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Searches for long-lived particles in Hidden Valley scenarios with the Atlas detector at the LHC

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Outline

- Why Long-Lived Particle searches
- The Hidden Valley scenario
- Run 1 strategy and results from the Atlas experiment:
 - ✓ Neutral LLP searches in the Hadronic Calorimeter
 - ✓ Neutral LLP searches in the Inner Detector and/or in the Muon Spectrometer
- Summary and Run 2 prospects

On the trail of particle longevity

The shortcomings of the Standard Model (SM) have motivated many attempts to develop intriguing, sometimes promethean, paradigm extensions.

Long-Lived Particles (LLPs) are **indirect hints of new physics**: their existence is predicted by many theories and models beyond the SM such as MSSM with R-Parity violation, gauge-mediated SUSY extensions of the MSSM, stealth SUSY models, **Hidden** Sectors.

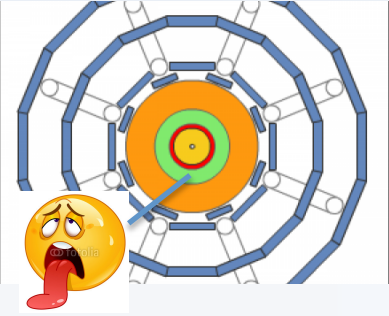
Among others **dark matter** must be **long-lived** ...



There is enough theory serving us guiding predictions for such out-of-the-box searches → further incentive to develop LLP **model independent search strategies**.

These models can give rise to a broad range of specific unconventional signatures, depending on lifetime, charge, velocity and decay channels of LLP.

LLP searches: the experimental perspective



- **The detector:**
Revealing displaced vertices in tracking detectors, disappearing tracks, decays in the calorimeter, displaced muonic jets is not the task the ATLAS detector was designed for.
- **The trigger:**
These particles provide unique experimental signature and would be discarded in collision events. The ATLAS Collaboration has developed **dedicated algorithms** for such unconventional searches.
- **Data analysis techniques:**
Despite low background affecting LLPs analysis, instrumental effects could mimic some of the signatures and are poorly simulated by Monte Carlo. Sophisticated **data-driven background estimation techniques** implemented.

Huge efforts performed during RUN 1, inspired by some benchmark models

A premise

During this talk you'll be flooded with a plethora of :

HV -> Hidden Valley

LLP -> Long Lived Particle

DV -> Displaced Vertices

.

MS

ID

VRs

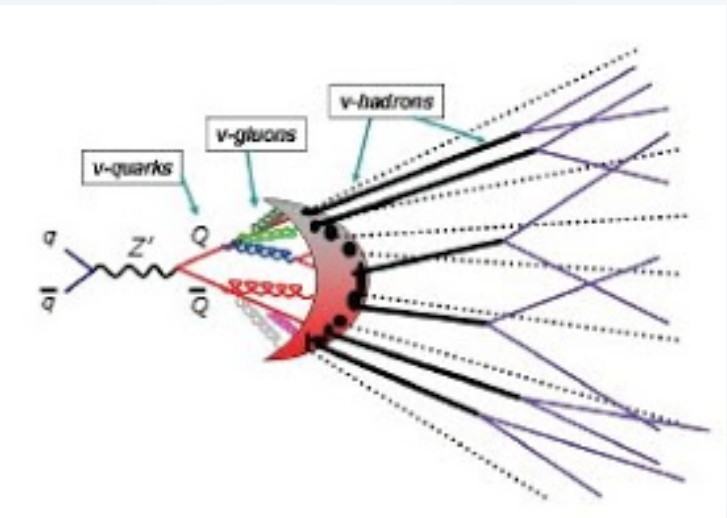
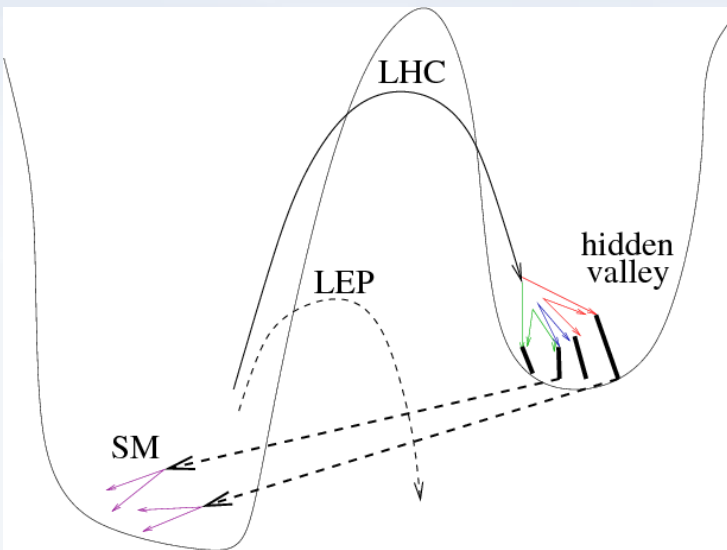
.

.

ID-MS-HV-LLP-DV ... -> **apologize for the acronym abuse**



Hidden Valley Models ❖



- Hidden Valley (HV) refers to a large class of models with a new low mass scale physics sector, which might have evaded detection so far due to its weak coupling to the SM.
- The Higgs boson could be a mediator between the two sectors and the LHC is powerful enough to climb over the potential barrier produced by the mediator.
- In one such model, the new physics resembles QCD, and the primary production mechanism is that of v -quark pairs which v -hadronize.
- One crucial difference is the absence of stable particles at the end of the HV decay chain, so that v -hadrons decay back into SM particles.
- The signature of such models can be unusual and spectacular: states with a relatively long life-time lead to highly displaced vertices and large multiplicities of soft particles in jets.

❖ [Strassler, Zurek \(hep-ph:0604261,0605193,0607160\)](#)

The benchmark model: Hidden Valley **neutral LLPs**

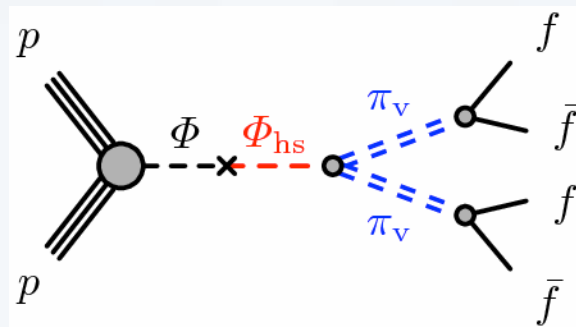
Hidden Valley is a very wide concept.

This search is optimized for neutral LLPs produced in

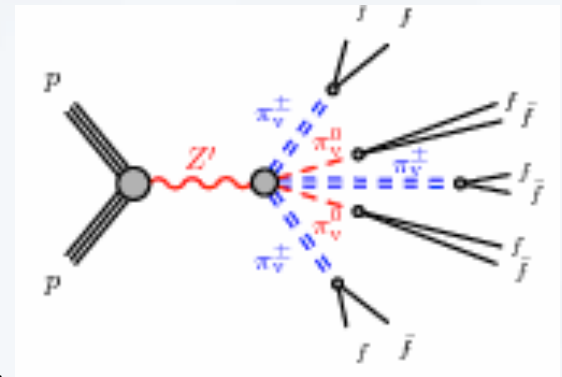
- Hidden Valley models through Higgs or Z' decays

Phys. Lett. B 651, 374-379, 2007

Phys. Lett. B 661, 263-268, 2008



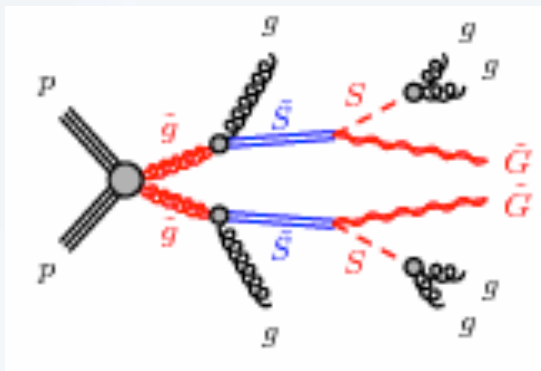
\geq two displaced hadronic jets



- Stealth SUSY models

JHEP 1111:012, 2011

JHEP 1207:196, 2012



... + 2 prompt hadronic jets

LLP search in the Hadronic Calorimeter

Phys. Lett. B, 743, 15-34 (2015)

Benchmark process: $\phi \rightarrow \pi_\nu \pi_\nu$

- Scalar boson ϕ decays to a pair of ν -particles which in turn decay to SM fermions (mostly b-quark).
- Several combinations of ϕ and π_ν masses investigated.

