

# Vector Boson Scattering

Dieter Zeppenfeld  
Pheno Symposium, June 5, 2025, UW Madison

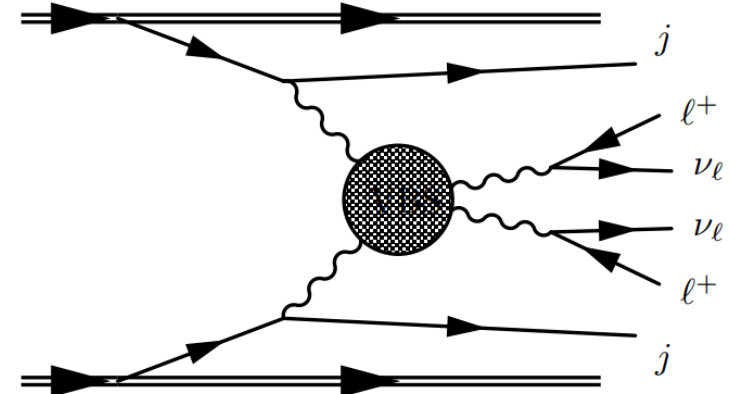
KIT Center Elementary Particle and Astroparticle Physics - KCETA



# Introduction

## Vector boson scattering (VBS)

- Basic process:  $VV \rightarrow VV$
- accompanied by 2 quark jets  
= tagging jets
- Identify weak bosons by decay  
leptons (or hadronic V decay)
- Important contributions from vector boson  
radiation off quark lines



## Historical interest:

- vector boson fusion (VBF) of a (heavy) Higgs
- no-loose theorem for LHC/SSC

## Today:

- Search for new resonances in the  $VV$  channels
- Effect of anomalous quartic gauge boson couplings (aQGC)
- Measurement of 125 GeV Higgs properties in VBF

## Comparative study of the benefits of forward jet tagging in heavy-Higgs-boson production at the Superconducting Super Collider

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(Received 10 April 1991)

The event rate for production of a Higgs boson of mass  $\sim 1$  TeV with decay  $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4$  charged leptons is of order 25 events per year at standard Superconducting Super Collider luminosity and the QCD background is of comparable size. By tagging a *single* forward jet of energy  $E_j > 1$  TeV and rapidity  $2 < |\eta_j| < 5$  from the  $qq \rightarrow qqZZ$  process, the QCD background can be essentially eliminated, with about 10 Higgs-boson signal events per year remaining, which amounts to 70% of the  $qq \rightarrow qqZZ$  signal rate. The experimental separation of the vector-boson scattering subprocess is thereby possible.

# Minijet veto: a tool for the heavy Higgs search at the LHC

V. Barger<sup>a</sup>, R.J.N. Phillips<sup>b</sup>, D. Zeppenfeld<sup>a</sup>

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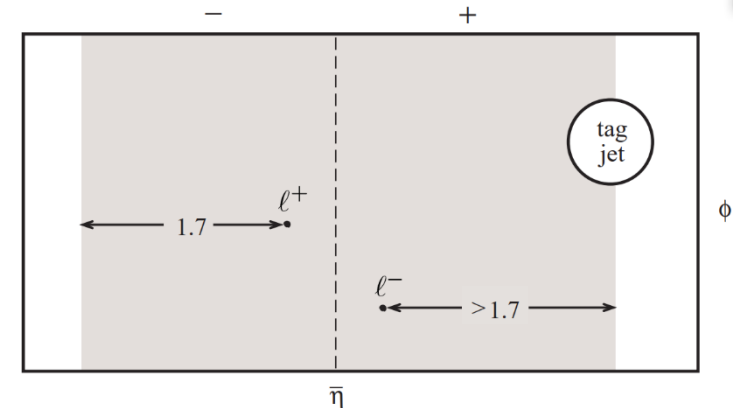
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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0370-2693\(95\)00008-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/0370-2693(95)00008-9)

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## Abstract

The distinct color flow of the  $qq \rightarrow qqH$ ,  $H \rightarrow W^+W^-$  process leads to suppressed radiation of soft gluons in the central region, a feature which is not shared by major background processes like  $t\bar{t}$  production or  $qq \rightarrow W^+W^-$ . For the leptonic decay of a heavy Higgs boson,  $H \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow \ell^+\nu\ell^-\nu$ , it is shown that these backgrounds are typically accompanied by minijet emission in the 20–40 GeV range. A central minijet veto thus constitutes a powerful background rejection tool. It may be regarded as a rapidity gap trigger at the semihard parton level which should work even at high luminosities.



## Central ideas for Background rejection:

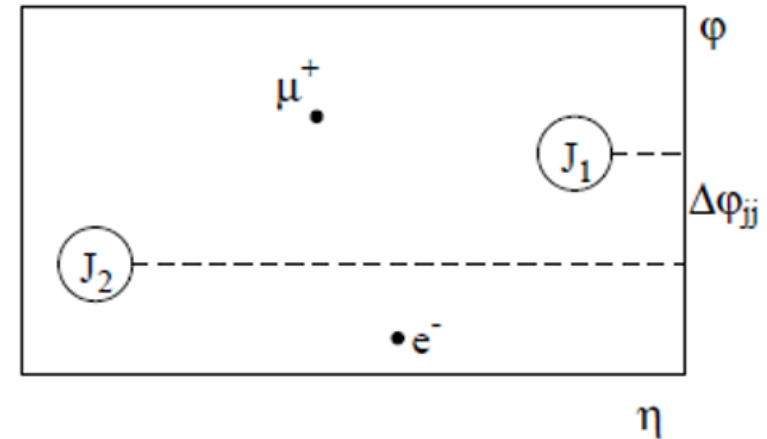
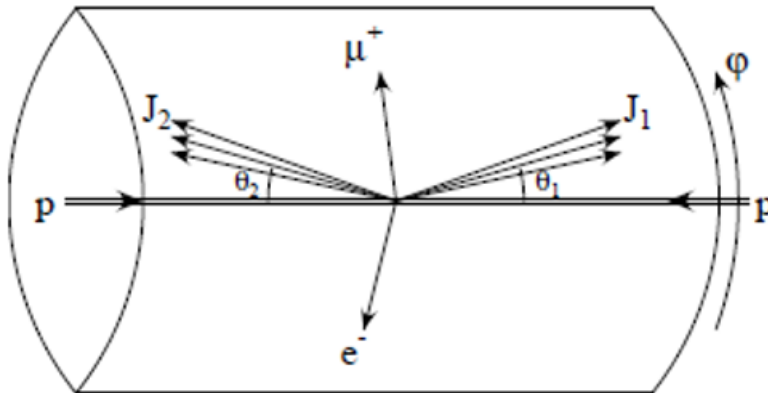
- Single forward tagging jet
- Veto additional central jets
- Require very hard central leptons

## Drawback:

- Tagging jet confined to  $\eta > 1.5$

## Improvements (work with Kaoru, Dave Rainwater ... on light Higgs)

- Double jet tagging
- Use rapidity differences: invariant under boost along beam axis



### VBF/VBS characteristics:

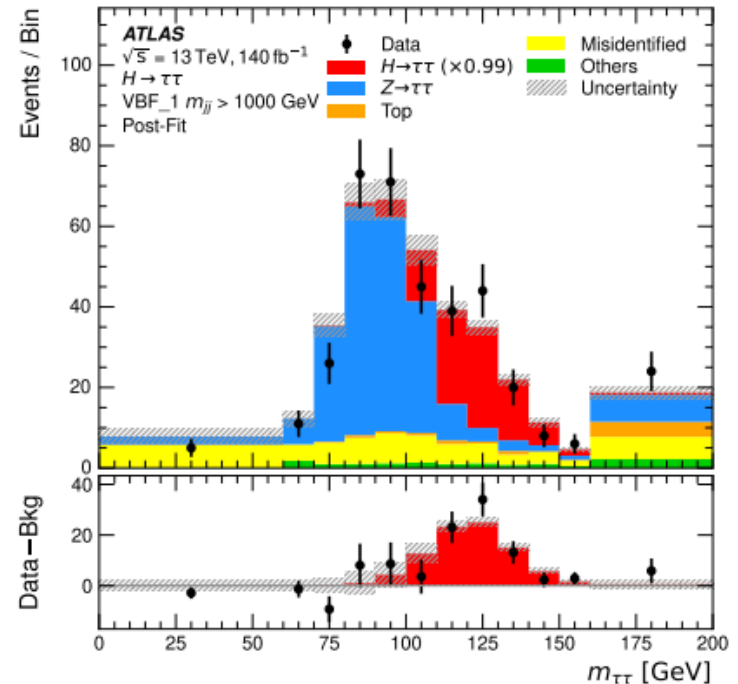
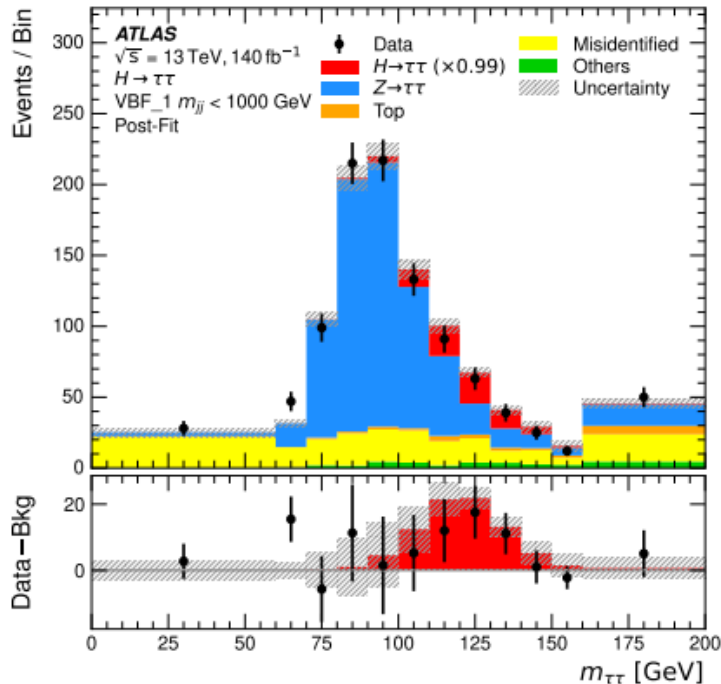
- energetic jets in the **forward** and **backward** directions ( $p_T > 20$  GeV)
- large **rapidity separation** and large **invariant mass** of the two tagging jets  
⇒ Enhance signal contributions by “VBF cuts”, e.g.

