

Search for new physics using unsupervised machine learning for anomaly detection in $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV pp collisions recorded by the ATLAS detector at the LHC

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on behalf of the ATLAS Collaboration



BOOST 2023
August 1, 2023



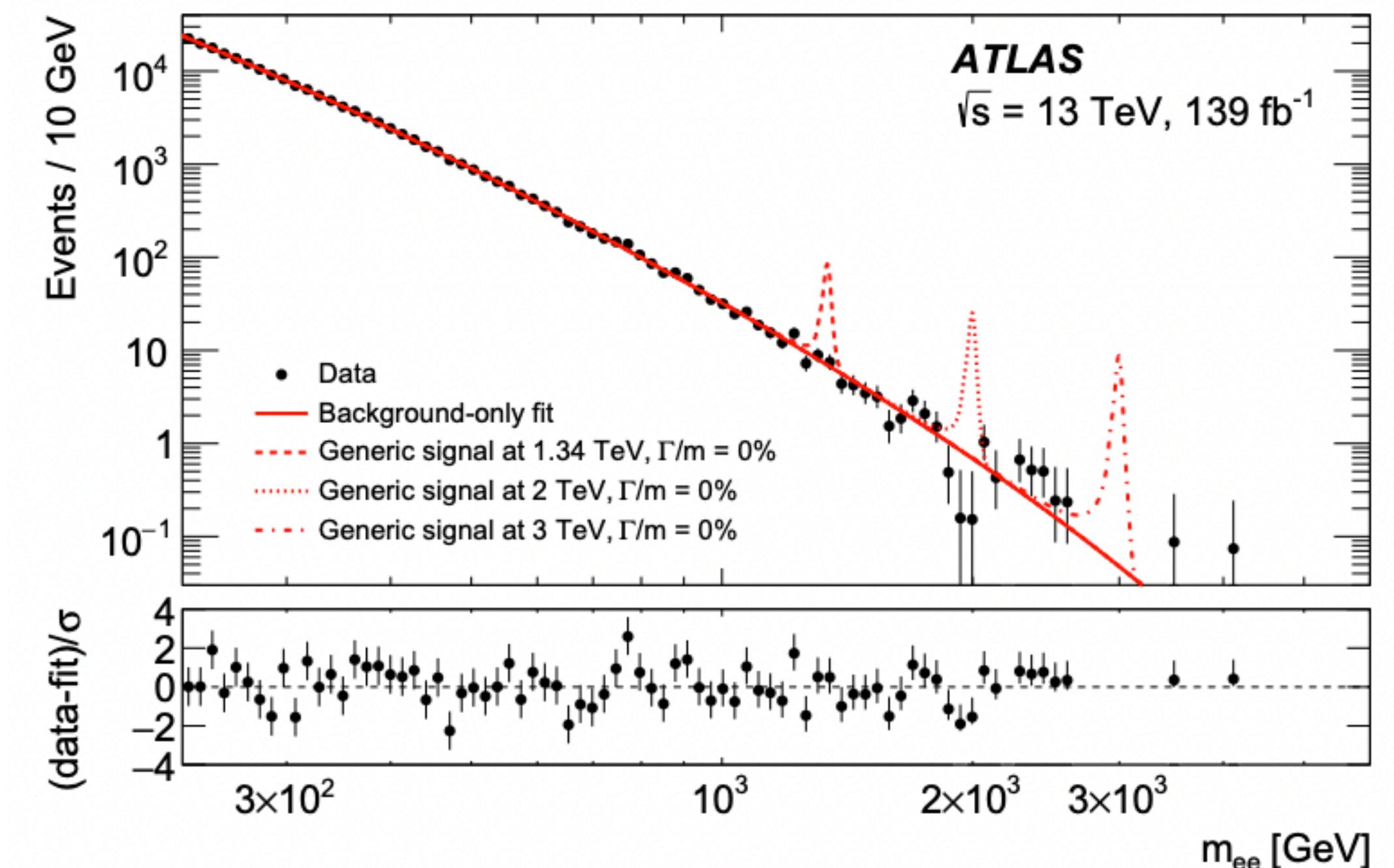
ATLAS Searches: Model Dependent

Two general approaches:

- Model dependent and Model independent Searches

- Choose a well-motivated New Physics Scenario with a signal model
- Maximize the search sensitivity based on signal properties
- Most sensitive approach for a particular new physics scenario
→ Unlikely to probe a different scenario

ATLAS dilepton Resonance Search
[Phys. Lett. B 796 \(2019\) 68](#)



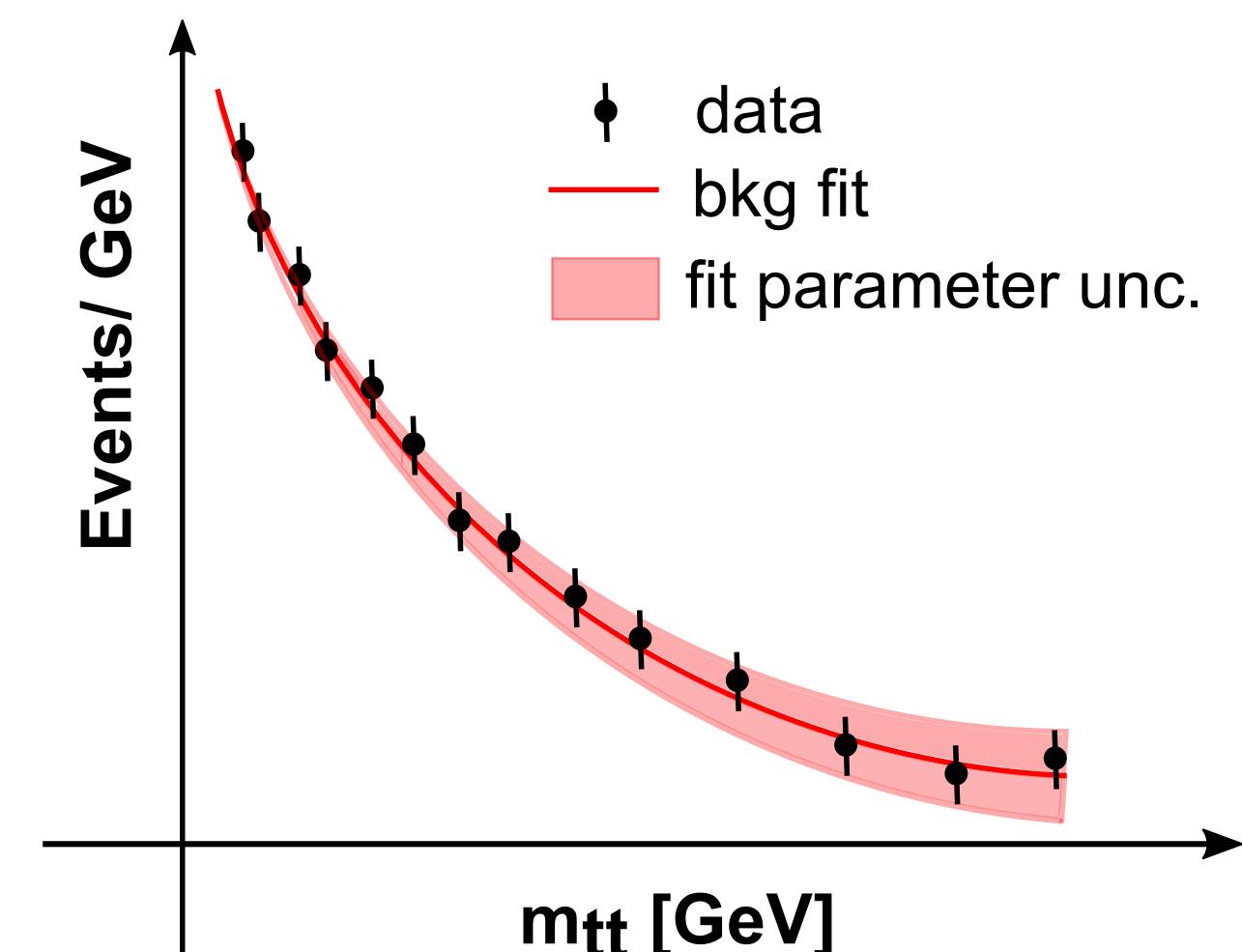
ATLAS Searches: Model Independent

Two general approaches:

- Model dependent and Model independent Searches

- Minimal set of assumptions on the signal properties
- Look for deviations from the background-only hypothesis while searching the data
- Not optimal for a specific signal hypothesis, but likely to be sensitive to wide range of signal models

Estimate the background (SM) and look for deviation in data



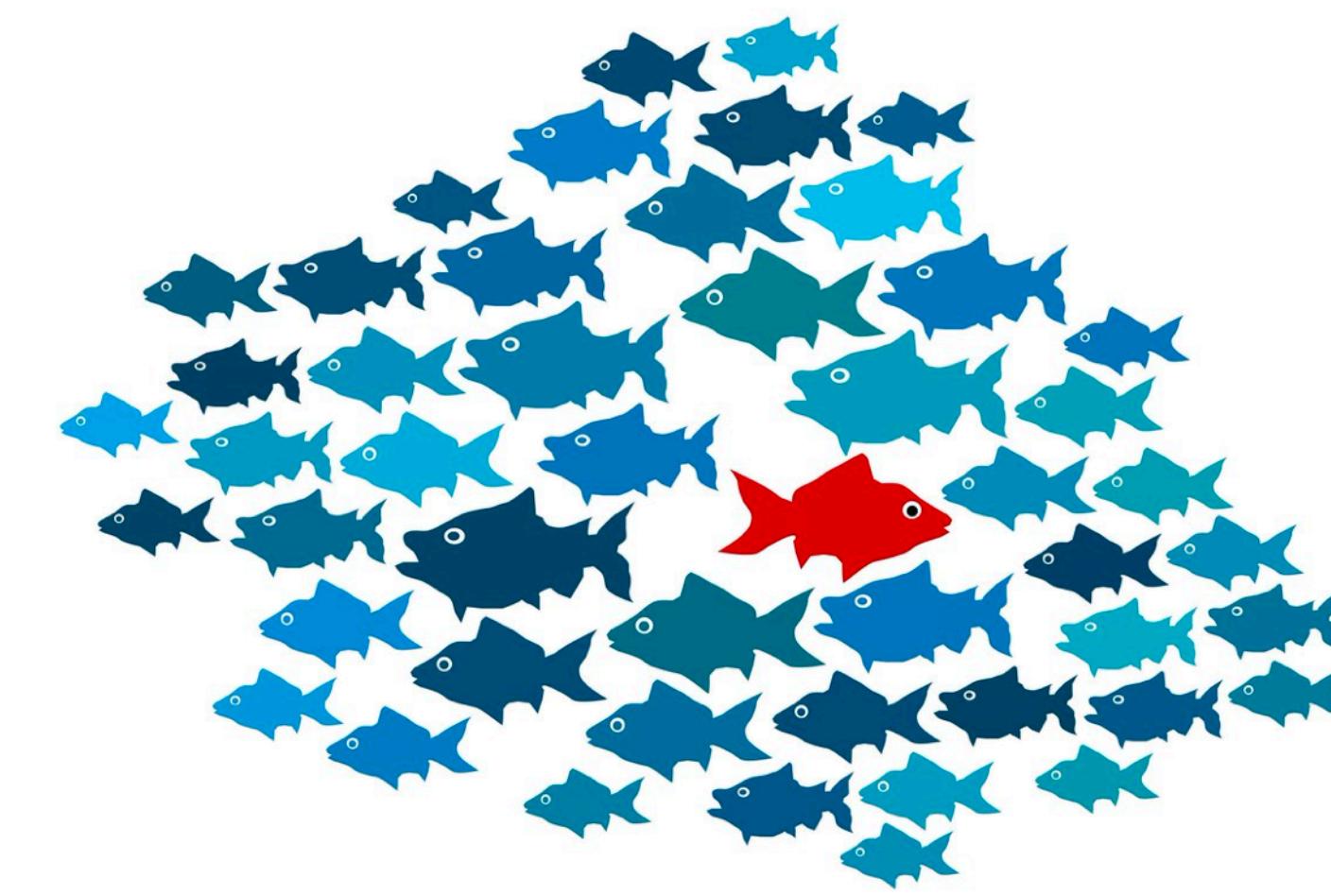
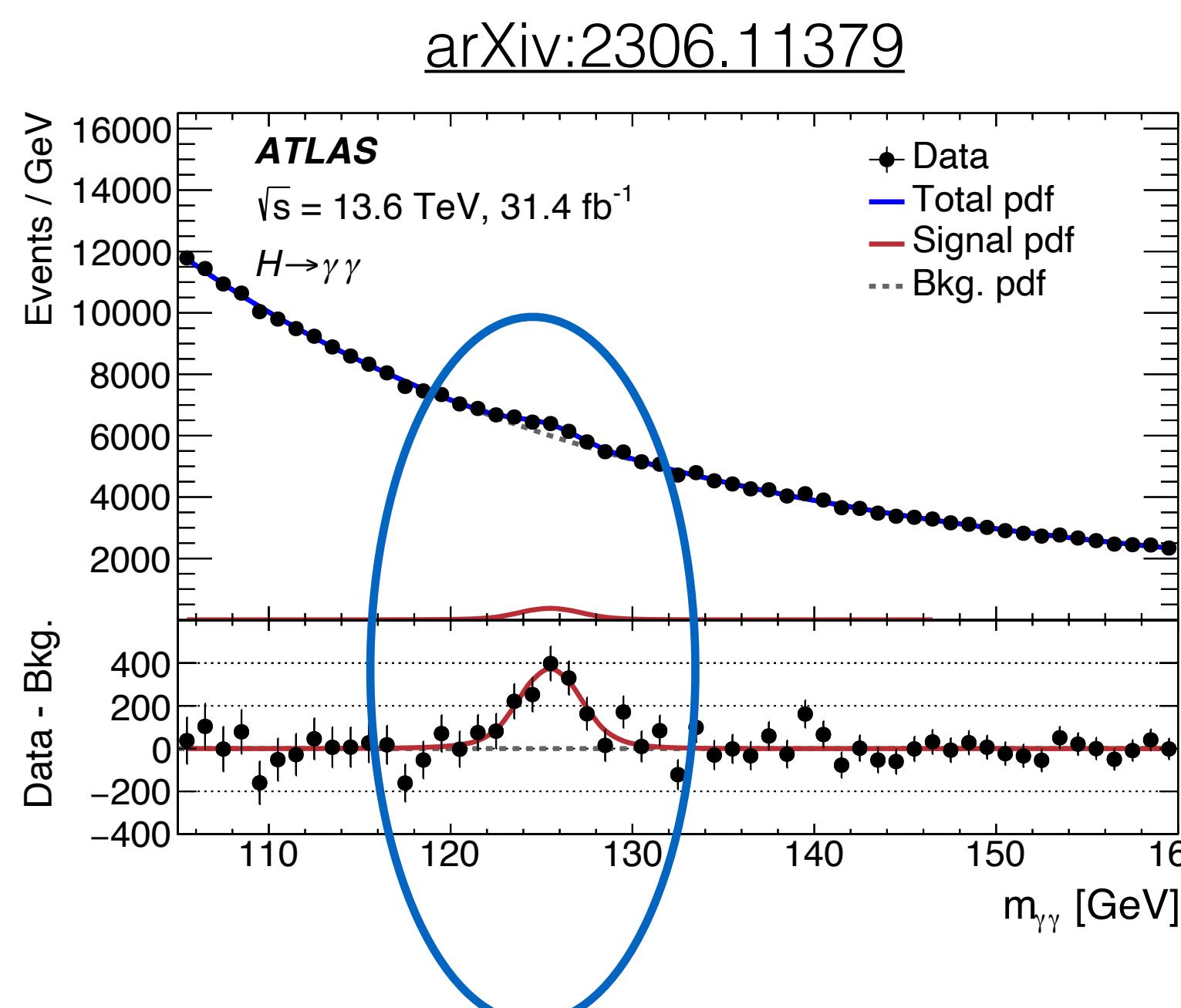
This talk will highlight some results based on model-independent anomaly search

What is an Anomaly?

