



UNIVERSIDAD
COMPLUTENSE
MADRID

Higgs EFTs, and ALPs in Multi-Boson Production

Alexandre Salas-Bernárdez; IPARCOS Congress 2025, UCM.

10th December 2025

Recent Multiboson Measurements: outline

- H , HH , HHH (not yet)

[ATLAS], Nature **607** (2022) no.7917, 52-59

[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. Lett. **133** (2024) no.10, 101801

[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. D **111** (2025) no.3, 032006

[CMS], Phys. Lett. B **861** (2025), 139210

Recent Multiboson Measurements: outline

- H , HH , HHH (not yet)

[ATLAS], Nature **607** (2022) no.7917, 52-59

[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. Lett. **133** (2024) no.10, 101801

[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. D **111** (2025) no.3, 032006

[CMS], Phys. Lett. B **861** (2025), 139210

Used to test SMEFT framework. HEFT vs SMEFT.

Recent Multiboson Measurements: outline

- H , HH , HHH (not yet)

[ATLAS], Nature **607** (2022) no.7917, 52-59

[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. Lett. **133** (2024) no.10, 101801

[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. D **111** (2025) no.3, 032006

[CMS], Phys. Lett. B **861** (2025), 139210

Used to test SMEFT framework. HEFT vs SMEFT.

- $\gamma\gamma$, γZ , ZZ , ZH , WW , γWW , dijet (gg), ...

[CMS] JHEP 11 (2021) 169 [2107.09330].

[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. D **111** (2025) no.3, 032006

[CMS] Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 072001 [2106.11082]

[CMS] Eur. Phys. J. C 81 (2021) 200 [2009.01186]

[CMS], Phys. Lett. B **861** (2025), 139231

[ATLAS] JHEP 05 (2018) 195 [1711.02692]

...

Recent Multiboson Measurements: outline

- H , HH , HHH (not yet)

[ATLAS], Nature **607** (2022) no.7917, 52-59
[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. Lett. **133** (2024) no.10, 101801
[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. D **111** (2025) no.3, 032006

[CMS], Phys. Lett. B **861** (2025), 139210

Used to test SMEFT framework. HEFT vs SMEFT.

- $\gamma\gamma$, γZ , ZZ , ZH , WW , γWW , dijet (gg), ...

[CMS] JHEP 11 (2021) 169 [2107.09330].
[ATLAS], Phys. Rev. D **111** (2025) no.3, 032006
[CMS] Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 072001 [2106.11082]
[CMS] Eur. Phys. J. C 81 (2021) 200 [2009.01186]
[CMS], Phys. Lett. B **861** (2025), 139231
[ATLAS] JHEP 05 (2018) 195 [1711.02692]

... Used to test linear (SMEFT-like) and non-linear (HEFT-like) ALP EFT.

1. Distinguishing Electroweak EFTs

Based on : [Phys. Rev. D **106** \(2022\) no.5, 053004](#)

[Commun. Theor. Phys. **75** \(2023\) no.9, 095202](#) [EPJ Web Conf. **274** \(2022\), 08013](#)

[JHEP **03** \(2024\), 037](#) [Phys. Rev. D \(2025\), to appear](#)

The Electroweak scalar sector extensions

“Two” EW EFT candidates

- Standard Model Effective Field Theory (SMEFT)

The Electroweak scalar sector extensions

“Two” EW EFT candidates

- Standard Model Effective Field Theory (SMEFT)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_{n=5}^{\infty} \sum_i \frac{c_i^{(n)}}{\Lambda^{n-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{(n)}(H) .$$

The Electroweak scalar sector extensions

“Two” EW EFT candidates

- Standard Model Effective Field Theory (SMEFT)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_{n=5}^{\infty} \sum_i \frac{c_i^{(n)}}{\Lambda^{n-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{(n)}(H) .$$

- Higgs Effective Field Theory (HEFT):

The Electroweak scalar sector extensions

“Two” EW EFT candidates

- Standard Model Effective Field Theory (SMEFT)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_{n=5}^{\infty} \sum_i \frac{c_i^{(n)}}{\Lambda^{n-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{(n)}(H) .$$

- Higgs Effective Field Theory (HEFT):
Chiral Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HEFT}} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu h \partial^\mu h - V(h) + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{F}(h) \partial_\mu \omega^i \partial^\mu \omega^j \left(\delta_{ij} + \frac{\omega^i \omega^j}{v^2 - \omega^2} \right) .$$

The Electroweak scalar sector extensions

“Two” EW EFT candidates

- Standard Model Effective Field Theory (SMEFT)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_{n=5}^{\infty} \sum_i \frac{c_i^{(n)}}{\Lambda^{n-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{(n)}(H) .$$

- Higgs Effective Field Theory (HEFT):
Chiral Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HEFT}} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu h \partial^\mu h - V(h) + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{F}(h) \partial_\mu \omega^i \partial^\mu \omega^j \left(\delta_{ij} + \frac{\omega^i \omega^j}{v^2 - \omega^2} \right) .$$

What is their relation?

In a few words...

Basically, SMEFT assumes the SM EWSB structure, where the Higgs boson is part of an $SU(2)_L$ doublet.

In a few words...

Basically, SMEFT assumes the SM EWSB structure, where the Higgs boson is part of an $SU(2)_L$ doublet.



In a few words...

Basically, SMEFT assumes the SM EWSB structure, where the Higgs boson is part of an $SU(2)_L$ doublet.

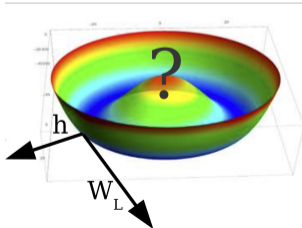
On the other hand, HEFT casts the Higgs boson h as an $SU(2)_L$ singlet.



Geometric distinction HEFT/SMEFT

Several works have provided field-redefinition invariant criteria to distinguish SMEFT from HEFT:

- R. Alonso, E. E. Jenkins, and A. V. Manohar, "A Geometric Formulation of Higgs Effective Field Theory: Measuring the Curvature of Scalar Field Space," *Phys. Lett. B* 754 (2016) 335–342, arXiv:1511.00724 [hep-ph].
"Sigma Models with Negative Curvature," *Phys.Lett.B*756,358(2016),arXiv:1602.00706 [hep-ph].
"Geometry of the Scalar Sector," *JHEP* 08 (2016) 101, arXiv:1605.03602 [hep-ph]." (Cohen et al., 2021, p. 95)
- T. Cohen, N. Craig, X. Lu, and D. Sutherland:
"Is SMEFT Enough?", *JHEP* 03, 237, arXiv:2008.08597 [hep-ph].
"Unitarity Violation and the Geometry of Higgs EFTs", (2021), arXiv:2108.03240 [hep-ph].