$$m_{jj} > 500 \text{ GeV} \quad \Delta y_{jj} = |y_{j1} - y_{j2}| > 2.5$$

- Higgs/V/VV decay products **between** tagging jets

# Ongoing measurements at LHC

## ■ Example: $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ in VBF



## ■ Reconstructed tau pair invariant mass distribution clearly shows superposition of Z and Higgs peaks



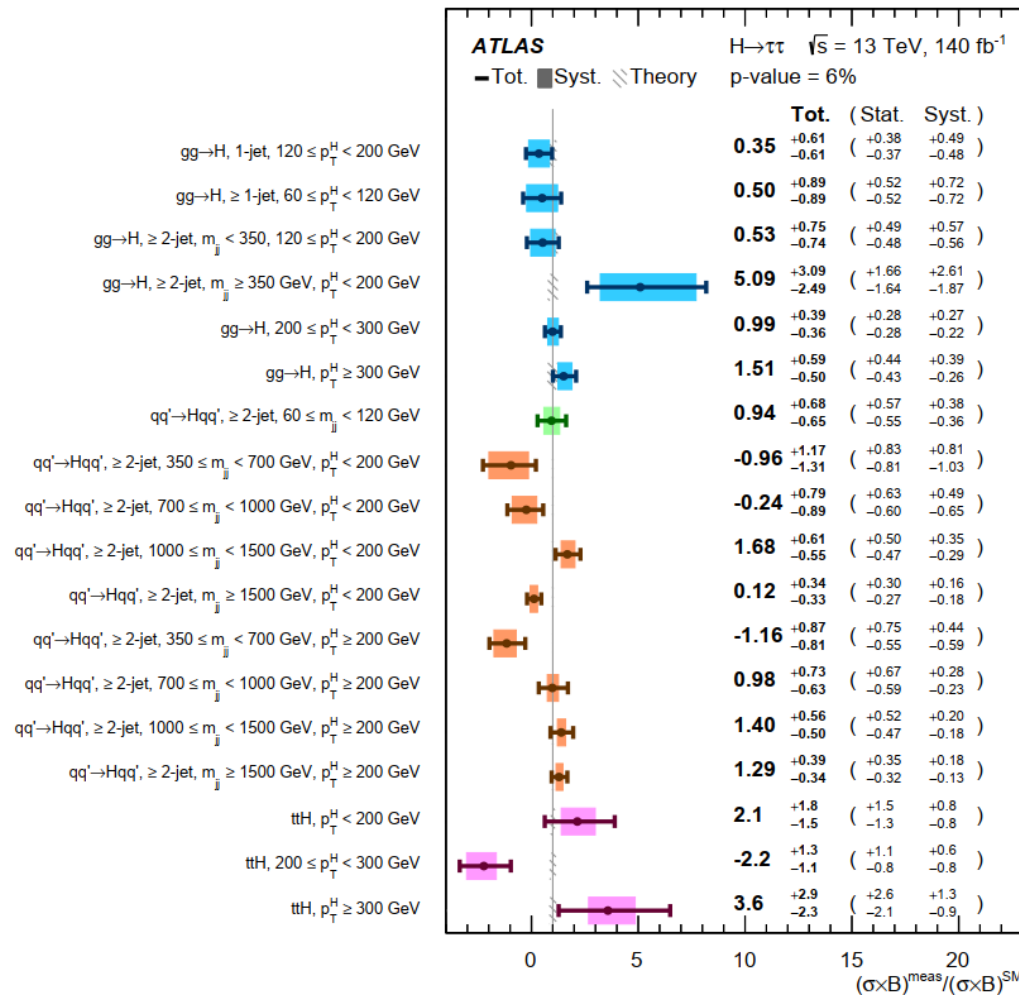
# Rates agree with SM expectations

$\mu$ -values for  $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$   
for Higgs production by

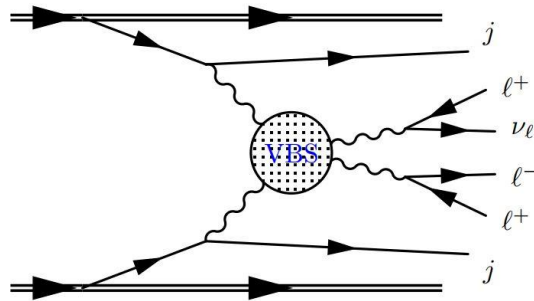
gluon fusion

vector boson fusion

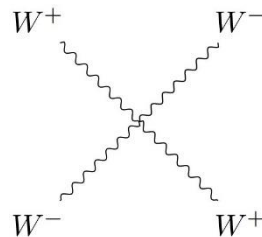
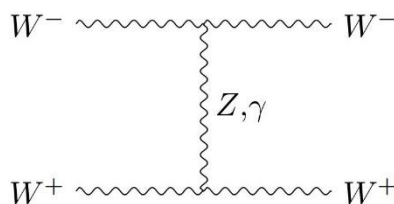
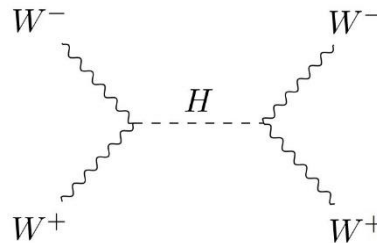
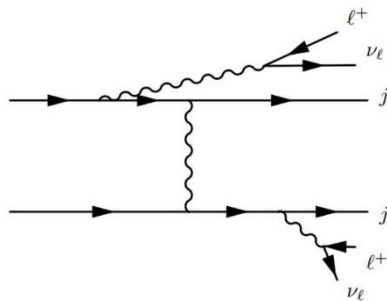
$t\bar{t}H$  production



# VBS and anomalous quartic gauge couplings (aQGC)



VBS provides rich source of information on dynamics of electroweak gauge bosons and EW symmetry breaking



Contributions from

- EW radiation
- Higgs exchange

- Triple gauge couplings
  - Quartic gauge couplings
- Use EFT to parameterize them



# EFT operators for VBS

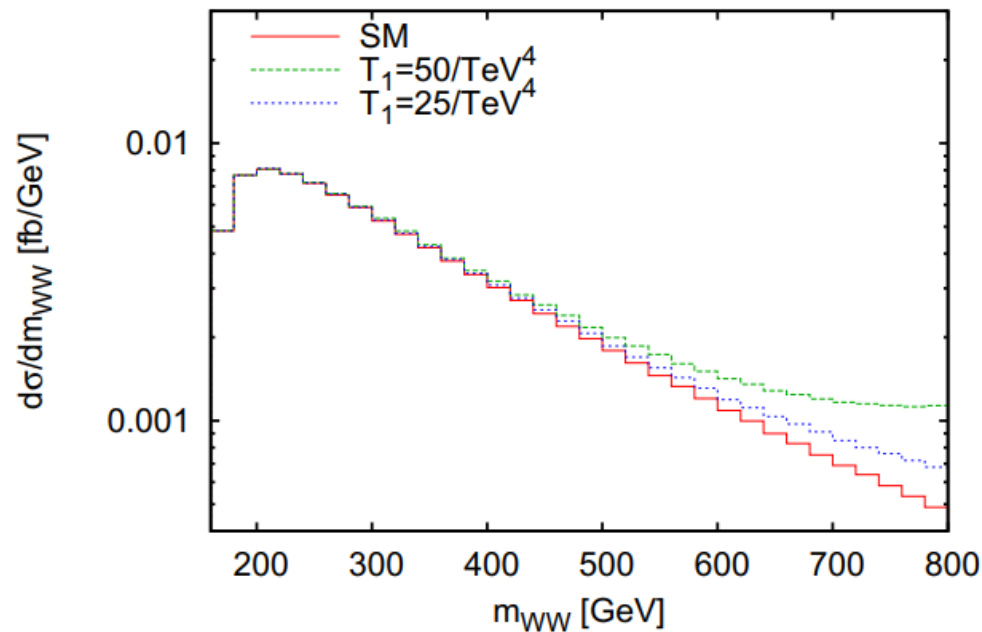
$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}_{EFT} &= \sum_{d=6}^{\infty} \sum_i \frac{f_i^{(d)}}{\Lambda^{d-4}} O_i^{(d)} = \sum_i \frac{f_i^{(6)}}{\Lambda^2} O_i^{(6)} + \sum_i \frac{f_i^{(8)}}{\Lambda^4} O_i^{(8)} + \dots \\
&= \frac{f_{WWW}}{\Lambda^2} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^\mu_\nu \hat{W}^\nu_\rho \hat{W}^\rho_\mu \right) + \dots \\
&+ \frac{f_{T_0}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \right) \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \hat{W}_{\alpha\beta} \right) + \dots \quad (\dots = 7 \text{ more}) \\
&+ \frac{f_{M_0}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} \left[ \hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \right] \times \left[ (D_\beta \Phi)^\dagger D^\beta \Phi \right] + \dots \quad (6 \text{ more}) \\
&+ \frac{f_{S_0}}{\Lambda^4} \left[ (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger D_\nu \Phi \right] \times \left[ (D^\mu \Phi)^\dagger D^\nu \Phi \right] + \dots \quad (2 \text{ more})
\end{aligned}$$

Extensively used tool for describing BSM effects in vector boson scattering....

## $VV \rightarrow W^+ W^-$ with dimension 8 operators

Effect of  $\mathcal{L}_{eff} = \frac{f_{M,1}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} [\hat{W}_{\alpha\gamma} \hat{W}^{\mu\beta}] \times \text{Tr} [\hat{W}_{\mu\beta} \hat{W}^{\alpha\gamma}]$

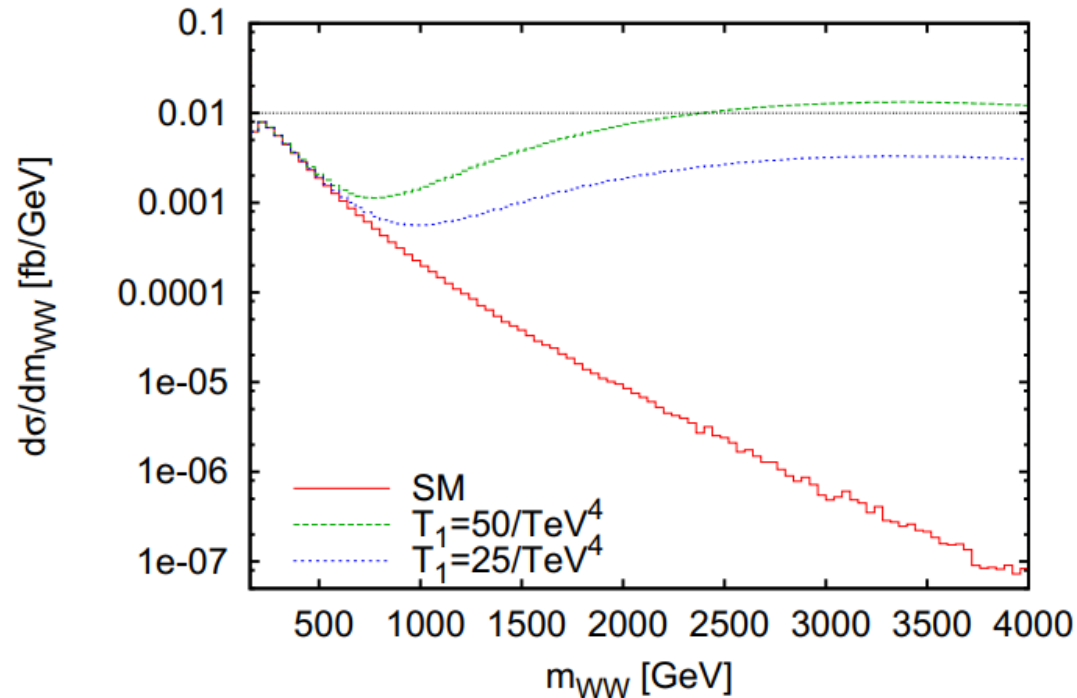
with  $T_1 = \frac{f_{M,1}}{\Lambda^4}$  constant on  $pp \rightarrow W^+ W^- jj \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu jj$



- Small increase in cross section at high WW invariant mass??

