

Leptoquark searches with electrons and muons in the final state

M. Primavera (INFN Lecce) on behalf of the ATLAS Collaboration

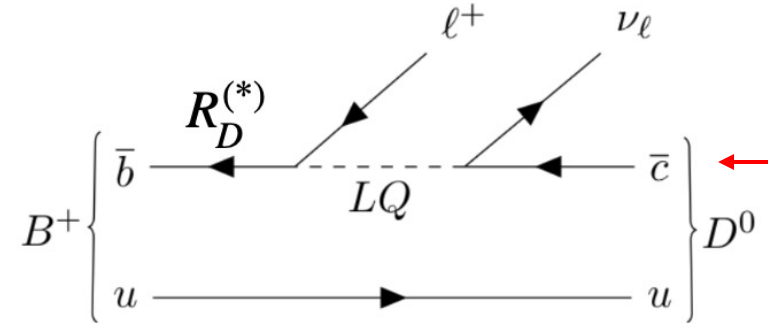
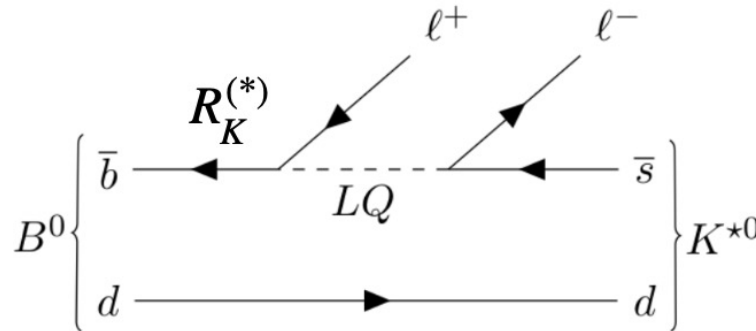
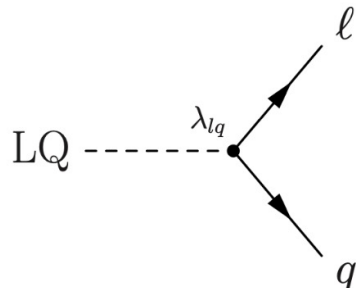
12th Large Hadron Collider Physics Conference, 3–7 Jun 2024, Boston

Leptoquarks: generalities

Leptoquarks (LQ), introduced in several BSM theories → a possible explanation of **potential violation of lepton flavour universality (LFU)** in measurements of B-meson decays ('B-anomalies'), and of the g-2 anomaly measured at Fermilab

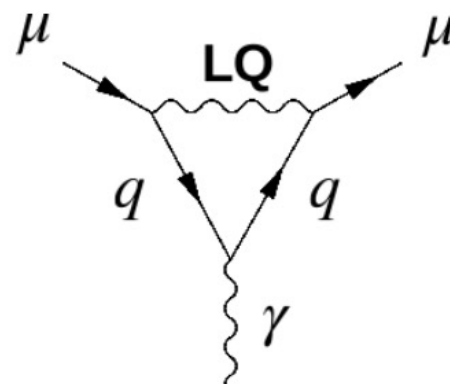
LQ → bosons with fractional electric charge and color, baryon and lepton quantum #, interact with both leptons and quarks

LQ scalars (spin 0) or vectors (spin 1, U) → Vector LQ pair-production cross-sections larger than scalar, small differences in kinematics between vector and scalar LQs. Scenarios for vector LQ: Yang–Mills type **coupling to gluons present (vLQ_{YM})** or **absent ('minimal coupling', vLQ_{min})**

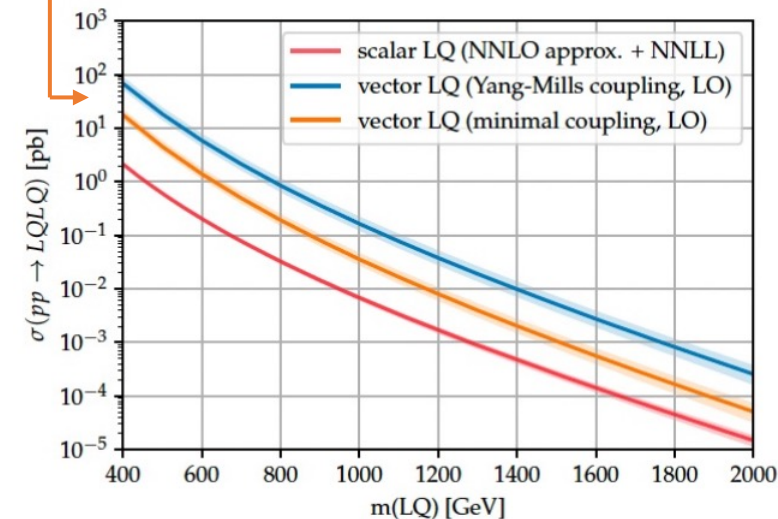


New LHCb result compatible with SM: Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 (2023) 051803

Deviation wrt the SM $\sim 3.3\sigma$ for the combination $R(D)-R(D^*)$: <https://hflav-eos.web.cern.ch/hflav-eos/semi/moriond24/html/RDsDstar/RDRDs.html>

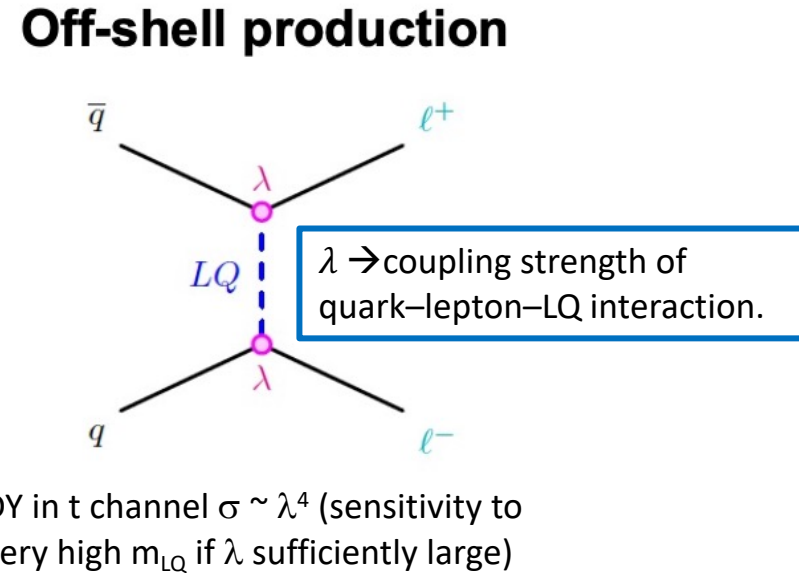
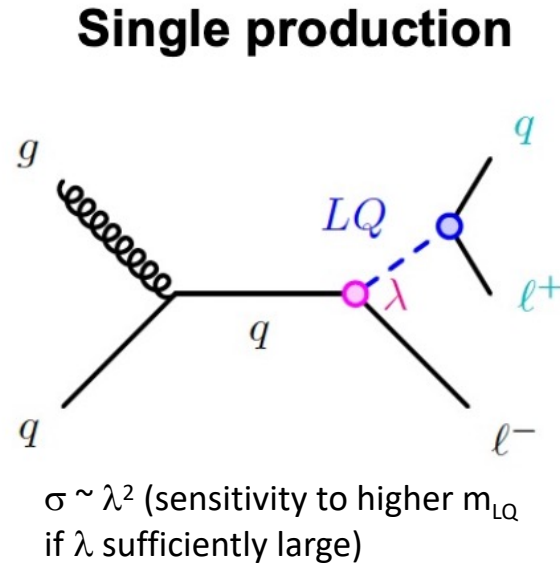
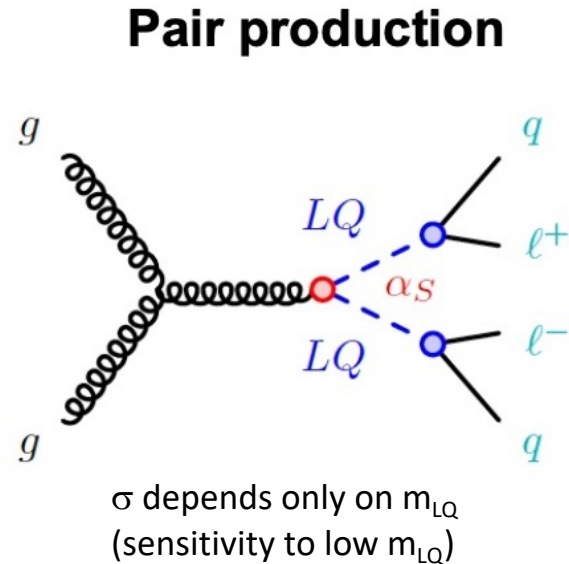


New results from Fermilab Muon g-2 (Phys.Rev.Lett. 131 (2023) 16, 161802) confirm the tension with SM, but new Lattice QCD calculations: Nature 593, 51–55 (2021)



Leptoquarks: production and decay

- LQs produced at the LHC via **pair, single, or non-resonant production, e.g.:**



- Leptoquarks decay into quarks and leptons ruled by the **β parameter** ($\beta \in [0, 1]$) \rightarrow defines the coupling of LQs to charged leptons $\rightarrow \sqrt{\beta}\lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ (BR to quark+charged leptons) related to β , $1 - \mathcal{B}$ (BR quark+neutrino)
- $\mathcal{B} = 0 \rightarrow$ only decays into $\nu +$ quark, $\mathcal{B} = 1 \rightarrow$ only decays into a charged $\ell +$ quark**

- Allowed decays:

\Rightarrow into a quark and lepton of the **same generation** (Patrick's talk on 3rd generation final states)

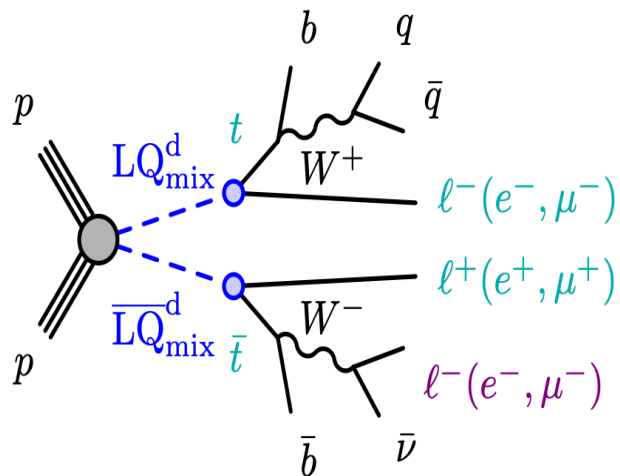
\Rightarrow **mixed generational ("LQ_{mix}")** into first- or second-generation lepton and a third-generation quark

Leptoquarks: ATLAS searches

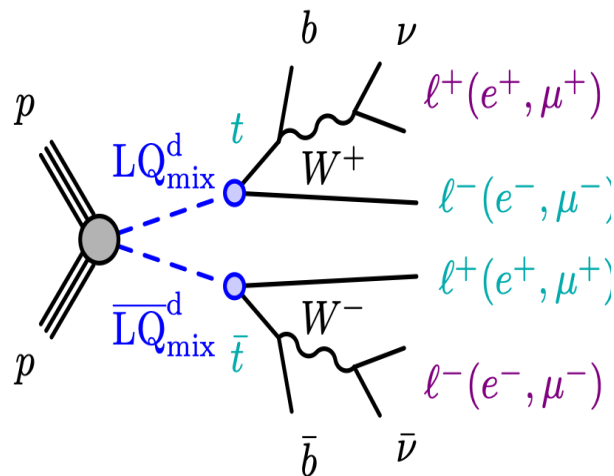
- Broad program of searches for pair-produced LQs searches \Rightarrow Focus on couplings to **3rd gen. quarks (b,t)**, but also **u, d, c, s considered** and $\ell = e, \mu, \tau, \nu$. Results presented as a function of the **LQ mass and \mathcal{B}**
- Growing program of singly-produced LQs searches. Increasing focus on non-resonant production, in order to reach highest masses.