Anomaly detection: Identify data with features that appear inconsistent with those of the majority of the dataset

It is often associated to outlier detection

For HEP application: A New Physics signal will show up as an ensemble of events rather than a single outlier



Usual approaches:

- **Unsupervised*** = no labels
- **Weakly-supervised*** = noisy labels
- **Semi-supervised** = partial labels

* in this talk

Weakly Supervised Method

Weakly supervised = noisy labels

Let's assume we have:

Two mixed samples of events with no label information

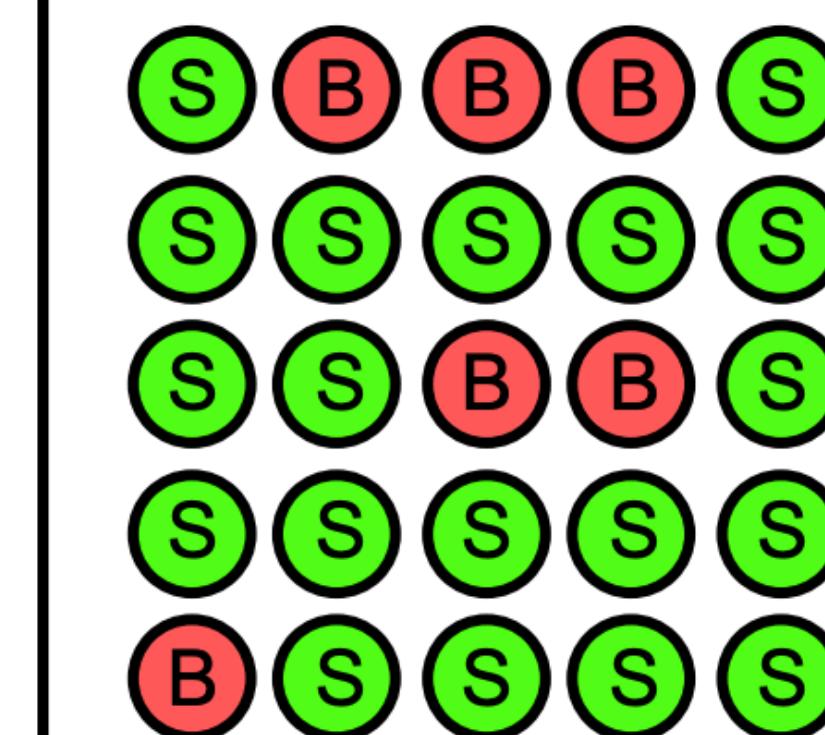
CWoLa (**Classification Without Labels**)

method shows:

It is possible to train a classifier to distinguish red from green

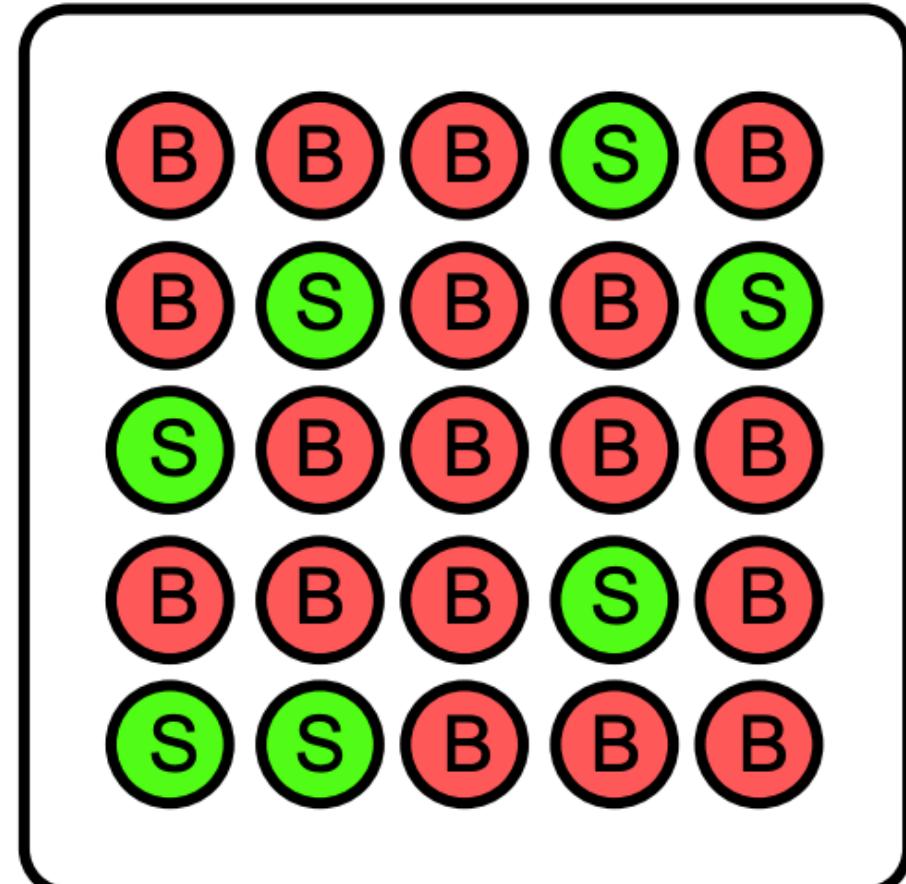
Signal-enhanced sample

$$S \gg B$$



Bkg-dominated sample

$$S \ll B$$



Training on impure samples (different admixture of S and B) is asymptotically equivalent of training on pure samples

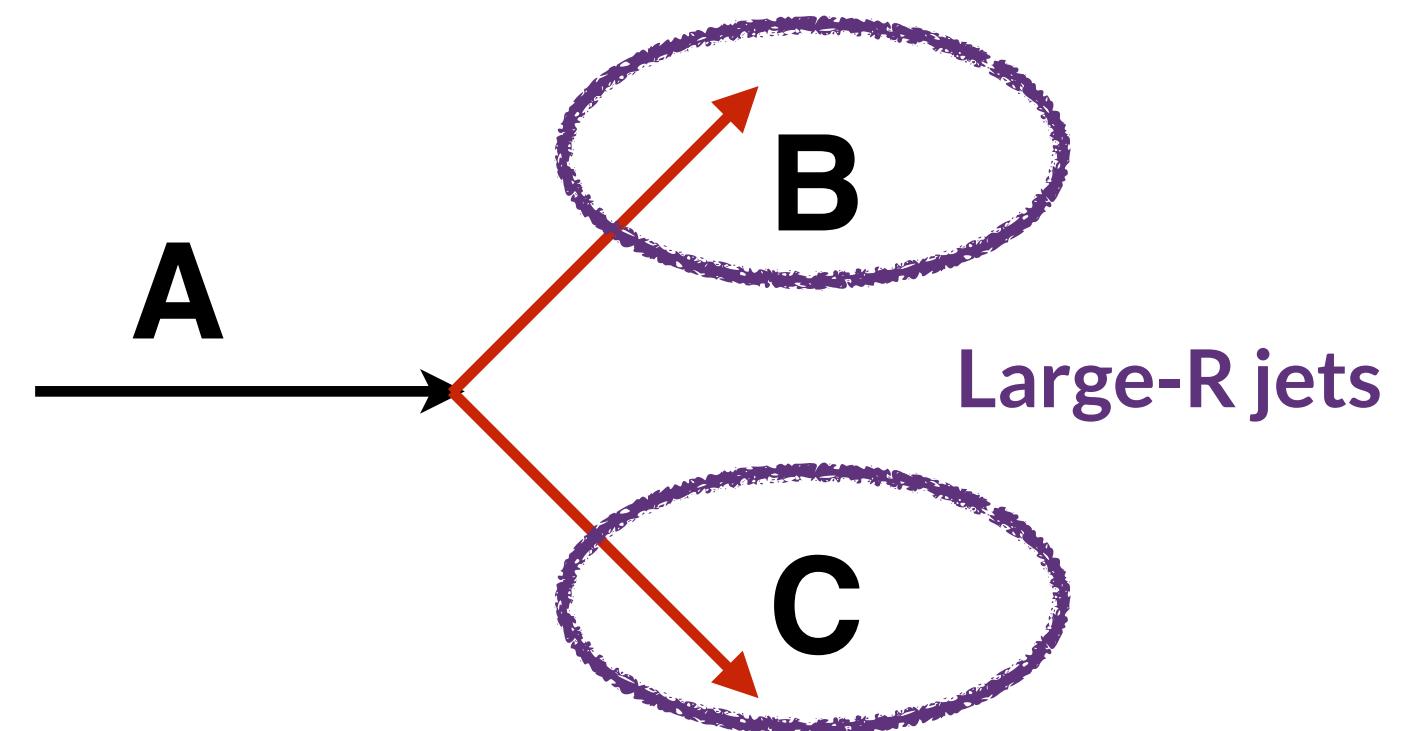
Dijet Resonance Search with CWoLa

Generic $A \rightarrow BC$ search

where A, B and C can be BSM particles

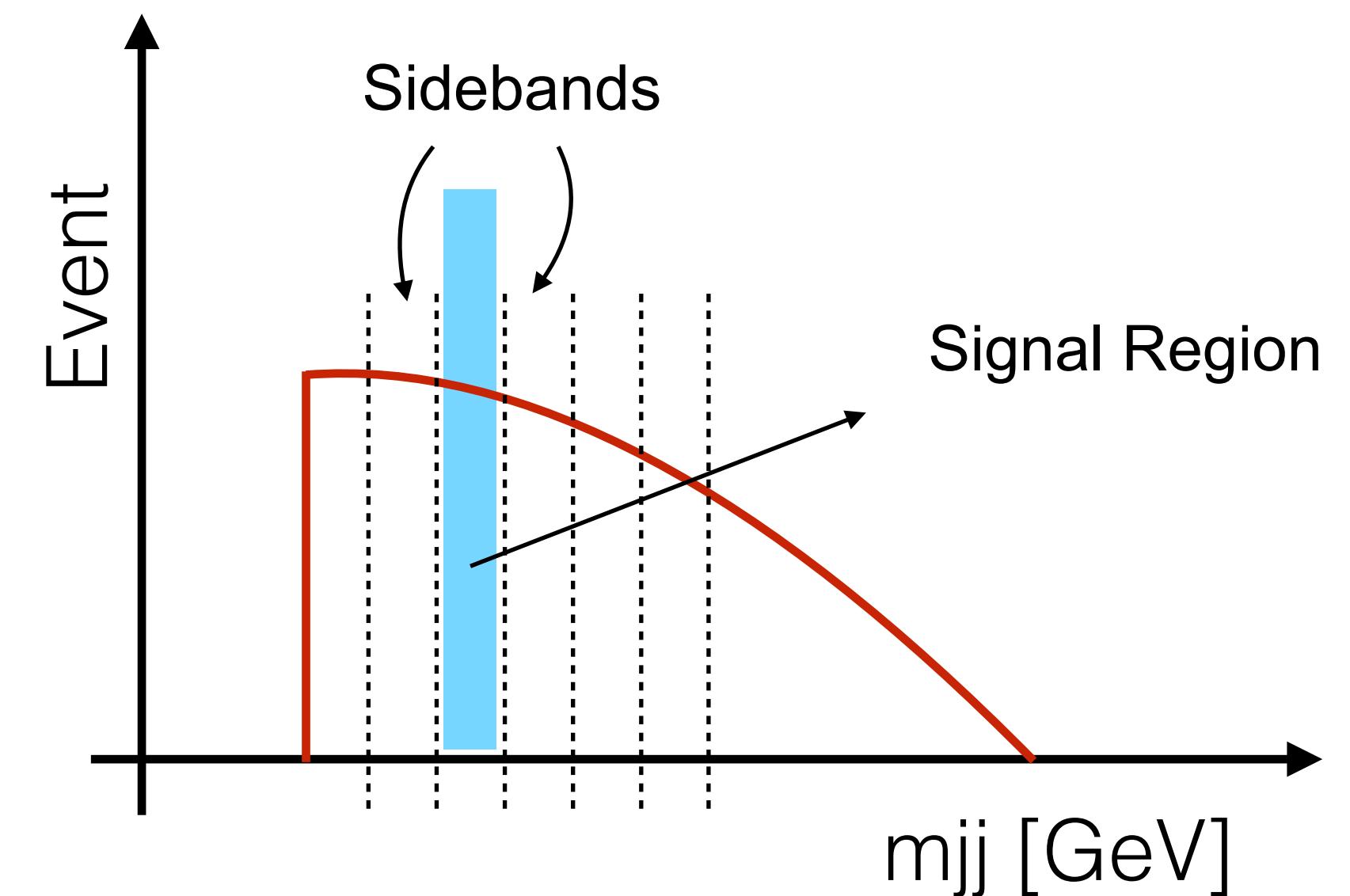
CWoLa method requires **two samples that are admixtures of S and B** with different fractions of each

Phys. Rev. Lett. 125 (2020) 131801



Mixed Samples: Signal Regions and Sidebands

- Signal regions in m_{JJ} with width $20\% \times m_{JJ}$
- Corresponds to the detector resolution for a narrow resonance
- The signal regions are labeled 0–7 and have boundaries: [1.90, 2.28, 2.74, 3.28, 3.94, 4.73, 5.68, 6.81, 8.17] TeV.
- Classifier training: signal vs two sidebands
- Signal Regions: bins 1–6



Analysis Pre-selection

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Trigger: Lowest unpre-scaled large-R jet trigger (offline $p_T > 500$ GeV)
- Trimmed large-R jets

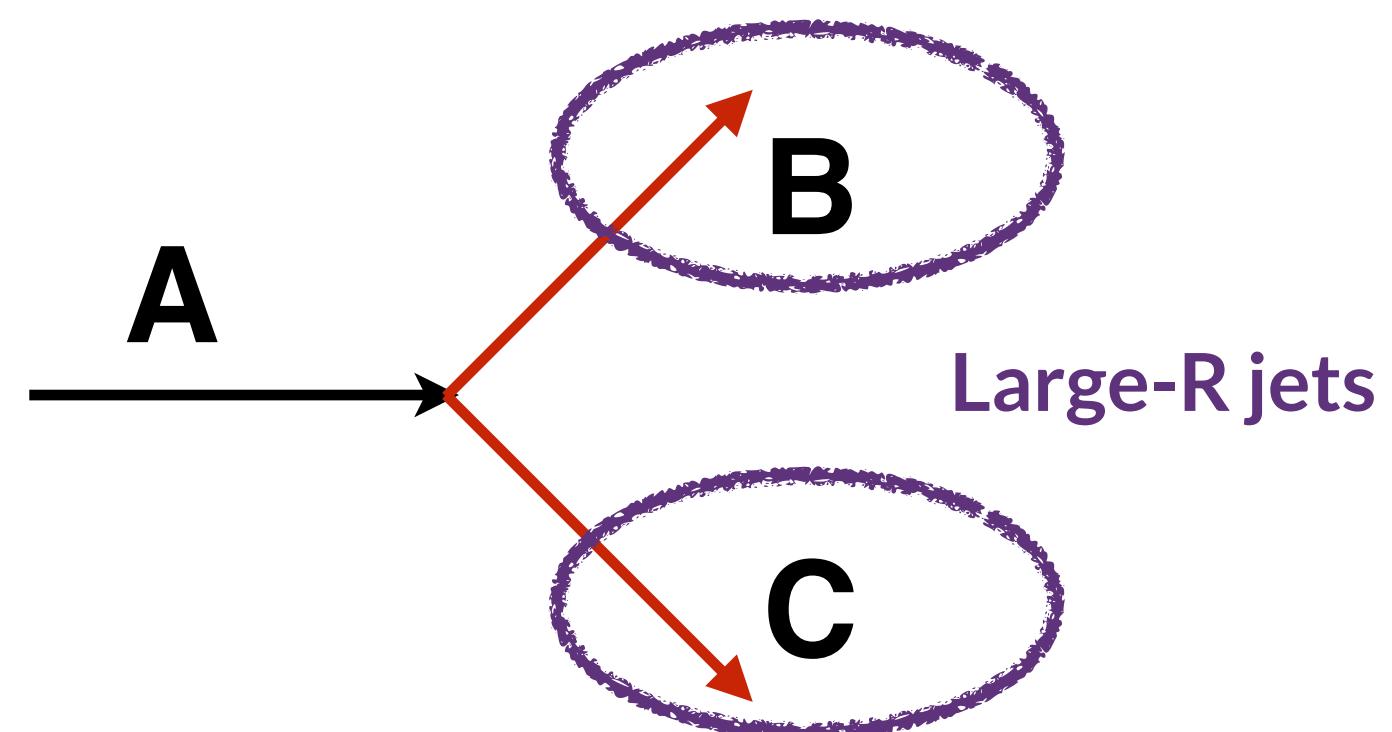
Dataset: Full Run 2 (2015-2018) (139 fb^{-1})