The particle does not reach the muon system.

Challenging and spectacular signature: search for localized energy bursts in the Hadronic Calorimeter

ϕ Mass [GeV]	π_ν Mass [GeV]
100	10, 25
126	10, 25, 40
140	10, 20, 40
300	50
600	50, 150
900	50, 150

Dedicated trigger: **CalRatio trigger**

Look for displaced jets final states in HCAL with:

- ✓ a narrow radius and no charged track match
- ✓ little or no energy deposit in ECAL

Background:

mainly multi-jet events

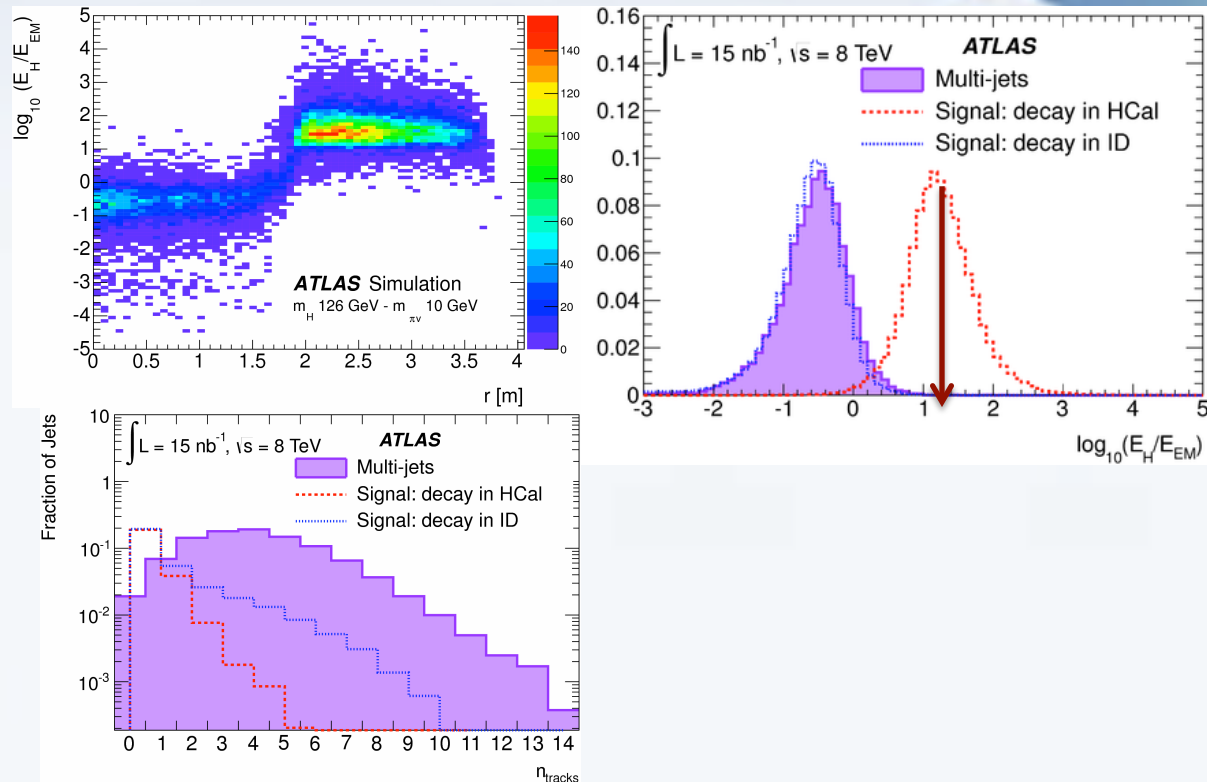
cosmic ray and beam-halo contributions negligible

→ estimated from data
require $E_t^{\text{miss}} < 50 \text{ GeV}$

LLP search in HCal: the CalRatio trigger

For a long-lived particle decaying in the calorimeter a narrow jet is produced with

- ✓ the ratio of energy in HCal to that in ECAL larger than from jets originated at the IP
- ✓ no nearby tracks pointing back to the IP



Developed a custom trigger (*JINST 8 (2013) P07015*) to select signal events:

- $\log(E_{HAD}/E_{EM}) > 1.2$
- $E_T > 35 \text{ GeV}$
- no ID tracks in region around jet direction

Efficiency around 60% in barrel and 35% in endcap regions

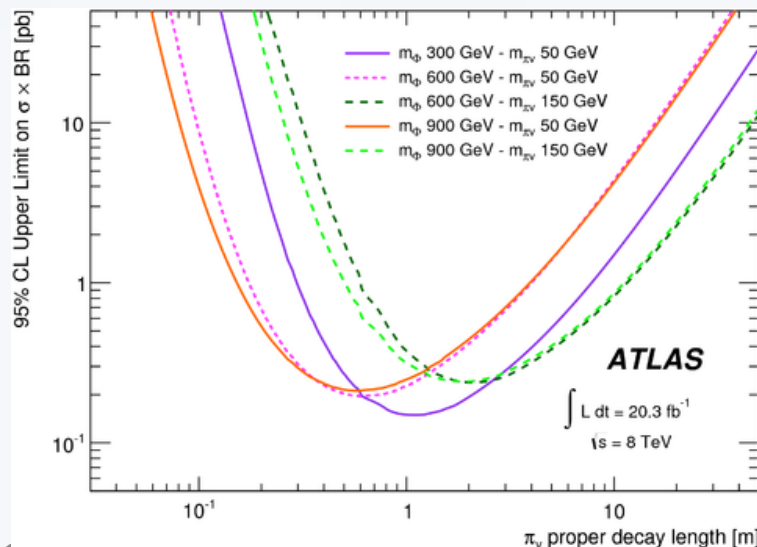
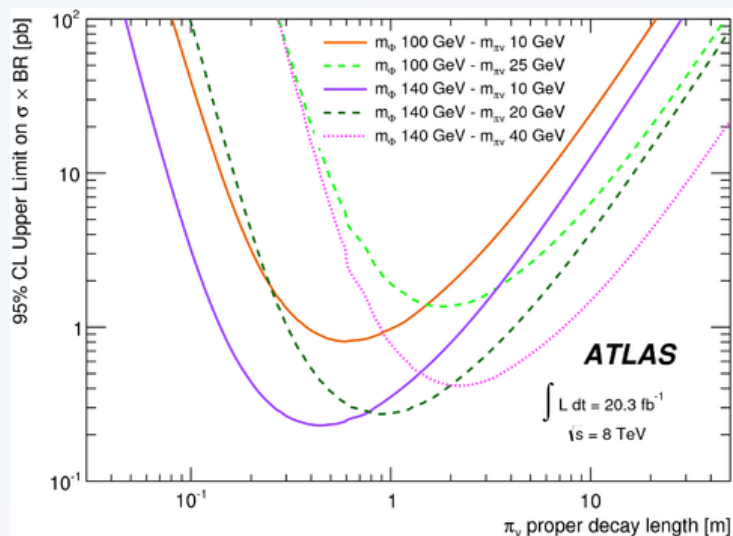
HCal displaced decays: results

8 TeV Run 1 Data

No significant excess of events over the estimated background

Background	Expected events
SM Multi-jets	23.2 ± 8.0
Cosmic rays	0.3 ± 0.2
Total expected background	23.5 ± 8.0
Data	24

