
Searches for BSM physics using challenging and long-lived signatures with the ATLAS detector

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on behalf of the ATLAS Collaboration

Lake Louise Winter Institute
Feb 23rd, 2023



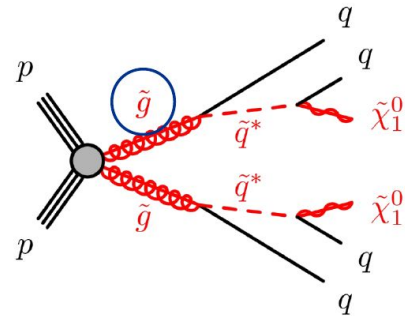
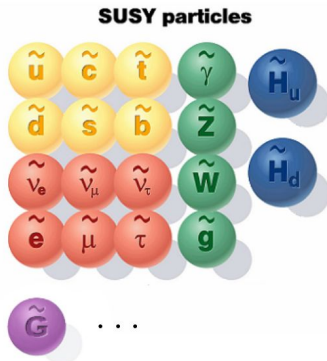
Searches for BSM physics using **challenging** and **long-lived** signatures with the ATLAS detector

Challenging Signatures: Does not use “standard” objects/ data-flow/... and/or defy in some sense our theoretical prejudice of how new physics would appear.

Long-Lived Particles: Beyond-Standard-Model particles that travel macroscopic distances (compared to our detector resolution)

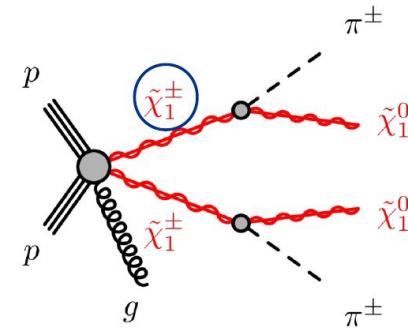
Theory Motivation: lifetime is everywhere!

Mechanisms that induce macroscopic lifetime are far from rare, both in the SM and beyond.



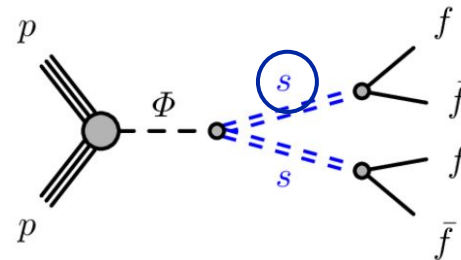
off-shell decays

e.g. split-SUSY with squarks mass > 10 TeV



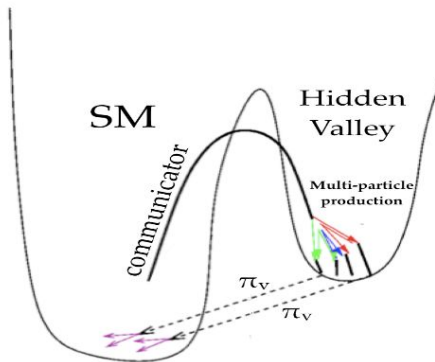
phase-space

Small mass splitting
e.g. AMSB



small couplings

e.g. weakly-coupled dark sector, small R-parity violation, ...

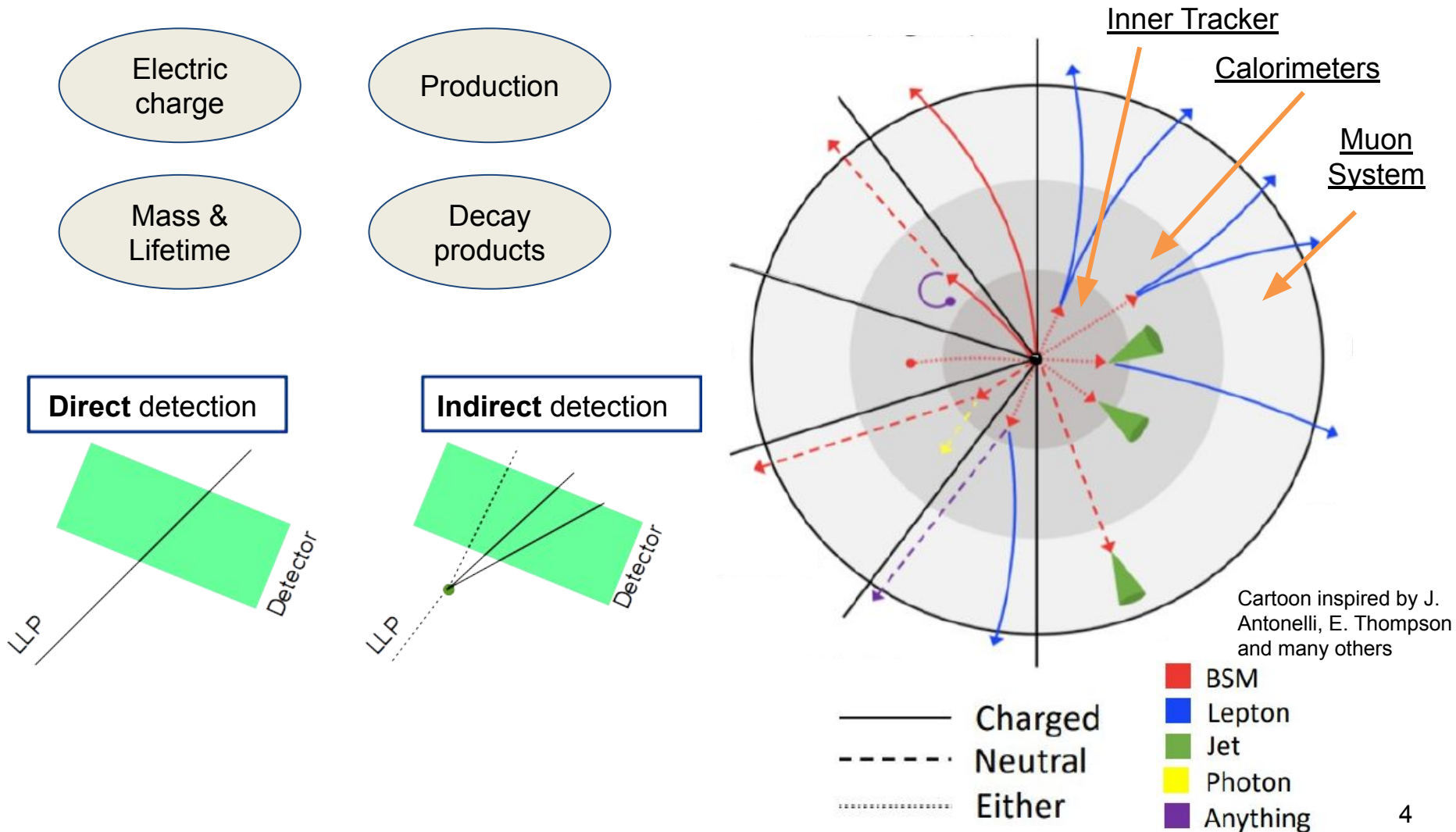


Strong interplay between theory and experiments:

- Specific theories can suggest new signatures to explore
- Results presented for representative benchmark scenarios
 - ability to re-interpret results in a different model to ensure full exploration

