

# Massive Triboson Production

**Constraining Anomalous Quartic Gauge Couplings in Production of  
Three Massive Vector Bosons with the ATLAS detector**

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The University of Manchester

**Patrick Dougan**

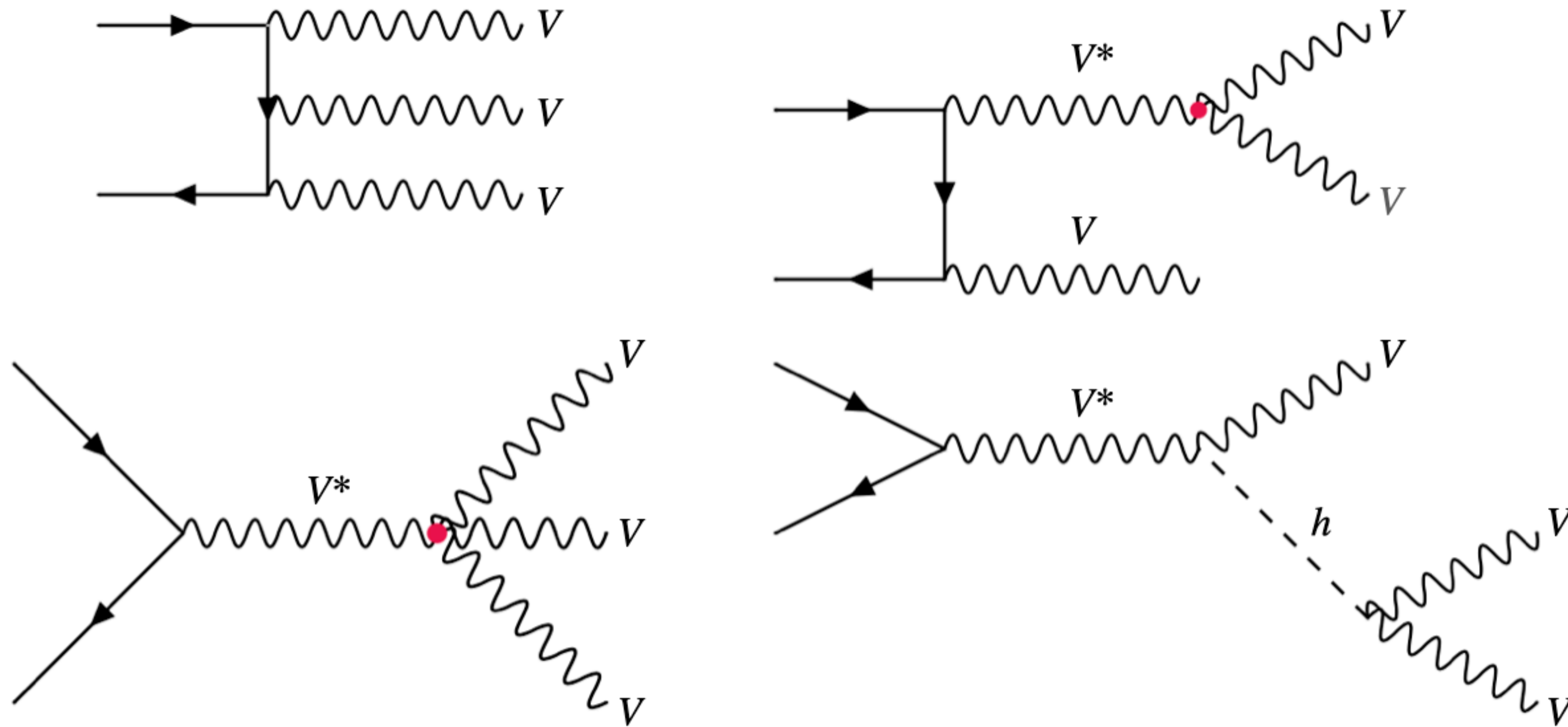
On behalf of the analysis team

IoP APP, HEPP & NP  
University of Liverpool  
10th April 2024



**ATLAS**  
EXPERIMENT

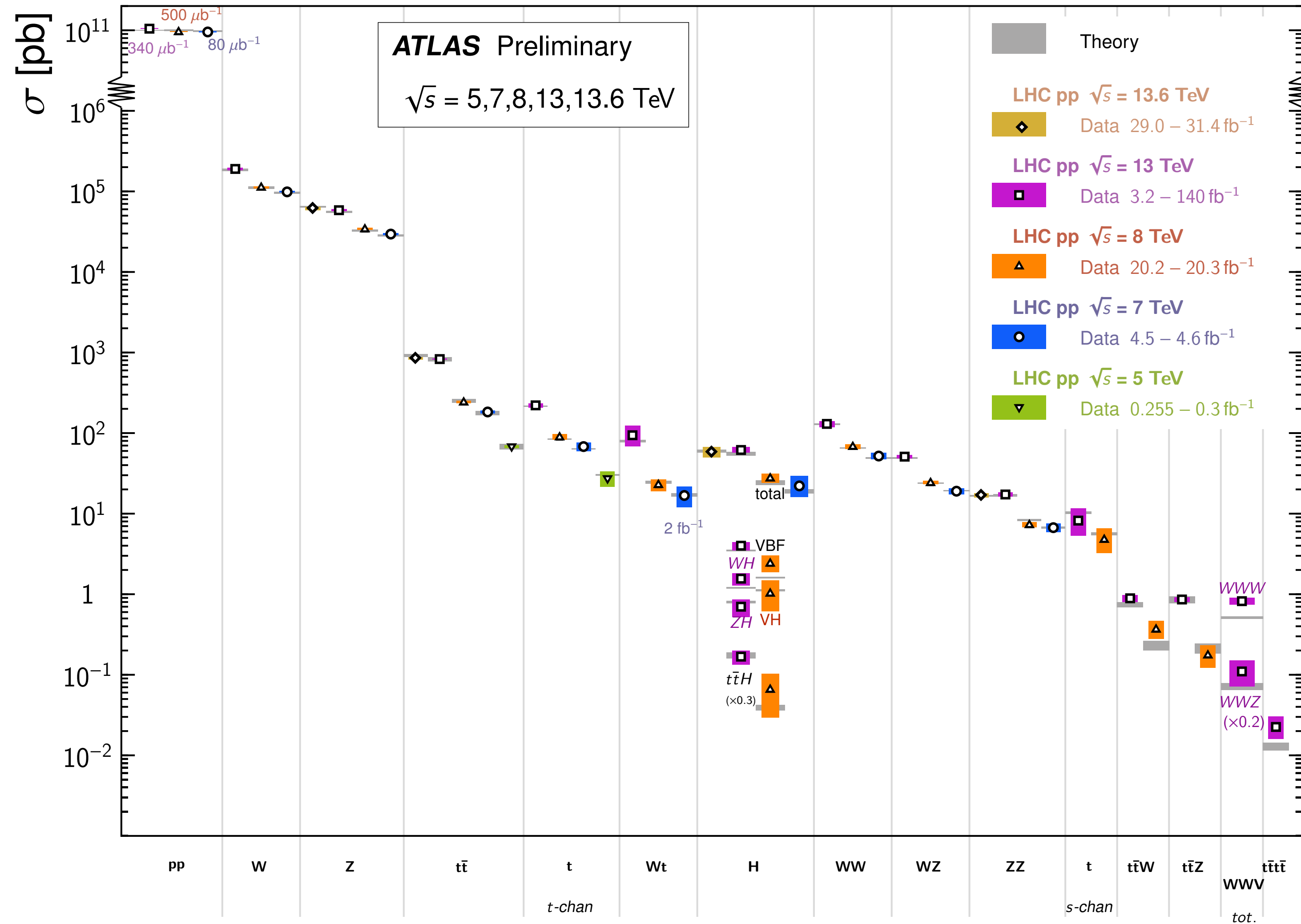
# Massive $VWV$



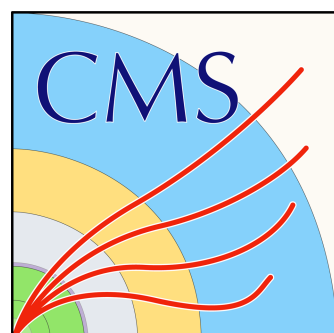
# Rare Standard Model Process

Standard Model Total Production Cross Section Measurements

Status: October 2023



# Observation



WW

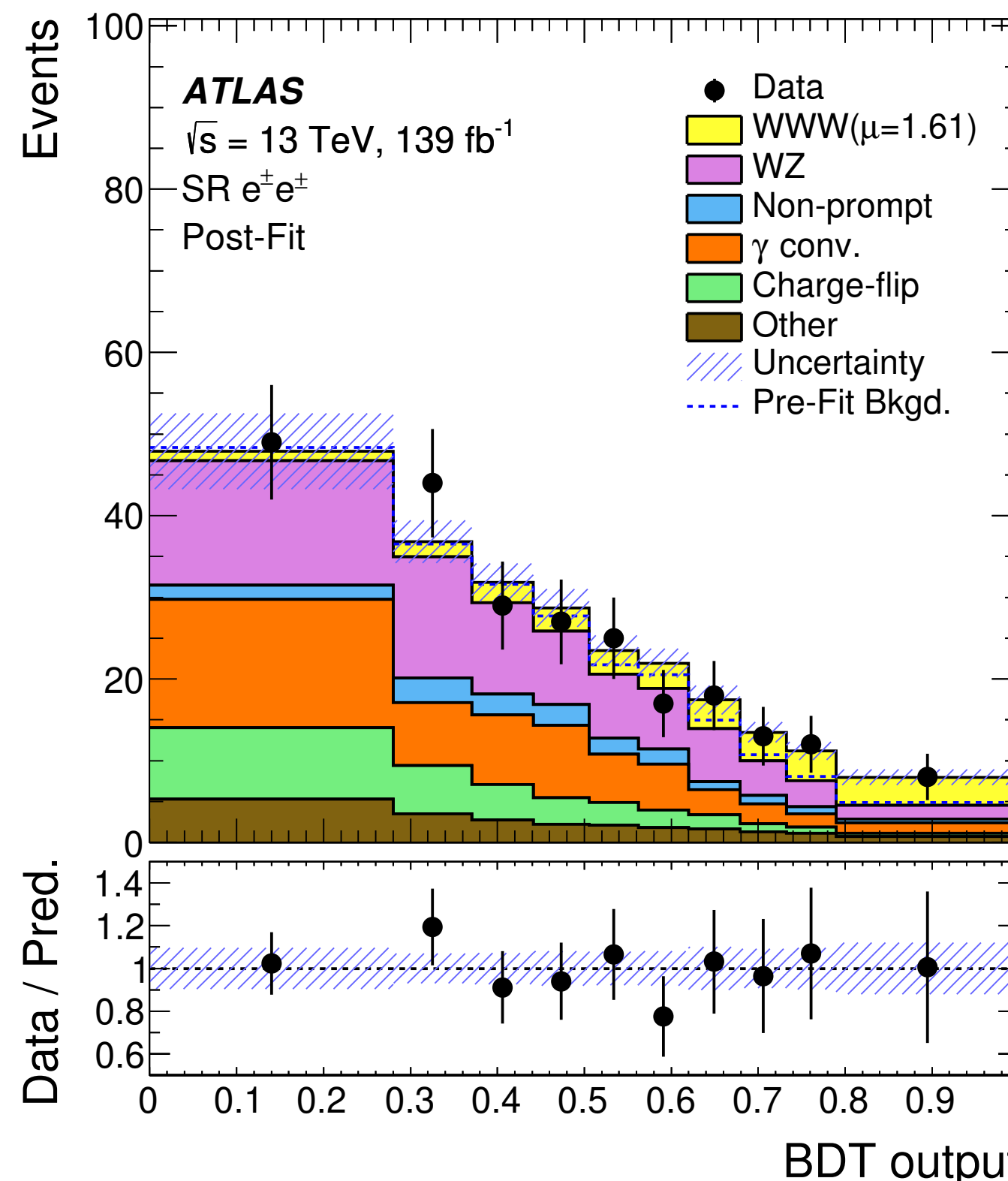
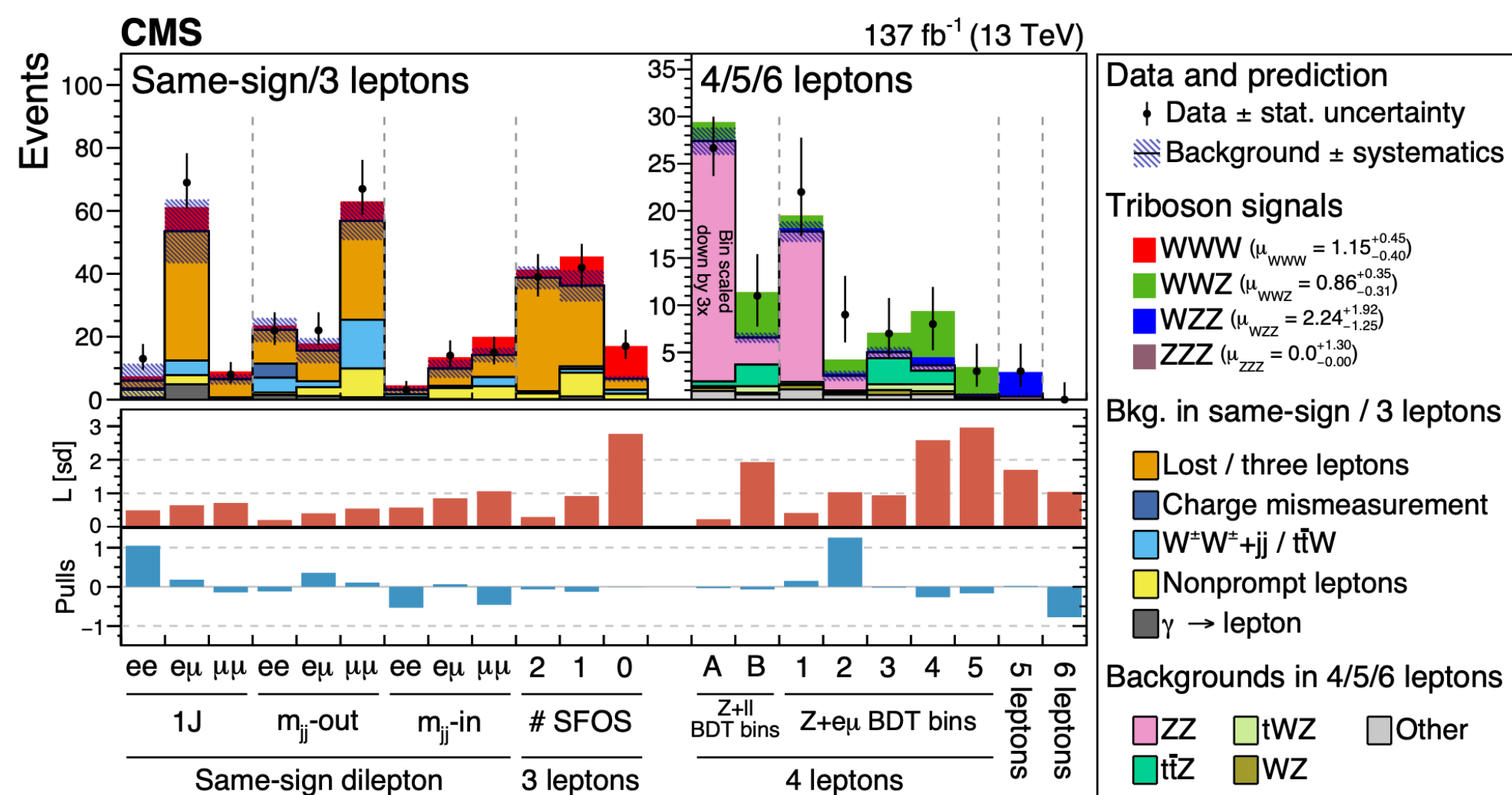
2006.11191  
2020



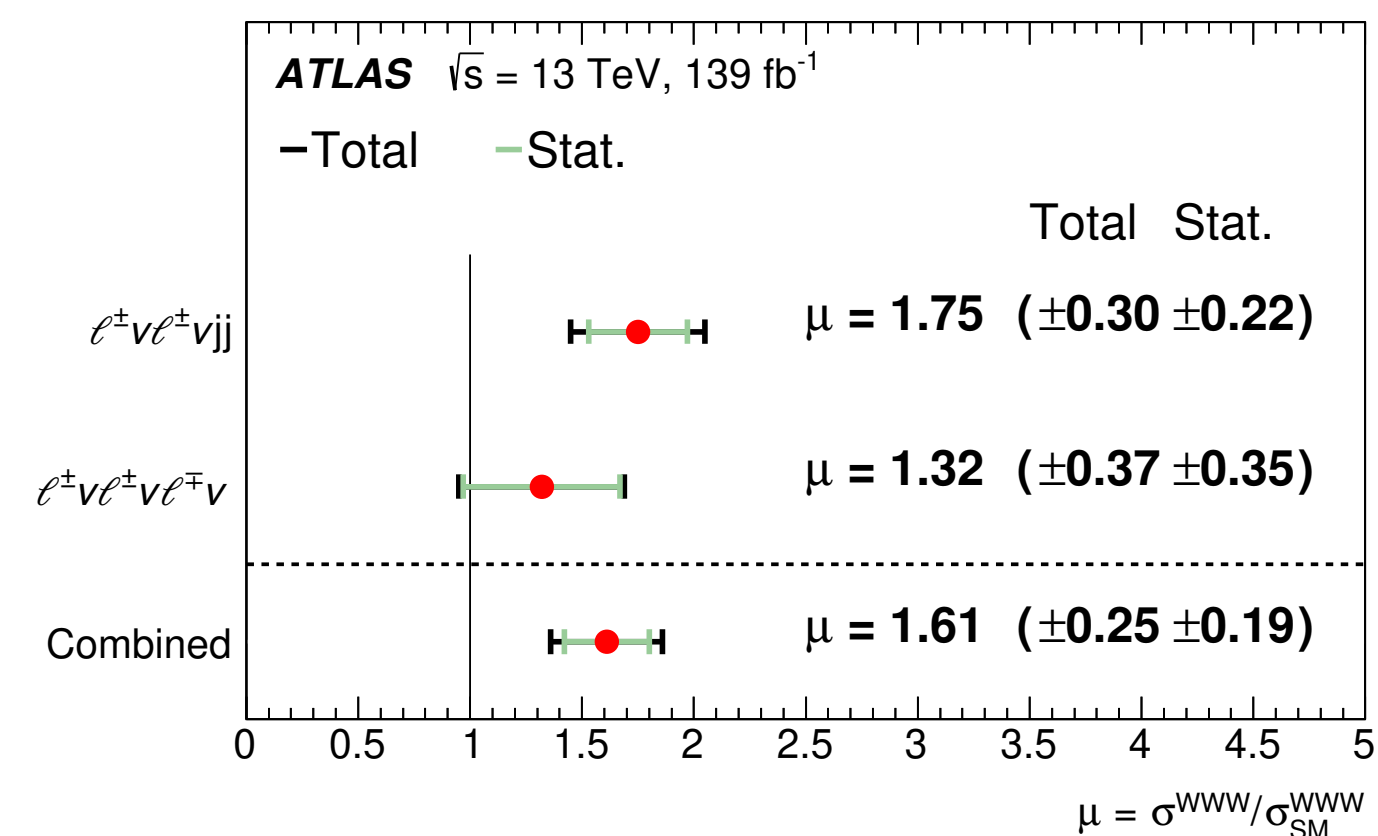
WW

2201.13045  
2022

Significance of the observation is 5.7 standard deviations (sd) with 5.9 sd expected



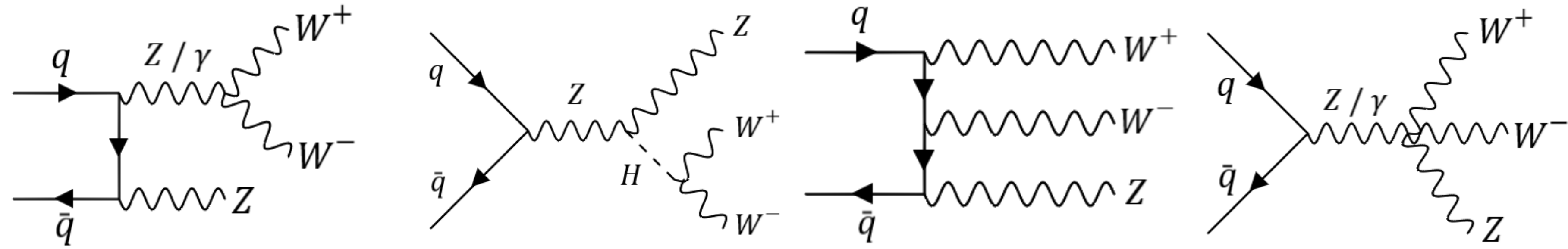
Inclusive cross section is measured to be 820 ± 100 (stat) ± 80 (syst) fb, approximately 2.6 standard deviations from the predicted cross section of 511 ± 18 fb



