



Probing the nature of electroweak symmetry breaking with Higgs boson pairs in ATLAS

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On behalf of the ATLAS collaboration

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Outline

❖ Introduction

❖ $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$

❖ $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$

❖ $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$

❖ $HH \rightarrow 2b + 2\ell + E_T^{miss}$

❖ $HH \rightarrow \text{Multilepton}$

❖ Combination

❖ High-Luminosity LHC projection

❖ Summary

di-Higgs Physics Introduction

Higgs couplings to Electroweak

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}} = (D^\mu \phi)^\dagger (D_\mu \phi) - V(\phi)$$

Higgs potential

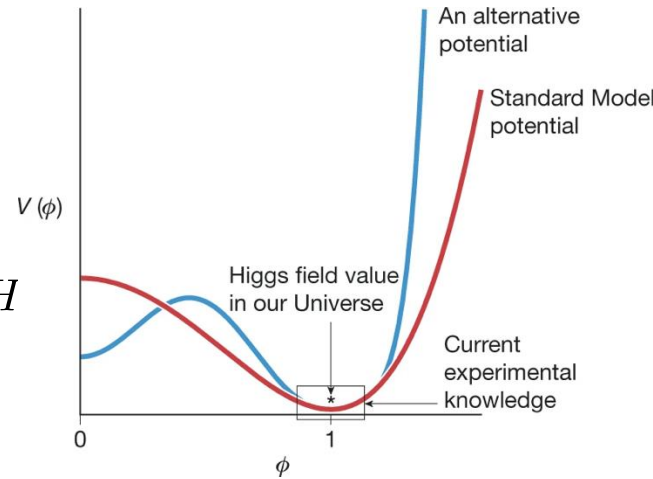
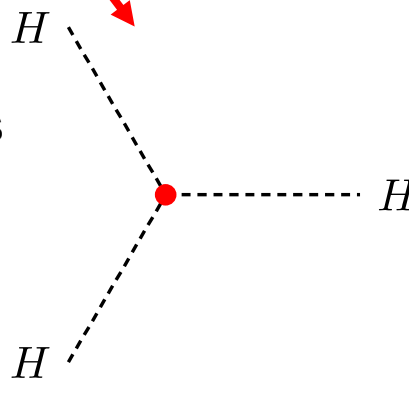
$$\mathcal{L}_H = \frac{1}{2} m_H^2 h^2 + \lambda_3 h^3 + \lambda_4 h^4$$

SM prediction:

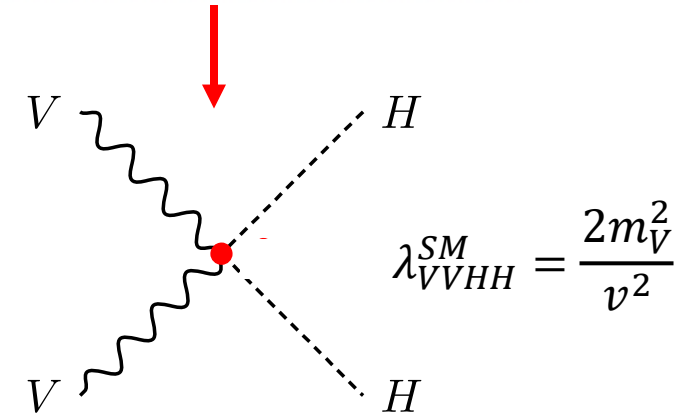
$$\lambda_3^{SM} = \frac{m_H^2}{2v}$$

Higgs mass

Vacuum Expectation Value



Nature volume 607, 41–47 (2022)



$$\lambda_{VVHH}^{SM} = \frac{2m_V^2}{v^2}$$

Kappa framework: parametrize the Higgs boson couplings as the ratio to the SM prediction

$$\kappa_\lambda = \frac{\lambda_3}{\lambda_3^{SM}}$$

Measured Value

SM Prediction

$$\kappa_{2V} = \frac{\lambda_{VVHH}}{\lambda_{VVHH}^{SM}}$$

$$\mu_{HH} = \frac{\sigma_{HH}}{\sigma_{HH}^{SM}}$$

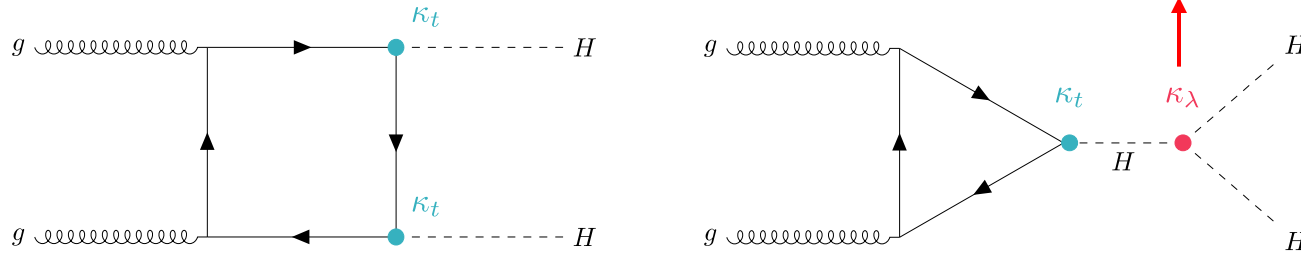
➤ HHH and VVHH coupling accessible via HH production

di-Higgs Production and Decay

HH Production mode:

gluon-gluon Fusion (ggF) $\sigma_{ggF} = 31 fb$ (SM)

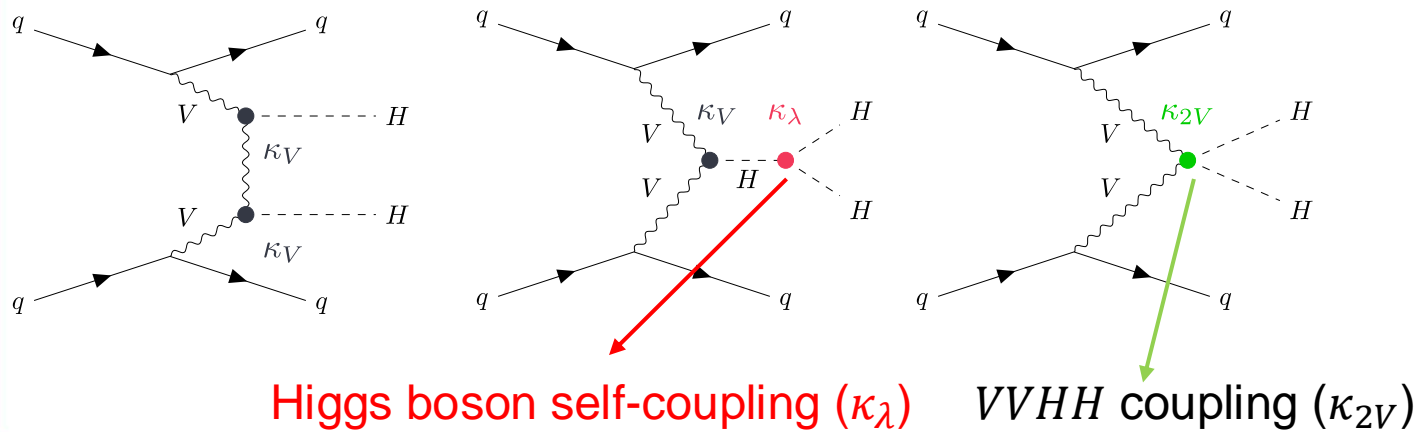
Higgs boson self-coupling (κ_λ)



HH decay Mode

	bb	WW	ττ	ZZ	γγ
bb	34%				
WW	25%	4.6%			
ττ	7.3%	2.7%	0.39%		
ZZ	3.1%	1.1%	0.33%	0.069%	
γγ	0.26%	0.10%	0.028%	0.012%	0.0005%

Vector Boson Fusion (VBF) $\sigma_{VBF} = 1.7 fb$ (SM)



Higgs boson self-coupling (κ_λ)

VVHH coupling (κ_{2V})

ATLAS Full Run 2 dataset

$\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}, \mathcal{L} = 126 - 140 fb^{-1}$

- $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ (34%)** – largest branching ratio, but challenging multijet background
- $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ (0.26%)** – low branching ratio, but clean final state, excellent $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ resolution
- $b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ (7.3%)** – in between in terms of signal vs background trade-off
- $b\bar{b}\ell^+\ell^- + \text{missing } E_T$ (2.9%)** – targeting events where one $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$, one $H \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-\nu\bar{\nu}$
- Multilepton (6.5%)** – Combination of 9 channels, Higgs boson decay to leptons

