



EPS-HEP 2025 Conference  
July 10, 2025

# ***The role of Flavour in global SMEFT fits***

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**University of Granada**

# Introduction

## Disclaimer(s)

- ▶ I am not a Flavour expert (not even close to...)
- ▶ This talk could be seen as the second part of the talk yesterday in the Joint “Top and Electroweak physics” + “Higgs physics session” → *Electroweak, Higgs and Top physics in SMEFT fits*
  - ▶ There will be some overlap to set the stage and introduce the tools but different focus on the discussion
- With few exceptions\*, flavour is one of the sectors that receives less attention in global SMEFT combinations of different types of data sets
  - ▶ Not because it is not relevant but because it difficult to treat!
  - ▶ As long as one departs from trivial flavour assumptions and/or goes beyond leading-order studies, flavour measurements enter the game
- The purpose of this talk is to illustrate this, with a global study combining **EW+Higgs+Top+Flavour** in the SMEFT, floating **simultaneously all the SMEFT parameters and the SM parameters** (+ including RGE effects, matching SMEFT/LEFT,...)

\*See e.g. R. Aoude et al., JHEP 12 (2020) 113, R. Bartocci et al. JHEP 05 (2024) 074, S. Bruggisser et al. JHEP 02 (2023) 225, L. Allwicher et al. JHEP 03 (2024) 049, C. Grunwald et al., JHEP 11 (2023) 110



# Introduction

- With some minimal assumptions about the UV, the IR effects of new physics can be parameterized via the *SMEFT Lagrangian*:

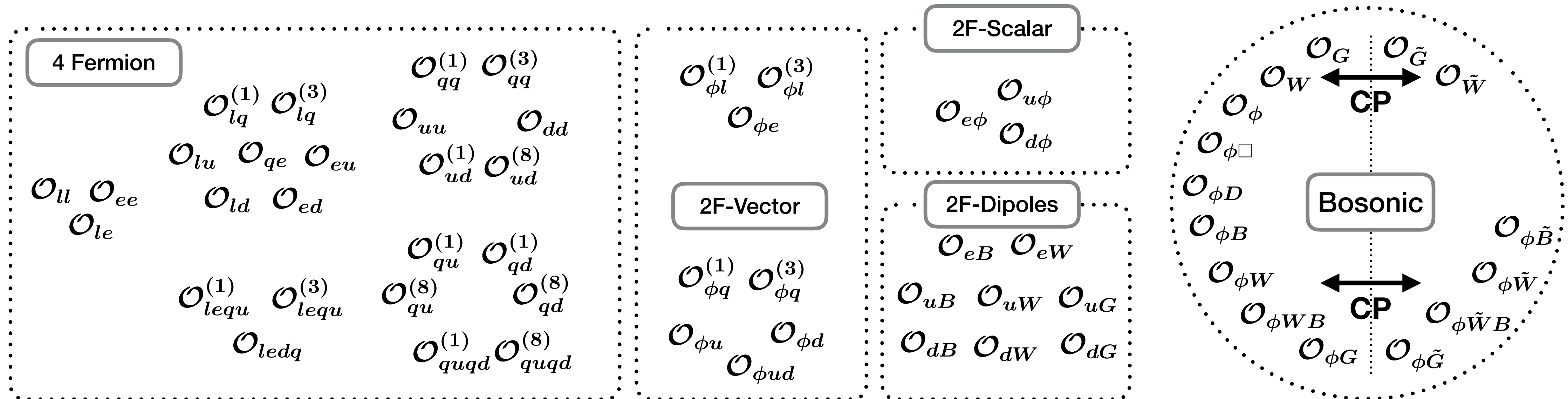
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Eff}} = \sum_{d=4}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\Lambda^{d-4}} \mathcal{L}_d = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \frac{1}{\Lambda} \mathcal{L}_5 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{L}_6 + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{L}_d = \sum_i C_i^d \mathcal{O}_i \quad [\mathcal{O}_i] = d \longrightarrow \left(\frac{q}{\Lambda}\right)^{d-4} \quad E \ll \Lambda$$

$$q = v, E < \Lambda$$

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{UV}}(?)$

- What is not Flavour in the SMEFT?** To dimension 6 (2499 operators assuming B and L conservation)



# Introduction

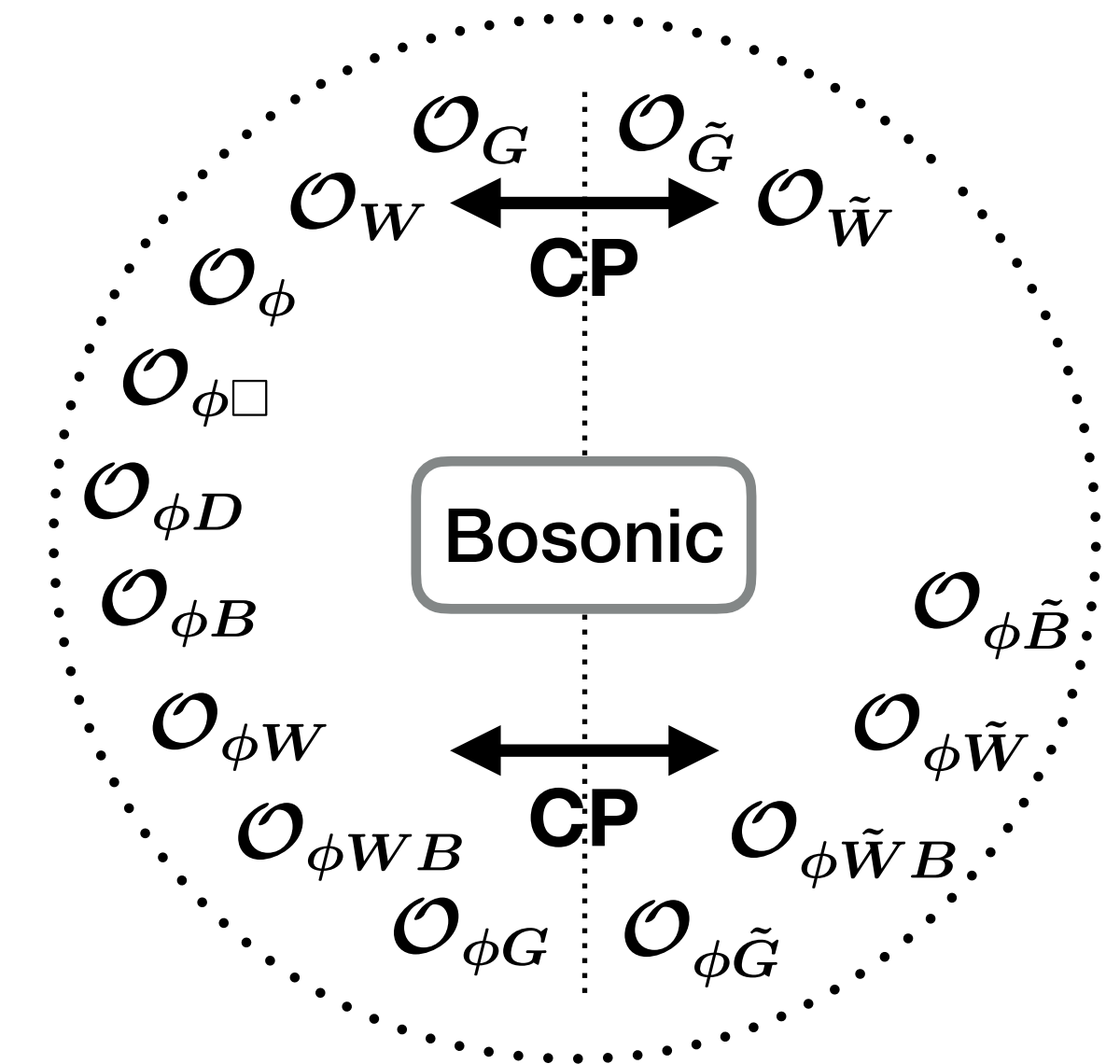
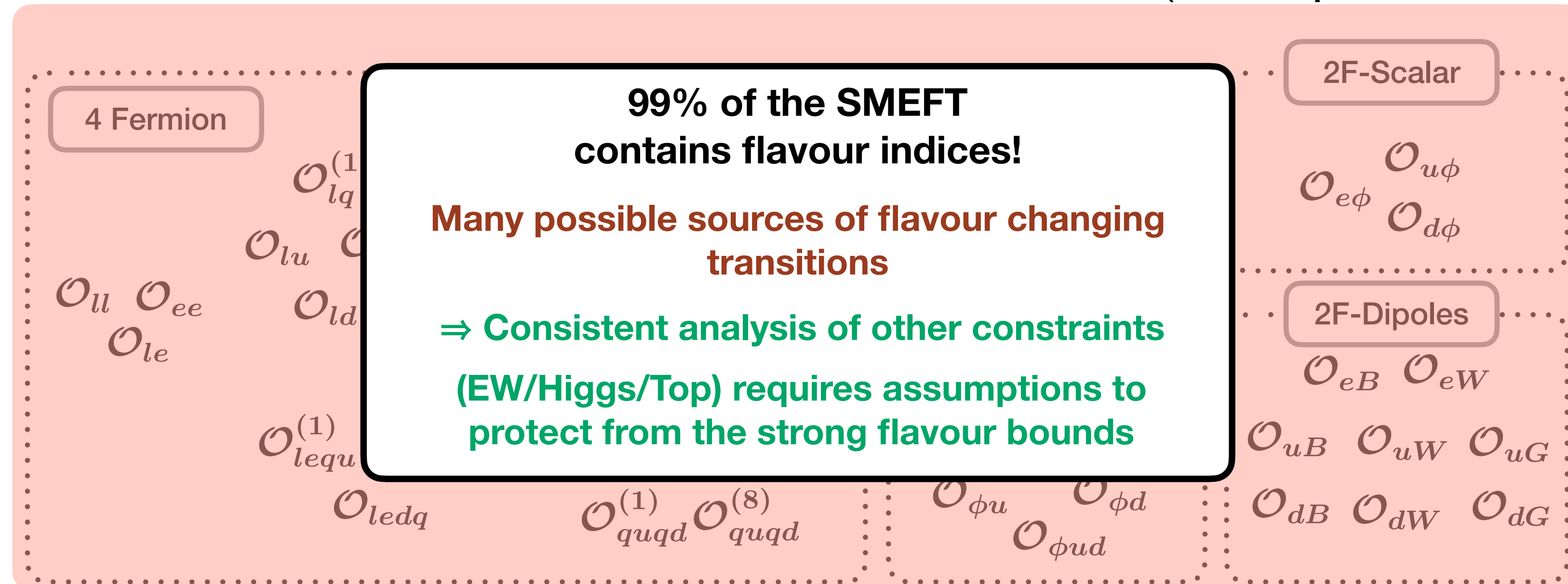
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$\mathcal{L}_{\text{UV}}(?)$

- What is not Flavour in the SMEFT?** To dimension 6 (2499 operators assuming B and L conservation)



# Introduction

## Common choices motivated by “realistic” BSM scenarios

- ▶ Assume New Physics is flavour blind and respects a  $U(3)^5$  flavour symmetry
- ▶ Assume New Physics respects the approximate  $U(2)$  quark flavour symmetries of the SM  
 $\Rightarrow$  No new sources of flavour mixing but separate 3rd and light generations

$$U(2)^5 = U(2)_{q_L} \times U(2)_{u_R} \times U(2)_{d_R} \times U(2)_{l_L} \times U(2)_{e_R}$$

Even under these assumptions, Flavour can play an important role in SMEFT analysis and must be carefully implemented in fitting tools

**99% of the SMEFT contains flavour indices!**

**Many possible sources of flavour changing transitions**

$\Rightarrow$  Consistent analysis of other constraints (EW/Higgs/Top) requires assumptions to protect from the strong flavour bounds

4 Fermion

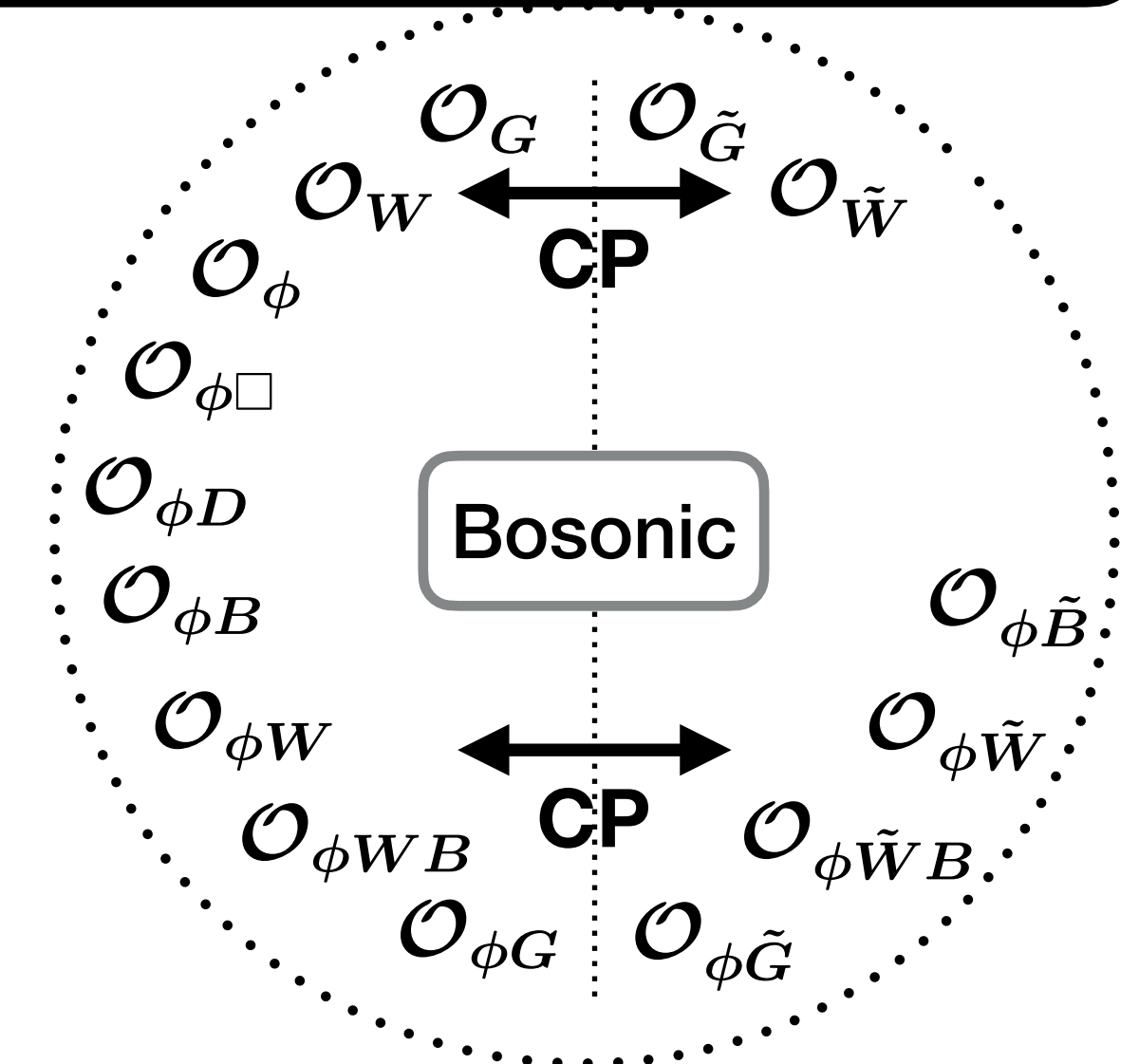
$\mathcal{O}_{ll}^{(1)}$   $\mathcal{O}_{ee}^{(1)}$   $\mathcal{O}_{le}^{(1)}$   $\mathcal{O}_{lu}^{(1)}$   $\mathcal{O}_{ld}^{(1)}$   $\mathcal{O}_{lequ}^{(1)}$   $\mathcal{O}_{ledq}^{(1)}$   $\mathcal{O}_{quqd}^{(1)}$   $\mathcal{O}_{quqd}^{(8)}$

2F-Scalar

$\mathcal{O}_{e\phi}$   $\mathcal{O}_{u\phi}$   $\mathcal{O}_{d\phi}$

2F-Dipoles

$\mathcal{O}_{eB}$   $\mathcal{O}_{eW}$   $\mathcal{O}_{uB}$   $\mathcal{O}_{uW}$   $\mathcal{O}_{uG}$   $\mathcal{O}_{dB}$   $\mathcal{O}_{dW}$   $\mathcal{O}_{dG}$   $\mathcal{O}_{\phi u}$   $\mathcal{O}_{\phi d}$   $\mathcal{O}_{\phi ud}$



# ***The Fitting Framework***

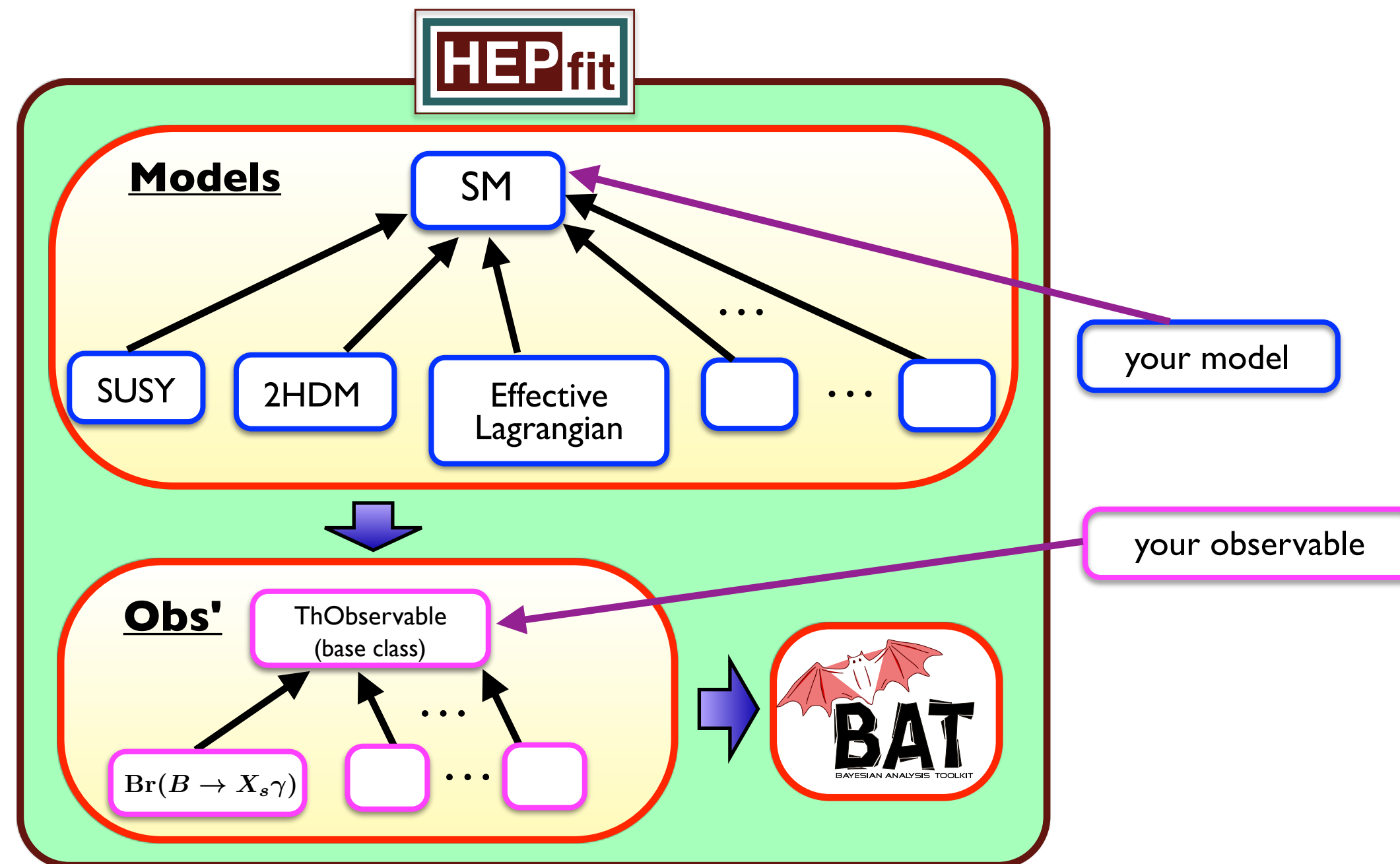


# The **HEPfit** code

- General **H**igh **E**nergy **P**hysics **fit**ting tool to combine indirect and direct searches of new physics (available under GPL on GitHub)

<https://github.com/silvest/HEPfit>

- Main Reference: **JB et al.**, [Eur. Phys. J. C \(2020\) 80:456](#), [arXiv: 1910.14012 \[hep-ph\]](#)



