



# Probing Neutral Triple Gauge Couplings via $Z\gamma(\ell^+\ell^-\gamma)$ Production at LHC-ATLAS and future Collider

Danning Liu, Tsung-Dao Lee Institute, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

November, 2024, Qingdao, China



李政道研究所  
TSUNG-DAO LEE INSTITUTE





## OUTLINE

- Motivation of nTGC searches
- nTGC search @ ATLAS
- nTGC search @ CEPC
- Summary and Prospect

# Neutral Triple Gauge Couplings

nTGC

- New interaction ( $ZZ\gamma, \gamma^*Z\gamma$ ) – beyond the Standard Model
  - Forbidden at the SM tree level
  - First arise from dimension-8 contributions
  - A model-independent pathway to uncover new physics
- nTGC formulation

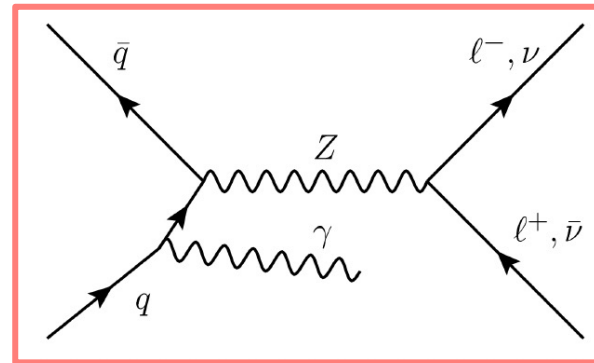
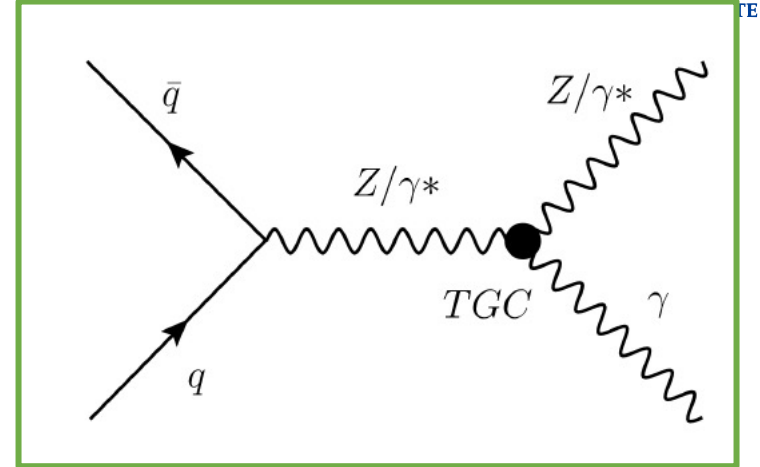
$$\Delta\mathcal{L}_{dim8} = \sum_i \frac{\tilde{c}_j}{\tilde{\Lambda}^4} O_i = \sum_i \frac{sign(\tilde{c}_j)}{\Lambda_j^4} O_j$$

- Incorporate with fully gauge invariant  $SU(2)\times U(1)$  symmetry
- Several new operators first proposed, interpreted, and presented in this talk

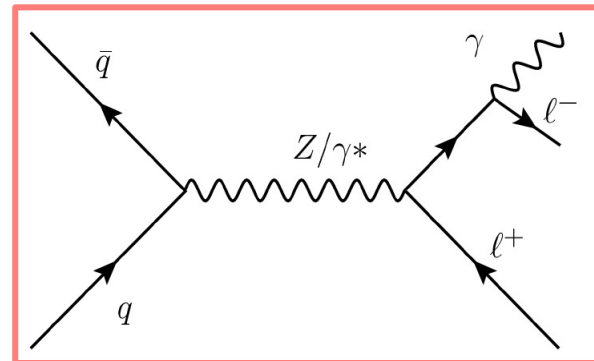
[Phys.Rev.D 107 035005](#)

[Phys.Rev.D 108 L111704](#)

[Sci.China Phys.Mech.Astro 64 221062 \(2021\)](#)



SM  $Z\gamma$



# Highlights of nTGC Studies

• Pure dimension-8 operators  $g\mathcal{O}_{G+} = \tilde{B}_{\mu\nu} W^{a\mu\rho} (D_\rho D_\lambda W^{a\nu\lambda} + D^\nu D^\lambda W_{\lambda\rho}^a),$

$$g\mathcal{O}_{G-} = \tilde{B}_{\mu\nu} W^{a\mu\rho} (D_\rho D_\lambda W^{a\nu\lambda} - D^\nu D^\lambda W_{\lambda\rho}^a),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{B}W} = i H^\dagger \tilde{B}_{\mu\nu} W^{\mu\rho} \{D_\rho, D^\nu\} H + \text{h.c.},$$

• Form factors

$$h_4 = -\frac{\text{sign}(\tilde{c}_{G+})}{\Lambda_{G+}^4} \frac{v^2 M_Z^2}{s_W c_W} \equiv \frac{r_4}{[\Lambda_{G+}^4]},$$

$$h_3^V = 0, \quad \text{for } \mathcal{O}_{G+},$$

$$h_3^Z = \frac{\text{sign}(\tilde{c}_{\tilde{B}W})}{\Lambda_{\tilde{B}W}^4} \frac{v^2 M_Z^2}{2s_W c_W} \equiv \frac{r_3^Z}{[\Lambda_{\tilde{B}W}^4]},$$

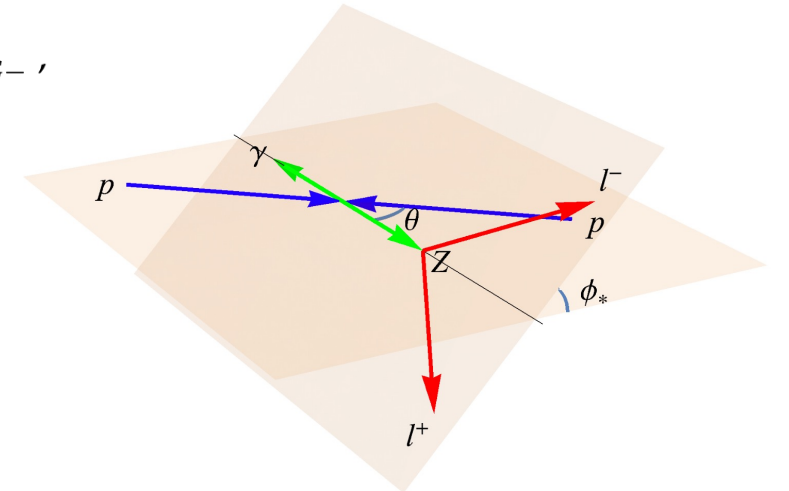
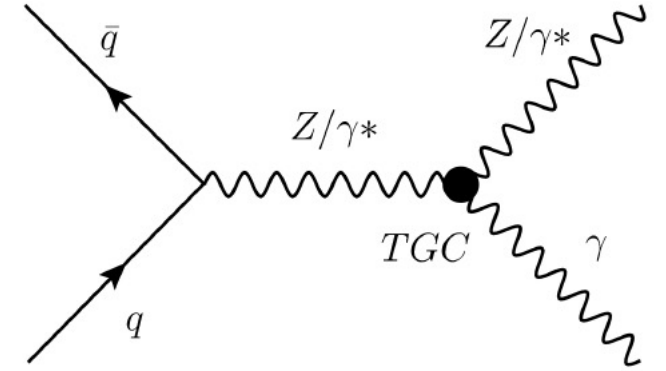
$$h_3^\gamma, h_4^V = 0, \quad \text{for } \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{B}W},$$

