



# On-shell Interference Effect of the SM Higgs

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HXSWG Offshell Meeting: Off-shell/interference-enabled BSM/EFT studies

May. 24<sup>th</sup> , 2018

# Back to the basics of interference

$$A_{sig} = c_{sig} \frac{\hat{s}}{\hat{s} - m^2 + i \Gamma m} = c_{sig} P(\hat{s})$$

$$A_{bkg} = c_{bkg} \text{ (slowly varying function of } \hat{s})$$

$$\begin{aligned} |A|^2 &= |A_{sig} + A_{bkg}|^2 = |A_{sig}|^2 + |A_{bkg}|^2 + 2\text{Re}[A_{sig}A_{bkg}^*] \\ &= B.W. + BKG + 2\text{Re}[c_{sig}c_{bkg}^*] \text{Re}[P(\hat{s})] + 2\text{Im}[c_{sig}c_{bkg}^*] \text{Im}[P(\hat{s})] \end{aligned}$$

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Background real

Re. Int.– Interference from the real part of the propagator

- normal interference, parton level no contribution to the rate, shift the mass peak
- When convoluting with PDF, may generate residual contribution to signal rate;
- conventional wisdom, interference only important when width is large)

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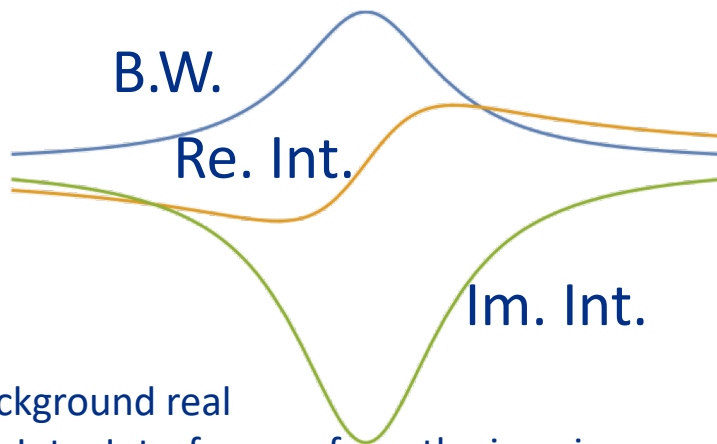
Interesting example of learning J/Psi spin

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Background real

Im. Int.– Interference from the imaginary part of propagator

- rare case (at LO);
- changes signal rate;
- cannot be dropped even if the width is narrow\*

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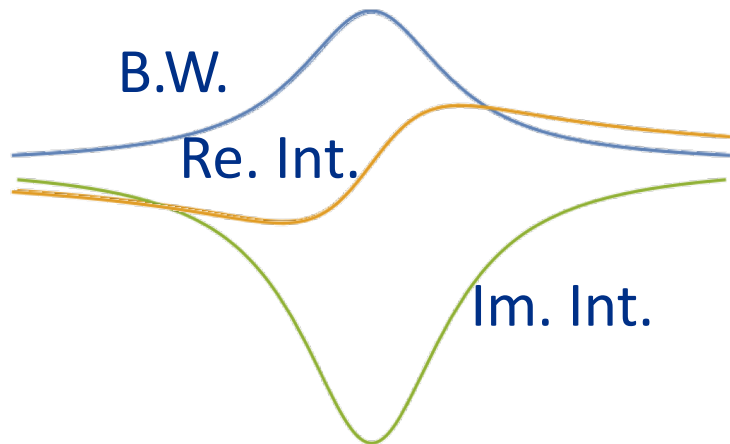
\*the measure of interference/resonance do not decrease, as the size of signal amplitude decrease as well

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$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Im}[c_{sig}c_{bkg}^*] \\ &= i |c_{sig}| |c_{bkg}^*| \sin(\delta_{sig} - \delta_{bkg}) \end{aligned}$$

When **phase**  $\delta_{sig} - \delta_{bkg}$  is non-zero, this new interference effect exists and cannot be neglected however narrow the resonance is!

# Strong phases

- Any “physical phases”, the relative phase between the two interfering amplitudes would give rise to such special interference effect.
- We’ve exploited the physical consequences of such phase in many other places:
  1. Leptogenesis
  2. Hadron physicsBoth use strong phase to map out CPV effect

Using the hadron physics terminology:

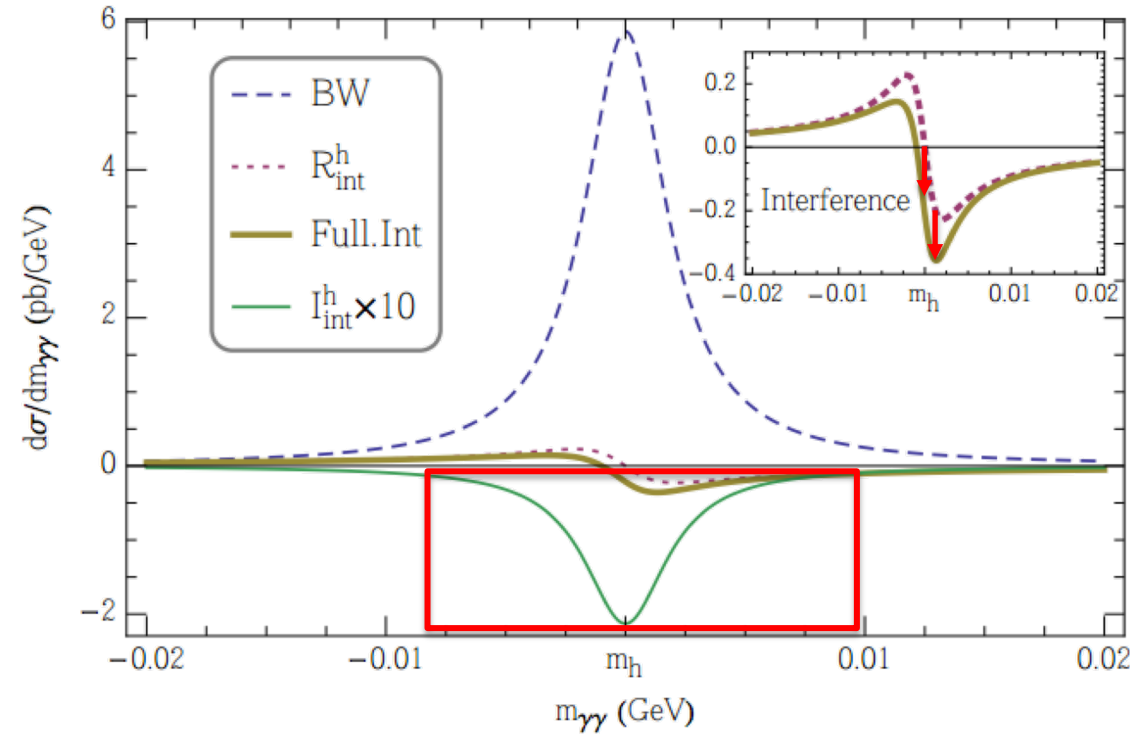
- Weak phase (=CP phase, phase flip signs under CP)
- Strong phase (phase remains the same under CP; usually comes from loops, e.g., strong dynamics)

