



Di-Higgs physics at ATLAS

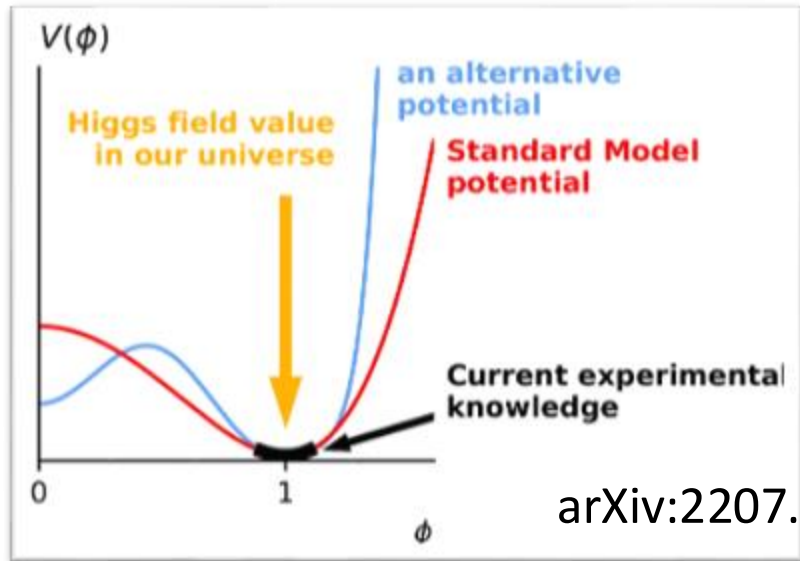
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Nanjing University

31st Mini-workshop on the frontier of LHC, 青岛, 10-12 Oct 2025

Nature of EWSB

- We have no idea on the thermal history of the EW symmetry breaking



- SM assumed simplest form

$$V(\phi) = -\mu^2 \phi^2 + \lambda \phi^4$$

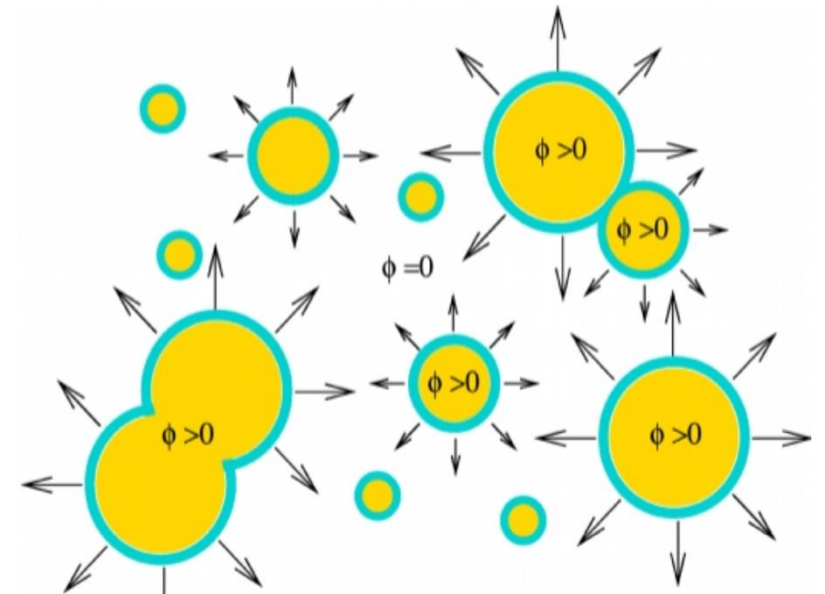
- Nature can be more complicated

$$V = V + \sum_i \frac{c_i^{(6)}}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{O}_i^{(6)} + \sum_i \frac{c_i^{(8)}}{\Lambda^4} \mathcal{O}_i^{(8)} + \dots$$

- Sakharov's Conditions for Baryon-gensis

- B Violation
- C/CP Violation
- Departure from Thermal Equilibrium

1st order or 2nd order
Phase Transition?

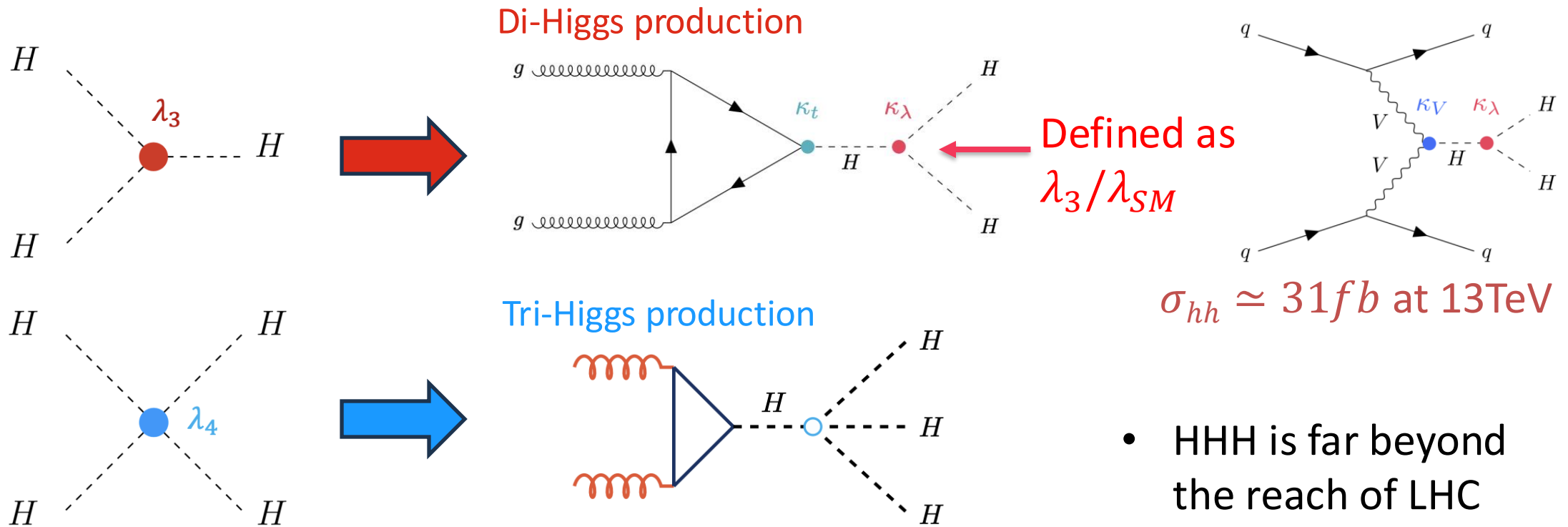


Probe Higgs potential

- Expand Higgs potential about the minimum

$$V(H) = \frac{1}{2}m_H^2 H^2 + \lambda_3 v H^3 + \frac{1}{4}\lambda_4 H^4 + O(H^5) \quad \lambda_3 = \lambda_4 = \lambda_{SM} = \frac{m_H^2}{2v^2} \quad \lambda_i = 0 \text{ for } i \geq 5$$

- Multi-Higgs production is a direct probe of Higgs potential!



- HHH is far beyond the reach of LHC

HH Decays

- 5 major analyses channels
 - $bbbb$ (resolved (PRD 108 (2023) 052003), boosted VBF (PLB 858 (2024) 139007))
 - $bb\tau\tau$ (PRD 110 (2024) 032012)
 - $bb\gamma\gamma$ (JHEP 01 (2024) 066)
 - $bbll+MET$ (JHEP 02 (2024) 037)
 - Multi-lepton (JHEP 08 (2024) 164)
- **Combination**: PRL 133 (2024) 10, 101801, PRL 132 (2024) 231801
- **Covers almost all decay modes!**

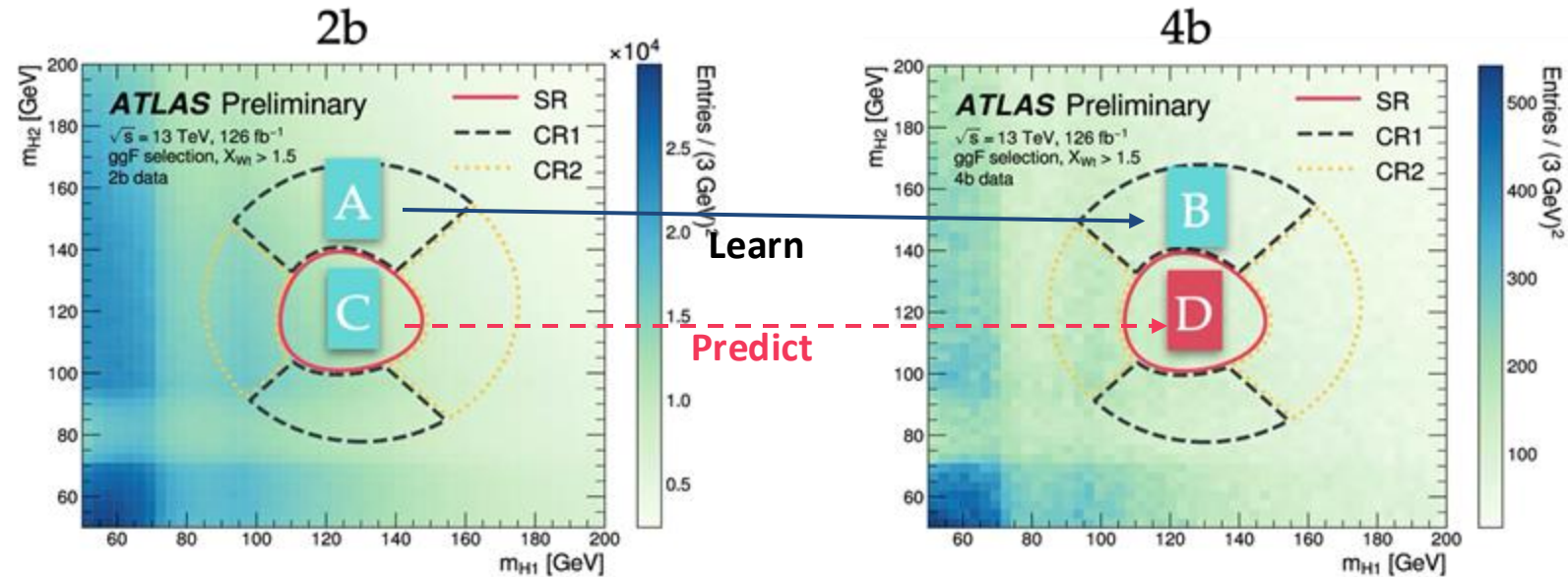
The other Higgs Boson decay

One Higgs Boson decay		bb	WW	$\tau\tau$	ZZ	$\gamma\gamma$
	bb	34%				
	WW	25%	4.6%			
	$\tau\tau$	7.3%	2.7%	0.39%		
	ZZ	3.1%	1.1%	0.33%	0.069%	
	$\gamma\gamma$	0.26%	0.10%	0.028%	0.012%	0.0005%

HH→bbbb

- Largest branching ratio: 34%, suffers from huge backgrounds
 - Main backgrounds: QCD multi-jets, top quark pair
- Analysis strategy
 - ≥ 4 b quark jets, two categories: ggF and VBF ($m_{jj} > 1$ TeV and $\Delta\eta_{jj} > 3$)
 - Utilize two Higgs bosons invariant mass
 - Data-driven background modeling with machine learning technique

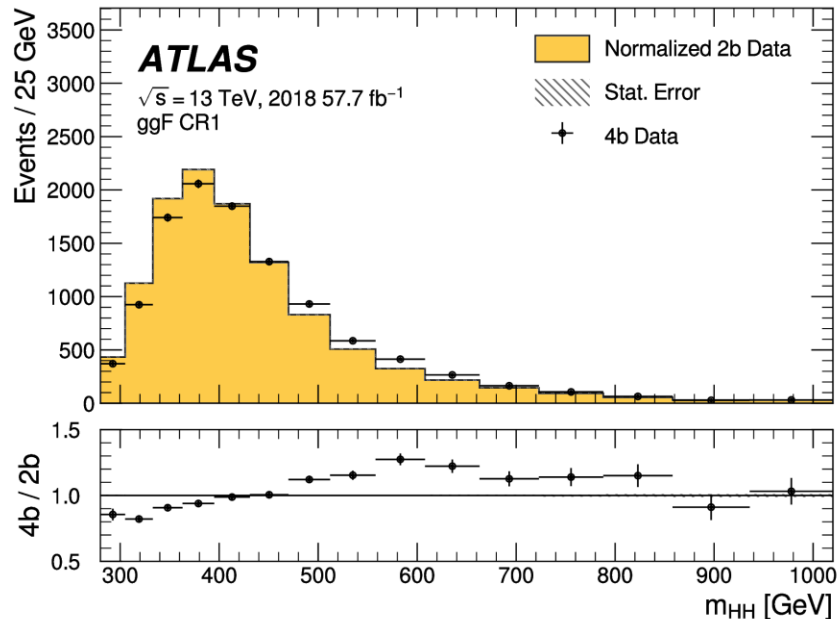
$$X_{HH} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{m_{H1} - 124 \text{ GeV}}{0.1 m_{H1}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m_{H2} - 117 \text{ GeV}}{0.1 m_{H2}}\right)^2}$$



