

Signal-background interference effects in Higgs-mediated diphoton production beyond NLO

Federico Buccioni

Physik-Department
Technische Universität München

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based on [2212.06287]

In collaboration with: P. Bargiela, F. Caola, F. Devoto, A. von Manteuffel and L. Tancredi



Outline of the talk

Higgs-exploration program: focus on *decay width*

Bound on Higgs-boson width from on-shell measurements: *Higgs interferometry*

Mass-shift and its link to Γ_H

Destructive interference and bounds on Γ_H

Calculation of *signal-background interference* in diphoton production *beyond NLO QCD*

diphoton three-loop amplitudes

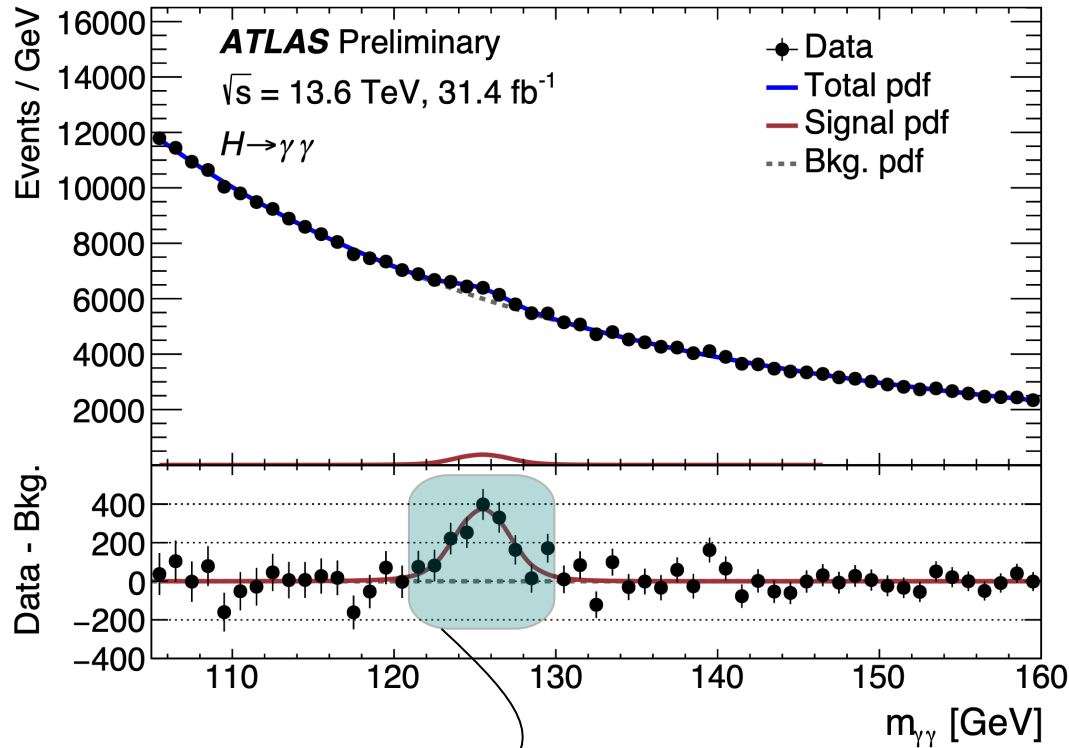
Soft-virtual approximation

updated bounds on Higgs-boson width determination

Summary and *outlook*

The Higgs boson: properties and couplings

ATLAS "rediscovers" the Higgs @ 13.6 TeV (23.05.23)



SM prediction for $\Gamma_H \sim 4$ MeV

Detector resolution \sim few GeV

We cannot measure Γ_H at the LHC directly, we can only put bounds

This talk

- Mass
- Width
- CP properties and anomalous couplings
- Couplings to SM particles (EW sector + Yukawa)
- Higgs potential

The Higgs-boson mass the 13 TeV LHC

CMS [Phys. Lett. B 805 (2020) 1354-25]

$$m_H(\gamma\gamma) = 125.78 \pm 0.18 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.18 \text{ (syst)} \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_H(4\ell) = 125.26 \pm 0.20 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.08 \text{ (syst)} \text{ GeV}$$

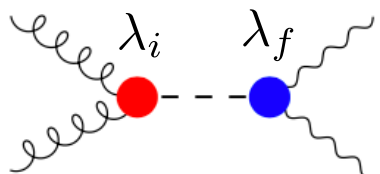
ATLAS [Phys. Lett. B 805 (2020) 1354-25]

$$m_H(4\ell) = 124.99 \pm 0.18 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.04 \text{ (syst)} \text{ GeV}$$

Proposals:

- Off-shell measurements
- On-shell measurements

Bounds on Γ_H from off-shell measurements



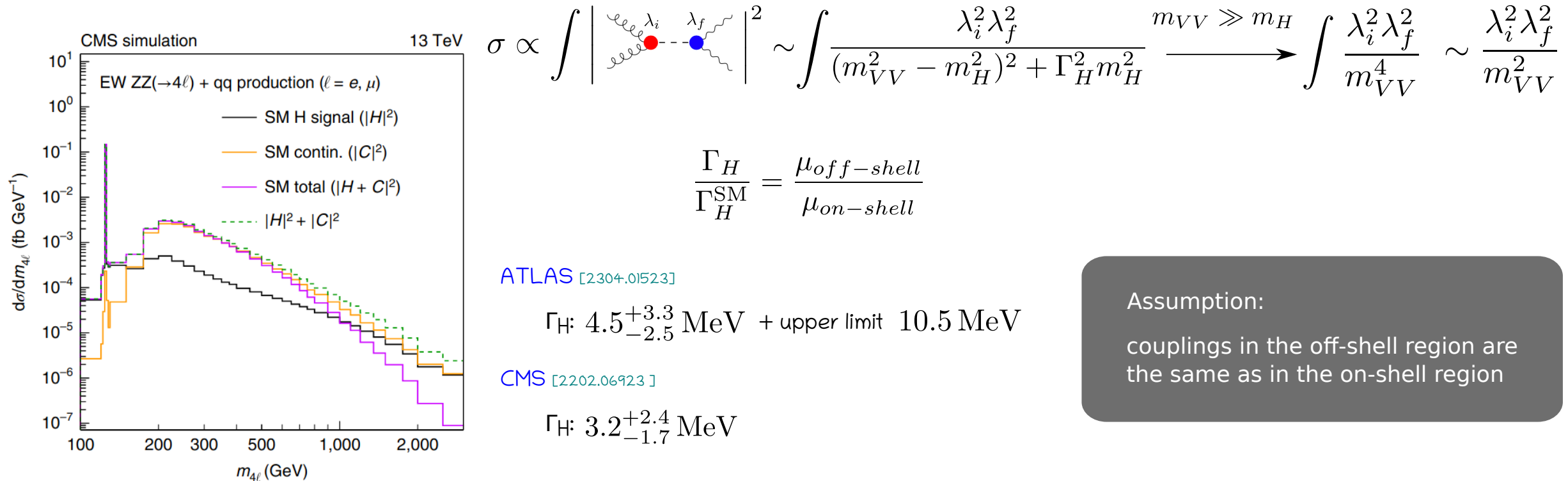
$$\sigma_{i \rightarrow H \rightarrow f} \sim \sigma_{i \rightarrow H} \times \text{BR}(H \rightarrow f) \sim \frac{\lambda_i^2 \lambda_f^2}{\Gamma_H m_H}$$

cross section unchanged upon rescaling

$$\begin{cases} \lambda_{i/f} = \xi \lambda_{i/f}^{\text{SM}} \\ \Gamma_H = \xi^4 \Gamma_H^{\text{SM}} \end{cases}$$

How to lift this degeneracy?

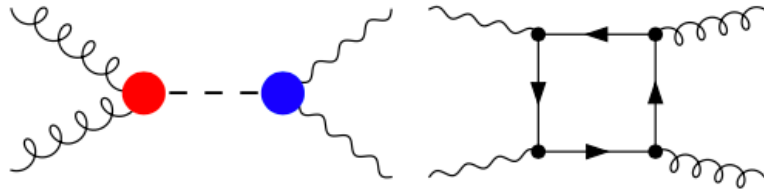
1) Off-shell cross sections measurements [N. Kauer, G. Passarino 1206.4803] [F. Caola, K. Melnikov 1307.4935]



Signal-background interference in diphoton production

Higgs interferometry [S.P. Martin 1208.1533] [L.J. Dixon, Y. Li 1305.3854]

Consider on-shell Higgs-boson production in $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decay channel



$$\mathcal{M}_{gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} = \frac{\mathcal{M}_{\text{sig}}}{m_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - m_H^2 + i\Gamma_H m_H} + \mathcal{M}_{\text{bkg}}$$

Interference lifts degeneracy on couplings/ Γ_H :

$$|\mathcal{M}_{gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma}|^2 = |S|^2 + |B|^2 + \frac{2m_{\gamma\gamma}^2}{(m_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - m_H^2)^2 + \Gamma_H^2 m_H^2} [(m_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - m_H^2)\text{Re } I + \Gamma_H m_H \text{Im } I]$$

$\sim \lambda_i^2 \lambda_f^2$
 $\sim \lambda_i \lambda_f$

Idea: any effect due to Interference can be used to constrain independently Γ_H of couplings

