

# Phenomenology of Higgs Bosons in QCD in pp collisions

**Alexander Lind**

**Theory Group Meeting — 20 October 2022**

**A first project...**

**Higgs interference effects  
in top pair production  
at NLO QCD**

with Andrea Banfi, Jonas Lindert, Nikolas Kauer, and Ryan Wood

# What's the landscape?

for BSM physics

Since 2012:  
“The Higgs has been found...  
now what's next??”

No signs of  
new physics  
beyond the  
Standard Model

Collider physics  
is going into  
a precision era



A Higgs observing  
ATLAS for a change

# Precision

## Large datasets:

LHC Run 2:  $139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

LHC Run 3:  $300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

HL-LHC:  $3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

## Lepton colliders:

FCC-ee

## Large reduction in experimental uncertainties:

Electron/muon uncertainties: permille level

JES: sub-percent level

B-tagging uncertainty: sub-percent level

And cool Machine Learning now

**Challenge for  
Theory/MC community:**

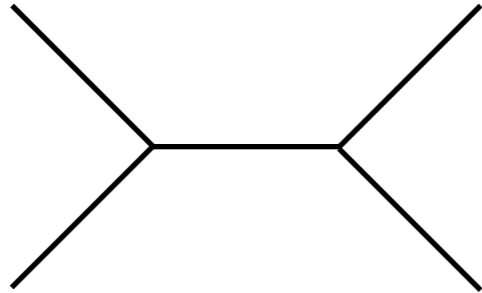


Need for ever  
increasing precision

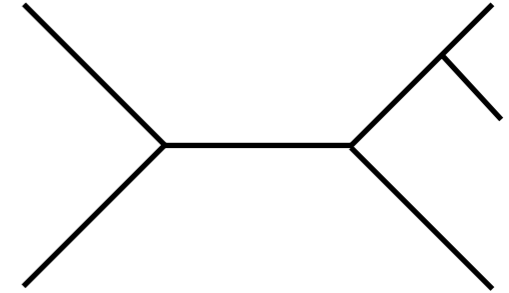
# Next-To-Leading Order (NLO)

Theoretical precision: Higher orders in the hard scattering matrix element

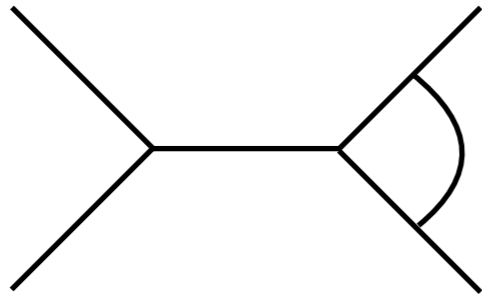
**Tree level  
(Born / LO):**



**Real emission:**



**One-loop  
(Virtual):**



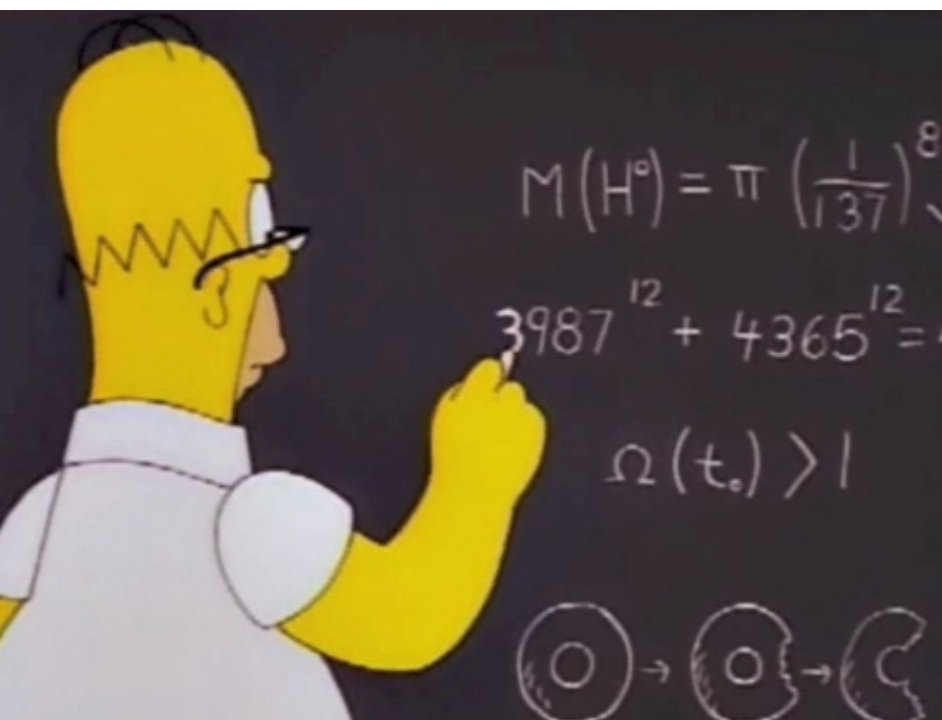
$$\sigma_{\text{NLO}} = \sigma_{\text{B}} + \sigma_{\text{R}} + \sigma_{\text{V}}$$

NLO necessary for most processes  
in particular Higgs production

$$\sigma_{\text{LO}}(pp \rightarrow H + X) = 14.541(7) \text{ pb},$$

$$\sigma_{\text{NLO}}(pp \rightarrow H + X) = 35.11(2) \text{ pb},$$

Even NNLO can give sizable corrections  
but 2-loop is highly non-trivial



# Divergences

$$\sigma_{\text{NLO}} = \sigma_{\text{B}} + \sigma_{\text{R}} + \sigma_{\text{V}}$$

Infrared  
(soft/collinear) divergences

UV divergences

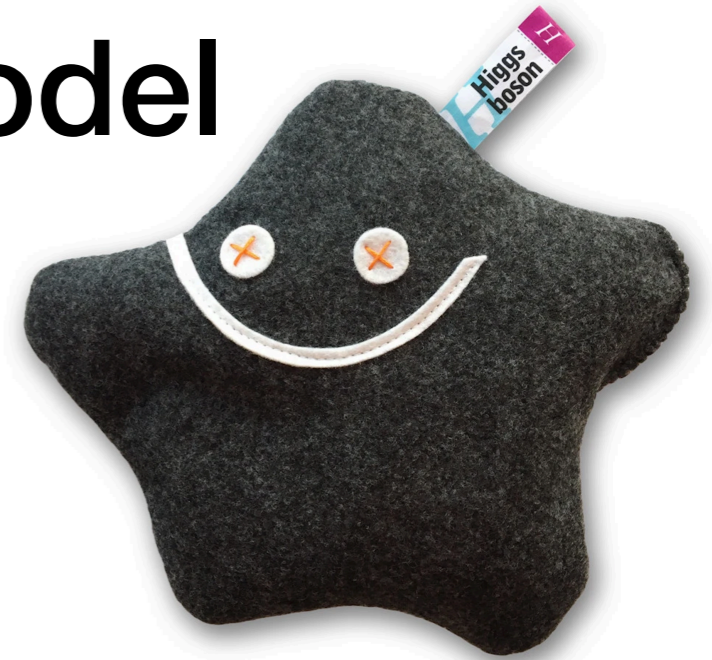
Cancellation (BN / KLN theorems)  
Subtraction of dipoles (Catani-Seymour)

Dim. reg.  
Renormalisation

**Finite**  
in infrared (IR) safe observables

**Finite**

# The 1-Higgs-Singlet model



Add a real singlet scalar field

Potential after EW symmetry breaking:

$$V = \frac{\lambda}{4}H^4 + \lambda v^2 H^2 + \lambda v H^3 + \frac{1}{2}M^2 s^2 + \lambda_1 s^4 + \frac{\lambda_2}{2}H^2 s^2 + \lambda_2 v H s^2 + \mu_1 s^3 + \frac{\mu_2}{2}H^2 s + \mu_2 v H s$$

Mixing:

$$h_1 = H \cos \theta - s \sin \theta$$

$$h_2 = H \sin \theta + s \cos \theta$$

Free parameters:

$$M_{h_2}, \theta$$

$$M_{h_1} = 125 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\mu_1 = \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$$

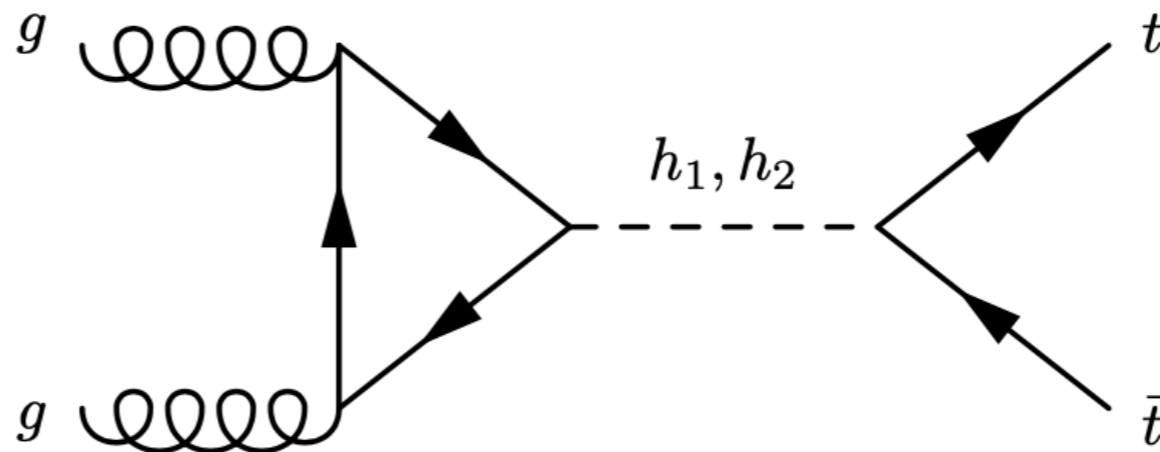
8 benchmark points:

| $M_{h_2}$ [GeV] | 700                        | 1000                       | 1500                       | 3000                       |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| $\theta_1$      | $\pi/15$<br>$\approx 0.21$ | $\pi/15$<br>$\approx 0.21$ | $\pi/22$<br>$\approx 0.14$ | $\pi/45$<br>$\approx 0.07$ |
| $\theta_2$      | $\pi/8$<br>$\approx 0.39$  | $\pi/8$<br>$\approx 0.39$  | $\pi/12$<br>$\approx 0.26$ | $\pi/24$<br>$\approx 0.13$ |

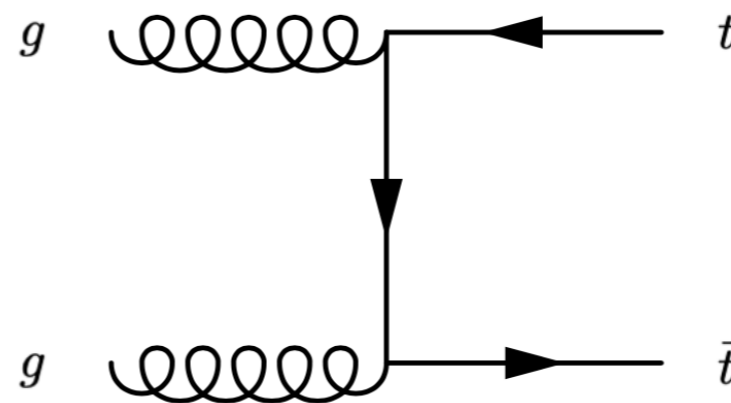
# Process of Interest

$$pp (\rightarrow \{h_1, h_2\}) \rightarrow t\bar{t} + X \quad \text{at NLO}$$

Higgs signal



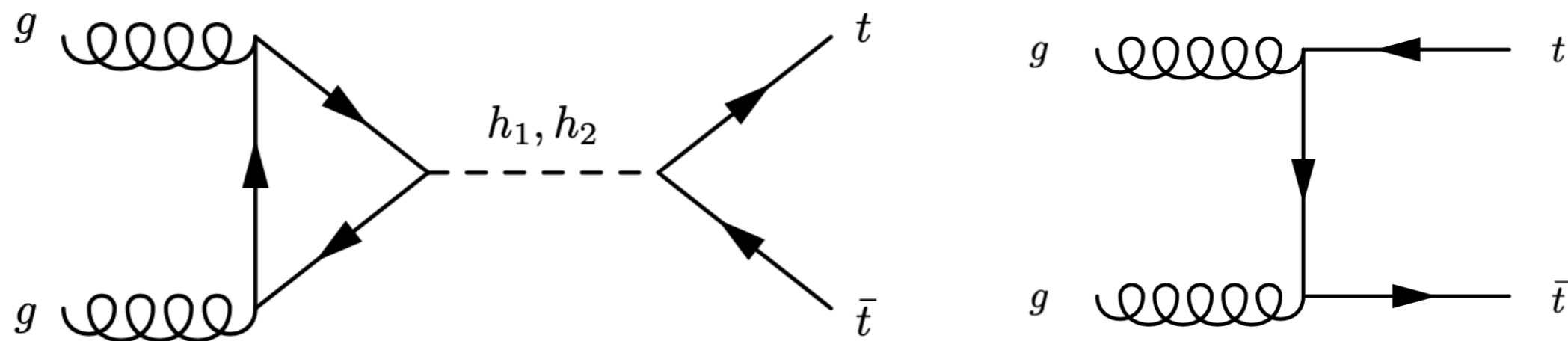
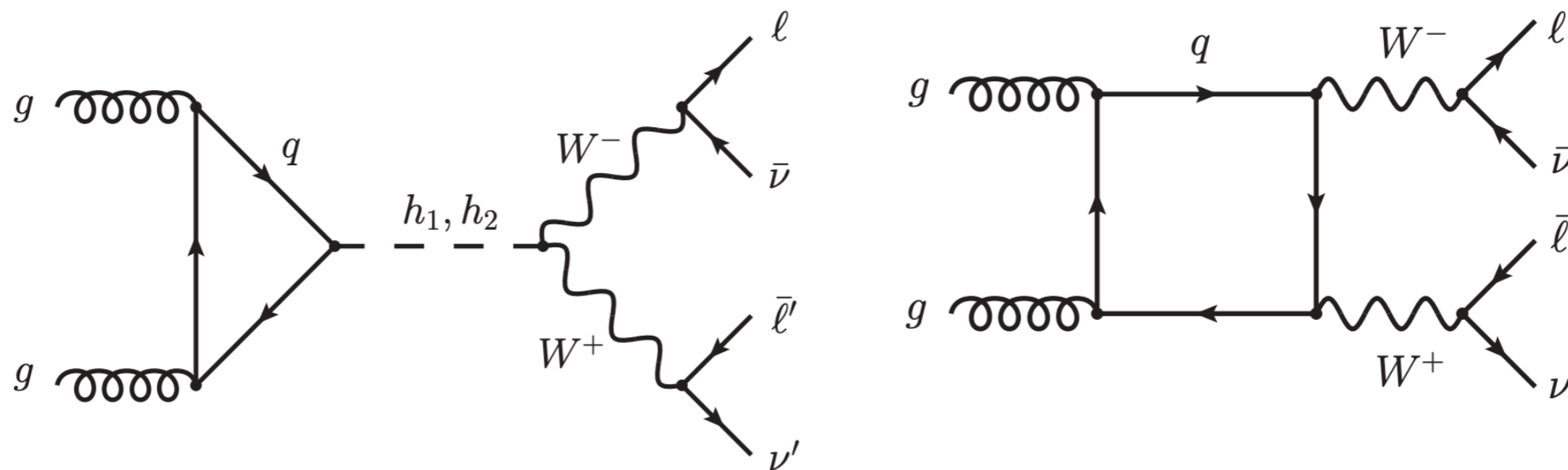
QCD background





