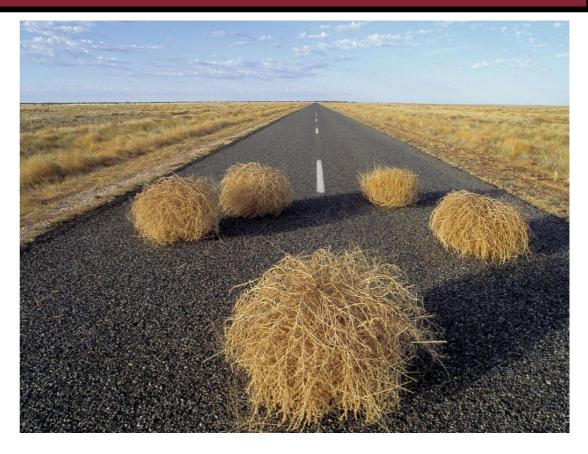
# Tumblers: A Novel Collider Signature for Long-Lived Particles

#### Brooks Thomas <u>LAFAYETTE</u> COLLEGE



Based on work done in collaboration with:

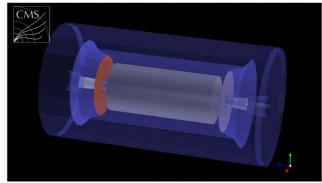
• Keith Dienes, Doojin Kim, and Tara Leininger [arXiv:2108.02204]

Mitchell Workshop 2022, May 25th, 2022

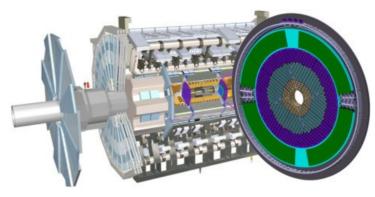
# **Long-Lived Particles**

- Long-lived particles (LLPs) arise in many extensions of the SM.
- •LLPs with lifetimes  $O(1 \text{ mm}) \lesssim c\tau \lesssim O(100 \text{ m})$  can give rise to macroscopically <u>displaced vertices</u> (DVs) at colliders.
- Search channels involving DVs have very *low SM backgrounds* and thus represent a promising experimental probe of new physics.
- Several dedicated searches for excesses in channels involving one or more DVs have already been performed at the LHC.
- During the HL-LHC upgrade, additional apparatus will be installed in both the ATLAS and CMS detectors which enhances their physics performance with regard to DVs. [Liu, Liu, Wang: 1805.05957; Liu, Liu, Wang, Wang: 2005.10836; Flowers, Meier, Rogan, Kang, Park: 1903.05825]

#### CMS: Barrel Timing Layer, High-Granularity Calorimeters

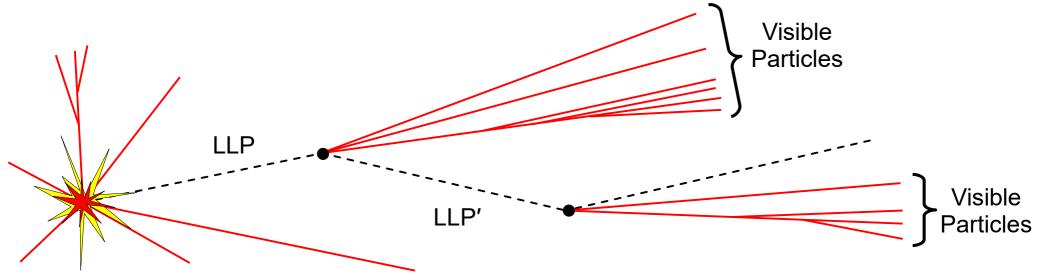


ATLAS: Encap Timing Detectors, High-Granularity Calorimeters



# **Tumblers**

- The analysis of LLP signatures has generally focused on the case in which each LLP decays to final states involving one or more detectable SM particles – plus perhaps additional invisible particles.
- However, in scenarios in which there exist <u>multiple LLP species</u>, another possibility arises: LLPs which decay to finals states involving both SM particles and <u>other, lighter LLPs</u>.
- Multiple, sequential decays of different LLP species along the same decay chain can give rise to multiple DVs.
- We call a sequence of DVs which result from successive decays of LLPs within the same decay chain a "<u>tumbler</u>."

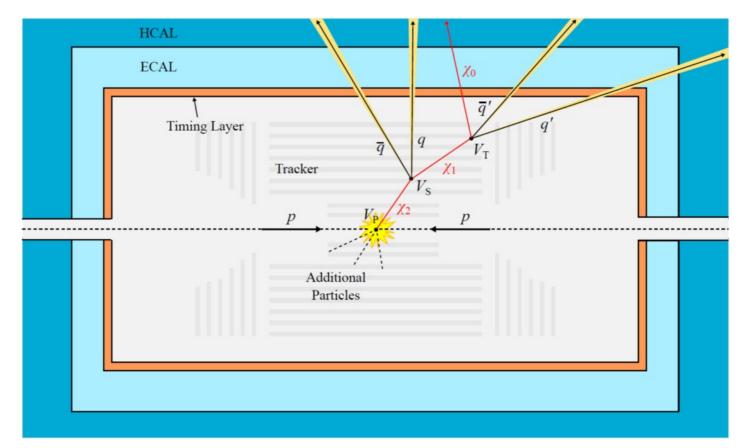


# **Tumblers**

- Tumblers can arise in a number of scenarios for new physics, including...
  - Hidden-valley scenarios [Strassler, Zurek: hep-ph/0604261; Strassler: hep-ph/0607160; Juknevich: 0911.5616; Juknevich, Melnikov, Strassler: 0903.0883; Craig, Katz, Strassler, Sundrum: 1501.05310]
  - Compressed SUSY [Martin: hep-ph/0703097]
  - Scenarios involving emerging jet, semi-visible jets, dark jets, or soft bombs [Schwaller, Stolarski, Weiler: 1502.05409; Cohen, Lisani, Lou: 1503.00009; Park, Zhang: 1712.09279; Knapen, Pagan Griso, Papucci, Robinson: 1612.00850]
  - Models involving large numbers of additional degrees of freedom with disorder in their mass matrix [D'Agnolo, Low: 1902.05535]
  - Extended dark-sector scenarios with mediator-induced decay chains [Dienes, Kim, Song, Su, BT, Yaylali: 1910.01129]
- As we shall see, precision timing provides us with a tool that we can use in order to exploit the <u>distinctive kinematics</u> of tumbler events and distinguish tumblers from other kinds of events involving multiple DVs.

