

Searches for long-lived particles at the LHC

Open questions before 4 July 2012

EWSB

- ☐ Does the Higgs boson exist?

Quarks and leptons:

- ☐ why 3 families ?
- ☐ masses and mixing
- ☐ *CP* violation in the lepton sector
- ☐ matter and antimatter asymmetry
- ☐ baryon and charged lepton number violation

Physics at the highest E-scales:

- ☐ how is gravity connected with the other forces ?
- ☐ do forces unify at high energy ?

Dark matter:

- ☐ composition: WIMP, sterile neutrinos, axions, other hidden sector particles, ..
- ☐ one type or more ?
- ☐ only gravitational or other interactions ?

Neutrinos:

- ☐ ν masses and their origin
- ☐ what is the role of $H(125)$?
- ☐ Majorana or Dirac ?
- ☐ *CP* violation
- ☐ additional species \rightarrow sterile ν ?

The two epochs of Universe's accelerated expansion:

- ☐ primordial: is inflation correct ?
which (scalar) fields? role of quantum gravity?
- ☐ today: dark energy (why is Λ so small?) or gravity modification ?

SEARCH2016 Oxford —
Meade/Papucci/Shipsey/Sundrum

I. Shipsey

Open questions after 4 July 2012

Higgs boson and EWSB

- ☐ m_H natural or fine-tuned ?
→ if natural: what new physics/symmetry?
- ☐ does it regularize the divergent $V_L V_L$ cross-section at high $M(V_L V_L)$? Or is there a new dynamics ?
- ☐ elementary or composite Higgs ?
- ☐ is it alone or are there other Higgs bosons ?
- ☐ origin of couplings to fermions
- ☐ coupling to dark matter ?
- ☐ does it violate CP ?
- ☐ cosmological EW phase transition

Quarks and leptons:

- ☐ why 3 families ?
- ☐ masses and mixing
- ☐ CP violation in the lepton sector
- ☐ matter and antimatter asymmetry
- ☐ baryon and charged lepton number violation

Physics at the highest E-scales:

- ☐ how is gravity connected with the other forces ?
- ☐ do forces unify at high energy ?

Dark matter:

- ☐ composition: WIMP, sterile neutrinos, axions, other hidden sector particles, ..
- ☐ one type or more ?
- ☐ only gravitational or other interactions ?

Neutrinos:

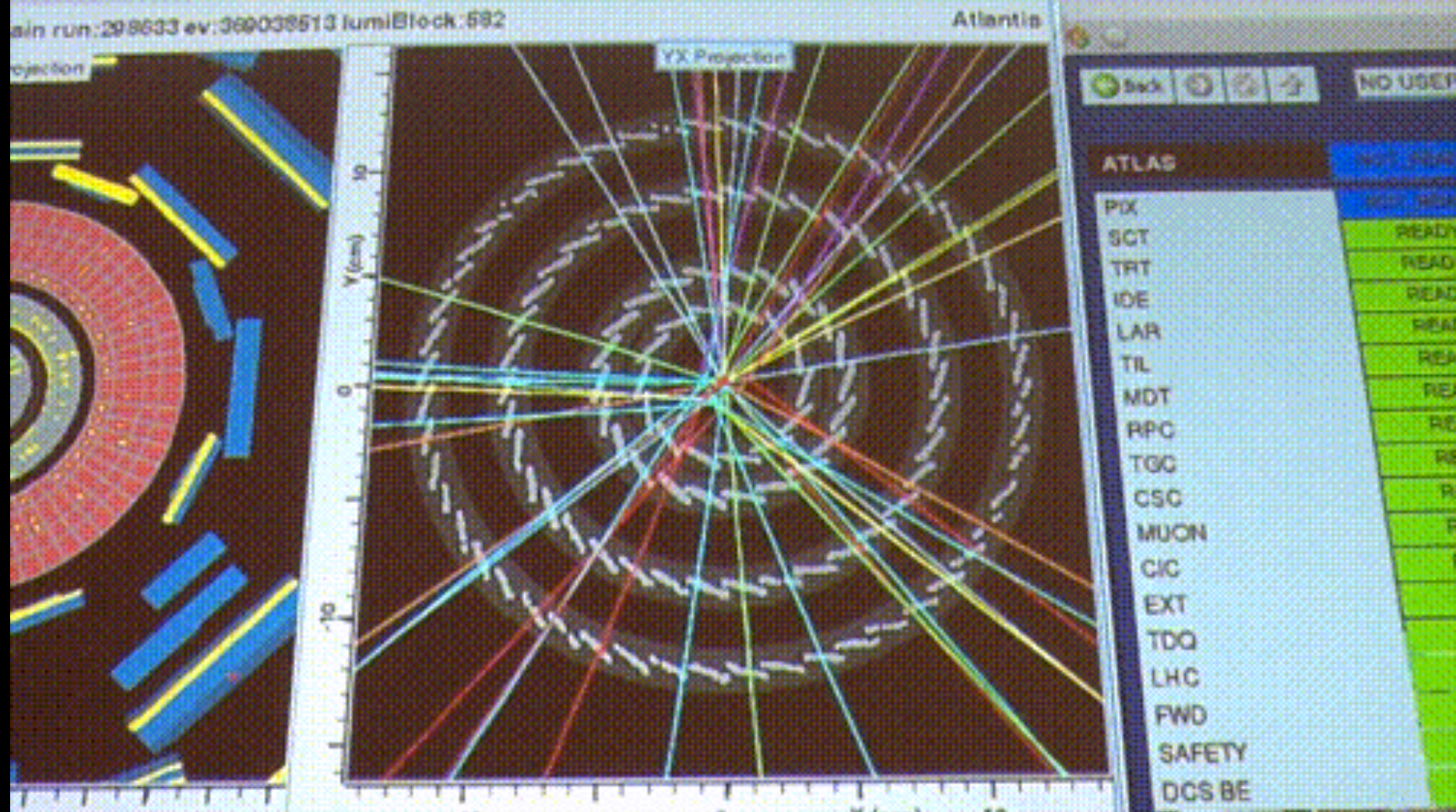
- ☐ ν masses and their origin
- ☐ what is the role of $H(125)$?
- ☐ Majorana or Dirac ?
- ☐ CP violation
- ☐ additional species → sterile ν ?