Selections:

1. Two jets with $p_T > 200$ GeV
 - I. leading jet $p_T > 500$ GeV
2. Jet mass > 30 GeV and $m < 500$ GeV (limit learning differences in tails of distribution)
3. $|y_1 - y_2| < 1.2$ (rapidity difference)

Mass range: $1.1 - \sim 8$ TeV (fit range: $1.8 - 8.2$ TeV)

Mass bins: Assume narrow width, bins set by dijet mass resolution (20% of m_{JJ})



Neural Network Performance

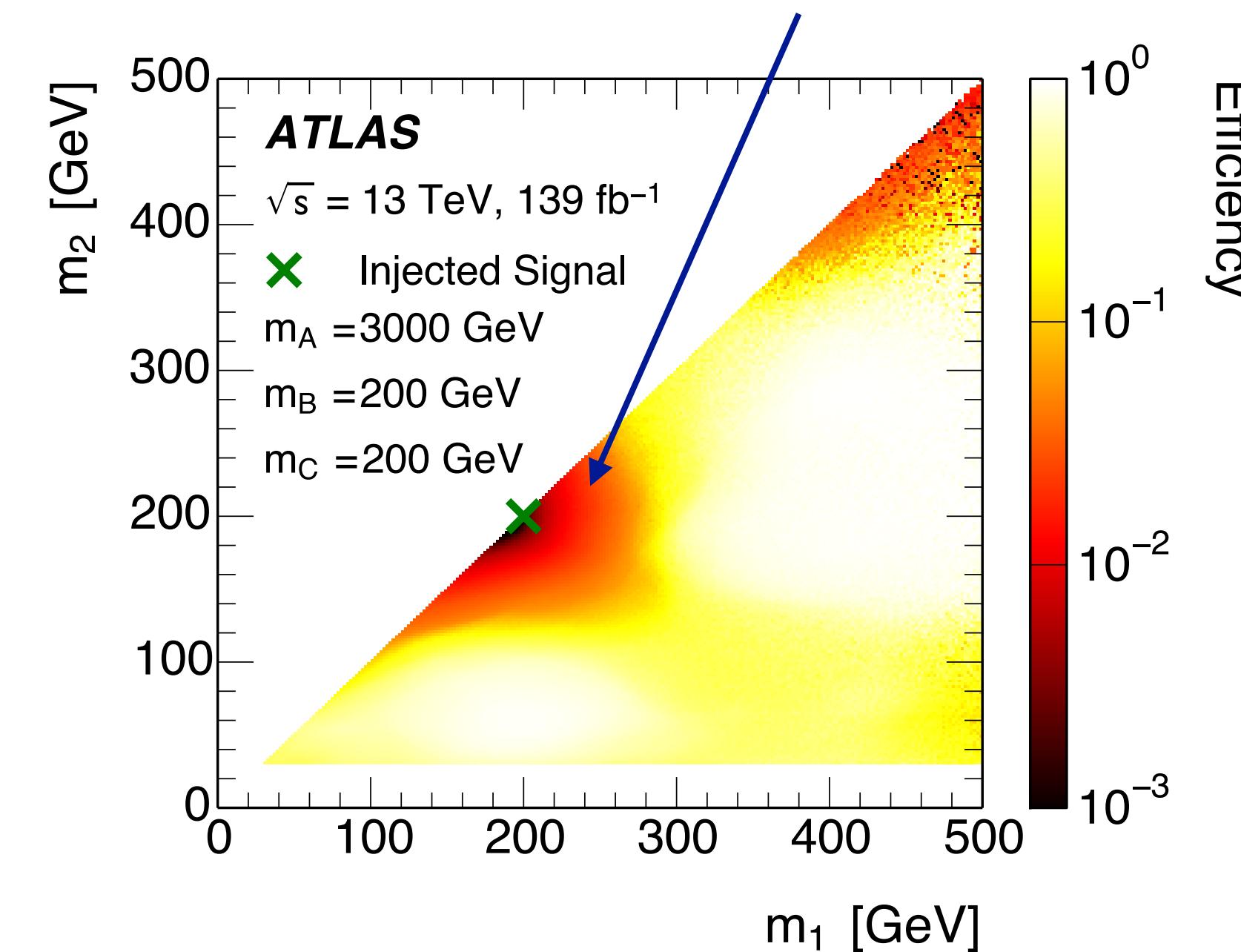
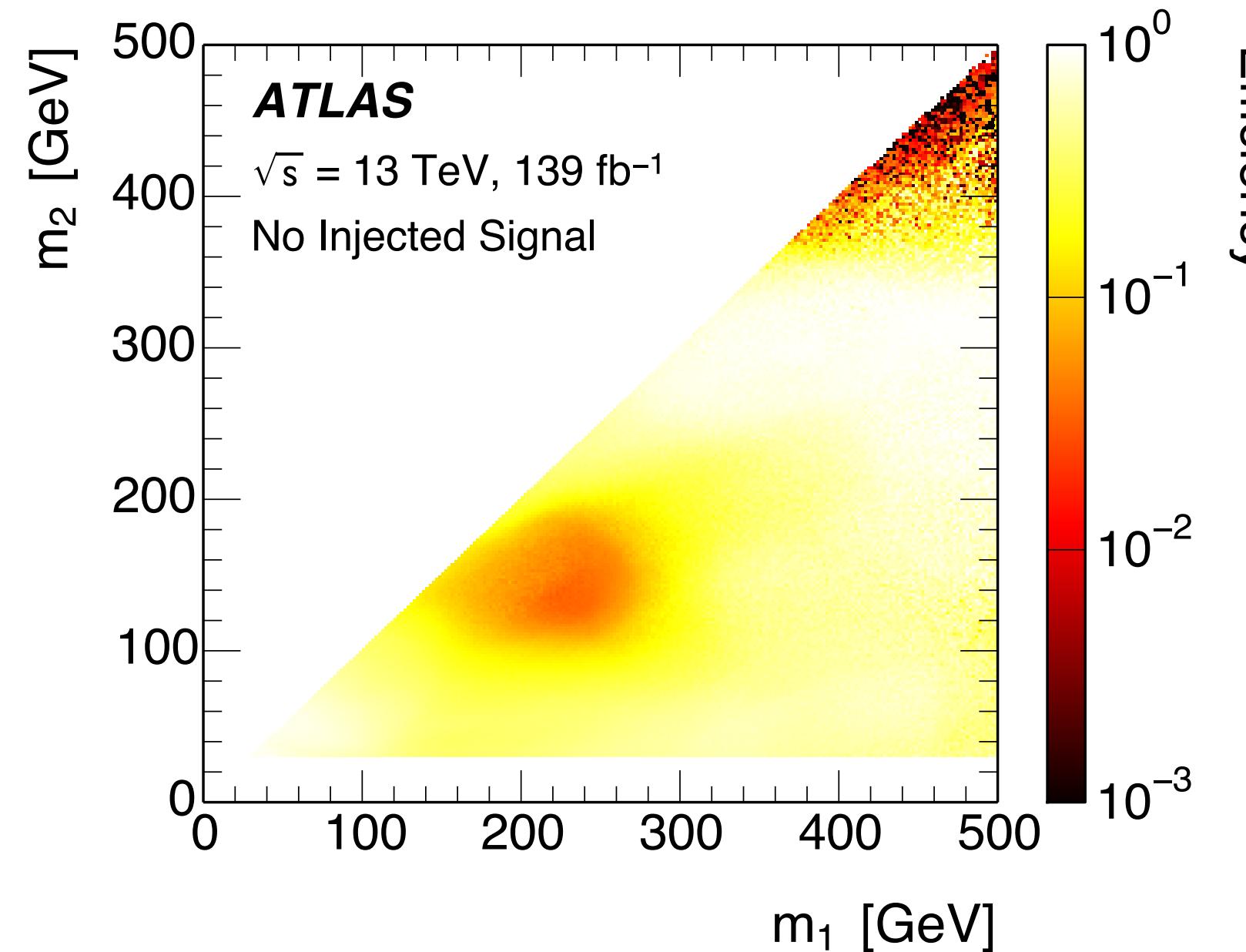
- DNN is trained two jet masses: m_1 and m_2
- Thresholds applied on NN outputs = Efficiency (ϵ)

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Two different selections:

1. $\epsilon = 0.01 \rightarrow$ keeps 1% most signal-region-like events
2. $\epsilon = 0.1 \rightarrow$ keeps 10% most signal-region-like events

The NN score is able to catch the signal if it is present in data



Background fitting

Apply classifier score cuts: enhance signal sensitivity

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Background Estimation: functional fits

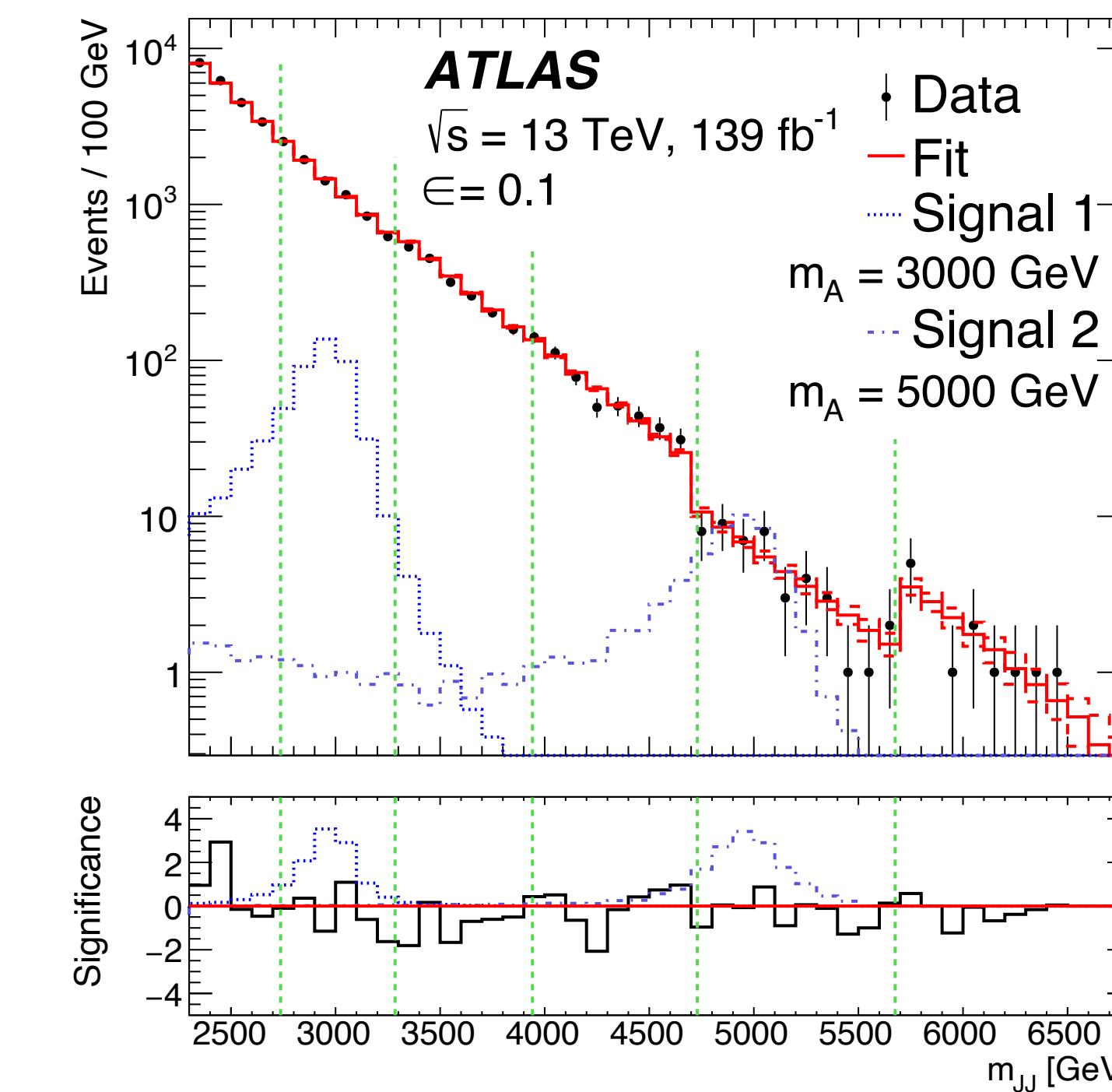
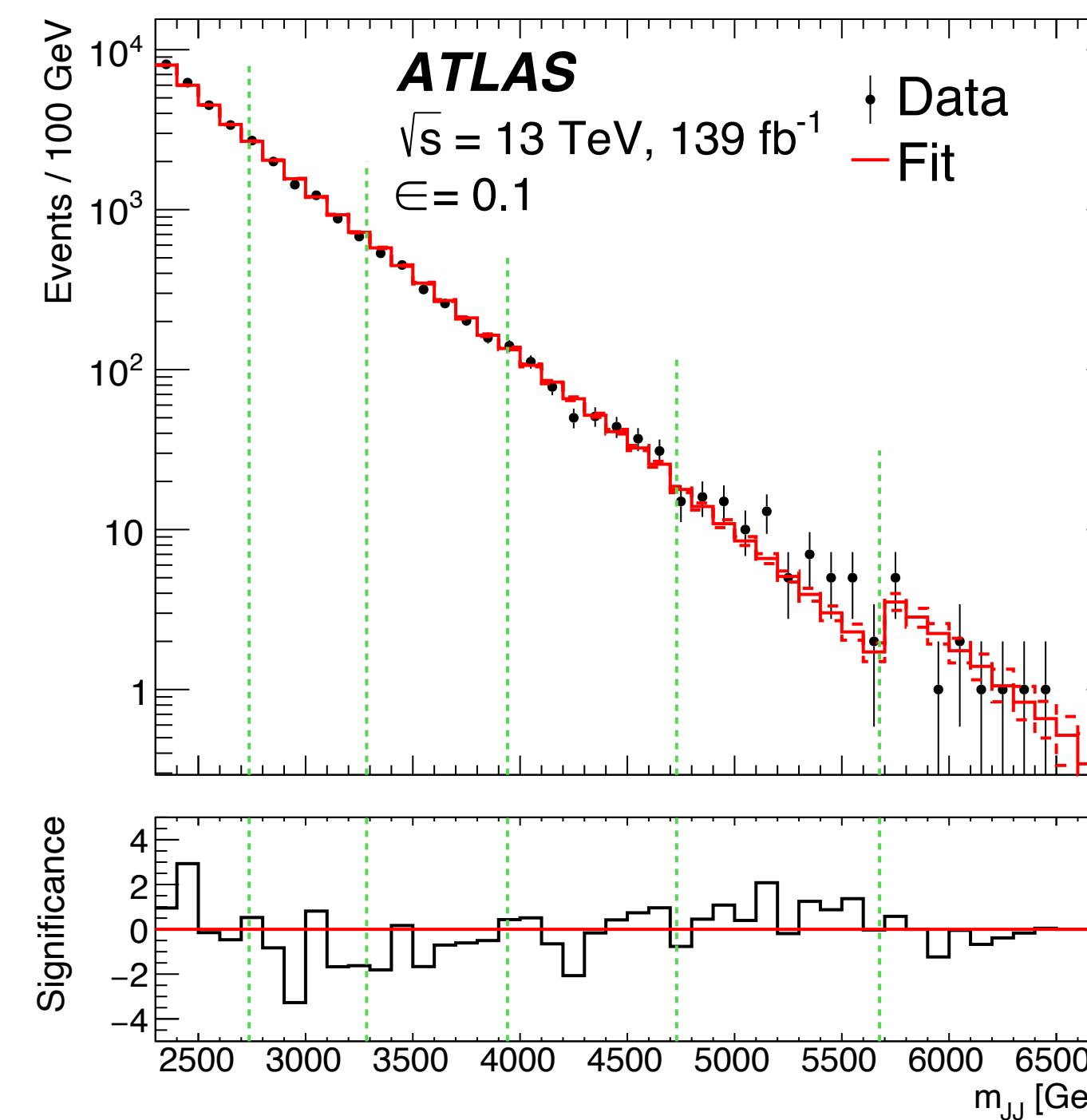
m_{JJ} distributions are fit with a parametric functions in each Signal Region