# **Tumblers: An Example**

- For purposes of illustration, let's focus on the simplest example of a tumbler – an example which involves <u>two DVs</u>.
- An LLP  $\chi_2$  is produced at the primary vertex and decays into a lighter LLP  $\chi_1$ , which itself decays to a collider-stable, invisible particle  $\chi_0$ . Each decay is macroscopically displaced. Each decay <u>also produces SM</u> <u>particles</u> here a  $\bar{q}q$  pair which manifests as a pair of hadronic jets.



# **A Concrete Model for Tumblers**

- For concreteness, let's consider a model in which there exist three SM-singlet *Dirac fermions*  $\chi_0$ ,  $\chi_1$ , and  $\chi_2$ .
- These  $\chi_n$  couple to SM quarks q via a mediator  $\phi$  which is a <u>Lorentz</u> <u>scalar</u> and a triplet under SU(3) color.
- To suppress flavor-changing effects, we take  $\phi$  to be a triplet under the approximate  $U(3)_u$  flavor symmetry of the right-handed up-type quarks and assume that  $\phi$  and these quarks share a common mass eigenbasis.

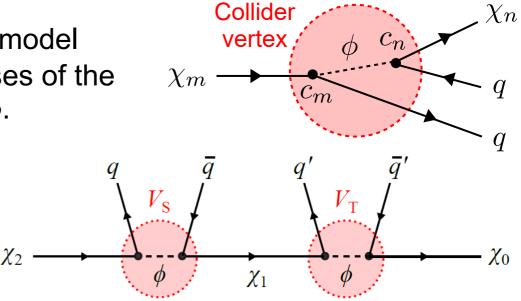
Mass eigenstates  $\{\phi_{u}, \phi_{c}, \phi_{t}\}$  essentially each couple to a <u>single flavor</u>.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = \sum_{q \in \{u,c,t\}} \sum_{n=0}^{2} \left[ c_{nq} \phi_q^{\dagger} \overline{\chi}_n P_R q + \text{h.c.} \right]$$

- For simplicity, we take  $m_{\phi_u} \ll m_{\phi_c}, m_{\phi_t}$  so that only  $\phi_u$ . For simplicity, we'll refer to  $\phi_u$  as " $\phi$ " and  $m_{\phi_u}$  as " $m_{\phi}$ ".
- In practice, this is tantamount to taking  $c_{nc} = c_{nt} = 0$ , while  $c_n \equiv c_{nu} \neq 0$ .

# **Decays and Displaced Vertices**

- Both  $\chi_1$  and  $\chi_2$  are unstable in this model and decay via three-body processes of the form  $\chi_m \to \chi_n q q$  involving a virtual  $\phi$ .
- Tumblers arise when  $\chi_2$  is produced at the primary vertex and decays to  $\chi_1$ , which in turn decays to  $\chi_0$ .



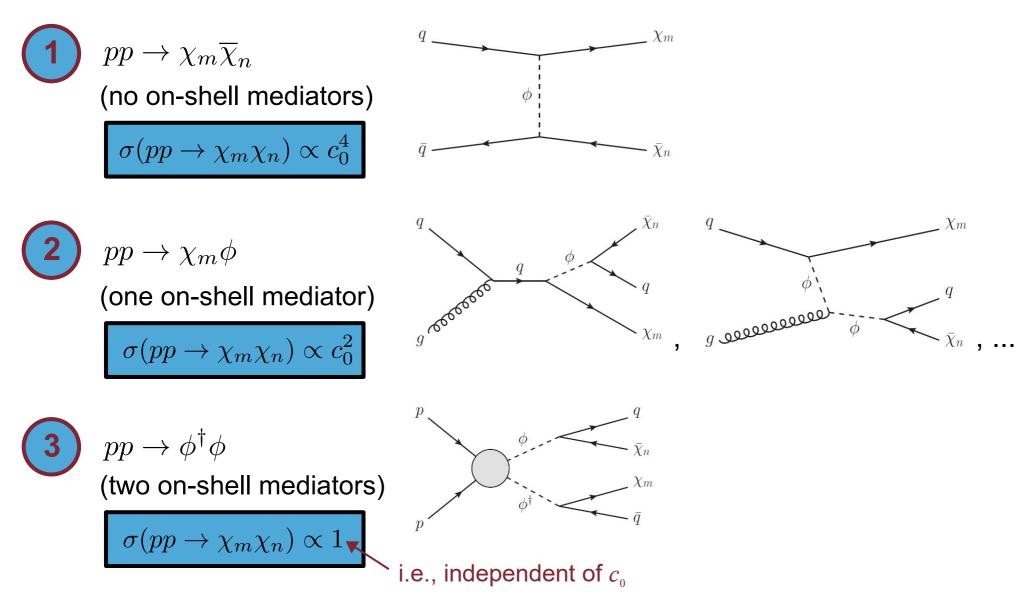
- Partial widths of  $\chi_m$  scale like  $\Gamma_{mn} \propto c_m^2 c_n^2$ . For  $\chi_1$  and  $\chi_2$  to be sufficiently long-lived that they both yield DVs, we need small couplings  $c_n \ll 1$ .
- For concreteness, we take the three  $c_n$  to scale according to relation

Coupling for lighest state  $c_n = c_0 \left(\frac{m_n}{m_0}\right)^{\gamma}$  Controls how  $c_n$  scales w/ n

• By contrast, partial widths for  $\phi$  scale like  $\Gamma_{\phi n} \propto c_n^2$ , which in this regime implies  $\Gamma_{\phi n} \gg \Gamma_{mn}$ . As a result, in the regime where  $\chi_1$  and  $\chi_2$  typically decay inside the tracker of a collider detector,  $\phi$  decay is typically prompt.