**Designed as flexible open-source tool  
(e.g. easy to add external models/observables)**

**Stand-alone mode to compute observable predictions  
(In the SM & BSM)**

**MCMC implementation for Bayesian Statistical Analyses  
(Via modified version of BAT)**

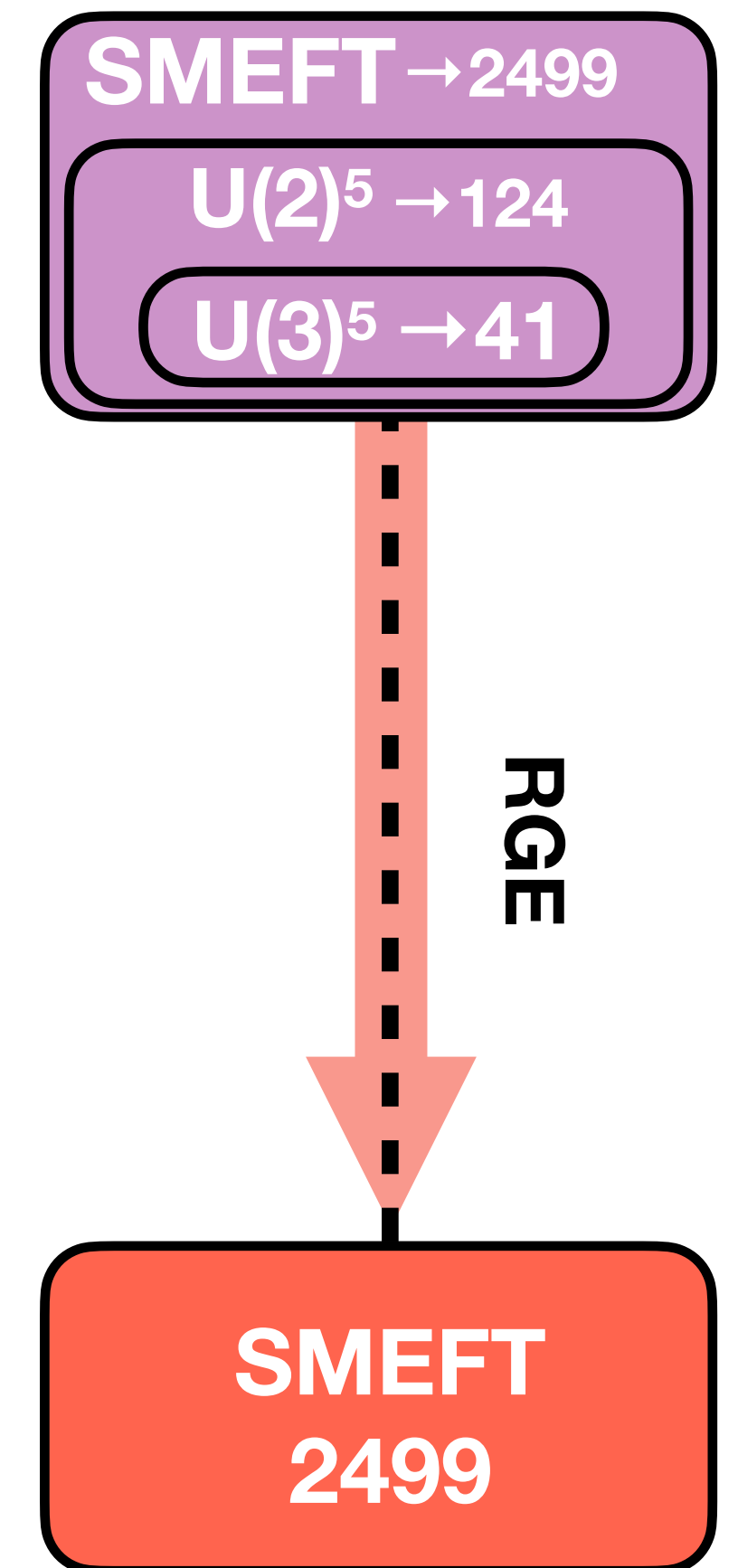
**A. Caldwell et al., Comput. Phys. Commun. 180 (2009) 2197-2209**

► Original code already containing a base SMEFT class with a setup for EW/Higgs LO studies

➡ Massive upgrades in the work presented here

# The **HEPfit** code

- The **SMEFT** class in **HEPfit** :
- Implementation of full dimension-6 SMEFT basis:
  - Warsaw basis: All 2499 operators
  - Restrictions assuming different flavour assumptions available
    - ▶  $U(3)^5$  flavour symmetry
    - ▶  $U(2)^5$  flavour symmetry: both in the “UP” and “DOWN” bases
- Calculations in both “ $\alpha$ ” and “ $M_W$ ” scheme for most observables
- RGE evolution included via **RGESolver** S. Di Noi, L. Silvestrini, Eur. Phys.J.C 83 (2023) 3, 200
  - Multiple possibilities: Exact integration / Matrix Evolution (much faster)
  - Possibility of RGE to multiple scales
    - ▶ **Careful:** RGE available only at LO (1-loop). Running between similar scales < TH unc.
- NLO SMEFT finite terms available for several of the most precise observables
  - ▶ **Careful:** Consistent NLO study requires 2-loop RGE. Not available in literature (yet)

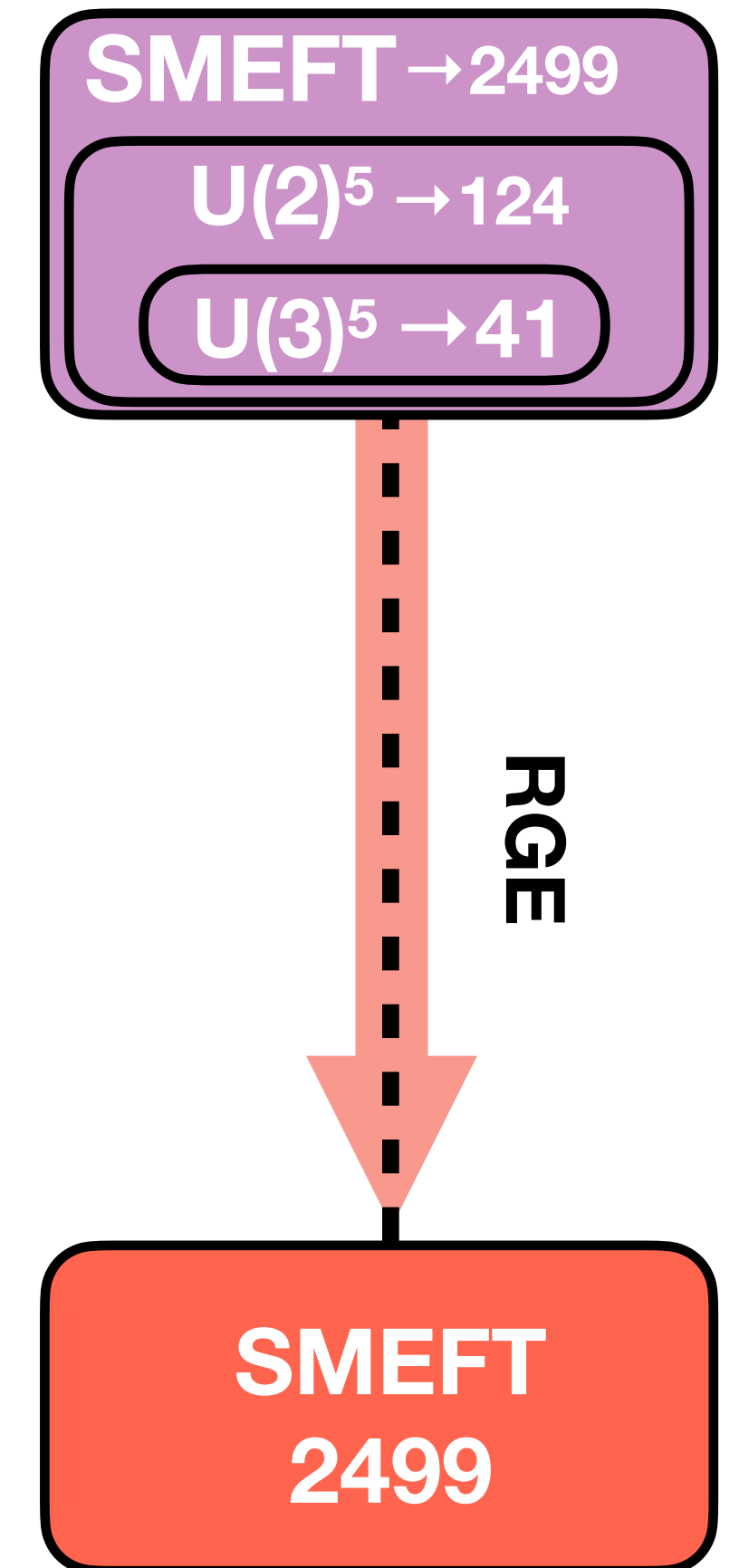
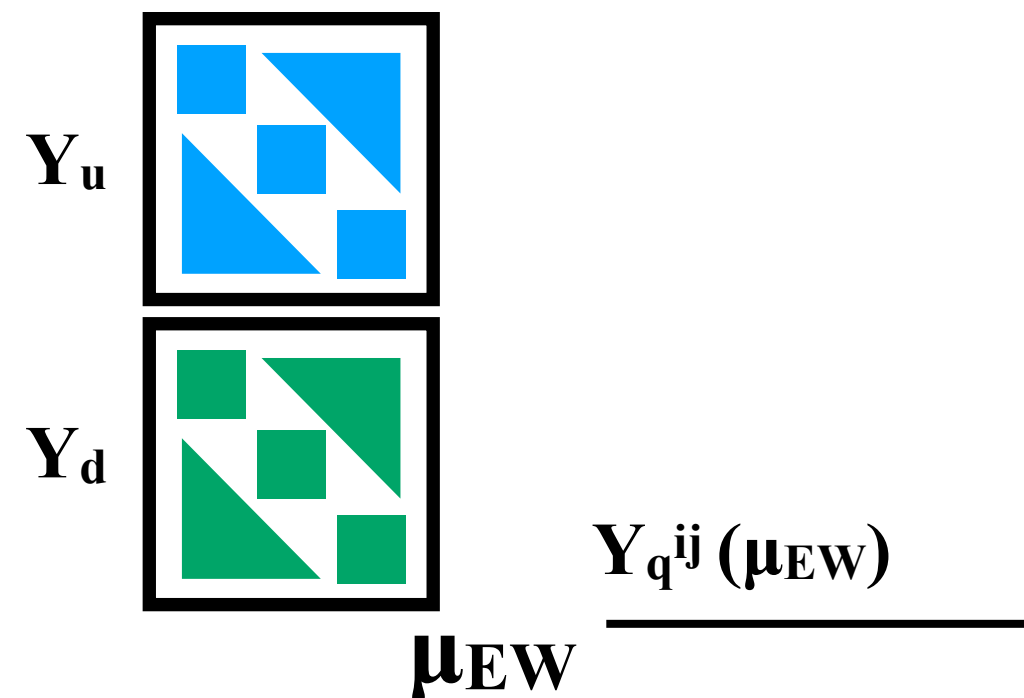


# The **HEPfit** code

- The SMEFT class in **HEPfit** :

## *RGE and Flavour assumptions*

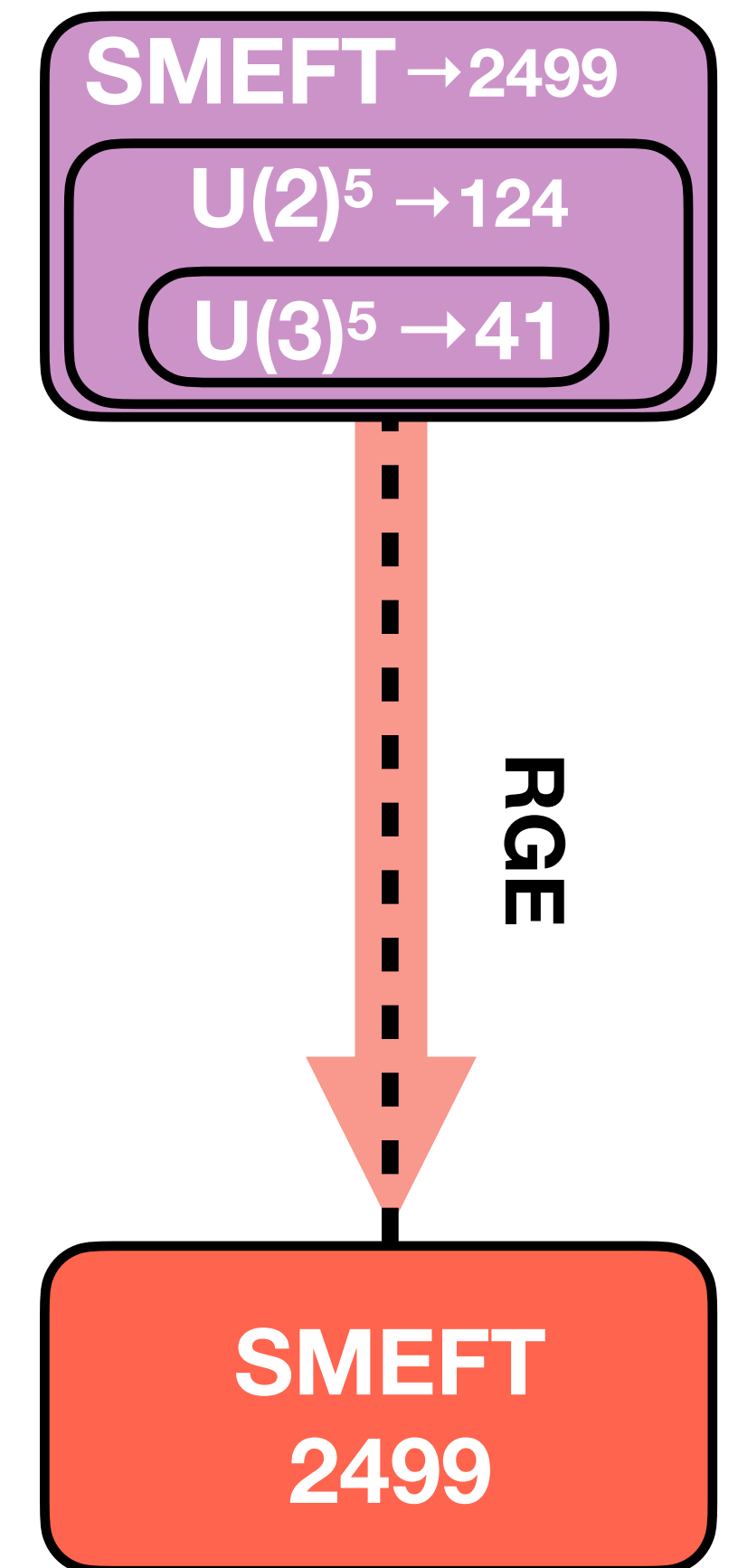
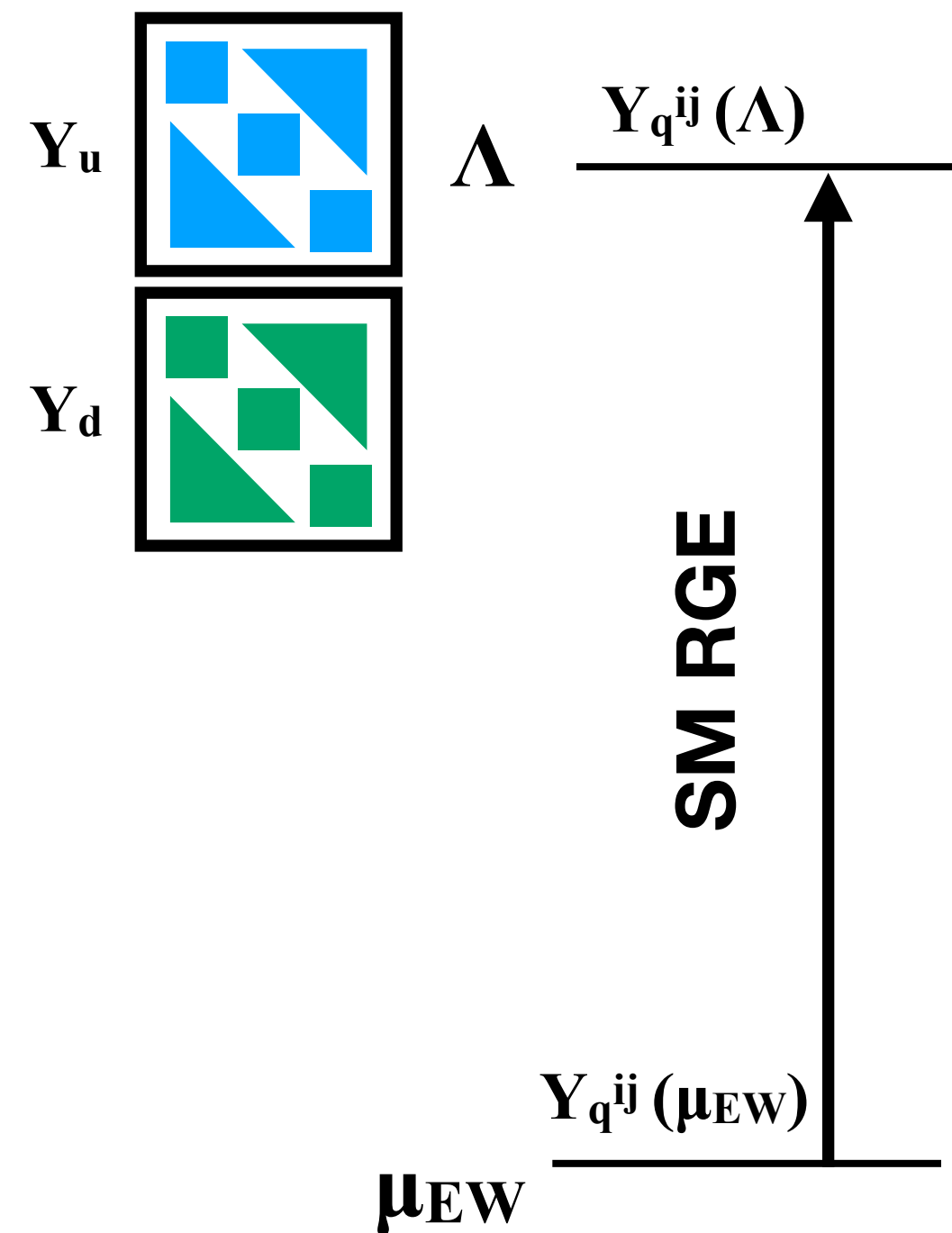
- Scale-dependent assumption:
  - ▶ Assumed valid at  $\Lambda$  → Broken at any other scale (at least by SM interactions)
- $U(2)^5$  : Third generation treated separately
  - ▶ Need to specify direction of 3rd family in flavour space! → Follow SM Yukawas



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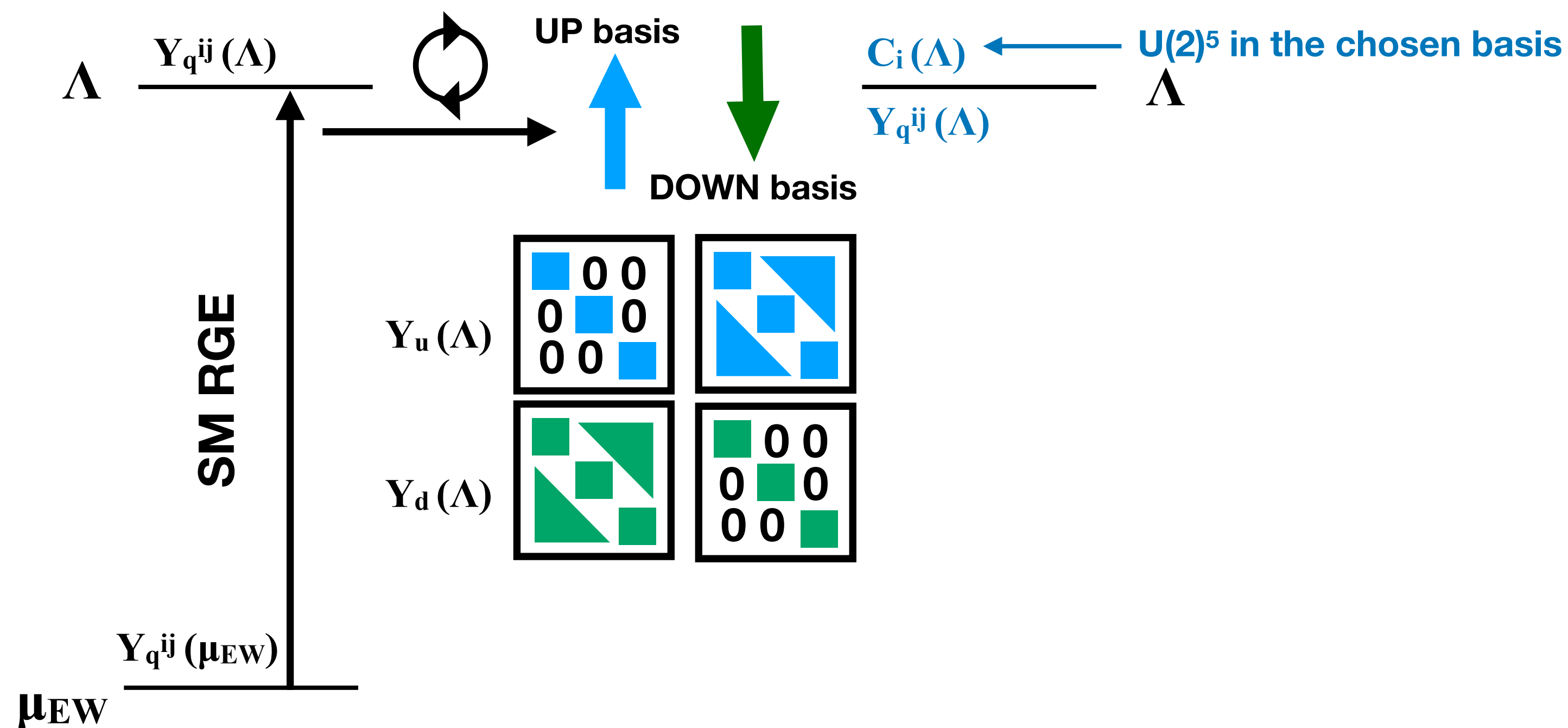




