



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

Vector boson scattering results in CMS

Andrea Piccinelli

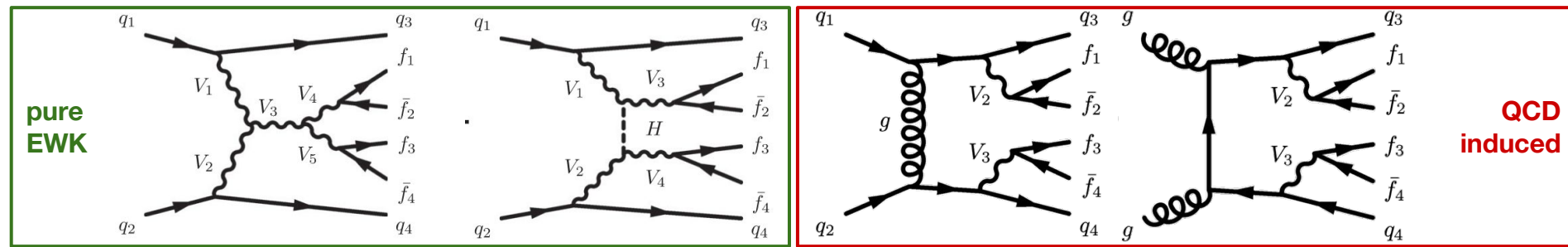
On behalf of the CMS Collaboration

ICHEP 2024 - July 20th, 2024 @ Prague

What is VBS?

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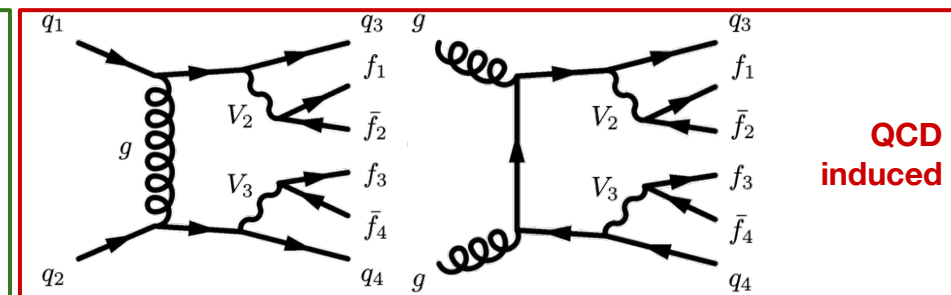
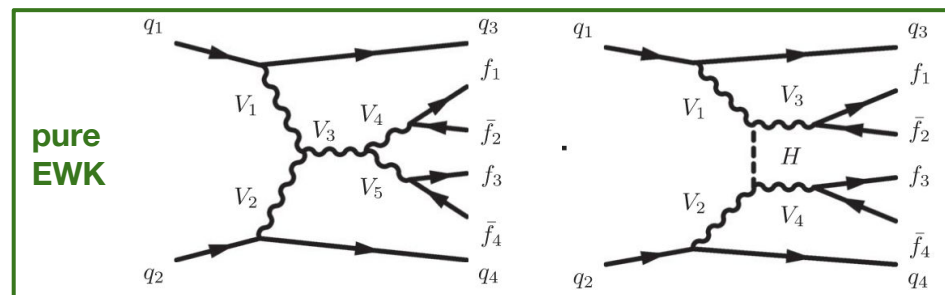
- **Scattering of two Vector Bosons ($V = W, Z, \gamma$)**
 - Triple and Quartic Gauge Couplings (TGC/QGC)
- Three possible contributions (at LO)
 - **pure EWK** $O(\alpha_{EW}^6)$ - **signal**
 - **QCD-induced** $O(\alpha_{EW}^4 \alpha_S^2)$ - **background**



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- Peculiar experimental signature
 - 2 very energetic forward-backward jets: **VBS jets**
 - 4 fermions coming from the scattered Vs
- Main background due to non prompt leptons
 - QCD-induced jets reconstructed as leptons





CMS Experiment at the LHC, CERN
Data recorded: 2016-Jul-08 23:47:39.259242 GMT
Run / Event / LS: 276525 / 2665335317 / 1561

Candidate VBS event

muon

muon

VBS jet

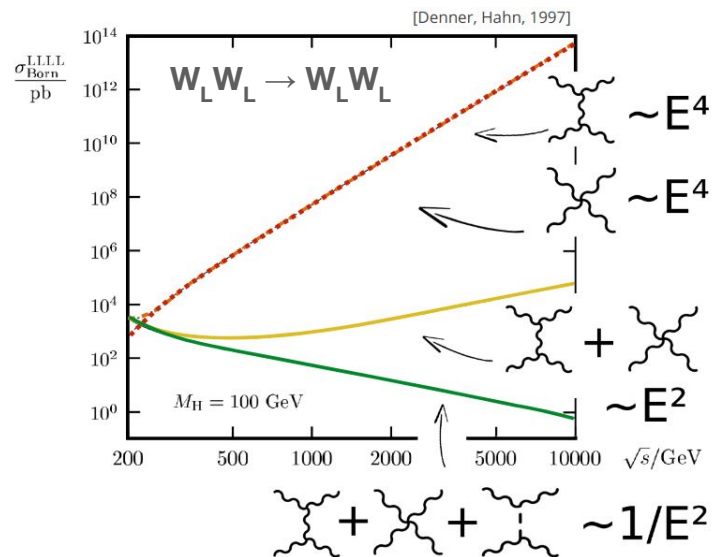
VBS jet



Why study VBS?

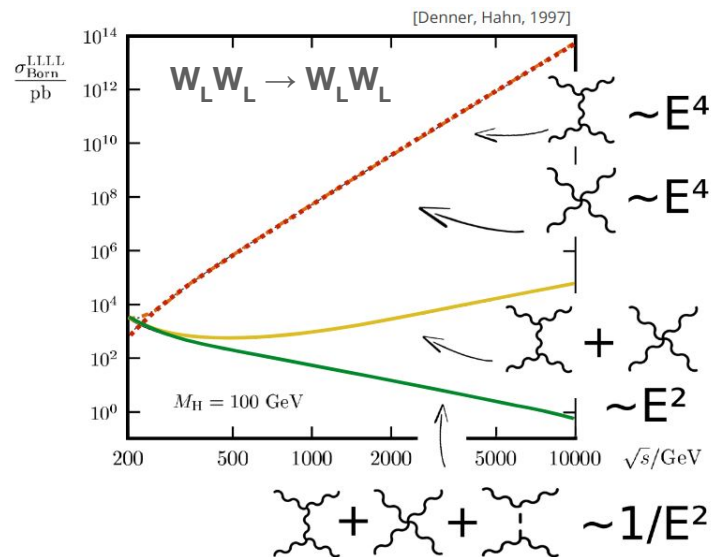
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- **Key process to probe EW Symmetry Breaking**
 - Higgs-like field necessary to preserve unitarity
 - Only investigable in VV scattering
 - Complimentary to Higgs-sector studies
- General test of the EW sector in SM
- Background wrt other signals with similar final state

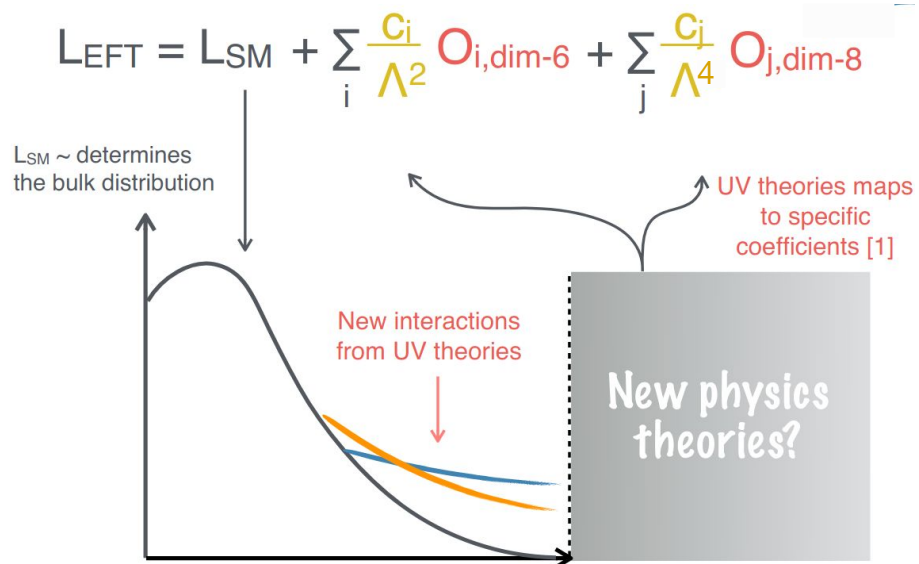


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- Higgs affecting VBS processes → **New Physics!**
 - Suitable to investigate indirect NP effects
 - anomalous Triple/Quartic Gauge Coupling (**aTGC/aQGC**)
 - **Model-independent EFT** approach
 - Direct search for new resonances