$$h_3^\gamma = -\frac{\text{sign}(\tilde{c}_{G-})}{\Lambda_{G-}^4} \frac{v^2 M_Z^2}{2c_W^2} \equiv \frac{r_3^\gamma}{[\Lambda_{G-}^4]}.$$

$$h_3^Z, h_4^V = 0, \quad \text{for } \mathcal{O}_{G-},$$

• Variables

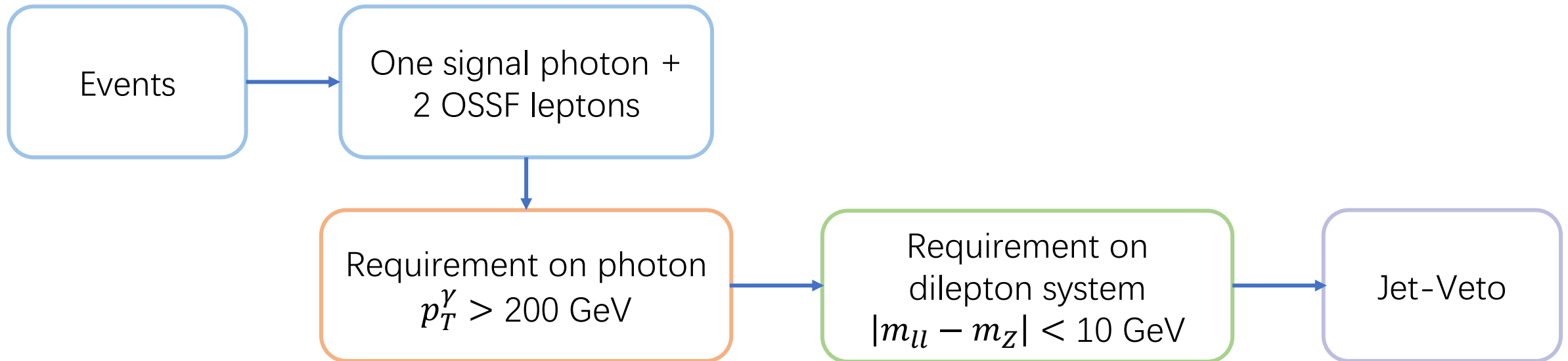
- Transverse momentum of leading photon
- Angular variable  $\phi$





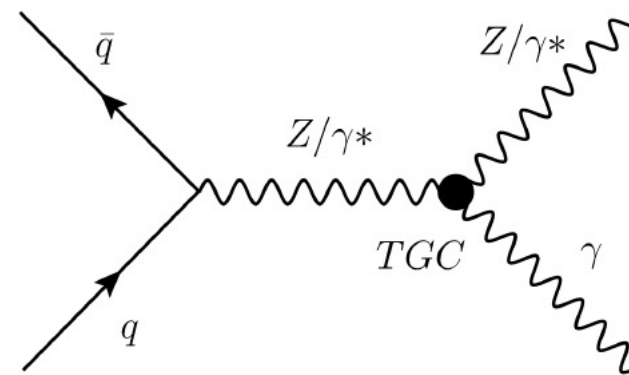
# nTGC Selections

- Traditional selection-based analysis relies on the clear signal signature
- Selections are optimized to tailor the requirements of nTGC formulation and to reach a more physically meaningful result



- Suppress SM background, and make sure dilepton decay from on-shell Z boson
- Remove higher order correction, or jet-background contribution

# nTGC Search at ATLAS Experiment



- ATLAS experiment
  - Energy frontier and large statistics
- MC samples

	Process	Generator	DSID
Signal ( SM $Z\gamma$ ) sample	$Z\gamma$ 0,1j @ NLO + 2,3,4j @LO	Sherpa 2.2.11	700398 - 700399
Background samples	Z+jets 0j @ NLO	PowhegBox	361106 - 361107
	Pile-up ( data-driven )	--	--
	$t\bar{t}\gamma/tW\gamma$ LO	MadGraph5_aMc@NLO	410389 / 412120
	$ZZ \rightarrow lll/W^\pm Z \rightarrow llv$ 0,1j	Sherpa 2.2.2	364739-364742 / 364250/364253
	$llv\gamma, llv\nu\gamma$ 0j @NLO + 1,2,3j @ LO	Sherpa 2.2.11	700356 / 700204
EFT samples	$O_{G+}, O_{G-}, O_{\bar{B}W}, O_{BB}, O_{BW}, O_{WW}$ 0j @ LO	MadGraph5_aMc@NLO	512493 – 512517, 515544 - 515548



# Object Definitions and Event Selections

Property	Requirements
Electrons	
Kinematics	$p_T > 25 \text{ GeV} \ \& \  \eta  < 2.47$ , (excl. $1.37 <  \eta  < 1.52$ )
Identification	Medium
Isolation	FCLoose
Impact parameter	$ d_0/\sigma(d_0)  < 5$ , $ z_0 \sin\theta  < 0.5 \text{ mm}$
Muons	
Kinematics	$p_T > 25 \text{ GeV} \ \& \  \eta  < 2.5$
Identification	Medium
Isolation	PflowLoose_FixedRadIso
Impact parameter	$ d_0/\sigma(d_0)  < 3$ , $ z_0 \sin\theta  < 0.5 \text{ mm}$
Photons	
Kinematics (baseline)	$p_T > 150 \text{ GeV} \ \& \  \eta  < 2.37$ , (excl. $1.37 <  \eta  < 1.52$ )
Identification (baseline)	Loose
Kinematics (signal)	$p_T > 200 \text{ GeV} \ \& \  \eta  < 2.37$ , (excl. $1.37 <  \eta  < 1.52$ )
Identification (signal)	Tight
Isolation (signal)	FixedCutLoose
Jets	
Algorithm	anti- $k_T$ ( $R = 0.4$ , PFlow)
Kinematics (baseline)	$p_T > 25 \text{ GeV}$ , $\& \  \eta  < 4.5$
Kinematics (signal)	$p_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$ if $ \eta  < 2.5$    $p_T > 50 \text{ GeV}$ if $2.5 <  \eta  < 4.5$
Pileup Mitigation	JVT Medium for $p_T < 120 \text{ GeV} \ \& \  \eta  < 2.5$

