

Measurements of the Higgs boson mass and width at CMS

Higgs Hunting
15 July 2025

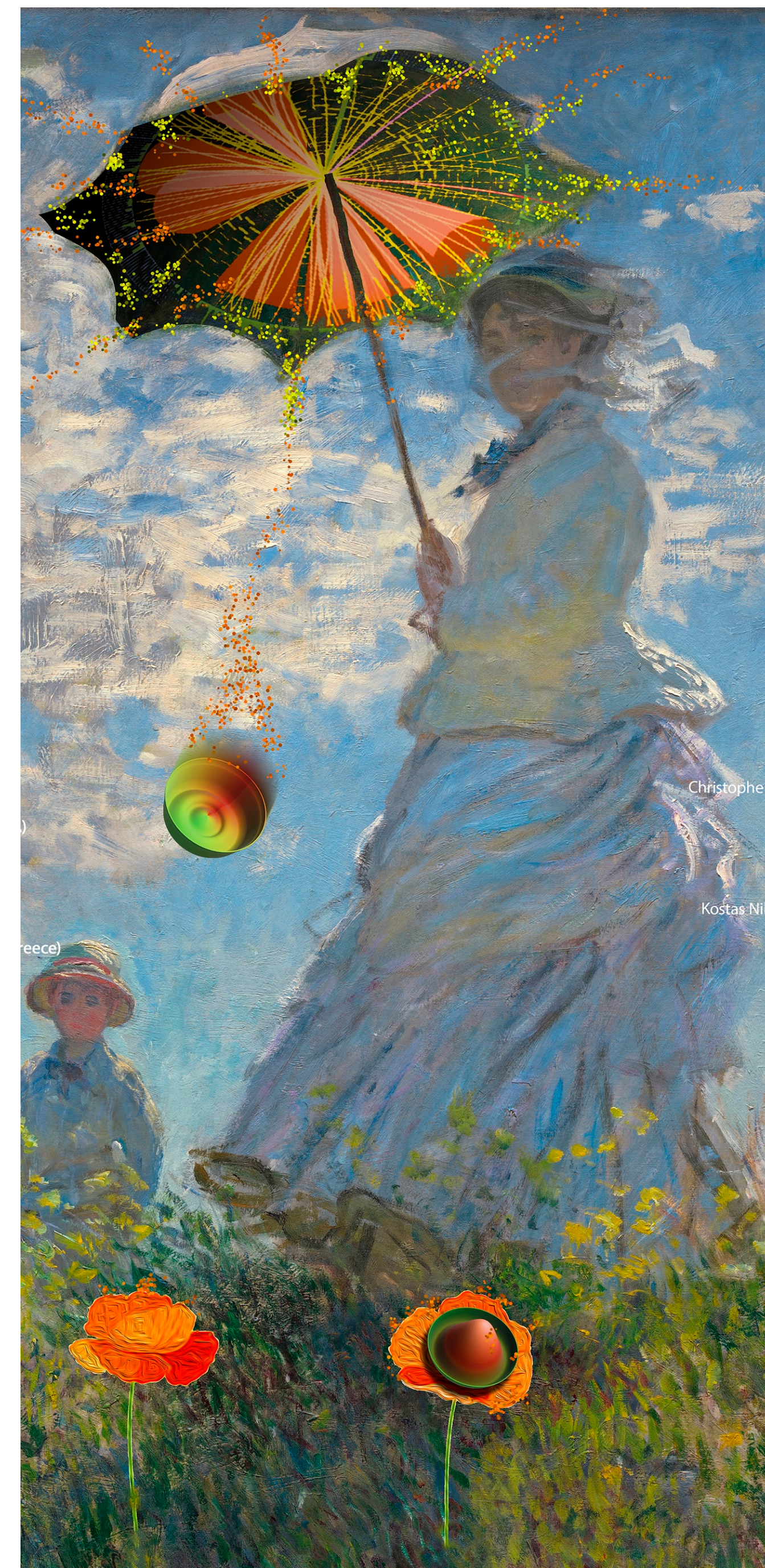
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On behalf of the CMS collaboration

$H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$

Phys. Rev. D 111, 092014

<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.111.092014>

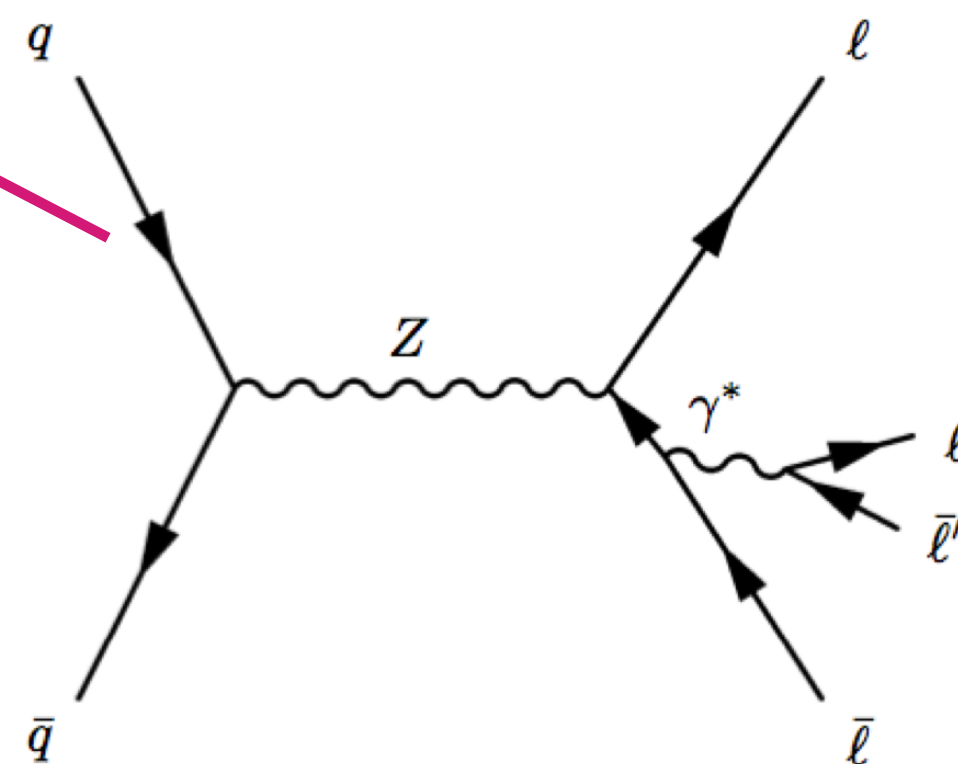
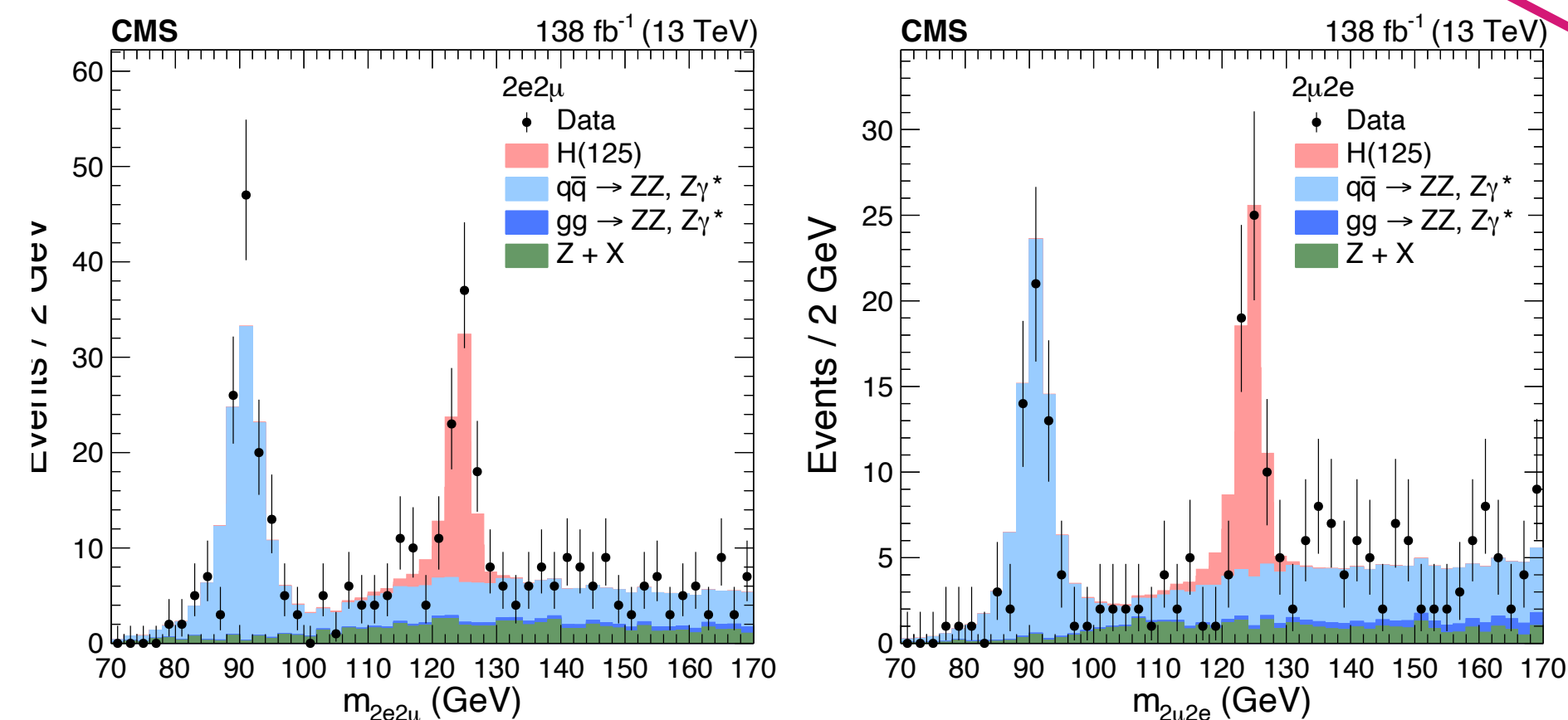
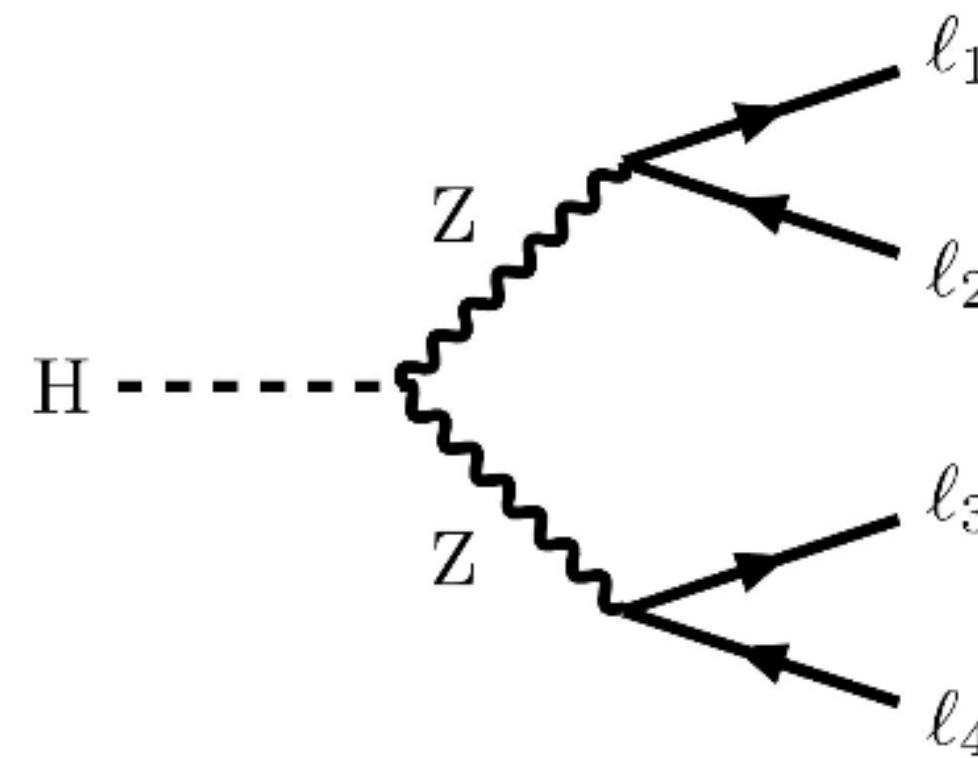
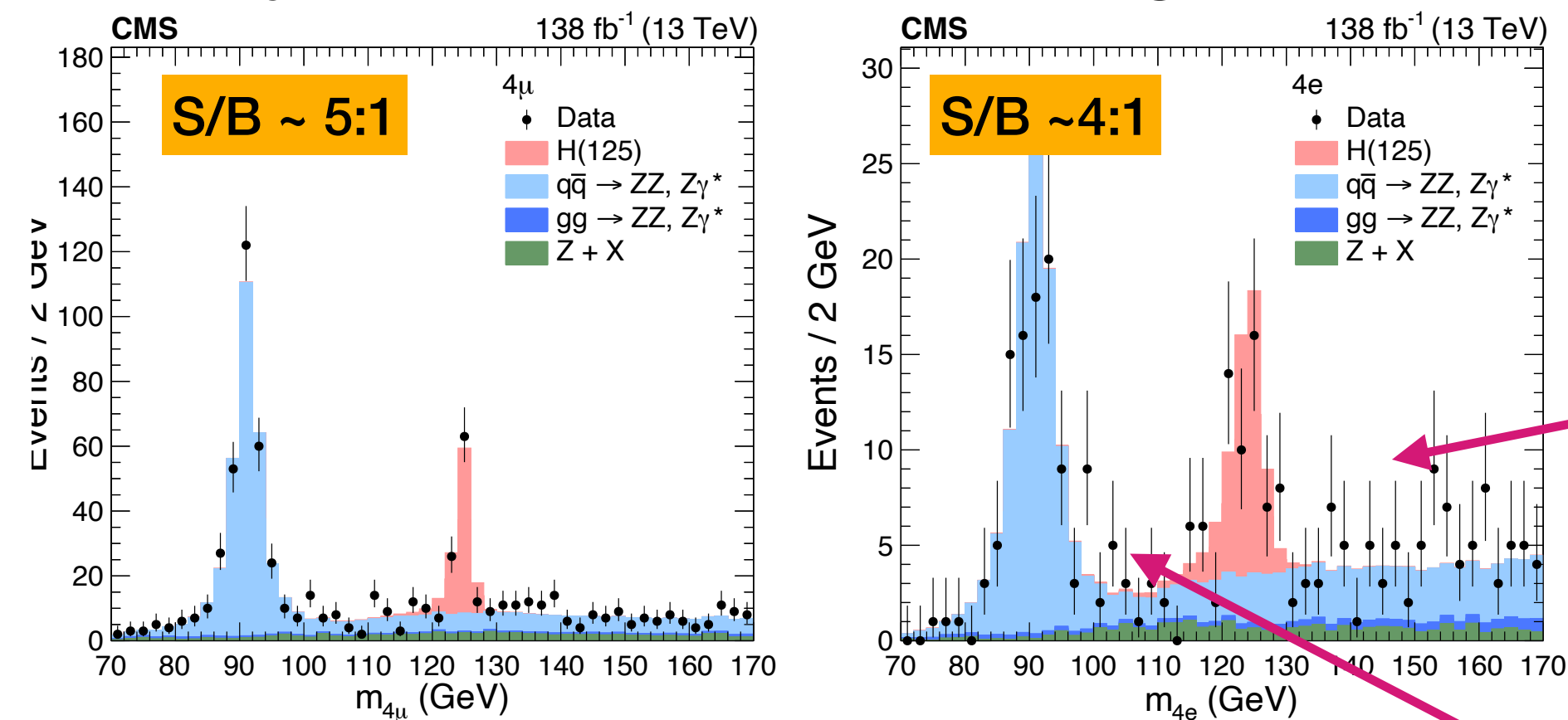


