

# THE HIGGS BOSON IN THEORY

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# BEFORE JULY 4

- Theorists had various expectations about how a Higgs discovery would come.
- I would like to take you three years back where we had a grand belief and a grand hope
- Grand belief: physics beyond the Standard Model is inevitable
- Grand hope: physics beyond the Standard Model at the LHC is inevitable.

***Higgs physics could be different than in the Standard Model***

# THE SM IS UNPROTECTED

- In naive extensions of the Standard Model, fundamental scalars receive large mass-redefinitions at each order in perturbation theory:
- spoiling electroweak precision tests,
- destabilizing Higgs boson observables at higher orders in perturbation theory.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} = & \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - \frac{m_\phi^2}{2} \phi^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \Phi)^2 - \frac{m_\Phi^2}{2} \Phi^2 \\ & + \bar{\psi} (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_\psi) \psi \\ & - \frac{1}{4} \lambda \phi^2 \Phi^2 - y_\phi \phi \bar{\psi} \psi - y_\Phi \Phi \bar{\psi} \psi\end{aligned}$$

$$\delta m_\psi = m_\psi \left[ \frac{5}{4} - \frac{3}{2} \ln \frac{m_\Phi^2}{\mu^2} + \mathcal{O}(m_\psi^2/m_\Phi^2) \right] + (\Phi \rightarrow \phi)$$

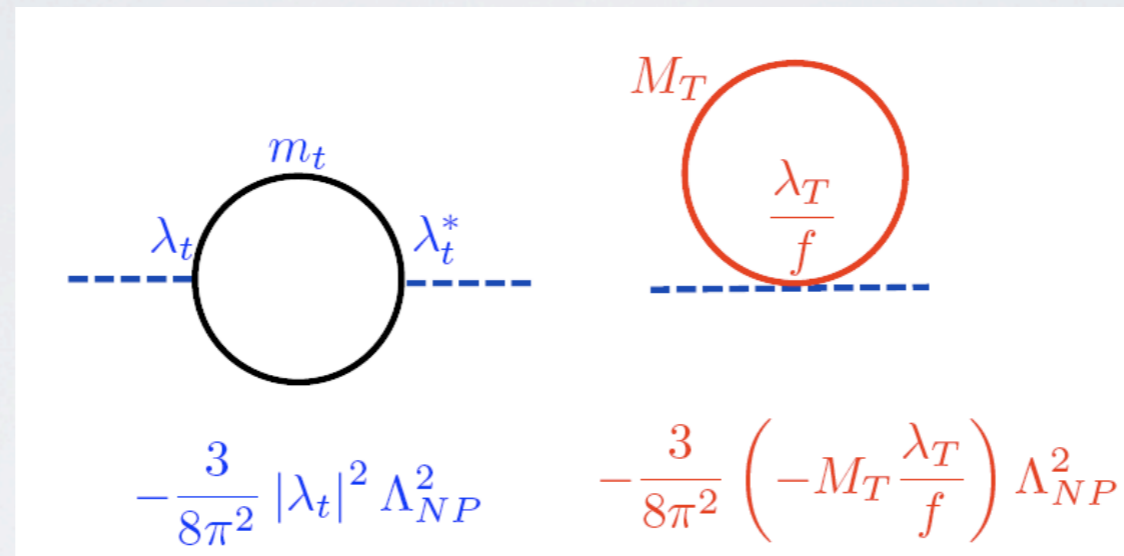
$$\begin{aligned}\delta m_\phi^2 = & \frac{y_\phi^2}{4\pi^2} m_\psi^2 \left[ 1 - 2 \ln \frac{m_\psi^2}{\mu^2} + \mathcal{O}(m_\phi^2/m_\psi^2) \right] \\ & - \frac{\lambda}{32\pi^2} m_\Phi^2 \left[ 1 - \ln \frac{m_\Phi^2}{\mu^2} \right]\end{aligned}$$

# SOLVING THE HIERARCHY PROBLEM

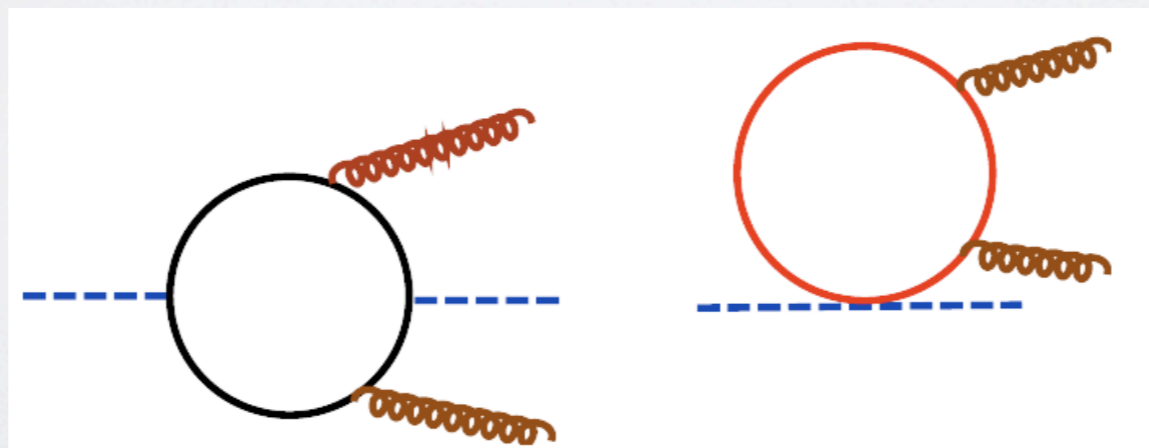
- **No new physics at all:** **Higgs physics is exactly as in the SM.**  
*Not a physics option just a technical option.*
- **“accidents”:** there is no new physics at the electroweak scale, but at a higher scale. It requires increasingly fine cancelations the higher the new physics scale.  
**Higgs physics does not need to deviate from the SM.**  
*No scale between the electroweak scale and the  $\sim$ Planck is special.*
- **broken symmetries or non-perturbative protections at LHC energies:** rich new physics is around the corner - electroweak scale - and stabilizes the Higgs sector up to very high energies. **Higgs physics may deviate from the SM.**