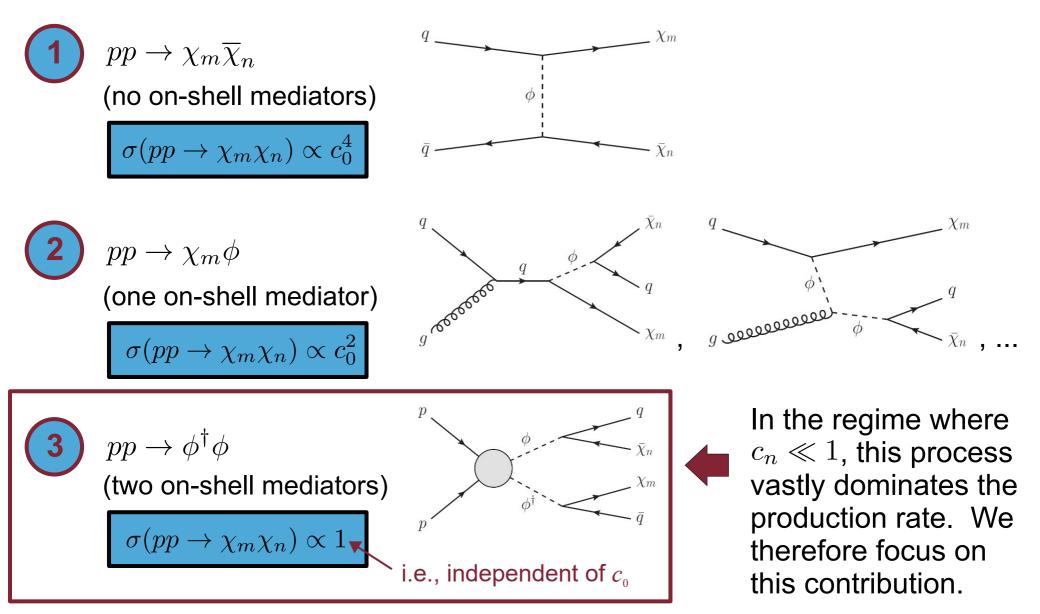
### **Production Channels**

• Several different processes contribute to the overall production rate ftumblers in this scenario. There are **three main classes**:



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## **Parameter-Space Regions of Interest**

- Not all decay chains give rise to tumblers, however. The probability that a given decay chain yields a tumbler depends on the set of branching fractions  $BR_{\phi n} \equiv BR(\phi^{\dagger} \rightarrow \chi_n \overline{q})$  and  $BR_{mn} \equiv BR(\chi_m \rightarrow \chi_n q \overline{q})$ .
- Since  $pp \rightarrow \phi^{\dagger}\phi$  production dominates, most tumbler decay chains begin with the (prompt) decay of  $\phi$  or  $\phi^{\dagger}$ . The probability that such a chain will yield a tumbler is

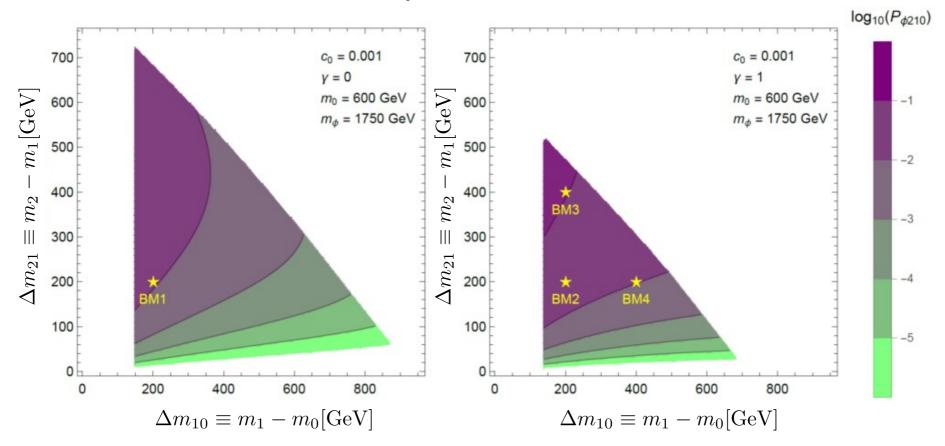
$$P_{\phi 210} = BR_{\phi 2}BR_{21}BR_{10}$$
$$= BR_{\phi 2}BR_{21}$$

LET'S GO

- Generally speaking, the regions of our parameter space which are of interest for tumbler phenomenology are those within which  $P_{_{\phi210}}$  is large.
- Our parameter space is six-dimensional:

Free parameters:  $\{m_{\phi}, m_0, m_1, m_2, c_0, \gamma\}$ 

# **Results for** $P_{\phi^{210}}$ and **Benchmarks**



 Based on these results, we define four parameter-space benchmarks (indicated by the yellow stars above).

