

# Investigating the Higgs self-couplings through HHH production

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based on work in progress with Georg Weiglein



*HHH workshop, Dubrovnik*

15 July 2023

# Introduction

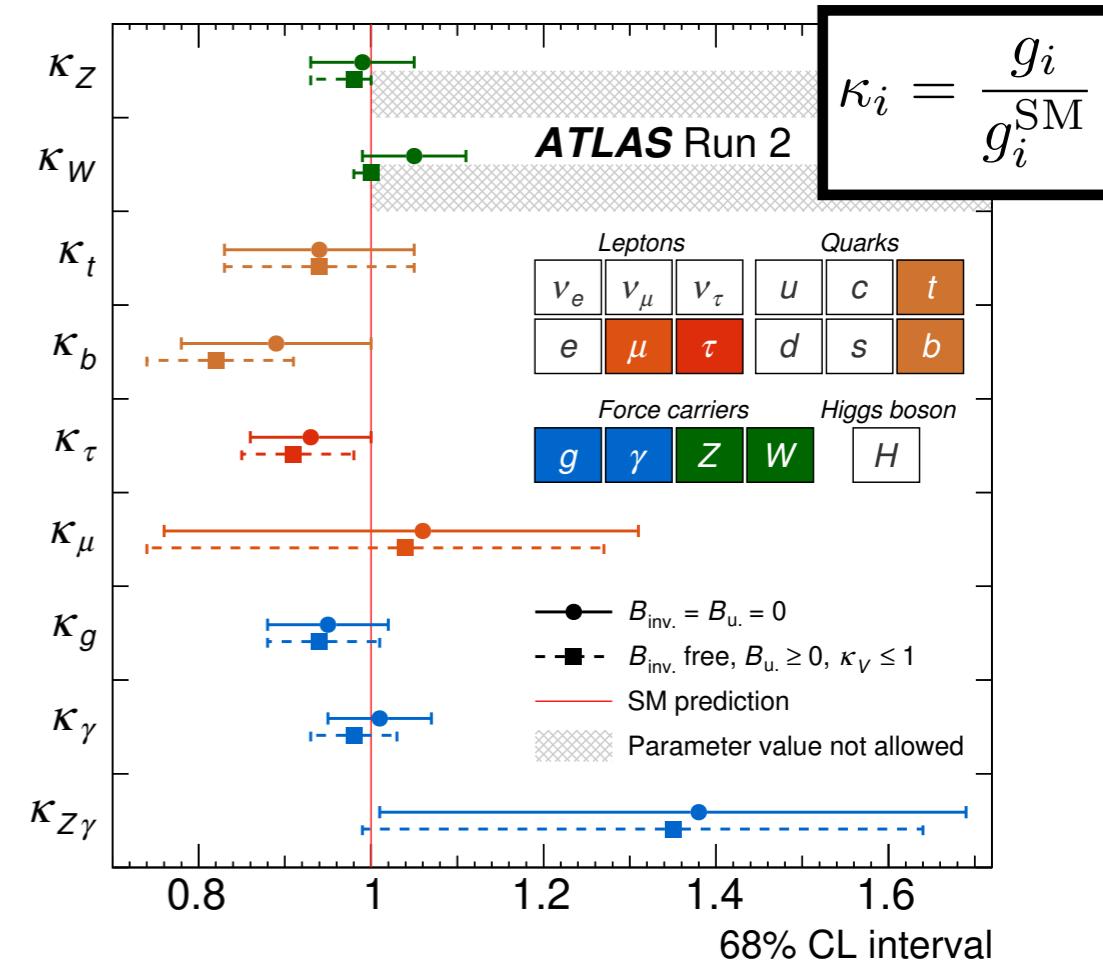
- Higgs discovery at the LHC
- Tremendous efforts from experiments to pinpoint consistency with SM Higgs

- **Most challenging:**

SM Potential: 
$$V(\Phi) = \lambda(\Phi^\dagger\Phi)^2 - \mu^2\Phi^\dagger\Phi$$

$$\supset -\lambda v H^3 - \frac{\lambda}{4} H^4$$

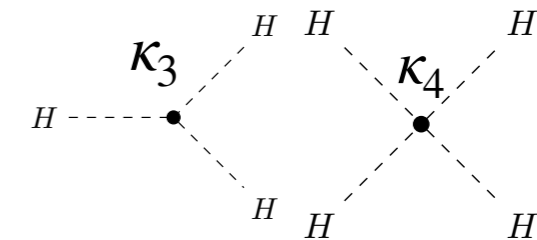
BSM theories → more complicated shapes



- **First step:**

▶ measure  $\kappa_3$  → double Higgs production

- **But:**  $\kappa_3$  also appears in triple-Higgs production



# Content

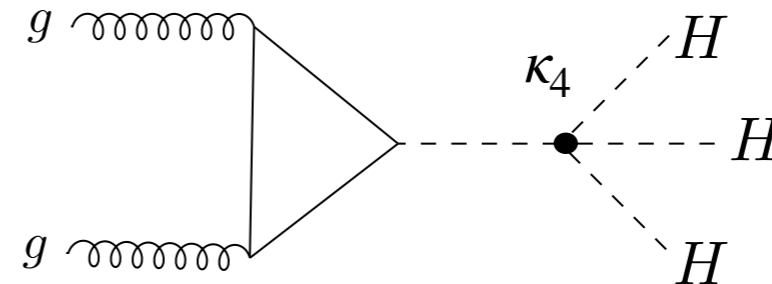
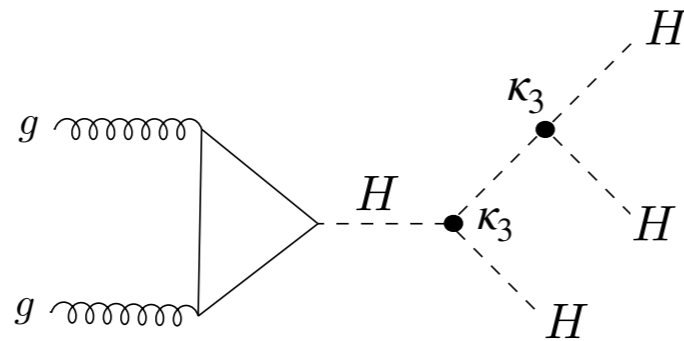
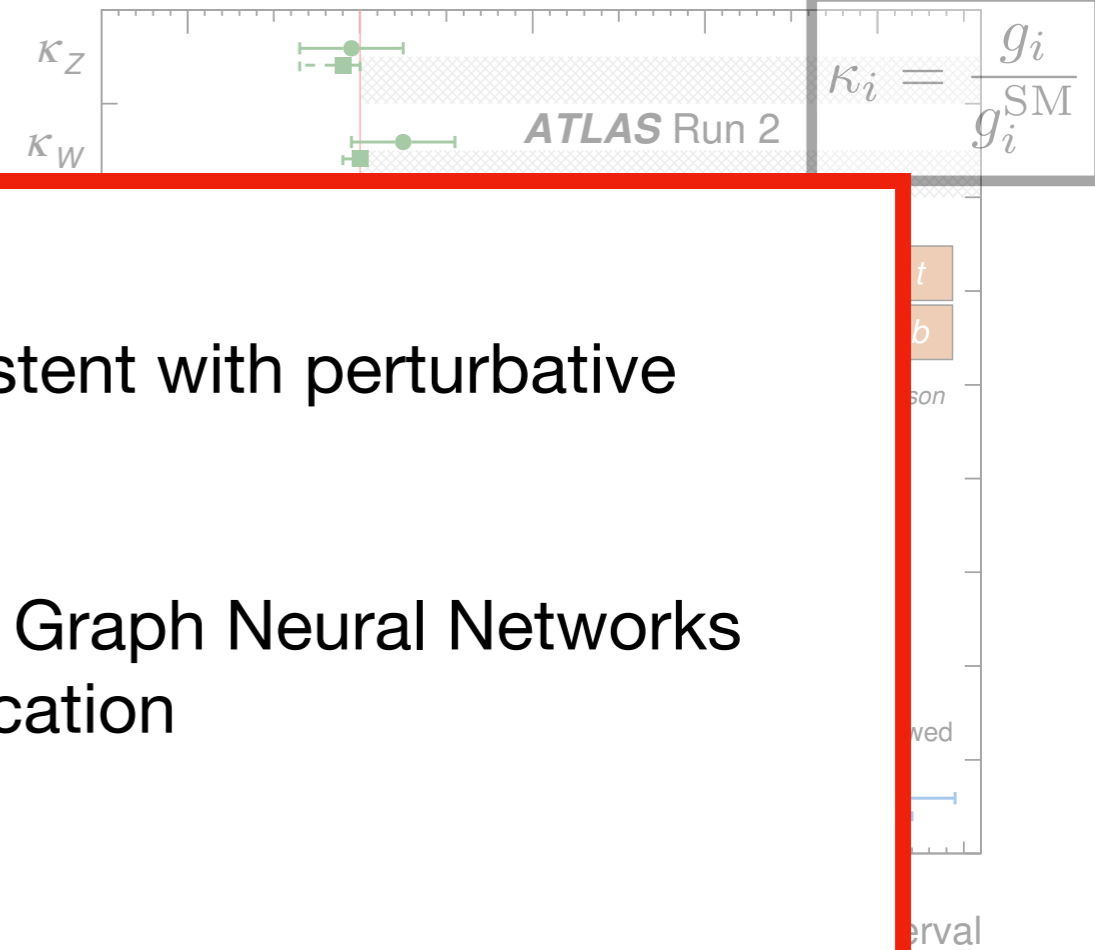
- Higgs discovery at the LHC

- Tree  
level

- SM

- BSM

- Values of  $(\kappa_3, \kappa_4)$  theoretically consistent with perturbative unitarity
- HL-LHC exclusions for  $(\kappa_3, \kappa_4)$  using Graph Neural Networks (GNN) for signal-background classification
- Interpreting GNN results
- Comparison with future linear lepton collider concepts



# Perturbative unitarity and Higgs couplings

- Process relevant for  $\kappa_3, \kappa_4$  is  $HH \rightarrow HH$  scattering (see also [Liu et al `18])
- Jacob-Wick expansion allows to extract partial waves

$$\beta(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 2xy - 2yz - 2xz$$

$$a_{fi}^J = \frac{\beta^{1/4}(s, m_{f_1}^2, m_{f_1}^2) \beta^{1/4}(s, m_{i_1}^2, m_{i_1}^2)}{32\pi s} \int_{-1}^1 d \cos \theta \mathcal{D}_{\mu_i \mu_f}^J \mathcal{M}(s, \cos \theta)$$

Wigner functions

- Tree level unitarity:

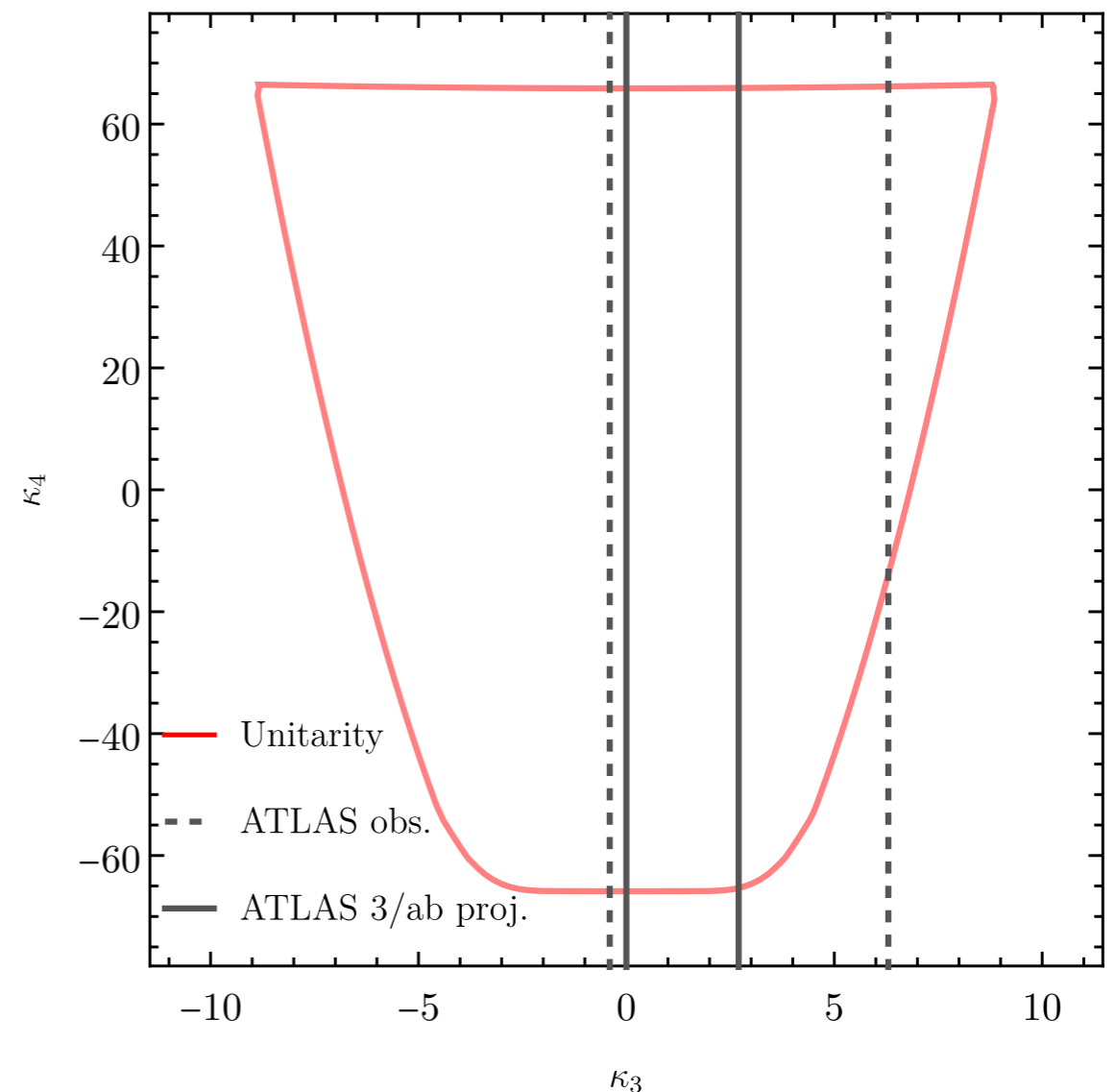
$$\text{Im} a_{ii}^0 \geq |a_{ii}^0|^2 \implies |\text{Re} a_{ii}^0| \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