Experimental approach: signature-based

Best experimental strategy depends on the properties of the particle

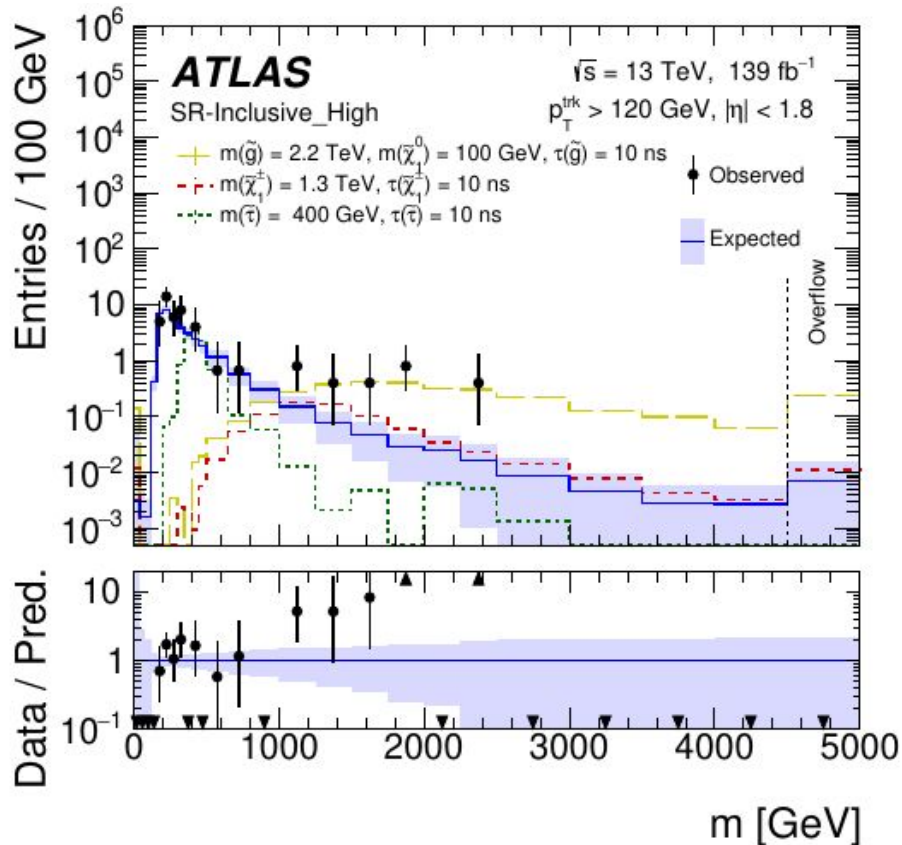


Inner-Tracker charged particles

High- p_T , high-quality reconstructed track with large ionization energy loss (dE/dx)

[SUSY-2018-42](#)

- Triggering on missing transverse-momentum
- Entirely data-driven background estimation



$$m = p / (\beta\gamma)$$

from Inner Detector

from Pixel Detector

Excess found.

- Local: 3.6σ
- Global: 3.3σ

Many cross-checks performed.

No obvious instrumental / analysis problem found.

Inner-Tracker charged particles

What can cause an excess with high dE/dx ?

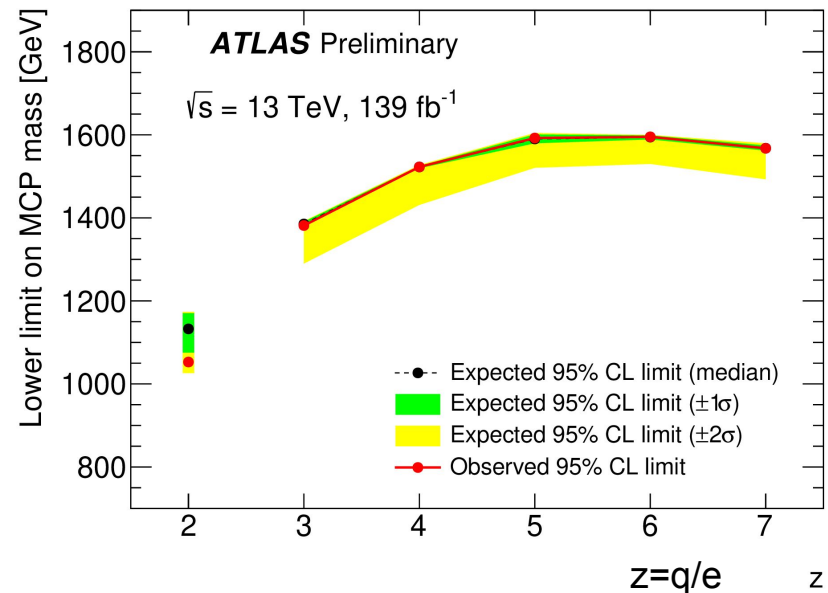
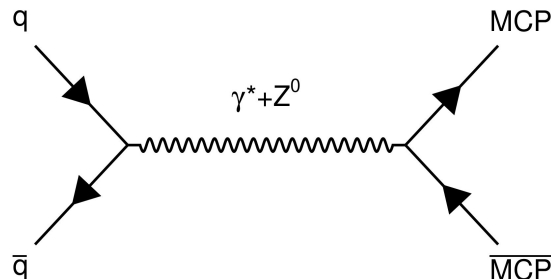
$$\frac{dE}{dx} \propto \frac{z^2}{\beta^2}$$

\leftarrow charge / e^-
 \leftarrow velocity

- 1) Slow particles (momentum \ll mass).
Checked time-of-flight of excess candidates using muon spectrometer.
Consistent with $\beta \sim 1$
- 2) Multi-charged. Recent new results, but not sensitive enough to probe relevant cross-sections.

[ATLAS-CONF-2022-034](#)

- Measuring high-energy loss in Transition-Radiation Tracker



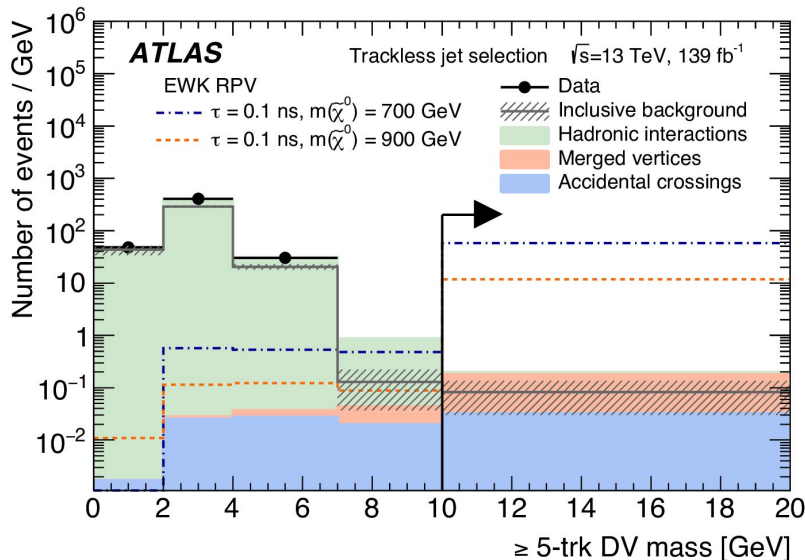
Displaced Vertices

Identify SM decay products of LLP decay inside the Inner Tracker.
 Dedicated track reconstruction to be sensitive to non-prompt particles.

- ran only on a pre-selected O(10%) of collected data

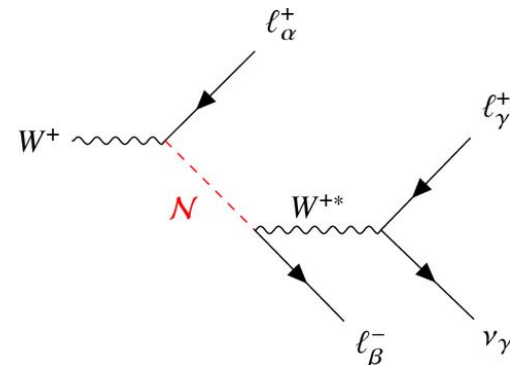
[SUSY-2018-13](#)

- ≥ 1 Displaced Vertex
 - mass > 10 GeV, $n_{\text{tracks}} \geq 5$
- High- p_T jets (2 to ≥ 7 , vary p_T)
- Dedicated signal region for displaced lower- p_T jets
- Strong and ewk SUSY models



[EXOT-2019-29](#)

- Trigger: prompt lepton
- Di-lepton displaced vertex
- Interpreted in Heavy-Neutral Lepton scenarios
 - $3 < \mathcal{N} < 15 \text{ GeV}$
 - Single-flavor and multi-flavor mixing
- No excess observed, limits set



