

Quartic Gauge-Higgs coupling: Constraints and Future Directions

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based on [[2208.09334](#)] with Anisha, O. Atkinson, A. Bhardwaj and C. Englert

- Quartic Gauge-Higgs coupling κ_{2V} : Why is it of interest?
- Current direct constraints from experiments
- Going beyond the leading order: Higgs Effective Field Theory (HEFT)
- Constraints from single Higgs data, $H \rightarrow VV$
- Direct collider sensitivity with Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)
- Conclusion

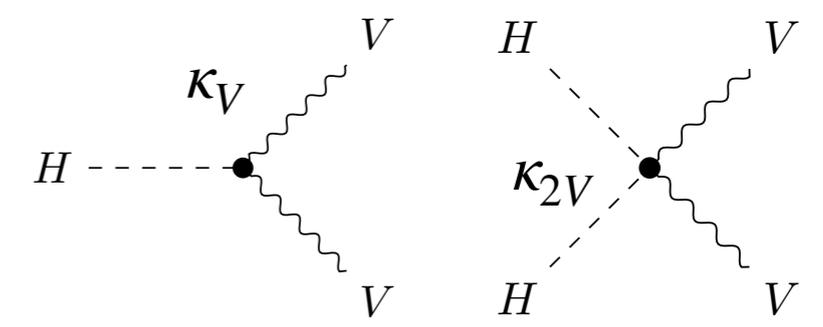
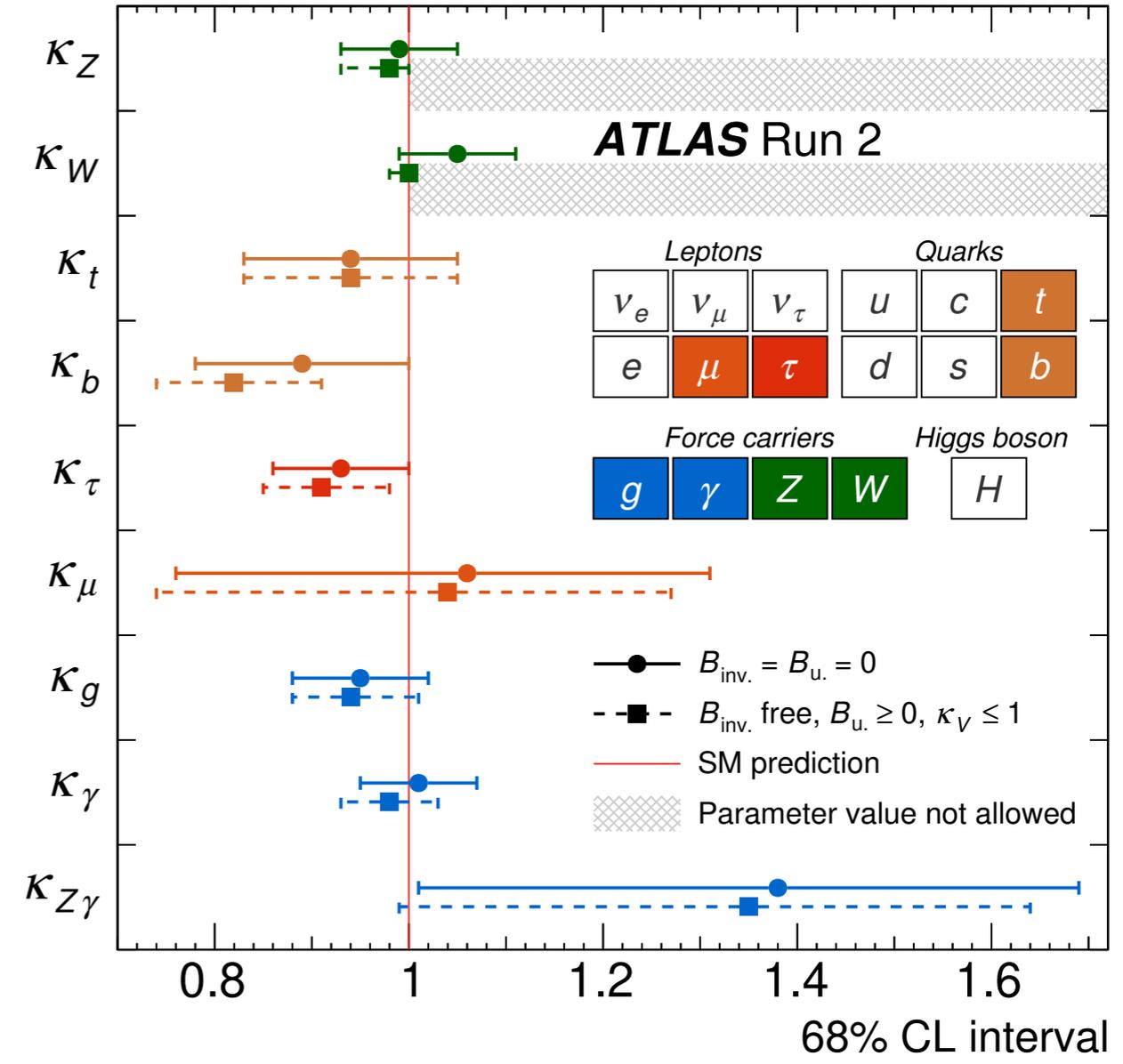
Introduction

- Couplings of the discovered Higgs boson to SM matter follows SM expectations
- κ -framework:

$$\kappa_i = \frac{g_i}{g_i^{\text{SM}}}$$
- Any departure of gauge-Higgs couplings from SM expectation implies perturbative unitarity violation
- Less attention in quartic interactions between Higgs and gauge fields


Statistically limited

from [2207.00092](#)



Introduction

- **In the SM:** gauge invariance and doublet character of Higgs imply full correlation of HVV and $HHVV$ interactions
- **BSM:**
 - In Multi-Higgs models with mixing, Higgs interactions modified by characteristic angle

$$\text{SM+singlet:} \quad \kappa_V = \cos(\chi) \quad \kappa_{2V} = \cos^2(\chi)$$

$$\text{2HDM:} \quad \kappa_V = \sin(\beta - \alpha) \quad \kappa_{2V} = 1$$

- In composite Higgs, e.g. MCHM5 $\kappa_V = \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{f^2}}$ but $\kappa_{2V} = 1 - 2\frac{v^2}{f^2}$
- For HVV both cases can be associated, e.g. $\sin(\beta - \alpha) = \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{f^2}}$
- Could be distinguished from $HHVV$ measurement

Oblique corrections and κ_{2V}

- Peskin-Takeuchi parameters

$$S = \frac{4s_W^2 c_W^2}{\alpha} \left(\frac{\Pi_{ZZ}(M_Z)^2 - \Pi_{ZZ}(0)}{M_Z^2} - \frac{c_W^2 - s_W^2}{c_W s_W} \frac{\Pi_{AZ}(M_Z^2) - \Pi_{AZ}(0)}{M_Z^2} - \frac{\Pi_{AA}(M_Z^2)}{M_Z^2} \right)$$

$$T = \frac{1}{\alpha} \left(\frac{\Pi_{WW}(0)}{M_W^2} - \frac{\Pi_{ZZ}(0)}{M_Z^2} - \frac{2s_W}{c_W} \frac{\Pi_{AZ}(0)}{M_Z^2} \right)$$

$$U = \frac{4s_W^2}{\alpha} \left(\frac{\Pi_{WW}(M_W^2) - \Pi_{WW}(0)}{M_W^2} - c_W^2 \frac{\Pi_{ZZ}(M_Z^2) - \Pi_{ZZ}(0)}{M_Z^2} - 2s_W c_W \frac{\Pi_{AZ}(M_Z^2) - \Pi_{AZ}(0)}{M_Z^2} - s_W^2 \frac{\Pi_{AA}(M_Z^2)}{M_Z^2} \right)$$

constructed from vacuum polarisations

$$\sim \Pi_{VV'}^{\mu\nu}(p^2) = (p^2 - M_V^2)\delta_{VV'} + \Pi_{VV'}(p^2) \left(g^{\mu\nu} - \frac{p^\mu p^\nu}{p^2} \right) + B_{VV'}(p^2) \frac{p^\mu p^\nu}{p^2}$$