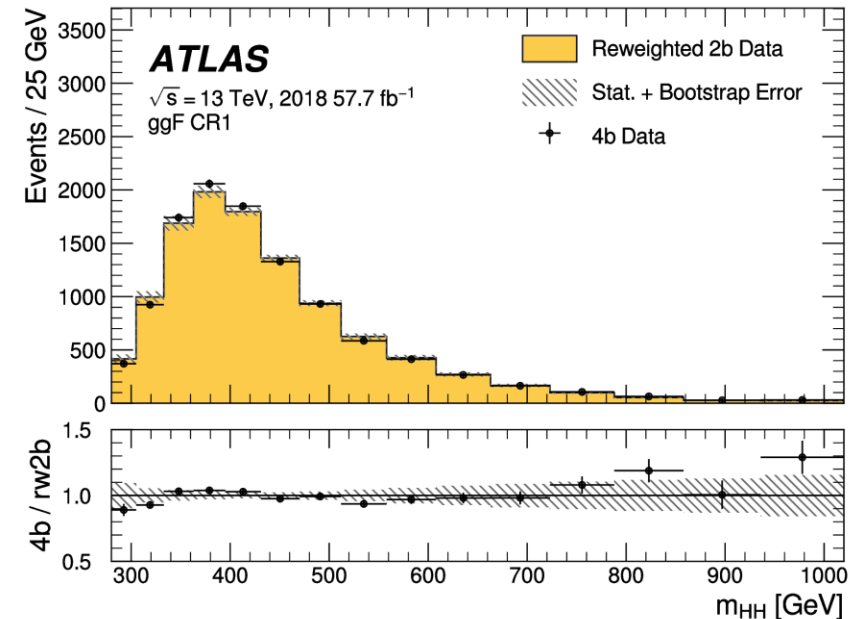
$HH \rightarrow bbbb$

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**Before
Correction**



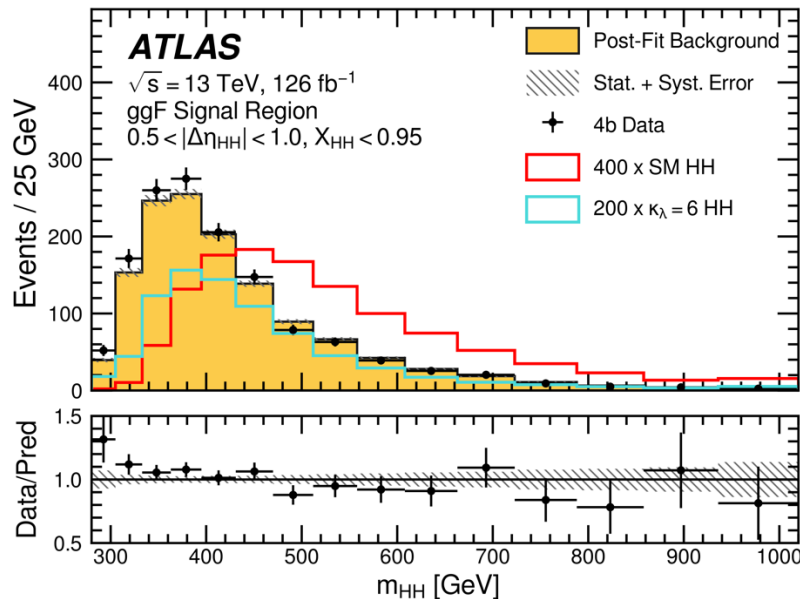
**After
Correction**



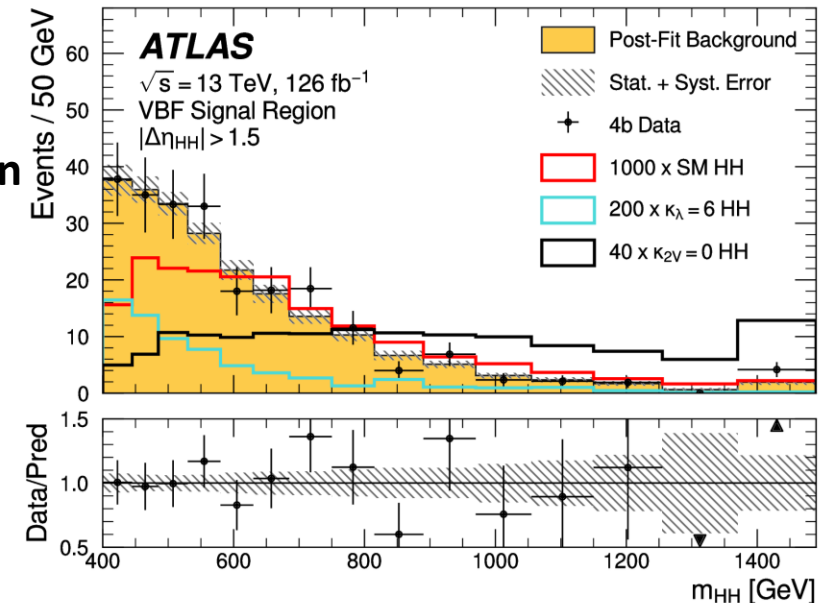
$HH \rightarrow bbbb$

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**ggF
Signal Region**

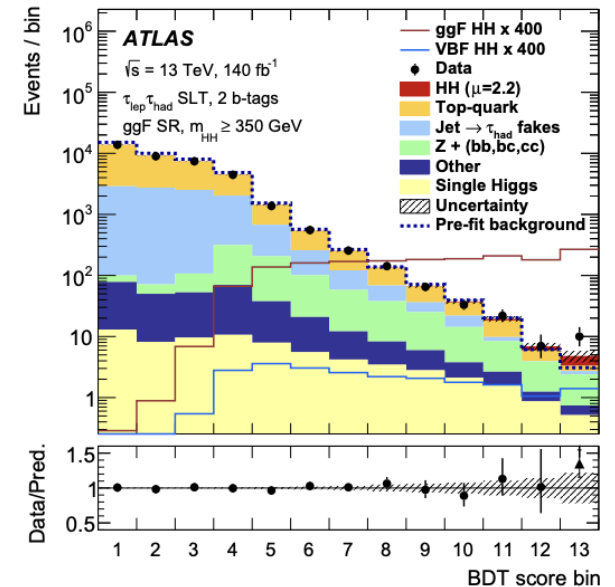
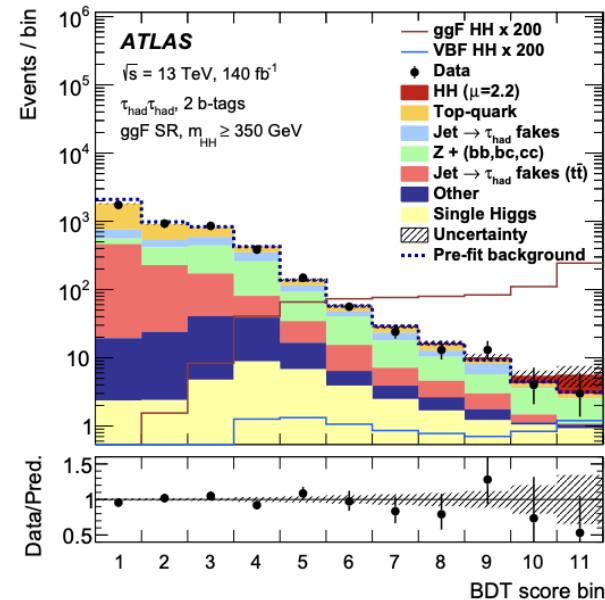
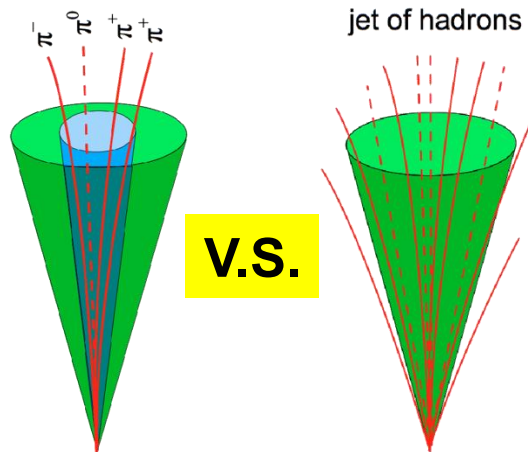
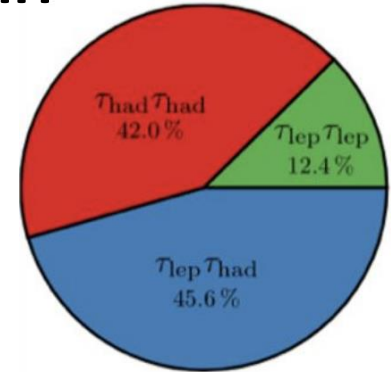


**VBF
Signal Region**



$HH \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$

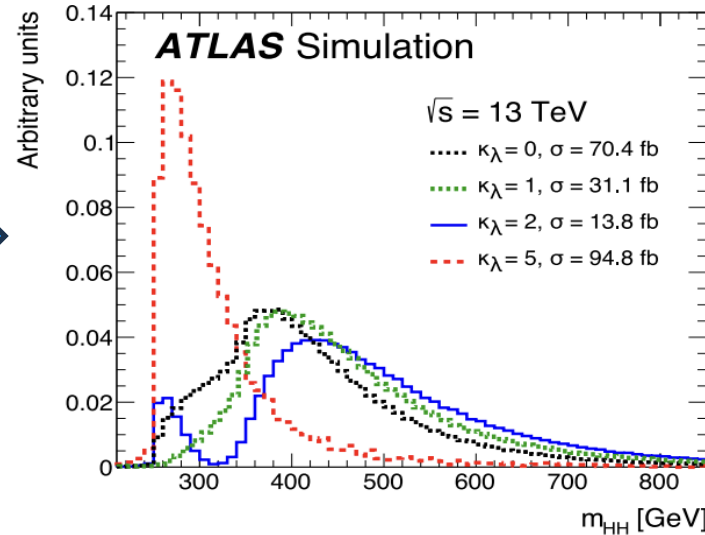
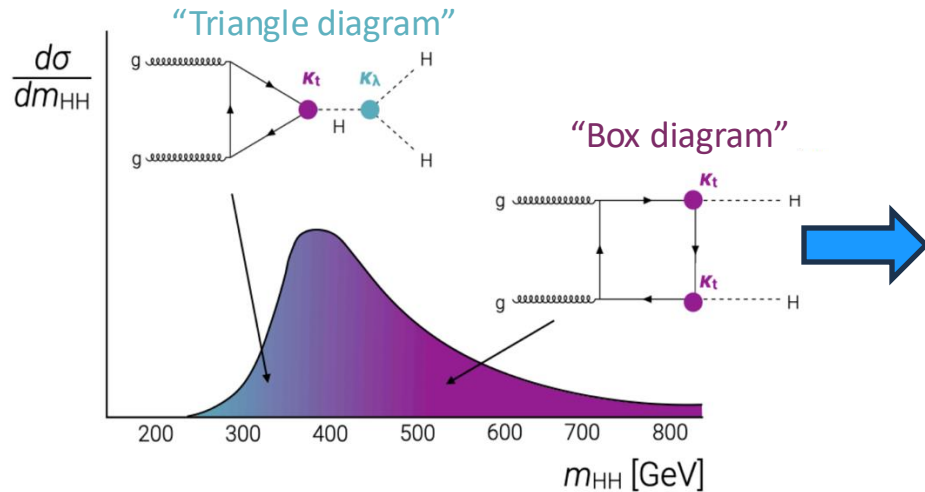
- Moderate branching ratio (7.3%), less backgrounds. **Best sensitivity to SM HH**
- Two sub-channels for different $\tau\tau$ decay modes: $\tau_{had}\tau_{had}, \tau_{lep}\tau_{had}$
- Main backgrounds
 - Real tau, e.g. ttbar and Z+HF, modeled by MC, with normalization correction from the control regions
 - Fake τ_{had} background estimated data-drivenly



$HH \rightarrow bb\gamma\gamma$

- Very small branching ratio (0.26%), clean final state
 - Excellent $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ and $m_{bb\gamma\gamma}$ resolution, strongest constraint at high κ_λ
- Two HH Feynman diagrams contribute to different kinematic region

m_{HH} shape change with κ_λ

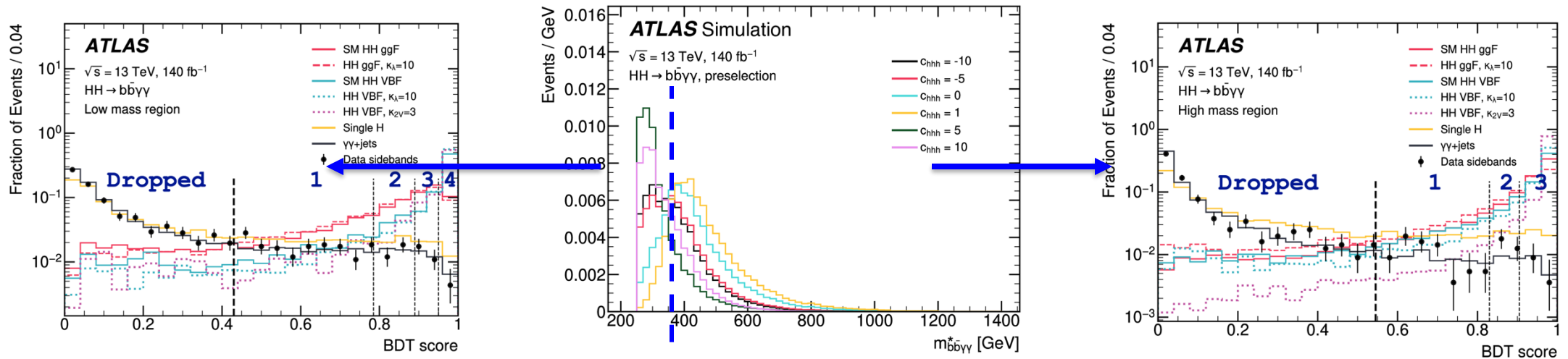


Need attention to softer kinematic events for better constraints on κ_λ

HH $\rightarrow$ bb $\gamma\gamma$

- Very small branching ratio (0.26%), clean final state
 - Excellent $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ and $m_{bb\gamma\gamma}$ resolution, strongest constraint at high κ_λ
- Two HH Feynman diagrams contribute to different kinematic region
 - **Categorized by $m_{bb\gamma\gamma}^*$ and BDT**

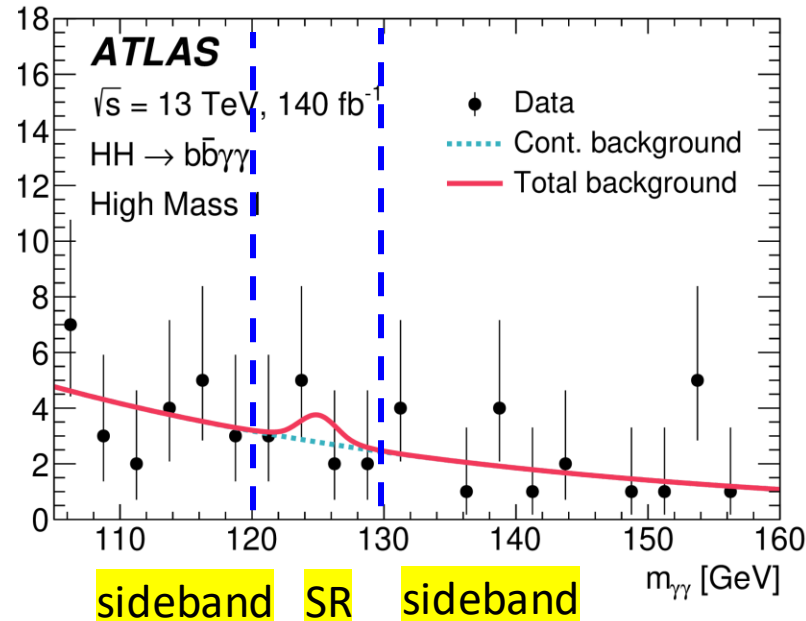
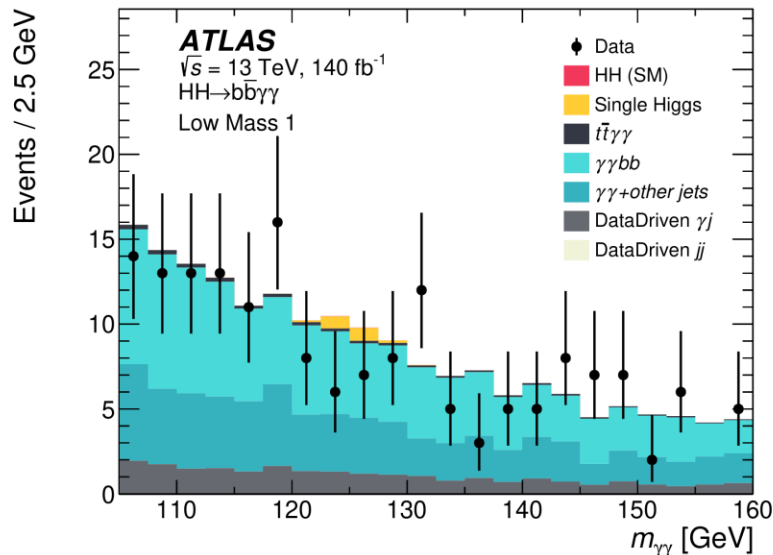
$$m_{bb\gamma\gamma}^* = m_{bb\gamma\gamma} - (m_{b\bar{b}} - 125 \text{ GeV}) - (m_{\gamma\gamma} - 125 \text{ GeV})$$