ATLAS has probed more than half of the decay modes

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$

❖ **Tiny branching ratio but very clean signature:**

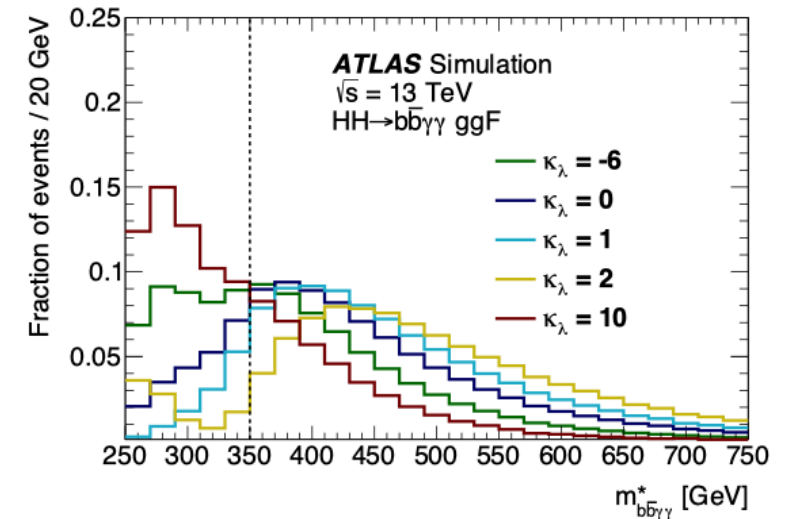
- excellent $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ resolution
- small backgrounds

❖ **2 b-jets and 2 photons with $105 < m_{\gamma\gamma} < 160$ GeV**

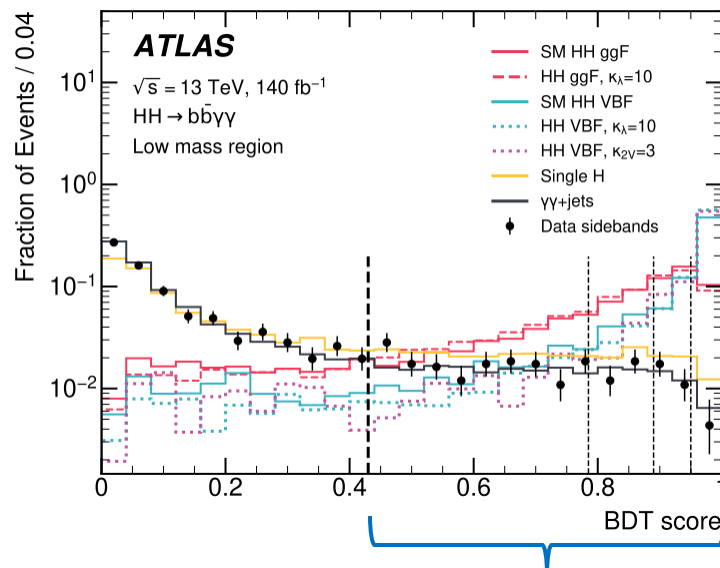
❖ **7 event categories based on:**

- High mass ($m_{b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma}^* > 350$ GeV) vs low mass ($m_{b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma}^* \leq 350$ GeV)
 - $m_{b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma}^* = m_{b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma} + (125 \text{ GeV} - m_{b\bar{b}}) + (125 \text{ GeV} - m_{\gamma\gamma})$
- classification BDT output

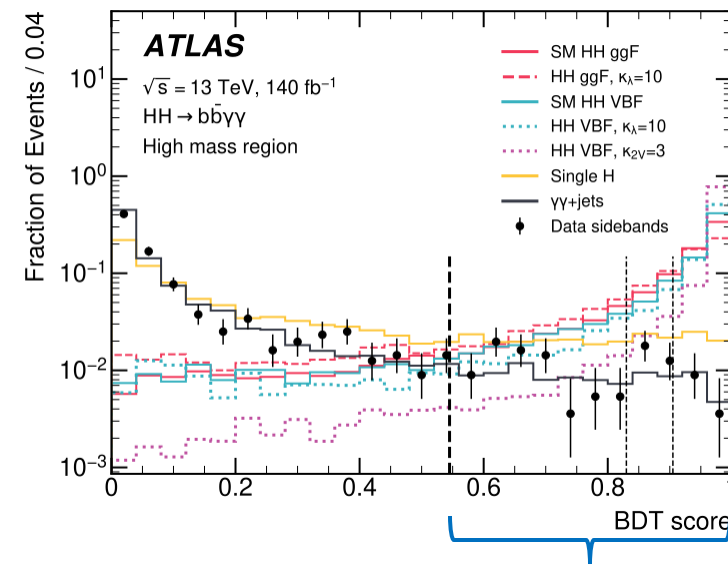
❖ **No dedicated VBF category but the mass and $\Delta\eta$ of VBF-tagged jets are inputs to the BDTs**



[Phys. Rev. D 106 \(2022\) 052001](#)



4 Categories at low mass



3 Categories at high mass

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$

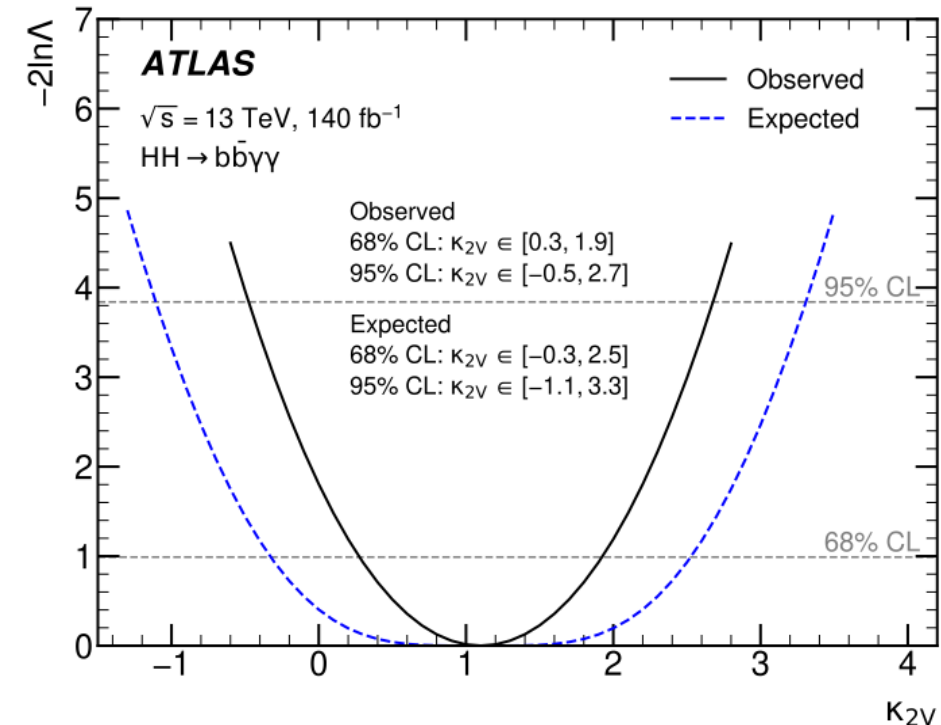
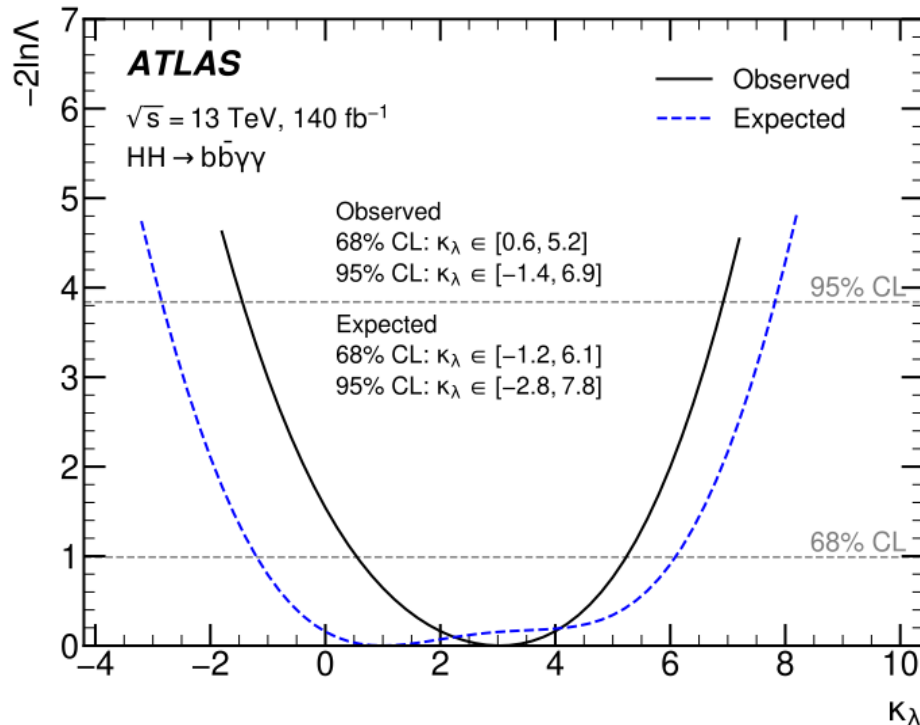
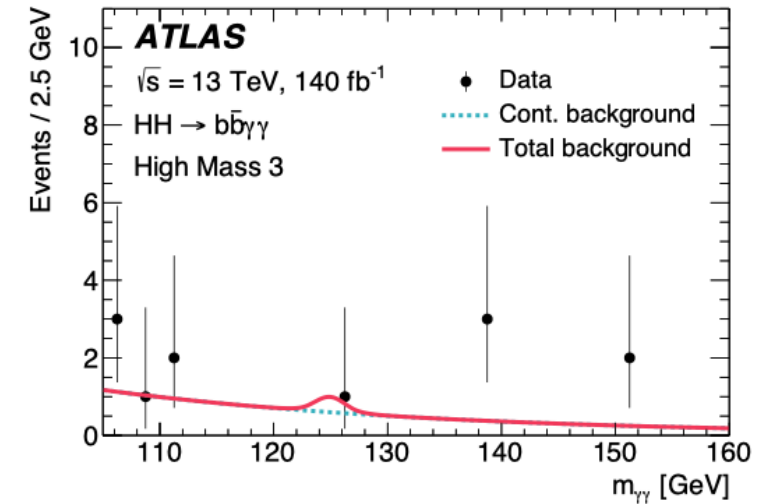
❖ Fit $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ in each of 7 categories