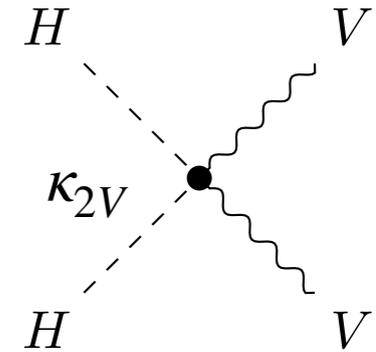
- Including modifiers κ_{2W} and κ_{2Z} gives

$$\Delta S = \Delta U = 0 \quad \Delta T = \frac{\kappa_{2Z}^2 - \kappa_{2W}^2}{16\pi} \frac{M_H^2}{M_W^2} s_W^2 \log \frac{\Lambda}{M_H^2}$$

- T parameter is sensitive to custodial $SU(2)$ violation, need to keep $\kappa_{2W} \simeq \kappa_{2Z}$
- $\kappa_{2V} = \kappa_{2W} = \kappa_{2Z}$ removes oblique corrections

Perturbative unitarity and κ_{2V}

- Process relevant for κ_{2V} is $HV \rightarrow HV$ scattering
- Jacob-Wick expansion allows to extract partial waves



$$\beta(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 2xy - 2yz - 2xz$$

$$a_{fi}^J = \frac{\beta^{1/4}(s, m_{f_1}^2, m_{f_1}^2) \beta^{1/4}(s, m_{i_1}^2, m_{i_1}^2)}{32\pi s} \int_{-1}^1 d \cos \theta \mathcal{D}_{\mu_i \mu_f}^J \mathcal{M}(s, \cos \theta)$$

Wigner functions

- Wigner functions reduce to Legendre polynomials and $J = 0$ provides the dominant constraints
- Expressing the optical theorem in terms of partial waves gives us

$$\text{Im} a_{ii}^0 \geq |a_{ii}^0|^2 \implies |\text{Re} a_{ii}^0| \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

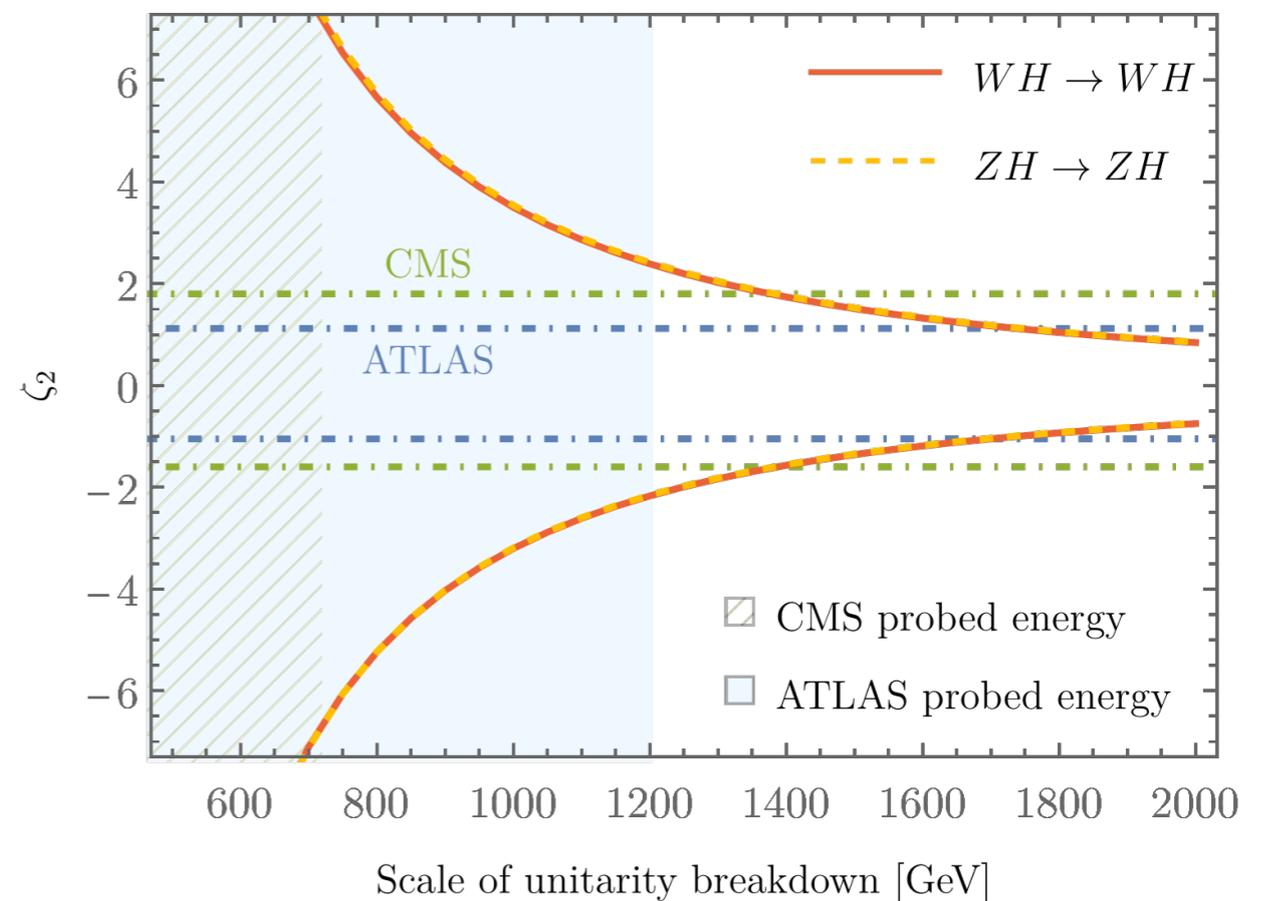
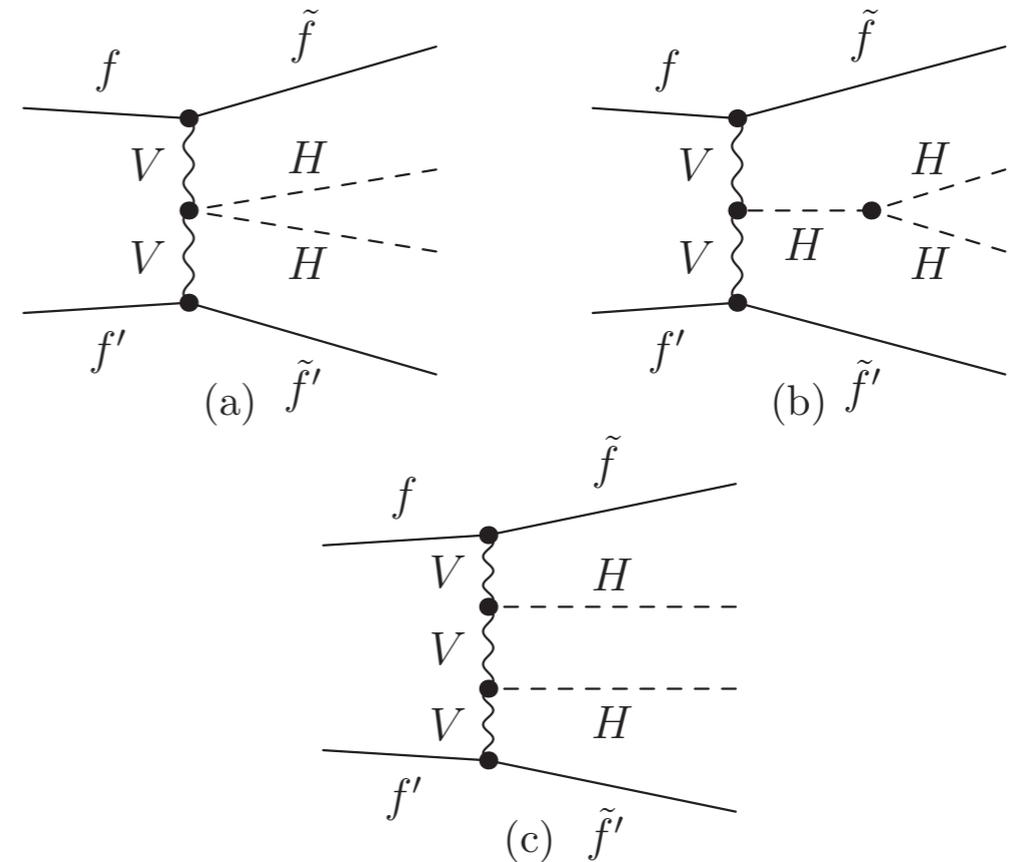
Perturbative unitarity and κ_{2V}

- Define $\zeta_2 = \kappa_{2V} - 1$
- Direct constraints from both ATLAS, CMS through VBF with $\kappa_V = 1$
- ATLAS uses the $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ final state ([2001.05178](#) and [CONF-HDBS-2022-35](#))
- CMS uses $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ ([2206.09401](#))



- Measurements consistent with unitarity
- κ_{2V} relatively unconstrained

- Can we do better by including single Higgs data $H \rightarrow VV$?