# BUILDING PROTECTIONS AND HIGGS PHYSICS

Heavy particles appear in symmetry multiplets

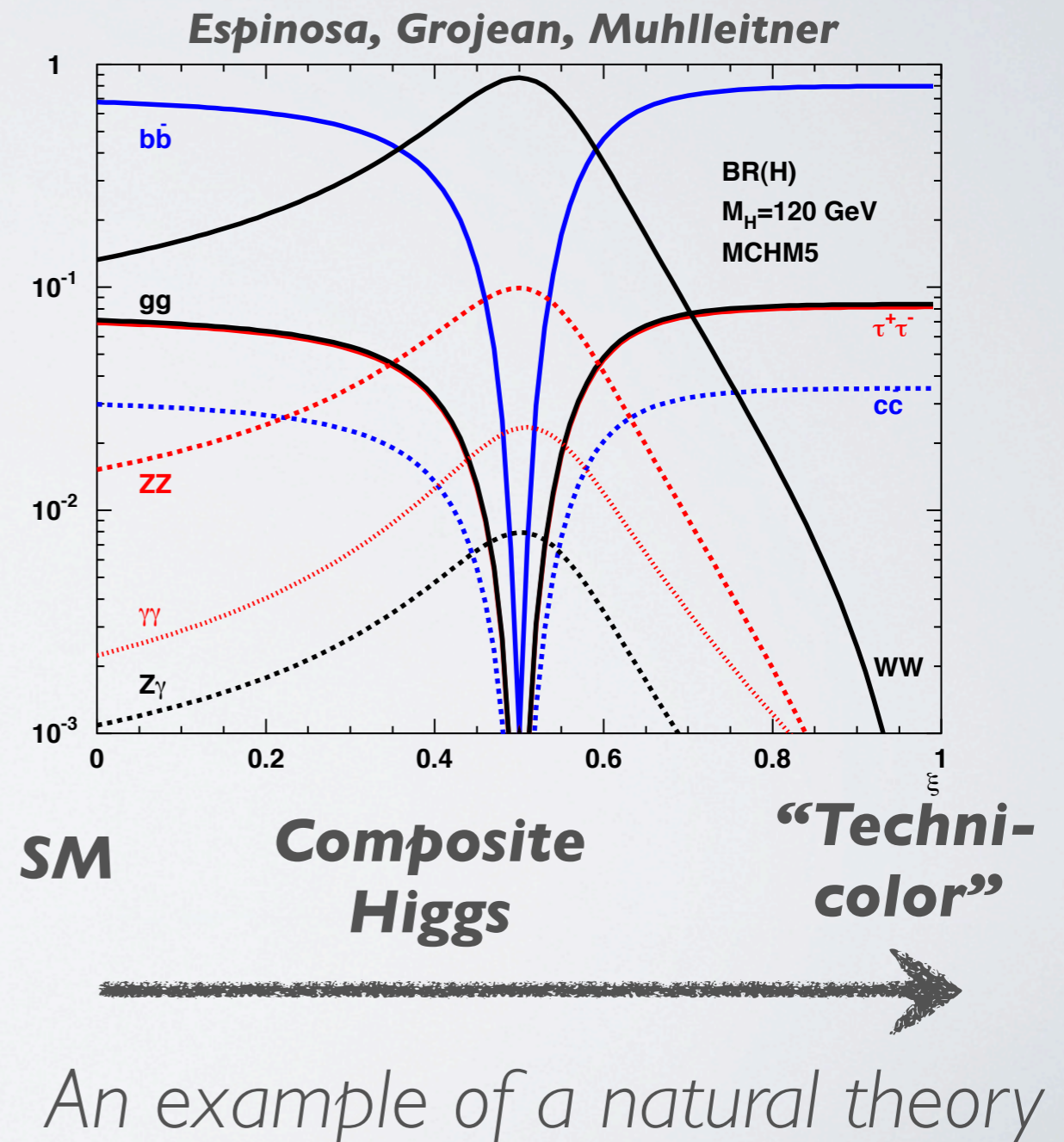


Such cancelations are passed on loop induced  
Higgs processes **(Rattazzi, Low; Falkowski)**



# EFFECTS ON HIGGGS PHENOMENOLOGY

- Higgs production cross-sections and decay widths are typically smaller than in the SM.
- Some room for enhanced branching ratios (by reducing the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  width or enhancing directly the loop induced decay widths).
- Large excesses over Standard Model rates for Higgs signals are difficult to accommodate.
- Deviations from SM rates for Higgs signals is not meant to be the “smoking gun” of these theories which have a rich spectrum of light new particles.

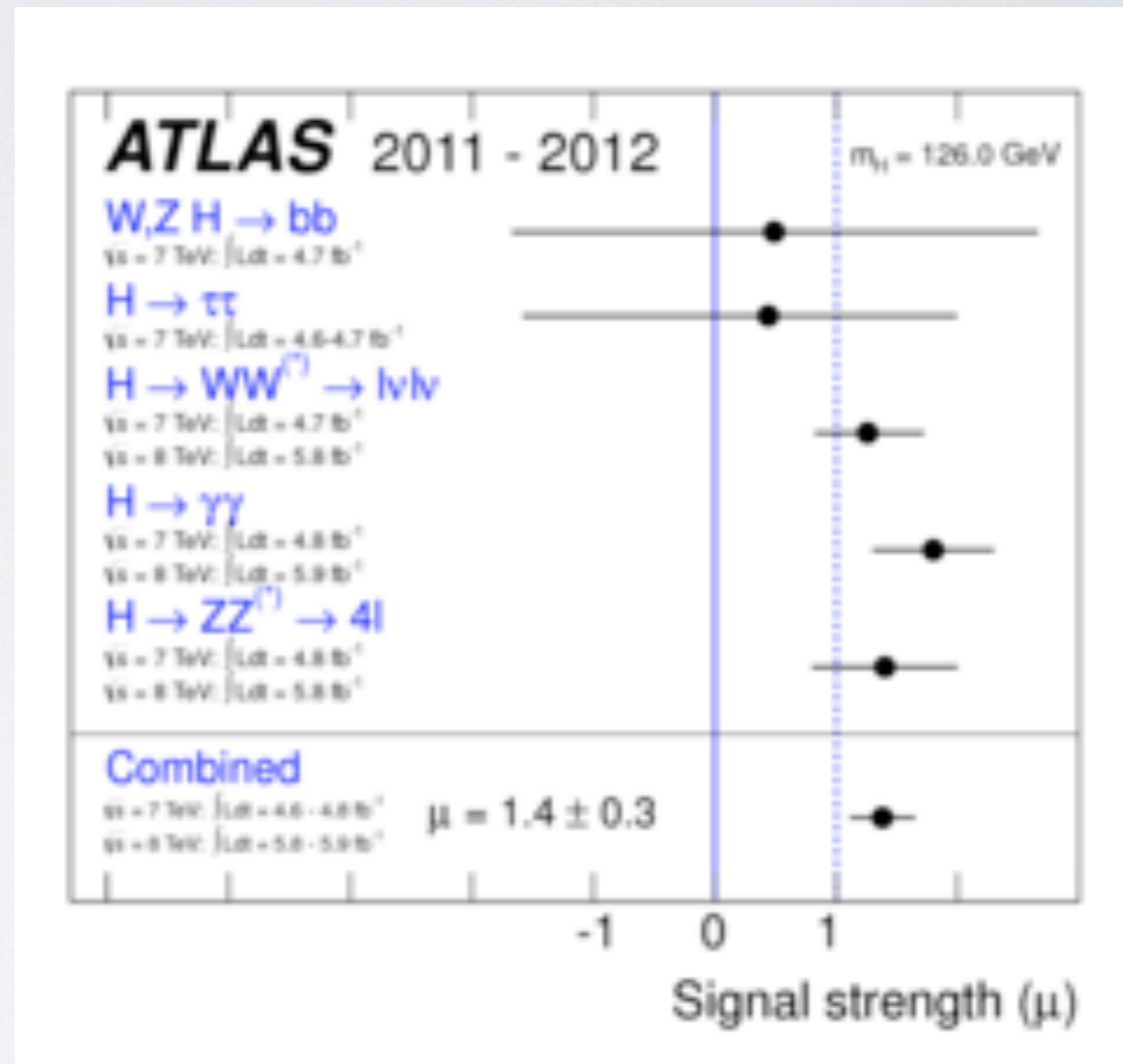


# AFTER JULY 4

- ATLAS and CMS found a Higgs boson.
- This is the most difficult discovery in modern particle physics.
- Search for rare events. Cross-sections of a 2-50 fb.
- Clever and mature analyses with very high signal efficiencies.
- The mass is where electroweak precision tests like a Higgs boson to be in the Standard Model.

