

Phenomenology of Higgs Bosons beyond the Standard Model

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outline

- Higgs Bosons: why and what to expect ?
- Higgs bosons in models beyond the SM

- Higgs Bosons: why and what to expect ?

– Electroweak Symmetry Breaking, Higgs mechanism

Theory:

non-Abelian gauge symmetry → problem ←
forbids $M^2 A_\mu A^\mu$ -terms

Experiment:

massive gauge bosons exist
(W^\pm, Z)

solution: **spontaneous symmetry breaking (SSB)**,

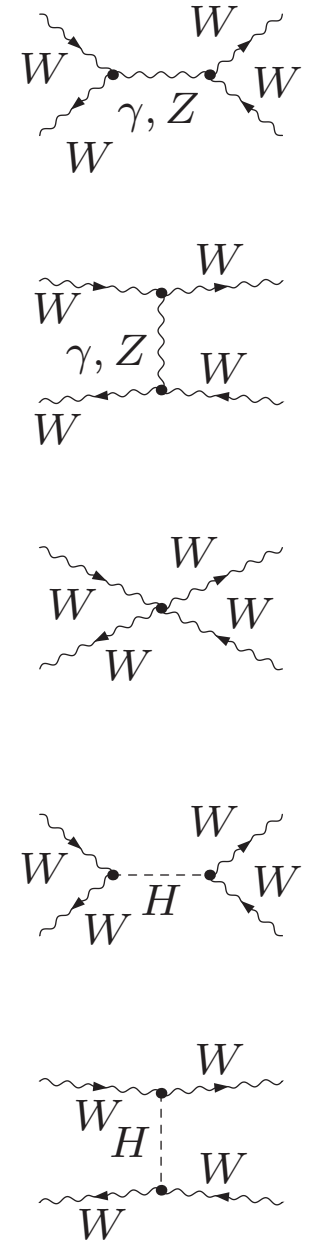
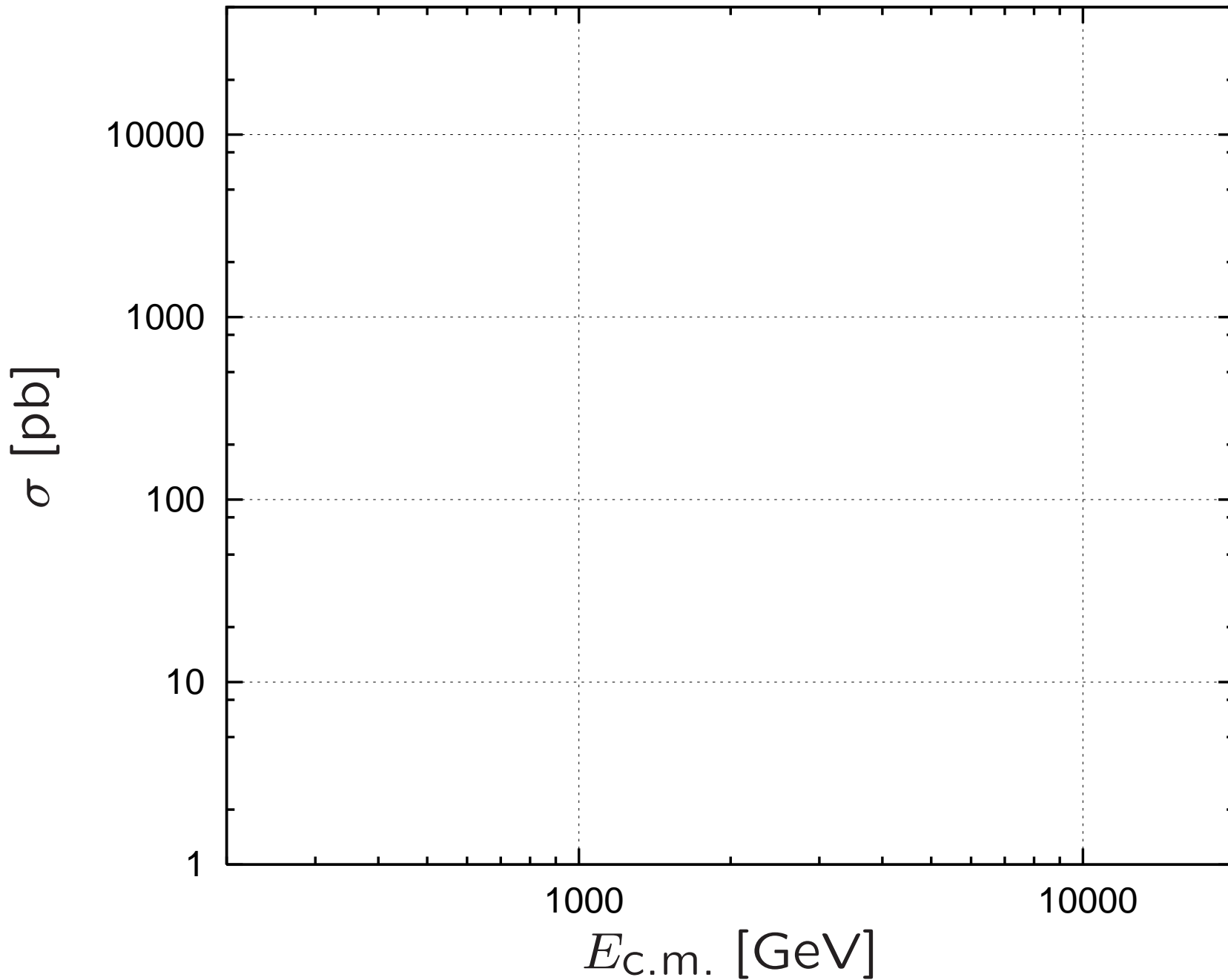
i.e. introduce gauge invariant dynamics, which breaks gauge symmetry in the ground state.

SSB can be realised by

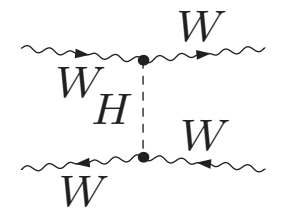
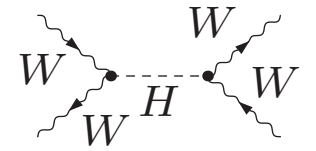
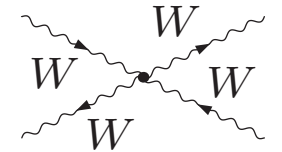
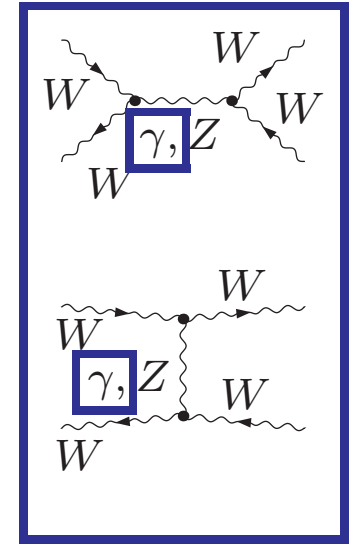
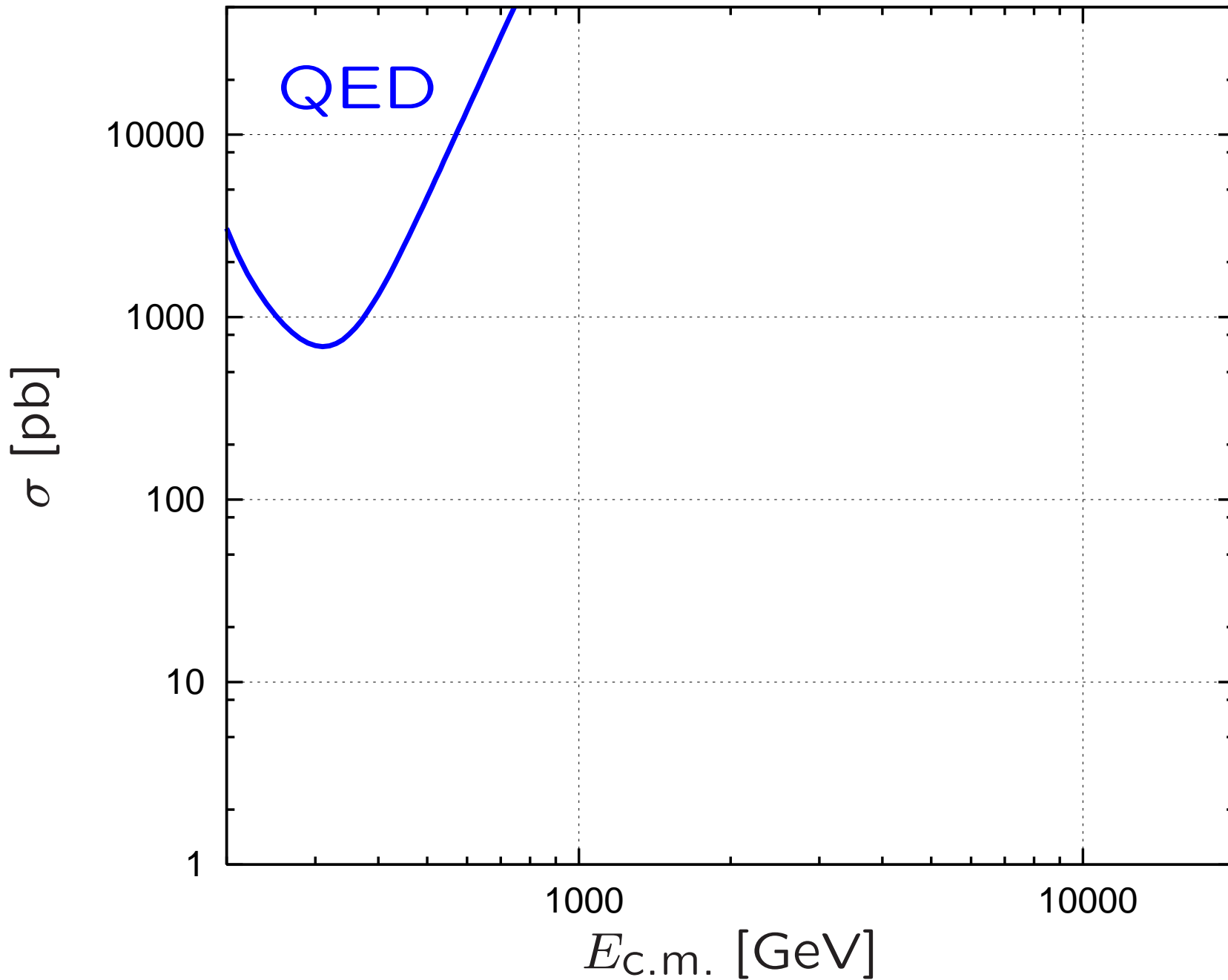
- weakly interacting scalar gauge multiplets that acquire a VEV
→ Higgs mechanism

- strongly interacting dynamics, e.g. particles that form scalar condensates with a VEV