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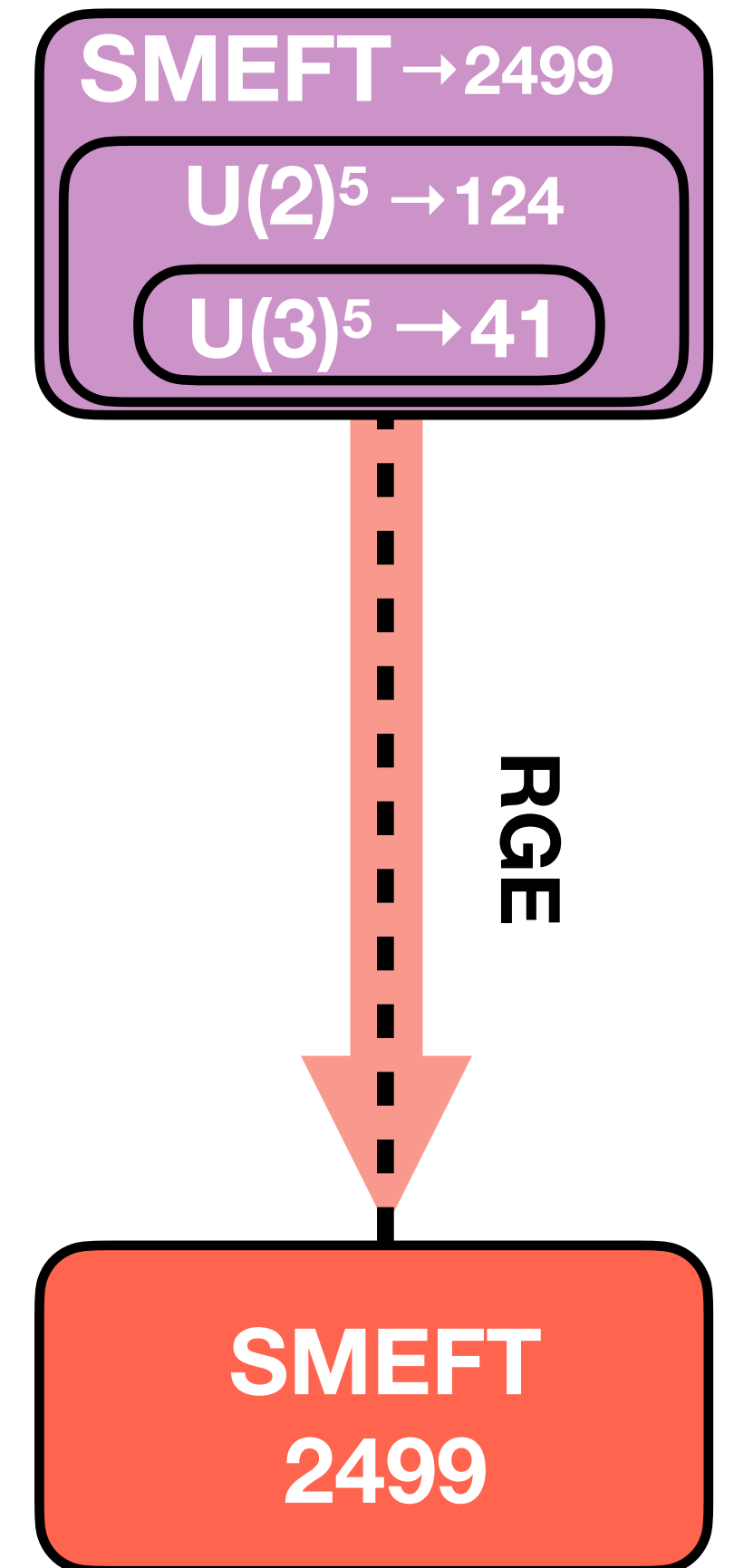
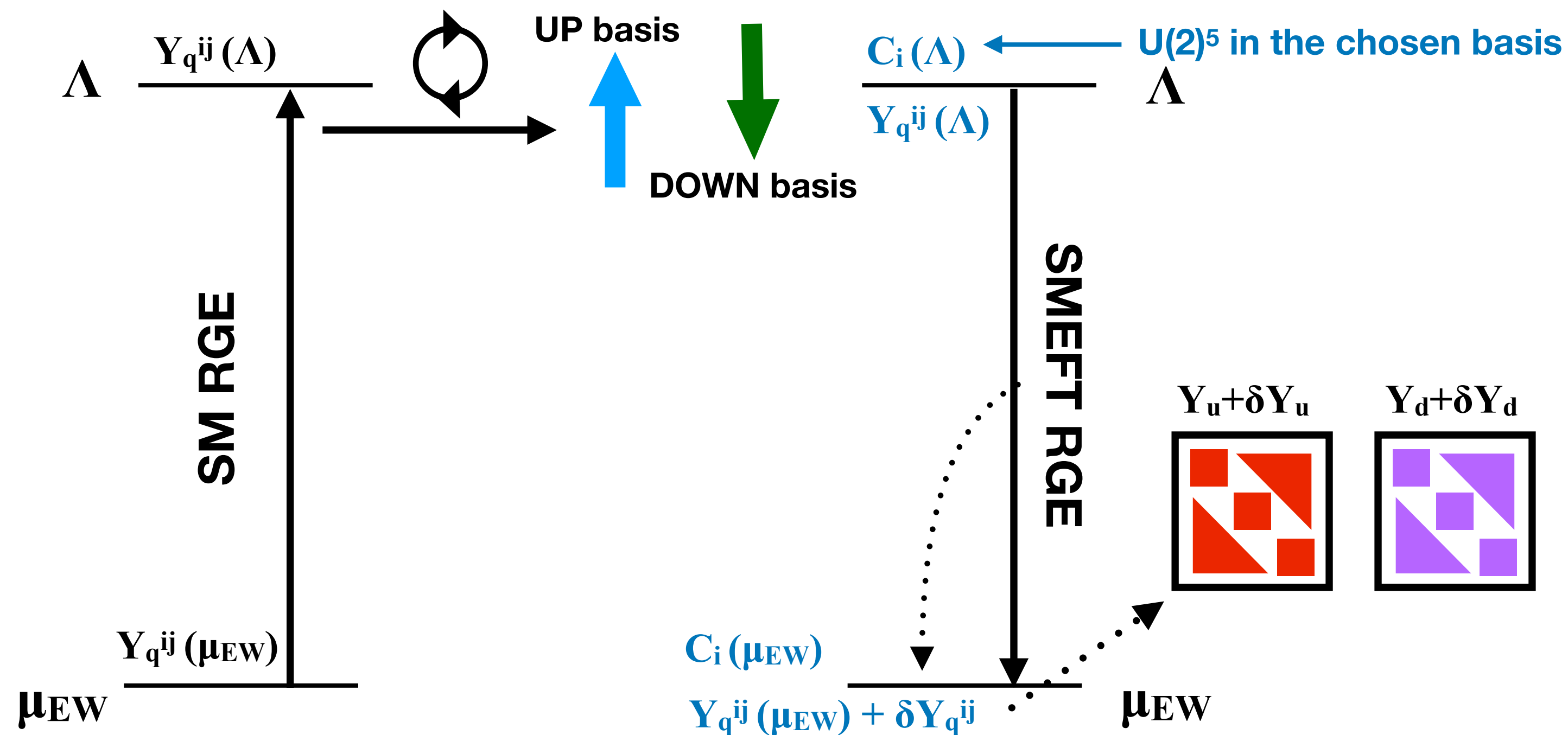
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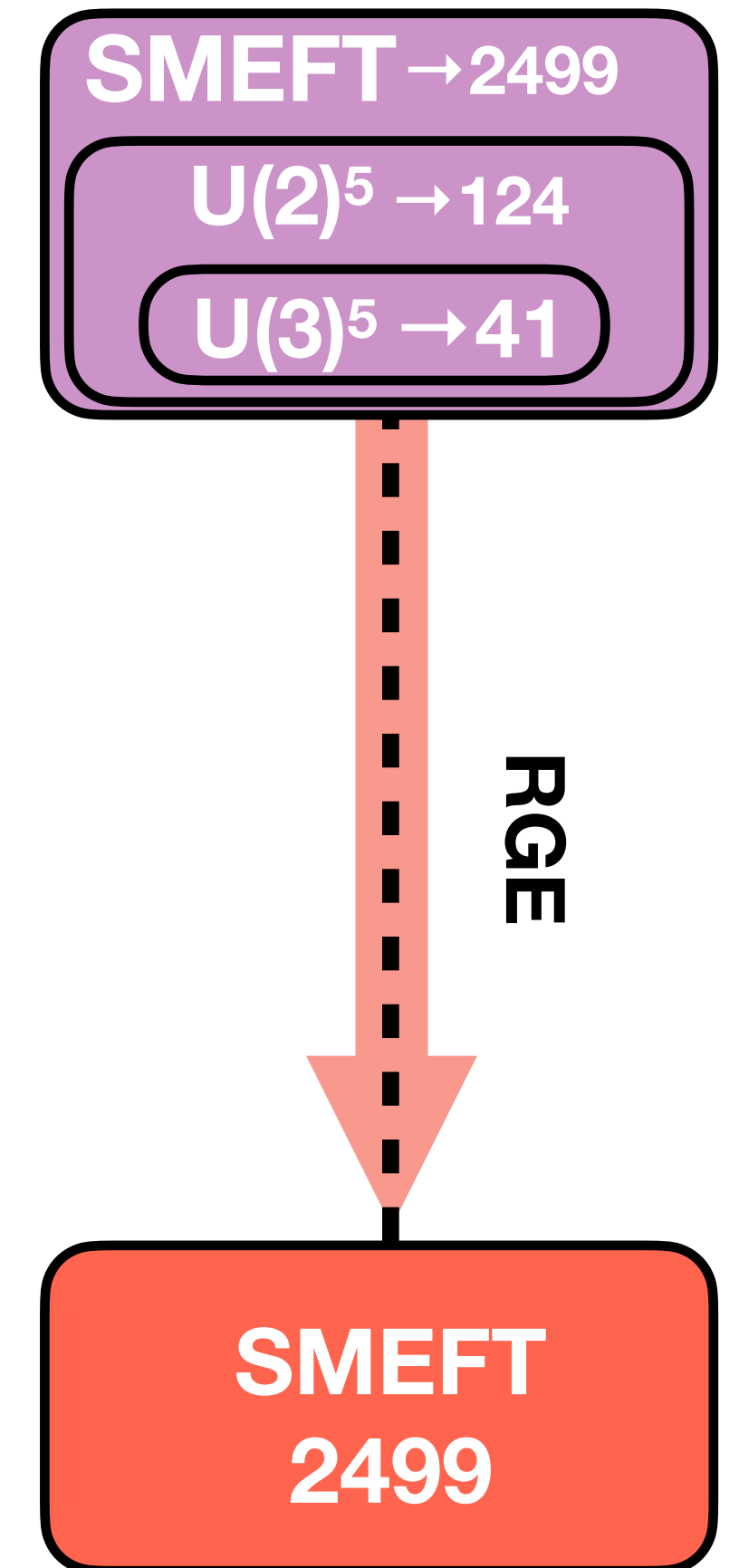
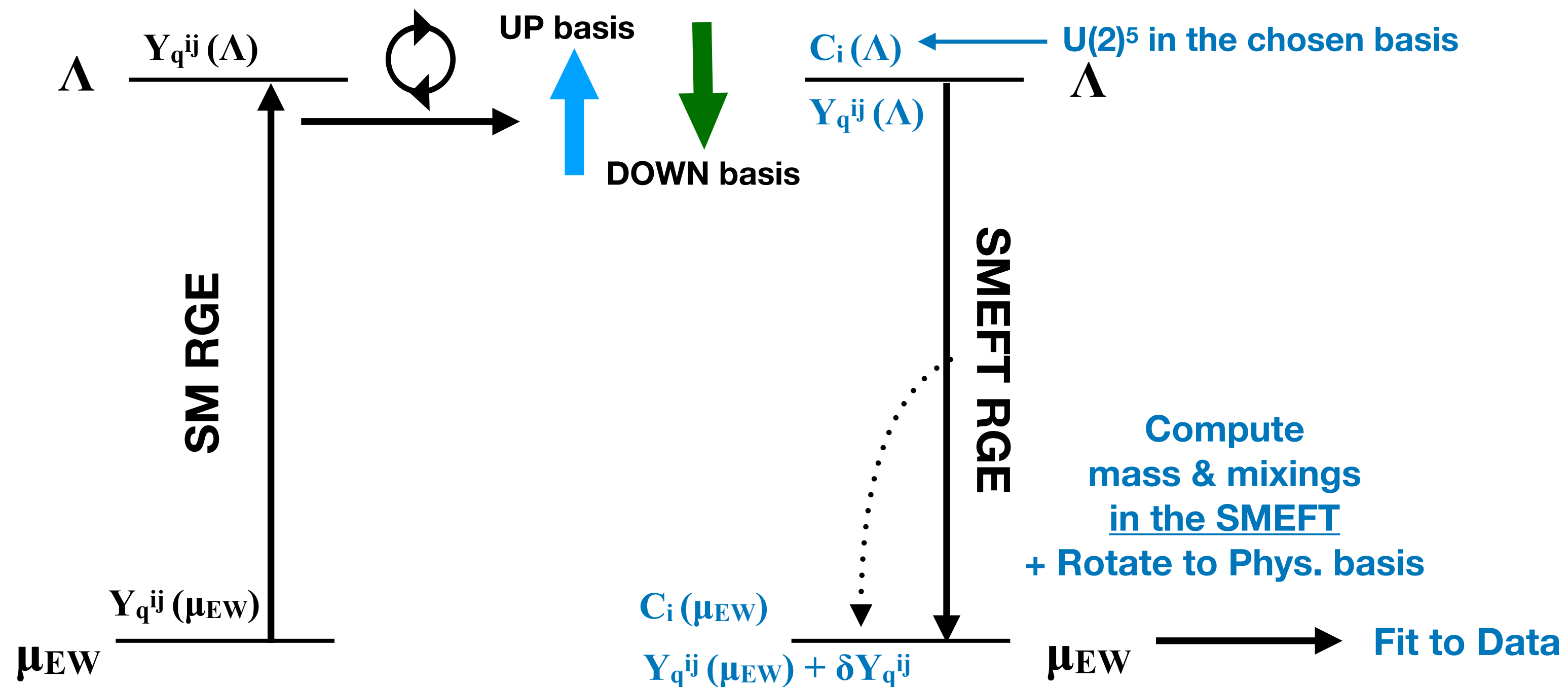


# The **HEPfit** code

- The SMEFT class in **HEPfit** :

## *RGE and Flavour assumptions*

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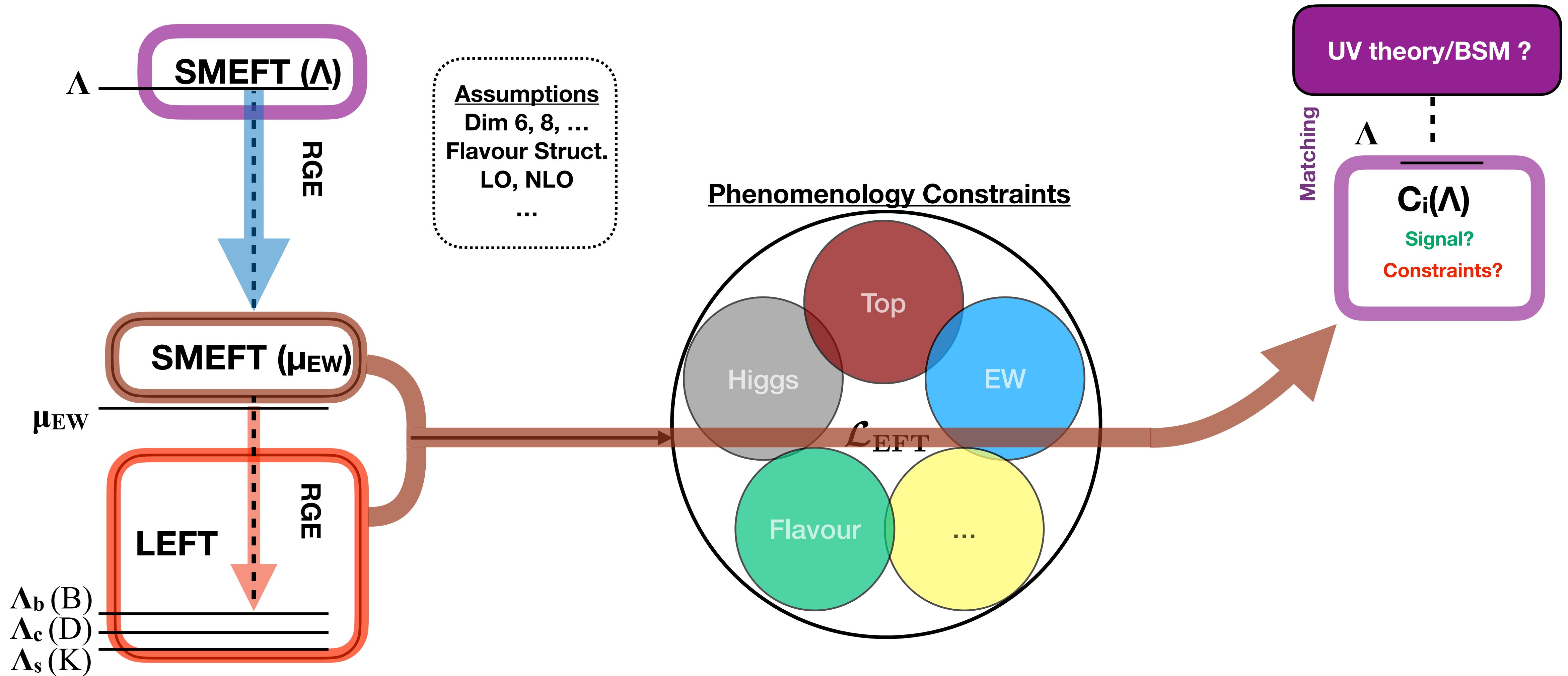