VBS measurements in CMS

- **Big effort** to investigate VBS processes with full Run-II dataset
 - Fiducial and differential x-sections
 - Indirect search for New Physics
- Several final state analyzed
 - Fully-leptonic → very clean
 - Semileptonic/fully-hadronic → sensitive to aQGCs
 - Photonic → clean, but with larger background

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- Outstanding results with the full Run-II dataset
 - Scattering $W^\pm W^\pm$ with one hadronic tau - [SMP-22-008](#)
 - Semileptonic WV scattering - [SMP-20-013](#)
 - High-mass $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW/ZZ$ production - [SMP-21-014](#)
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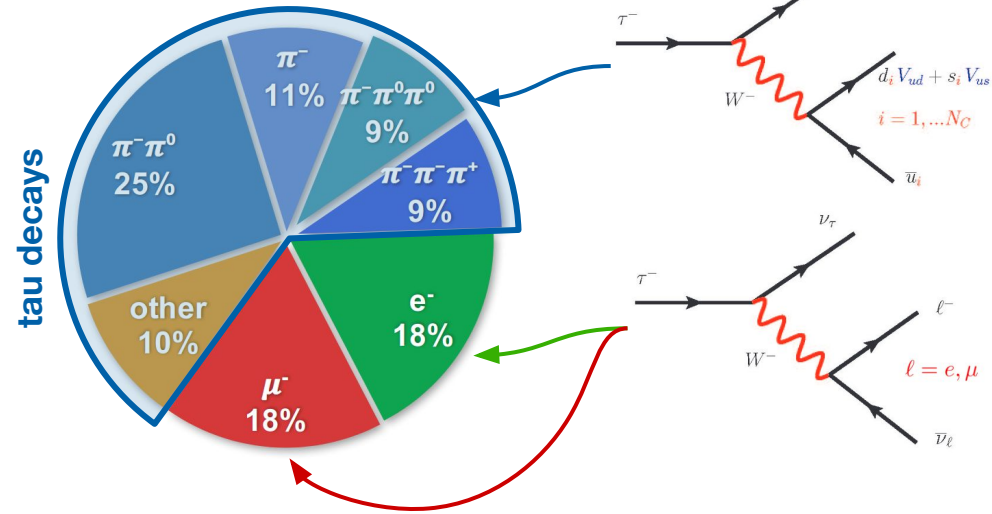
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Scattering $W^\pm W^\pm$ with one hadronic tau

CMS-SMP-22-008 – Overview

- Tau lepton decaying in hadrons (first time ever!)
- Main background: jets faking ℓ or τ_h ($\ell = e, \mu$)
- 137 fb^{-1} RunII dataset explored

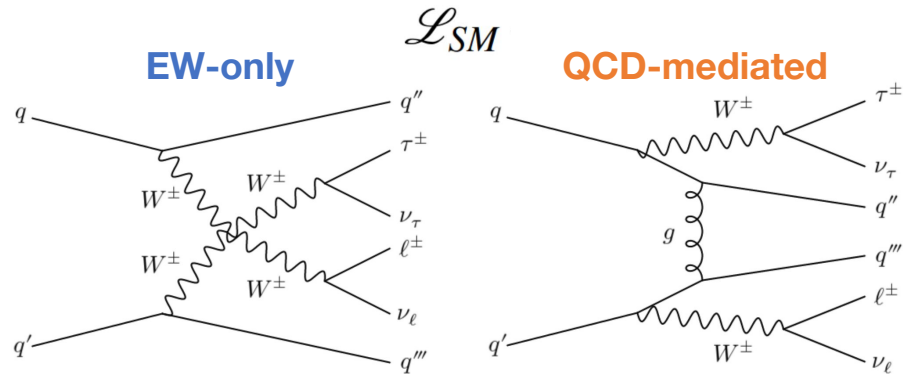
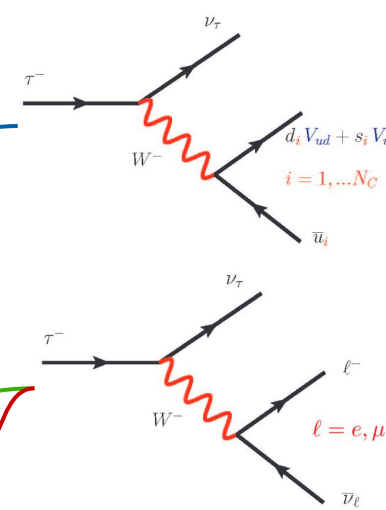
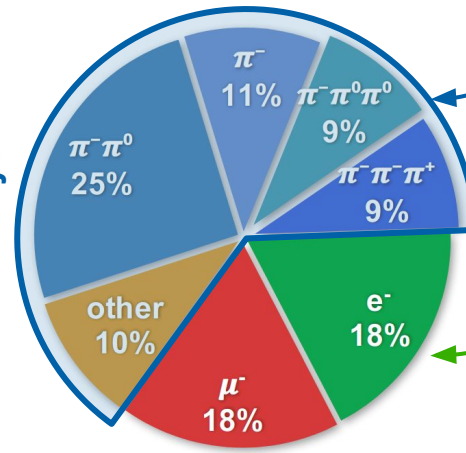


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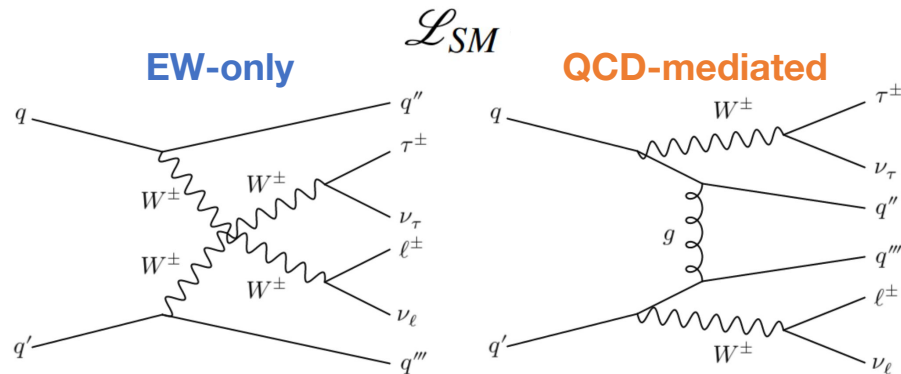
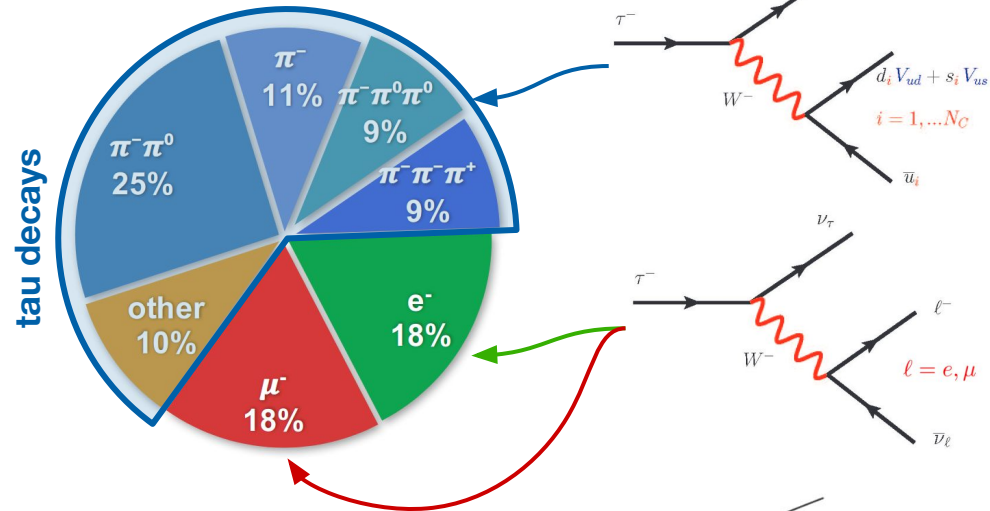
tau decays



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- Indirect new physics effects with EFT
 - Operators with different dimensions acting on vertices
- Ad-hoc DNN models for both investigations

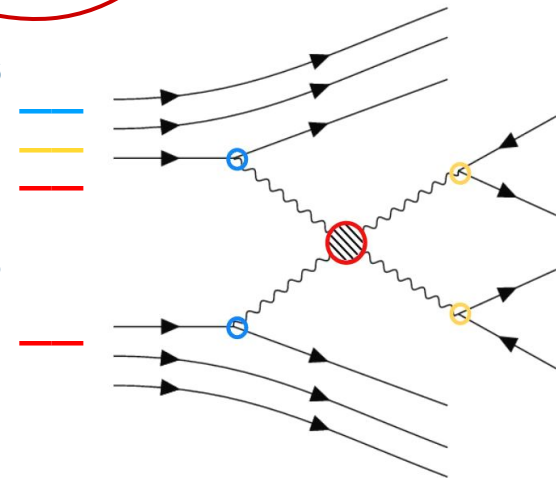


EFT dim-6

$$\sum_{\alpha} \frac{c_{\alpha}}{\Lambda^2} Q_{\alpha}$$

EFT dim-8

$$\sum_i \frac{f_i}{\Lambda^4} \mathcal{O}_i$$



Scattering $W^\pm W^\pm$ with one hadronic tau

SM measurements

- Simultaneous fit in SR + 2 CRs for both $e\tau_h$ and $\mu\tau_h$ channels
 - DNN output distributions as quantity to fit
- dileptonic $t\bar{t}$ and opposite-sign yield adjusted with dedicated CRs in the fit

