



FROM HIGGS TO DIHIGGS

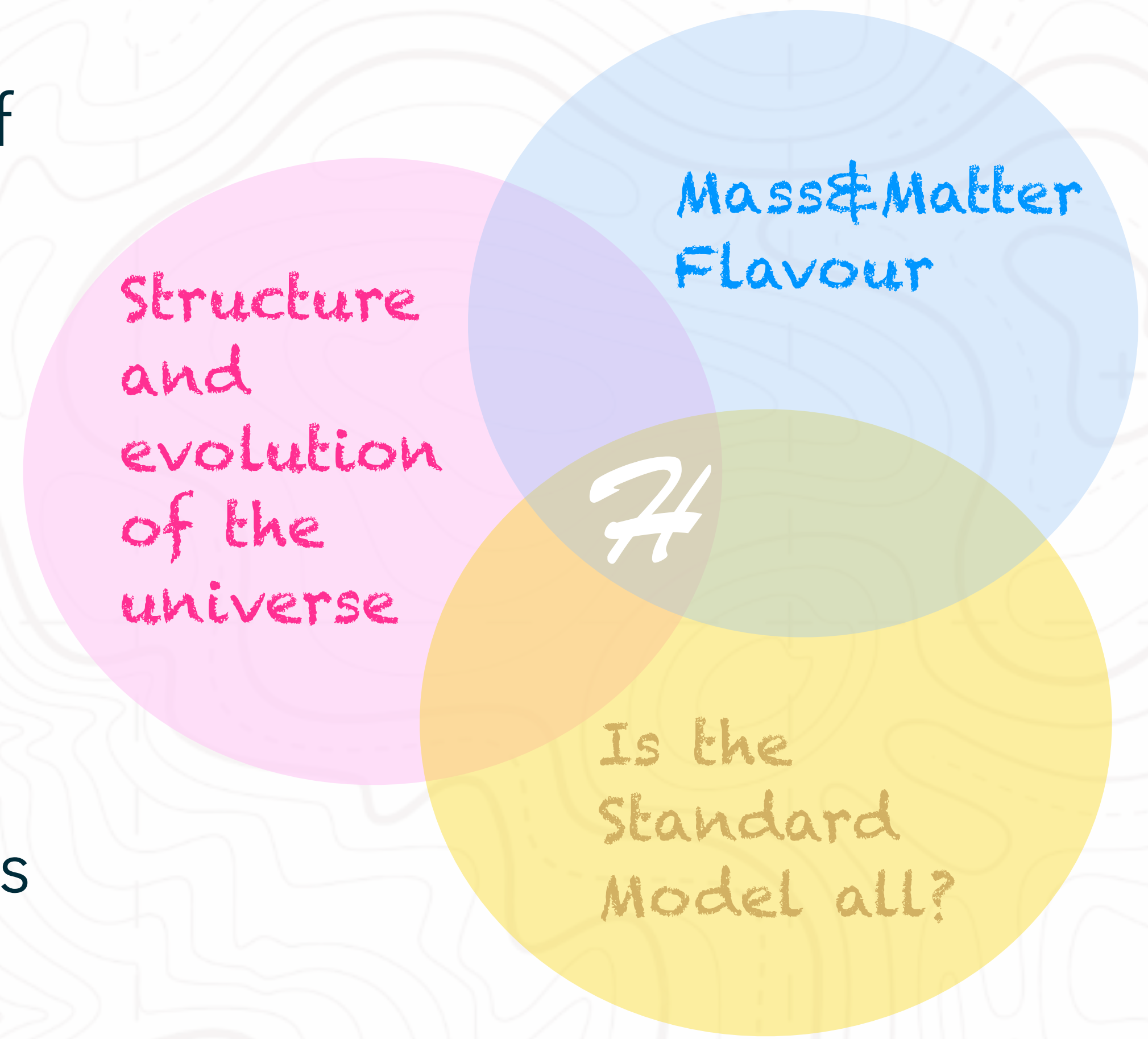
19/NOV/2025

María Cepeda (CIEMAT)

CPAN, VALENCIA

NOT JUST ANOTHER PARTICLE...

- Only known fundamental scalar particle
- Gives mass to other particles, including itself
- Door to the unknown: what can we learn about BSM through the study of the Higgs boson?
- The central role of the Higgs in the SM makes it particularly sensitive to deviations coming from new physics. BSM will alter couplings, kinematics: we need to measure its properties precisely



HIGGS PHYSICS IN 2025

- **15 years since LHC started and 13 years since the Higgs discovery, CMS and ATLAS are dedicated to understanding the nature of the Higgs**

ATLAS and CMS are true 'Higgs machines', exploring all possible directions in the Higgs sector:

- ◆ **Precisely measuring its properties to test the SM boundaries**
- ◆ **Studying all accessible decay modes**
- ◆ **Pushing to the limits of the measurable phase-space, chasing down rarer production and decay modes**
- ◆ **Probing the Higgs potential, to connect to the big scale**
- ◆ **Searching for new physics through and with the Higgs**



BSM?

HH AND THE HIGGS POTENTIAL

EFT

BOOSTED TOPOLOGIES

SECOND
GENERATION

RARE PRODUCTION
& DECAY

SM COUPLINGS

CROSS SECTIONS

YUKAWA
INTERACTIONS

MASS, SPIN, ...

DISCOVERY

A JOURNEY INTO THE HIGGS SECTOR

OUTLINE

MEASUREMENT OF HIGGS PROPERTIES

CrossSections, Couplings, Mass, Width

NEW PHASE-SPACES

Rare prod and decay. Charming the Higgs

FROM PRECISION TO NEW PHYSICS

Differentials, STXS, EFTs

Impossible to cover all the recent Higgs
measurements by ATLAS and CMS in 25'

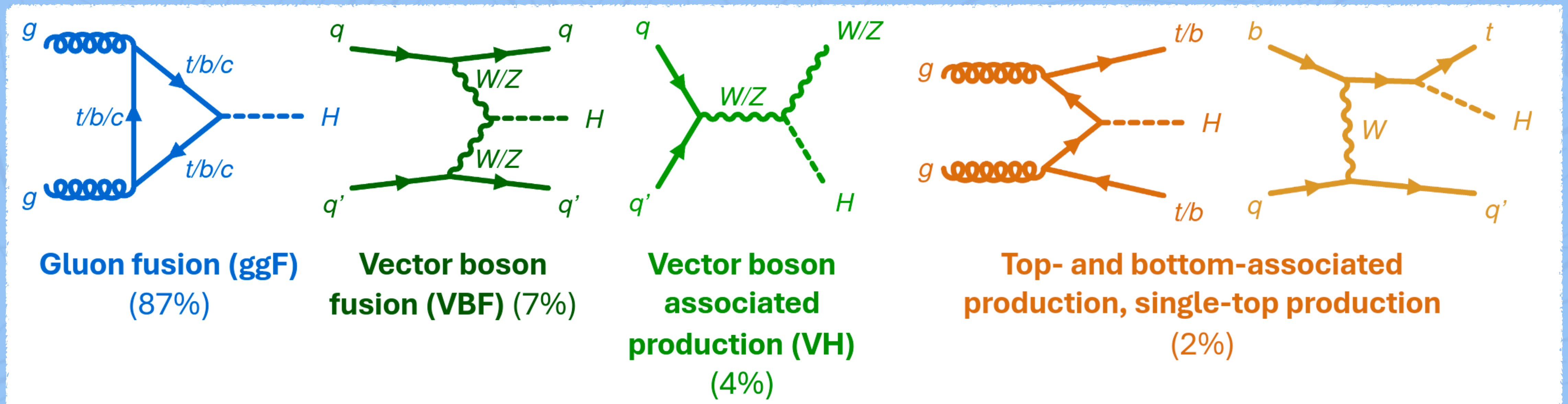
This is just a small selection

THE HIGGS POTENTIAL

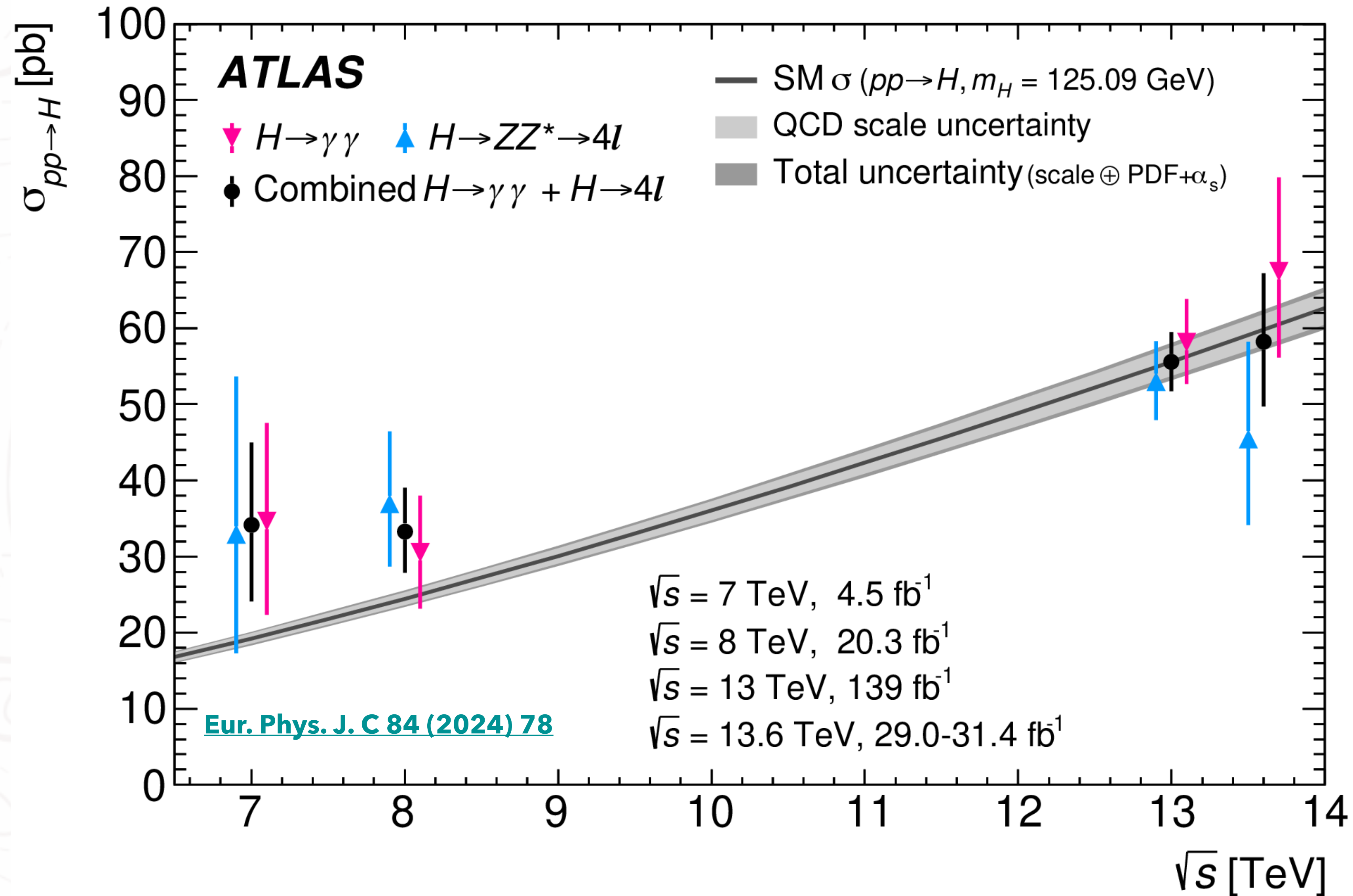
Searches for HH and HHH

MEASUREMENT OF HIGGS PROPERTIES

- We found 'a Higgs', but how well we can measure it?
- What can we learn about the SM through its properties?

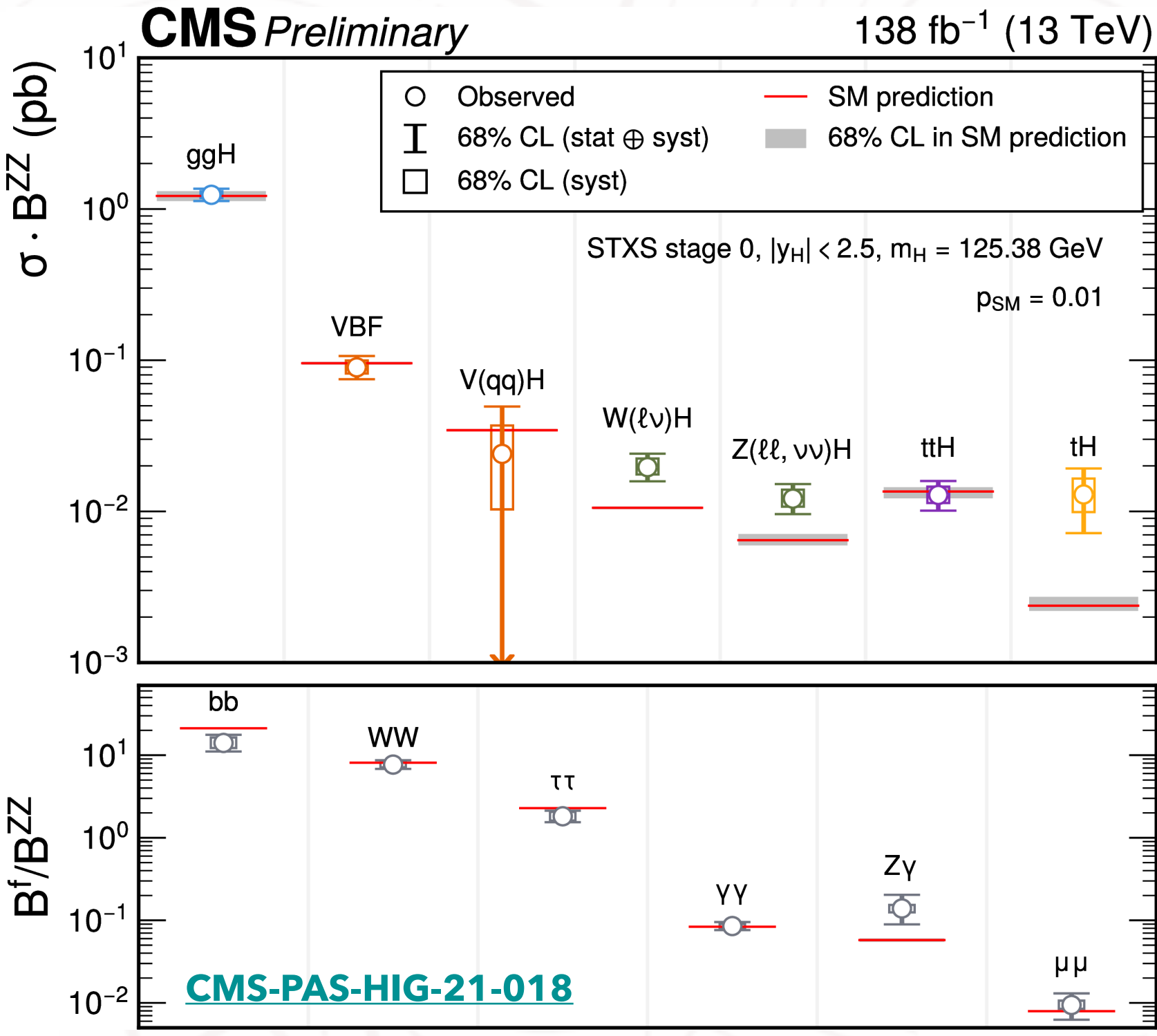
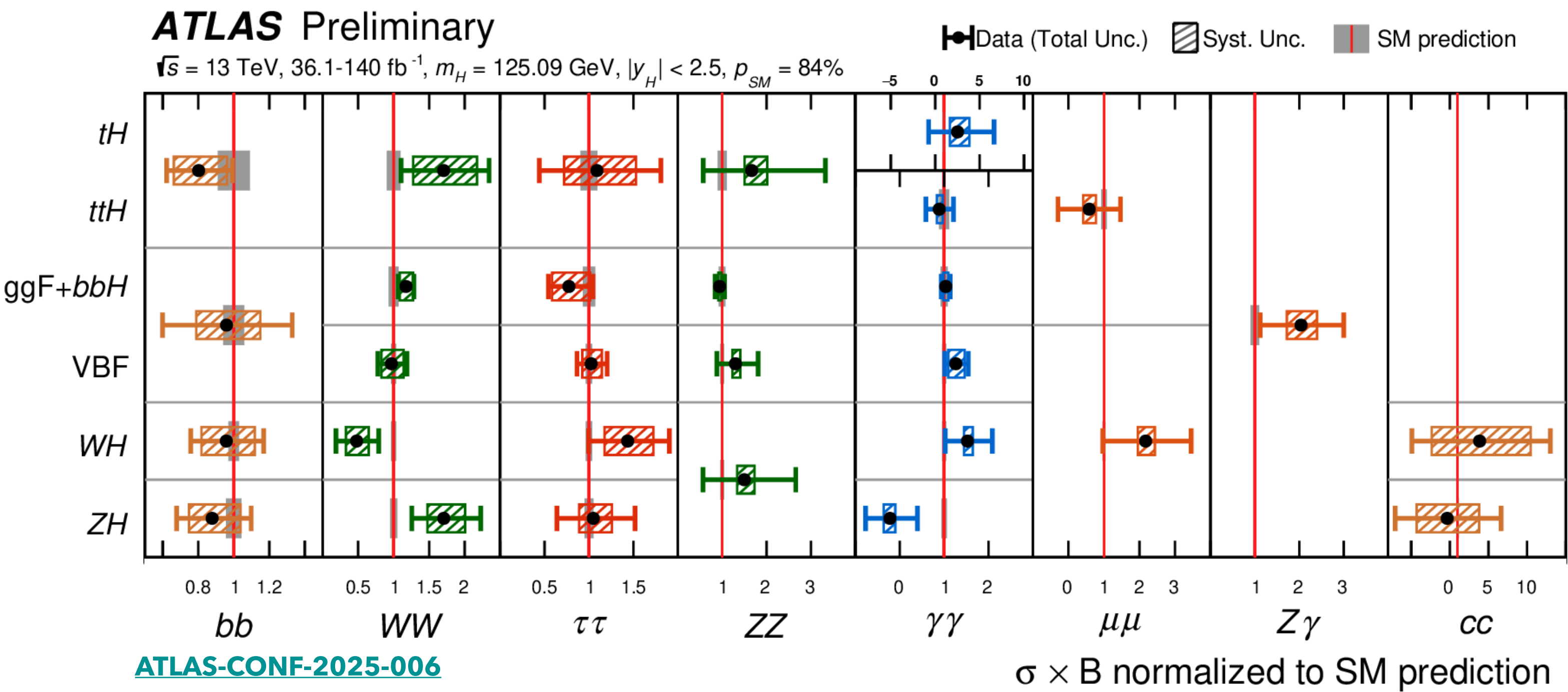


MEASURING HIGGSES FROM RUN1 TO RUN3

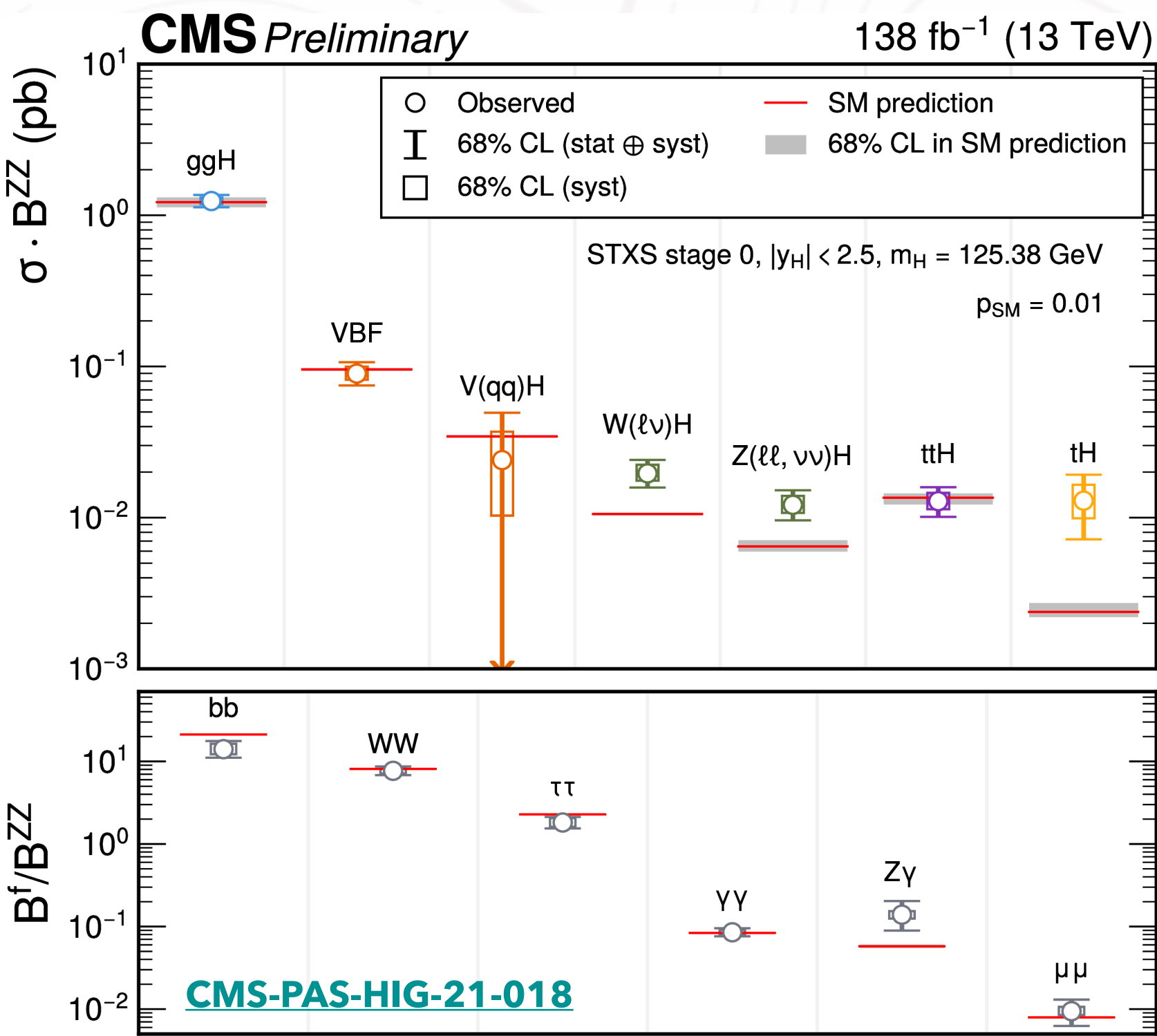
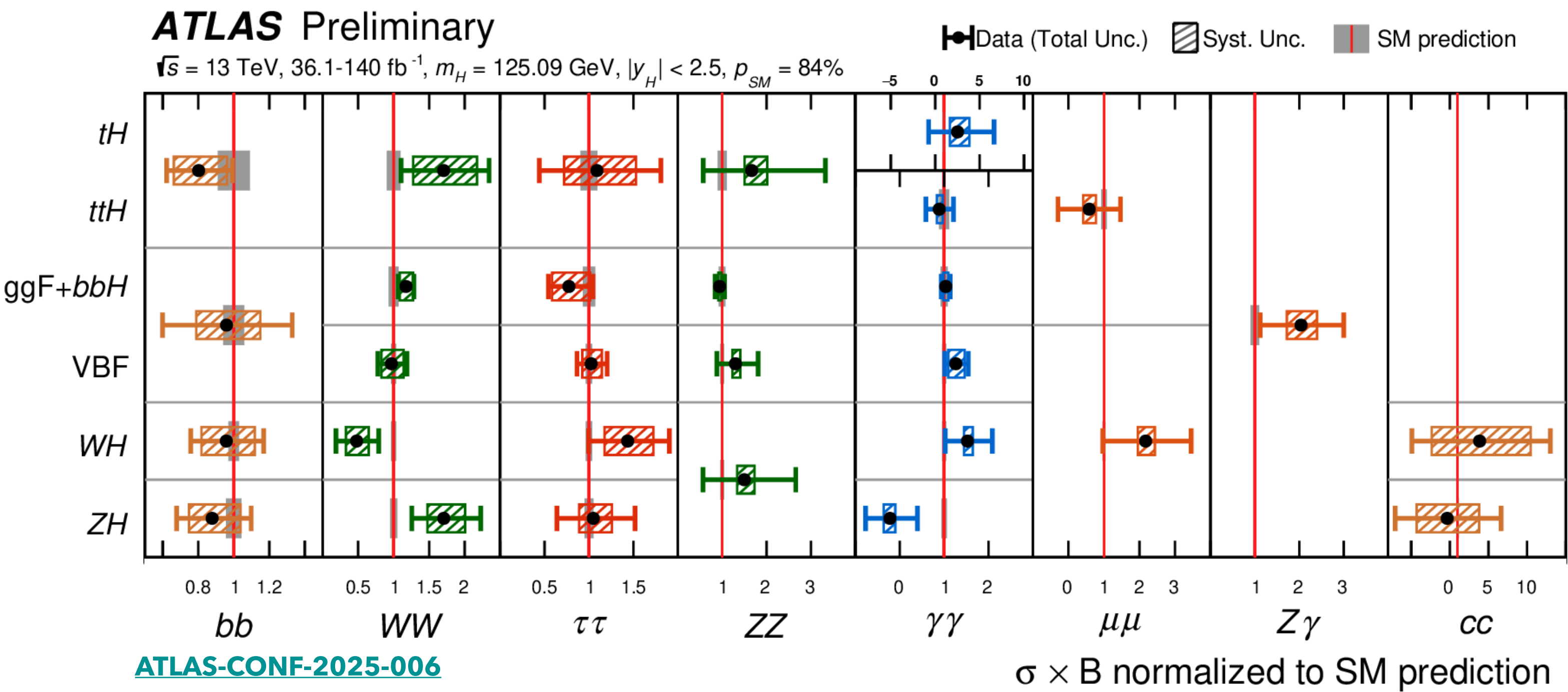


Huge dataset to understand the Higgs Sector !

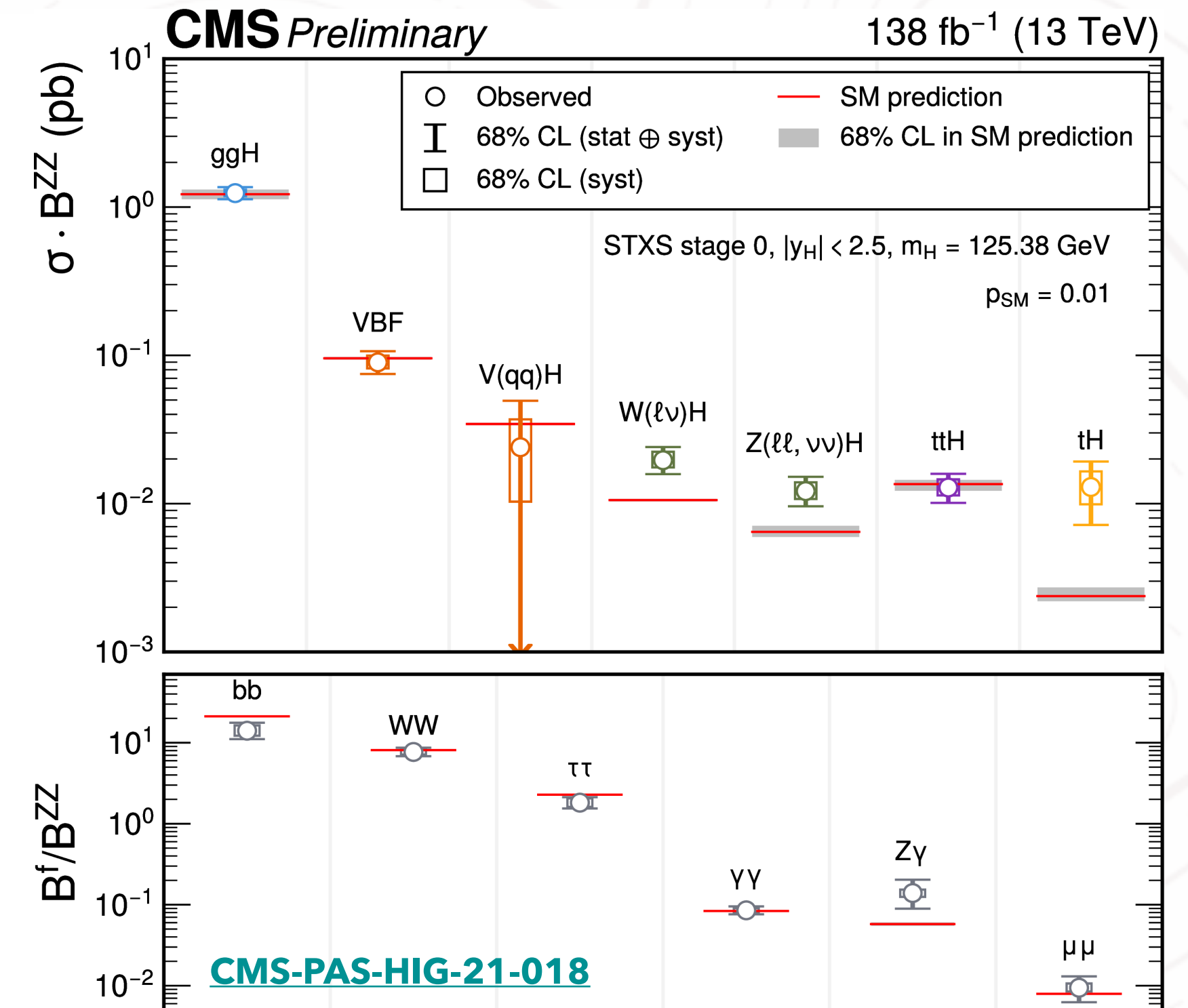
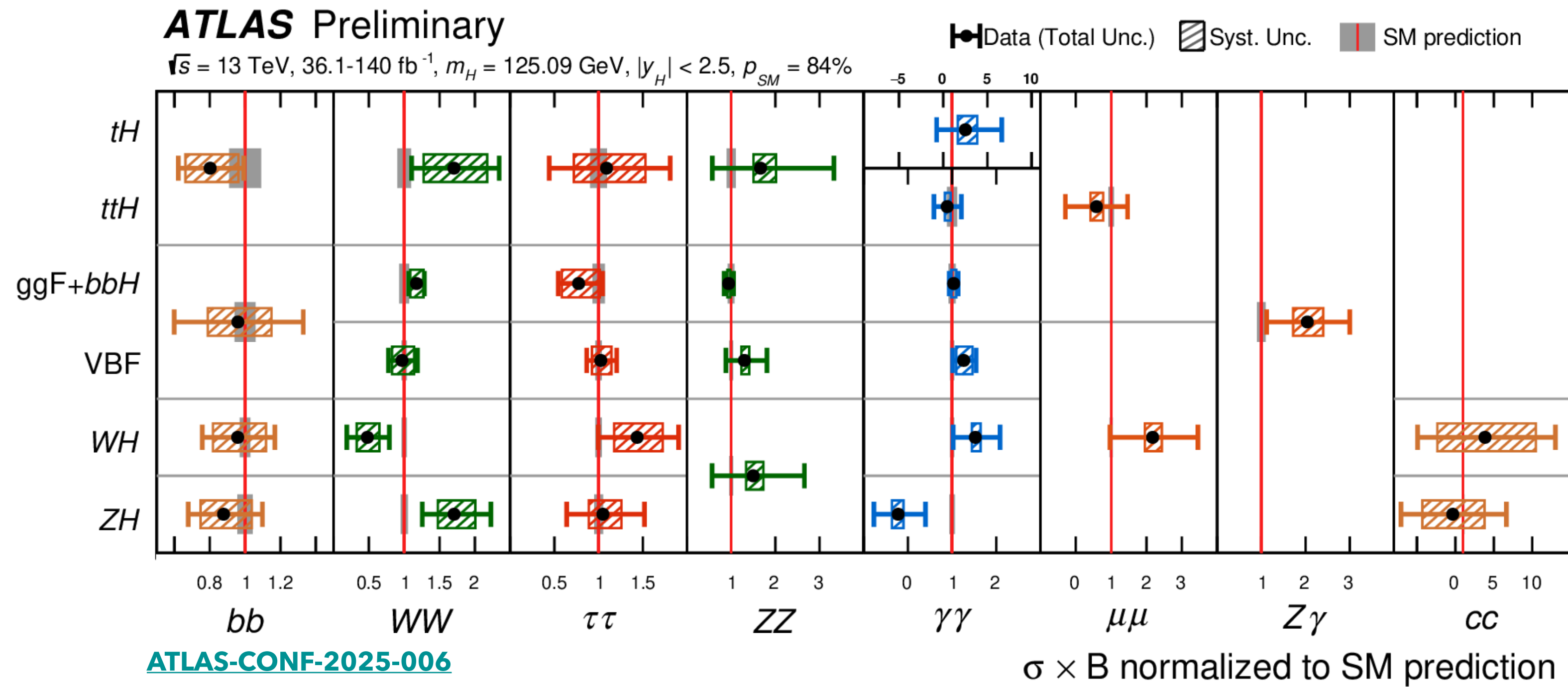
PRODUCTION X DECAY



PRODUCTION X DECAY : ✓✓



PRODUCTION X DECAY : ✓✓



Inclusive cross section
understood at the 6% already:

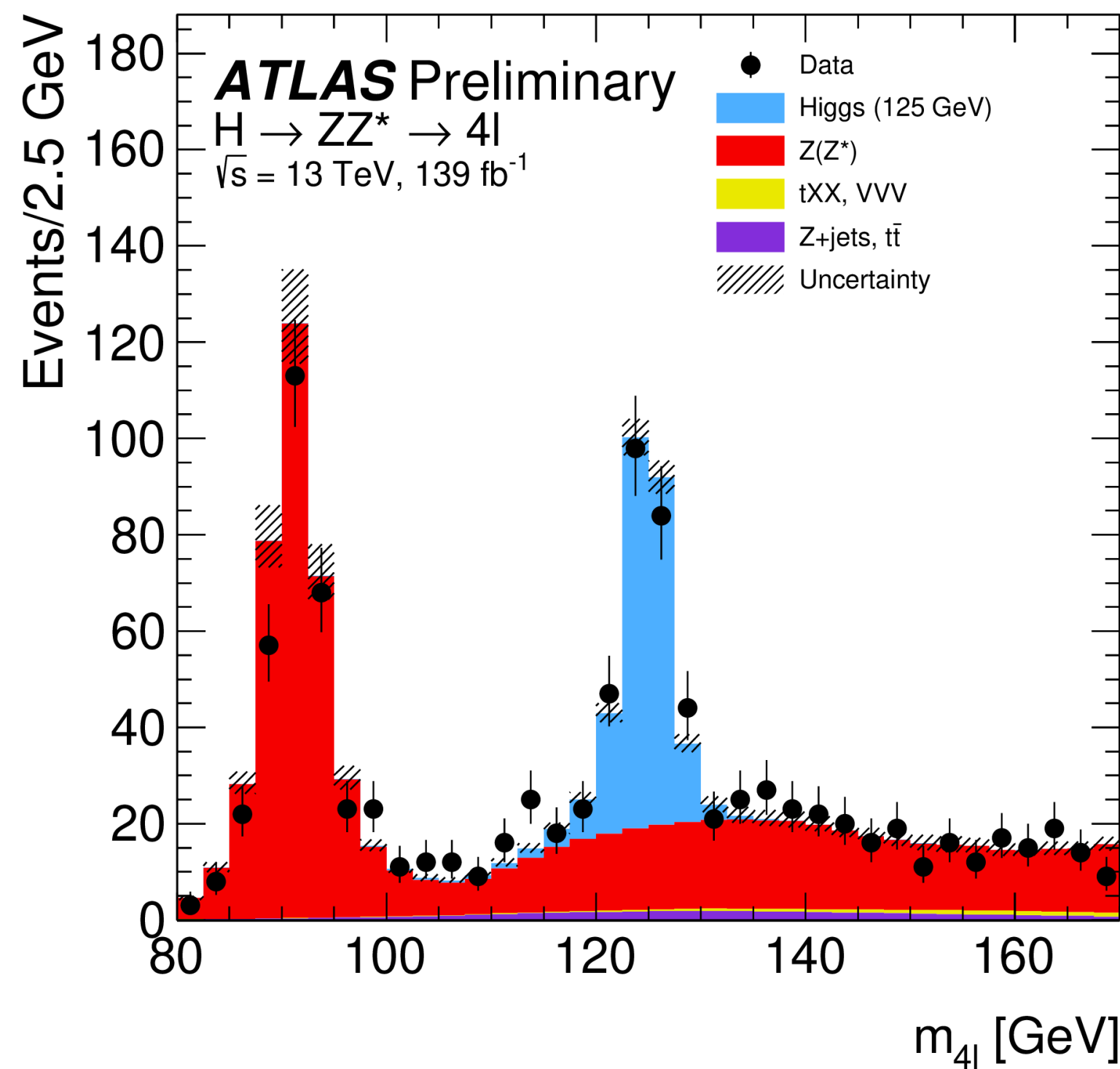
$\mu_{CMS} = 1.014 \pm 0.054$
 $\mu_{ATLAS} = 1.05 \pm 0.06$

MEASURING MASS AND WIDTH

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Mass

Free in the SM,
today known to 0.1%



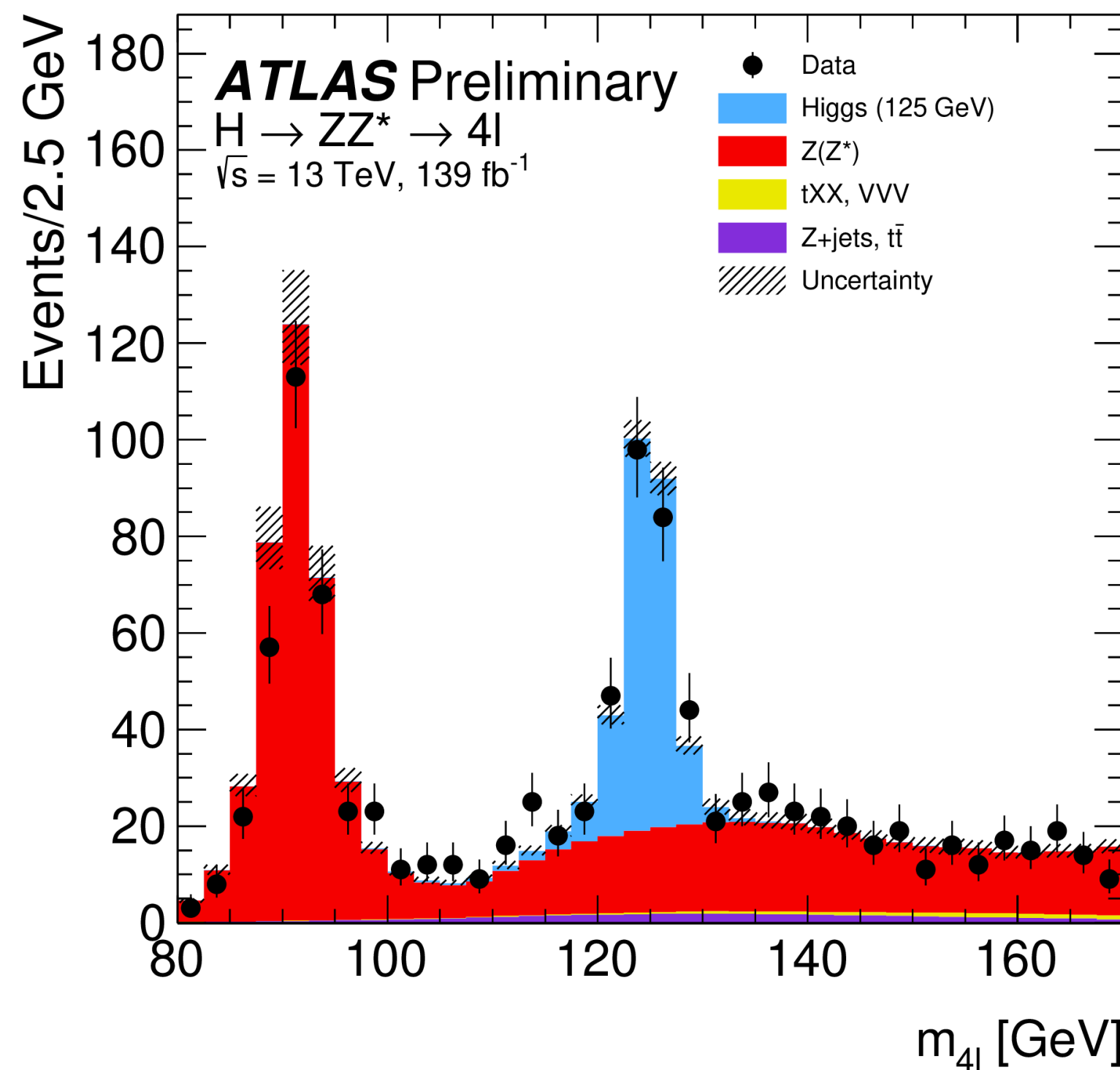
CMS (4l Run2 138 fb⁻¹) : $125.04 \pm 0.12 \text{ GeV}$

ATLAS (4l + $\gamma\gamma$, > 140 fb⁻¹) : $125.11 \pm 0.11 \text{ GeV}$

MEASURING MASS AND WIDTH

Mass

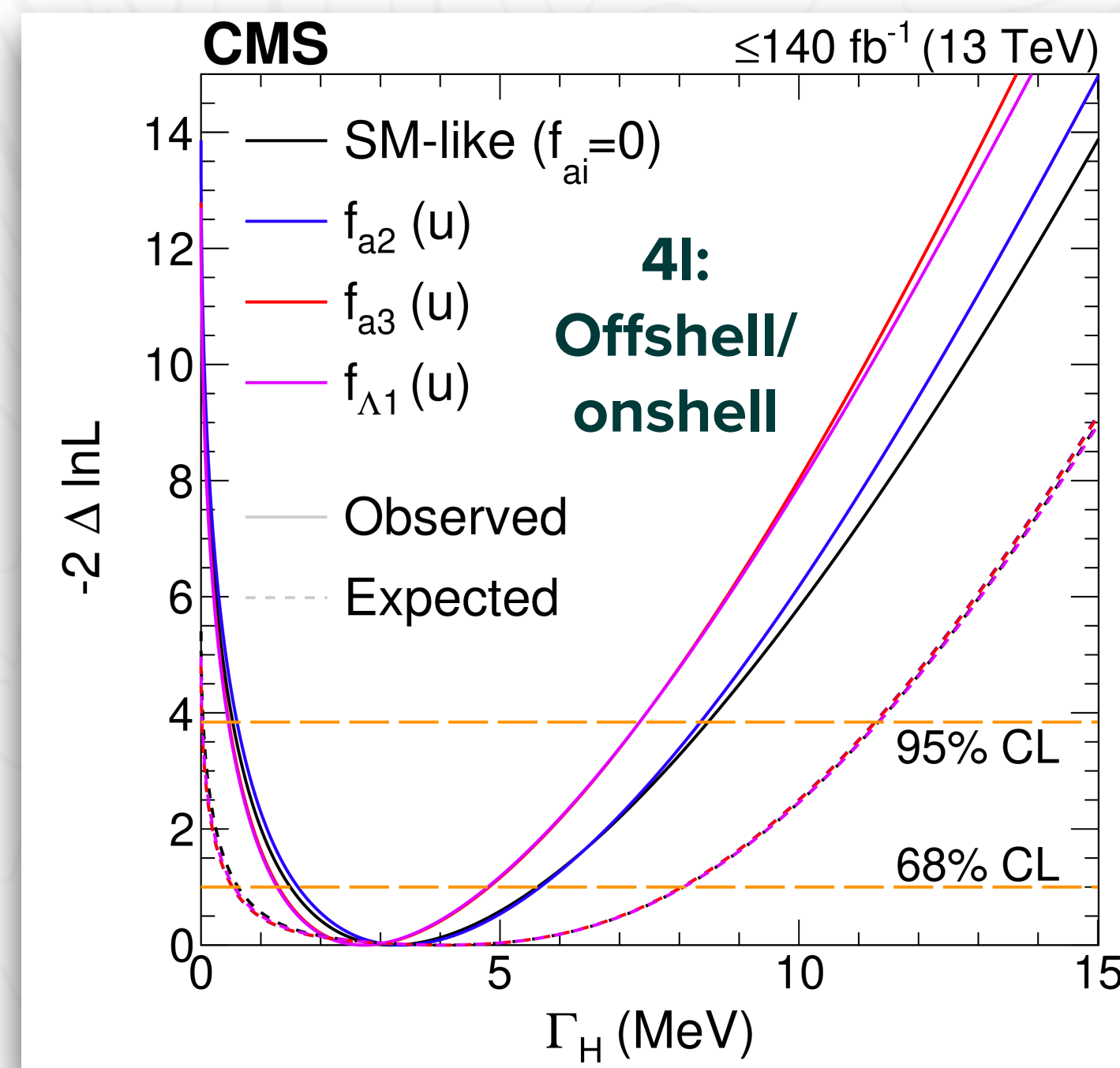
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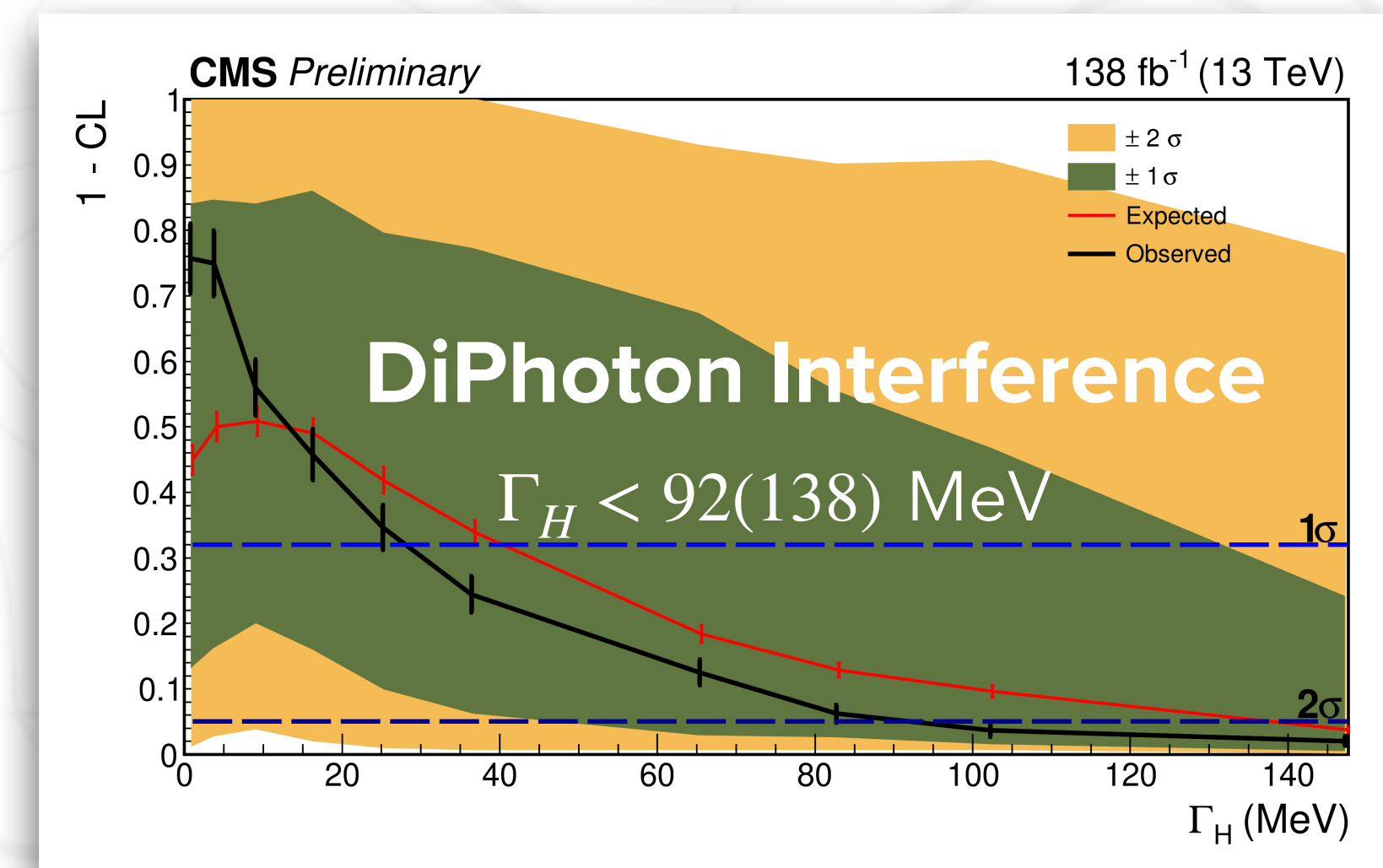
Total Width

Very small in SM! (4 MeV). Run2 ~45%



$$\Gamma_H = 3.2^{+2.0}_{-1.5} \text{ MeV (CMS, 4l)}$$

$$\Gamma_H = 4.3^{+2.7}_{-1.9} \text{ MeV (ATLAS, 4l)}$$



Direct in 4l: < 300 MeV (CMS)

Width from offshell: also in HWW (ATLAS: < 13.1 MeV (95%CL), CMS: $3.0^{+2.7}_{-2.2} \text{ MeV}$) and tttt vs ttH (ATLAS, < 450 (75) MeV, 95%CL)

Interference between $gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and the continuum $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $qg \rightarrow q\gamma\gamma$: CMS-HIG-25-004

HIGGS COUPLINGS

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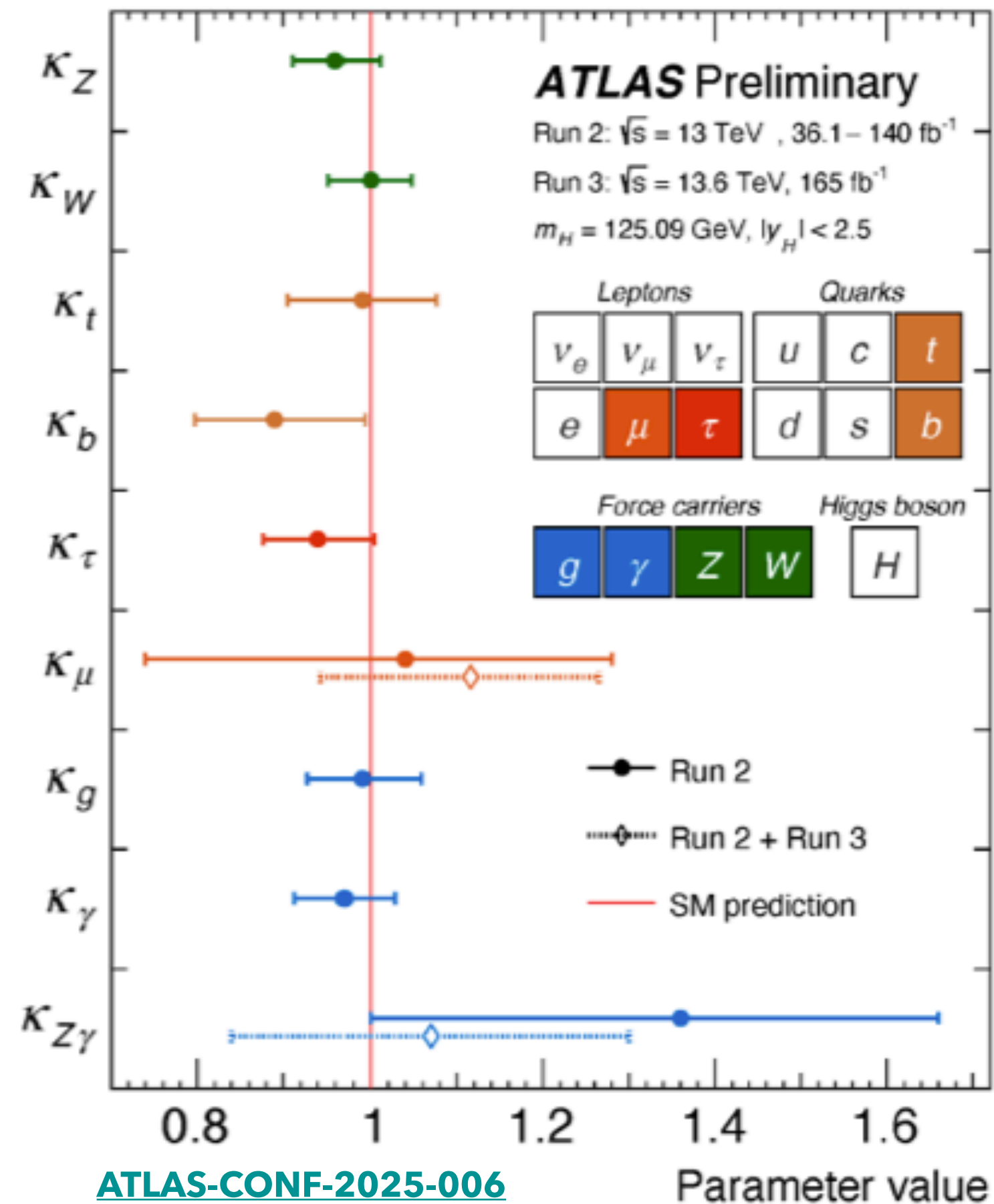
- **What is the strength of the interaction of the Higgs to the different SM particles?**

HIGGS COUPLINGS

■ What is the strength of the interaction of the Higgs to the different SM particles?

- With the full Run2 Combination (per experiment): 'Main' modes already known to 5-12% (~20%-30% for stat dominated $\mu\mu, Z\gamma$)
- Importance of theoretical uncertainties!

$$\kappa_j^2 = \sigma_j / \sigma_j^{SM} \quad \kappa_j^2 = \Gamma^j / \Gamma_{SM}^j$$



HIGGS COUPLINGS

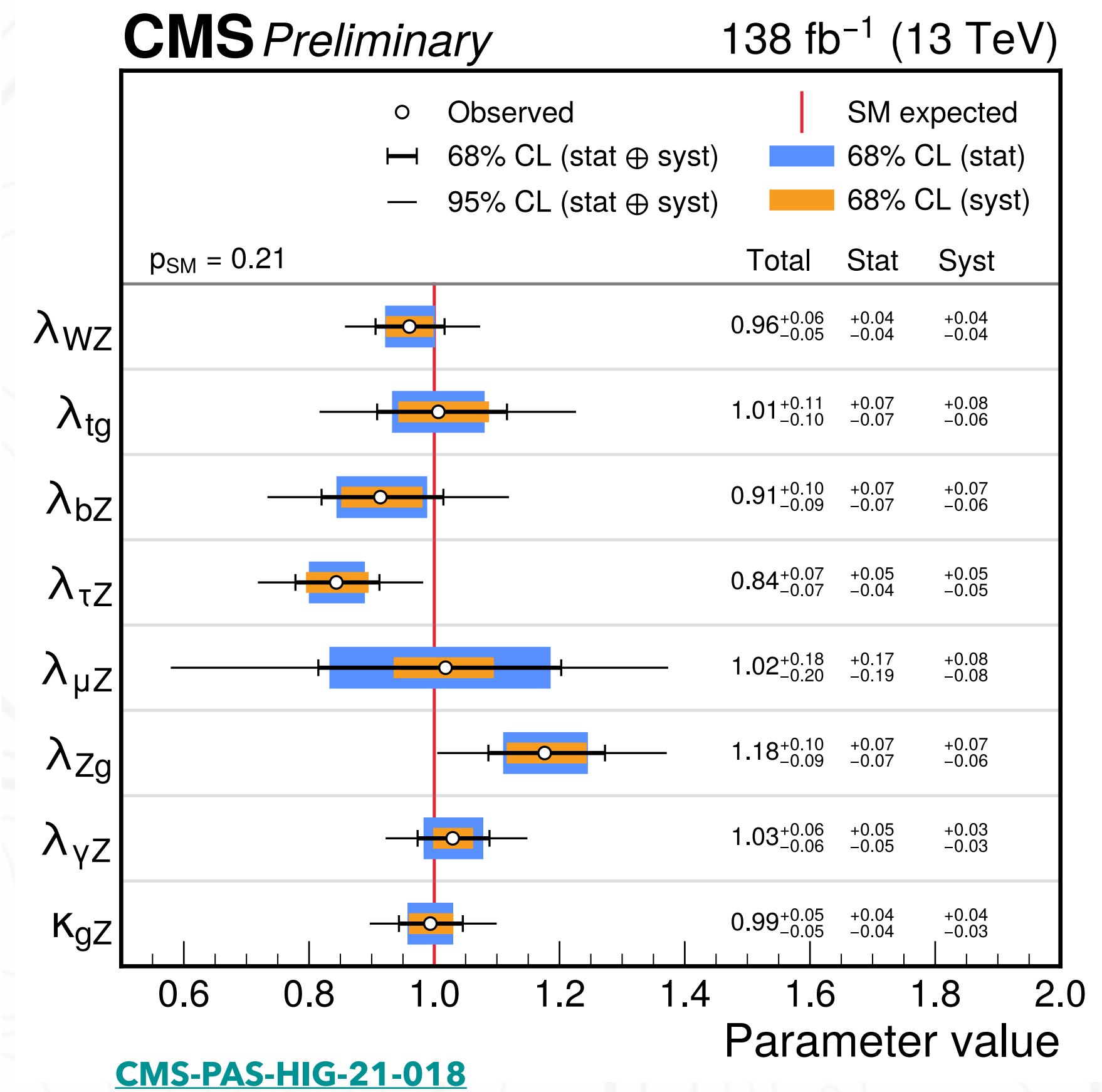
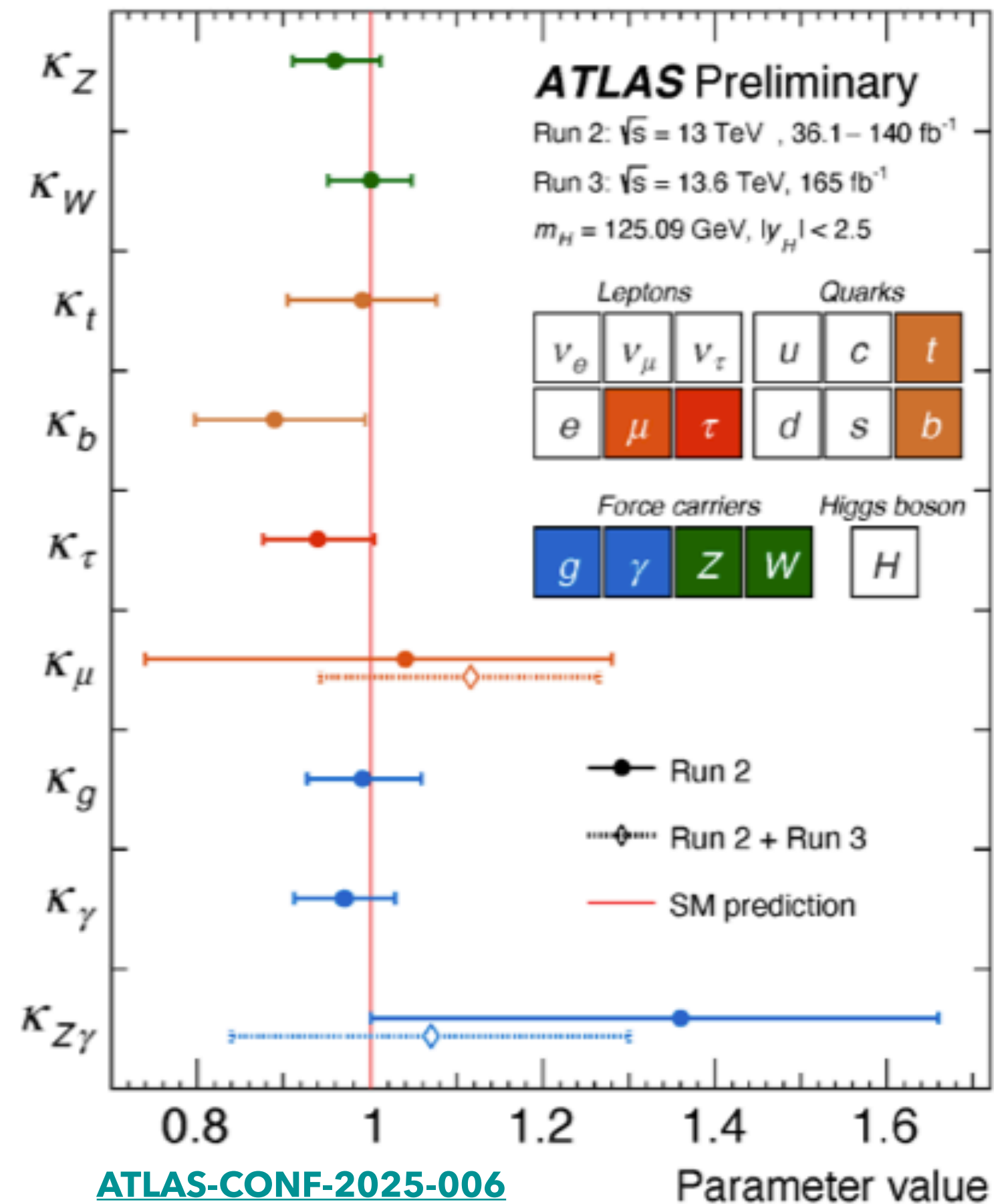
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- Importance of theoretical uncertainties!
- Control systematic uncertainties: ratios of couplings ($\lambda_{ij} = \kappa_i/\kappa_j$)

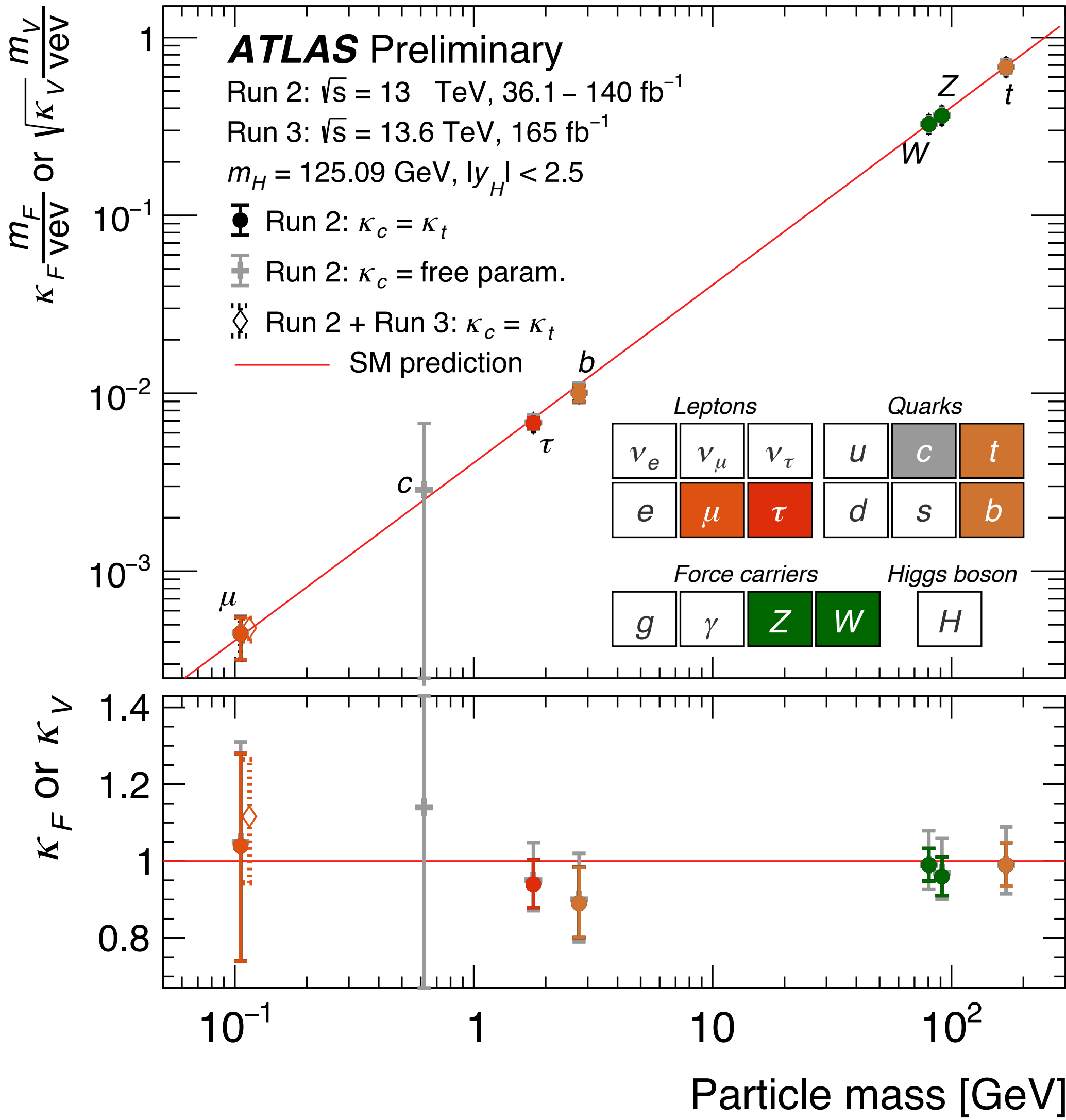
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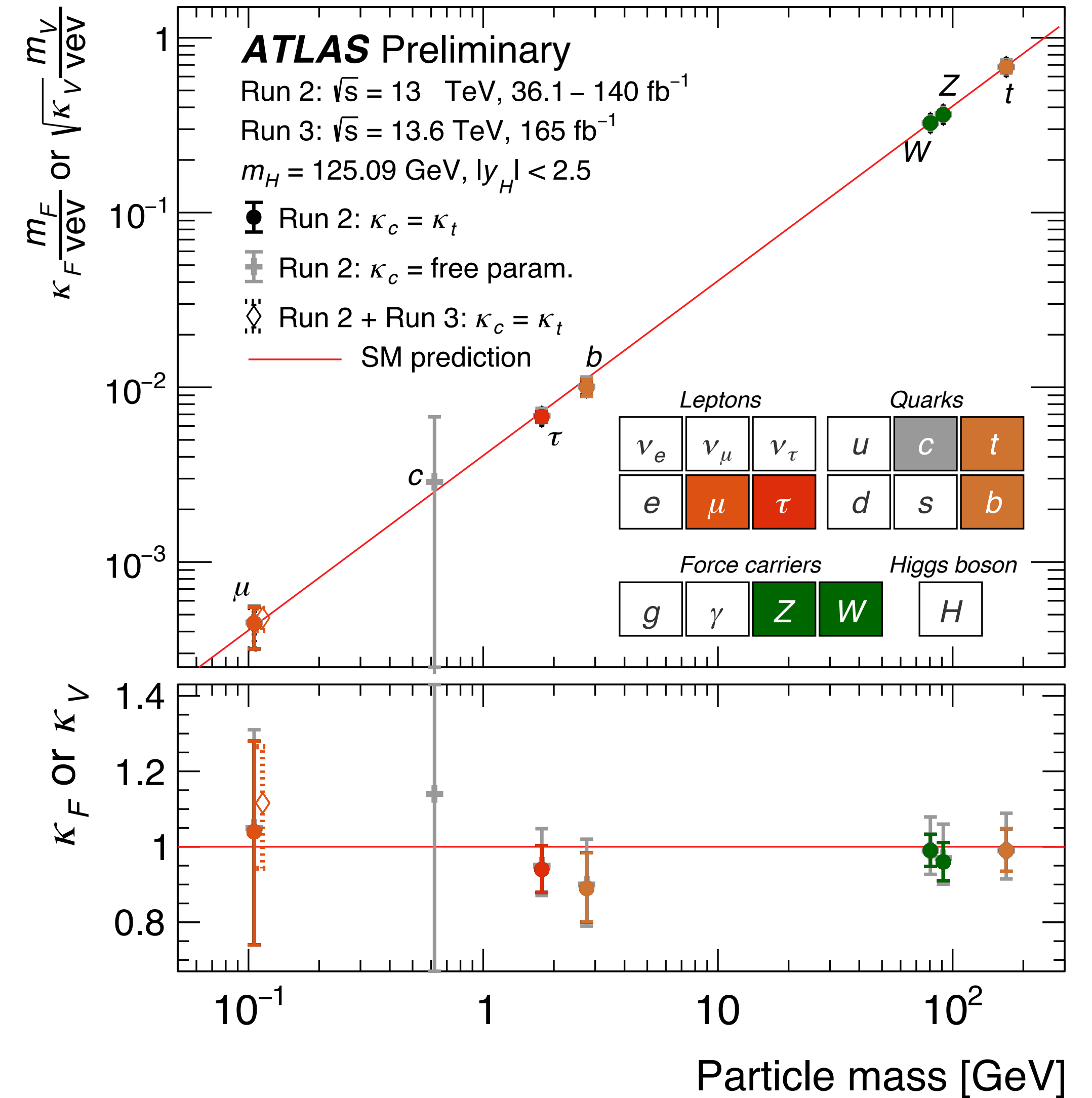


STILL A LOT TO UNDERSTAND



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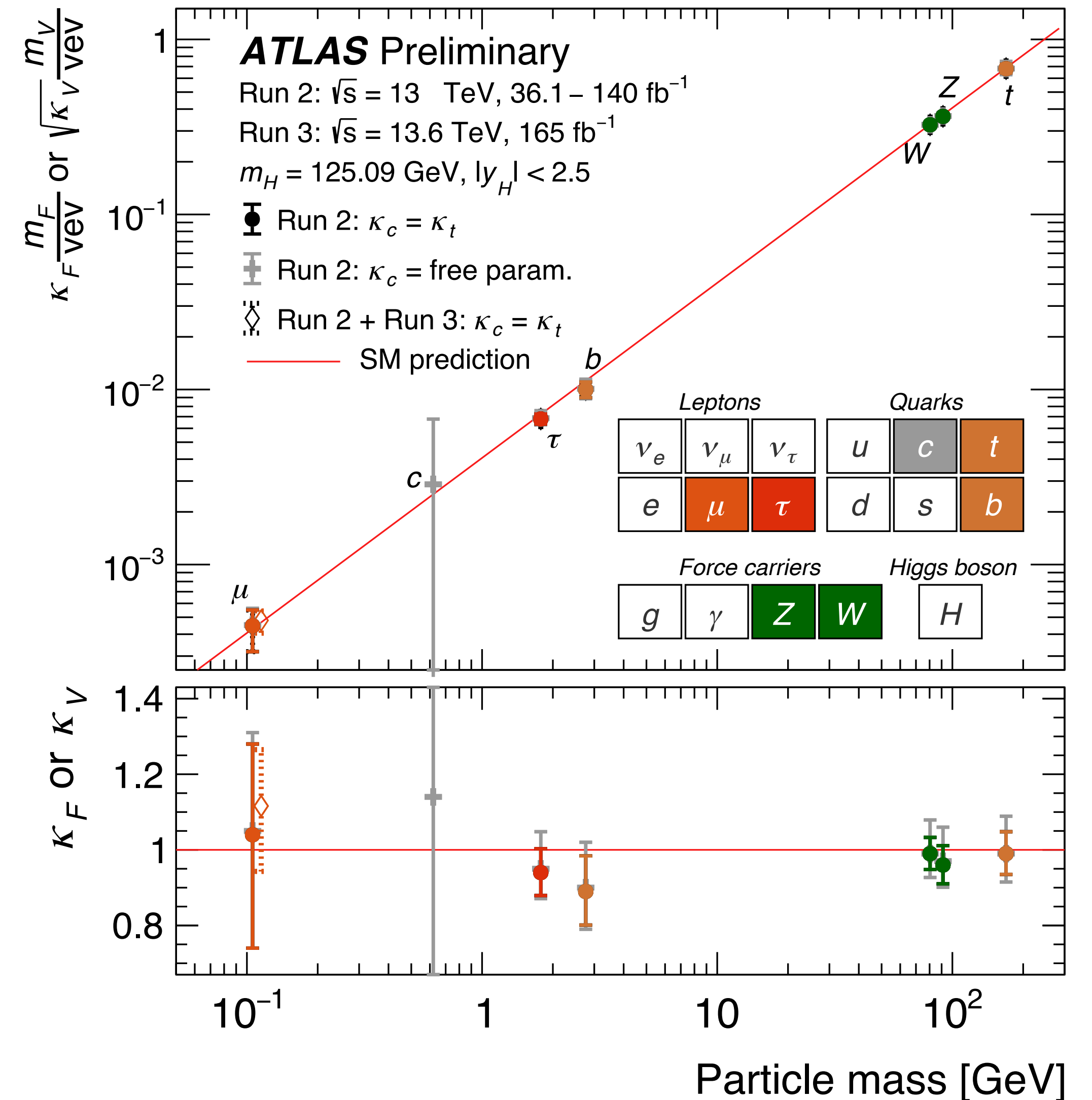
- So far the couplings we have measured are remarkably close to the SM predictions
- However, the picture is not complete (second generation, self coupling), and there is room for surprises (eg, what happens with DM?)
- Furthermore, even if the current direct and indirect searches for BSM in Extended Higgs Sectors (high mass, low mass, decay) so far confirm the SM, large phase-spaces remain to be covered



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— What are we learning from Run2 and Run3 data?



