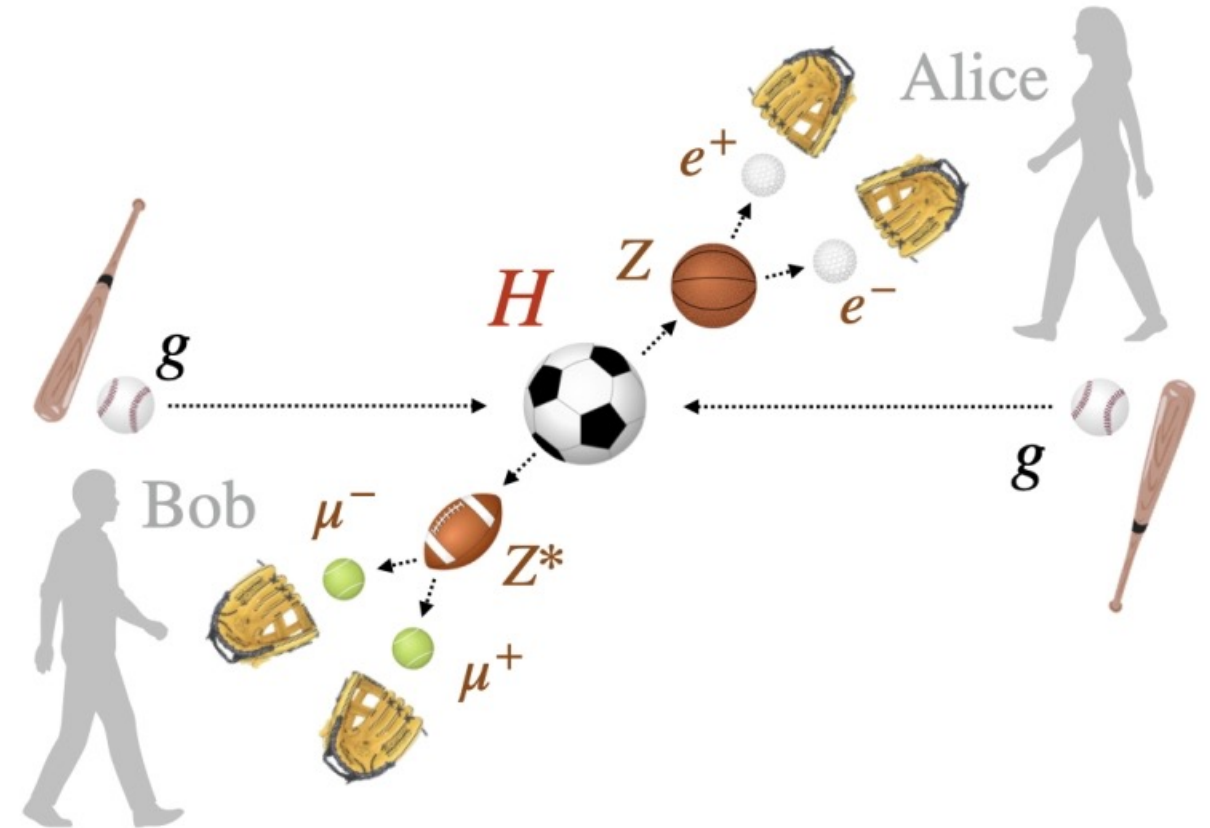


# Study of spin correlations in Higgs boson decays to four leptons at CMS

Nicholas Pinto

05/12/2026



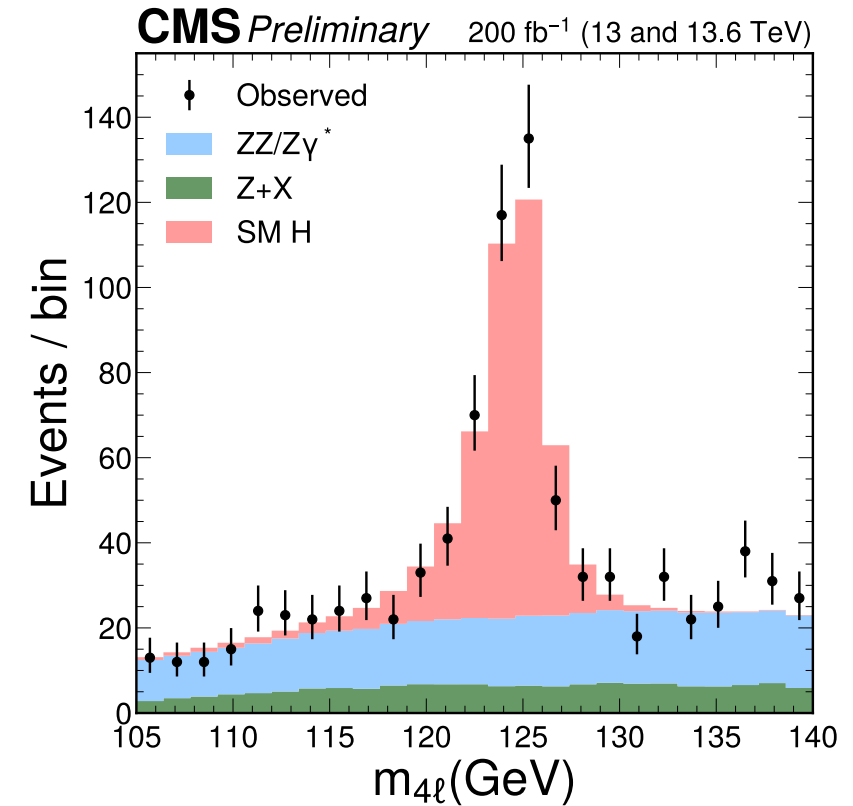


# Overview



- Motivation
- General Formalism
- Spin Density Matrix
- Permutation of Identical Leptons
- Effective Field Theory
- (All plots shown come from [CMS-PAS-HIG-25-011](#))

- Small anomalous couplings to vector bosons permitted.
- Certain previous analyses performed by CMS assume  $HZ\gamma^*/H\gamma^*\gamma^*$  couplings are constrained to 0 [[CMS-HIG-19-009/arXiv:2104.12152](#)].
- Can leverage clean reconstruction of  $H \rightarrow 4\ell$  final state.
  - Full incorporation of detector effects with anomalous couplings.
  - Can study  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  qutrit system to probe conditions for entanglement.

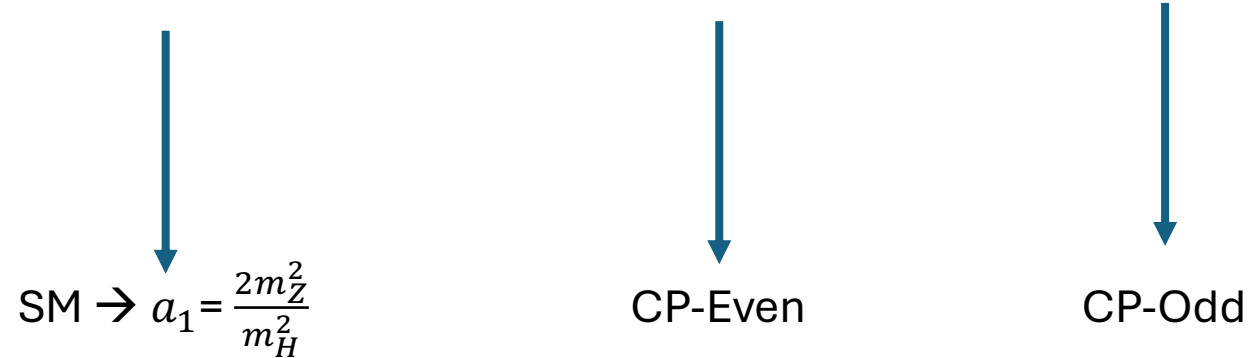


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# General Formalism

- Most general Lorentz-Invariant Higgs to Vector Vector Amplitude:

$$A(HV_1V_2) = \frac{1}{v} \epsilon_1^{*\mu} \epsilon_2^{*\nu} \left( a_1^{V_1V_2}(q_1^2, q_2^2) g_{\mu\nu} m_H^2 + a_2^{V_1V_2}(q_1^2, q_2^2) q_\mu q_\nu + a_3^{V_1V_2}(q_1^2, q_2^2) \epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} q_1^\alpha q_2^\beta \right)$$



- Two strategies within this analysis:
  - EFT Approach: Assume new physics at high mass scale  $\Lambda$ , expand  $A(HVV)$  in  $\frac{q^2}{\Lambda^2}$ .
    - Preserve  $SU(2) \times U(1)$ .
  - Polarization approach: Parameterize polarization density matrix in terms of longitudinal and transverse components in HZZ decay.
    - Integrate over  $q_1^2, q_2^2$  (masses of mediating vector bosons).