Displaced Photons

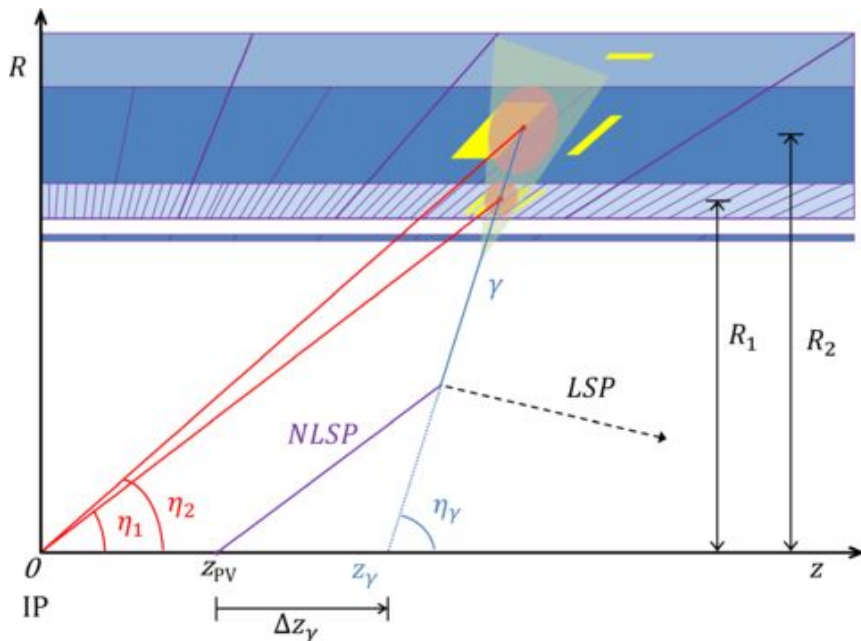
Non-prompt photons from BSM decays before EM calo:

- Delayed in time: EM calo timing up to ~ 0.2 ns resolution
- Longitudinally displaced: EM pointing information up to $O(10$ mm) resolution

1. Photons from different decays

[SUSY-2019-14](#)

Signal region for 1 and ≥ 2 photons.

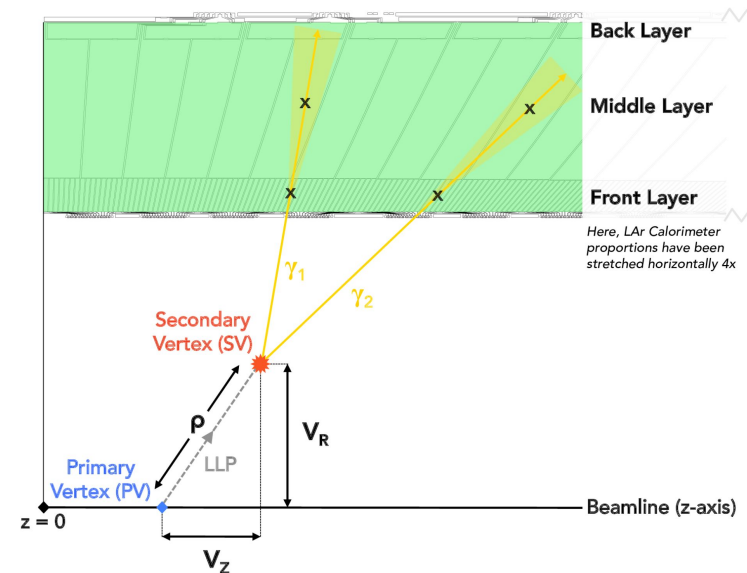


2. Photons from the same decay

[ATLAS-CONF-2022-051](#)

Dedicated vertexing from photon pointing with resolution as good as 10mm.

Also sensitive to displaced electrons.



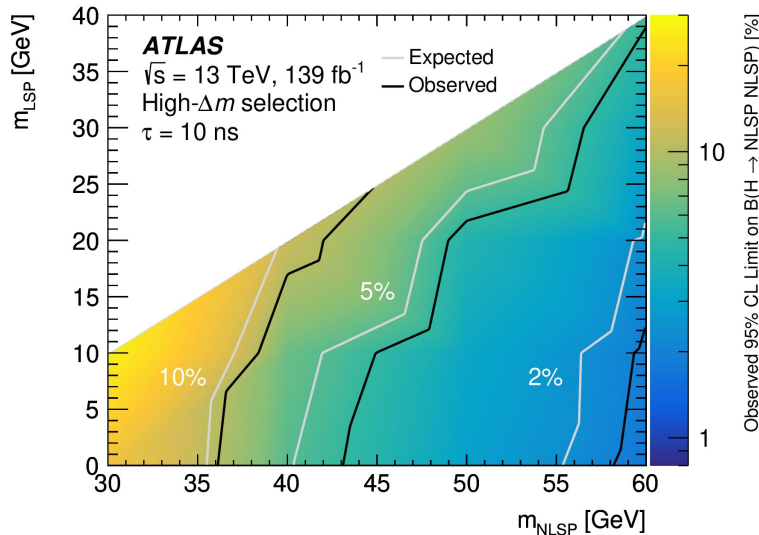
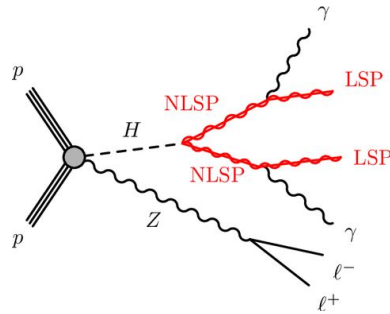
Displaced Photons

Non-prompt photons from BSM decays before EM calo:

- Delayed in time: EM calo timing up to ~ 0.2 ns resolution
- Longitudinally displaced: EM pointing information up to $O(10$ mm) resolution

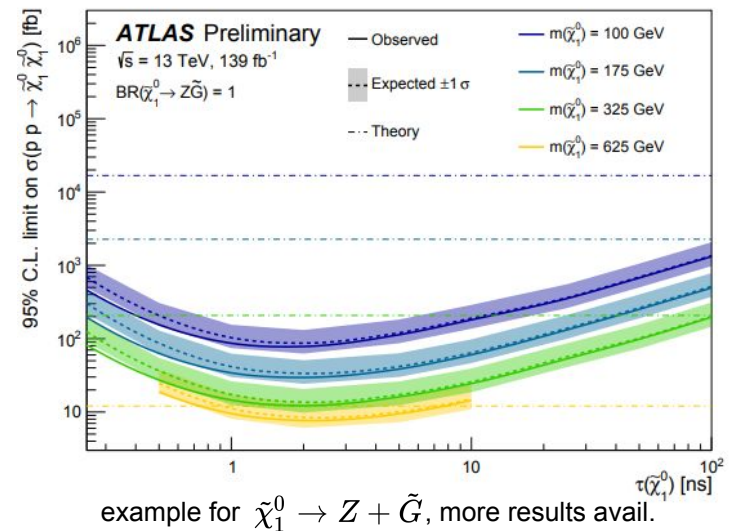
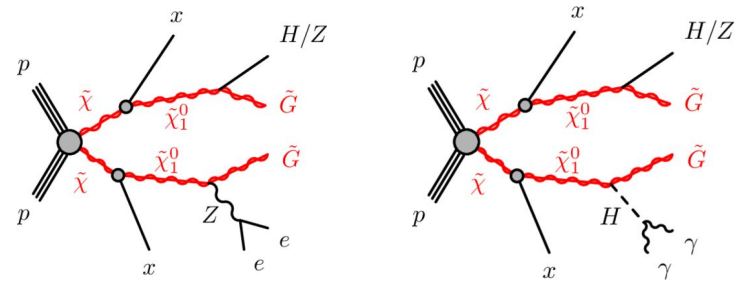
1. Photons from different decays