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# Higgs Interference

$gg \rightarrow h(125 \text{ GeV}) \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$



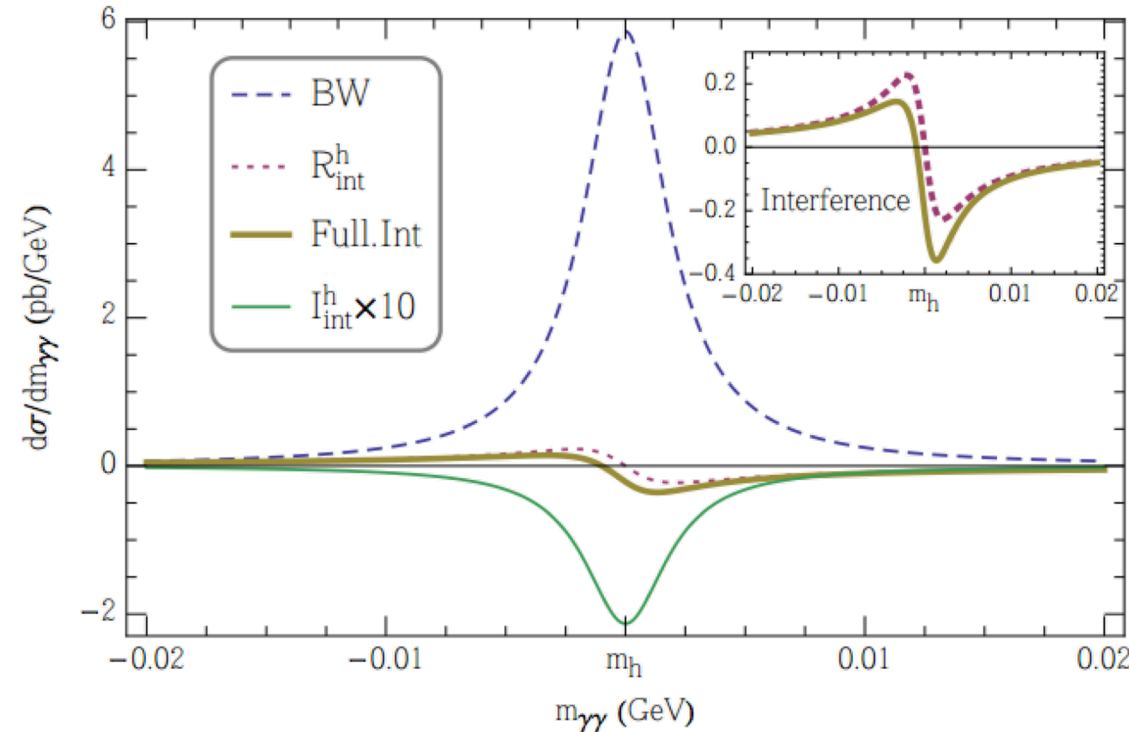
Averaging over helicity amplitudes and polar angles, one can calculate this new interference piece between signal and background:

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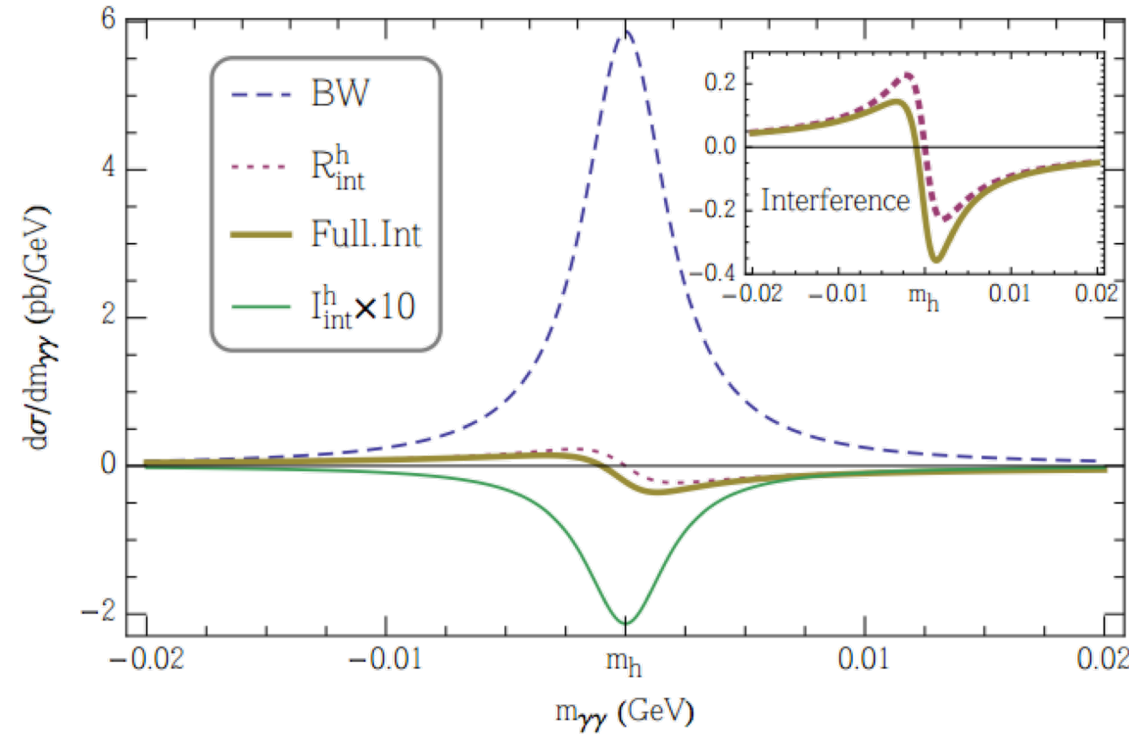
| Production           | Resolved scaling factor  |
|----------------------|--|
| $\sigma(ggF)$        | $1.06 \cdot \kappa_t^2 + 0.01 \cdot \kappa_b^2 - 0.07 \cdot \kappa_t \kappa_b$ |
| $\sigma(\text{VBF})$ | $0.74 \cdot \kappa_W^2 + 0.26 \cdot \kappa_Z^2$                                |
| $\sigma(\text{WH})$  | $\kappa_W^2$ ATLAS and CMS legacy combination paper, JHEP                      |

