The physics goals of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)

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Key questions addressed by high-energy physics

a.k.a. "particle physics"

- **What is the Universe made of?**
- **How does it work?**
- **Why?**

Level 0: what? how?

- Are there fundamental building blocks?
- If so, what are they?
- How do they interact?
- How do they determine the properties of the Universe?

The fundamental building blocks: fermions, spin=1/2 h/2π

	Quarks		Leptons	
	Q=2/3 e	Q=-1/3 e	Q=-e	Q=0
ordinary matter	**up** (0.004)	**down** (0.006)	**e** (0.0005)	ν_e (very small*)
identical copies (different mass)	**charm** (1.5)	**strange** (0.5)	**μ** (0.1)	ν_μ (very small)
identical copies (different mass)	**top** (175)	**bottom** (4.5)	**τ** (1.8)	ν_τ (very small)

(Mass values in GeV)

* *very small*: less than 10^{-9}, but different from 0

The fundamental interactions:
vector bosons, spin=h/2π

FORCE	COUPLES TO:	FORCE CARRIER:
Electromagnetism	electric charge	photon (m=0)
"weak" force	"weak" charge	$W^{\pm}$ (m=80) Z^{0} (m=91)
"strong" force	"colour"	8 gluons (m=0)

tensor boson, spin=2 h/2π

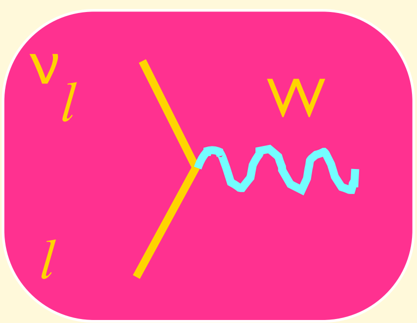
gravity	energy	graviton (m=0)

scalar boson, spin=0

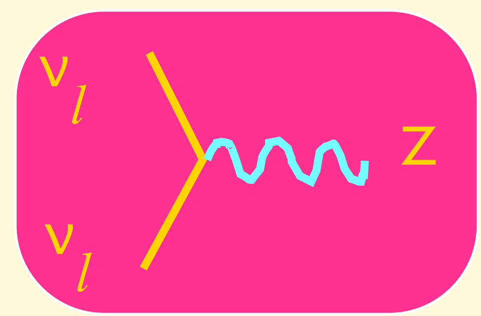
	mass	**Higgs (m=??)**

Lepton Interactions ($l=e,\mu,\tau$)

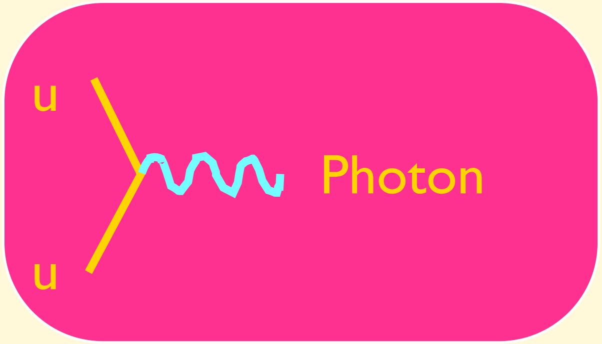
$\propto$ -e=electric charge



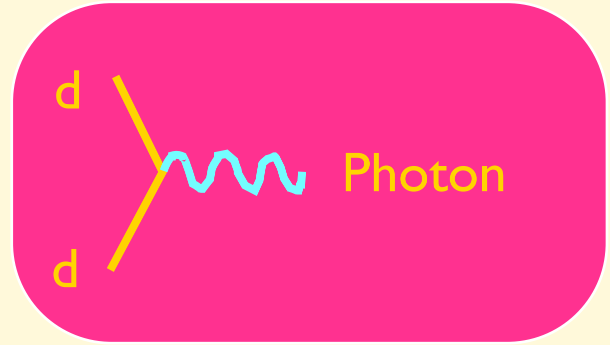
$\propto g_W$=weak charge



Quark Interactions

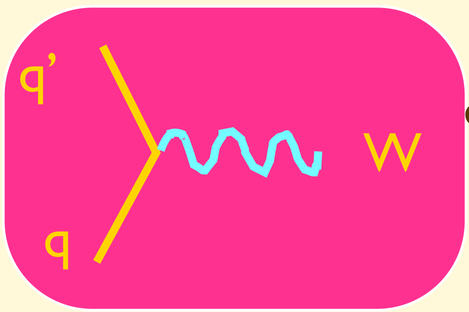


$\propto 2/3\ e$



$\propto -1/3\ e$

$M_{qq'}$	u	c	t
d	0.97	-0.22	~ 0.001
s	0.22	0.97	~ 0.05
b	~ 0.001	~ 0.05	~ 1



$\propto g_W\ M_{qq'}$

$\propto g_s$ =strong coupling

Why?

- Why gauge theory?
- Why 3 families of quarks and leptons?
- Why some particles have mass?
- Why m(neutrino) ~ 10^{-7} m(e)?
- Why is there a matter-antimatter asymmetry in the Universe?
- Why $F_{gravity} \sim 10^{-40}\ F_{electric}$?
- Are particles really pointlike? Strings?? Membranes?
- Why D=3+1?
- ....
- Why something instead of nothing?

The depth of "Why?" questions is a measure of the maturity of the field. We can only approach "why" questions when we have a solid understanding of the "what"s and "how"s

Example: mass

$m=E/c^2$ $\Rightarrow$ for a composite system the mass is obtained by solving the dynamics of the bound state

So m_p=938 MeV requires a "how" explanation, not a "why" one

But what about elementary particles? Elementary $\Rightarrow$ no internal dynamics

Need to develop a new framework within which to understand the value of the electron mass

Example of scientific progress

Components:
air, water, fire, earth

Forces:
- air and fire pushed upwards
- earth and water pulled downwards

Experimental detection of anomalies in the prediction:
how come a tree falls in the water, but then gets pushed up and floats?

Reevaluation of the theory, a new synthesis (Archimedes)
- **all** matter is pulled downwards, but with intensity proportional to its weight:
A body immersed in water receives a push upwards equal to the weight of the displaced water
Air is lighter than the rock, therefore it floats on top of it. Warm air is lighter than cold air, and by it it's pushed up.

A first example of unification of forces and elements!

The goals of the LHC

- To firmly establish the **"what"**:
  - discover the crucial missing element of the Standard Model, namely the **Higgs boson**
  - search for possible new fundamental interactions, too weak to have been observed so far
  - search for possible new generations of quarks or leptons
  - confirm/disprove the elementary nature of quarks/leptons
  - discover direct evidence for the particle responsible for the **Dark Matter** in the Universe
- To firmly establish the **"how"**: the observation of the Higgs boson, and the determination of its properties, will complete the dynamical picture of the Standard Model, confirming (hopefully!) our presumed understanding of "how" particles acquire a mass.
- To seek new elements which can help us shedding light on the most difficult question, namely **WHY?**

LHC in a nutshell

- 2 beam of protons, circulating in two magnetized rings of 27km, steered by 1200 16m dipoles, 9Tesla, operating at 1.5^{o}K
- proton-proton collisions, at $\sqrt{S}$=14 TeV (=14 x 10^6 MeV!)
- 10^8 proton-proton collisions per second
- event size: 1MB, event storage rate: 100Hz, data to tape: 10^6GB/yr

- Experiments:
  - **ATLAS** and **CMS** (general purpose)
  - **LHCb**: physics of b-quark hadrons
  - **ALICE**: heavy ion (Pb) collisions at 5.5TeV/nucleon

- Expected starting date: 2007

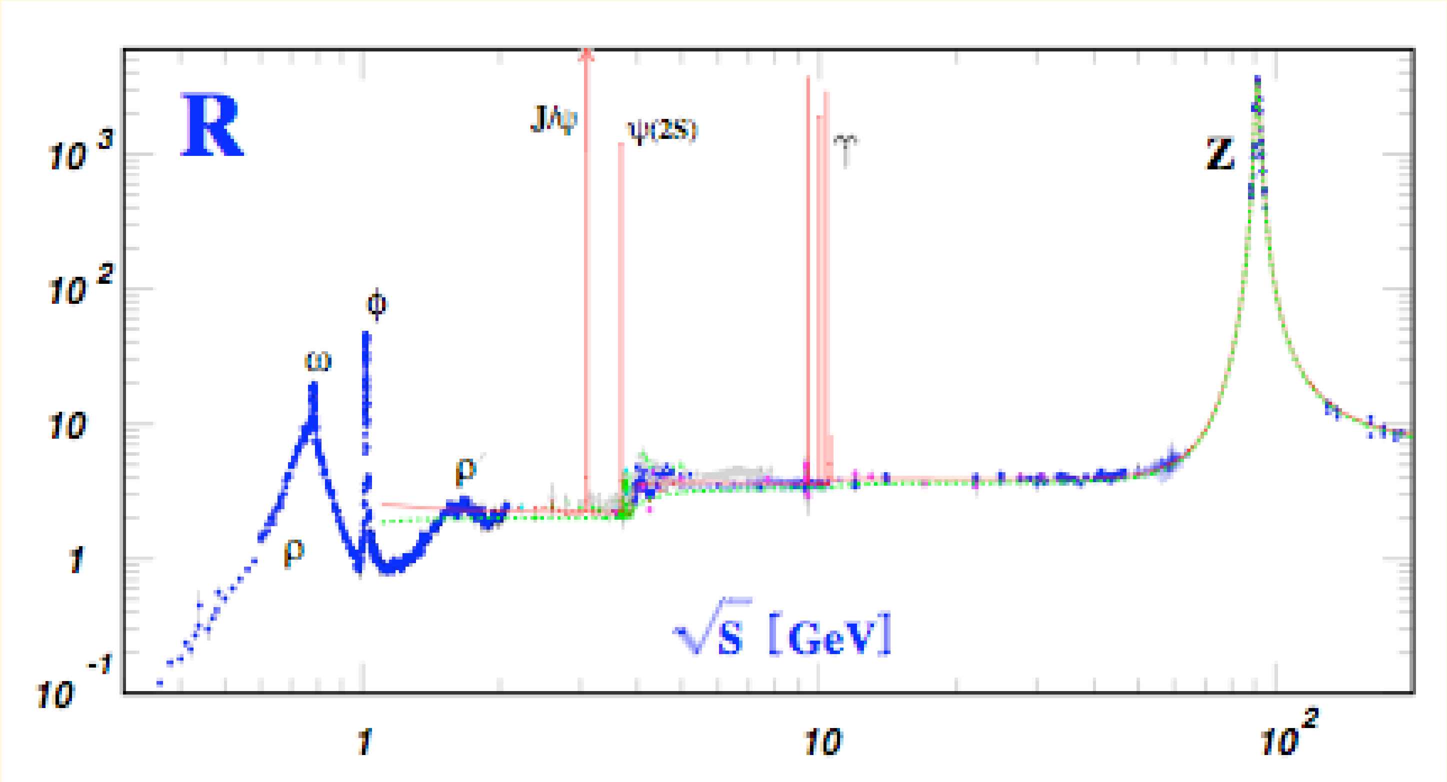
To understand how the LHC is going to shed light on these issues, let us explore more in depth what are the “observable” quantities studied by LHC physicists, and how proton-proton collisions work

Observables and fundamental quantities

- ***Mass***:
  - Composite particles -> dynamical origin, calculable: $M=E/c^2$, $E=T+U$
  - Fundamental particles -> assigned parameter; origin ???
  - Measurement:
    - in decays: $P=\sum p_i$, $M^2=P^2$
    - in production: M=minimum energy necessary for creation
- ***Charge***:
  - Which type (electric,weak, strong)?
  - Are there other charges?? What is the origin of charge??
  - Measurment: interaction strength
    - lifetime of a particle before its decay
    - reaction probabilities (rate counting)
- ***Spin*** (intrinsic angular momentum):
  - Integer-> bosons, Semiinteger -> fermions
  - Origin??
  - Pauli principle (two identical fermions cannot occupy the same quantum state) at the origin of matter stability and diversity
  - Measurement: angular distributions in scattering or decay processes