# ***The Global Fit Setup***

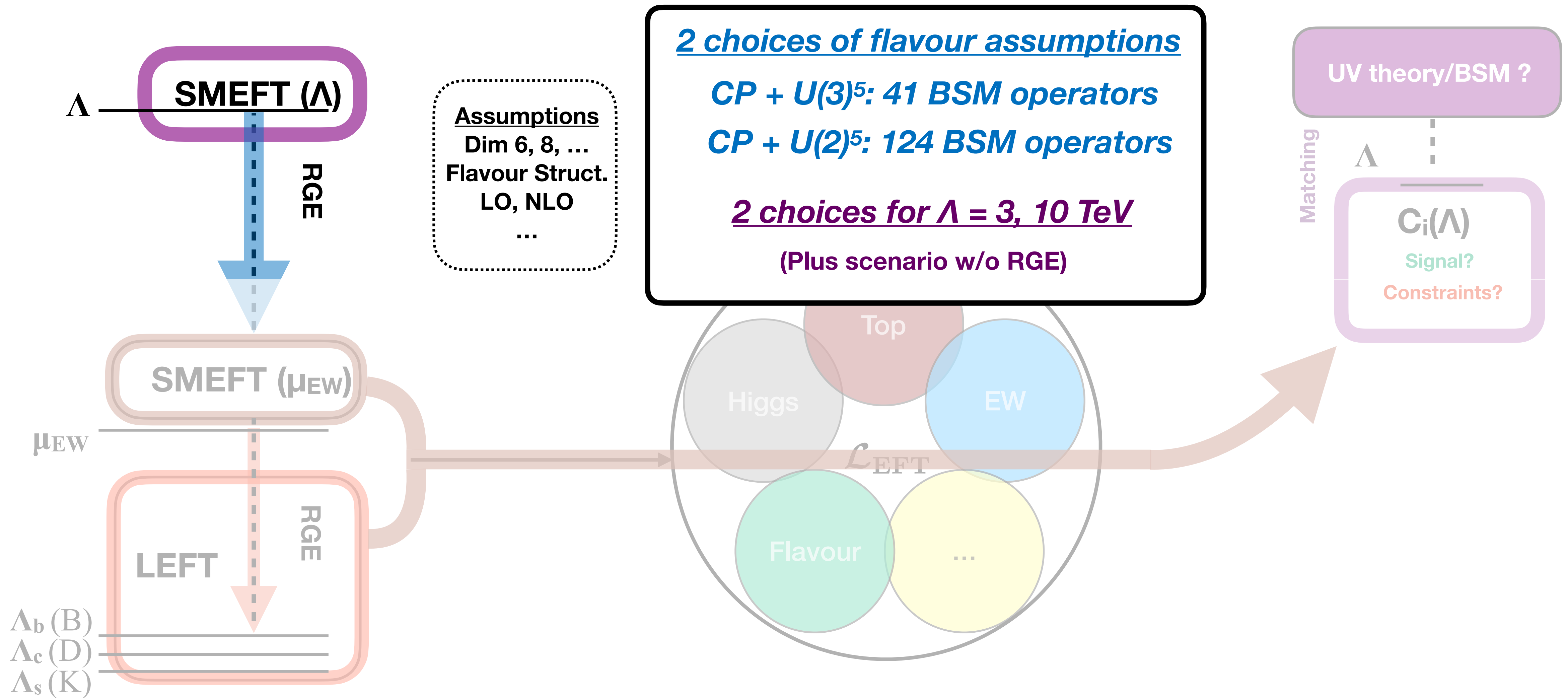
## ***Combining EW/Higgs/Top/Flavour***



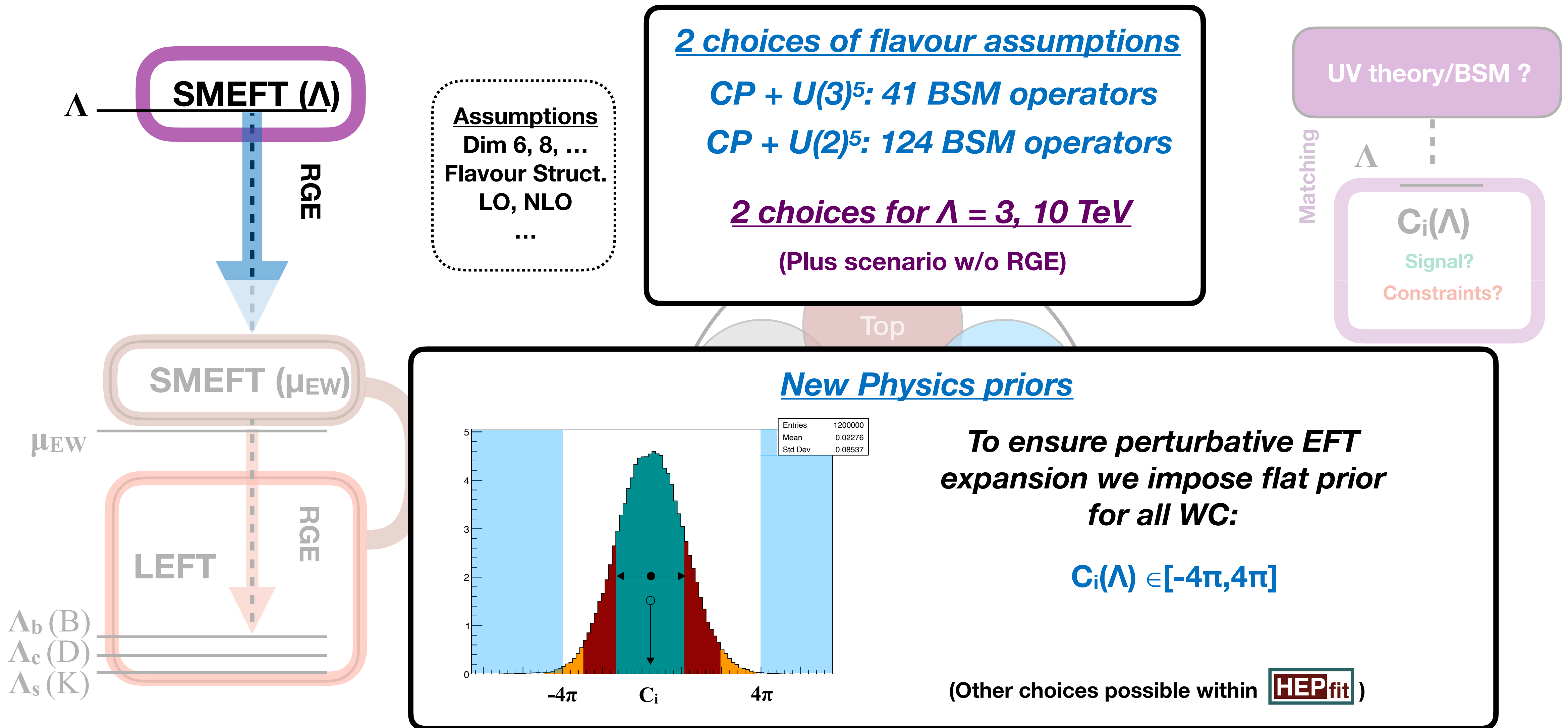
# The Global SMEFT fit



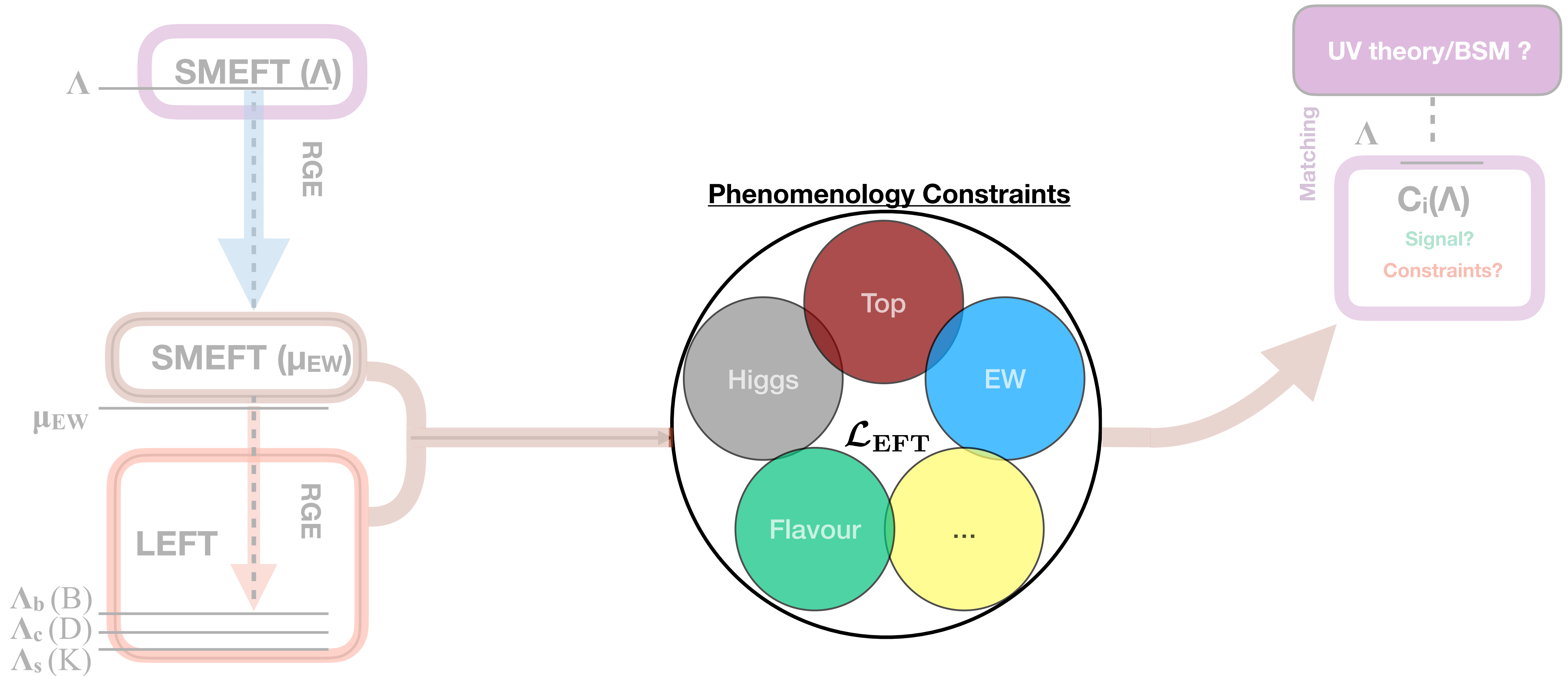
# The Global SMEFT fit



# The Global SMEFT fit



# The Global SMEFT fit





# The Global SMEFT fit

*All Observables computed consistently to dimension 6*

$$O = O_{\text{SM}} + \delta O_{\text{NP}} \frac{1}{\Lambda^2}$$

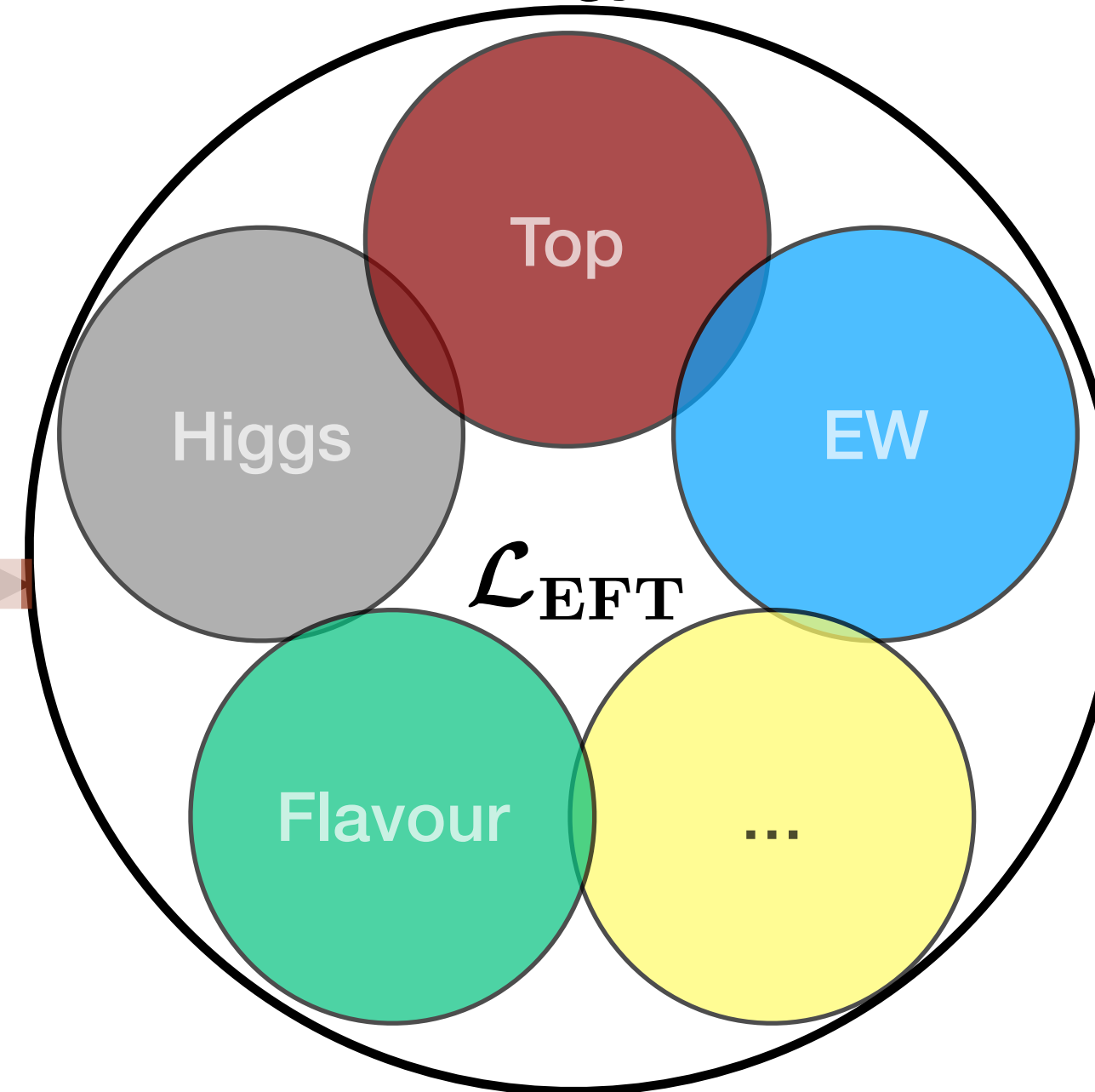
UV theory/BSM ?

$O_{\text{SM}}$

*State-of-the-art for SM predictions in most precise observables (EWPO, Flavour)*

*SM parameters (EW and flavour) floated in the fit, together with all the Wilson Coefficients*

Phenomenology Constraints



$\delta O_{\text{NP}} \frac{1}{\Lambda^2}$

*Current knowledge of SMEFT RGE (1-loop) limits a consistent calculation to an RG improved LO analysis:*

$$\Lambda \rightarrow \mu_{\text{EW}} \rightarrow \Lambda_{b,c,s}$$

*LO computed in  $M_W$  scheme:*

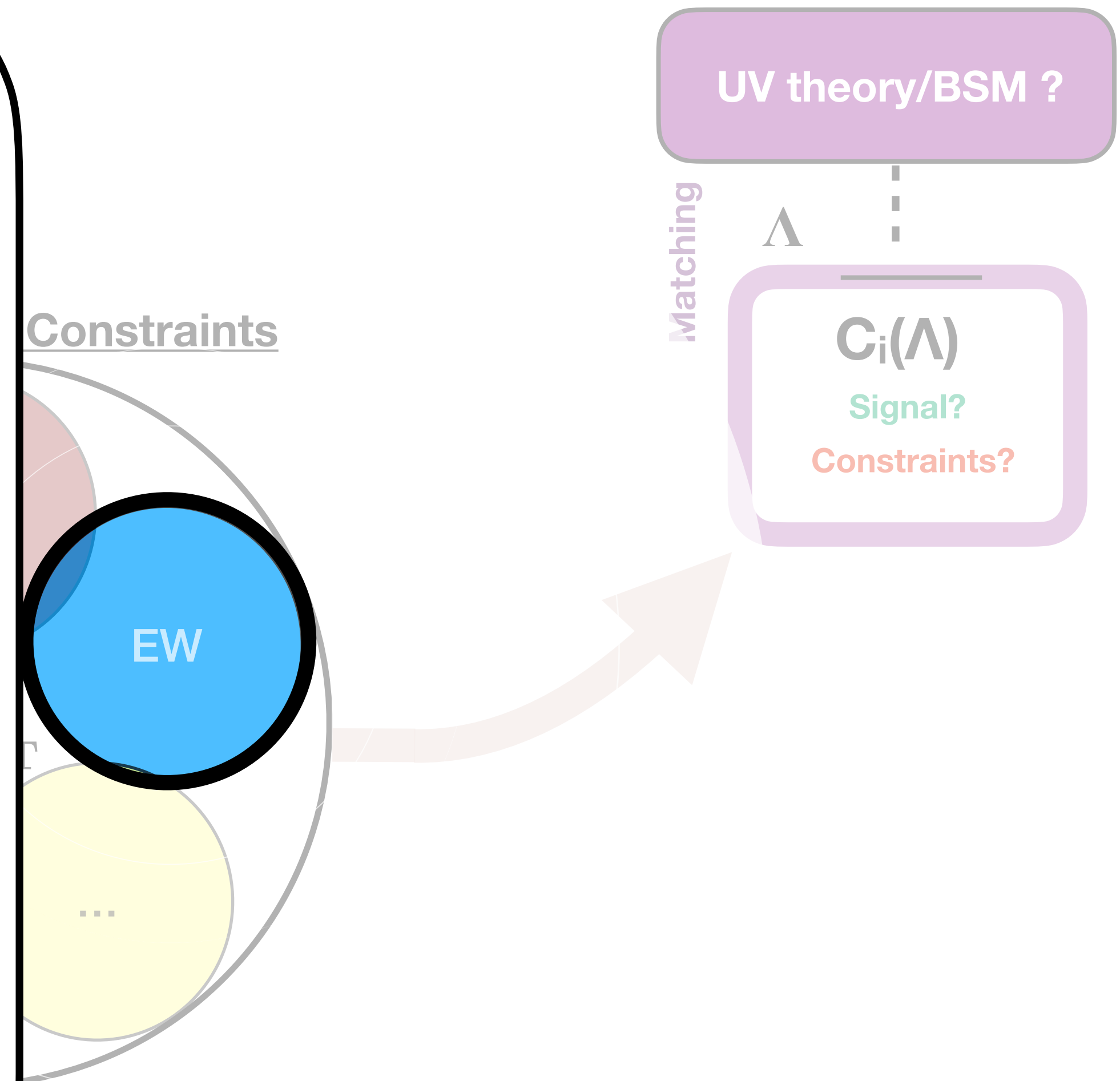
- *Analytically for most EW/ Flavour observables*
- *Via MG5@NLO or HighPT for LHC observables*

$\Lambda_b(B)$   
 $\Lambda_c(D)$   
 $\Lambda_s(K)$

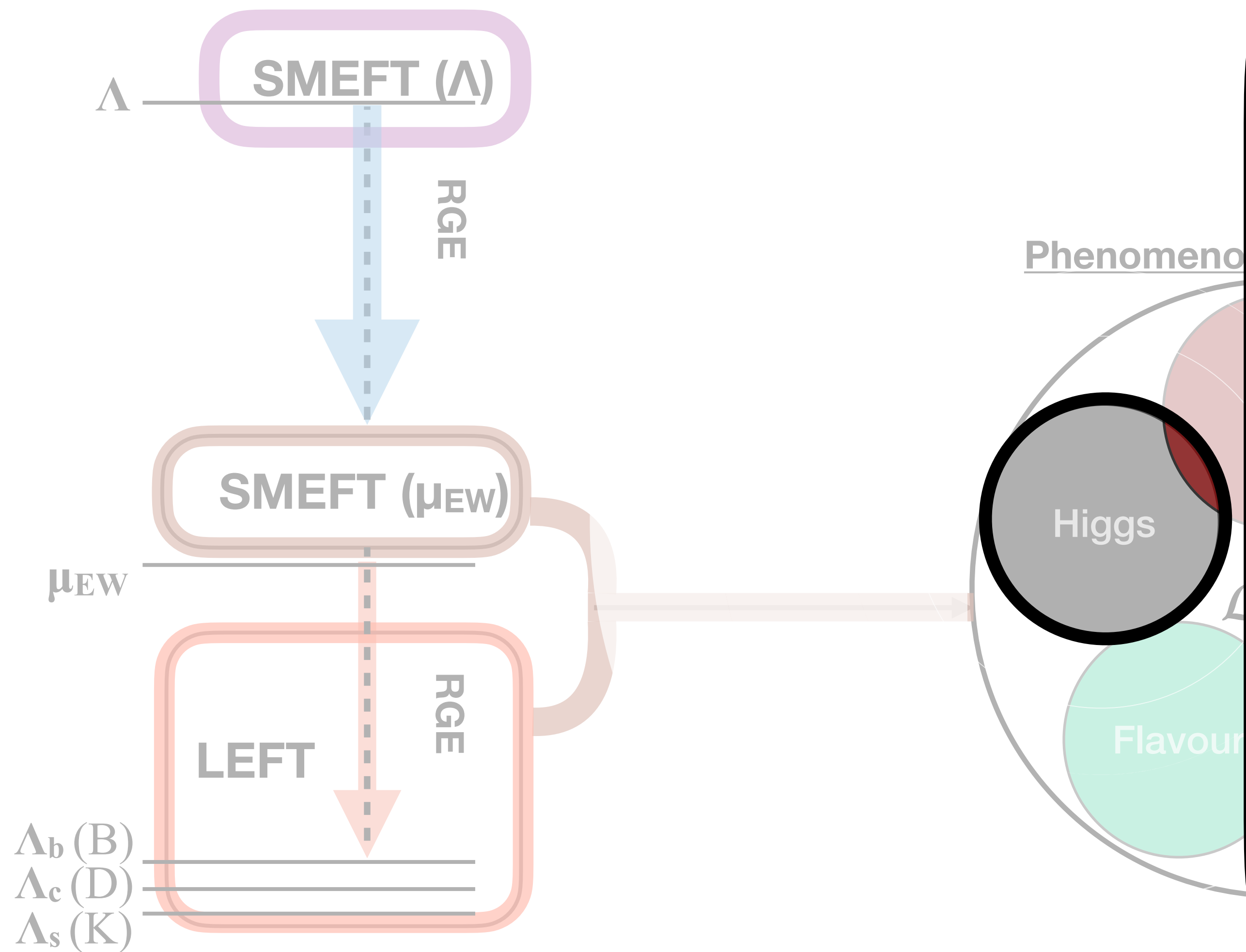
# The Global SMEFT fit

## Electroweak Observables

- Electroweak Precision Observables:
  - ▶ Z-pole (LEP/SLD):  $\Gamma_Z$ ,  $A_f$ ,  $A_{FB}^f$ ,  $R_f$ , ...
  - ▶ W properties (LEP2/Tevatron/LHC):
  - ▶ Higgs and Top properties (Tevatron/LHC):  $M_H$ ,  $m_t$
  - ▶ Tests of lepton universality from Tevatron & LHC
- LEP2 observables
  - ▶ Di-Boson:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow W^+W^-$  Berthier et al., 1606.06693 [hep-ph]
  - ▶  $e^+e^- \rightarrow f\bar{f}$ : leptonic cross sections and asymmetries, hadronic cross section
- Drell-Yan at LHC:  $pp \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ ,  $\ell\nu$ 
  - ▶ Differential distributions
  - ▶ Implemented from HighPT code L. Allwicher et al., 2207.10756, 2207.10714 [hep-ph]



# The Global SMEFT fit

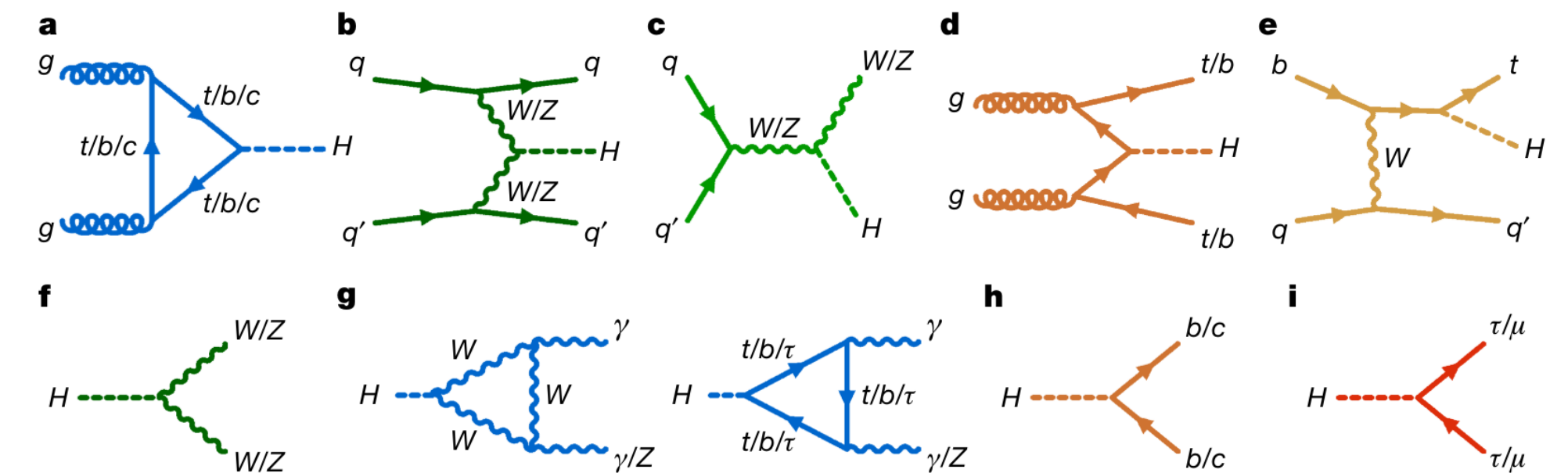


## Higgs Boson Observables

- ATLAS+CMS 8 TeV combination for single strengths:

$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{\sigma_i \times BR_j}{(\sigma_i \times BR_j)_{SM}}$$

- ATLAS and CMS 13 TeV results (139 fb<sup>-1</sup>)
  - STXS Stage 1.2 binning
- Including full information on all available channels (production and decay)

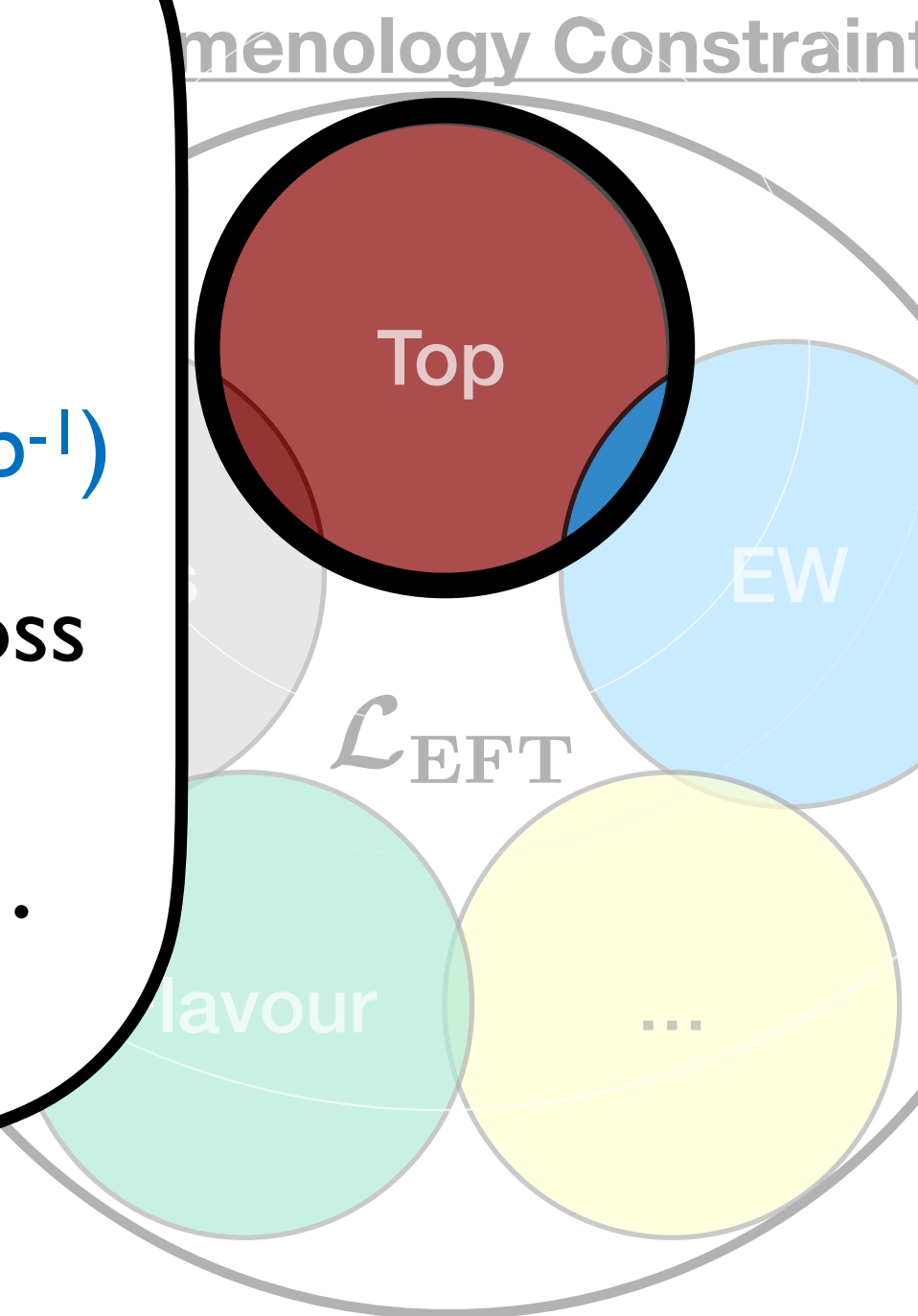


# The Global SMEFT fit



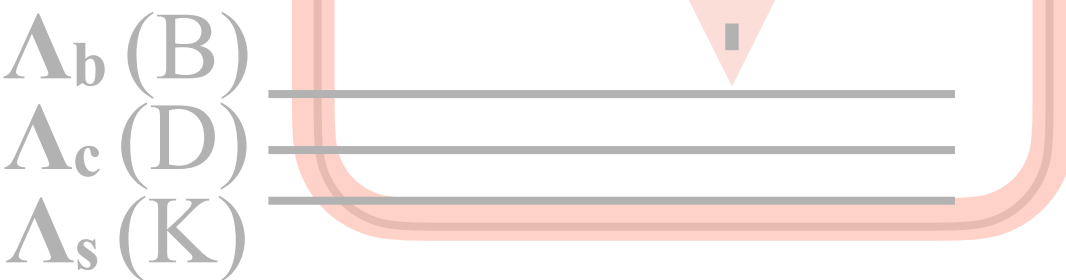
## Top Observables

- Including information from:
  - ▶ Tevatron (1.96 TeV)
  - ▶ ATLAS/CMS at 7, 8 and 13 TeV (up to 140 fb<sup>-1</sup>)
- Asymmetries plus inclusive and differential cross sections:  
 $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}, t\bar{t}Z, t\bar{t}W, t\bar{t}\gamma, tZq, t\gamma q, tW, \dots$



