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Search for triple Higgs boson production in the 6b final state at 13TeV with the ATLAS detector

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2024.12.22

Higgs Potential 2024



Run: 349592

Event: 793710422

2018-05-06 03:37:28 UTC

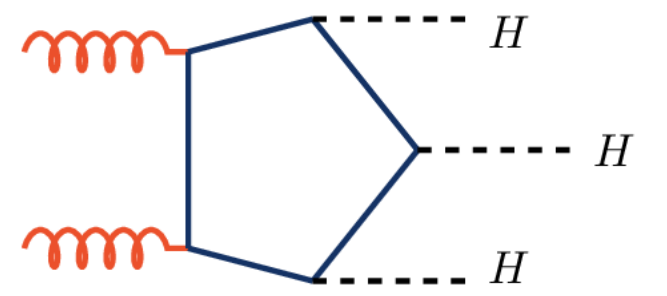
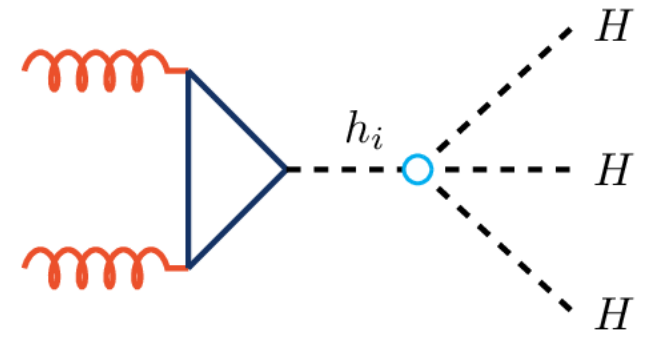
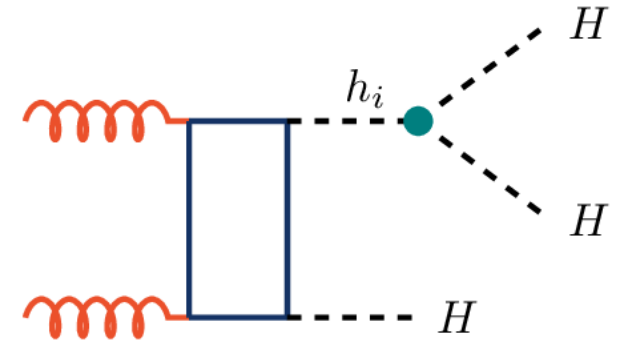
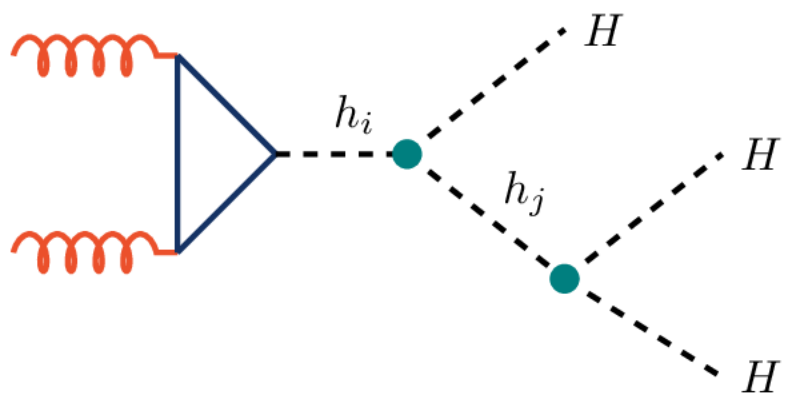
HHH → 6b



HIGGS POTENTIAL

$$V(H) = \frac{1}{2}m_H^2 H^2 + \lambda_3 v H^3 + \lambda_4 H^4 + O(H^5)$$

- SM tri-Higgs production is sensitive to tri-linear and quartic Higgs self-couplings (λ_3 & λ_4).
- Constrain modifications to SM coupling values (κ_3 & κ_4 - no experimental bounds before).
- Quartic couplings can only be accessed directly this way.
- Small SM tri-Higgs ggF production cross-section at $\sqrt{s}=13\text{TeV}$: $\sim 0.079\text{fb}$ at NNLO.
- Some BSM theories predict nontrivial tri-Higgs production.
- Rare process → 6b final state (large branching ratio: $H \rightarrow b\bar{b} \sim 58\%$).



[arXiv:2411.02040](https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.02040)

HHH production - BSM



- Two Real Singlet Model ([TRSM](#))

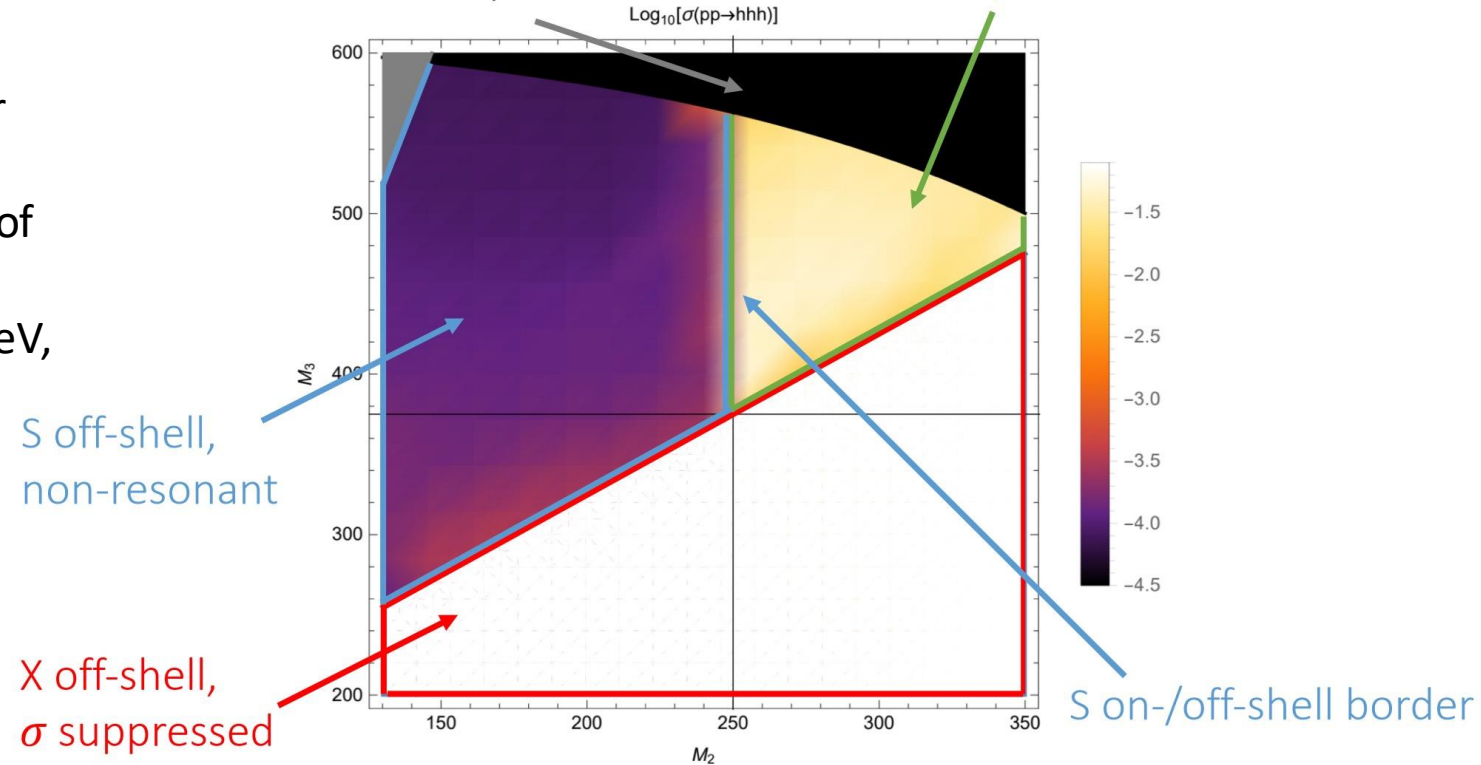
- Extending the SM by adding two real scalar bosons X and S .
- LO productions reach cross-section values of **up to $\sim 50fb$** .
- Mass ranges: $m_X > m_S$, $325 < m_X < 575$ GeV, $200 < m_S < 350$ GeV (fulfill perturbative unitarity bounds).
- Resonant + non-resonant, all LO ggF production modes (BSM + SM).

- Simple model for dark matter and CP violation ([DM-CPV](#))

- Dark matter is vector-like dark fermion.
- Interacting with SM through scalars similar as the scalars in TRSM.
- **Negligible differences** are found in the HHH event **kinematics between the TRSM and DM-CPV models**.

Perturbative unitarity violated

S on-shell, resonant



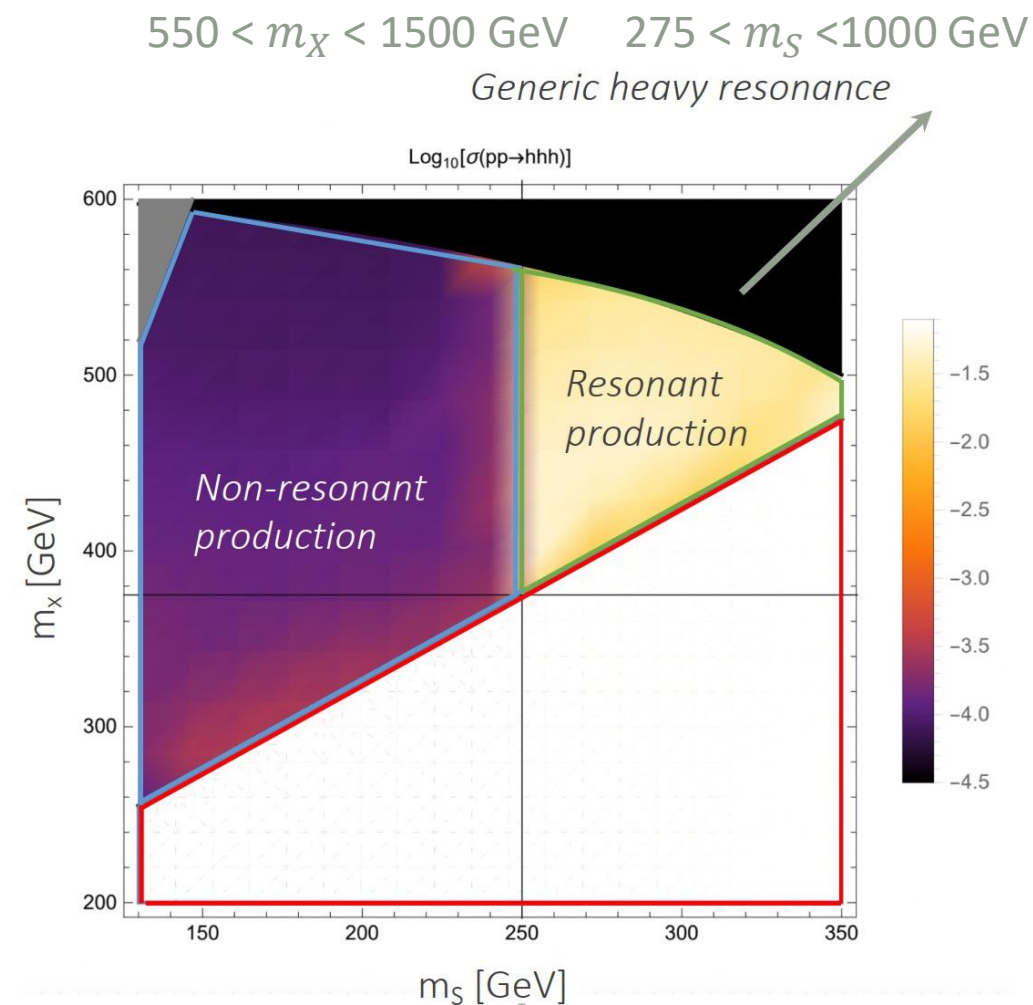
- Simplified TRSM model

- TRSM breaks unitarity at high masses, and becomes dominated by the non-resonant diagrams. Simplify model to avoid TRSM problems.
- Only consider **resonant ggF production** ($X \rightarrow SH \rightarrow HHH$).
- $m_X > m_S$, $550 < m_X < 1500$ GeV, $275 < m_S < 1000$ GeV.