**ATLAS current bounds:**  $[-0.4, 6.3]$  95 % CL

**CMS & ATLAS HH projections:**  $[0.1, 2.3]$

[ATLAS 2211.01216]

[CERN Yellow Rep. 1902.00134]



# Extension of SM potential by operators

Linear power expansion for higher order terms in  $\Lambda^{-1}$  orders:

[Boudjema, Chopin '96]  
[Maltoni, Pagani, Zhao '18]

$$V_{\text{BSM}} = \frac{C_6}{\Lambda^2} \left( \Phi^\dagger \Phi - \frac{v^2}{2} \right)^3 + \frac{C_8}{\Lambda^4} \left( \Phi^\dagger \Phi - \frac{v^2}{2} \right)^4 + \dots$$

Contributions to  $\kappa_3, \kappa_4$ :

$$(\kappa_3 - 1) = \frac{C_6 v^2}{\lambda \Lambda^2},$$

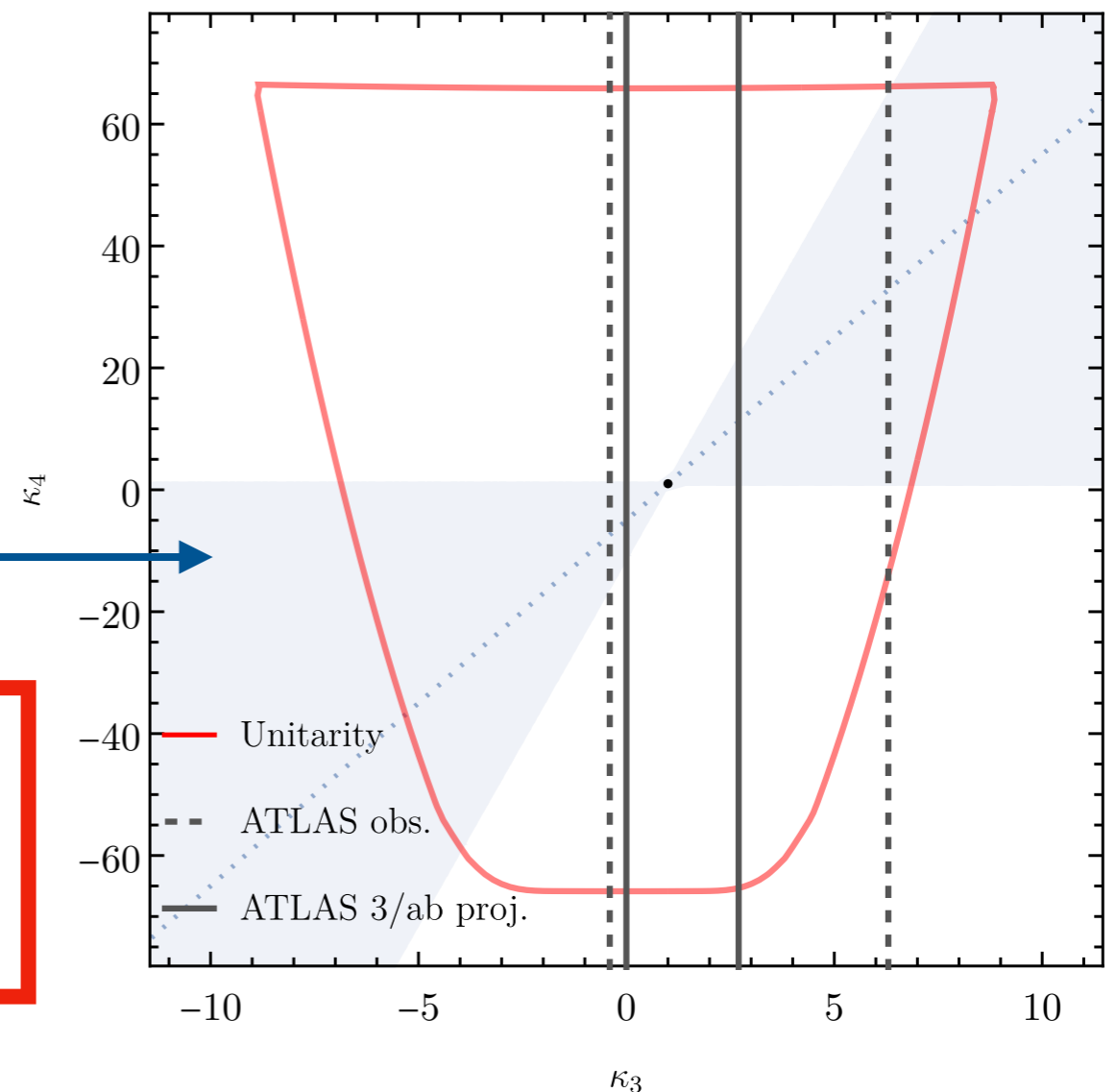
$$(\kappa_4 - 1) = \frac{6C_6 v^2}{\lambda \Lambda^2} + \frac{4C_8 v^4}{\lambda \Lambda^4}$$

vanishing dimension-8  $\longrightarrow \simeq 6(\kappa_3 - 1) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\Lambda^4}\right)$

Shaded region:  $\frac{4C_8 v^4}{\lambda \Lambda^4} < \frac{6C_6 v^2}{\lambda \Lambda^2}$

Electroweak Chiral Lagrangian (HEFT):

Higgs introduced as singlet and  $\kappa_3$  and  $\kappa_4$  are **free parameters**  $\rightarrow$  probes **non-linearity**



# SM Potential higher order terms

Power expansion for higher order terms:

[Boudjema, Chopin '96]  
[Maltoni, Pagani, Zhao '18]

$$V_{\text{BSM}} = \frac{C_6}{\Lambda^2} \left( \Phi^\dagger \Phi - \frac{v^2}{2} \right)^3 + \frac{C_8}{\Lambda^4} \left( \Phi^\dagger \Phi - \frac{v^2}{2} \right)^4 + \dots$$

Contribution

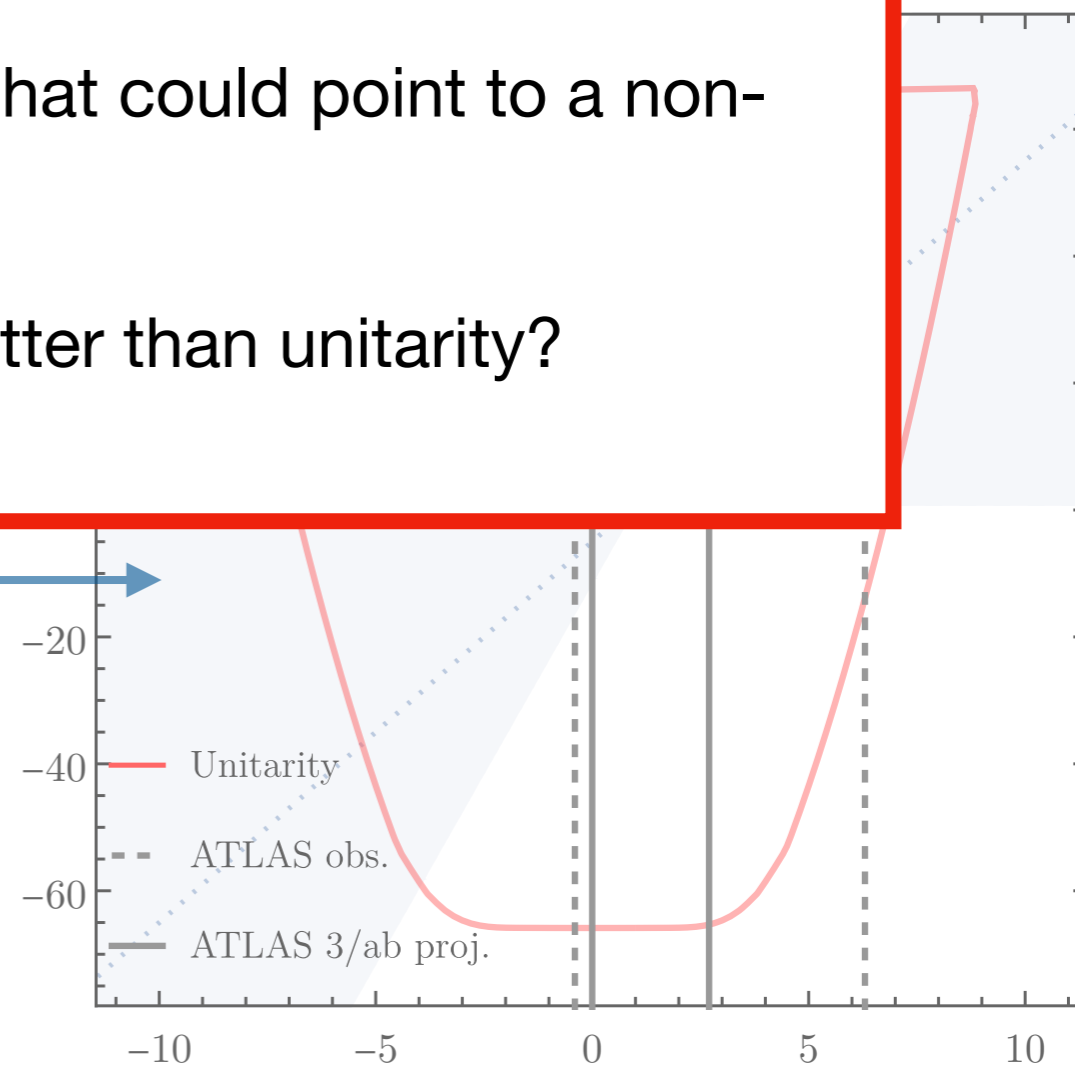
- Can  $\kappa_3$  be constrained by HHH production?
- Can HL-LHC probe regions that could point to a non-linear character?
- Can HL-LHC constrain  $\kappa_4$  better than unitarity?

vanishing  
dimension-8

Shaded region:  $\frac{1080}{\lambda\Lambda^4} < \frac{6060}{\lambda\Lambda^2}$

Electroweak Chiral Lagrangian (HEFT):

Higgs introduced as singlet and  $\kappa_3$  and  $\kappa_4$  are **free parameters** → probes **non-linearity**



# Relevant channels at LHC

- Small rates at LHC

Need dominant production & decays

- ▶ gluon fusion

$$\text{BR}(H \rightarrow b\bar{b}) = 0.584$$

- ▶ BRs:  $\text{BR}(H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-) = 6.627 \times 10^{-2}$

$$\text{BR}(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) = 2.26 \times 10^{-3}$$

*2b4τ and 4b2γ  
produce relatively few  
events even for large  
 $\kappa_3 \gtrsim 4.5$ ,  $\kappa_4 \gtrsim 30$*

- Focus on *6b* and *4b2τ* final states with 5 and 3 tagged *b*-quarks, respectively

## Backgrounds:

*6b*: dominant QCD contributions (see also [Papaefstathiou, Robens, Xolocotzi`21])