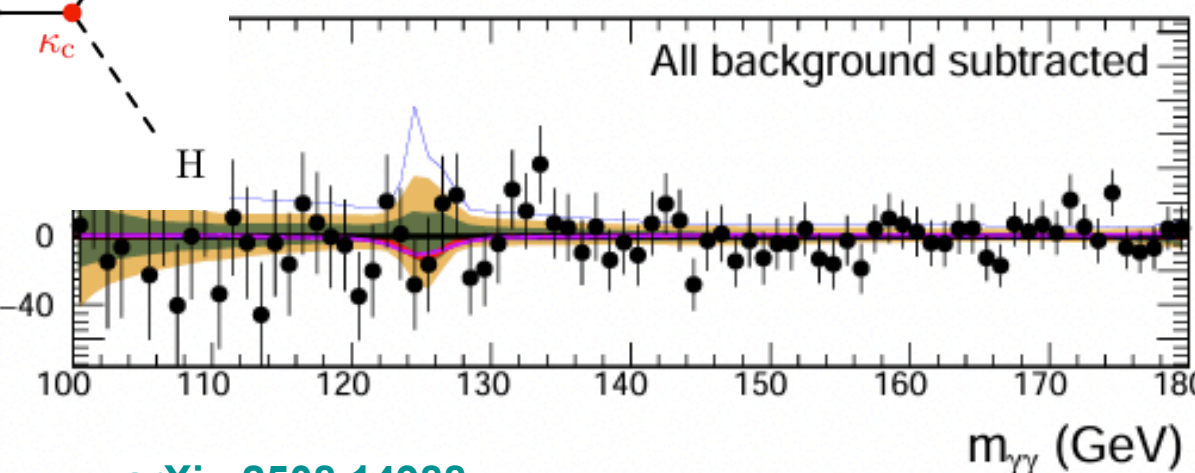
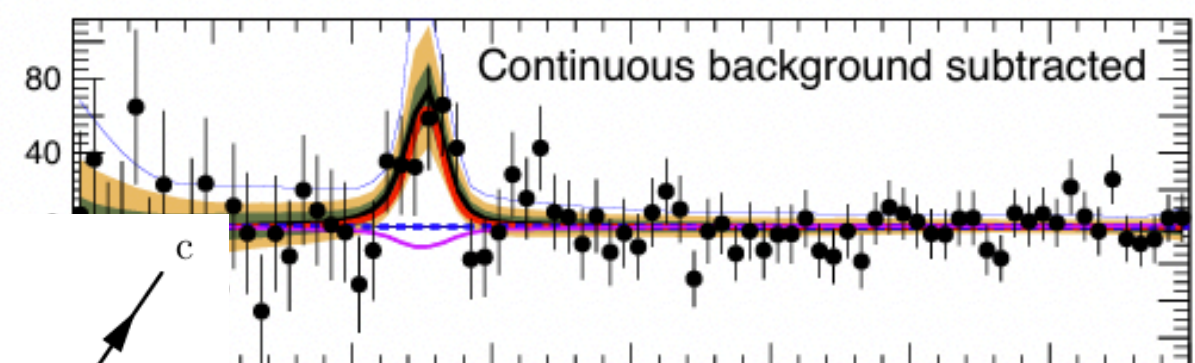
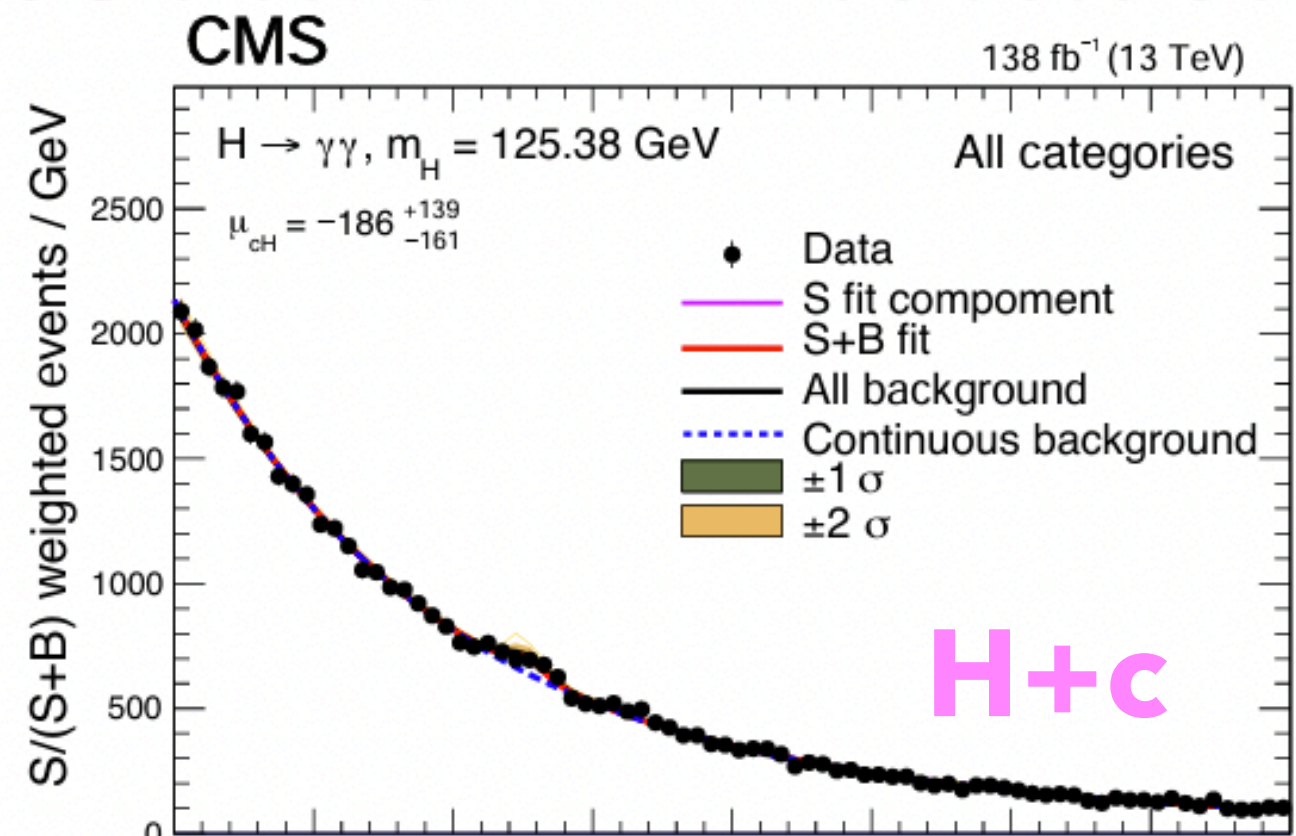
ZOOMING IN

- **Larger statistics! we can probe difficult phase-spaces, and exploit kinematic variables sensitive to new physics.**
- **Beyond the main production modes: search for new decays**
- **New physics through precision in measurements**

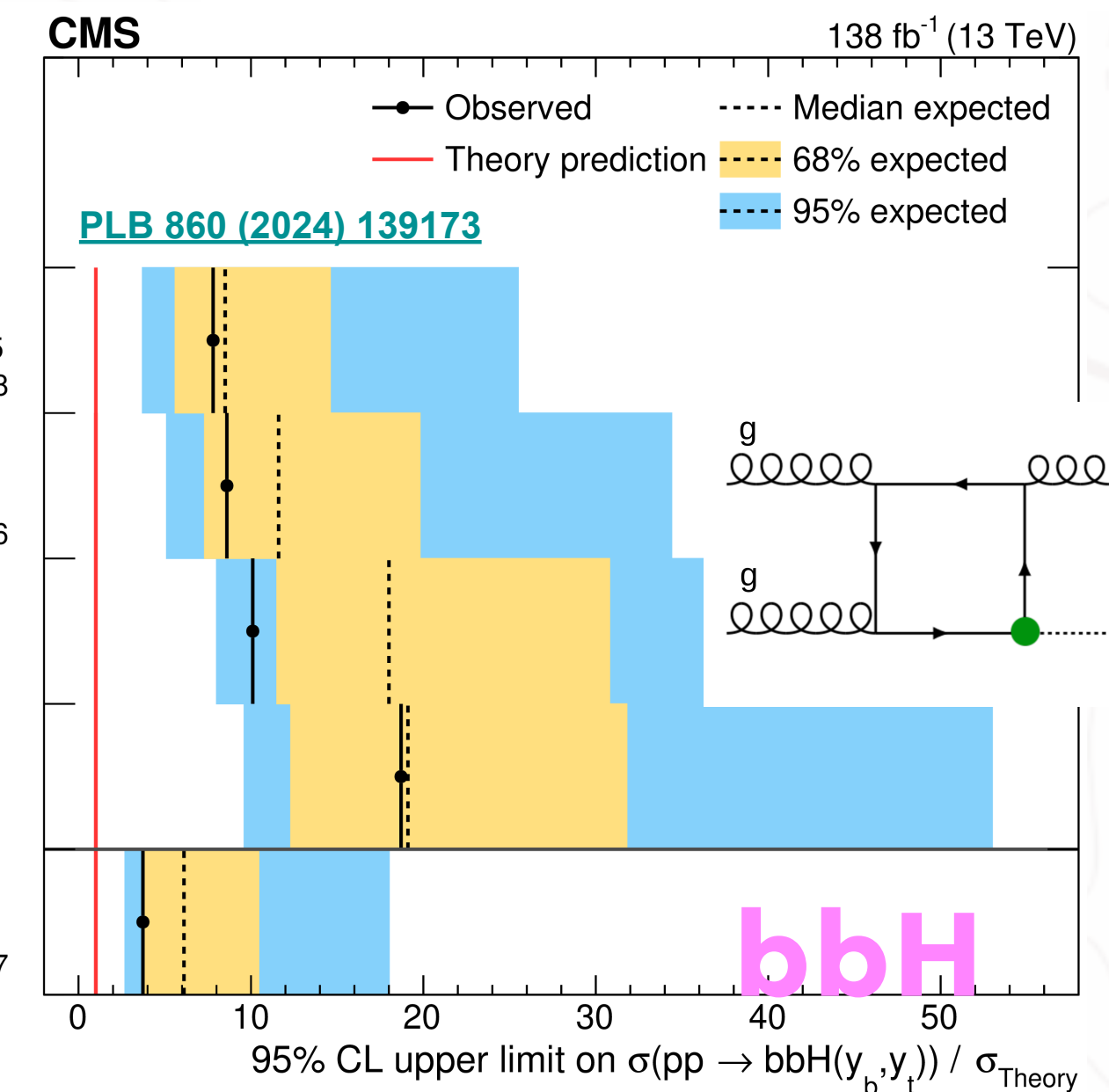
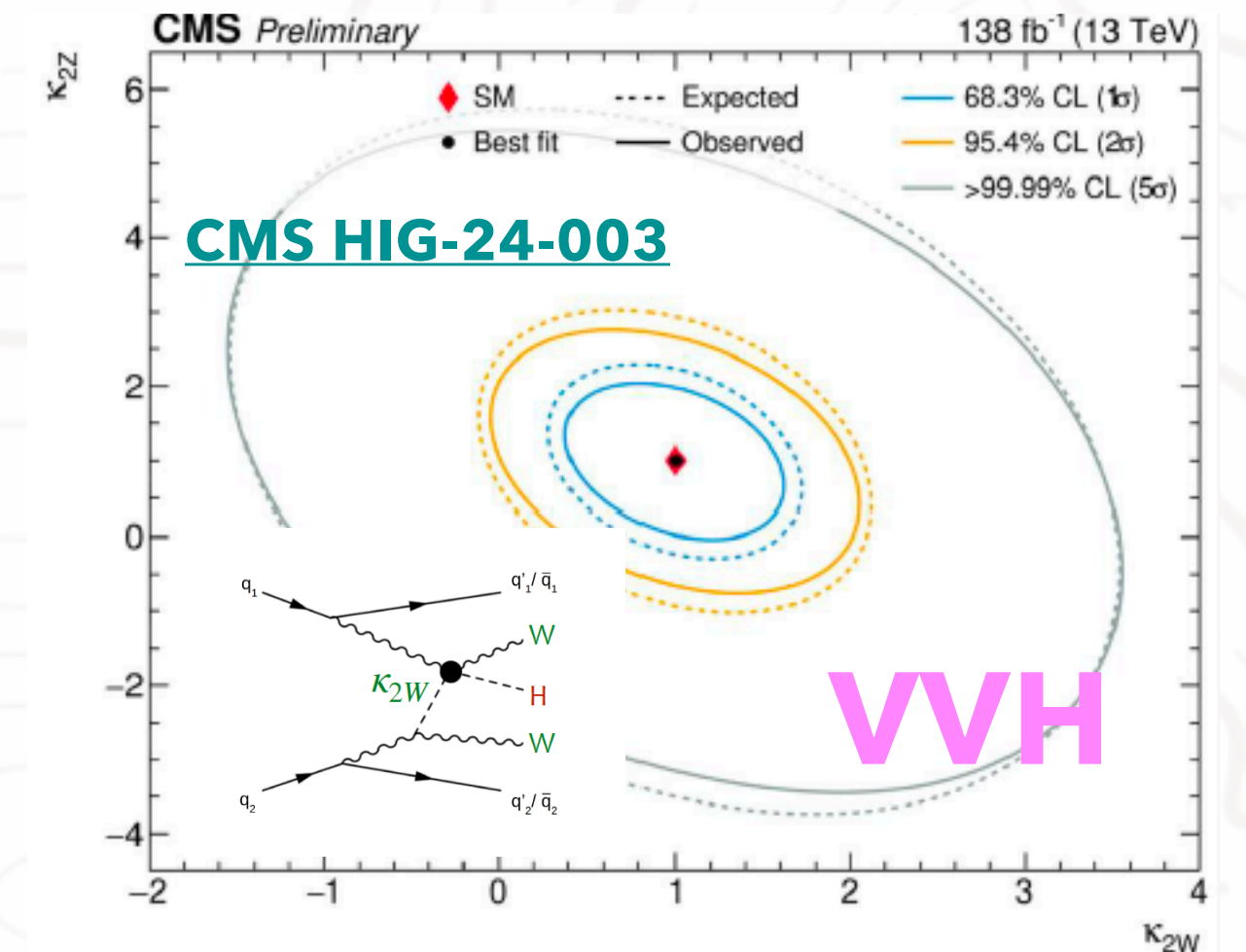
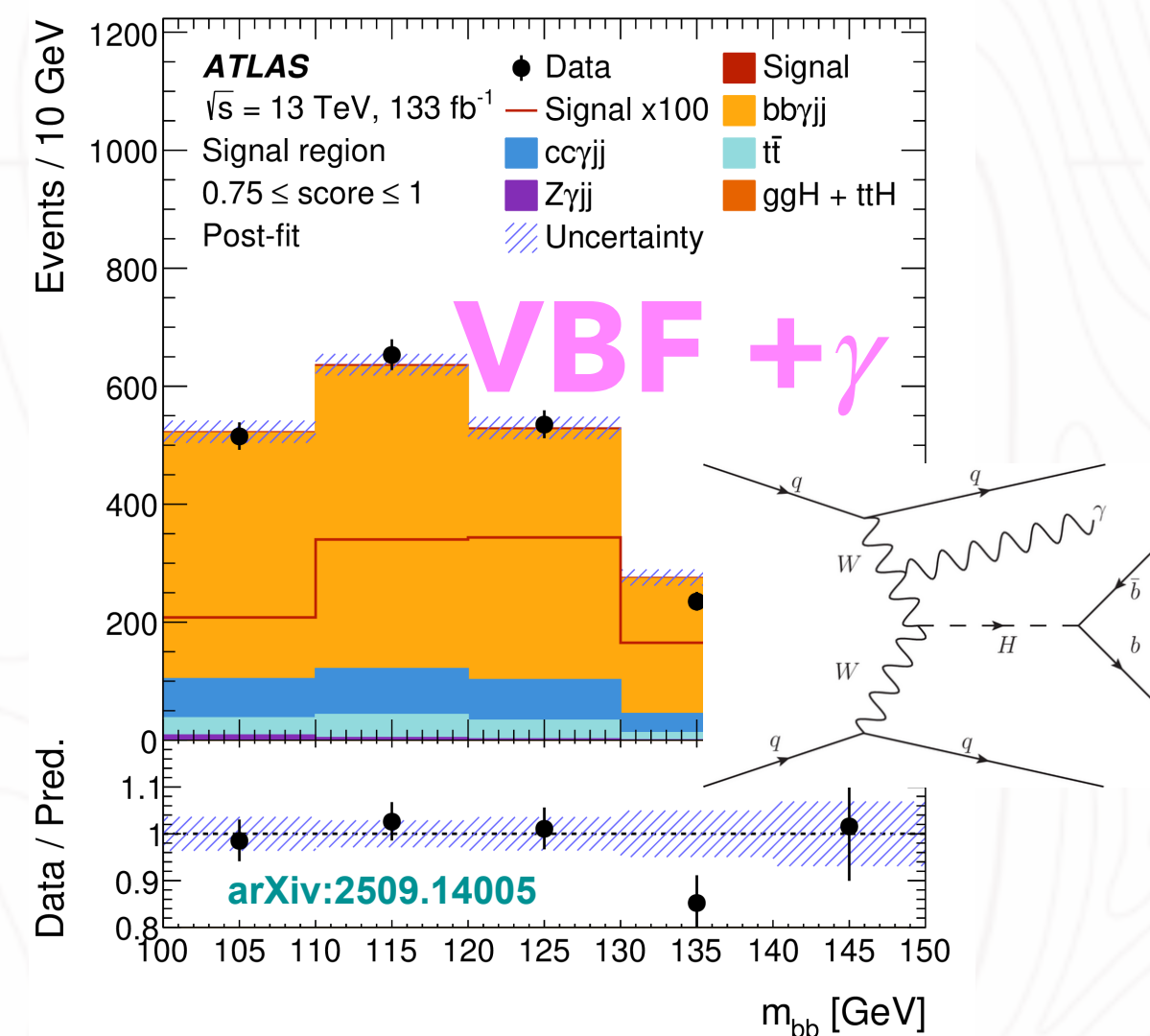
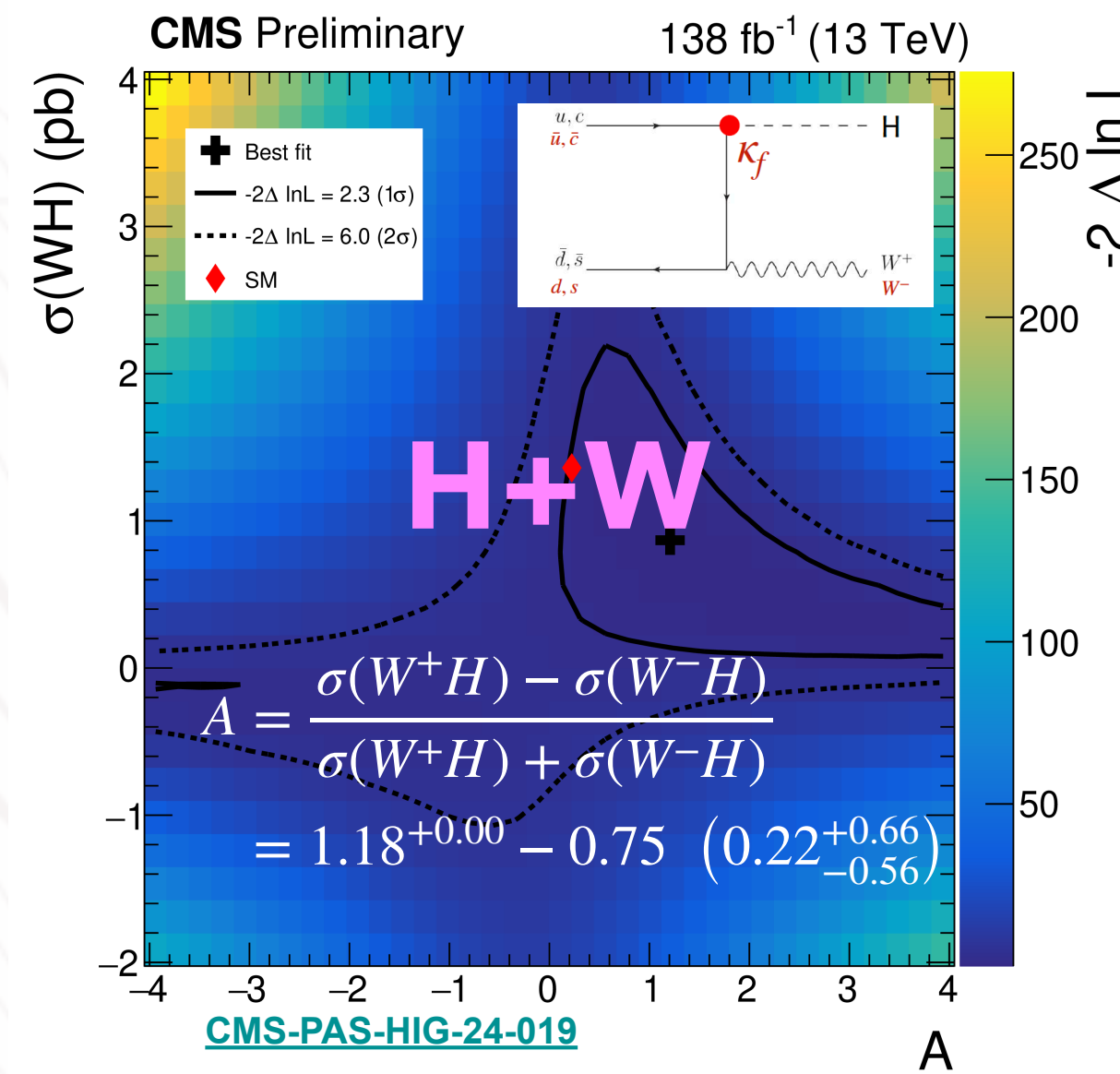


RARER AND RARER PRODUCTION MODES

Associated production
(H+W, H+c, H+b, H+ γ ...)



[arXiv:2508.14988](https://arxiv.org/abs/2508.14988)



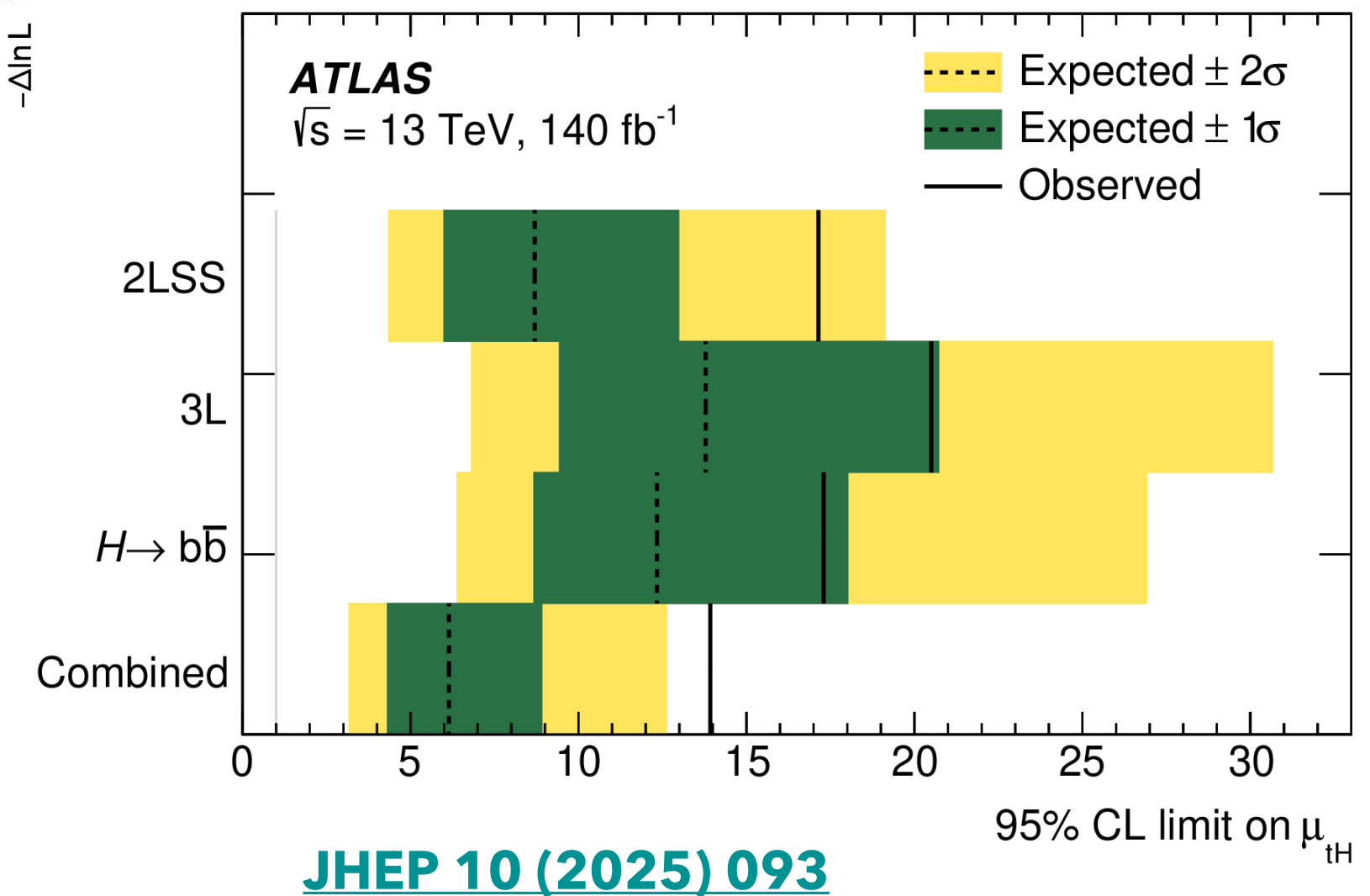
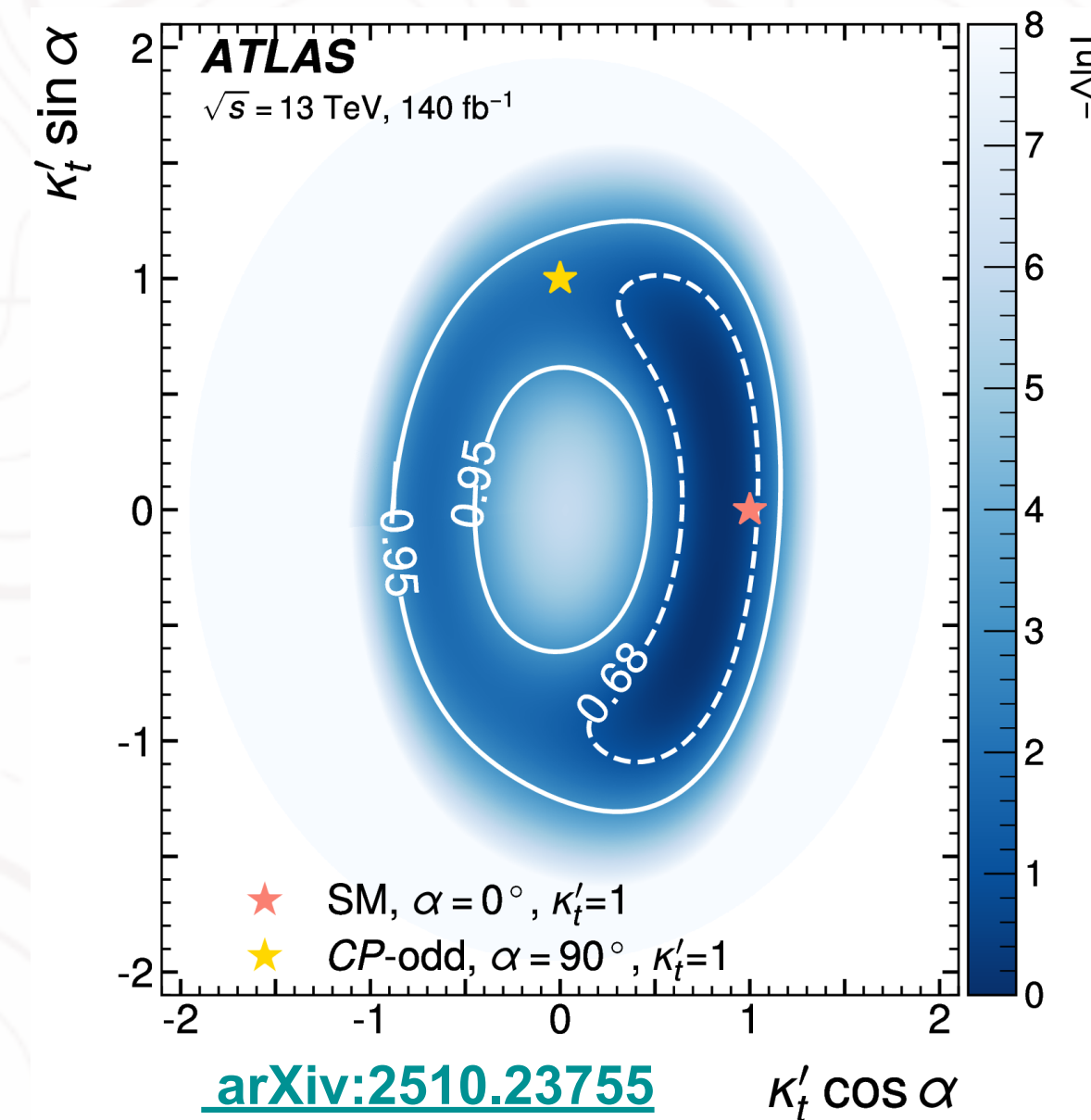
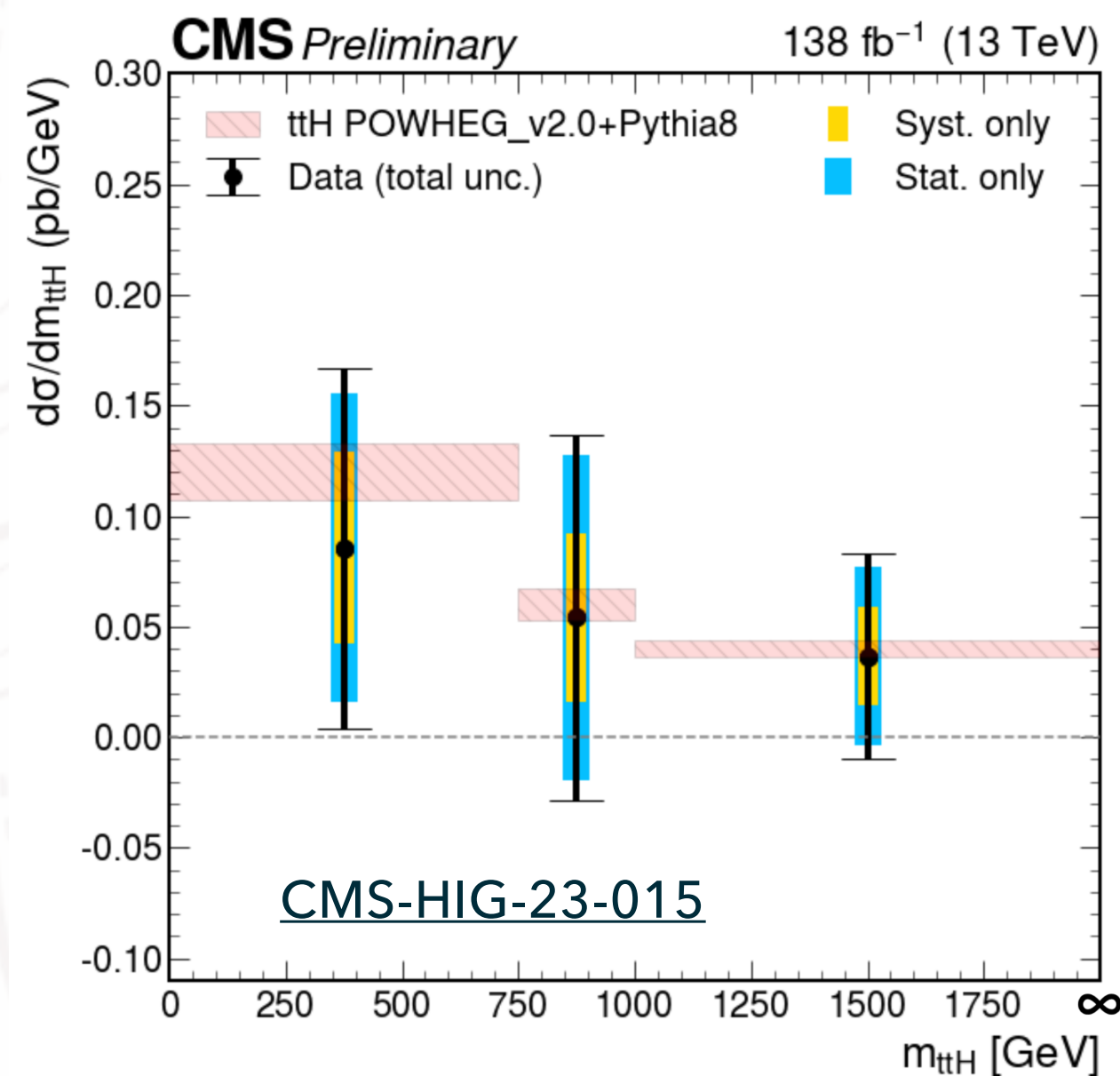
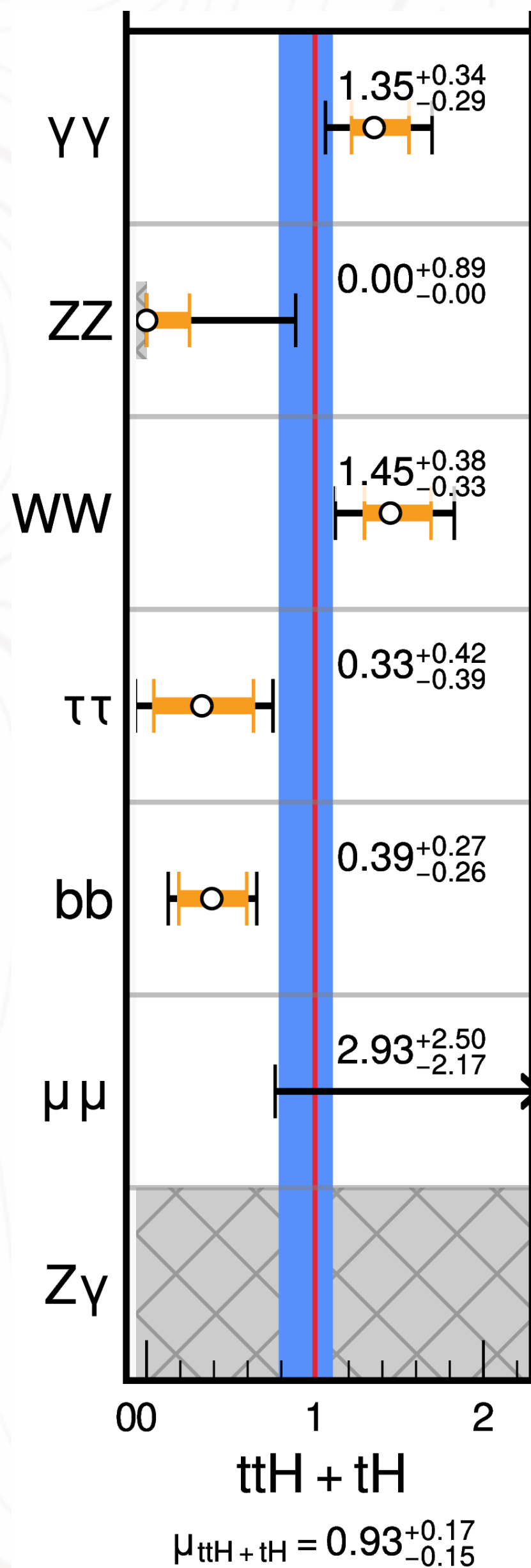
TtH/TH PRODUCTION

■ ttH: from a rare mode to the measurement regime

- Multilepton (WW+ $\tau\tau$ +...) differential and CP measurements
- Now also Hbb vs Hcc! ([CMS-HIG-24-018](#))

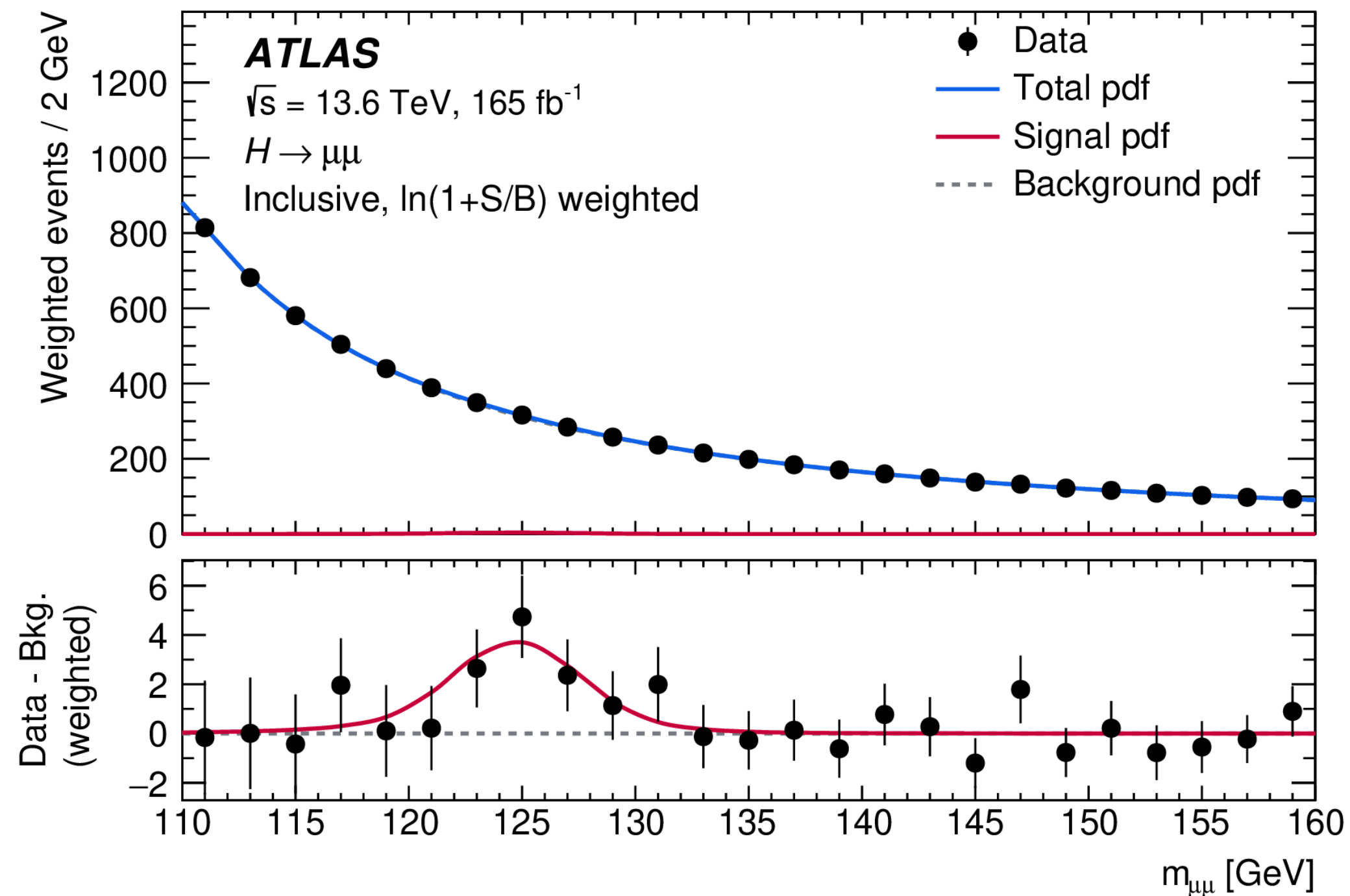
- tH: getting closer to SM sensitivity, with some tension.

- New result by ATLAS - $\mu_{tH} = 8.1 \pm 2.6$ (stat.) ± 2.0 (syst.)



RARE DECAYS: EVERY FB⁻¹ COUNTS

$H \rightarrow \mu\mu$

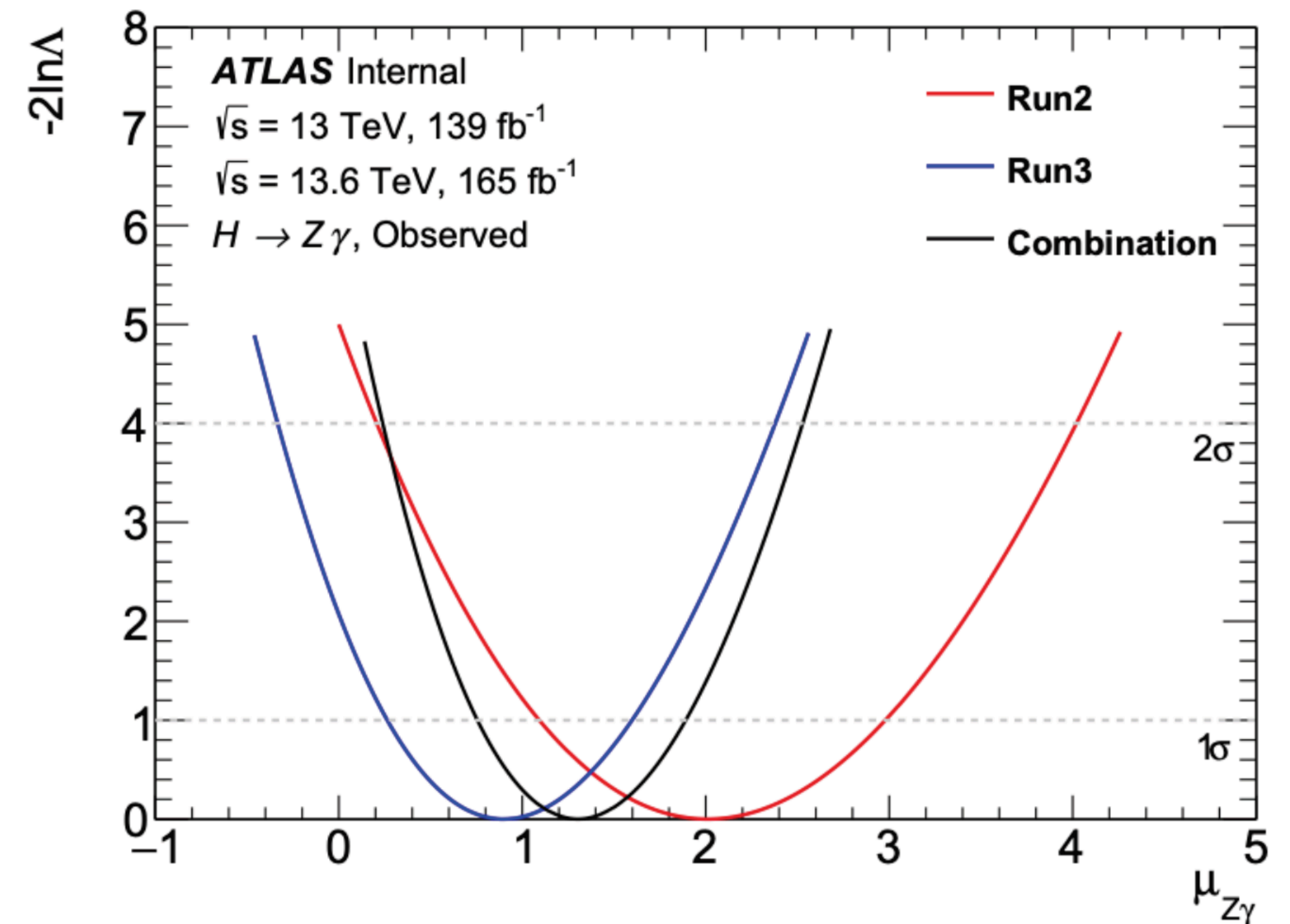


Run2+Run3 ATLAS ([arXiv:2507.03595](https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.03595)):

3.4σ (2.5 exp) , $\mu = 1.4 \pm 0.4$

CMS Run2 ([JHEP 01 \(2021\) 148](https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.12598)): $\mu = 1.2 \pm 0.4$, 3σ (2.5 exp)

$H \rightarrow Z\gamma$



Evidence in Run2 with ATLAS+CMS
 (PRL 132 (2024) 021803):

$\mu = 2.2 \pm 0.7$, 3.4σ (1.6 exp SM)

Run2+Run3 ATLAS
 ([arXiv:2507.12598](https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.12598)):-

2.5σ (1.0 exp SM) , $\mu = 1.3 \pm 0.5$

HOW CHARMING IS THE HIGGS?

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- **Charm quark: only up quark for which we could possibly measure the branching ratio $\text{Br}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c}) \sim 3\%$**
 - Do up-type quarks get their mass from the same Higgs fields as down-type quarks and charged leptons?

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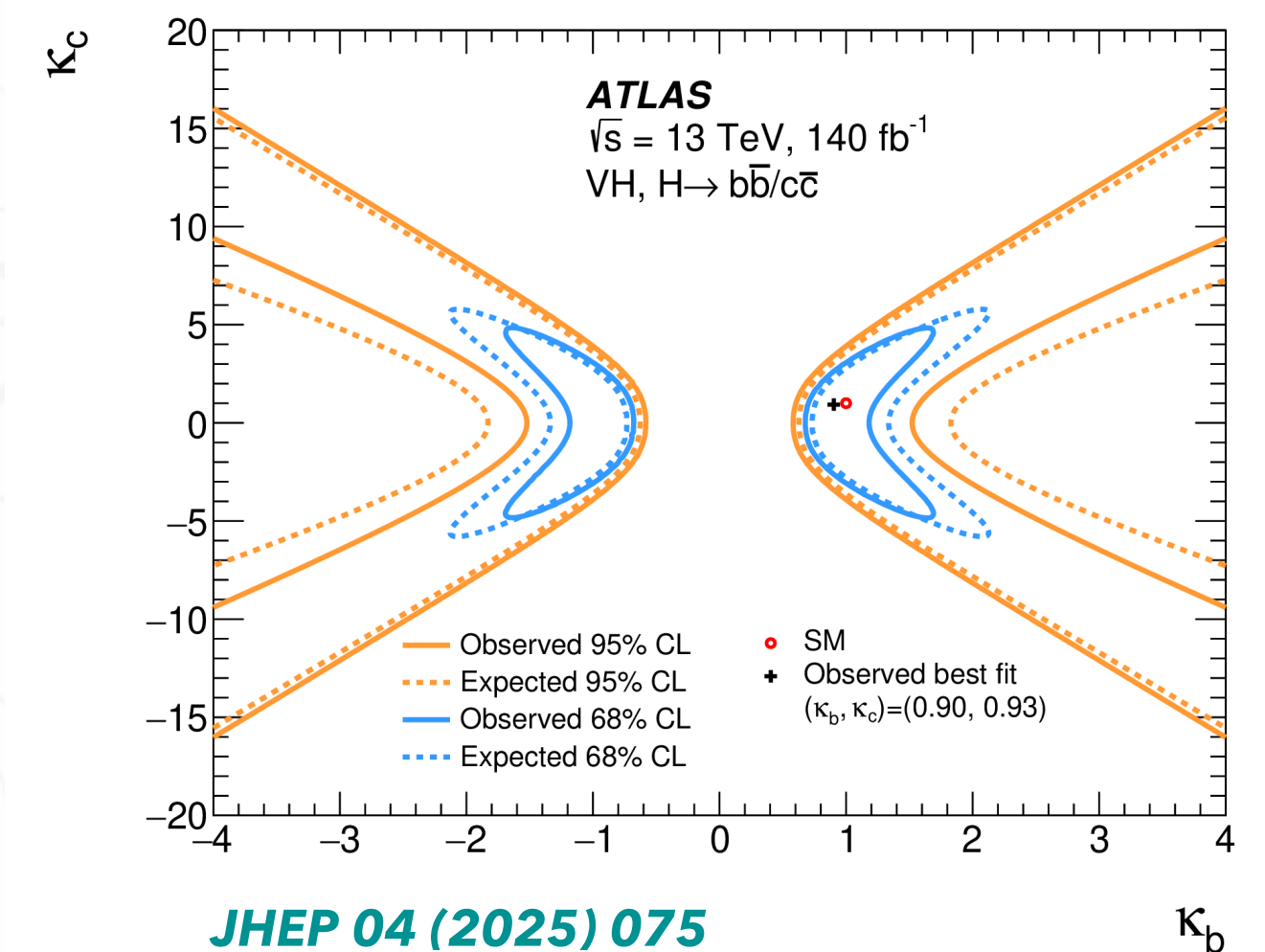
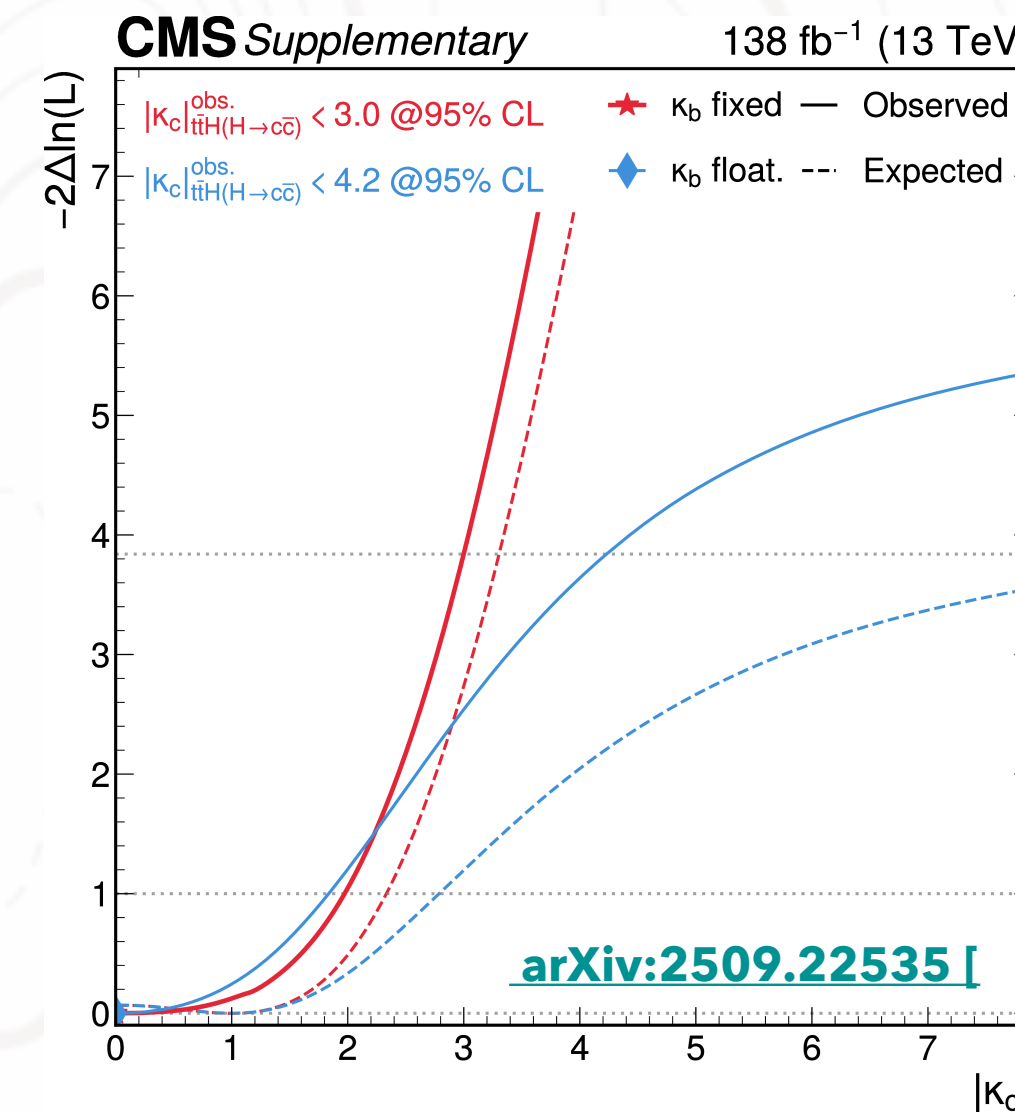
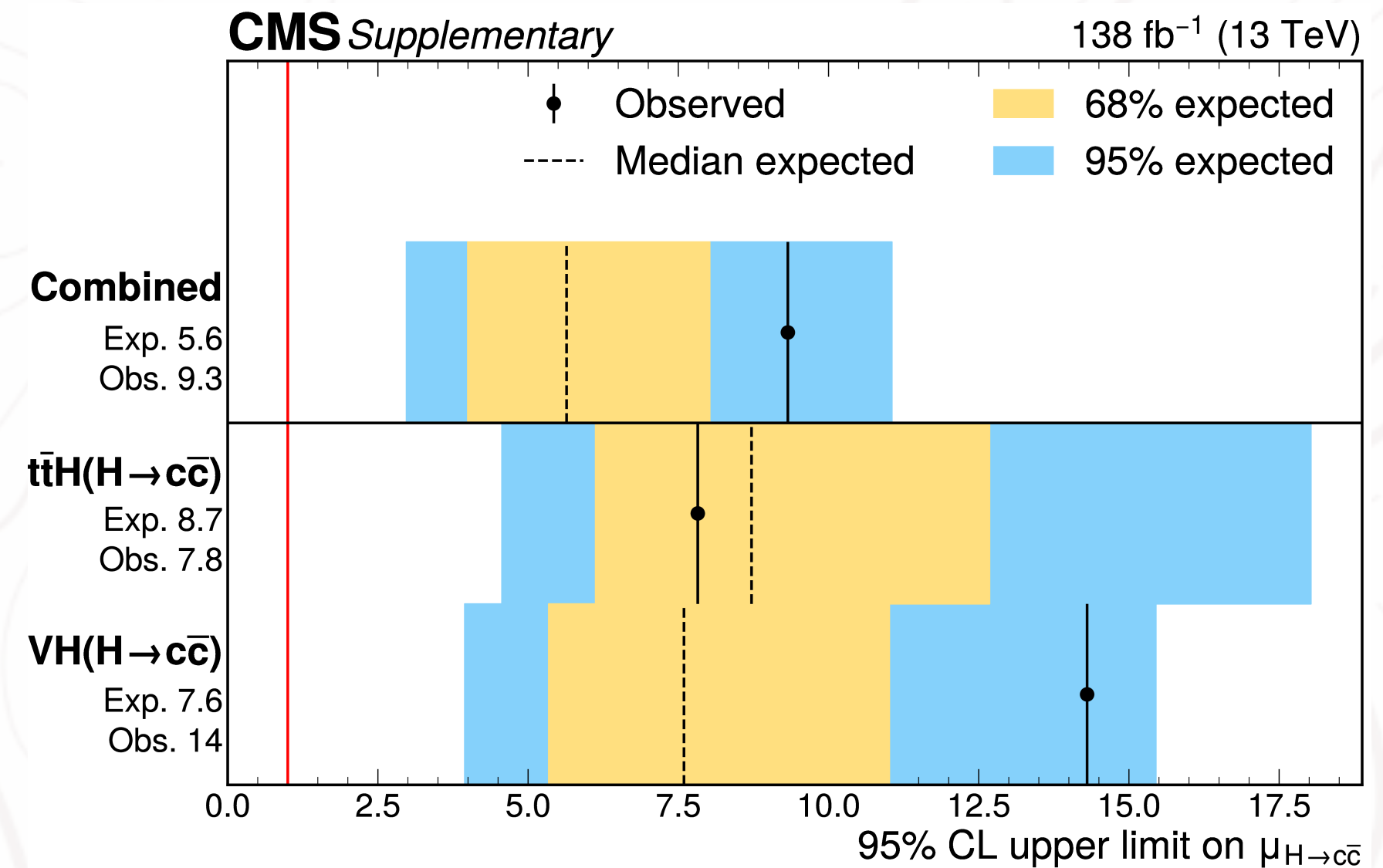
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- Do up-type quarks get their mass from the same Higgs fields as down-type quarks and charged leptons?
- Once considered impossible at the LHC!
- Despite the difficulties, we are narrowing down the hunt, exploiting innovations in tagging:

■ **CMS, $t\bar{t}H$ Hcc + VH cc : $|\kappa_c| < 3.5$ (2.7) (95%CL)**

■ **ATLAS VH cc : $|\kappa_c| < 4.2$ (4.1) (95%CL)**

- Other probes: $H+c$, $H+\gamma$, $H \rightarrow \psi(nS)\gamma$, constraints from general Higgs pt differentials



IMPOSSIBLE OR JUST EXTREMELY RARE?

- **We have not yet explored all the SM decays of the Higgs.**
 - Searches for many rare decay modes existing or ongoing, directly (eg $H \rightarrow \text{Meson} + \text{Photon}$) or indirectly
 - For many, like decays to light quarks or ee , we can only set high upper limits, far away from the SM
- But **why should we assume the Higgs boson follows the SM rules?** Can it decay to the unexpected?
- We also **search directly for Higgs $\rightarrow$ BSM . eg: Dark Matter, LFV, light scalars, long-lived particles**

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“Higgs Invisible”: Searches for Higgs decays to Dark Matter particles. At 95% CL, with Run2:

- CMS: $\text{Br}(H \rightarrow \text{inv}) < 15\% (8\%)$ ([EPJC 83 \(2023\) 933](#))
- ATLAS: $\text{Br}(H \rightarrow \text{inv}) < 10.7\% (7.7\%)$ ([PLB 842 \(2023\) 137963](#))

New avenues: Dark Sectors, Long Lived decays, interesting reconstruction opportunities

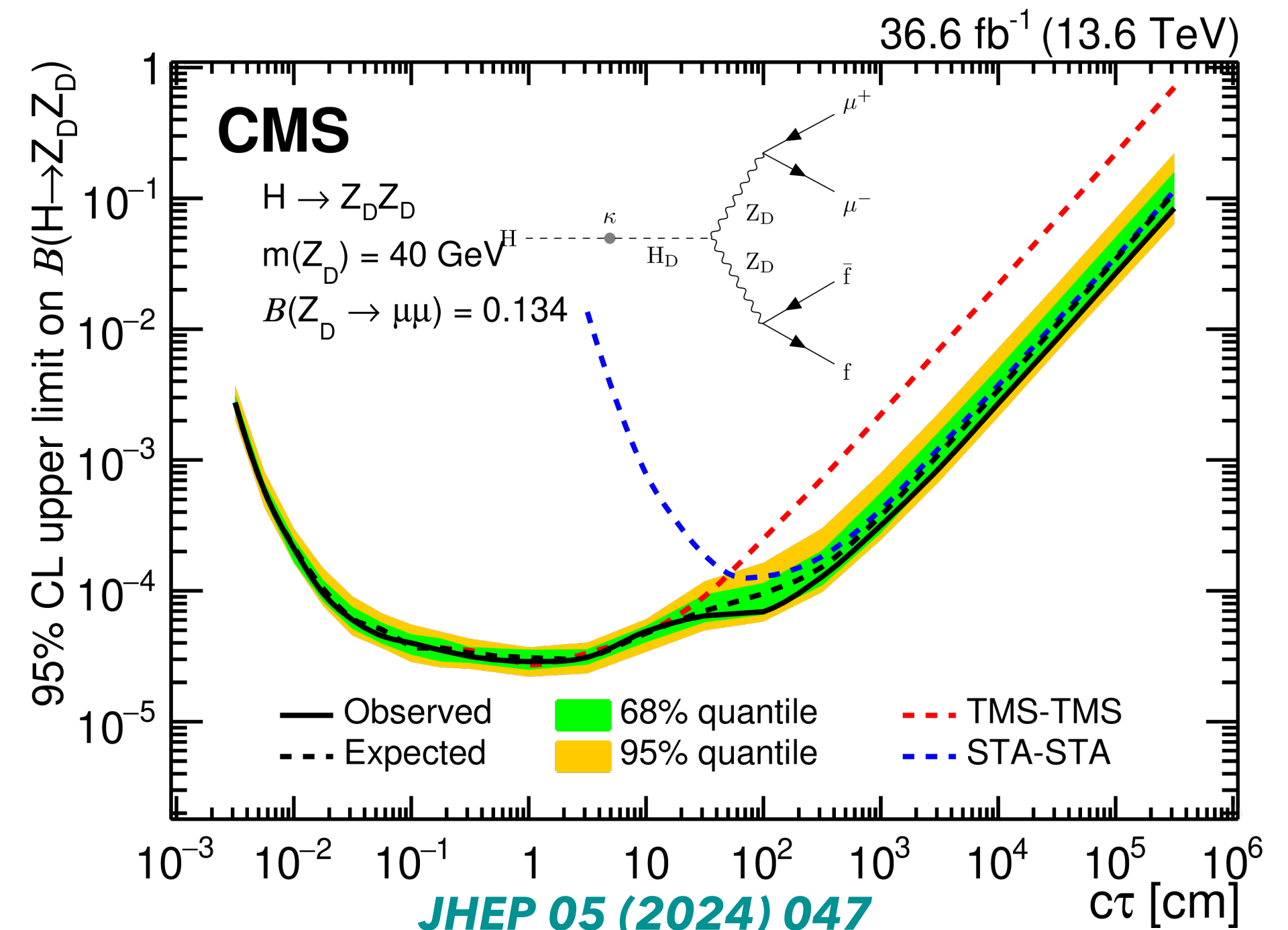
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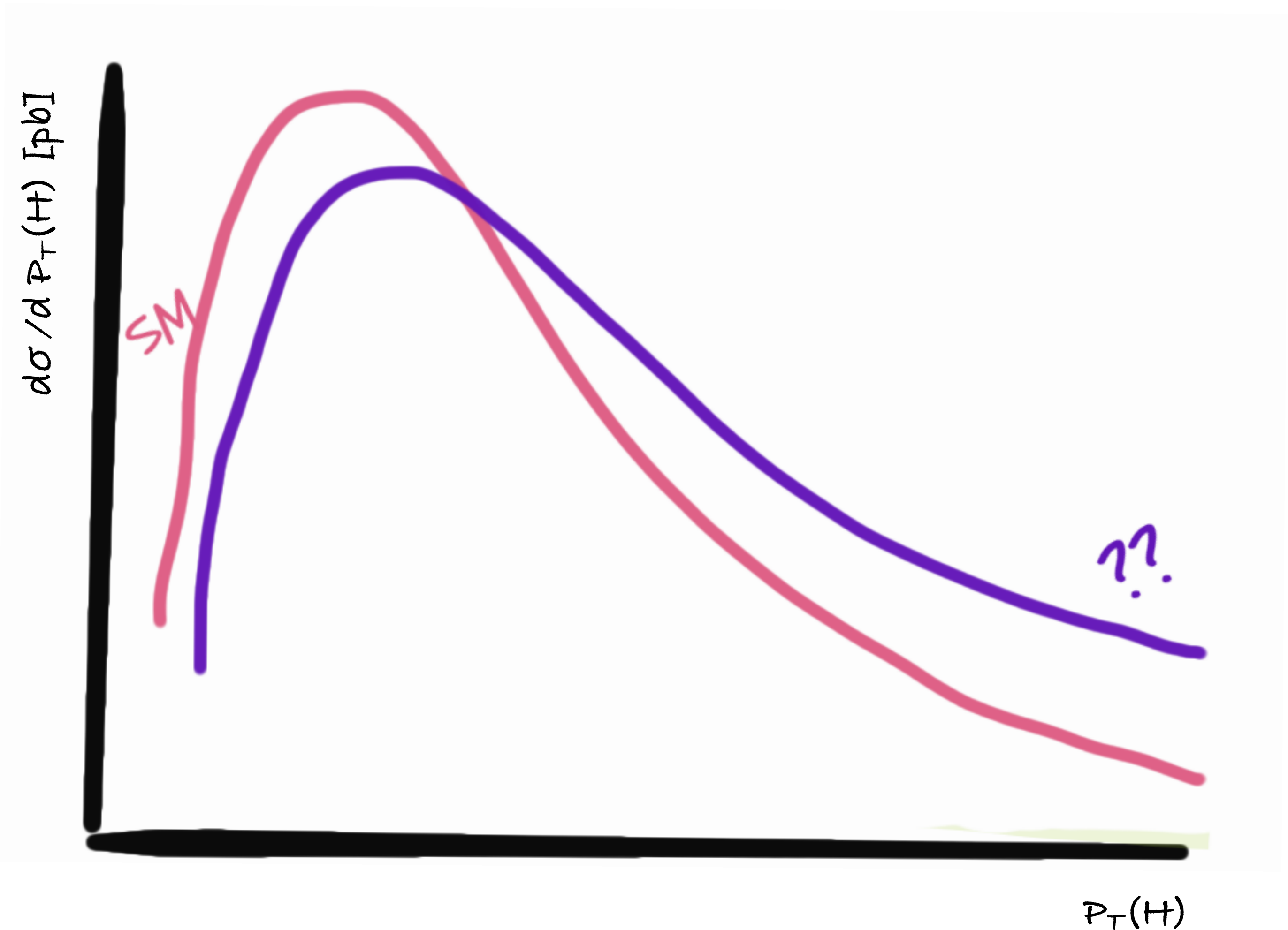
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COUNTING WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING...

■ Higgs kinematics can be modified by BSM physics

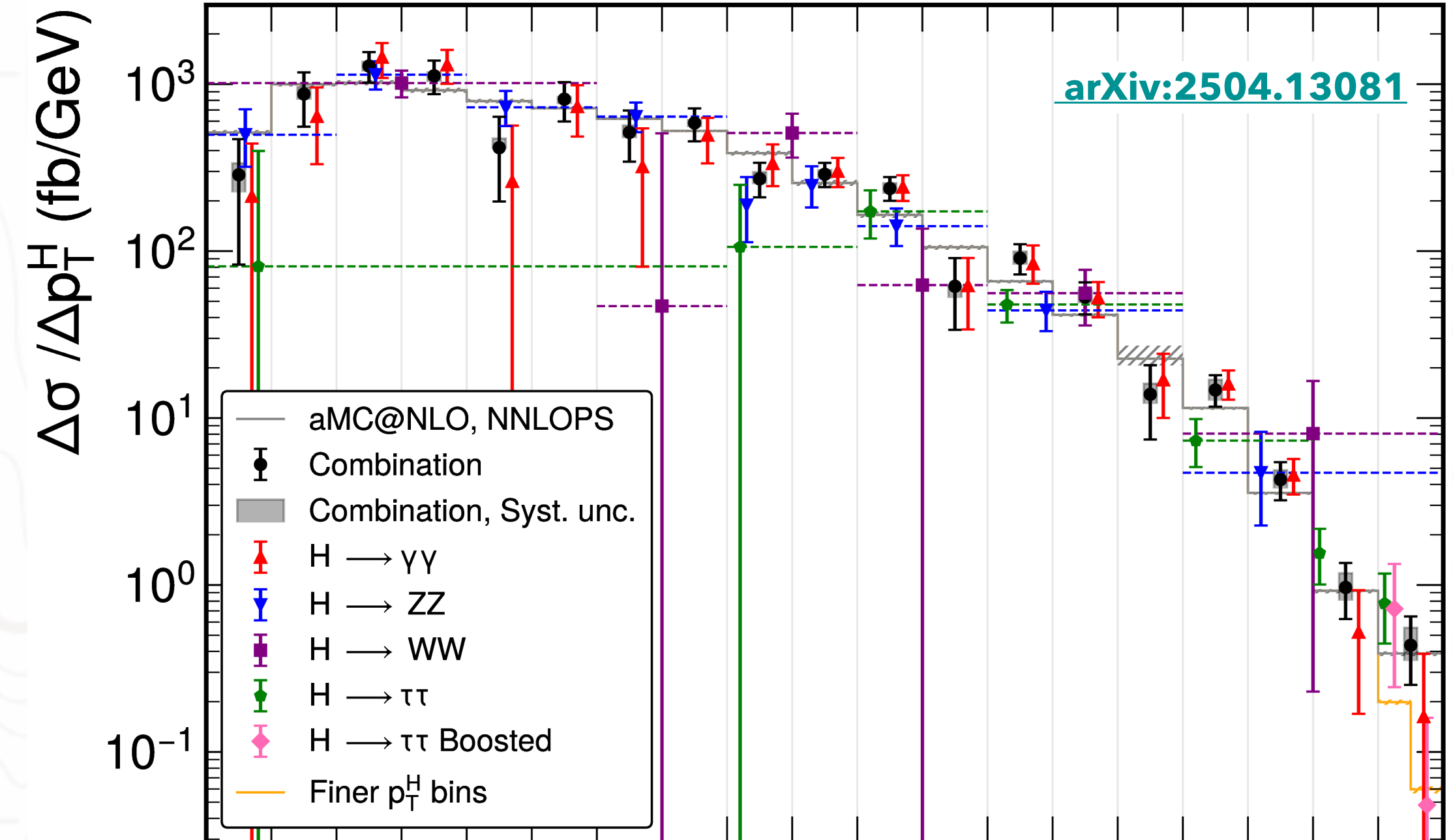
- Do the current MC tools model the Higgs behaviour correctly?
- Complex phase-spaces: how high can we reach in Higgs PT?
- Indirect constraints on BSM



DIFFERENTIAL DISTRIBUTIONS

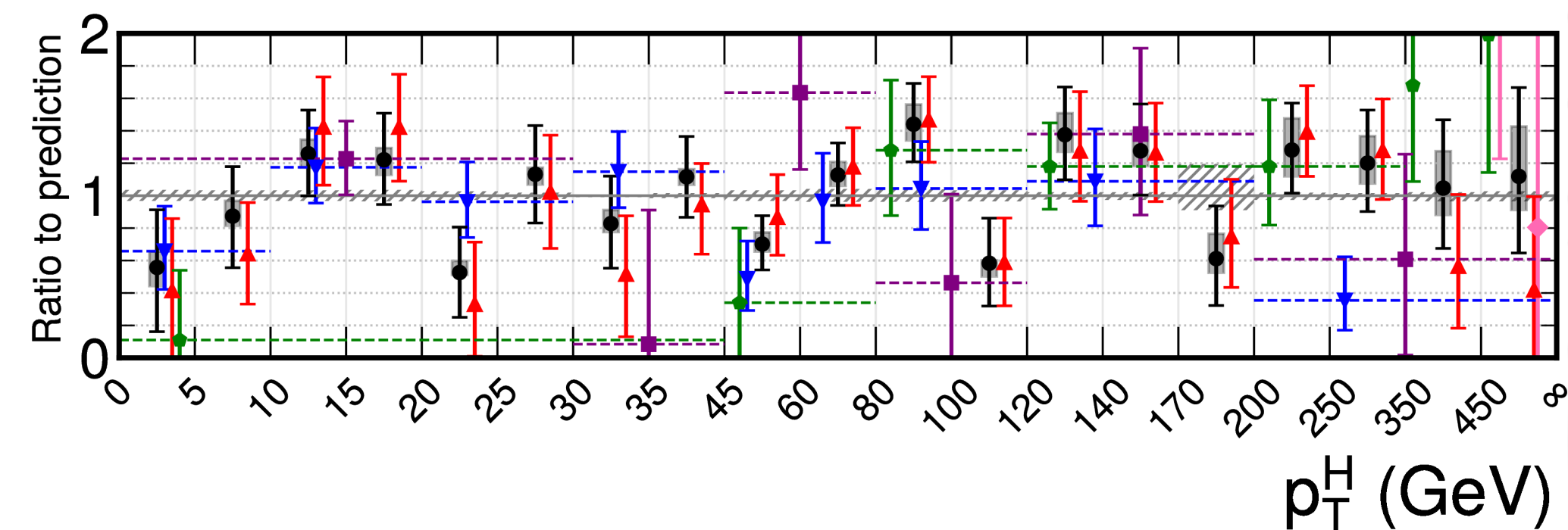
CMS

138 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)

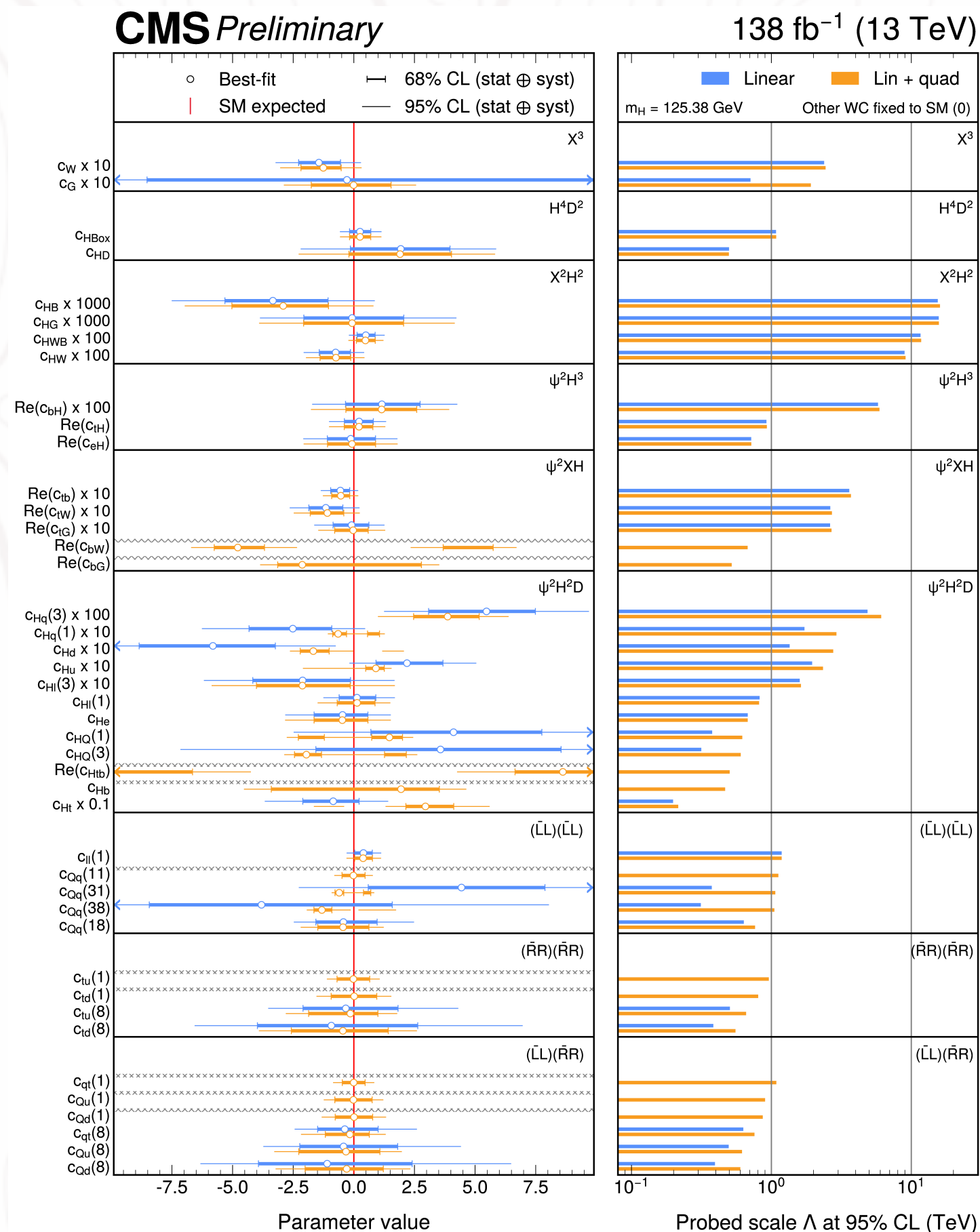


Many variables probed! Detailed map of Higgs Kinematics

Another approach: STXS (binned fiducial cross sections, in backup). Largely model-independent way to test for BSM deviations



BEYOND KAPPAS: EFT CONSTRAINTS



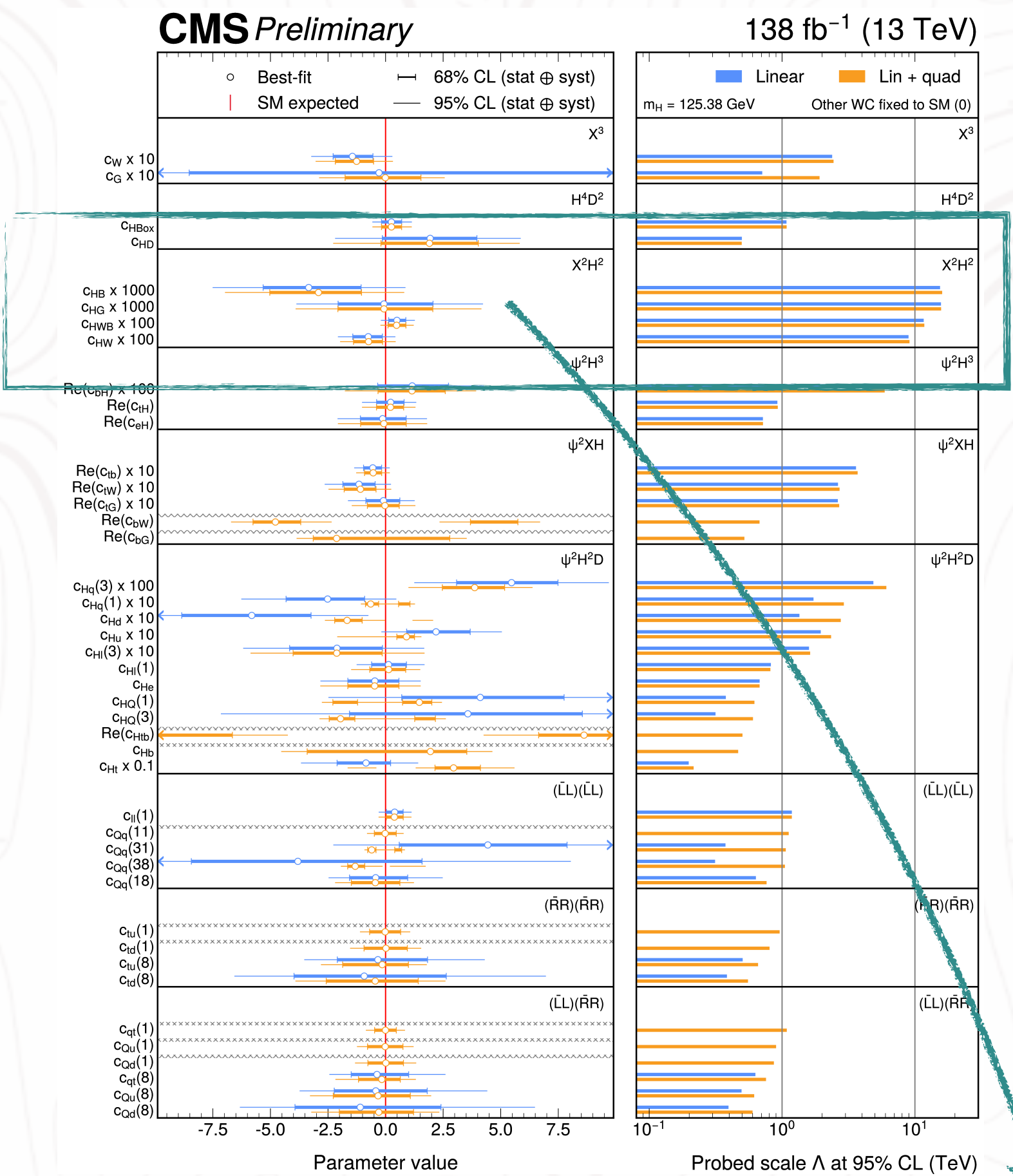
[CMS-PAS-HIG-21-018](#)

- The precision of these differential / STXS measurements can be interpreted in EFT scenarios
- From global fits to analyses targeting a dedicated observable, growing field, many new results

[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2025-031](#)

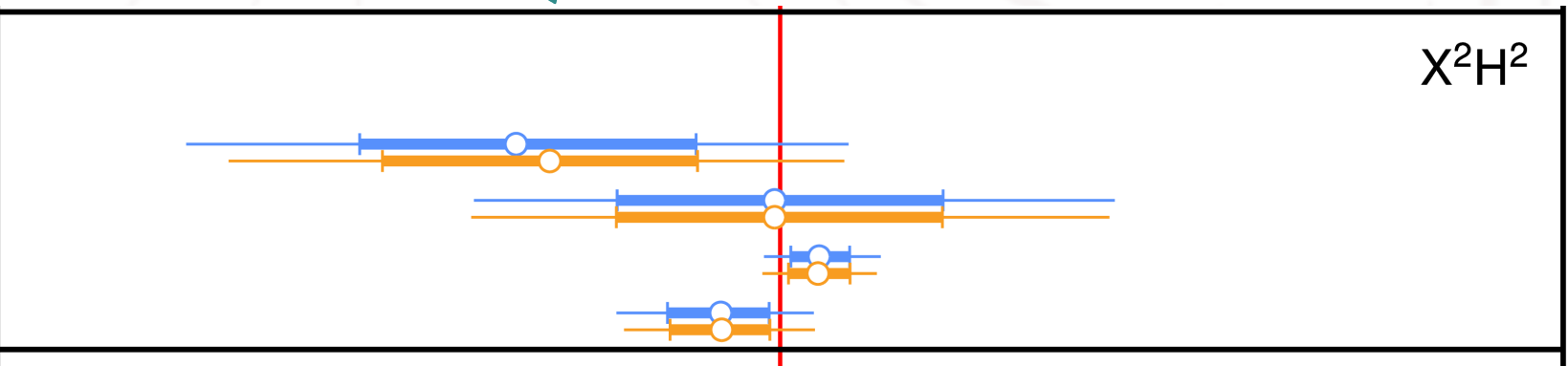
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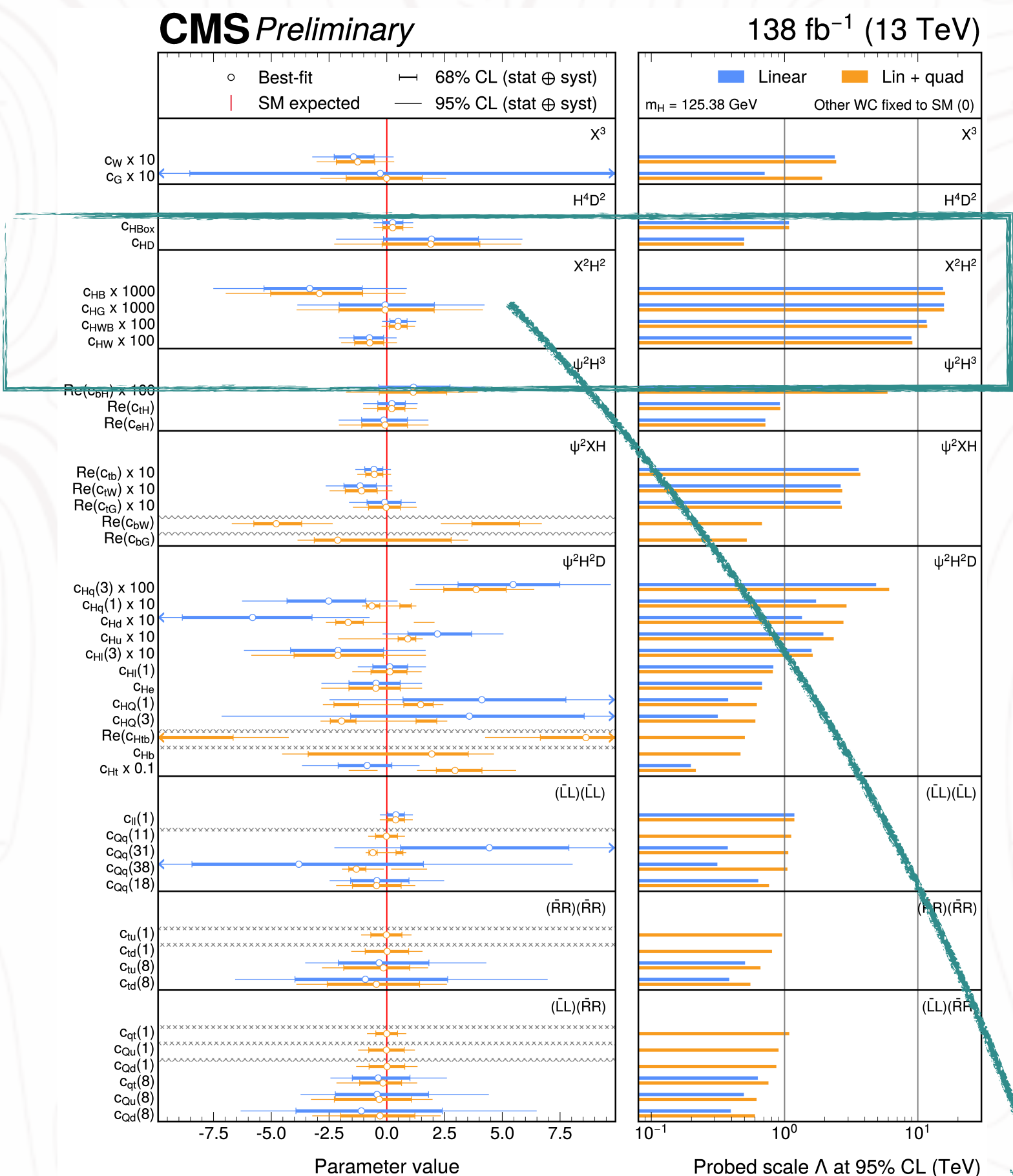
$c_{HB} \times 1000$
 $c_{HG} \times 1000$
 $c_{HWB} \times 100$
 $c_{HW} \times 100$



[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2025-031](#)

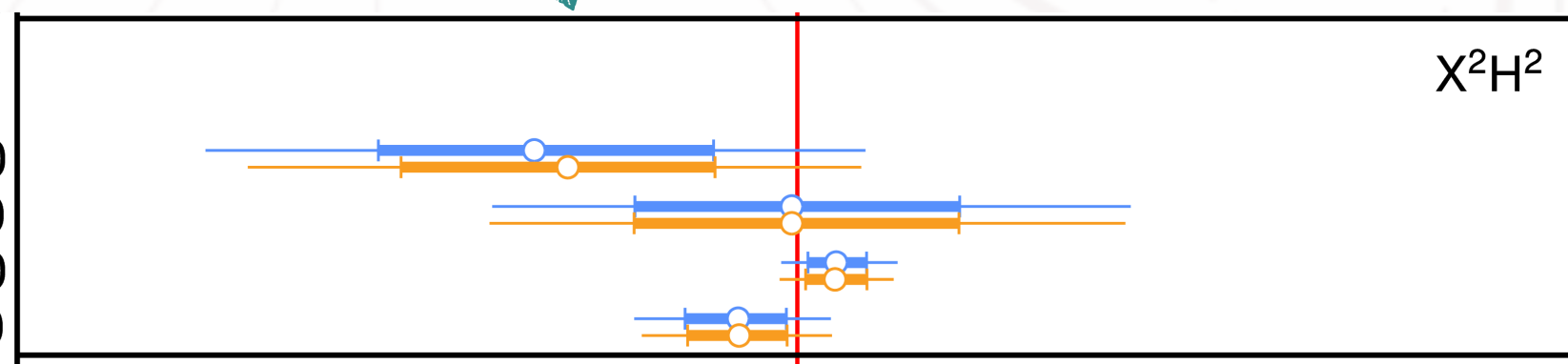
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CMS-PAS-HIG-21-018

$c_{HB} \times 1000$
 $c_{HG} \times 1000$
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ATLAS Preliminary

$\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, 139-140 fb⁻¹

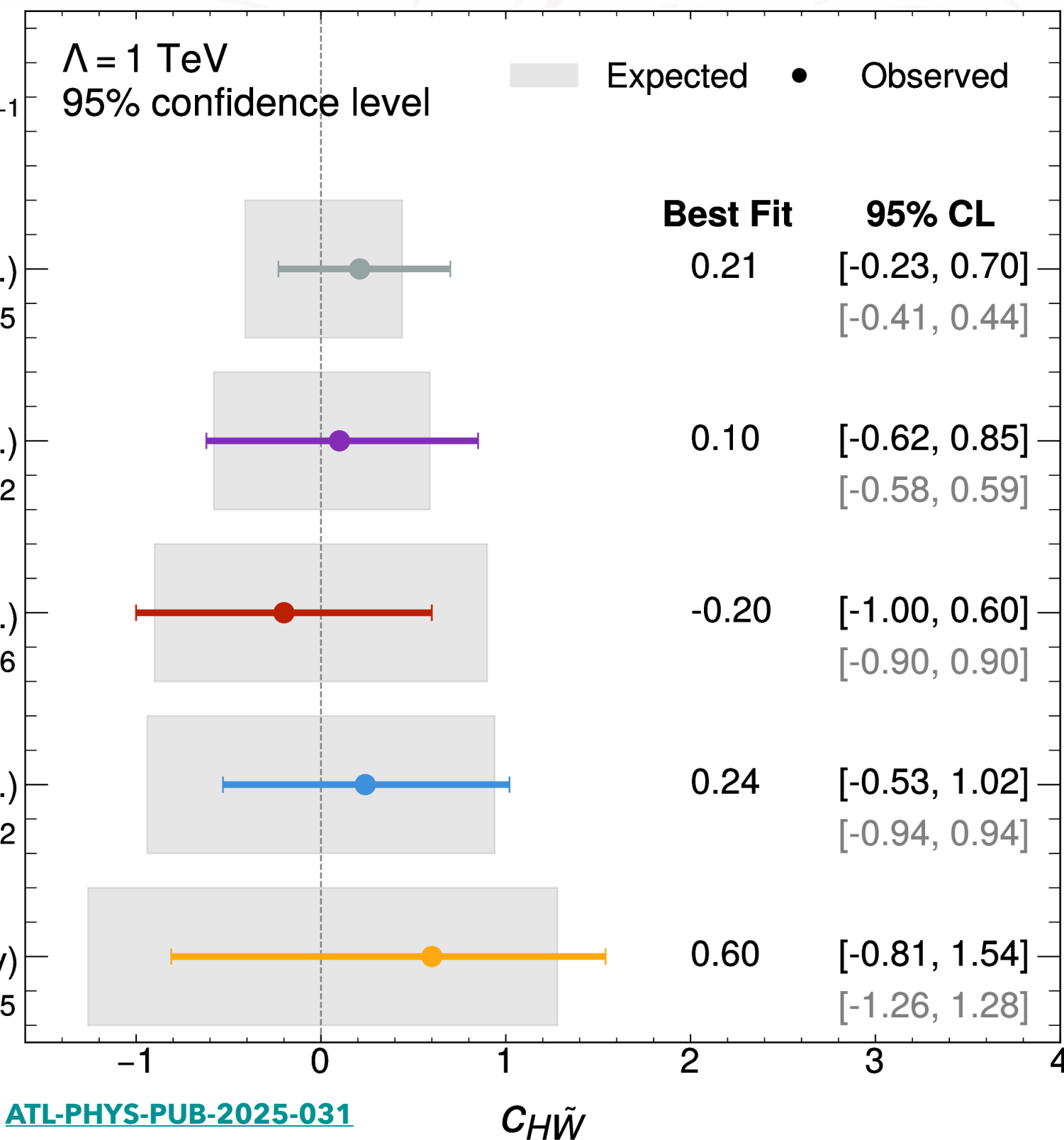
VBF $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ (prod.)
arXiv:2506.19395

$WH, H \rightarrow bb$ (prod.)
ATL-PHYS-PUB-2025-022

$H \rightarrow WW^*$ (prod.)
arXiv:2504.07686

$H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ (prod.)
Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 (2023) 061802

$H \rightarrow ZZ^*$ (prod.+decay)
JHEP 05 (2024) 105



TWO HIGGSES?