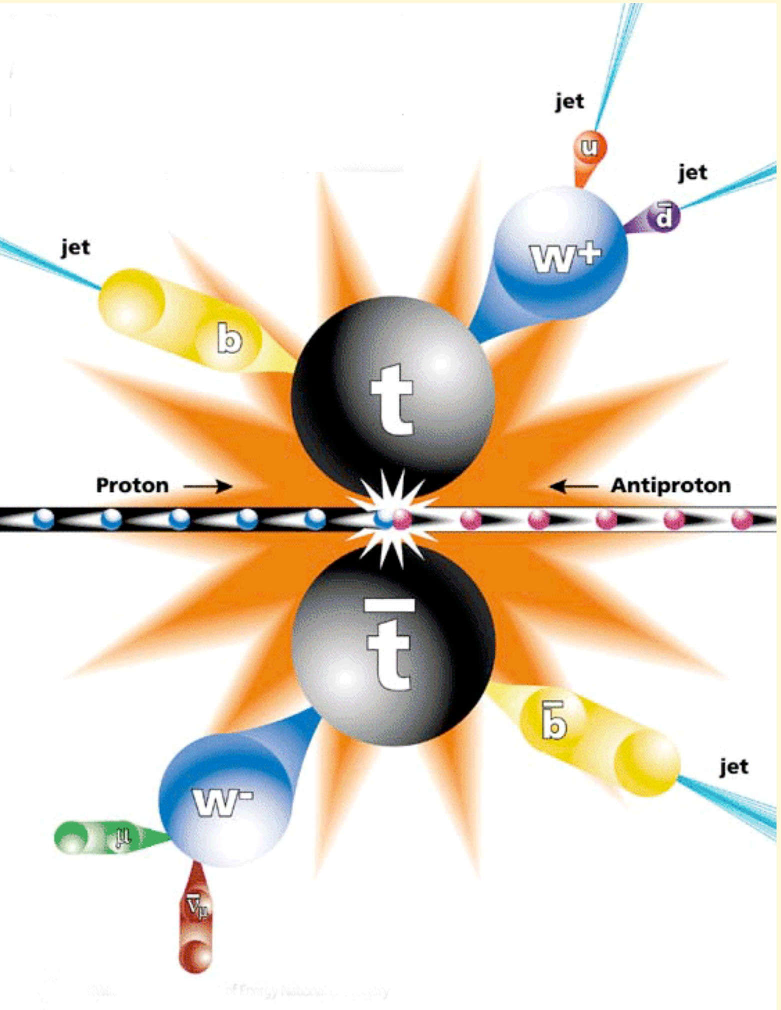
Examples of mass determination:
M= energy at production threshold

Production rate for $e^+e^- \rightarrow$ hadrons, as a function of the center of mass energy

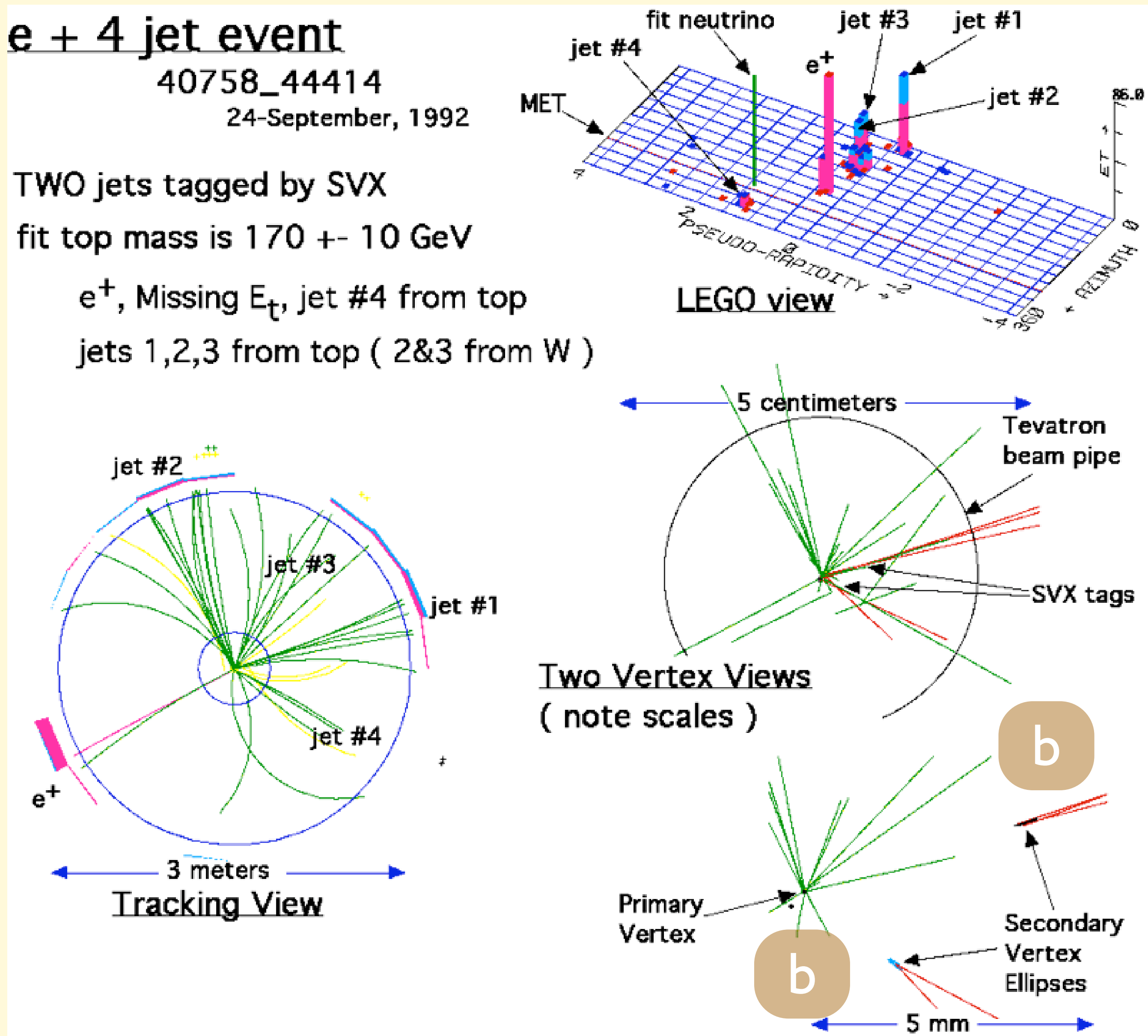


The peaks represent the appearance of a new possible final state, made it possible by having enough CM energy to create it

Examples of mass determination: top quark kinematic reconstruction

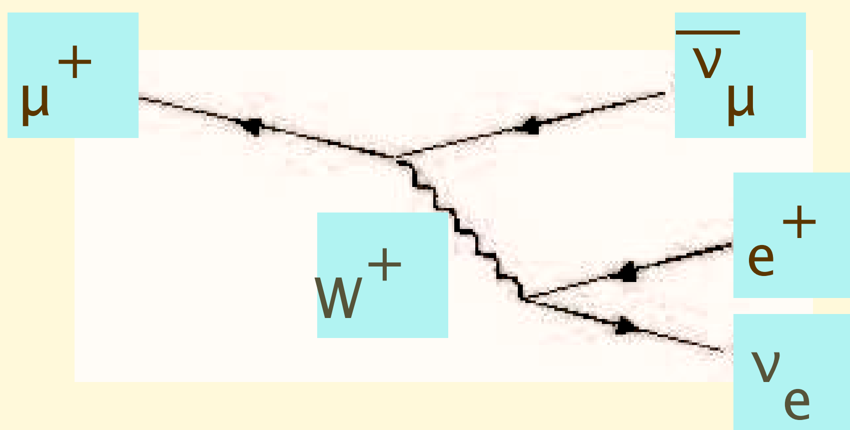


top → bottom + W
→ e nu
→ μ nu
→ τ nu
→ q antiq



Decays and lifetimes

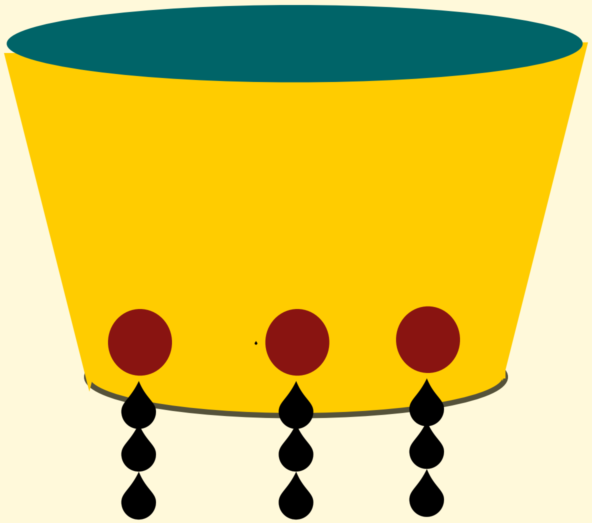
- If the couplings of a particle **A** allow it to transform itself into a series of particles $\mathbf{B}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{B}_n$, and if $m_A > m_{B1} + \ldots + m_{Bn}$, **A** decays into $\mathbf{B}_1 + \ldots + \mathbf{B}_n$. Only particles for which no decay channel is open can be stable. As of today, we only know of two such examples: electron and proton (although there are theories in which the proton is predicted to decay with a lifetime of about 10^{34} years, as well as theories in which stable heavy particles explain the origin of dark matter).
- Example:



- The stronger the couplings, and the larger the mass difference, the faster the decay:

$$N(t) = N(0)\, e^{-t/\tau}$$ where $\tau = \tau(M,g)$ is the **life time**

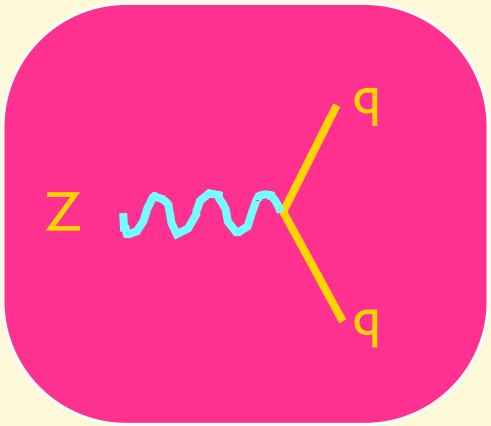
Example: counting the number of neutrinos

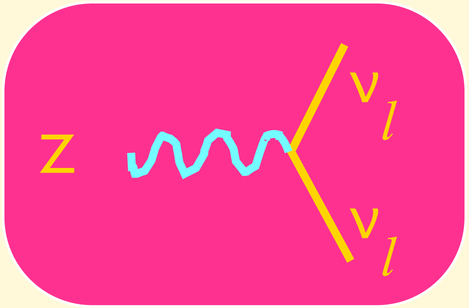


$\tau \propto$ 1/(number of holes) ~ 1/(number of decay channels)

$\tau(\mathbf{Z}) \propto 1/$**number of decay channels**

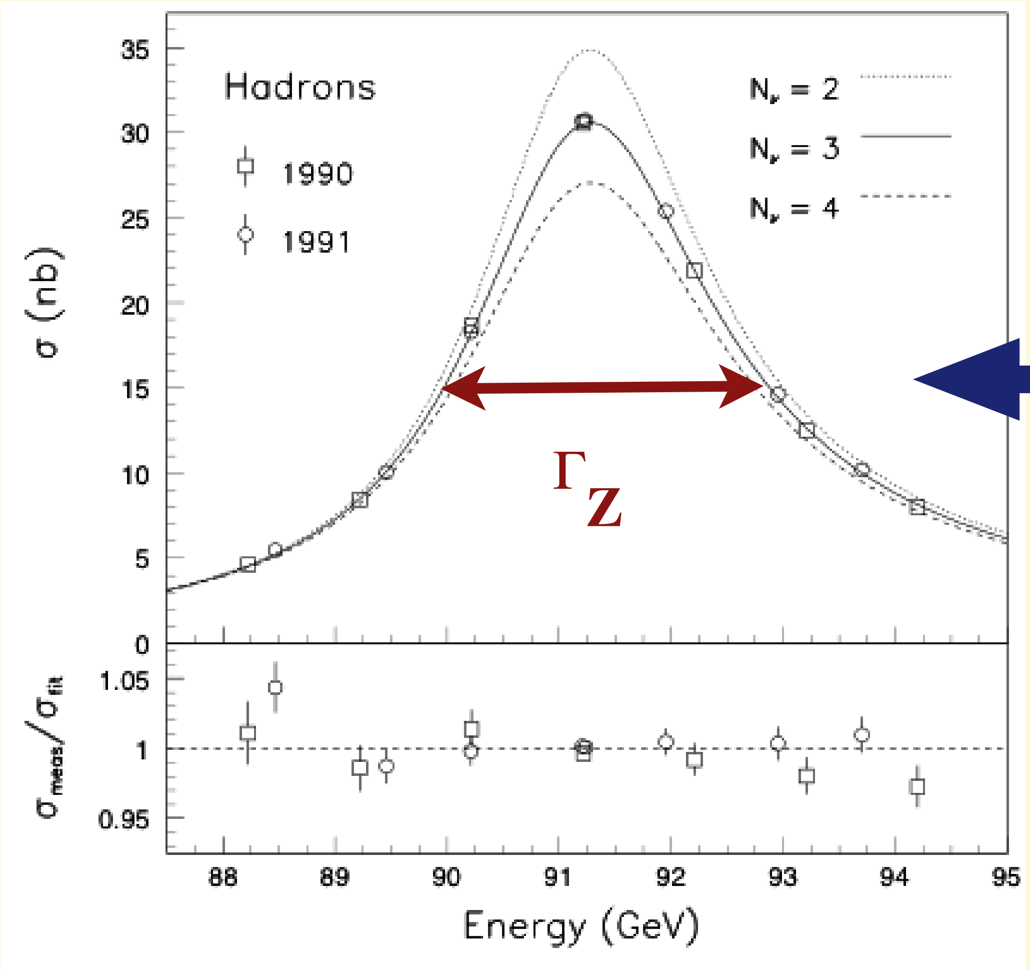
$$\Gamma(Z) = \sum_{q \setminus m_q < m_Z/2} \Gamma(Z \to q\bar{q}) + \sum_{\ell \setminus m_\ell < m_Z/2} \Gamma(Z \to \ell^+\ell^-) + \sum_{\nu \setminus m_\nu < m_Z/2} \Gamma(Z \to \nu\bar{\nu})$$





$$N_{events}(e^+e^- \to Z^0) \propto [(S - M_Z^{\,2})^2 + M_Z^{\,2}\,\Gamma_Z^{\,2}\,]^{-1}$$