HH $\rightarrow$ bb $\gamma\gamma$

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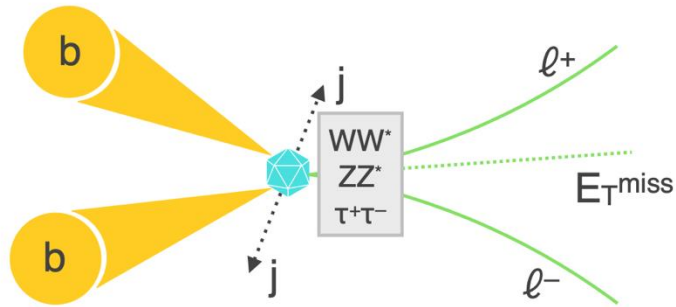
$$m_{bb\gamma\gamma}^* = m_{bb\gamma\gamma} - (m_{b\bar{b}} - 125 \text{ GeV}) - (m_{\gamma\gamma} - 125 \text{ GeV})$$



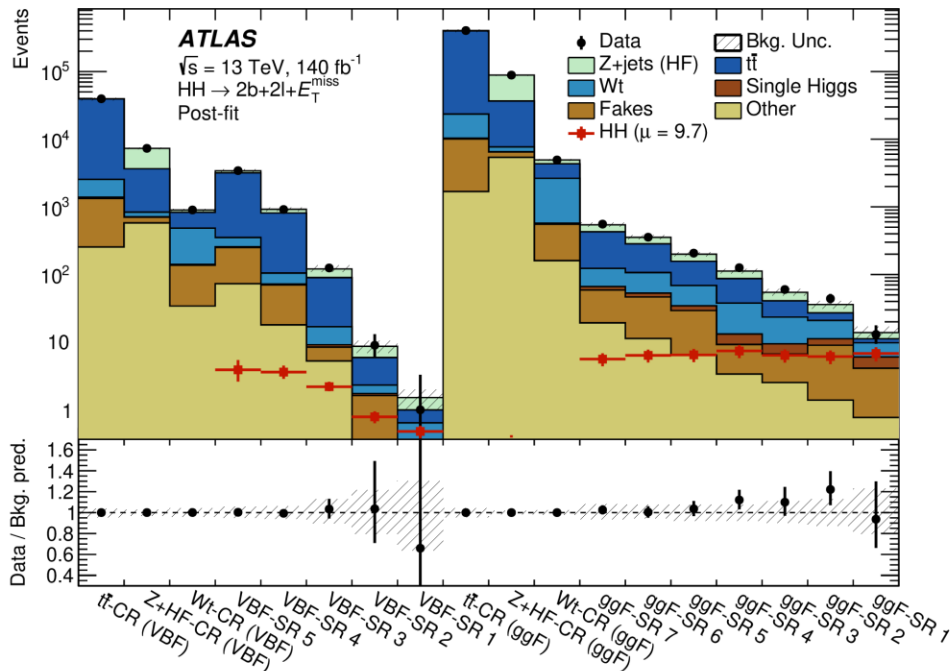
- Final discriminant $m_{\gamma\gamma}$, background modelled using exponential function in data sideband

HH $\rightarrow$ bbll+MET

- Leptonic decay of WW , $\tau\tau$, ZZ (Branching ratio $\sim 2.9\%$)



	bb	WW	$\tau\tau$	ZZ	$\gamma\gamma$
bb	34%				
WW	25%	4.6%			
$\tau\tau$	7.3%	2.7%	0.39%		
ZZ	3.1%	1.1%	0.33%	0.069%	
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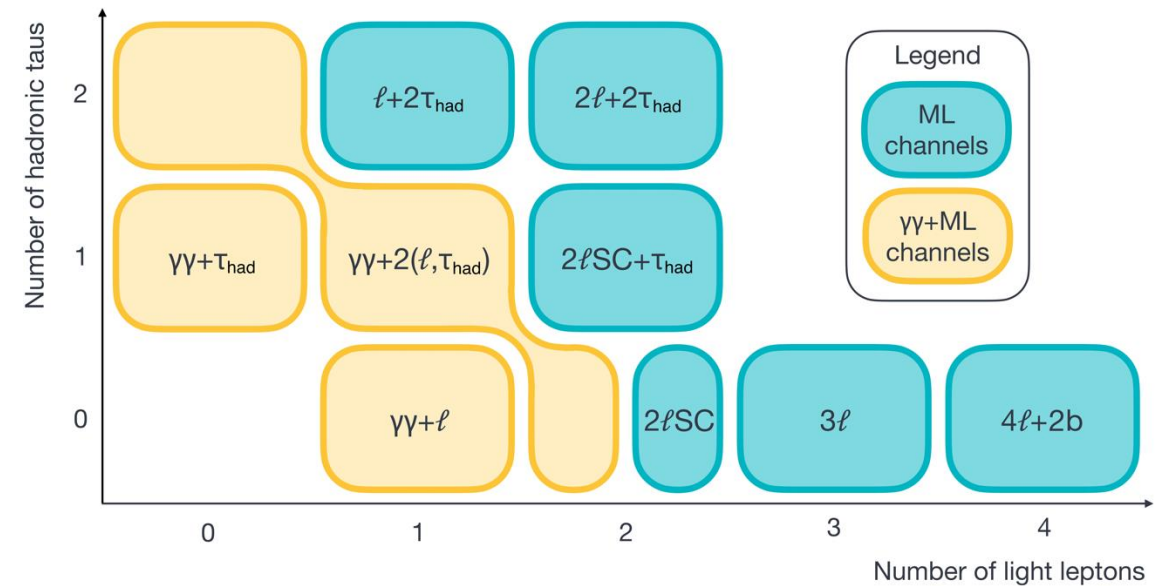
- Define SR by m_{ll} , similar background as $bb\tau\tau$
 - Data-driven fake lepton background
- Discriminant: ggF: DNN score, VBF: BDT score

HH $\rightarrow$ multilepton

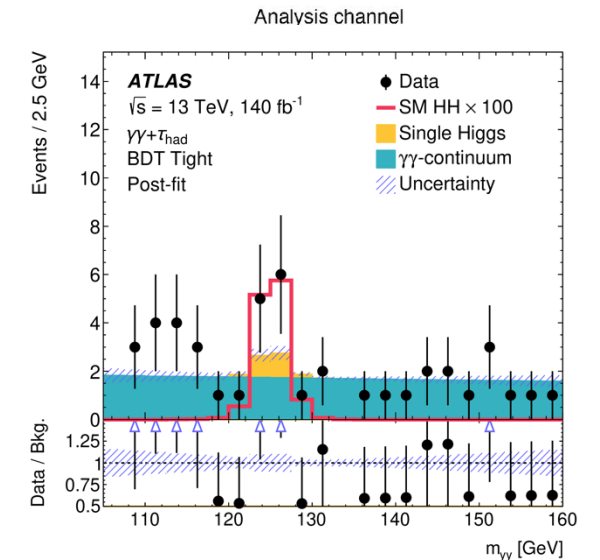
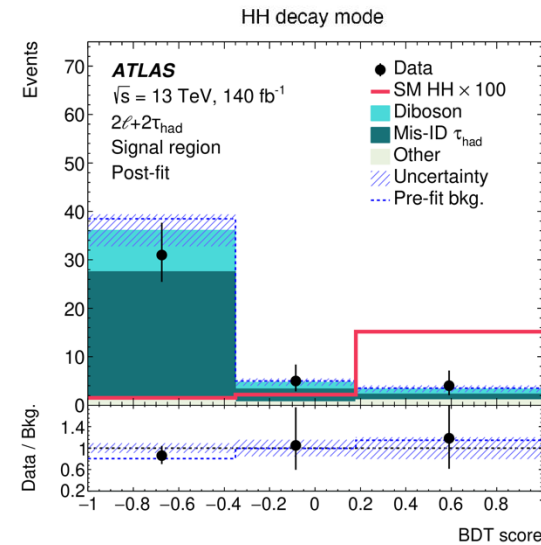
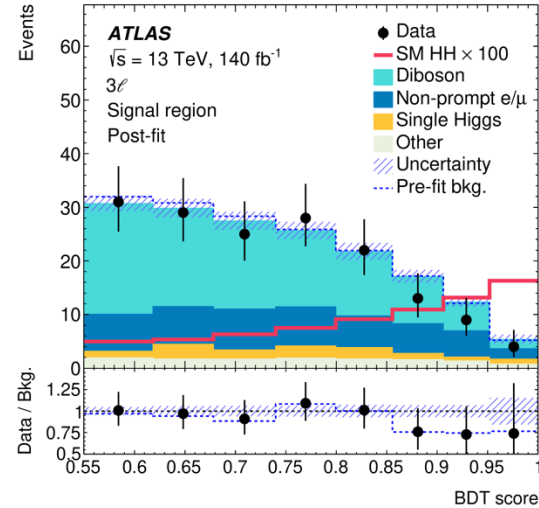
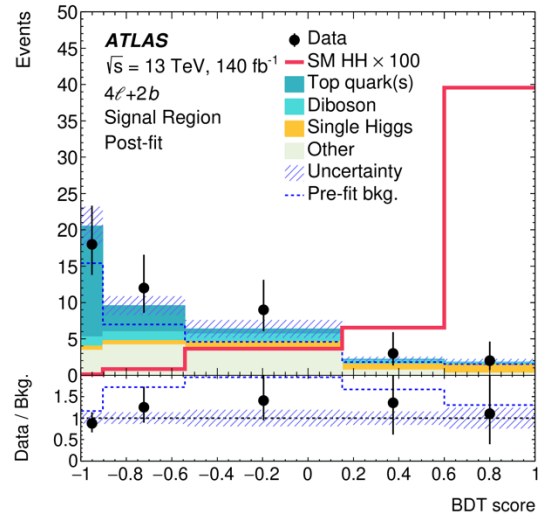
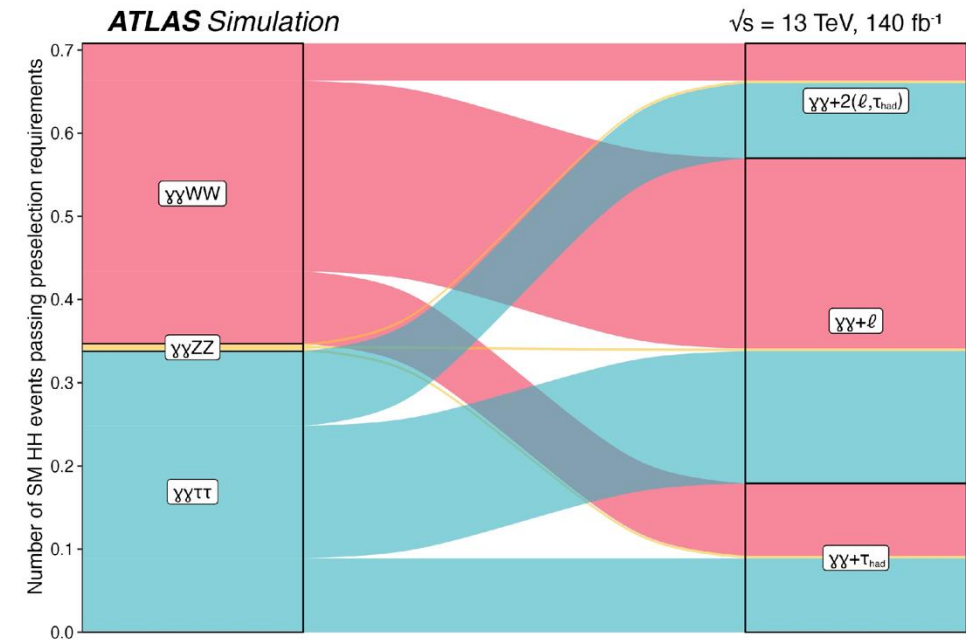
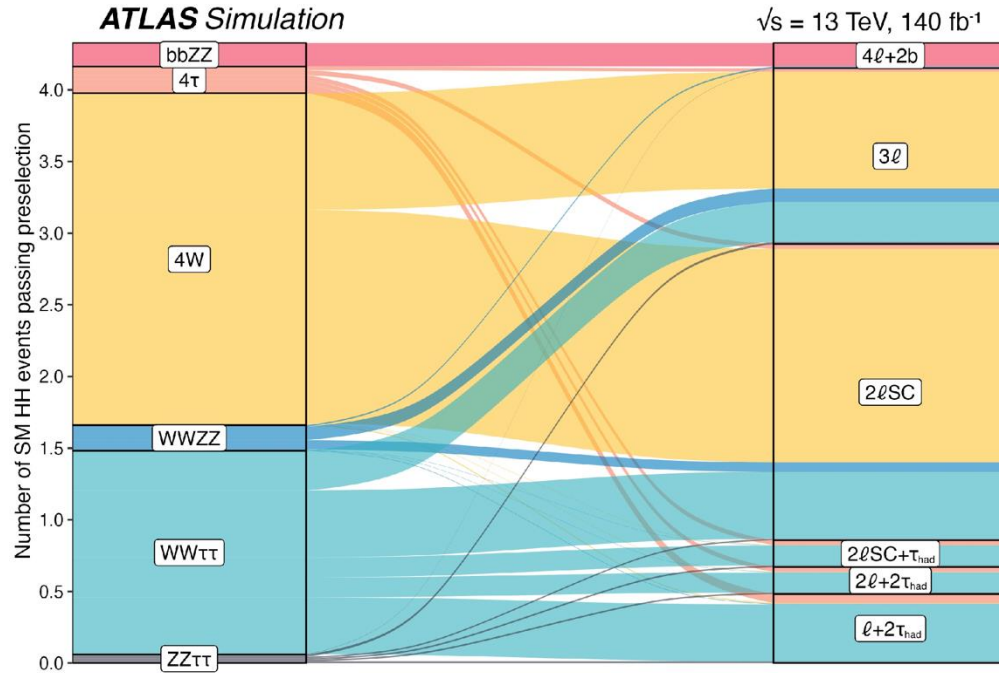
- Target on non-res. HH, decaying to: $bbZZ$, $4V$ ($V = W$ or Z), $VV\tau\tau$, 4τ , $\gamma\gamma VV$ and $\gamma\gamma\tau\tau$
 - Branching ratio $\sim 6.5\%$
 - Events categorized based on the multiplicity of e or μ , hadronic τ , and γ

	bb	WW	$\tau\tau$	ZZ	$\gamma\gamma$
bb	34%				
WW	25%	4.6%			
$\tau\tau$	7.3%	2.7%	0.39%		
ZZ	3.1%	1.1%	0.33%	0.069%	
$\gamma\gamma$	0.26%	0.10%	0.028%	0.012%	0.0005%

