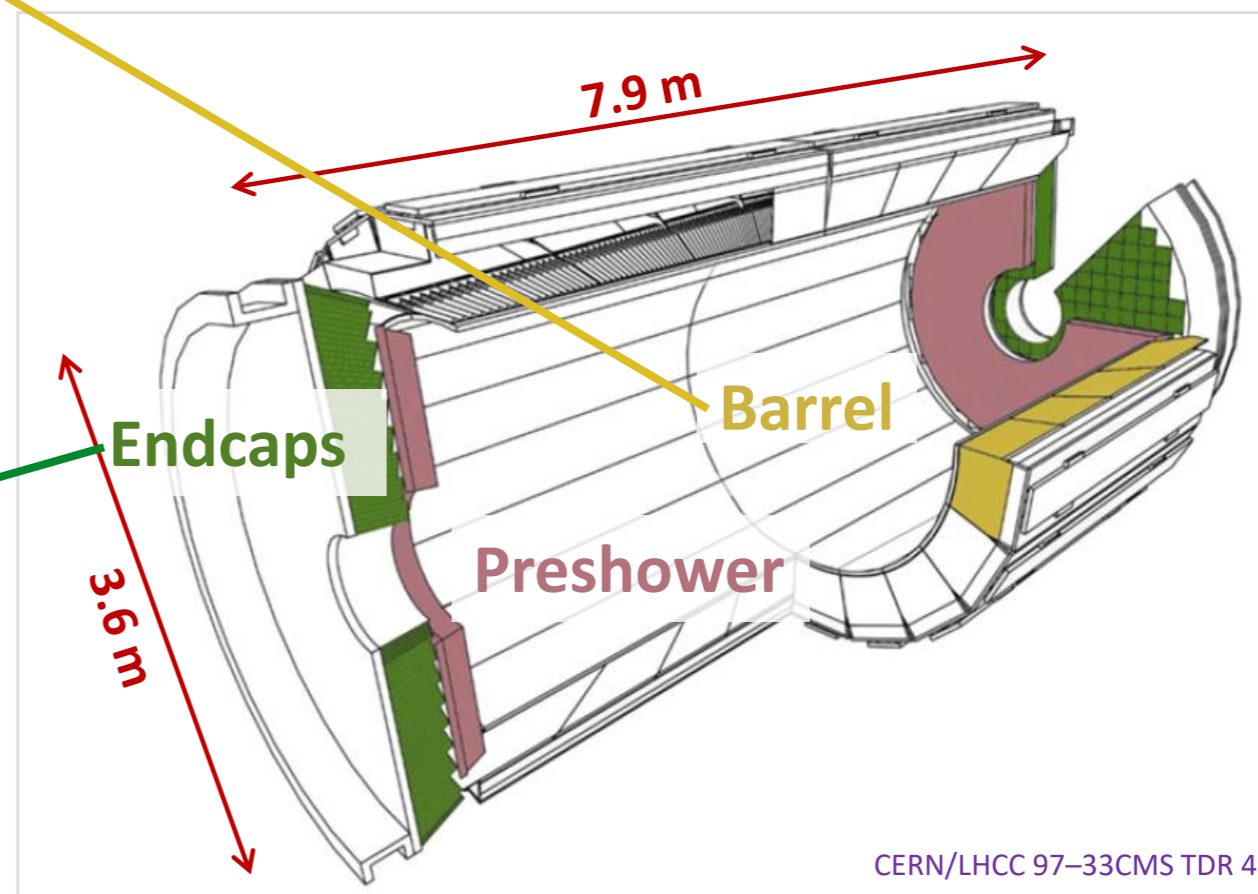
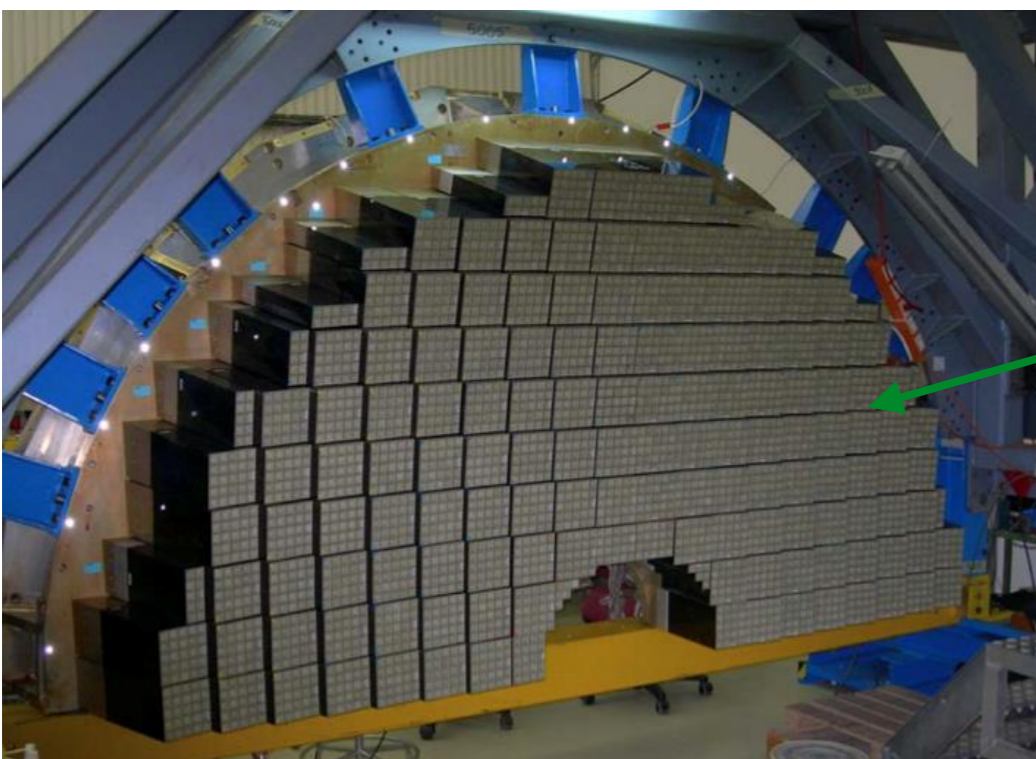


Lead Tungstate ( $PbWO_4$ ) homogeneous calorimeter

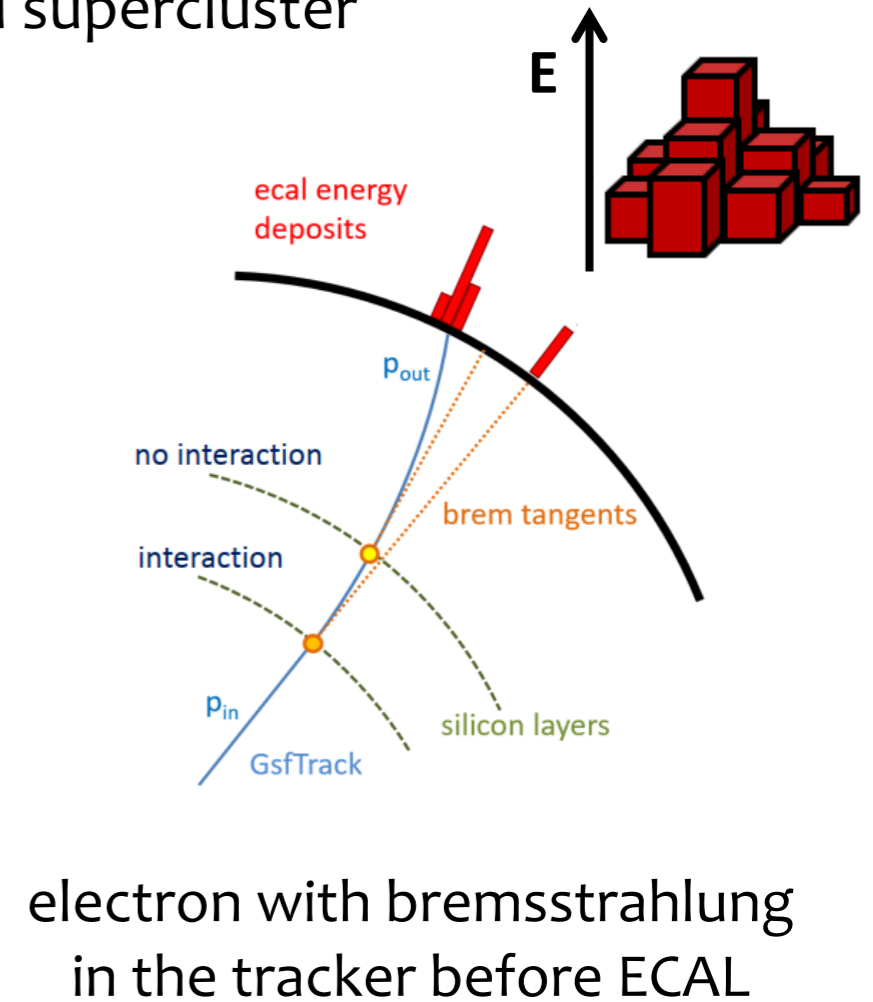
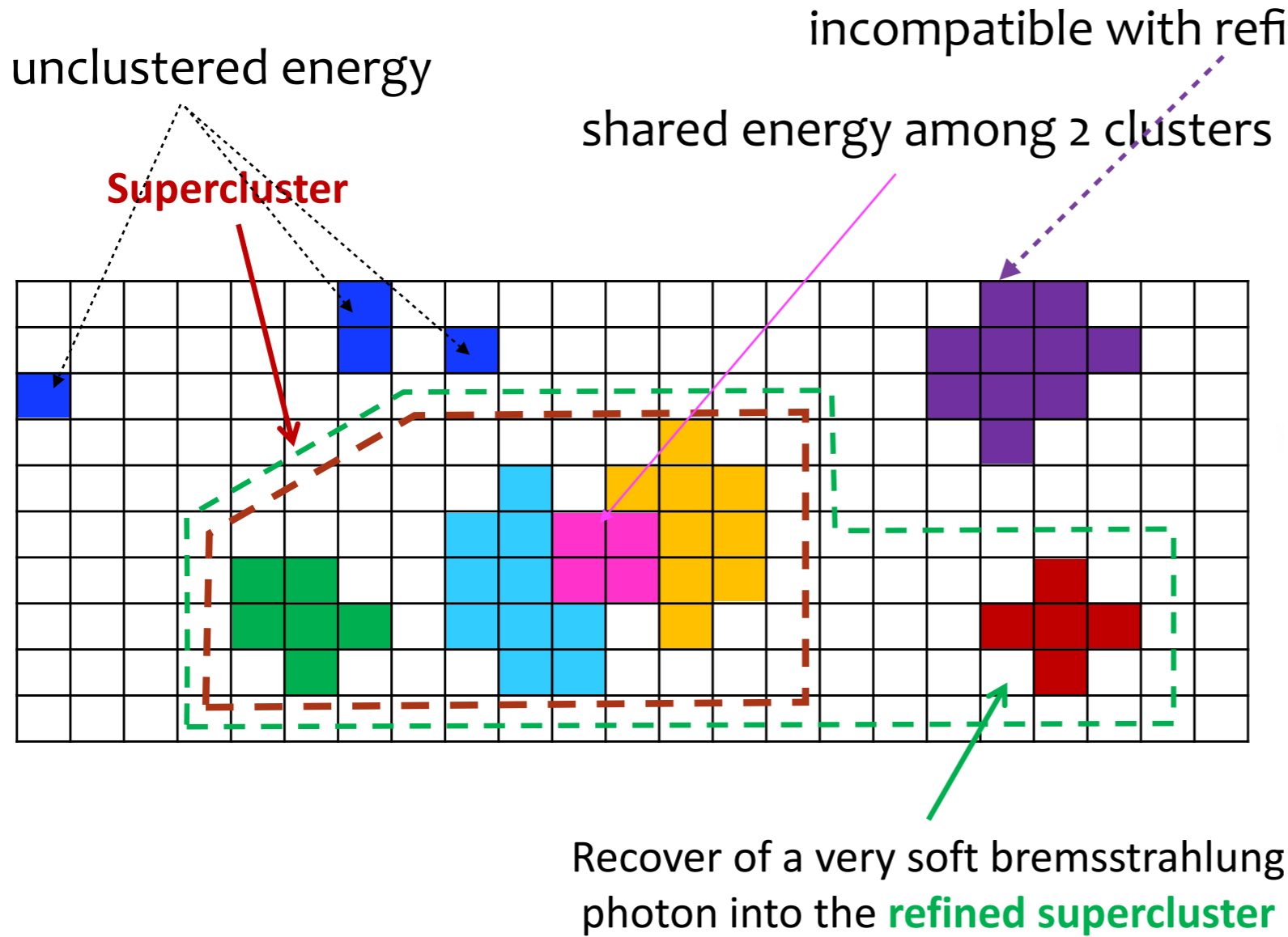
- 75848 crystals read via APD (barrel) or VPT (endcaps)
- depth:  $25 X_0$ , width:  $1.3 R_{Moliere}$
- excellent radiation hardness



× 75848



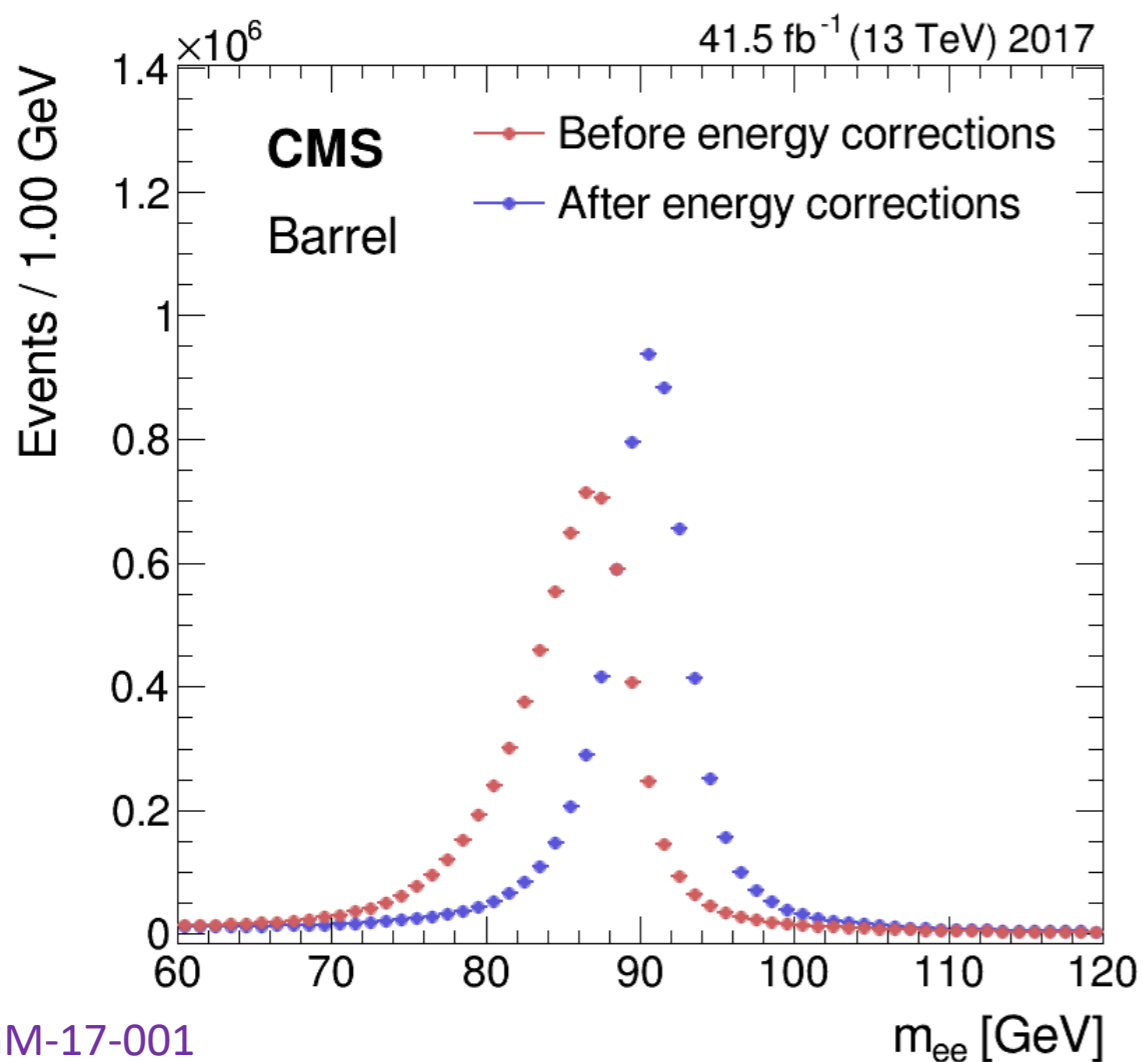
CERN/LHCC 97-33CMS TDR 4



Dynamic “super”-clustering is the key in electron / photon reconstruction:  
 recover deposits from electron bremstrahlung or photon conversions

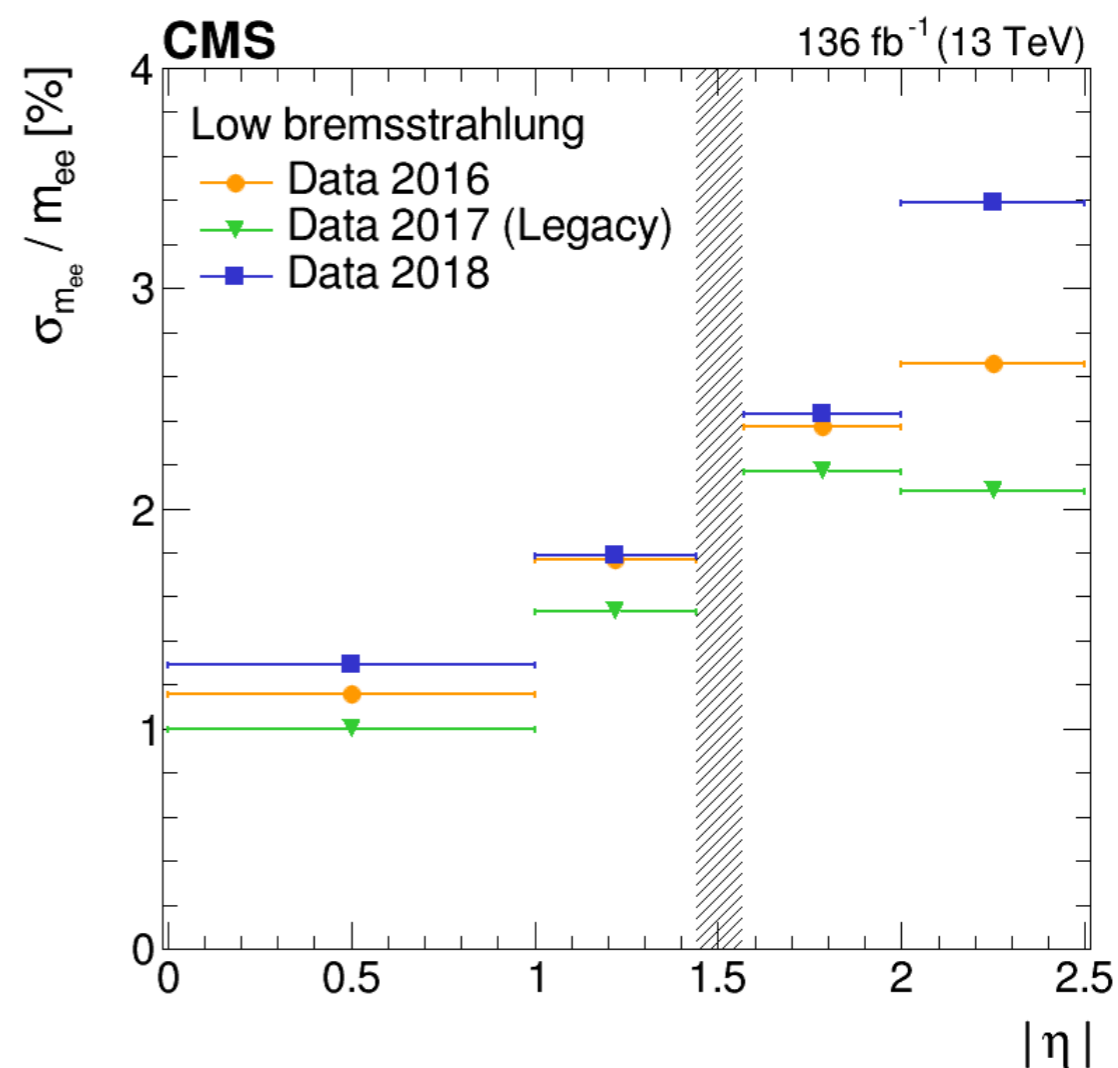
Huge work to **calibrate** the detector:

- aligns the energy scale in data with simulation
- improves the resolution -> increases the analysis sensitivity



EGM-17-001

**Energy corrections:**  
cluster containment and residual  
data/MC scale corrections

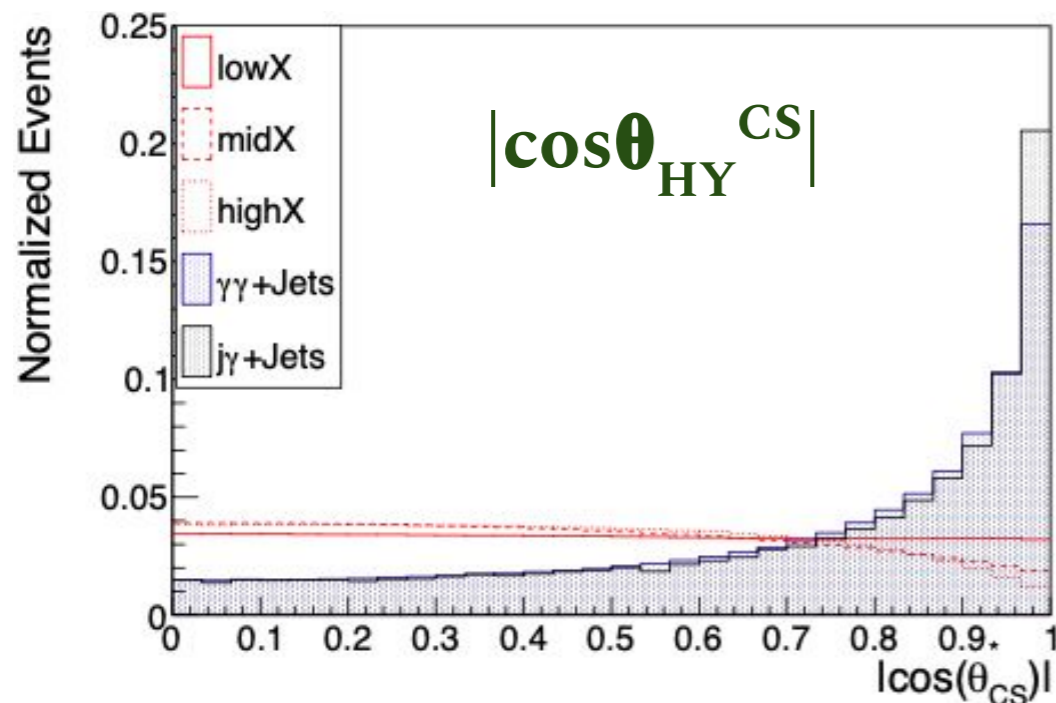


Excellent Run-2 resolution:  
**between 1% - 3.4%**

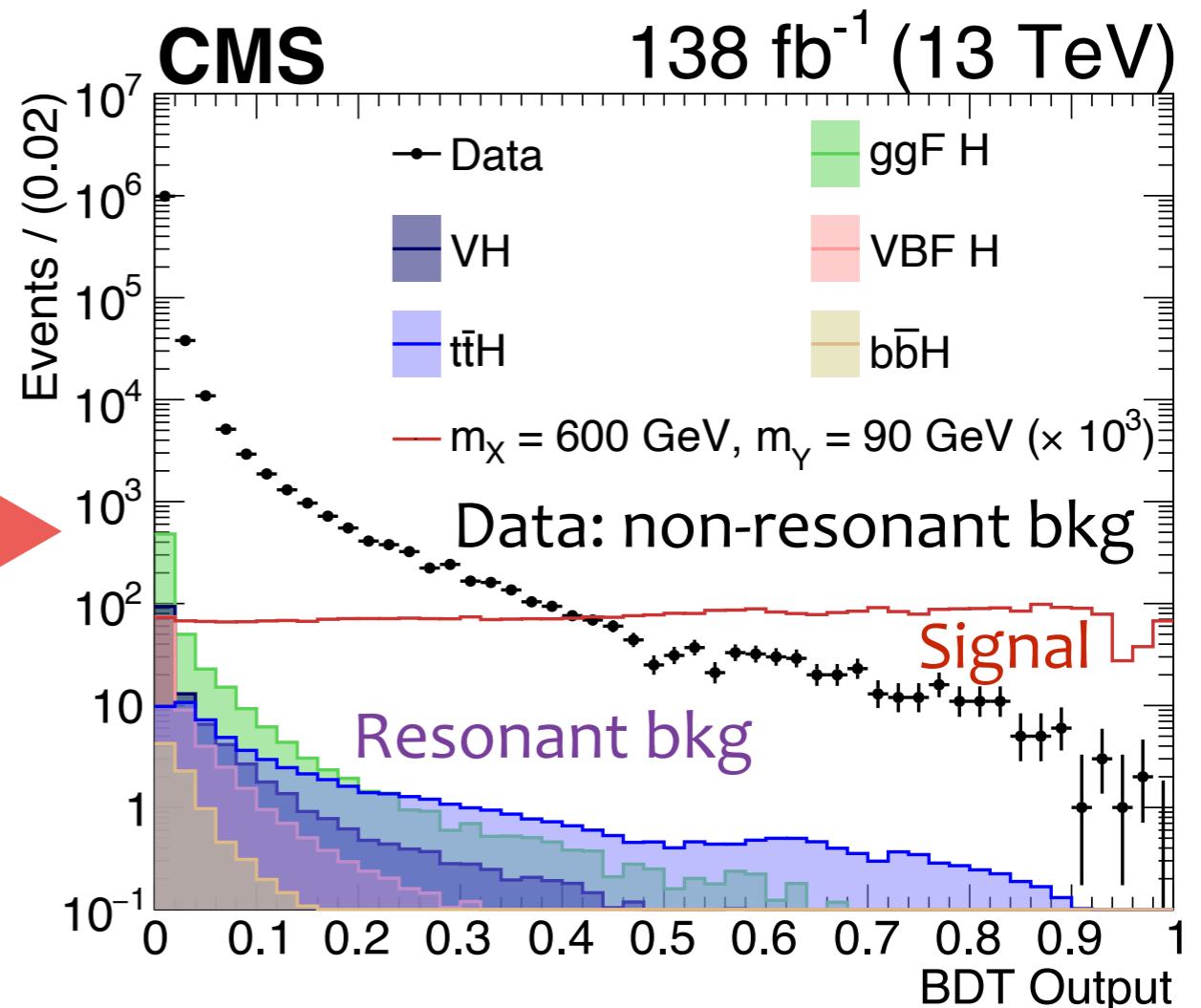


Backgrounds: resonant ( $\sim ttH(\gamma\gamma)$ ) and non resonant ( $\gamma\gamma$ +jets,  $\gamma$ +jets)

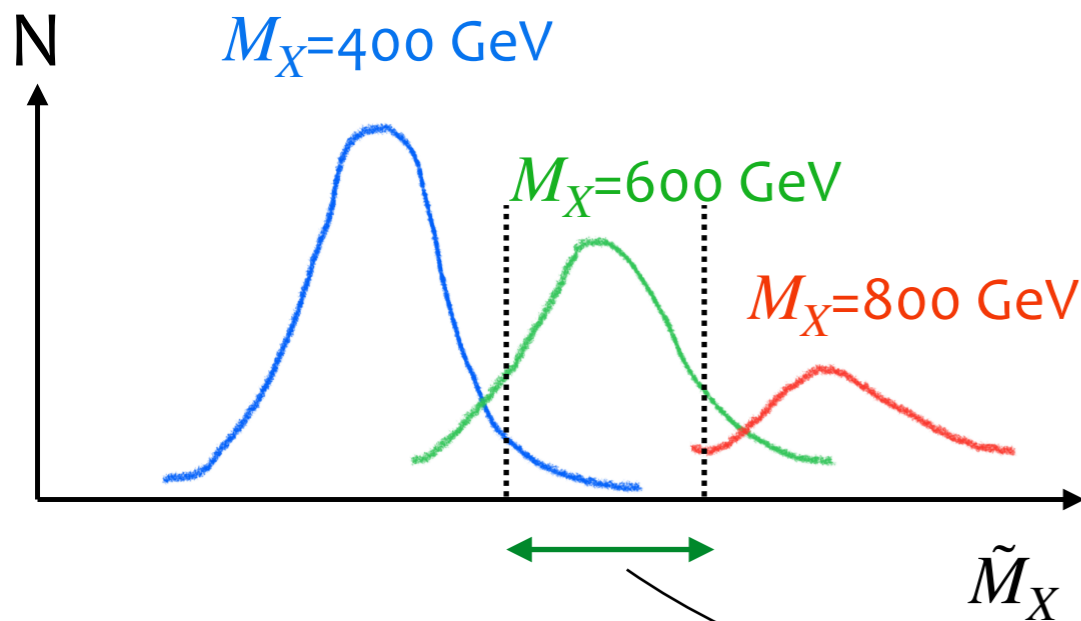
- NN-based ttH killer rejects resonant background (peaking  $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ )
- Handles to reject non-resonant background:
  1. Kinematics, e.g. three helicity angles
  2. Particle identification (jets  $\rightarrow$  photons; light jets  $\rightarrow$  b-jets...)
  3. Energy resolution variables



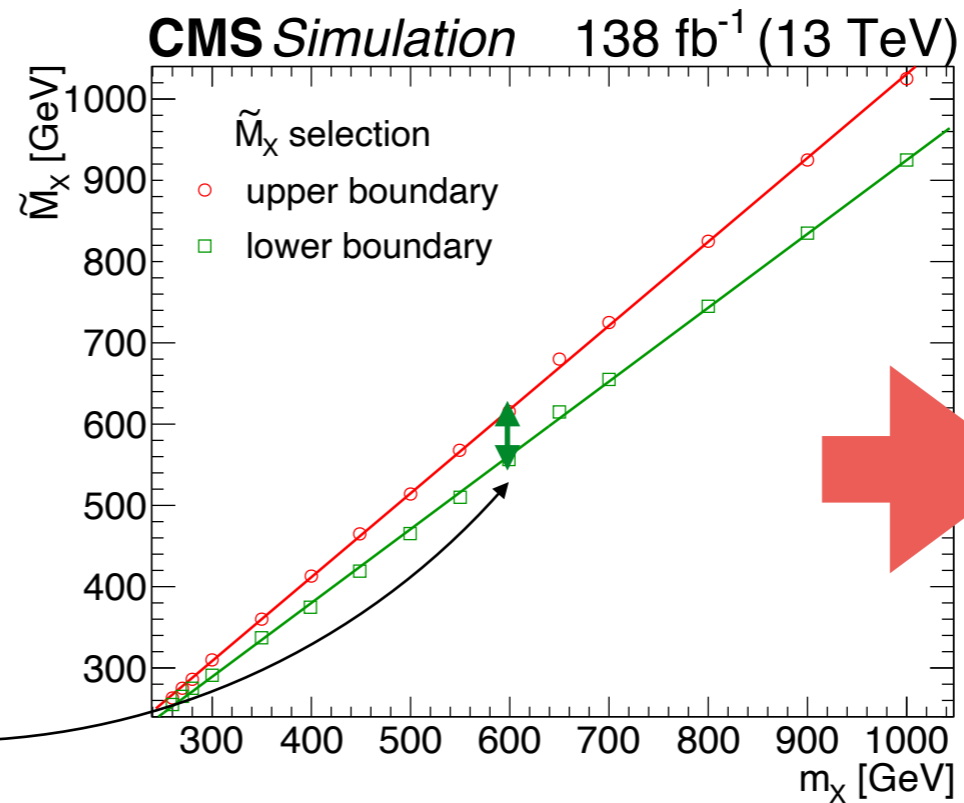
e.g.: X helicity angle



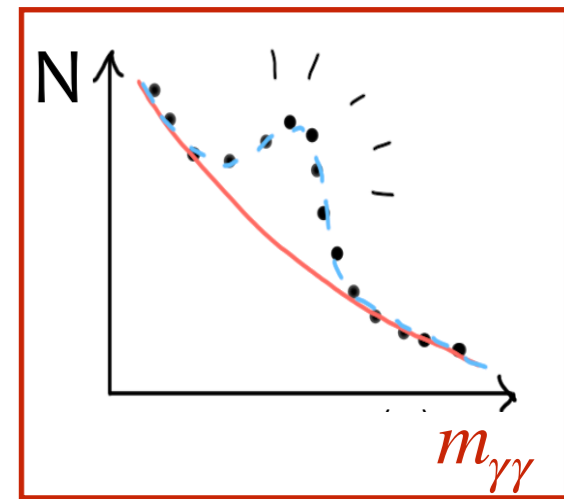
- Bump search: select on 4-body mass:  $\tilde{M}_X = (m_{jj\gamma\gamma} - m_{jj} - m_{\gamma\gamma} + m_H + m_Y)$ 
  - Better resolution (30-90)% wrt using  $m_{jj\gamma\gamma}$  alone (cancels correlated fluctuations)



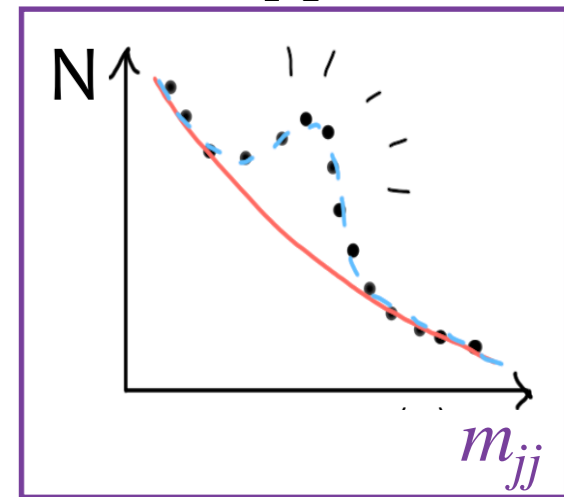
Width increasing with  $M_X$



Window keeping  
~60% of events



X



$m_{jj}$

Fit  $m_{\gamma\gamma} - m_{jj}$  as a 2D peak  
over smooth background

The background composition can be unknown, no need to model it with simulation

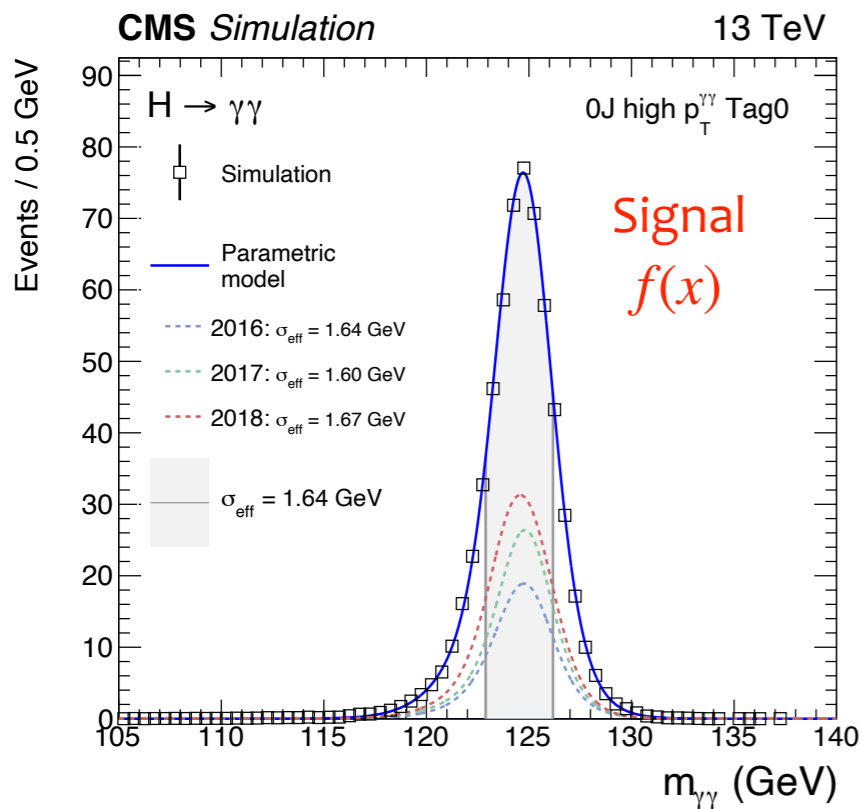
- Only assumption: **smooth bkg shape vs peaking signal**

-> Fit on data with empiric smooth functions  $f(x)$

-> Best  $\chi^2$  choose the nominal  $f(x)$ ,

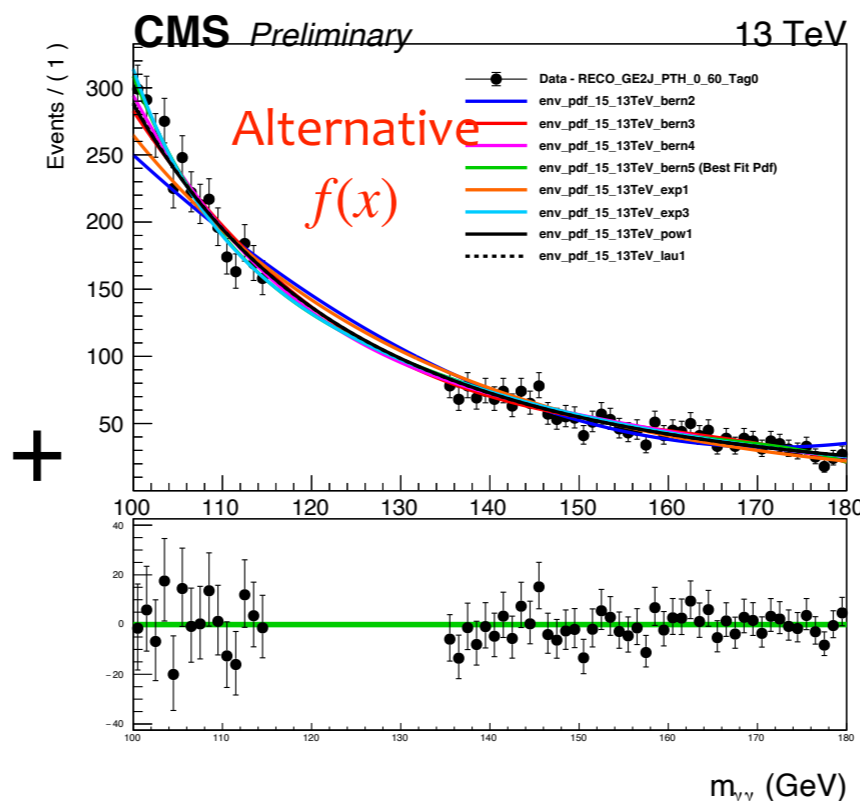
-> alternatives used as an uncertainty (discrete profiling method)