Motivation

- The Higgs boson mass is a free parameter of the Standard Model (SM)
- m_H can be measured precisely in the two decay modes : $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$
 - Both have well reconstructed final states with excellent mass resolution (1-2%)
 - $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$ has small branching fraction (BR $\sim 0.01\%$) compared to $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ (BR $\sim 0.2\%$), but:
 - high signal-to-background ratio (S/B) $\sim 4:1$
- Higgs decay width (Γ_H) predicted precisely in the SM (~ 4 MeV for $m_H = 125$ GeV)
 - any deviation hints at new physics
- Width can be constrained both
 - Directly from line-shape in on-shell region
 - Indirectly from off-shell Higgs production
- This talk focuses on mass and width measurement in $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$ at CMS
- The measurement in $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ will be presented in the talk on Higgs Properties at CMS (Amrutha's talk)

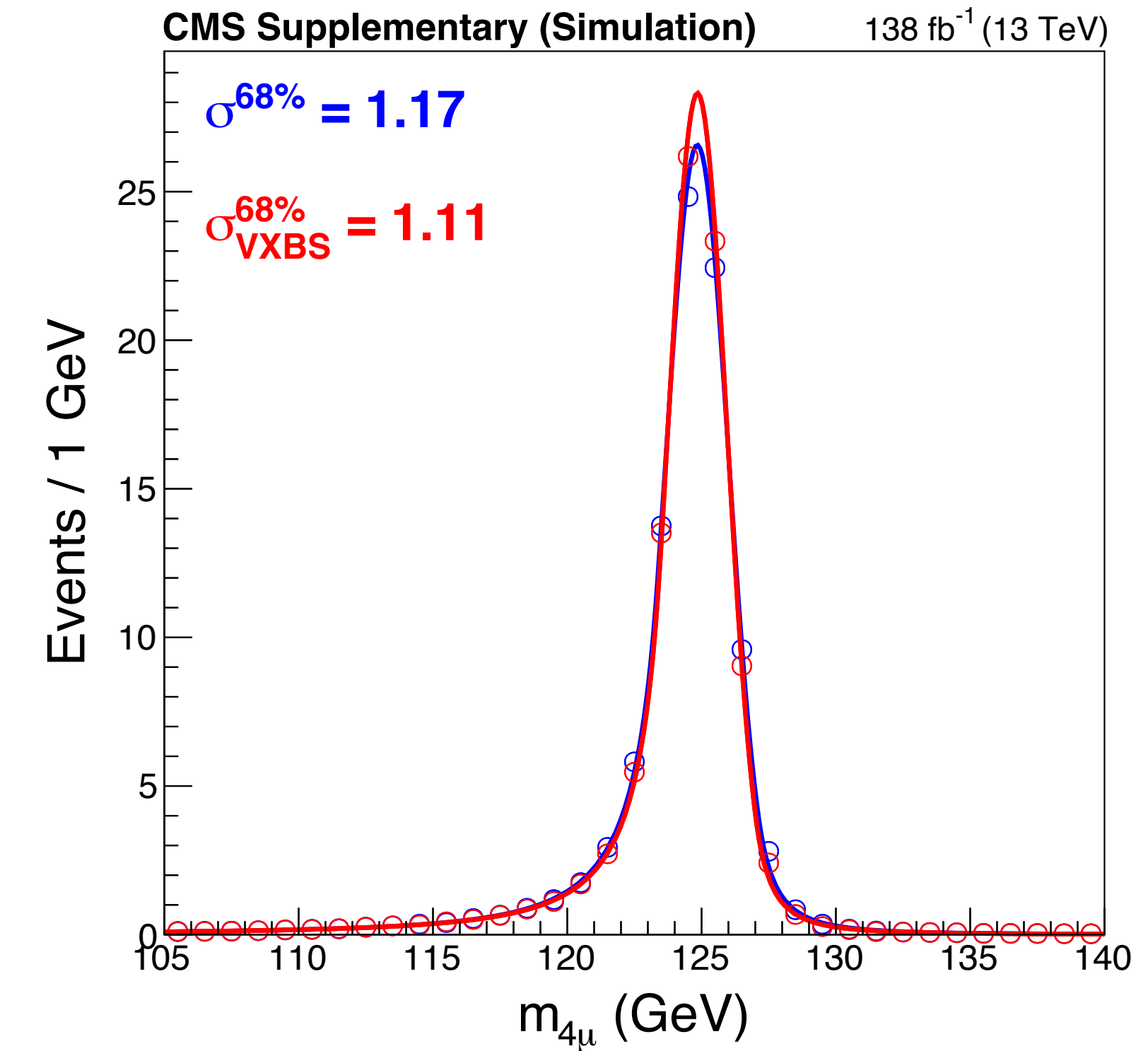
Mass measurement in $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$ using full Run2 data (138 fb⁻¹)