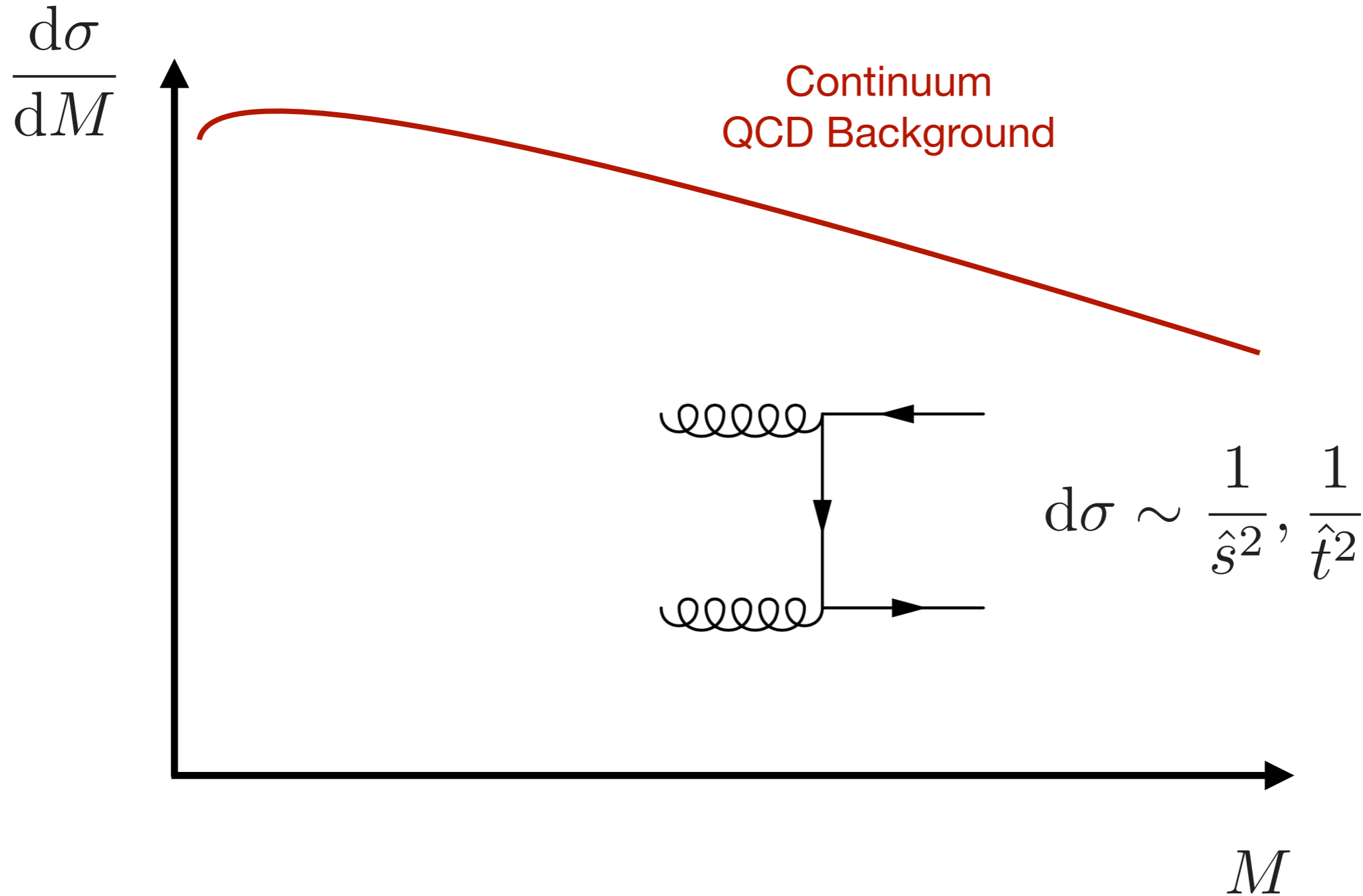
# Alternative to “Bump Hunting”?

Invariant mass spectrum



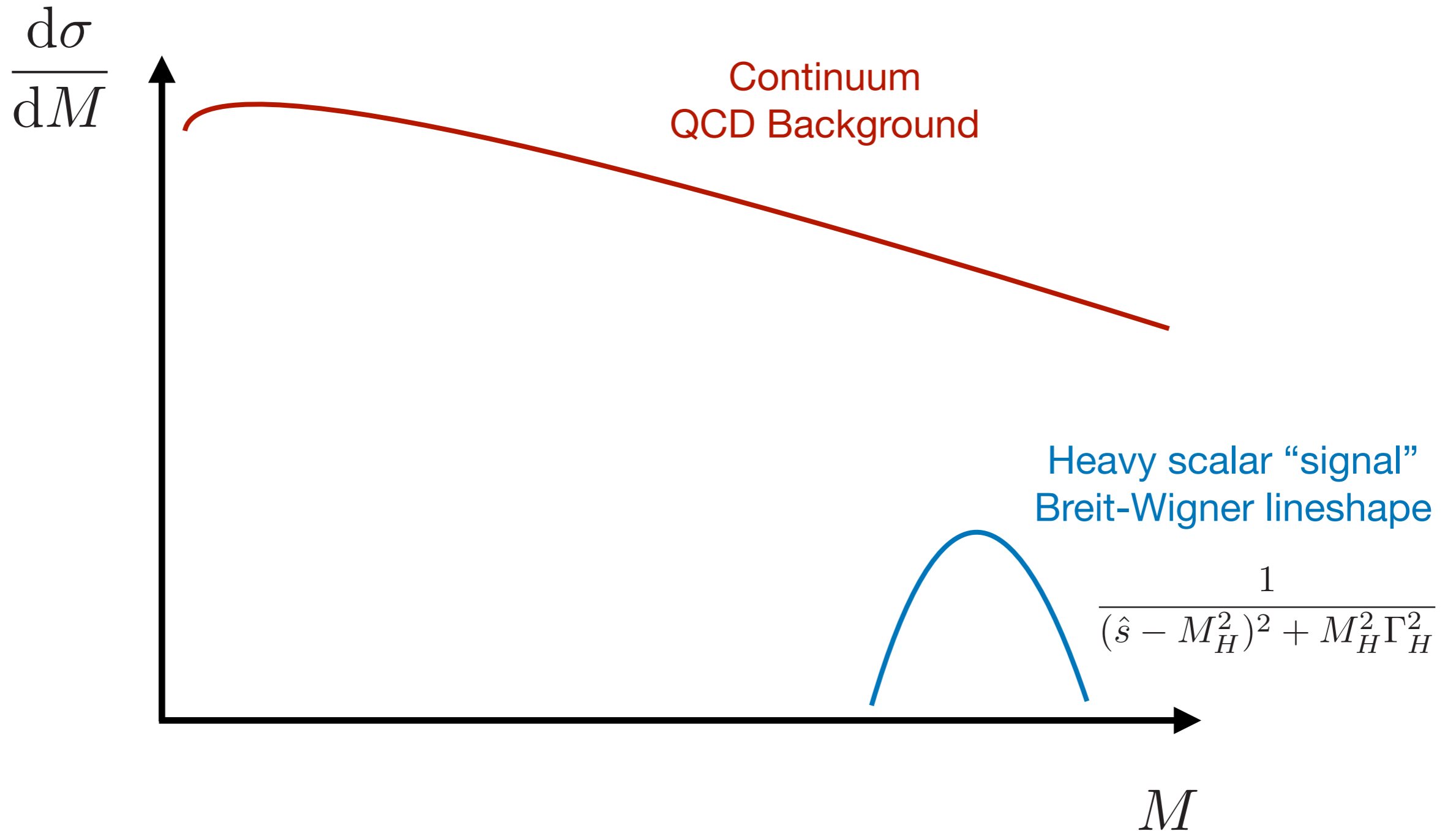
# Alternative to “Bump Hunting”?

Invariant mass spectrum



# Alternative to “Bump Hunting”?

Invariant mass spectrum



# Alternative to “Bump

Invariant mass spectrum

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dM}$$

Continuu  
QCD Backgr

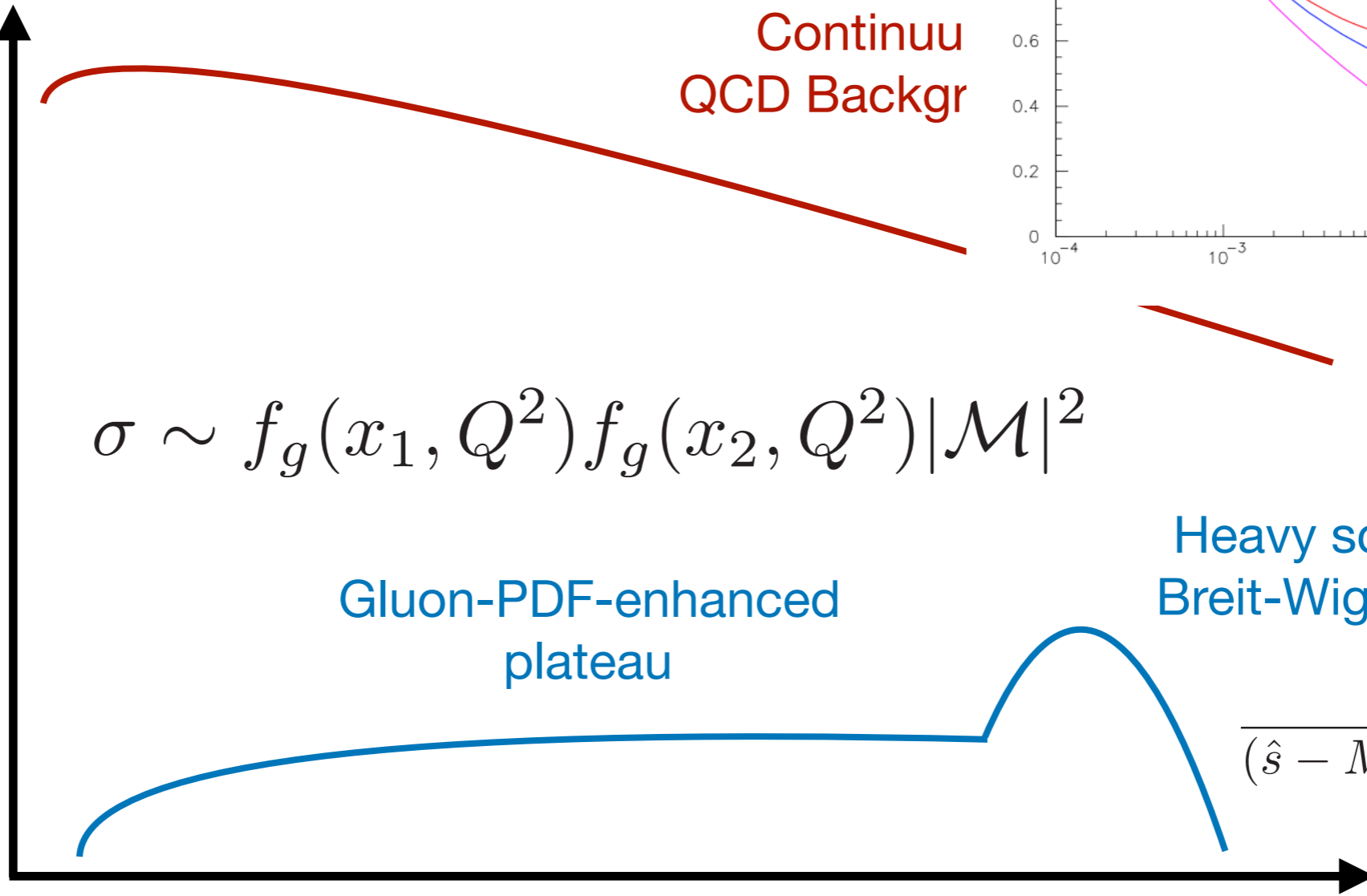
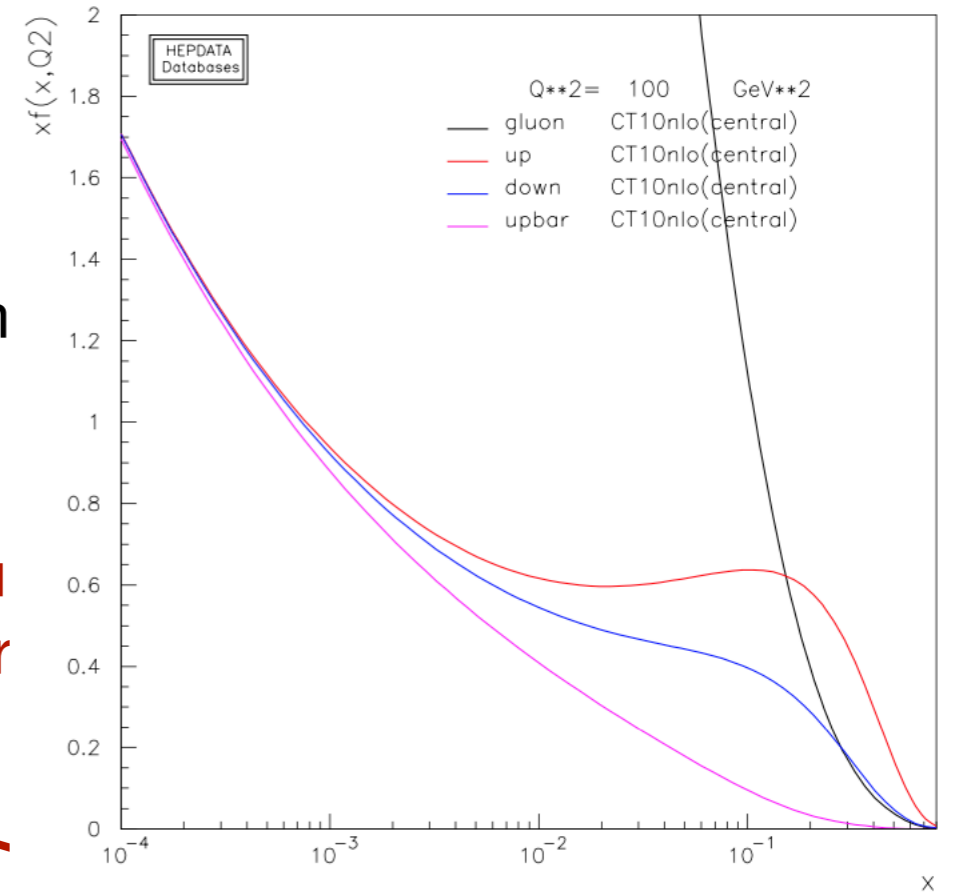
$$\sigma \sim f_g(x_1, Q^2) f_g(x_2, Q^2) |\mathcal{M}|^2$$