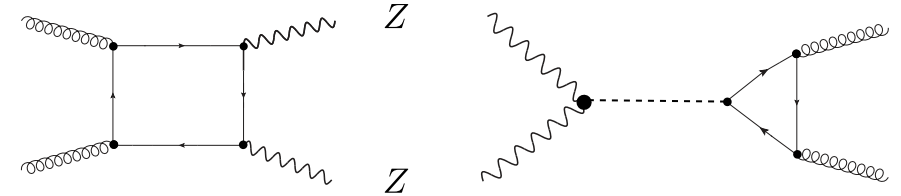
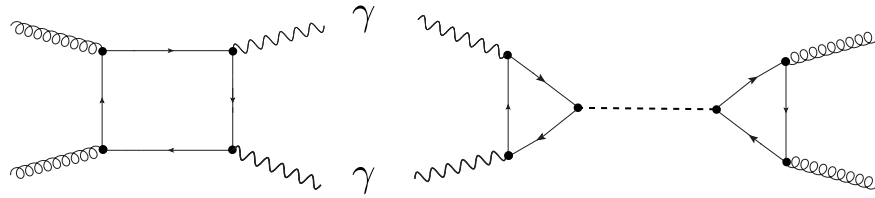
$$\text{Re } I = \text{Re}\mathcal{M}_{\text{bkg}}\text{Re}\mathcal{M}_{\text{sig}} + \text{Im}\mathcal{M}_{\text{bkg}}\text{Im}\mathcal{M}_{\text{sig}} \quad \text{"real-part" of the interference}$$

$$\text{Im } I = \text{Re}\mathcal{M}_{\text{bkg}}\text{Im}\mathcal{M}_{\text{sig}} - \text{Im}\mathcal{M}_{\text{bkg}}\text{Re}\mathcal{M}_{\text{sig}} \quad \text{"imaginary-part" of the interference}$$

What are suitable "observables"?
How to harness interference effects?

Signal-background interference: why $\gamma\gamma$?

$$|\mathcal{M}_{gg \rightarrow VV}|^2 = |S|^2 \left[1 + \frac{2m_{VV}^2}{(m_{VV}^2 - m_H^2)^2 + \Gamma_H^2 m_H^2} \left((m_{VV}^2 - m_H^2) \text{Re} \frac{B^\dagger}{S} + \Gamma_H m_H \text{Im} \frac{B^\dagger}{S} \right) \right] + |B|^2$$



$$B_{\gamma\gamma} \sim \frac{g_s^2 e^2}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$S_{\gamma\gamma} \sim \frac{g_s^2 e^2}{(4\pi)^4}$$

$$\frac{S_{\gamma\gamma}}{S_{ZZ}} \sim \frac{e}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$B_{ZZ} \sim \frac{g_s^2 e^2}{(4\pi)^2}$$

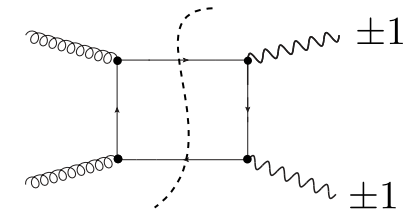
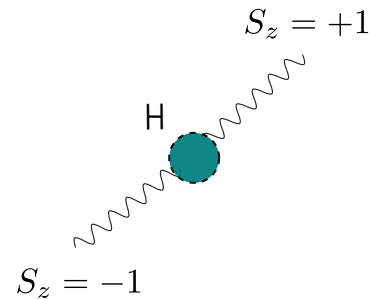
$$S_{ZZ} \sim \frac{g_s^2 e}{(4\pi)^2}$$

Naive power counting:

$$\frac{\sigma_{int,\gamma\gamma}}{\sigma_H} \sim 2 \frac{\Gamma_H}{m_H} \frac{(4\pi v)^2}{m_H^2} \sim 0.1$$

"Loop enhancement"

In reality, contribution to cross-section starts only at 2-loop



$$= 0, \quad \text{for } m_q = 0$$

$$h(\gamma_1) = h(\gamma_2) = \pm 1$$

Real part of interference and the mass shift

$$I_{\text{Re}} \propto \frac{2m_{\gamma\gamma}^2}{(m_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - m_H^2)^2 + \Gamma_H^2 m_H^2} (m_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - m_H^2) \text{Re } I$$

$$\text{Re } I = \text{Re } \mathcal{M}_{\text{bkg}} \text{Re } \mathcal{M}_{\text{sig}} + \text{Im } \mathcal{M}_{\text{bkg}} \text{Im } \mathcal{M}_{\text{sig}}$$

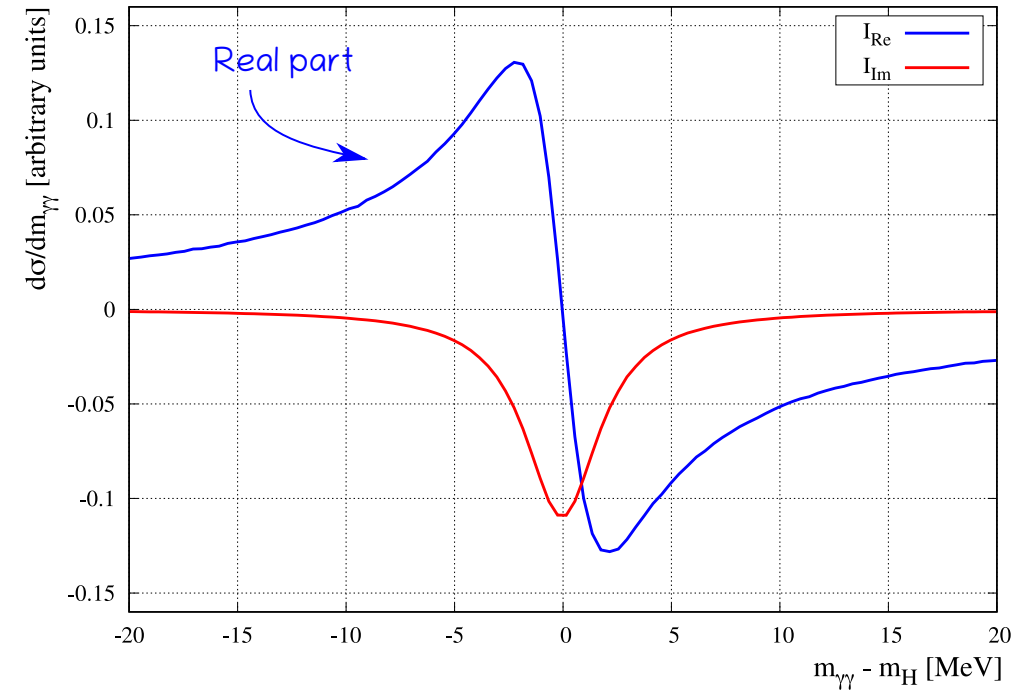
Real part

- Antisymmetric around the peak, does not contribute to the cross section
- unbalance of events around the Higgs peak: excess below the peak

apparent mass shift [S.P. Martin 1208.1533]

First pointed out in the context of precision Higgs boson mass measurements

Expected mass-shift @LO $\mathcal{O}(100 \text{ MeV})$ [S.P. Martin 1208.1533]



The mass shift is a direct consequence of signal-background interference.

How can one exploit this to put bounds on Γ_H ?

Mass shift and bounds on Higgs width

Exploit linear dependence of interference on couplings to put bounds on Γ_H [Dixon, Li 1305.3854]

Idea:

- Allow Γ_H to differ from SM prediction
- Higgs coupling change accordingly in order to maintain roughly SM yield (good agreement with SM prediction)

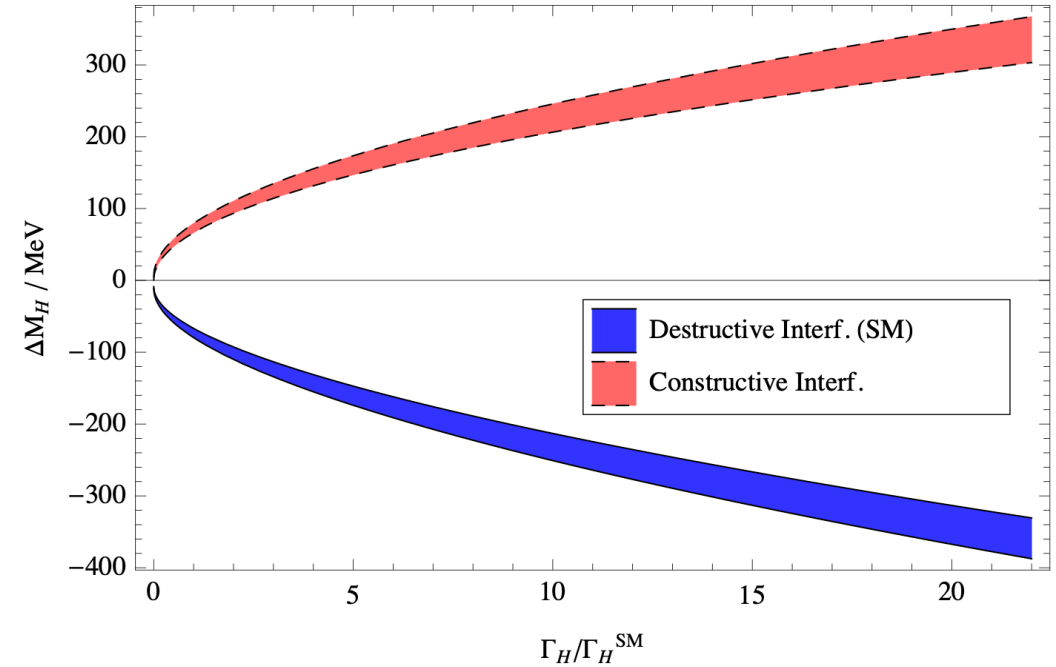
Usual "flat direction in parameter space"

$$\lambda_{i,f} \rightarrow \xi_{i,f} \lambda_{i,f}$$

$$\frac{(\xi_i \xi_f)^2 S}{m_H \Gamma_H} + \xi_i \xi_f I \sim \frac{S}{m_H \Gamma_H^{SM}} + I$$