- Clean reconstruction in  $H \rightarrow 4\ell$  final state allows for use of matrix-element-based observables. [CMS-PAS-HIG-25-011](#)

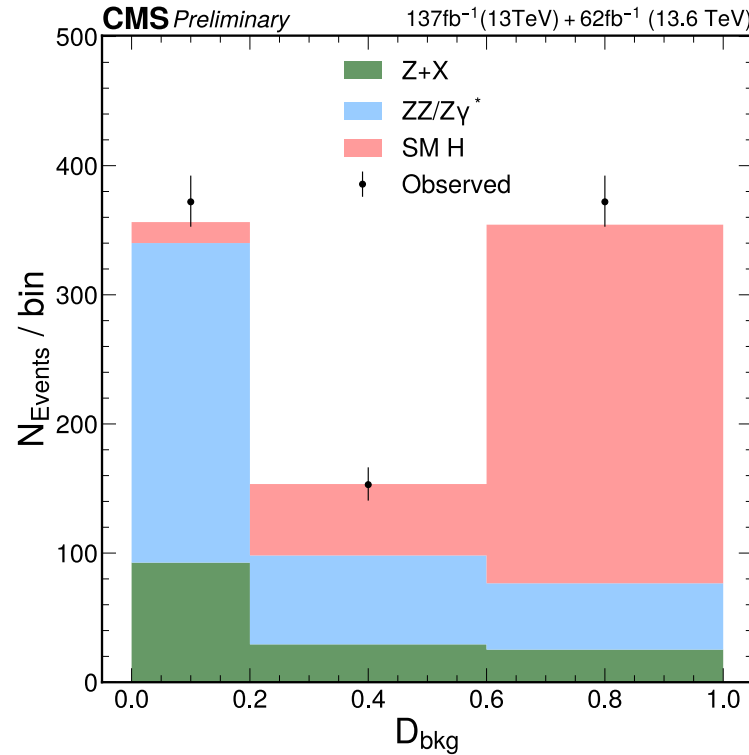
- Use JHUGenMELA to generate observables.

2 Classes of Matrix Element Observable:

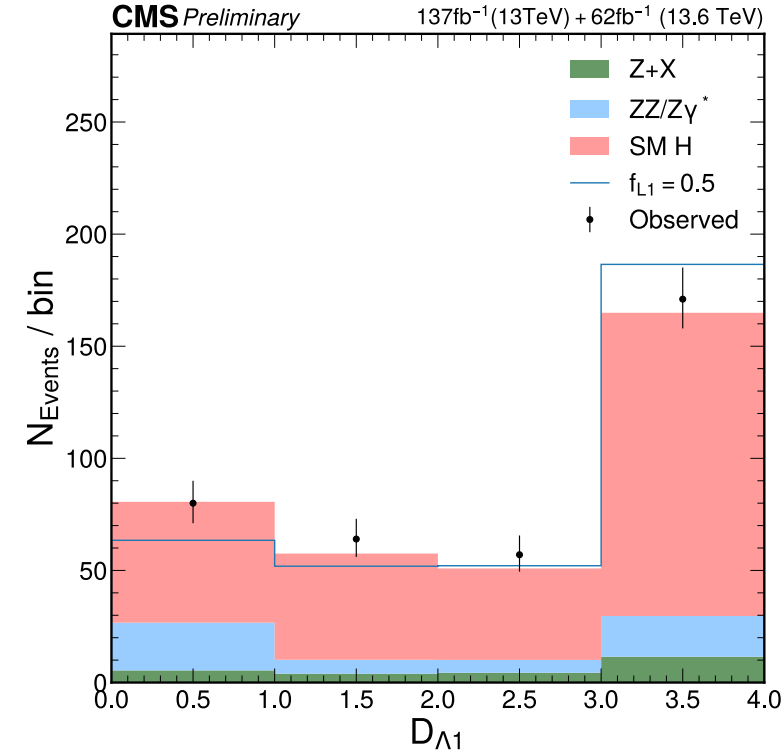
$$D_{alt} = \frac{P_{sig}(\Omega)}{P_{sig}(\Omega) + P_{alt}(\Omega)}$$

$$D_{int} = \frac{P_{int}(\Omega)}{P_{SM}(\Omega)}$$

$D_{int}$  optimal in the EFT limit for any anomalous coupling.



$$D_{bkg} = \frac{P_{sig}(\Omega)}{P_{sig}(\Omega) + P_{bkg}(\Omega)}$$



$$D_{\Lambda 1} = \frac{P_{SM * \Lambda 1}(\Omega)}{P_{SM}(\Omega)}$$

\*all discriminant projections have a cut of  $D_{bkg} > 0.6$

- Can describe  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  system as “qutrit” in terms of helicity amplitudes.

- $A_{00}$ : Amplitude of longitudinal polarization.
- $A_{++}$ : CP – even transverse polarization amplitude.
- $A_{--}$ : CP – odd transverse polarization amplitude.

$$\rho = \int \frac{dm_1 dm_2 \mathcal{P}(m_1, m_2)}{|A_{++}|^2 + |A_{00}|^2 + |A_{--}|^2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_{++}A_{++}^* & 0 & A_{++}A_{00}^* & 0 & A_{++}A_{--}^* & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_{00}A_{++}^* & 0 & A_{00}A_{00}^* & 0 & A_{00}A_{--}^* & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_{--}A_{++}^* & 0 & A_{--}A_{00}^* & 0 & A_{--}A_{--}^* & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Polarization defined in  $2e2\mu$  channel.
  - Relate  $4e/4\mu$  through amplitude.

- Integrate over  $m_1, m_2$ .
  - Assume SM mass spectrum.
  - Avoid dependence on mass.

Fractions of longitudinal and transverse polarization

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} f_L = \int dm_1 dm_2 \mathcal{P}(m_1, m_2) \frac{|A_{00}|^2}{|A_{++}|^2 + |A_{--}|^2 + |A_{00}|^2} = 0.61 \text{ in SM.} \\ f_{\perp} = \int dm_1 dm_2 \mathcal{P}(m_1, m_2) \frac{|A_{\perp}|^2}{|A_{++}|^2 + |A_{--}|^2 + |A_{00}|^2} = 0 \text{ in SM.} \end{array} \right.$$



# Polarization Measurements



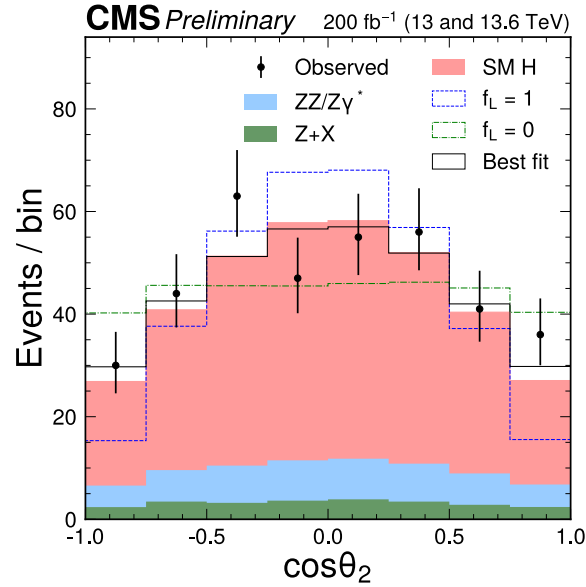
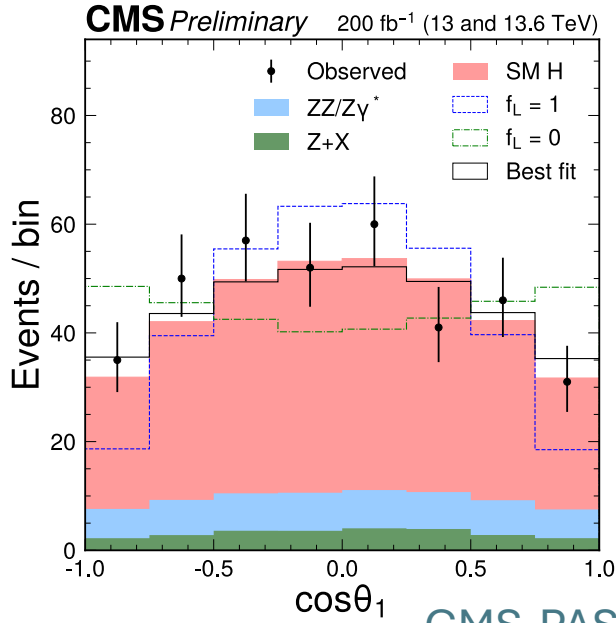
- Additional approach, assume CP-conservation, enforce  $f_{\perp} = 0$ .