Gluon-PDF-enhanced  
plateau

Heavy scalar “signal”  
Breit-Wigner lineshape

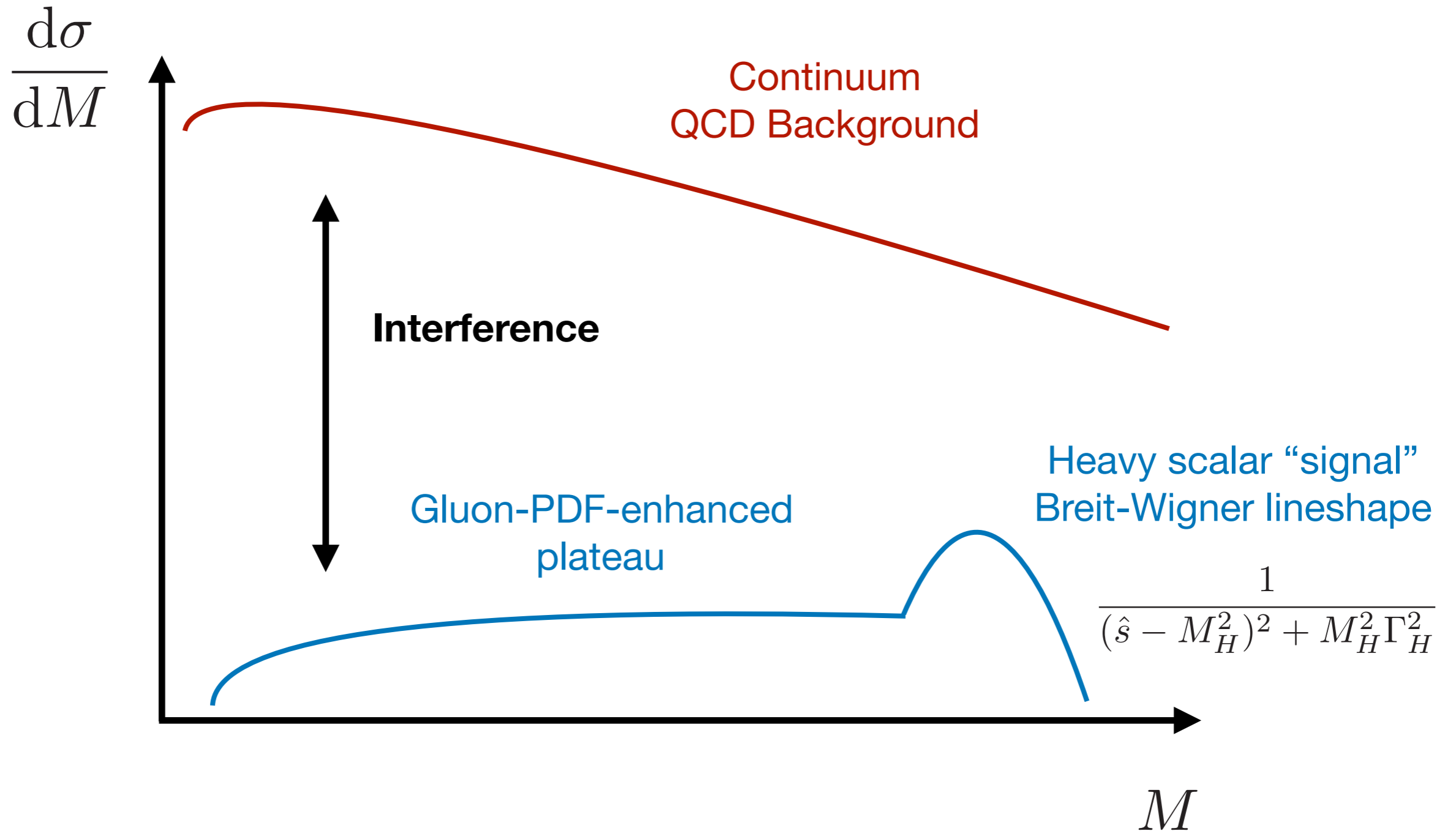
$$\frac{1}{(\hat{s} - M_H^2)^2 + M_H^2 \Gamma_H^2}$$

$M$



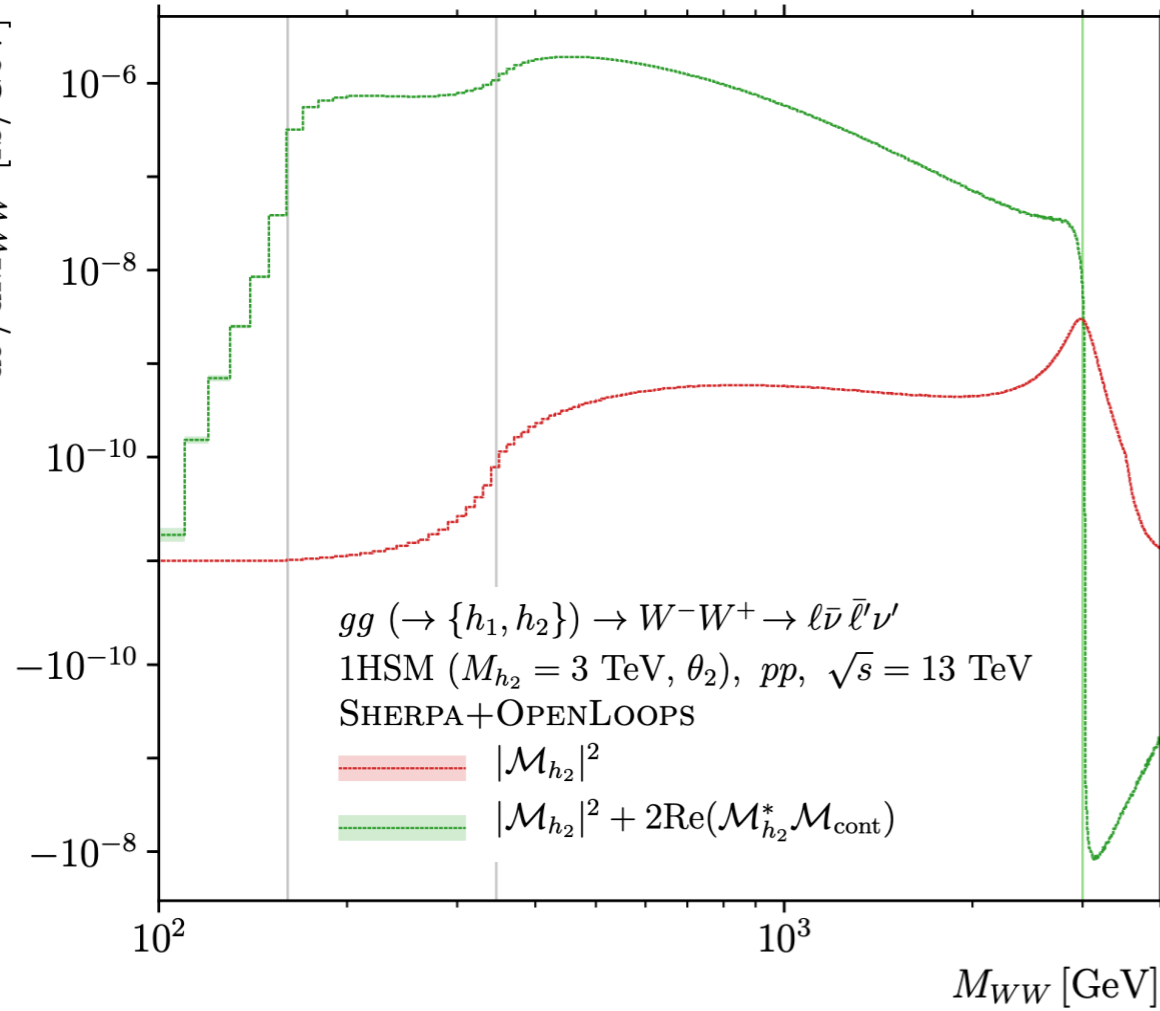
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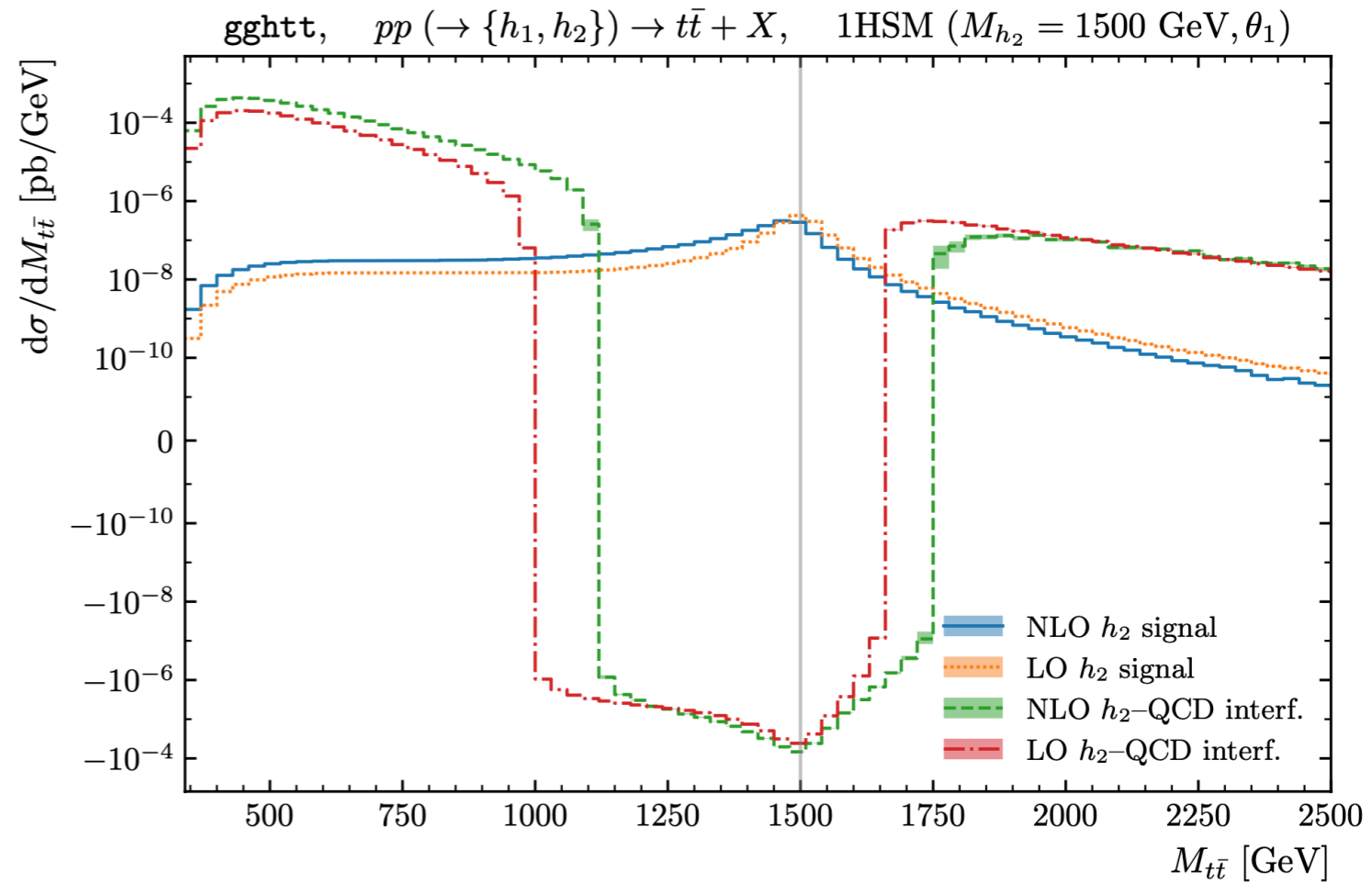
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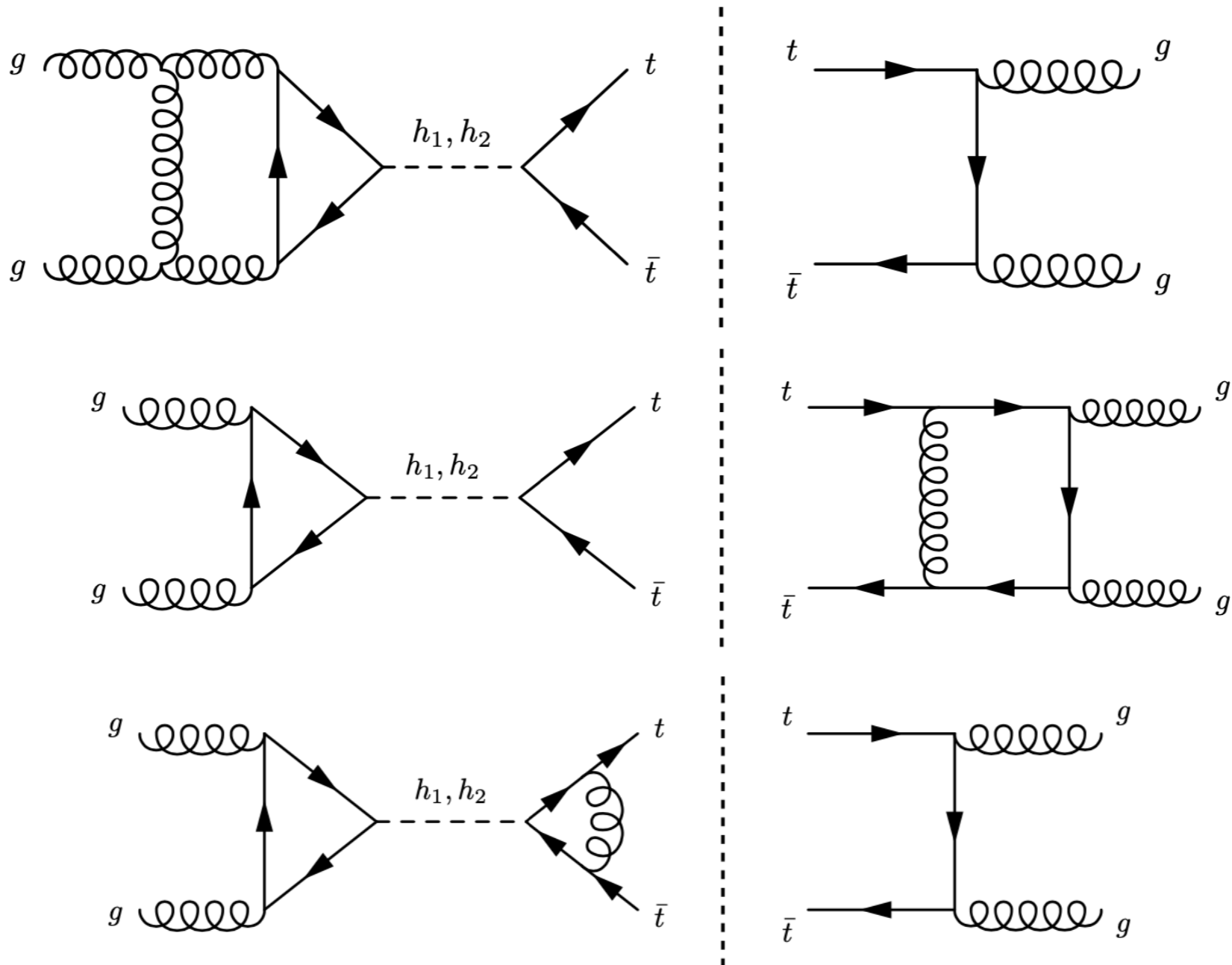
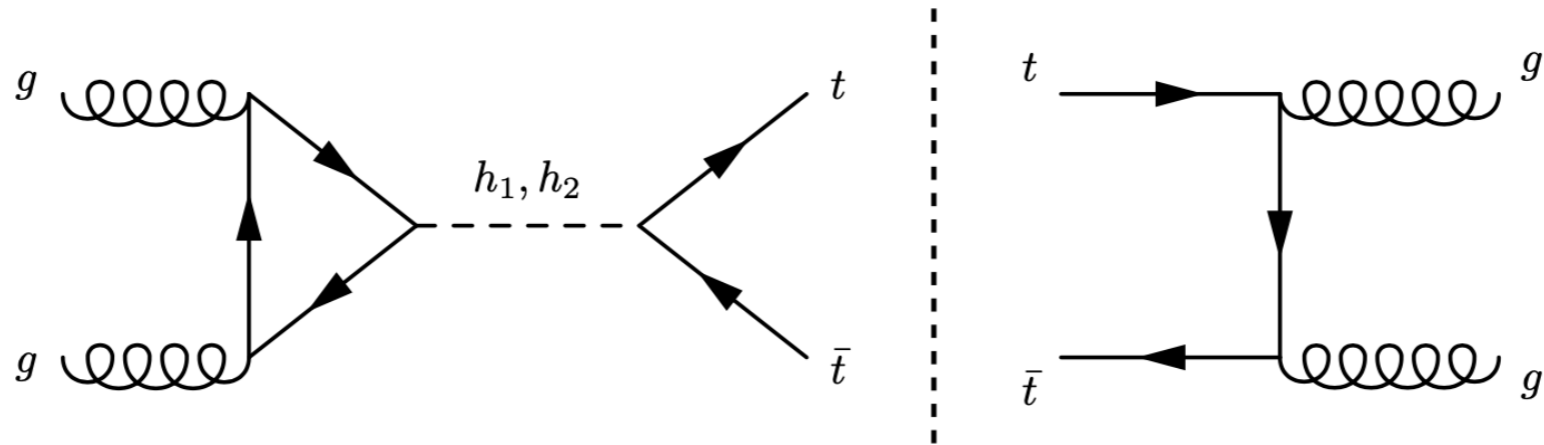
$$d\sigma \sim \frac{1}{(\hat{s} - M_H^2)^2} \sim \frac{1}{M_H^4}$$

