

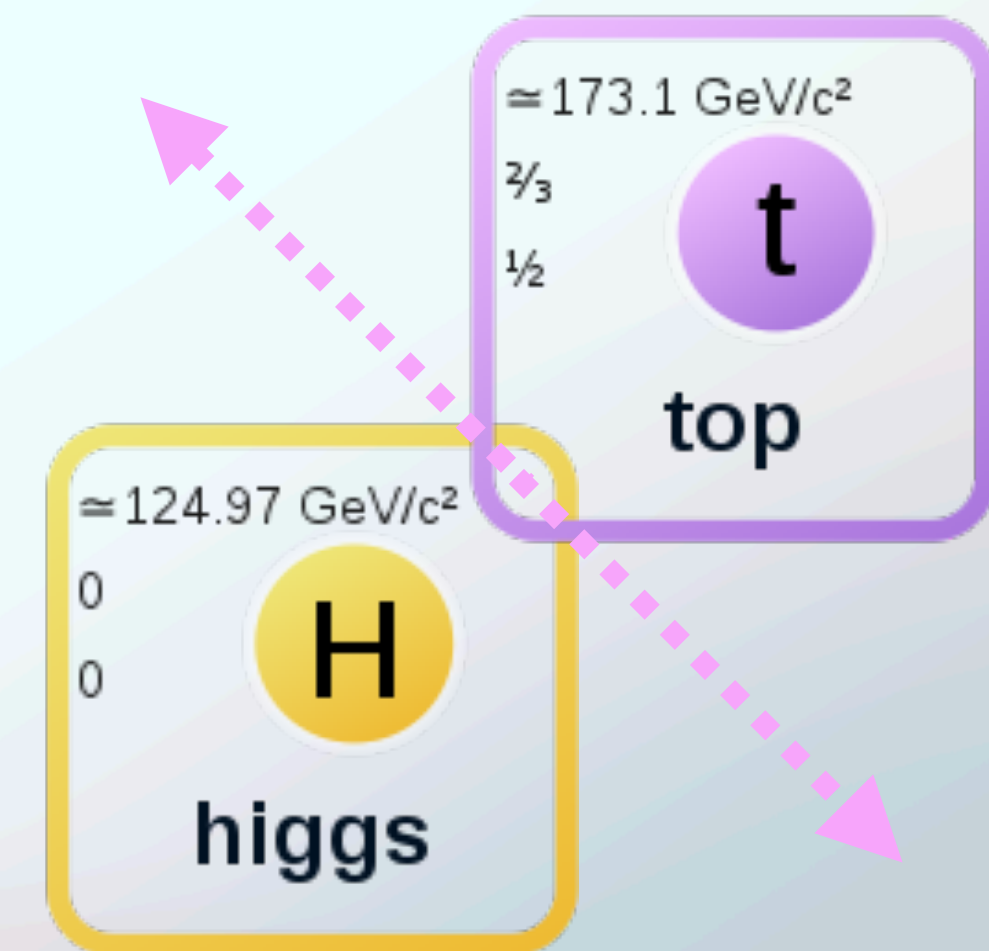


Probing Electroweak Symmetry Breaking with Effective Field Theories

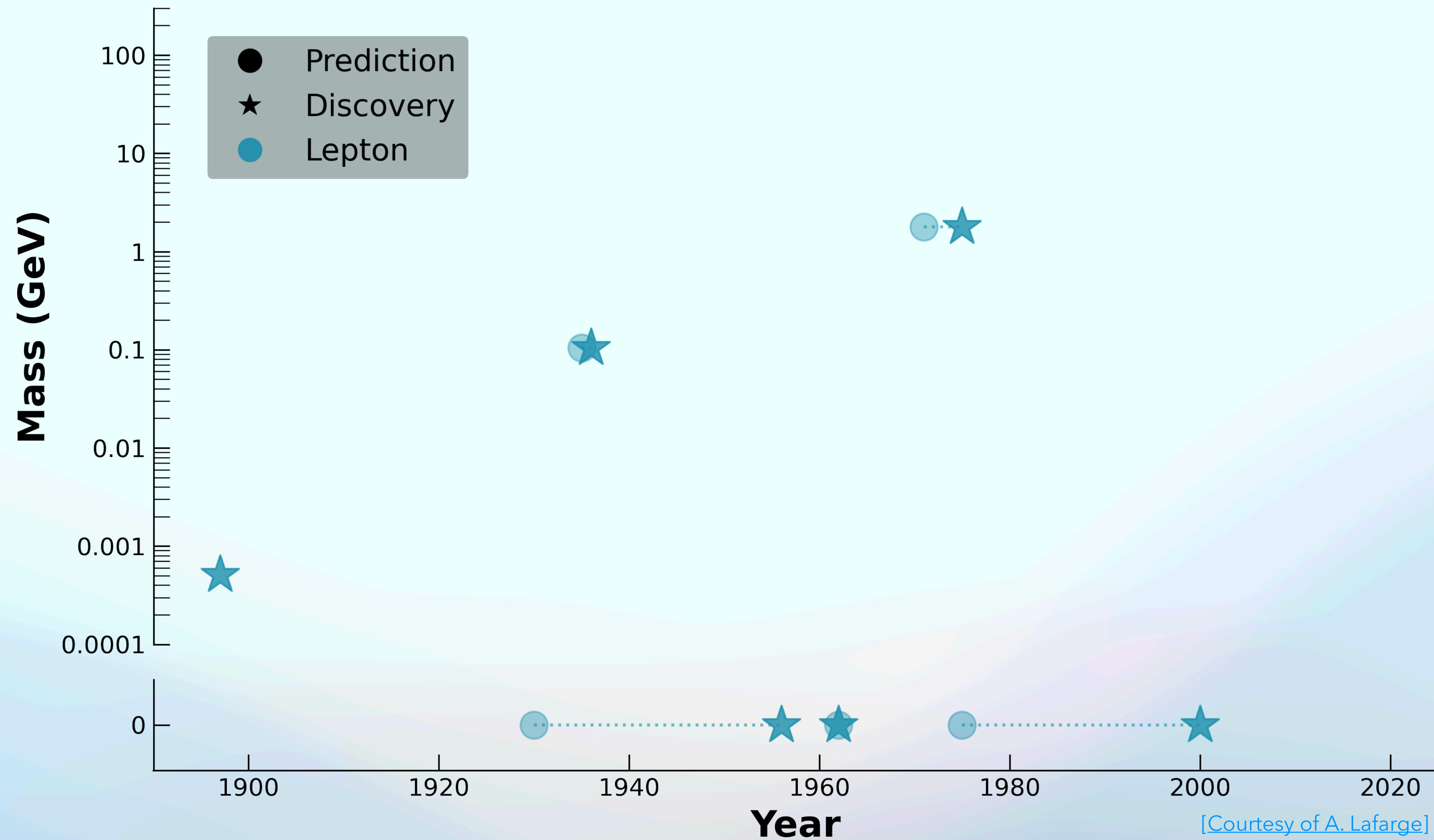
in Top quark and Higgs sectors

IPHC seminar - 30, March 2026

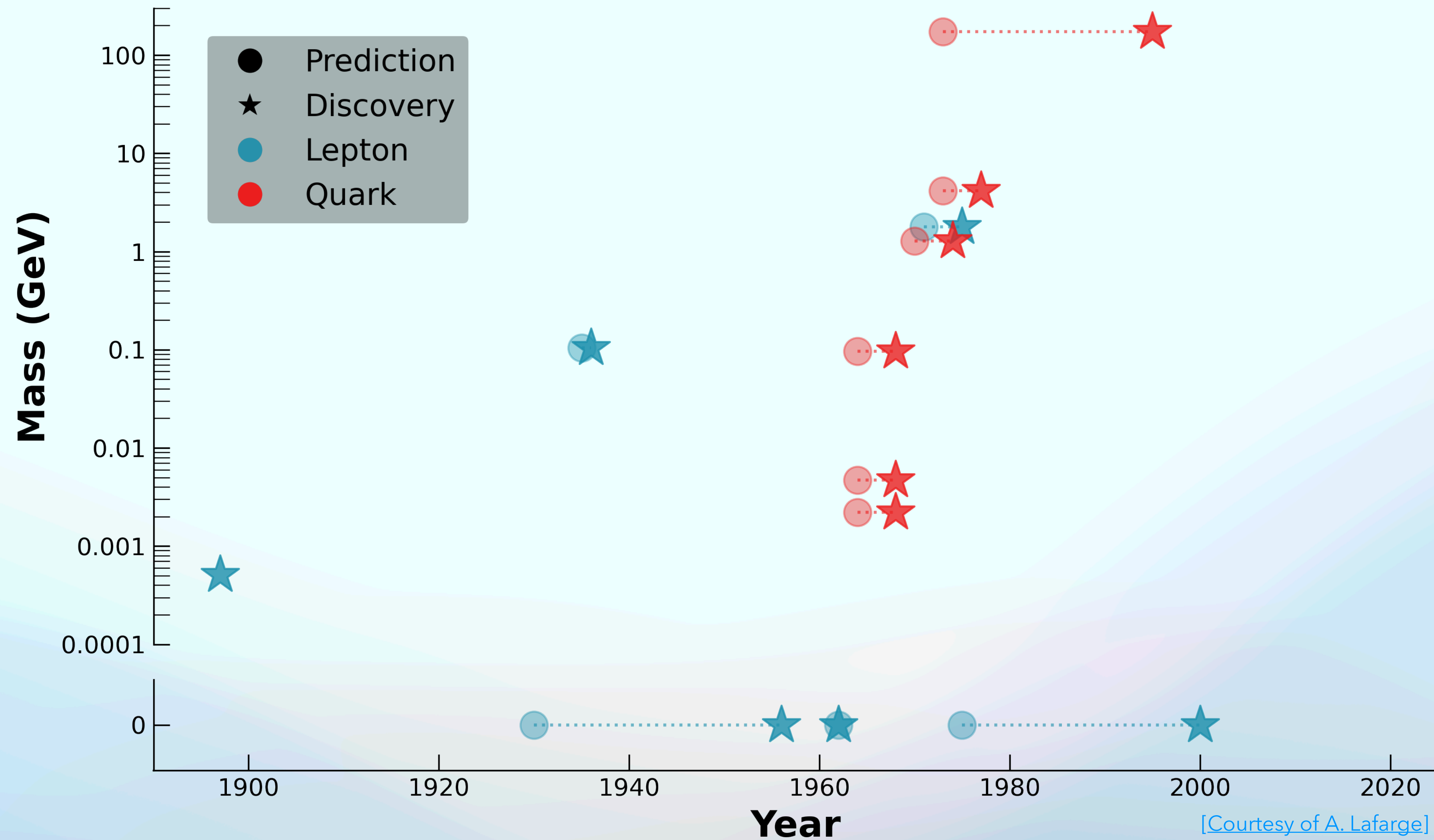
Adrien Auriol



A discovery tale

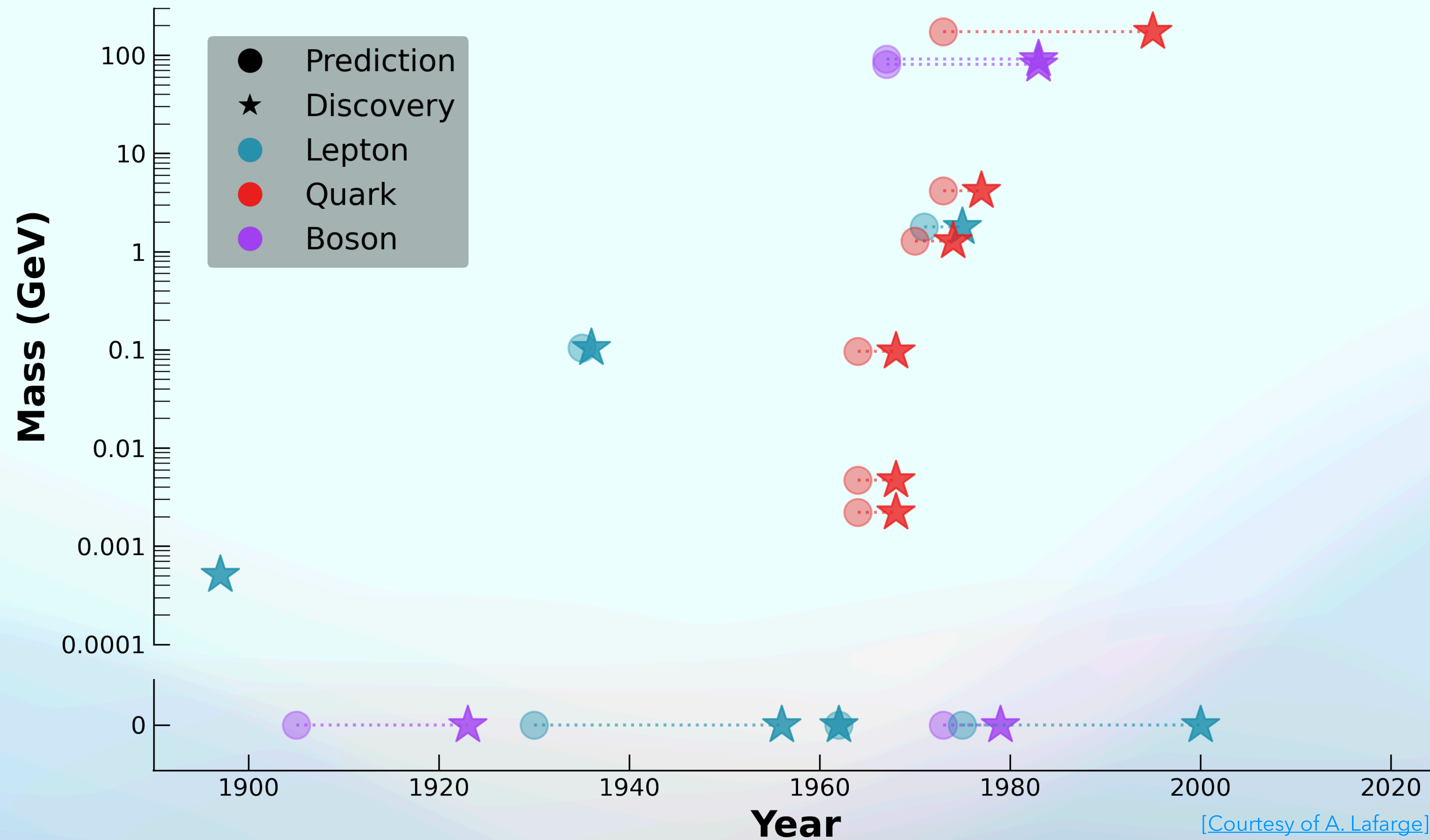


A discovery tale



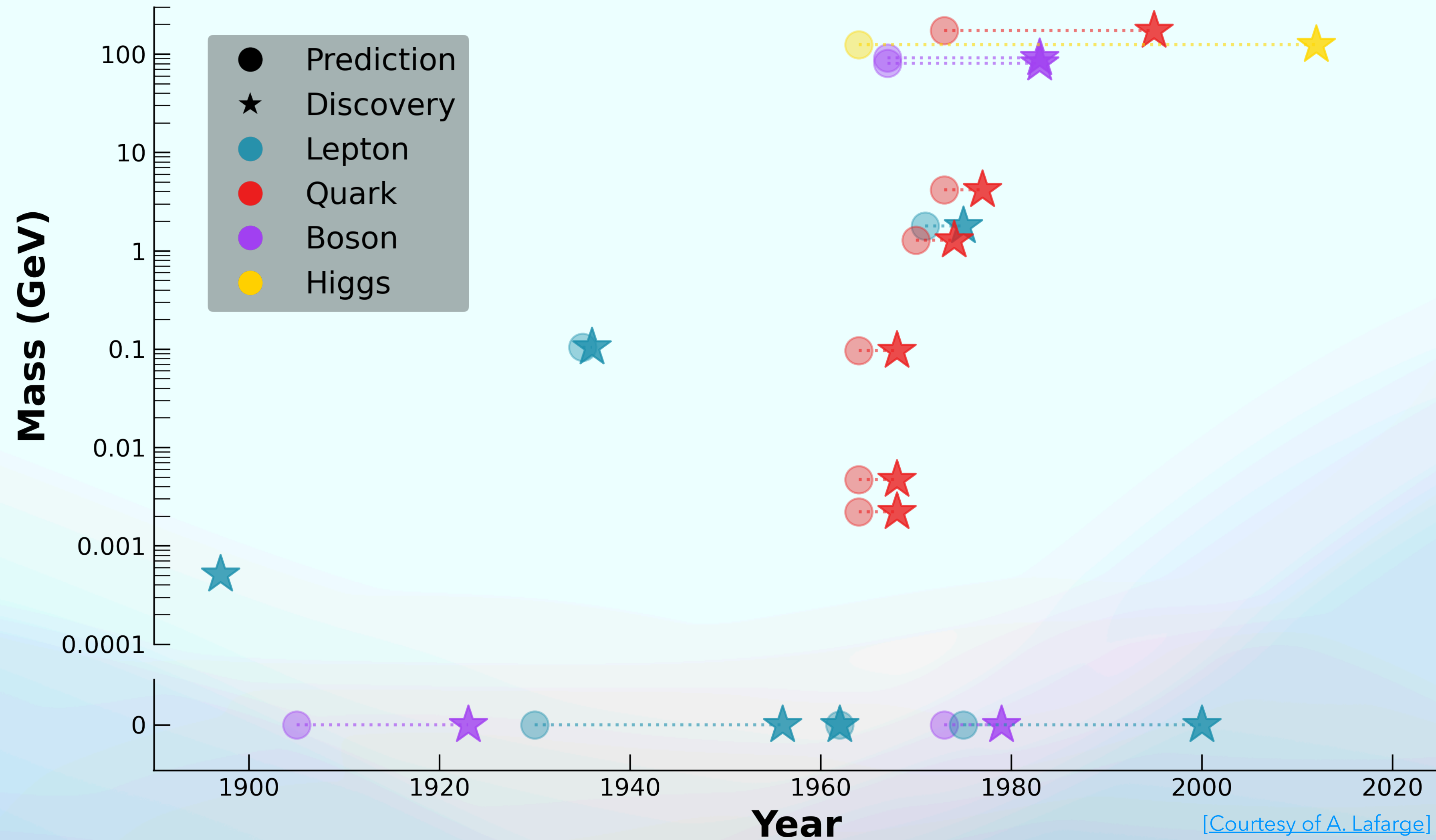
[Courtesy of A. Lafarge]

A discovery tale



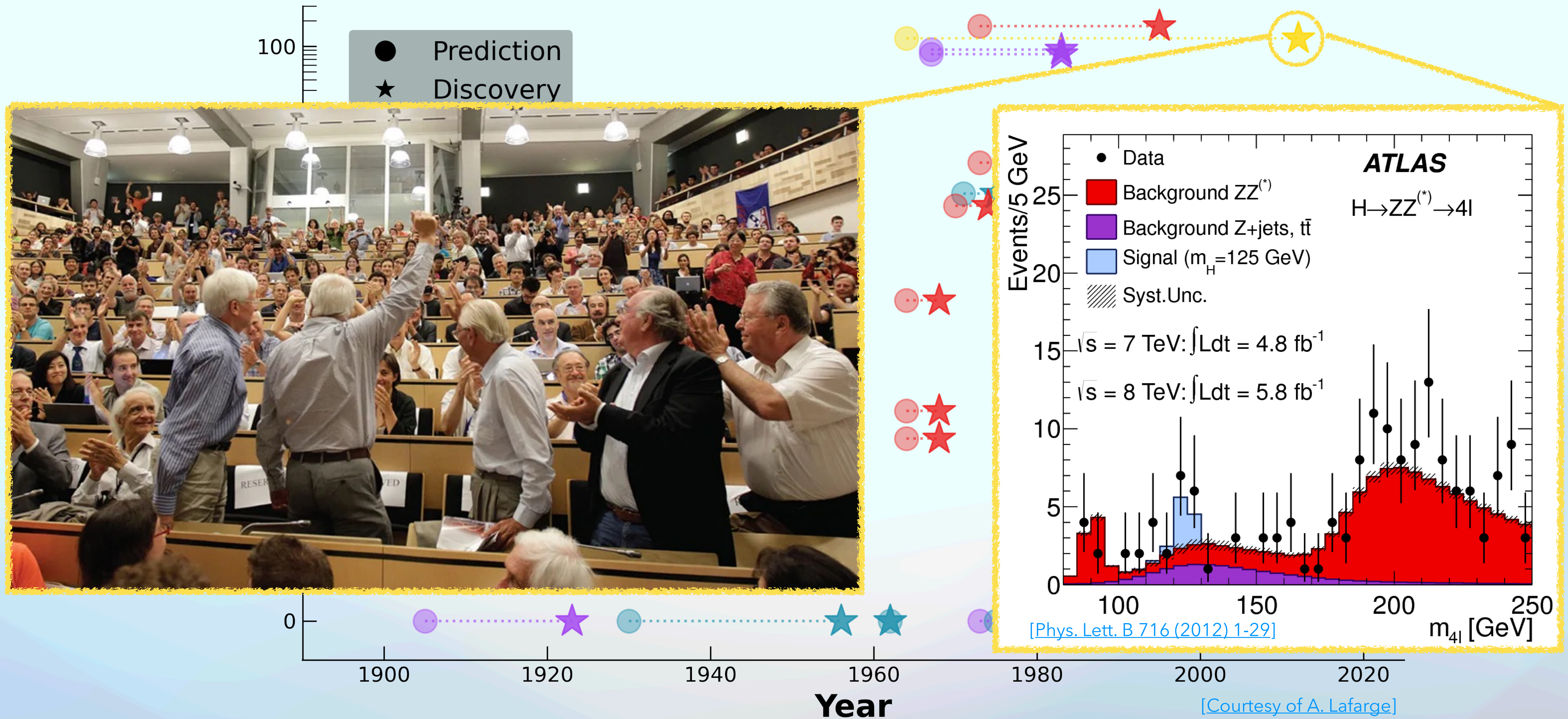
[Courtesy of A. Lafarge]

A discovery tale



[Courtesy of A. Lafarge]

A discovery tale



The Standard Model (SM)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}_{SM} = & -\frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{A\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^I W^{I\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}B_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu} \\
 & + \sum_{\psi=q_L, u_R, d_R, \ell_L, e_R} \bar{\psi} i\gamma^\mu D_\mu \psi + (D_\mu H)^\dagger (D^\mu H) \\
 & - \mu^2 H^\dagger H - \lambda (H^\dagger H)^2 \\
 & - (\bar{q}_L Y_u \tilde{H} u_R + \bar{q}_L Y_d H d_R + \bar{\ell}_L Y_e H e_R + \text{h.c.}) .
 \end{aligned}$$



Standard Model of Elementary Particles

	three generations of matter (elementary fermions)			three generations of antimatter (elementary antifermions)			interactions / force carriers (elementary bosons)	
	I	II	III	I	II	III		
mass	≈ 2.2 MeV/c ²	≈ 1.28 GeV/c ²	≈ 173.1 GeV/c ²	≈ 2.2 MeV/c ²	≈ 1.28 GeV/c ²	≈ 173.1 GeV/c ²	0	≈ 124.97 GeV/c ²
charge	2/3	2/3	2/3	-2/3	-2/3	-2/3	0	0
spin	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	0
	u up	c charm	t top	ū antiup	c̄ anticharm	t̄ antitop	g gluon	H higgs
	d down	s strange	b bottom	d̄ antidown	s̄ antistrange	b̄ antibottom	γ photon	
	e electron	μ muon	τ tau	e⁺ positron	μ̄ antimuon	τ̄ antitau	Z Z ⁰ boson	
	ν_e electron neutrino	ν_μ muon neutrino	ν_τ tau neutrino	ν̄_e electron antineutrino	ν̄_μ muon antineutrino	ν̄_τ tau antineutrino	W⁺ W ⁺ boson	W⁻ W ⁻ boson

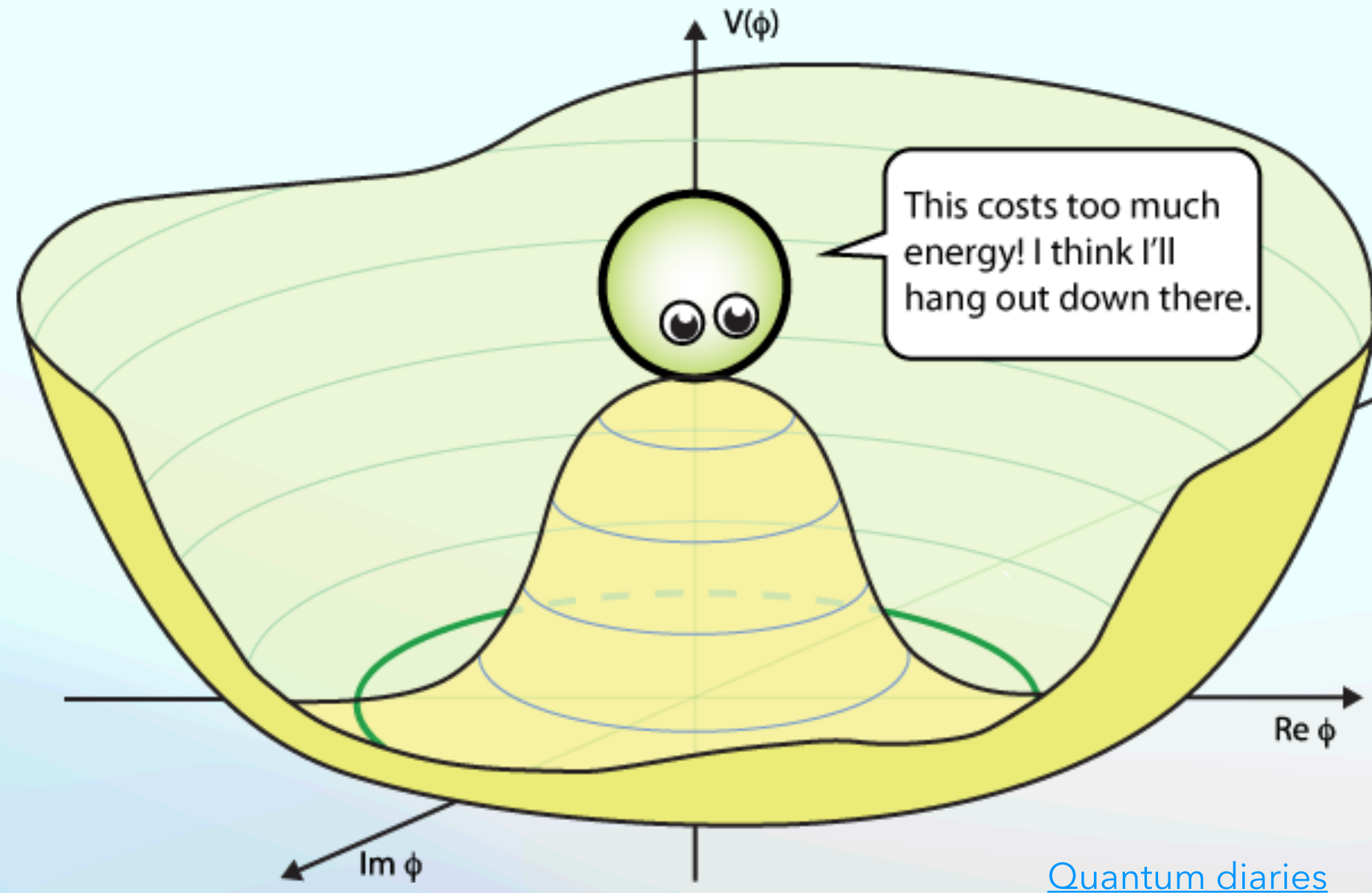
QUARKS
LEPTONS
GAUGE BOSONS
VECTOR BOSONS
SCALAR BOSONS

Generalities about the Higgs boson in the SM

SM introduce a spin-0 Higgs field ϕ

- **EWSB** : Explains how W and Z bosons acquire mass
- **Yukawa couplings** : Explains how fermions acquire mass

After EWSB, remaining degree of freedom : **Higgs Boson**



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

In SM, **Higgs Boson** properties are **tied** to the EWSB mechanism

The Higgs mechanism in the SM

Unbroken phase

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ = \phi_1 + i\phi_2 \\ \phi^0 = \phi_3 + i\phi_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$SU(2)_L$ doublet

→ **4** *real* d.o.f. from Higgs doublet

→ **4x2** *real* d.o.f. from Gauge bosons

The Higgs mechanism in the SM

Unbroken phase

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$SU(2)_L$ doublet



Broken phase

1 Higgs scalar h
3 Goldstone bosons

$$\langle \phi \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + h \end{pmatrix}$$

- **4** *real* d.o.f. from Higgs doublet
- **4x2** *real* d.o.f. from Gauge bosons

The Higgs mechanism in the SM

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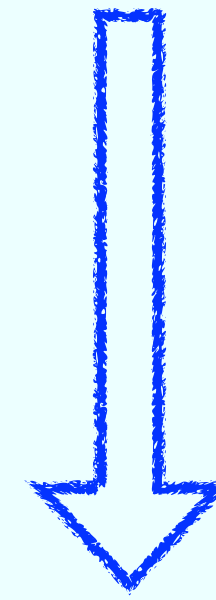


Broken phase

1 Higgs scalar h
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- **4x2** real d.o.f. from Gauge bosons



Gauge Interaction

Goldstone are eaten
Become longitudinal polarization of W^\pm, Z^0

<div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 5px auto;"> <p style="font-size: 8px;">≈91.19 GeV/c²</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: white; background-color: red; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">Z</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">0 1</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Z⁰ boson</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid yellow; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 5px auto;"> <p style="font-size: 8px;">≈124.97 GeV/c²</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: black; background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">H</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">0 0</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">higgs</p> </div>	<p>1 physical Higgs boson</p> <p>+</p> <p>Massive gauge bosons with 3 polarizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 d.o.f. from Higgs scalar → 3x3 d.o.f. from Vector Bosons → 2 d.o.f. from Photon
<div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 5px auto;"> <p style="font-size: 8px;">≈80.39 GeV/c²</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: white; background-color: red; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">W⁺</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">1 1</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">W⁺ boson</p> </div>			

Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) ?

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charge	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$-\frac{2}{3}$	$-\frac{2}{3}$	$-\frac{2}{3}$	0	0
spin	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0
	u up	c charm	t top	\bar{u} antiup	\bar{c} anticharm	\bar{t} antitop	g gluon	H higgs
	d down	s strange	b bottom	\bar{d} antidown	\bar{s} antistrange	\bar{b} antibottom	γ photon	
	e electron	μ muon	τ tau	e^+ positron	$\bar{\mu}$ antimuon	$\bar{\tau}$ antitau	Z Z ⁰ boson	
	ν_e electron neutrino	ν_μ muon neutrino	ν_τ tau neutrino	$\bar{\nu}_e$ electron antineutrino	$\bar{\nu}_\mu$ muon antineutrino	$\bar{\nu}_\tau$ tau antineutrino	W⁺ W ⁺ boson	W⁻ W ⁻ boson

QUARKS (rows 1-3)
LEPTONS (rows 4-5)
GAUGE BOSONS VECTOR BOSONS (columns 7-8)
SCALAR BOSONS (column 9)

Beyond the SM

Matter-antimatter asymmetry ?

Gravity ?

Shape of Higgs potential ?

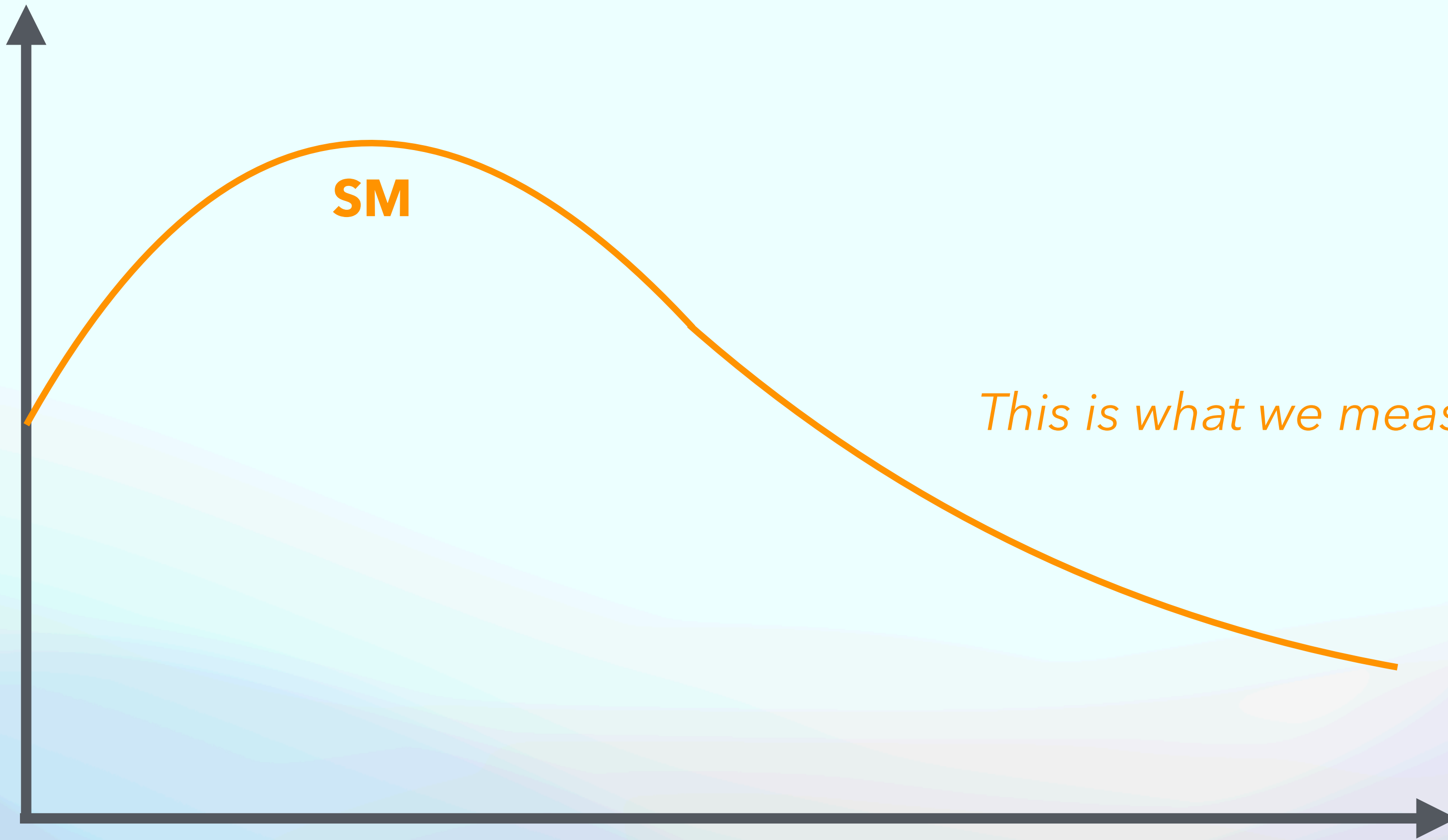
Vacuum stability ?

$\begin{matrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{matrix}$
g
 Graviton

$\begin{matrix} ? \text{ GeV}/c^2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{matrix}$
 χ
 Loryons

Going beyond the SM - **direct** or **effective** ?

Events



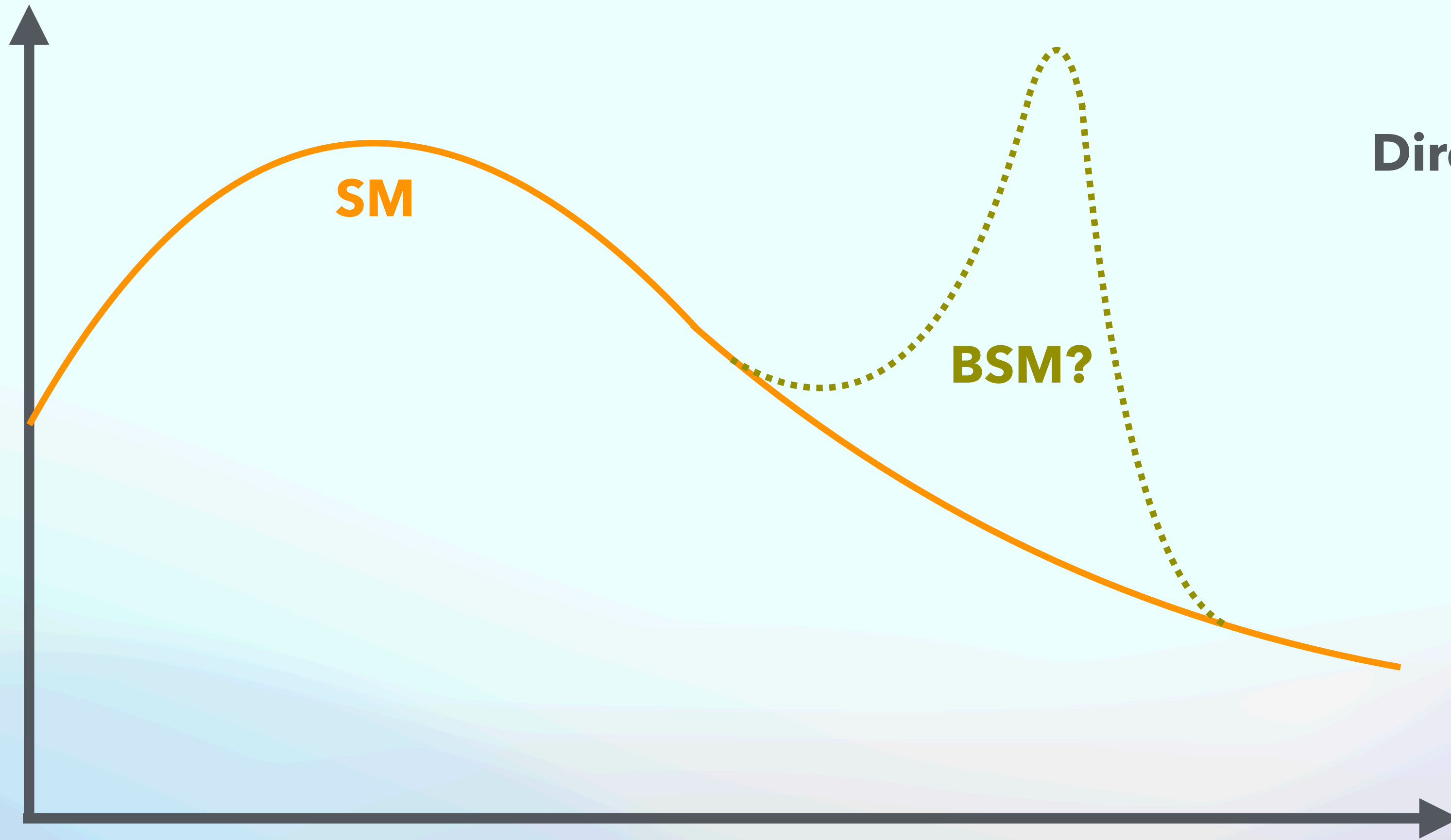
SM

This is what we measure if SM is realized in nature

Energy

Going beyond the SM - **direct** or effective ?

Events



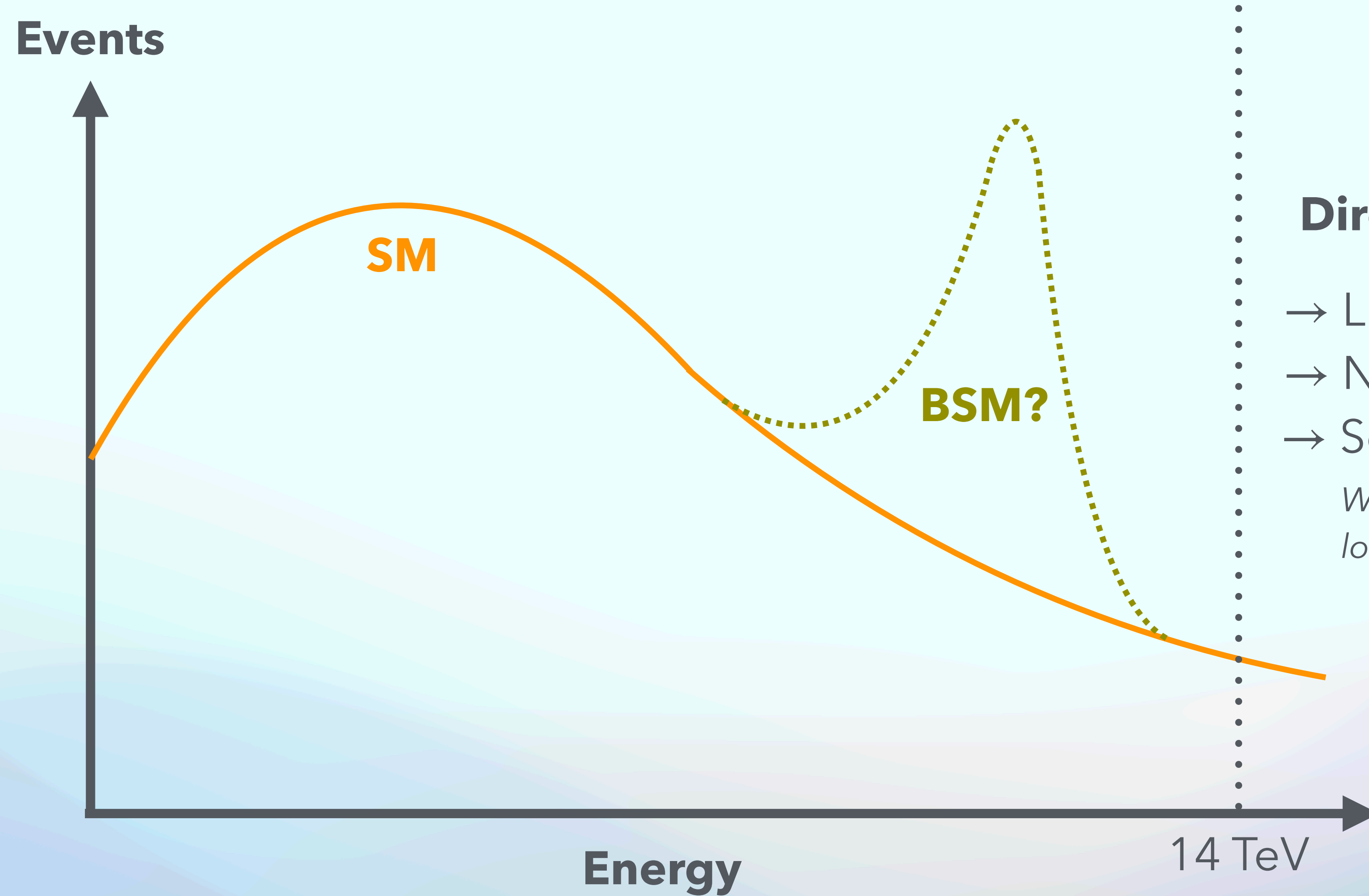
Direct searches, e.g. "bump hunt"

SM

BSM?

Energy

Going beyond the SM - **direct** or **effective** ?



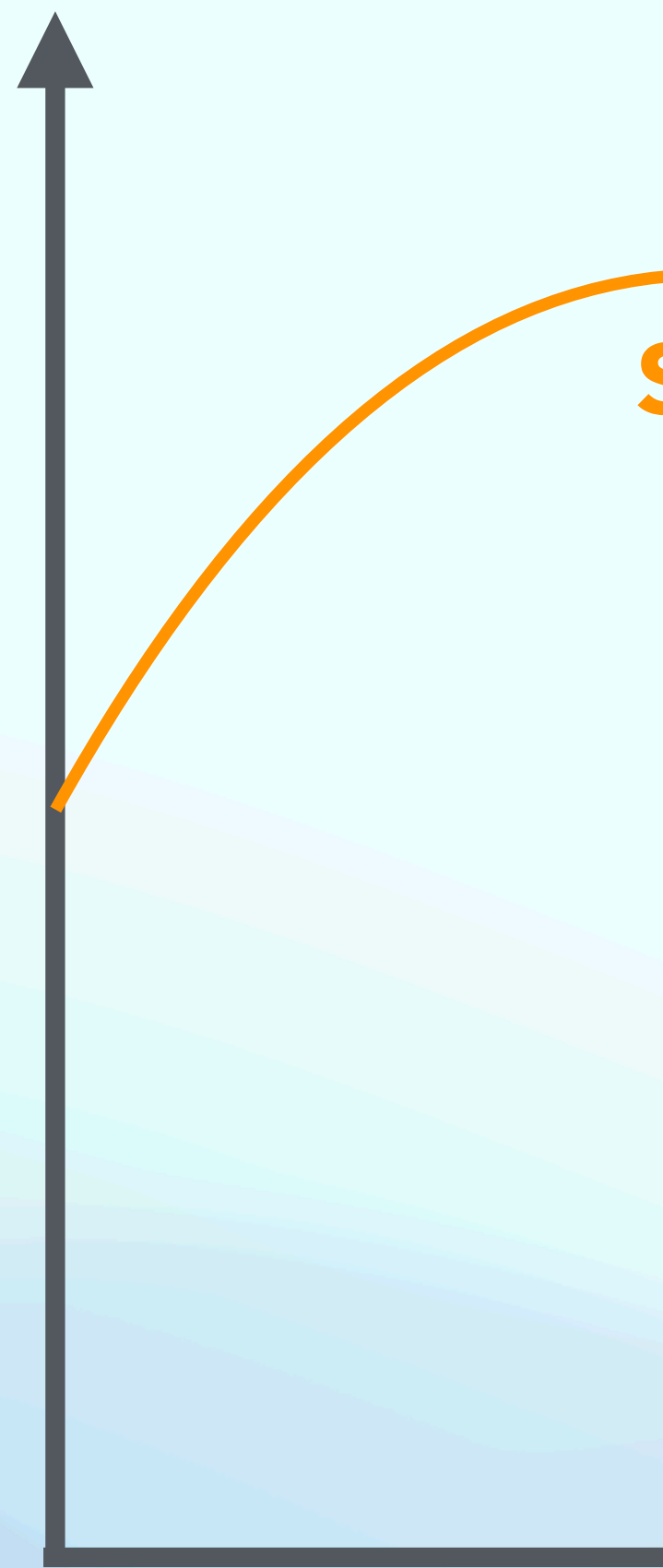
Direct searches, e.g. "bump hunt"

- Limited by collider energy reach
- No new particle discovered (yet?)
- Searches are very model dependent

We somehow need to roughly know what we are looking for...

Going beyond the SM - direct or effective ?

Events



ATLAS Heavy Particle Searches* - 95% CL Upper Exclusion Limits ATLAS Preliminary
 Status: March 2023 $\int \mathcal{L} dt = (3.6 - 139) \text{ fb}^{-1}$ $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$

Model	ℓ, γ	Jets [†]	E_T^{miss}	$\int \mathcal{L} dt [\text{fb}^{-1}]$	Limit	Reference
Extra dimen.	ADD $G_{KK} + g/q$	$0 e, \mu, \tau, \gamma$	$1-4 j$	Yes 139	M_D 11.2 TeV $n=2$	2102.10874
	ADD non-resonant $\gamma\gamma$	2γ	-	- 36.7	M_S 8.6 TeV $n=3$ HLZ NLO	1707.04147
	ADD QBH	-	$2 j$	- 139	M_{hh} 9.4 TeV $n=6$	1910.08447
	ADD BH multijet	-	$\geq 3 j$	- 3.6	M_{hh} 9.55 TeV $n=6, M_D = 3 \text{ TeV, rot BH}$	1512.02586
	RS1 $G_{KK} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	2γ	-	- 139	G_{KK} mass 4.5 TeV $k/\overline{M}_{Pl} = 0.1$	2102.13405
	Bulk RS $G_{KK} \rightarrow WW/ZZ$	multi-channel	-	36.1	G_{KK} mass 2.3 TeV $k/\overline{M}_{Pl} = 1.0$	1808.02380
	Bulk RS $g_{KK} \rightarrow tt$	$1 e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 J/2 j$	Yes 36.1	g_{KK} mass 3.8 TeV $\Gamma/m = 15\%$	1804.10823
	2UED / RPP	$1 e, \mu$	$\geq 2 b, \geq 3 j$	Yes 36.1	KK mass 1.8 TeV Tier (1,1), $\mathcal{B}(A^{(1,1)} \rightarrow tt) = 1$	1803.09678
Gauge bosons	SSM $Z' \rightarrow \ell\ell$	$2 e, \mu$	-	- 139	Z' mass 5.1 TeV	1903.06248
	SSM $Z' \rightarrow \tau\tau$	2τ	-	- 36.1	Z' mass 2.42 TeV	1709.07242
	Leptophobic $Z' \rightarrow bb$	-	$2 b$	- 36.1	Z' mass 2.1 TeV	1805.09299
	Leptophobic $Z' \rightarrow tt$	$0 e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 2 J$	Yes 139	Z' mass 4.1 TeV $\Gamma/m = 1.2\%$	2005.05138
	SSM $W' \rightarrow \ell\nu$	$1 e, \mu$	-	Yes 139	W' mass 6.0 TeV	1906.05609
	SSM $W' \rightarrow \tau\nu$	1τ	-	Yes 139	W' mass 5.0 TeV	ATLAS-CONF-2021-025
	SSM $W' \rightarrow tb$	-	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 J$	- 139	W' mass 4.4 TeV	ATLAS-CONF-2021-043
	HVT $W' \rightarrow WZ$ model B	$0-2 e, \mu$	$2 j / 1 J$	Yes 139	W' mass 4.3 TeV	2004.14636
	HVT $W' \rightarrow WZ \rightarrow \ell\nu \ell' \ell'$ model C	$3 e, \mu$	$2 j$ (VBF)	Yes 139	W' mass 340 GeV	2207.03925
	HVT $Z' \rightarrow WW$ model B	$1 e, \mu$	$2 j / 1 J$	Yes 139	Z' mass 3.9 TeV	2004.14636
	LRSM $W_R \rightarrow \mu N_R$	2μ	$1 J$	- 80	W_R mass 5.0 TeV $m(N_R) = 0.5 \text{ TeV, } g_L = g_R$	1904.12679
CI	CI $qqqq$	-	$2 j$	- 37.0	Λ 21.8 TeV η_{LL}	1703.09127
	CI $\ell\ell qq$	$2 e, \mu$	-	- 139	Λ 35.8 TeV η_{LL}	2006.12946
	CI $e e b s$	$2 e$	$1 b$	- 139	Λ 1.8 TeV $g_s = 1$	2105.13847
	CI $\mu\mu b s$	2μ	$1 b$	- 139	Λ 2.0 TeV $g_s = 1$	2105.13847
	CI $tttt$	$\geq 1 e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 j$	Yes 36.1	Λ 2.57 TeV $ C_4 = 4\pi$	1811.02305
DM	Axial-vector med. (Dirac DM)	-	$2 j$	- 139	m_{med} 3.8 TeV $g_a = 0.25, g_s = 1, m(\chi) = 10 \text{ TeV}$	ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-036
	Pseudo-scalar med. (Dirac DM)	$0 e, \mu, \tau, \gamma$	$1-4 j$	Yes 139	m_{med} 376 GeV $g_a = 1, g_s = 1, m(\chi) = 1 \text{ GeV}$	2102.10874
	Vector med. Z' -2HDM (Dirac DM)	$0 e, \mu$	$2 b$	Yes 139	m_{med} 3.0 TeV $\tan\beta = 1, g_2 = 0.8, m(\chi) = 100 \text{ GeV}$	2108.13391
	Pseudo-scalar med. 2HDM+a	multi-channel	-	139	m_a 800 GeV $\tan\beta = 1, g_s = 1, m(\chi) = 10 \text{ GeV}$	ATLAS-CONF-2021-036
LQ	Scalar LQ 1 st gen	$2 e$	$\geq 2 j$	Yes 139	LQ mass 1.8 TeV $\beta = 1$	2006.05872
	Scalar LQ 2 nd gen	2μ	$\geq 2 j$	Yes 139	LQ mass 1.7 TeV $\beta = 1$	2006.05872
	Scalar LQ 3 rd gen	1τ	$2 b$	Yes 139	LQ mass 1.49 TeV $\mathcal{B}(LQ_3^+ \rightarrow b\tau) = 1$	2303.01294
	Scalar LQ 3 rd gen	$0 e, \mu$	$\geq 2 j, \geq 2 b$	Yes 139	LQ mass 1.24 TeV $\mathcal{B}(LQ_3^+ \rightarrow t\nu) = 1$	2004.14060
	Scalar LQ 3 rd gen	$\geq 2 e, \mu, \geq 1 \tau, \geq 1 j, \geq 1 b$	-	- 139	LQ mass 1.43 TeV $\mathcal{B}(LQ_3^+ \rightarrow t\nu) = 1$	2101.11582
	Scalar LQ 3 rd gen	$0 e, \mu, \geq 1 \tau, 0-2 j, 2 b$	Yes 139	139	LQ mass 1.26 TeV $\mathcal{B}(LQ_3^+ \rightarrow b\nu) = 1$	2101.12527
	Vector LQ mix gen	multi-channel	$\geq 1 j, \geq 1 b$	Yes 139	LQ mass 2.0 TeV $\mathcal{B}(L_1^+ \rightarrow t\nu) = 1, \text{Y-M coupl.}$	ATLAS-CONF-2022-052
	Vector LQ 3 rd gen	$2 e, \mu, \tau$	$\geq 1 b$	Yes 139	LQ mass 1.96 TeV $\mathcal{B}(LQ_3^+ \rightarrow b\nu) = 1, \text{Y-M coupl.}$	2303.01294
Vector-like fermions	VLQ $TT \rightarrow Zt + X$	$2e/2\mu \geq 3e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 j$	- 139	T mass 1.46 TeV SU(2) doublet	2210.15413
	VLQ $BB \rightarrow Wt/Zb + X$	multi-channel	-	36.1	B mass 1.34 TeV SU(2) doublet	1808.02343
	VLQ $T_{5/3} T_{5/3} T_{5/3} \rightarrow Wt + X$	$2(SS) \geq 3 e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 j$	Yes 36.1	$T_{5/3}$ mass 1.64 TeV $\mathcal{B}(T_{5/3} \rightarrow Wt) = 1, c(T_{5/3} Wt) = 1$	1807.11883
	VLQ $T \rightarrow Ht/Zt$	$1 e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 3 j$	Yes 139	T mass 1.8 TeV SU(2) singlet, $\kappa_T = 0.5$	ATLAS-CONF-2021-040
	VLQ $Y \rightarrow Wb$	$1 e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 j$	Yes 36.1	Y mass 1.85 TeV $\mathcal{B}(Y \rightarrow Wb) = 1, c_Y(Wb) = 1$	1812.07343
	VLQ $B \rightarrow Hb$	$0 e, \mu$	$\geq 2b, \geq 1j, \geq 1J$	- 139	B mass 2.0 TeV SU(2) doublet, $\kappa_B = 0.3$	ATLAS-CONF-2021-018
	VLL $\tau \rightarrow Z\tau/H\tau$	multi-channel	$\geq 1 j$	Yes 139	τ' mass 898 GeV SU(2) doublet	2303.05441
Excited ferm.	Excited quark $q^* \rightarrow qg$	-	$2 j$	- 139	q^* mass 6.7 TeV	1910.08447
	Excited quark $q^* \rightarrow q\gamma$	1γ	$1 j$	- 36.7	q^* mass 5.3 TeV	1709.10440
	Excited quark $b^* \rightarrow bg$	-	$1 b, 1 j$	- 139	b^* mass 3.2 TeV	1910.08447
	Excited lepton τ^*	2τ	$\geq 2 j$	- 139	τ^* mass 4.6 TeV	2303.09444
Other	Type III Seesaw	$2, 3, 4 e, \mu$	$\geq 2 j$	Yes 139	N^0 mass 910 GeV	2202.02039
	LRSM Majorana ν	2μ	$2 j$	- 36.1	N_R mass 3.2 TeV	1809.11105
	Higgs triplet $H^{\pm\pm} \rightarrow W^\pm W^\pm$	$2, 3, 4 e, \mu$ (SS)	various	Yes 139	$H^{\pm\pm}$ mass 350 GeV	2101.11961
	Higgs triplet $H^{\pm\pm} \rightarrow \ell\ell$	$2, 3, 4 e, \mu$ (SS)	-	- 139	$H^{\pm\pm}$ mass 1.08 TeV	2211.07505
	Multi-charged particles	-	-	- 139	multi-charged particle mass 1.59 TeV	ATLAS-CONF-2022-034
	Magnetic monopoles	-	-	34.4	monopole mass 2.37 TeV	1905.10130

$\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ partial data $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ full data

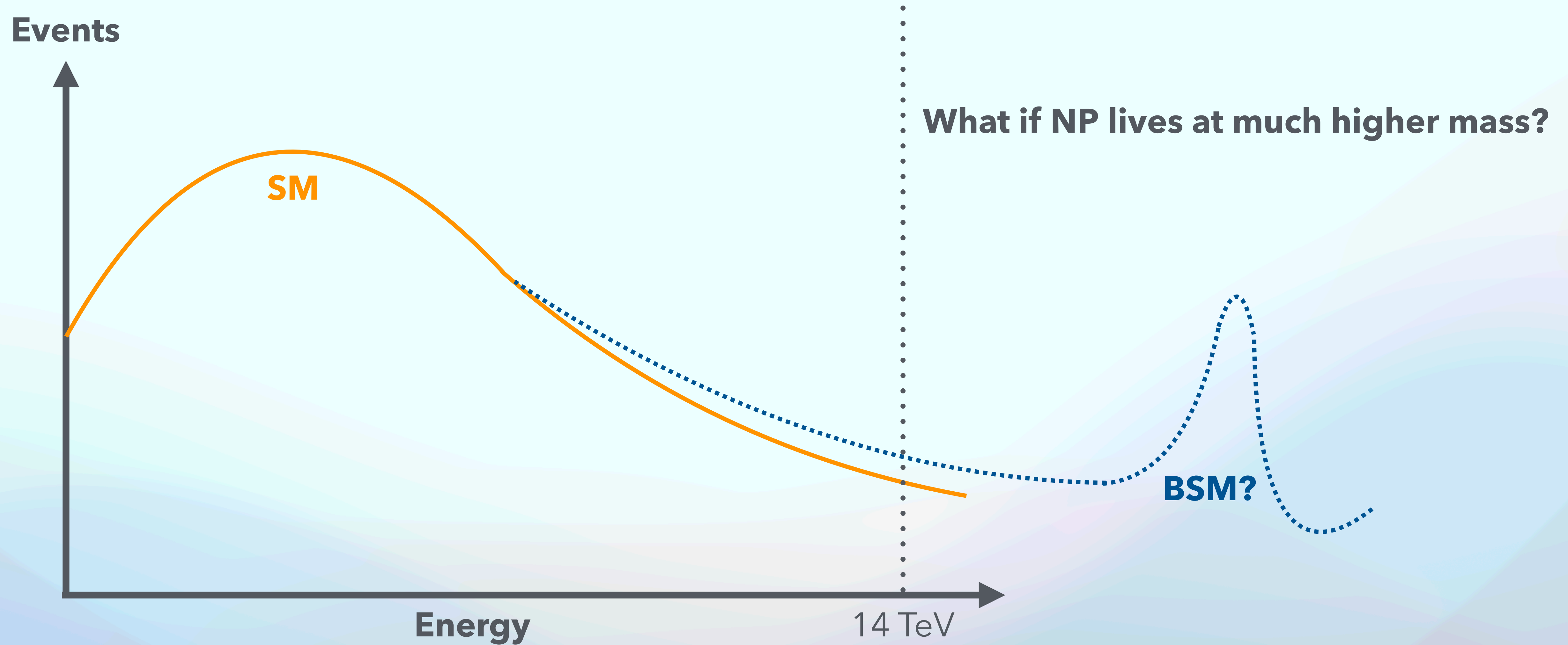
*Only a selection of the available mass limits on new states or phenomena is shown.
[†]Small-radius (large-radius) jets are denoted by the letter j (J).