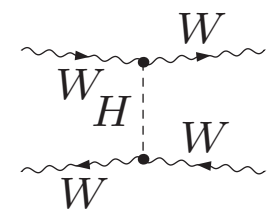
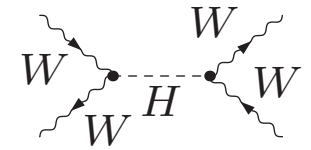
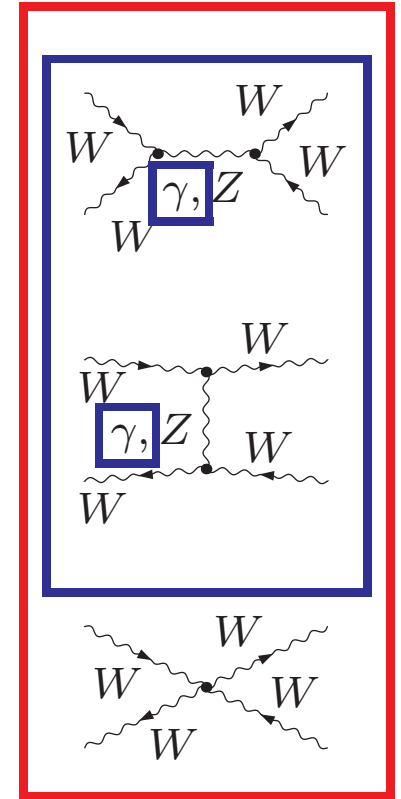
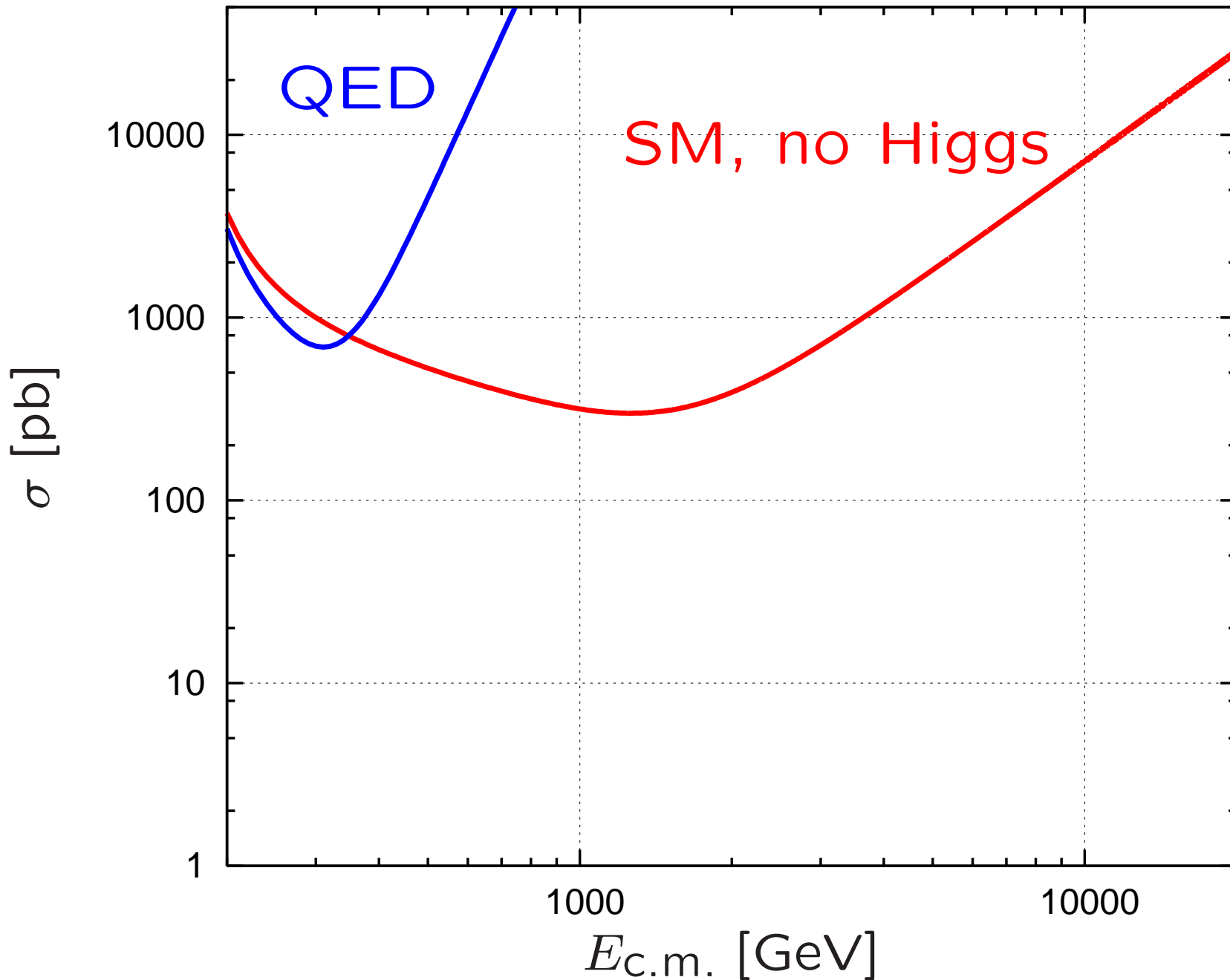
$\sigma(W_L W_L \rightarrow W_L W_L)$ at tree-level



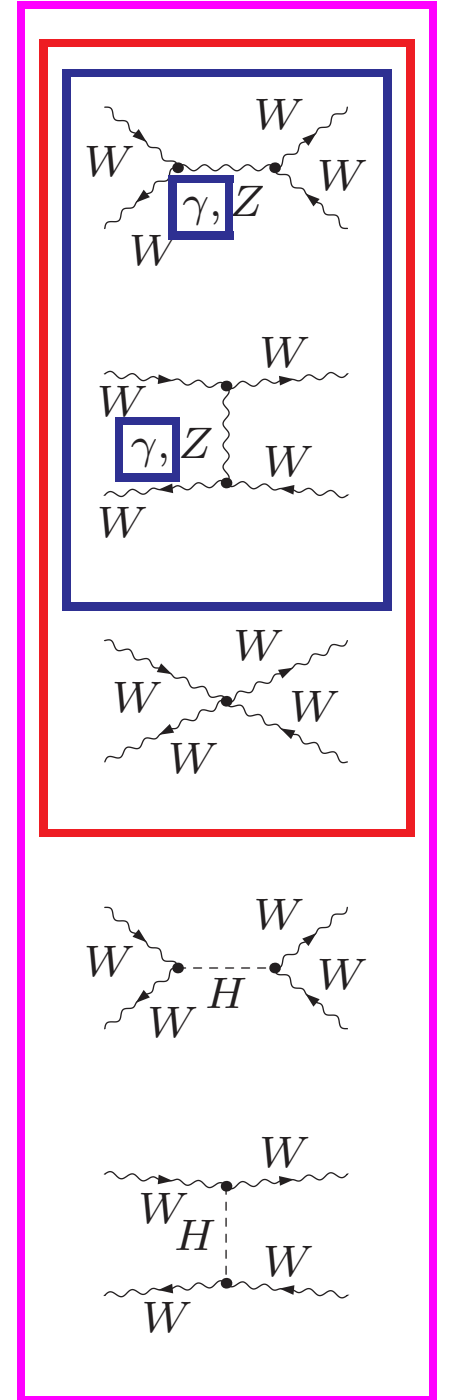
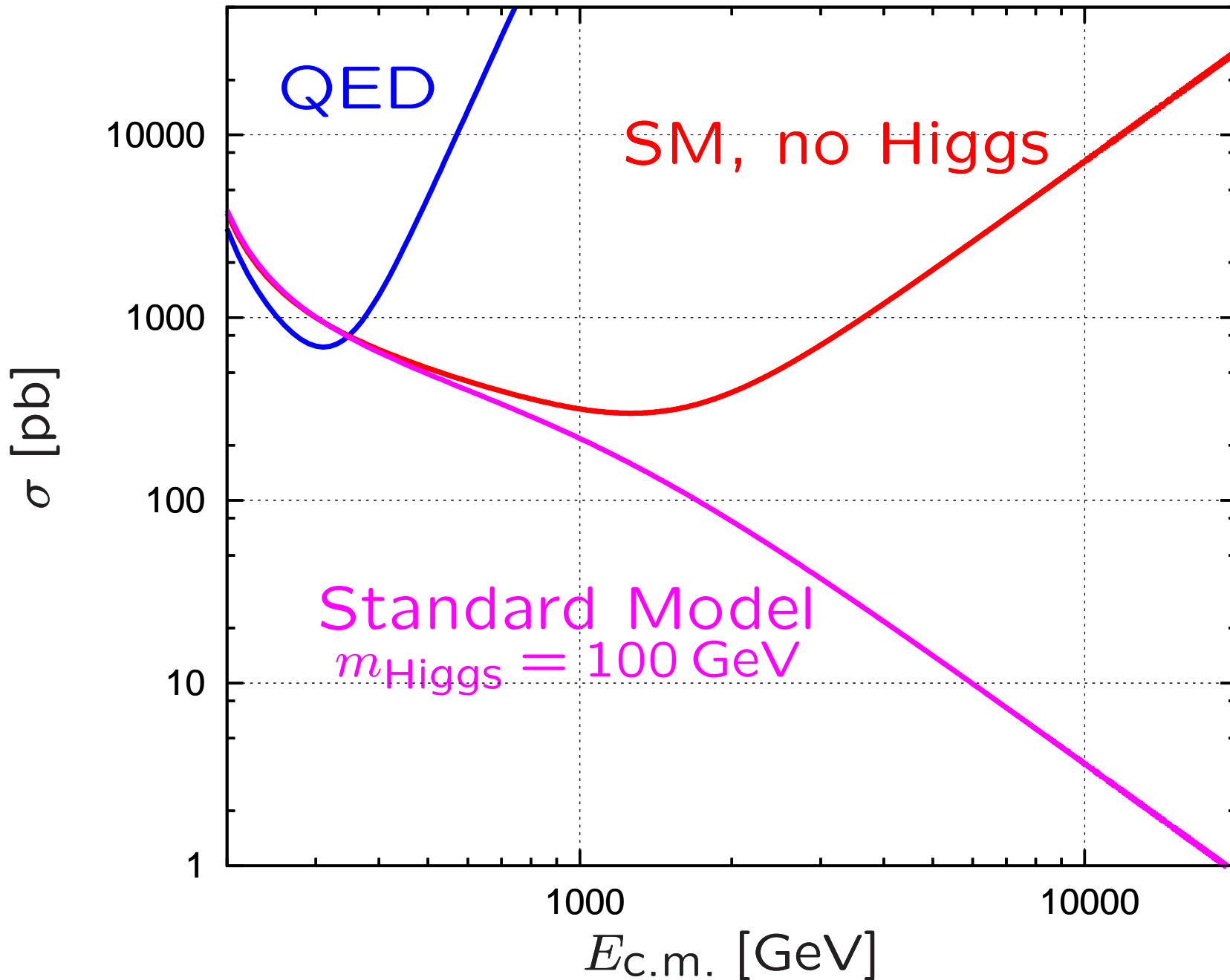
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- Restrictions on Higgs sectors

Experimental situation so far:

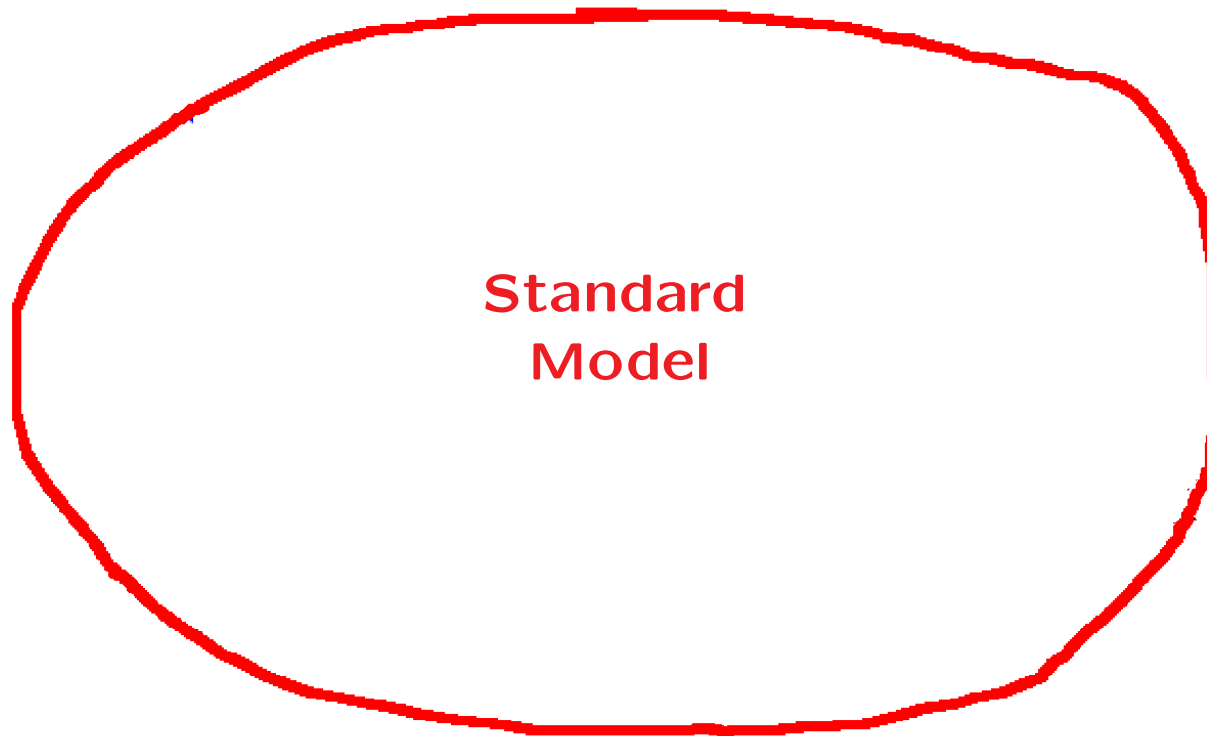
- no Higgs signal.
- no significant deviation from SM.