- For the mass measurement, events are categorised into four final states : 4μ , $4e$, $2\mu 2e$, $2e2\mu$
- In $2\mu 2e$, the pair $\mu\mu$ forms Z_1 (closest to nominal Z boson), and in $2e2\mu$, the ee pair forms Z_1
- These final states have different mass resolutions, due to detector performance differences between muons and electrons
- They also exhibit different signal-to-background ratios (S/B), depending on whether Z_1 is formed from $\mu\mu$ or ee



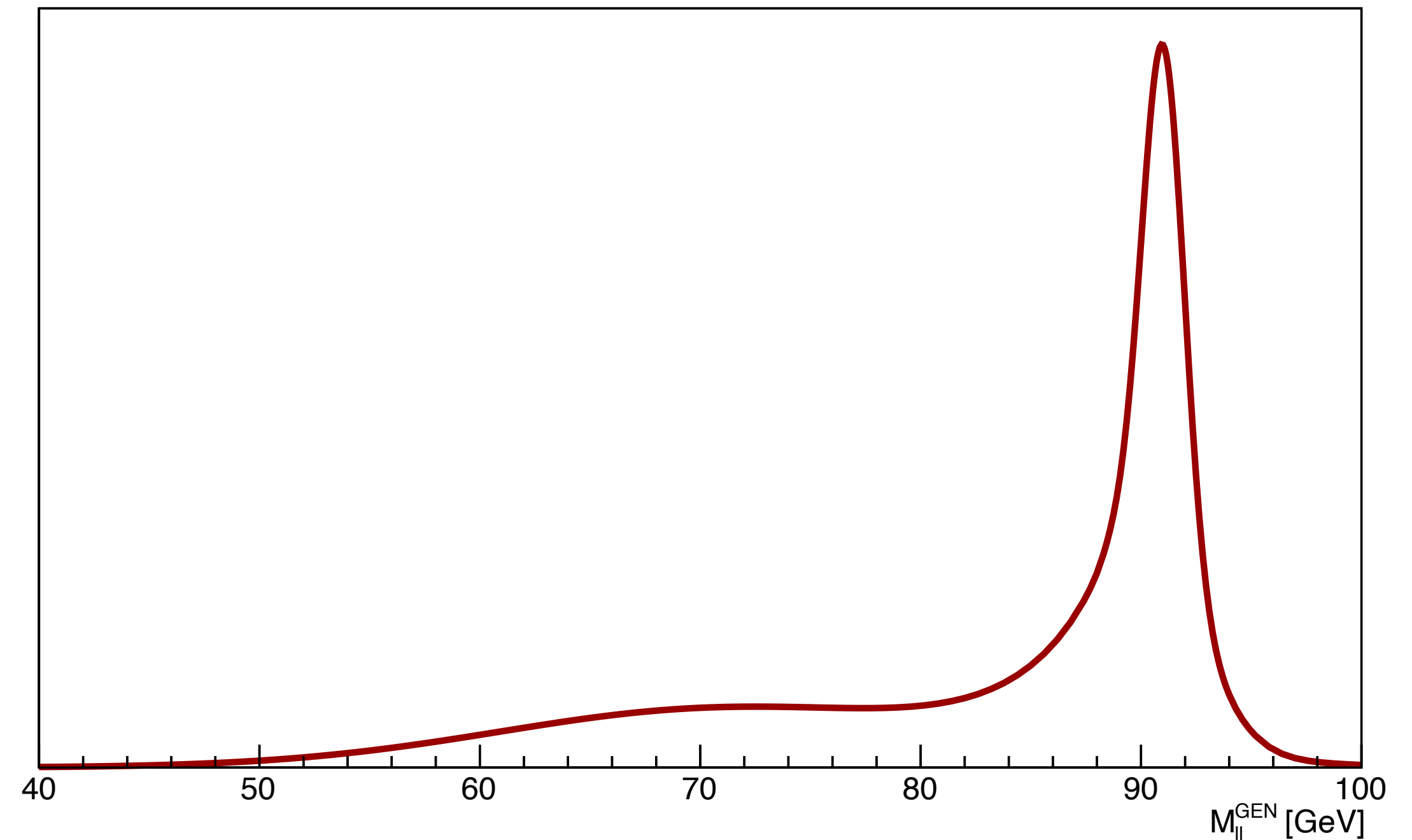
Beam Spot constraint NEW

- The beam spot represents a 3-D profile of the luminous region over which beams collide
- Beam spot (BS) position and transverse spread measured precisely
- Constrain muon tracks to come from the beam spot (BS)
- This improves muon momentum (p_T) resolution by 5-10%
- Electron momentum precision is dominated by the energy measured in ECAL system, and hence electrons kinematic parameters are not modified
- **Overall improvement in m_H uncertainty $\sim 5\%$**