- 9 categories based on N. of τ_{had} , e/μ , $\gamma\gamma$

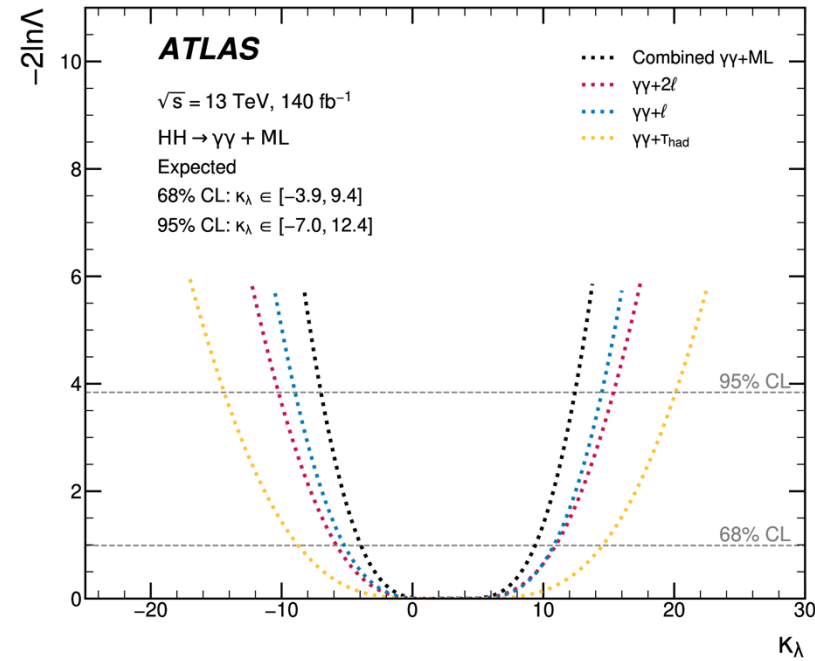
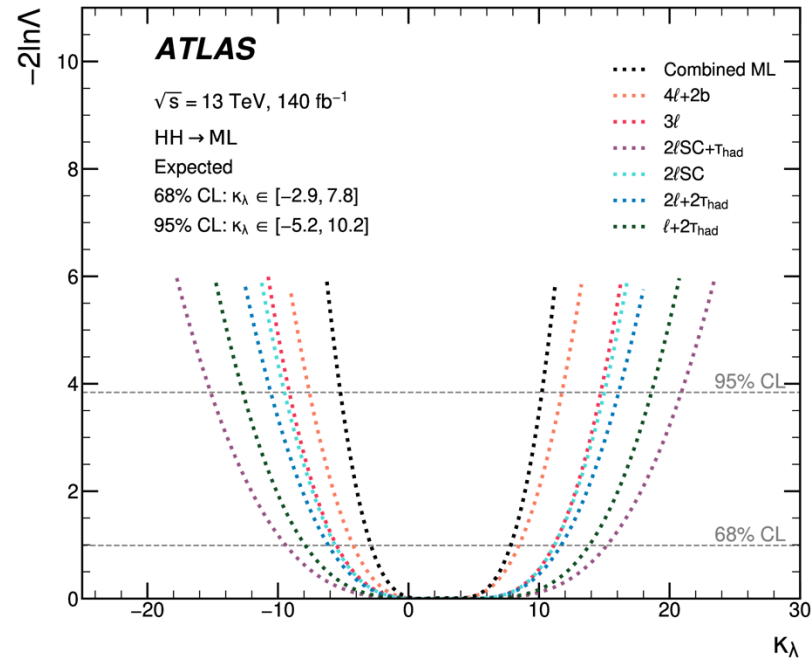
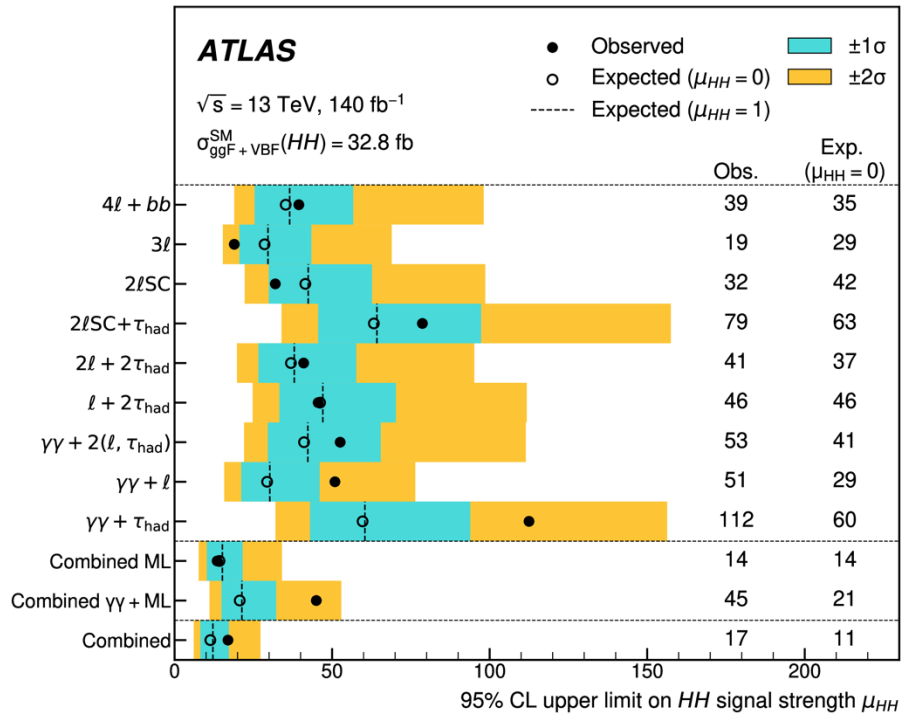


HH $\rightarrow$ multilepton



HH → multilepton

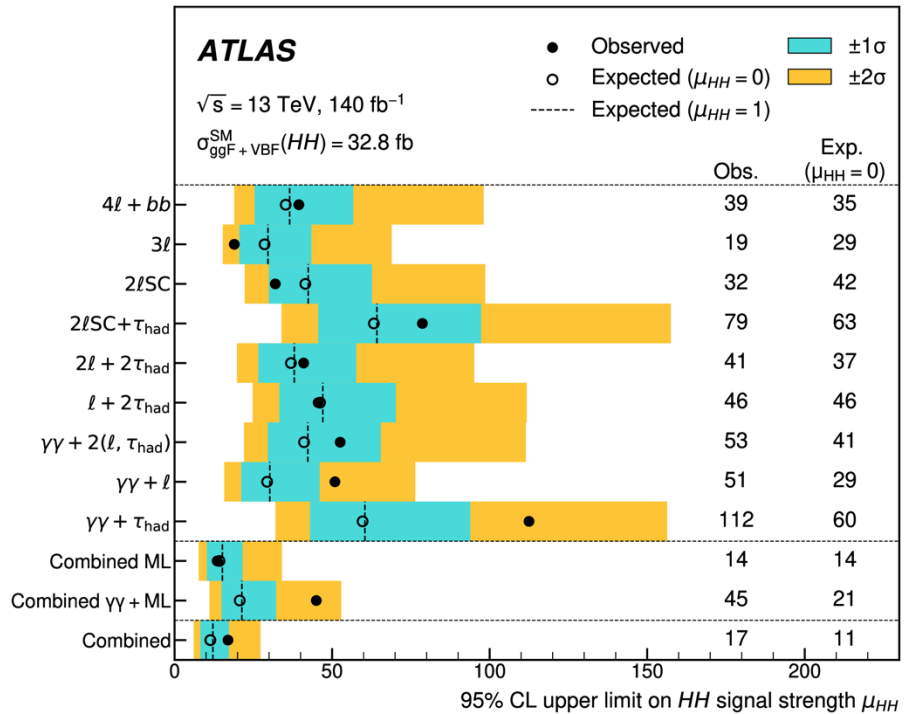
- First time at ATLAS, one of the leading channels
 - Upper limit: 10 (14 exp)



HH $\rightarrow$ multilepton

- First time at ATLAS, one of the leading channels
- Upper limit: 10 (14 exp)

方亚泉 高能所研究员，1974-2025



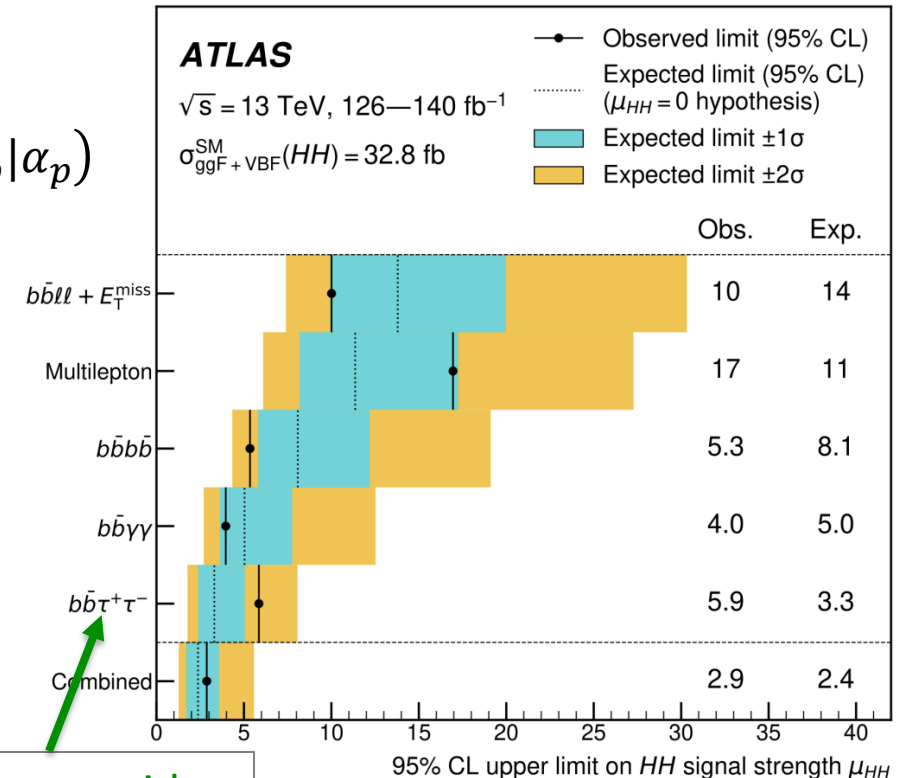
HH Combination

- Combine all available channels to make the most of our data
 - Built combined likelihood from products of likelihoods in each channel
 - Overlaps/correlations/compatibility carefully studied

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{G} | \mu, \alpha) = \prod_c \left(\prod_r \text{Prob} \left(x_r | \sum_i S^i(\mu, \alpha) + \sum_j B^j(\alpha) \right) \right) \times \prod_p f_p(a_p | \alpha_p)$$

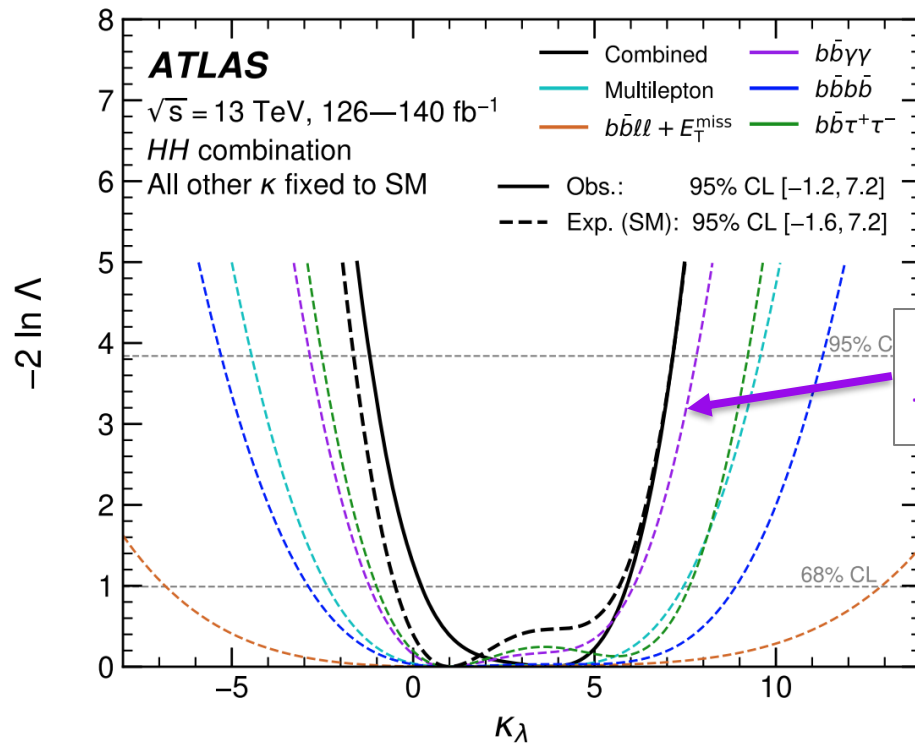
- Full Run-2 data
 - 95% CL upper limit: $\mu_{HH} < 2.9$ (2.4 *exp.*)
 - Signal strength measured at $0.5^{+1.2}_{-1.0} \left(\begin{matrix} +0.9 & +0.7 \\ -0.8 & -0.6 \end{matrix} \right)$ **Systematical**

Statistical (dominant)