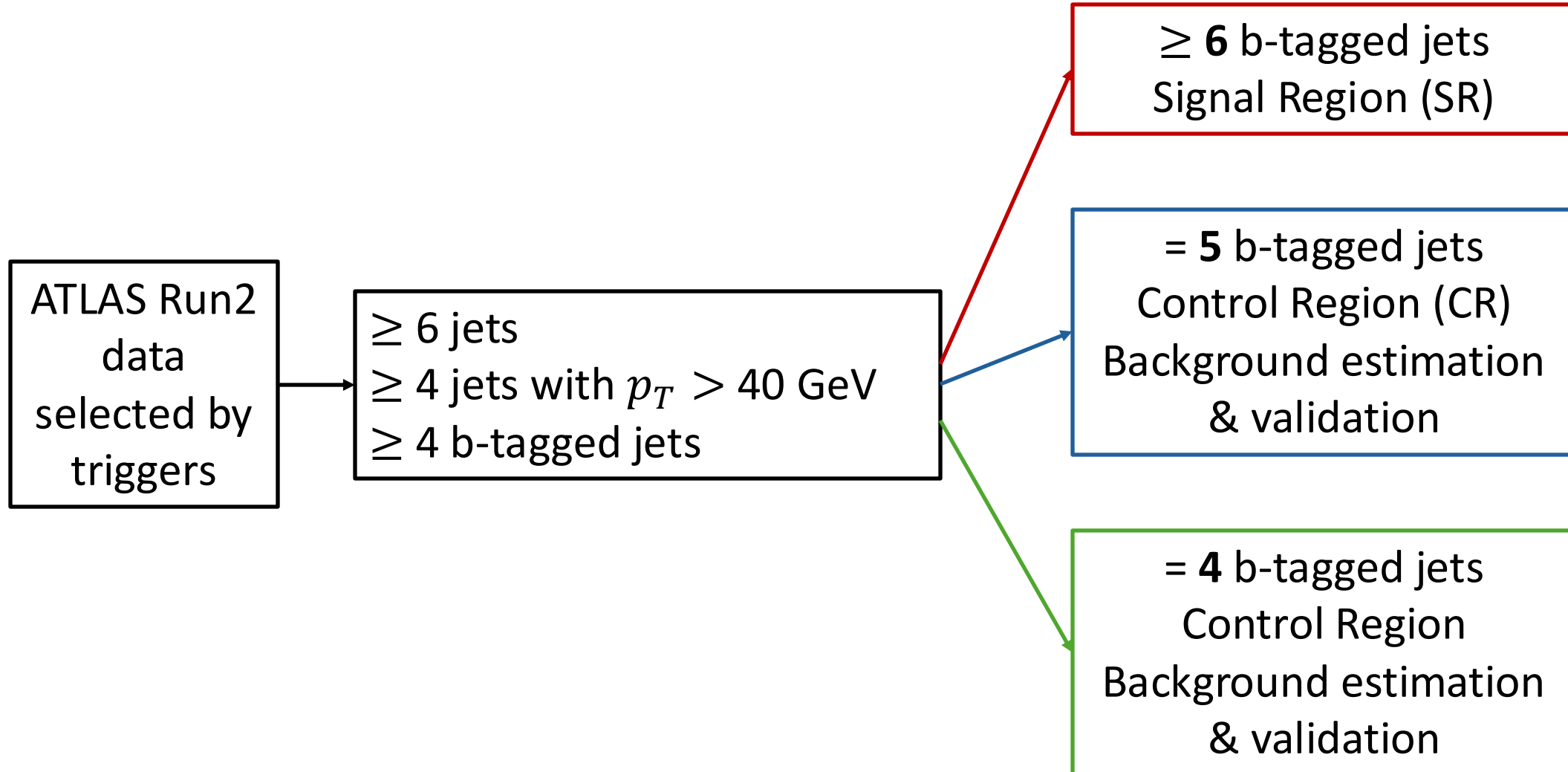
Analysis overview



- Datasets: 126 fb^{-1} .
- **Three interpretations** based on the **kinematics** of the signal models.
 - **Non-resonant:** $m_S < 2m_H$ (250 GeV).
 - **Resonant:** $m_S > 2m_H$ (250 GeV).
 - **Heavy resonant:** generic heavy resonances (narrow & wide decay widths), $m_S > 275 \text{ GeV}$, $m_X > 550 \text{ GeV}$.
- Each search **follows the same general analysis strategy**.
- Dominant background: QCD multi-jet production. Estimate by **data-driven** method.
- A profile likelihood is performed on **Deep Neural Network (DNN) score** to obtain the final results.



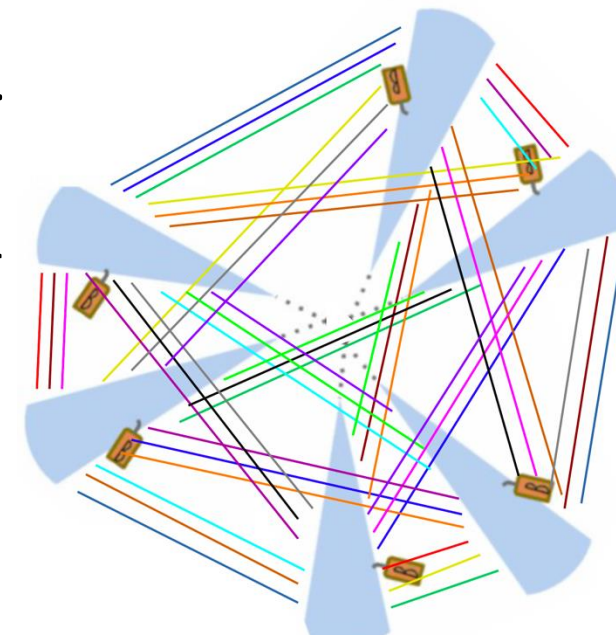
Event selection



Jet pairing



- To help discriminate signal and background.
- Three Higgs boson candidates:
6 jets are selected & paired. 15 ways to pair them.
- **Pairing algorithm:**
minimizing $|m_{H1} - 120 \text{ GeV}| + |m_{H2} - 115 \text{ GeV}| + |m_{H3} - 110 \text{ GeV}|$



- Pairing efficiencies:

SM-like ~ **60%**

Resonant TRSM ~ **50%**

Heavy resonant ~ **80%**

For 5b (4b) events:



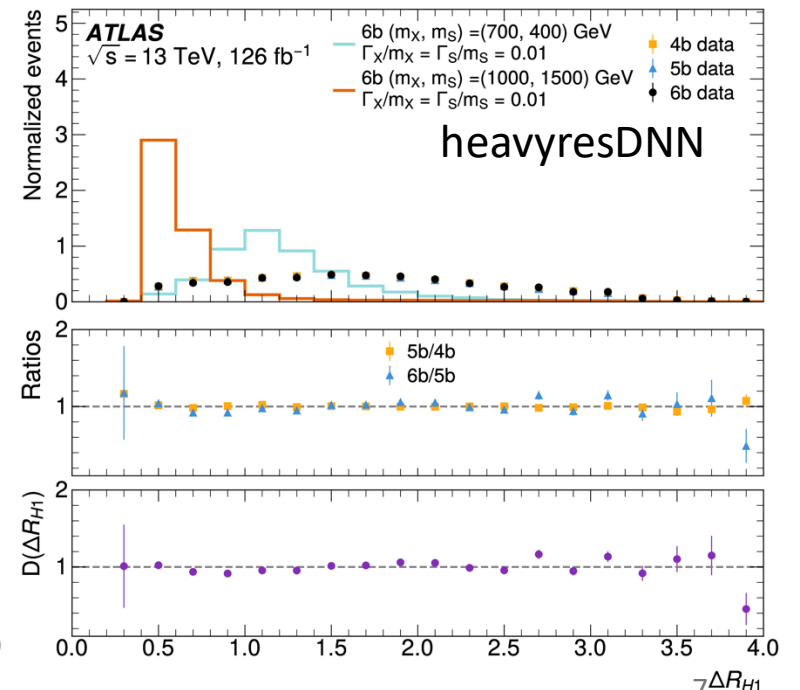
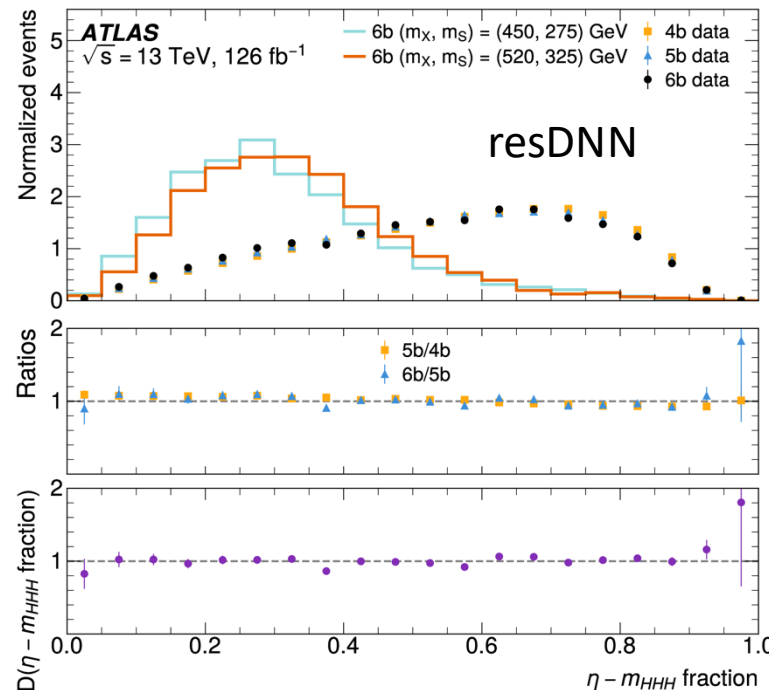
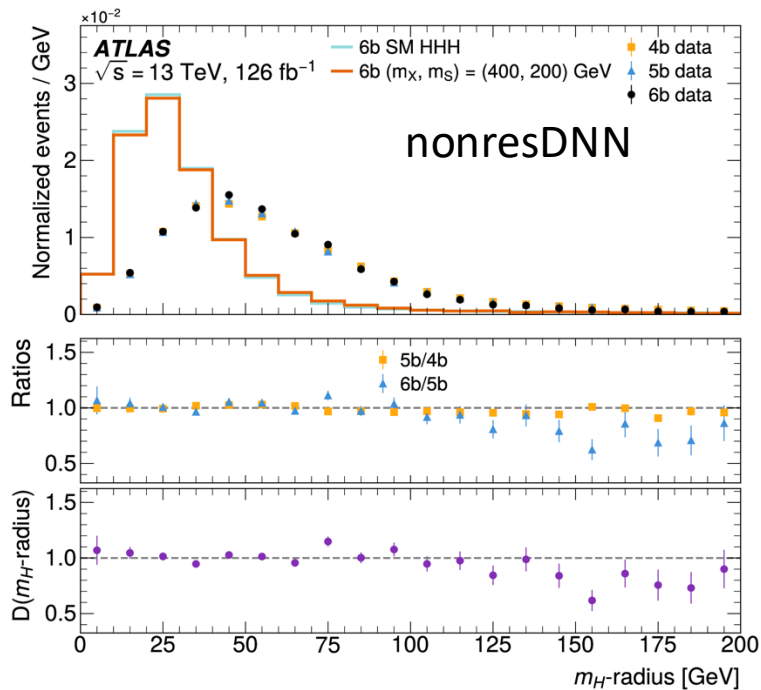
For 6b events:



Deep Neural Network



- DNN output is used as the final discriminant.
- Training samples:
 - Background: 5b data
 - Signal: nonresDNN (6b SM HHH + 6b TRSM non-resonant), resDNN (all 6b resonant TRSM), heavyresDNN (all 6b heavy resonance)
- For each DNN, ten variables (good shape separation, minimal correlation with the b -jet multiplicity) are chosen as inputs.