$$d\sigma \sim \frac{1}{\hat{s}^2}$$



# NLO QCD Corrections to Interference

LO

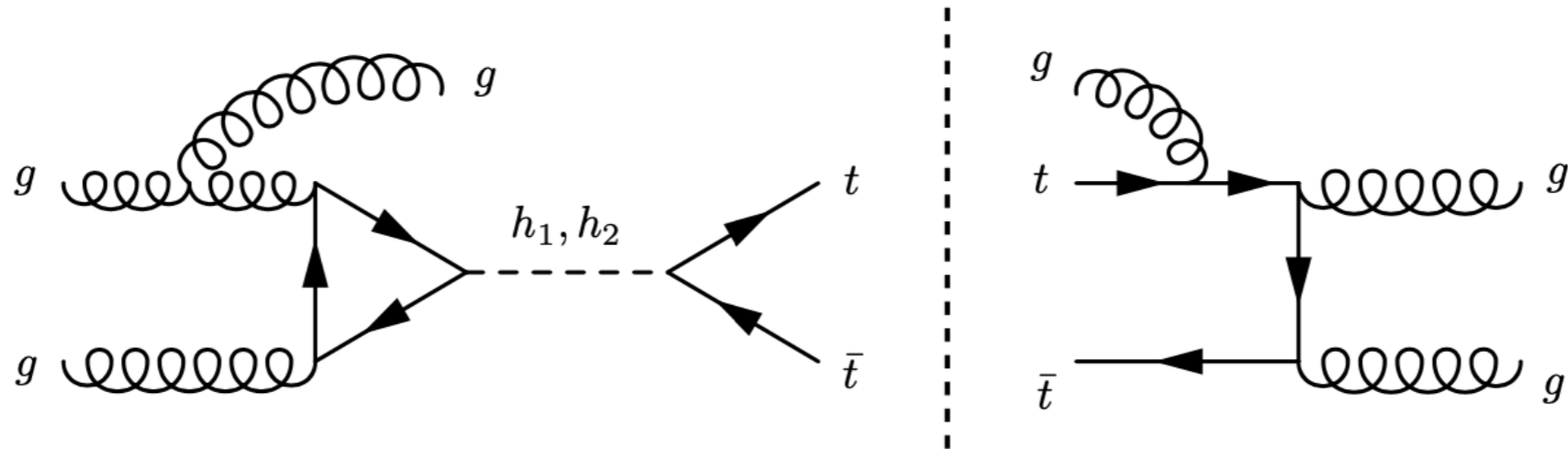


NLO

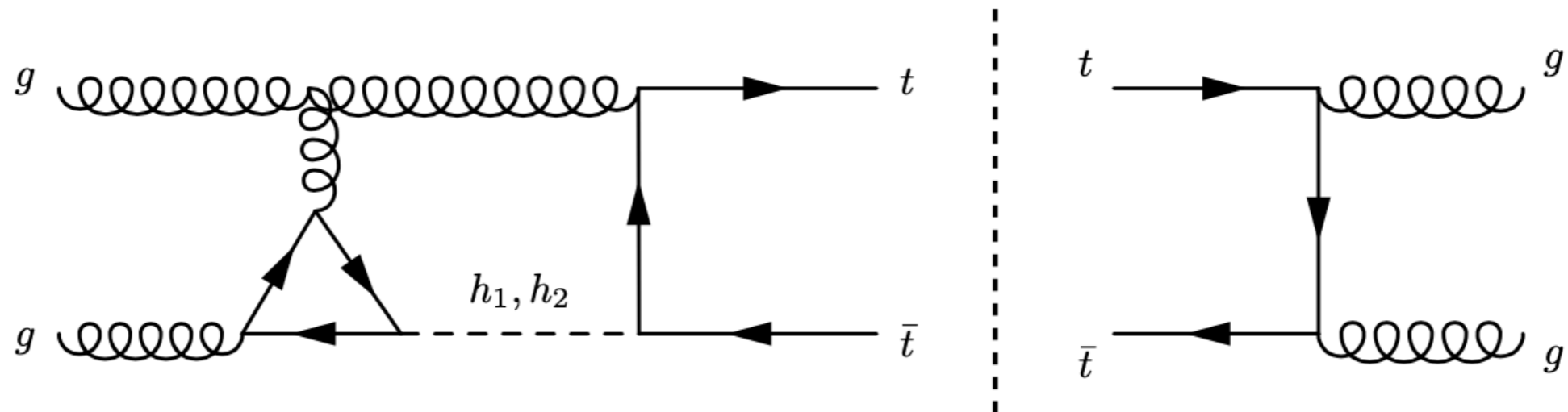
Virtual  
Contributions

# Non-Factorisable Corrections

IR divergent non-factorisable **real** contribution



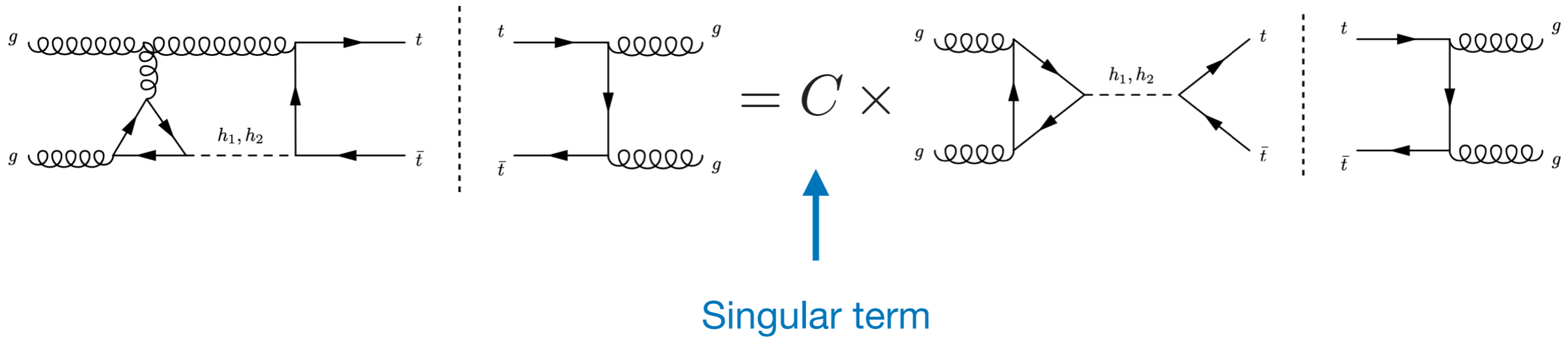
IR divergent non-factorisable **virtual** contribution



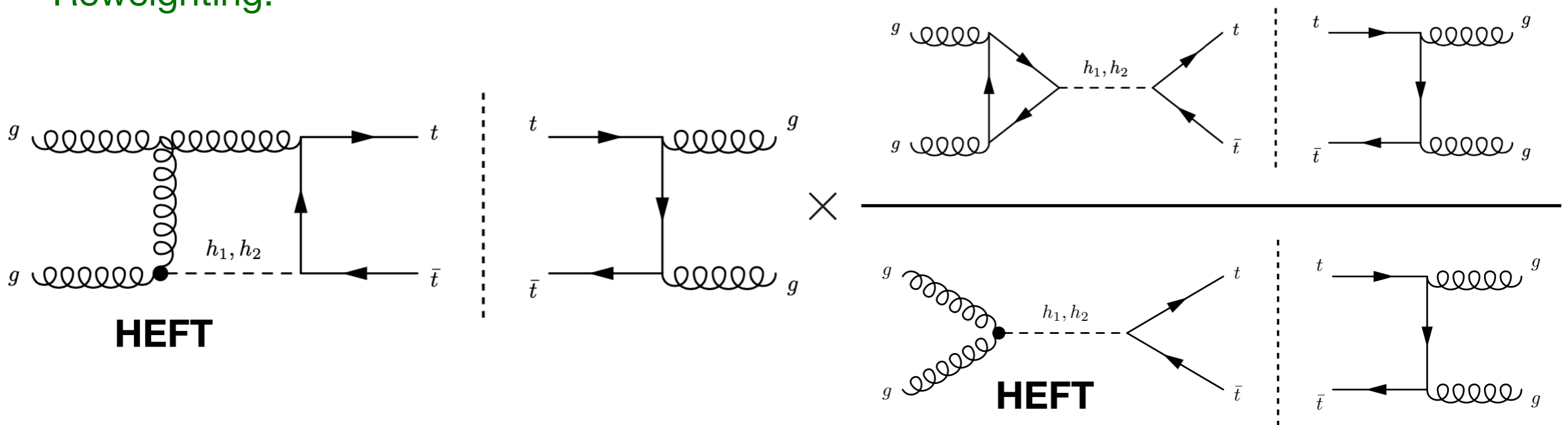


# Non-Factorisable Corrections

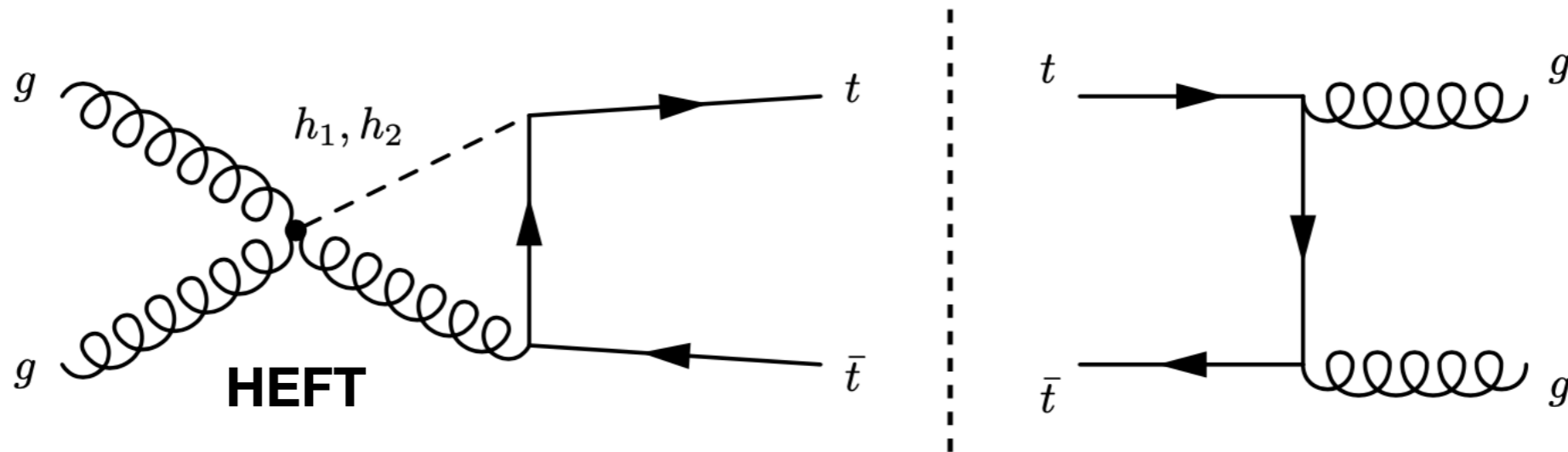
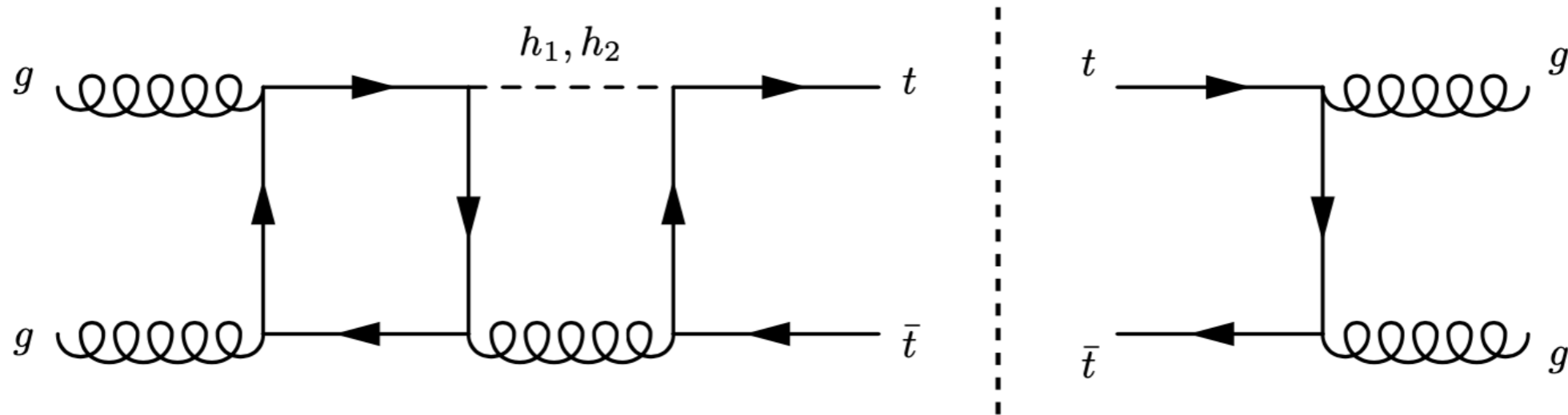
However, in the soft limit:



Reweighting:



# Non-Factorisable Corrections



**HEFT**

Expansion in:  $\frac{\Gamma_H}{M_H}$

# HELAC+OpenLoops

HELAC: Dipole subtraction

OpenLoops: Tree and loop amplitudes

Kaleu: Phase space generation

LHAPDF: PDF sets

**Needed to develop a  
new NLO Monte Carlo  
event generator**

**But no need to reinvent  
the wheel**

Written in “Olde” Fortran

Modified OpenLoops with:

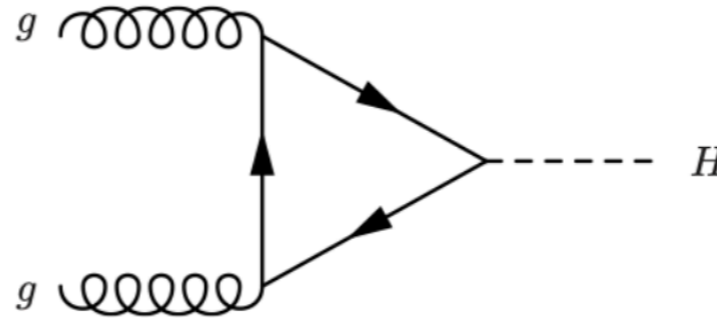
- Interface to get colour correlated helicity amplitudes
- Form factor interface (next slide)
- BSM extensions