[SUSY-2019-14](#)



2. Photons from the same decay

[ATLAS-CONF-2022-051](#)



Displaced “Hadronic” Jets

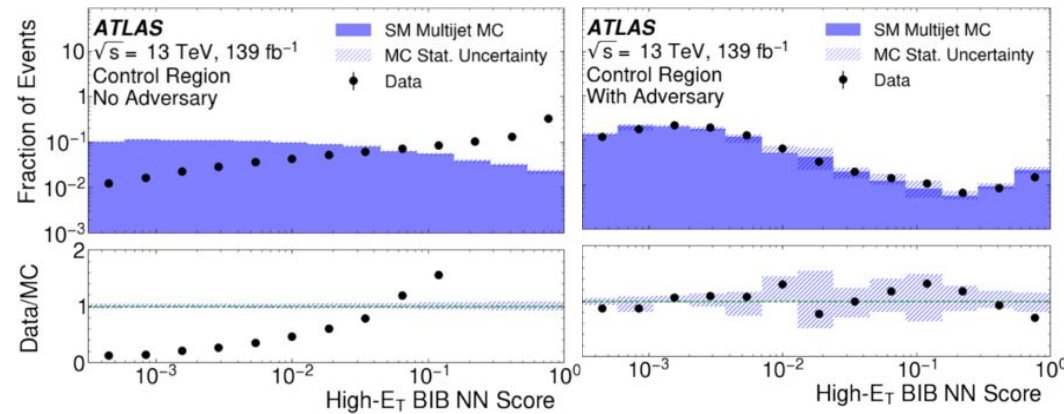
Chosen benchmarks: hidden sector models

EXOT-2019-23

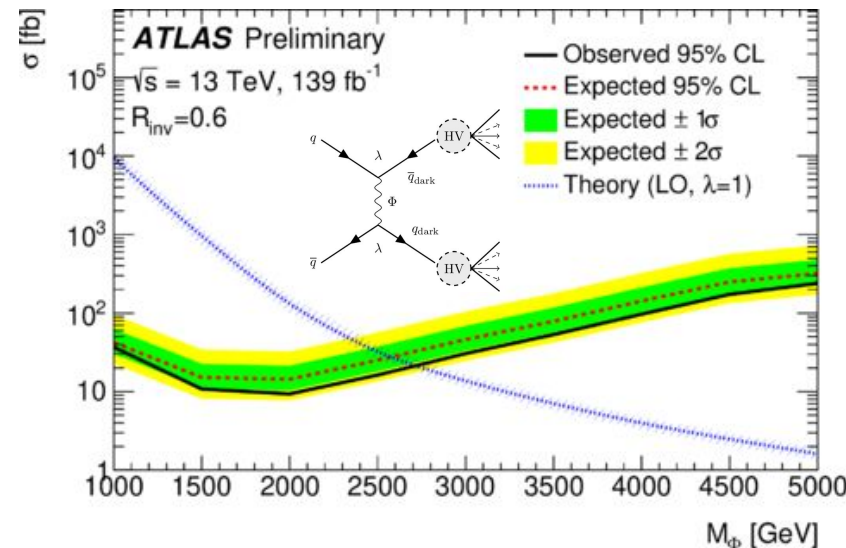
- Isolated calorimeter activity
- Dedicated trigger
- Sophisticated NN-based rejection of beam-induced and multijet backgrounds
- Data compatible with expected backgrounds

ATLAS-CONF-2022-038

- Semi-visible jets from partial decays back to SM
- Two main observables:
 - back-to-back jets balance
 - Missing momentum aligned with high- p_T jet



Adversary Network to avoid using information of variables not well modelled in simulation

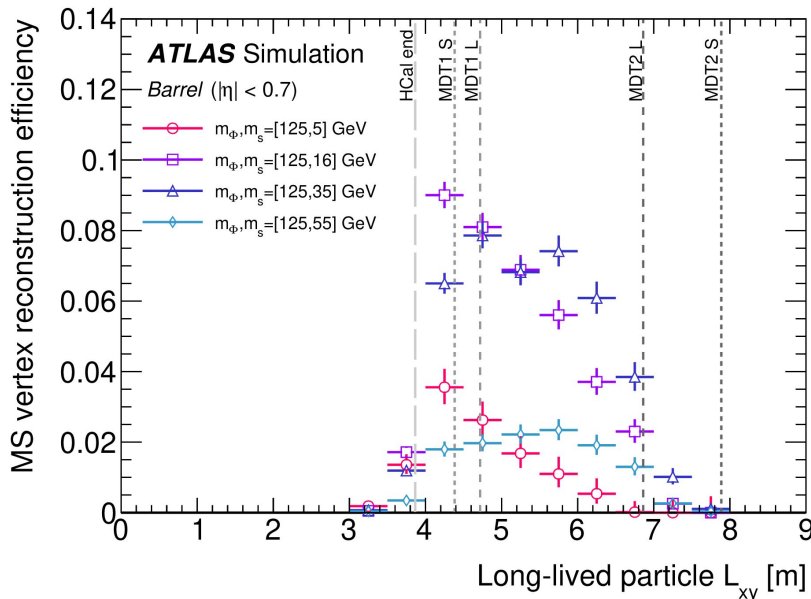


Varying fraction of visible decays in jets, see CONF for full results!

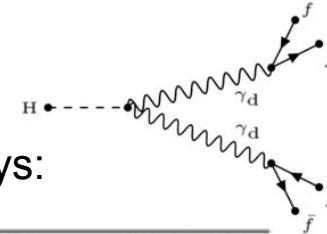
Decays in the Muon System

EXOT-2019-24

- Two displaced decays in the muon system
 - large volume: 3-14m decay length
- Veto activity in inner tracker and calorimeters
- Dedicated trigger
- Data compatible with expected backgrounds



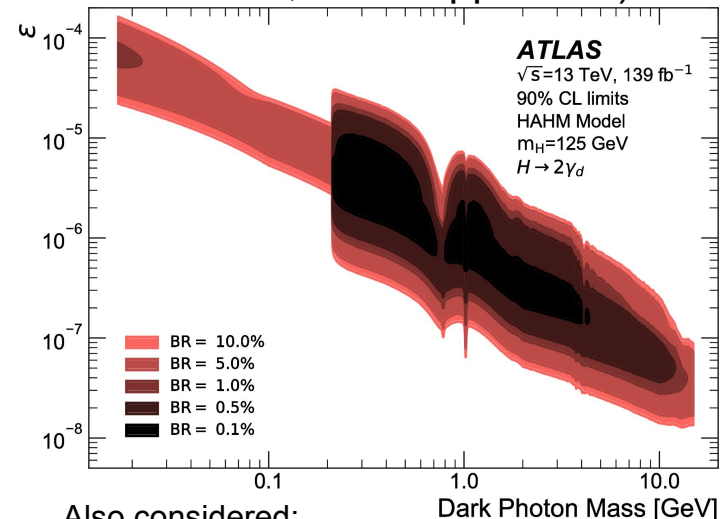
EXOT-2019-05



- Two displaced decays:

| Requirement / Region | $SR_{2\mu}^{ggF}$ | SR_{2c}^{ggF} | $SR_{c+\mu}^{ggF}$ |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Number of μ DPJs | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of caloDPJs | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Tri-muon MS-only trigger | yes | - | - |
| Muon narrow-scan trigger | yes | - | yes |
| CalRatio trigger | - | yes | - |