$$-C_{\parallel} \sqrt{f_L(1-f_L)} = \int dm_1 dm_2 \mathcal{P}(m_1, m_2) \frac{A_{\parallel}(m_1, m_2) A_{00}(m_1, m_2)}{|A_{\parallel}|^2 + |A_{00}|^2}$$

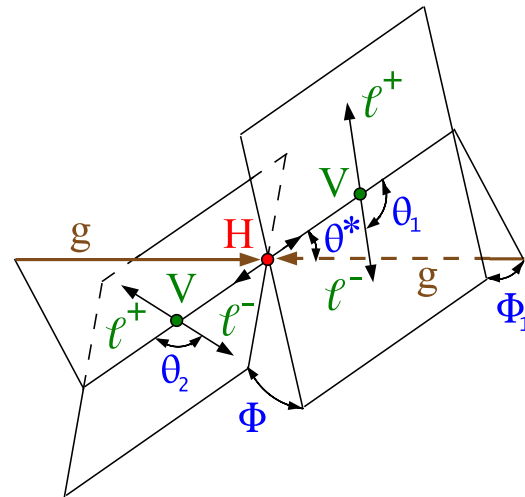
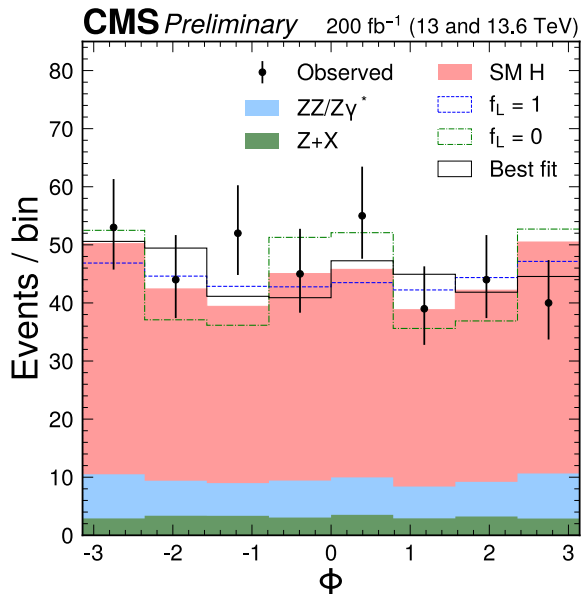
- $C_{\parallel}$ : Coherence parameter quantifying interference b/n CP-even longitudinal and transverse states.
  - 0.91 in SM.

$$\rho = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (1-f_L)/2 & 0 & -C_{\parallel} \sqrt{f_L(1-f_L)}/2 & 0 & (1-f_L)/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -C_{\parallel} \sqrt{f_L(1-f_L)}/2 & 0 & f_L & 0 & -C_{\parallel} \sqrt{f_L(1-f_L)}/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (1-f_L)/2 & 0 & -C_{\parallel} \sqrt{f_L(1-f_L)}/2 & 0 & (1-f_L)/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

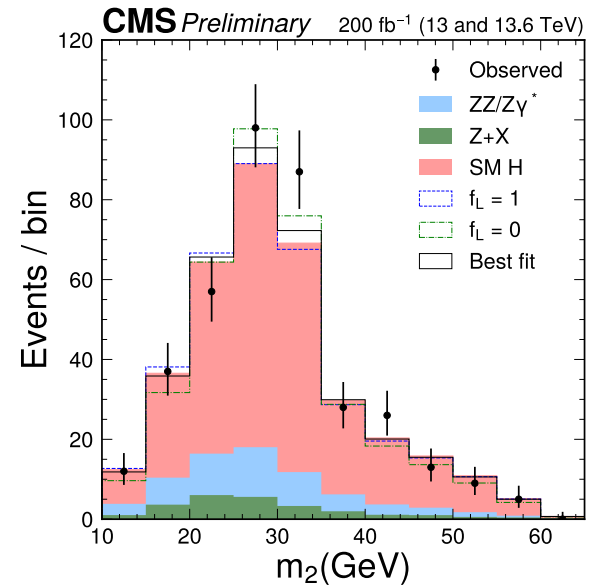
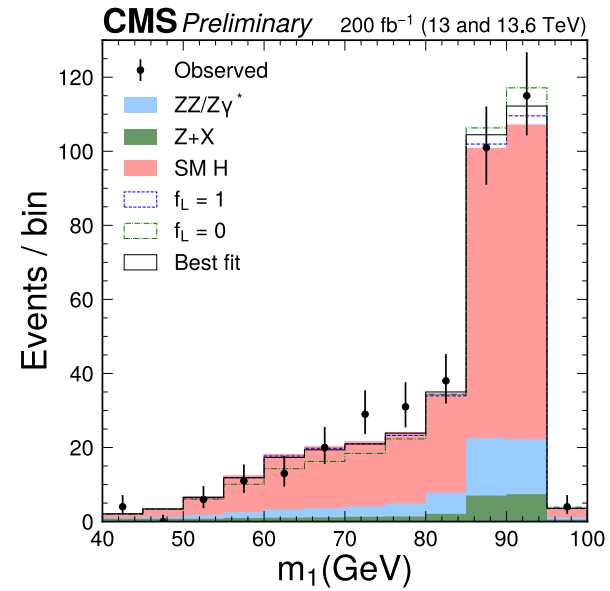
# Polarization Measurements



CMS-PAS-HIG-25-011



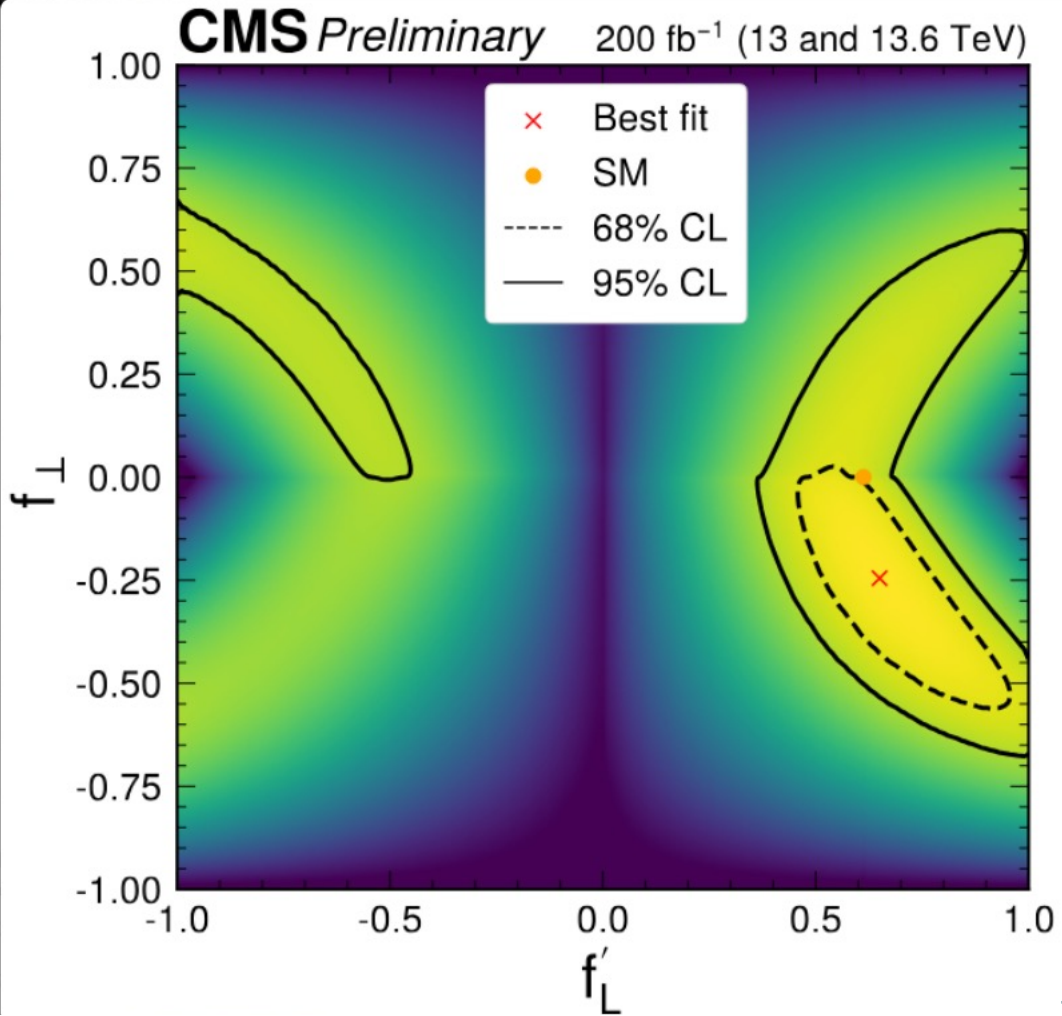
Kinematics impacted, but mass distributions remain unchanged.