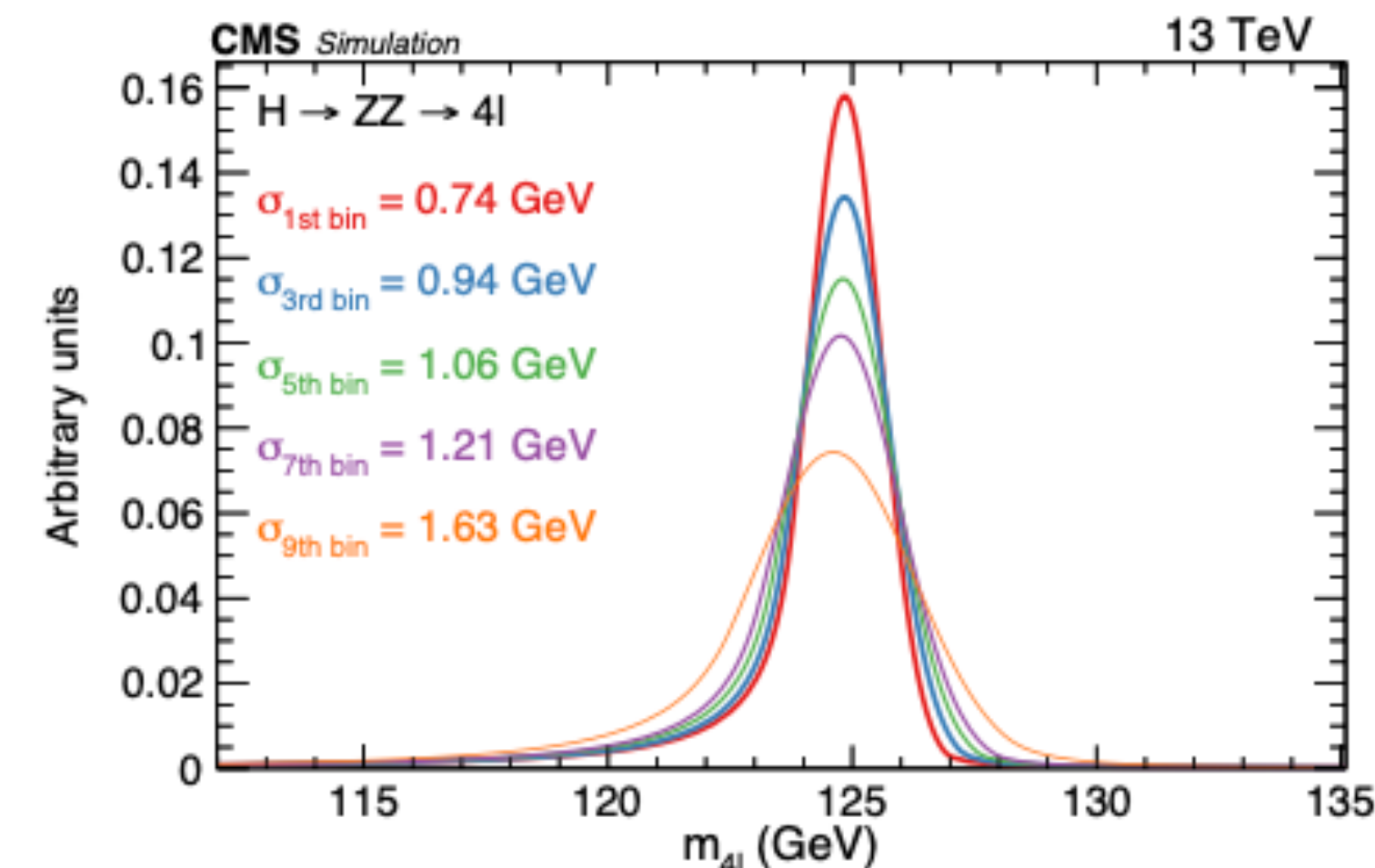
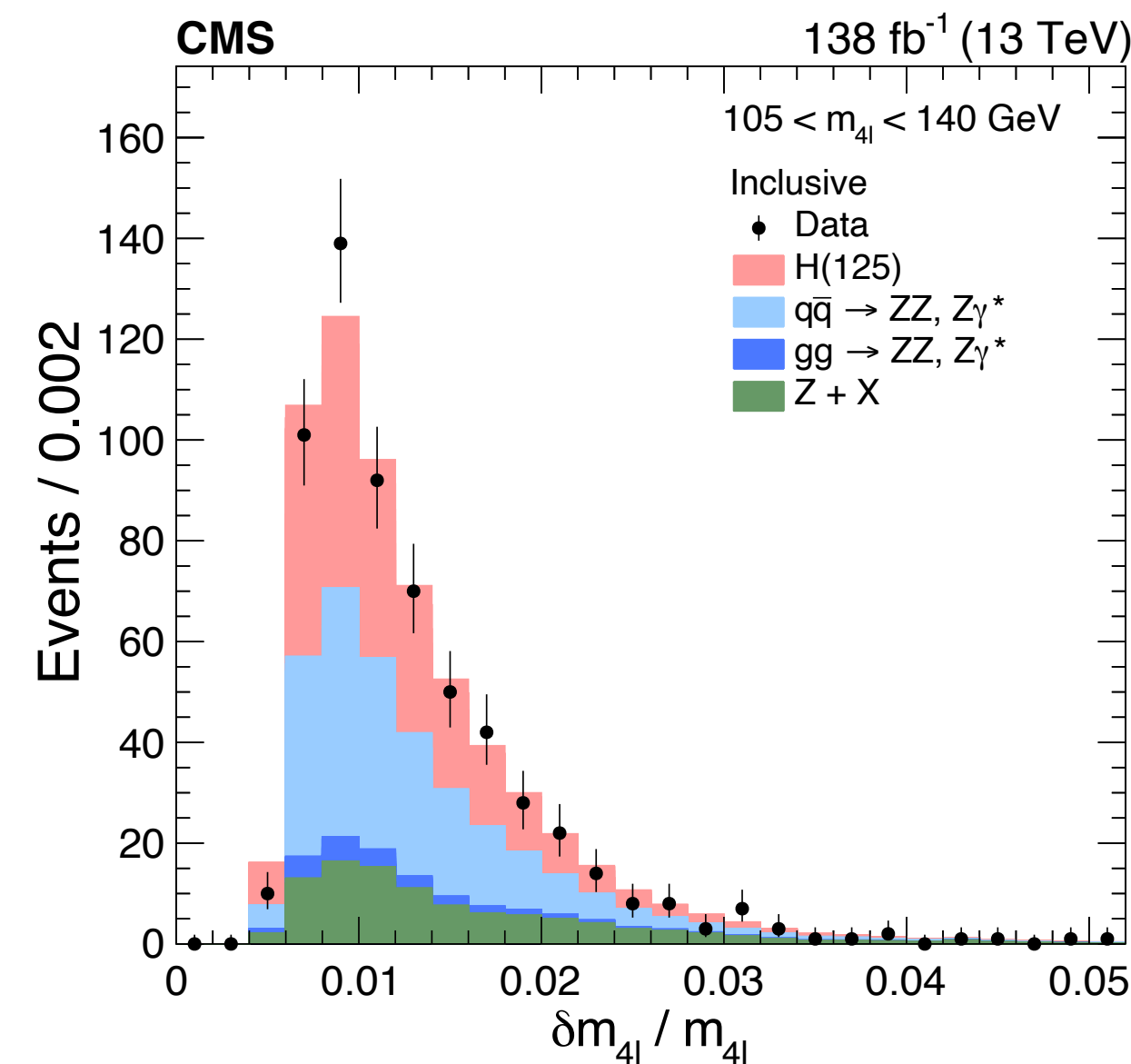
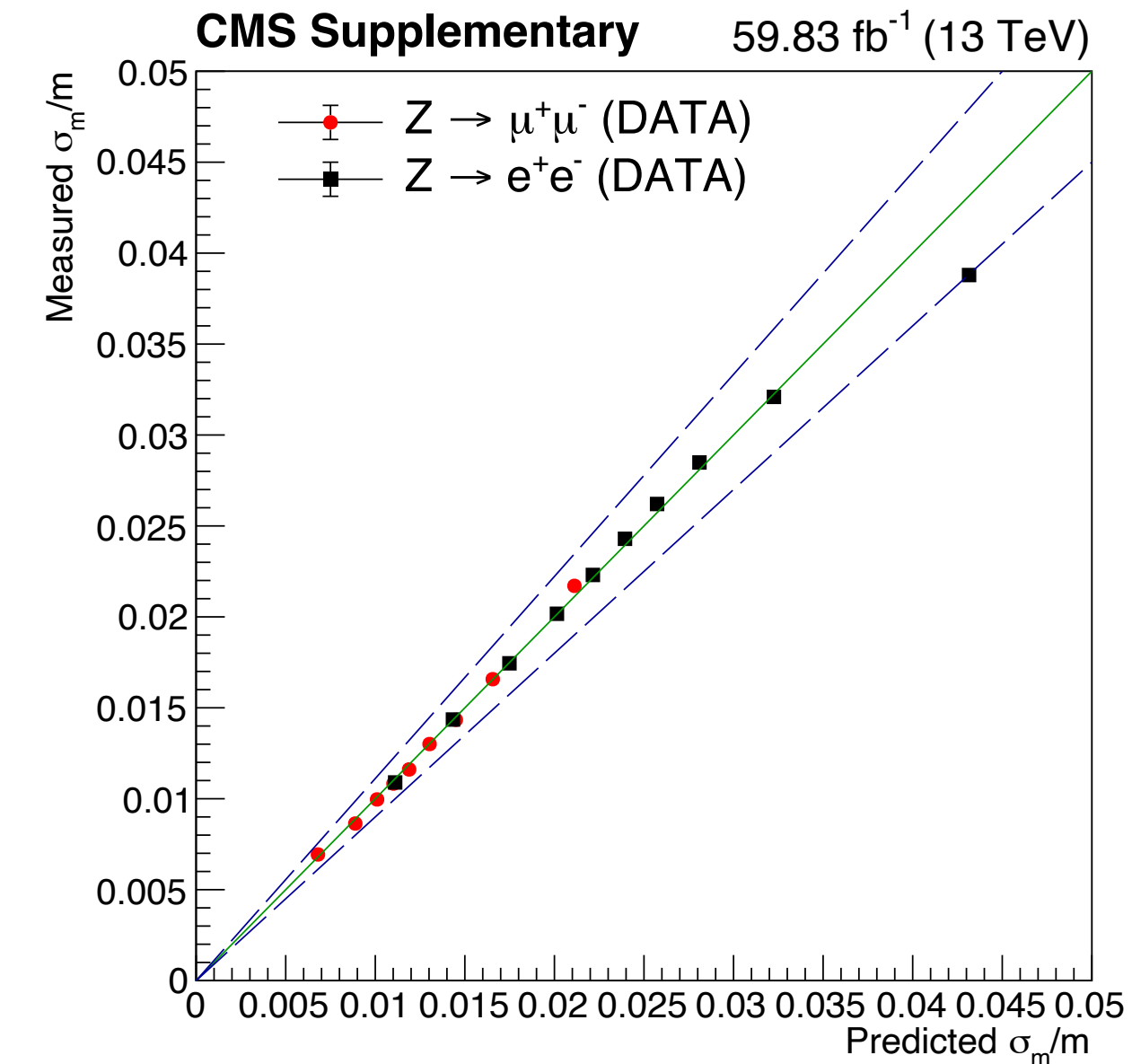
Z_1 line shape constraint

- $H \rightarrow Z_1 Z_2 \rightarrow 4l$, Z_1 is mostly on-shell with $m(Z_1) \sim m(Z)$
- To improve the mass resolution, a kinematic fit is performed using a mass constraint on the intermediate on-shell Z resonance
- Re-evaluate p_T of two leptons forming Z_1 , constraining reconstructed Z_1 mass to follow the Z boson true line shape
- **Overall improvement in m_H uncertainty $\sim 8\%$**



Categorisation : per-event mass uncertainty

- Per-event mass uncertainty on the Higgs boson (δm_{4l}) is estimated from the reconstructed lepton momentum uncertainties (δp_T)
- Per-event lepton momentum uncertainties further corrected using $Z \rightarrow 2l$ events for calibration
- Based on relative mass resolution ($\delta m_{4l}/m_{4l}$), 9 sub-categories defined to isolate events with better mass resolution
- **Overall improvement in m_H uncertainty $\sim 8\%$**



Distribution of m_{4l} in five of the $\delta m_{4l}/m_{4l}$ categories

Matrix element (ME) based kinematic discriminant

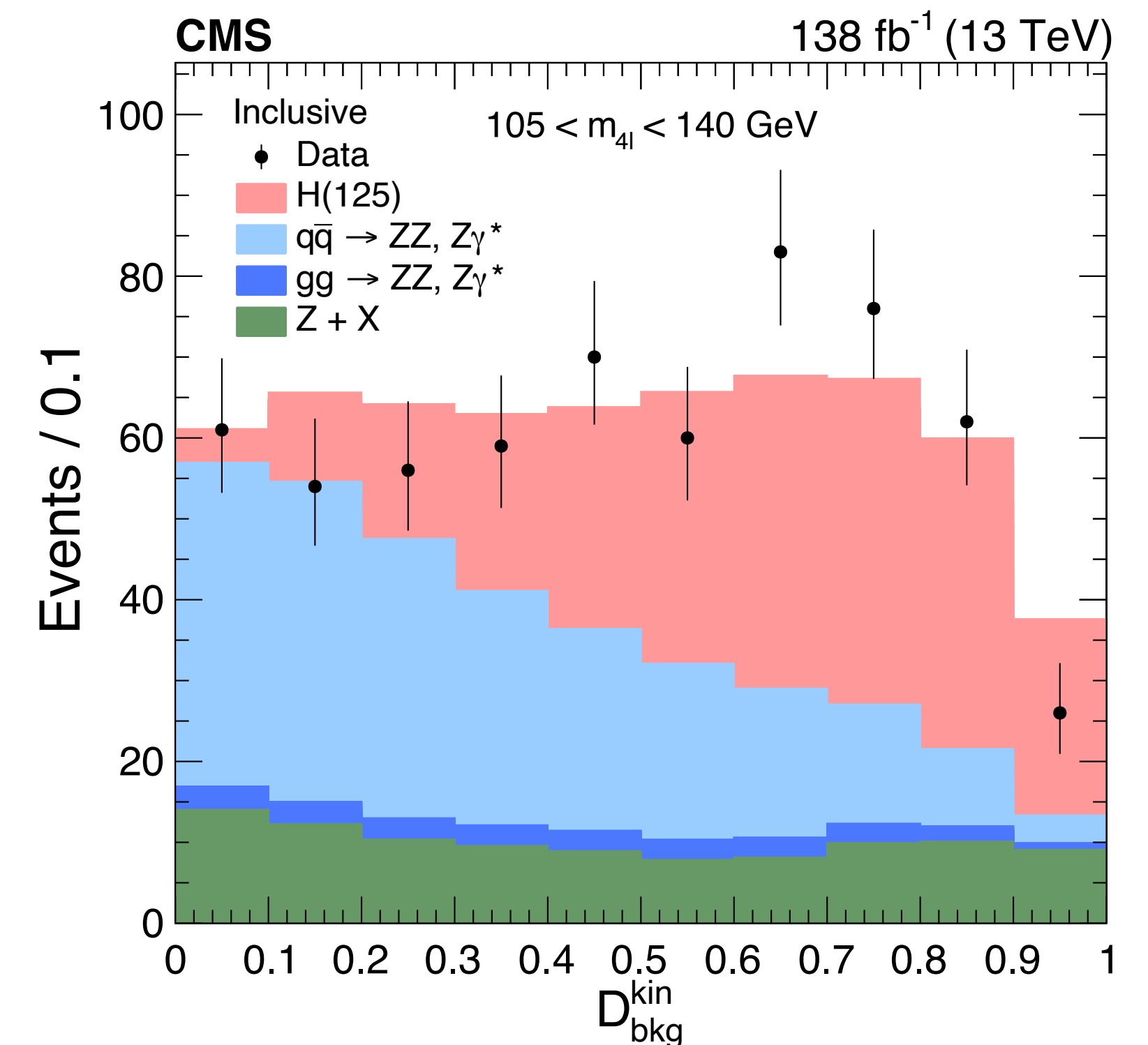
- Matrix element calculations performed using optimal set of observables that capture the full decay kinematics of signal($H \rightarrow 4l$) and background($ZZ \rightarrow 4l$)
- R is transformed to $D_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}} [0,1]$,