Going beyond leading order

- Beyond tree-level, $\kappa_{2V} = 1 + \zeta_2 \neq 1$ is problematic within the SM, e.g. consider the $H \rightarrow ZZ$ renormalised amplitude in R_ξ gauge

$$\mathcal{M}^{\text{virt}} + \mathcal{M}_{\text{CT}} = -\frac{\alpha}{32\pi} \frac{e}{M_W s_W^5 c_W^2} (M_H^2 + 2M_Z^2 s_W^2 (3 + \xi_Z)) \times \Delta^{\text{UV}}(\mu^2, M_Z^2) \zeta_2 [\epsilon^\mu(Z_1) \epsilon_\mu(Z_2)]^* + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0)$$

$\overline{\text{MS}}$ related divergence

- Gauge invariance is violated when only part of the kinetic Higgs term is modified

$$D_\mu \Phi^\dagger D^\mu \Phi \supset -g_{HZZ}^{\text{SM}} H Z_\mu Z^\mu - g_{HHZZ}^{\text{SM}} H^2 Z_\mu Z^\mu$$

- ζ_2 induces singularities not removed by bare HZZ SM interactions.

Model-independency beyond leading order

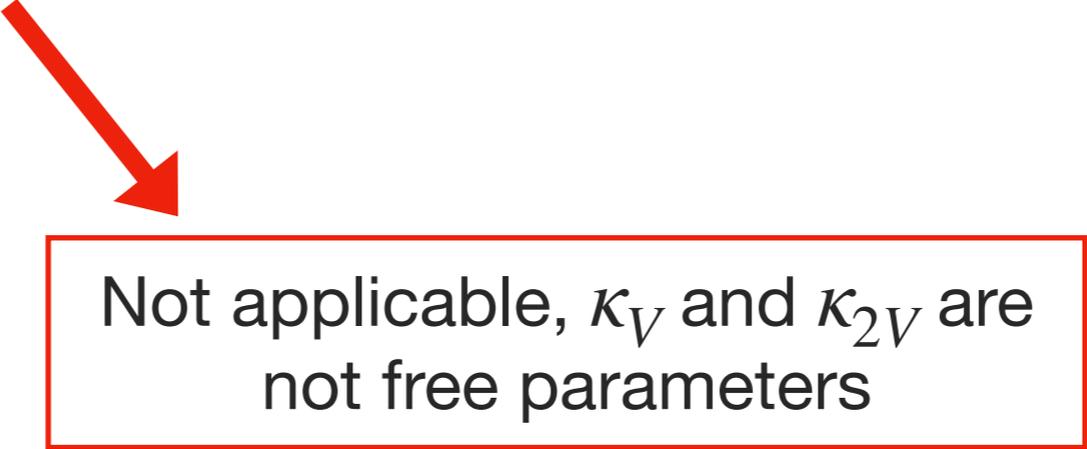
- We want to study correlations $\kappa_V - \kappa_{2V}$ which will help distinguishing BSM theories
- **How can we do a model-independent analysis as ATLAS and CMS and how do we include single Higgs data at NLO (e.g. $H \rightarrow VV^*$)?**

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SM Effective Field Theory (SMEFT)

- Model independent up to some assumptions:
 - New physics decouple
 - **Higgs is in an electroweak doublet**



Not applicable, κ_V and κ_{2V} are not free parameters

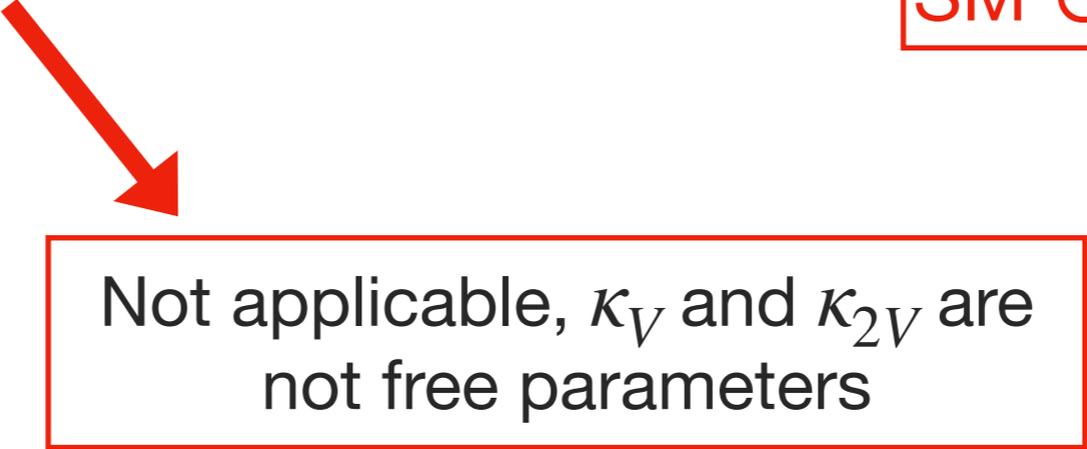
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SM \subset SMEFT \subset HEFT



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Higgs Effective Field Theory (HEFT)

- In HEFT the Higgs is a singlet and Goldstone bosons are parametrised non-linearly through matrix

$$U = \exp(i\pi^a \tau^a / v)$$

- Transformation under $L \in SU(2)_L$ and $R \in SU(2)_R$ as $U \rightarrow LUR^\dagger$

- Can be expanded as $U = \mathbb{1}_2 + i\frac{\pi^a}{v}\tau^a - \frac{2G^+G^- + G^0G^0}{2v^2}\mathbb{1}_2 + \dots$

where $G^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\pi^2 \pm i\pi^1)$ and $G^0 = -\pi^3$

- Covariant derivative is $D_\mu U = \partial_\mu U + ig_W(W_\mu^a \tau^a / 2)U - igUB_\mu \tau^3 / 2$
- Gauge fields in physical basis defined through the rotation

$$W_\mu^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(W_\mu^1 \mp W_\mu^2), \quad \begin{pmatrix} Z_\mu \\ A_\mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_W & s_W \\ -s_W & c_W \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} W_\mu^3 \\ B_\mu \end{pmatrix}$$

- Leading order Lagrangian given by

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^a W^{a\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}B_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{ferm}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Yuk}} + \frac{v^2}{4}\mathcal{F}_H \text{Tr}[D_\mu U^\dagger D^\mu U] \\ + \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu H \partial^\mu H - V(H) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{GF}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{FP}}$$

- Higgs interactions with gauge and Goldstone bosons parametrised by

$$\mathcal{F}_H = \left(1 + \underbrace{2(1 + \zeta_1)}_{\kappa_V} \frac{H}{v} + \underbrace{(1 + \zeta_2)}_{\kappa_{2V}} \left(\frac{H}{v}\right)^2 + \dots\right)$$

- Potential: $V(H) = \frac{1}{2}M_H^2 H^2 + \kappa_3 \frac{M_H^2}{2v} H^3 + \kappa_4 \frac{M_H^2}{8v^2} H^4$

- Yukawa: $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yuk}} = -\frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} (\bar{u}_L^i \quad \bar{d}_L^i) U \left(1 + c \frac{h}{v} + \dots\right) \begin{pmatrix} y_{ij}^u u_R^j \\ y_{ij}^d d_R^j \end{pmatrix} + \text{h.c.}$

- Faddeev-Popov & Gauge-Fixing:

HEFT in R_ξ by Herrero and Morales
[\(2005.03537, 2107.07890, 2208.05900\)](#)