Background estimation



- Dominant background: QCD multi-jet production. Estimate by data-driven method.
- Assumption: kinematic properties of the background do not significantly change relative to b -jet multiplicity (validate by double ratio).
- Extrapolation: $4b \rightarrow 5b \rightarrow 6b(SR)$, extrapolate shape in b -tag multiplicity, normalized to 6b yields.

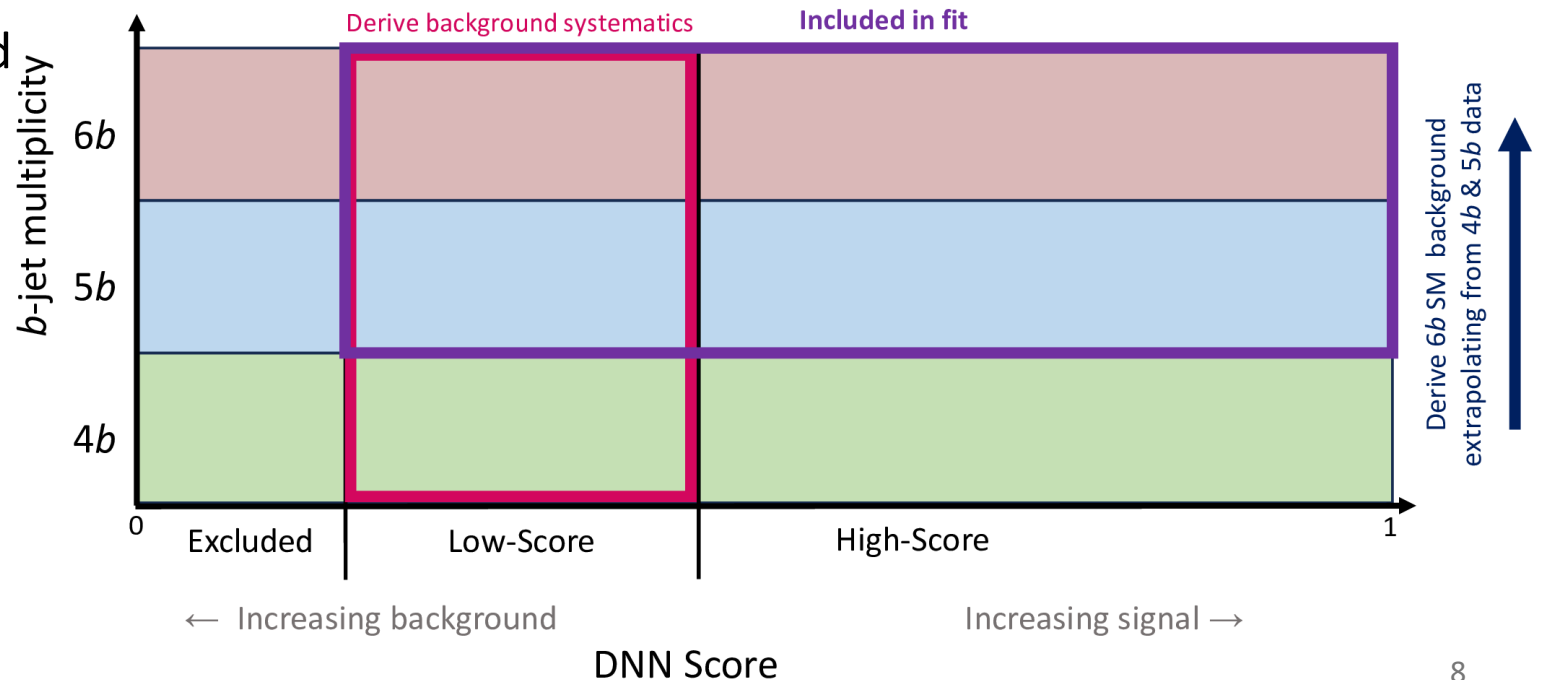
Normalized to 6b yields ←

$$N_i^{6b,predicted} = N_i^{5b} \cdot \frac{N^{6b}}{N^{5b}} \cdot \frac{(N^{5b}/N^{4b})_i}{N^{5b}/N^{4b}}$$

→ Extrapolate the shape of DNN score

- **Excluded region:** large shape difference between 4b, 5b and 6b, exclude from fit.
- **Low-score region:** B-tag extrapolation, validate background estimate, derive shape systematics.
- **High-score region:** 6b SR.

Double ratio: $\frac{R_{6b/5b}}{R_{5b/4b}} \sim 1$



Uncertainties



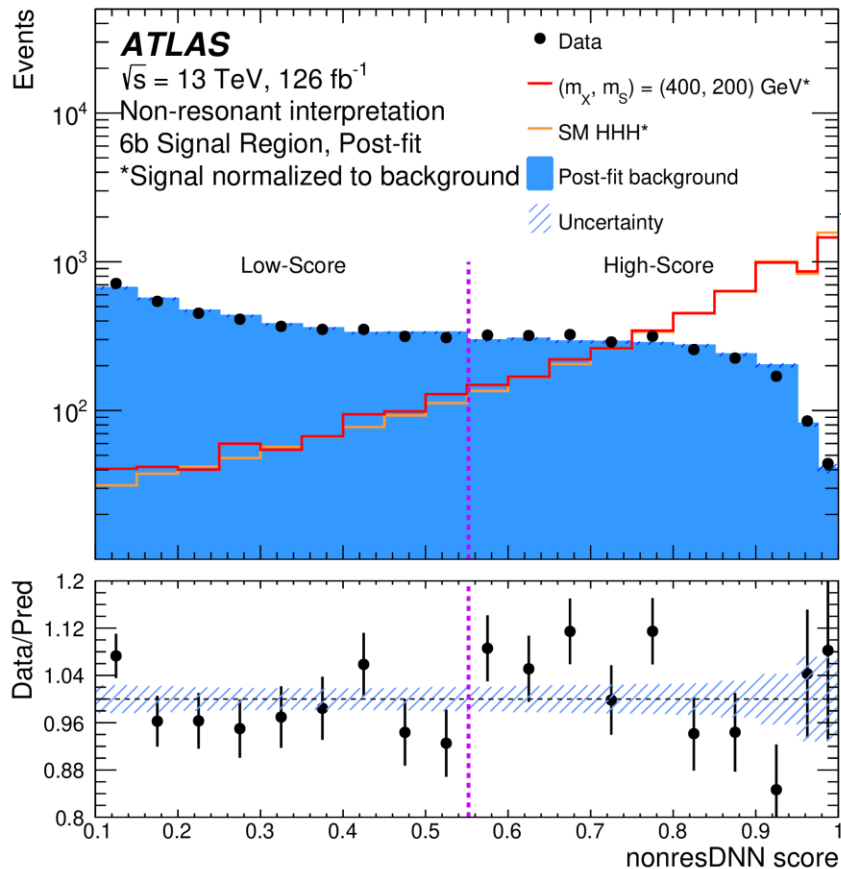
Uncertainty source	Relative impact of systematic uncertainties [%]			
	SM-like	TRSM non-resonant	TRSM resonant	Heavy resonance
All uncertainties	24	20–46	33–42	24–53
Experimental	22	20–45	33–41	24–53
Detector response	7.4	6.6–14	16–24	4.1–15
Luminosity and pileup	<1	<1	<1	<1
Flavor tagging	3.2	2.8–5	6.9–8.8	1.5–5.6
Jet reconstruction	2.7	2.3–6.5	3.6–7.1	1.0–6.3
Trigger efficiency	2.0	1.8–3.5	6–10	1.4–4.2
Background modeling	16	14–36	18–30	20–45
Theoretical	1.5	<1	<1	<1
MC statistical	<1	<1	<1	<1

- Background shape uncertainty is the dominate one in experimental uncertainties. The expected limit are changed from 14% to 45%.
- Theoretical uncertainties: (α_s +PDF) & QCD scale.

Non-resonant & resonant interpretations

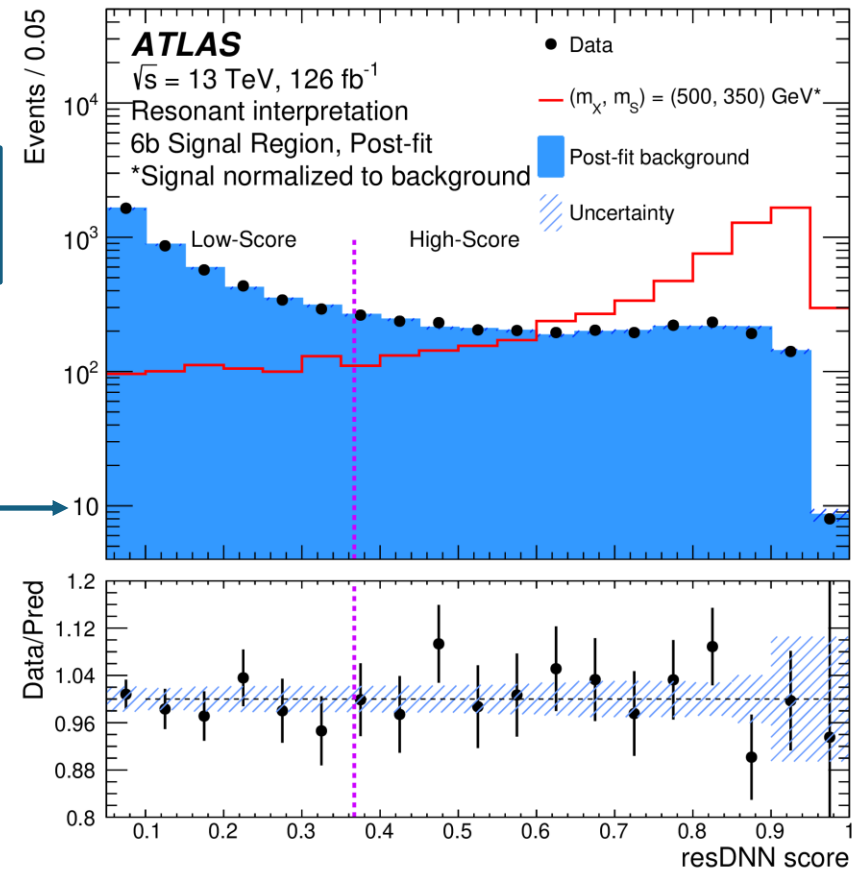


- In all cases, the observed data agree well with the background, and **no significant excess** is seen.
- In non-resonant interpretation: largest deviation is at $(m_X, m_S) = (550, 200)$ GeV with 0.19σ .
- In resonant interpretation: signal strength $\mu = 0$.