Fit incorporates all angular observables +  $D_{\text{bkg}}$ .

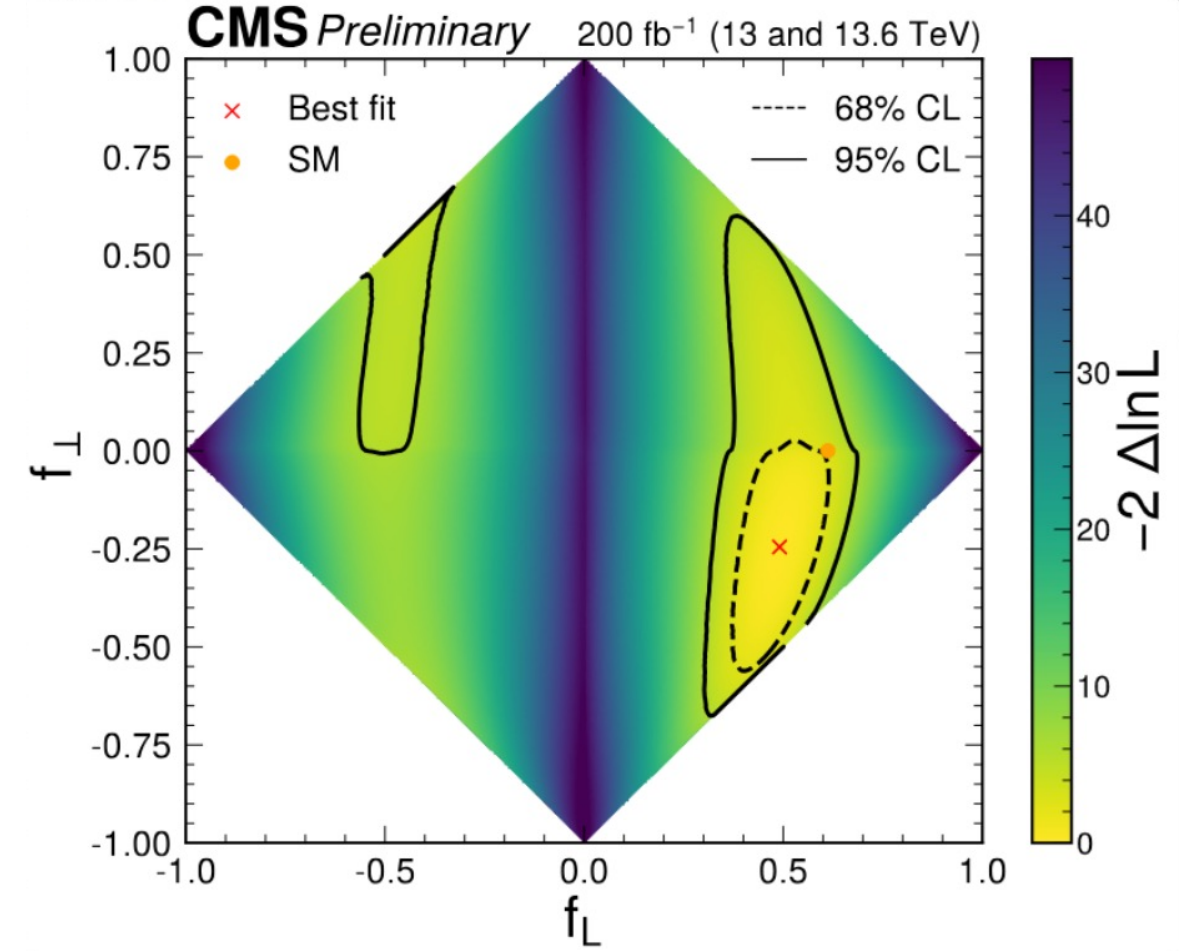


# Polarization Measurements: Results



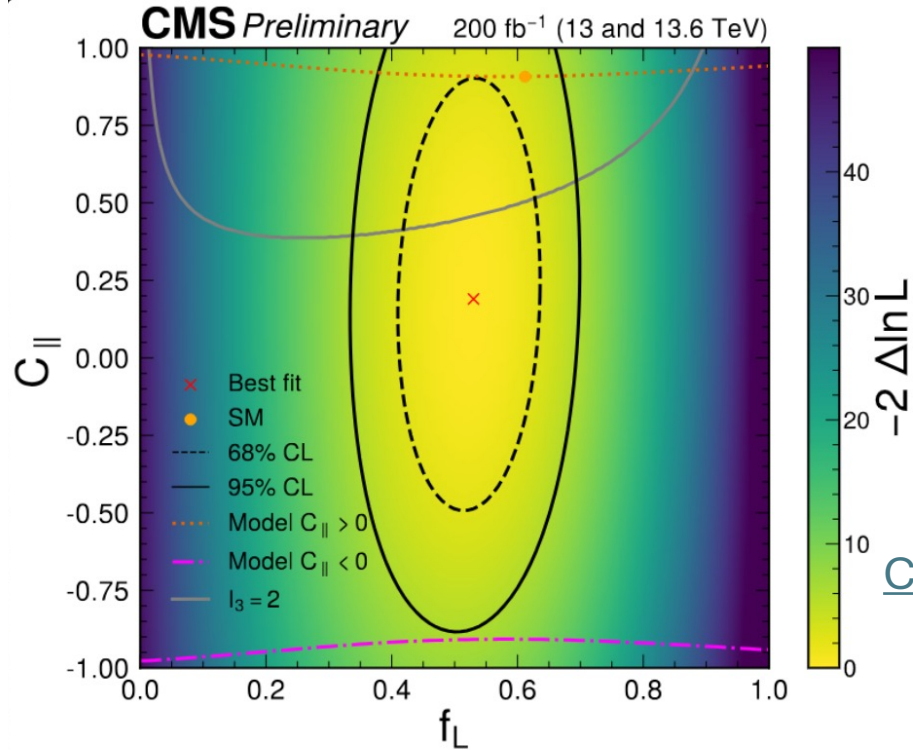
$$f_L' = \frac{f_L}{1 - |f_{\perp}|}$$

[CMS-PAS-HIG-25-011](#)

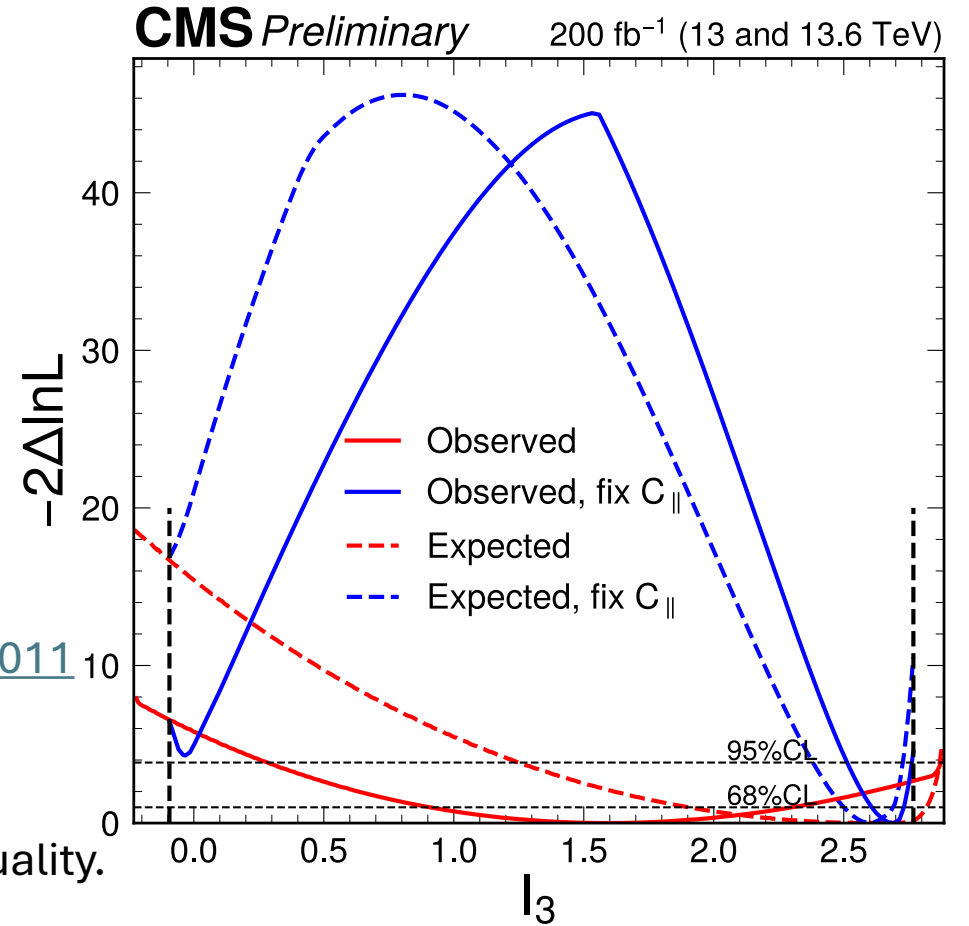


$f_L, f_{\perp}$  agree with SM within  $\sim 1 \sigma$ .