Additional operators

- HEFT is non-renormalisable in the ‘classical’ sense
- When considering radiative corrections the UV divergences will source new operator structures at one-loop
- Necessary to include all additional relevant operators at tree level for a consistent one-loop calculation
- Chiral Dimension 4:

$$\mathcal{L}_4 = \sum_i a_i \mathcal{O}_i$$

\mathcal{O}_0	$a_0(M_Z^2 - M_W^2)\text{Tr}[U\tau^3U^\dagger\mathbf{V}_\mu]\text{Tr}[U\tau^3U^\dagger\mathbf{V}_\mu]$
\mathcal{O}_1	$a_1 g' g_W \text{Tr}[UB_{\mu\nu}\frac{\tau^3}{2}U^\dagger W_{\mu\nu}^a\frac{\tau^a}{2}]$
\mathcal{O}_{HBB}	$-a_{HBB} g'^2 \frac{H}{v} \text{Tr}[B_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu}]$
\mathcal{O}_{HWW}	$-a_{HWW} g_W^2 \frac{H}{v} \text{Tr}[W_{\mu\nu}^a W^{a\mu\nu}]$
$\mathcal{O}_{\square\mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}}$	$a_{\square\mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}} \frac{\square H}{v} \text{Tr}[\mathbf{V}_\mu\mathbf{V}^\mu]$
\mathcal{O}_{H0}	$a_{H0}(M_Z^2 - M_W^2)\frac{H}{v}\text{Tr}[U\tau^3U^\dagger\mathbf{V}_\mu]\text{Tr}[U\tau^3U^\dagger\mathbf{V}_\mu]$
\mathcal{O}_{H1}	$a_{H1} g' g_W \frac{H}{v} \text{Tr}[UB_{\mu\nu}\frac{\tau^3}{2}U^\dagger W_{\mu\nu}^a\frac{\tau^a}{2}]$
\mathcal{O}_{H11}	$a_{H11} \frac{H}{v} \text{Tr}[\mathcal{D}_\mu\mathbf{V}^\mu\mathcal{D}_\nu\mathbf{V}^\nu]$
\mathcal{O}_{d1}	$ia_{d1} g' \frac{\partial^\nu H}{v} \text{Tr}[UB_{\mu\nu}\frac{\tau^3}{2}U^\dagger\mathbf{V}^\mu]$
\mathcal{O}_{d2}	$ia_{d2} g_W \frac{\partial^\nu H}{v} \text{Tr}[W_{\mu\nu}^a\frac{\tau^a}{2}\mathbf{V}^\mu]$
\mathcal{O}_{d3}	$a_{d3} \frac{\partial^\nu H}{v} \text{Tr}[\mathbf{V}^\mu\mathcal{D}_\mu\mathbf{V}^\mu]$
$\mathcal{O}_{\square\square}$	$a_{\square\square} \frac{\square H \square H}{v}$

$$\mathbf{V}_\mu = (D_\mu U)U^\dagger$$

$$\mathcal{D}_\mu\mathbf{V}^\mu = \partial_\mu\mathbf{V}^\mu + i[g_W W_\mu^a\frac{\tau^a}{2}, \mathbf{V}^\mu]$$

Renormalisation

- Treat VEV and s_W as derived quantities $v = \frac{2M_W s_W}{e}$ $s_W^2 = 1 - c_W^2 = 1 - \frac{M_W^2}{M_Z^2}$
- Usual renormalisation of SM quantities:

$$\begin{aligned}
 e_0 &= (1 + \delta Z_e)e \\
 M_{0,W}^2 &= M_W^2 + \delta M_W^2 \\
 M_{0,Z}^2 &= M_Z^2 + \delta M_Z^2 \\
 s_{W,0} &= s_W + \delta s_W \\
 c_{W,0} &= c_W + \delta c_W
 \end{aligned}$$

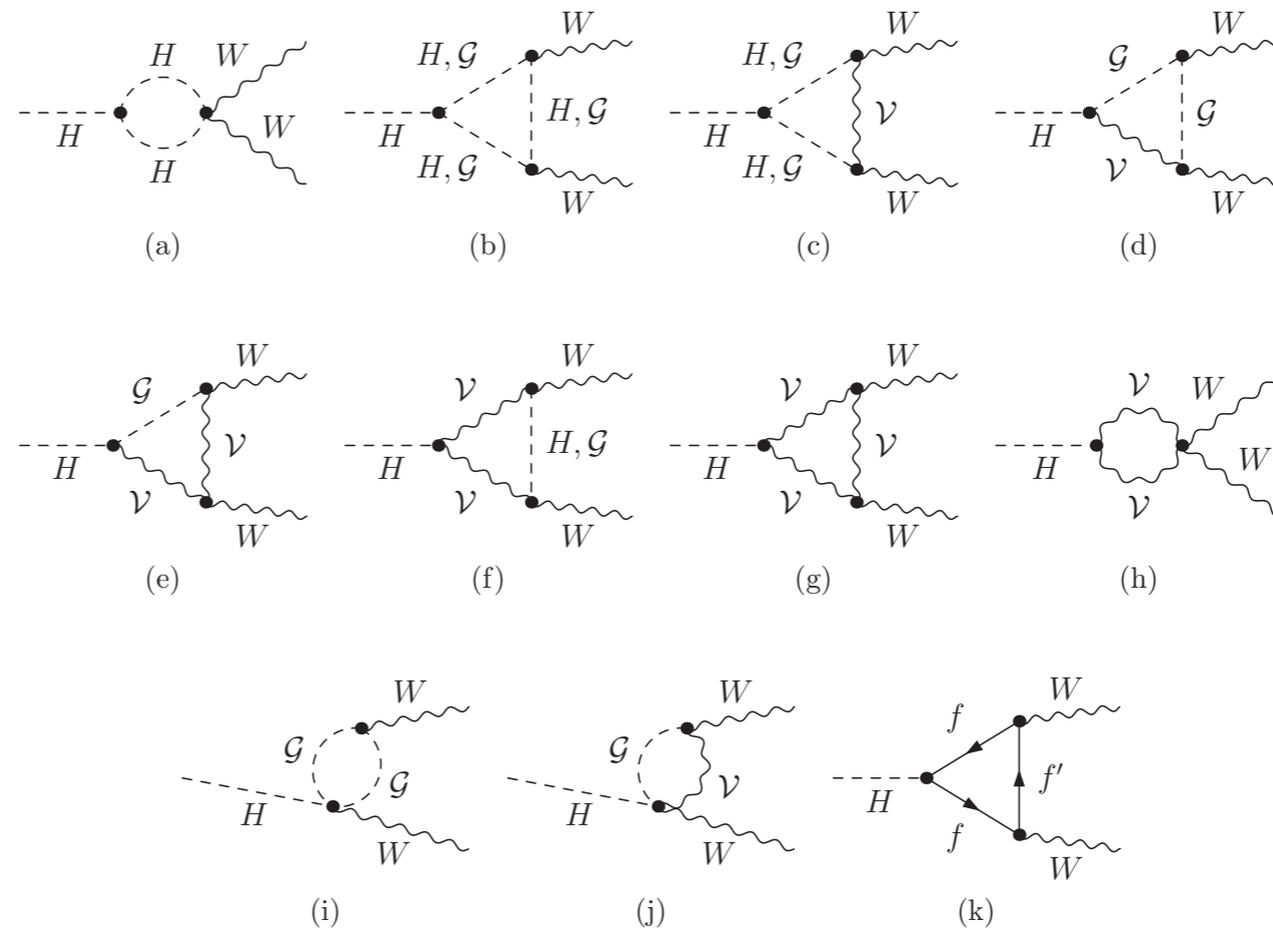
$$\begin{aligned}
 W_{0,\mu}^\pm &= (1 + \delta Z_W/2)W_\mu^\pm \\
 H_0 &= (1 + \delta Z_H/2)H \\
 \begin{pmatrix} A_0 \\ Z_0 \end{pmatrix}_\mu &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \delta Z_{AA} & \delta Z_{AZ} \\ \delta Z_{ZA} & 1 + \delta Z_{ZZ} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A \\ Z \end{pmatrix}_\mu
 \end{aligned}$$

- On-shell renormalisation conditions for gauge and Higgs sectors
- Electric charge renormalised in the Thomson limit
- HEFT coefficients: $\zeta_{0,i} = \zeta_i + \delta\zeta_i$ $a_{0,i} = a_i + \delta a_i$
- HEFT coefficients renormalised in $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme

HWV at one-loop

- Can calculate one-loop processes and fix $\delta a_i, \delta \zeta_i$ RCs by removing singularities
- Can calculate $H \rightarrow VV$

Triangle diagrams:



Counterterm:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Diagram (a)} \\
 & = \frac{eM_W(1 + \zeta_1)}{s_W} \left(\delta Z_e + \frac{\delta M_W^2}{2M_W^2} - \frac{\delta s_W}{s_W} + \frac{\delta \zeta_1}{1 + \zeta_1} + \frac{\delta Z_H}{2} + \delta Z_W \right) g^{\mu\nu}
 \end{aligned}$$

Terms with HEFT δa_i

$$+ \delta \left[\text{Diagram (h)} \right]$$

Decay widths

- Only include 1-loop interference with LO: $\mathcal{M}^2 = |\mathcal{M}_{\text{LO}}|^2 + 2 \text{Re} \{ \mathcal{M}_{\text{LO}} \mathcal{M}_{1\text{-loop}}^* \}$
- We parameterise both LO and 1-loop amplitudes as

$$\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}^\mu \epsilon_\mu^* = \mathcal{M}_{HVV}^{\mu\nu} \Delta_{VV}^{\nu\rho} \mathcal{M}_{ffV}^\rho \epsilon_\mu^*$$

Vector propagator ← polarisation vector

$$\mathcal{M}_{HVV}^{\mu\nu} = (F_1^{\text{LO}} + F_1^{1\text{-loop}}) g^{\mu\nu} + F_2^{1\text{-loop}} (p_1 + p_2)^\mu p_3^\nu + F_3^{1\text{-loop}} \epsilon_{\rho\sigma}^{\mu\nu} p_H^\rho (p_1 + p_2)^\sigma$$

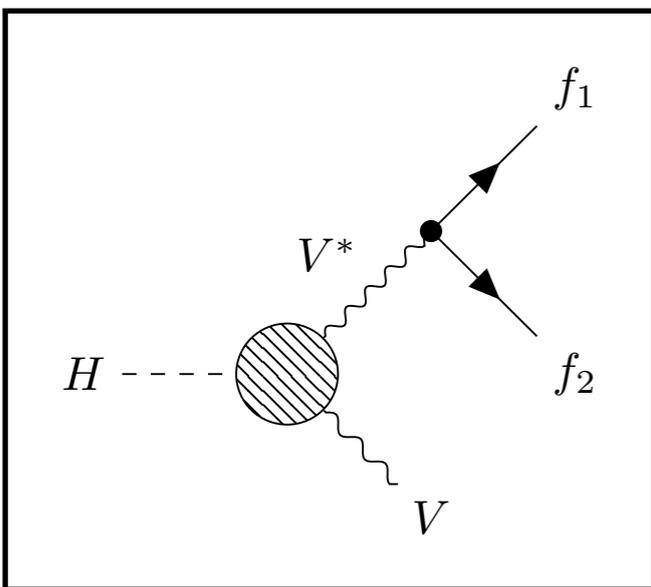
Levi-Civita tensor

- Decay width: (from S. Dawson and P. Giardino, [1807.11504](#) and [1801.01136](#))

$$m_{23_{\text{low}}}^{\text{up}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(M_H^2 + M_V^2 - m_{12}^2 \mp \sqrt{\lambda(m_{12}, M_H, M_V)} \right)$$

$$\Gamma[H(p_H) \rightarrow f(p_1) f(p_2) V(p_3)] = \int_0^{(M_H - M_V)^2} dm_{12}^2 \int_{m_{23,\text{low}}^2}^{m_{23,\text{up}}^2} dm_{23}^2 \frac{\mathcal{M}^2}{32(2\pi)^3 M_H^3}$$

$$m_{ij} = (p_i + p_j)^2$$



- Integration performed numerically after identifying form factors F_i

$\kappa_V - \kappa_{2V}$ bounds from Higgs data

- Renormalisation non-trivial and requires additional HEFT Lorentz structures and coefficients a_i
- Aim here is to obtain a consistent $\kappa_{2V} - \kappa_V$ correlation, not perform a comprehensive HEFT fit \rightarrow set $a_i = 0$ and perform χ^2 fit for bounds on $\zeta_1 - \zeta_2$