# ATLAS DISCOVERY

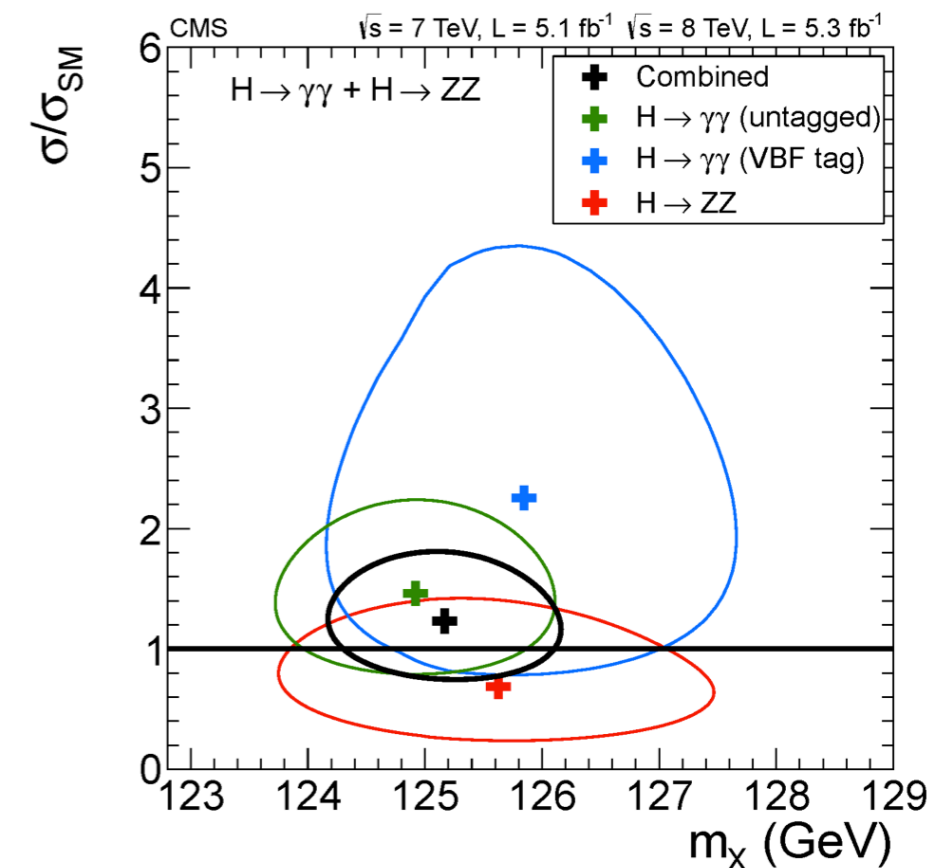
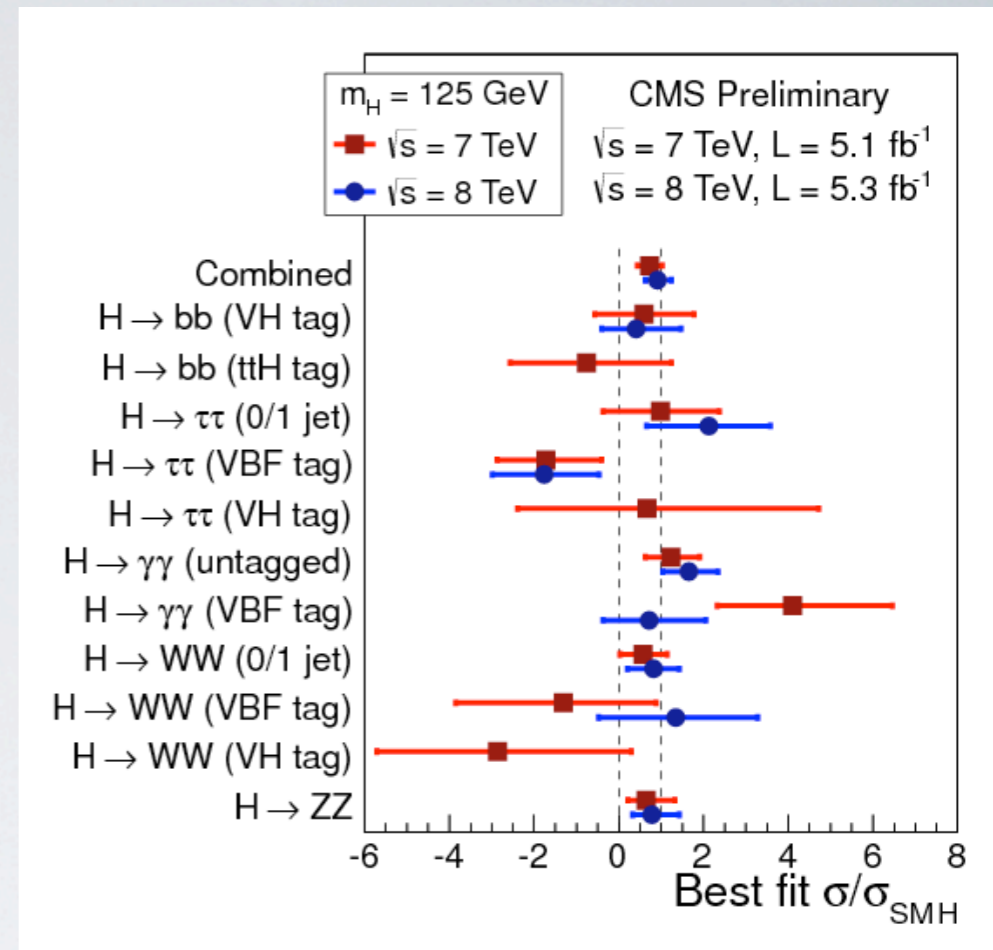
- Three channels.  
 $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow lll$ ,  
 $H \rightarrow \text{gamma gamma}$ ,  
 $H \rightarrow WW$   
with 8 TeV data.
- Results: a convincing excess  
in all three channels.
- Consistent with Standard  
Model
- However, a stronger  
production is quite  
possible.





# CMS DISCOVERY

- $H \rightarrow \text{gamma, gamma}$ ,  
 $H \rightarrow ZZ$ ,  
 $H \rightarrow WW$ ,  
 $H \rightarrow \text{tau tau}$ ,  
 $H \rightarrow bb$  with 8 TeV data
- A convincing excess in  $H \rightarrow ZZ, WW, \text{gamma-gamma}$
- $H \rightarrow \text{tau tau}$  has a very small S/B ( $\sim 3\%$ ).  
e-hadronic seems in tension with a SM Higgs at 125 GeV. mu-hadronic seems OK.
- In WW, the 0-jet mu-e category seems to be consistent with SM or higher rate. Other categories seem to favor a smaller cross-section than SM, but are consistent with one times SM.



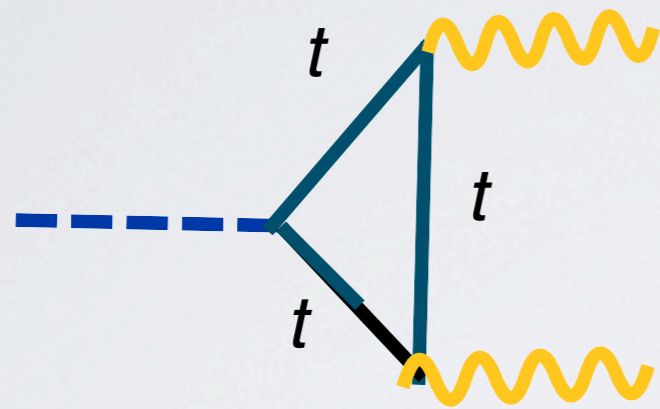
# READING OF GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL PICTURE

- We have a Higgs boson which is consistent with the Standard Model.
- Is the di-photon branching ratio enhanced? Is the tau-tau coupling reduced? Are the  $WW$  and  $ZZ$  fine or bigger than the Standard Model?
- We rely on a very small number of events to draw conclusions. We cannot distinguish clearly between data fluctuations and a new physics phenomenon.
- We will know with a better precision (factor of two?) by the end of this LHC run. The picture will be much clearer with the 14TeV run.
- Measurements leave a lot of room for new physics manifesting itself as atypical Higgs interactions.

# IMAGINING AHEAD THE OUTCOMES OF FUTURE EXPERIMENTAL UPDATES

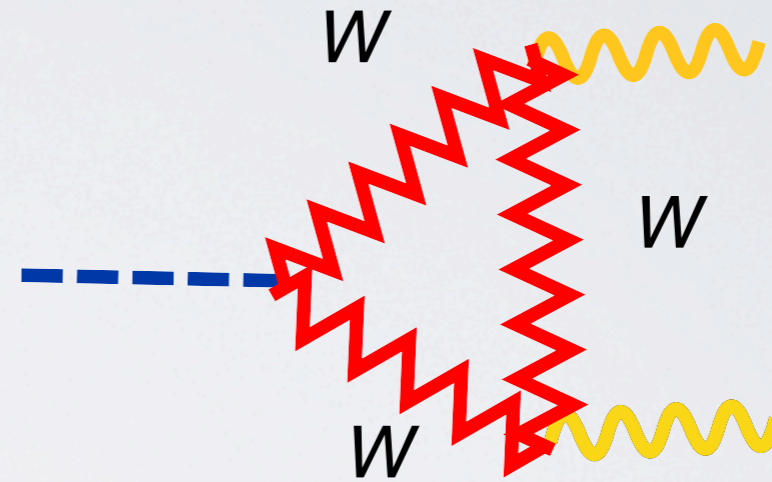
- scenario A : The di-photon channel remains high, while other measurements are SM-like.
- scenario B : The tau-tau channel remains low and the di-photon channel remains high
- scenario C: The WW, ZZ, diphoton remain all high (as it appears with ATLAS)
- ...

# TWO PHOTON DECAY IN THE STANDARD MODEL



(Light Higgs)