Negligible for small deviation from SM prediction

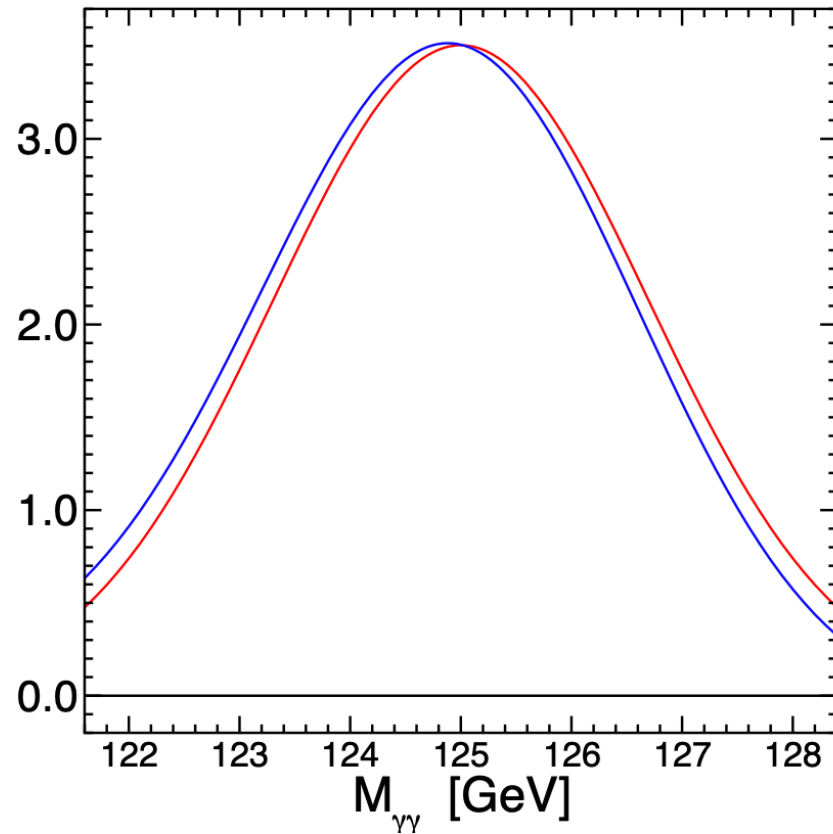
Interference effect on cross section is small wrt integrated signal



$$\xi_i \xi_f \propto \Delta M_{\gamma\gamma} \propto \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma_H}}$$

Theory estimation of the mass shift

[S.P. Martin 1208.1533]



Theory approach:

Simulate detector resolution via Gaussian smearing.
Mass-shift $\mathcal{O}(100 \text{ MeV})$

Gaussian likelihood fit [Dixon, Li 1305.3854]

Extract mean value at fixed std. deviation

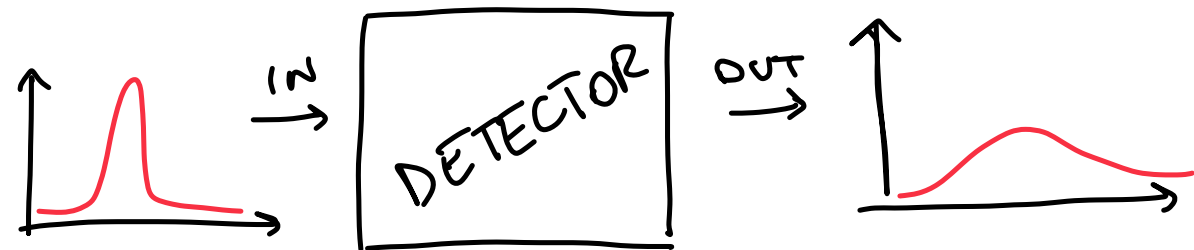
First moment of
invariant mass distribution [S.P. Martin 1208.1533]

$$\sigma_0 = \int_{M_{\gamma\gamma}-\delta}^{M_{\gamma\gamma}+\delta} dM_{\gamma\gamma} \frac{d\sigma}{dM_{\gamma\gamma}}$$

$$\langle M_{\gamma\gamma} \rangle_{\delta} = \frac{1}{\sigma_0} \int_{M_{\gamma\gamma}-\delta}^{M_{\gamma\gamma}+\delta} dM_{\gamma\gamma} \frac{d\sigma}{dM_{\gamma\gamma}} M_{\gamma\gamma}$$

$$\Delta M_{\gamma\gamma} = \langle M_{\gamma\gamma} \rangle_{\text{sig+int}} - \langle M_{\gamma\gamma} \rangle_{\text{sig}}$$

Smearing effect from detector resolution



Realistic detector resolution: Mass-shift $\sim 35 \text{ MeV}$

[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2016-009]

Imaginary part and the destructive interference

$$I_{\text{Im}} \propto \frac{2m_{\gamma\gamma}^2}{(m_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - m_H^2)^2 + \Gamma_H^2 m_H^2} \Gamma_H m_H \text{Im } I$$

$$\text{Im } I = \text{Re} \mathcal{M}_{\text{bkg}} \text{Im} \mathcal{M}_{\text{sig}} - \text{Im} \mathcal{M}_{\text{bkg}} \text{Re} \mathcal{M}_{\text{sig}}$$

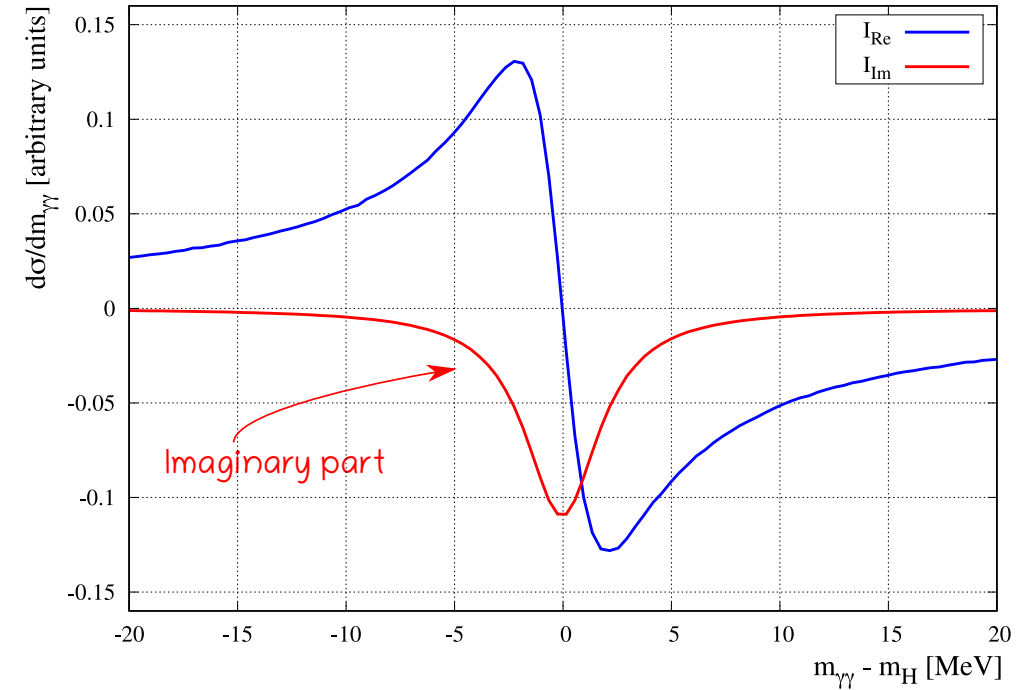
Imaginary part

- Symmetric around the peak, contributes to the cross section
- Relative phase of sig-bkg amplitudes is such that the interference is destructive

Expected impact on on-shell cross-section $\mathcal{O}(1\%)$

When uncertainty on Higgs cross-section measurements fall below 2% interference effects will become relevant

How can one exploit the contribution from the destructive interference to put bounds on Γ_H ?