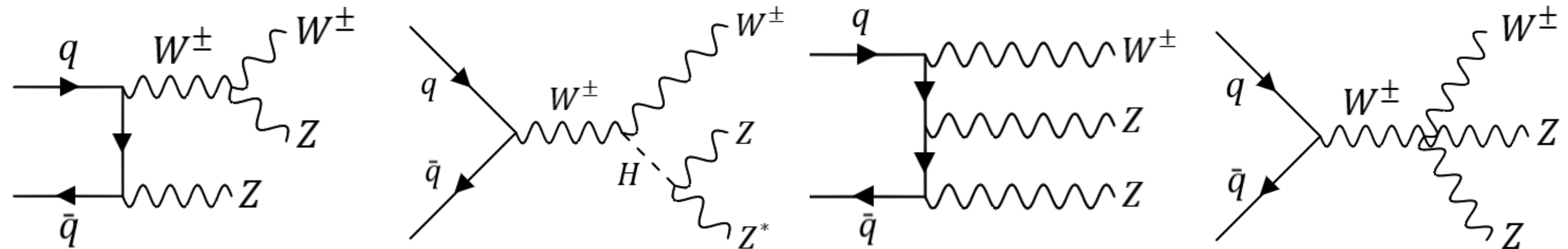


# WVZ

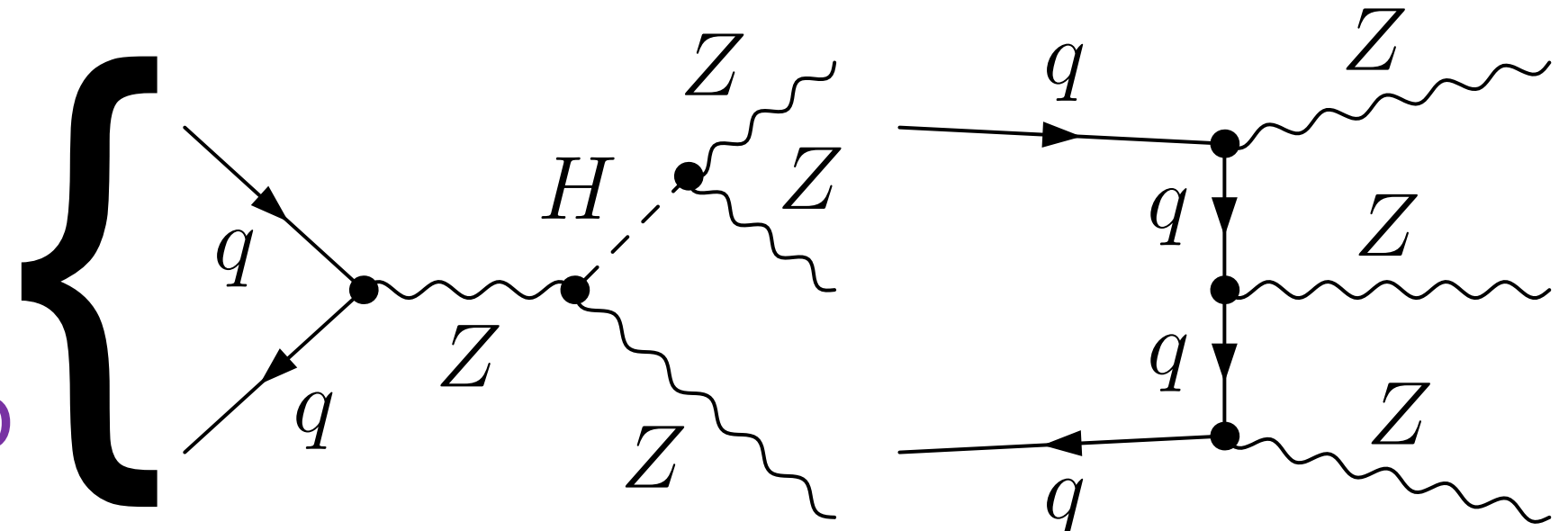
$W^\pm W^\pm Z^0$   
~0.172 pb



$W^\pm Z^0 Z^0$   
~0.055 pb

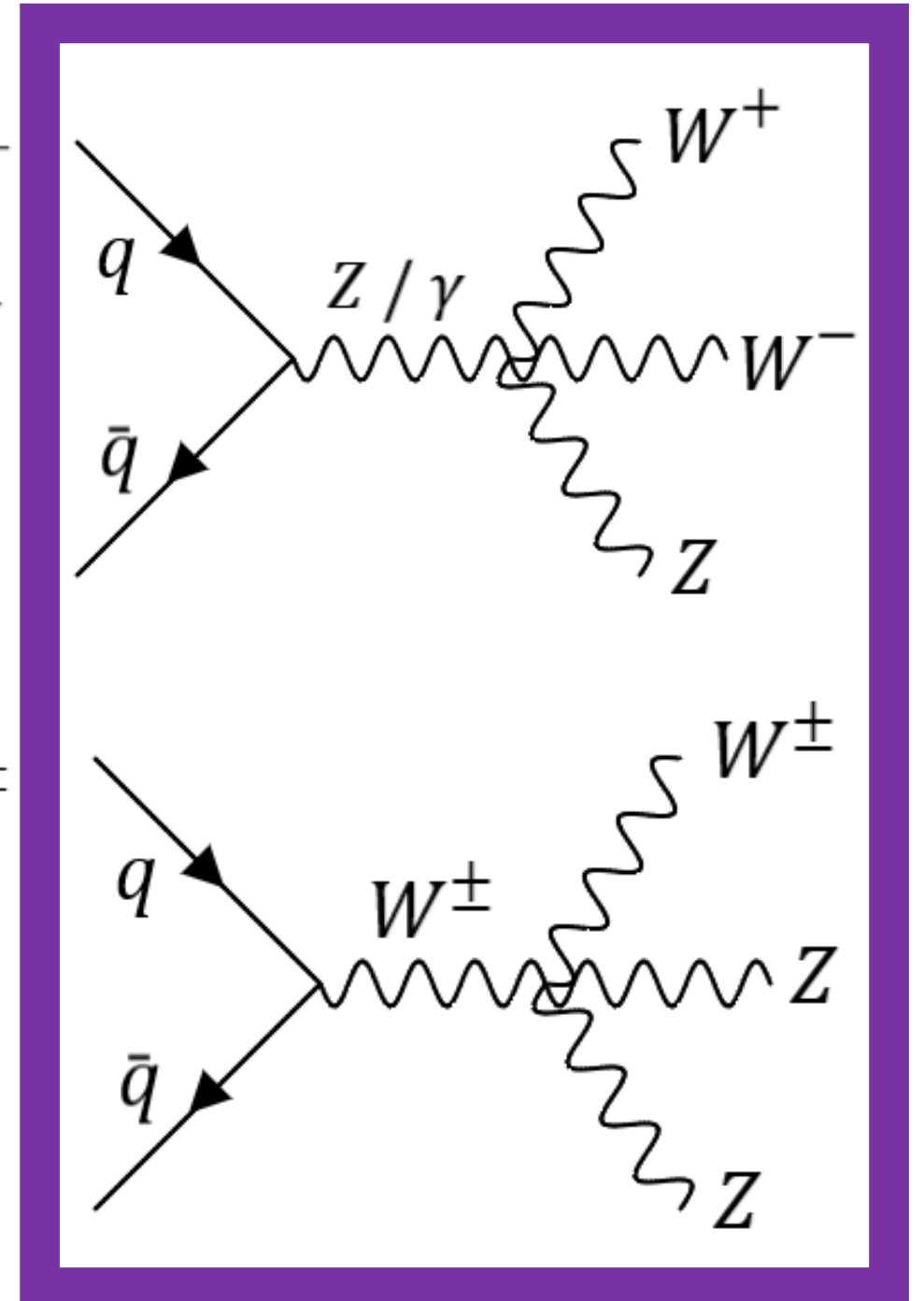
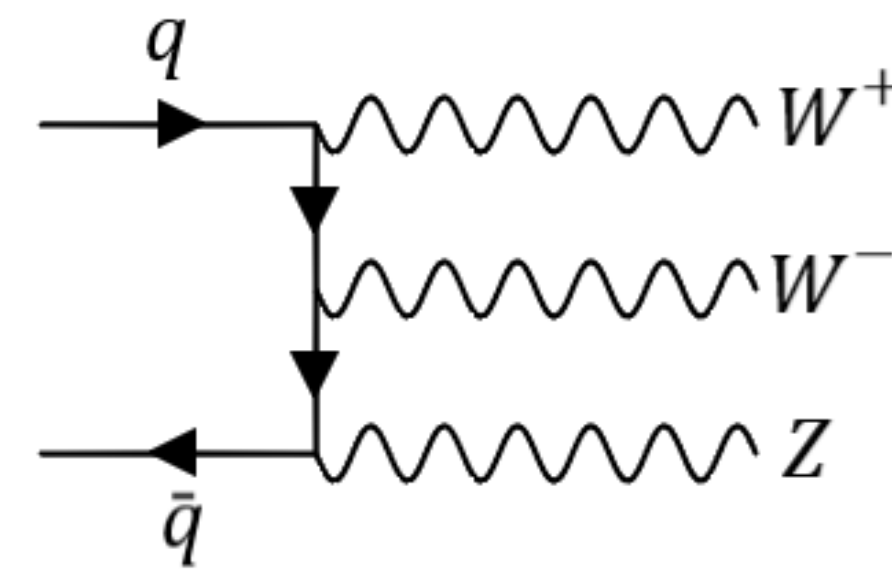
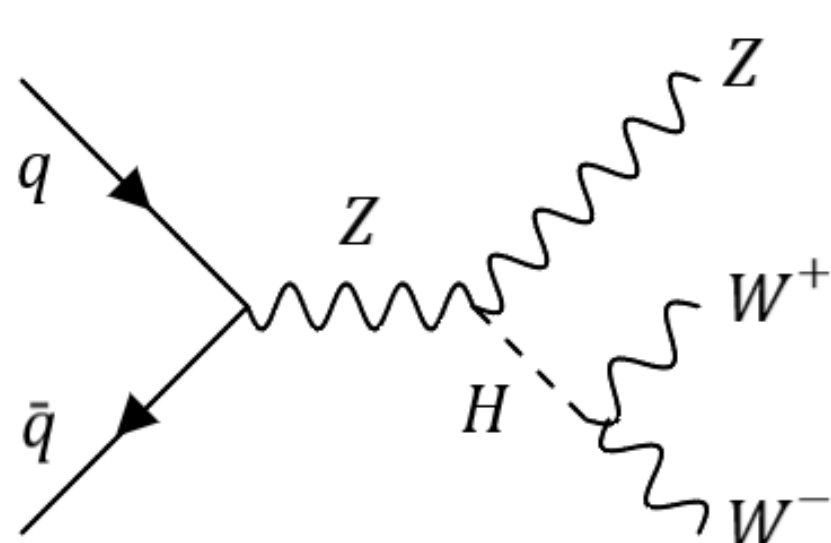
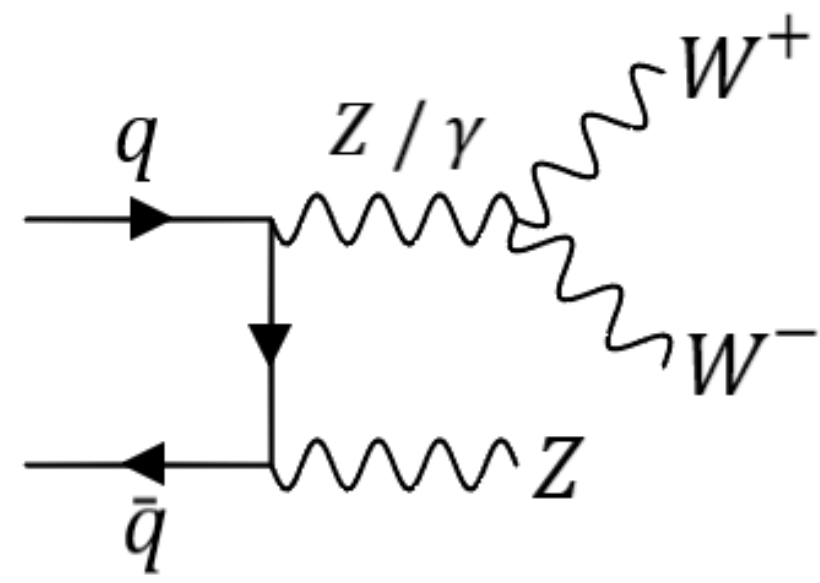


$Z^0 Z^0 Z^0$   
~0.0135 pb

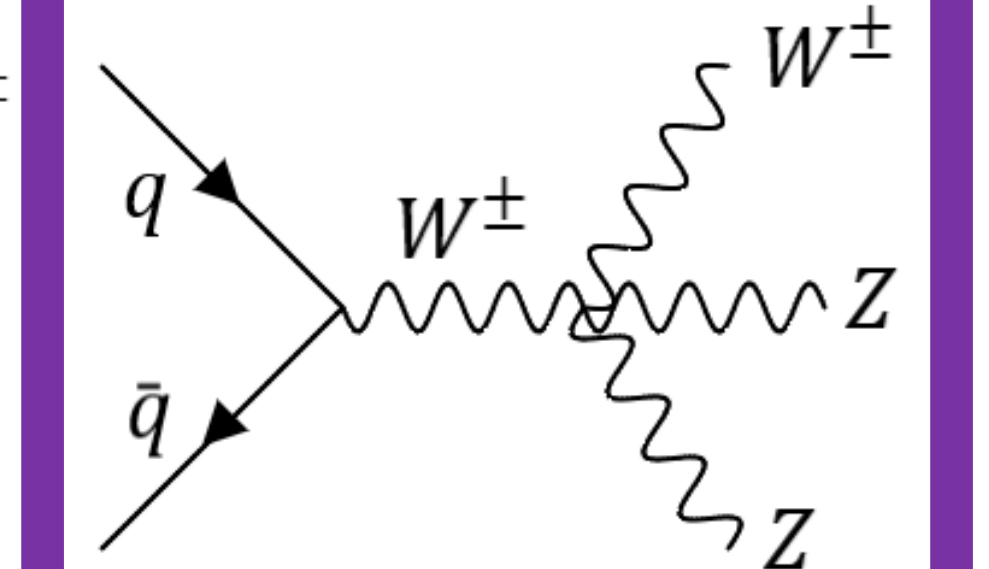
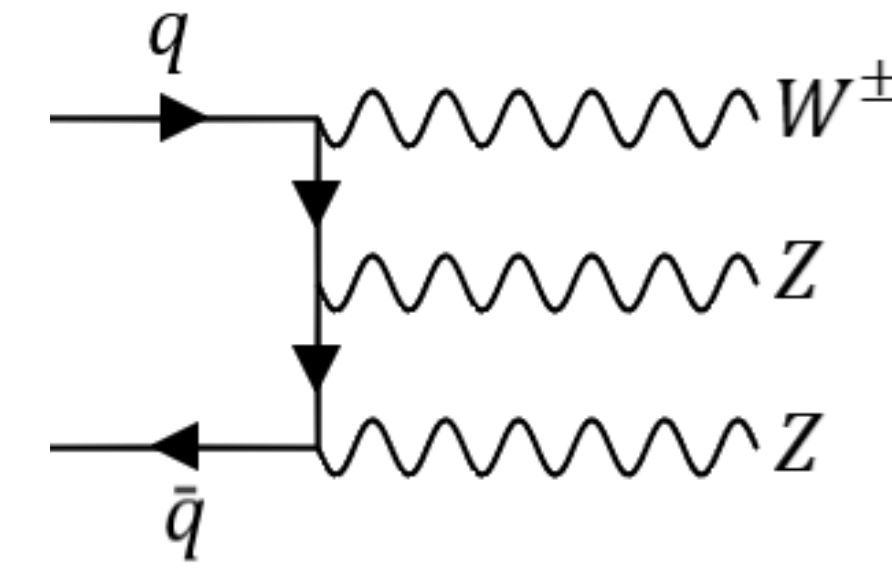
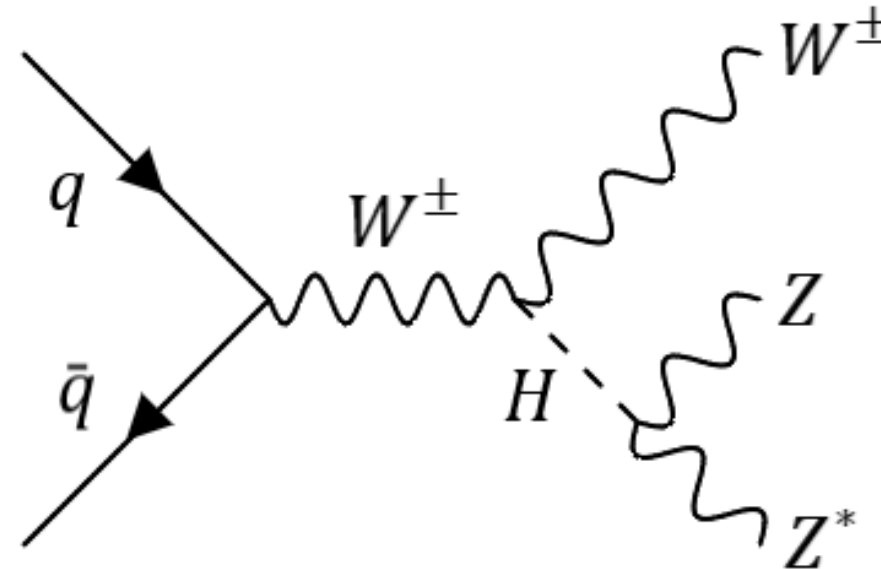
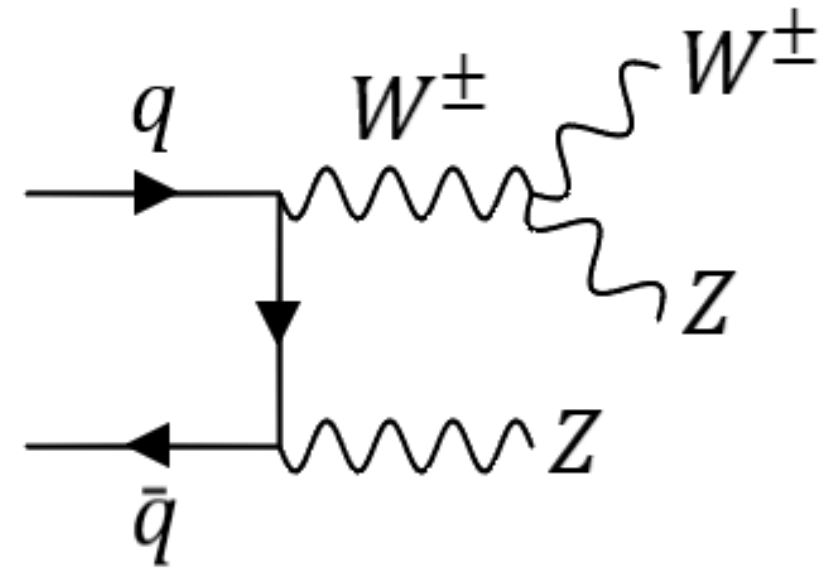


# WVZ

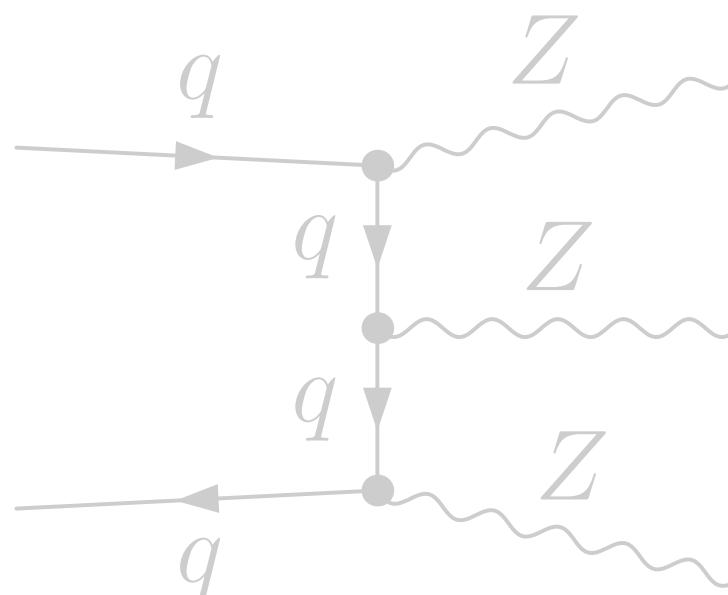
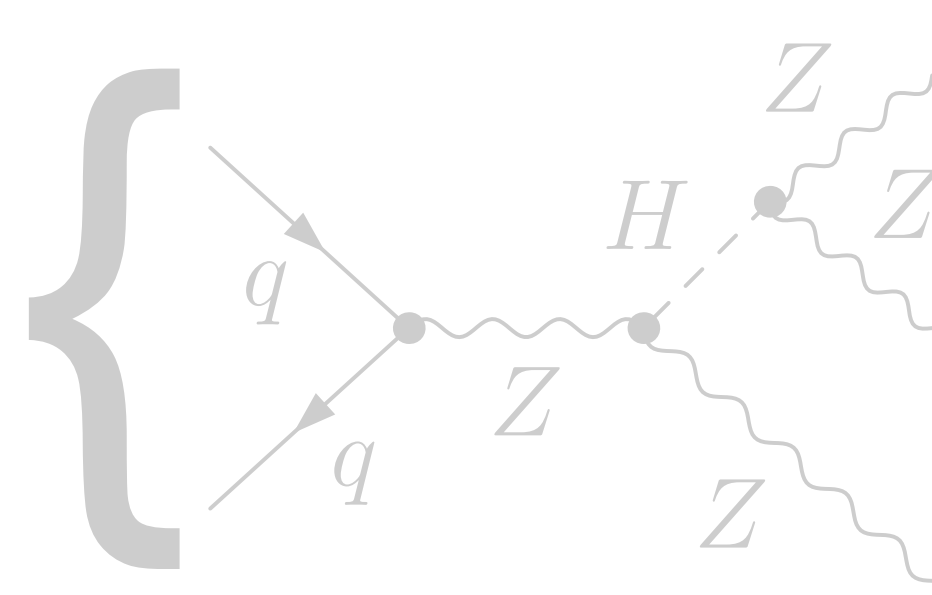
$W^\pm W^\pm Z^0$



