

Christoph Englert

UK Theory & Phenomenology overview

PPAP Community Meeting

Birmingham

16/07/26

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

Quantum
Field Theory

String Theory

Phenomenology

Lattice

Particle Cosmology

PPGP[T] programme categories

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

> **250 academics engaged in PPT research across 25 institutions**

Quantum
Field Theory

String Theory

Phenomenology

Lattice

Particle Cosmology

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

> **250 academics engaged in PPT research across 25 institutions**

Quantum
Field Theory

String Theory

Phenomenology

Lattice

Particle Cosmology

O(40)
studentships/yr

► consortia

► virtual institutes

► Summer Schools &
Conferences

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

> **250 academics engaged in PPT research across 25 institutions**

Quantum
Field Theory

String Theory

Phenomenology

Lattice

Particle Cosmology

new
structures

new
techniques
...

► **interconnecting different subdisciplines = physics case innovation**

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance



leadership

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance



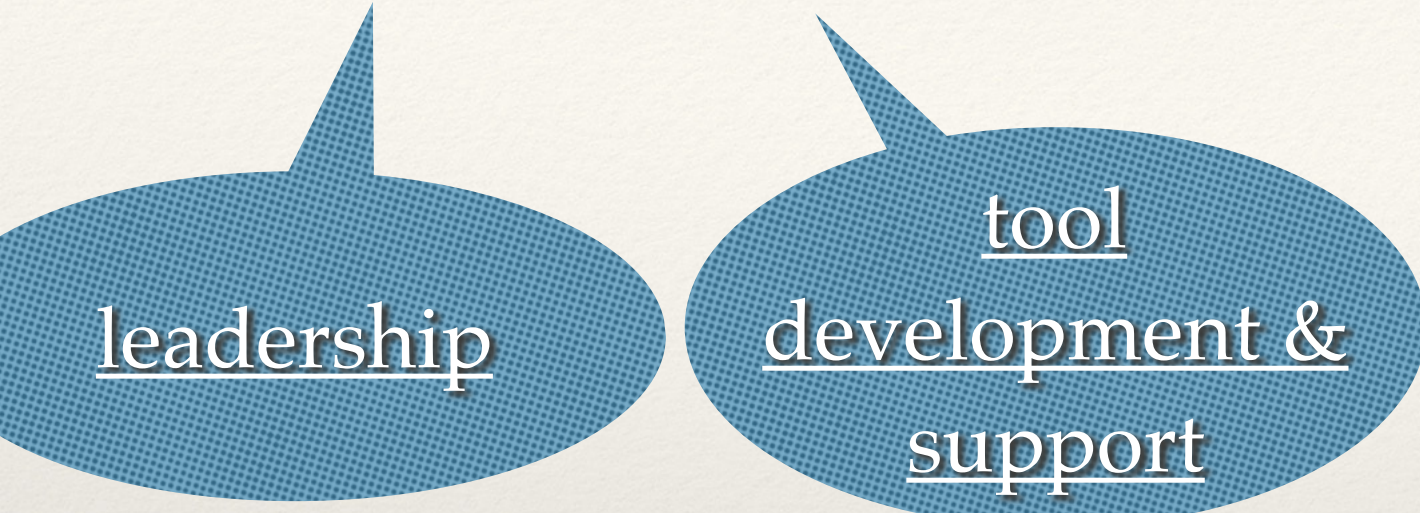
leadership

LHCHWG, FCC-ee...

mandated recommendations
informing physics case at LHC
and beyond

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance



leadership

tool
development &
support

LHCHWG, FCC-ee...
mandated recommendations
informing physics case at LHC
and beyond

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance

leadership

LHCHWG, FCC-ee...
mandated recommendations
informing physics case at LHC
and beyond

tool
development &
support

Sherpa, Herwig, MCFM,
Blackhat, HEJ, LHAPDF,
NNPDF, MSTW/MSHT,
EOS,...

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance

leadership

LHCHWG, FCC-ee...
mandated recommendations
informing physics case at LHC
and beyond

tool
development &
support

Sherpa, Herwig, MCFM,
Blackhat, HEJ, LHAPDF,
NNPDF, MSTW/MSHT,
EOS,...

precision
calculations

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance

leadership

LHCHWG, FCC-ee...
mandated recommendations
informing physics case at LHC
and beyond

tool development & support

Sherpa, Herwig, MCFM,
Blackhat, HEJ, LHAPDF,
NNPDF, MSTW/MSHT,
EOS,...

precision calculations

N^n LO, N^n LL,
form factors,
...

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance

leadership

LHCHWG, FCC-ee...
mandated recommendations
informing physics case at LHC
and beyond

tool
development &
support

Sherpa, Herwig, MCFM,
Blackhat, HEJ, LHAPDF,
NNPDF, MSTW/MSHT,
EOS,...

precision
calculations

N^n LO, N^n LL,
form factors,
...

new
insights into
HEP

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance

leadership

LHCHWG, FCC-ee...
mandated recommendations
informing physics case at LHC
and beyond

tool development & support

Sherpa, Herwig, MCFM,
Blackhat, HEJ, LHAPDF,
NNPDF, MSTW/MSHT,
EOS,...

precision calculations

N^n LO, N^n LL,
form factors,
...

new insights into HEP

dark sectors,
cosmology,
amplitudes,
duality,
BSM pheno, ...

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance

leadership

LHCHWG, FCC-ee...
mandated recommendations
informing physics case at LHC
and beyond

tool
development &
support

Sherpa, Herwig, MCFM,
Blackhat, HEJ, LHAPDF,
NNPDF, MSTW/MSHT,
EOS,...

precision
calculations

N^n LO, N^n LL,
form factors,
...

new
insights into
HEP

dark sectors,
cosmology,
amplitudes,
duality,
BSM pheno, ...

- ▶ **IPPP**: founded 2000 as a STFC/Durham University joint venture

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

- ▶ flagship activities with, e.g., direct ECFA relevance

leadership

LHCHWG, FCC-ee...
mandated recommendations
informing physics case at LHC
and beyond

tool development & support

Sherpa, Herwig, MCFM,
Blackhat, HEJ, LHAPDF,
NNPDF, MSTW/MSHT,
EOS,...

precision calculations

N^n LO, N^n LL,
form factors,
...

new insights into HEP

dark sectors,
cosmology,
amplitudes,
duality,
BSM pheno, ...

- ▶ **IPPP**: founded 2000 as a STFC/Durham University joint venture

Research Support

- ▶ support for all HEP across
experiment and theory

Science Exchange

- ▶ workshops, schools,...
- ▶ exchange programmes

Computing/Data

- ▶ HEPData: store/preserve
- ▶ HEPForge: development

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

STFC PPGP(T) envelope: 172 academics + 78 (+uplift) RA years
+ derived support costs

The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

STFC PPGP(T) envelope: 172 academics + 78 (+uplift) RA years
+ derived support costs

- ▶ ‘flat cash’ funding for many years



The UK Particle Theory Landscape - PPGP[T]

STFC PPGP(T) envelope: 172 academics + 78 (+uplift) RA years
+ derived support costs

- ▶ ‘flat cash’ funding for many years



overheads rising = recoup from FTE & now RAs

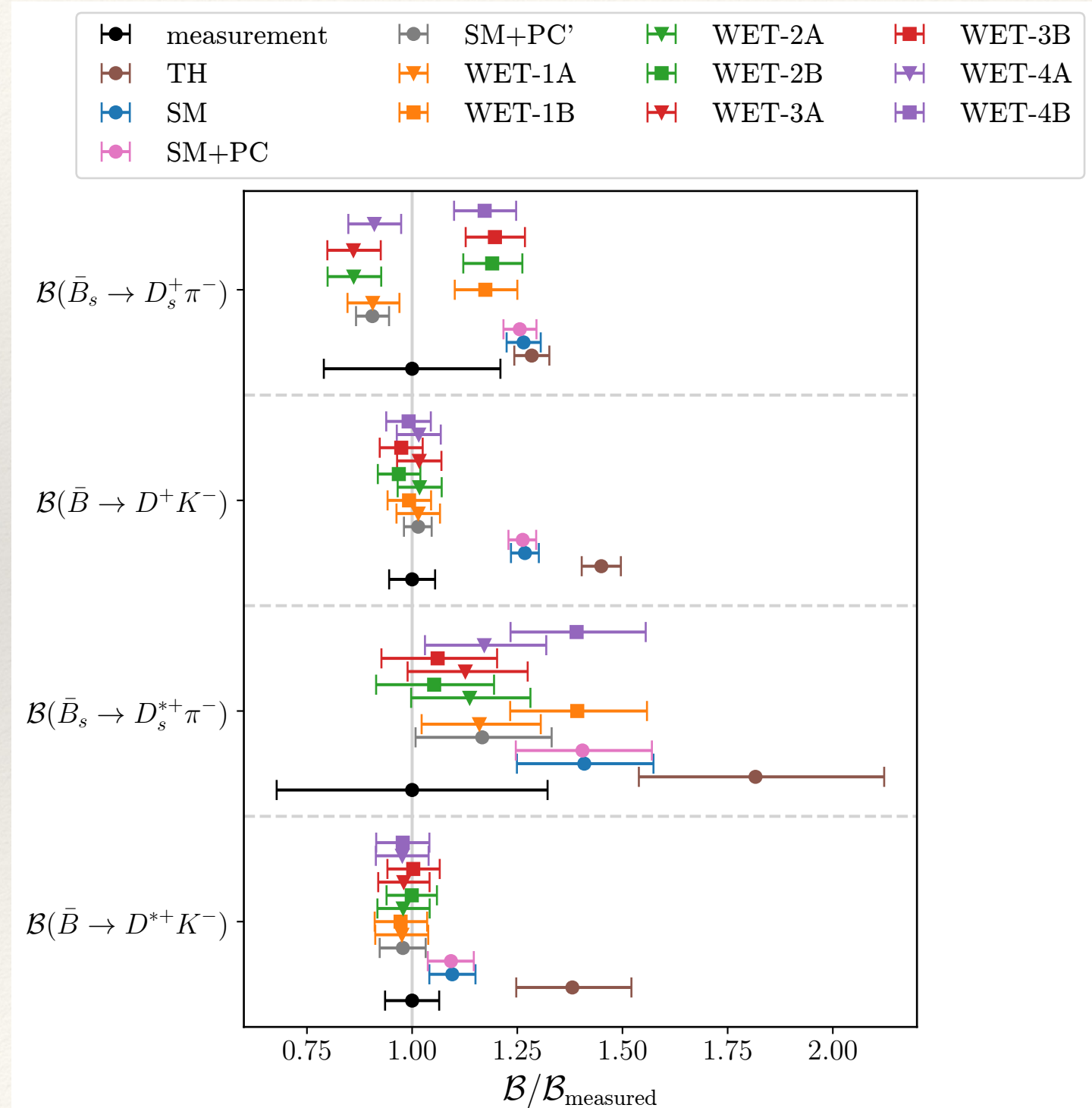
2019: staggered <20%		2022: 5%	2026: <5%
190 bidding academics		243 academics	269 academics

very subjective physics highlights

[Bordone, Gubernari, Huber, Jung, van Dyk `20]

► longstanding tension in non-leptonic B decays within QCDf

	Channel	Experiment	SM	Pull
R_K	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^-$	$0.058^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	$0.082^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 5.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D_s^+ \pi^-$	0.71 ± 0.06	$1.06^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 5 \sigma$
R_{K^*}	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^{*-}$	0.136 ± 0.023	$0.14^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$\approx 0.16 \sigma$
R_K^*	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^{*+} K^-$	0.064 ± 0.003	$0.076^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 3.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}^*$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D^{*+} \pi^-$	$0.52^{+0.18}_{-0.16}$	$1.05^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 3.1 \sigma$



new physics?

