### Theoretical considerations on Rare & Forbidden Higgs decays

#### Gino Isidori

[ University of Zürich ]

- ▶ Introduction
- ► Flavor-violating Higgs decays
- Decays into light exotic states
- ► Rare exclusive semi-hadronic decays
- Conclusions

### Introduction

Despite all its successes, the SM is likely to be an *effective theory*, i.e. the limit -in the experimentally accessible range of <u>energies</u> and <u>effective couplings</u>-of a more fundamental theory, with new degrees of freedom

We need to search for New Physics with a broad spectrum perspective given the lack of clear indications on the SM-EFT boundaries (both in terms of energies and effective couplings)

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We need to search for New Physics with a broad spectrum perspective given the lack of clear indications on the SM-EFT boundaries (both in terms of energies and effective couplings)



"High-statistics" Higgs Physics

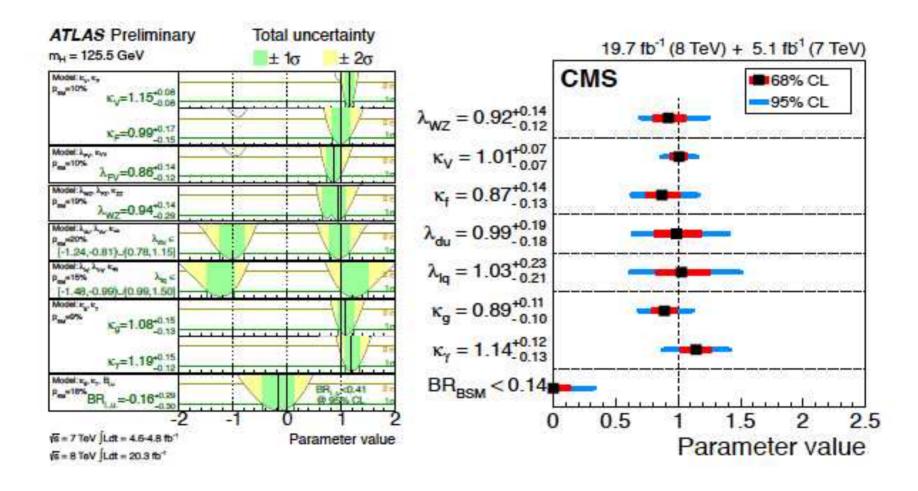
(exploration of the Higgs properties with minimum theoretical bias)

- Ad hoc sector of the SM, with several couplings not determined by symmetries
- First fundamental (?) scalar
- Natural "portal" toward possible "secluded sectors" with new particles/fields
- The vast majority of the allowed couplings of the Higgs are couplings to the SM fermions (still largely unexplored...) → large room for NP

**.** . . .

#### ► Introduction

Some attempts in this direction have already started...



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...but the peculiar value of  $m_h$  ( $\rightarrow$  suppressed Higgs width) offers many more interesting tests.

Precision measurements

Rare decays

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Precision measurements

Rare decays

#### On the TH side:

- Unique window on models where (light) NP couples directly (*effective tree-level coupling*) only to the Higgs field (*Higgs portal*, ...)
- Large deviations from the SM less constrained by other observables (e.g. EWPO)

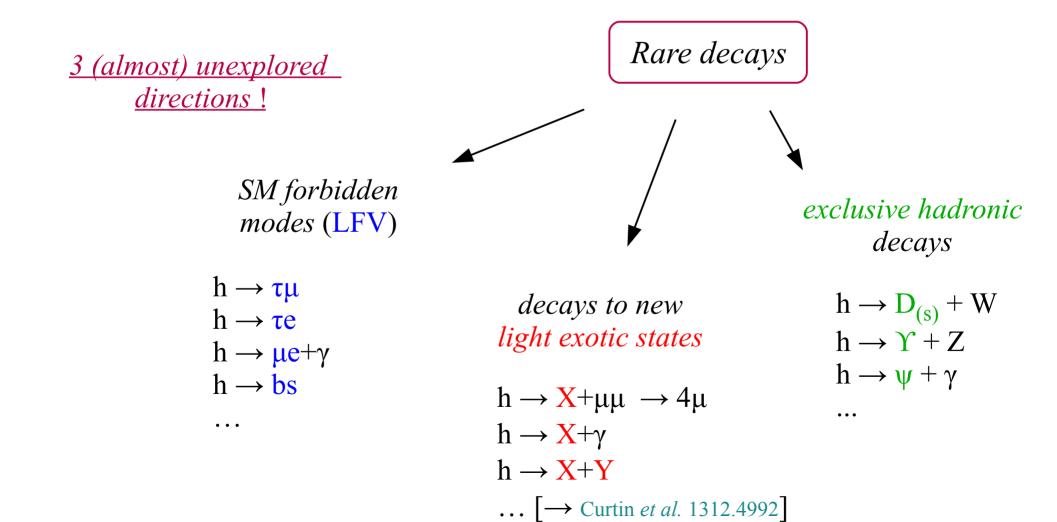
#### On the EXP side:

• Potential large room for improvement with increasing statistics vs. the (slow) improvement in measurements where we have already seen the SM signal...