Benchmark	Input Parameters						Mass Splittings		Proper Decay Lengths	
	$c_0$	$\gamma$	$\frac{m_0}{(\text{GeV})}$	$m_1$ (GeV)	$\frac{m_2}{(\text{Gev})}$	$\frac{m_{\phi}}{(\text{GeV})}$	$\Delta m_{10}$ (GeV)	$\Delta m_{21}$ (GeV)	$c au_1$ (m)	$\begin{array}{c} c au_2 \ (\mathrm{m}) \end{array}$
BM1	0.001	0	600	800	1000	1750	200	200	2.42	$8.33 \times 10^{-2}$
BM2	0.001	1	600	800	1000	1750	200	200	1.36	$2.89 \times 10^{-2}$
BM3	0.001	1	600	800	1200	1750	200	400	1.36	$2.14 \times 10^{-3}$
BM4	0.001	1	600	1000	1200	1750	400	200	$3.15 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.89 \times 10^{-3}$

### **Constraints from LHC Searches**

- Current LHC results constrain new-physics contributions to the event rates in several detection channels for our model. These include...
- <u>Multijet + </u>[Sirunyan et al.: 1908.04722, 1909.03560; Aad et al.: 201014293]
  - Since  $\phi$  and  $\chi_n$  have the same quantum numbers as  $\tilde{q}$  and  $\tilde{N}$  in SUSY, bounds are similar to those on squark/neutralino models.
  - Constraints satisfied when  $m_{\phi} \gtrsim 1250 \text{ GeV}$  and  $m_{\chi_n} \gtrsim 500 \text{ GeV}$ .
- *Monojet* + *E*/*<sub>T</sub>*: [Aad et al.: 2012.10874]
  - Constraints within our parameter-space region of interest are subleading in comparison with multijet constraints.
- *Displaced-Jet Channels*: [Sirunyan et al.: 1906.06441, 2012.01581, 2104.13474]
  - Constrains the product of production cross-section  $\sigma_{\chi}$  and the square of the LLP branching fraction  $Br_{\chi}$  into relevant final states.

• Bound is 
$$\sigma_{\chi\chi} BR_j^2 \lesssim 0.05 - 0.5$$
 fb for  $10^{-4}$  m  $< c\tau_{\chi} < 10$  m.

We must ensure that our model is consistent with these bounds within our region of interest, while at the same time yields a significant number of tumbler events at the HL-LHC or proposed future colliders.

# **Effective Cross-Sections**

- We define a set of <u>effective cross</u> <u>sections</u>  $\sigma_{\text{eff}}^{(\alpha)}$  which incorporate contributions to the event rate for a particular class of processes that arise in our model.
  - <u>Tumbler Class</u>:  $\sigma_{\text{eff}}^{(T)}$

Processes involving at least one tumbler

• **DV Class:**  $\sigma_{\rm eff}^{\rm (DV)}$ 

Processes which yield at least one DV, whether or not it is part of a tumbler

• <u>Multi-Jet Class</u>:  $\sigma_{\text{eff}}^{(Nj)}$ 

Processes which yield two or more hard jets, but no DV

• Monojet Class:  $\sigma_{\text{eff}}^{(1j)}$ 

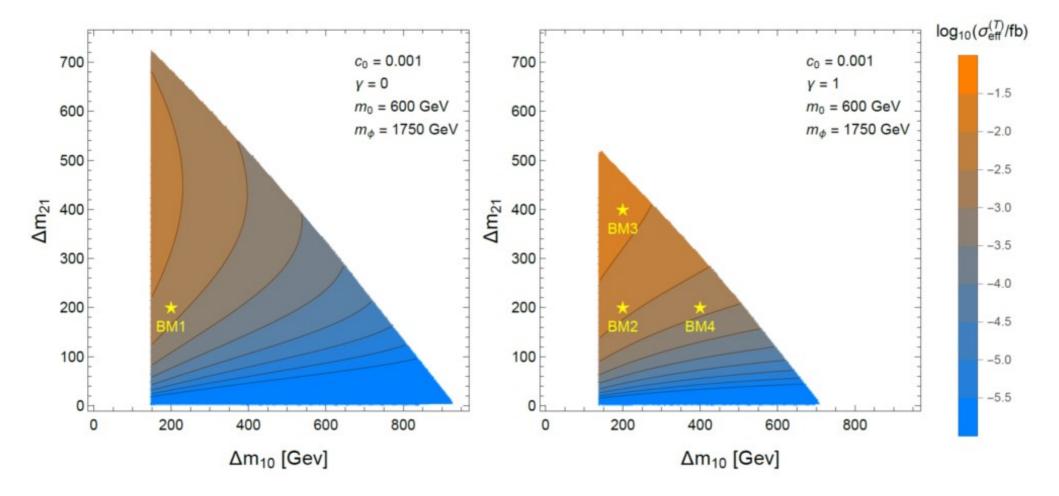
Processes which involve one hard jet and no DV

#### **Possible Event Topolgies**

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### **Effective Tumbler Cross-Sections**

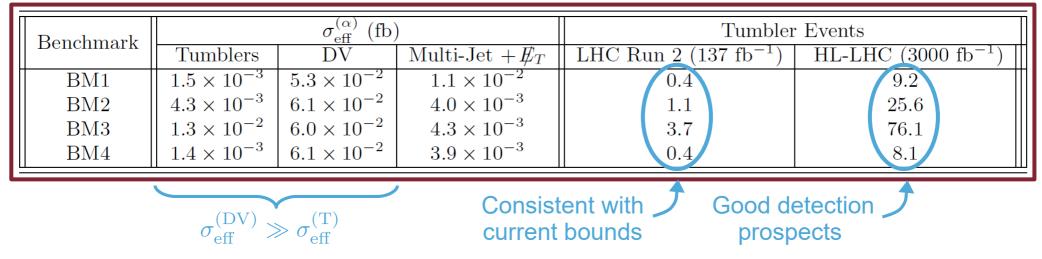
• Within our parameter-space region of interest,  $\sigma_{\rm eff}^{(T)}$  is indeed large enough to provide a significant number of events at the HL-LHC.



### **Results**

•We evaluate  $\sigma_{\rm eff}^{(\rm DV)}$ ,  $\sigma_{\rm eff}^{(Nj)}$ , and  $\sigma_{\rm eff}^{(1j)}$  as well as  $\sigma_{\rm eff}^{(\rm T)}$  for all of our benchmarks. However, we find that  $\sigma_{\rm eff}^{(1j)}$  is always subleading.