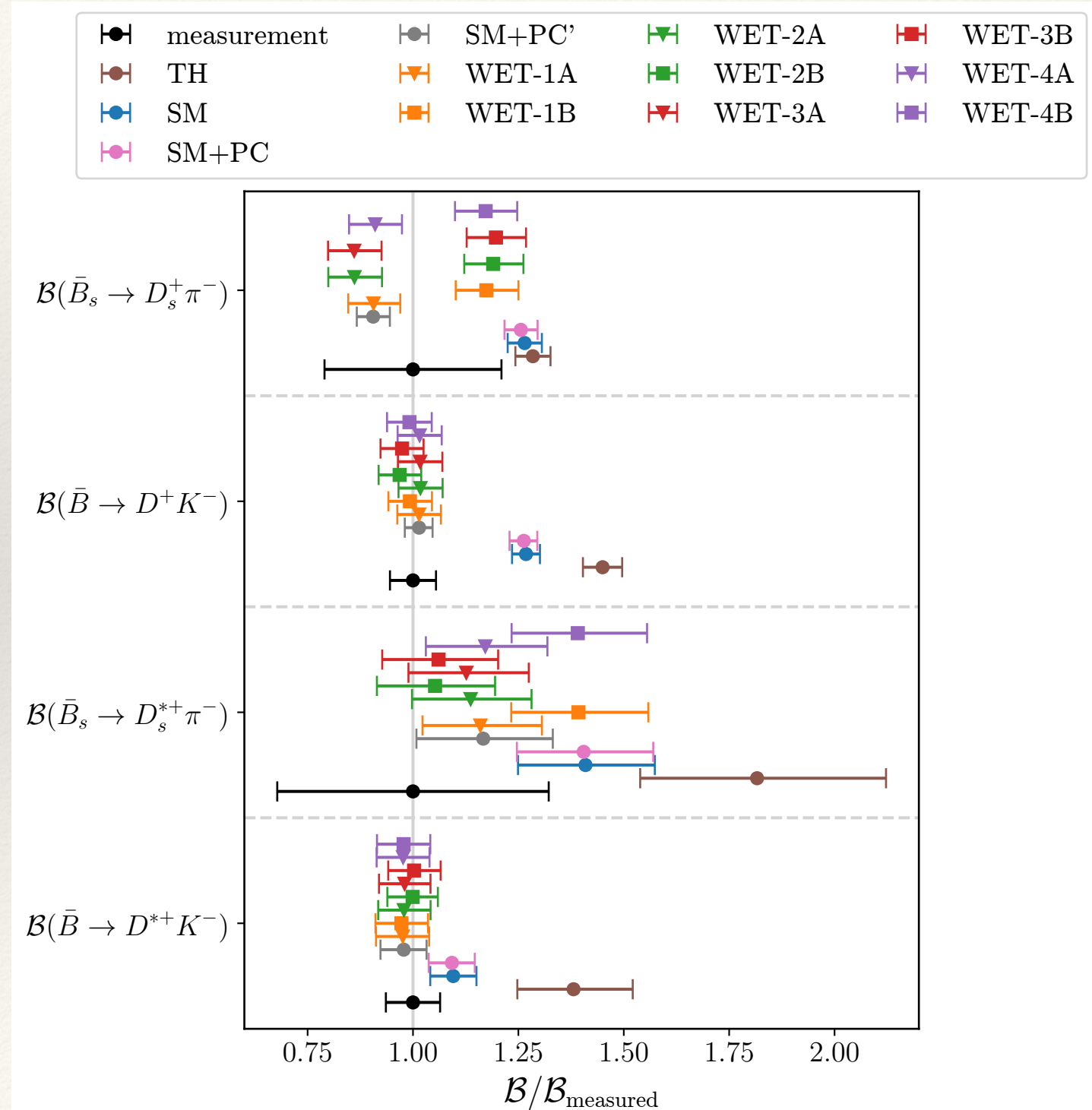
power
corrections?

flavour / collider

[Bordone, Gubernari, Huber, Jung, van Dyk `20]

- longstanding tension in non-leptonic B decays within QCDf

	Channel	Experiment	SM	Pull
R_K	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^-$	$0.058^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	$0.082^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 5.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D_s^+ \pi^-$	0.71 ± 0.06	$1.06^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 5 \sigma$
R_{K^*}	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^{*-}$	0.136 ± 0.023	$0.14^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$\approx 0.16 \sigma$
R_K^*	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^{*+} K^-$	0.064 ± 0.003	$0.076^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 3.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}^*$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D^{*+} \pi^-$	$0.52^{+0.18}_{-0.16}$	$1.05^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 3.1 \sigma$



new physics?

power
corrections?

flavour / collider

[Bordone, Gubernari, Huber, Jung, van Dyk `20]

- longstanding tension in non-leptonic B decays within QCDf

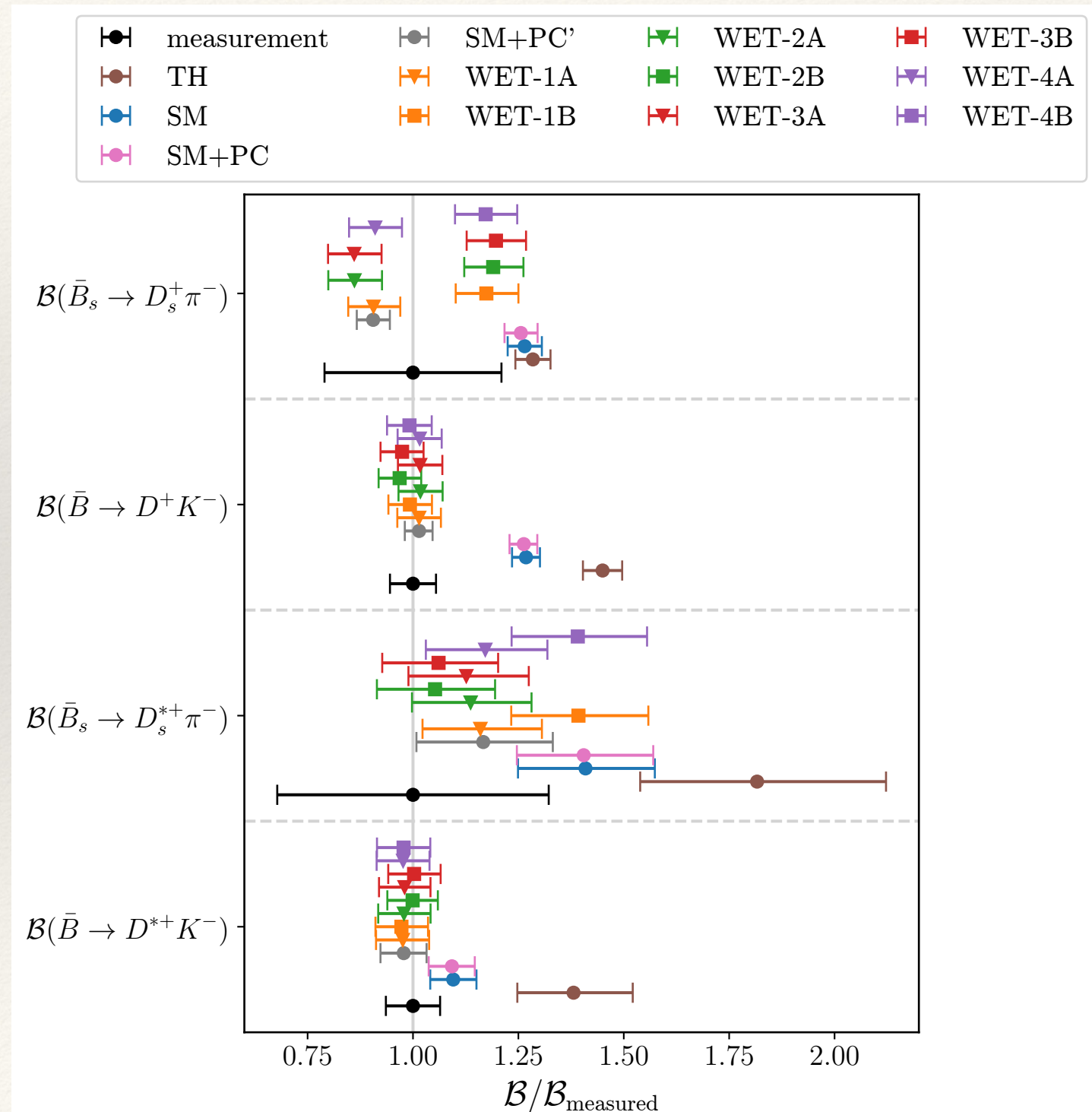
	Channel	Experiment	SM	Pull
R_K	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^-$	$0.058^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	$0.082^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 5.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D_s^+ \pi^-$	0.71 ± 0.06	$1.06^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 5 \sigma$
R_{K^*}	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^{*-}$	0.136 ± 0.023	$0.14^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$\approx 0.16 \sigma$
R_K^*	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^{*+} K^-$	0.064 ± 0.003	$0.076^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 3.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}^*$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D^{*+} \pi^-$	$0.52^{+0.18}_{-0.16}$	$1.05^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 3.1 \sigma$

- mounting tension with
(in)direct LHC searches ?

[Bordone, Greljo, Marzocca `21]

[Atkinson et al. `24]

[Araz et al. `25]



new physics?

power
corrections?

flavour / collider

[Bordone, Gubernari, Huber, Jung, van Dyk `20]

- longstanding tension in non-leptonic B decays within QCDf

	Channel	Experiment	SM	Pull
R_K	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^-$	$0.058^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	$0.082^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 5.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D_s^+ \pi^-$	0.71 ± 0.06	$1.06^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 5 \sigma$
R_{K^*}	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^{*-}$	0.136 ± 0.023	$0.14^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$\approx 0.16 \sigma$
R_K^*	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^{*+} K^-$	0.064 ± 0.003	$0.076^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 3.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}^*$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D^{*+} \pi^-$	$0.52^{+0.18}_{-0.16}$	$1.05^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 3.1 \sigma$

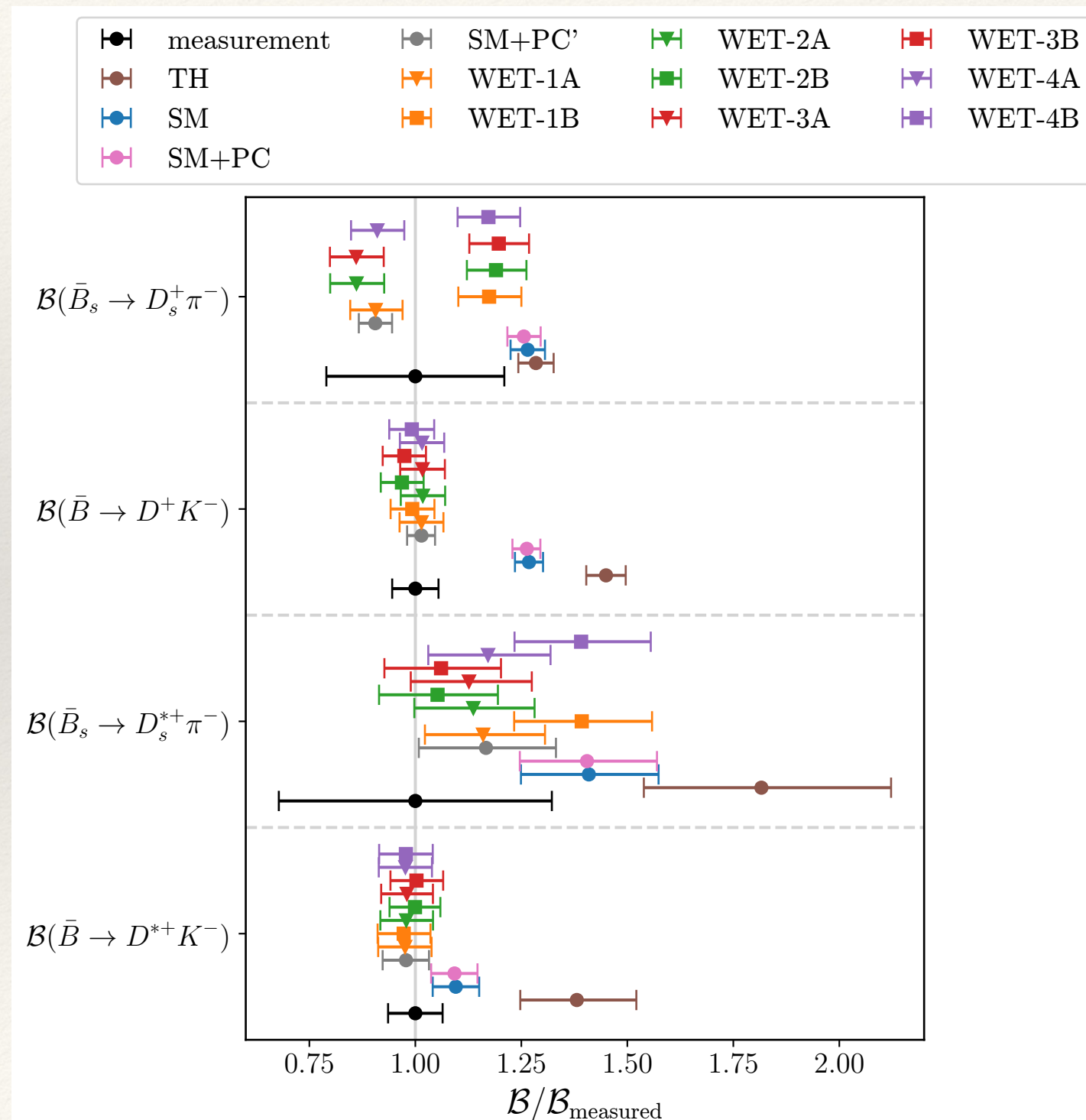
- mounting tension with
(in)direct LHC searches?