The two epochs of Universe's accelerated expansion:

- ☐ primordial: is inflation correct ?
which (scalar) fields? role of quantum gravity?
- ☐ today: dark energy (why is Λ so small?) or gravity modification ?

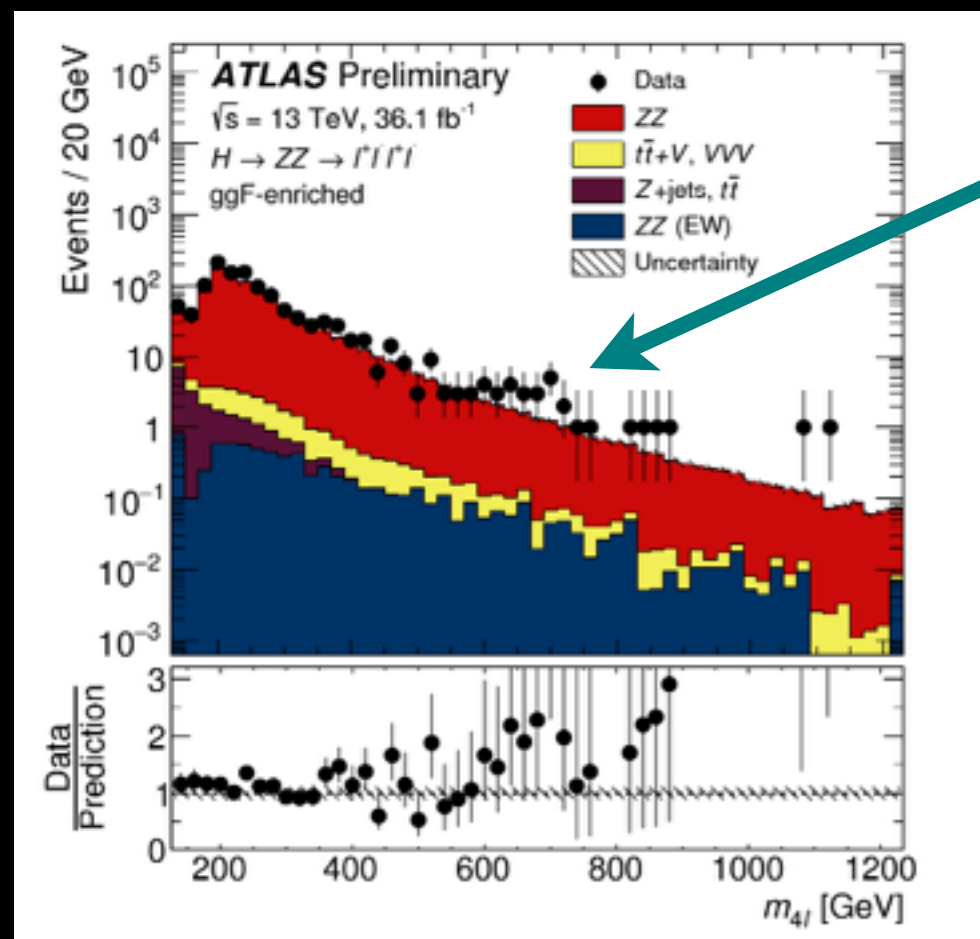
SEARCH2016 Oxford —
Meade/Papucci/Shipsey/Sundrum