- List of object definitions
- List of signal region definitions

Signal Region Definition	
Variables	Cut
Trigger	single lepton trigger
$N_{lepton}$	$\geq 2$ signal leptons (OSSF for nTGC region)
Leading Lepton	$p_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$
Photon	$\geq 1$ signal photon with $p_T > 200 \text{ GeV}$
Jet	exclusive, $N_{jet}=0$
$m_{ll}$	$ m_{ll} - m_Z  < 10 \text{ GeV}$
$m_{ll} + m_{ll\gamma}$	$> 182 \text{ GeV}$

# Background and Systematic Estimation

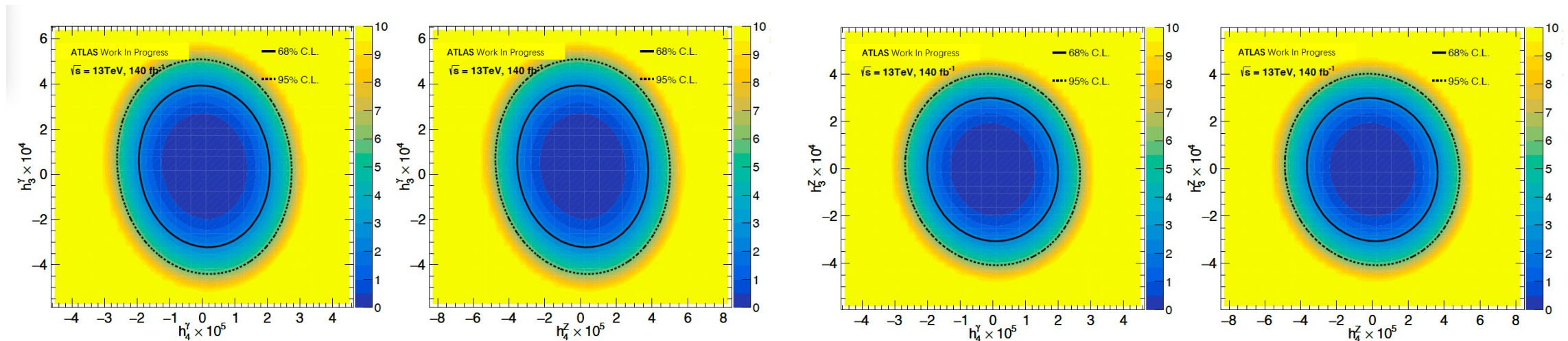
- Background estimation
  - Dominant background
    - Z+jets background, estimated through a two-dimensional side-band method
  - Other background
    - Pileup photon background, where Z boson and the photon come from different vertices, is estimated through data-driven method
    - $t\bar{t}\gamma$  process, where top quark leptonic decay, is estimated in a  $e\mu\gamma$  control region
    - Multi-boson background, where lepton is misidentified as a photon, is estimated from MC
- Systematic uncertainty estimation
  - Modelling, finite resolution of object reconstruction, and etc.



- Exclusive constraints derived from  $p_T^Y$  variable

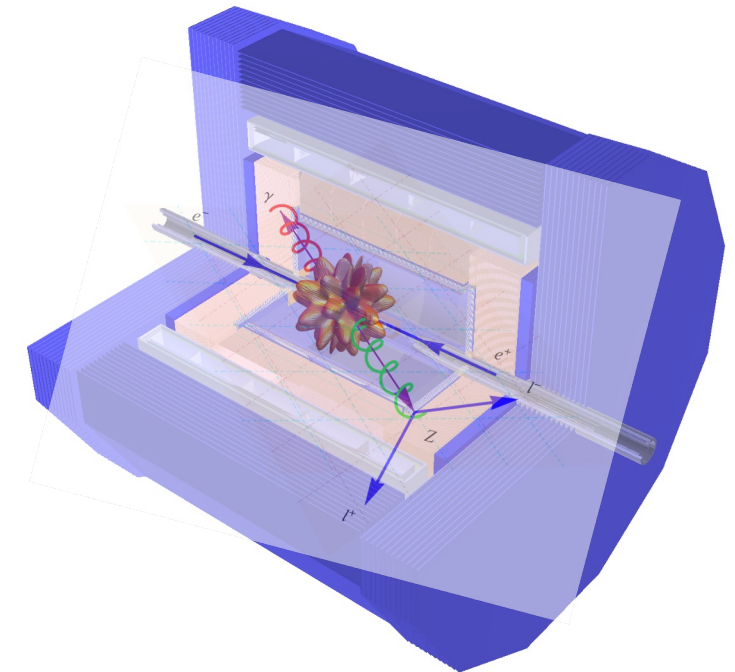
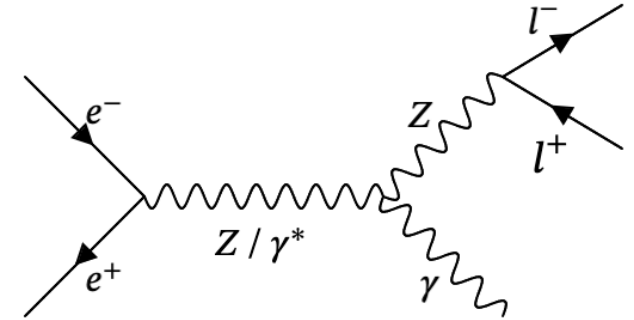
Expected Limits			
Form Factors ( $h_i^V$ )		Wilson coefficient ( $\Lambda_j$ [TeV])	
$h_4$	$[-4.1 \times 10^{-5}, 4.1 \times 10^{-5}]$	$\Lambda_{G+}$	2.40
$h_3^Y$	$[-3.5 \times 10^{-4}, 3.7 \times 10^{-4}]$	$\Lambda_{G-}$	0.97
$h_3^Z$	$[-3.6 \times 10^{-3}, 3.5 \times 10^{-3}]$	$\Lambda_{\widetilde{B}W}$	1.14
		$\Lambda_{\widetilde{B}\widetilde{W}}$	1.34

- 2D constraints are also extracted by scanning pairs of nTGC operators simultaneously



# nTGC Search at CEPC Experiment

- Circular Electron Positron Collider
  - High luminosity
  - Precise beam direction and energy
  - Perfect angular reconstruction
- Experimental configurations
  - **Full simulation** with CEPC official software (V4)
  - $\sqrt{s} = 240$  GeV, with an integrated luminosity of  $20 \text{ ab}^{-1}$
  - Signal sample generated by MadGraph5 and showered by Pythia8
- Topology
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow Z(\ell^+\ell^-)\gamma$ , where Z decays to a pair of charged leptons