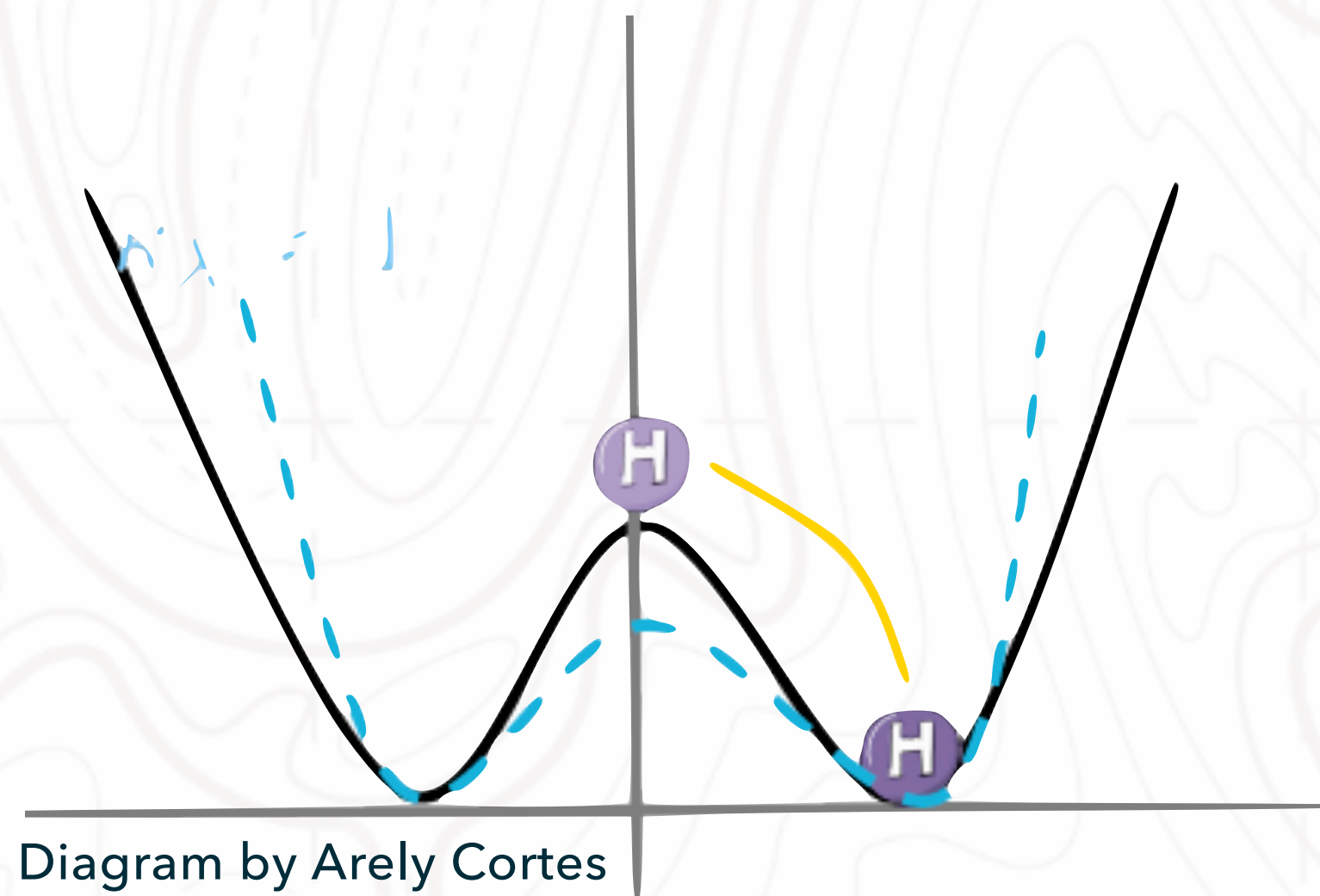
- The next frontier: the self-coupling and the Higgs Potential
- What can we learn about the structure and evolution of the universe through the study of the Higgs?



PROBING THE HIGGS POTENTIAL

Studying the Higgs boson transcends particle physics: understanding the Higgs Potential and the vacuum connects with the structure of the Universe

- Is there a deep reason for the apparent metastability of the Higgs vacuum?
- Is there a connection between the Higgs/EWSB and baryogenesis, Dark Matter, or inflation?
- What happens at the EW phase transition during the Big Bang?

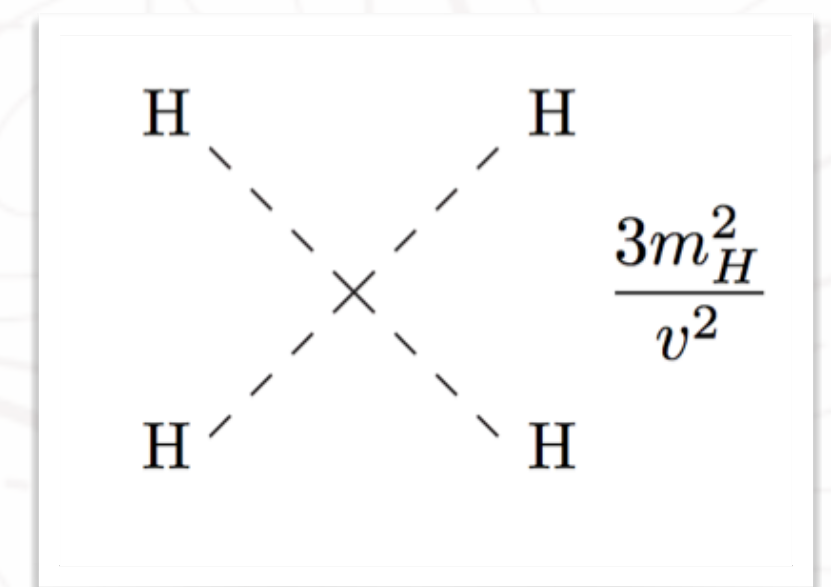
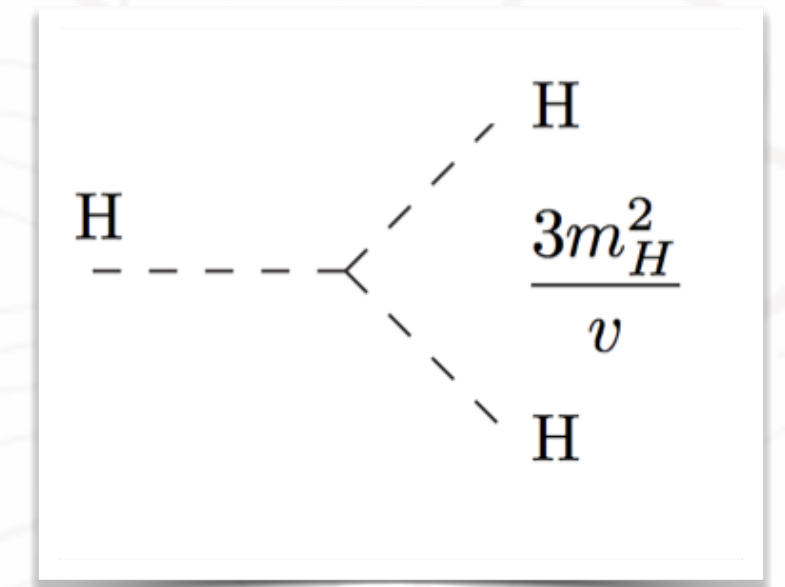


$$V(\Phi) = \mu^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi + \lambda (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2$$

$$V = V_0 + \frac{m_H^2}{2} h^2 + \lambda_3 \nu h^3 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda_4 h^4 - \frac{\lambda_4}{4}$$

$$\lambda_{SM} = m_H^2 / 2v^2 \approx 0.13$$

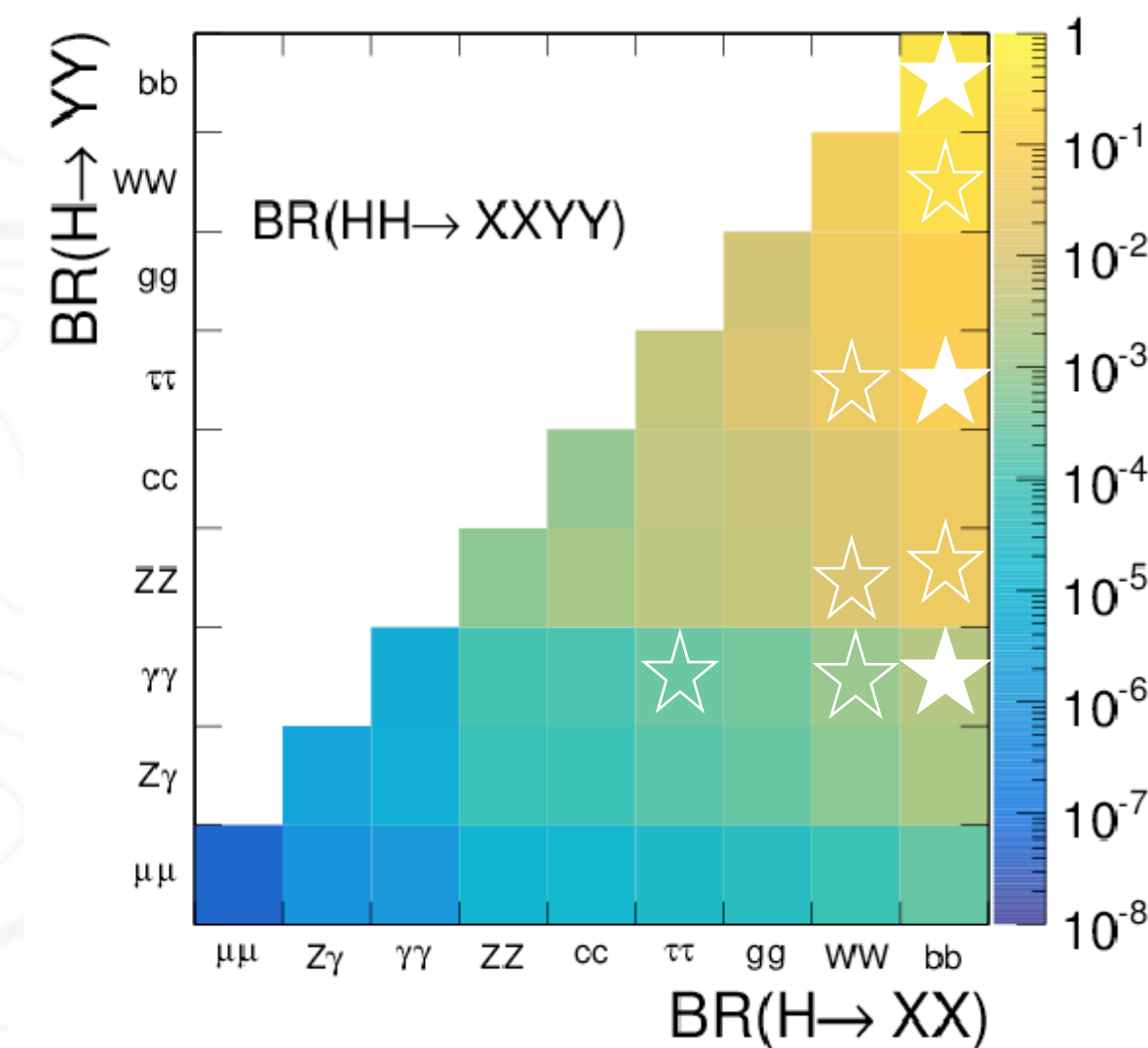
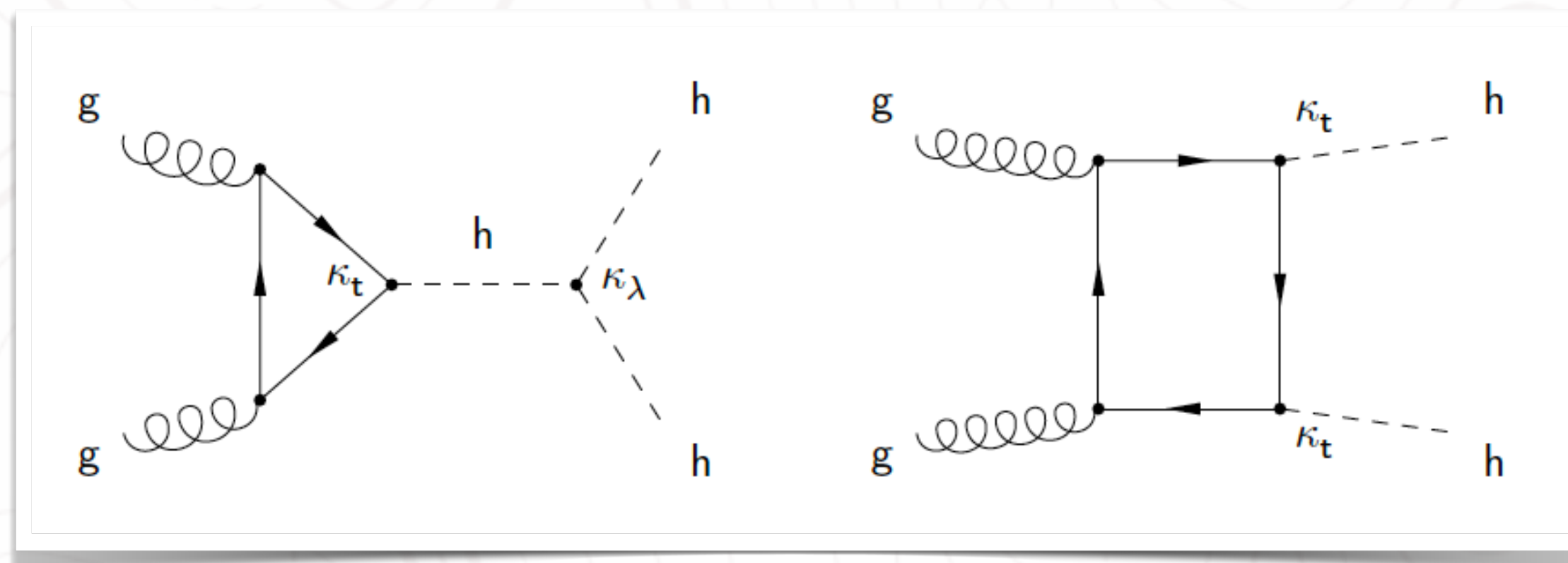
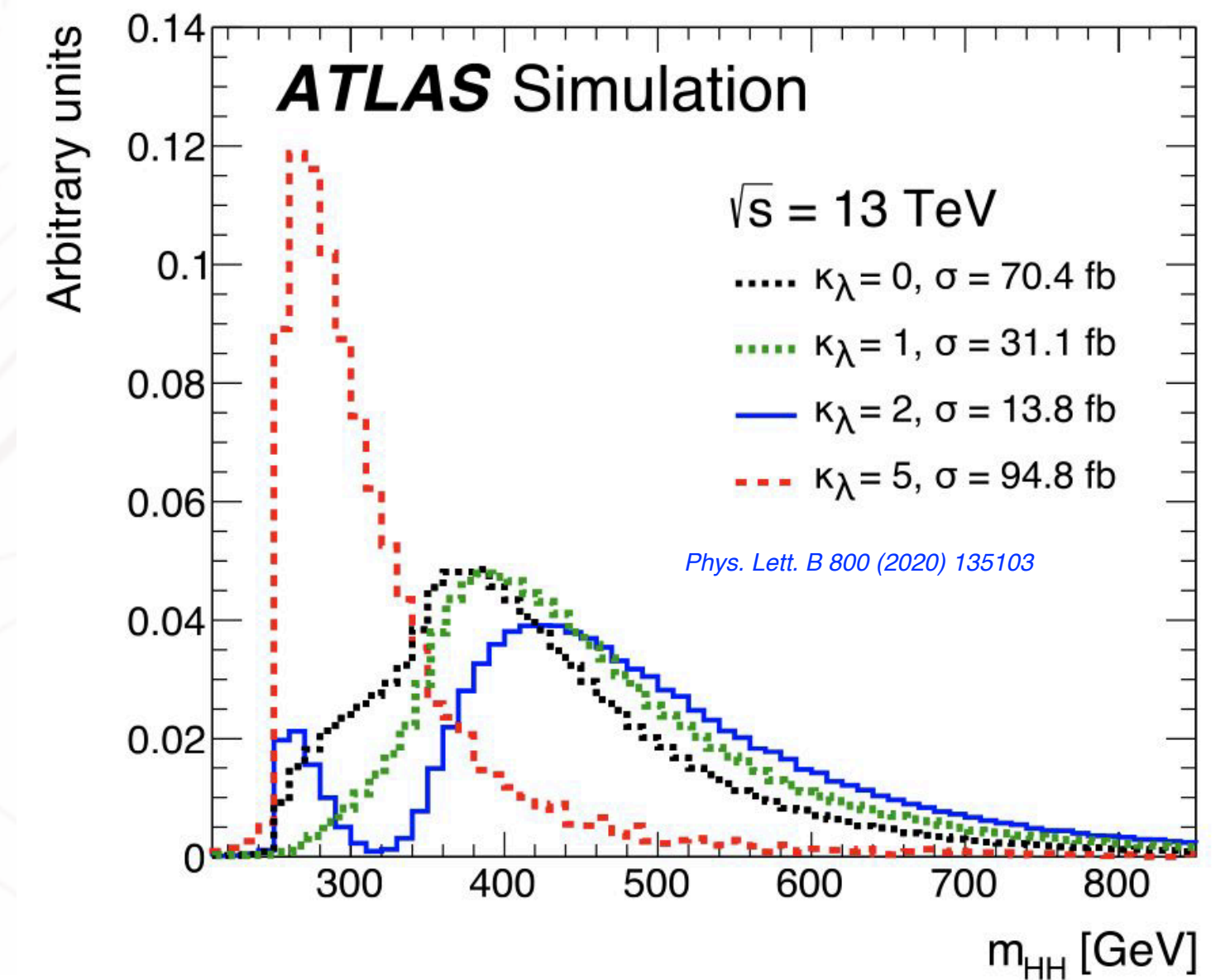
$$\kappa_\lambda = \lambda / \lambda_{SM}$$



One of the key objectives for the LHC in this run and the future: narrowing down our understanding of the Higgs Potential through the search for HH production

LOOKING FOR HIGGS BOSON PAIRS

- Simplest way to access the self coupling at LHC: through the production of Higgs boson pairs
- Easiest does not mean easy! Tiny cross section ($\sigma \sim 31 \text{ fb@13 TeV}$): destructive interference between triangle and box diagrams
- Sensitive to BSM physics : *Small* changes of the couplings can lead to *large* changes in production
- Large choice of final states: exploit everything we know from studying single Higgs, profit from combinations of largish branching ratio with good S/B discrimination
- Dominated by ggHH, but also probing qqHH, VHH, ttHH



Sensitivity driven by $bb\gamma\gamma$, $bb\tau\tau$, $4b$

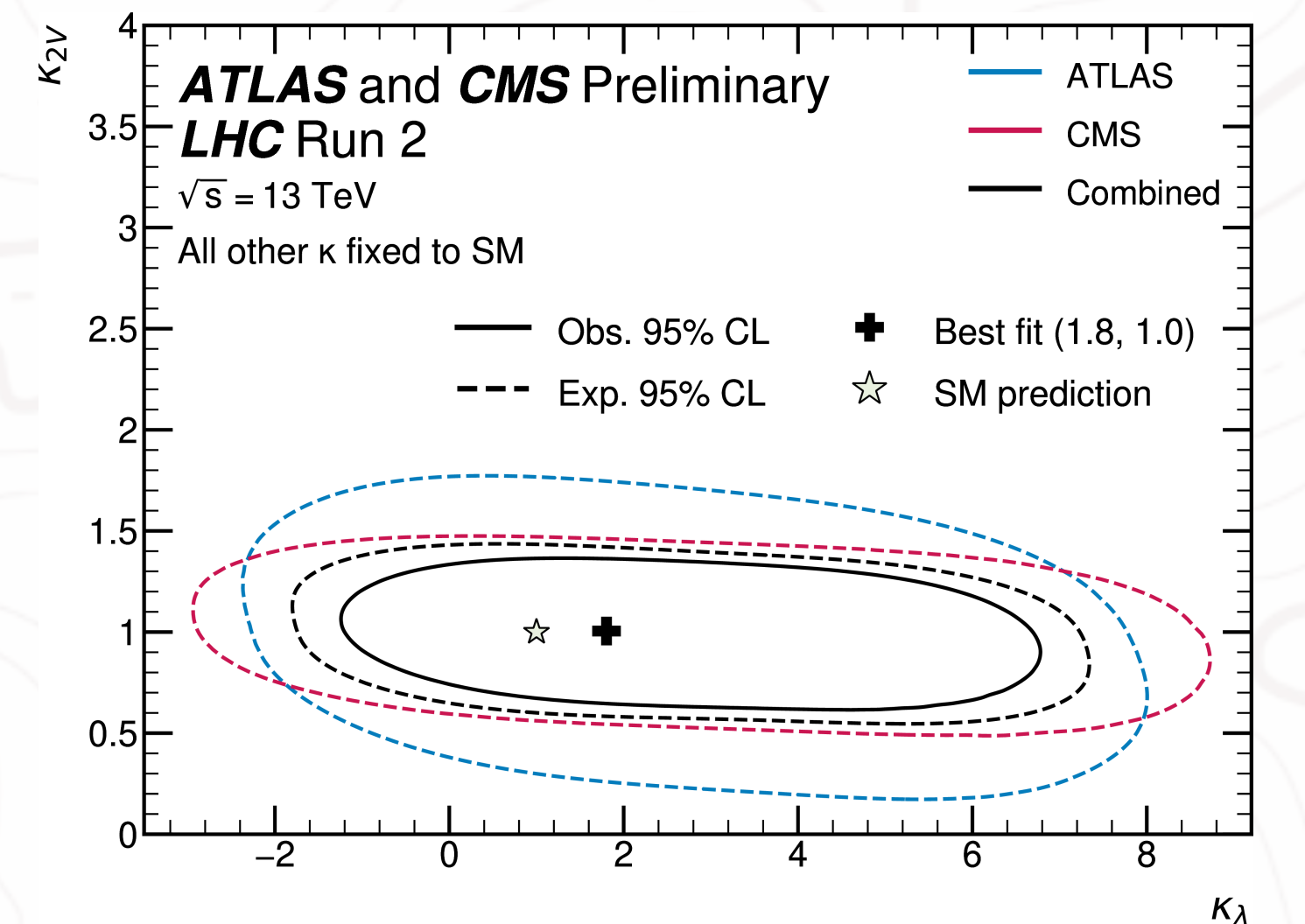
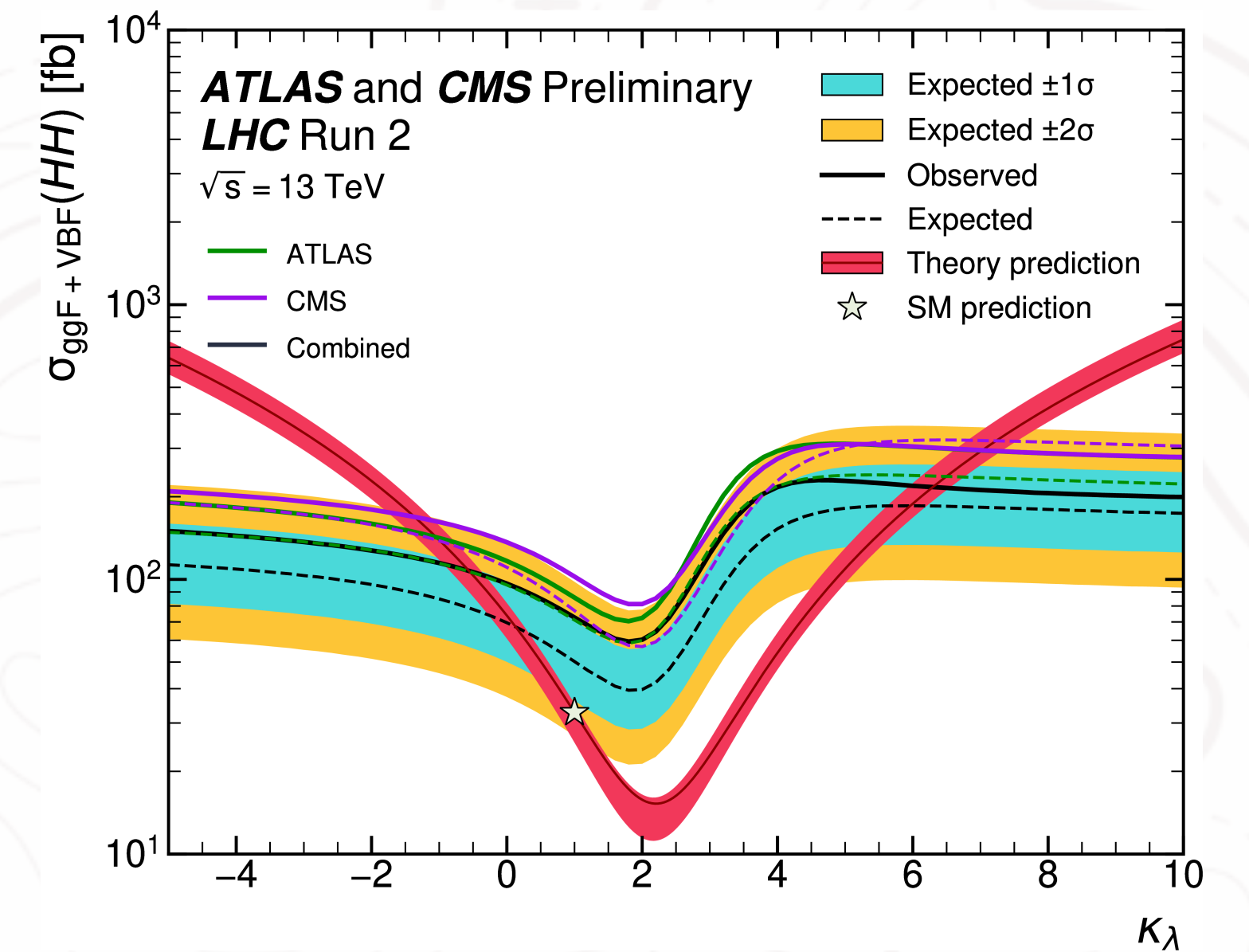
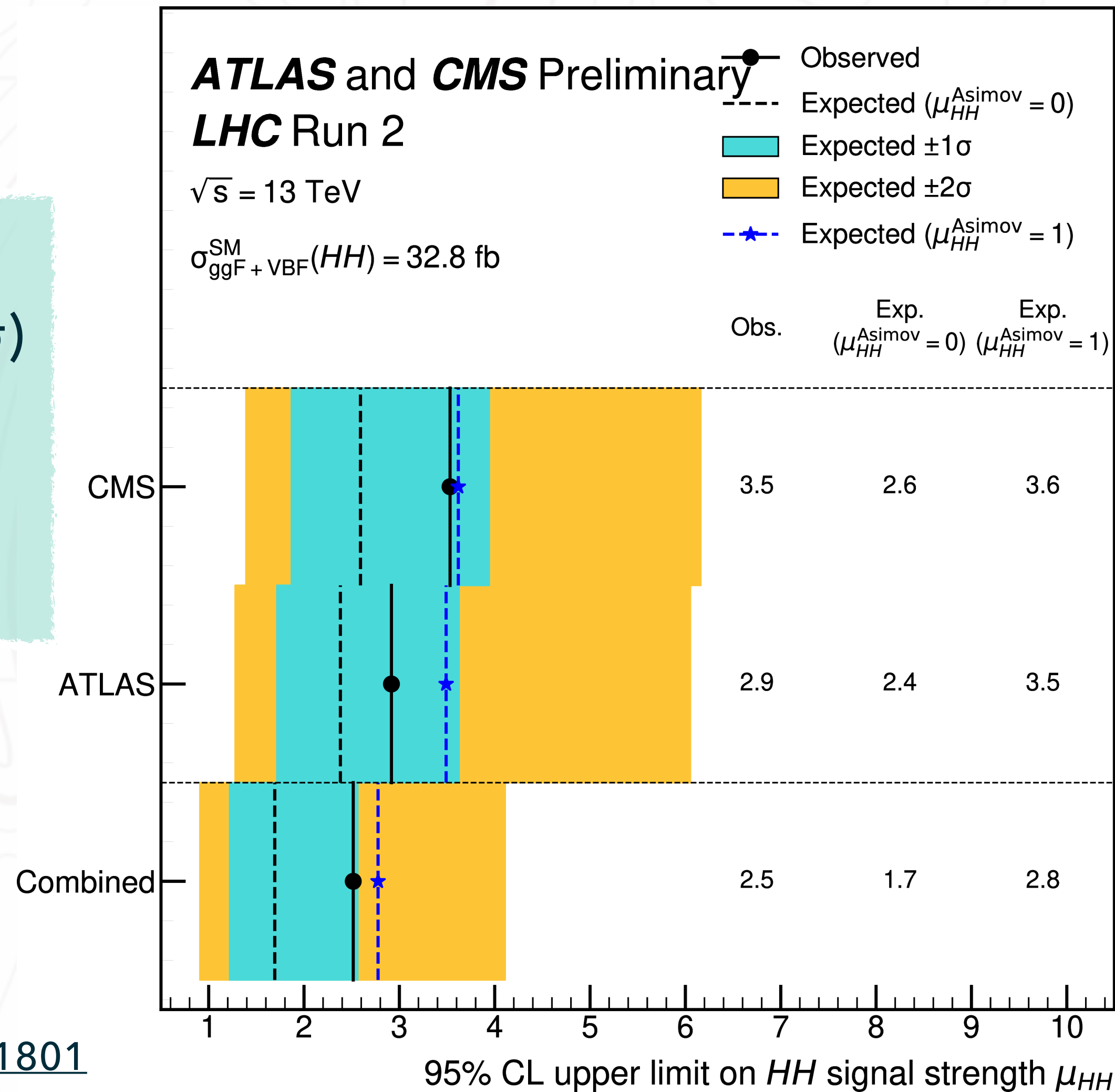
WHERE ARE WE? FIRST LHC HH COMBINATION

$$\mu_{HH} < 2.5 \text{ @ 95\% CL}$$

$$\langle \mu_{HH} \rangle = 0.8^{+0.9}_{-0.7} (1.1 \sigma)$$

$$-0.71 < \kappa_\lambda < 6.1$$

$$0.73 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.3$$



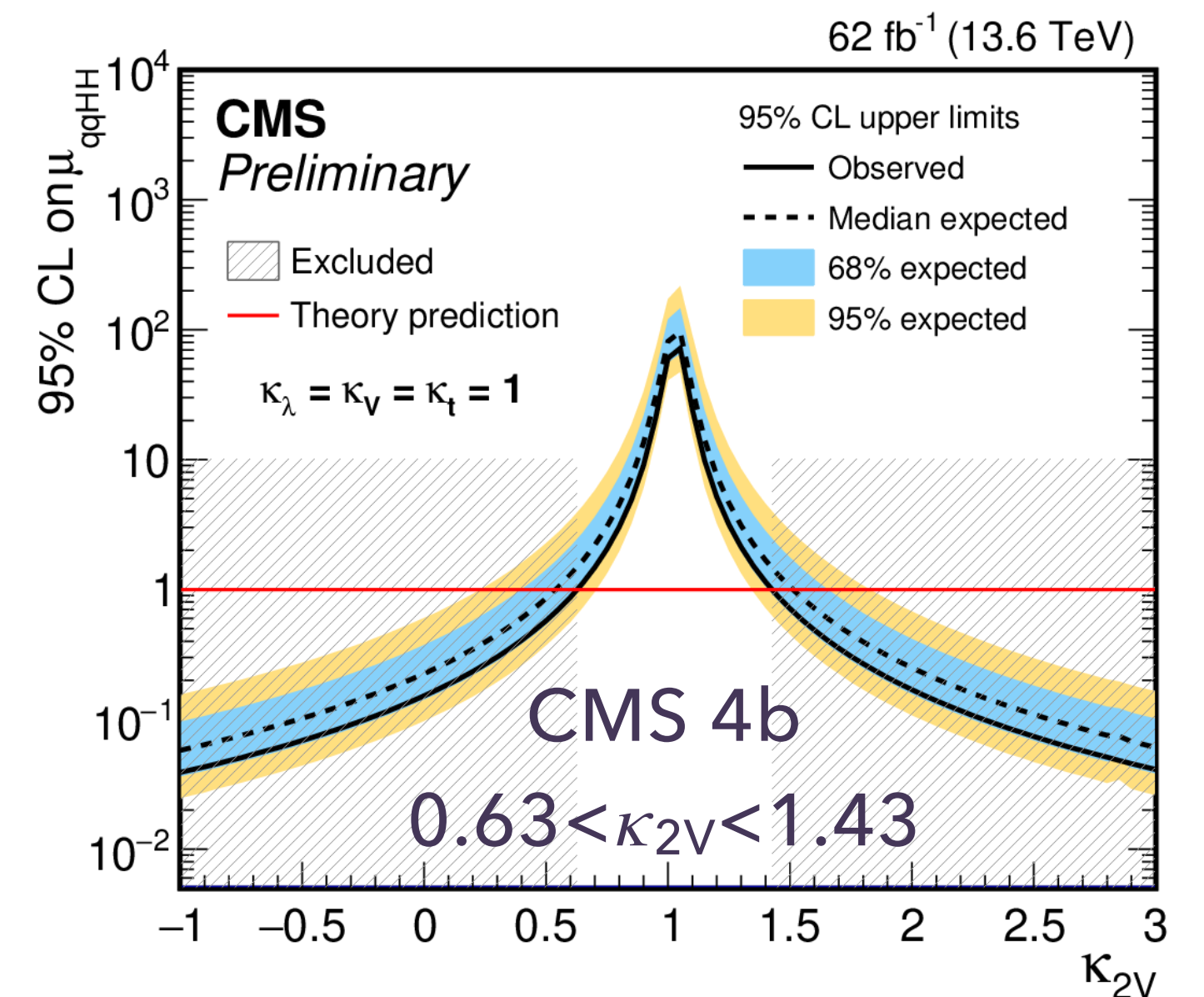
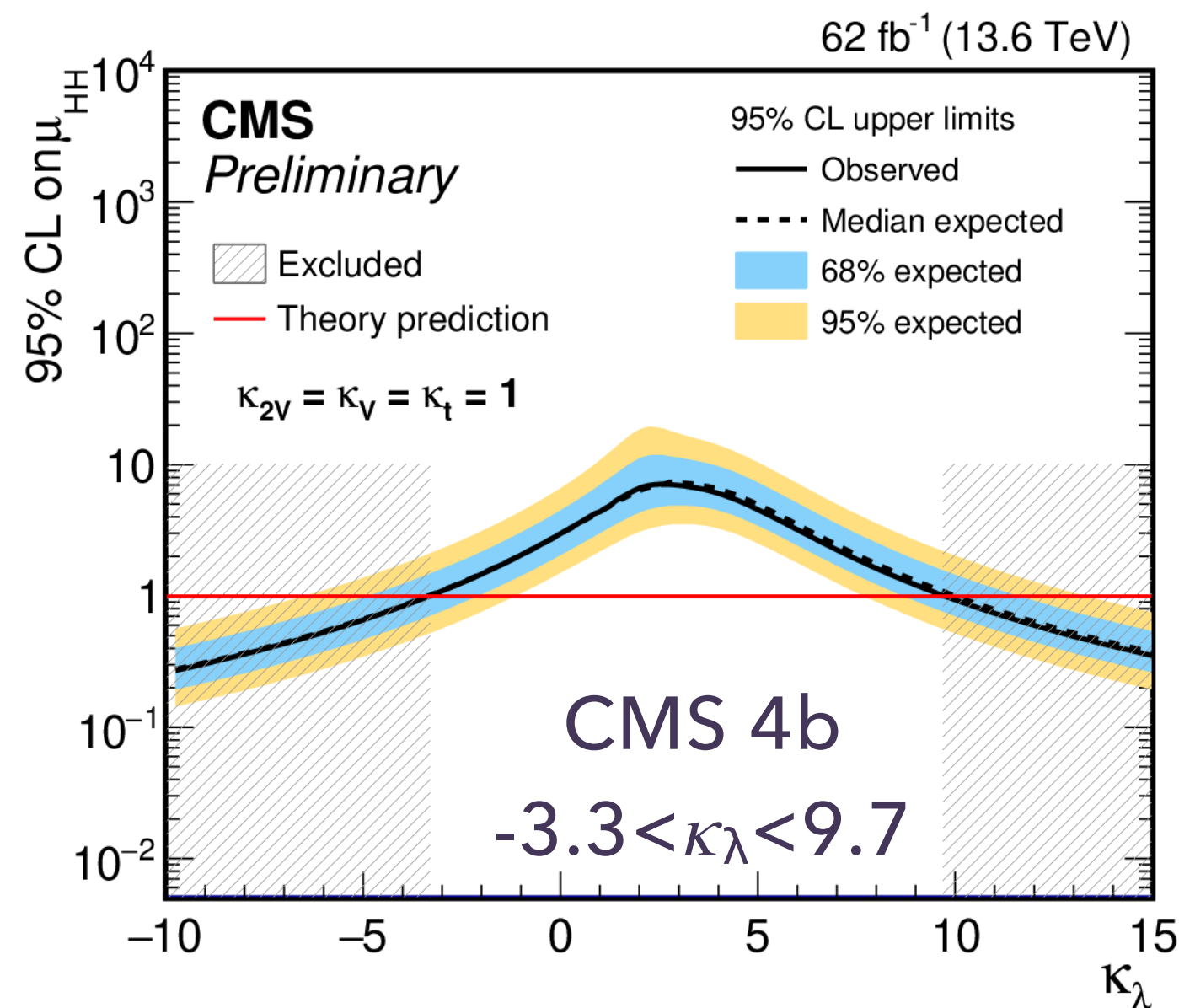
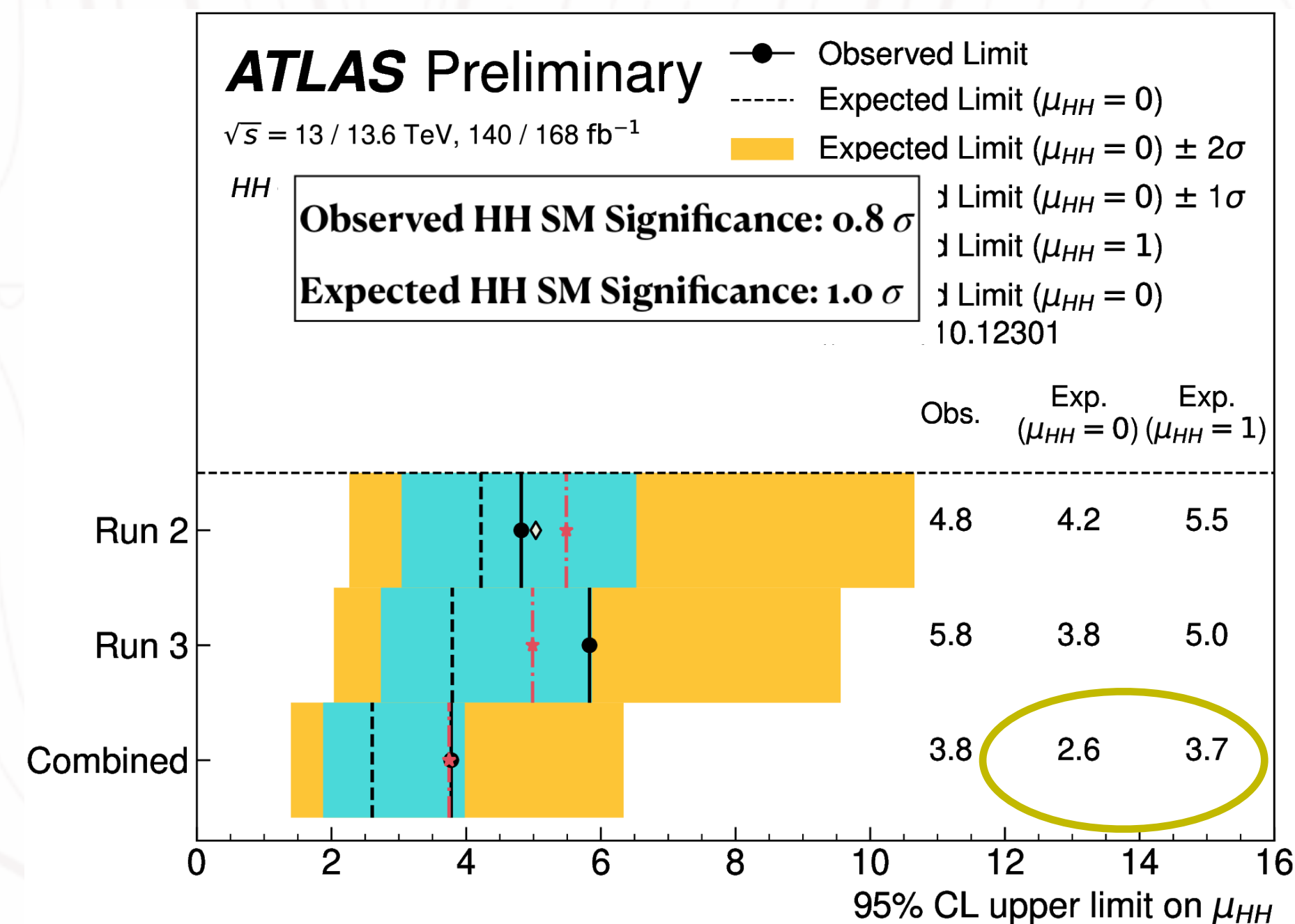
ATLAS Run2: [PRL 133 \(2024\) 101801](#)

CMS Run2: [CMS-HIG-20-011 \(submitted\)](#)

ATLAS+CMS Conf Note: [CMS-HIG-25-014](#)

FIRST LOOK AT RUN3 HH DATA

- Exploiting the new statistics, but not only!
 - 2b2 γ : [ATLAS arXiv:2507.03495](#) , [CMS HIG-25-007](#) . 4b: [CMS HIG-24-010](#)
- New analysis techniques, new triggers: huge potential to be untapped.
- Single channels in Run3 approach full Run2 combination in sensitivity

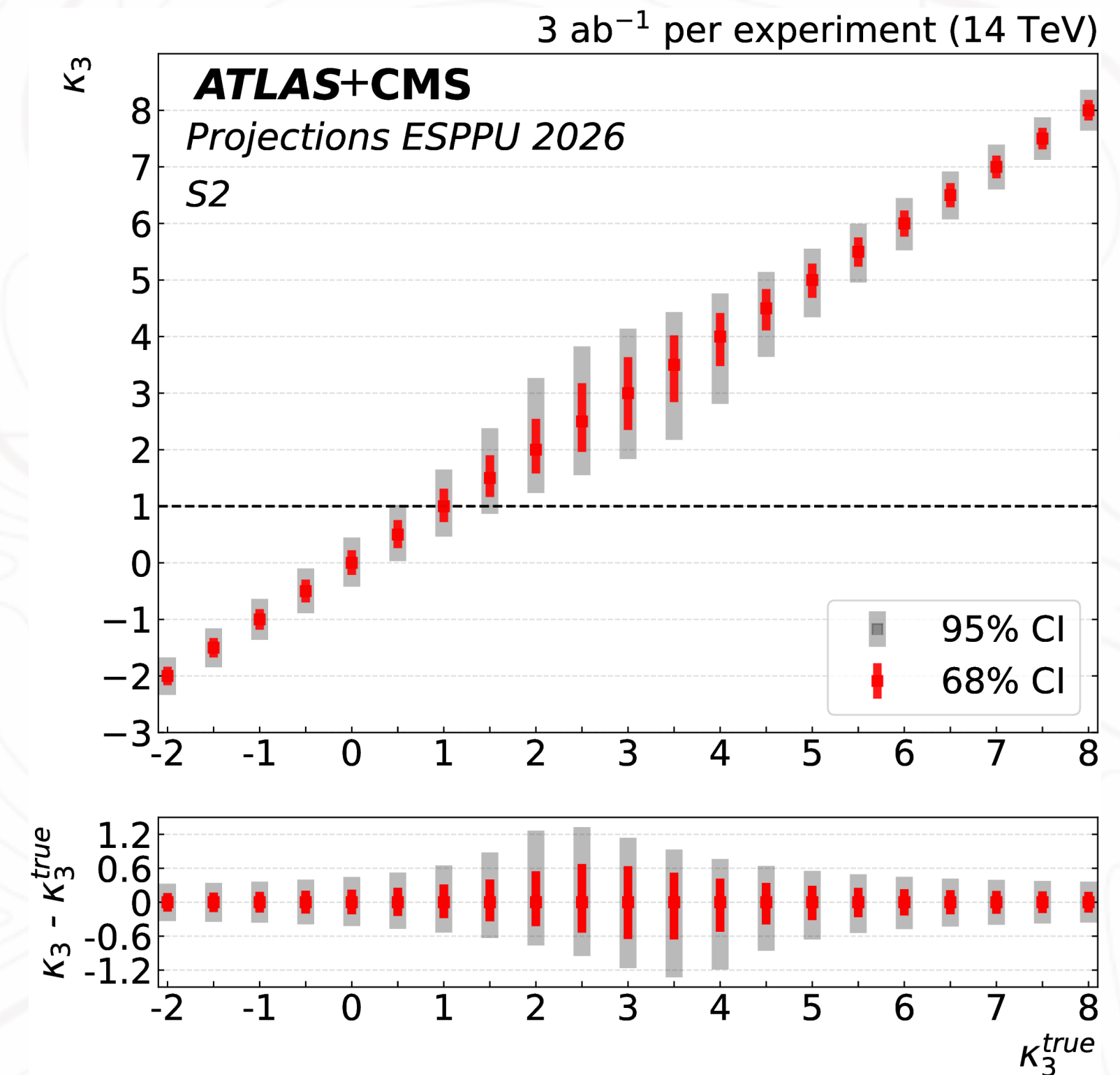
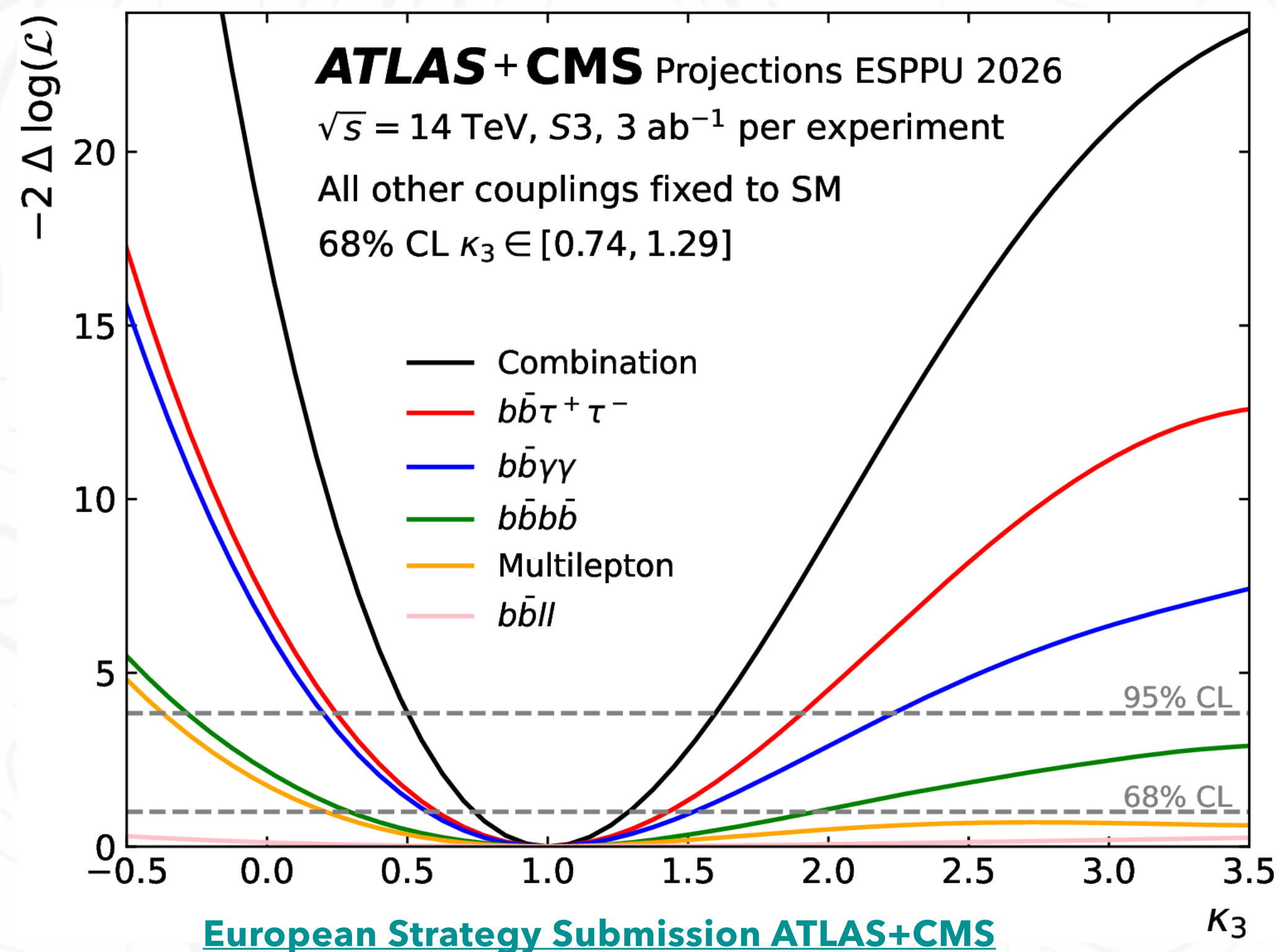


EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

– When discussing HH we look forward to future runs - remembering that analysis outpace the projections!

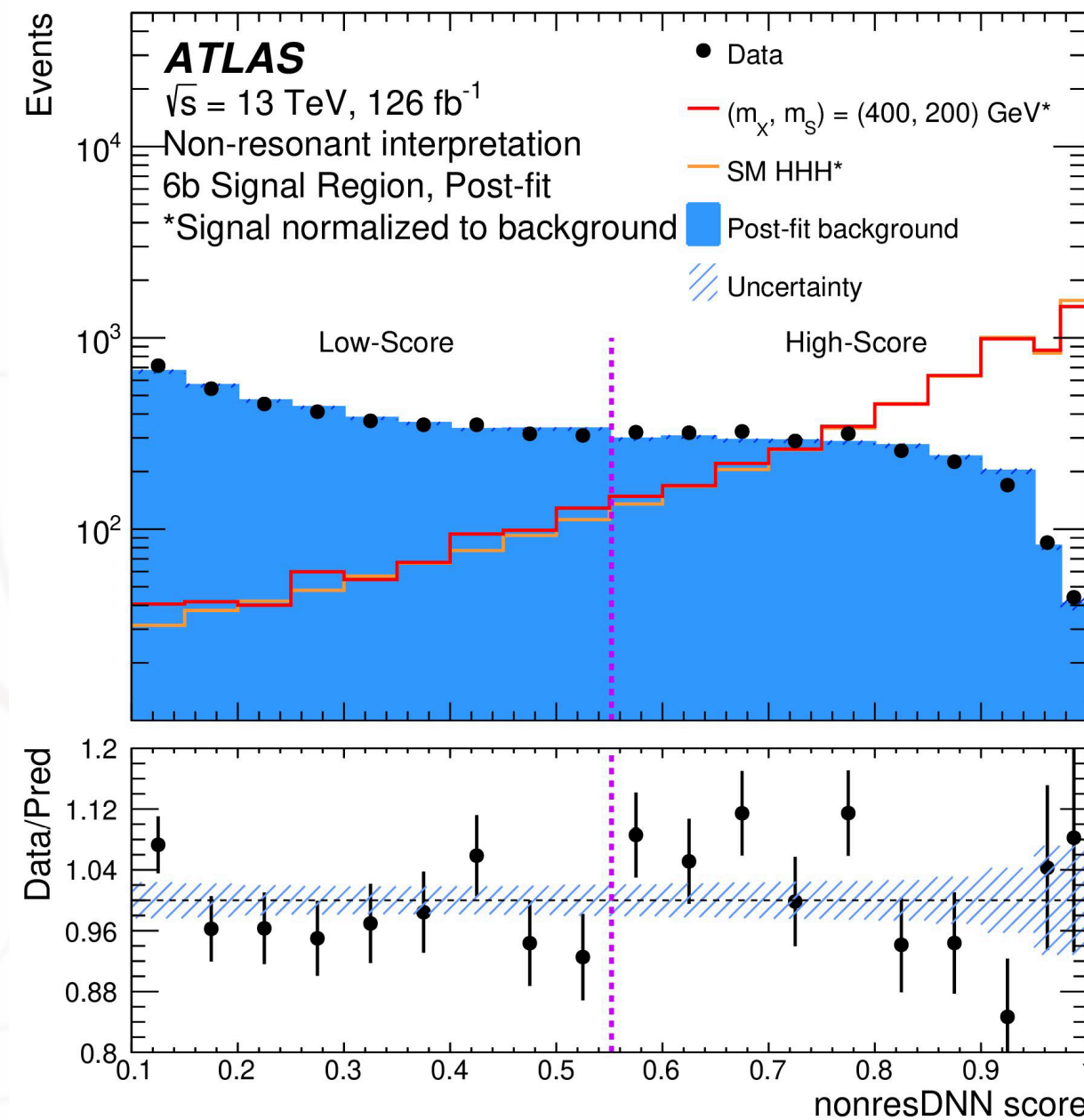
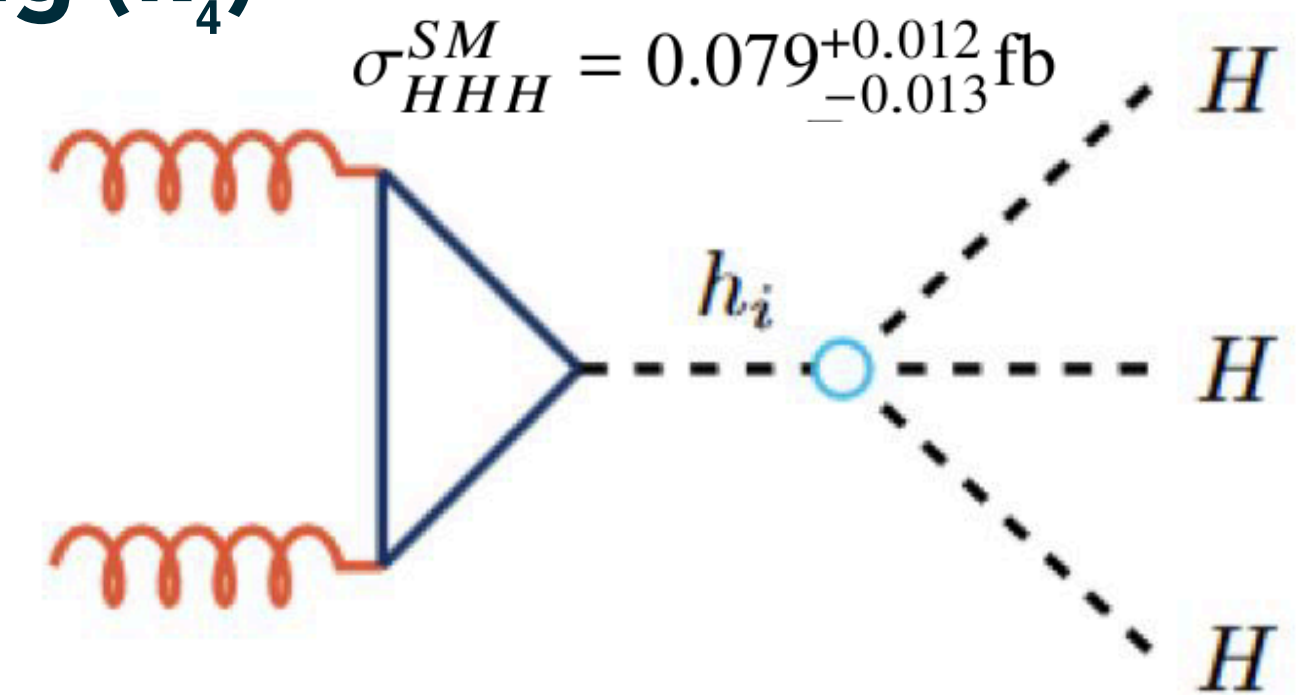
– **Observation in combination already at 2 ab⁻¹**

– **Over 4 sigmas per experiment at 3 ab⁻¹** $\kappa_\lambda \sim 1.0^{+0.29}_{-0.26} (3\text{ab}^{-1}, ATLAS + CMS)$

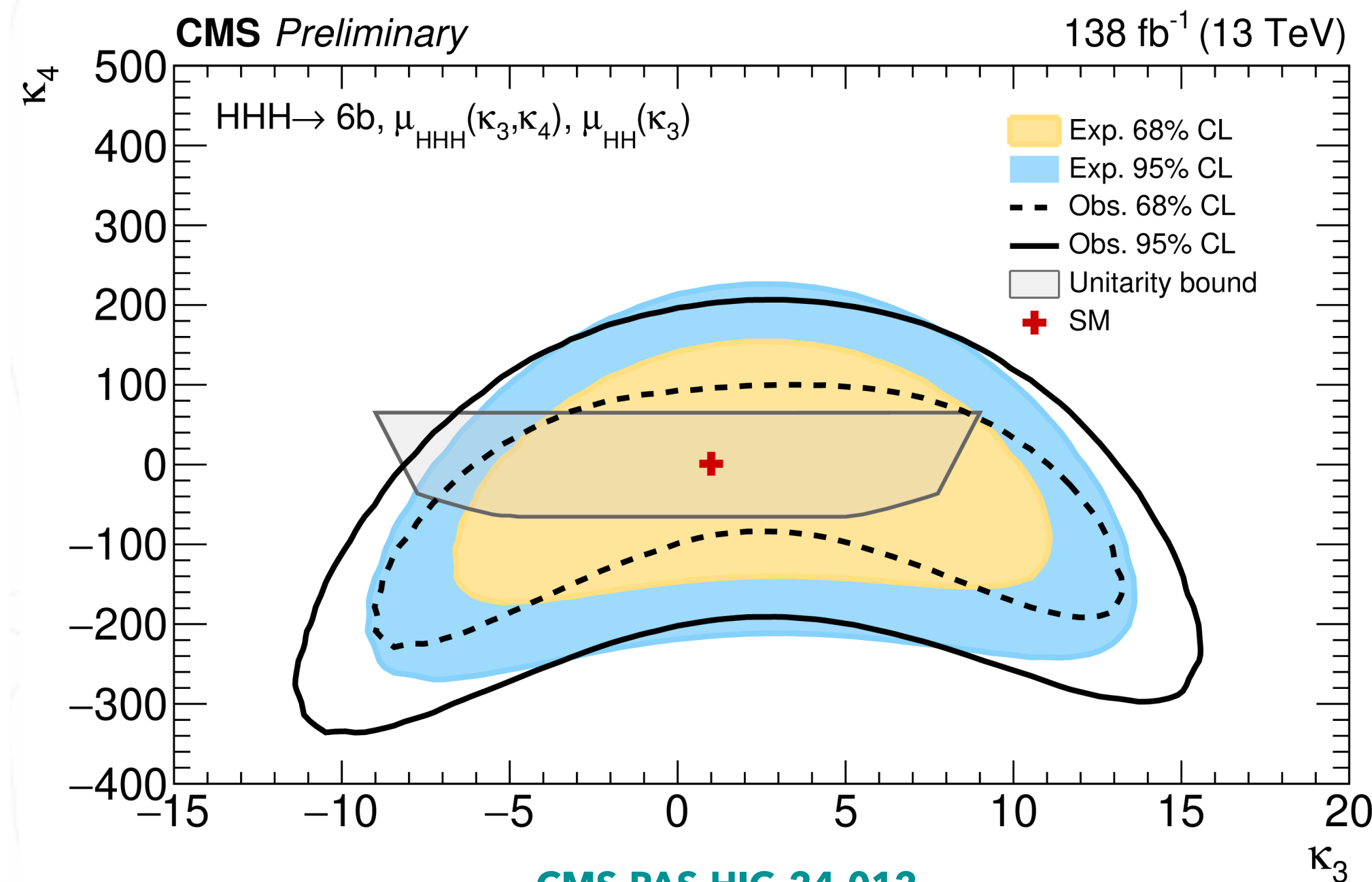


THE QUEST FOR HHH

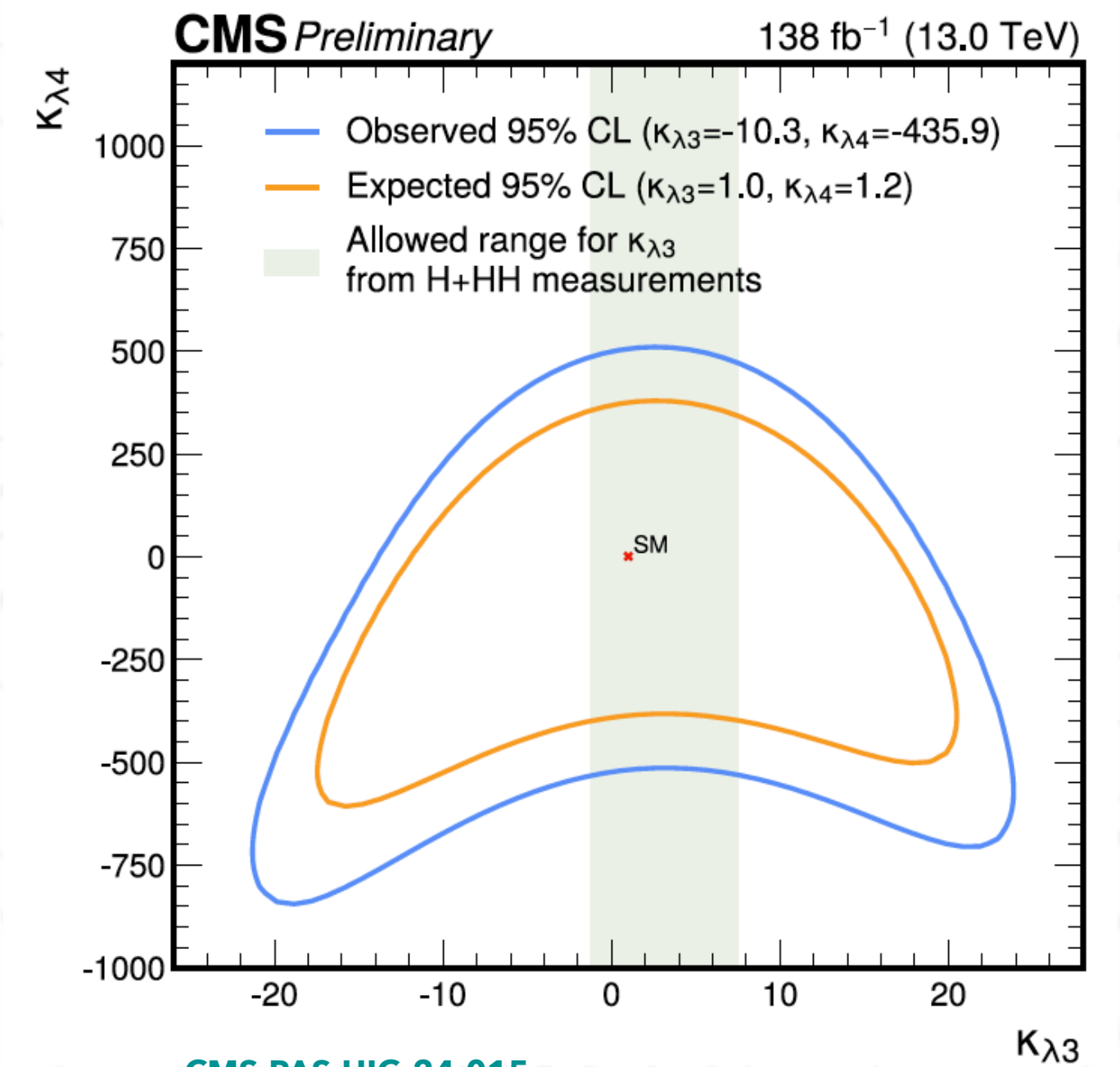
- Very very very small cross section, but **access to the quartic self-coupling (κ_4)**
- At the (HL-)LHC: probe BSM scenarios
- First results:
 - 6b: ATLAS $\mu < 760$ (750) at 95% CL, CMS: $\mu < 588$ (572), at 95% CL
 - 4b2gamma (CMS) $\mu < 3400$ (2086) at 95% CL