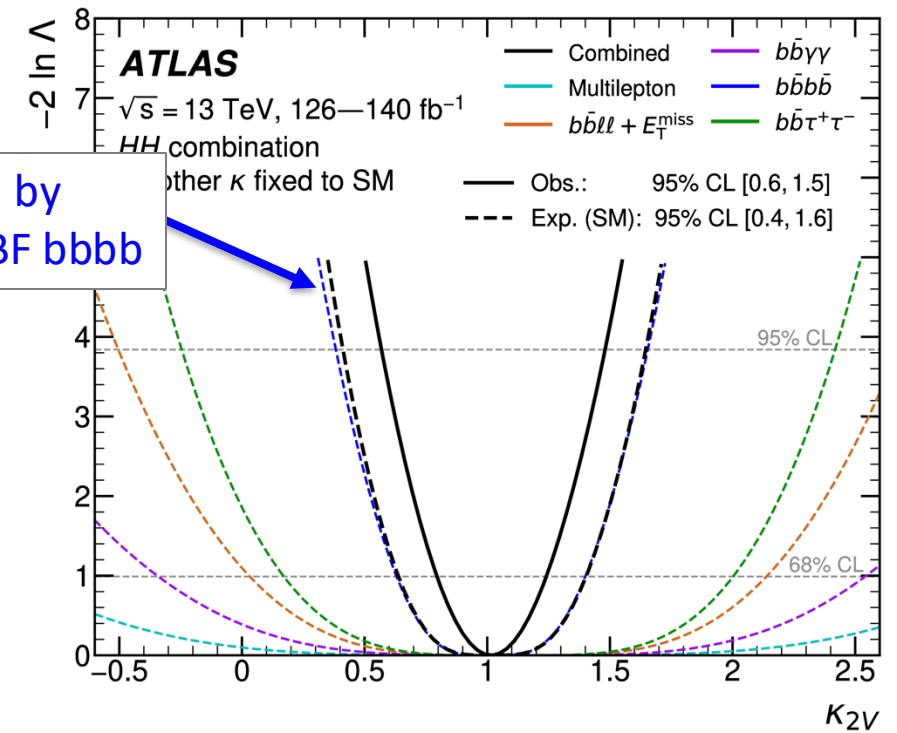


bbautau provides the best sensitivity

Combined Results: Coupling



Dominated by
boosted VBF $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$



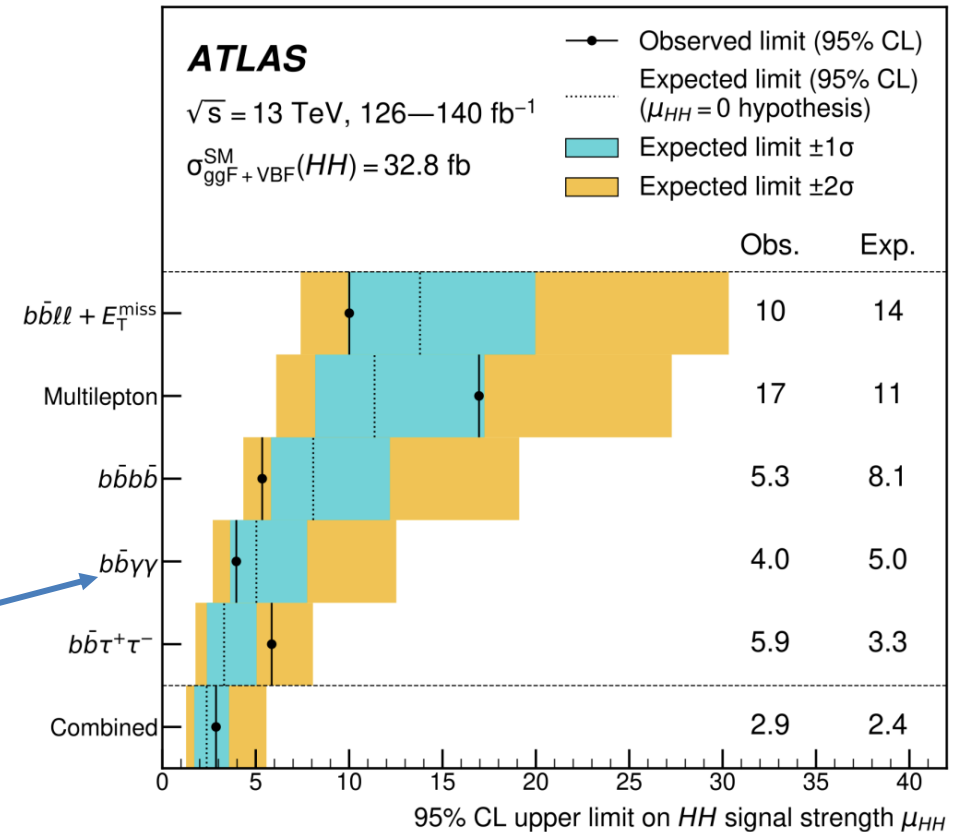
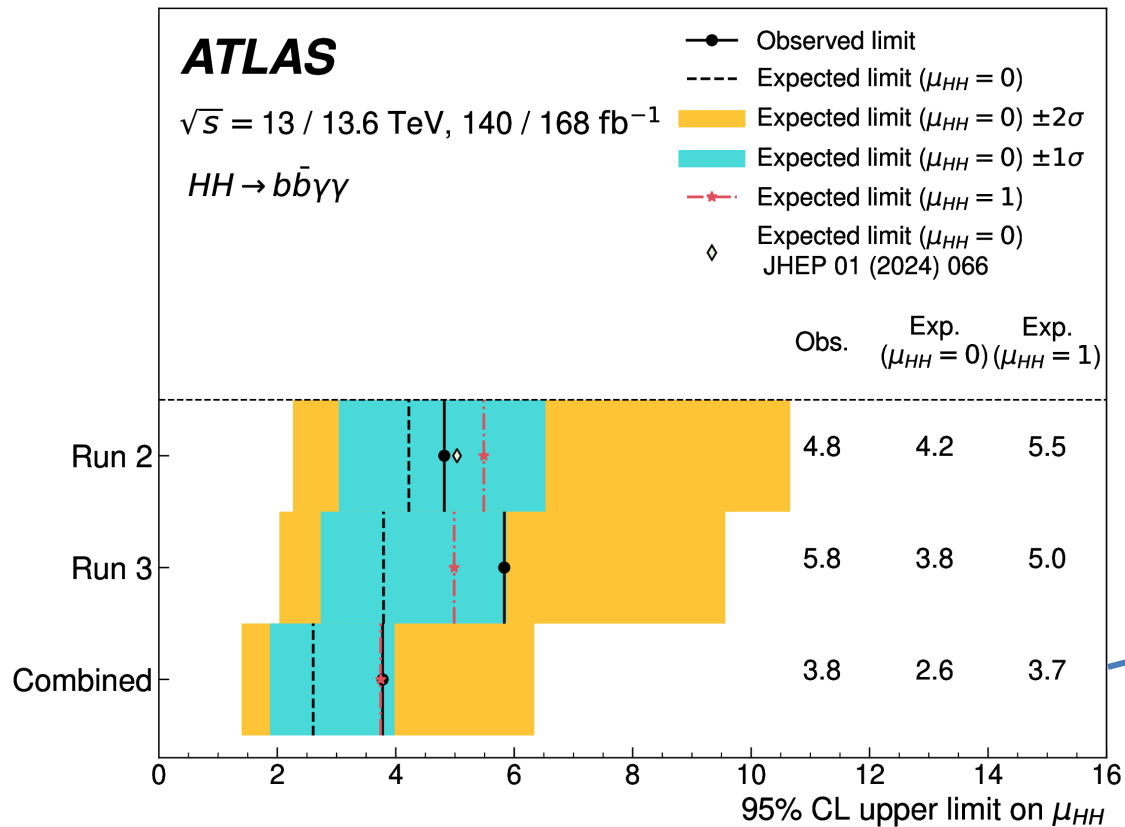
	Best-fit	68% CI	95% CI
Expected	1.0	$[-0.5, 5.7]$	$[-1.6, 7.2]$
Observed	3.8	$[0.2, 5.9]$	$[-1.2, 7.2]$

	Best-fit	68% CI	95% CI
Expected	1.00	$[0.64, 1.40]$	$[0.41, 1.65]$
Observed	1.02	$[0.79, 1.24]$	$[0.57, 1.48]$

- Further constraint from single Higgs measurement, using higher order correction

New results $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$

- Run-2 + partial Run-3 (2022-2024): significant improvement (arXiv:2507.03495)

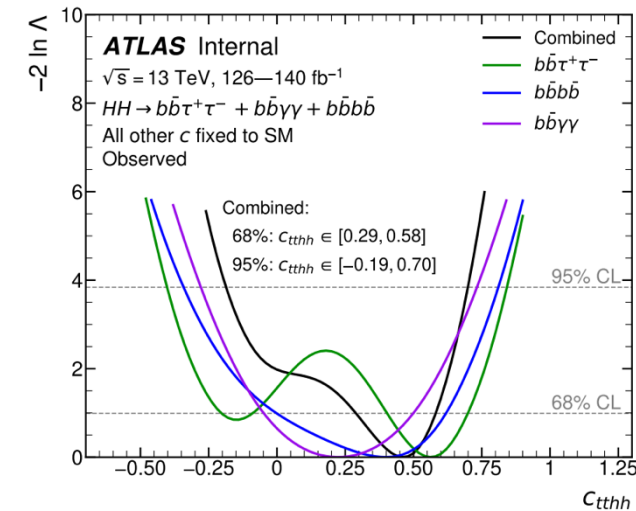
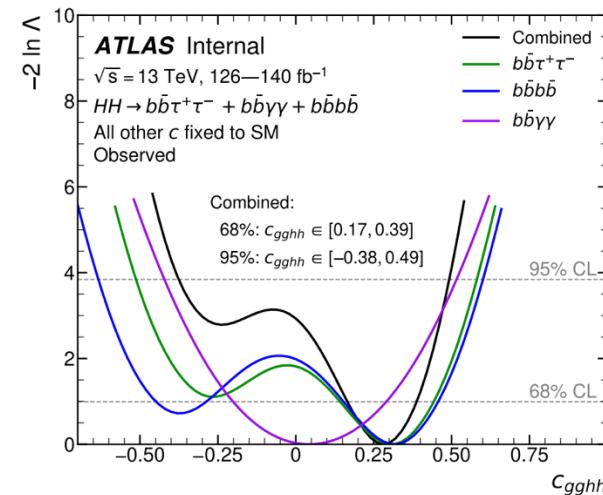
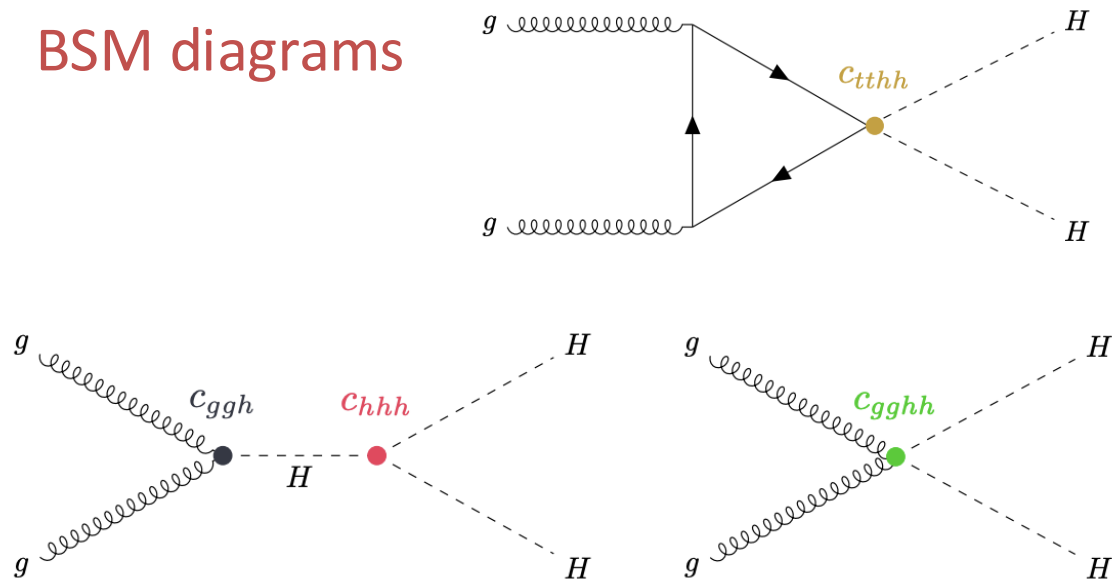


With simple calculation on top of our head,
the new combined expected upper limit at 1.9x SM

EFT Interpretation

- Model-independent interpretation using HEFT
 - Define single- and di- Higgs anomalous couplings separately
 - HH production is especially sensitive to Wilson Coefficients: $c_{hhh}(= \kappa_\lambda)$, c_{gggh} , c_{tthh}
 - Take the 3 leading channels, ggF-only: bbbb, bb $\tau\tau$, bb $\gamma\gamma$

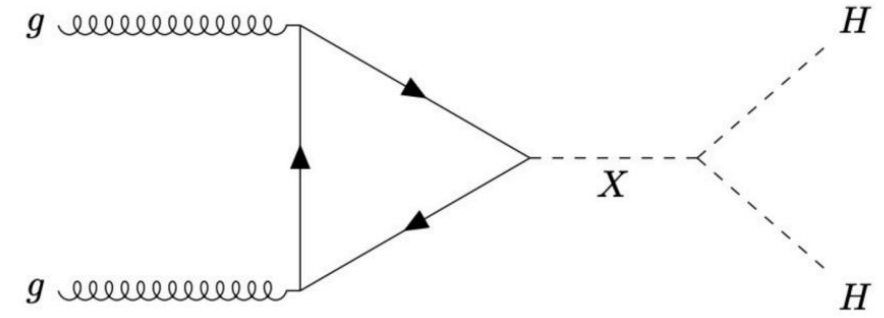
BSM diagrams



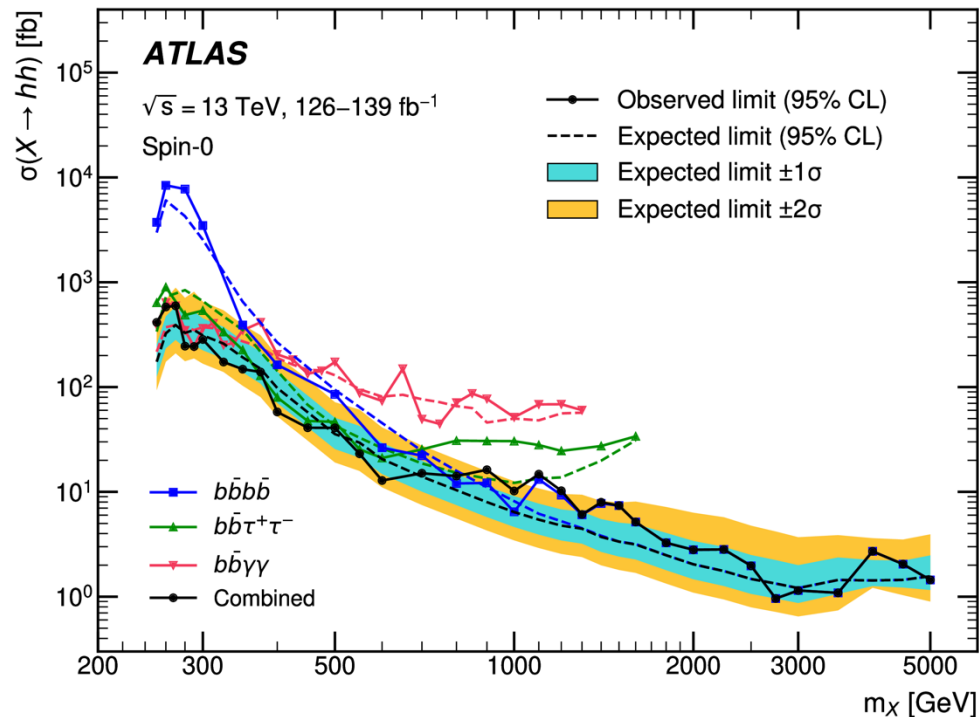
- bbbb and bb $\tau\tau$ show mild deviations from SM
- Further studies required

Combined Results: Resonance

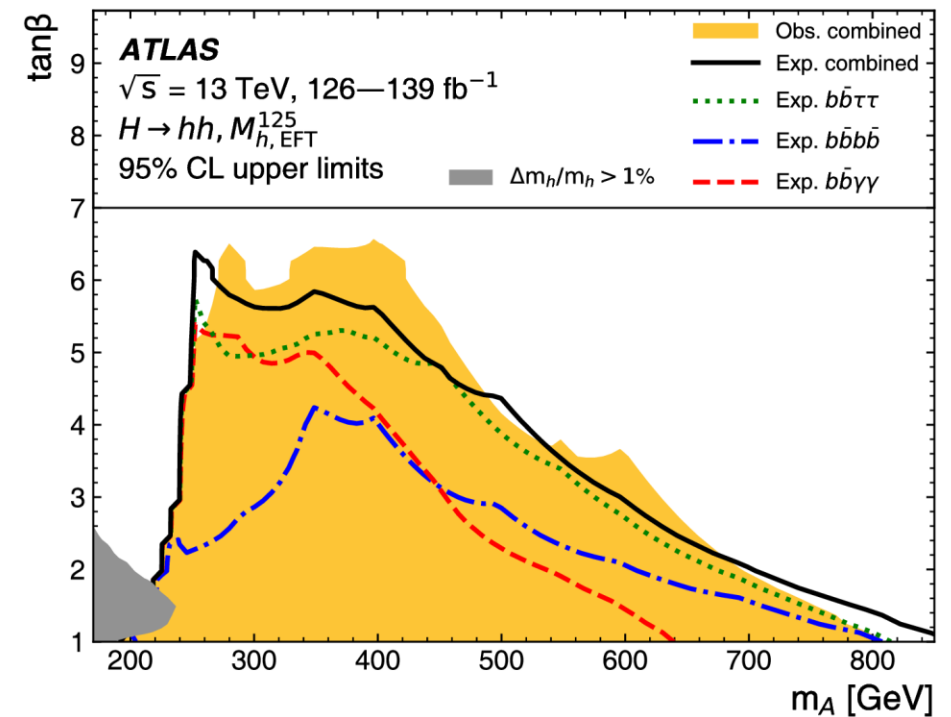
- Search for a narrow-width spin-0 heavy scalar
 - Combine channels: $b\bar{b}b\bar{b} + b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^- + b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$
 - Largest deviation at 1.1 TeV ($Z_{local} = 3.3\sigma$, $Z_{global} = 2.1\sigma$)