- $\gamma\gamma$ -continuum background modelled by exponential fit in sidebands
- Signal and single-Higgs background modelled by Double-sided Crystal Ball

❖ At 95% confidence level:

- ❖ $\mu_{HH} < 4.0$ (5.0 expected)
- ❖ Observed: $-1.4 < \kappa_\lambda < 6.9$ Expected: $-2.8 < \kappa_\lambda < 7.8$
- ❖ Observed: $-0.5 < \kappa_{2V} < 2.7$ Expected: $-1.1 < \kappa_{2V} < 3.3$

The best expected constrain on κ_λ



$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$

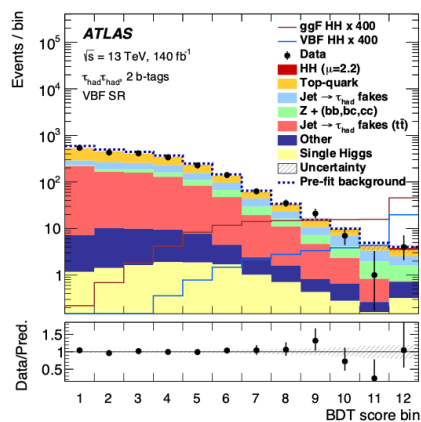
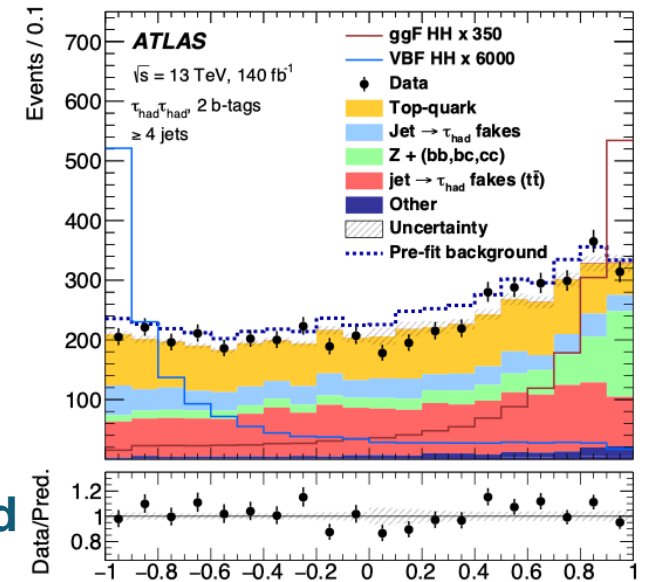
❖ $\tau_{had}\tau_{had}$ and $\tau_{lep}\tau_{had}$ (Single lepton trigger and lepton + $\tau_{had-vis}$ triggers) final states:

- 3 Final state categories
- BDT to separate ggF and VBF
- ggF low mass ($m_{HH} < 350$ GeV), ggF High mass ($m_{HH} > 350$ GeV), VBF
- 1 Control Region depends on $m_{\ell\ell}$
- In total, 9 Signal region + 1 Control Region

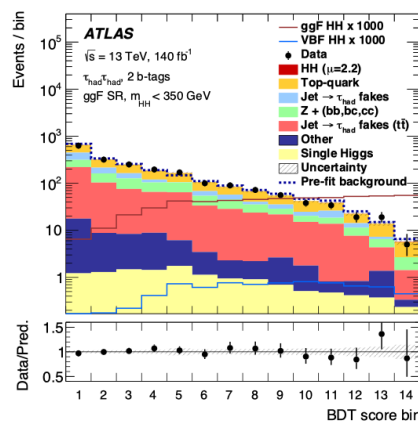
❖ BDT trained in each Signal Region to discriminate Signal vs. Background

❖ Backgrounds:

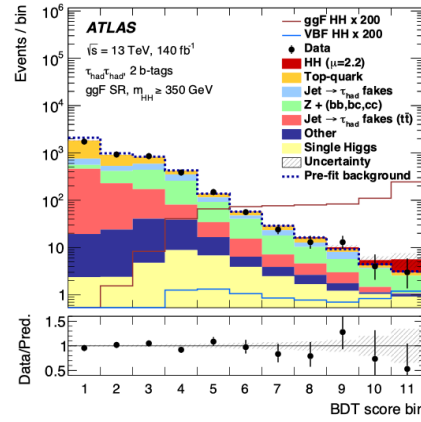
- Fake τ from $t\bar{t}$ or multi-jets – estimated using data driven methods, deriving fake factors or scale factors from control regions