# Testing Conditions for Quantum Entanglement

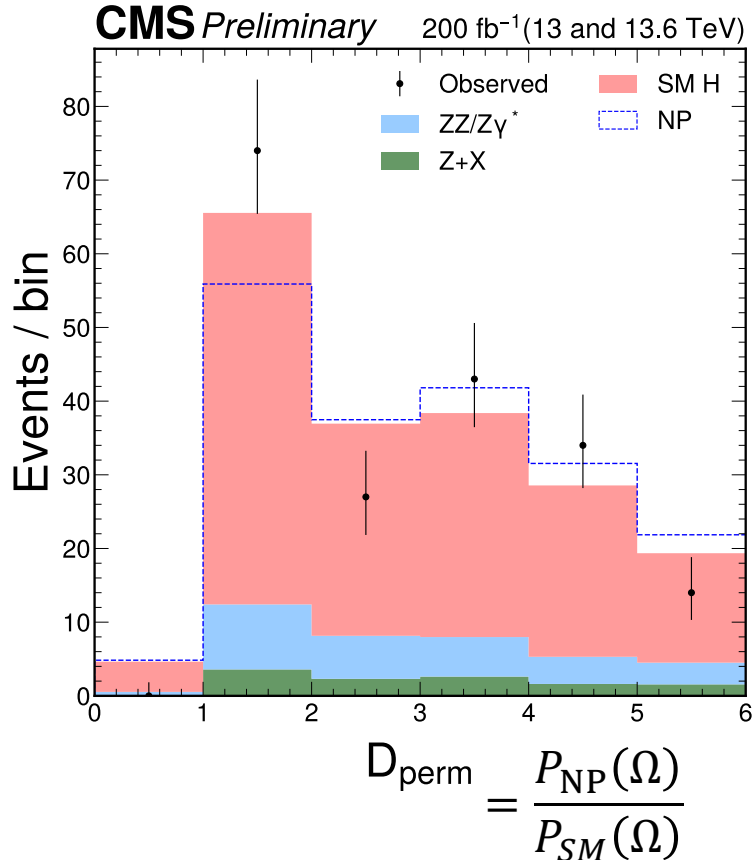


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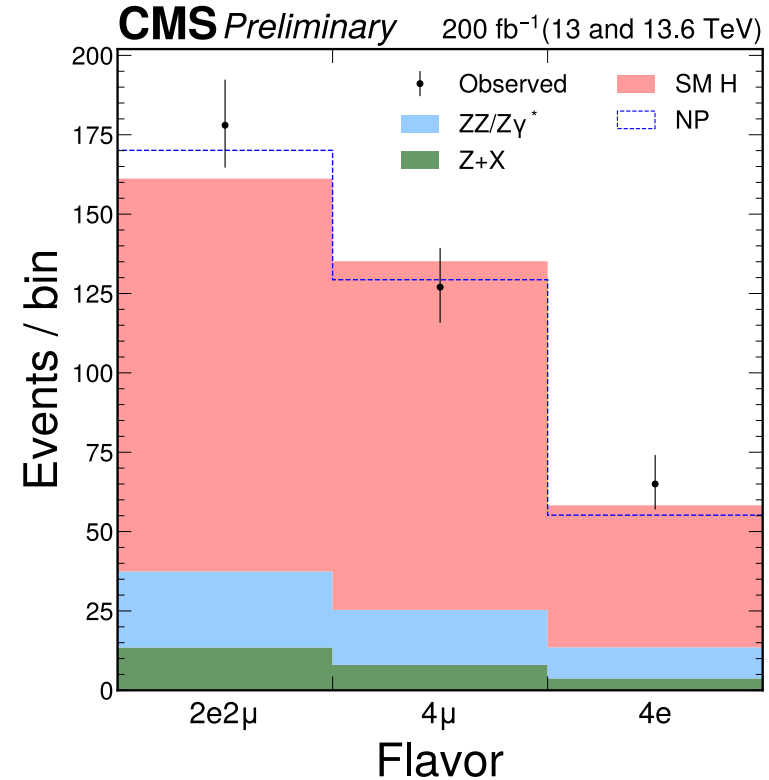


- Can test conditions for violation of GCLMP (Bell-Type) inequality.
- $I_3$ : linear combination of density matrix elements. For more details, see [\[Aguilar-Saavedra et. al: arXiv:2209.13441\]](#).
  - Assuming no CP violation,  $I_3 > 2 \rightarrow$  GCLMP inequality violated.
- Find  $< 2 \sigma$  deviation from standard model.

- In  $H \rightarrow 4e / 4\mu$ :  $Z_1, Z_2$  are indistinguishable. Implies entanglement between the two.
- $Amp^2 \propto |H \rightarrow Z_1 Z_2 \rightarrow (\mu_1^+, \mu_2^-)(\mu_3^+, \mu_4^-) + H \rightarrow Z_1' Z_2' \rightarrow (\mu_3^+, \mu_2^-)(\mu_1^+, \mu_4^-)|^2$ .
- Kinematics are sensitive to interference effects:
  - Use MELA tools to “turn off” interference (No Permutation), compare to SM.



[CMS-PAS-HIG-25-011](#)



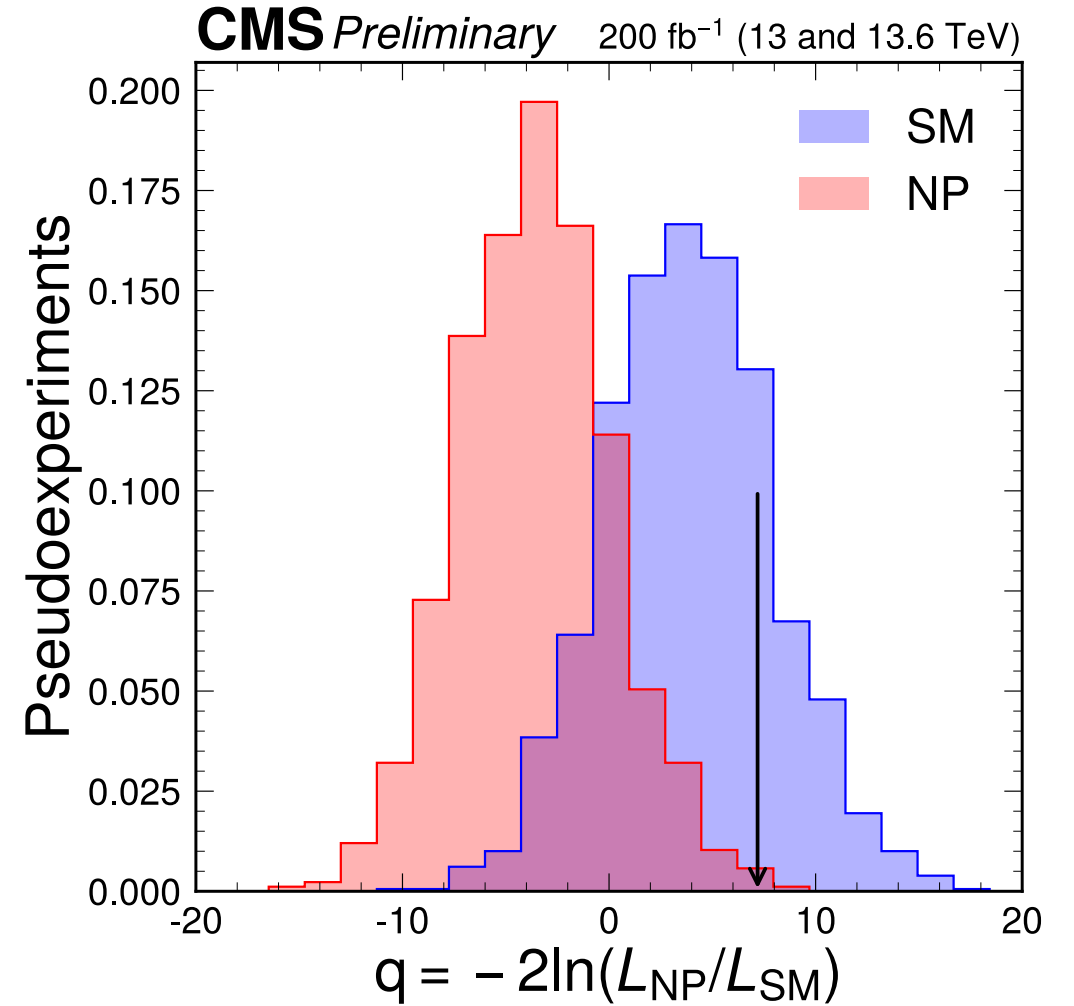


# Permutation of Leptons



- Performed hypothesis test performed between SM and NP.
- Exclude NP at  $2.7\sigma$ .