Searches, e.g. "bump hunt"
 As collider energy reach
 particle discovered (yet?)
 are very model dependent
 need to roughly know what we are

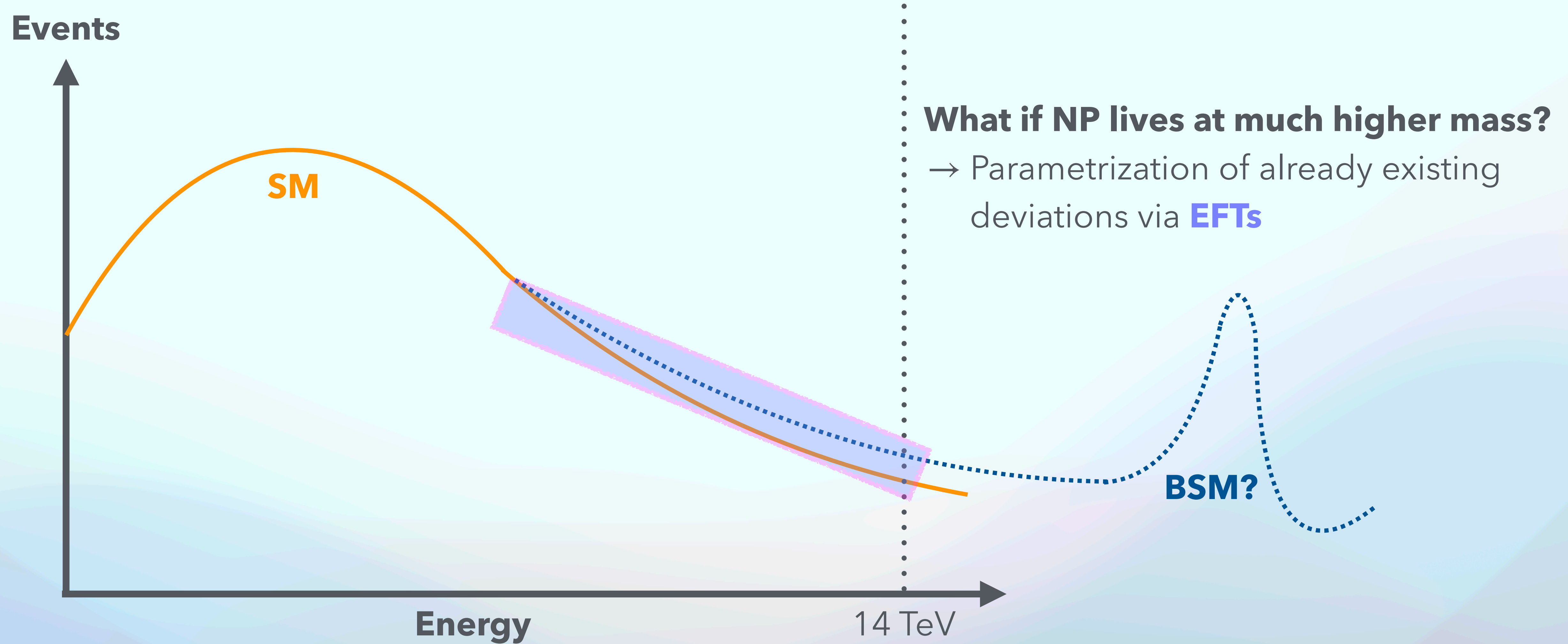
Nothing so far!

ATL-PHYS-PUB-2024-008

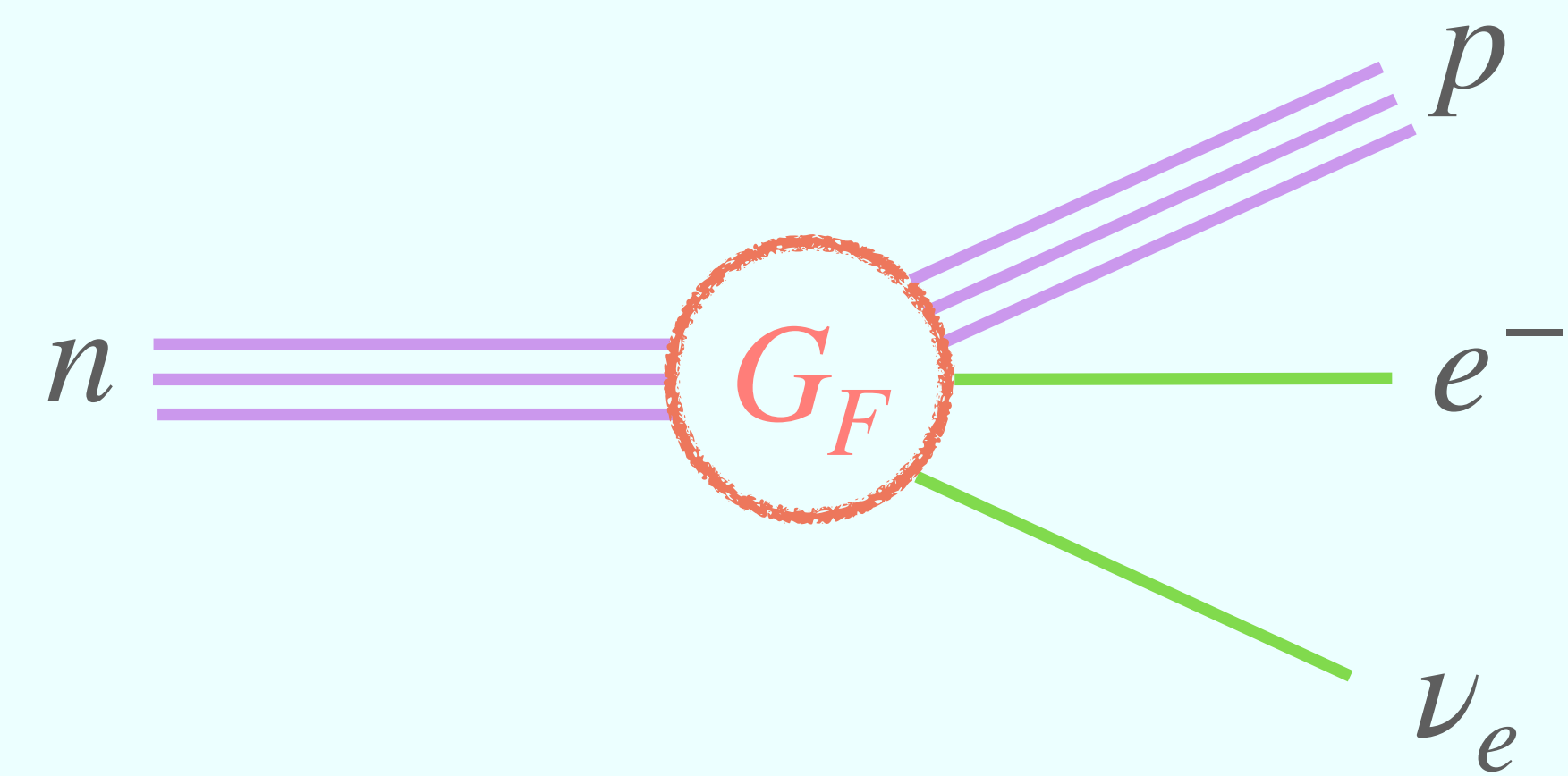
Going beyond the SM - **direct** or **effective** ?



Going beyond the SM - **direct** or effective ?



Before SM was even Standard...



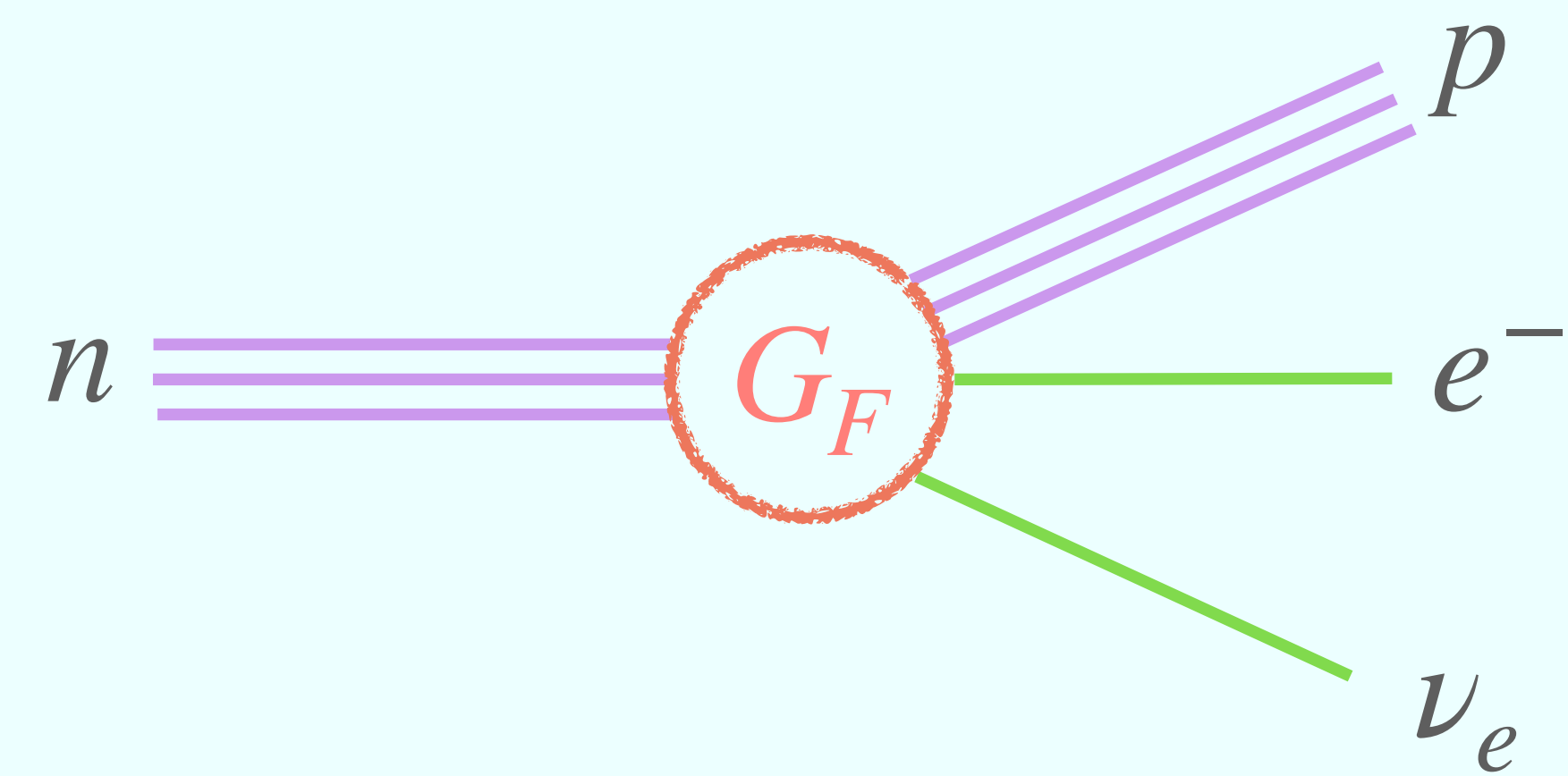
Proposal by E. Fermi to explain β decay during early stage of weak interaction theory development

→ Point-like interaction

→ Describes well the weak interaction **but**

$$\sigma = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi} s$$

Before SM was even Standard...



Proposal by E. Fermi to explain β decay during early stage of weak interaction theory development

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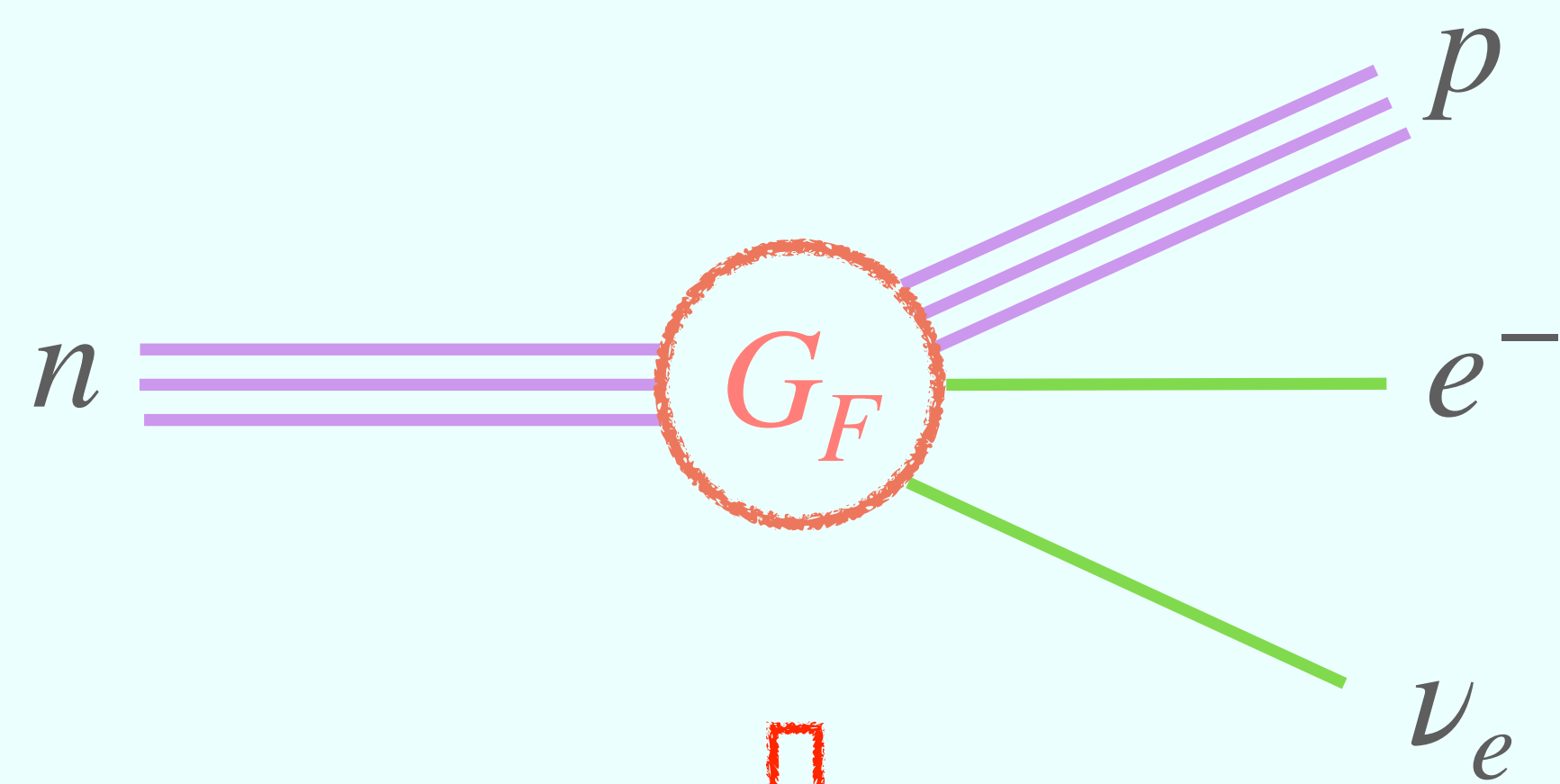
$$\sigma = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi} s$$

Cross-section **grows** with s → **Violation of unitarity**

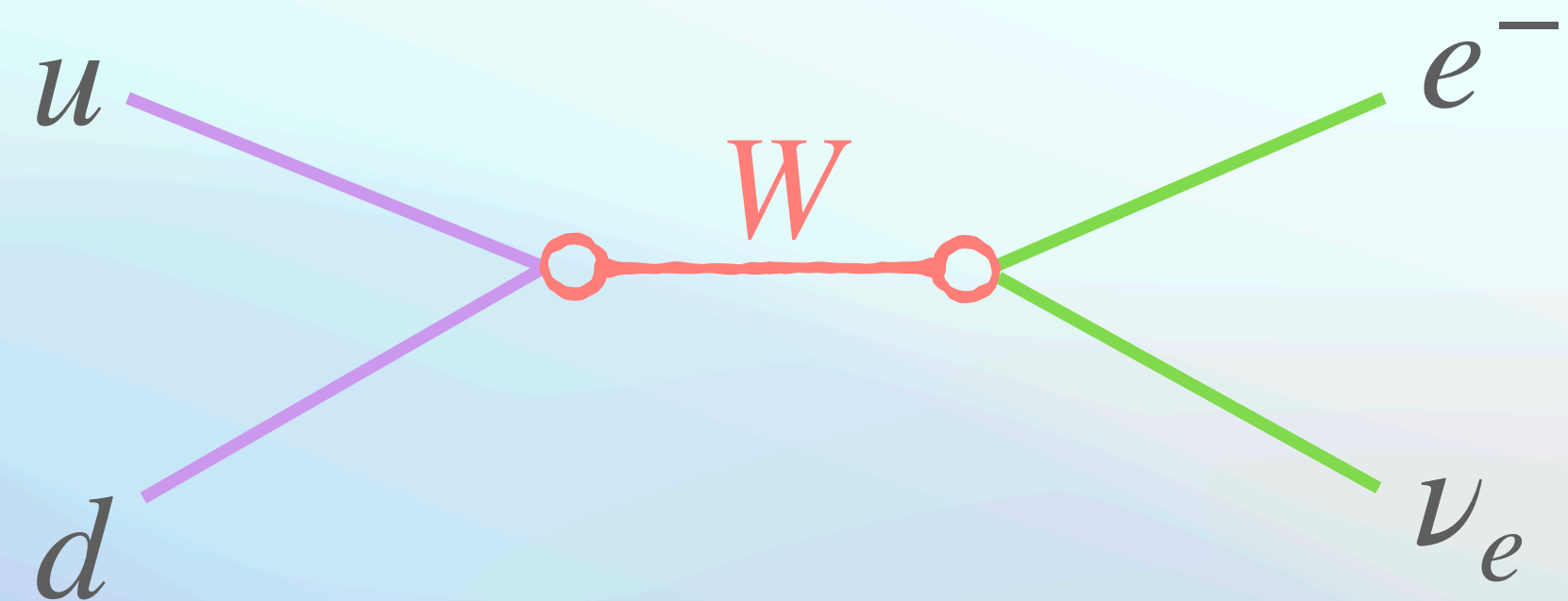
Before SM was even Standard...

Proposal by E. Fermi to explain β decay during early stage of weak interaction theory development

- Point-like interaction
- Describes well the weak interaction **but**



$p \gg m_W$



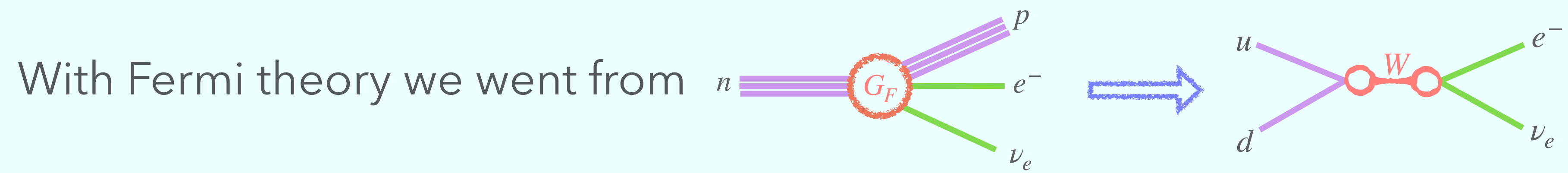
$$\sigma = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi} s$$

Cross-section **grows** with s → **Violation of unitarity**

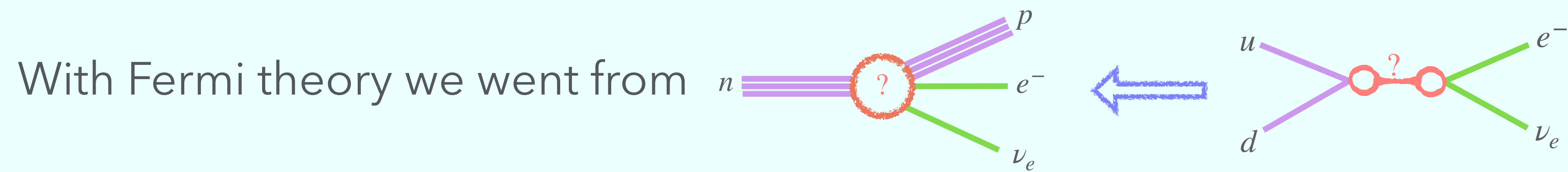
→ Valid for energies $\ll 100$ GeV

→ Later developments determined the correct tensor structure + two massive bosons

How to build an Effective theory?

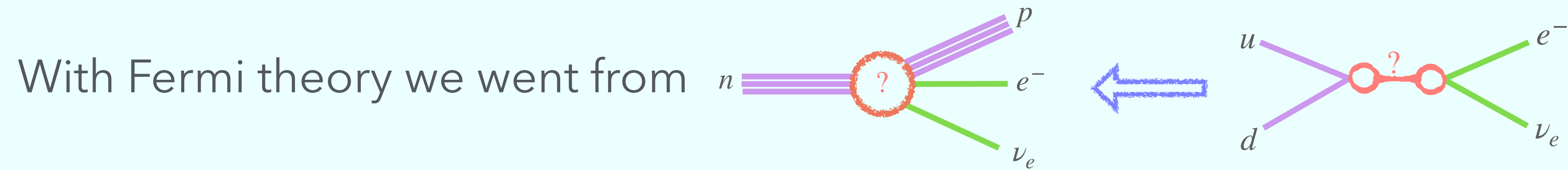


How to build an Effective theory?



*But can we go the other way?
i.e. infer New Physics by parametrizing "low" energy*

How to build an Effective theory?



But can we go the other way?

i.e. infer New Physics by parametrizing "low" energy

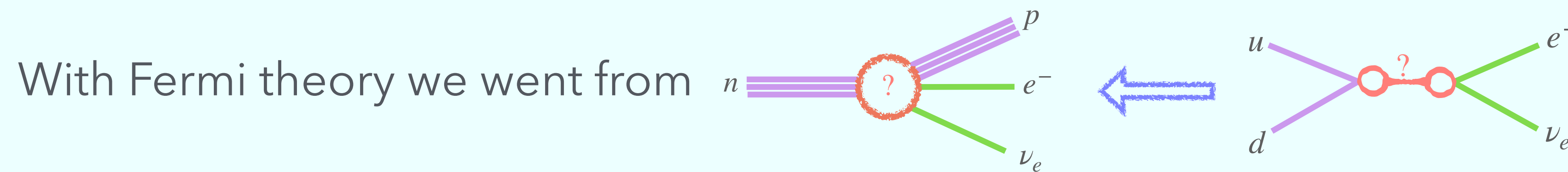
EFT recipe

Step 1 : We fix the field content

Step 2 : We fix the symmetries

Step 3 : We write an exhaustive list of allowed interactions
at a fixed order

How to build an Effective theory?



But can we go the other way?

i.e. infer New Physics by parametrizing "low" energy

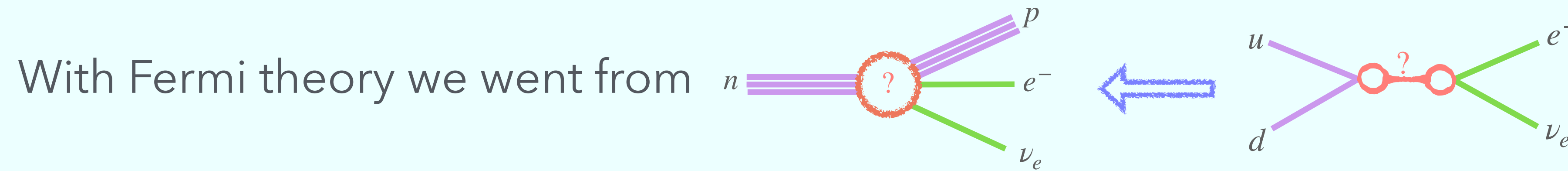
EFT recipe

Step 1 : We fix the field content \rightarrow SM

Step 2 : We fix the symmetries

Step 3 : We write an exhaustive list of allowed interactions
at a fixed order

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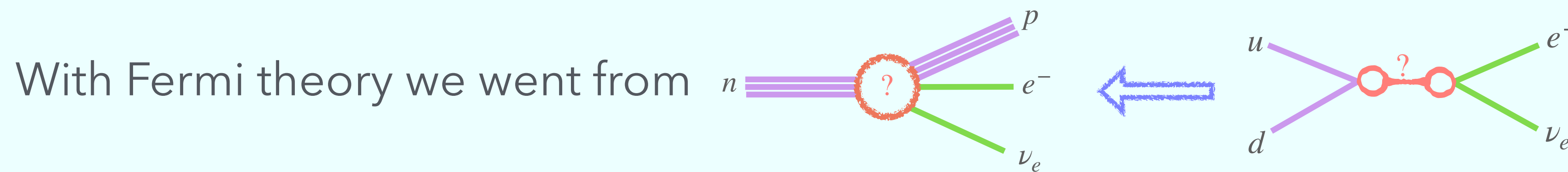
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Step 1 : We fix the field content \rightarrow SM

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$$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_{d=5}^{\infty} \sum_i \frac{c_{i,d}}{\Lambda^{d-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{(d)}$$

Effective field theory approach

Current data tends to indicate that NP lives at (very) **high energy scale**

New heavy particles beyond the reach of LHC could distort "low" energy physics

EFTs provide :

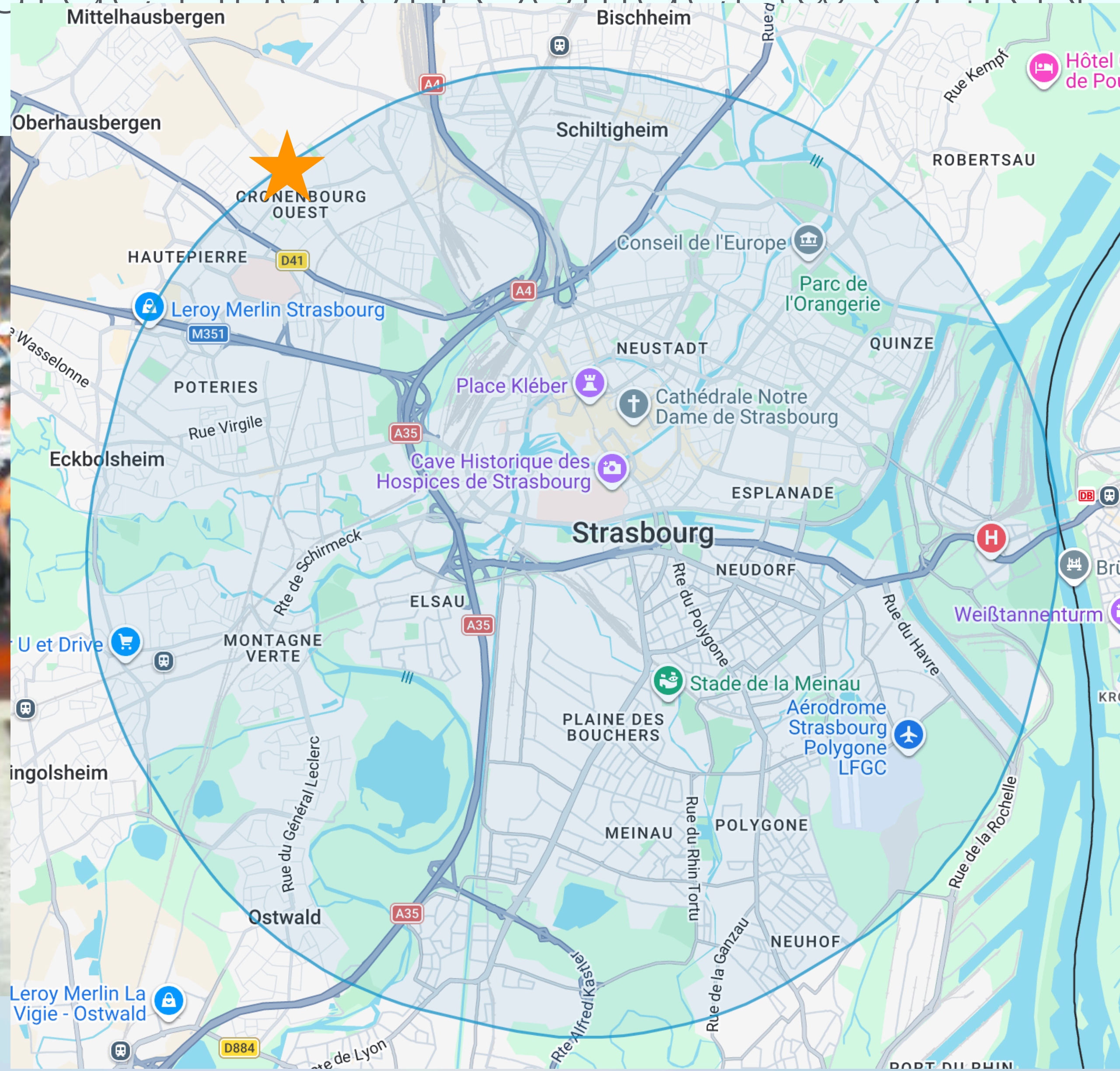
- Fairly model-agnostic approach
- Way to integrate out heavy degrees of freedom
- Only considers SM content (exhaustive list of fields)
- Treats all SM sectors equivalently

Our toolbox : Large Hadron Collider @ CERN



- **27 km** circumference accelerator
- Accelerates **protons** and heavy-ions to nearly speed of light
- **Four collisions points**, each with a detector designed for specific purpose

Our toolbox : Large Hadron Collider @ CERN

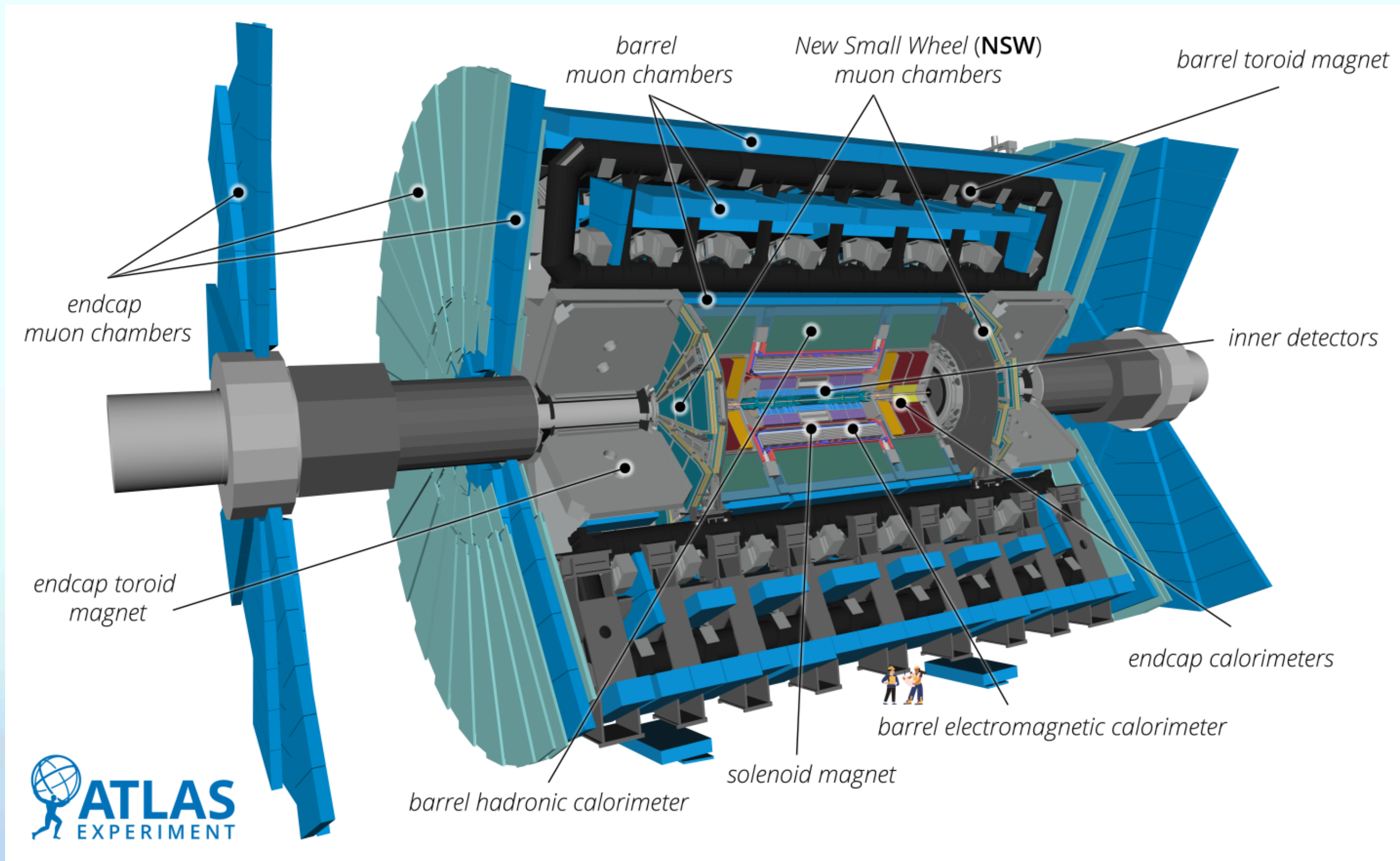


reference accelerator

protons and heavy-ions
at the speed of light

interaction points, each with a
dedicated injector for specific

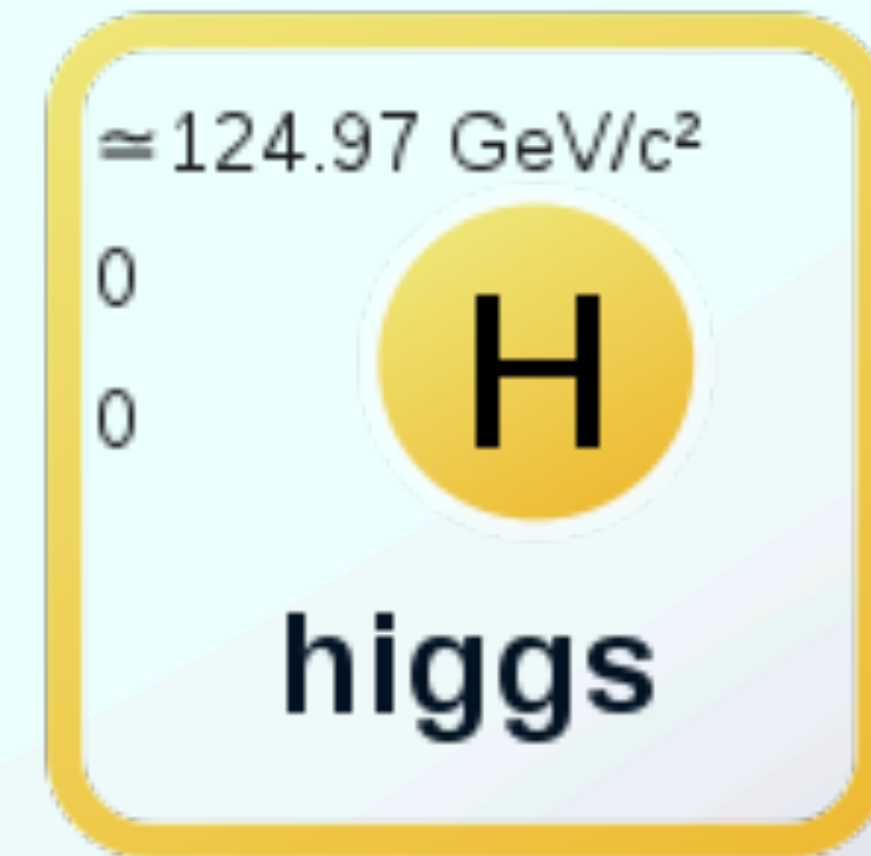
General purpose detectors : ATLAS & CMS



- "**Onion layers**" detector structure
- Various **subsystems** used in combination :
 - Trigger
 - Tracking
 - Calorimetry
 - Particle Identification

(biased) e.g. ATLAS here, but same main principle for CMS

1st protagonist

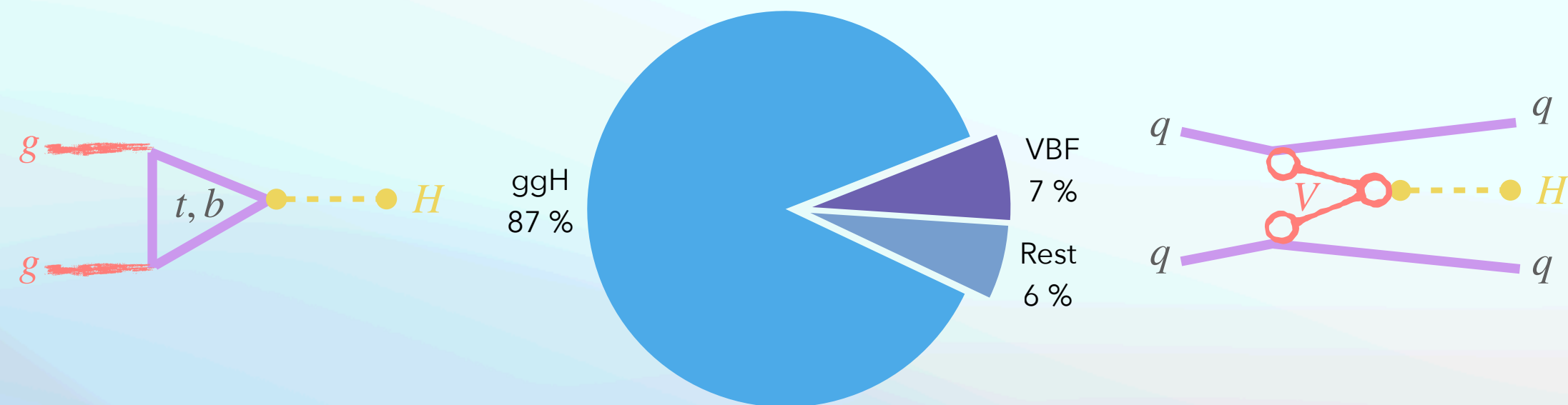


Higgs @ proton collider : prod. and decay



Production mode Cross-section (pb)

ggH	48.31
VBF	3.771
WH	1.359
ZH	0.877
ttH	0.503
bbH	0.482
tH	0.092



For SM Higgs @ 13 TeV...

Higgs @ proton collider : prod. and decay



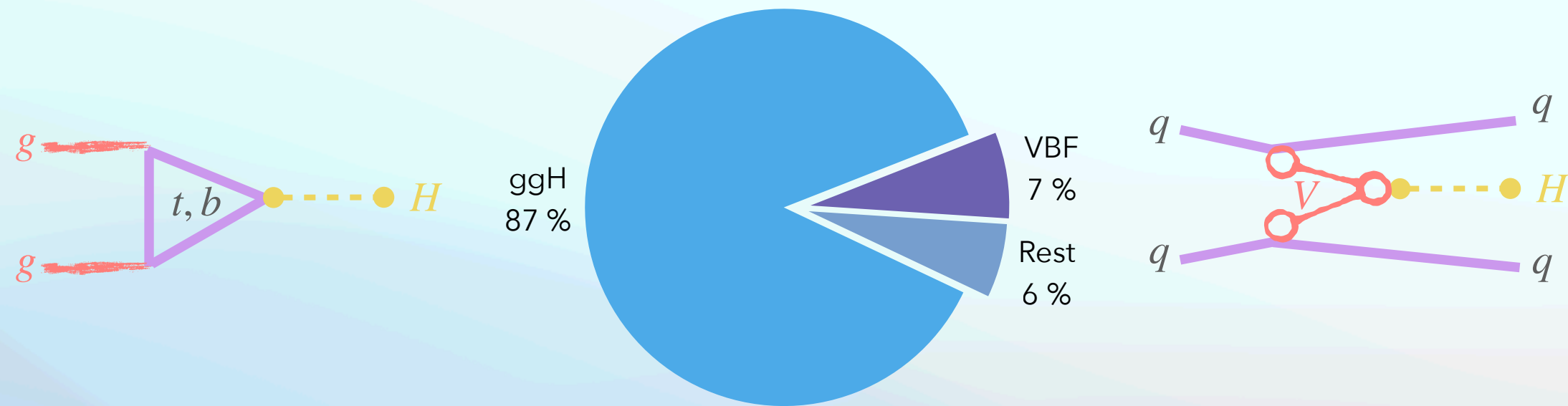
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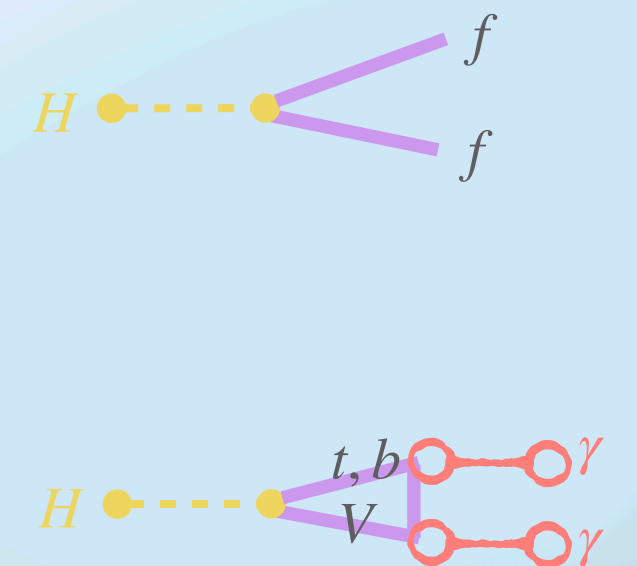
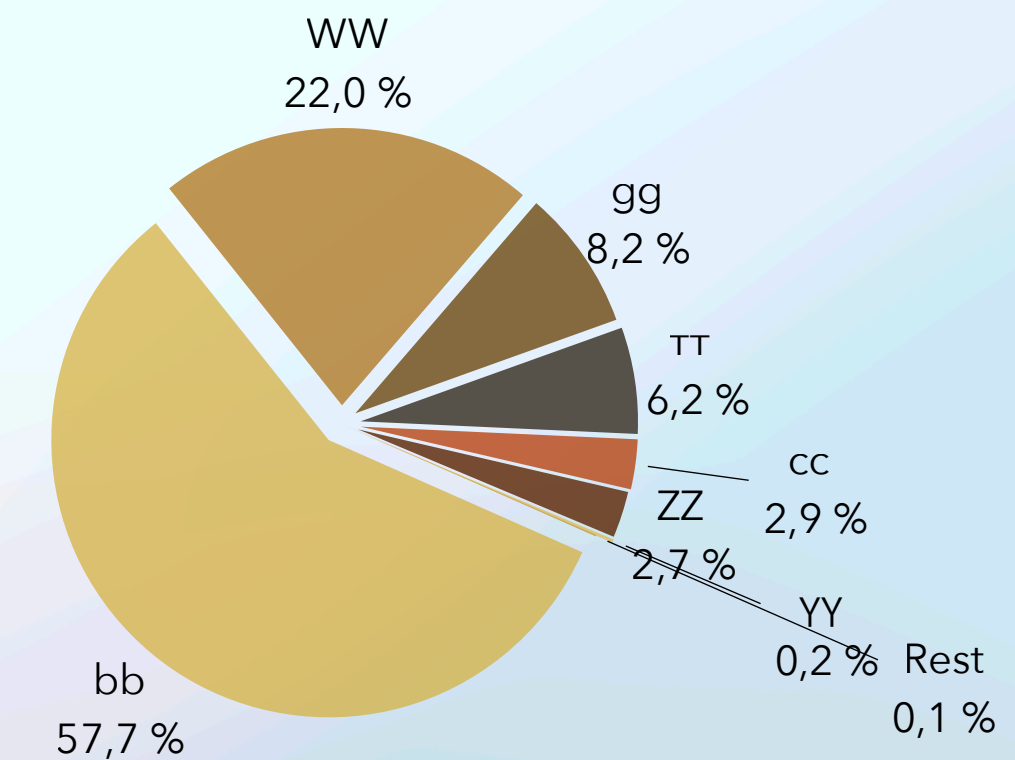
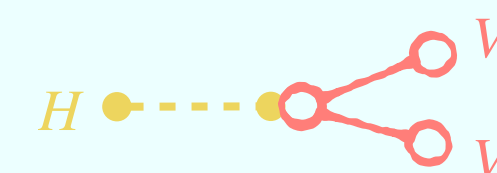
Decay Channel

Branching ratio

bb	57.63
WW	22
gg	8.15
$\tau\tau$	6.21
cc	2.86
ZZ	2.71
$\gamma\gamma$	0.227

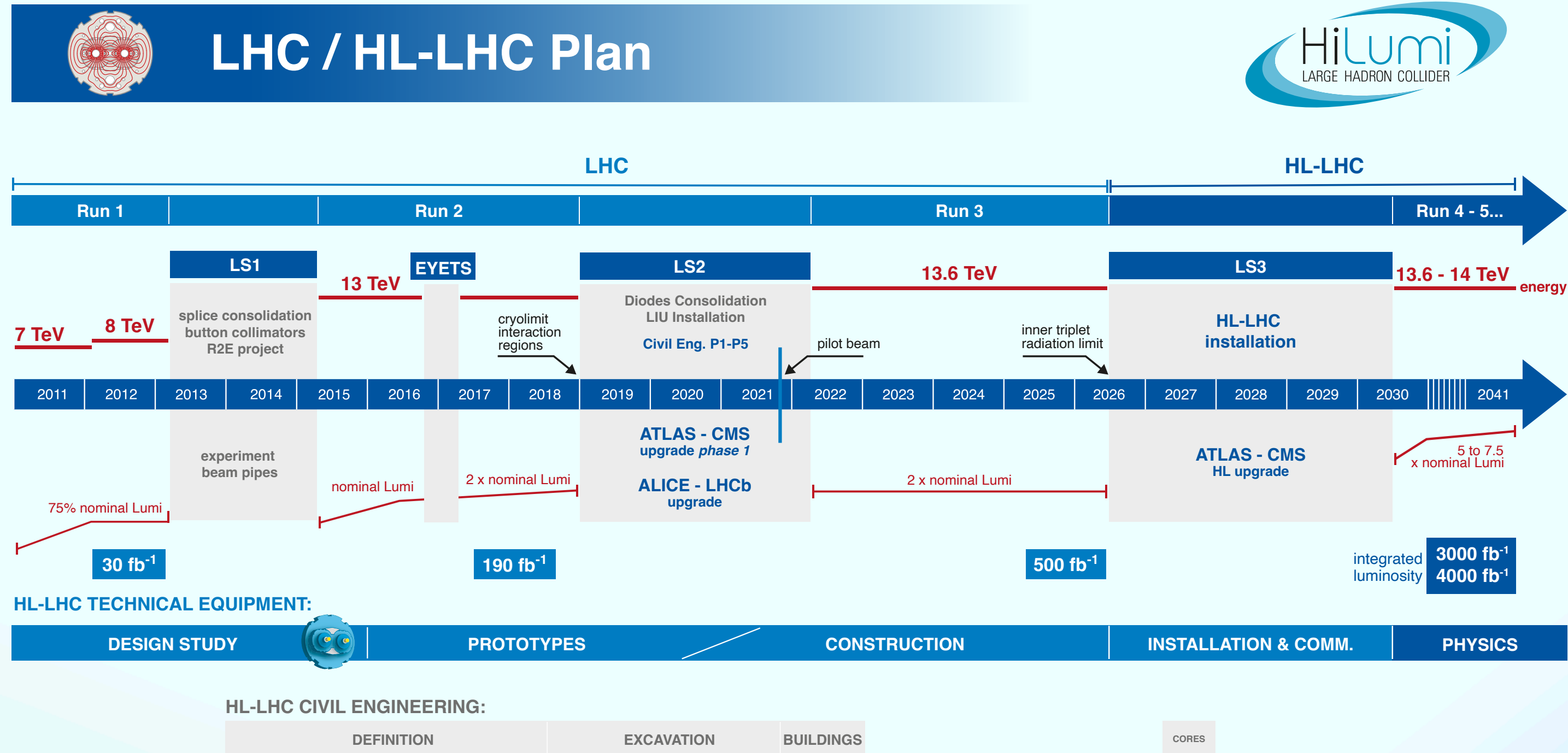


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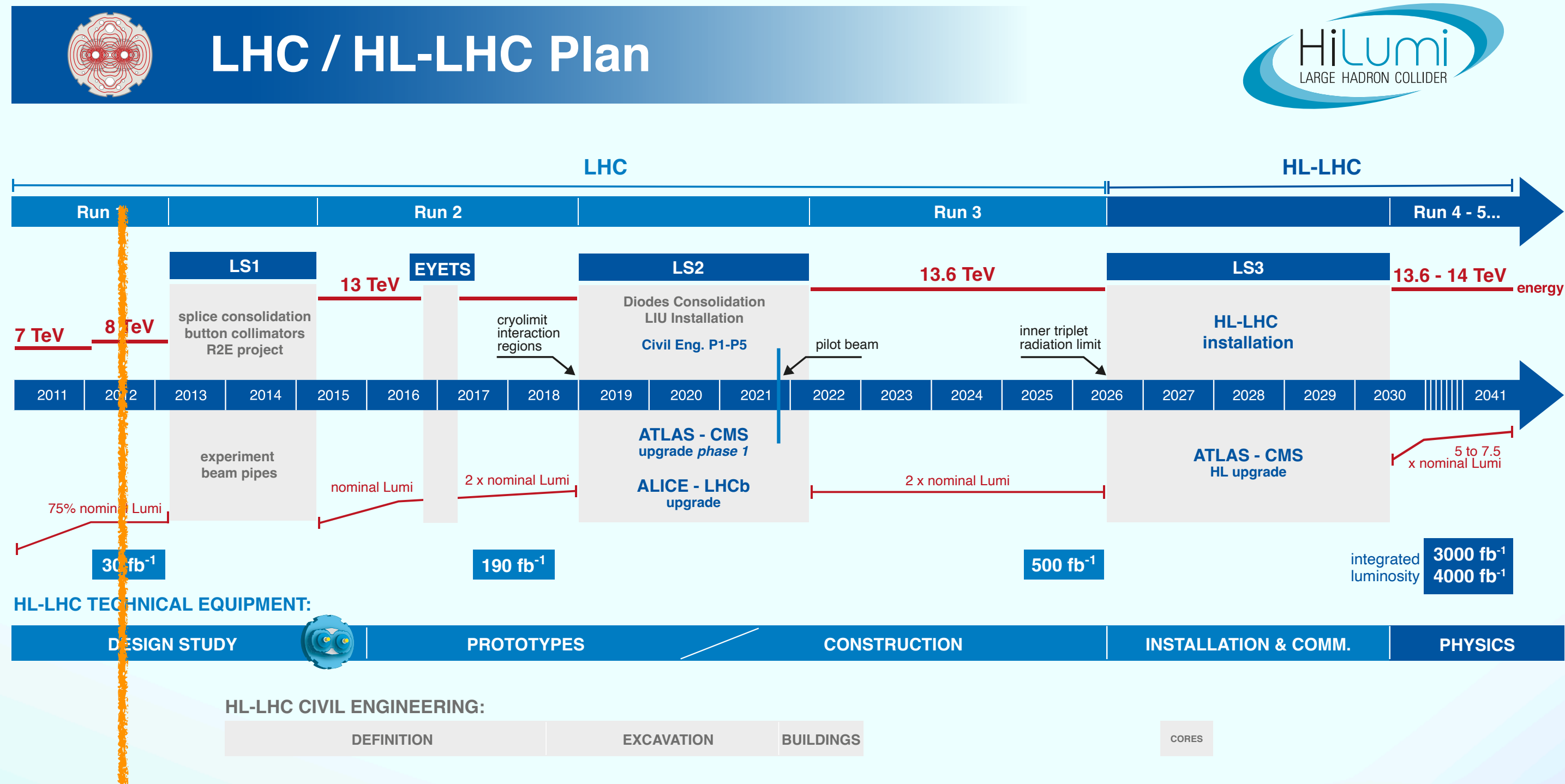


Higgs has narrow width and decays very quickly!