In this talk focus on:

Some recent results (≥ 2023) on scalar and vector **leptoquark pair production and decay in 3rd generation quarks and first- or second-generation leptons (LQ_{mix}):** $LQ_{\text{mix}}^u \rightarrow \pm(2/3)e$, $LQ_{\text{mix}}^d \rightarrow \pm(1/3)e$, $U_1 \rightarrow \pm(2/3)e$, $\tilde{U}_1 \rightarrow \pm(5/3)e$

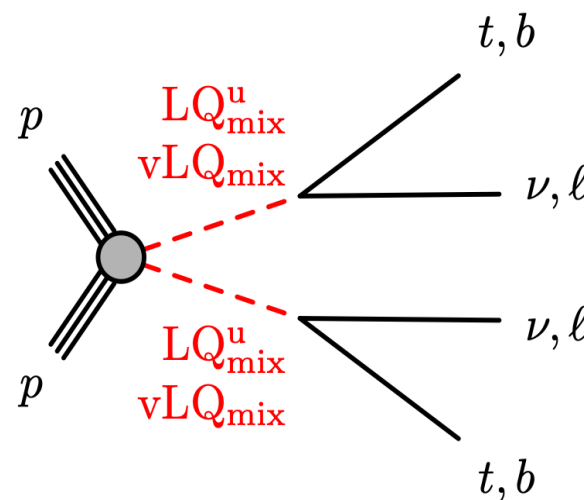


[2306.17642](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.17642)

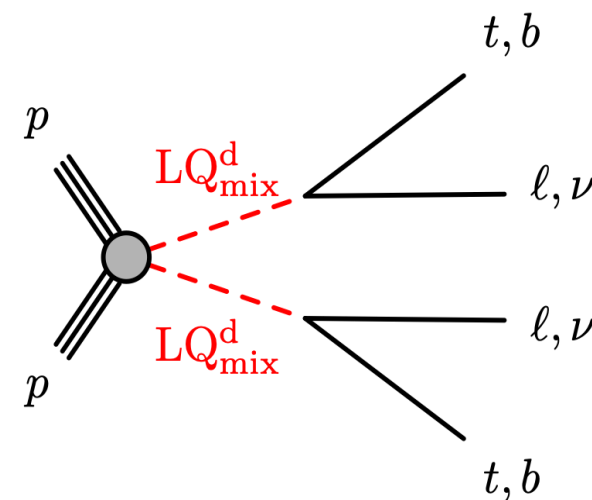


139 fb⁻¹ of Run 2 (2015–2018) ATLAS data

LQLQ searches combination [2401.11928](https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.11928)

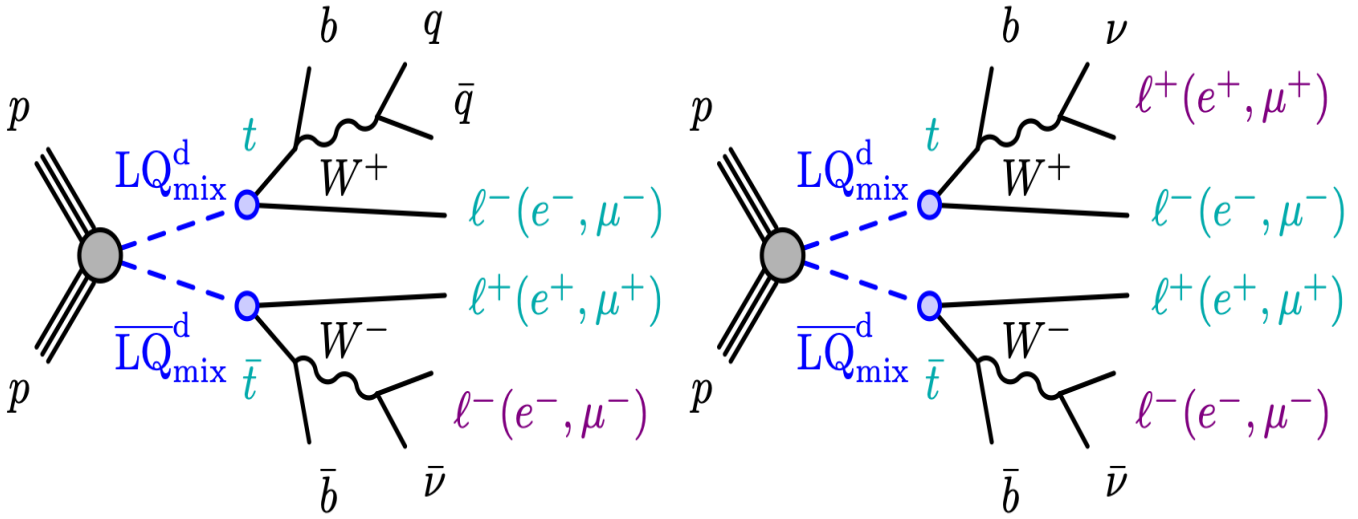


[JHEP 06 \(2023\) 188](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.17642)



LQLQ \rightarrow tt $\ell^+ \ell^- (\ell = e, \mu)$

[2306.17642](#)



Pair-produced scalar and vector (\tilde{U}_1) $LQ_{mix}^d \rightarrow t \ell$:

- 1 or 2 leptons from top quarks in the final state
- same flavour ℓ ($ee, \mu\mu$)

Selected events with:

- $\geq 2 \ell$ (e or μ), ≥ 2 jets (at least one of them b-tagged)
- 3 final states \rightarrow 2SS ℓ , 3 ℓ , 4 ℓ (at least 4)

Main backgrounds:

- ttW, ttZ, VV (mainly WZ), non-prompt ℓ

Signal against background final discriminant:

- effective mass: $m_{eff} = \sum_{\ell} p_{T\ell} + \sum_{jet} p_{Tj} + E_T^{miss}$

➤ Signal regions (SRs):

1 top decaying leptonically

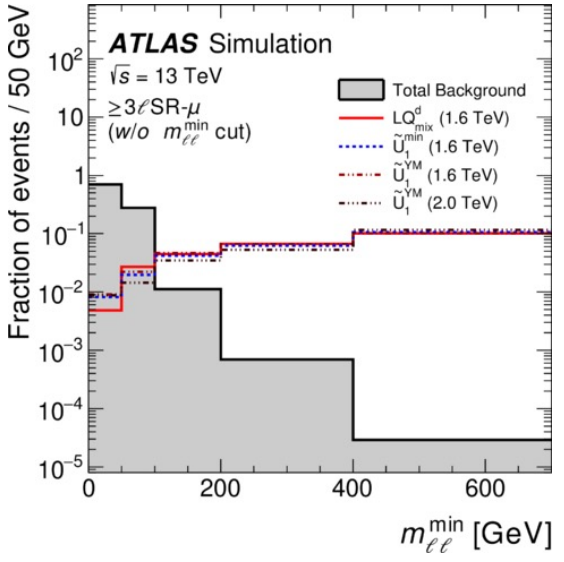
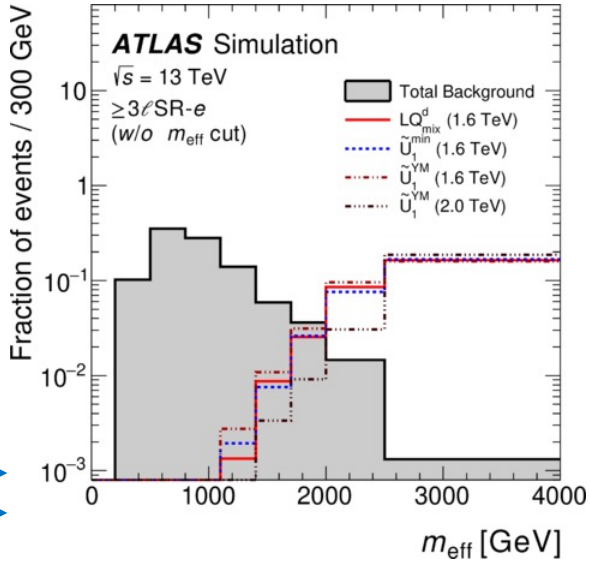
- 3 ℓ SR-e ($3e / 2e1\mu$, for $tete$ channel)
- 3 ℓ SR- μ ($3\mu / 2\mu 1e$, for $t\mu t\mu$ channel)

Z veto
 $m_{eff} > 500$ GeV
 $m_{\ell\ell}^{min} > 200$ GeV

Both top decaying leptonically

- 4 ℓ SR-e ($4e / 3e1\mu / 2e2\mu$ (lead e))
- 4 ℓ SR- μ ($4\mu / 3\mu 1e / 2\mu 2e$ (lead μ))

Z veto
 $m_{eff} > 500$ GeV
 $m_{\ell\ell}^{min} > 100$ GeV



➤ Background estimate:

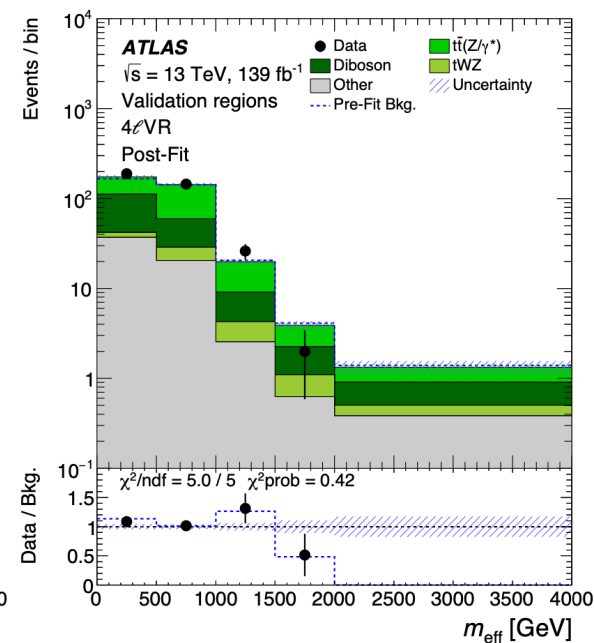
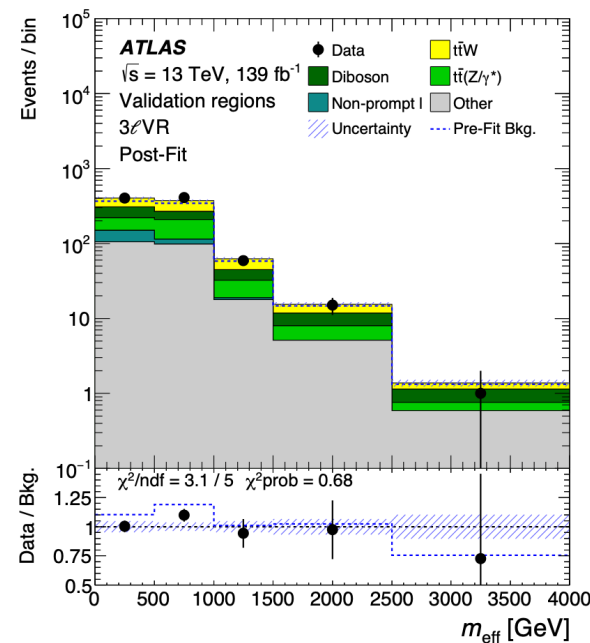
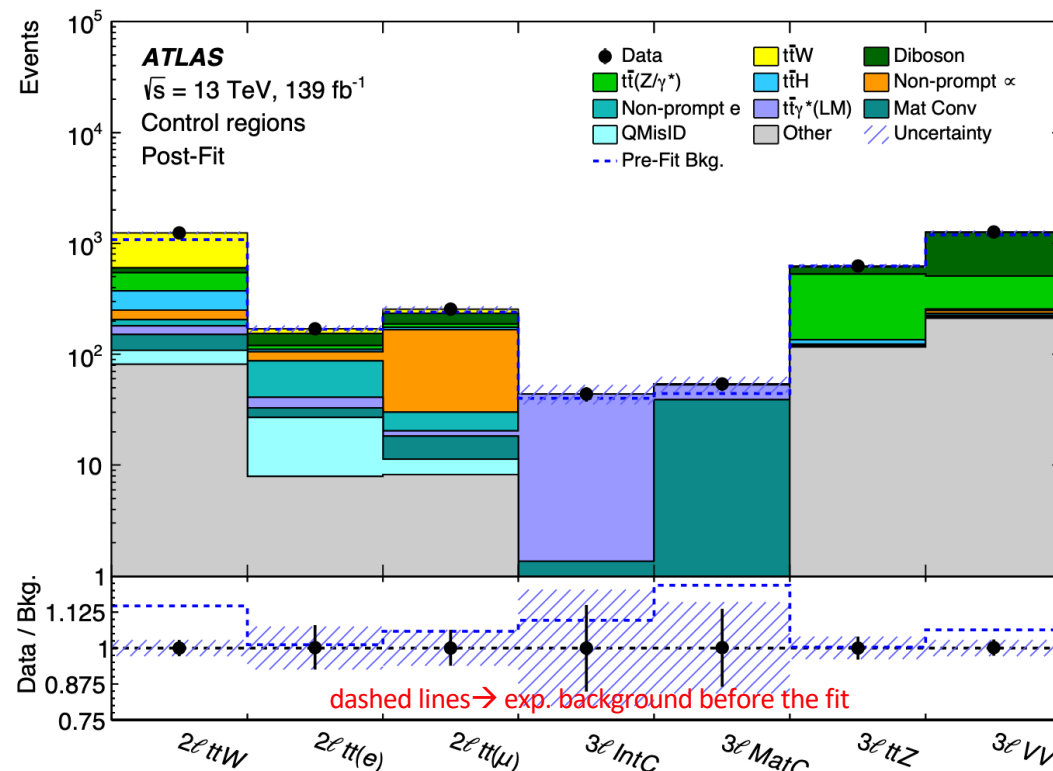
ttW , ttZ , VV , non-prompt $\ell \rightarrow$ Normalised by a likelihood fit to data in background enriched Control Regions (CRs) and validated in Validation Regions (VRs) close to the signal regions.

7 CRs:

- 3 regions $2S\ell$ with conversion veto $\rightarrow 2\ell ttW$ ttW enriched, $2\ell tt(e/\mu)$ HF non-prompt ℓ enriched
- 2 regions 3ℓ with no Internal/Material conversion veto $\rightarrow 3\ell \text{IntC}$, $3\ell \text{MatC}$ enriched in photon conversion from $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu\gamma^*(\rightarrow ee)$
- 2 regions 3ℓ with 1 Z candidate $\rightarrow 3\ell VV$ diboson enriched, $3\ell ttZ$ ttZ enriched

2 VRs :

- $3\ell \text{VR}$ and $4\ell \text{VR}$ \rightarrow similar selection as SRs but no m_{eff} request and inverted cut on $m_{\ell\ell}^{\text{min}}$



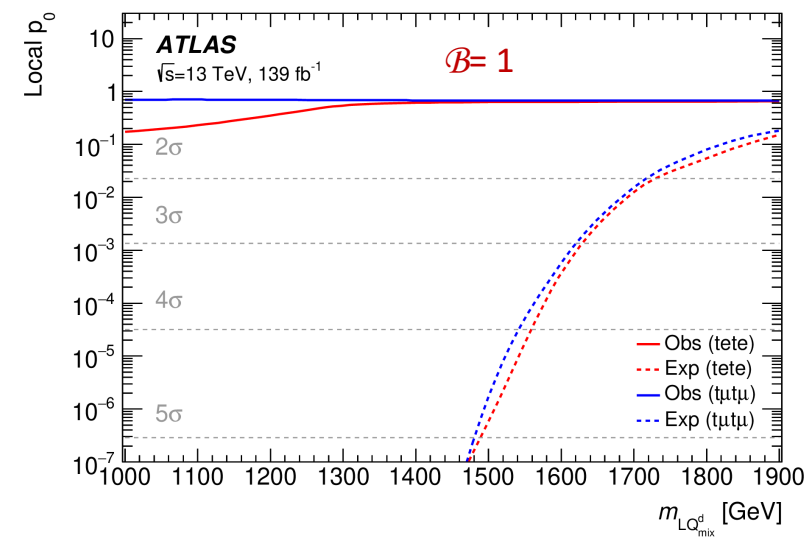
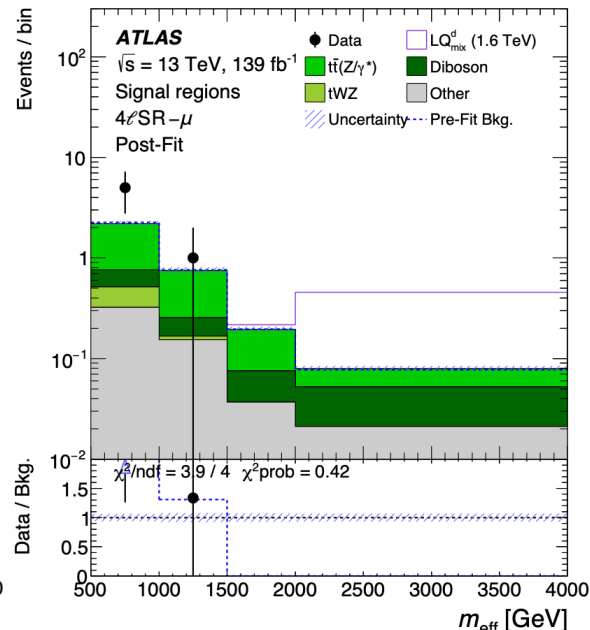
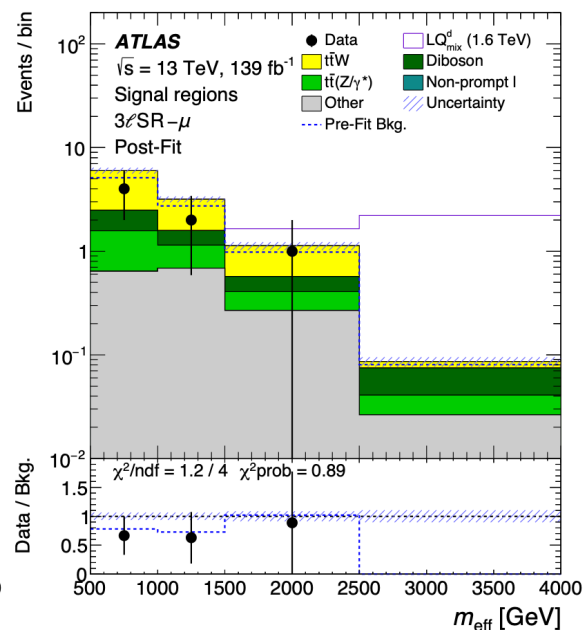
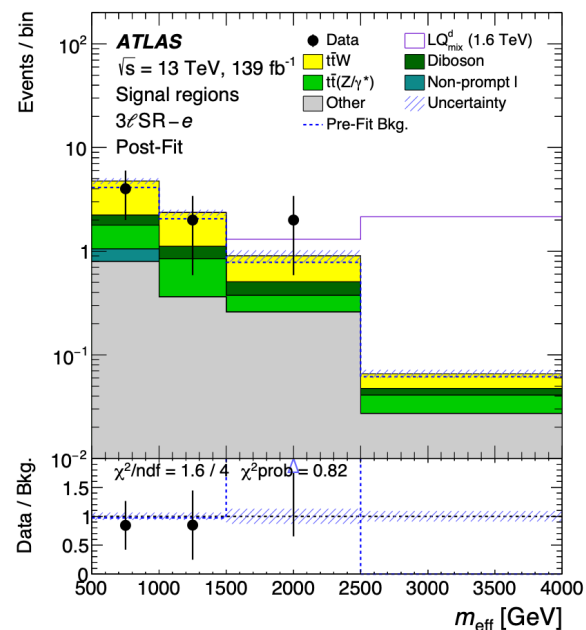
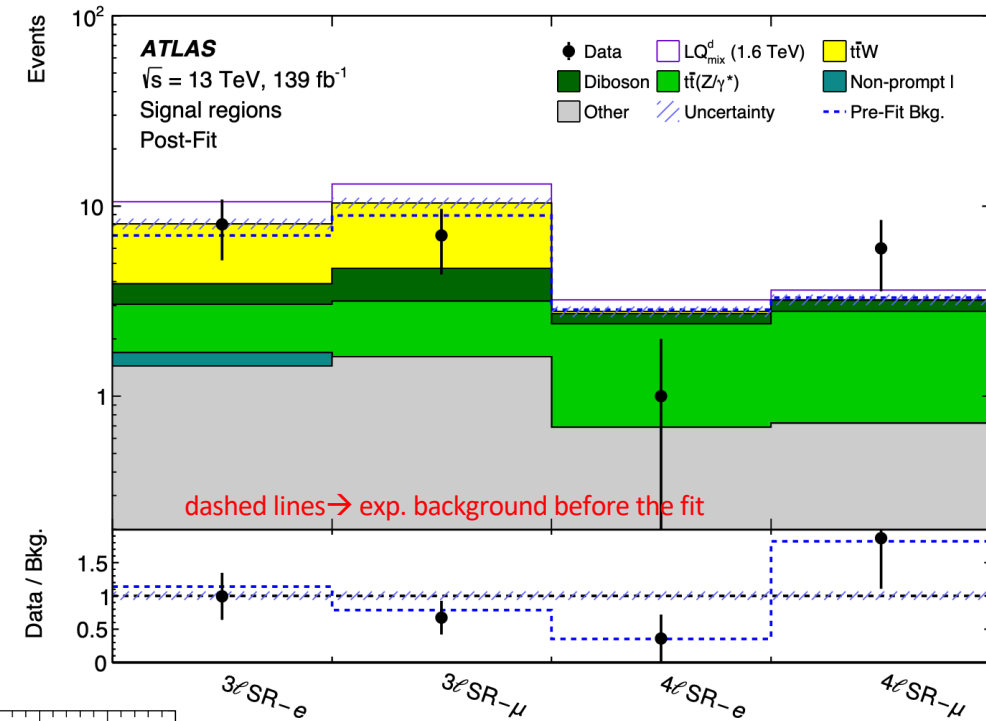
$$\text{LQLQ} \rightarrow t\bar{t} \ell^+ \ell^- (\ell = e, \mu)$$

2306.17642

➤ Uncertainties and Results

Systematics uncertainties (from experimental effects and theoretical modelling) **small compared to the statistical ones** → the largest impact on the likelihood fit results from lepton identification

The search reaches an expected significance of 5 standard deviations for a scalar leptoquark decaying ($\mathcal{B} = 1$) to t and ℓ with mass below about 1.5 TeV.