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Two measurements performed:

1. signal strength for pure EW

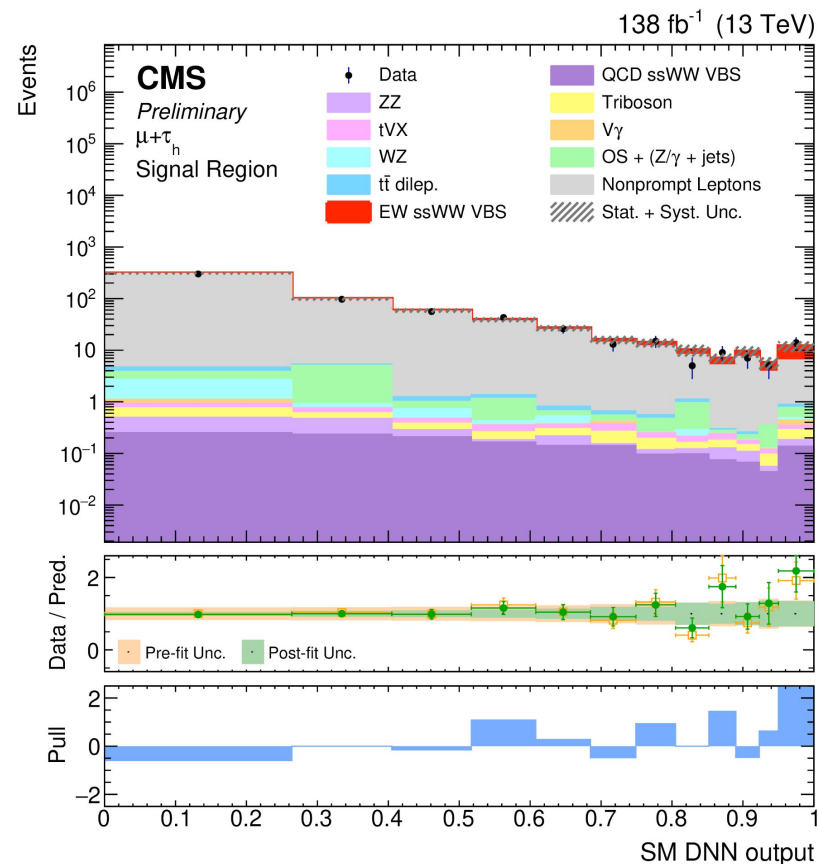
$$1.44^{+0.63}_{-0.56} (1.00^{+0.60}_{-0.53}) \quad (\sigma_{th} = 28.7 \text{ fb})$$

2. signal strength for EW + QCD

$$1.43^{+0.60}_{-0.54} (1.00^{+0.57}_{-0.51}) \quad (\sigma_{th} = 22.3 \text{ fb})$$

Sensitivity affected by statistical uncertainty

First evidence of VBS with hadronic tau!



Scattering $W^\pm W^\pm$ with one hadronic tau

EFT results

No deviation from SM expectations

- 11 dim-6 + 9 dim-8 EFT operators

1D limits on EFT coefficients

- First dim-6 investigation with a VBS process

Wilson coefficient		95% CL interval	
		Observed	Expected
dim-6	c_W	$[-0.842, 0.818]$	$[-0.987, 0.974]$
	c_{HW}	$[-8.68, 7.60]$	$[-9.99, 9.05]$
dim-8	f_{T0}	$[-1.32, 1.38]$	$[-1.52, 1.58]$
	f_{M0}	$[-13.1, 12.8]$	$[-14.6, 14.5]$
	f_{S0}	$[-15.9, 16.1]$	$[-17.4, 17.9]$

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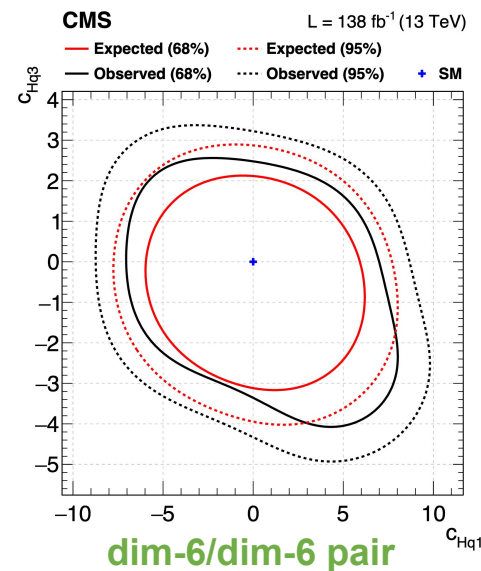
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2D limits on EFT coefficients

- Correlation effects between dim-6 operators

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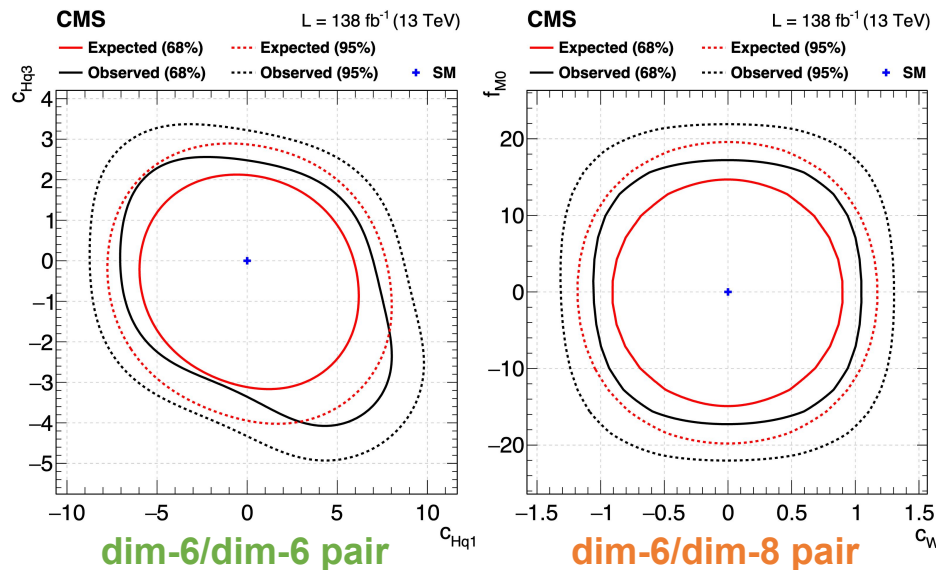
- First dim-6 investigation with a VBS process

2D limits on EFT coefficients

- Correlation effects between dim-6 operators
- First study of EFT operators with different dim.
- Addition of a competitive EFT operator reduces the sensitivity to individual operator
 - higher effect on the least relevant operators
 - dim-6 affected when dim-8 is competitive
 - dim-8 always affected by the presence of dim-6

Take-home message: don't forget the impact of operators with different dimensions!

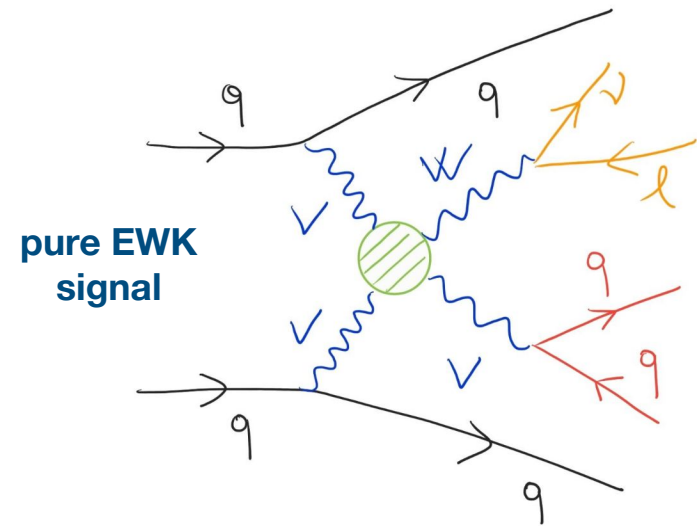
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Semileptonic WV scattering