$W^\pm Z^0 Z^0$



$Z^0 Z^0 Z^0$



# Full Run2 VVZ Search

## Analysis Strategy

Utilise the entire ATLAS Run 2 dataset,  $140 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  in continuation of previous ATLAS search (1903.10415)

Target different event topologies for each final state with multiple signal regions (3, 3, 1)

Enhance signal sensitivity with dedicated MVAs for all SRs

Constrain uncertainties in primary background modelling with Control Regions

$3\ell 1\nu 2j$

$W/Z \rightarrow qq$

$W \rightarrow \ell\nu$

$Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$

$$\Gamma_i/\Gamma_{total}(WWZ) = 1.01 \%$$

$$\Gamma_i/\Gamma_{total}(WZZ) = 1.05 \%$$

$4\ell 2\nu$

$W \rightarrow \ell\nu$

$W \rightarrow \ell\nu$

$Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$

$$\Gamma_i/\Gamma_{total} = 0.32 \%$$

$5\ell 1\nu \text{ \& } 6\ell+$

$W/Z \rightarrow \ell\nu/\ell\ell$

$Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$

$Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$

$$\Gamma_i/\Gamma_{total}(WZZ) = 0.32 \%$$

$$\Gamma_i/\Gamma_{total}(ZZZ) = 0.11 \%$$

# Full Run2 VVZ Search

## Analysis Strategy

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Target different event topologies for each final state with multiple signal regions (3, 3, 1)

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Constrain uncertainties in primary background modelling with Control Regions

$3\ell 1\nu 2j$

Target Process

$W^\pm W^\mp Z$  &  $W^\pm ZZ$

Main Backgrounds

$W^\pm Z$ ,  $ZZ$ ,  $Z$ +jets,  $t\bar{t}Z$

$4\ell 2\nu$

Target Process

$W^\pm W^\mp Z$

Main Backgrounds

$ZZ$ ,  $Z$ +jets,  $t\bar{t}Z$ , Fakes

$5\ell 1\nu$  &  $6\ell+$

Target Process

$W^\pm ZZ$  &  $ZZZ$

Main Backgrounds

$t\bar{t}X$ ,  $ZZ$  + Fakes



# 3ℓ1ν2j Channel

- Signal Regions defined for post selection cuts:

1 jet

≥ 2 jets inside  $m_{jj}$  window [60, 110] GeV

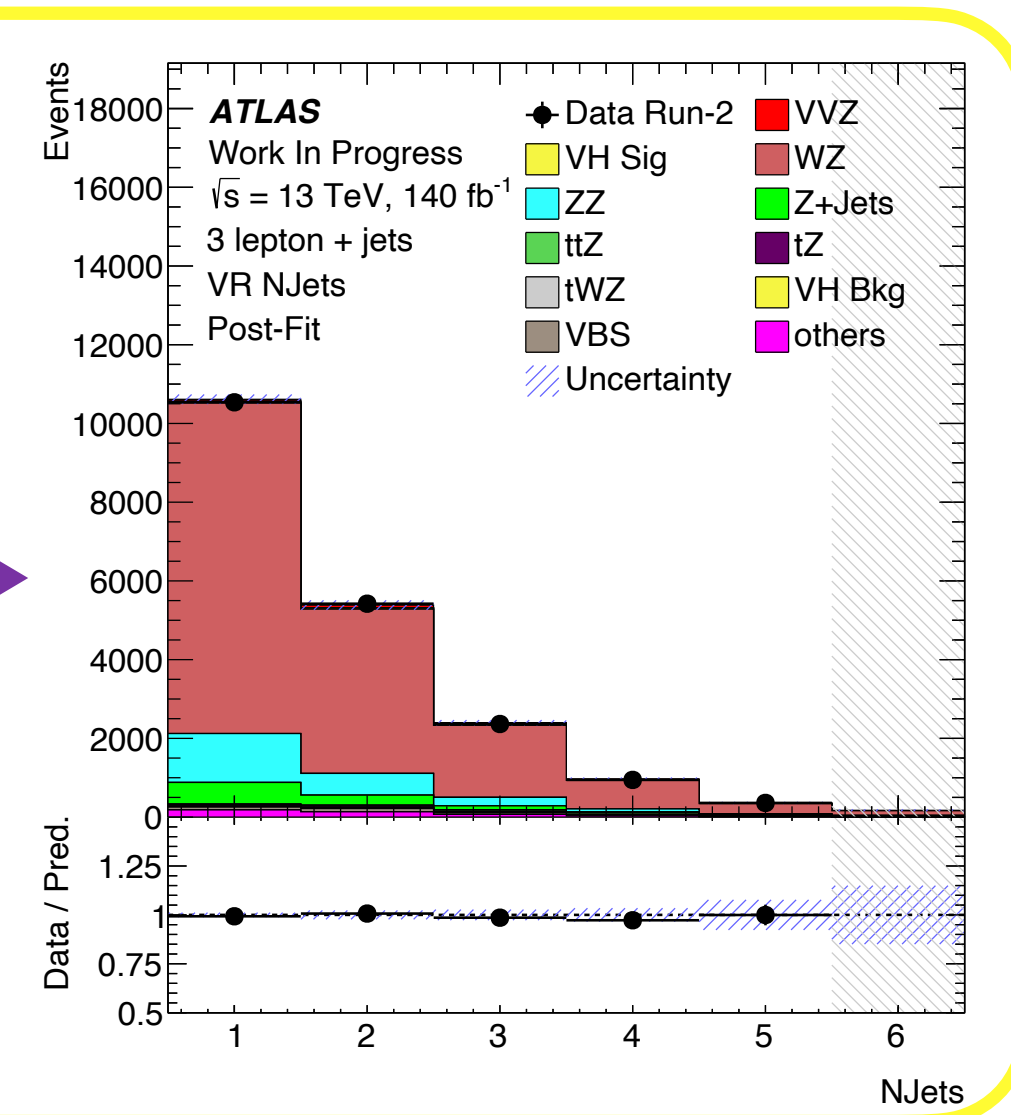
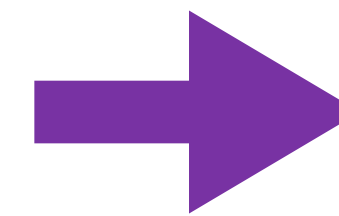
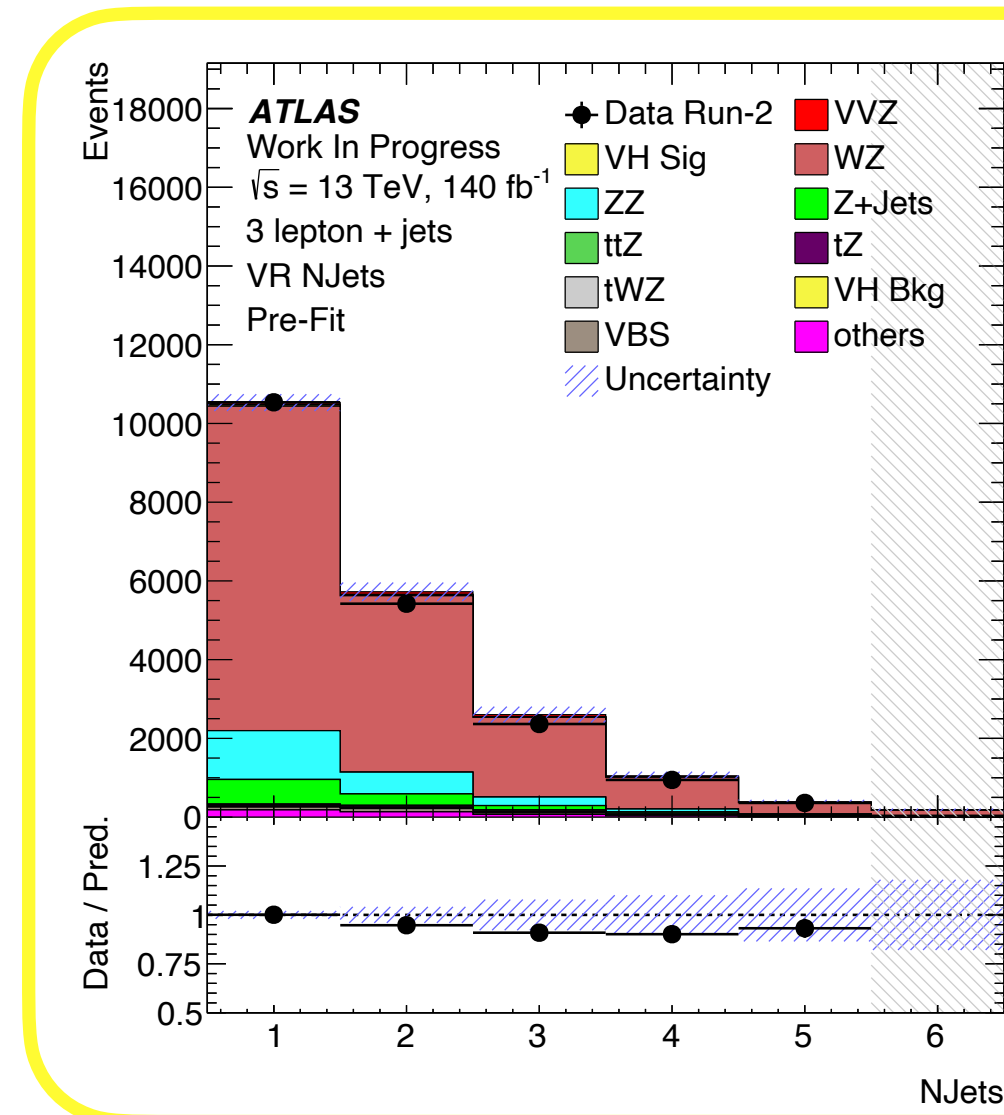
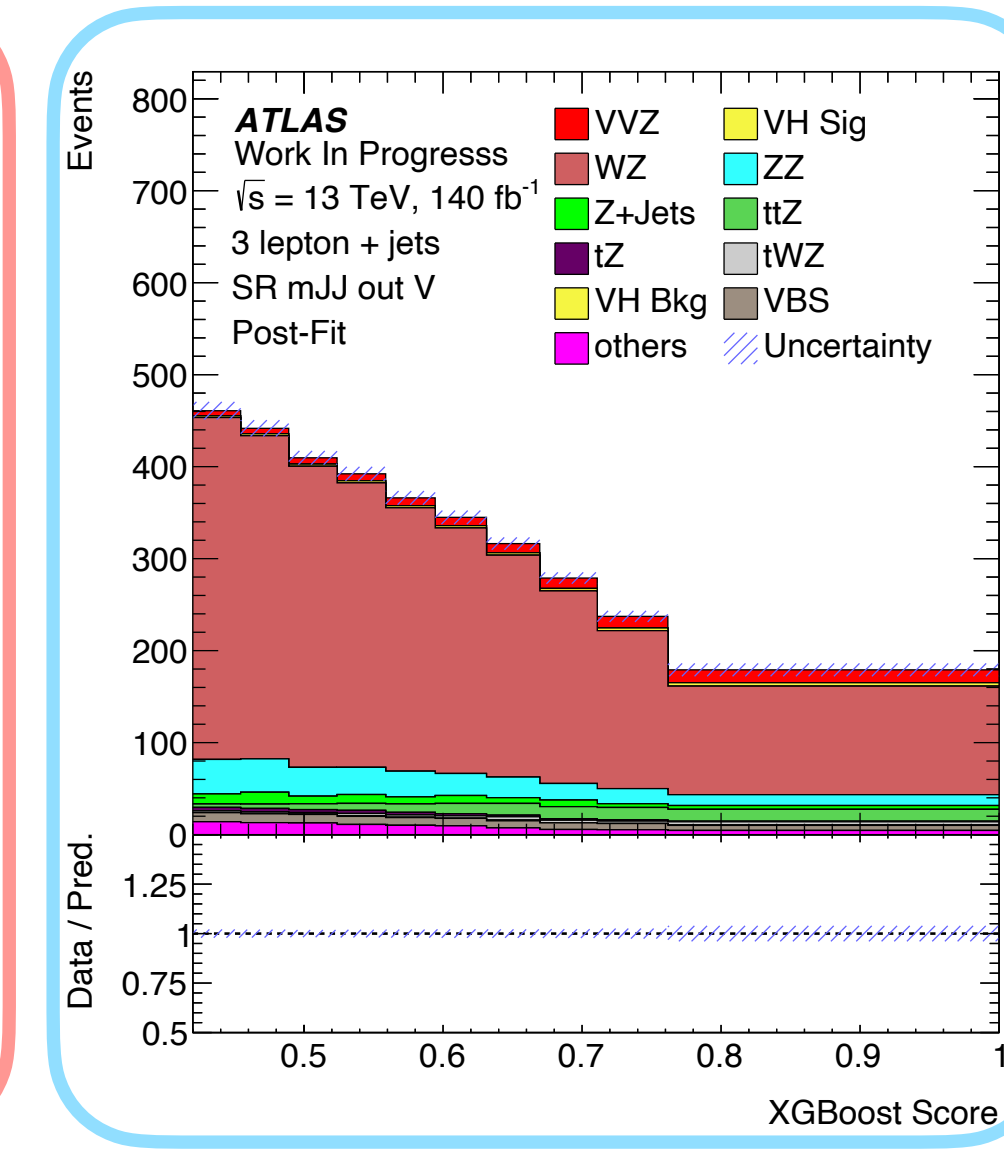
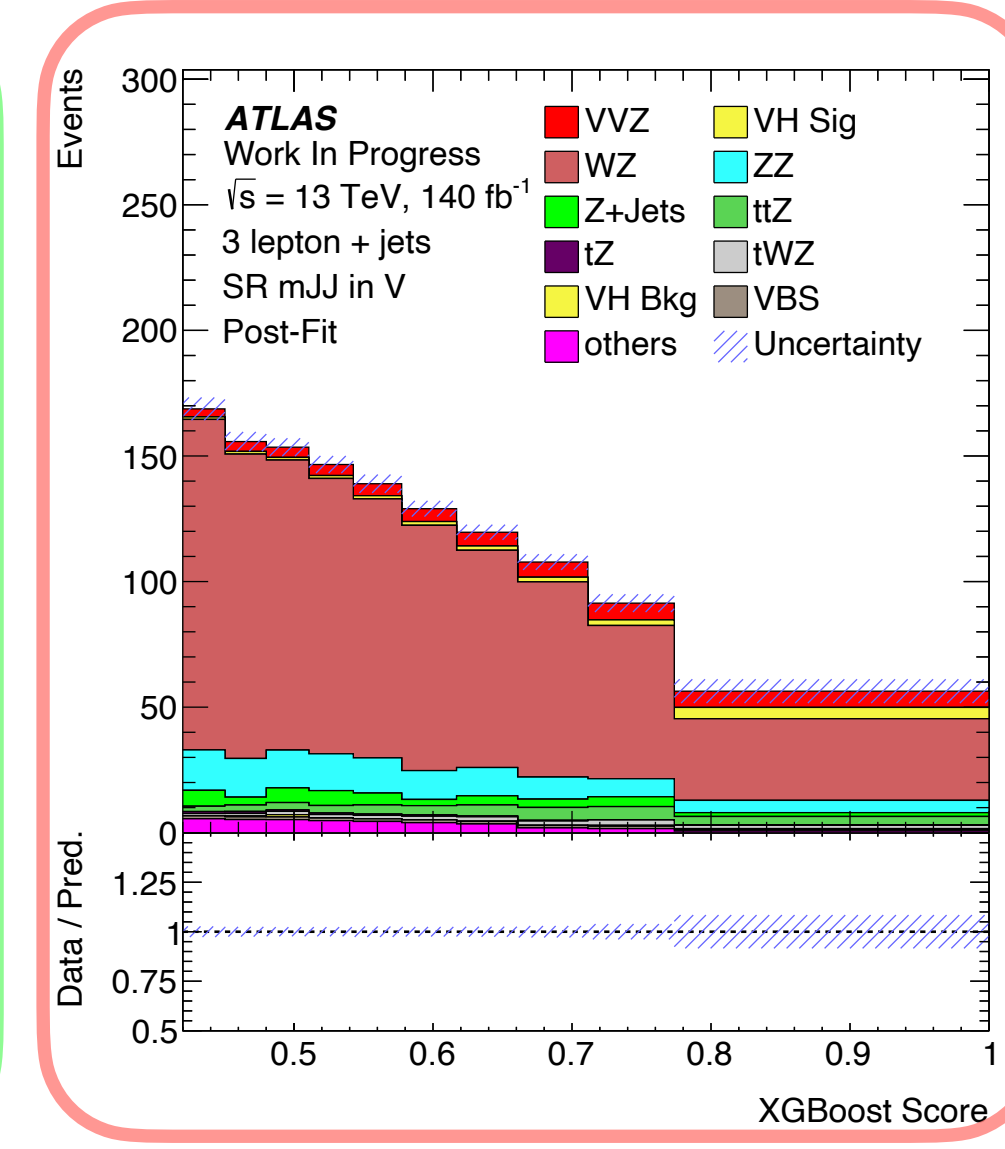
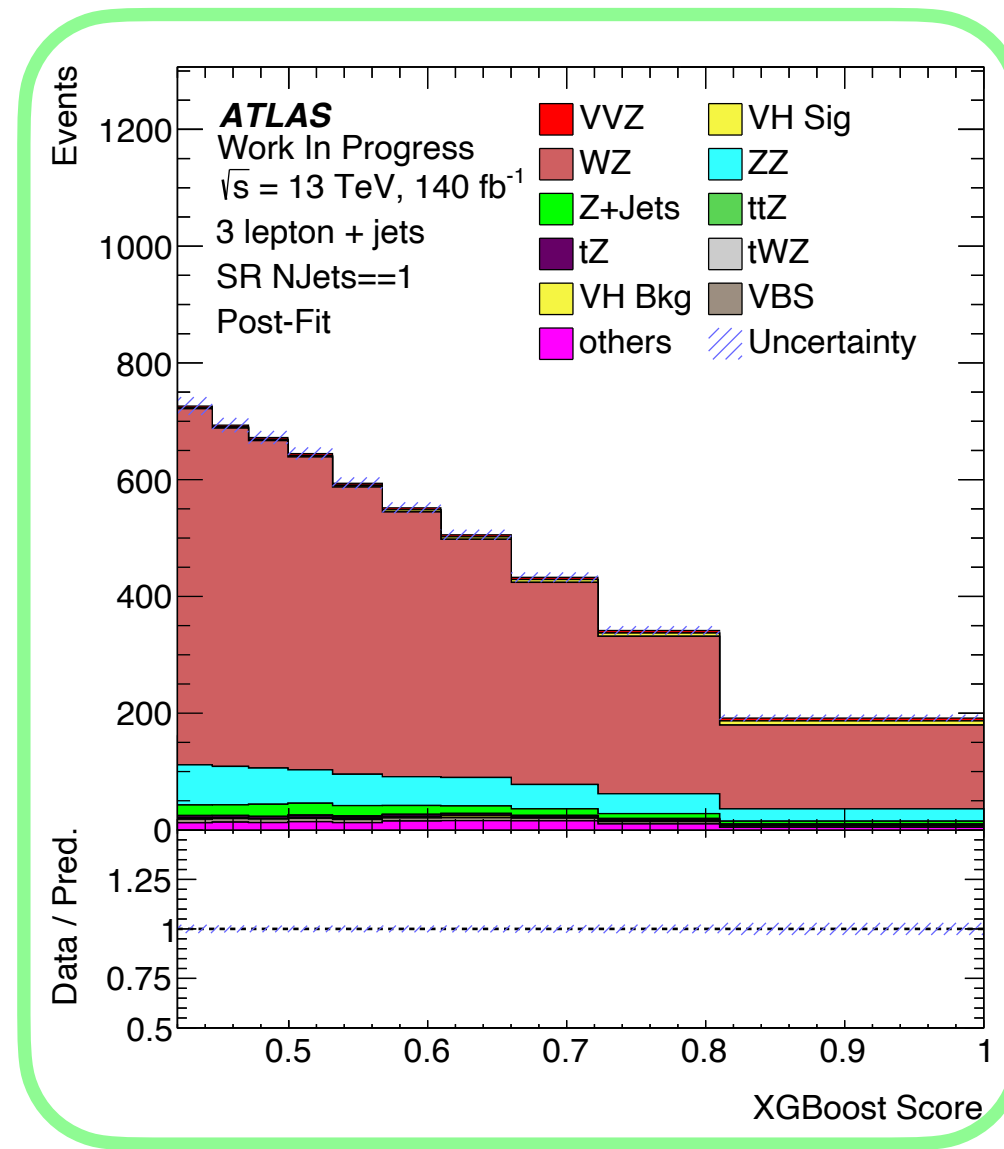
≥ 2 jets outside  $m_{jj}$  window [60, 110] GeV