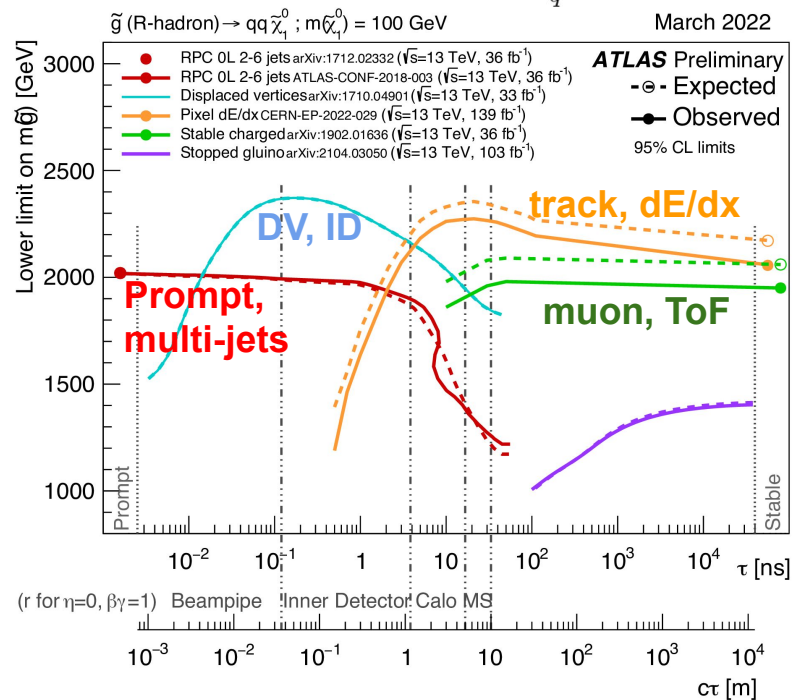
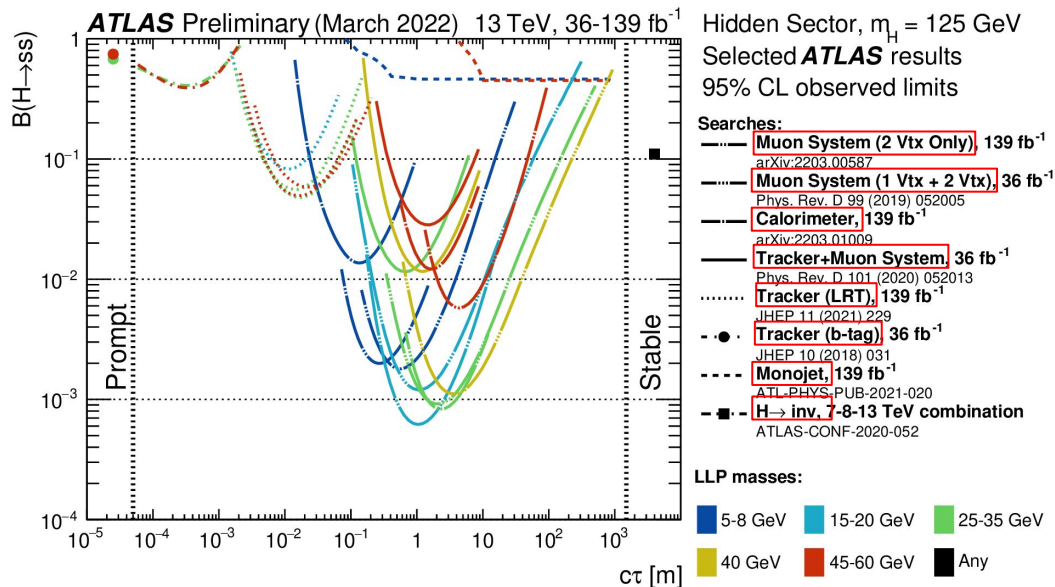
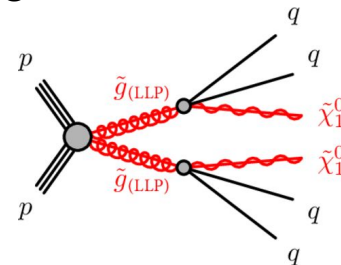
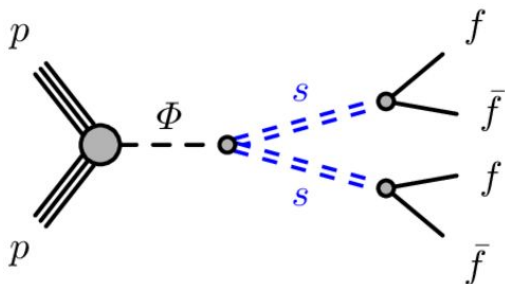
- Veto activity in inner tracker (and calorimeters, when applicable)



Also considered:
H decay through dark-fermion.

Complementarity and Gaps

Standardized benchmarks help ensuring coverage across signatures.



With more analyses using the full run 2 datasets, expect more updates soon!

Conclusions and Outlook

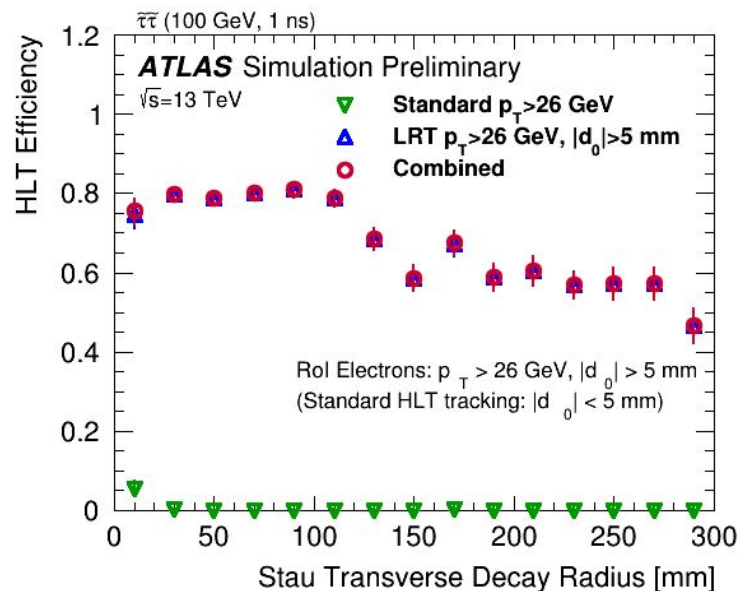
In this presentation: a snapshot of the most recent results

- one intriguing excess that will be followed up; lots of new and updated searches gave null results but strong new bounds
- many more analyses in progress using the full Run 2 dataset

In the meantime, an exciting Run 3 dataset is being collected since 2022!

Lots of exciting developments that will enhance the discovery potential of the Run 3 dataset, especially for long-lived signatures:

- Many new dedicated triggers
 - increase acceptance in difficult regimes, e.g. compressed scenarios
- Ability to reconstruct displaced tracks for all the events recorded
 - increase number of signatures accessible with non-prompt activity



BACKUP and References

- [SUSY-2018-42](#) Pixel dE/dx (SUSY)
- [ATLAS-CONF-2022-034](#) Multi-charged particles (w/ TRT, DY-like)
- [SUSY-2018-13](#) DV+Jets (SUSY)
- [EXOT-2019-29](#) Displaced Vertex ID with prompt lepton (HNL)
- [SUSY-2019-14](#) Displaced Photons (different vertices, Higgs+SUSY)
- [ATLAS-CONF-2022-051](#) Displaced photons (vertexed approach, SUSY)
- [ATLAS-CONF-2022-038](#) Semi-visible jets (dark sector, jets aligned w/ MET)
- [EXOT-2019-23](#) Displaced hadronic jets in calo (Higgs, Heavy-scalar)
- [EXOT-2019-24](#) Two DVs in muon spectrometer (Higgs, Heavy-scalar)
- [EXOT-2019-05](#) Displaced activity in Calo and MS (Higgs, Dark Photons)
- [ATL-PHYS-PUB-2021-012](#) Displaced Tracking in Run 3 (CPU timing performance only)
- [Public Plots](#) on Trigger Menu Run 3