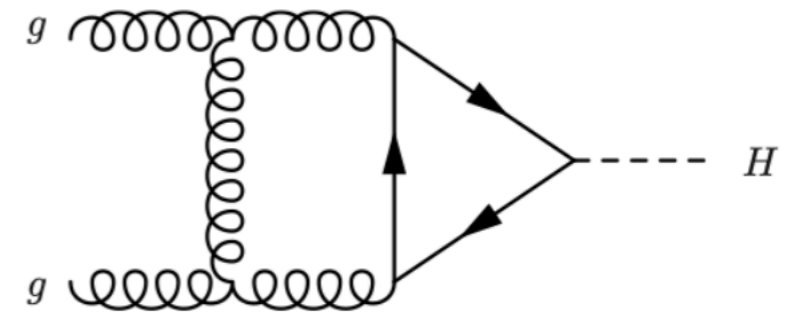
# Form Factors

Gluon-fusion Higgs production:

$$gg \rightarrow H$$



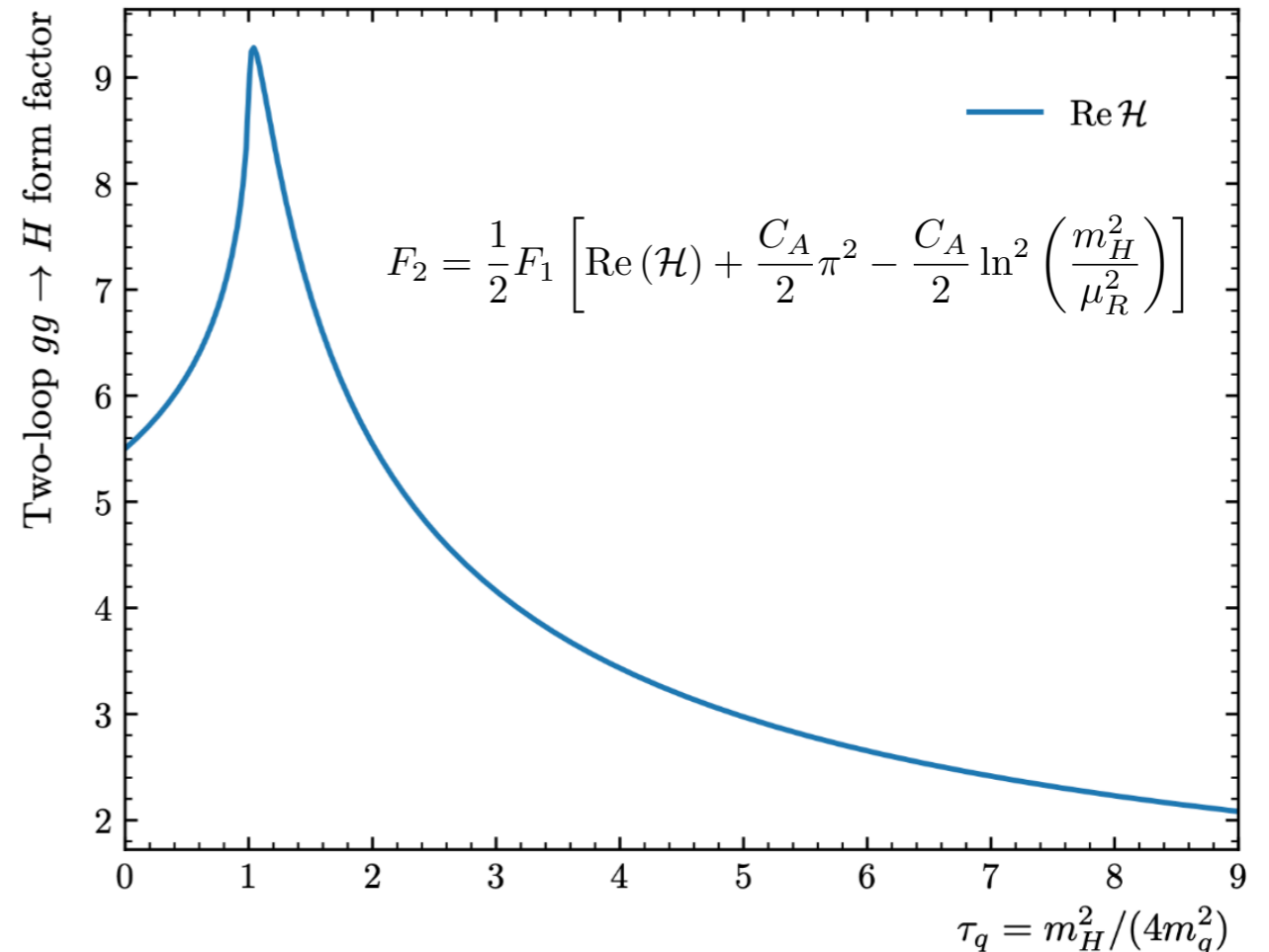
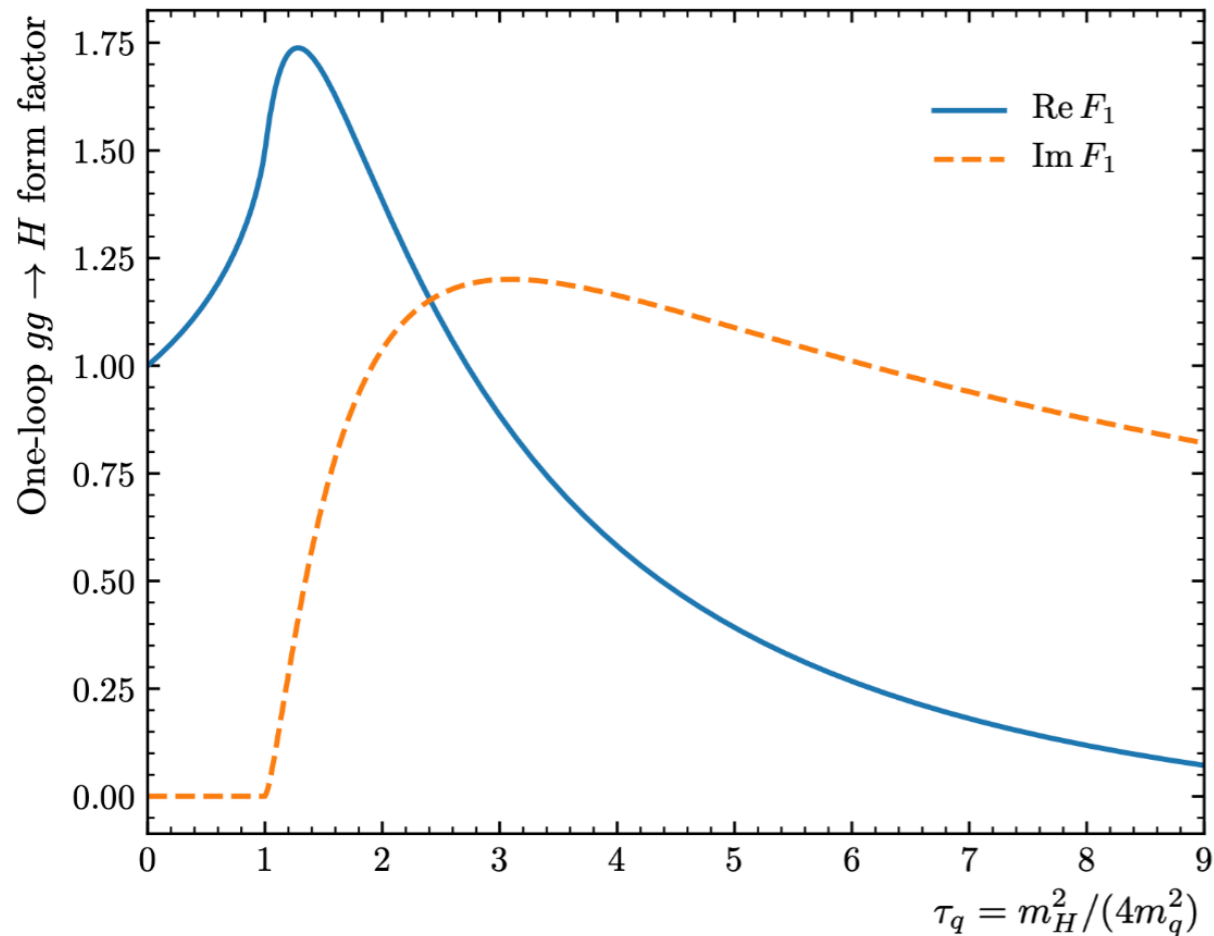
(a) One-loop contribution.



(b) Two-loop contribution.

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{\alpha_s}{3\pi v} F \delta^{ab} (q_1 q_2 g^{\mu\nu} - q_1^\nu q_2^\mu)$$

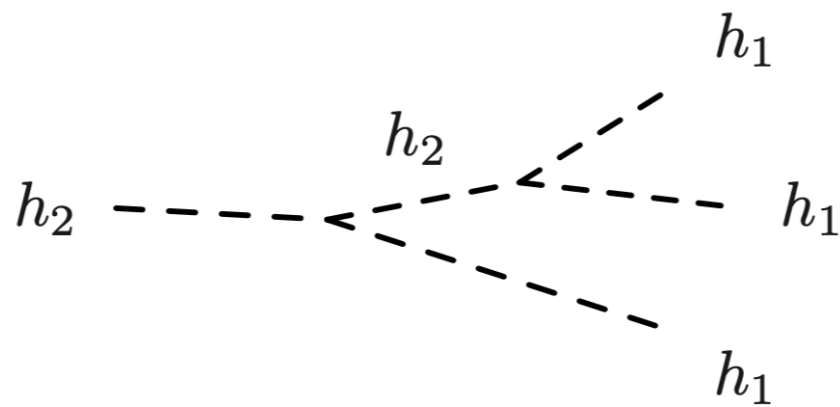
$$F = F_1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} F_2 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$$



# Heavy Higgs Propagator

For one benchmark point:

$$\Gamma_{h_2}/M_{h_2} \sim 0.18$$



Cascaded decays:

$$h_2 \rightarrow 3 \times h_1$$

Circular dependence on decay width

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(p^2) &= \text{Diagram: a shaded circle with two external lines} \\ &= \text{Diagram: a line} + \text{Diagram: a line with a 1PI circle} + \text{Diagram: a line with two 1PI circles} + \dots \\ &= \frac{i}{p^2 - m_0^2} + \frac{i}{p^2 - m_0^2} [-i\Sigma(p^2)] \frac{i}{p^2 - m_0^2} + \dots \\ &= \frac{i}{p^2 - m_0^2 - \Sigma(p^2)}. \end{aligned}$$

Exact scalar propagator:

Optical Theorem  
On-shell approx.

Breit-Wigner approximation:

$$\Pi(p^2) = \frac{i}{p^2 - m_0^2 - \Sigma(p^2)}$$



$$\Pi(p^2) \sim \frac{i}{p^2 - m^2 + im\Gamma}$$

$$2 \text{Im} \left( a \rightarrow \text{Diagram: shaded circle} \rightarrow a \right) = \sum_f \int d\text{LIPS}_f \left| a \rightarrow \text{Diagram: shaded circle} \rightarrow f \right|^2$$

$$\text{Im} \Sigma(p^2 = m^2) = -m\Gamma$$

# Results

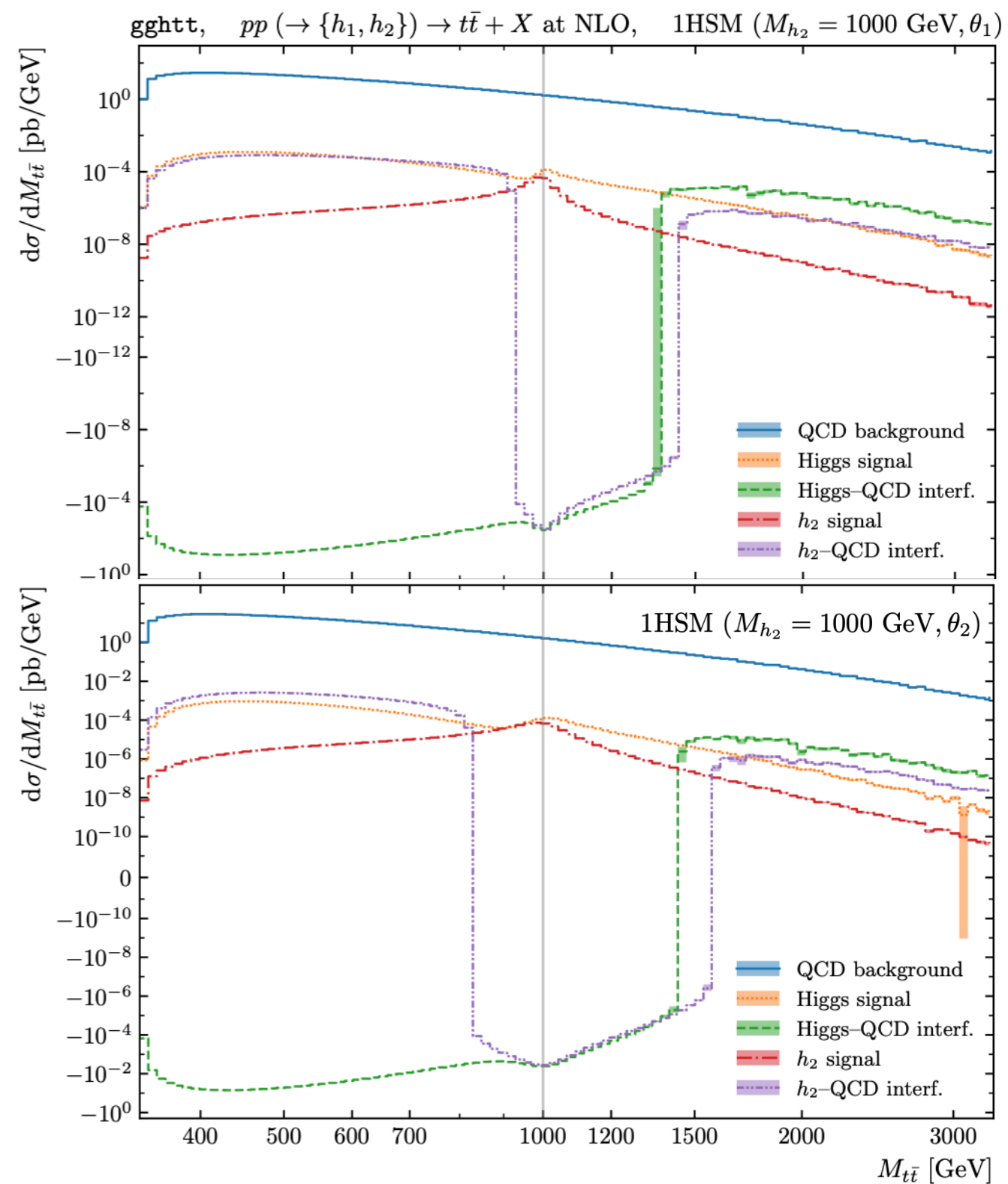
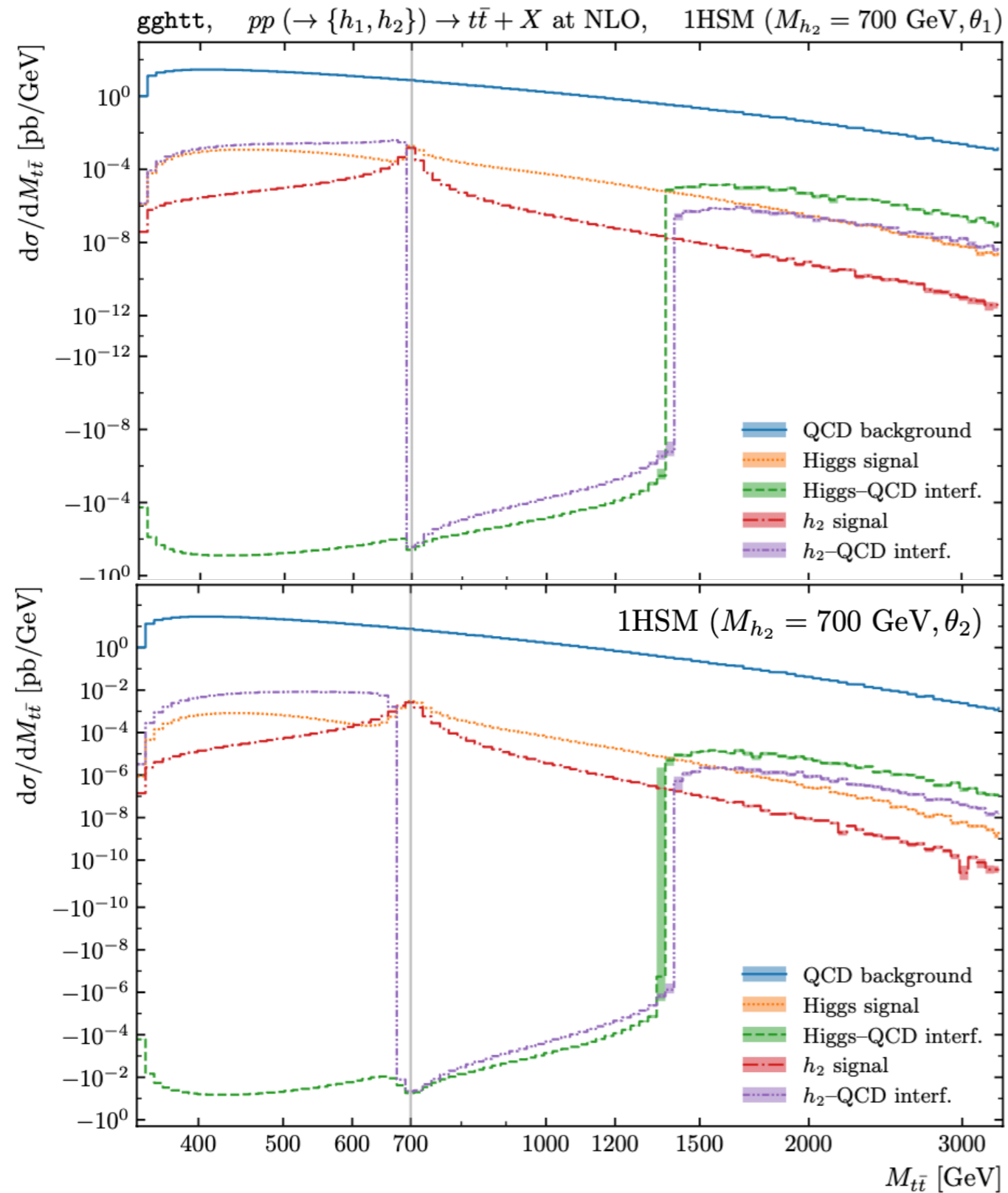
## Integrated cross-sections