$$D_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}} = \frac{R}{R + 1}$$

- Helps in separating signal like events ($D_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{kin}}$ close to 1) from background
- Second observable in the mass fit
- Overall improvement in m_H uncertainty $\sim 4\%$**

$$R = \left| \frac{\text{ME}(\text{event} | \tilde{H})}{\text{ME}(\text{event} | ZZ)} \right|^2$$

- $\tilde{H}$ - Higgs with mass $m_{\tilde{H}} = m_{4l}$
- ZZ - background



Mass measurement in $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$: final fit

Signal modelling :

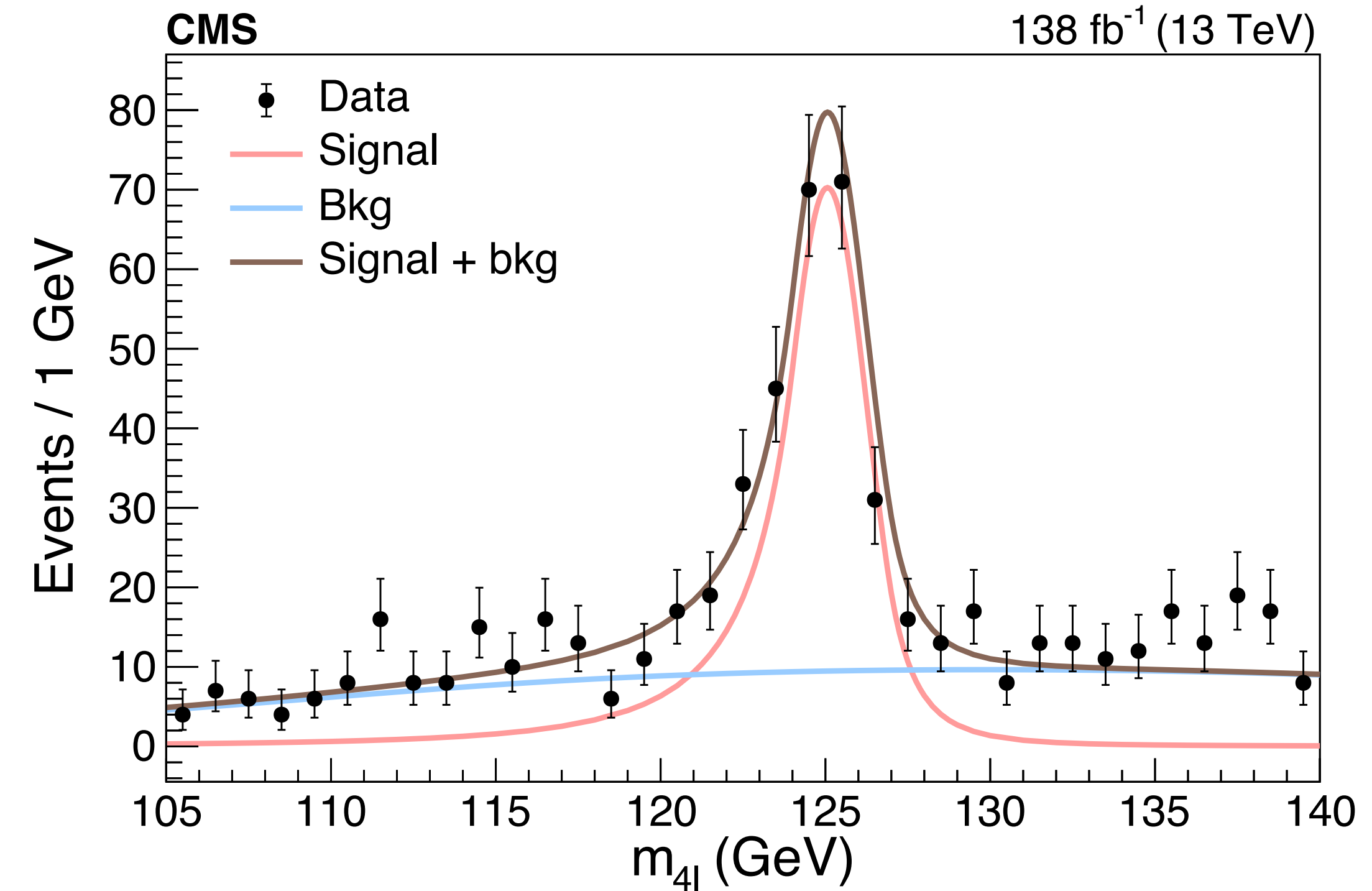
- Double-Sided Crystal Ball function (DSCB) used for mass measurement

Backgrounds :

- **Irreducible ($qq \rightarrow ZZ$, $gg \rightarrow ZZ$)** - estimated from MC
- **Reducible ($Z+X$)**, with at least one non-prompt/misidentified lepton - derived from data

A final 2D likelihood fit using the observables (m_H , D_{bkg}^{kin}) across 9 mass resolution categories and four lepton final states, to extract Higgs mass (m_H)

In the m_H fit, signal strength (μ) is floating, while Γ_H fixed to 0 (since the SM value ~ 4 MeV is negligible compared to detector resolution)



Mass measurement in $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$: Results



Observed results :

Most precise single channel measurement of Higgs boson mass

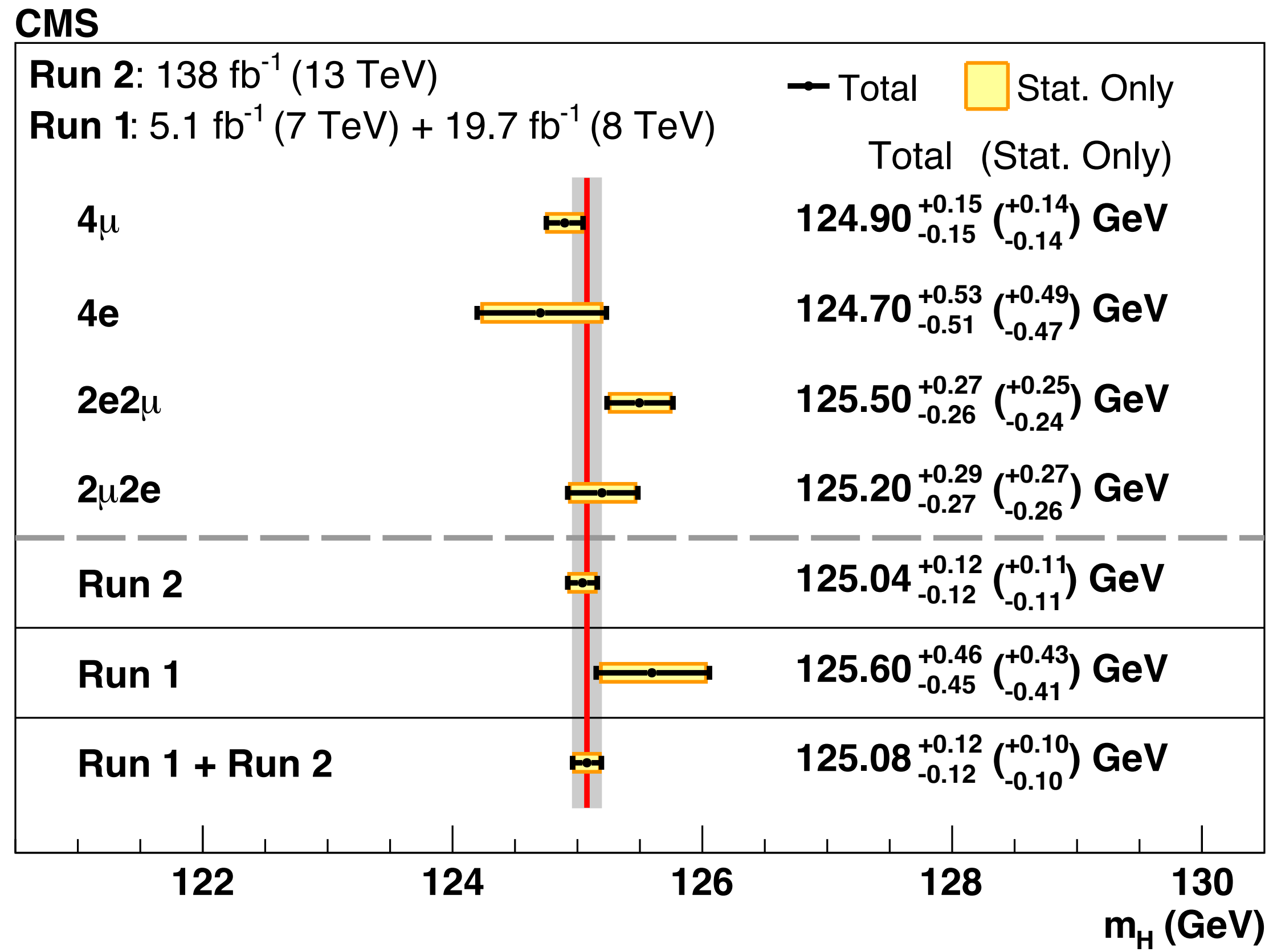
$$m_H = 125.04 \pm 0.12 \text{ GeV} (\pm 0.11 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.05 \text{ (sys)} \text{ GeV})$$