$\sqrt{S}$=Energy(e^+e^-)

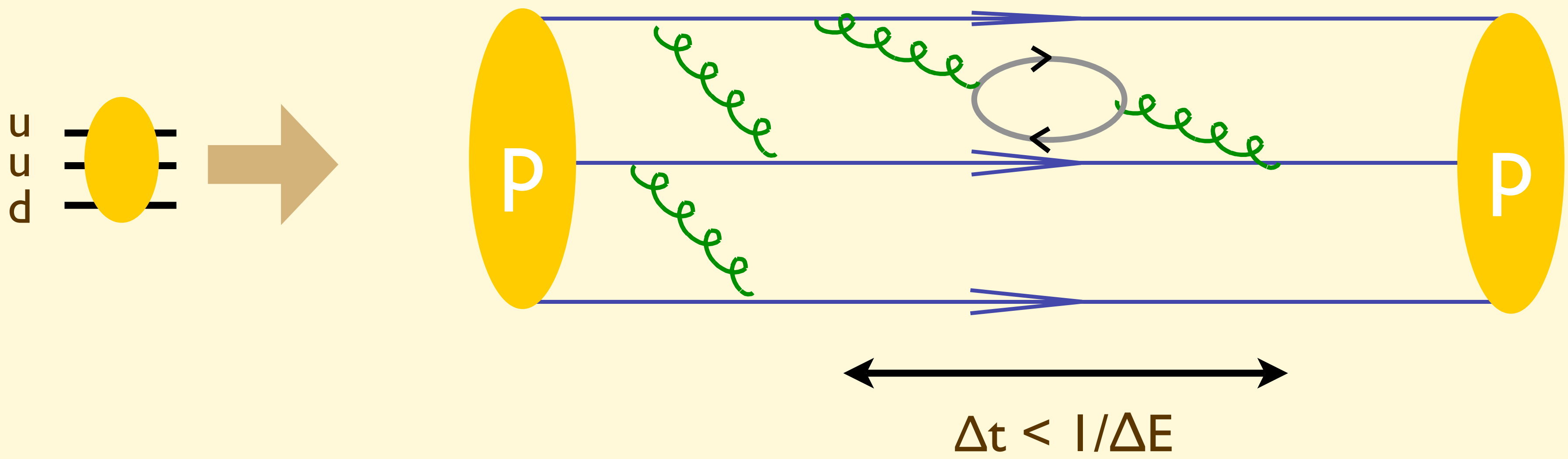


LEP $e^+e^- \longrightarrow Z^0$ data, showing that the number of neutrino species N_ν=3

The measurement of a width can tell us something about what is not directly seen!

More in general, the measurement of a width will give us the strength of the coupling of the decaying particle to the decay products. The width (lifetime) itself is therefore not a fundamental property of a particle, but is a consequence of its mass and of its couplings.

The structure of the proton



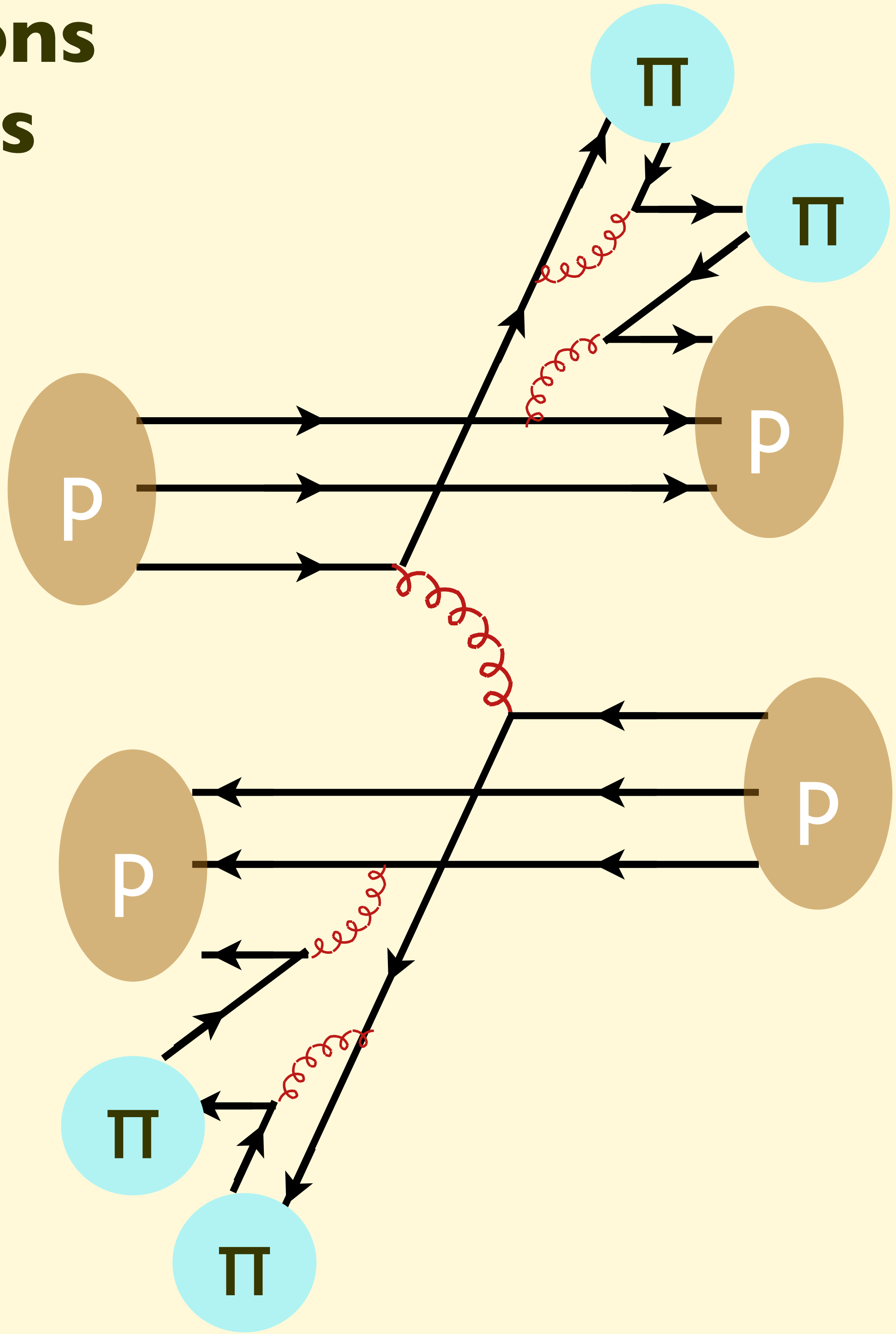
Inside the proton we can find, in addition to the component **uud** quarks, also **gluons** as well as **quark-antiquark** pairs

If we probe the proton at energies high enough, we take a picture of the proton with a very sharp time resolution, and we can “detect” the presence of these additional components. In particular, the gluons and antiquarks present inside will participate in the reactions involving proton.

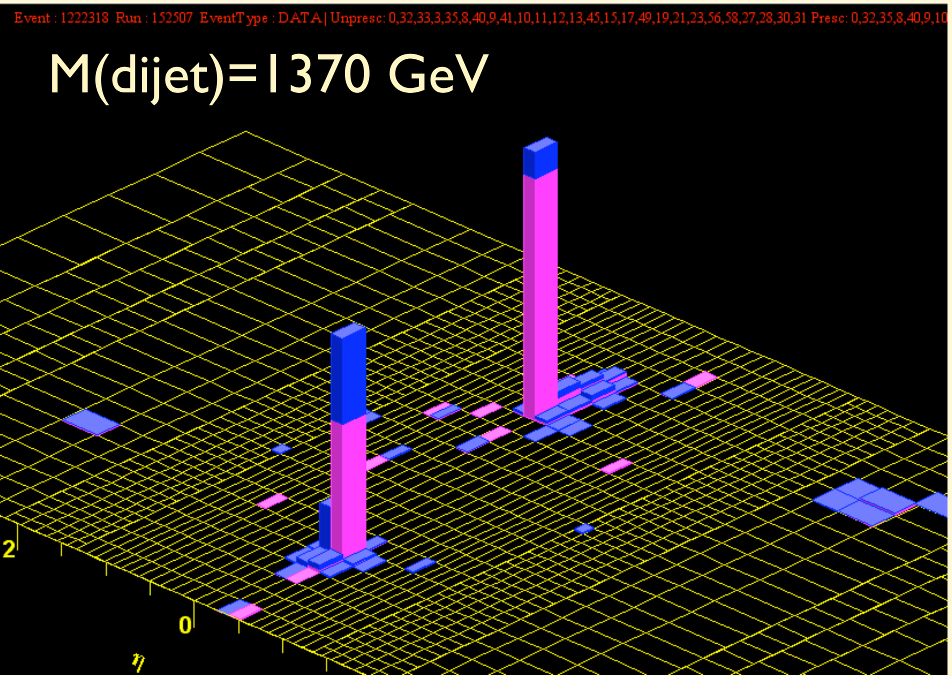
Notice that, if Δt is small enough, even pairs of quark-antiquark belonging to the heavier generations (e.g. s-sbar, c-cbar) can appear!! The proton can contain quarks heavier than itself!!

Examples of reactions in proton collisions

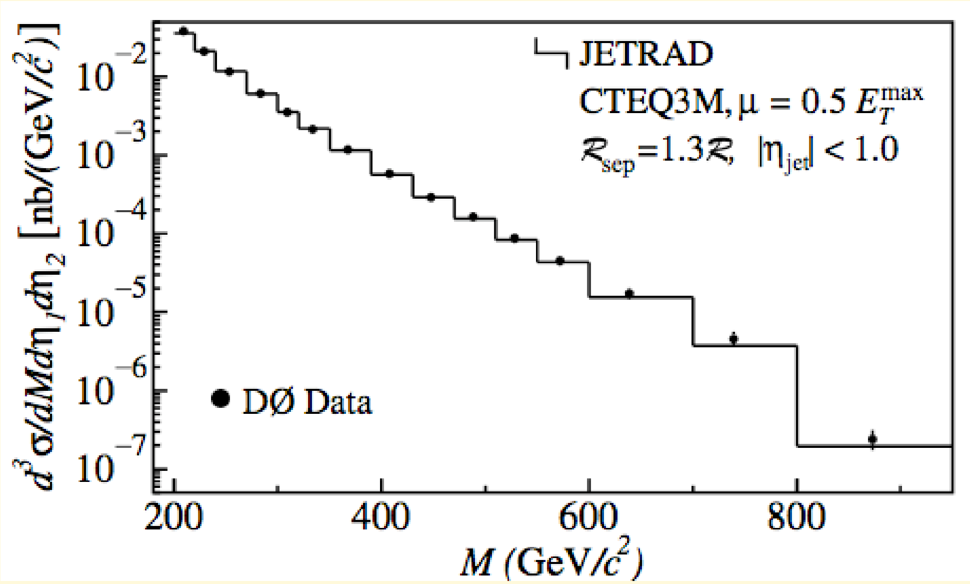
quark-quark scattering:



Real-life example from p-pbar collisions at the Tevatron, 1.96 TeV CM energy:

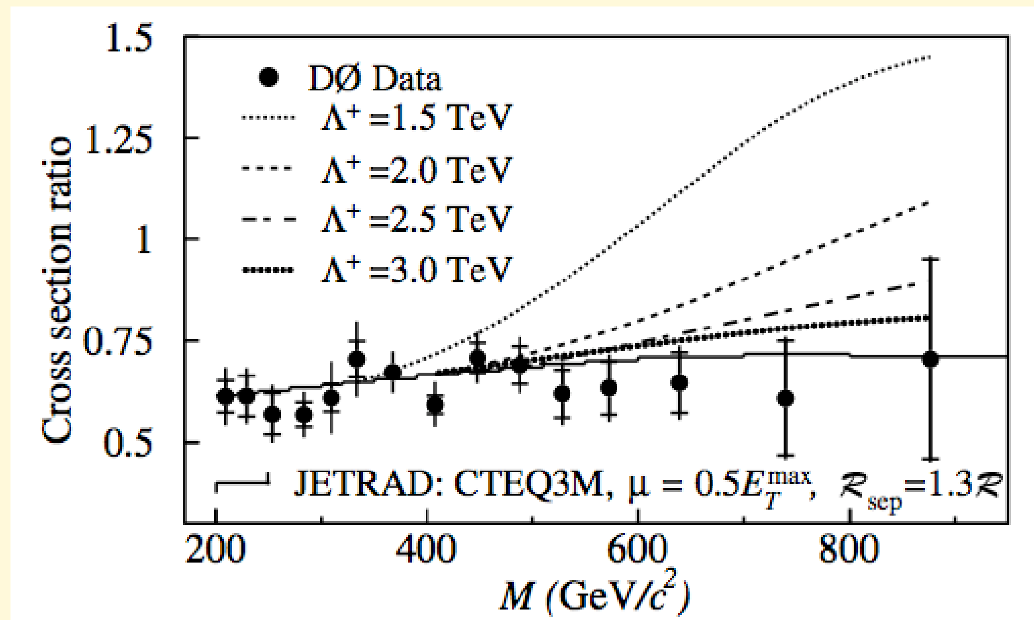


Real data (Tevatron) vs theoretical expectations



If quarks are pointlike (QCD: solid line)

Possible deviations if quarks have a substructure apparent at a distance scale equal to 1/Λ



Data exclude Λ<2.4 TeV ⇒

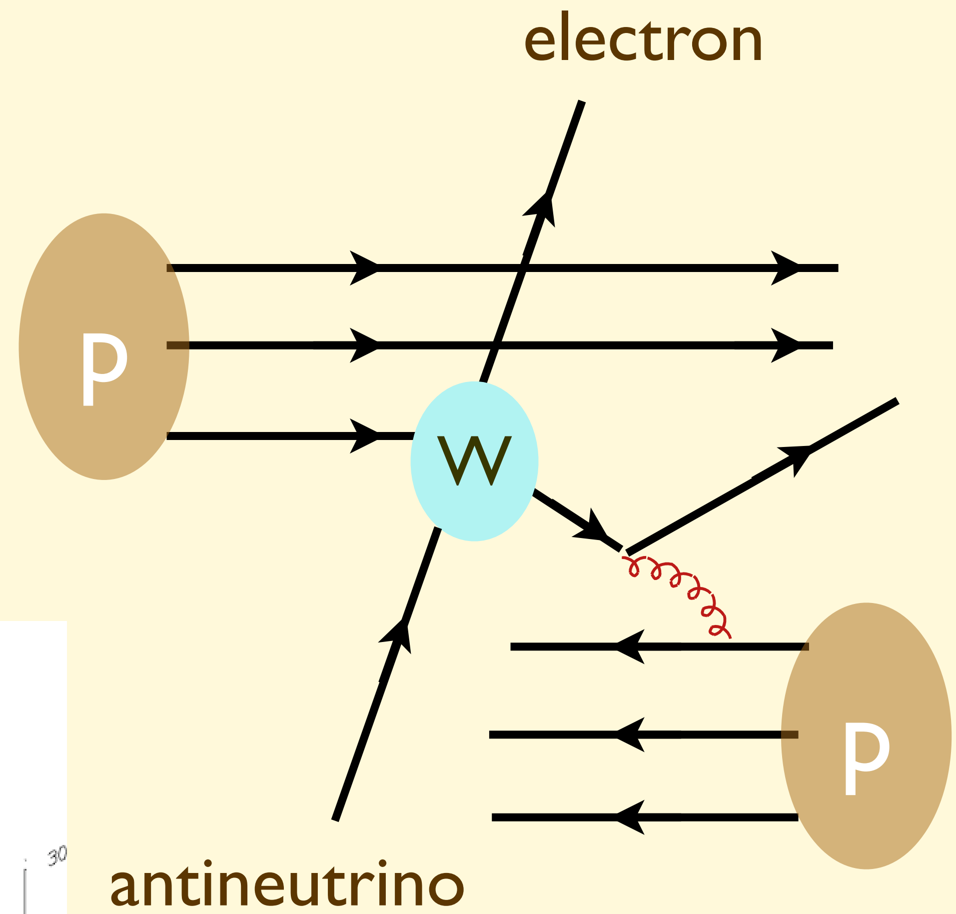
quarks are pointlike at least down to **10^{-17} cm**

The LHC will probe distances a factor of 10 smaller!!

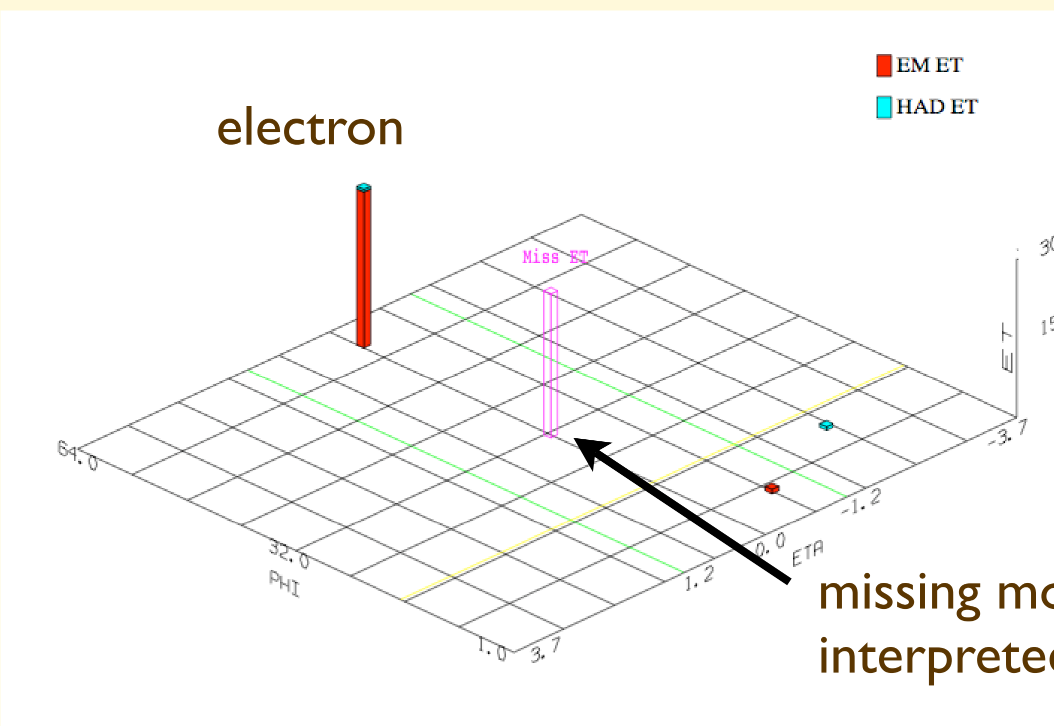
Examples of reactions in proton collisions

quark-antiquark annihilation:

u dbar → W



A real-life event from the tevatron:



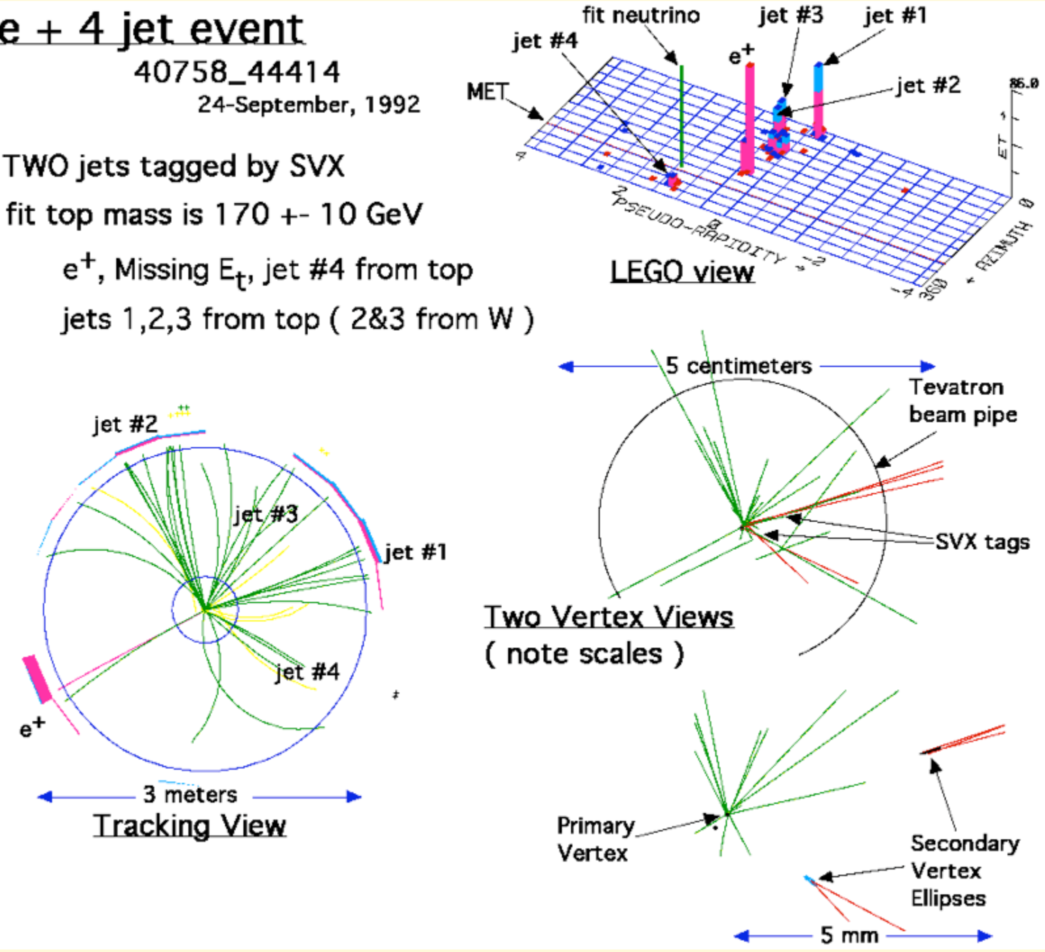
missing momentum, interpreted as a neutrino