$(m_X, m_S) =$
 $(400, 200)$ GeV

$(m_X, m_S) =$
 $(500, 350)$ GeV



Non-resonant & resonant interpretations

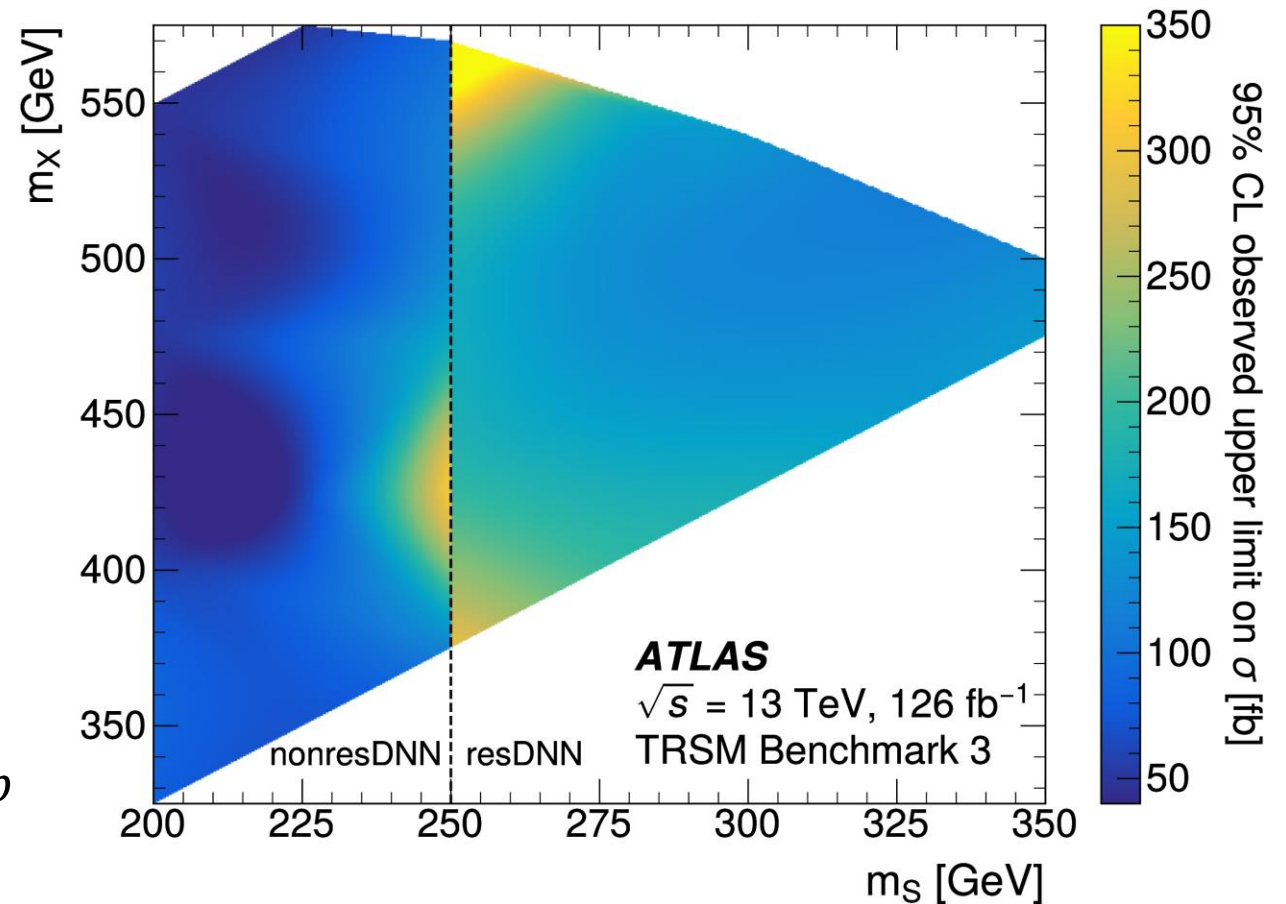


- Cross-section upper limits in the (m_X, m_S) plane of non-resonant interpretation and resonant interpretation. (Observed: 48~310 fb.)

- SM HHH production:

$$\mu = \frac{\sigma_{HHH}}{\sigma_{HHH}^{SM}} \sim 750$$

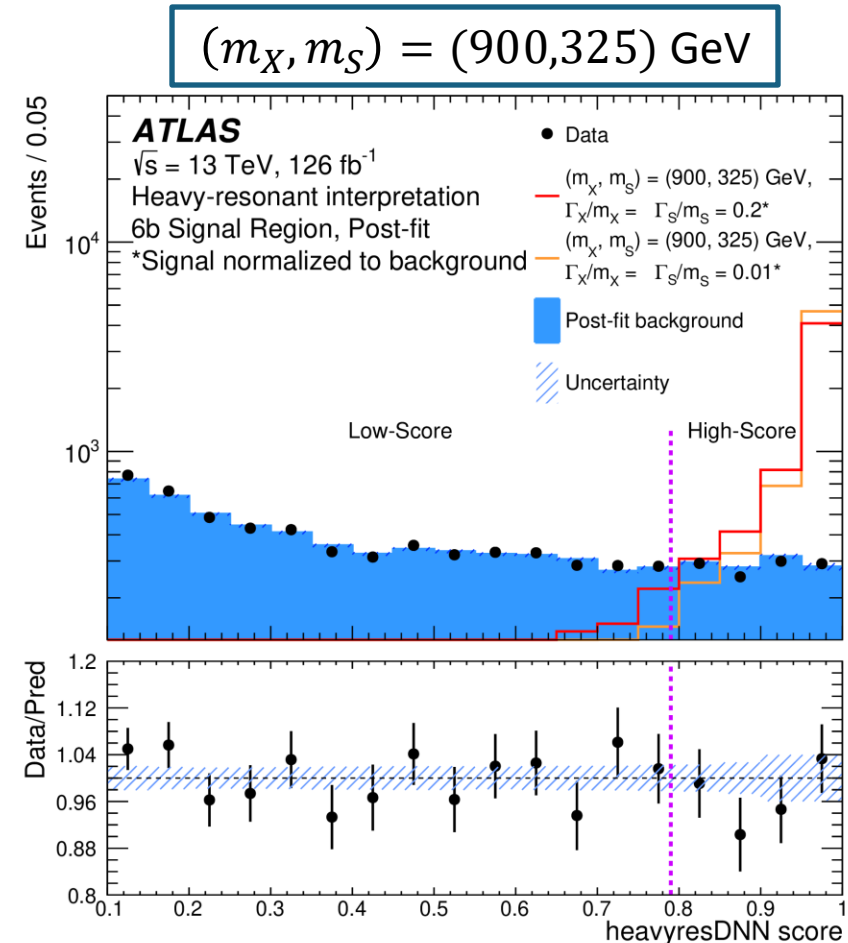
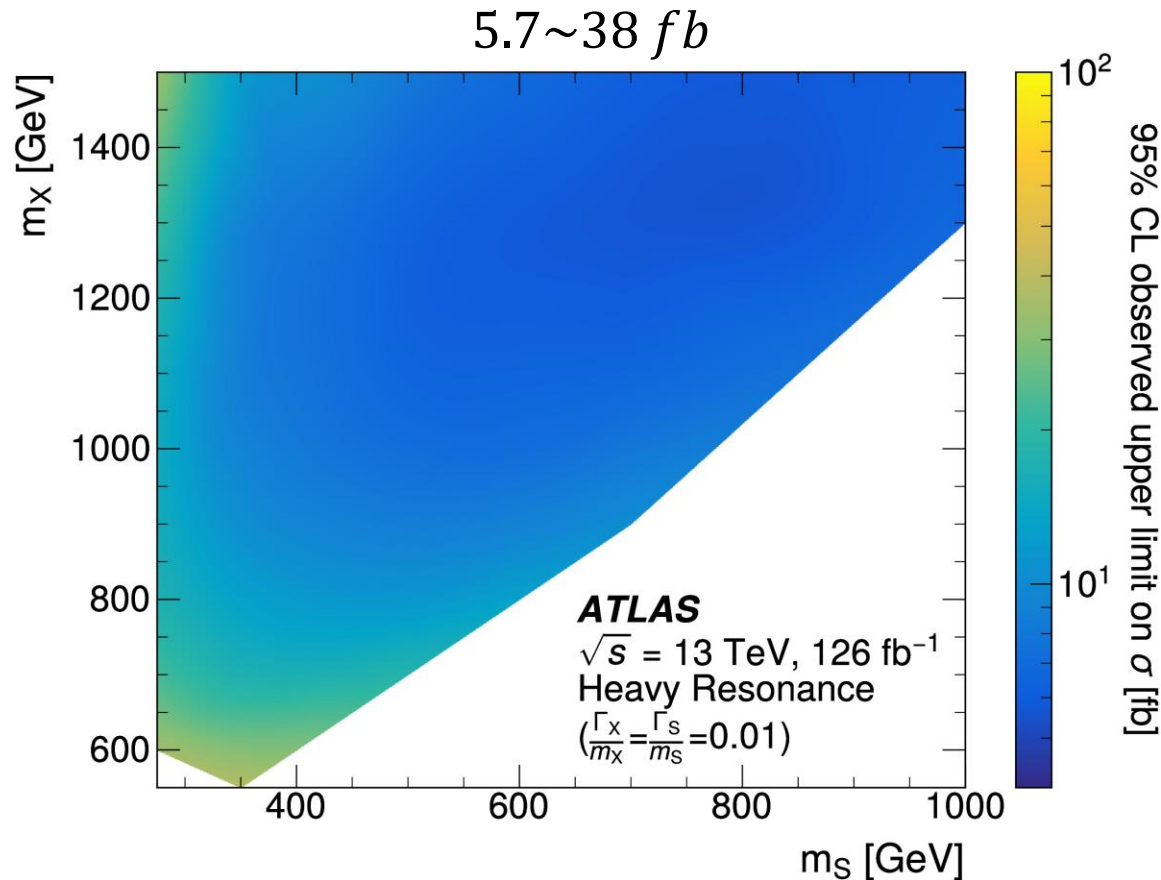
Observed cross-section upper limit: 59 fb