Naive rescaling by luminosity

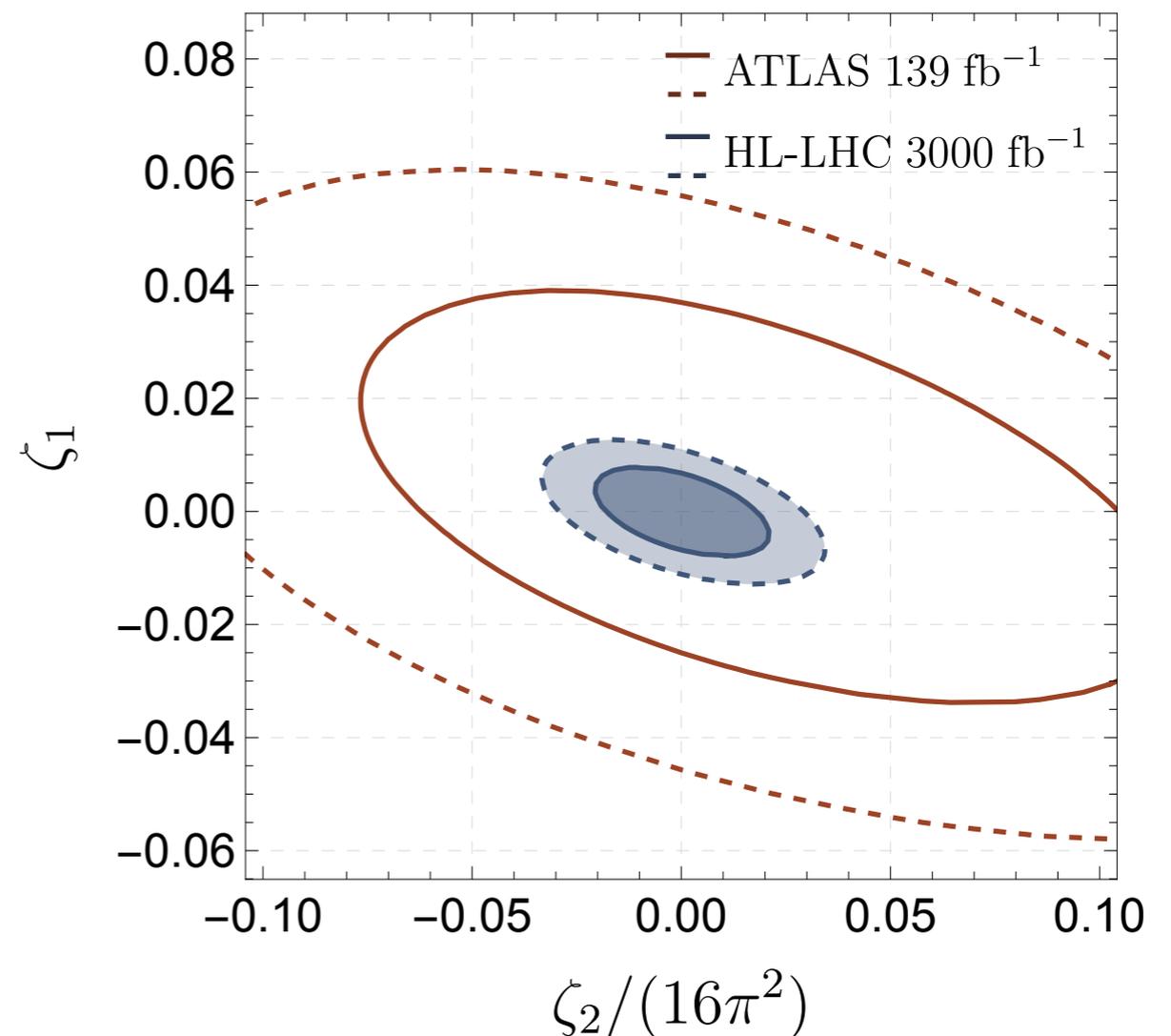
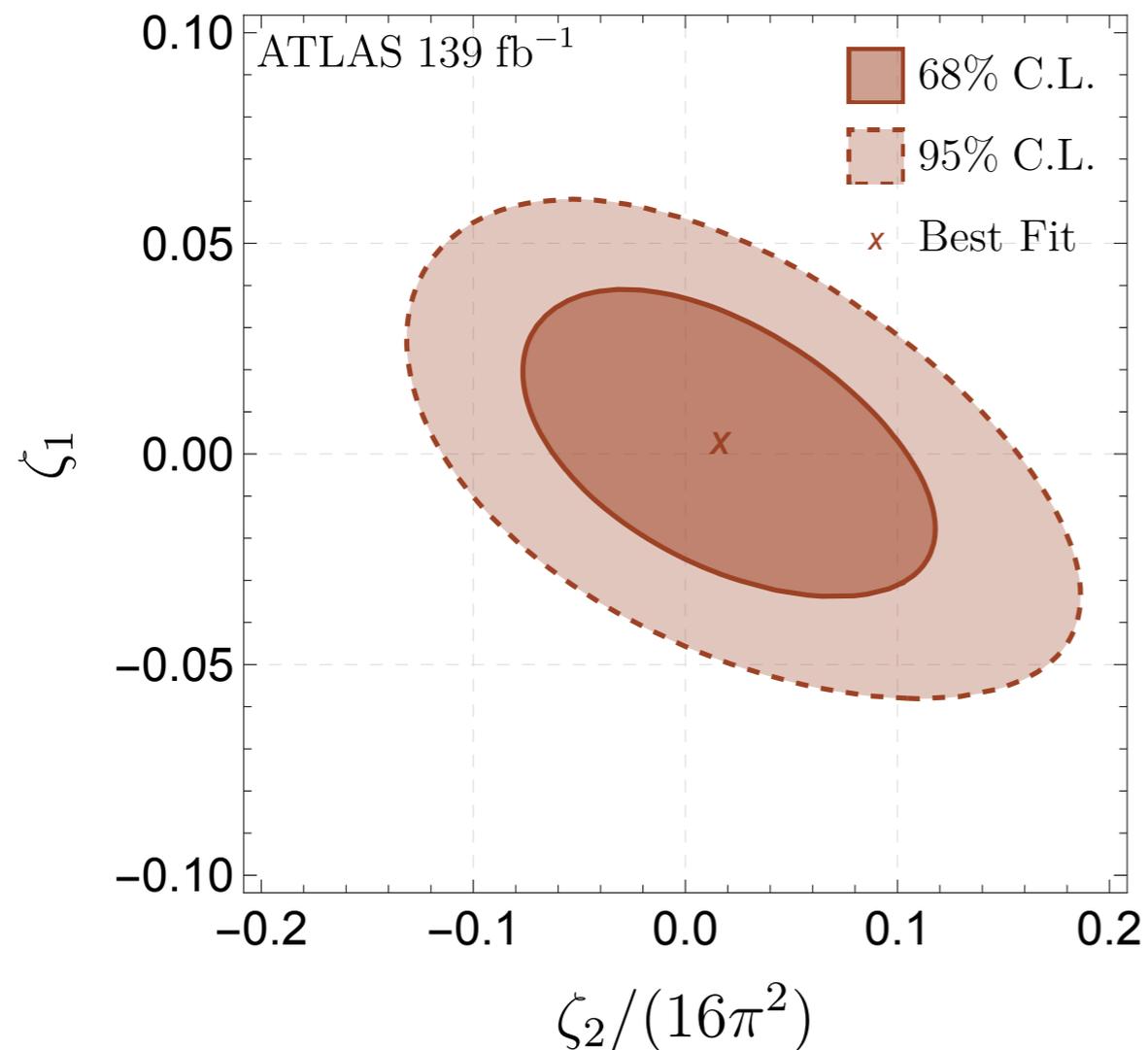
Parameters	ATLAS Run 2 data [*]	HL-LHC uncertainties	Correlation Matrix [*]
κ_Z	$0.99^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$	± 0.012	1 0.40 0.44 0.09
κ_W	$1.05^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$	± 0.013	1 0.47 0.08
κ_γ	$1.01^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$	± 0.013	1 0.12
$\kappa_{Z\gamma}$	$1.38^{+0.31}_{-0.37}$	± 0.073	1

*ATLAS ([2207.00092](#))

$$\chi^2(\zeta_1, \zeta_2) = \sum_{i,j=1}^{\text{data}} (\kappa_{i,\text{exp}} - \kappa_{i,\text{th}}(\zeta_1, \zeta_2)) (V_{ij})^{-1} (\kappa_{j,\text{exp}} - \kappa_{j,\text{th}}(\zeta_1, \zeta_2))$$

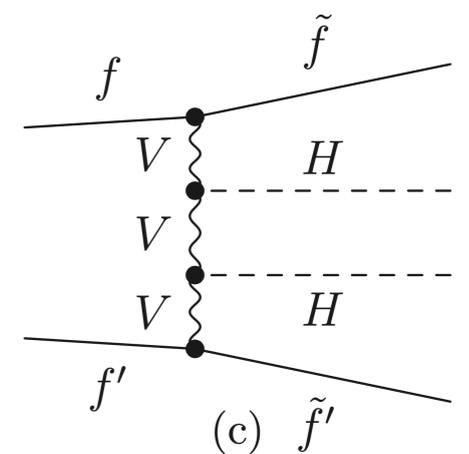
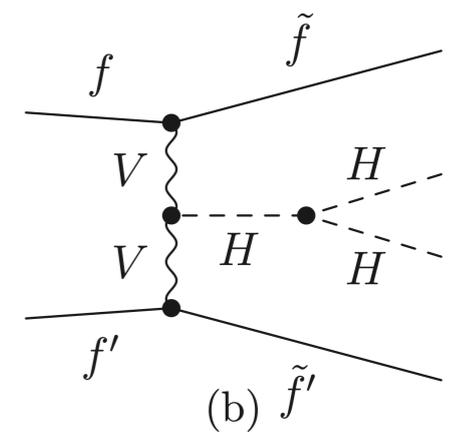
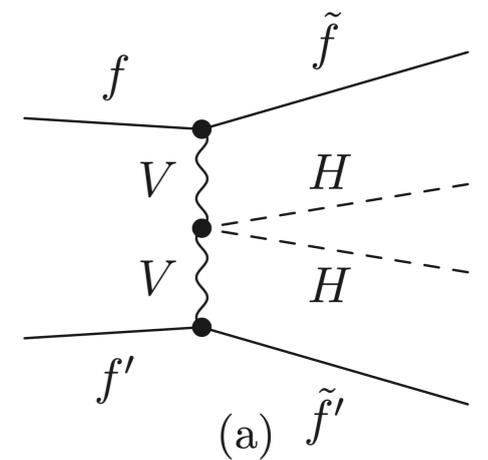
$\kappa_V - \kappa_{2V}$ bounds from Higgs data

- ζ_2 is loop suppressed
- Loose bounds on κ_{2V} and even at HL-LHC $|\zeta_2| \sim 4$
- Indicates the need to increase the sensitivity of direct searches



Enhancing direct sensitivity

- Usual selection for VBF topology $pp \rightarrow (H \rightarrow b\bar{b})(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})jj$
 - 2 forward jets in opposite hemispheres, $\eta_{j_1}\eta_{j_2} < 1$
 - large invariant mass of jets, $m_{jj} > 500$ GeV
- Main background from multijet QCD processes
- Sensitivity enhancement:
 - represent events as fully-connected bidirectional graphs
 - use a Graph Neural Network (GNN) for signal-background discrimination
 - Supervised learning: background $\rightarrow 0$, signal $\rightarrow 1$