LQLQ \rightarrow tt $\ell^+ \ell^-$ ($\ell = e, \mu$) [2306.17642](#)

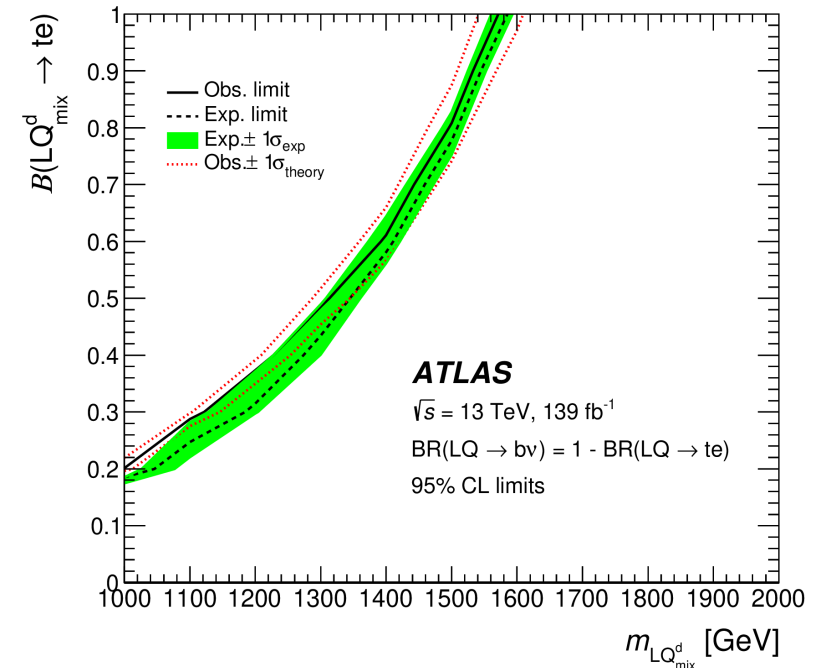
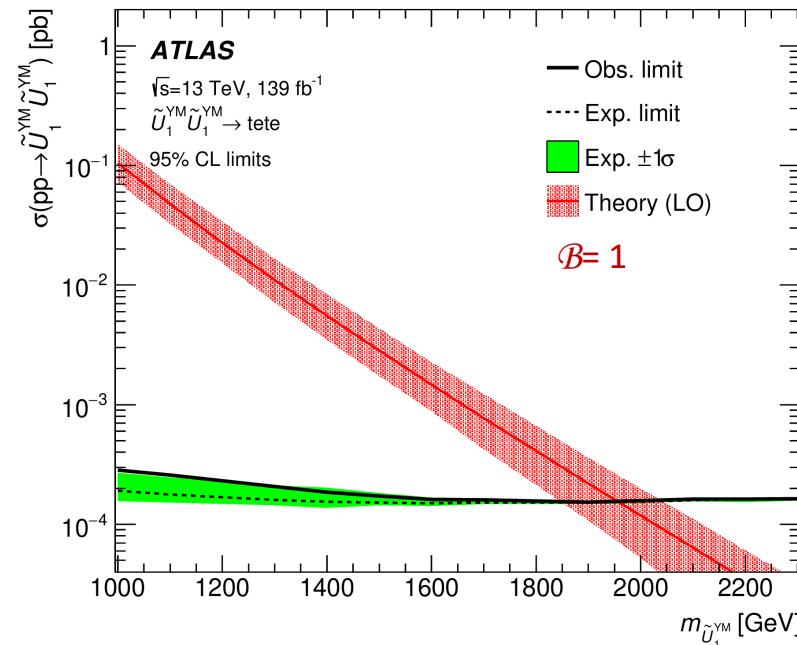
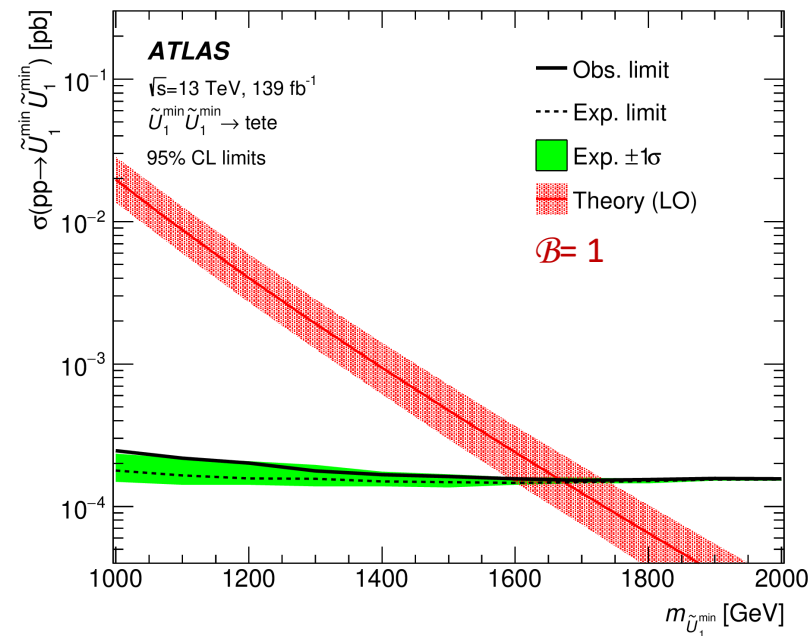
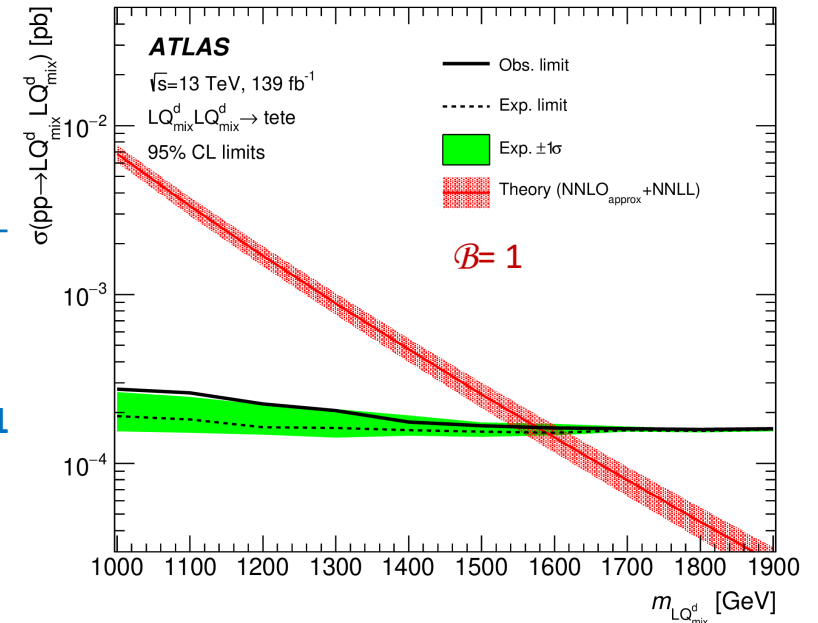
➤ Observed 95% C.L. limits

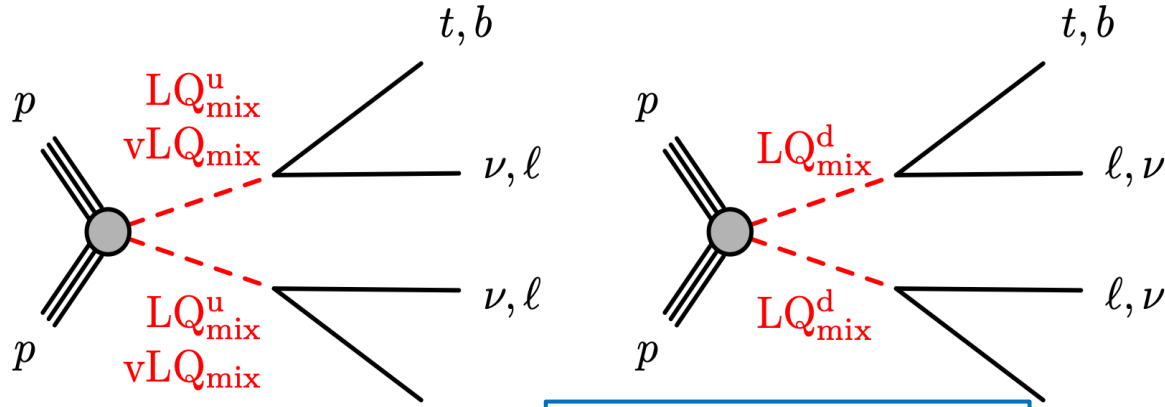
	$\mathcal{B}(\text{LQ} \rightarrow t e) = 1$	$\mathcal{B}(\text{LQ} \rightarrow t \mu) = 1$
$\text{LQ}_{\text{mix}}^{\text{d}}$	1.58 TeV	1.59 TeV
vLQ_{min}	1.67 TeV	1.67 TeV
vLQ_{YM}	1.95 TeV	1.95 TeV
	$\mathcal{B}(\text{LQ} \rightarrow t e) = 0.5$	$\mathcal{B}(\text{LQ} \rightarrow t \mu) = 0.5$
$\text{LQ}_{\text{mix}}^{\text{d}}$	1.31 TeV	1.37 TeV

improved wrt previous searches with multi-light-leptons \rightarrow [JHEP 06 \(2021\) 179](#)

complementary to searches with hadronically-decaying tt \rightarrow [Eur. Phys. J. C 81 \(2021\) 313](#)

Competitive with the [JHEP 06 \(2023\) 188](#) analysis \rightarrow





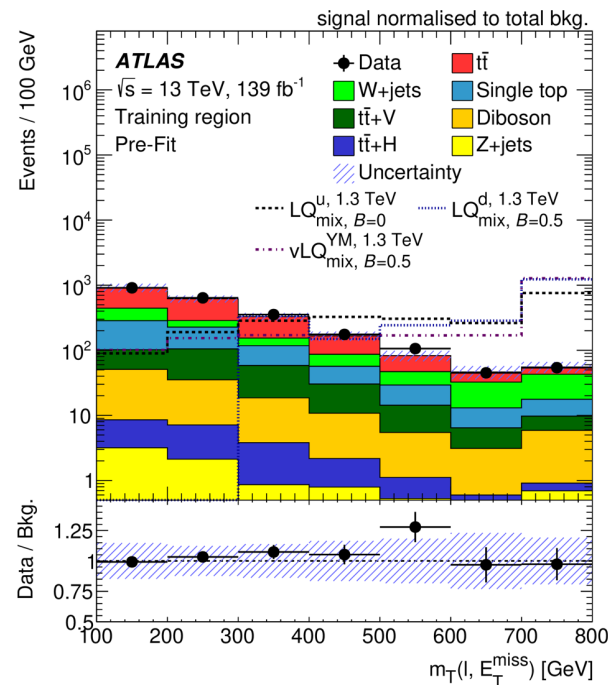
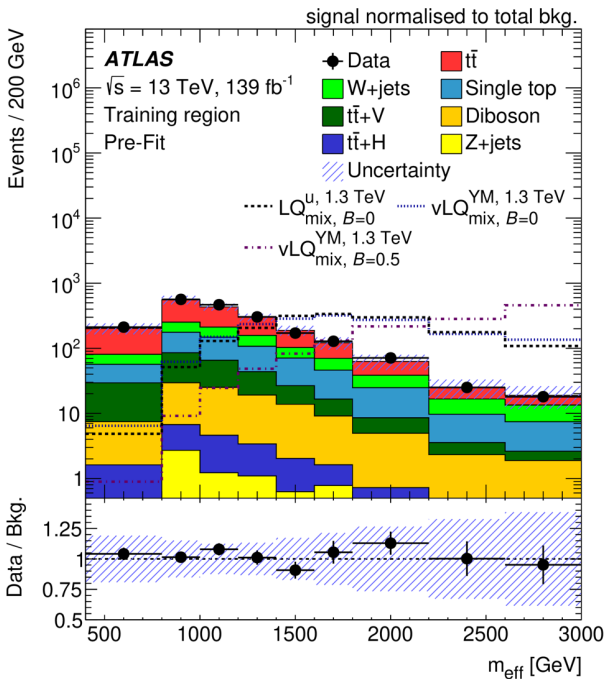
$$m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}) > 120 \text{ GeV}$$

$$am_{T2}^{(**)} > 200 \text{ GeV}$$

$$NN_{\text{out}} \geq 0.5$$

➤ Training region

➤ Signal region (SR)