Heavy resonant interpretation



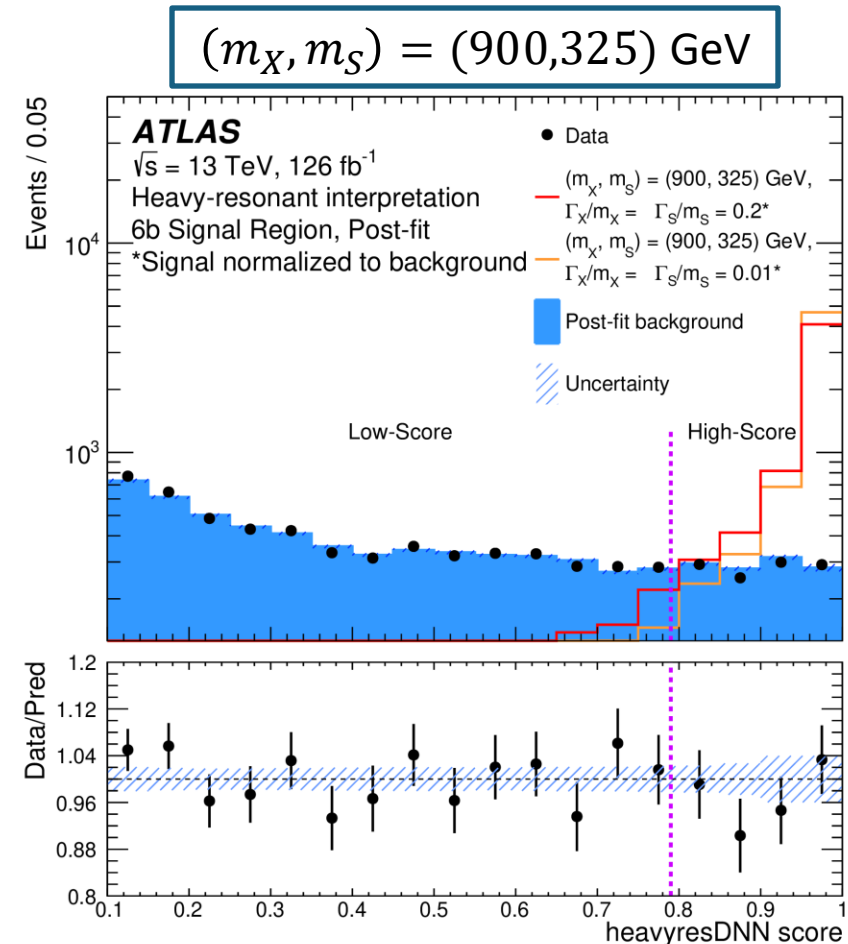
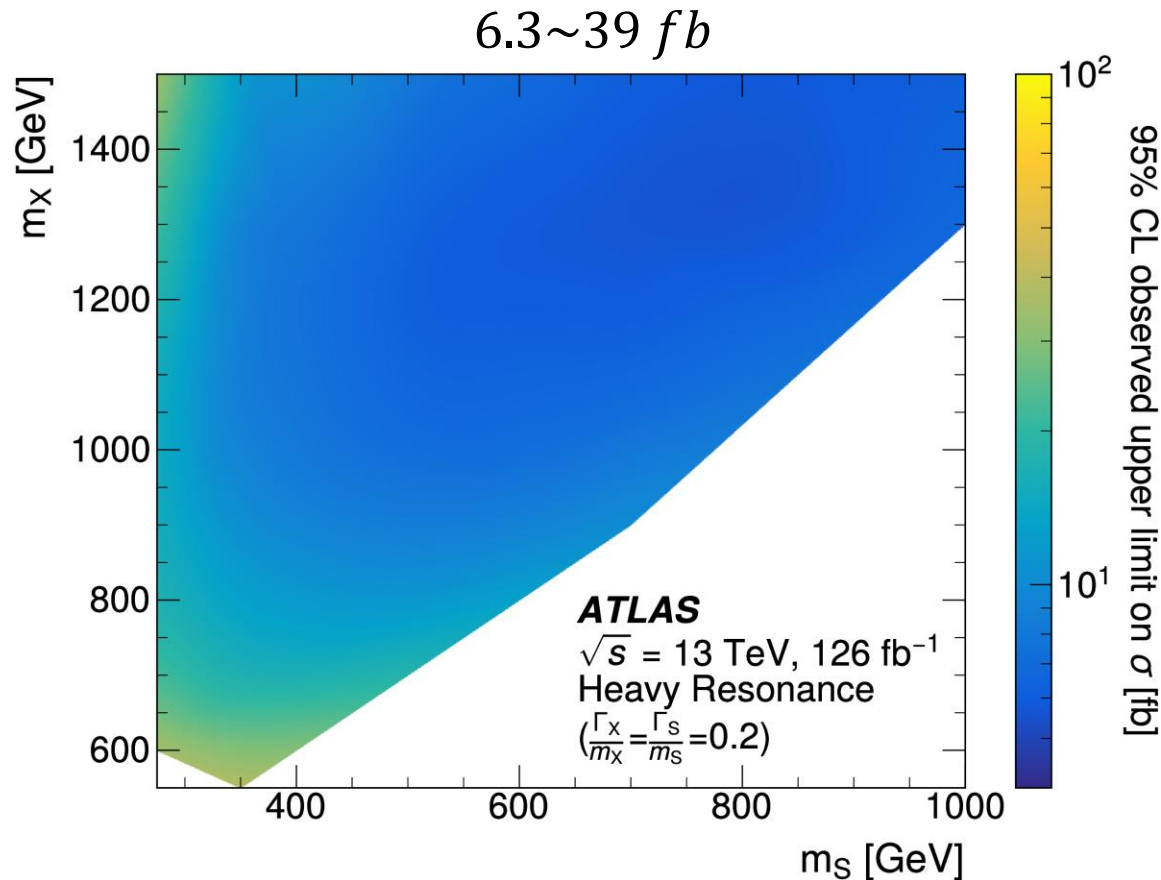
- In all cases, the observed data agree well with the background, and **no significant excess** is seen.
- In heavy resonant interpretation: largest deviation is at $(m_X, m_S) = (1500, 275)$ GeV with 0.51σ .
- Observed limits for the narrow heavy resonance signals:



Heavy resonant interpretation



- In all cases, the observed data agree well with the background, and **no significant excess** is seen.
- In heavy resonant interpretation: largest deviation is at $(m_X, m_S) = (1500, 275)$ GeV with 0.51σ .
- Observed limits for the wide heavy resonance signals:



κ_3 and κ_4 scan

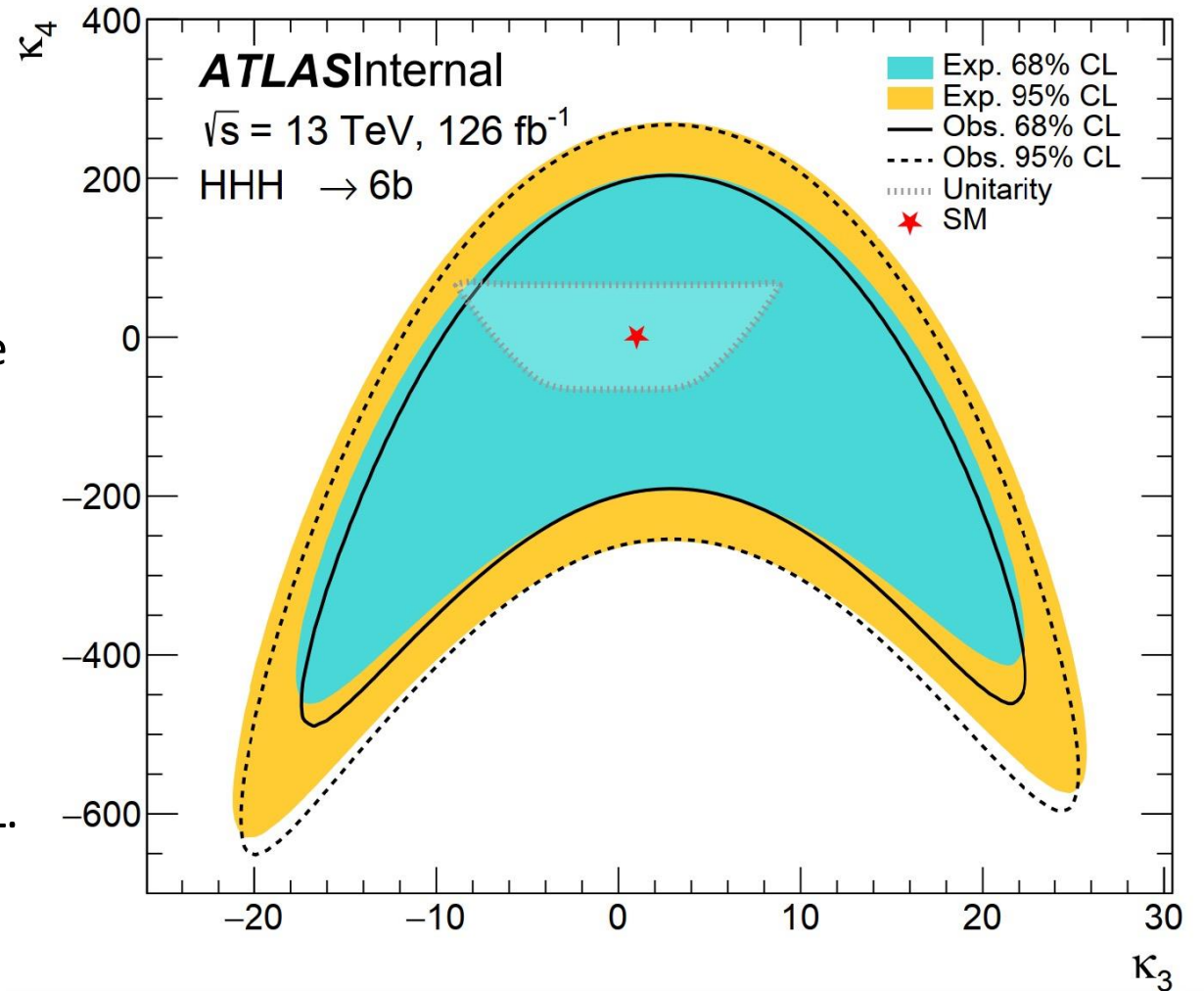


- Constraints on quartic coupling set for the first time.
- Degeneracy of $\sigma_{HHH}(\kappa_3, \kappa_4)$.
- At the 95% CL none of the phase space inside the unitarity bounds is excluded.

In the SM: $\kappa_3 = \kappa_4 = 1$

Assuming $\kappa_4 = 1$, κ_3 : $-11 \sim 17$ at 95% CL.

Assuming $\kappa_3 = 1$, κ_4 : $-230 \sim 240$ at 95% CL.



Summary



- Search for tri-Higgs production in 6b final state with $126 fb^{-1}$ ATLAS run2 data. It's the **first search of such topology at the LHC!**
- Three different DNNs are used in **non-resonant** (including a search for SM like signals), **resonant** and **heavy resonant interpretations**. Data-driven method is used to estimate background.
- **No significant excess observed** in the search for SM like and various BSM signals. Constrains of κ_3 and κ_4 (**for the first time**) are presented.

[arXiv:2411.02040](https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.02040)

- Relevant talk in Higgs Potential 2024:

[Higgs Potential From Standard Model to EFT and UV Models](#) – Hao-Lin Li



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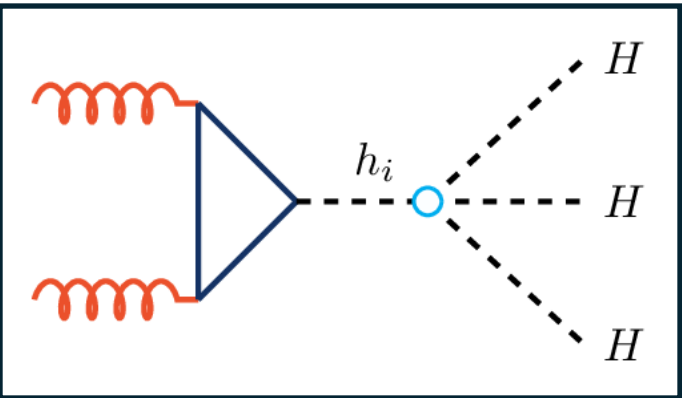
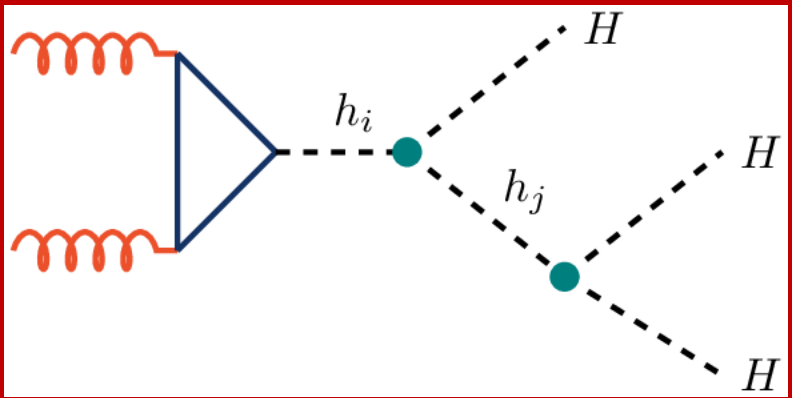


谢谢!