Phys. Lett. B 834 (2022) 137438 - Overview

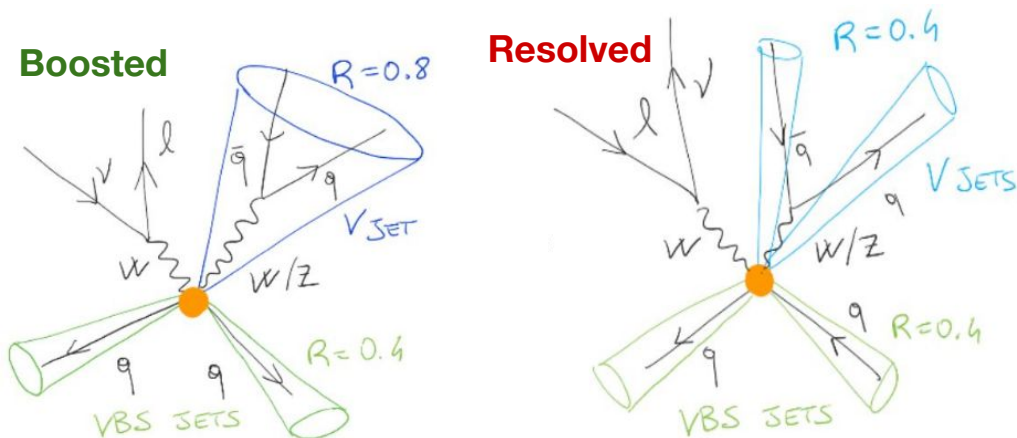
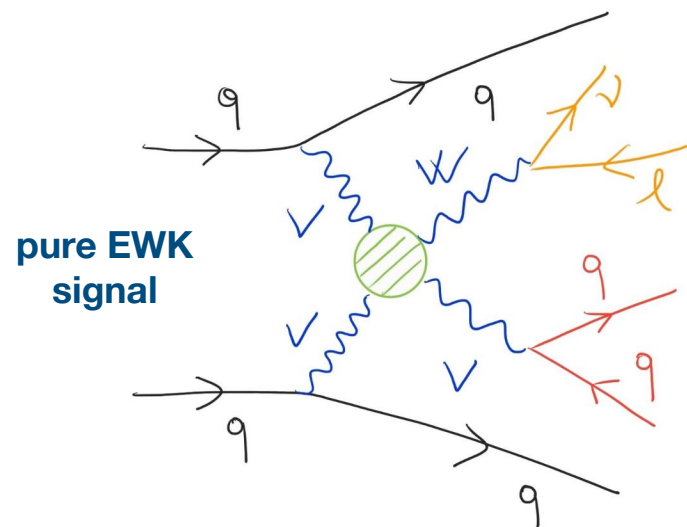
- **First evidence of the SM process at LHC!**
 - Performed with the full RunII dataset (137 fb^{-1})
- **WV scattering** in semileptonic channel
 - $V \rightarrow \text{jets}$, $W \rightarrow e\nu$ or $\mu\nu$
 - irreducible contribution from QCD-induced process



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 - $V \rightarrow \text{jets}$, $W \rightarrow e\nu$ or $\mu\nu$
 - irreducible contribution from QCD-induced process
- **Resolved** and **boosted** hadronic decay regimes
 - Events separately categorized
- Big efforts to properly estimate backgrounds (more in backup)
 - DNN signal-vs-background discriminator in both categories
 - Dedicated Control Regions to constrain main sources



Semileptonic WV scattering

Statistical analysis

Simultaneous fits in all the regions

- Performed both for **pure EWK** and **EWK+QCD** signals
- **2D fit** of **EWK and QCD** signal strengths

Semileptonic WV scattering

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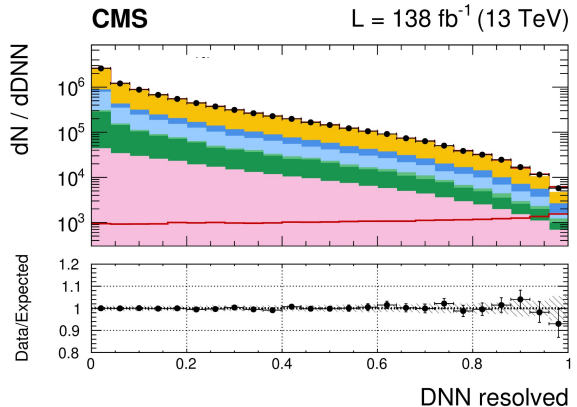
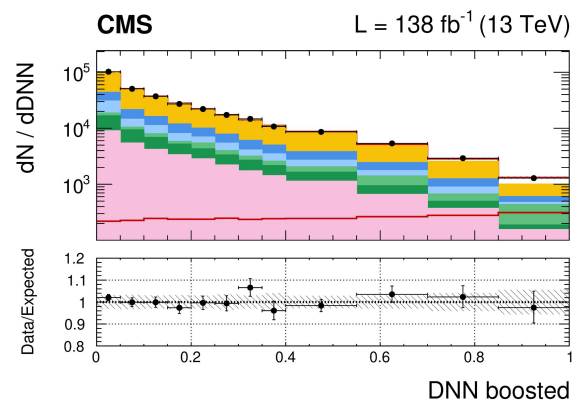
Signal Regions

- Fit to DNN shape category-wise

Control Regions

- **W+jets**: fit to normalization in CR correction bins
- **ttbar**: fit to overall normalization in CRs

Post-fit SRs distributions



Semileptonic WV scattering

Results – observations!

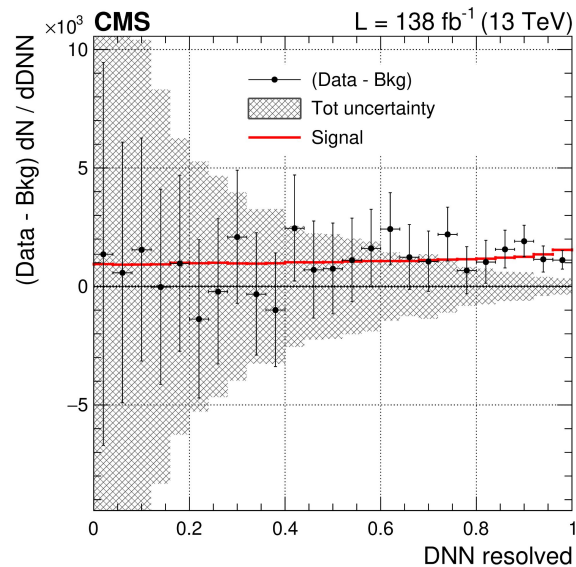
EWK

- Inclusive signal strength

$$\mu_{EWK} = 0.85 \pm 0.12(\text{stat})_{-0.17}^{+0.19}(\text{syst})$$

- Fiducial cross section measurement

$$\sigma_{EWK} = 1.90_{-0.46}^{+0.53} \text{ pb}$$



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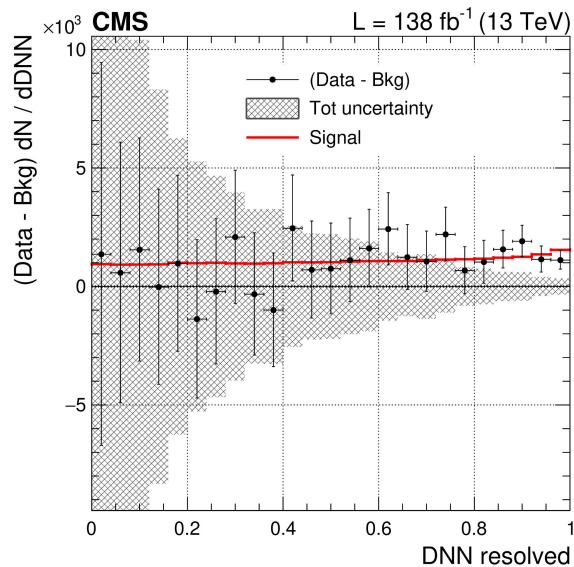
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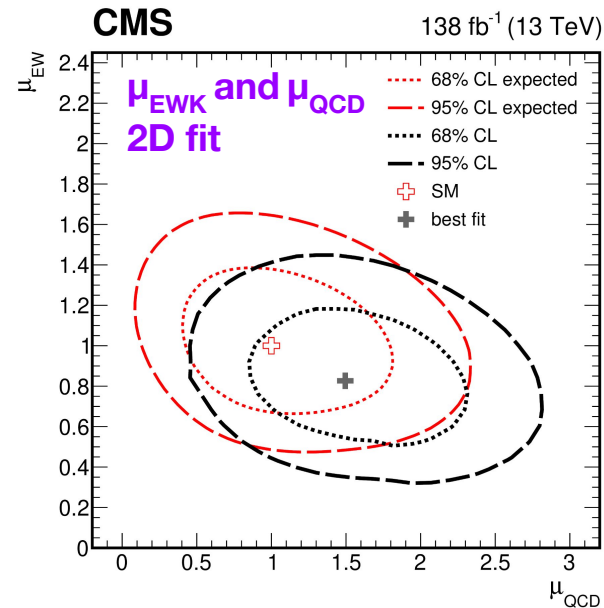
EWK + QCD