Conditions on \mathcal{F} for SMEFT's validity

In [2204.01763](#) we found an easier analytical criterion for SMEFT to be valid:

1. $\mathcal{F}(h_1^*) = 0$ must have a double zero. h_1^* is the symmetric point.
2. At that point h_1^* ,

$$\mathcal{F}'(h_1^*) = 0, \quad \mathcal{F}''(h_1^*) = \frac{2}{v^2}.$$

3. Analyticity of the SMEFT Lagrangian: all even derivatives to vanish at the symmetric point, $F^{(\ell)}(h_1^*) = 0$ for even ℓ . From the point of view of \mathcal{F} this implies the vanishing of all odd derivatives, $\mathcal{F}^{(2\ell+1)}(h_1^*) = 0$.

Conditions on V for SMEFT's validity

The expansion of $V_{\text{HEFT}}(h_1)$ can only contain even terms in its $(h_1 - h_*)^n$ expansion:

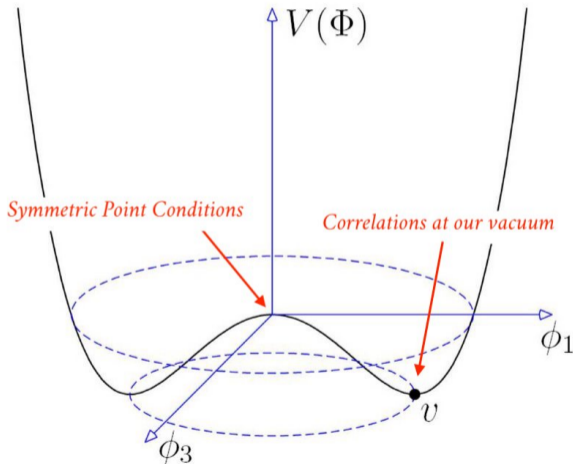
$$V_{\text{HEFT}}(h_1) = \frac{m_h^2 v^2}{2} \left[\frac{v_2^*}{v^2} (h_1 - h_*)^2 + \frac{v_4^*}{v^4} (h_1 - h_*)^4 + \frac{v_6^*}{v^6} (h_1 - h_*)^6 + \dots \right]$$

The HEFT coefficients

$$V_{\text{HEFT}} = \frac{m_h^2 v^2}{2} \left[\left(\frac{h_1}{v} \right)^2 + v_3 \left(\frac{h_1}{v} \right)^3 + v_4 \left(\frac{h_1}{v} \right)^4 + \dots \right]$$

are determined by the v_4^* , v_6^* \dots , coefficients around the symmetric vacuum

Origin of SMEFT correlations: just match two Taylor exp.



HEFT and SMEFT UV completion examples

- Strong UV dynamics can still match to SMEFT:
 - Minimally Composite Higgs Model

$$\mathcal{F}(h) = \frac{f^2}{v^2} \sin^2 \left(\frac{h}{f} + \arcsin \frac{v}{f} \right) \quad \text{Contino et al. [1109.1570]}$$

- Pure-HEFT models:
 - Two Higgs Doublet Model (in the quasi-alignment regime) Arco et al. [2307.15693]
 - Dilaton Model $\mathcal{F}(h) = (1 + a\frac{h}{v})^2$.

$$\mathcal{F}''(h^*) = 2\frac{a^2}{v^2} \neq \frac{2}{v^2}$$

Mod.Phys.Lett.A 8 (1993) 275-284; Goldberger et al. [0708.1463]; Hernandez-Leon and Merlo [1703.02064]

High energy measurements

The flare function \mathcal{F} accompanies the GB kinetic term $(\partial\omega\partial\omega)$

$$\mathcal{F}(h_{\text{HEFT}}) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{a}_n \left(\frac{h_{\text{HEFT}}}{v} \right)^n .$$

At high energies (Equivalence Theorem) $\omega \simeq W_L$

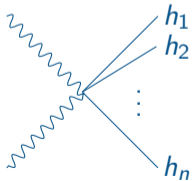
High energy measurements

The flare function \mathcal{F} accompanies the GB kinetic term $(\partial\omega\partial\omega)$

$$\mathcal{F}(h_{\text{HEFT}}) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{a}_n \left(\frac{h_{\text{HEFT}}}{v} \right)^n.$$

At high energies (Equivalence Theorem) $\omega \simeq W_L$

$\Rightarrow \omega\omega \rightarrow n \times h$ can test SMEFT framework.



$$= -\frac{n! \mathbf{a}_n}{2v^n} s$$

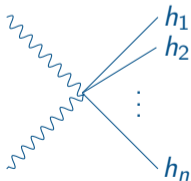
High energy measurements

The flare function \mathcal{F} accompanies the GB kinetic term $(\partial\omega\partial\omega)$

$$\mathcal{F}(h_{\text{HEFT}}) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{a}_n \left(\frac{h_{\text{HEFT}}}{v} \right)^n.$$

At high energies (Equivalence Theorem) $\omega \simeq W_L$

$\Rightarrow \omega\omega \rightarrow n \times h$ can test SMEFT framework.



$$= -\frac{n! \mathbf{a}_n}{2v^n} s \Rightarrow \kappa_{nV} \text{ of } \kappa\text{-framework}$$

SMEFT vs HEFT phenomenology (JHEP 03 (2024) 037)

Dimension 6 (8) SMEFT operators contributing to $\mathcal{F}(h)$ are

$$\mathcal{O}_{H\Box}^{(6)((8))} = c_{H\Box}^{(6)((8))} |H|^{2(4)} \square |H|^2 / \Lambda^{2(4)} \quad (\text{also } \mathcal{O}_{\Phi D})$$

$$a_{1/2} = a = 1 + \frac{d}{2} + \frac{d^2}{2} \left(\frac{3}{4} + \rho \right) + \mathcal{O}(d^3),$$

$$a_2 = b = 1 + 2d + 3d^2(1 + \rho) + \mathcal{O}(d^3),$$

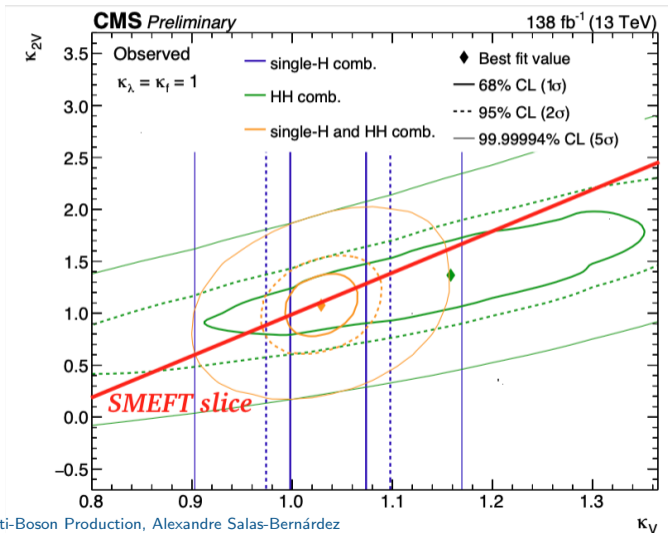
$$a_3 = \frac{4}{3}d + d^2 \left(\frac{14}{3} + 4\rho \right) + \mathcal{O}(d^3),$$

$$a_4 = \frac{1}{3}d + d^2 \left(\frac{11}{3} + 3\rho \right) + \mathcal{O}(d^3),$$