## $VV \rightarrow W^+ W^-$ with dimension 8 operators

Effect of constant  $T_1 = \frac{f_{M,1}}{\Lambda^4}$  on  $pp \rightarrow W^+ W^- jj \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu jj$



- Huge increase in cross section at high  $m_{WW}$  is completely unphysical
- Need form factor for analysis or some other unitarization procedure

# Questions to ask ... and path to answers

- How realistic is EFT description (with or without unitarization) as a function of energy ( $m_{VV}$ )? What is the validity range of the EFT?
- Are there relations between Wilson coefficients?
- What experimental strategy is most promising to discover BSM effects in VBS? (as opposed to merely setting limits)
- Can VBS be first place to see BSM physics?

## Study EFT as approximation to a UV complete model

- At our disposal: gauge theory with extra scalars, fermions, gauge fields
- Consider transverse operators as simplest case: dimension 6 and 8 operators which contain SU(2) field strength, no Higgs couplings
- Field strength tensor naturally (and only) generated at loop level: Need loops of extra fields with SU(2) charges ( $U(1)_Y$  neglected for simplicity)
- UV complete model should be perturbatively treatable
- → predictions beyond validity range of EFT with small set of parameters: mass and isospin of extra multiplets

# Origins of operators with field strengths

(Arzt, Einhorn, Wudka hep-ph/9405214)

- Only term with field strength in renormalizable Lagrangian is

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^j W^{j\mu\nu}$$

- $j = 1, 2, 3$  is W or Z. Embedding SU(2) in larger gauge group G gives coupling to heavy new gauge bosons via  $W_{\mu\nu}^j \sim f^{jkl} W_\mu^k W_\nu^l + \dots$  with  $k, l > 3 \rightarrow$  **pair** of heavy gauge bosons couple to W/Z field strength at each BSM vertex  $\rightarrow$  contribution only at loop level
- Particles in loop can be heavy gauge bosons, fermions or scalars. Fermion example: EFT approximation to  $gg \rightarrow H$  three-point function
- Fermions or scalars can be in large isospin multiplets, which enhance loop contributions by huge group factors
- For extra gauge bosons, reducing adjoint representation of G to SU(2) irreps only allows isospin  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 0 for the extra heavy gauge bosons  $\rightarrow$  no enhanced group factors in loops
- $\rightarrow$  consider only BSM fermions and scalars in following

## The model(s) (work with Lang, Liebler, Schäfer-Siebert)

- $n_R$  SU(2) multiplets of isospin  $J_R$  of scalars (R=S) or Dirac fermions (R=F) with their SU(2) gauge interactions (no hypercharge couplings)

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu H)^2 - \frac{m_H^2}{2} H^2 - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \right) + \frac{m_W^2}{2} \left( \sum_{a=1}^3 W_\mu^a W^{a\mu} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{H}{v} \right)^2$$

$$+ \bar{\Psi} (i\gamma_\mu D^\mu - M_F) \Psi + (D^\mu \Phi)^\dagger (D_\mu \Phi) - M_S^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi.$$

- Yukawa couplings of fermions to Higgs doublet absent if no fermion multiplets with  $J_F \pm 1/2$  are present
- Yields *natural dark matter models* for  $J_R \geq 2$
- Very small splitting induced by SU(2)xU(1) breaking in SM (order 160 MeV to few GeV) → Pair production at LHC hard to detect due to tiny phase space for  $\beta$ -decay within SU(2) multiplet
- Refinements like extra (confining) gauge interactions, several multiplets, hypercharge contributions, Higgs couplings keep our results as LO approximation → **very generic class of models**

## Consider loop contributions to n-point functions

- $n=2$ : gauge boson propagator
- $n=3$ : triple gauge boson vertex functions
- $n=4$ : boxes with 4 external weak bosons
  
- UV divergences are simple renormalizations of SM parameters (gauge coupling and W wave function renormalization)
  
- Match first few terms in  $p^2/M_R^2$  expansion to EFT



## Full dim6+8 EFT considered

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}_{EFT} = & f_{WW} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \right) + \frac{f_{DW}}{\Lambda^2} \text{Tr} \left( [\hat{D}_\alpha, \hat{W}^{\mu\nu}] [\hat{D}^\alpha, \hat{W}_{\mu\nu}] \right) \\
& + \frac{f_{WWW}}{\Lambda^2} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^\mu{}_\nu \hat{W}^\nu{}_\rho \hat{W}^\rho{}_\mu \right) + \frac{f_{D2W}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} \left( [\hat{D}_\alpha, [\hat{D}^\alpha, \hat{W}^{\mu\nu}]] [\hat{D}_\beta, [\hat{D}^\beta, \hat{W}_{\mu\nu}]] \right) \\
& + \frac{f_{DWWW_0}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} \left( [\hat{D}_\alpha, \hat{W}^\mu{}_\nu] [\hat{D}^\alpha, \hat{W}^\nu{}_\rho] \hat{W}^\rho{}_\mu \right) \\
& + \frac{f_{DWWW_1}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} \left( [\hat{D}_\alpha, \hat{W}^{\mu\nu}] [\hat{D}_\beta, \hat{W}^{\mu\nu}] \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \right) \\
& + \frac{f_{T_0}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \right) \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \hat{W}_{\alpha\beta} \right) + \frac{f_{T_1}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}_{\alpha\beta} \right) \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \right) \\
& + \frac{f_{T_2}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^\mu{}_\nu \hat{W}^\nu{}_\alpha \right) \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^\alpha{}_\beta \hat{W}^\beta{}_\mu \right) + \frac{f_{T_3}}{\Lambda^4} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \right) \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}_{\nu\alpha} \hat{W}_{\beta\mu} \right) .
\end{aligned}$$

9 additional terms in EFT Lagrangian sufficient and necessary for low energy description

# These operators affect:

## ■ Dim-6

$$O_{WWW} = \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^\mu_\nu \hat{W}^\nu_\rho \hat{W}^\rho_\mu \right) ,$$

$$O_{DW} = \text{Tr} \left( [\hat{D}_\alpha, \hat{W}^{\mu\nu}] [\hat{D}^\alpha, \hat{W}_{\mu\nu}] \right)$$

aTGC ...

Propagator correction ...

## ■ Dim-8

$$O_{T_0} = \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \right) \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \hat{W}_{\alpha\beta} \right)$$

$$O_{T_1} = \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}_{\alpha\beta} \right) \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

$$O_{T_2} = \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}_{\nu\alpha} \right) \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \hat{W}_{\beta\mu} \right)$$

$$O_{T_3} = \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \right) \text{Tr} \left( \hat{W}_{\nu\alpha} \hat{W}_{\beta\mu} \right)$$

aQGC ...

$$O_{DWWW_0} = \text{Tr} \left( [\hat{D}_\alpha, \hat{W}^\mu_\nu] [\hat{D}^\alpha, \hat{W}^\nu_\rho] \hat{W}^\rho_\mu \right)$$

$$O_{DWWW_1} = \text{Tr} \left( [\hat{D}_\alpha, \hat{W}^{\mu\nu}] [\hat{D}_\beta, \hat{W}_{\mu\nu}] \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \right)$$

aTGC ...

$$O_{D^2W} = \text{Tr} \left( [\hat{D}_\alpha, [\hat{D}^\alpha, \hat{W}^{\mu\nu}]] [\hat{D}_\beta, [\hat{D}^\beta, \hat{W}_{\mu\nu}]] \right)$$

Propagator correction ...

# Wilson coefficients with $C_{2,R} = J_R(J_R + 1)$ $T_R = \frac{1}{3} [J_R(J_R + 1)(2J_R + 1)]$

- Propagator and higher

$$\frac{f_{DW}}{\Lambda^2} = \sum_F n_F \frac{T_F}{120\pi^2 M_F^2} + \sum_S n_S \frac{T_S}{960\pi^2 M_S^2},$$

$$\frac{f_{D2W}}{\Lambda^4} = \sum_F n_F \frac{T_F}{1120\pi^2 M_F^4} + \sum_S n_S \frac{T_S}{13440\pi^2 M_S^4}$$

- aTGC and higher

$$\frac{f_{WWW}}{\Lambda^2} = \sum_F n_F \frac{13T_F}{360\pi^2 M_F^2} + \sum_S n_S \frac{T_S}{360\pi^2 M_S^2},$$

$$\frac{f_{DWWW_0}}{\Lambda^4} = \sum_F n_F \frac{2T_F}{105\pi^2 M_F^4} + \sum_S n_S \frac{T_S}{1120\pi^2 M_S^4}$$

$$\frac{f_{DWWW_1}}{\Lambda^4} = \sum_F n_F \frac{T_F}{630\pi^2 M_F^4} + \sum_S n_S \frac{T_S}{4032\pi^2 M_S^4}$$

- aQGC and higher

$$\frac{f_{T_0}}{\Lambda^4} = \sum_F n_F \frac{(-14C_{2,F} + 1) T_F}{10080\pi^2 M_F^4} + \sum_S n_S \frac{(7C_{2,S} - 2) T_S}{40320\pi^2 M_S^4},$$

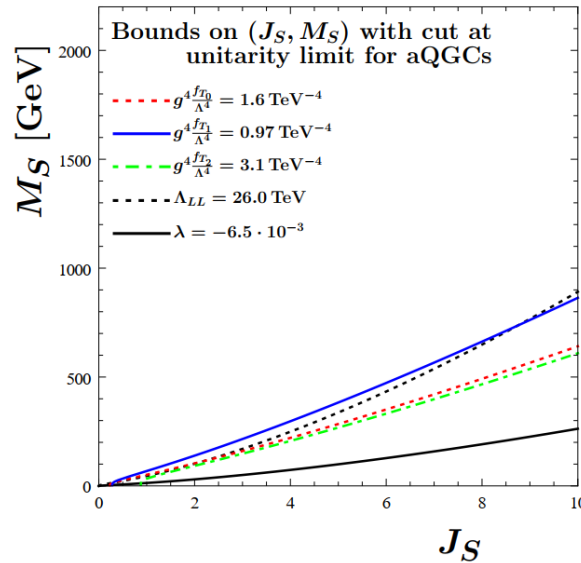
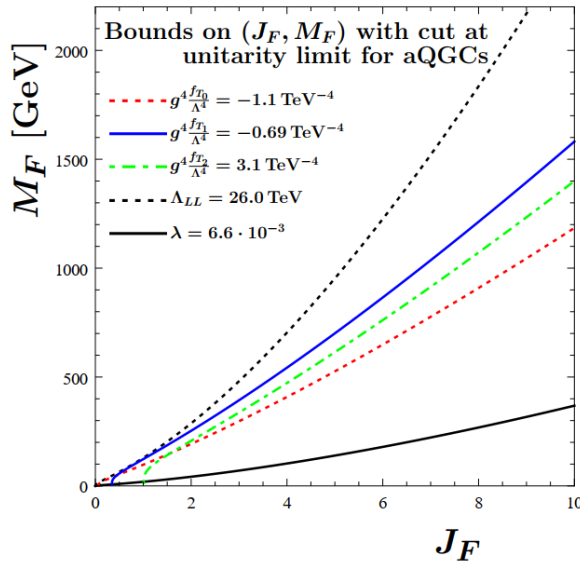
$$\frac{f_{T_1}}{\Lambda^4} = \sum_F n_F \frac{(-28C_{2,F} + 13) T_F}{10080\pi^2 M_F^4} + \sum_S n_S \frac{(14C_{2,S} - 5) T_S}{40320\pi^2 M_S^4},$$

$$\frac{f_{T_2}}{\Lambda^4} = \sum_F n_F \frac{(196C_{2,F} - 397) T_F}{25200\pi^2 M_F^4} + \sum_S n_S \frac{(14C_{2,S} - 23) T_S}{50400\pi^2 M_S^4},$$

$$\frac{f_{T_3}}{\Lambda^4} = \sum_F n_F \frac{(98C_{2,F} + 299) T_F}{25200\pi^2 M_F^4} + \sum_S n_S \frac{(7C_{2,S} + 16) T_S}{50400\pi^2 M_S^4}.$$