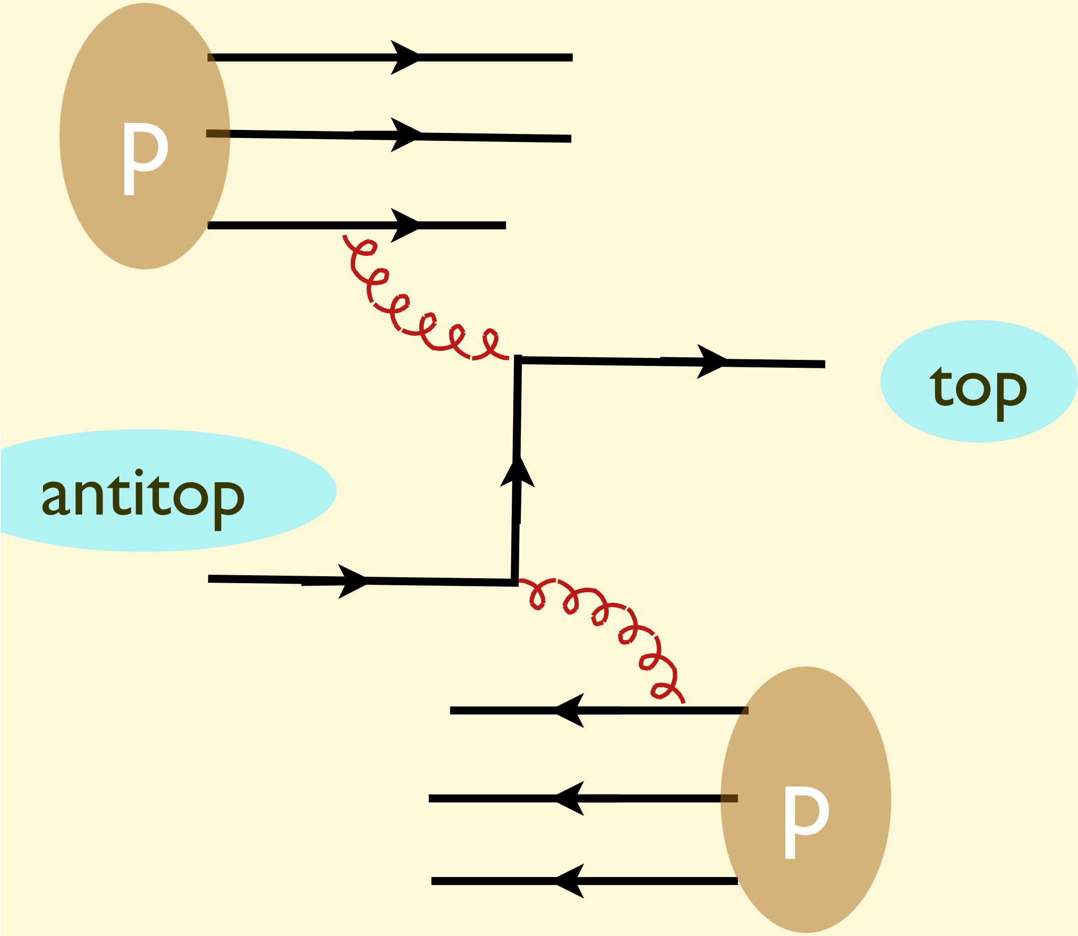
In principle the "force carrier" of new interactions could be created in the same way, provided their mass is not too large

Examples of reactions in proton collisions

gluon-gluon reactions:

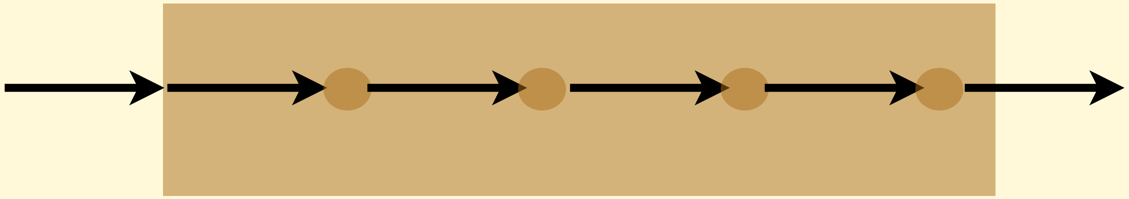
gg → top antitop





The Higgs and particles' masses

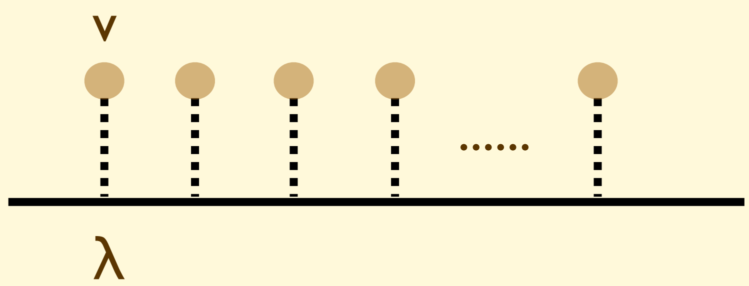
Light propagating in a medium is slowed down by its continuos interaction with the medium itself



The time it takes to move across the medium is longer than if light were propagating in the vacuum,

$\Rightarrow c_{medium} < c_{vaccum}$

Think of the Higgs field as being a continuum medium embedding the whole Universe. Particles interacting with it will undergo a similar "slow-down" phenomenon. Rather than "slowing down", however, the interaction with the Higgs medium gives them "inertia" => mass



$m \propto \lambda v$

The number "v" is a universal property of the Higgs field background. The quantity "λ" is characteristic of the particle moving in the Higgs field. Particles which have large λ will have large mass, with $m \propto \lambda v$

Now the question of "why does a given particle has mass **m**" is replaced by the question "why does a given particle couple with the Higgs field with strength $\lambda \propto m / v$"

However at least now we have a model to understand **how** particles acquire a mass.

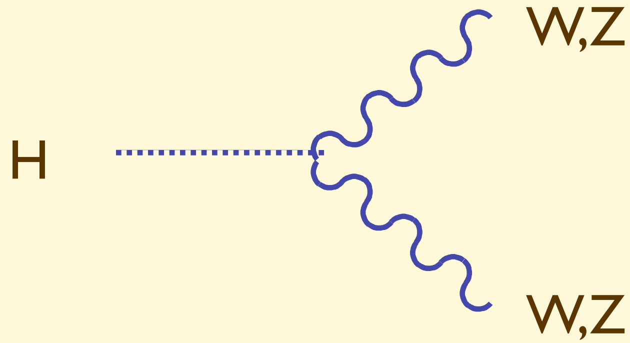
Detecting the Higgs boson

Like any other medium, the Higgs continuum background can be perturbed. Similarly to what happens if we bang on a table, creating sound waves, if we "bang" on the Higgs background (something achieved by concentrating a lot of energy in a small volume) we can stimulate "Higgs waves". These waves manifest themselves as particles* , the so-called Higgs bosons

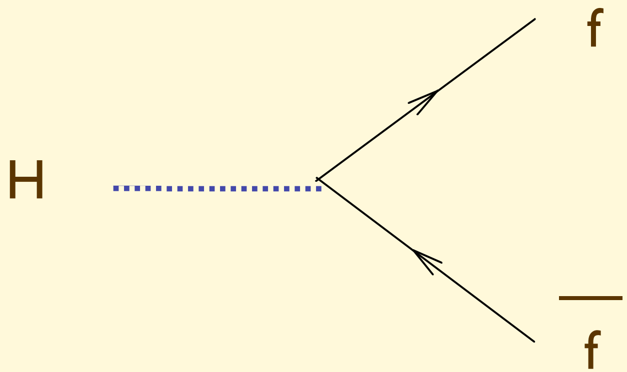
What is required is that the energy available be larger than the Higgs mass ⇒ LHC !!!

* Even the sound waves na solid are sometimes identified with "quasi-particles", called "phonons"

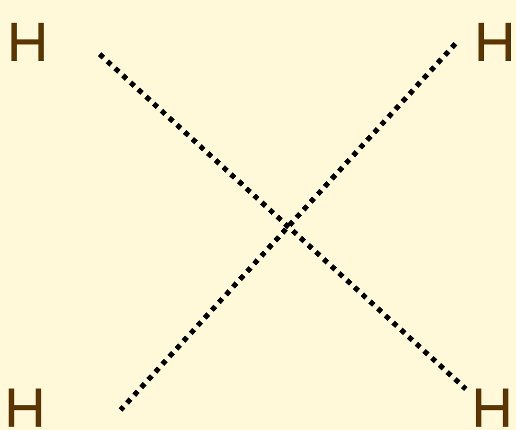
Higgs interactions



$\propto\ m_{W,Z}$

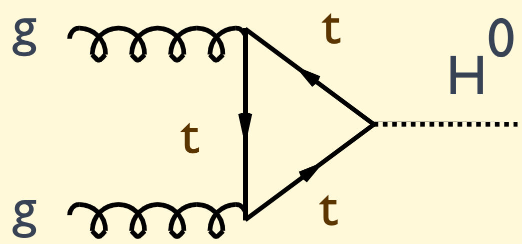


$\propto\ m_f$



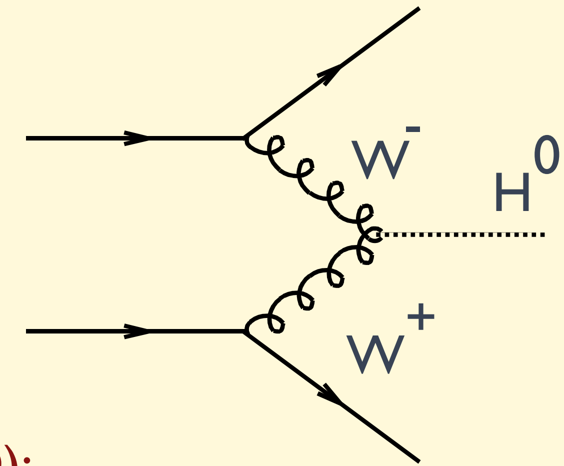
$\propto\ m_H$

Four main production mechanisms at the LHC:



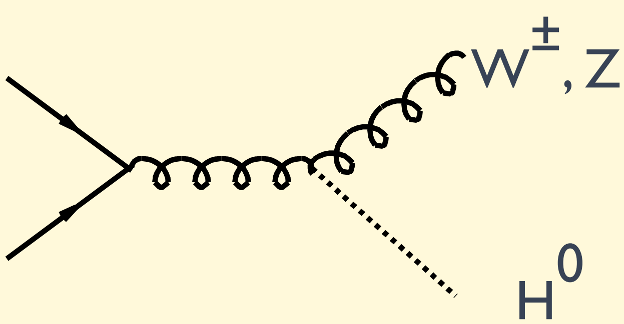
Gluon-gluon fusion (NNLO):

- Largest rate for all m(H).
- Proportional to the top Yukawa coupling, y_t
- gg initial state



Vector-boson (W or Z) fusion (NLO):

- Second largest, and increasing rate at large m(H).
- Proportional to the Higgs EW charge
- mostly ud initial state



W(Z)-strahlung (NNLO):

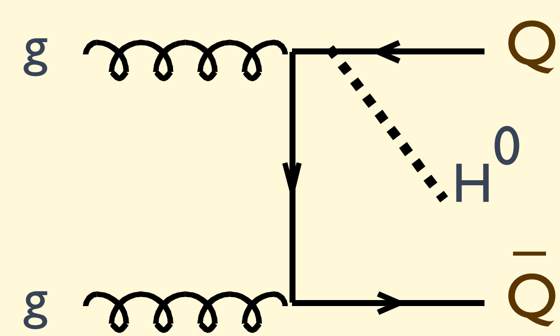
- Same couplings as in VB fusion
- Different partonic luminosity (uniquely qqbar initial state)

ttH/bbH associate production (NLO):

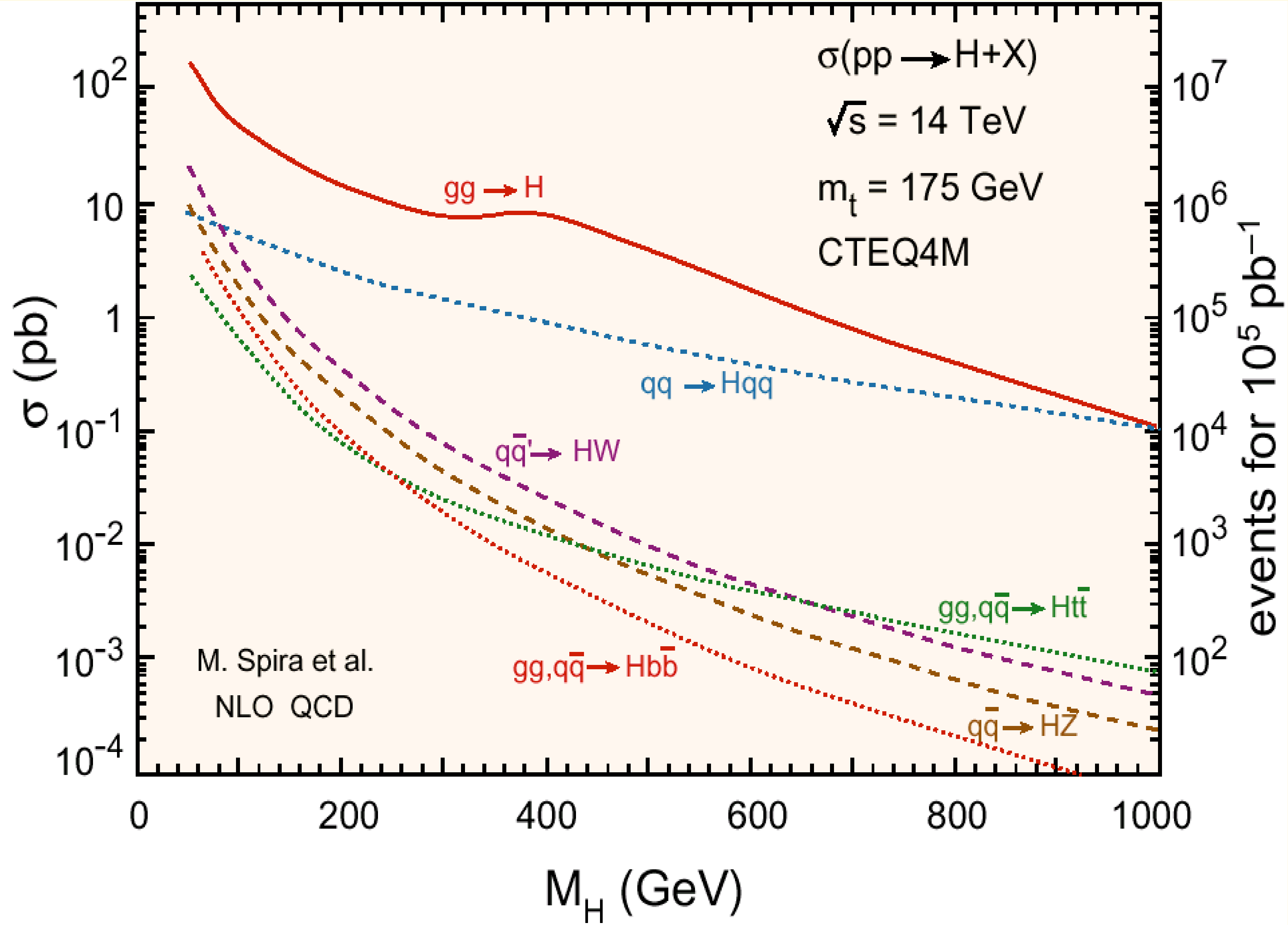
- Proportional to the heavy quark Yukawa coupling, y_Q,

dominated by ttH, except in 2-Higgs models, such as SUSY, where b-coupling enhanced by the ratio of the two Higgs expectations values, $\tan\beta^2$