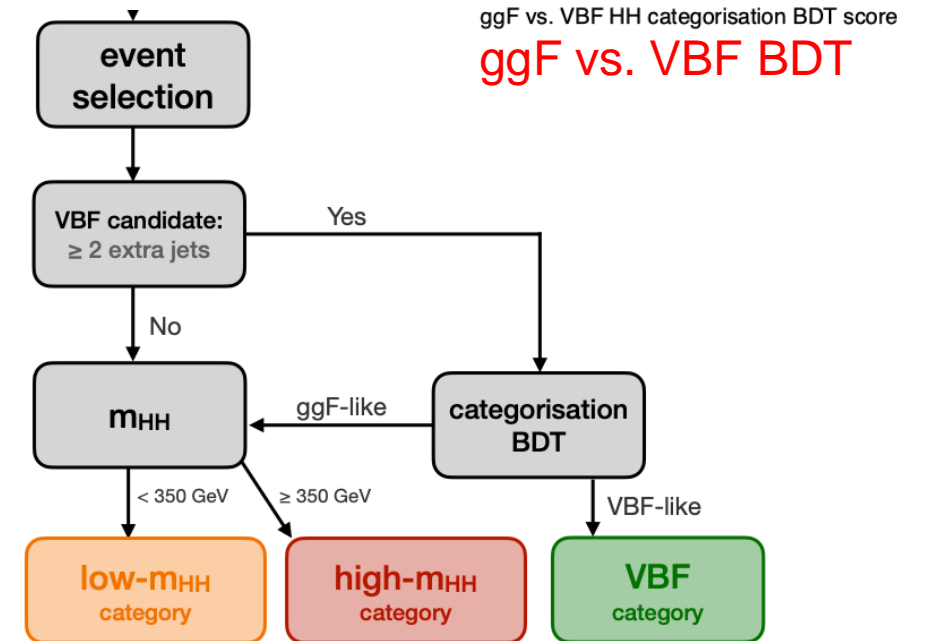
VBF



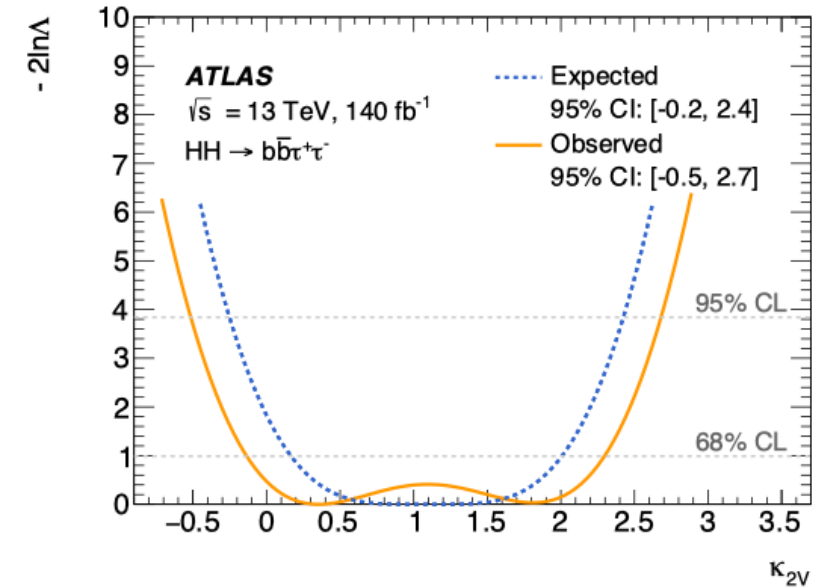
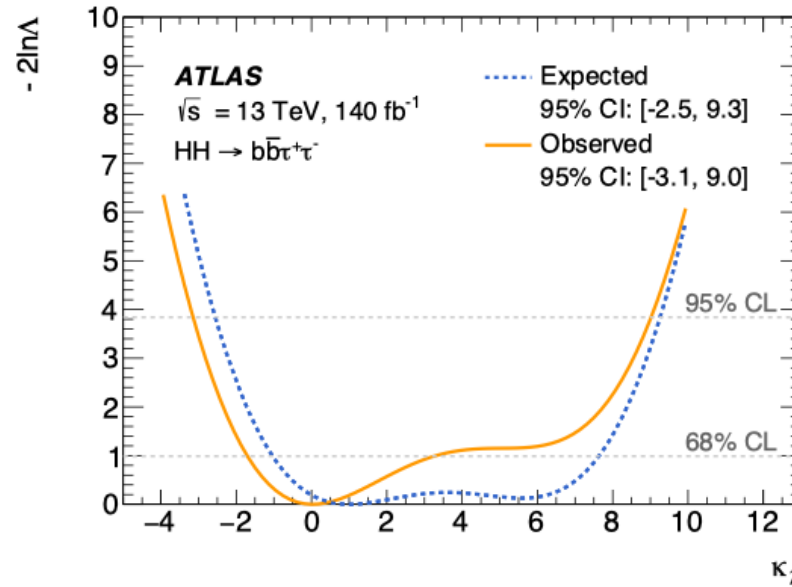
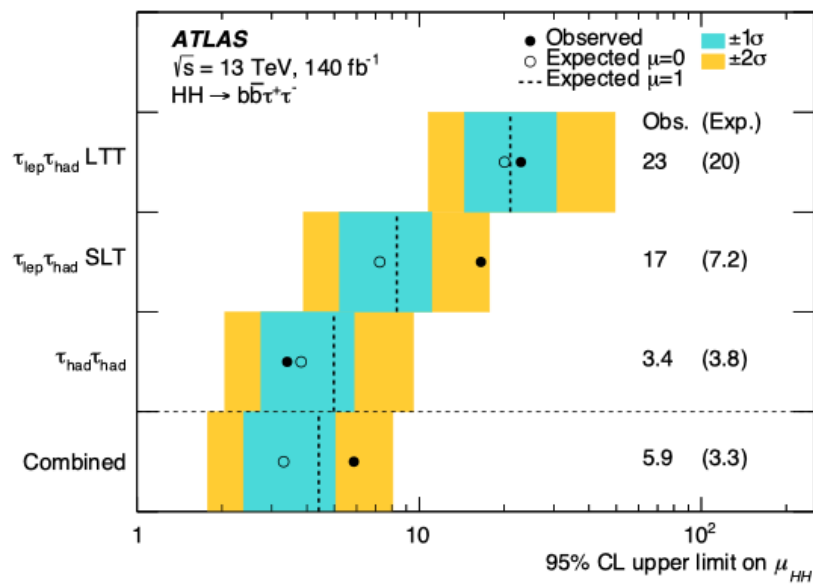
ggF low mass



ggF high mass



$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$



❖ At 95% confidence level:

- $\mu_{HH} < 5.9$ (3.3 expected)
- Observed: $-3.1 < \kappa_\lambda < 9.0$ Expected: $-2.5 < \kappa_\lambda < 9.3$
- Observed: $-0.5 < \kappa_{2V} < 2.7$ Expected: $-0.2 < \kappa_{2V} < 2.4$

❖ $\tau_{had}\tau_{had}$ is the most sensitive channel

❖ $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ is expected to be the most sensitive channel to SM HH

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$

[Phys. Rev. D 108 \(2023\) 052003](#) resolved
[Phys. Lett. B 858 \(2024\) 139007](#) boosted

❖ Resolved

- 4 b-tagged jets, Pair “Closest jets” to form Higgs candidates
- ggF and VBF categories

❖ Boosted:

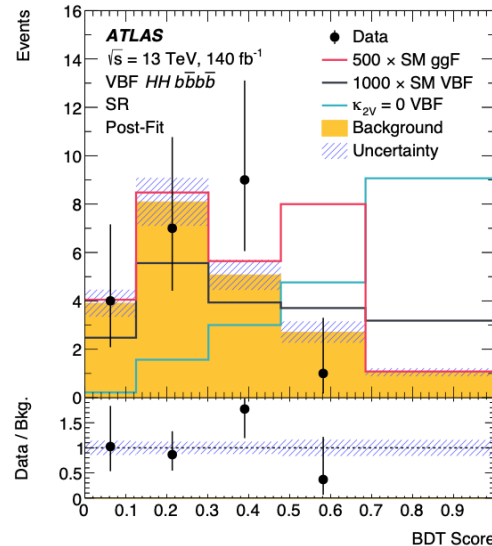
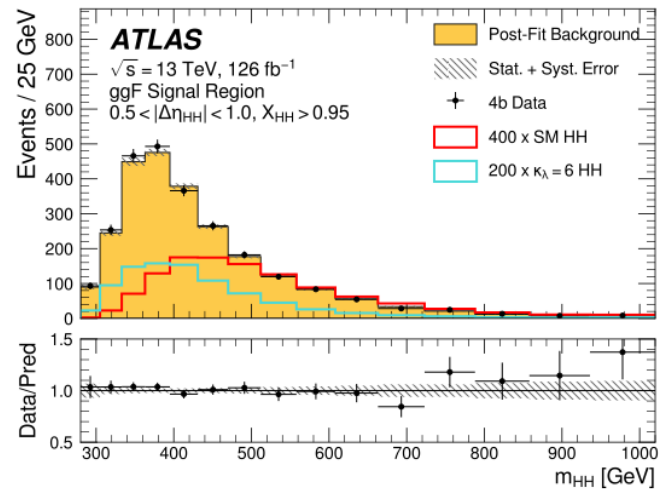
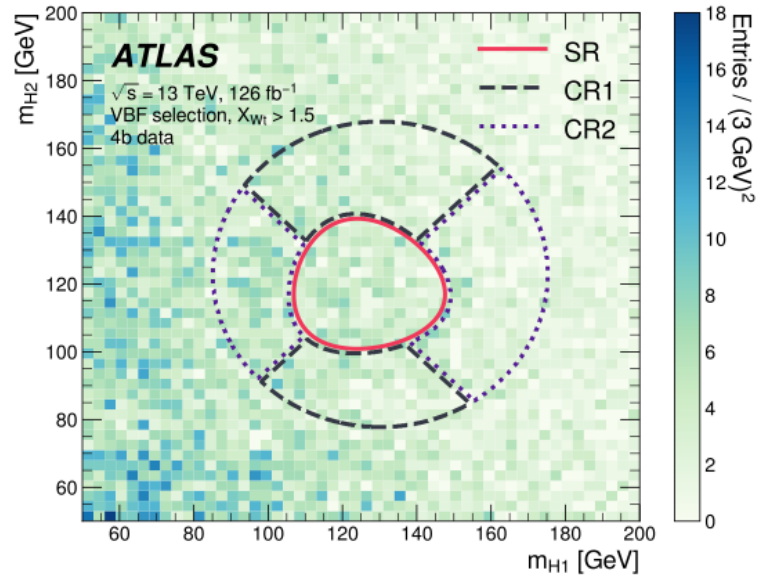
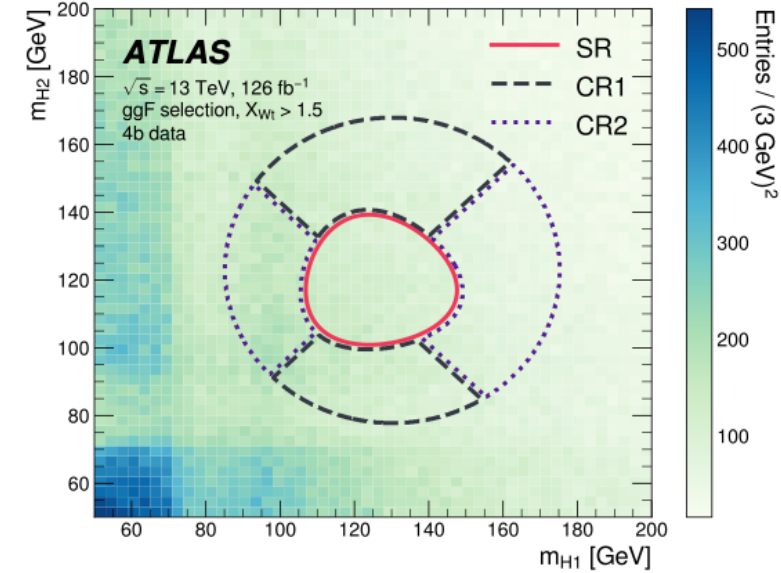
- 2 $X \rightarrow bb$ jets and two VBF jets
- VBF topology only