Timeline since discovery

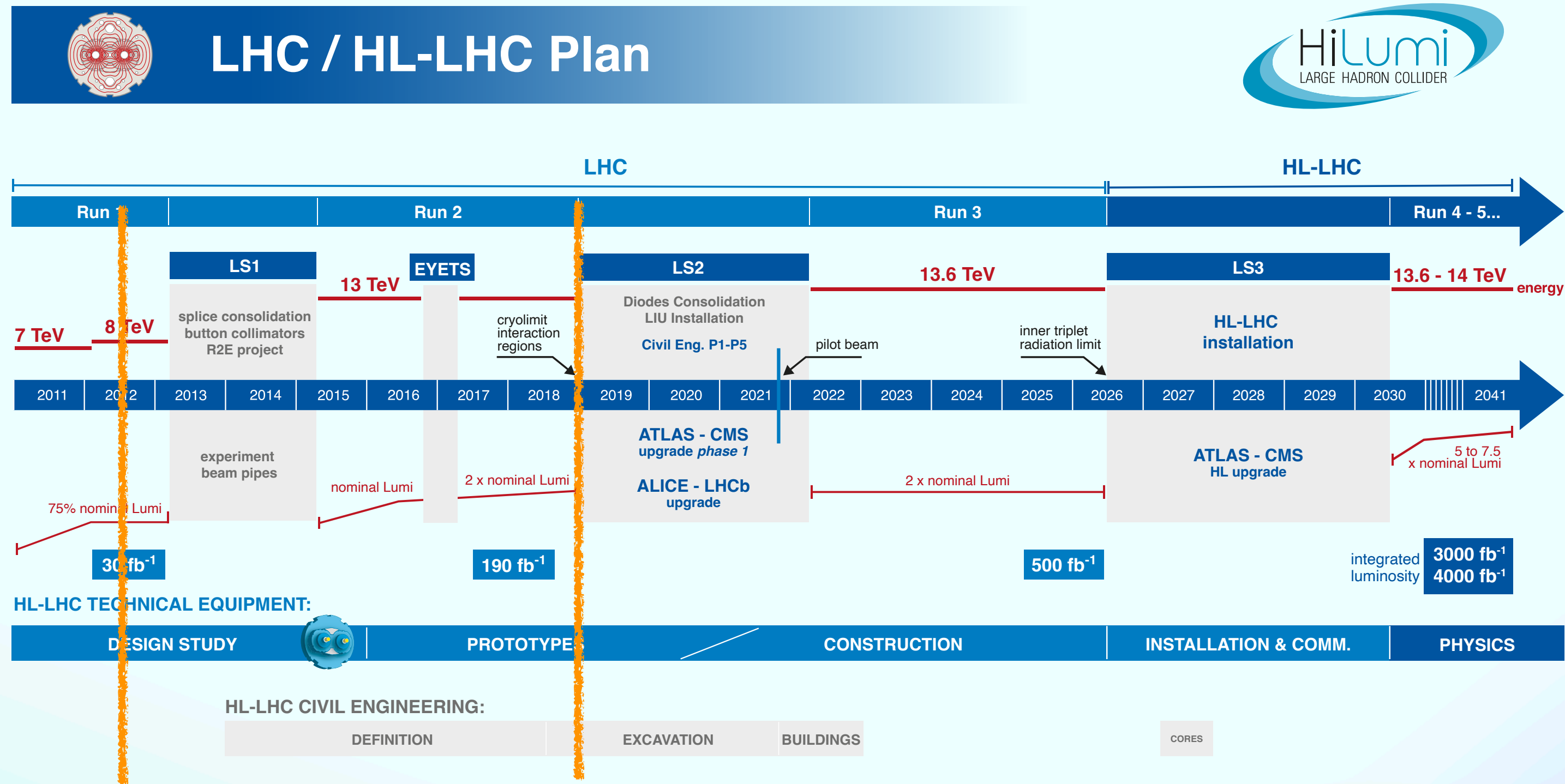


Timeline since discovery



Discovery
~200k Higgs prod.

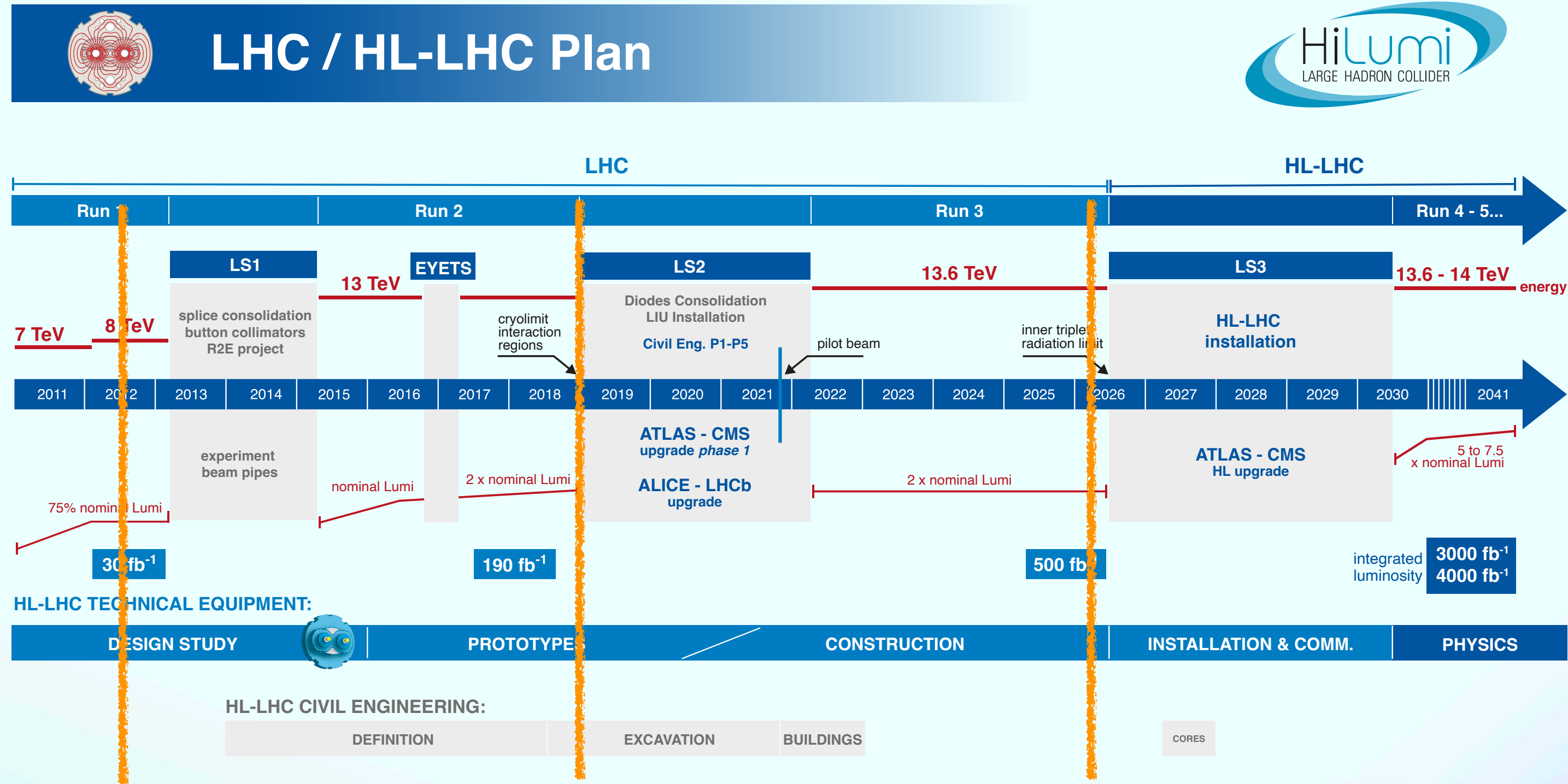
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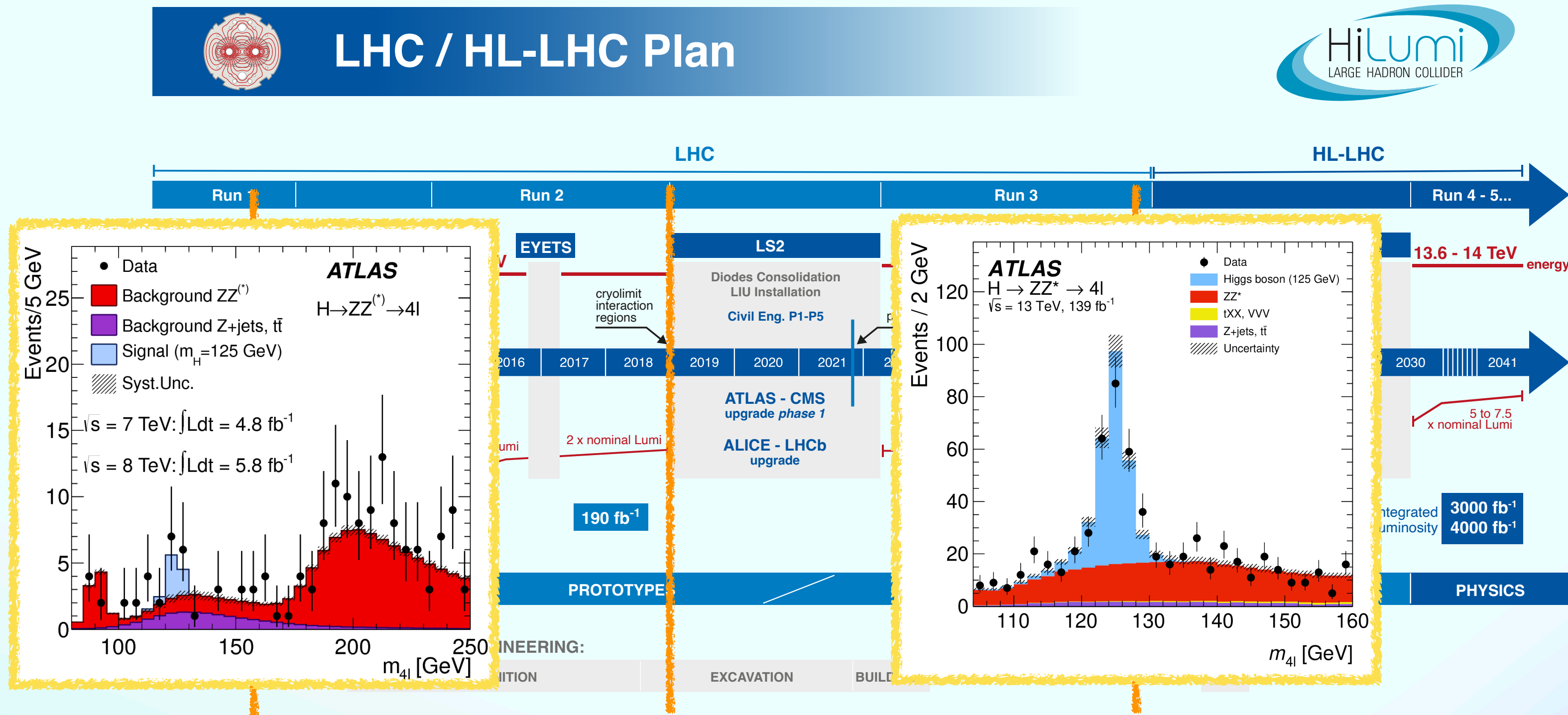
End of Run 2
~7.7M Higgs prod.

Timeline since discovery



Discovery ~200k Higgs prod. **End of Run 2** ~7.7M Higgs prod. **Today** ~24M Higgs prod.

Timeline since discovery

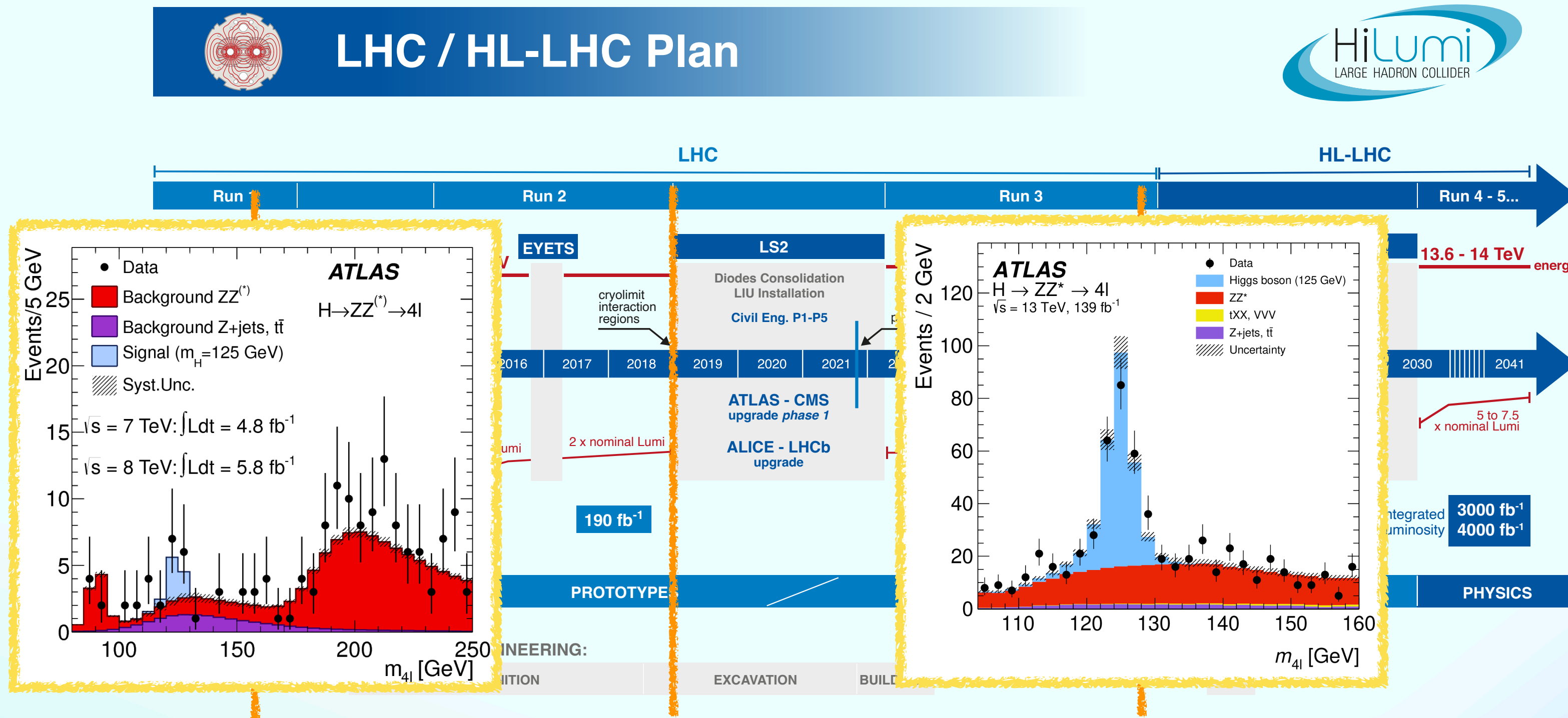


Discovery
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End of Run 2
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~24M Higgs prod.

Timeline since discovery



Discovery
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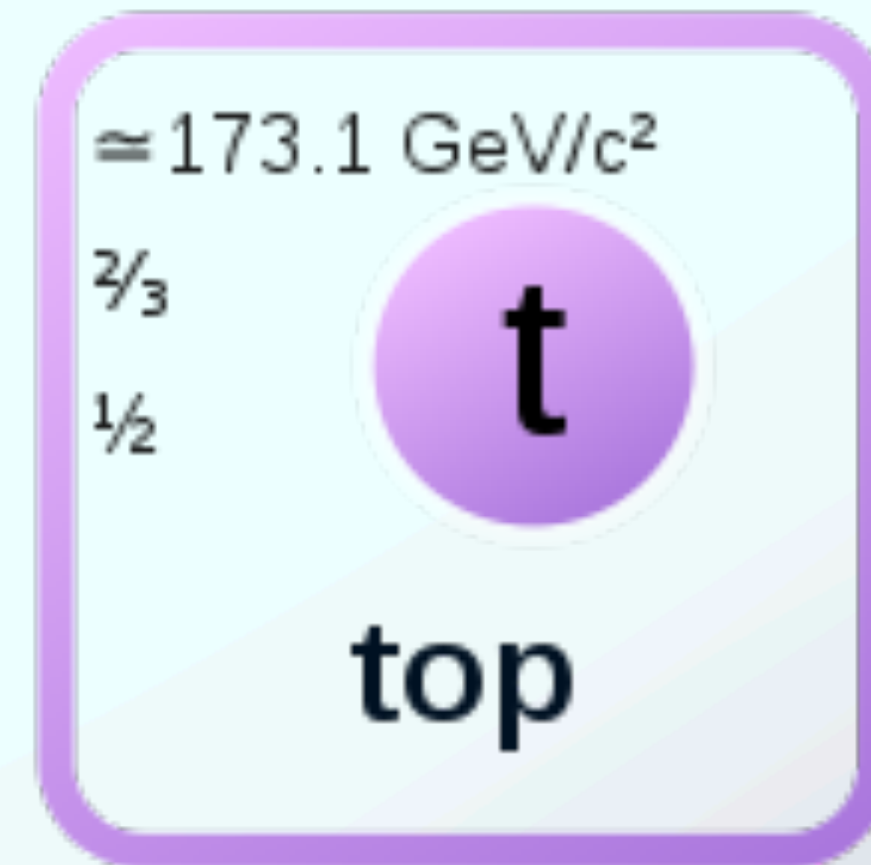
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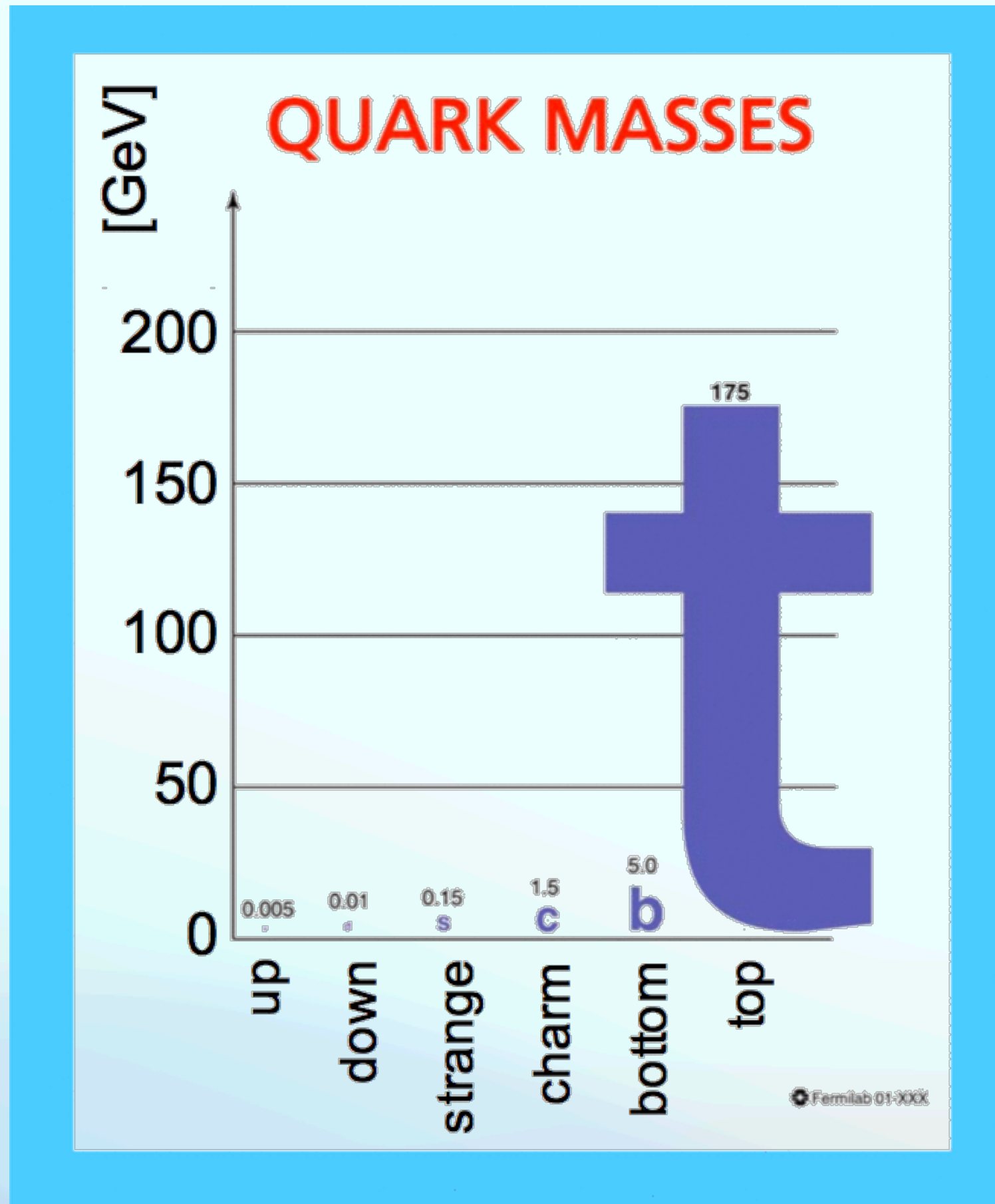
End of HL-LHC
~170M Higgs prod.

We analysed **barely ~5%** of the (HL)LHC dataset!

2nd protagonist



The Top quark as a probe for new physics



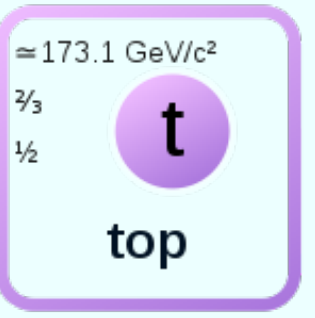
Heaviest particle in the SM
why?

- Strongest coupling to Higgs sector
- Particular connection to Heavy New Sector?

Decays before hadronization

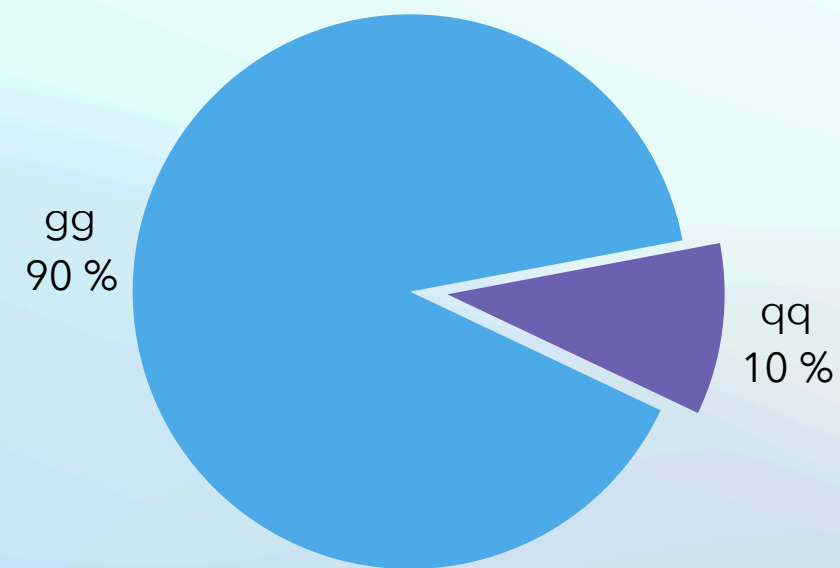
- Allows to study a "bare" quark

Top @ proton collider : prod. and decay



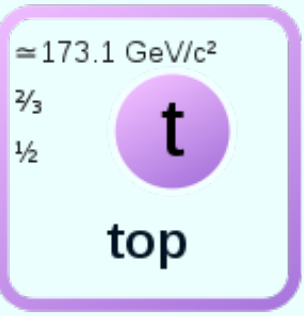
Production mode Cross-section (pb)

$gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}$	} $\sim 90\%$	833.9
$qq \rightarrow t\bar{t}$		



Mostly produced via QCD in $t\bar{t}$ pair

Top @ proton collider : prod. and decay



Production mode Cross-section (pb)

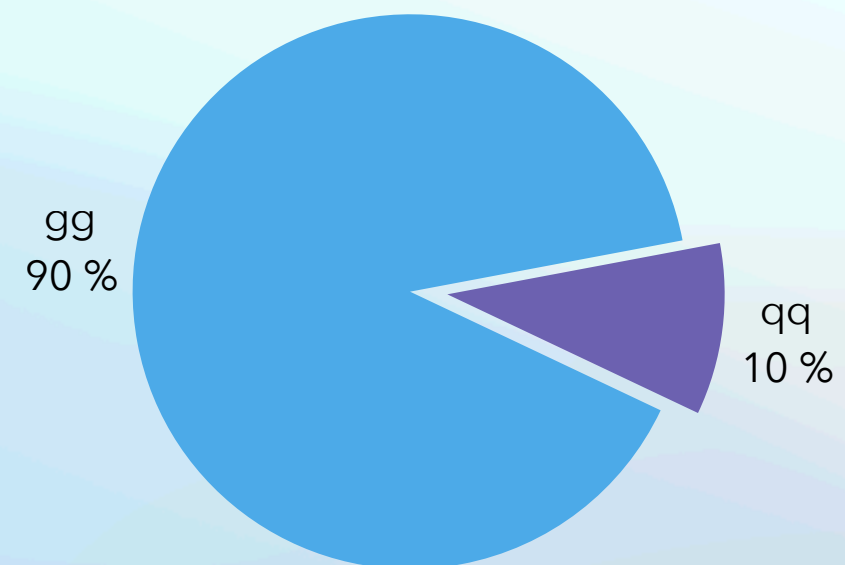
$gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ } ~90%
 $qq \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ } ~10% 833.9

$t\bar{t}W$ 0.745

$t\bar{t}Z$ 0.811

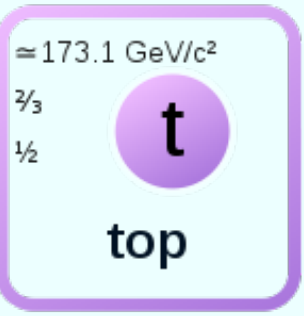
$t\bar{t}H$ 0.529

$t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ 0.015



Mostly produced via QCD in $t\bar{t}$ pair

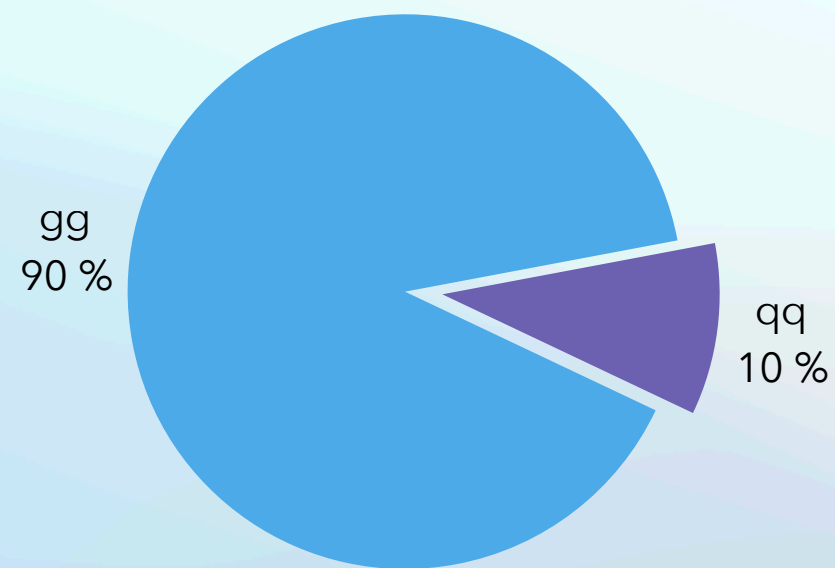
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Production mode	Cross-section (pb)	Decay Channel	Branching ratio
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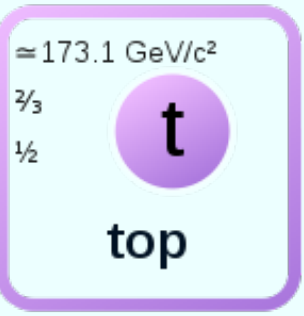
$gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}$	} ~90%	$t \rightarrow b + W$	99.8
$qq \rightarrow t\bar{t}$			
833.9			

$t\bar{t}W$	0.745
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Then, final states from W decays

$t \rightarrow b + W(\rightarrow q\bar{q})$ 66.5

$t \rightarrow b + W(\rightarrow e\nu_e)$ 11

$t \rightarrow b + W(\rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu)$ 11

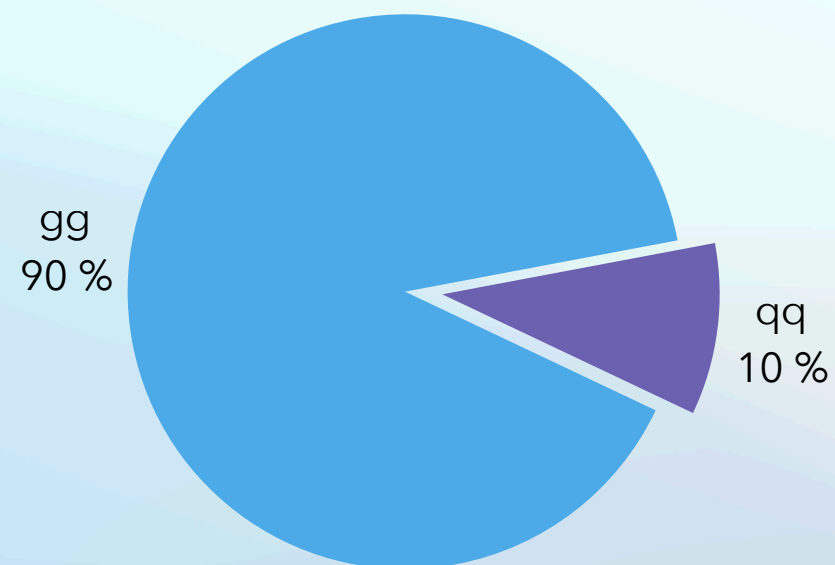
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$t\bar{t}W$ 0.745

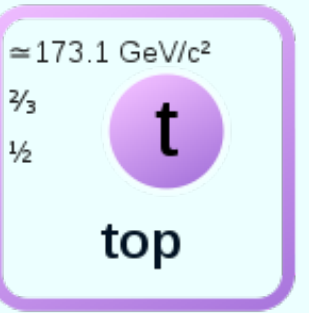
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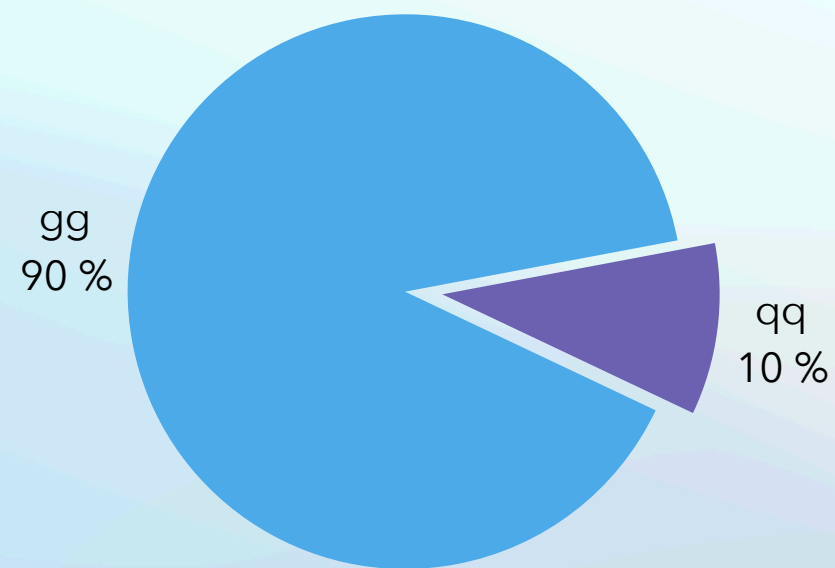
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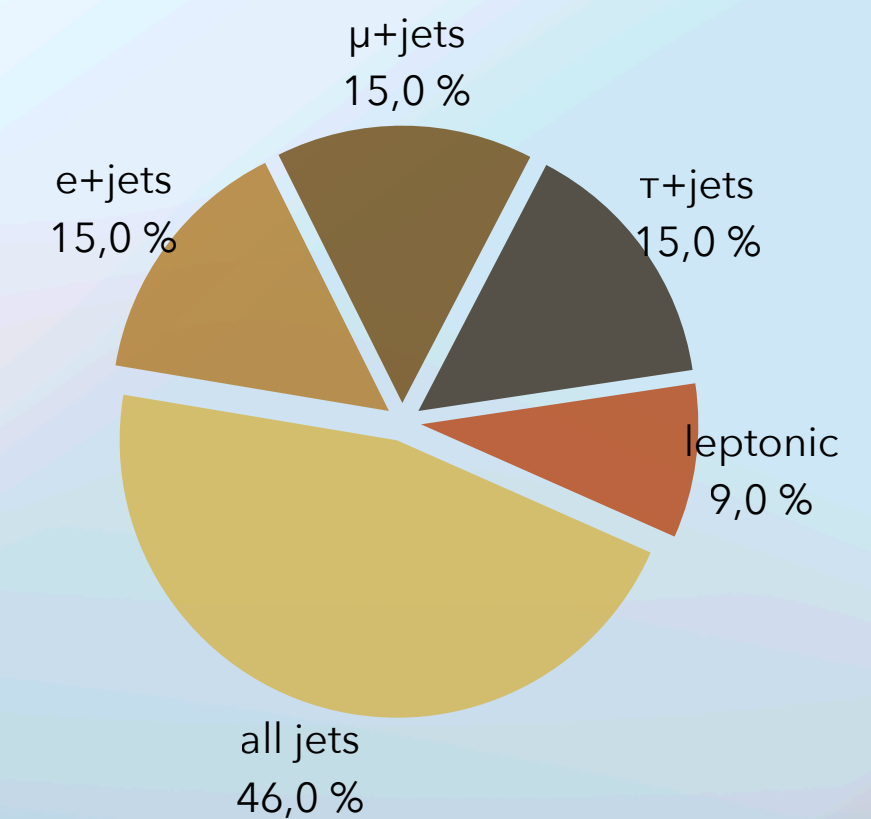
$t\bar{t}H$ 0.529

$t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ 0.015



Mostly produced via QCD in $t\bar{t}$ pair

So, for $t\bar{t}$ pair :



LHC is a top quark factory
 $O(100M)$ $t\bar{t}$ events produced in Run 2

How to go from theory to measurement?

Simulation of a process

Using generators e.g. MadGraph
Include "soft" processes (e.g. hadronisation)
Include info. about Proton Distrib. Fonction

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Simulation of ATLAS detector

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Simulation of ATLAS detector



Reconstruction of an event

i.e. [electronic signals] → [photon with $p_T = 500$ GeV]

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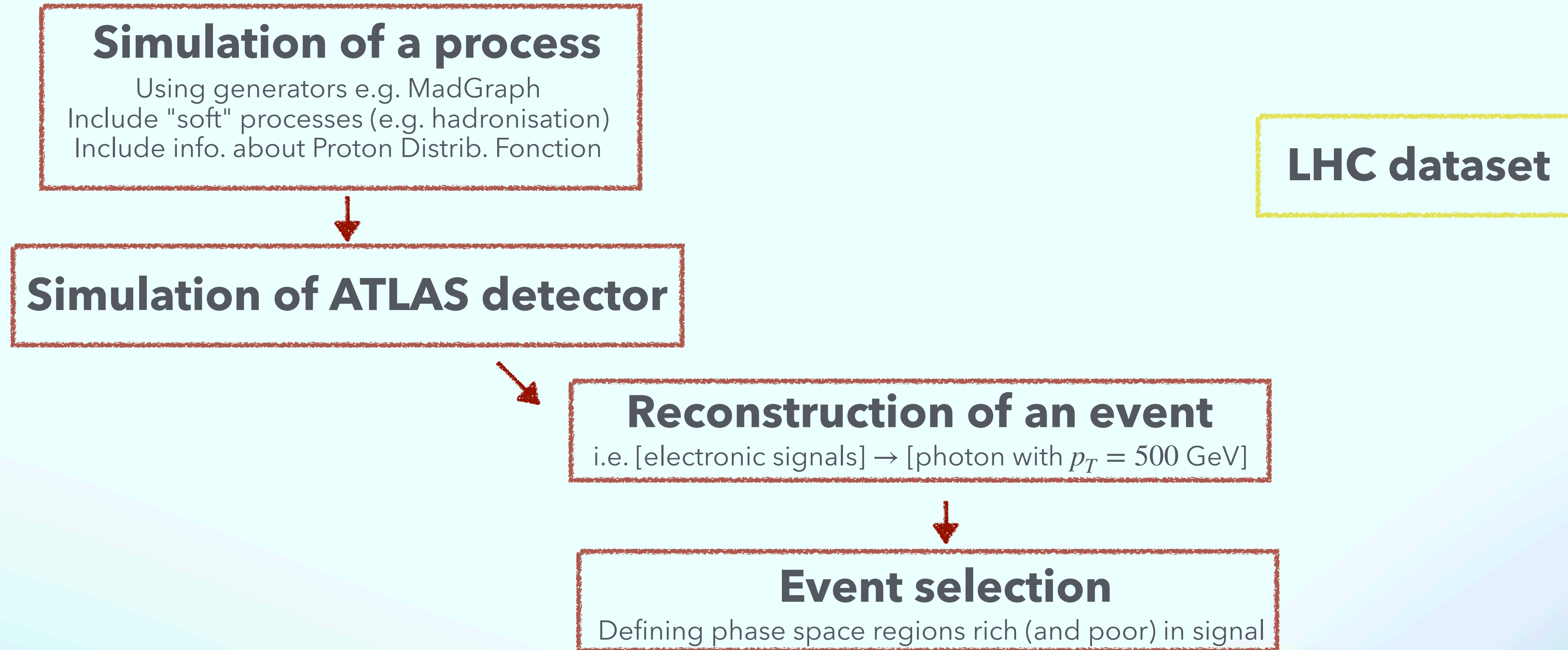
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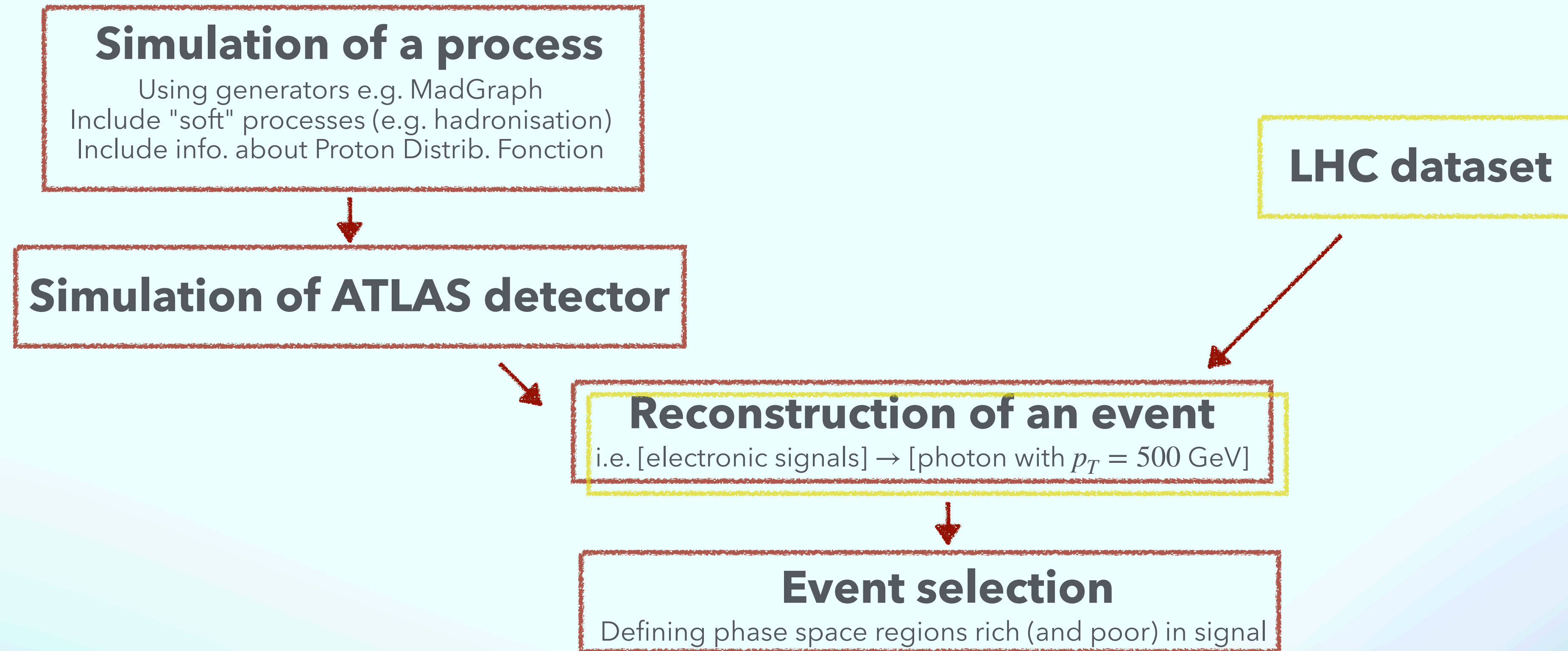
Event selection

Defining phase space regions rich (and poor) in signal

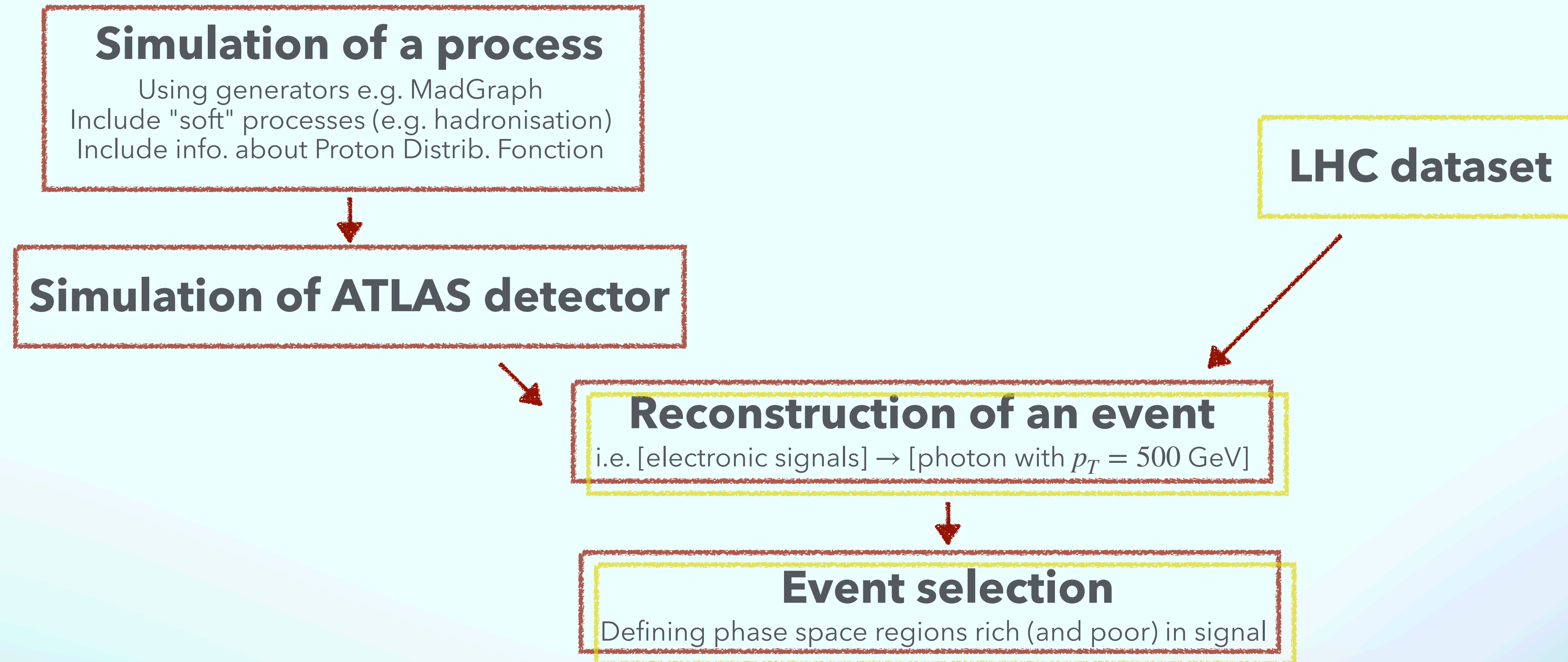
How to go from theory to measurement?



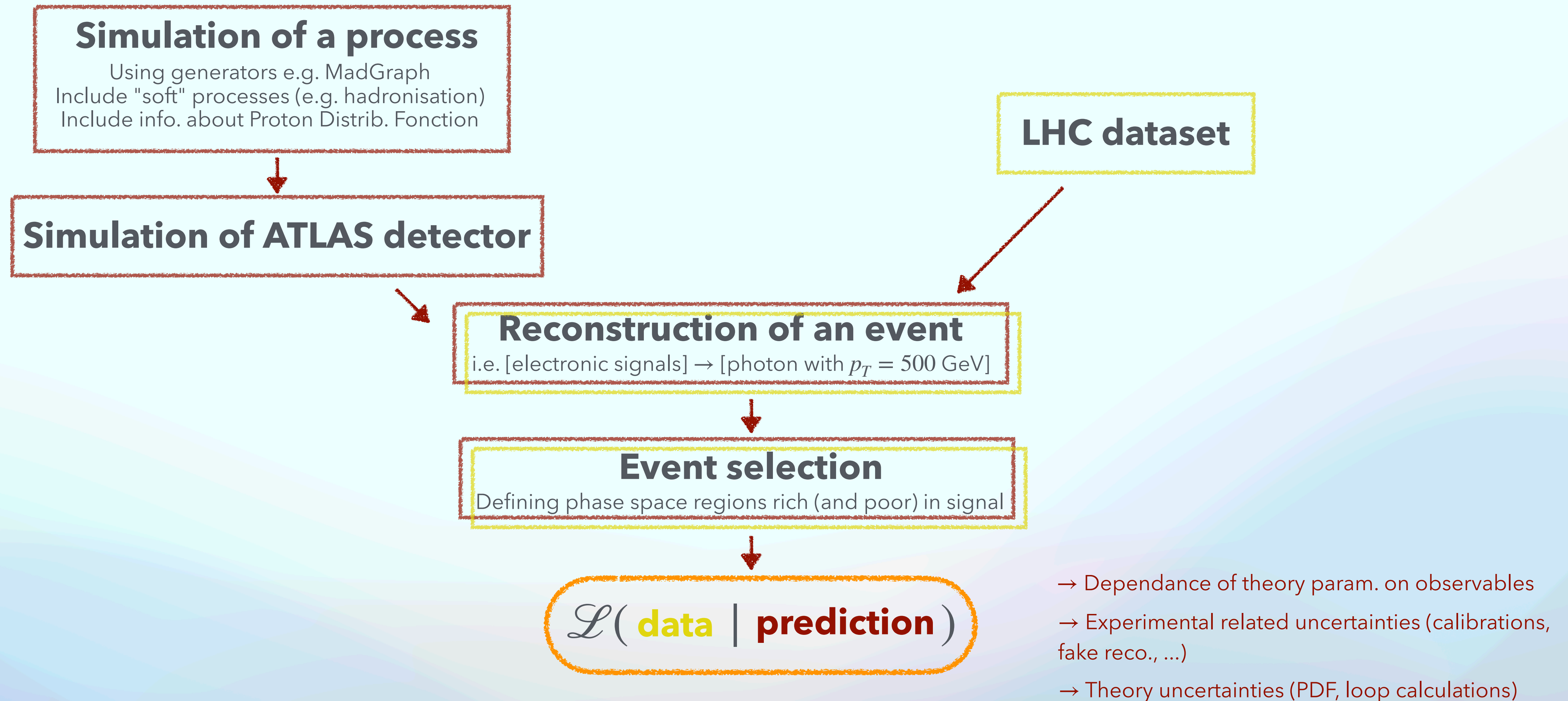
How to go from theory to measurement?



How to go from theory to measurement?



How to go from theory to measurement?



Recap. so far

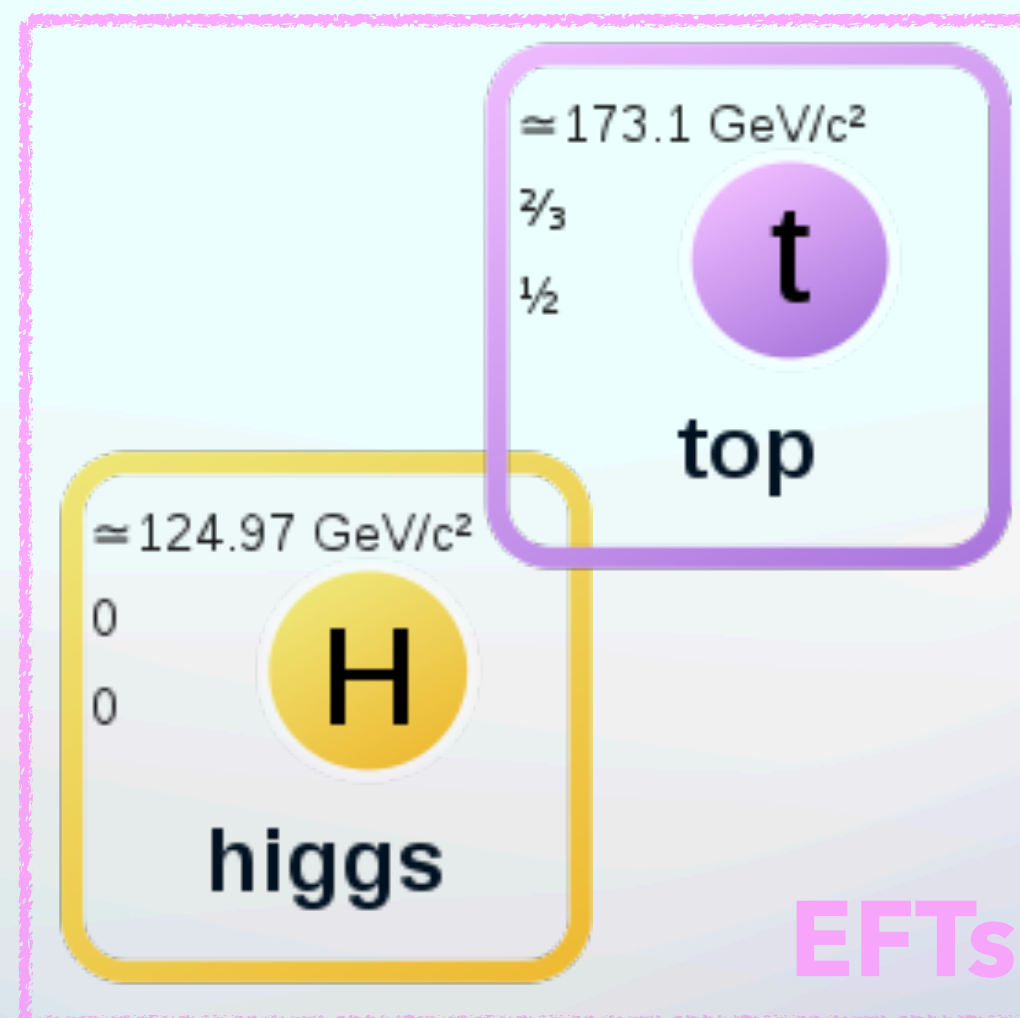
Recap.