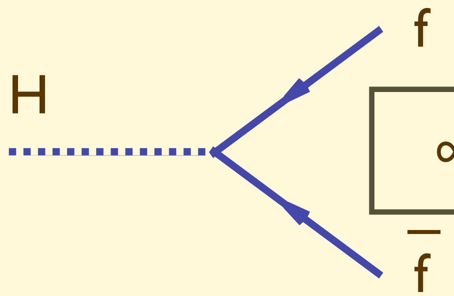
- Same partonic luminosity as in gg-fusion, except for different x-range



Higgs production rates at the LHC

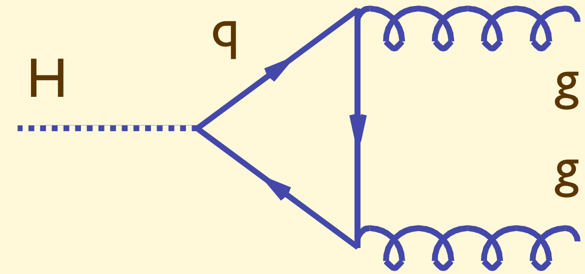


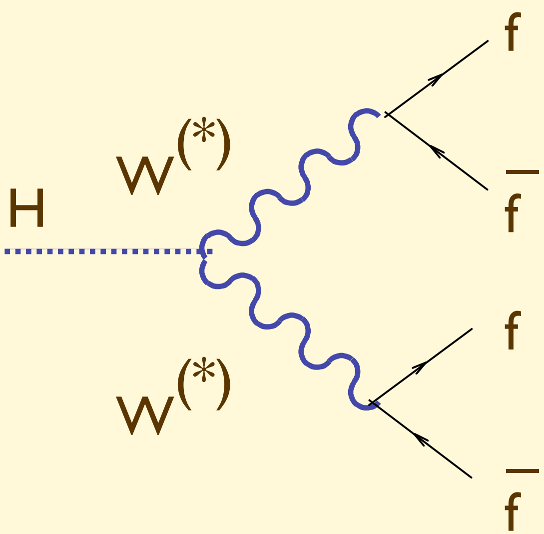
Higgs decays



$\propto m_f^2$ (evaluated at m_H, including QCD running effects)

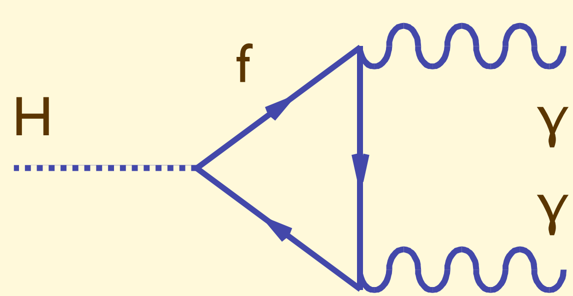
$\propto m_f^2$ (dominated by top-quark loops)





$\propto \alpha_W$ (sharp thereshold at m_H=2m_W , but large BR even down to 130 GeV). Similar processes with W↔Z.

Dominated by the EW couplings, only minor contribution from top loop m ⇒ correlated to H→WW



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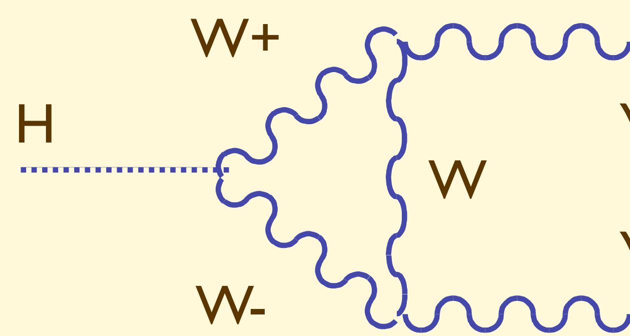
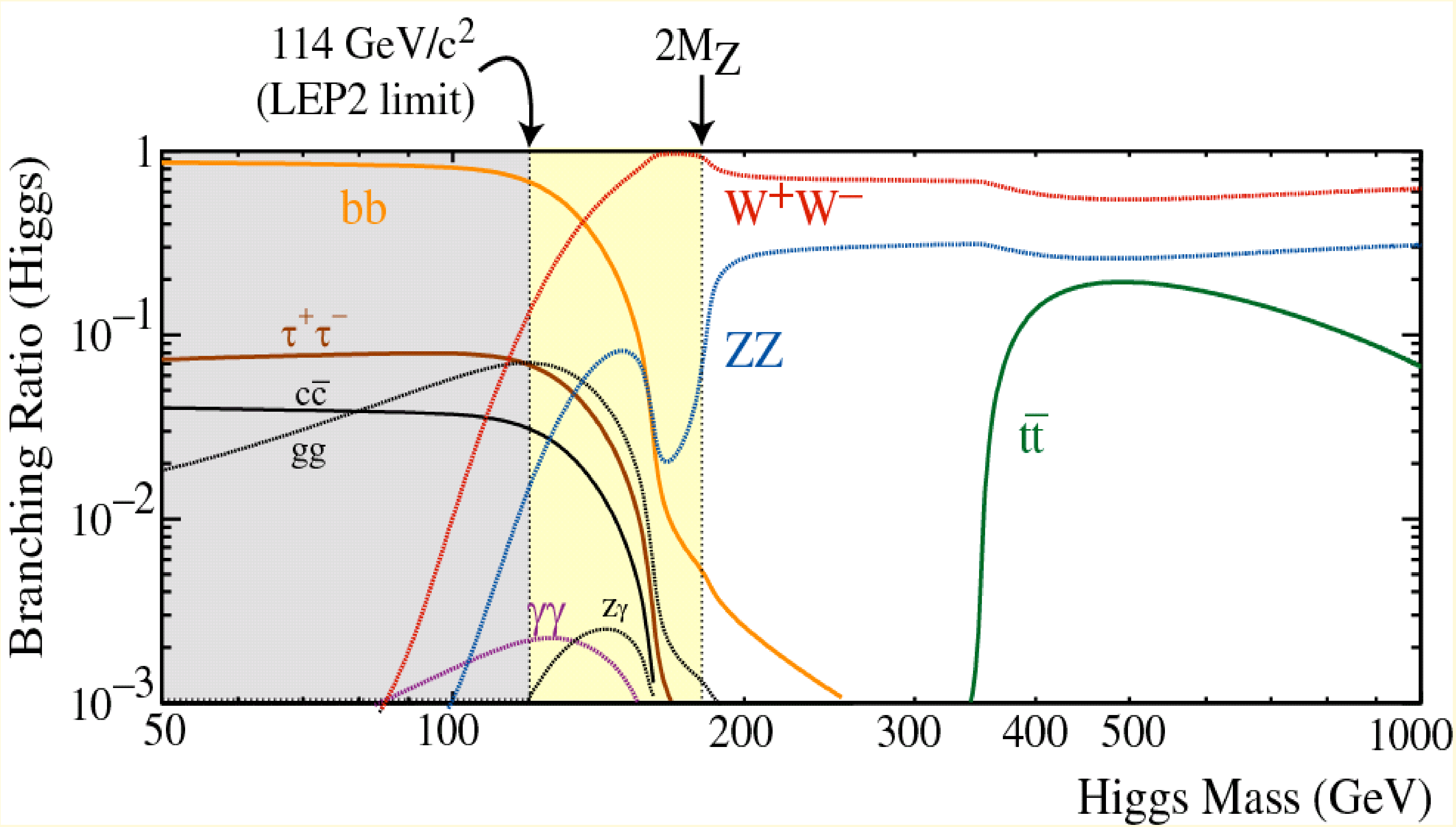


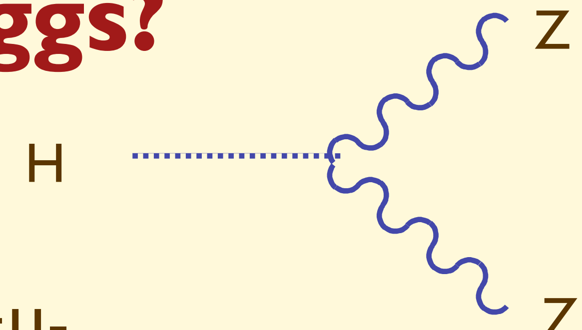
Higgs decays



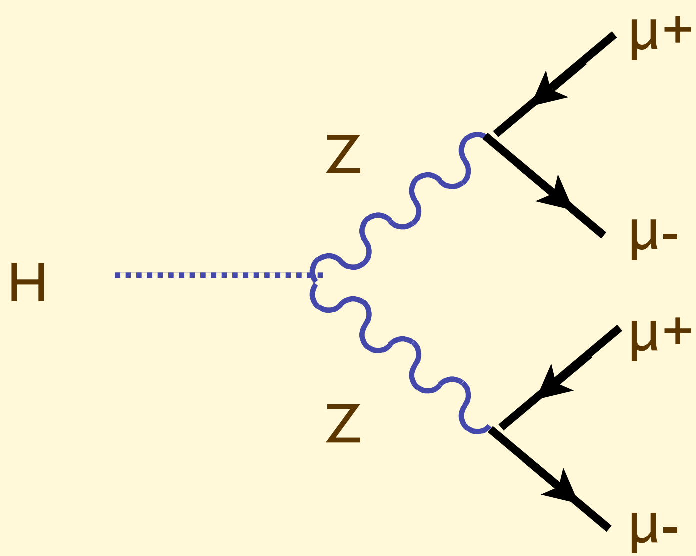
Not all decay modes are accessible at a given mass. Very high luminosity is required to thoroughly investigate the Higgs couplings

How can we detect the Higgs?