- BDTs are trained for each SR using kinematic & angular variables

- WZ CR created with cut on SR BDT Outputs has  $\mu$ s for NJet bins 1-3 to improve modelling of high Jet Multiplicity

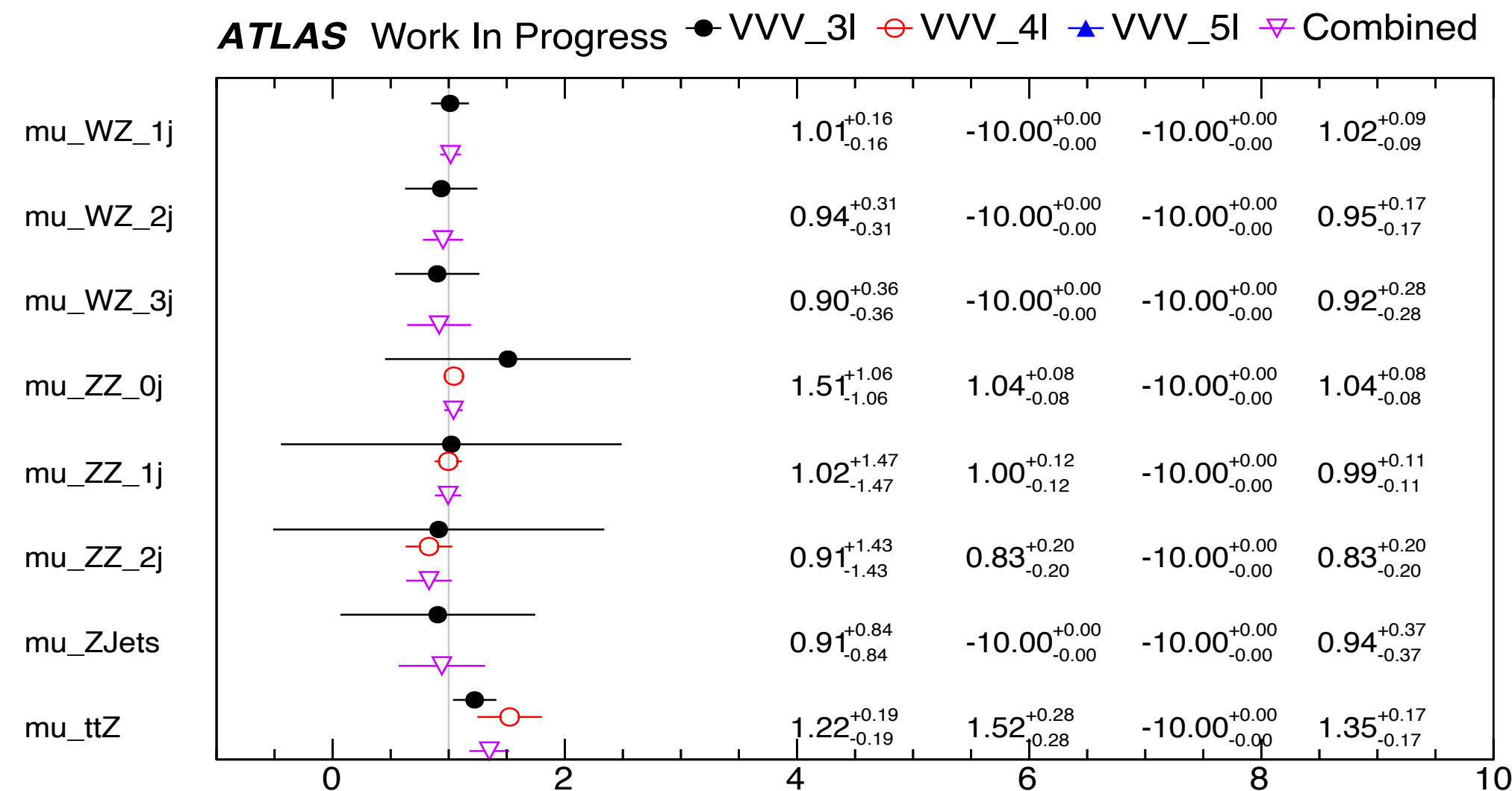
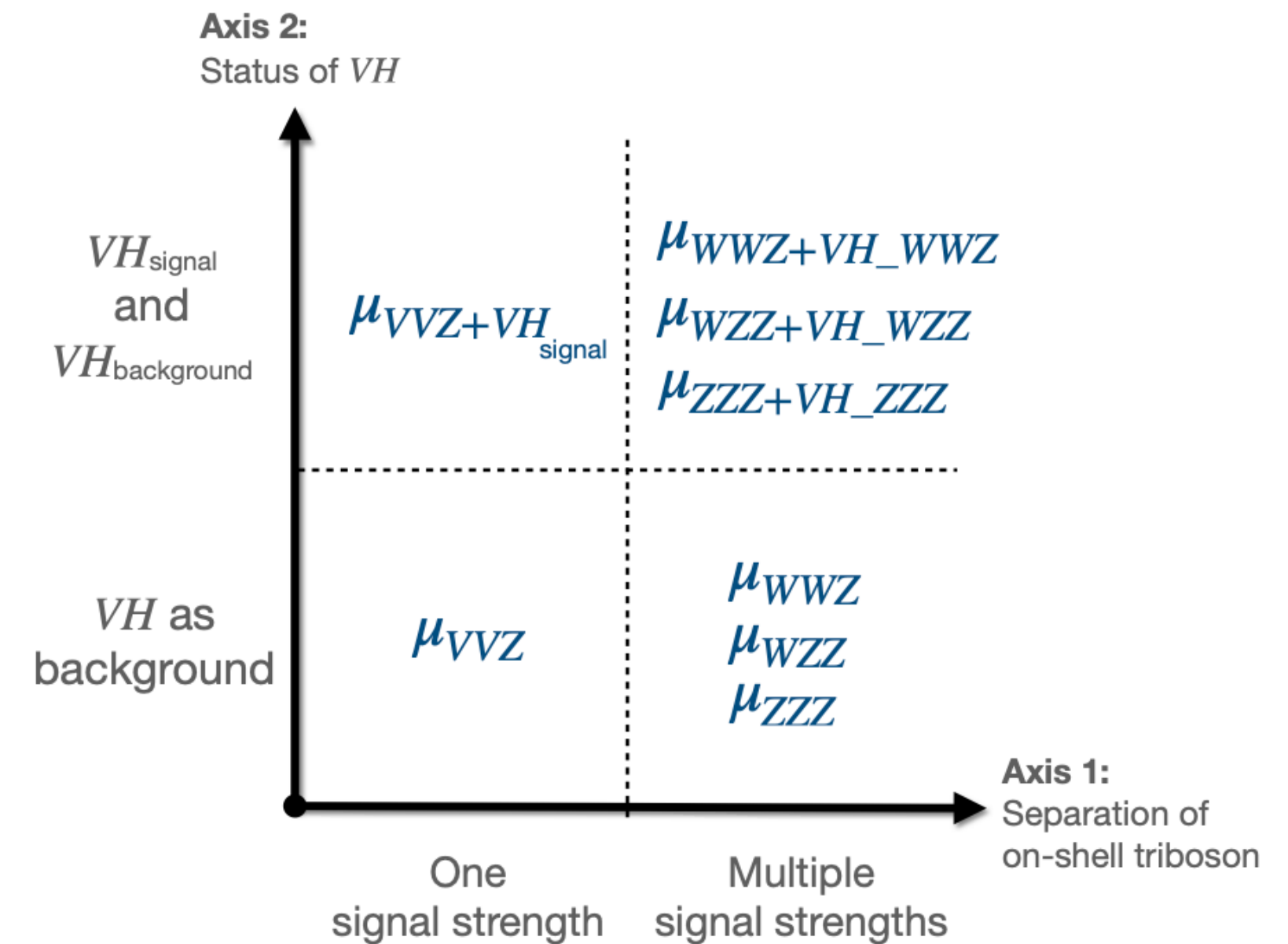
- Z+jets &  $t\bar{t}Z$  CRs are defined to normalise backgrounds to data

- Fit to Asimov dataset in SRs and data in CRs before unblinding



# Blinded Combined Results

- $3\ell$ +jets,  $4\ell$  and  $5\ell$ + channels used in combined fit
- Results produced with VH as background process & with a truth-cut in MC to extract VH mediated signal processes
- $3\ell$ +jets and  $4\ell$  channels sees ~50% & ~45% improvements in expected significance respectively compared to previous ATLAS analysis (1903.10415)

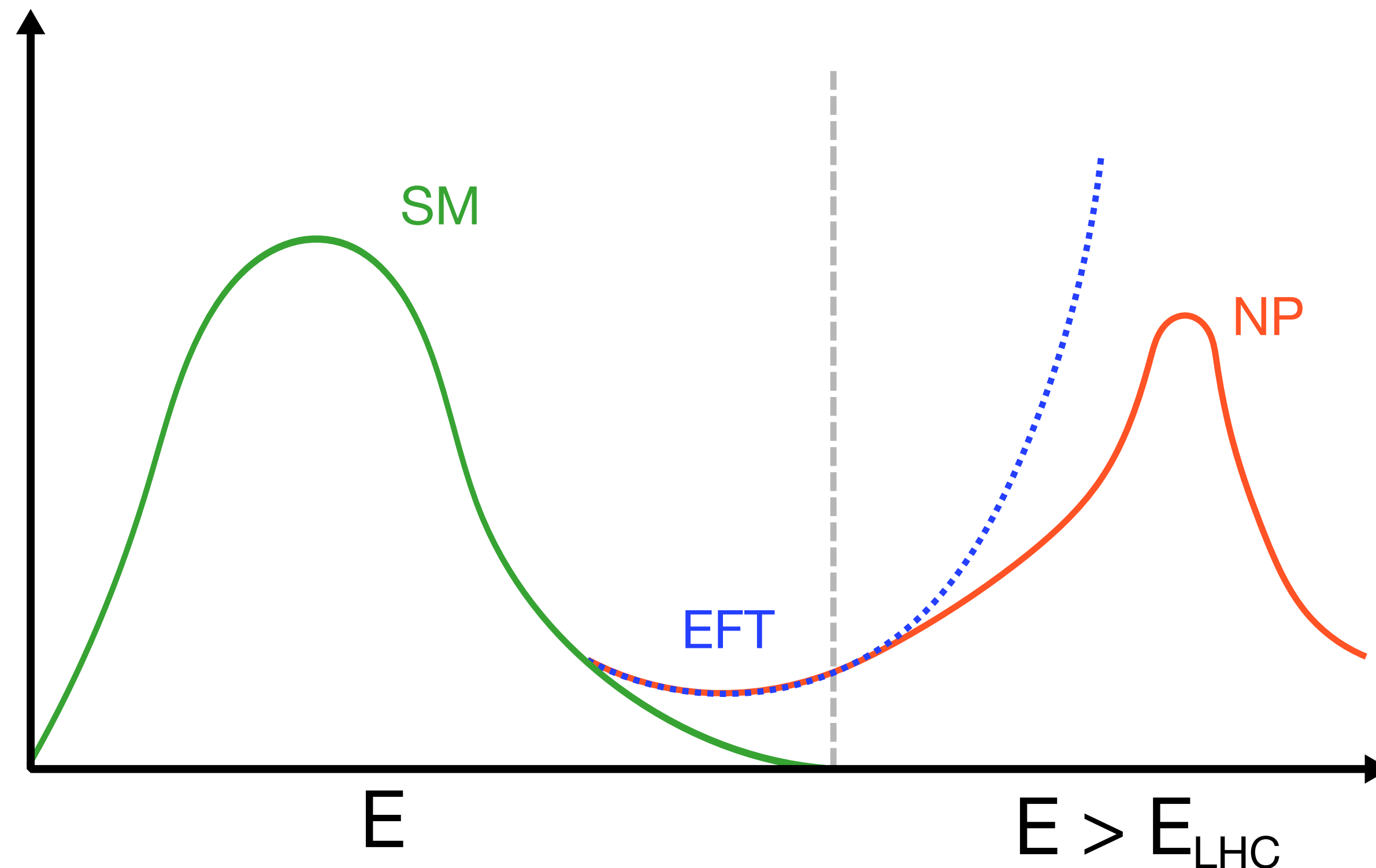


Median Expected Significance $\sigma$ , VH as Signal (Background), ATLAS Work In Progress			
Fit	VVZ	WWZ	WZZ + ZZZ
3 leptons + jets	2.08 (1.40)	0.75 (0.35)	0.14 (0.10)
4 leptons	3.97 (2.97)	2.98 (2.31)	0.47 (0.46)
5+ leptons	2.42 (2.20)	0.00 (0.00)	2.33 (2.13)
<b>Combined</b>	<b>4.93 (3.85)</b>	<b>3.72 (2.70)</b>	<b>2.46 (2.25)</b>

# Effective Field Theory

We want to probe the effects of New Physics beyond the energy frontier of the LHC in a model independent way

Using gauge invariant extensions to the Standard Model Lagrangian, we can add operators which describe specific extensions from BSM physics



# Effective Field Theory

We want to probe the effects of New Physics beyond the energy frontier of the LHC in a model independent way

Using gauge invariant extensions to the Standard Model Lagrangian, we can add operators which describe specific extensions from BSM physics

$$\mathcal{L}_{SMEFT} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \mathcal{L}^{(5)} + \mathcal{L}^{(6)} + \mathcal{L}^{(7)} + \dots, \quad \mathcal{L}^{(d)} = \sum_{i=1}^{n_d} \frac{c_i^{(d)}}{\Lambda^{d-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{(d)} \quad \text{for } d > 4$$

The strength of these NP effects are determined by Wilson coefficients  $c_i$  for a NP energy scale  $\Lambda$

Genuine Anomalous Quartic Gauge couplings enter at dimension  $d = 8$ , and these bosons operators are described in the Eboli parametrisation

$$\mathcal{L}_{SMEFT} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \frac{f_i^{(8)}}{\Lambda^4} \mathcal{O}_i^{(8)}$$



# Anomalous Quartic Gauge Couplings

1604.03555

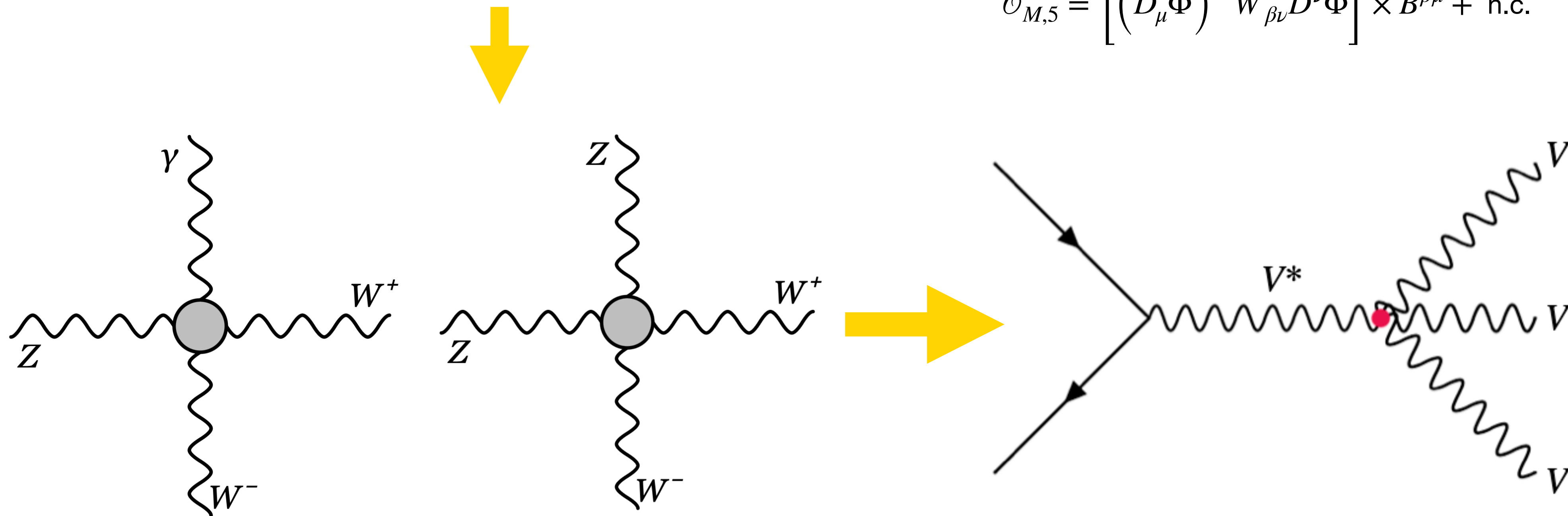
	WWWW	WWZZ	WW $\gamma$ Z	WW $\gamma\gamma$
$\mathcal{O}_{S,0}, \mathcal{O}_{S,1}$	✓	✓		
$\mathcal{O}_{M,0}, \mathcal{O}_{M,1}, \mathcal{O}_{M,6}, \mathcal{O}_{M,7}$	✓	✓	✓	✓
$\mathcal{O}_{M,2}, \mathcal{O}_{M,3}, \mathcal{O}_{M,4}, \mathcal{O}_{M,5}$		✓	✓	✓
$\mathcal{O}_{T,0}, \mathcal{O}_{T,1}, \mathcal{O}_{T,2}$	✓	✓	✓	✓
$\mathcal{O}_{T,5}, \mathcal{O}_{T,6}, \mathcal{O}_{T,7}$		✓	✓	✓
$\mathcal{O}_{T,8}, \mathcal{O}_{T,9}$				

$$\mathcal{O}_{M,2} = [B_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu}] \times [(D_\beta\Phi)^\dagger D^\beta\Phi]$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{M,3} = [B_{\mu\nu}B^{\nu\beta}] \times [(D_\beta\Phi)^\dagger D^\mu\Phi]$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{M,4} = [(D_\mu\Phi)^\dagger \widehat{W}_{\beta\nu} D^\mu\Phi] \times B^{\beta\nu}$$

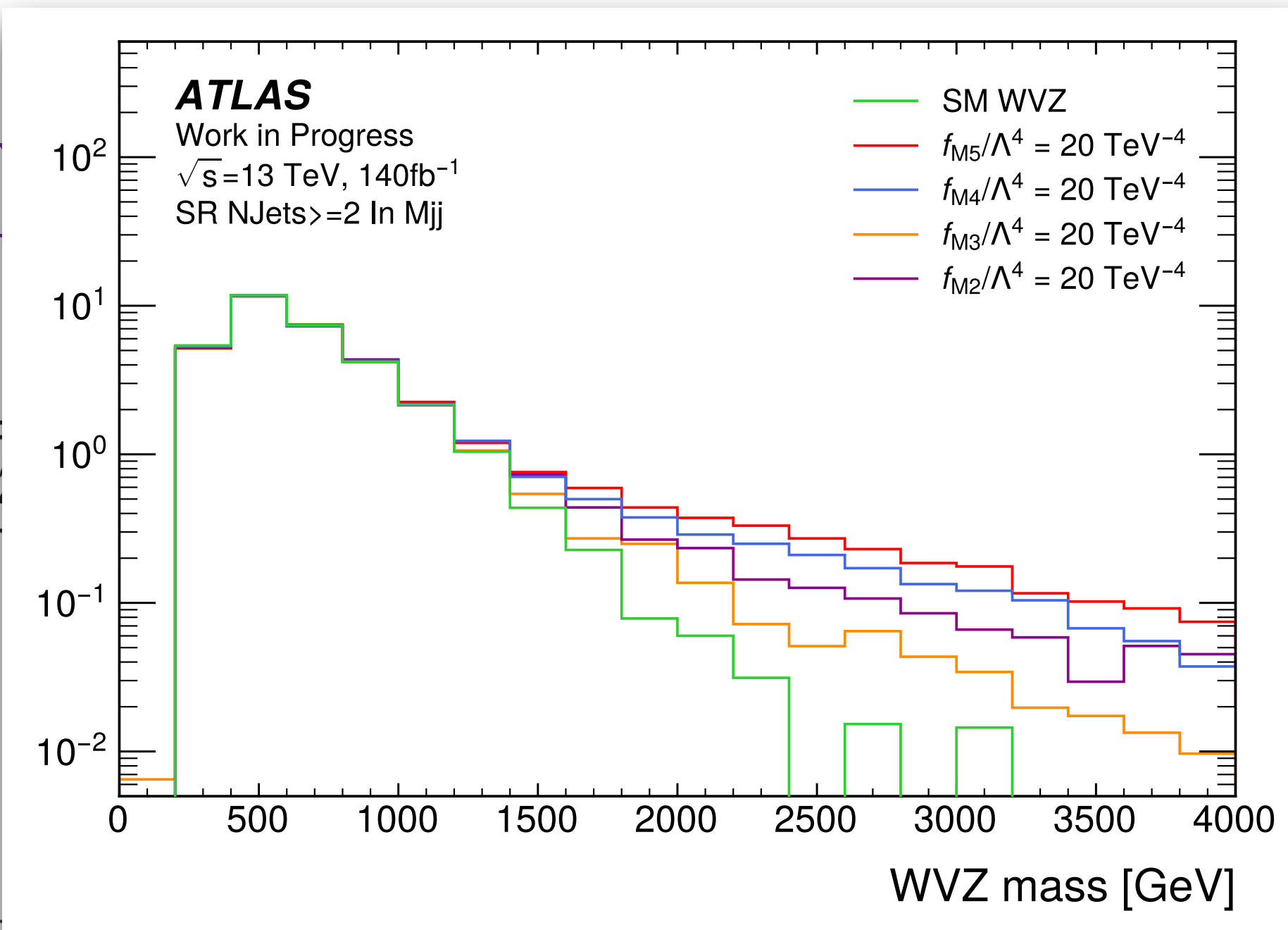
$$\mathcal{O}_{M,5} = [(D_\mu\Phi)^\dagger \widehat{W}_{\beta\nu} D^\nu\Phi] \times B^{\beta\mu} + \text{h.c.}$$