Bounds on Higgs-boson width from XS measurements

On-shell rate and the Higgs boson total width [Campbell, Carena, Harnik, Liu 1704.08259]

$$I_{\text{Im}} \propto \frac{2m_{\gamma\gamma}^2}{(m_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - m_H^2)^2 + \Gamma_H^2 m_H^2} \Gamma_H m_H \text{Im } I \xrightarrow{\text{NWA}} \sigma_{\text{int}} \propto \frac{\pi}{\Gamma_H m_H} \times \lambda_i \lambda_f \Gamma_H m_H$$

Linearly dependent on couplings

independent of width

Consider a simultaneous modification of couplings and width along the flat direction in parameter space

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{i,f} &= \xi \lambda_{i,f}^{\text{SM}} \\ \Gamma_H &= \xi^4 \Gamma_H^{\text{SM}} \end{aligned} \quad \rightarrow \quad \xi^2 = \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma_H}{\Gamma_H^{\text{SM}}}}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{sig}} = \sigma_{\text{sig}}^{\text{SM}} \quad \sigma_{\text{int}} = \xi^2 \sigma_{\text{int}}^{\text{SM}} = \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma_H}{\Gamma_H^{\text{SM}}}} \sigma_{\text{int}}^{\text{SM}}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{on-shell}} = \sigma_{\text{sig}}^{\text{SM}} + \sigma_{\text{int}} = \sigma_{\text{sig}} \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma_H}{\Gamma_H^{\text{SM}}}} \frac{\sigma_{\text{int}}^{\text{SM}}}{\sigma_{\text{sig}}^{\text{SM}}} \right)$$

@LO: -0.5 %

@NLO: -1.2 %

@NNLO: (this talk)

Theory prediction

Estimates on bounds:

Assuming $\sigma_{\text{int}}/\sigma_{\text{sig}} \sim -1.5\%$

Uncertainty on $\gamma\gamma$ XS $\sim 9\%$ [ATL+CMS Nature 607, 60-68 (2022)]

$\Gamma_H < 30/40 \times \Gamma_H^{\text{SM}}$

State of the art of interference effects in diphoton production

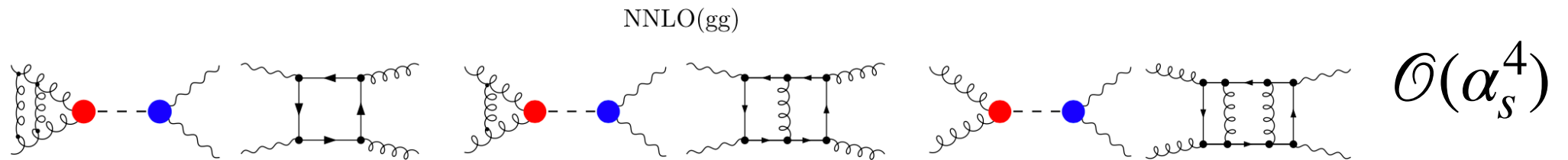
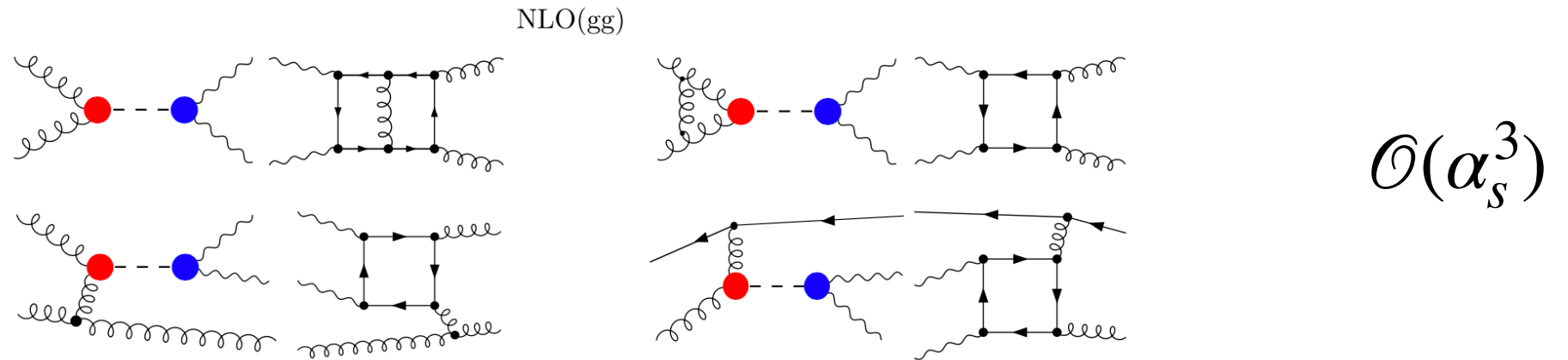
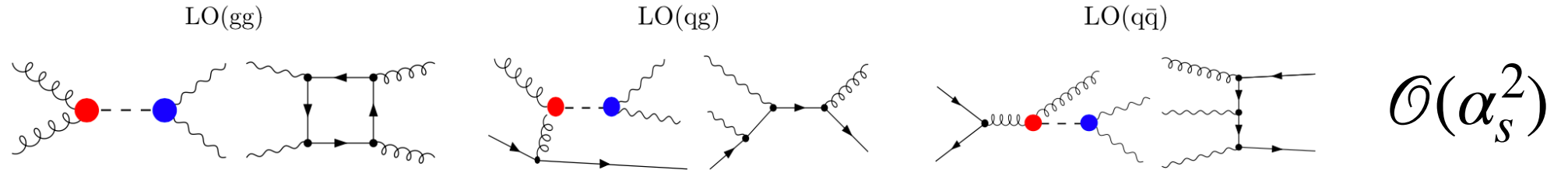
- **Leading-order analysis** including gg channel only. **Mass-shift** estimated via first moment ~ 150 MeV [S.P. Martin 1208.1533]
- **Inclusion** of other partonic channels: qg and qq give an **effect of ~ 30 MeV**, opposite sign wrt gg channel, qg mainly responsible [D. de Florian, N. Fidanza, R. J. Hernandez-Pinto, J. Mazzitelli, Y. Rotstein Habarnau, F. R. Sborlini 1303.1397]
- **Interference at NLO** [Dixon and Siu hep-ph/0302233] and proposal to **use mass-shift to put bounds on Γ_H** [Dixon, Li 1305.3854]: mass-shift goes from ~ 120 MeV @LO to ~ 70 MeV @NLO
- **Analysis at NLO** focussed on **integrated on-shell cross sections** [Campbell, Caren, Harnik, Liu 1704.08259]: destructive interference contributing only at NLO (thus effectively LO). NNLO corrections could follow "Higgs-signal" pattern and increase with higher-order corrections

even in our NLO calculation. A reduction of the uncertainty in σ_{int} would necessitate a three-loop calculation of a $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering process, which is currently not tractable. However, on the time-scale over which the experimental precision could probe deviations at this level, i.e. the HL-LHC, there will surely be progress in this direction.

[Campbell, Caren, Harnik, Liu 1704.08259]

Call for a **study at NNLO** of
signal-background interference effects

Signal-background interference beyond NLO



This talk

Interference@NNLO: ingredients

- Subtraction scheme for NNLO QCD corrections to colour singlet
- 5-point two-loop amplitudes for background process [B. Agarwal, FB, A. von Manteuffel, L. Tancredi] [S. Badger et al]
- Three-loop amplitudes for background process [P. Bargiela, F. Caola, A. von Manteuffel, L. Tancredi]

Everything ready to be deployed for full NNLO analysis

However:

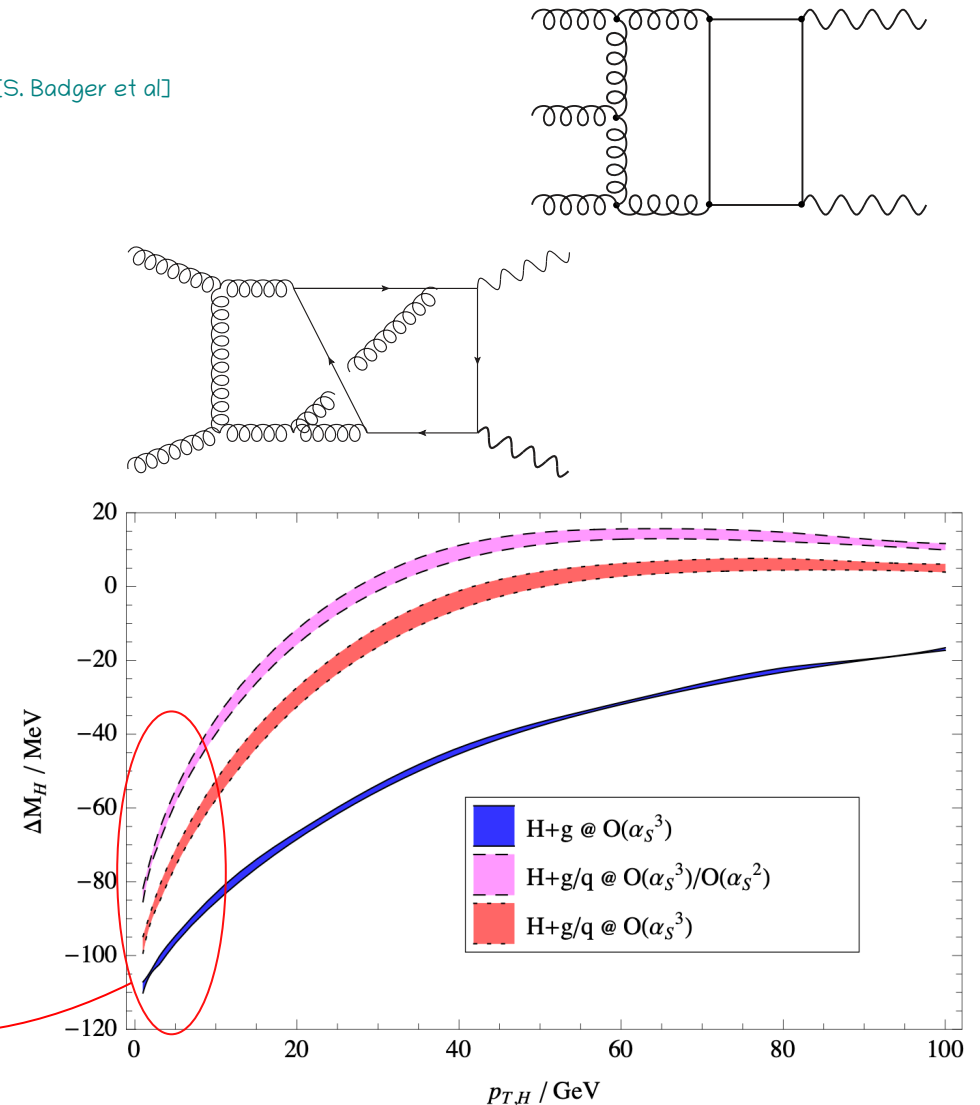
Technically involved and non-trivial, mostly due to evaluation of loop amplitudes in unresolved kinematic configurations