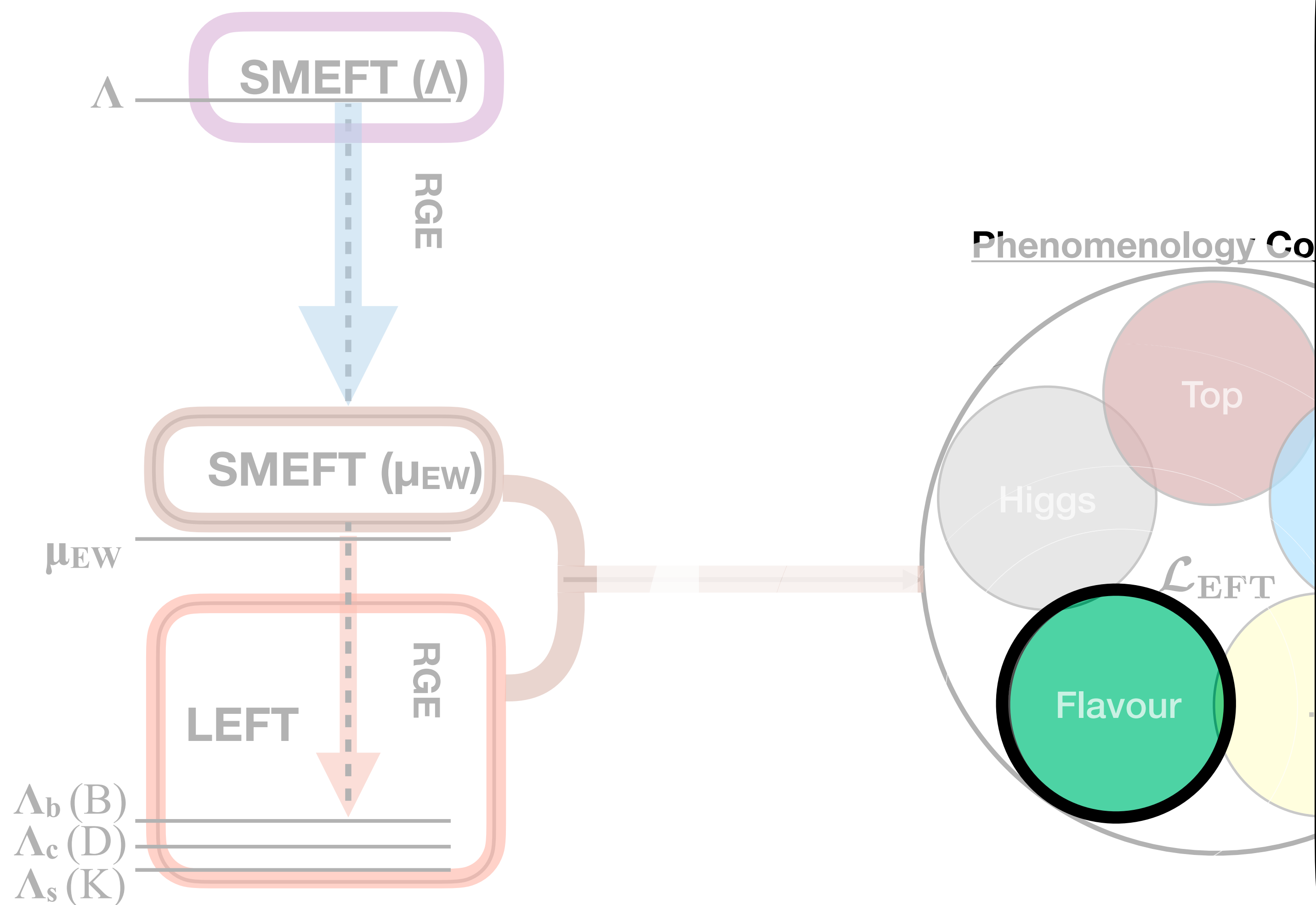
## Top Observables

Process	Observable	$\sqrt{s}$	$\int \mathcal{L}$
$p\bar{p} \rightarrow t\bar{t}$	$dA_{\text{FB}}^{t\bar{t}}/dm_{t\bar{t}}$	1.96 TeV	9.7 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}$	$\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{13\text{TeV}}/\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{8\text{TeV}}$	13 & 8 TeV	20 & 36 fb <sup>-1</sup>
	$\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{8\text{TeV}}/\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{7\text{TeV}}$	8 & 7 TeV	20 & 5 fb <sup>-1</sup>
	$\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$	13 TeV	36/139 fb <sup>-1</sup>
	$d\sigma_{t\bar{t}}/dm_{t\bar{t}}$	13 TeV	36 fb <sup>-1</sup>
	$(d\sigma_{t\bar{t}}/dm_{t\bar{t}})/\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$	13 TeV	36/137 fb <sup>-1</sup>
	$dA_C/dm_{t\bar{t}}$	13 TeV	140 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}Z$	$d\sigma/dp_T^Z$	13 TeV	77.5/140 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$	$d\sigma/dp_T^\gamma$	13 TeV	140 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}W$	$\sigma_{t\bar{t}W^\pm}$ $\sigma_{t\bar{t}W^+}/\sigma_{t\bar{t}W^-}$	13 TeV	140 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$t \rightarrow Wb$	$F_0, F_L$	8 TeV	20 fb <sup>-1</sup>
		13 TeV	140 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow tW$	$\sigma$	7 TeV	4.6 & 1.5 fb <sup>-1</sup>
		8 TeV	20 fb <sup>-1</sup>
		13 TeV	3.2/140 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{b}$ (s-ch)	$\sigma$	8 TeV	20 fb <sup>-1</sup>
		13 TeV	140 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow tq$ (t-ch)	$\sigma$	7 TeV	4.6 & 1.5 fb <sup>-1</sup>
		8 TeV	20 fb <sup>-1</sup>
		13 TeV	36/140 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow t\gamma q$	$\sigma$	13 TeV	140/36 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow tZq$	$\sigma$	13 TeV	140 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$	$\sigma$	13 TeV	36 fb <sup>-1</sup>
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$	$\sigma$	13 TeV	140 fb <sup>-1</sup>





# The Global SMEFT fit



## Flavour Observables

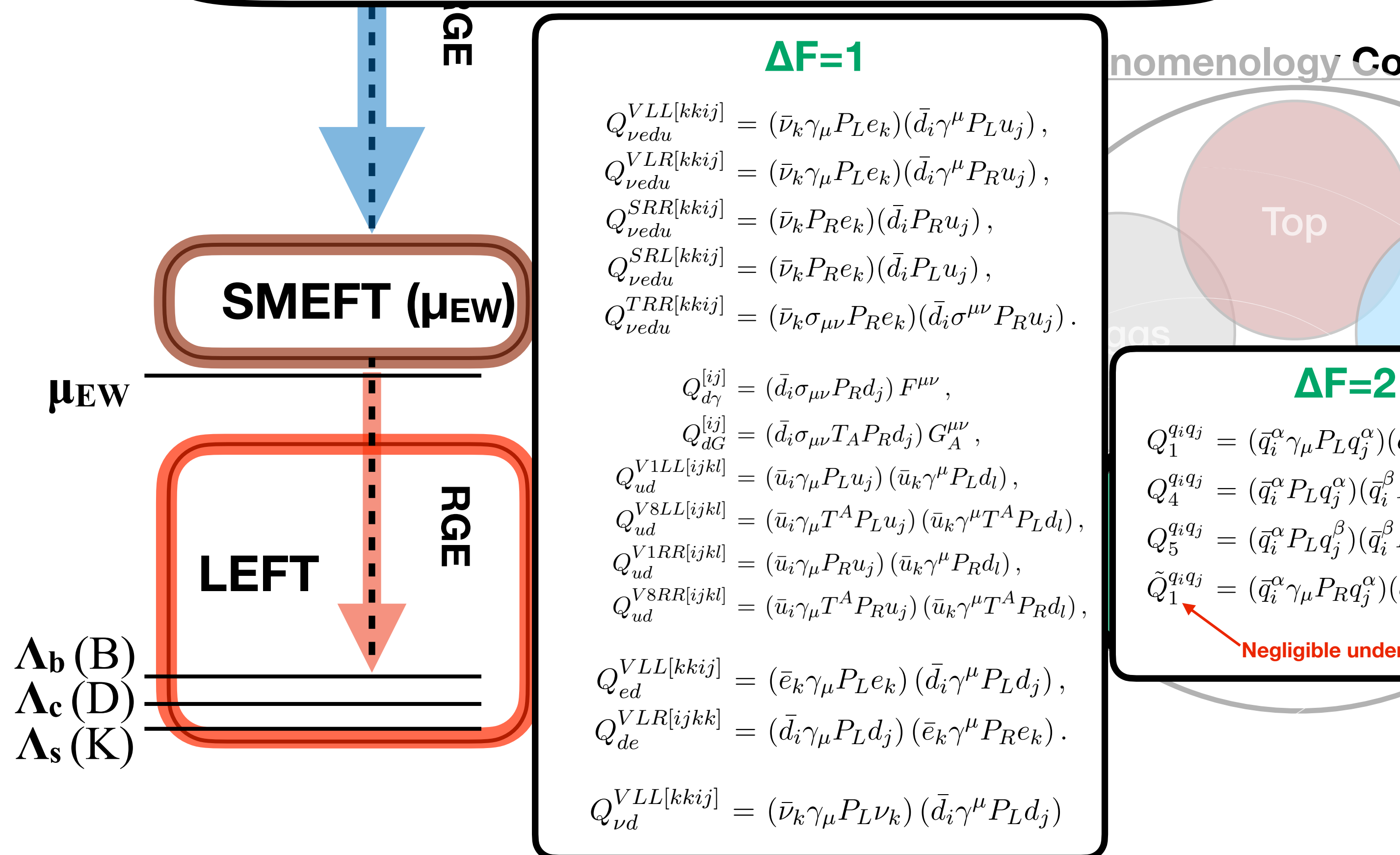
Observable	Value
$\Delta m_{B_s} (ps^{-1})$	$17.765 \pm 0.006$
$\phi_s$	$-0.049 \pm 0.019$
$A_{sl}^s$	$-0.0006 \pm 0.00028$
$\Delta m_{B_d} (ps^{-1})$	$0.5069 \pm 0.0019$
$S_{J/\psi K_S}$	$0.692 \pm 0.016$
$A_{sl}^d$	$-0.0021 \pm 0.0017$
$\Delta M_K (ns^{-1})$	$5.293 \pm 0.009$
$\epsilon_K$	$(2.228 \pm 0.011) \times 10^{-3}$
$\phi_{12}^M(^{\circ})$	$1.9 \pm 1.6$
$BR(B \rightarrow \tau \nu) \times 10^4$	$1.09 \pm 0.24$
$BR(D \rightarrow \tau \nu) \times 10^4$	$9.9 \pm 1.2$
$BR(D \rightarrow \mu \nu) \times 10^4$	$3.981 \pm 0.089$
$BR(D_s \rightarrow \tau \nu) \times 10^3$	$5.31 \pm 0.11$
$BR(D_s \rightarrow \mu \nu) \times 10^2$	$5.37 \pm 0.10$
$\Gamma(K \rightarrow \mu \nu)/\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow \mu \nu)$	$1.3367 \pm 0.0029$
$BR(\pi \rightarrow \mu \nu) \times 10^5$	$3.8408 \pm 0.0007$
$d\Gamma(B \rightarrow D \ell \nu)/dw$	$[\Delta\Gamma_i/\Delta w]_{10 \times 10}$
$BR(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) \times 10^{10}$	$1.175 \pm 0.365$
$BR(B \rightarrow X_s \gamma) \times 10^4$	$3.49 \pm 0.19$
$\overline{BR}(B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) \times 10^9$	$3.41 \pm 0.29$

- Several  $\Delta F=1, 2$  observables included
- Relevant for determination of CKM elements and to set bounds on FCNC

# The Global SMEFT fit

## Flavour Observables

- Computed in the LEFT (integrate W/Z/H/Top)
  - RGE to each relevant scale implemented directly for the different observables



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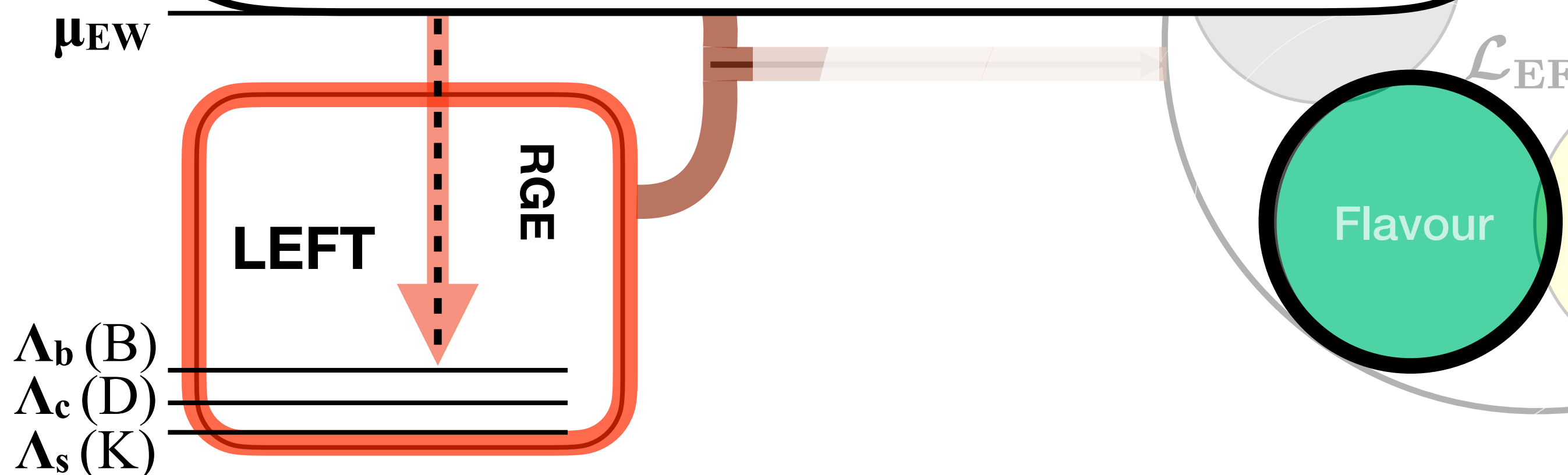
- Several **ΔF=1, 2** observables included
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# The Global SMEFT fit

## Flavour Observables

- Computed in the LEFT (integrate W/Z/H/Top)
  - RGE to each relevant scale implemented directly for the different observables
- All SM parameters are floated in the fit and obtained simultaneously with the WC
  - CKM and masses
  - Hadronic parameters

*SM parametric and theory uncertainties are of particular relevance in the flavour sector*



## Key hadronic parameters included in SM predictions

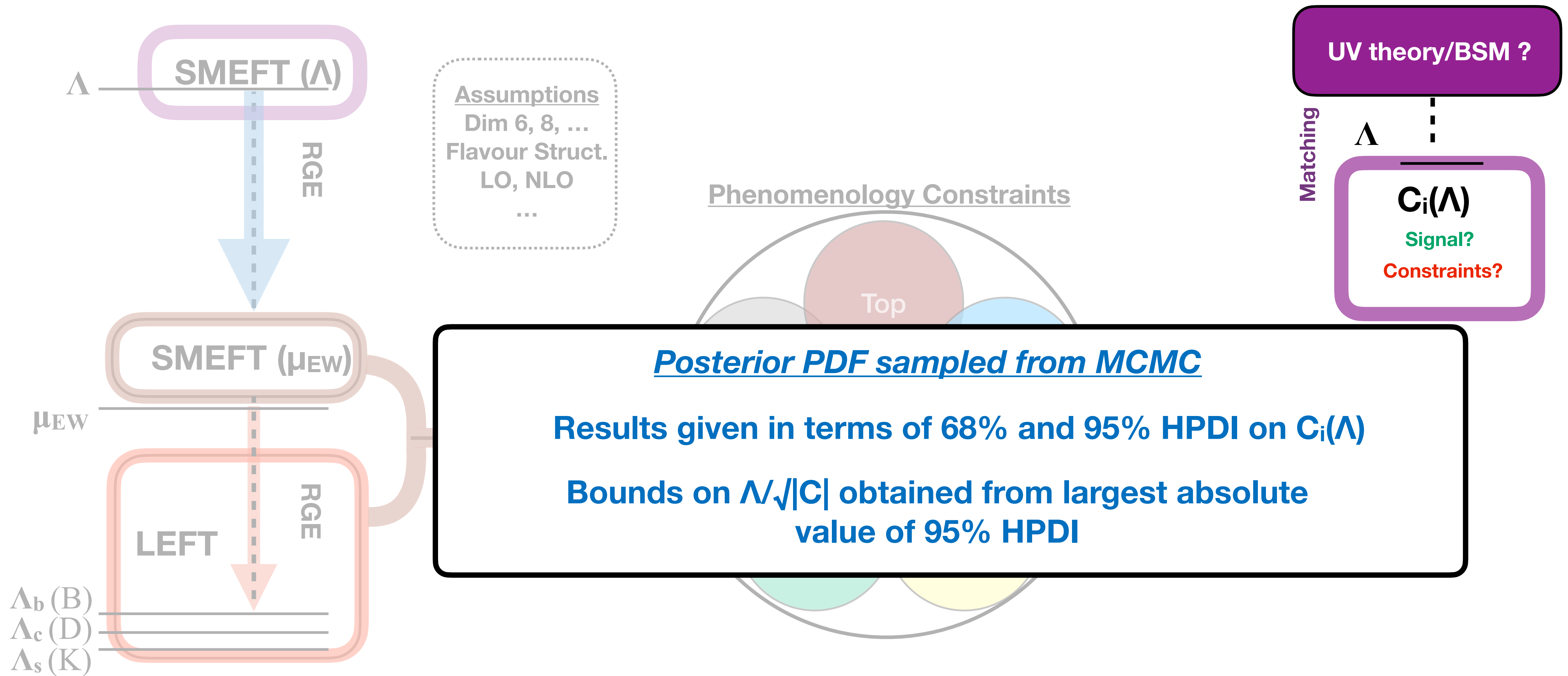
*Computed in Lattice QCD*

*Negligible effect expected from SMEFT (within current uncertainties)*

Parameter	Value
$F_{B_s}$ (GeV)	$0.2301 \pm 0.0012$
$F_{B_s}/F_{B_d}$	$1.208 \pm 0.005$
$B_{B_s}(4.2 \text{ GeV})$	$0.888 \pm 0.040$
$B_{B_s}/B_{B_d}$	$1.015 \pm 0.021$
$B_{B_s,4}(4.2 \text{ GeV})$	$0.98 \pm 0.08$
$B_{B_s,5}(4.2 \text{ GeV})$	$1.66 \pm 0.13$
$B_{B_d,4}(4.2 \text{ GeV})$	$0.99 \pm 0.08$
$B_{B_d,5}(4.2 \text{ GeV})$	$1.58 \pm 0.18$
$B_K(2 \text{ GeV})$	$0.552 \pm 0.012$
$B_{K,4}(2 \text{ GeV})$	$0.904 \pm 0.053$
$B_{K,5}(2 \text{ GeV})$	$0.618 \pm 0.114$
$\phi_{\varepsilon_K} (^{\circ})$	$43.51 \pm 0.05$
$\bar{\kappa}_{\varepsilon_K}$	$0.97 \pm 0.02$
$(\Delta M_K)^{SM} (\text{ns}^{-1})$	$8.8 \pm 3.6$
$B_{D,1}(3 \text{ GeV})$	$0.765 \pm 0.025$
$B_{D,4}(3 \text{ GeV})$	$0.98 \pm 0.06$
$B_{D,5}(3 \text{ GeV})$	$1.05 \pm 0.09$
$F_D$ (GeV)	$0.2120 \pm 0.0007$
$(\Delta M_D)^{SM} (\text{ps}^{-1})$	$0.005 \pm 0.005$
$f_K$ (GeV)	$0.15611 \pm 0.00021$
$f_K/f_{\pi}$	$1.1966 \pm 0.0018$
$\delta R_{\pi}^{\text{phys}}$	$0.0153 \pm 0.0019$
$\delta P_{c,u}$	$0.04 \pm 0.02$