| Model | Signature | $\int \mathcal{L} dt$ [fb ⁻¹] | Mass limit | Reference | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Inclusive Searches | $\tilde{q}\tilde{q}, \tilde{q} \rightarrow q\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 0 e, μ mono-jet | E_T^{miss} 139 E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{q} [1x, 8x Degen.] 1.0 \tilde{q} [8x Degen.] 0.9 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) < 400$ GeV $m(\tilde{g}) - m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 5$ GeV | 2010.14293 2102.10874 |
| | $\tilde{g}\tilde{g}, \tilde{g} \rightarrow q\tilde{q}\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 0 e, μ | 2-6 jets E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{g} 2.3 Forbidden 1.15-1.95 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 0$ GeV $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 1000$ GeV | 2010.14293 2010.14293 |
| | $\tilde{g}\tilde{g}, \tilde{g} \rightarrow q\tilde{q}W\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 1 e, μ | 2-6 jets E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{g} 2.2 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) < 600$ GeV | 2101.01629 |
| | $\tilde{g}\tilde{g}, \tilde{g} \rightarrow q\tilde{q}(\ell\ell)\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | $ee, \mu\mu$ | 2 jets E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{g} 2.2 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) < 700$ GeV | CERN-EP-2022-014 |
| | $\tilde{g}\tilde{g}, \tilde{g} \rightarrow q\tilde{q}WZ\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 0 e, μ SS e, μ | 7-11 jets 6 jets E_T^{miss} 139 E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{g} 1.97 \tilde{g} 1.15 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) < 600$ GeV $m(\tilde{g}) - m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 200$ GeV | 2008.06032 1909.08457 |
| | $\tilde{g}\tilde{g}, \tilde{g} \rightarrow t\tilde{t}\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 0-1 e, μ SS e, μ | 3 b 6 jets E_T^{miss} 79.8 E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{g} 2.25 \tilde{g} 1.25 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) < 200$ GeV $m(\tilde{g}) - m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 300$ GeV | ATLAS-CONF-2018-041 1909.08457 |
| 3 rd gen. squarks direct production | $\tilde{b}_1\tilde{b}_1$ | 0 e, μ | 2 b E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{b}_1 1.255 \tilde{b}_1 0.68 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) < 400$ GeV 10 GeV < $\Delta m(\tilde{b}_1, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) < 20$ GeV | 2101.12527 2101.12527 |
| | $\tilde{b}_1\tilde{b}_1, \tilde{b}_1 \rightarrow b\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow bh\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 0 e, μ 2 τ | 6 b 2 b E_T^{miss} 139 E_T^{miss} 139 | Forbidden \tilde{b}_1 0.13-0.85 \tilde{b}_1 0.23-1.35 | $\Delta m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 130$ GeV, $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 100$ GeV $\Delta m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 130$ GeV, $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 0$ GeV | 1908.03122 2103.08189 |
| | $\tilde{t}_1\tilde{t}_1, \tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow t\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 0-1 e, μ | ≥ 1 jet E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{t}_1 1.25 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 1$ GeV | 2004.14060, 2012.03799 |
| | $\tilde{t}_1\tilde{t}_1, \tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow Wb\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 1 e, μ | 3 jets/1 b E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{t}_1 0.65 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 500$ GeV | 2102.03799 |
| | $\tilde{t}_1\tilde{t}_1, \tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow \tau b\nu, \tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow \tau\tilde{G}$ | 1-2 τ | 2 jets/1 b E_T^{miss} 139 | Forbidden \tilde{t}_1 1.4 | $m(\tilde{\tau}_1) = 800$ GeV | 2108.07665 |
| | $\tilde{t}_1\tilde{t}_1, \tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow c\tilde{\chi}_1^0 / \tilde{c}\tilde{c}, \tilde{c} \rightarrow c\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 0 e, μ 2 c | 2 c mono-jet E_T^{miss} 36.1 E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{c} 0.85 \tilde{c} 0.55 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 0$ GeV $m(\tilde{t}_1, \tilde{c}) - m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 5$ GeV | 1805.01649 2102.10874 |
| | $\tilde{t}_1\tilde{t}_1, \tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow t\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow Z/h\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 1-2 e, μ | 1-4 b E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{t}_1 0.067-1.18 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0) = 500$ GeV | 2006.05880 |
| | $\tilde{t}_2\tilde{t}_2, \tilde{t}_2 \rightarrow \tilde{t}_1 + Z$ | 3 e, μ | 1 b E_T^{miss} 139 | Forbidden \tilde{t}_2 0.86 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 360$ GeV, $m(\tilde{t}_1) - m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 40$ GeV | 2006.05880 |
| EW direct | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ via WZ | Multiple ℓ /jets $ee, \mu\mu$ | ≥ 1 jet E_T^{miss} 139 E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+/\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ 0.96 $\tilde{\chi}_1^+/\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ 0.205 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 0$, wino-bino $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^+) - m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 5$ GeV, wino-bino | 2106.01676, 2108.07586 1911.12606 |
| | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+\tilde{\chi}_1^-$ via WW | 2 e, μ | E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+$ 0.42 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 0$, wino-bino | 1908.08215 |
| | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ via Wh | Multiple ℓ /jets | E_T^{miss} 139 | Forbidden $\tilde{\chi}_1^+/\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ 1.06 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 70$ GeV, wino-bino | 2004.10894, 2108.07586 |
| | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+\tilde{\chi}_1^-$ via $\tilde{\ell}_L/\tilde{\nu}$ | 2 e, μ | E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+$ 1.0 | $m(\tilde{\ell}, \tilde{\nu}) = 0.5(m(\tilde{\chi}_1^+) + m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0))$ | 1908.08215 |
| | $\tilde{\tau}\tilde{\tau}, \tilde{\tau} \rightarrow \tau\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 2 τ | E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\tau}$ [F _L , F _{R, L}] 0.16-0.3 0.12-0.39 | $m(\tilde{\tau}_1^0) = 0$ | 1911.06660 |
| | $\tilde{\ell}_{L,R}\tilde{\ell}_{L,R}, \tilde{\ell} \rightarrow \ell\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 2 e, μ $ee, \mu\mu$ | 0 jets ≥ 1 jet E_T^{miss} 139 E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\ell}$ 0.7 $\tilde{\ell}$ 0.256 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 0$ $m(\tilde{\ell}) - m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 10$ GeV | 1908.08215 1911.12606 |
| | $\tilde{H}\tilde{H}, \tilde{H} \rightarrow h\tilde{G}/Z\tilde{G}$ | 0 e, μ 4 e, μ 0 e, μ | ≥ 3 b 0 jets ≥ 2 large jets E_T^{miss} 36.1 E_T^{miss} 139 E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{H} 0.13-0.23 \tilde{H} 0.55 \tilde{H} 0.45-0.93 | $BR(\tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow h\tilde{G}) = 1$ $BR(\tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow Z\tilde{G}) = 1$ $BR(\tilde{\chi}_1^+ \rightarrow Z\tilde{G}) = 1$ | 1806.04030 2103.11684 2108.07586 |
| | Long-lived particles | Direct $\tilde{\chi}_1^+\tilde{\chi}_1^-$ prod., long-lived $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ | Disapp. trk | 1 jet E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ 0.66 $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ 0.21 | Pure Wino Pure higgsino |
| Stable \tilde{g} R-hadron | | pixel dE/dx | E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{g} 2.05 | | CERN-EP-2022-029 |
| Metastable \tilde{g} R-hadron, $\tilde{g} \rightarrow q\tilde{q}\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | | pixel dE/dx | E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{g} [$\tau(\tilde{g}) = 10$ ns] 2.2 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 100$ GeV | CERN-EP-2022-029 |
| $\tilde{\ell}\tilde{\ell}, \tilde{\ell} \rightarrow \ell\tilde{G}$ | | Displ. lep | E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\ell}, \tilde{\mu}$ 0.7 $\tilde{\tau}$ 0.34 $\tilde{\tau}$ 0.36 | $\tau(\tilde{\ell}) = 0.1$ ns $\tau(\tilde{\ell}) = 0.1$ ns $\tau(\tilde{\ell}) = 10$ ns | 2011.07812 2011.07812 CERN-EP-2022-029 |
| RPV | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+\tilde{\chi}_1^0/\tilde{\chi}_1^+, \tilde{\chi}_1^+ \rightarrow Z\ell - \ell\ell\ell$ | 3 e, μ | 0 jets E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+/\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ [BR(Z τ)=1, BR(Z e)=1] 0.625 1.05 | Pure Wino | 2011.10543 |
| | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+\tilde{\chi}_1^0/\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow WW/Z\ell\ell\ell\nu\nu$ | 4 e, μ | 0 jets E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\chi}_1^+/\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ [$\lambda_{333} \neq 0, \lambda_{12k} \neq 0$] 0.95 1.55 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 200$ GeV | 2103.11684 1804.03568 |
| | $\tilde{g}\tilde{g}, \tilde{g} \rightarrow q\tilde{q}\tilde{\chi}_1^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow q\tilde{q}\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ | 4-5 large jets | E_T^{miss} 139 | \tilde{g} [$m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 200$ GeV, 1100 GeV] 1.3 1.9 | Large A'_{112} | |
| | $\tilde{u}, \tilde{t} \rightarrow t\tilde{\chi}_1^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow tbs$ | Multiple | 36.1 | \tilde{t} [$\lambda'_{233} = 2e-4, 1e-2$] 0.55 1.05 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 200$ GeV, bino-like | ATLAS-CONF-2018-003 |
| | $\tilde{u}, \tilde{t} \rightarrow b\tilde{\chi}_1^+, \tilde{\chi}_1^+ \rightarrow bbs$ | $\geq 4b$ | 139 | \tilde{t} Forbidden 0.95 | $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^+) = 500$ GeV | 2010.01015 |
| | $\tilde{t}_1\tilde{t}_1, \tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow bs$ | 2 jets + 2 b | 36.7 | \tilde{t}_1 [qg, bs] 0.42 0.61 | | 1710.07171 |
| | $\tilde{t}_1\tilde{t}_1, \tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow q\ell$ | 2 e, μ 1 μ | 2 b DV E_T^{miss} 36.1 E_T^{miss} 136 | \tilde{t}_1 0.4-1.45 \tilde{t}_1 [$1e-10 < \lambda'_{23k} < 1e-8, 3e-10 < \lambda'_{23k} < 3e-9$] 1.0 1.6 | $BR(\tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow b\ell/b\nu) > 20\%$ $BR(\tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow q\mu) = 100\%$, $\cos\theta'_l = 1$ | 1710.05544 2003.11956 |
| $\tilde{\chi}_1^+/\tilde{\chi}_2^0/\tilde{\chi}_1^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow tbs, \tilde{\chi}_1^+ \rightarrow bbs$ | 1-2 e, μ | ≥ 6 jets E_T^{miss} 139 | $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ 0.2-0.32 | Pure higgsino | 2106.09609 | |