SM is healthier than ever → we need to go **beyond**

We have a already *large* dataset to explore
and a even larger one yet to explore

Higgs boson and **Top quark** seems to be the most promising probes of NP at LHC

Current data tends to incate that NP lives at (very) **high energy scale**
→ Effective approach is needed

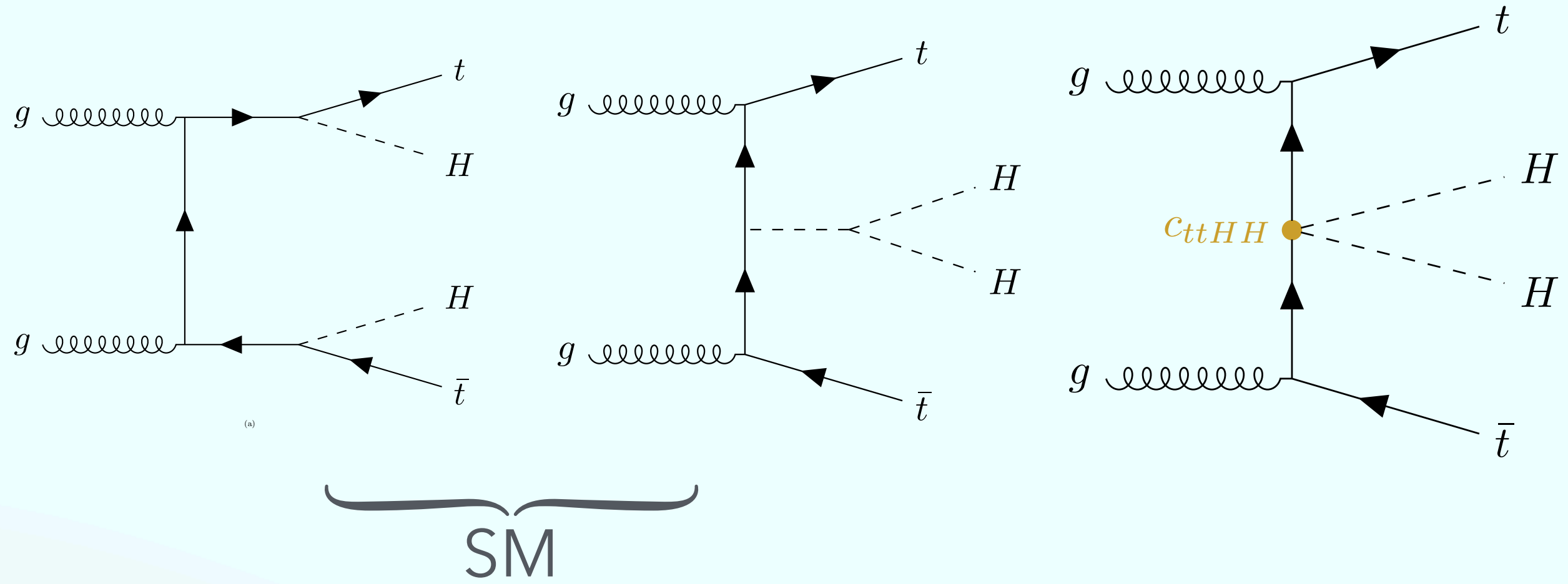


Probing the Top-Higgs Quartic interaction

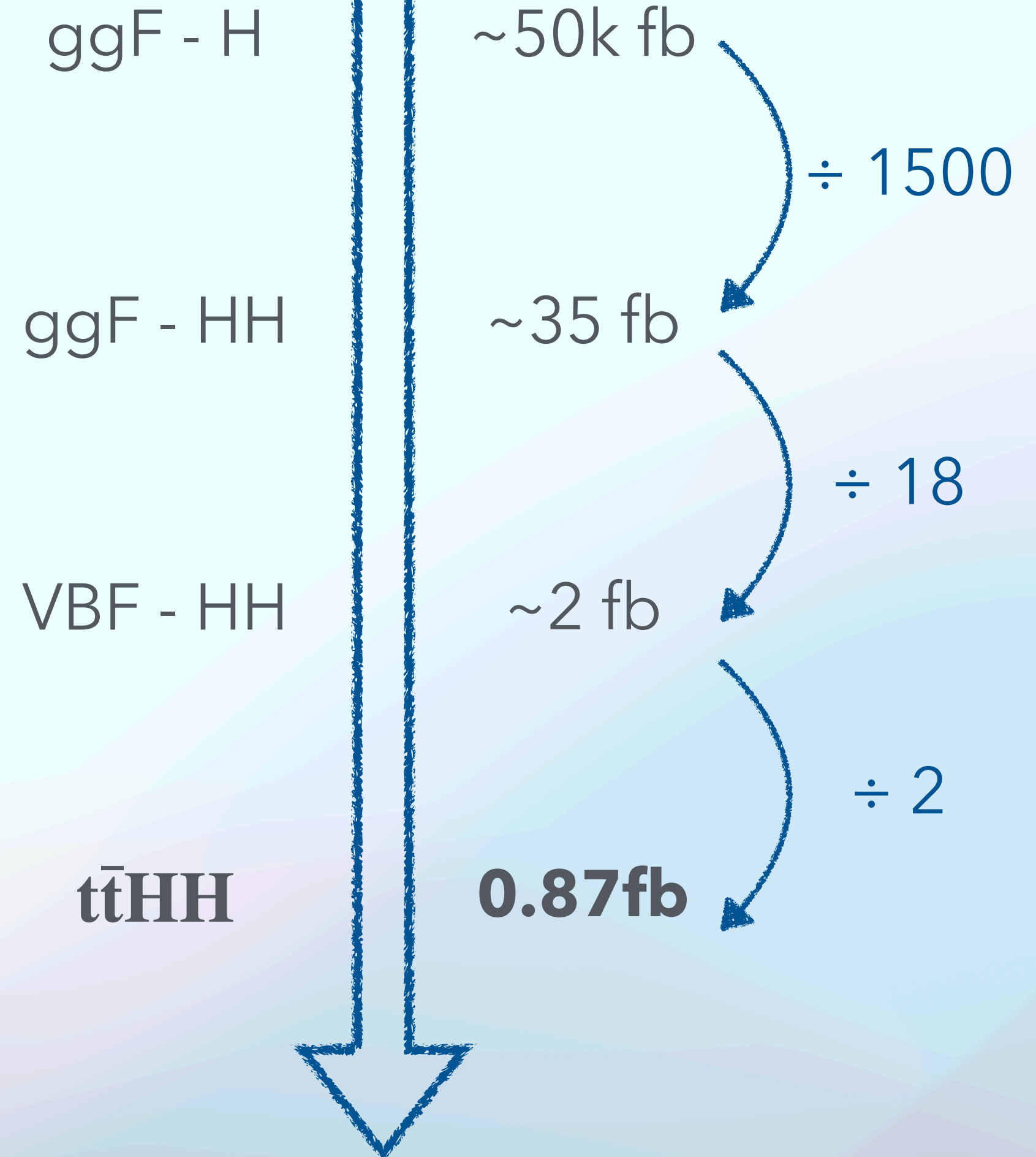
through an EFT interpretation of $t\bar{t}HH$ production at ATLAS

[arXiv:2026.13113](https://arxiv.org/abs/2026.13113)

Motivations

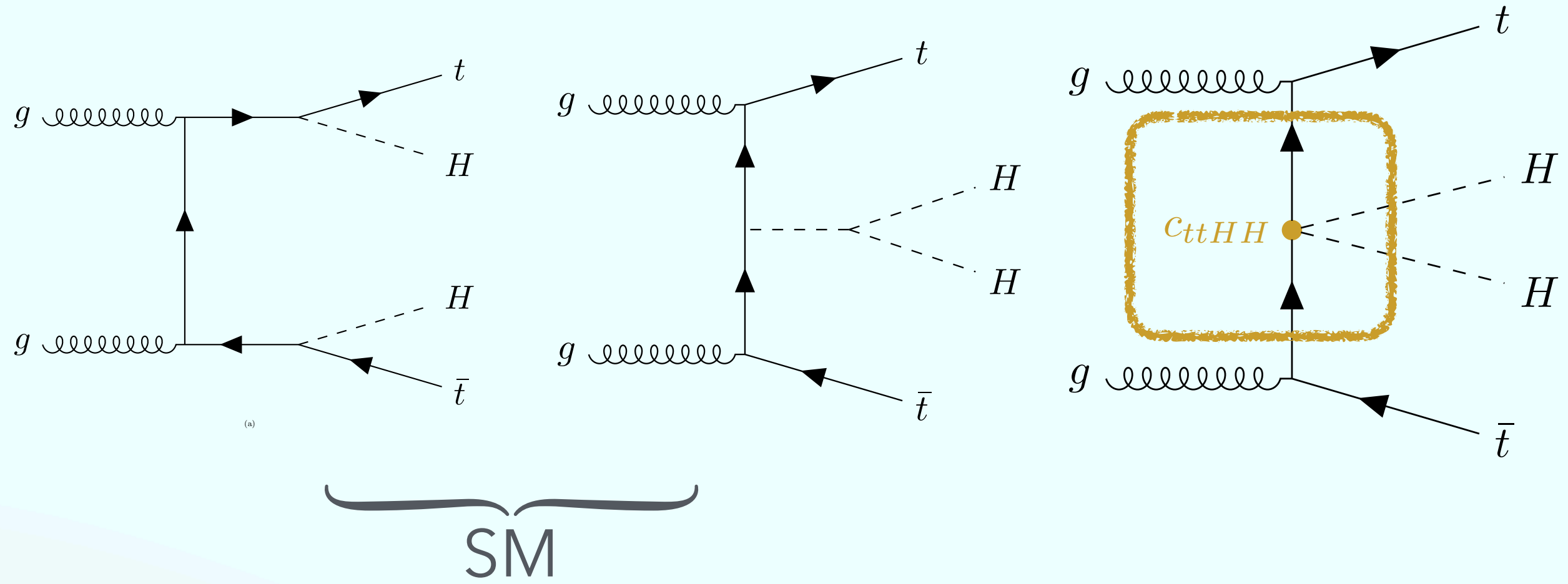


LHC @ 13.6 TeV

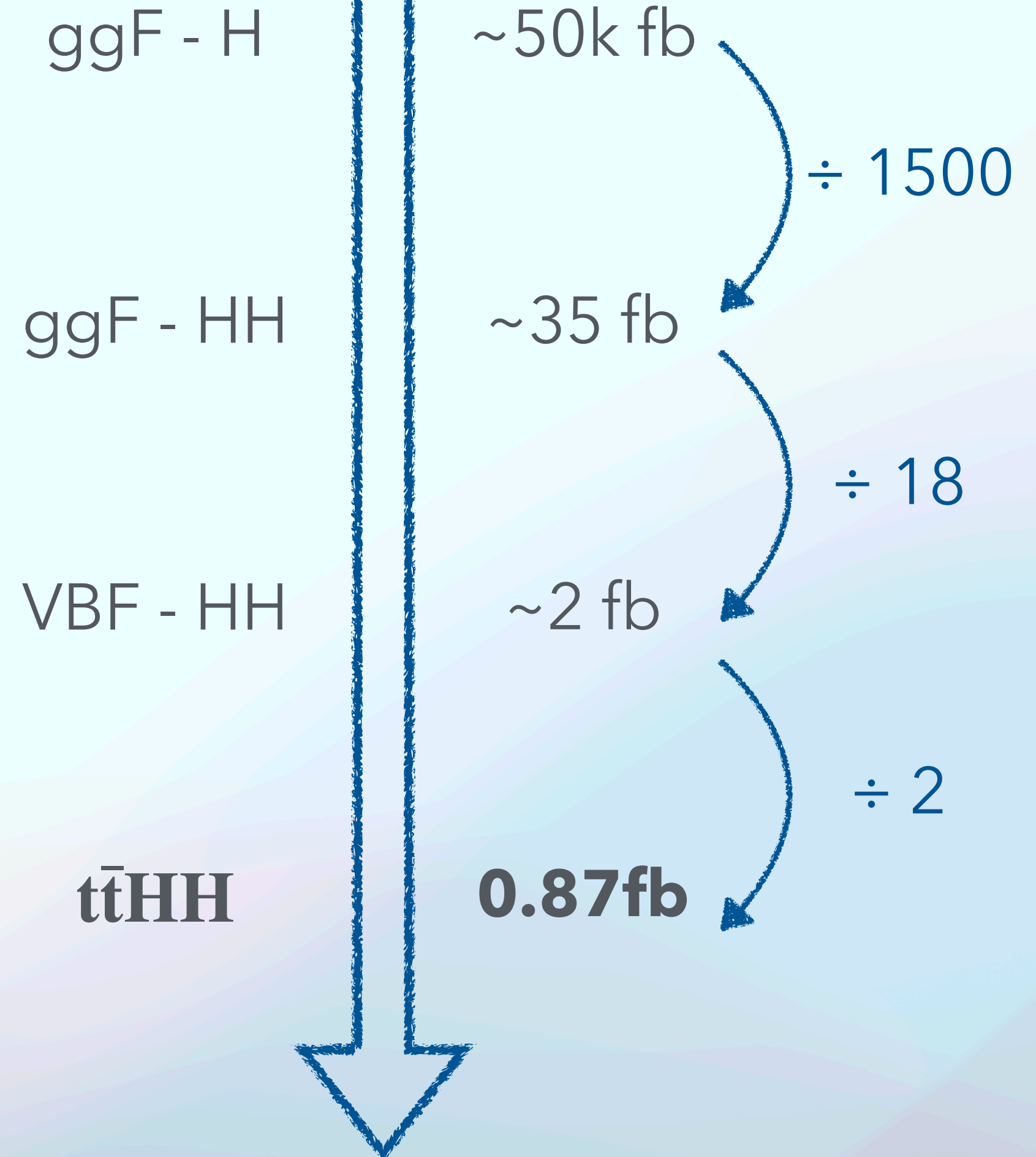


- 3rd leading HH production mode @ LHC

Motivations



LHC @ 13.6 TeV

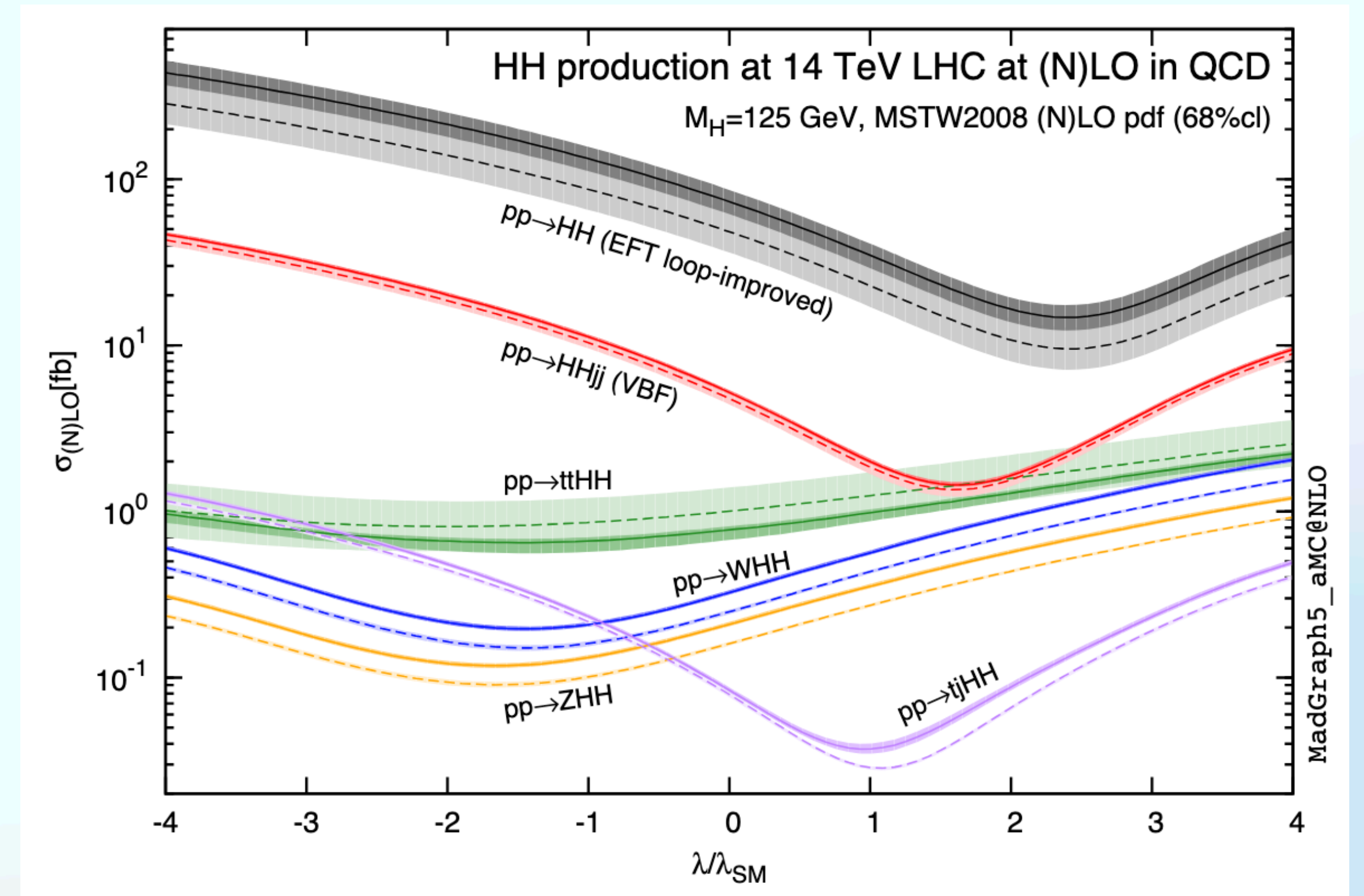
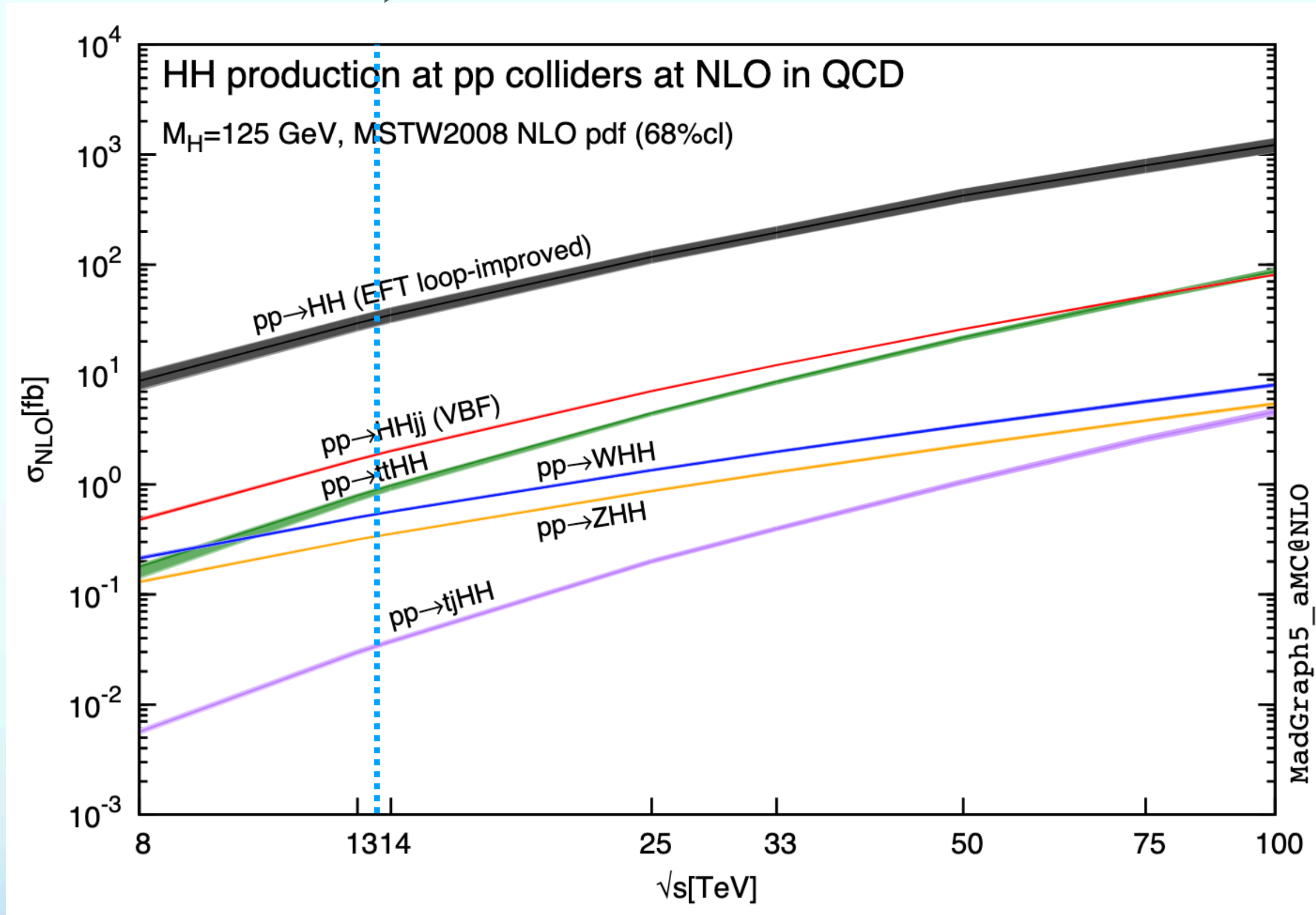


- 3rd leading HH production mode @ LHC
- Gives **direct** access to $t\bar{t}HH$ quartic interaction

ttHH production

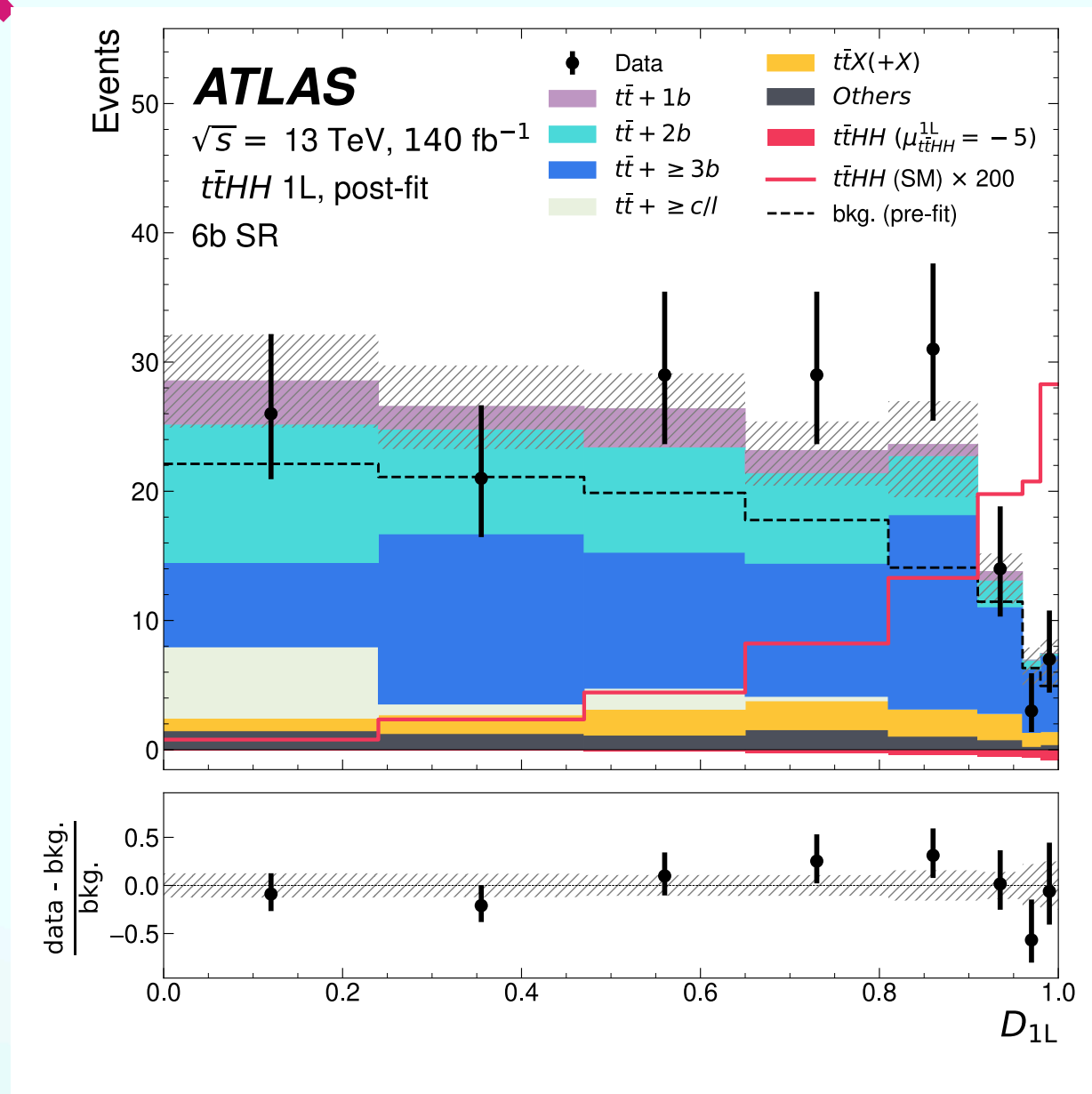
[arXiv:1401.7340](https://arxiv.org/abs/1401.7340)

We stand here



- Cross-section scales faster with \sqrt{s}
- Unique interference pattern dependance on κ_λ
We'll come back to that later...

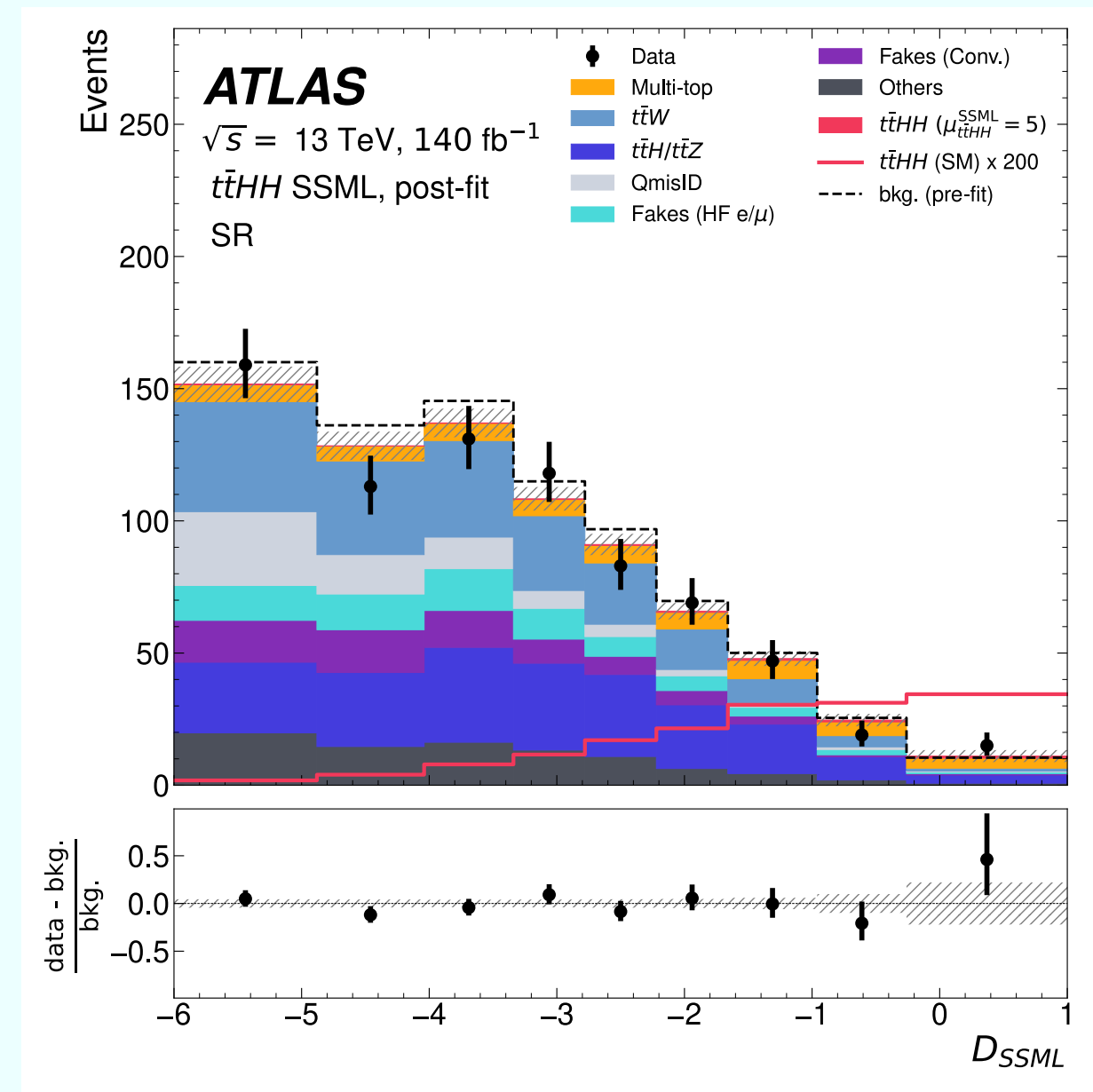
Strategy



Single lep. channel (1L)

$HH \rightarrow 4b$ and semileptonic $t\bar{t}$
dom. bkg : $t\bar{t}$ + jets

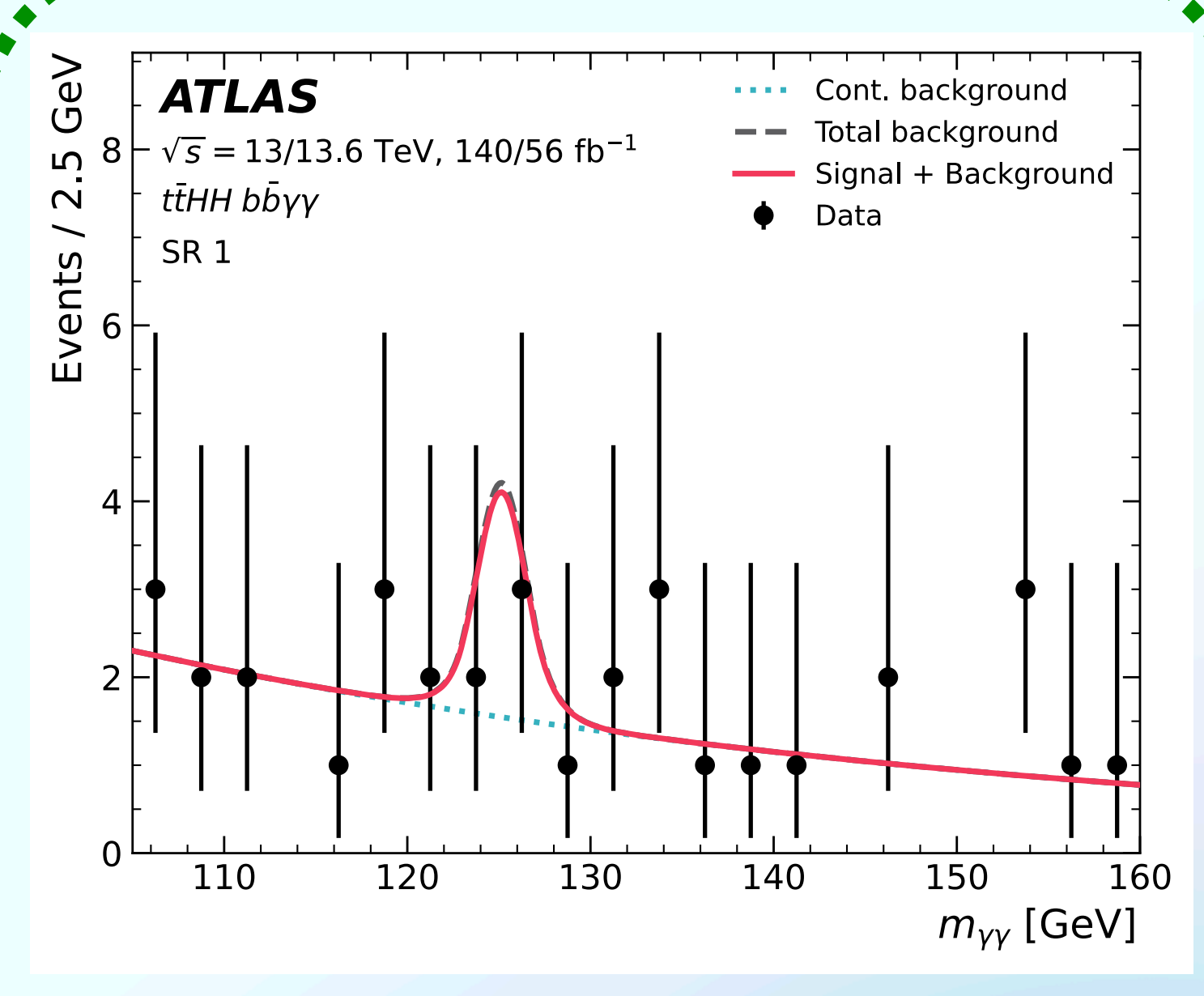
Obs. limit on μ : **26** x SM



Multi-lep. Channel (ML)

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}WW, b\bar{b}\tau\tau, \dots$
dom. bkg : $t\bar{t}W, t\bar{t}t\bar{t}, QmidID$

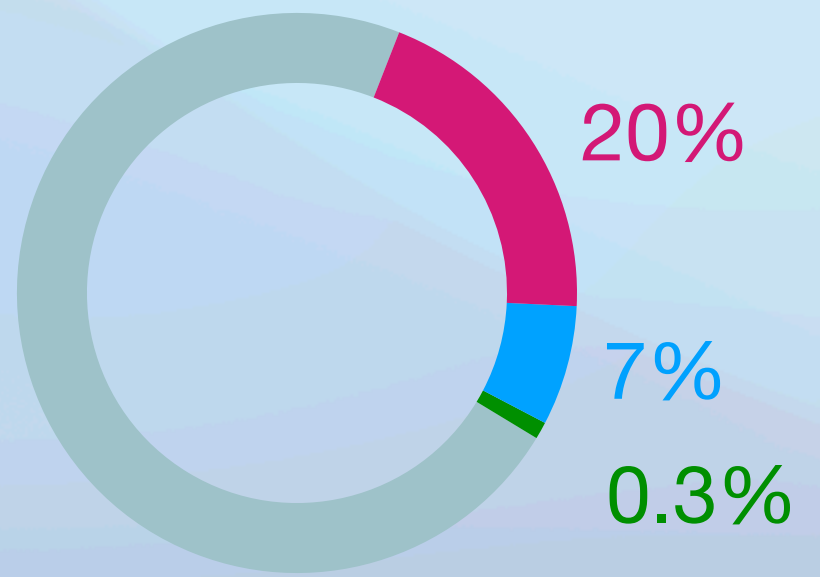
Obs. limit on μ : **40** x SM



$b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ channel

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$
dom. bkg : $\gamma\gamma$ + jets continuum

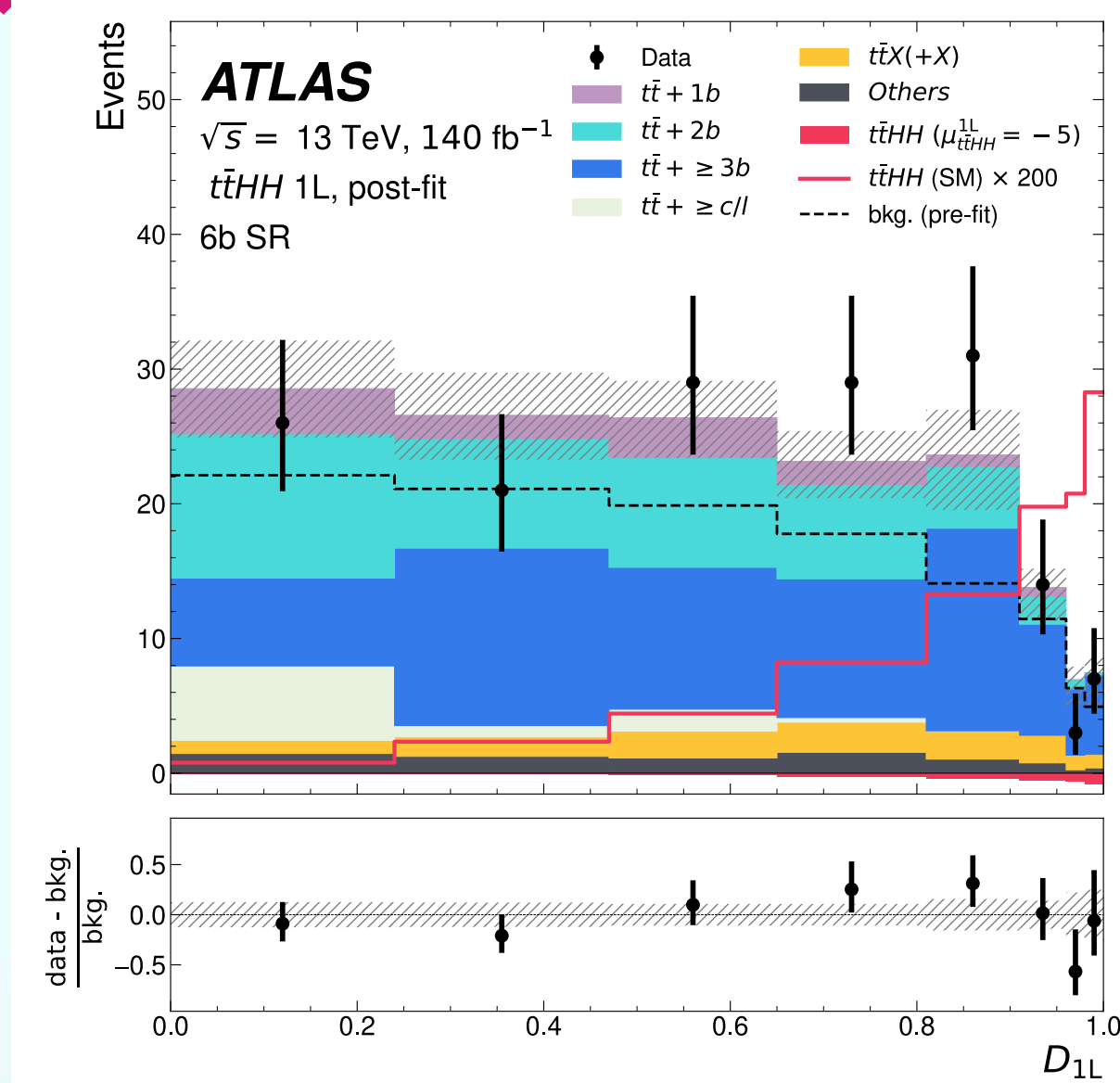
Obs. limit on μ : **75** x SM



- 1L and ML : Fit Transformer score
- $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$: Fit on $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ after BDT selection

Obs. limit on μ : **20** x SM

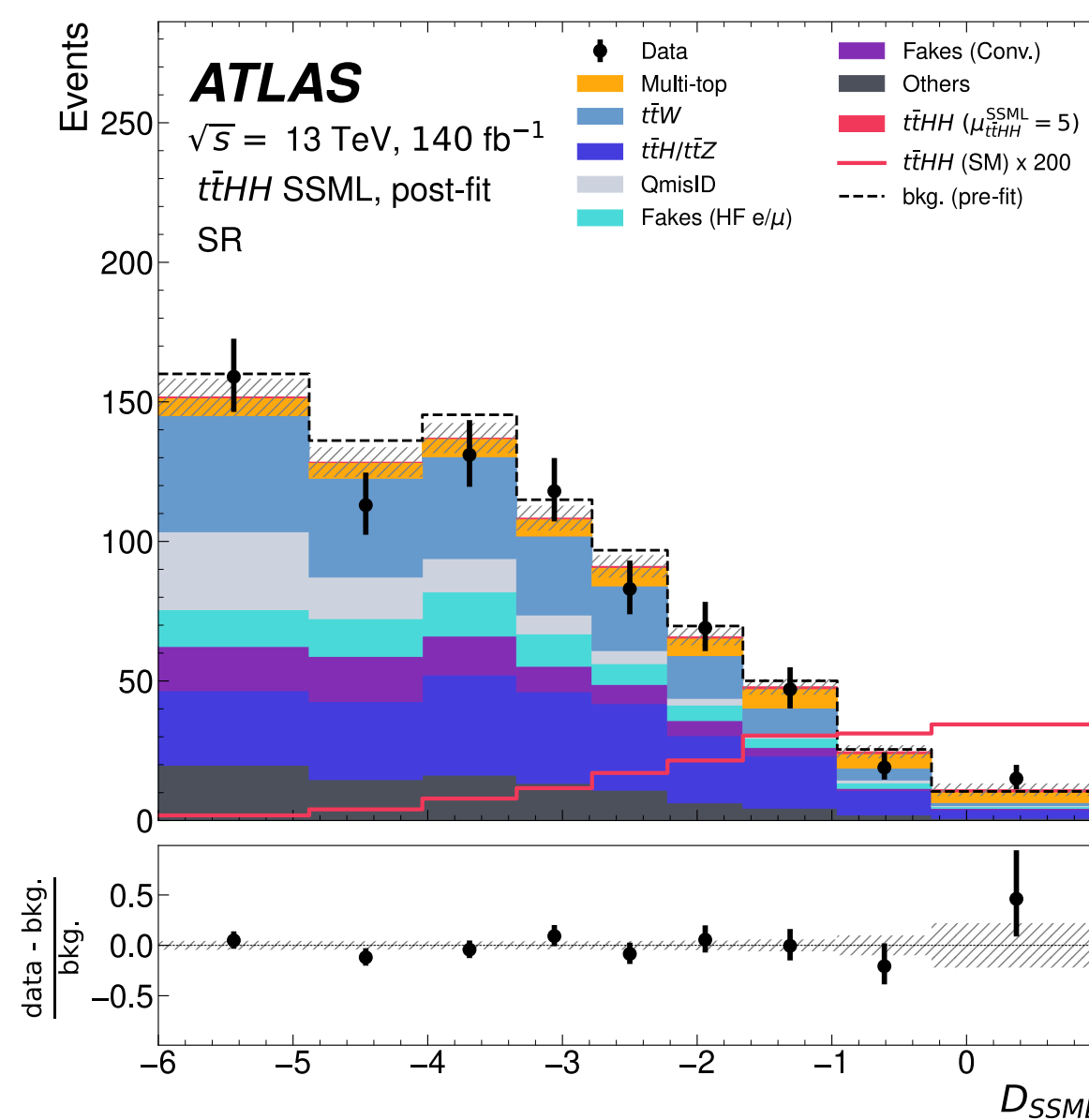
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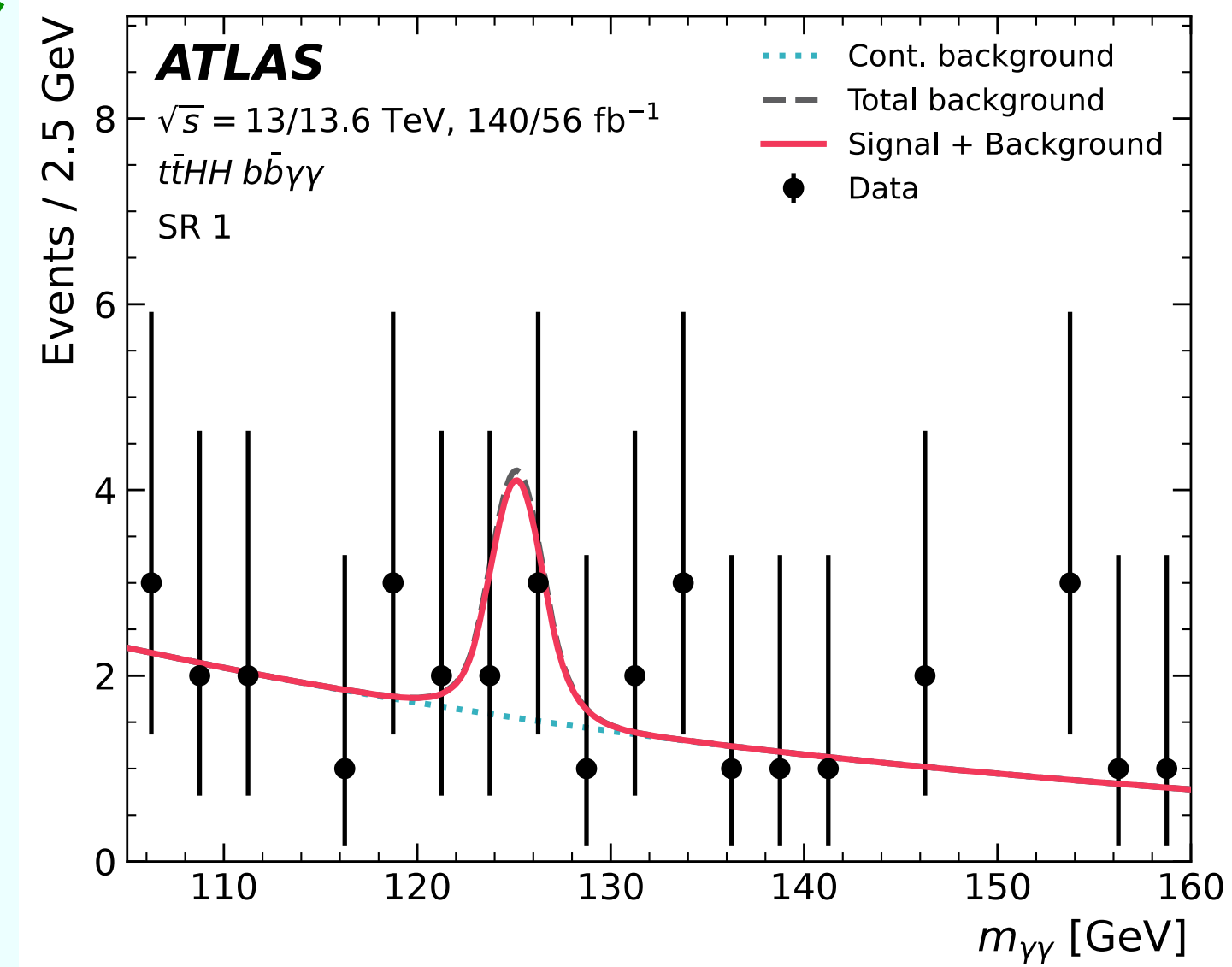
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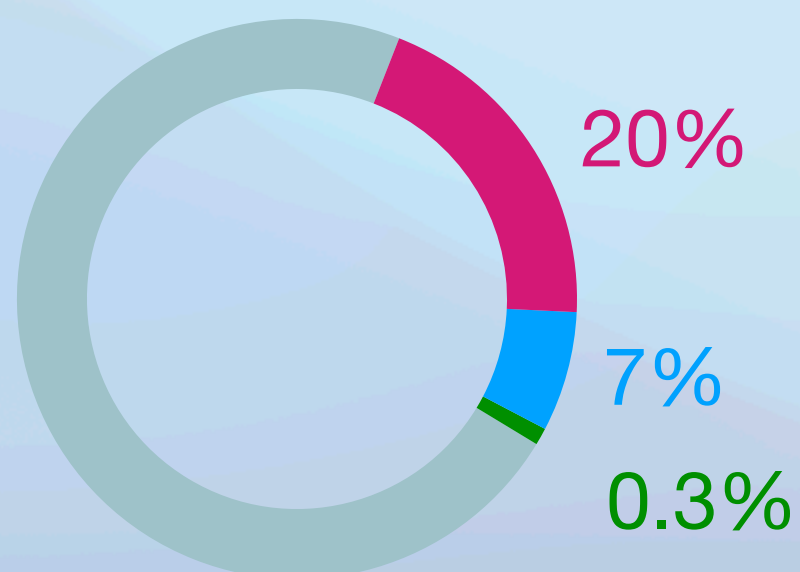
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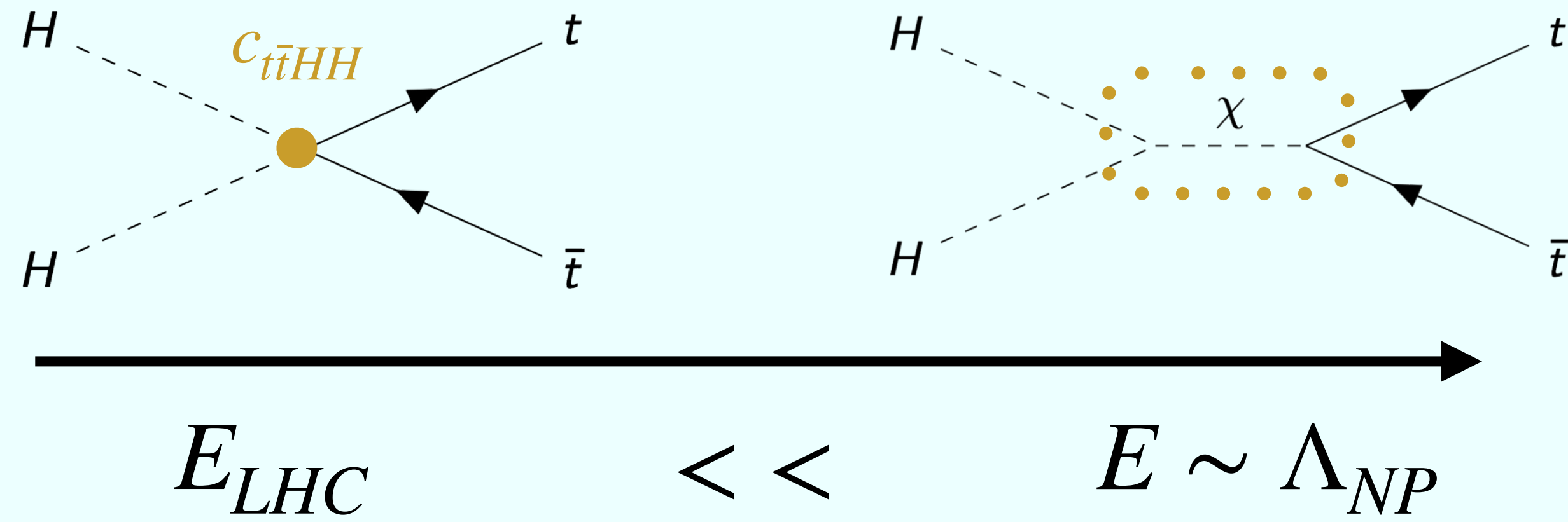
Limitations

Uncertainty Source	Observed	Expected
Signal modelling	(+0.9, -1.8)	(+1.3, -1.0)
Background modelling	(+6.8, -8.2)	(+5.7, -6.2)
$t\bar{t}$ + jets	(+5.3, -6.5)	(+4.7, -5.0)
$t\bar{t}\bar{t}\bar{t}$	(+4.6, -6.4)	(+2.9, -4.0)
$t\bar{t}H$	(+2.1, -1.6)	(+2.0, -1.9)
others	(+0.9, -0.7)	(+0.9, -0.8)
MC statistical	(+2.8, -3.7)	(+2.5, -2.7)
Detector systematic	(+2.2, -3.4)	(+1.9, -1.5)
Total systematic	(+8.3, -9.4)	(+7.3, -7.4)
Data statistical	(+7.2, -6.8)	(+7.2, -6.7)
Total	(+11.0, -11.6)	(+10.3, -10.0)

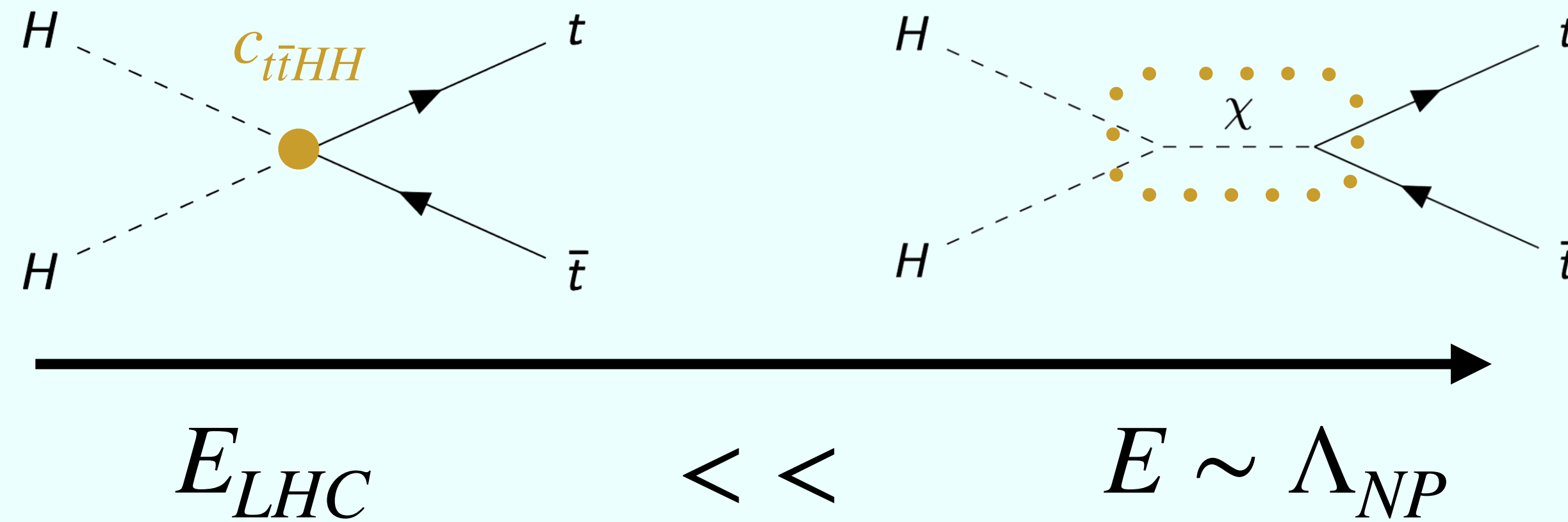
Dominant systematic unc. :
heavy flavour modelling and 4 tops

Overall → Balance between stat. and modelling

Higgs Effective Field Theory



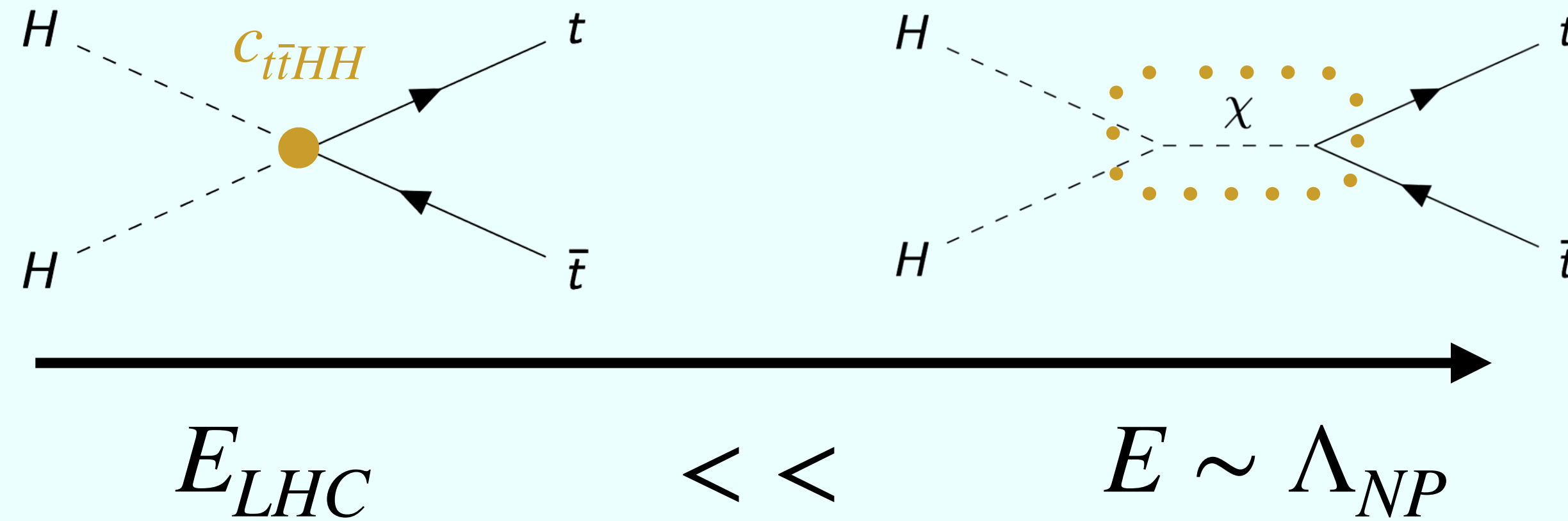
Higgs Effective Field Theory



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Higgs Effective Field Theory



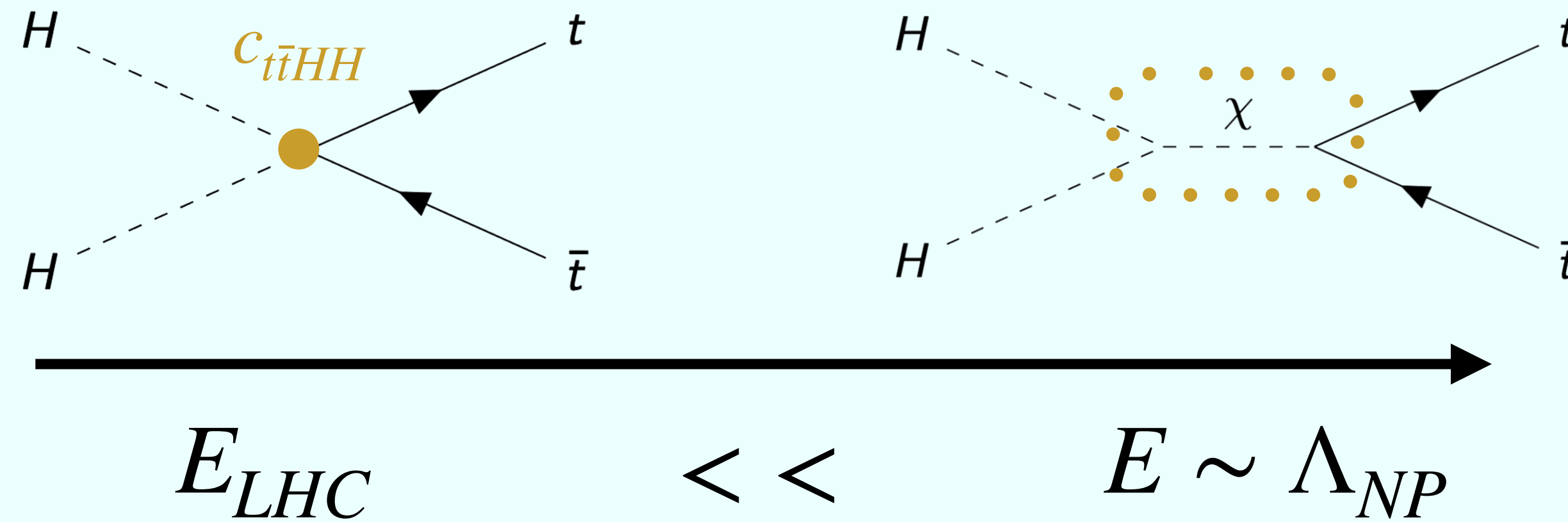
HEFT relaxes the assumption that the physical Higgs boson h is part of a $SU(2)_L$ doublet

→ Higgs properties
unconstrained by EWSB pattern

EFT recipe

- Step 1** : We fix the field content
- Step 2** : We fix the symmetries
- Step 3** : We write an exhaustive list of allowed interactions at given order

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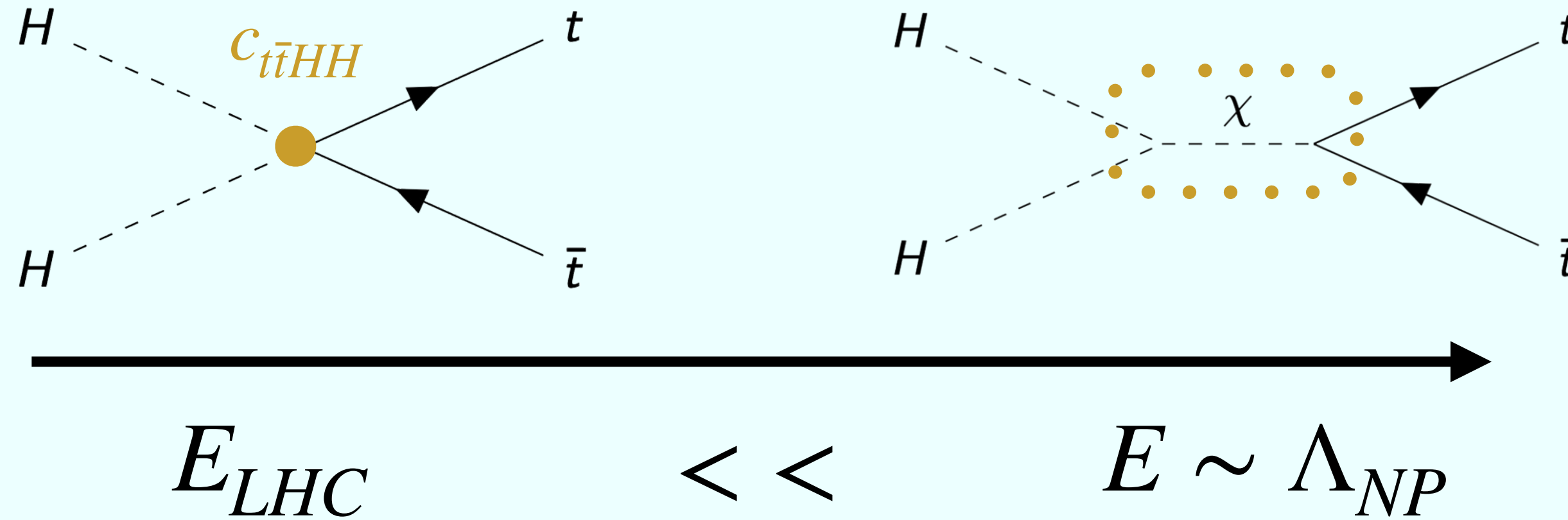
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$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HEFT}} \supset -m_t \left(c_{t\bar{t}H} \frac{h}{v} + c_{t\bar{t}HH} \frac{h^2}{v^2} \right) t\bar{t} - \kappa_\lambda \frac{m_H^2}{2v} h^3$$

Strategy and results

Exploit **cross-section
dependance**
in 1L and ML channels



Reinterpretation

$$\mathcal{L}(d | \mu) \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}(d | \sigma(c_{\tilde{t}\bar{t}HH}))$$

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Sample simulation is **expensive**
in €, in time, and in CO2

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Pros :

It's cheap!