# Selection Efficiencies

- Summary table of selections

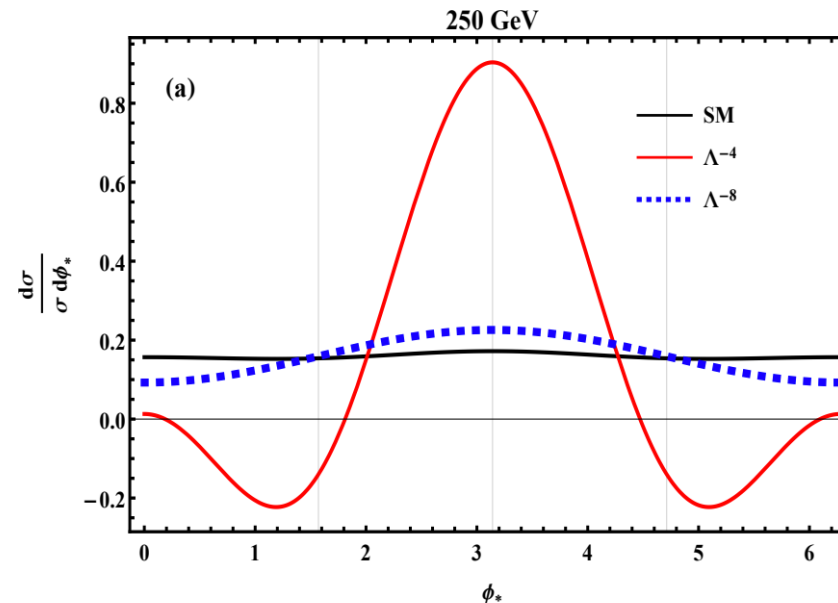
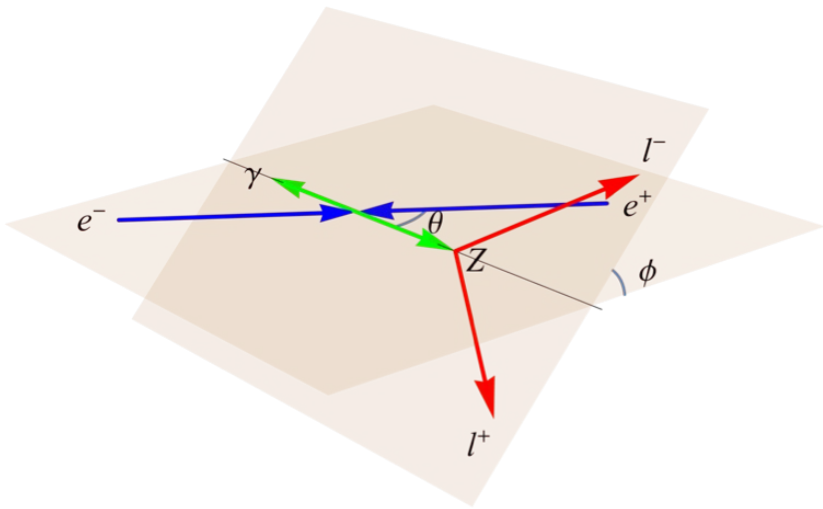
Variables	Cut
$N_{\text{lep}}$	2 signal OSSF leptons with leading lepton $p_T^{\text{lep}} > 30$ GeV
$N_{\text{pho}}$	$\geq 1$ signal photon with $p_T^\gamma > 35$ GeV
$N_{\text{jet}}$	0
$\Delta R(\ell, \ell)$	$< 3$
$m_{\ell\ell}$	$ m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z  < 10$ GeV
$m_{\ell\ell} + m_{\ell\ell\gamma}$	$> 182$ GeV

- Cutflow table: Cross section[fb] after applying sequential selections

Variables	SM Backgrounds	SM $Z\gamma$	$h_4$	$h_3^\gamma$	$h_3^Z$
$N_{\text{pho}} \geq 1$	11712	1572	1629	1747	1710
$N_{\text{lep}} = 2$	1152	587	624	696	675
$N_{\text{jet}} = 0$	811	587	624	696	675
$\Delta R(\ell, \ell) < 3$	698	548	585	656	634
$ m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z  < 10$ GeV	303	192	226	288	271
$(m_{\ell\ell} + m_{\ell\ell\gamma}) > 182$ GeV	300	192	226	288	271

# Kinematic Optimization

- Thanks to the well-defined beam direction and energy, angular variable is able to be reconstructed precisely
  - A special kinematic variable applied in this study
  - $\phi$  : Direct reflect of the interference between SM and pure BSM terms, defined as the angle between the scattering plane and the decay plane



[Phys.Rev.D 107 035005](#)

[Phys.Rev.D 108 L111704](#)

[Sci.China Phys.Mech.Astro 64 221062 \(2021\)](#)

[Frontier of Physics 20 \(2025\) 12501, no.1](#)