CMS Observed results (Run1+Run2) $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$:

$$m_H = 125.08 \pm 0.12 \text{ GeV} (\pm 0.10 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.05 \text{ (sys)} \text{ GeV})$$

ATLAS Observed results (Run1+Run2) $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$:

$$m_H = 124.94 \pm 0.18 \text{ GeV} (\pm 0.17 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.03 \text{ (sys)} \text{ GeV})$$



Constraint on Higgs Width (Γ_H) : $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$

Higgs boson decay width (Γ_H) is constrained by modelling signal with a DSCB convoluted with a Breit-Wigner (with m_H floating)

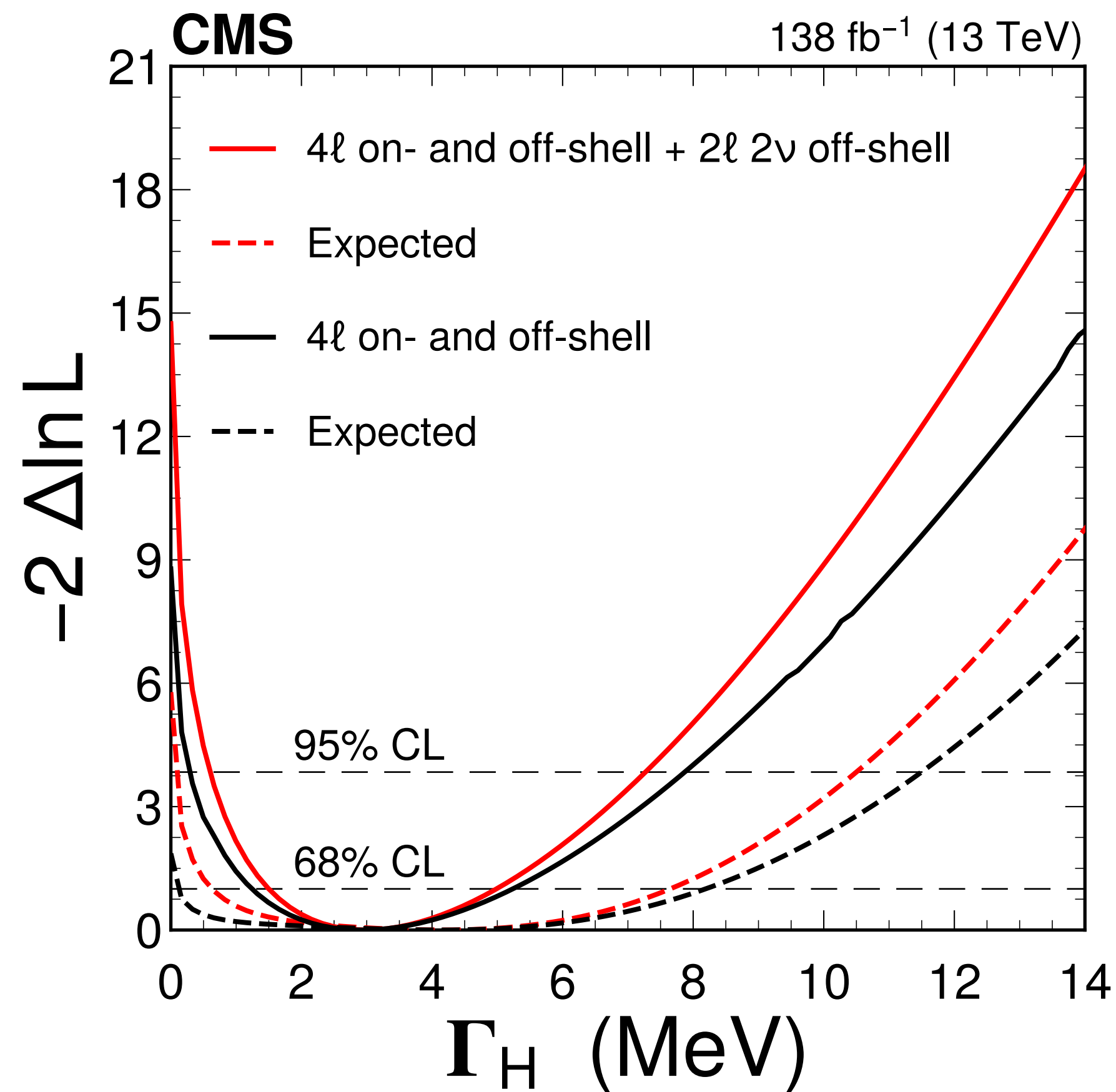
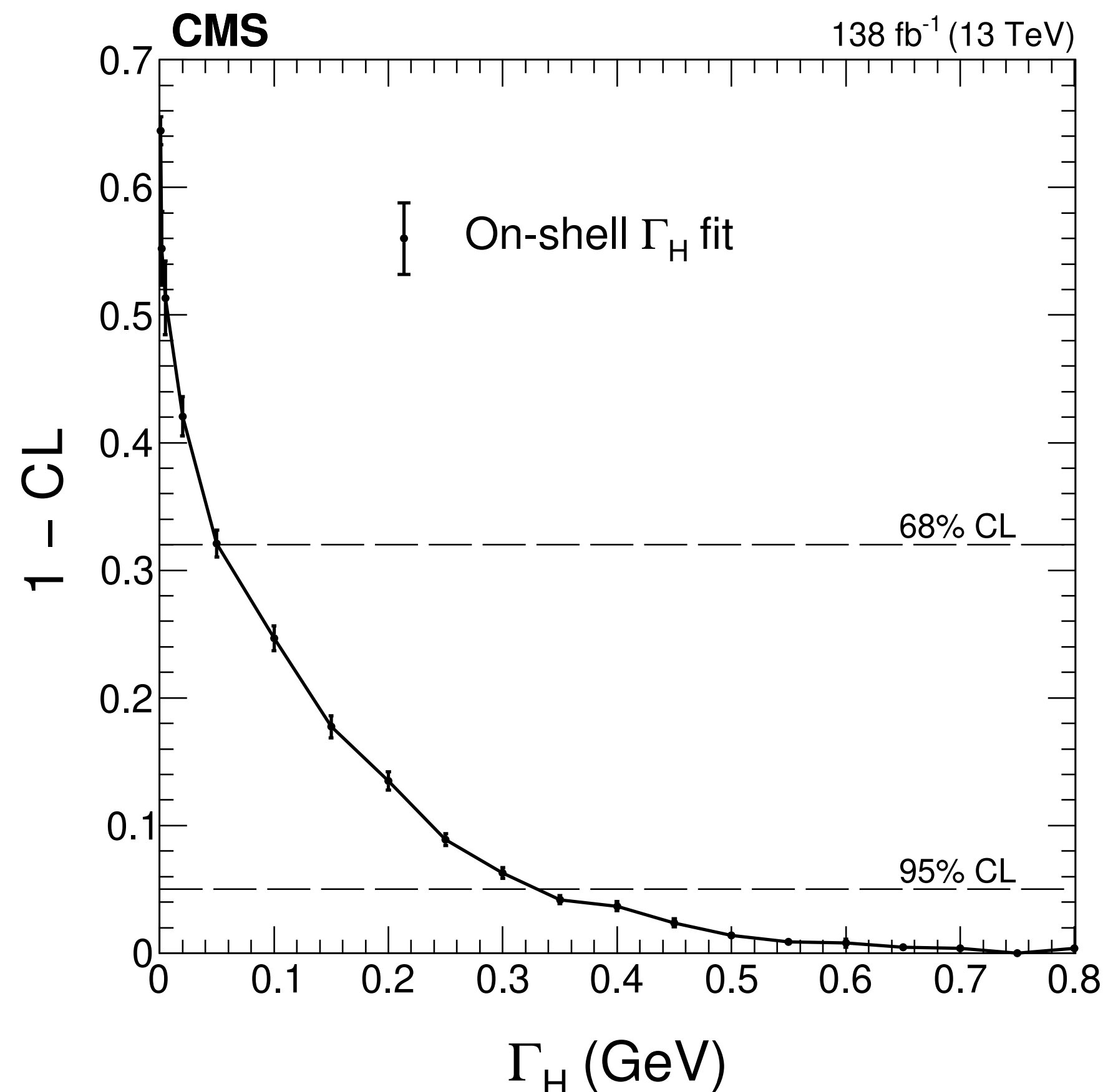
$$\Gamma_H < 50 \text{ (330) MeV @ 68 (95) \% CL}$$

Constraint on Γ_H from ratio of off-shell and on-shell production

Combination with $2l2\nu$ analysis + on-shell

$$\Gamma_H < 3.0^{+2.0}_{-1.5} \text{ MeV}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_{H \rightarrow 4l}^{\text{off-shell}}}{\sigma_{H \rightarrow 4l}^{\text{on-shell}}} \propto \Gamma_H$$



- Most precise single channel mass measurement (m_H) performed in $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$, with measurement uncertainty $\mathcal{O}(0.1\%)$