I. Shipsey



New physics at the LHC in 2017

Our first extensive look at 13 TeV yields impressive agreement with Standard Model expectations and no huge, immediate resonances or excesses



?

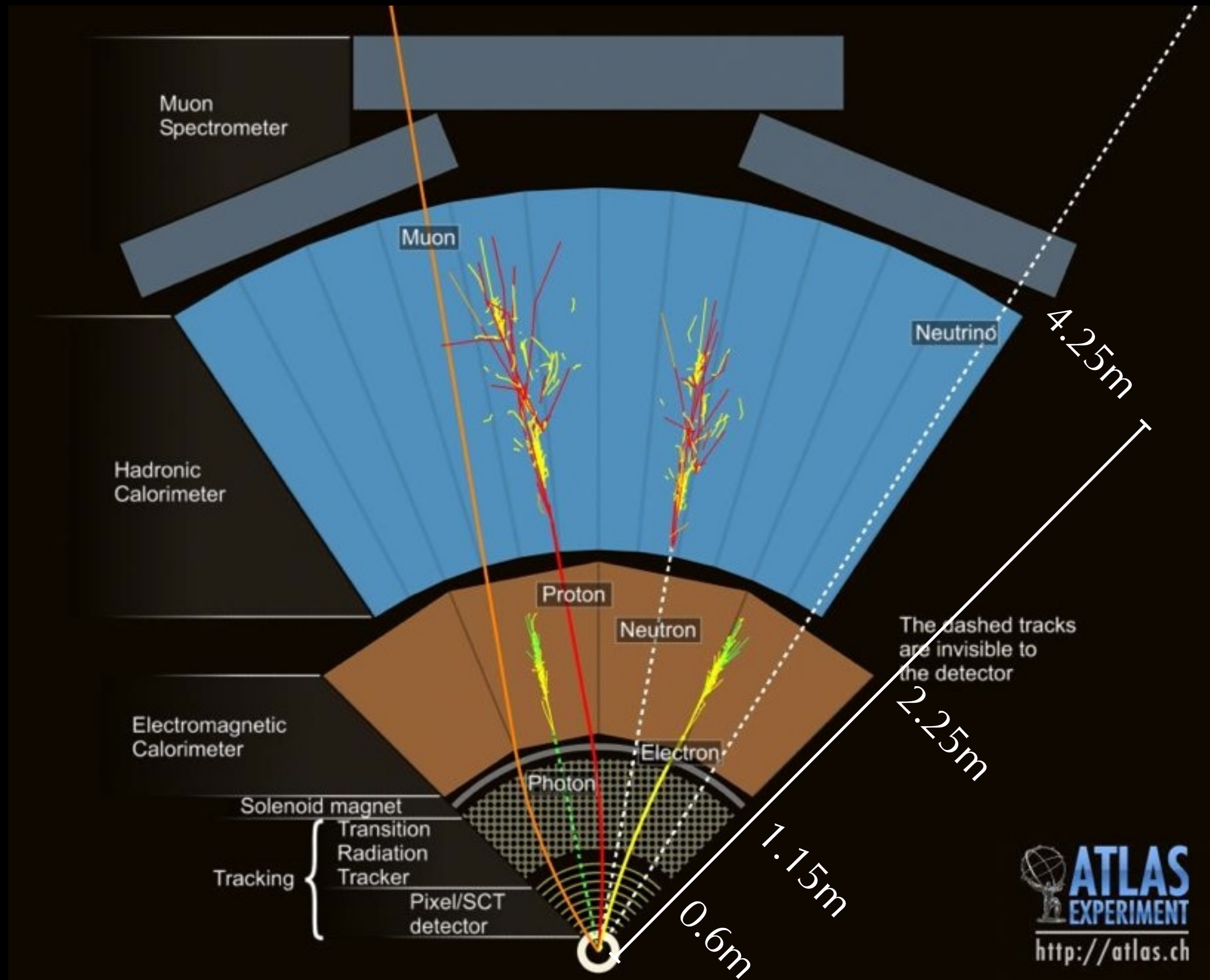
There are no more guarantees and no ace-in-the-hole motivations.