- 3 Fit functions are used:

$$\frac{dn}{dx} = p_1(1-x)^{p_2-\xi_1 p_3} x^{-p_3}$$

$$\frac{dn}{dx} = p_1(1-x)^{p_2-\xi_1 p_3} x^{-p_3+(p_4-\xi_2 p_3-\xi_3 p_2) \log(x)}$$

$$\frac{dn}{dx} = p_1 x^{p_2-\xi_1 p_3} e^{-p_3 x+(p_4-\xi_2 p_3-\xi_3 p_2)x^2}$$



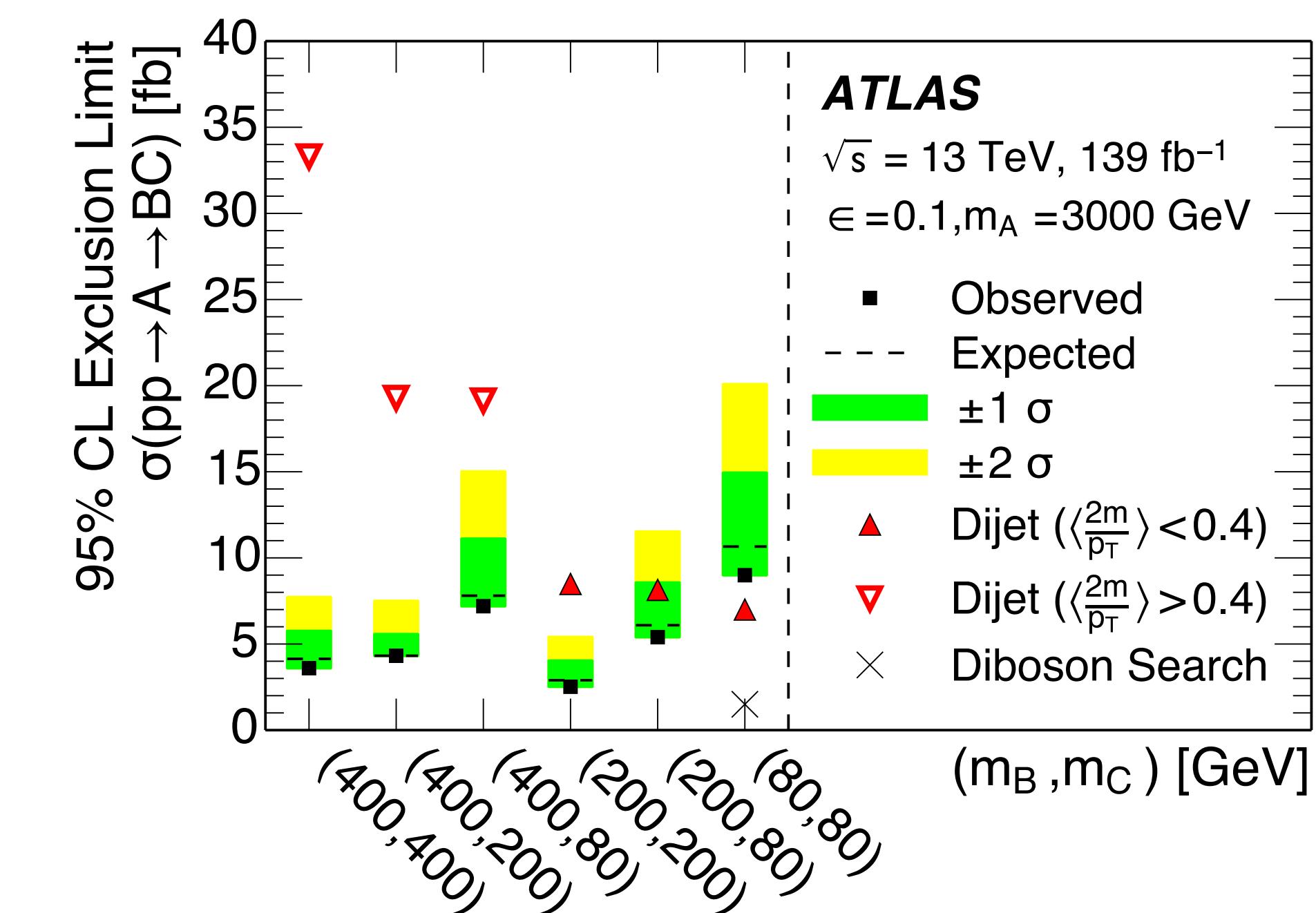
Upper Limits on Signal Cross-Section

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The NN is most powerful when the local signal-to-background ratio is high
Weaker limits on some signal models

Comparison with ATLAS diboson and dijet resonance search:

- Dedicated diboson searches show greater sensitivity when $m_B, m_C \sim m_W, m_Z$
- But no sensitivity away from this point
→ the semi-supervised method is sensitive everywhere



$Y \rightarrow X H$ Search: Overview and Setup

arXiv:2306.03637

Search for two new particles:

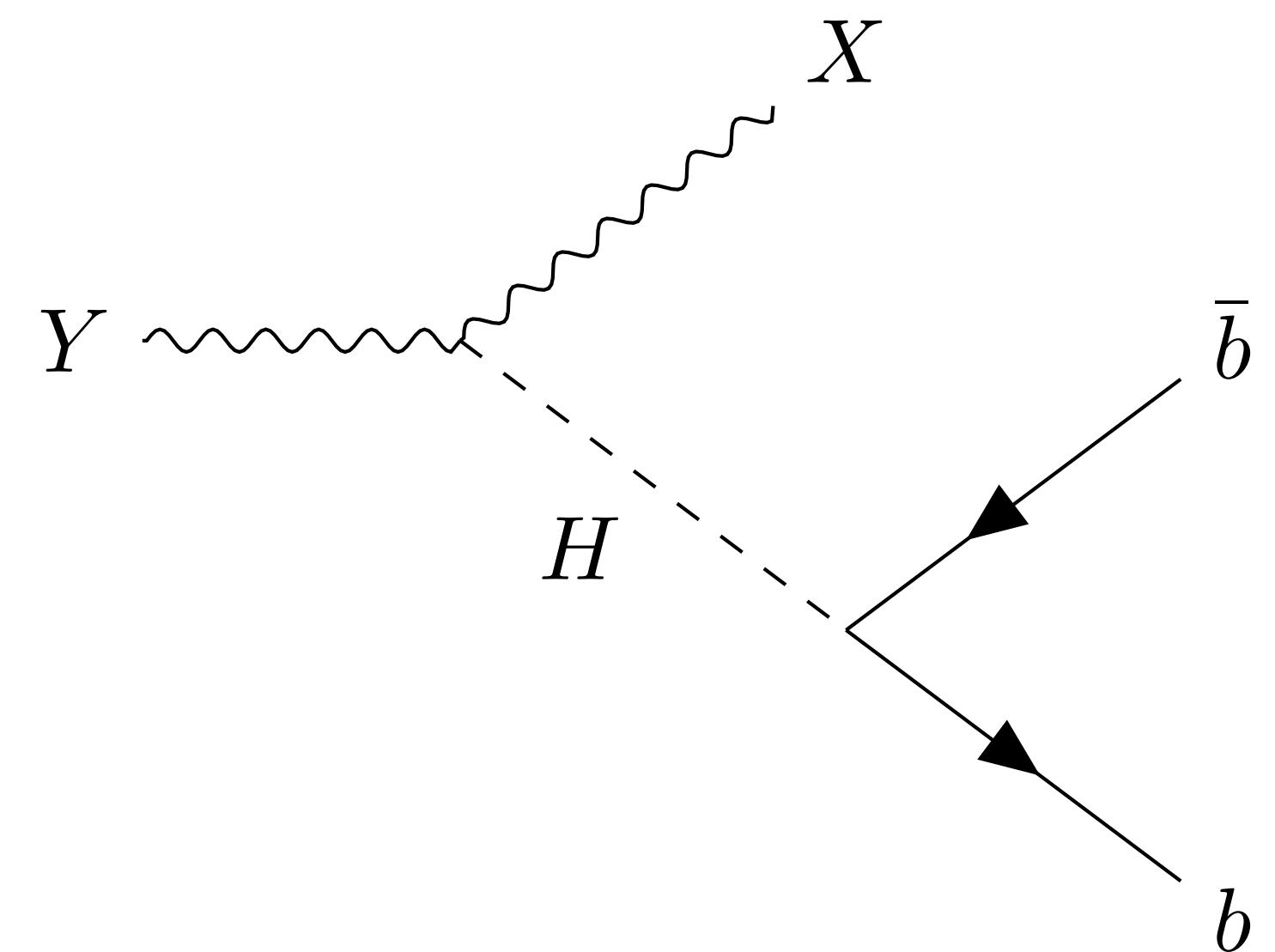
a heavy resonance Y ($\sim 1\text{TeV}$) decaying to a SM Higgs ($H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$) and another BSM particle X

- Analysis is sensitive to X masses spanning several orders of magnitude $\mathcal{O}(10)\text{ GeV}$ to $\mathcal{O}(1)\text{ TeV}$

Three signal regions (SR):

1. **Anomaly SR** $\rightarrow \mathcal{O}(\sim 100) \text{ GeV}$ to $\mathcal{O}(10) \text{ TeV}$
2. Two-prong regions ($X \rightarrow qq$): merged and resolved

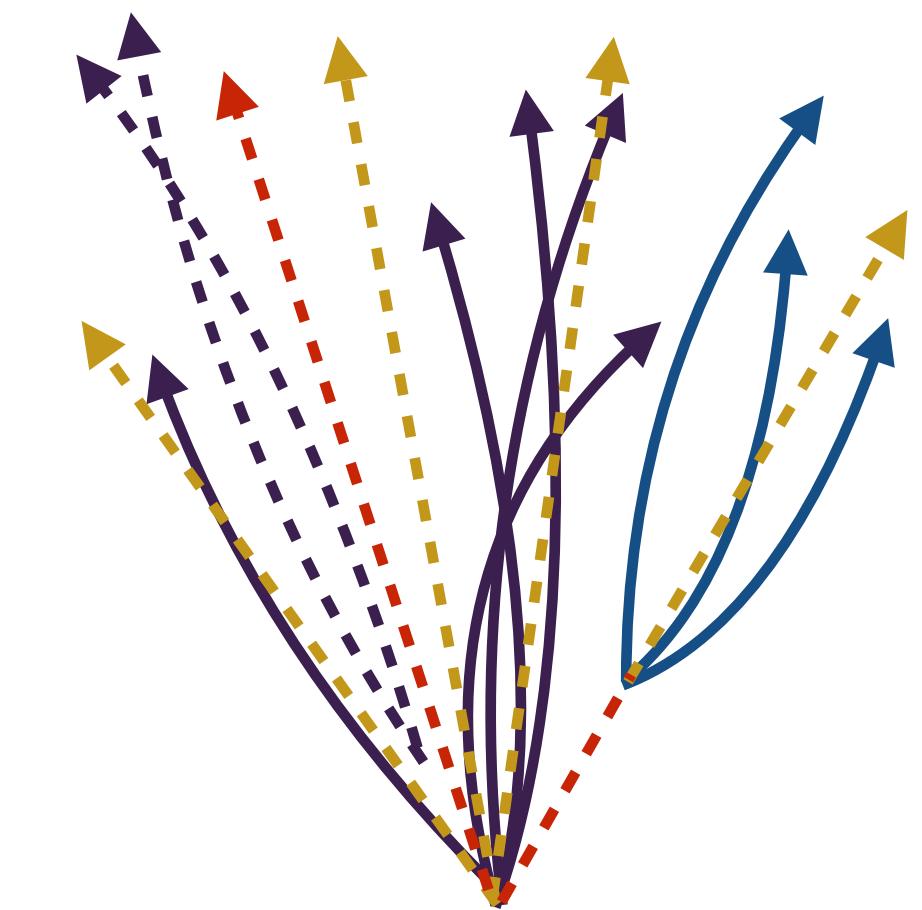
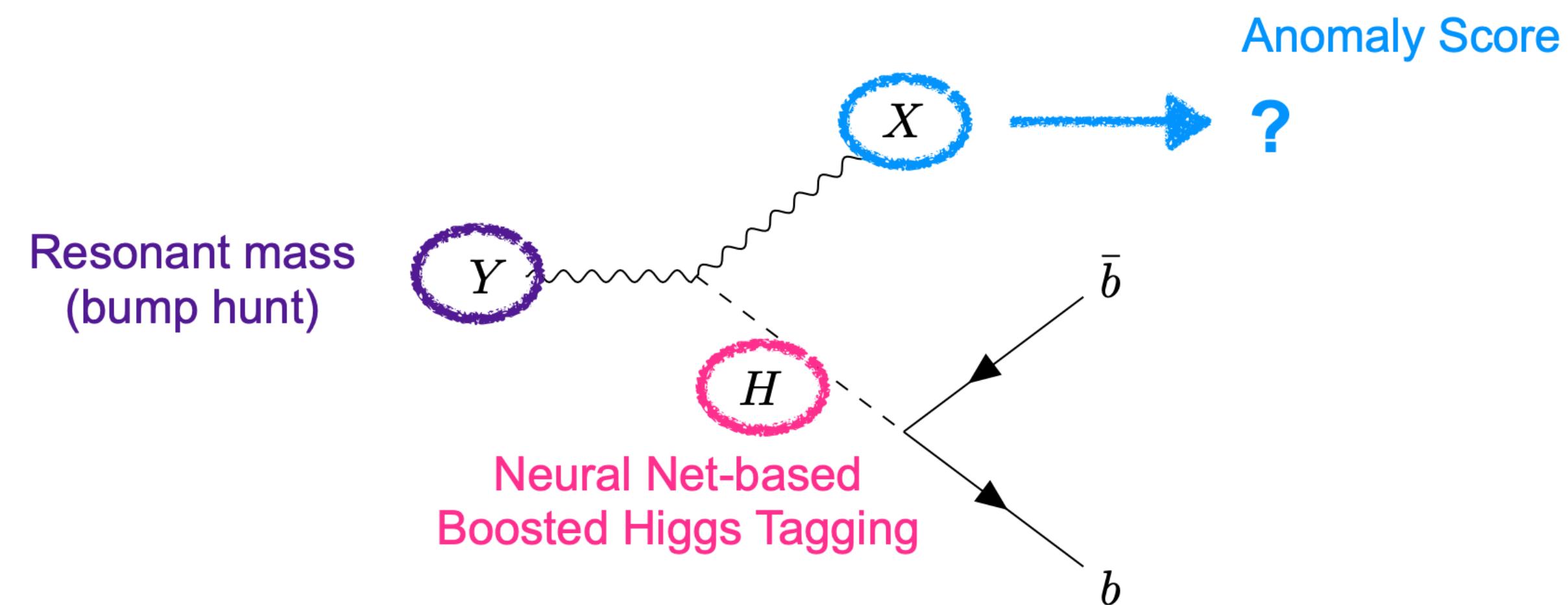
- High ($\sim 1\text{-}6\text{TeV}$) Y mass resulting in X and H boosted
- Y Reconstructed with two large-R jets \rightarrow Track CaloCluster (TCC) Jets



Anomaly Detection in $Y \rightarrow X H$ Search

arXiv:2306.03637

- **Unsupervised technique:** Per-jet anomaly score to perform model-independent tagging of anomalous X candidate jets
- Neural net-based tagging of boosted $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ topology
- DNN-based (density ratio estimation) reweighting procedure for data-driven background estimation