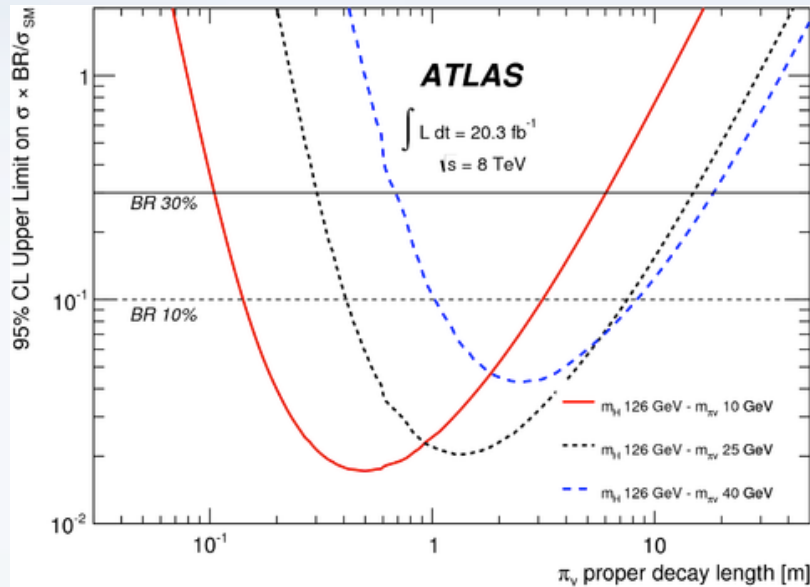
95% upper limits on $\sigma \times \text{BR}$ as a function of the π_ν proper decay length for communicator masses $\neq 126$ GeV



27th August 2015 - SUSY2015

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HCal displaced decays: results



8 TeV Run 1 Data

$m_H = 126 \text{ GeV}$

MC sample m_H, m_{π_V} [GeV]	Excluded range 30% BR $H \rightarrow \pi_V \pi_V$ [m]	Excluded range 10% BR $H \rightarrow \pi_V \pi_V$ [m]
126, 10	0.10 – 6.08	0.14 – 3.13
126, 25	0.30 – 14.99	0.41 – 7.57
126, 40	0.68 – 18.50	1.03 – 8.32

LLP search in the Inner Detector and the Muon Spectrometer

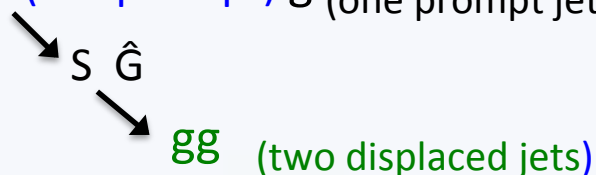
Benchmark processes:

$$\phi \rightarrow \pi_V \pi_V$$

$$Z' \rightarrow \text{showers of } \pi_V$$

HV models

Stealth SUSY model $\hat{g} \rightarrow \hat{S}$ (not prompt) g (one prompt jet)



Dedicated triggers and standalone vertex reconstruction both in the ID and MS.

Phys. Rev. D 92, 012010 (2015)

Several combinations of mass parameters investigated for each sample

Scalar boson mass [GeV]	π_V mass [GeV]
100	10, 25
125	10, 25, 40
140	10, 20, 40
300	50
600	50, 150
900	50, 150

Z' mass [TeV]	π_V mass [GeV]
1	50
2	50
2	120

\tilde{g} mass [GeV]	\tilde{S}, S mass [GeV]
110	100, 90
250	100, 90
500	100, 90
800	100, 90
1200	100, 90

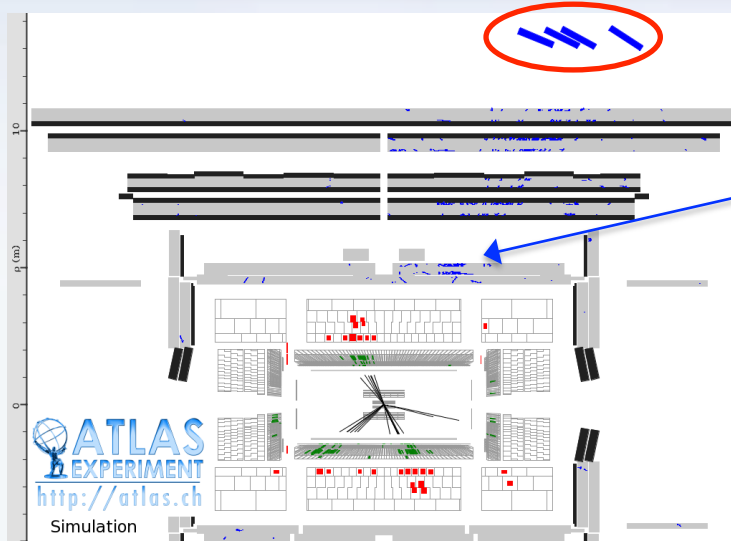
Negligible background from fake vertices estimated from data

Look for a pair of displaced vertices in the ID, MS or one in each

Trigger	Applicable topologies	Benchmarks
Muon RoI Cluster	IDV _x +MSV _x , 2MSV _x	Scalar boson, Stealth SUSY
Jet+ E_T^{miss}	2IDV _x , IDV _x +MSV _x , 2MSV _x	Z'

First search results for displaced decays in Z' and Stealth SUSY models

MS-ID displaced decays: the triggers



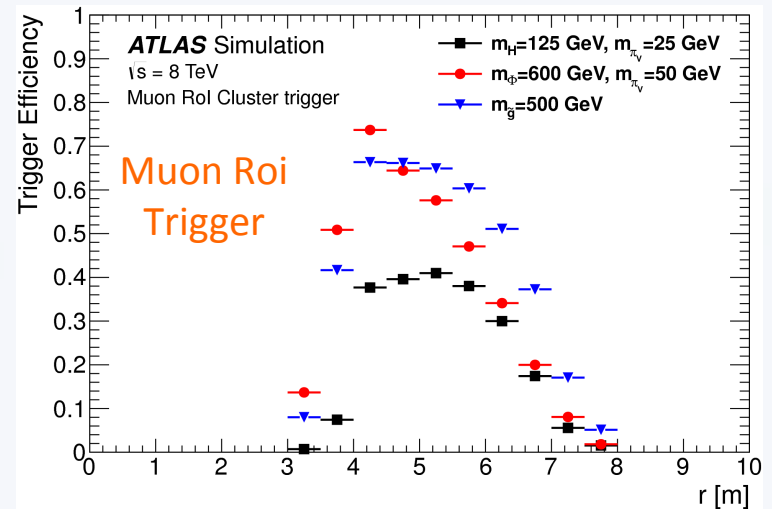
LLP decays in the MS are characterized by a large number of charged tracks and a cluster of Level 1 muon segments (ROIs)

Custom **MS cluster trigger** (*JINST 8 (2013) P07015*) developed to select events with

- ✓ a cluster of muon ROIs in a $\Delta R = 0.4$ cone with little or no activity in the ID or calorimeters

Jet + E_T^{miss} dedicated trigger to select decays in the ID with large jet multiplicity ($Z' \rightarrow \text{many } \pi_{\nu s}$)

- ✓ Leading jet $E_T > 110$ GeV
- ✓ $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 75$ GeV



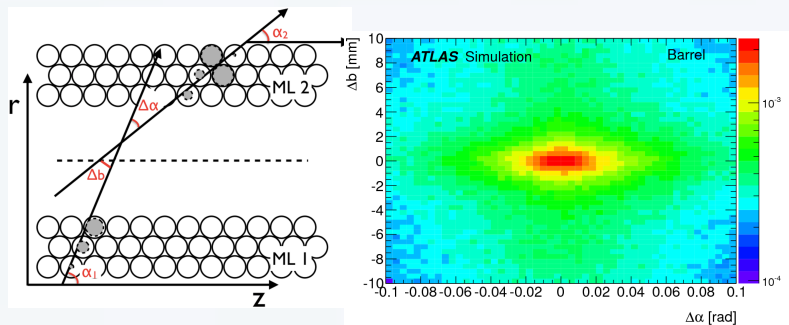
Trigger efficiency around 87% - 100%, depending on the MC simulated Z' sample

MS displaced decays: vertex reconstruction

MS vertex reconstruction (VR) (*JINST 9 P02001 (2014)*):

- construct track segments from hits in the two multilayers of an MDT chamber
- merge segments in tracklets according to specific criteria.

Detectable decay vertices between the outer edge of HCAL and the middle station of the muon chambers.