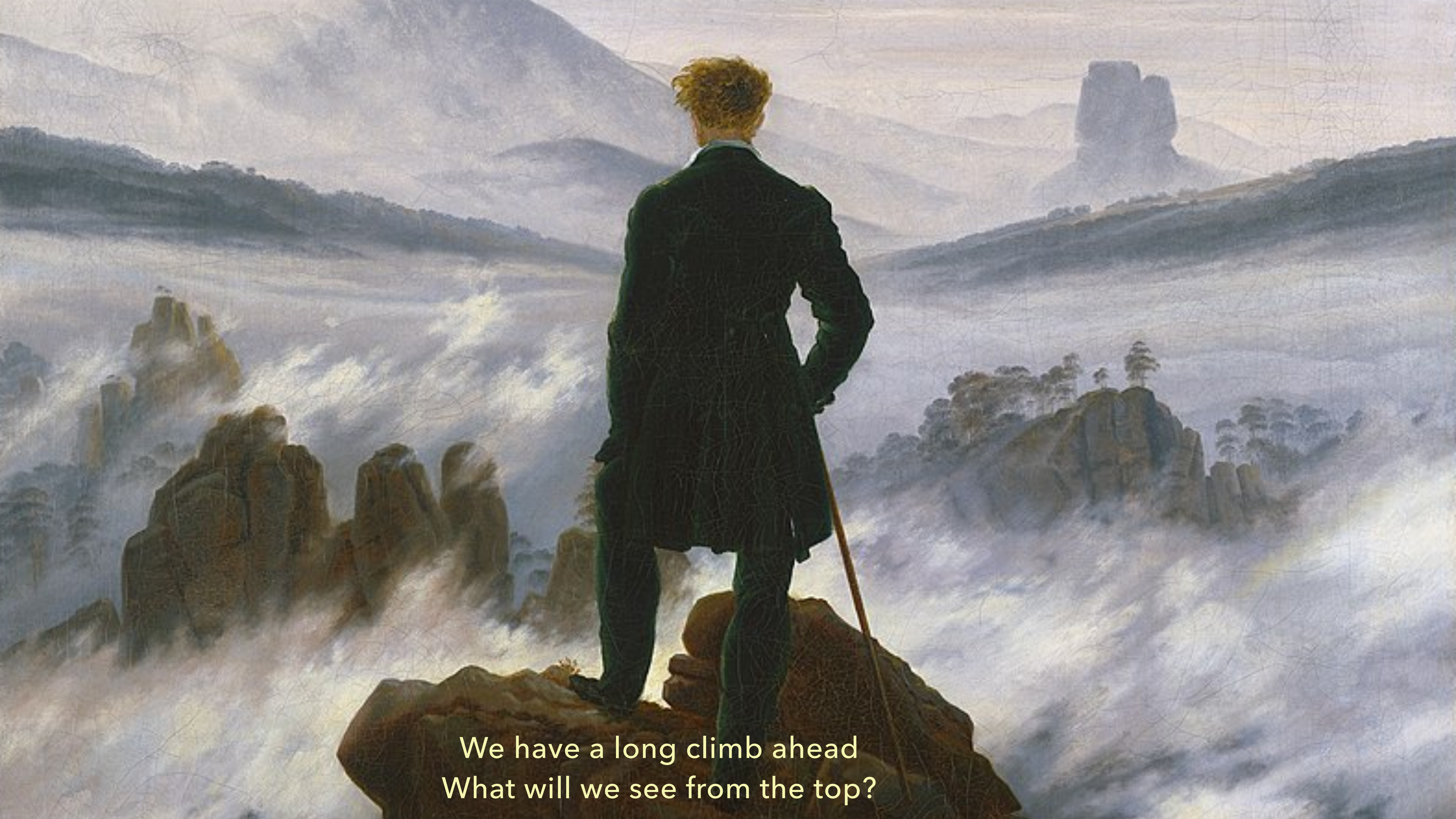
[Phys. Rev. D 111 \(2025\) 032006](#)



[CMS-PAS-HIG-24-012](#)

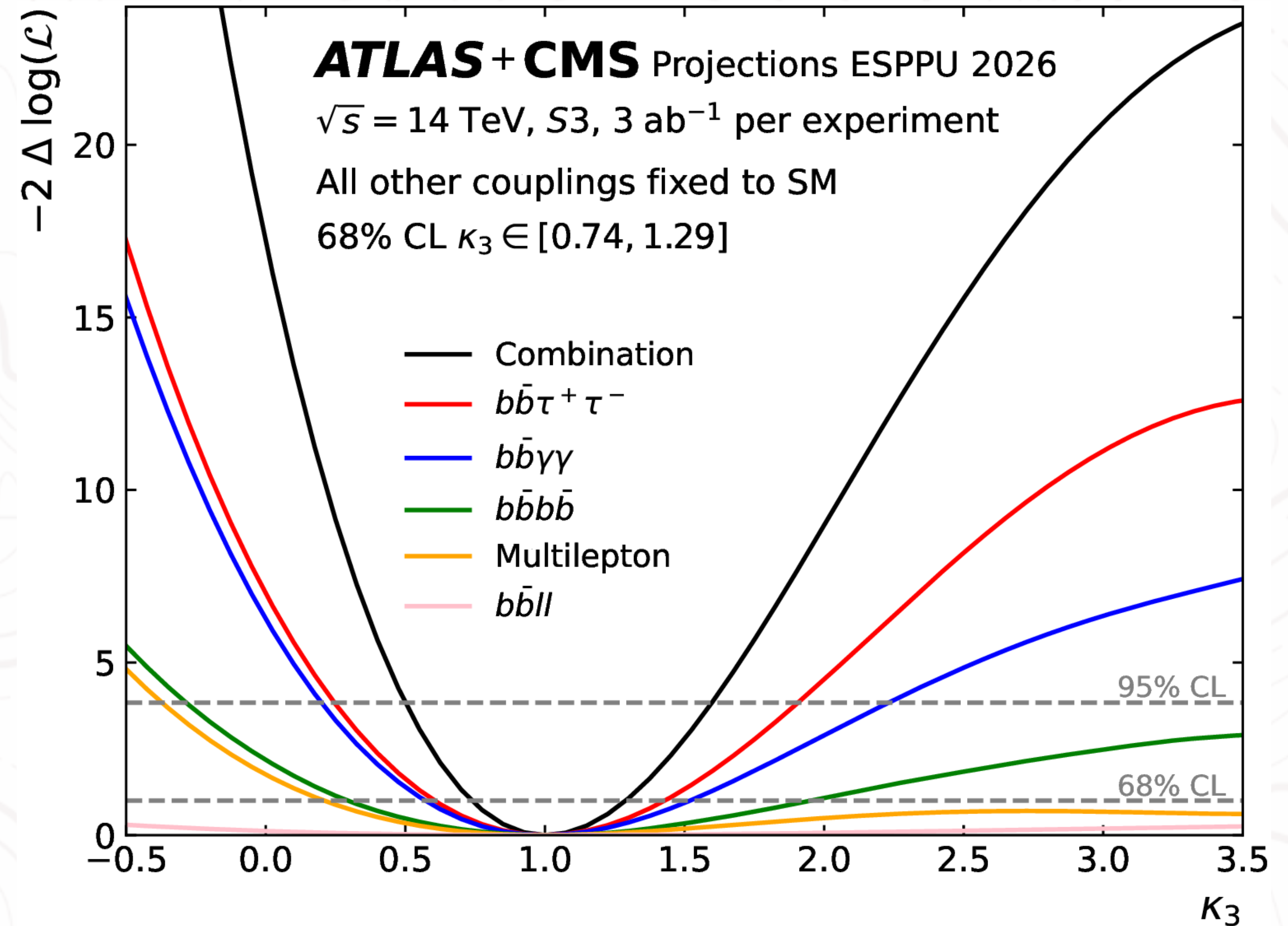
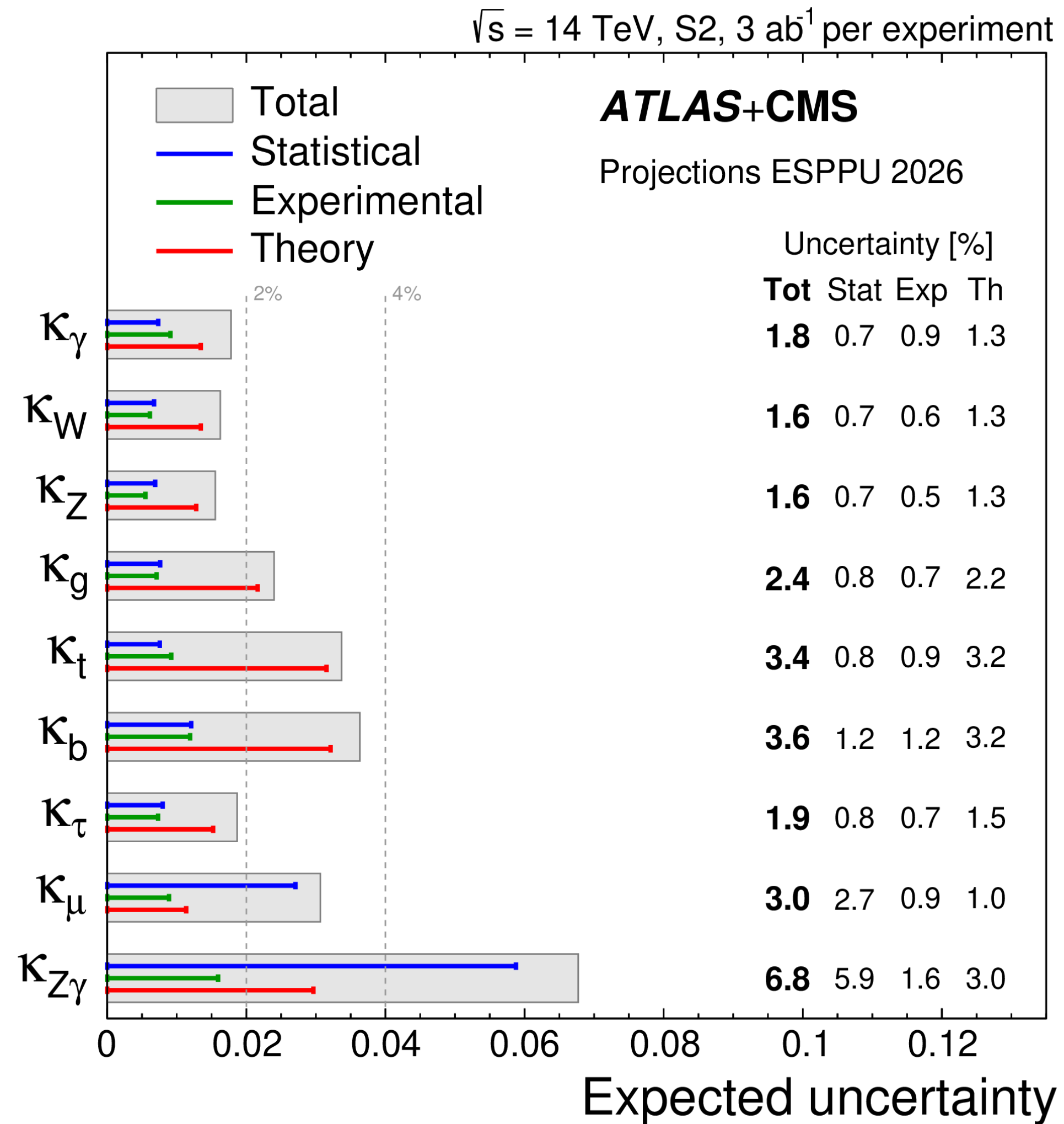


[CMS-PAS-HIG-24-015](#)



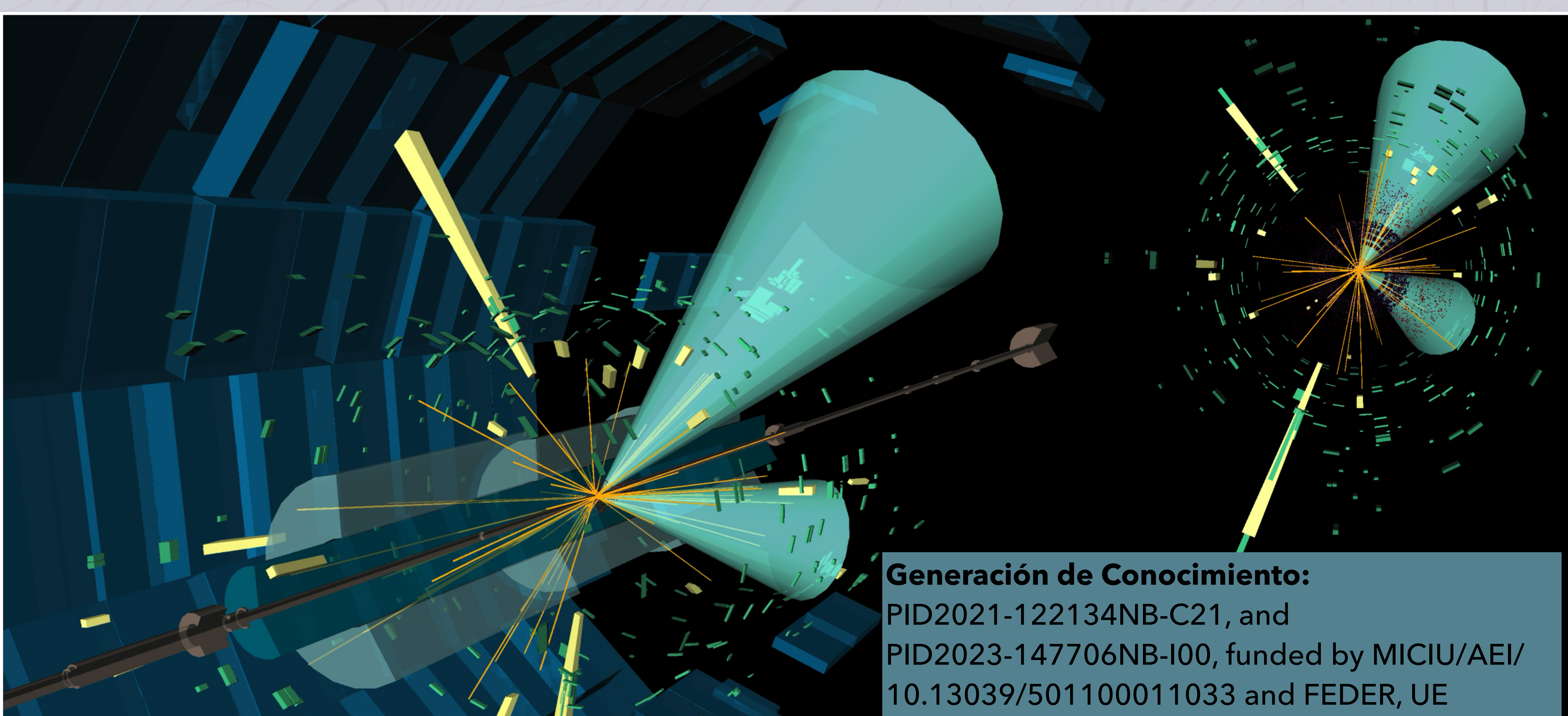
We have a long climb ahead
What will we see from the top?

AT THE END OF THE LHC ROAD...



TOWARDS HIGGS PRECISION

- The study of the Higgs boson is more alive than ever. The landscape has changed dramatically: from searches and discovery to really understanding its nature: the journey goes on. Today, it is **one of our best tools to discover new physics** (direct or indirectly).
- CMS and ATLAS have scrutinized the Run2 dataset, with a treasure of measurements of its properties. Run3 results are underway.
 - ➔ I could only cover a fraction of the results! More in CMS and ATLAS.
- To go beyond our current results both experiments are invested in ML developments in tagging, reconstruction, and inference: improving sensitivity way beyond statistics
- With one Higgs at hand, the next big challenge is finding two. **Measuring the self-coupling and understanding the Higgs potential, the HL-LHC final frontier?**
- Beyond our current machine, the future is coming and we need to prepare for it. **Mapping the Higgs sector will be the legacy of the LHC, and a stepping stone for the next machines.**
More precision than what the LHC can provide is needed, and as we uncover uncharted territory more interesting questions will arise. The future looks bright for Higgs studies!



Generación de Conocimiento:

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PID2023-147706NB-I00, funded by MICIU/AEI/
10.13039/501100011033 and FEDER, UE

Consolidación Investigadora 2023:

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10.13039/501100011033 and European Union
NextGenerationEU/PRTR



MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN
Y UNIVERSIDADES



Financiado por
la Unión Europea
NextGenerationEU



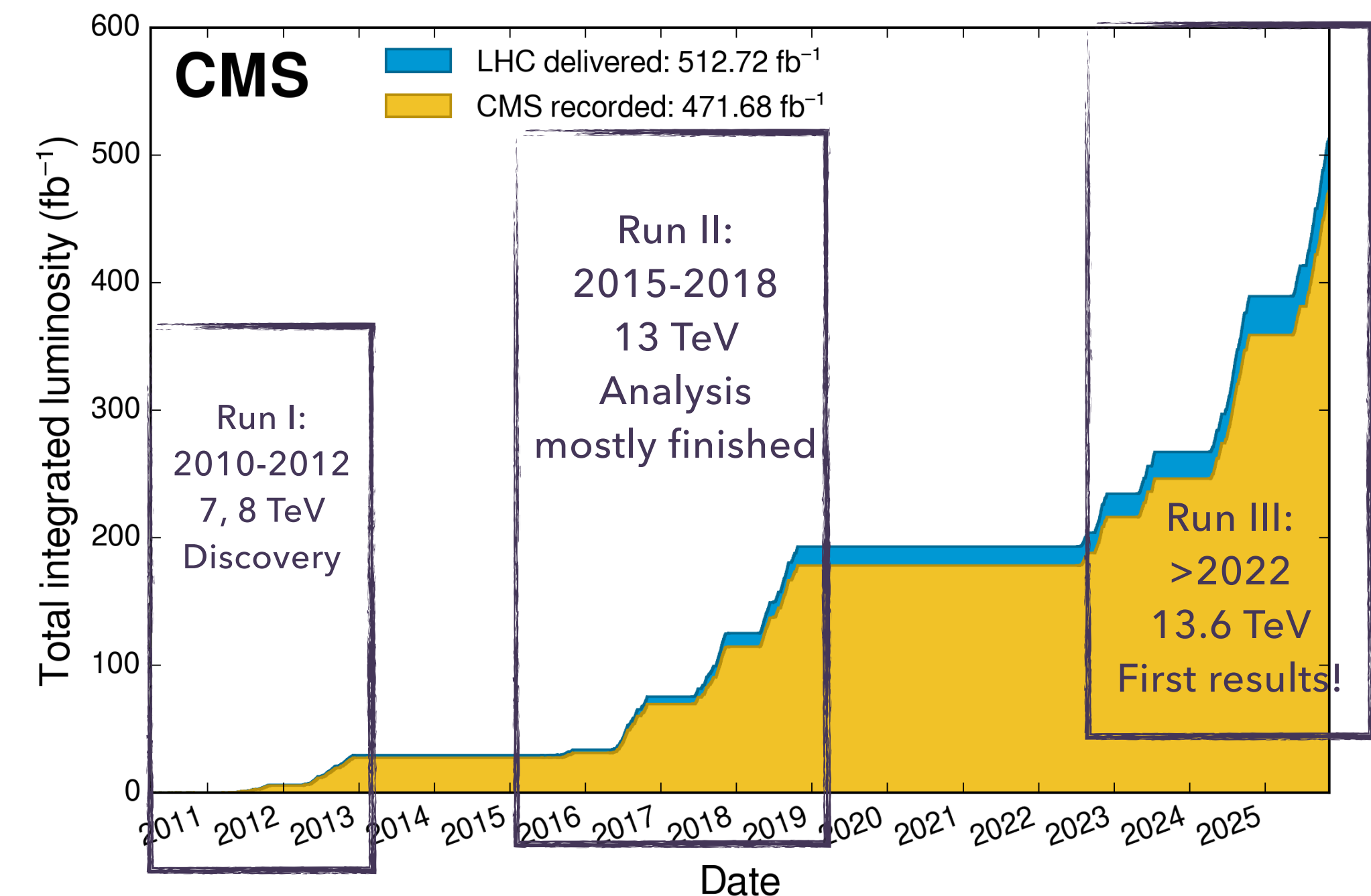
Plan de Recuperación,
Transformación y
Resiliencia



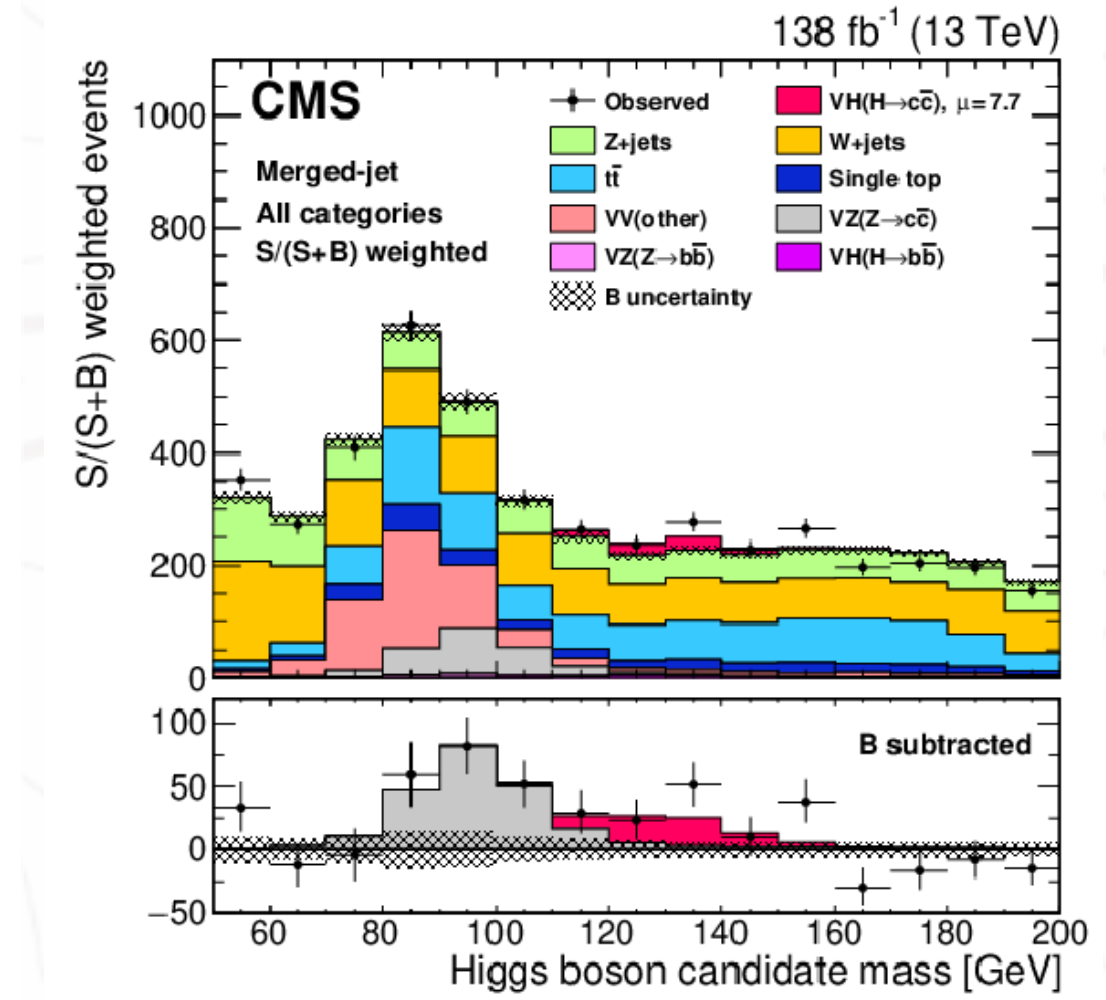
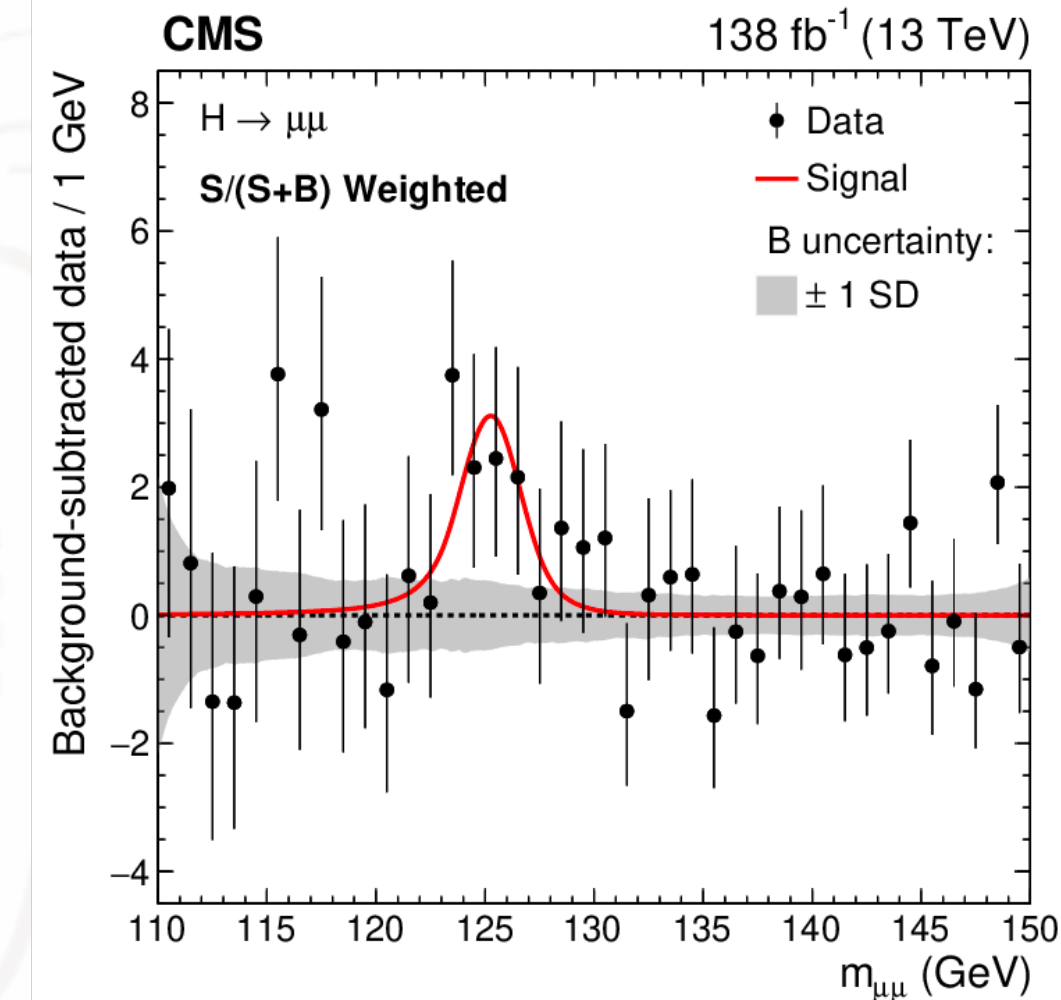
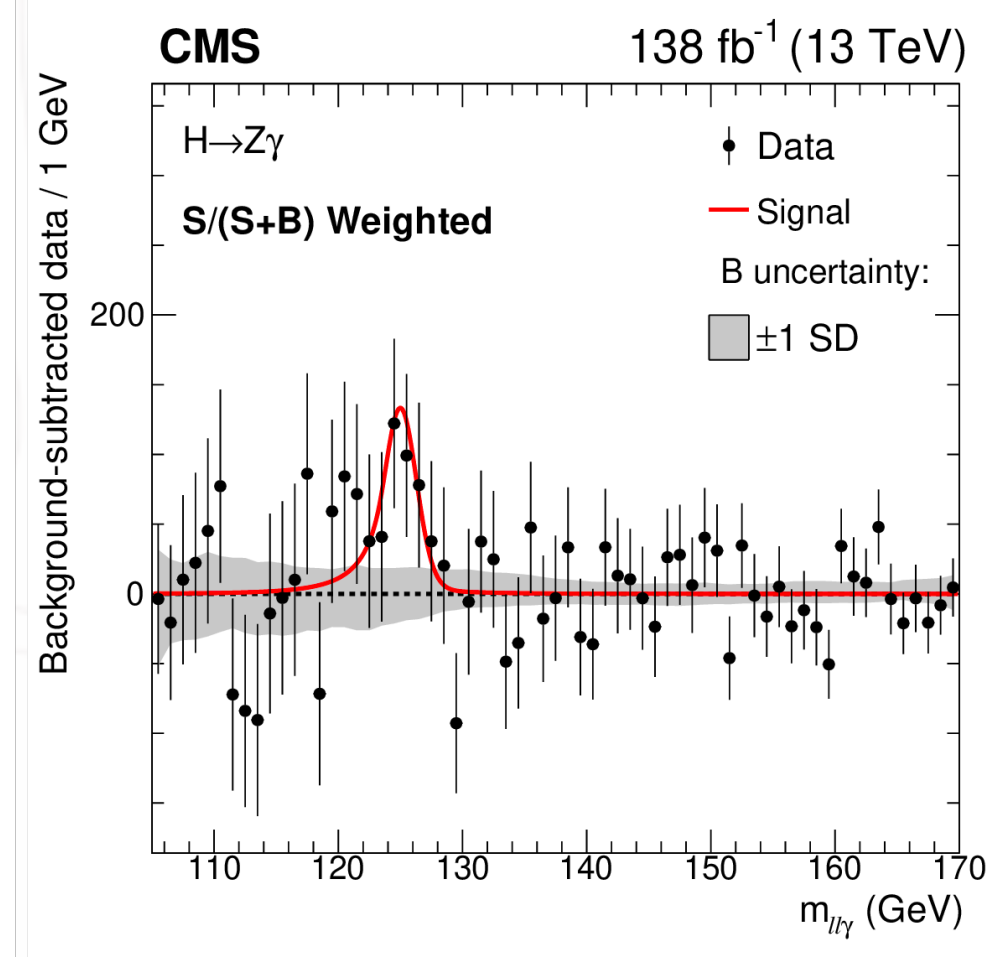
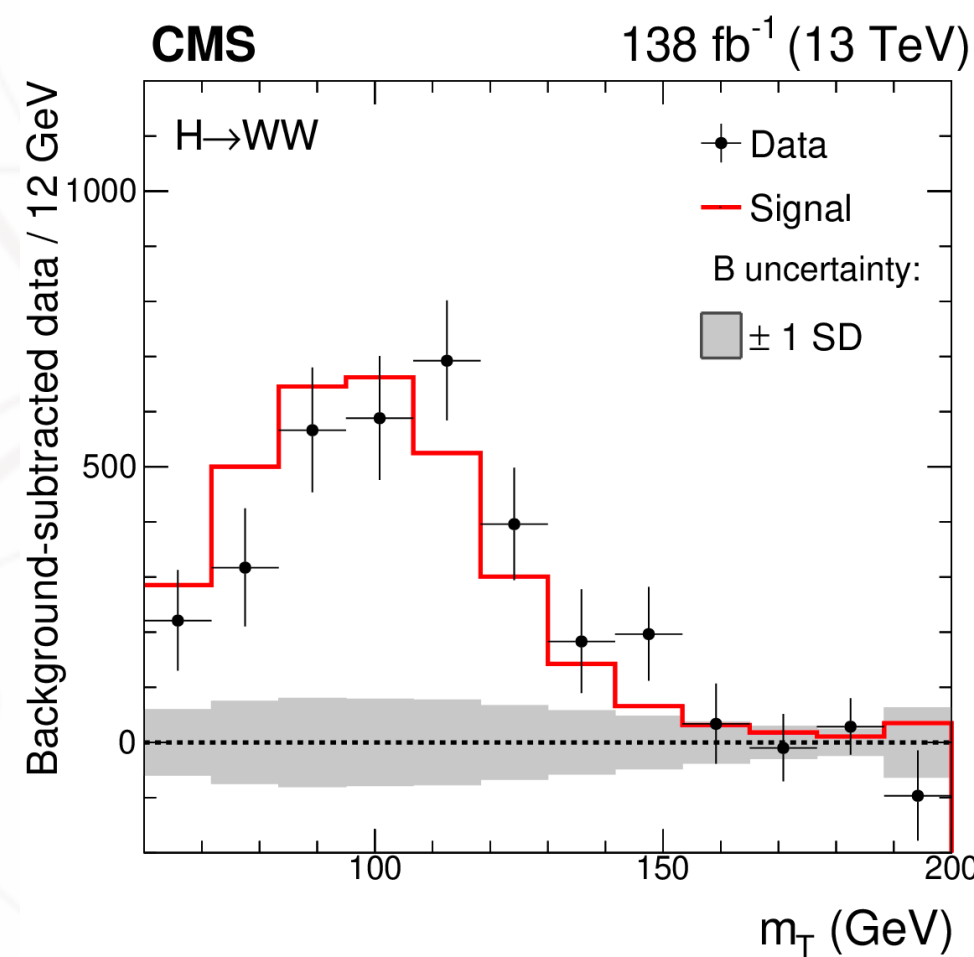
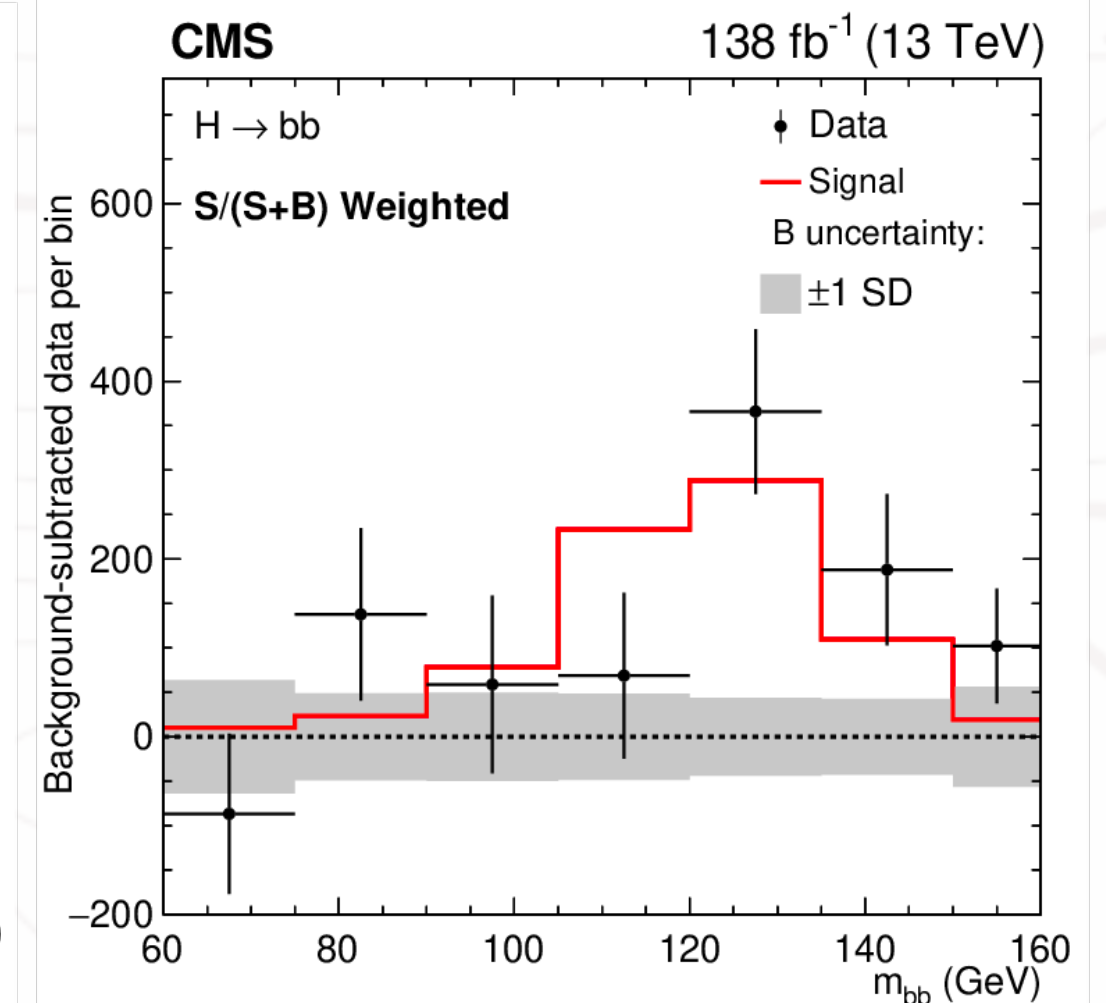
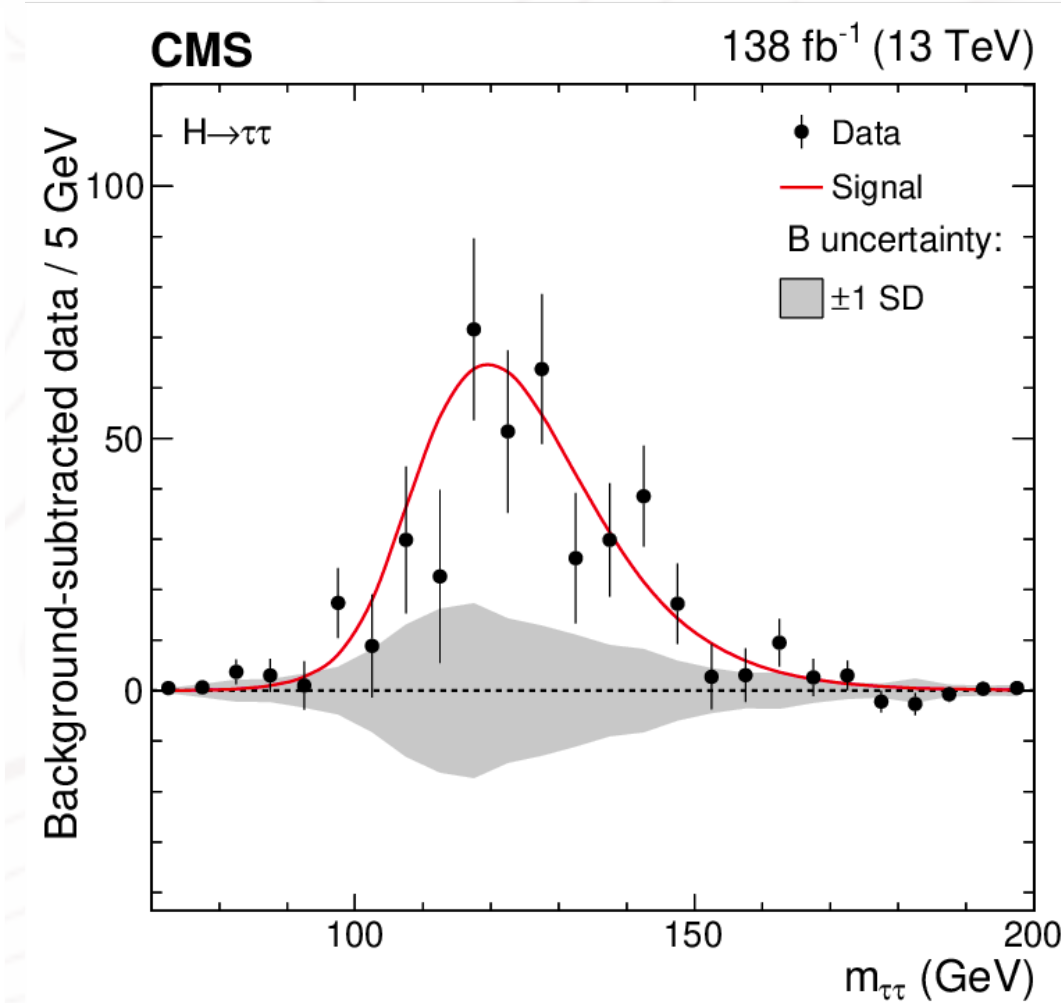
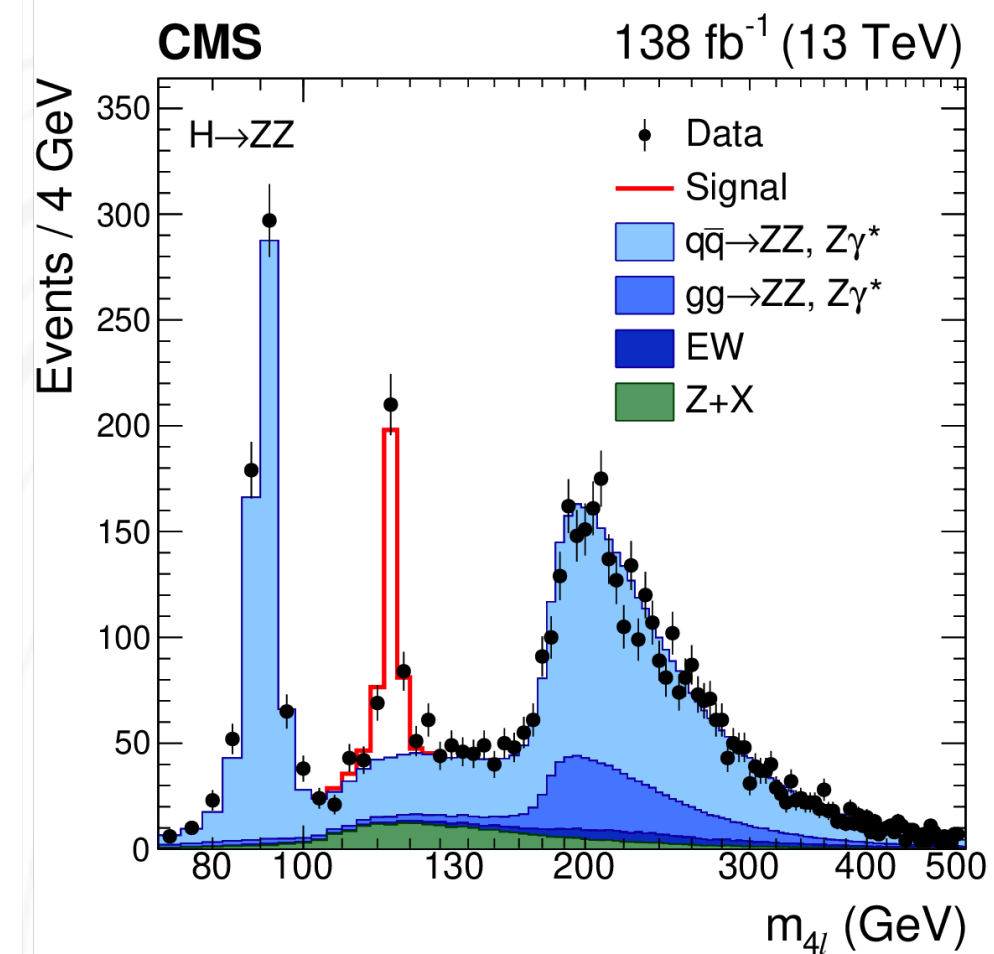
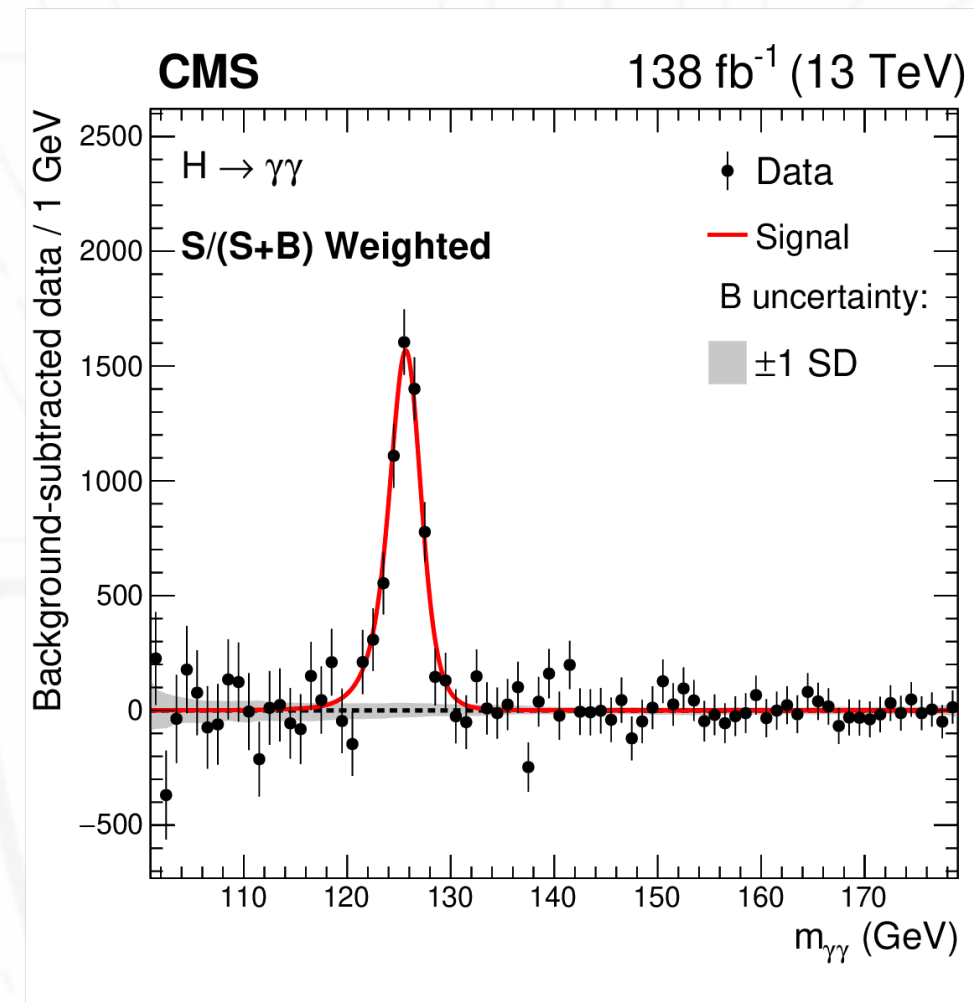
AGENCIA
ESTATAL DE
INVESTIGACIÓN

THE HIGGS LANDSCAPE TODAY AT A GLANCE

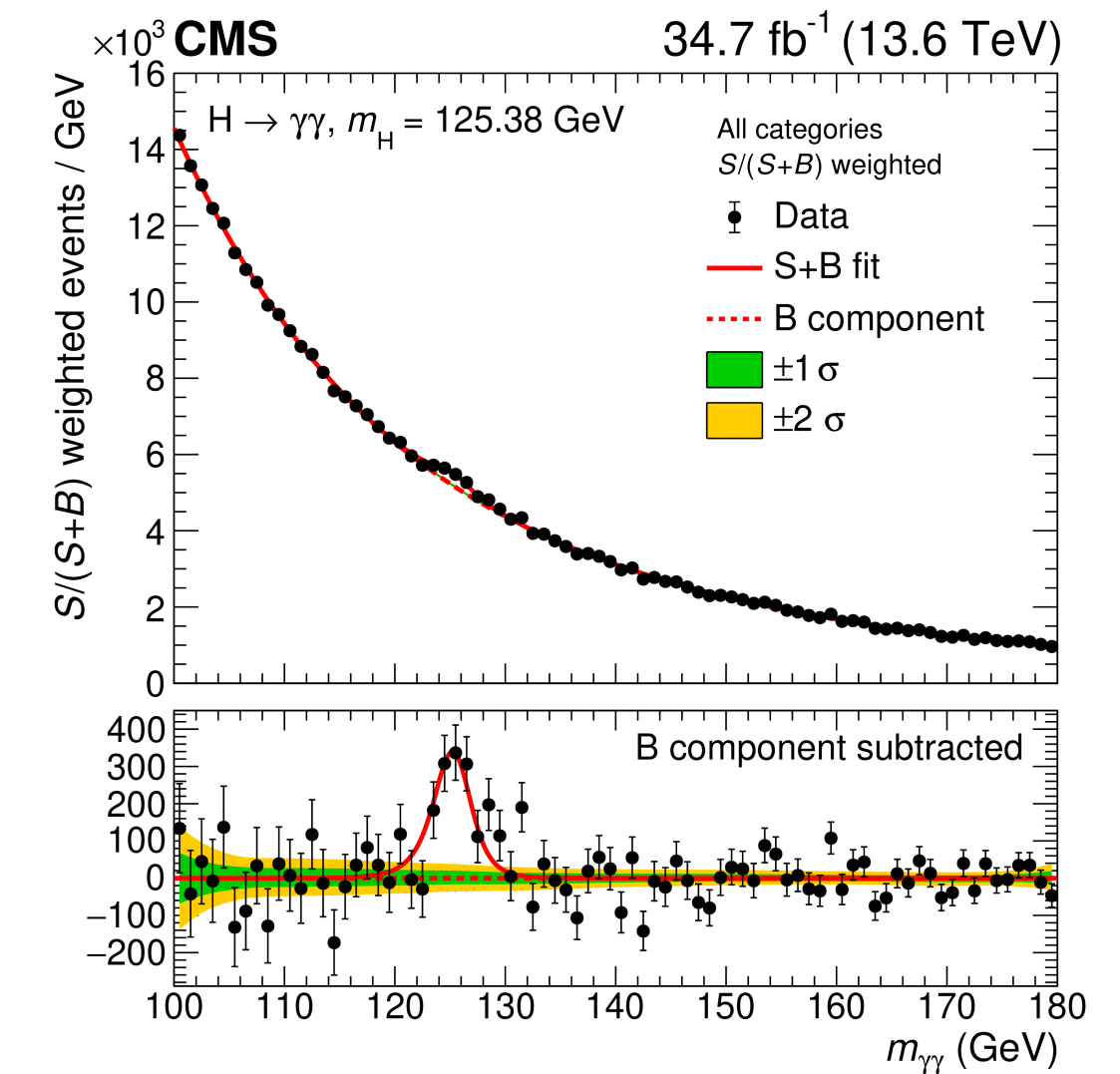
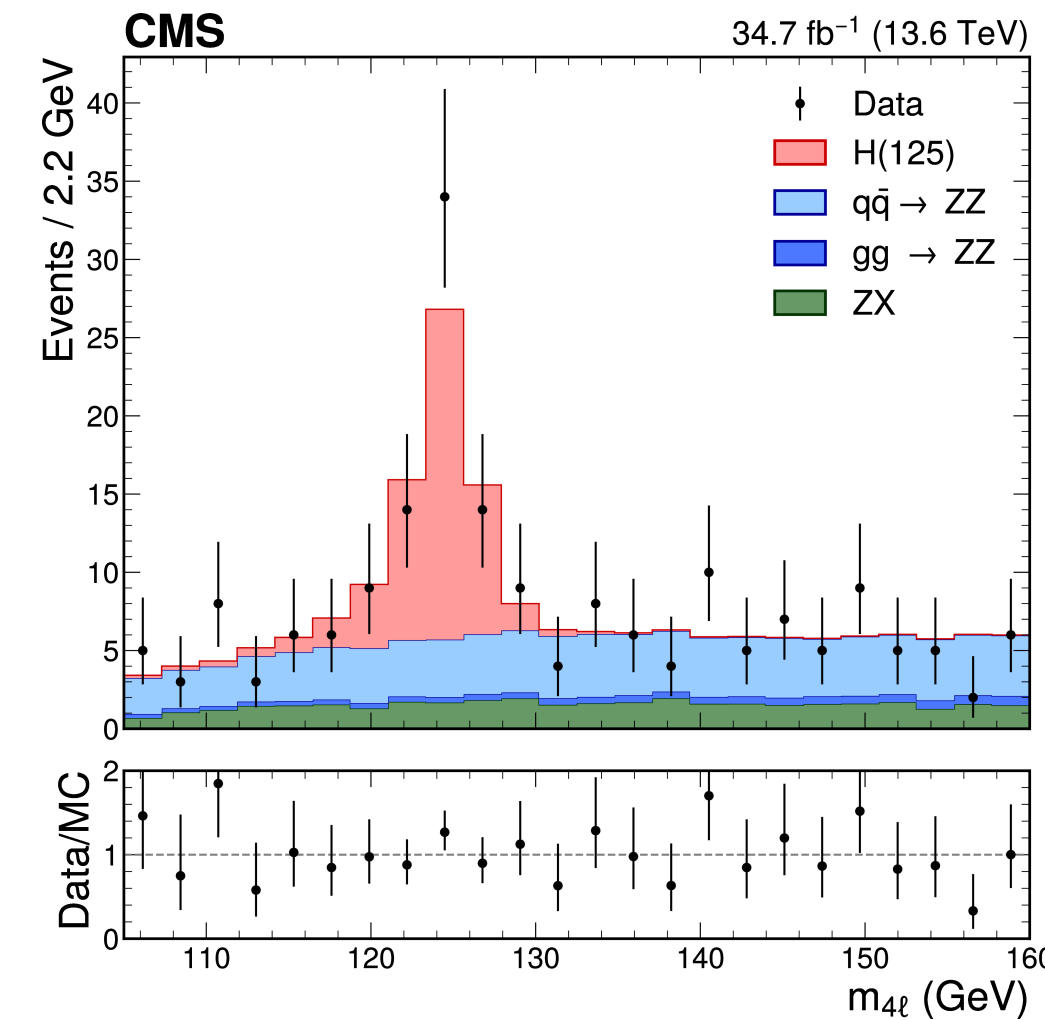
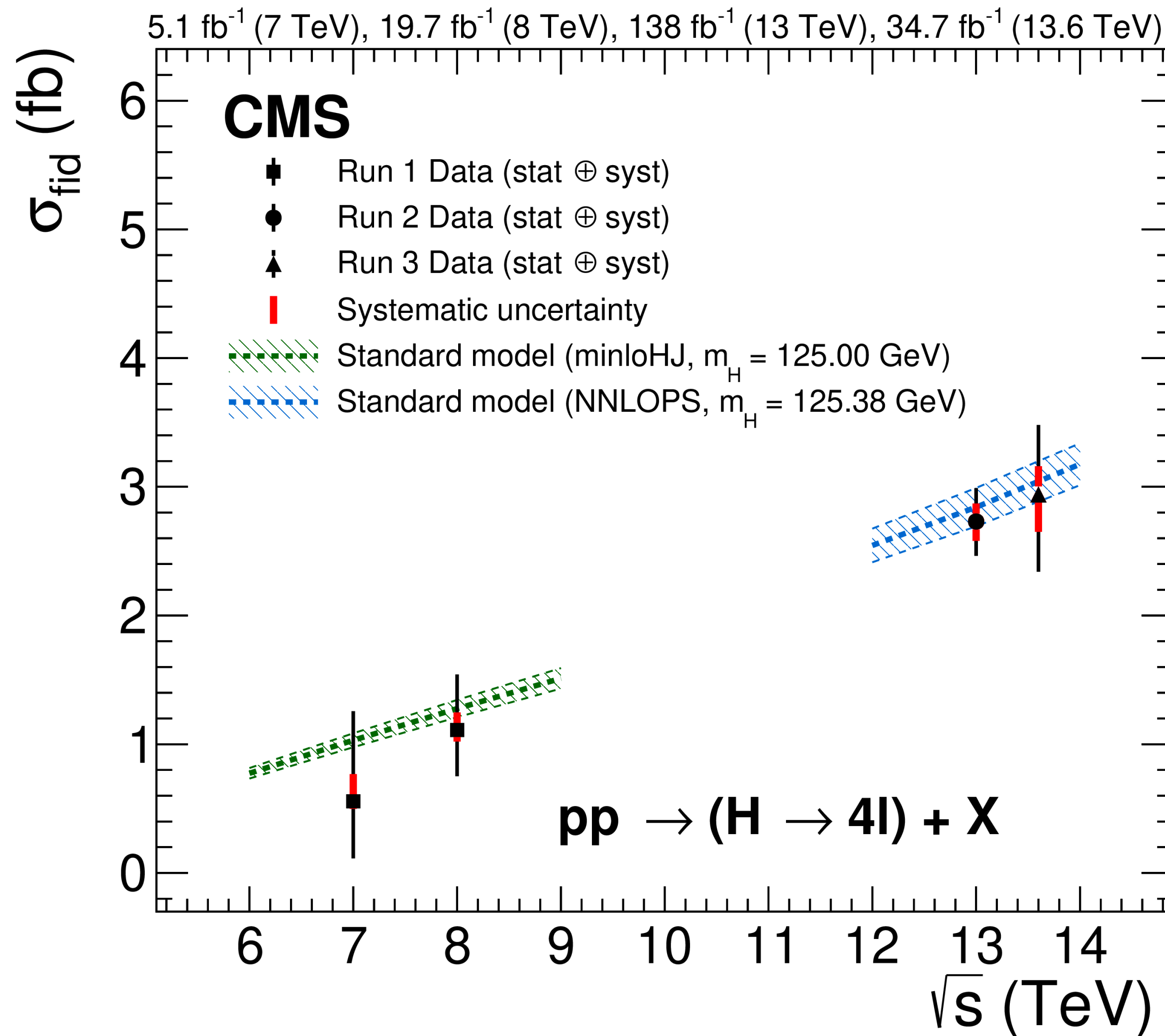
- **Run 2 analysis is (almost) complete** → $\sim 140 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ at 13 TeV
- **Run 3 analysis underway** → $> 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ at 13.6 TeV!
- **Wealth of precision measurements: testing SM boundaries**
 - Inclusive and differential cross sections, Coupling fits
 - EFT constraints
- **Large statistics:**
 - measurements in complicated phase-spaces
 - rare decays and elusive signatures within reach
- **Di-Higgs: exploring the self-coupling**
 - Exclusion limits are closing in on SM range ($\sim 2.5 \times \text{SM}$)
- **Analysis techniques in constant improvement**
 - Boosted objects, ML approaches, new EFT interpretations
- **HL-LHC sensitivity reappraised for the the European Strategy**



THE FACES OF THE HIGGS IN RUN2...



7, 8, 13... AND 13.6 TeV



- HZZ (JHEP 05 (2025) 079):

$$-\sigma_{fid}(H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l) = 3.09 \pm 11^{+0.27}_{-0.24} \text{ fb}$$

- and Hγγ (arXiv:2504.17755)

$$-\sigma_{fid}(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) = 74 \pm 11 \text{ (stat)}^{+5}_{-4} \text{ (syst) fb}$$

HOW WELL DO WE KNOW THE HIGGS MASS?

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- **Free parameter in the SM**

- Known to permil level already!

(Through $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$ and $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$)

HOW WELL DO WE KNOW THE HIGGS MASS?

- **Free parameter in the SM**

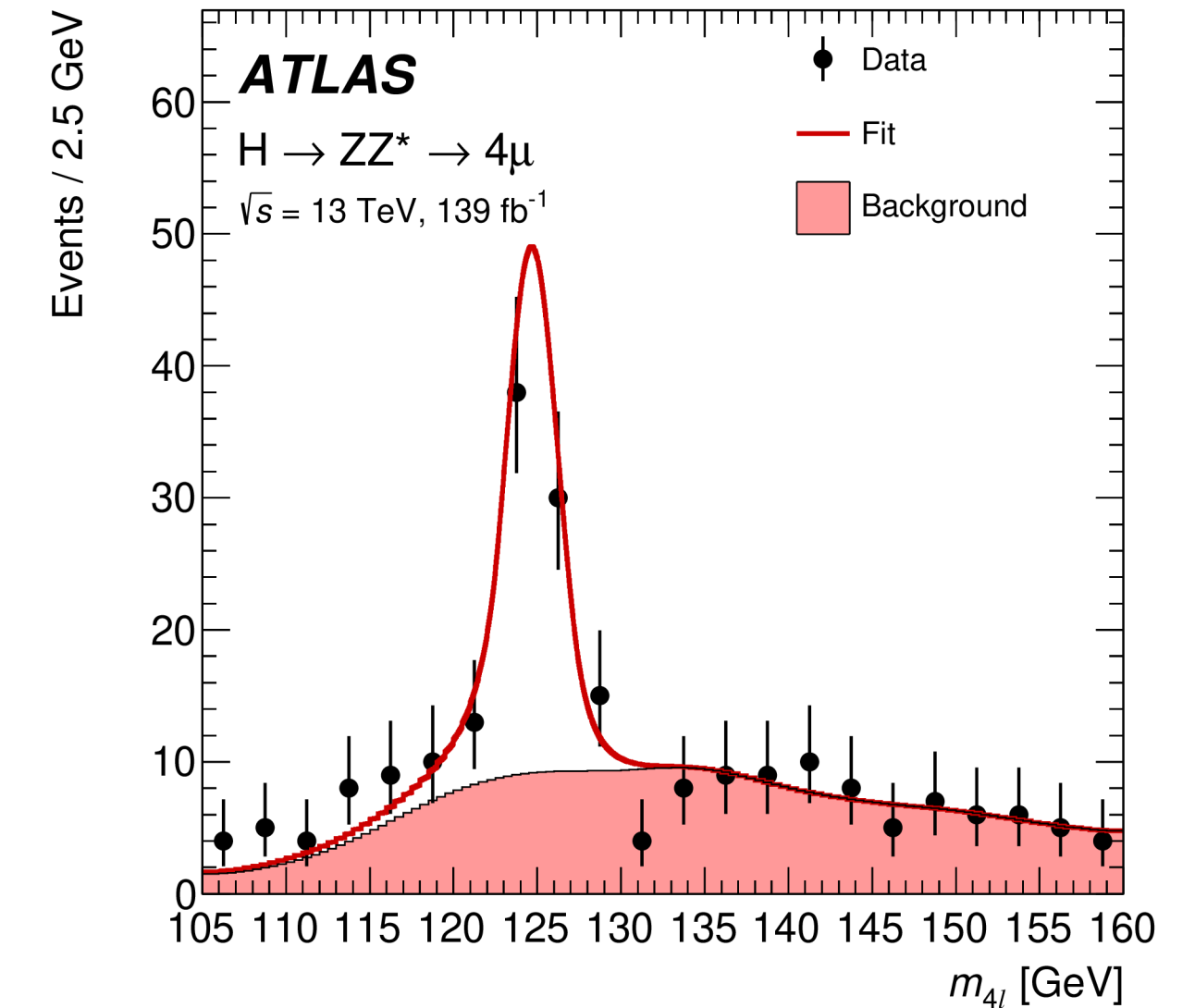
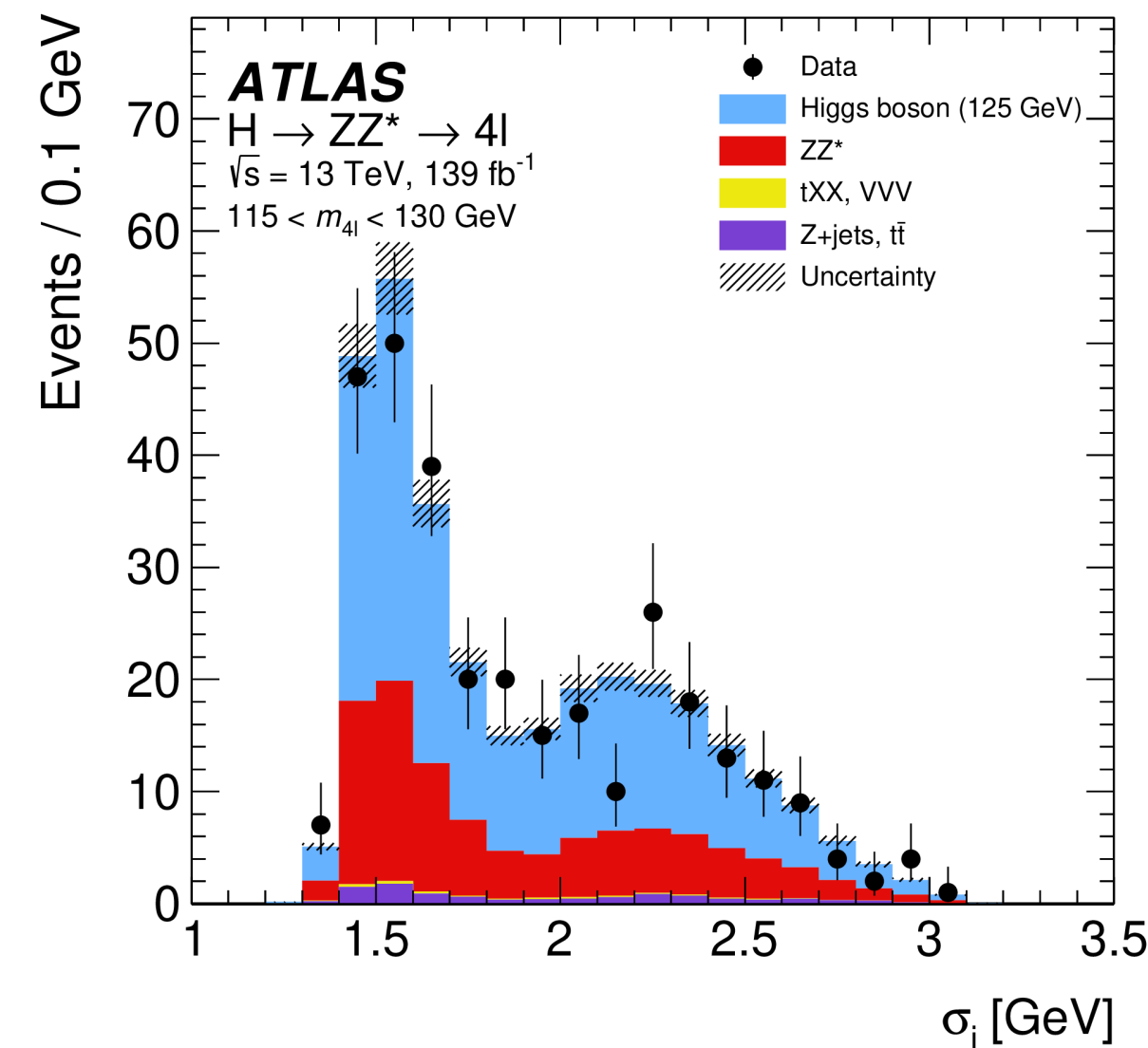
- Known to permil level already!

(Through $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$ and $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$)

- Precision directly linked to the reconstruction (energy scale and resolution) of photons and leptons

- Huge experimental effort to measure momentum/energy scale, calibration and resolution very precisely

- Template fit of mH distribution, categorised by resolution



HOW WELL DO WE KNOW THE HIGGS MASS?

Free parameter in the SM

Known to permil level already!

(Through $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$ and $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$)

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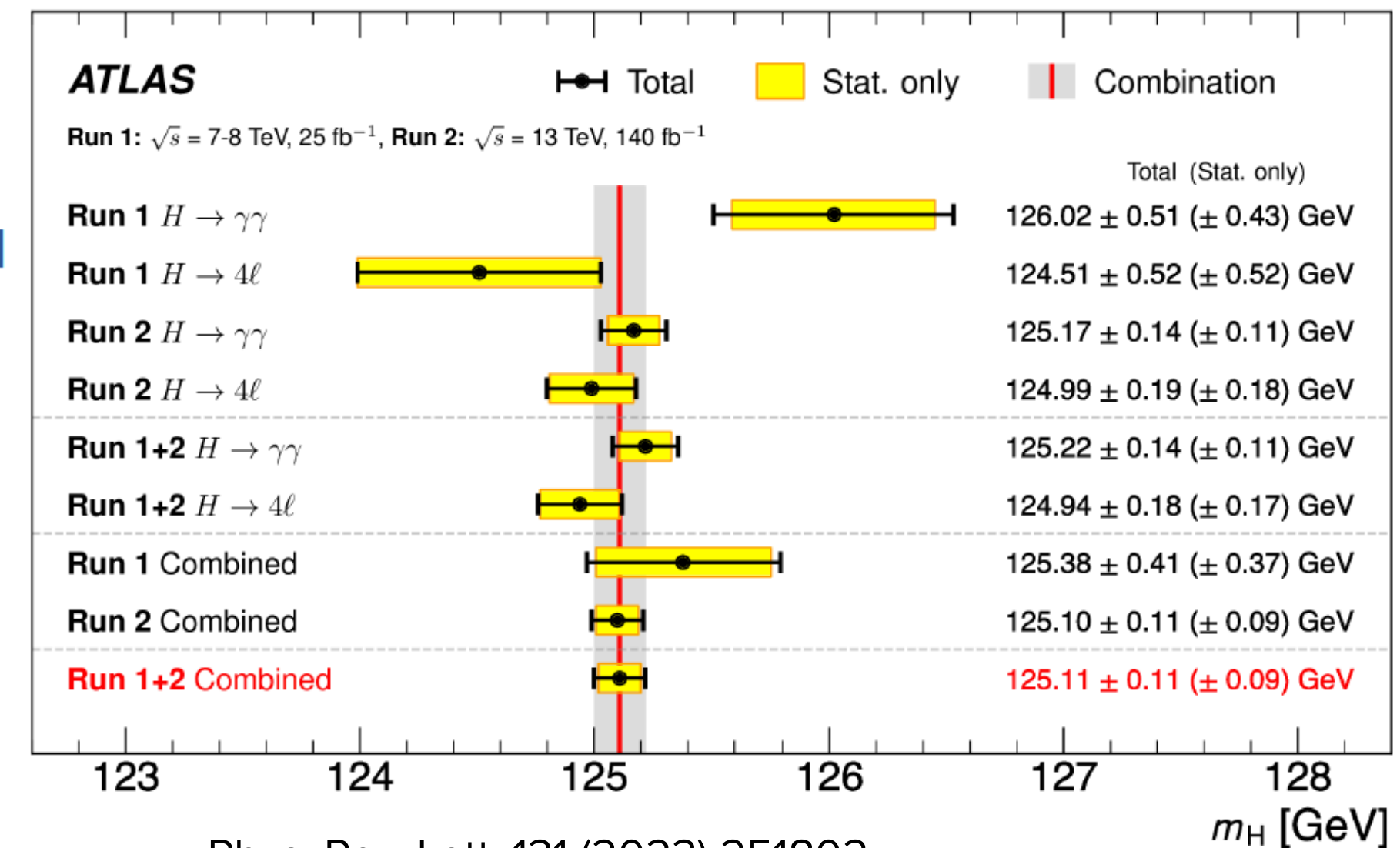
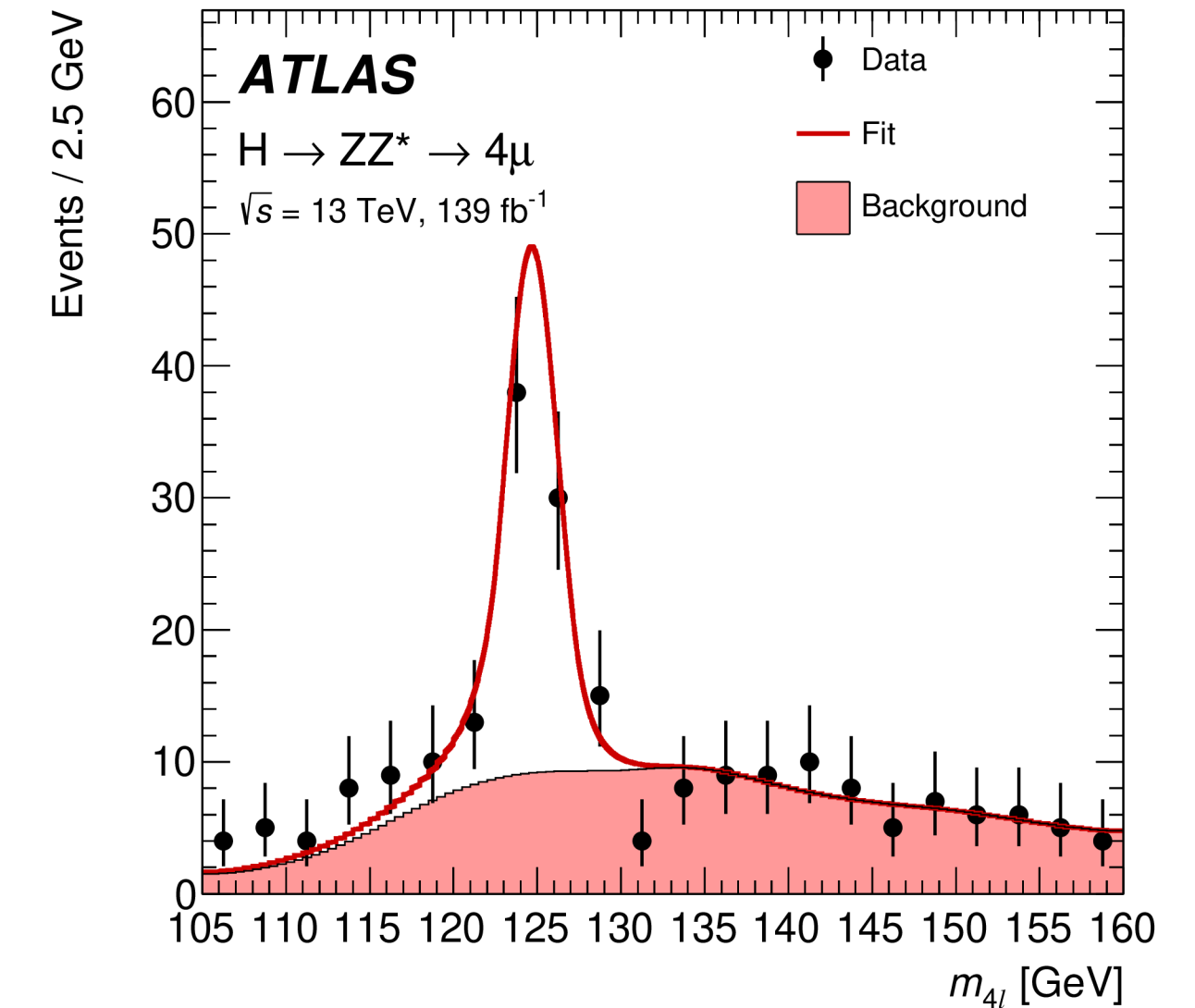
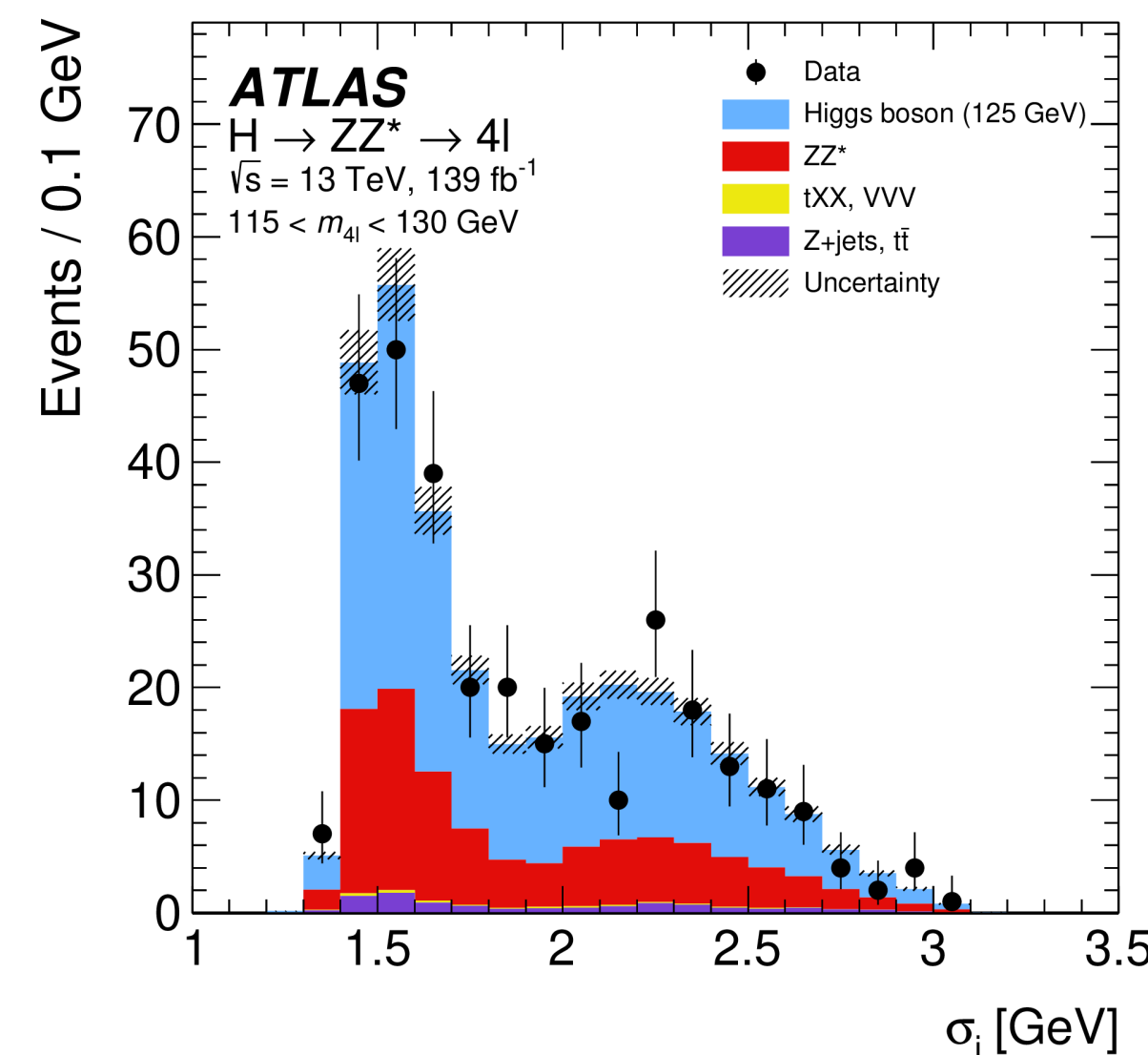
Template fit of mH distribution, categorised by resolution

- Latests CMS Run1 + Run2:

- $4l + \gamma\gamma$ (Run2 36 fb^{-1}) : $125.38 \pm 0.14 \text{ GeV}$
- $4l$ (Run2 138 fb^{-1}) : $125.04 \pm 0.12 \text{ GeV}$