[Bordone, Greljo, Marzocca `21]

[Atkinson et al. `24]

[Araz et al. `25]

⁵ A quick calculation shows that a (very dubious) 14HDM would be able to explain the non-leptonic anomaly, while simultaneously being compatible with collider bounds.



new physics?

power
corrections?

flavour / collider

[Bordone, Gubernari, Huber, Jung, van Dyk `20]

- ▶ longstanding tension in non-leptonic B decays within QCDf

	Channel	Experiment	SM	Pull
R_K	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^-$	$0.058^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	$0.082^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 5.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D_s^+ \pi^-$	0.71 ± 0.06	$1.06^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 5 \sigma$
R_{K^*}	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^+ K^{*-}$	0.136 ± 0.023	$0.14^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$\approx 0.16 \sigma$
R_K^*	$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^{*+} K^-$	0.064 ± 0.003	$0.076^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$\approx 3.6 \sigma$
$R_{s\pi}^*$	$\bar{B}_s \rightarrow D^{*+} \pi^-$	$0.52^{+0.18}_{-0.16}$	$1.05^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$	$\approx 3.1 \sigma$

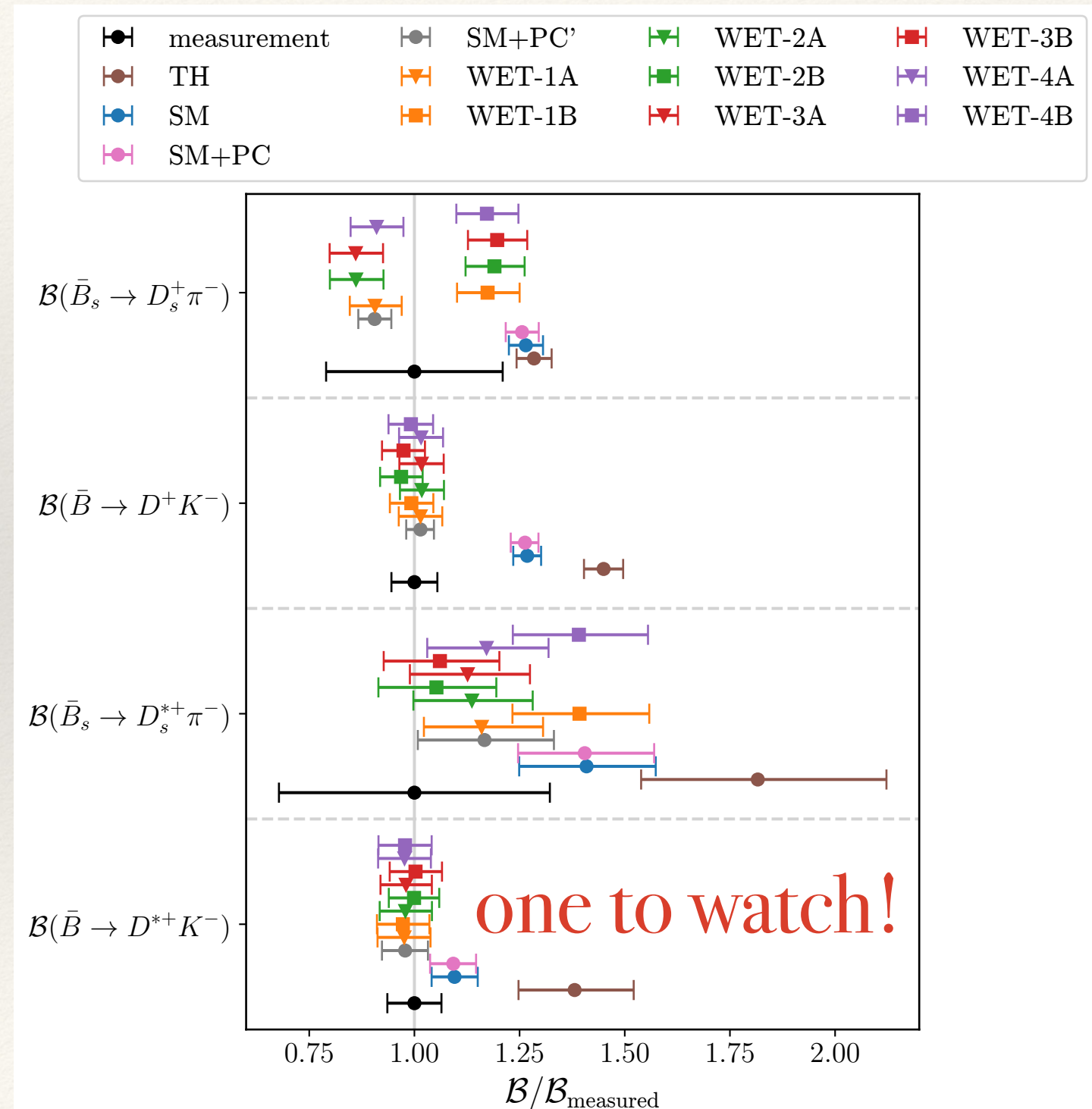
- ▶ mounting tension with
(in)direct LHC searches ?

[Bordone, Greljo, Marzocca `21]

[Atkinson et al. `24]

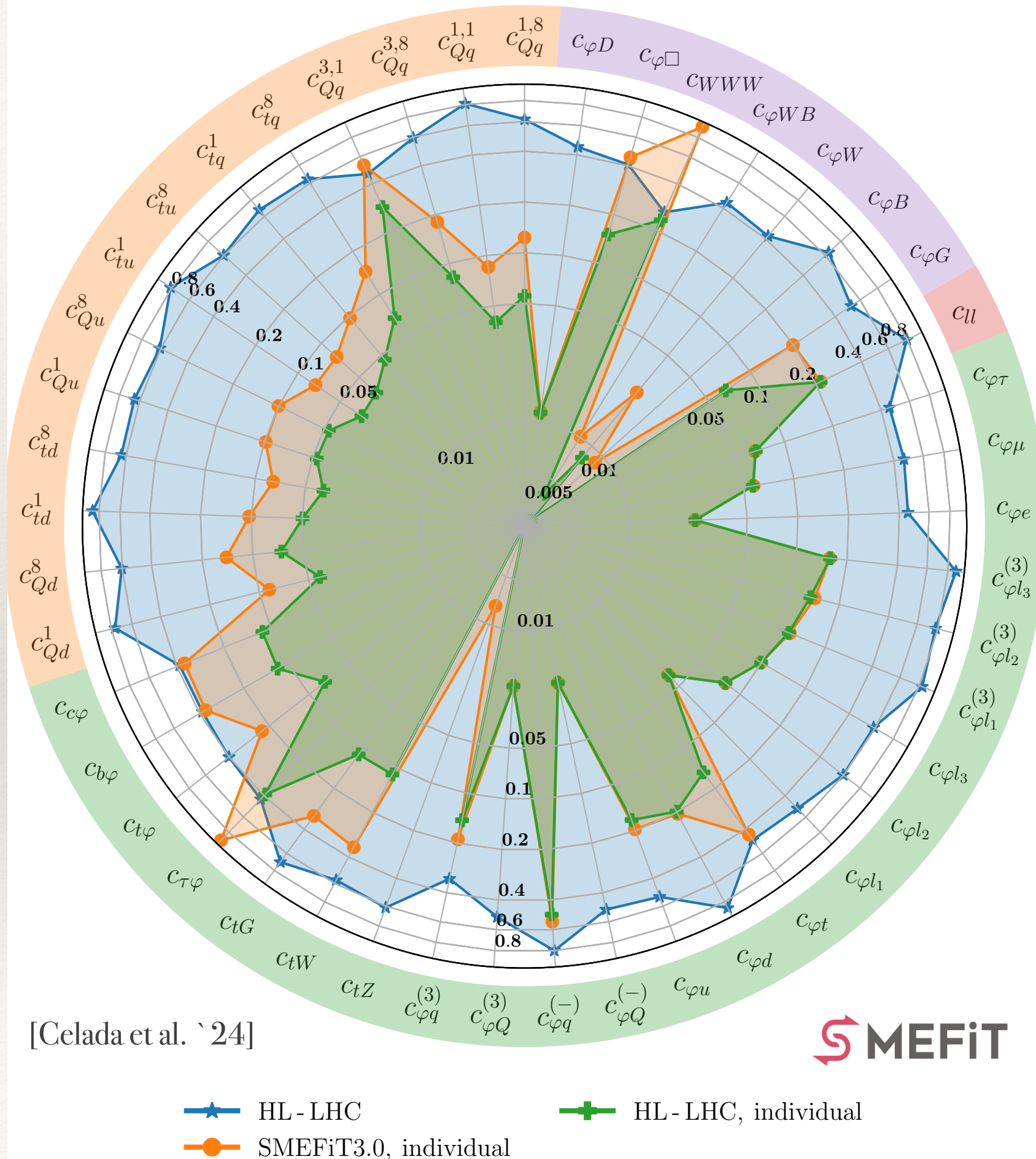
[Araz et al. `25]

⁵ A quick calculation shows that a (very dubious) 14HDM would be able to explain the non-leptonic anomaly, while simultaneously being compatible with collider bounds.

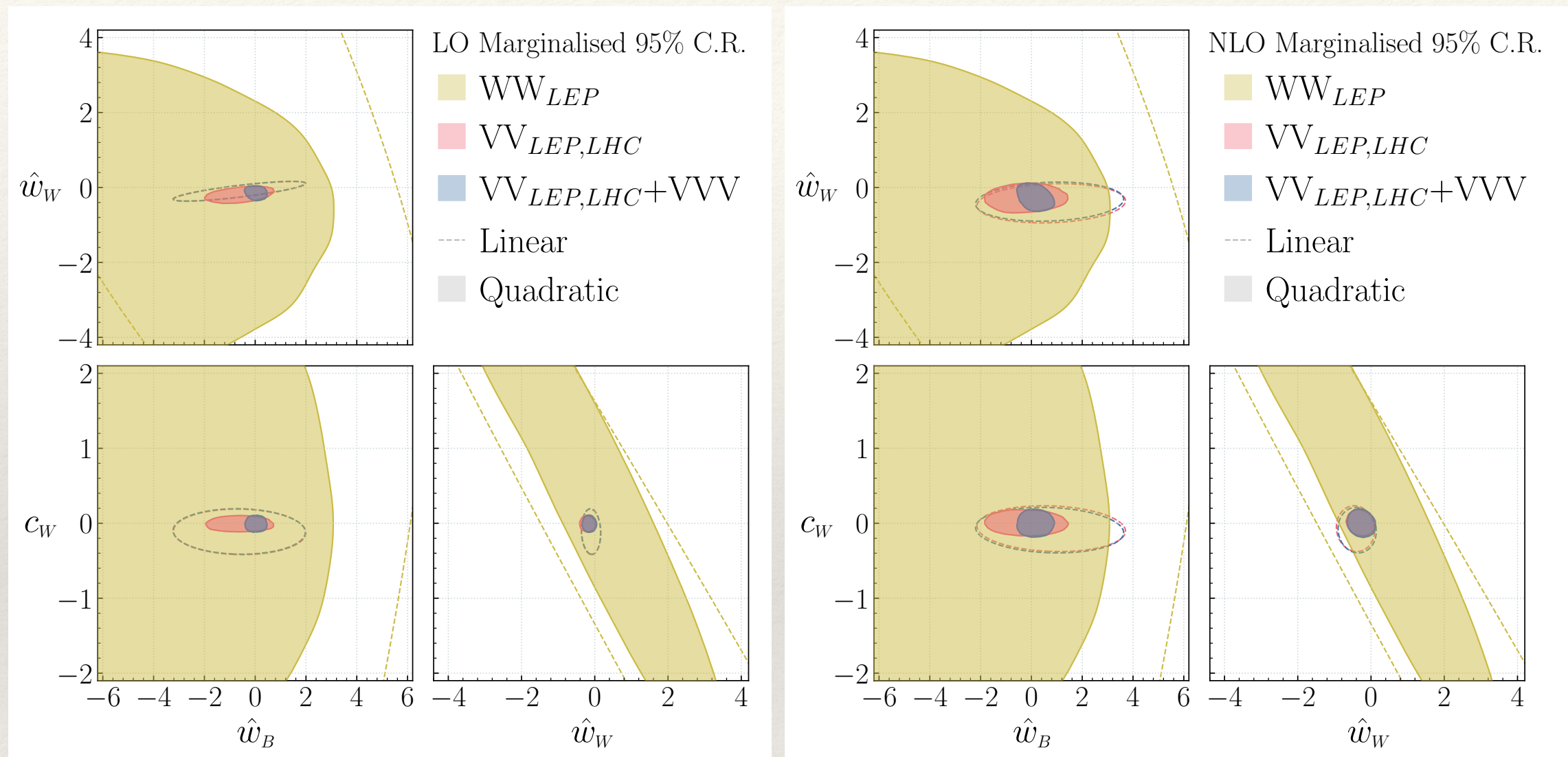


SMEFT analyses

- ▶ ...well underway...
- ▶ ...with exp. buy-in
- ▶ plethora of parameters
- ▶ flavour-blind results:
0.1-1/TeV² sensitivity
- ▶ improvements towards
HL-LHC possible via
data...