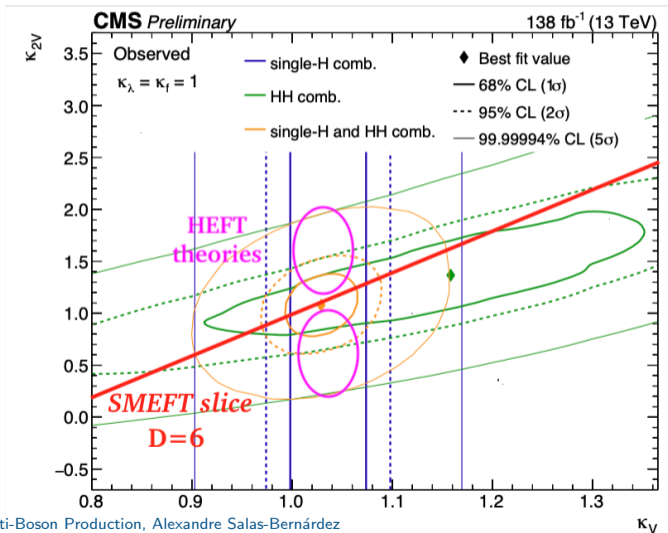
with,

$$d = \frac{2v^2 c_{H\Box}^{(6)}}{\Lambda^2}, \quad \rho = \frac{c_{H\Box}^{(8)}}{2(c_{H\Box}^{(6)})^2}.$$

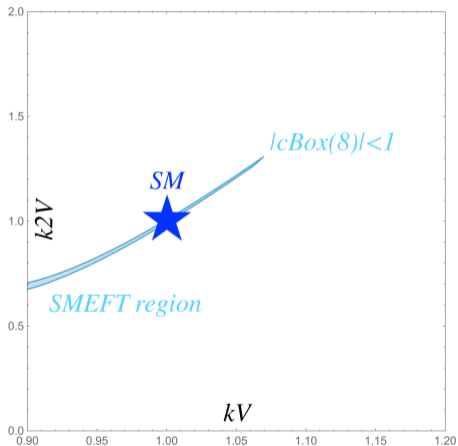
Recent combination of analyses: CMS-HIG-23-006



Recent combination of analyses: HEFT regions



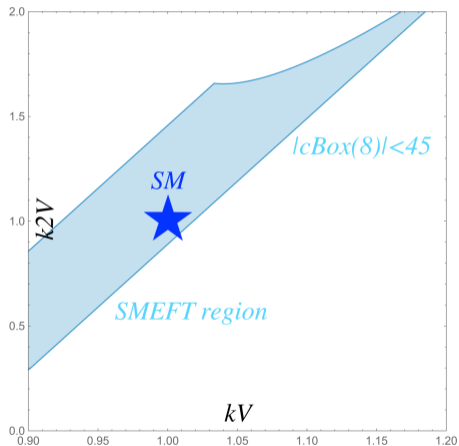
In case you are wondering... $D = 8$



for $d \in (-0.36, 0.121)$ (FitMaker
bounds, J. Ellis, M. Madigan, K. Mimasu, V. Sanz and
T. You, JHEP **04** (2021), 279)

and $|c_{H\Box}^{(8)}| \leq 1$.

In case you are wondering... $D = 8$



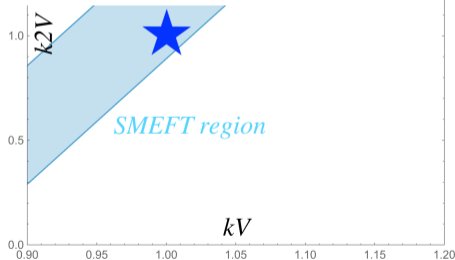
for $d \in (-0.36, 0.121)$ (FitMaker
bounds, J. Ellis, M. Madigan, K. Mimasu, V. Sanz and
T. You, JHEP **04** (2021), 279)

and $|c_{H\Box}^{(8)}| \leq 45$ (inside CMS allowed
region)

In case you are wondering... $D = 8$

$$a_1/2 = a = 1 + \frac{d}{2} + \frac{d^2}{2} \left(\frac{3}{4} + \rho \right) + \mathcal{O}(d^3)$$

$$a_2 = b = 1 + 2d + 3d^2(1 + \rho) + \mathcal{O}(d^3) \quad \rho < 45$$



Testing the SMEFT: Measure \mathcal{F} expansion in multi-Higgs final states (JHEP 03 (2024) 037)

$$T_{\omega\omega\rightarrow h} = -\frac{a_1 s}{2v}$$
$$T_{\omega\omega\rightarrow hh} = -\frac{s}{v^2} \left(a_2 - \frac{a_1^2}{4} \right),$$

Testing the SMEFT: Measure \mathcal{F} expansion in multi-Higgs final states (JHEP 03 (2024) 037)

$$T_{\omega\omega\rightarrow h} = -\frac{a_1 s}{2v}$$

$$T_{\omega\omega\rightarrow hh} = -\frac{s}{v^2} \left(a_2 - \frac{a_1^2}{4} \right),$$

$$T_{\omega\omega\rightarrow 3h} = -\frac{3s}{v^3} \left(a_3 - \frac{2}{3} a_1 \left(a_2 - \frac{a_1^2}{4} \right) \right), \quad \text{Obtained in Contino et al. JHEP 02 (2014), 006}$$

Testing the SMEFT: Measure \mathcal{F} expansion in multi-Higgs final states (JHEP 03 (2024) 037)

$$T_{\omega\omega\rightarrow h} = -\frac{a_1 s}{2v}$$

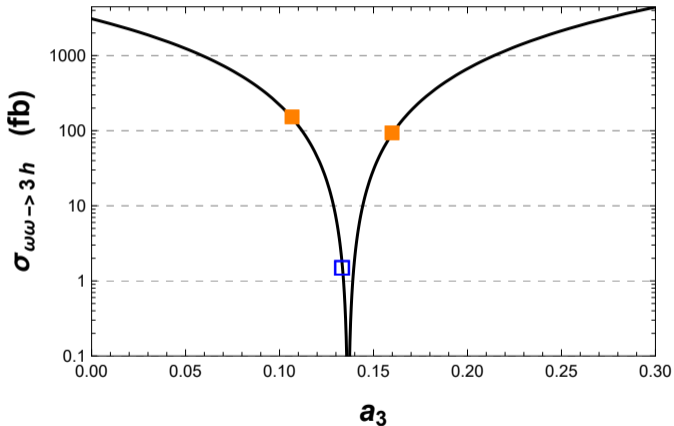
$$T_{\omega\omega\rightarrow hh} = -\frac{s}{v^2} \left(a_2 - \frac{a_1^2}{4} \right),$$

$$T_{\omega\omega\rightarrow 3h} = -\frac{3s}{v^3} \left(a_3 - \frac{2}{3} a_1 \left(a_2 - \frac{a_1^2}{4} \right) \right), \quad \text{Obtained in Contino et al. JHEP 02 (2014), 006}$$

$$T_{\omega\omega\rightarrow 4h} = -\frac{4s}{v^4} \left(3\hat{a}_4 + \hat{a}_2^2 (B - 1) \right),$$

where $\hat{a}_2 = a_2 - a_1^2/4$ and $\hat{a}_4 = a_4 - \frac{3}{4} a_1 a_3 + \frac{5}{12} a_1^2 (a_2 - a_1^2/4)$.