Graph Neural Network

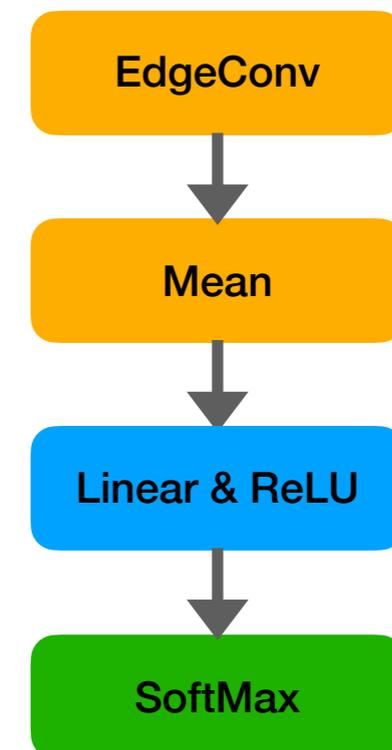
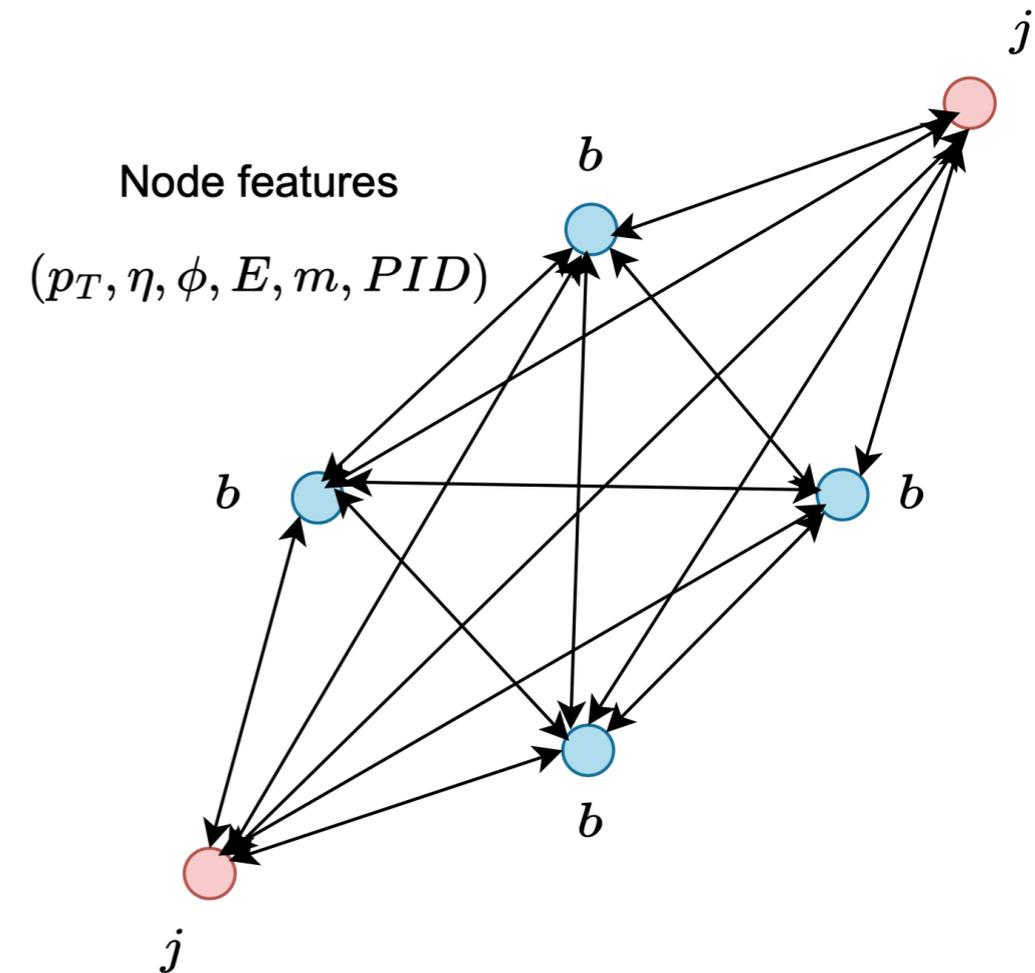
- Each node is assigned node features $\vec{x}_i^{(0)}$ as input
- Node features updated for each ‘message passing layer’ with Edge Convolution

$$\vec{x}_i^{(l+1)} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{N}(i)|} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \text{RELU} \left(\Theta \cdot (\vec{x}_j^{(l)} - \vec{x}_i^{(l)}) + \Phi \cdot (\vec{x}_i^{(l)}) \right)$$

Linear Layers

Nodes in ‘neighbourhood’ of i (connected)

- ‘Graph readout operation’ \rightarrow mean
- We then have a vector for the ‘graph properties’
- A last linear layer produces a two-dimensional vector \rightarrow signal/background scores



Performance

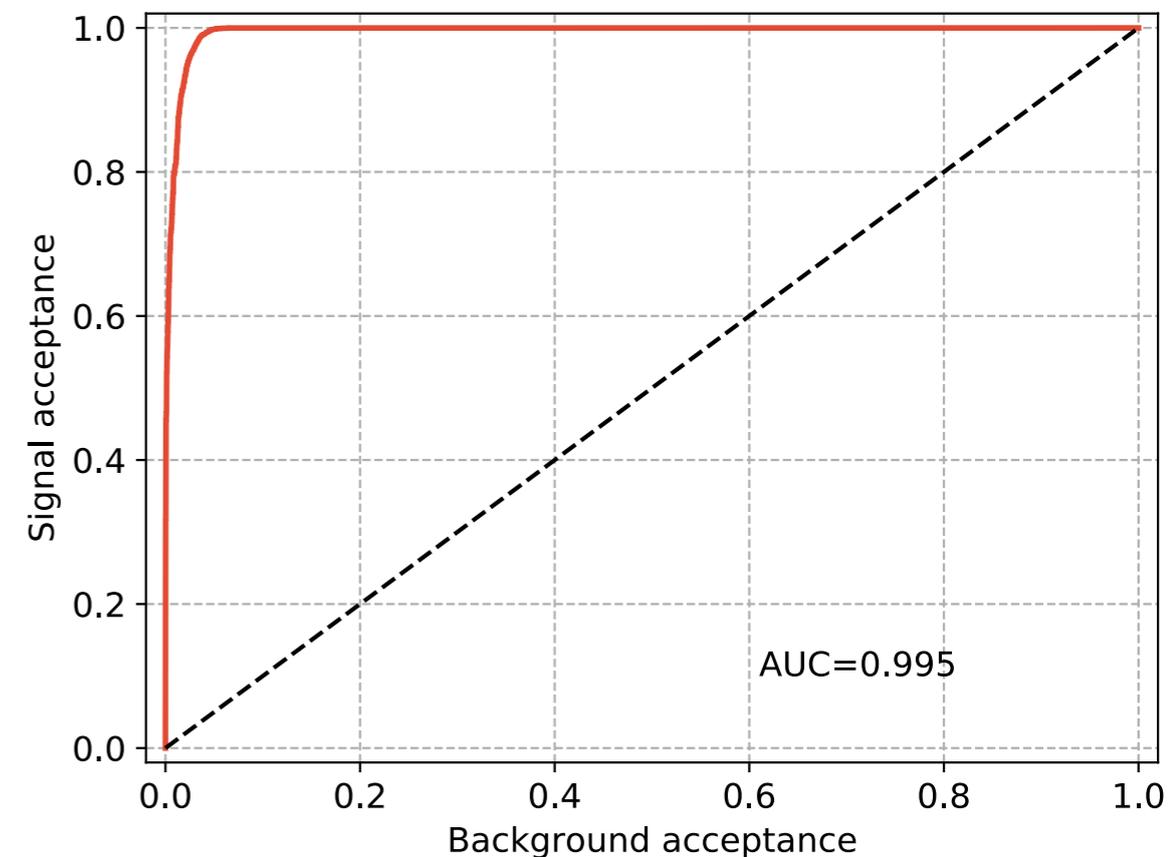
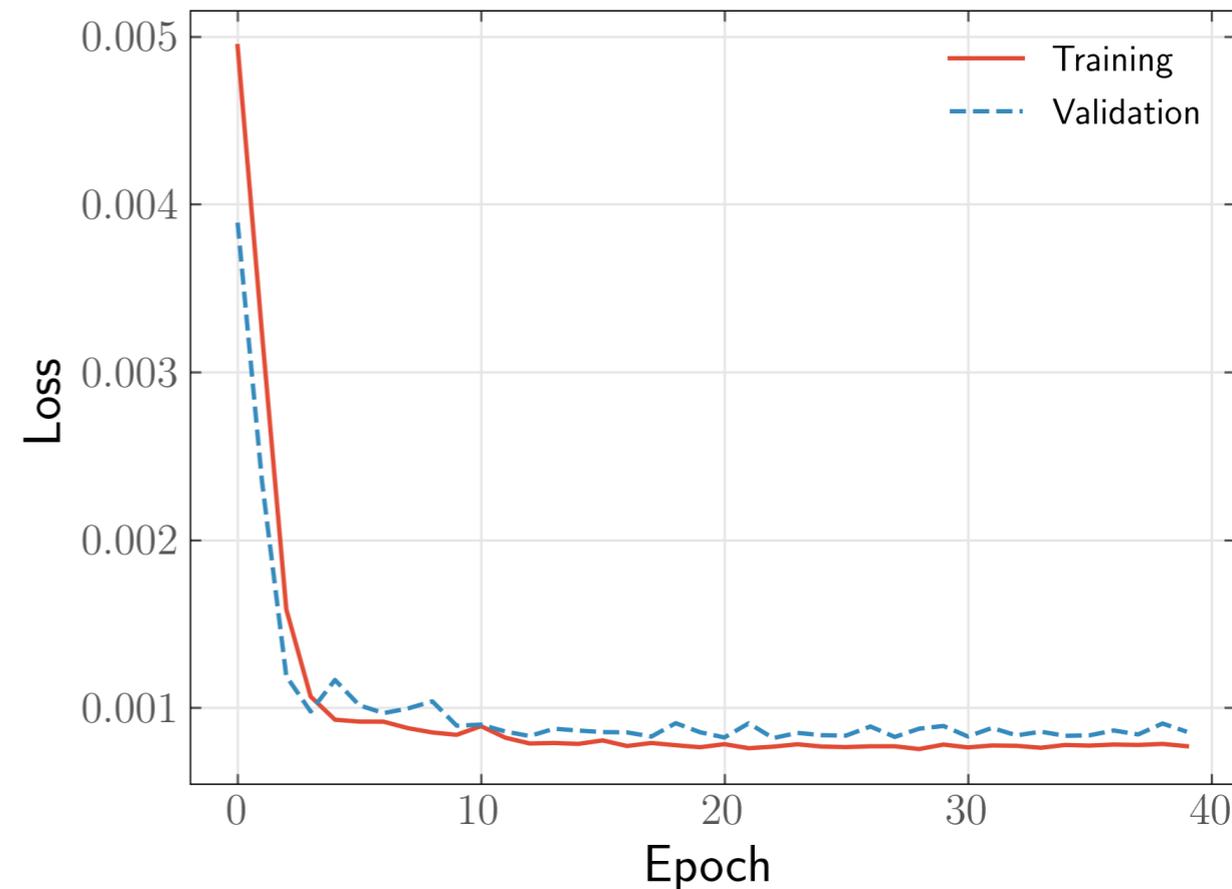
- Train by minimising cross-entropy loss function with ADAM