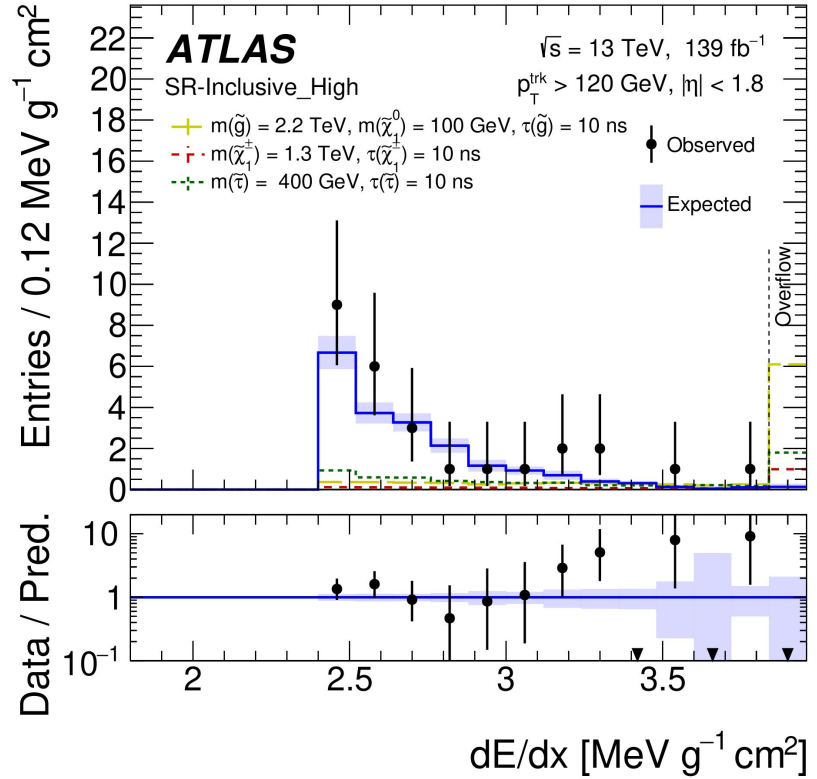
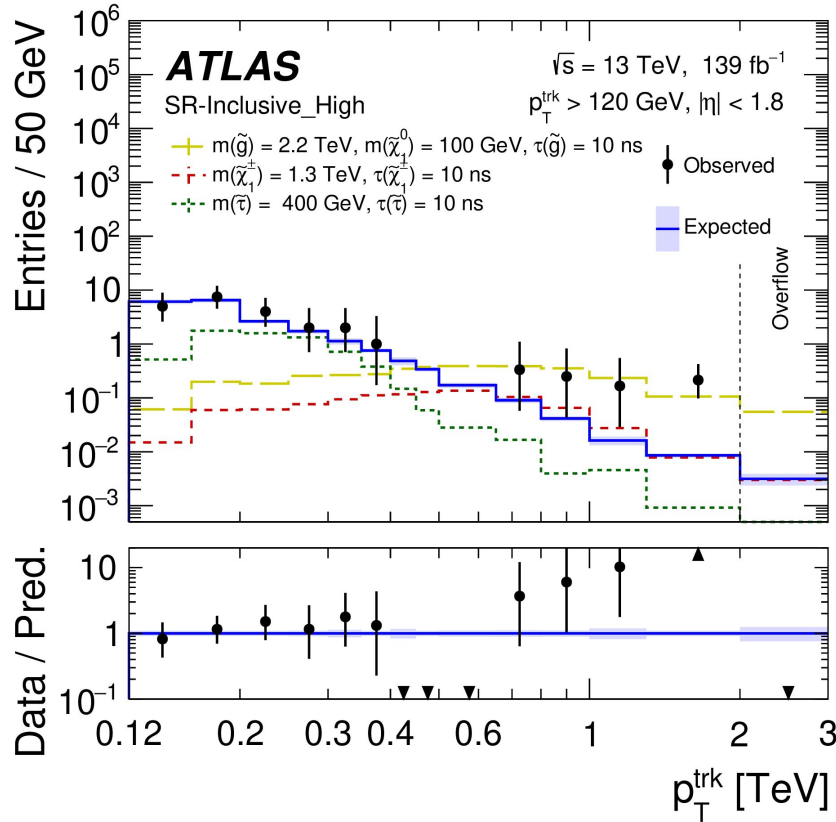
*Only a selection of the available mass limits on new states or phenomena is shown. Many of the limits are based on simplified models, c.f. refs. for the assumptions made.