- Latest ATLAS Run1+Run2:

- $4l + \gamma\gamma, > 140 \text{ fb}^{-1}$: $125.11 \pm 0.11 \text{ GeV}$



Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 (2023) 251802

WIDTH FROM OFF-SHELL/ON-SHELL

– Main channel: $H \rightarrow ZZ$

– CMS PRD 111 (2025) 092014: $3.0^{+2.0}_{-1.5} \text{ MeV}$

– ATLAS RPOP 88 057803: $4.3^{+2.7}_{-1.9} \text{ MeV}$

– Evidence for off shell production

$$\frac{d\sigma_{gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow ZZ}}{dm_{ZZ}^2} \sim \frac{g_{ggH}^2 g_{HZZ}^2}{(m_{ZZ}^2 - m_H^2)^2 + m_H^2 \Gamma_H^2}$$

$$\sigma_{gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow ZZ^*}^{\text{on-shell}} \sim \frac{g_{ggH}^2 g_{HZZ}^2}{m_H \Gamma_H} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_{gg \rightarrow H^* \rightarrow ZZ}^{\text{off-shell}} \sim \frac{g_{ggH}^2 g_{HZZ}^2}{(2m_Z)^2}$$

$m_{ZZ} \sim m_H$ (On-shell production) $m_{ZZ} > m_{ZZ}$ (Off-shell production)

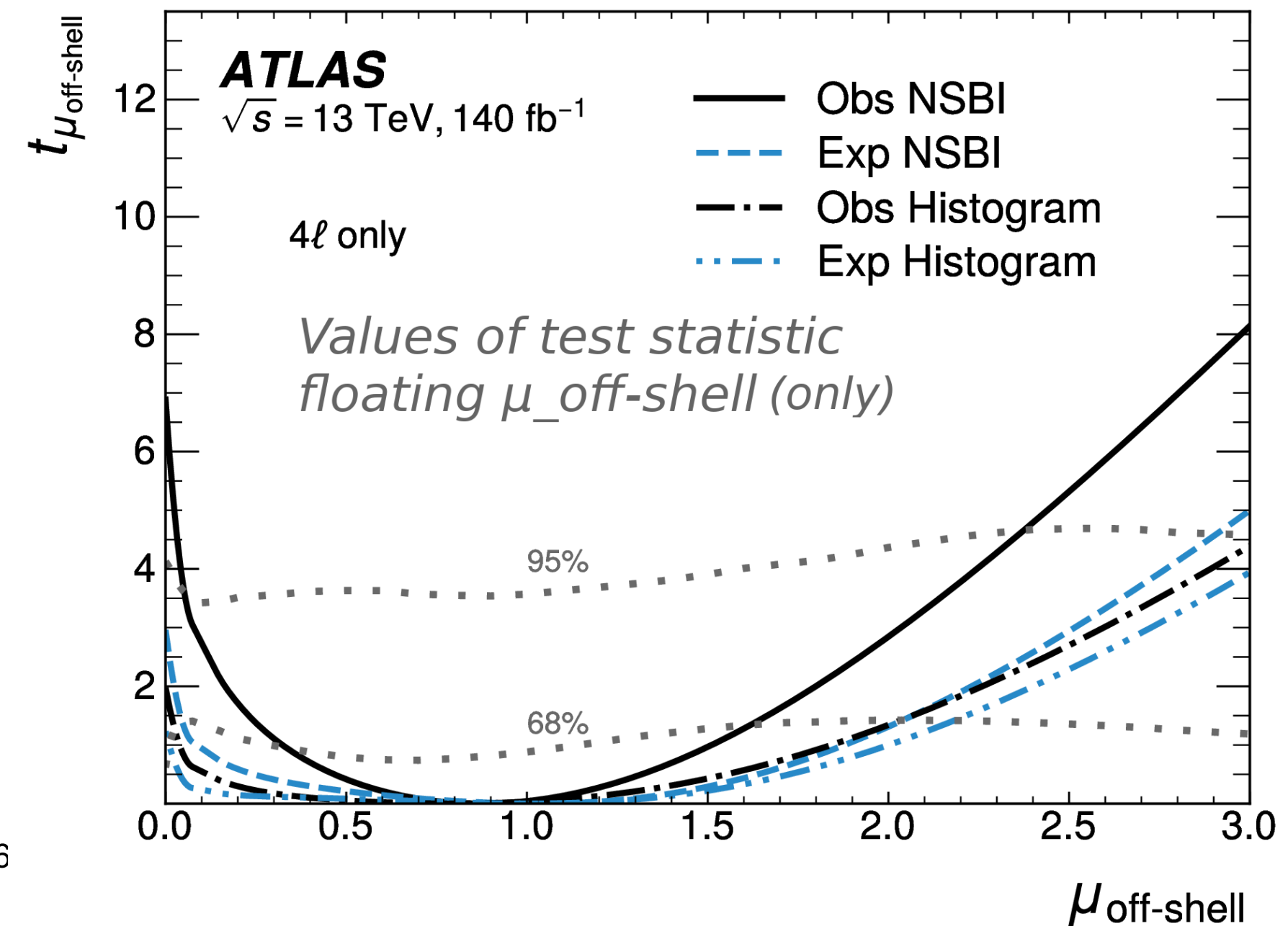
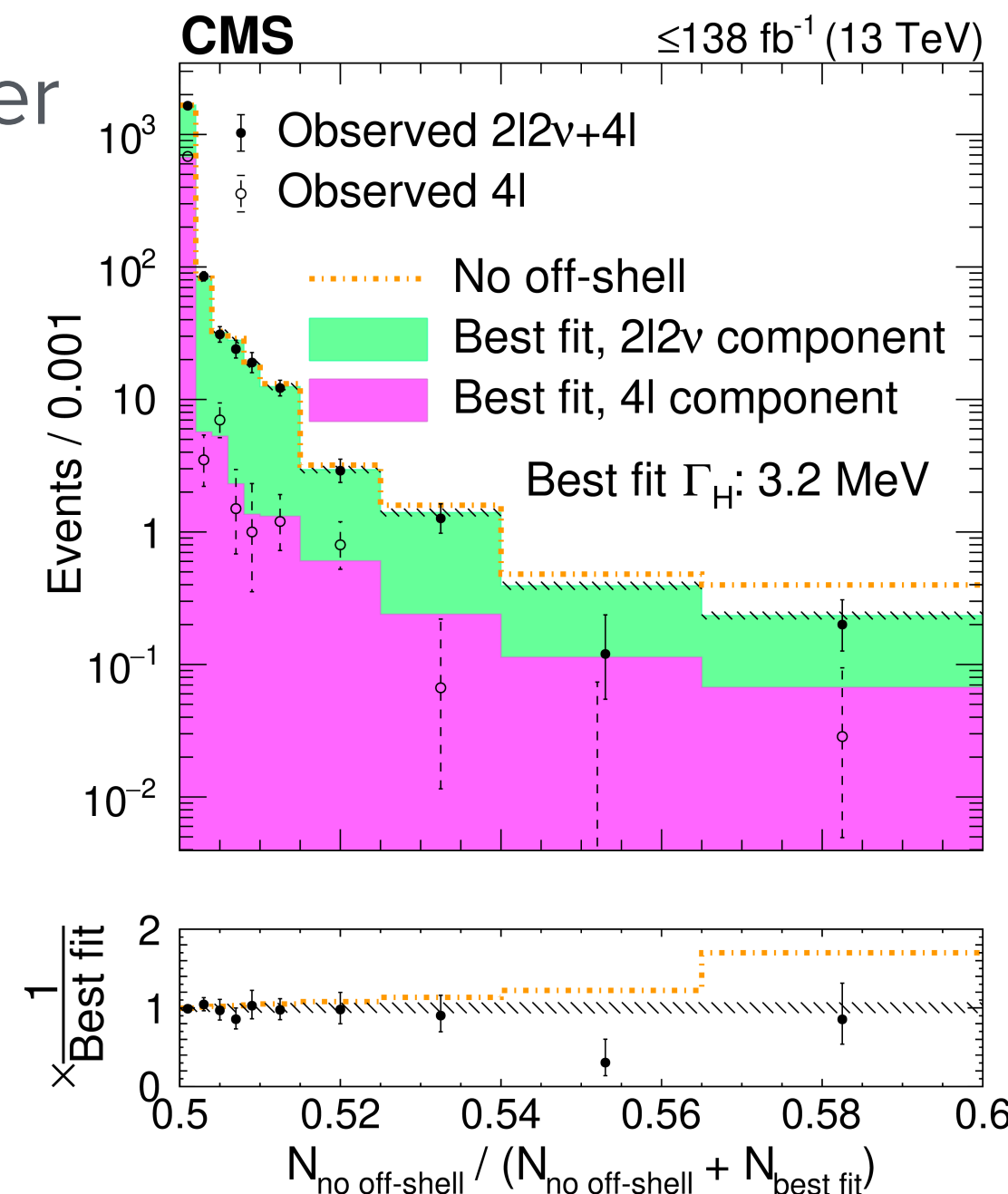
– Offshell/onshell idea can also be applied to other channels (only limits)

– HWW, (ATLAS, arXiv:2504.07710): $< 13.1 \text{ MeV}$ (95%CL)

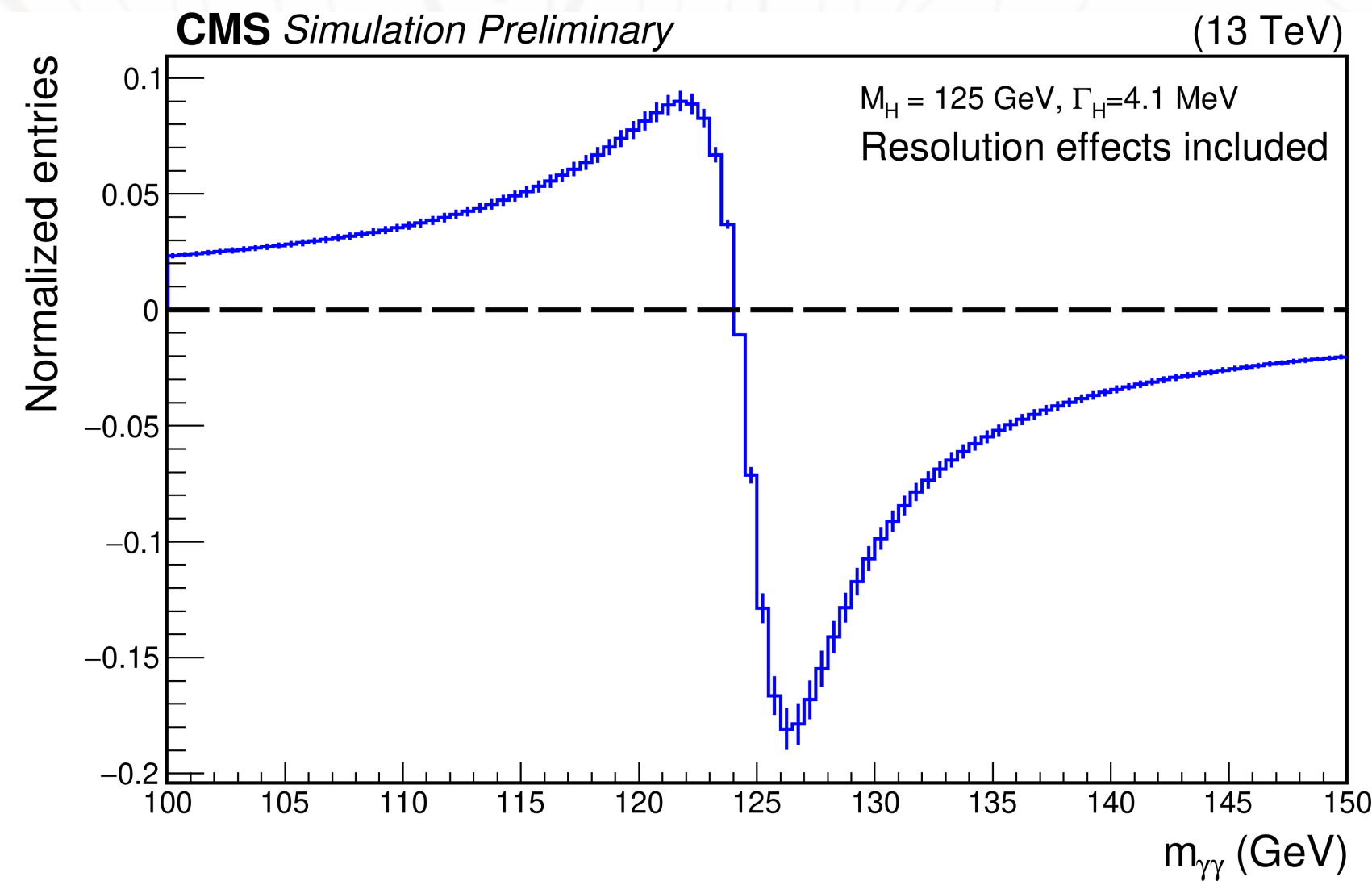
– HWW, (CMS HIG-24-011): $3.0^{+2.7}_{-2.2} \text{ MeV}$

– tttt and ttH (ATLAS ATLAS PLB 861 (2025) 139277): $< 450 \text{ MeV}$ (95%CL)

– Other methods to probe the width are less stringent, e.g., mass interference in gamma gamma channel



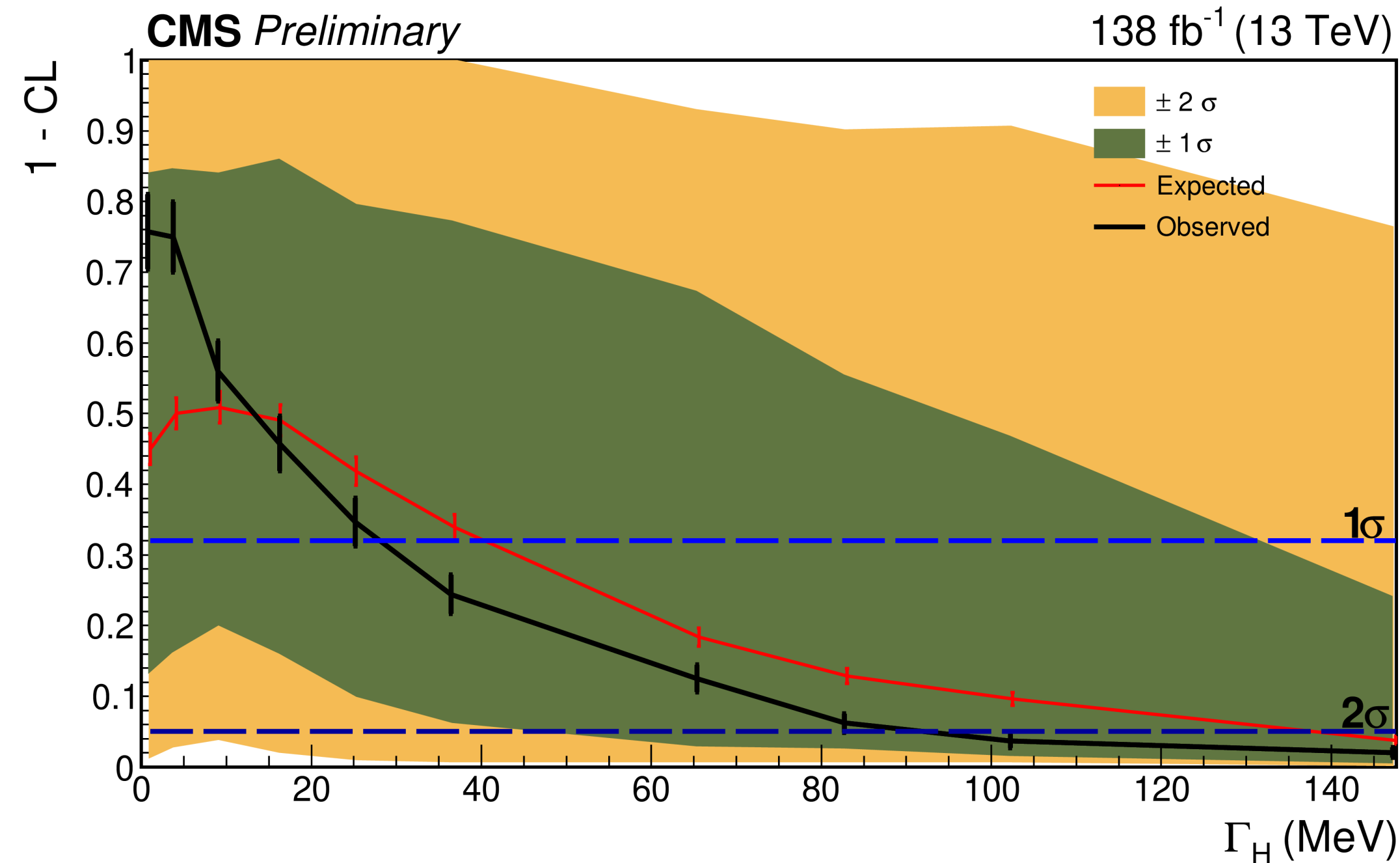
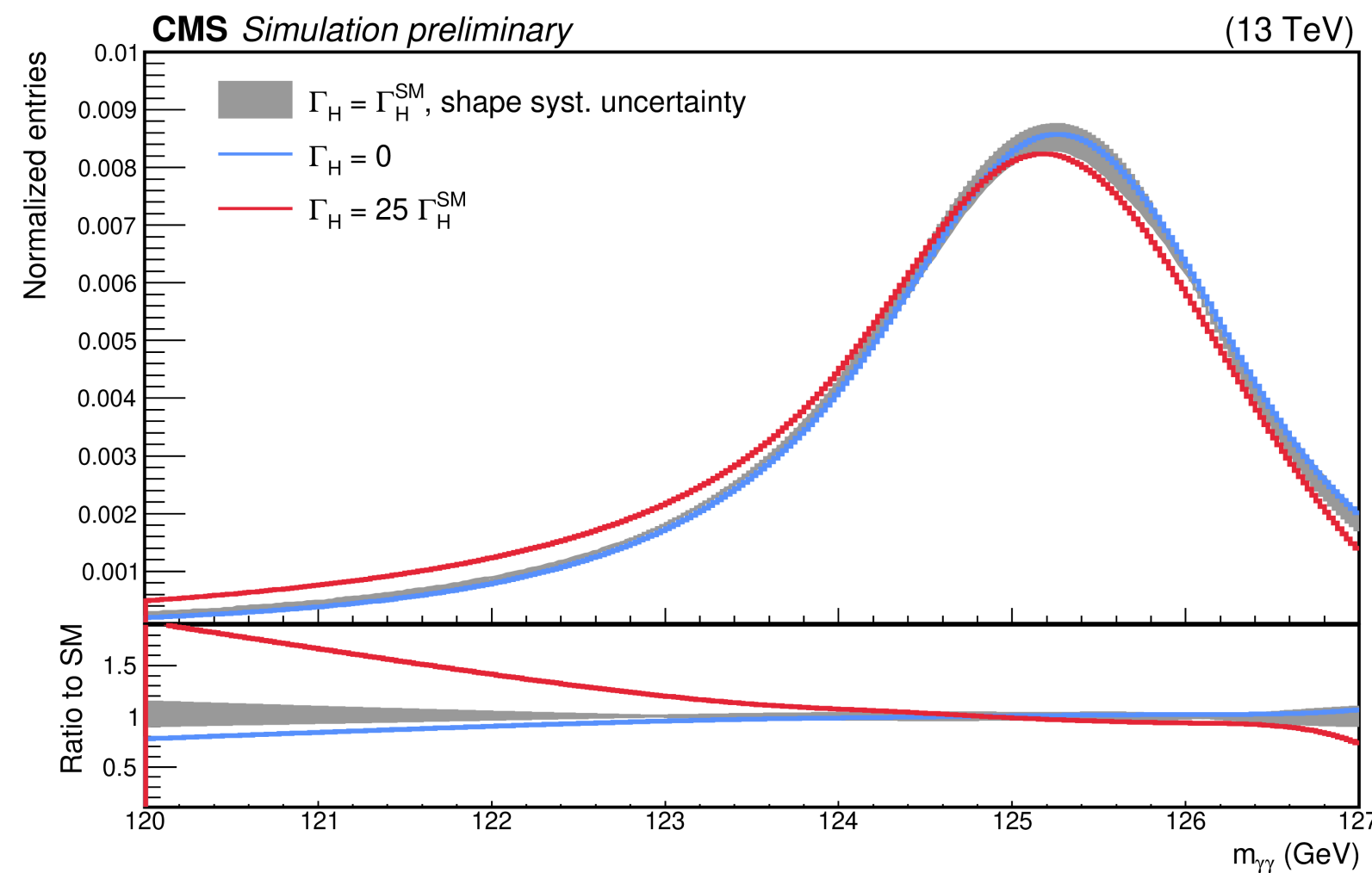
WIDTH FROM DIPHOTON INTERFERENCE



- Constraint on Γ_H from the diphoton mass through the interference between $gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ (aMC@NLO) and the QCD continuum $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $qg \rightarrow q\gamma\gamma$ (NLO sherpa)

$$c_{g\gamma} = \sqrt{\mu_F \Gamma_H / \Gamma_H^{SM}}$$

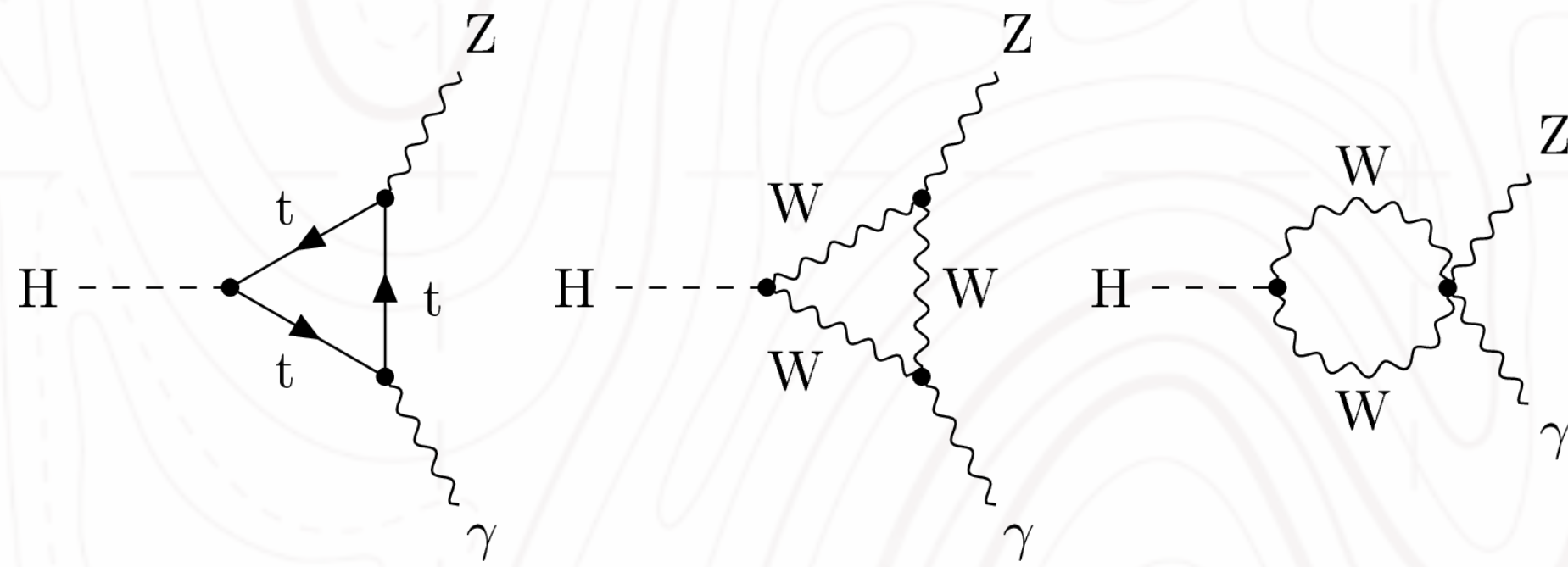
$$d\sigma/dm_{\gamma\gamma} = (\mu_{\gamma\gamma} - c_{g\gamma})S + c_{g\gamma}(S + I) + \sum_{i \neq gg} \mu_i S_i + B(m_{\gamma\gamma})$$



$$\Gamma_H < 92(138) \text{ MeV}$$

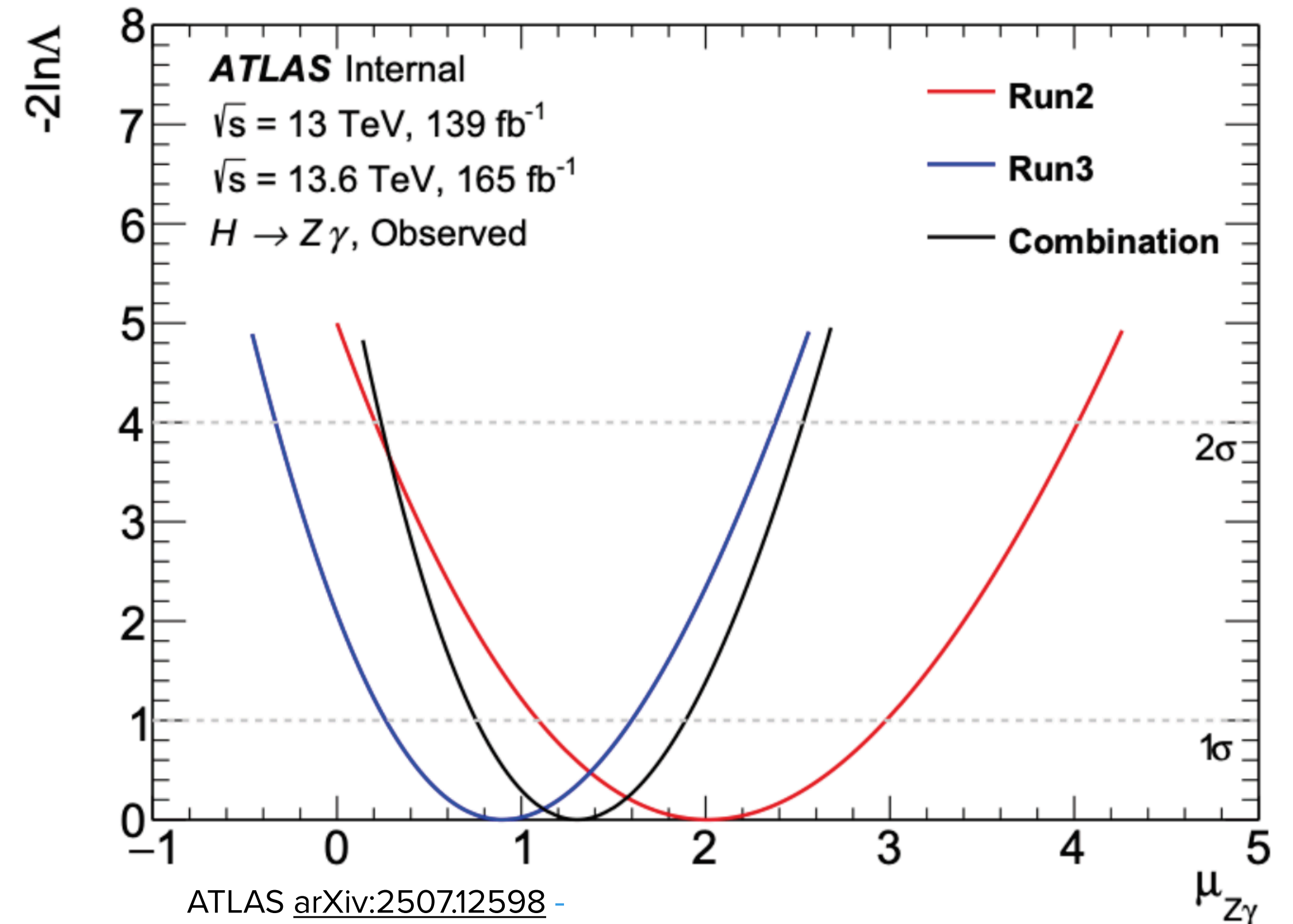
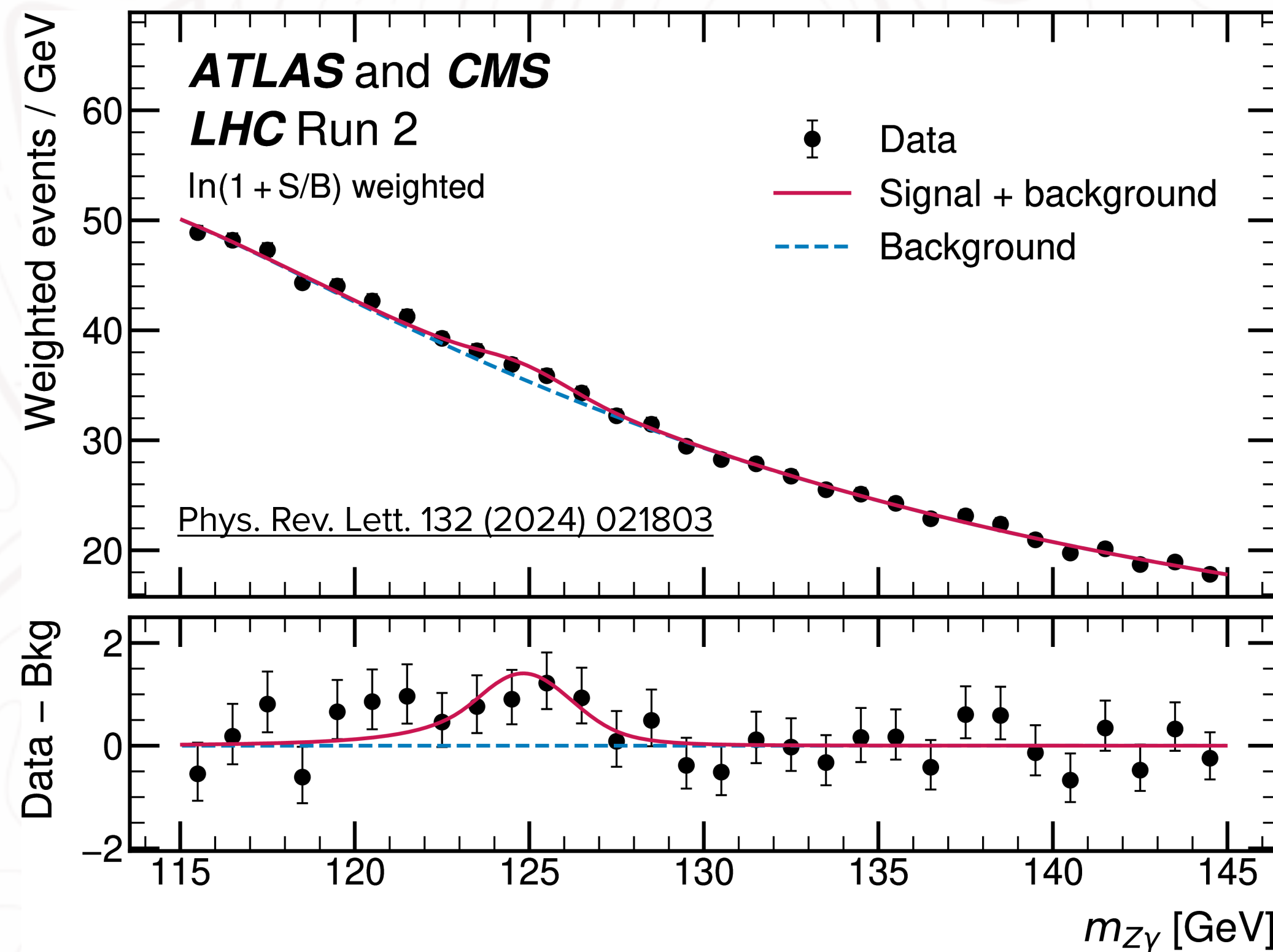
CMS PAS HIG-25-004

EVIDENCE FOR ZGAMMA



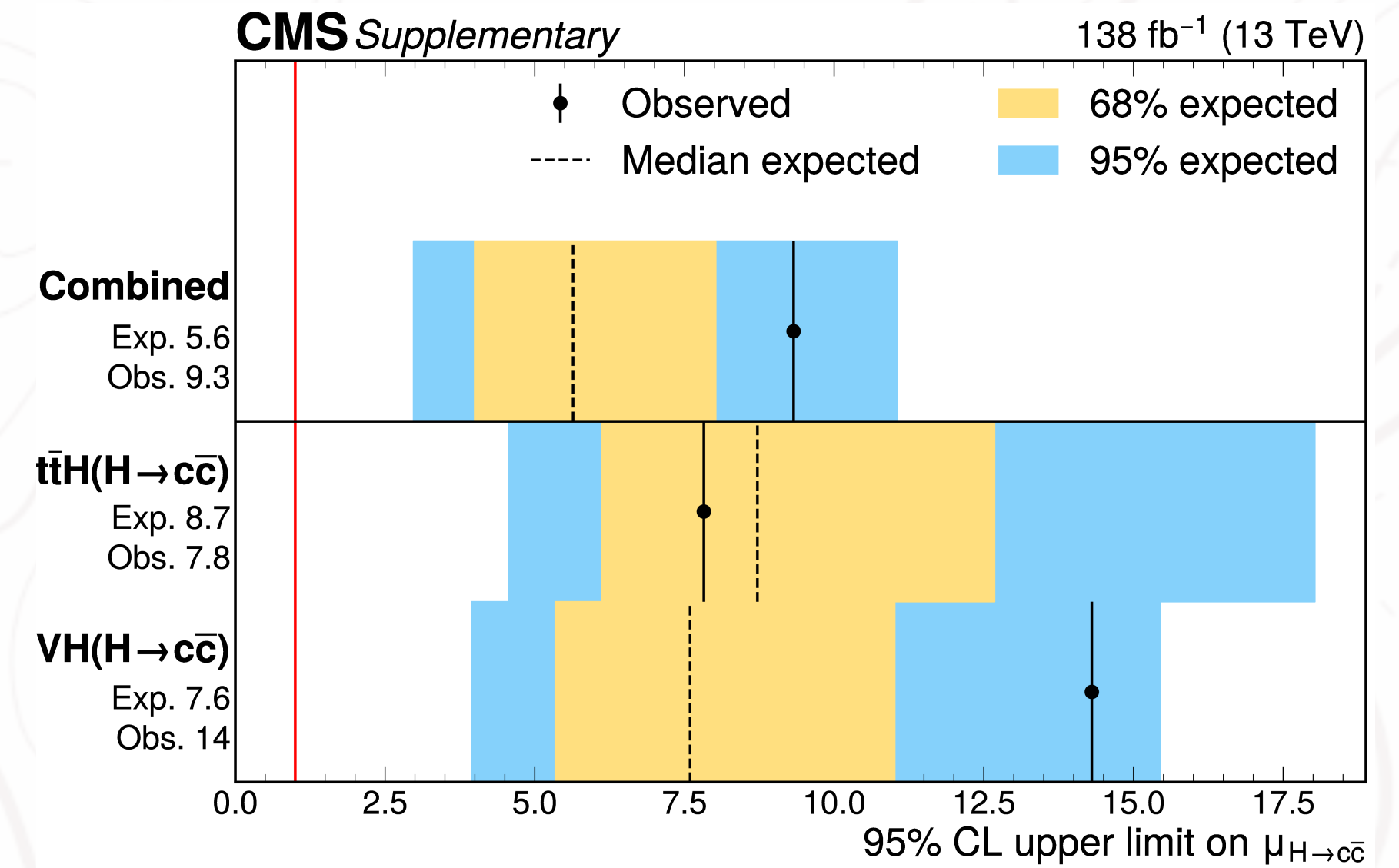
Evidence in Run2 with ATLAS+CMS: $\mu = 2.2 \pm 0.7$, 3.4σ (1.6 exp SM)

Run2+Run3 ATLAS: 2.5σ (1.0 exp SM) , $\mu = 1.3 \pm 0.5$



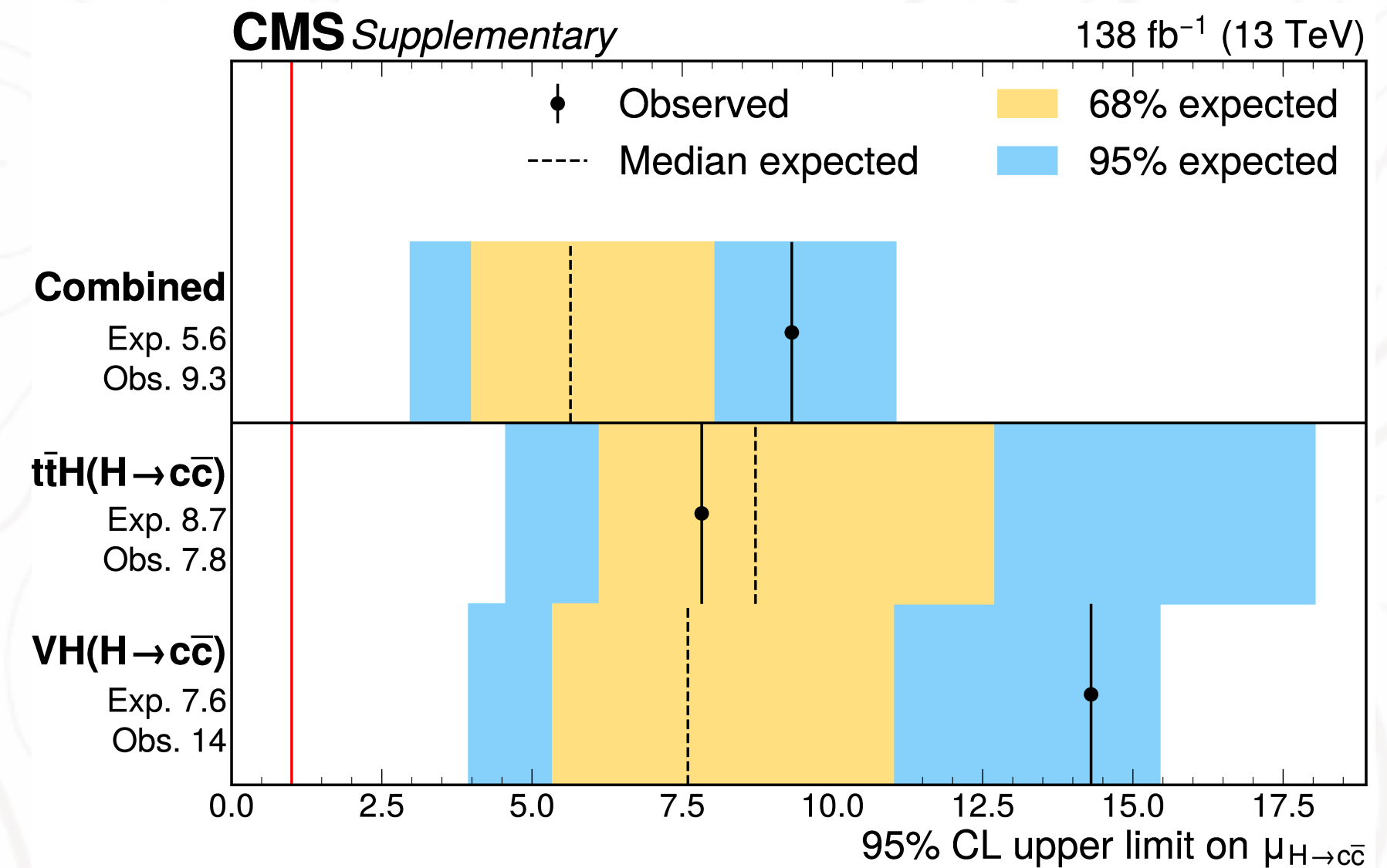
ATLAS [arXiv:2507.12598](https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.12598)

HOW CHARMING IS THE HIGGS?



HOW CHARMING IS THE HIGGS?

- **Charm quark: only up quark for which we could possibly measure the branching ratio $\text{Br}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c}) \sim 3\%$**
 - Do up-type quarks get their mass from the same Higgs fields as down-type quarks and charged leptons?
- **Once considered impossible at the LHC!**



HOW CHARMING IS THE HIGGS?

■ **Charm quark: only up quark for which we could possibly measure the branching ratio $\text{Br}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c}) \sim 3\%$**

– Do up-type quarks get their mass from the same Higgs fields as down-type quarks and charged leptons?

■ **Once considered impossible at the LHC!**

■ **Despite the difficulties, we are narrowing down the hunt with an combined attack from all directions**

■ **Direct:**

■ **CMS, $t\bar{t}H$ $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ + VH $c\bar{c}$: $|\kappa_c| < 3.5$ (2.7) (95%CL)**

■ **ATLAS VH $c\bar{c}$: $|\kappa_c| < 4.2$ (4.1) (95%CL)**

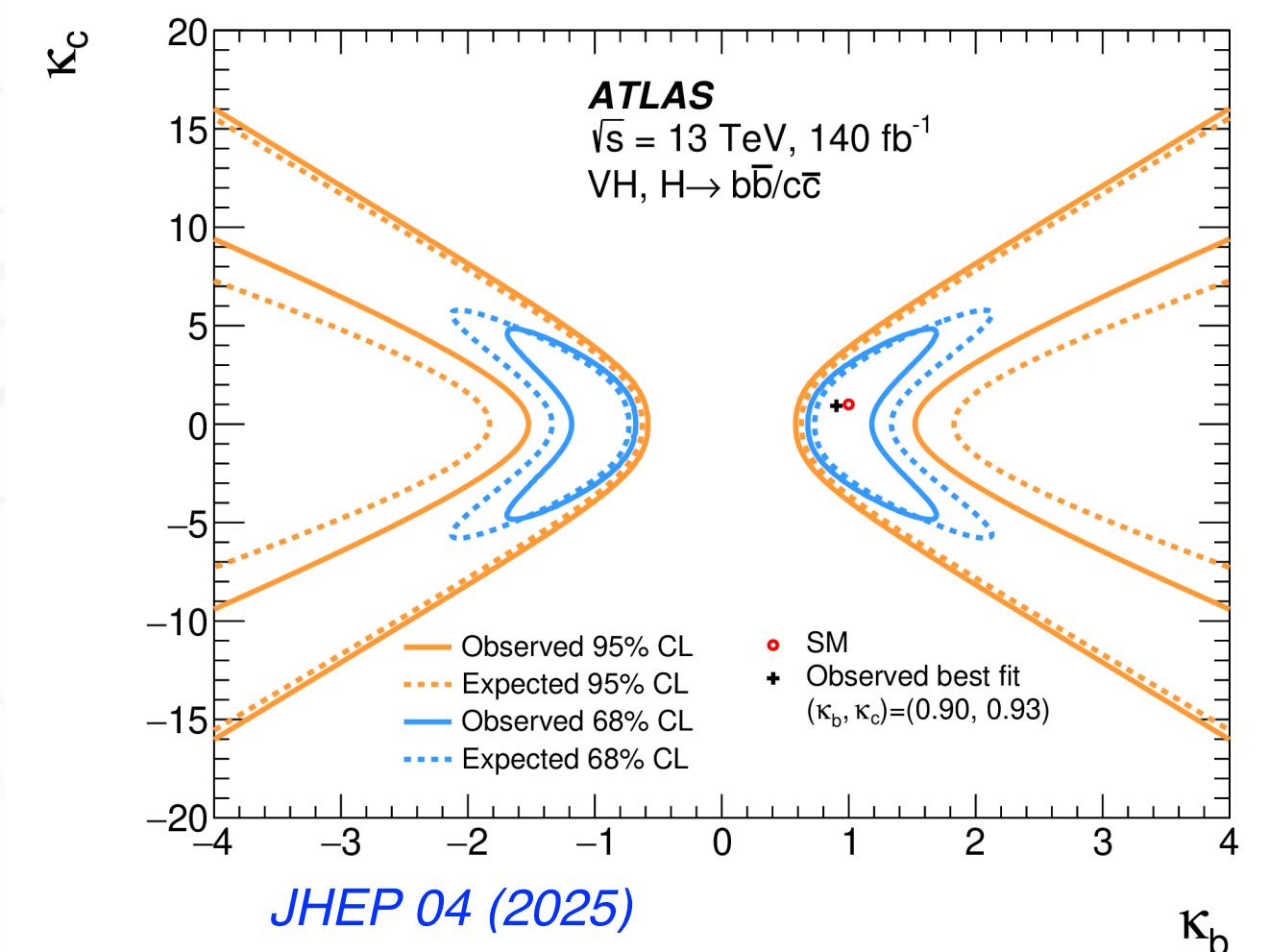
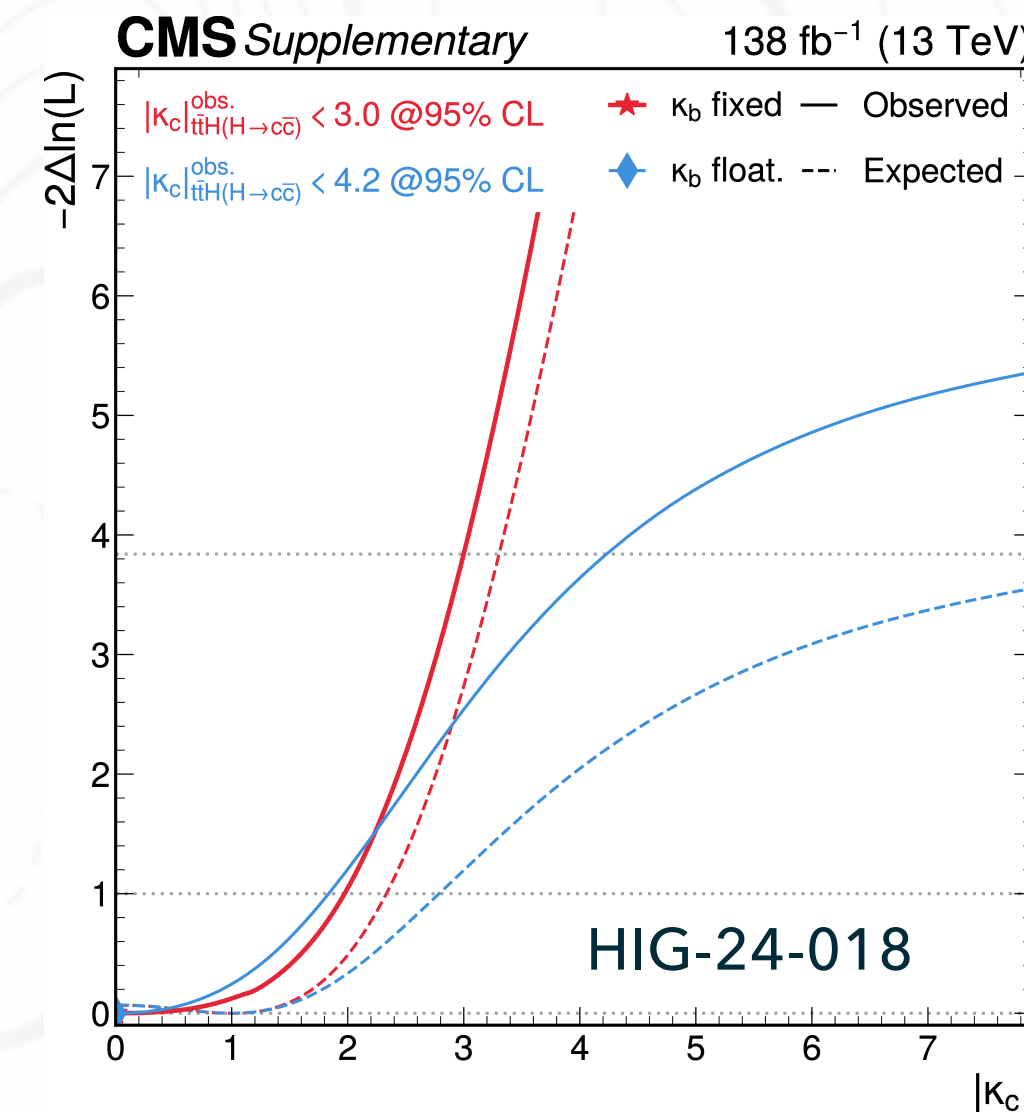
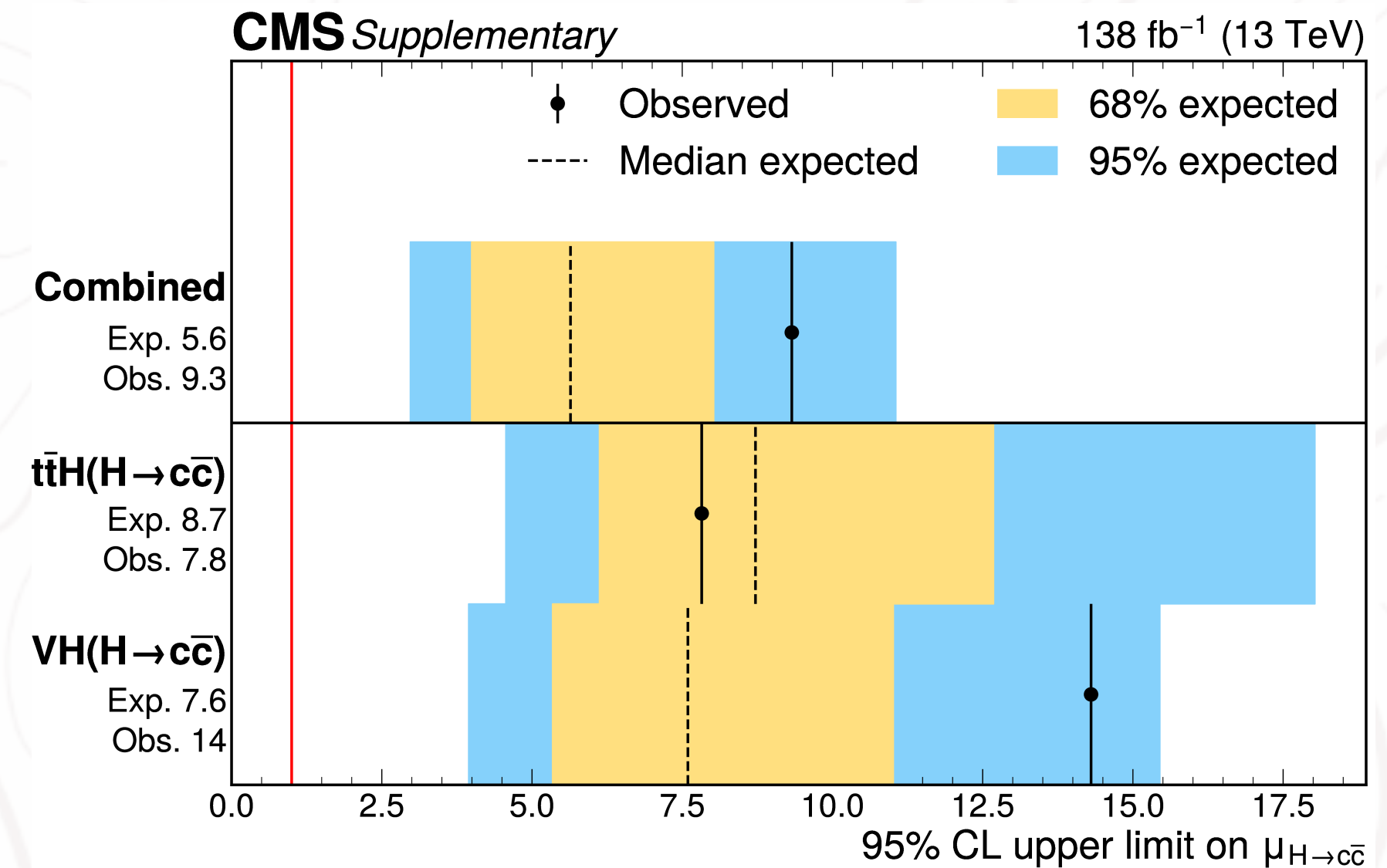
– **$H+c$** : probes by in HWW ($\mu(cH, HWW) < 1065$, $|\kappa_c| < 211(95)$) and $H\gamma\gamma$: $|\kappa_c| < 38.1(72.5)$. ATLAS: xsec measurement in $H+c$, Hgg .

– **$H+\gamma$** : $-4.0 < \kappa_c < 3.4$ (floating all other couplings)

– **$H \rightarrow \psi(nS)\gamma$** : $-166 < \kappa_c < 208$

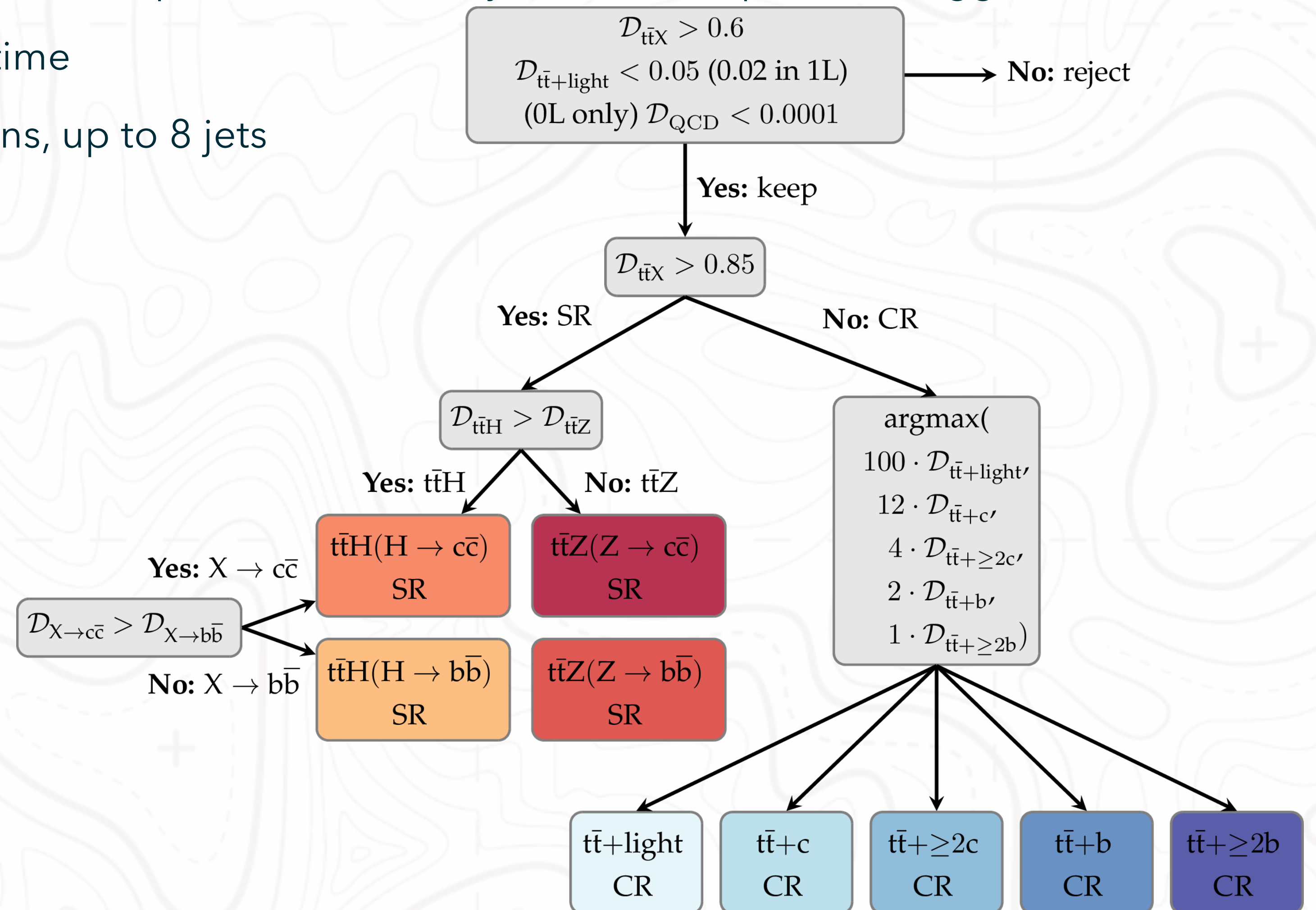
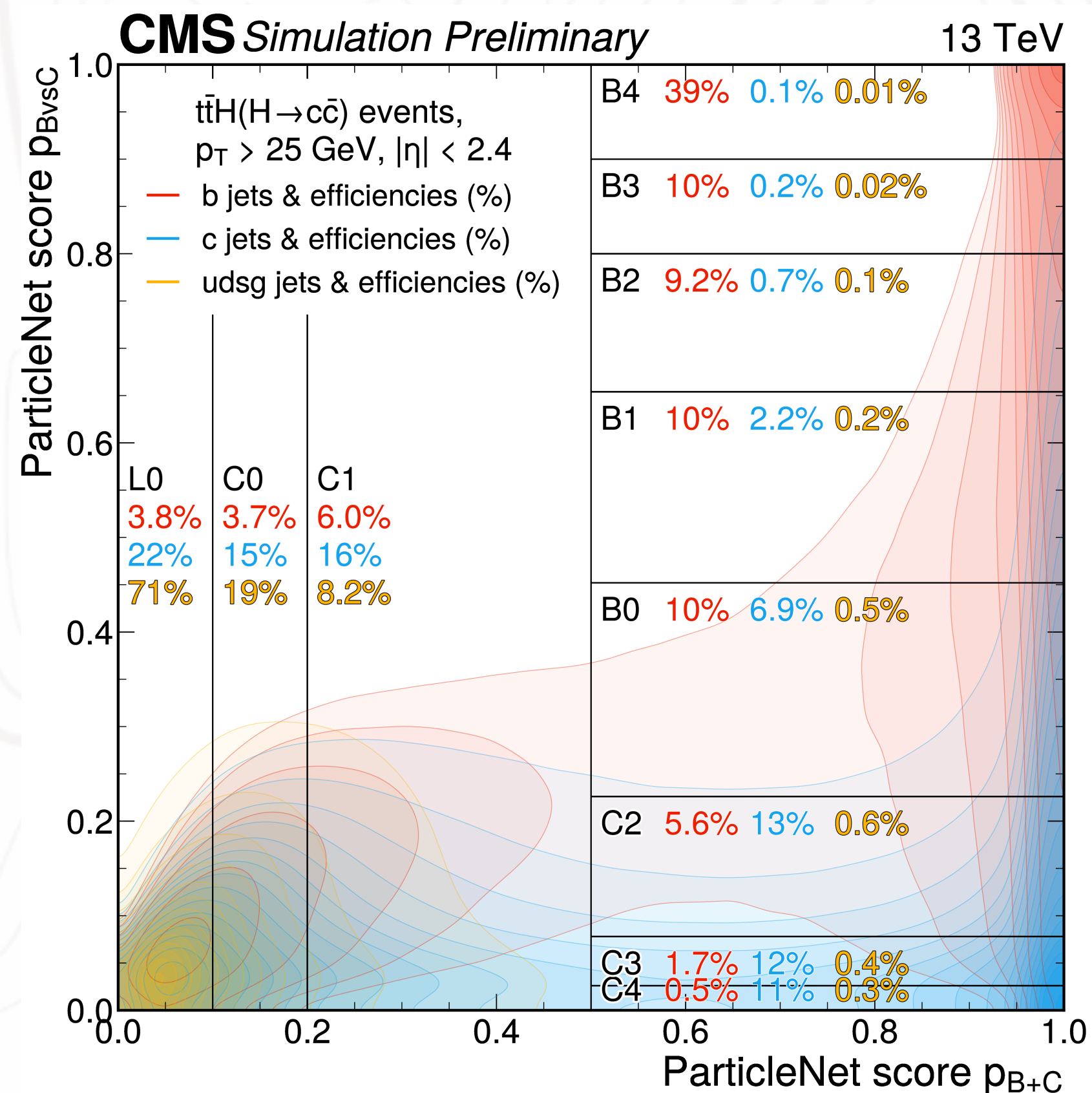
– Constraints from general Higgs pt differentials

■ **Best so far: $|\kappa_c| < 3.5$ (2.7) ($t\bar{t}H+VH$, CMS)**



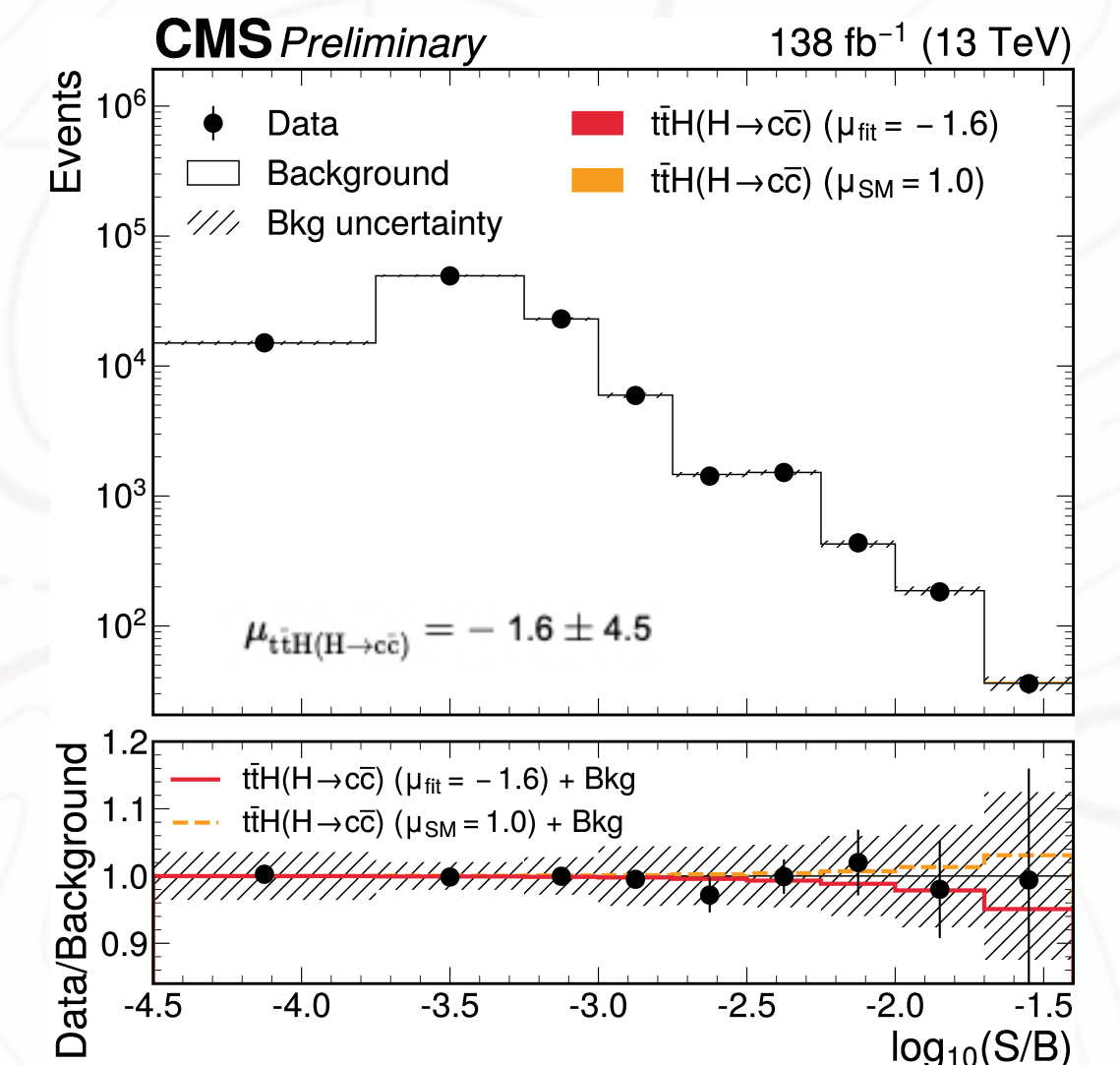
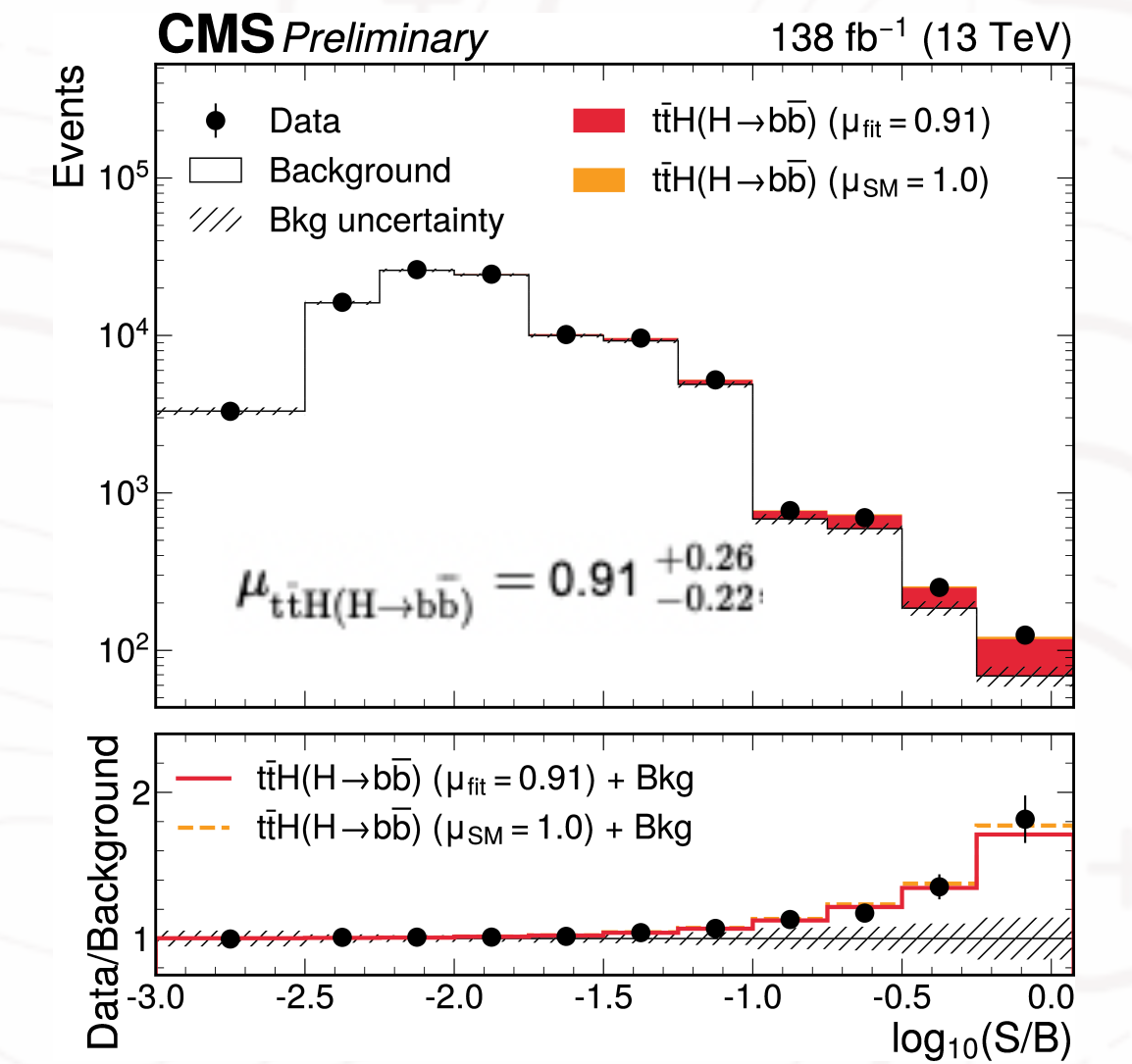
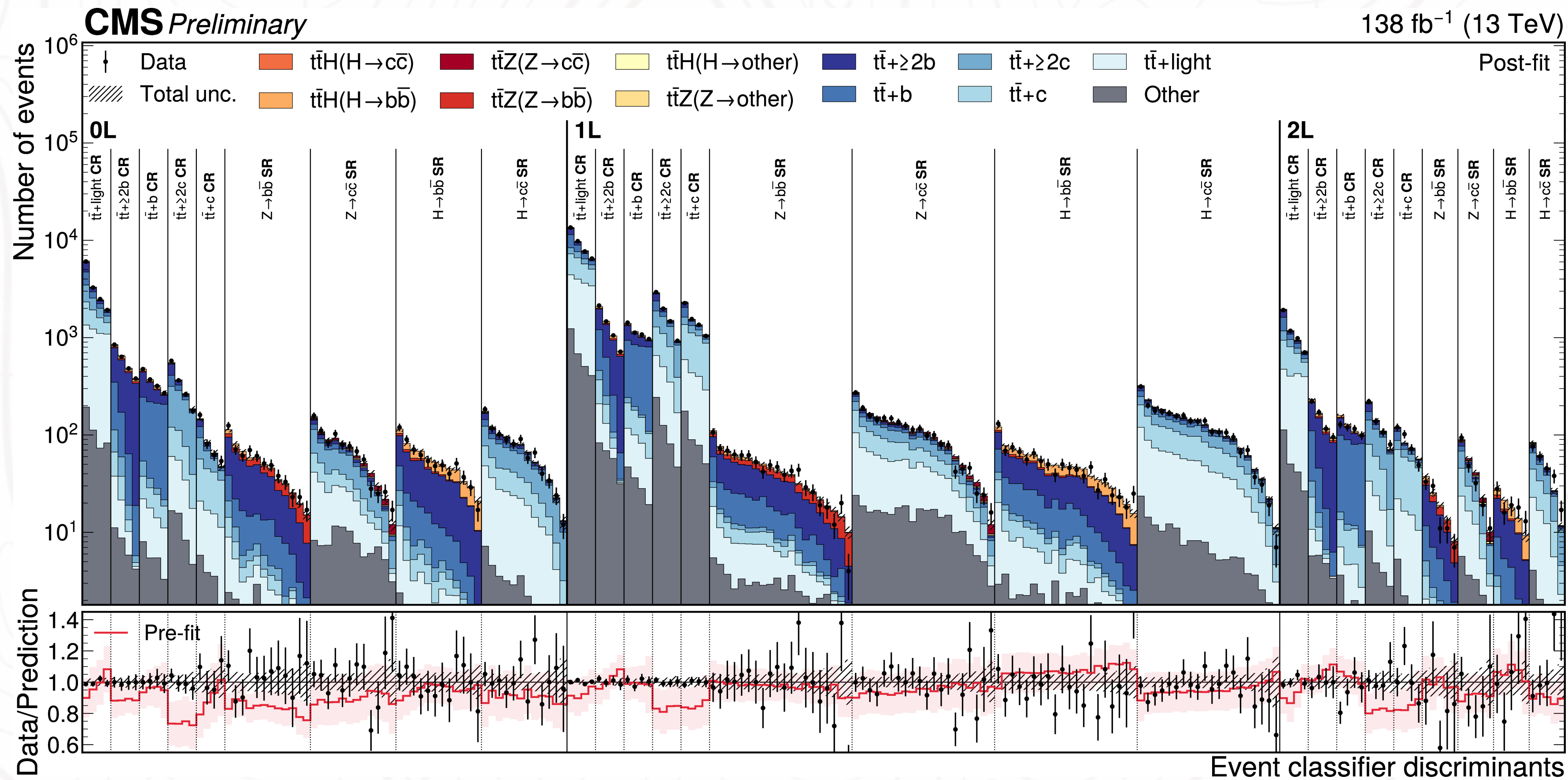
TtH, H → CC AND H → BB

- State of the art tagger: PNet (GNN , up to 2x improvement in b-rejection wrt to previous tagger)
- Tackles ttH ttZ , cc and bb at the same time
- Very challenging final state, 0,1,2 leptons, up to 8 jets



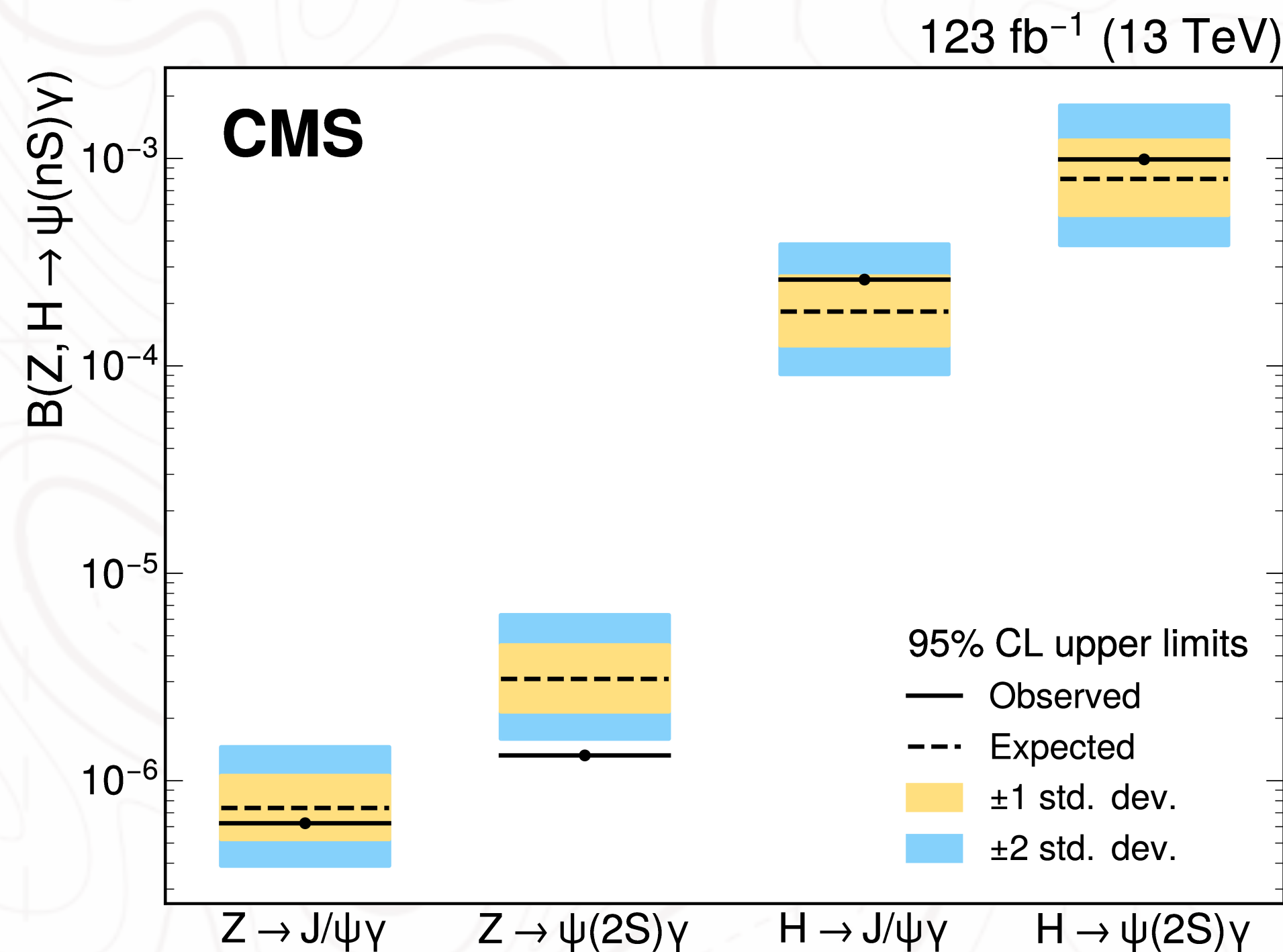
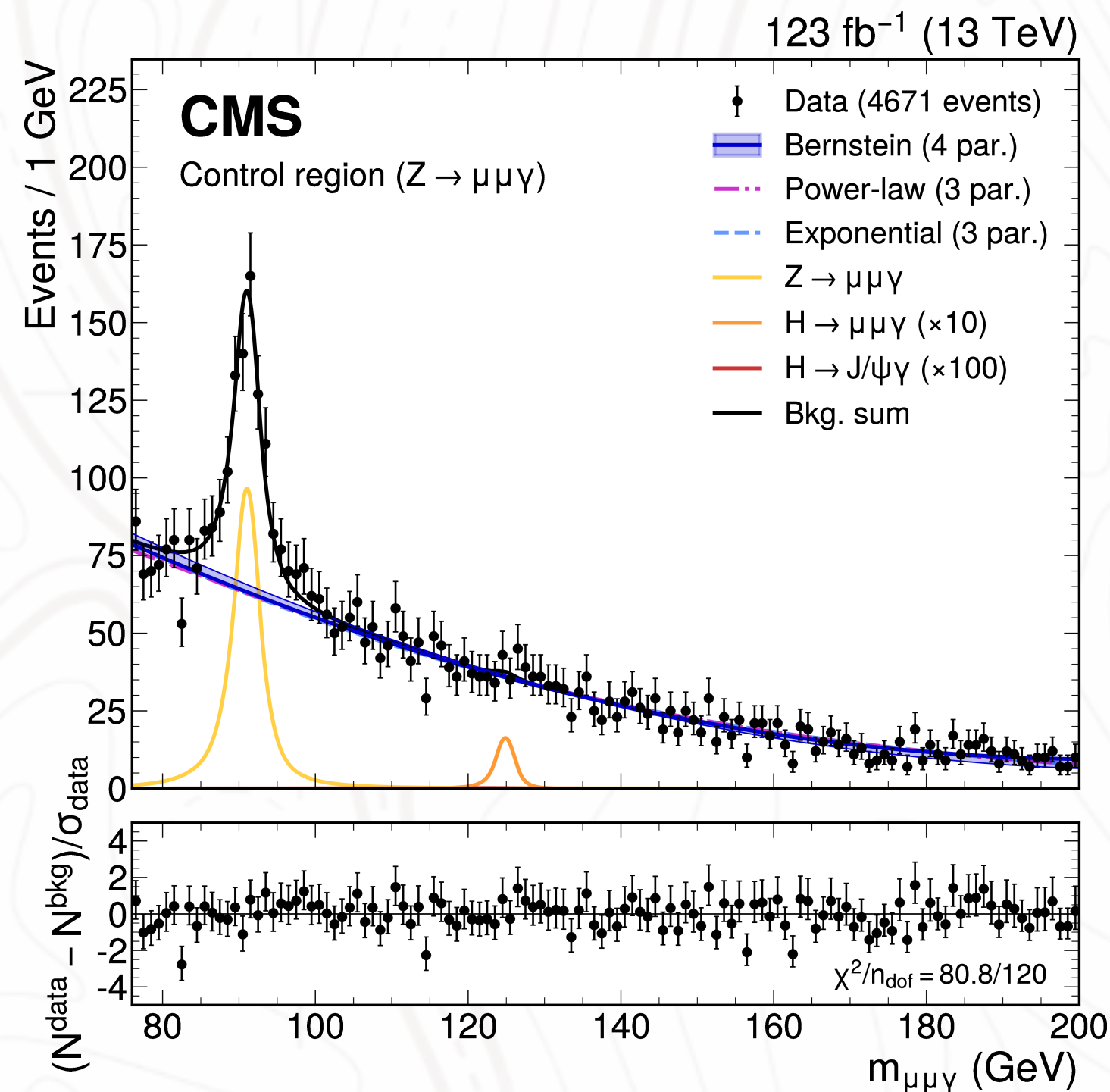
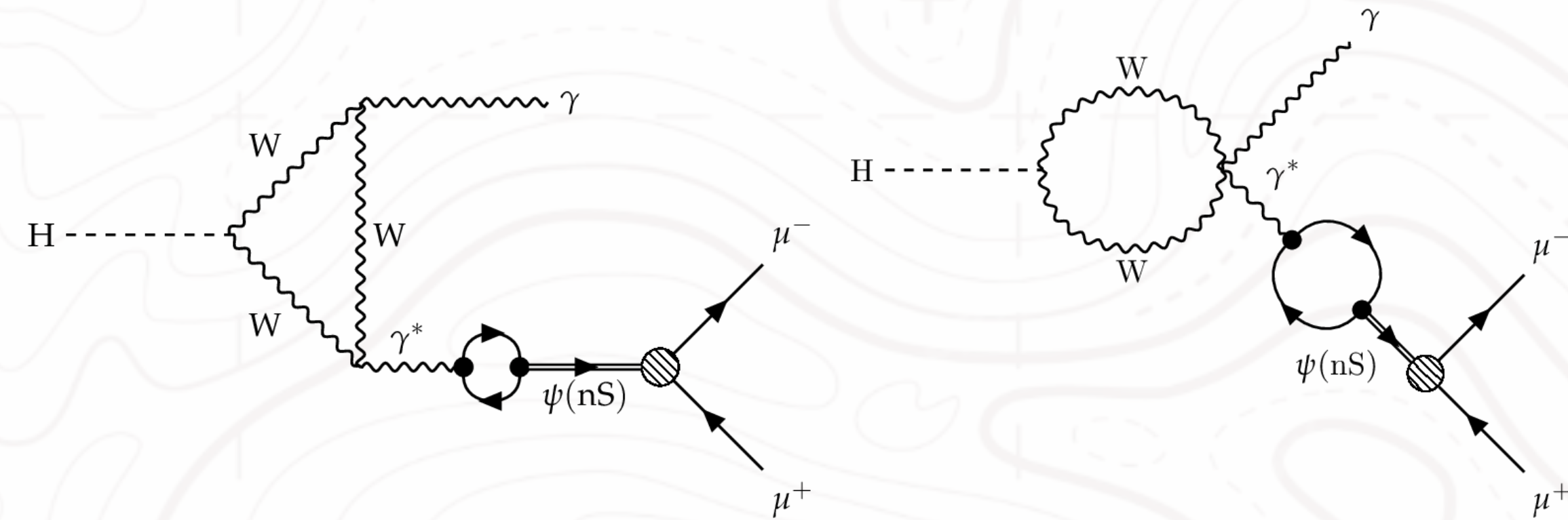
TtH, H → CC AND H → BB