TRSM structure

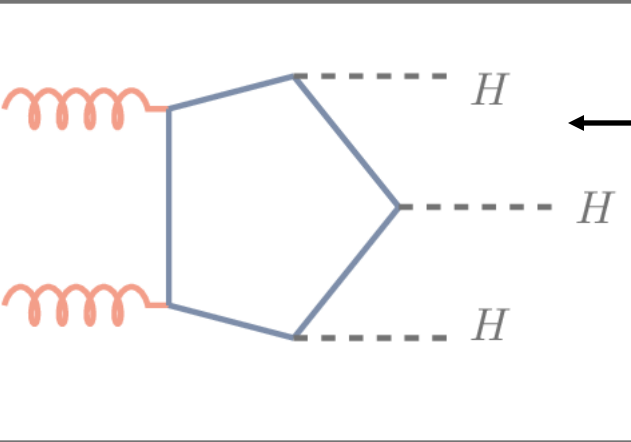
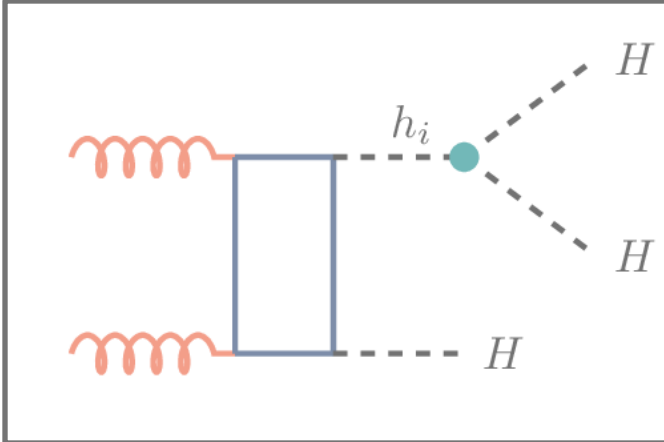


The "cascade" diagram dominate in TRSM parameter space



This diagram is generally subdominate, but not quite negligible.

The semi-/non-resonant diagrams are small

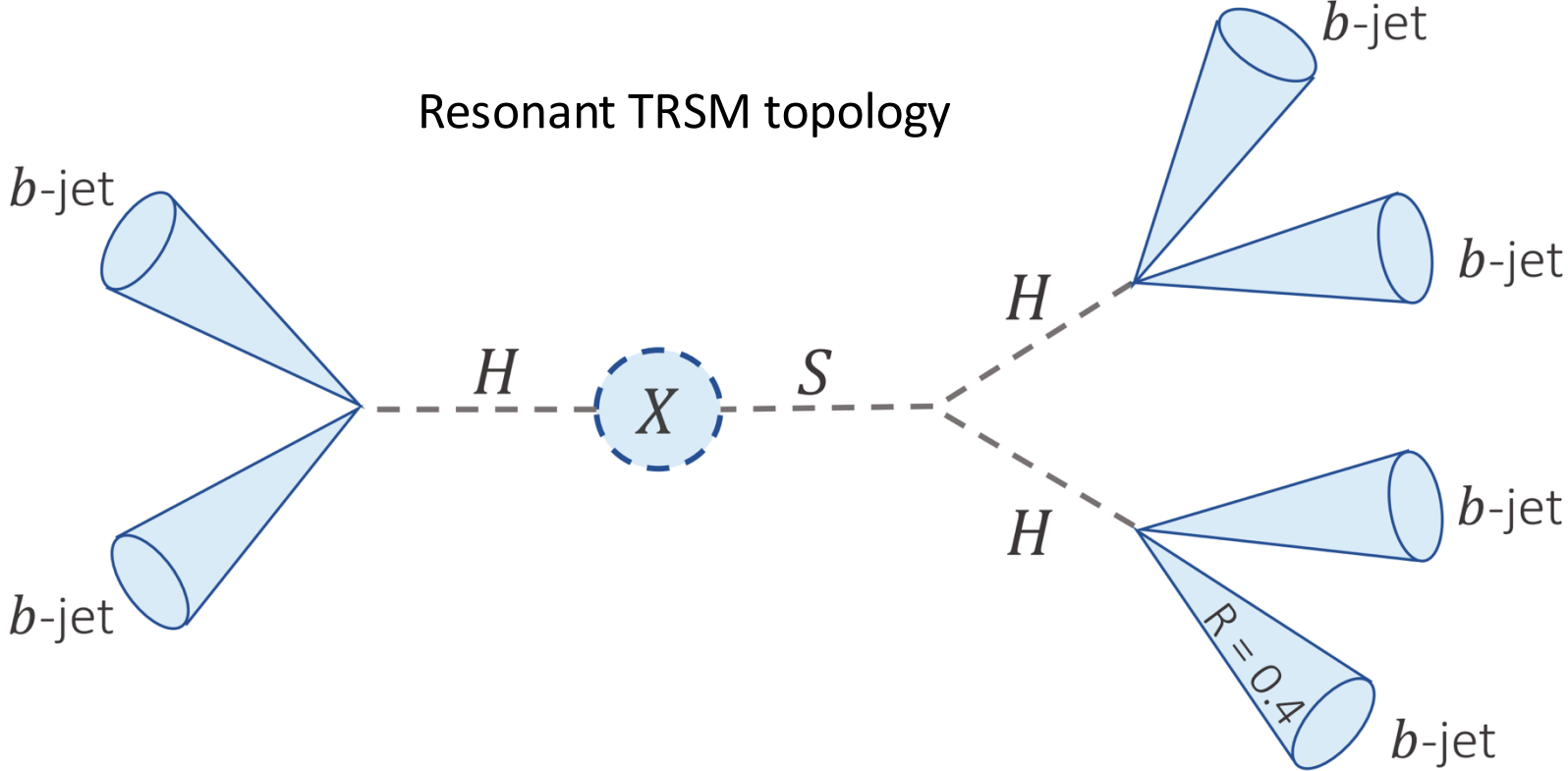


SM diagram

Object definition

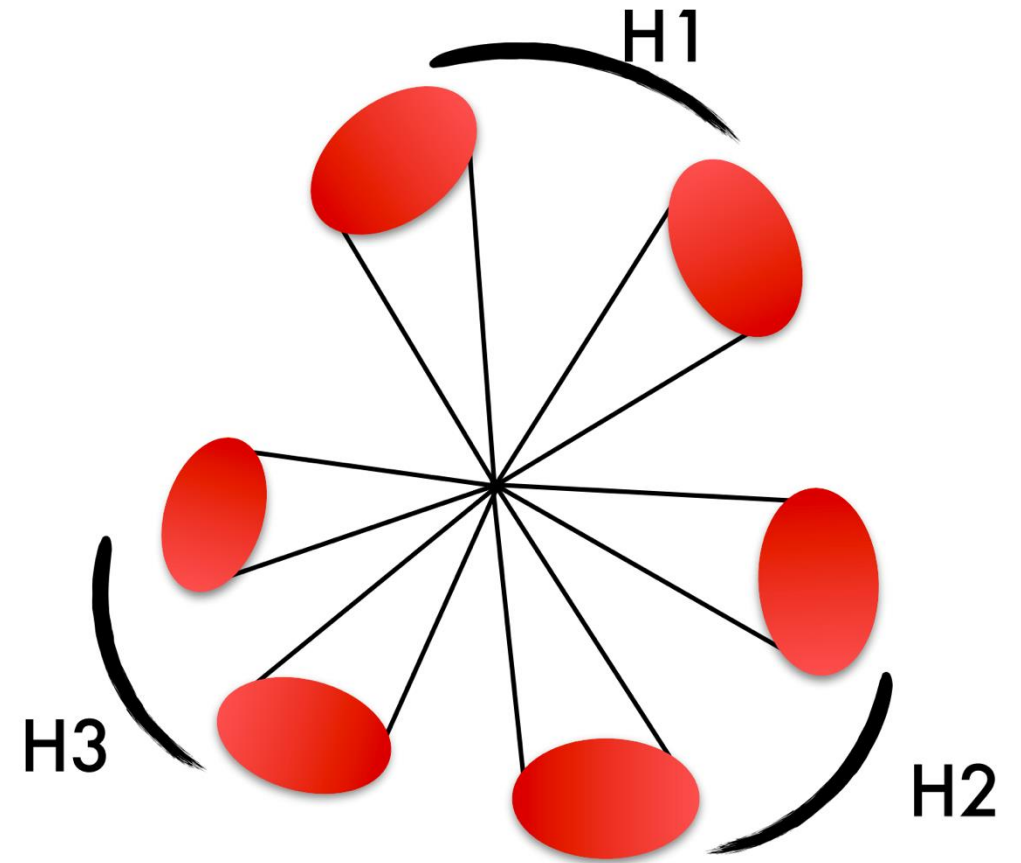
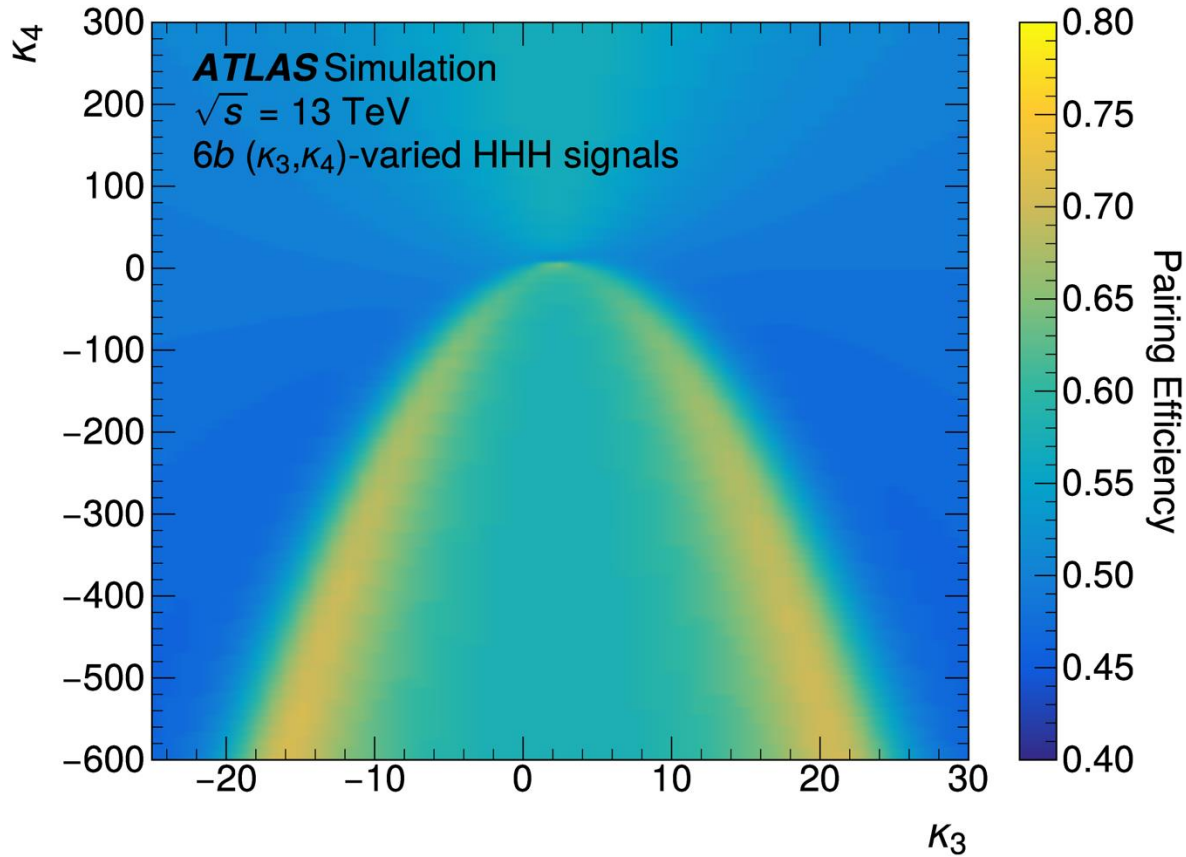