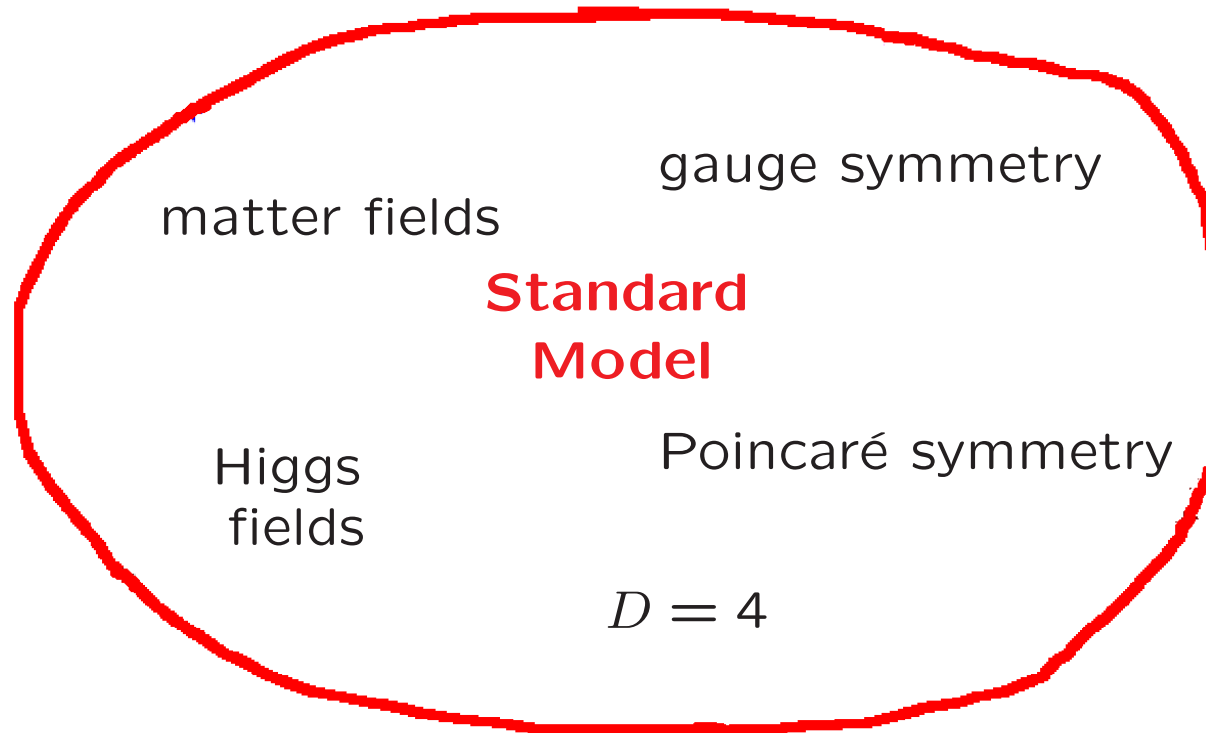
Theory:

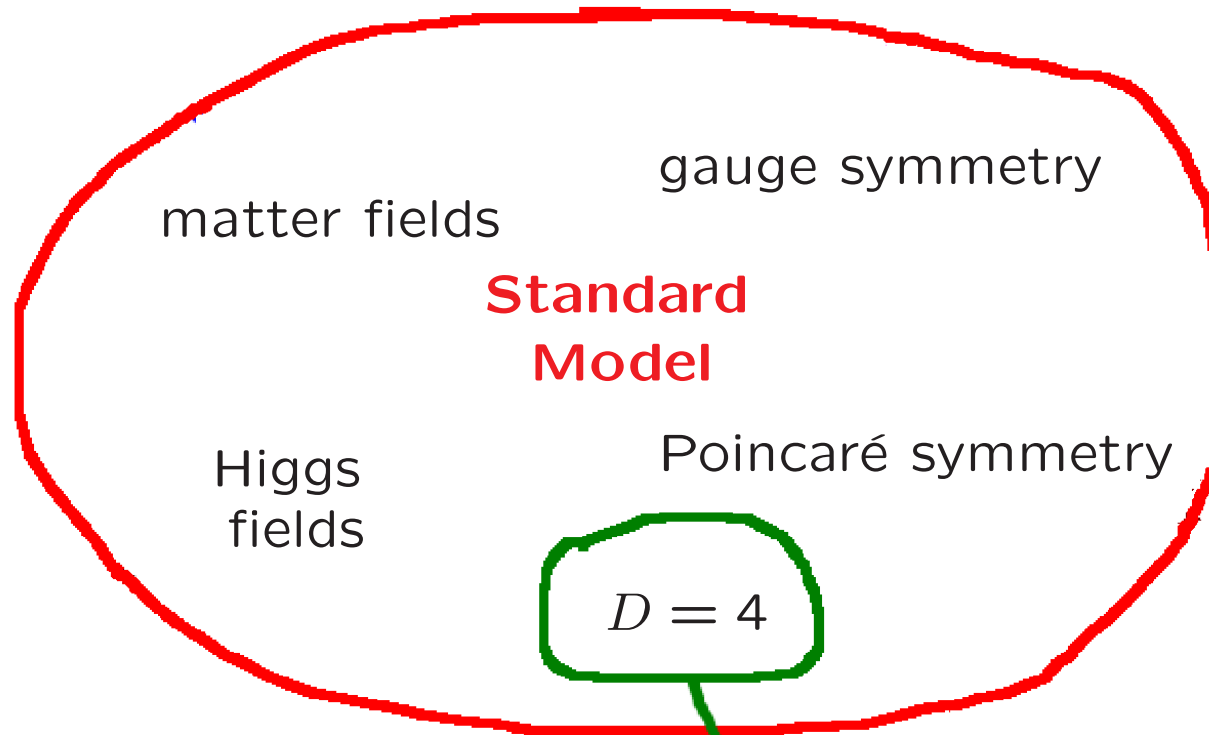
- many distinct possibilities to realise the Higgs mechanism which meet major constraints, like
 - the electroweak rho-parameter
$$\rho_{\text{exp.}} = \frac{m_W}{\cos\theta_W m_Z} \approx 1$$
 up to a few per mille
 - absence of flavour changing neutral currents (FCNC).
 - upper bounds on production cross sections from negative direct search results (LEP, Tevatron)

→ take extensions of the SM (Higgs sector) seriously

– Beyond the SM: anticipated possibilities





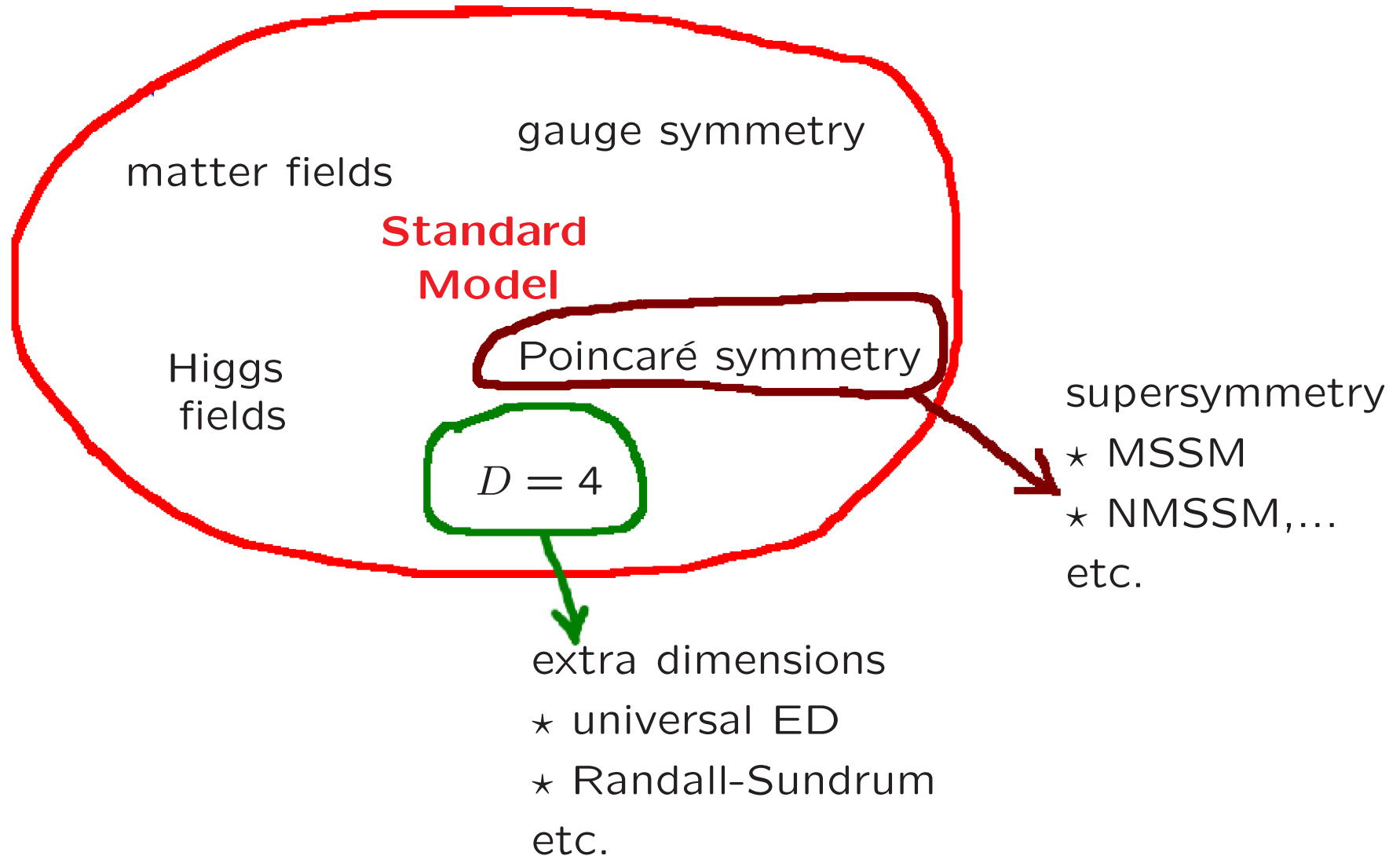


extra dimensions

★ universal ED

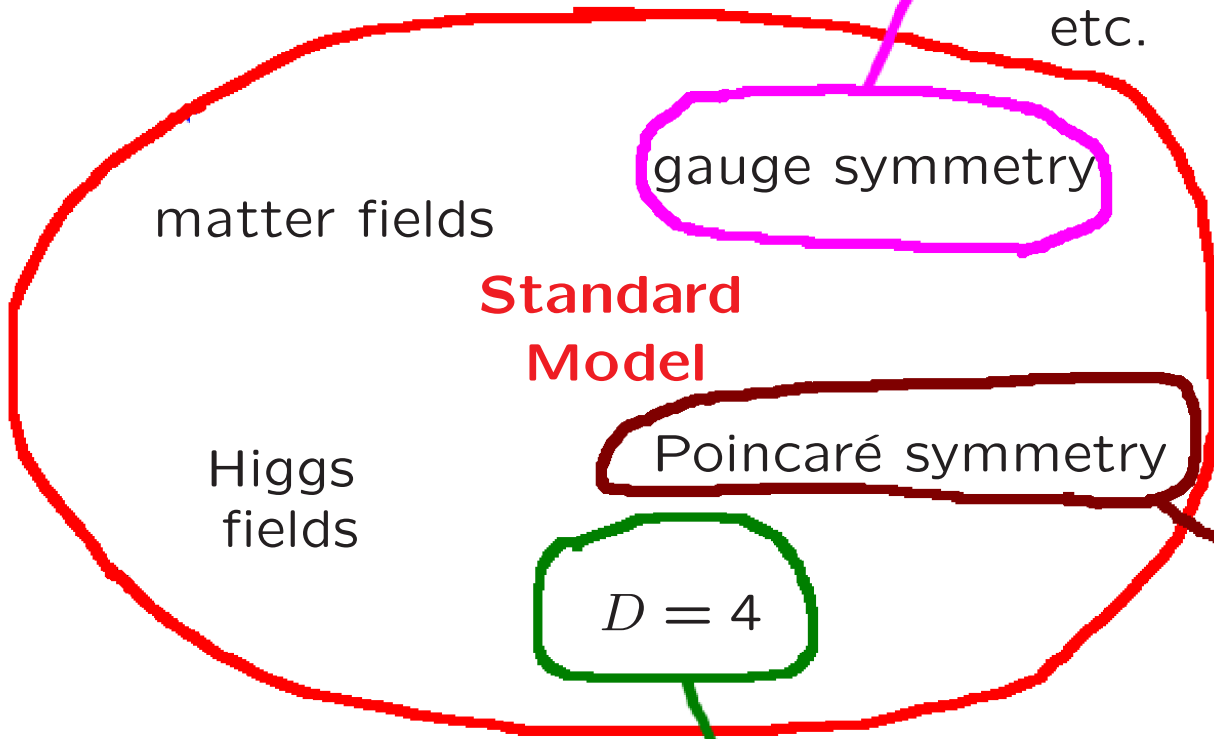
★ Randall-Sundrum

etc.



[Higgs Bosons: why and what ?]