Example: If m(H)>2 m(Z) ⇒ H→ZZ



Each Z will decay. Assume for example Z→μ+μ-

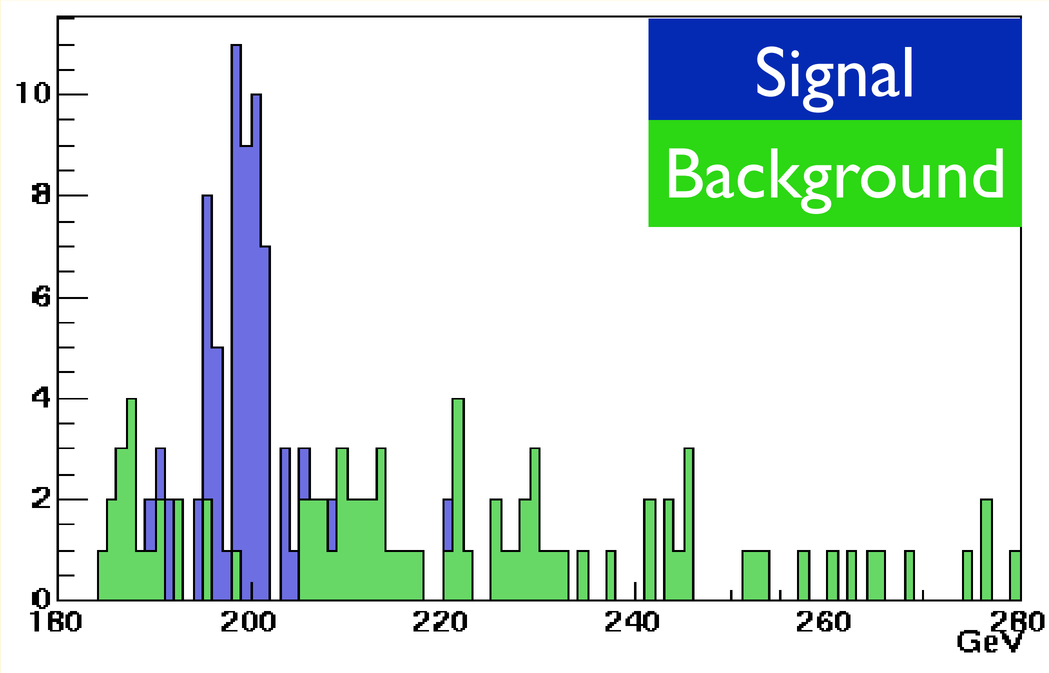


Search for events with 4 muons ($\mu^+_1\ \mu^-_2\ \mu^+_3\ \mu^-_4$) subject to the condition that:

$$\mathbf{m(\mu^+_1\ \mu^-_2) = m(\mu^+_3\ \mu^-_4) = m(Z)}$$

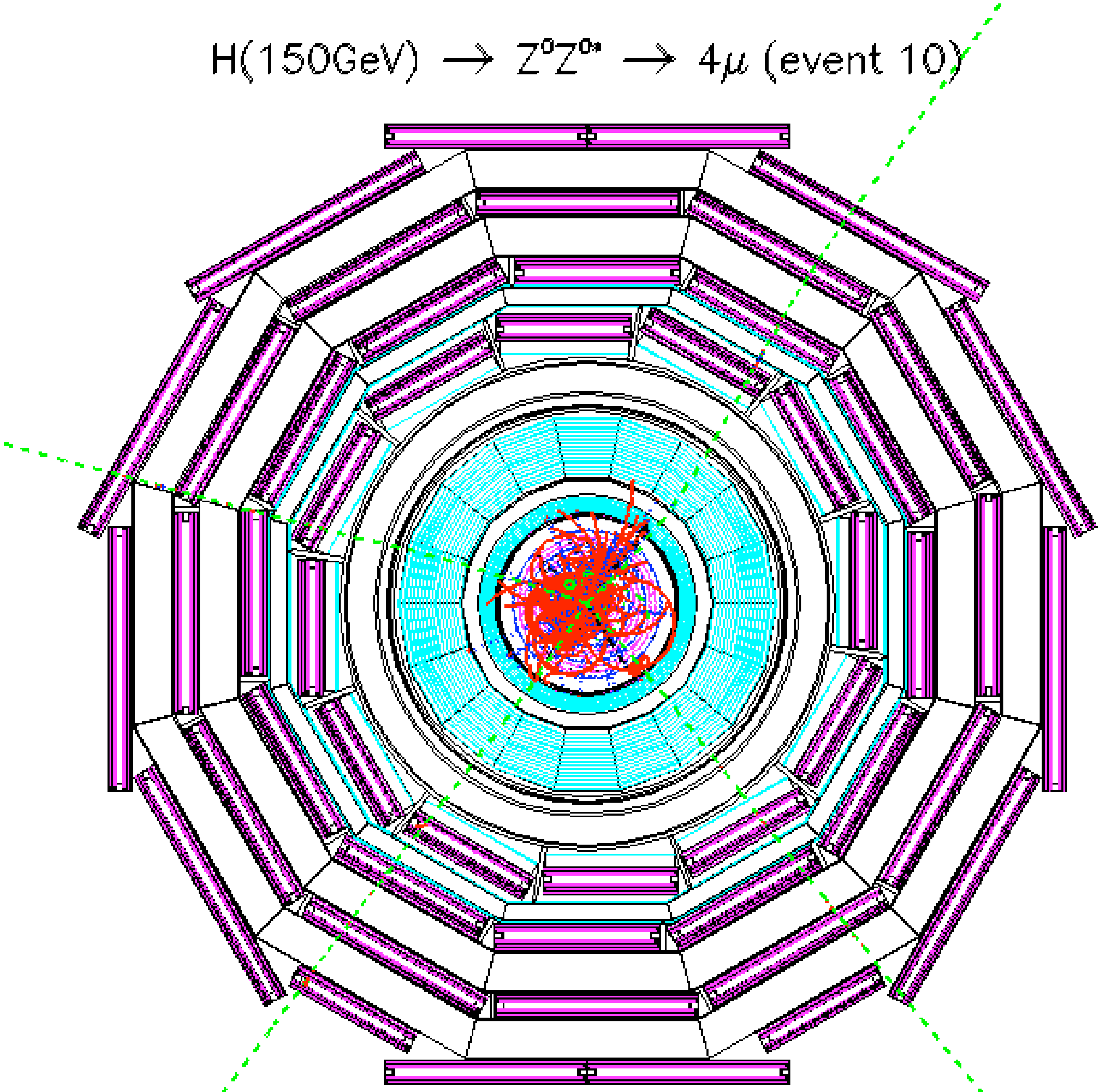
The invariant mass of the 4-muon system will then give m(H)

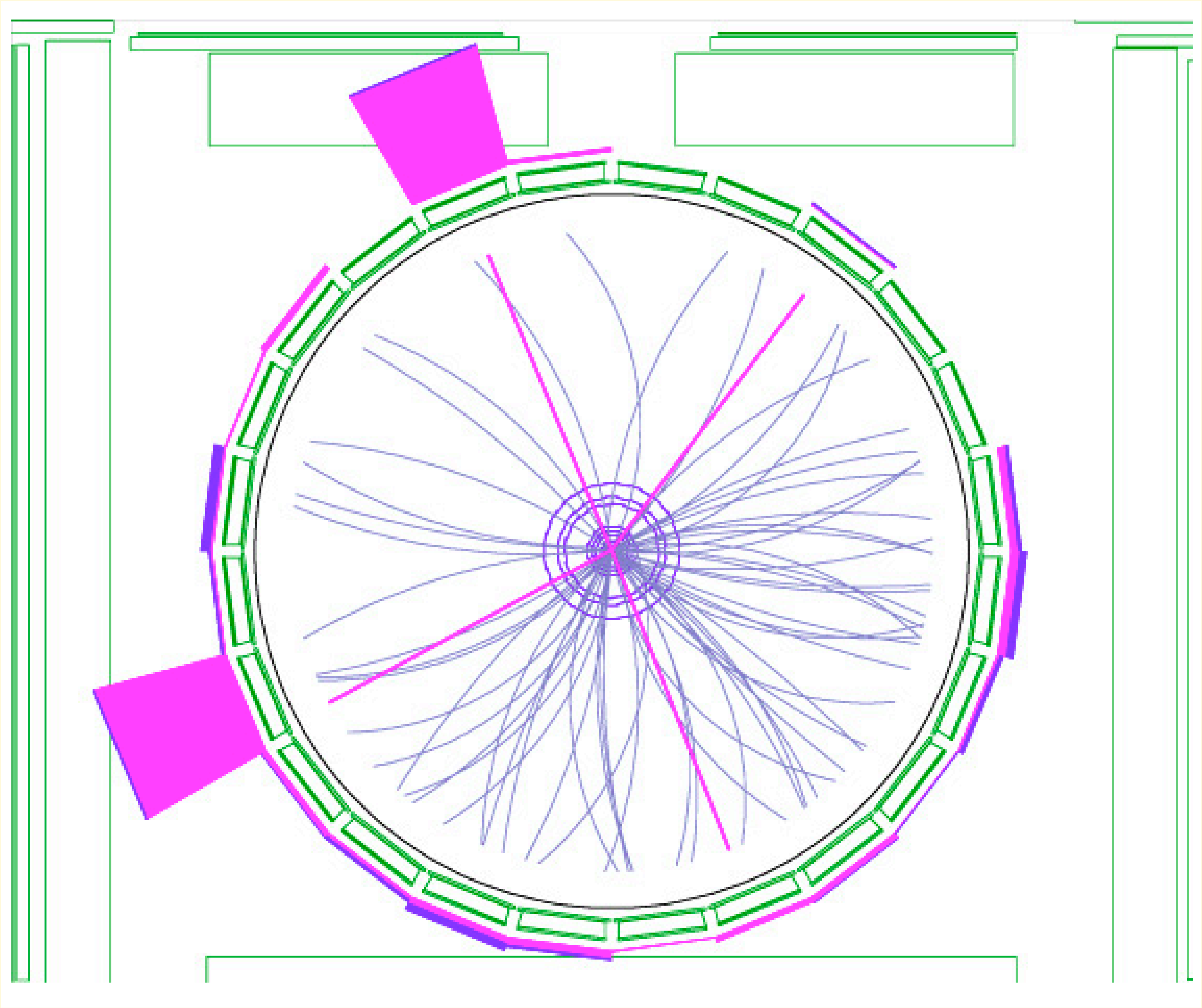
A computer simulation of how the signal will appear, for m_H = 200 GeV

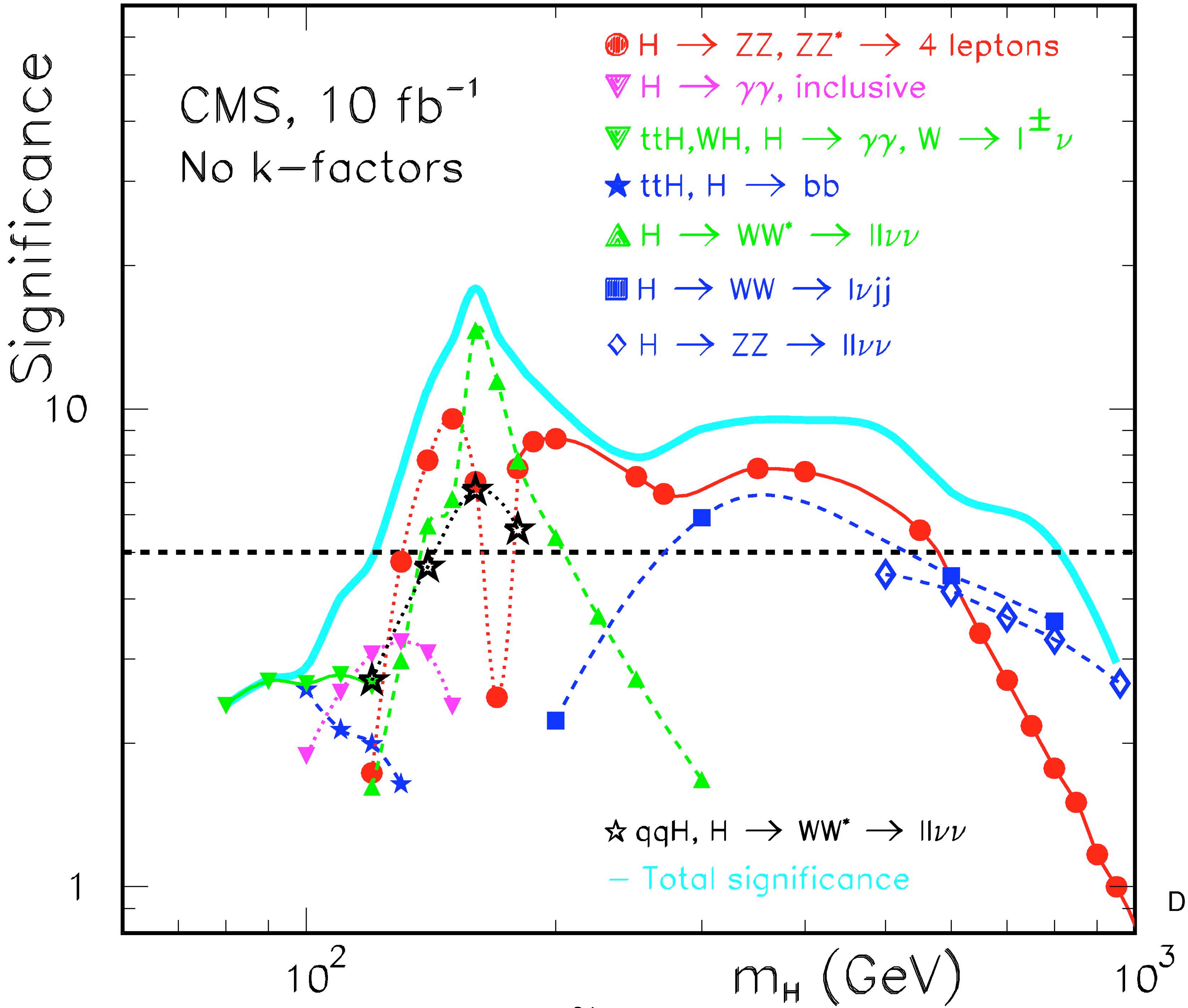


m(μμμμ)→ m_H

$H(150GeV) \rightarrow Z^0Z^{0*} \rightarrow 4\mu$ (event 10)