Pair-produced scalar LQ_{mix}^u or LQ_{mix}^d , but search also optimized for up-type vector LQs (U_1 vLQ_{mix}):

- 3rd generation quarks (t,b)
- 1st or 2nd generation leptons (e, μ, ν)

Selected events with:

= 1(*) ℓ (e or μ), ≥ 4 jets, ≥ 1 b -jet, E_T^{miss} (from ν) > 250 GeV, $m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}) > 30$ GeV, $\Delta\phi(E_T^{\text{miss}}, j_{1,2}) > 0.4$

Main backgrounds:

- $t\bar{t}$, W +jets, single top

Neural networks trained separately for scalar and vector LQ, signal against background final discriminant:

- NN output (NN_{out})

(*) single-lepton final state optimised for medium to small \mathcal{B}

(**) $am_{T2} \rightarrow$ asymmetric transverse mass

LQLQ → tv bℓ / tℓ bv (ℓ = e, μ)

➤ Background estimate:

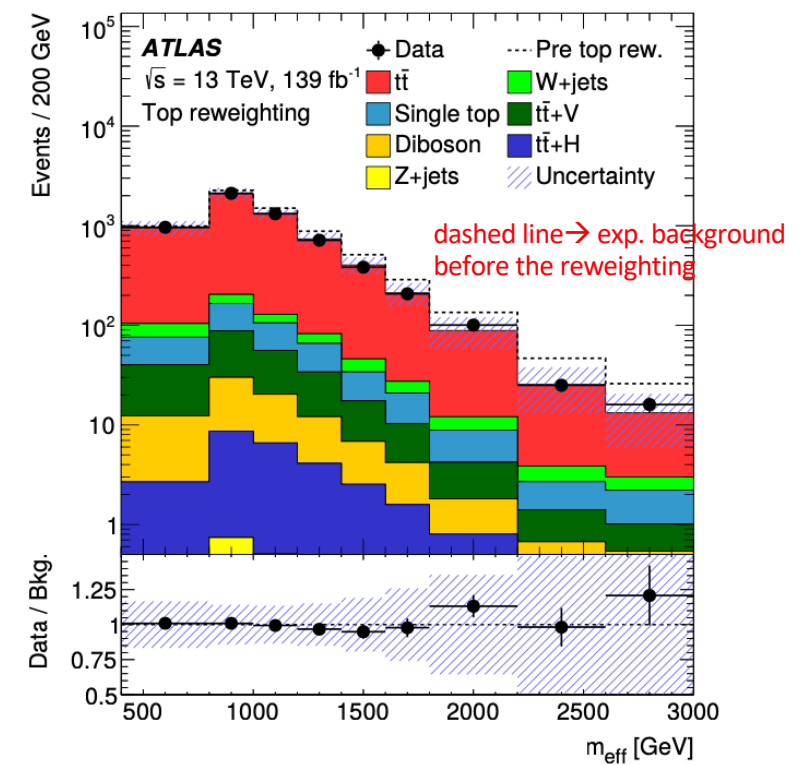
‘Top reweighting’ (tt + single top) applied in jet multiplicity bins as a function of m_{eff} (to improve modelling at high p_T)

➔ Reweighting region
 $m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}) > 120 \text{ GeV}$
 $am_{T2} < 200 \text{ GeV}$

W+jets, single top → Normalised to data in background enriched CRs orthogonal to SRs and to Reweighting region

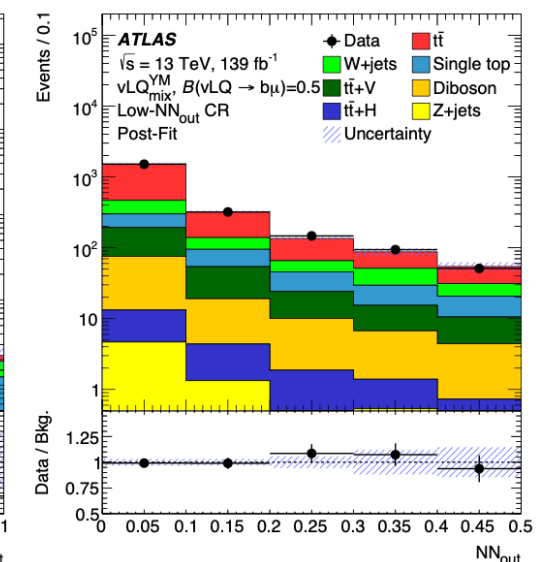
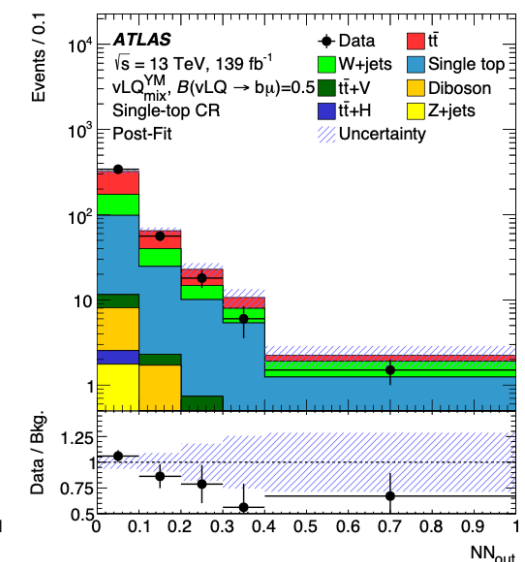
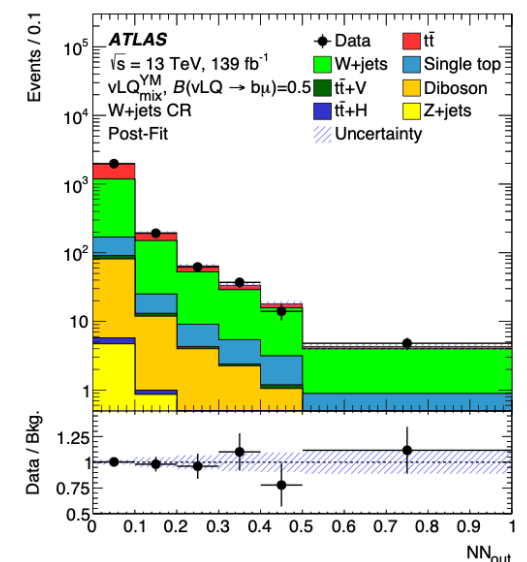
3 CRs:

- **W+jets** → $am_{T2} > 200 \text{ GeV}, 50 < m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}) < 120 \text{ GeV}, 1 \text{ } b\text{-jet}$
- **Single top** → $am_{T2} > 200 \text{ GeV}, m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}) < 120 \text{ GeV}, 2 \text{ } b\text{-jet}$
- **Low- NN_{out} CR** (mainly tt enriched) → same requests as SR, but $NN_{\text{out}} < 0.5$



NN training:

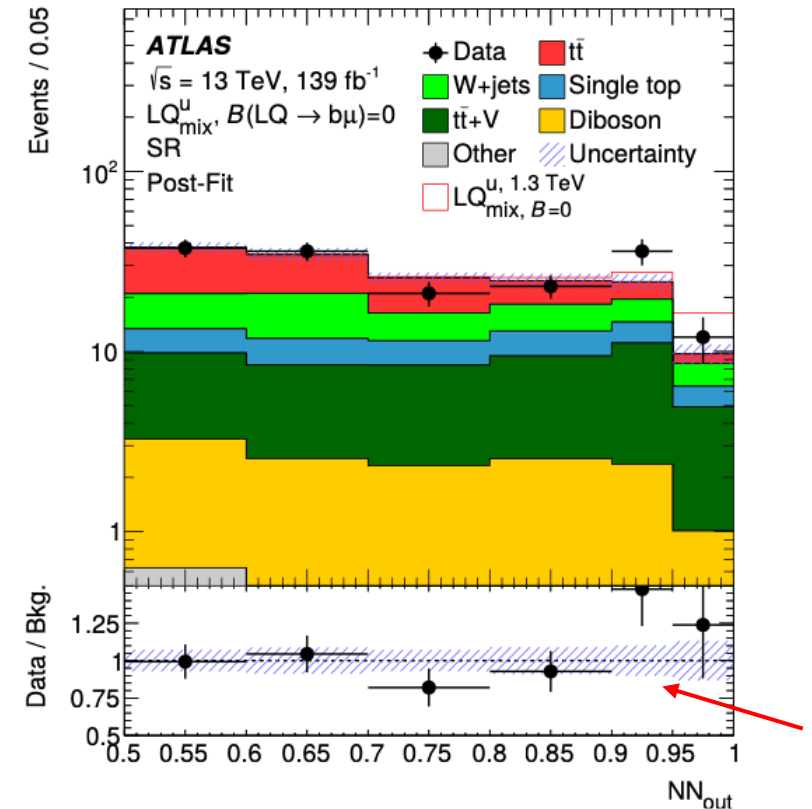
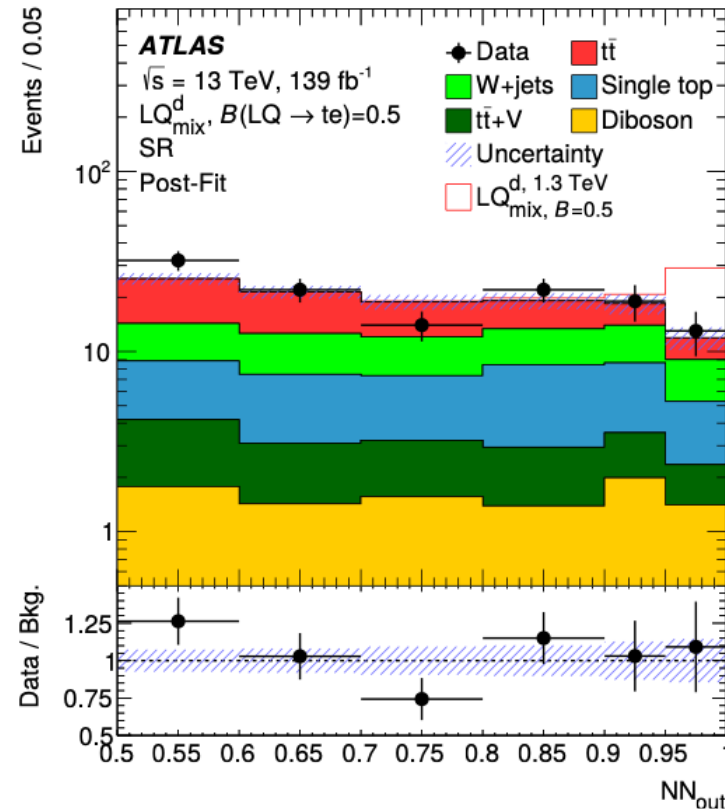
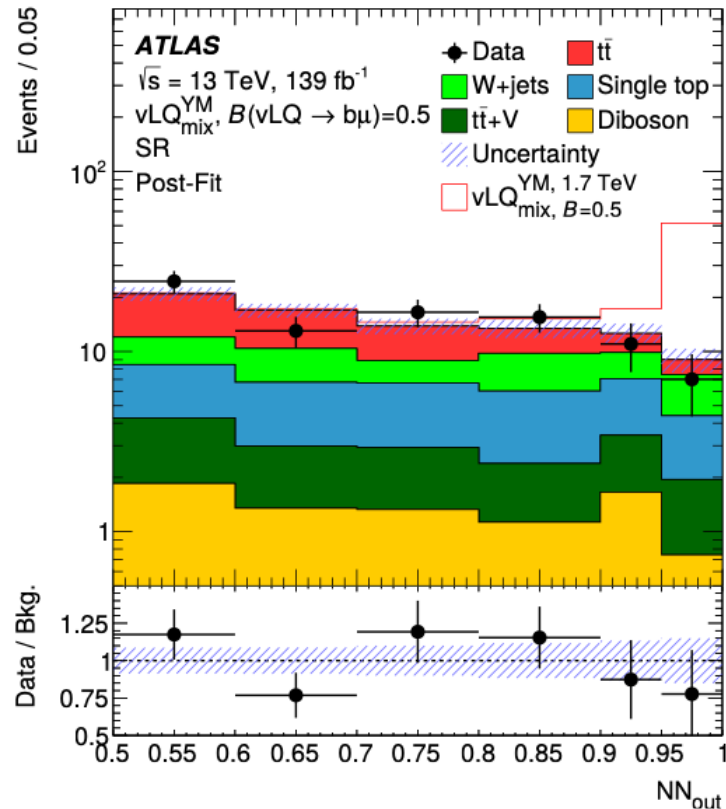
15 variables, different m_{LQ} combined,
 $LQ_{\text{mix}}^u \rightarrow 4 \text{ NNs per lepton flavour}$
 at $\mathcal{B} = 0., 0.25, 0.5, 0.9$ (scalar and vector)
 $LQ_{\text{mix}}^d \rightarrow 1 \text{ NNs per lepton flavour at } \mathcal{B} = 0.5$