# Anomalo

# Couplings

	WWWW	WWZ
$\mathcal{O}_{S,0}, \mathcal{O}_{S,1}$	✓	✓
$\mathcal{O}_{M,0}, \mathcal{O}_{M,1}, \mathcal{O}_{M,6}, \mathcal{O}_{M,7}$	✓	✓
$\mathcal{O}_{M,2}, \mathcal{O}_{M,3}, \mathcal{O}_{M,4}, \mathcal{O}_{M,5}$	✓	✓
$\mathcal{O}_{T,0}, \mathcal{O}_{T,1}, \mathcal{O}_{T,2}$	✓	✓
$\mathcal{O}_{T,5}, \mathcal{O}_{T,6}, \mathcal{O}_{T,7}$		✓
$\mathcal{O}_{T,8}, \mathcal{O}_{T,9}$		✓



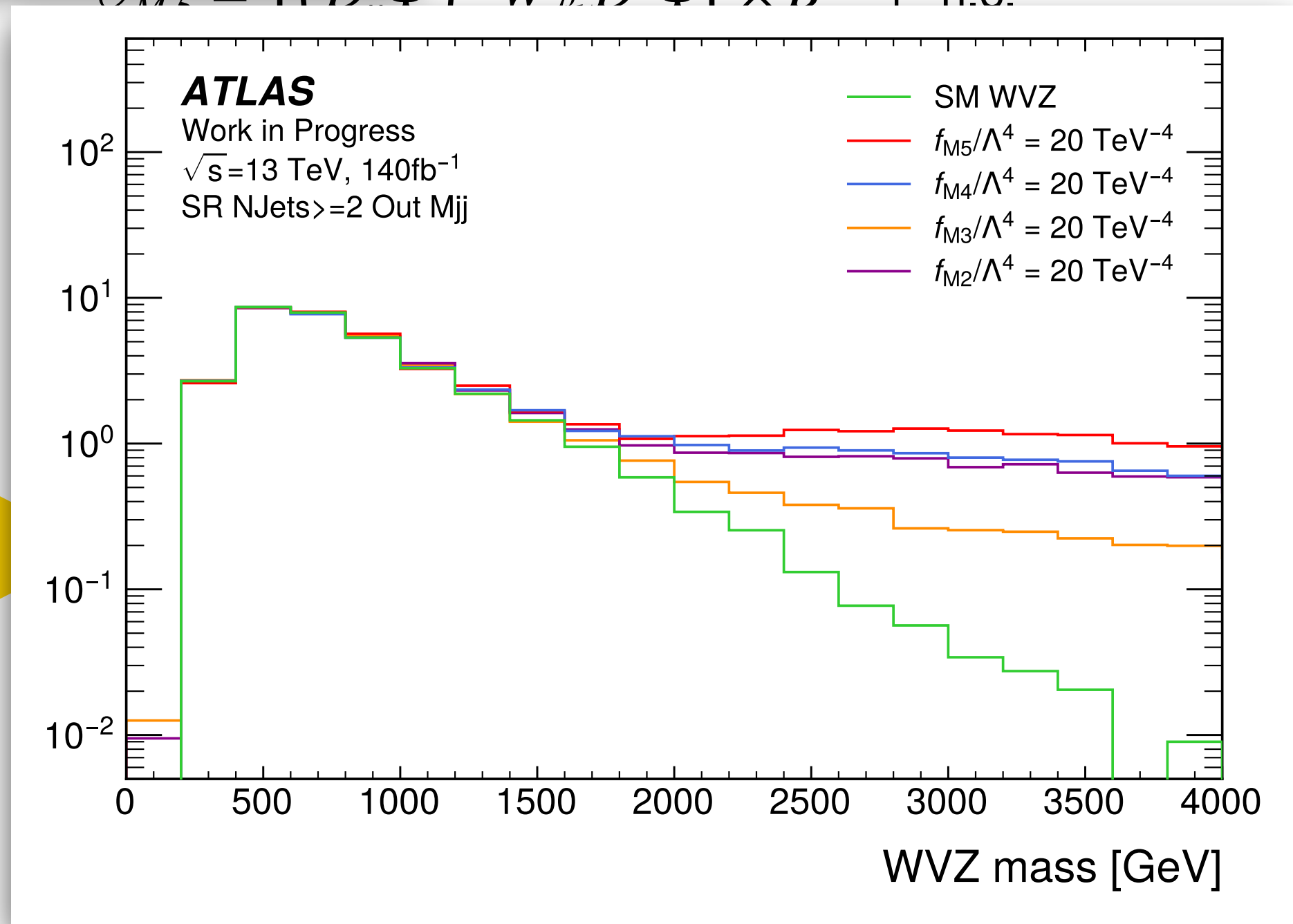
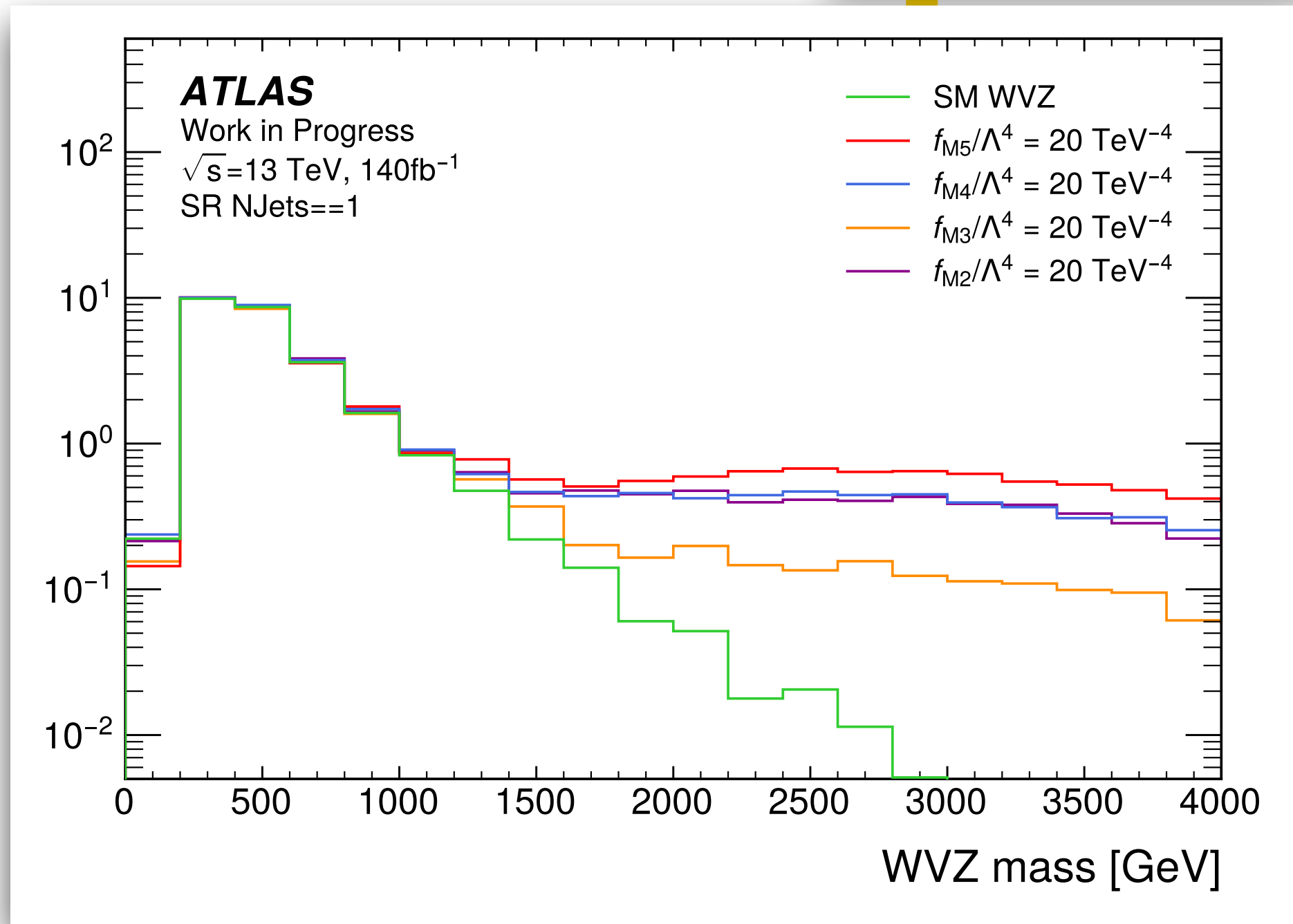
$$\left[ \dots \right] \times \left[ \left( D_\beta \Phi \right)^\dagger D^\beta \Phi \right]$$

$$\left[ \dots \right] \times \left[ \left( D_\beta \Phi \right)^\dagger D^\mu \Phi \right]$$

$$\left[ \dots \right]^\dagger \left[ \widehat{W}_{\beta\nu} D^\mu \Phi \right] \times B^{\beta\nu}$$

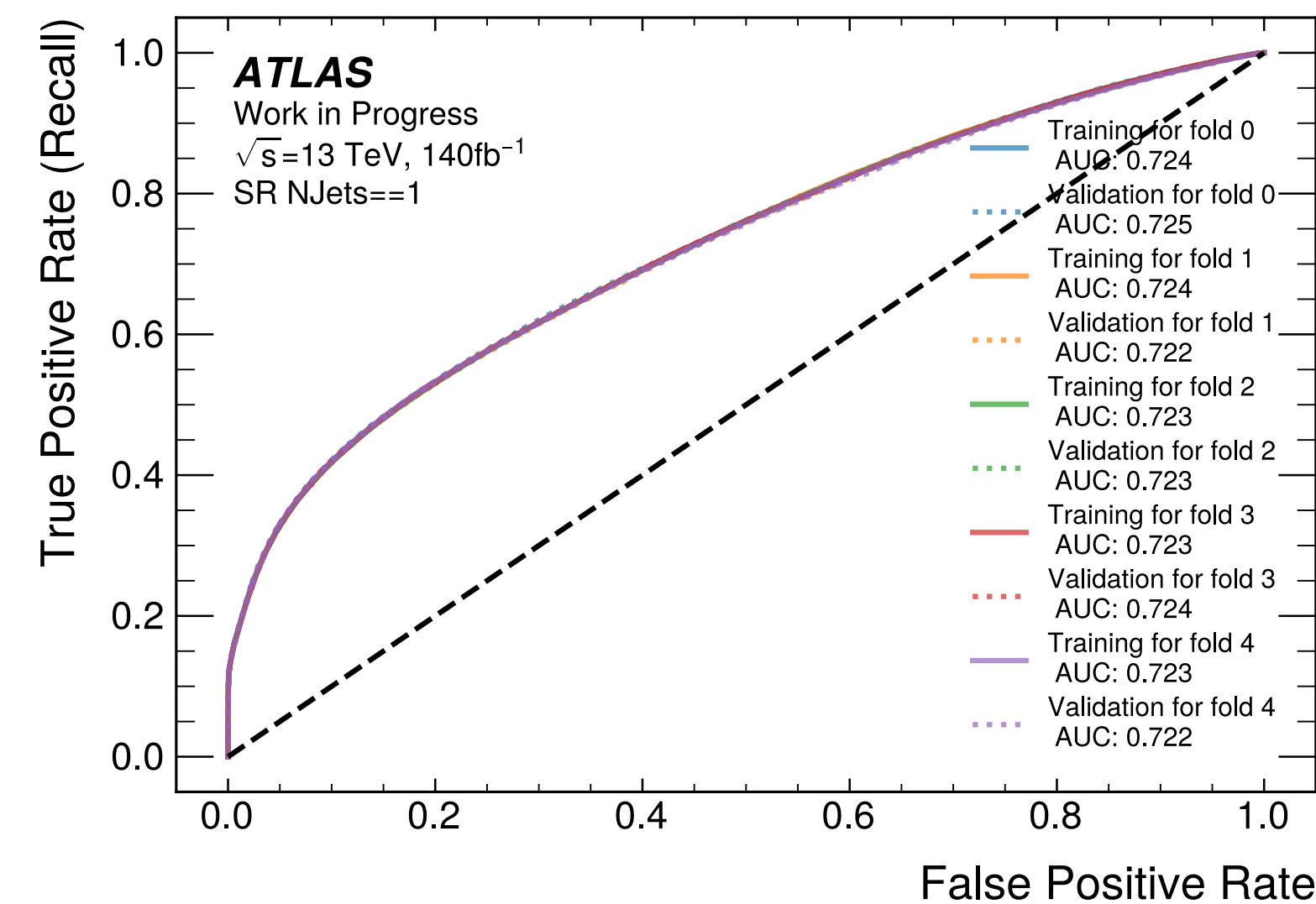
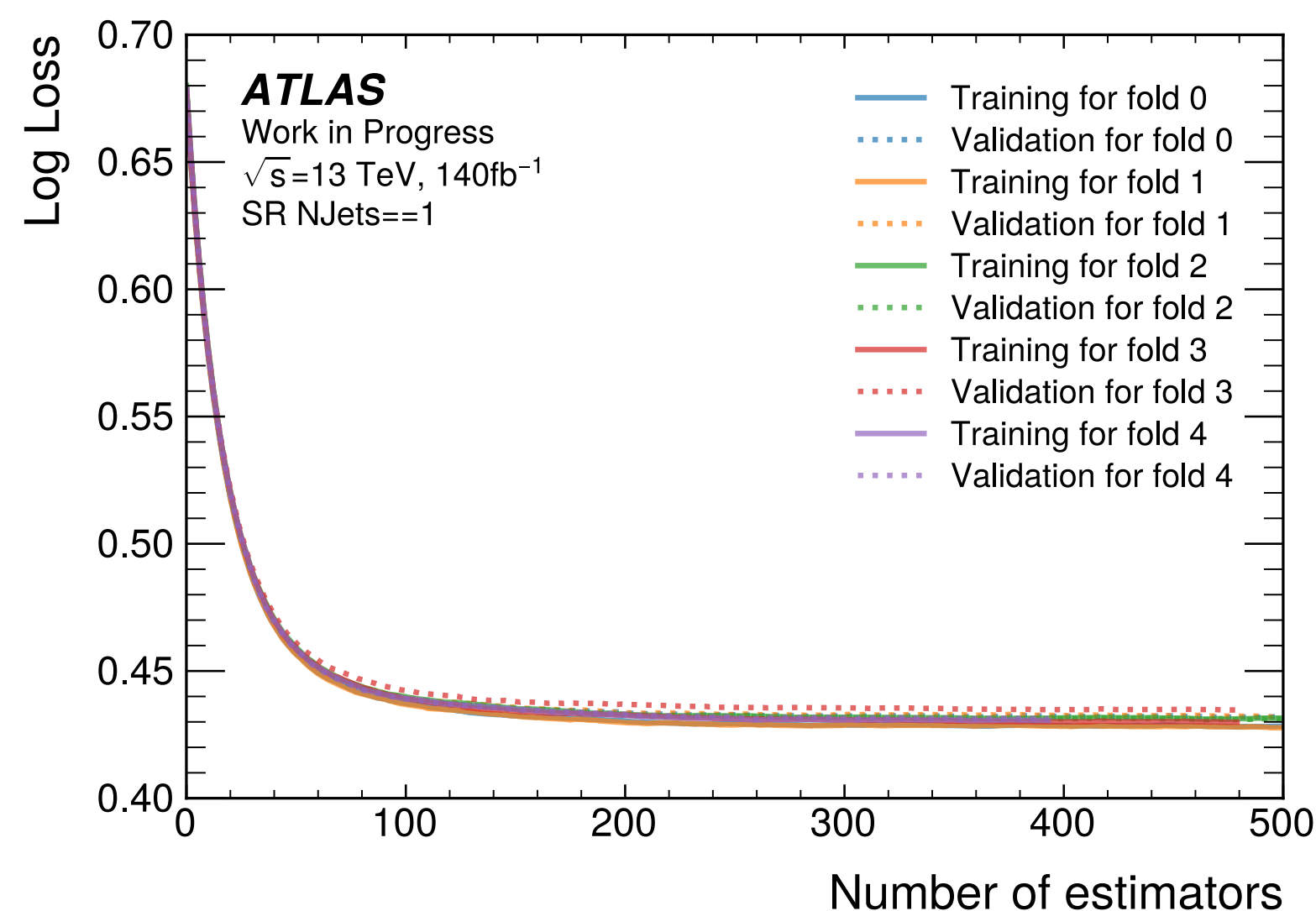
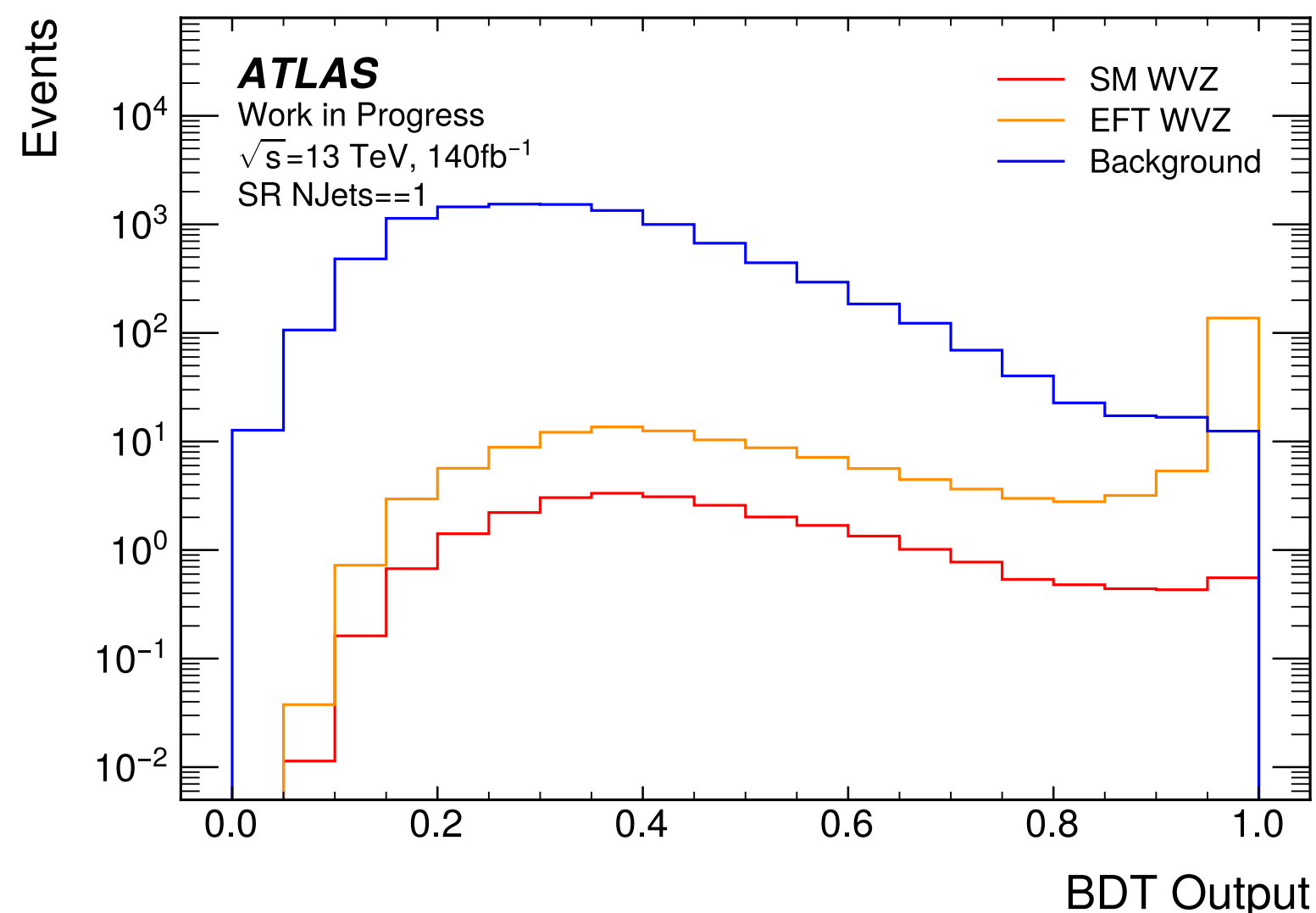
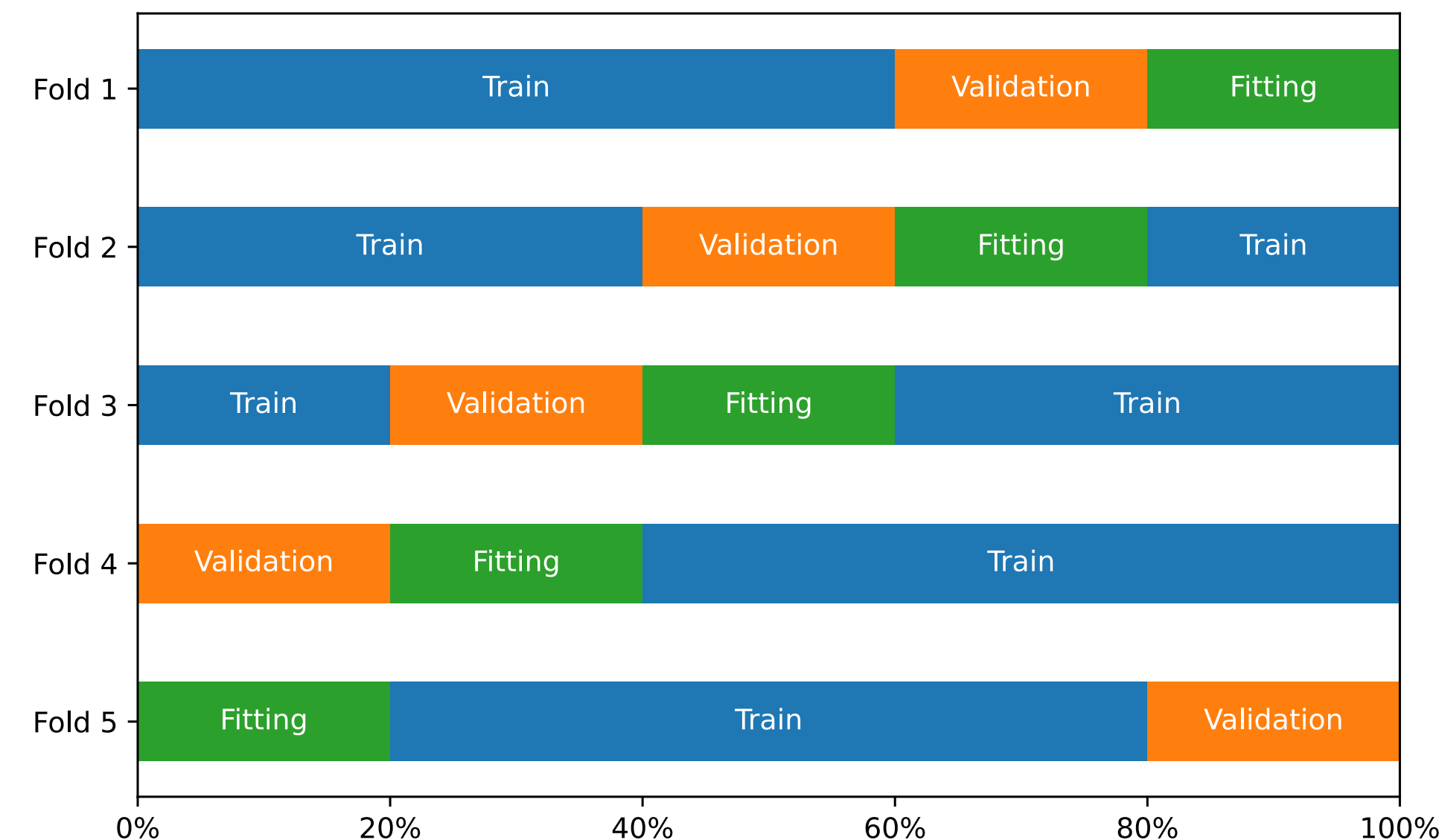
$$\left[ \dots \right]^\dagger \left[ \widehat{W}_{\rho\sigma} D^\nu \Phi \right] \times B^{\beta\mu} + \text{h.c.}$$