(Example signal)



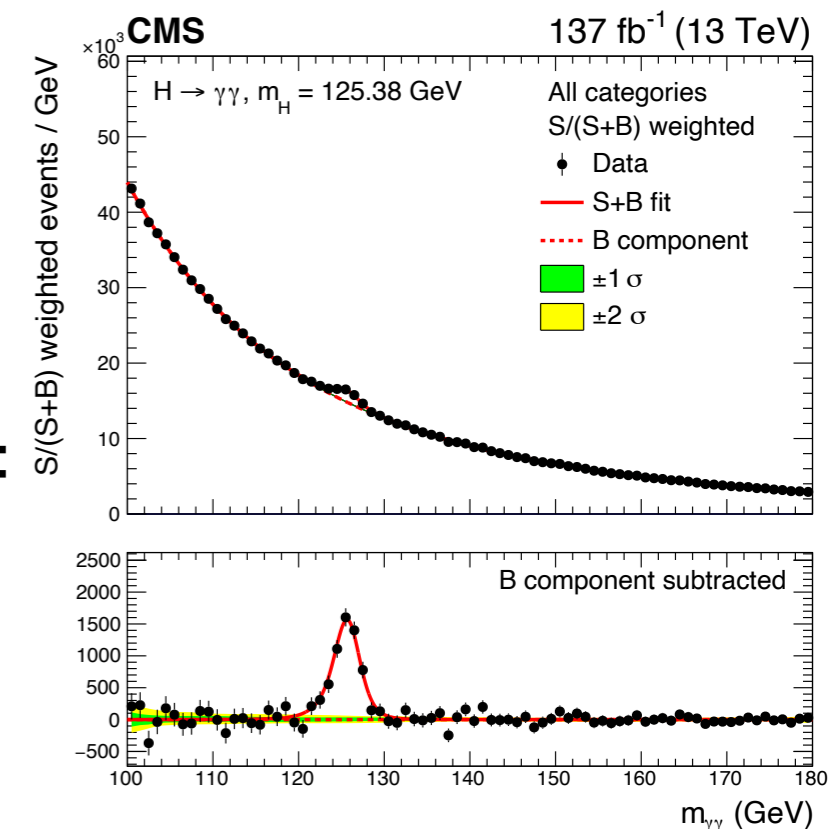
Prob(Signal)

(Example background)



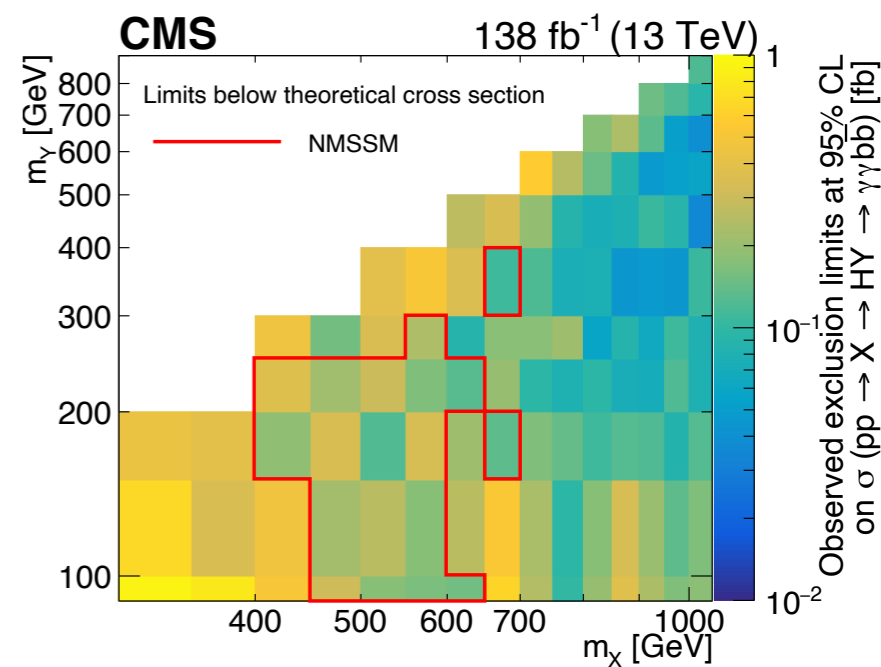
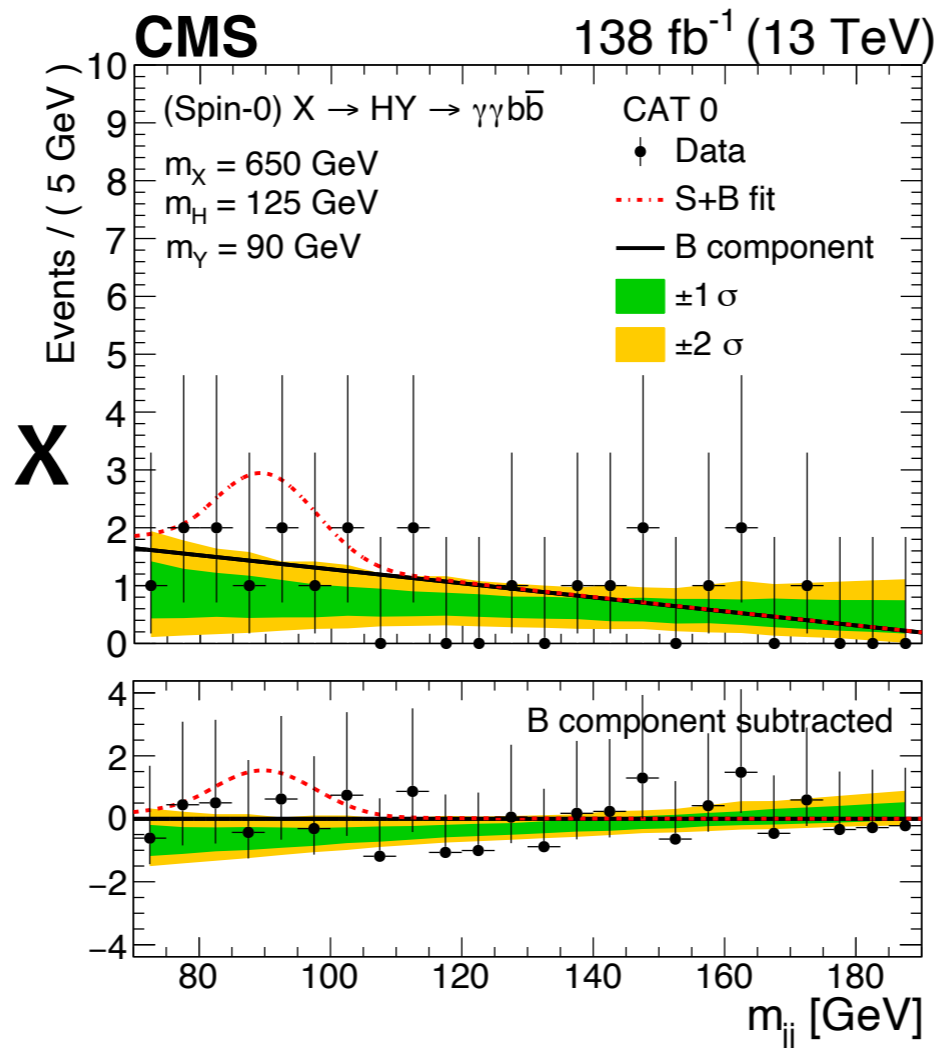
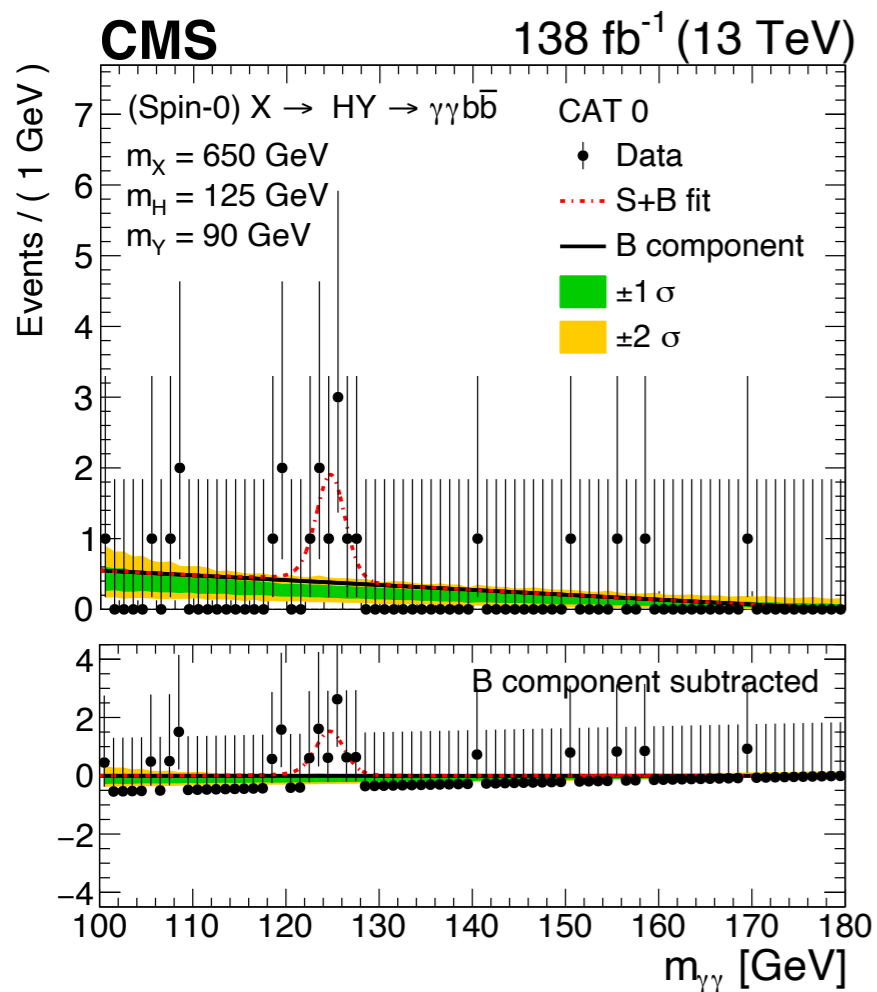
Prob(Background)

(Example data fit:  
inclusive Run2  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ )



P(S+B)

- From parametric fit in  $m_{\gamma\gamma} - m_{bb}$  plane (fit in  $m_{bb}$  uses same method as  $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ )

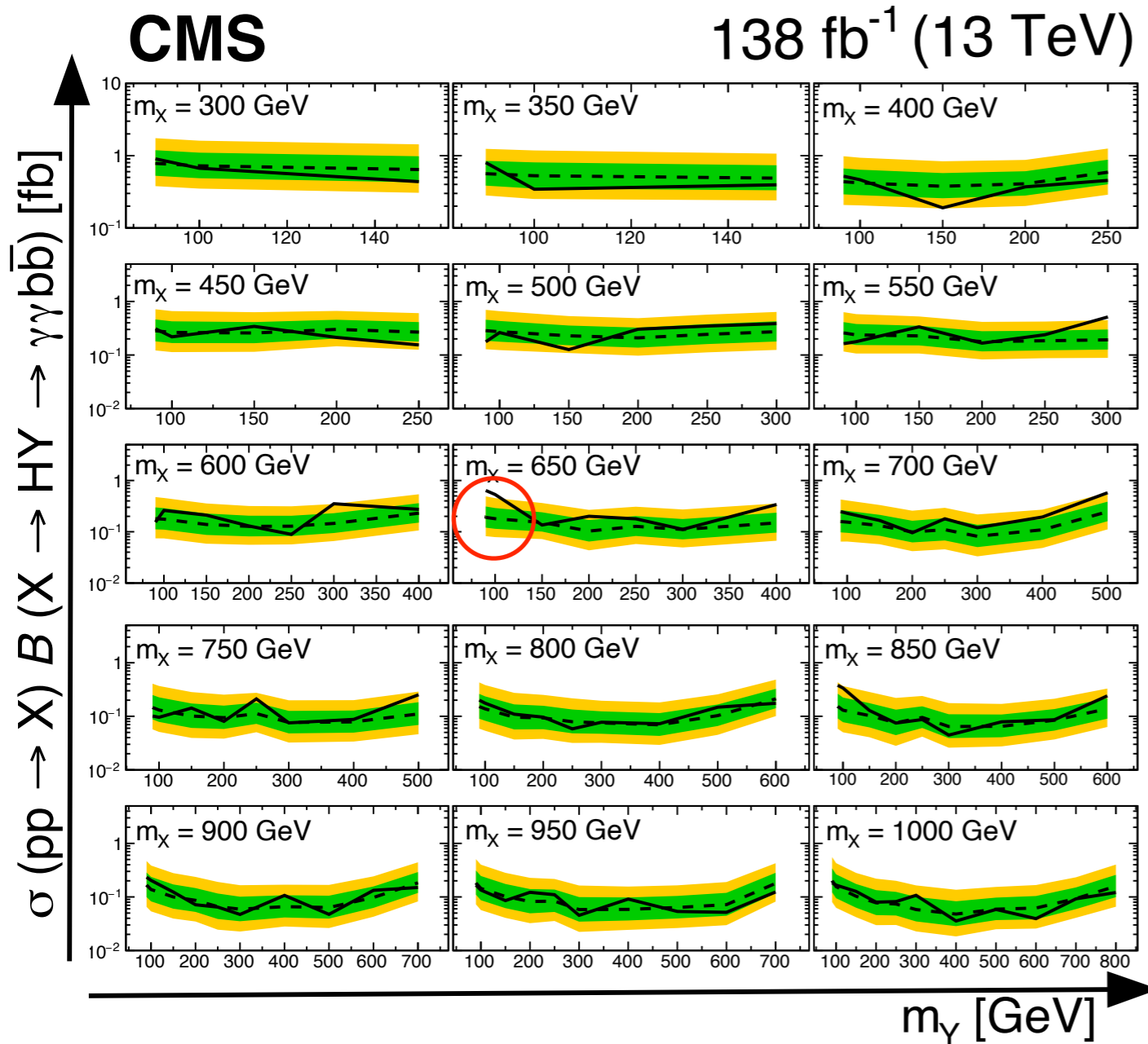


Largest excess at  $m_X = 650$  GeV,  $m_Y = 90$  GeV  
 with  $3.8 \sigma$  local/ $2.8 \sigma$  global significance

Sensitive to NMSSM predictions  
 (max. allowed cross sections from NMSSMTools 5.5.0)

# $X \rightarrow YH$ vs other channels

- Comparing excess at (125, 90) with 650 GeV heavy resonance mass



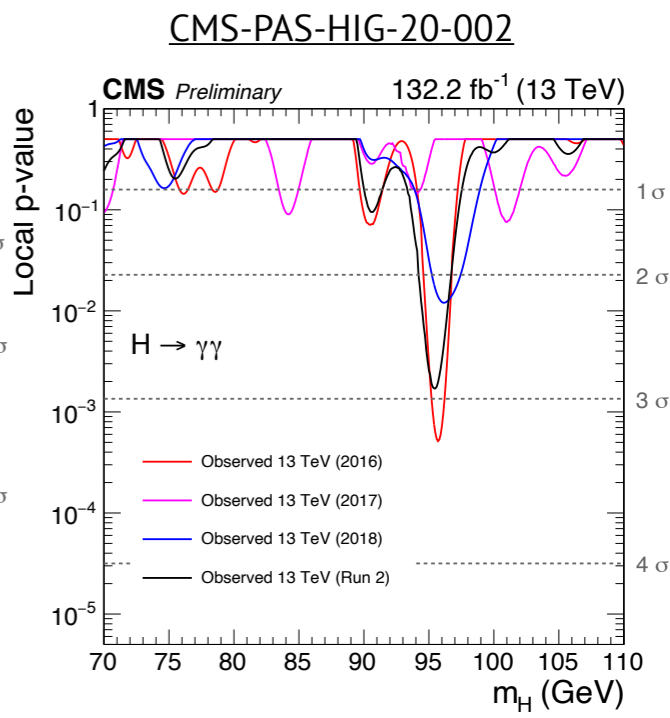
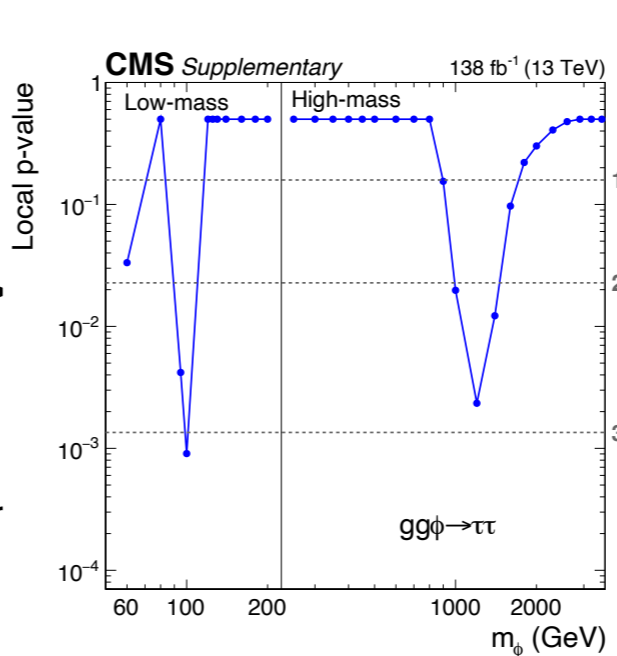
(Spin-0)  $X \rightarrow HY \rightarrow \gamma\gamma b\bar{b}$

Expected limit  $\pm 1 \sigma$ 
 Expected limit  $\pm 2 \sigma$   
 Expected 95% upper limit
  Observed 95% upper limit

Caveat: cherry picking!