- continuously improved with data and fit methodology, e.g. tribosons

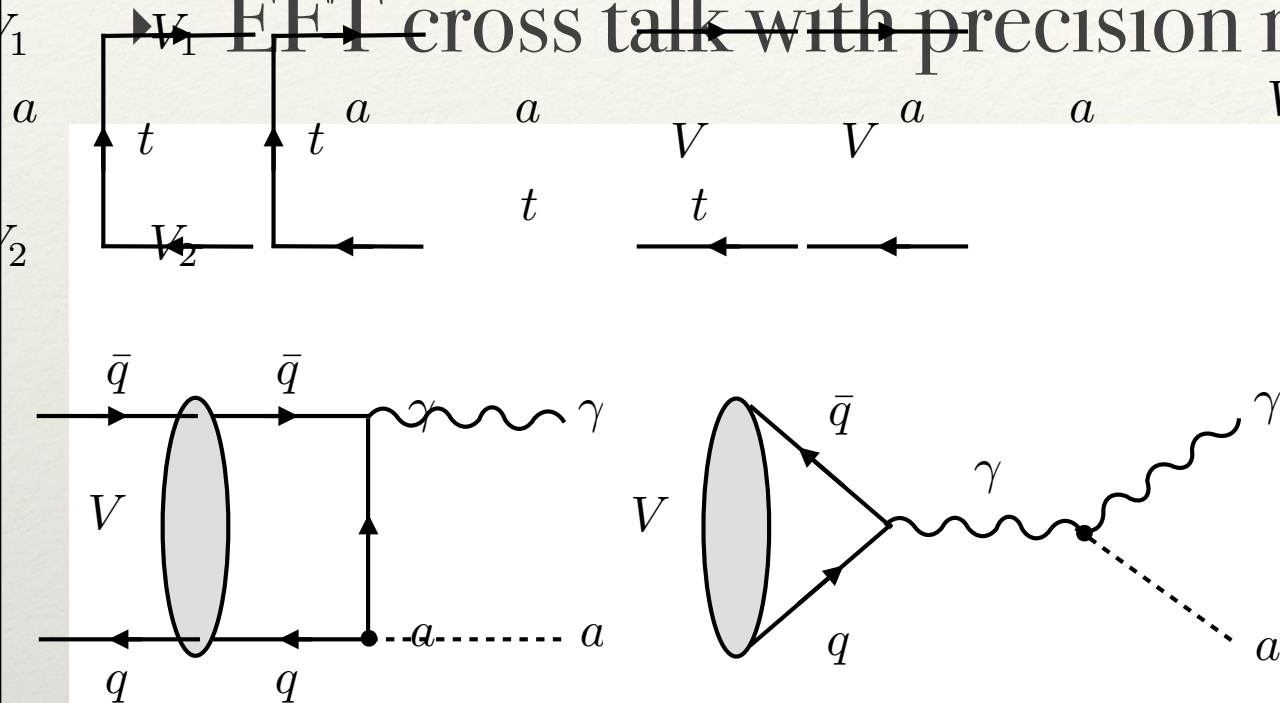


[Celada, Durieux, Mimasu, Vryonidou `24]

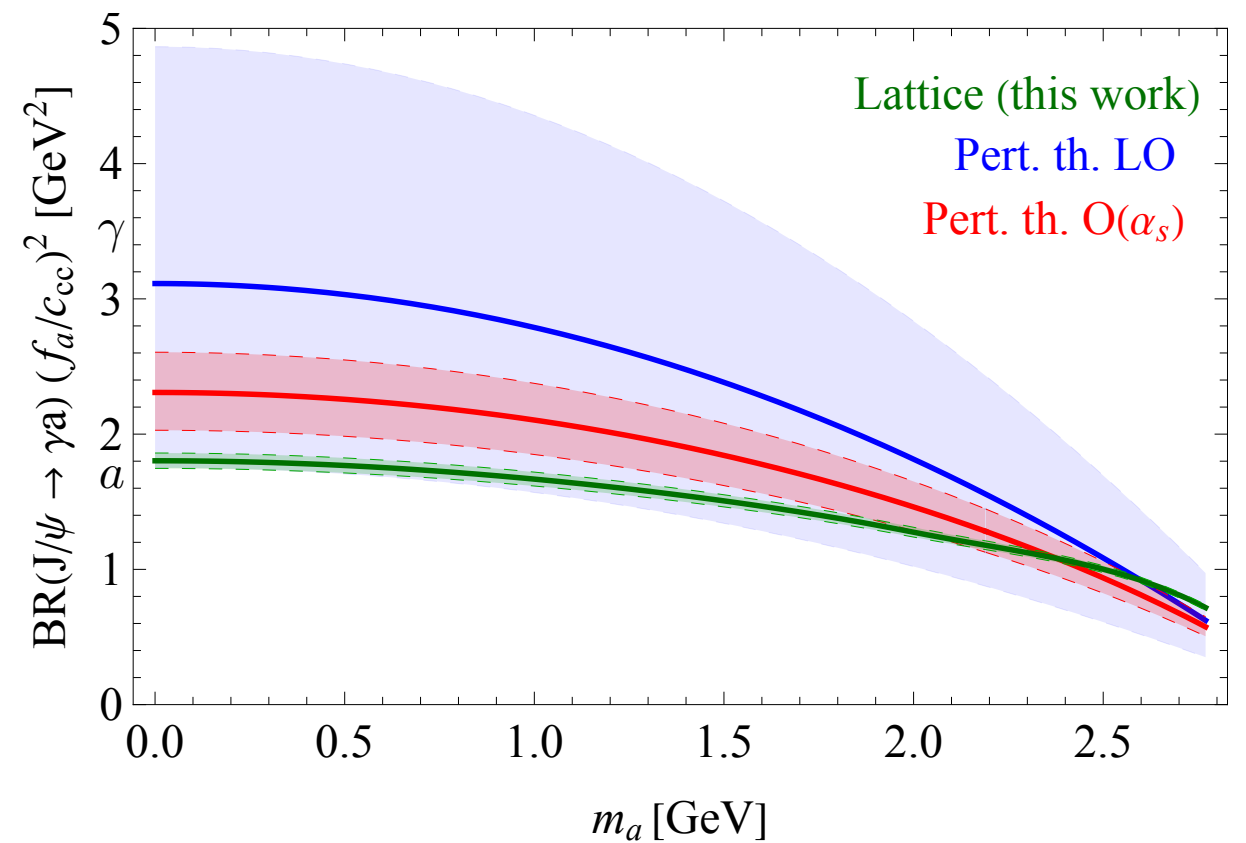
continuously improved with data and fit methodology

[Celada, Durieux, Mimasu, Vryonidou '24]

EFT cross talk with precision methods/calculations (e.g. *ALPs*)



[Colquhoun, Davies, Lepage, Renner '25]

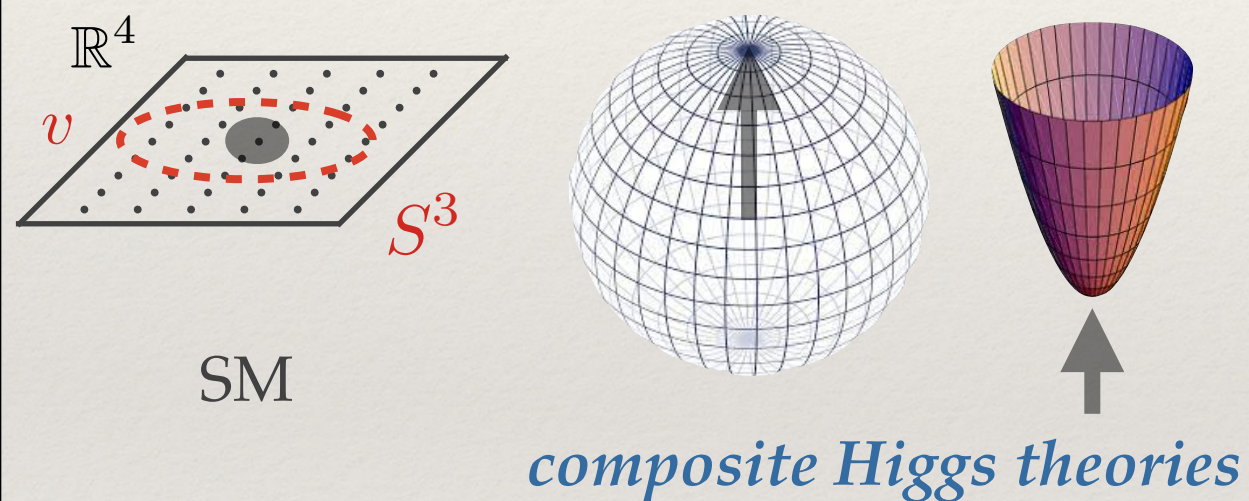


- ▶ continuously improved with data and fit methodology, e.g. tribosons
e.g. [Celada, Durieux, Mimasu, Vryonidou `24]
- ▶ EFT cross talk with precision methods/calculations (*e.g. ALPs*)
e.g. [Colquhoun, Davies, Lepage, Renner `25]
- ▶ improved theoretical & geometric understanding of EFT structures

[Alonso et al. `16]

[Alonso, West `21]

[Alminawi, Brivio, Davighi `23, `26]

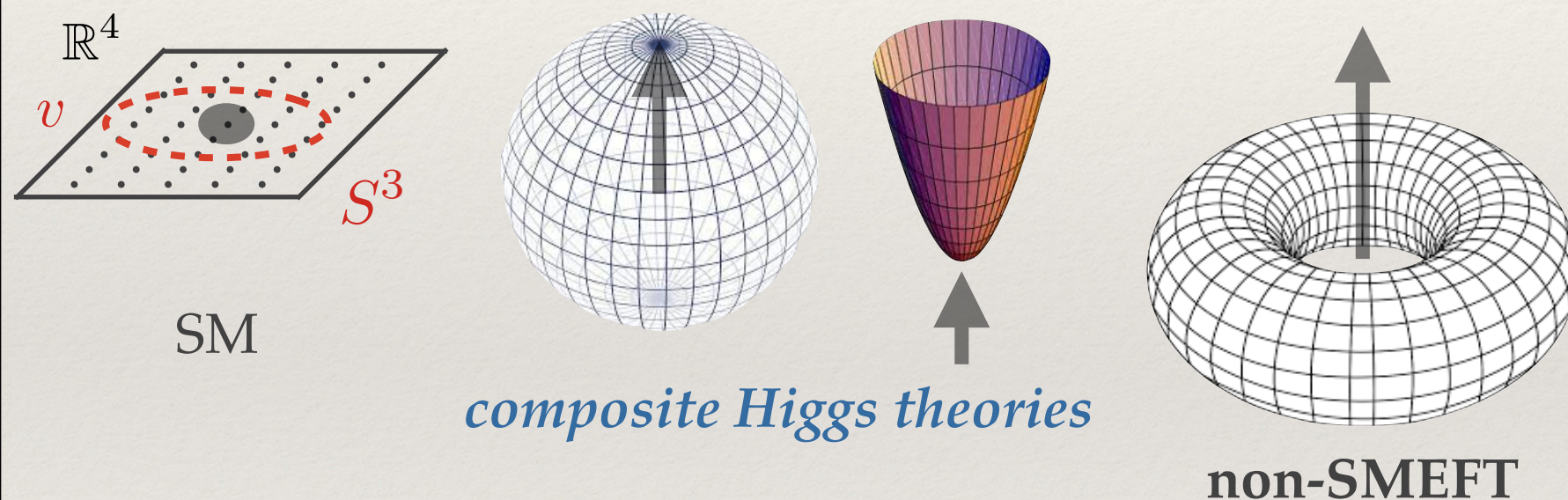


- ▶ continuously improved with data and fit methodology, e.g. tribosons
e.g. [Celada, Durieux, Mimasu, Vryonidou `24]
- ▶ EFT cross talk with precision methods/calculations (*e.g. ALPs*)
e.g. [Colquhoun, Davies, Lepage, Renner `25]
- ▶ improved theoretical & geometric understanding of EFT structures