Cross section comparison: triple Higgs production (JHEP 03 (2024) 037).



Deviating a_3 only 10% of SMEFT value drastically changes XS.

Same game for the Higgs potential and Yukawas [2207.09848](#)

$$v_3 = 1 + \frac{3v^2 c_{H\Box}}{\Lambda^2} + \epsilon_{c_H}, \quad v_4 = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{25v^2 c_{H\Box}}{6\Lambda^2} + \frac{3}{2}\epsilon_{c_H},$$

$$v_5 = \frac{2v^2 c_{H\Box}}{\Lambda^2} + \frac{3}{4}\epsilon_{c_H}, \quad v_6 = \frac{v^2 c_{H\Box}}{3\Lambda^2} + \frac{1}{8}\epsilon_{c_H},$$

$$v_{n \geq 7} = 0,$$

with $m_h^2 = -2\mu^2 \left(1 + \frac{2c_{H\Box}v^2}{\Lambda^2} + \frac{3}{4}\epsilon_{c_H}\right)$, $2\langle |H|^2 \rangle = v^2 = -\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda} \left(1 - \frac{3}{4}\epsilon_{c_H}\right)$ and $\epsilon_{c_H} = -\frac{2v^4 c_H}{m_t^2 \Lambda^2} = \frac{\mu^2 c_H}{\lambda^2 \Lambda^2}$.

$$c_1 = 1 - \frac{v^3}{\sqrt{2}m_t} \frac{c_{tH^+}}{\Lambda^2} + \frac{c_{H\Box}v^2}{\Lambda^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/\Lambda^4)$$

$$\Delta v_4 = \frac{3}{2}\Delta v_3 - \frac{1}{6}\Delta a_1$$

$$v_5 = 6v_6 = \frac{3}{4}\Delta v_3 - \frac{1}{8}\Delta a_1$$

$$c_2 = 3c_3 = \frac{3}{2}(c_1 - 1) - \frac{1}{4}\Delta a_1$$

Matching SMEFT at D=6 to NLO HEFT for triple Higgs production

Inspired by geometric arguments, in [\[2506.21716\]](#), we match SMEFT at D=6

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}}^{(6)} = & \frac{c_\Phi}{\Lambda^2} (\phi^\dagger \phi)^3 + \frac{c_{\Phi \square}}{\Lambda^2} (\phi^\dagger \phi) \square (\phi^\dagger \phi) + \frac{c_{\Phi D}}{\Lambda^2} (\phi^\dagger D^\mu \phi)^* (\phi^\dagger D_\mu \phi) \\ & + \frac{c_{\Phi W}}{\Lambda^2} (\phi^\dagger \phi) W_{\mu\nu}^I W^{I\mu\nu} + \frac{c_{\Phi B}}{\Lambda^2} (\phi^\dagger \phi) B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} + \frac{c_{\Phi WB}}{\Lambda^2} (\phi^\dagger \tau^I \phi) W_{\mu\nu}^I B^{\mu\nu} \end{aligned}$$

Matching SMEFT at D=6 to NLO HEFT for triple Higgs production

Inspired by geometric arguments, in [\[2506.21716\]](#), we match SMEFT at D=6

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}}^{(6)} = & \frac{c_{\Phi}}{\Lambda^2} (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^3 + \frac{c_{\Phi \square}}{\Lambda^2} (\Phi^\dagger \Phi) \square (\Phi^\dagger \Phi) + \frac{c_{\Phi D}}{\Lambda^2} (\Phi^\dagger D^\mu \Phi)^* (\Phi^\dagger D_\mu \Phi) \\ & + \frac{c_{\Phi W}}{\Lambda^2} (\Phi^\dagger \Phi) W_{\mu\nu}^I W^{I\mu\nu} + \frac{c_{\Phi B}}{\Lambda^2} (\Phi^\dagger \Phi) B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} + \frac{c_{\Phi WB}}{\Lambda^2} (\Phi^\dagger \tau^I \Phi) W_{\mu\nu}^I B^{\mu\nu} \end{aligned}$$

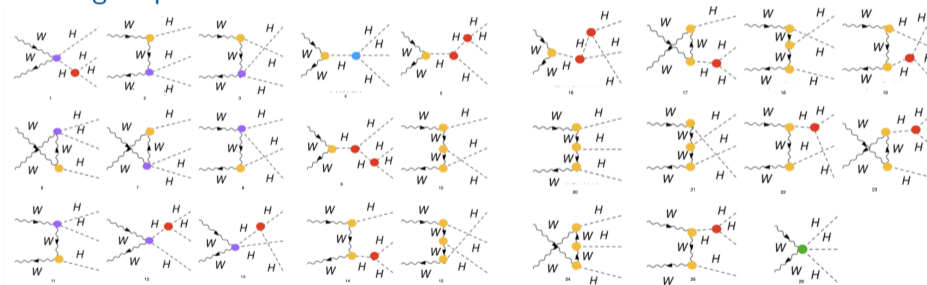
to NLO HEFT

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{LO} = & \frac{v^2}{4} \mathcal{F}(h) \text{Tr}[D_\mu U^\dagger D^\mu U] + \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu h \partial^\mu h - V(h) \\ & - \frac{1}{2g^2} \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \hat{W}^{\mu\nu}] - \frac{1}{2g'^2} \text{Tr}[\hat{B}_{\mu\nu} \hat{B}^{\mu\nu}] + \mathcal{L}_{GF} + \mathcal{L}_{FP}, \end{aligned} \quad \mathcal{L}_{NLO} = \mathcal{O}(\partial^4)$$

using field-redefinition (geometric) invariants: the scattering amplitudes.

Matching SMEFT at $D=6$ to NLO HEFT for VBF triple Higgs production

By matching amplitudes in the two theories:



Matching SMEFT at D=6 to NLO HEFT for VBF triple Higgs production

We find the following correlations of HEFT parameters by assuming the SMEFT structure:

$$\Delta a = \frac{v^2}{\Lambda^2}(-c_{\Phi\Box} + \frac{1}{4}c_{\Phi D})$$

$$\Delta b = \frac{4v^2}{\Lambda^2}(-c_{\Phi\Box} + \frac{1}{4}c_{\Phi D})$$

$$\Delta\kappa_3 = \frac{2v^4}{m_H^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi} + \frac{3v^2}{\Lambda^2}(-c_{\Phi\Box} + \frac{1}{4}c_{\Phi D})$$

$$a_{HWW} = -\frac{v^4}{2m_W^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi W}$$

$$a_{HHWW} = -\frac{v^4}{4m_W^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi W}$$

$$\Delta\kappa_3 = \frac{2v^4}{m_H^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi} + \frac{3v^2}{\Lambda^2}(-c_{\Phi\Box} + \frac{1}{4}c_{\Phi D})$$

$$\Delta\kappa_4 = \frac{12v^4}{m_H^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi} + \frac{50v^2}{3\Lambda^2}(-c_{\Phi\Box} + \frac{1}{4}c_{\Phi D})$$

$$s_W^2 a_{HBB} = -\frac{v^4}{2m_Z^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi B}$$

$$s_W^2 a_{HHBB} = -\frac{v^4}{4m_Z^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi B}$$

$$s_W^2 a_{H0} = -\frac{v^4}{8m_Z^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi D}$$

$$s_W^2 a_{HH0} = -\frac{5v^4}{16m_Z^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi D}$$

$$s_W c_W a_{H1} = -\frac{v^4}{2m_Z^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi WB}$$

$$s_W c_W a_{HH1} = -\frac{v^4}{4m_Z^2\Lambda^2}c_{\Phi WB}$$

2. Axion-Like Particle EFTs

Based on : [JHEP **10** \(2024\), 164](#) [\[2510.24873\]](#)

Adding the ALPs

Axion-like Particles (ALPs) are strong candidates for SM extensions:

- Introduced for solving the strong CP problem (?).
- ALPs appear in scenarios of global symmetry breaking in new confining sectors (pNGB) and can be very light.