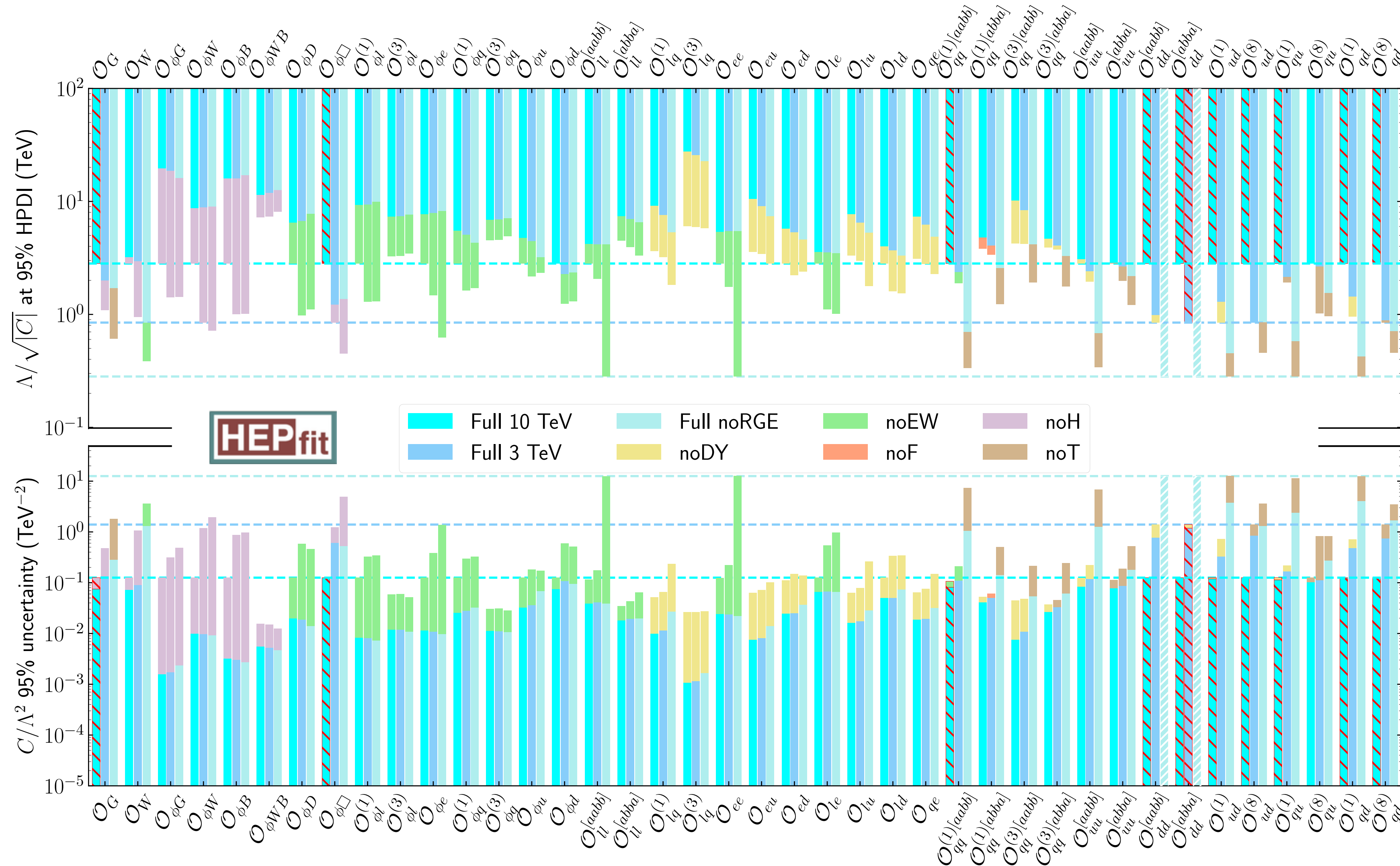
# The Global SMEFT fit



# ***The role of Flavour in combined EW+Higgs+Top+Flavour studies***

# The role of Flavour in SMEFT fits: $U(3)^5$

## Individual fit results: Impact of data sets



Bounds controlled mostly by EW/Higgs observables

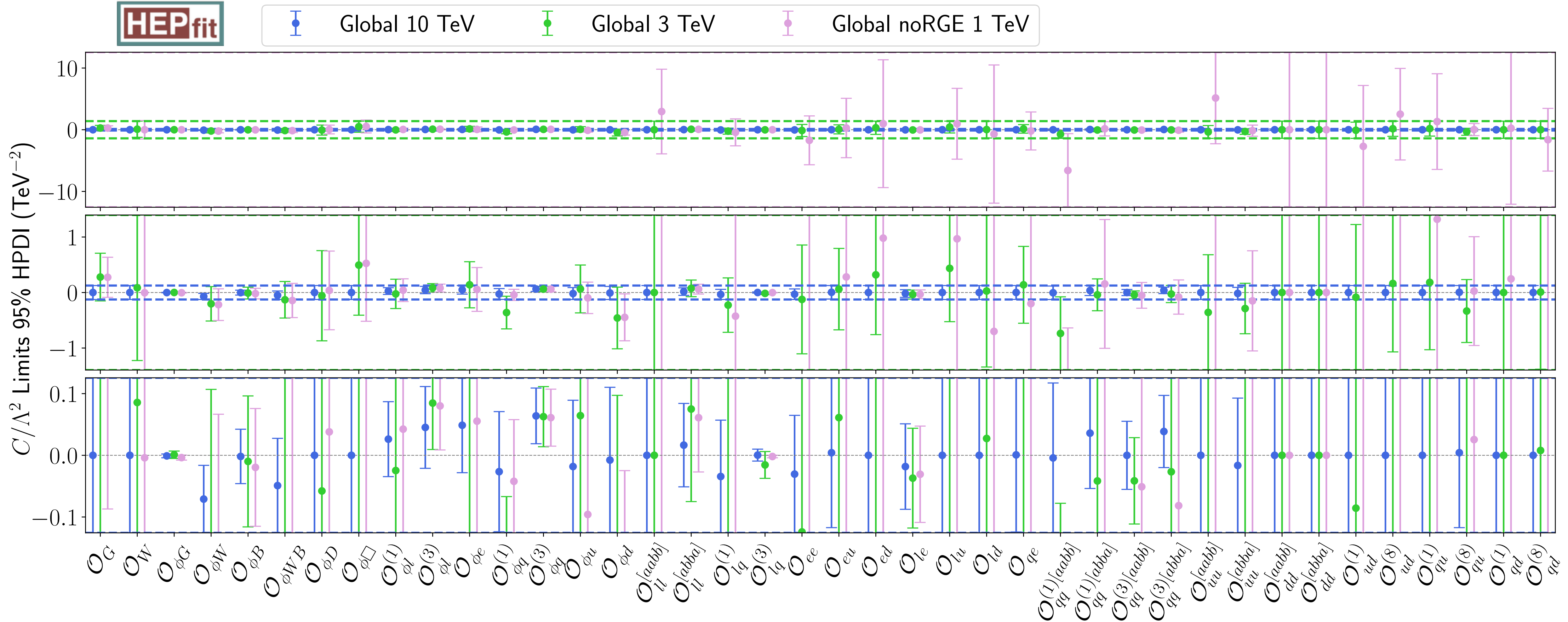
noF  
Orange means “Flavour” controlling the bound

Not surprisingly, in the  $U(3)^5$ -symmetric limit contributions to flavour observables are very suppressed

Picture changes dramatically when we relax the hypotheses to  $U(2)^5$

# SMEFT fit results: $U(3)^5$

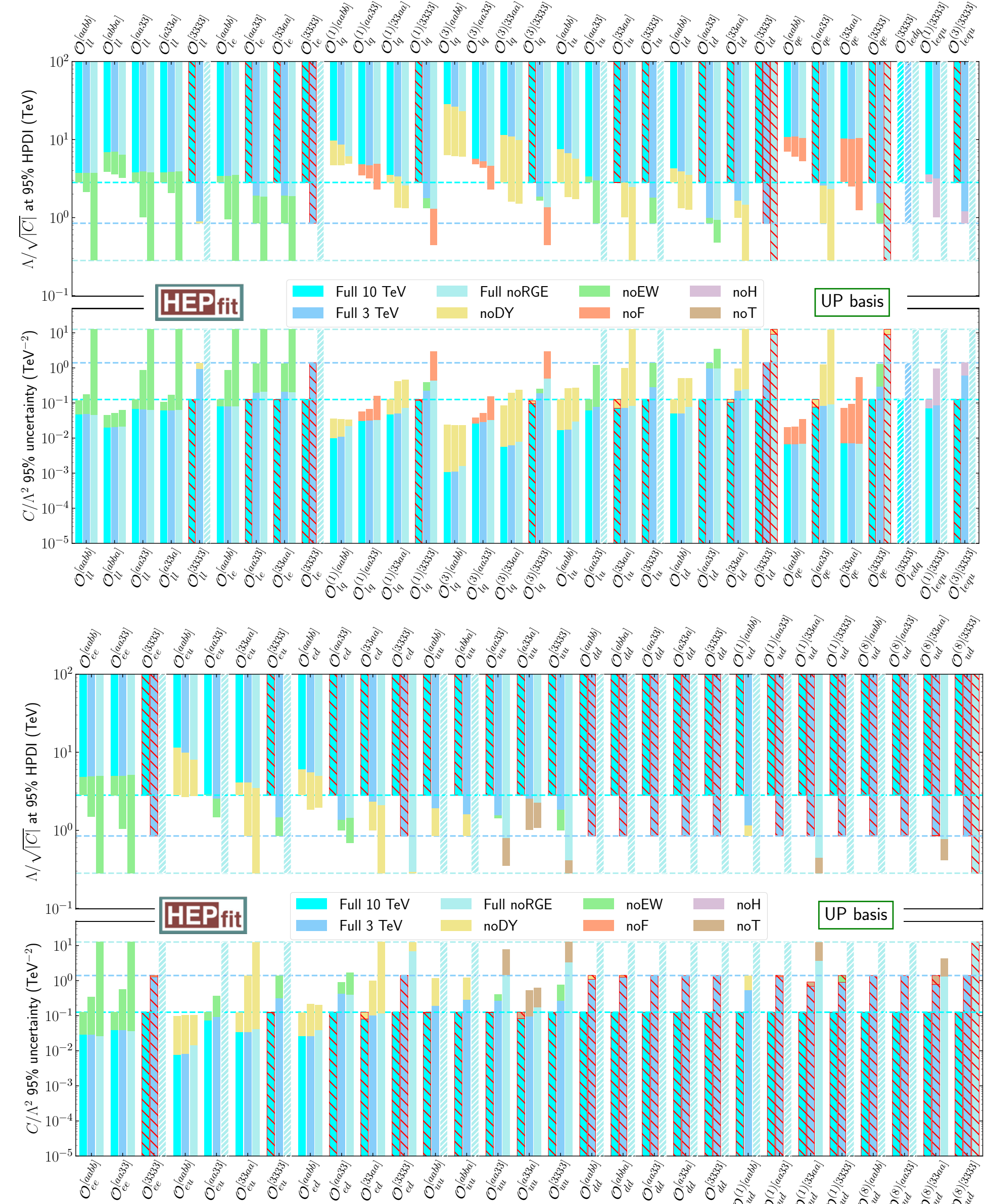
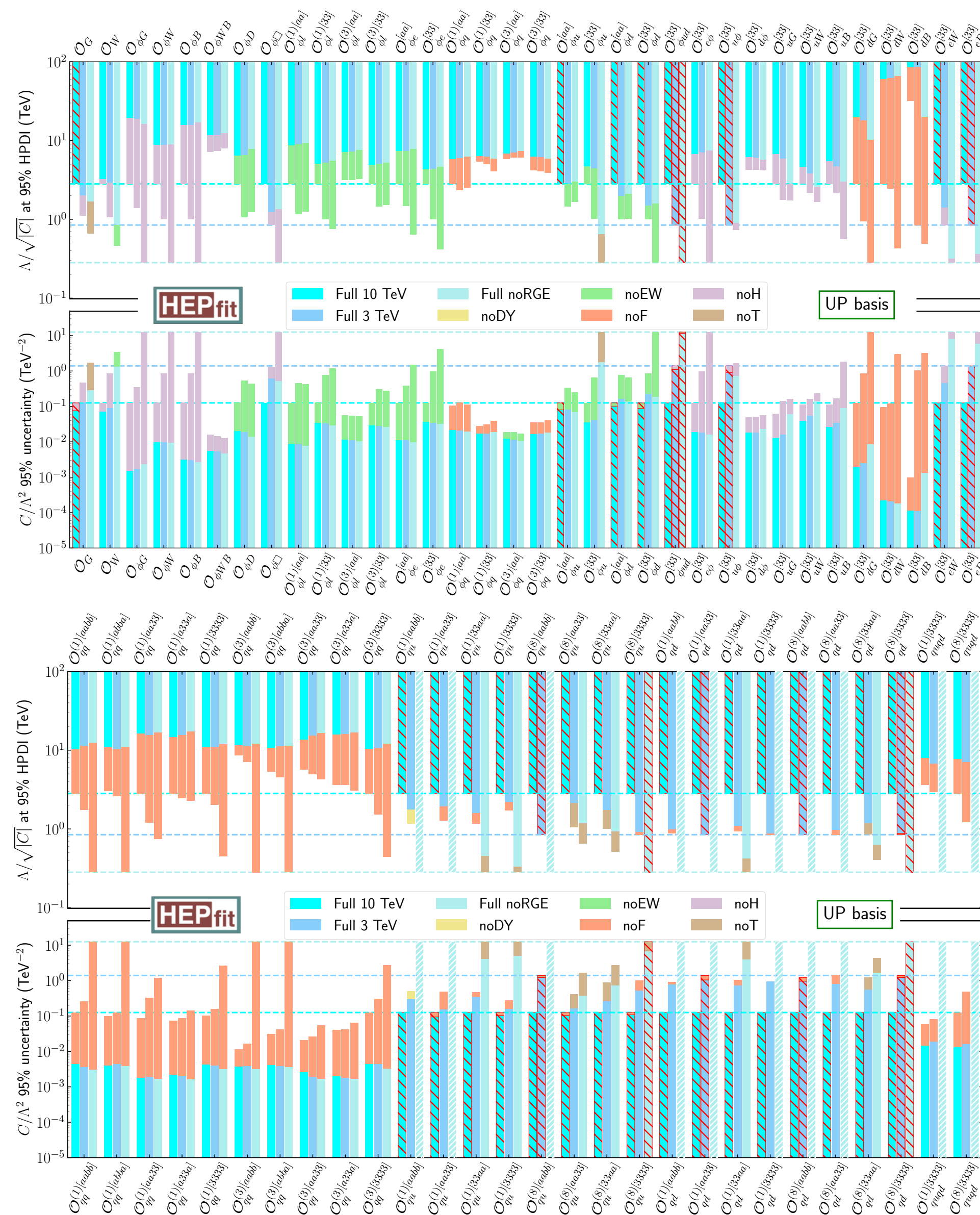
## Global fit: comparison of different choices of $\Lambda$



**Strong correlations between coefficients significantly relax the bounds but many operators can still be constrained within the perturbative regime (especially for  $\Lambda=3$  TeV)**

# The role of Flavour in SMEFT fits: $U(2)^5$

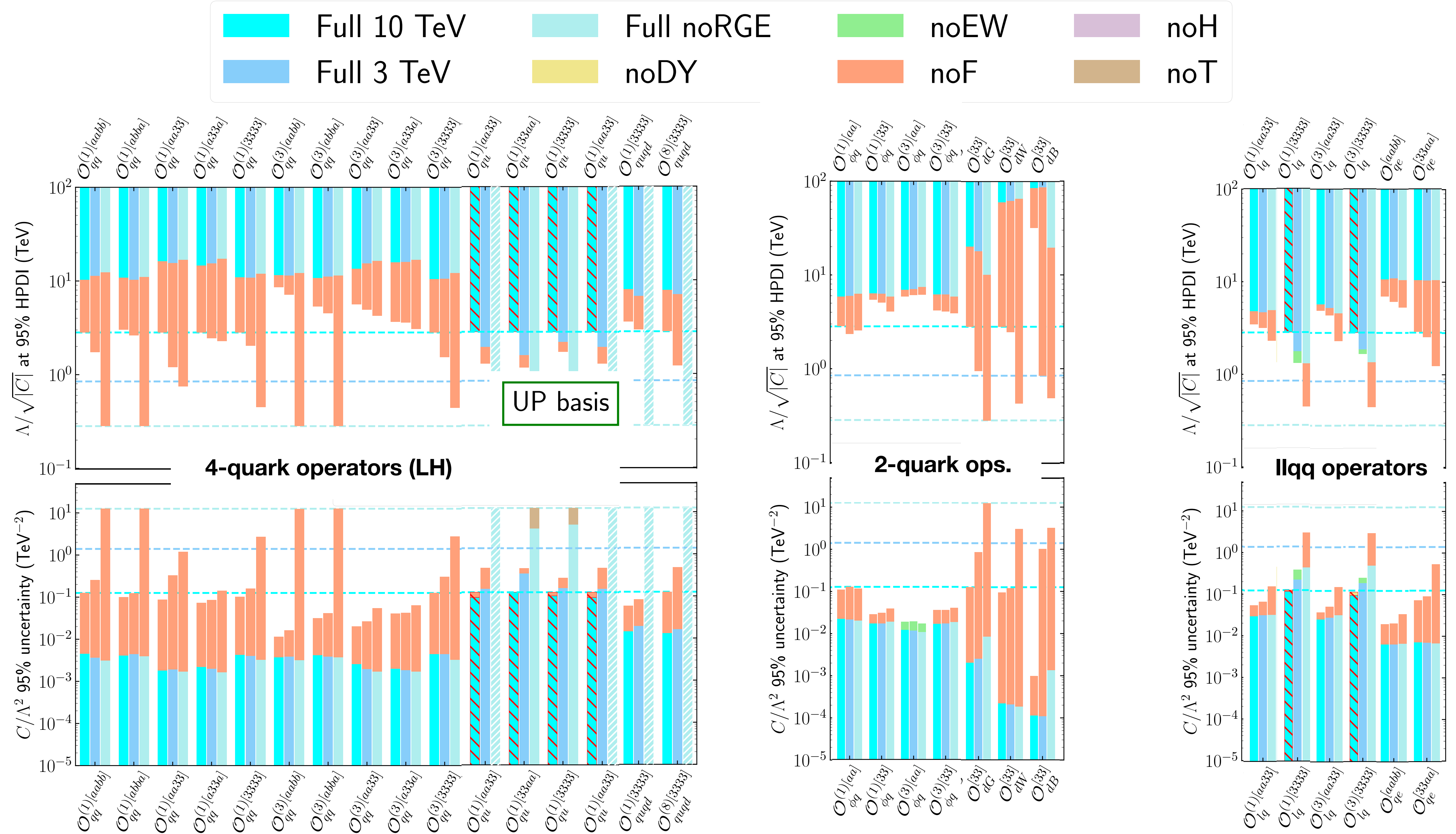
## Individual fit results: Impact of data sets