Cons :

How can we be sure that we capture well the dependances for the variable we fit?

We can't, but we can estimate that the effect is \sim small

First : we need a model!

- Modification of the SM Lagrangian with additional vertices $c_{t\bar{t}HH}, c_{t\bar{t}H}, \kappa_\lambda$
- Implemented by M. Ryczkowski & R. Groeber using FeynRules UFO model format. Can be found on github.com/Ryczek/CttHH
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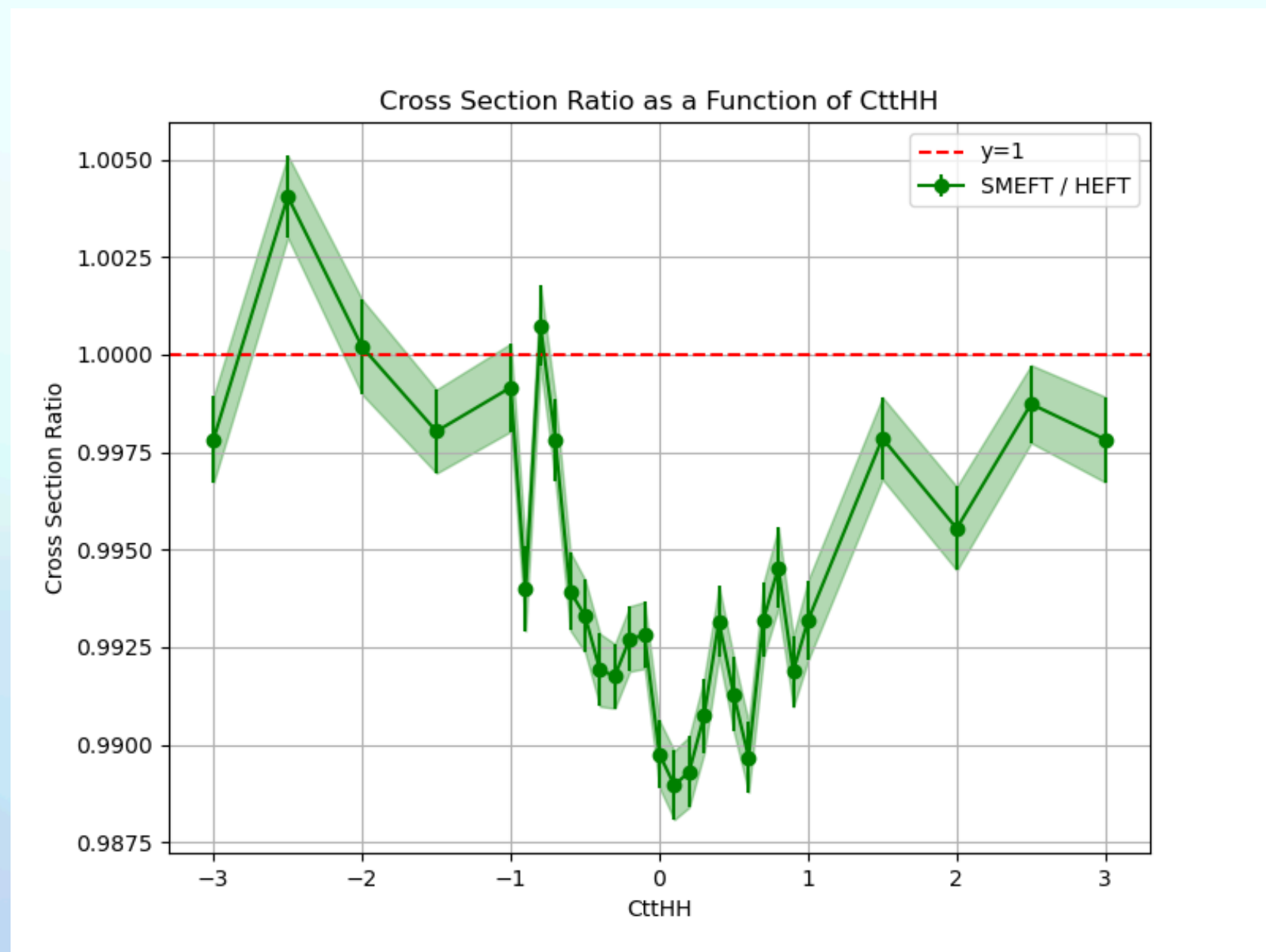
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→ Agreement at ~1% level

A probe for HEFT vs. SMEFT

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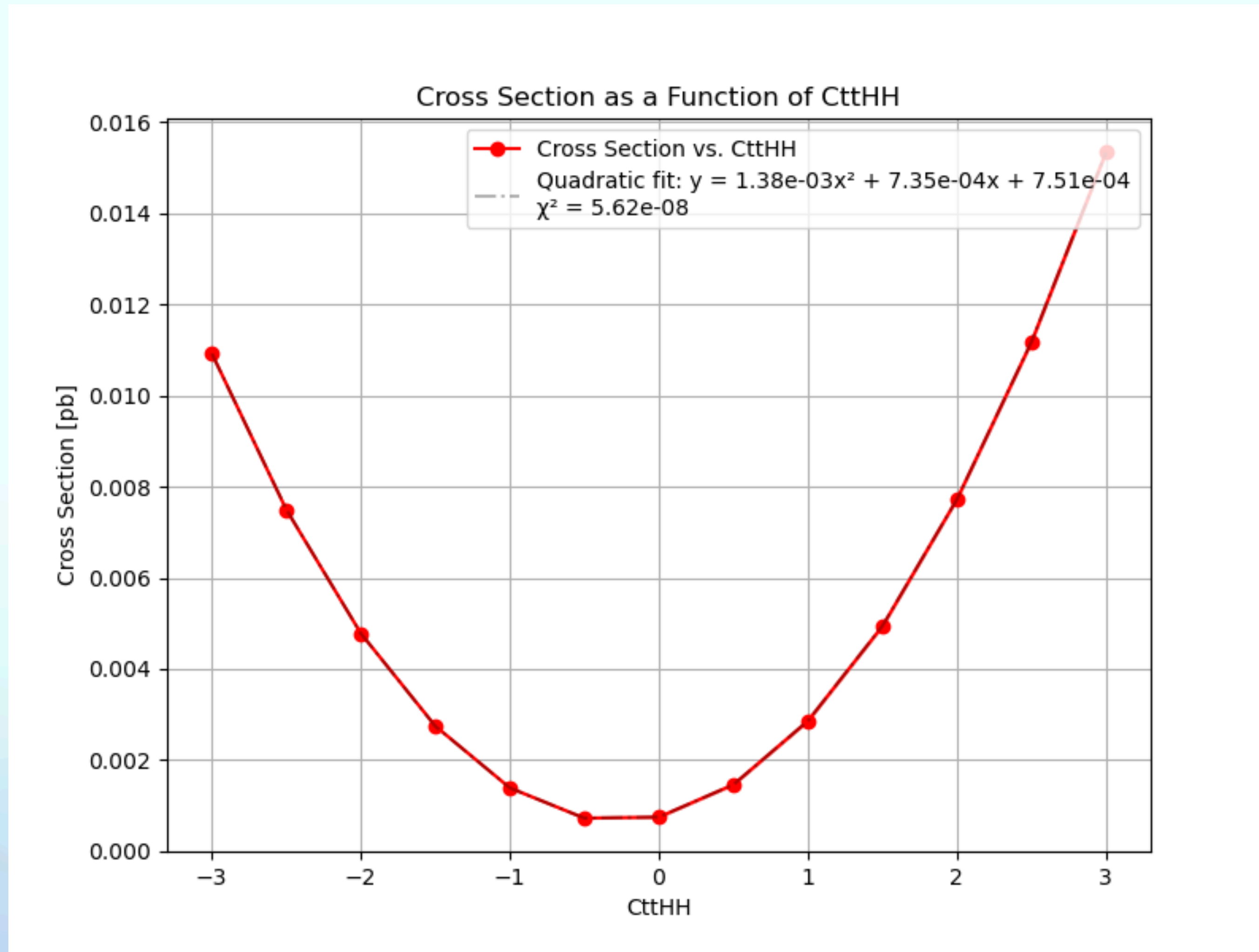
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Connects HEFT and SMEFT in $t\bar{t}HH$

In SMEFT, $t\bar{t}HH$ and $t\bar{t}H$ processes are **bound together**

HEFT provides a way to **decouple them** and study the Higgs mechanism

Cross-section dependance



Quadratic dependance → **Expected**

$$\sigma \sim \left| \begin{array}{c} g \text{ wavy} \rightarrow t \\ \uparrow \\ g \text{ wavy} \rightarrow \bar{t} \\ \uparrow \\ H \\ \uparrow \\ H \\ \uparrow \\ C_{ttHH} \end{array} \right|^2 + \left| \begin{array}{c} g \text{ wavy} \rightarrow t \\ \uparrow \\ g \text{ wavy} \rightarrow \bar{t} \\ \uparrow \\ H \\ \uparrow \\ H \\ \uparrow \\ C_{ttHH} \end{array} \right|^2 + \left| \begin{array}{c} g \text{ wavy} \rightarrow t \\ \uparrow \\ g \text{ wavy} \rightarrow \bar{t} \\ \uparrow \\ H \\ \uparrow \\ H \\ \uparrow \\ C_{ttHH} \end{array} \right|^2 \Big|^2$$

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This also tells us that the cross-terms are small wrt. quad. terms

How to extract the most kin. information?

Ideally : $\sim \frac{\mathcal{M}_{SM}}{\mathcal{M}_{BSM}}$ → optimal as long as phase-space is ~comparable
not trivial as we probe heavy-mass

→ but require to define the Wilson coefficient space to be probed
i.e. you need to know your plan in advance
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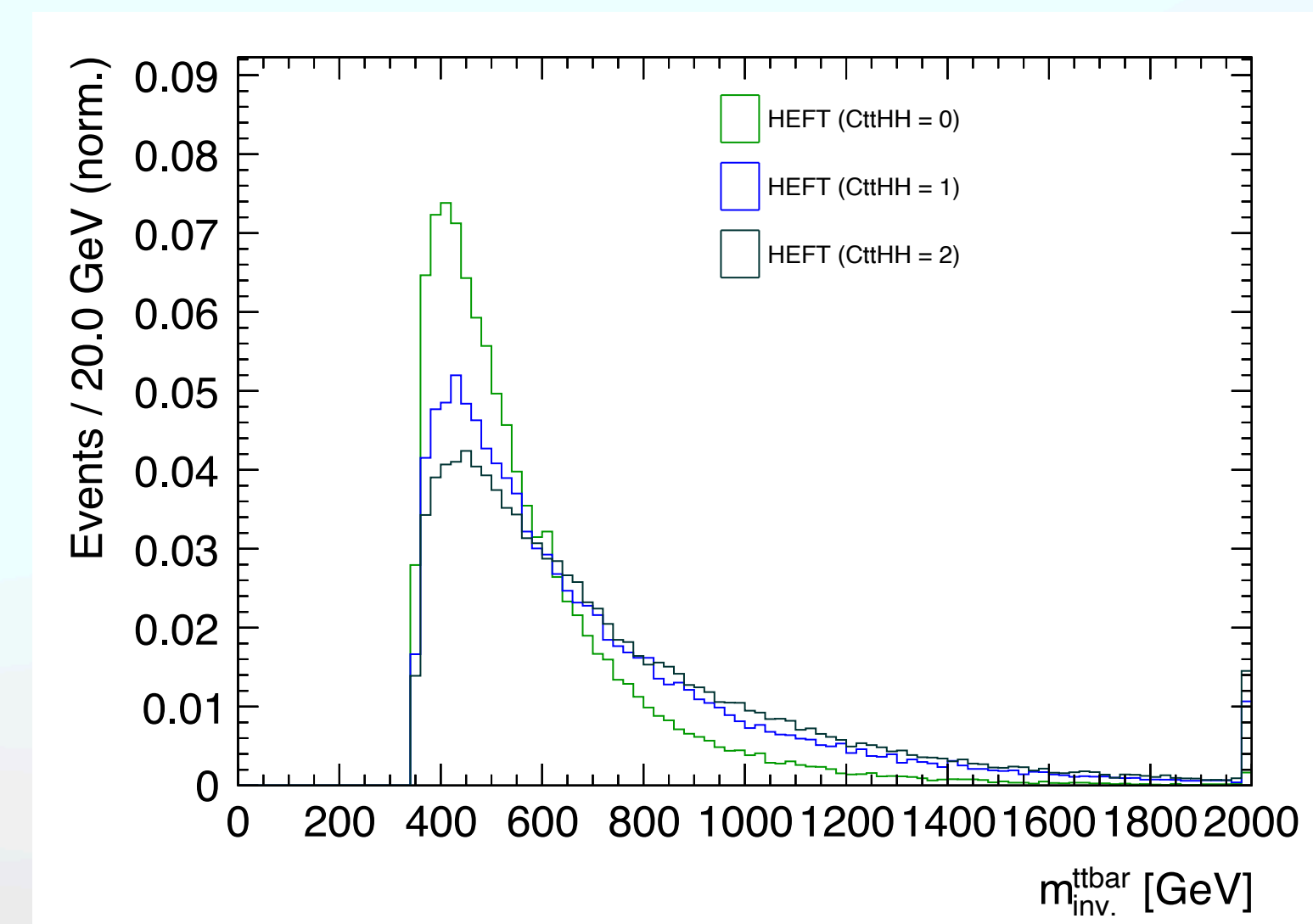
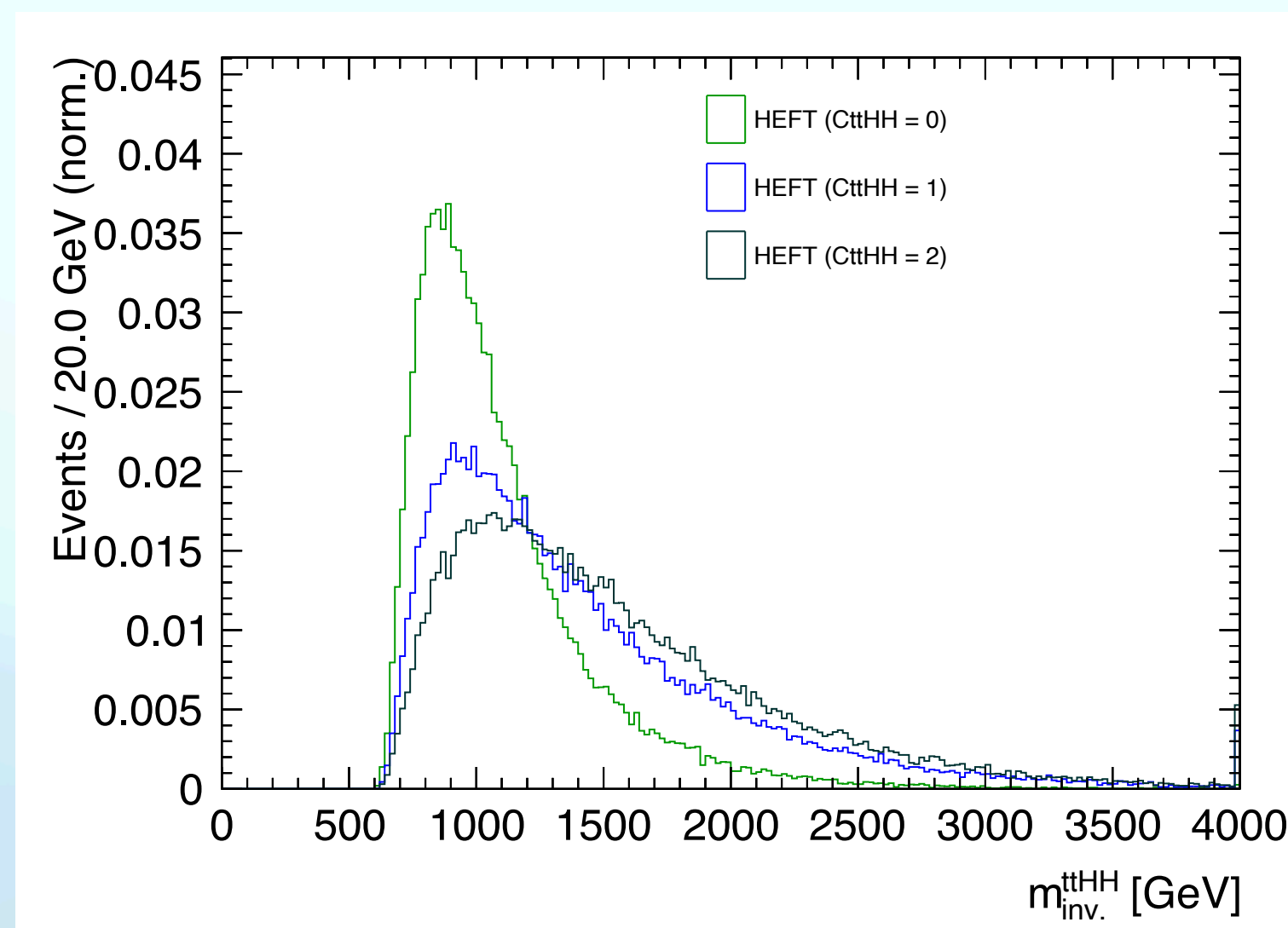
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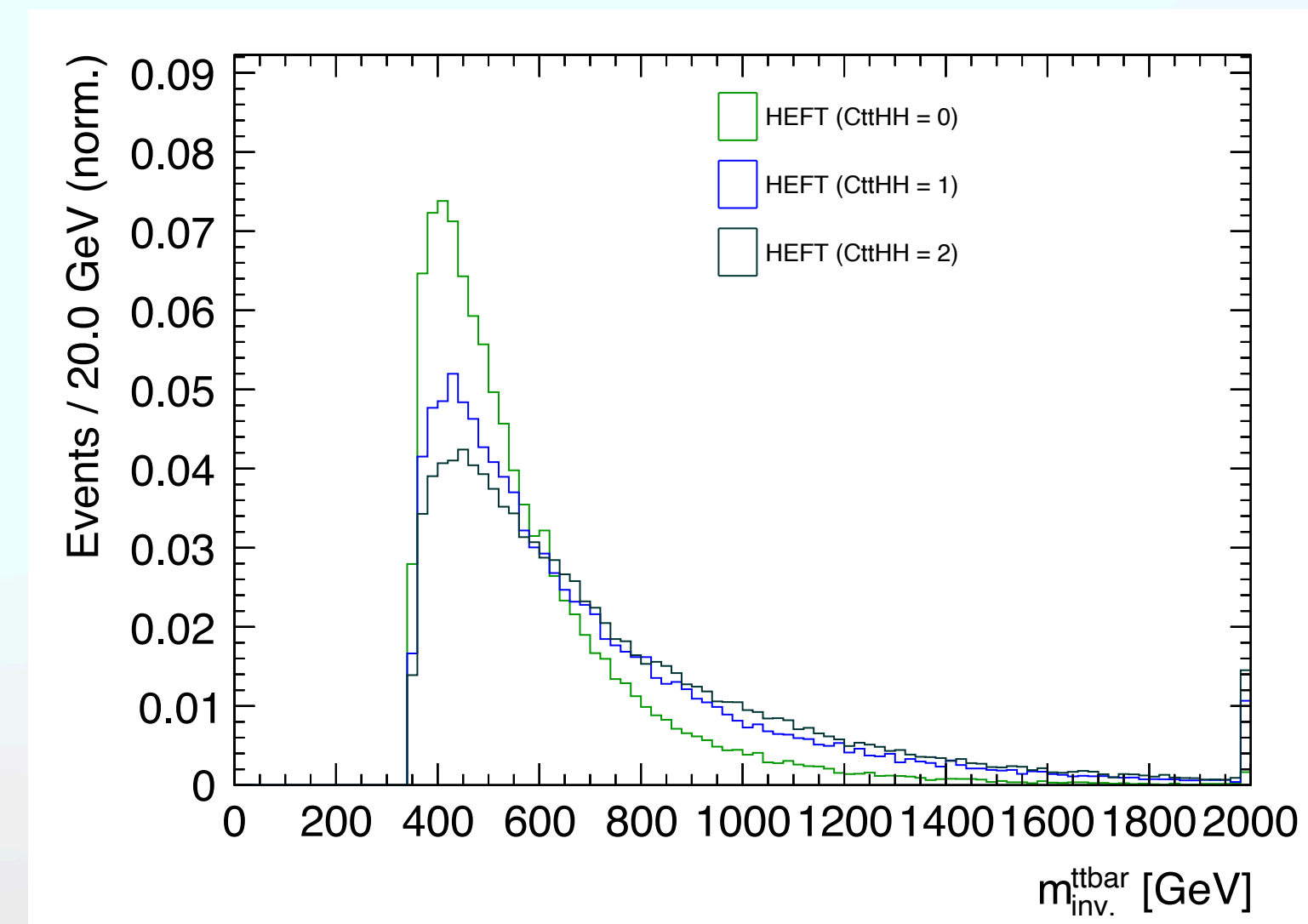
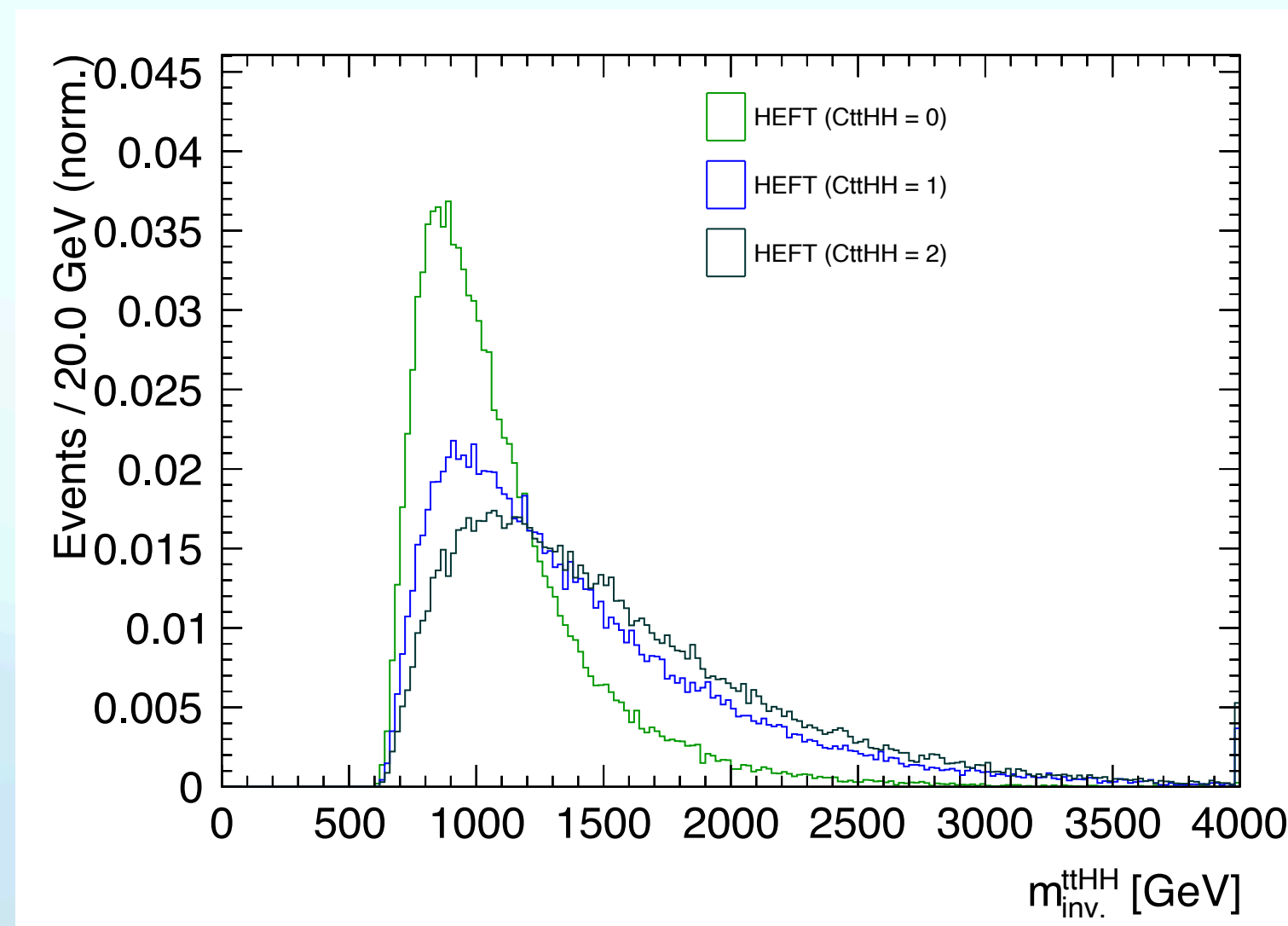


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Or even better...

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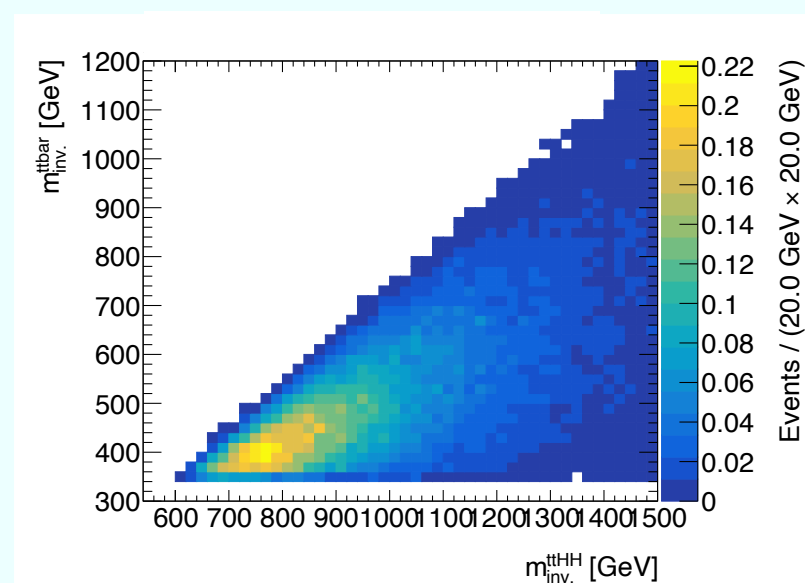
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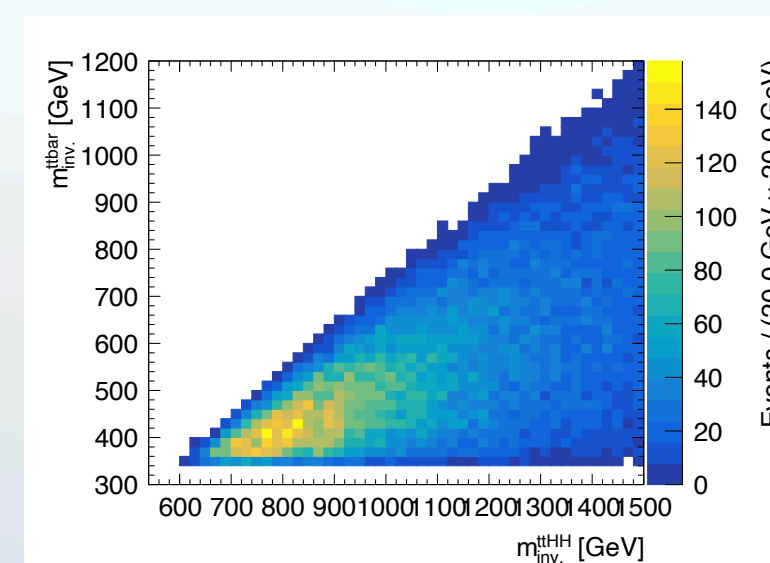
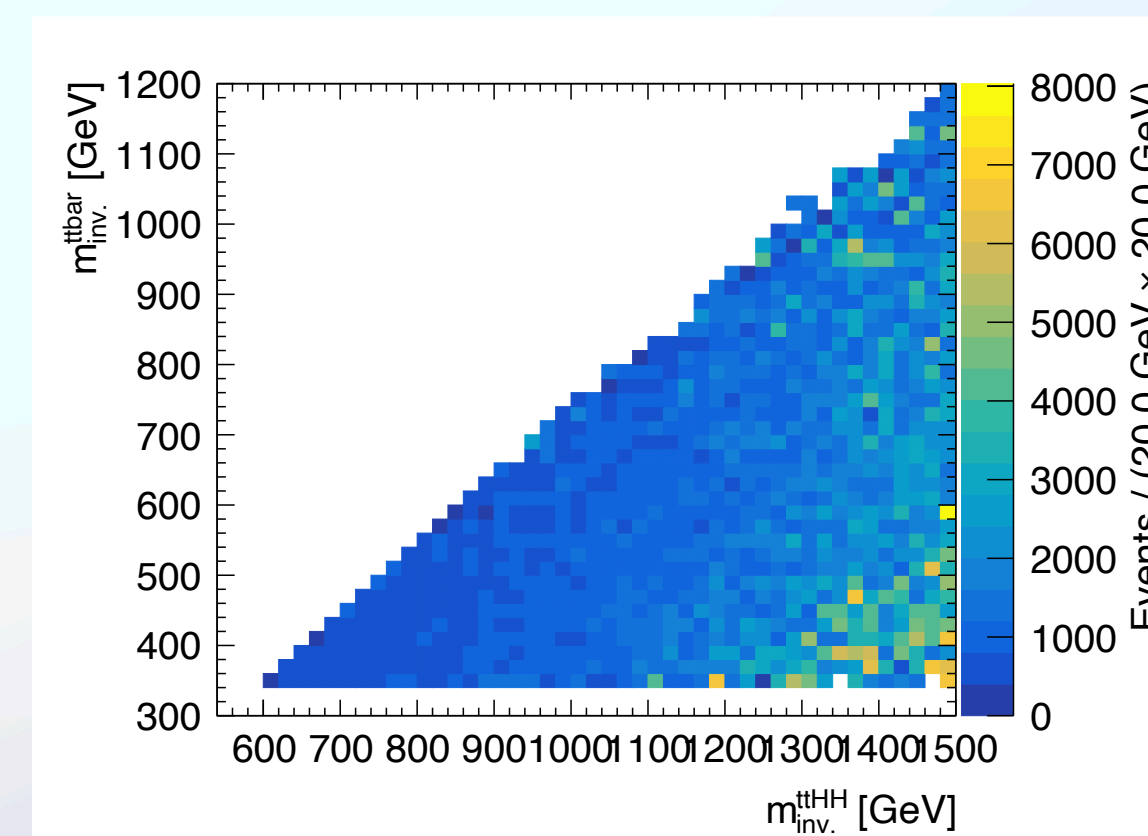
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We can take a **2D** distribution:

$$\frac{(m_{inv.}^{t\bar{t}HH}, m_{inv.}^{t\bar{t}})_{SM}}{(m_{inv.}^{t\bar{t}HH}, m_{inv.}^{t\bar{t}})_{BSM}}$$



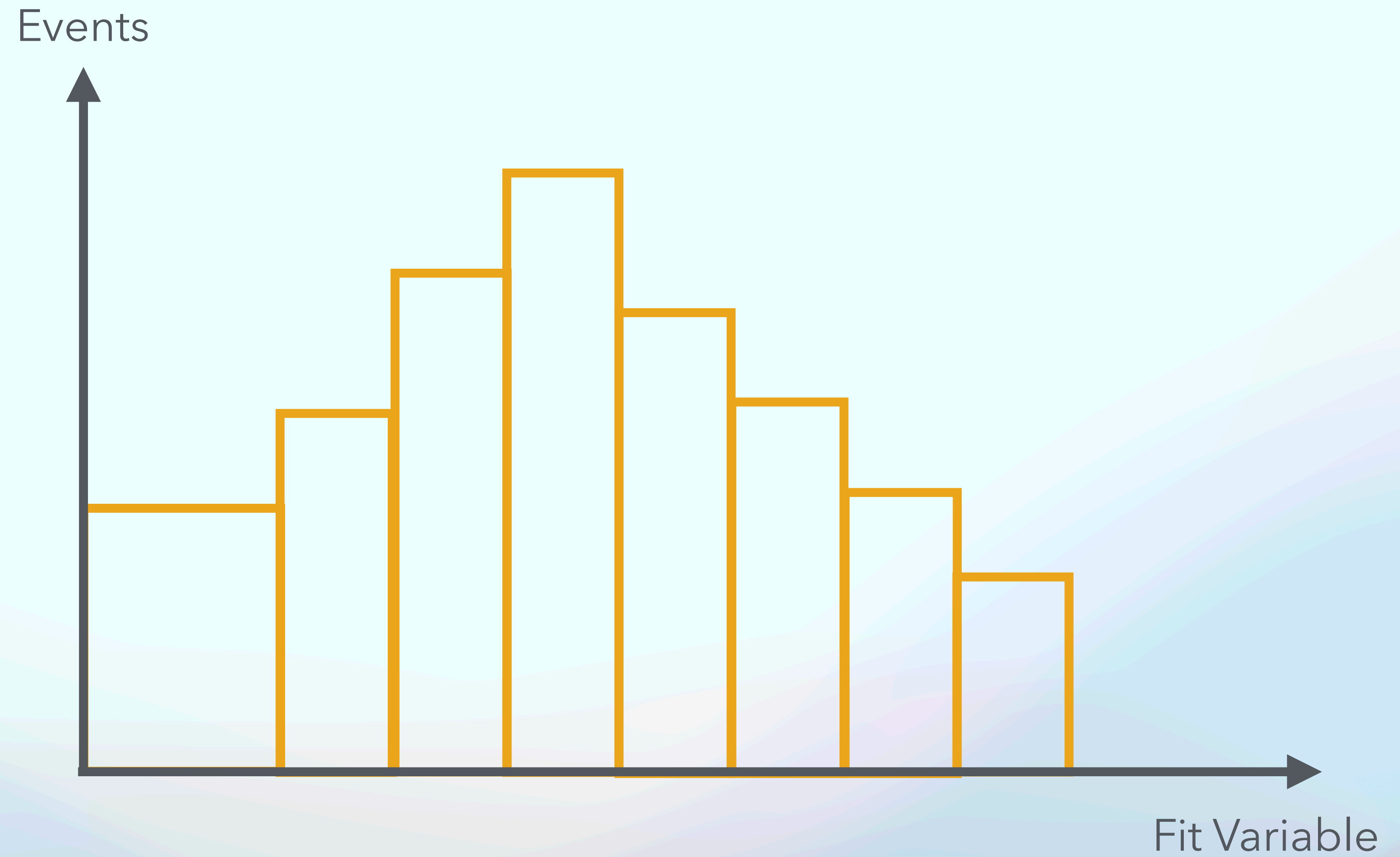
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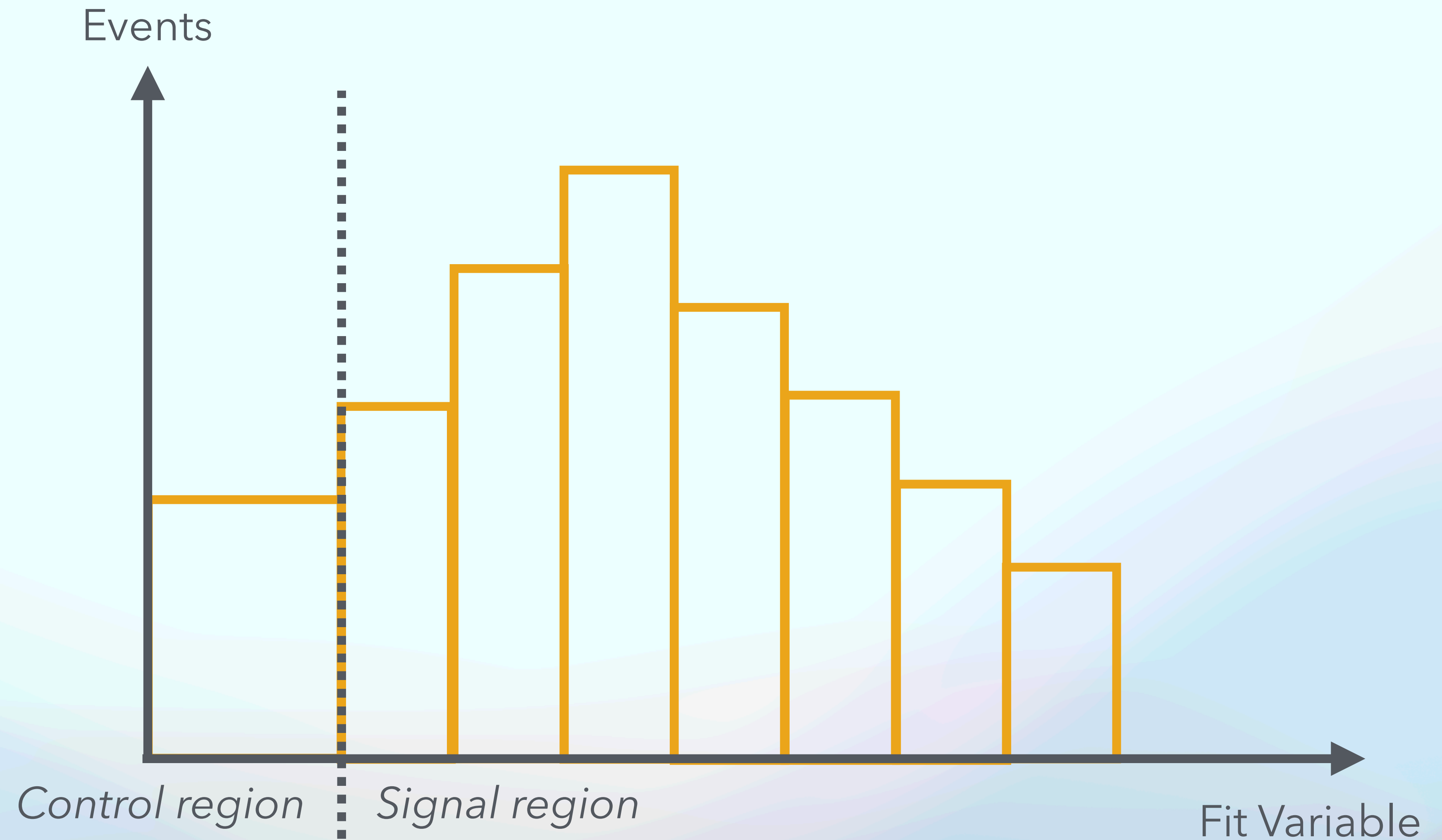
[arXiv:2502.20976](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.20976)

answers this question in the context of ggF diHiggs

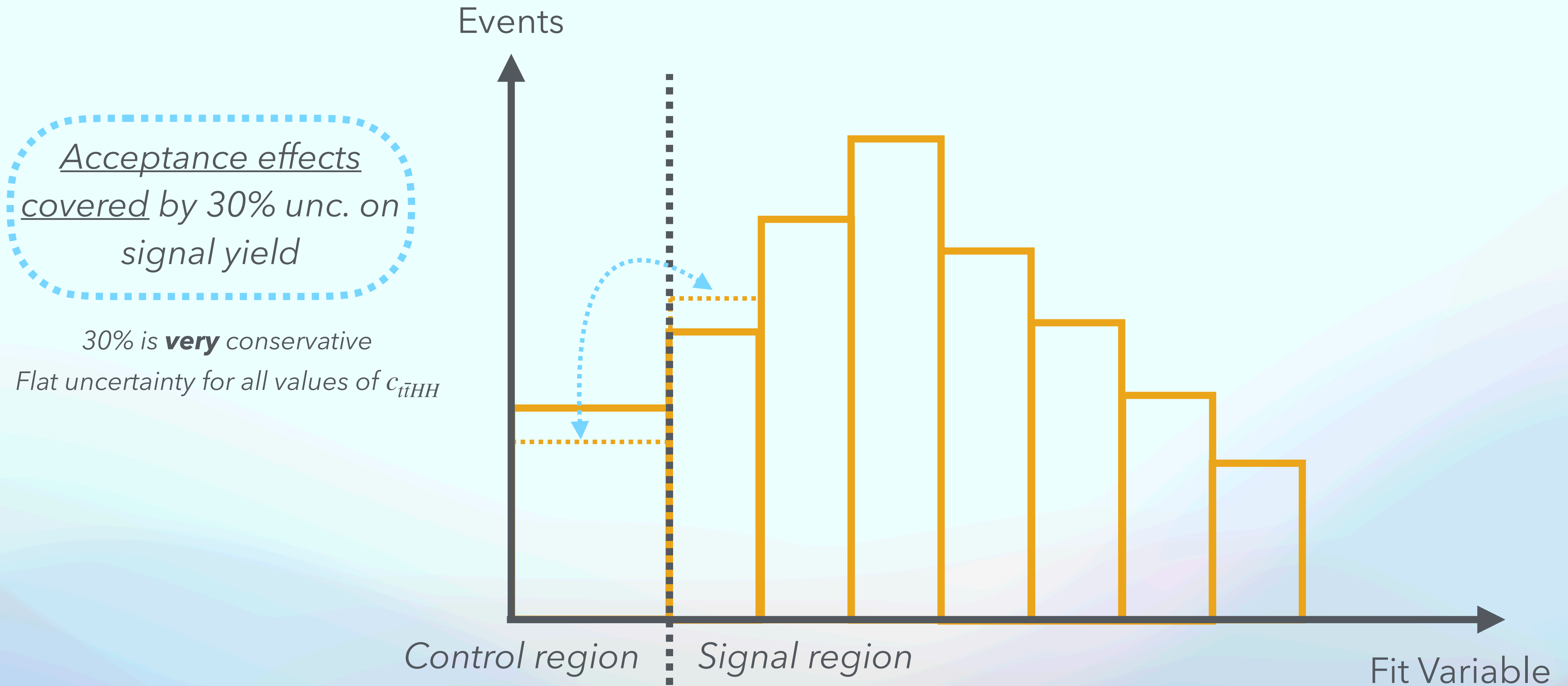
What effects do we need to take into account?



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Does the shapes have an impact on the sensitivity?