Strategy:

capture main effects beyond NLO through appropriate approximation:

Soft-virtual approximation

Mass-shift enhanced at small value of Higgs p_T



Soft-virtual approximation in a nutshell

Soft-virtual (SV) @NNLO: consider **only soft emissions**, discard hard real contributions

The **SV approximation** and **various improvements** of it extensively adopted for Higgs predictions (colour singlet in general)

Several proposals on how to **account for subleading terms**

Important: process largely dominated by gg-fusion

The only **process-dependent part** is encoded in purely **virtual contributions**

Differential hadronic cross-section:

$$d\sigma(\tau, y, \theta_i) = \int d\xi_1 d\xi_2 f_g(\xi_1, \mu_F) f_g(\xi_2, \mu_F) \delta(\tau - \xi_1 \xi_2 z) d\hat{\sigma}(z, \hat{y}, \hat{\theta}_i, \alpha_s, Q^2)$$

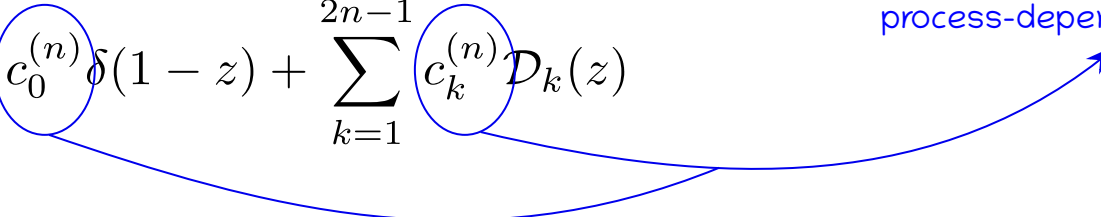
Soft limit of the partonic cross section, i.e. **$z \rightarrow 1$** :

$$d\hat{\sigma}(z, \hat{y}, \hat{\theta}_i, \alpha_s, Q^2) \simeq d\hat{\sigma}_{\text{Born}} z G(z, \alpha_s, Q^2) \quad G(z, \alpha_s) = \delta(1 - z) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\right)^n G^{(n)}(z)$$

In soft-virtual approximation:

$$G^{(n)}(z) = c_0^{(n)} \delta(1 - z) + \sum_{k=1}^{2n-1} c_k^{(n)} \mathcal{P}_k(z)$$

process-dependent part



Setup of the calculation @NNLO_{SV}

$$\sqrt{s} = 13.6 \text{ TeV}$$

PDF set: NNLO31_nnlo_as_0118

Choice of scale: $\mu_F = \mu_R = m_{\gamma\gamma}/2$

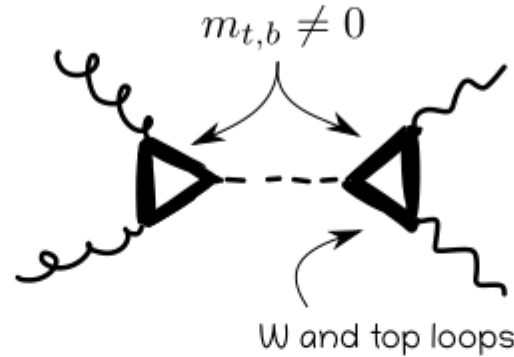
Fiducial cuts:

- $p_{T,\gamma_{1,2}} > 20 \text{ GeV}$
- $|\eta_\gamma| < 2.5$
- $p_{T,\gamma_1} p_{T,\gamma_2} > (35 \text{ GeV})^2$
- $\Delta R_{\gamma_{1,2}} > 0.4$

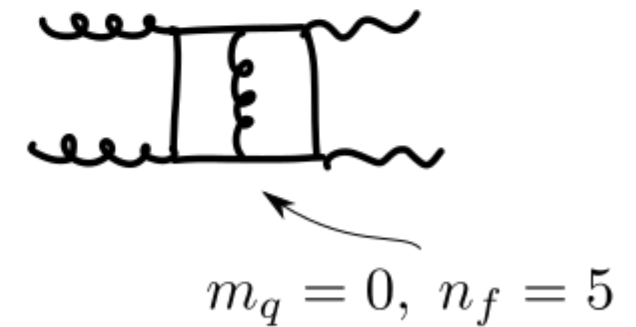
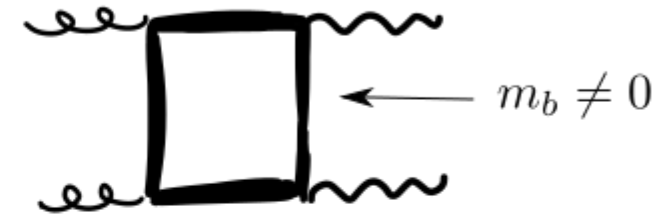
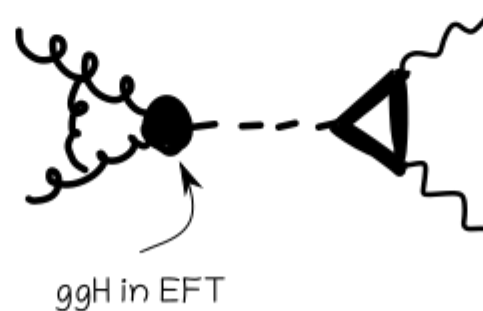
Choice of **product cuts** reduces sensitivity to IR physics effects [Salam, Slade 2106.08329]

We note that it plays a **relevant role** in the **reliability** of the **soft-virtual approximation**.

• @LO:



• @NLO and NNLO_{sv}:



Results for integrated cross-section

LO results:

- bottom mass in both signal and background amplitudes:

$$\sigma_{\text{int}} = -0.11 \text{ fb}$$

- bottom mass in background amplitudes only:

$$\sigma_{\text{int}} = -0.02 \text{ fb}$$

- bottom mass in signal amplitudes only:

$$\sigma_{\text{int}} = -0.09 \text{ fb}$$

dNLO correction:

- massless background amplitudes

$$\sigma_{\text{int}} = -0.62 \text{ fb}$$

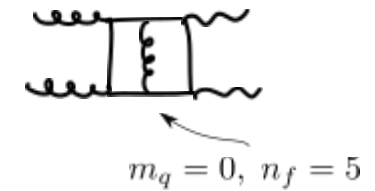
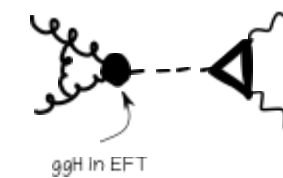
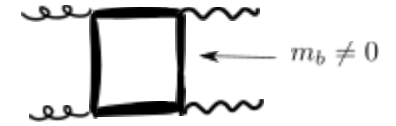
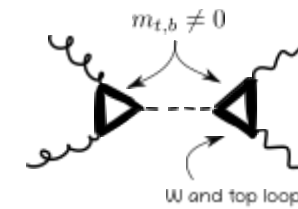
dNNLO_{SV} correction:

- massless background amplitudes

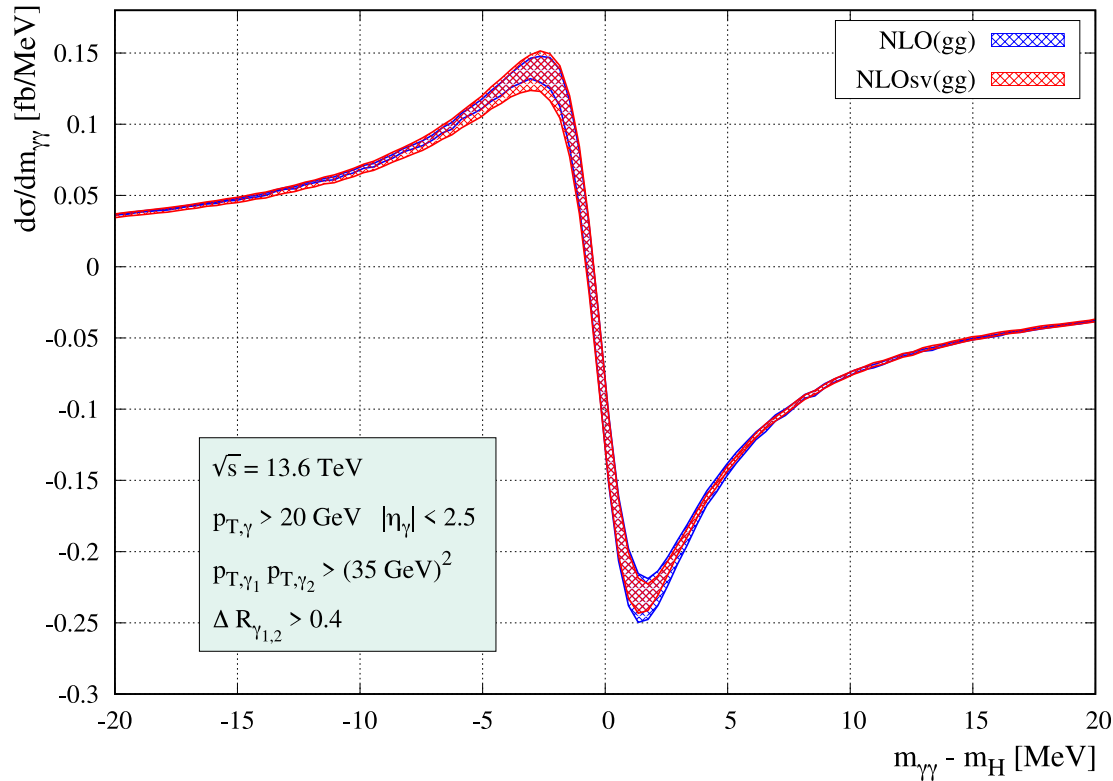
$$\sigma_{\text{int}} = -0.48 \text{ fb}$$