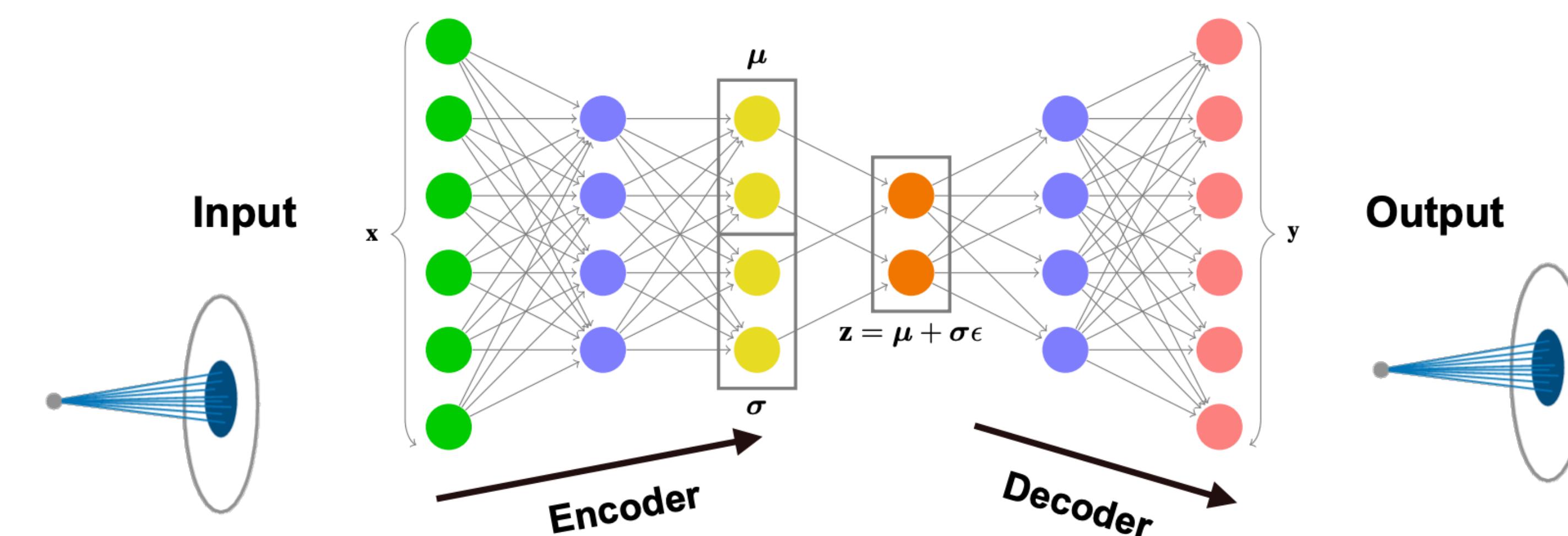
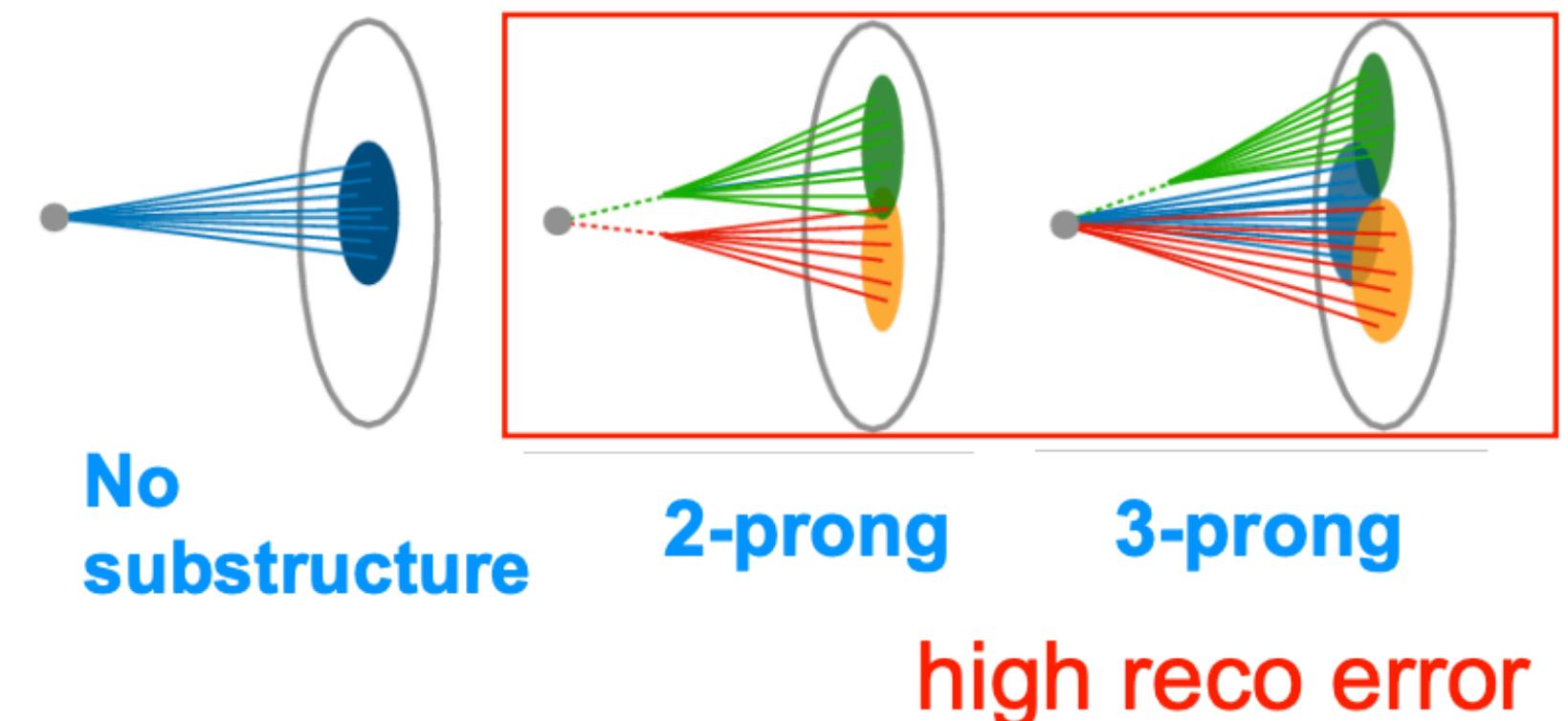


Anomalous Jet Tagging

Jet-level anomaly score given by a **variational recurrent neural network (VRNN)**

[arXiv:2306.03637](#)

- Unsupervised training over jets in data modeled as sequence of kt-ordered constituent 4-vectors: no signal model!
- Define **anomaly score (AS)** per jet as a function of VRNN loss



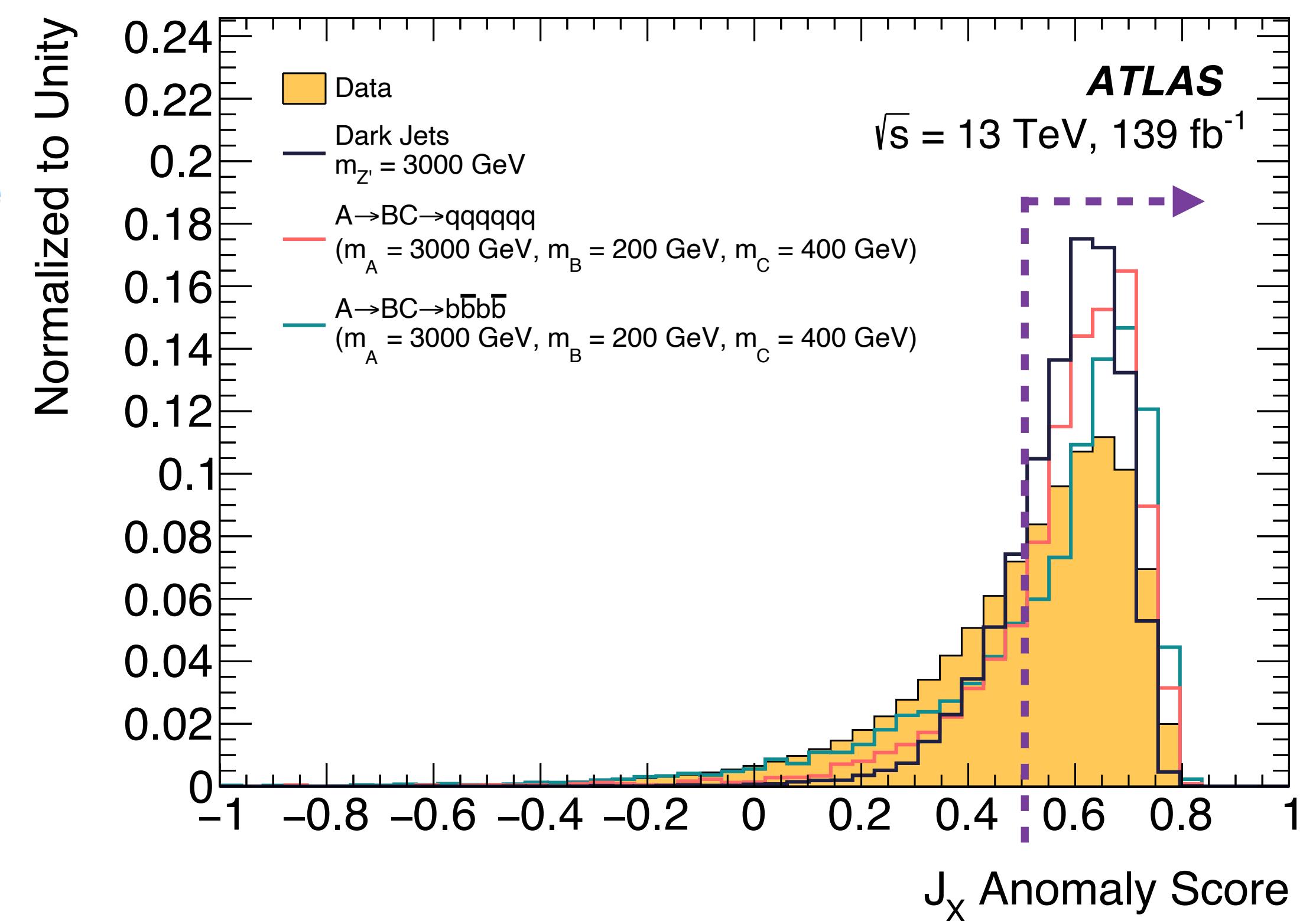
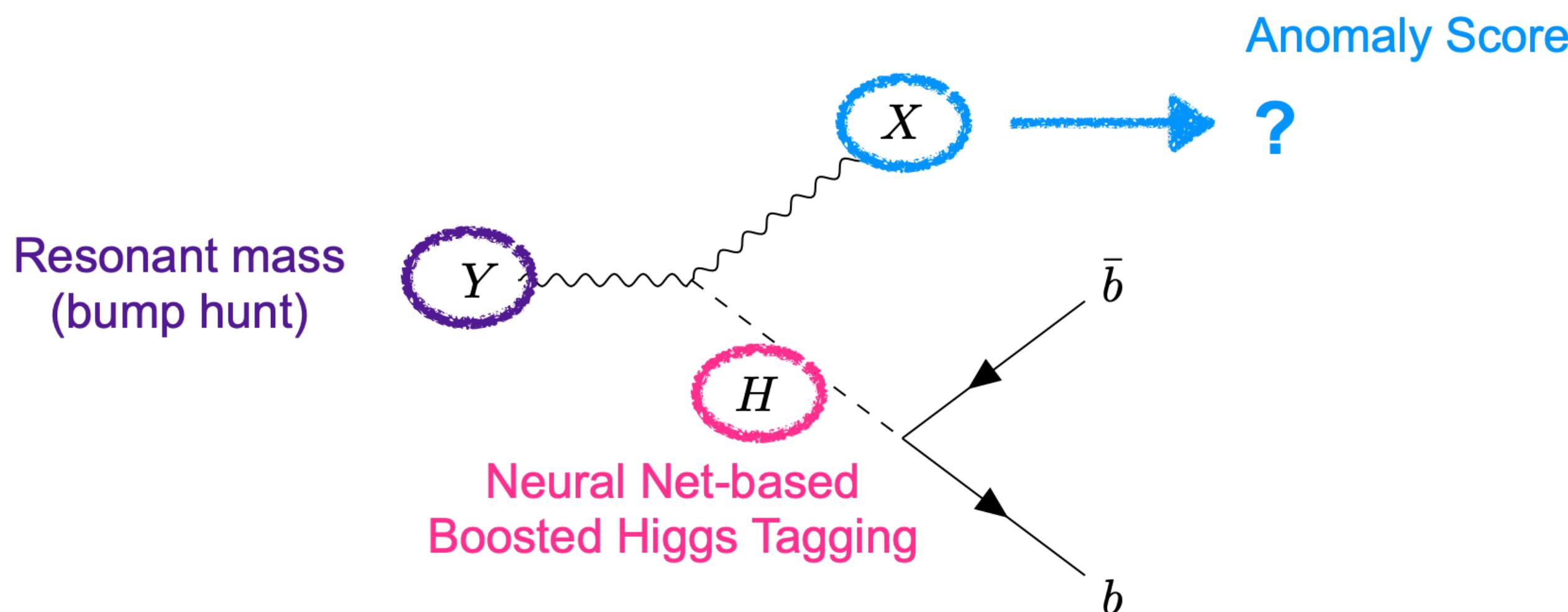
[arxiv:1506.02216](#)

$Y \rightarrow X H$ Search: Anomalous X Tagging

- Trained using jets from full Run-2 dataset

arXiv:2306.03637

- Test model-independence by studying AS discrimination performance on 4 jet topologies:
2-prong, 3-prong, heavy flavor (displaced vertices), and dark jets (pattern of missing and visible energy)

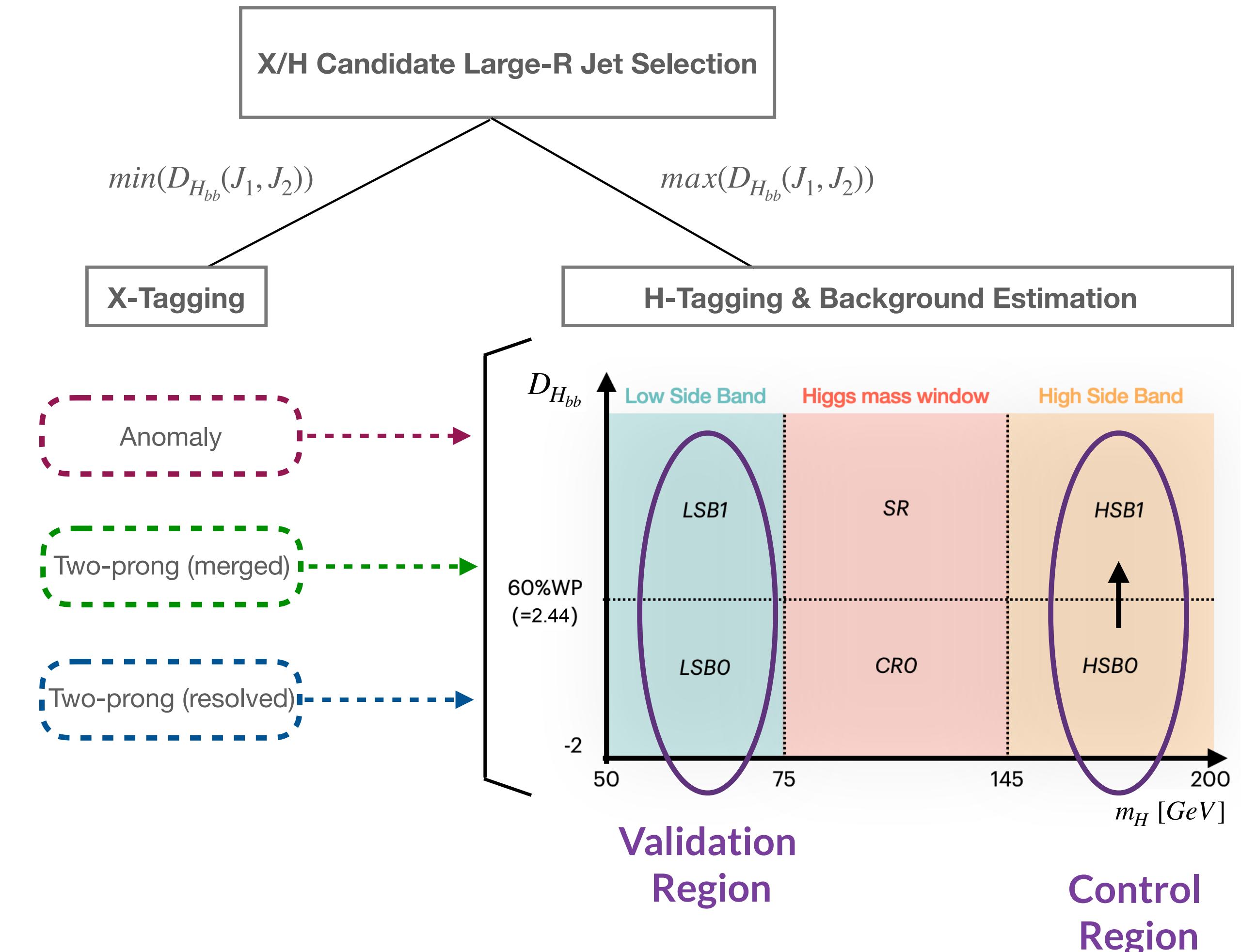


$Y \rightarrow X H$ Search: Analysis Flow

arXiv:2306.03637

1. **Large-R jet trigger:** $J1(pT) > 500 \text{ GeV}$ and $m_{JJ} > 1.3 \text{ TeV}$
2. **Ambiguity resolution:** jet with highest D_{Hbb} score is Higgs candidate
3. **X-tagging:** AS of X candidate > 0.5 (model independent search) or 2-prong regions (model dependent search)
4. **Higgs tagging:** D_{Hbb} of H candidate > 2.44