We must shift from theory-driven search strategies to signature-driven ones.

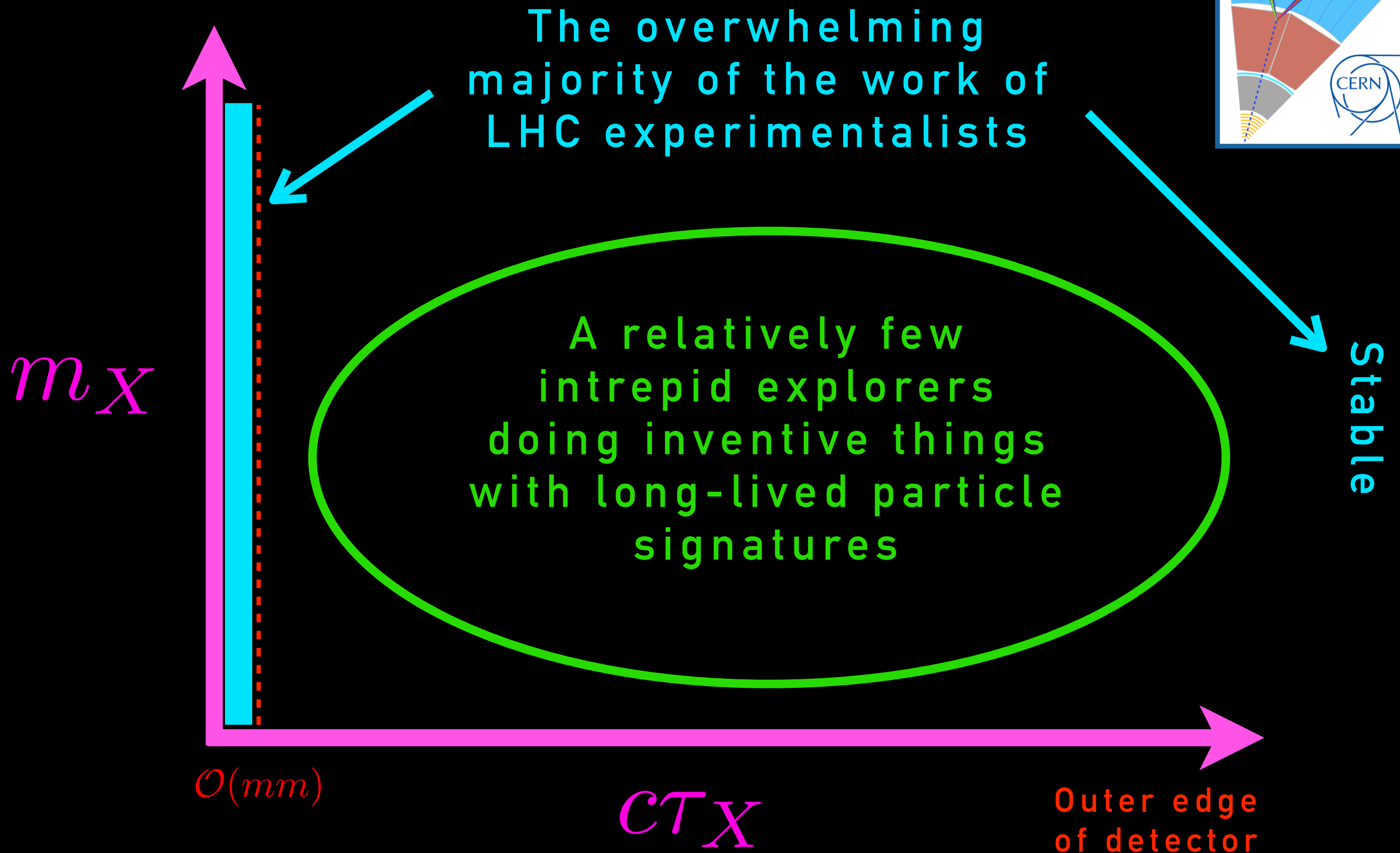
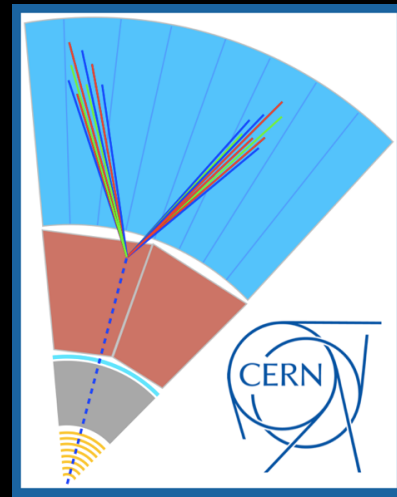
We would certainly love some old-school theoretical guidance, but we don't really have it (WIMP miracle in tension, lack of plain vanilla SUSY, etc.)