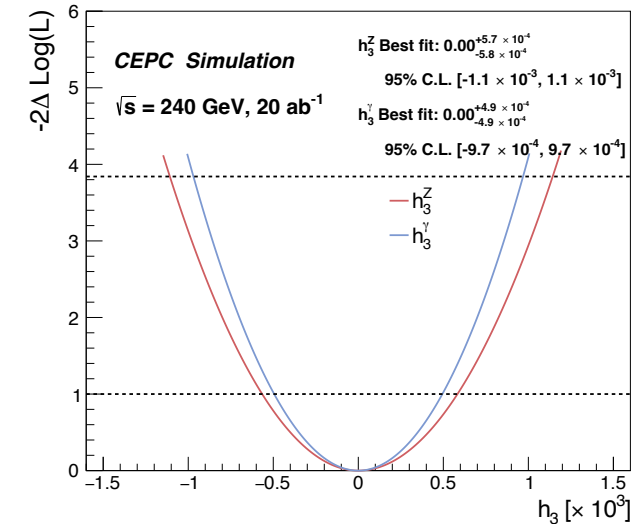
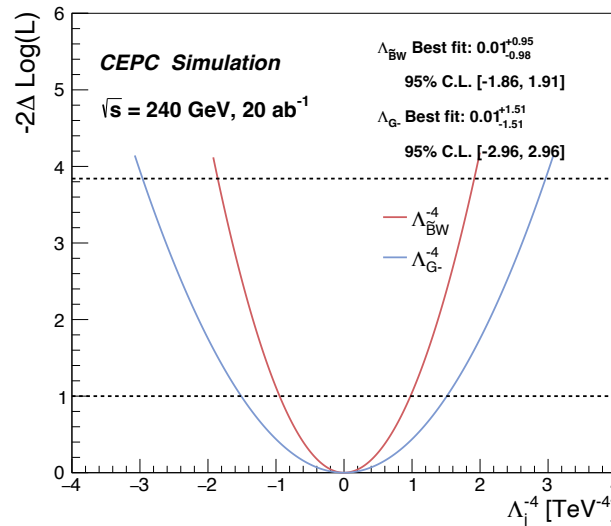
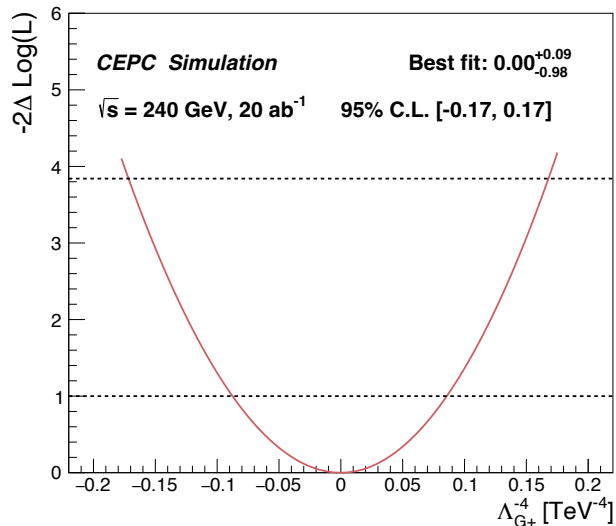
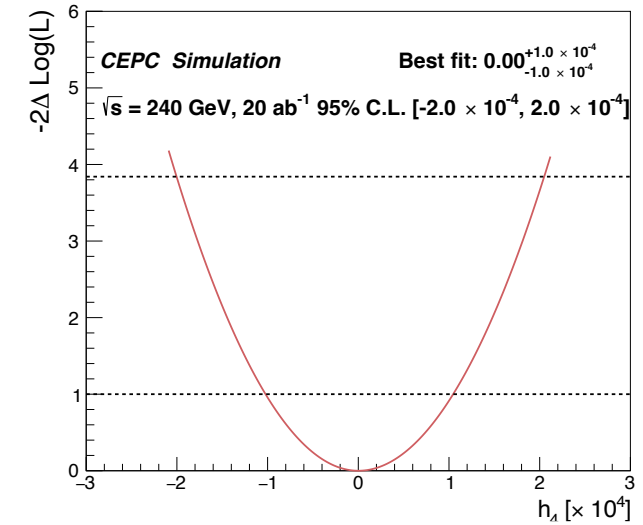
# Systematic Uncertainty

- Systematic uncertainties are categorised into two types :
  - Assigned on **signal** yields
    - Theoretical uncertainty : 0.5% uncertainty for modeling
    - Experimental uncertainty : luminosity, object identification, object reconstruction resolution, energy resolution, and detector acceptance
  - Assigned on **background** yields
    - Floating event yields to account for background modeling
    - Dominant background: varied by 5% up/down
    - Other backgrounds : varied by 100% up/down

Processes	Statistical	Theoretical	Experimental
$Z\gamma$ production ( $e^+e^- \rightarrow l^+l^-\gamma$ )	0.52%	0.5%	(+2.96, -3.15)%
Fixed background		Dominant background: 5% Other backgrounds: 100%	

- Expected exclusion constraints achieved from  $\phi$  variable

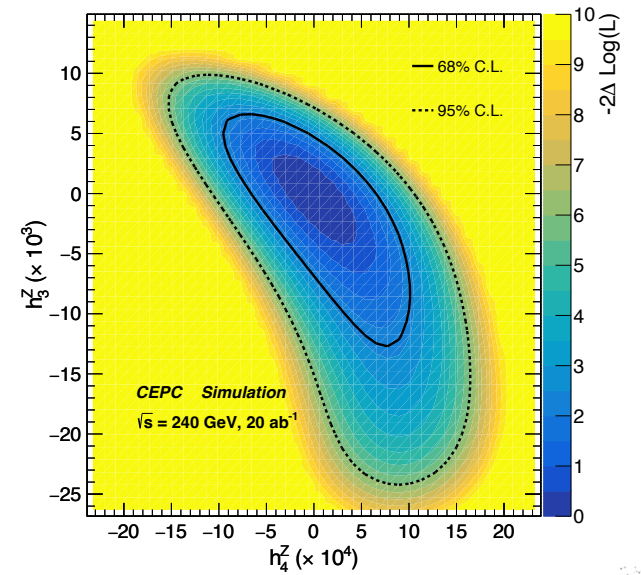
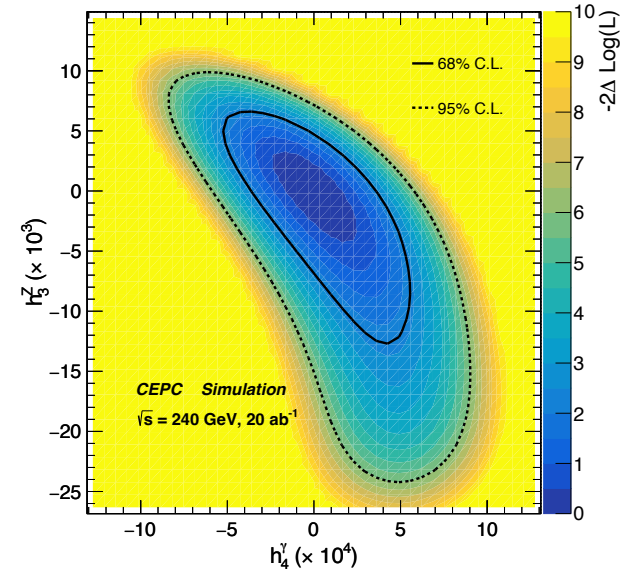
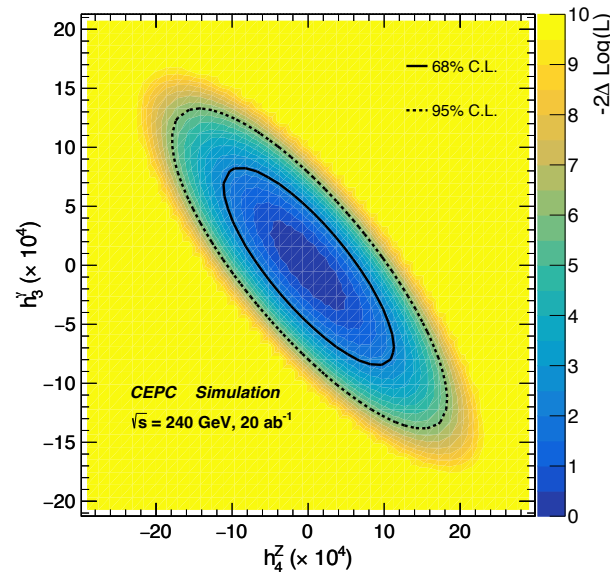
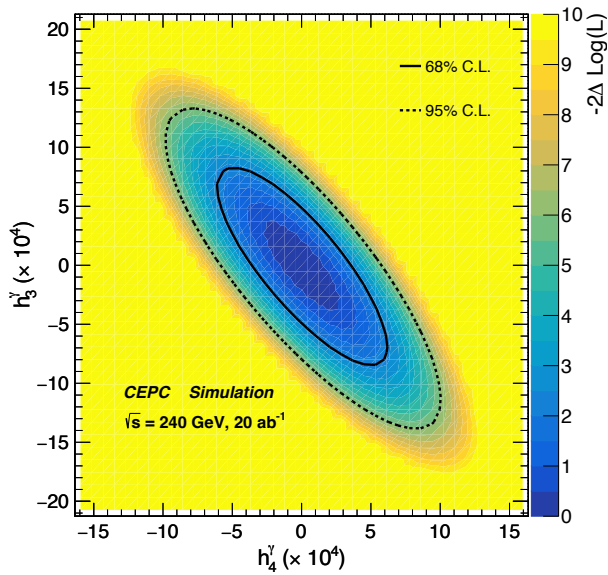
Expected Limits			
Form Factors ( $h_i^V$ )		New Physics Scales ( $\Lambda_j$ [TeV])	
$h_4$	$[-2.0 \times 10^{-4}, 2.0 \times 10^{-4}]$	$\Lambda_{G+}$	1.55
$h_3^Y$	$[-9.7 \times 10^{-4}, 9.7 \times 10^{-4}]$	$\Lambda_{G-}$	0.76
$h_3^Z$	$[-1.1 \times 10^{-3}, 1.1 \times 10^{-3}]$	$\Lambda_{\widetilde{B}W}$	0.85
		$\Lambda_{\widetilde{B}\widetilde{W}}$	1.05