❖ Signal centered in m_{H1} and m_{H2} plane

❖ Main background from QCD multijet

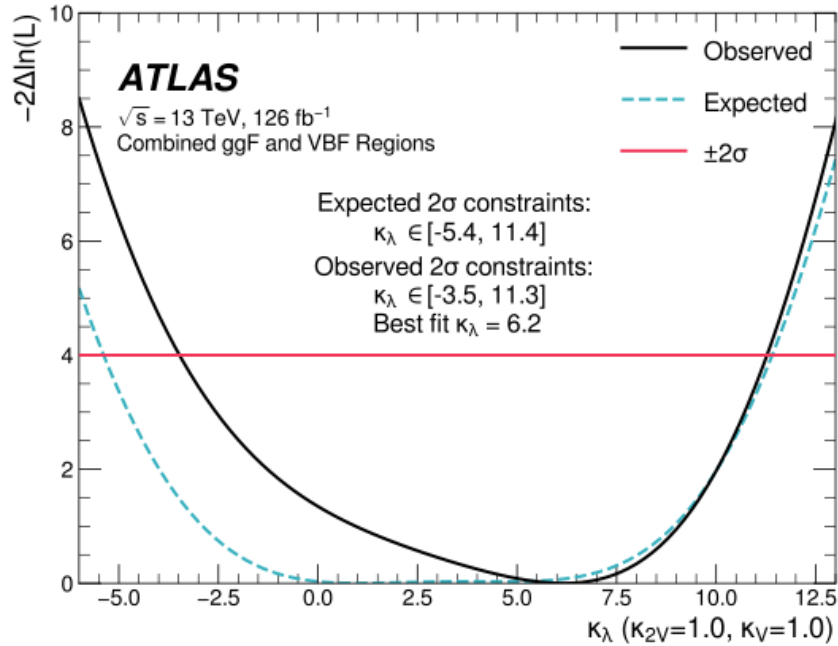
- Data driven normalisation from signal region sidebands
- Simple scale factor (Neutral Network) in Resolved (Boosted)

❖ Fit to m_{HH} (BDT) in Resolved (Boosted)

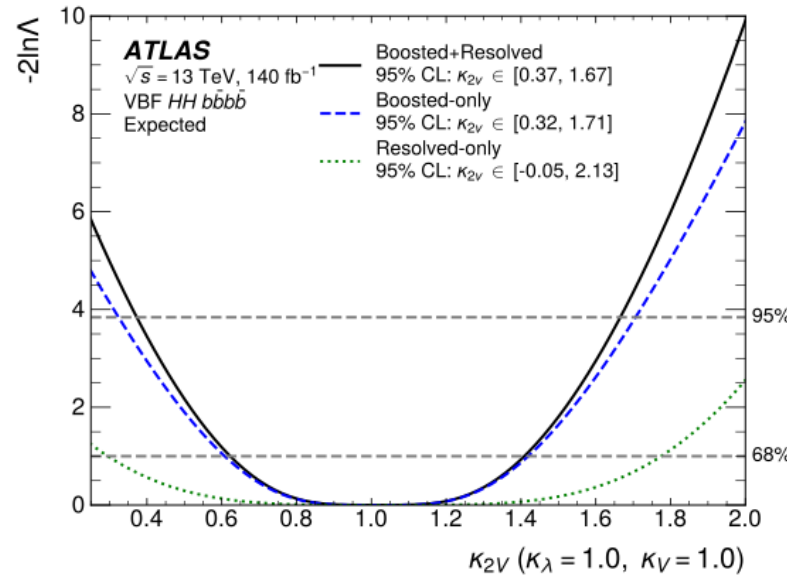


$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$

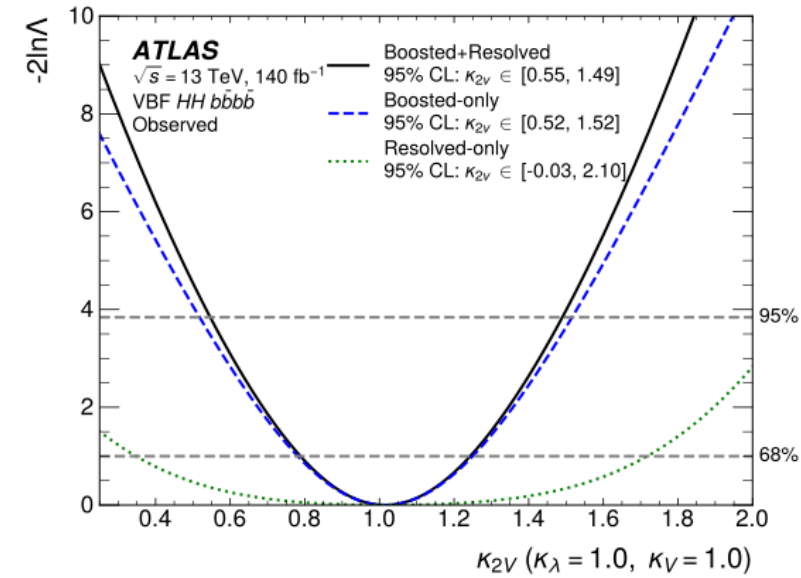
[Phys. Rev. D 108 \(2023\) 052003](#) resolved
[Phys. Lett. B 858 \(2024\) 139007](#) boosted



κ_λ from Resolved



κ_{2V} from Boosted + Resolved



❖ At 95% confidence level:

- $\mu_{HH} < 5.4$ (8.1 expected), from Resolved
- Observed: $-3.5 < \kappa_\lambda < 11.3$ Expected: $-5.4 < \kappa_\lambda < 11.4$ **Resolved**
- Observed: $0.55 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.49$ Expected: $0.37 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.67$ **Resolved + Boosted**

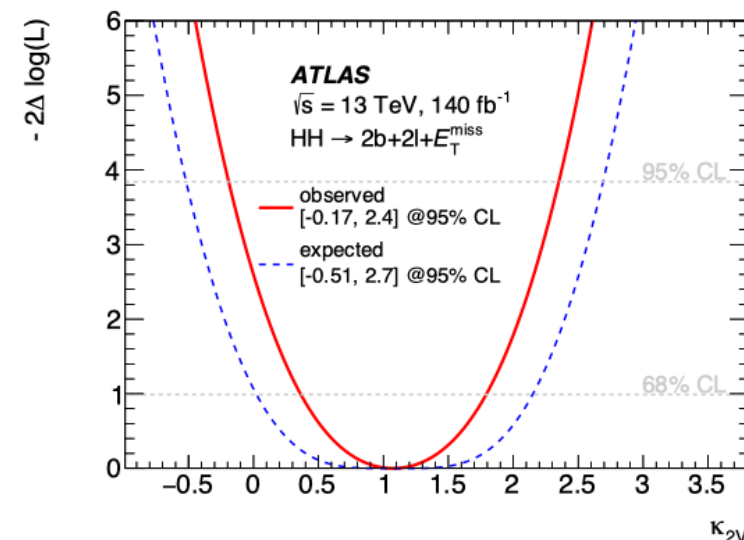
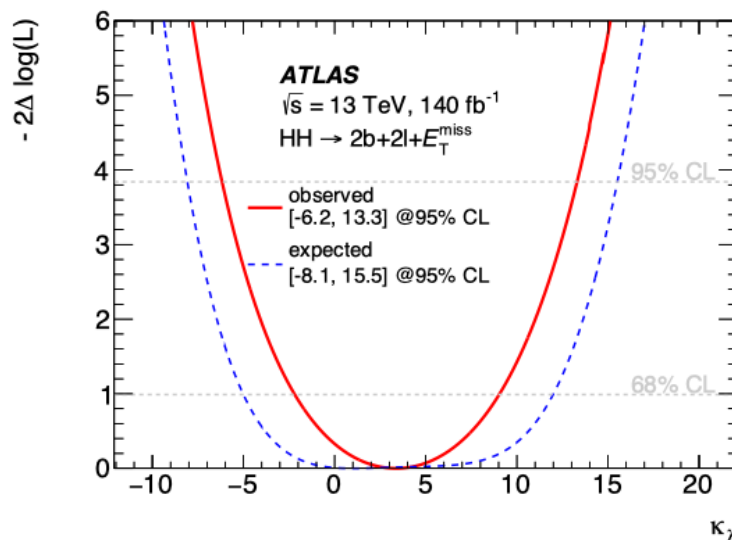
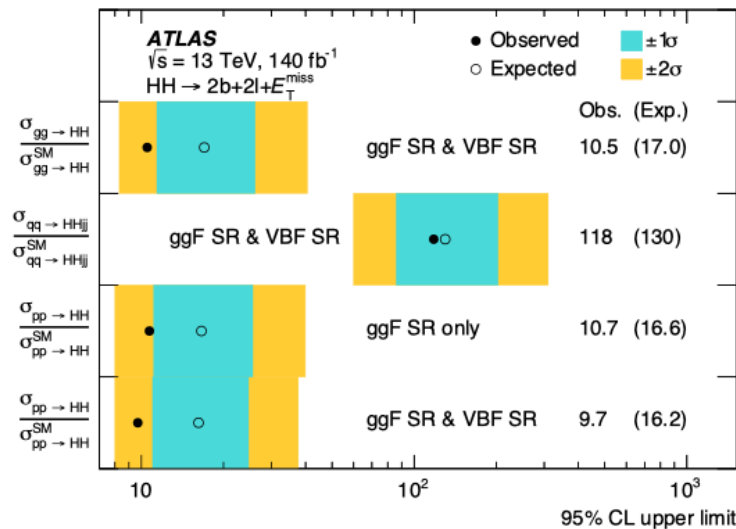
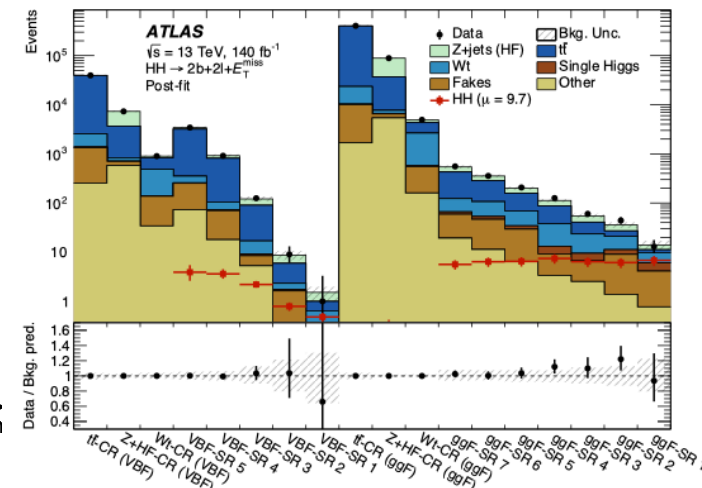
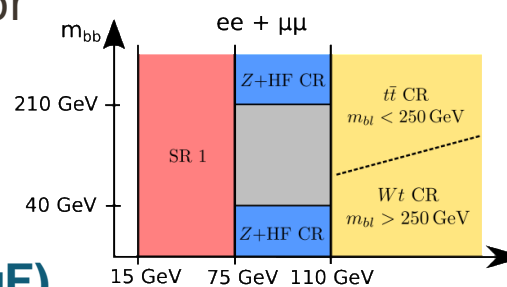
$HH \rightarrow 2b + 2\ell + E_T^{miss}$