*4b2τ*: dominant  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^2)\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^4)$

subdominant ( $\sim 15$  times smaller)  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^4)\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^2)$

neglected  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^6)$

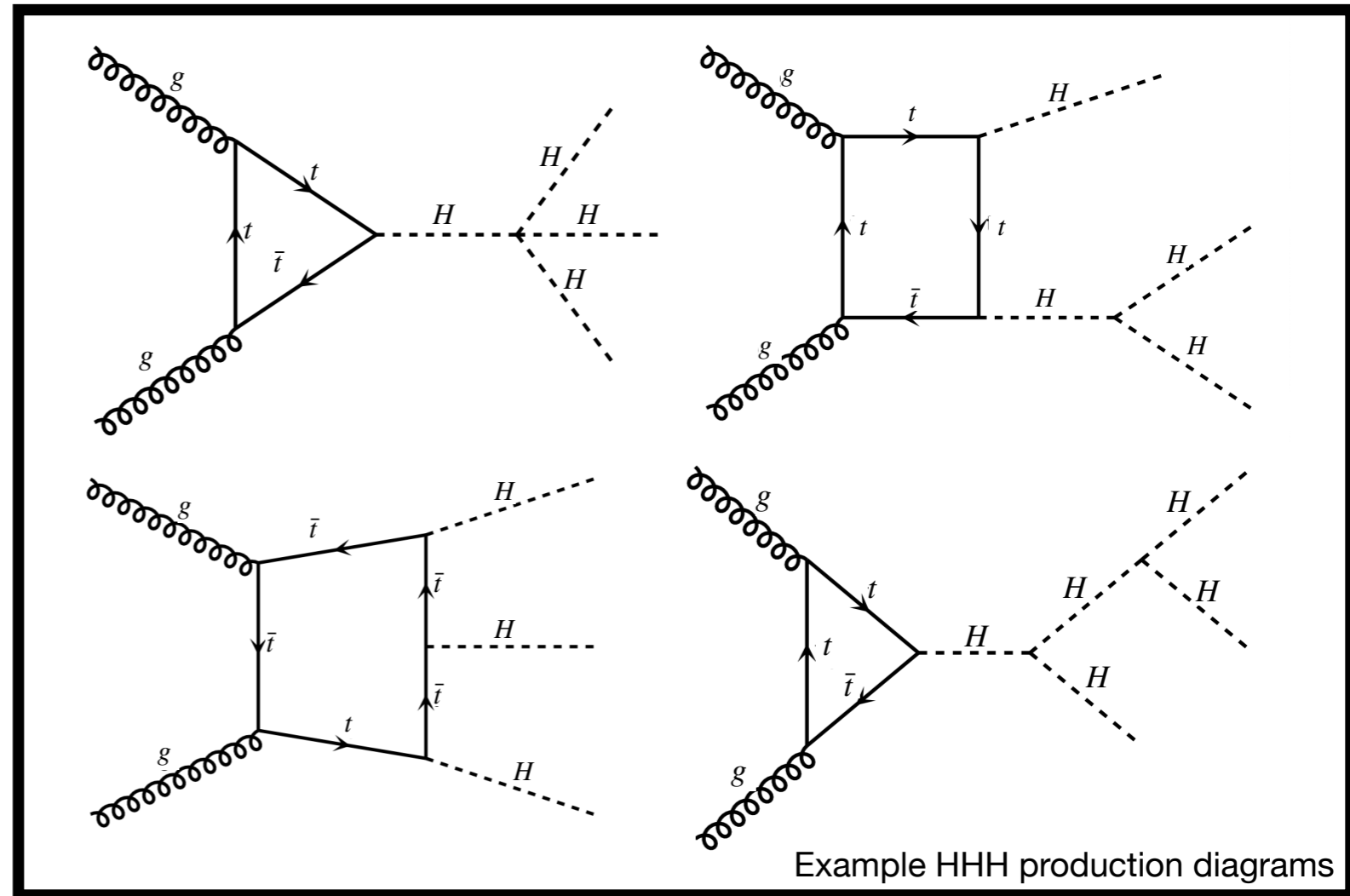
# Event generation and pre-selection

- Events generated with MadGraph5\_aMC@NLO
- Higgs states decayed with MadSpin

(conservative) background  
K-factor of 2

signal K-factor of 1.7

[Florian, Fabre, Mazzitelli` 20]



## Pre-selection cuts:

Invariant mass of final states:  $\gtrsim 350$  GeV

At least one pair of tagged states with

$$m_{ij} \in [110, 140]$$

$$p_T(b) > 30 \text{ GeV}$$

$$p_T(\tau) > 10 \text{ GeV}$$

$$|\eta(\tau)| < 2.5$$

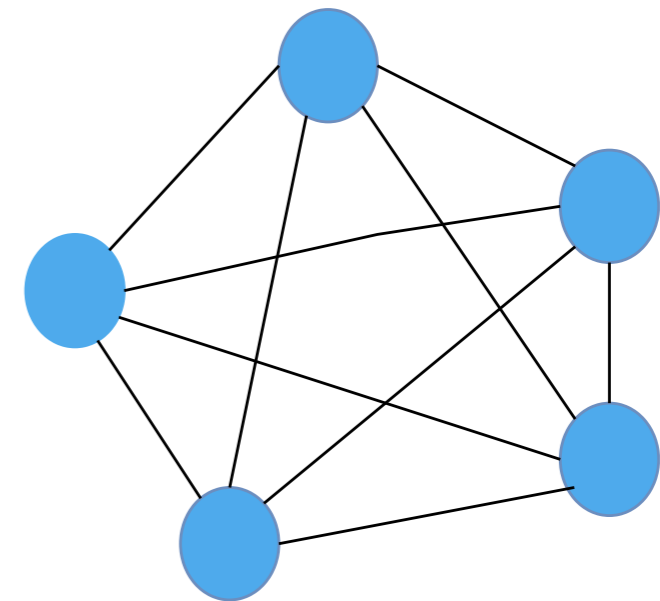
$$|\eta(b)| < 2.5$$



# Graph Embedding

1.

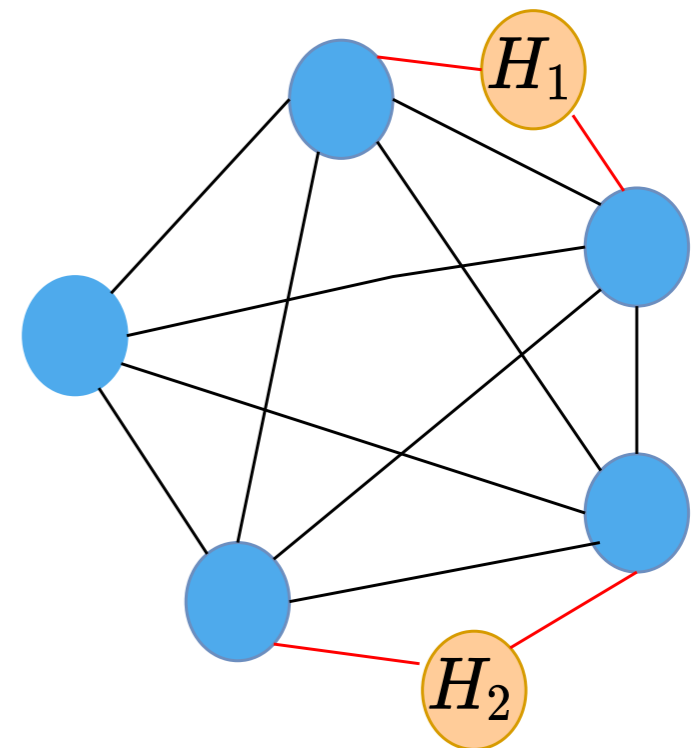
- Fully-connected nodes for  $b$  and  $\tau$  final states
- Input features:  $[p_T, \eta, \phi, E, m, \text{PDGID}]$



FC: Fully-Connected

2.

- Consider combinations of  $b$ -quarks and  $\tau$  with reconstructed four-momentum  $(p_i + p_j)$
- If  $m_{ij} \in [100, 150]$  (GeV) add node  $H_i$



RN: Reconstructed Nodes

# Edge Convolution

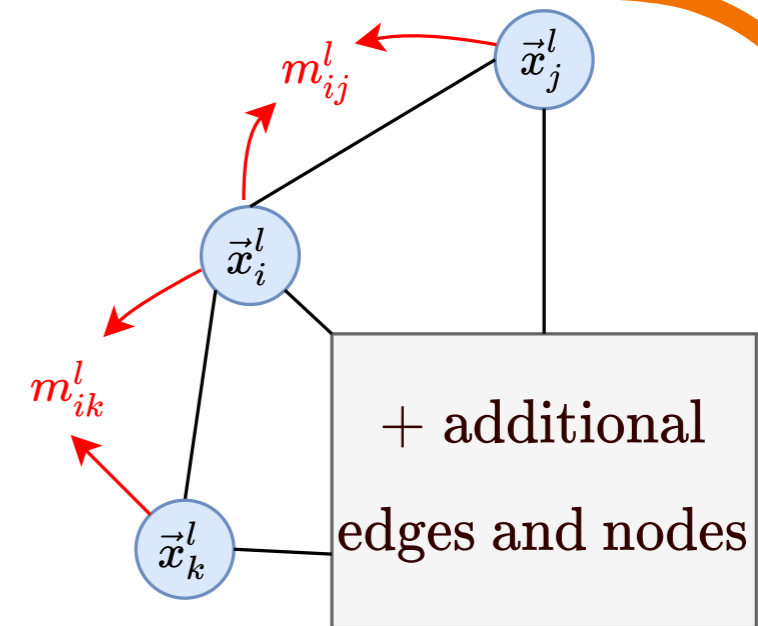
Input features:  $\vec{x}_i^{(0)}$  → update iteratively with **Edge Convolution** operation:

## Edge Convolution operation

'Message' calculation:

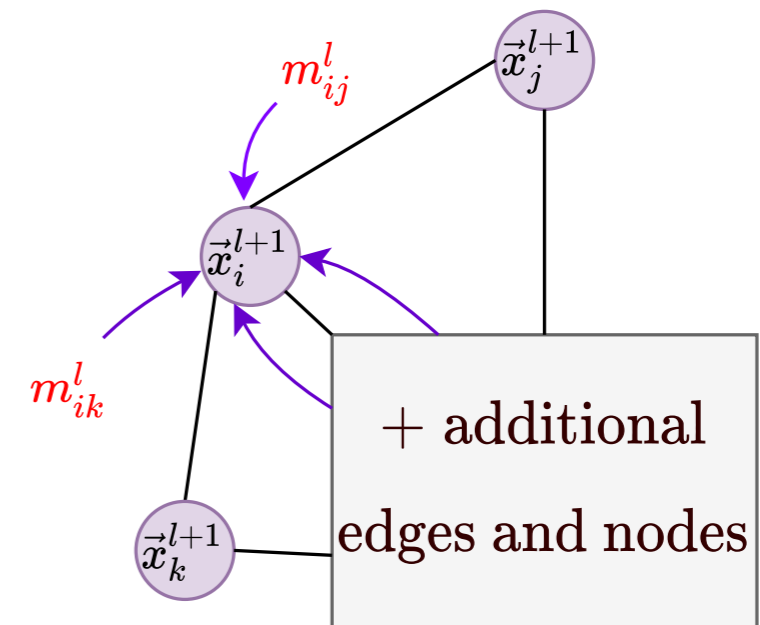
$$m_{ij}^{(l)} = \text{RELU} \left( \Theta(\vec{x}_j^{(l)} - \vec{x}_i^{(l)}) + \Phi(\vec{x}_i^{(l)}) \right)$$

linear layers



Aggregation: update node features

$$\vec{x}_i^{(l+1)} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{N}(i)|} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} m_{ij}^{(l)}$$



# GNN efficiencies



- GNN trained on  $(\kappa_3, \kappa_4) = (1,1)$  sample
- Identify NN score threshold with 99 % background rejection  $\rightarrow$  **Care needed!**  
Background should not be depleted

**Complex final states**

$\downarrow$

Compare promising channels at parton level

	FC efficiency	RN efficiency
$5b$	0.21	0.47
$3b2\tau$	0.27	0.98

\* for parton-level considerations  $H_i$  nodes have only  $[p_T, E]$  as input features, with additional noise introduced

**'Reconstructed Nodes' case outperforms Fully-Connected**

# GNN efficiencies & significance



- **Assumption:** Same GNN efficiency for other values of  $(\kappa_3, \kappa_4)$

- Flat optimistic 80 % b-tagging and  $\tau$ -tagging efficiency

- **Significance:**  $Z = \left[ 2 \left( (S + B) \log \left( \frac{(S + B)(B + \sigma_B^2)}{(B^2 + (S + B)\sigma_B^2)} \right) - \frac{B^2}{\sigma_B^2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{\sigma_B^2 S}{B(B + \sigma_B^2)} \right) \right) \right]$