- Signal strength extracted through a simultaneous fit to the discriminators targeting tt+jets, ttH Hcc, ttH Hbb, Zcc, Zbb
- Stat dominated, followed by theory uncertainty on tt+≥1c background



$H \rightarrow \Psi(nS)\gamma$

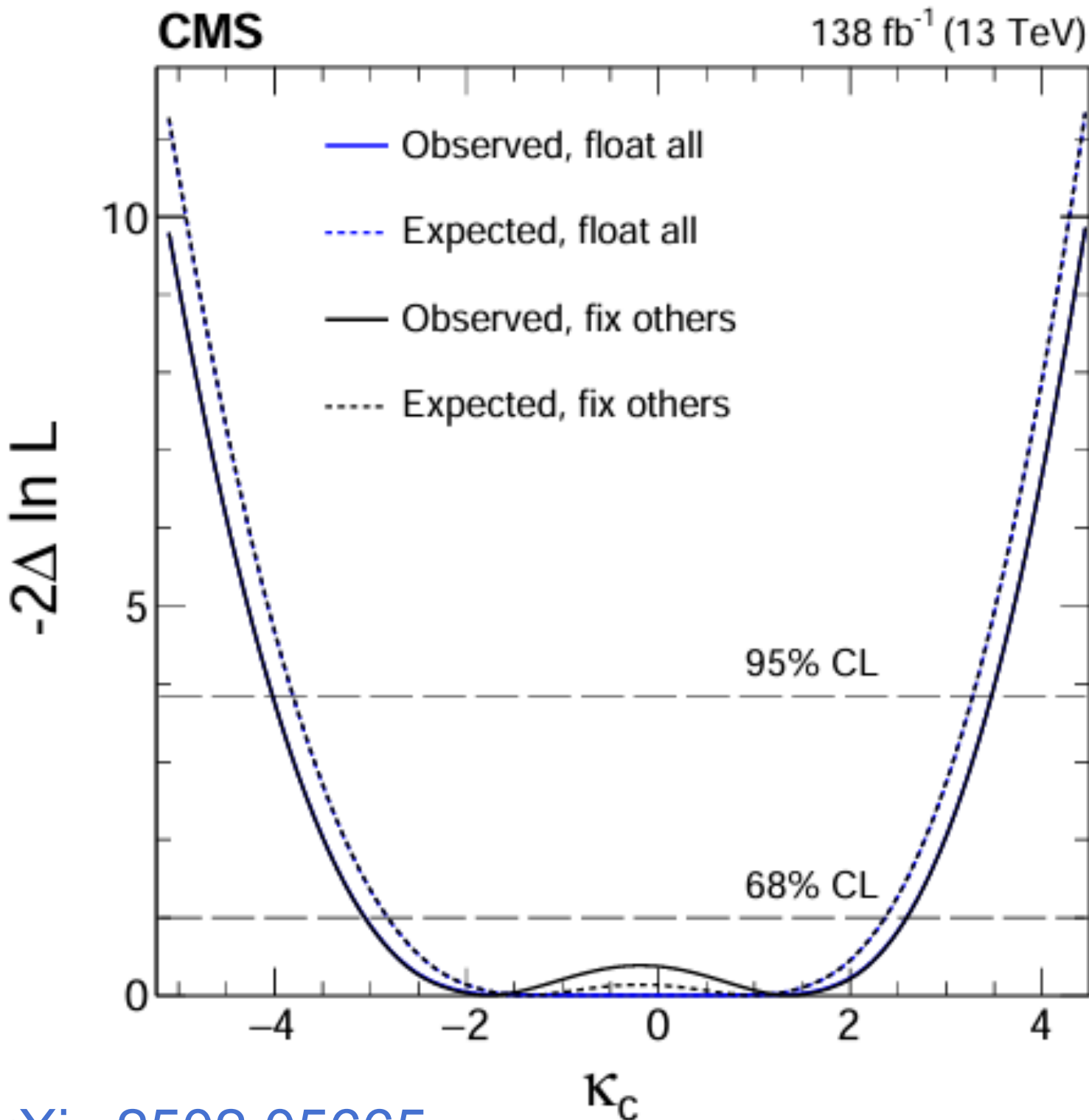
- Rare decay study + Alternative probe of charm coupling
 - Sensitive to the sign of the coupling
- Final state. $\mu\mu\gamma$. Excellent resolution: very clean, but statistically dominated
- Study of Higgs and Z in parallel:



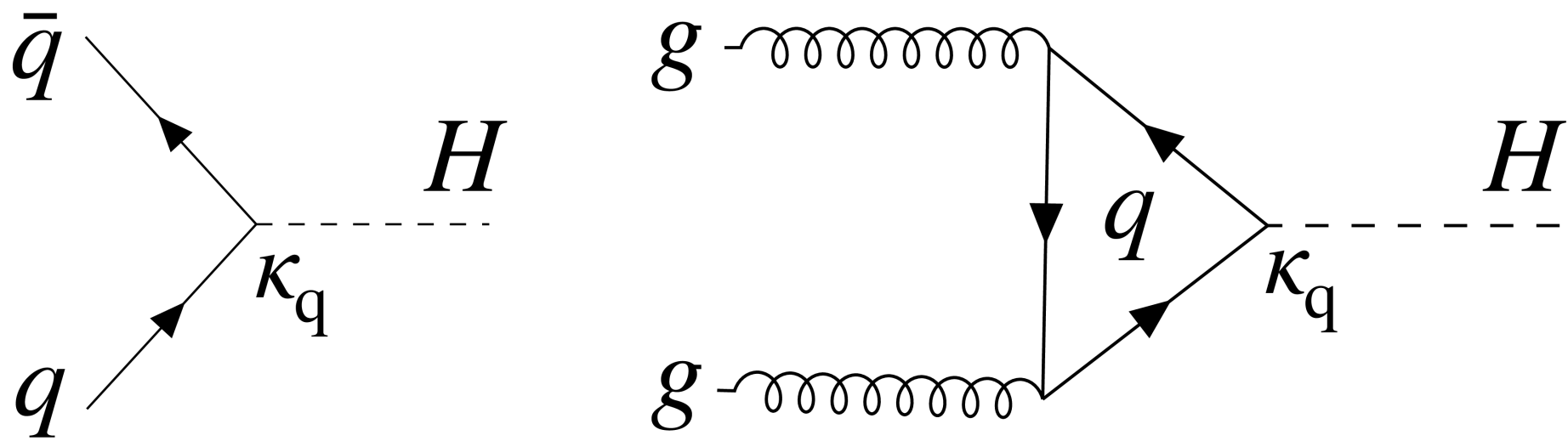
- Constraint on charm coupling:
 - $-166 < \kappa_c < 208$

LIGHT YUKAWA CONSTRAINTS FROM 4L

- Indirect Constraints on Light Yukawa in the 4l channel
- Looking for changes in production rate (both ggF and qqH)



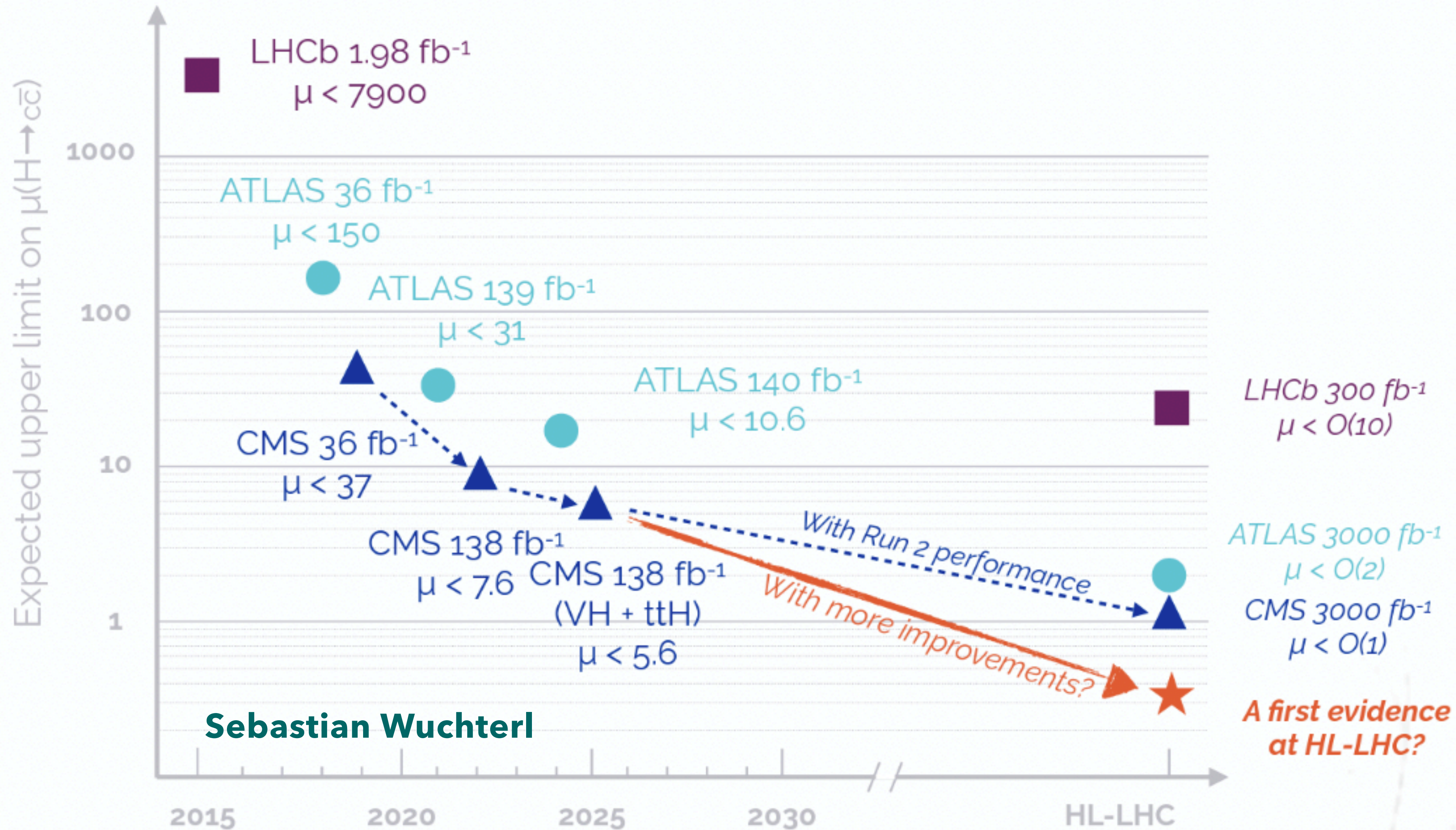
[arXiv:2502.05665](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.05665)



Parameter	Scenario	Observed		Expected	
		68% CL	95% CL	68% CL	95% CL
κ_u	float all	$(0.0 \pm 1.5) \times 10^3$	$[-2.4, 2.4] \times 10^3$	$(0.0 \pm 1.8) \times 10^3$	$[-2.6, 2.6] \times 10^3$
κ_u	fix others	$(0.0 \pm 1.4) \times 10^3$	$[-2.3, 2.3] \times 10^3$	$(0.0 \pm 1.6) \times 10^3$	$[-2.5, 2.5] \times 10^3$
κ_d	float all	$(0.0 \pm 7.1) \times 10^2$	$[-1.0, 1.0] \times 10^3$	$(0.0 \pm 7.4) \times 10^2$	$[-1.0, 1.0] \times 10^3$
κ_d	fix others	$(1.5^{+5.0}_{-8.0}) \times 10^2$	$[-9.7, 9.7] \times 10^2$	$(0.0 \pm 6.5) \times 10^2$	$[-9.7, 9.7] \times 10^2$
κ_s	float all	0^{+33}_{-34}	$[-46, 44]$	1^{+32}_{-31}	$[-44, 42]$
κ_s	fix others	11^{+19}_{-42}	$[-44, 42]$	1^{+26}_{-30}	$[-41, 40]$
κ_c	float all	$0.0^{+2.7}_{-3.0}$	$[-4.0, 3.4]$	$1.0^{+1.4}_{-3.8}$	$[-3.8, 3.2]$
κ_c	fix others	$1.4^{+1.2}_{-4.4}$	$[-4.0, 3.5]$	$1.0^{+1.3}_{-3.8}$	$[-3.8, 3.2]$
Γ_H^{BSM} (MeV)	float all	$0.0^{+0.9}_{-0.0}$	<1.6	$0.0^{+0.7}_{-0.0}$	<1.4

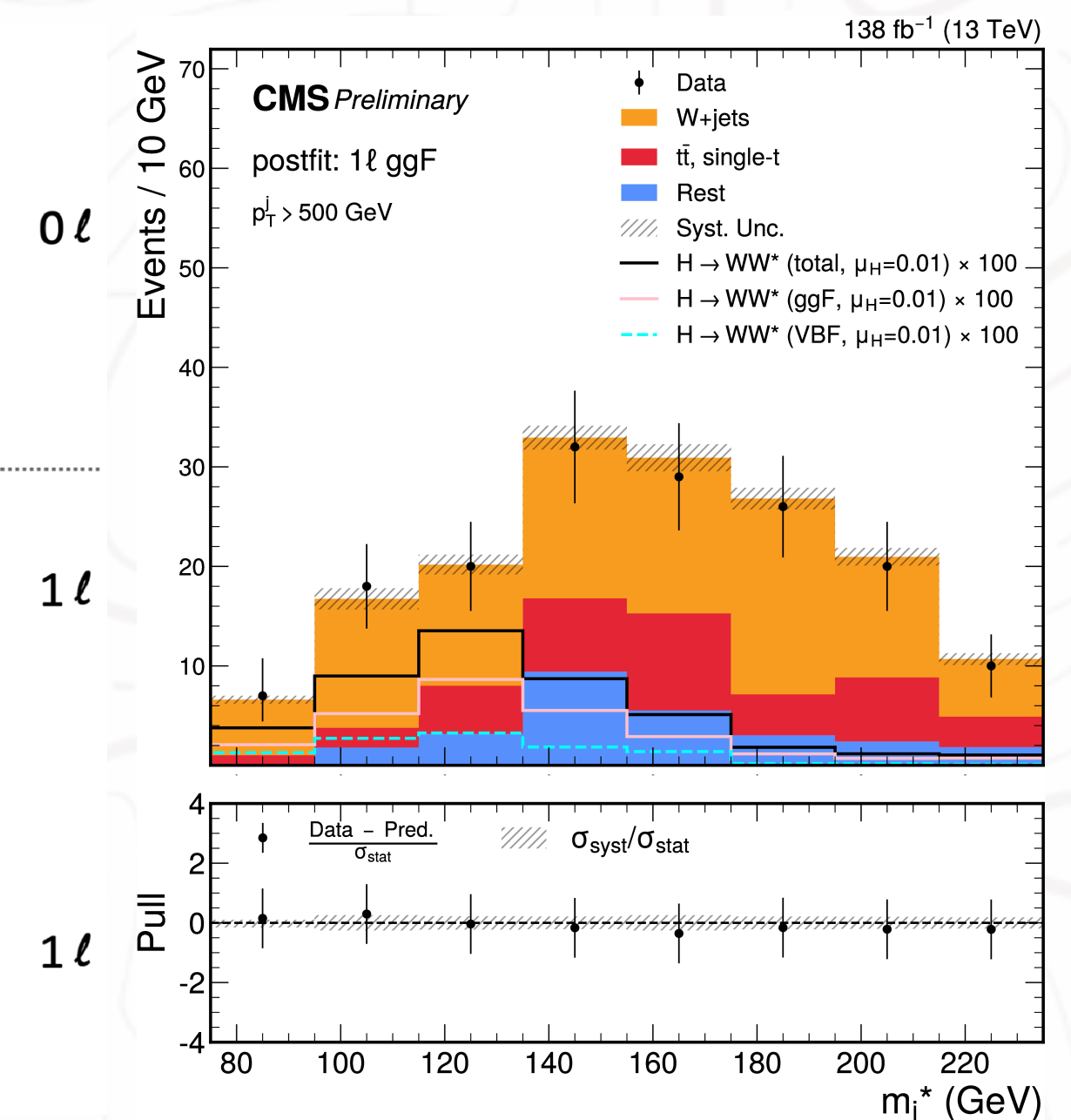
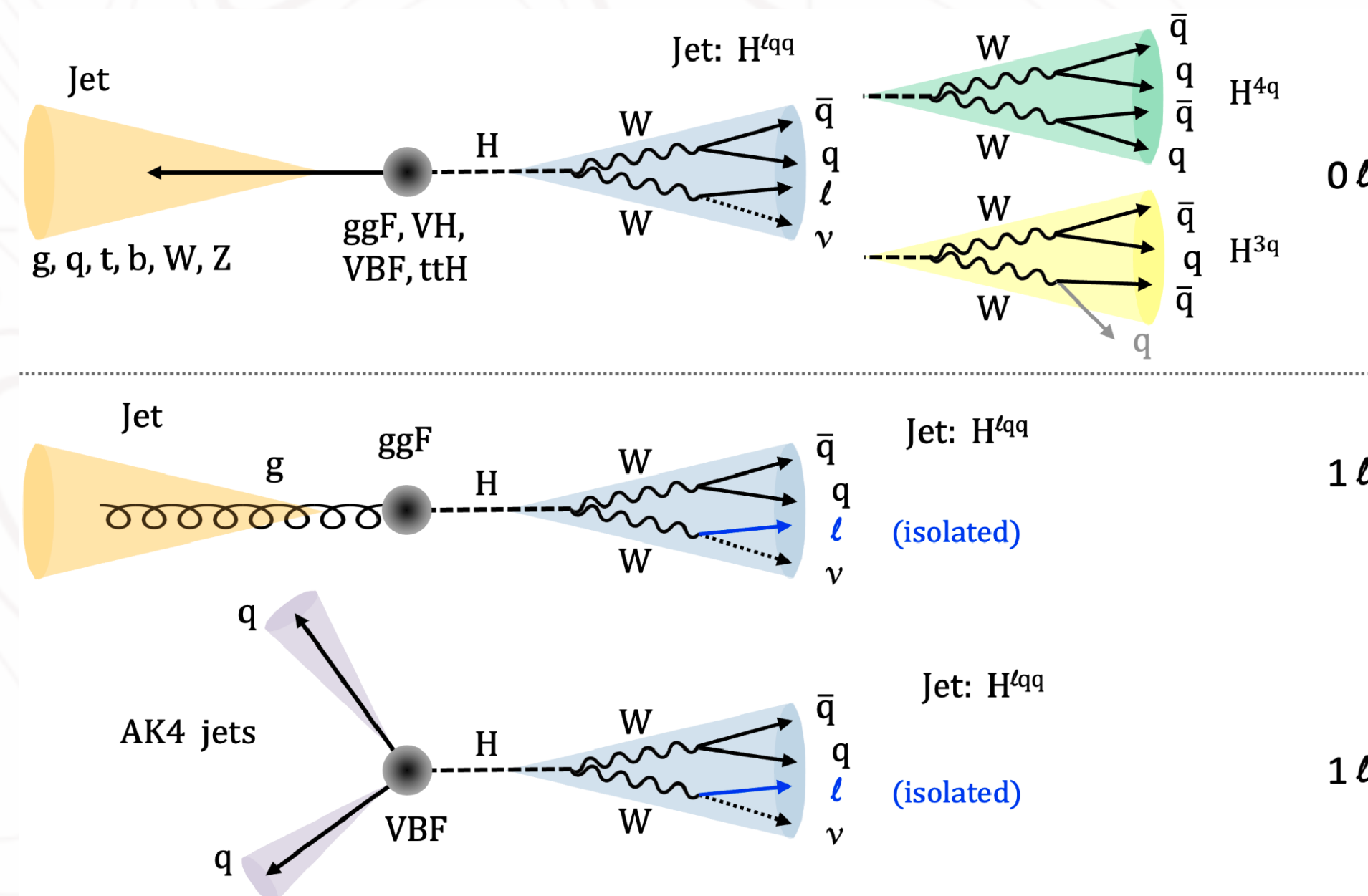
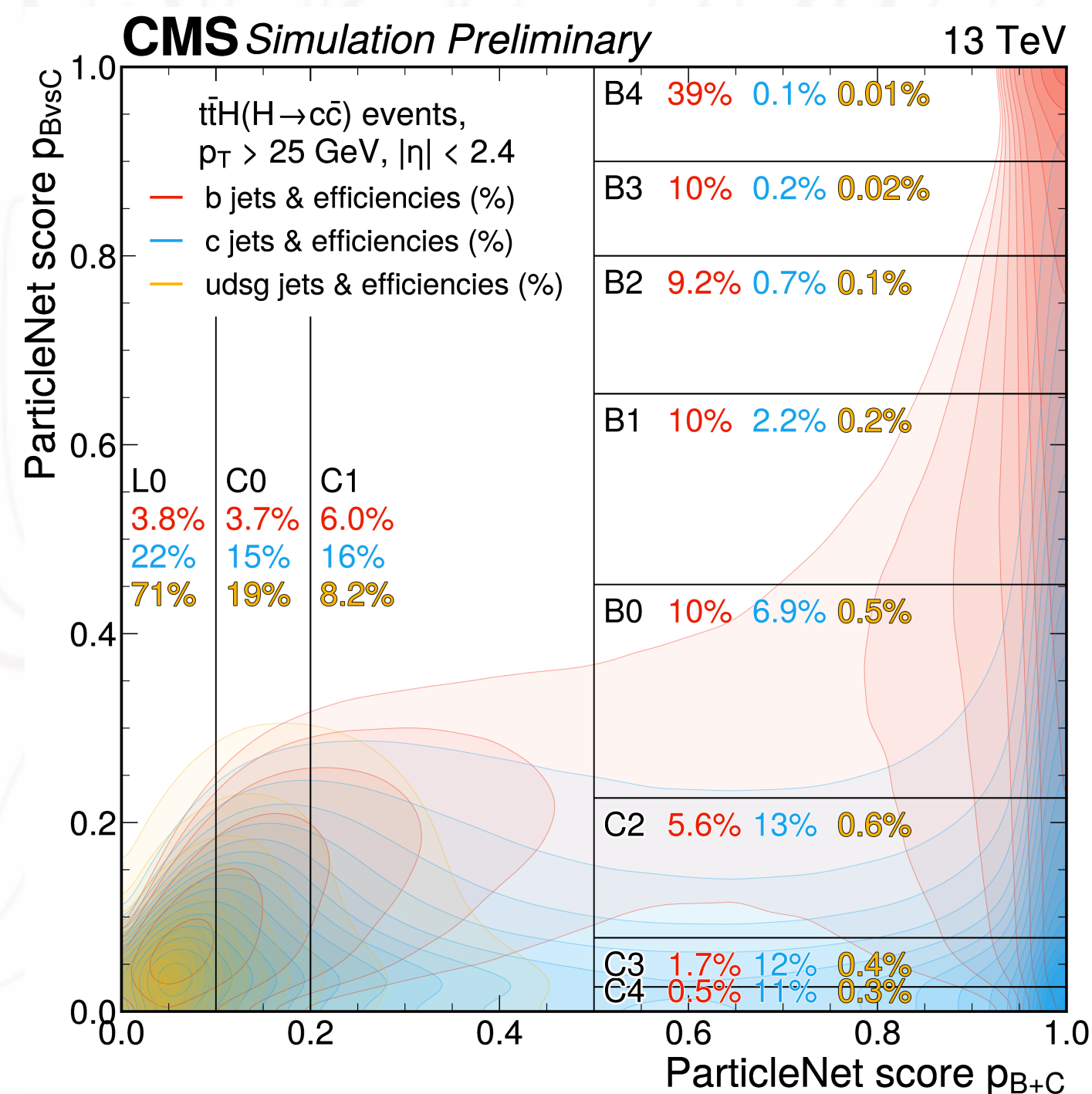
(Top and bottom yukawas constrained to SM, $|k_{VV}| \leq 1$)

MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE

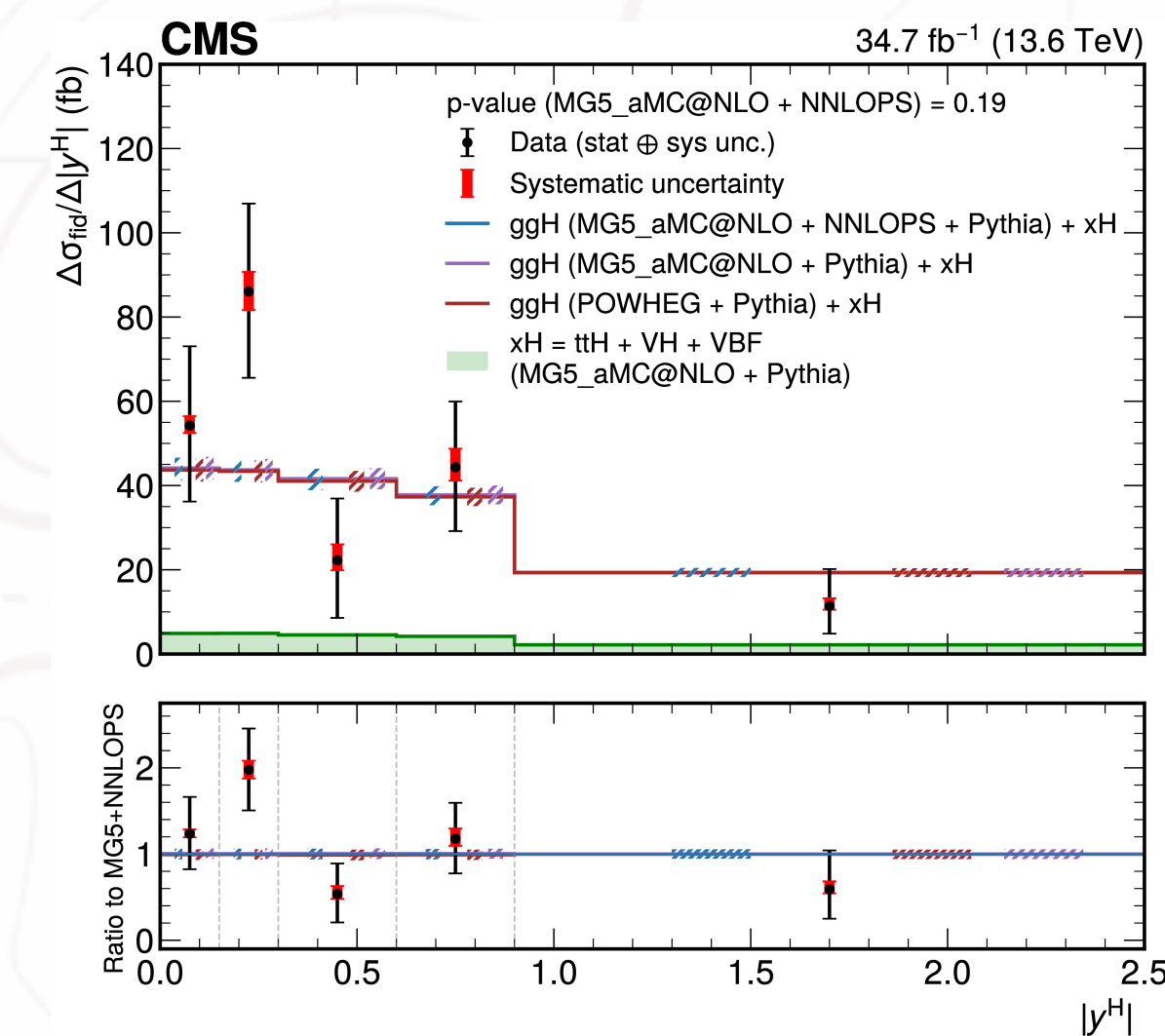
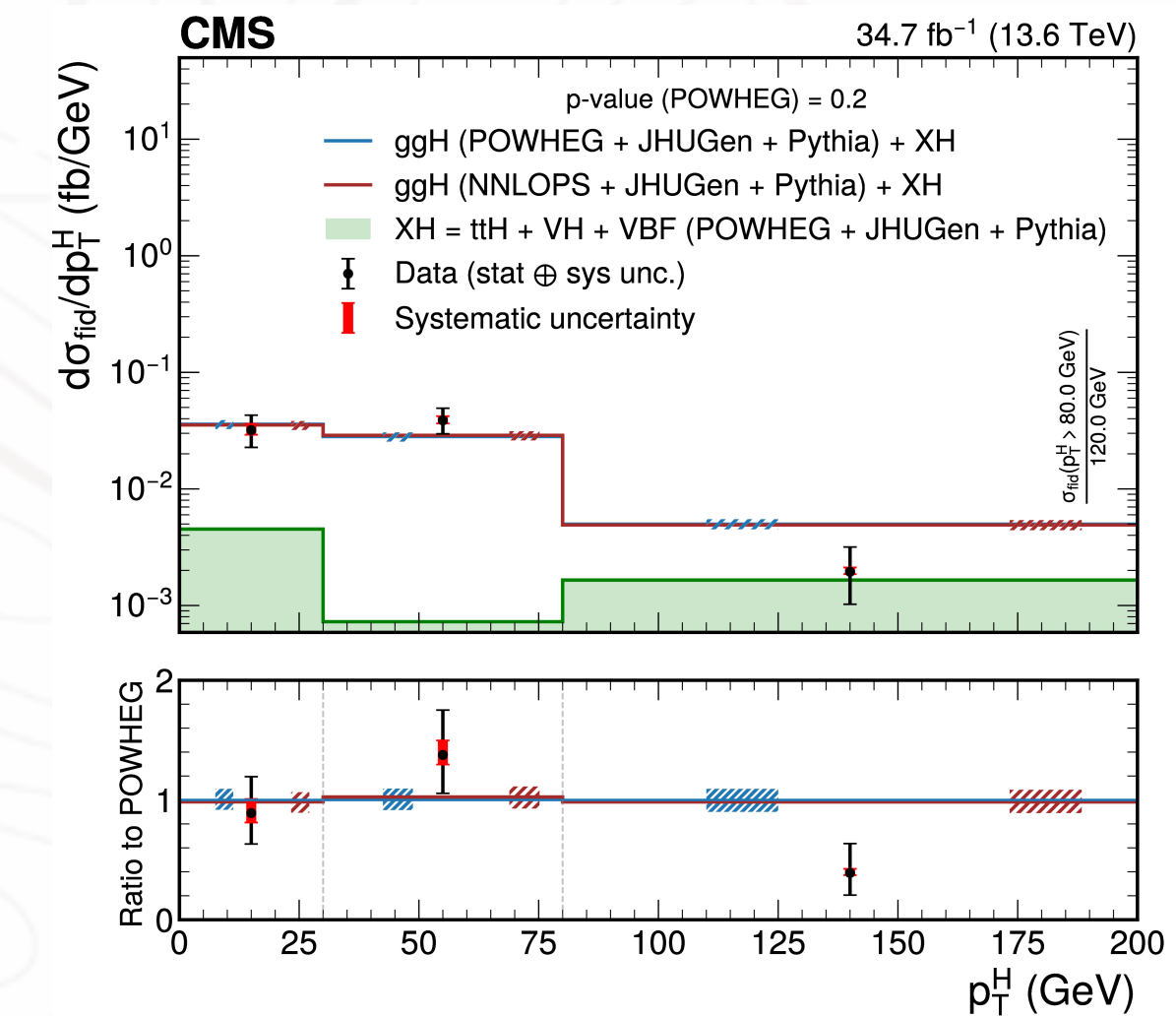
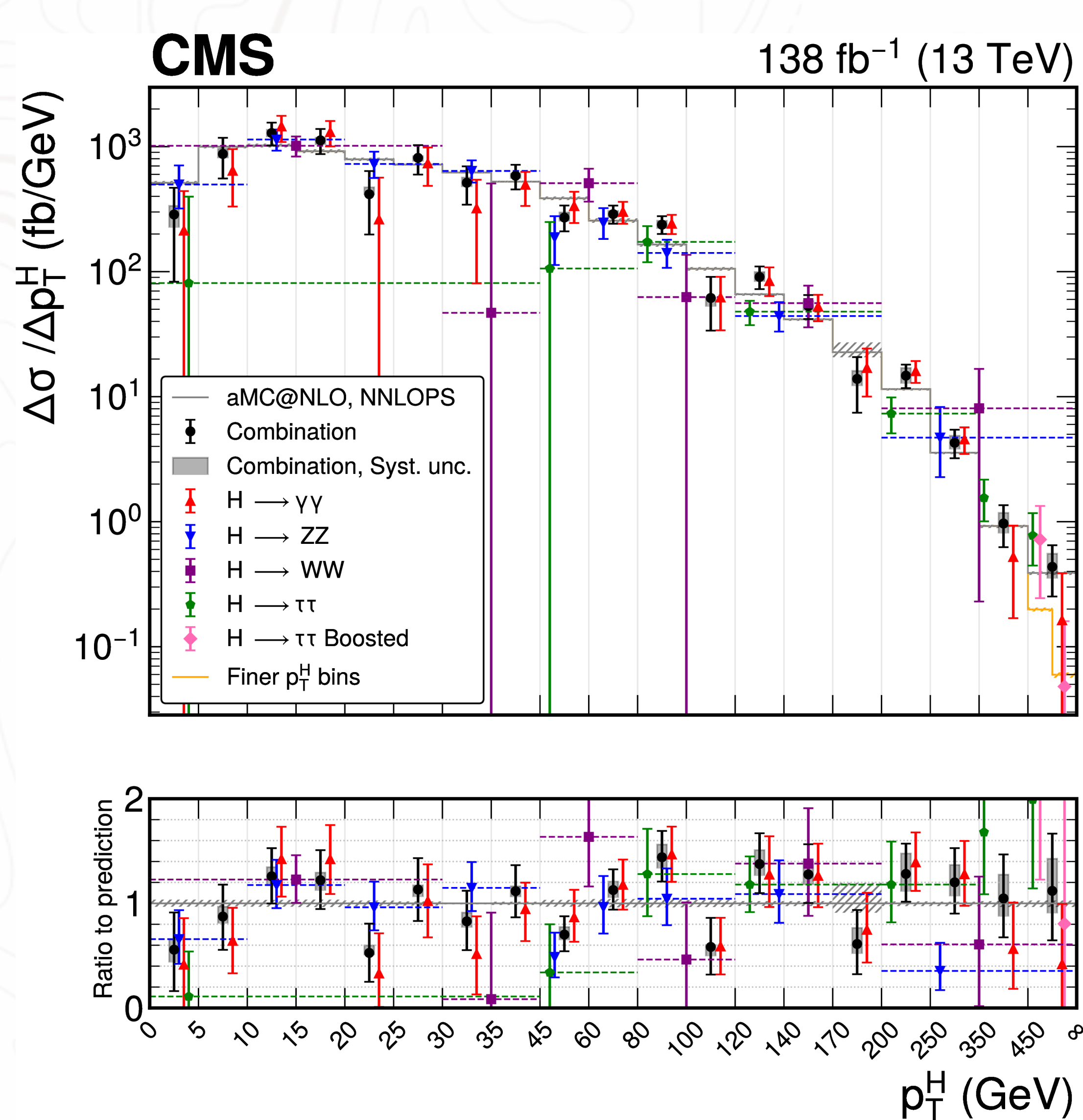


BOOSTED REGIMES AND ML TOOLS

- **The constant improvement in ML techniques have revolutionized the study of the high p_T phase space and continue to advance.**
 - The revolution in Hcc in recent years comes from development of innovative algorithms - tagging and selection.
 - But that is not all! Hbb, Htautau, HWW... Expect more in the future. Examples:
 - Hbb, go beyond 1 boosted object: exploit the increased VH contribution at high $p_T(H)$ probing $V(qq)H(bb)$ (> 450 GeV), with new techniques (ParticleNet-MD). CMS-HIG-24-017 : $\mu_{VH} = 0.72^{+0.75}_{-0.71}$
 - HWW!: Boosted techniques also applied to ggF+VBF in HWW! : , CMS-HIG-24-008. First example of boosted HWW signature. $\mu_H = 0.01^{+0.63}_{-0.48}$

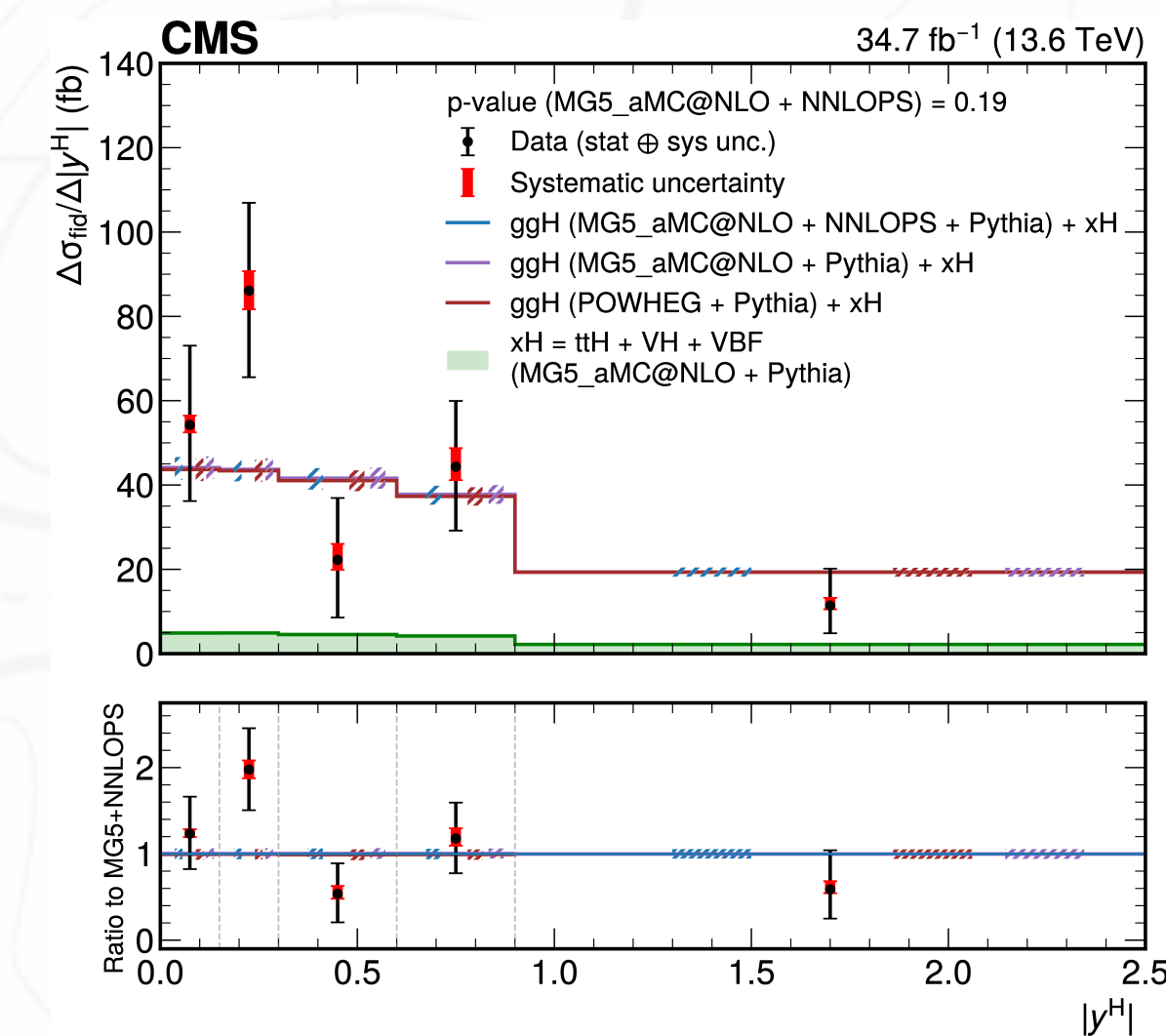
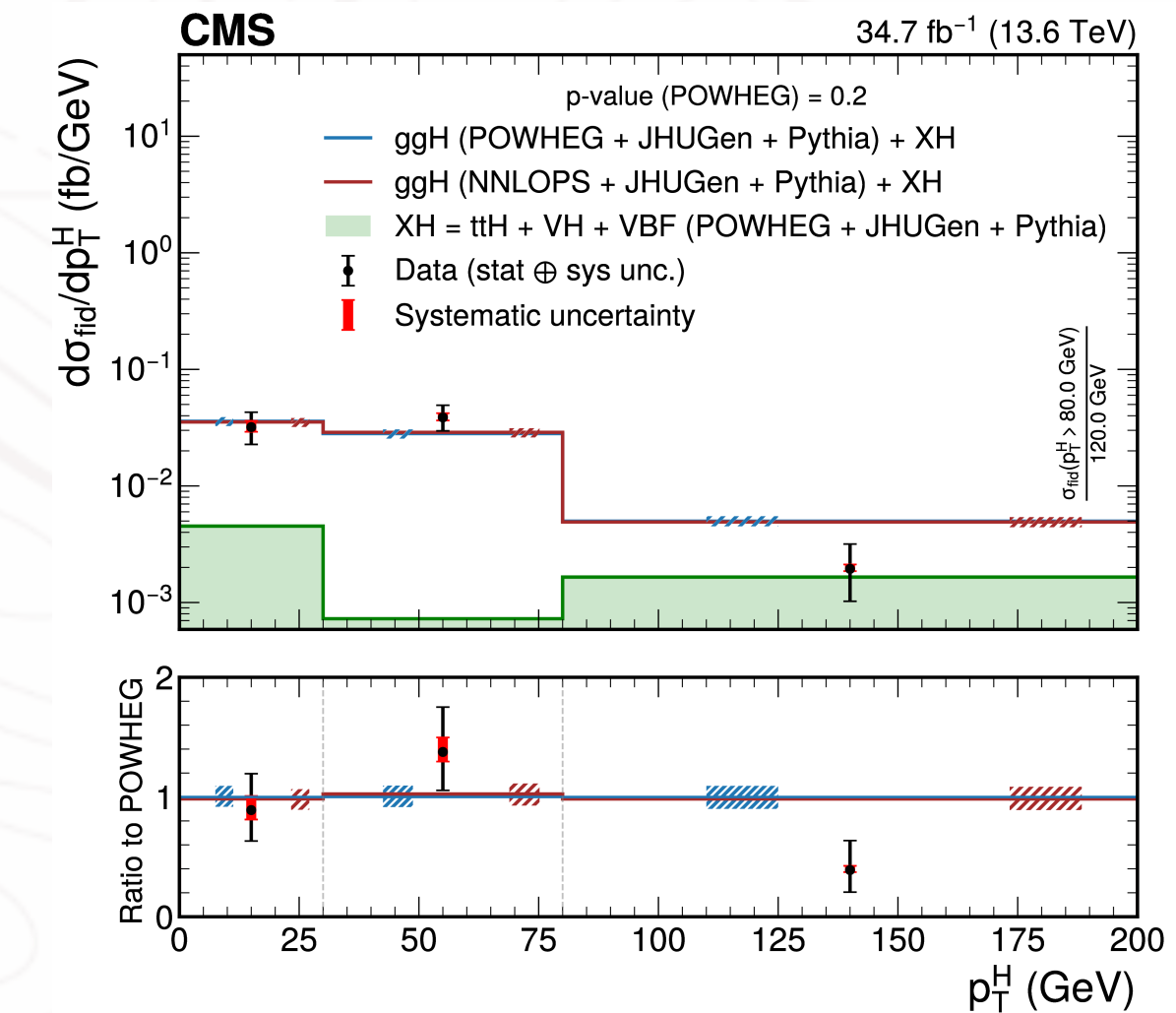
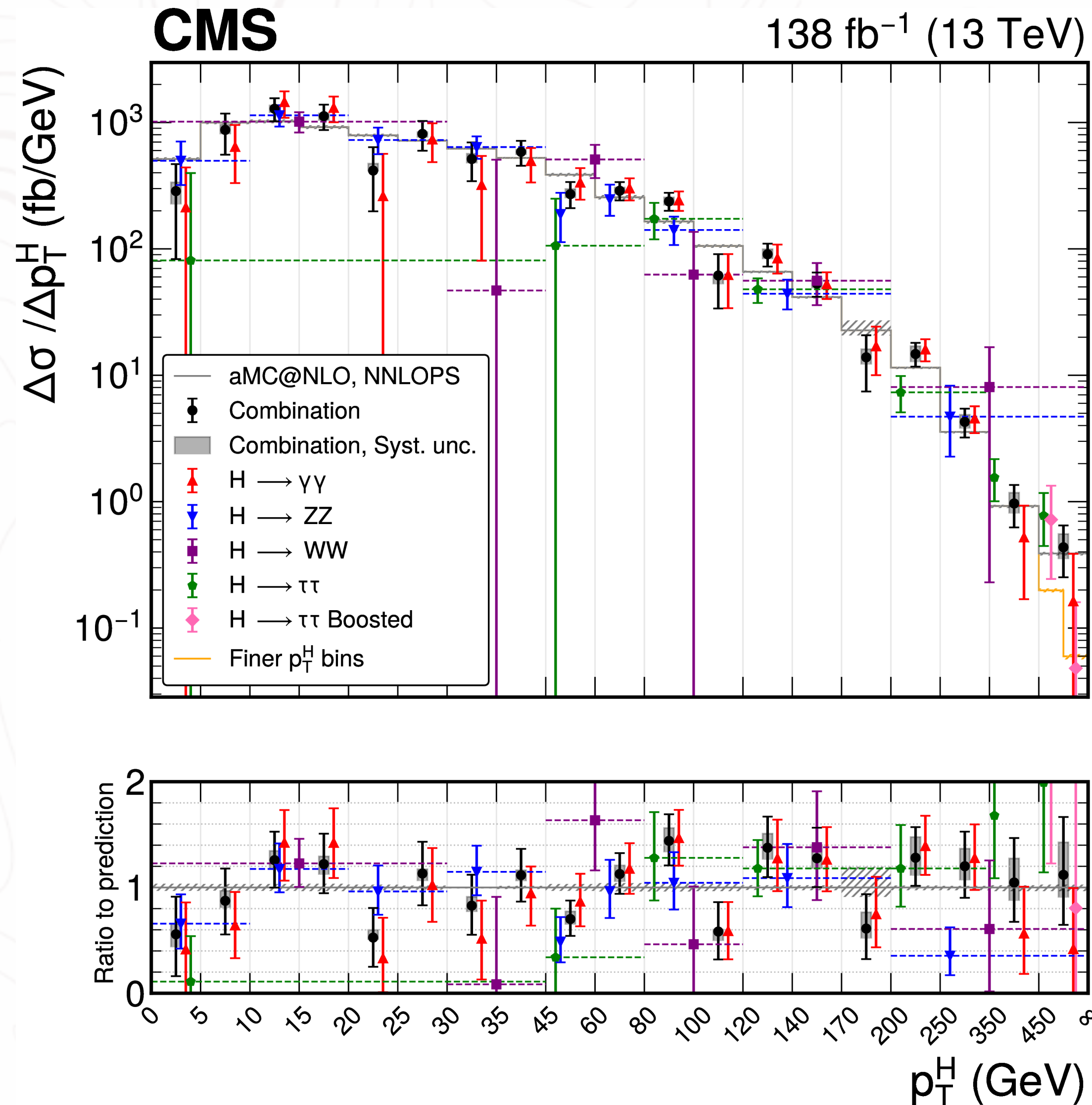


DIFFERENTIAL CROSS SECTIONS



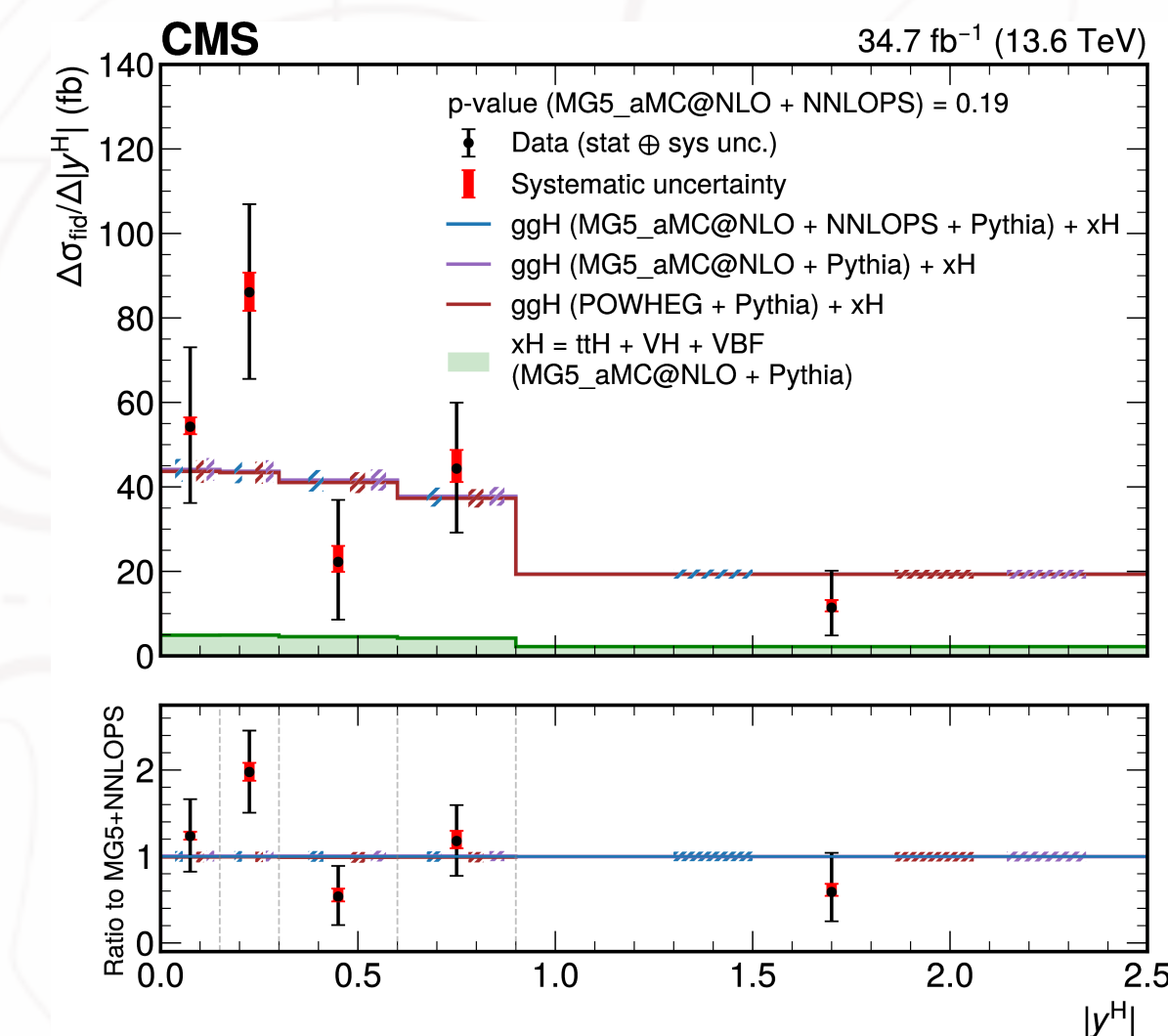
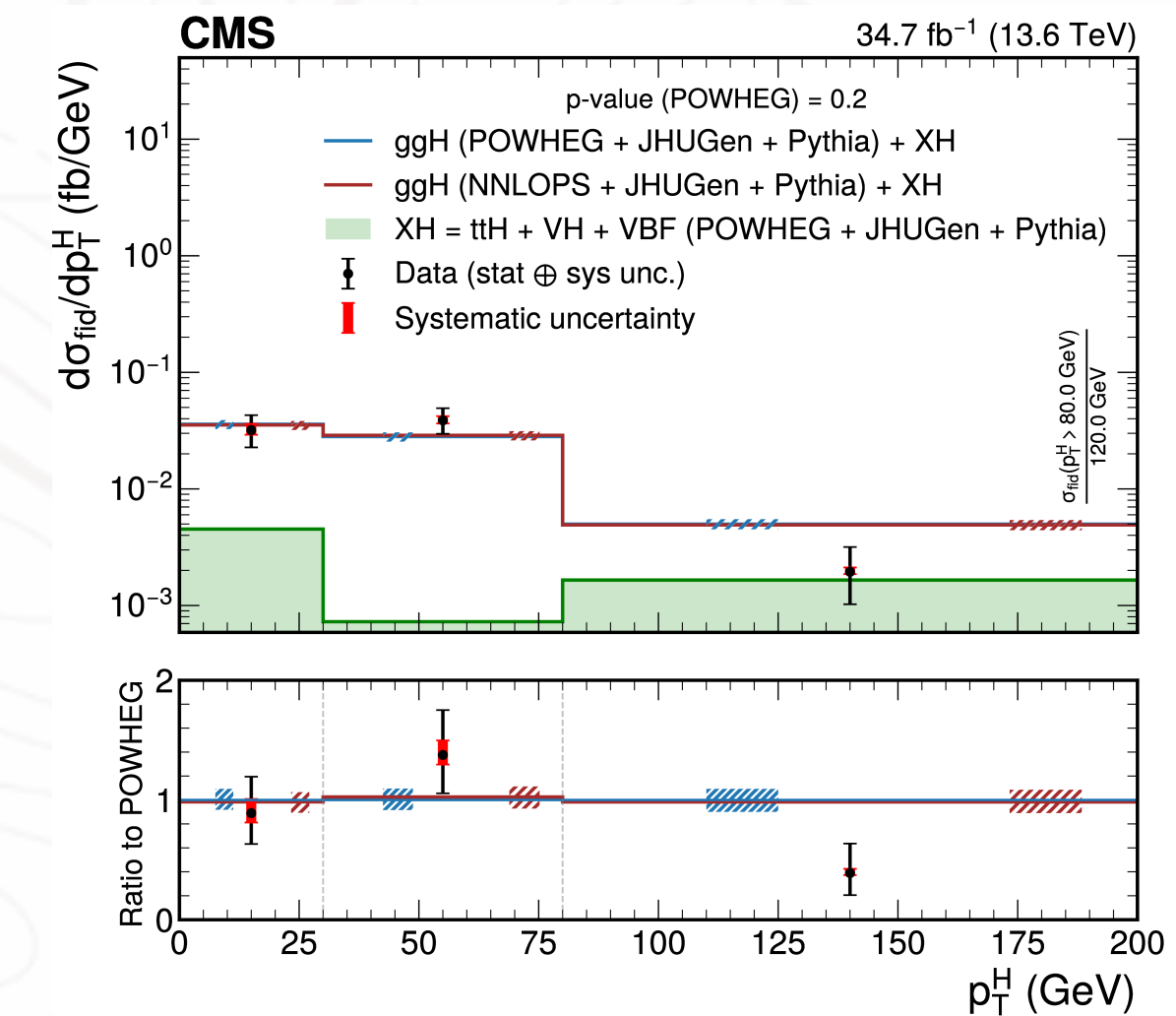
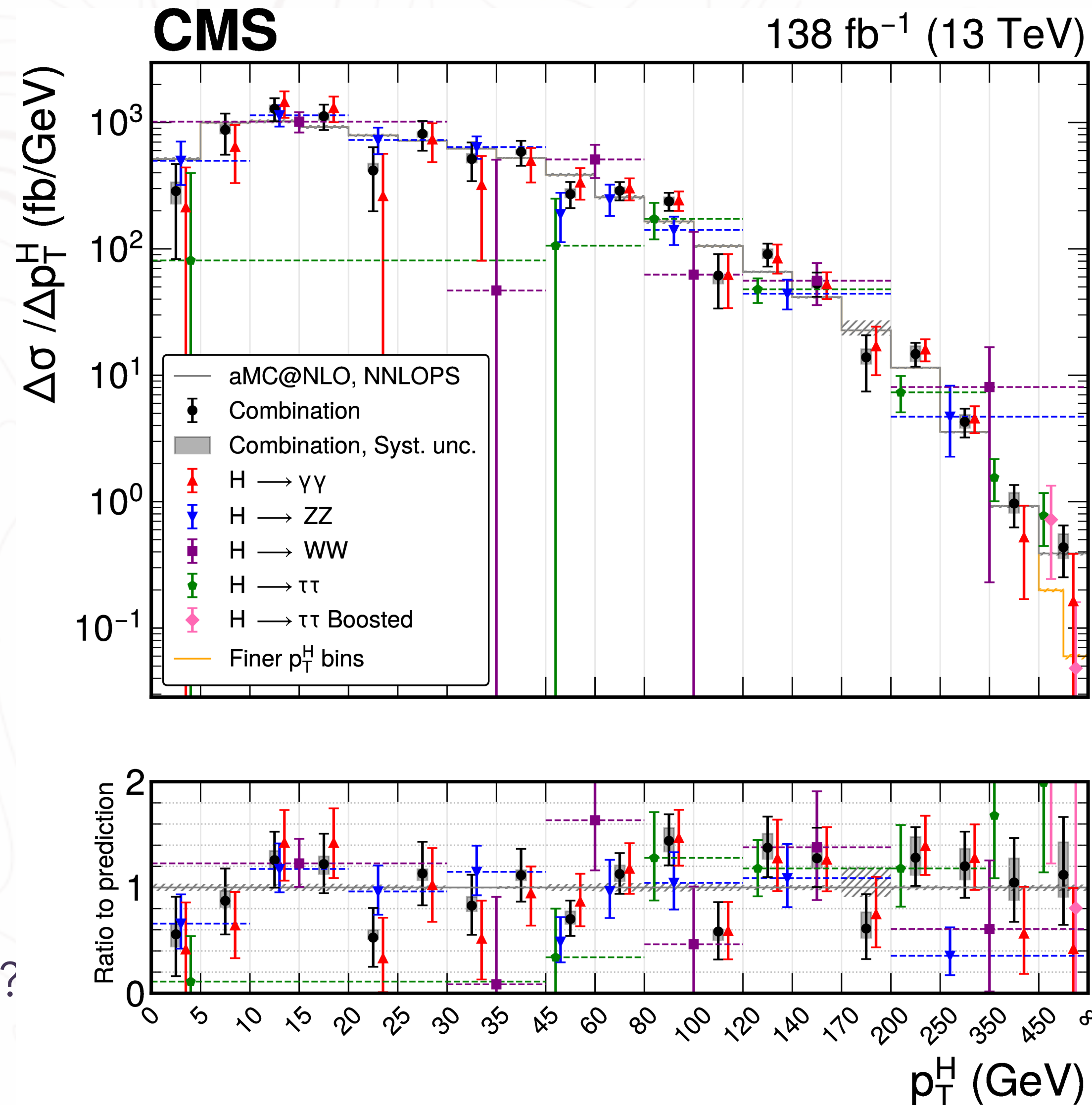
DIFFERENTIAL CROSS SECTIONS

- CMS Run2 combination of differential distributions (ZZ, WW, $\gamma\gamma$, $\tau\tau$). Many variables probed (pT, angular correlations, event topology...)
- First Run3 results in 4l and diphoton



DIFFERENTIAL CROSS SECTIONS

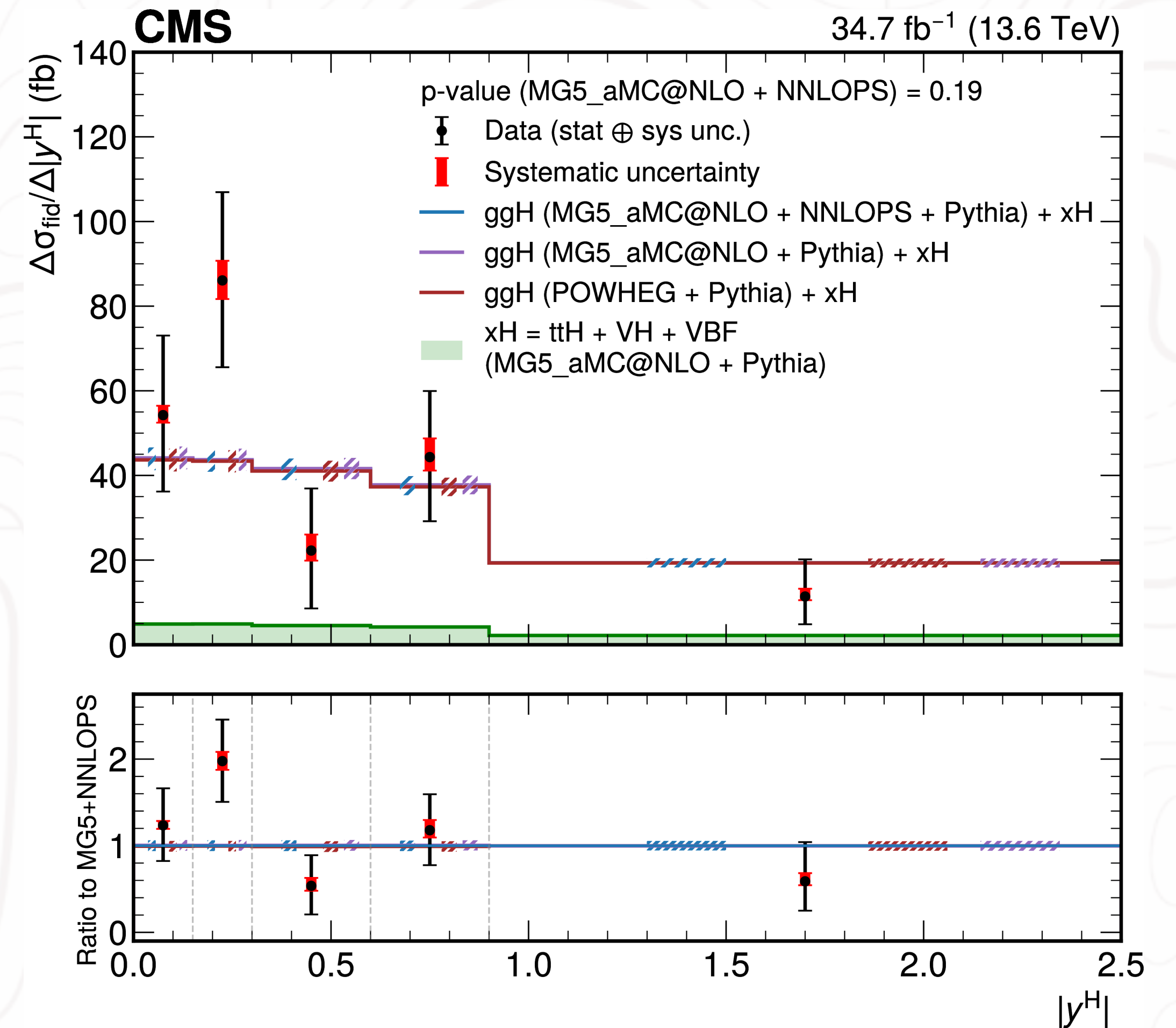
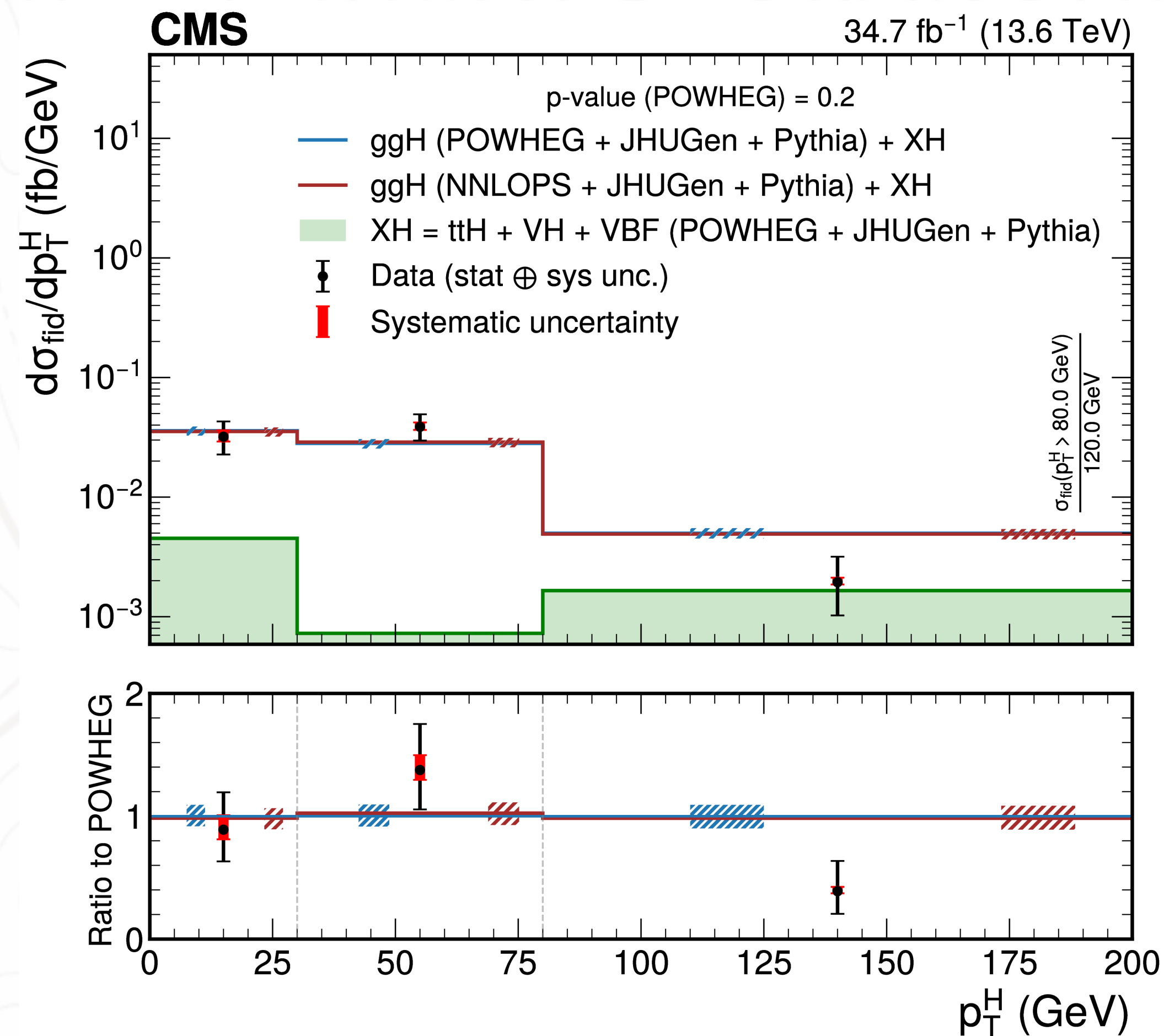
- CMS Run2 combination of differential distributions (ZZ, WW, $\gamma\gamma$, $\tau\tau$). Many variables probed (pT, angular correlations, event topology...)
- First Run3 results in 4l and diphoton
- **Higgs kinematics can be modified by BSM physics**
 - Do the current MC tools model the Higgs behaviour correctly?
 - Complex phase-spaces: how high can we reach in Higgs pT?
 - Indirect constraints on BSM



DIFFERENTIALS AT 13.6 TEV

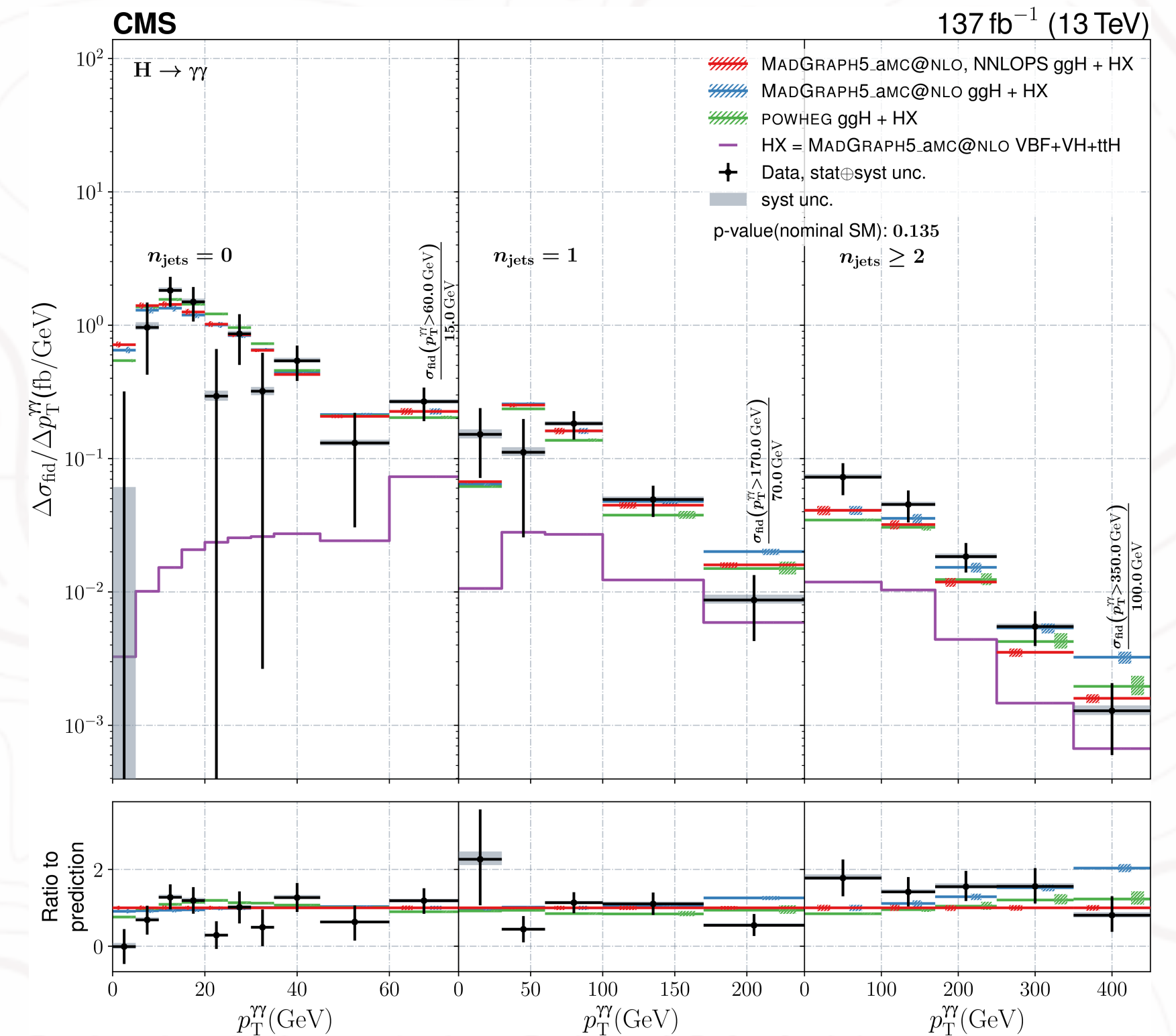
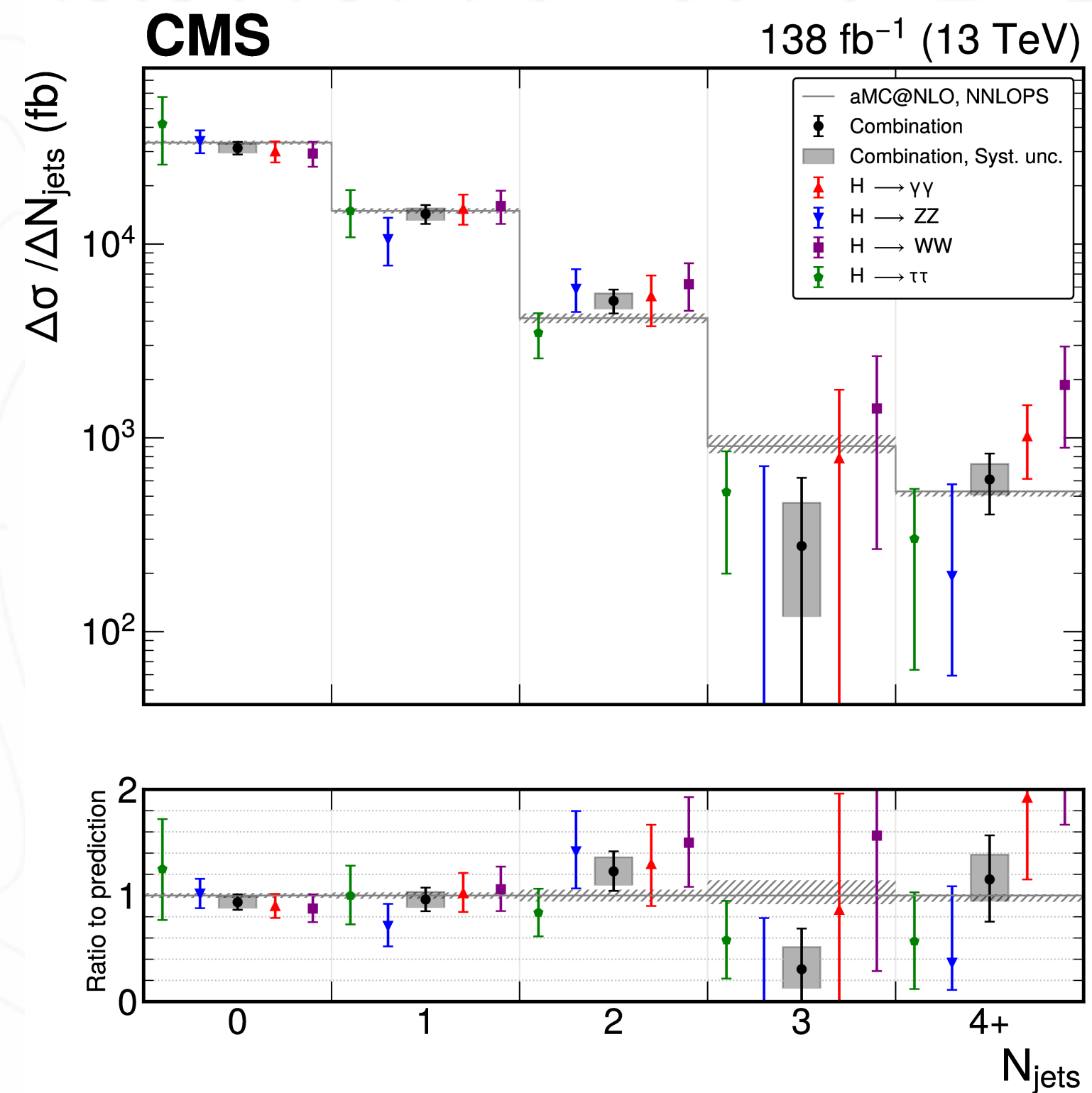
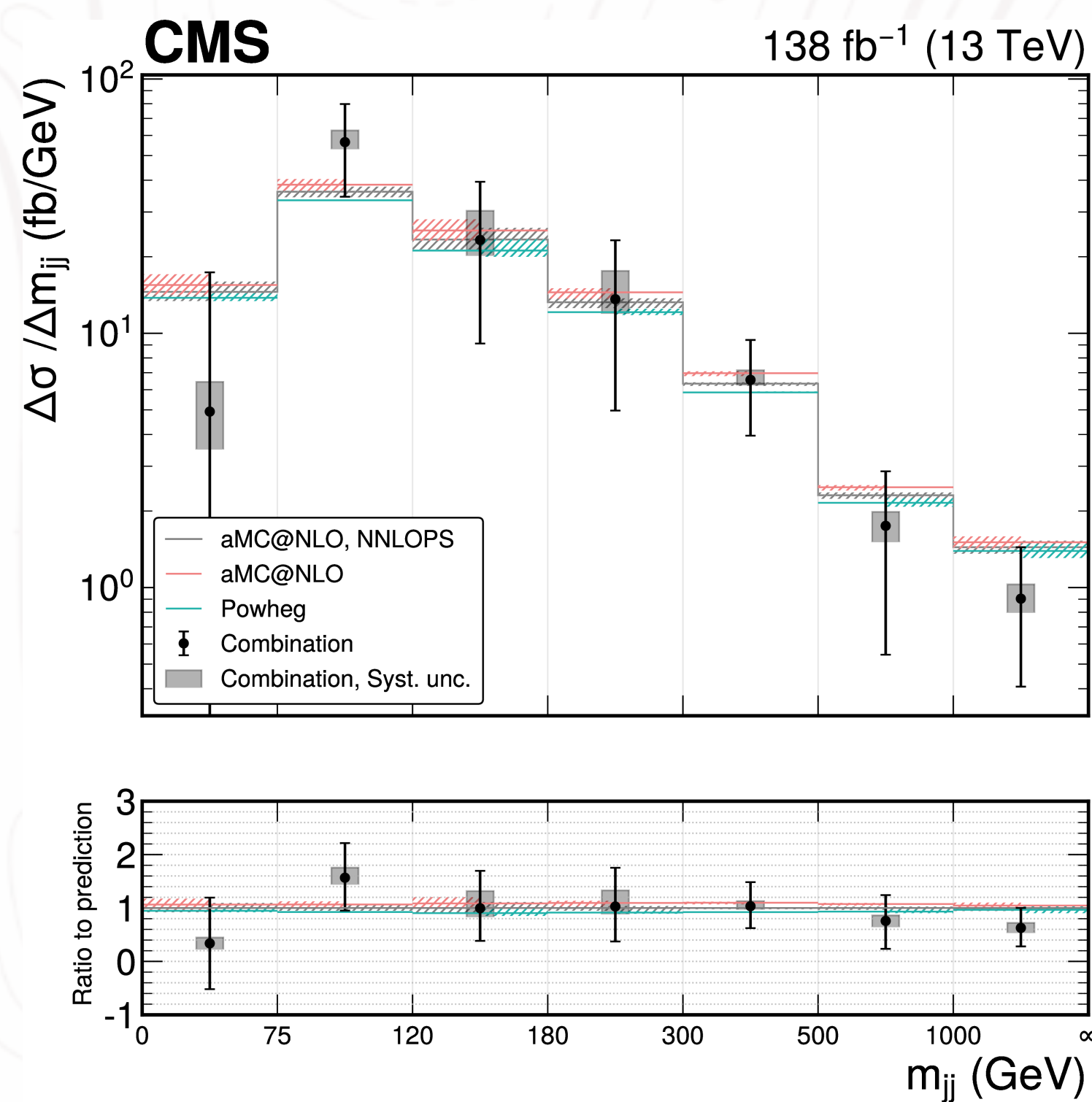
- HZZ ([JHEP 05 \(2025\) 079](#)): Differential p_T^H , y_H

- $H\gamma\gamma$ ([arXiv:2504.17755](#)): Differential p_T^H , y_H , N_{Jets} , p_T lead jet



NOT ONLY P_T ...