Model	Observed		Expected	
	$p$ -value	Z-score	$p$ -value	Z-score
NP	$3.4 \times 10^{-3}$	2.7	$2.8 \times 10^{-2}$	1.9
SM	0.21	0.8	0.5	0

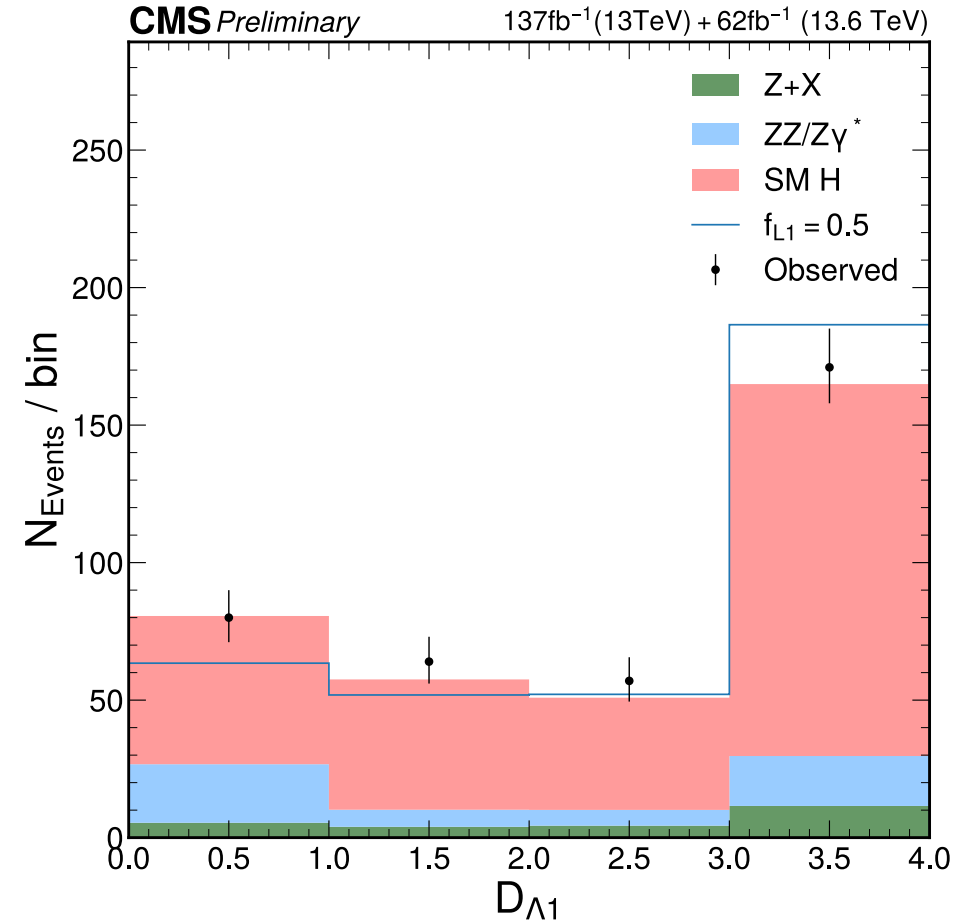


# Effective Field Theory: Strategy

- Simultaneous fit of 7 independent + 1 **dependent** anomalous couplings in  $H \rightarrow 4\ell$  decay:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HVV}} = \frac{H}{v} \left[ m_Z^2 (\delta c_z + 1) Z_\mu Z^\mu + \frac{m_Z^2}{v^2} c_{zz} Z_{\mu\nu} Z^{\mu\nu} + \frac{e^2}{s_w^2} c_{z\Box} Z_\mu \partial_\nu Z^{\mu\nu} + \frac{m_Z^2}{v^2} \tilde{c}_{zz} Z^{\mu\nu} \tilde{Z}_{\mu\nu} \right. \\ \left. + c_{\gamma\gamma} \frac{e^2}{4} A_{\mu\nu} A^{\mu\nu} + \tilde{c}_{\gamma\gamma} \frac{e^2}{4} A^{\mu\nu} \tilde{A}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{e^2}{2s_w c_w} c_{z\gamma} Z_{\mu\nu} A^{\mu\nu} + \frac{e^2}{2s_w c_w} \tilde{c}_{z\gamma} Z_{\mu\nu} \tilde{A}^{\mu\nu} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{e^2}{s_w c_w} c_{\gamma\Box} Z_\mu \partial_\nu A^{\mu\nu} \right],$$

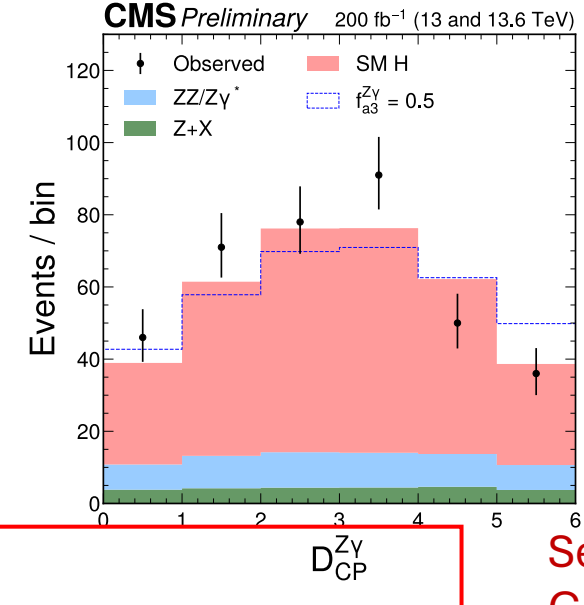
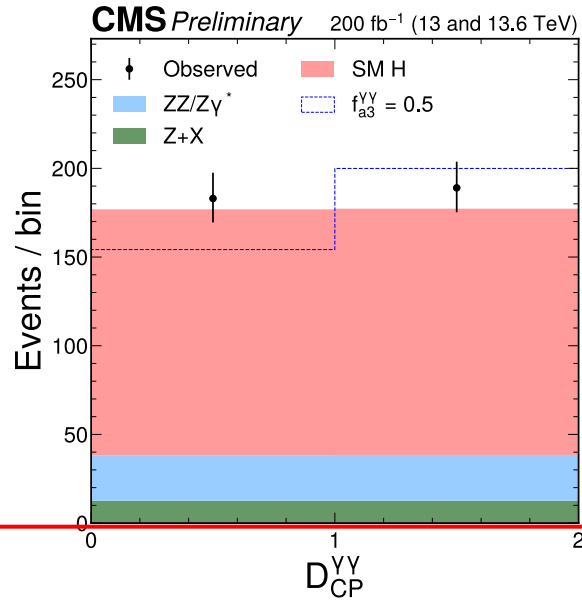
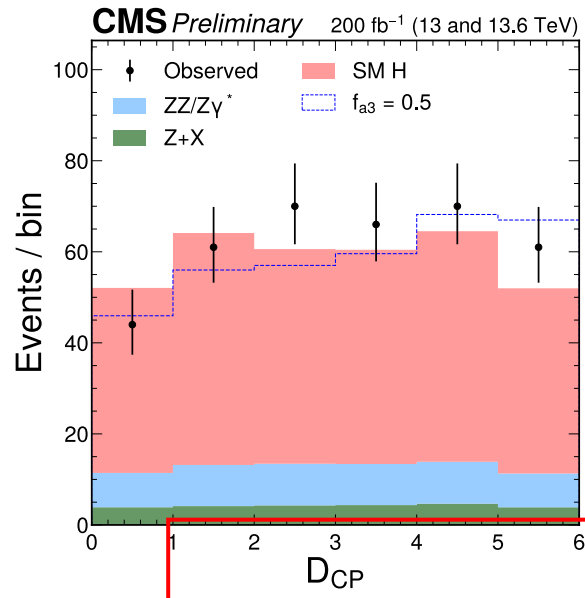
- Report 7  $f_{ai} = \frac{|a_i|^2 \sigma_i}{\sum_j |a_j|^2 \sigma_j} \text{sign} \left( \frac{a_i}{a_1} \right)$ .
  - Absorbs  $\Gamma_H$ , production couplings.
  - Systematic effects cancel in the ratio.
- Dedicated simulation of all anomalous couplings.
  - Fully incorporates detector / reconstruction effects.
- $SU(2) \times U(1)$  (SMEFT) relations enforced at the template level.
- Construct a 7D Histogram of EFT observables.
  - Dimensionality is reduced with minimal loss using MiLoMerge, see talk by Mohit Srivastav.