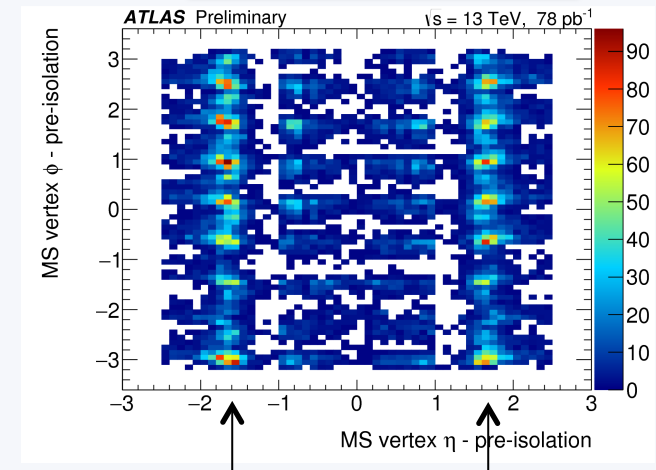


Requirement	Barrel	Endcap
MDT hits	$300 \leq n_{\text{MDT}} < 3000$	$300 \leq n_{\text{MDT}} < 3000$
RPC/TGC hits	$n_{\text{RPC}} \geq 250$	$n_{\text{TGC}} \geq 250$
Track isolation	$\Delta R < 0.3$	$\Delta R < 0.6$
Track Σp_T	$\Sigma p_T < 10 \text{ GeV}$	$\Sigma p_T < 10 \text{ GeV}$
Jet isolation	$\Delta R < 0.3$	$\Delta R < 0.6$

MS VR algorithm tested on **Run 2 data** and **working**.
Sample cuts: Atlas data quality criteria + minimum track selection for background rejection.
 Beam-halo contribution not quantified.

Toroidal structure of the Atlas magnetic coil is visible

Run 2 data - NEW



Gap between barrel and end-cap calorimeters

ID displaced decays: track and vertex reconstruction

ID track reconstruction

For a displaced decay in the Inner Detector the impact parameters of tracks are generally larger than those allowed by the default reconstruction algorithm: many **unassociated** (to any tracks) **hits** are produced.
Use a dedicated algorithm developed for a SUSY LLP DV analysis.

ID vertex reconstruction algorithm identifies secondary vertices in the ID based on the Atlas primary reconstruction algorithm.

- ✓ Background removed through **Good vertex criteria**❖
- ✓ Efficiency from 15 to 30% for different benchmarks.



Requirement	Muon Cluster channel	Jet+ E_T^{miss} channel
d/σ from material	≥ 6	≥ 6
Vertex χ^2 prob.	> 0.001	> 0.001
$\Delta R(\text{vtx}, \text{jet})$	< 0.4	< 0.6
Number of tracks	≥ 5	≥ 7

Track reconstruction		
Parameter	Default value	Modified value
Max. d_0	10 mm	500 mm
Max. $ z_0 $	320 mm	1000 mm
Min. number of silicon hits	6	2
Max. number of shared hits	1	2
Tracks for vertex reconstruction		
Parameter	Default value	Modified value
Min. d_0	–	10 mm
Max. $d_0/\sigma(d_0)$	5	–
Max. $ z_0 /\sigma(z_0)$	10	–
Min. number of silicon hits	6	4
Min. number of pixel hits	1	0
Min. number of SCT hits	4	2
Max. track $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$	3.5	5

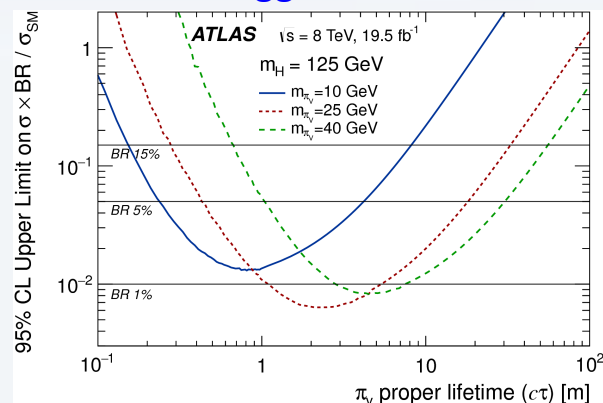
Parameters used for ID track and vertex reconstruction

MS-ID displaced decays: results

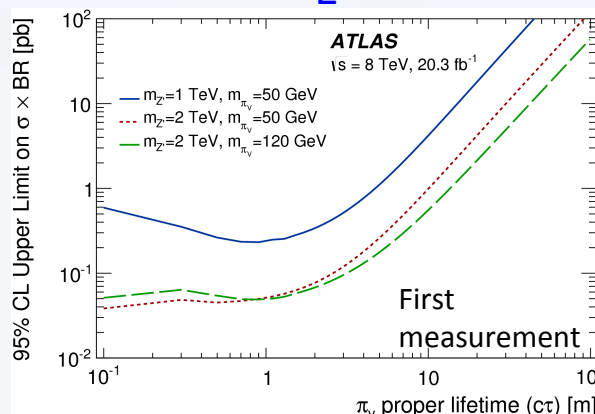
8 TeV Run 1 Data

95% CL limits as a function of the LLP proper decay length for the three benchmark models

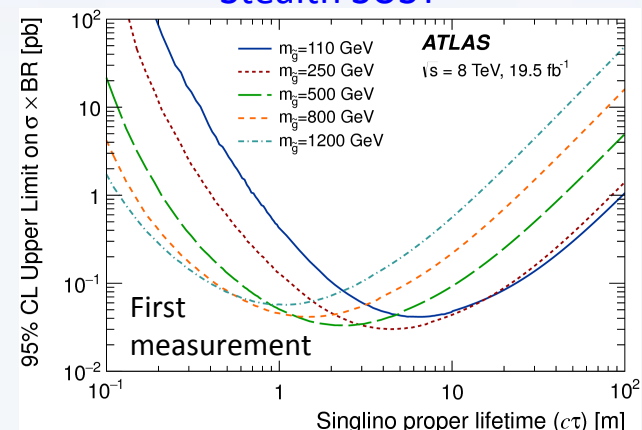
Higgs boson



Z'



Stealth SUSY



No significant excess of events above the background expectation is observed

Topology	m_{π_v} [GeV]	Expected events		Observed events
		Signal	Background	
IDV _x +MSV _x	10	1.9 ± 1.4		
	25	62 ± 8	2.0 ± 0.4	0
	40	41 ± 6		
2 MSV _x	10	234 ± 15		
	25	690 ± 26	$0.4^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$	2
	40	313 ± 18		

Scalar boson benchmark model
with $m_H = 125 \text{ GeV}$

Status of HV-LLP searches in Atlas after LHC Run 1

ATLAS Long-lived Particle Searches* - 95% CL Exclusion

Status: July 2015

ATLAS Preliminary

$$\int \mathcal{L} dt = (18.4 - 20.3) \text{ fb}^{-1} \quad \sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$$



*Only a selection of the available lifetime limits on new states is shown.