- Many variables probed: p_T , η of the products or of the Higgs, number of jets in the event and other global topological variables, angular correlations...)
- Besides the combination, the individual channels have even more variables (and in some cases double differentials)

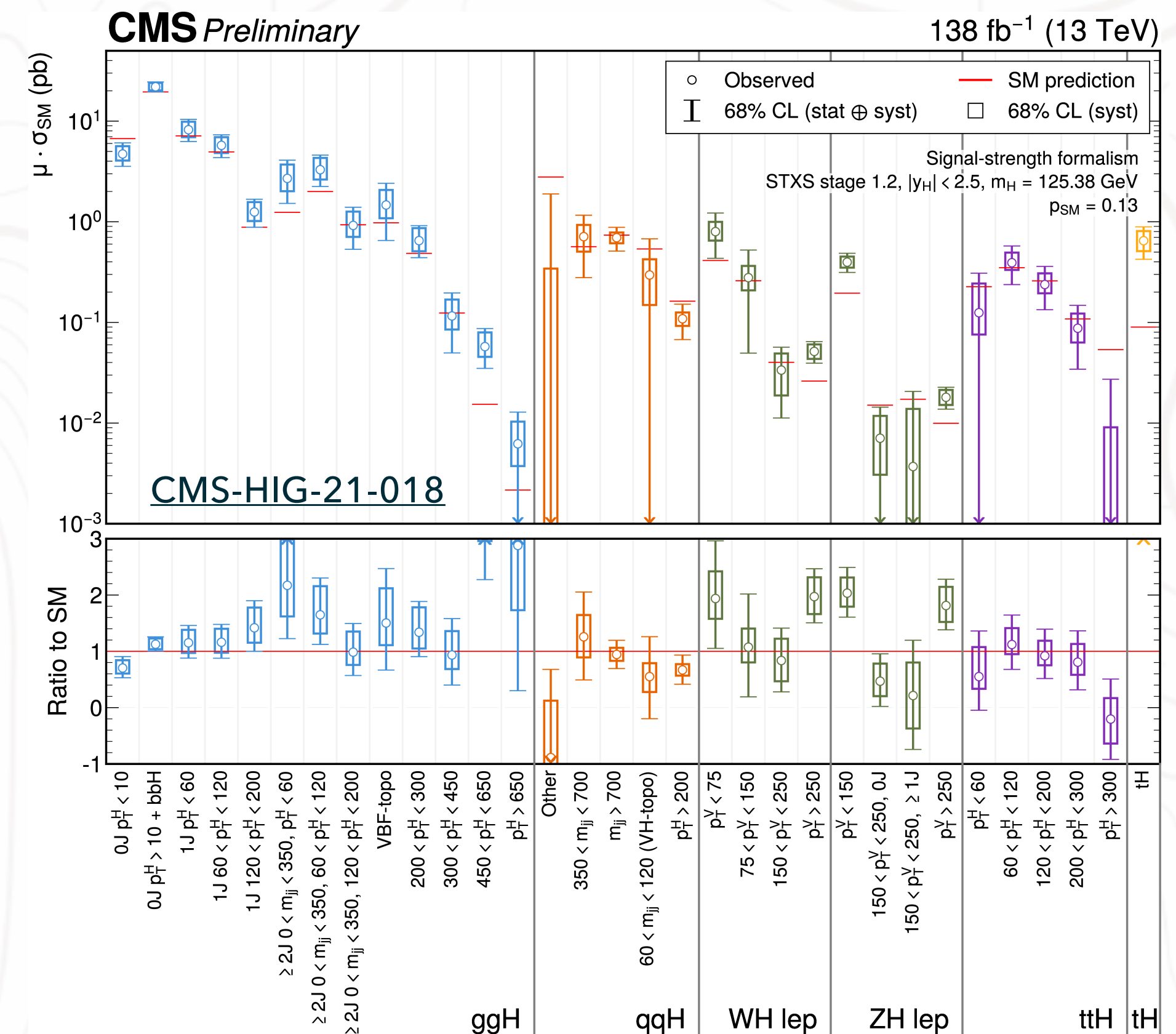
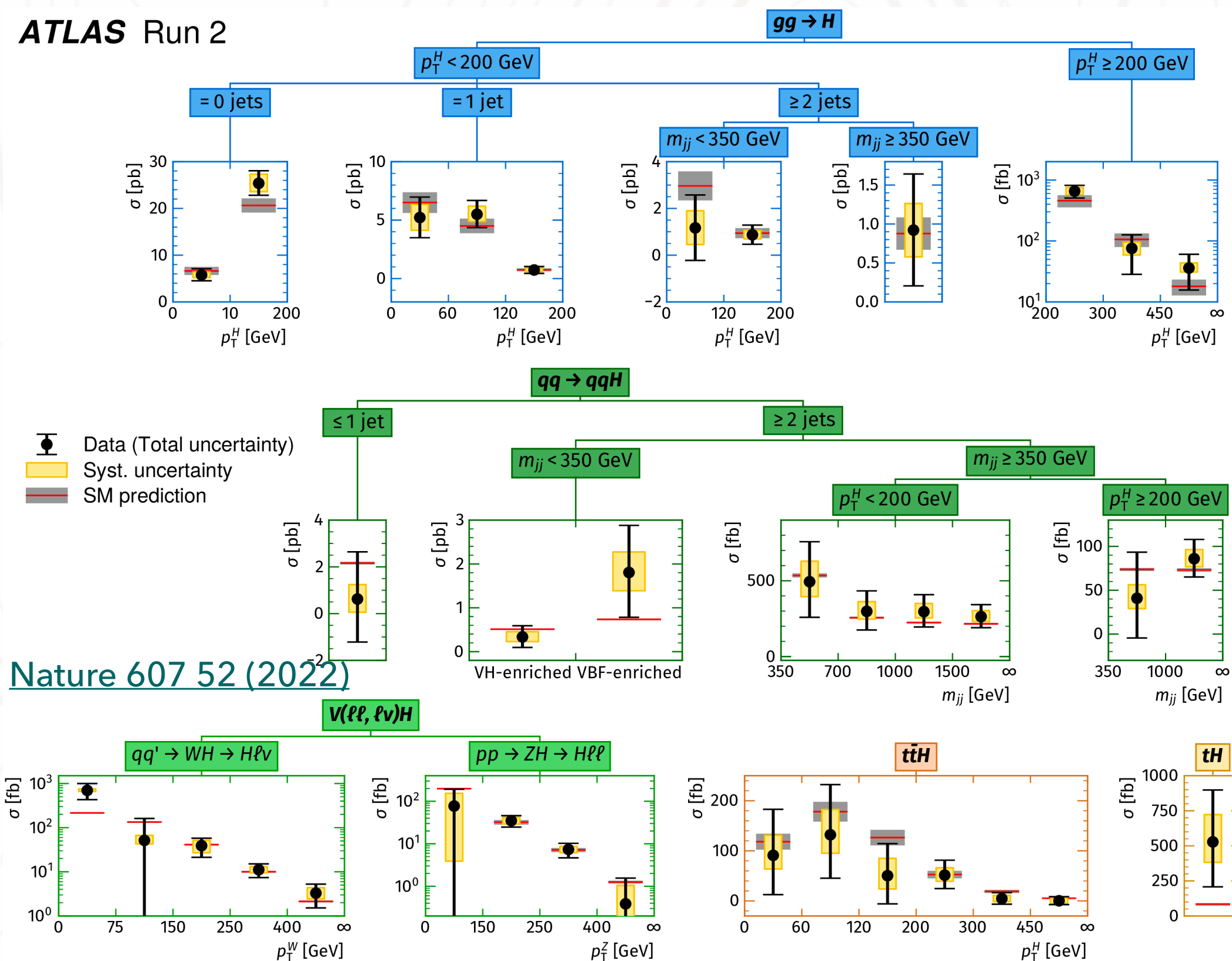


[arXiv:2504.13081](https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.13081)

JHEP 07 (2023) 091

SIMPLIFIED TEMPLATE CROSS SECTIONS

- “Simplified Template Cross Sections” approach: Measure cross sections separated into production modes, inclusively over the Higgs decays, in specific regions of phase-space (“bins”), defined in terms of specific kinematic variables (p_T^H , m_{jj} , p_T^{Hjj} , p_T^V)
- Largely model-independent way to test for BSM deviations in kinematic distributions.

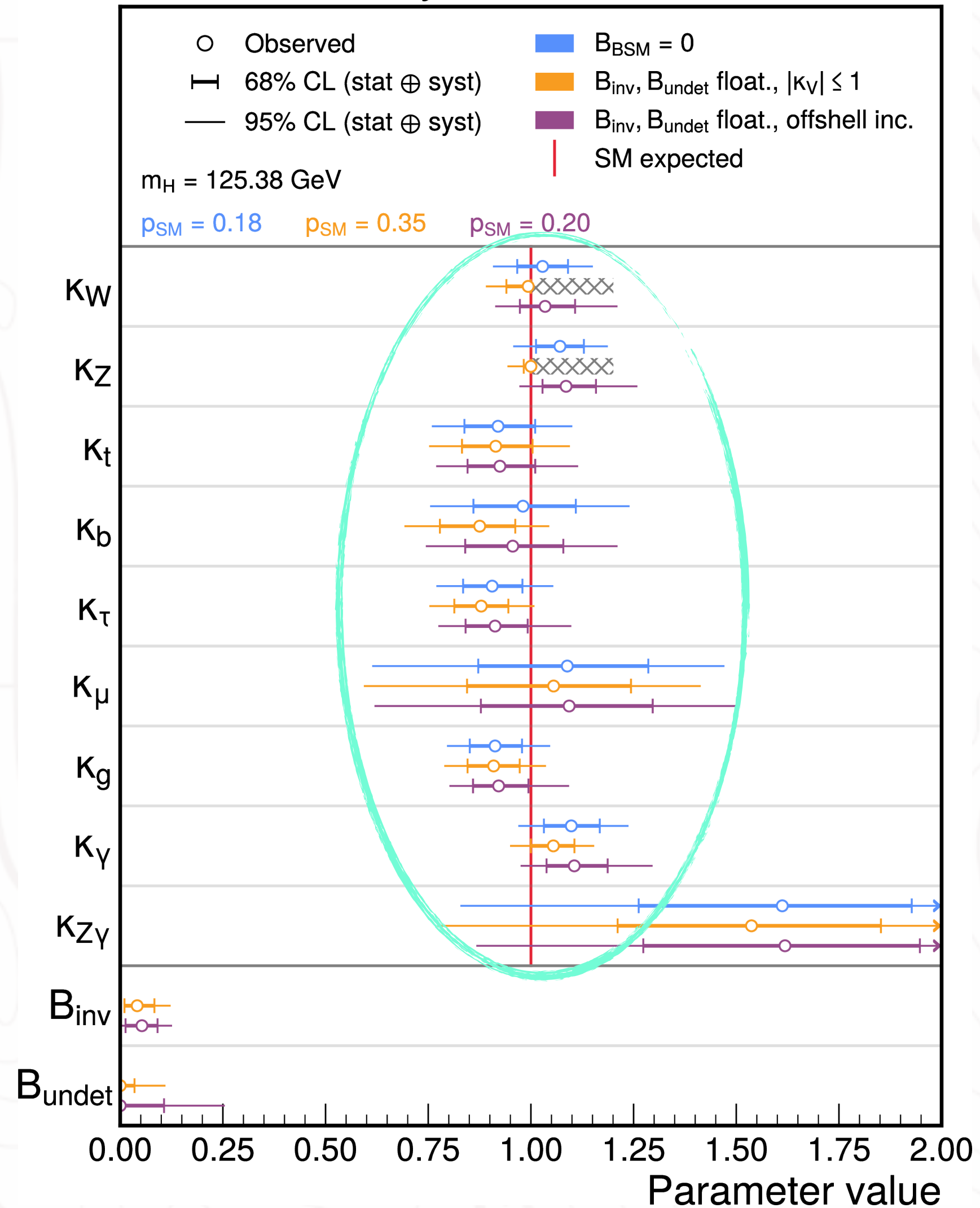


PRECISION IN HIGGS COUPLINGS

PRECISION IN HIGGS COUPLINGS

CMS Preliminary

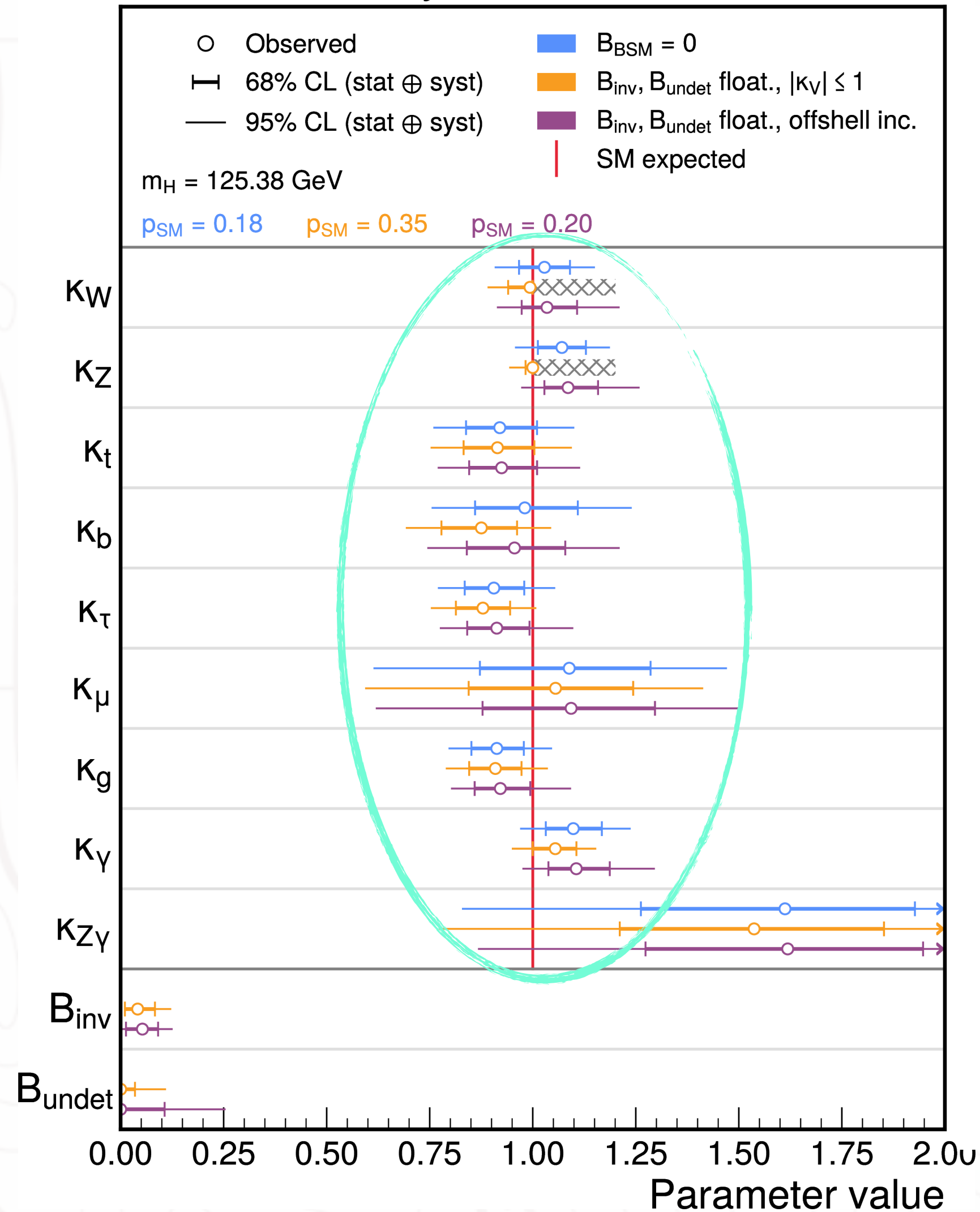
138 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)



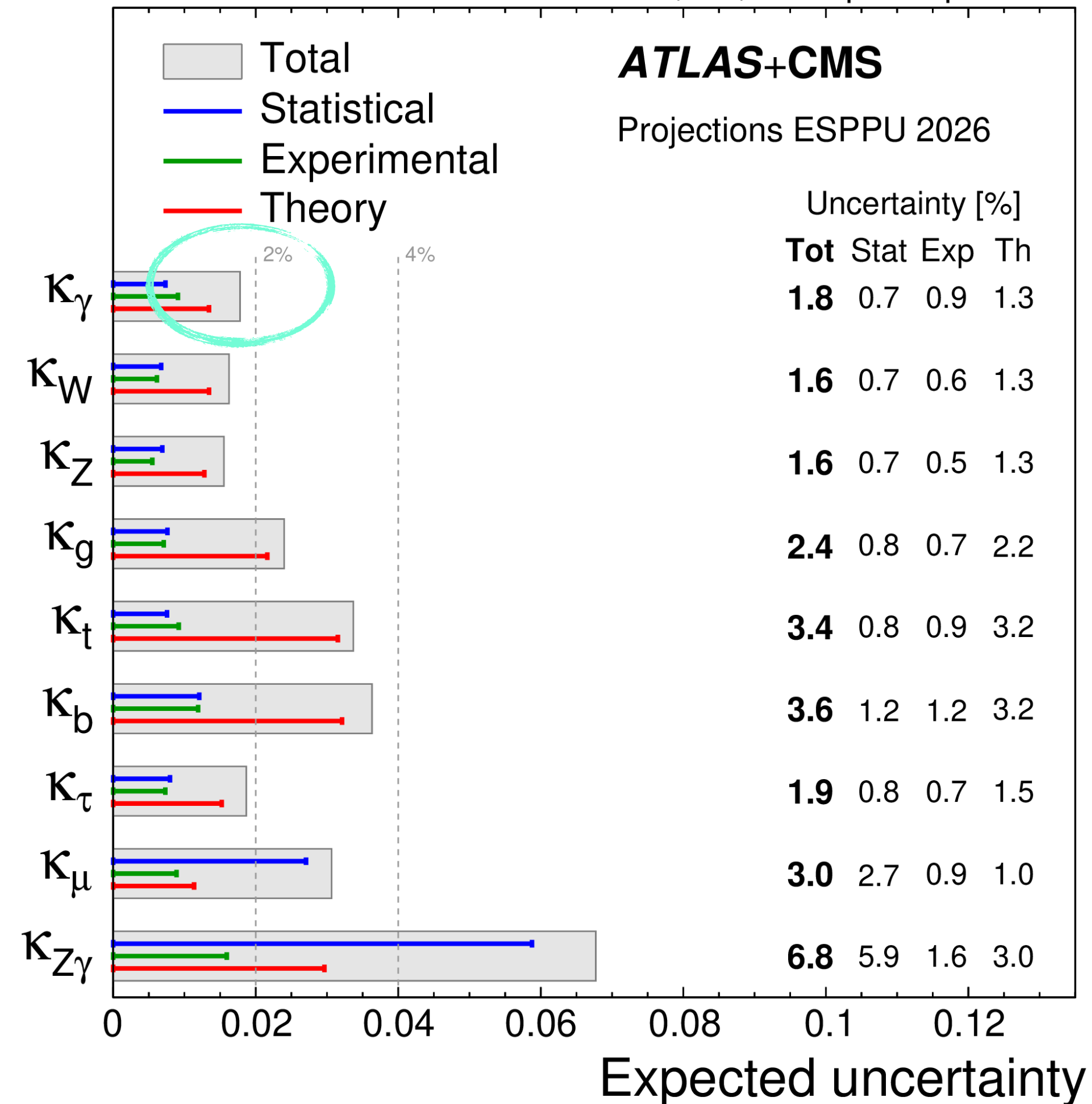
PRECISION IN HIGGS COUPLINGS

CMS Preliminary

138 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)

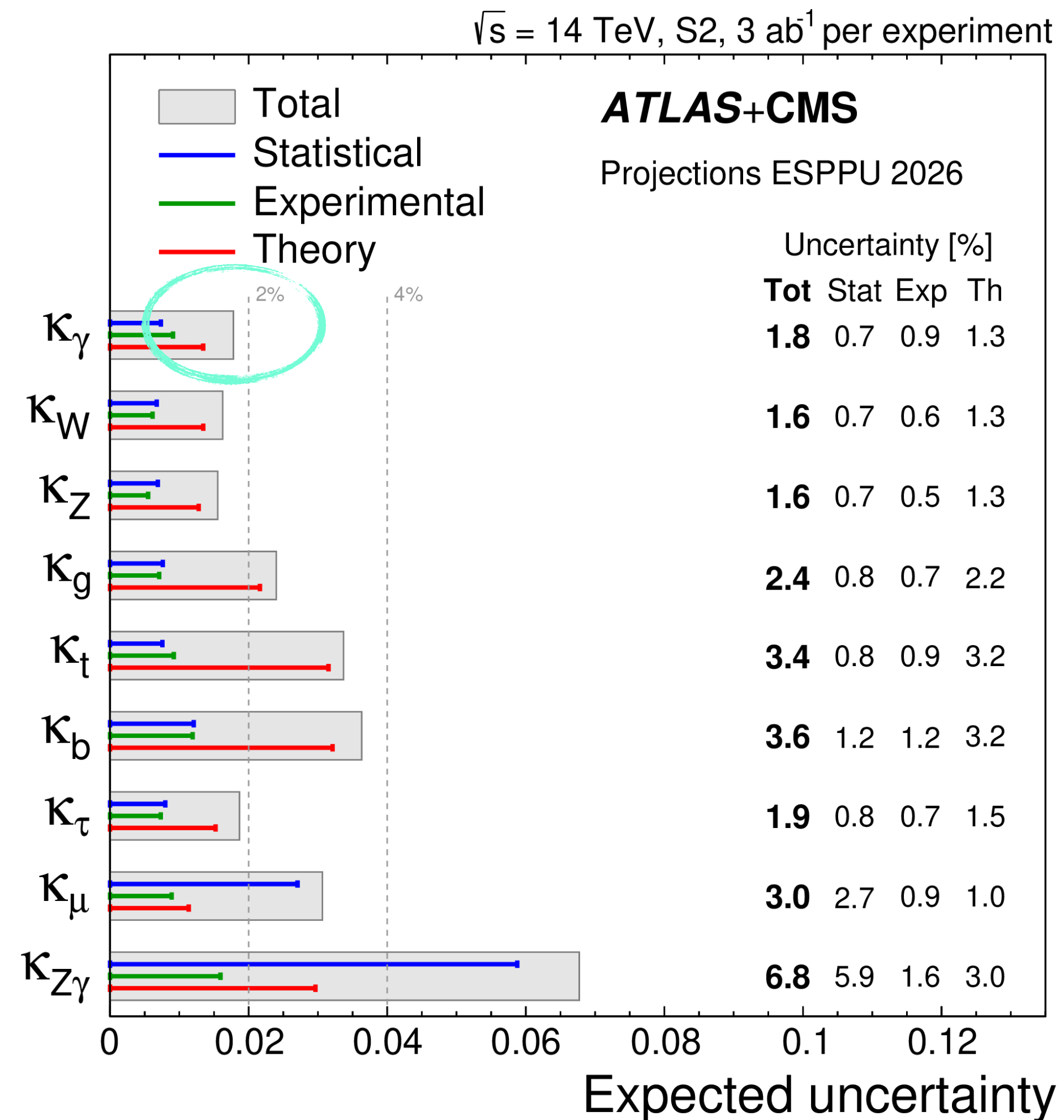
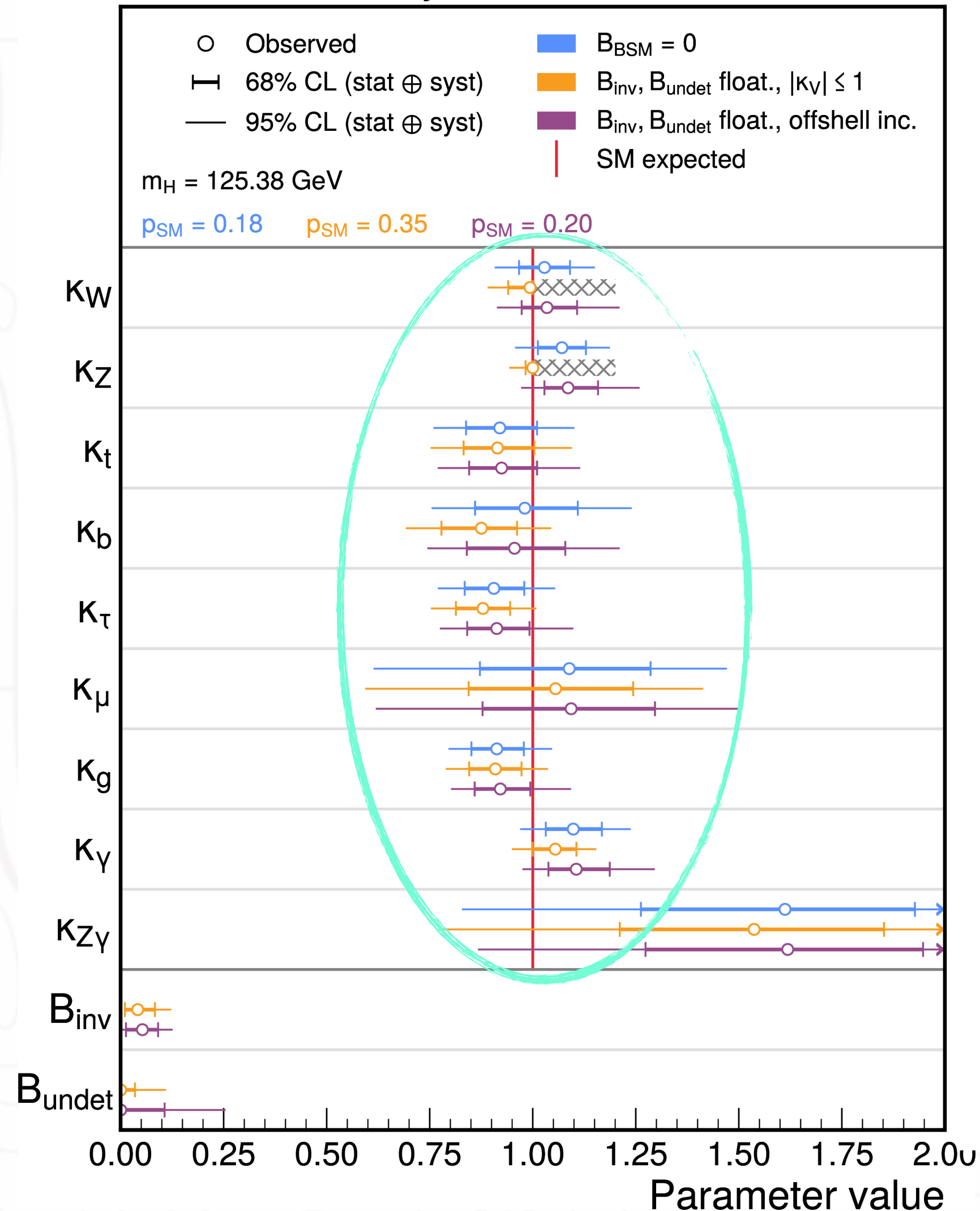


$\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV, S2, 3 ab⁻¹ per experiment



PRECISION IN HIGGS COUPLINGS

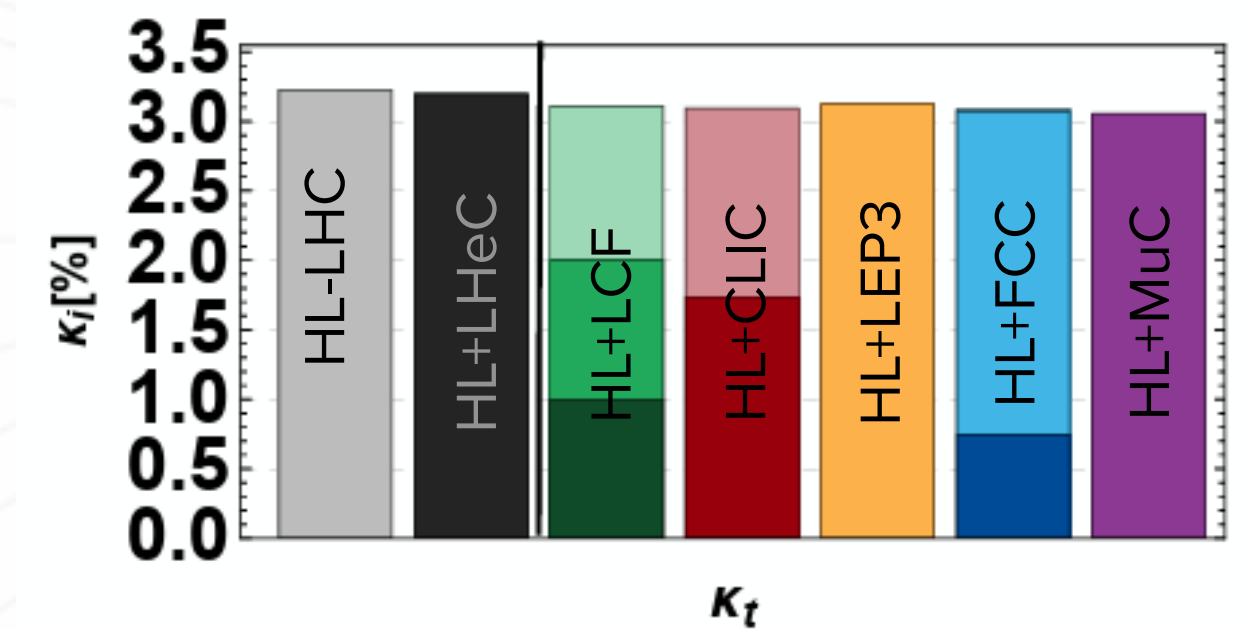
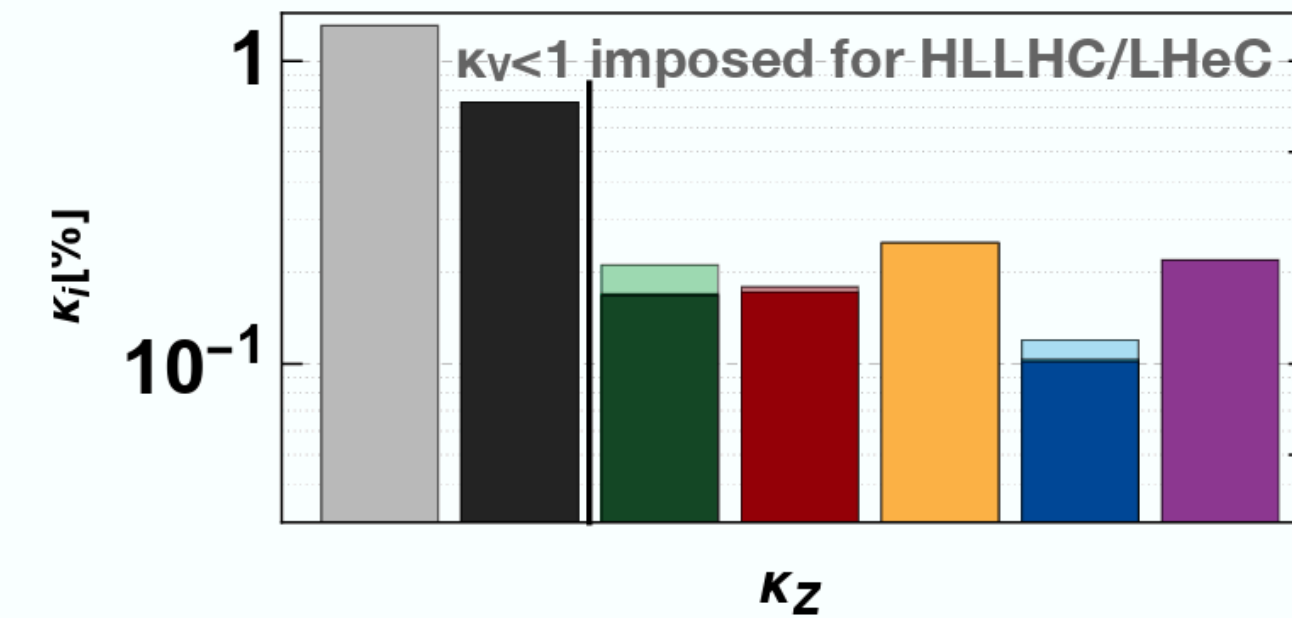
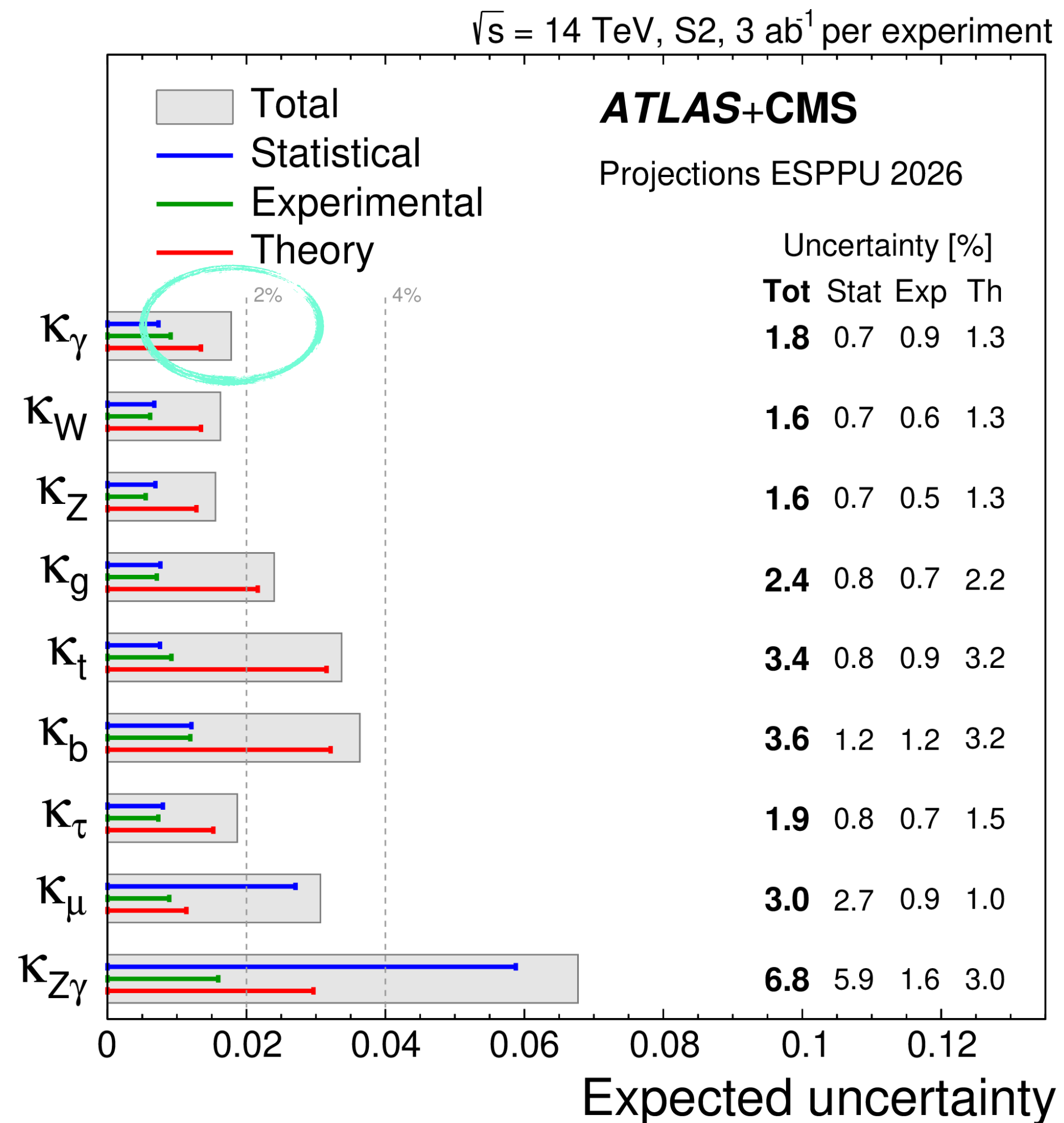
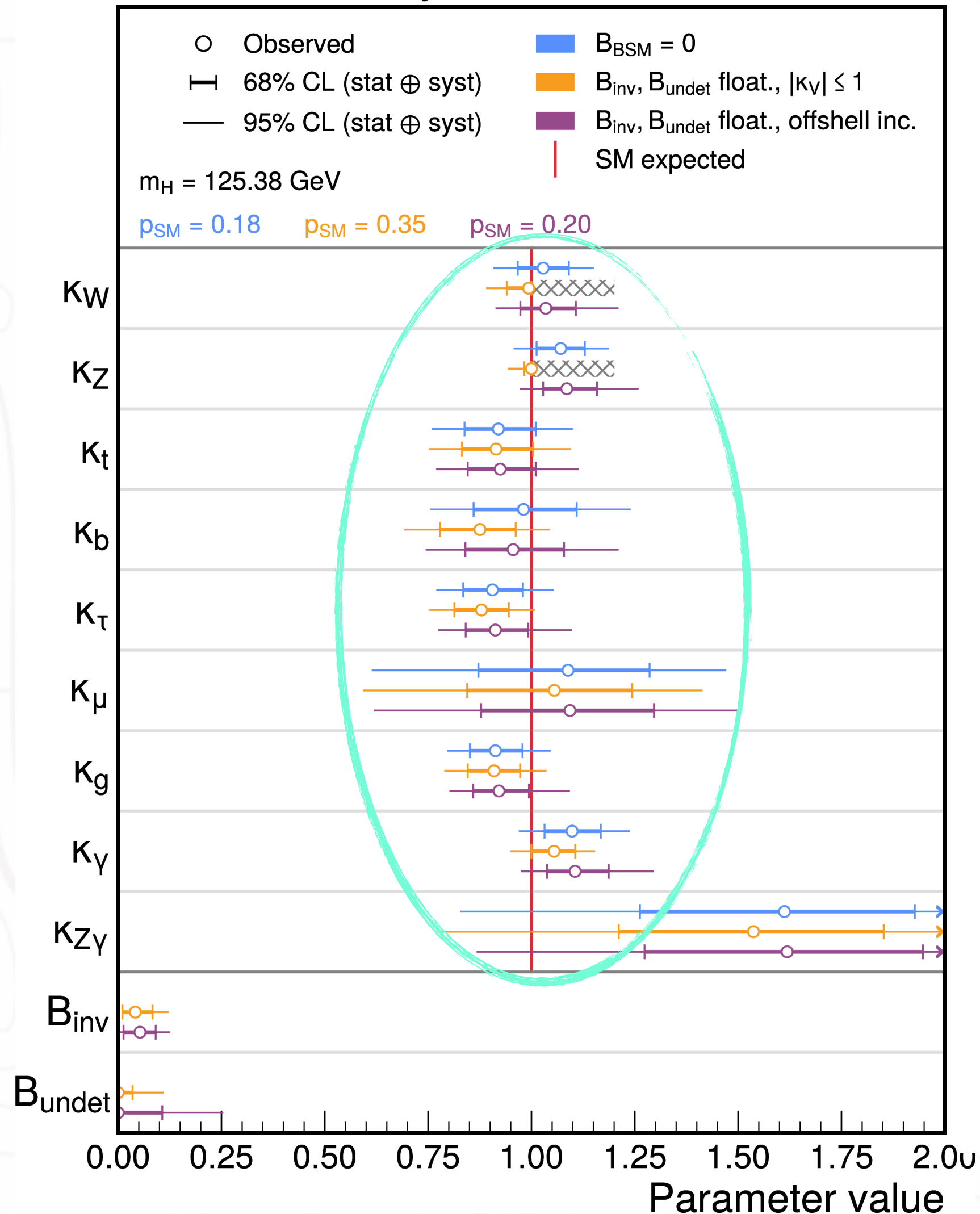
CMS Preliminary 138 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)



Experimental challenge:
 improve our
 measurements.
Theoretical challenge:
 improve the predictions!

PRECISION IN HIGGS COUPLINGS

CMS Preliminary 138 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)

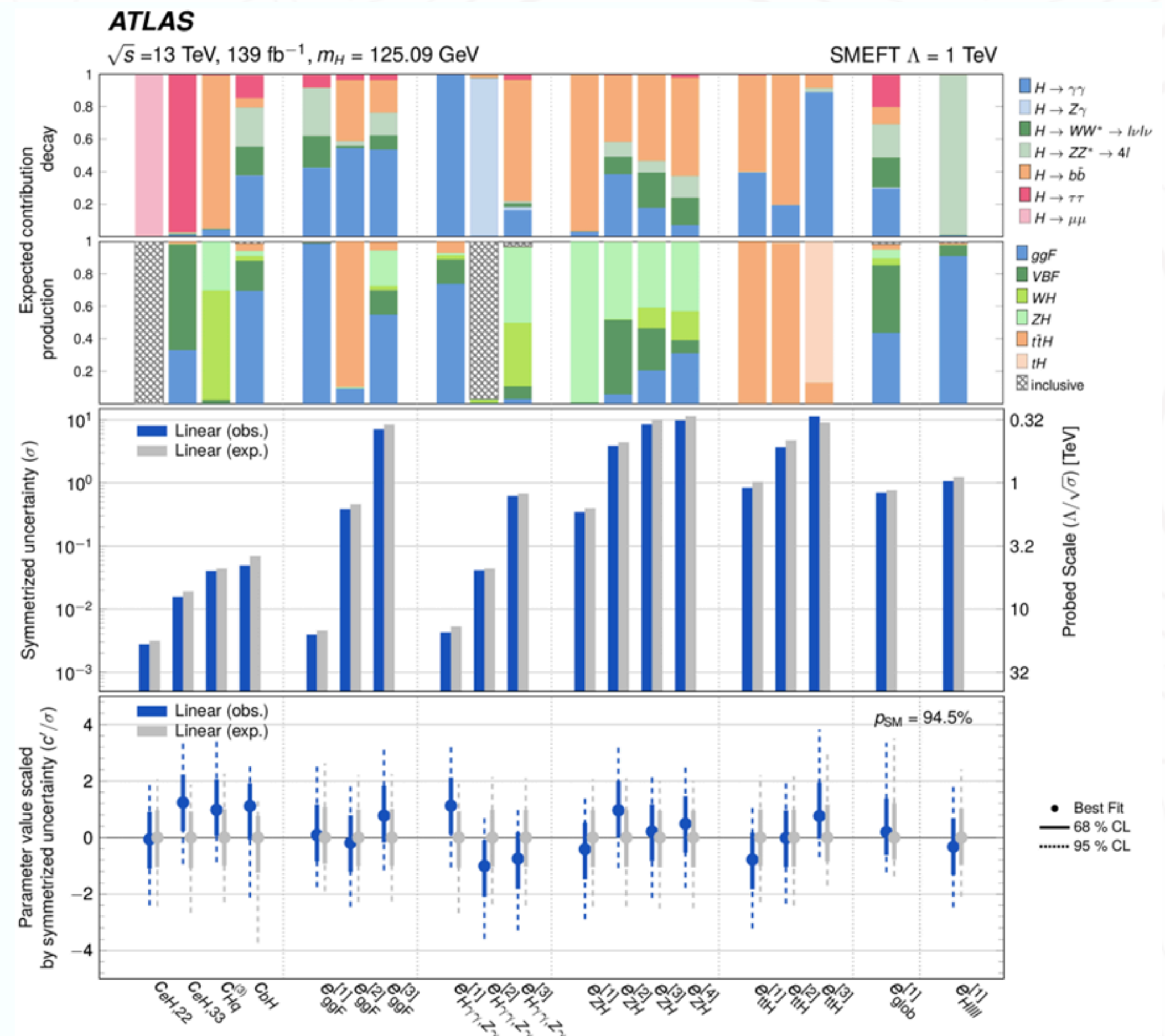
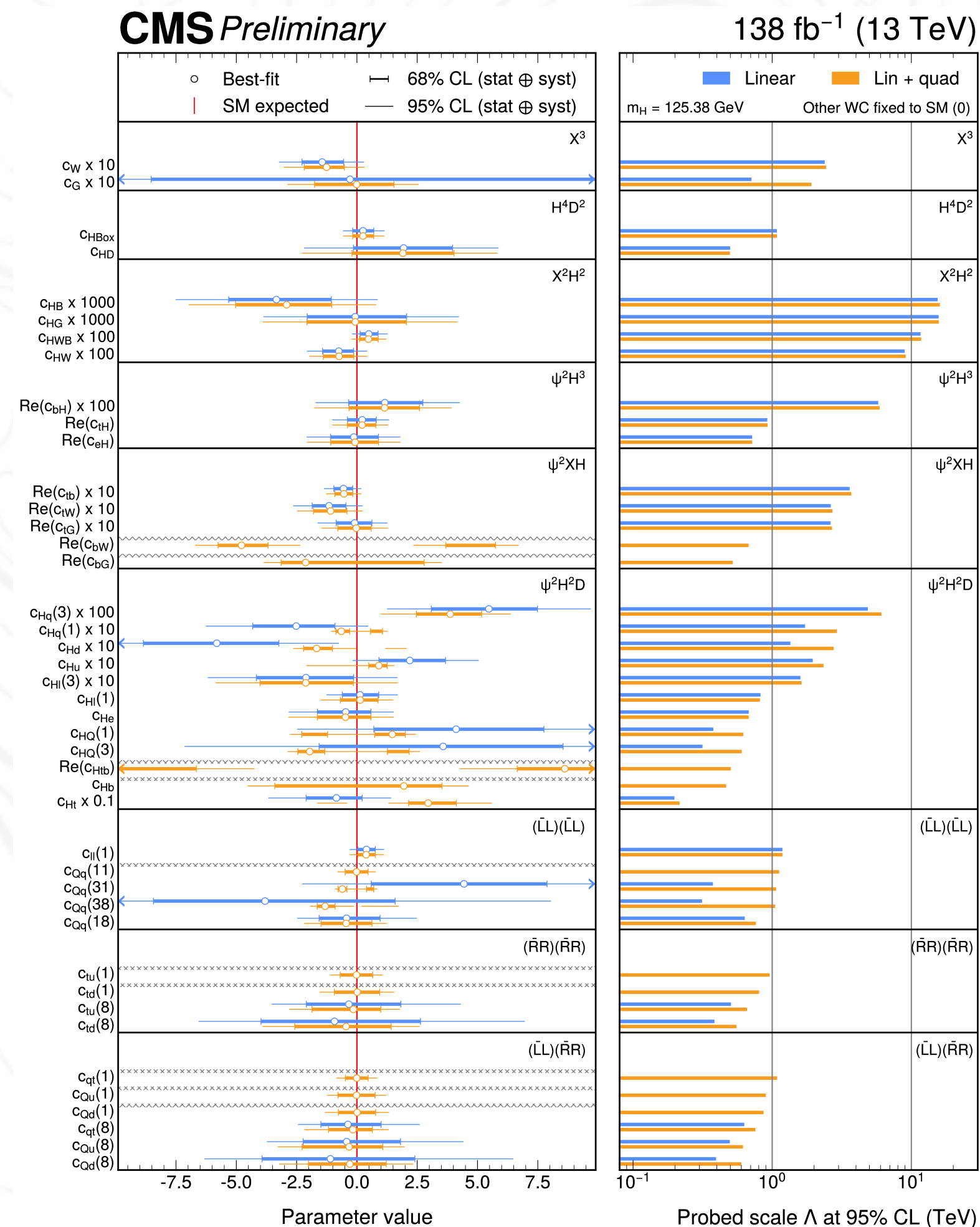


(Projections From Venice Symposium)

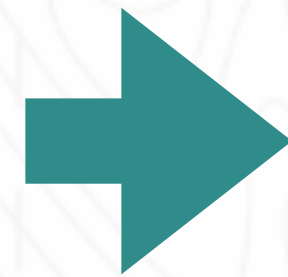
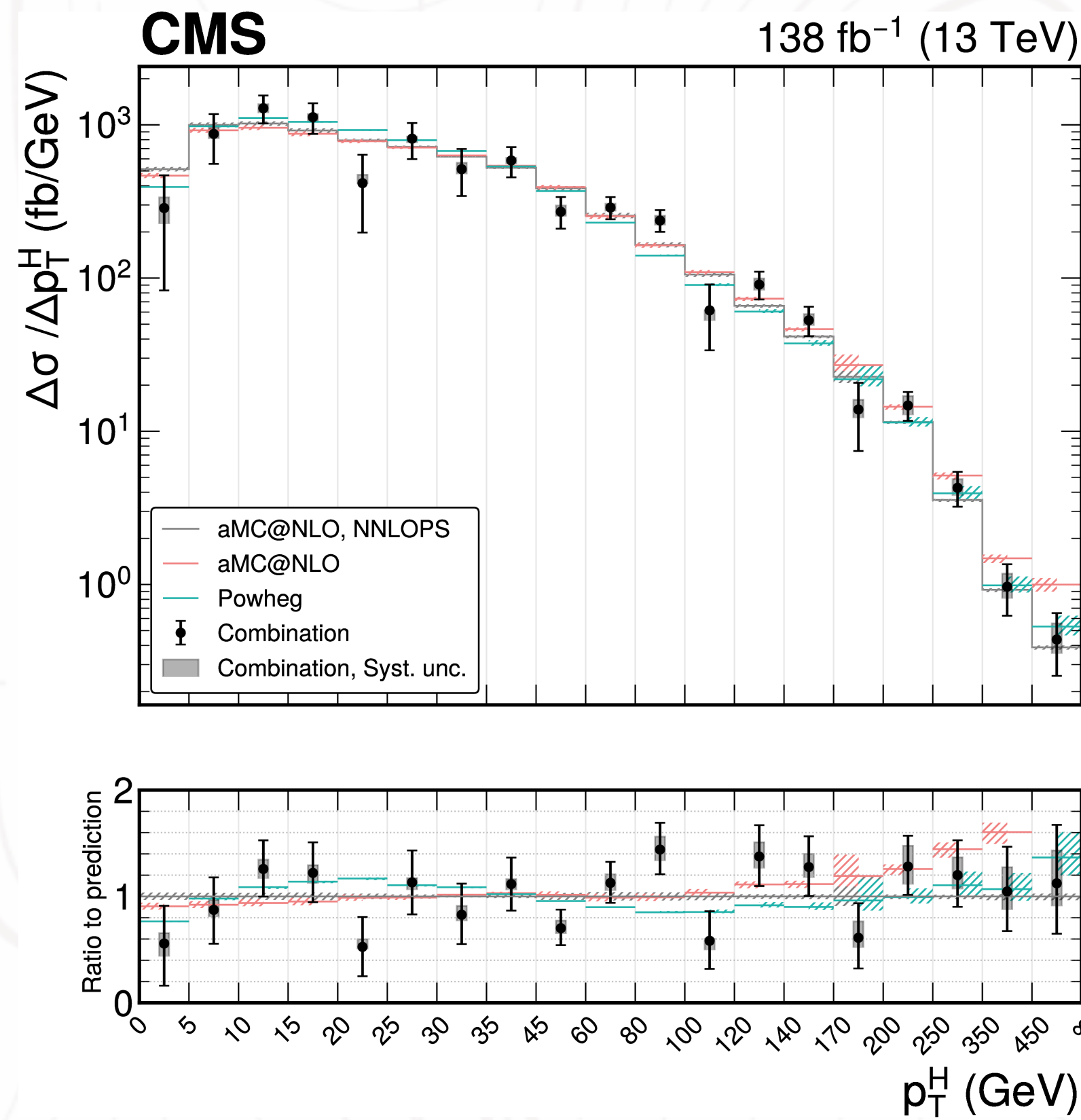
Experimental challenge:
 improve our measurements.
Theoretical challenge:
 improve the predictions!

BEYOND KAPPAS: SMEFT FITS

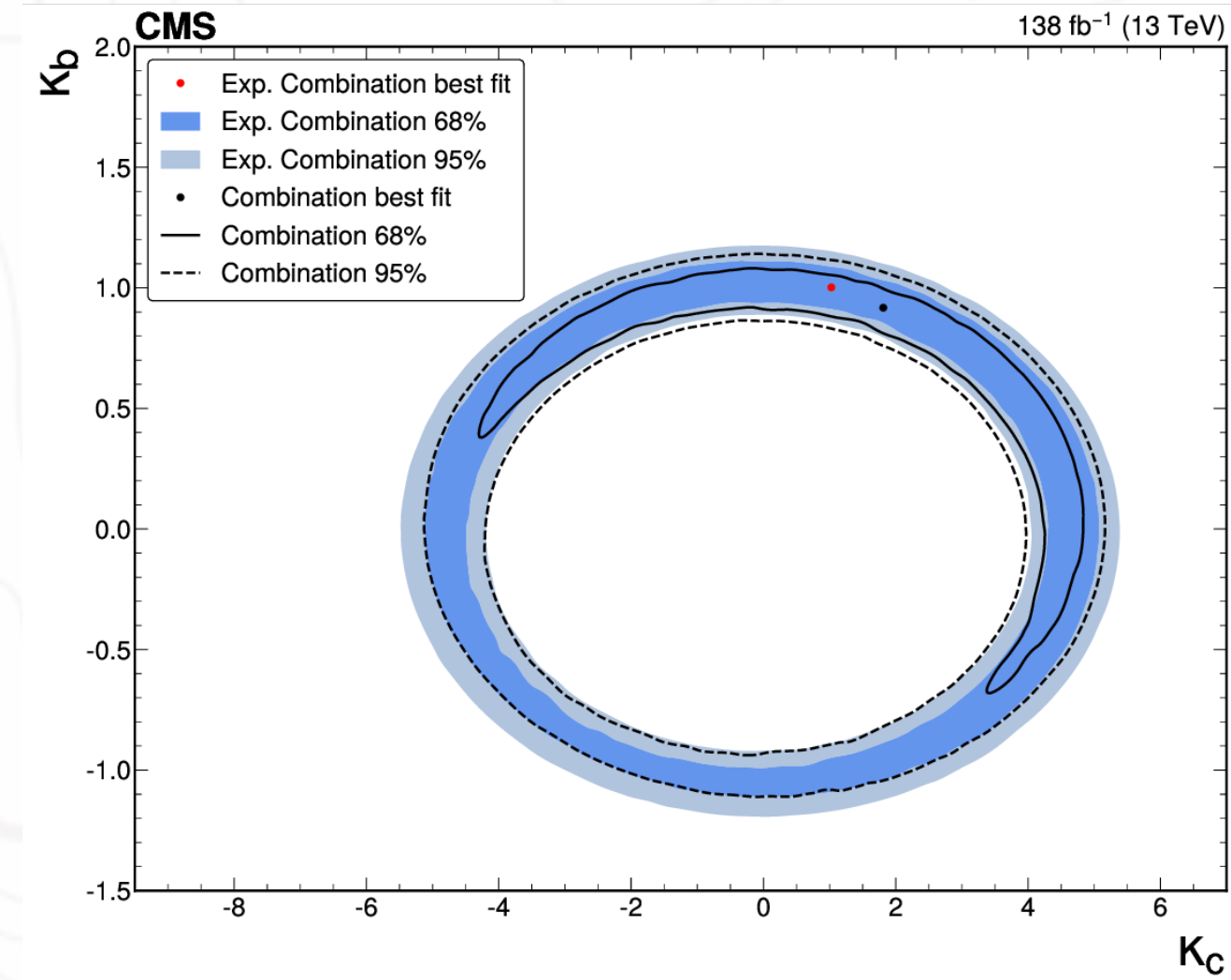
- The precision of these differential / STXS measurements can be interpreted in EFT scenarios
- From global fits to analysis targeting a dedicated observable, growing field, many new results



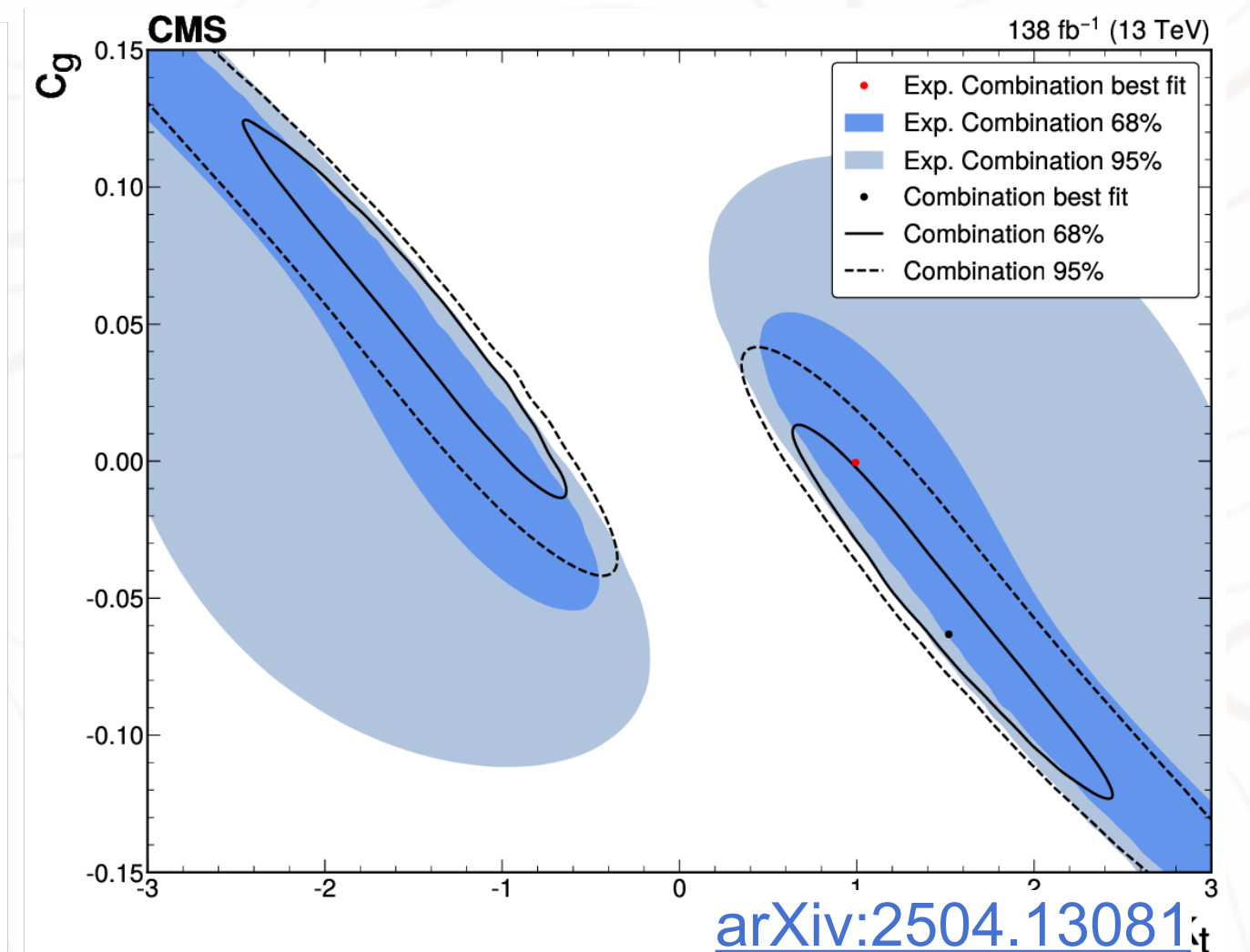
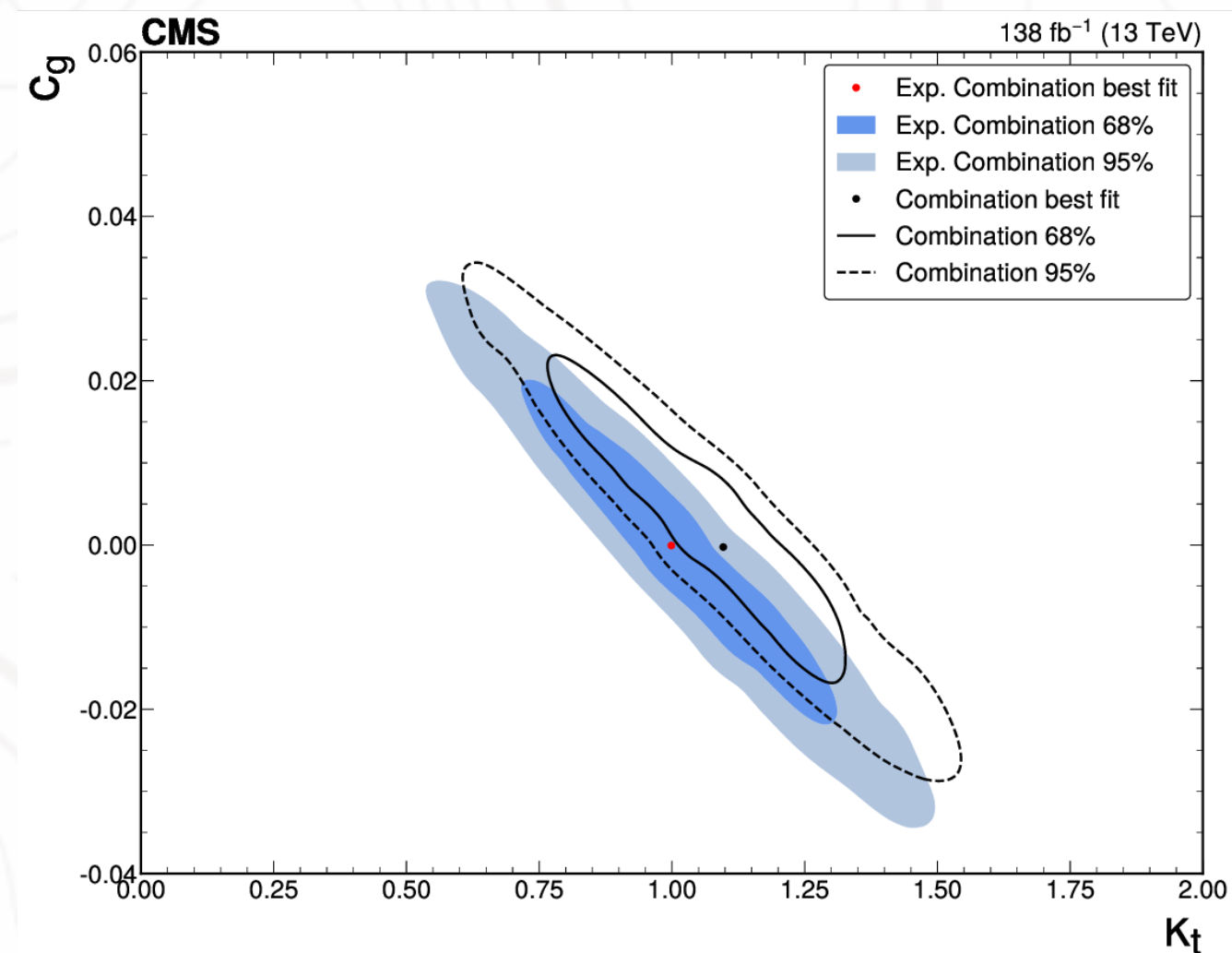
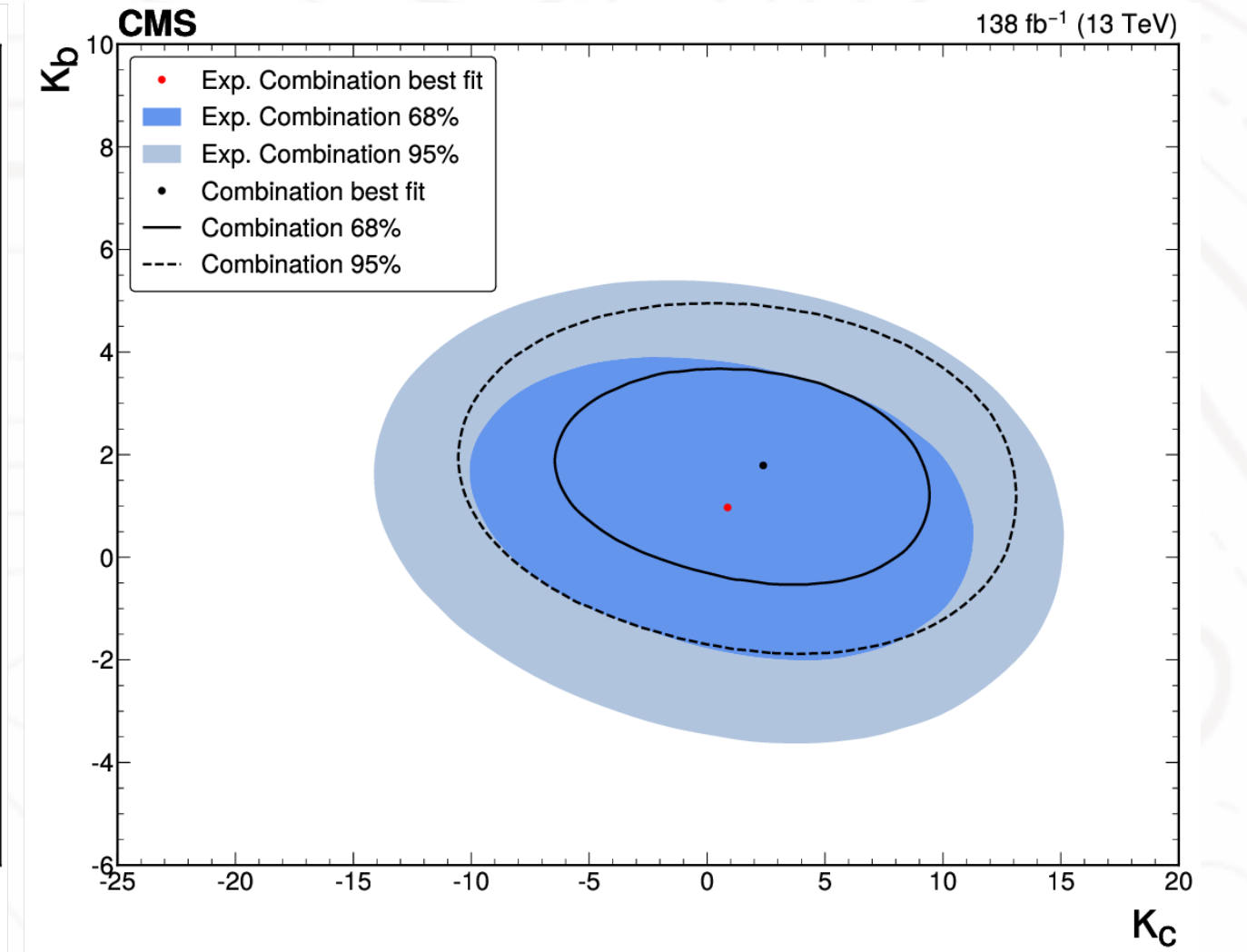
CONSTRAINTS FROM DIFFERENTIALS