- extra gauge groups
- ★ GUT
- ★ Technicolor
- ★ Little Higgs models
- ★ Z' models
- etc.



matter fields

Standard Model

Higgs fields

gauge symmetry

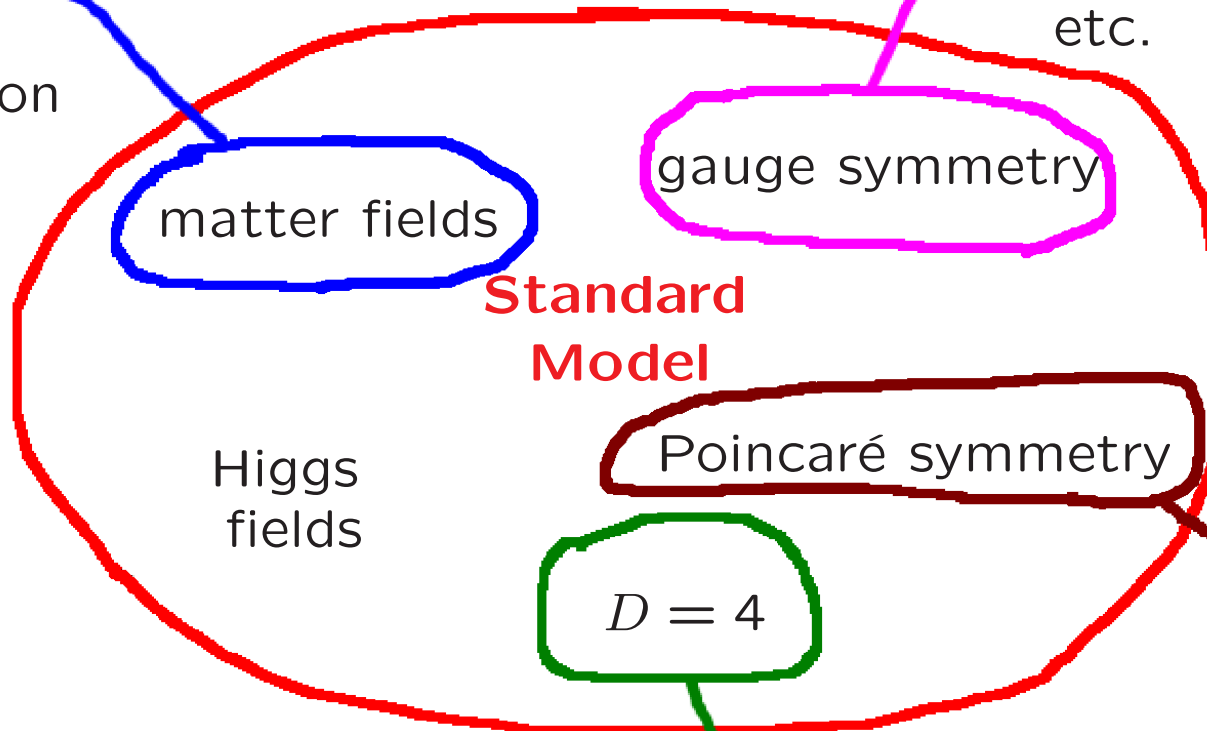
Poincaré symmetry

$D = 4$

- supersymmetry
- ★ MSSM
 - ★ NMSSM, ...
 - etc.

- extra dimensions
- ★ universal ED
 - ★ Randall-Sundrum
 - etc.

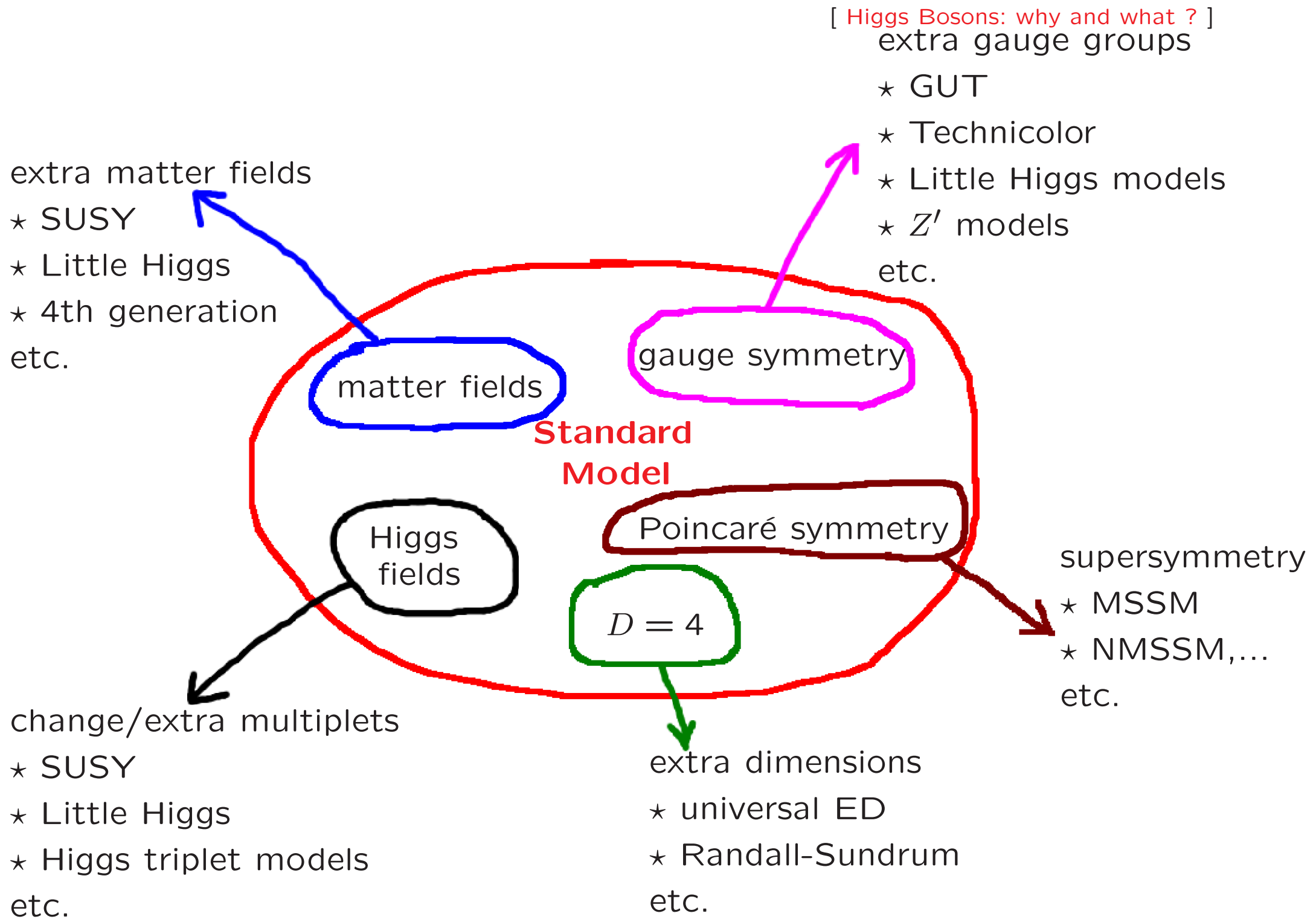
extra matter fields
★ SUSY
★ Little Higgs
★ 4th generation
etc.

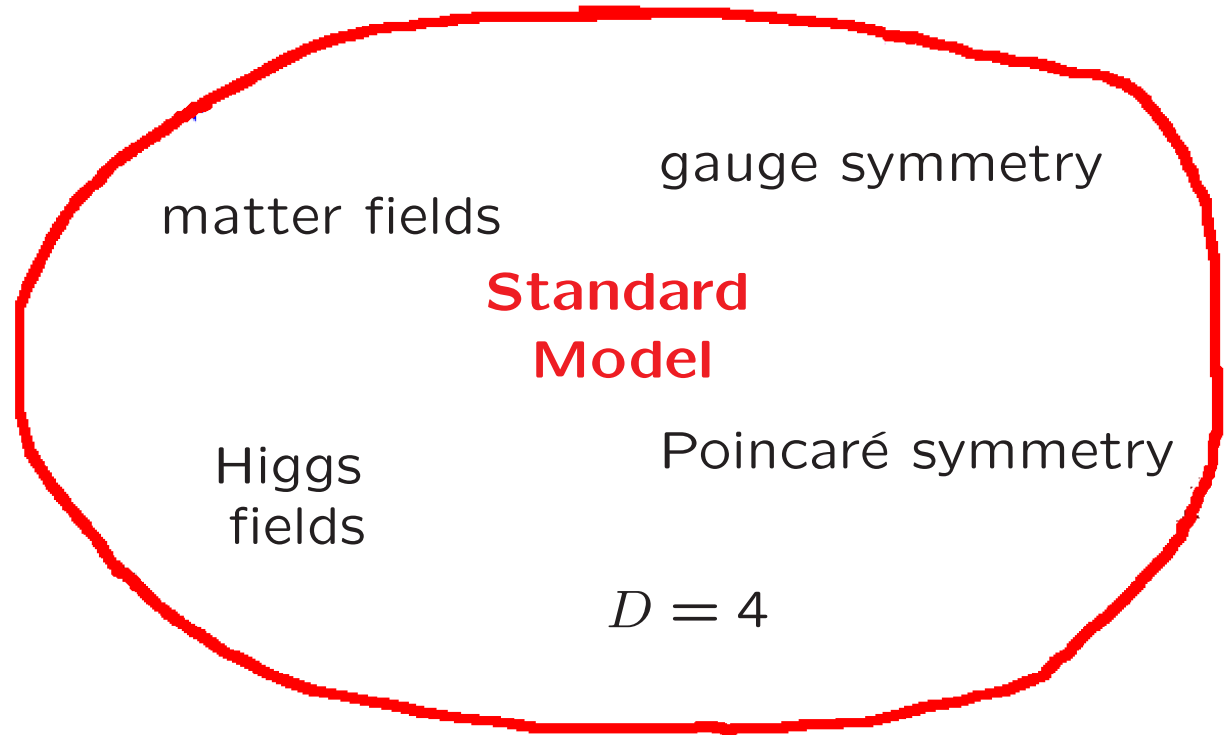
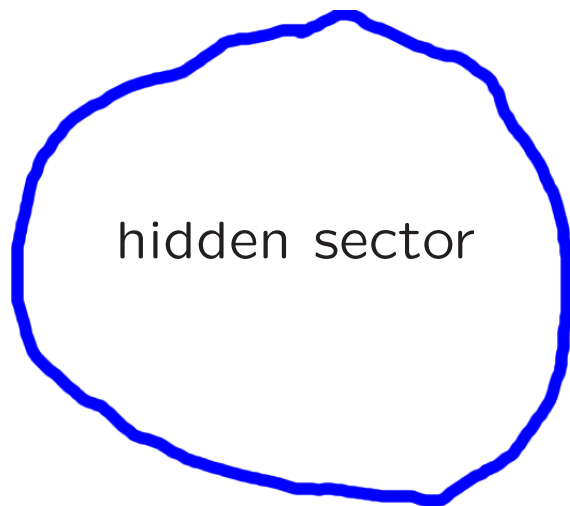


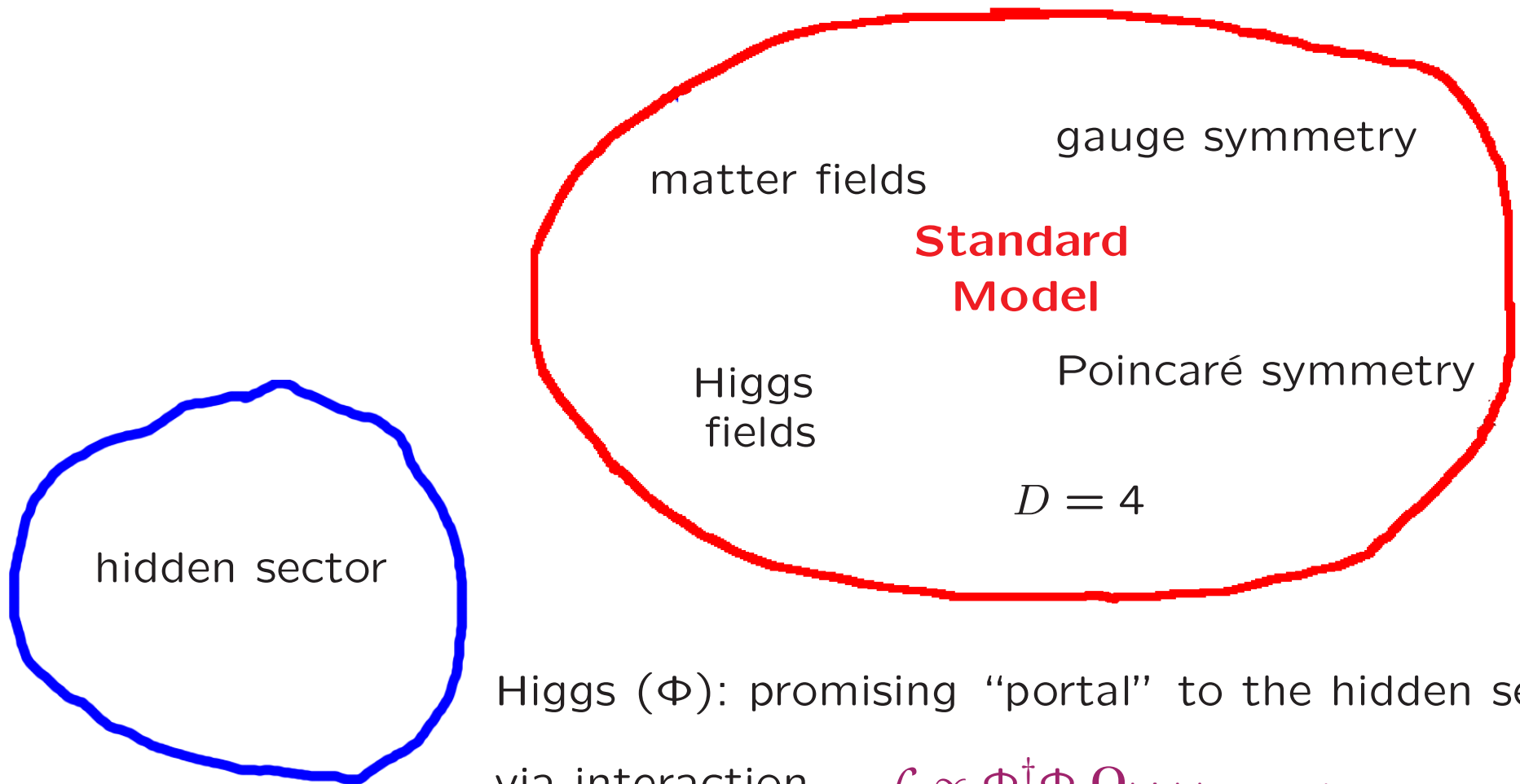
[Higgs Bosons: why and what ?]
extra gauge groups
★ GUT
★ Technicolor
★ Little Higgs models
★ Z' models
etc.

supersymmetry
★ MSSM
★ NMSSM, ...
etc.

extra dimensions
★ universal ED
★ Randall-Sundrum
etc.