Probe 6b final state

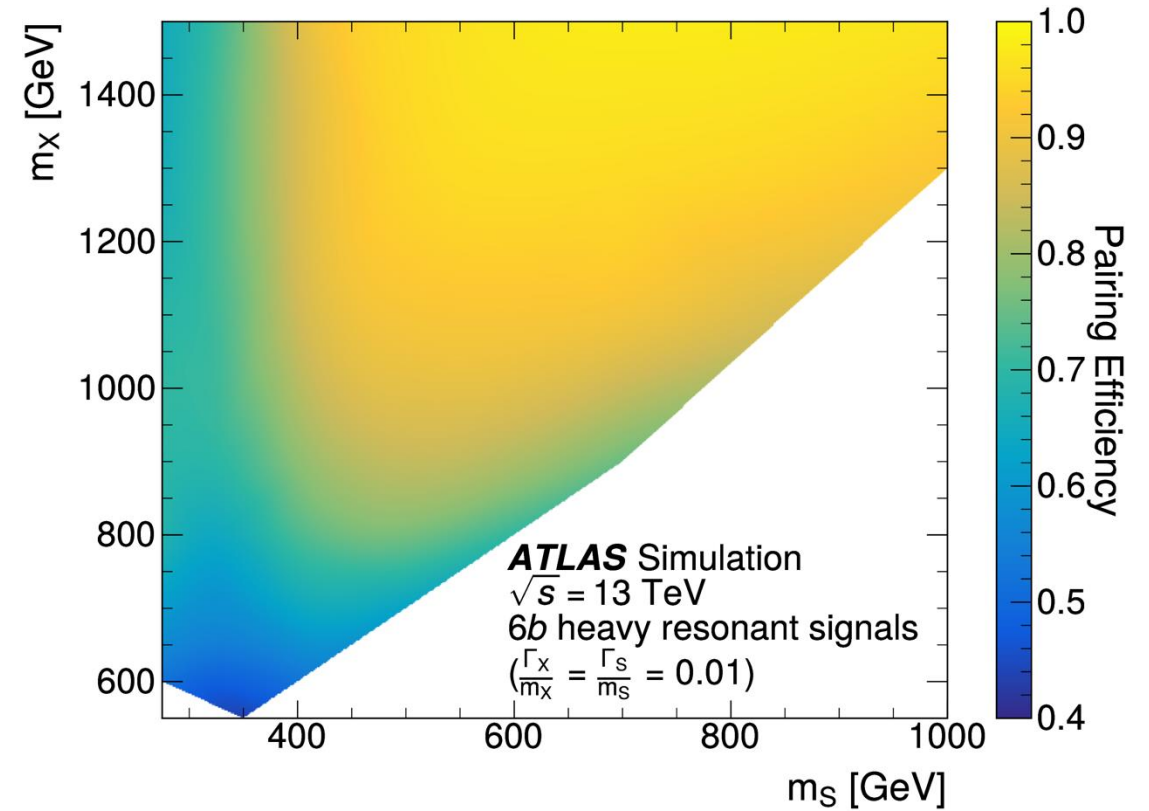
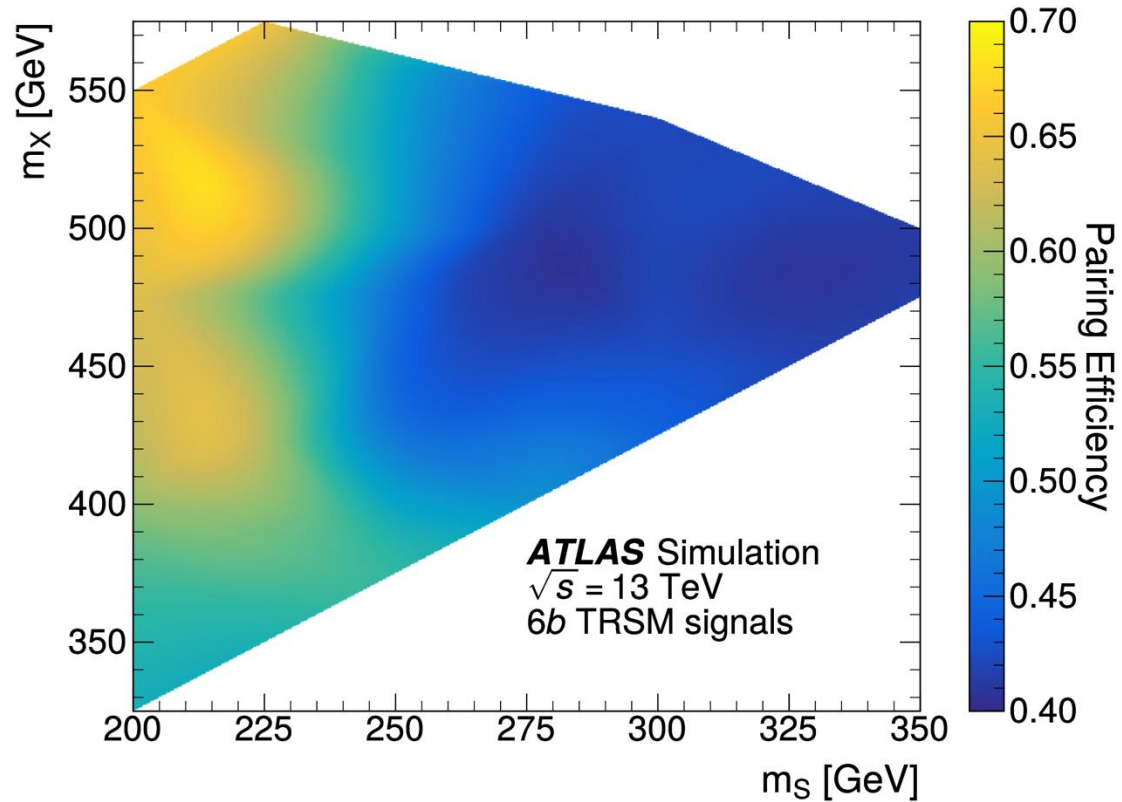


PFlow jets, $p_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$, $|\eta| < 2.5$
B-tagged by DL1d 77% working point
 μ -in-jet correction for semi-leptonic b-hadron decay

Jet pairing efficiency



Jet pairing efficiency





Variable	Definition	nonres	res	heavyres
m_H -radius	Euclidean distance between the event and the pairing center (120, 115, 110) GeV in the (m_{H1}, m_{H2}, m_{H3}) volume.	✓		✓
m_{H1}	Reconstructed mass of the highest p_T Higgs boson candidate.	✓		✓
$\text{RMS}(m_{jj})$	Root-mean-squared (RMS) of the invariant mass of all possible jet pairs that can form a Higgs boson candidate.	✓		✓
$\text{RMS}(\Delta R_{jj})$	RMS of the angular separation between all possible jet pairs that can form a Higgs boson candidate.	✓	✓	✓
$\text{RMS}(\eta)$	RMS of the pseudo-rapidity of the Higgs boson candidates.	✓		✓
Skewness ΔA_{jj}	Skewness of $\cosh(\Delta\eta_{ik}) - \cos(\Delta\phi_{ik})$, where i, k are all possible jet pairs that can form a Higgs boson candidate.		✓	
H_T^{6j}	Scalar sum of the p_T of the 6 jets selected to reconstruct the 3 Higgs boson candidates.		✓	
$\cos \theta$	In the (m_{H1}, m_{H2}, m_{H3}) coordinate system, θ is the angle between the vector from the origin to the event's reconstructed mass of the Higgs boson candidates, and the vector from the origin to (120, 115, 110) GeV.		✓	
Aplanarity _{6j}	The fraction of p_T from the 6 jets selected to reconstruct the 3 Higgs boson candidates lying outside the plane formed by the 2 highest p_T jets.	✓	✓	✓
Sphericity _{6j}	Isotropy of the momenta of the 6 jets selected to reconstruct the 3 Higgs boson candidates.		✓	
Transverse Sphericity _{6j}	Isotropy of the p_T of the 6 jets used for Higgs reconstruction, within the $x - y$ plane.	✓		
Sphericity	Isotropy of the momenta of all jets in the event.			✓
$\eta - m_{HHH}$ fraction	$\frac{\sum_{i,k} 2p_T^i * p_T^k * (\cosh(\Delta\eta(ik)) - 1)}{m_{HHH}^2}$ where i, k are all possible jet pairs that can form a Higgs boson candidate, and m_{HHH} is the reconstructed tri-Higgs invariant mass.		✓	
ΔR_{H1}	Angular separation between the jets paired to form the highest p_T Higgs boson candidate.	✓	✓	✓
ΔR_{H2}	Angular separation between the jets paired to form the second-highest p_T Higgs boson candidate.	✓	✓	✓
ΔR_{H3}	Angular separation between the jets paired to form the lowest p_T Higgs boson candidate.	✓	✓	✓

Background estimation

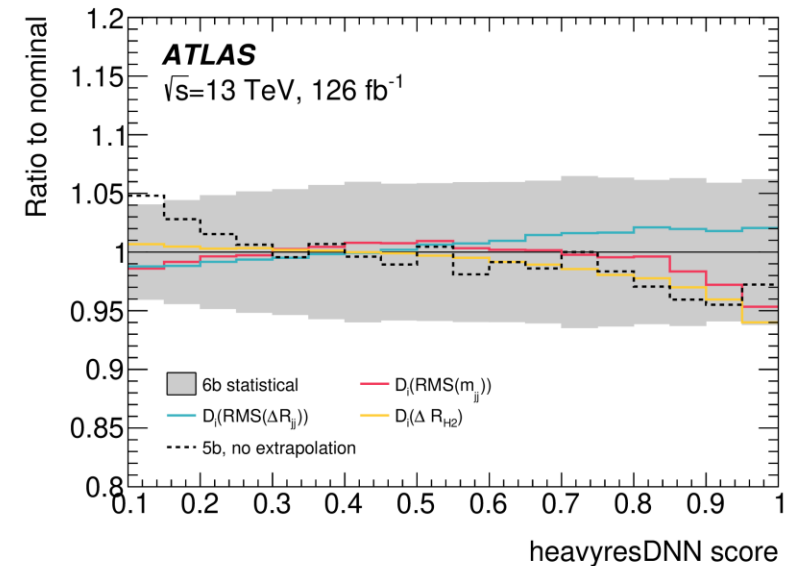
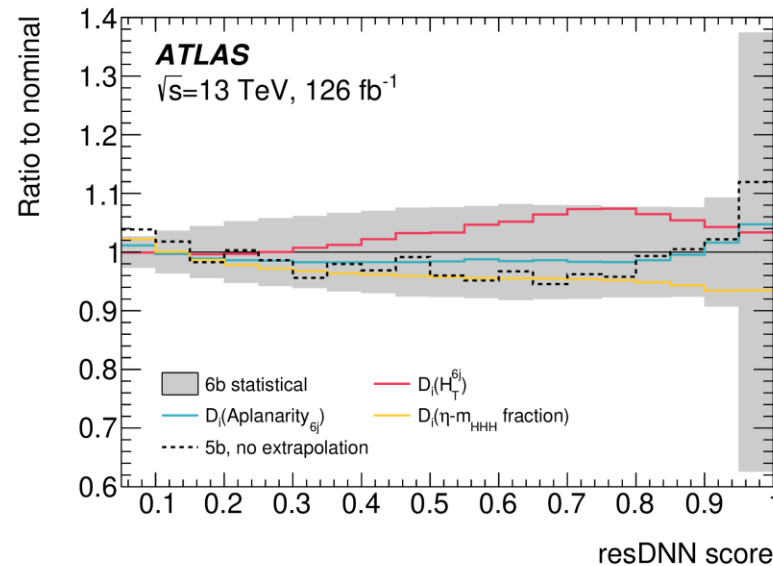
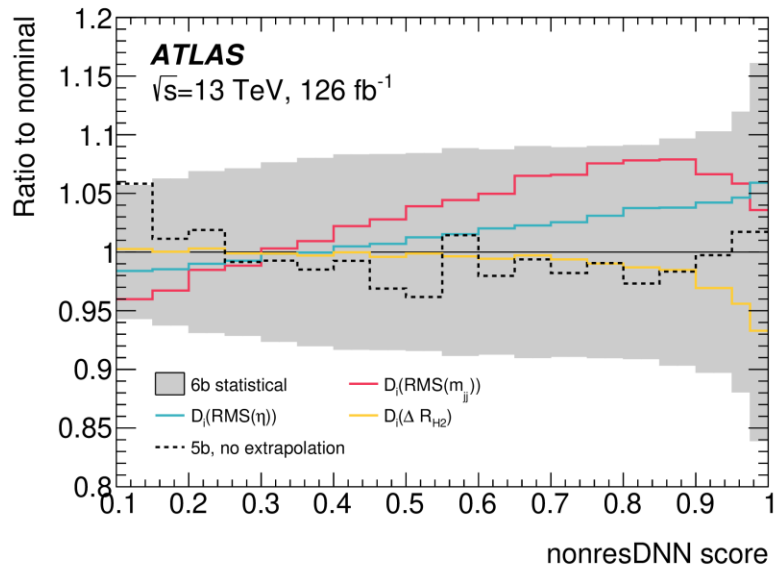