- The size of this effect is relevant
- This effect cannot be factorized into production times decay branching fractions, the framework fails to capture this;



# Higgs Interference

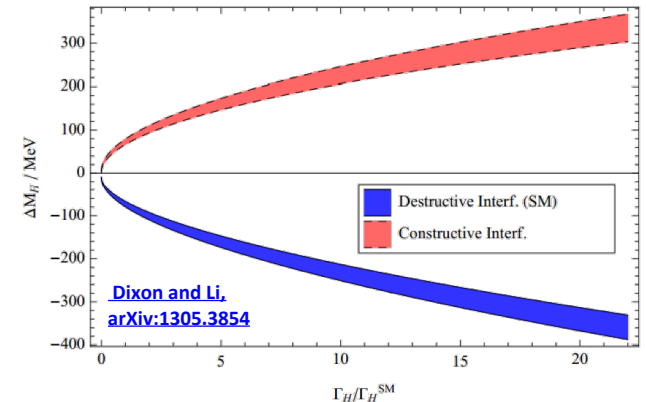
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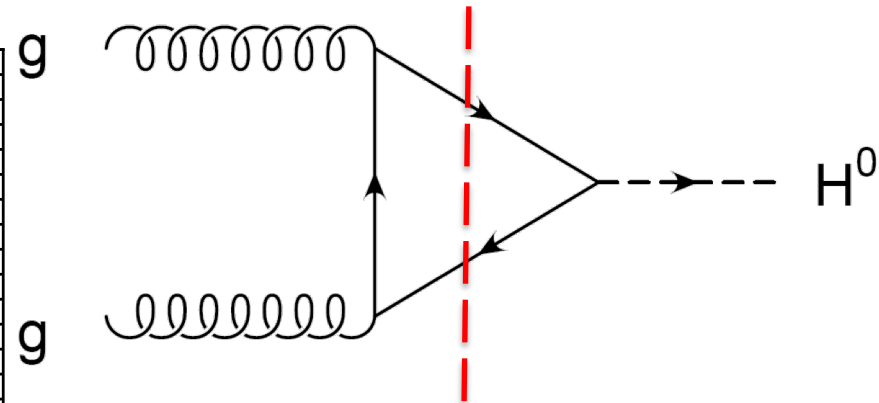
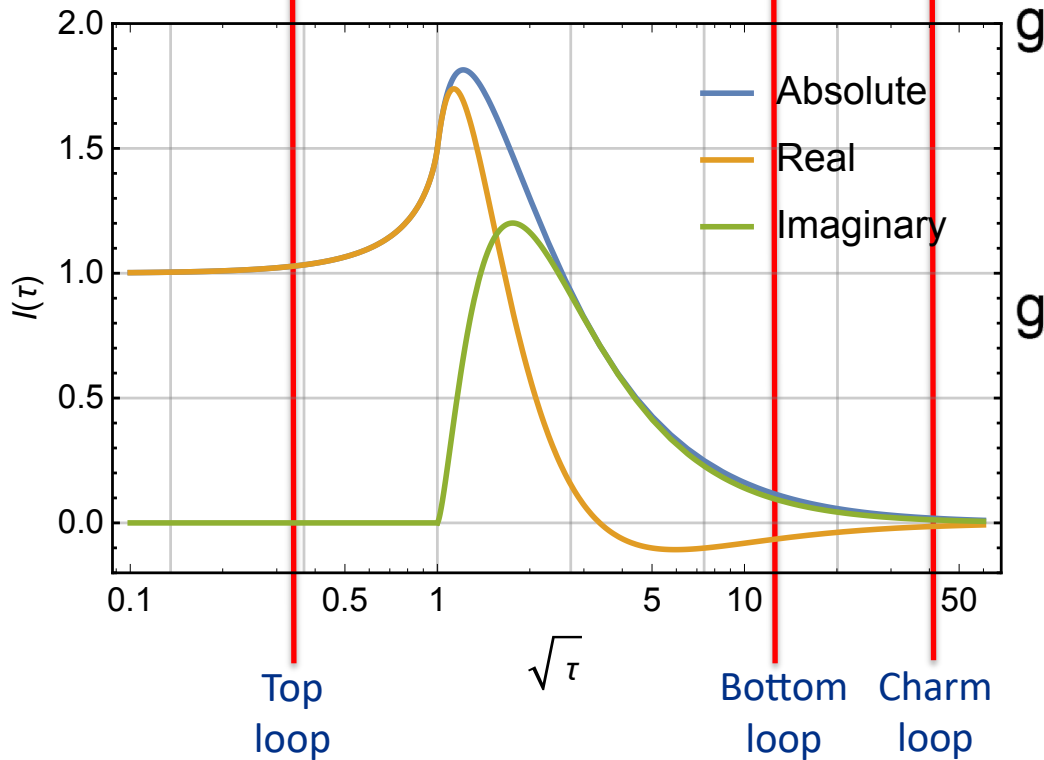
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# Strong Phase in SM Higgs



- All quark contributions normalized the same way, the plot represents the relative contributions
- Numerically:
  - t-loop  $+1.034$
  - b-loop  $-0.035 + 0.039i$
  - c-loop  $-0.004 + 0.002i$