[Alonso et al. `16]

[Alonso, West `21]

[Alminawi, Brivio, Davighi `23, `26]



- continuously improved with data and fit methodology, e.g. tribosons

e.g. [Celada, Durieux, Mimasu, Vryonidou `24]

- EFT cross talk with precision methods/calculations (e.g. *ALPs*)

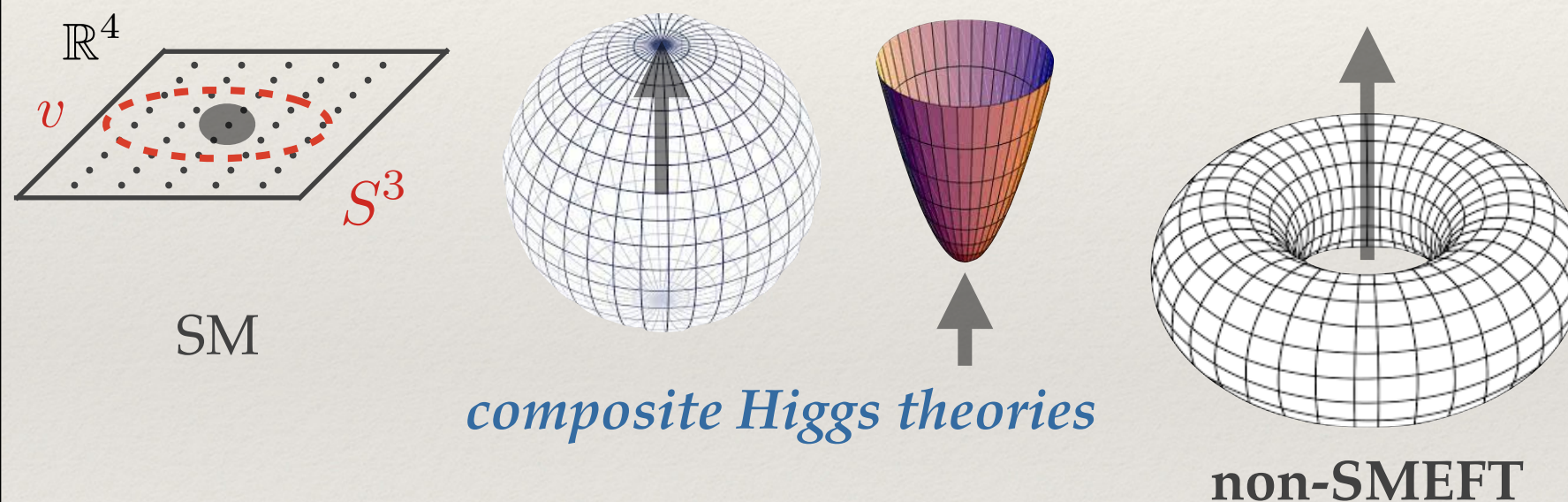
e.g. [Colquhoun, Davies, Lepage, Renner `25]

- improved theoretical & geometric understanding of EFT structures

[Alonso et al. `16]

[Alonso, West `21]

[Alminawi, Brivio, Davighi `23, `26]

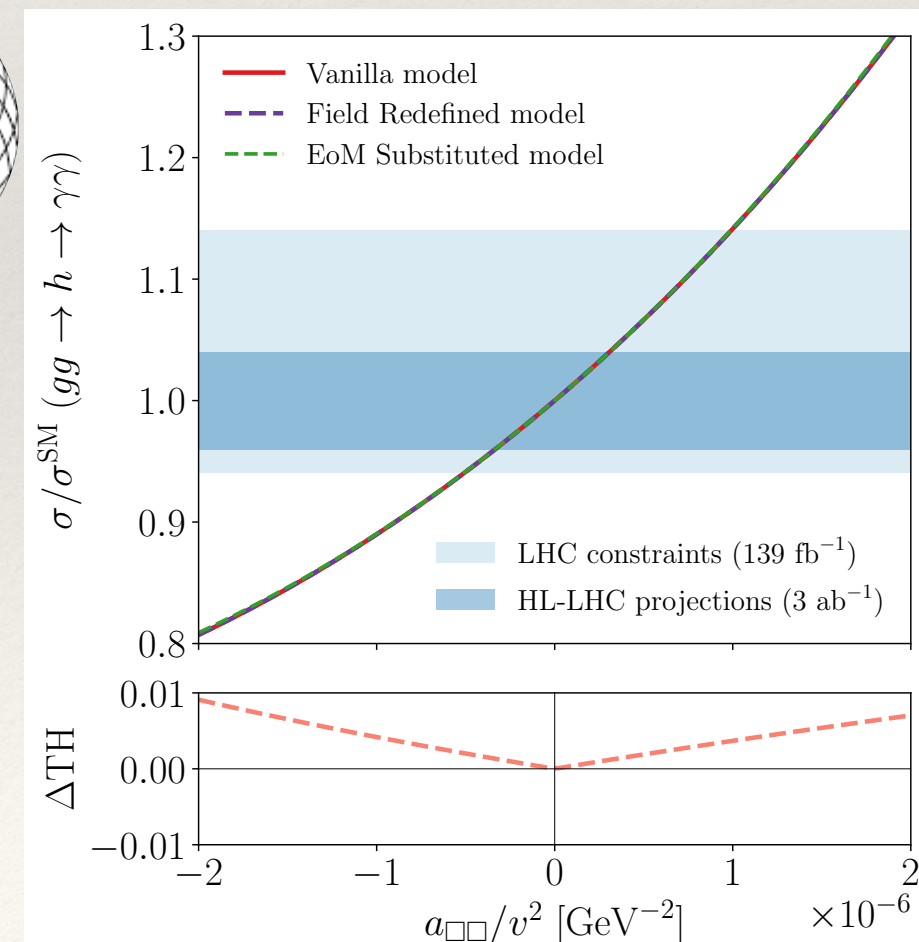


composite Higgs theories

non-SMEFT

- new insights into the robustness of EFT interpretations of LHC data *EFT uncertainties*

[Alonso, CE, Naskar, Rahaman `25]



- continuously improved with data and fit methodology, e.g. tribosons

e.g. [Celada, Durieux, Mimasu, Vryonidou `24]

- EFT cross talk with precision methods/calculations (e.g. *ALPs*)

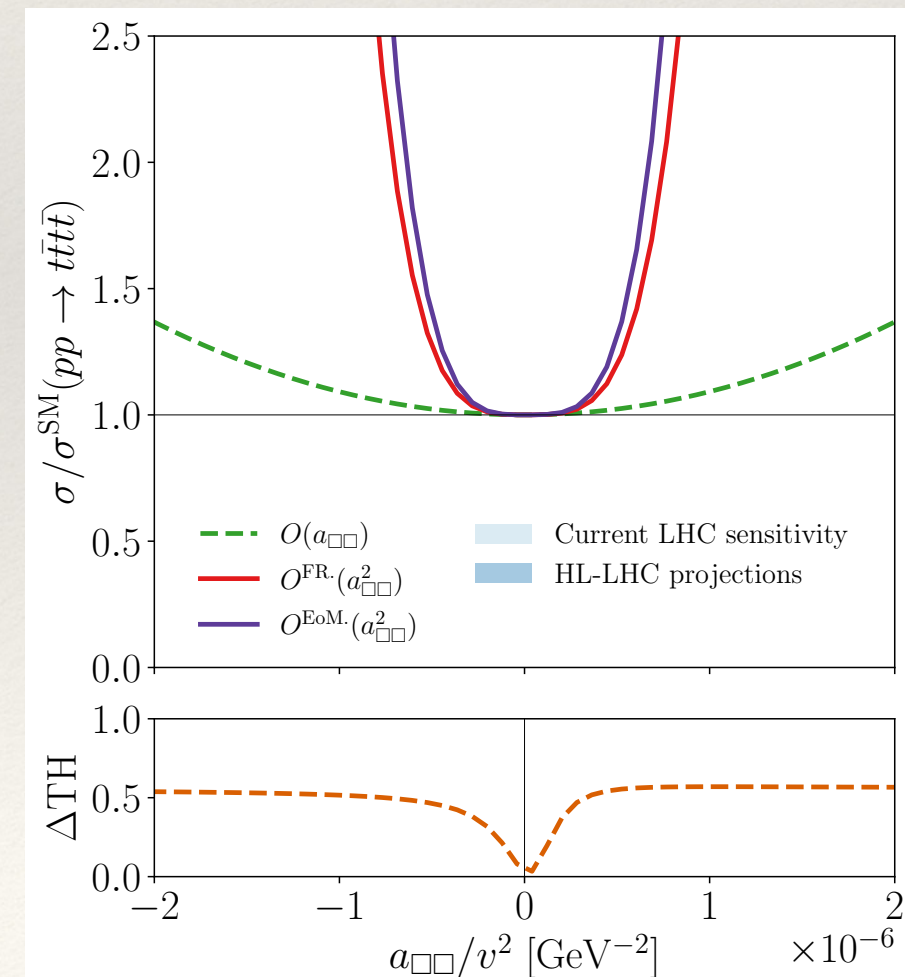
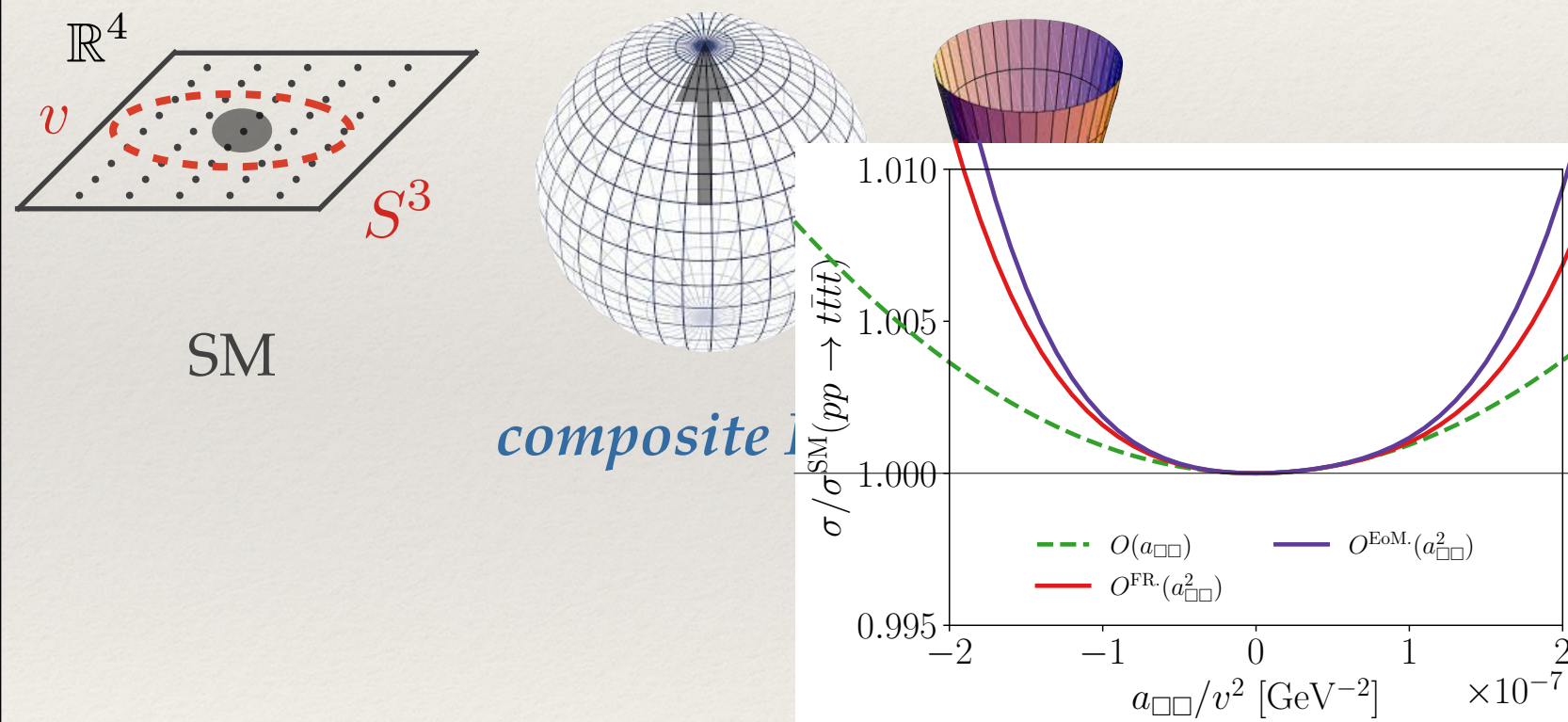
e.g. [Colquhoun, Davies, Lepage, Renner `25]