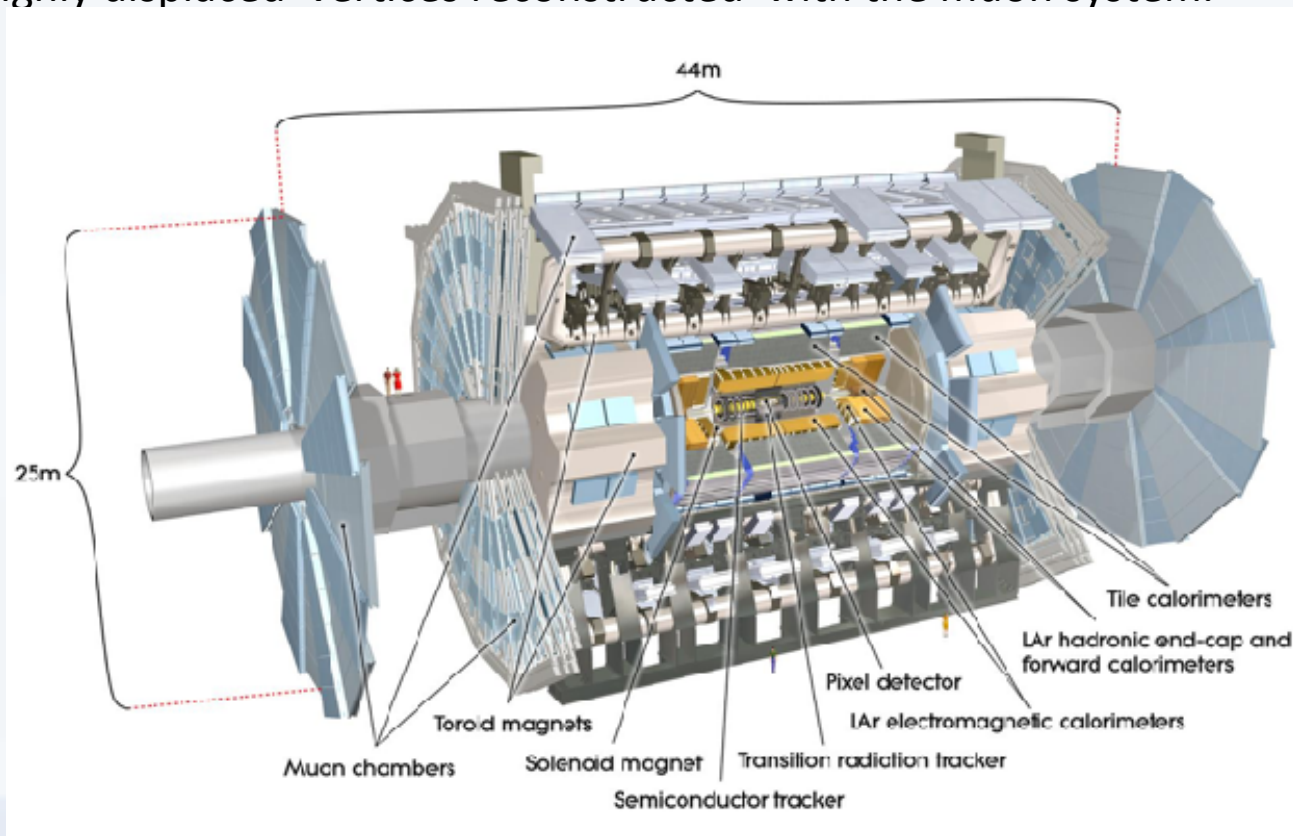
Summary

- Neutral LLP searches have been performed by the Atlas Collaboration within Hidden Valley model specific assumptions.
- Regardless of the theoretical frame, LLP searches have a strong motivation as a unique window to access new physics beyond the Standard Model.
- The extensive Atlas search program of Run 1 resulted in non-trivial limits on LLP effects at the LHC along with a remarkable experience in terms of approaches, methods and analysis techniques.
- Searches of new physics have come up empty.
- The 13-TeV collisions scenario under way at the LHC will be exceptionally accomodating for such studies.

Backup

The Atlas Detector

- Segmented ECAL/HCAL -
Low energy hadronic jets from IP deposit most of the energy in ECAL -> use this feature to search for LLPs decaying in HCAL.
- Air-core and segmented tracking in a large muon system -> excellent performance for very highly displaced vertices reconstructed with the muon system.

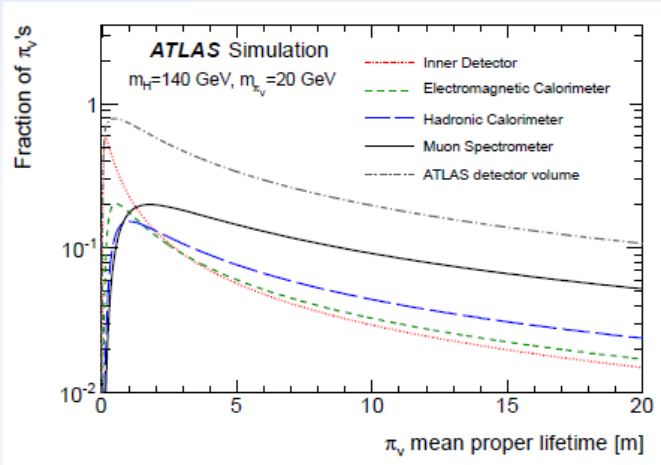


LLP searches: the scenario

- ✓ In principle, searches for LLPs are entirely detector driven, no model of associated production is really needed (if we can trust measured observables ...).
- ✓ Despite being a daunting task, the choice of input parameters serves nevertheless as a guidance to navigate through this explosion of new particles, and improve a limit.
- ✓ Hidden Valley in one of the scenarios that may produce visible signals within the reach of the LHC.
- ✓ Most of those scenarios feature a common signature. So requiring a great level of fine tuning in trackless jets, missing energy and displaced vertices based-searches enables testing a broad variety of models.
- ✓ Developing LLPs **model independent search strategies** is an **asset** for future searches.

Where are LLPs hiding

Decay probability for π_ν from gg fusion vs $c\tau$



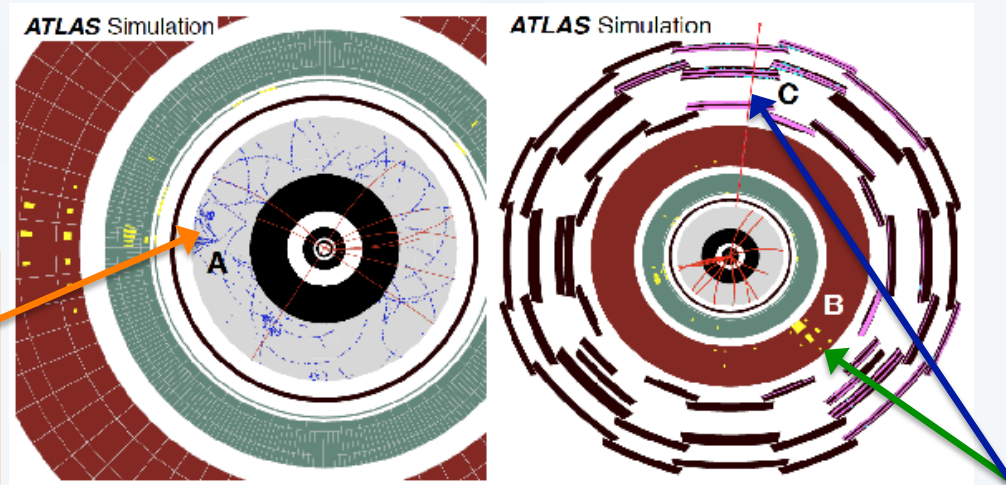
All parts of the detector are sensitive to displaced vertices

Neutral particles decaying to b-jets.

Different signatures are visible

Include all possible detector signatures:

- Inner-detector based searches
→ **displaced vertices in ID**
- Calorimeter-based searches
→ **trackless jets**
- Muon Spectrometer-based searches
→ **displaced vertices in MS**

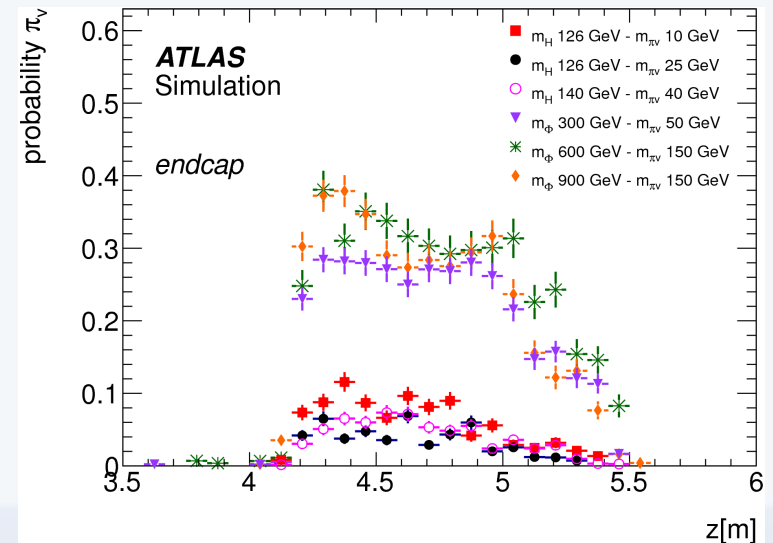
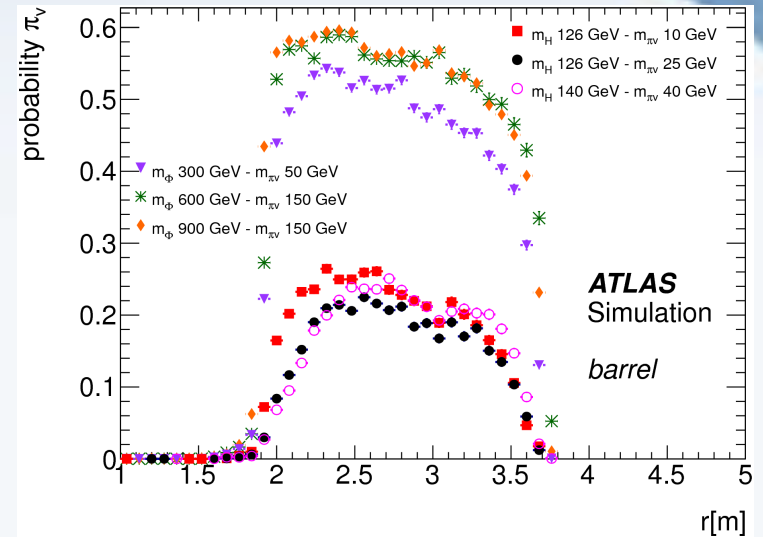


Left: π_ν decays in the Inner Detector (A) .
Right: one displaced decay in the hadronic calorimeter (B) and a second in the muon spectrometer (C).