- $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$  90-100 GeV excess:  $3.1\sigma$  local,  $2.7\sigma$  global
- $H \rightarrow WW$  650 GeV excess:  $3.8\sigma$  local,  $2.6\sigma$  global
- $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  95 GeV excess:  $2.9\sigma$  local,  $1.3\sigma$  global

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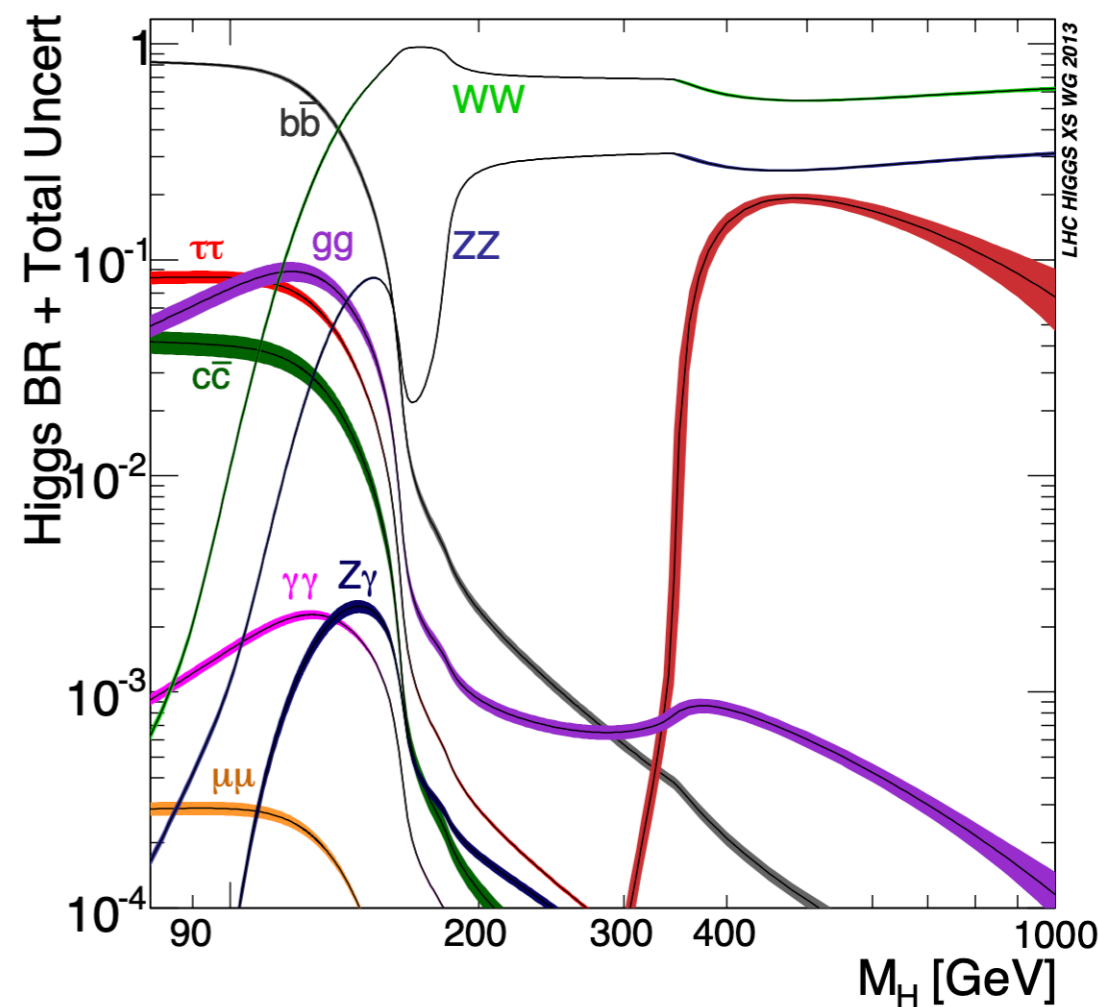
Can we use other modes to check the excess (while waiting for new data from LHC)?

- Yes, but with some caveats: there is no clear model independent way to compare channels where  $\gamma$  decays to different modes
  - $\gamma$  BR's can vary widely (even if it is a scalar, eg an extra Singlet in 2HDM+S / NMSSM model)
  - also H125 BR's can vary
- in extensions involving only singlets, H125 and  $\gamma$  BR's similar to SMH ones

Possible searches covering the excess:

- $X \rightarrow Y(bb)H(\tau\tau)$
- $X \rightarrow Y(\gamma\gamma)H(bb)$
- $X \rightarrow Y(\gamma\gamma)H(\tau\tau)$  or  $X \rightarrow Y(\tau\tau)H(\gamma\gamma)$
- $X \rightarrow H/Y(bb)H(bb)$  with 4b resolved
- $X \rightarrow WW(4q)H(bb)$ , WW  $\rightarrow$  "merged" or "resolved" jets
- ... and many more

To combine different modes,  
and be model-independent:  
 **$\rightarrow$  scan  $\gamma$  BR's**

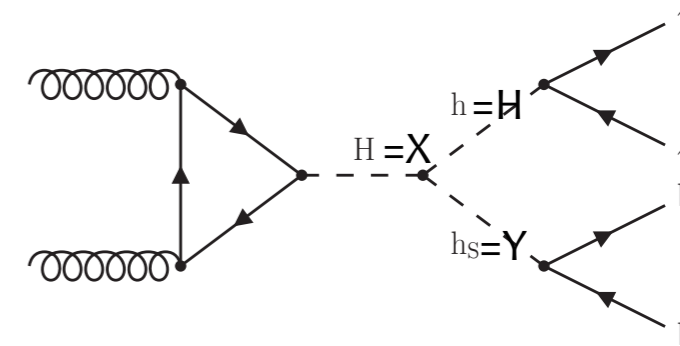


- When not finding an excess we need to be able to interpret our results in a motivated theory
- Extended H-sectors that allow the  $pp \rightarrow X \rightarrow HY$  signature have dozens of parameters (eg NMSSM and TRSM)
  - Theorists resort to the computation of **maximally allowed cross sections**
  - They result from a scan over the multi-dimensional parameter space *discarding points that are excluded by existing measurement*
    - -> **moving target**, predictions evolves with time!
- Possible confusions:
  1. The HH/HY analyses are added in the list of constraints to derive max. allowed XS
  2. For NMSSM the values for 125 GeV H vary between points and theory versions
  3. For TRSM all the channels HY+HY+YY are maximized simultaneously when a channel resolution allows all

# Compare: $X \rightarrow H(\tau\tau)Y(bb)$

Old analysis from CMS, didn't consider  $m_X=650$  GeV at that time

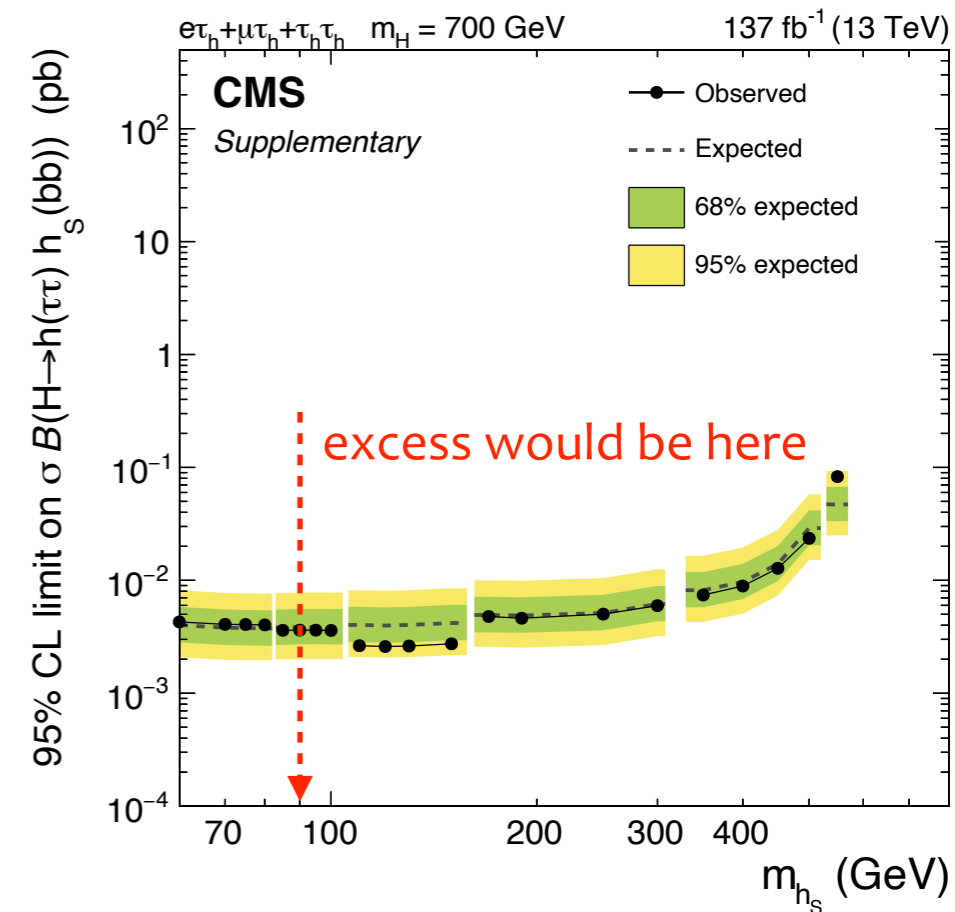
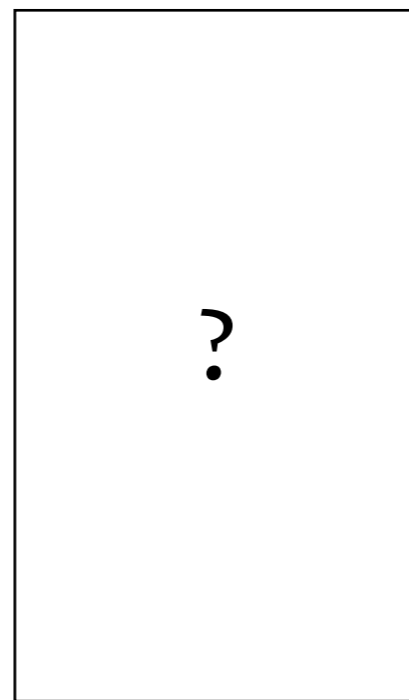
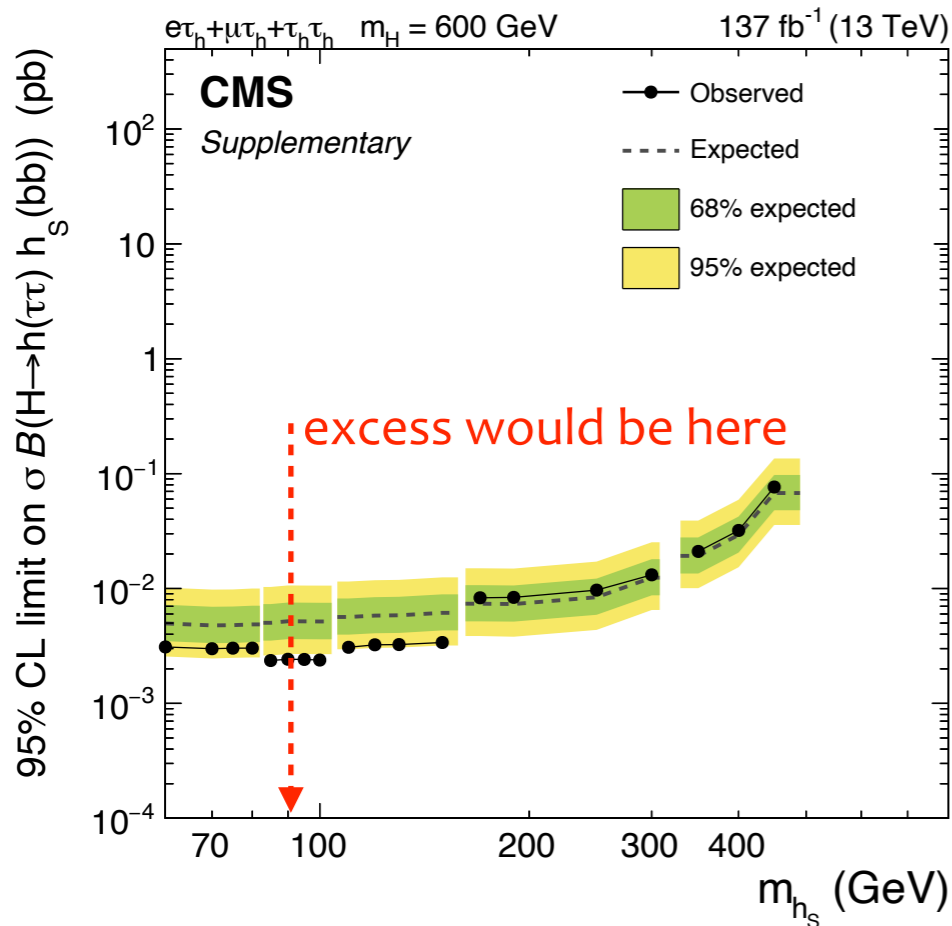
- not possible to interpolate, since between 600 and 700 GeV the analysis changes strategy
- now redoing it, coming soon



$m_X = 600$  GeV

$m_X = 650$  GeV

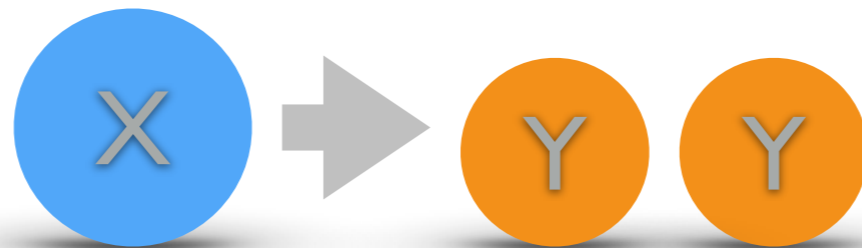
$m_X = 700$  GeV



[JHEP 11 \(2021\) 057](#)

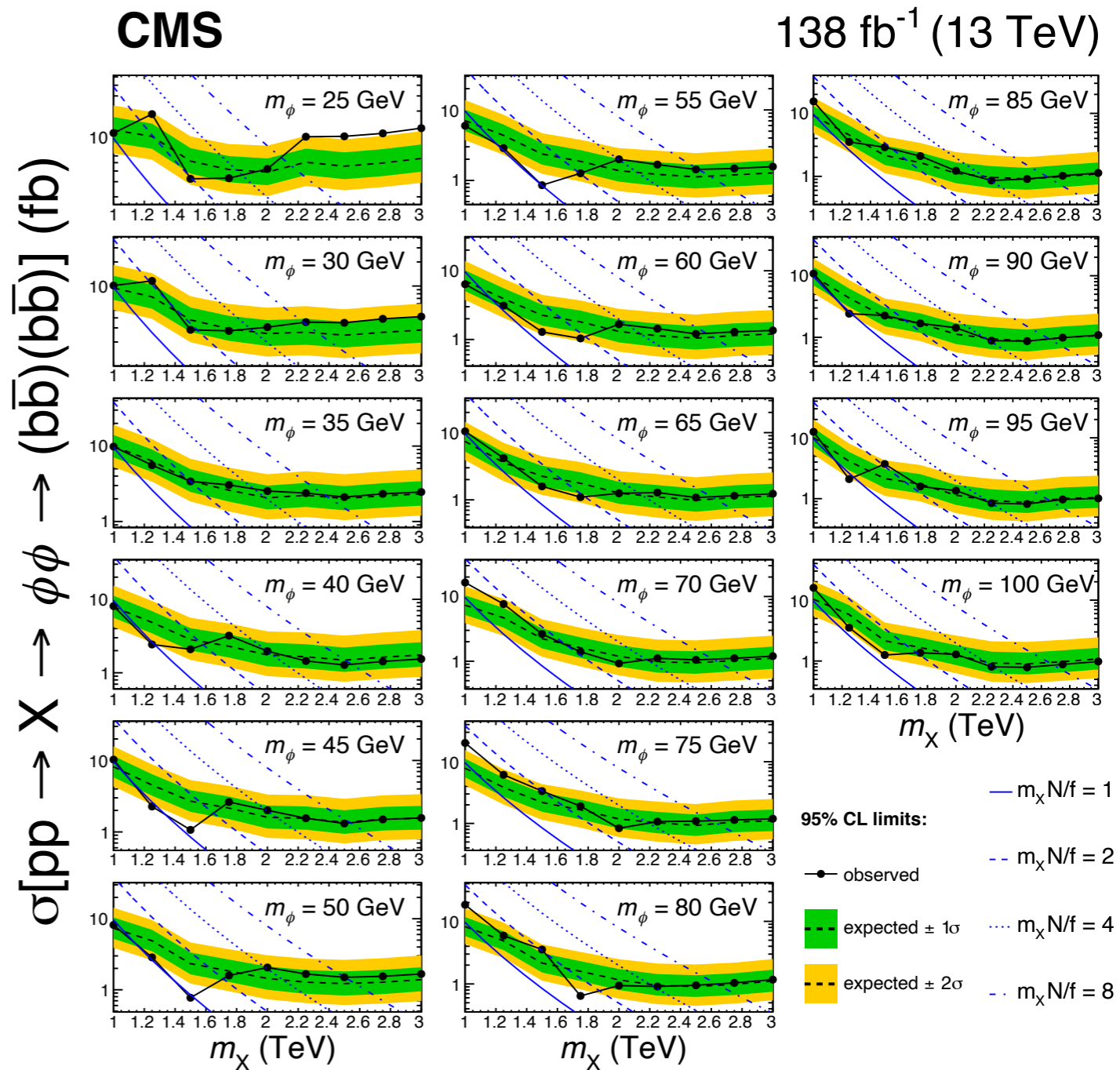
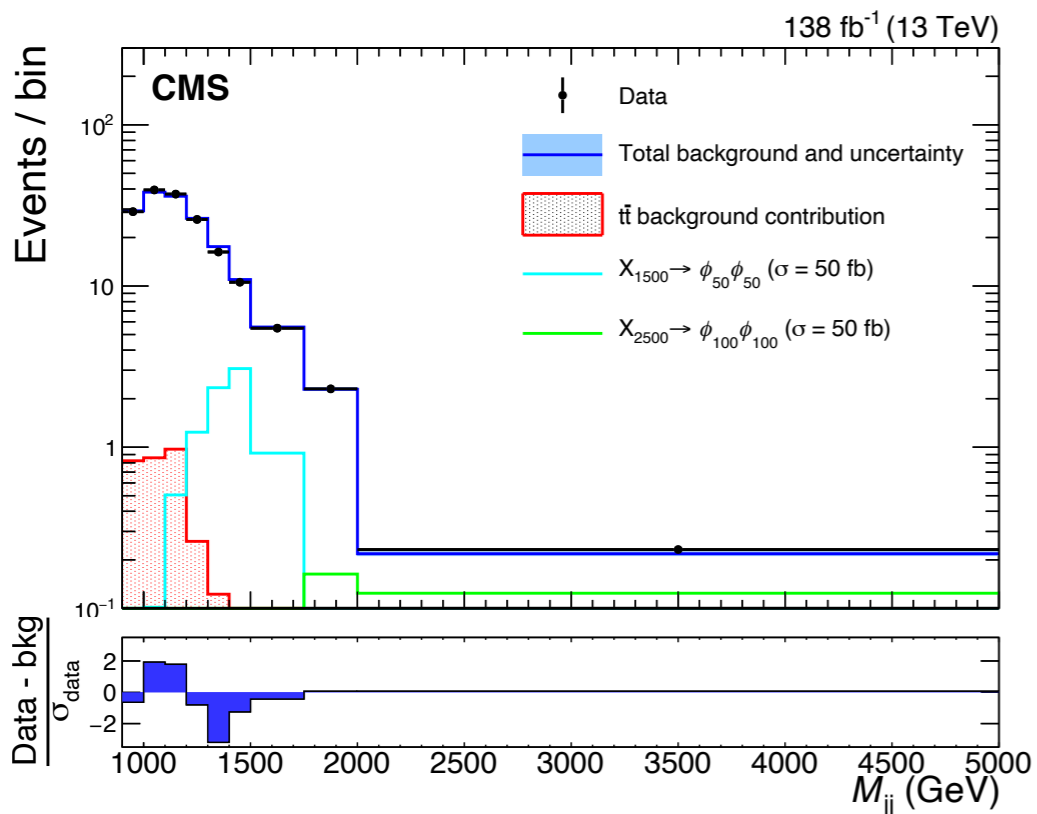
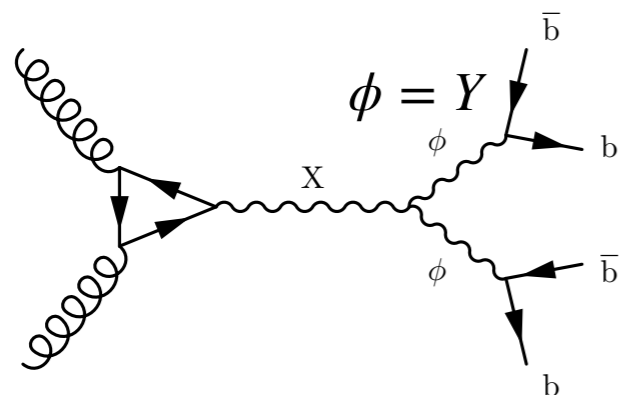


$X \rightarrow YY$  searches



- CMS bbbb merged-jet: Phys. Lett. B 835 (2022) 137566

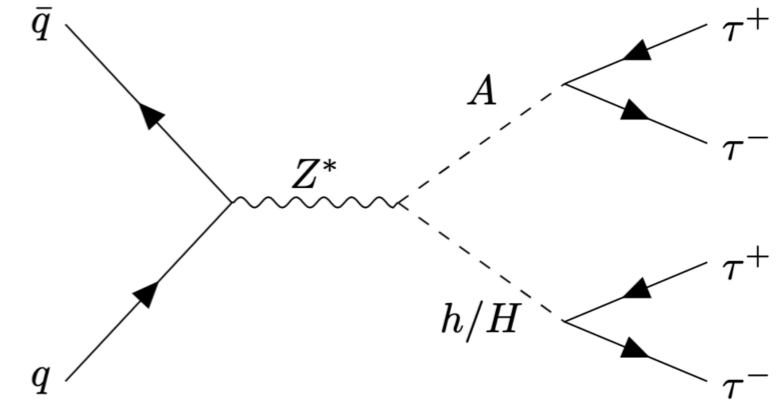
- $M_X$ : 1-3 TeV
- $M_Y$ : 25-100 GeV (highly boosted!)