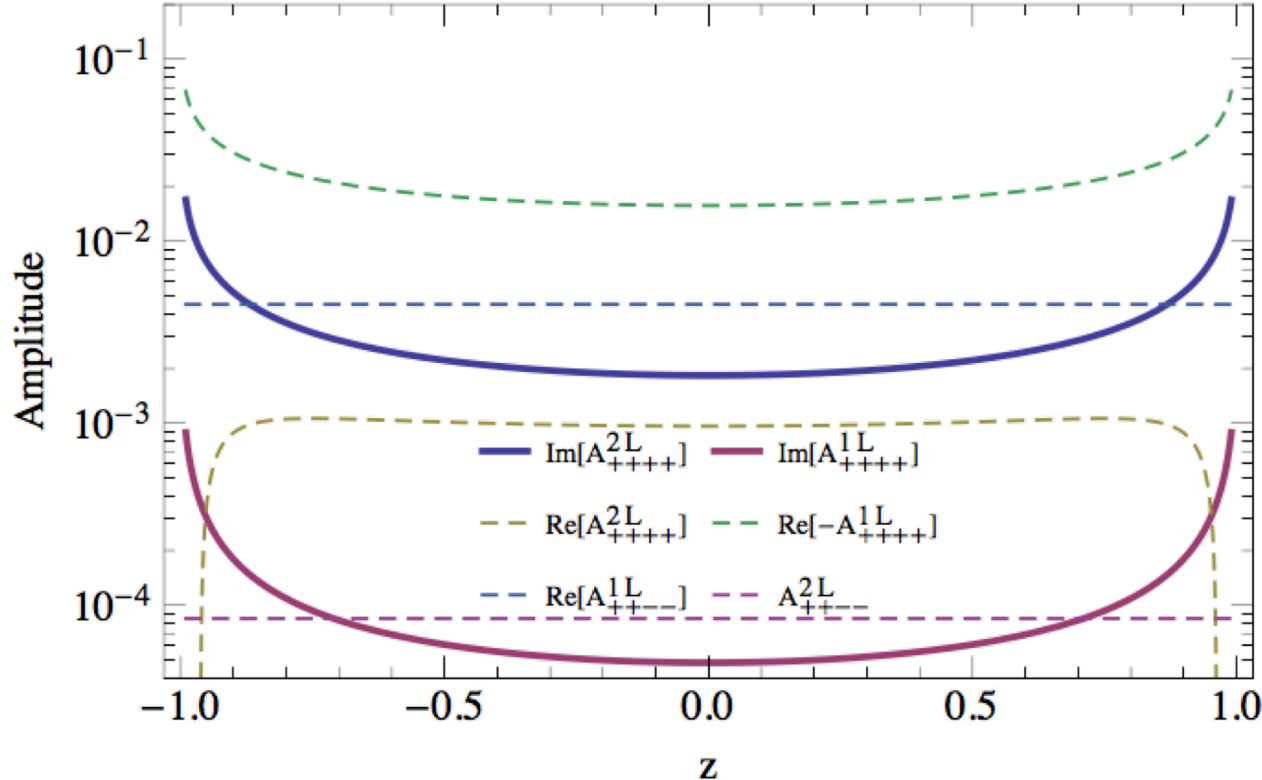
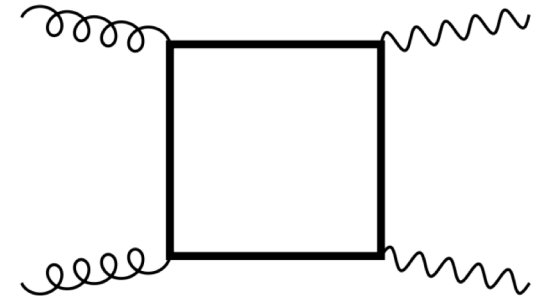
A strong phase in the gluon-gluon fusion production at hadron colliders (imaginary part)

Phase in gluon-gluon-fusion **0.042**

# Phase from interfering background

Interfering background are from SM box diagram of  $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

The overall sizes of different helicity amplitudes are

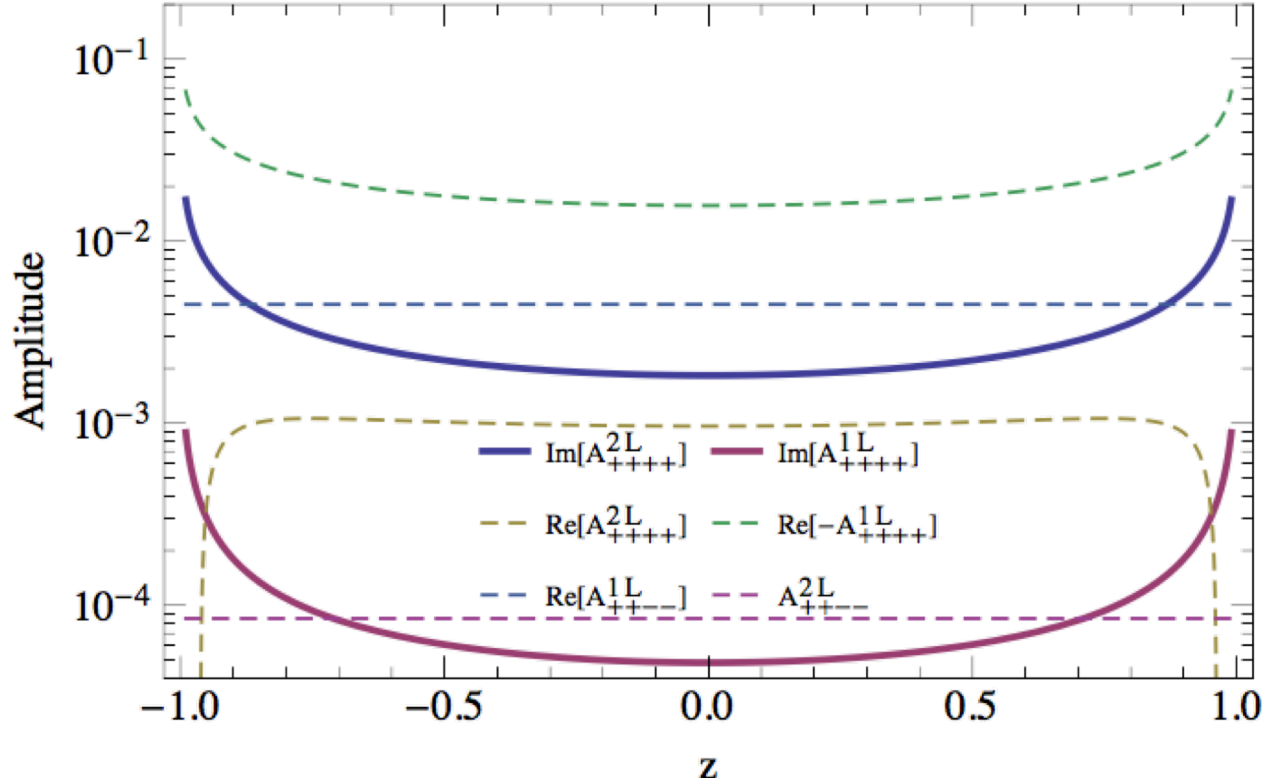
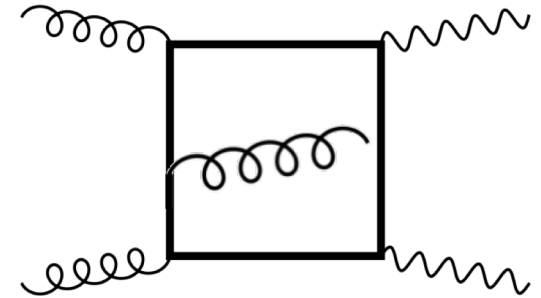


- $A_{++++} = A_{----}$  dominants,  $A_{+--+} = A_{--++}$  much smaller
- Light quark dominants
- Angular dependence