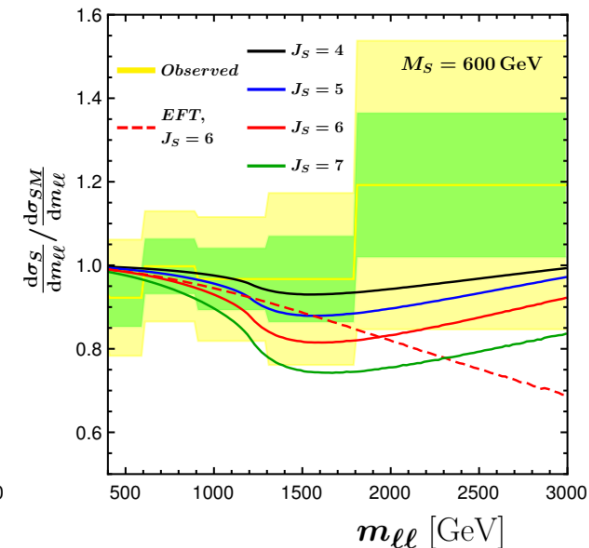
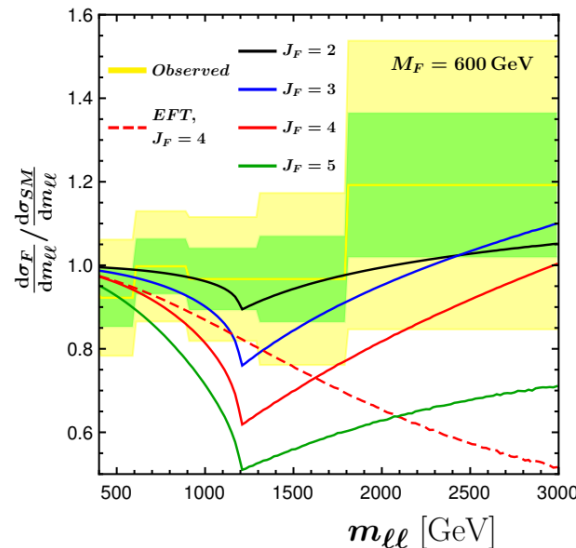
- Loop suppressed, but  $(J_R)^3$  enhanced for trilinear couplings,  $(J_R)^5$  for aQGC

# Constraints from experiment (single multiplet case):



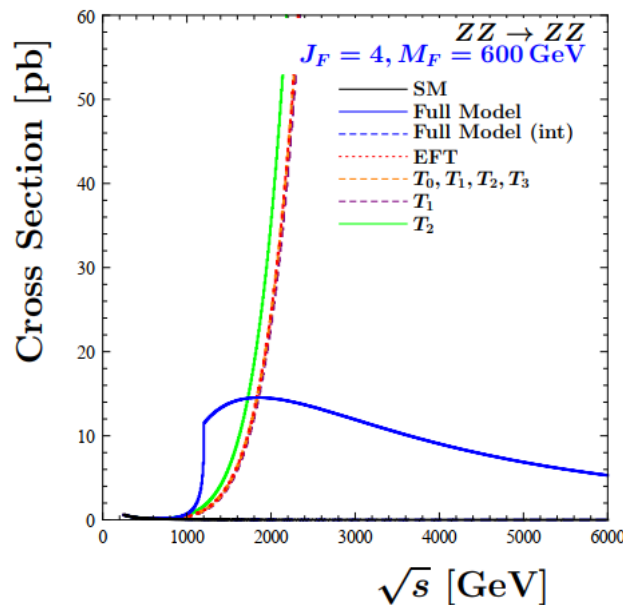
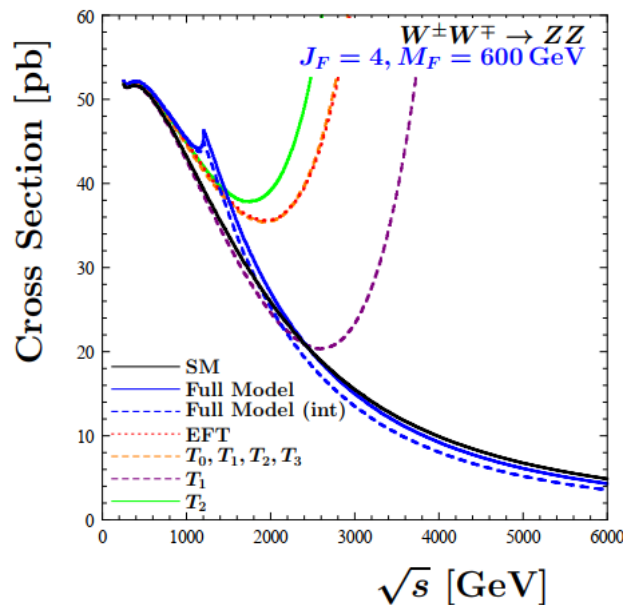
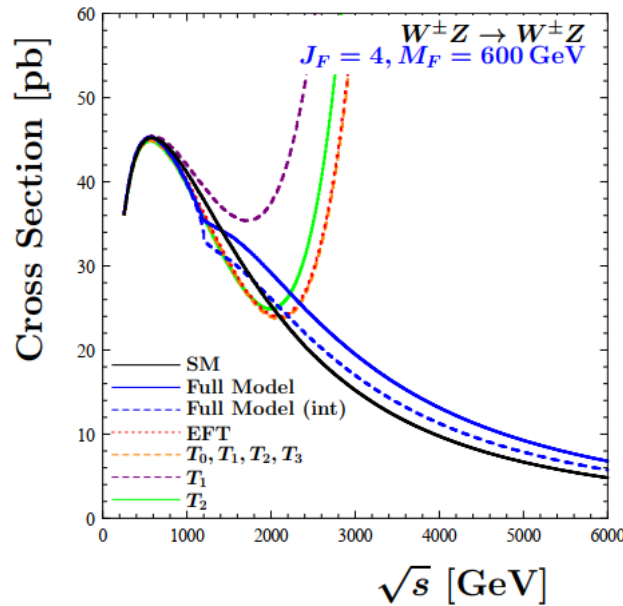
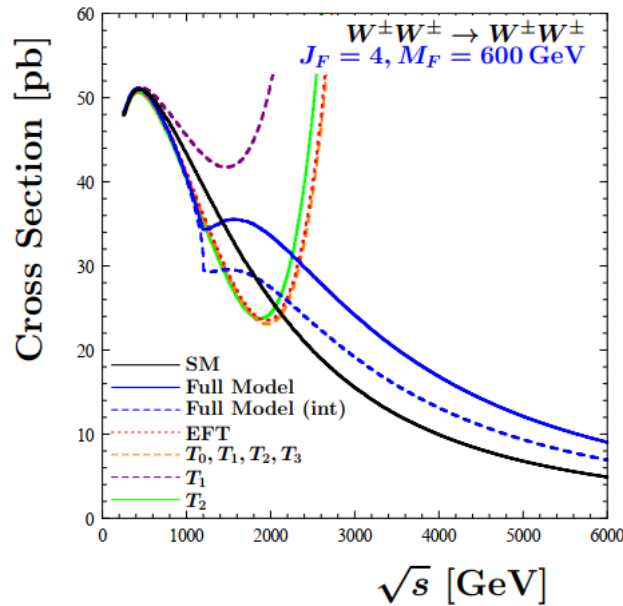
limits on individual  
Wilson coefficients:  
No serious competition  
to VBS from aTGC  
measurements in  
VV production  
(Assume wide  
EFT validity range)

Deviation in Drell-Yan  
cross section, normalized  
to SM expectation  
(1- and 2- $\sigma$  error bands  
adapted from  
CMS: arXiv:2103.02708 )



## Parameter choices:

- Use **fermion model** with  $J_F = 4$  and  $M_F = 600$  GeV  
or **scalar model** with  $J_S = 6$  and  $M_S = 600$  GeV  
for illustration from here on
- Parameter choices are optimistic for sake of sizable VBS signals
- $J_F \leq 3$  better accomodates Drell-Yan constraints
- $J_S \leq 5$  better fits in the perturbative domain (as estimated from unitarity)
- Qualitative results, below, do not depend on this



Onshell cross sections  
for  $J_F = 4$

Comparison of:

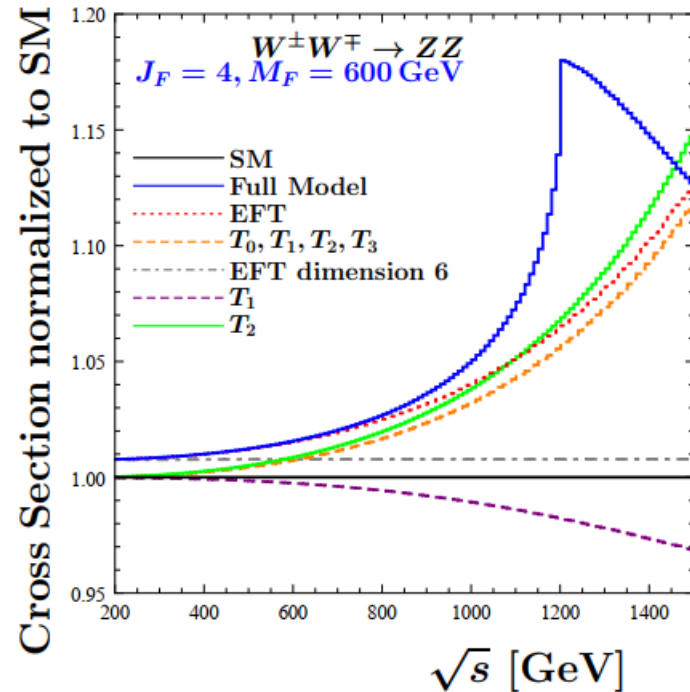
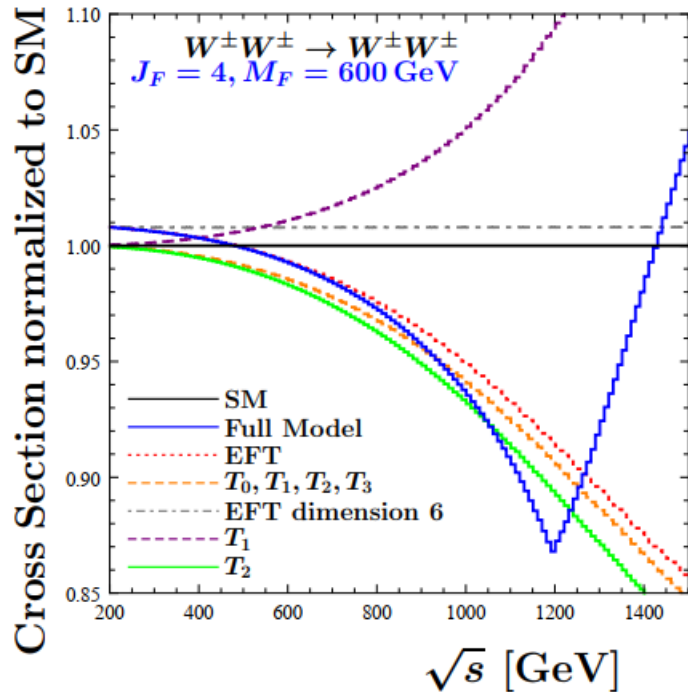
full model vs

full model - no  $g^8$  term

full EFT

individual dim 8 terms

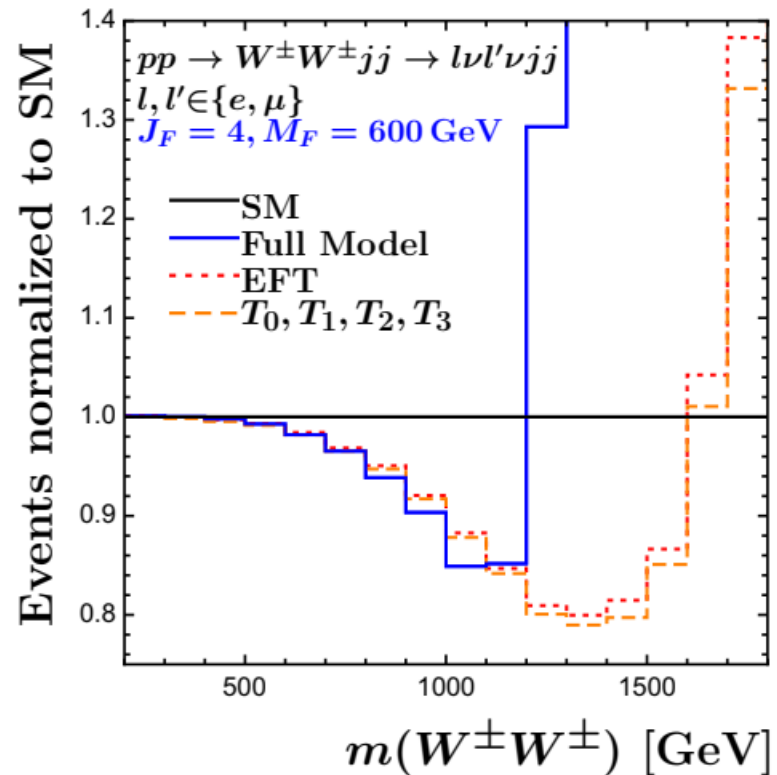
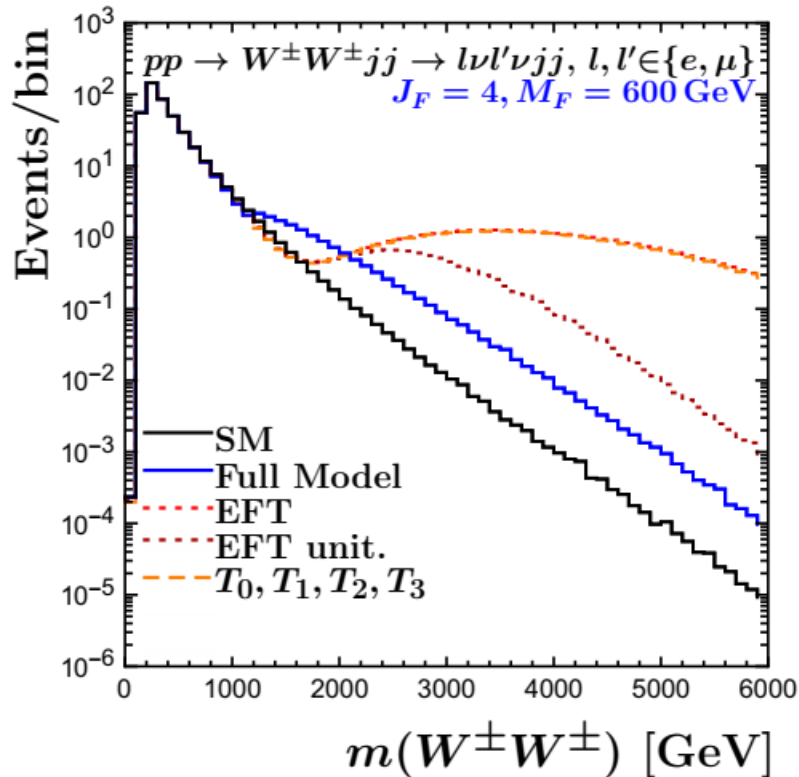
# Onshell cross section in low energy region...



- Dimension 6 operator contributions are negligible due to mere  $J_R^3$  growth and cancellations
- Good agreement between full model and dim-8 EFT below threshold
- Combination of all dim-8 operators is crucial



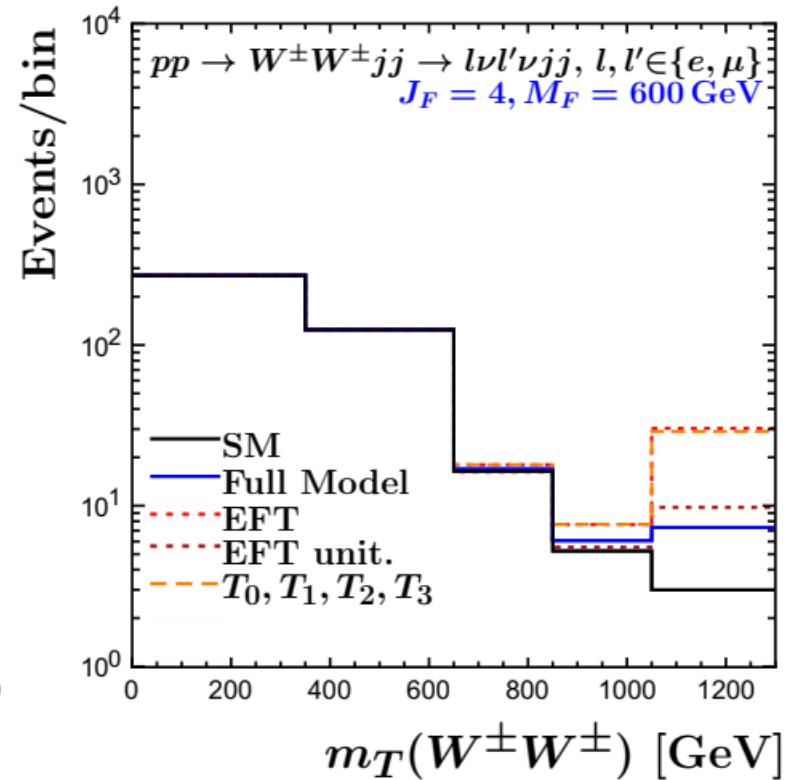
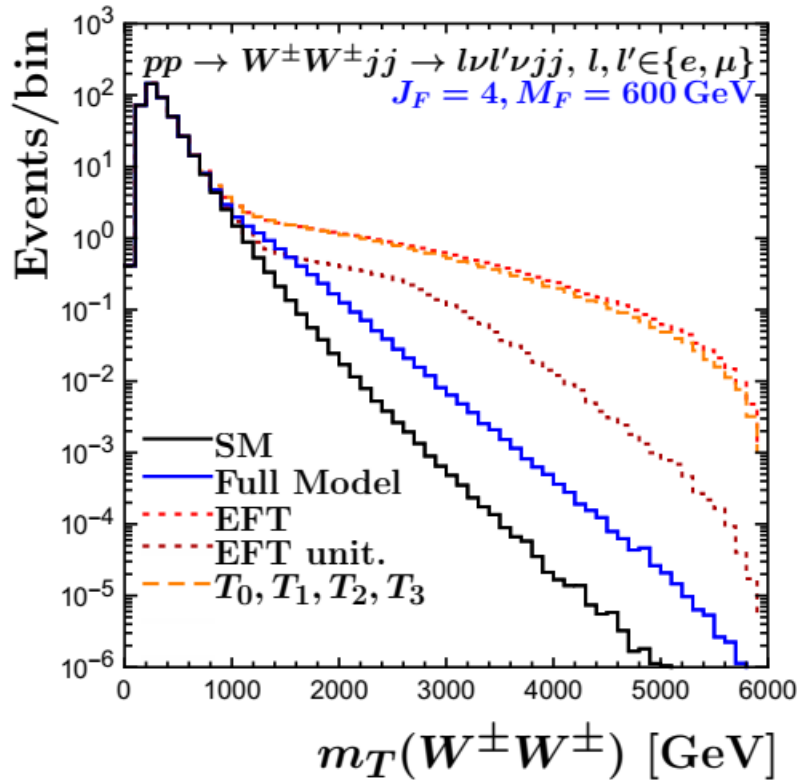
# Full LHC cross sections simulations with VBFNLO