Assuming coupling dependence of the branching fractions

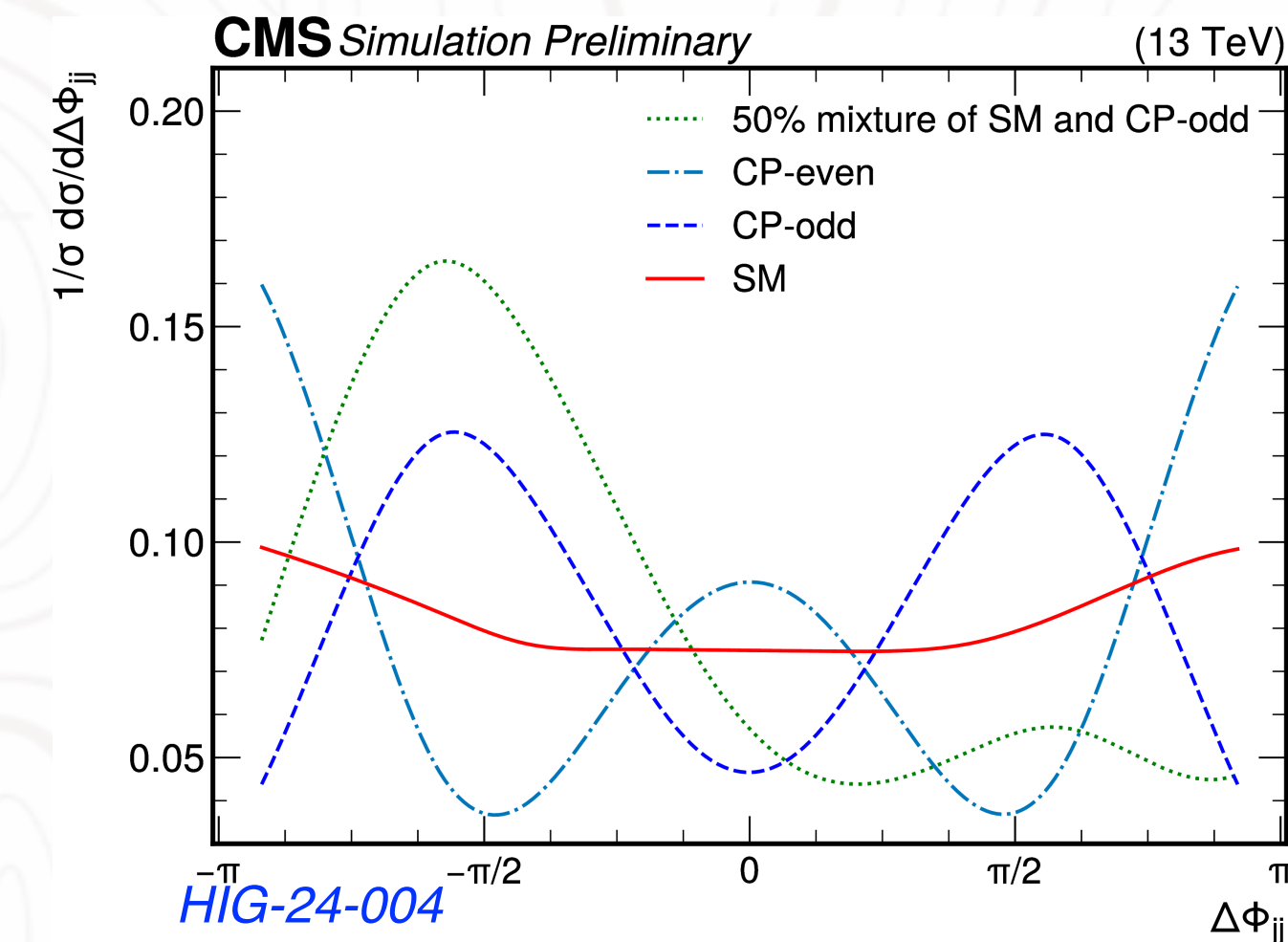


Branching ratios are nuisance parameters

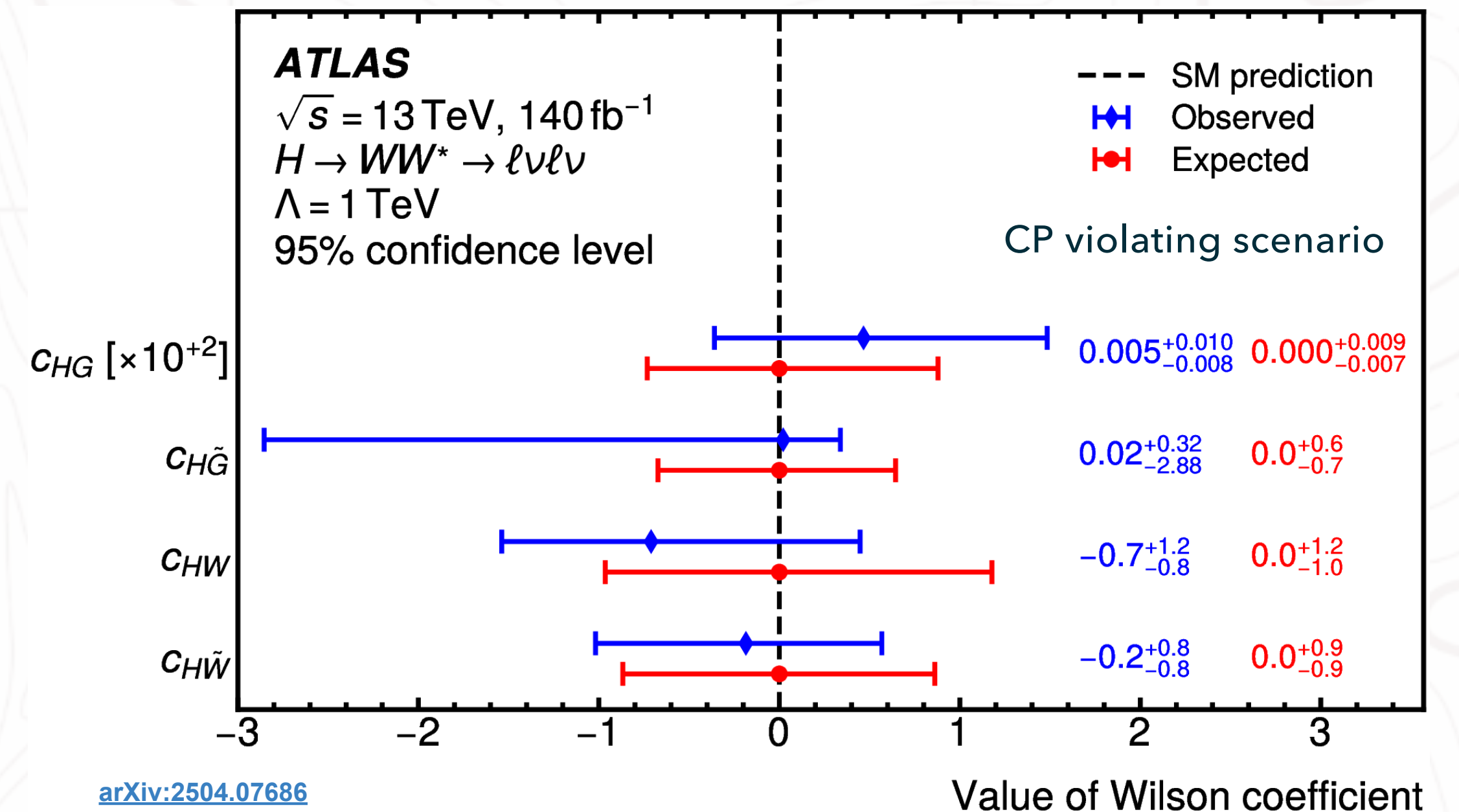
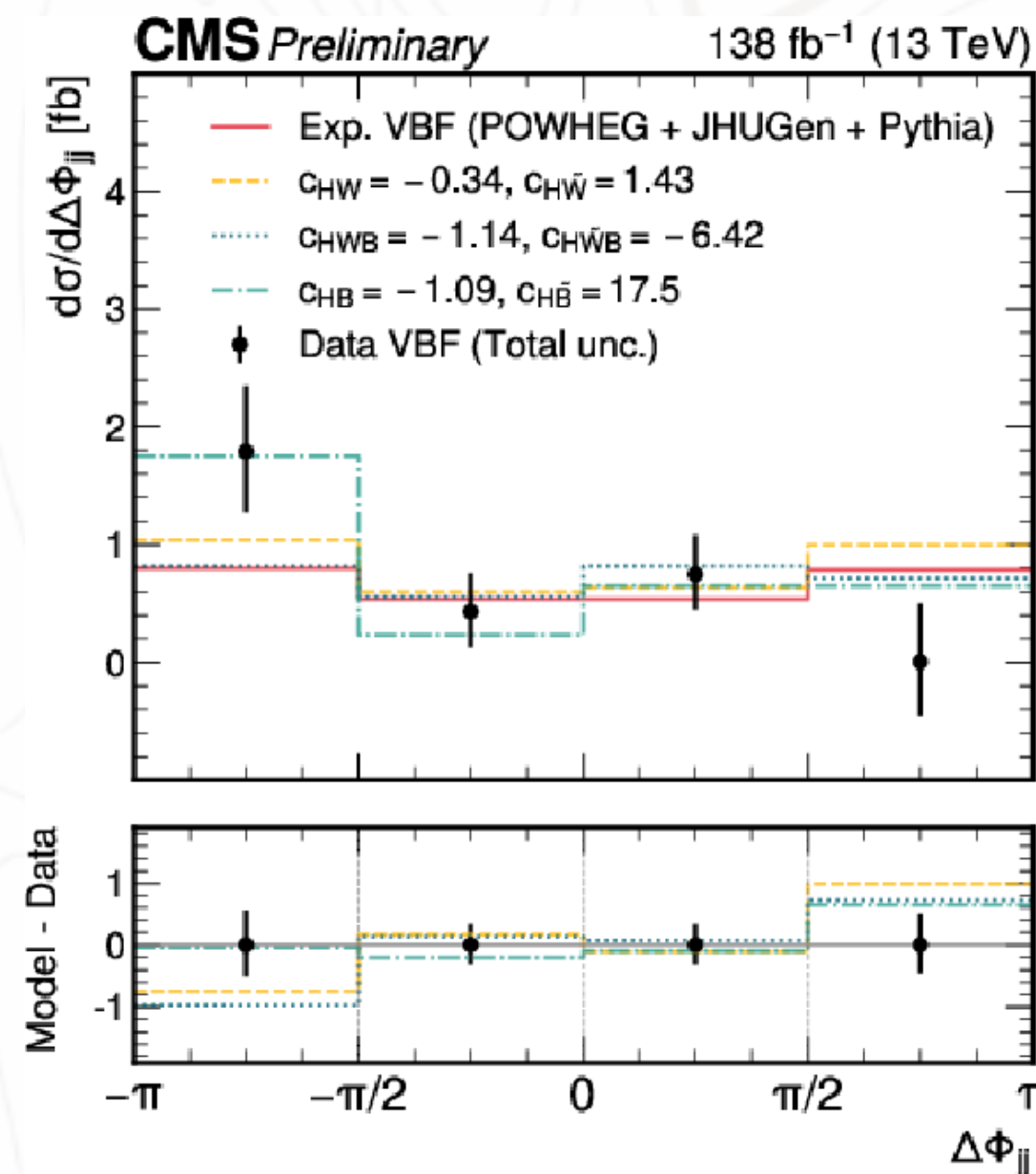
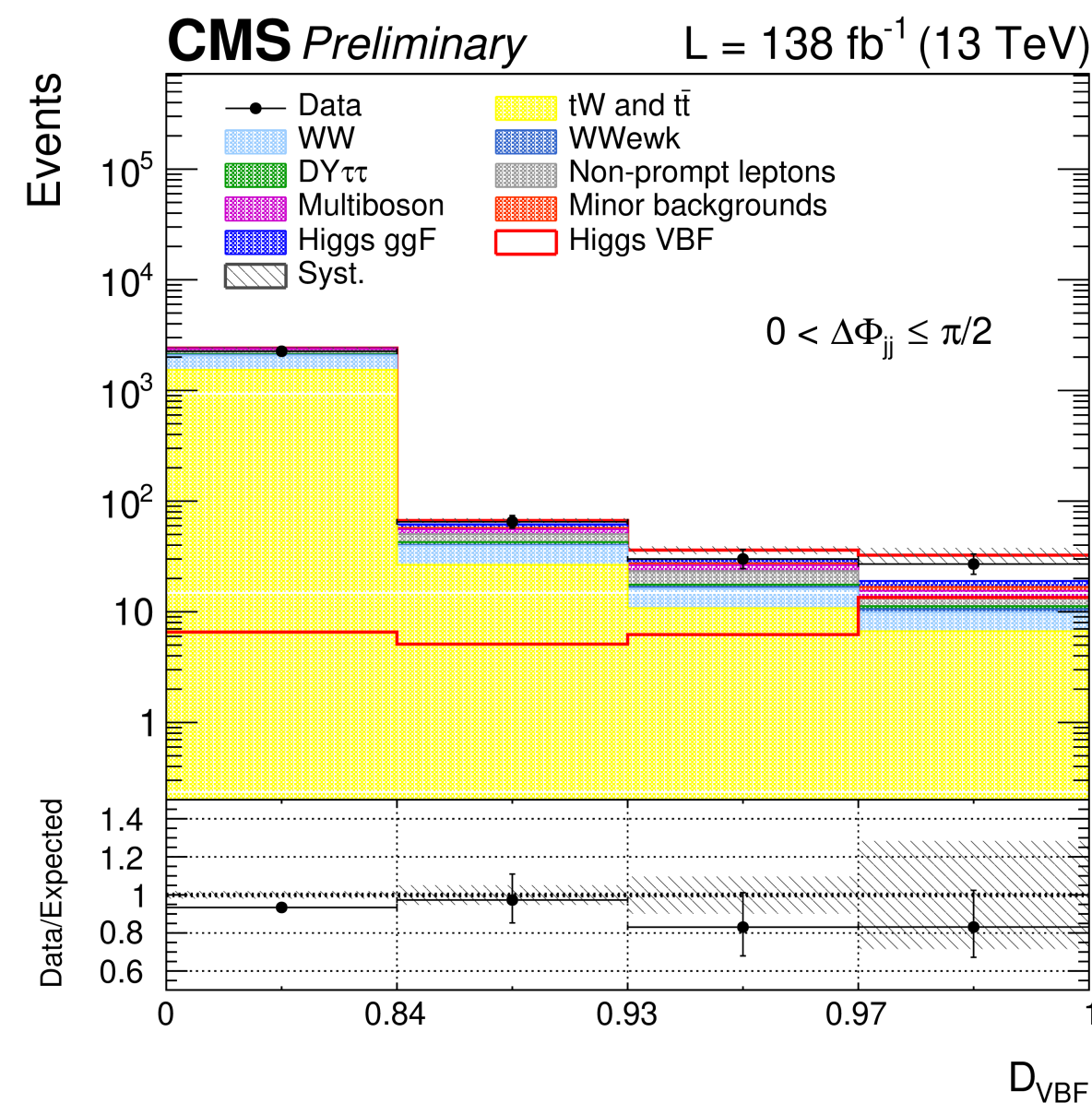


arXiv:2504.13081_t

EXAMPLE: DIFFERENTIAL VBF HWW PRODUCTION



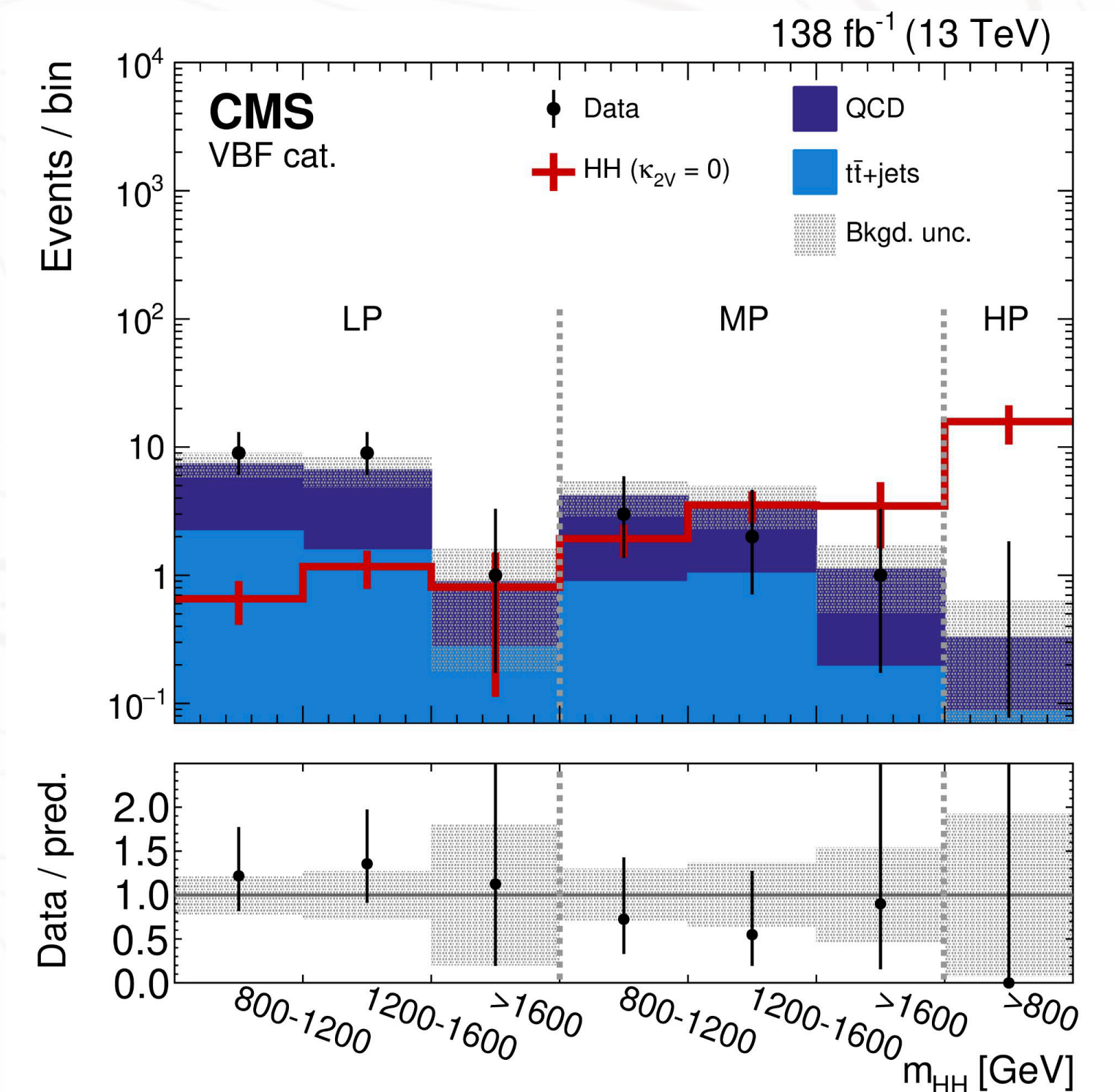
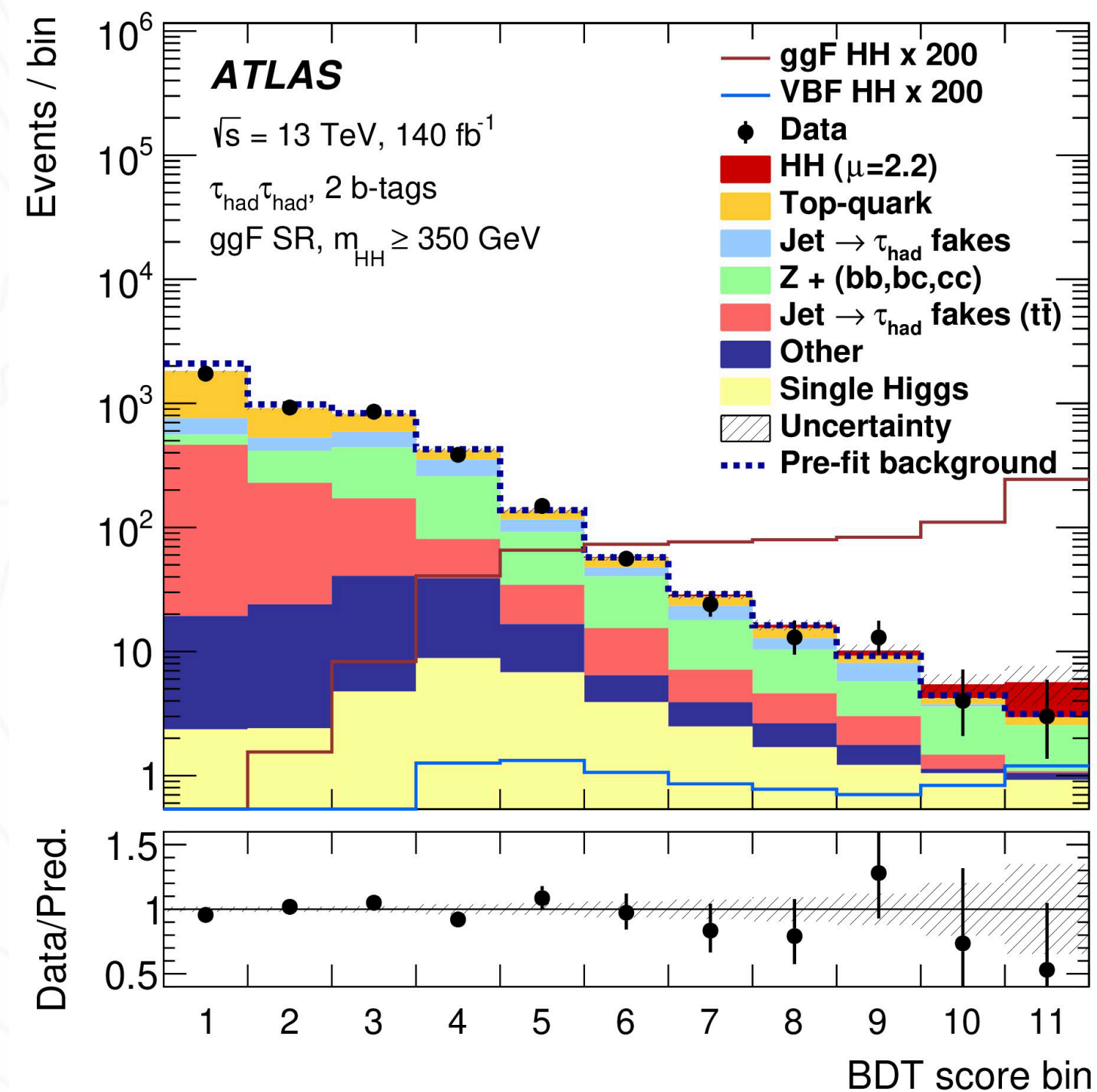
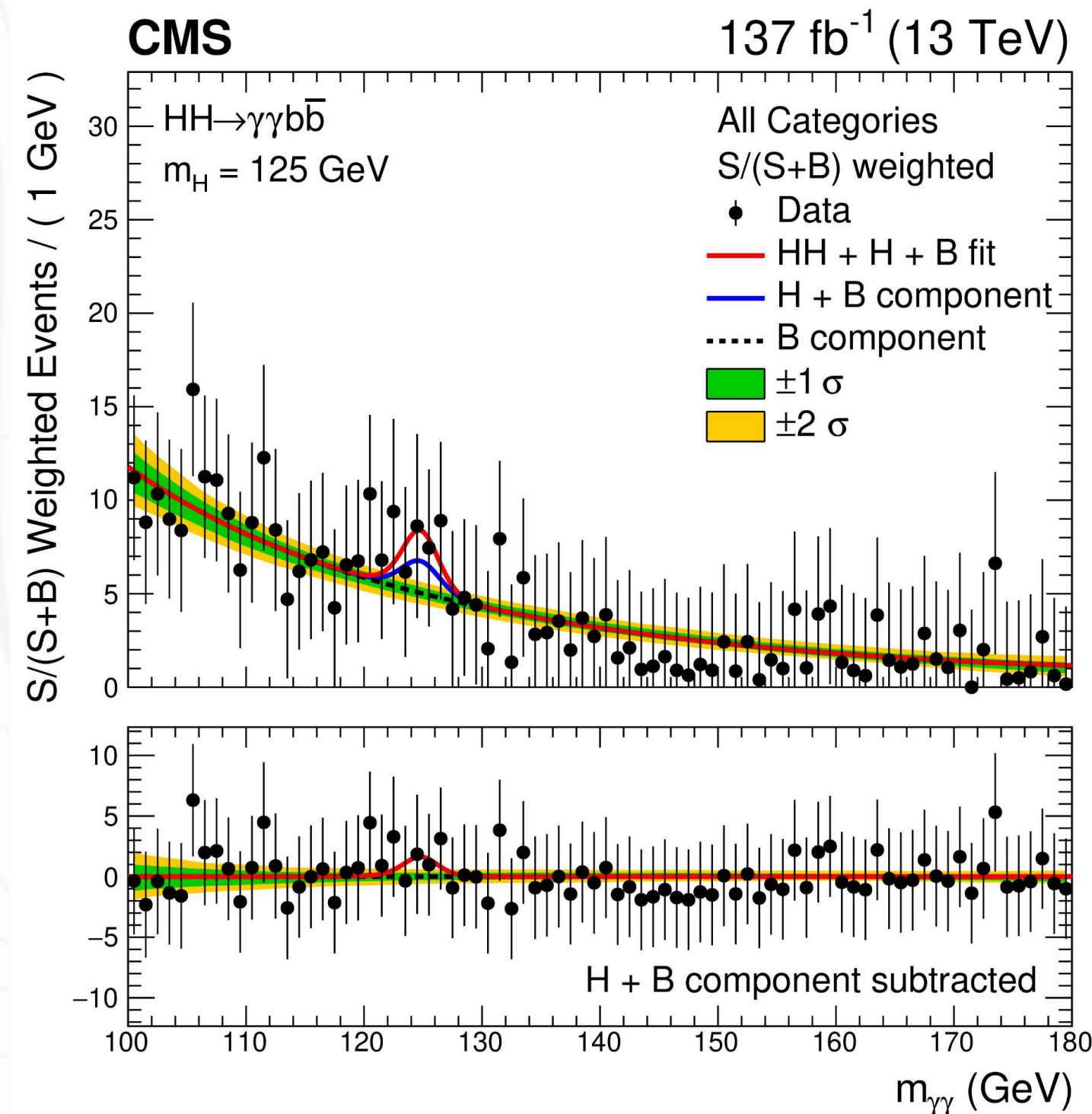
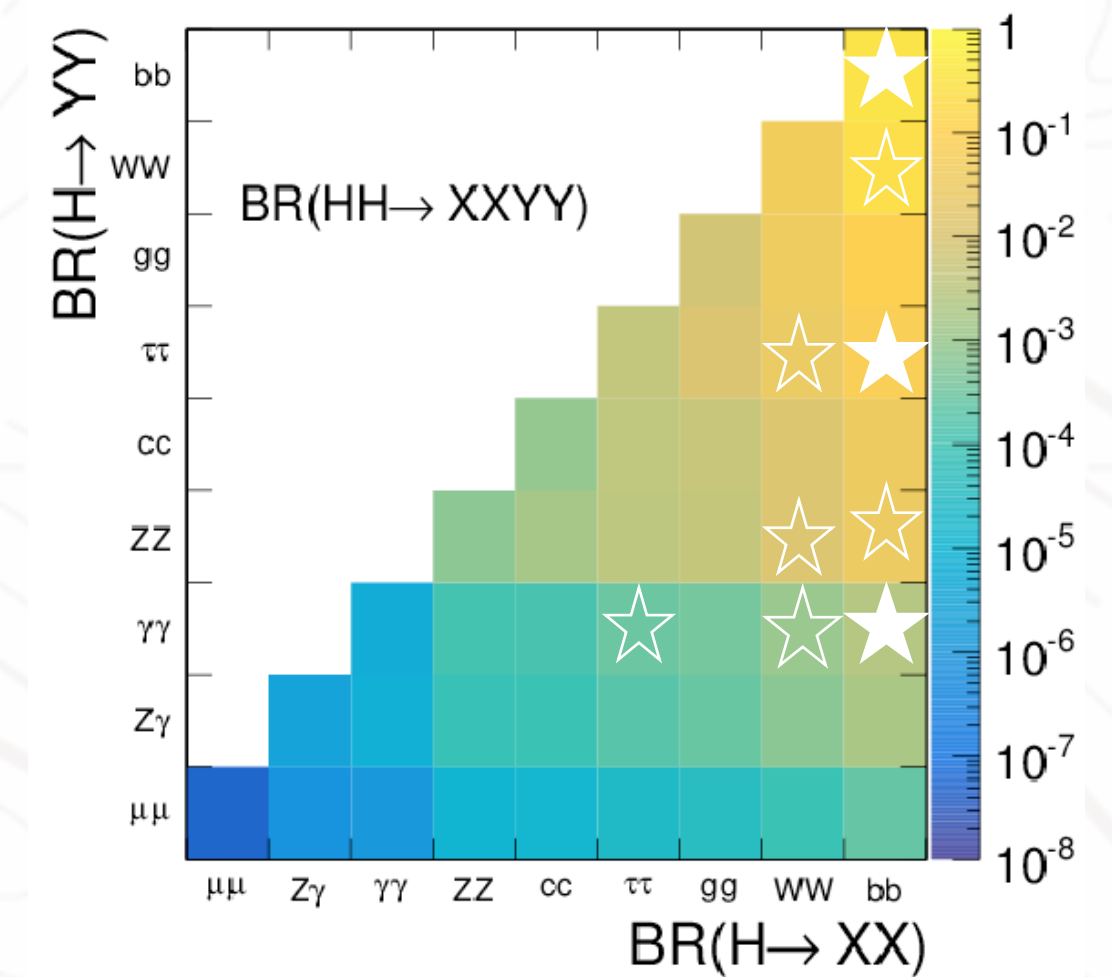
- **EFT Constraint from differential cross sections (in $e\mu\nu\nu$ in this case) as a function of the difference in azimuthal angle $\Delta\phi_{jj}$ between the two jets.**
- ggF and VBF, both in CMS and ATLAS (*)
- Two approaches: $\Delta\phi_{jj}$ vs STXS (Binned Differential Fiducial Xsec)
- Results interpreted as constraints of Higgs boson couplings in SMEFT



[arXiv:2504.07686](https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.07686)

'GOLDEN' CHANNELS

- To study HH production we apply the tools perfected in single Higgs analysis... and more
- Elaborated selection algorithms and categorization, background modeling (and here single Higgs is a background!), heavy use of ML techniques, boosted techniques to zoom in complicated phase spaces...
- Three main channels which exploit high Hbb branching ratio lead the sensitivity

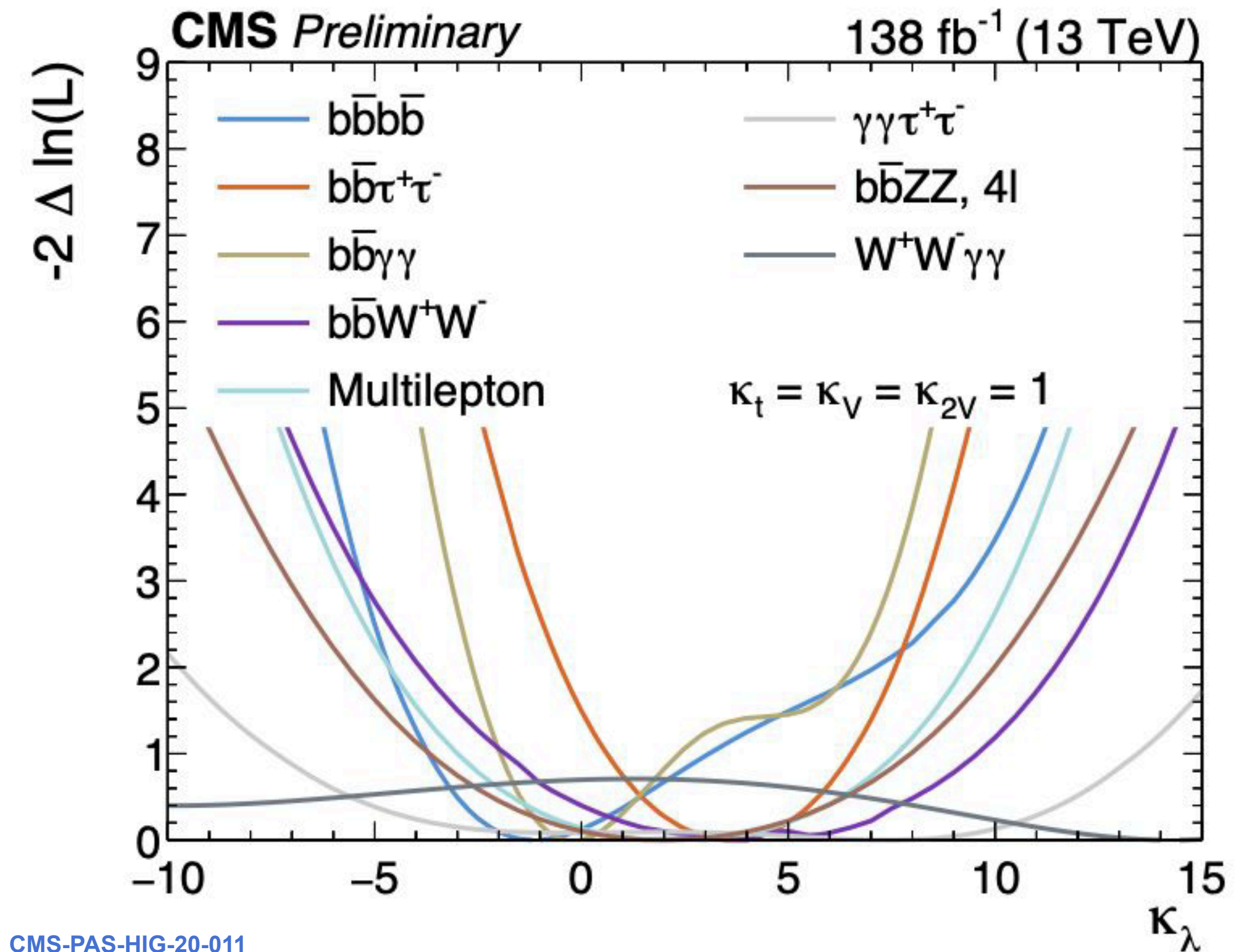
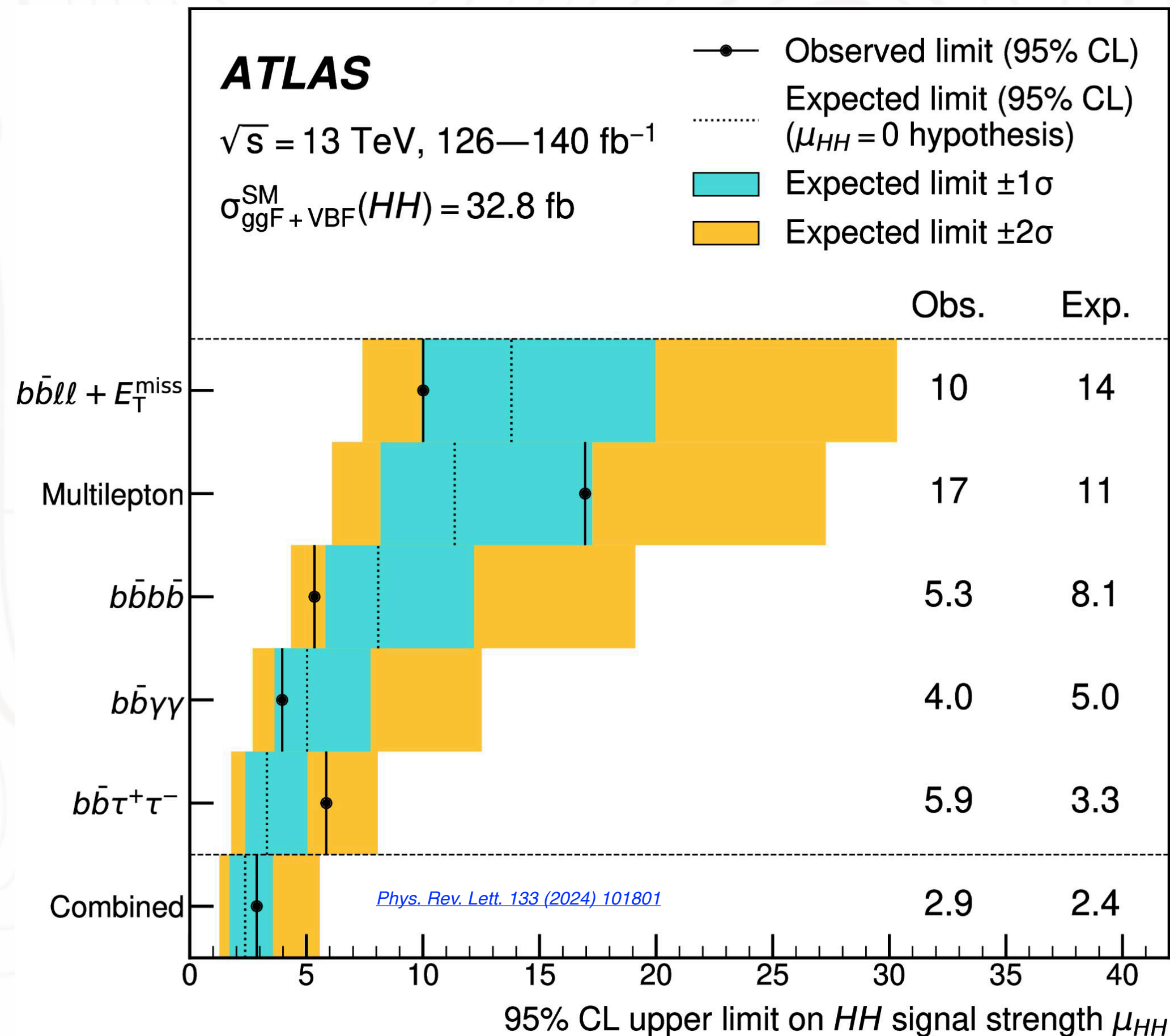


WHERE ARE WE?

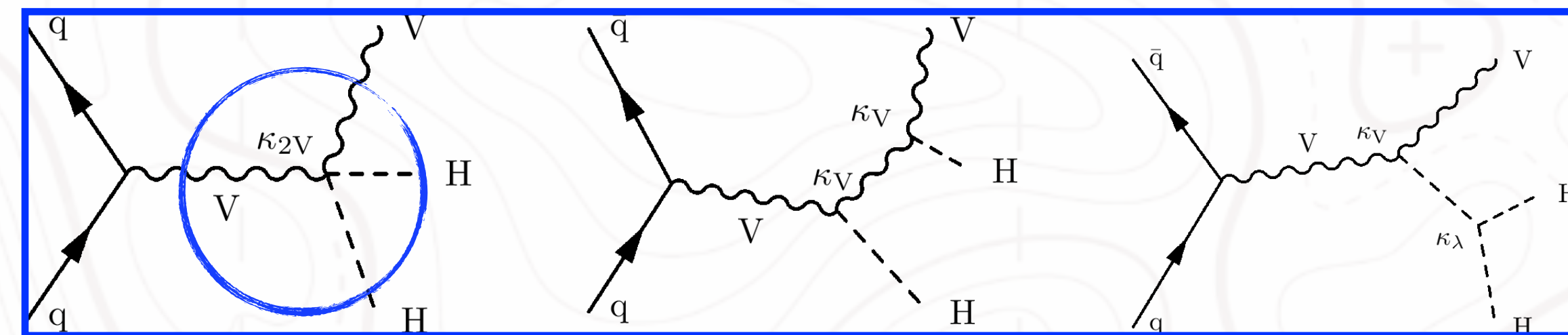
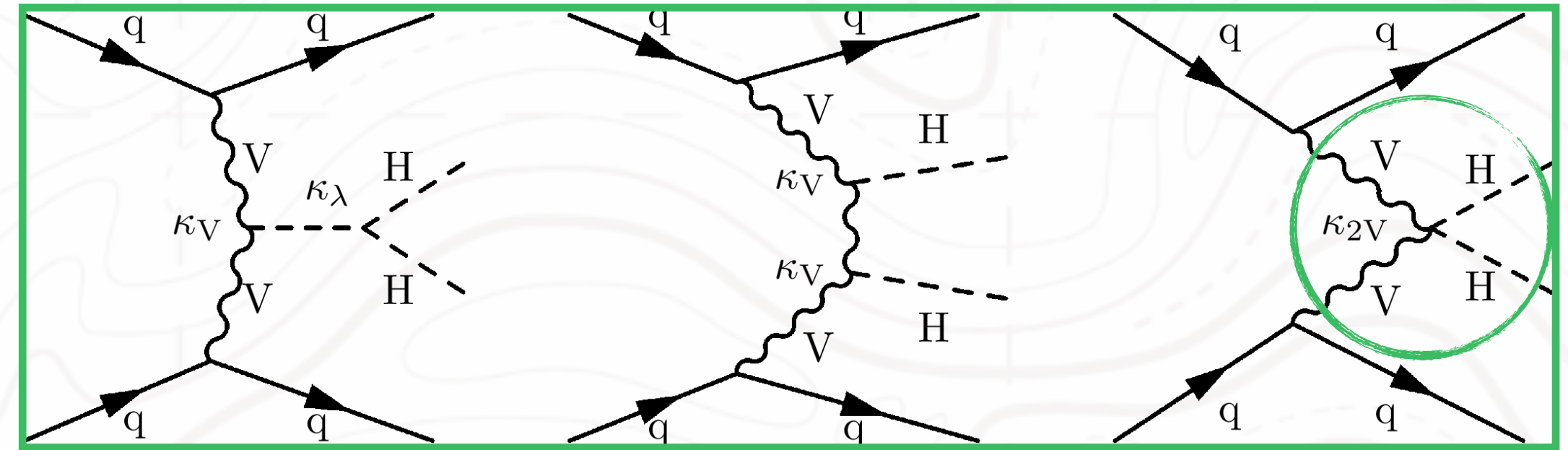
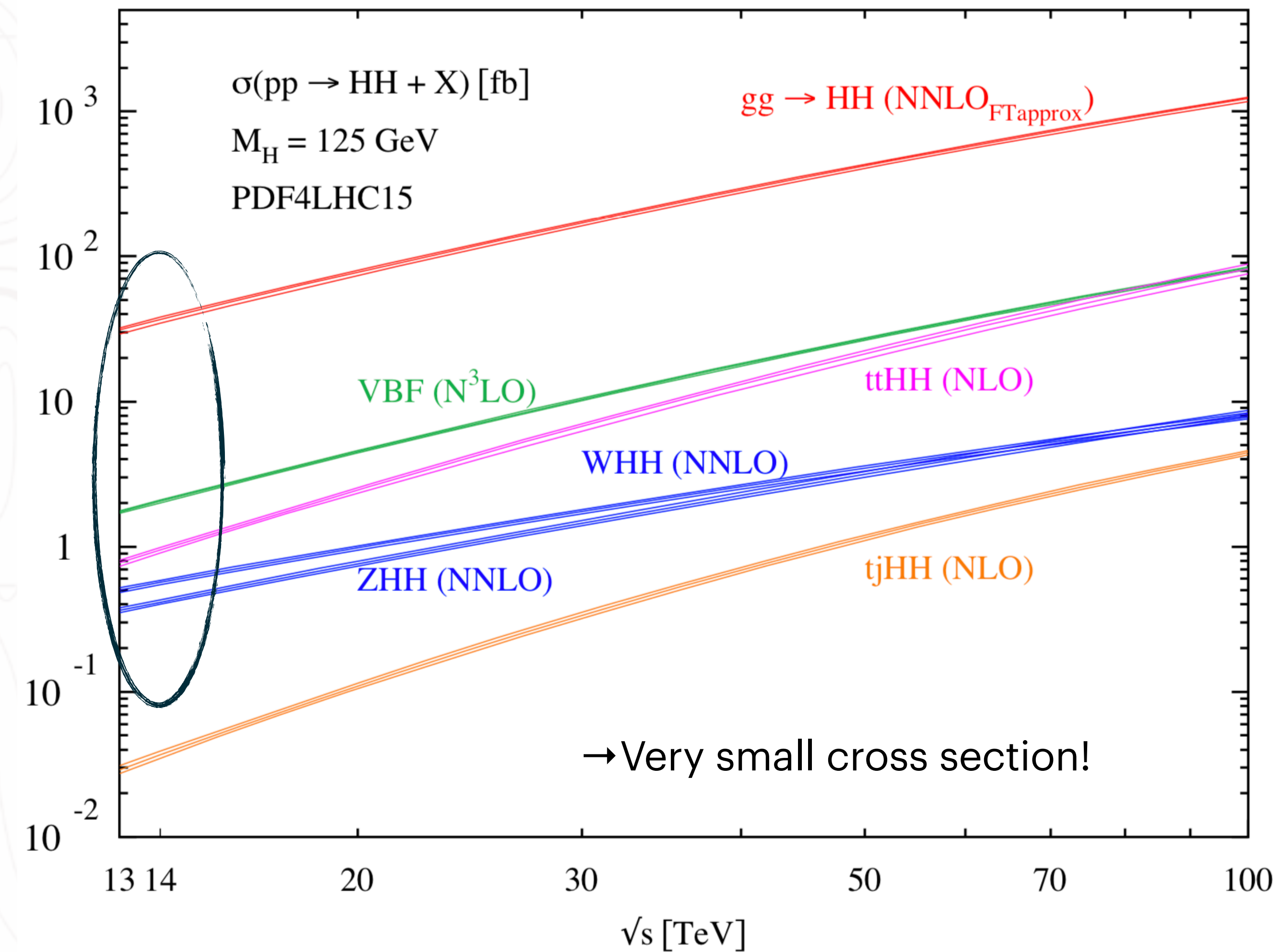
With Run2 data
analyzed, at 95%CL:

$$CMS : \mu_{HH} < 3.5 \text{ (2.5)}, \quad -1.40 < \kappa_\lambda < 6.43$$

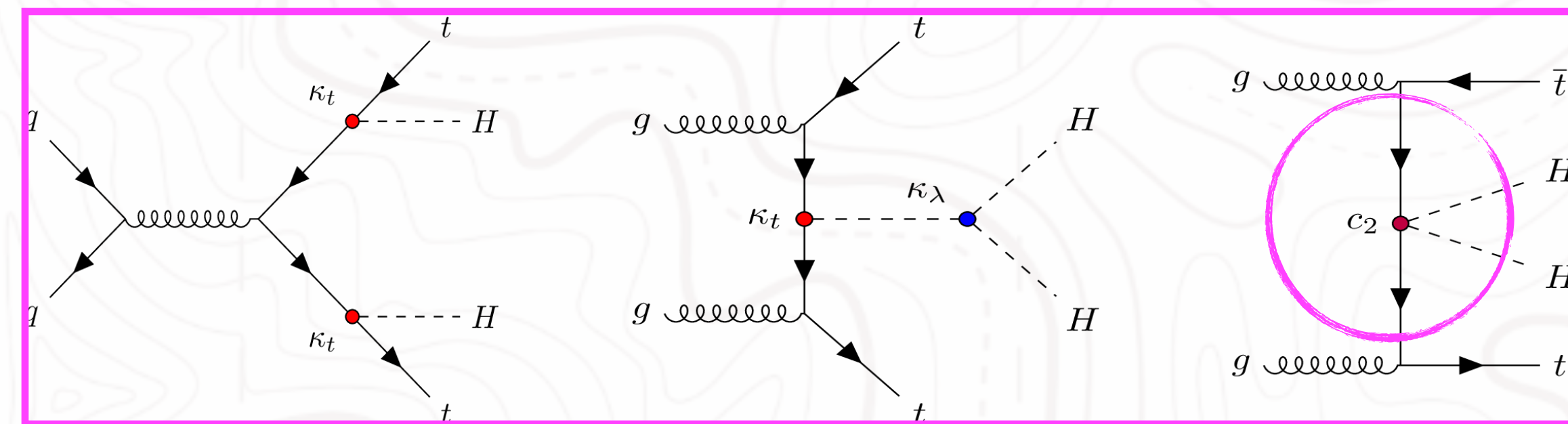
$$ATLAS : \mu_{HH} < 2.9 \text{ (2.4)}, \quad -1.2 < \kappa_\lambda < 7.2$$



BEYOND GGF: VBFHH, TTHH AND VHH



[JHEP 10 \(2024\) 061: VHH 4B](#)



[CMS-HIG-23-004](#) : CMS ttHH, bbgammagamma

VBFHH: PROBING K2V

Tiny cross section in the SM, 1.7fb

Access to coupling between two Higgs bosons and two Vector bosons (important in HEFT)

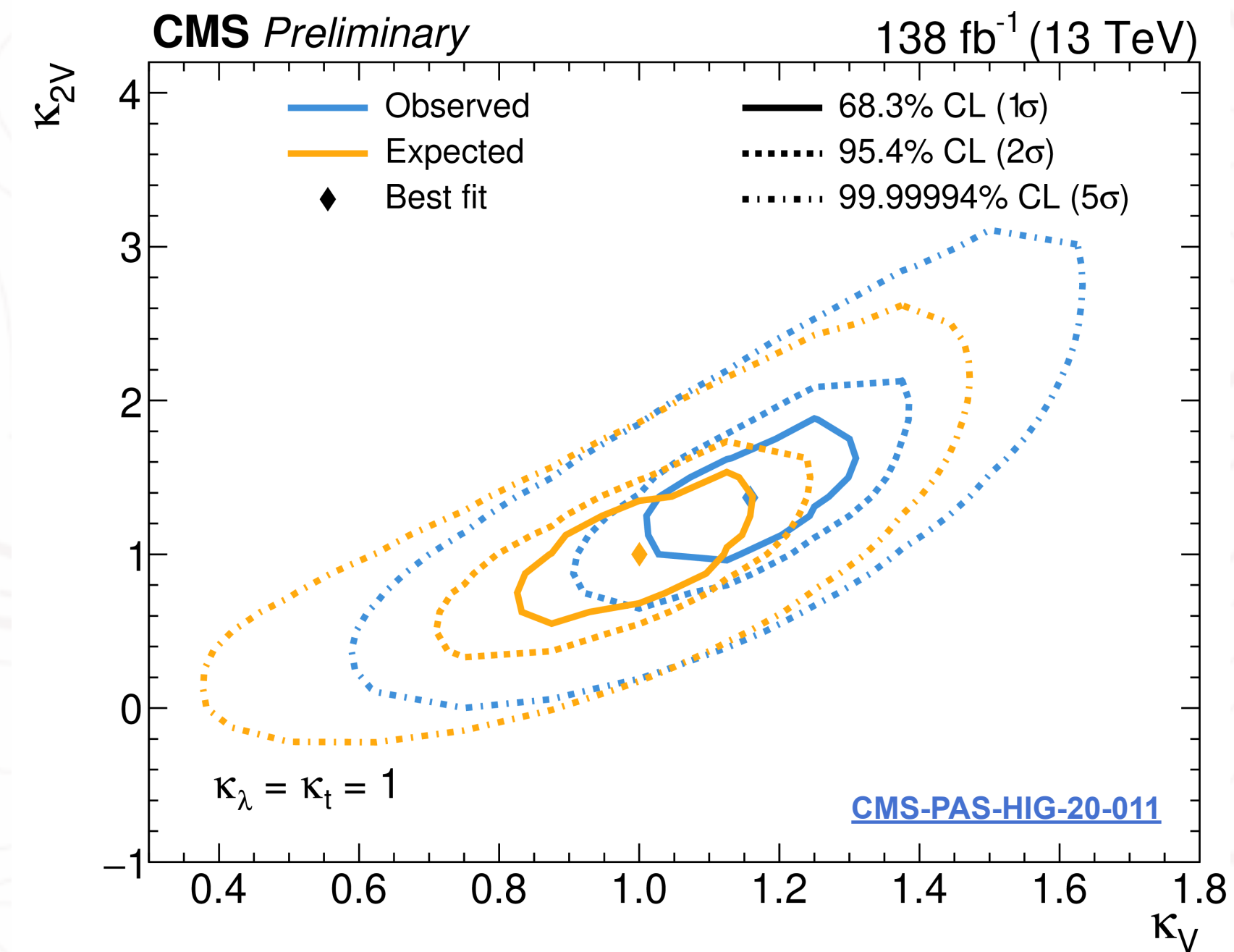
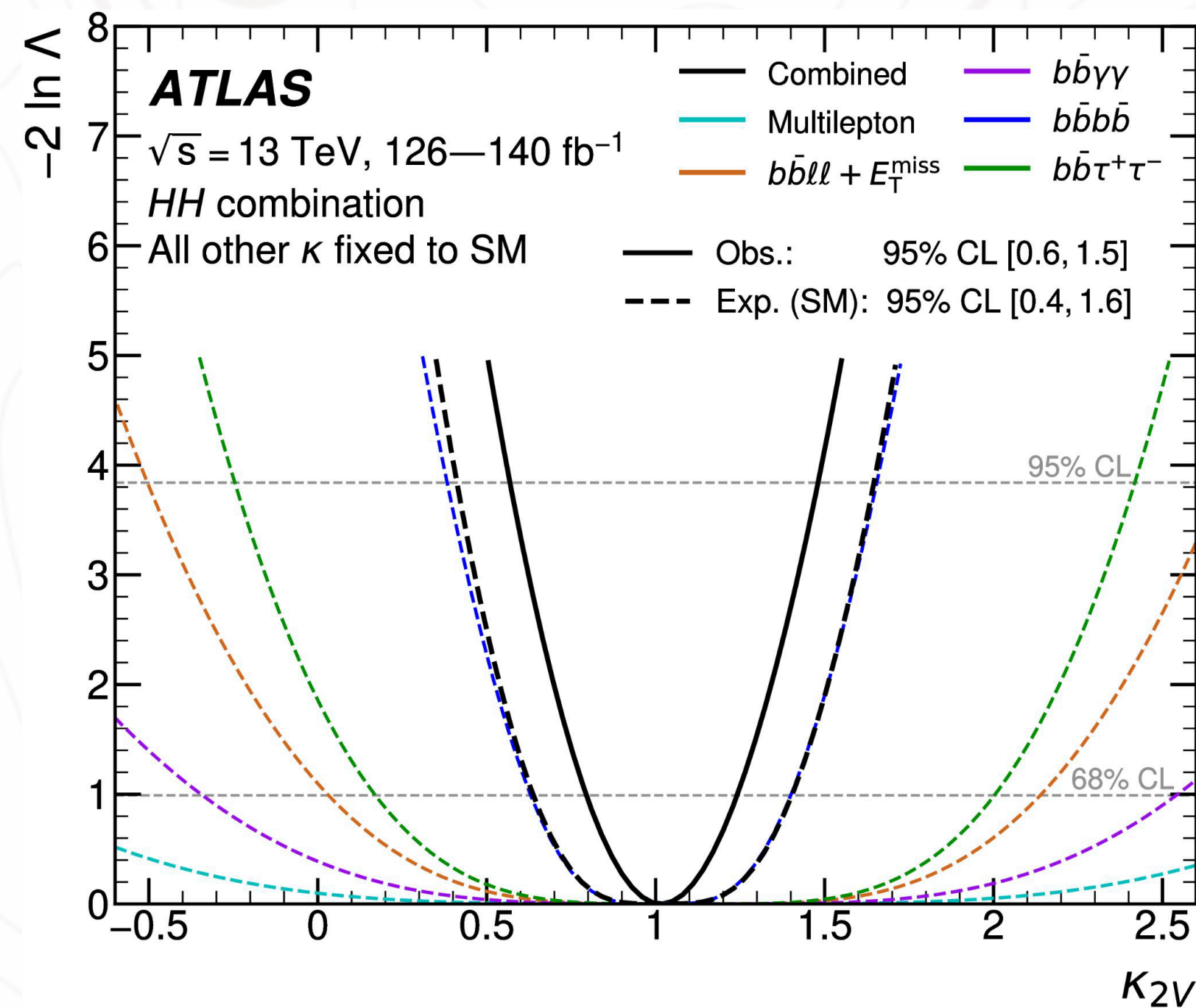
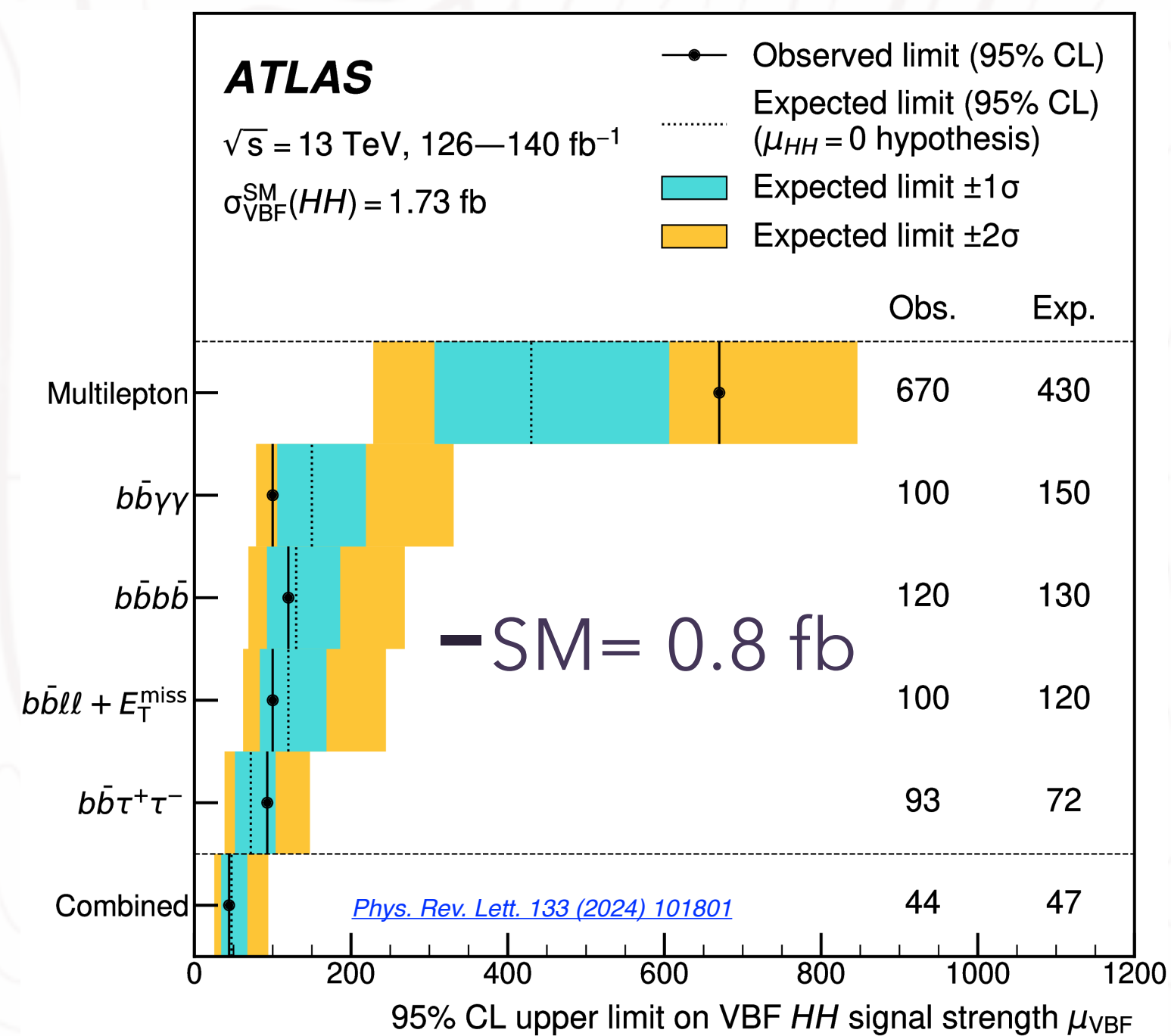
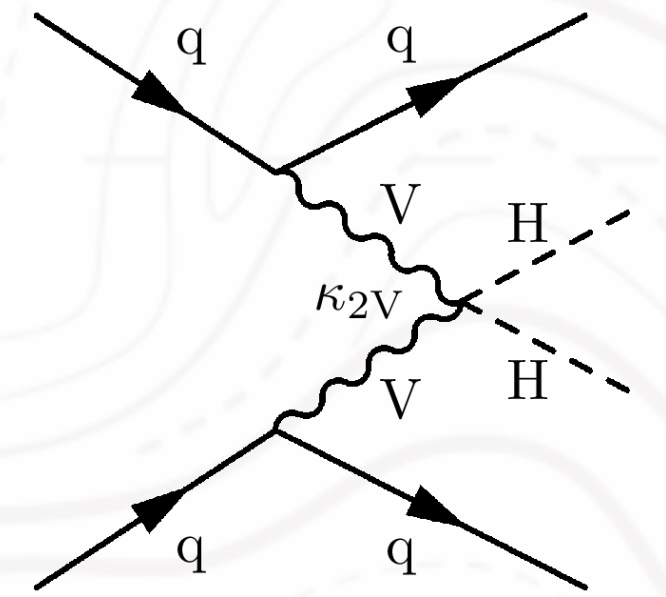
ATLAS: $\mu_{\text{VBFHH}} < 44$ (47)

$0.4 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.6$

CMS: $\mu_{\text{VBFHH}} < 79$ (91)

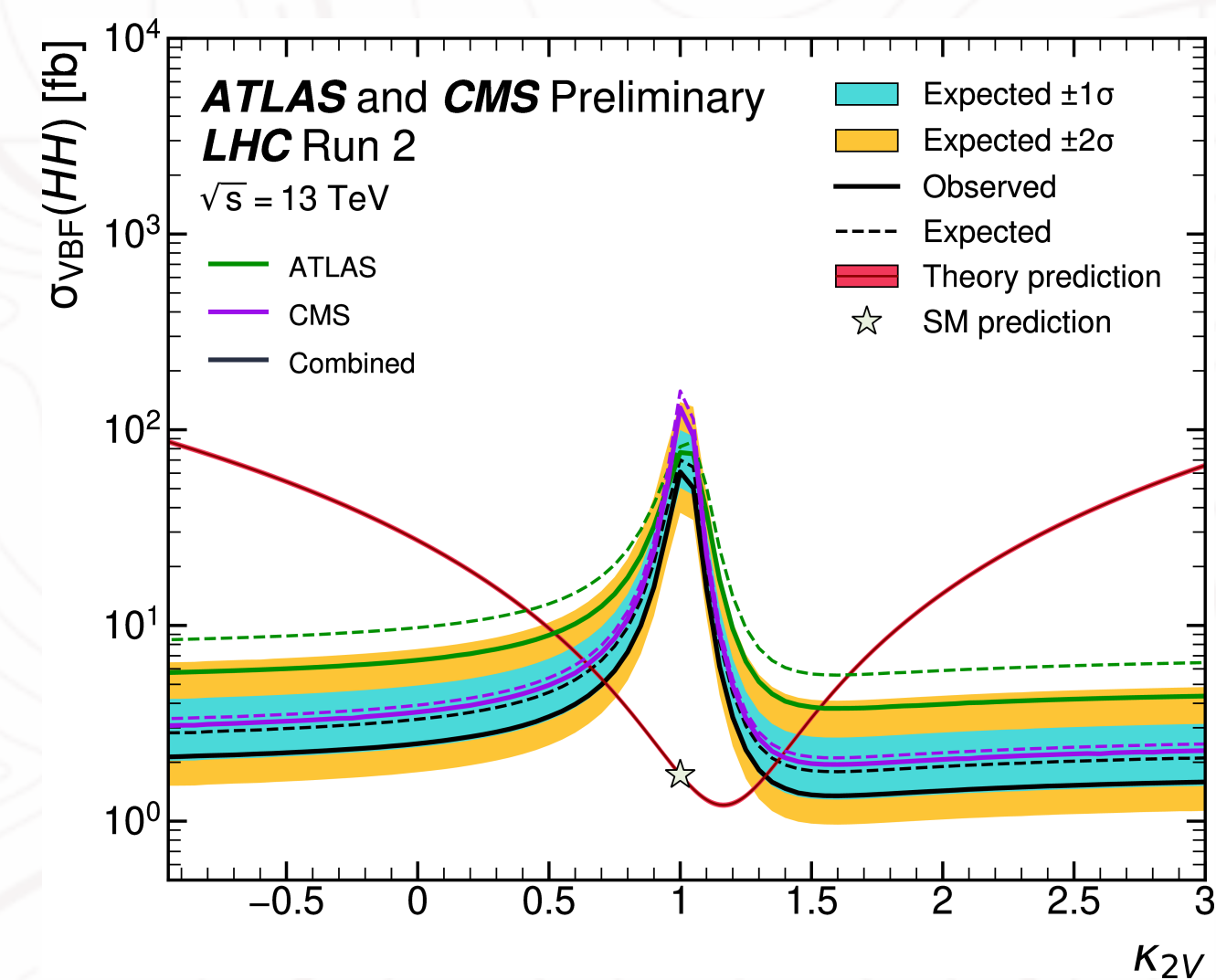
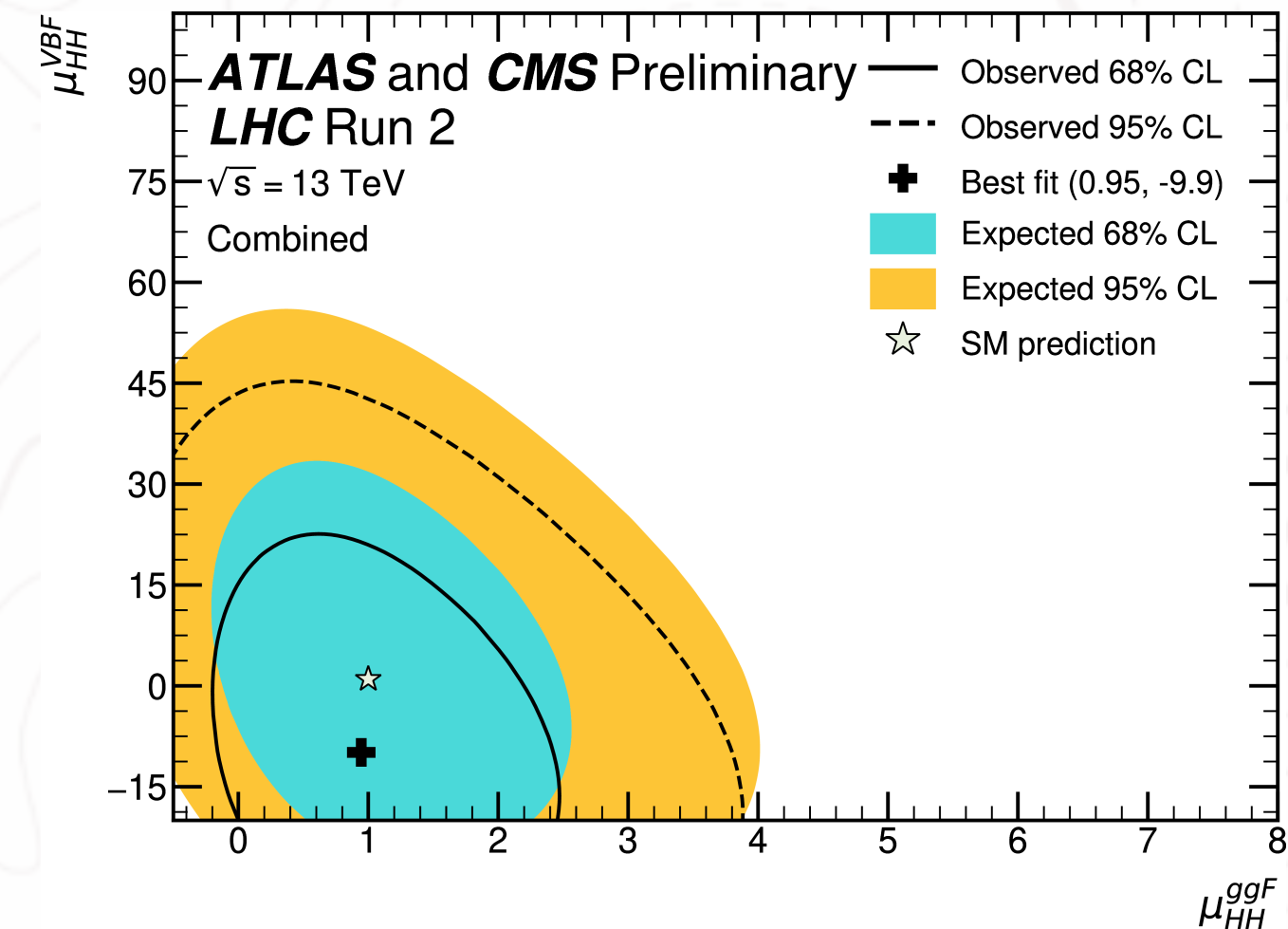
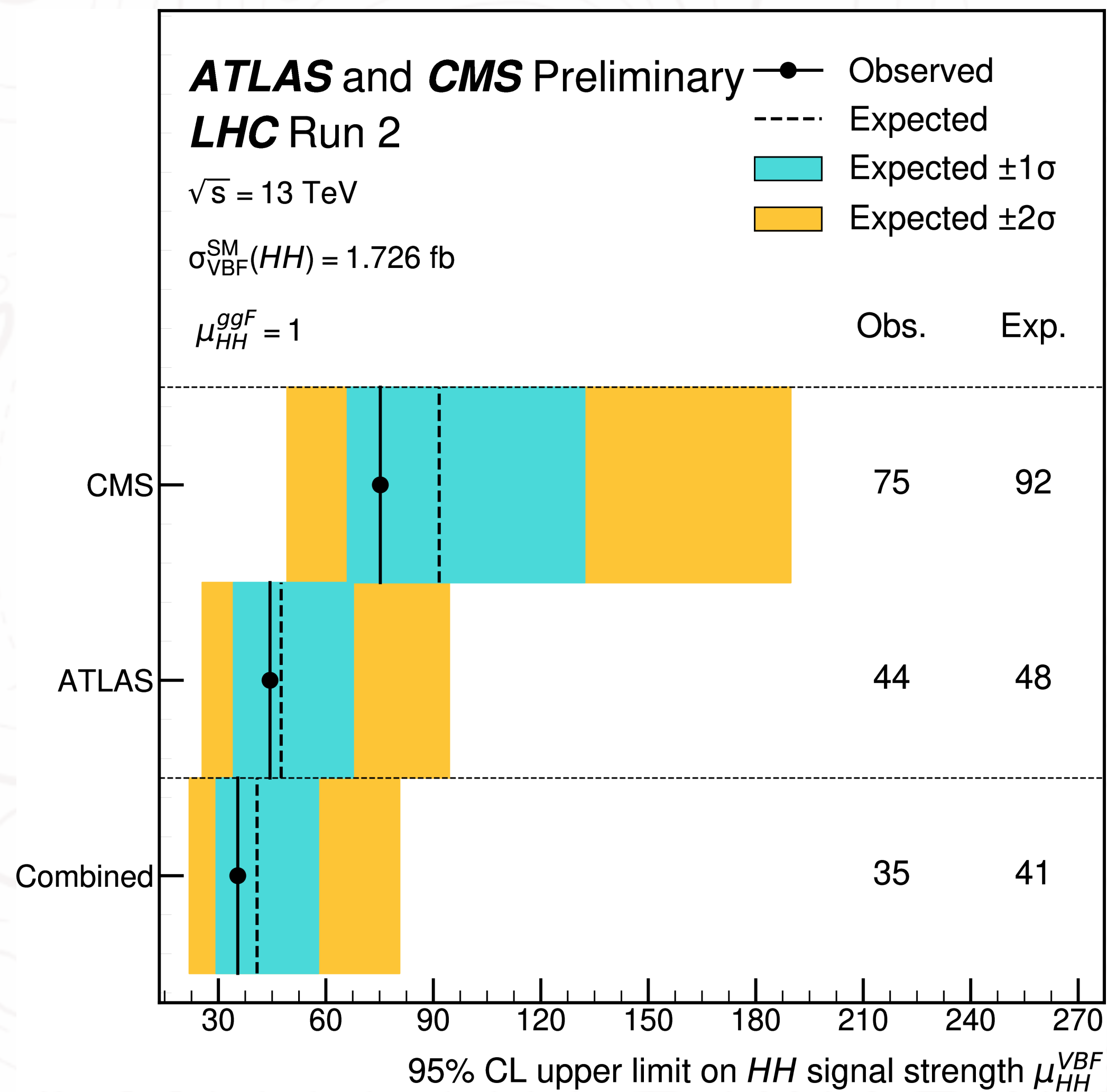
$0.62 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.42$

at 95%CL



In VHH (JHEP 10 (2024) 061): $\mu_{\text{VHH}} < 294(124), -37.7 < \kappa_\lambda < 37.2, -12.2 < \kappa_{2V} < 13.5$, at 95%CL

VBF HH IN THE COMBINATION



HH COMBINATION

	Channel	Details	Expected			Observed		
			μ_{HH}	κ_λ	κ_{2V}	μ_{HH}	κ_λ	κ_{2V}
ATLAS	bbbb	[none-none-none,none-none-none]	< 8.1	$[-5.3, 12]$	$[0.38, 1.7]$	< 5.4	$[-3.4, 11]$	$[0.55, 1.5]$
	bb $\tau\tau$	[none-none-none]	< 3.3	$[-2.6, 9.2]$	$[-0.24, 2.4]$	< 5.8	$[-3.3, 9.1]$	$[-0.51, 2.7]$
	bb $\gamma\gamma$	[none-none-none]	< 5.2	$[-3.0, 7.9]$	$[-1.1, 3.3]$	< 4.1	$[-1.6, 7.0]$	$[-0.48, 2.7]$
	bb $\ell\ell + E_T^{\text{miss}}$	[none-none-none]	< 14	$[-11, 17]$	$[-0.50, 2.7]$	< 9.6	$[-6.5, 13]$	$[-0.19, 2.4]$
	Multileptons	[none-none-none]	< 11	$[-4.5, 9.6]$	$[-1.9, 4.1]$	< 17	$[-6.4, 12]$	$[-2.5, 4.7]$
	Combined	[41]	< 2.4	$[-1.7, 7.2]$	$[0.41, 1.7]$	< 2.9	$[-1.3, 7.2]$	$[0.57, 1.5]$
CMS	bbbb	[29,31]	< 4.3	$[-4.6, 12]$	$[0.63, 1.4]$	< 7.0	$[-5.0, 12]$	$[0.66, 1.4]$
	bb $\tau\tau$	[33]	< 5.4	$[-4.2, 11]$	$[-0.64, 2.8]$	< 3.5	$[-1.9, 8.9]$	$[-0.32, 2.5]$
	bb $\gamma\gamma$	[35]	< 5.7	$[-3.5, 8.8]$	$[-0.94, 3.1]$	< 8.7	$[-3.5, 8.0]$	$[-1.4, 3.6]$
	bbWW	[none-none-none-none]	< 19	$[-9.4, 16]$	$[-1.4, 3.5]$	< 15	$[-6.1, 13]$	$[-1.0, 3.1]$
	Multileptons	[39]	< 20	$[-8.0, 12]$	$[-2.5, 4.6]$	< 22	$[-5.8, 10]$	$[-3.4, 5.6]$
	Combined	[42]	< 2.6	$[-2.2, 8.0]$	$[0.63, 1.4]$	< 3.5	$[-1.4, 6.6]$	$[0.66, 1.4]$
ATLAS + CMS combined			< 1.7	$[-1.3, 6.7]$	$[0.66, 1.4]$	< 2.5	$[-0.71, 6.1]$	$[0.73, 1.3]$

		κ_λ			κ_{2V}		
		Best fit	68% CL	95% CL	Best fit	68% CL	95% CL
ATLAS	Observed	3.5	[0.11, 5.9]	[-1.3, 7.2]	1.0	[0.80, 1.2]	[0.57, 1.5]
	Expected	1.0	[-0.55, 5.7]	[-1.7, 7.2]	1.0	[0.64, 1.4]	[0.41, 1.7]
CMS	Observed	1.6	[-0.04, 4.6]	[-1.4, 6.6]	1.0	[0.83, 1.2]	[0.66, 1.4]
	Expected	1.0	[-0.86, 6.4]	[-2.2, 8.0]	1.0	[0.78, 1.3]	[0.63, 1.4]
Combination	Observed	1.8	[0.36, 4.6]	[-0.71, 6.1]	1.0	[0.87, 1.2]	[0.73, 1.3]
	Expected	1.0	[-0.27, 5.2]	[-1.3, 6.7]	1.0	[0.79, 1.2]	[0.66, 1.4]

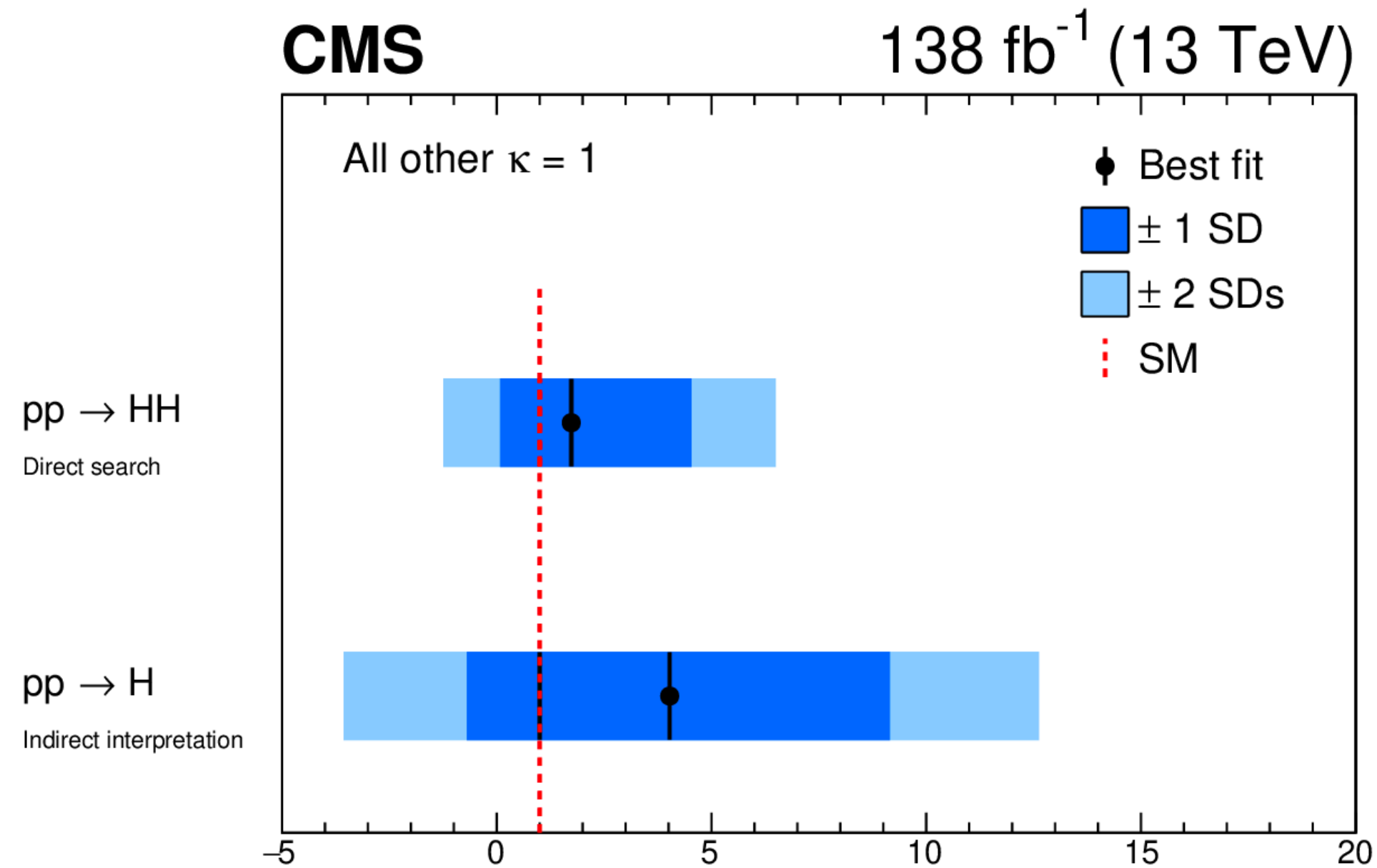
K3 FROM SINGLE HIGGS

– It is possible to constrain the self coupling from single Higgs analysis. In the recent CMS combination:

– $\kappa_\lambda \in [-3.3, 9.6]$ at 95 % CL in [HIG-21-018](#)

– Combining H and HH: full access to parameterization. Correlations between couplings.

– Example: κ_V vs κ_{2V} in [Phys. Lett. B 861 \(2025\) 139210](#)



From Nature Paper, 2020, slightly old numbers but still same idea κ_λ