The CalRatio trigger

Dedicated CalRatio trigger to select at least one jet π_ν in the HCAL:

- $\text{Log}_{10}(E_{\text{HAD}}/E_{\text{EM}}) > 1.2$
- $|\eta| < 2.5$
- no ID tracks with $p_T > 1 \text{ GeV}$ in $\Delta R = 0.2$
- $E_T > 35 \text{ GeV}$
- Line of Fire jets removal: fake jets by beam-halo muon emitting bremsstrahlung radiation in the HCAL

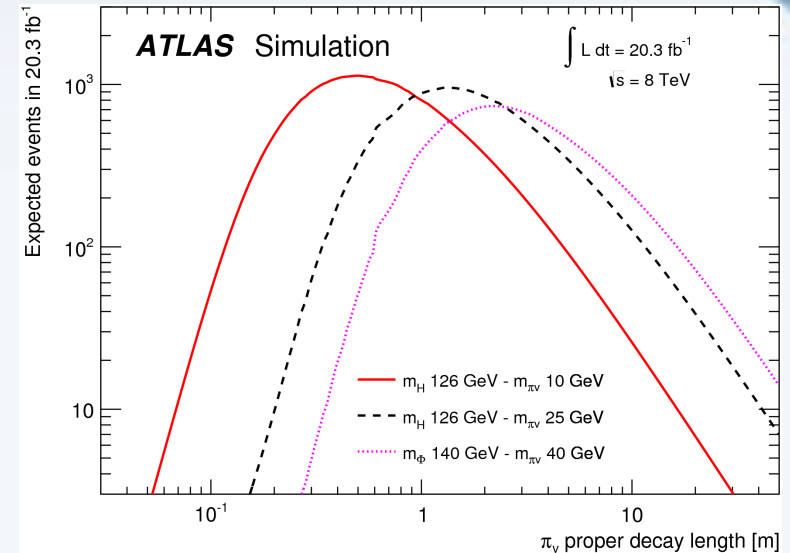


HCal displaced decays: analysis cut flow

Considering all ϕ and π_V masses.

The same cut-flow has been applied to all the signal samples. Requiring two jets passing all analysis cuts

- Event Level Cuts
- Event triggered by dedicated CalRatio trigger
- Data Quality criteria
- Missing Energy (E_t^{miss}) < 50 GeV
- Require two jets passing:
 - ✓ $\log(E_{\text{HAD}}/E_{\text{EM}}) > 1.2$
 - ✓ no tracks $p_T > 1.0$ GeV in a 0.2 cone around the jet
 - ✓ $|\eta| < 2.5$ and $-1 \text{ ns} < t < 5 \text{ ns}$
 - ✓ one of the two jets must have fired the trigger and satisfy $E_t > 60$ GeV, the other must have $E_t > 40$ GeV



HCal displaced decays: background modelling

Three sources of background considered:

SM multijet events

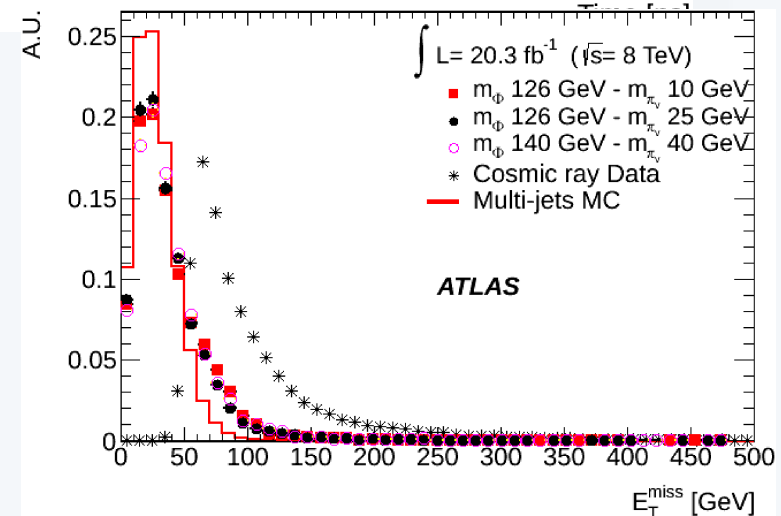
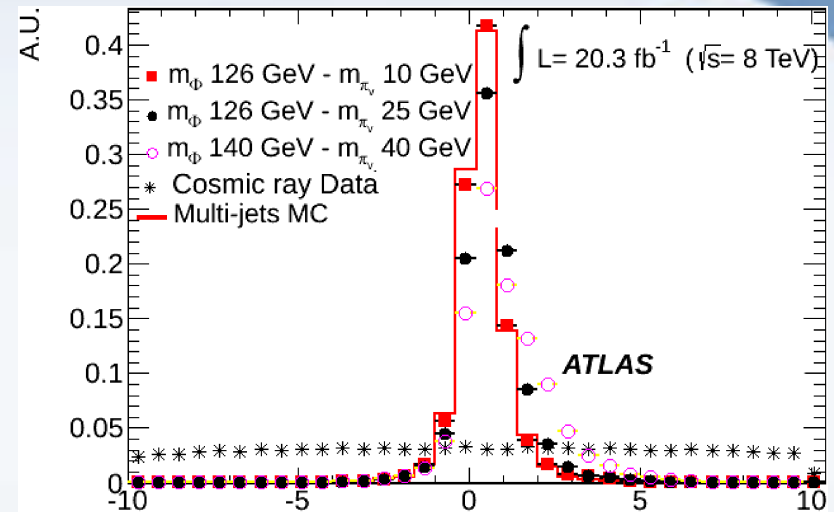
- Dominant background
- Studied with a tag-and-probe method of an independently triggered dataset

Cosmic ray events

- Small contribution
- Reduced by cuts on E_{miss} and jet timing

Beam halo events

- Very small
- Reduced by same cuts as in cosmic ray events as well as by dedicated trigger and analysis DQ cuts



Line of Fire selection: ATL-COM-PHYS-2011-844

Uses 3 parameters of MS segments:

- $\delta\phi$, the difference in phi between the trigger jet and Moore segment.
- $\gamma_{MS} = p_{\hat{M}oore} \cdot \hat{z} / |p_{Moore}|$, the directional cosine between the Moore segment and z-axis
- δr , the difference between the radius of the leading HEC cell in the jet and CSC segment.

Criteria

End-cap

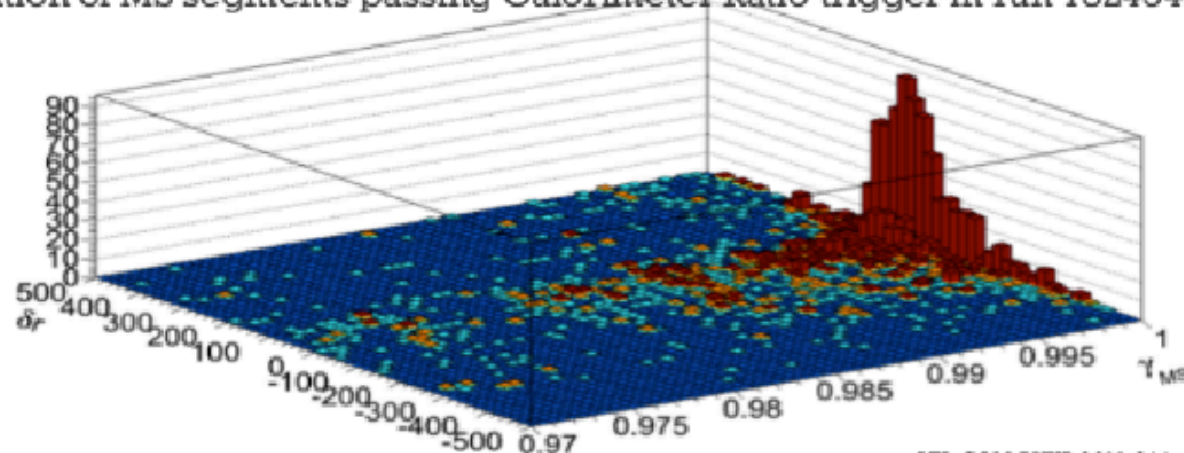
1 MS segment with:

$$|\delta r| < 120 \text{ mm},$$

$$|\delta\phi| < 0.2,$$

$$|\gamma_{MS}| > 0.98.$$

Distribution of MS segments passing Calorimeter Ratio trigger in run 182454.