### <u>Introduction</u>

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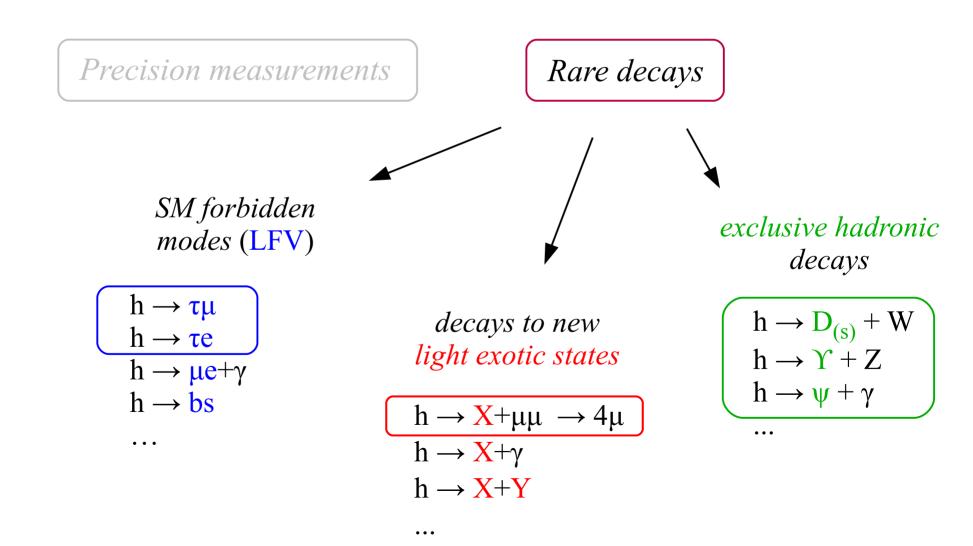
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#### Introduction

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If we consider the SM as a low-energy effective theory, it is natural to include possible flavor-violating couplings of the physical Higgs boson.

h-mediated FCNCs are unavoidable in models with more Higgs doublets and, more generally, can be viewed as the effect of higher-dimensional operators (in the EFT approach):

Azatov, Toharia, Zhu, 0906.1990
Agashe & Contino, 0906.1542

$$Y^{ij} \psi_L^i \psi_R^j \phi + \epsilon^{ij} \psi_L^i \psi_R^j \phi^3 + ...$$

$$\epsilon^{ij} = \frac{c^{ij}}{\Lambda^2}$$

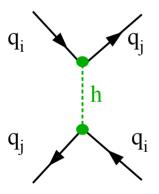
$$(vY^{ij} + v^3 \epsilon^{ij}) \psi_L^i \psi_R^j + (Y^{ij} + 3v^2 \epsilon^{ij}) \psi_L^i \psi_R^j h + ...$$

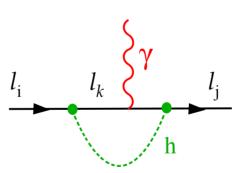
$$VY_{eff} \qquad h \text{ FCNC couplings if } Y^{ij} \neq c \epsilon^{ij}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \sum_{i,j=d,s,b} c_{ij} \, \bar{d}_L^i d_R^j h + \sum_{i,j=u,c,t} c_{ij} \, \bar{u}_L^i u_R^j h + \sum_{i,j=e,\mu,\tau} c_{ij} \, \bar{\ell}_L^i \ell_R^j h + \text{H.c.}$$

(fermion mass-eigenstate basis)

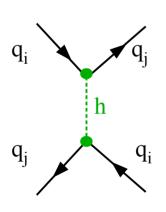
Before looking at Higgs data, worth to explore the indirect bounds from the (*long list...*) of low-energy precision measurements:





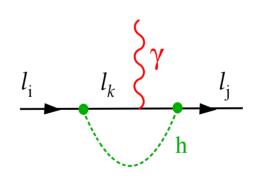
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Severe bounds in the quark sector from  $\Delta F=2$  processes

(except for terms involving the top)