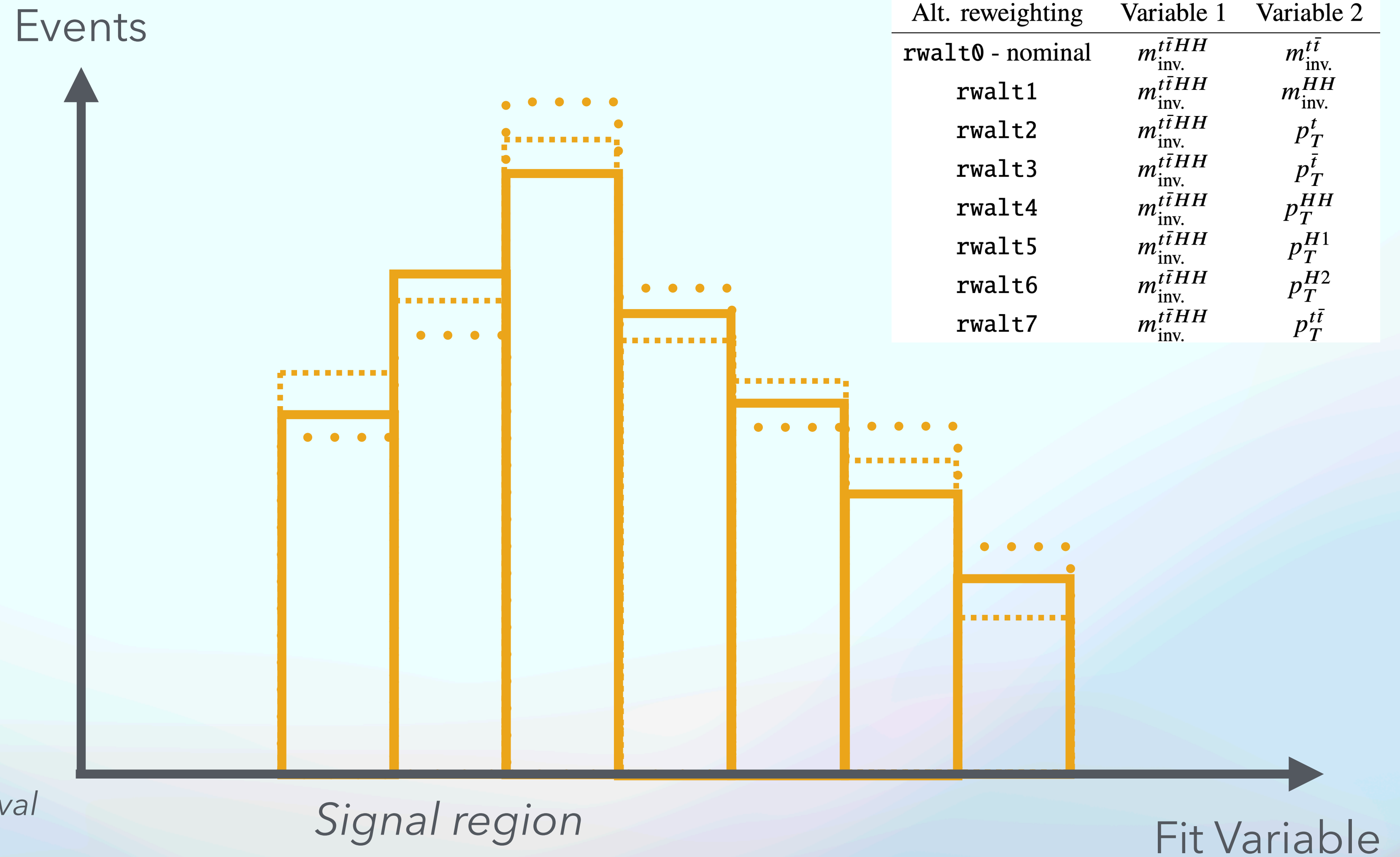


We tested 7 alternative reweightings against no shape variation



Shape variations neglected (evaluated to have a small impact)

At most 10% impact on 95% CL interval



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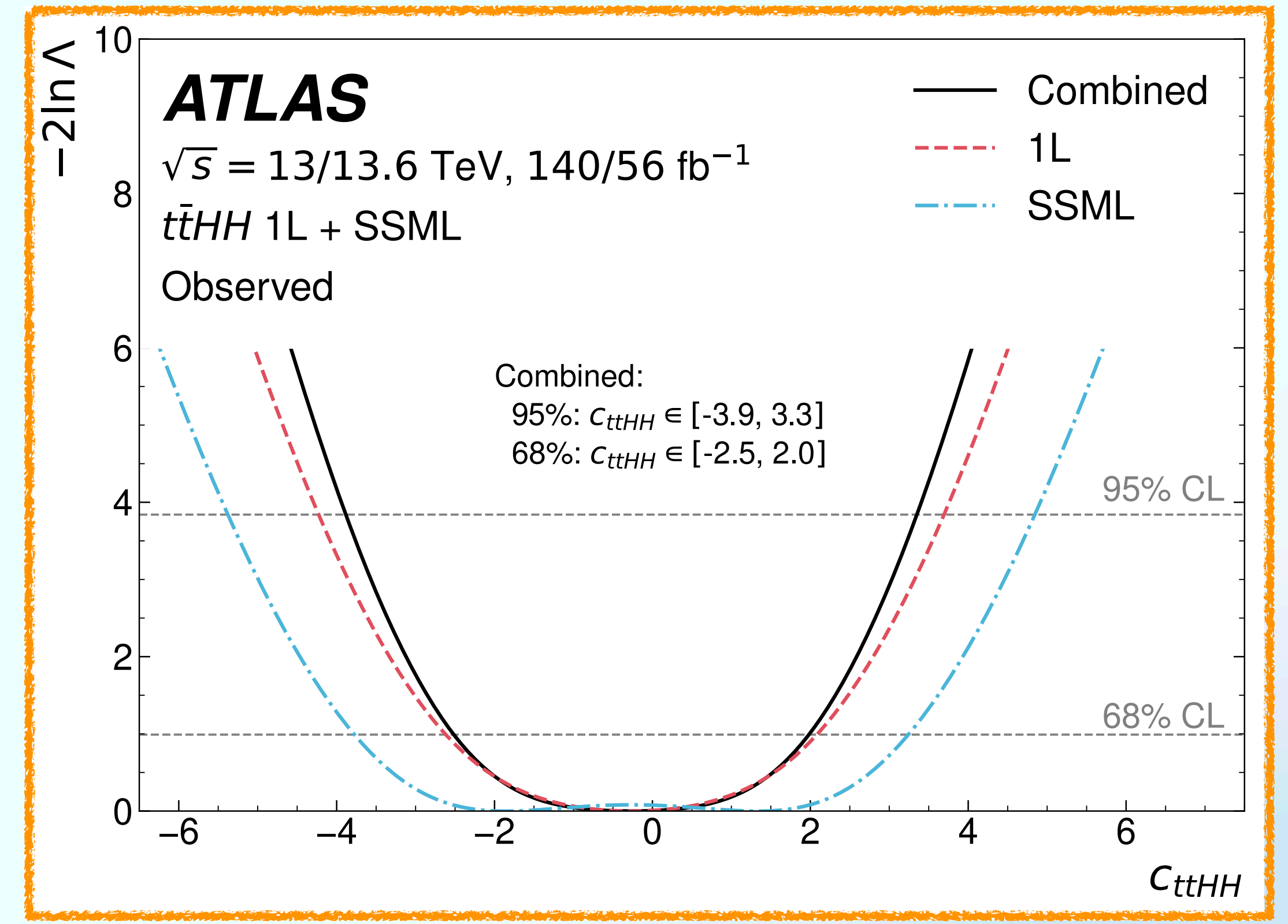
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Almost flat likelihood (small degeneracy in ML channel) → Not sensible to sign

Exp. : $c_{t\bar{t}HH} \in [-4.1, 3.5]$ @ 95 % CL

Obs. : $c_{t\bar{t}HH} \in [-3.9, 3.3]$ @ 95 % CL

Outlook of ATLAS analysis

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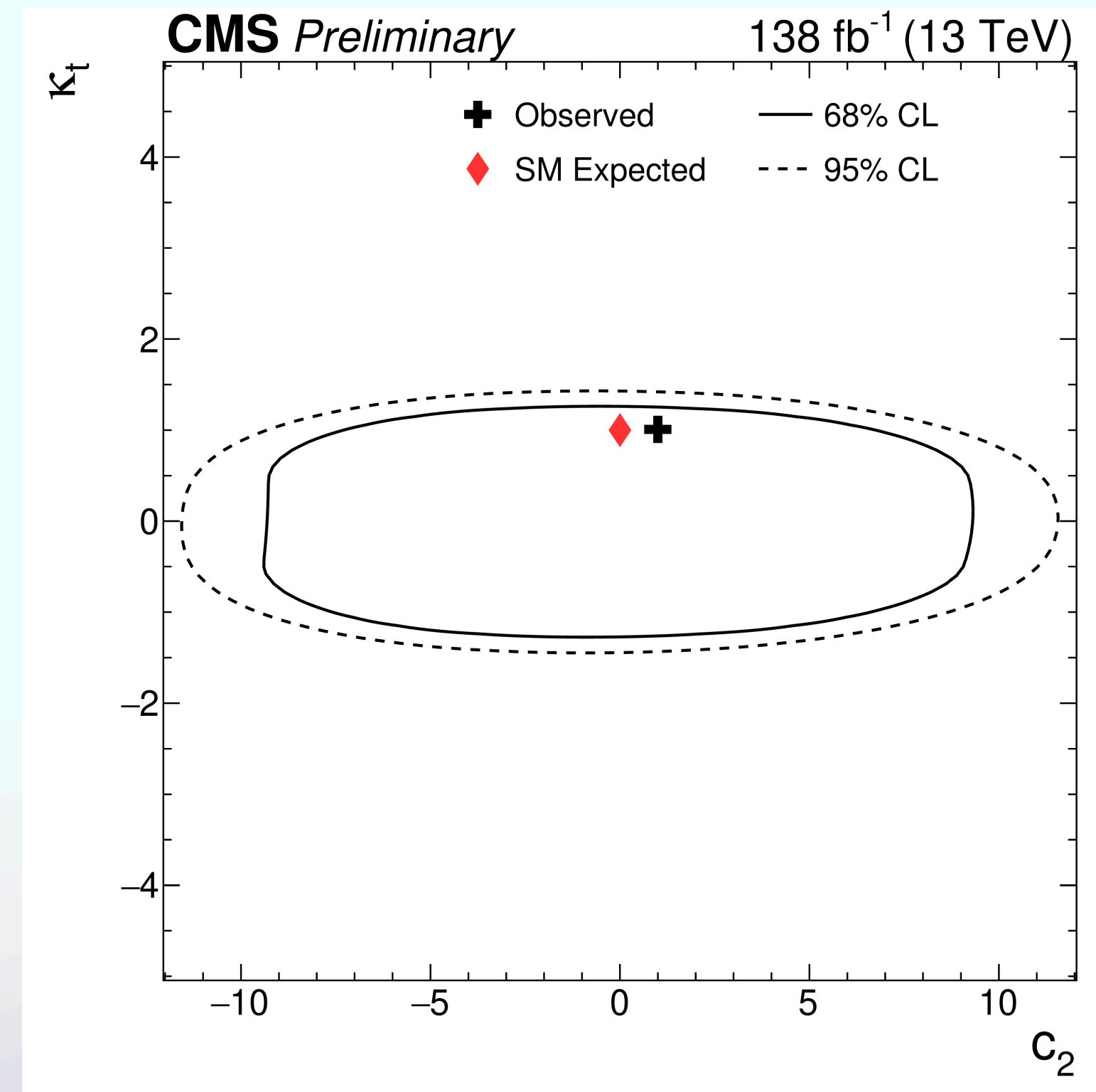
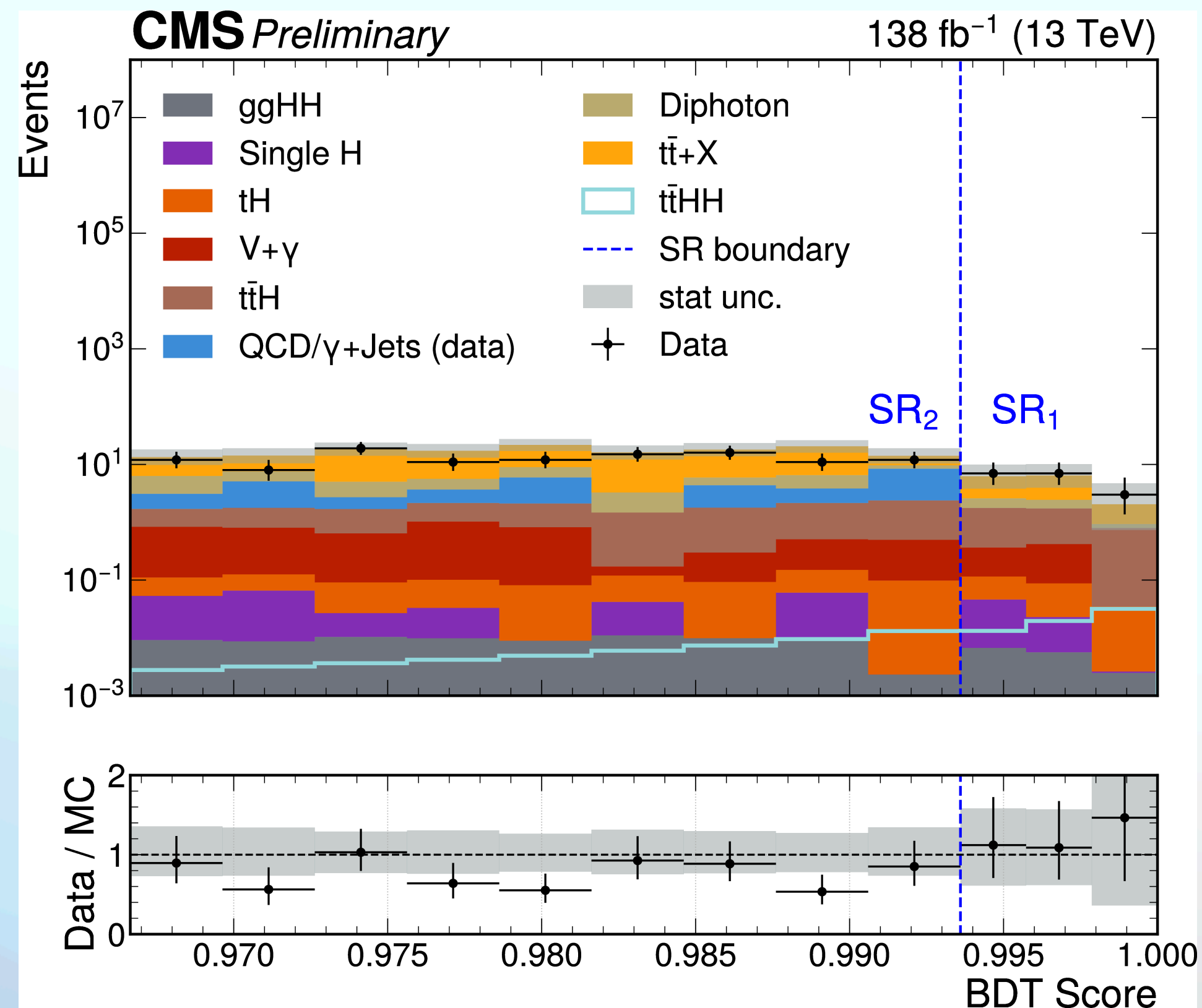
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	CMS $t\bar{t}HH$ [CMS-PAS-HIG-23-004]
Obs. 95% CL limits on $c_{t\bar{t}HH}$	$[-8.0, 7.5]$

CMS ttHH analysis (1)

CMS-PAS-HIG-23-004

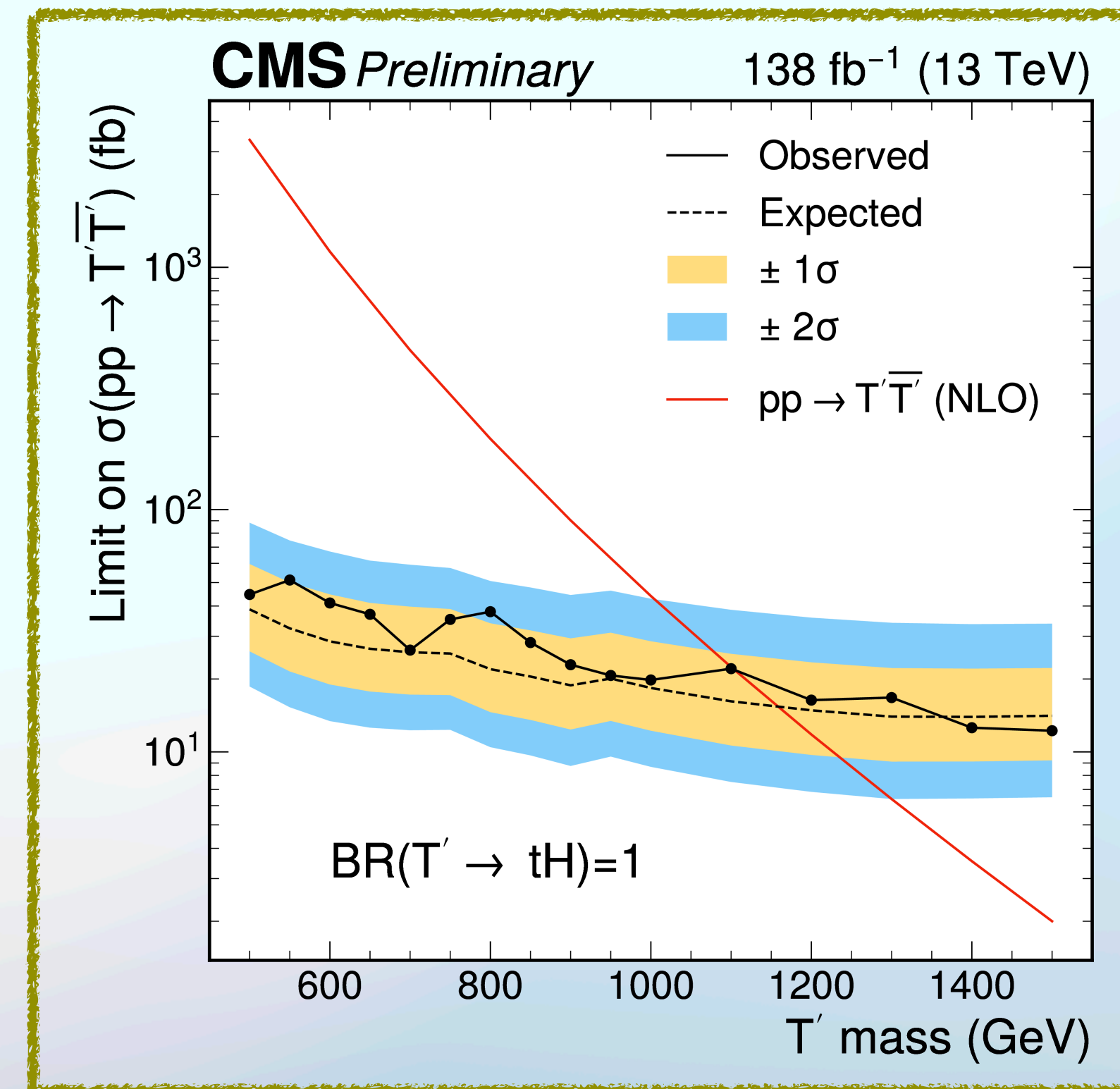
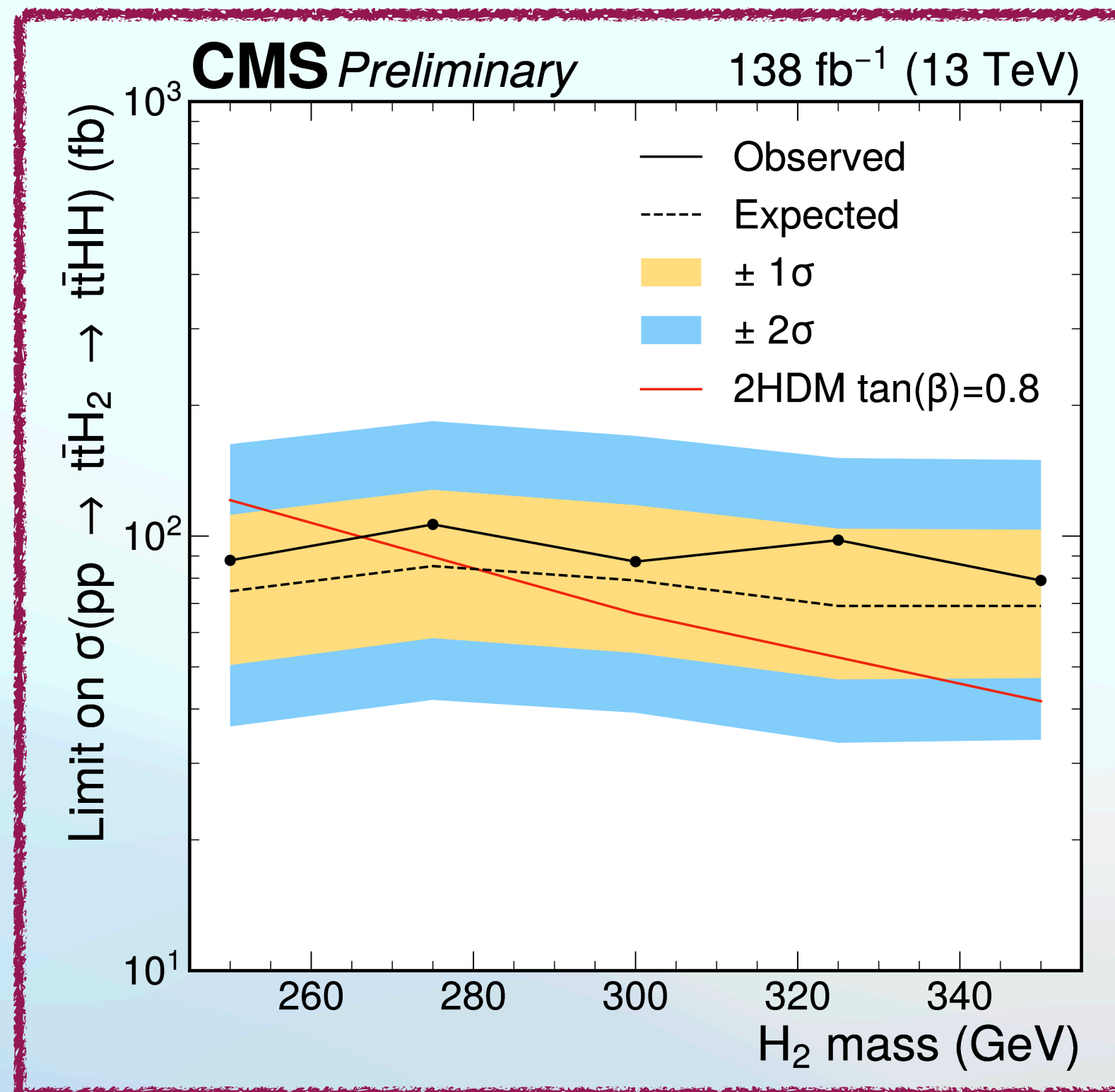
- **Targets** $\gamma\gamma + X$ with $X \in [b, W^\pm, \tau^\pm]$ with **Run 2 data**
- Similar modelling strategy as ATLAS (MVA discriminant)
- **Both** $c_{t\bar{t}HH}$ and c_{tHH} probed (called resp. c_2 and κ_t)
Not κ_λ ...



CMS ttHH analysis (2)

CMS-PAS-HIG-23-004

Limits on **resonant production** of CP-even **heavy neutral scalar (H_2)** in the context of **type-II 2HDM** and **heavy VLQ T' pair production** in the $T' \rightarrow tH$ final state
natural candidate to test HEFT vs. SMEFT



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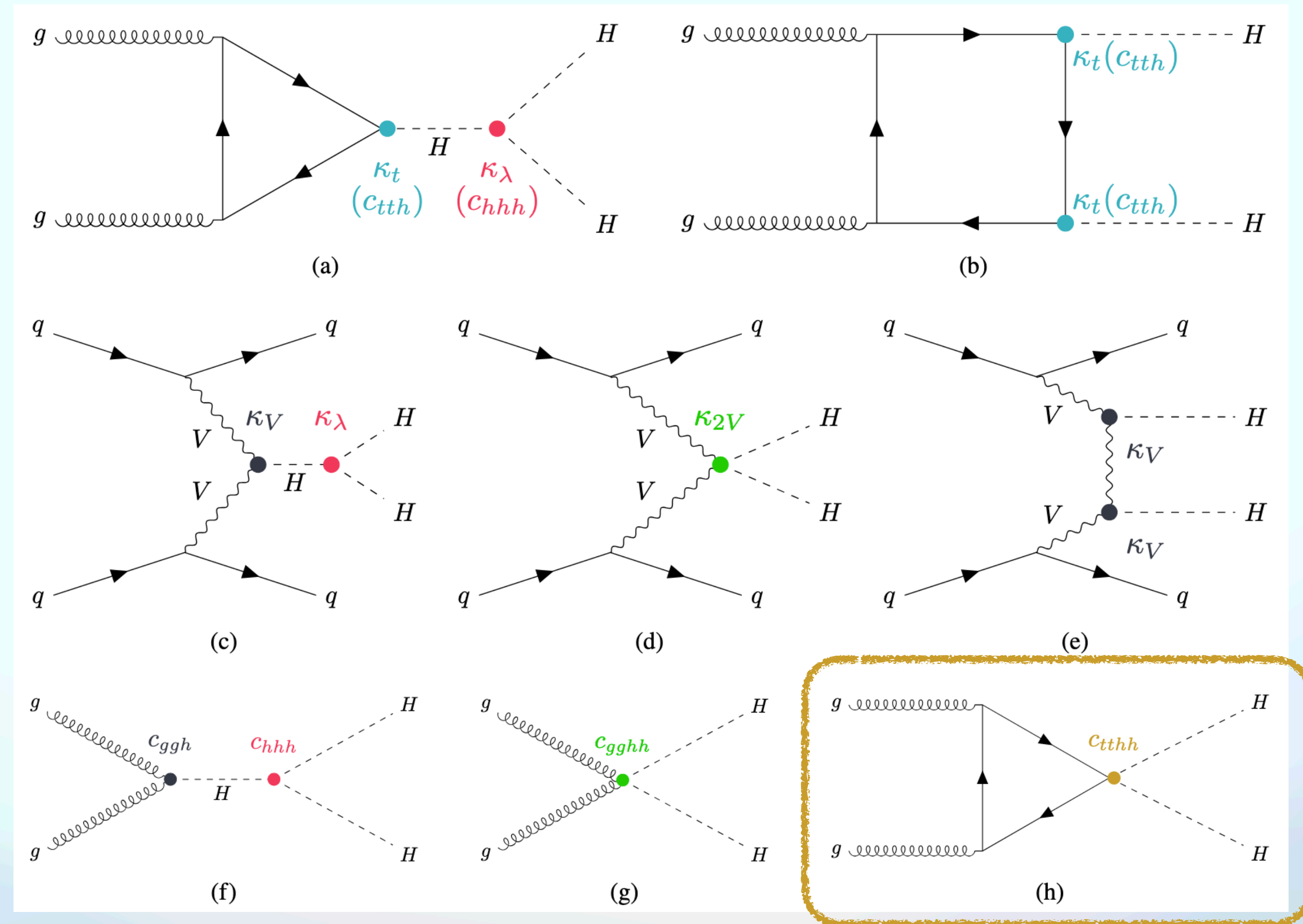
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Comparison with ggF - HH



Parametrised with **more** couplings

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 - Most stringent **direct limits** on $c_{t\bar{t}HH}$
- ggF more sensitive, but parametrised with two additional Higgs-gluon couplings : c_{ggH} and c_{ggHH}
 - In $t\bar{t}HH$, these enter at higher loop order
 - More challenging in ggF unless further assumptions imposed

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We set limits on Wilson coefficients at a **given scale**

Effect of running?

~1TeV @ LHC

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In effective theories : **operators mixing depends on Λ**

*Negligible operators could become
~important at higher scale*

Possible improvements

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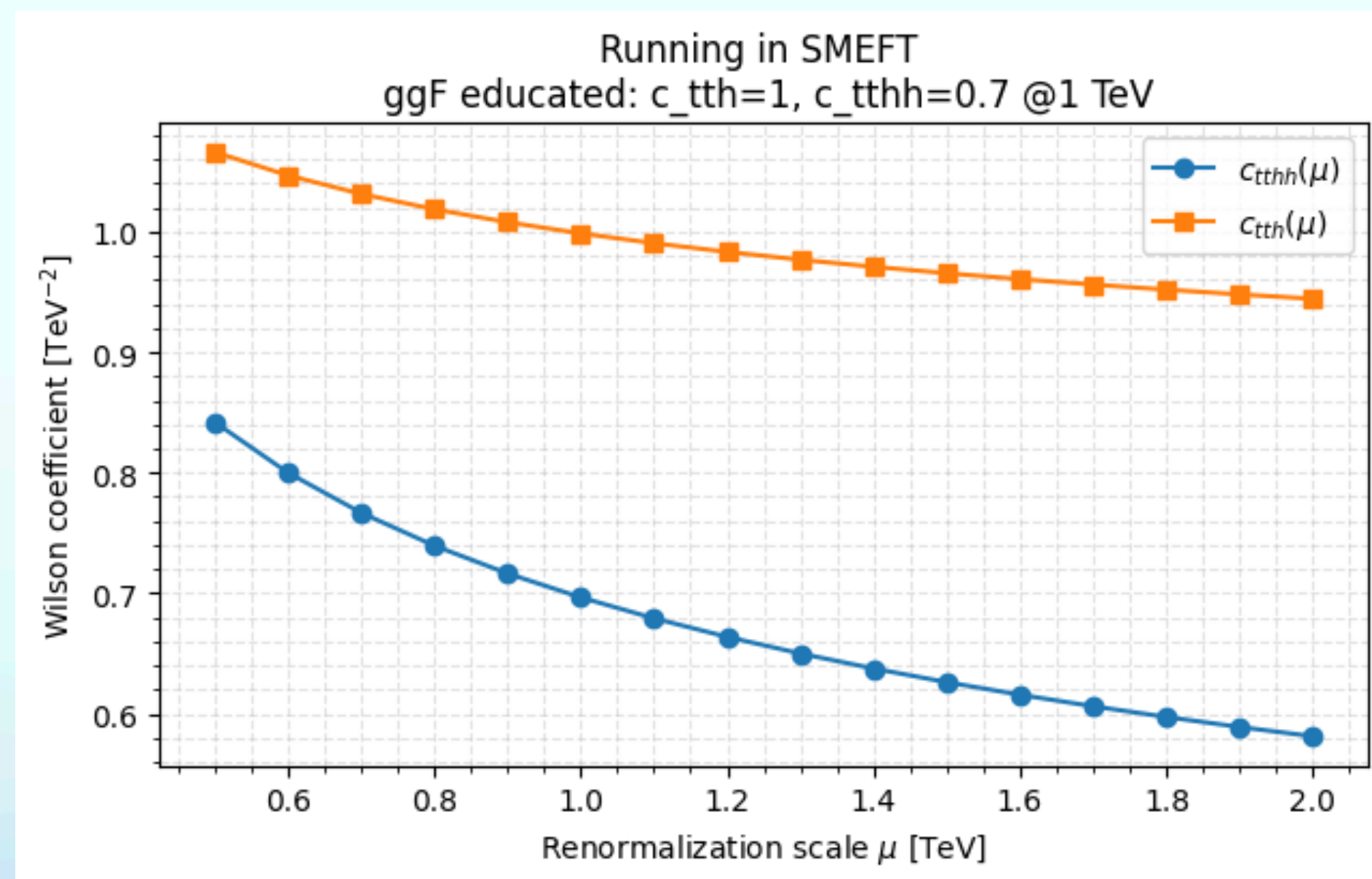
Effect of running?

~1TeV @ LHC

In effective theories : **operators mixing depends on Λ**

Negligible operators could become

~important at higher scale



- From SMEFT implementation of RGEs

renormalization group eqs

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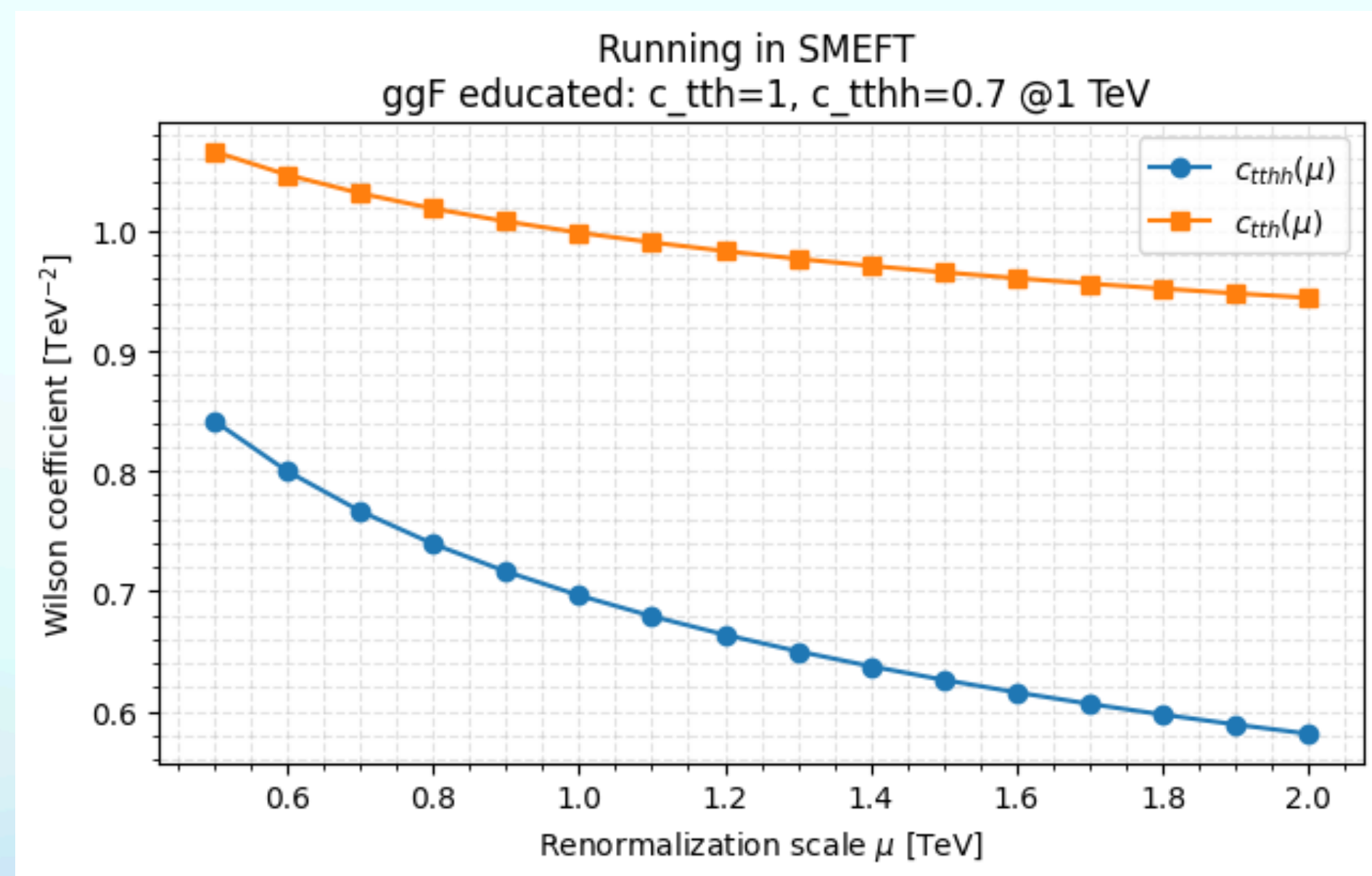
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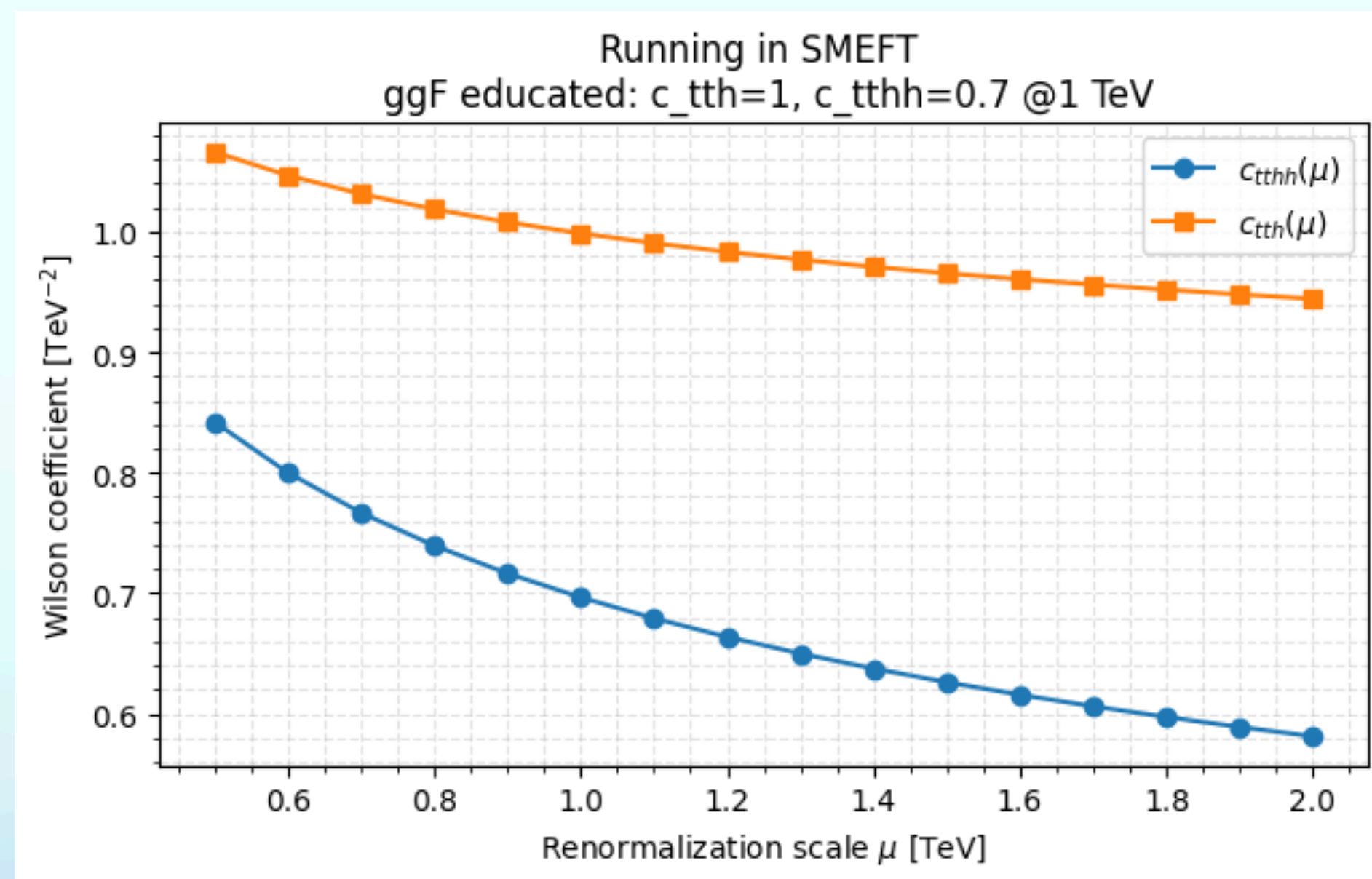
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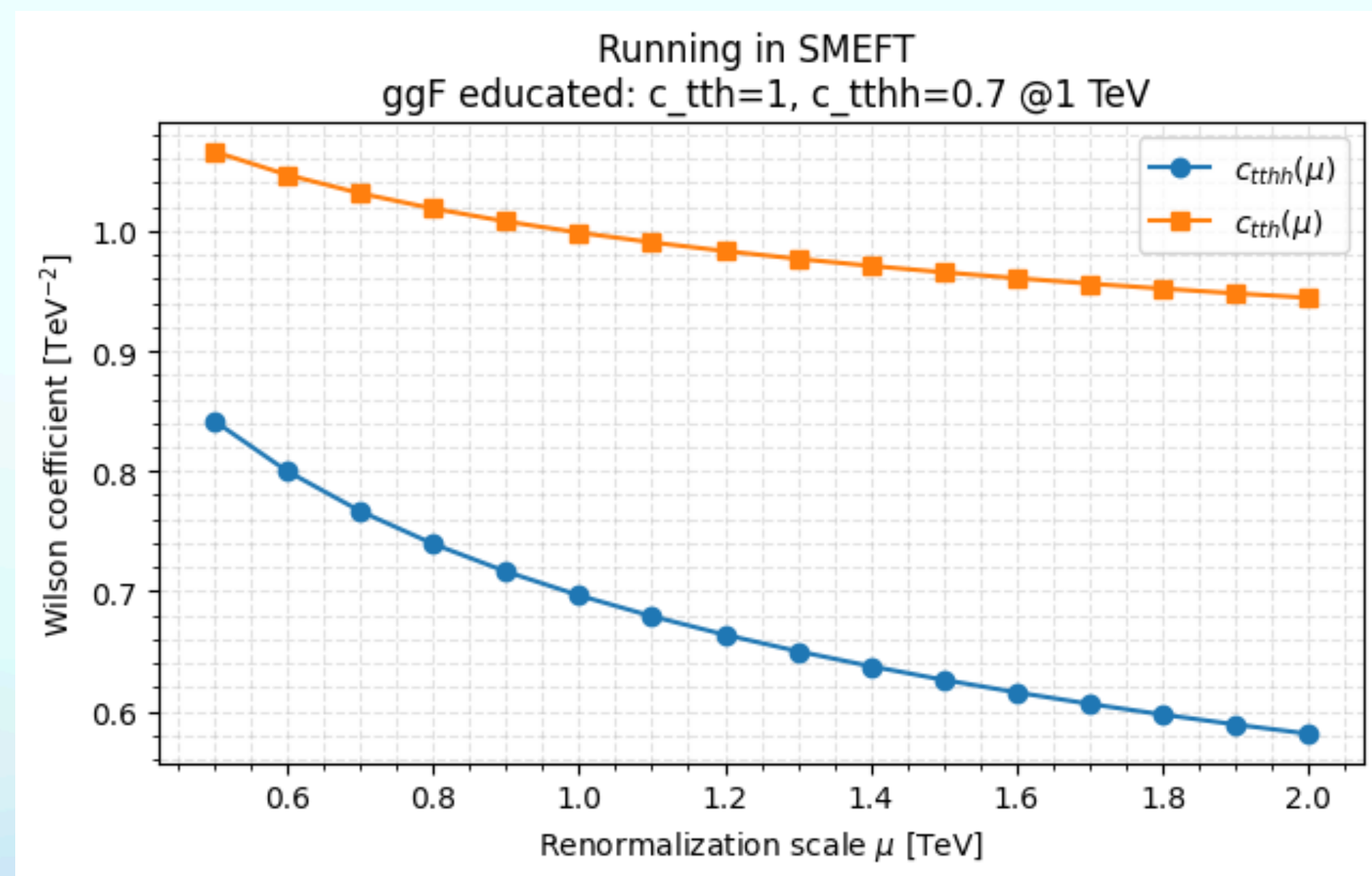
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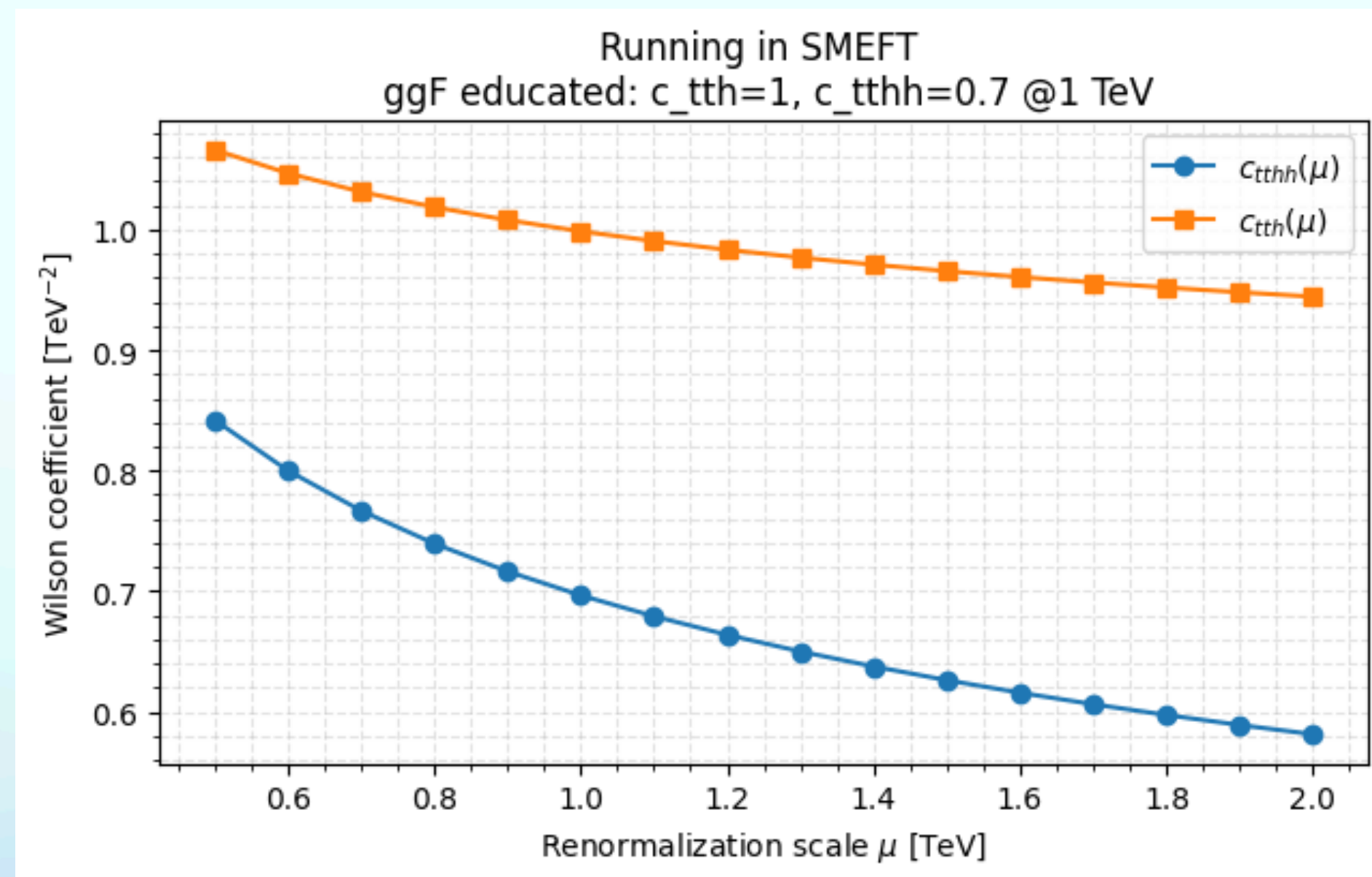
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Is this running valid? → proper implementation of HEFT running needed
probably not

Conclusion

Thoughts for the future



Thoughts for the future

$t\bar{t}HH$ is promising but still limited

→ Importance of processes such as $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$, $t\bar{t}H$

→ Factor ~ 2 of size of 95%CL interval by the end of Run 4



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EFT approach is a **powerful tool** to probe BSM, in particular heavy physics

Still **a lot** of room for improvement

- Combinations, between analysis, and between experiments
- *Higher order effects* to be taken into account (running of the coeffs)
- Designing analysis specifically for EFT



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HEFT vs. "traditional" **SMEFT** interpretation *when relevant*

What UV model have different predictions in both frameworks?



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HEFT vs. "traditional" **SMEFT** interpretation *when relevant*

What UV model have different predictions in both frameworks?

Top and Higgs sectors are **promising probes** for exploring EWSB + connexion to heavy NP



Thank you!



Backup

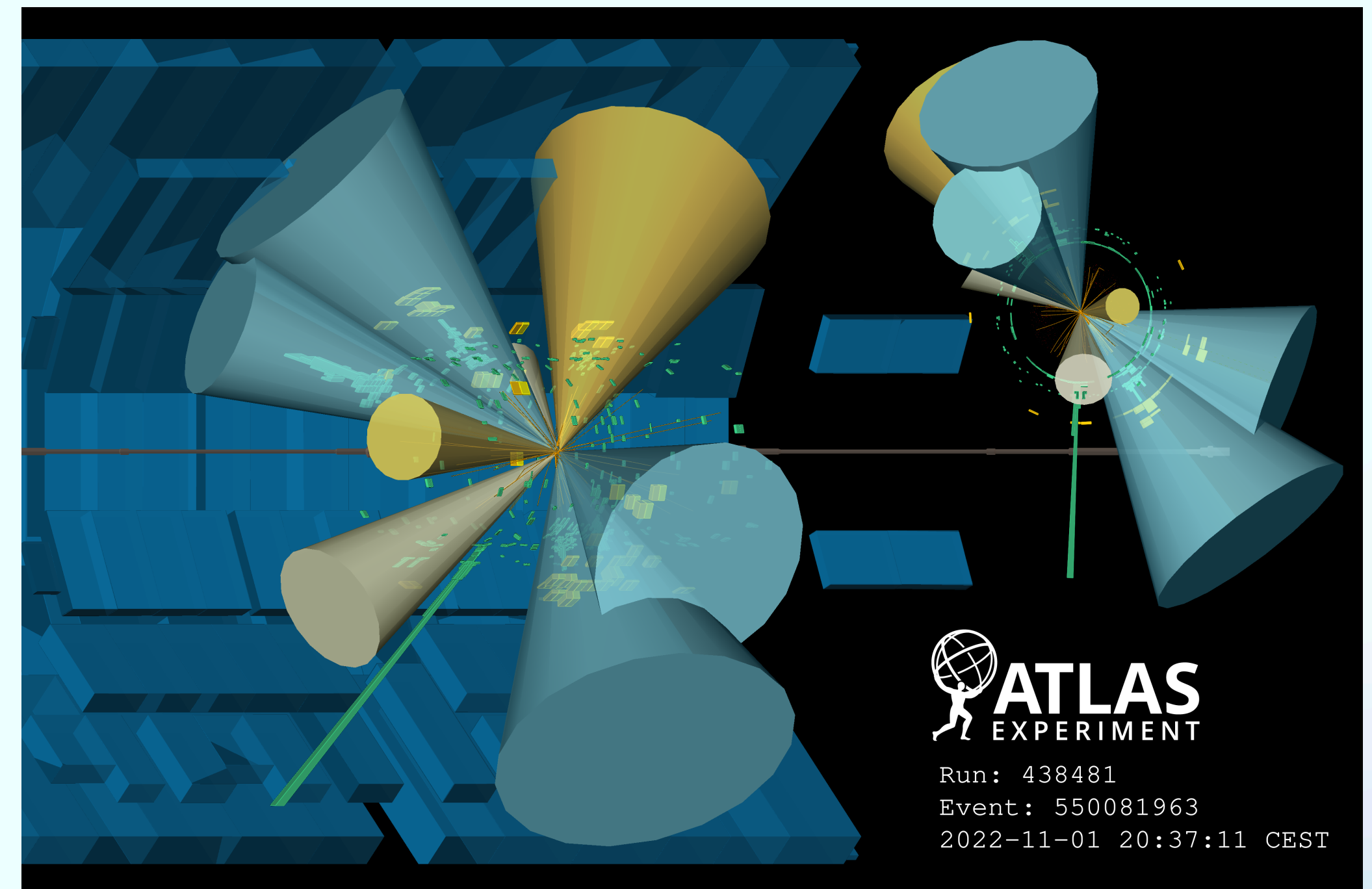
Single-lepton channel

Single lepton from W and ≥ 4 b-tagged jets

Dominant background : $t\bar{t} + jets$

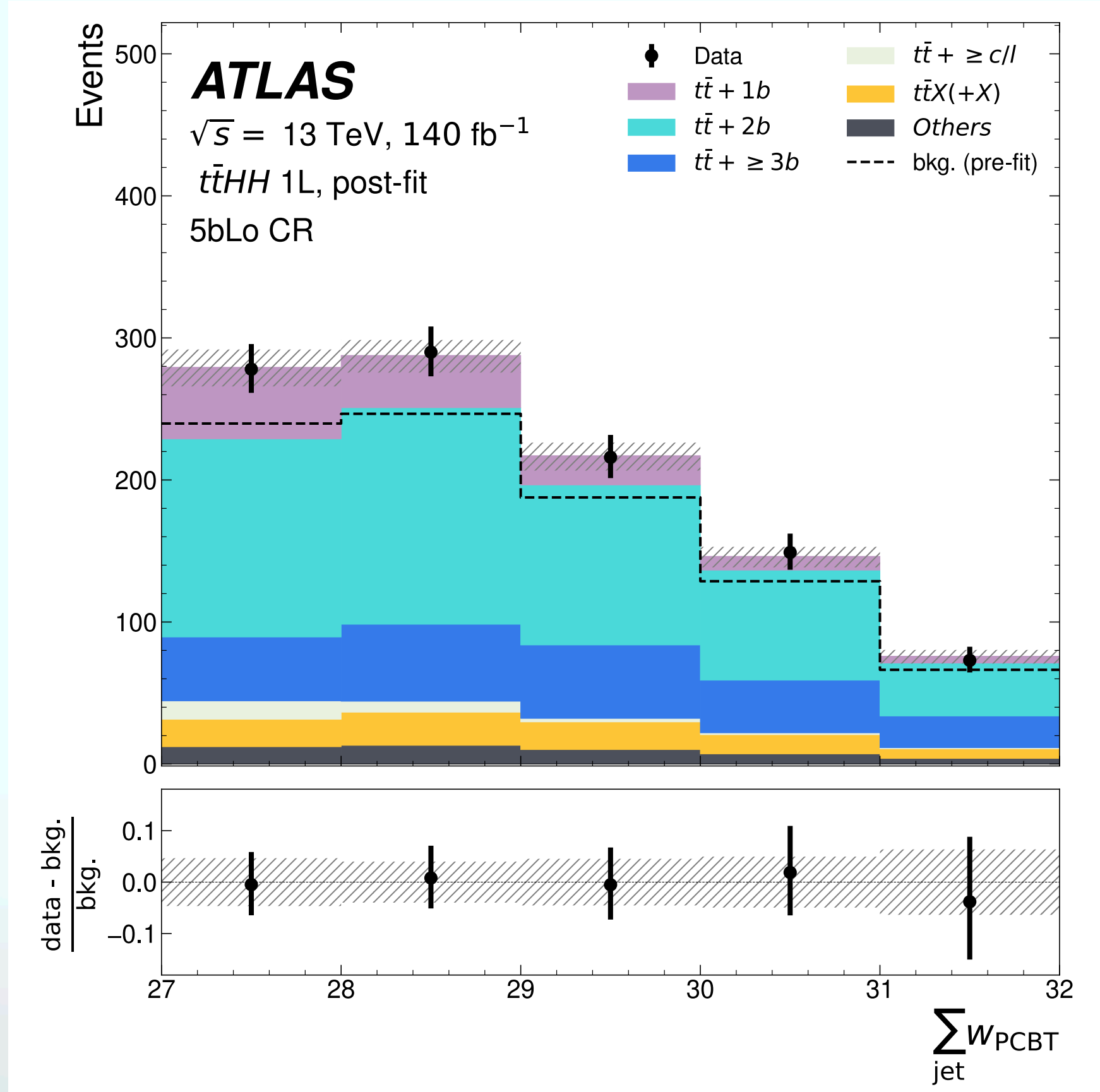
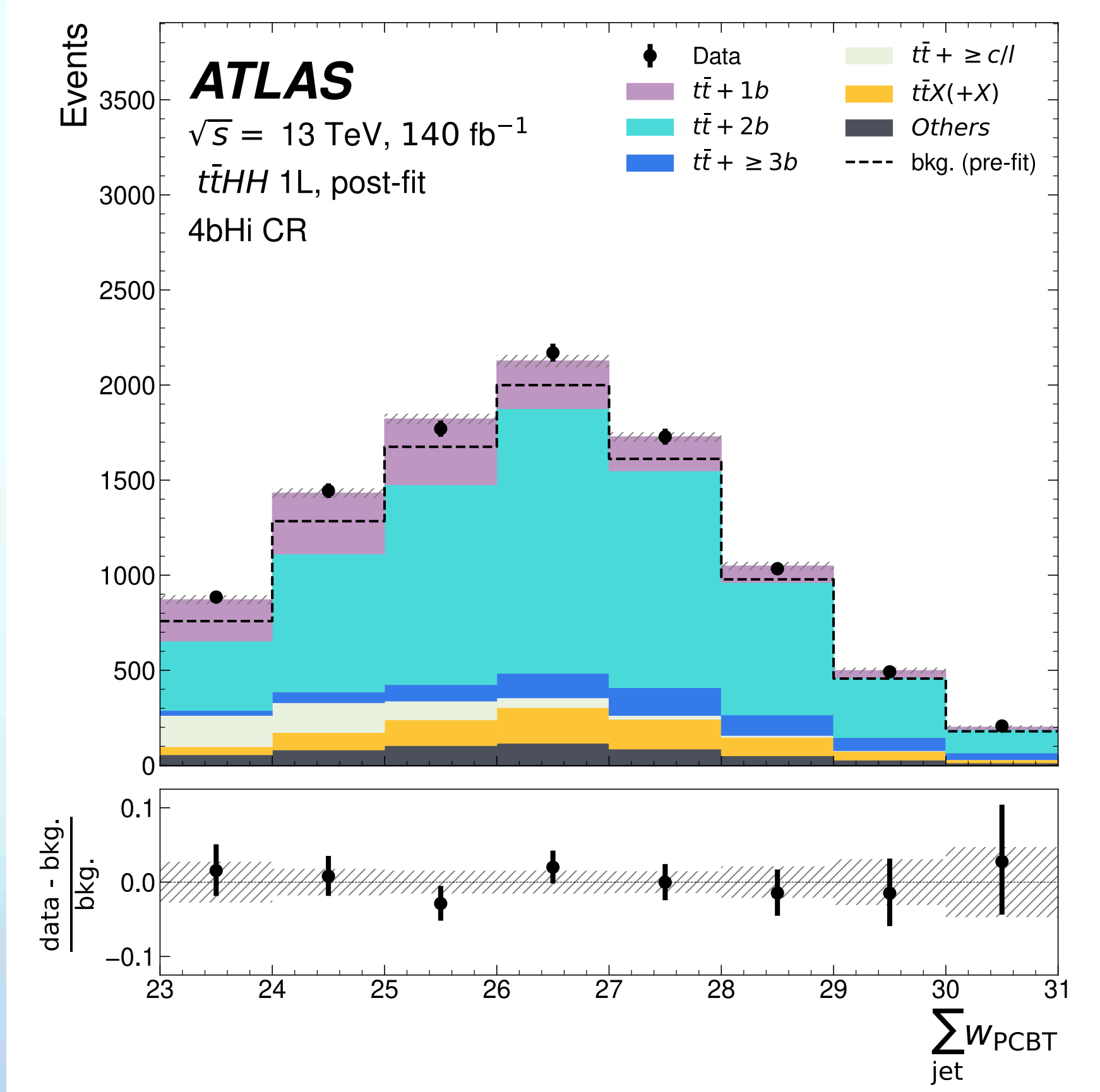
Signal / Background split by jet-multiplicity