it is safe to discard
mass effects beyond LO

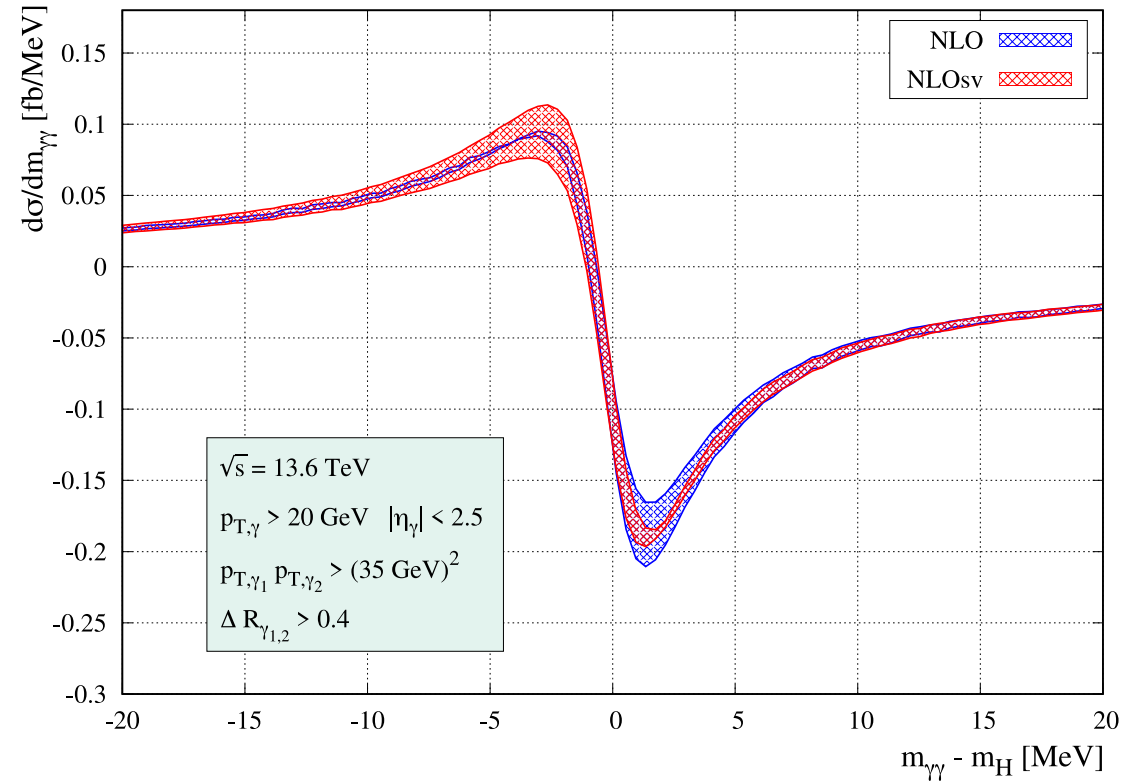
LO ~ 6 smaller
than dNLO correction



Validation of Soft-virtual approximation @NLO



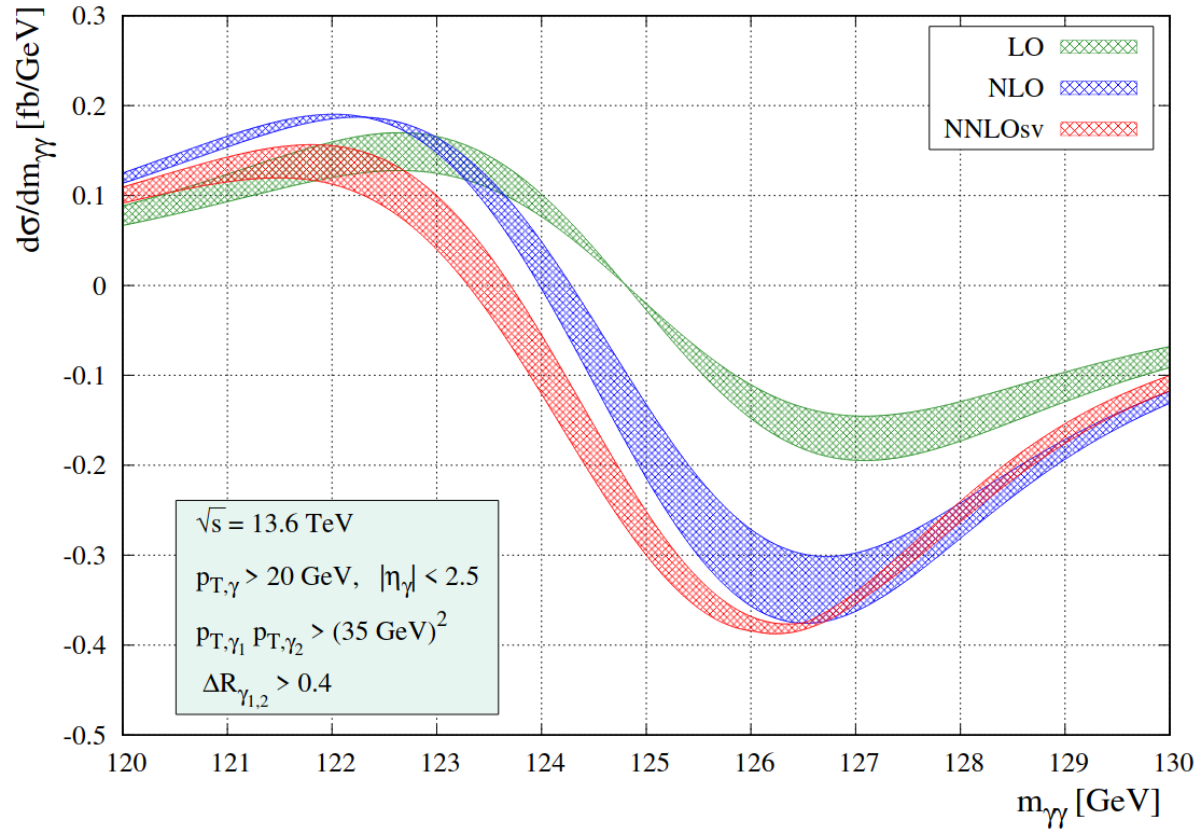
gg partonic channel only



all partonic channels

Mass shift @NLO: exact vs sv approx: 5% difference \longrightarrow well below the NLO correction and within scale uncertainty

Interference @NNLOsv

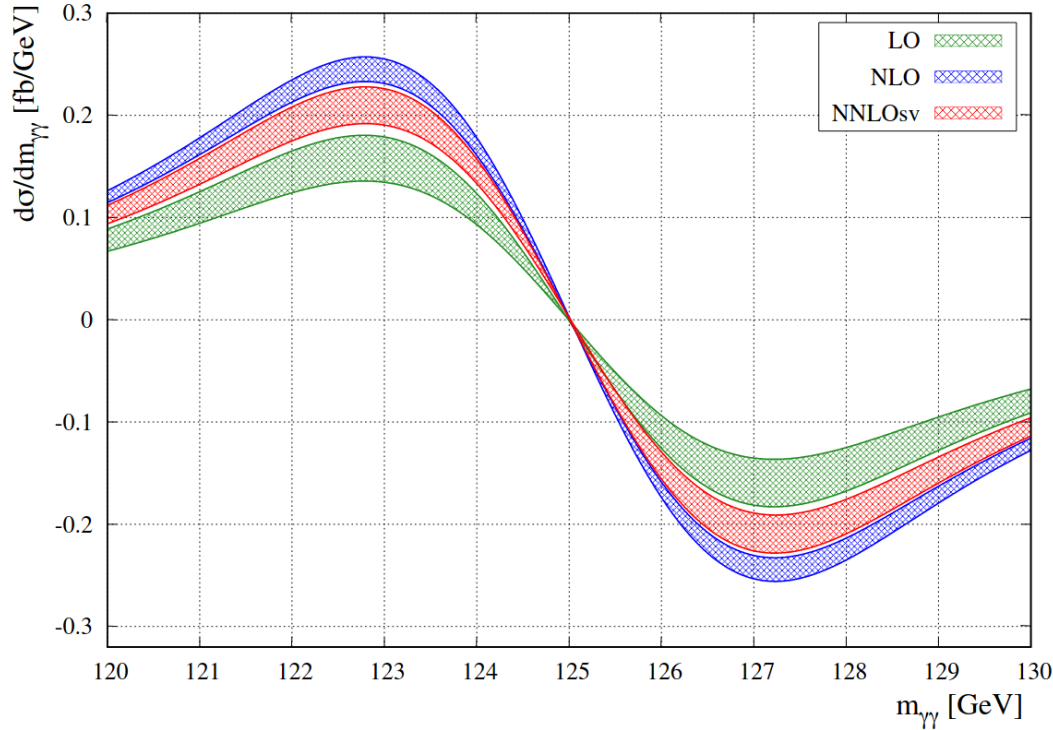


- NNLOsv corrections not captured by NLO scale variations
- NLO \rightarrow NNLO, curve is shifted further down
asymmetry effect weakened: **mass-shift reduced**
- Recall the interference is the sum of two contributions with very different behaviours: **real** + **imaginary**
 - **real part** responsible for the **shape**
 - **imaginary part** responsible for "shift to the left and down"