❖ One $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$, one $H \rightarrow (W^+W^-, \tau^+\tau^-, ZZ) \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^- + \text{neutrinos}$ ($\ell = e, \mu$)

➤ Lepton has opposite charge, can be different flavor

❖ Signal Region and Control Region based on $m_{\ell\ell}$ and m_{bb}

❖ Fit of the 5 (7) highest BDT (DNN) bins on VBF (ggF)

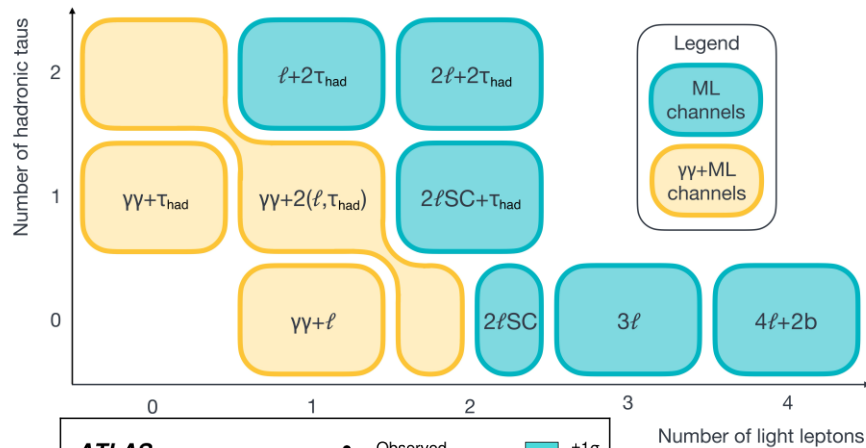


❖ At 95% confidence level:

- $\mu_{HH} < 9.7$ (16.3 expected)
- Observed: $-6.2 < \kappa_\lambda < 13.3$ Expected: $-8.1 < \kappa_\lambda < 15.5$
- Observed: $-0.17 < \kappa_{2V} < 2.4$ Expected: $-0.51 < \kappa_{2V} < 2.7$

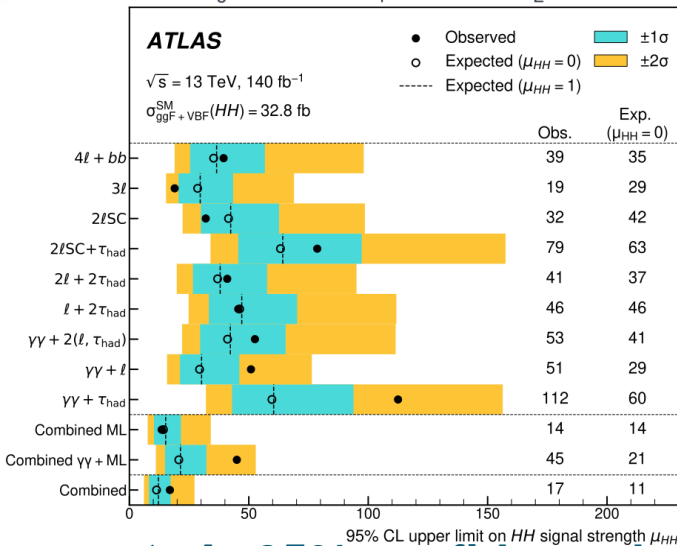
HH → MultiLeptons

❖ 9 different di-Higgs decay final states are considered in this analysis



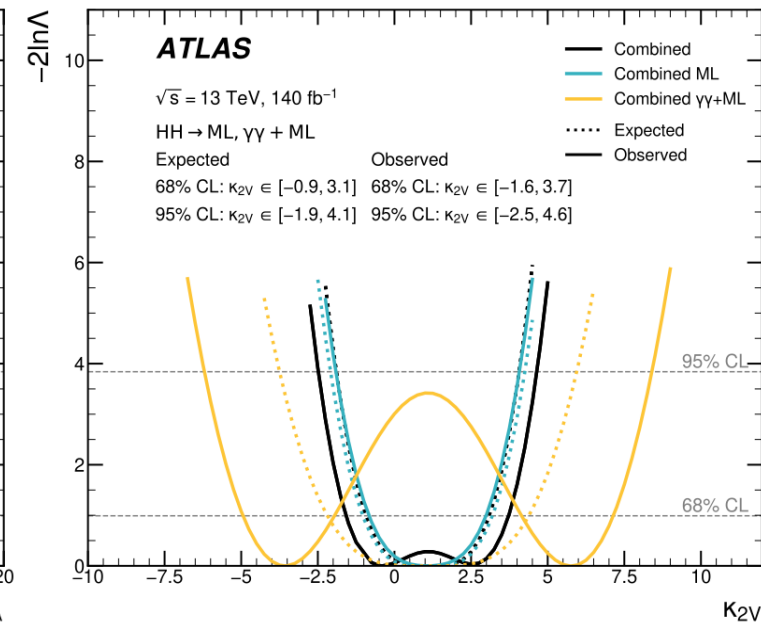
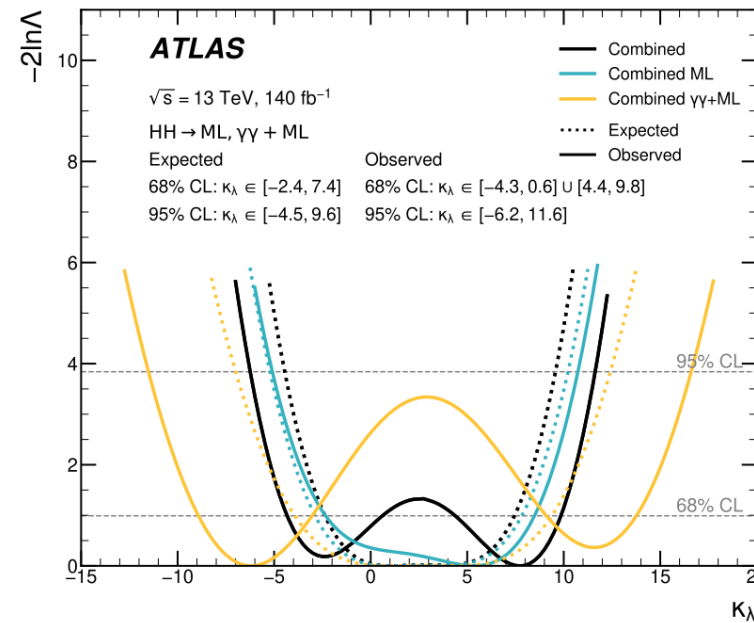
❖ BDT trained in each sub-channel