Fit from a GNN score



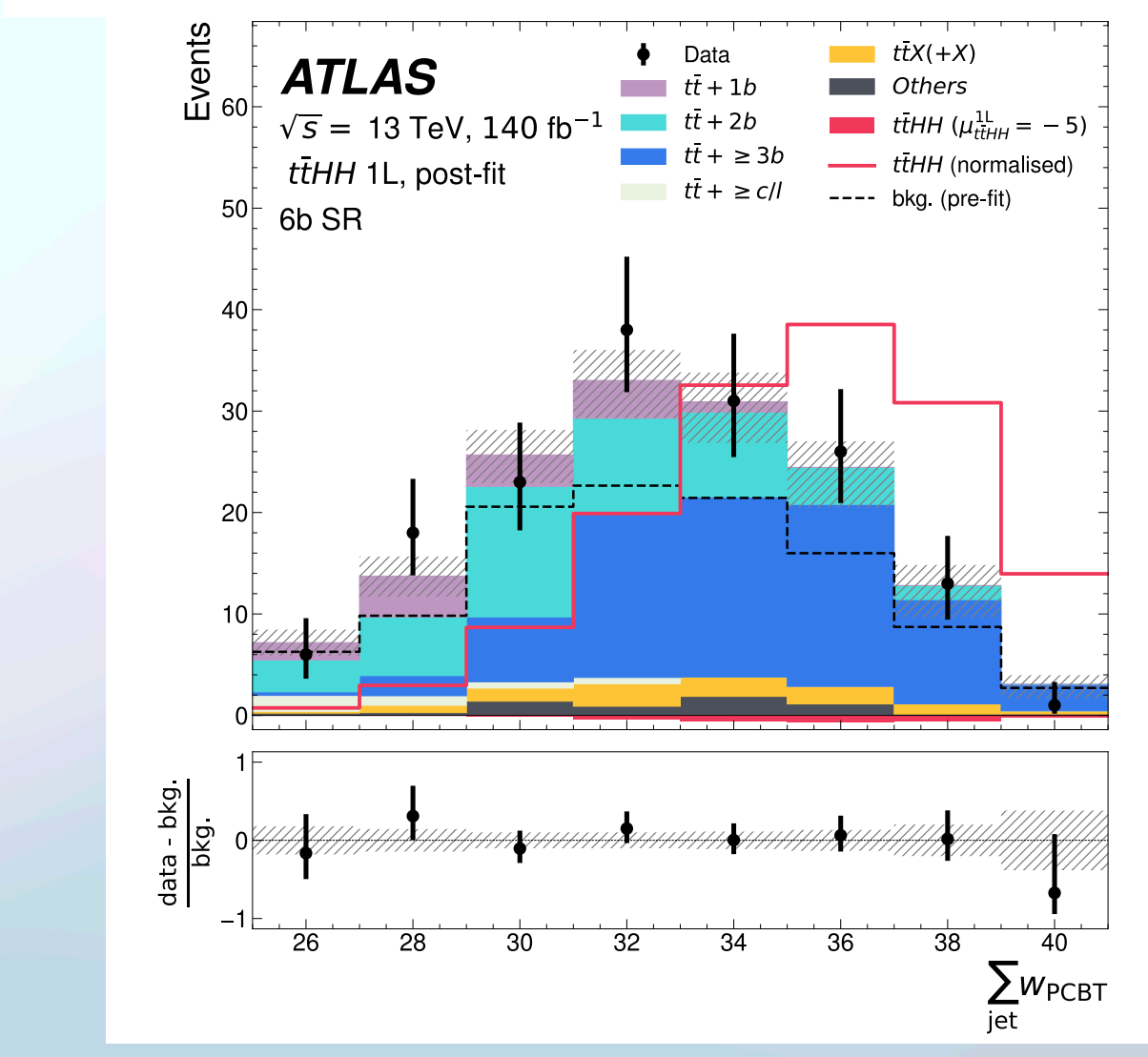
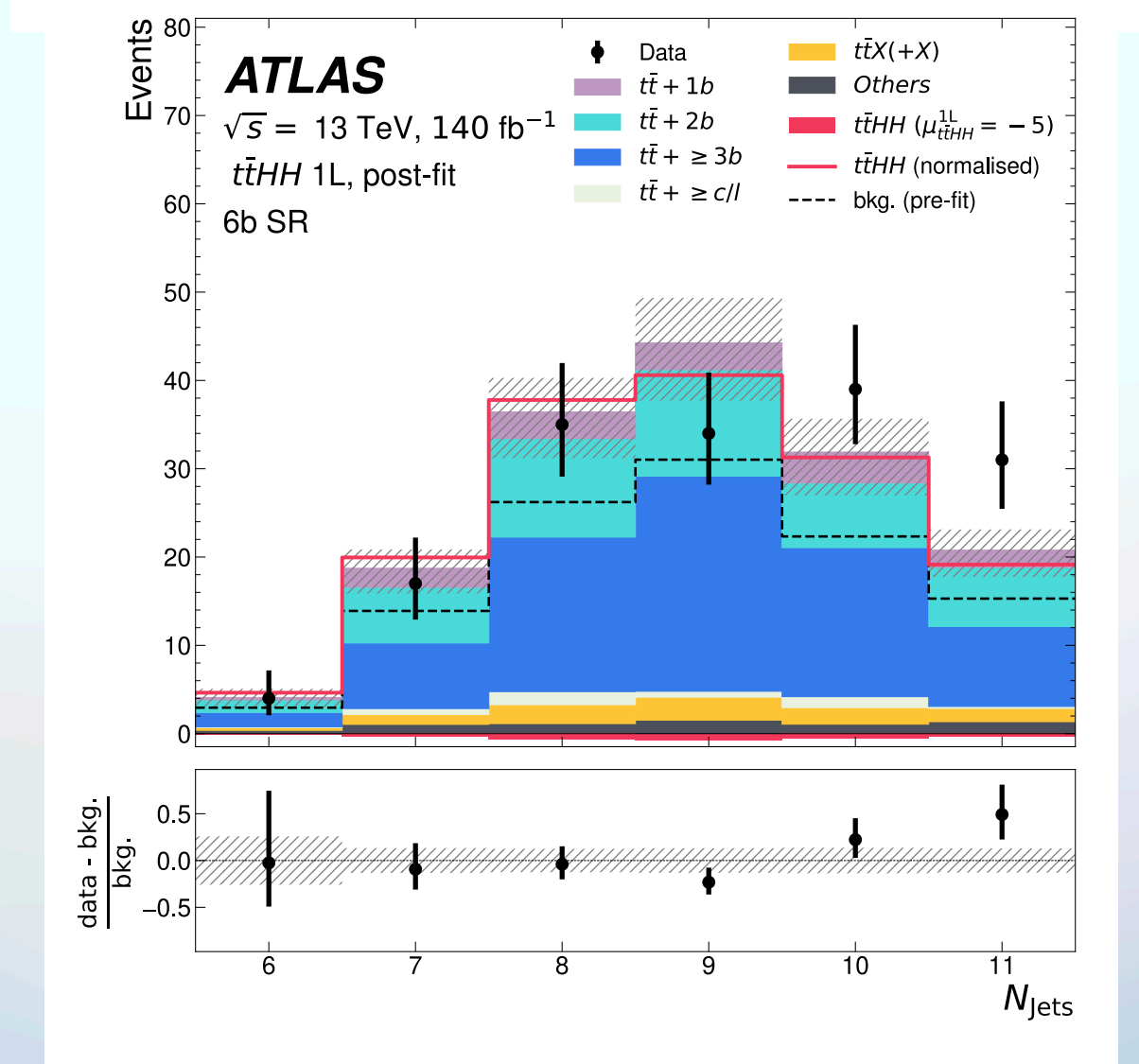
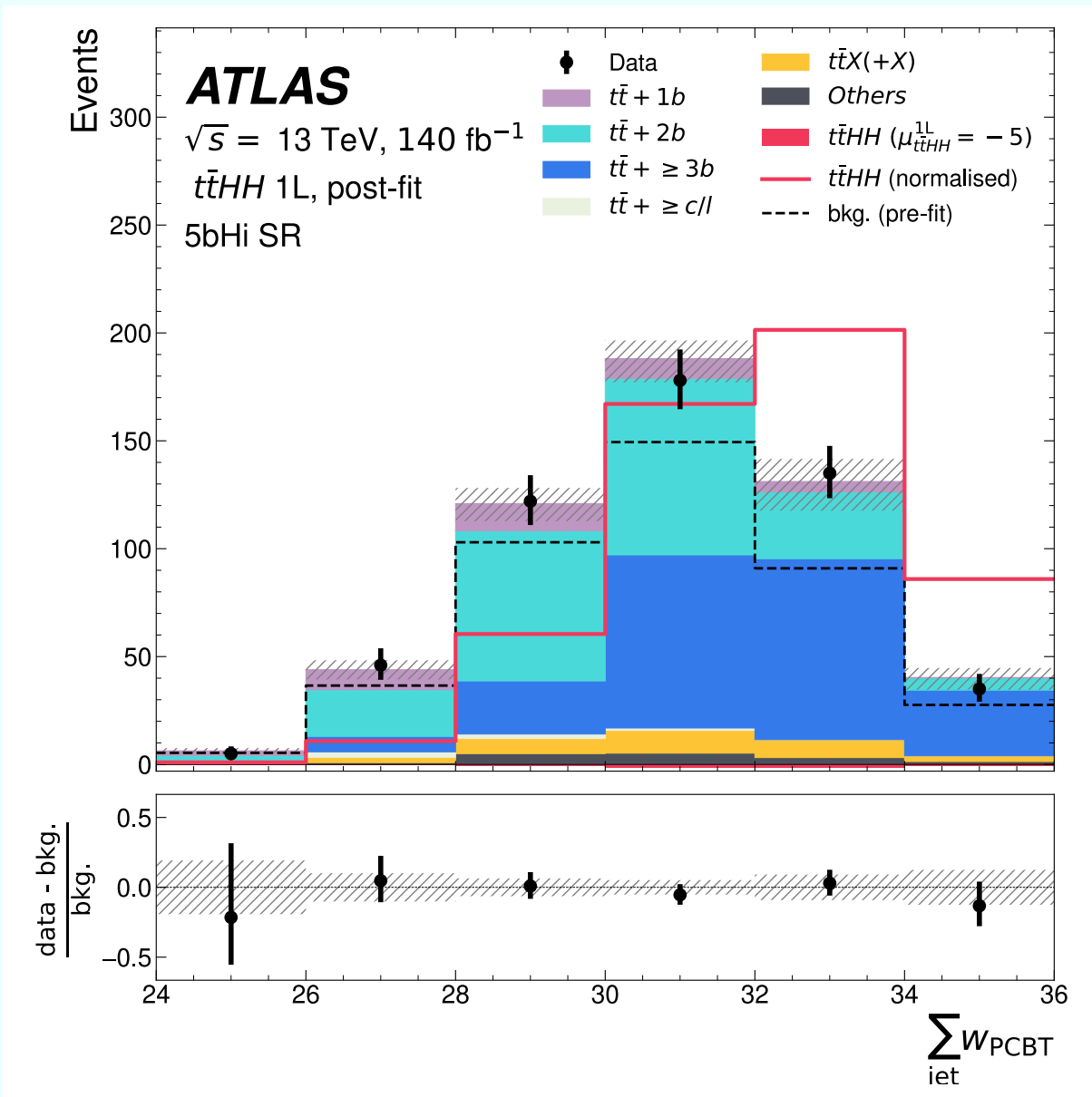
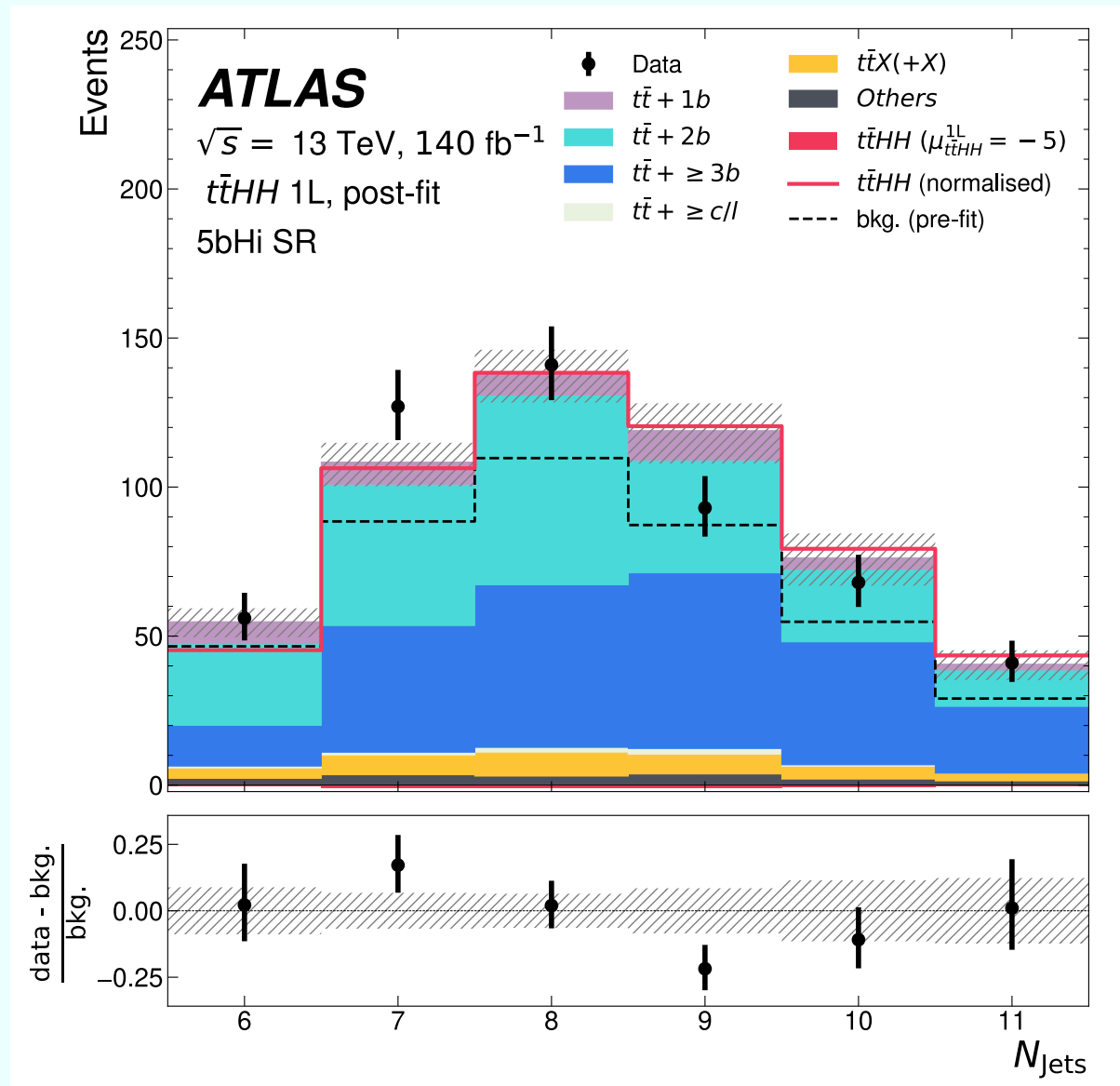
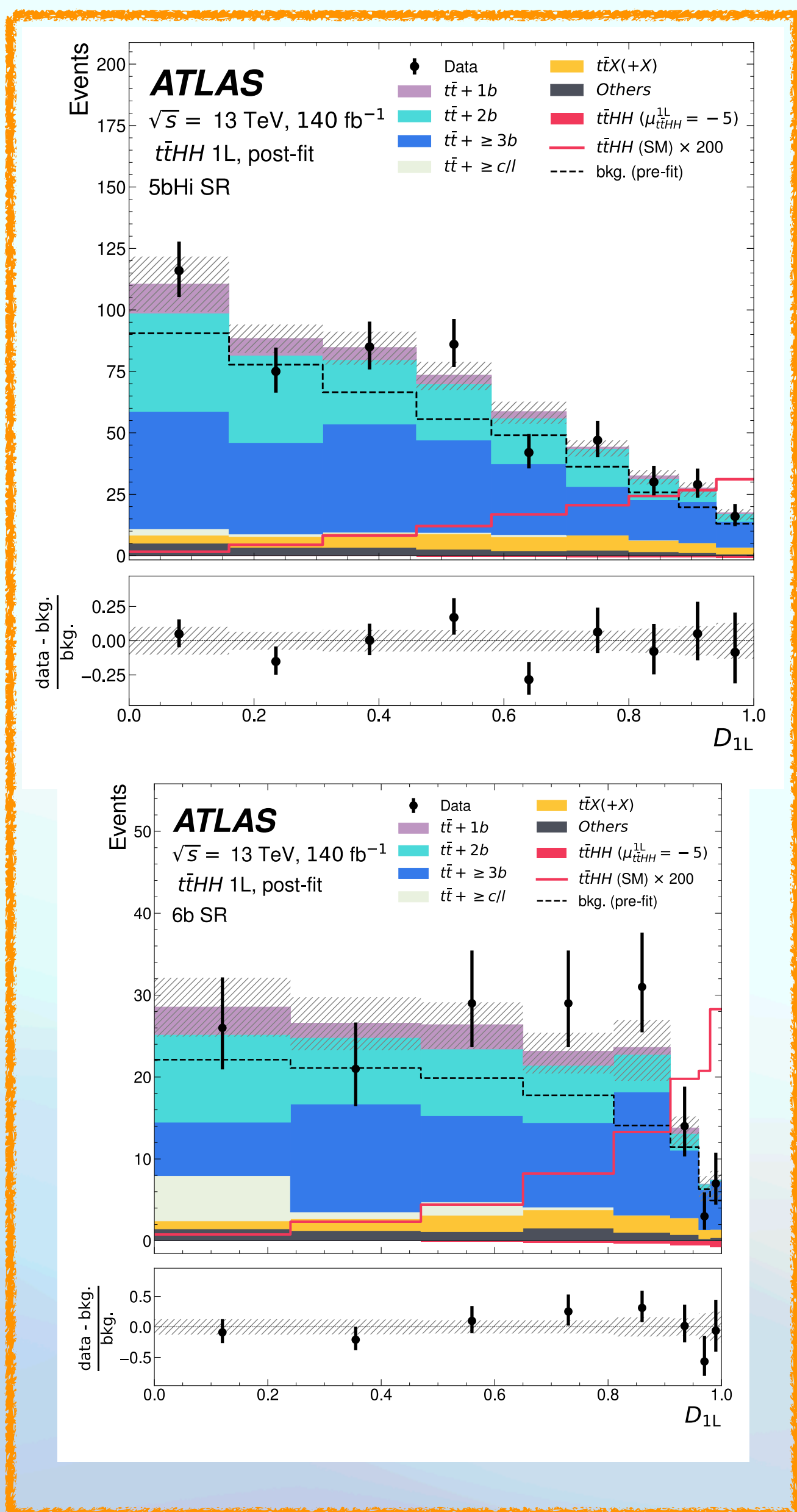
Variable	Description
(p_T, η, ϕ, E)	Kinematic variables of the object, i.e. transverse momentum, pseudorapidity, azimuthal angle, and energy.
w_{GN2}	GN201 b-tagging pseudo-continuous score for identifying jets. Non-jet objects are assigned a value of zero.
$q_{Lep.}$	Charge of the object. Non-lepton objects are assigned a value of zero.
$(isJet, isLep, isMET)$	Boolean flags indicating the object type: jet, lepton, or missing transverse energy.

1L Run 2 CR distributions

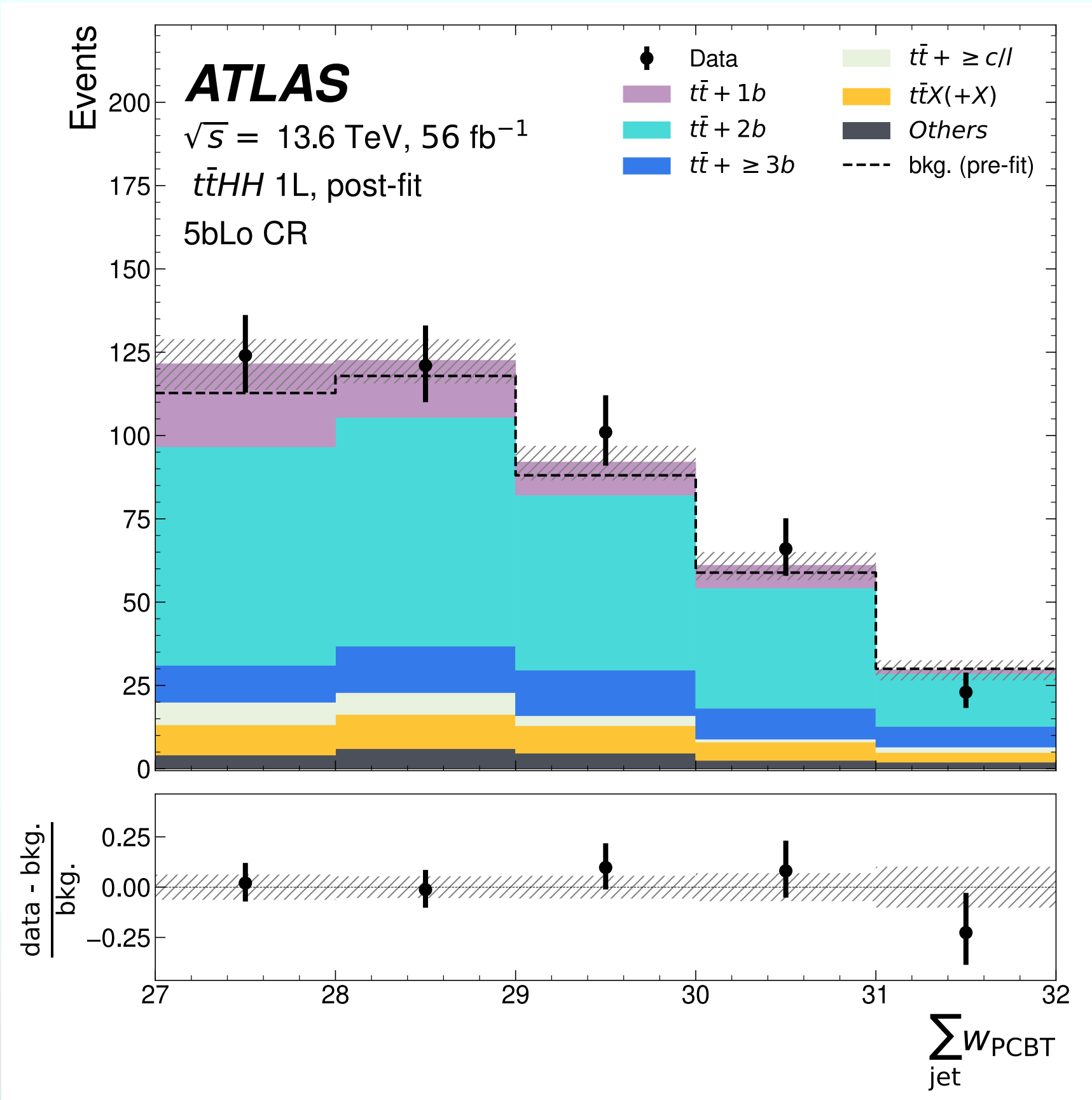
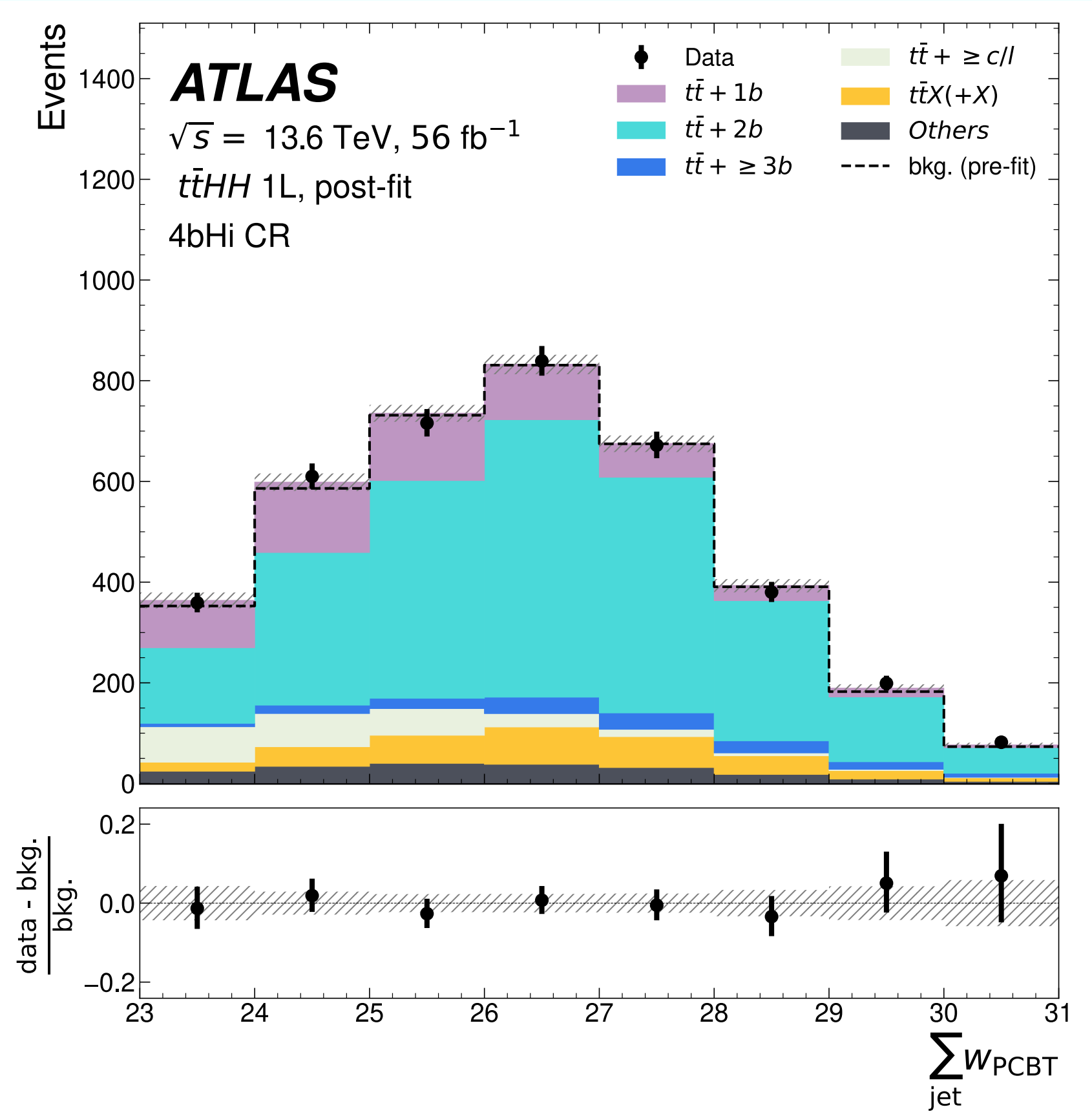


- Signal defined by jet multiplicity
- Well understood background

1L Run 2 SR distributions

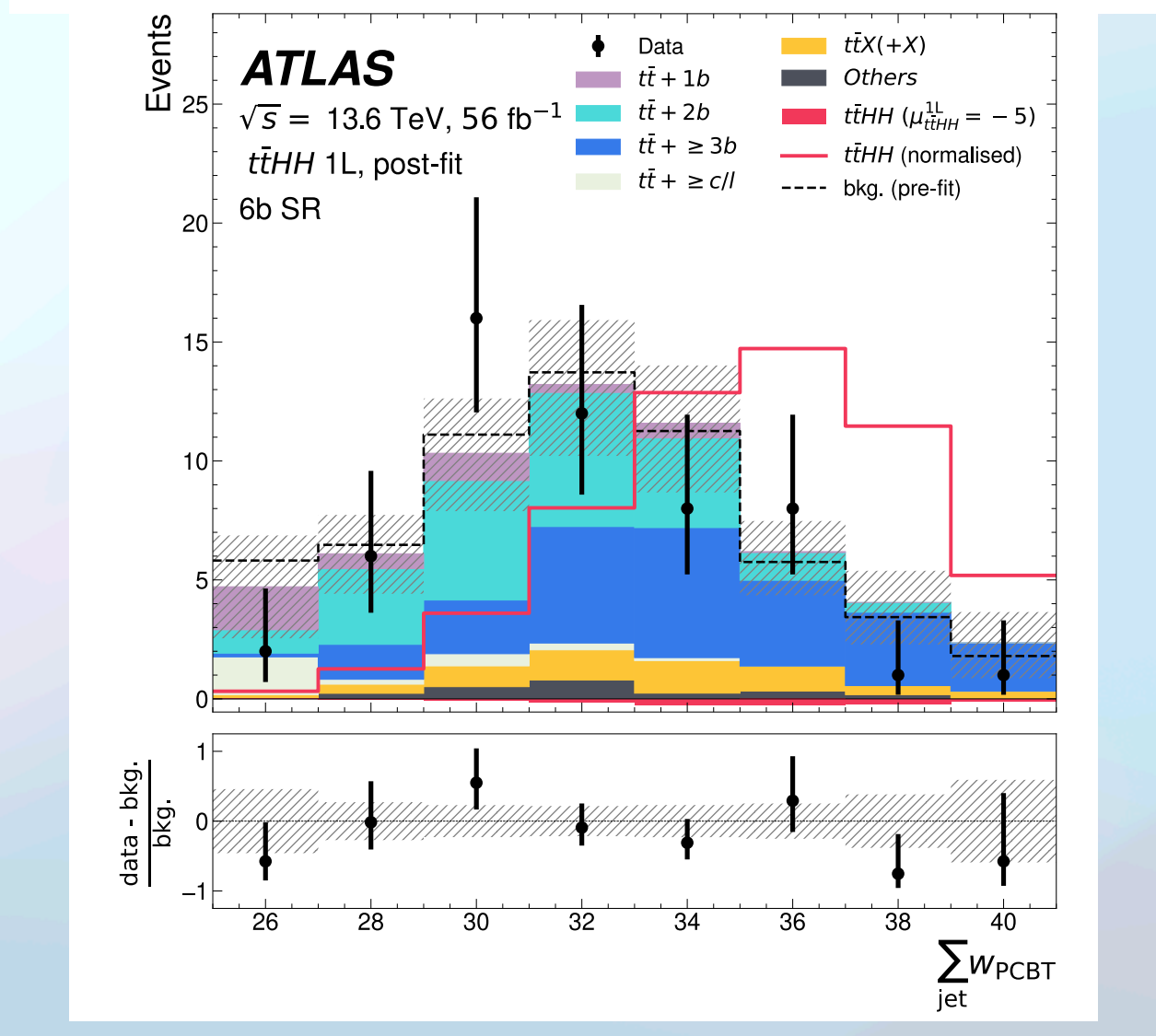
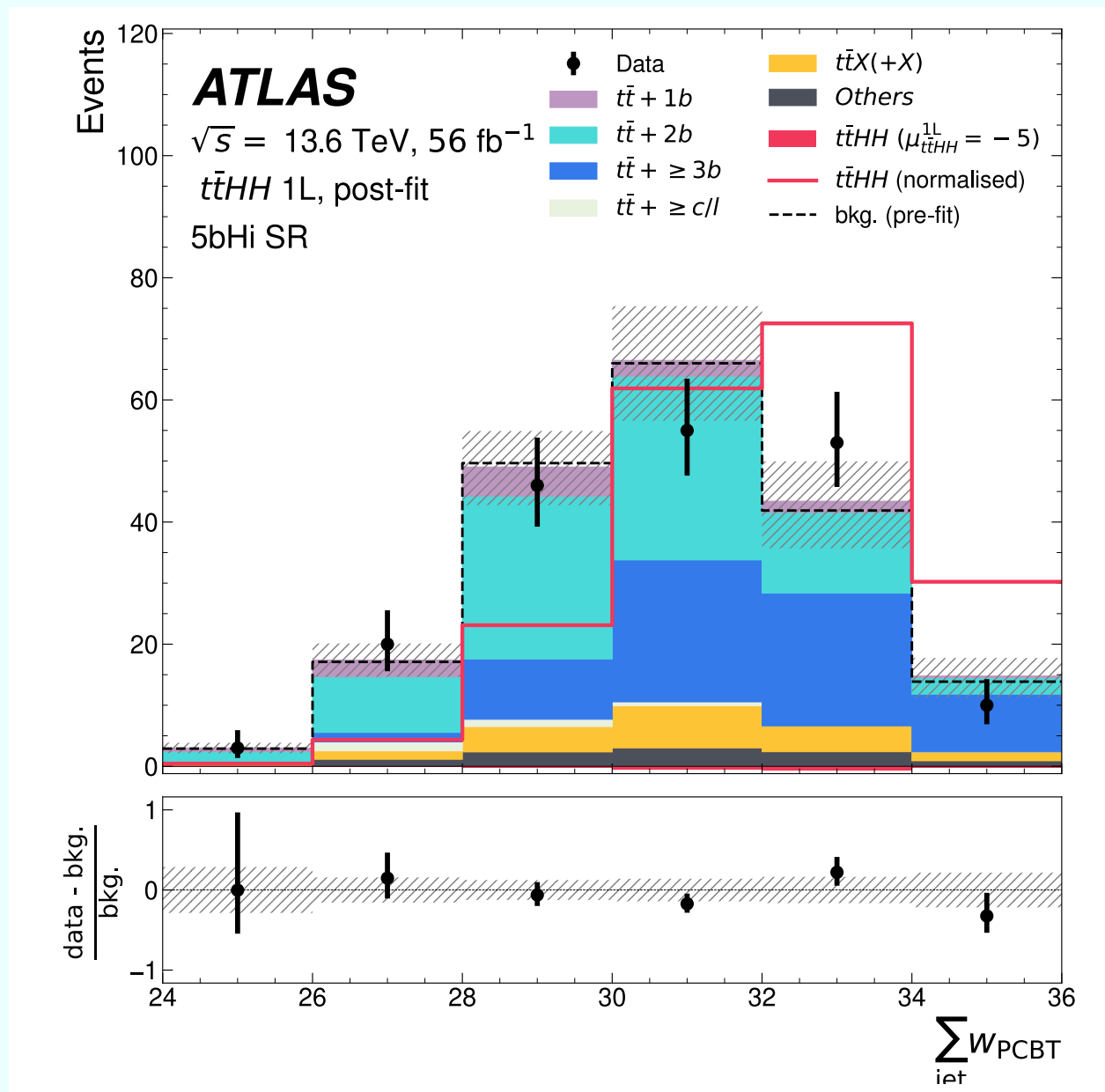
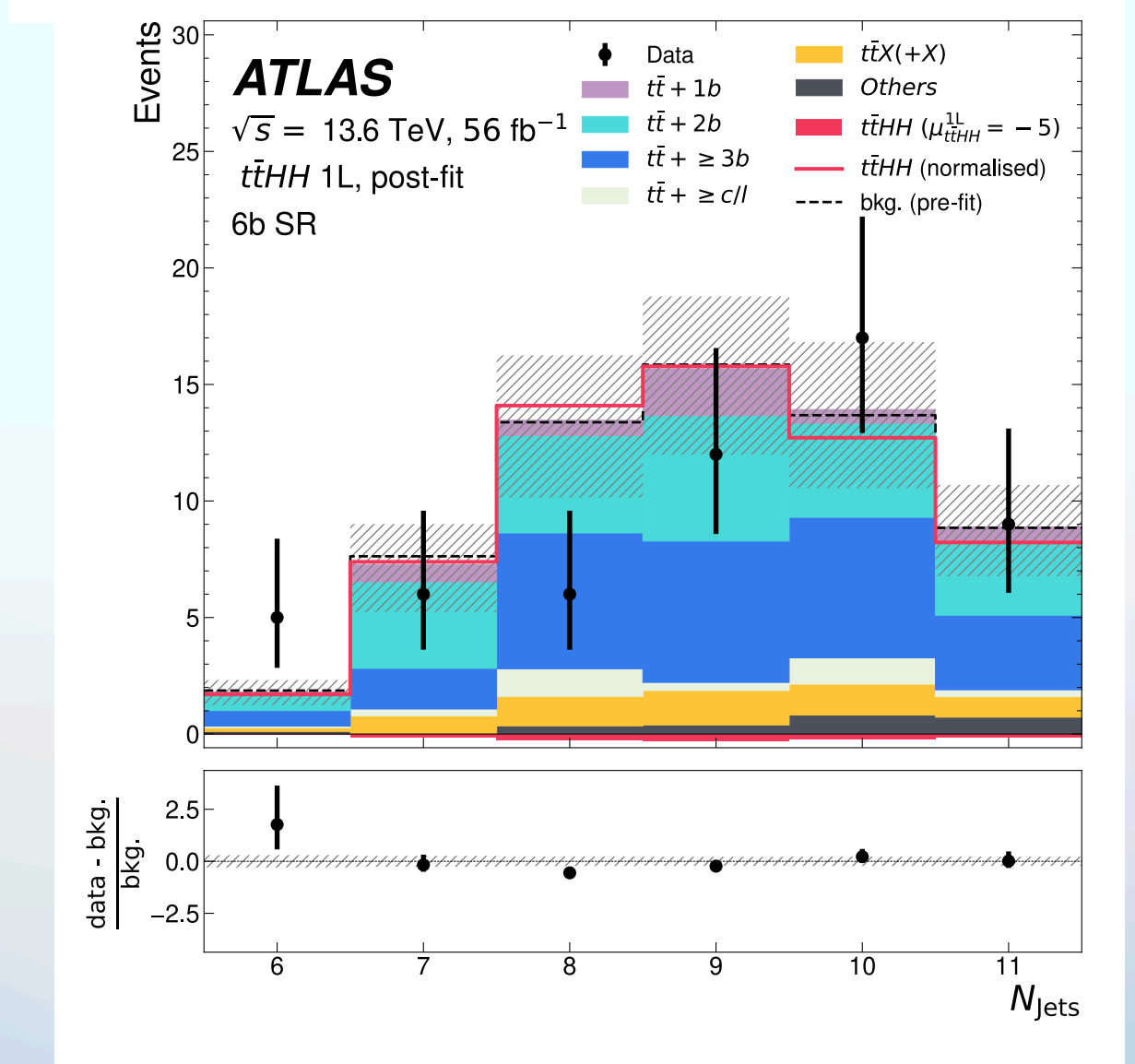
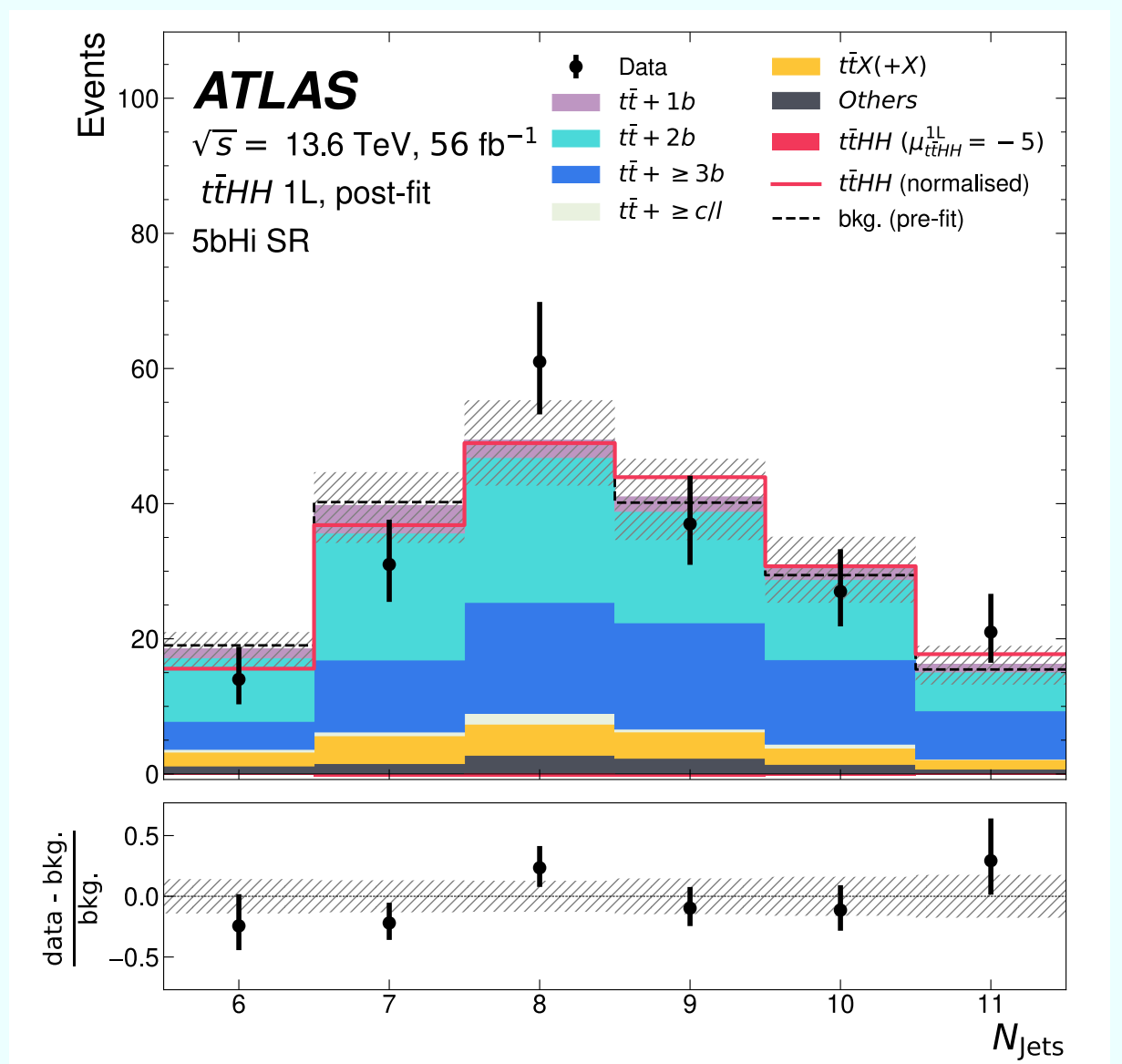
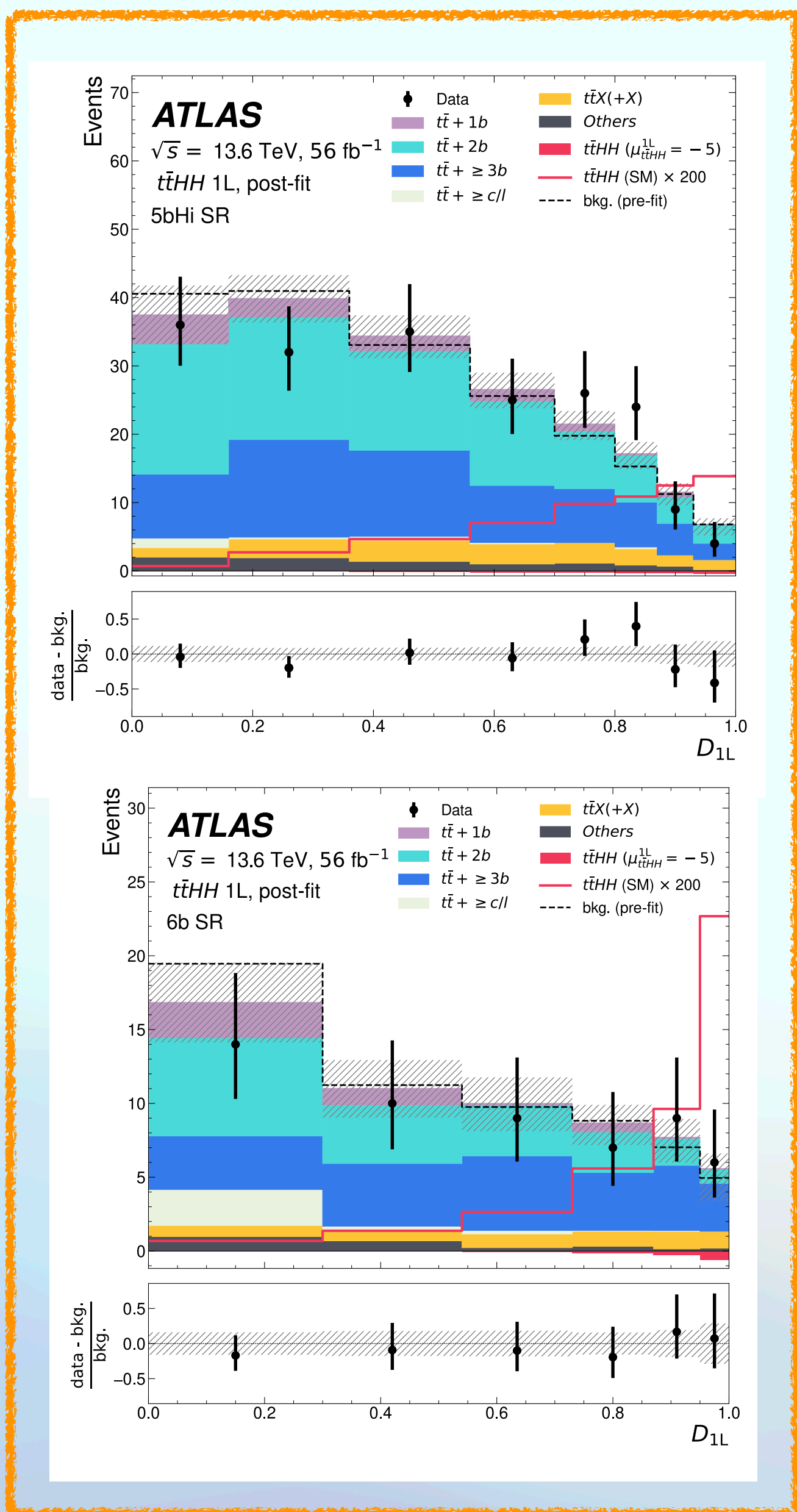


1L Run 3 CR distributions



- Signal defined by jet multiplicity
- Well understood background

1L Run 3 SR distributions



Same-sign multi-lepton channel

≥ 2 b-tagged jets

≥ 2 same-sign leptons from top and Higgs

Dominant irreducible backgrounds :

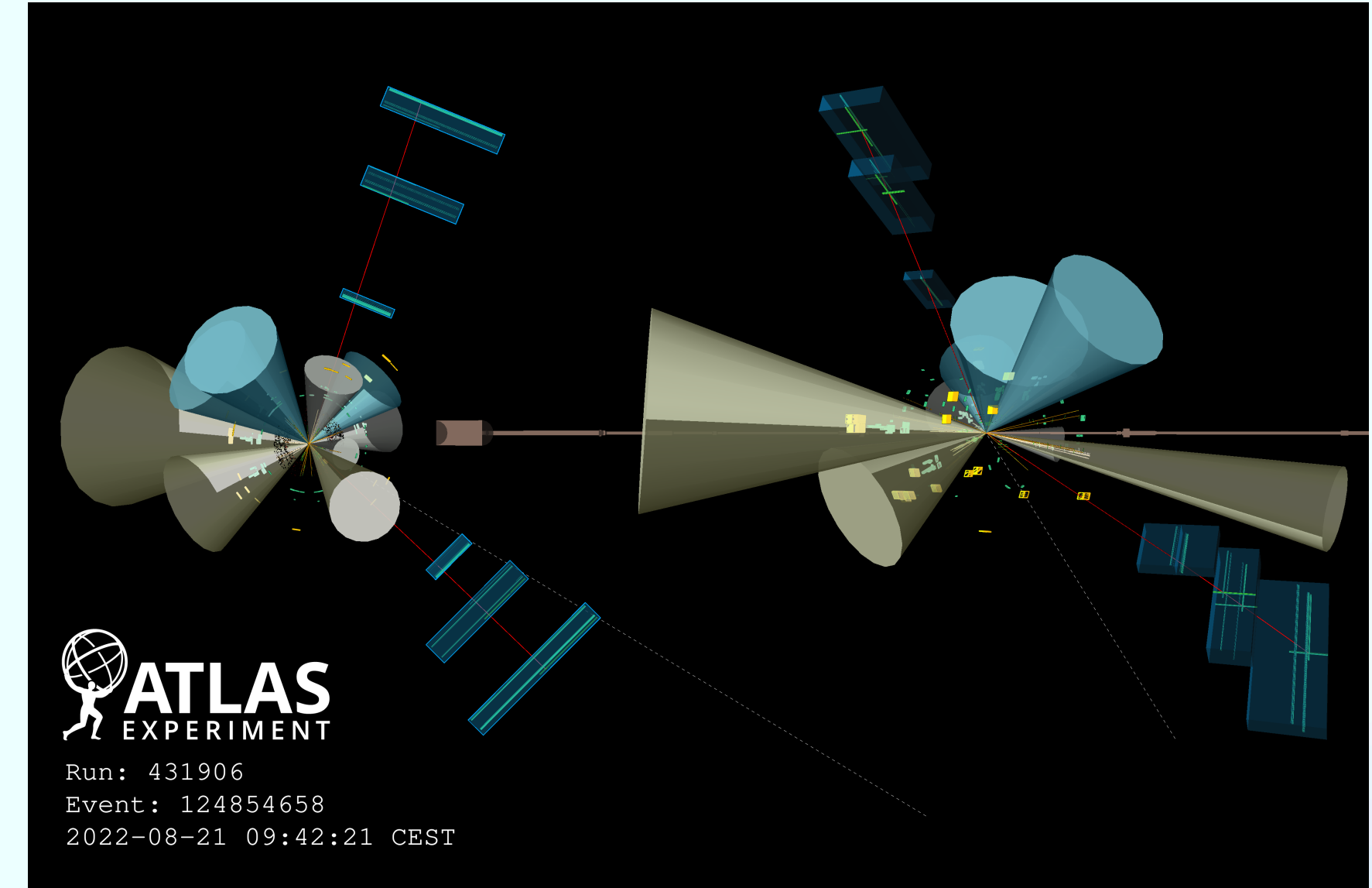
$t\bar{t}W$ and $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ normalization

Channel which suffers a lot from instrumental backgrounds :