Linear vs. chiral ALP: linear (SMEFT-like) (Brivio et al. [1701.05379](#))

Linear ALP theory (expansion in terms of the inverse of the ALP scale f_a). Dimension-five interactions with the SM gauge fields,

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{a}{f_a} \left(c_{\tilde{B}} B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu} + c_{\tilde{W}} W_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{W}^{a,\mu\nu} + c_{\tilde{G}} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a,\mu\nu} \right) .$$

Linear vs. chiral ALP: linear (SMEFT-like) (Brivio et al. [1701.05379](#))

Linear ALP theory (expansion in terms of the inverse of the ALP scale f_a). Dimension-five interactions with the SM gauge fields,

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{a}{f_a} \left(c_{\tilde{B}} B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu} + c_{\tilde{W}} W_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{W}^{a,\mu\nu} + c_{\tilde{G}} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a,\mu\nu} \right) .$$

Coupling to the Higgs doublet, H ,

$$\mathcal{O}_{aH} = i \left(H^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H \right) \frac{\partial^\mu a}{f_a} ,$$

Linear vs. chiral ALP: linear (SMEFT-like) (Brivio et al. [1701.05379](#))

Linear ALP theory (expansion in terms of the inverse of the ALP scale f_a). Dimension-five interactions with the SM gauge fields,

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{a}{f_a} \left(c_{\tilde{B}} B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu} + c_{\tilde{W}} W_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{W}^{a,\mu\nu} + c_{\tilde{G}} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a,\mu\nu} \right) .$$

Coupling to the Higgs doublet, H ,

$$\mathcal{O}_{aH} = i \left(H^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H \right) \frac{\partial^\mu a}{f_a} ,$$

which leads to fermionic couplings proportional to the Yukawas,

$$\mathcal{O}_{a\Psi} = i \frac{a}{f_a} (\bar{Q}_L Y_U \tilde{H} u_R + \dots) + h.c.$$

Linear vs. chiral ALP: chiral (HEFT-like) 1701.05379

17 possibilities for coupling the ALP to SM fields,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{chiral}} = \sum_{i=\tilde{B},\tilde{W},\tilde{G}} c_i \mathcal{O}_i + \sum_{j=1}^{17} c_j \mathcal{O}_j,$$

Linear vs. chiral ALP: chiral (HEFT-like) 1701.05379

17 possibilities for coupling the ALP to SM fields,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{chiral}} = \sum_{i=\tilde{B},\tilde{W},\tilde{G}} c_i \mathcal{O}_i + \sum_{j=1}^{17} c_j \mathcal{O}_j,$$

where each of the operators $\mathcal{O}_1 - \mathcal{O}_{17}$ is proportional to a Higgs flare function as before

$$\mathcal{F}_i(h) = 1 + a_i \frac{h}{v} + b_i \left(\frac{h}{v} \right)^2 + \dots,$$

New couplings: c_{2D} , which induces $Z^\mu \partial_\mu a$.

Other relevant operators: such as the operator c_{17} which accompanies $\frac{1}{f_a} V_\mu \partial^\mu \square a$.

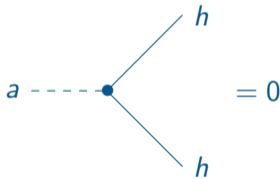
Targeting Di-Higgs: CP conserving ALP interactions

In [\[2404.08062\]](#) we study Di-Higgs production via a non-resonant ALP.

Targeting Di-Higgs: CP conserving ALP interactions

In [\[2404.08062\]](#) we study Di-Higgs production via a non-resonant ALP.

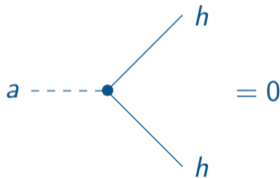
ALPs are pseudoscalar particles (0^-).



Targeting Di-Higgs: CP conserving ALP interactions

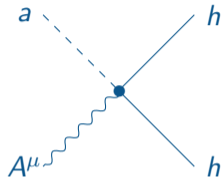
In [\[2404.08062\]](#) we study Di-Higgs production via a non-resonant ALP.

ALPs are pseudoscalar particles (0^-).



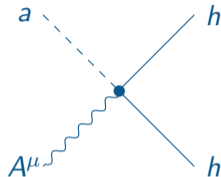
\Rightarrow Need for an extra γ or Z boson.

Targeting Di-Higgs: CP conserving ALP interactions



$$\frac{1}{2\pi v^2 f_a} \left(\tilde{b}_{3CW} + \tilde{b}_{10SW} \right) (p_\gamma^\mu p_a^2 - p_\gamma^2 p_a^\mu) \stackrel{\text{on shell}}{=} 0$$

Targeting Di-Higgs: CP conserving ALP interactions



$$\frac{1}{2\pi v^2 f_a} \left(\tilde{b}_3 c_W + \tilde{b}_{10} s_W \right) (p_\gamma^\mu p_a^2 - p_\gamma^2 p_a^\mu) \stackrel{\text{on shell}}{=} 0$$

This is due to CP conservation \Rightarrow

$0^- \rightarrow 0^-$ which needs **longitudinal polarization** of outgoing vector boson.

Process of this analysis: Di-Higgs production in the chiral ALP

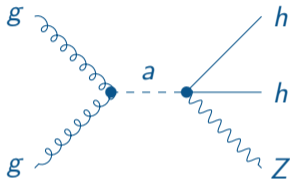


Figure: Feynman diagram for di-Higgs production with an associated Z-boson via a non-resonant ALP.

Process of this analysis: Di-Higgs production in the chiral ALP

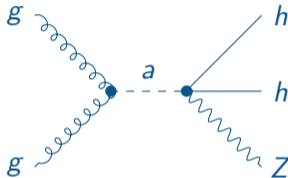
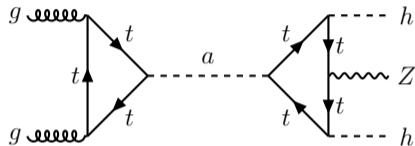


Figure: Feynman diagram for di-Higgs production with an associated Z-boson via a non-resonant ALP.