- Discriminant in Multilepton channels
- Define categories, $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ used for fit in $\gamma\gamma$ + Multilepton channels



❖ At 95% confidence level:

- $\mu_{HH} < 17$ (11 expected)
- Observed: $-6.2 < \kappa_\lambda < 1.6$ Expected: $-4.5 < \kappa_\lambda < 9.6$
- Observed: $-2.5 < \kappa_{2V} < 4.6$ Expected: $-1.9 < \kappa_{2V} < 4.1$

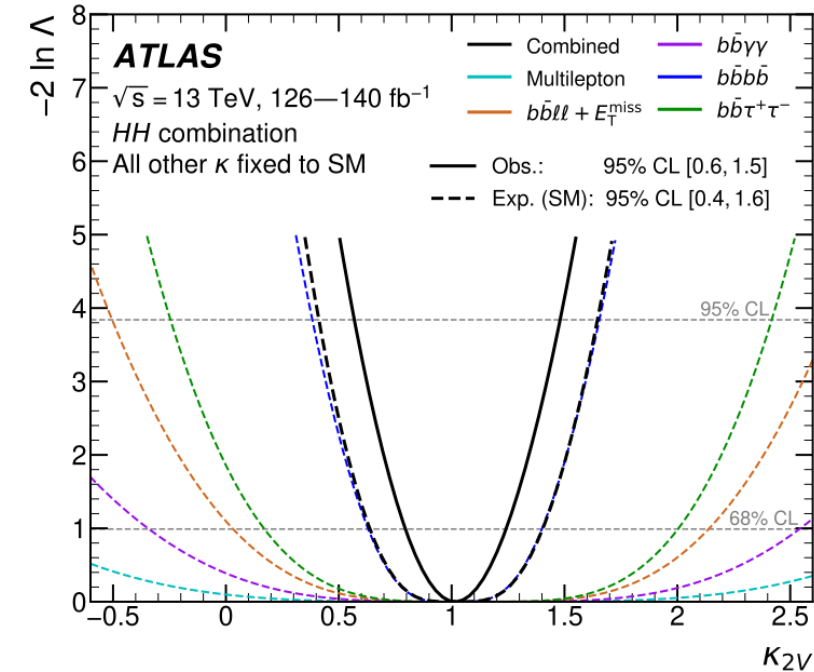
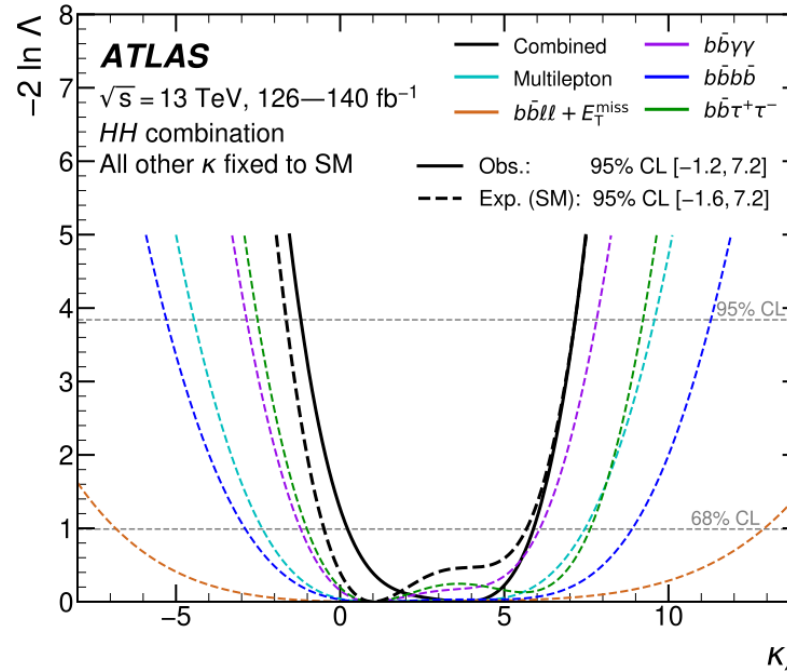
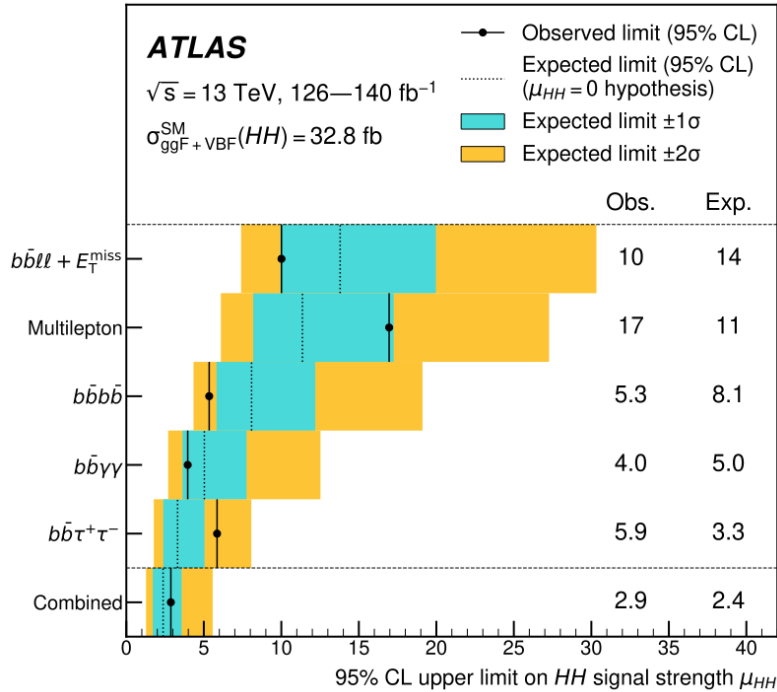


Ang Li ❖ No channel driving the sensitivity, we need all to achieve this expected limit

HH Combination

❖ Combining:

➤ $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma, HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-, HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}, HH \rightarrow 2b + 2\ell + E_T^{miss}, HH \rightarrow \text{Multilepton}$

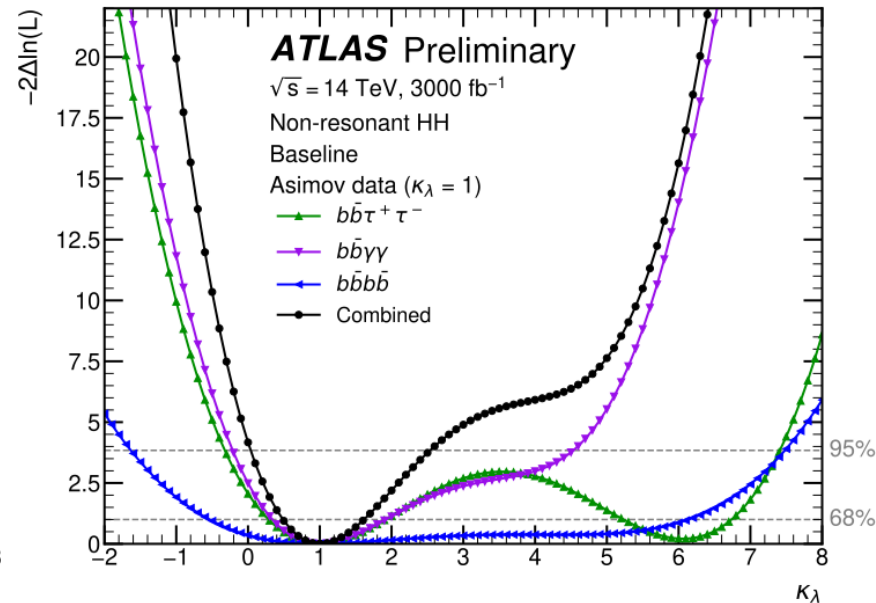
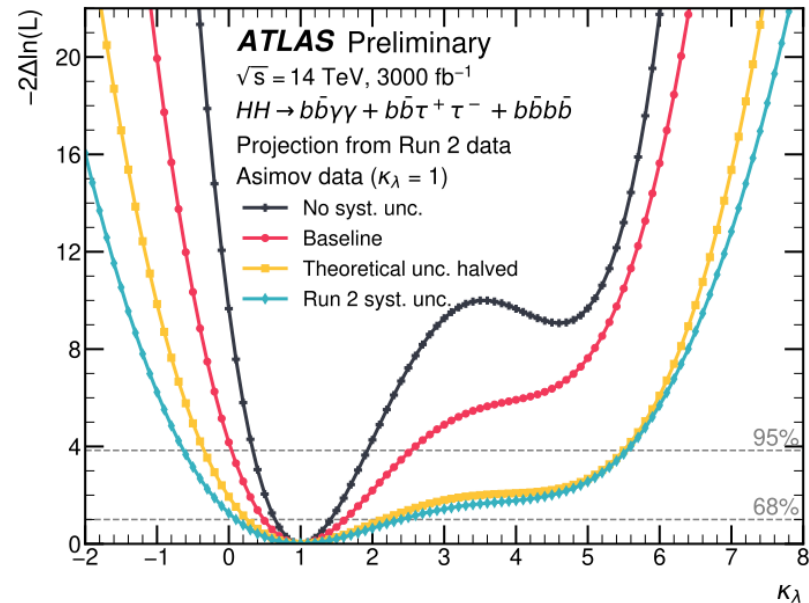
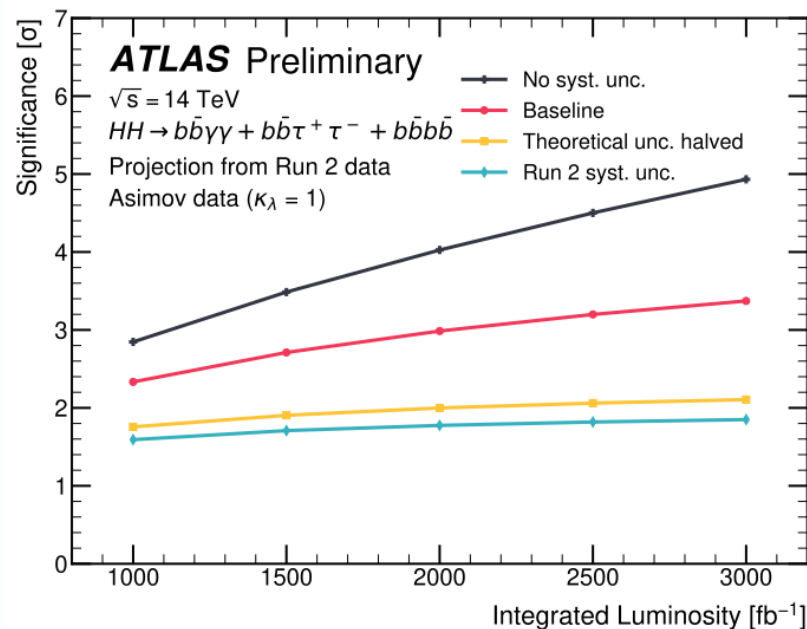