#### **Effective Cross-Sections and Expected Tumbler Event Counts**

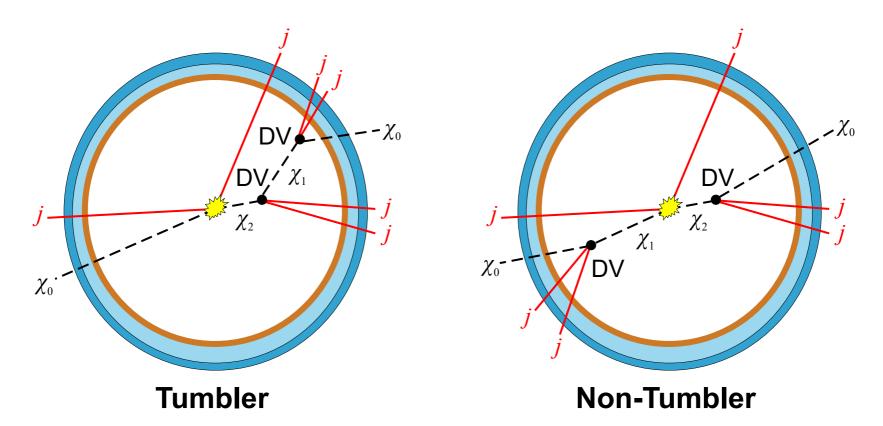


- All four of our benchmarks are consistent with current LHC limits from monojet, multi-jet, and DV searches.
- Moreover, all of these benchmarks are expected to yield a significant number of tumbler events at the HL-LHC.

<u>The upshot</u>: Despite stringent limits, there is still potential for mediatorinduced decay chains to manifest themselves at colliders.

# **The Next Step: Distinguishing Tumblers**

- There is, however, another issue we must address. Up to this point, our analysis does not distinguish between tumbler events and other, non-tumbler events which likewise include multiple DVs.
- Moreover, we have seen that a "background" of such non-tumbler events arises even within the context of our model!
- Thus, in order to claim a discovery of tumblers, we must develop a *method for distinguishing them* from non-tumbler events.



## **Event-Selection Through Mass-Reconstruction**

- Fortunately, the *distinctive kinematics* of tumblers can serve as a basis for distinguishing between tumbler and non-tumbler events.
- *Timing and momentum information* can be used to reconstruct the positions and times of the primary and displaced vertices.
- From this information, the velocities  $\vec{\beta}_1$  and  $\vec{\beta}_2$  of  $\chi_1$  and  $\chi_2$  can be reconstructed, and from these, in turn, the **masses**  $m_0$ ,  $m_1$ , and  $m_2$ .

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_1 = (\vec{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathrm{T}} - \vec{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathrm{S}})/(t_{\mathrm{T}} - t_{\mathrm{S}})$$

 $\chi_0$ 

Timing

Layer

 $(t_P, \mathbf{x}_P)$ 

Tumbler

 $\chi_0$ 

 $\chi_2$ 

 $(t_T, ec{\mathbf{x}}_T)$ 

 $(t_S, \vec{\mathbf{x}}_S)$ 

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_2 = (\vec{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathrm{S}} - \vec{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathrm{P}})/(t_{\mathrm{S}} - t_{\mathrm{P}})$$

$$m_{2} = \frac{\left|\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{q} + \vec{\mathbf{p}}_{\bar{q}} - \vec{\beta}_{1}\left(|\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{q}| + |\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{\bar{q}}|\right)\right|}{\gamma_{2}|\vec{\beta}_{1} - \vec{\beta}_{2}|}$$

$$m_{1} = \frac{\left|\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{q} + \vec{\mathbf{p}}_{\bar{q}} - \vec{\beta}_{2}\left(|\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{q}| + |\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{\bar{q}}|\right)\right|}{\gamma_{1}|\vec{\beta}_{1} - \vec{\beta}_{2}|}$$

$$m_{0}^{2} = m_{1}^{2} - 2\gamma_{1}m_{1}\left[|\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{q'}| + |\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{\bar{q}'}| - \vec{\beta}_{1} \cdot (\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{q'} + \vec{\mathbf{p}}_{\bar{q}'})\right]$$

$$+2\left(|\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{q'}||\vec{\mathbf{p}}_{\bar{q}'}| - \vec{\mathbf{p}}_{q'} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{p}}_{\bar{q}'}\right)$$

## **Event-Selection Through Mass-Reconstruction**

- For tumblers, this procedure nevertheless typically yields a sensible set of reconstructed masses and velocities *i.e.*, a set for which:
  - $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are real and positive
  - $m_0^2$  is real
  - $|\vec{\mathbf{p}}_0|$  is real and positive
  - $0 < |\vec{\beta}_n| < 1$  for n = 1, 2
  - $m_2^2 > m_1^2 > m_0^2$
- By contrast, non-tumbler events, which have a different kinematic structure, typically fail to satisfy one or more of these criteria.
- Moreover, the kinematic distributions of  $m_0$ ,  $m_1$ , and  $m_2$  for tumbler events should all exhibit <u>peaks</u> at the correspondin true mass values. By contrast, non-tumbler events should exhibit no such peaks.