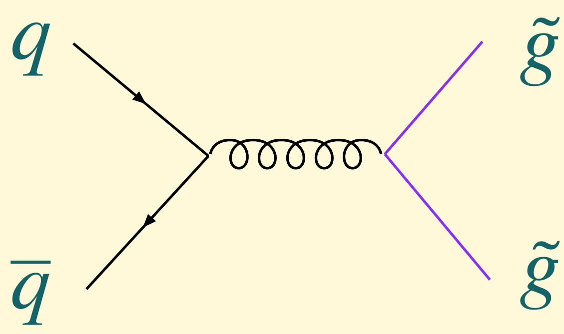


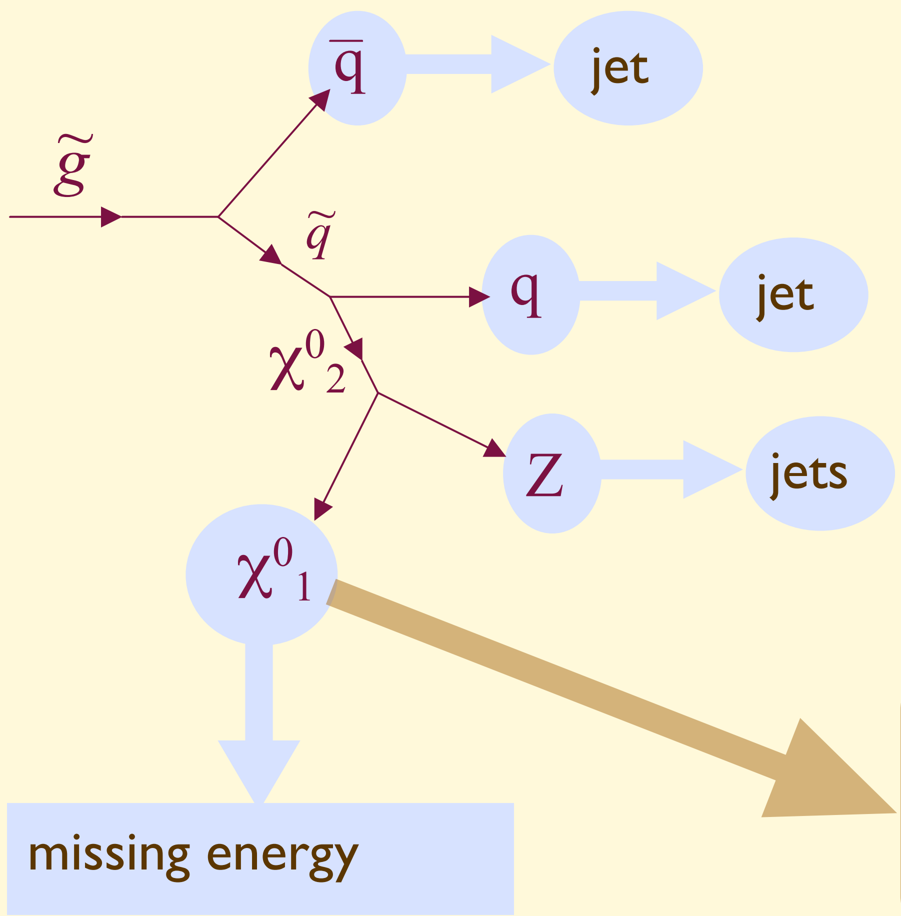


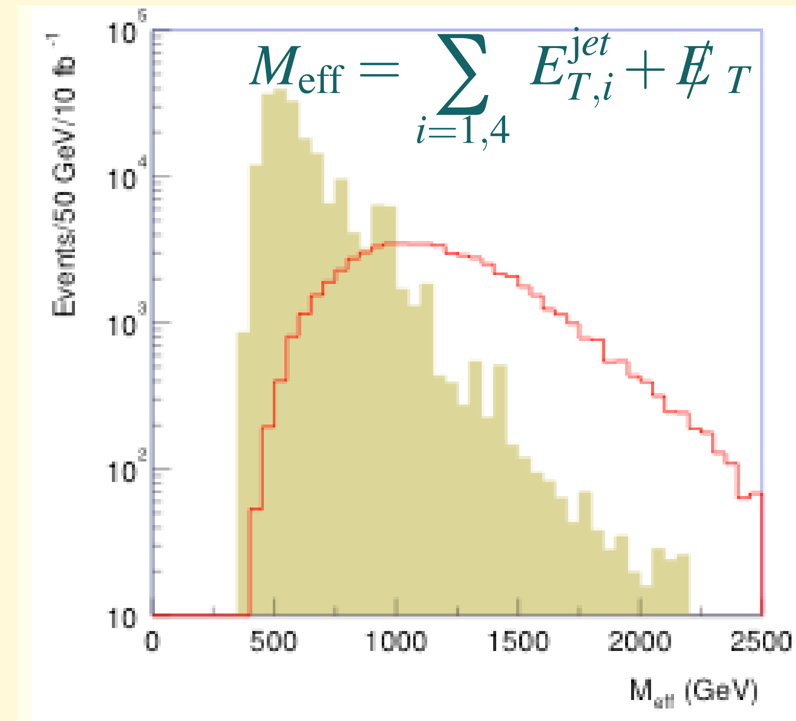


CMS, 10 fb^{-1}
No k−factors
H → ZZ, ZZ* → 4 leptons
H → γγ, inclusive
ttH,WH, H → γγ, W → l$^{\pm}$ν
ttH, H → bb
H → WW* → llνν
H → WW → lνjj
H → ZZ → llνν
qqH, H → WW* → llνν
− Total significance
Significance
10
1
10^2
10^3
m_H (GeV)

Supersymmetry signals at the LHC



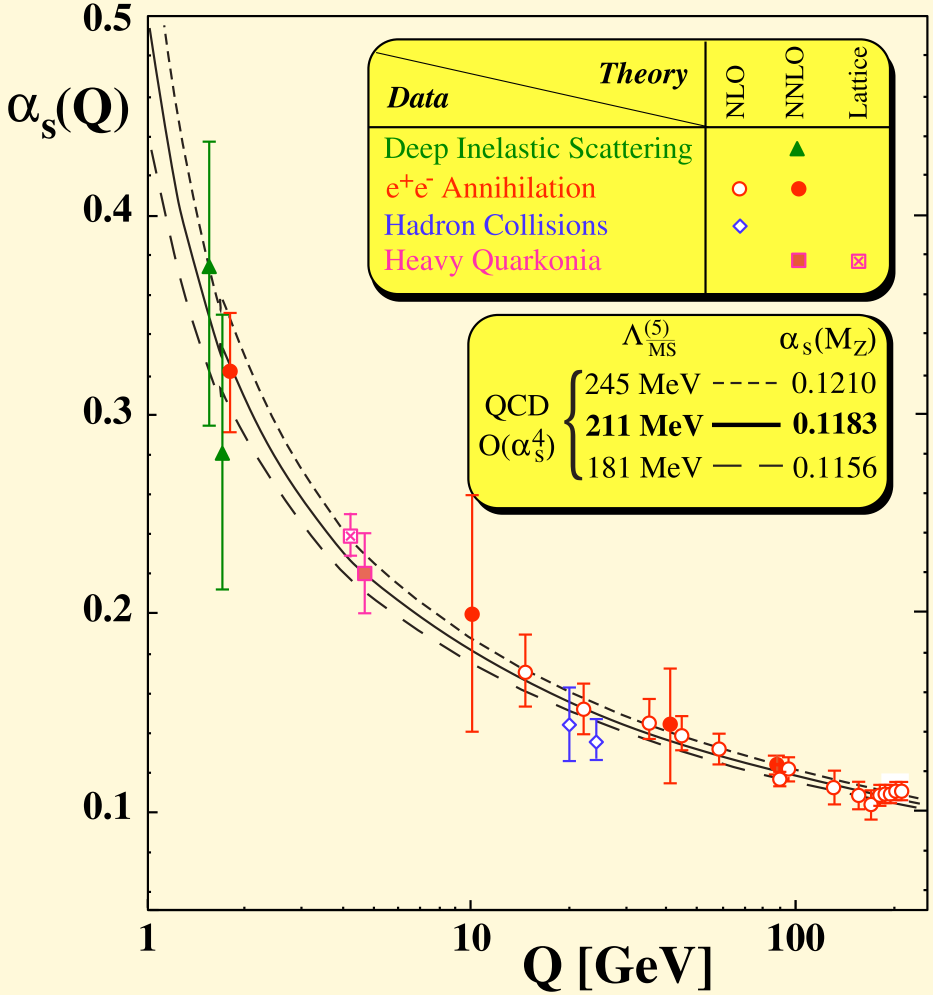




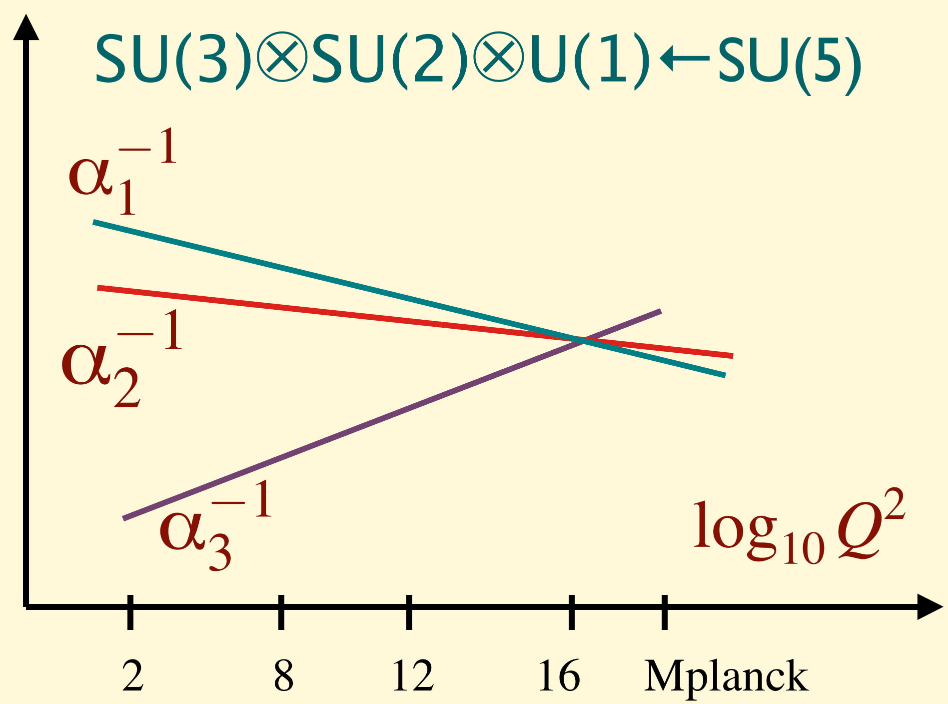
dark matter candidate

Summary of LHC physics potential

- **Discover the Higgs boson**
  - Determine to 10-20% the value of several of its couplings
- **Quark substructure:**
  - Push the limits on the "size" of the u/d quarks down by more than one order of magnitude w.r.t. today
- **Weak interactions at TeV scale:**
  - Test existence of **new gauge interactions**, e.g. right-handed W bosons, extra U(1)'s (as present in string theories), etc.
- **Discover Supersymmetry and possibly dark matter**
  - Provide first key measurements of the parameters of Supersymmetry
- **Collect further evidence for a grand unification of the fundamental interactions at a scale of 10^{15} GeV**



0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
$\alpha_s(Q)$
1
10
100
Q [GeV]
Theory
Data
NLO
NNLO
Lattice
Deep Inelastic Scattering
e^+e^- Annihilation
Hadron Collisions
Heavy Quarkonia
$\Lambda^{(5)}_{\overline{MS}}$
$\alpha_s(M_Z)$
QCD
$O(\alpha_s^4)$
245 MeV 0.1210
211 MeV 0.1183
181 MeV 0.1156



SU(3)⊗SU(2)⊗U(1)←SU(5)
α_1^{-1}
α_2^{-1}
α_3^{-1}
$\log_{10} Q^2$
2
8
12
16
Mplanck