$$\mathcal{L} = - \sum_{i=1}^2 y_i \log \hat{y}_i$$

True label (1 or 0) \uparrow

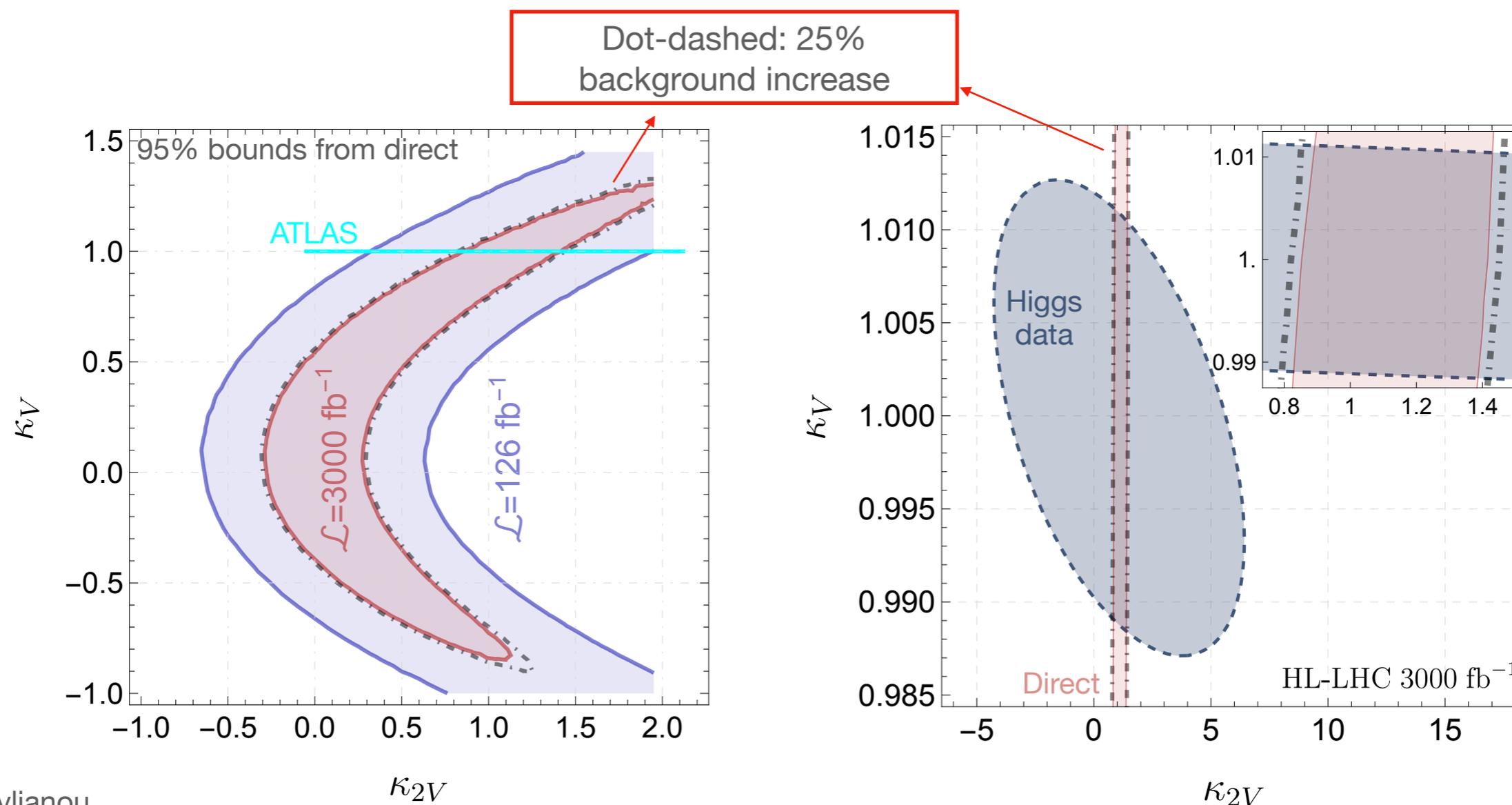
\downarrow Predicted score

- Validation indicates avoidance of overfitting
- Optimal working point identified from Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve to significantly reduce background



Bounds on $\kappa_V - \kappa_{2V}$

- Relative agreement gives confidence for HL-LHC extrapolation
- Improvement indicate that we might be optimistic:
 - ▶ No full detector simulation
 - ▶ No subdominant backgrounds (e.g. multi-boson and top)
- Also consider additional 25% background for HL-LHC



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- Relative agreement gives confidence for HL-LHC extrapolation
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▶ No full detector simulation

▶ No subdominant backgrounds (e.g. multi-boson and top)

This can affect the GNN performance

But:

- ▶ Such backgrounds have different kinematics
- ▶ Multi-class classification separating different backgrounds can enhance results in that case
- ▶ More sophisticated graph-embedding (e.g. physics-inspired) can further improve results

Explored this in [2111.01838](#) for semi-leptonic top decays in SMEFT



Conclusion

- The quartic gauge-Higgs coupling κ_{2V} is currently relatively unconstrained
- The correlation between $\kappa_V - \kappa_{2V}$ is an essential ingredient in distinguishing BSM scenarios (e.g. models with Higgs mixing vs compositeness or SMEFT vs HEFT)
- Including single Higgs data is non-trivial at NLO but HEFT provides a theoretically consistent framework to achieve this
- However, constraints from Higgs data on κ_{2V} are relatively loose
- Despite our idealistic analysis for direct detection, competitiveness of GNNs demonstrates that such techniques deserve consideration as part of realistic experimental analyses
- Improvements of $\kappa_{2V} = 1 \pm 40\%$ could be within reach of the HL-LHC