| $pp (\rightarrow \{h_1, h_2\}) \rightarrow t\bar{t} + X$ in the SM, $pp$ , $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV   |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |           |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| SM   | Higgs signal               |                            | QCD background             |                            | Interference               |           |
|  | $\sigma_{\text{NLO}}$ [pb] | $K$                        | $\sigma_{\text{NLO}}$ [pb] | $K$                        | $\sigma_{\text{NLO}}$ [pb] | $K$       |
|  | 0.030971(3)                | 1.6512(2)                  | 675.23(4)                  | 1.5965(1)                  | -1.5865(2)                 | 2.1807(2) |
| $pp (\rightarrow \{h_1, h_2\}) \rightarrow t\bar{t} + X$ in the 1HSM, $pp$ , $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |           |
| 1HSM   | $M_{h_2}$ [GeV]            | Higgs signal               |                            | Higgs-QCD interference     |                            |           |
|  |                            | $\sigma_{\text{NLO}}$ [pb] | $K$                        | $\sigma_{\text{NLO}}$ [pb] | $K$                        |           |
|  | $\theta_1$                 | 700                        | 0.029108(2)                | 1.6234(2)                  | -1.5169(2)                 | 2.1743(3) |
|  |                            | 1000                       | 0.027334(2)                | 1.6459(2)                  | -1.49132(9)                | 2.1579(2) |
|  |                            | 1500                       | 0.029932(3)                | 1.6745(2)                  | -1.5601(2)                 | 2.1926(2) |
|  |                            | 3000                       | 0.030933(3)                | 1.6661(2)                  | -1.5724(1)                 | 2.1719(2) |
|  | $\theta_2$                 | 700                        | 0.027231(2)                | 1.5689(2)                  | -1.3487(2)                 | 2.1383(3) |
|  |                            | 1000                       | 0.020114(2)                | 1.6442(2)                  | -1.30744(8)                | 2.1458(2) |
|  |                            | 1500                       | 0.026519(2)                | 1.6617(2)                  | -1.4796(2)                 | 2.1903(2) |
|  |                            | 3000                       | 0.029772(2)                | 1.6452(2)                  | -1.5673(2)                 | 2.1924(2) |

# Results

## 700 GeV

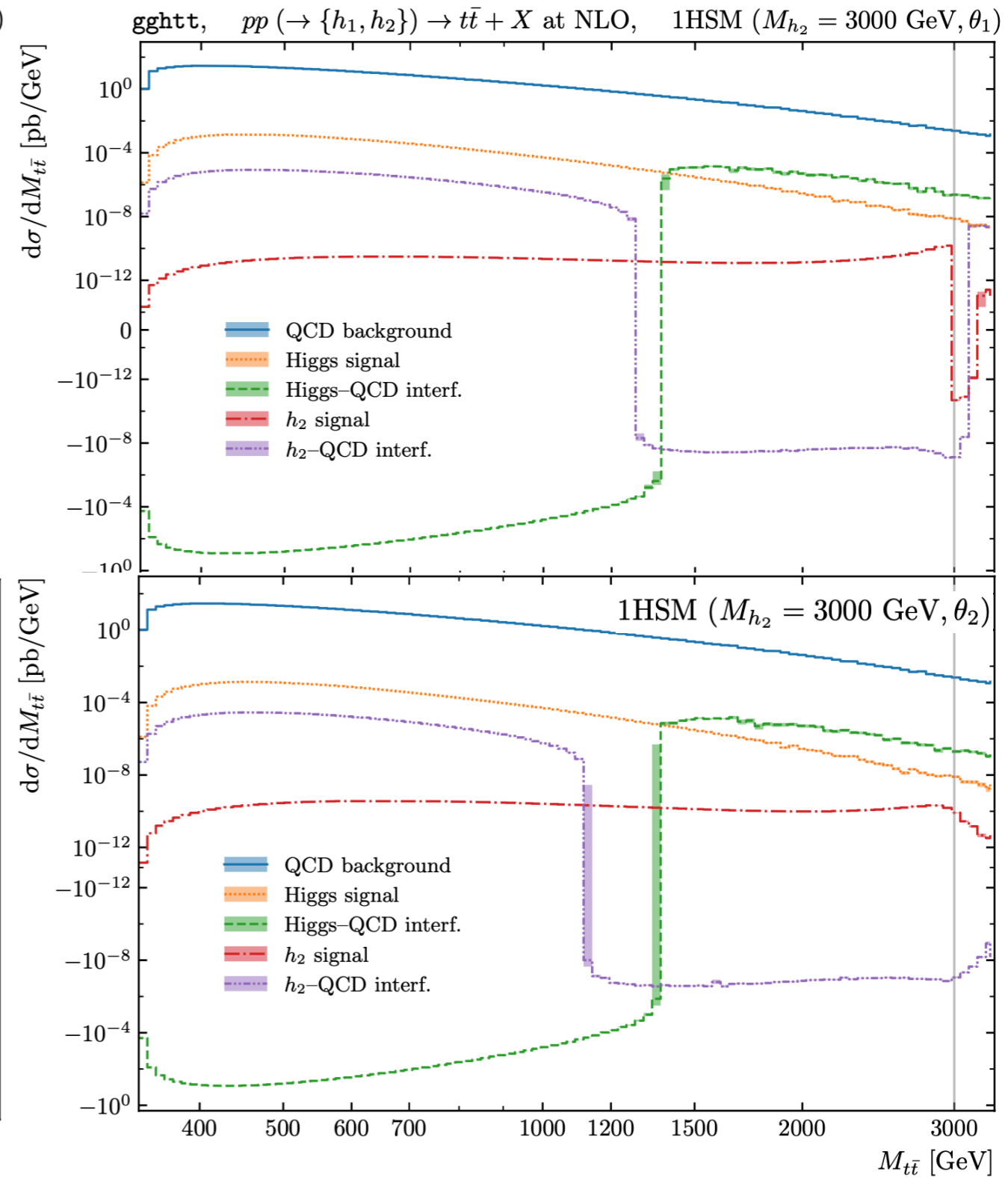
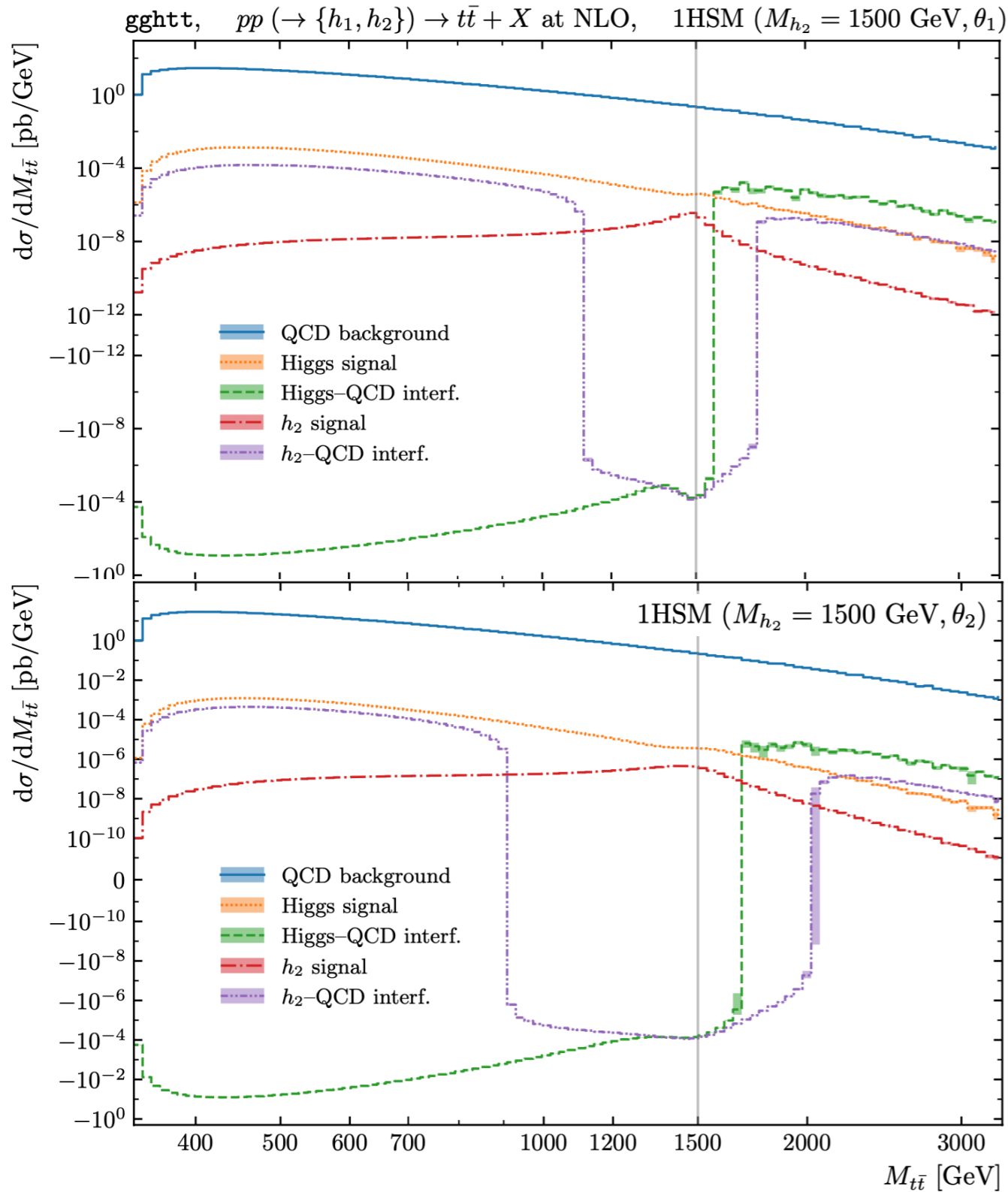
## 1 TeV



# Results

## 1.5 TeV

## 3 TeV





# Results

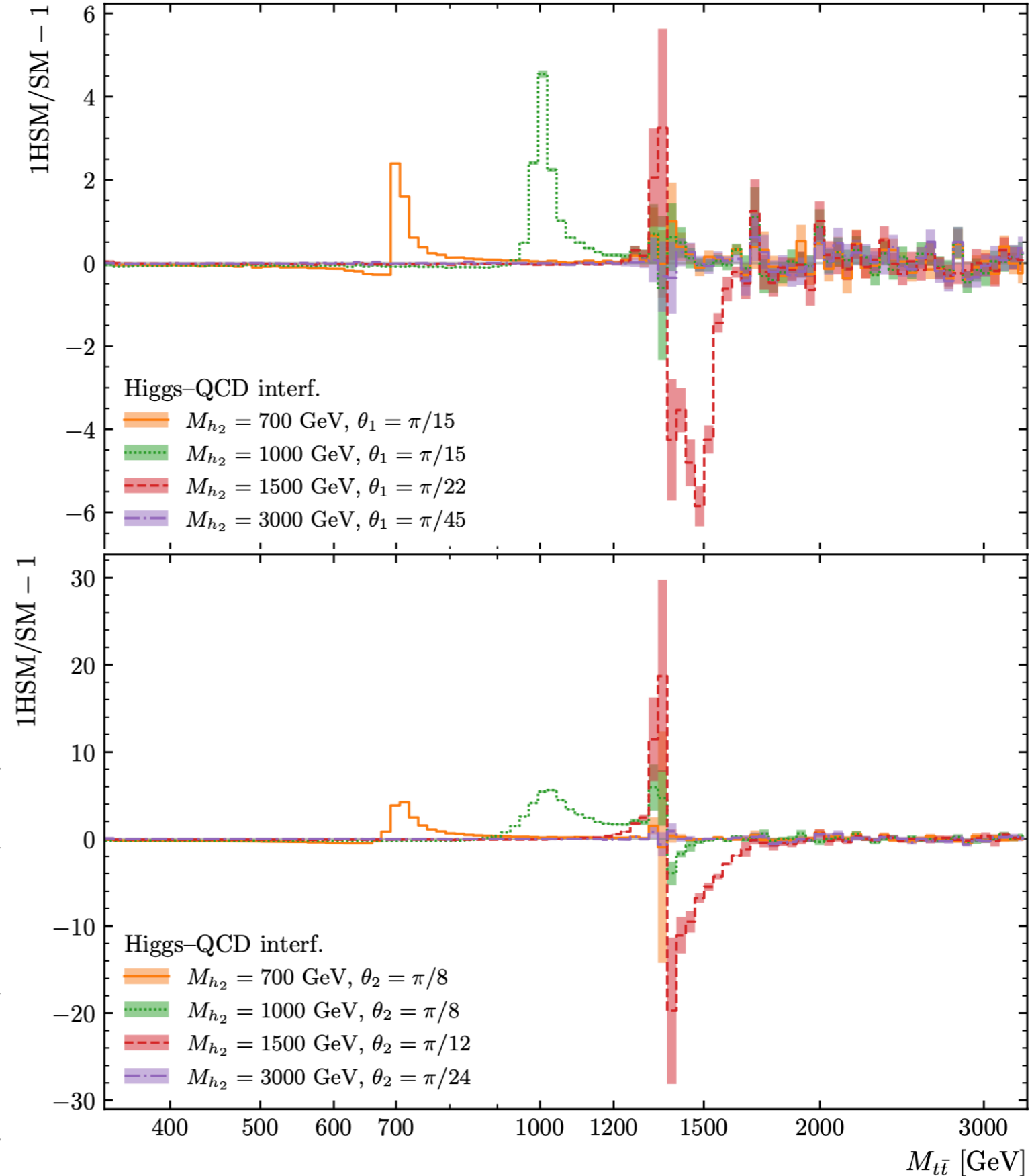
Observed dip structures around heavy resonance mass when considering the 1HSM