➤ Uncertainties and Results

Systematics uncertainties \rightarrow the largest contributions from the modelling of the background processes ($t\bar{t}$, theoretical) and jet energy scale and resolution (experimental)

For each NN training \rightarrow a separate fit to the NN_{out} distribution, and the normalisation parameters obtained from fits to data are consistent across all trainings.

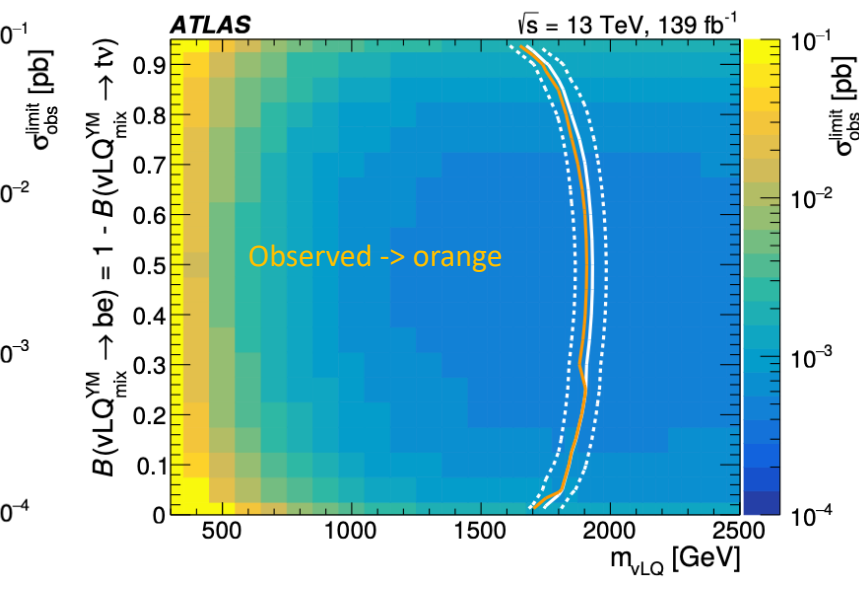
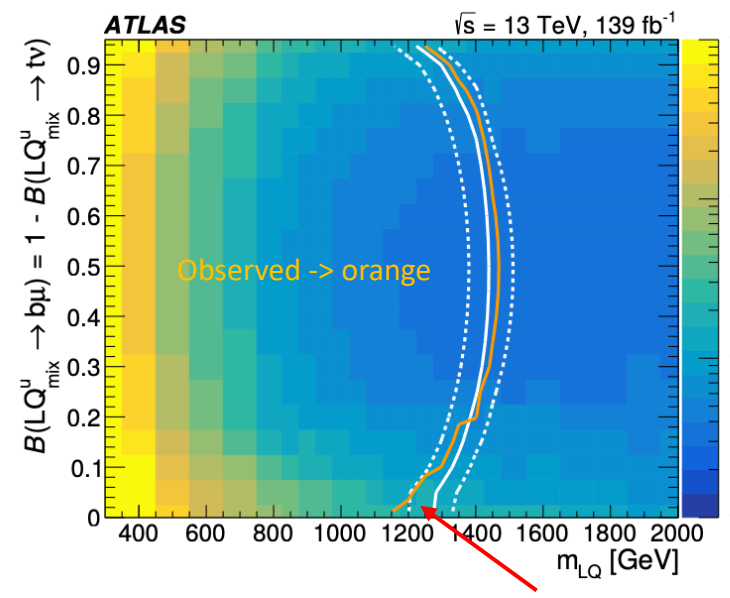
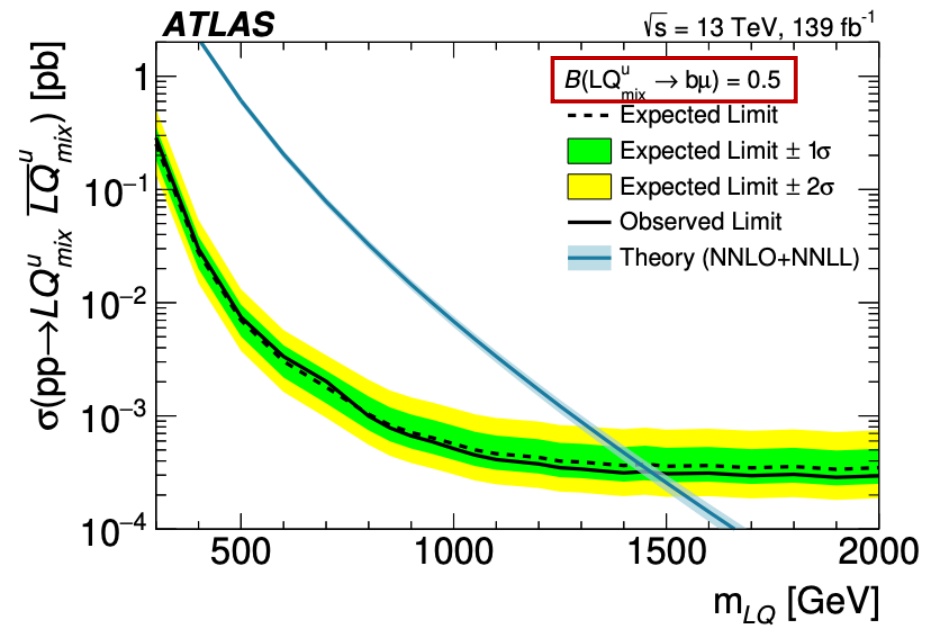
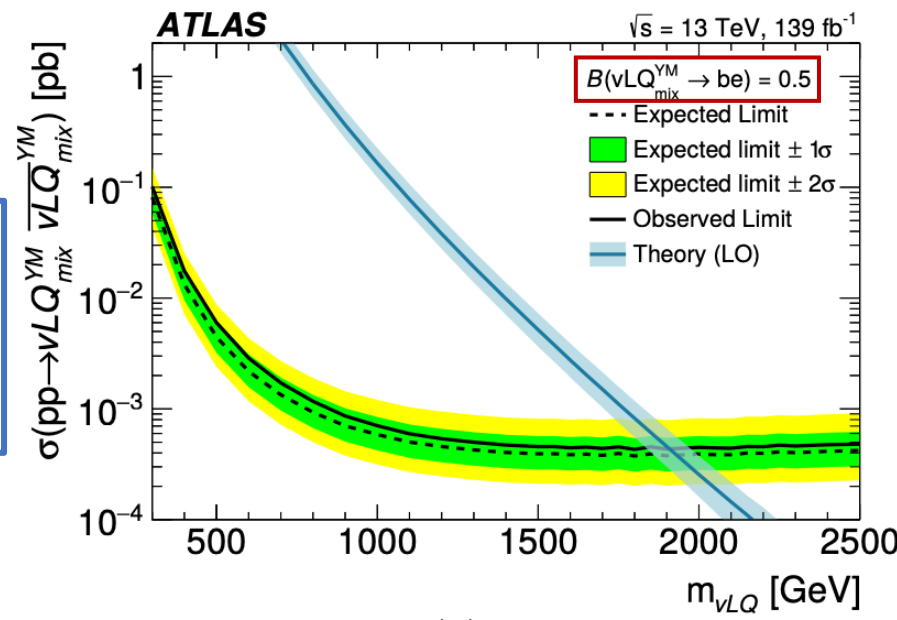


$LQLQ \rightarrow tv\ b\ell / t\ell\ bv\ (\ell = e, \mu)$

➤ Observed 95% C.L. limits

	$\mathcal{B}(LQ \rightarrow tv / be) = 0.5$	$\mathcal{B}(LQ \rightarrow tv / b\mu) = 0.5$
LQ^u_{mix}	1.44 TeV	1.46 TeV
LQ^{YM}_{mix}	1.90 TeV	1.98 TeV
LQ^{min}_{mix}	1.62 TeV	1.71 TeV
	$\mathcal{B}(LQ \rightarrow te/bv) = 0.5$	$\mathcal{B}(LQ \rightarrow t\mu/bv) = 0.5$
LQ^d_{mix}	1.39 TeV	1.37 TeV