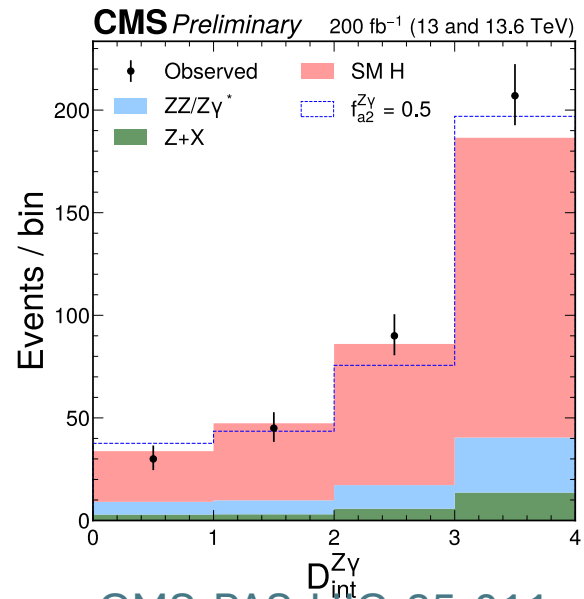
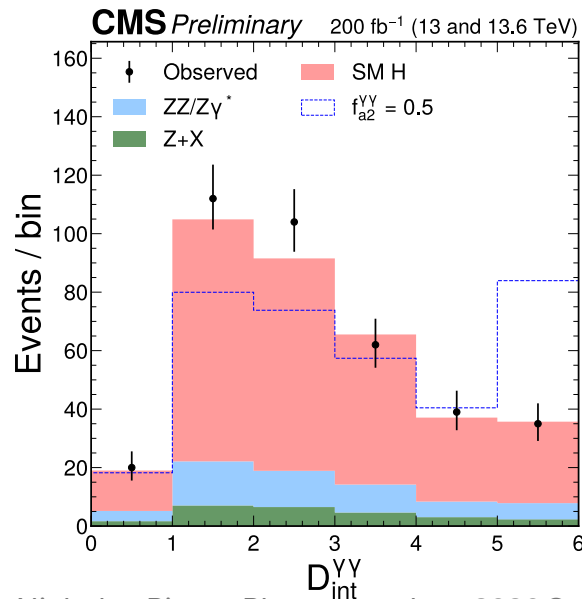
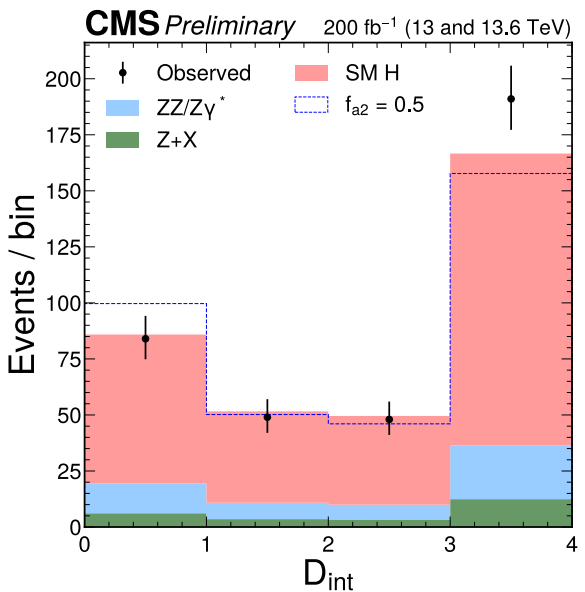
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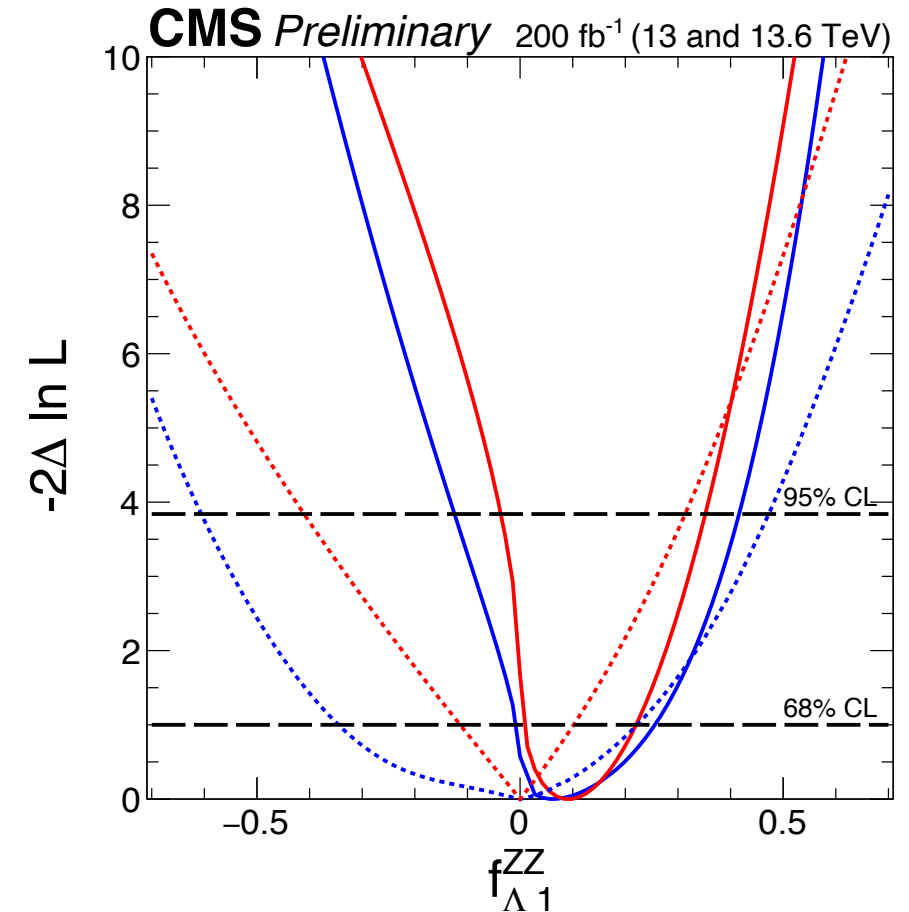
# Effective Field Theory: Observables