$$N_c Q_t^2 (4/3)$$



$$(-7)$$

Sensitive to new colorless or colored particles

*Production via gluon fusion is sensitive to colored new particles only.*

# SCENARIO A : HIGH DI-PHOTON AND SM-LIKE RATES IN OTHER CHANNELS

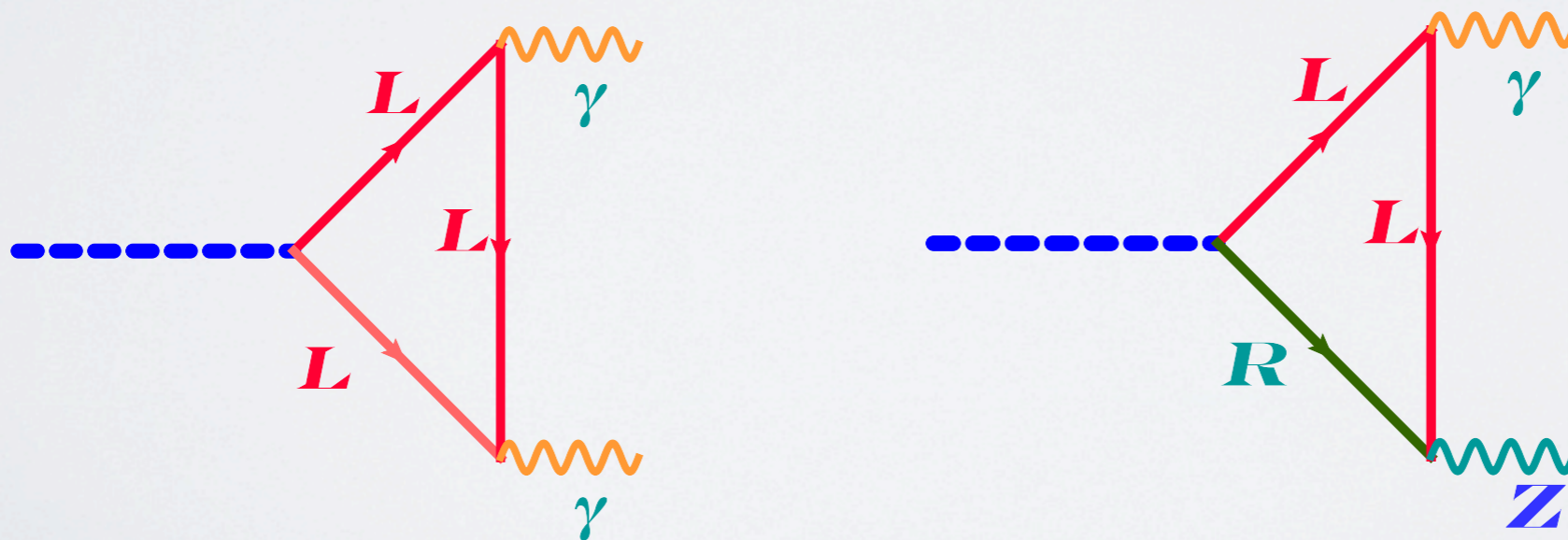
- To preserve the SM-like predictions in all other channels, new states should not couple to gluons (leptons, new  $W$  bosons, colorless new scalars).
- The mass of these new states is not entirely given by the Higgs vev (e.g. vector-like leptons to produce a negative Yukawa coupling)
- To induce a large modification of the di-photon signal, new states must have a large coupling to the Higgs boson and be relatively light ( $\sim$  few 100s of GeV).
- Trouble with the Higgs potential and vacuum stability (more new physics around  $\sim$  1 TeV).
- ...or we should consider a more complicated and very conspiring Higgs sector, with different couplings than in the SM at the tree-level already.

# THE DI-PHOTON PUZZLE

- Exotic objects such as colorless scalars, new  $W$ 's and new leptons can be part of Randall-Sundrum, little Higgs, composite Higgs and supersymmetric models.
- Puzzle: why are they hiding from direct detection so far?
- Could be protected by discrete symmetries which forbid  $1 \rightarrow 2$  decays into SM particles besides the Higgs.
- Possible connection with dark matter searches, which may need to be target a smaller amount of missing energy.
- Puzzle: If this anomaly is a manifestation of fully fledged theory with all nice properties, such as dark matter, protecting the Higgs potential and solving the hierarchy problem, why are colored Higgs production and decay protected?

# THE BR( $H \rightarrow Z$ -GAMMA)

- If we have an anomaly in the diphoton channel, the rarer decay to a  $Z$  boson and a photon becomes especially important.
- It is sensitive to flavor changing effects while the di-photon decay is not.



# SCENARIO B :

## SMALL BR(H->TAU-TAU)

- The **Higgs**  $\rightarrow$  **tau-tau** measurements are very preliminary. Also, they battle against a very low signal/background ratio.
- But, it will be interesting to have a situation where we need to explain a largish/normal **BR(H $\rightarrow$ bb)** as TEVATRON suggests, a small **BR(H $\rightarrow$ tau-tau)** and an enhanced di-photon channel.
- This would point to some type of tau-partners causing both deviations.
- But, I do not know of a successful model in this direction.



# SO?

- It is very hard to make theoretically consistent models which explain a large di-photon rate with a minimal (unnatural) spectrum.
- These attempts have to be completed at some TeV-ish scale with more new physics.
- It is perhaps even harder to use natural models with a rich light spectrum which are not yet excluded.
- But we should keep looking for light top/bottom/tau partners, supersymmetric or not, as vigorously as possible. Light particles are not necessarily easy to detect.

# SCENARIO C: A “GLOBAL” ENHANCEMENT

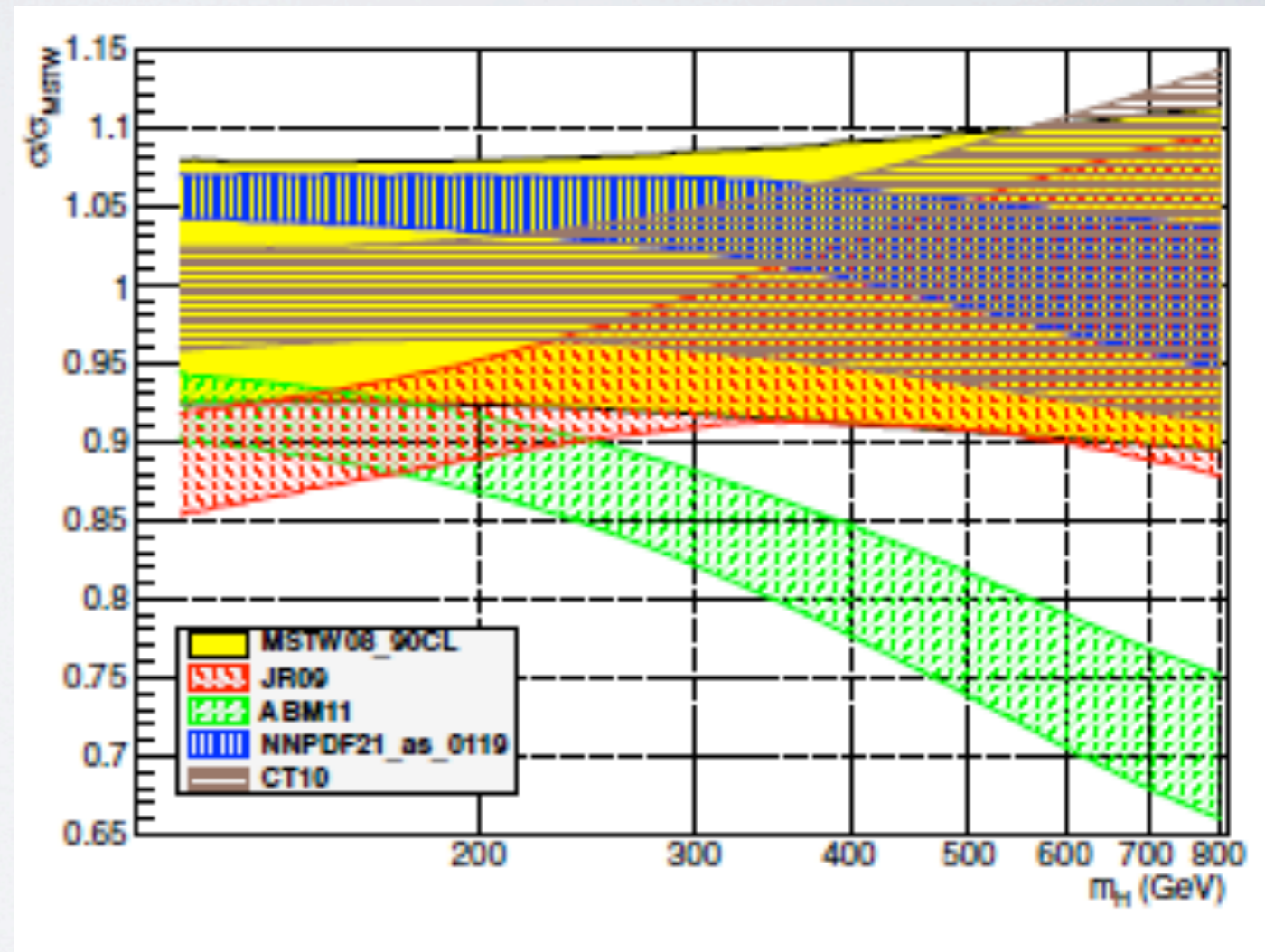
- What if further data indicates an enhancement to all major signals?
- This is not such a crazy scenario to contemplate: all ATLAS measurements for Higgs processes in 2012 have somewhat high central values.
- I would try to resolve such a situation with perturbative QCD.
- Are perturbative QCD corrections for Higgs production in gluon fusion estimated precisely?

# A HIGGS TEST OF PERTURBATIVE QCD

- QCD is diagonal to the electroweak gauge group. Corrections are “global” to all decay final states.
- It will be relatively easy to tell apart shortcomings of perturbative QCD and BSM effects by looking at ratios of cross-sections.
- How much do we trust our perturbative QCD computations?