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There is also a strong phase in the background:

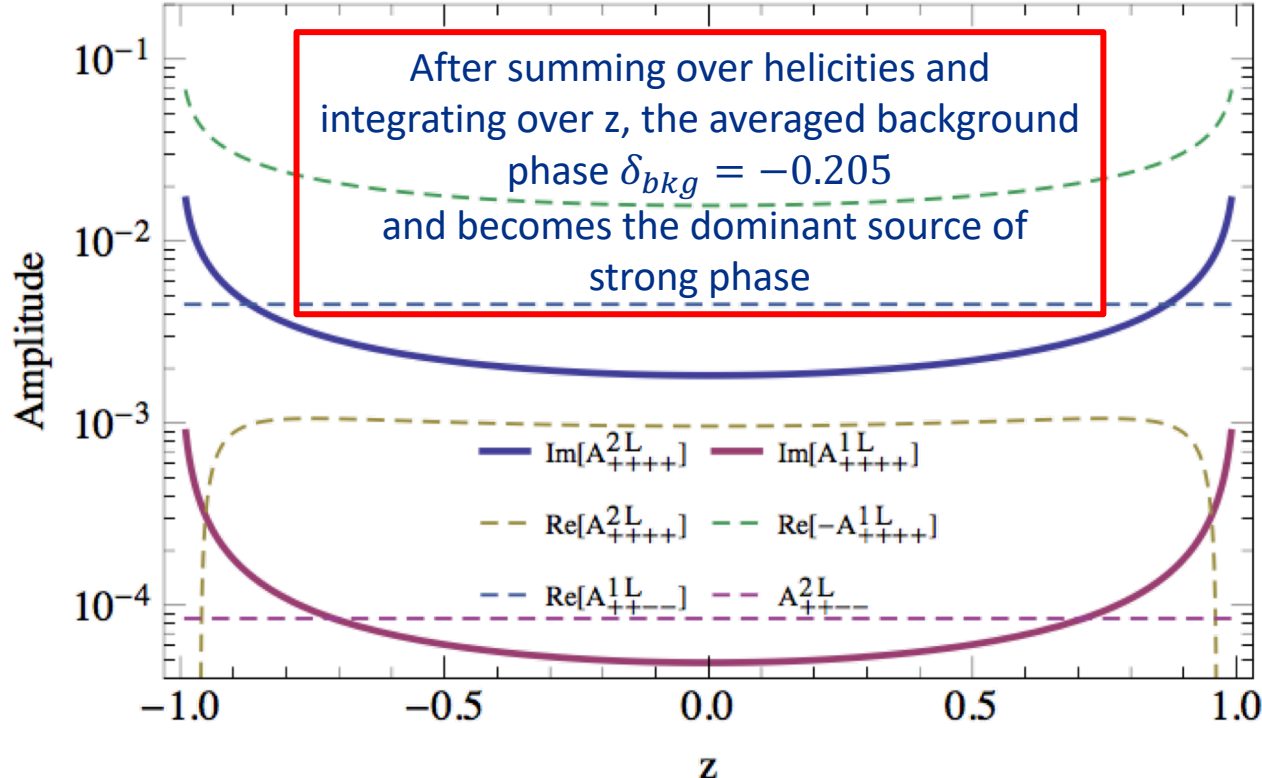
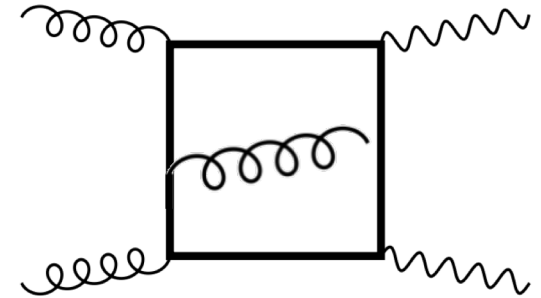


- Angular dependence
- a smaller but negative phase w.r.t to the signal
- At 1-loop, the imaginary part is mainly from  $A_{++++} = A_{----}$  with bottom and charm contributions
- Imaginary part dominated by the 2-loop MHV amplitude.

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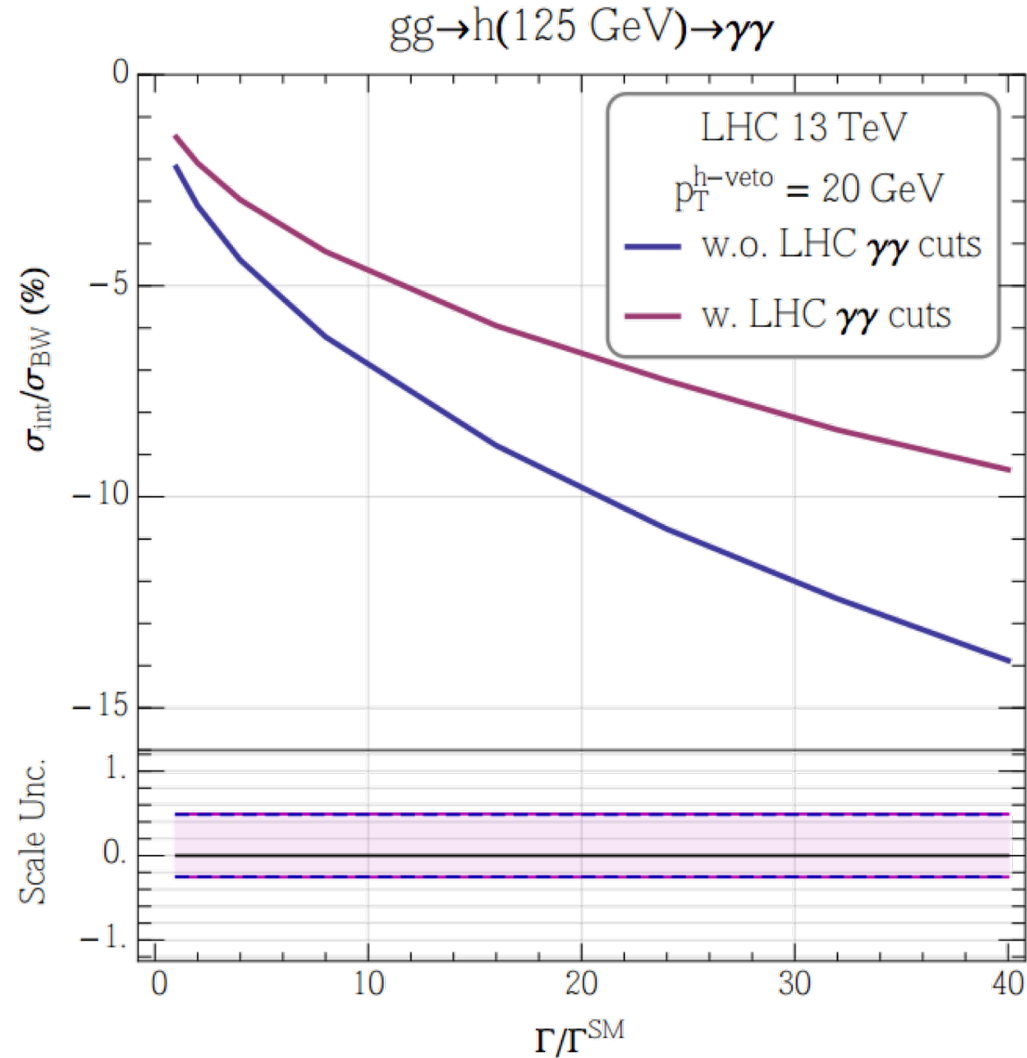
# Strong phase and Higgs $gg \rightarrow h \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ (BSM)