ATL-COM-PHYS-2011-844

Line of Fire selection: ATL-COM-PHYS-2011-844

Uses 6 parameters of HCAL cells:

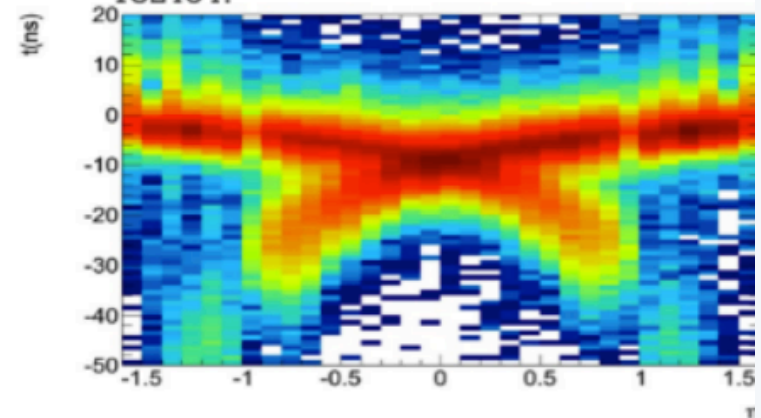
Criteria

≥ 3 cells in the HCAL such that:

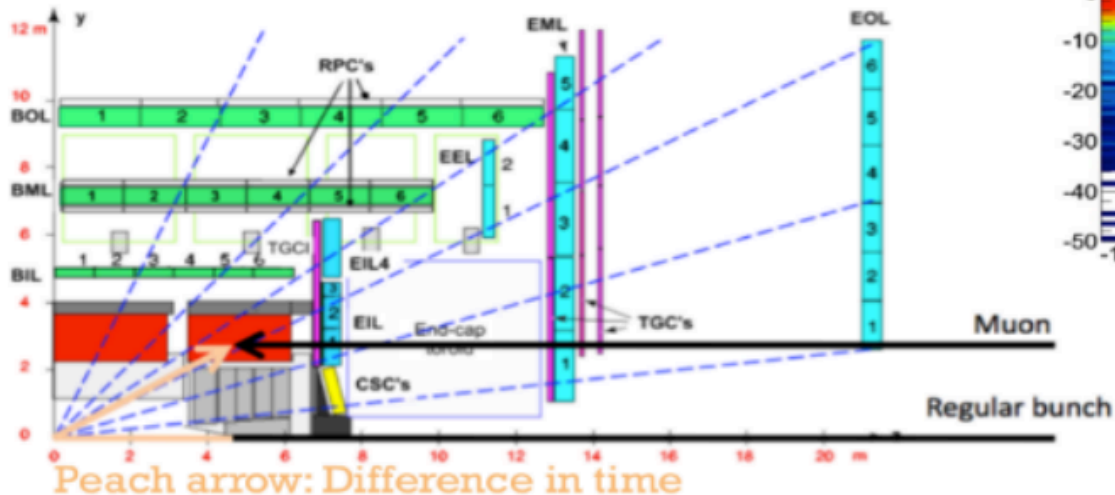
- $|\delta\phi| < .2,$
- $E > 240 \text{ MeV},$
- each lie outside of the triggering jet cone of ΔR of .3,
- $t < 2.0 \text{ ns},$
- $|t - \delta t| < 5.0 \text{ ns}, \text{ where } \delta t = \frac{\pm z - \sqrt{z^2 + R^2}}{c}$

- $\delta\phi$, the difference in phi between the trigger jet and HCAL cell.
- Based on the early arrival of beam halo muons.

Distribution of HCAL cells in events passing Calorimeter Ratio trigger in run 182454.

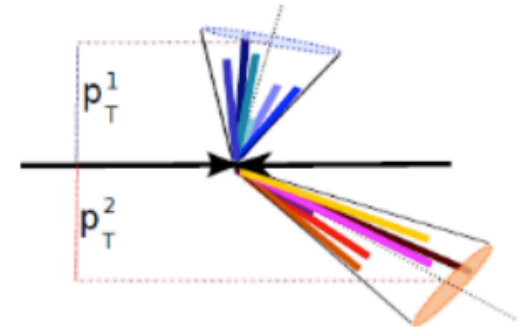


ATL-COM-PHYS-2011-844



JES uncertainty

- ▶ We use the **Dijet Pt Balance Method** (In-situ technique D0: hep-ex/0012046v2)
- ▶ This technique uses two jets:
 - ▶ a **Reference jet**
 - ▶ and a **Probe jet**, back-to-back
- ▶ We study the **di-jet pT balance** of the jet energy response in pseudo-rapidity (we added even EMF dependency)



- ▶ We study the **Asymmetry** of dijets pt:
- ▶ and the **Response** of the probe jet wrt the reference jet:

$$A = \frac{p_T^{Probe} - p_T^{Ref}}{p_T^{average}}$$

$$R = \frac{2 + A}{2 - A} = \frac{p_T^{Probe}}{p_T^{Ref}}$$

The inverse of the Response
is proportional to the average
JES correction

- ▶ The final uncertainty is obtained by comparing **DATA / MC Response**

HCal displaced decays: systematics

Dominant systematic uncertainty comes from the Higgs cross section.

Pile-up and trigger uncertainty evaluated using a direct data vs MC comparison with multijet samples for relevant variables.

JES uncertainty calculated as a function of EMF and η for low EMF by comparing balance in data and MC.

(*) Systematic errors that have common values across samples are not listed (pile-up at 10%, ISR at 2.9 – 1.2 %, and PDF at 2.1%). The last column reports the overall systematic uncertainty (including the luminosity and common systematic errors).

Sample m_H, m_{π_ν} [GeV]	H σ [%]	JES [%]	Trigger [%]	E_T^{miss} [%]	Time Cut [%]	Total [%]
126, 10	+10.4 -10.4	+2.2 -2.7	± 1.1	+5.5 -2.4	+1.6 -6.6	+16.4 -16.7
126, 25	+10.4 -10.4	+1.5 -1.6	± 1.3	+3.1 -1.8	+0.8 -3.3	+15.6 -15.5
126, 40	+10.4 -10.4	+2.6 -6.2	± 1.1	+7.7 -4.6	+1.9 -5.9	+18.2 -16.9
Sample m_Φ, m_{π_ν} [GeV]	Φ σ [%]	JES [%]	Trigger [%]	E_T^{miss} [%]	Time Cut [%]	Total [%]
100, 10	+11.1 -10.6	+2.3 -4.0	± 0.1	+4.6 -3.4	+2.7 -9.5	+16.7 -18.5
100, 25	+11.1 -10.6	+5.5 -3.7	± 1.2	+3.4 -2.5	+1.7 -0.7	+17.0 -15.8
140, 10	+10.1 -10.3	+0.6 -1.1	± 0.5	+4.0 -5.6	+1.9 -6.6	+15.6 -17.2
140, 20	+10.1 -10.3	+1.2 -1.6	± 1.0	+4.0 -3.9	+0.4 -5.0	+15.5 -16.2
140, 40	+10.1 -10.3	+1.3 -1.6	± 1.5	+6.3 -4.6	+1.8 -2.4	+16.5 -15.8
300, 50	+9.6 -10.0	+0.1 -0.3	± 0.3	+9.0 -7.4	+0.5 -3.0	+13.9 -13.3
600, 50	+11.2 -10.1	+0.0 -0.1	± 0.2	+11.7 -11.3	+2.2 -4.4	+17.0 -16.2
600, 150	+11.2 -10.1	+0.2 -0.2	± 0.3	+11.5 -10.2	+2.7 -5.3	+17.5 -15.1
900, 50	+12.8 -11.5	+0.0 -0.1	± 0.1	+12.6 -9.7	+1.0 -3.7	+18.5 -15.9
900, 150	+12.8 -11.5	+0.2 -0.3	± 0.2	+11.8 -10.9	+0.9 -2.5	+18.1 -16.3

MS-ID displaced decays: background

Negligible background from fake vertices
estimated from data control regions

ID vertex fake rate

Main contribution from **jets with high track multiplicity**.