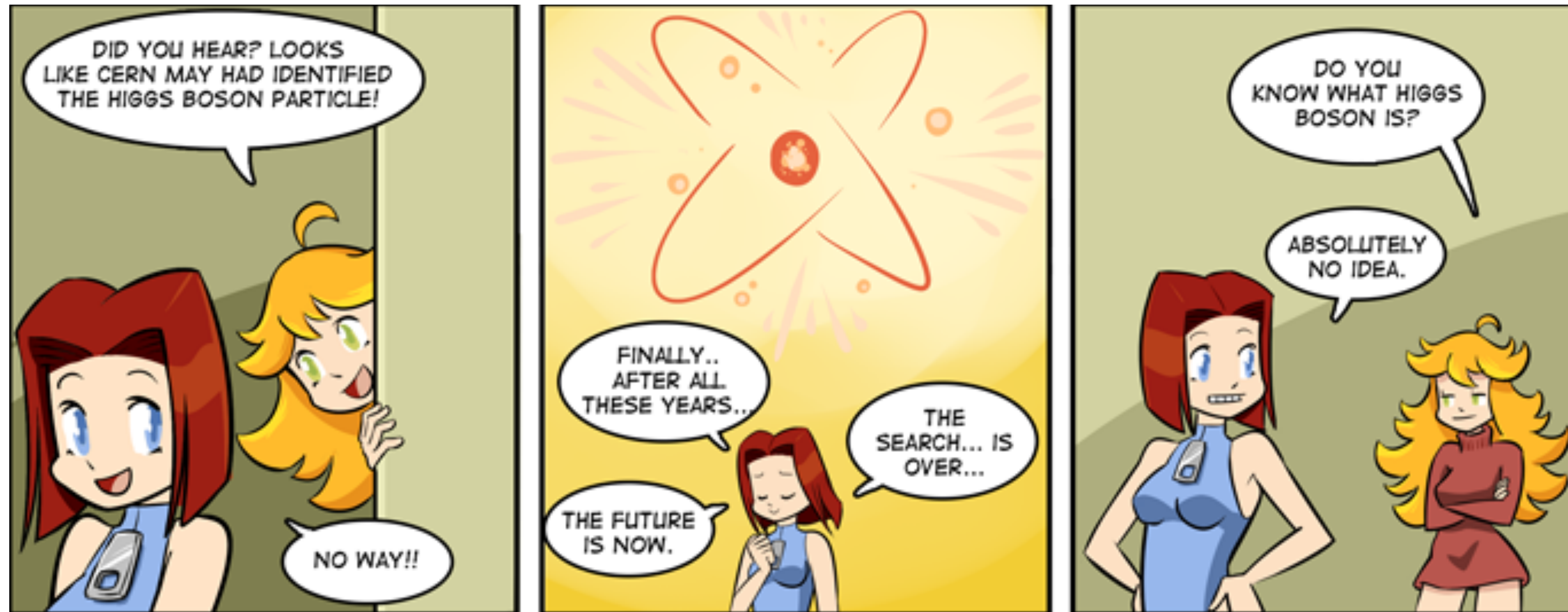
$$m_H = 125.04 \pm 0.120 \text{ GeV} (\pm 0.11 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.05 \text{ (sys)} \text{ GeV})$$

- The Higgs boson width (Γ_H) effectively constrained using on-shell/off-shell Higgs production :

on-shell : $\Gamma_H < 50 \text{ (330) MeV @ 68 (95) \% CL}$;

off-shell : $\Gamma_H < 3.0^{+2.0}_{-1.5} \text{ MeV}$

Backup

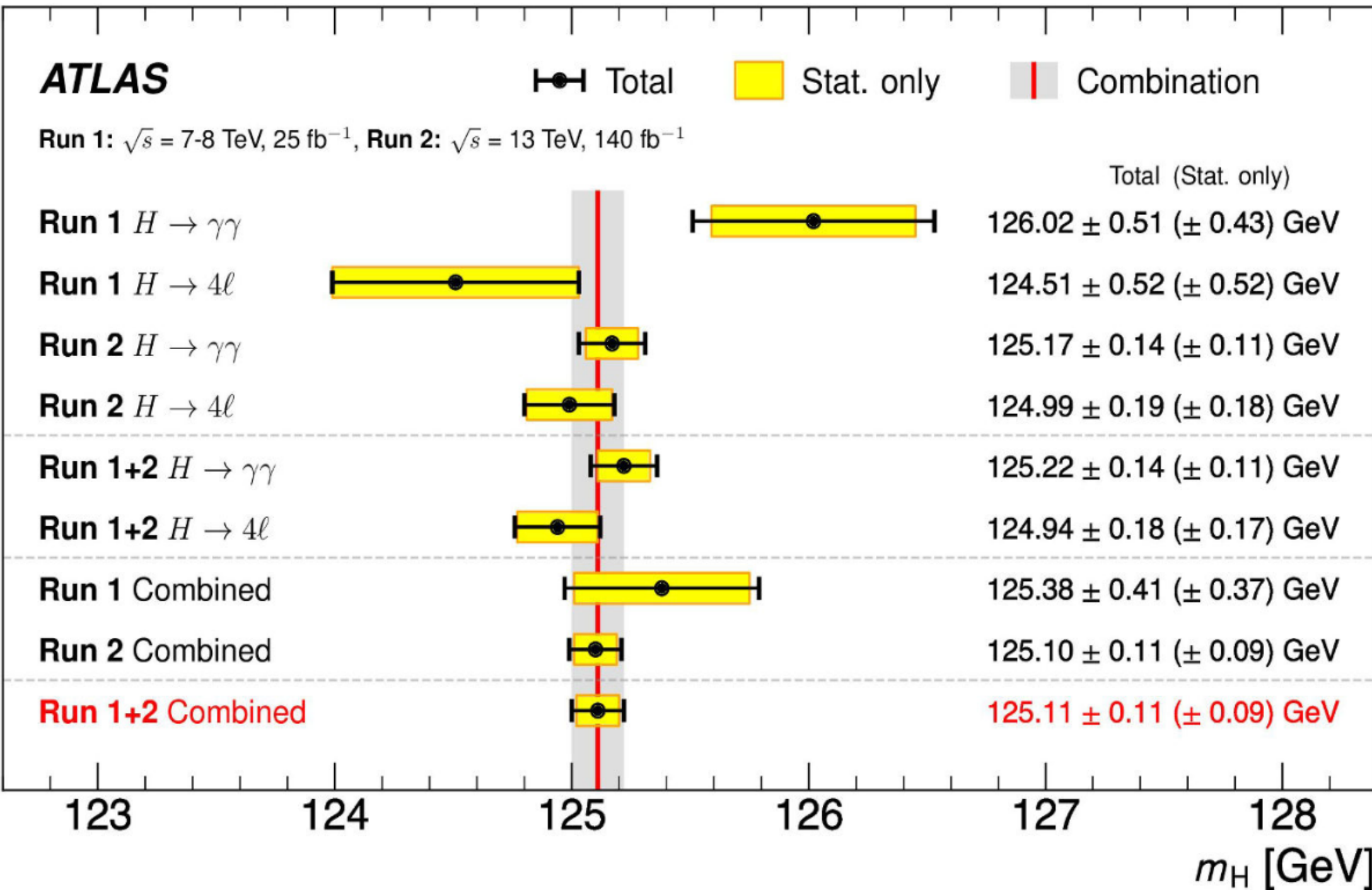
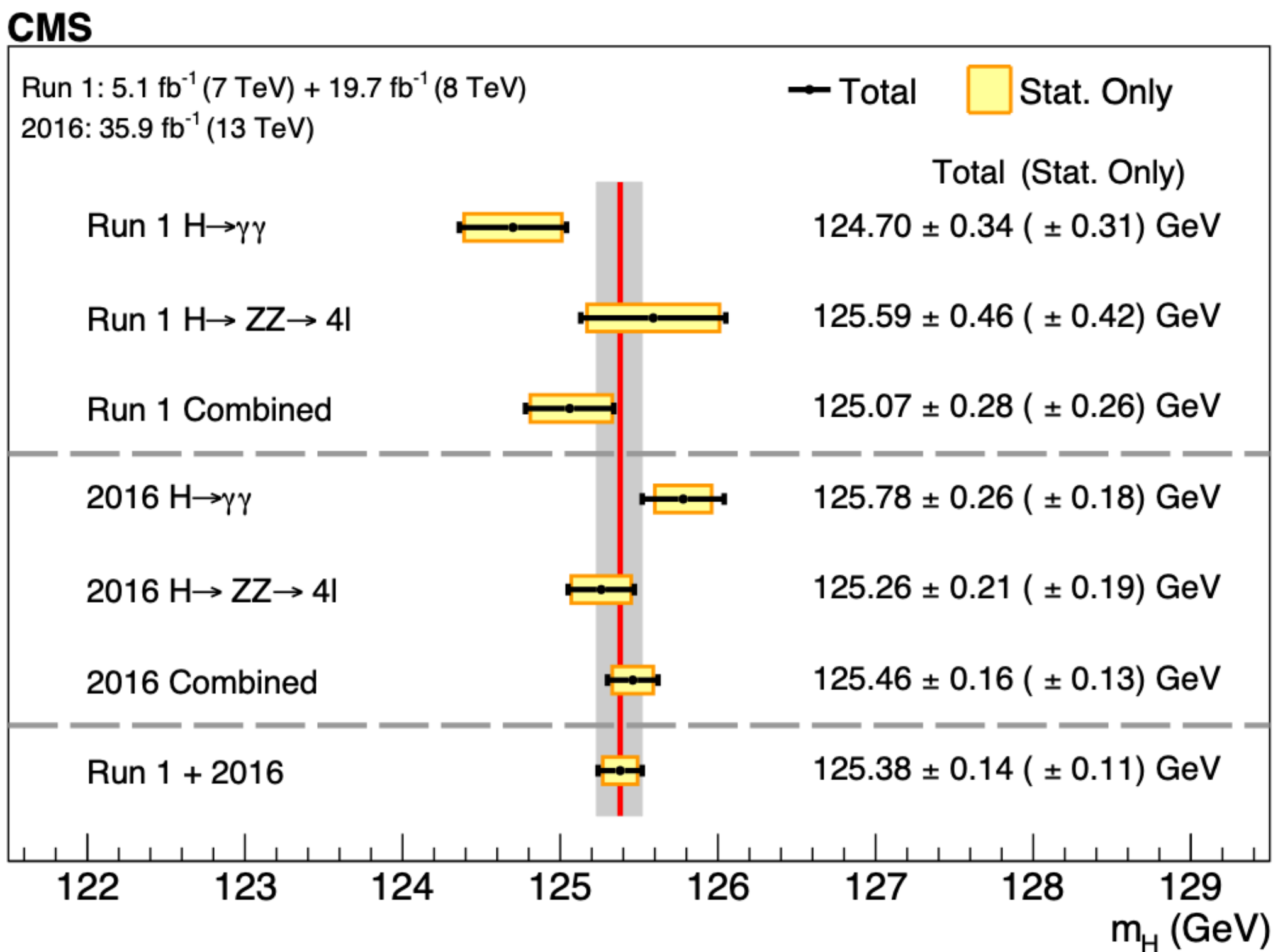