# Results

- 2D constraints are also extracted by scanning pairs of nTGC operators simultaneously
  - To understand the correlation of sensitivity reaches between pairs of nTGC operators

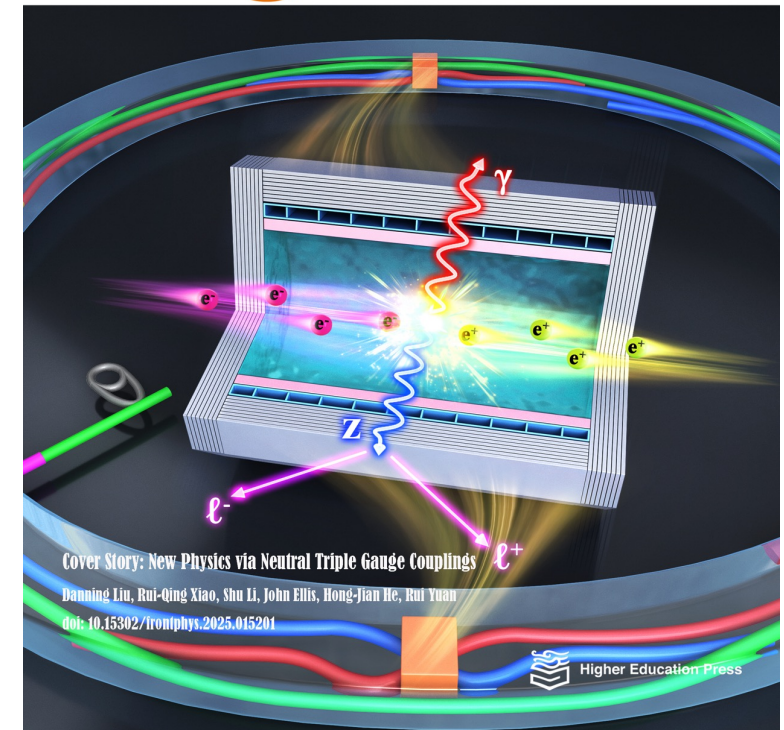


# Summary

- nTGCs provide unique probe of dimension-8 SMEFT operators, and serves as a new pathway to explore new physics beyond the SM
- First exploration with a more realistic simulation in collaboration with the latest nTGC theoretical progress
  - With  $SU(2) \times U(1)$  invariant gauge symmetry applied
- We present the searches for nTGCs at both ATLAS and CEPC
  - ATLAS results: under EB review
  - CEPC results: accepted by FOP journal as “Cover Article”

## Frontiers of Physics

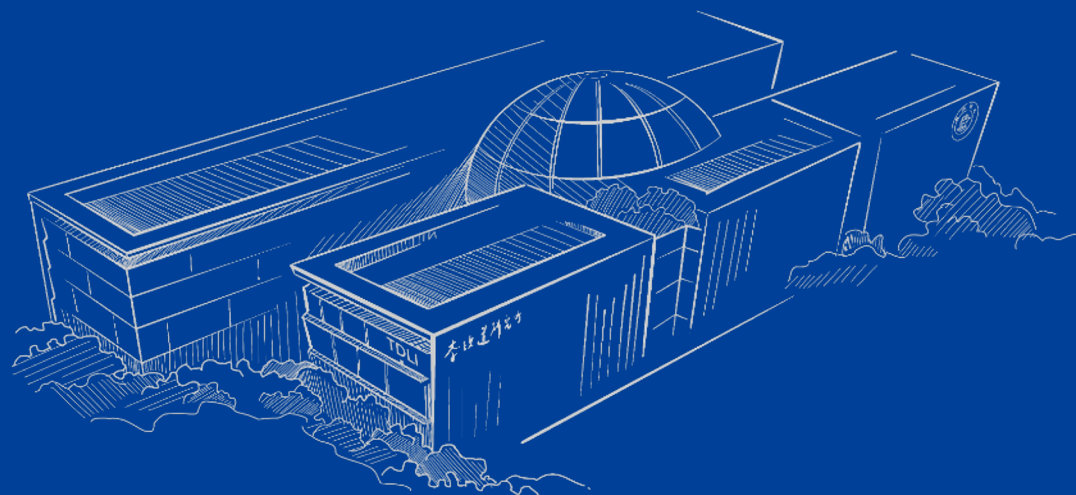
ISSN 2095-0462  
Volume 20 · Number 1  
February 2025  
物理学前沿



[Frontier of Physics 20 \(2025\) 12501, no.1](#)