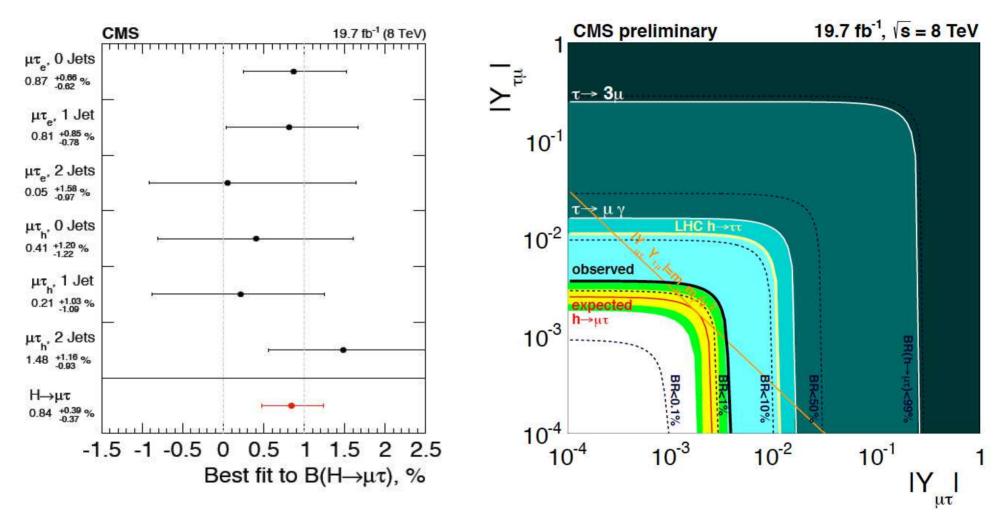


Bounds less severe in the lepton sector for the τμ and τe modes only



Indirect bounds imply  $B(h \rightarrow \tau \mu, \tau e) \lesssim 10\%$ 

Blankenburg, Ellis, GI, 1202.5704 Harnik, Kopp, Zupan, 1209.1397 Davidson, Verdier, 1211.1248



2.4σ excess over bkg in the h  $\rightarrow$  τμ search

Best-fit of the signal: B(h  $\rightarrow \tau \mu$ )=(0.84 $^{+0.39}_{-0.37}$ )%

CMS-HIG-14-005

Model-dependent considerations assuming the CMS result is a positive signal:

• Not easy (but not impossible...) to accommodate in realistic Yukawa models

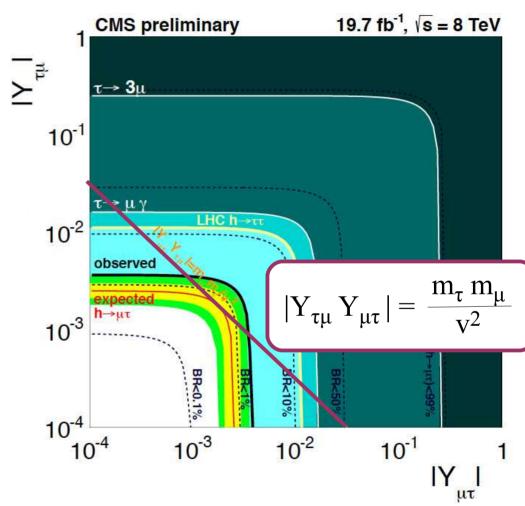
Dery, Efrati, Nir, Soreq, Susic, 1408.1371

• The effect must appear at the tree-level, otherwise too-large  $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma => \underbrace{extended\ Higgs\ sector}$ 

Dorsner et al. 1502.07784

• Explicit model with  $L_{\mu}$ - $L_{\tau}$  symmetry & connection to B-physics anomalies

Crivellin, D'Ambrosio, Heeck, 1503.03477, 1501.00993



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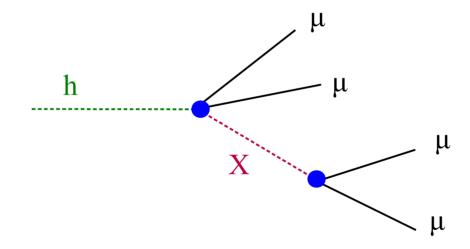
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#### Main (long-term) messages:

- Bottom-up (data driven) field
- Worth to improve the precision on h → τμ, τe as much as possible (different model-building possibilities opens up at different BR levels)

*Light exotic states in*  $h \rightarrow 4l$ 

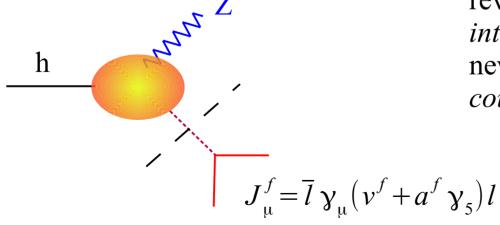


# Light states in $h \rightarrow 4l$ decays

ATLAS and CMS have reported results about the  $h \rightarrow ZZ^*$  couplings

However, what has been observed in the experiments are the  $h \rightarrow 4l$  decays ( $l=e,\mu$ ). With suitable cuts is possible to isolate the  $h \rightarrow Z+ll$  amplitude but, in general,

$$A(h \rightarrow Z + ll) \neq A(h \rightarrow ZZ^*)$$



$$(2m_l)^2 < q^2 < (m_h - m_V)^2$$

The "off-shellness" of the second lepton pair allows to probe a <u>richer dynamical</u> <u>structure:</u>