- Inclusive signal strength

$$\mu_{EWK+QCD} = 0.97 \pm 0.06(\text{stat})_{-0.21}^{+0.19}(\text{syst})$$

- Fiducial cross section measurement

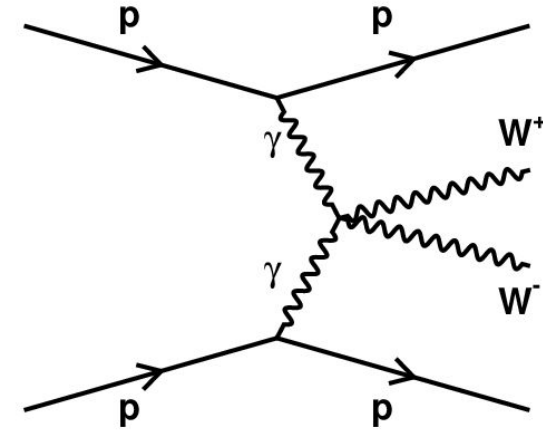
$$\sigma_{EWK+QCD} = 16.4_{-2.8}^{+3.5} \text{ pb}$$



High-mass $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW/ZZ$ production

JHEP 2307 (2023) 229 – overview

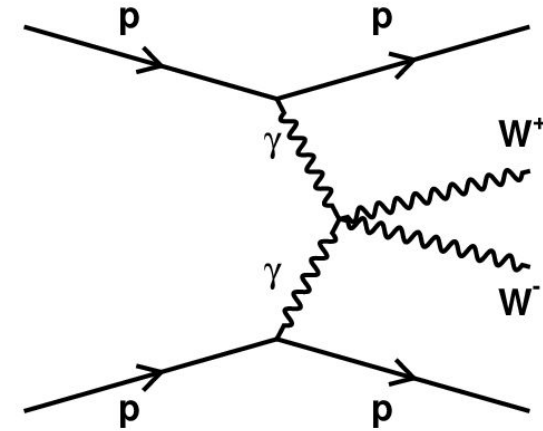
- $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW/ZZ$ events at high mass smoking guns for new physics
 - Boosted W/Z hadronic decays (1 jet per boson)
 - New physics effects modeled with aQGC effects



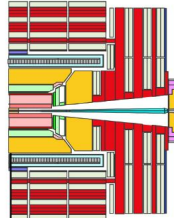
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JHEP 2307 (2023) 229 – overview

- $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW/ZZ$ events at high mass smoking guns for new physics
 - Boosted W/Z hadronic decays (1 jet per boson)
 - New physics effects modeled with aQGC effects
- Protons are kept intact from $\gamma\gamma$ scattering
 - Four body ppWW/ppZZ system fully reconstructed at 13 TeV with the TOTEM Proton Precision Spectrometer (PPS)
 - Combined CMS + TOTEM 100 fb^{-1} RunII dataset

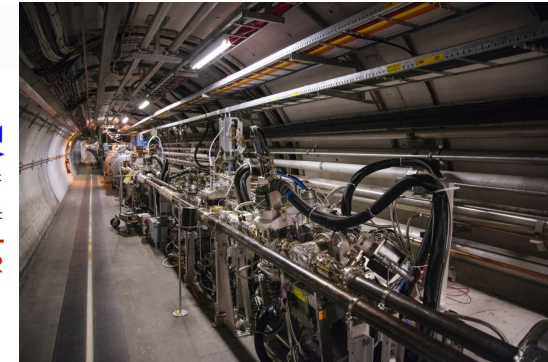
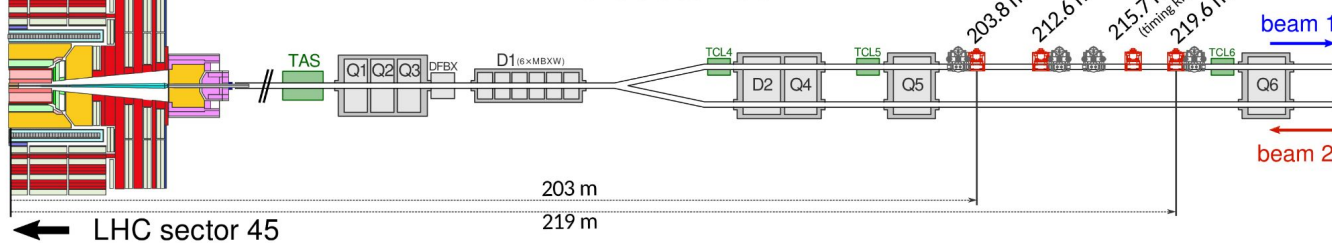


CMS central detector



LHC sector 56

Roman Pots PPS system



High-mass $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW/ZZ$ production

Sensitivity to SM production and aQGCs

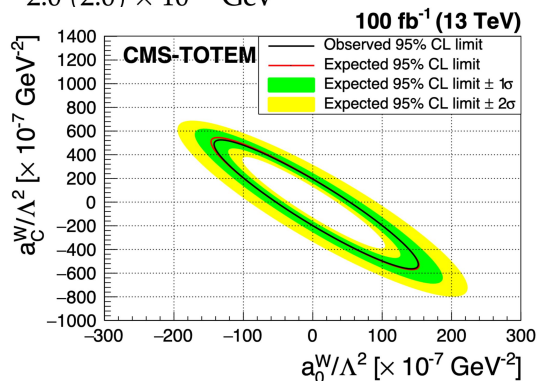
- Clipping applied to preserve unitarity bounds
 - Smaller impact wrt only-CMS similar analyses

LEP-like
nonlinear aQGC
operators

$$\mathcal{L}_6^0 = -\frac{e^2}{16} \frac{a_0}{\Lambda^2} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \vec{W}^\alpha \cdot \vec{W}_\alpha$$

$$\mathcal{L}_6^c = -\frac{e^2}{16} \frac{a_c}{\Lambda^2} F_{\mu\alpha} F^{\mu\beta} \vec{W}^\alpha \cdot \vec{W}_\beta$$

Coupling	Observed (expected) 95% CL upper limit No clipping	Observed (expected) 95% CL upper limit Clipping at 1.4 TeV
$ a_0^W/\Lambda^2 $	4.3 (3.9) $\times 10^{-6} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$	5.2 (5.1) $\times 10^{-6} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$
$ a_c^W/\Lambda^2 $	1.6 (1.4) $\times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$	2.0 (2.0) $\times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$
$ a_0^Z/\Lambda^2 $	0.9 (1.0) $\times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$	
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LEP-like nonlinear aQGC operators

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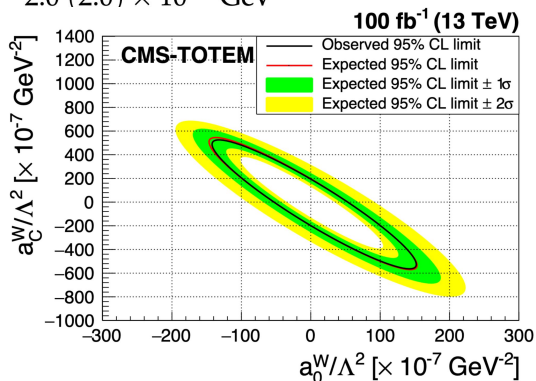
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translation

Linear EFT aQGC modeling (Éboli basis)

Coupling	Observed (expected) 95% CL upper limit No clipping	Observed (expected) 95% CL upper limit Clipping at 1.4 TeV
$ f_{M,0}/\Lambda^4 $	66.0 (60.0) TeV^{-4}	79.8 (78.2) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,1}/\Lambda^4 $	245.5 (214.8) TeV^{-4}	306.8 (306.8) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,2}/\Lambda^4 $	9.8 (9.0) TeV^{-4}	11.9 (11.8) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,3}/\Lambda^4 $	73.0 (64.6) TeV^{-4}	91.3 (92.3) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,4}/\Lambda^4 $	36.0 (32.9) TeV^{-4}	43.5 (42.9) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,5}/\Lambda^4 $	67.0 (58.9) TeV^{-4}	83.7 (84.1) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,7}/\Lambda^4 $	490.9 (429.6) TeV^{-4}	613.7 (613.7) TeV^{-4}



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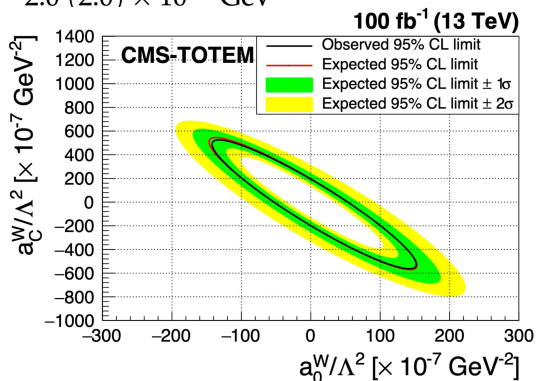
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$ f_{M,2}/\Lambda^4 $	9.8 (9.0) TeV^{-4}	11.9 (11.8) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,3}/\Lambda^4 $	73.0 (64.6) TeV^{-4}	91.3 (92.3) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,4}/\Lambda^4 $	36.0 (32.9) TeV^{-4}	43.5 (42.9) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,5}/\Lambda^4 $	67.0 (58.9) TeV^{-4}	83.7 (84.1) TeV^{-4}
$ f_{M,7}/\Lambda^4 $	490.9 (429.6) TeV^{-4}	613.7 (613.7) TeV^{-4}