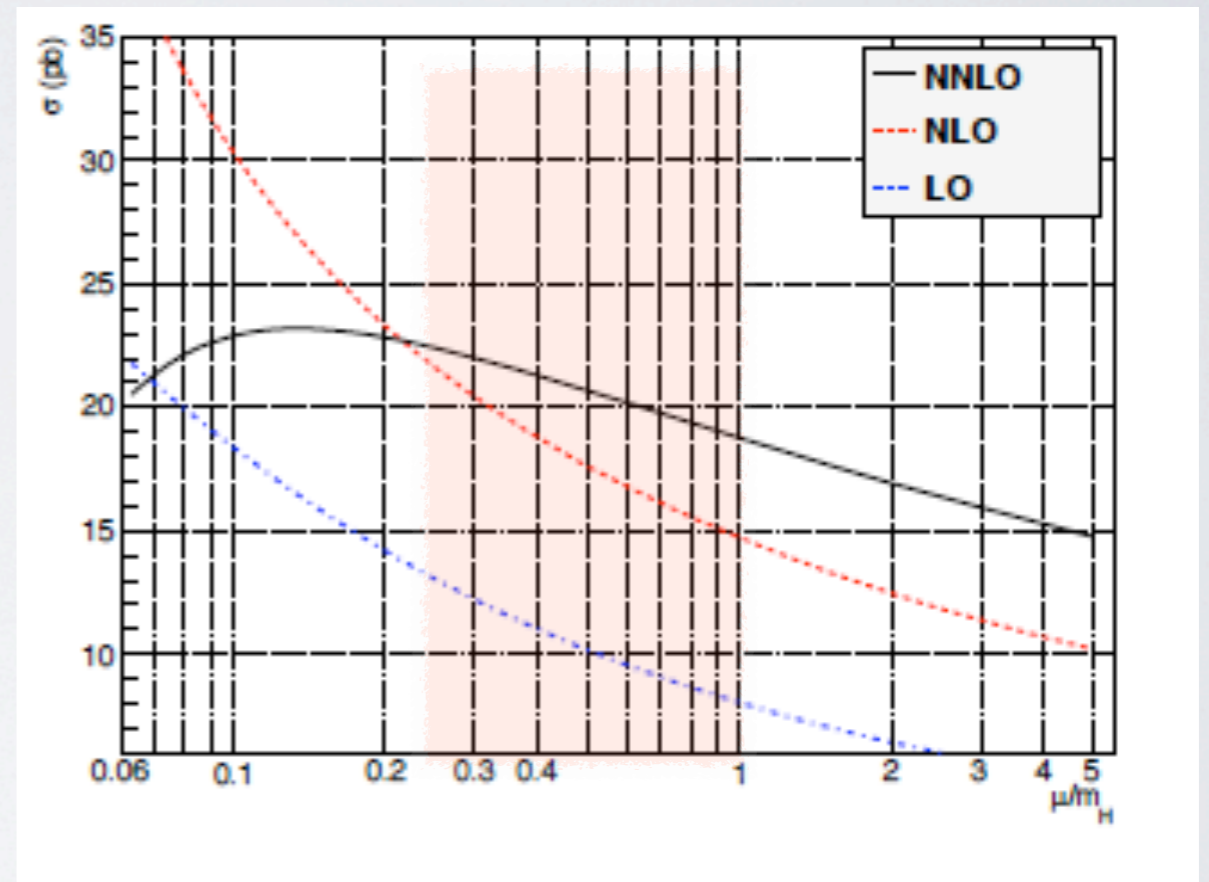
# PDF UNCERTAINTIES

- Five NNLO pdf sets
- 68% confidence level uncertainties show discrepancies
- Situation can be ameliorated by adopting the 90%CL uncertainty of MSTW
- Still, ABM11 set is quite different. ABM11 finds a lower value of  $\alpha_s$ , relies on less data, but not yet shown to disagree with LHC data. Their  $\alpha_s$  value is in tension with measurements of the Z and W decay widths as well as LEP data and tau decays.
- Important: high precision measurements of top and other SM cross-sections at the LHC.



# SCALE VARIATIONS

- The Higgs cross-section has worried us for a long time about its slow perturbative convergence.
- perturbative series converges well for scales around half the Higgs mass
- but very slowly for higher scales.
- should we trust the NNLO computations?
- Let's dissect them



# NLO QCD CORRECTIONS

cross-section for gluon fusion via a heavy (top) quark:

$$\sigma \sim \mathcal{L}_{gg}(\mu) \times \left( \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\pi} \right)^2$$

$$\left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\pi} \left[ N_c \frac{\pi^2}{3} + \frac{11}{2} \right] + 2 \log \left( \frac{\mu^2}{p_T^2} \right) N_c \text{Coll} \left( \frac{p_t^2}{M_h^2} \right) + \text{Reg} \left( \frac{p_t^2}{M_h^2}, \theta \right) \right\}$$

Soft real and  
virtual corrections

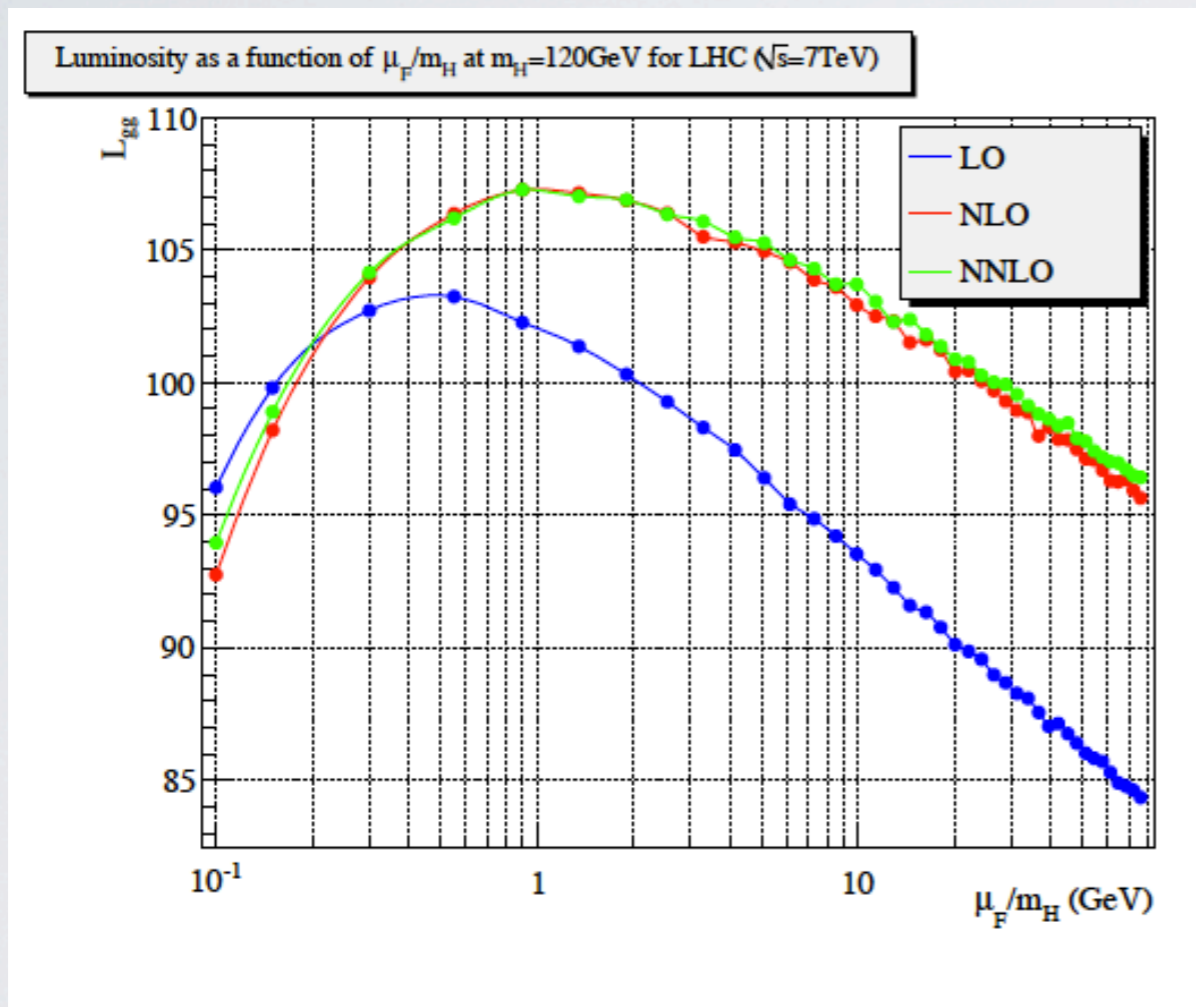
$$\pi^2, \log \left( \frac{\mu^2}{p_T^2} \right)$$

$$\frac{11}{2} = 2 C_1$$

Wilson coefficient of Heavy Quark  
Effective Theory ( $\sim$  UV nature)

$$\text{Reg} \left( \frac{p_t^2}{M_h^2}, \theta \right) \rightarrow 0, \text{ hard, vanishes in } p_t, \theta, \pi - \theta \rightarrow 0$$