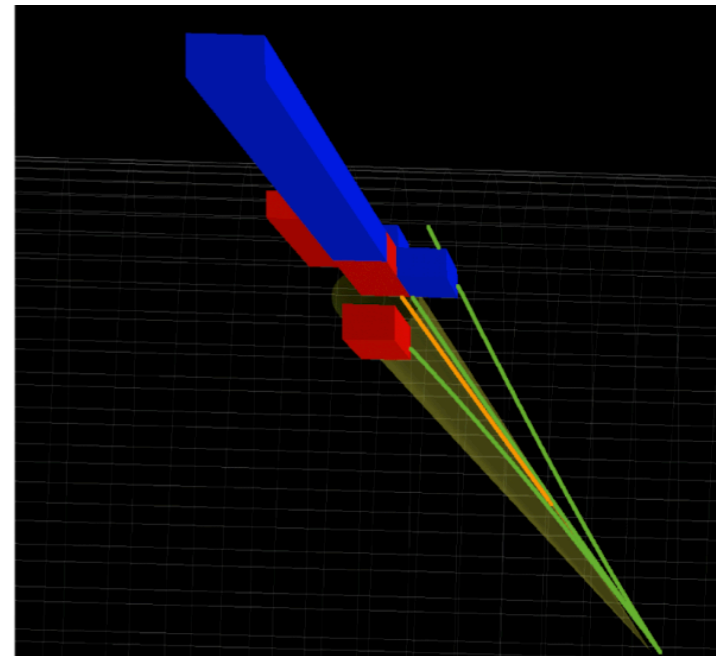
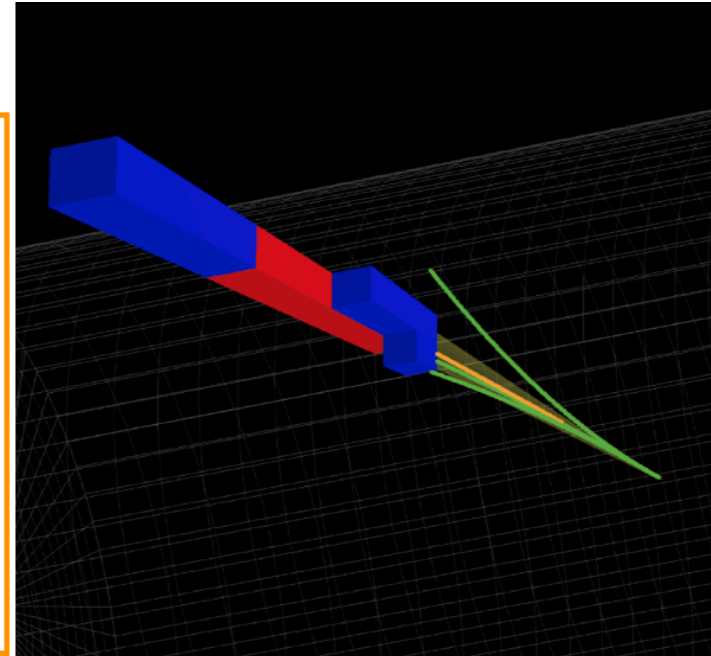
*Z*\* → *HA*

# $Z^* \rightarrow HA \rightarrow 4\tau$

- In lepton-specific (or type X) 2HDM at large  $\tan \beta$  - which could explain  $g-2$  - non-lepton couplings and hence **direct A/H production strongly suppressed**
- HA pair production (via  $Z^*$ ) with decays to 4 tau leptons can probe this scenario!



- $\tau$  lepton decays in multiple ways:
- Fully leptonic: “ $\tau_\ell$ ” (clean, but with  $\nu$ 's)
  - Into charged hadrons “ $\tau_h$ ” (eg.  $\rho, \omega \dots$ )
    - Charged hadrons can decay to  $\pi^0$ 
      - $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  immediately

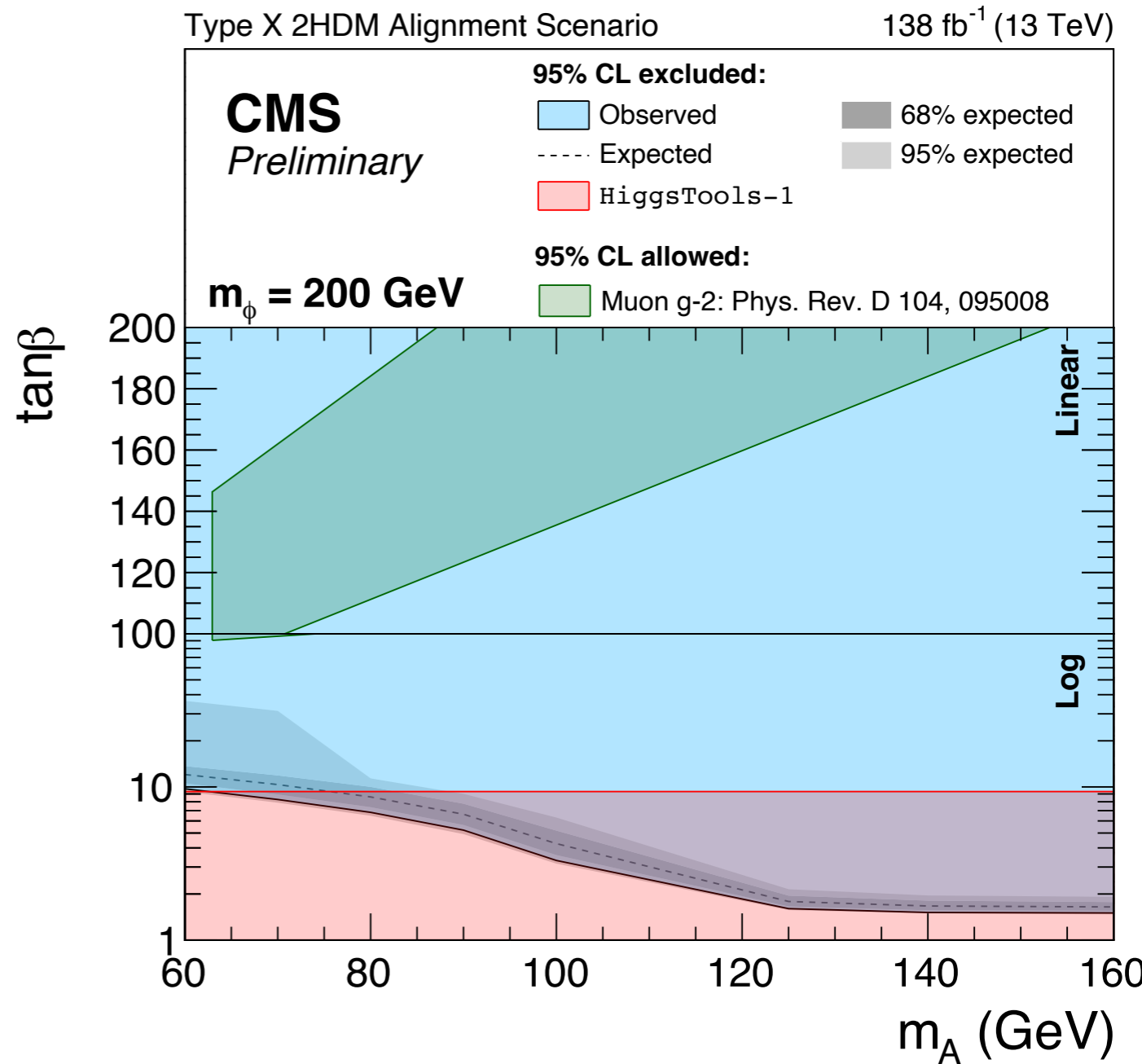
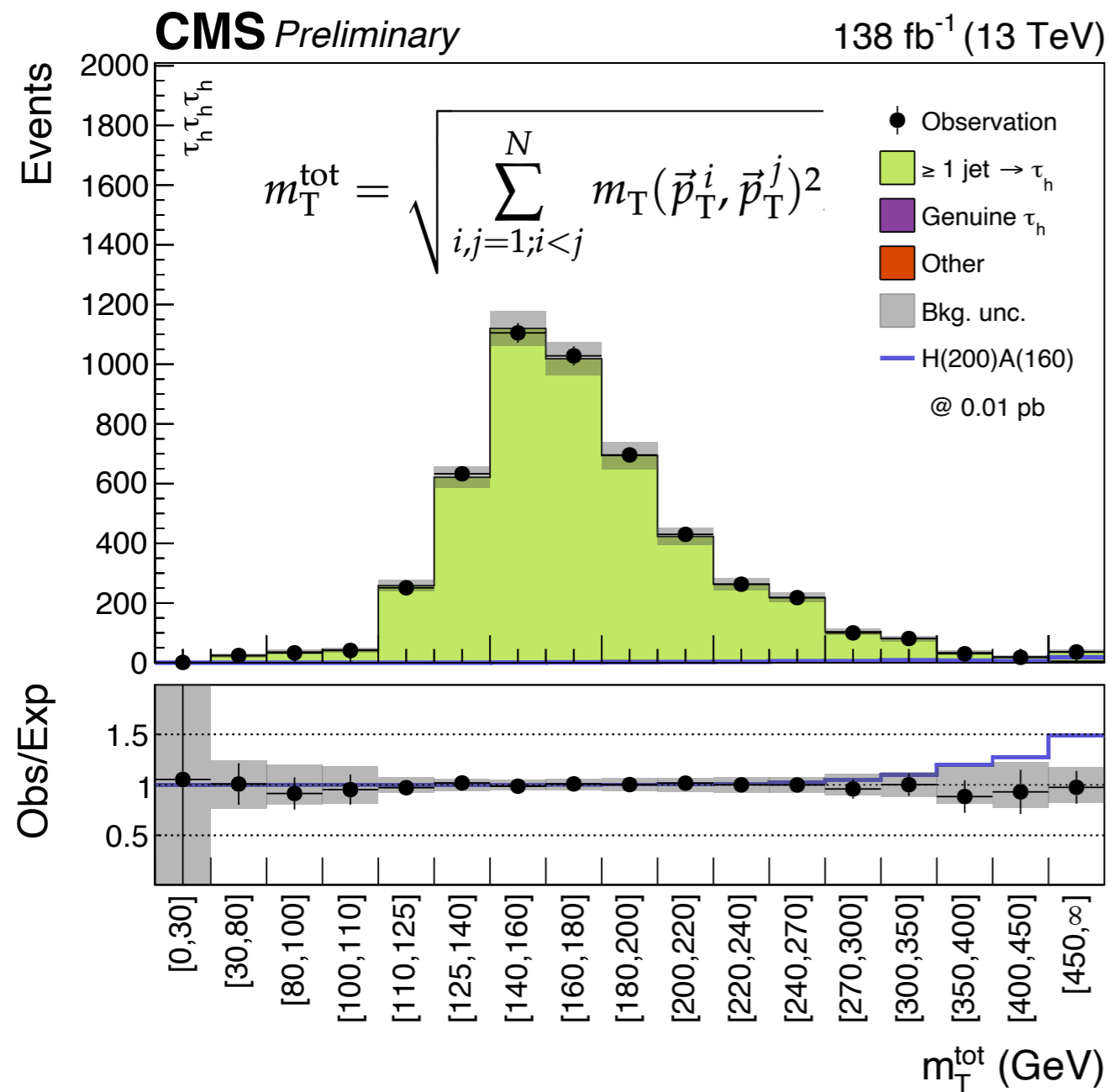


e.g.  $\tau_h$  decay  
 $\tau_h^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^0 + \dots$

Quark/gluon  $\rightarrow$  Jet

Channels with  $6/4/2 \tau_h = 87\%$  of signal  
 -> Main background: **Jet resembling a  $\tau_h$**

- Strategy: fit the distribution of transverse mass (presence of neutrinos => no full kinematics closure)



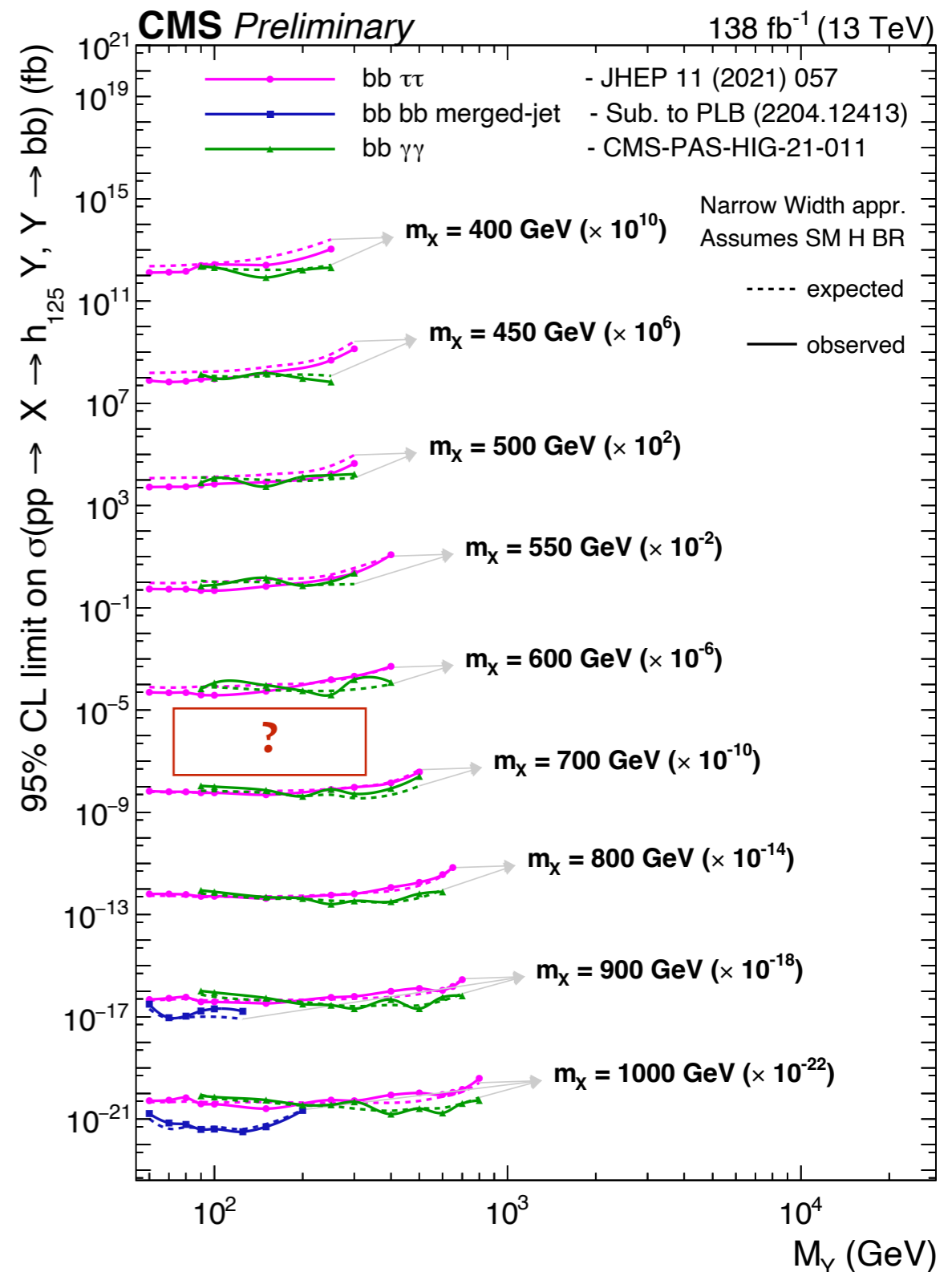
- Excludes type-X 2HDM as muon g-2 explanation
- Excludes type-X 2HDM in probed mass range

CMS has a wide variety program for  $X \rightarrow HH / HY$ , done or under finalization with Run-2 data, with many final states

$X \rightarrow H(\gamma\gamma)Y(bb)$  with a small excess at  $m_X, m_Y = (650, 90-95)$  GeV can be also tested with other channels: **many  $X \rightarrow HH$ ,  $X \rightarrow HY$ ,  $X \rightarrow YY$  analyses are ongoing**

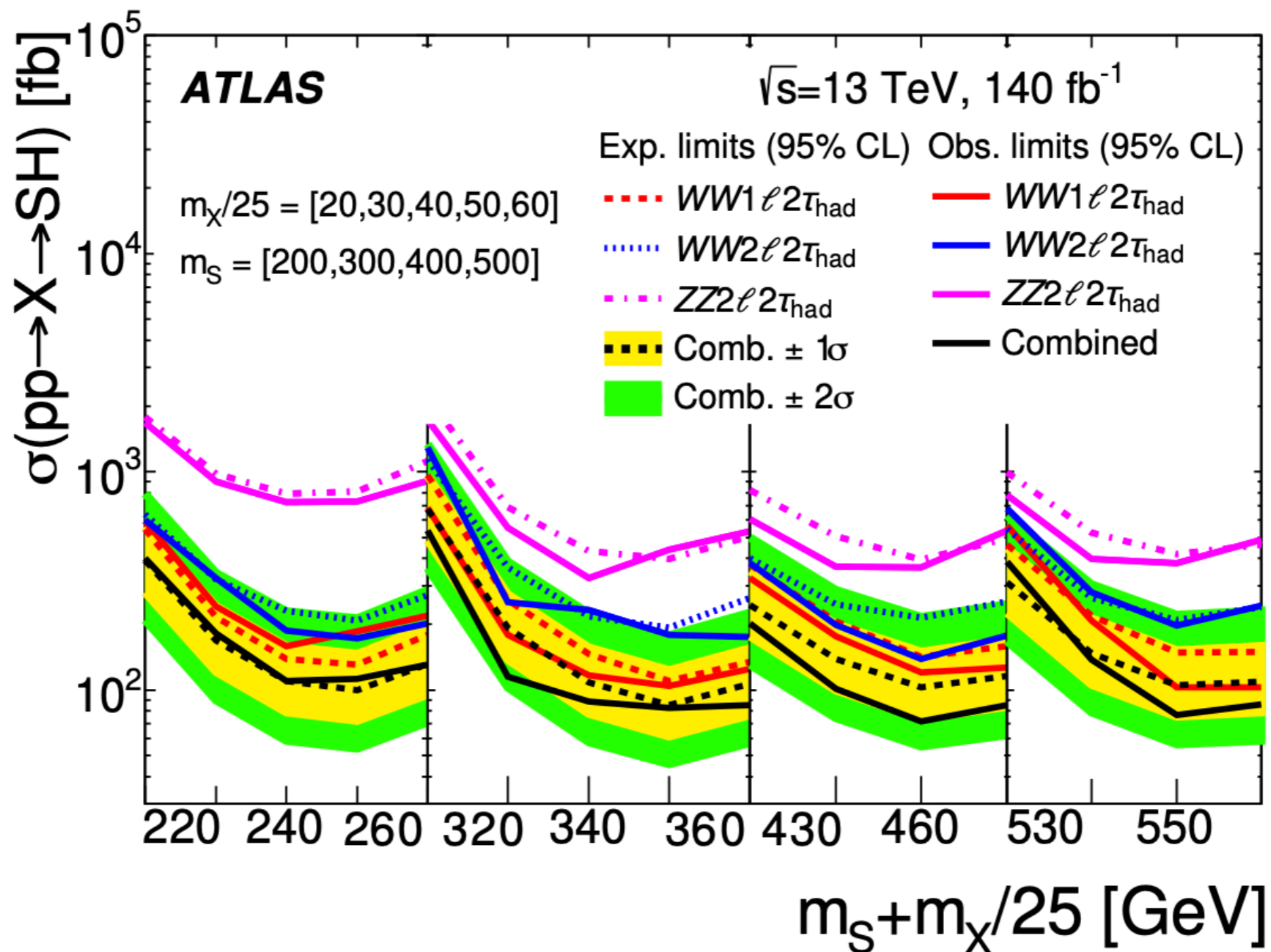
With some assumptions combinations of the results in different channels can be done