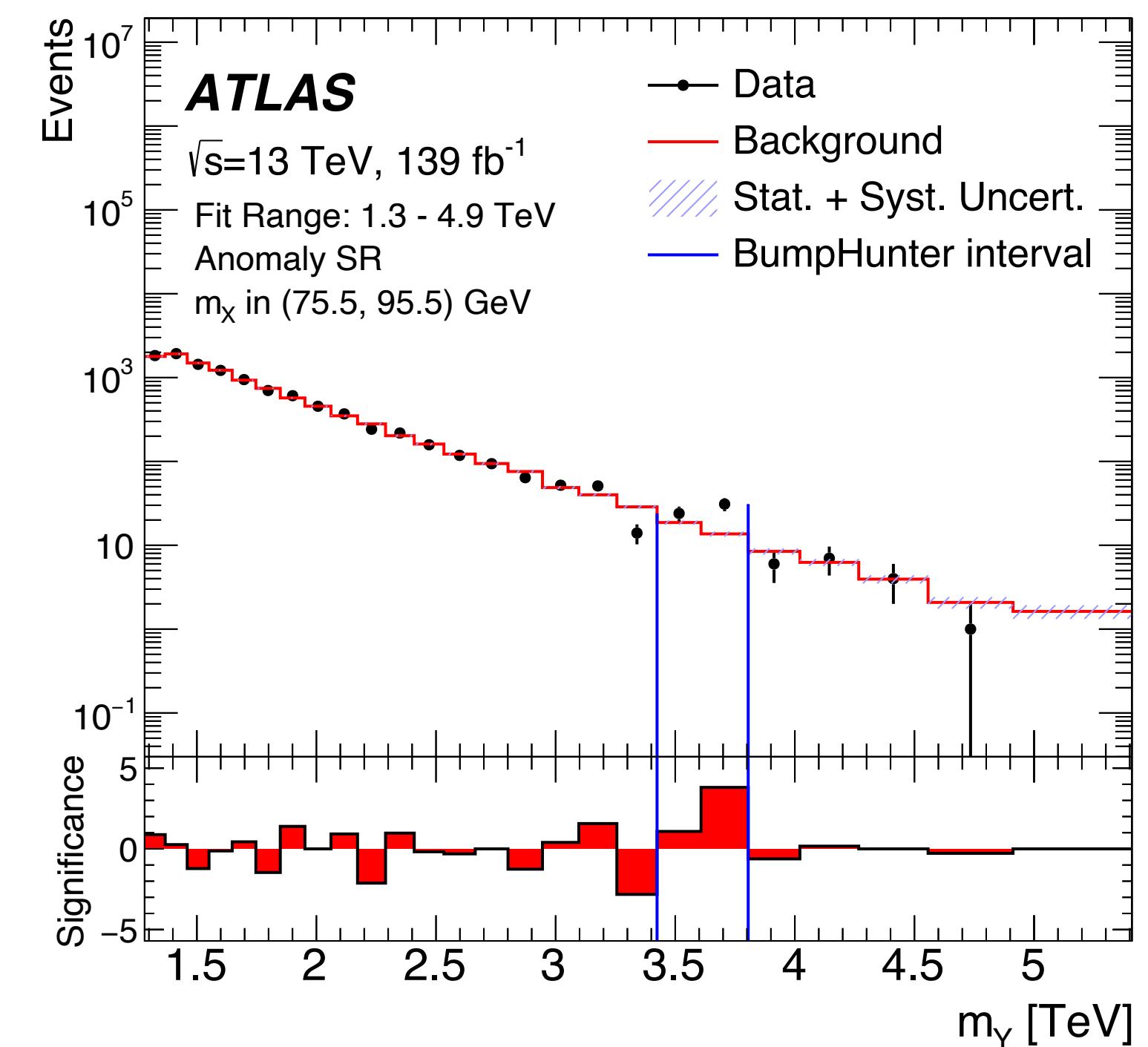
- **SR selection:** $75 < m_H < 145 \text{ GeV}$
- **Background estimation:** DNN-derived reweights for untagged high sideband ($HSBO \rightarrow HSB1$)
- **Validation:** low sideband (LSB)



$\mathbf{Y} \rightarrow \mathbf{X} \mathbf{H}$ Search: Search Results

[arXiv:2306.03637](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.03637)

- Calculated p -values across all m_Y and m_X bins in the anomaly signal region
- The lowest observed p -value corresponds to the bin with $m_Y \in [3608, 3805]$ GeV and $m_X \in [75.5, 95.5]$ GeV
 - Compatibility p -value of < 0.001
 - 1.4σ global significance in BumpHunter



Limits from Signal Injection

arXiv:2306.03637

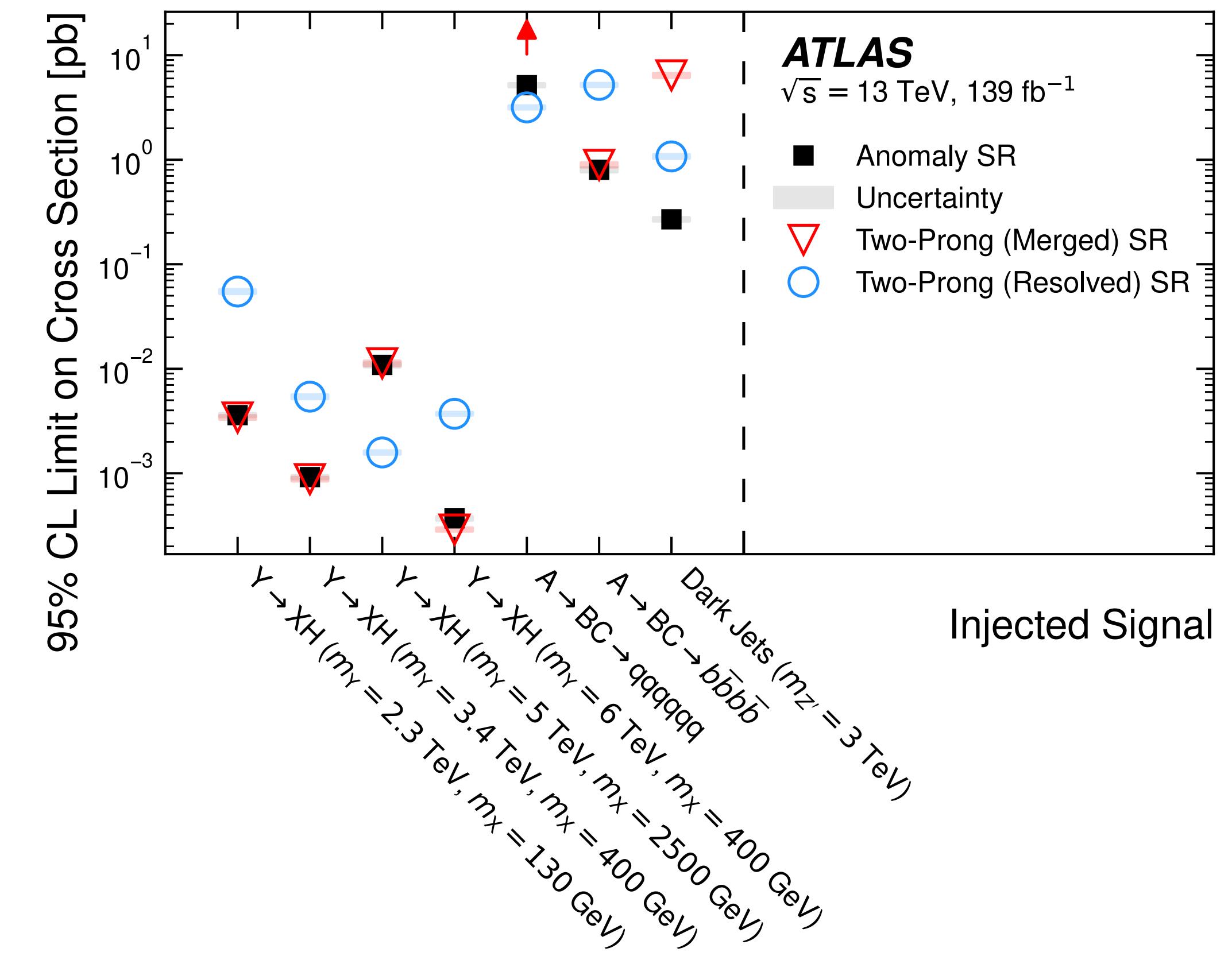
Upper limits obtained by injecting benchmark signals

When X particle is highly boosted the upper limits are approximately the same across the merged and anomaly SRs

Signal models with alternative jet substructure has higher sensitivity in the Anomaly SR

Improvements from Anomaly SR:

Dark jet limits are ~10 times better with respect to 2-prong tagging approach

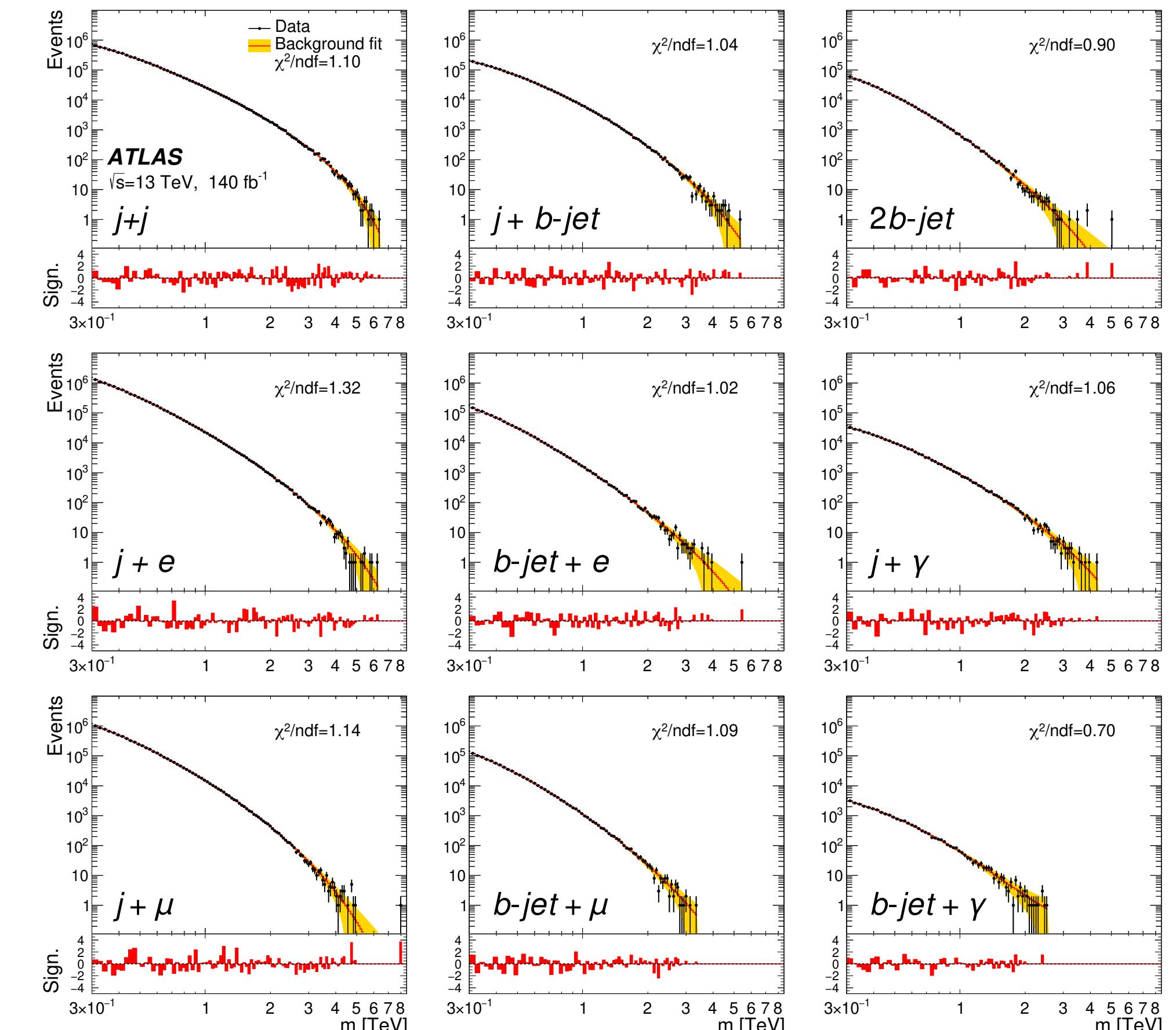
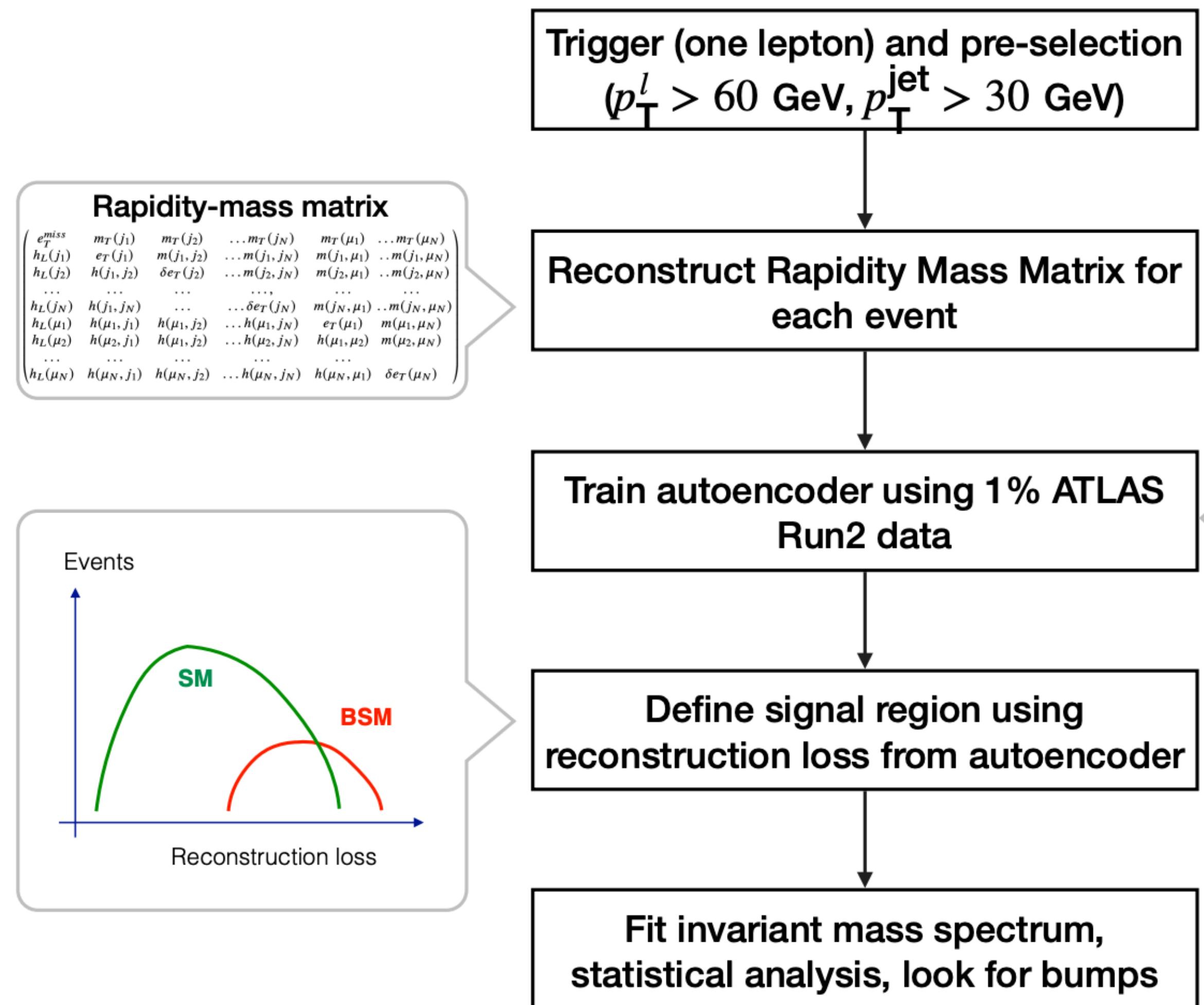