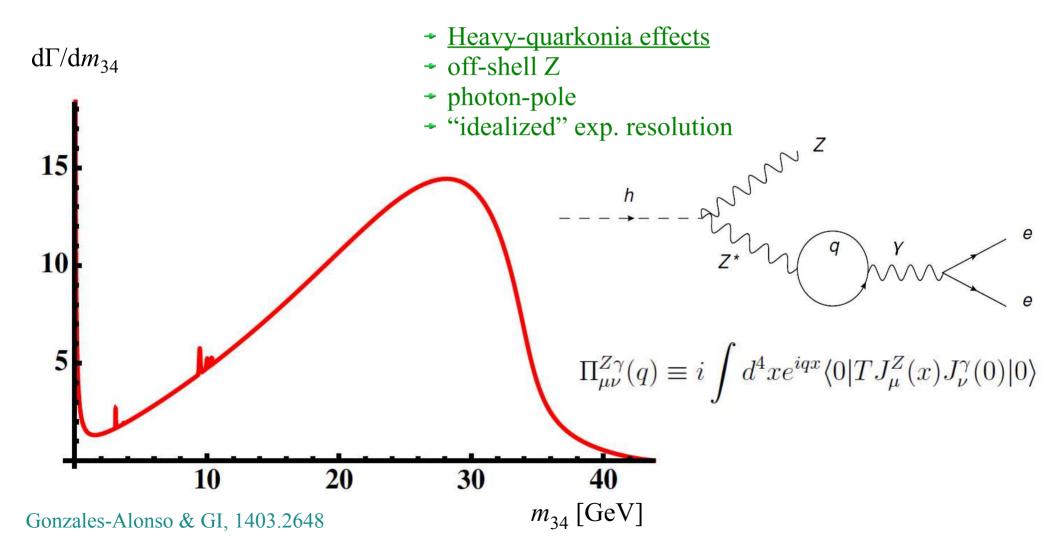
- We are far enough from the pole of the amplitude at  $q^2 = m_Z^2$  (dominant pole within the SM)
- Measuring the  $q^2$  dependence we could reveal new "distant poles" ( $\leftrightarrow$  contact interactions in EFT) or even new "light poles" ( $\leftrightarrow$  new light states coupled to h & fermions)

GI, Manohar, Trott, 1305.0663

Curtin *et al.* 1312.4992,
Falkowski, Vega-Morales, 1405.1095
R. Dermisek, Raval, Shin, 1406.7018
Y. Chen *et al.* 1503.0585
M. Gonzalez-Alonso *et al.* 1504.04018, ...

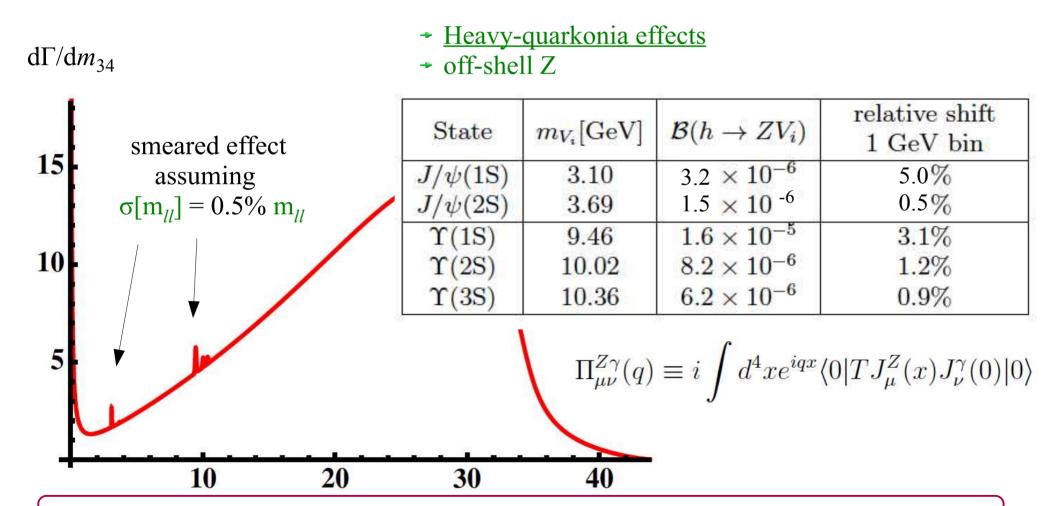
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The  $d\Gamma/dm_{34}$  spectrum ( $m_{34} = \sqrt{q^2}$  = lightest invariant mass pair) is the most interesting distribution to identify possible <u>light-poles</u>  $\rightarrow$  *very precise SM distribution*, even at low  $m_{34}$ , including charmonium/bottomonium states:



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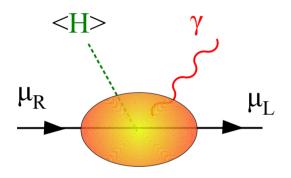
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SM resonance effects are small & under good th. control  $\rightarrow$  we can probe NP...

# - <u>Specific NP examples motivated by the</u> (g-2)<sub>u</sub> <u>anomaly</u>

Since a long time the experimental determination of  $a_{\mu} = (g-2)_{\mu}$  is <u>not</u> in good agreement with the SM prediction:

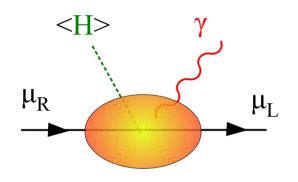


$$\Delta a_{\mu} \equiv a_{\mu}^{\text{exp}} - a_{\mu}^{\text{th}} = (2.9 \pm 0.9) \times 10^{-9}$$

The discrepancy is not extremely significant (~3σ), but has survived a long list of scrutinies...

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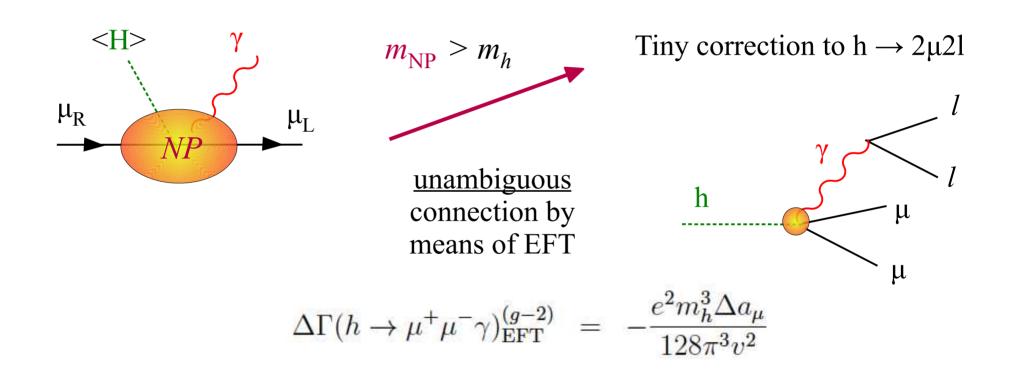
Solving the  $(g-2)_{\mu}$  anomaly in terms of NP, requires the introduction of some new (*light or heavy...*) states <u>coupled to muons</u>.



In all cases there is a <u>natural connection</u> between NP effects in  $(g-2)_{\mu}$  and  $h \rightarrow 4l$ 

# - Specific NP examples motivated by the (g-2)<sub>u</sub> anomaly

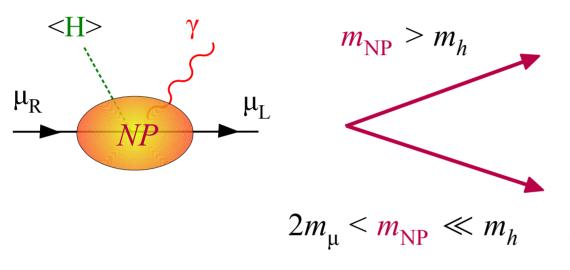
There is a <u>natural connection</u> between NP effects in  $(g-2)_{\mu}$  and  $h \rightarrow 4l$ 



 $O(10^{-4})$  correction with respect to BR(h  $\rightarrow 2\mu\gamma$ )<sub>SM</sub> unmeasurable even in the HL phase of LHC

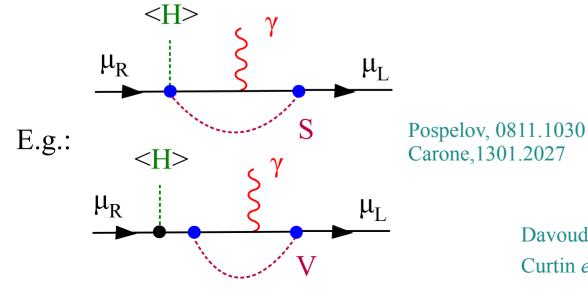
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Tiny correction to  $h \rightarrow 2\mu 21$ 