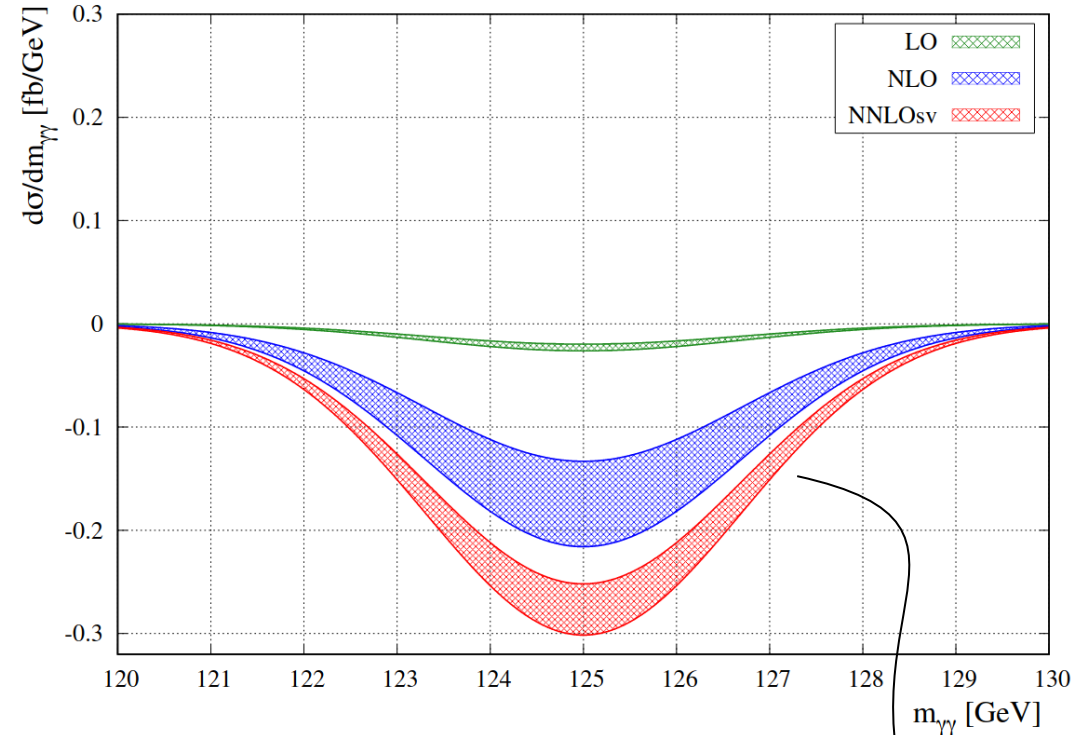
Signal-background interference contribution to the diphoton invariant mass distribution after **Gaussian smearing**. Bands represent the envelope given by scale variations.

Real and imaginary parts of interference @NNLO_{sv}

Real part of the interference



Shapes and scale variations well behaved for Re and Im separately
"convergence" upon including higher-order effects



Imaginary part of the interference

Destructive interference ~ -1.7% of signal cross-section in chosen setup

$$\sigma_S^{\text{NNLO}} = 72.12^{+8\%}_{-8\%} \text{ fb} \quad \sigma_I^{\text{NNLOsv}} = -1.21^{+7\%}_{-10\%} \text{ fb}$$

Impact of NNLO_{sv} corrections on the mass-shift

$\Delta m_{\gamma\gamma}$ [MeV]	7 TeV	8 TeV	13.6 TeV
LO	$-77.2^{+0.8\%}_{-1.0\%}$	$-79.5^{+0.6\%}_{-0.8\%}$	$-83.1^{+0\%}_{-0.3\%}$
NLO	$-56.2^{+13\%}_{-15\%}$	$-56.8^{+13\%}_{-14\%}$	$-55.2^{+12\%}_{-12\%}$
NNLOsv	$-46.3^{+15\%}_{-17\%}$	$-47.0^{+14\%}_{-16\%}$	$-46.0^{+11\%}_{-12\%}$
NNLOsv'	$-39.5^{+20\%}_{-24\%}$	$-39.7^{+19\%}_{-22\%}$	$-39.4^{+16\%}_{-17\%}$

-34%
-28%

Mass-shift at different proton-proton collider energies via
Gaussian fit method

$\Delta m_{\gamma\gamma}$ [MeV]	7 TeV	8 TeV	13.6 TeV
LO	$-113.4^{+0.8\%}_{-1.0\%}$	$-116.7^{+0.6\%}_{-0.8\%}$	$-122.1^{+0.1\%}_{-0.3\%}$
NLO	$-82.6^{+13\%}_{-15\%}$	$-82.8^{+12\%}_{-14\%}$	$-81.2^{+12\%}_{-12\%}$
NNLOsv	$-68.1^{+15\%}_{-17\%}$	$-68.4^{+13\%}_{-15\%}$	$-67.7^{+11\%}_{-12\%}$
NNLOsv'	$-58.1^{+20\%}_{-23\%}$	$-59.2^{+18\%}_{-21\%}$	$-58.0^{+16\%}_{-17\%}$

-34%
-28%

Mass-shift at different proton-proton collider energies via
first-moment method

Soft-virtual "improved" approximation for Higgs XS based
on [R.D. Ball, Bonvini, Forte, Marzani, Ridolfi 1303.3590]

$$\Delta m_{(N)NLO} = \Delta m_{LO} K_{(N)NLO}$$

$\Delta m_{\gamma\gamma}$ [MeV]	First moment	Gaussian Fit
K_{NLO}	0.665	0.664
K_{NNLOsv}	0.554	0.554
$K_{NNLOsv'}$	0.475	0.474

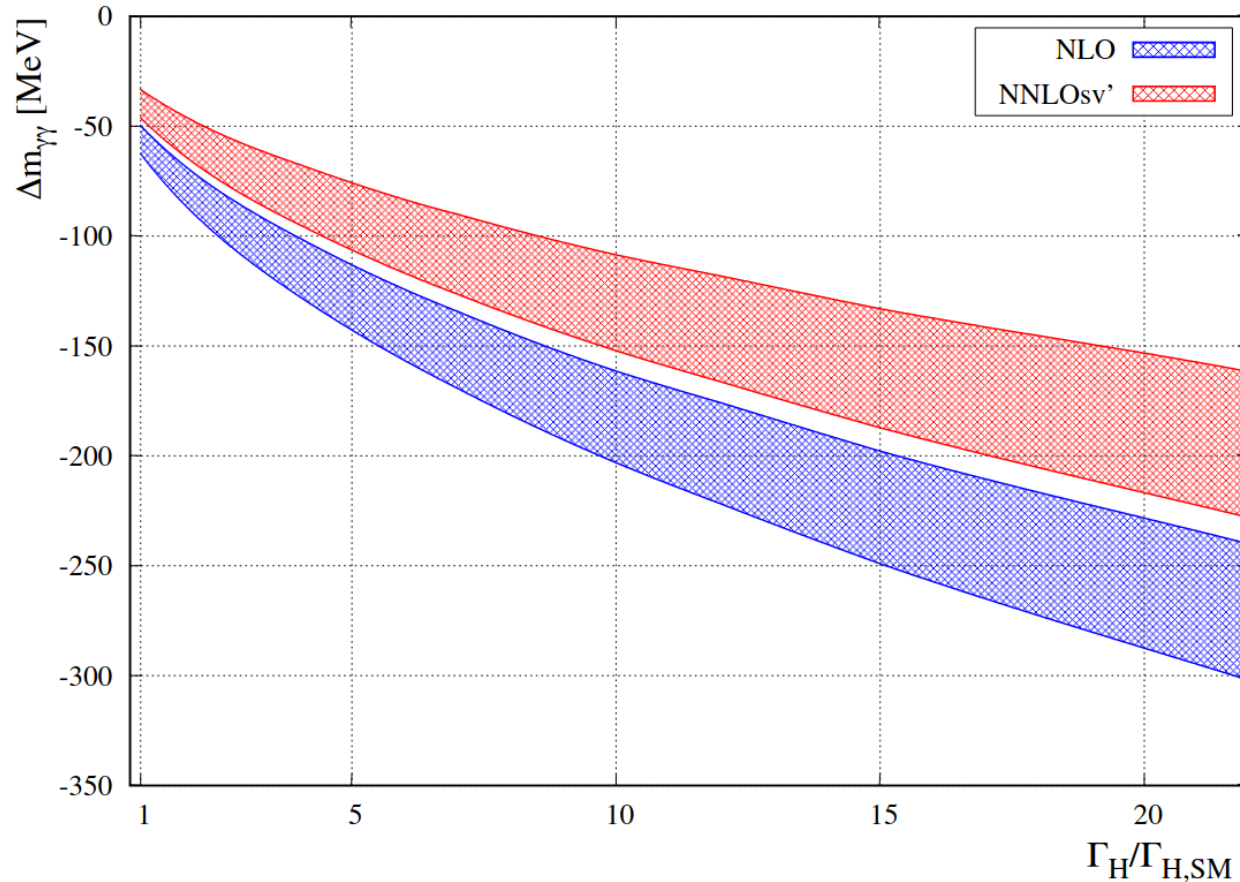
- Mass-shift via Gaussian fit and first moment:
"different observables"