→ First application of fully unsupervised machine learning to an ATLAS analysis

Anomaly detection in Jet + X final state

- Signal regions are defined based on Autoencoder score
- 9 mass spectrum is analyzed in each SR

[arxiv:2307.01612](#)

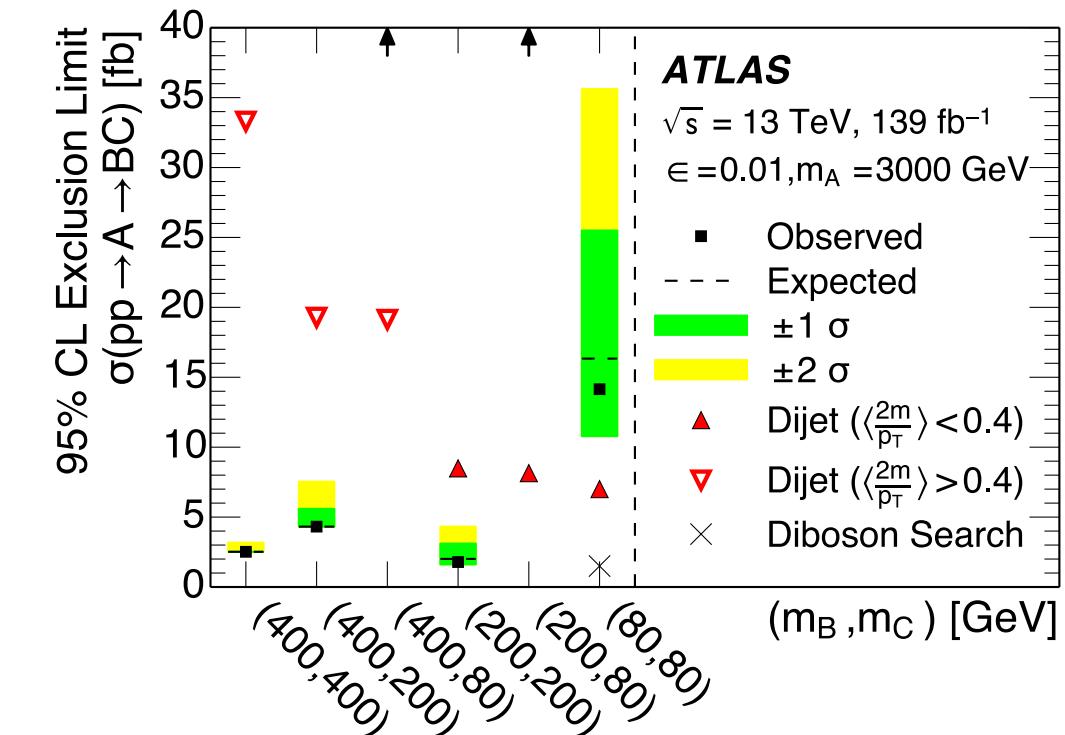


You will hear more from [Wasikul's talk](#)

Summary and Outlook

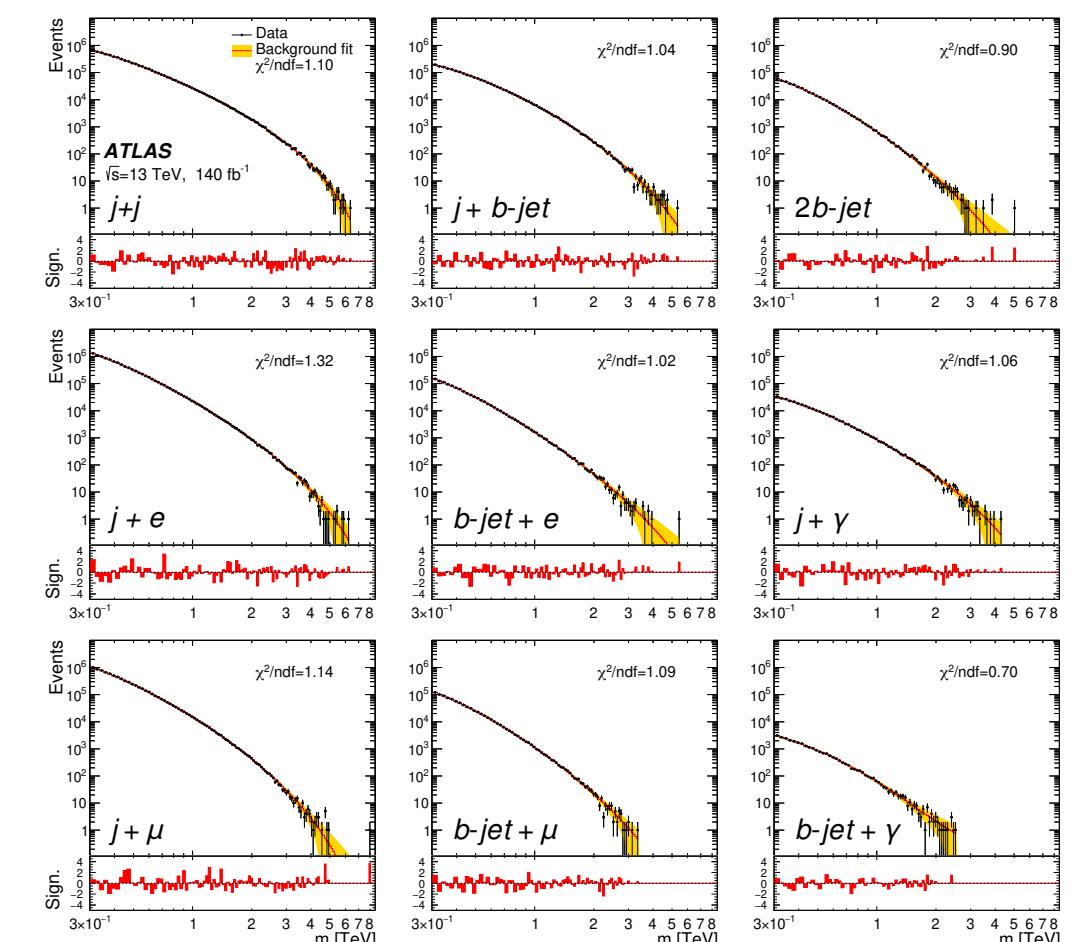
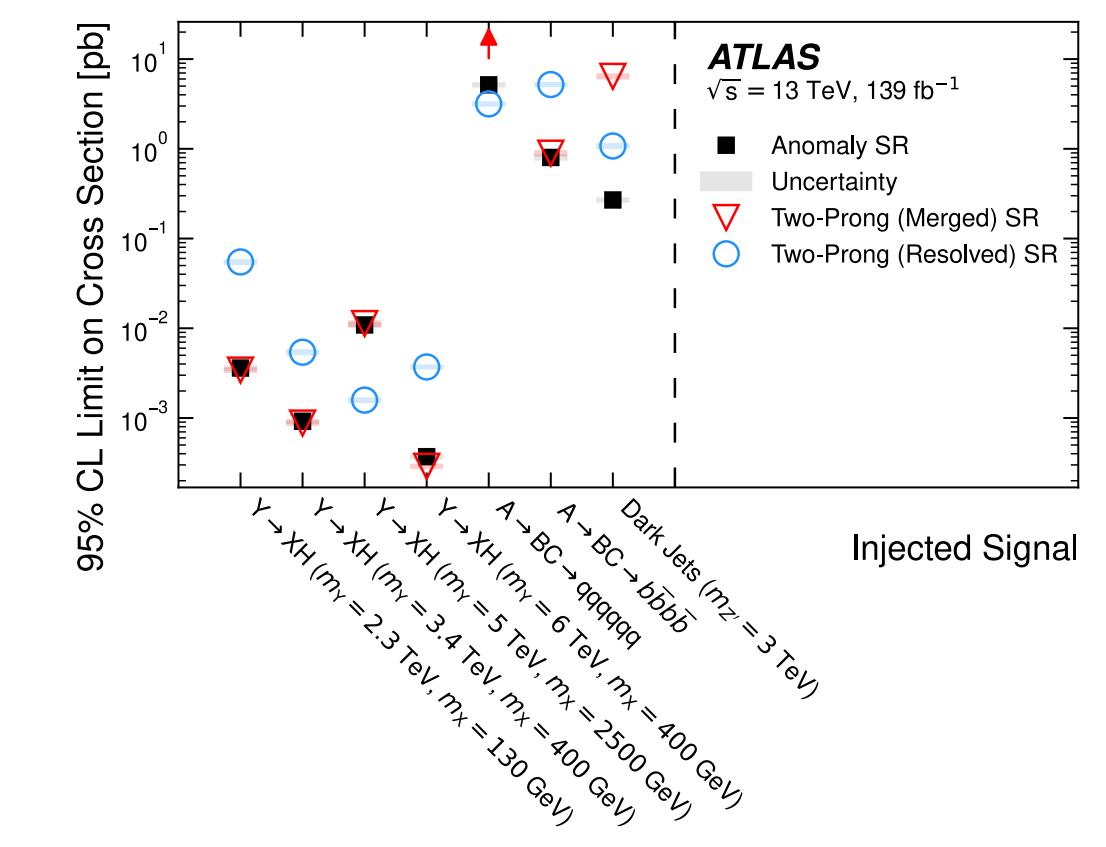
Successful application of semi-supervised and unsupervised Anomaly detection methods

Three published results so far on Full Run-2 data



Anomaly Detection searches are ramping up in ATLAS

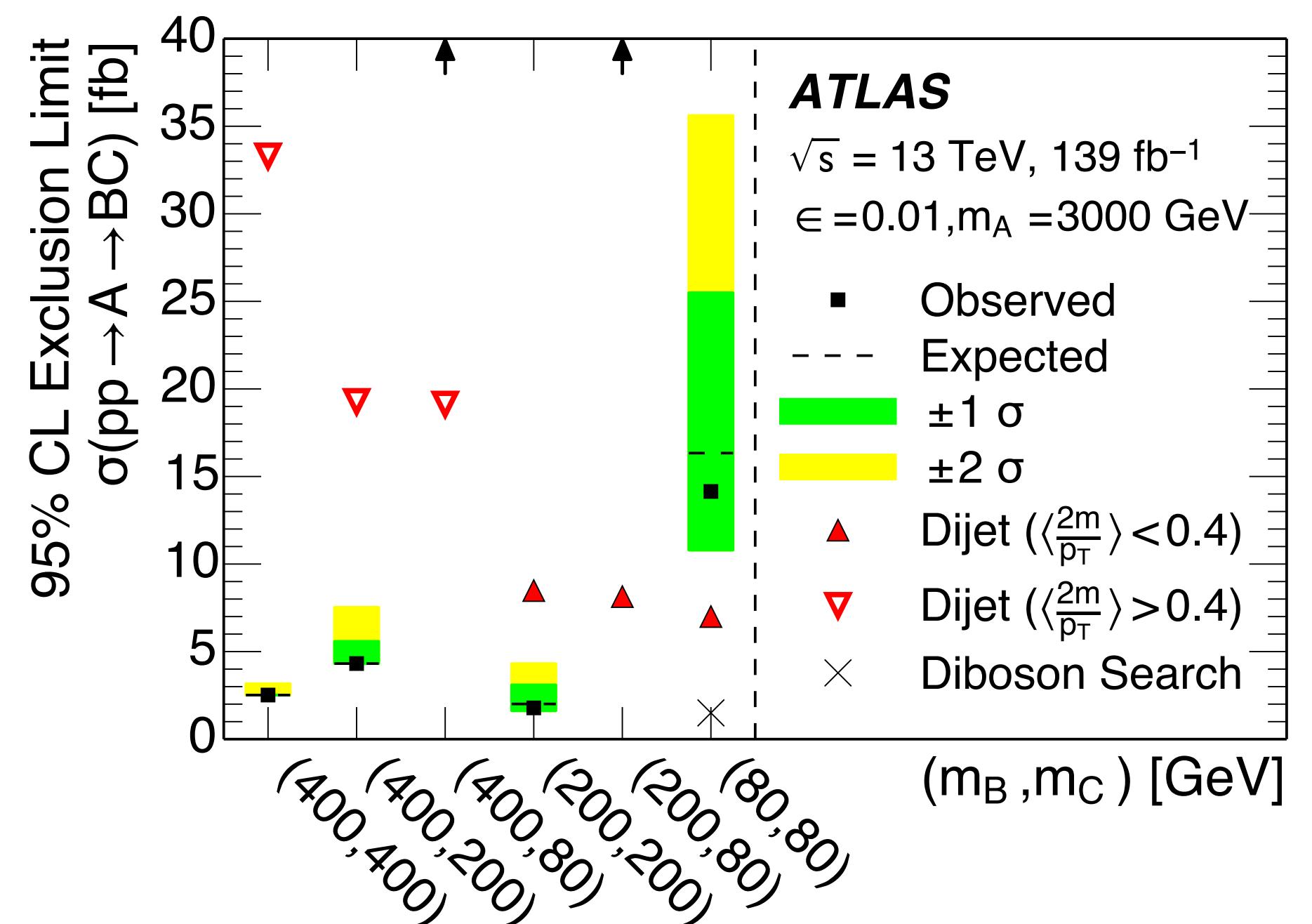
- Efficient way of doing model independent search across different final states
- **Stay Tuned!** Many more searches are coming up



Thank You!