10⁻¹

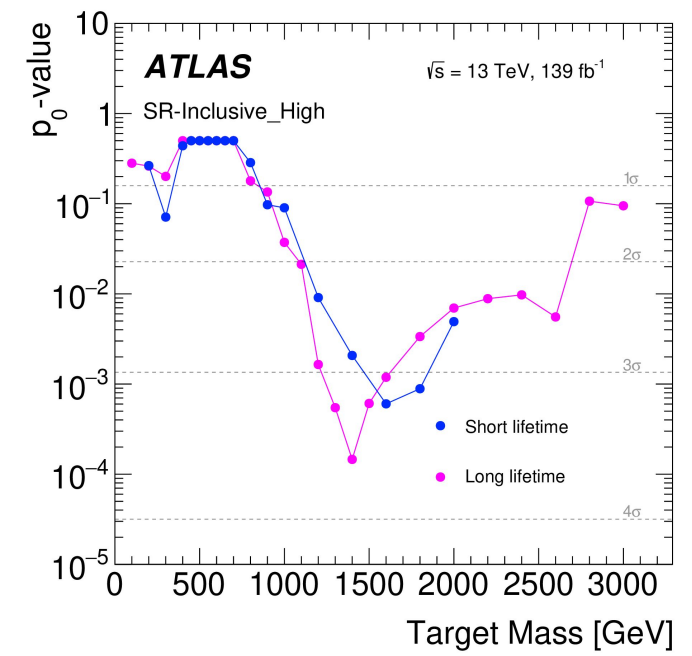
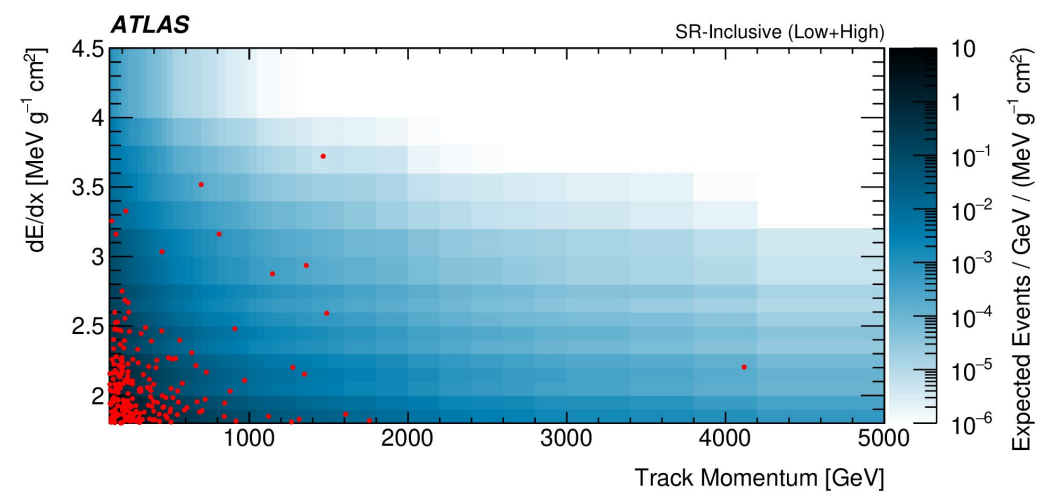
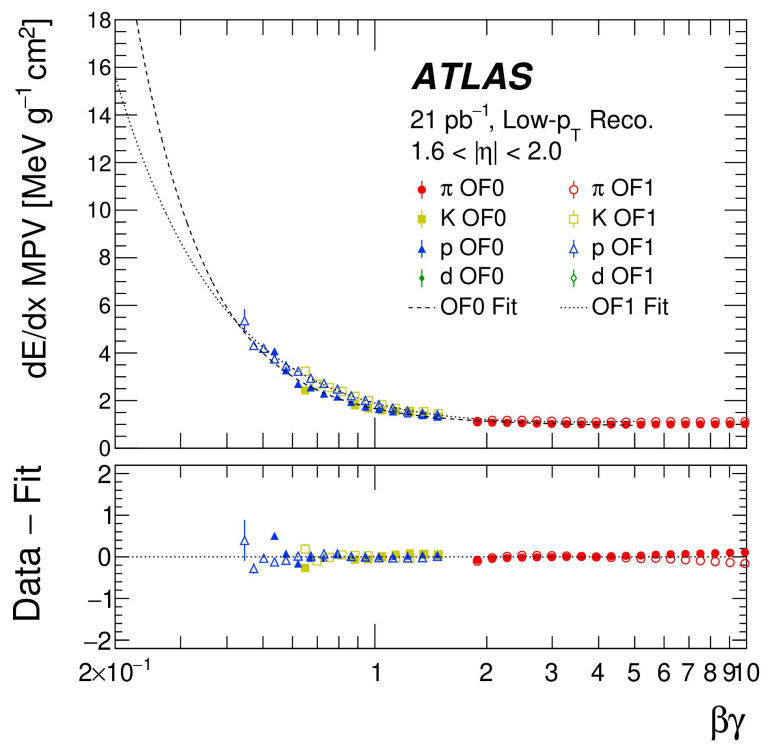
1

Mass scale [TeV]

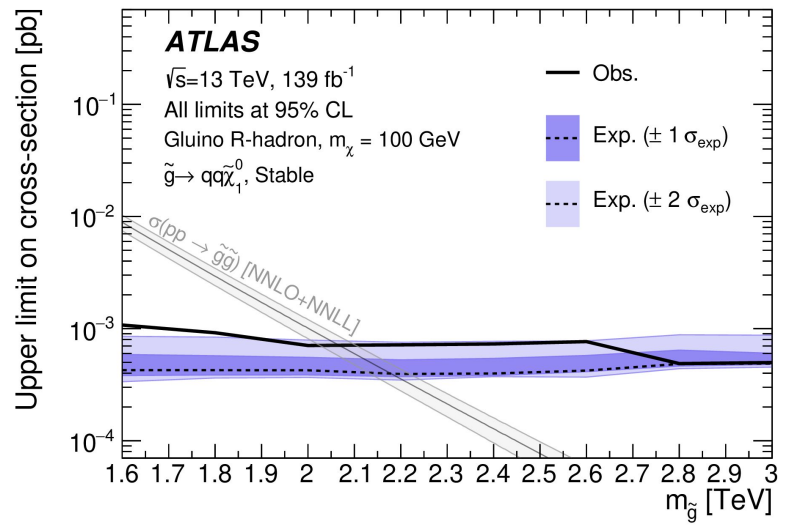
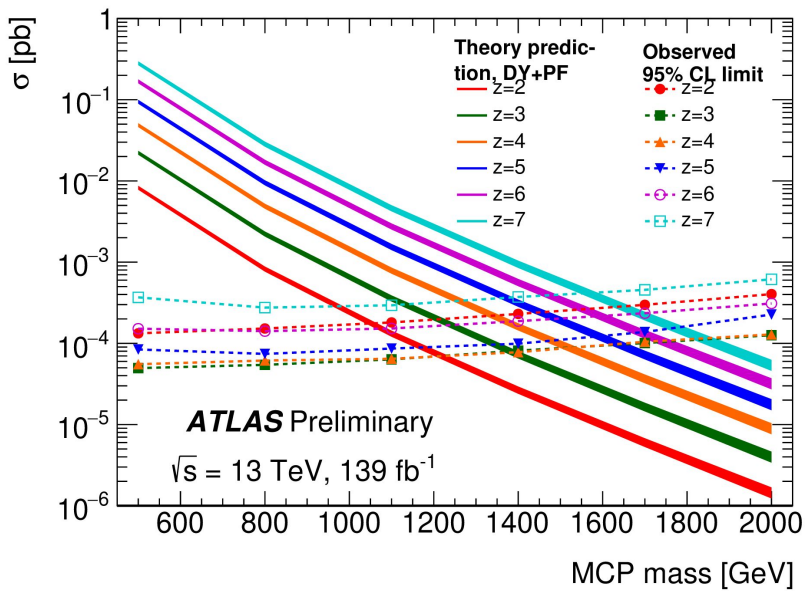
Pixel dE/dx



Pixel dE/dx



Multi-charged particles and Pixel dE/dx sensitivity



Experimental approach: signature-based

Long-Lived Particles: non-SM particles that travel macroscopic distances

Challenging Signatures: Does not use “standard” objects/data-flow/... and/or defy in some sense our theoretical prejudice of how new physics would appear.

Best experimental strategy depends on the properties of the particle