→ Charge mis-identification

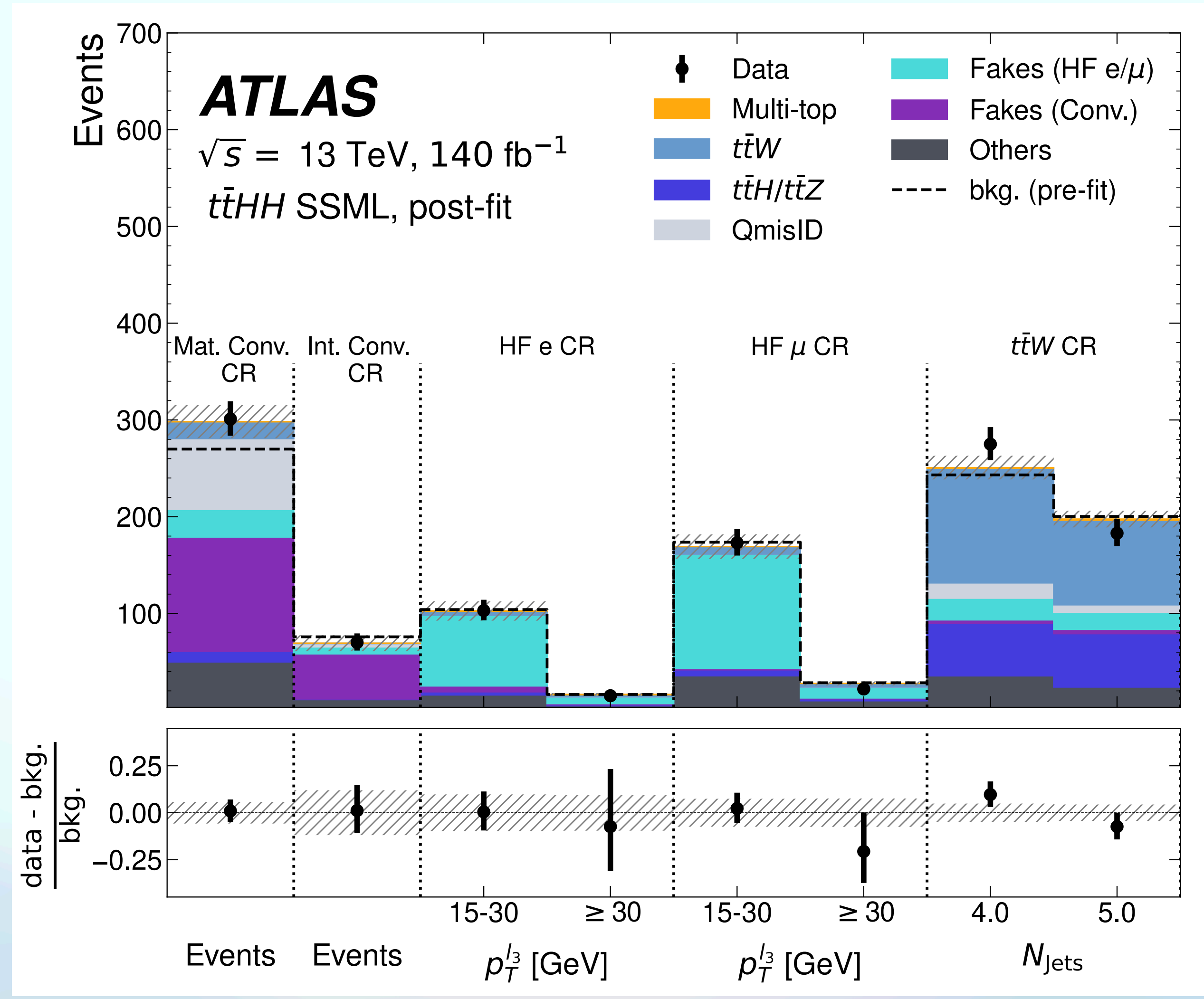
→ "Fake" leptons from HF decays or photon conversions

i.e. photons which look like lepton

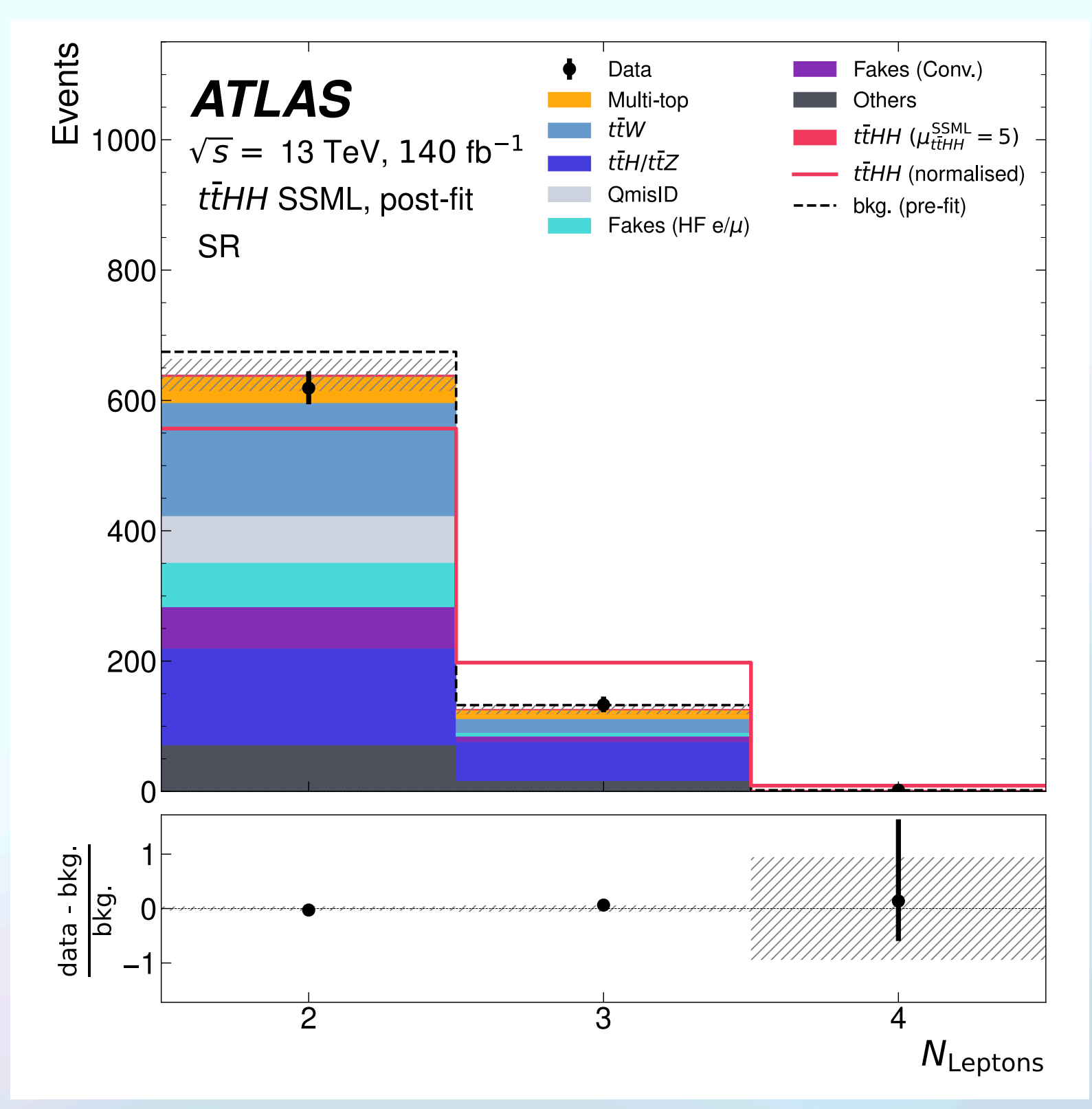
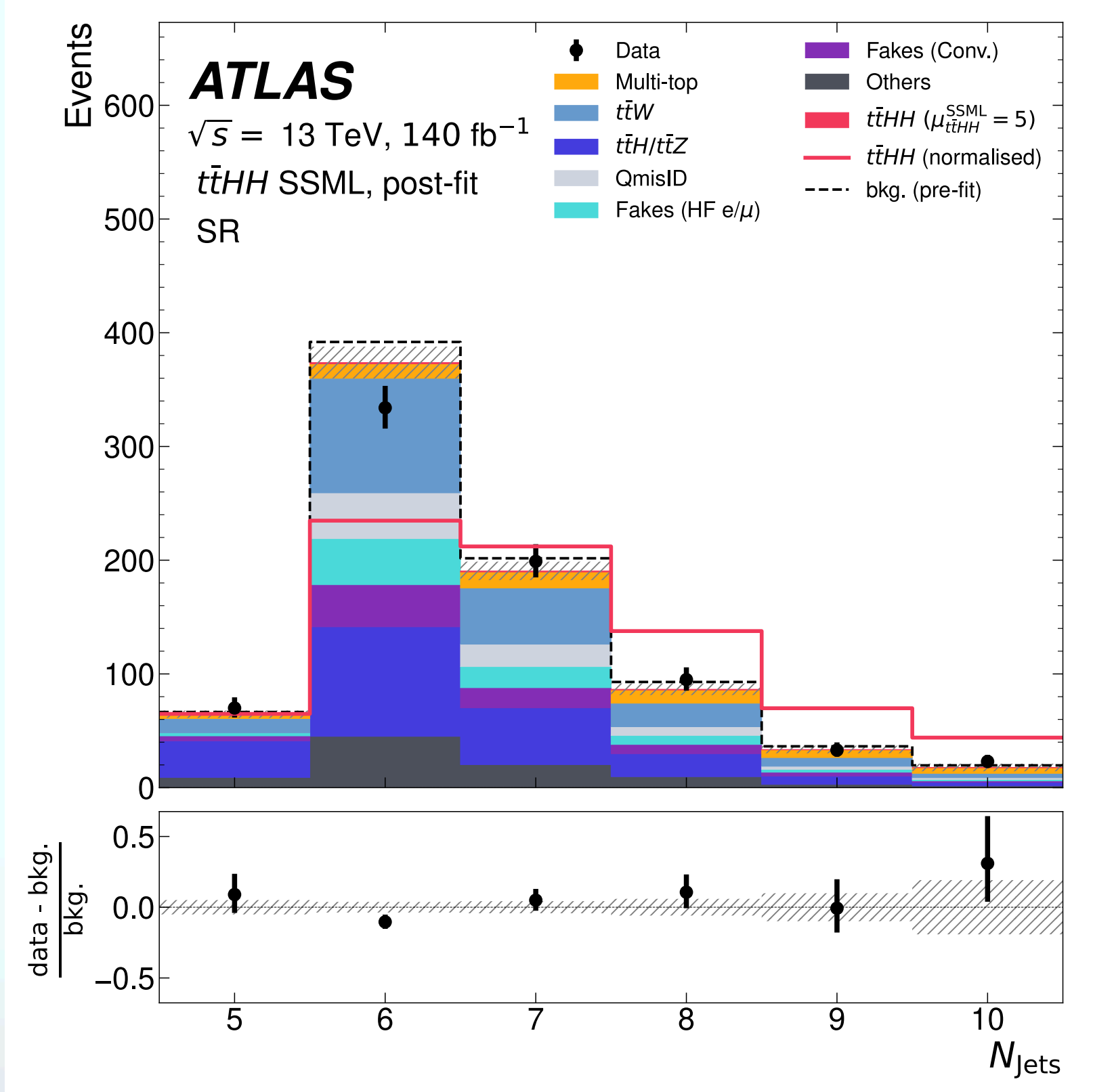
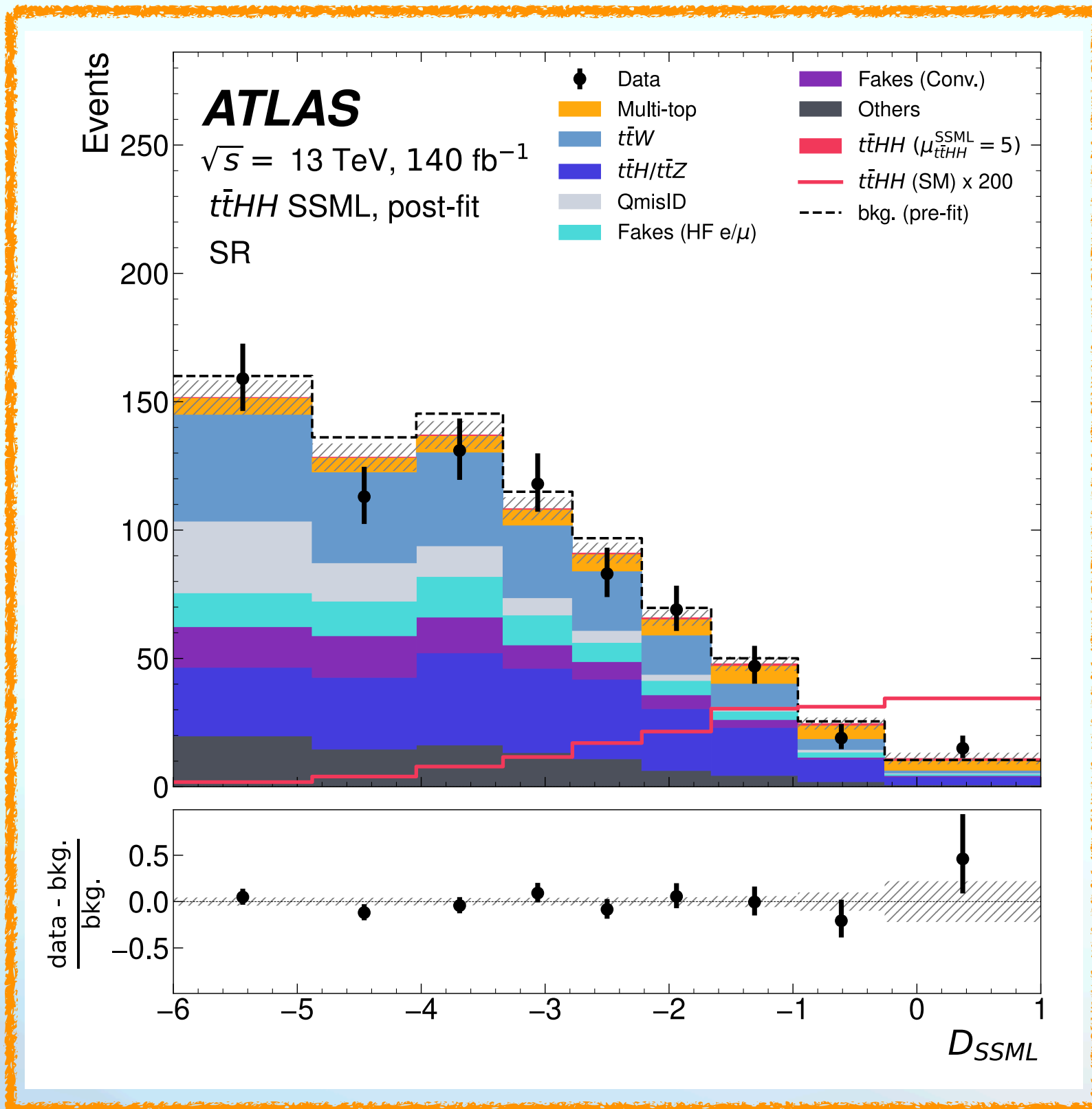


Variable	Description
Event-level	
N_{jets}	Number of jets
$N_{\text{b-jets}}$	Number of b-tagged jets
N_{lepton}	Number of leptons
H_{T}	The scalar sum of the transverse momenta of the leptons and jets in an event.
MET	Transverse energy of the missing momentum vector.
MET_PHI	Azimuthal angle of the missing momentum vector.
Object-level	
$(p_{\text{T}}, \eta, \phi)$	Kinematic variables of the object, i.e. transverse momentum, pseudorapidity, and azimuthal angle.
w_{GN2}	GN201 b-tagging pseudo-continuous score for identifying jets. Non-jet objects are assigned a value of zero.
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$(\text{isJet}, \text{isElectron}, \text{isMuon})$	Boolean flags indicating the object type: jet, electron, or muon.

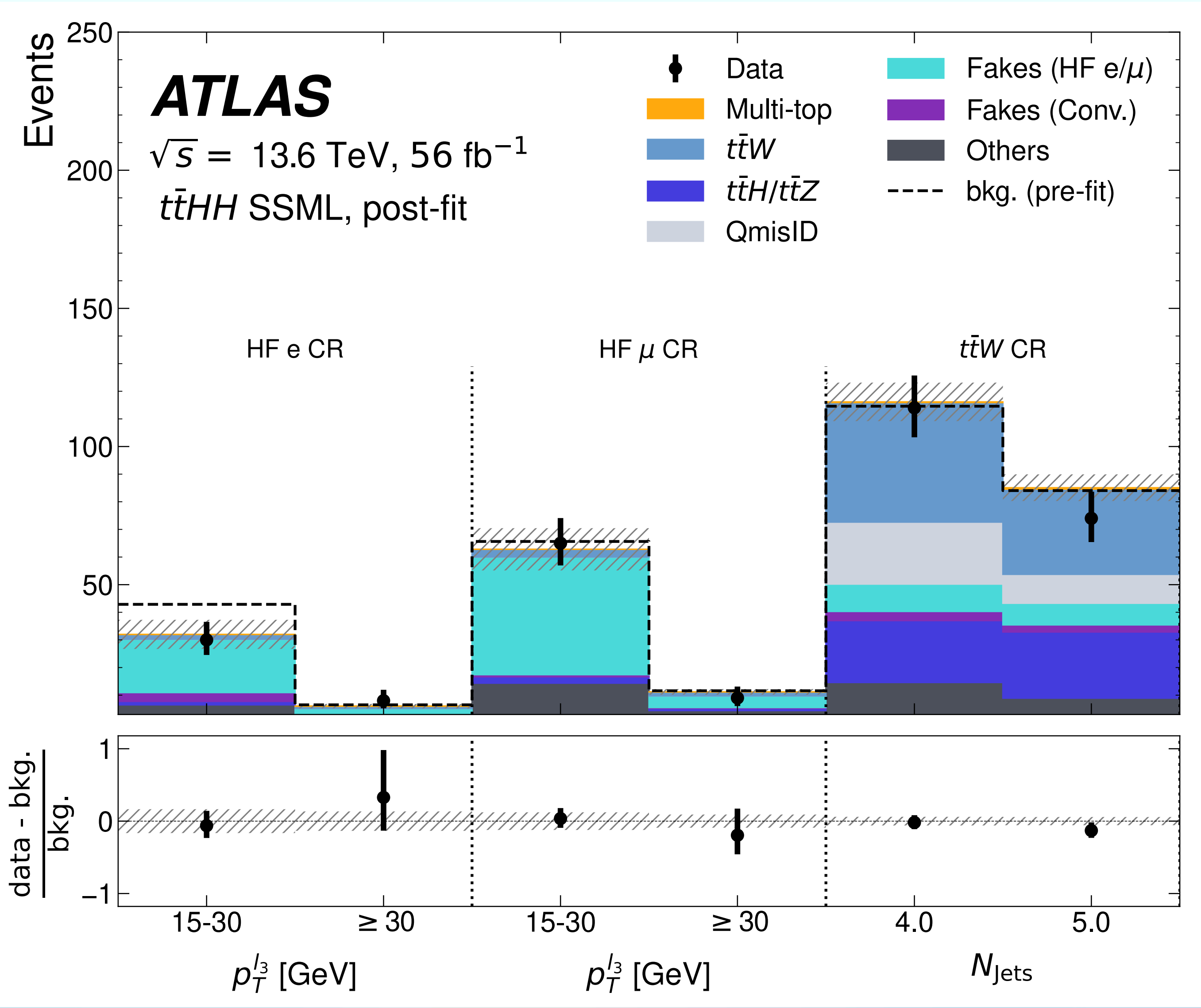
ML Run 2 CR distributions



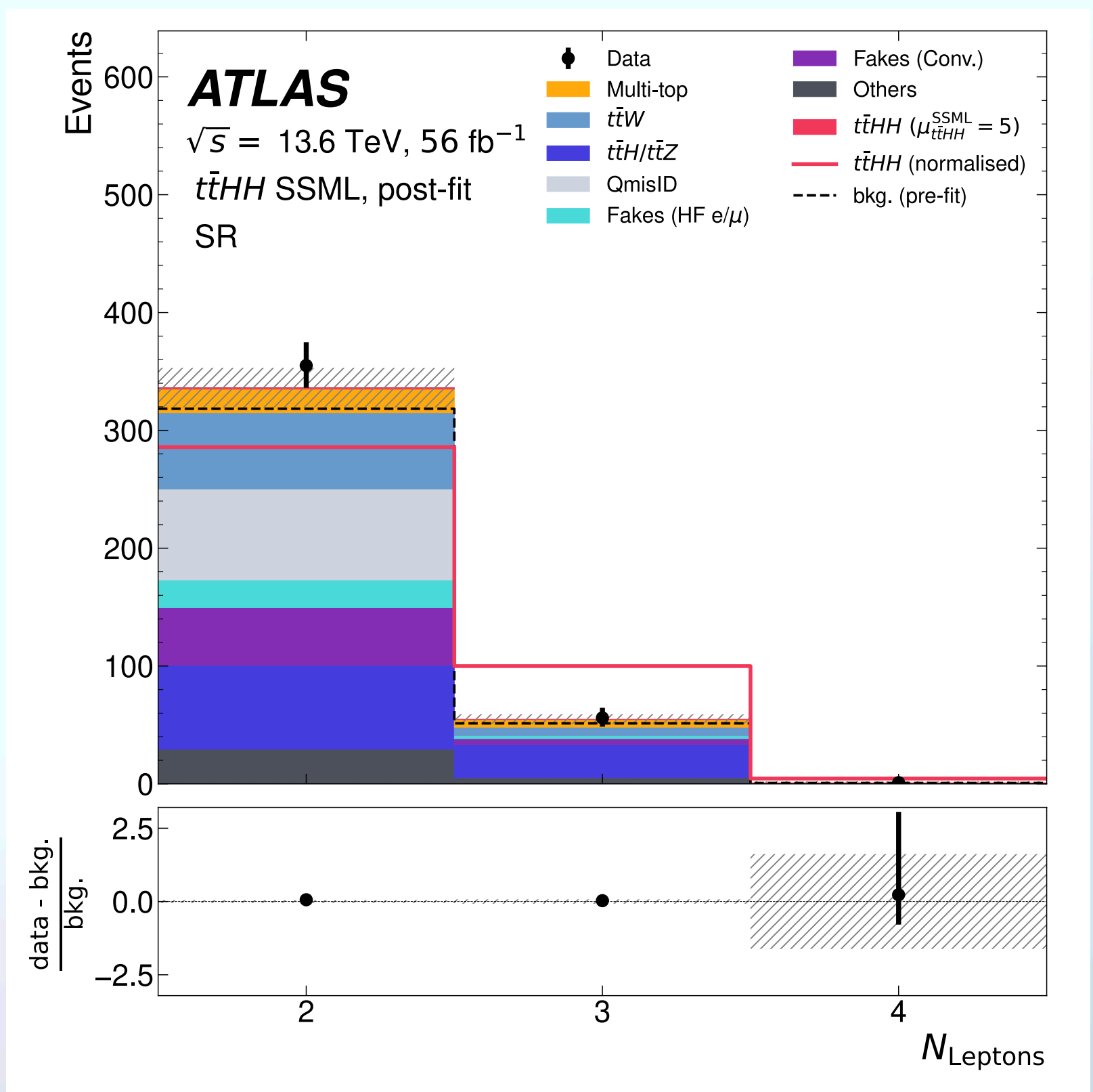
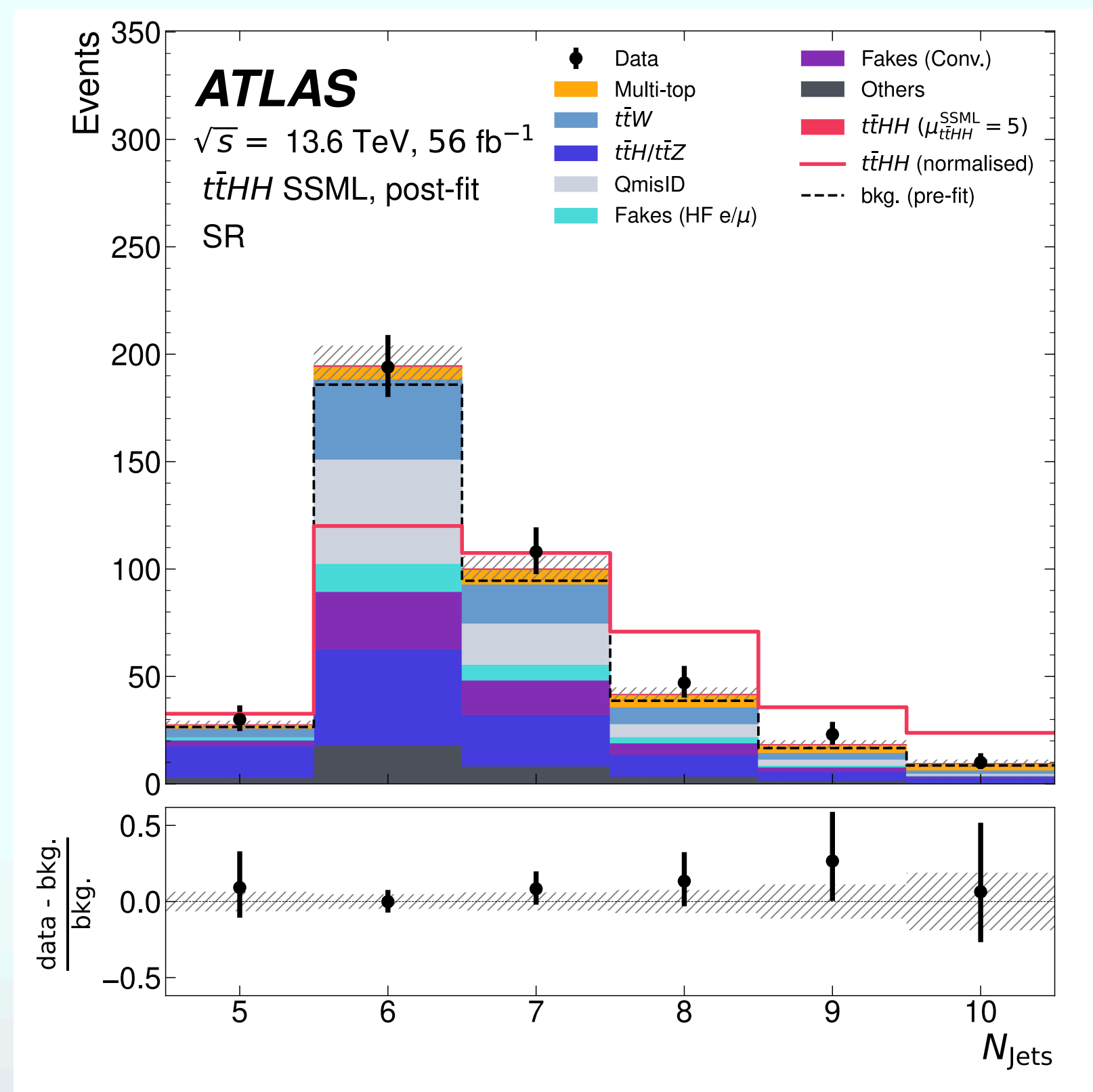
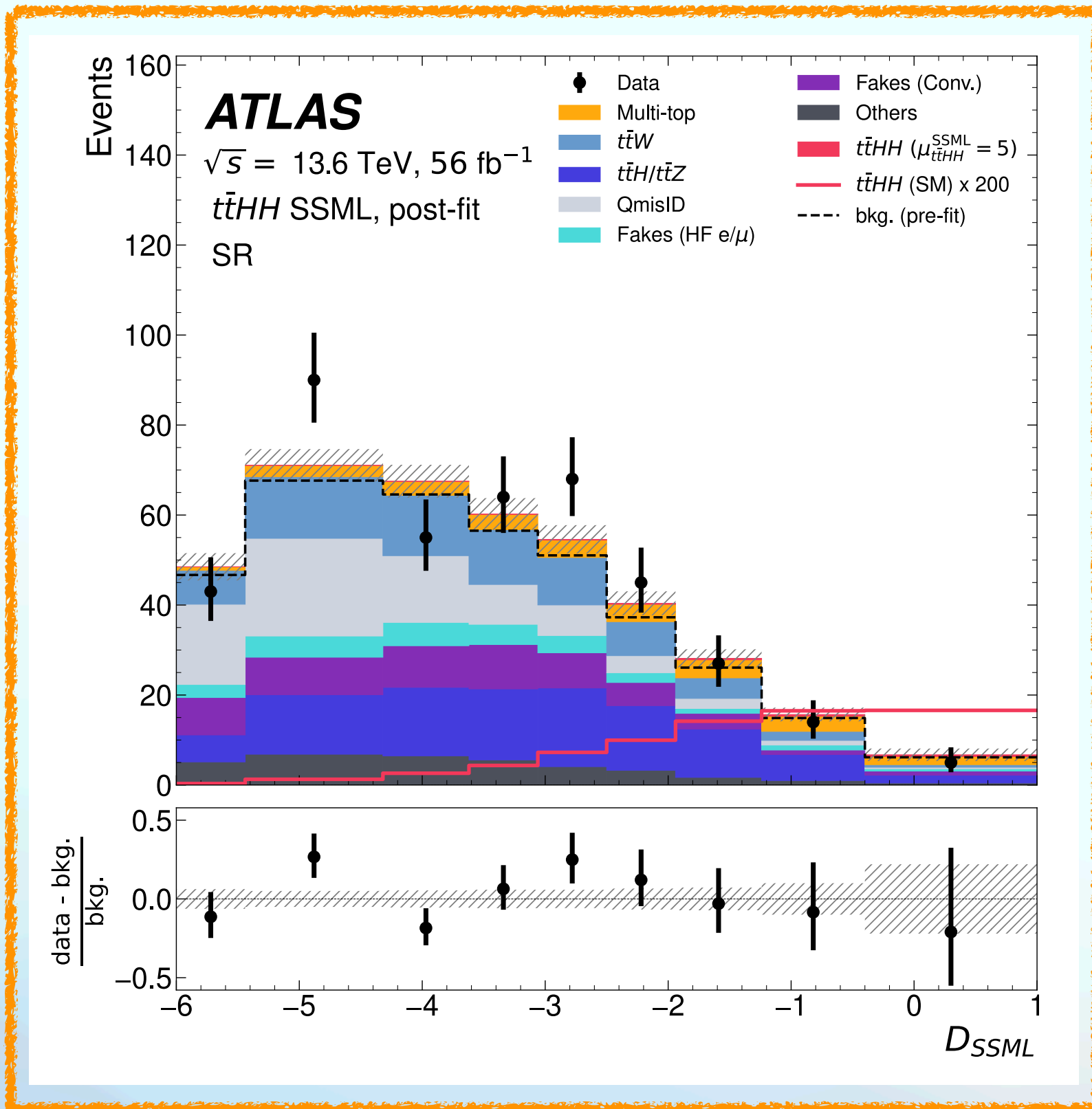
ML Run 2 SR distributions



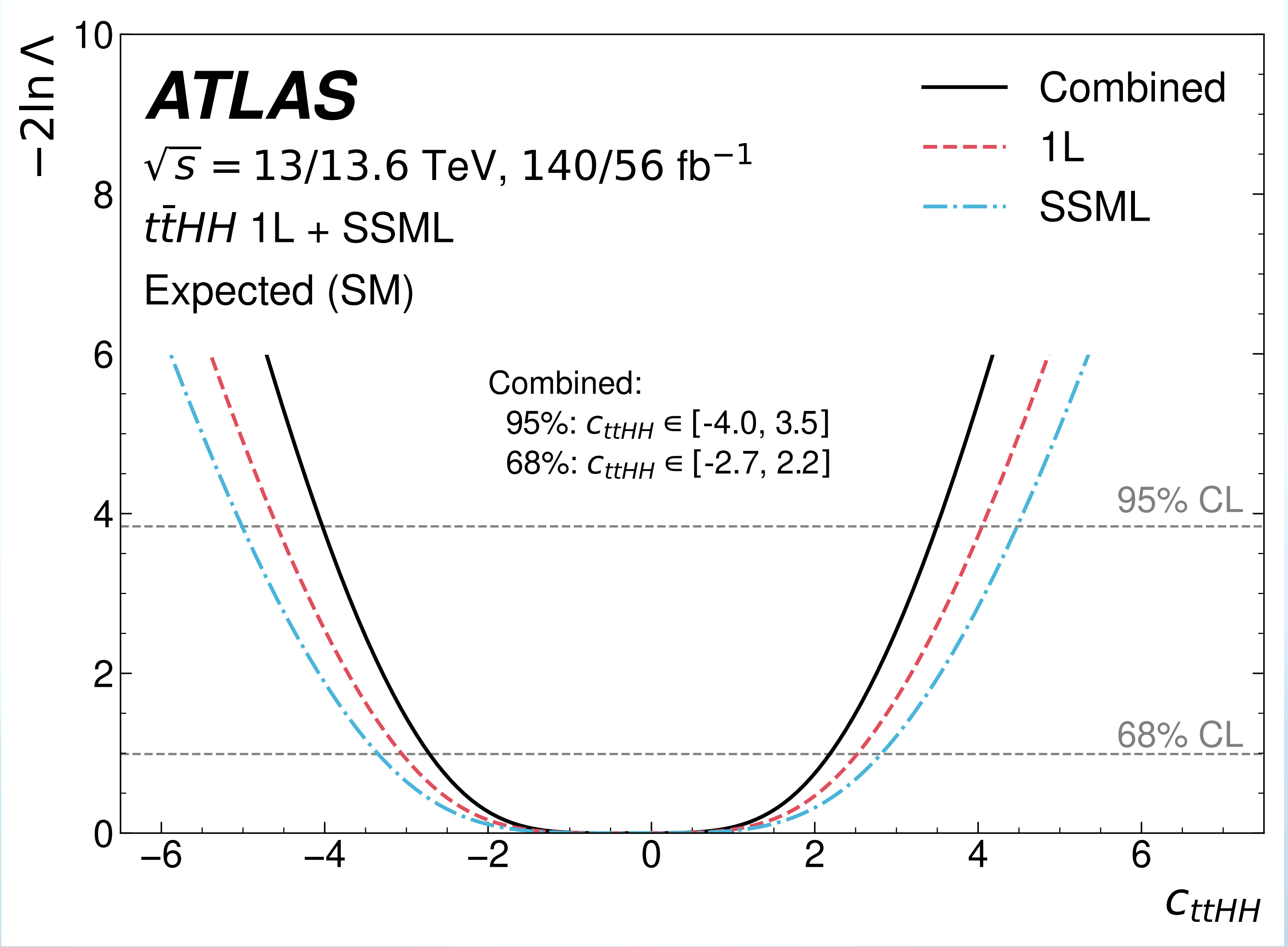
ML Run 3 CR distributions



ML Run 3 SR distributions

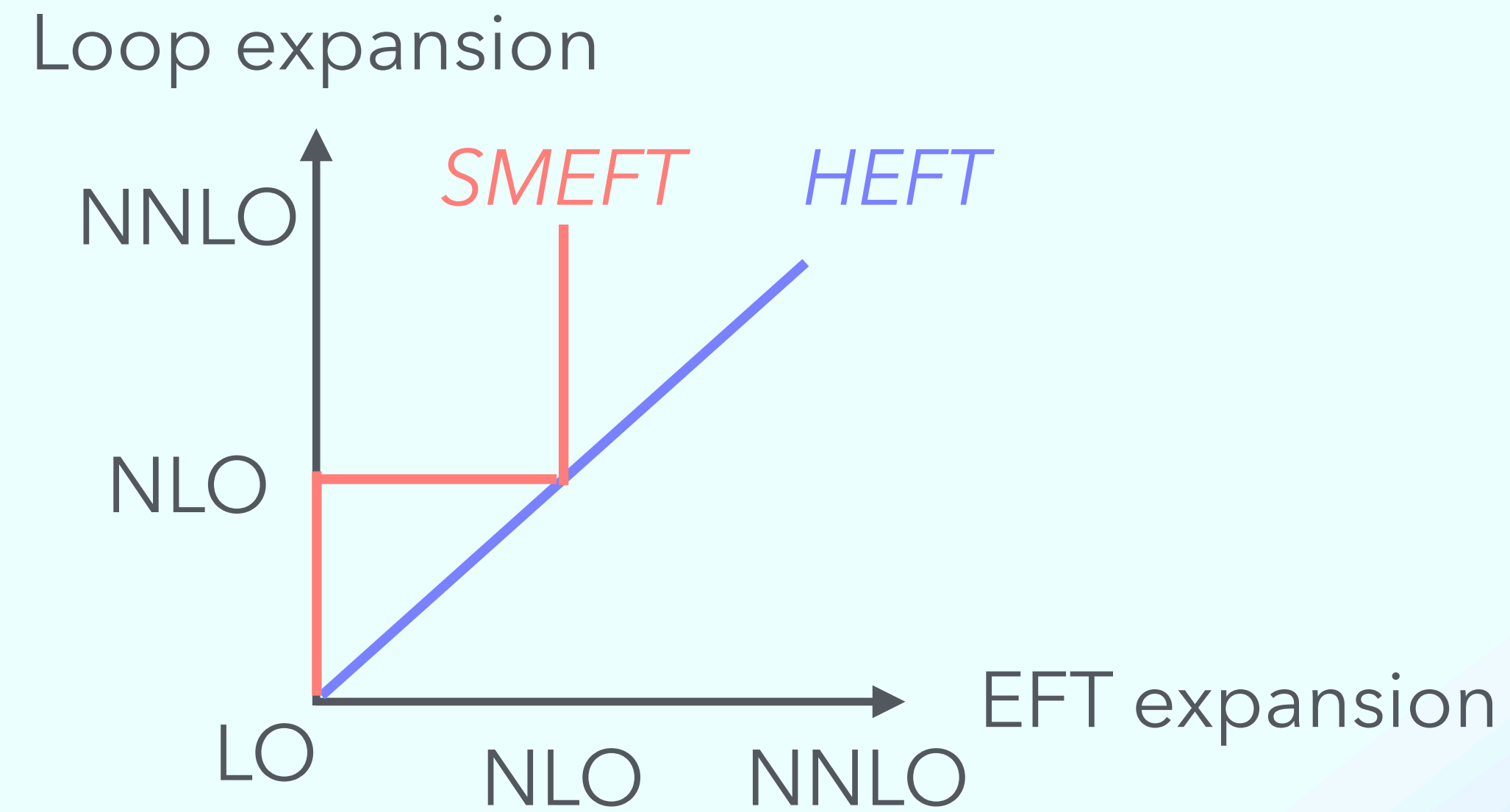


Expected likelihood for EFT fit



HEFT vs. SMEFT power counting

[arXiv:[2511.23410](https://arxiv.org/abs/2511.23410)]



SMEFT power counting keeps EFT independent of loop expansion

HEFT power counting counts loops, so one is constrained on the diagonal

HEFT vs. SMEFT power counting

Lagrangian : $\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_i \frac{c_i^{(6)}}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{O}_i^{(6)} + \sum_i \frac{c_i^{(8)}}{\Lambda^4} \mathcal{O}_i^{(8)} + \dots$

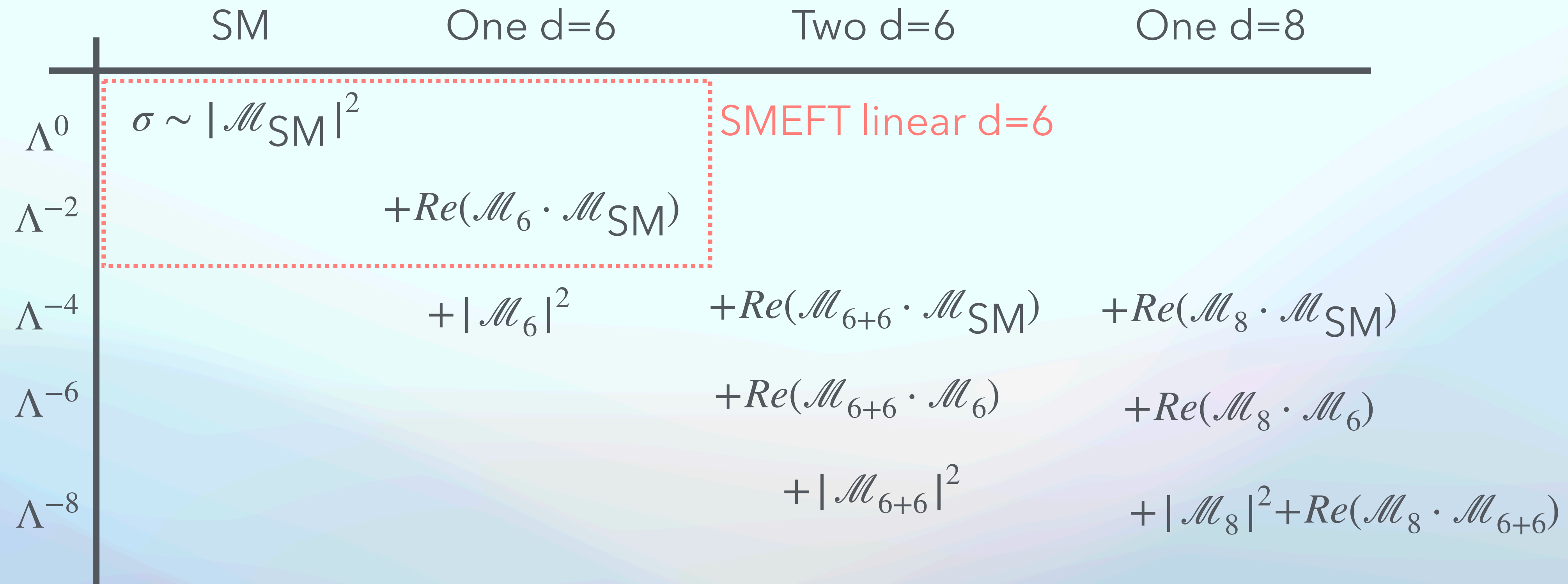
Event rates : $\sigma_{\text{EFT}} \sim |\mathcal{M}_{\text{SM}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_6}_{\text{One } d=6} + \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_{6+6}}_{\text{Two } d=6} + \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_8}_{\text{One } d=8} + \dots|^2$

	SM	One d=6	Two d=6	One d=8
Λ^0	$\sigma \sim \mathcal{M}_{\text{SM}} ^2$			
Λ^{-2}		$+ \text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_6 \cdot \mathcal{M}_{\text{SM}})$		
Λ^{-4}		$+ \mathcal{M}_6 ^2$	$+ \text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_{6+6} \cdot \mathcal{M}_{\text{SM}})$	$+ \text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_8 \cdot \mathcal{M}_{\text{SM}})$
Λ^{-6}			$+ \text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_{6+6} \cdot \mathcal{M}_6)$	$+ \text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_8 \cdot \mathcal{M}_6)$
Λ^{-8}			$+ \mathcal{M}_{6+6} ^2$	$+ \mathcal{M}_8 ^2 + \text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_8 \cdot \mathcal{M}_{6+6})$

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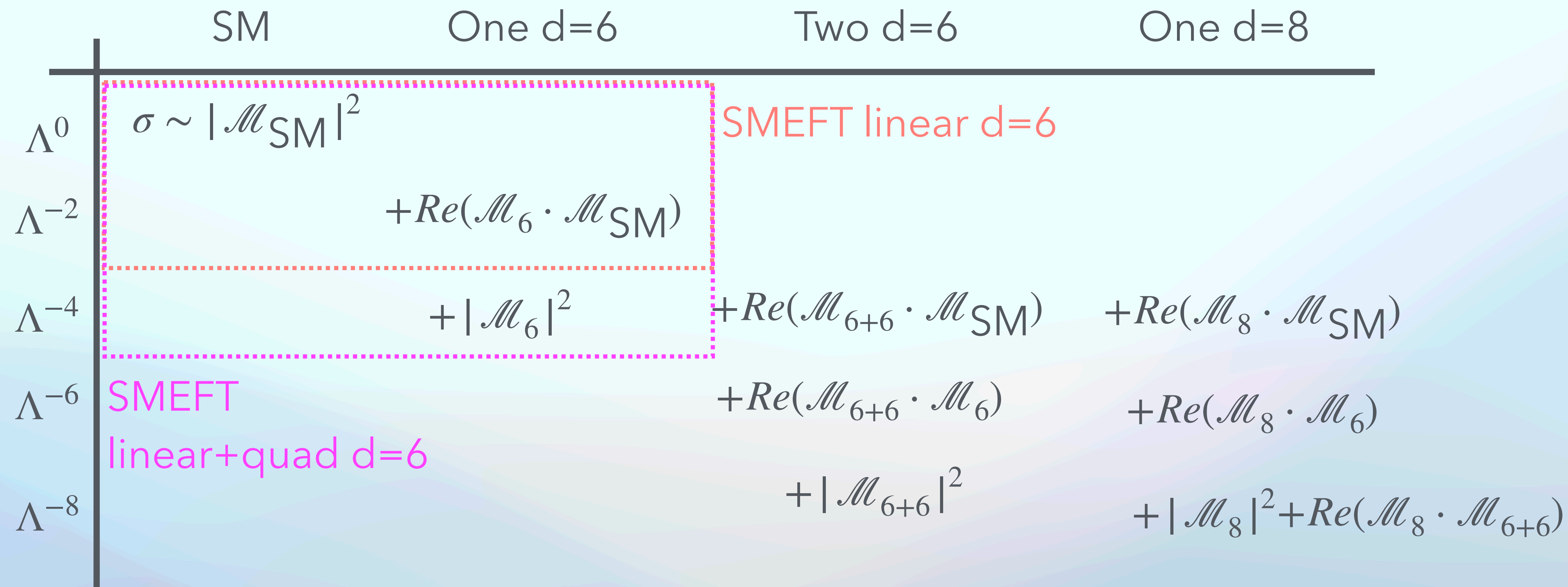
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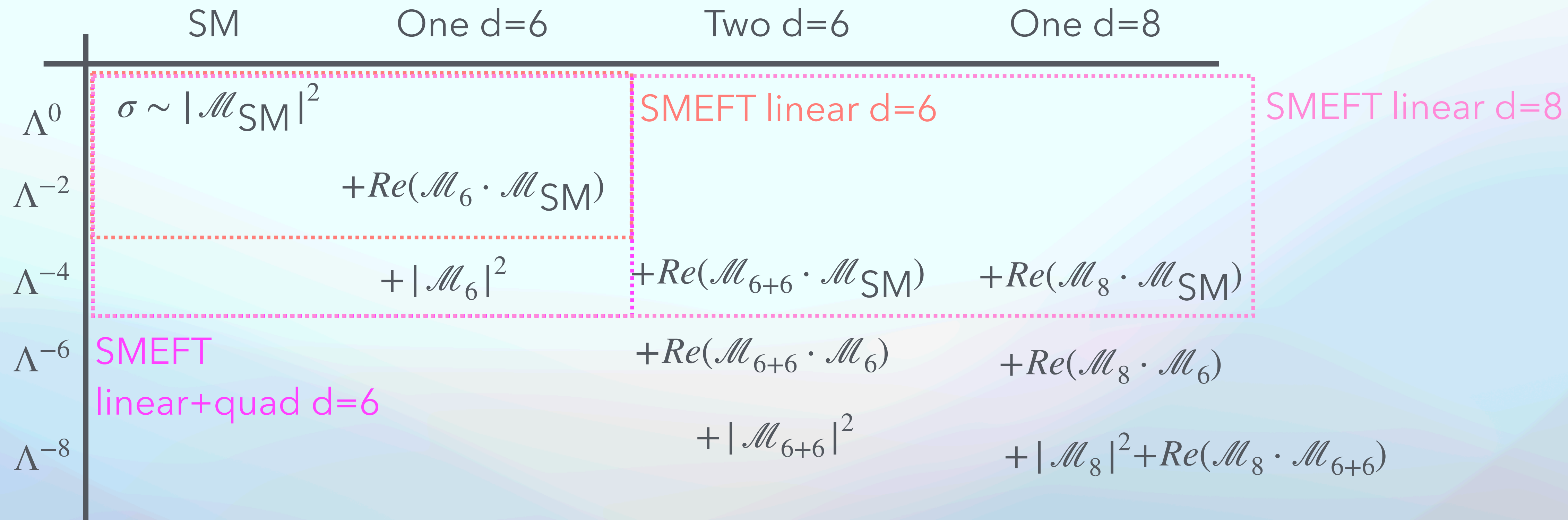
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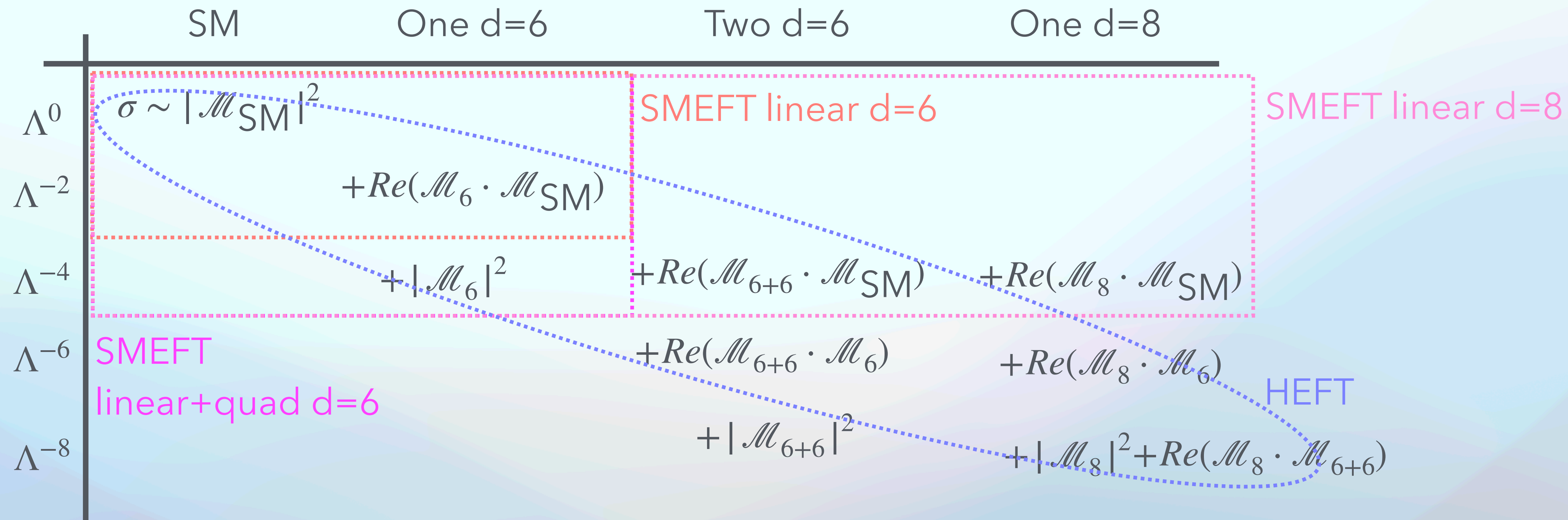
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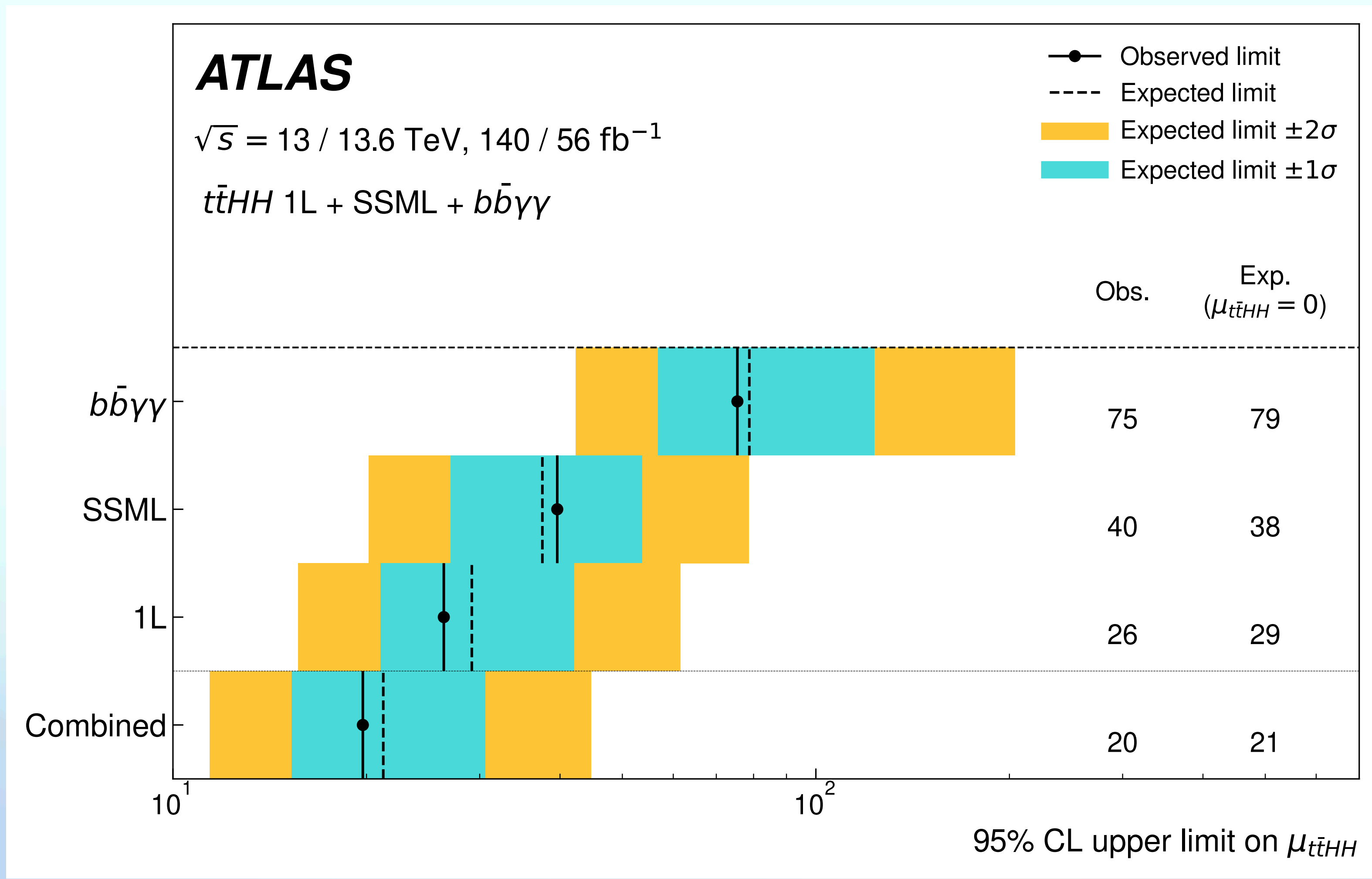
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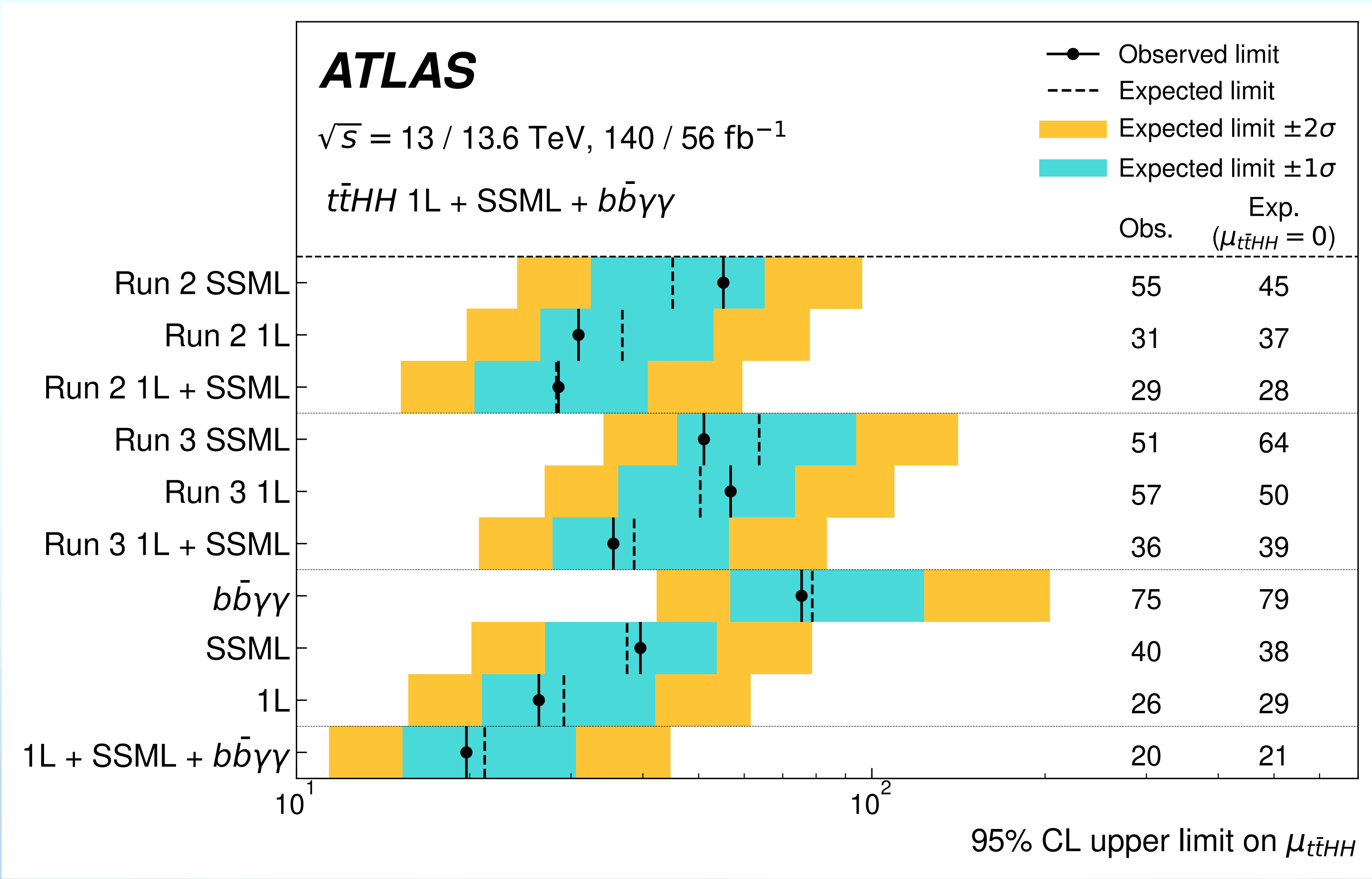


Results on signal strength



- No excess observed
- 95% CL Upper Limits : **20 (21) x SM**
- Most stringent limits to date

Signal strength results split by channels



- 1L and ML are the most sensitive channels

Ressources

Most of the results / figures presented in this seminar are sourced, but here is a list of other **very good presentations** I've used as reference while preparing it

[Arthur Lafarge's Ph.D. defense](#)

What the double production of the Higgs boson with a two-photon signature in ATLAS reveals about the stability of our universe and how a chronometer will illuminate our understanding?

→ *Overview of di-Higgs physics*

[Rahul Balasubramanian's seminar @ LAPP](#)

Effectively going beyond the Standard Model with the ATLAS experiment

→ *Overview of Standard Model Effective field theory in ATLAS*

[Jonathon Langford's seminar @ CERN](#)

Combined measurements and interpretations of Higgs boson production and decay in CMS

→ *Overview of Higgs boson physics in CMS (and LHC in general)*

[Tina Ojeda's talk @ Moriond EW](#)

Search for deviations within the EFT framework at ATLAS and CMS

→ *Overview of EFT landscape, highlighting the current problems with this tool*