Sensitive to CP-Violation

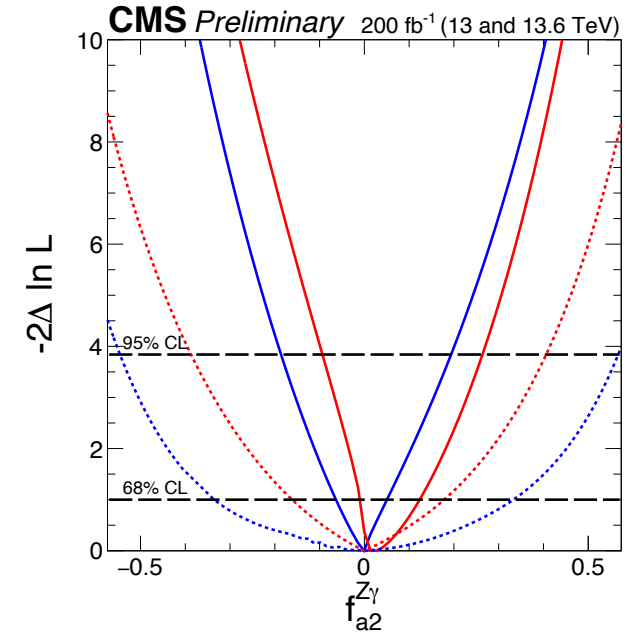
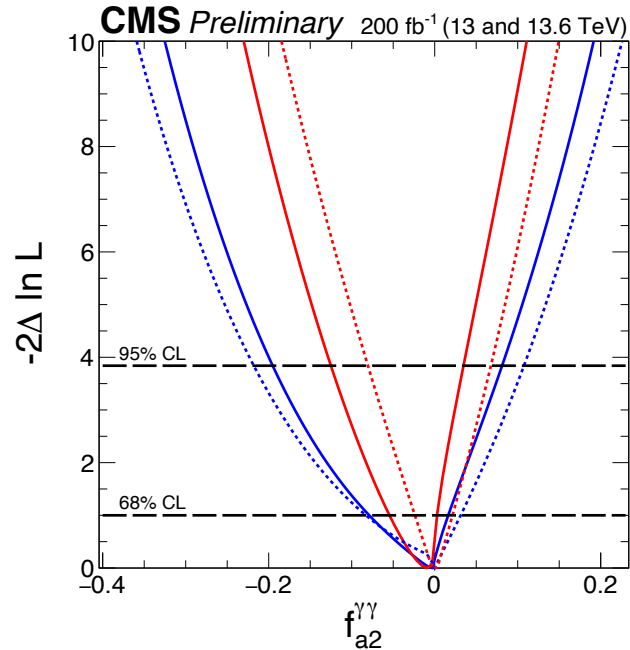
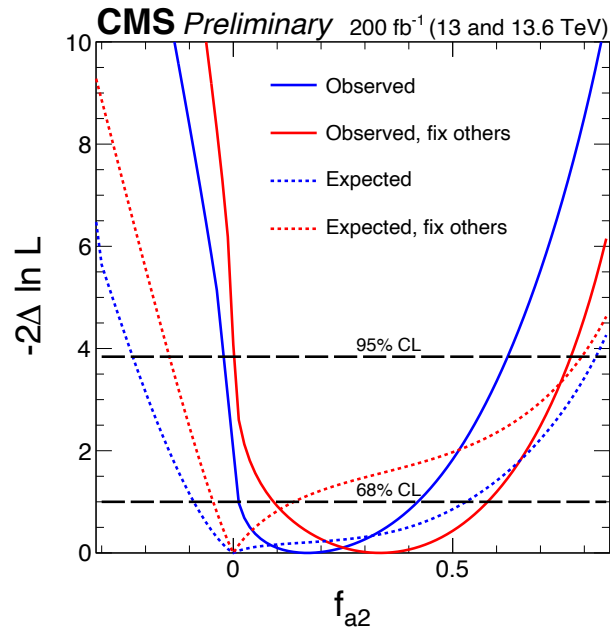
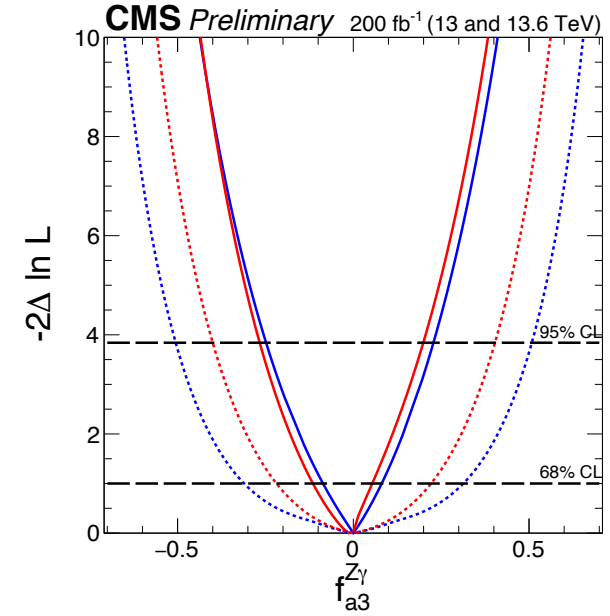
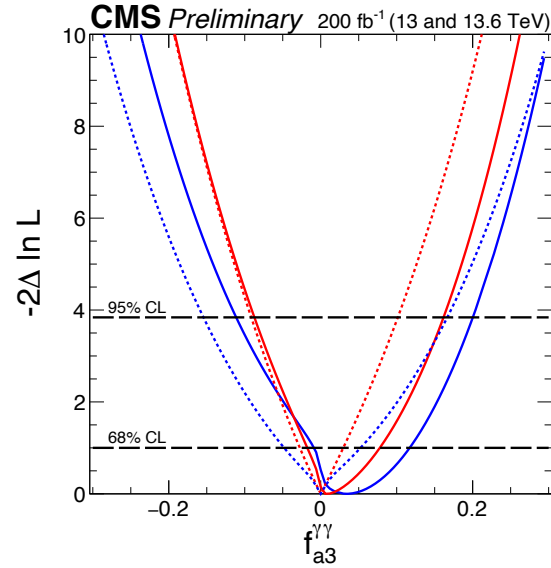
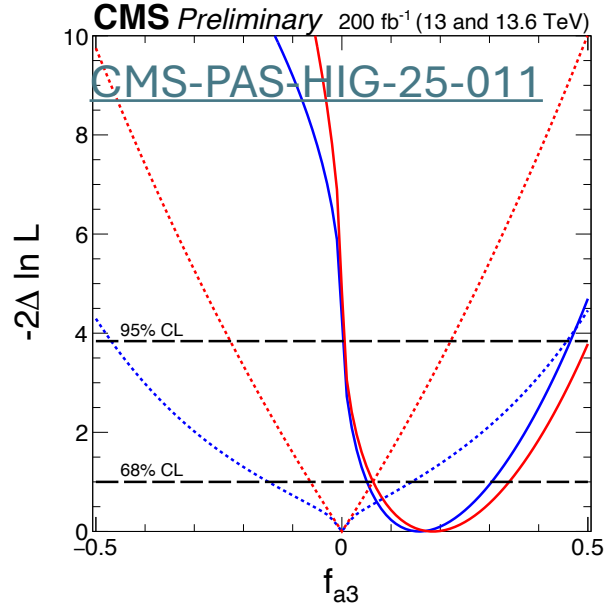


- Perform maximum-likelihood scan of all 7 anomalous couplings.
- Scans performed with all other AC simultaneously floated (blue), and all other AC fixed (red).
- Dashed = Expectation from Monte Carlo.
- Solid = Observation from CMS Data.





# Effective Field Theory: Results





# Summary



- Performed interpretation of spin correlations in  $H \rightarrow 4\ell$  decay channel in various contexts.
- Set constraints on 7 anomalous HVV couplings in the context of SMEFT, floating all simultaneously.
- Tested conditions for quantum entanglement in multiple ways:
  - Permutation of leptons, GCLMP inequality generally agree with standard model.
- Measured polarization fractions, introducing no assumptions about the mass distribution of the Z boson mediators.



# Backup: Numeric EFT Results



$\vec{f}$	Scenario	Observed		Expected	
		68% CL	95% CL	68% CL	95% CL
$f_{a3}$	float all	$0.16^{+0.15}_{-0.11}$	[0.01, 0.46]	$0.00^{+0.14}_{-0.15}$	[-0.47, 0.46]
	fix others	$0.18^{+0.16}_{-0.12}$	[0.01, 0.50]	$0.00^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$	[-0.23, 0.22]
$f_{a3}^{Z\gamma}$	float all	$0.00^{+0.08}_{-0.08}$	[-0.25, 0.23]	$0.00^{+0.31}_{-0.30}$	[-0.49, 0.51]
	fix others	$0.00^{+0.06}_{-0.11}$	[-0.27, 0.20]	$0.00^{+0.22}_{-0.22}$	[-0.40, 0.40]
$f_{a3}^{\gamma\gamma}$	float all	$0.03^{+0.08}_{-0.05}$	[-0.11, 0.20]	$0.00^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$	[-0.15, 0.17]
	fix others	$0.01^{+0.07}_{-0.03}$	[-0.09, 0.16]	$0.00^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$	[-0.09, 0.10]
$f_{a2}$	float all	$0.17^{+0.25}_{-0.15}$	[-0.03, 0.63]	$0.00^{+0.53}_{-0.08}$	[-0.23, 0.83]
	fix others	$0.33^{+0.25}_{-0.24}$	[0.00, 0.77]	$0.00^{+0.14}_{-0.05}$	[-0.15, 0.79]
$f_{a2}^{Z\gamma}$	float all	$0.00^{+0.05}_{-0.06}$	[-0.18, 0.19]	$0.00^{+0.33}_{-0.34}$	[-0.54, 0.57]
	fix others	$0.02^{+0.10}_{-0.03}$	[-0.09, 0.26]	$0.00^{+0.18}_{-0.16}$	[-0.39, 0.41]
$f_{a2}^{\gamma\gamma}$	float all	$0.00^{+0.02}_{-0.07}$	[-0.19, 0.08]	$0.00^{+0.03}_{-0.08}$	[-0.22, 0.11]
	fix others	$-0.01^{+0.01}_{-0.05}$	[-0.13, 0.03]	$0.00^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$	[-0.08, 0.07]
$f_{\Lambda 1}$	float all	$0.06^{+0.19}_{-0.05}$	[-0.13, 0.42]	$0.00^{+0.22}_{-0.34}$	[-0.60, 0.47]
	fix others	$0.09^{+0.13}_{-0.08}$	[-0.04, 0.35]	$0.00^{+0.10}_{-0.11}$	[-0.41, 0.31]

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