This rate change as a new probe of Higgs total width

$$\sigma(gg \rightarrow h \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$$

$$\propto \frac{g_{ggh}^2 g_{\gamma\gamma h}^2}{\Gamma_{tot}} - (\sim 2. \%) g_{ggh} g_{\gamma\gamma h}$$

- Unique piece that does not depend on total width;
- Similar to off-shell ZZ measurement;
- Negligible dependence on coupling at different scales.

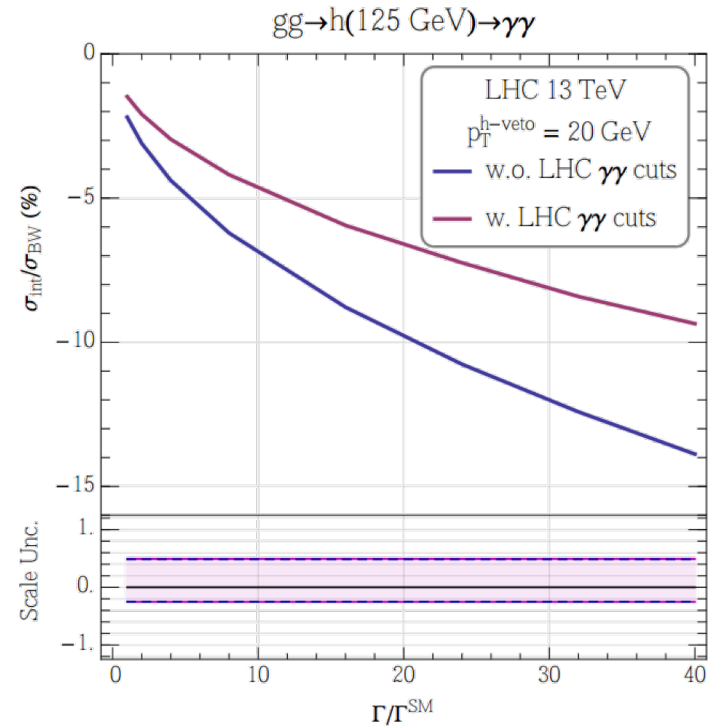


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Suppose the extreme nightmare case of all observed Higgs couplings increase by factor  $f$ , and Higgs total width by factor  $f^4$ .

All on-shell cross sections remains the same as SM predictions.

However, the process  $gg \rightarrow h \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  will be altered by

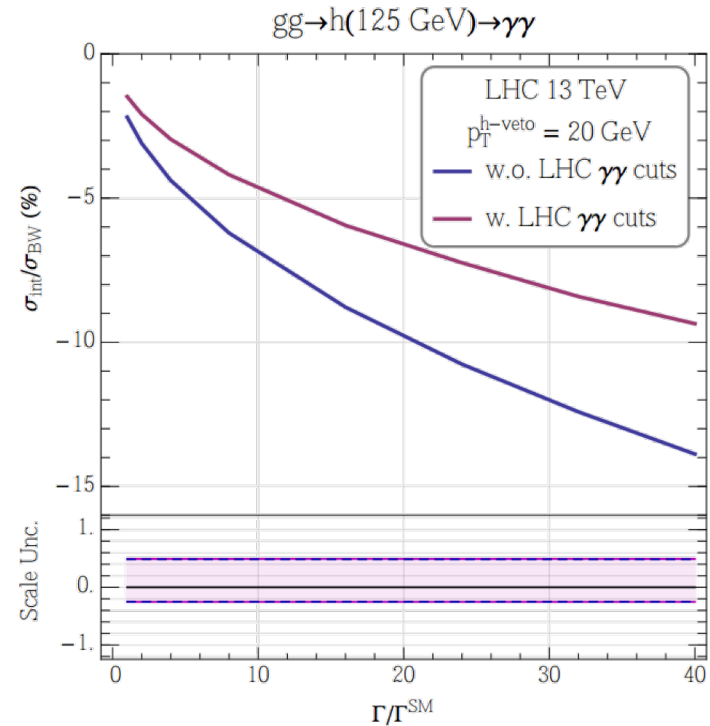
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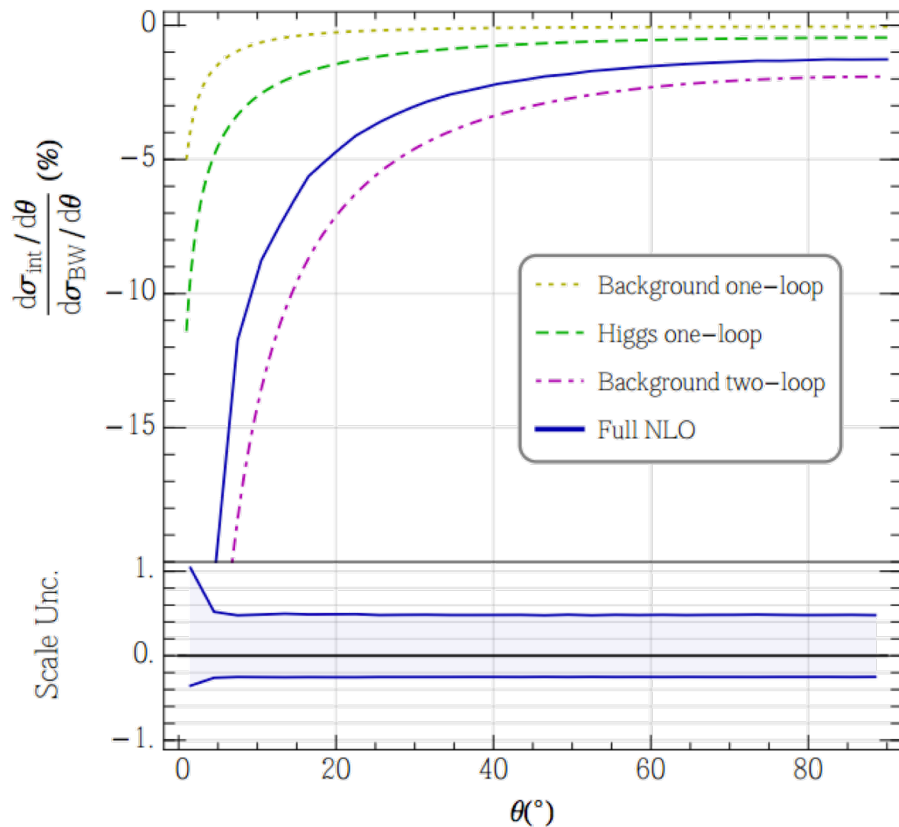
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Suppose HL-LHC will measure this effect (e.g., the ratio of  $\sigma_{\gamma\gamma}/\sigma_{4l}$ ) to 4%, it will constraint Higgs total width to  $\sim 13$  times SM value