# GLUON-GLUON LUMINOSITY



$L_{gg}(M_h=120\text{GeV}, \text{LHC7}, \text{MSTW08})$

- Very stable from NLO to NNLO
- Within 5% from LO for a light Higgs boson at the LHC for reasonable factorization scales.
- $\sim 20\%$  higher than LO for large factorization scales

# LARGE K-FACTORS

$$\frac{\text{NLO}}{\text{LO}} \sim (80\% - 105\%) \left\{ 1 + 4\% \left[ \overset{\pi^2}{9.876} + \underset{\text{Wilson coefficient}}{5.5} \right] + \dots \right\}$$

*NLO/LO gluons and alpha\_s*

Bound to have a large K-factor of at least 1.5-1.6 due to pi's and the Wilson coefficient

Milder K-factor if gluon fusion is mediated through a light quark (bottom) as, for example, in large tan(beta) MSSM.

$$\frac{\text{NLO}}{\text{LO}} \sim (80\% - 105\%) \left\{ 1 + 4\% \left[ \underset{\pi^2}{9.876} + \overset{\text{Two-loop bottom amplitude.}}{0.9053} \right] + \dots \right\}$$



# LARGE K-FACTORS (II)

$$\frac{\text{NLO}}{\text{LO}} \sim (80\% - 105\%) \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\pi} \left[ \dots + 6 \log \left( \frac{\mu^2}{p_T^2} \right) + \dots \right] \right\}$$

*NLO/LO gluons and alpha\_s*

- Logarithmic enhancement at small transverse momentum
- Integrable: reliable perturbative expansion for inclusive cross-sections.
- The mu scale is arbitrary, but no need to be senseless.
- Choices very different than pt can spoil the perturbative expansion.

$$M_H = 120 \text{ GeV @LHC7} \rightsquigarrow \langle p_t \rangle \sim 35 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\frac{\text{NLO}}{\text{LO}} \sim (80\% - 105\%) \left\{ 1 + 4\% \left[ \frac{9.876}{\pi^2} + 5.5 + \mathcal{O}(15.) \right] + \dots \right\}_{\mu = M_h}$$

*Wilson coefficient*      *Pt-Log*

$$\left\{ 1 + 4\% \left[ 9.876 + 5.5 + \mathcal{O}(1.) \right] + \dots \right\}_{\mu = \frac{M_h}{4}}$$

*NLO/LO gluons and alpha\_s*

# PERTURBATIVE CONVERGENCE?

- Three main worries from the NLO calculation:
  - Large NLO Wilson coefficient  $\sim 15-20\%$
  - $\text{Pi}^2 = 2 \times N_c \times (\text{Pi}^2/6)$  term  $\sim 30-40\%$
  - Large logs ( $2 \times N_c \times \text{Log}(pt^2/\mu^2)$ ) of transverse momentum (sensitive to  $\mu$ )  $\sim 1\% - 80\%$
- Comforting that the NNLO corrections are mild.  
The Wilson coefficient has a regular perturbative expansion.

*At NNLO:*

*Wilson  
coefficient*

$$C \sim 1 + (4\%) \cdot 5.5 + (4\%)^2 \cdot 10.$$

*Chetyrkin, Kniehl, Steinhauser*

# PERTURBATIVE CONVERGENCE?

- Half of  $\pi^2$  belongs to a different Wilson coefficient when matching to SCET. It “exponentiates”. We are left to explain with the other half, which is a smaller (half) concern.

*At NNLO and beyond:*

*Ahrens, Becher, Neubert*

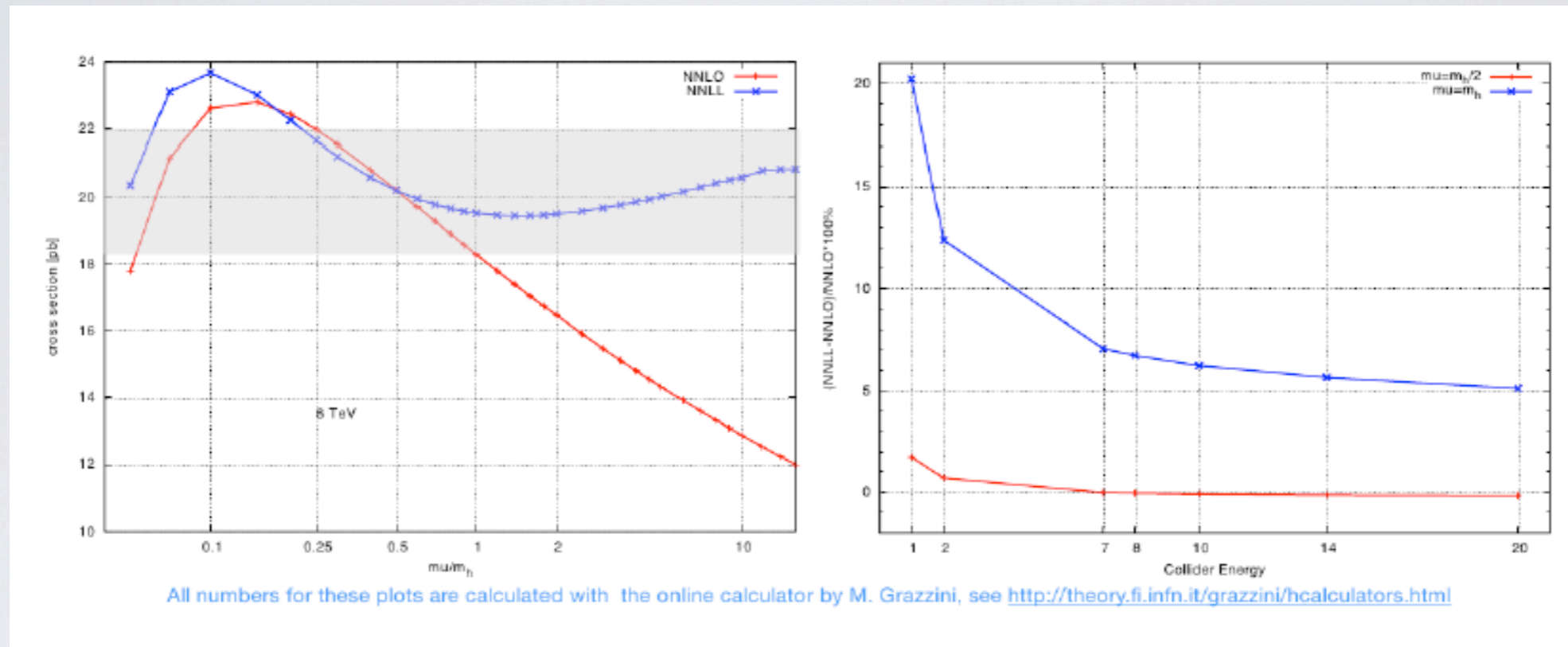
$$1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \cdot (\pi^2) + \dots \sim e^{\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \cdot \left(\frac{\pi^2}{2}\right)} \left( 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \left[ \frac{\pi^2}{2} \right] \dots \right)$$

- Logs due to soft radiation exponentiate and can be resummed with NNLL accuracy at all orders.