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# EFT BDTs

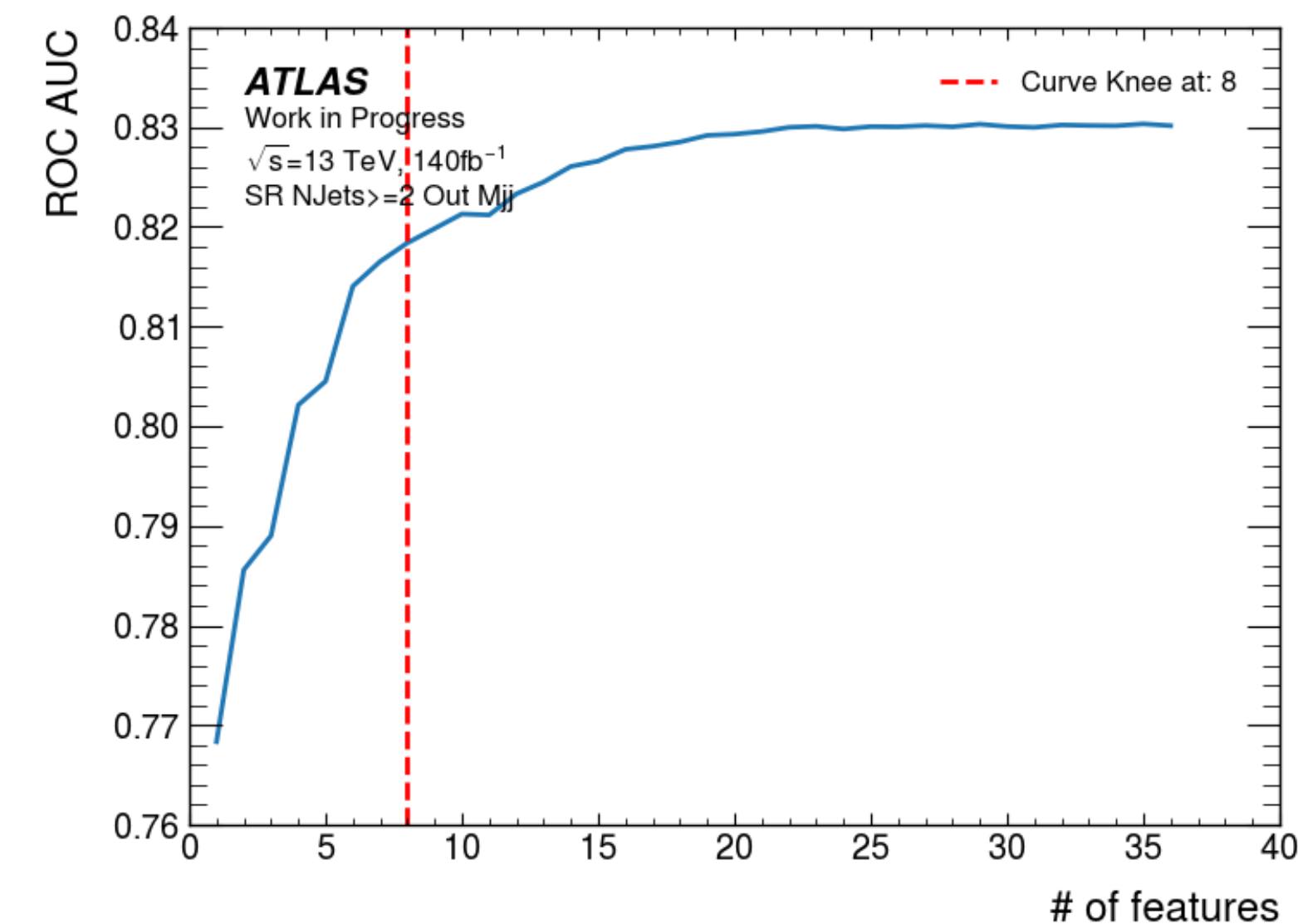
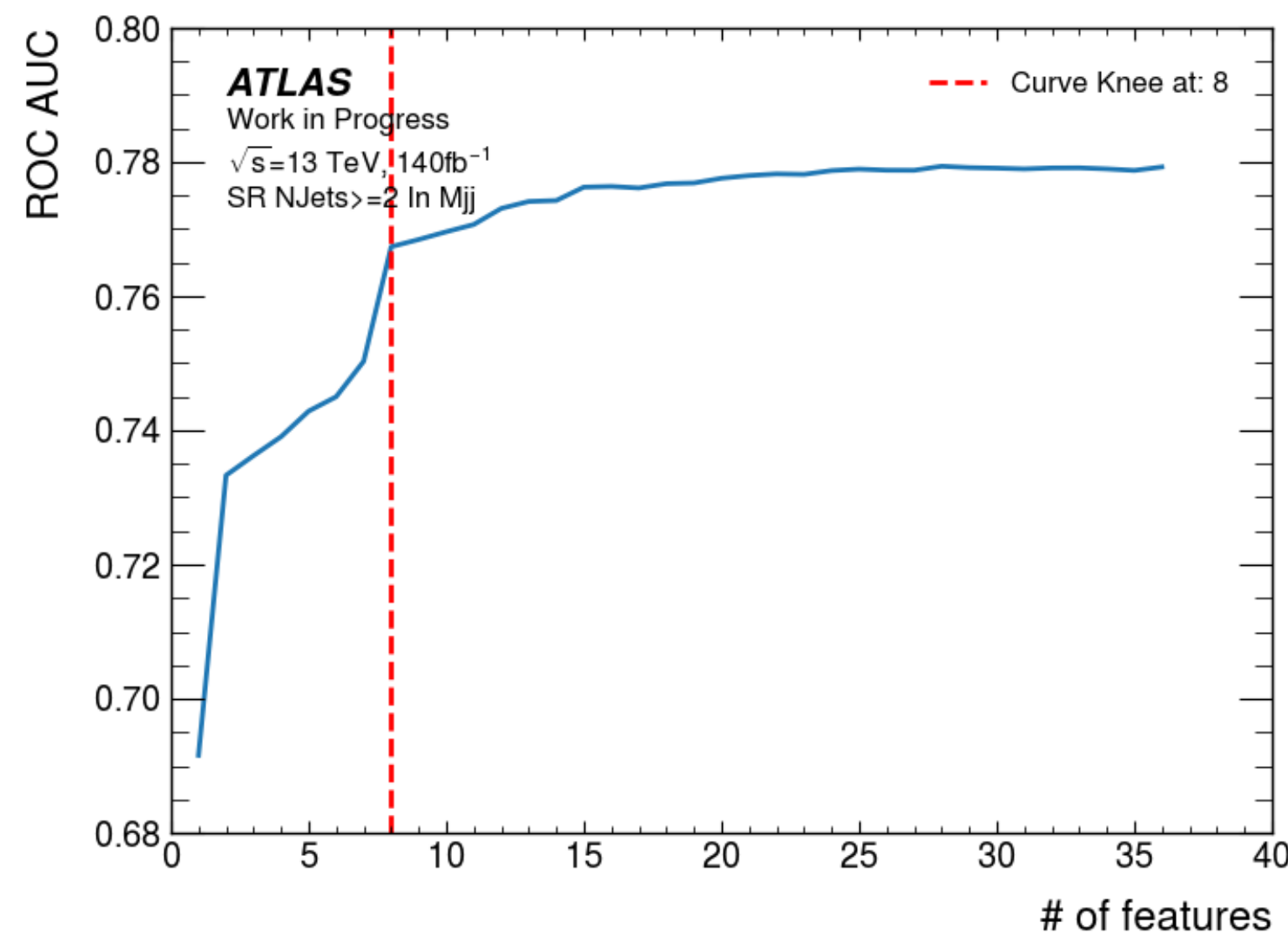
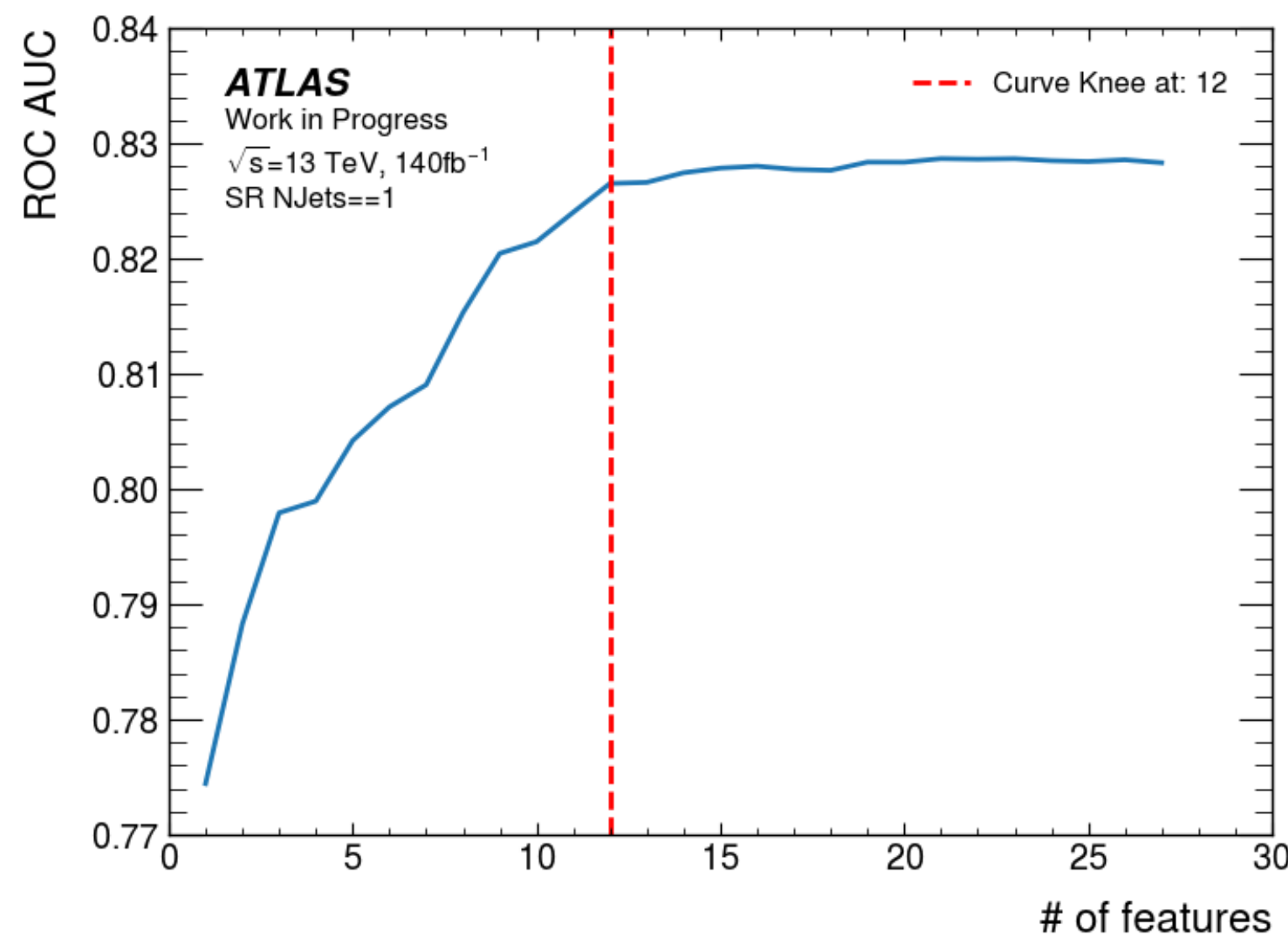
- Retrain BDTs used in SM analysis with expanded definitions of ‘Signal’ now including a range of EFT signal strengths, across  $f_{M2-5}$  operators
- Use k-folding to maximise power gained from available MC statistics
- Recursive feature elimination utilised to minimise length of BDT feature list, to prevent overfitting of model and optimise performance to simplest model