↓  
Compare promising channels at parton level

$3b2\tau$  | 0.27 | 0.98

‘Reconstructed Nodes’ case outperforms Fully Connected

# 5b vs. 3b2τ at parton-level

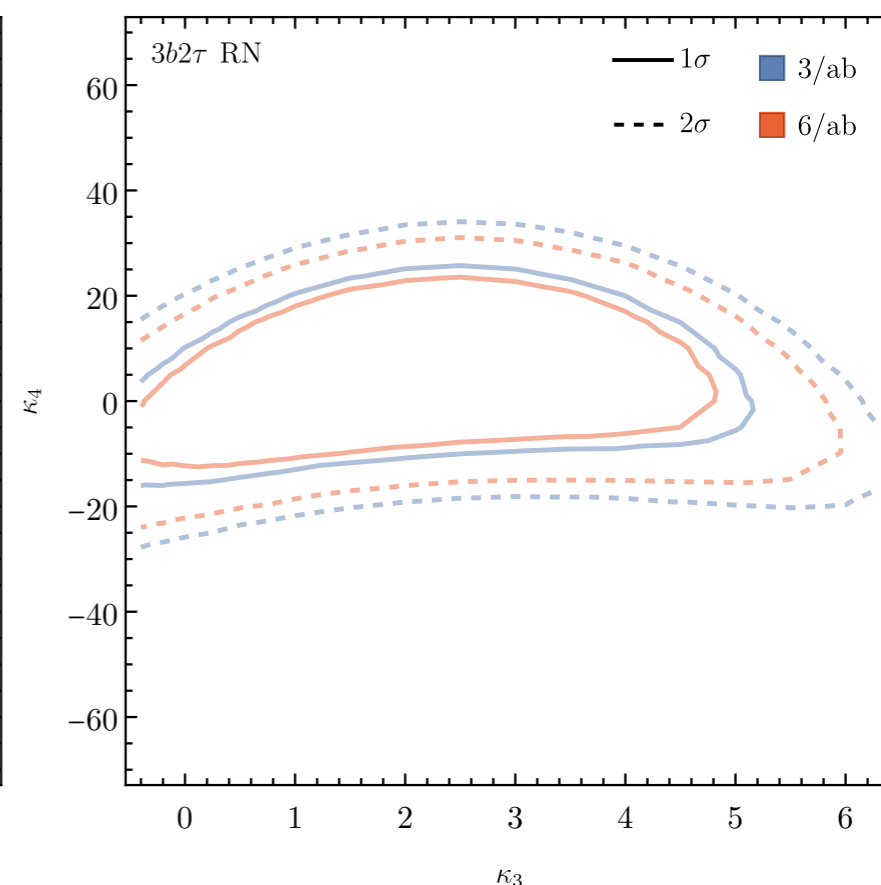
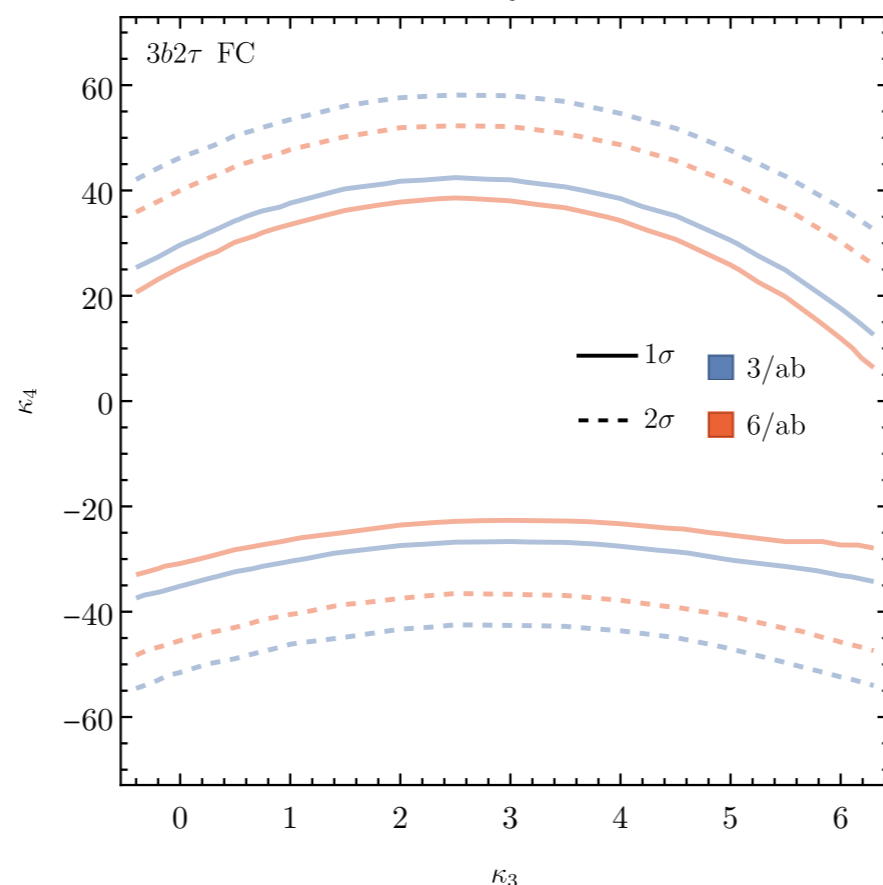
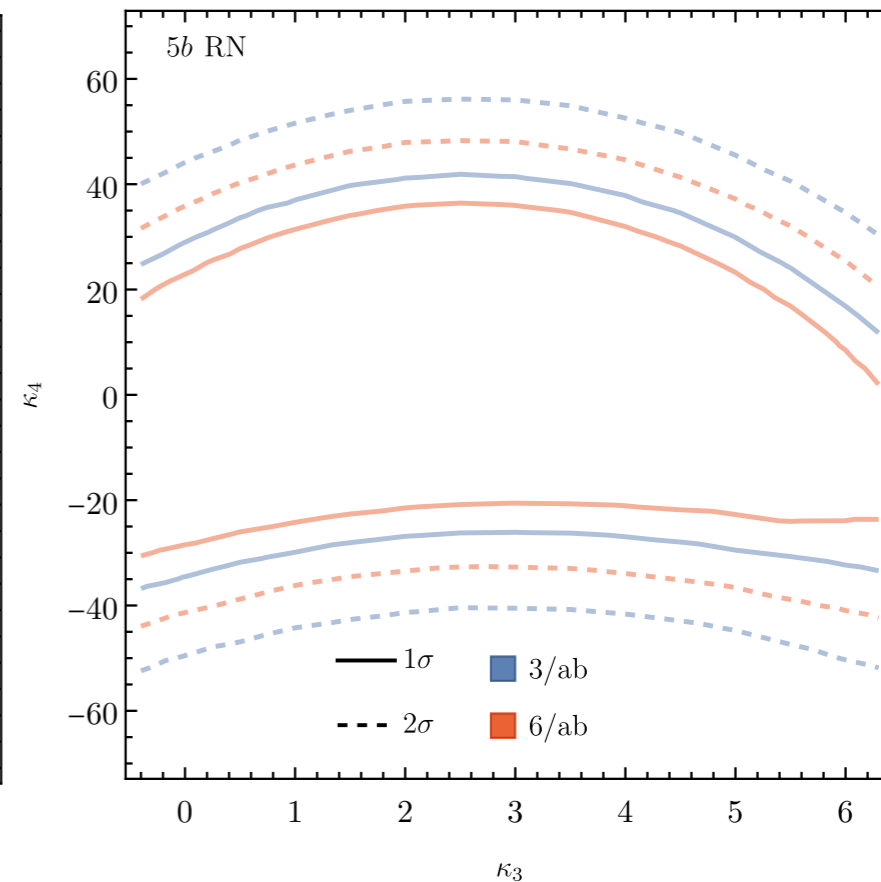
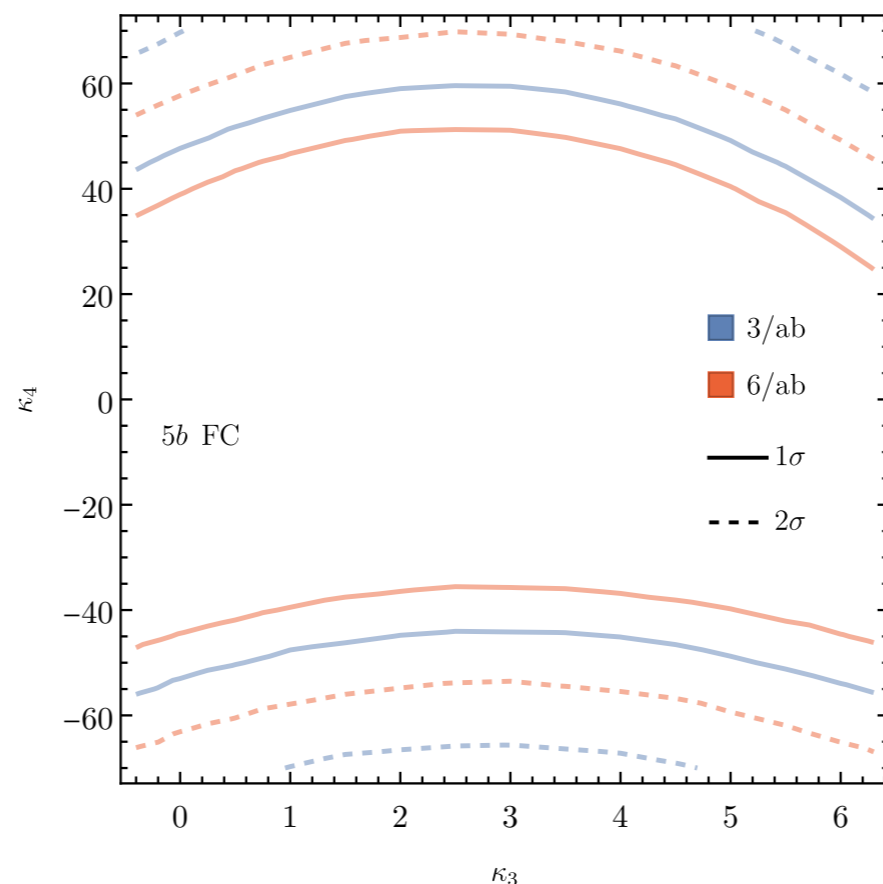
## Evaluate bounds for:

- HL-LHC 3/ab luminosity
- Combined ATLAS & CMS 6/ab luminosity
- $3b2\tau$  more promising!

**BUT** are the bounds realistic?

→ should evaluate beyond parton-level

→ will only consider  $3b2\tau$

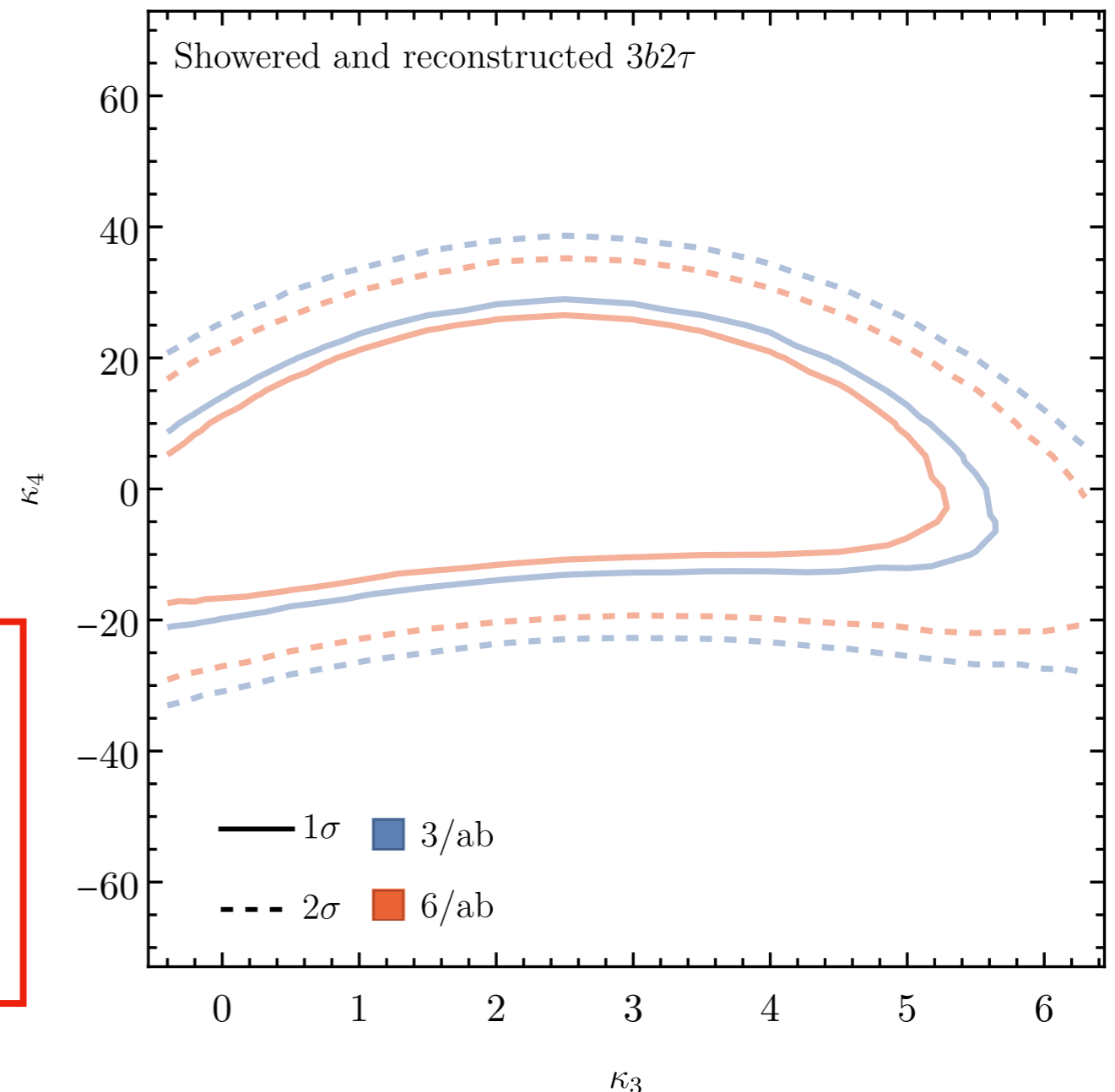


# Showered and reconstructed results

- Showering and reconstruction of events: Pythia, FastJet, Rivet
- Include mis-tagging effects for  $c$ -quarks efficiency:  $\sim 20\%$