# Kinematic features of the interference effect

$gg \rightarrow h(125 \text{ GeV}) \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$



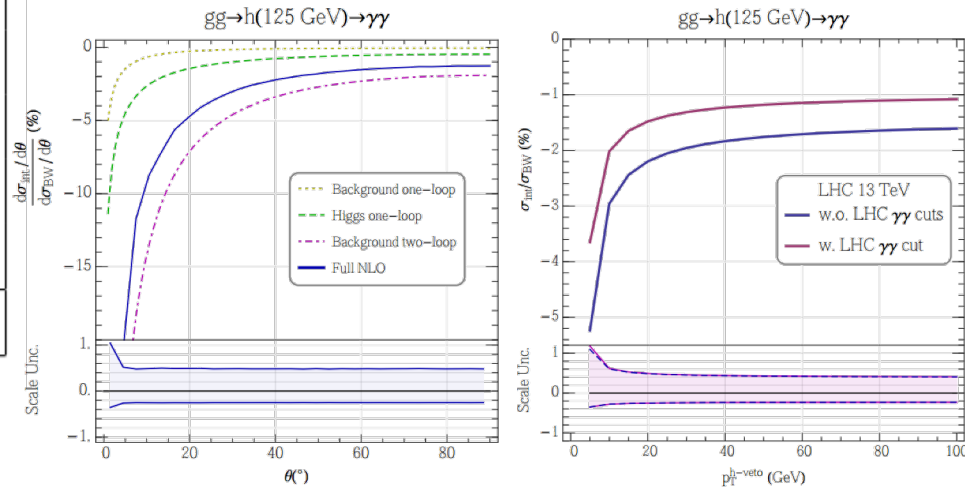
## Angular distribution:

- Interference effects larger in the forward direction, driven by background amplitude kinematics;
- Interference effects  $\sim 0.5\%$  at LO
- Interference effects increases to  $\sim 2\%$  at NLO, driven by the 2-loop MHV amplitude's large imaginary part
- Fully inclusive cross section has larger B.W. cross section while the interference effect does not increase much, resulting in a smaller relative correction.

# Kinematic features of the interference effect

| cos θ   | $-\sigma_{\text{int}}/\sigma_{\text{BW}}$ (%) |                        |                          |
|---------|---|------------------------|--------------------------|
|         | no cuts                                       | $p_T^h$ veto           | $\gamma\gamma$ cuts+veto |
| 0.0–0.2 | $0.87^{+0.34}_{-0.20}$                        | $1.28^{+0.62}_{-0.32}$ | $1.34^{+0.68}_{-0.34}$   |
| 0.2–0.4 | $0.91^{+0.36}_{-0.21}$                        | $1.35^{+0.65}_{-0.34}$ | $1.41^{+0.72}_{-0.36}$   |
| 0.4–0.6 | $1.04^{+0.41}_{-0.24}$                        | $1.53^{+0.74}_{-0.38}$ | $1.62^{+0.83}_{-0.42}$   |
| 0.6–0.8 | $1.37^{+0.53}_{-0.31}$                        | $1.99^{+0.96}_{-0.50}$ | $1.65^{+0.75}_{-0.40}$   |
| 0.8–1.0 | $3.55^{+1.45}_{-0.82}$                        | $4.85^{+2.37}_{-1.23}$ | —                        |
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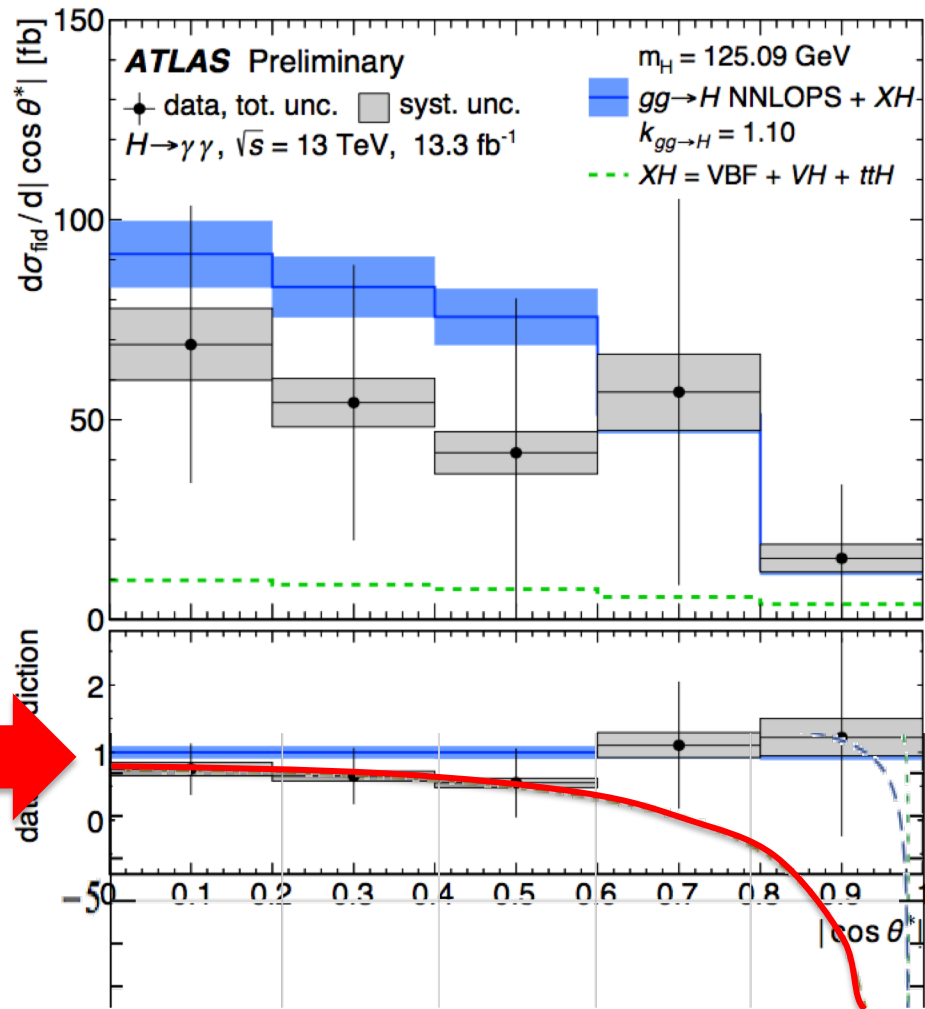
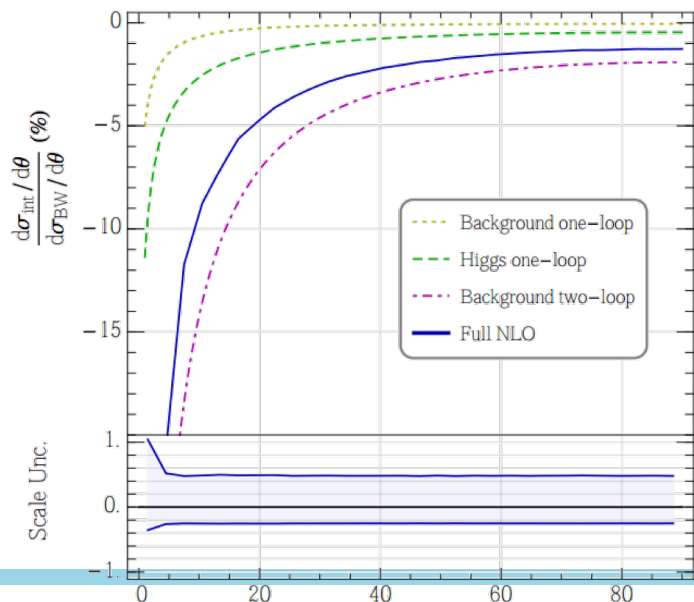
Differential distributions help map out the interference effect, and further the width information!