Consider mass windows around dipoles

Significance 
$$\frac{S}{\sqrt{B}} = \sqrt{\mathcal{L}} \frac{\sigma_S}{\sqrt{\sigma_B}}$$

|            | $M_{h_2}$ [GeV] | Invariant mass window | Excludable |       |        |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|-------|--------|
|            |                 |                       | Run 2      | Run 3 | HL-LHC |
| $\theta_1$ | 700             | 600–790 GeV           | ✓          | ✓     | ✓      |
|            | 1000            | 900–1115 GeV          | –          | –     | ✓      |
|            | 1500            | 1200–1600 GeV         | –          | –     | –      |
|            | 3000            | 2500–3340 GeV         | –          | –     | –      |
| $\theta_2$ | 700             | 530–870 GeV           | ✓          | ✓     | ✓      |
|            | 1000            | 830–1200 GeV          | –          | ✓     | ✓      |
|            | 1500            | 1050–1800 GeV         | –          | –     | –      |
|            | 3000            | 2100–3340 GeV         | –          | –     | –      |

gg $t\bar{t}$ ,  $pp (\rightarrow \{h_1, h_2\}) \rightarrow t\bar{t} + X$  at NLO, 1HSM ( $\theta_1$ )

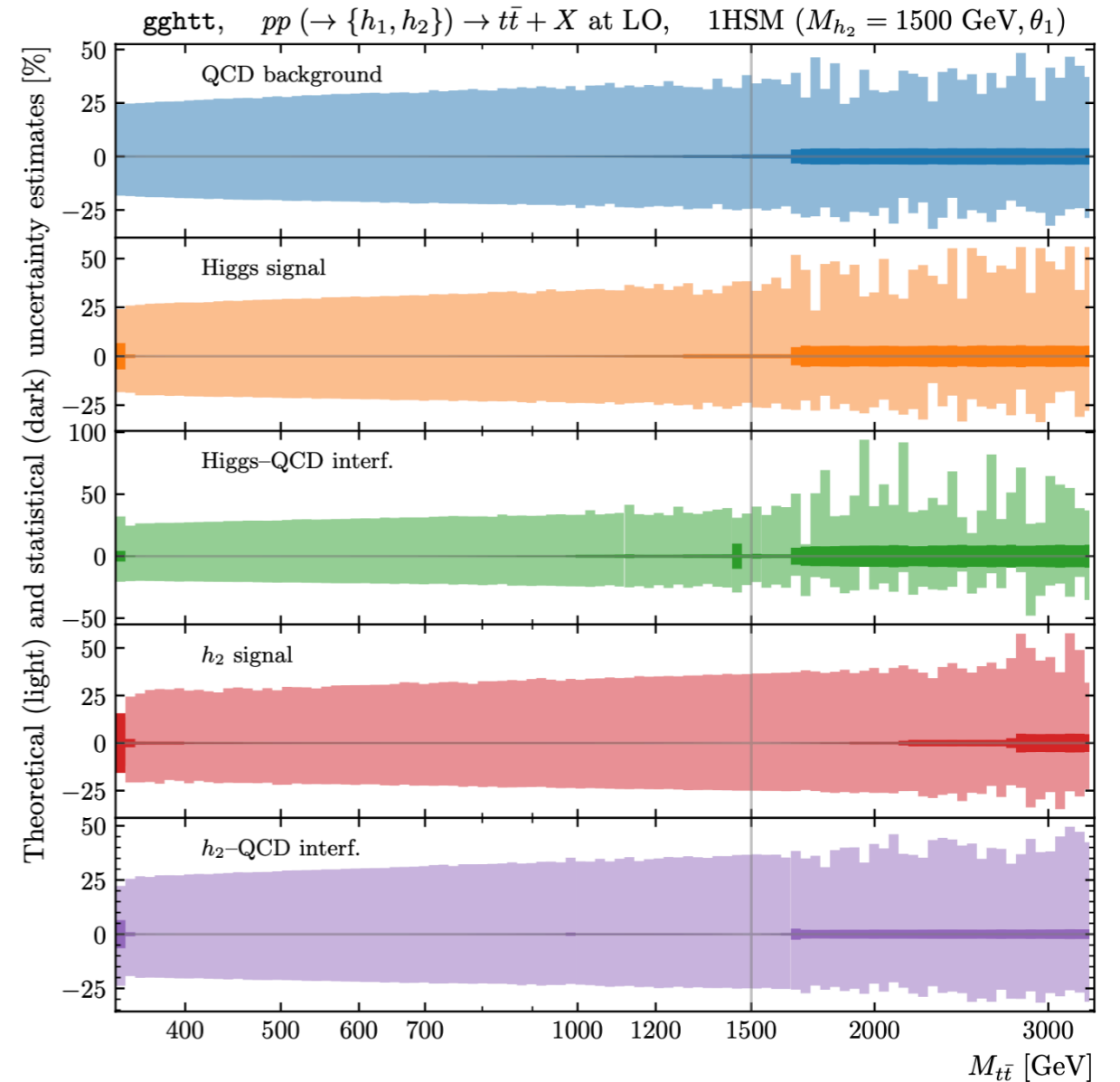
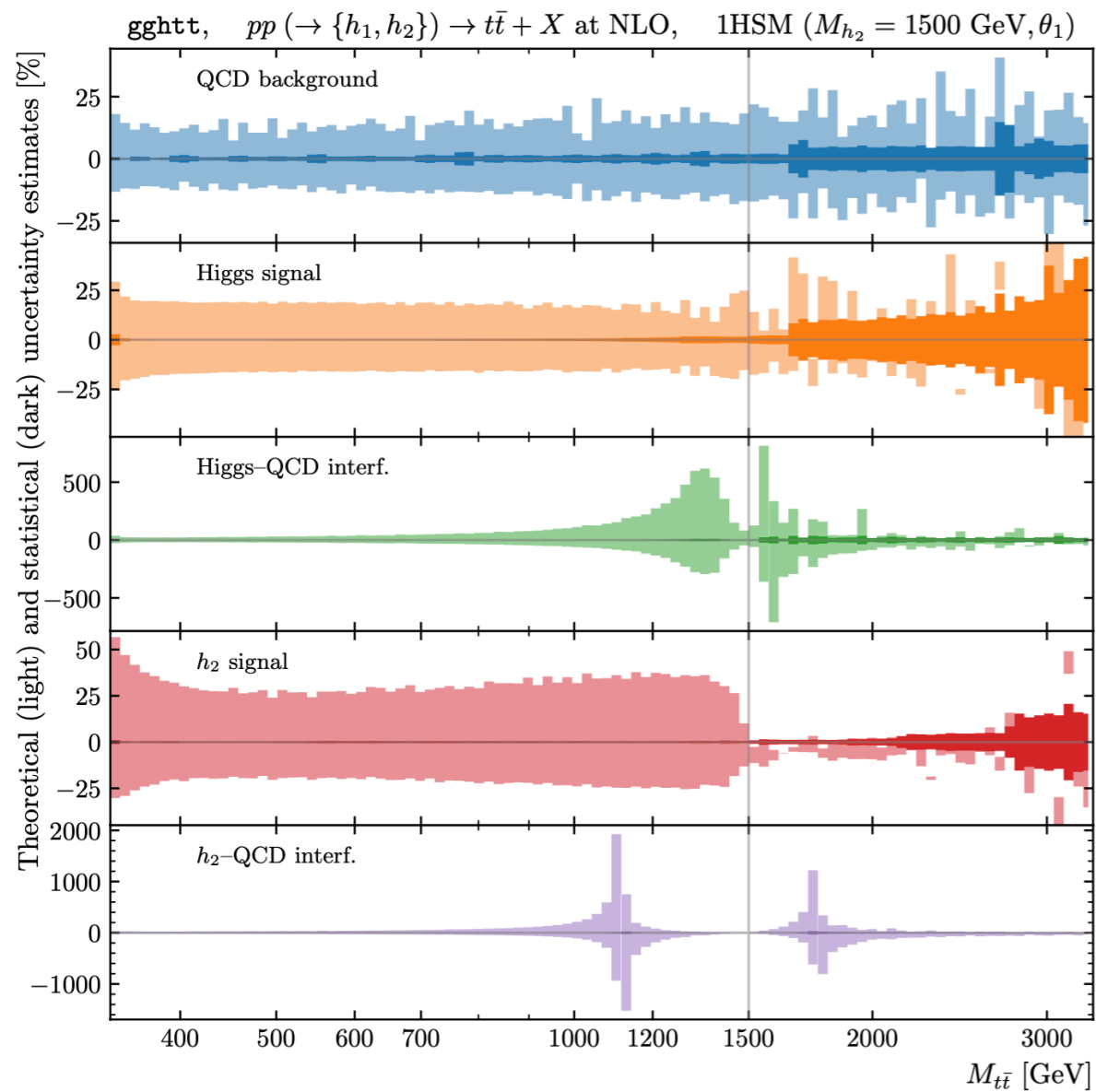


# Scale Uncertainties

$$\mu_R = \mu_F = \{\mu/2, \mu, 2\mu\}, \text{ for } \mu = M_{t\bar{t}}/2.$$

**QCD bg: 12%**

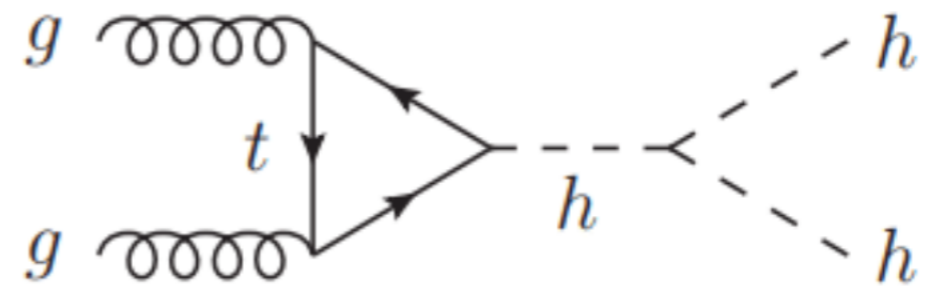
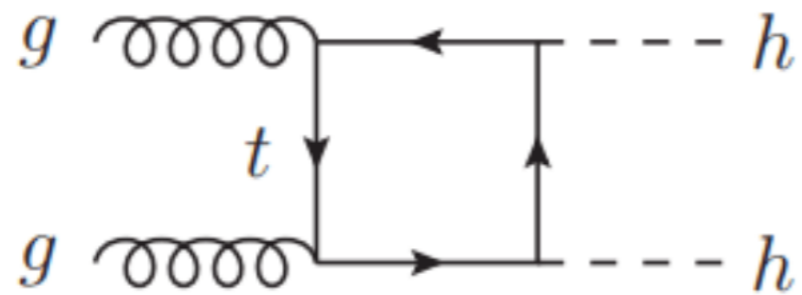
**h2-QCD: 27–42%**



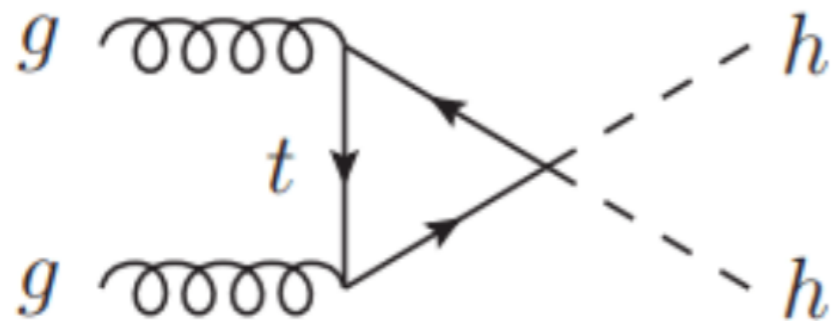
# Generalisation

The code be generalised to work for any loop-induced process

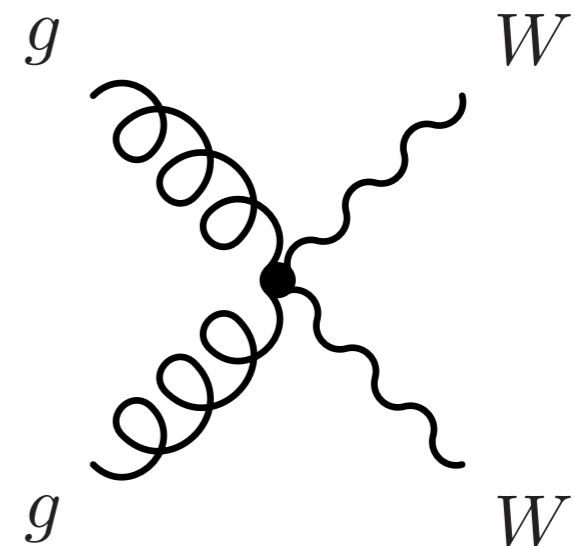
## Double Higgs production



## Effective field theories



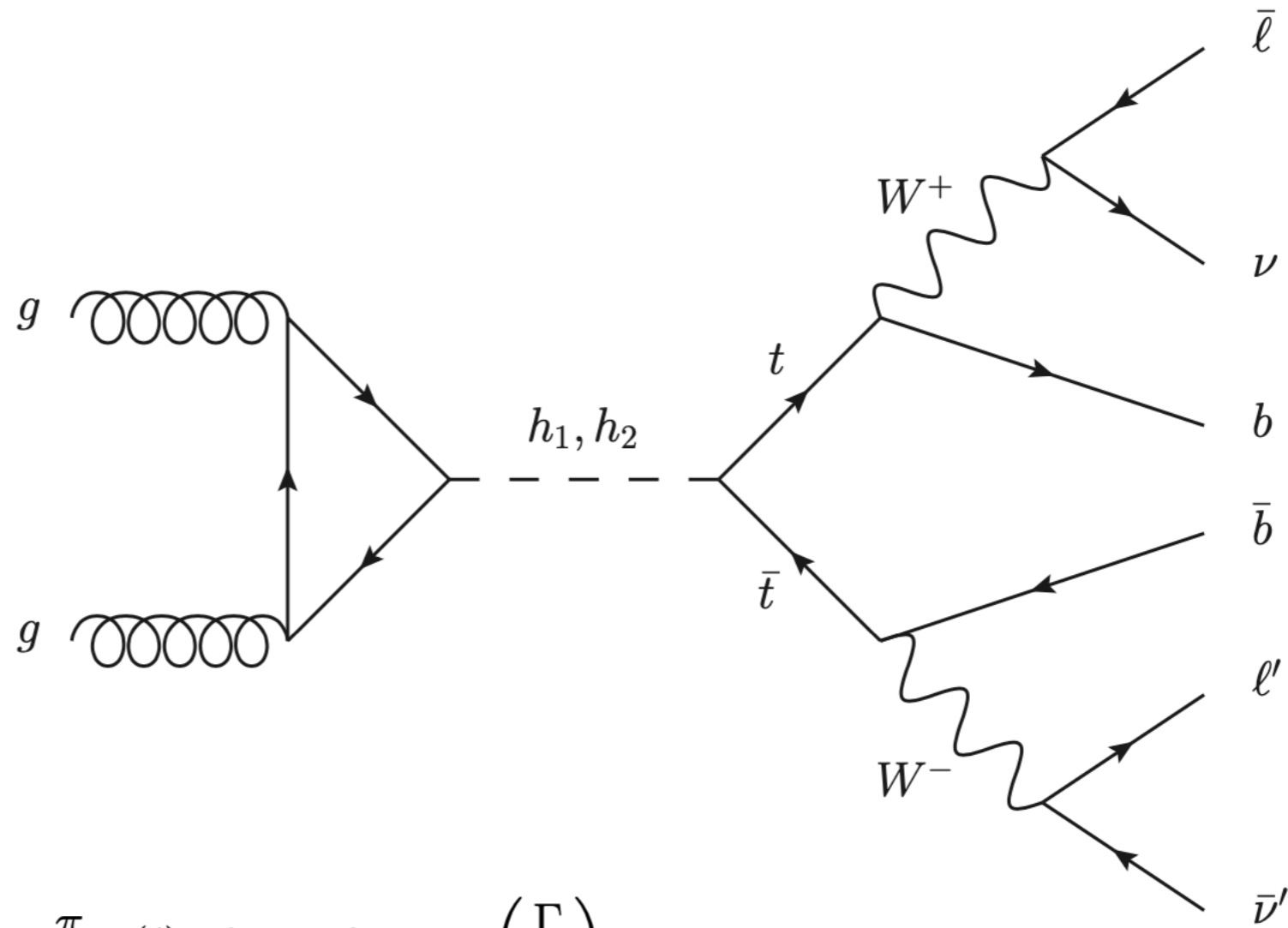
dim-6



dim-8

# Top Decays

We want to consider the full 2 to 6 top decay amplitudes  
with spin correlations  
in the double pole approximation