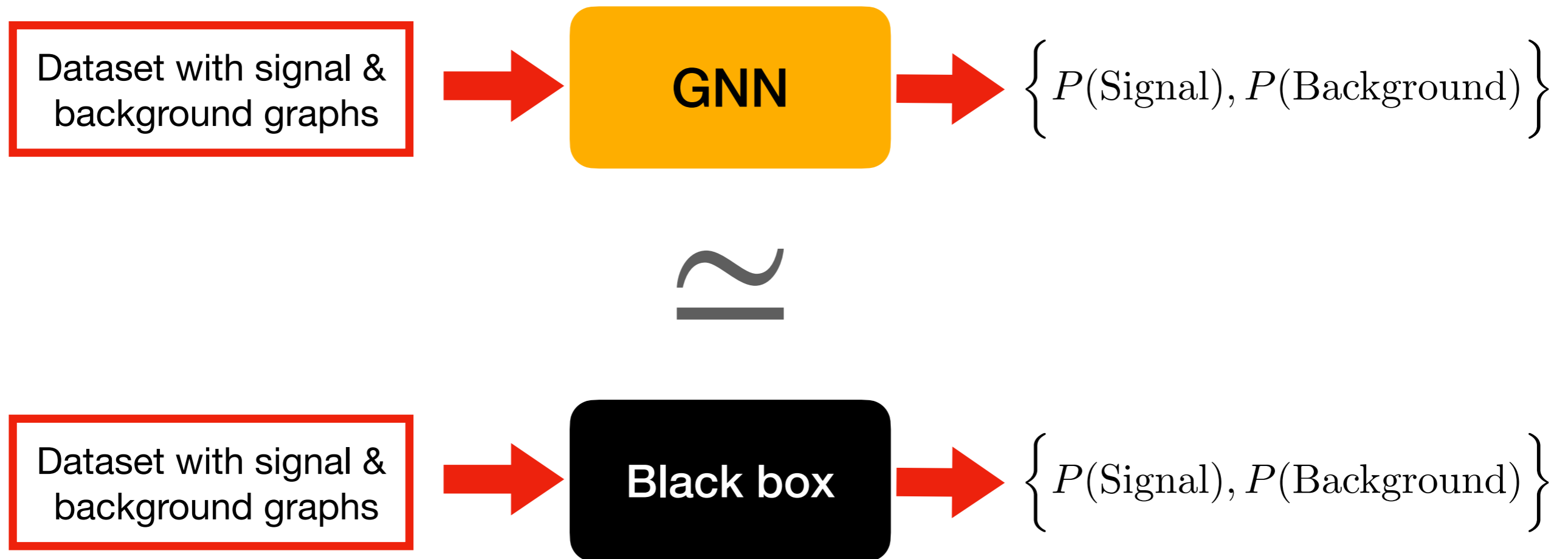
→ included as uncertainty

- ‘Reconstructed Nodes’ embedding
- Re-train GNN and re-identify threshold corresponding to background rejection of  $99\%$

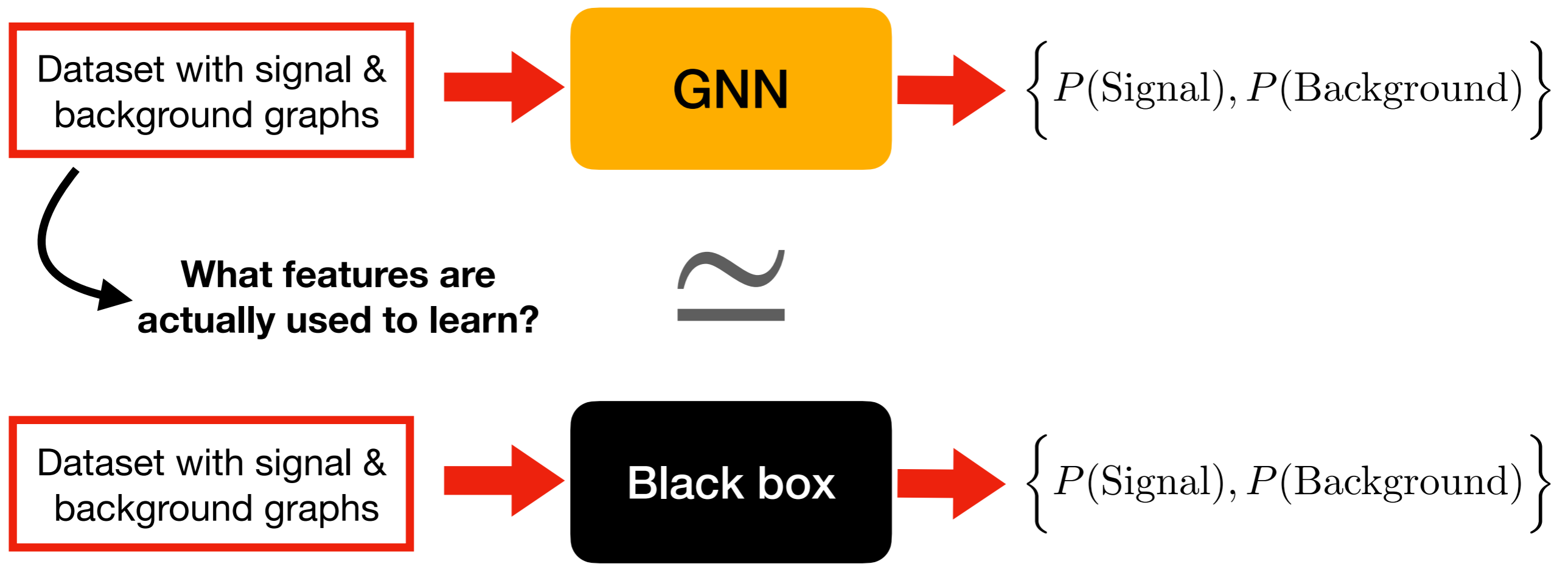


**Optimistic results**  
but more sophisticated  
reconstruction/tagging techniques  
and combinations could yield  
improvements

# How do Neural Networks learn?



# How do Neural Networks learn?



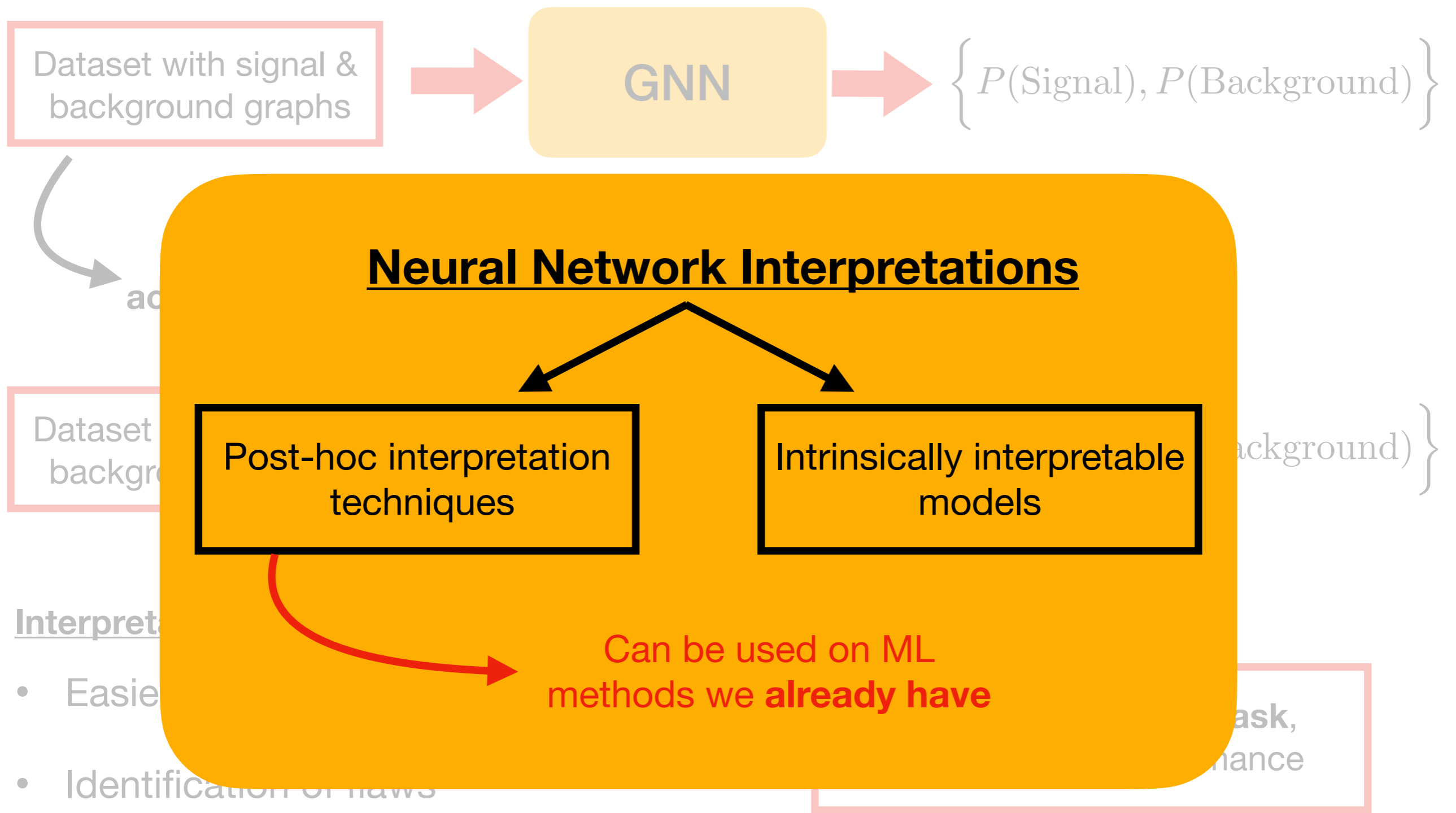
## Interpretation of Neural Network results

- Easier debugging
- Identification of flaws
- Insights

Usually seen as a **secondary task**,  
main focus is performance



# How do Neural Networks learn?



## Interpretation

- Easier
- Identification of flaws
- Insights

task,  
performance

# Integrated Gradients

→ **Integrated Gradients:** [Sundararajan, Taly, Yan 1703.01365]

- ▶ axiomatic method
- ▶ uses Neural Network gradients → **fast!**
- ▶ **requires a differentiable model**

**suitable for  
Neural Networks!**

• Definition:

$$\mathcal{I}_i(x) = (x_i - x'_i) \int_0^1 d\alpha \frac{\partial F(x' + \alpha(x - x'))}{\partial x_i}$$