❖ At 95% confidence level:

- $\mu_{HH} < 2.9$ (2.4 expected assuming no HH)
- Observed: $-1.2 < \kappa_\lambda < 7.2$ Expected: $-1.6 < \kappa_\lambda < 7.2$
- Observed: $0.6 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.5$ Expected: $0.4 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.6$

HL-LHC projection:

- ❖ HL-LHC: $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow 14 \text{ TeV}$, $\mathcal{L} = 140 \text{ fb}^{-1} \rightarrow 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ **Will Start in 2030**
- ❖ $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma, HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-, HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ based on previous round of full Run 2 analysis
- ❖ Baseline assuming 2 times reduction in theory modelling uncertainty and 2 times better b-tagging

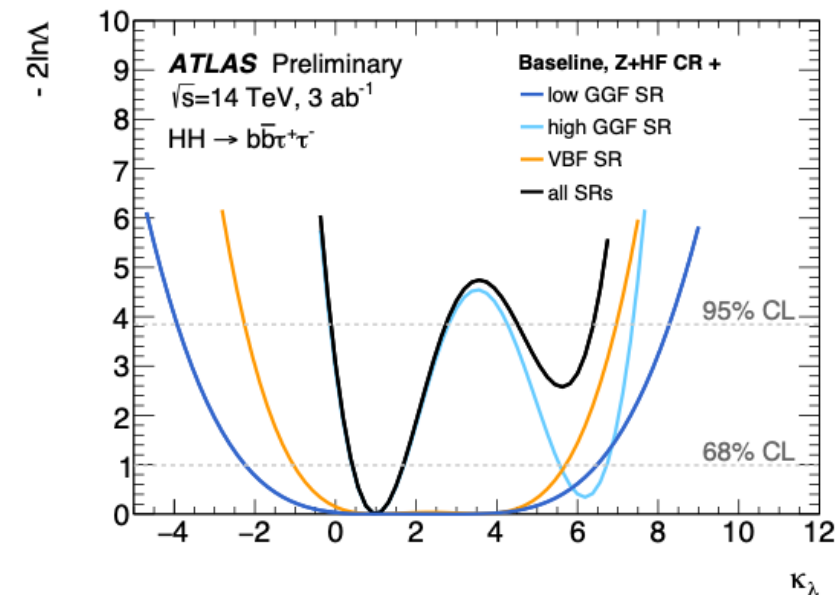
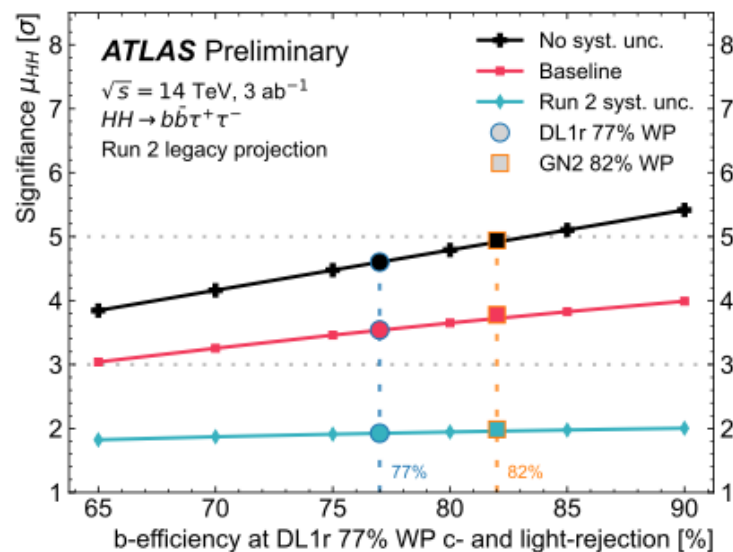
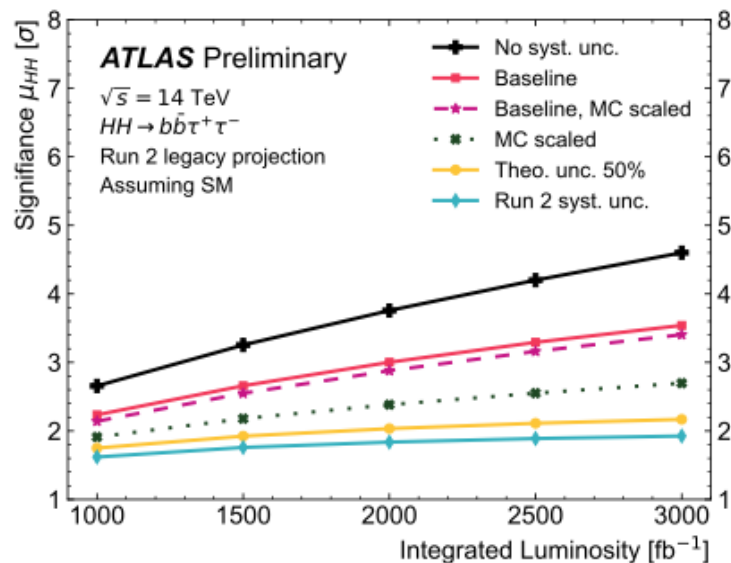


❖ HH discovery significance 3.4σ

❖ 95% confidence interval for κ_λ expected to be [0.0, 2.5]

HL-LHC: $b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ update

- ❖ HL-LHC: $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow 14 \text{ TeV}$, $\mathcal{L} = 140 \text{ fb}^{-1} \rightarrow 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ **Will Start in 2030**
- ❖ Latest update base on Run 2 Legacy analysis (Latest, shown today)
[Phys. Rev. D 110 \(2024\) 032012](#)



- ❖ Assuming SM HH production, a signal significance of 3.5σ (4.6σ) is expected in the baseline (statistical only)
- ❖ Improvements in b-tagging developed for Run 3 are expected to further increase the signal significance to 3.8σ (4.9σ statistical only)
- ❖ $\kappa_\lambda \in [-0.1, 2.7] \cup [4.5, 6.4]$ at 95% confidence level constraints ($[0.2, 2.1]$ without systematic uncertainties)

Summary

- ❖ HH events provides unique experimental reconstruction of Higgs Potential
- ❖ HH events are rare process
- ❖ Constraints on HH cross-section:
 - $\mu_{HH} < 2.9$ Observed (2.4 Expected)
- ❖ Constraints on Higgs self-coupling:
 - Observed: $-1.2 < \kappa_\lambda < 7.2$ Expected: $-1.6 < \kappa_\lambda < 7.2$
- ❖ Constraints on HHVV coupling:
 - Observed: $0.6 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.5$ Expected: $0.4 < \kappa_{2V} < 1.6$
- ❖ ATLAS has the best expected sensitivity on κ_λ
- ❖ HL-LHC will help us for further constraint on HH