Extra Slides

Dijet CWoLa: Limit



Y → XH: Event Selection

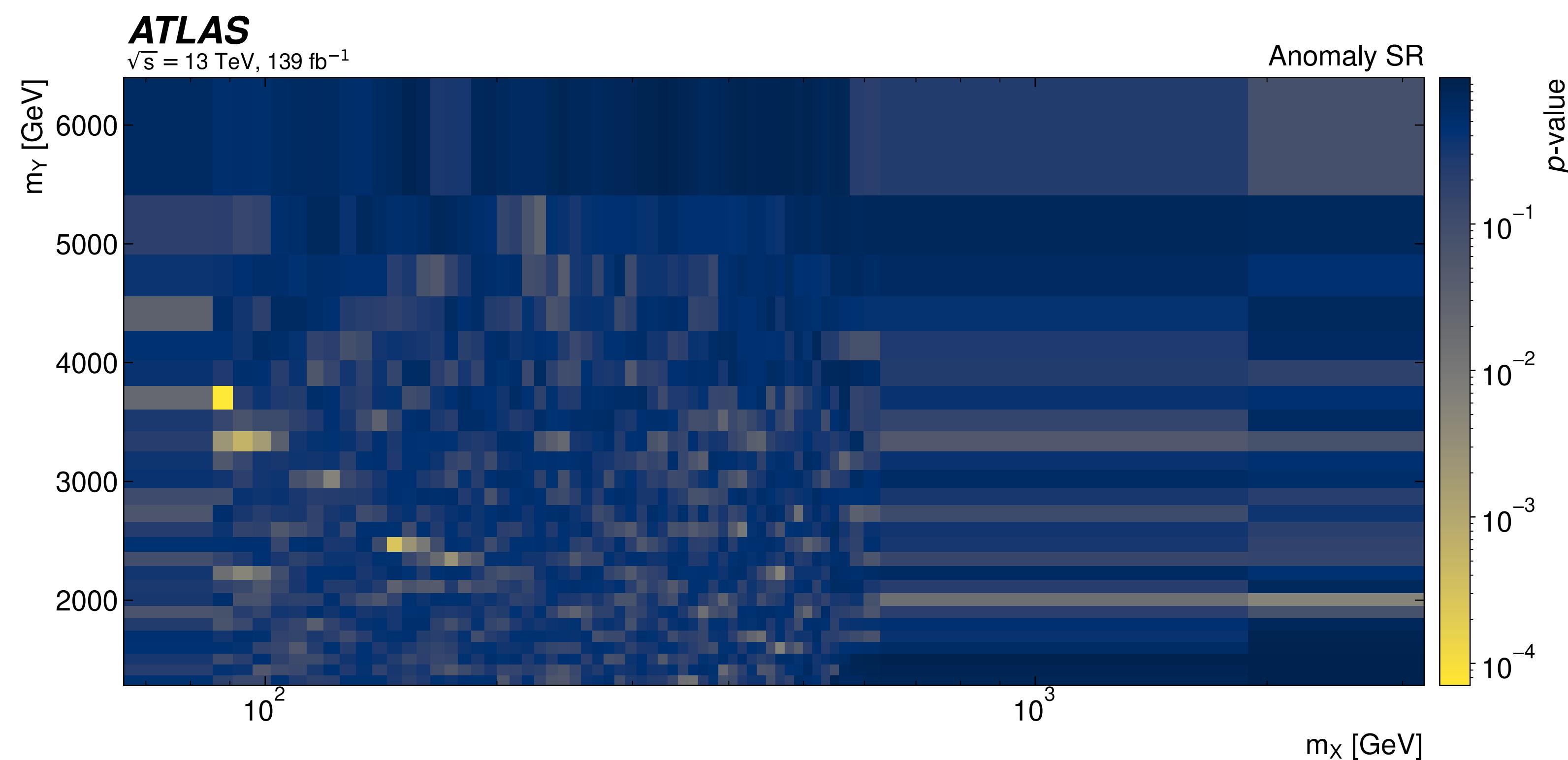
Parameter	Preselection requirements				
m_{JJ} [GeV]	> 1300				
$p_T(J_1)$ [GeV]	> 500				
m_J [GeV]	$m_{J_1} > 50 \parallel m_{J_2} > 50$				
$D_{H_{bb}}$	> -2				
	Signal regions				
	Merged	Resolved	Anomaly		
m_H [GeV]	$(75, 145)$				
$D_{H_{bb}}$	> 2.44				
D_2^{trk}	< 1.2	> 1.2	-		
$ \Delta y_{j_1, j_2} $	-	< 2.5	-		
p_T^{bal}	-	< 0.8	-		
Anomaly Score (S_A)	-	-	> 0.5		
	Background estimation regions				
	CR0	HSB0	HSB1	LSB0	LSB1
m_H [GeV]	$(75, 145)$	$(145, 200)$		$(65, 75)$	
$D_{H_{bb}}$	< 2.44	< 2.44	> 2.44	< 2.44	> 2.44

Hbb Score

$$D_{H_{bb}} = \ln \frac{P_{\text{Higgs}}}{f_{\text{top}} \cdot P_{\text{top}} + (1 - f_{\text{top}}) \cdot P_{\text{multijet}}}.$$

$Y \rightarrow XH$: 2D p-value

The distribution of observed p-values across all mY and mX bins in the anomaly signal region, comparing data with the background estimates generated by a background-only fit, displayed in the two-dimensional (mX , mY) grid. The p-value calculation is performed at the center of each mX bin, and all statistical and background systematic uncertainties are considered. The lowest observed p-value corresponds to the bin with mY within [3608, 3805] GeV and mX within [75.5, 95.5] GeV.



$Y \rightarrow X H$ Results

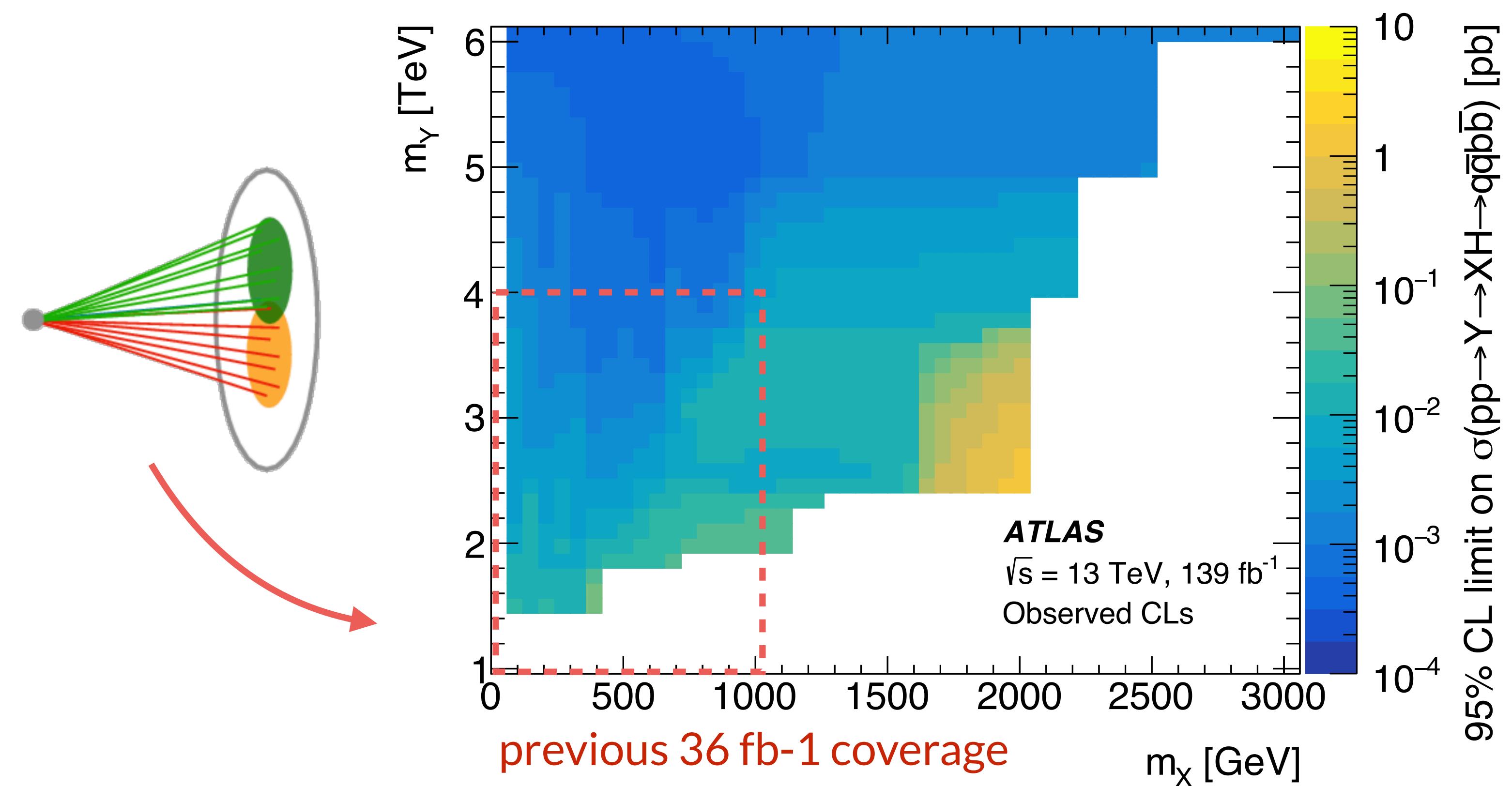
Fit invariant mass of X and H for excesses in overlapping windows of m_X

[arXiv:2306.03637](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.03637)

Results:

no significant deviations in anomaly region across m_X bins

Interpret in nominal $X \rightarrow q\bar{q}$, sensitive up to 6 TeV resonance mass

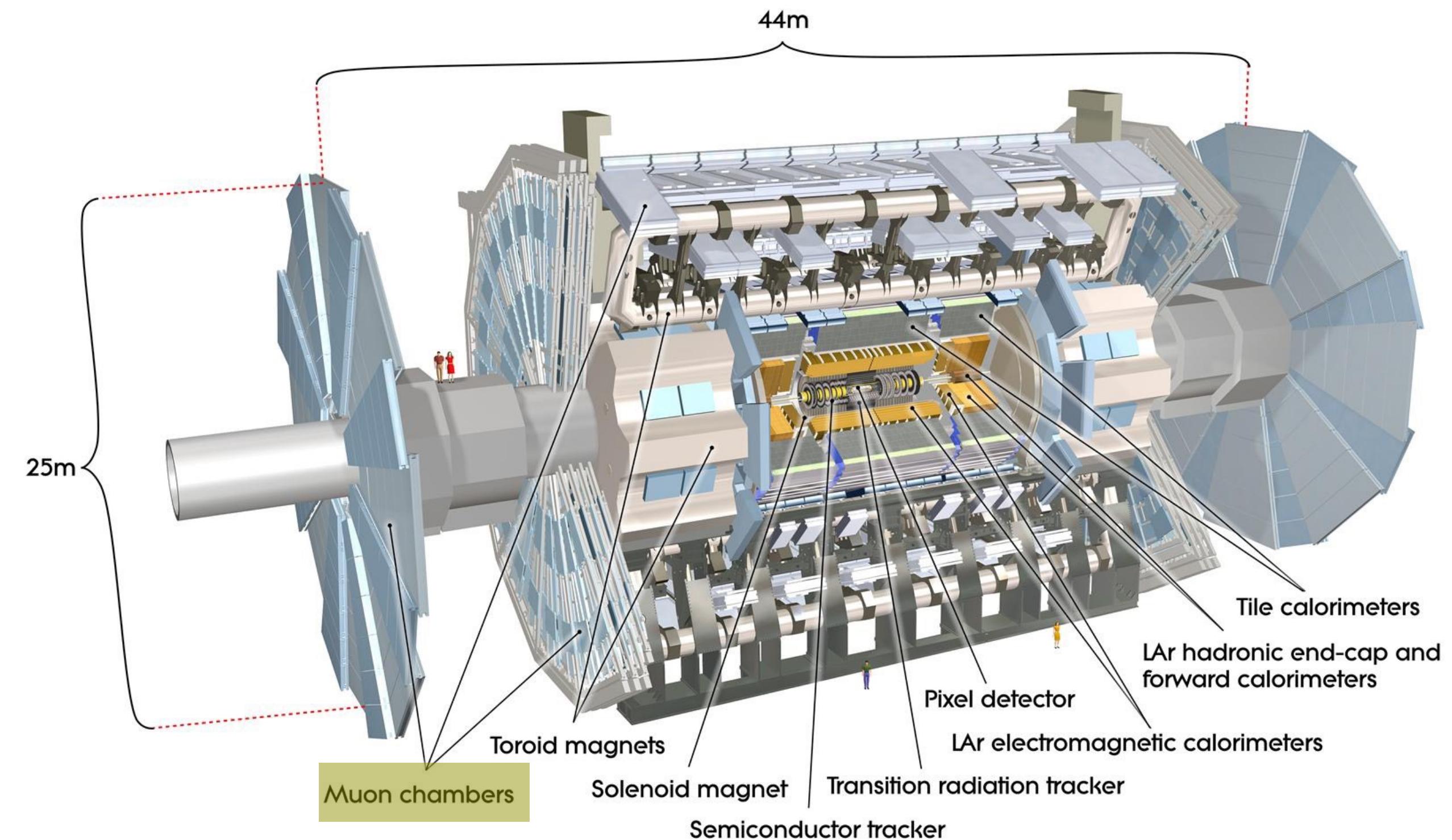


The ATLAS Experiment

General purpose detector

Toroidal Magnet: 0.5 T

Muon Spectrometer:
Four different detector technology



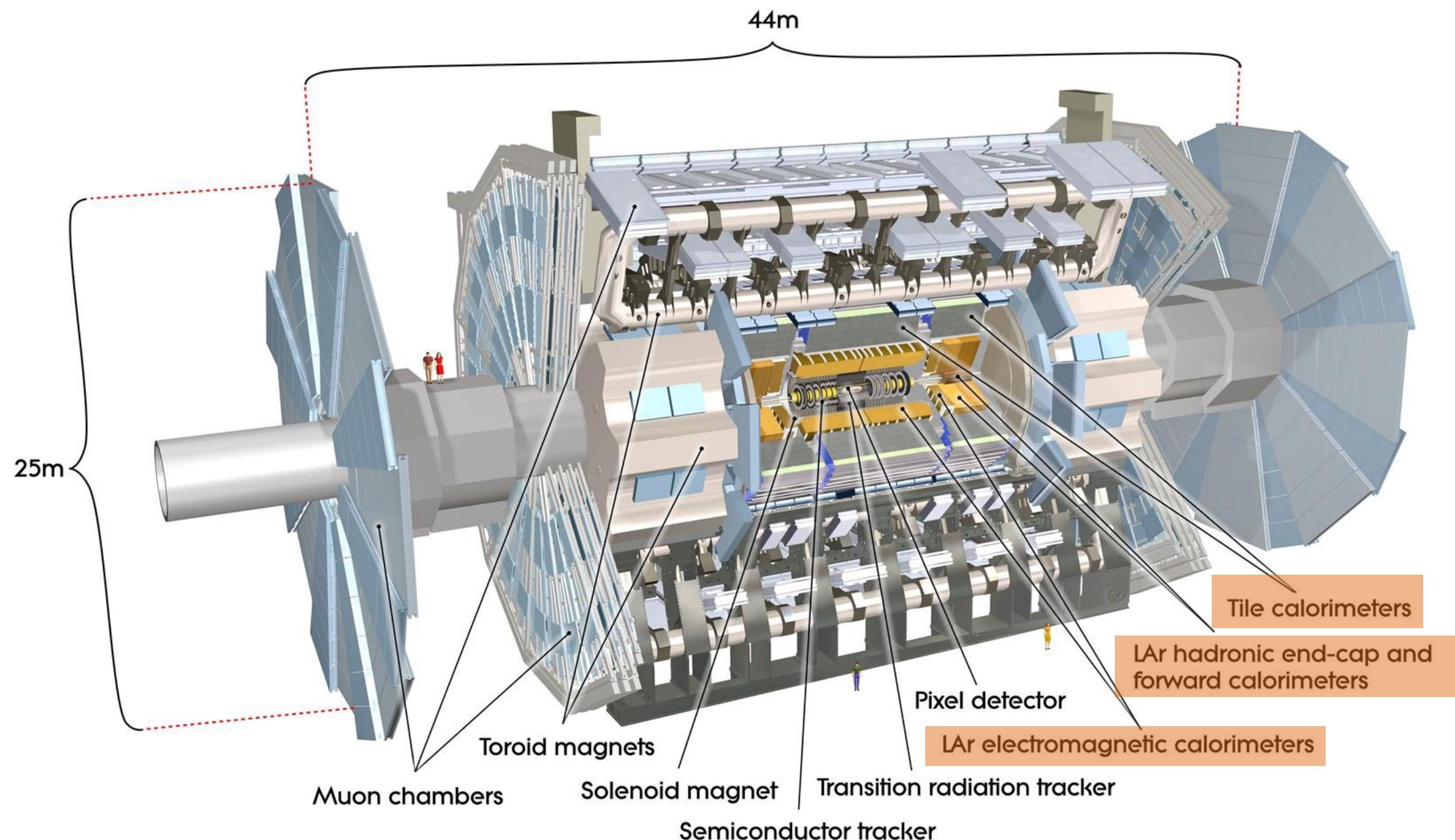
The ATLAS Experiment

General purpose detector

Calorimeter:

Electromagnetic (Liquid Argon), Hadronic (Liquid Argon (endcap) & Tile (barrel))

Solenoid Magnet: 2.0 T



The ATLAS Experiment

General purpose detector

Muon Spectrometer:

Four different detector technology

Calorimeter:

Electromagnetic (Liquid Argon), Hadronic (Liquid Argon (endcap) & Tile (barrel))

Solenoid Magnet: 2.0 T

Inner Detector:

Three different detector technology

1. Silicon Pixel
2. Silicon Strip
3. Straw Tubes: Transition Radiation Tracker (TRT)