Attribution scores  
→ importance of feature

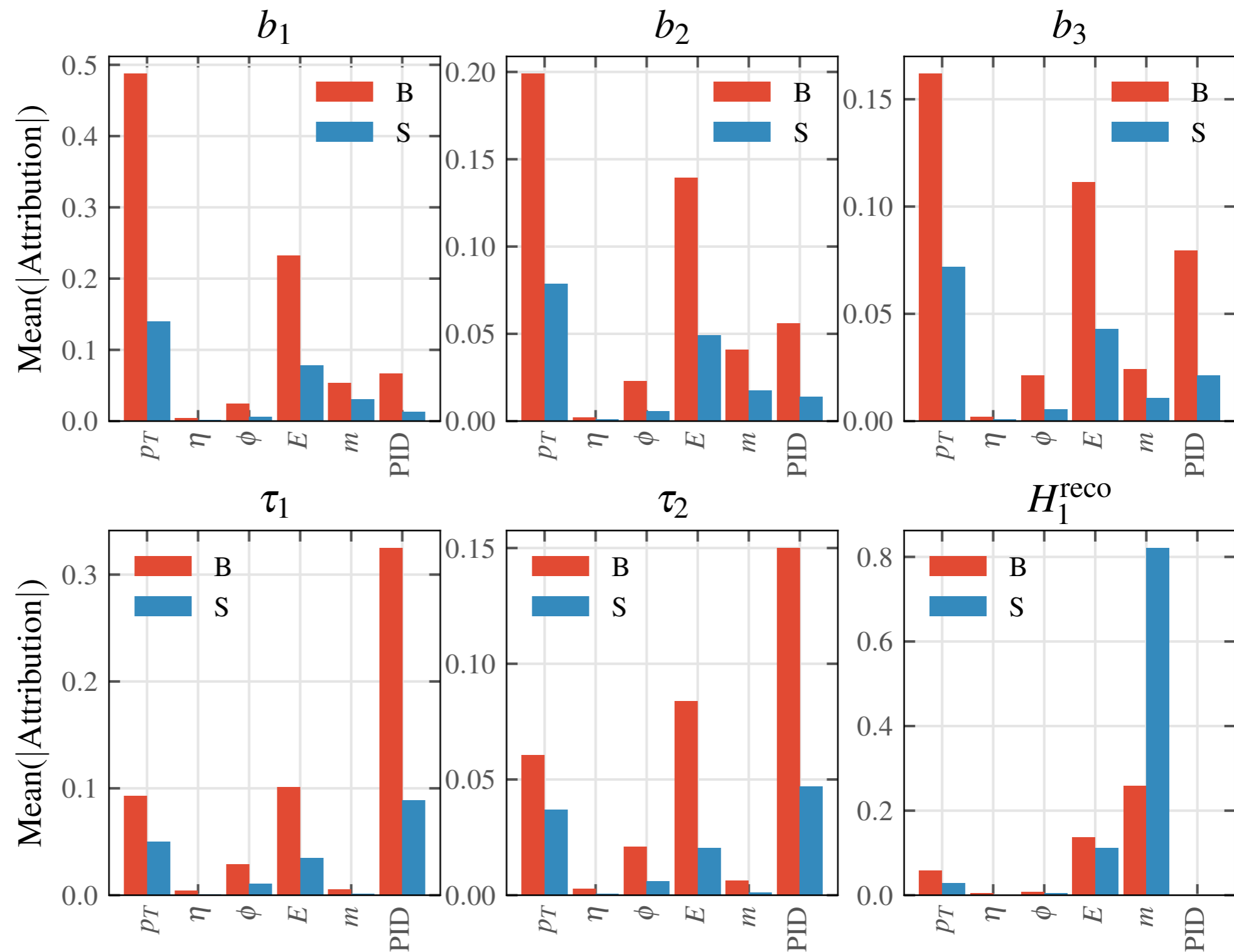
Gradient of Neural  
Network  $F$

• Easy to implement for Graph Neural Networks as well

- ▶ Does **not** take into account graph structures → work in progress in Deep Learning community
- ▶ Viable to understand important features → expect mass of reconstructed Higgs to be important

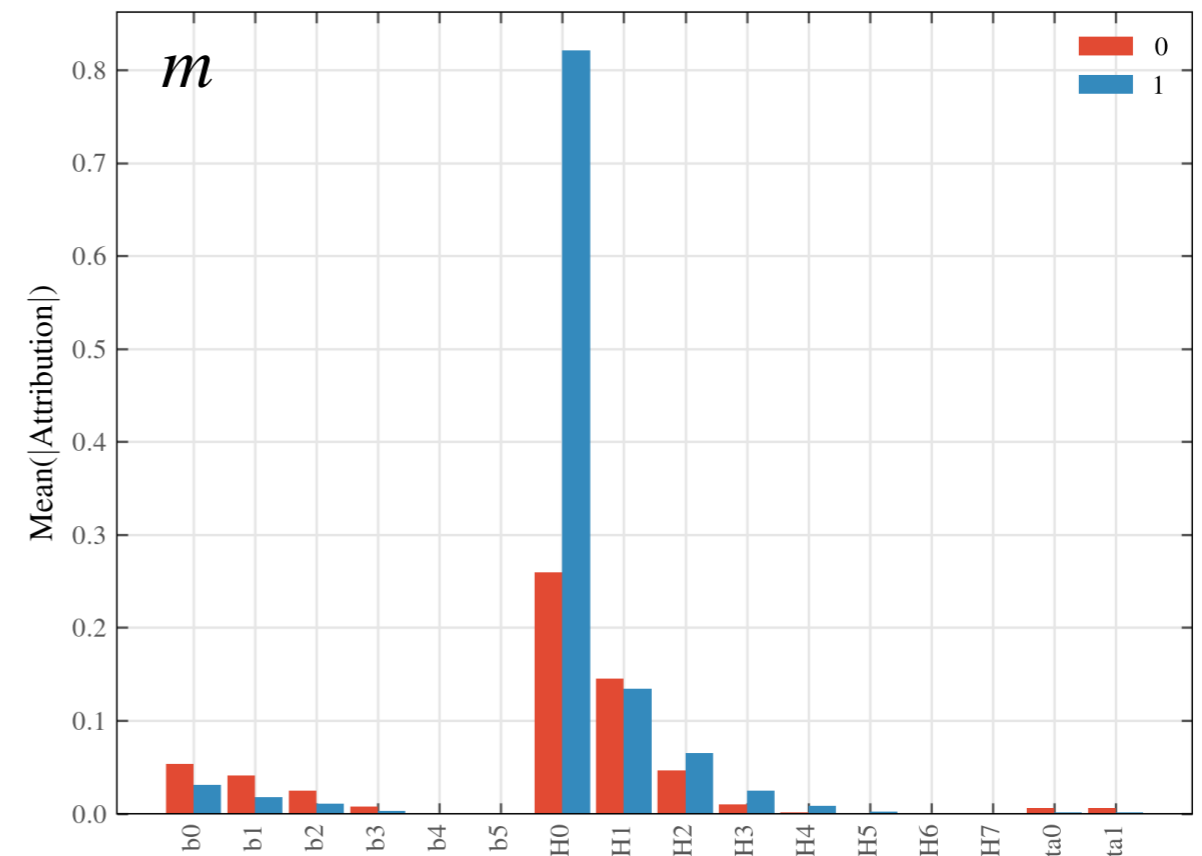
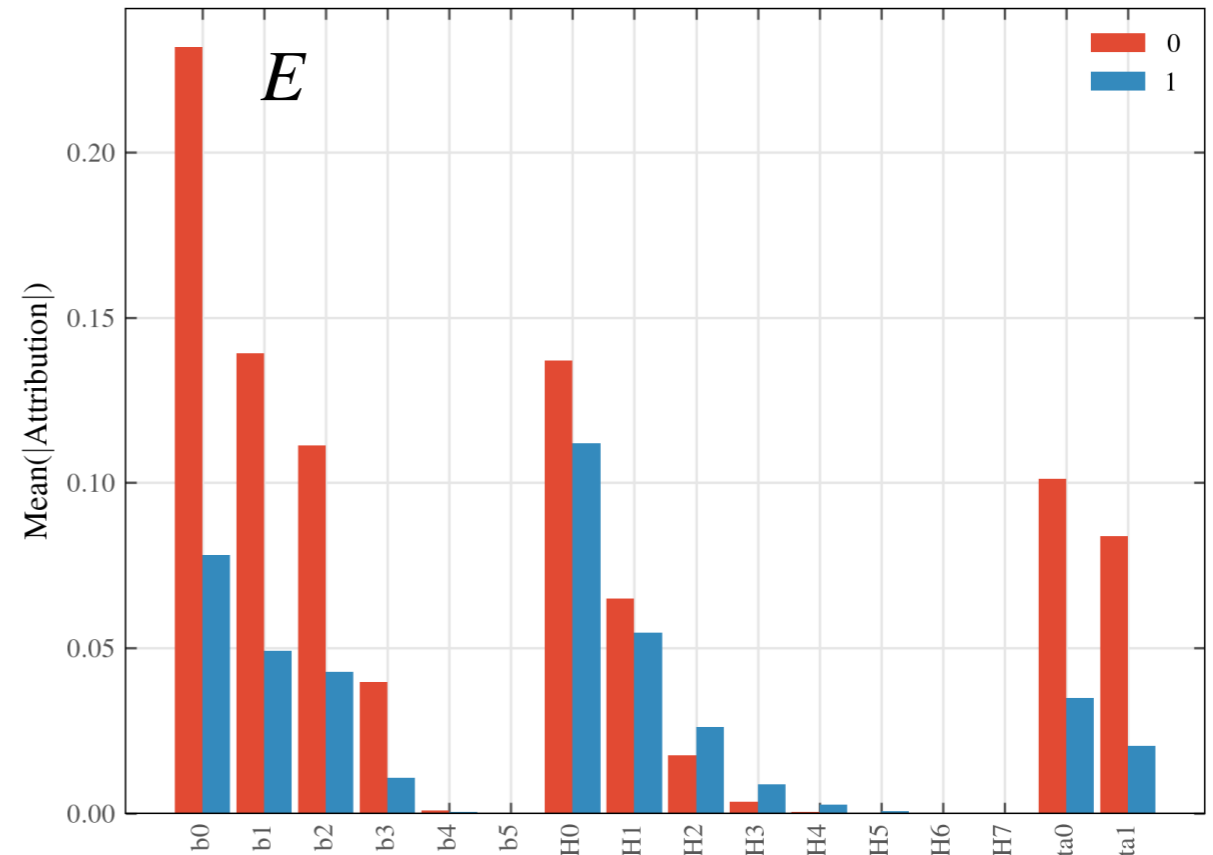
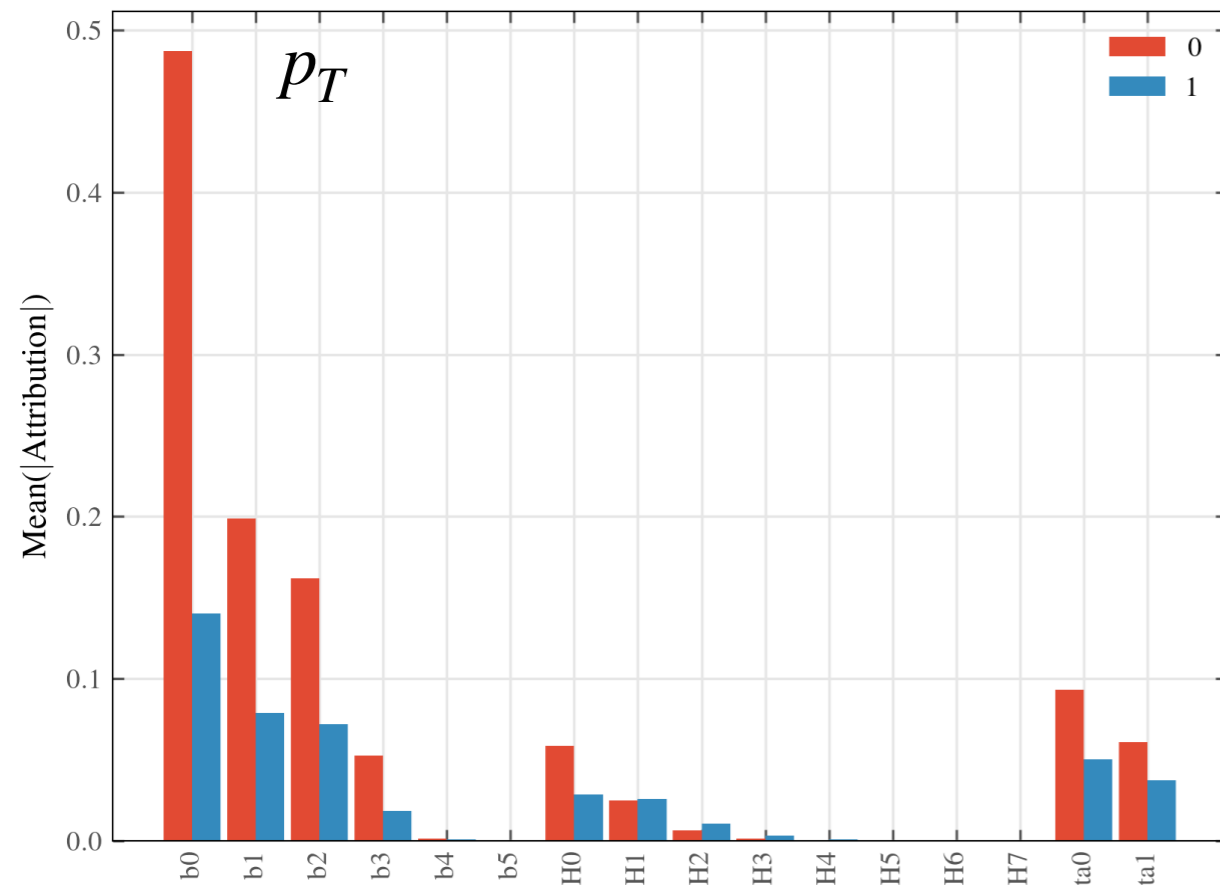
# Attributions