Model independent

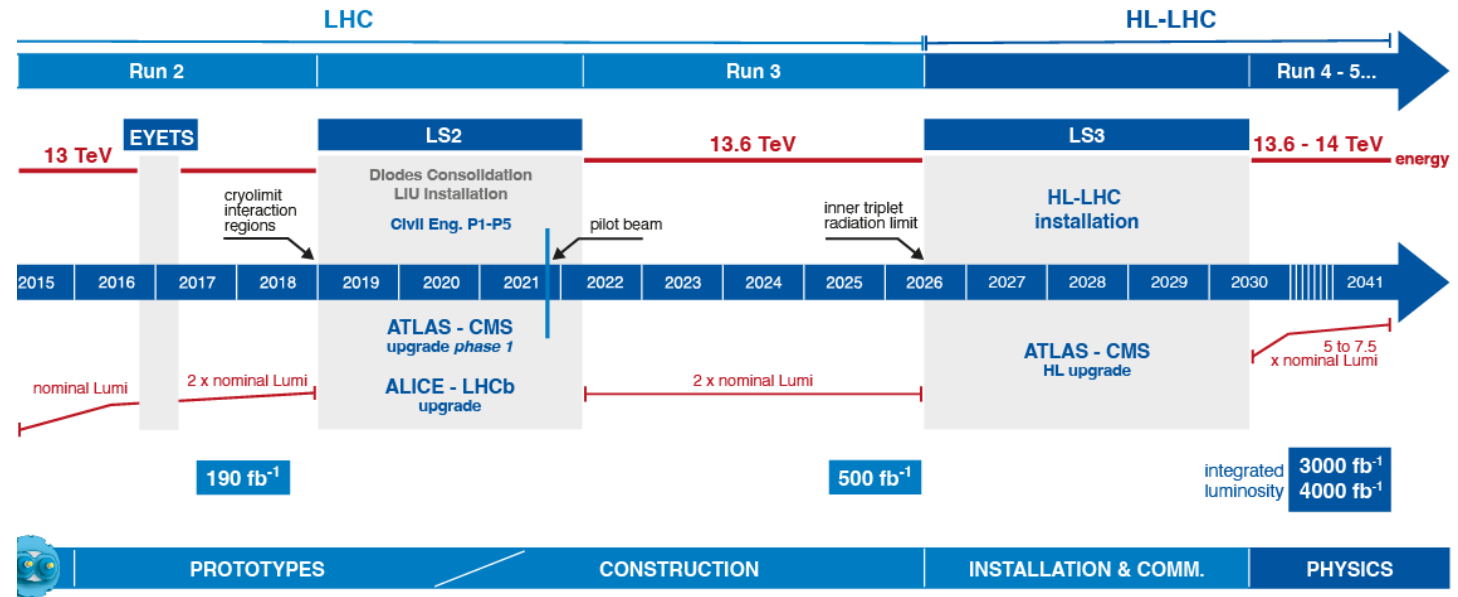
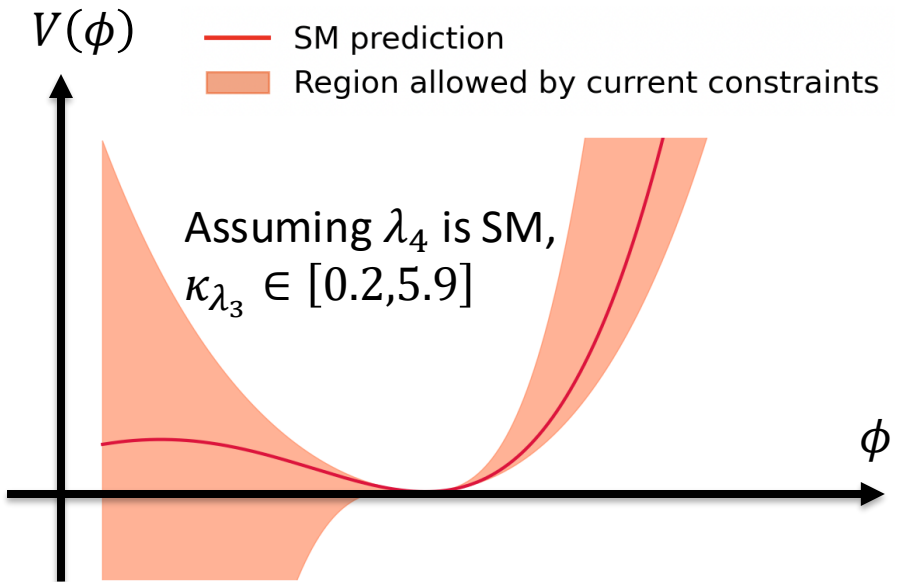


2HDM/hMSSM

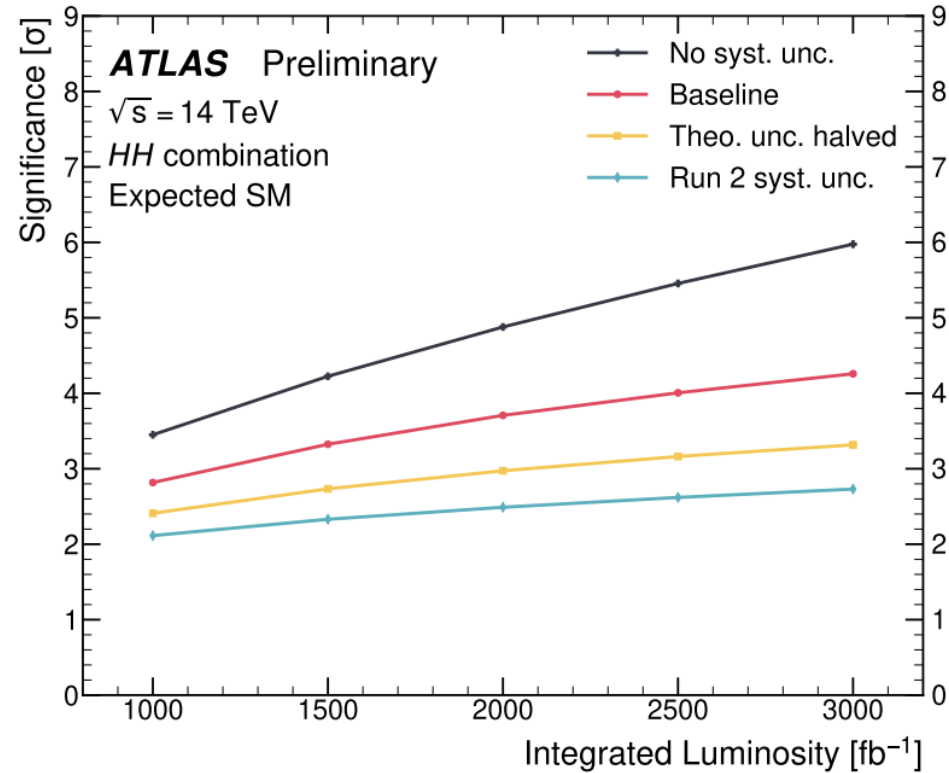


Towards HL-LHC

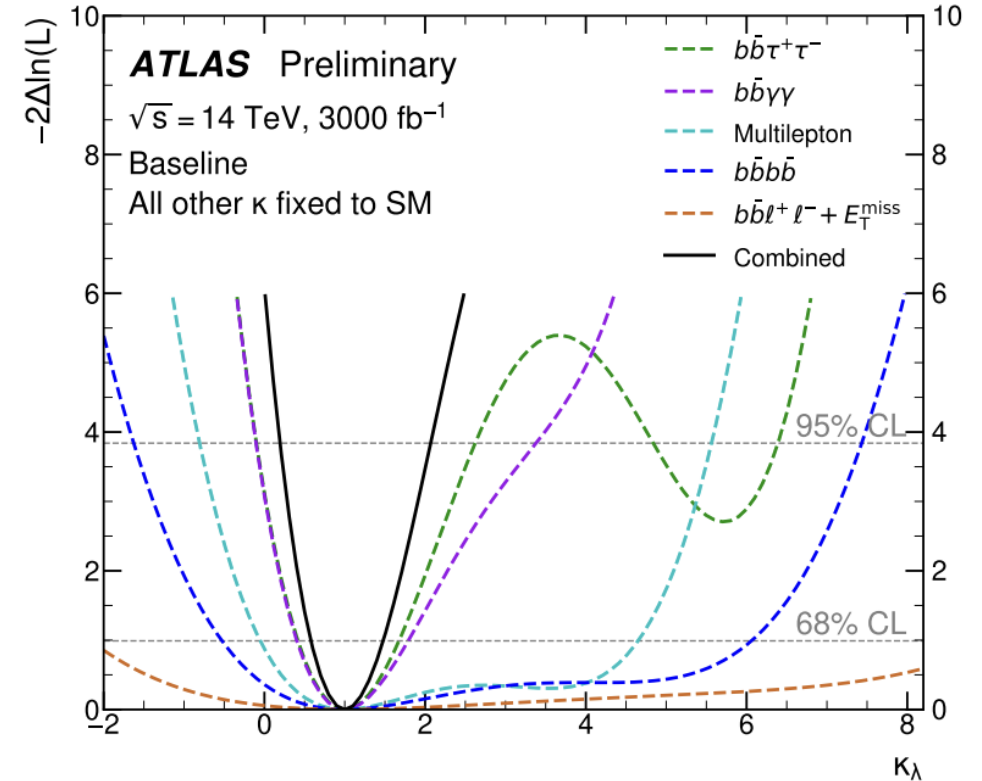
- Current constraint on κ_λ not sufficient to answer the question of stability of universe
- How precision we can achieve with more data in HL-LHC
 - Use some baseline expectations to account in [ATL-PHYS-PUB-2025-006](#)



HL-LHC Projection: ATLAS



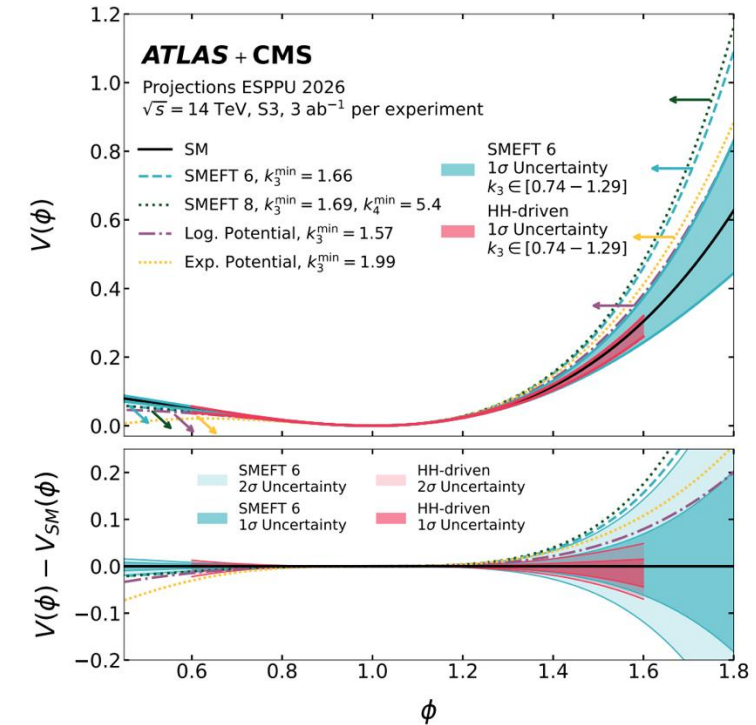
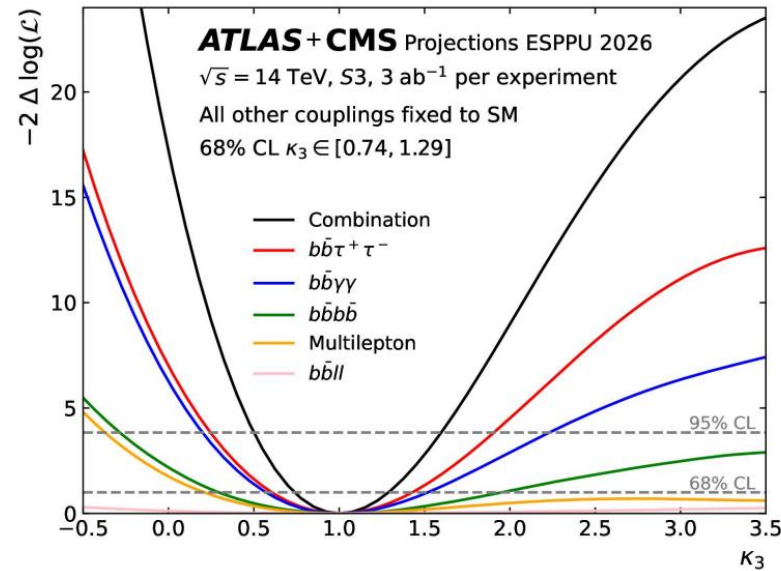
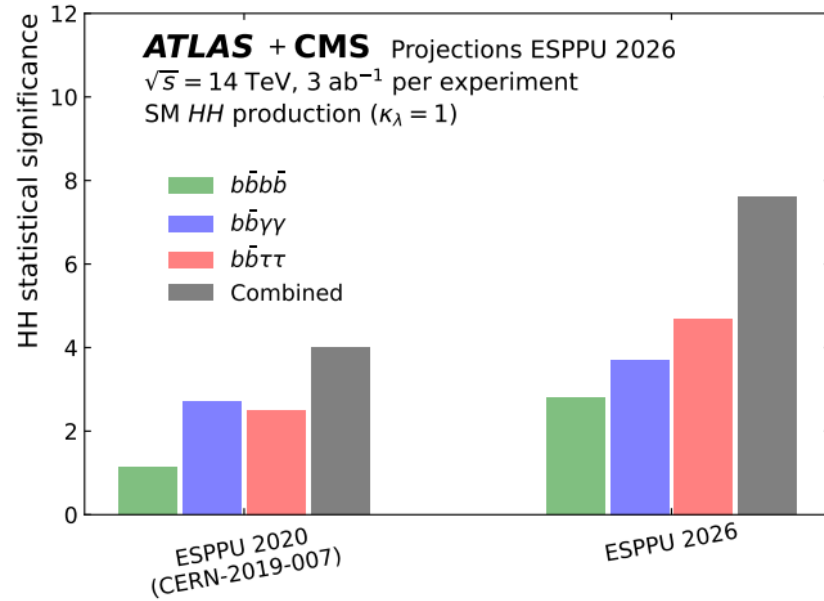
Discovery significance can achieve 4.3σ with 3000/fb