*Catani, de Florian, Grazzini*

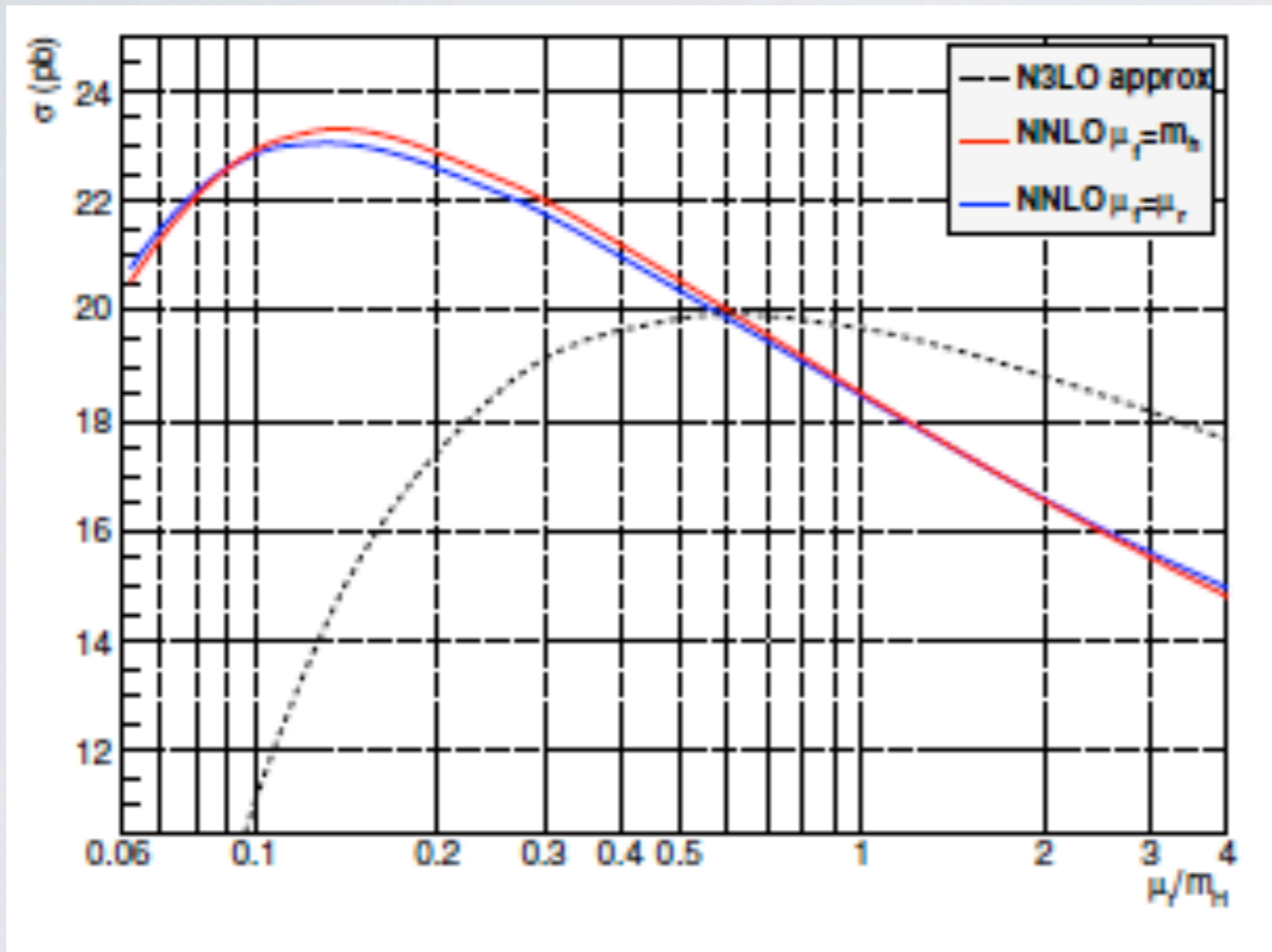
- Luckily, they yield small corrections beyond NNLO

# CHECKS AGAINST KNOWN BEYOND NNLO EFFECTS



- NNLO vs NNLL resummation (*Catani, Grazzini, de Florian*) agree very well, over a vast range of collider energies
- Similar observations for SCET-type of threshold resummation (*Ahrens, Becher, Neubert*)

# SOFT LOGS AT NNNLO



The NNLO logarithmic terms are also known.

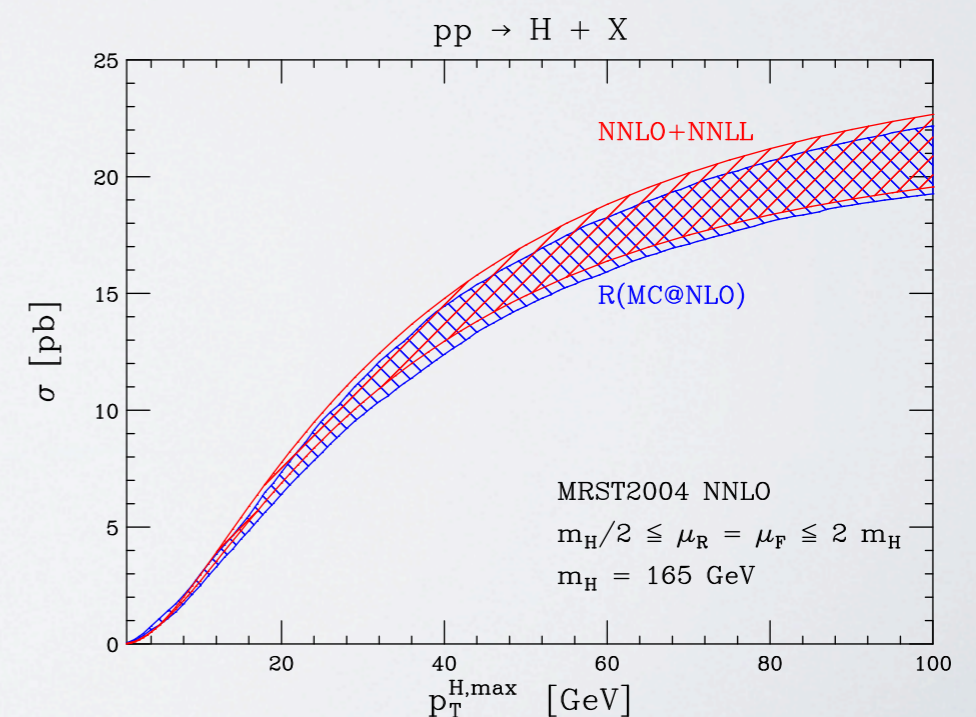
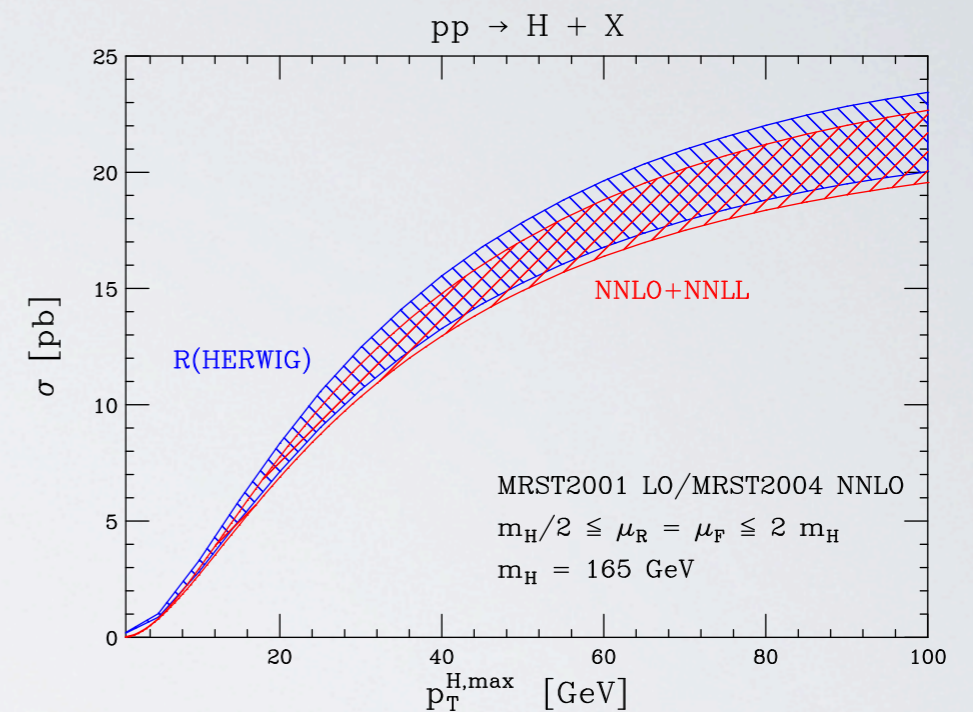
*Moch, Vogt*

Consistent with NNLO

***We have reshuffled/resummed perturbation theory in all sensible ways that we can think of with very consistent results. inspires confidence that we have achieved a very good accuracy which we can trust for the inclusive cross-section***

# CHECK ON EFFICIENCIES

- Exhaustive comparisons between parton-shower, resummation and fixed order already five years ago.
- Showing a very good agreement in efficiencies for jet vetoes and other cuts. **CA, Dissertori, Grazzini, Stoeckli, Webber**
- The question of jet vetoes tantalized other theorists for quite some time, fearing that the success of the NNLO vs parton shower comparison and pt-resummation may be an accident.