- Tagged  $b$ -jets and  $\tau$  nodes ordered by  $p_T$
- ‘Roughly’ reconstructed Higgs nodes ordered by ‘closeness’ to 125 GeV
- $p_T$ ,  $E$  and PID more important than angular observables
- Higgs masses most important



# Attribution vs. nodes

- $E$  and  $p_T$  from leading order particles is more important
- $m$  is more important for the Higgs closest to the SM

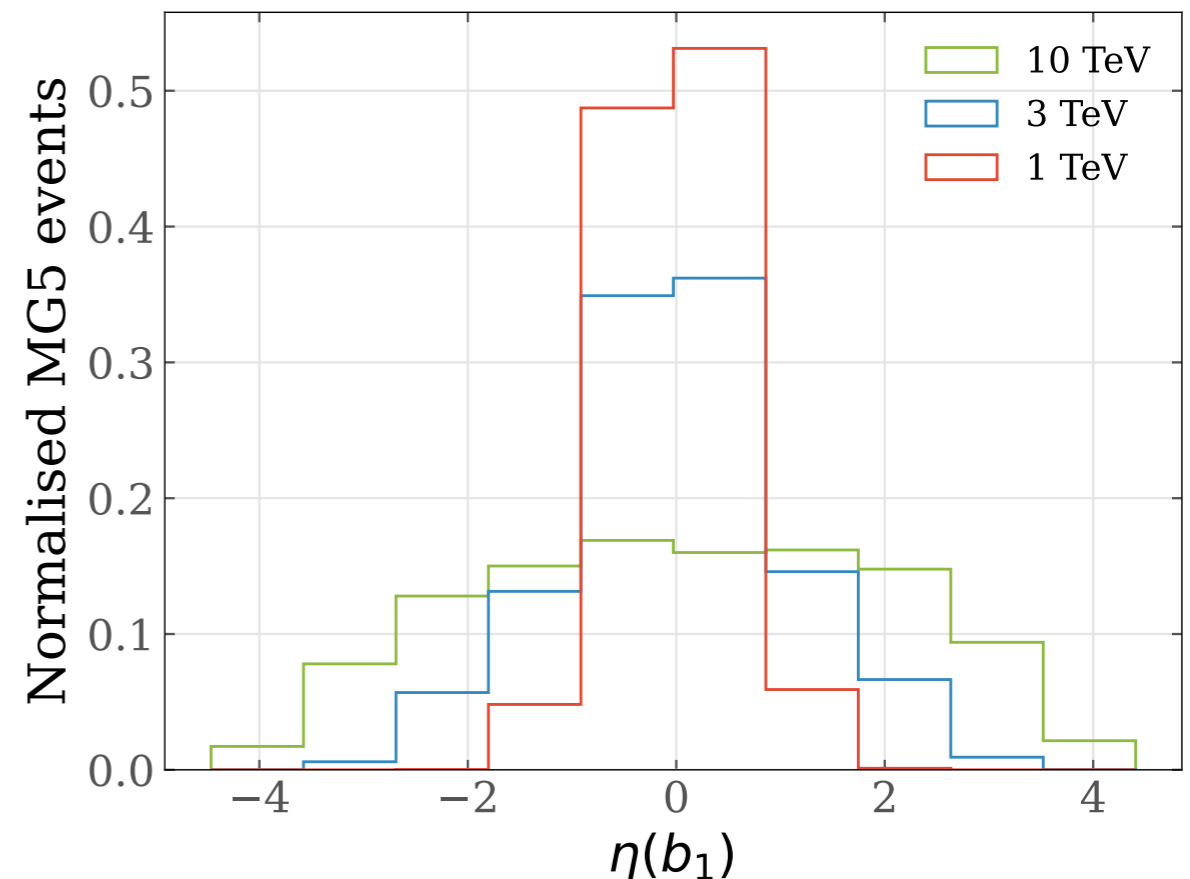


# Lepton Colliders

- Complete picture of  $(\kappa_3, \kappa_4) \rightarrow$  lepton colliders?
- Inclusive  $\ell\ell \rightarrow HHH + X$  analysis with  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$

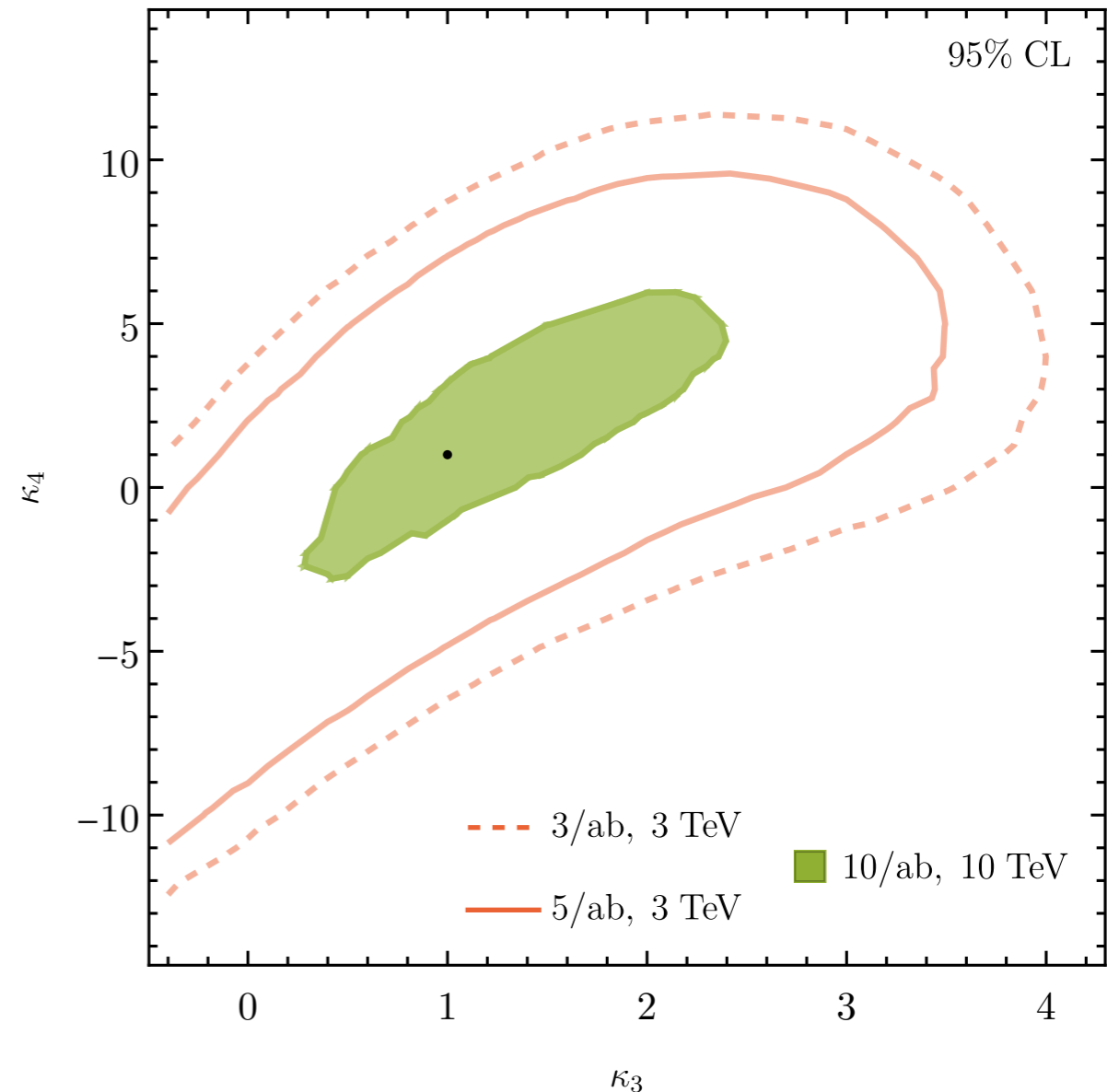
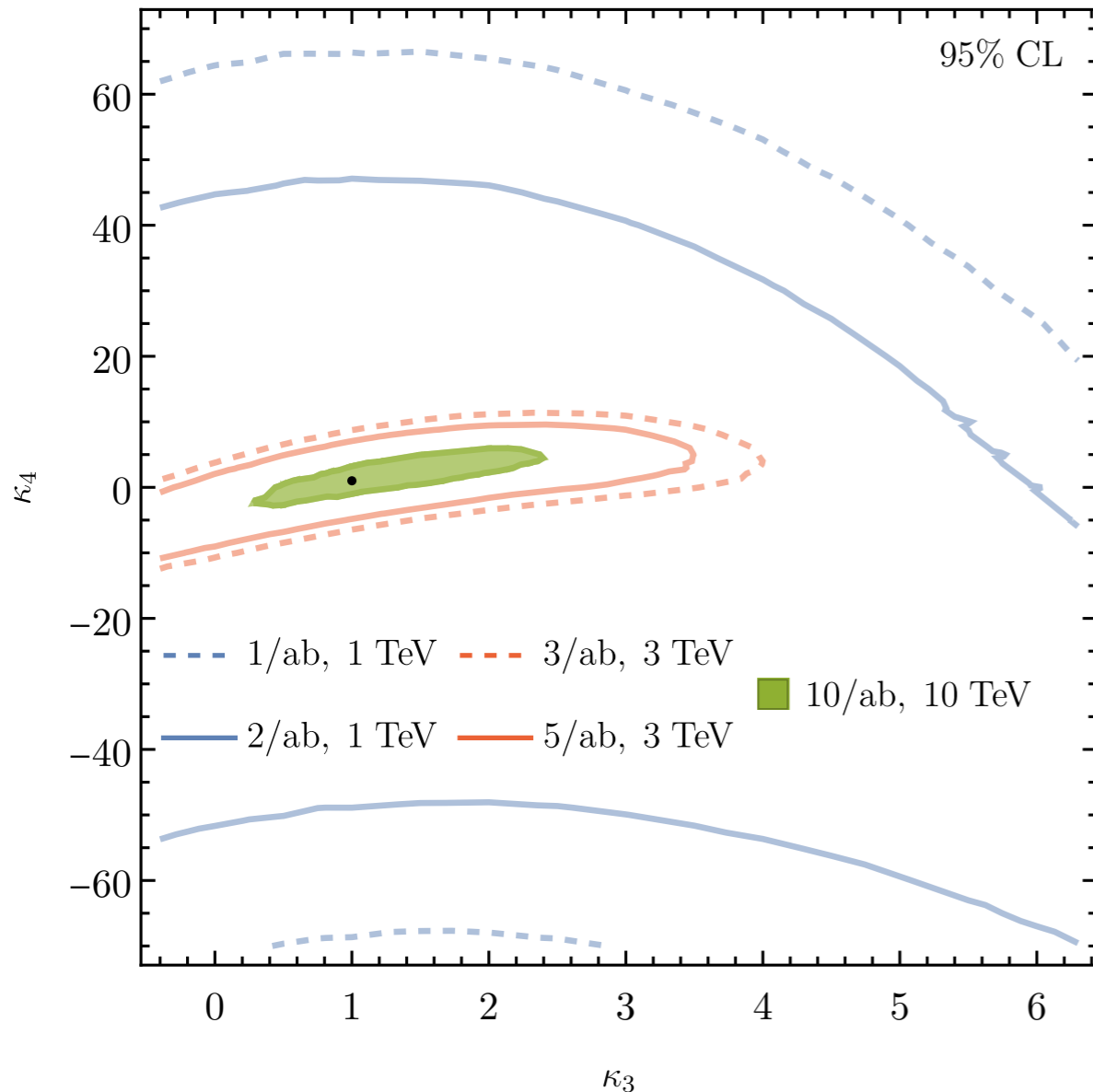
- ▶ At least 5 tagged  $b$ -quarks with  $p_T(b) > 30$  GeV
- ▶ Tagging efficiency: 80 %

- **Important:** For high energies  $b$ -quarks are not only in the central part of detector  $\rightarrow$  requires extended tagging capabilities
- Negligible background from other SM processes