Mass measurement results : ATLAS and CMS

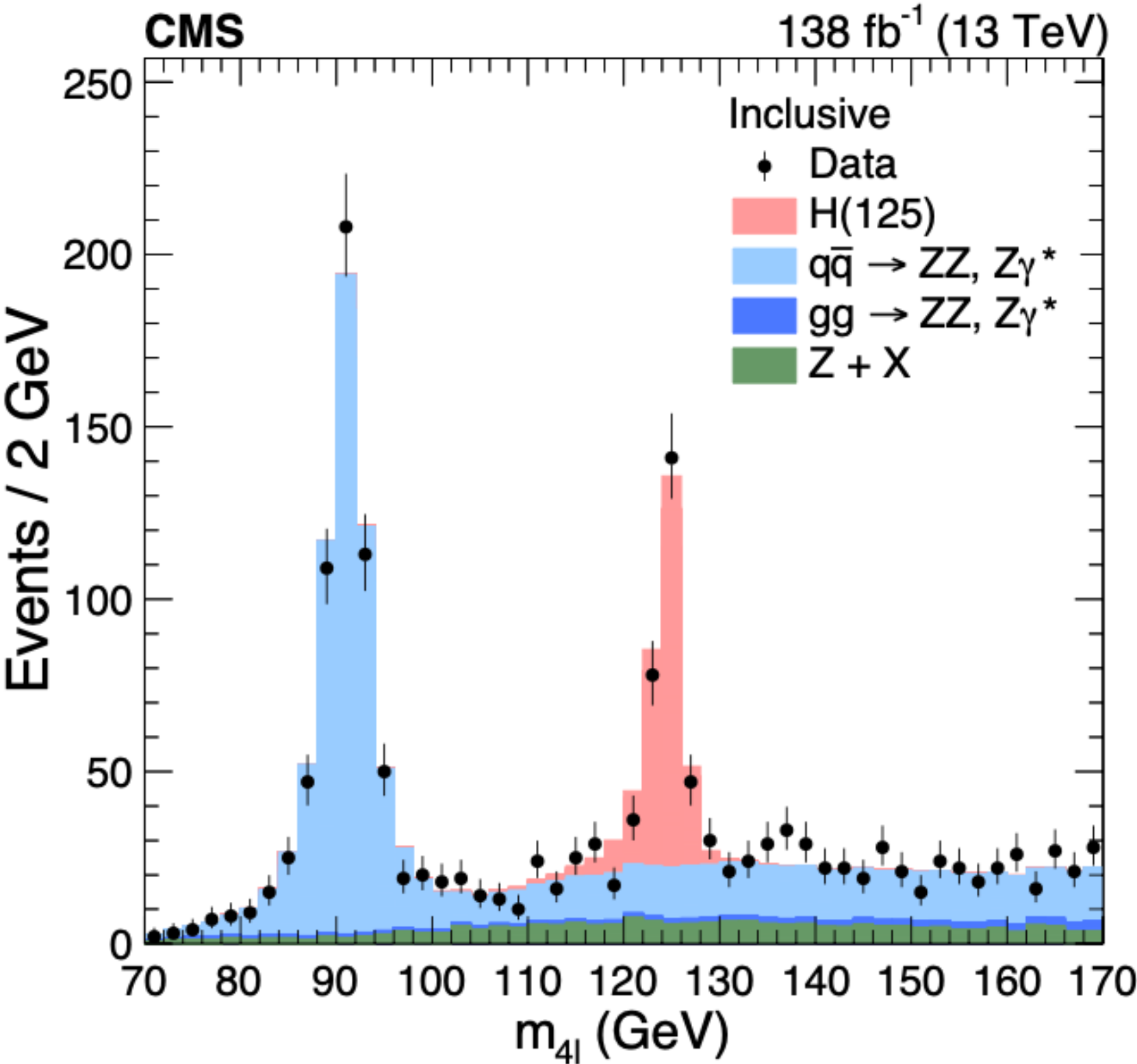


CMS Observed results (2016) $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ [*]
 $m_H = 125.78 \pm 0.26$ GeV (± 0.18 (stat) ± 0.18 (sys) GeV)

ATLAS Observed results (Run1+Run2) $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$:
 $m_H = 125.22 \pm 0.14$ GeV (± 0.11 (stat) ± 0.09 (sys) GeV)



Expected mass distribution and yield : $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$



Distribution of 4-lepton mass, combining all years

Yields in the signal region: [105-140]GeV, split in different final states

	4μ	$4e$	$2e2\mu$	$2\mu2e$	Total
Total signal	90.9	48.7	65.5	53.3	258.4
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow 4l$ background	89.2	38.9	64.4	42.1	234.6
$gg \rightarrow 4l$ background	9.7	4.9	4.9	3.8	23.4
Z + X background	32.4	12.2	28.2	18.6	91.3
Total expected	222.2	104.6	163.0	117.8	607.7
Observed	230	94	170	107	601

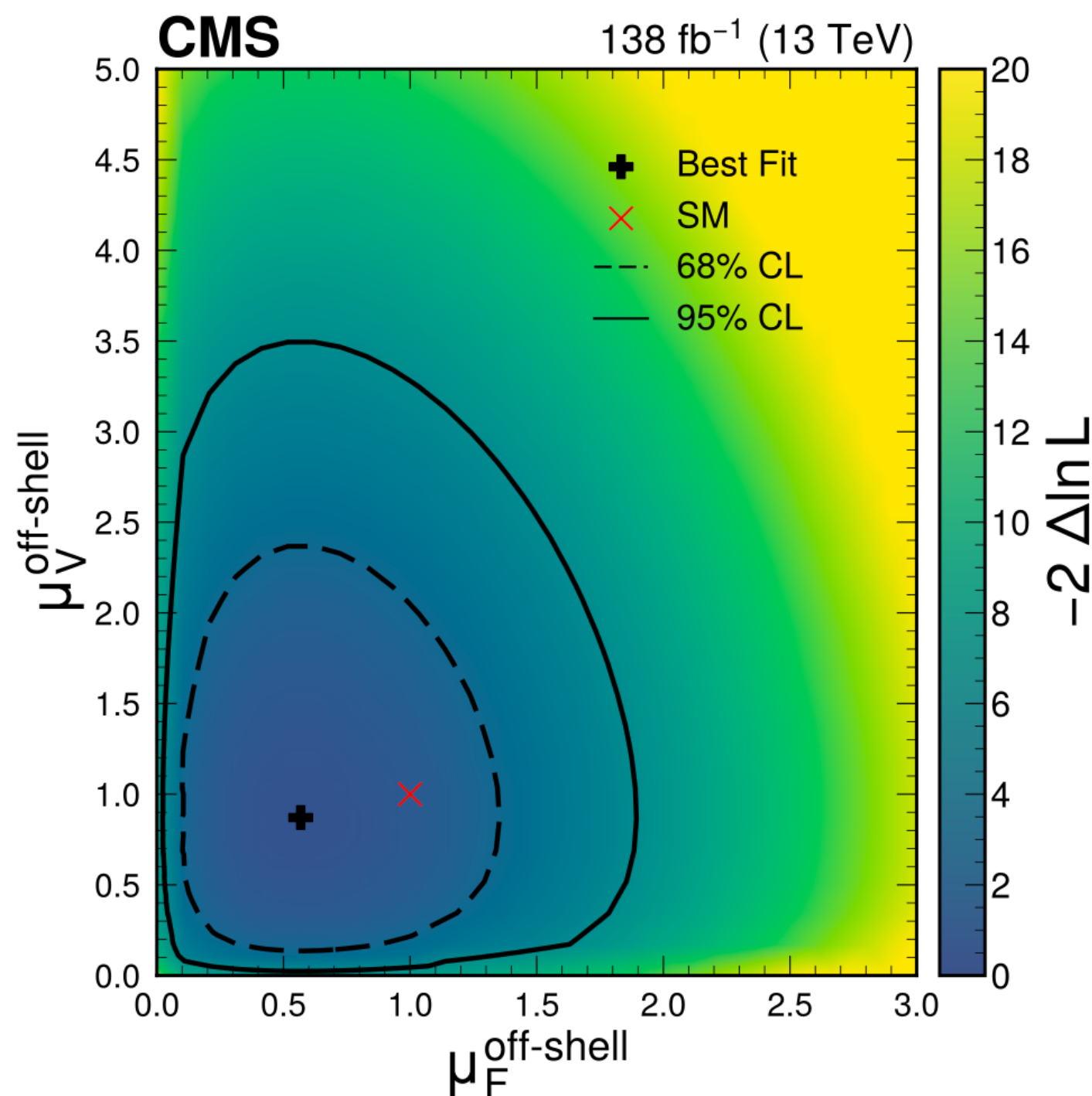
Mass measurement uncertainty in $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$

$4l$ category	Observed ($\pm\text{stat}\pm\text{syst}$) (GeV)	Expected uncertainty ($\pm\text{stat}\pm\text{syst}$) (GeV)
Inclusive	$125.04 \pm 0.11 \pm 0.05$	$\pm 0.11 \pm 0.05$
4μ	$124.90 \pm 0.14 \pm 0.05$	$\pm 0.14 \pm 0.04$
$2e2\mu$	$125.50^{+0.25}_{-0.24} \pm 0.10$	$\pm 0.24 \pm 0.10$
$2\mu 2e$	$125.20^{+0.27+0.11}_{-0.26-0.07}$	$\pm 0.27 \pm 0.10$
$4e$	$124.70^{+0.49}_{-0.47} \pm 0.20$	$\pm 0.38 \pm 0.20$

Constraint on Higgs Width (Γ_H) from off-shell : $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$

- Assumptions :
 - identical production and decay couplings in off-shell and on-shell
 - No BSM effects modifying off-shell couplings
- Indirect constraint on Γ_H can be placed from the off-shell/on-shell even yield ratio

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{On-shell yield } \sigma_{H \rightarrow 4l}^{\text{on-shell}} \propto k_{g,\text{on-shell}}^2 / \Gamma_H \\
 &\text{Off-shell yeild } \sigma_{H \rightarrow 4l}^{\text{off-shell}} \propto k_{g,\text{off-shell}}^2
 \end{aligned}
 \longrightarrow
 \frac{\sigma_{H \rightarrow 4l}^{\text{off-shell}}}{\sigma_{H \rightarrow 4l}^{\text{on-shell}}} \propto \Gamma_H$$



- Off-shell signal strengths ($\mu_V^{\text{off-shell}}$ and $\mu_F^{\text{off-shell}}$) are evaluated separately for the ggH (fermion-induced) and VBF/VH (vector boson-induced) production modes using dedicated event categories