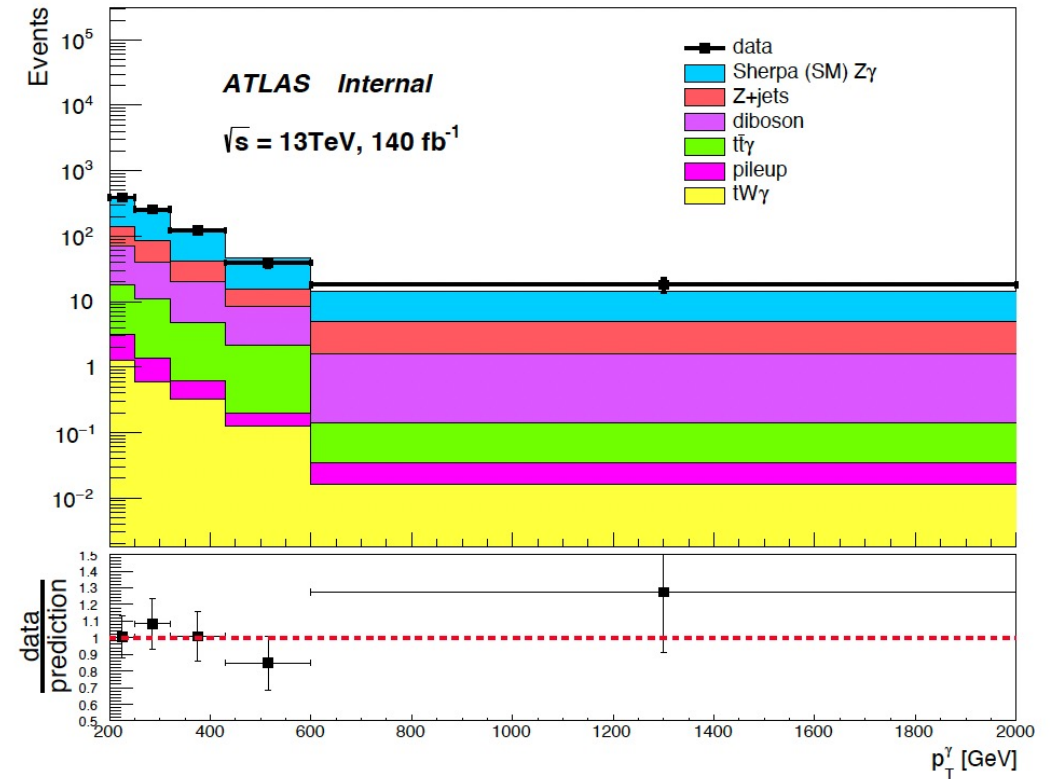
Thank You



# Backup: ATLAS – Background Estimation

- A validation region is defined by reversing jet-veto selection, to check the estimation of various background, with good agreement observed

Variables	Cut
Trigger	single lepton trigger
$N_{lepton}$	$\geq 2$ signal leptons (OSSF for nTGC region)
Leading Lepton	$p_T > 30\text{GeV}$
Photon	$\geq 1$ signal photon with $p_T > 200\text{GeV}$
Jet	$N_{jet} > 0$
$m_{ll}$	$ m_{ll} - m_Z  < 10\text{GeV}$
$m_{ll} + m_{ll\gamma}$	$> 182\text{GeV}$





# Backup: CEPC – Background Samples

- List of Background samples

	Processes	Final States	$\sigma$ (fb)
2 fermions	$ll$	$e^+e^-/\mu^+\mu^-/\tau^+\tau^-$	34856.50
	$\nu\nu$	$\nu_e\bar{\nu}_e/\nu_\mu\bar{\nu}_\mu/\nu_\tau\bar{\nu}_\tau$	50499.51
	$qq$	$u\bar{u}/d\bar{d}/c\bar{c}/s\bar{s}/b\bar{b}$	54106.86
4 fermions	$WW$ (hadronic decay)		3825.46
	$WW$ (leptonic decay)		403.66
	$WW$ (semi-leptonic decay)		4846.99
	$ZZ$ (hadronic decay)		516.67
	$ZZ$ (leptonic decay)		67.81
	$ZZ$ (semi-leptonic decay)		556.59
Higgs	$e^+e^-H$	$e^+e^-+H$	7.04
	$\mu^+\mu^-H$	$\mu^+\mu^-+H$	6.77
	$\tau^+\tau^-H$	$\tau^+\tau^-+H$	6.75
	$\nu\nu H$	$\nu_e\bar{\nu}_e/\nu_\mu\bar{\nu}_\mu/\nu_\tau\bar{\nu}_\tau+H$	46.29
	$qqH$	$u\bar{u}/d\bar{d}/c\bar{c}/s\bar{s}/b\bar{b}+H$	136.81

# Backup: CEPC – Analysis Strategy

- Traditional selection-based analysis relies on the clear signal signature

Two isolated leptons

Strongly suppress possible background contributions



Remove jet-related background contributions

Remove higher-order corrections

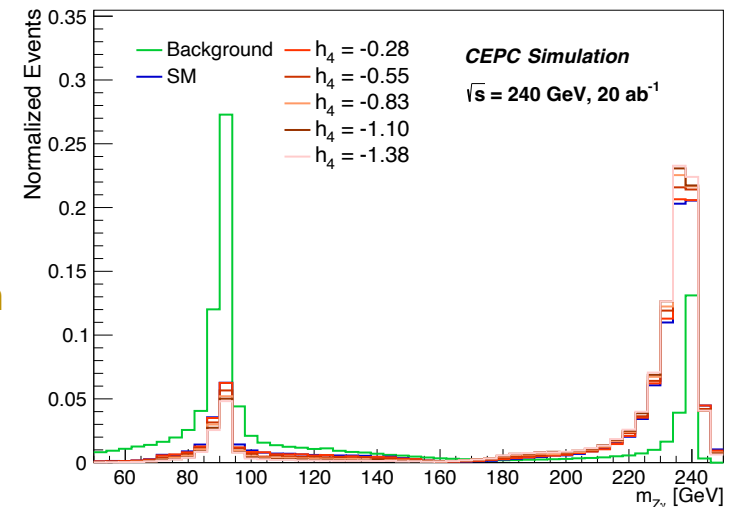
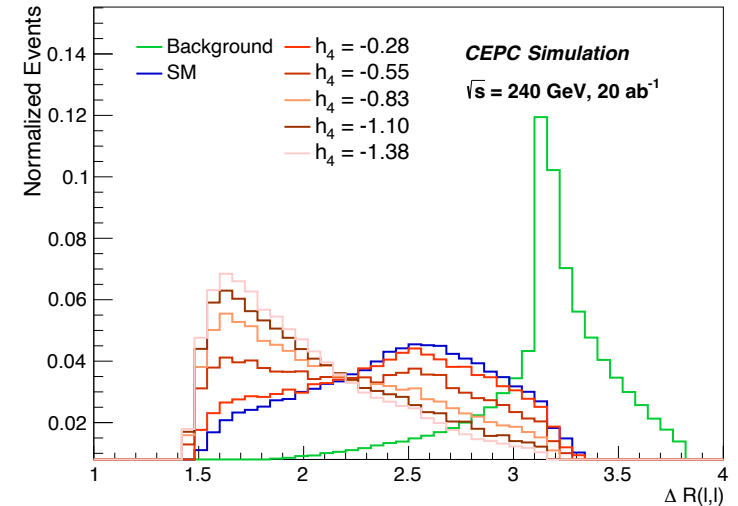
Jet veto selection