κ_λ expected to be measured at $1.00^{+0.48}_{-0.42}$

HL-LHC Projection: ATLAS+CMS

arXiv:2504.00672



7.2 σ significance Expected

6.0 σ with conservative 2 ab^{-1}

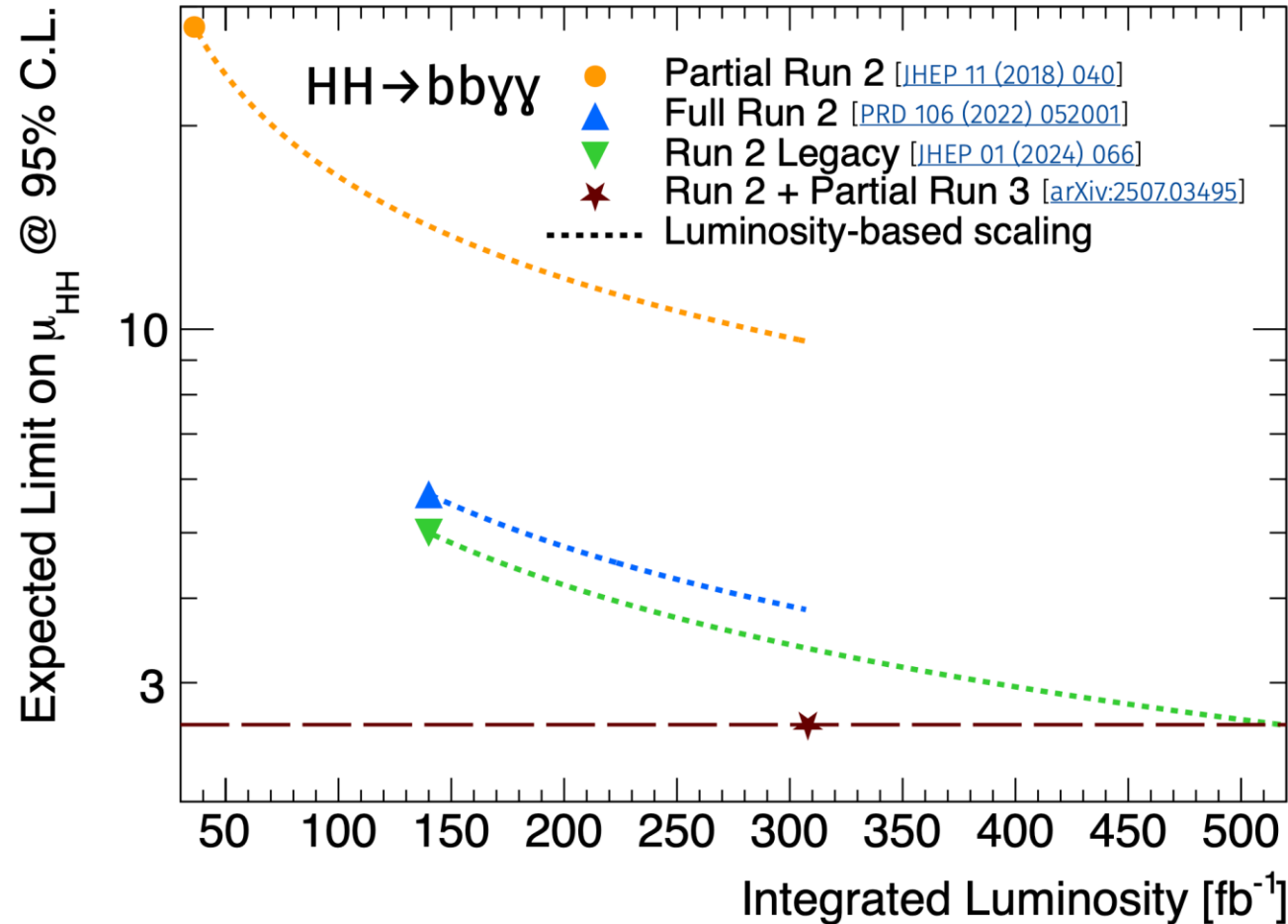
Expected to **Discovery** the HH!

<30% κ_λ precision expected

Can exclude physical hypotheses for the shape of the Higgs potential, rather than just eliminating parts of parameter space.



HL-LHC Projection: More optimistic

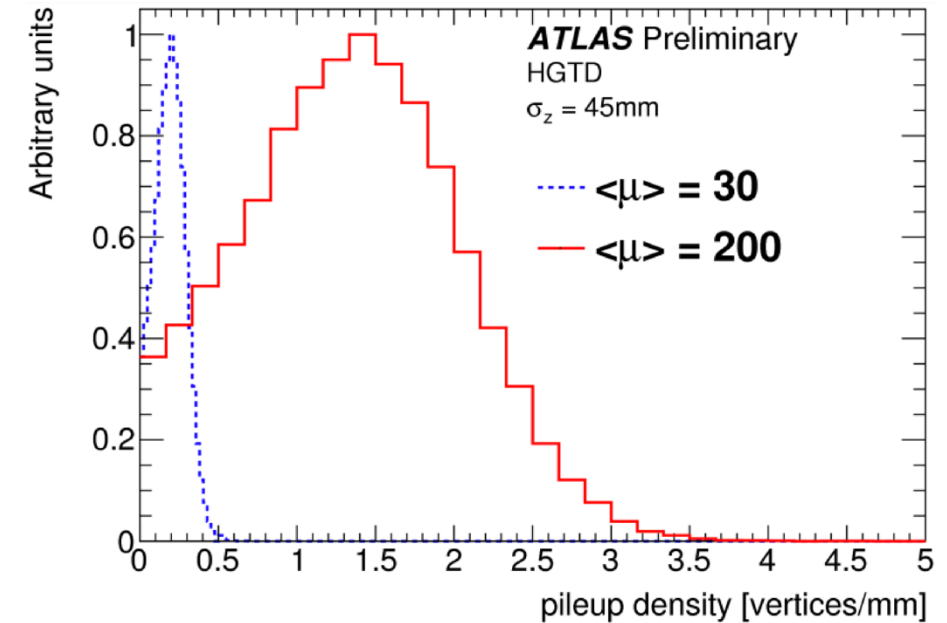
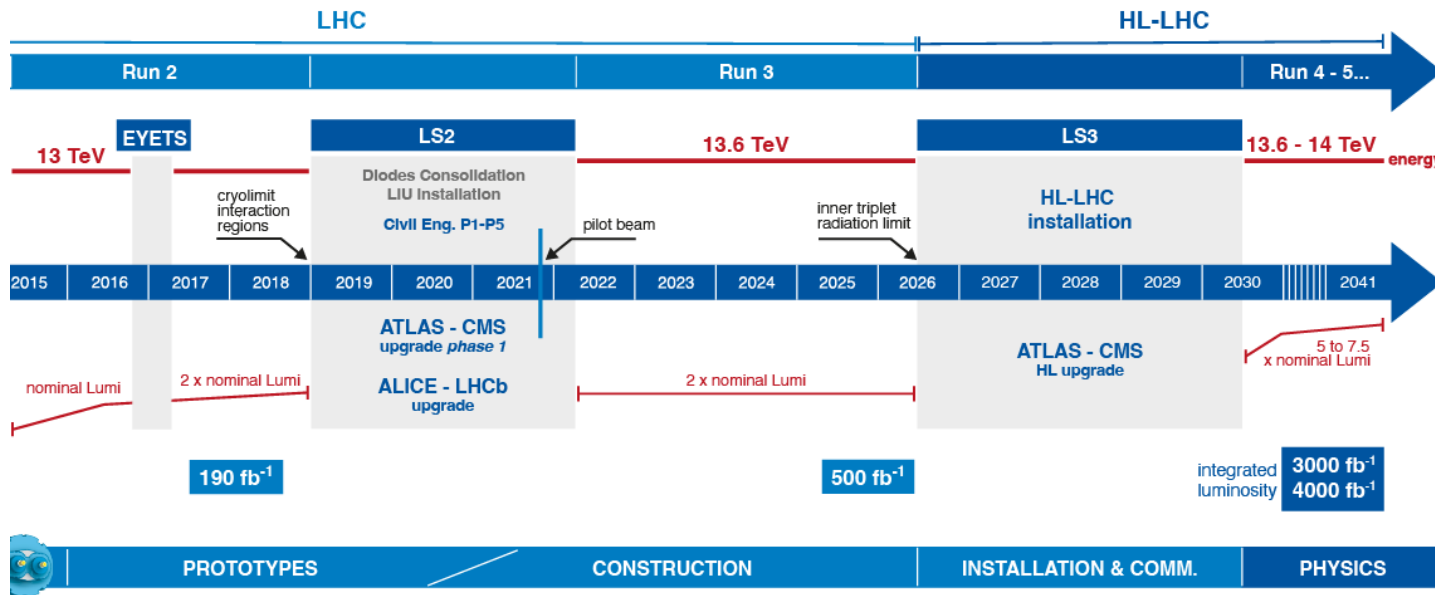


- Keep improving our analyses
 - Otherwise, early Run 2 analysis would need $\sim 4200/\text{fb}$ to reach current sensitivity

Tools for future HEP

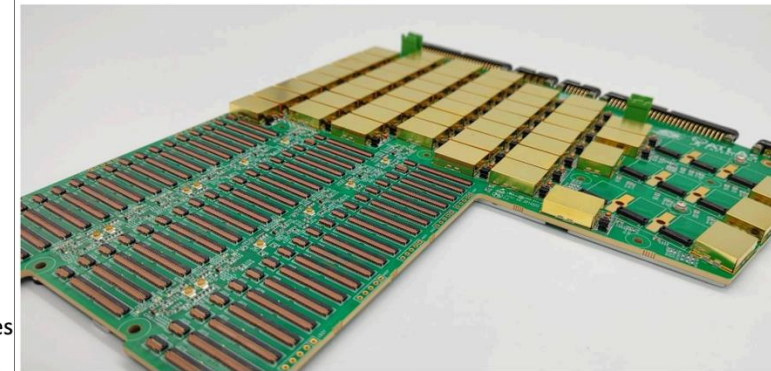
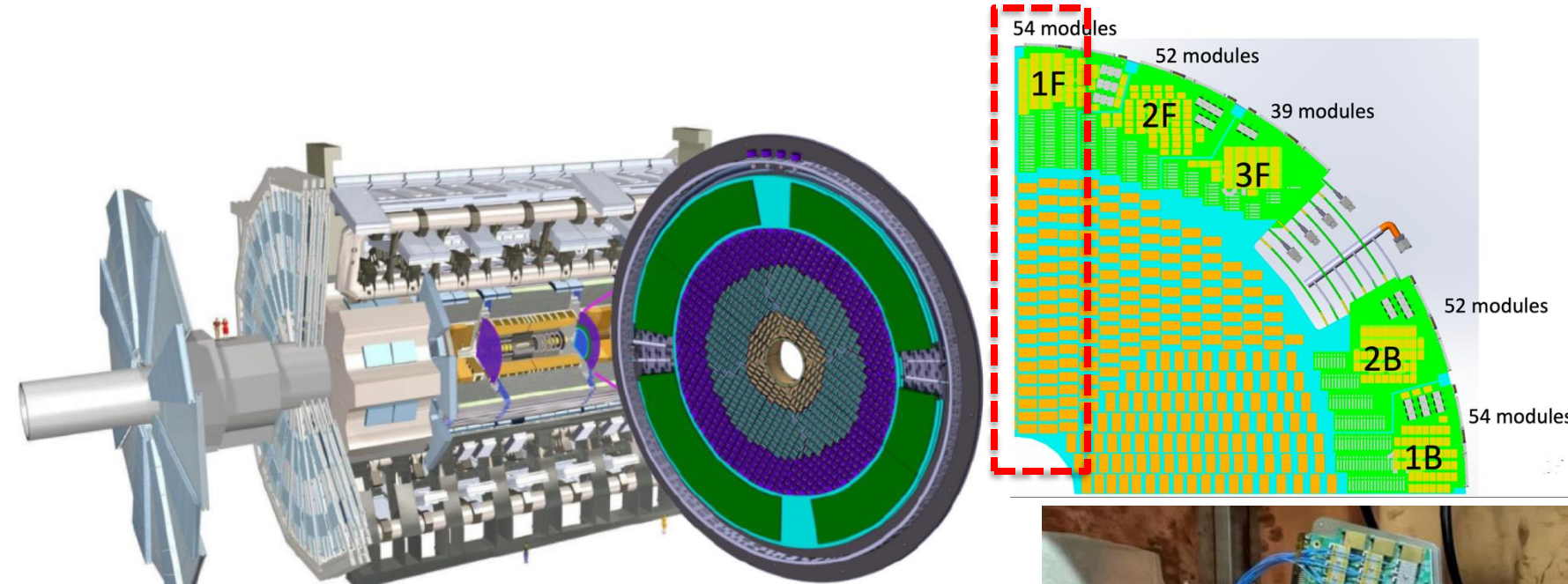
High-Luminosity (HL-) LHC

- High Luminosity LHC: 2030 -- ~2041
 - 7.5x nominal lumi., integrated lumi. up to 4000 fb⁻¹
 - Up to 200 p-p interactions (“pile-up”) per bunch crossing
 - Requiring higher radiation hardness of the detector



ATLAS detector upgrade: HGTD

- Installed at ATLAS forward region
 - Per track timing resolution of 30-50 ps to improve vertex reconstruction and pile-up rejection
 - Coverage: $2.4 < |\eta| < 4.0$, measure bunch-by-bunch luminosity



CEPC: LumiCal

- Small Angle Bhabha Scattering: $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$