Sizable deviations from SM well above threshold, for high isospin fermions

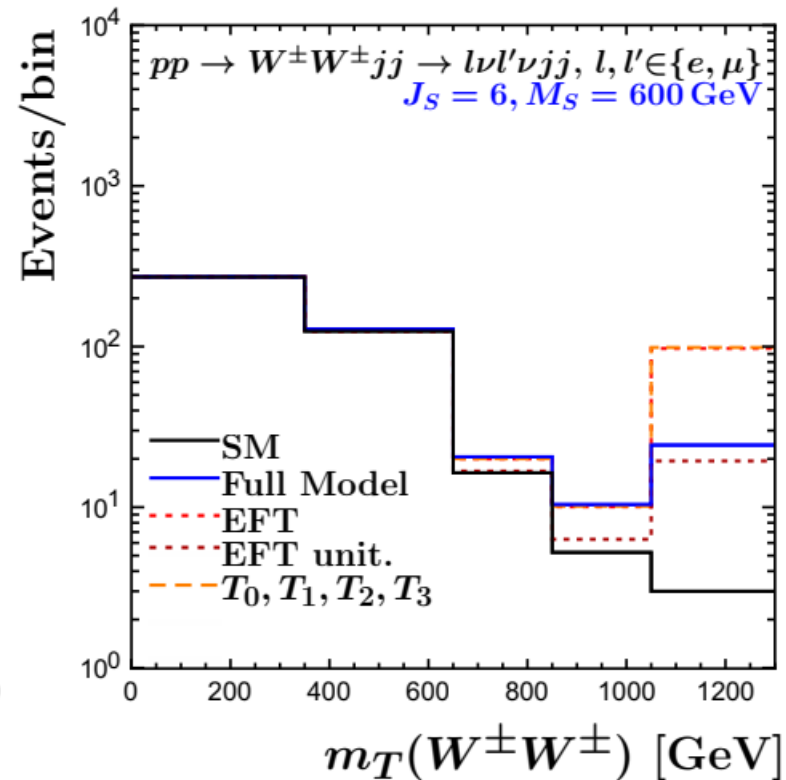
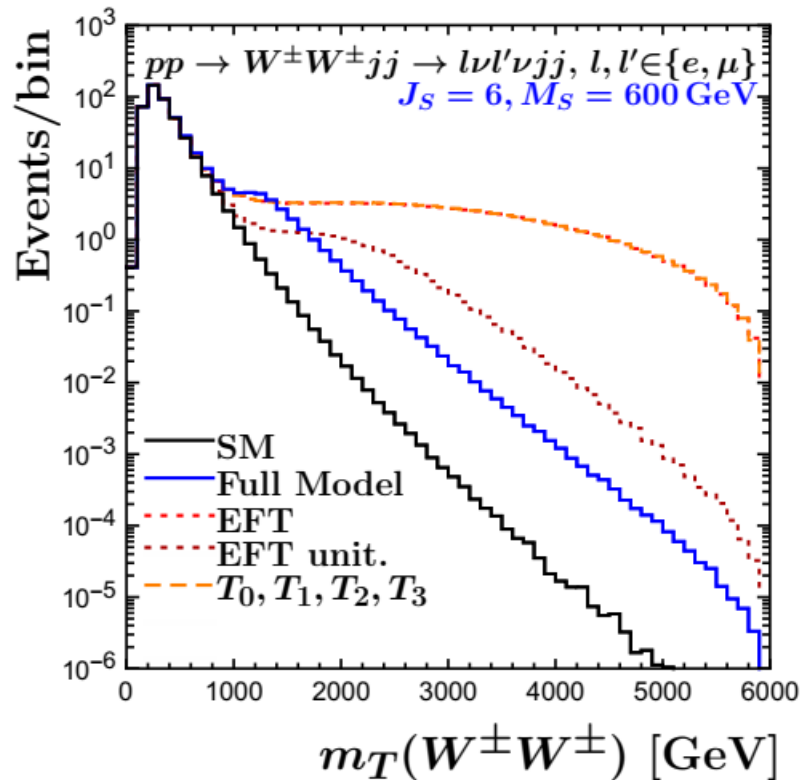
Disclaimer: VBFNLO implementation is approximate,  
 based on on-shell  $VV \rightarrow VV$  amplitudes

# Transverse mass distribution of leptons + pTmiss



Only transverse mass can be reconstructed experimentally for same sign W pairs

# Transverse mass in ssWW for scalar case



Right hand plot shows binning of CMS publication:

- Unitarized EFT: BSM effects mostly in last bin
- Full model: visible effects extend to lower transverse mass

# How UV-complete is the model? A caveat....

- Extra matter field gives large positive contribution to SU(2)  $\beta$ -function

$$\alpha_2(Q^2) = \frac{\alpha_2(m_F^2)}{1 + \frac{\alpha_2(m_F^2)}{4\pi} \beta_0 \log \frac{Q^2}{m_F^2}} \quad \text{with} \quad \beta_0 = \frac{19}{6} - \frac{4}{3} \sum T_R \quad \text{and} \quad T_R = \frac{J_F(J_F + 1)(2J_F + 1)}{3}$$

- SU(2) gauge coupling diverges at Landau pole, which is well below Planck scale for  $J_F \geq 2$  and  $J_S \geq 3$ :

$$J_F = 4 : \quad Q_{Pole} = 11.4 m_F$$

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$$J_F = 3 : \quad Q_{Pole} = 240 m_F$$

$$J_F = 2 : \quad Q_{Pole} = 10^8 m_F$$

- Embedding of high J multiplets in larger gauge group makes matters worse since contribution to beta function grows faster than negative Yang-Mills term due to high dimensionality of additional matter multiplets
- UV-completeness up to Planck scale  $\Rightarrow J_F < 2$  even with only one additional fermion multiplet

## ... and consequences for VBS

- Observation of large loop-induced anomalous couplings (T- and also M-operators) at the LHC kills perturbative/weak coupling extrapolation of the SM well below the Planck scale with major consequences, e.g.
  1. Nearby Landau pole
  2. No GUT
  3. Lower Planck scale due to extra dimensions
- **Alternatively: LHC observation of anomalies in transverse VBS is highly unlikely**
  - ➔ huge reduction of number of anomalous couplings which need to be considered in VBS analyses: S-operators are sufficient as long as experimental uncertainties are above a few percent



# Conclusions

- There are many formally UV-complete models which generate EFT operators with field strength tensors at low energy
- They require existence of extra SU(2) scalar or fermion (or gauge boson) multiplets which generate these EFT operators via 1-loop contributions
- Sizable effects in VBS require very high multiplicity of BSM fields, like SU(2) nonets (quintets may do): rarely expected in BSM models
- Model is generic: existence of additional SU(2) multiplets in loops is also necessary condition for EFT operators with W field strength
- Further complexity does not change basic result, e.g.
  - Additional confining gauge interaction of multiplets expected to average out (analogous to quark-hadron duality in QCD)
  - Perturbative coupling of two multiplets to Higgs doublet field generates modest multiplet splitting (suppressed by  $(v/M_R)^2$ ) which smears out threshold structure

## Conclusions continued...

- VBS signal is most dramatic close to threshold, not at highest energy  
=> do not concentrate efforts on highest energy bin
- VBS is competitive with other searches for this type of model:
  - $q\bar{q} \rightarrow VV$  is not as sensitive due to mere  $J_R^3$  growth and cancellations
  - Direct search for the extra multiplets is hampered by compressed spectra
  - Drell-Yan process is most likely competitor
- EFT as tool for describing BSM effects is of only limited use in describing processes with vast dynamic range such as VBS at the LHC  
=> use models discussed here as alternative benchmark for VBS studies

# Backup

## Full set of dimension 8 operators (Eboli et al.)

- Distinguish by dominant set of vector boson helicities
- Longitudinal operators: derivatives of Higgs doublet field

$$\mathcal{O}_{S_0} = \left[ (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger D_\nu \Phi \right] \times \left[ (D^\mu \Phi)^\dagger D^\nu \Phi \right]$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{S_1} = \left[ (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger D^\mu \Phi \right] \times \left[ (D_\nu \Phi)^\dagger D^\nu \Phi \right]$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{S_2} = \left[ (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger D_\nu \Phi \right] \times \left[ (D^\nu \Phi)^\dagger D^\mu \Phi \right]$$

Building blocks are:  $D_\mu \Phi \equiv \left( \partial_\mu + i \frac{g'}{2} B_\mu + i g W_\mu^i \frac{\tau^i}{2} \right) \Phi$  with  $\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{v+H}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$

$$W_{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2} g \tau^I (\partial_\mu W_\nu^i - \partial_\nu W_\mu^i - g \epsilon_{ijk} W_\mu^j W_\nu^k),$$

$$B_{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2} g' (\partial_\mu B_\nu - \partial_\nu B_\mu).$$

# Field strength $\leftrightarrow$ transverse polarizations

## Transverse operators

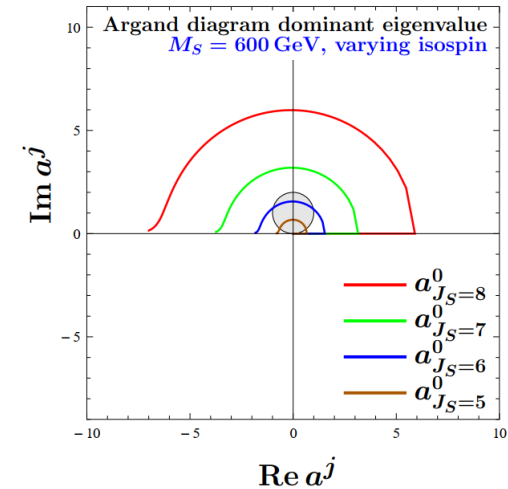
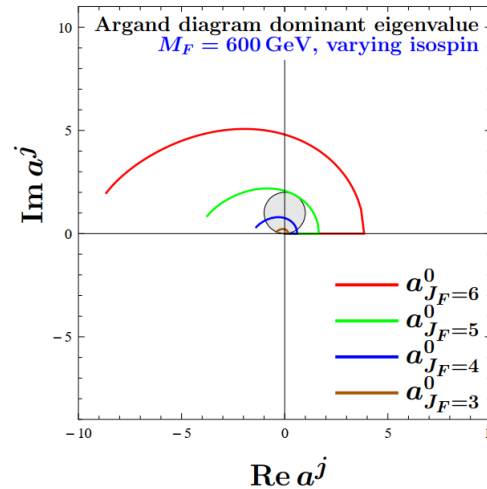
$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{O}_{T_0} &= \text{Tr} [W_{\mu\nu} W^{\mu\nu}] \times \text{Tr} [W_{\alpha\beta} W^{\alpha\beta}] \\
\mathcal{O}_{T_1} &= \text{Tr} [W_{\alpha\nu} W^{\mu\beta}] \times \text{Tr} [W_{\mu\beta} W^{\alpha\nu}] \\
\mathcal{O}_{T_2} &= \text{Tr} [W_{\alpha\mu} W^{\mu\beta}] \times \text{Tr} [W_{\beta\nu} W^{\nu\alpha}] \\
\mathcal{O}_{T_5} &= \text{Tr} [W_{\mu\nu} W^{\mu\nu}] \times B_{\alpha\beta} B^{\alpha\beta}, \\
\mathcal{O}_{T_6} &= \text{Tr} [W_{\alpha\nu} W^{\mu\beta}] \times B_{\mu\beta} B^{\alpha\nu}, \\
\mathcal{O}_{T_7} &= \text{Tr} [W_{\alpha\mu} W^{\mu\beta}] \times B_{\beta\nu} B^{\nu\alpha}, \\
\mathcal{O}_{T_8} &= B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} B_{\alpha\beta} B^{\alpha\beta}, \\
\mathcal{O}_{T_9} &= B_{\alpha\mu} B^{\mu\beta} B_{\beta\nu} B^{\nu\alpha}.
\end{aligned}$$