**Looking forward to seeing more Run-2 and first Run-3 results!**



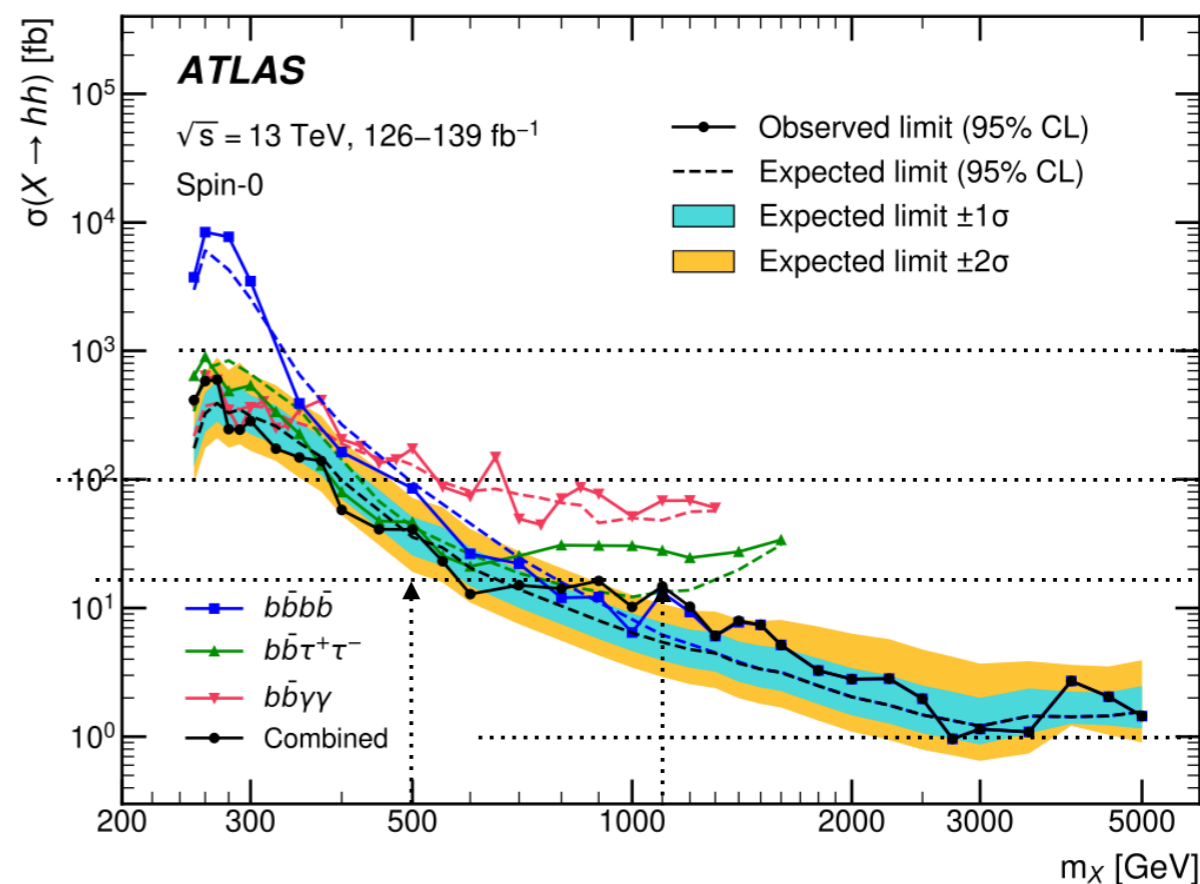
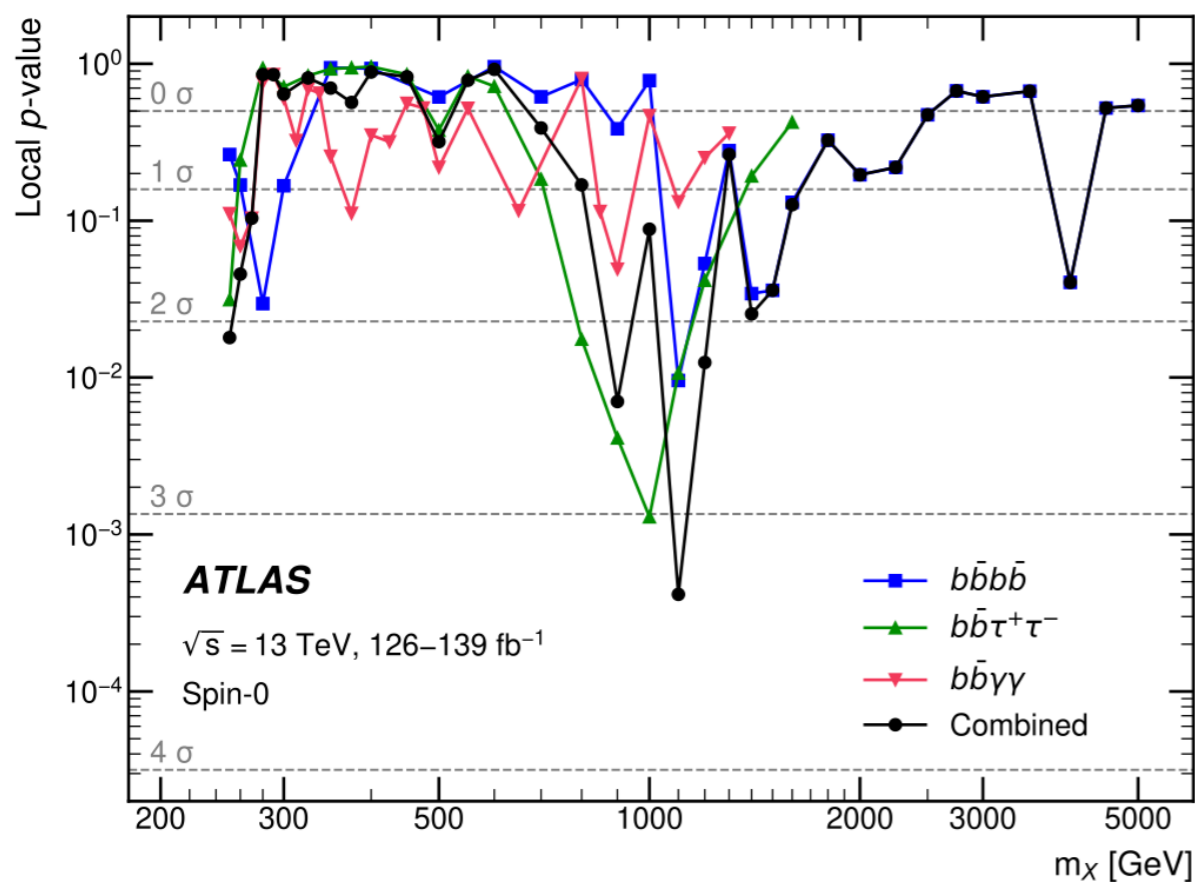
**Additional slides**

- Most recent HY analysis from ATLAS (JHEP 10 (2023) 009)
  - $X \rightarrow YH \rightarrow Y(VV) H(\tau\tau)$ : no excess found





- ATLAS published a new combination of resonant HH analyses in 2311.15956, Submitted to: Phys. Rev. Lett
  - First combination with full run2 luminosity, features  $4b$ ,  $bb\tau$  and  $bb\gamma\gamma$
  - The largest deviation is observed at 1.1 TeV and corresponds to a local significance of  $3.3 \sigma$ , which corresponds to a global significance of  $2.1 \sigma$  when the trial factor is taken into account



$$\mathcal{L}_{SM} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + i\bar{\psi}D\psi$$

Precision Electroweak and QCD

$$+ |D_{\mu}\Phi|^2$$

Gauge interactions

$$+ V(\Phi)$$

**Higgs potential**

$$+ \psi_i y_{ij} \psi_j \Phi$$

Yukawa interactions (fermion masses => proton, neutron masses), CKM matrix and CP violation

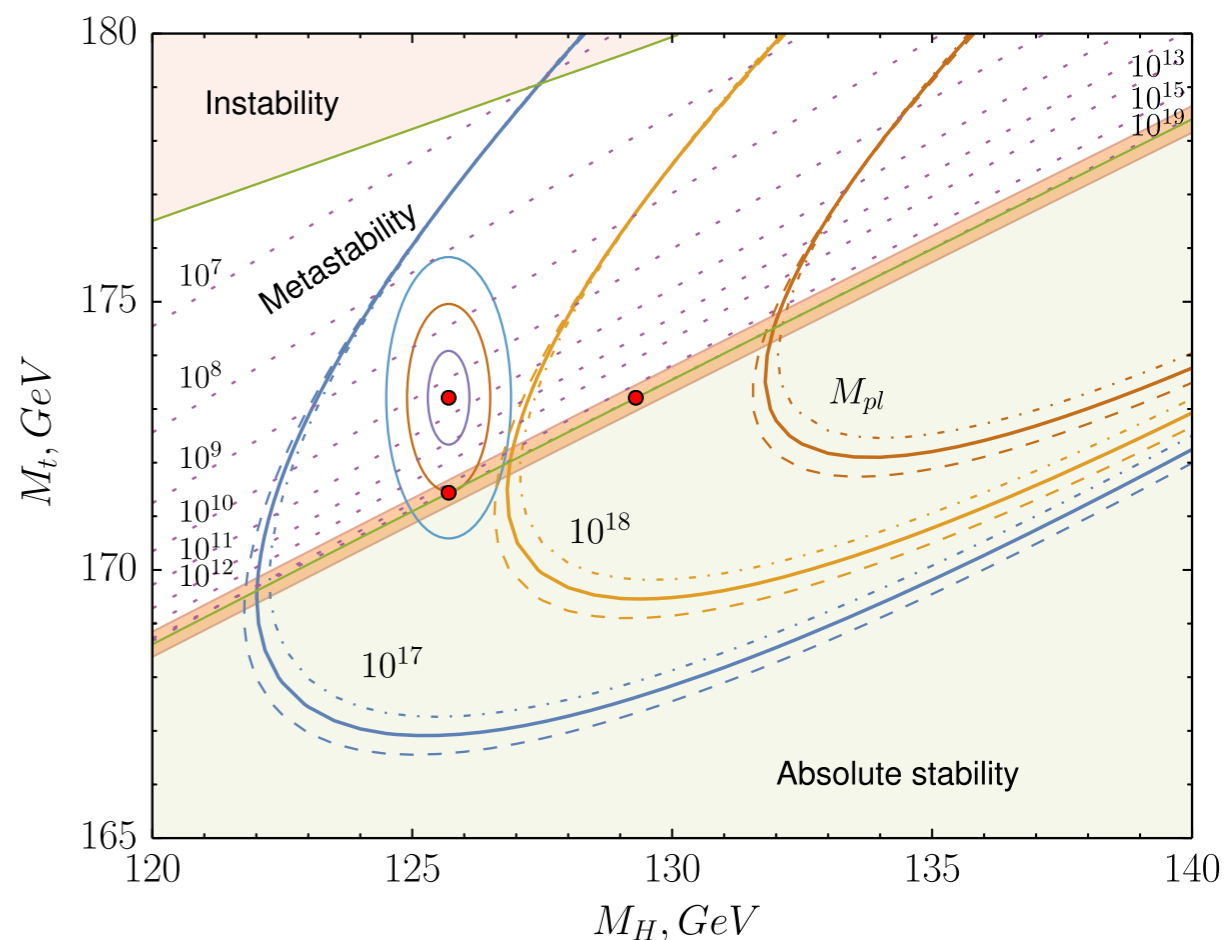
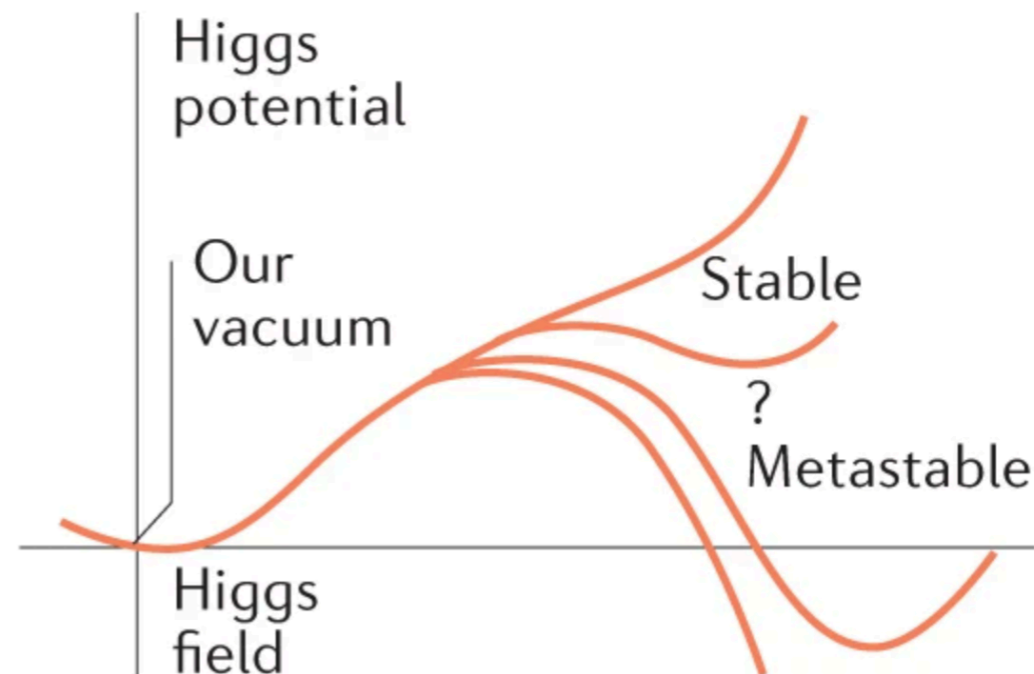
LHC program is to study profoundly the validity of the Higgs and Yukawa sectors of the Standard Model

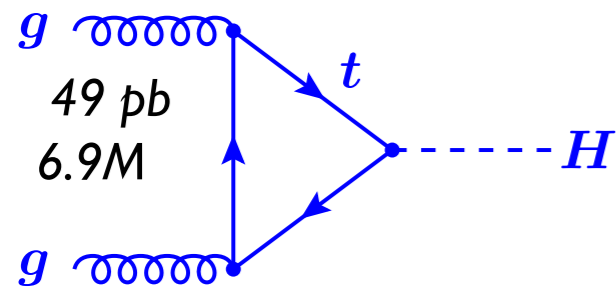
Look for possible existence of new physics phenomena directly (new particles:  $\mathcal{L}_{new}$ ), or through breaking of SM predictions in any term of  $\mathcal{L}_{SM}$

$$V(\Phi) = -\mu^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi + \lambda (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2$$

$$= V_0 + \frac{1}{2} m_H^2 H^2 + \lambda v H^3 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda H^4$$

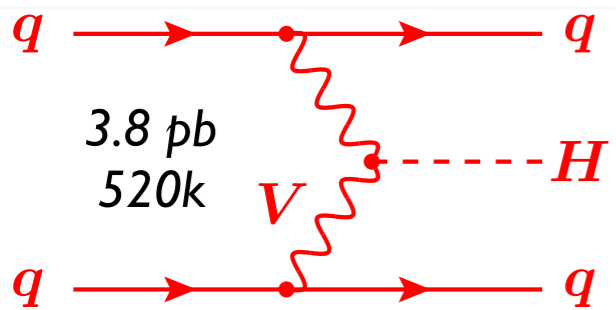
- Responsible of the EWK symmetry breaking and W/Z masses
- Characterizing the Higgs potential means measuring the **H boson mass ( $\mu$ )** and the strength of **its self coupling ( $\lambda$ )**
- $V(\Phi)$  and top mass determine the stability of our vacuum





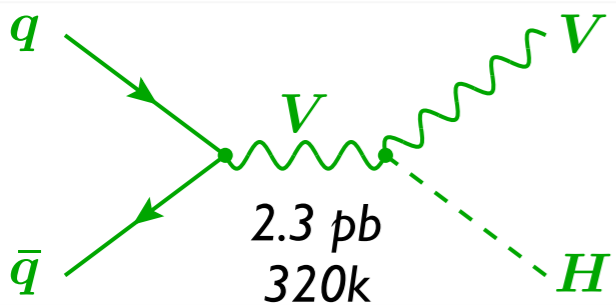
49 pb  
6.9M

gluon fusion



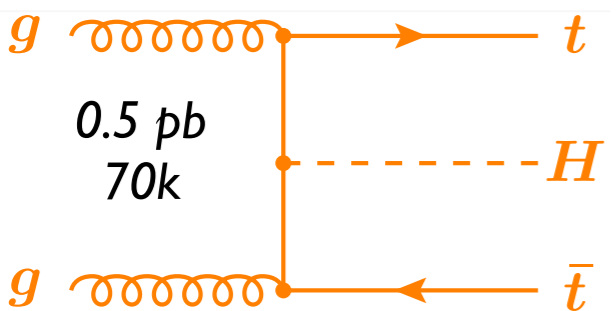
3.8 pb  
520k

vector boson fusion (VBF)