- improved theoretical & geometric understanding of EFT structures

[Alonso et al. `16]

[Alonso, West `21]

[Alminawi, Brivio, Davighi `23, `26]



- continuously improved with data and fit methodology, e.g. tribosons

e.g. [Celada, Durieux, Mimasu, Vryonidou `24]

- EFT cross talk with precision methods/calculations (e.g. *ALPs*)

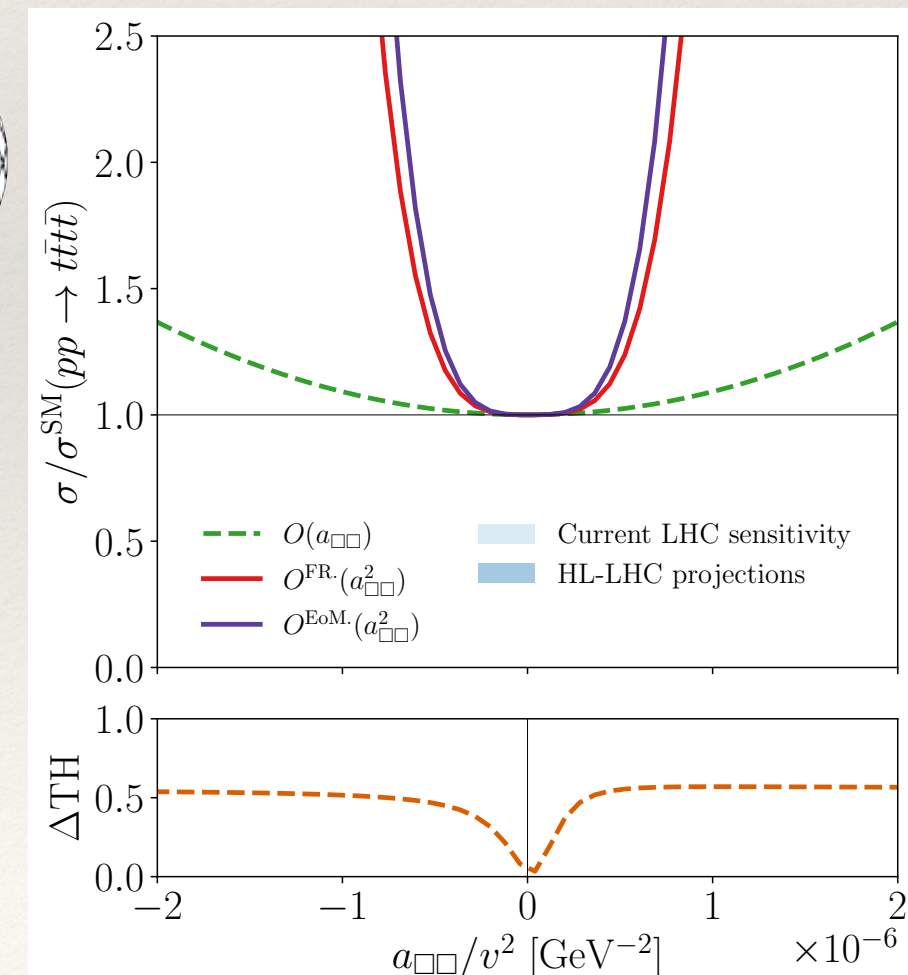
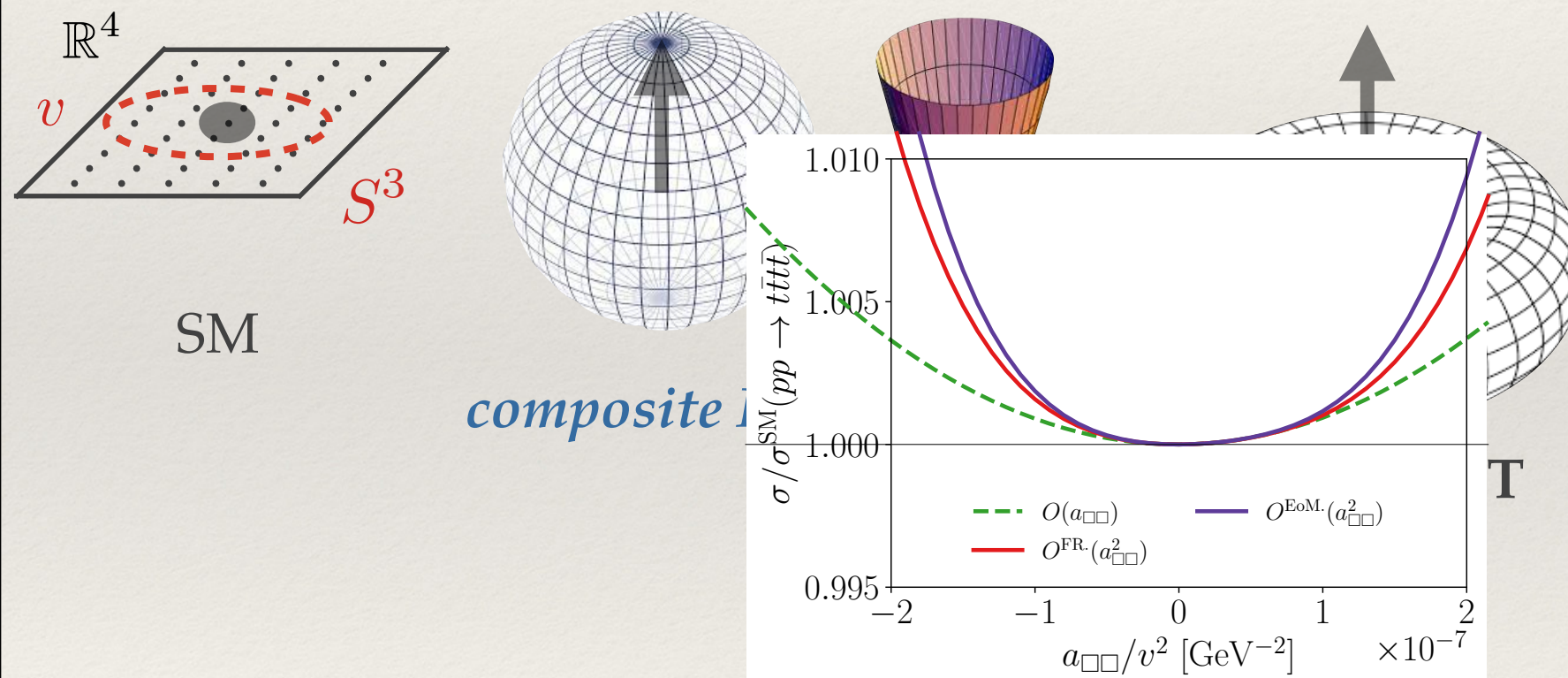
e.g. [Colquhoun, Davies, Lepage, Renner `25]

- improved theoretical & geometric understanding of EFT structures

[Alonso et al. `16]

[Alonso, West `21]

[Alminawi, Brivio, Davighi `23, `26]



- continuously improved with data and fit methodology, e.g. tribosons

e.g. [Celada, Durieux, Mimasu, Vryonidou `24]

- EFT cross talk with precision methods/calculations (e.g. *ALPs*)

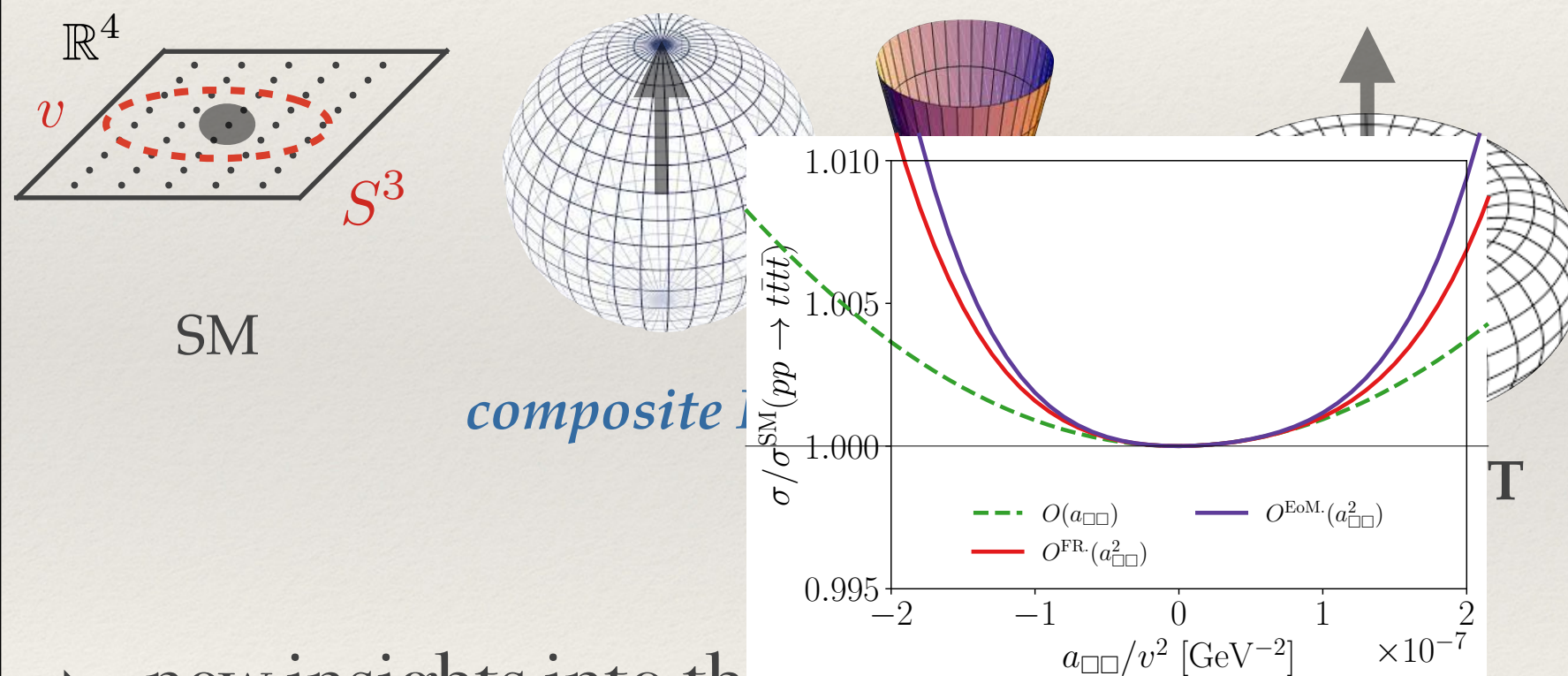
e.g. [Colquhoun, Davies, Lepage, Renner `25]

- improved theoretical & geometric understanding of EFT structures

[Alonso et al. `16]

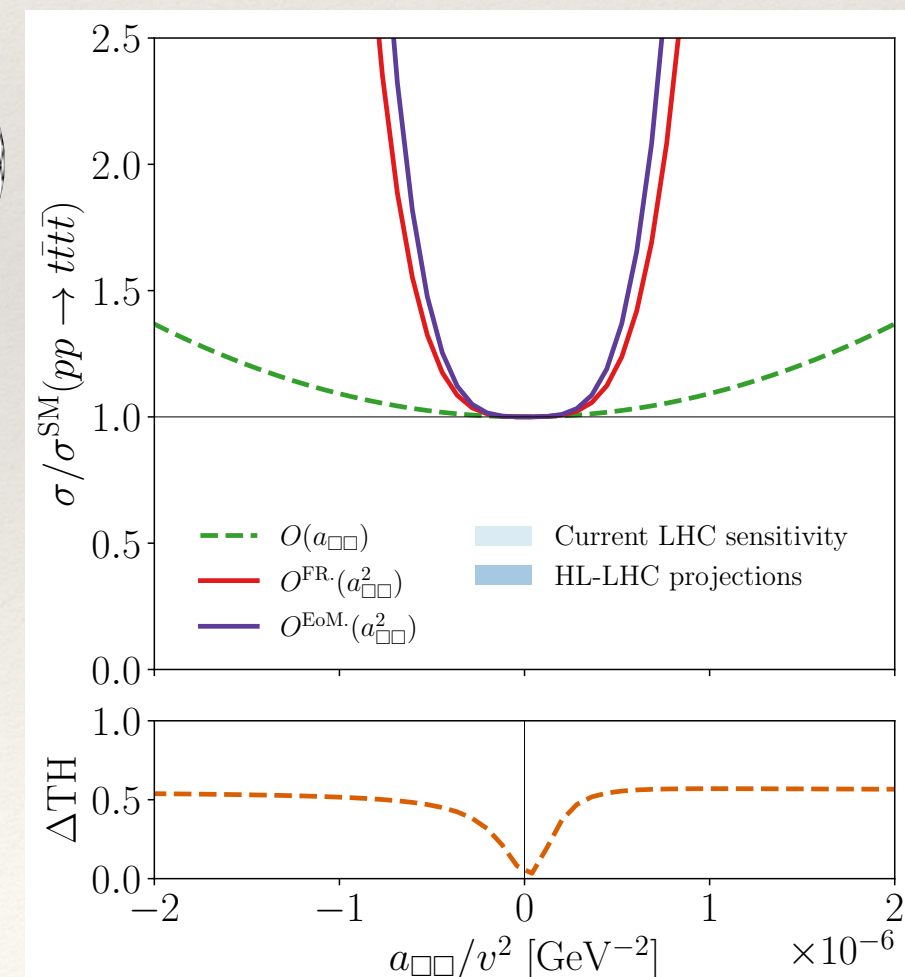
[Alonso, West `21]