**Guarantee that the enhancement of cross section comes from nTGC effect**

Invariant mass selection

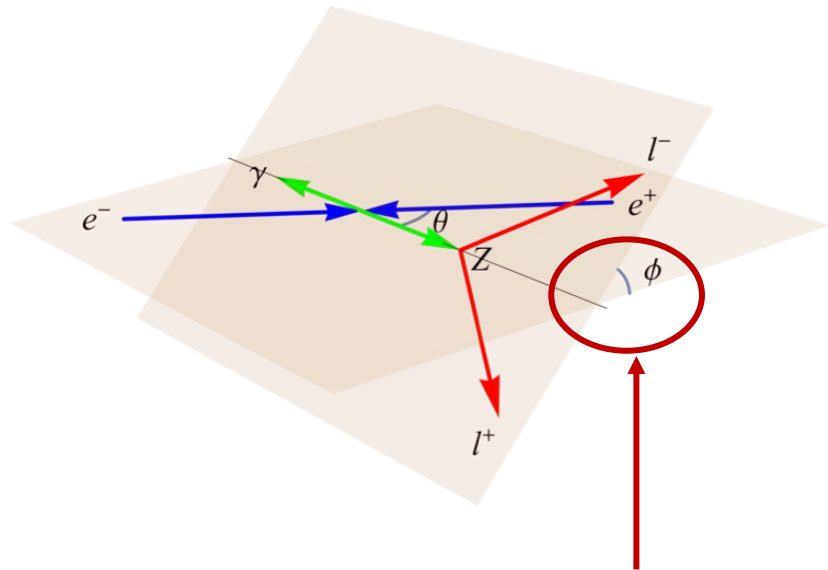
Suppress Z plus final-state radiation photon scenario

Ensure that final-state leptons decay from on-shell Z boson



# Backup: CEPC – Analysis Optimization

- Unlike traditional measurements, a special kinematic structure  $\phi$  applied to reach better sensitivity
- Defined as the angle between scattering plane and decay plane
- **Direct evidence of the interference between the SM and pure BSM effects**



- Unlike traditional measurements, a special kinematic structure  $\phi$  applied to reach better sensitivity
- Defined as the angle between scattering plane and decay plane
- **Direct evidence of the interference between the SM and pure BSM effects**

$$\cos\phi = \frac{(\vec{p}_e \times \vec{p}_Z) \cdot (\vec{p}_{l^-} \times \vec{p}_{l^+})}{|\vec{p}_e \times \vec{p}_Z| |\vec{p}_{l^-} \times \vec{p}_{l^+}|}$$

[Phys.Rev.D 107 035005](#)

[Phys.Rev.D 108 L111704](#)

[Sci.China Phys.Mech.Astro 64 221062 \(2021\)](#)

[Frontier of Physics 20 \(2025\) 12501, no.1](#)

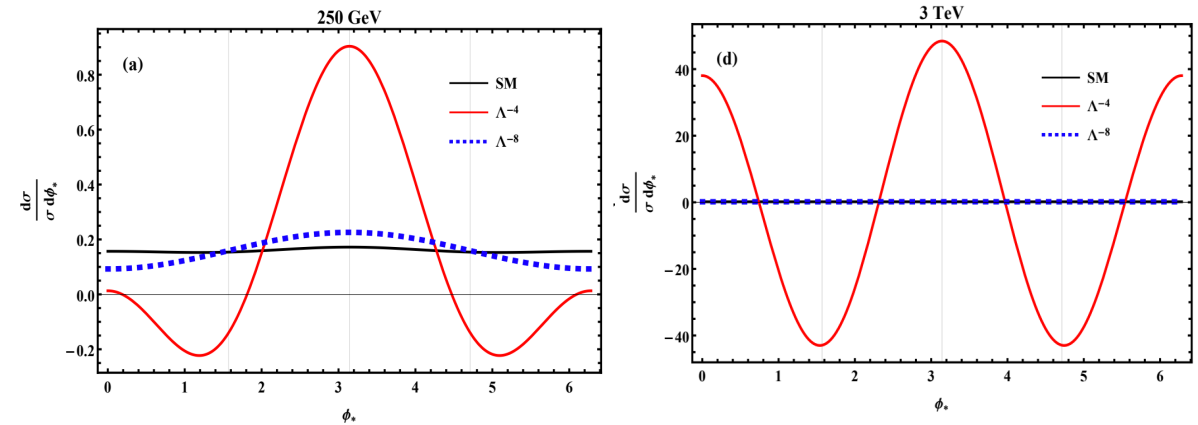
# Backup: CEPC – Analysis Optimization

- Parameterization of nTGCs:  $\sigma = \sigma_0(\text{SM}) + \sigma_1(\text{SM} \times \text{nTGC}) + \sigma_2(\text{nTGC}^2)$
- Similarly, we define the normalized angular distribution function respectively:

$$f_{\phi}^{sm} = \frac{1}{2\pi} + \frac{3\pi^2(c_L^2 - c_R^2)^2 M_Z \sqrt{s}(s + M_Z^2) \cos\phi - 8(c_L^2 + c_R^2)^2 M_Z^2 s \cos 2\phi}{16\pi(c_L^2 + c_R^2)^2 \left[ (s - M_Z^2)^2 + 2(s^2 + M_Z^4) \ln \sin \frac{\delta}{2} \right]} + O(\delta)$$

$$f_{\phi}^{int} = \frac{1}{2\pi} - \frac{3\pi(q_L^2 - q_R^2)(M_Z^2 + 5s) \cos\phi}{256(q_L^2 + q_R^2) M_Z \sqrt{s}} + \frac{s \cos 2\phi}{8\pi M_Z^2}$$

$$f_{\phi}^{qua} = \frac{1}{2\pi} - \frac{9\pi(q_L^2 - q_R^2) M_Z \sqrt{s} \cos\phi}{128(q_L^2 + q_R^2)(s + M_Z^2)}$$



Interference term: dominated by  $\cos 2\phi$  term, significantly related to  $s/M_Z^2$

SM and Quadratic term: dominated by the constant term  $\frac{1}{2\pi}$  and  $\phi$ -dependent term which is suppressed by  $M_Z^2/\sqrt{s}$

$\phi$  could be a good candidate to probe nTGCs



# Backup: CEPC – Analysis Optimization

- Optimization applied with net cross section for significance enhancement
  - Boundaries are set to distinguish events with positive or negative cross sections