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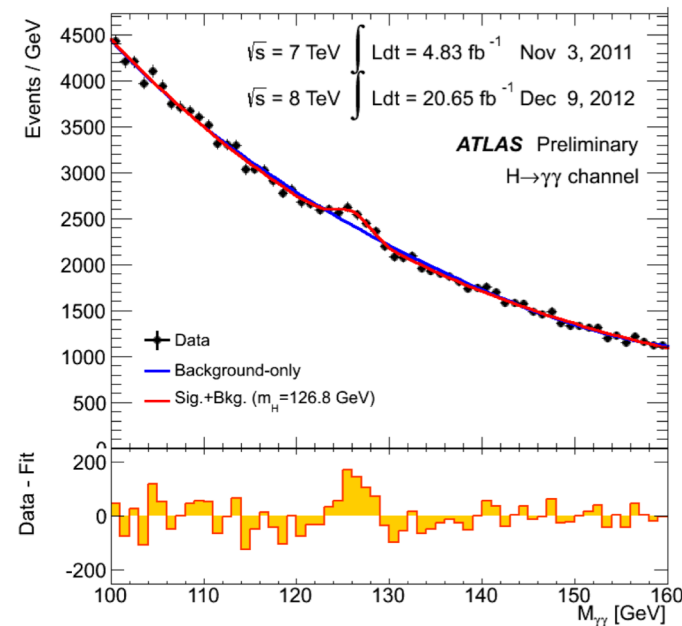
# Summary and outlook

We choose the  $gg \rightarrow h \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  as one example and found the inclusion of this strong phase reduce the signal rate by  $\sim 2\%$  (at NLO, need higher order calculation); an important ingredient should be included in **all** LHC Higgs precision programs (global fit, etc.).

This effect could be used as probes to BSM physics, providing information on

- Higgs light quark Yukawas
- **Higgs total width**
- CPV effect

There are interesting kinematical distributions for the process can be utilized to map out the interference effect.

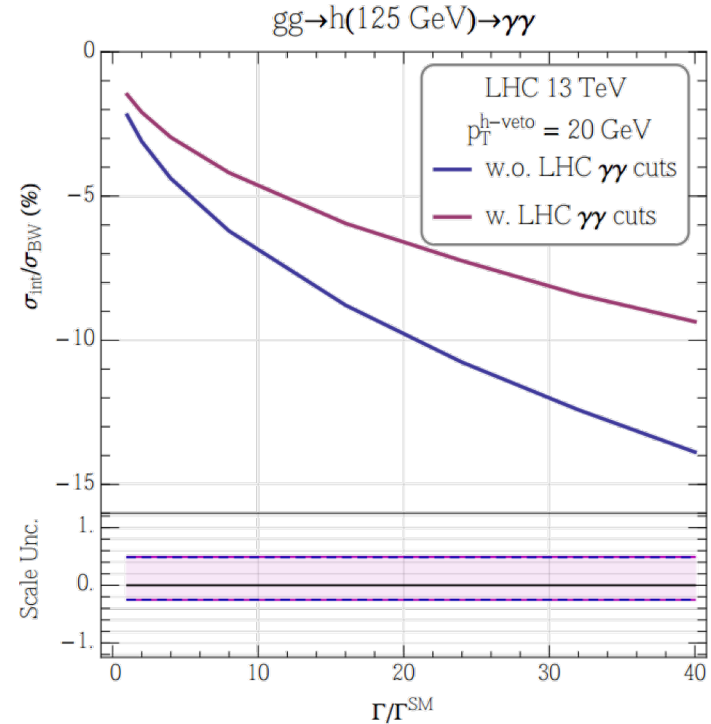


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Suppose HL-LHC will measure this effect (e.g., the ratio of  $\sigma_{\gamma\gamma}/\sigma_{4l}$ ) to 4%, it will constraint Higgs total width to  $\sim 13$  times SM value;

The FCC-hh will increase the precision by at least one order of magnitude, yielding a **3- $\sigma$**  measurement of the interference effect and bounding the Higgs width

$$0.5 < \Gamma/\Gamma_{SM} < 1.6$$

Tevatron+LHC  $m_{\text{top}}$  combination - March 2014,  $L_{\text{int}} = 3.5 \text{ fb}^{-1} - 8.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

ATLAS + CDF + CMS + D0 Preliminary