# Lepton Collider Results

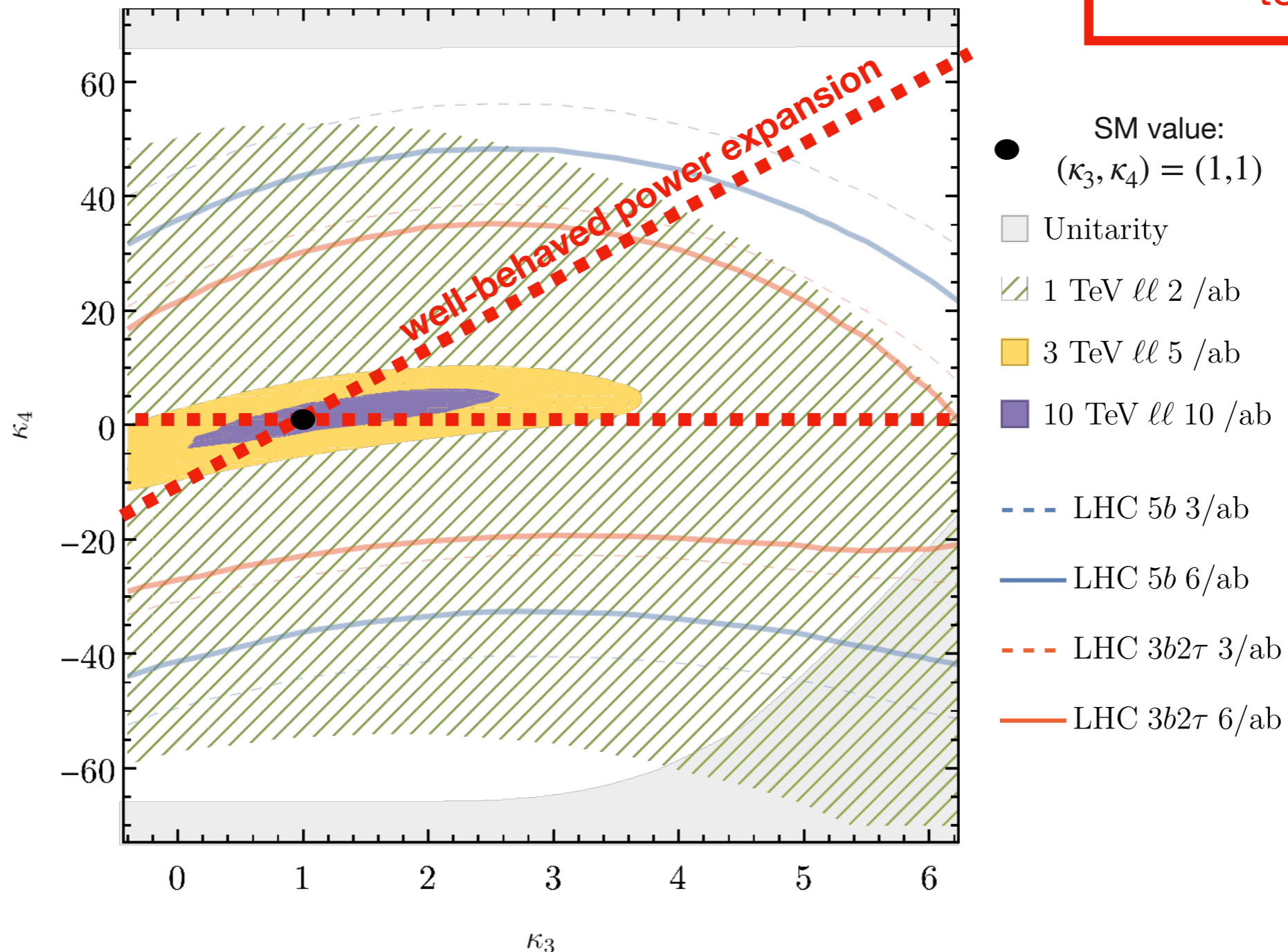
- Poissonian analysis:  $\mu_{\text{up}} = \frac{1}{2} F_{\chi^2}^{-1} \left[ 2(n + 1); \text{CL} \right]$
- Results similar to other works with dedicated analyses, e.g. [Maltoni, Pagani, Zhao `18]




# HL-LHC vs. future lepton colliders


- HL-LHC can provide competitive results compared to 1 TeV collider
- High energy lepton collisions way more sensitive

**But** such machines more comparable to FCC



# Conclusions

- If there is a sizeable deviation in  $\kappa_3$ , an even larger deviation in  $\kappa_4$  is not unreasonable 

sizeable  $\kappa_4$  deviations allowed by unitarity
- **GNNs** provide enhanced results at HL-LHC
  - ▶ HL-LHC should be able to probe regions allowed by unitarity
  - ▶ HL-LHC will be able to probe interesting regions which could point to linear vs. non-linear prescriptions
  - ▶ HHH not powerful enough to constrain  $\kappa_3$  as well as di-Higgs bounds 

**BUT** can provide complementary information and be used in combination with di-Higgs
- HL-LHC competitive with 1 TeV lepton colliders but higher energies more sensitive
- Neural Network interpretations useful for understanding ML techniques

*Thank you!*

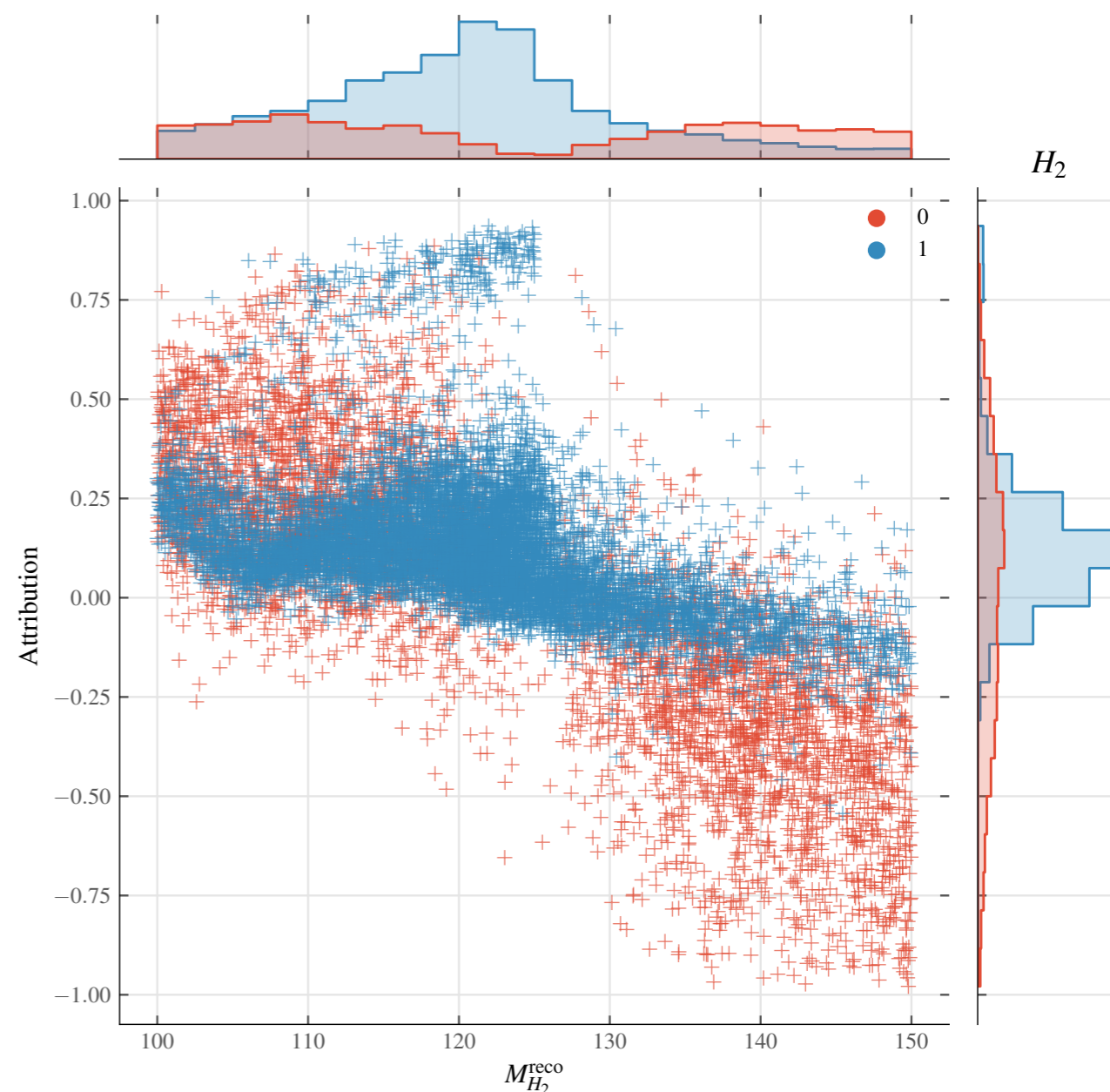
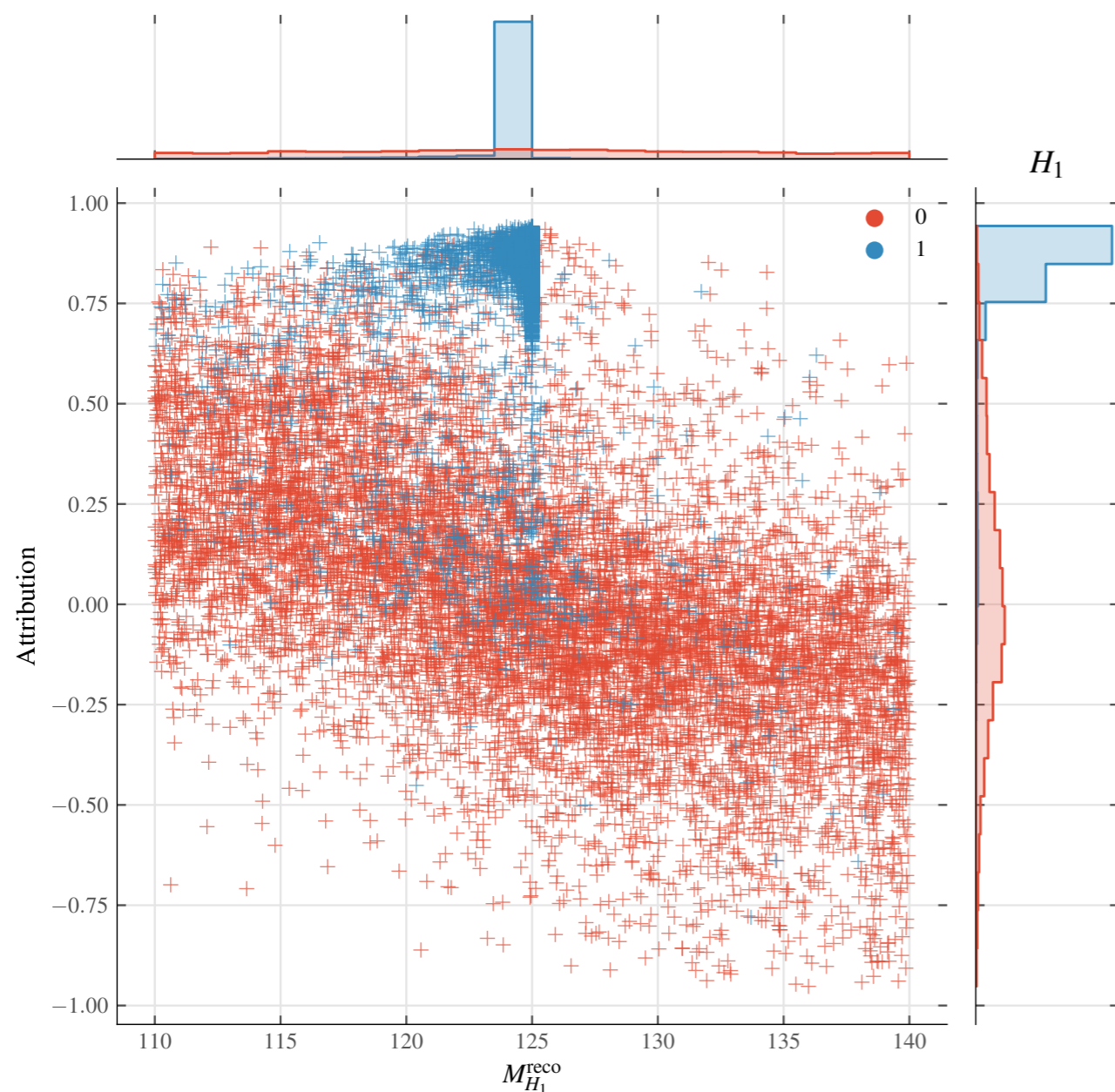


# Backup: Interpretation axioms

- **Axioms:**
  - **Completeness:** sum of attributions equal to difference of network output for input and baseline values
  - **Sensitivity:** when baseline and input have different values and different NN outputs, attributions should also be different
  - **Dummy:** A zero input should yield no attribution
  - **Implementation Invariance:** If two methods are equivalent (i.e. yield same scores for all inputs despite being different) then attributions should be identical
  - **Linearity:** Attributions should be linear for linear combinations of networks  $aF_1 + bF_2$
  - **Symmetry:** For a network symmetric for two variables  $F(x, y) = F(y, x)$ , the attributions should be the same

# Backup: Reconstructed Higgs Mass

- **Interpretation as expected:**  
If a Higgs close to 125 GeV can be found  $\implies$  signal
- Complete understanding would require to study correlations between observables  $\rightarrow$  **future work**



# Backup: Lepton collider cross sections

- Inclusive  $\ell\ell \rightarrow HHH + X$  analysis with  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$
- Cross sections small below 1 TeV