## Mixed: transverse-longitudinal

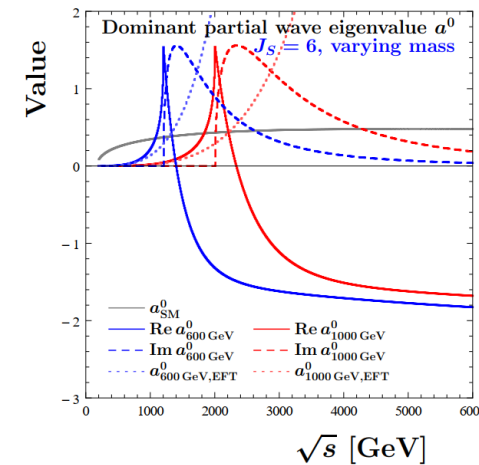
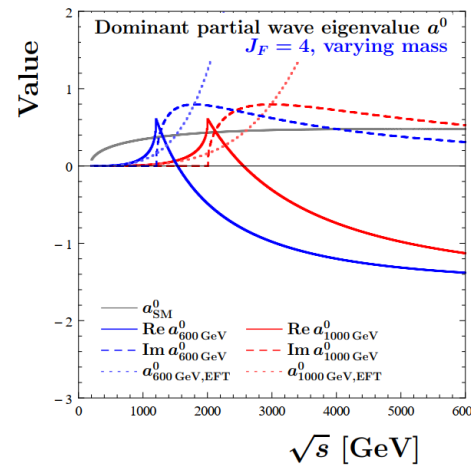
$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{O}_{M_0} &= \text{Tr} [W_{\mu\nu} W^{\mu\nu}] \times \left[ (D_\beta \Phi)^\dagger D^\beta \Phi \right], \\
\mathcal{O}_{M_1} &= \text{Tr} [W_{\mu\nu} W^{\nu\beta}] \times \left[ (D_\beta \Phi)^\dagger D^\mu \Phi \right], \\
\mathcal{O}_{M_2} &= [B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}] \times \left[ (D_\beta \Phi)^\dagger D^\beta \Phi \right], \\
\mathcal{O}_{M_3} &= [B_{\mu\nu} B^{\nu\beta}] \times \left[ (D_\beta \Phi)^\dagger D^\mu \Phi \right], \\
\mathcal{O}_{M_4} &= \left[ (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger W_{\beta\nu} D^\mu \Phi \right] \times B^{\beta\nu}, \\
\mathcal{O}_{M_5} &= \left[ (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger W_{\beta\nu} D^\nu \Phi \right] \times B^{\beta\mu}, \\
\mathcal{O}_{M_7} &= \left[ (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger W_{\beta\nu} W^{\beta\mu} D^\nu \Phi \right].
\end{aligned}$$

# Unitarity considerations limit size of isospin representations

- Argand diagram for dominant  $VV \rightarrow VV$  partial wave amplitude: At large  $J_R$ , model becomes non-perturbative

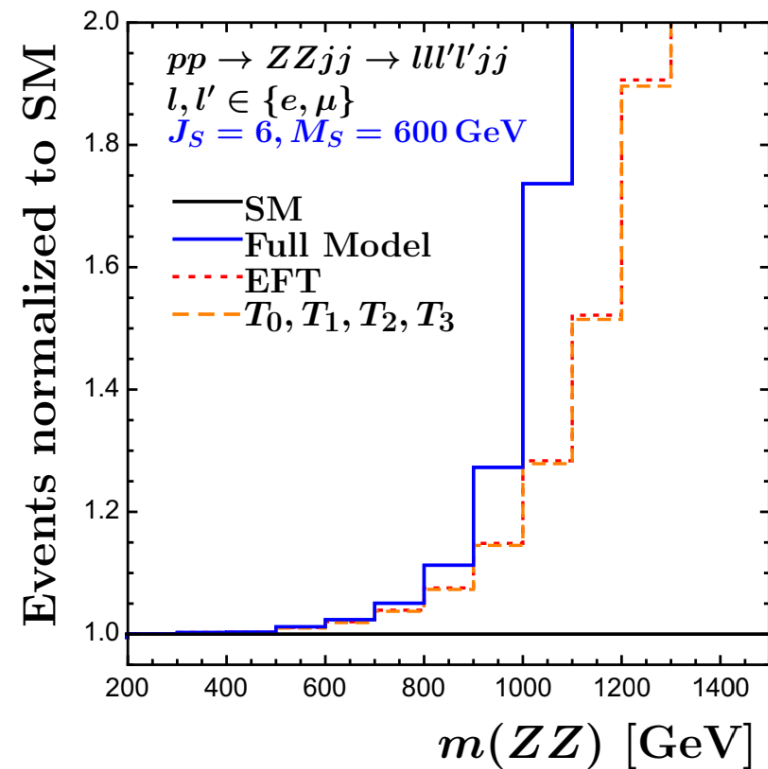
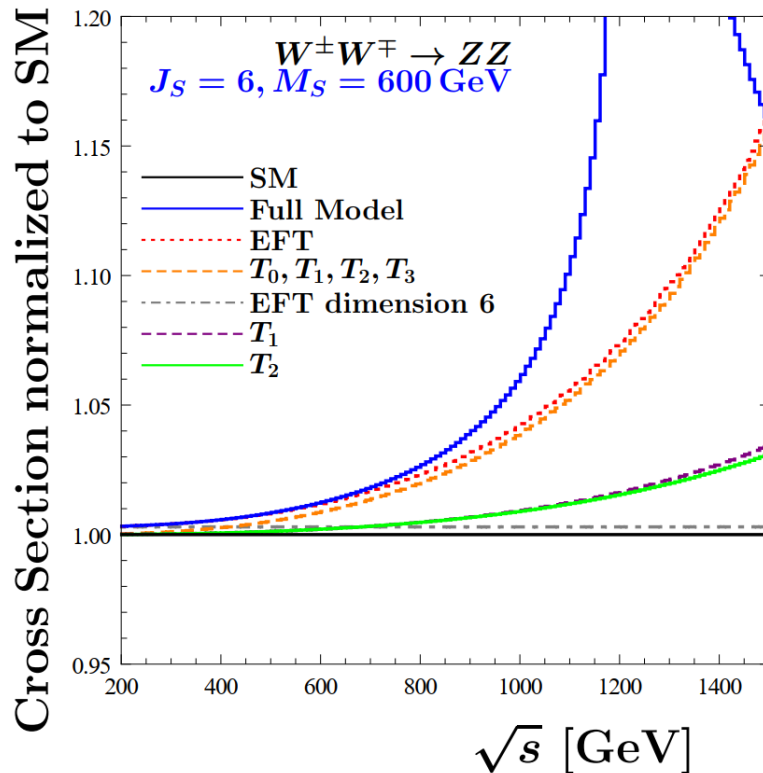


- Energy dependence of dominant partial wave amplitude



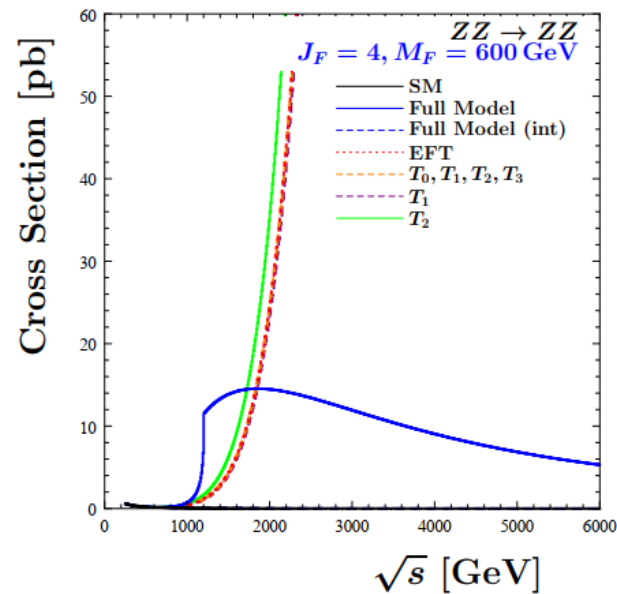
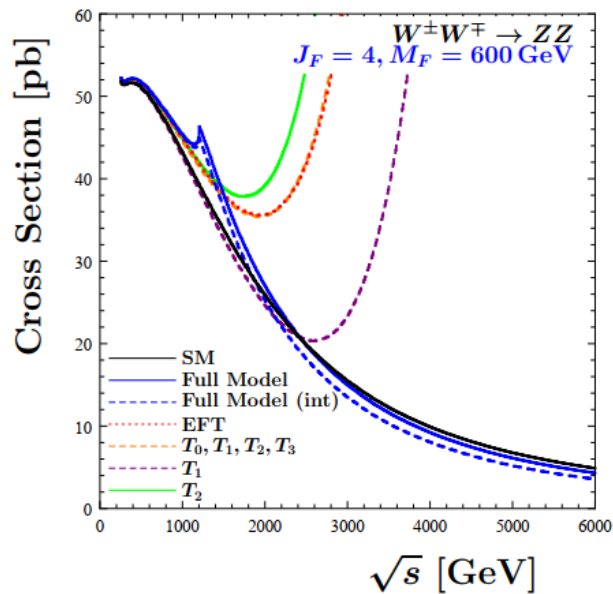
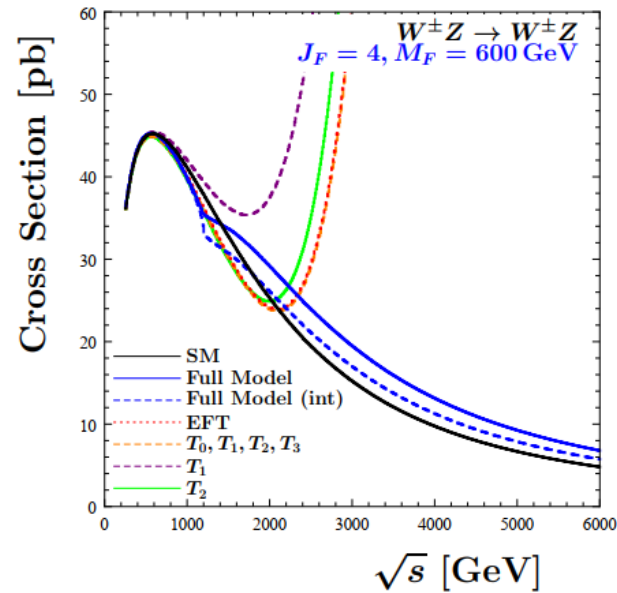
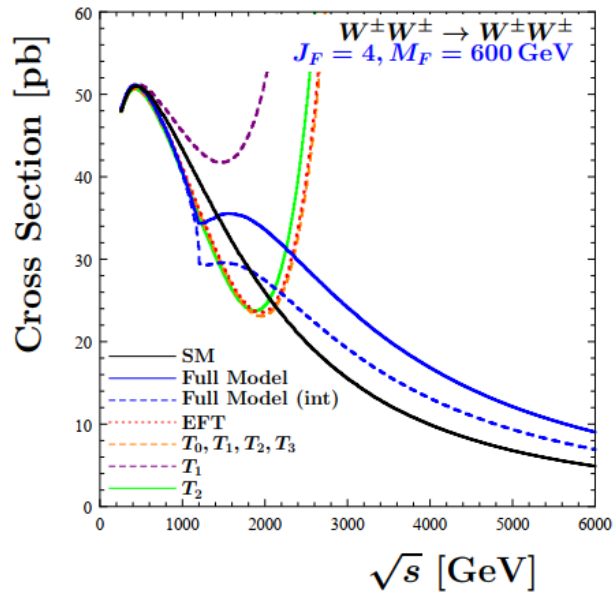
Consider  $J_F \leq 4$  and  $J_S \leq 6$  as range of perturbative domain