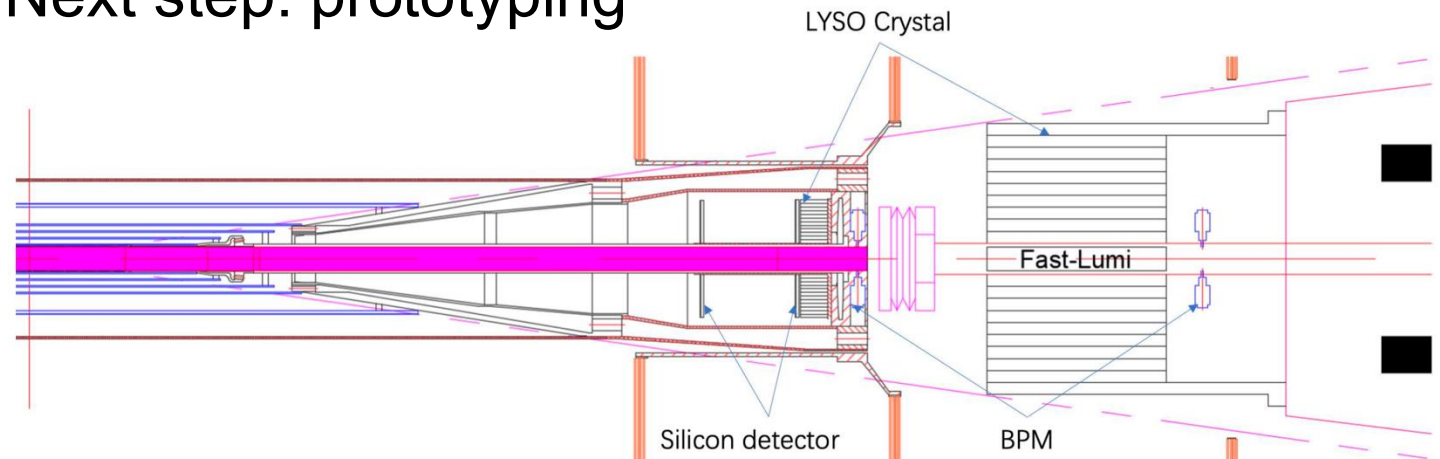
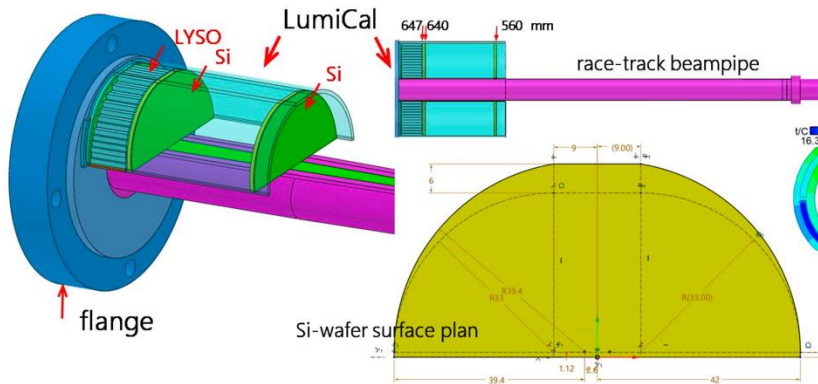
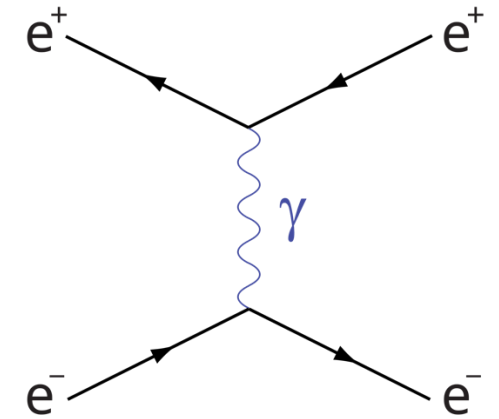
$$\sigma = \frac{1040 \text{ nb GeV}^2}{s} \left(\frac{1}{\theta_{min}^2} - \frac{1}{\theta_{max}^2} \right)$$

- Peaked in forward region, at <100 mRad

- Dedicated detector needed

- Two LYSO+SiPM based detectors on each side of Interaction Point

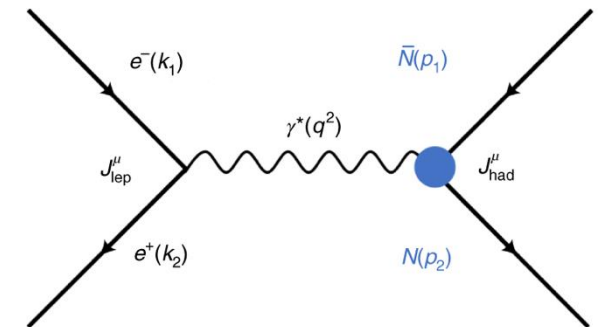
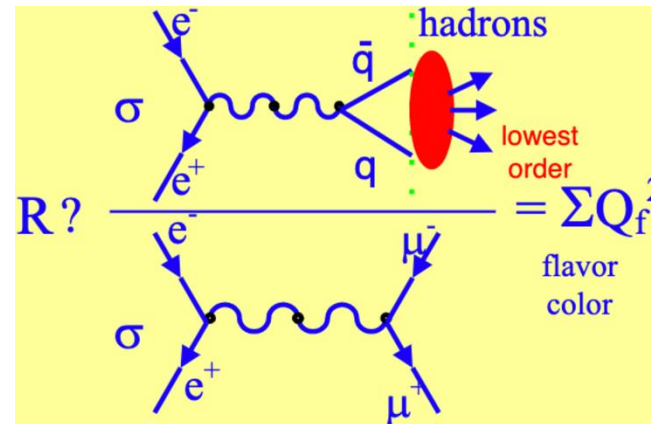
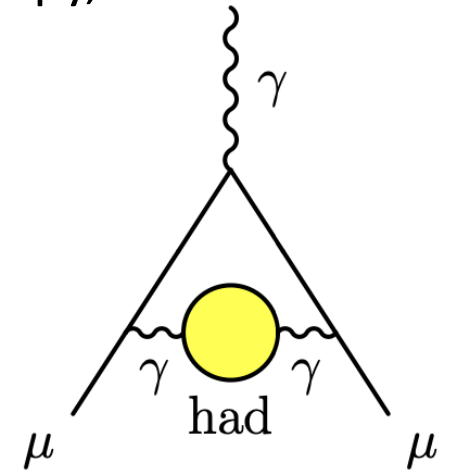
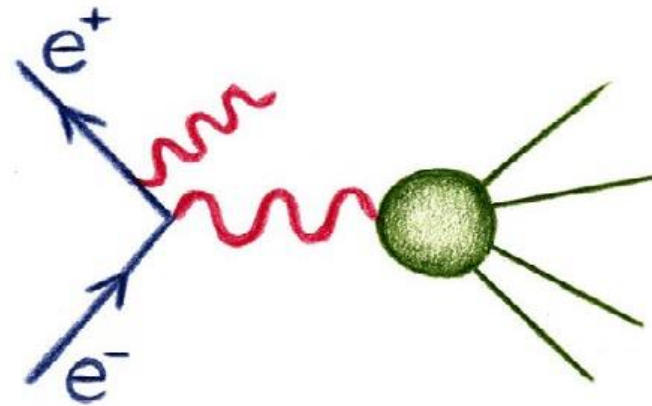
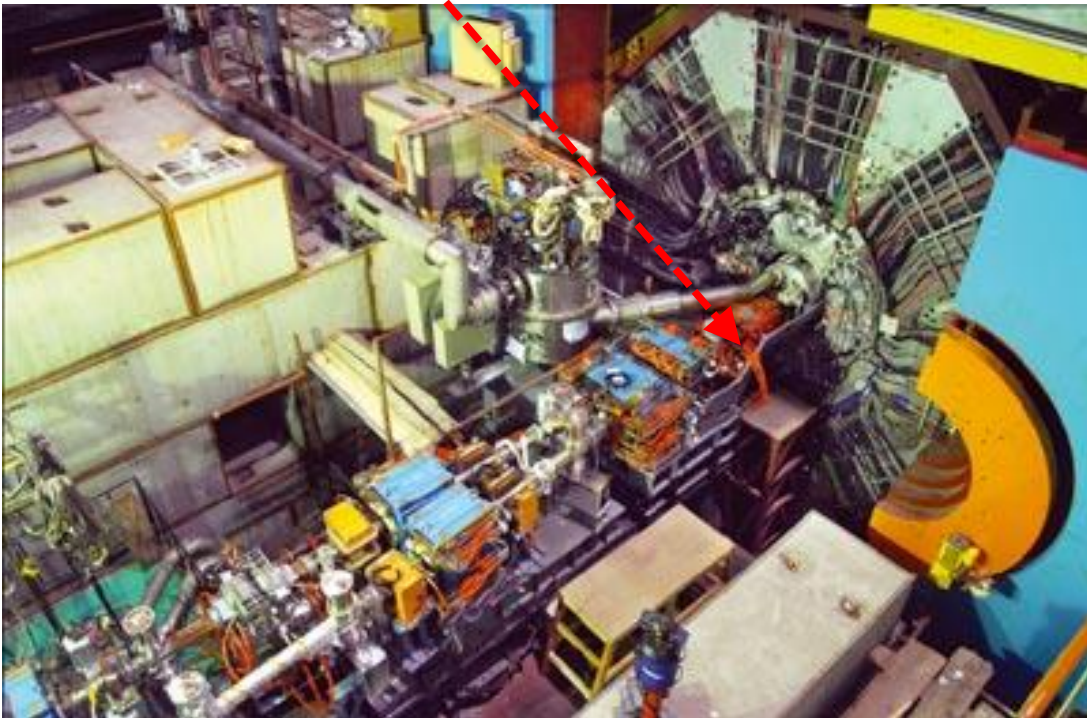
- TDR published: arXiv:2510.05260. Next step: prototyping



BESIII forward region: ideal place for prototyping

- BEPCII-BESIII: e⁺e⁻ collider, COM energy: ~2-5 GeV, Luminosity: ~10³³cm⁻²/s
 - Zero-Degree-Calorimeter(ZDC): fast luminosity monitor and ISR photon tagging
 - ISR physics: R-value, Muon g-2: HVP, Nucleon Form Factor, Hadron spectroscopy, etc.

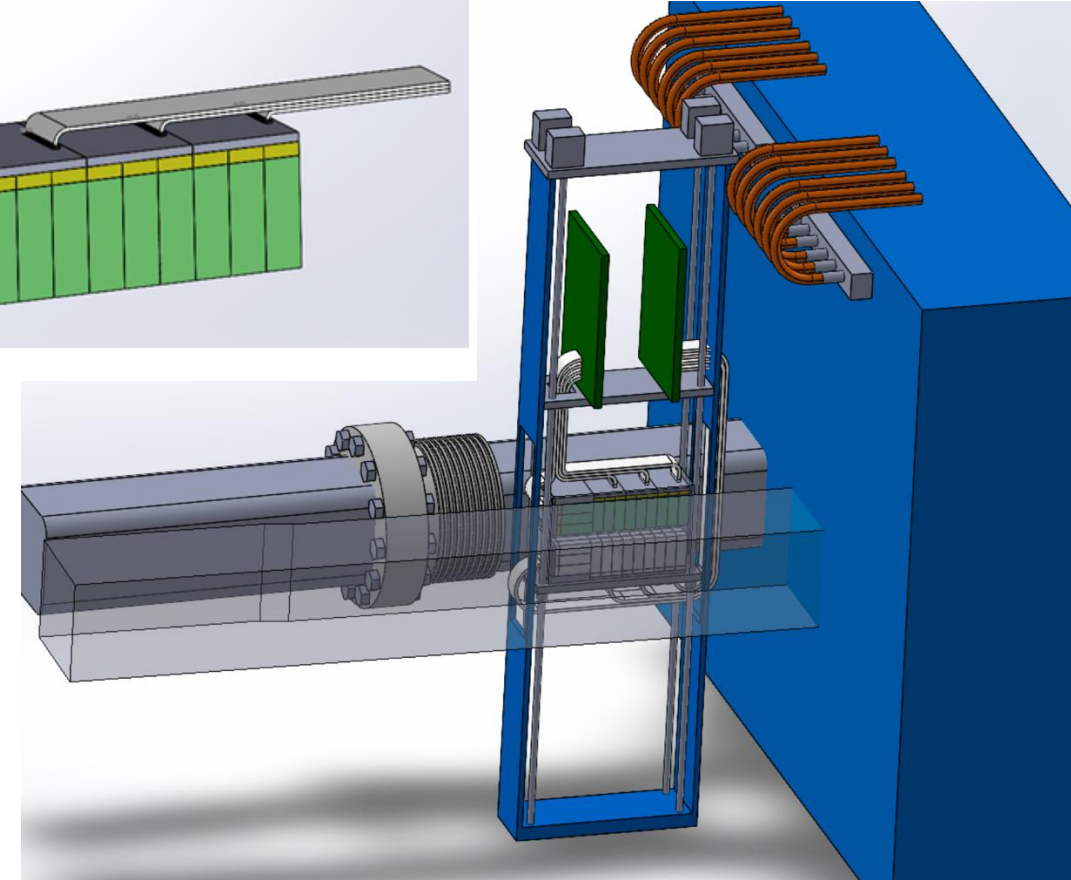
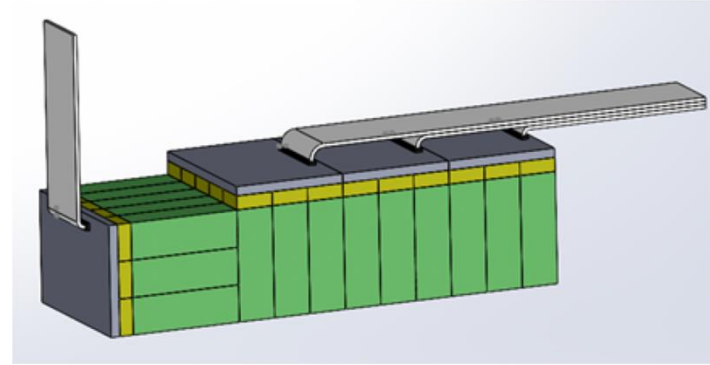
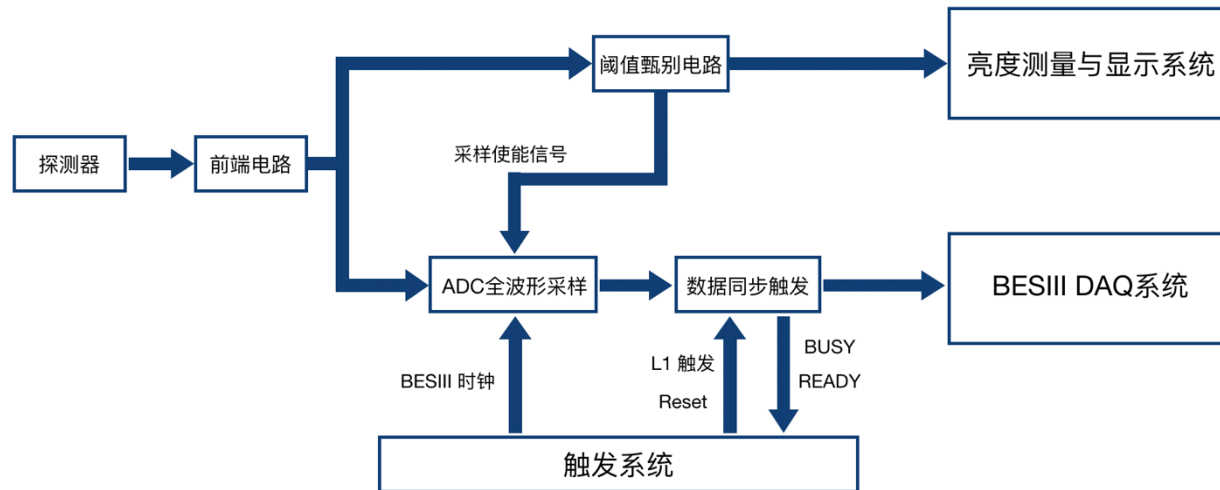
ZDC at forward region,
 $\theta=0$ in CMS frame



BESIII forward region: ideal place for prototyping

- ZDC: LYSO+SiPM array
 - Same as CEPC LumiCal

- Data-flow chart of ZDC



Summary

- Final ATLAS HH results with Run-2 data presented
 - 95% CL U.L. : $\mu_{HH} < 2.9$ (2.4 *exp.*)
 - 95% CI on κ_λ : $[-1.2, 7.2]$ ($[-1.6, 7.2]$ *exp.*) and κ_{2V} : $[0.57, 1.48]$ ($[0.41, 1.65]$ *exp.*)
- Looking forward
 - Early Run 3 results coming, e.g. new bbyy results, more to come
 - Further combine with CMS will provide more promising results
 - Future projects, e.g. HL-LHC, CEPC, will give more definite answers
- Detector R&D crucial for the promising results in future
 - E.g. HGTD for ATLAS at HL-LHC, CEPC LumiCal, as well as ZDC at BESIII

backup