What do we have? Some of the most sophisticated devices ever built.
How do we extend their reach into new physics parameter space?

95% of our analysis effort is dedicated to understanding five prompt objects

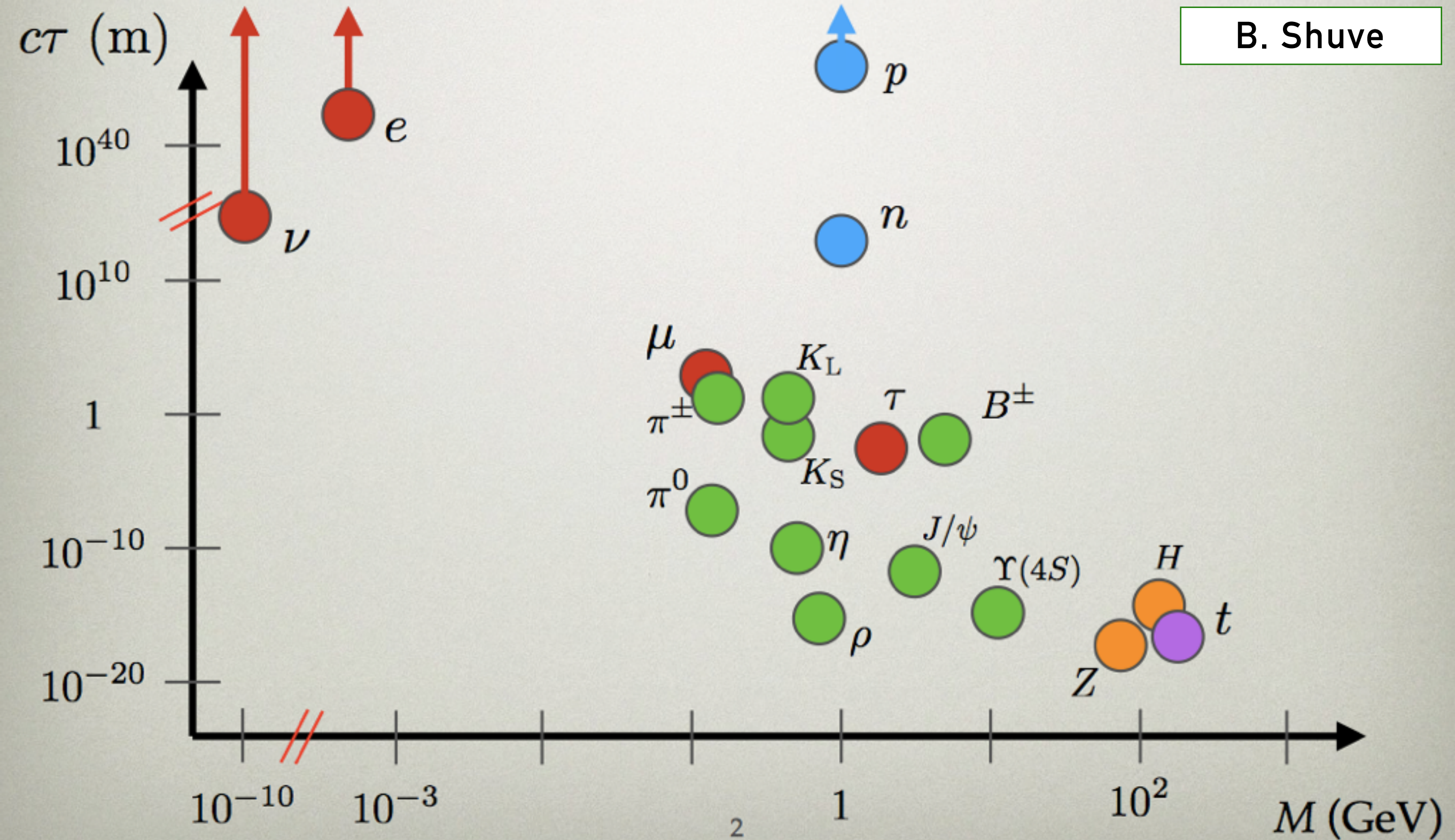


New physics X at the LHC



The lifetime frontier

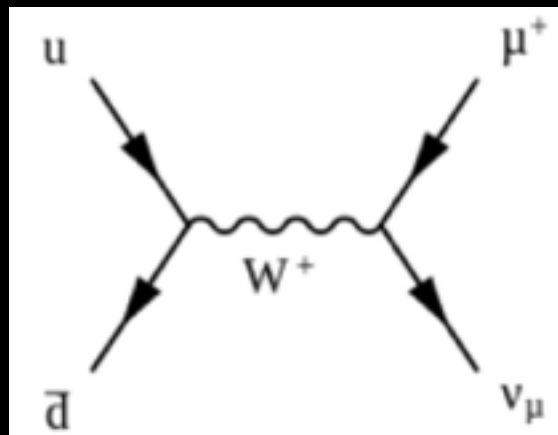
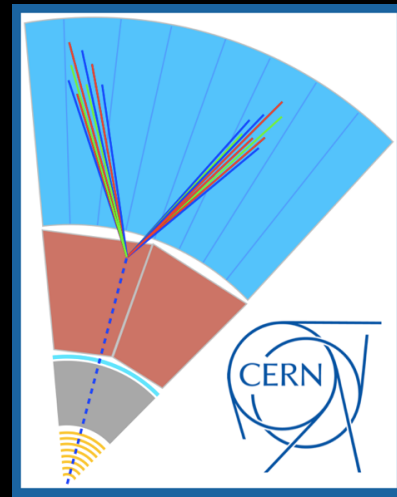
B. Shuve



LLPs — SM and BSM

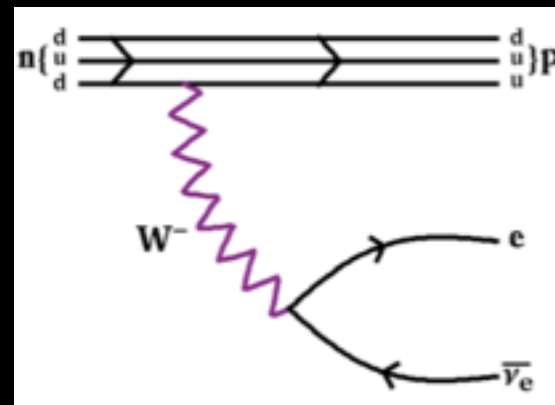