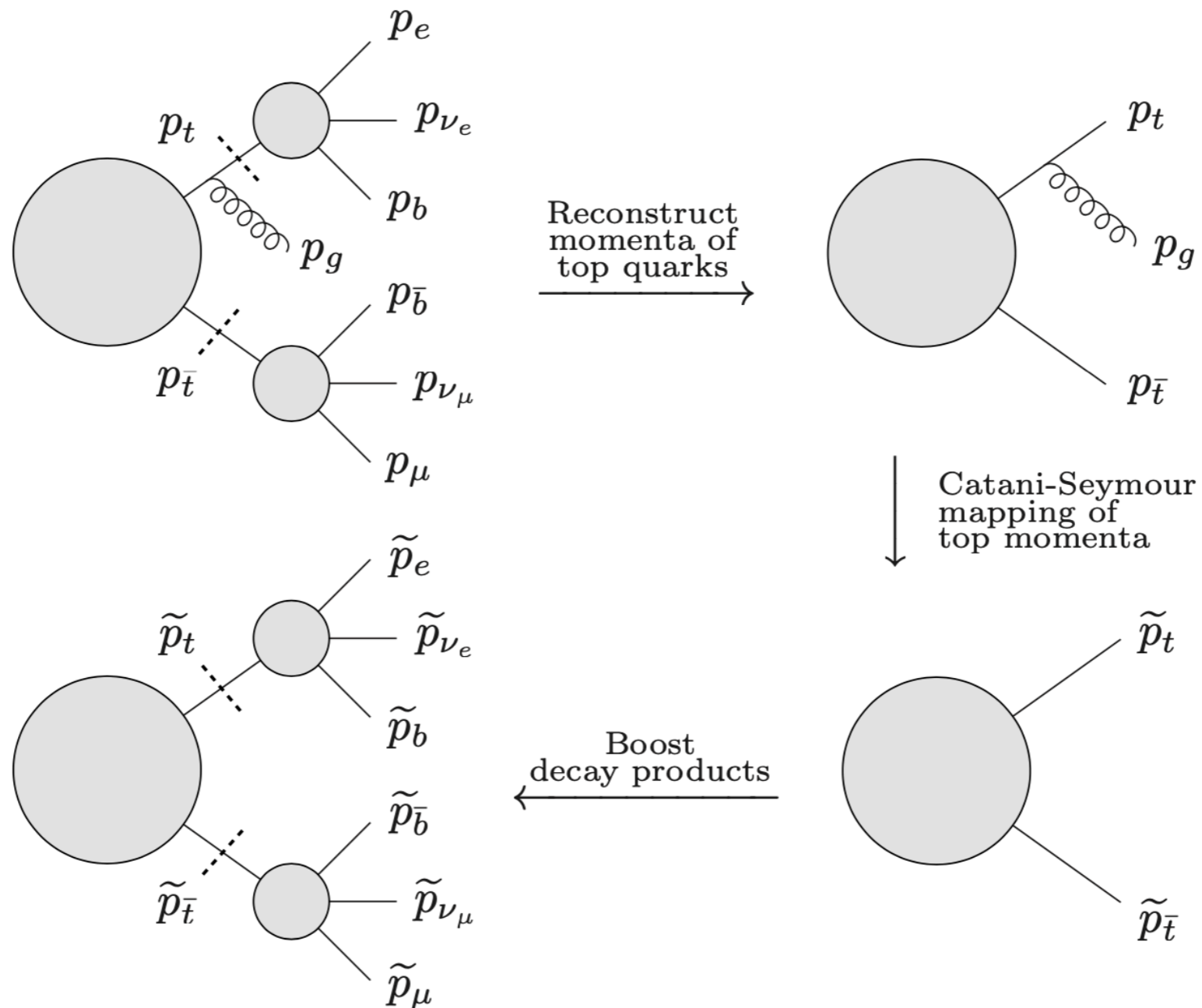


NWA:

$$\frac{1}{(p^2 - m^2)^2 + m^2\Gamma^2} \xrightarrow{\Gamma/m \rightarrow 0} \frac{\pi}{m\Gamma} \delta^{(4)}(p^2 - m^2) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\Gamma}{m}\right)$$

# Top Decays

Dipole subtraction for intermediate emitters



# Summary

- We studied the interference of a heavy Higgs with the continuum QCD background at NLO QCD
- This is loop-induced x tree-level at LO and has a complicated structure at NLO
- This required a specially built Monte Carlo — which can now be used for other loop-induced processes

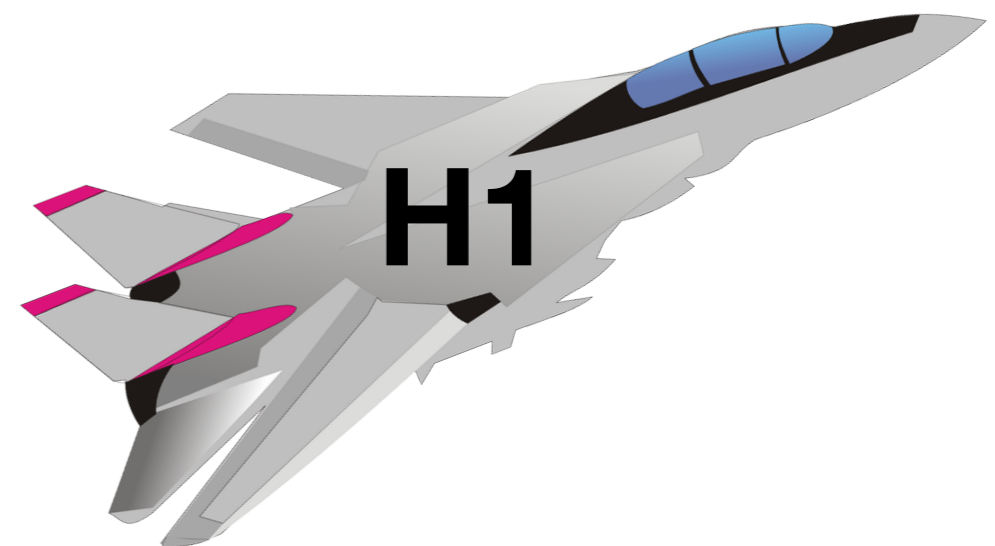
**A second project...**

# H1JET

[arXiv:2011.04694 \[hep-ph\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.04694)

with Andrea Banfi

[h1jet.hepforge.org](http://h1jet.hepforge.org)

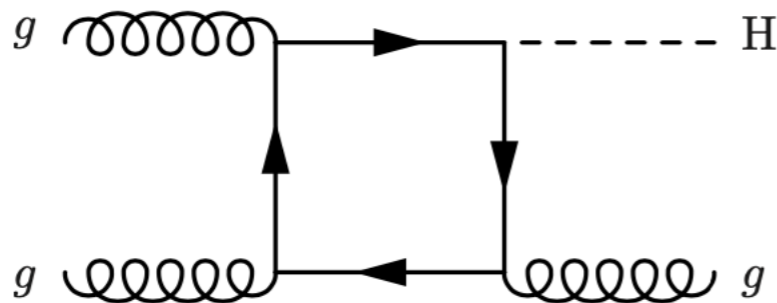


# Motivation

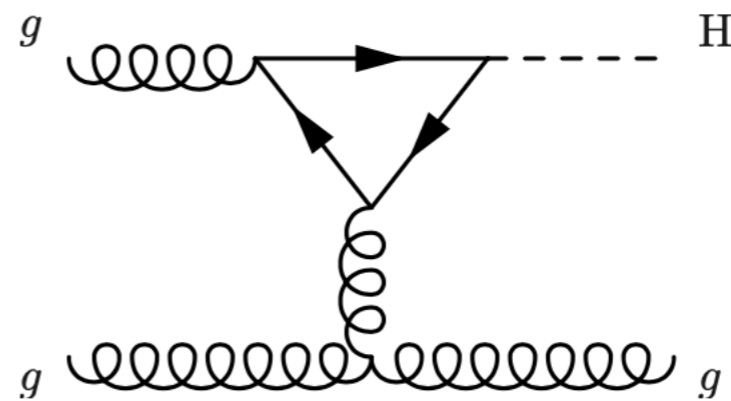
A fast and easy-to-use tool to compute transverse momentum distributions

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff.}} \supset -\kappa_t \frac{m_t}{v} t\bar{t}H + \kappa_g \frac{\alpha_s}{12\pi} \frac{H}{v} G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{\mu\nu a}$$

$$\frac{\sigma(\kappa_t, \kappa_g)}{\sigma^{\text{SM}}} \propto (\kappa_t + \kappa_g)^2$$



(a) Box diagram.



(b) Triangle diagram.

Loops:  
SM top + BSM top partner



# The Method

2  $\rightarrow$  1 and 2  $\rightarrow$  2 but can be extended

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dp_T} = \frac{p_T}{8\pi} \int_{-\eta_M}^{\eta_M} d\eta \sum_{i,j} \left[ \frac{M_{ij}^2(\hat{s}, \hat{t}, \hat{u})}{E_X \hat{s}^{3/2}} \mathcal{L}_{ij} \left( \frac{\hat{s}}{s}, \mu_F \right) \right]$$

$$\eta_M = \ln \left( x_M + \sqrt{x_M^2 - 1} \right) \quad \hat{s} = \left( p_T \cosh \eta + \sqrt{m_X^2 + p_T^2 \cosh^2 \eta} \right)^2$$

$$\hat{t} = -p_T e^{-\eta} \sqrt{\hat{s}}$$

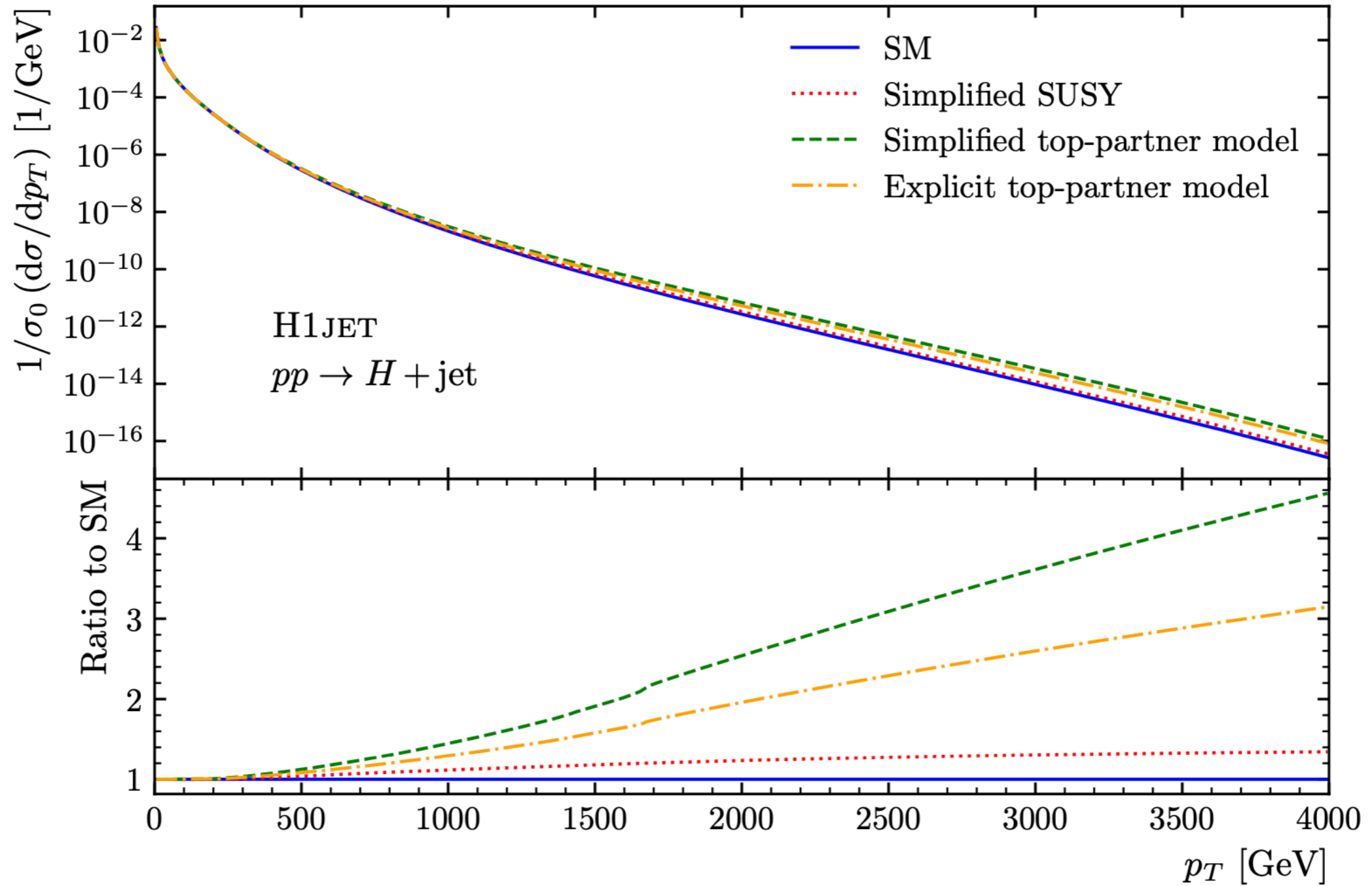
$$x_M = \frac{s - m_X^2}{2p_T \sqrt{s}}$$

$$\hat{u} = -p_T e^{\eta} \sqrt{\hat{s}}$$

1-dimensional integration done using adaptive Gaussian quadrature  $\rightarrow$  super fast

Written in Fortran 95, interfaced with CHAPLIN and HOPPET

# Built-In Models



Provided user-interface allows for  
a custom process given a user-provided amplitude

$$|\mathcal{M}(\hat{s}, \hat{t}, \hat{u})|^2$$

# A live demonstration...

[h1jet.hepforge.org/online](http://h1jet.hepforge.org/online)

# Thank you for listening!