# EFT BDTs

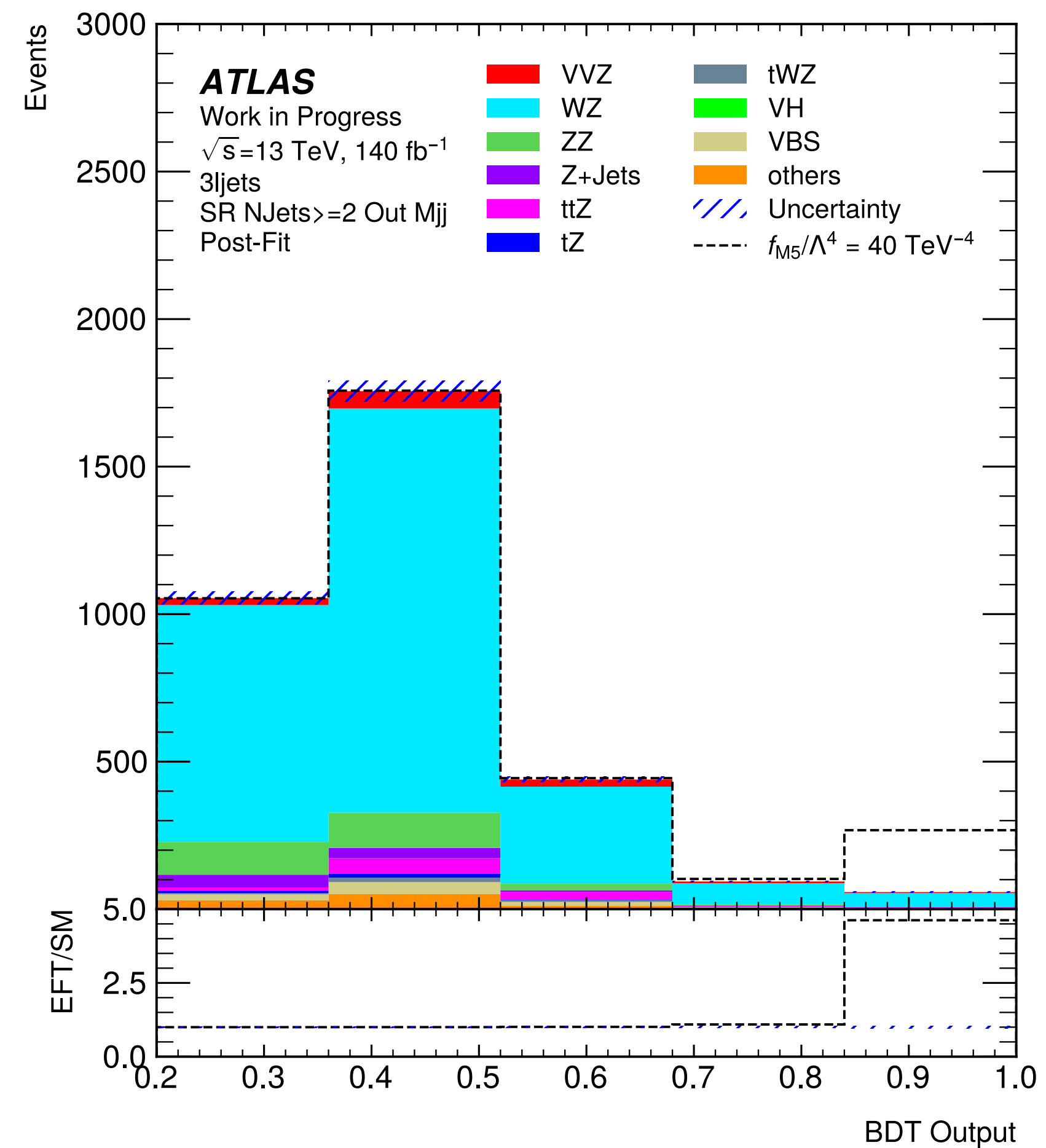
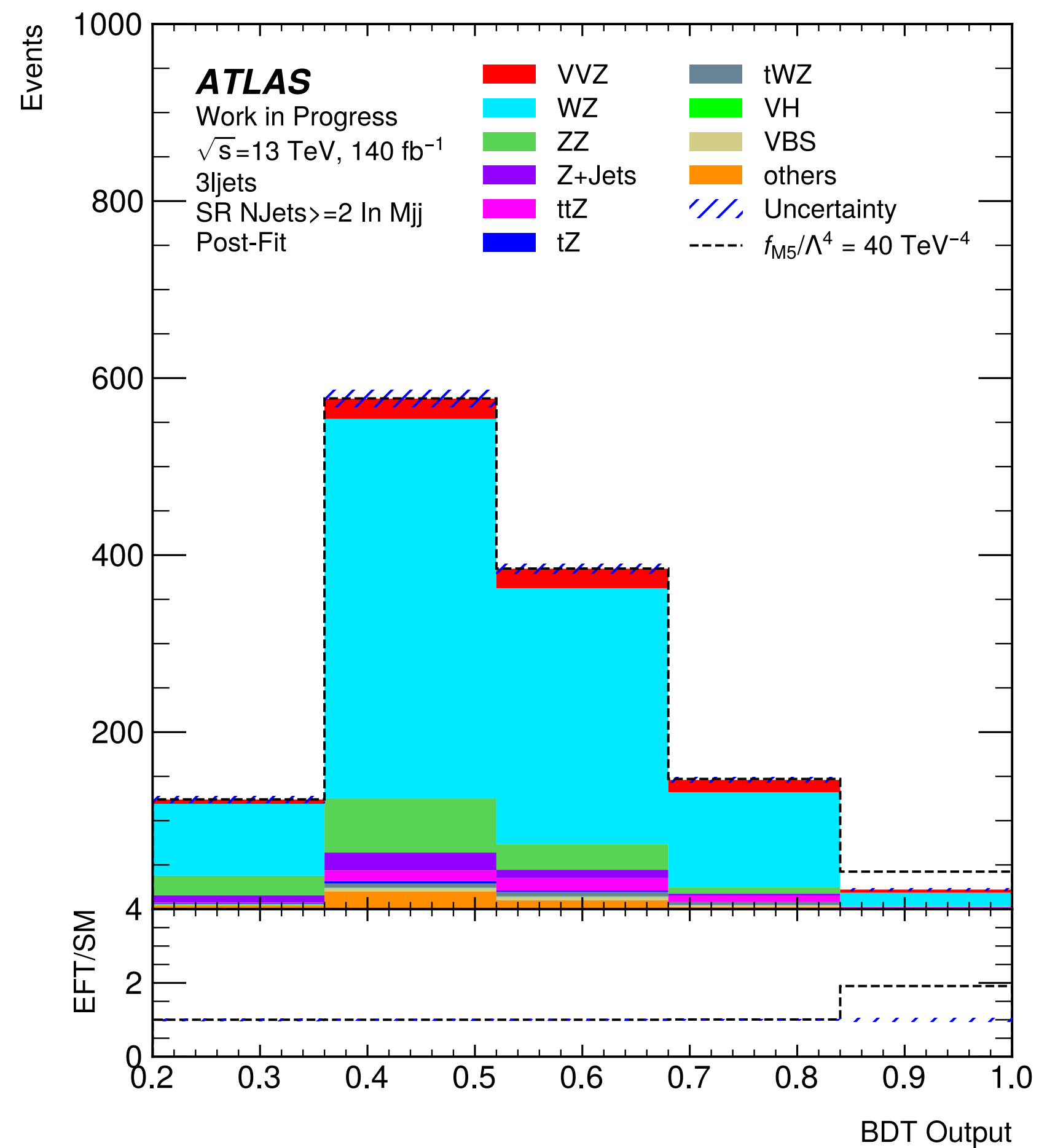
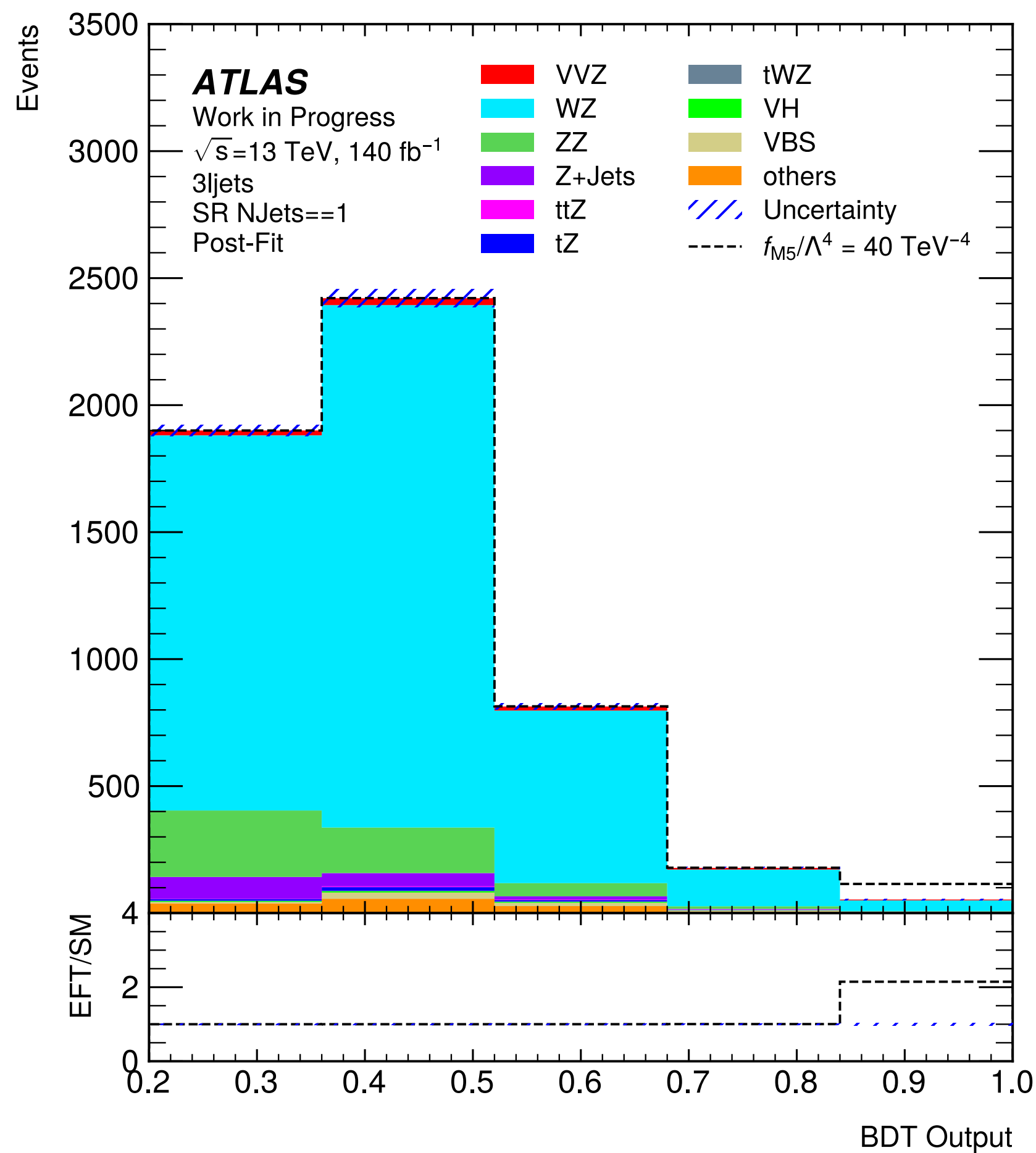
- Recursive feature elimination utilised to minimise length of BDT feature list, to prevent overfitting of model and optimise performance to simplest model
- Feature removal of highly correlated observables (>75%) in order of important
- Maximum point of curvature in RFE curve used to cut feature list to minimal length using the Kneedle algorithm

NJets == 1	NJets $\geq 2$ in $V_{m_{jj}}$	NJets $\geq 2$ out $V_{m_{jj}}$
$WWZ_M$	$m_{jj}^{01}$	$p_T^{j1}$
$E_T^{miss}$	$p_T^{j2}$	$H_T^{lep}$
$\Delta M(Z_{\ell\ell}, V_{qq})$	$m_{\ell\ell\ell}^{012}$	$E_T^{miss}$
$M_{T,\ell}^W$	$p_T^{j1}$	$M_{T,had}^W$
$\Delta p_T(Z_{\ell\ell}, V_{qq})$	$\Delta p_T(Z_{\ell\ell}, V_{qq})$	$M_{\ell\ell}^{12}$
$p_T^{\ell_3}$	$HT$	$p_T^{j2}$
$\Delta p_T(Z_{ll}, V_{qq})$	$E_T^{miss}$	$p_T^{W,lep}$
$\Delta R(\ell_3, Z)$	$\Delta R(\ell_{12})$	$p_T$
$\Delta R(\ell_3, V_{qq})$		$\Delta R(\ell_{12})$
$E_{j1}$		
$\Delta R(\ell_{12})$		
$\Delta R(\ell_{123})$		





# EFT BDTs



# Limit Setting

- As EFT MC model is only currently available at LO, a k-factor must be applied to EFT signal samples to account for large NLO enhancements to triboson production

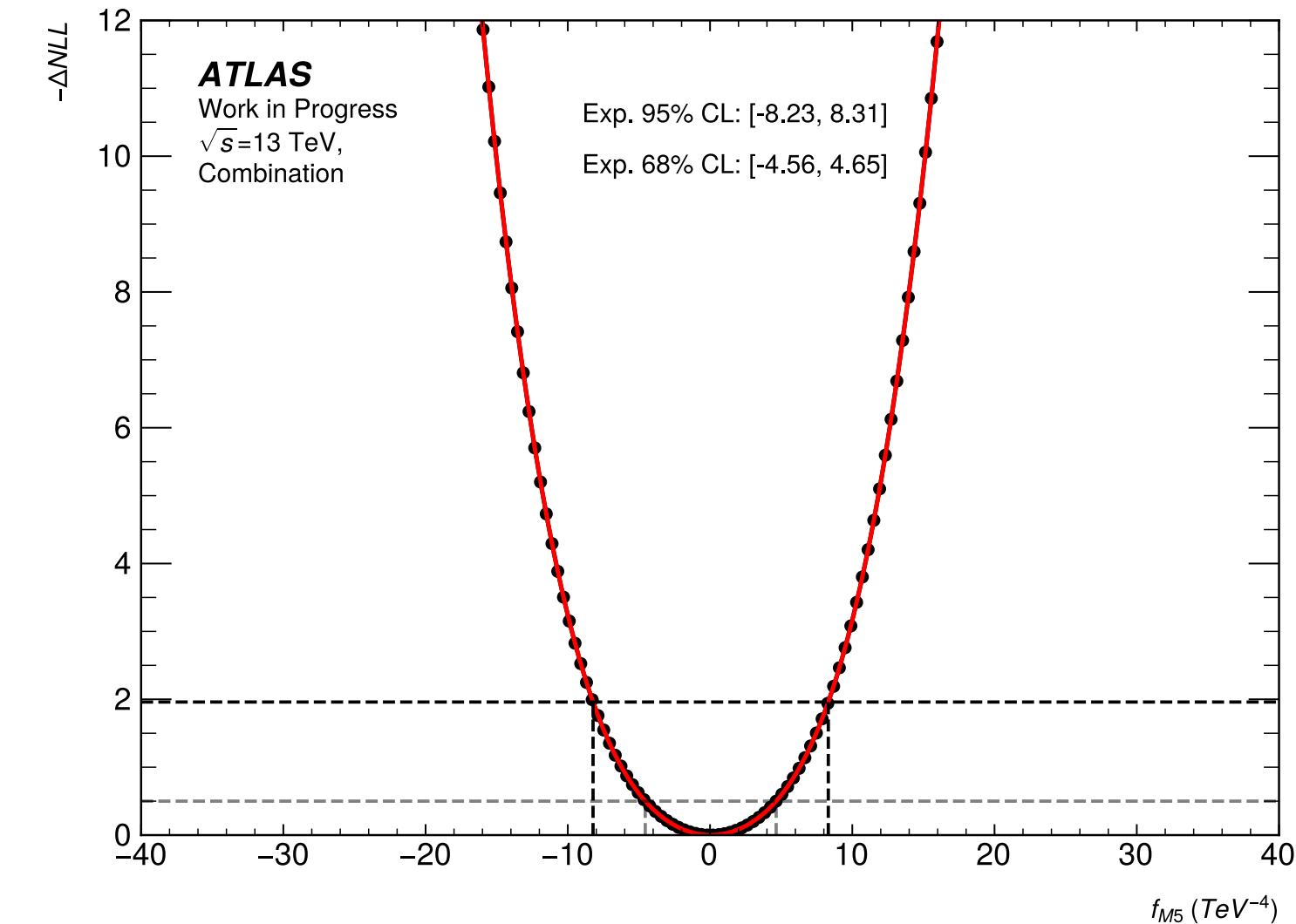
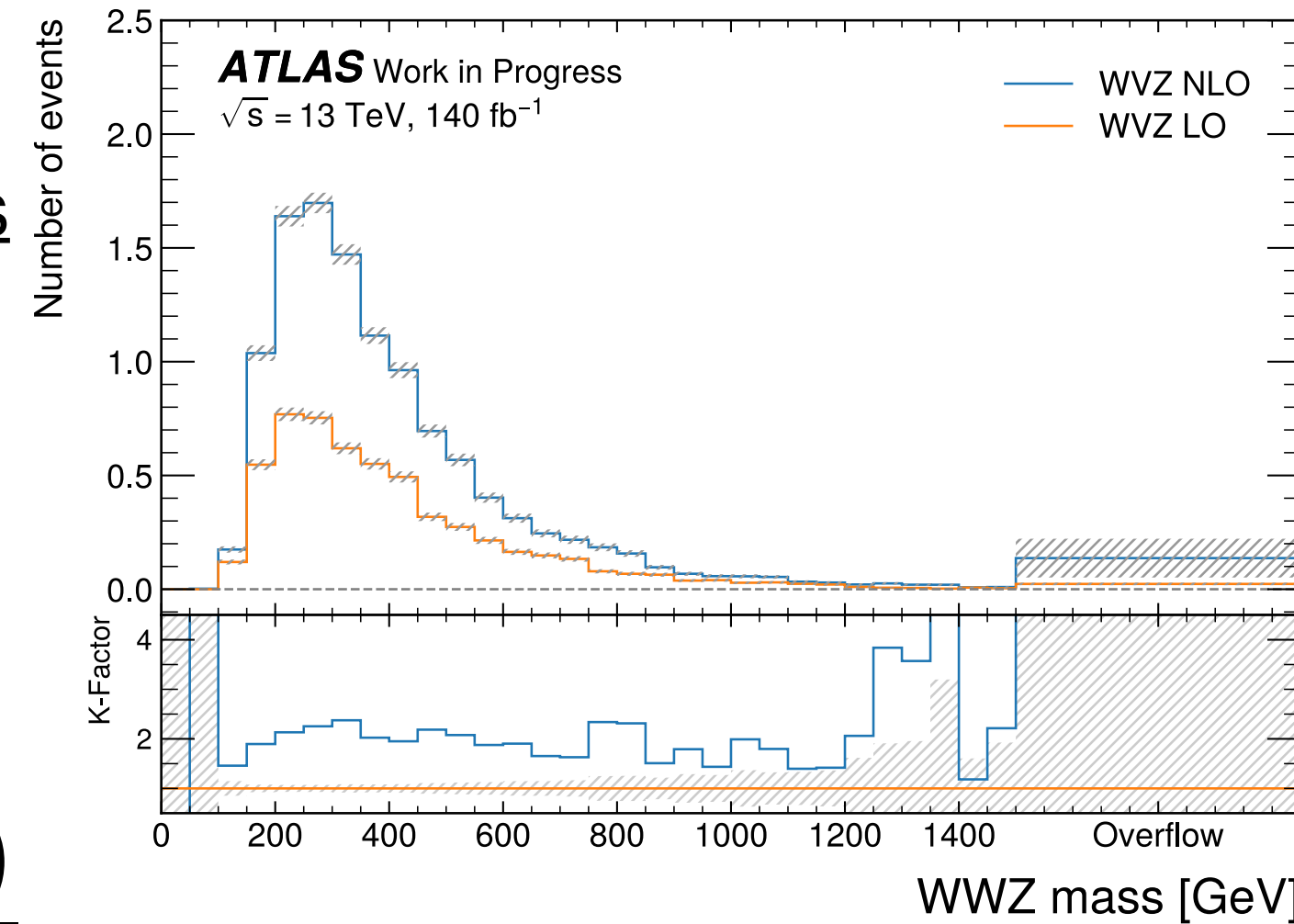
- Binned likelihood constructed from product of Poisson distributions, used to form a Profile Likelihood ratio

$$L(N | c, \theta) = \prod_b^{n_{bins}} \text{Poisson}(N_b | N_b^{pred}(c, \theta)) \times \prod_i^{n_{syst}} f_i(\theta_i), \quad q(c_i) = -2 \log \frac{L(x | c_i, \hat{\theta})}{L(x | \hat{c}_i, \hat{\theta})}$$

- Log likelihood scan performed for each WC, setting 95% confidence level limits

- 3 $\ell$ +jets and 4 $\ell$  channels display similar containing power, combined results are first ever aQGC limits from fully massive triboson final state measurement at the LHC

- M2-5 =  $f_{M2-5} / \Lambda^4$



Expected Wilson Coefficient 95% CL Limits (TeV<sup>-4</sup>), ATLAS Work In Progress

3 $\ell$ + Jets	4 $\ell$	Combined
-18.1 < M2 < 18.0	-18 < M2 < 18	-8.7 < M2 < 8.6
-30.3 < M3 < 30.3	-30 < M3 < 30	-15.9 < M3 < 16.0
-16.4 < M4 < 16.6	-16 < M4 < 16	-8.6 < M4 < 8.8
-13.0 < M5 < 13.1	-12 < M5 < 12	-8.2 < M5 < 8.3

Clipping scan still to be completed

# Summary

Search for remaining massive triboson production modes improves on previous run 2 efforts

- Search targets all VVZ final states across leptonic and semi-leptonic final states, with close to  $5\sigma$  sensitivity to VVZ expected
- First limits on aQGCs from a massive triboson production measurement at the LHC
- BDTs used across SM and EFT sections of analysis to enhance sensitivity to rare SM process
- Next: Complete internal review and unblind data in SRs!