Higgs (Φ): promising “portal” to the hidden sector
via interaction $\mathcal{L} \propto \Phi^\dagger \Phi \mathbf{O}_{\text{hidden sector}}$

- Higgs bosons in models beyond the SM

- Higgs bosons in models beyond the SM

examples:

- supersymmetric models
- Little Higgs models
- extra dimension models
- scalar sector extensions
- unparticle stuff
- 4th generation model

– supersymmetric models

Supersymmetry ...

... is *the unique* extension of the Poincaré-symmetry of space-time

... leads to a symmetry between Fermions & Bosons

gauge theory with minimal SUSY :

- same # of fermionic & bosonic d. o. f.
→ a superpartner of different spin exists for each particle
- couplings are correlated
→ e.g. scalar 4-point int. \leftrightarrow gauge couplings
- superpartners have the same mass
→ SUSY must be broken at the electroweak scale

gauge theory with broken SUSY :

- superpartner masses enter as additional free parameters (essentially)

- real MSSM:

The MSSM with R -parity intact and no new CP-phases (“real MSSM”) is (by far) the most well studied model beyond the SM so far.

- content: SM matter, SM gauge bosons
 - + 2 Higgs doublets Φ_1, Φ_2 (*only* consistent with 2 doublets)
 - + Superpartners

- R -parity: discrete, multiplicative quantum number

$$R \left(\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{regular particles} \\ \text{superpartners} \end{array} \right\} \right) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} +1 \\ -1 \end{array} \right. \rightarrow \text{FCNC, } \cancel{L}, \cancel{B} \text{ avoided}$$

- real-valued SUSY parameters \rightarrow no new CP-phases introduced

- real MSSM Higgs sector:

- $\Phi_1, \Phi_2 \rightarrow$ 5 physical Higgs bosons: h^0, H^0, A^0, H^+, H^-
- all Φ^4 -interactions determined by gauge couplings
 - only two Higgs sector input parameters: $m_{A^0}, \tan \beta (= v_2/v_1)$
 - bound on lightest neutral Higgs mass ($m_{h^0} \lesssim 135$ GeV)
- large quantum corrections to Higgs masses (esp. to m_{h^0})

present status:

real MSSM: three-loop (SUSY QCD) precision

[Harlander, Kant, Mihaila, Steinhauser '08]

complex MSSM: two-loop (SUSY QCD) precision

[Heinemeyer, Hollik, Rzehak, Weiglein '07]

more on MSSM Higgs phenomenology → see talks of: Marina Billoni, Philipp Kant, Michael Rauch, Heidi Rzehak, Martin Spinrath,...

- MSSM with R -parity violation:

well motivated: introducing R -parity violating interactions with \mathbb{Z}

consequences for Higgs phenomenology :

- Higgs bosons mix with sleptons (5 doublets, 3 complex singlets)
6 sneutrino d.o.f. + 3 neutral Higgs d.o.f → 5 H_i^0 , 4 A_i^0
12 charged slepton d.o.f. + 2 charged Higgs d.o.f → 7 H_i^\pm
- Higgs-like and slepton-like decay channels open up
- couplings not entirely \propto mass
→ typical Higgs-signature can be obscured if mixing is strong

• SUSY models with an extra singlet (NMSSM, mnSSM):

Superpotential of MSSM contains μ -term (μ : mass dimension 1):

$$W_{\text{MSSM}} = W_{\text{super-Yukawa}} + \epsilon_{ij} \mu \widehat{H}_d^i \widehat{H}_u^j$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}} = -m_{H_d}^2 |H_d|^2 - m_{H_u}^2 |H_u|^2 - (\mu B_\mu \epsilon_{ij} H_u^i H_d^j + \text{h.c.}) \\ + [\text{sfermion} + \text{gaugino mass terms}]$$

problem:

Higgs mass formulae:

supersymmetric GUT:

μ should be $\approx \mathcal{O}(\text{SUSY breaking scale}) \leftrightarrow \mu$ should be of order M_{GUT}

solution: MSSM + singlet superfield \widehat{S} (contains complex scalar field S):

- in the minimum of the scalar potential H_u, H_d, S acquire VEVs
- MSSM μ -term generated dynamically $\mu_{\text{eff}} = \lambda \langle S \rangle$ (λ dimensionless)
- μ_{eff} is naturally $\mathcal{O}(\text{SUSY breaking scale})$

- SUSY models with an extra singlet (NMSSM, mnSSM):

variant 1: NMSSM (Next-to-minimal supersymmetric Standard Model)

$$W_{\text{NMSSM}} = W_{\text{super-Yukawa}} + \epsilon_{ij} \lambda \hat{S} \hat{H}_d^i \hat{H}_u^i + \frac{\kappa}{3} \hat{S}^3$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}} = & -m_{H_d}^2 |H_d|^2 - m_{H_u}^2 |H_u|^2 - m_S^2 |S|^2 \\ & - (\lambda A_\lambda \epsilon_{ij} S H_u^i H_d^j + \frac{\kappa}{3} A_\kappa S^3 + \text{h.c.}) \\ & + [\text{sfermion} + \text{gaugino mass terms}] \end{aligned}$$

variant 2: mnSSM (minimal non-minimal supersymmetric Standard Model)

[Panagiotakopoulos, Pilaftsis '00; Dedes et al. '00]

$$W_{\text{mnSSM}} = W_{\text{super-Yukawa}} + \epsilon_{ij} \lambda \hat{S} \hat{H}_d^i \hat{H}_u^i [+t_F \hat{S}]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}} = & -m_{H_d}^2 |H_d|^2 - m_{H_u}^2 |H_u|^2 - m_S^2 |S|^2 + t_S S \\ & - (\lambda A_\lambda \epsilon_{ij} S H_u^i H_d^j + \text{h.c.}) \\ & + [\text{sfermion} + \text{gaugino mass terms}] \end{aligned}$$

t_F -term usually too suppressed to play a role at TeV-colliders

variant 3 to n: ...

- NMSSM/mnSSM Higgs phenomenology :

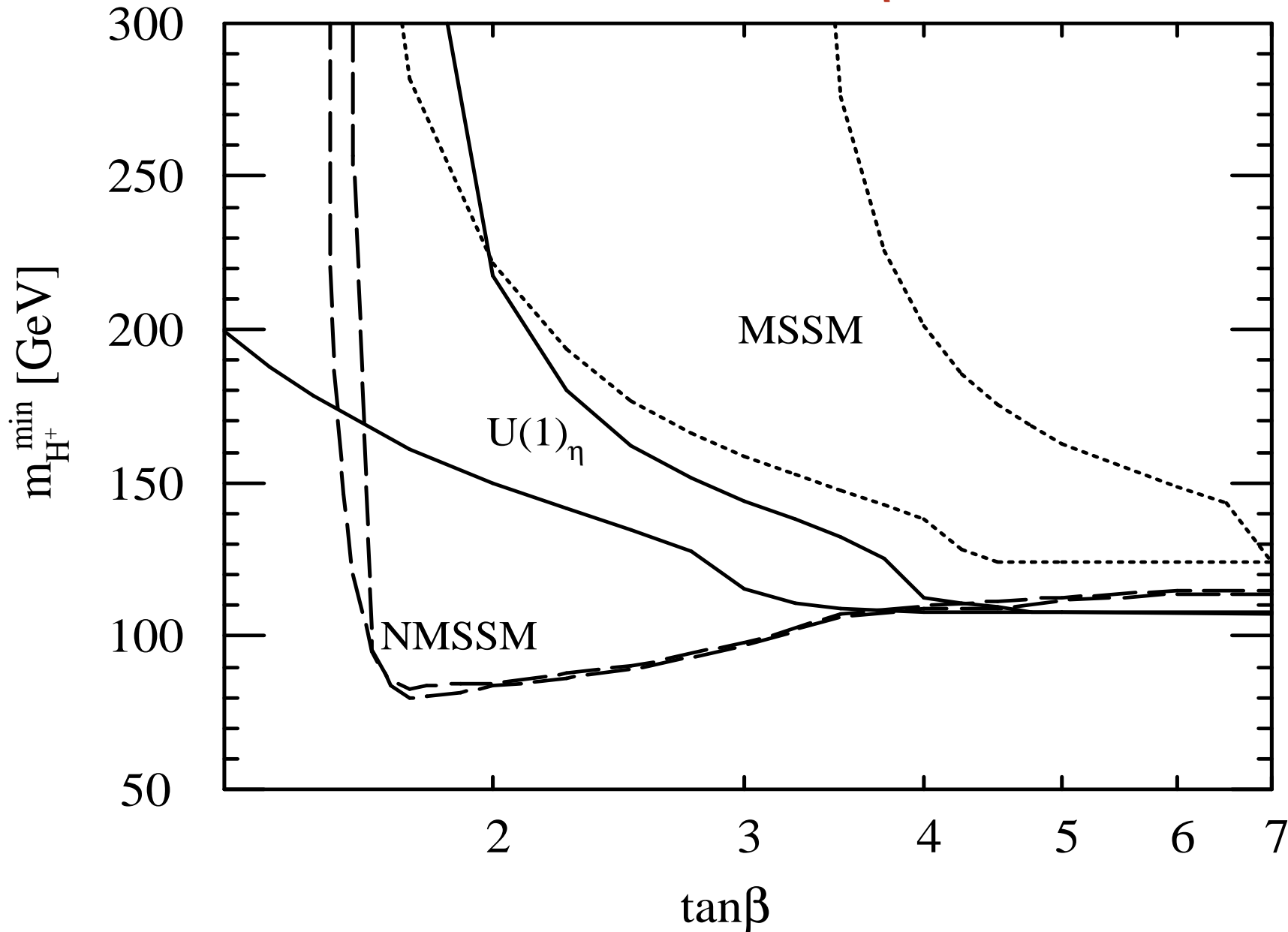
similar features:

- Higgs sector: 2 doublets + 1 complex singlet $\rightarrow H_1^0, H_2^0, H_3^0, A_1^0, A_2^0, H^\pm$
- relaxed theoretical upper bound on the lightest Higgs mass (≈ 150 GeV)
- relaxed LEP-bound on mass of H_1^0 and H^\pm (about 80 GeV, \rightarrow plot)
- H^\pm production and decay in LO unchanged compared to MSSM
- Decays heavy Higgs \rightarrow 2 Higgs bosons often possible
 \rightarrow problematic to see at LHC if lighter Higgs bosons decay mainly to $b\bar{b}$

example: relaxed indirect H^\pm mass bound in NMSSM:

$$m_{H^\pm} \approx m_W^2 + m_{A_1}^2 - \lambda^2 v^2 / 2 \text{ and LEP-bound on } m_{A_1} \text{ lower than on } m_A^{\text{MSSM}}$$

[Drees et al.'98; Godbole, Roy '06]



- NMSSM/mnSSM Higgs phenomenology :

distinctive features:

- # of Higgs sector parameters: 6 (NMSSM) and 5 (mnSSM)

- mnSSM more restrictive than NMSSM, e.g.:

- mnSSM mass sum rule (not present in NMSSM) :

$$m_{H_1}^2 + m_{H_2}^2 + m_{H_3}^2 = m_Z^2 + m_{A_1}^2 + m_{A_2}^2$$

- mnSSM Higgs- Z coupling complementarity :

$$g_{H_1 ZZ}^2 = g_{H_2 A_1 Z}^2, \quad g_{H_2 ZZ}^2 = g_{H_1 A_1 Z}^2$$

- testing such relations crucial to distinguish between the models

– Little Higgs models

motivation: Higgs boson naturally light if Higgs mass protected by a symmetry (i.e. $mass \rightarrow 0$ should increase symmetry)

well-known: supersymmetry

here: shift symmetry \rightarrow Higgs bosons as pseudo-Goldstone bosons

classical naturalness argument:

Higgs mass m_H sensitive to cut-off scale Λ of the theory:

one expects $M_H \propto (\frac{g}{4\pi})\Lambda$ (from one-loop rad. cor.)