Different predictions in two methods

- However, K -factors are insensitive to the method used

Bounds on Higgs width from mass shift

Updated bounds on Γ_H from NNLO_{SV} corrections:



- Functional dependence \sim square root
- NNLO curve lies above the NLO one, thus **looser bounds on Γ_H**
- **competing effects** from **Re** and **Im** parts of interference
- If uncertainty on the **mass shift** reaches ~ 150 MeV:
 $\Gamma_H < (10-20) \Gamma_{H,\text{SM}}$
- To be compared with XS based method, i.e. 9% uncertainty on XS:
 $\Gamma_H < (28-30) \Gamma_{H,\text{SM}}$

Summary and outlook

- Currents **bounds on Higgs-boson width** extremely close to SM value: mild assumptions on **off-shell measurements**
 - Alternative proposal: **on-shell measurements in diphoton production**. Important **complementary** information
 - We reviewed the diphoton **signal-background interferometry** framework: access to Higgs-boson width
 - First studies **beyond NLO accuracy** thanks to advance in multi-loop calculations:
 - ▶ **enhanced effect** on **destructive interference** at XS level \longrightarrow **large contribution from 3-loop $gg\gamma\gamma$ amplitude**
 - ▶ although mass shift extraction dependent on methodology, **K-factors are universal**
 - ▶ **looser bounds on Γ_H** via mass-shift study: assuming 150 MeV error on mass-shift, $\Gamma_H < (10-20)\Gamma_{H,SM}$
 - ▶ **improved bounds on Γ_H** via integrated XS: with current 9% error on $\gamma\gamma$ XS, $\Gamma_H < (28-30)\Gamma_{H,SM}$
- First pheno application of a 3-loop QCD amplitude

Outlook:

- **Exact NNLO** calculation: **improved modeling of $p_{T,\gamma\gamma}$** in sig/bkg interference (only described @LO as of today). Work in progress
 $p_{T,\gamma\gamma}$ dependence can be used to define signal and control regions to extract the mass shift
- Understand how to **improve SV approximation for continuum background** process
Next-to-leading power corrections (?) for loop-induced processes

Backup

Proposals to extract mass-shift in experiments

1) ZZ vs $\gamma\gamma$

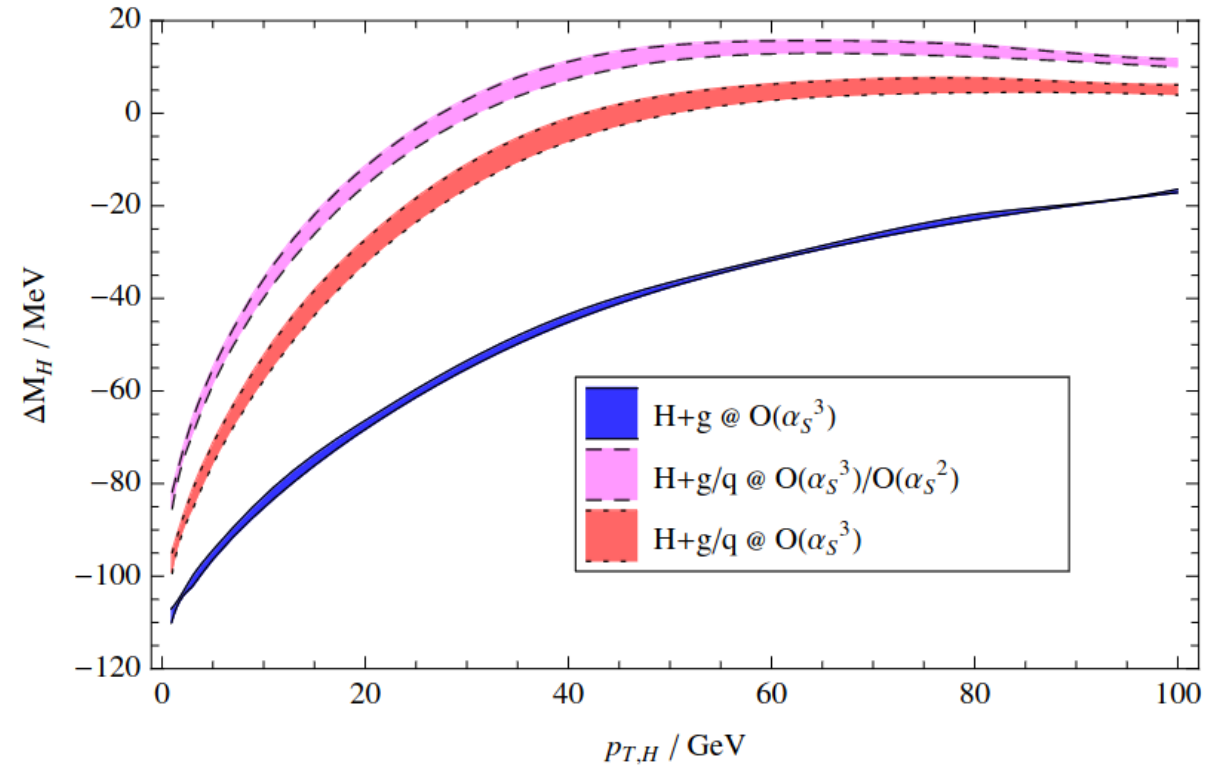
One could exploit the existing measurements of the Higgs mass in the ZZ and $\gamma\gamma$ channels and get an estimate on the mass shift

This would give a first limit on the Higgs width

2) $p_{T\gamma\gamma}$ measurements

Exploit strong $p_{T\gamma\gamma}$ dependence of mass-shift.

Define a small and a large bin and take difference



Asymmetric cuts and NLO_{sv}

Cuts:

$$p_{T,\gamma}^{\text{hard/soft}} > 40, 30 \text{ GeV}$$
$$|\eta_\gamma| < 2.5$$

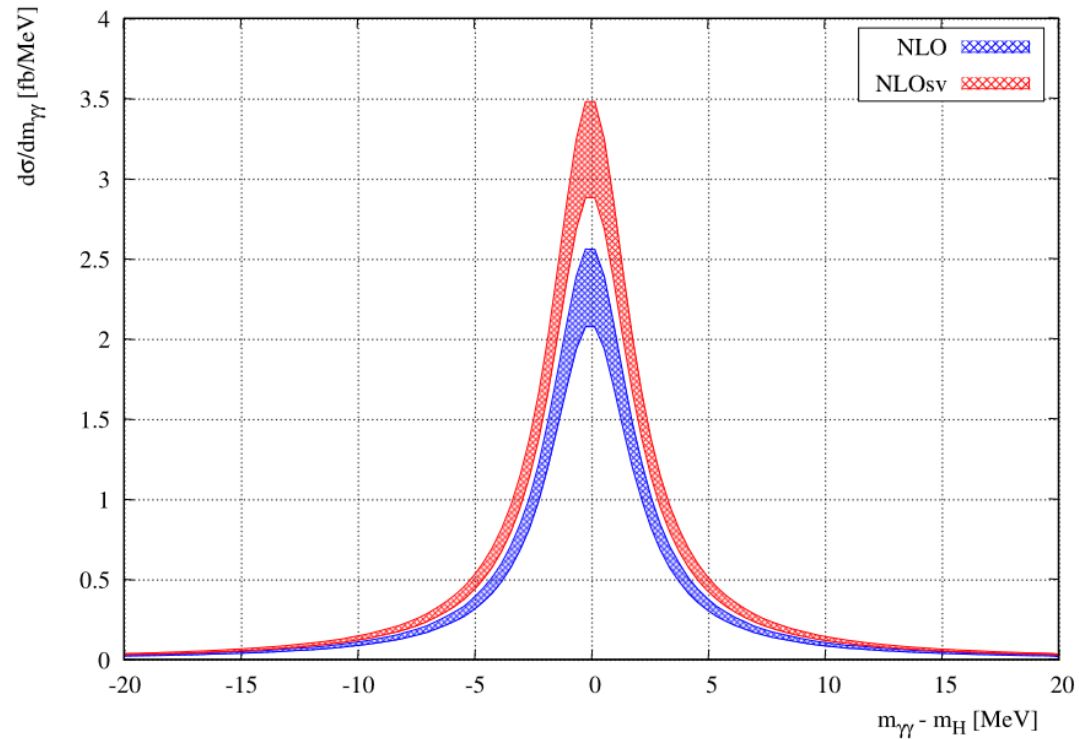
Isolation (discard events if):

$$p_{T,j} > 3 \text{ GeV}$$
$$\Delta R_{\gamma j} < 0.4$$

Jet veto (reject if):

$$p_{T,j} > 20 \text{ GeV}$$
$$|\eta_{T,j}| > 3$$

Signal process



Interference process