[Alminawi, Brivio, Davighi `23, `26]

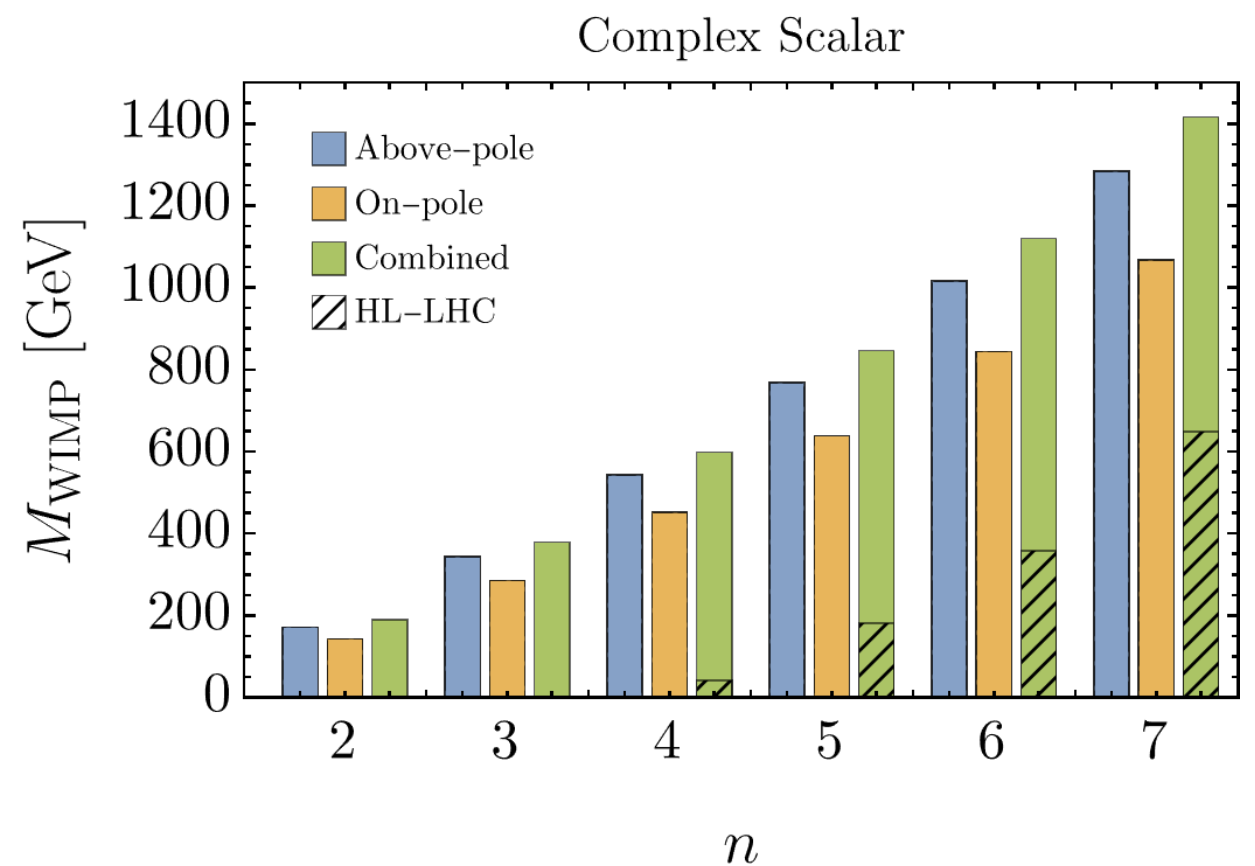
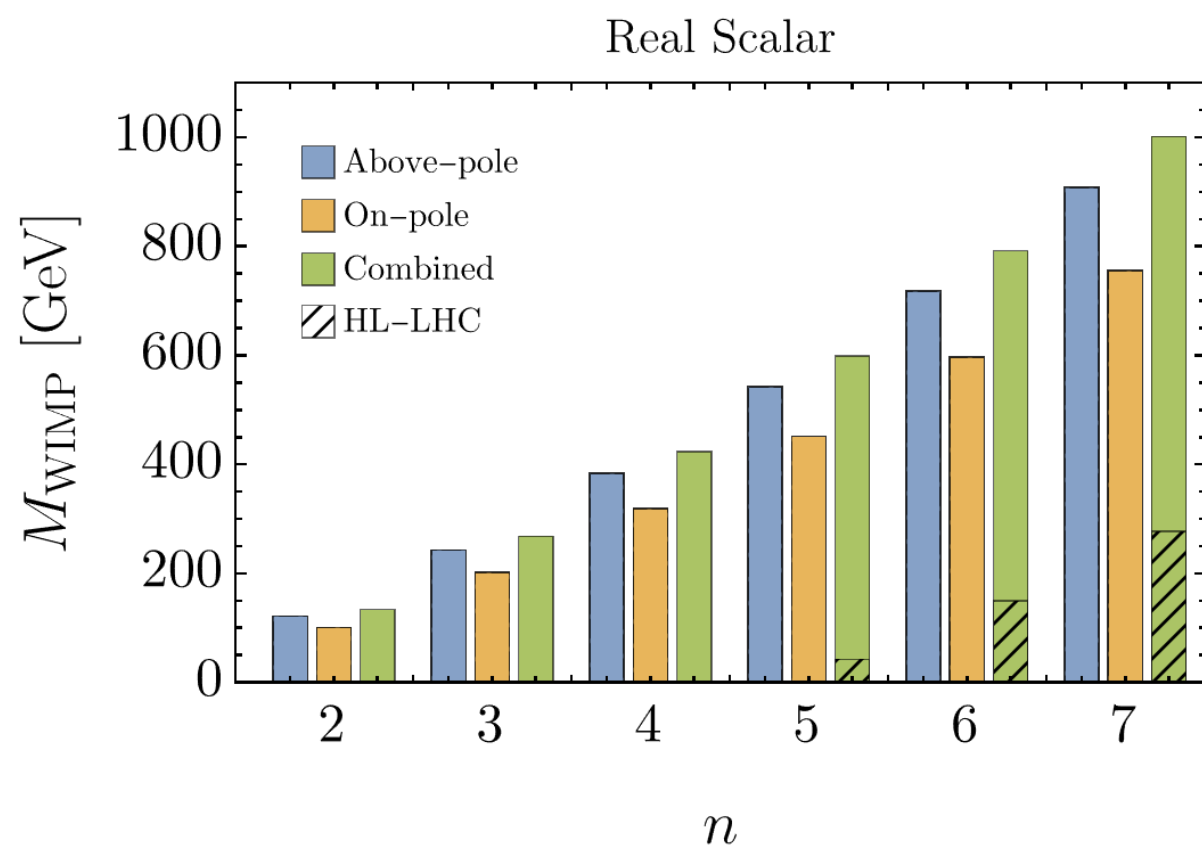


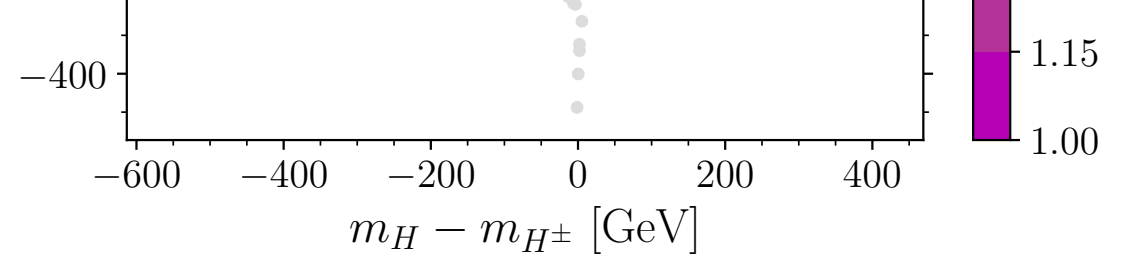
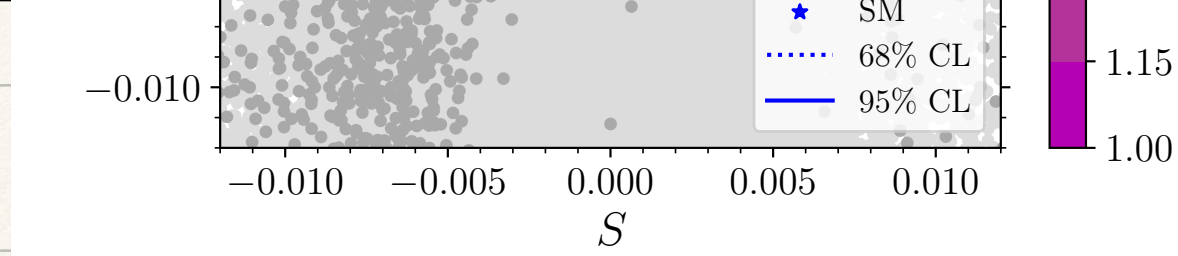
- new insights into the robustness of EFT
interpretations of LHC data *EFT uncertainties*

[Alonso, CE, Naskar, Rahaman `25]