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# Backup

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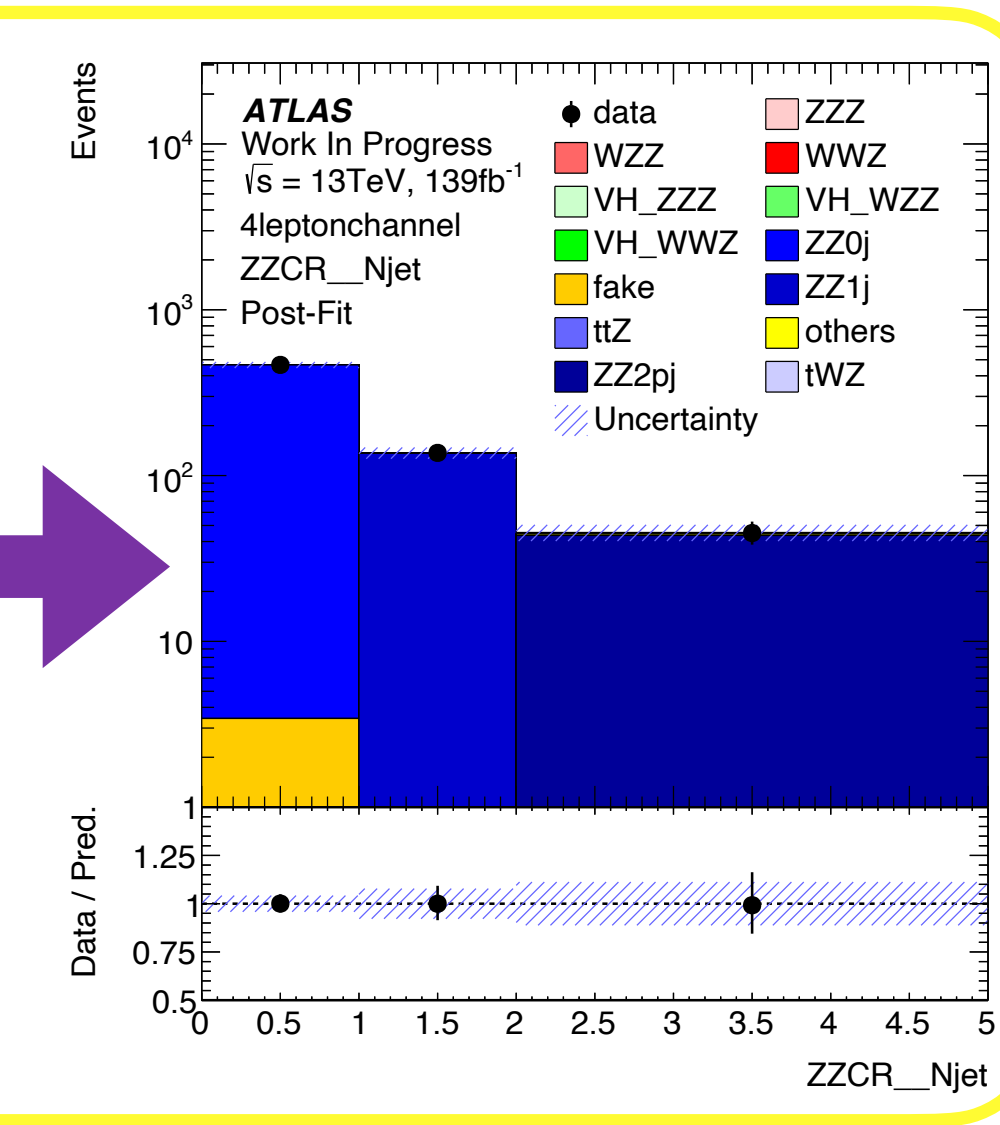
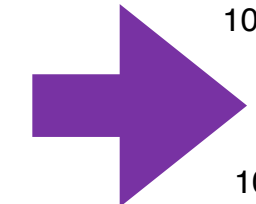
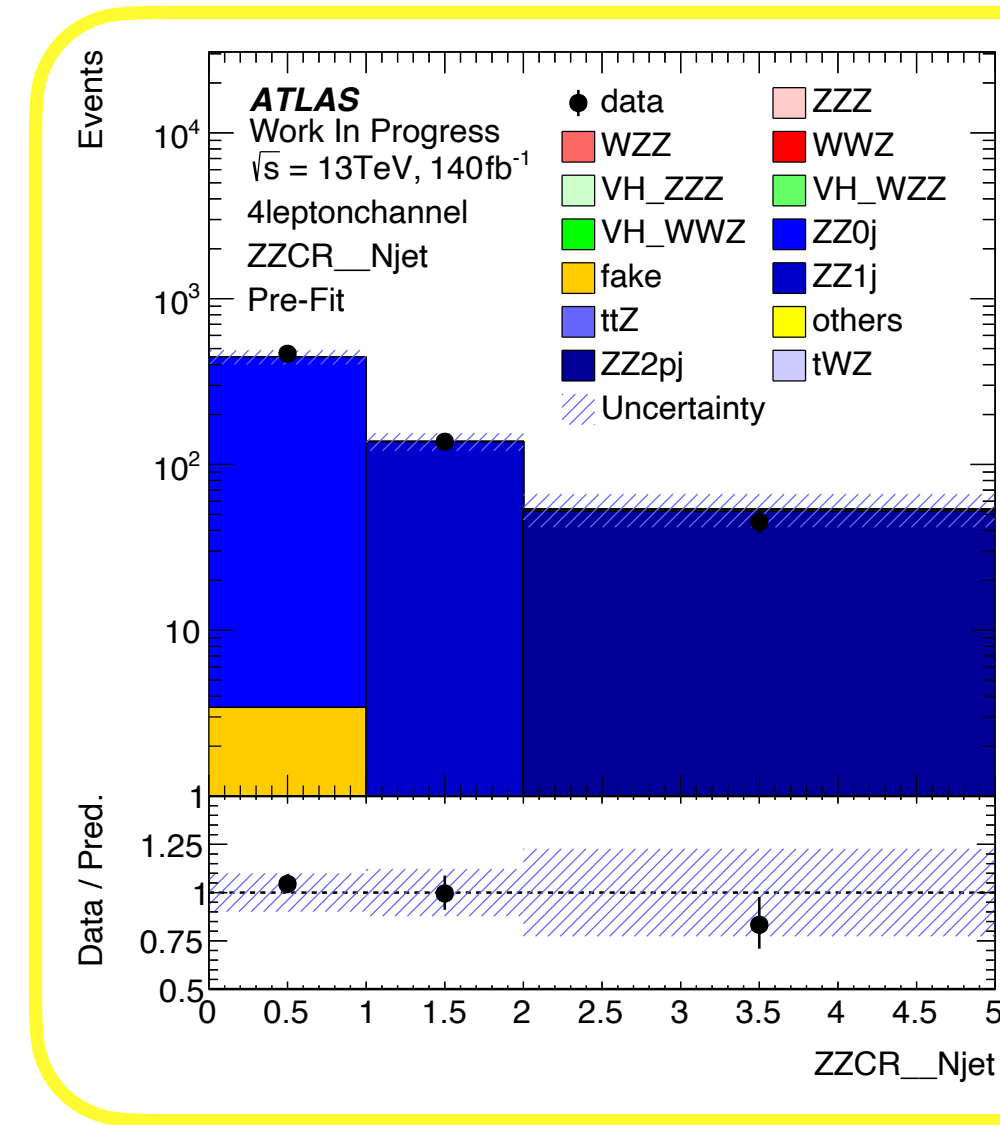
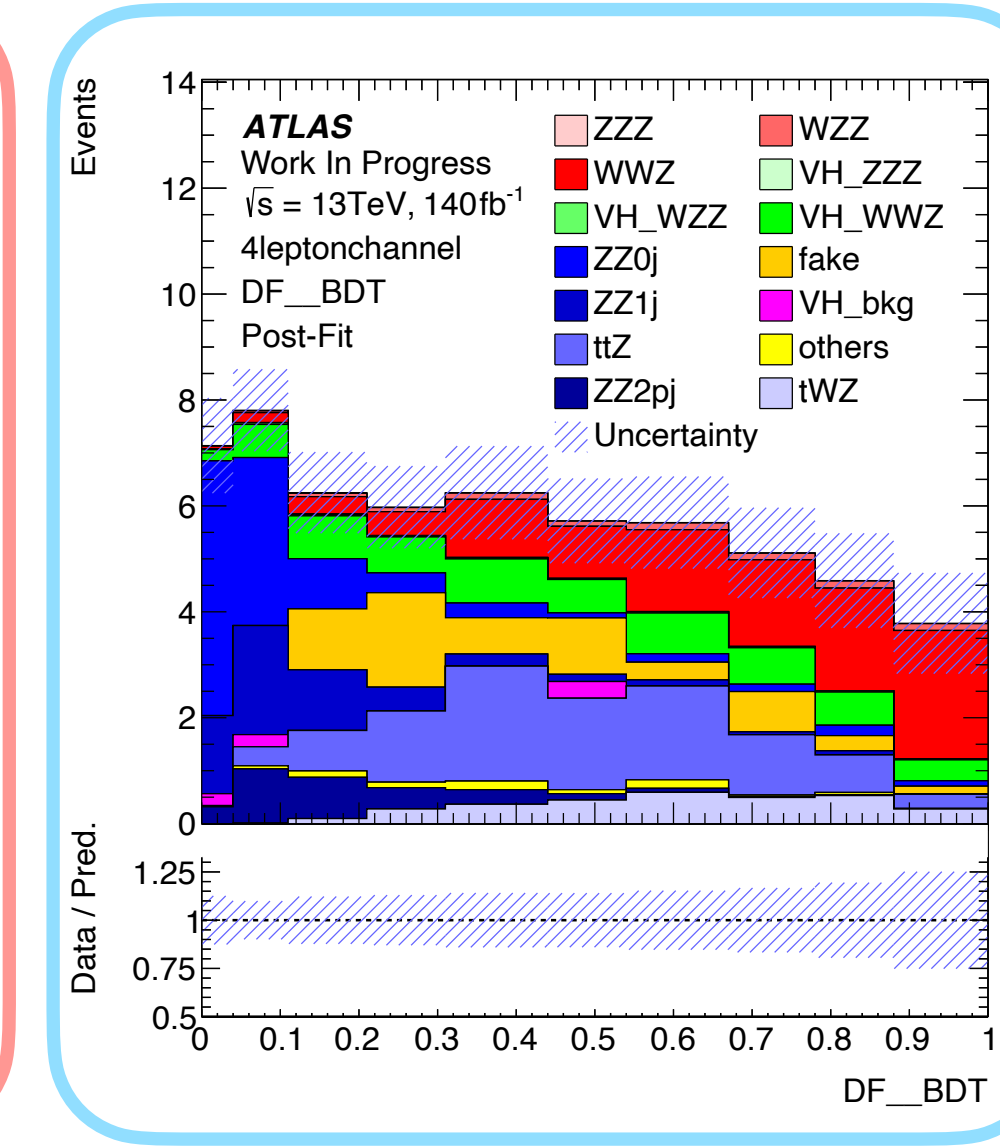
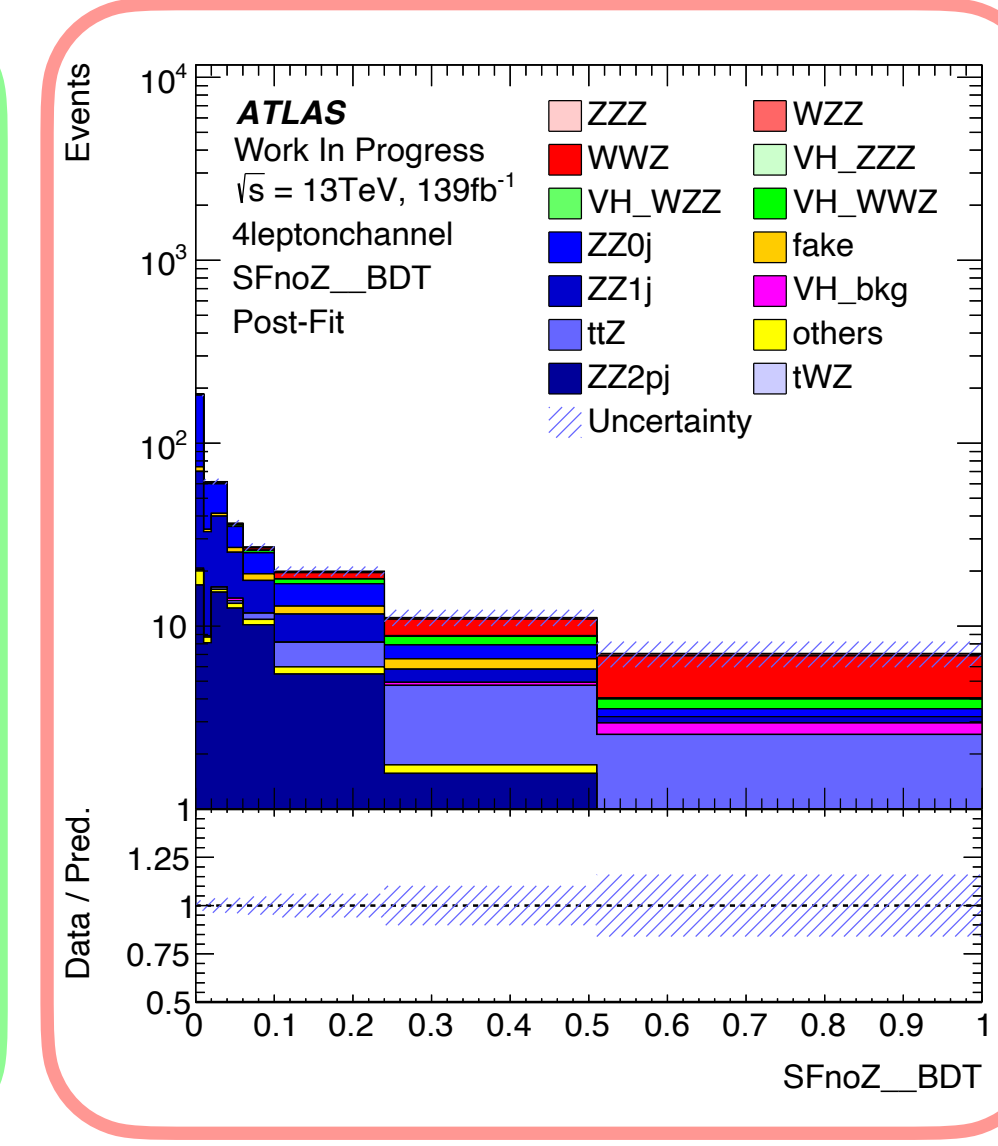
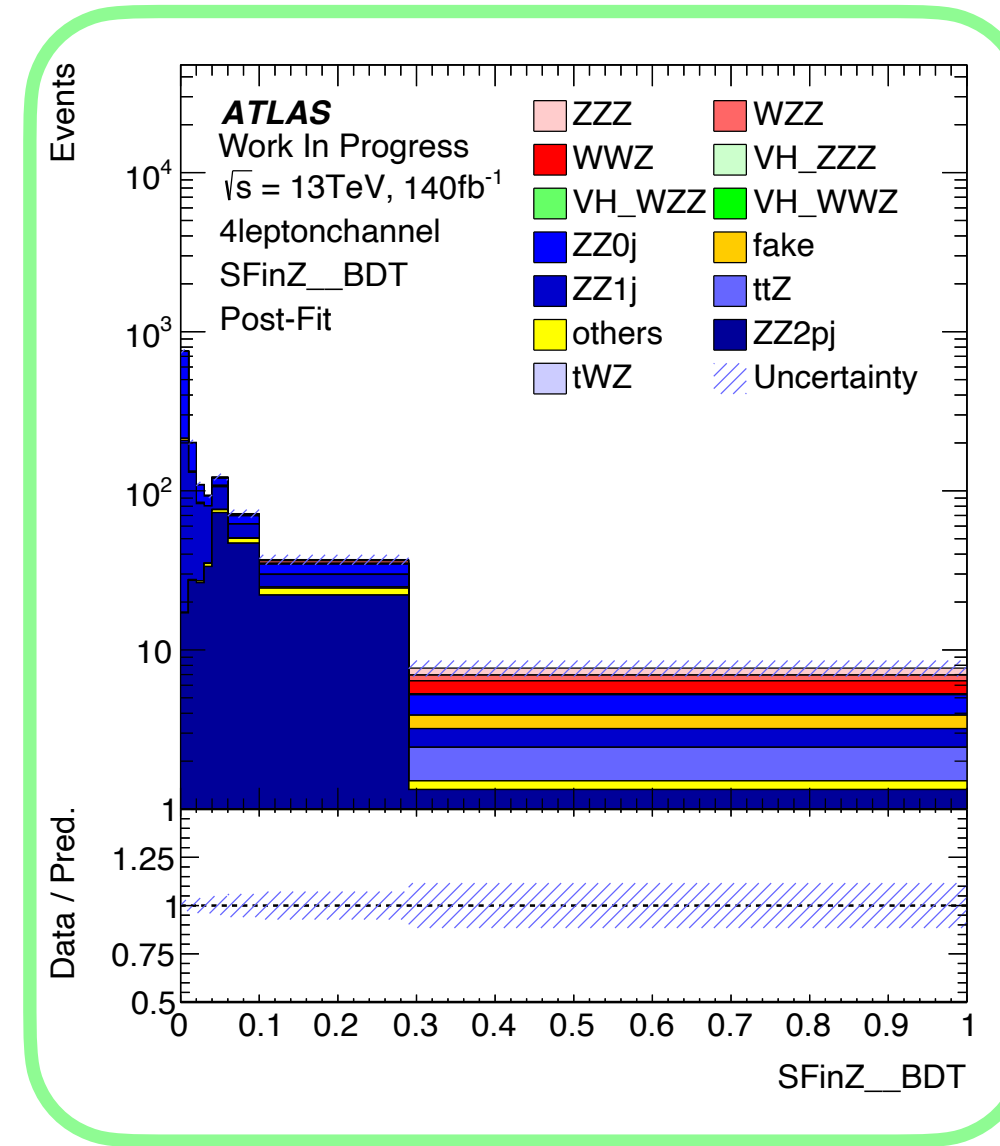
# 4ℓ2ν Channel

- Same Flavour Opposite Sign di-leptons with a mass closest to the Z mass is selected as the Z candidate, then other leptons used to define SRs:

- SFinZ - Same-flavor leptons inside of 20 GeV Z mass window region
- SFoutZ - Same-flavor leptons outside of 20 GeV Z mass window region
- DF - Different-flavor leptons

- BDTs are trained for each SR using kinematic & angular variables
- ZZ & ttZ CRs are defined to normalise backgrounds to data
- Fake estimate derived from data in Z+jets & tt Fakes regions
- Fit to Asimov dataset in SRs and data in CRs before unblinding

$$FF_{4l, fakeCR} = \frac{d_{ata_{good}} - MC_{good,prompt}}{data_{bad} - MC_{bad,prompt}}$$

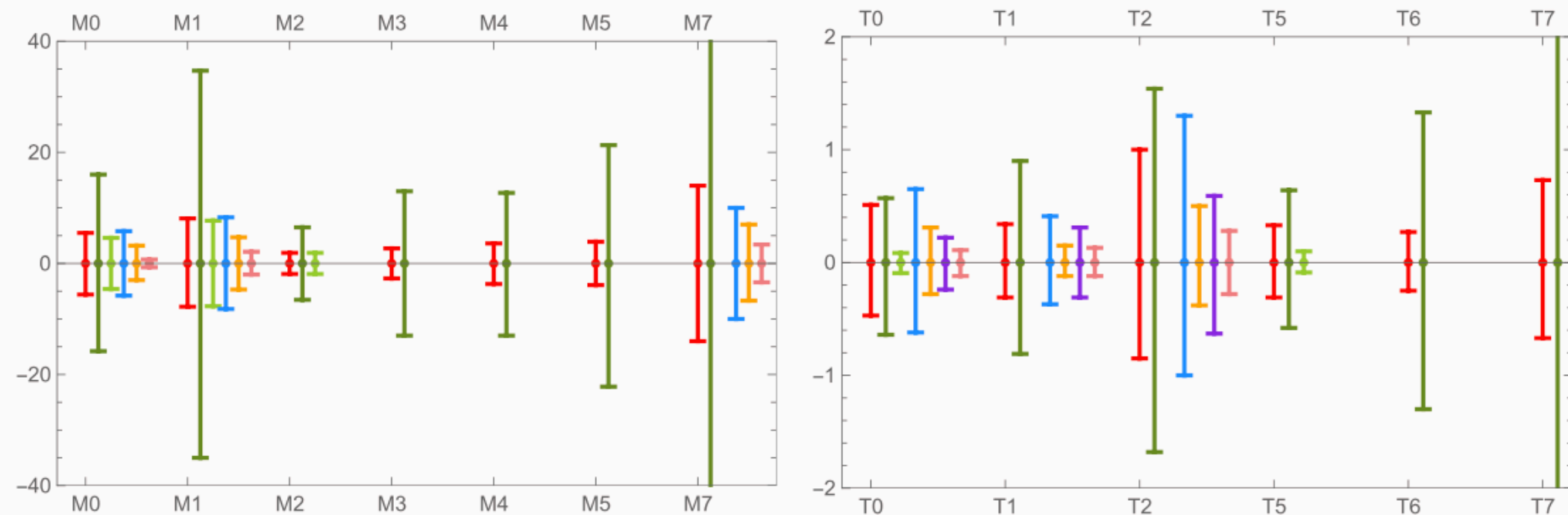


# World Leading Limits?

## Observed limits compared to other VBS channels

observed limits on  $\frac{f_i}{\Lambda^4}$  [TeV<sup>-4</sup>] (Run II only)

- $W\gamma$
- $Z\gamma$  CMS [2106.11082]
- $Z(\nu\nu)\gamma$  ATLAS [2208.12741]
- $WZ$  [2005.01173]
- $ssWW$  [2005.01173]
- $ZZ$  [2008.07013]
- $VV$  semilept [1905.07445]



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$W\gamma$  scattering as probe of QGC

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- Current best limits on operators from CMS paper can be found [here](#).
- Limits do not have clipping scan or unitarity bounds
- [Slides credit to I. Brivio](#)

Table 2: Exclusion limits at the 95% CL for each aQGC coefficient, derived from the  $m_{W\gamma}$  distribution, assuming all other coefficients are set to zero. Unitarity bounds corresponding to each operator are also listed. All coupling parameter limits are in TeV<sup>-4</sup>, while  $U_{\text{bound}}$  values are in TeV.

Expected limit	Observed limit	$U_{\text{bound}}$
$-5.1 < f_{M,0}/\Lambda^4 < 5.1$	$-5.6 < f_{M,0}/\Lambda^4 < 5.5$	1.7
$-7.1 < f_{M,1}/\Lambda^4 < 7.4$	$-7.8 < f_{M,1}/\Lambda^4 < 8.1$	2.1
$-1.8 < f_{M,2}/\Lambda^4 < 1.8$	$-1.9 < f_{M,2}/\Lambda^4 < 1.9$	2.0
$-2.5 < f_{M,3}/\Lambda^4 < 2.5$	$-2.7 < f_{M,3}/\Lambda^4 < 2.7$	2.7
$-3.3 < f_{M,4}/\Lambda^4 < 3.3$	$-3.7 < f_{M,4}/\Lambda^4 < 3.6$	2.3
$-3.4 < f_{M,5}/\Lambda^4 < 3.6$	$-3.9 < f_{M,5}/\Lambda^4 < 3.9$	2.7
$-13 < f_{M,7}/\Lambda^4 < 13$	$-14 < f_{M,7}/\Lambda^4 < 14$	2.2
$-0.43 < f_{T,0}/\Lambda^4 < 0.51$	$-0.47 < f_{T,0}/\Lambda^4 < 0.51$	1.9
$-0.27 < f_{T,1}/\Lambda^4 < 0.31$	$-0.31 < f_{T,1}/\Lambda^4 < 0.34$	2.5
$-0.72 < f_{T,2}/\Lambda^4 < 0.92$	$-0.85 < f_{T,2}/\Lambda^4 < 1.0$	2.3
$-0.29 < f_{T,5}/\Lambda^4 < 0.31$	$-0.31 < f_{T,5}/\Lambda^4 < 0.33$	2.6
$-0.23 < f_{T,6}/\Lambda^4 < 0.25$	$-0.25 < f_{T,6}/\Lambda^4 < 0.27$	2.9
$-0.60 < f_{T,7}/\Lambda^4 < 0.68$	$-0.67 < f_{T,7}/\Lambda^4 < 0.73$	3.1