\rightarrow with $g \approx \mathcal{O}(1)$ and $m_H = \mathcal{O}(100)$ GeV from EW precision data

one gets $\Lambda \approx 1$ TeV

\rightarrow strong coupling dynamics should set in at around 1 TeV

\rightarrow ruled out by EW precision data!

idea of Little Higgs models: one-loop rad. cor. cancel due to a symmetry

Then $M_H \propto (\frac{g}{4\pi})^2\Lambda \rightarrow m_H = \mathcal{O}(100)$ GeV for $\Lambda \approx 10$ TeV

\rightarrow Higgs naturally light *and* no problems with EW precision data

idea of Little Higgs models: one-loop rad. cor. cancel due to a symmetry

Then $M_H \propto \left(\frac{g}{4\pi}\right)^2 \Lambda \rightarrow m_H = \mathcal{O}(100) \text{ GeV}$ for $\Lambda \approx 10 \text{ TeV}$

→ Higgs naturally light *and* no problems with EW precision data

realization: collective symmetry breaking principle

→ class of models (effective theories, applicable up to $\approx 10 \text{ TeV}$)

→ new TeV-scale (f) gauge bosons, fermions and scalars appear

→ at the EW-scale only scalars appear

Higgs sectors of LH models

Model	EW-scale scalars	TeV-scale f scalars
Minimal moose	$\Phi_1, \Phi_2, \Sigma, S^c$	(none)
Minimal moose with $SU(2)_C$	Φ_1, Φ_2	Σ^r, S_{\pm}^c, S^r
Moose with T-parity	Φ_1, Φ_2	$\Phi_{3,4,5}, \Sigma_{1,2,3}^r, S_{1,\dots,5}^c, P_{1,2,3}$
Littlest Higgs	Φ	Σ
$SU(6)/Sp(6)$ model	Φ_1, Φ_2	S^c
Littlest Higgs with $SU(2)_C$	Φ	Σ, Σ^r, P
Littlest Higgs with T-parity	Φ	Σ
$SU(3)$ simple group	Φ, P	(none)
$SU(4)$ simple group	Φ_1, Φ_2, P_1, P_2	S_1^c, S_2^c, S_3^c
$SU(9)/SU(8)$ simple group	Φ_1, Φ_2	S_1^c, S_2^c

with Φ scalar doublet,
 S^c complex scalar singlet,
 S^r real scalar singlet,
 P pseudoscalar singlet,
 Σ complex triplet,
 Σ^r real triplet.

(some) consequences for Higgs phenomenology:

example: Littlest Higgs model : 1 doublet at EW scale

- Higgs couplings identical to SM up to $\frac{v}{f}$ -corrections ($\frac{v}{f} \approx \frac{250}{1000} = \frac{1}{4}$)
 - $\sigma \times \text{BR}$ deviates from SM by $(\frac{v}{f})^2 \approx \text{few } \%$.
 - requires % accuracy measurements to distinguish from SM

- Test of divergency cancellation relations:

The 4-point interactions of a Higgs boson H with heavy gauge bosons V_i have to fulfil

$$\sum_i G_{HHV_iV_i} = 0$$

in order to cancel one-loop quadratic divergencies in Higgs self energy.

After EWSB: $G_{HHV_iV_i}$ give rise to $G_{HV_iV_i}$ -couplings.

→ Measurement of all $\sigma(q\bar{q} \rightarrow V_i^* \rightarrow HV_i)$ gives information on $G_{HHV_iV_i}$.

– extra dimension models

basic concept: spacetime has $D = 4 + \delta$ dimensions,
 δ extra spatial dimensions compactified.

variants:

- large extra dimensions [Arkani-Hamed, Dimopoulos, Dvali '98]
 - only gravity propagates in extra dimensions
 - size (R): up to submillimetre length
 - 4d Planck mass $M_{Pl}^2 \propto R^\delta M_D^{2+\delta}$, M_D : fund. D-dim. Planck mass
 - $\delta = 1$ ruled out (planetary motion)
- warped extra dimensions [Randall, Sundrum '99]
 - gravity and SM fields localized at boundaries of a slice of 5d anti-de Sitter space
 - in principle only gravity propagates in extra dimensions
- TeV⁻¹-sized extra dimensions [Antoniadis '90, ...]
 - in principle all fields propagate in extra dimensions

- large extra dimensions: consequences for Higgs phenomenology

- Higgs can mix with “graviscalars” via the interaction

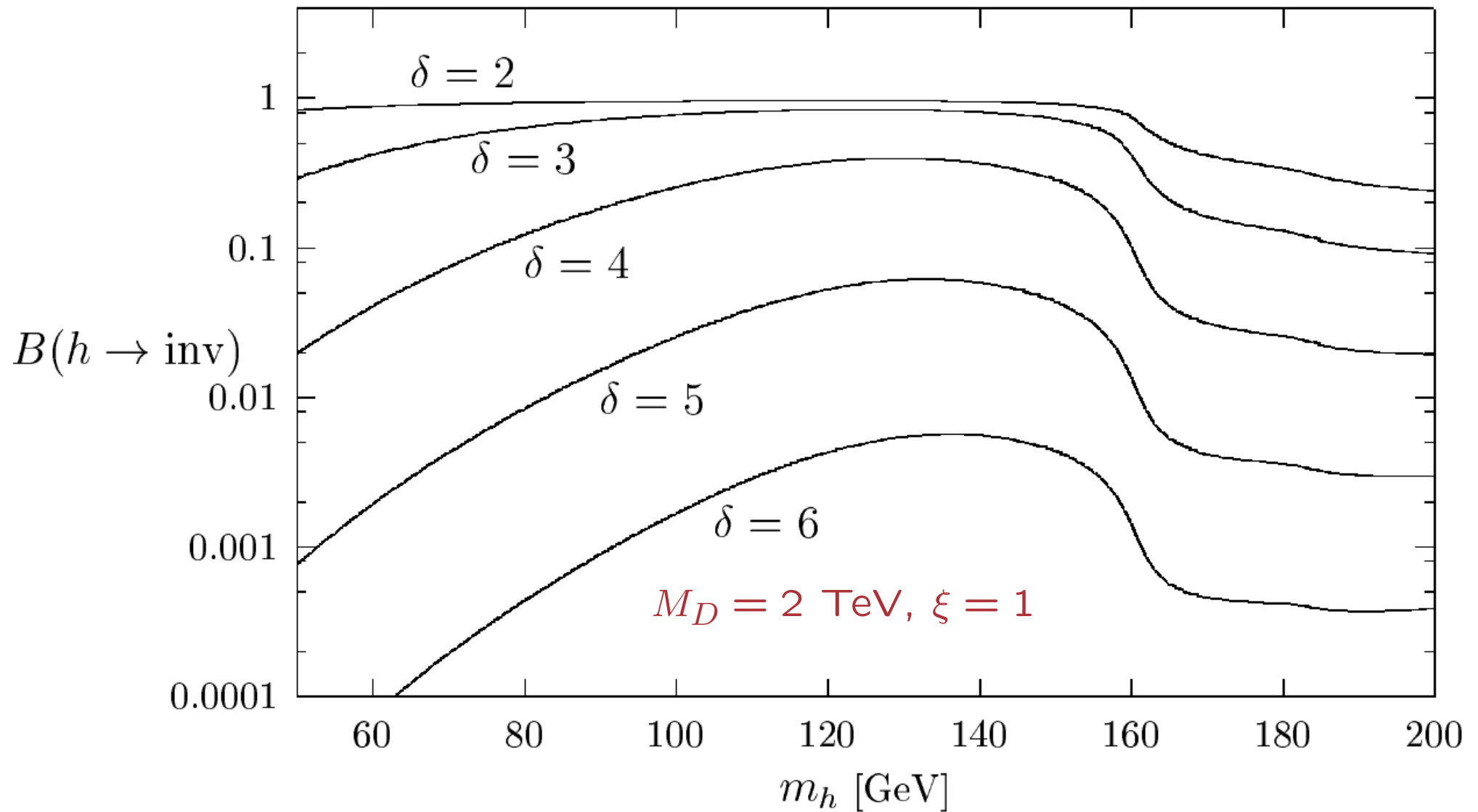
$$\mathcal{L} = -\xi \sqrt{-g_{\text{ind}}} R(g_{\text{ind}}) \Phi^\dagger \Phi$$

with g_{ind} : induced 4d metric, R : Ricci scalar.

- Gravisalars: from extra dimensional entries in D-dim. metric ,
KK states very dense (quasi continuum)
→ sum over contributions compensates for Planck scale suppression
- large $\text{BR}(H \rightarrow \text{invisible})$ possible → missing energy signature

- large extra dimensions, $D = 4 + \delta$: $\text{BR}(H \rightarrow \text{invisible})$

[Giudice, Rattazzi, Wells '00]



- warped extra dimensions: consequences for Higgs phenomenology

example: Randall-Sundrum model

- There is one graviscalar in 5d: the **radion** φ
(typically the lightest new particle to appear)
- Higgs – radion mixing (again) via the interaction

$$\mathcal{L} = -\xi\sqrt{-g_{\text{ind}}} R(g_{\text{ind}}) \Phi^\dagger \Phi$$

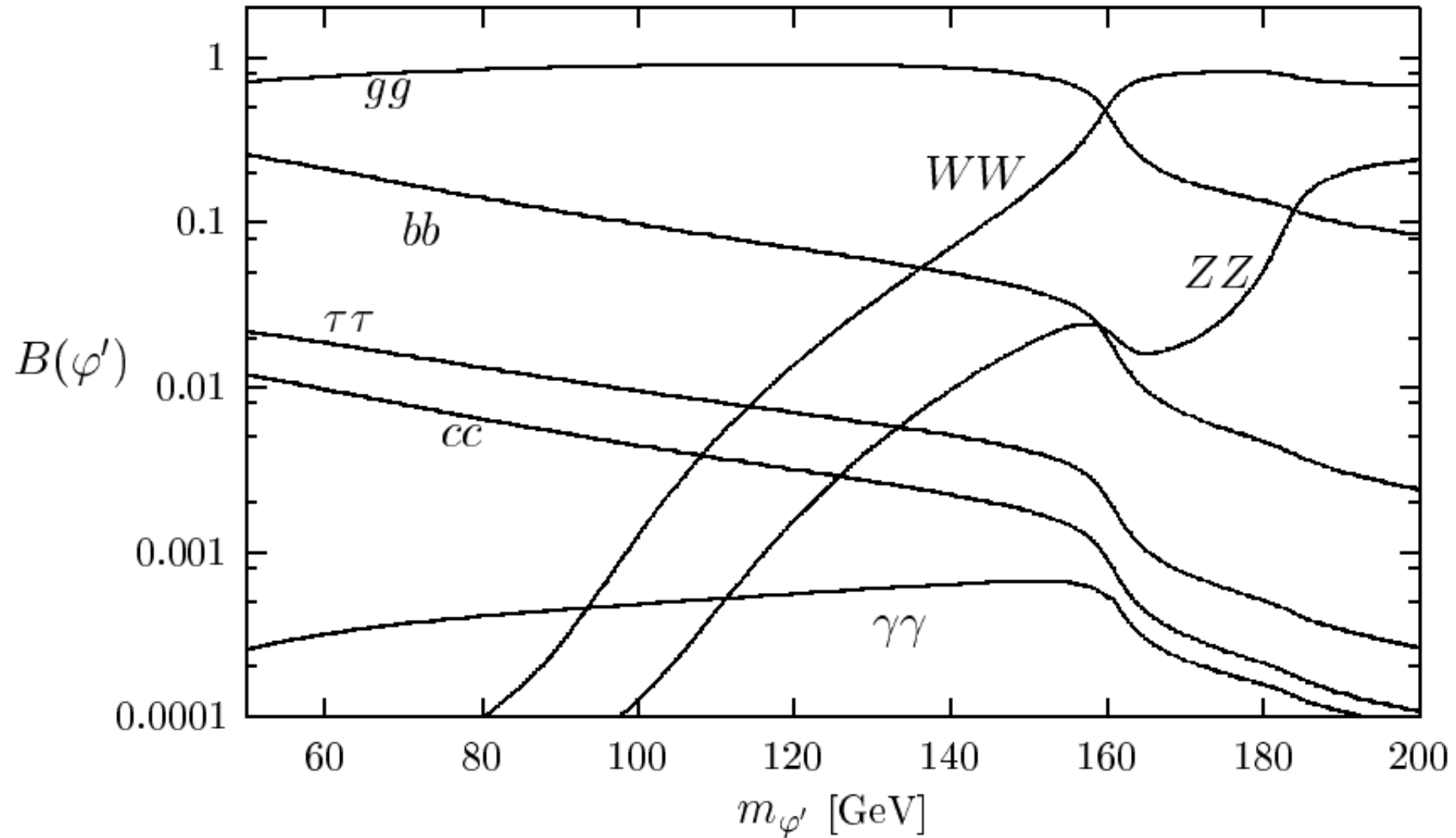
→ Radion φ and physical Higgs h mix to form two mass eigenstates

- φ coupling to massive fermions and gauge bosons \propto mass,
 $\varphi b\bar{b}$ coupling **suppressed** wrt SM Higgs
- φgg coupling **enhanced** wrt SM Higgs
- $\varphi \gamma\gamma$ coupling **suppressed** wrt SM Higgs

→ two scalars in the spectrum with modified couplings compared to the SM Higgs boson

• Randall Sundrum model

Radion branching ratios, no Higgs-mixing ($\xi = 0$), $\langle\varphi\rangle = 10$ TeV



- TeV⁻¹-sized extra dimensions

example: 5D universal extra dimensions [Appelquist, Cheng, Dobrescu '01]

- all SM particles propagate in the 5th dimension
- mass scale $1/R > 250 - 500$ GeV [Appelquist, Yee '03]
 - mainly KK-modes $n=0, 1, 2$ relevant at LHC
- KK-parity conserved: multiplicative quantum number $(-1)^n$
 - $n = 1$ Higgs-KK-modes can't decay into just SM particles

→ apparent Higgs sector:

$n = 0$ equivalent to SM Higgs sector

$n = 1$ doesn't look like Higgs

$n = 2$ KK-modes can decay again in $n = 0$ -modes

→ look like heavy Higgs bosons

→ effective Higgs sector: $h^0, H^0 = h_{(2)}^0, A^0 = G_{(2)}^0, H^\pm = G_{(2)}^\pm$ (like 2HDM)

– scalar sector extensions

• singlet extensions

motivation: the SM Higgs doublet Φ is the only field which can have renormalizable interactions with a hidden, SM-singlet sector:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs-hidden sector int.}} \propto (\Phi^\dagger \Phi) (\phi^{(\dagger)} \phi)_{\text{hidden}}$$

Extension of the SM by ...