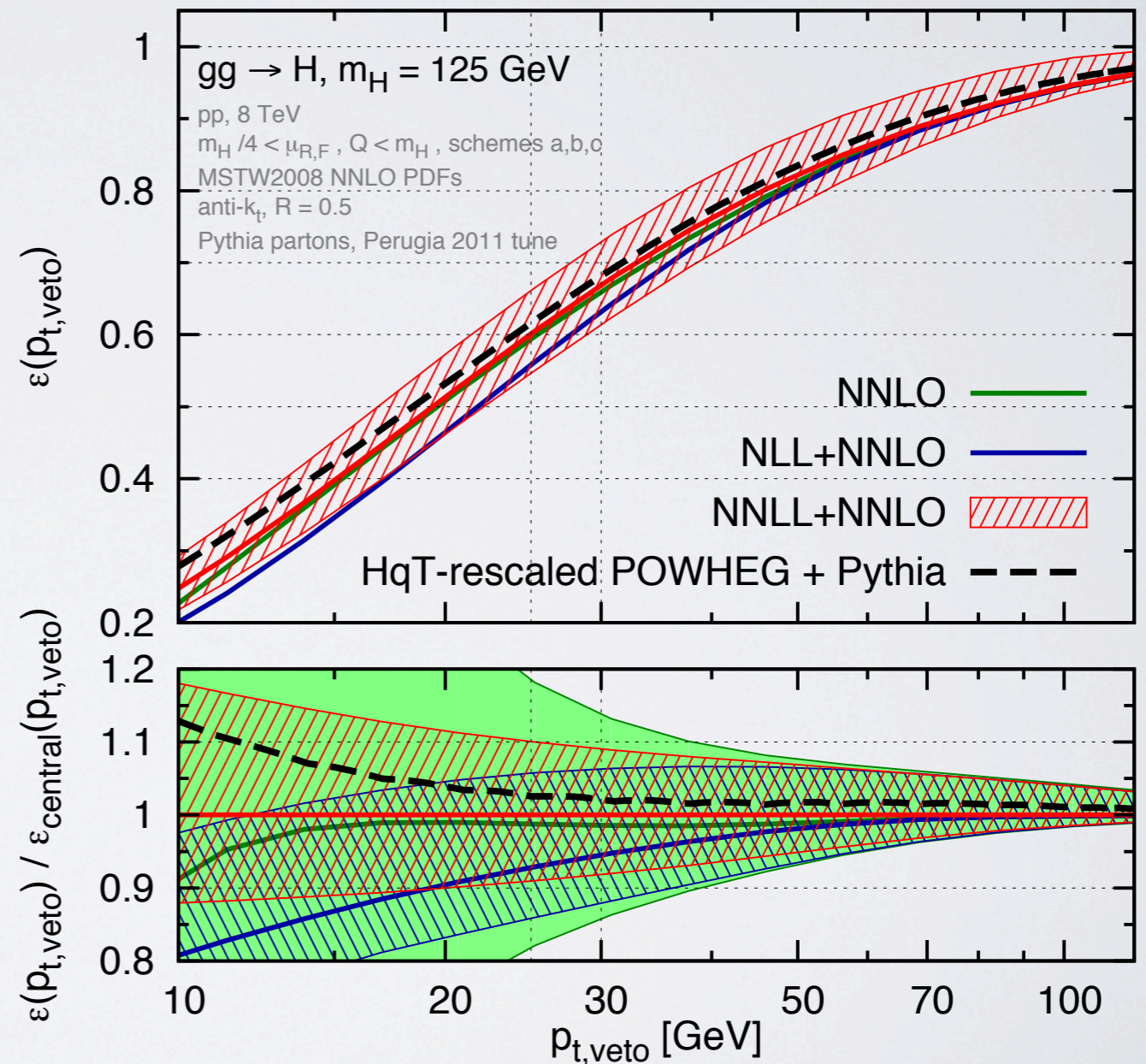
# RESUMMED JET-VETO EFFICIENCIES

- Explicit Jet-veto resummation at NNLL matched to NNLO.

**Banfi, Monni, Salam, Zanderighi**

- Excellent agreement with fixed order NNLO down to very low veto values
- Lesson I: caution is needed when the matching and resummation are not at the same level of accuracy (NLL-NNLO differs from NNLL-NNLO)
- Lesson II: A poor man's solution to rescale bad Monte-Carlo such that it matches a precisely known distribution is indeed poor!

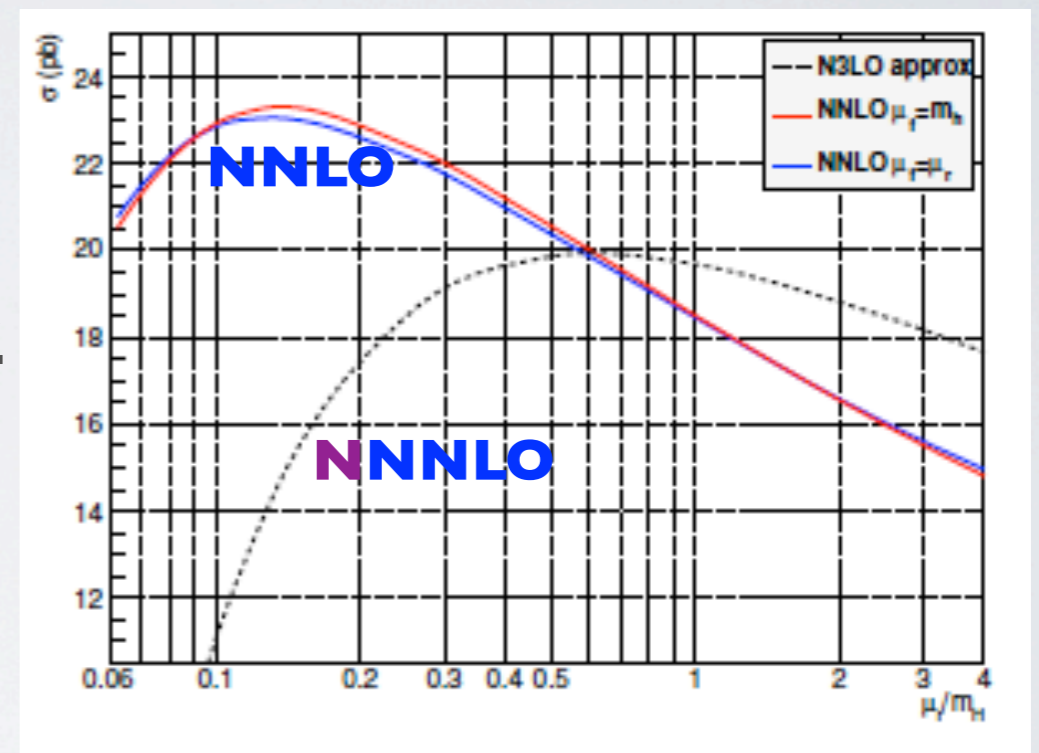
**Banfi, Monni, Salam, Zanderighi**



(Similar studies with a SCET formalism by **Becher, Neubert**)

# EVEN BETTER PRECISION?

- The cross-section for gluon fusion is a very important ingredient for Higgs coupling extractions,
- causing the largest theoretical uncertainty.
- shall we go to an NNNLO precision?
- We can now already the precision which we can claim at the next order.
- surprisingly, we can only reduce the scale uncertainty from a 8% down to a 5% if we do so.



***NNLO is necessary  
to instill more  
confidence in our  
existing predictions.***



# CAN IT BE DONE?

- I believe yes.
- The techniques which were invented for the NNLO calculations in gluon fusion worked effortlessly.
- One order higher is a tremendous leap in technical difficulty.
- ***We need a similar leap in cleverness.***
- but we already know much more about the structure of loop and phase-space integrals (unitarity and reverse-unitarity, threshold expansions, non-linear mappings, symbol - coproduct and polylogarithms, etc).

# BUT, IS IT THE HIGGS?

- It can be composite, fat, little, ugly, MSSM light, SM, etc, but it must be the Higgs.
- It couples to  $WW$ , so it is unlikely to be pseudo-scalar.
- It couples to photons, so it cannot be a vector.
- It is technically allowed to be a spin-2 particle. I do not know of any theory which passes EWPTs with such a light spin-2 resonance.
- We will be confident rather soon. The  $ZZ, WW$  decays yield characteristic spin correlations.
- Note, that spin correlations have already been exploited in order to maximize the discovery potential for a CP-even scalar. We would look for spin-2 with different analyses.

# SUMMARY

- I found it very hard to stop reading the vastly growing literature, thinking or calculating in order to collect my thoughts and compose my presentation.
- This is an amazing moment in the history of particle physics.
- We have the discovery of a Higgs boson; a particle which is very rare to produce and very delicate on physics at higher energies.
- Data agrees roughly with the SM, but leaves open many possibilities.  
It will be very exciting to do model building once Higgs data is more precise.
- Higgs cross-sections are very well studied. I would desire even more precise QCD predictions.
- A lot of work to be done in measuring Higgs boson couplings and even more difficult processes such as Higgs pair production.
- Higgs data will be very important in deciding the big next steps in accelerator physics.