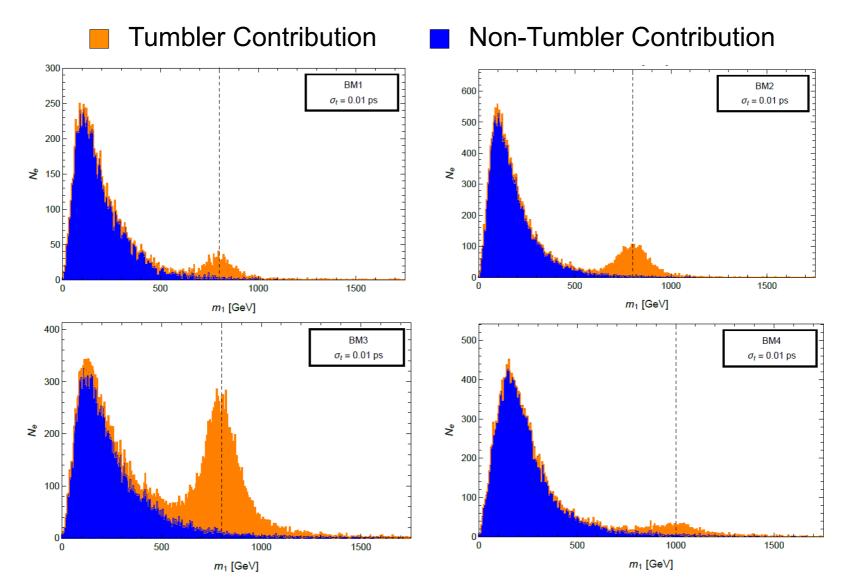
The plan: apply these event-selection criteria in order to amplify the ratio of tumbler to non-tumbler events in the data, then identify the peaks in order to detect/distinguish tumblers.

## **Monte-Carlo Simulation**

- In order to examine how this work in practice, we perform a Monte-Carlo analysis of  $pp \rightarrow \phi^{\dagger} \phi$  production and subsequent mediator decay.
- We work at parton level, but take into account the relevant uncertainties as follows:
  - **<u>Timing uncertainty</u>**: smear the time at which each jet hits the timing layer by a Gaussian with uncertainty  $\sigma_t$ .
  - Jet-energy uncertainty: smear the energy  $E_j$  of each jet by a Gaussian with an energy-dependent uncertainty  $\sigma_E(E_j)$  modeled after the CMS-detector response.
- The *direct* effect of the jet-direction uncertainties  $\sigma_{\eta}$  and  $\sigma_{\phi}$  on the reconstructed  $m_n$  through the  $\vec{\mathbf{p}}_j$  are subleading compared to that of  $\sigma_E$ .
- However, their *indirect* effect through  $\vec{\beta}_1$  and  $\vec{\beta}_2$ , which depend on  $\vec{x}_P$ ,  $\vec{x}_S$ , and  $\vec{x}_T$  can be more significant and need to be accounted for.
  - Vertex-location uncertainty: shift the position of each vertex by a random vector whose magnitude is distributed according to a Gaussian with uncertainty  $\sigma_r = 30 \ \mu m$ .

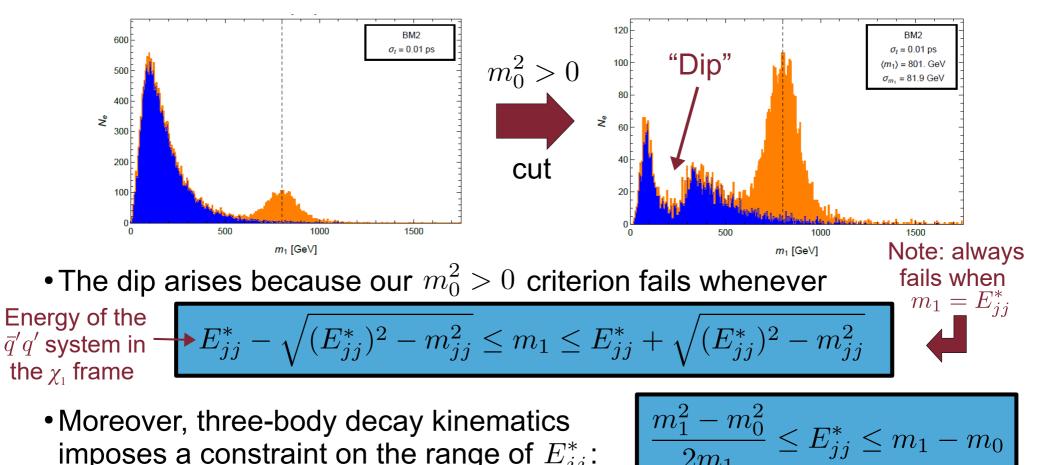
### The Reconstructed *m<sub>n</sub>* Distributions

• Indeed, for sufficiently low  $\sigma_t$ , the distributions of reconstructed  $m_1$ values exhibit a discernable <u>tumbler peak</u> around the true  $m_1$  value, along with a residual background of non-tumbler events at low  $m_1$ .



# **One Additional Cut**

• Finally, we'll impose one additional requirement:  $m_0^2 > 0$ . This cut reduces the background even further (by a factor of ~10 for all BMs) and also alters the <u>shapes</u> of the  $m_1$  distributions.



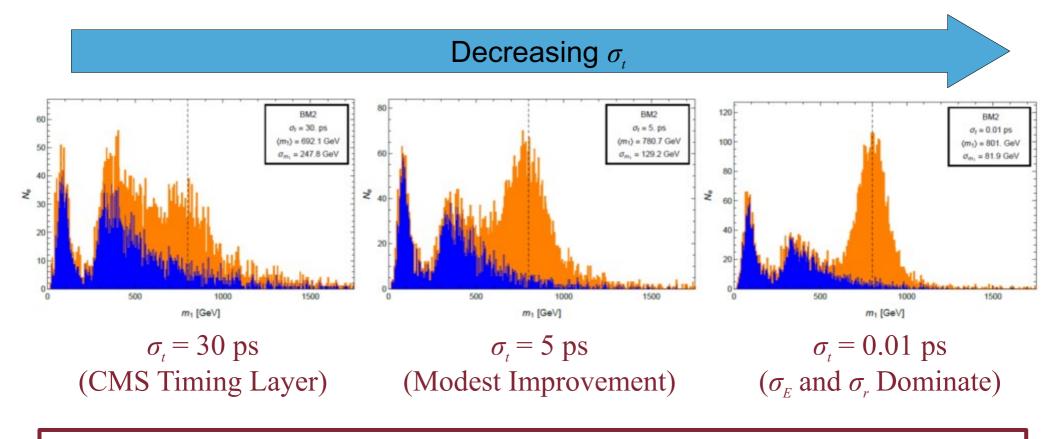
Location of the dip

imposes a constraint on the range of  $E_{jj}^*$ :  $2m_1$ • For example, for BM1,  $E_{jj}^*$  lies within the narrow range

 $175 \text{ GeV} \le E_{jj}^* \le 200 \text{ GeV}$ 

# **The Impact of Timing Resolution**

• We can also examine how improvements in timing resolution would impact our ability to resolve the tumbler peak in the  $m_1$  distribution.