... a complex SU(2)-singlet scalar: Higgs sector: H_1^0, H_2^0, A_1^0

• hidden sector singlet:

A_1^0 eaten by spontaneously broken $U(1)_{\text{hidden}} \rightarrow H_1^0, H_2^0$ remain

[Schabinger, Wells '05,...]

• minimal phantom sector (contains extended neutrino sector):

global $U(1)$ symmetry broken $\rightarrow H_1^0, H_2^0, A_1^0 (= J, \text{massless Goldstone})$

[Cerdeño, Dedes, Underwood '06]

... a real SU(2)-singlet scalar: Higgs sector : H_1^0, H_2^0

[v.d. Bij '06; O'Connell et al. '06; Bahat-Treidel, et al.'06]

consequences for Higgs phenomenology

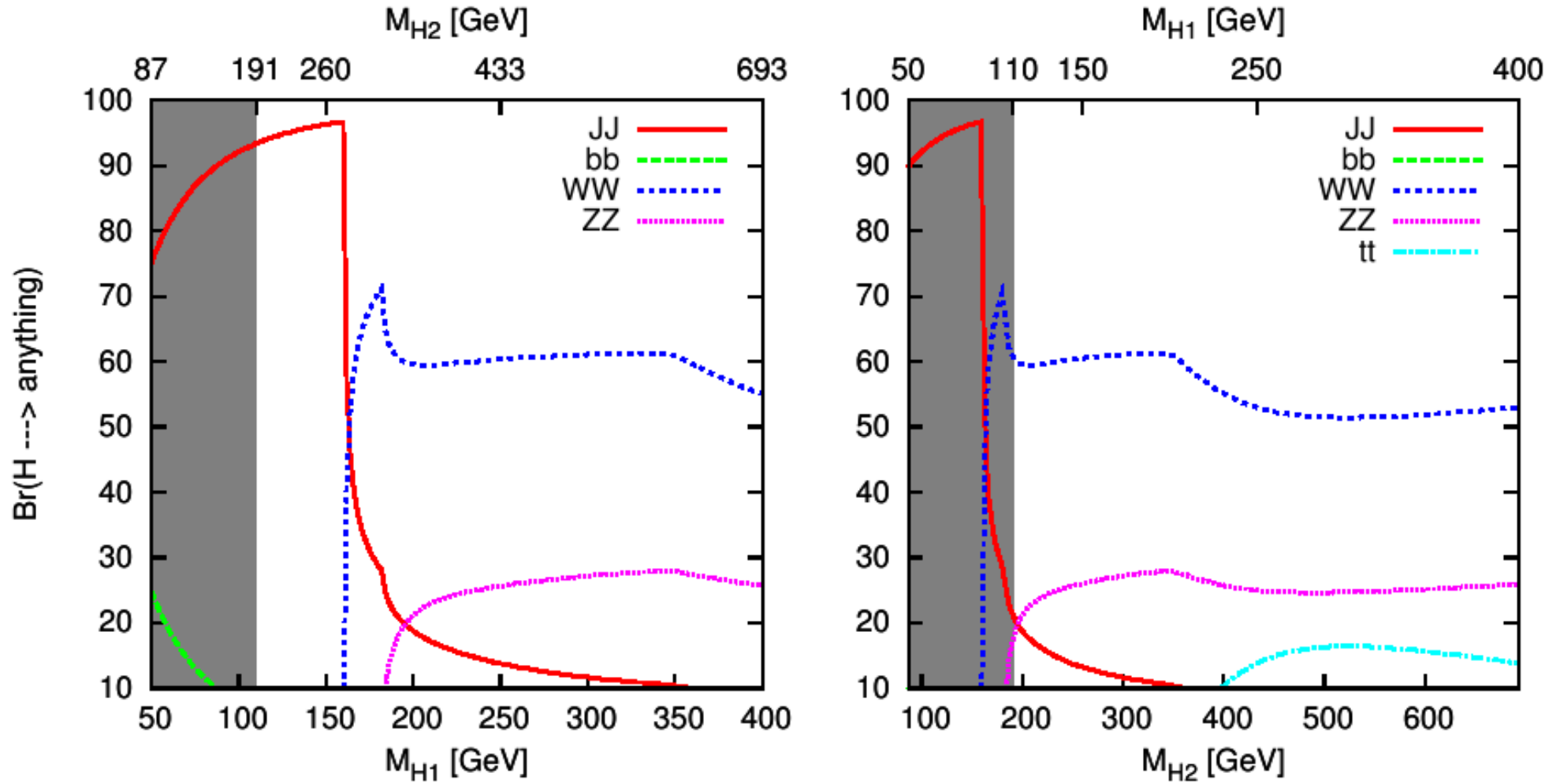
– mixing of new scalar(s) with ordinary Higgs d.o.f.

– couplings of scalars to SM particles reduced by mixing angles

– potentially large BR(Higgs \rightarrow invisible)

(– singlets as DM candidates)

example: almost invisible decay of lightest Higgs in phantom sector model



[Cerdeño, Dedes, Underwood '06]

– unparticle stuff

• generalities:

The SM is embedded in a theory valid up to a (high) energy scale M_{UV} which contains a sector which becomes conformally invariant at an intermediate scale $\Lambda_U < M_{UV}$ (“unparticle sector”) [Georgi '07].

Operators \mathbf{O}_U of this sector have a scaling dimension d_U ($1 < d_U < 2$).

This conformal invariance is broken once the Higgs acquires a VEV v .

The breaking scale Λ_U should be below v , avoiding drastic changes in the Higgs potential.

[Fox, Rajaraman, Shirman '07]

In the conformal regime, the functional form of correlation functions and phase space of the operators \mathbf{O}_U is completely determined by specifying its Lorentz structure (i.e. spin):

→ Propagator: e.g. for scalar \mathbf{O}_U :
$$P_U(p^2) = \frac{A_{d_U}}{2 \sin(\pi d_U)} \frac{i}{(-p^2 - i\epsilon)^{2-d_U}}$$

→ Phase space measure:
$$d\Phi_U(p) = A_{d_U} \theta(p^0) \theta(p^2) (p^2)^{d_U-2} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4}$$

Energy scales:

high E cut-off $M_{UV} >$ onset of conf. inv. $\Lambda_U >$ EW scale $v >$ conf. breaking Λ_U

- Higgs bosons & unparticle stuff:

- Higgs – unparticle mixing [Kikuchi, Okada '07; Delgado et al. '07 & '08]

$$\mathcal{L} \propto \Phi^\dagger \Phi \mathbf{O}_U$$

reminiscent of HEIDI models [van der Bij, Dilcher '06 & '07]

- The Higgs itself belongs to the unparticle sector (“Unhiggs”)

[Stancato, Terning '08]

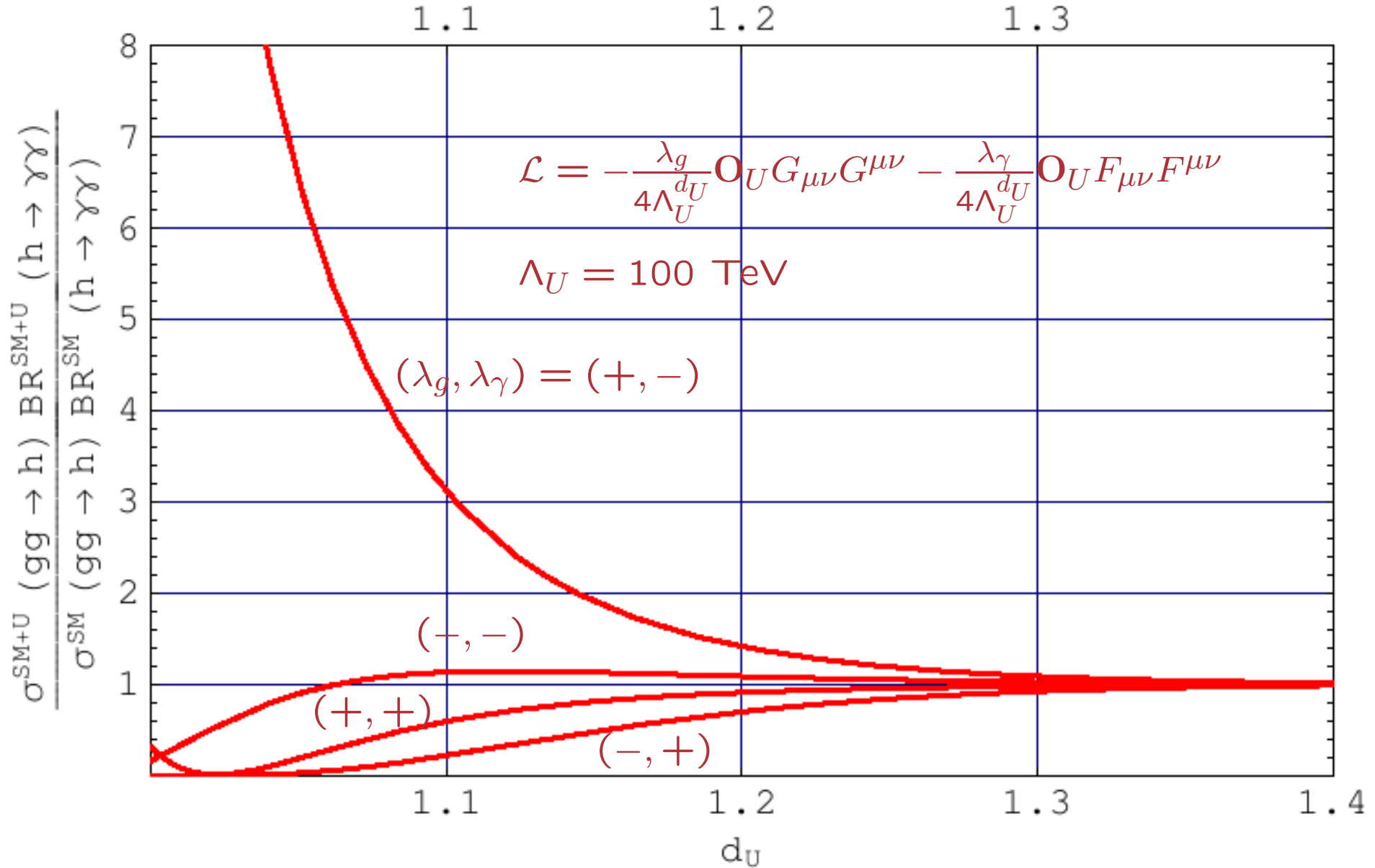
$$\mathcal{L} = -\Phi_U^\dagger \left[(D_\mu D^\mu + \mu^2)^{2-d_U} \right] \Phi_U - \left(\frac{\lambda_t}{\Lambda_U^{d_U-1}} \bar{t}_R \Phi_U^\dagger \begin{pmatrix} t \\ b \end{pmatrix} + \text{h.c.} \right) \\ - \lambda \left(\frac{\Phi_U^\dagger \Phi_U}{\Lambda_U^{2(d_U-1)}} - \frac{V^2}{2} \right)^2 + \dots$$

$$\rightarrow \text{VEV } \langle \Phi_U \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ f(V, \lambda, \mu, \Lambda_U, d_U) \end{pmatrix} =: \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{v^{d_U}}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

• Higgs – unparticle mixing

ratio of $\sigma(pp \rightarrow gg \rightarrow h \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$: SM+Unparticle effects vs. SM

[Kikuchi, Okada '07]



• Unhiggs

– Unhiggs propagator:

$$\Delta_h(q^2) = -\frac{i}{m^{4-2d_U} - \mu^{4-2d_U} + (\mu^2 - q^2 - i\epsilon)^{2-d_U}} \xrightarrow{d_U \rightarrow 1} \frac{i}{q^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon}$$

with $m^{4-2d_U} := \frac{2\lambda v^{2d_U}}{\lambda_U^{4d_U-4}} \xrightarrow{d_U \rightarrow 1} 2\lambda v^2 = m_H$: SM Higgs mass.

Pole at $q^2 = \mu^2 - (\mu^{4-2d_U} - m^{4-2d_U})^{\frac{1}{2-d_U}} =: M_{\text{Unh}}^2$.

– The phase space factor contains a: continuum for $q^2 > \mu^2$,
pole for $q^2 = M_{\text{Unh}}^2$.