2.3 pb  
320k

W,Z associated production

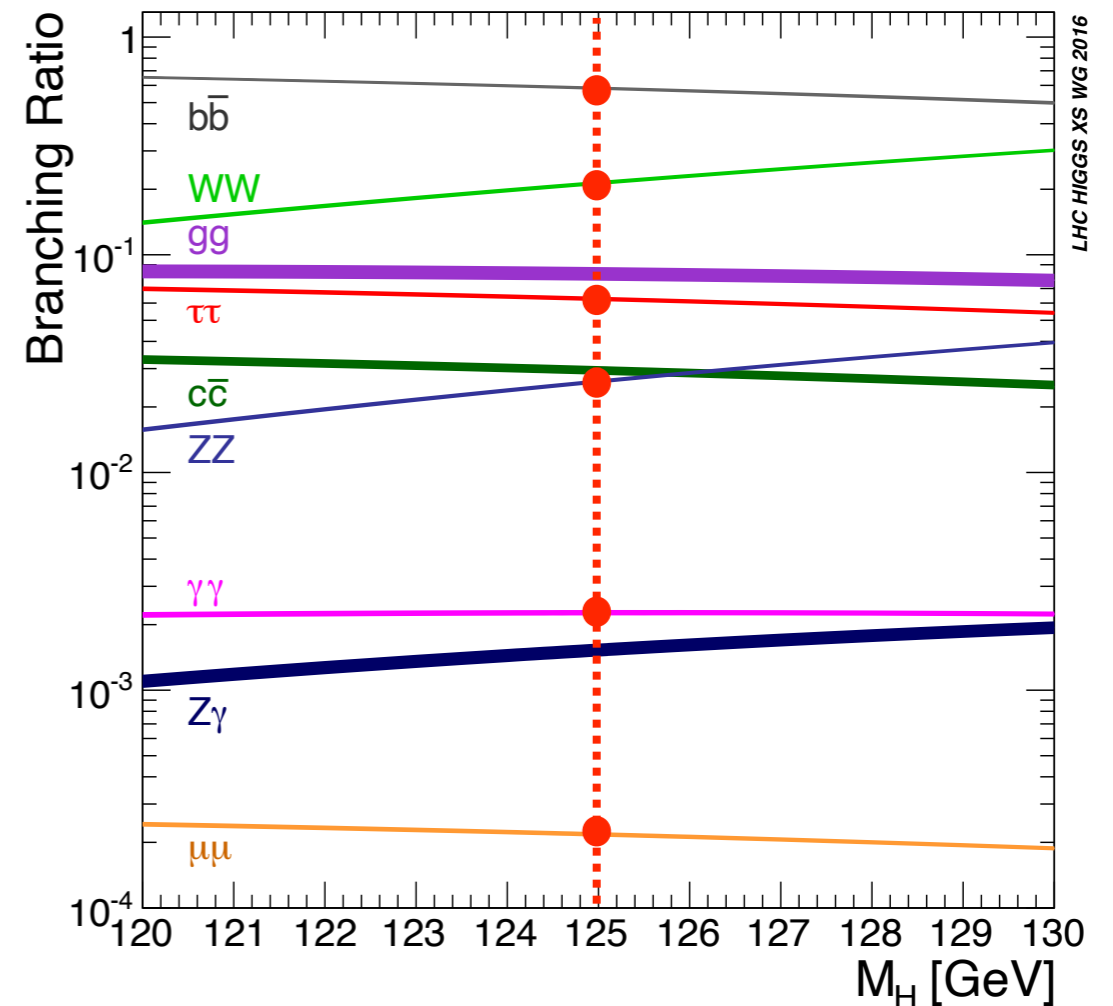


0.5 pb  
70k

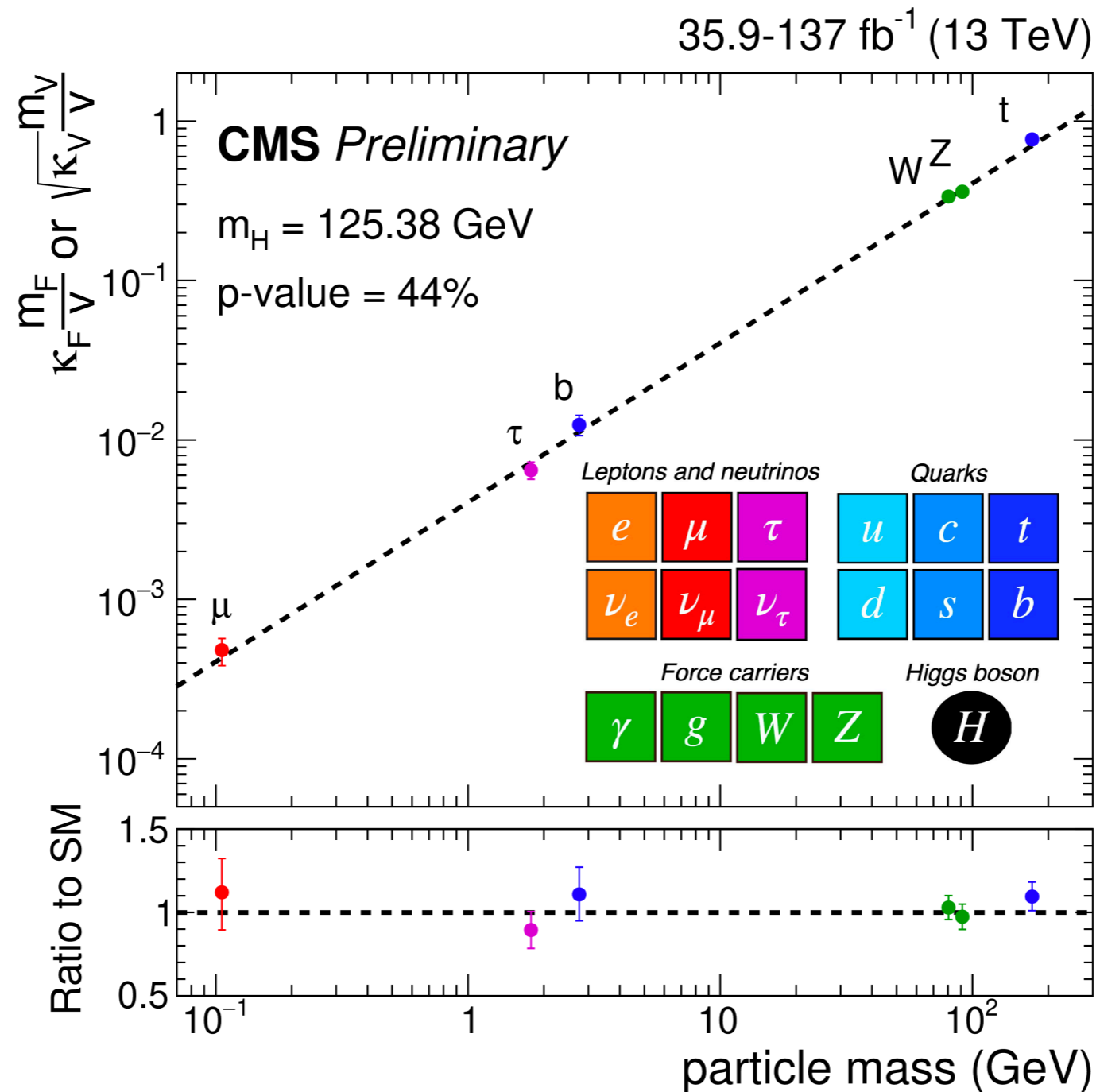
$t\bar{t}H$  associated production

$\sigma$  [pb]  
#Higgs produced during Run-2

- About **8 million Higgs bosons** produced by LHC during Run-2
- For  $m_H \sim 125$  GeV a wide range of production and decay modes accessible
- Establishing each production mode and studying its properties



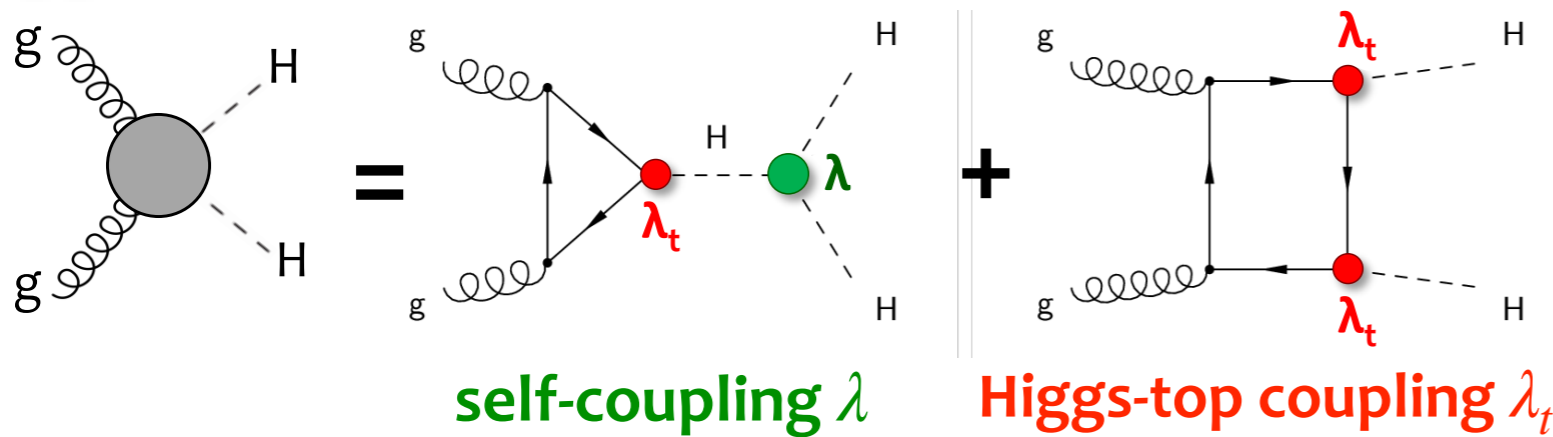
# Higgs boson couplings with SM particles



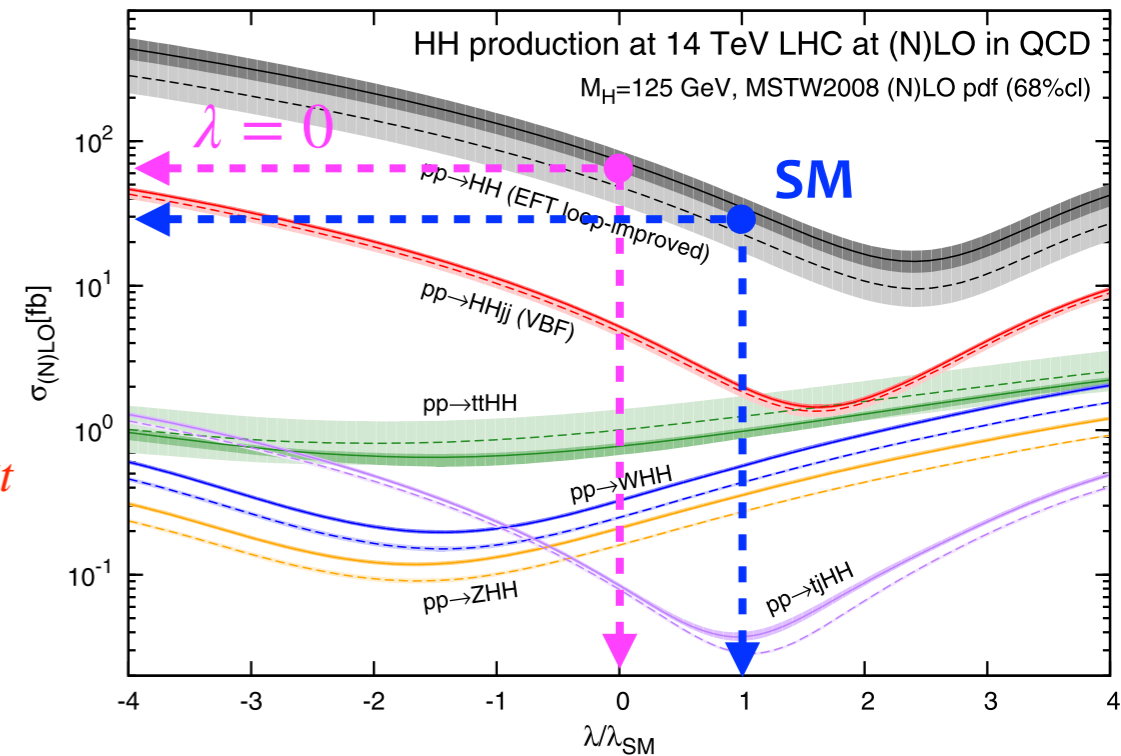
- Di-Higgs production at the LHC is dominated by the gluon-fusion process, followed (1/20) by VBF production

PLB 732 (2014) 142-149

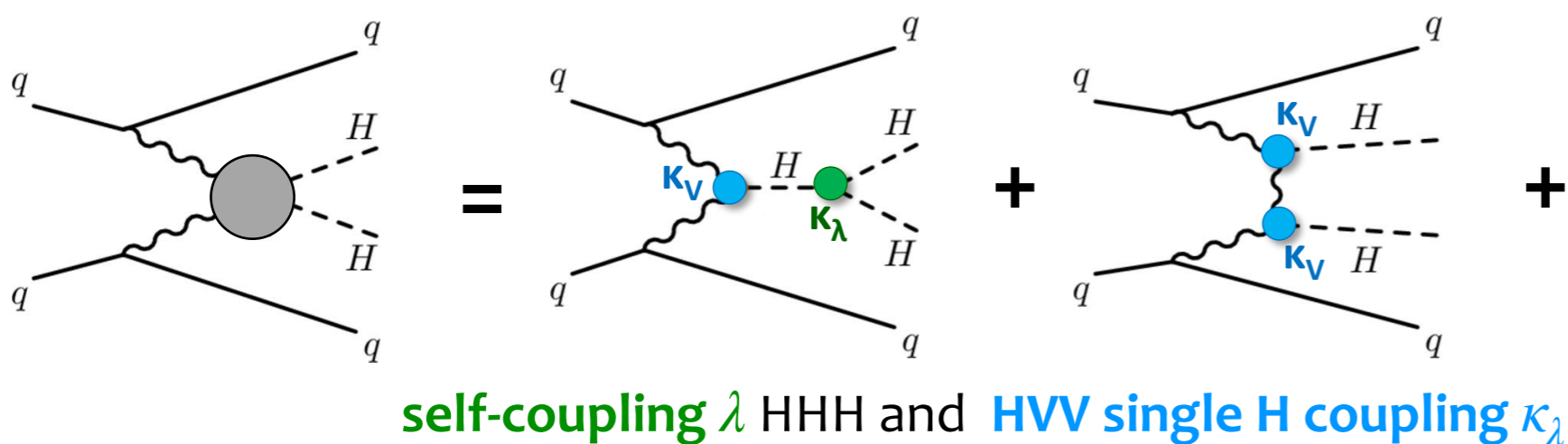
**ggF:**  $\sigma(\text{ggHH}) = 31 \text{ fb} \approx 1/1500 \times \sigma(\text{ggH})$



destructive interference makes  $\sigma^{\lambda=0} > \sigma^{SM}$

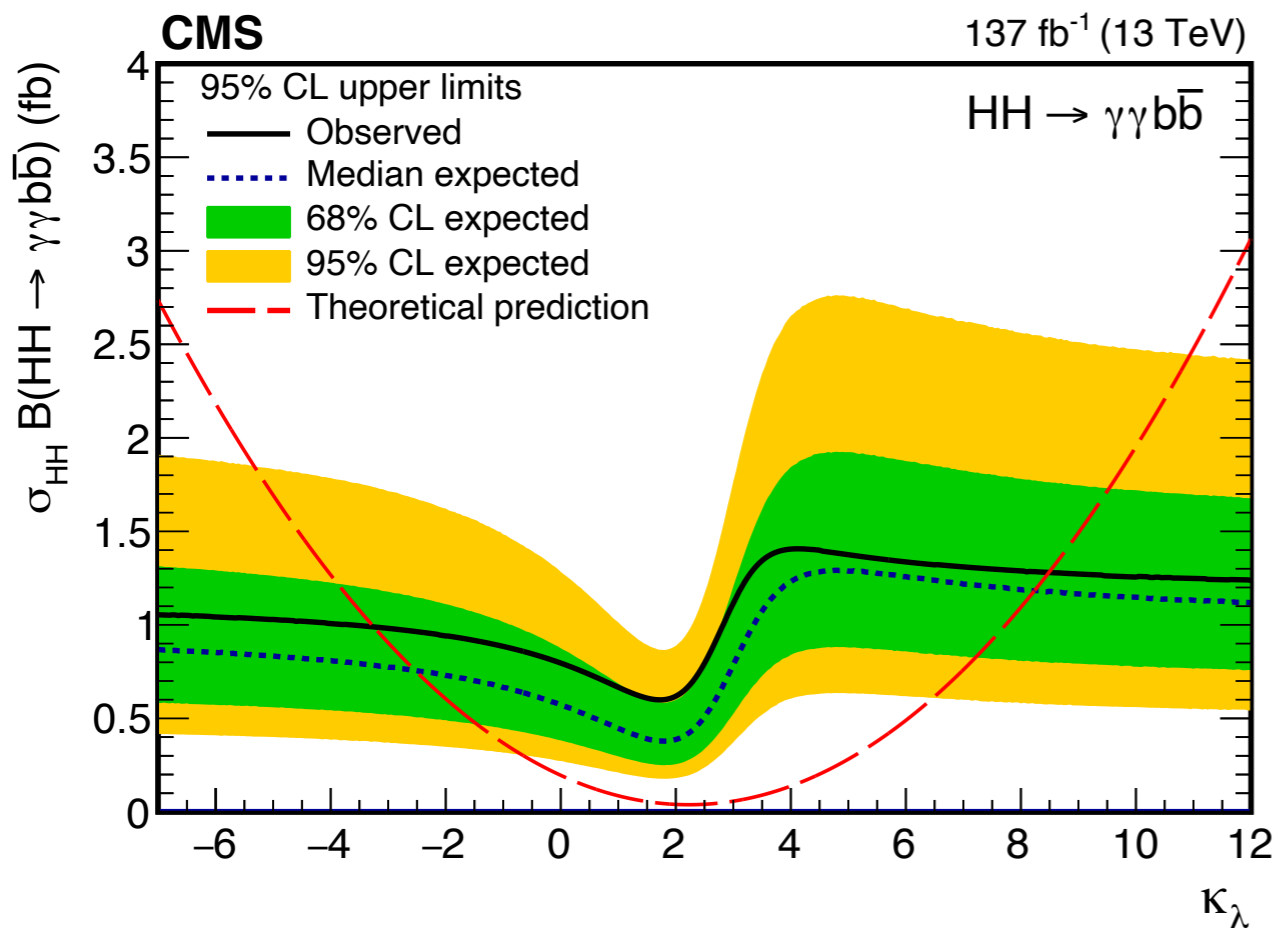


**VBF:**  $\sigma = 1.72 \text{ fb} \approx 1/1500 \times \sigma(\text{ggH})$

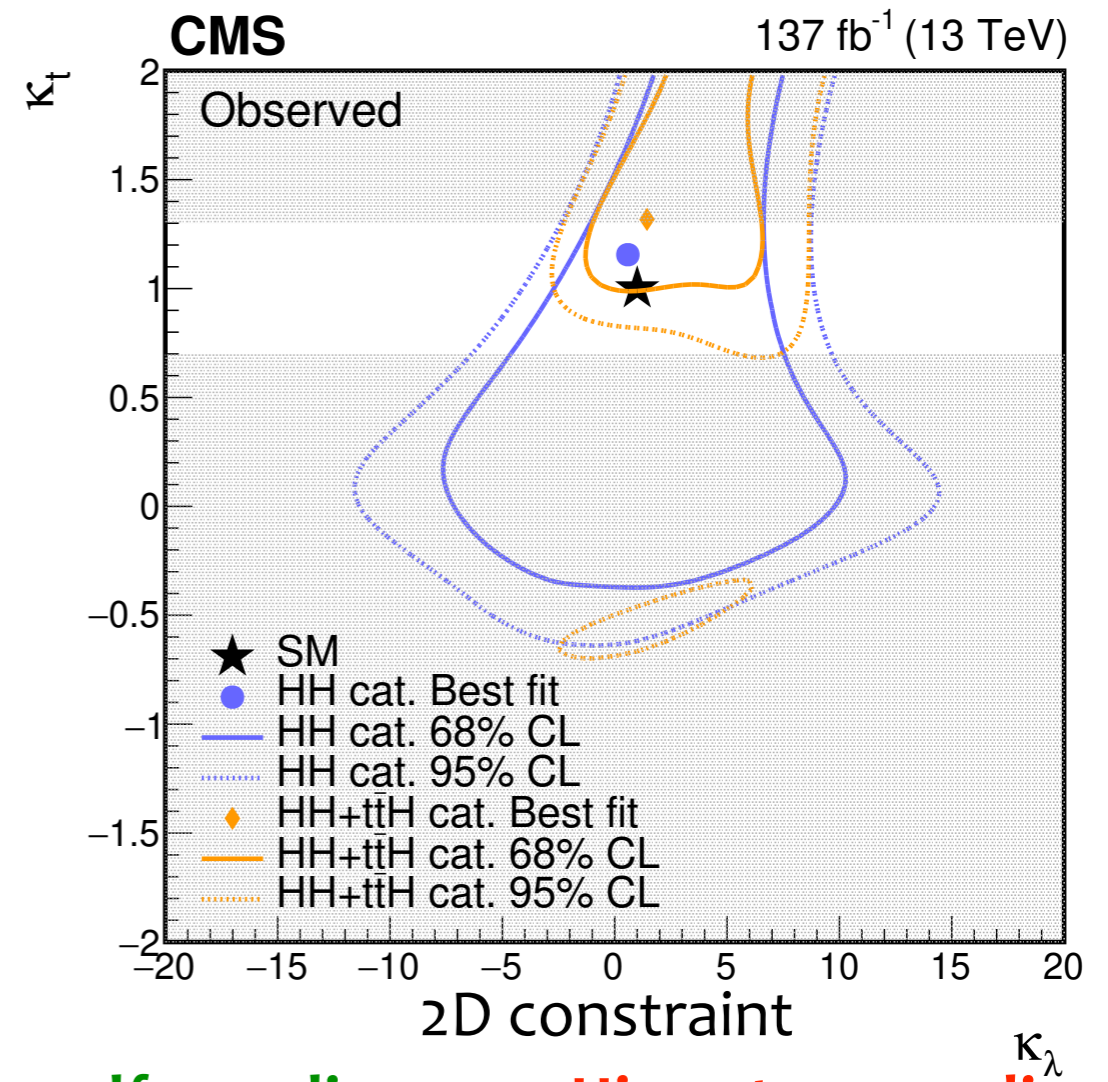


**HHVV quartic coupling**  
only in VBF production

- Phase space of 2 photons and 2 b-tagged jets, with  $m_{\gamma\gamma}$  around 125 GeV
  - both CMS and ATLAS also look for a resonant  $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$
  - bkgs:  $\gamma\gamma + jets$  from data sidebands and single Higgs from MC fullsim
- cross section upper limit =  $7.7$  (5.2 exp)  $\times \sigma_{SM}^{HH}$