Upper bounds on SM fiducial x-sections

$$\sigma(pp \rightarrow pWWp)_{0.04 < \xi < 0.20, m > 1000 \text{ GeV}} < 67 (53_{-19}^{+34}) \text{ fb}$$

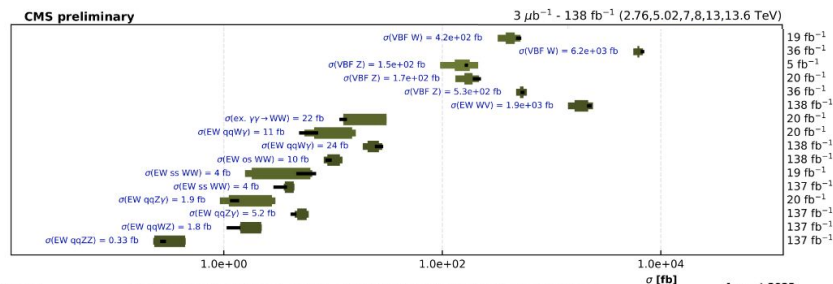
$$\sigma(pp \rightarrow pZZp)_{0.04 < \xi < 0.20, m > 1000 \text{ GeV}} < 43 (62_{-20}^{+33}) \text{ fb}$$

A bright future ahead of us!

CMS perspective on future of the VBS

- Extensive VBS program with RunII dataset
 - Plenty of observations and evidences
 - Creative strategies to cover a wide phase space
 - Systematic searches for indirect new physics
 - Solid basis for a grand combination (SM and EFT)

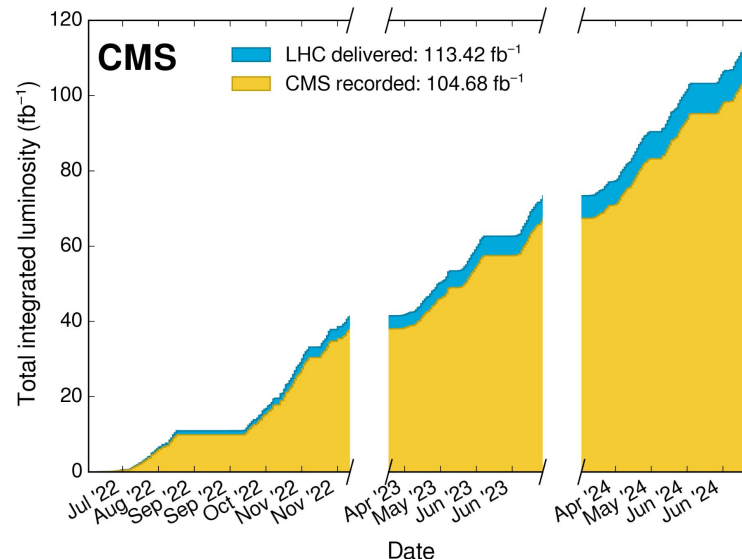
VBF and VBS	Energy	Reference
VBF W	8 TeV	JHEP 11 (2016) 147
VBF W	13 TeV	EPJC 80 (2020) 43
VBF Z	7 TeV	JHEP 10 (2013) 101
VBF Z	8 TeV	EPJC 75 (2015) 66
VBF Z	13 TeV	EPJC 78 (2018) 589
EW WW	13 TeV	PLB 834 (2022) 137438
ex. $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$	8 TeV	JHEP 08 (2016) 119
EW qqW γ	8 TeV	JHEP 06 (2017) 106
EW qqW γ	13 TeV	PRD 108 032017
EW os WW	13 TeV	PLB 841 (2023) 137495
EW ss WW	8 TeV	PRL 114 051801 (2015)
EW ss WW	13 TeV	PLB 809 (2020) 135710
EW qqZ γ	8 TeV	PLB 770 (2017) 380
EW qqZ γ	13 TeV	PRD 104 072001 (2021)
EW qqHZ	13 TeV	PLB 809 (2020) 135710
EW qqZZ	13 TeV	PLB 812 (2020) 135992



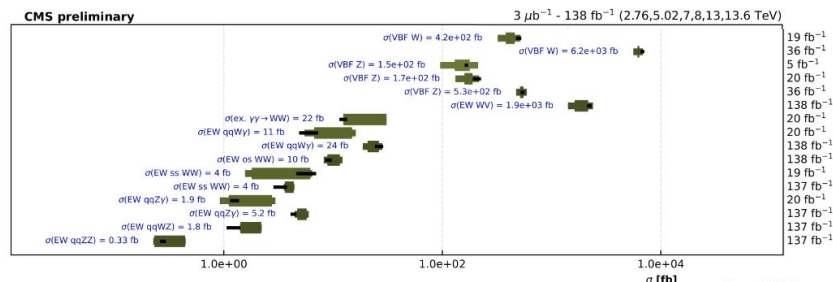
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Measured cross sections and exclusion limits at 95% C.L.
See here for all cross section summary plots

Inner colored bars statistical uncertainty, outer narrow bars statistical+systematic uncertainty
Light to Dark colored bars: 2.76, 5.02, 7, 8, 13, 13.6 TeV, Black bars: theory prediction

August 2023

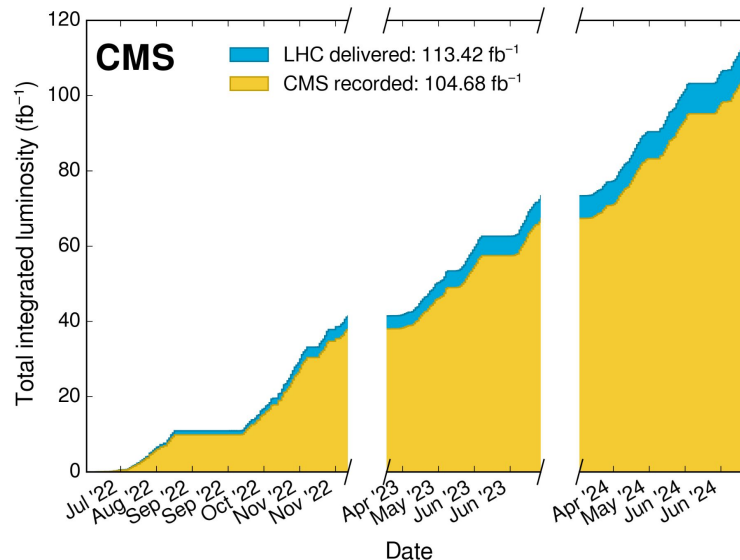


A bright future ahead of us!

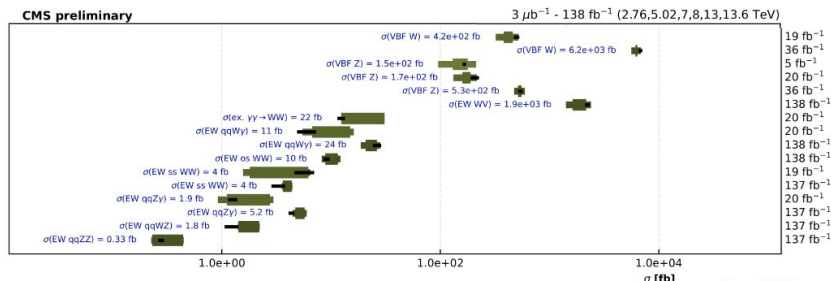
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Thank you!