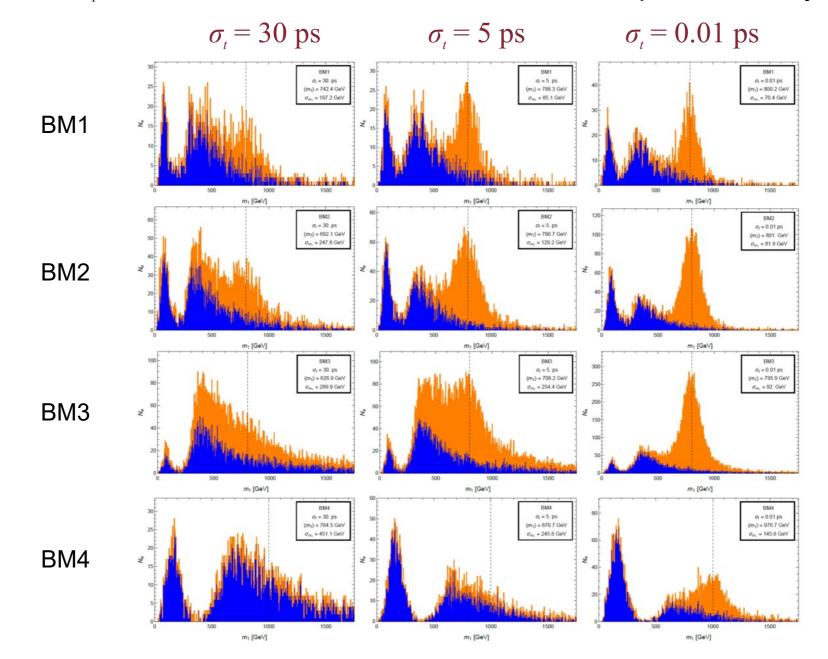


#### The Upshot:

Even a moderate improvement in  $\sigma_i$  would significantly enhance the prospects for distinguishing tumblers at the LHC or at future colliders.

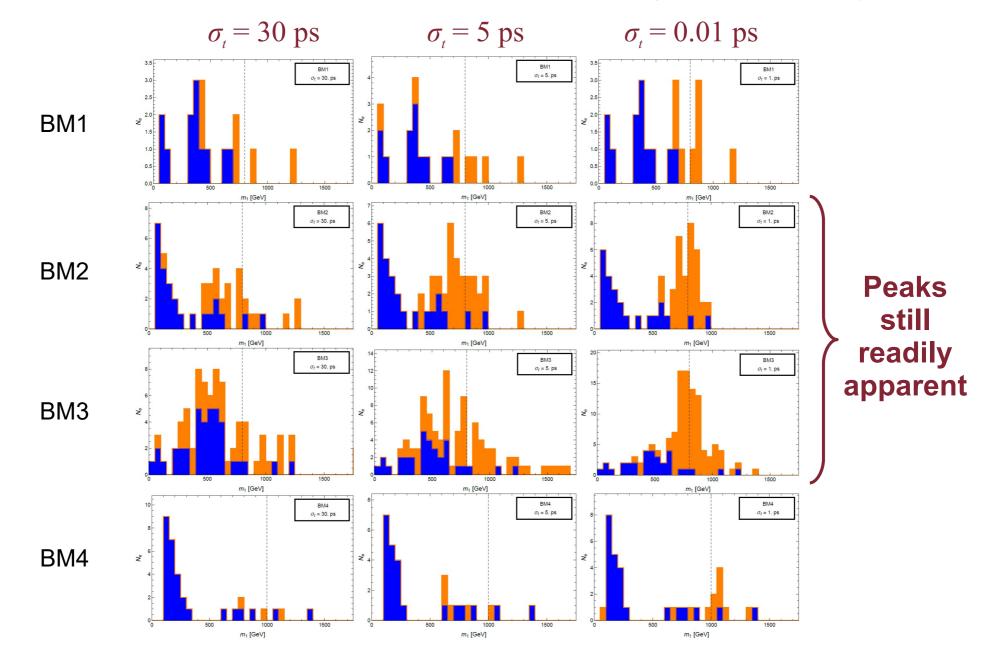
### **Other Benchmarks**

• The  $m_1$  distributions for our other benchmarks depend similarly on  $\sigma_{t}$ .