For the first time, dedicated neural networks to search for U_1 leptoquarks



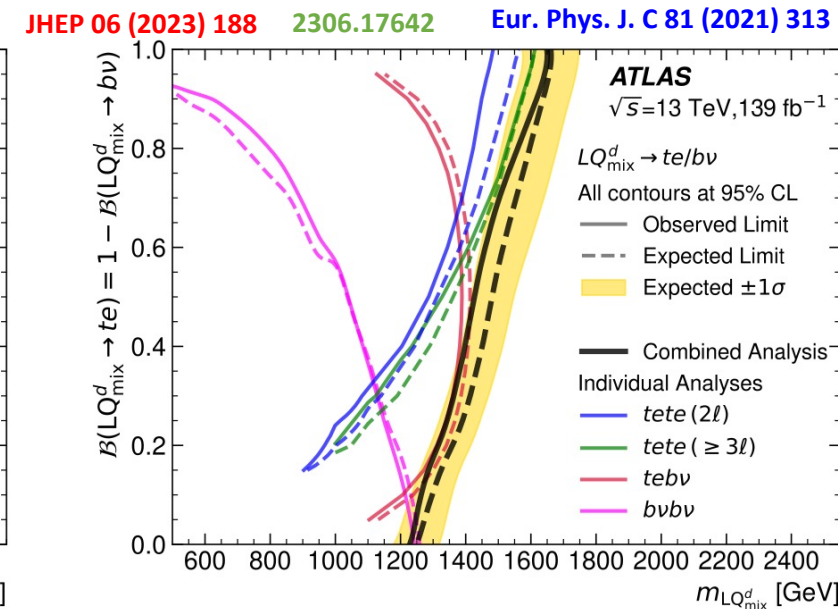
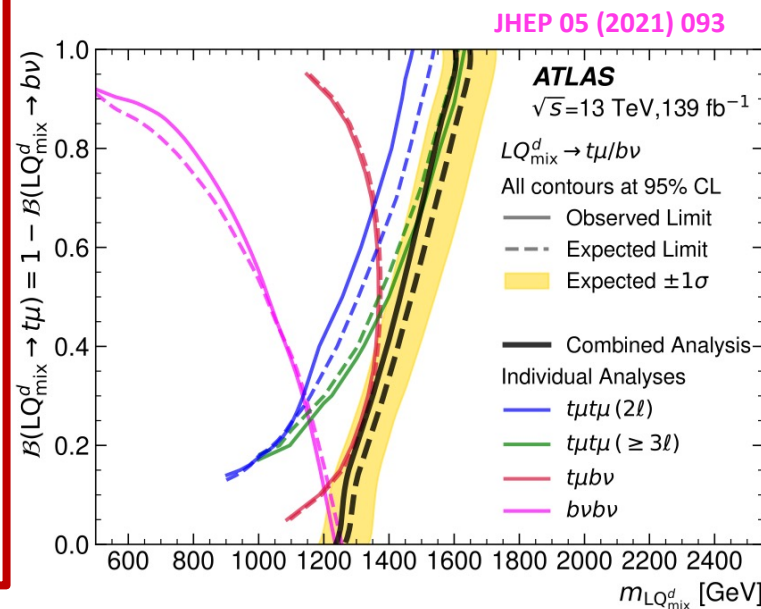
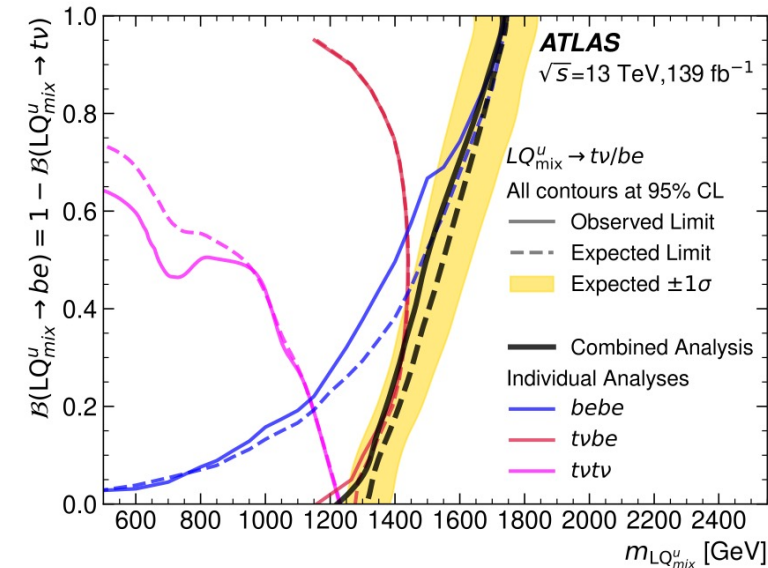
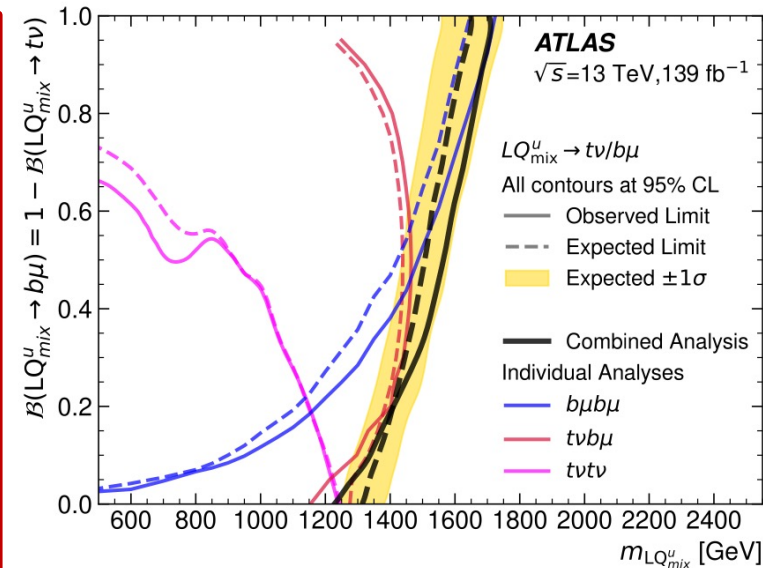
Statistical combination of searches for LQLQ
 \rightarrow 3rd generation quarks and charged/neutral
 ℓ of any generation

Statistical combination \rightarrow same formalism as
 the individual analyses (9, independent)

Overlap among regions and uncertainties
 correlations carefully checked

With respect to individual analyses:

- Limits on scalar LQ_{mix}^u to muons (electrons) **improved up to 80 (90) GeV (3 analyses combined)**
- Limits on LQ_{mix}^d to muons (electrons) **improved up to 60 (80) GeV (4 analyses combined)**



Conclusions

- ATLAS published wide range of searches for LQs with cross-generational couplings using data recorded during Run 2 at LHC

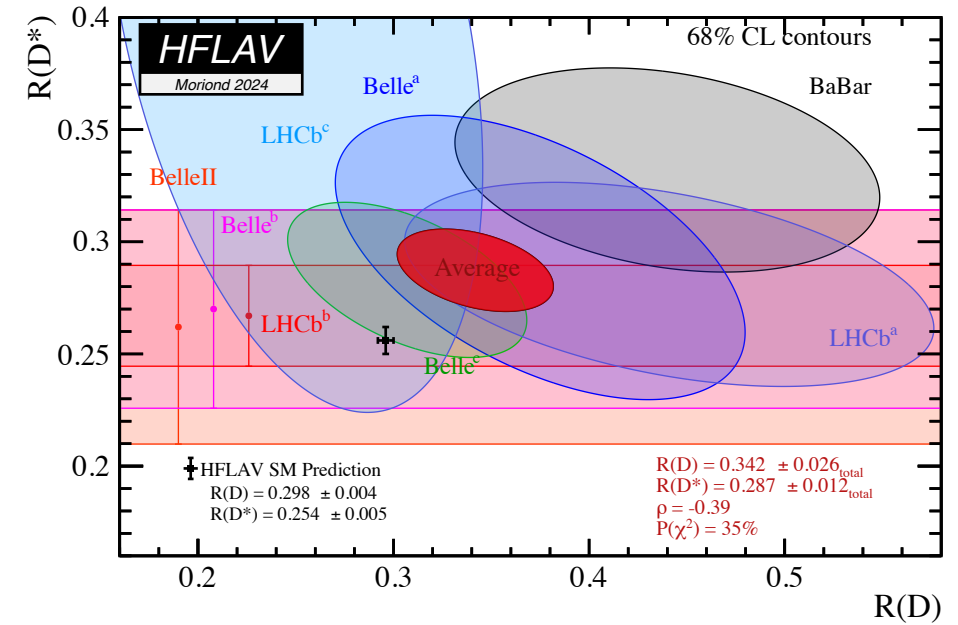
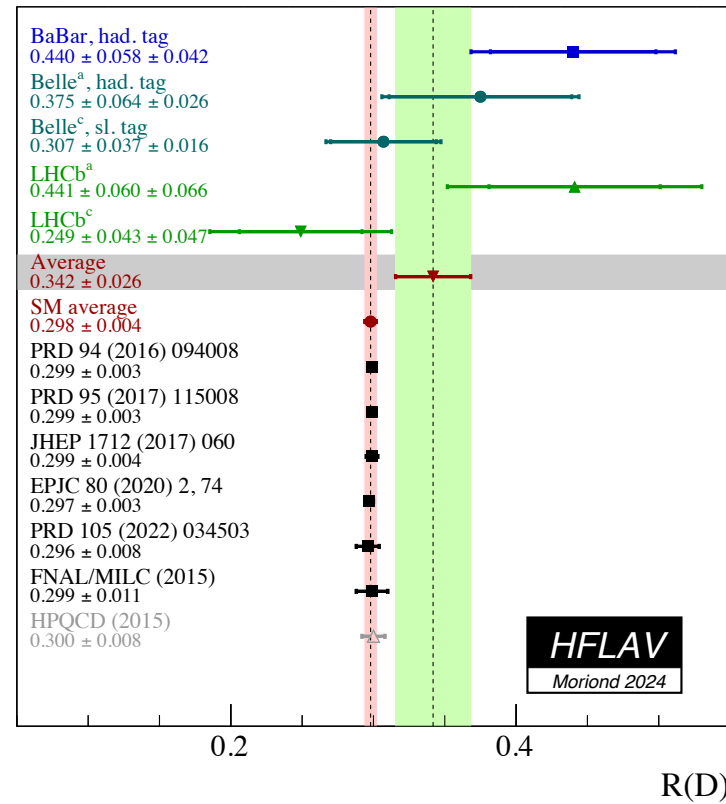
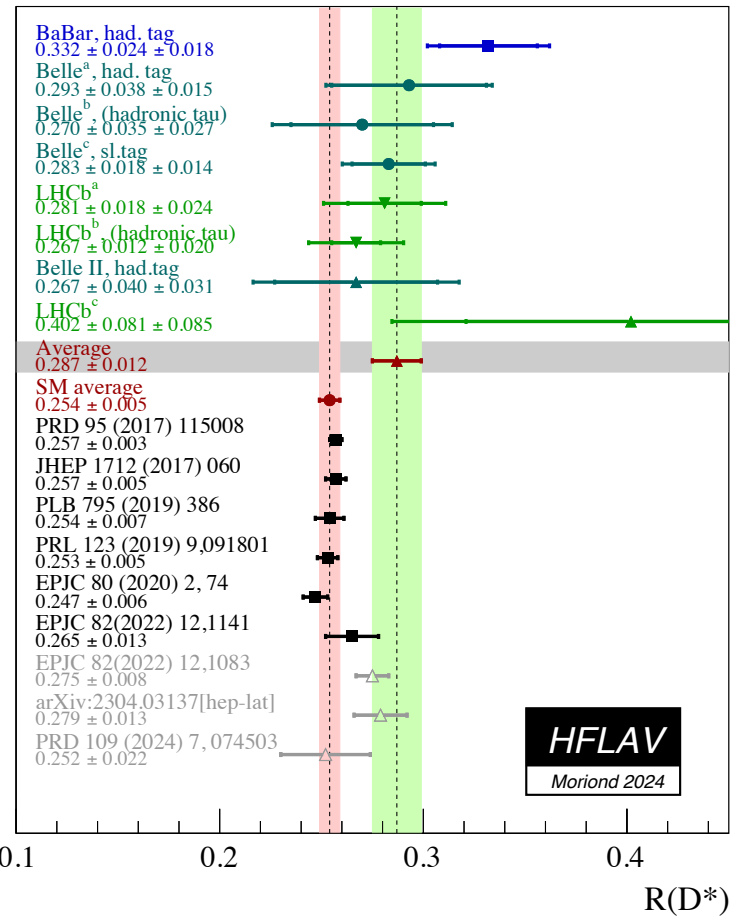
All ATLAS results in <https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/AtlasPublic>