- The non-closure in the extrapolation method in low-score region is used to estimate the systematic uncertainty.

$$D(v) = \frac{(N^{6b}/N^{5b})_{(v)}}{N^{6b}/N^{5b}} \div \frac{(N^{5b}/N^{4b})_{(v)}}{N^{5b}/N^{4b}}$$

v : DNN input variables

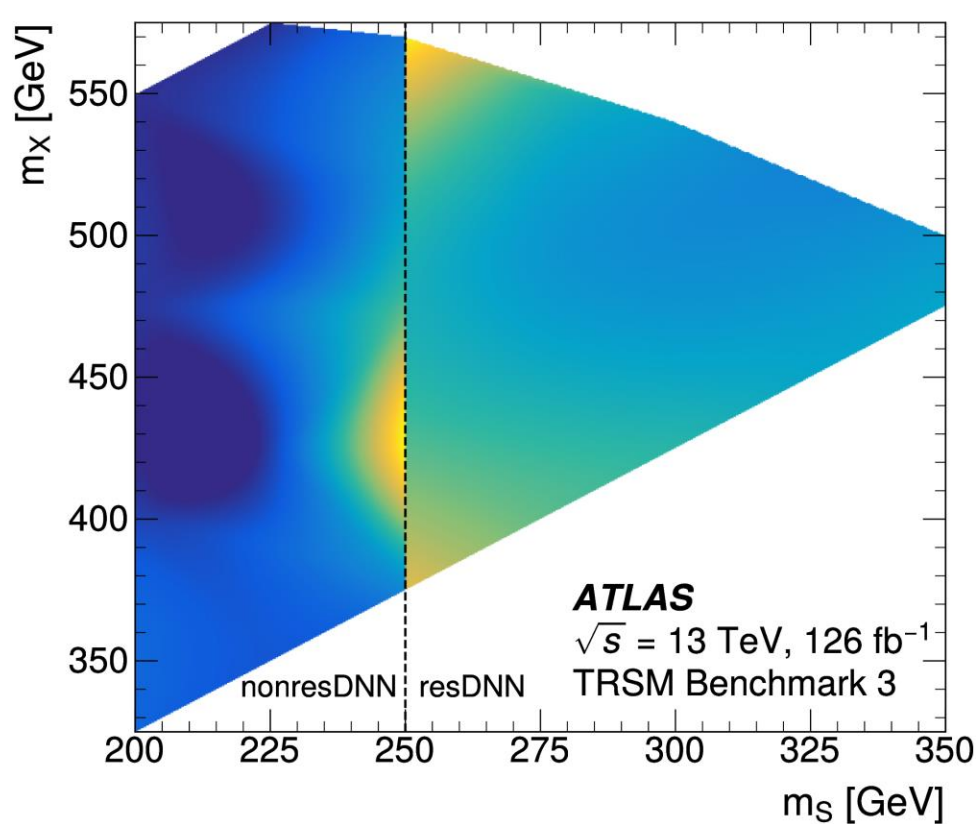
- The shape variations are always smaller than the statistical uncertainty.



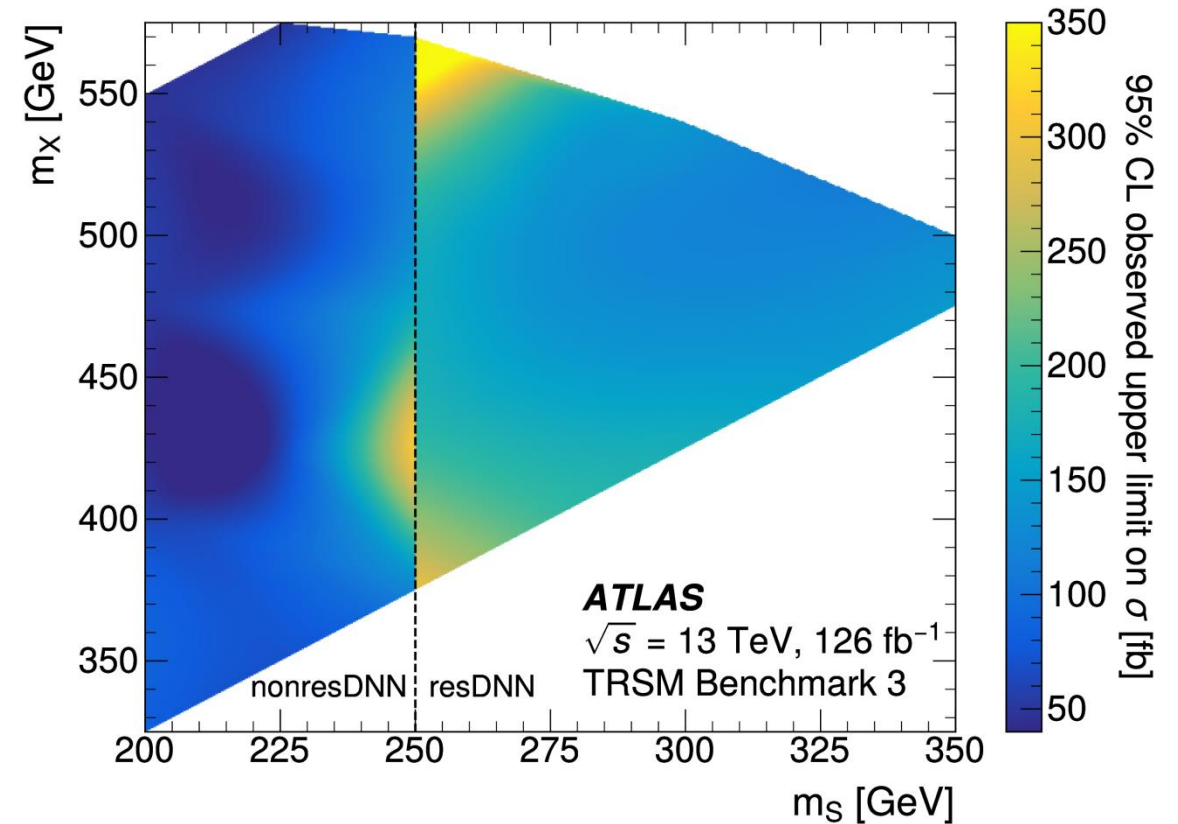
Non-resonant & resonant interpretation



- Cross-section upper limits in the (m_X, m_S) plane of non-resonant interpretation and resonant interpretation.



Expected: 46~350 fb



Observed: 48~310 fb

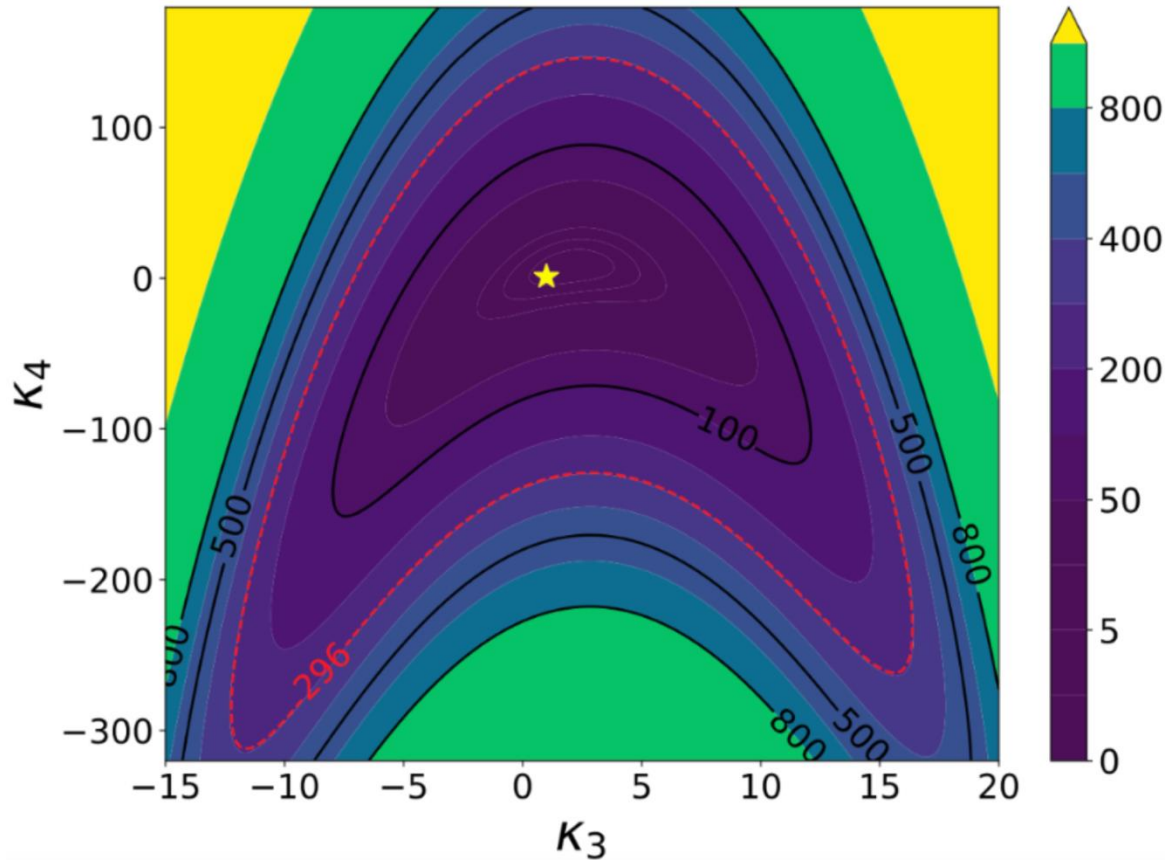
Self-coupling interpretation



- Theoretical dependence on κ_3 and κ_4 .

Papaefstathiou, Tetlamatzi-
Xolocotzi, Zaro (1909.09166)

σ_{HHH}/σ_{SM}



$$\frac{\sigma(c_3, d_4)_{hhh}}{\sigma(SM)_{hhh}} - 1 = 0.0309 \times c_3^4 - 0.2079 \times c_3^3$$

$$+ 0.0407 \times c_3^2 d_4 + 0.7384 \times c_3^2$$

$$c_3 = \kappa_3 - 1 \quad + 0.0156 \times d_4^2 - 0.1450 \times c_3 d_4$$

$$d_4 = \kappa_4 - 1 \quad - 0.1078 \times d_4 - 0.6887 \times c_3 .$$

In SM: $\kappa_3 = \kappa_4 = 1$

$\sigma_{HHH}^{min}(\kappa_3, \kappa_4): \kappa_3 \sim 2, \kappa_4 \sim 8$

$\sigma_{HHH}^{min}(\kappa_3, \kappa_4 = 1): \kappa_3 \sim 1.6$

$\sigma_{HHH}^{min}(\kappa_3 = 1, \kappa_4): \kappa_4 \sim 4.5$