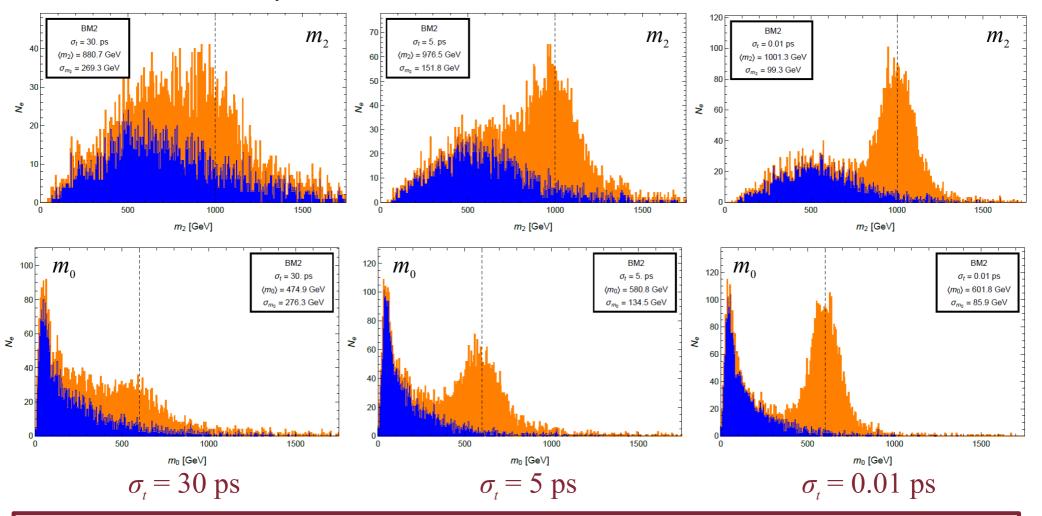
### **Realistic Event Counts**

• At a collider similar to HL-LHC, with twice the integrated luminosity.



### **Other Masses**

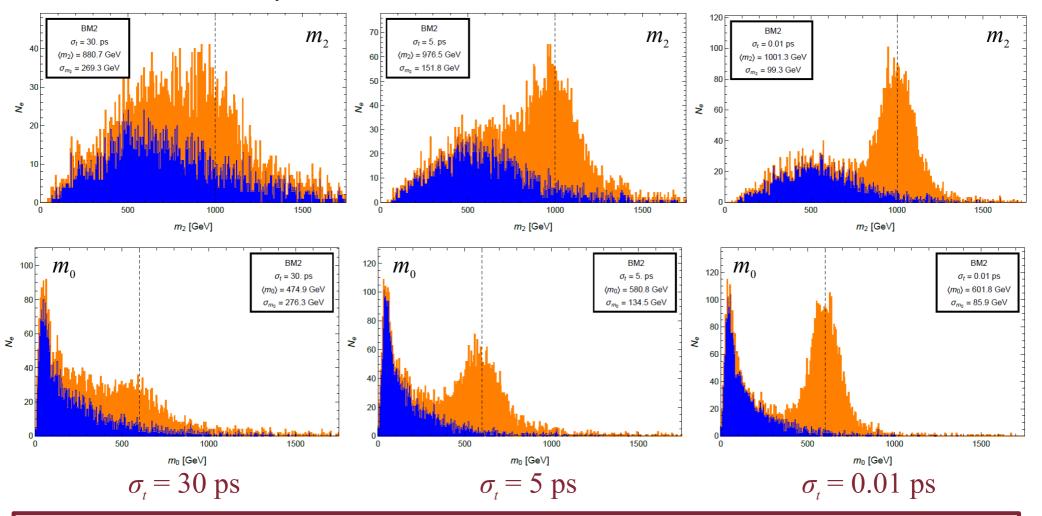
- The  $m_2$  and  $m_0$  distributions exhibit a similarly dependence on  $\sigma_t$ .
- However these distibutions do not exhibit a "dip" akin to the one which appears in the  $m_1$  distribution.



Once again, even a moderate improvement in  $\sigma_t$  would have a huge impact.

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# Lifetime Reconstruction

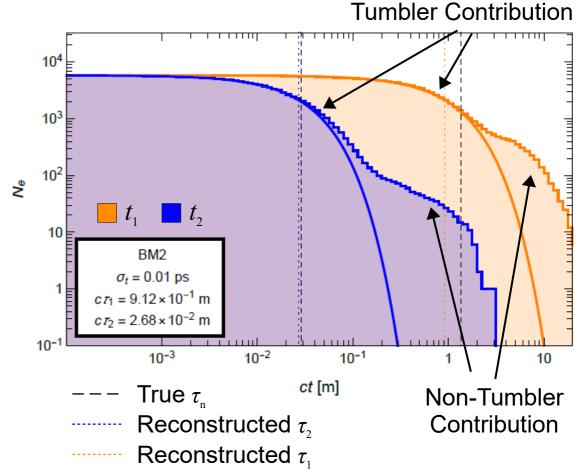
- Timing and vertex-position information likewise allows us to determine the lifetimes of the decaying LLPs.
- Proper decay times  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  can also be reconstruct for  $\chi_1$  and  $\chi_2$  in each event, given timing information.
- For n = 1, 2, we define the total number of events  $N_{r}(t)$  which have a proper decay time  $t_{r}$ longer than t.
- Fitting the  $N_{r}(t)$  distributions (after cuts) to exponential functions of the form

$$N_n(t) = N_n(0)e^{-t/\tau_n}$$

yields a reasonably accurate estimate for the  $\tau_{r}$ .

#### **Proper Decay Times**

$$t_1 = (t_{\rm T} - t_{\rm S})(1 - |\vec{\beta}_1|^2)^{1/2}$$
$$t_2 = (t_{\rm S} - t_{\rm P})(1 - |\vec{\beta}_2|^2)^{1/2}$$



# Summary

- Tumblers are a novel collider signature in which <u>multiple DVs</u> arise in the same event as a consequence of <u>sequential decays</u> along the same decay chain.
- Such signatures arise naturally in new-physics scenarios in which LLPs themselves decay into final states involving other LLPs.
- These mediators can give rise to <u>extended decay chains</u> at coliders involving large numbers of SM particles.
- Event-selection criteria based on the reconstruction of the LLP masses can efficiently discriminate between tumblers and other kinds of events involving multiple DVs.
- A <u>moderate enhancement in timing resolution</u> relative to the ~30 ps that will be provided by the CMS barrel timing layer could pay huge dividends in terms of our ability to distinguish between different event topologies involving multiple displaced vertices.