- No clear new physics evidence in Run 2 dataset in searches for leptoquarks (both vector and scalar)
- LQ analyses often statistically limited, but LHC Run 3 is going on and HL-LHC will follow: looking forward to more data to be analyzed (≈ 20 times more data expected!)
- Benefits will come from improvements (e.g. in flavour tagging)

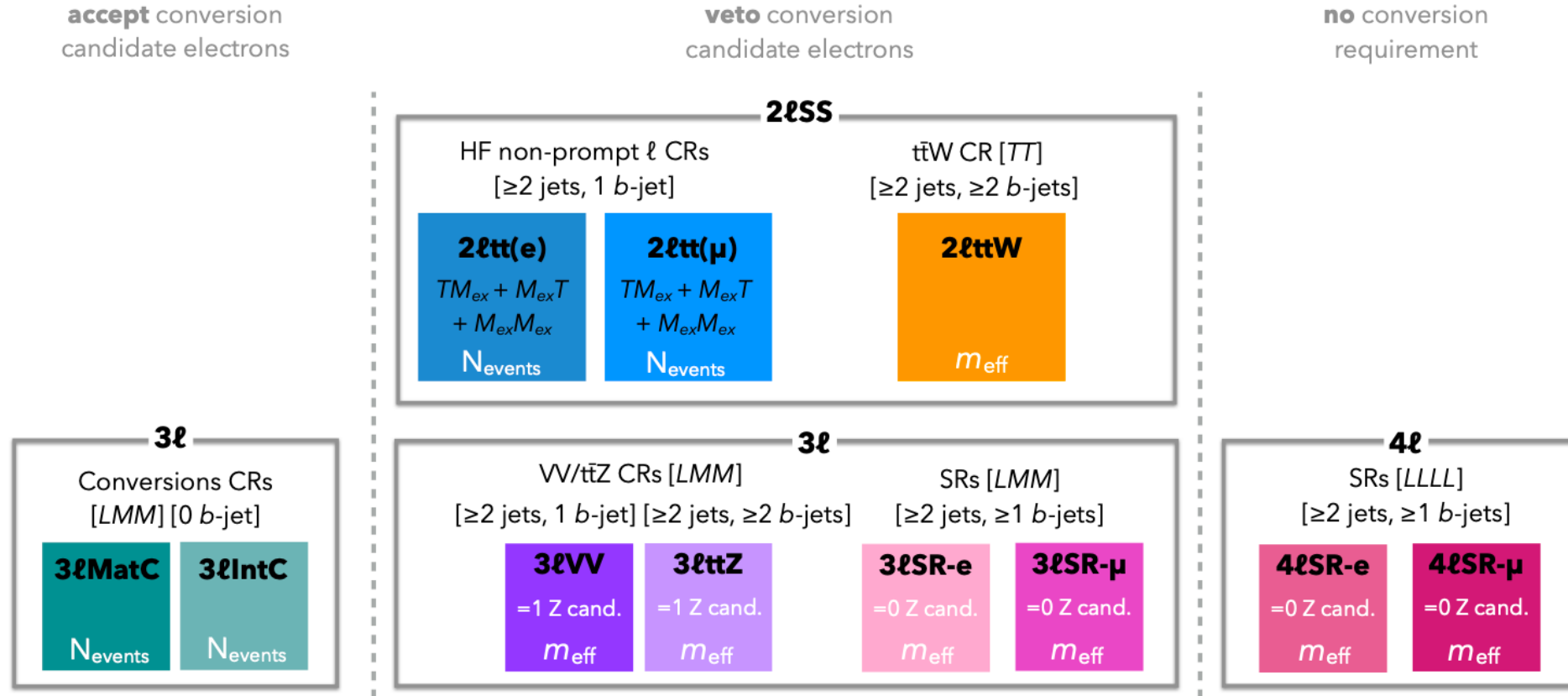
Thank you!

Backup Slides

<https://hflav-eos.web.cern.ch/hflav-eos/semi/moriond24/html/RDsDsstar/RDRDs.html>



$$LQLQ \rightarrow t\bar{t} \ell^+ \ell^- (\ell = e, \mu)$$

[2306.17642](#)


Illustrative sketch of the definition of the signal and control regions. The corresponding observable used in the simultaneous fit is given at the bottom of each region box.

	3 ℓ SR- e	3 ℓ SR- μ	4 ℓ SR- e	4 ℓ SR- μ
Data	8	7	1	6
Total background	8.1 ± 0.6	10.2 ± 0.7	2.8 ± 0.2	3.3 ± 0.2
$t\bar{t}W$	4.2 ± 0.6	5.6 ± 0.8	—	—
Diboson	0.9 ± 0.1	1.5 ± 0.2	0.32 ± 0.05	0.40 ± 0.04
$t\bar{t}Z/\gamma^*$	1.33 ± 0.14	1.55 ± 0.15	1.69 ± 0.18	2.09 ± 0.21
tWZ	—	—	0.23 ± 0.12	0.22 ± 0.12
Non-prompt ℓ	0.25 ± 0.16	—	—	—
Other	1.44 ± 0.22	1.61 ± 0.31	0.53 ± 0.10	0.54 ± 0.12
LQ_{mix}^d 1.6 TeV	2.5 ± 0.2	2.7 ± 0.2	0.42 ± 0.11	0.40 ± 0.05
\tilde{U}_1^{min} 1.6 TeV	4.5 ± 0.2	4.6 ± 0.3	0.7 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.1
\tilde{U}_1^{YM} 1.6 TeV	27 ± 1	29 ± 2	4.4 ± 0.2	4.2 ± 0.3
\tilde{U}_1^{YM} 2.0 TeV	2.0 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.2	0.31 ± 0.08	0.30 ± 0.03

Summary of observed and predicted yields in the four signal region categories. The background prediction is shown after the combined likelihood fit to data under the background-only hypothesis across all control region and signal region categories. The expected signal yields that are obtained by using their theoretical cross sections are also shown with their pre-fit uncertainties, assuming $\mathcal{B}=1$ and $\mu=1$. The “Other” contribution is dominated by $t\bar{t}\bar{t}$ and $t\bar{t}WW$ in the 3 ℓ SRs, whereas it is dominated by tWZ and $t\bar{t}WW$ in the 4 ℓ SRs. Dashes refer to components that are negligible or not applicable.

Variable	Description
$m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}})$	transverse mass of lepton and E_T^{miss}
m_{eff}	scalar sum of the transverse momenta of leptons, jets, and E_T^{miss}
Lepton flavour	flavour of the signal lepton
$p_T(\ell)$	transverse momentum of the lepton
$m_{\text{inv}}(b_1, \ell)$	invariant mass of the leading- p_T b -jet and the lepton
n_{large}	reclustered large- R jet multiplicity
am_{T2}	asymmetric transverse mass
E_T^{miss} significance	measure for assessing the compatibility of the observed E_T^{miss} with zero, taking resolutions into account
$m_T(b_1, E_T^{\text{miss}})$	transverse mass of leading- p_T b -jet and E_T^{miss}
$p_T(t_{\text{had}})$	transverse momentum of t_{had}
$\Delta\phi(E_T^{\text{miss}}, b_2)$	azimuthal angle separation between E_T^{miss} and subleading- p_T b -jet
$m_{\text{inv}}(b_2, \ell)$	invariant mass of subleading- p_T b -jet and lepton
$\Delta\phi(E_T^{\text{miss}}, b_1)$	azimuthal angle separation between E_T^{miss} and leading- p_T b -jet
$\Delta\phi(t_{\text{had}}, \ell)$	azimuthal angle separation between t_{had} and lepton
$p_T(b_1)$	transverse momentum of leading- p_T b -jet

$$am_{T2} = \min_{\vec{p}_{T,1} + \vec{p}_{T,2} = \vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}} \{ \max [m_T(\vec{p}_{b_1} + \vec{p}_\ell, \vec{p}_{T,1}), m_T(\vec{p}_{b_2}, \vec{p}_{T,2})] \}$$

b_1, b_2 the 2 jets with the highest b-tagging score

Input variables for the NN training, approximately sorted in descending ability to discriminate between signal and background. The order is not absolute as there is some dependence on the signal model and \mathcal{B} . Some variables might not be defined in every event.

Top reweighting region	W+jets CR	Single-top CR	Training region Low- NN_{out} CR/SR
$n_b \geq 1$	$n_b = 1$	$n_b = 2$	$n_b \geq 1$
$m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}) \geq 120 \text{ GeV}$	$50 \text{ GeV} \leq m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}) < 120 \text{ GeV}$	$m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}) < 120 \text{ GeV}$	$m_T(\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}) \geq 120 \text{ GeV}$
$am_{T2} < 200 \text{ GeV}$	$am_{T2} > 200 \text{ GeV}$	$am_{T2} > 200 \text{ GeV}$	$am_{T2} > 200 \text{ GeV}$
-	t_{had} candidate veto	large- R jet veto	-
-	lepton charge = $+1e$	-	-
-	-	$\Delta R(b_1, b_2) > 1.2$	-
-	-	-	$NN_{\text{out}} < 0.5/\geq 0.5$

Event selections applied in the different regions of the analysis.

	W +jets CR	Single-top CR	Low- NN_{out} CR	SR
$t\bar{t}$	860 ± 140	186 ± 35	1370 ± 150	53 ± 10
Single top	103 ± 87	131 ± 47	200 ± 110	36 ± 14
W +jets	1240 ± 130	101 ± 28	265 ± 55	32.4 ± 6.9
$t\bar{t}+V$	11.0 ± 1.8	4.47 ± 0.79	180 ± 28	16.7 ± 2.6
Diboson	94.3 ± 9.8	7.6 ± 1.9	94 ± 11	11.1 ± 1.2
$t\bar{t}+H$	1.27 ± 0.16	1.00 ± 0.12	14.4 ± 1.7	1.34 ± 0.18
Z +jets	6.46 ± 0.32	2.18 ± 0.11	7.20 ± 0.36	1.31 ± 0.07
Total background	2308 ± 48	433 ± 21	2126 ± 46	152 ± 13
Observed events	2310	430	2124	157
$\nu\text{LQ}_{\text{mix}}^{\text{YM}}$ (1.7 TeV, $\mathcal{B} = 0.5$)	0.109 ± 0.022	0.097 ± 0.016	1.57 ± 0.10	38.9 ± 2.6

Observed and expected event yields in the control and signal regions for a training for $\nu\text{LQ}_{\text{mix}}^{\text{YM}} \rightarrow b\mu/t\nu$ and $\mathcal{B} = 0.5$ after the background-only fit. The uncertainties in the background predictions include both the statistical and systematic components. For comparison, expected event yields are shown for a $\nu\text{LQ}_{\text{mix}}^{\text{YM}}$ signal at a mass point of 1700 GeV and $\mathcal{B} = 0.5$ including its pre-fit uncertainties.