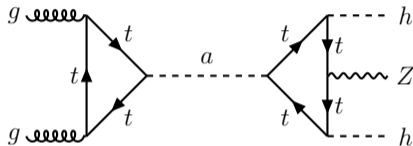
Using ATLAS (CMS) $HH(Z)$ [2310.12301] ([2404.08462]) data we can set bounds on couplings. For HHZ there is very little SM background!

Comparing to linear theory: top loops



$$\mathcal{L} = -i c_t \frac{m_t a}{f_a} (\bar{t} \gamma^5 t)$$

Comparing to linear theory: top loops

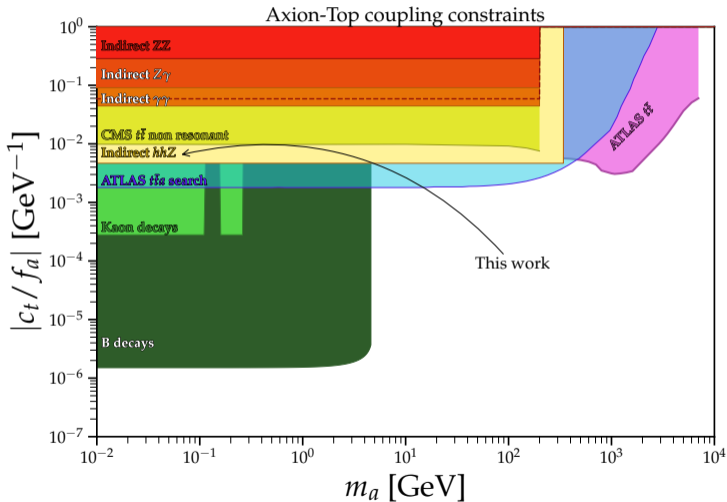


$$\mathcal{L} = -i c_t \frac{m_t a}{f_a} (\bar{t} \gamma^5 t)$$

Using Naive Dimensional Analysis (NDA) we can interpret the results from the last section in terms of loop contributions as

$$\frac{c}{f_a^2} \simeq \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi c_W} \frac{c_t^2}{f_a^2}.$$

Bounds on top-axion couplings



Previous ALP analyses at colliders

Previous work has analysed individual ALP off-shell signatures at the Large Hadron Collider,

- **Di-photon, massive di-boson, or vector-boson–scattering processes**

I. Brivio, M.B. Gavela, L. Merlo, K. Mimasu, J.M. No, R. del Rey et al. [1701.05379]; M. Bauer, M. Neubert and A. Thamm, [1708.00443];

M.B. Gavela, J.M. No, V. Sanz and J.F. de Trocóniz,[1905.12953].

- **Couplings to the top quark and gluons**

F. Esser, M. Madigan, V. Sanz and M. Ubiali [2303.17634]; J. Butterworth, M. Cullingworth, J. Egan, F. Esser, V. Sanz and M. Ubiali, [2508.21660];

Y. Hosseini and M. Mohammadi Najafabadi [2408.11588].

Previous ALP analyses at colliders

Previous work has analysed individual ALP off-shell signatures at the Large Hadron Collider,

- **Di-photon, massive di-boson, or vector-boson–scattering processes**

I. Brivio, M.B. Gavela, L. Merlo, K. Mimasu, J.M. No, R. del Rey et al. [1701.05379]; M. Bauer, M. Neubert and A. Thamm, [1708.00443];

M.B. Gavela, J.M. No, V. Sanz and J.F. de Trocóniz, [1905.12953].

- **Couplings to the top quark and gluons**

F. Esser, M. Madigan, V. Sanz and M. Ubiali [2303.17634]; J. Butterworth, M. Cullingworth, J. Egan, F. Esser, V. Sanz and M. Ubiali, [2508.21660];

Y. Hosseini and M. Mohammadi Najafabadi [2408.11588].

However, a comprehensive treatment of ALP-mediated multiboson production has not yet been undertaken (only partially as in J. Bonilla, I. Brivio, Machado-Rodríguez and J.F. de Trocóniz [2202.03450] where VBF channels were explored.)

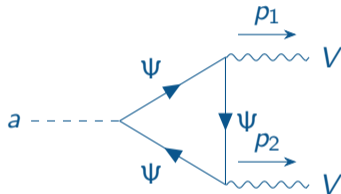
Using multiboson data to constrain the linear ALP EFT

Latest work with F. Esser, V. Sanz and M. Ubiali [[2510.24873](#)]. Global fit for the linear ALP:

vertex	Feynman Rule in linear ALP EFT
$a\gamma\gamma$	$-\frac{4i}{f_a} (c_\theta^2 c_{\tilde{B}} + s_\theta^2 c_{\tilde{W}}) \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (p_{\gamma 1})_\rho (p_{\gamma 2})_\sigma$
$a\gamma Z$	$\frac{2i}{f_a} s_{2\theta} (c_{\tilde{B}} - c_{\tilde{W}}) \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (p_Z)_\rho (p_\gamma)_\sigma$
aZZ	$-\frac{4i}{f_a} (s_\theta^2 c_{\tilde{B}} + c_\theta^2 c_{\tilde{W}}) \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (p_{Z1})_\rho (p_{Z2})_\sigma$
$aW^+ W^-$	$-\frac{4i}{f_a} c_{\tilde{W}} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (p_{W^+})_\rho (p_{W^-})_\sigma$
agg	$-\frac{4i}{f_a} c_{\tilde{G}} \delta_{ab} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (p_{g1})_\rho (p_{g2})_\sigma$
$a\gamma W^+ W^-$	$\frac{4ie}{f_a} c_{\tilde{W}} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (p_{WW\gamma})_\sigma$
$aZW^+ W^-$	$\frac{4ie}{f_a} \frac{c_\theta}{s_\theta} c_{\tilde{W}} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (p_{WWZ})_\sigma$
$aggg$	$\frac{4}{f_a} g_s c_{\tilde{G}} f_{abc} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (p_{ggg})_\sigma$

ALP coupling only to gauge bosons

Naturally arises when having a heavy fermion, Ψ , carrying an approximate global $U(1)$ and in some representation under the SM gauge groups

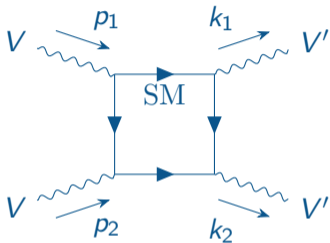


Generates, after integrating out the heavy fermion, through the chiral anomaly

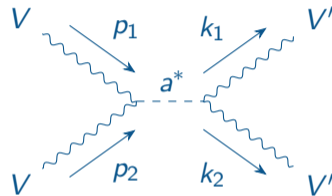
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ALP}} = \frac{a}{f_a} \left[c_{\tilde{G}} G\tilde{G} + c_{\tilde{W}} W\tilde{W} + c_{\tilde{B}} B\tilde{B} \right],$$

and no coupling to H or fermions.