# The role of Flavour in SMEFT fits: $U(2)^5$

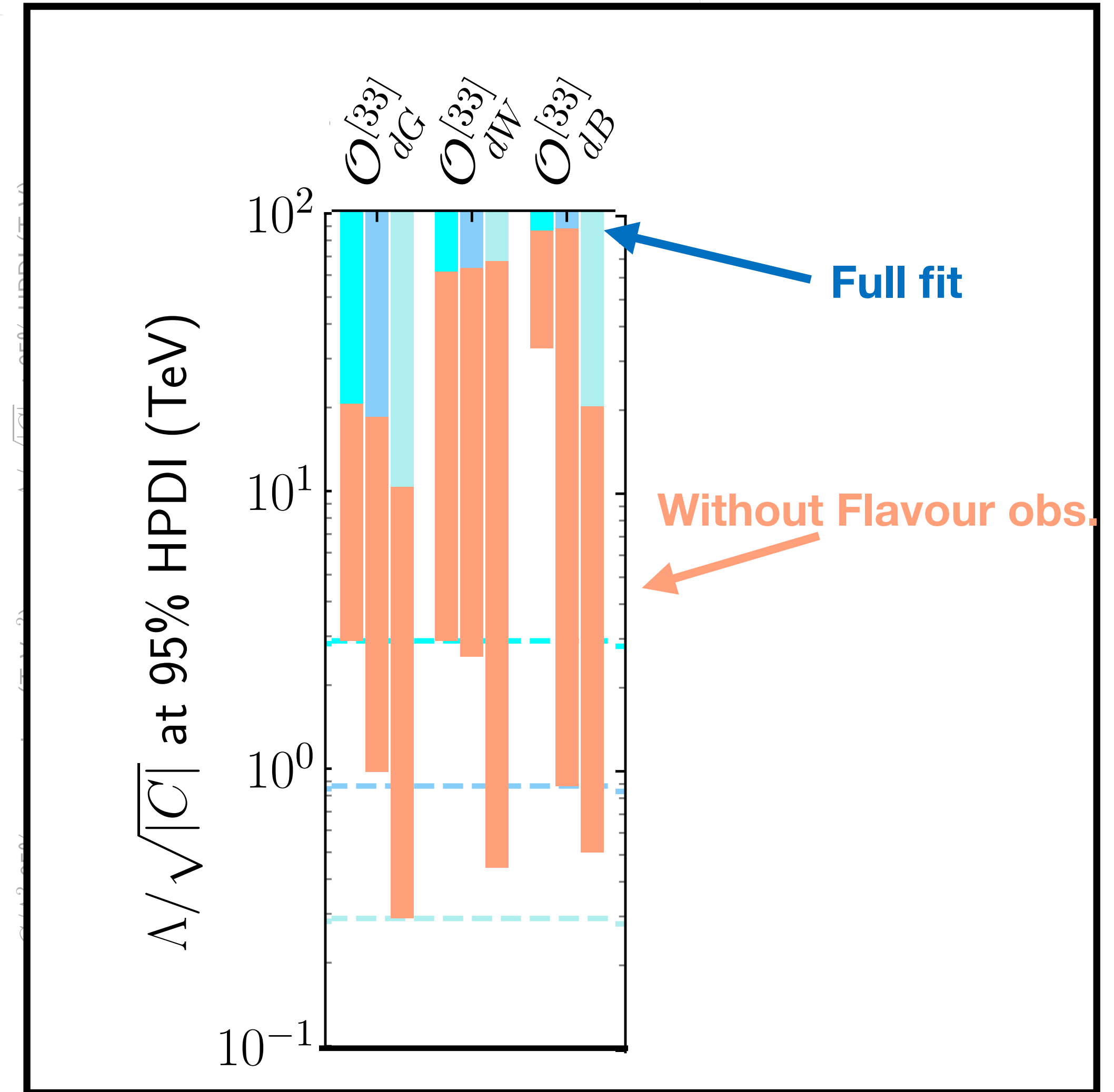
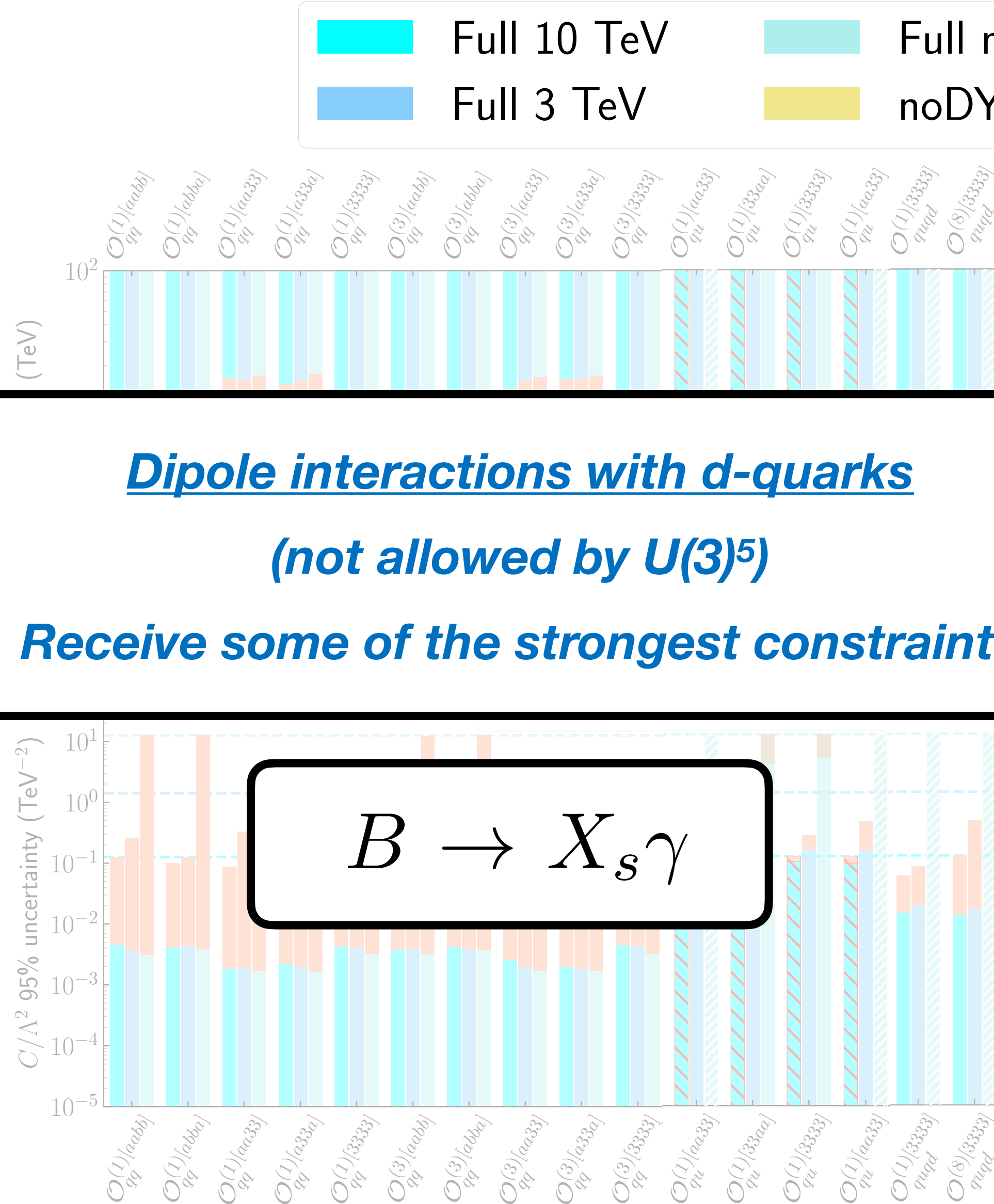
## Individual fit results: Impact of data sets



(Very small contributions from RH operators to Flavour either in the UP or DOWN bases)

# The role of Flavour in SMEFT fits: $U(2)^5$

Individual fit results: Impact of data sets

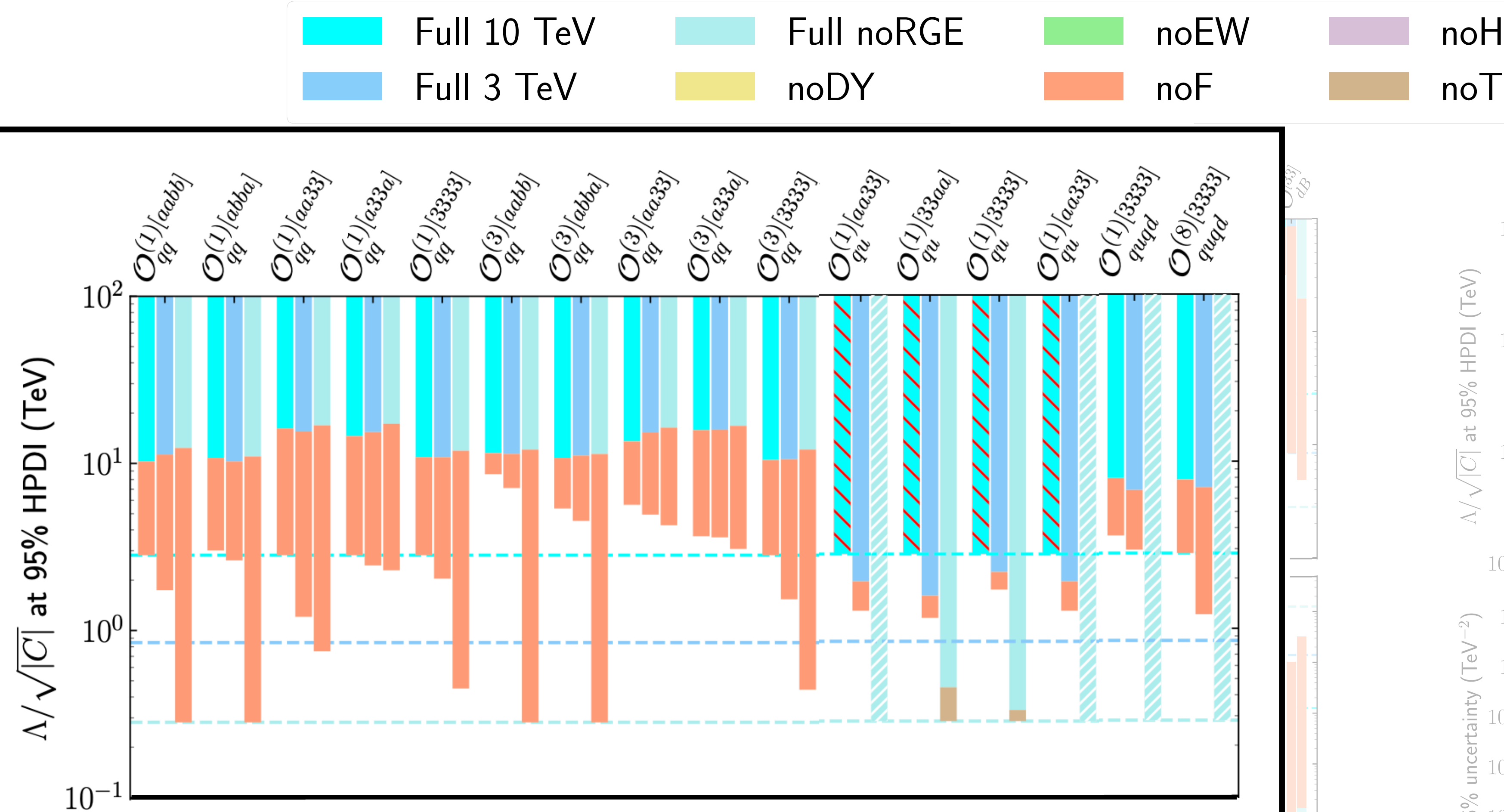


(Very small contributions from RH operators to Flavour either in the UP or DOWN bases)



# The role of Flavour in SMEFT fits: $U(2)^5$

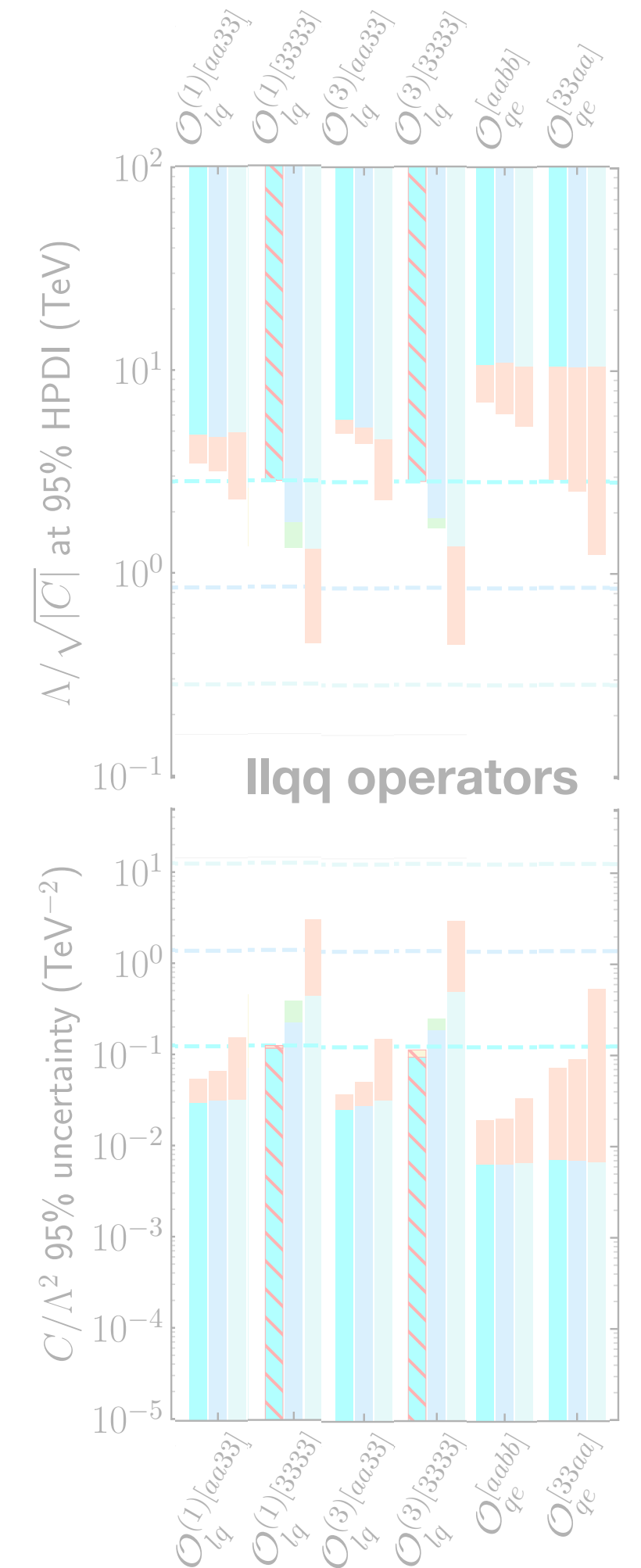
Individual fit results: Impact of data sets



$O_{qq}^{(1)}, O_{qq}^{(3)}$  strongly constrained by meson-anti meson mixing

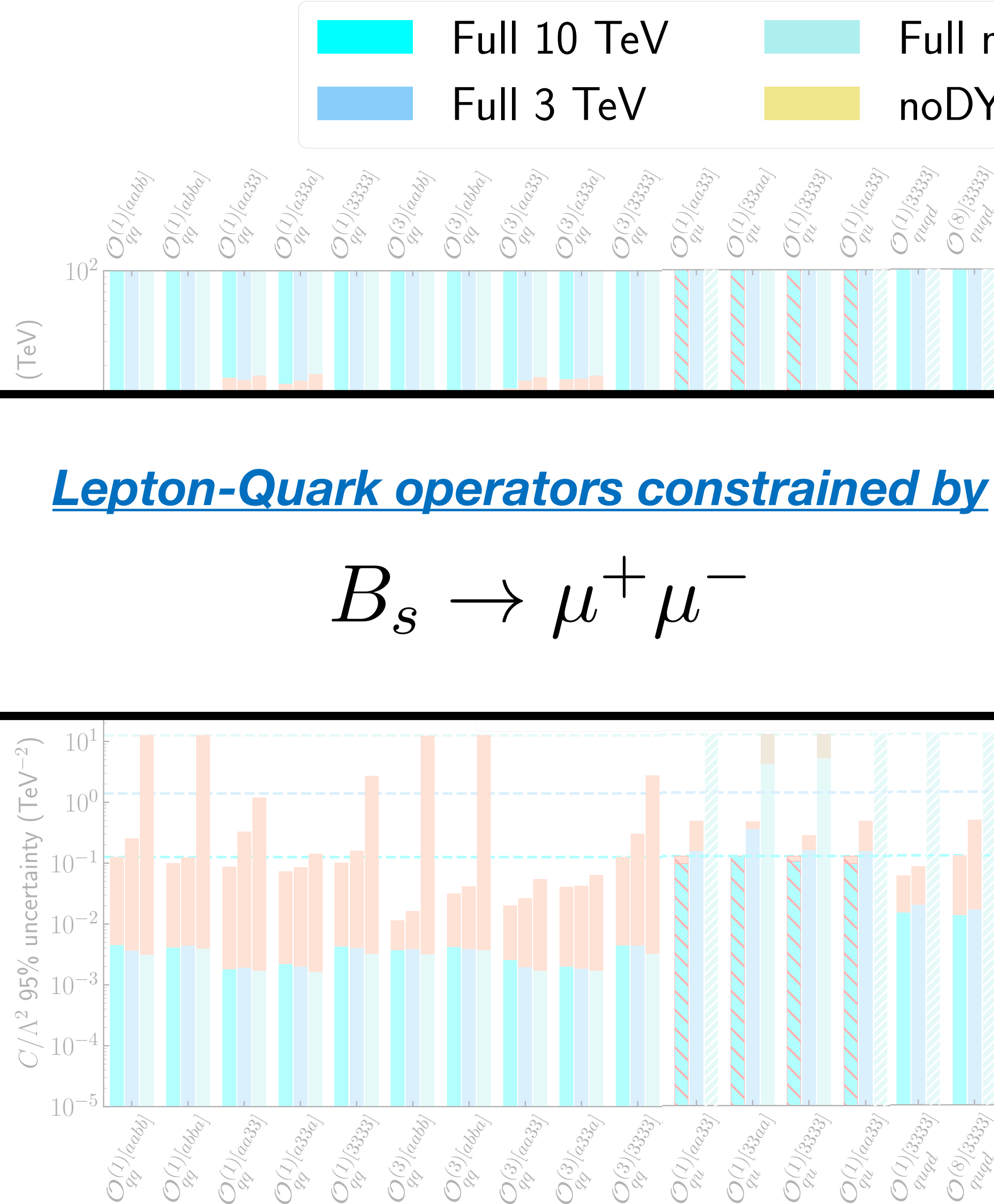
$$\Delta m_{B_s}, \Delta M_K, \dots$$

(Very small contributions from RH operators to Flavour either in the UP or DOWN bases)



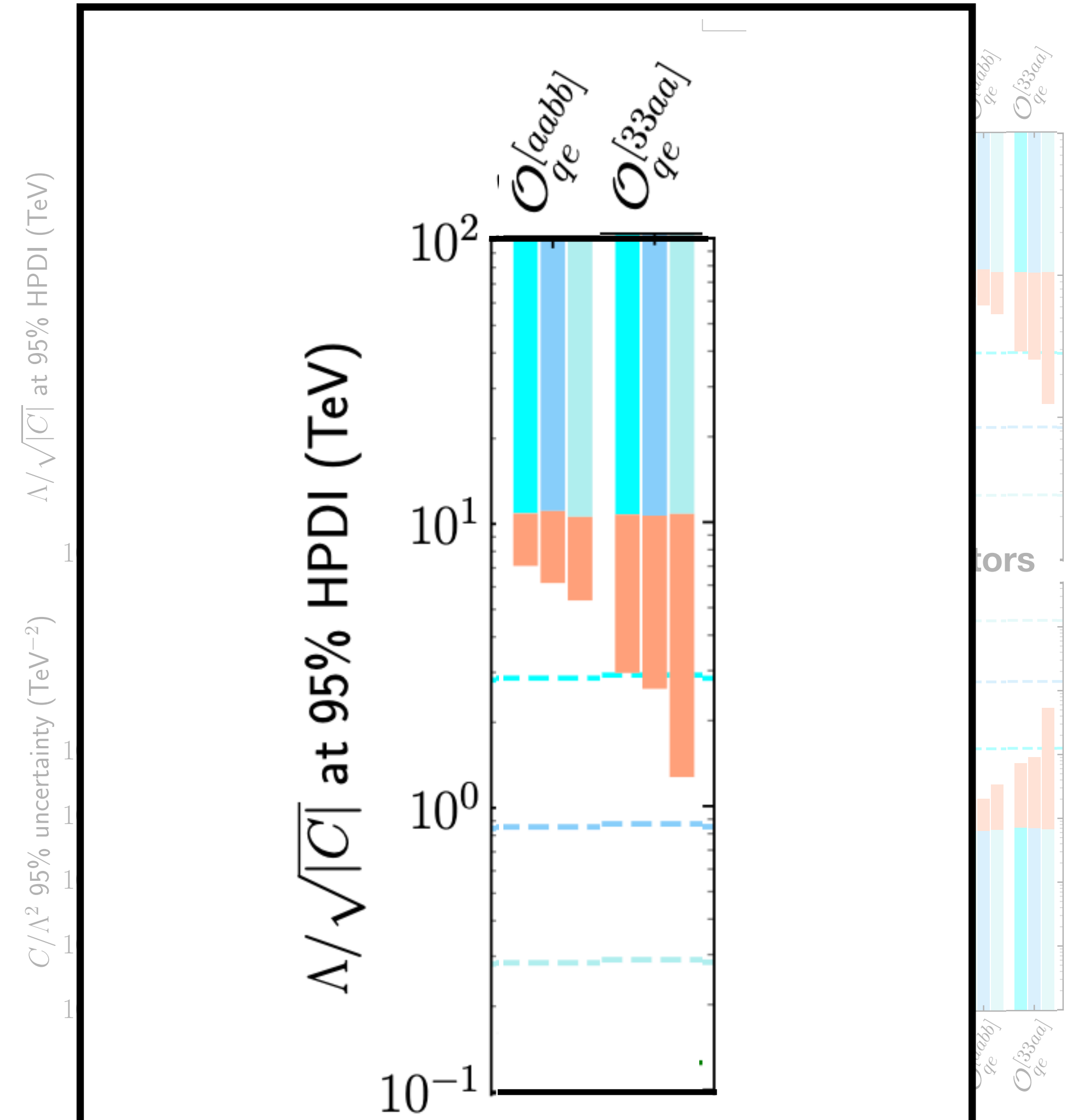
# The role of Flavour in SMEFT fits: $U(2)^5$

Individual fit results: Impact of data sets



Lepton-Quark operators constrained by

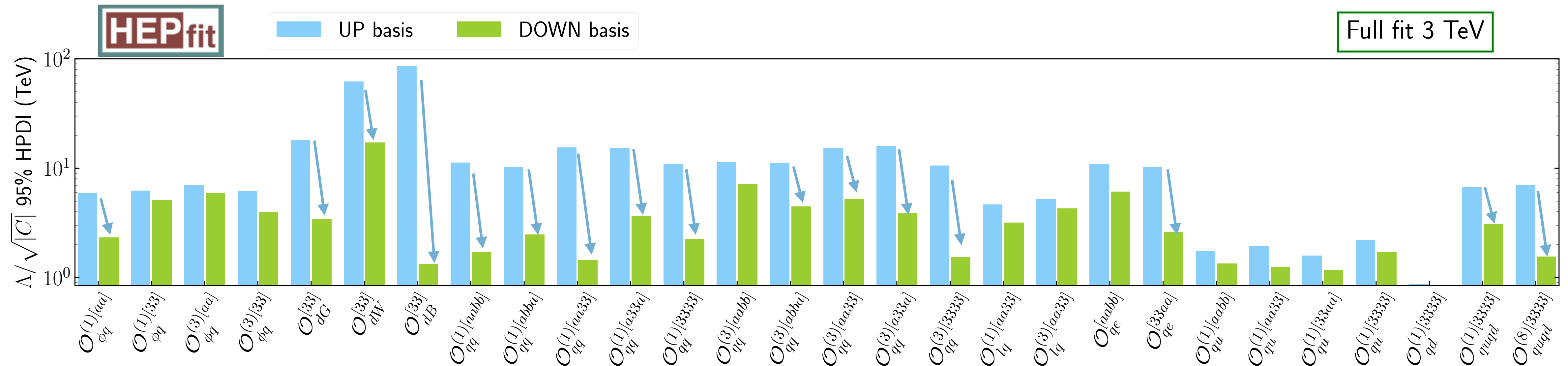
$$B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$$



(Very small contributions from RH operators to Flavour either in the UP or DOWN bases)

# *The role of Flavour in SMEFT fits: $U(2)^5$*

## UP vs. DOWN: Individual fits

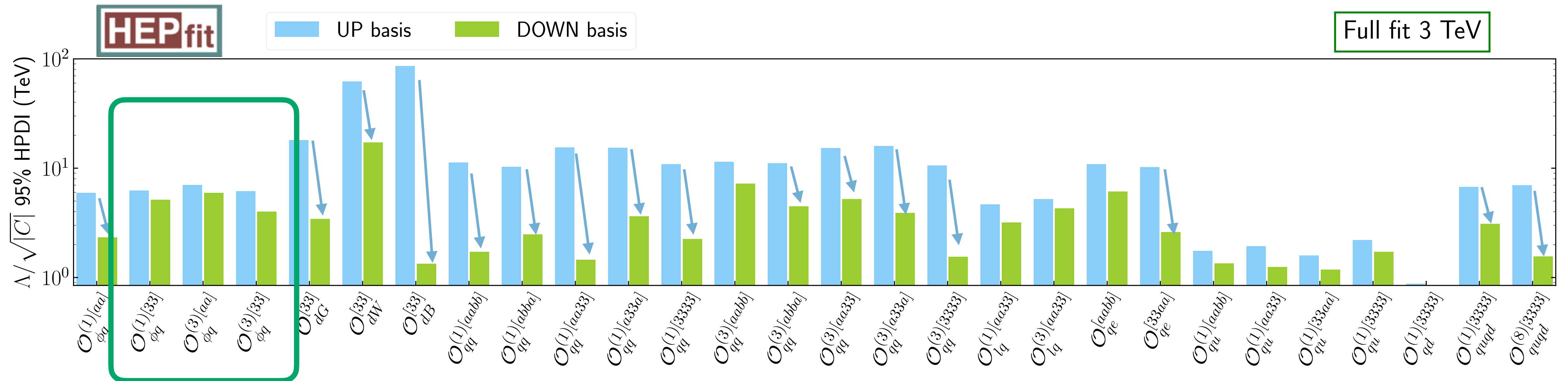


***Strong dependence on choice of "basis"***

- Alignment of New Physics with the DOWN sector in the  $U(2)^5$  limit  $\Rightarrow$  Strong suppression to flavour-changing b-quark processes  $\Rightarrow$  Systematic relaxation of flavour bounds  
(Still providing the leading constraint in dipole interactions)