Possible "visible" non-standard peak in the  $h \rightarrow 4\mu$  distribution



h X=S,V  $\mu$ 

Davoudials, Lee, Marciano, 1203.2947, 1304.4935 Curtin *et al.* 1312.4992, Gonzales-Alonso & GI, 1403.2648 - Specific NP examples motivated by the (g-2)<sub>u</sub> anomaly

A "minimalistic & concrete" set-up [minimum set of free parameters]:

- One light SU(2)<sub>1</sub>-singlet scalar field, φ
- One effective coupling  $c_{\mu}/\Lambda \to \text{Two parameter model } (c_{\mu}/\Lambda \text{ and } m_{\phi})$ :

$$\mathscr{L}_{\text{eff}} = \mathscr{L}_{\text{kin}}(\phi) + \left(\frac{c_{\mu}}{\Lambda} \overline{\mu}_{L} \mu_{R} H \phi + \text{h.c.}\right)$$

This  $\mathcal{L}_{eff}$  can be generated, for instance, introducing an heavy vector-like  $\mu$ -partner



• The ratio of the two free parameters is the fixed by  $(g-2)_{\mu}$  anomaly:

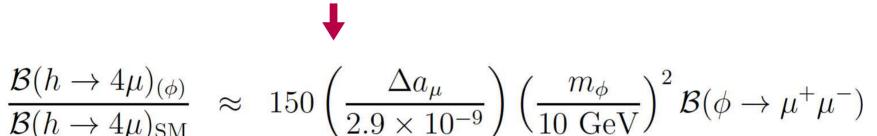
$$\Delta a_{\mu} = \frac{|\mathbf{c}_{\mu}|^2}{96\pi^2} \frac{v^2}{\Lambda^2} \frac{m_{\mu}^2}{m_{\phi}^2} \approx 6.4 \times 10^{-9} \left| \frac{\mathbf{c}_{\mu}/\Lambda}{(1 \text{ TeV})^{-1}} \right|^2 \left| \frac{10 \text{ GeV}}{m_{\phi}} \right|^2$$

• For  $m_{\phi} \gtrsim 1$  GeV the model is consistent with all known bounds.

- Specific NP examples motivated by the (g-2)<sub>u</sub> anomaly

A "minimalistic & concrete" set-up [minimum set of free parameters]:

- One light SU(2)<sub>1</sub> -singlet scalar field,  $\phi$
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#### A potential huge effect!

Already ruled out by present data...

...unless BR ( $\phi \rightarrow \mu\mu$ ) << 1  $\rightarrow$  quite possible if there are additional (invisible) decay modes of  $\phi$  (v's, DM states, etc...).

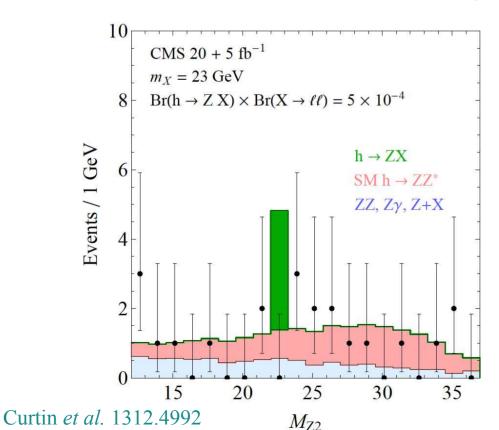
## → <u>Specific NP examples motivated by the</u> (g-2)<sub>u</sub> <u>anomaly</u>

Going beyond this minimal set-up, we can state that

- if the h  $\rightarrow$  X+µµ on-shell decay is kinematically allowed
- if we fix the couplings of the X particle to have an impact on  $(g-2)_{u}$



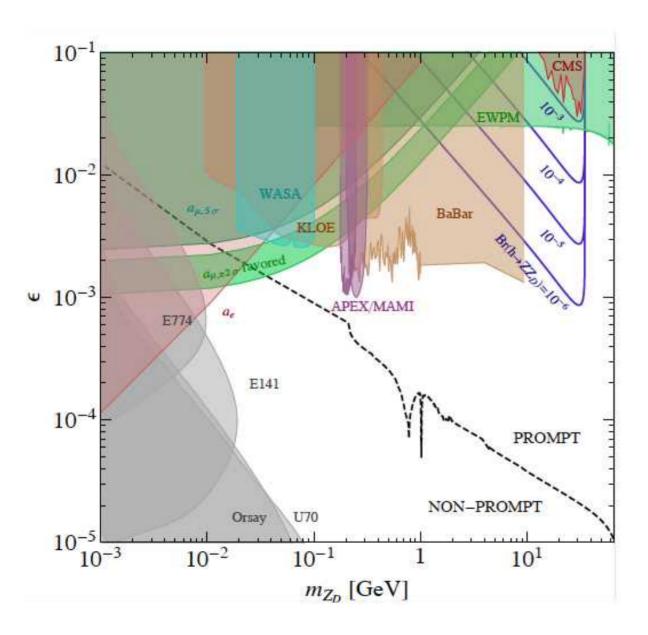
- Not difficult to satisfy all existing constraints, especially for  $m_X \sim \text{few GeV}$
- Sizable <u>local</u> deviations in  $h \rightarrow 4\mu$  naturally expected