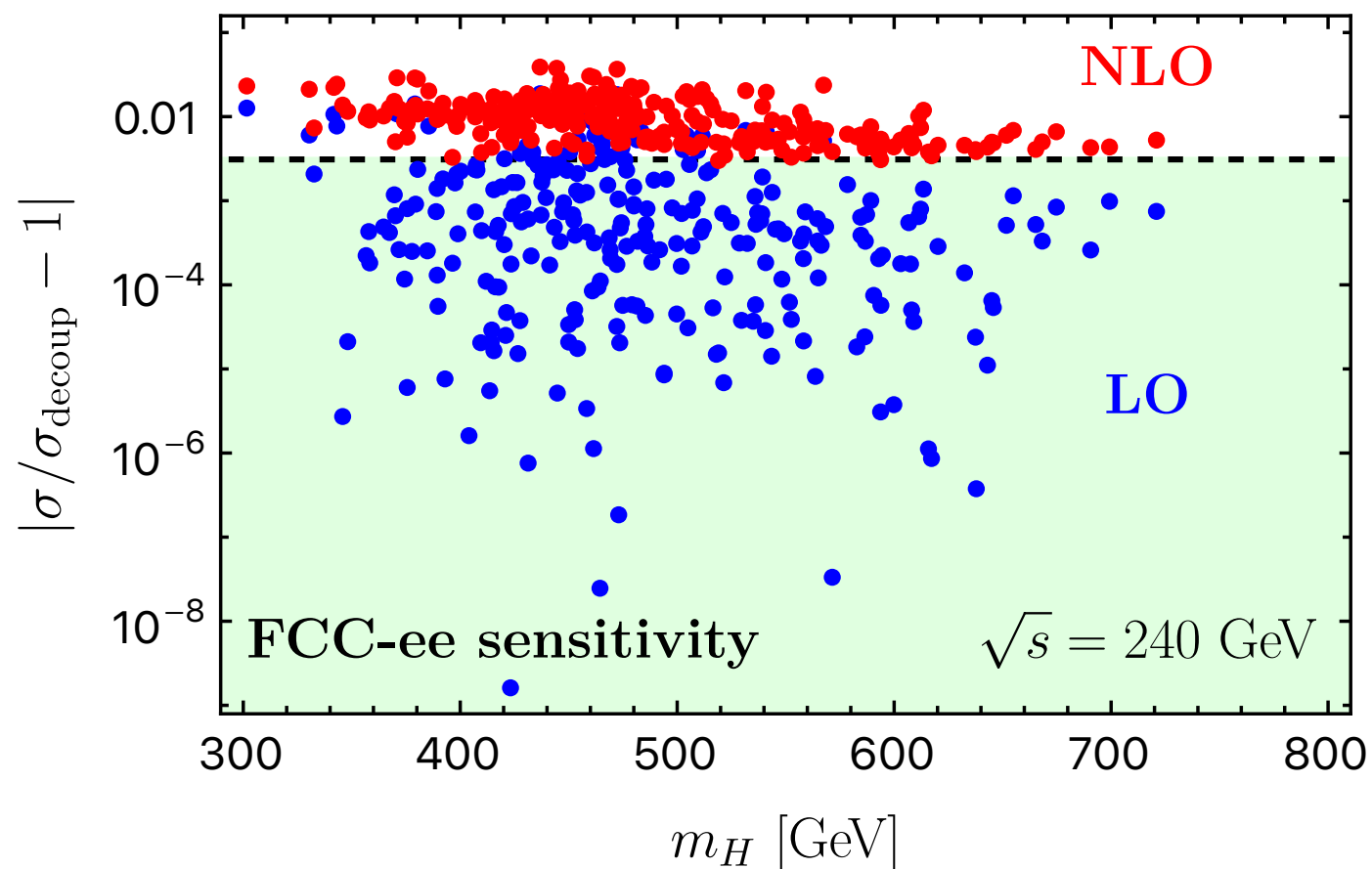
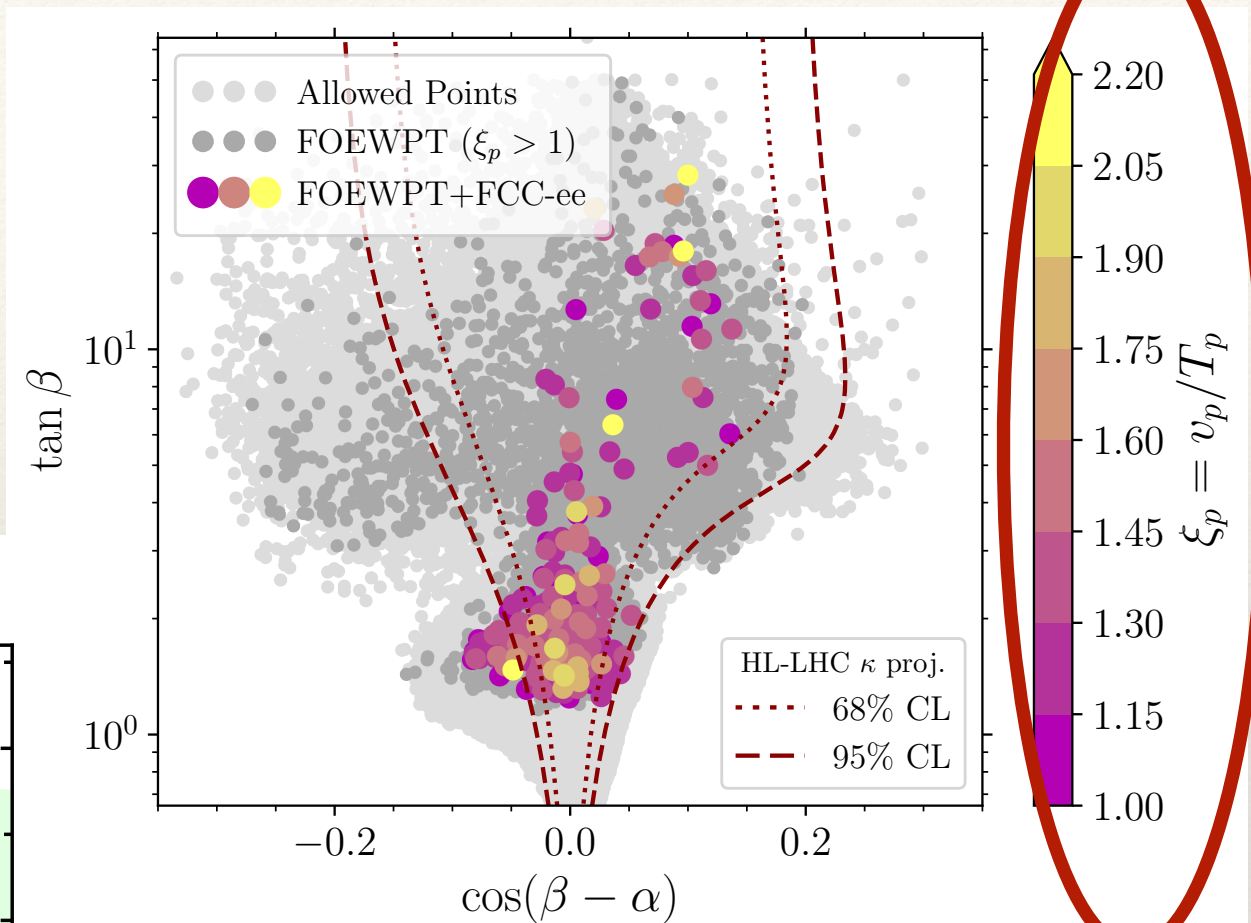
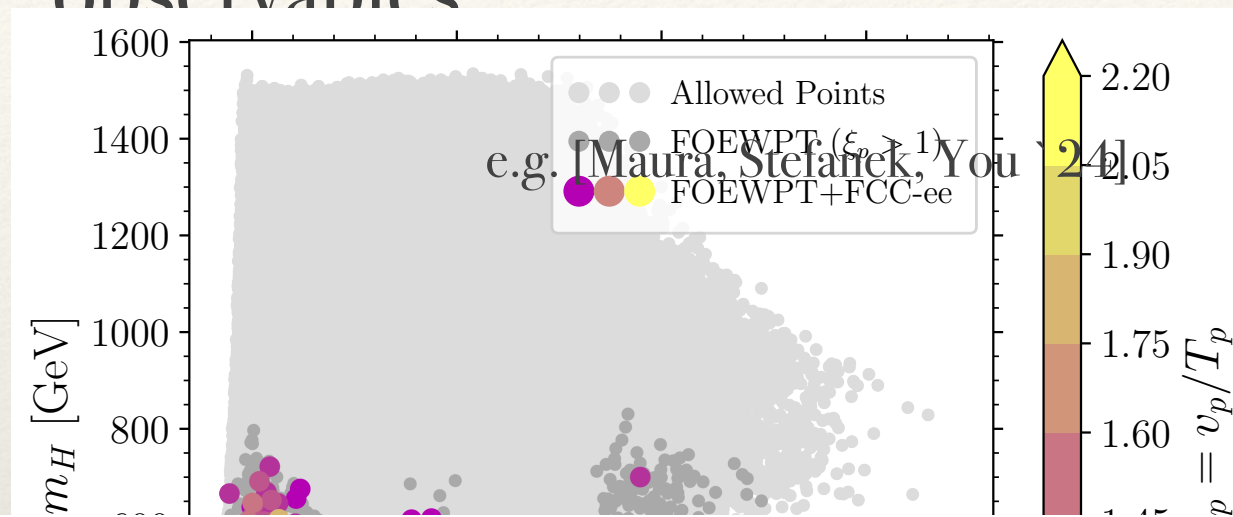


- ▶ FCC-ee will gain unprecedented precision in a limited array of observables
 - ▶ *'Tera-Z'* e.g. [Maura, Stefanek, You `24]





- FCC-ee will gain unprecedented precision in a limited array of observables



new physics through
alignment w/o decoupling
[Gent et al. '25]

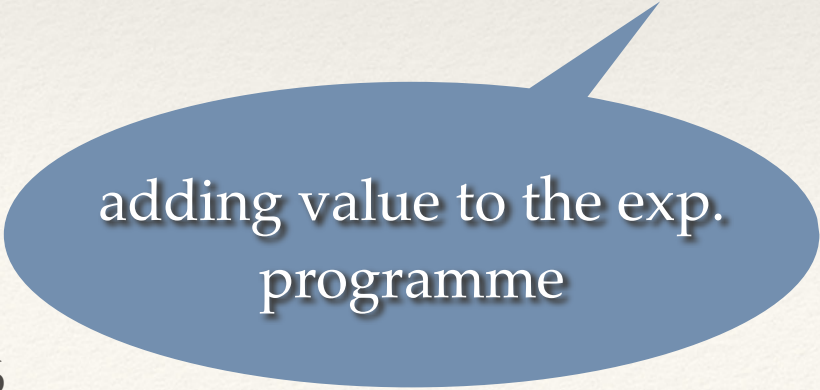
*concrete (UV-complete) scenarios
capitalise FCC-ee sensitivity*

- ▶ **Particle theory is fundamental to particle physics strategy**

- ▶ **Particle theory is fundamental to particle physics strategy**
 - ▶ central part in understanding and refining null hypotheses
 - ▶ central to interpreting anomalies or lack thereof
 - ▶ central to providing context with the UV completions of the SM

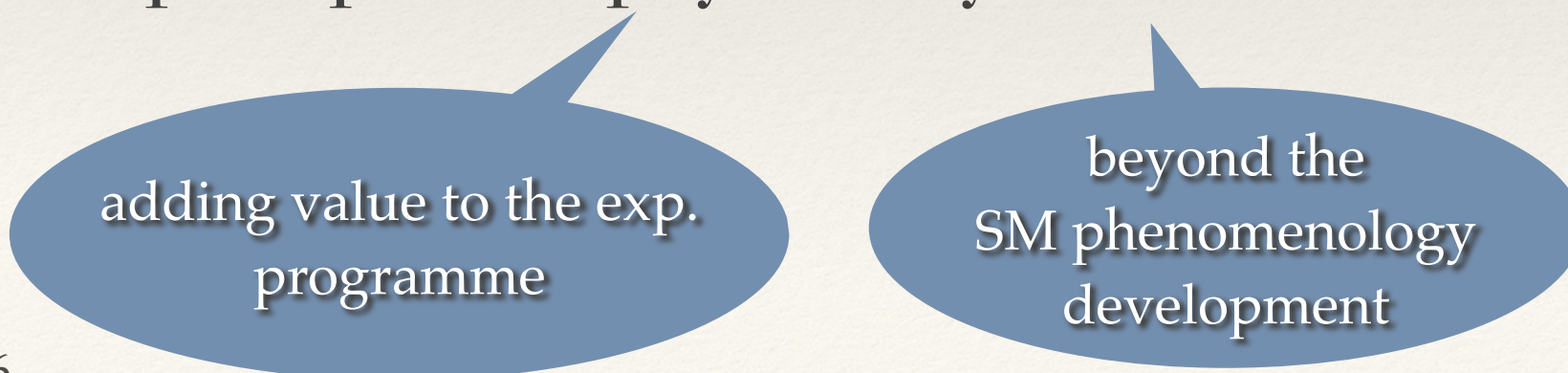
- ▶ **Particle theory is fundamental to particle physics strategy**
 - ▶ central part in understanding and refining null hypotheses
 - ▶ central to interpreting anomalies or lack thereof
 - ▶ central to providing context with the UV completions of the SM
- ▶ **UK Particle Theory programme still contributes and innovates**
 - ▶ high-precision predictions from low to high energies (μ , b , H , t , BSM)
 - ▶ critical tool support for multi-purpose high energy experiments
 - ▶ push particle physics beyond the current state of the art

- ▶ **Particle theory is fundamental to particle physics strategy**
 - ▶ central part in understanding and refining null hypotheses
 - ▶ central to interpreting anomalies or lack thereof
 - ▶ central to providing context with the UV completions of the SM
- ▶ **UK Particle Theory programme still contributes and innovates**
 - ▶ high-precision predictions from low to high energies (μ , b , H , t , BSM)
 - ▶ critical tool support for multi-purpose high energy experiments
 - ▶ push particle physics beyond the current state of the art



adding value to the exp.
programme

- ▶ **Particle theory is fundamental to particle physics strategy**
 - ▶ central part in understanding and refining null hypotheses
 - ▶ central to interpreting anomalies or lack thereof
 - ▶ central to providing context with the UV completions of the SM
- ▶ **UK Particle Theory programme still contributes and innovates**
 - ▶ high-precision predictions from low to high energies (μ , b , H , t , BSM)
 - ▶ critical tool support for multi-purpose high energy experiments
 - ▶ push particle physics beyond the current state of the art



adding value to the exp.
programme

beyond the
SM phenomenology
development

- ▶ **Particle theory is fundamental to particle physics strategy**
 - ▶ central part in understanding and refining null hypotheses
 - ▶ central to interpreting anomalies or lack thereof
 - ▶ central to providing context with the UV completions of the SM
- ▶ **UK Particle Theory programme still contributes and innovates**
 - ▶ high-precision predictions from low to high energies (μ , b , H , t , BSM)
 - ▶ critical tool support for multi-purpose high energy experiments
 - ▶ push particle physics beyond the current state of the art

adding value to the exp.
programme

beyond the
SM phenomenology
development

**building case for
future accelerator(s)**