– gauge interaction of Φ_U can be written as non-local using a Wilson line

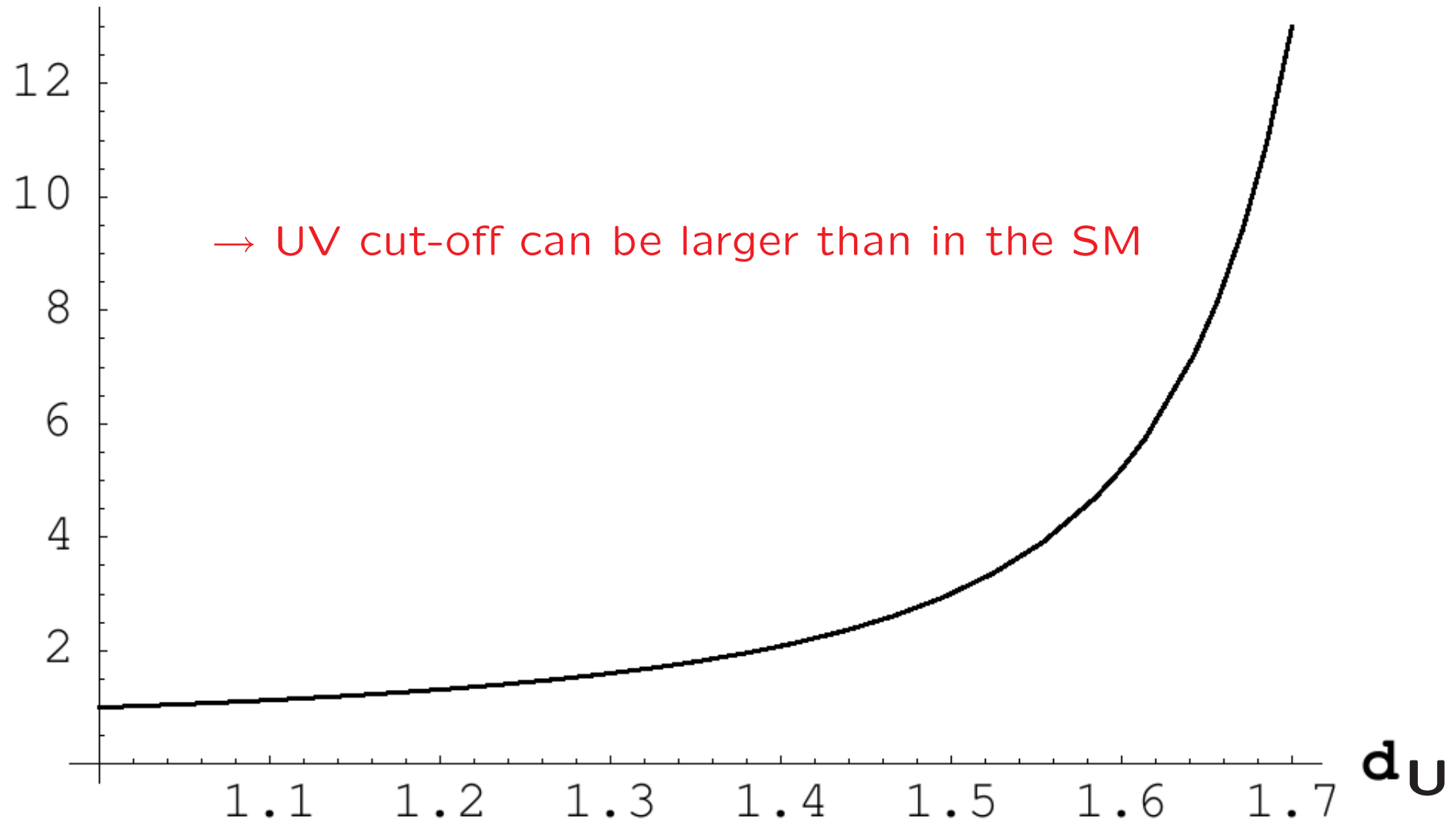
→ Feynman rules: vertices with arbitrary numbers of gauge bosons

→ WW scattering: positive powers of energy
cancel in tree-level amplitude

- Unhiggs: UV cut-off Λ_{max} from naturalness argument

Λ_{Max} (TeV)

[Stancato, Terning '08]



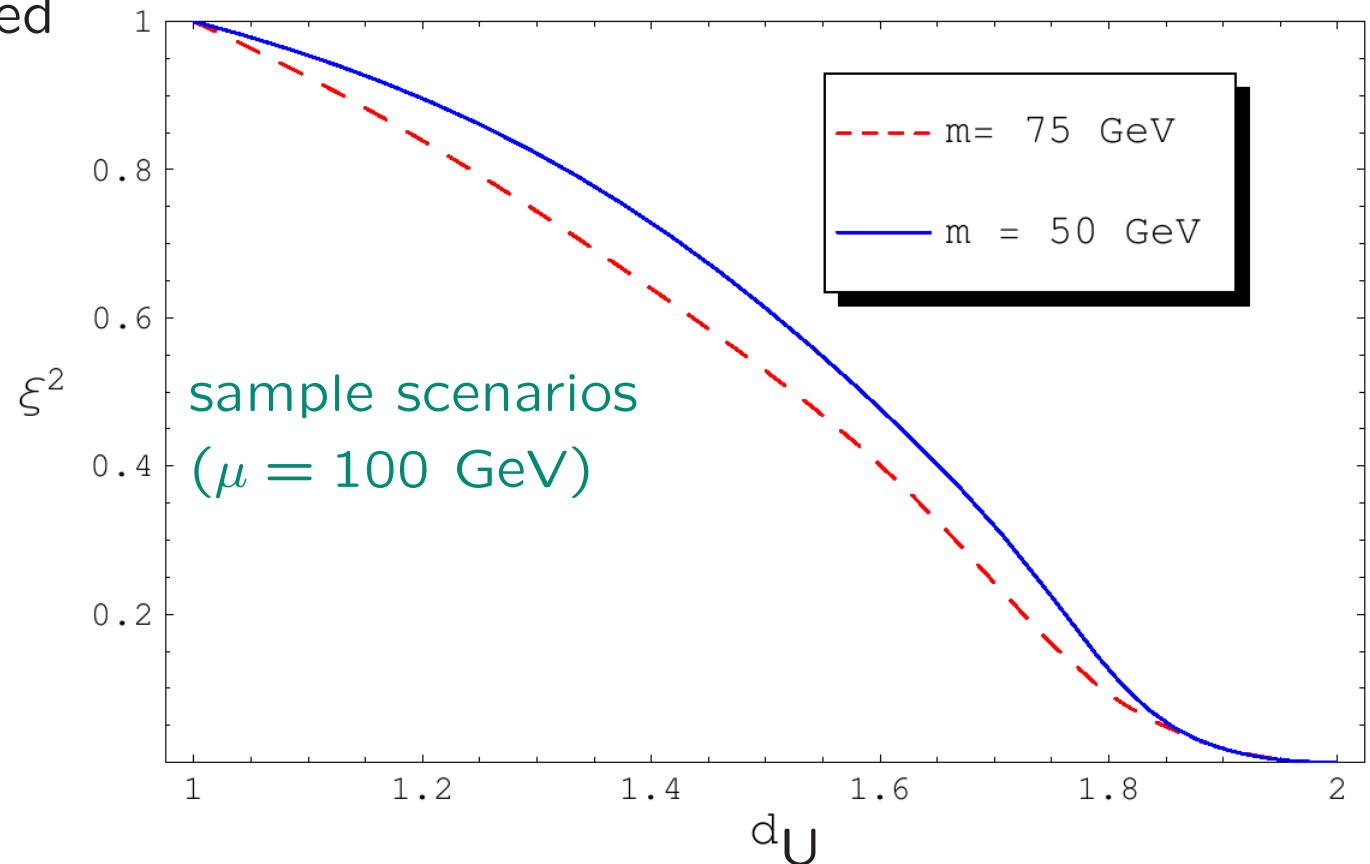
• Unhiggs phenomenology

- Higgsstrahlung suppressed

$$\xi^2 = \frac{\sigma_{\text{Unh}}(e^+e^- \rightarrow HZ)}{\sigma_{\text{SM}}(e^+e^- \rightarrow HZ)}$$

gaugephobic for $d_U \rightarrow 2$

[Stancato, Terning '08]



[Falkowski, Perez-Victoria '09]:

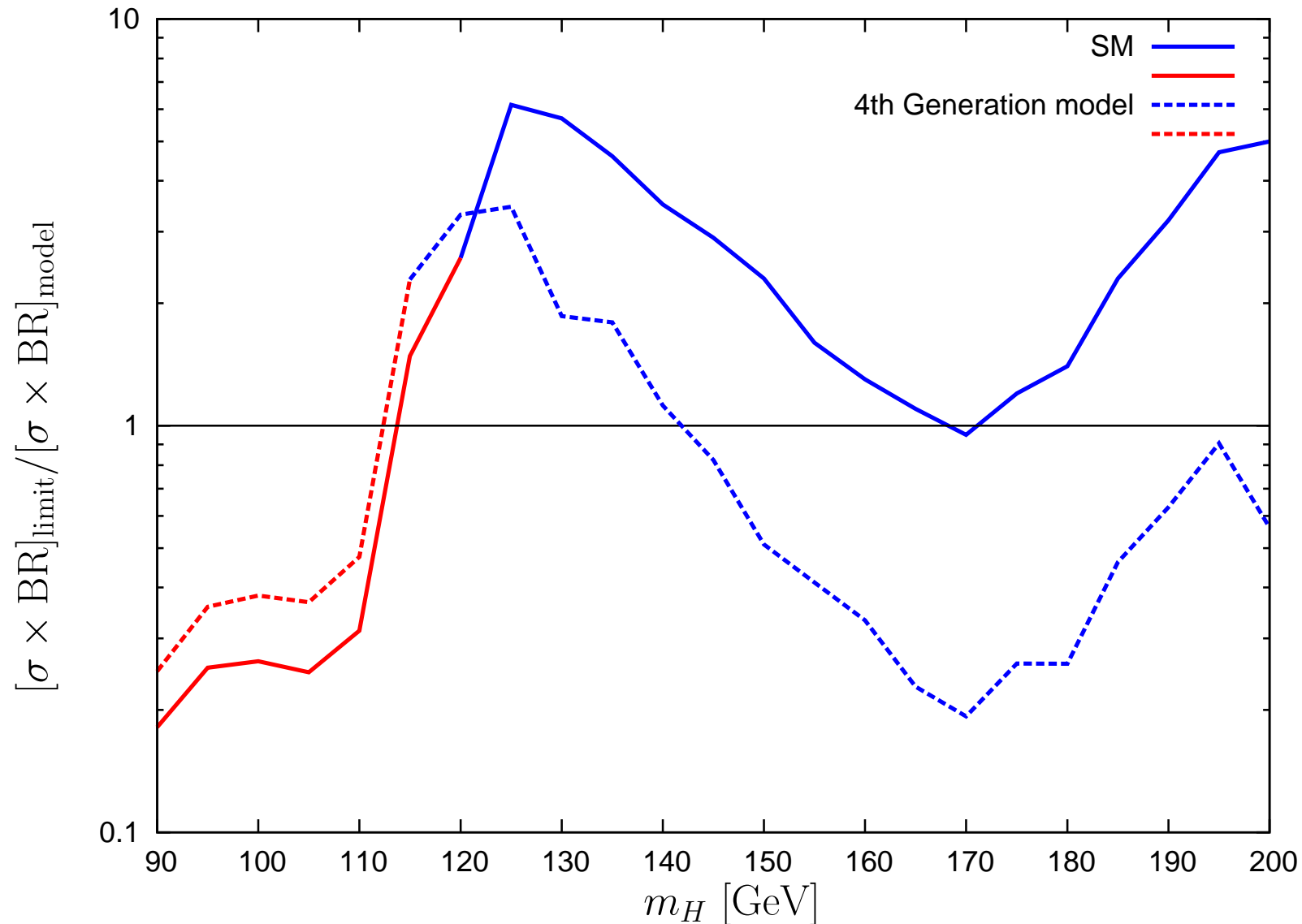
- consistent with electroweak precision observables (S, T) (even if d_U is not close to 1).
- at the same time Unhiggs signals can be highly suppressed at colliders
- dedicated LEP analysis needed to determine allowed parameter space

– 4th generation model: SM versus 4th Generation Model exclusion

HiggsBounds : Program for confronting arbitrary Higgs sectors with exclusion bounds from LEP & the Tevatron

[Bechtle, Brein, Heinemeyer, Weiglein, Williams '08]

→ www.ippp.dur.ac.uk/HiggsBounds/



summary

- We are sure to **observe electroweak symmetry breaking in nature**.
However, up to now, we have no clue how it is realised.
The Higgs mechanism allows to describe EWSB consistently up to very high energy.
- The Higgs sector may be the portal to new hidden sectors via the (possibly renormalizable) interaction

$$\mathcal{L} \propto \Phi^\dagger \Phi \mathbf{O}_{\text{hidden sector}} .$$

- We will have to wait and see what the LHC experiments turn out, once the LHC is running.
... and keep an eye on LEP constraints for new models.