N.B.: In models addressing  $(g-2)_{\mu}$ X is narrow and short-lived (not necessarily true in general)

N.B.: The <u>light mass region</u>  $(1 \text{ GeV} \leq m_X \leq 10 \text{ GeV})$  is particularly motivated from the theoretical point of view ("dark-Z" models...)

# - <u>Specific NP examples motivated by the</u> (g-2)<sub>u</sub> <u>anomaly</u>

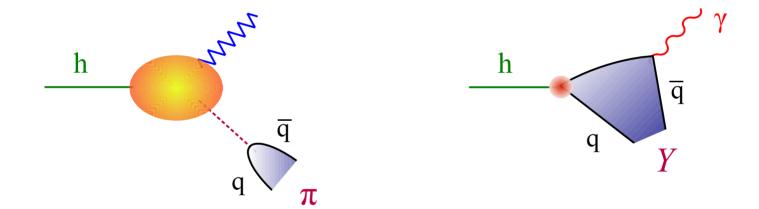


In the minimal "dark-Z" models [new U(1) & pure kinetic mixing with U(1)<sub>Y</sub>] the region relevant for (g-2)<sub>u</sub> is already ruled-out.

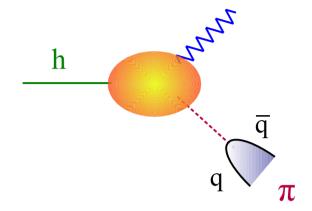
But it is easy to construct less minimal models [e.g. charging muons & not electrons under the new U(1)] where the region probed in  $h \rightarrow 4\mu$  is relevant for  $(g-2)_{\mu}$ 

J. Shelton, talk at "Unlocking the Higgs Portal" (May, 2014)

Rare exclusive semi-hadronic Higgs decays



Rare  $h \rightarrow VP$  decays, where P is a single hadron state (*pseudo-scalar* or *vector-meson*) and V=Z,W are a very interesting probe of the vacuum-structure of the theory

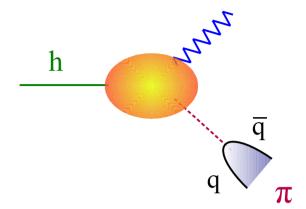


$$A^{\rm SM} \propto \frac{f_P}{{
m v}}$$

GI, Manohar, Trott, 1305.0663

- Amplitude proportional to the ratio of the two order parameters controlling the SU(2)<sub>L</sub> breaking within the SM
- Pristine (unique) probe of the higgs-Goldstone-gauge coupling

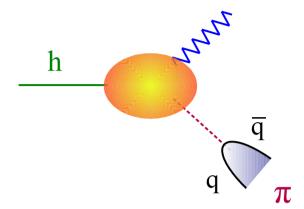
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• BRs calculable with high precision within the SM:

- Within SM, dominated by the tree-level amplitude  $[D_{\mu}H^{+}D_{\mu}H]$ , except when suppressed [e.g.: sizable contrib. from  $h \to \gamma^{*}Z$  in  $h \to \psi Z$ ]
- Possible sizable modification BSM, in presence of non standard couplings of h to fermion currents (V and A currents)

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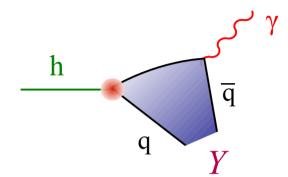


BRs calculable with high precision within the SM:

$$\begin{array}{c} B(h \to Z \ \Upsilon)_{SM} = 1.6 \times 10^{-5} \\ B(h \to Z \ \eta_c)_{SM} = 1.4 \times 10^{-5} \\ B(h \to Z \ \psi \ )_{SM} = 3.2 \times 10^{-6} \\ B(h \to W^- \ D_s)_{SM} = 2.1 \times 10^{-5} \\ B(h \to W^- \ \rho \ )_{SM} = 0.8 \times 10^{-5} \\ B(h \to W^- \ \pi \ )_{SM} = 0.6 \times 10^{-5} \\ B(h \to W^- \ \pi \ )_{SM} = 0.6 \times 10^{-5} \\ \end{array}$$

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Radiative modes of the type  $h \rightarrow \gamma Y$  where Y is a quarkonium state have similar/complementary properties:



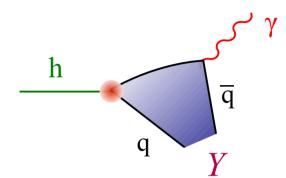
• SM calculation more involved due to non-negligible contribution from hqq (Yukawa) couplings, but still under good th. Control

Bodwin, Petriello, Sonyev, Velasco,1306.5770 Kagan *et al.* 1406.1722

• Destructive interference between  $h \to \gamma + (Z,\gamma)^*$  and Yukawa contributions  $\to$  potential sensitive probe of modified Yukawa couplings

$$B(h \rightarrow \gamma \psi)_{SM} = (2.5 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-6} \qquad B(h \rightarrow \gamma \Upsilon)_{SM} \sim 10^{-8}$$
 (maximal destr. interf.  $\rightarrow$  good SM null test!)

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Caveat: BSM effects may not come only from modified Yukawas (e.g. modified coupl. to fermion currents,  $h \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ , ...)

Beside these modes, for which we may hope to reach the SM signal, there is a long list of forbidden or more suppressed modes that would provide useful bounds on possible exotic couplings of the Higgs to fermion currents.

Worth to search for all the two-body modes of the type  $h \to \{Z_{\text{leptonic}}, W_{\text{leptonic}}, \gamma\} + Mesons$ 

- Good templates for (even more) exotic searches
- → Part of a more extensive program of "exclusive hadronic tags" for the e.w. gauge boson in view of the HL-LHC program [Mangano & Melia, 1410.7475; Grossman, König, Neubert, 1501.06569]

#### <u>Conclusions</u>

#### We need to search for New Physics

[with a broad spectrum perspective given the lack of NP signal so far...]



Exploration of the Higgs properties with "minimal theoretical bias"...



#### Rare Higgs decays

[those discussed in this talk + many more...]
provide a unique opportunity in this respect:
unexplored windows toward a large class of NP models



| VP mode     | $\mathcal{B}^{	ext{SM}}$ | $VP^*$ mode   | $\mathcal{B}^{	ext{SM}}$ |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| $W^-\pi^+$  | $0.6 \times 10^{-5}$     | $W^-\rho^+$   | $0.8 \times 10^{-5}$     |
| $W^-K^+$    | $0.4 \times 10^{-6}$     | $Z^0\phi$     | $2.2 \times 10^{-6}$     |
| $Z^0\pi^0$  | $0.3 \times 10^{-5}$     | $Z^0 ho^0$    | $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$     |
| $W^-D_s^+$  | $2.1 \times 10^{-5}$     | $W^-D_s^{*+}$ | $3.5 \times 10^{-5}$     |
| $W^-D^+$    | $0.7 \times 10^{-6}$     | $W^-D^{*+}$   | $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$     |
| $Z^0\eta_c$ | $1.4 \times 10^{-5}$     | o# 1          |                          |

GI, Manohar, Trott, 1305.0663

| Resonance      | $\mathcal{B}(h \to ZV)$ |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| $J/\Psi(1S)$   | $3.2 \times 10^{-6}$    |
| $\Psi(2S)$     | $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$    |
| $\Upsilon(1S)$ | $1.7 \times 10^{-5}$    |
| $\Upsilon(2S)$ | $8.9 \times 10^{-6}$    |
| $\Upsilon(3S)$ | $6.7 \times 10^{-6}$    |

$$\begin{split} \frac{\text{BR}_{h \to \phi \gamma}}{\text{BR}_{h \to b\bar{b}}} &= \frac{\kappa_{\gamma} \left[ \left( 3.0 \pm 0.13 \right) \kappa_{\gamma} - 0.78 \bar{\kappa}_{s} \right] \cdot 10^{-6}}{0.57 \bar{\kappa}_{b}^{2}}, \\ \frac{\text{BR}_{h \to \rho \gamma}}{\text{BR}_{h \to b\bar{b}}} &= \frac{\kappa_{\gamma} \left[ \left( 1.9 \pm 0.15 \right) \kappa_{\gamma} - 0.24 \bar{\kappa}_{u} - 0.12 \bar{\kappa}_{d} \right] \cdot 10^{-5}}{0.57 \bar{\kappa}_{b}^{2}} \\ \frac{\text{BR}_{h \to \omega \gamma}}{\text{BR}_{h \to b\bar{b}}} &= \frac{\kappa_{\gamma} \left[ \left( 1.6 \pm 0.17 \right) \kappa_{\gamma} - 0.59 \bar{\kappa}_{u} - 0.29 \bar{\kappa}_{d} \right] \cdot 10^{-6}}{0.57 \bar{\kappa}_{b}^{2}} \end{split}$$