The ID vertex fake rate is calculated from jets passing single jet triggers.

Per-jet fake rate for the Muon Cluster channel: $2 \times 10^{-5} \div 3 \times 10^{-4}$

Per-jet fake rate for the Jet + E_t^{miss} channel: $6 \times 10^{-6} \div 3 \times 10^{-5}$ for non-leading jets
 $4 \times 10^{-6} \div 2 \times 10^{-5}$ for leading jets

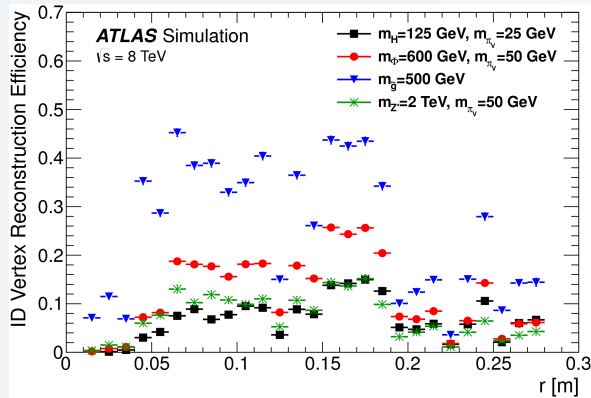
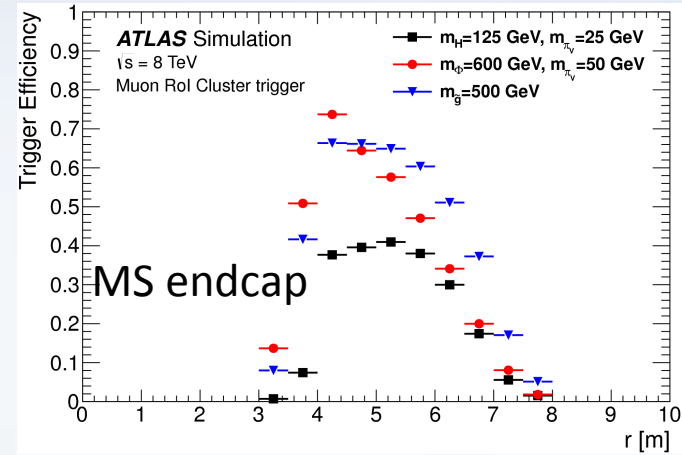
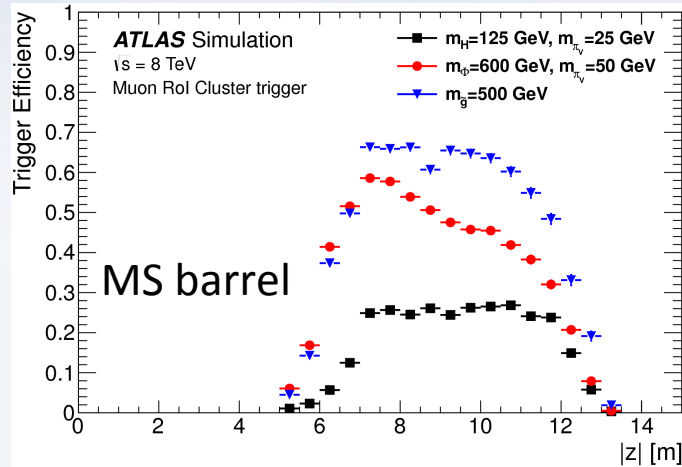
MS vertex fake rate

The MS vertex fake rate is calculated from events with a single MS vertex that passes either the Muon Roi Cluster trigger or a set of minimum-bias triggers.

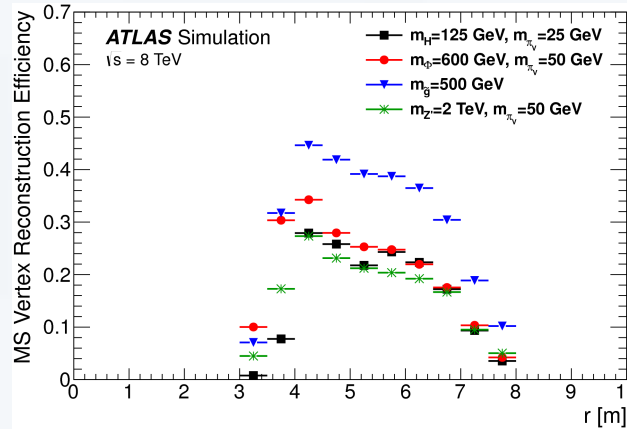
Total number of good MS vertices/total number of events = $(0^{+5}_0) \times 10^{-7}$

Background events		
Trigger	Topology	Predicted
Jet + E_T^{miss}	2IDV _x	$(1.8 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-4}$
Jet + E_T^{miss}	IDV _x + MSV _x	$(5.5 \pm 1.4) \times 10^{-4}$
Jet + E_T^{miss}	2MSV _x	$(0.0^{+1.4}_{-0.0}) \times 10^{-5}$
Muon RoI Cluster	IDV _x + MSV _x	2.0 ± 0.4
Muon RoI Cluster	2MSV _x	$0.4^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$

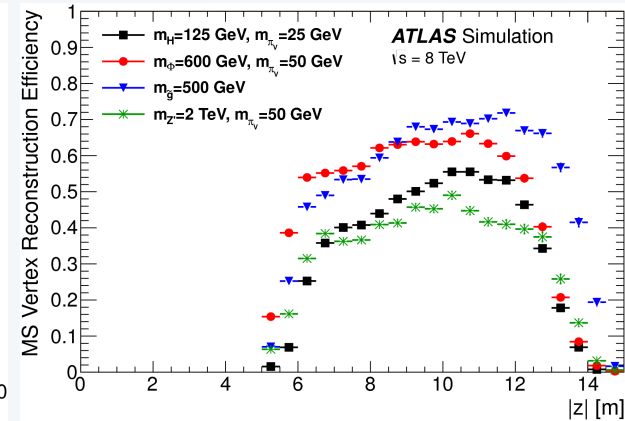
MS-ID displaced decays: trigger and vertexing efficiency



MS barrel



MS endcap



ID

MS-ID displaced decays: systematics

m_Φ [GeV]	m_{π_ν} [GeV]	IDVx [%]	MSVx [%]	
			barrel	endcaps
100	10	2.7	6.8	11.2
100	25	2.1	6.4	10.4
125	10	2.5	7.0	9.9
125	25	2.5	6.8	9.7
125	40	2.4	6.5	8.0
140	10	2.7	7.0	9.6
140	20	2.7	6.6	9.6
140	40	1.6	6.6	7.9
300	50	2.7	6.9	6.3
600	50	2.9	6.8	5.4
600	150	3.1	6.6	4.0
900	50	3.5	6.6	5.7
900	150	3.0	5.9	3.8

$m_{\tilde{g}}$ [GeV]	IDVx [%]	MSVx [%]	
		barrel	endcaps
110	3.8	5.6	4.0
250	2.3	5.8	3.8
500	2.4	6.3	3.8
800	2.7	6.5	3.5
1200	1.5	6.6	3.8

$m_{Z'}$ [TeV]	m_{π_ν} [GeV]	IDVx [%]	MSVx [%]	
			barrel	endcaps
1	50	2.5	6.8	6.3
2	50	2.6	7.0	6.6
2	120	2.2	6.6	5.2

ID: systematic uncertainty due to differences in track reconstruction in data and simulation estimated by studying K_S^0 decays in multi-jet control samples.

MS: systematic uncertainty due to data-simulation discrepancies studied using jets that punch through the calorimeter and showers in the MS. Both for trigger and reconstruction.