Global Fit to ATLAS and CMS data: non-resonant regime of the ALP



(a) SM continuum (no ALP resonance)



(b) Off-shell ALP exchange in the s-channel

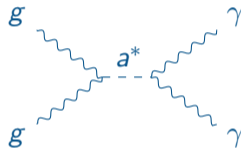
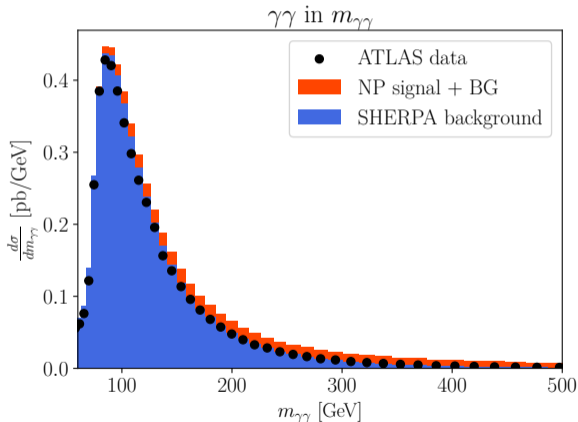
Off-shell exchange of the ALP will modify typically distribution tails.

$$\hat{\sigma}(V_1 V_2 \rightarrow V_3 V_4) \propto \frac{(c_{V_1 V_2} c_{V_3 V_4})^2}{f_a^4} \hat{s},$$

Experimental data used for the global fit

final state	experiment	\sqrt{s} (TeV)	luminosity	observables
$\gamma\gamma$	CMS	7	5 fb^{-1}	$d\sigma_{\gamma\gamma}/dm_{\gamma\gamma}$
	ATLAS	13	139 fb^{-1}	$d\sigma_{\gamma\gamma}/dm_{\gamma\gamma}$
ZZ	CMS	13	137 fb^{-1}	$d\sigma/m_{ZZ}, d\sigma/p_T^l$
	ATLAS	13.6	29 fb^{-1}	$d\sigma/dm_{4l}$
W^+W^-	CMS	13	34.8 fb^{-1}	total cross section
	ATLAS	13	36.1 fb^{-1}	$d\sigma_{WW}/dm_{e\mu}$
dijet (gg)	ATLAS	13	3.2 fb^{-1}	$d^2\sigma_{jj}/dm_{jj}dy^*$
	CMS	13	2.3 fb^{-1}	$d^2\sigma_{jj}/dm_{jet}dp_T$
	CMS	13	2.6 fb^{-1}	$1/\sigma d^2\sigma_{jj}/d\chi dm_{jj}$
	CMS	13	35.9 fb^{-1}	$1/\sigma d^2\sigma_{jj}/d\chi dm_{jj}$
γZjj (VBF)	CMS	13	139 fb^{-1}	$d\sigma/dp_T^\gamma, d\sigma/dp_T^{\text{lead},l}, d\sigma/p_T^{\text{lead},j}, d^2\sigma/dy_{jj}dm_{jj}$
$ZZjj, W^+W^-jj$ (VBF)	ATLAS	13	140 fb^{-1}	Events/ 200 GeV in m_{VV} bins

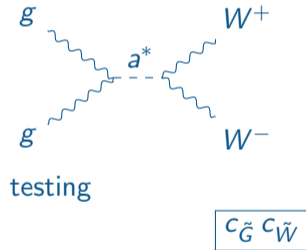
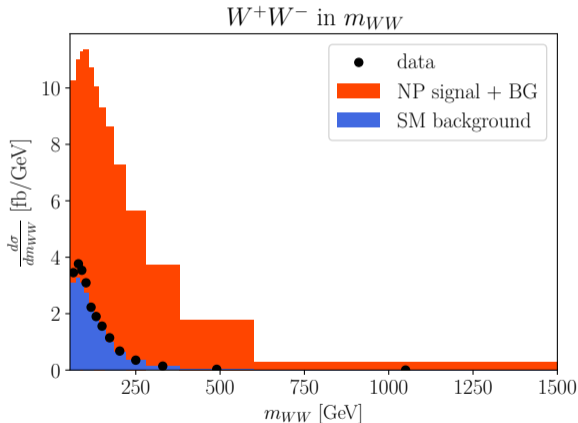
$\gamma\gamma$ final state. ATLAS [2107.09330].



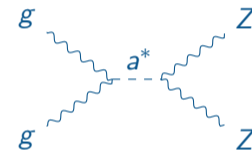
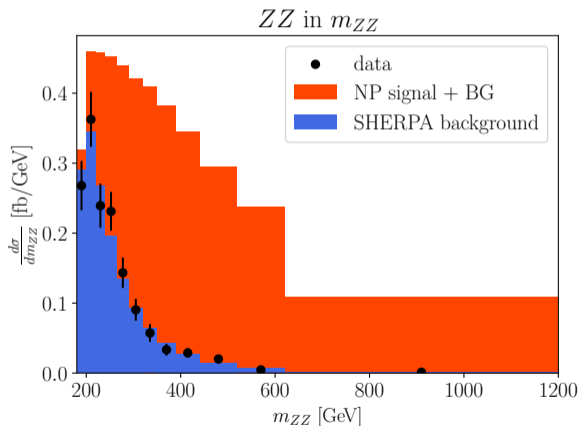
testing

$$c_{\tilde{G}} \left(c_{\tilde{B}} \cos^2 \theta_W + c_{\tilde{W}} \sin^2 \theta_W \right)$$

W^+W^- final state ATLAS [1905.04242]



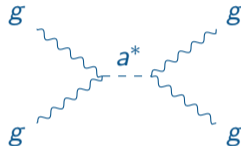
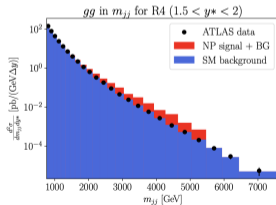
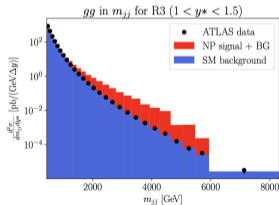
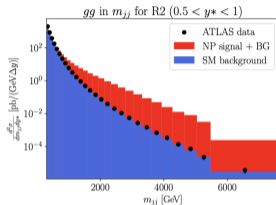
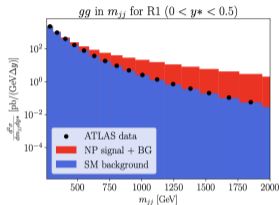
ZZ final state ATLAS [2311.09715]



testing

$$c_{\tilde{G}} (\sin^2 \theta_W c_{\tilde{B}} + \cos^2 \theta_W c_{\tilde{W}})$$

Dijet final state ATLAS collaboration, JHEP 05 (2018) 195 [1711.02692].