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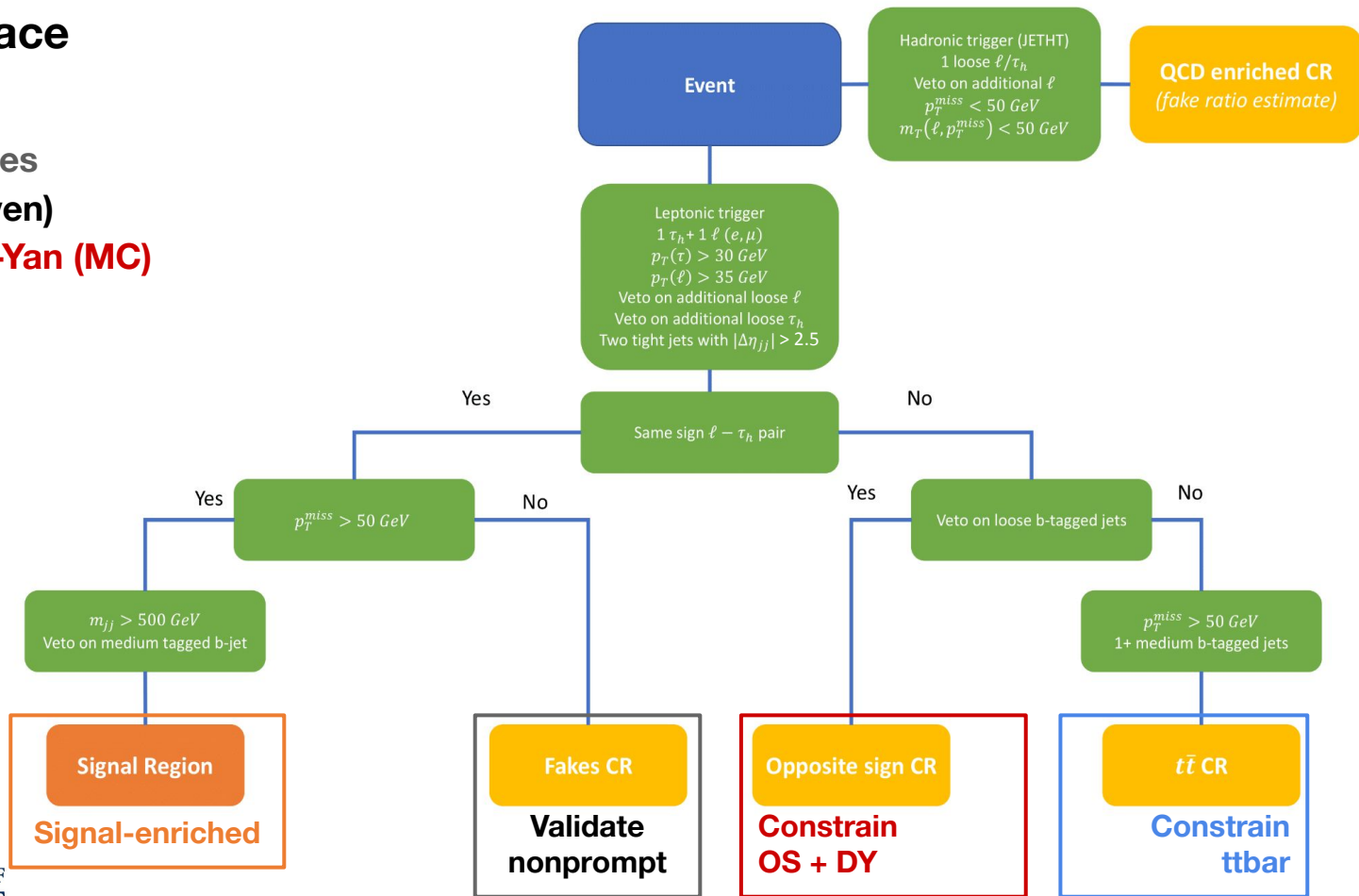
Additional slides

Scattering $W^\pm W^\pm$ with one hadronic tau

Analysis phase space

Main background sources

- non prompt (data-driven)
- **Opposite Sign + Drell-Yan (MC)**
- **ttbar (MC)**



Estimation of nonprompt ℓ/τ_h background

- Hadronic jets reconstructed as e, μ , or τ_h jets \rightarrow fake τ_h outweighing contribution
- Due to QCD multijet, W+jets, Drell-Yan and t \bar{t} pair productions with at least one jet in the final state

Data-driven “fakeable” method (for e, μ , τ_h)

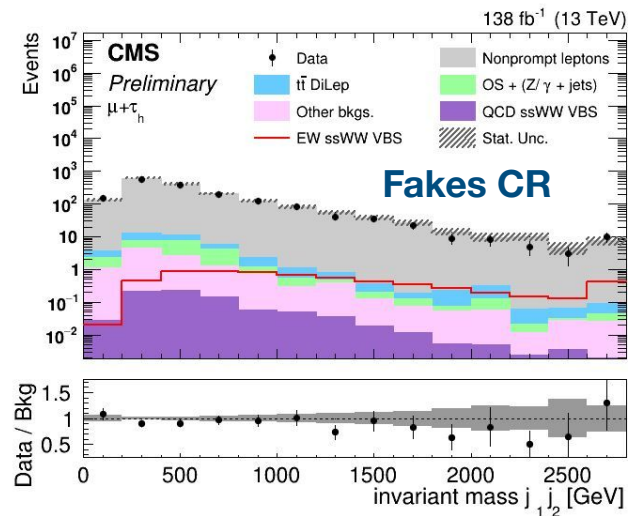
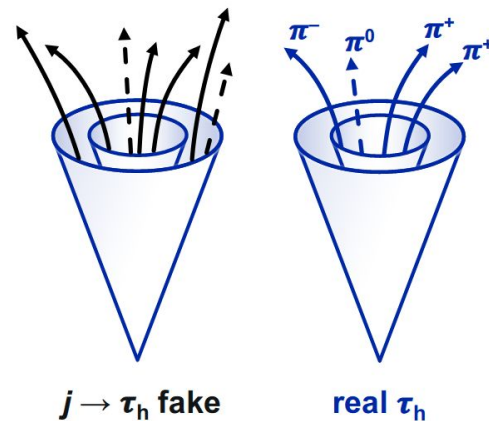
- Fake Ratio as measure of the probability a (real) jet is reconstructed as lepton (jet faking lepton) \rightarrow tight (loose) reconstructed lepton
- Estimated in the QCD-enriched region as lepton loose-to-tight ratio

$$\epsilon_{fake}(p_T, \eta) = N_{tight} / N_{loose}$$

- Use Fake Ratio to extrapolate estimate in SR with event-wise

$$w_i = \frac{\epsilon_{fake}(p_{Ti}, \eta_i)}{1 - \epsilon_{fake}(p_{Ti}, \eta_i)}$$

- Estimate validated in the Fakes CR



Scattering $W^\pm W^\pm$ with one hadronic tau

EFT investigations – 1D

$$|\mathcal{A}_{\text{TOT}}|^2 = |\mathcal{A}_{SM}|^2 + \sum_i^{N_{dim6}} \left[\frac{c_i}{\Lambda^2} 2\Re(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_i^{(6)}} \mathcal{A}_{SM}^*) + \frac{c_i^2}{\Lambda^4} |\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_i^{(6)}}|^2 \right] + \sum_{j \neq m}^{N_{dim6}} \left[\frac{c_j c_m}{\Lambda^4} 2\Re(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_j^{(6)}} \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_m^{(6)}}^*) \right] + \sum_k^{N_{dim8}} \left[\frac{f_k}{\Lambda^4} 2\Re(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_k^{(8)}} \mathcal{A}_{SM}^*) + \frac{f_k^2}{\Lambda^8} |\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_k^{(8)}}|^2 \right]$$

SMEFT basis (green dashed box) → first time in VBS

one dim-6 operator at time (green text)

one dim-8 operator at time (orange text)

Éboli basis (orange dashed box)

Any other coefficient fixed to 0

Scattering $W^\pm W^\pm$ with one hadronic tau

EFT investigations – 2D

SMEFT basis

two dim-6 operator at time

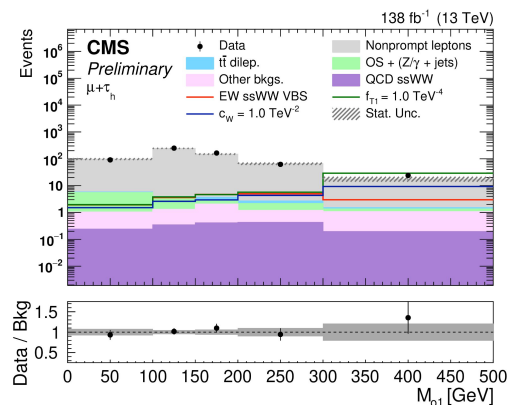
$$|\mathcal{A}_{\text{TOT}}|^2 = |\mathcal{A}_{SM}|^2 + \sum_i^{N_{dim6}} \left[\frac{c_i}{\Lambda^2} 2\Re(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_i^{(6)}} \mathcal{A}_{SM}^*) + \frac{c_i^2}{\Lambda^4} |\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_i^{(6)}}|^2 \right] + \sum_{j \neq m}^{N_{dim6}} \left[\frac{c_j c_m}{\Lambda^4} 2\Re(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_j^{(6)}} \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_m^{(6)}}^*) \right]$$

$$+ \sum_k^{N_{dim8}} \left[\frac{f_k}{\Lambda^4} 2\Re(\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_k^{(8)}} \mathcal{A}_{SM}^*) + \frac{f_k^2}{\Lambda^8} |\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{O}_k^{(8)}}|^2 \right]$$

one dim-8/dim-6 operator pair at time

Éboli basis

Used for these studies



$$M_{01}^2 = \left(p_T^\tau + p_T^\ell + p_T^{\text{miss}} \right)^2 - \left| \vec{p}_T^\tau + \vec{p}_T^\ell + \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}} \right|^2$$