# The role of Flavour in SMEFT fits: $U(2)^5$

## UP vs. DOWN: Individual fits



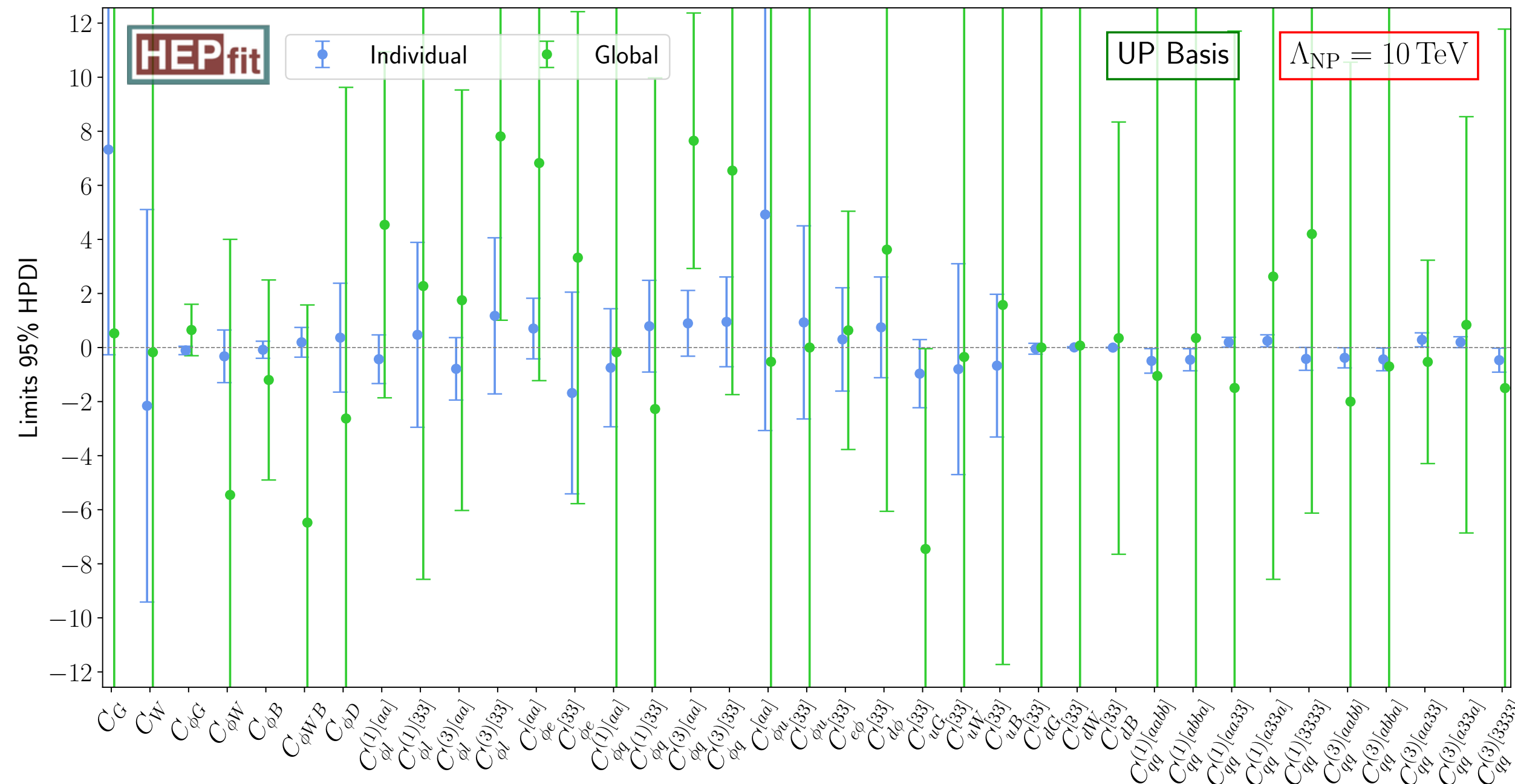
### Strong dependence on choice of "basis"

- Alignment of New Physics with the DOWN sector in the  $U(2)^5$  limit  $\Rightarrow$  Strong suppression to flavour-changing b-quark processes  $\Rightarrow$  Systematic relaxation of flavour bounds  
(Still providing the leading constraint in dipole interactions)
- Exception:**  $\mathcal{O}_{\phi q}^{(1)}$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_{\phi q}^{(3)}$ : EWPO still imposes strong flavour-blind bounds

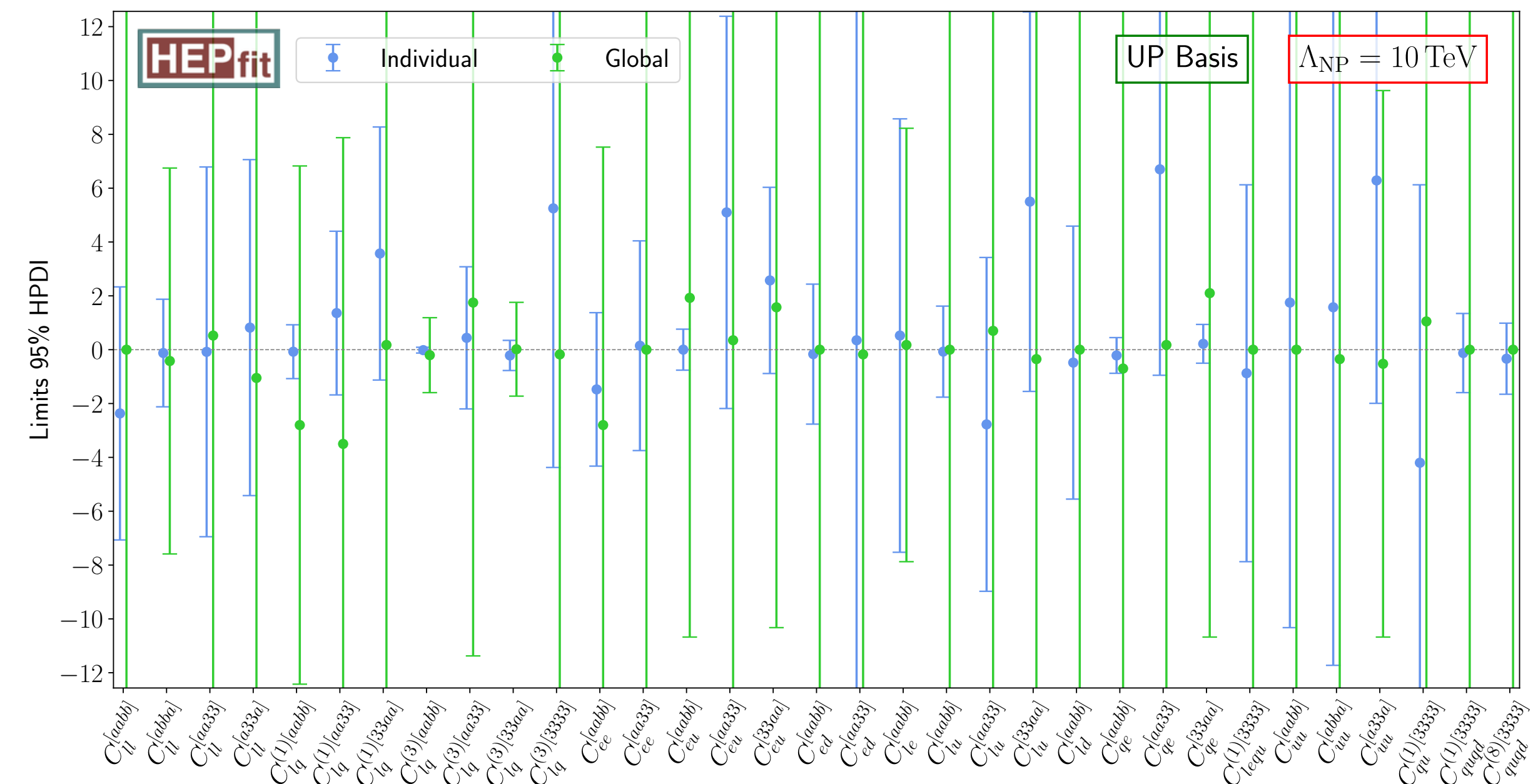


## ***SMEFT fit results: $U(2)^5$***

### Comparison of individual vs. global fit results

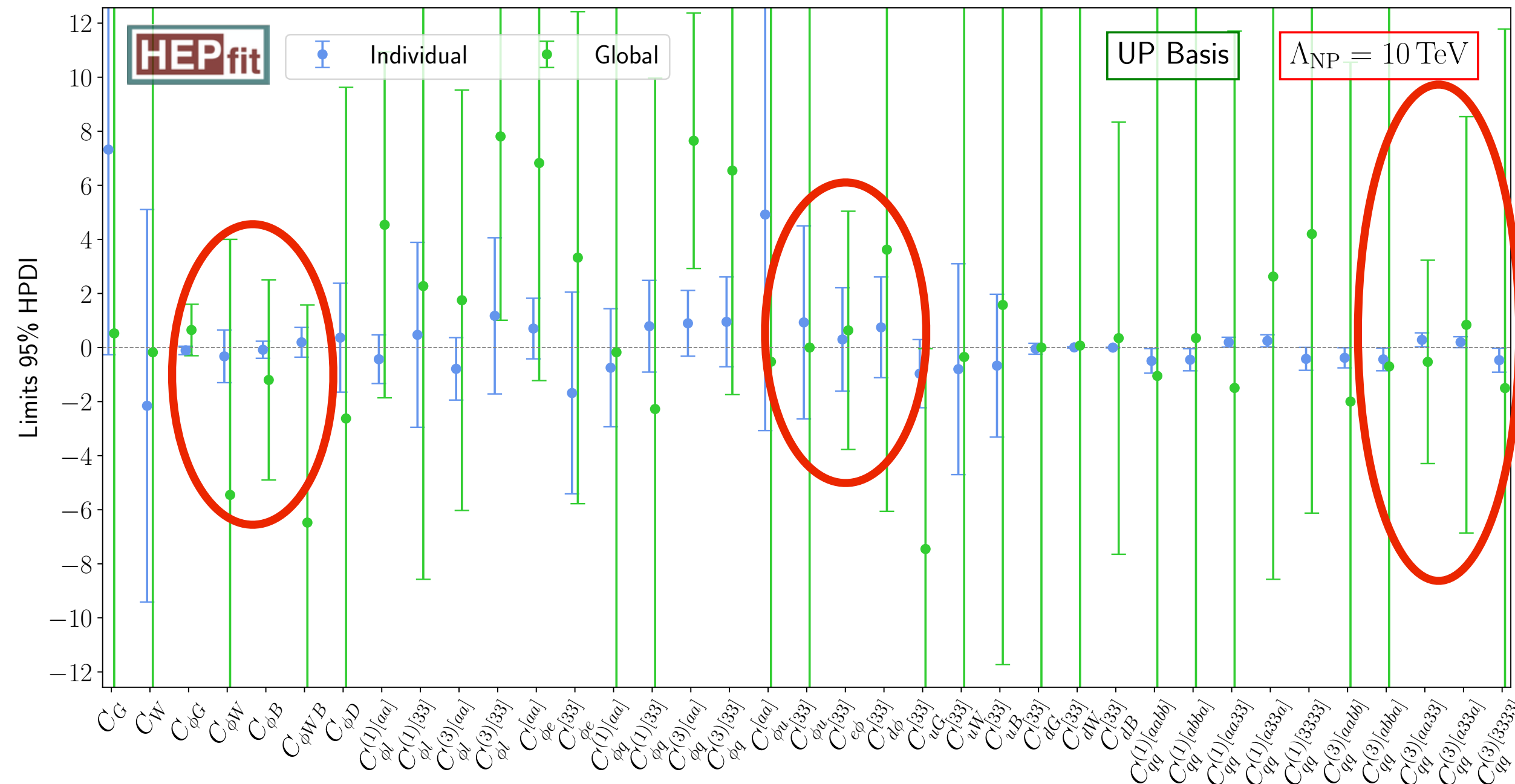


- Results shown (for illustration) only for those operators where a given WVC can be constrained at least individually
- The larger number of degrees of freedom ***in the  $U(2)^5$  case weakens even more the global bounds*** compared to the individual limits



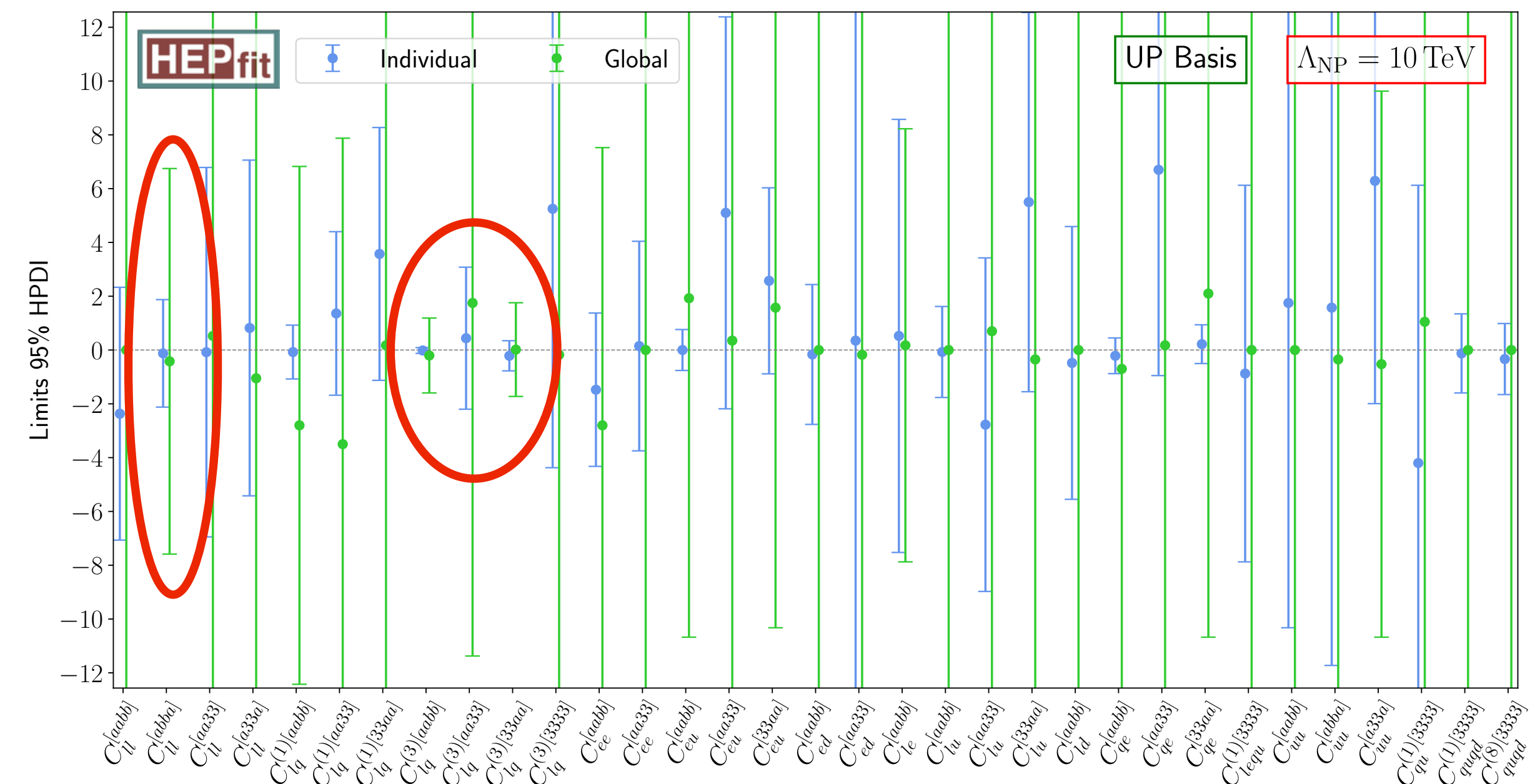
## ***SMEFT fit results: $U(2)^5$***

### Comparison of individual vs. global fit results



- With current precision, constraining the  $U(2)^5$  SMEFT becomes challenging for  $\Lambda \sim 10$  TeV
- Meaningful constraints of several interactions can still be placed when restricting to the perturbative regime

- Results shown (for illustration) only for those operators where a given WVC can be constrained at least individually
- The larger number of degrees of freedom ***in the  $U(2)^5$  case weakens even more the global bounds*** compared to the individual limits

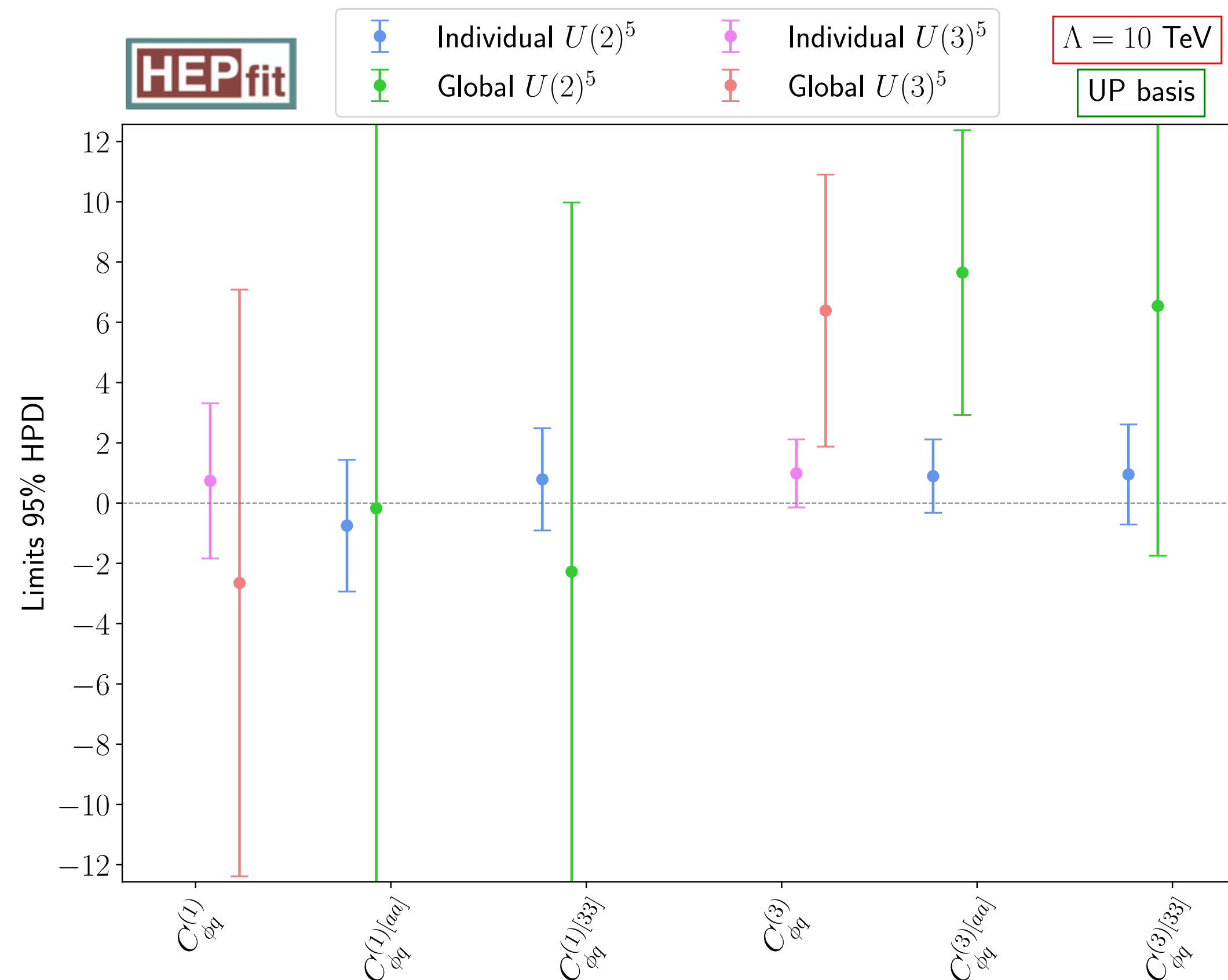




## ***SMEFT fit results: $U(2)^5$***

## Comparison of individual vs. global fit results

## Flavour protection: $U(3)^5$ vs. $U(2)^5$



- Despite the very different hypotheses and prominent role of flavour measurements in the  $U(2)^5$  fit, these assumptions ***still provide a good flavour “protection”***

**$C_{\phi q}^{(1)}, C_{\phi q}^{(3)} \rightarrow$  Modify NC quark interactions**

**Comparable results in  $U(3)^5$  and  $U(2)^5$  limits**  
(both in individual and global fits)

**Controlled by EW/Top observables**

- Relevant for building new physics models not (too) far from the EW scale!

# ***Summary*** ***Conclusions***

# Summary and Conclusions

- In this study, we have presented a consistent combination of EW/Higgs/Top/Flavour constraints in the dimension-6 SMEFT:
  - ✓ Including variations of the SMEFT Wilson coefficients and all the SM parameters (inputs + TH uncert.)
  - ✓ Including RGE evolution both in the SMEFT and LEFT starting from a full basis of SMEFT effects in the UV:
    - ▶  $U(3)^5$  flavour symmetry (41 operators)
    - ▶  $U(2)^5$  flavour symmetry (124 operators)
- The role of flavour in the global fit
  - ✓ Including prior information to ensure the EFT is studied within its perturbative regime
- The role of flavour in the global fit
  - ✓ Strong dependence of the result on flavour assumptions
  - ✓  $U(2)^5$  : beyond the trivial  $U(3)^5$  limit, flavour measurements play a leading role in setting very strong limits in new interactions...
  - ✓ ...though results depend on the direction of the 3rd family in flavour space chosen to define the  $U(2)^5$  symmetry
  - ✓  $U(2)^5$  symmetry provides a good flavour protection  $\Rightarrow$  Important for EW scale BSM models!

Around 200 parameters in the fit !