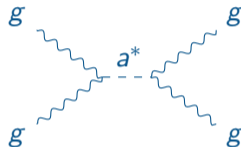
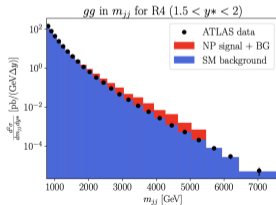
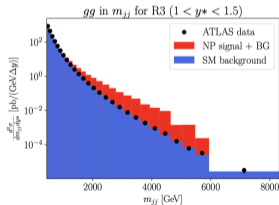
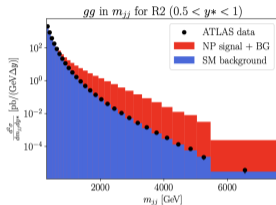
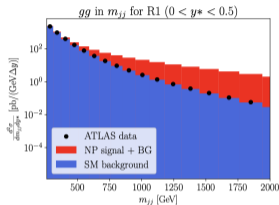


testing

$$c_{\tilde{G}}^2$$

($c_{\tilde{G}} = 3$ for visibility)

Dijet final state ATLAS collaboration, JHEP 05 (2018) 195 [1711.02692].

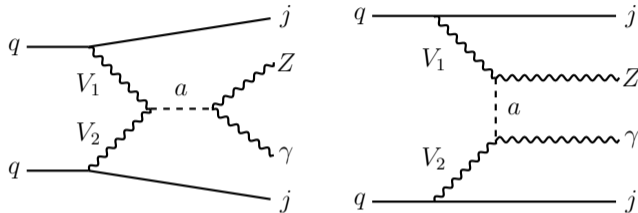


testing

$$c_{\tilde{G}}^2$$

($c_{\tilde{G}} = 3$ for visibility)
BG not given, calculated with NNLOJET.

VBF/VBS $Z\gamma$ final state



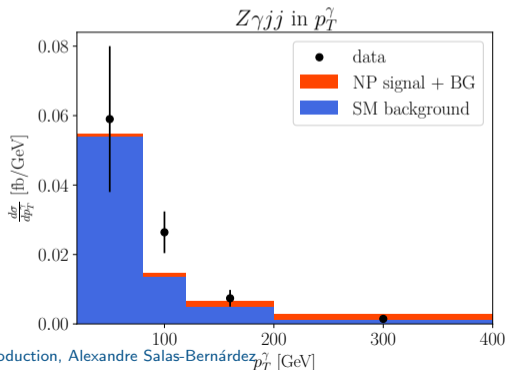
we calculate the cross section in MG5 looping over various combinations for values of $c_{\tilde{W}}$ and $c_{\tilde{B}}$ and fit a quartic polynomial of the form

$$\sigma_{Z\gamma jj}(c_{\tilde{W}}, c_{\tilde{B}}) = \sum_{m,n=0}^{4, n+m \leq 4} \alpha_{nm} c_{\tilde{W}}^n c_{\tilde{B}}^m,$$

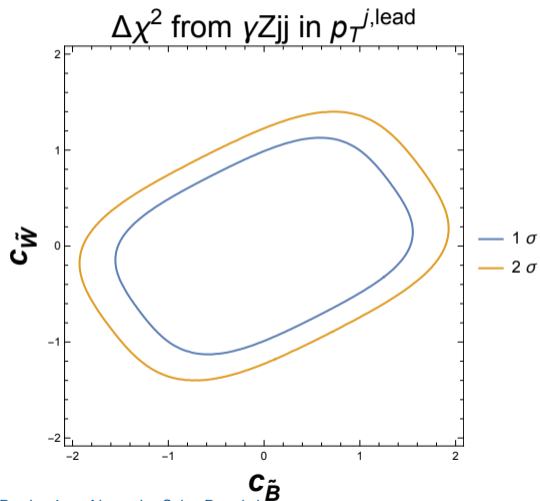
VBF/VBS $Z\gamma$ final state CMS, Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 072001 [2106.11082].

With the fit at hand, the number of events for arbitrary $c_{\tilde{W}}$ and $c_{\tilde{B}}$ can be obtained from

$$N^{\text{ALP}}(c_{\tilde{W}}, c_{\tilde{B}}) = N^{\text{ALP}}(c_{\tilde{W}} = 1, c_{\tilde{B}} = 0) \frac{\sigma_{Z\gamma jj}(c_{\tilde{W}}, c_{\tilde{B}})}{\sigma_{Z\gamma jj}(c_{\tilde{W}} = 1, c_{\tilde{B}} = 0)}$$

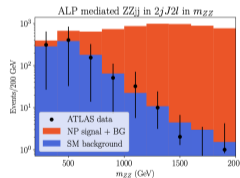
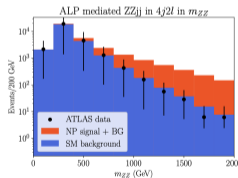
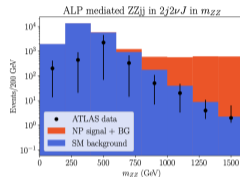
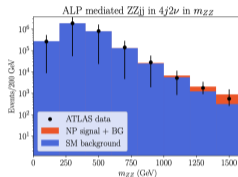


VBF/VBS $Z\gamma$ final state

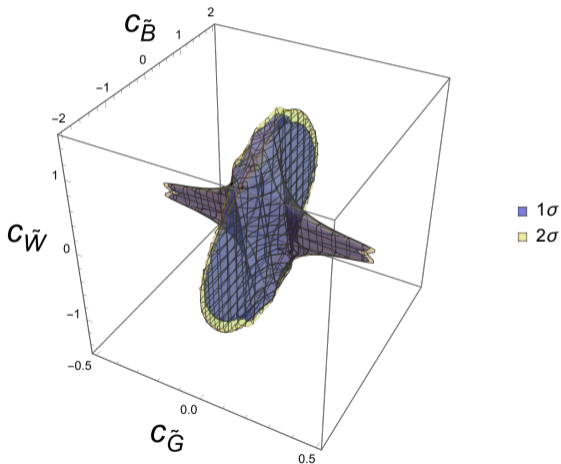


Adding VBF/VBS $VVjj$ final state ATLAS, 2503.17461

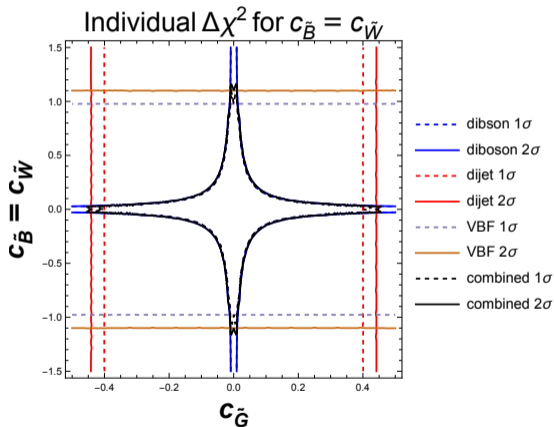
- $ZZjj$ with $Z \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$ (0ℓ),
- $ZZjj$ with $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ (2ℓ),
- W^+W^-jj with $W^\pm \rightarrow \ell^\pm\nu$ (1ℓ).



Global fit for all channels



Global fit for all channels: projection



Summary:

- HEFT and SMEFT can be distinguished via multi-Higgs measurements. We match the full bosonic $D = 6$ SMEFT to the NLO HEFT.
- Multiboson measurements are a good probe for ALP interactions. Global fits to multi-boson measurements can be performed for constraining ALP couplings.

Acknowledgments

Funded by research grant PID2023-148162NB-C21 and PID2022-137003NB-I00 from Spanish MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033/ and EU FEDER.