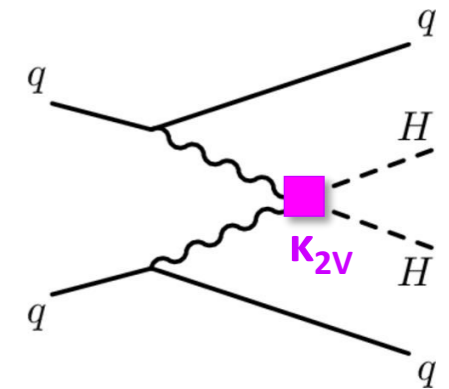


Constraint on trilinear coupling at 95% CL:  
 $-3.3 < \kappa_\lambda < 8.5$

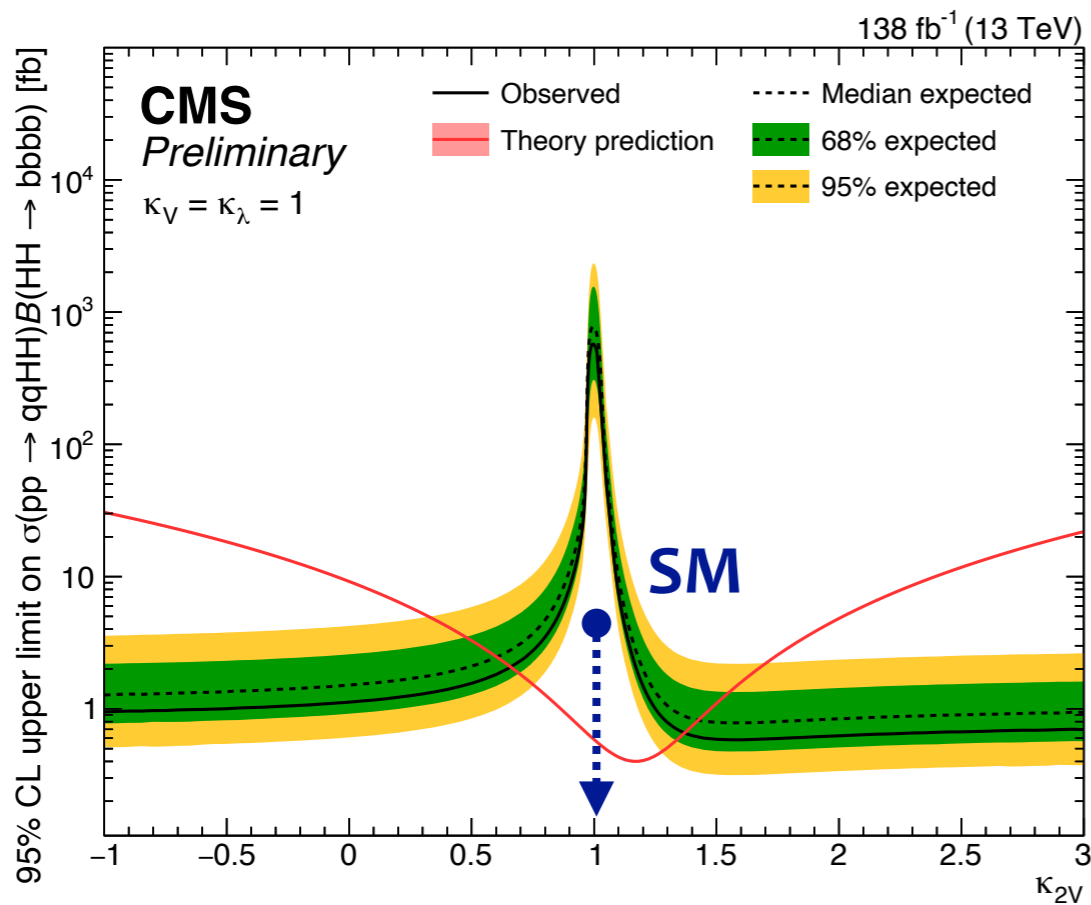


self-coupling  $\kappa_\lambda$  vs Higgs-top coupling  $\kappa_t$

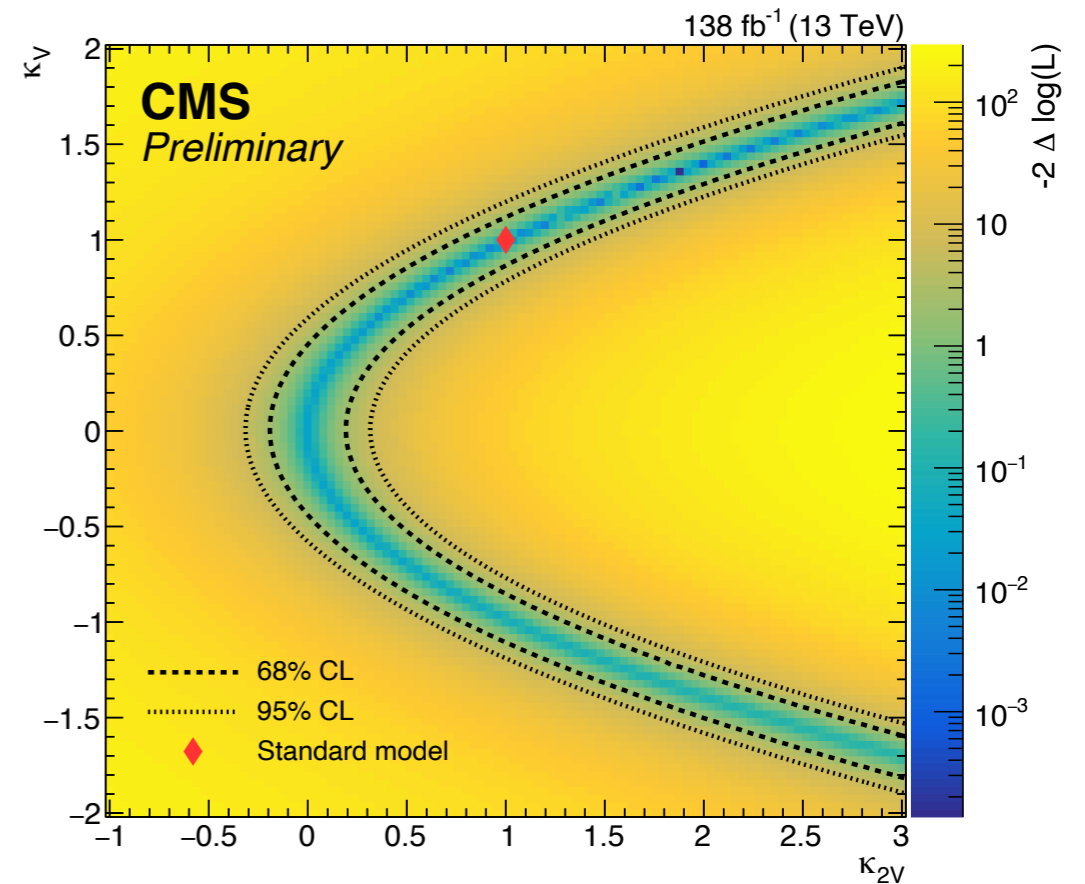
- Early Run 2 results focused on ggF production in the context of EFT using the three most sensitive channels:  $bbbb$ ,  $bb\tau\tau$ ,  $bb\gamma\gamma$  with non-boosted topology:
  - Still far to be sensitive to SM process:  $\sigma^{HH}/\sigma_{SM}^{HH} < 7.3$  (10 exp.)
- **VBF HH → 4b** also targets the extreme kinematic of  $\kappa_{2V} \neq 1$ 
  - Two boosted  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidates (two large-R jets)
  - VBF topology,  $t\bar{t}$  and QCD bkg discriminated with convolutional NNs



CMS-PAS-HIG-20-005  
CMS-PAS-B2G-21-001



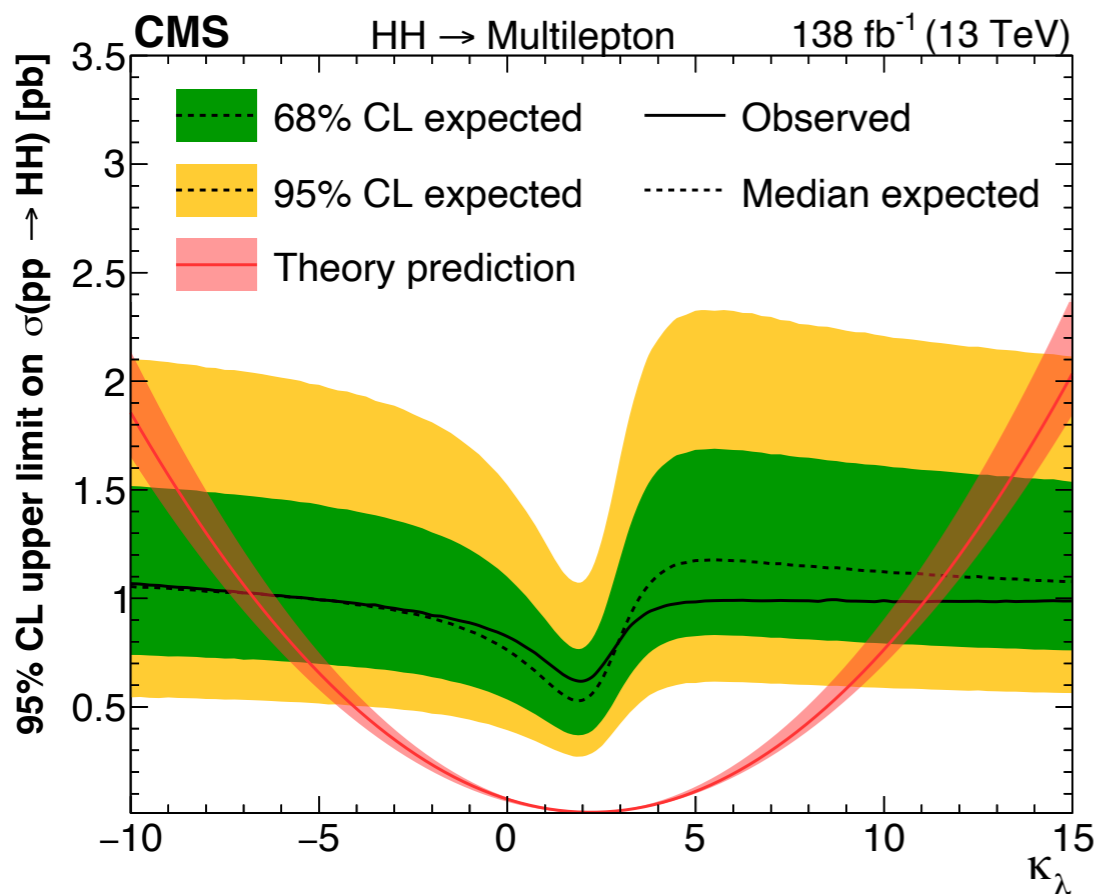
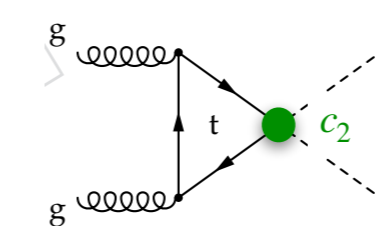
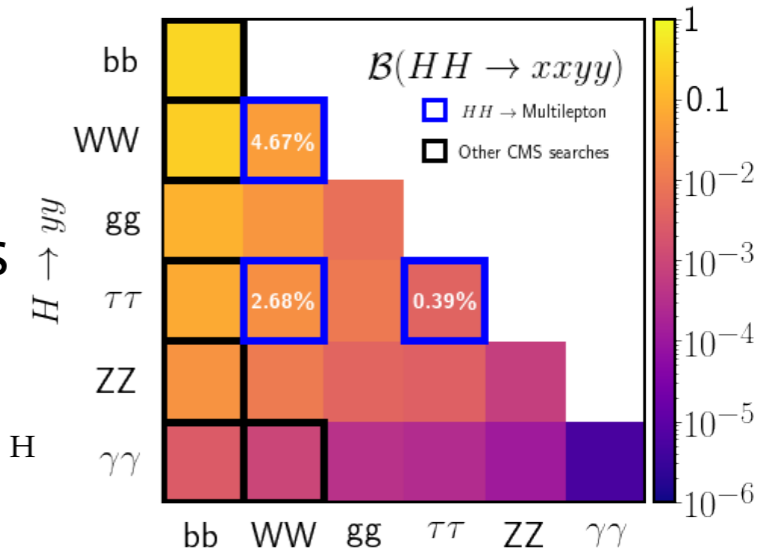
$-0.6 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.4$  @ 95% CL



$\kappa_{2V} \neq 0$  excluded @ >99.99% for  $\kappa_V=1$   
 $0.6 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.4$  @ 95% CL



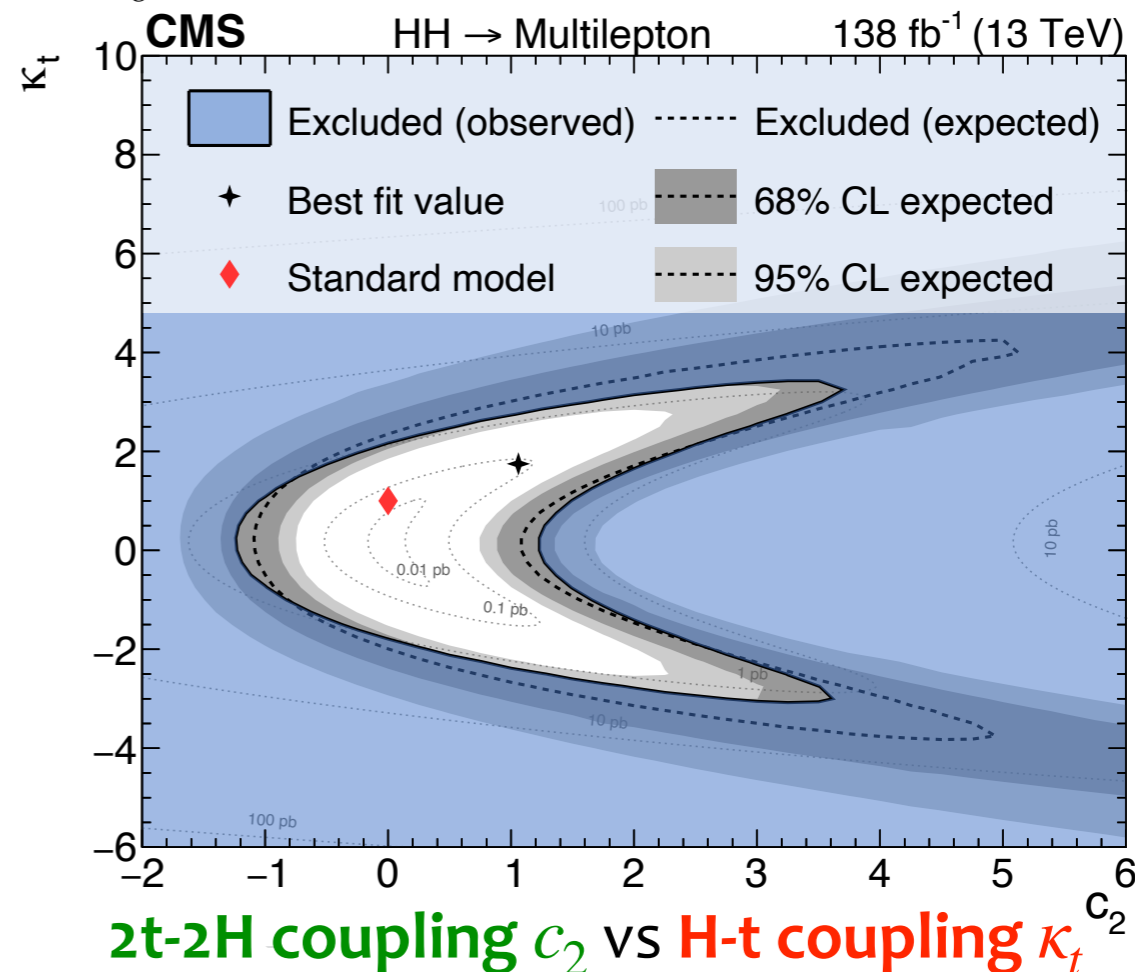
- Double H decays into  $4W, 4\tau, 2W2\tau$  in final states with  $\ell = e, \mu$  and an hadronically decaying  $\tau_h$  cover  $\sim 7.7\%$  of the HH decays
- dedicated categories for 7 channels and 2 CRs
- background estimates from data as ttH multileptons
- Sensitivity  $\approx 20 \times \sigma_{SM}^{HH}$



Constraint on trilinear coupling at 95% CL:

New result  
Jan. 2022

$$-7 < \kappa_\lambda < 11$$



2t-2H coupling  $c_2$  vs H-t coupling  $\kappa_t$