# EFT validity range for ZZ production in VBS



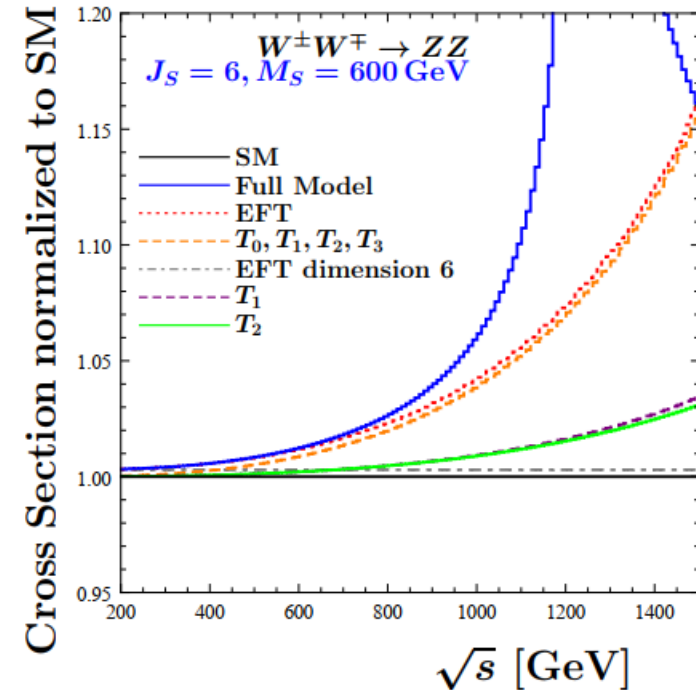
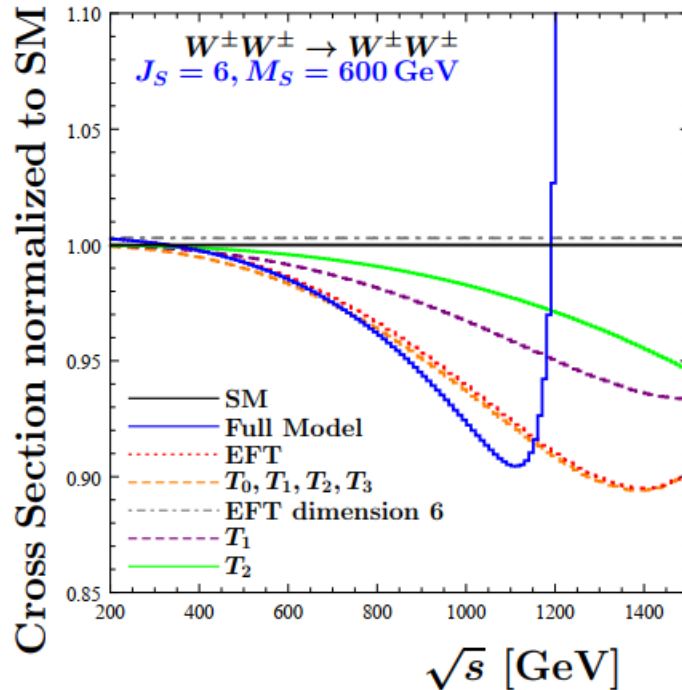
- EFT is valid only well below threshold at  $2 M_S = 1200 \text{ GeV}$  (as expected)
- Deviations from SM barely reach 10% within EFT validity range, even for  $J_S = 6$
- Because of  $J_R^5$  vs  $J_R^3$  growth, dim-8 terms are much more important than dim-6



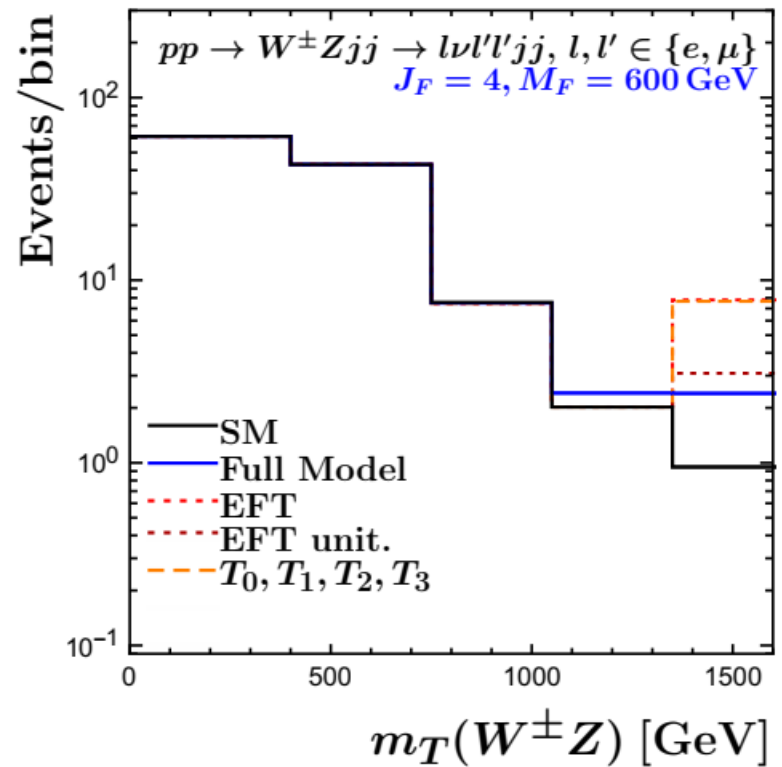
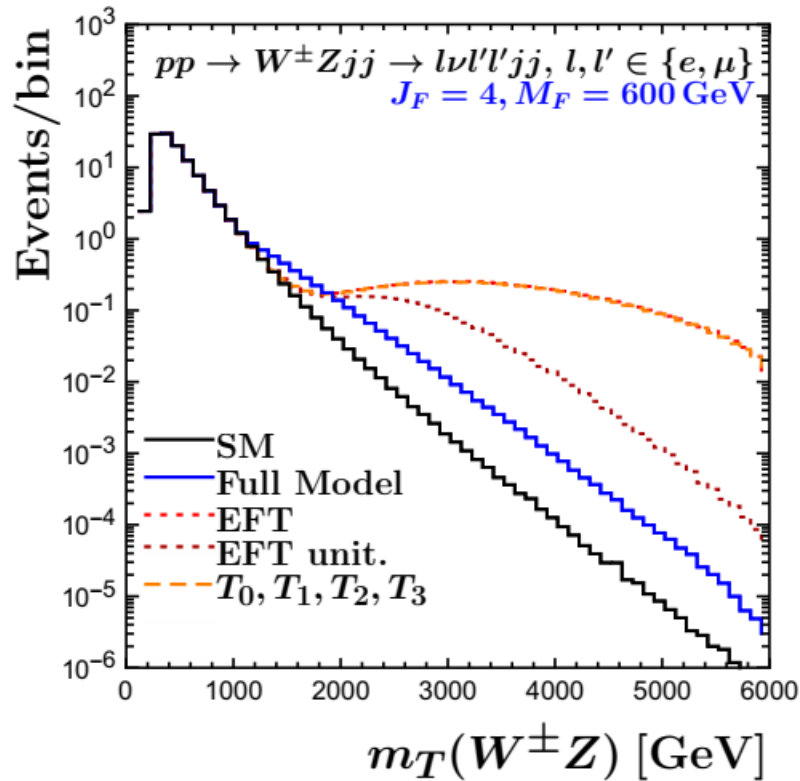


Onshell  
cross  
sections

# .... and for scalars in the loop



- Dimension 6 operator contributions again negligible
- Good agreement between full model and dim-8 EFT well below threshold
- Deviations from SM below 10% in EFT validity region



# Relative importance of terms (thesis Jannis Lang)

$\mathcal{M}_i$	$2\text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_{SM}\mathcal{M}_i)$	$\frac{s}{\Lambda^2} \rightarrow [\frac{(2m_W)^2}{M_F^2}, 1]$	$ \mathcal{M}_i ^2$	$\frac{s}{\Lambda^2} \rightarrow [\frac{(2m_W)^2}{M_F^2}, 1]$
$\mathcal{M}_{f_{WWW}}$	$\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2} \frac{s}{\Lambda^2} J_R^3$	[0.01616, 0.34481]	$\left(\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}\right)^2 \frac{s^2}{\Lambda^4} J_R^6$	[0.00026, 0.11889]
$\mathcal{M}_{f_{Ti}}$	$\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2} \frac{s^2}{\Lambda^4} J_R^5$	[0.01893, 8.62022]	$\left(\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}\right)^2 \frac{s^4}{\Lambda^8} J_R^{10}$	[0.00036, 74.3081]
$\mathcal{M}_{f_{WWW}^2}$	$\left(\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}\right)^2 \frac{s^2}{\Lambda^4} J_R^6$	[0.00026, 0.11889]	$\left(\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}\right)^4 \frac{s^4}{\Lambda^8} J_R^{12}$	[ $6.8 \cdot 10^{-8}$ , 0.01414]
$\mathcal{M}_{SM}^{NLO}$	$\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}$	[0.00276, 0.00276]	$\left(\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}\right)^2$	[ $7.6 \cdot 10^{-6}$ , $7.6 \cdot 10^{-6}$ ]
$\mathcal{M}_{f_{WWW}}^{NLO}$	$\left(\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}\right)^2 \frac{s}{\Lambda^2} J_R^3$	[0.00004, 0.00095]	$\left(\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}\right)^4 \frac{s^2}{\Lambda^4} J_R^6$	[ $2.0 \cdot 10^{-9}$ , $9.0 \cdot 10^{-7}$ ]
$\mathcal{M}_{f_{Ti}}^{NLO}$	$\left(\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}\right)^2 \frac{s^2}{\Lambda^4} J_R^5$	[0.00005, 0.02378]	$\left(\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}\right)^4 \frac{s^4}{\Lambda^8} J_R^{10}$	[ $2.7 \cdot 10^{-9}$ , 0.00057]

Table 5.1.: Counting of additional factors in EFT perturbative expansion of the cross section arising from one-loop calculation/matching (factor  $\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2}$ ) and EFT expansion (factor  $\frac{s}{\Lambda^2}$ ). The powers of isospin  $J_R$  follow from the representation factor of the NP fields, leading to an enhanced coupling and, therefore, enhanced contribution to the cross section. The explicit values are estimated for  $g = 0.66$ ,  $J_R = J_F = 5$ ,  $\Lambda = M_F = 750$  GeV and the estimated limits of the EFT validity region given by the kinematic threshold  $s = (2m_W)^2$  as lower bound and the NP energy scale  $\Lambda$  as higher bound.

# Changing the mass of the heavy multiplets