Any other coefficient fixed to 0



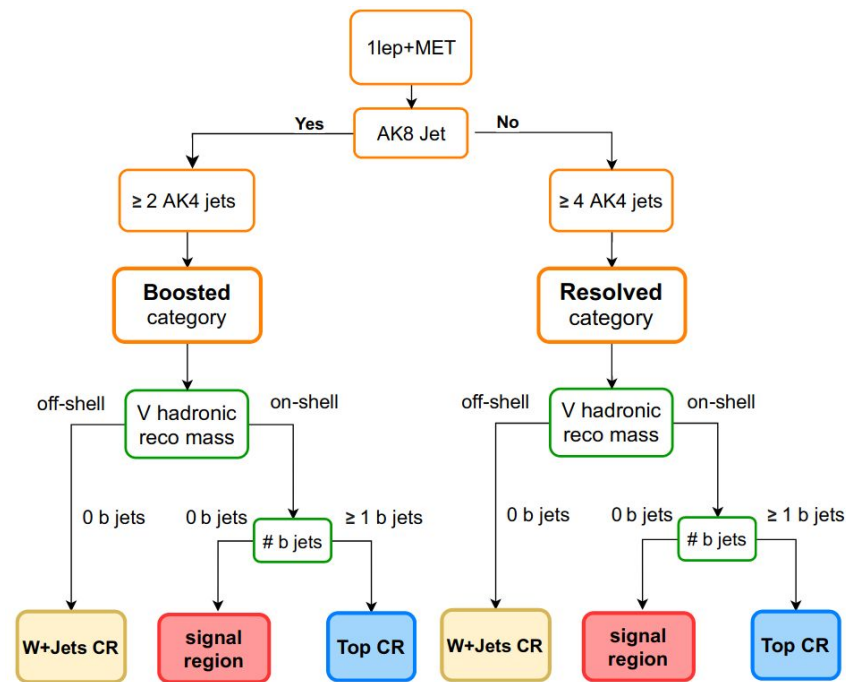
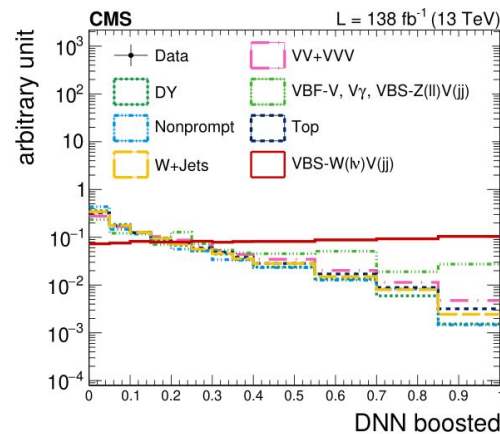
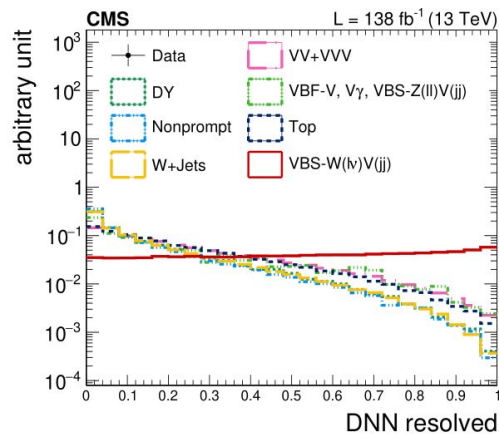
Scattering $W^\pm W^\pm$ with one hadronic tau

1D EFT limits

Wilson coefficient		1 σ CL interval(s)		2 σ CL interval		
		Expected	Observed	Expected	Observed	
extracted with dim-6 DNN output distributions	dim-6	$c_{ll}^{(1)}$	$[-12.9, -8.03] \cup [-2.95, 1.91]$	$[-11.6, 0.045]$	$[-14.6, 3.53]$	$[-13.5, 2.11]$
		$c_{qq}^{(1)}$	$[-0.501, 0.576]$	$[-0.341, 0.416]$	$[-0.742, 0.818]$	$[-0.605, 0.681]$
		c_W	$[-0.681, 0.669]$	$[-0.513, 0.481]$	$[-0.987, 0.974]$	$[-0.842, 0.818]$
		c_{HW}	$[-7.00, 6.09]$	$[-5.48, 4.31]$	$[-9.99, 9.05]$	$[-8.68, 7.60]$
		c_{HWB}	$[-41.7, 69.6]$	$[30.7, 89.2]$	$[-66.6, 96.4]$	$[-49.7, 110]$
		$c_{H\Box}$	$[-16.6, 18.1]$	$[-12.0, 14.0]$	$[-24.7, 26.3]$	$[-20.9, 22.7]$
		c_{HD}	$[-24.6, 34.7]$	$[-15.3, 31.5]$	$[-38.2, 48.8]$	$[-31.4, 45.5]$
		$c_{Hl}^{(1)}$	$[-28.8, 29.9]$	$[-38.2, 39.5]$	$[-49.4, 49.7]$	$[-69.3, 68.3]$
		$c_{Hl}^{(3)}$	$[-1.43, 2.23] \cup [5.88, 9.54]$	$[-0.045, 8.58]$	$[-2.64, 10.8]$	$[-1.59, 9.94]$
		$c_{Hq}^{(1)}$	$[-4.53, 4.42]$	$[-3.27, 3.44]$	$[-6.56, 6.44]$	$[-5.55, 5.60]$
$c_{Hq}^{(3)}$	$[-2.39, 1.37]$	$[-1.88, 0.705]$	$[-3.24, 2.16]$	$[-2.82, 1.61]$		
extracted with dim-8 DNN output distributions	dim-8	f_{T0}	$[-1.02, 1.08]$	$[-0.774, 0.842]$	$[-1.52, 1.58]$	$[-1.32, 1.38]$
		f_{T1}	$[-0.426, 0.480]$	$[-0.319, 0.381]$	$[-0.640, 0.695]$	$[-0.552, 0.613]$
		f_{T2}	$[-1.15, 1.37]$	$[-0.851, 1.12]$	$[-1.75, 1.98]$	$[-1.51, 1.76]$
		f_{M0}	$[-9.89, 9.74]$	$[-8.07, 7.70]$	$[-14.6, 14.5]$	$[-13.1, 12.8]$
		f_{M1}	$[-12.5, 13.3]$	$[-9.54, 11.15]$	$[-18.7, 19.6]$	$[-16.4, 17.7]$
		f_{M7}	$[-20.3, 19.2]$	$[-17.6, 15.3]$	$[-29.9, 28.8]$	$[-27.6, 25.8]$
		f_{S0}	$[-11.6, 12.0]$	$[-9.60, 9.82]$	$[-17.4, 17.9]$	$[-15.9, 16.1]$
		f_{S1}	$[-37.4, 38.8]$	$[-40.9, 41.3]$	$[-57.2, 58.6]$	$[-60.9, 61.8]$
f_{S2}	$[-37.4, 38.8]$	$[-40.9, 41.3]$	$[-57.2, 58.6]$	$[-60.9, 61.8]$		

Semileptonic WV scattering – background estimation

- W + jets associated production
 - Differential data-driven corrections to predictions from simulation
 - Binned wrt to leptonic W p_T (**both** categories) and leading VBS jet p_T (only **resolved** category)
- $t\bar{t}$ pair production
 - Reduced with veto on b -tagged jets
- Nonprompt leptons
 - Estimated with the data-driven *fakeable* method
- **DNN** in both categories as **signal vs bkg discriminator**

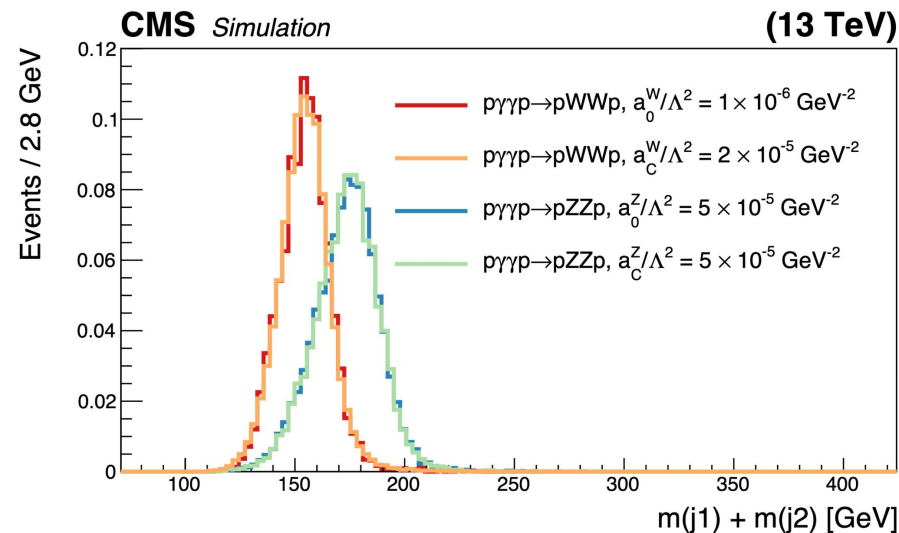


High-mass $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW/ZZ$ production

Event categorization

WW vs ZZ separation

- CMS boosted jet pair with $m_{jj} > 1126$ GeV
- Combination of jet masses provides good separation between pWWp and pZZp
 - Cut independent from specific aQGC scenario



Signal regions

- Rapidity y and invariant mass m for pp and diboson systems correlated for the signals
- 2 jet-matched protons \rightarrow region δ
- 1 jet-matched proton \rightarrow region o