Long lifetimes typically arise in the SM when approximate symmetries make the particle stable

Small symmetry-breaking parameters can suppress the decay rate



Charged pion

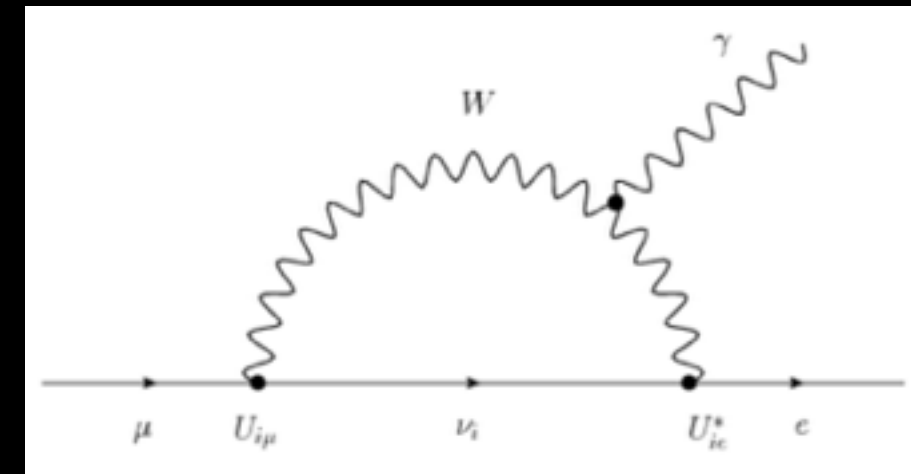
Decay highly off-shell



Neutron

Isospin: p and n nearly degenerate

Decay highly off-shell



FCNC

Lepton flavor violated only by extremely small neutrino Yukawas

$\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma) \sim 10^{-54}$

Same principles apply to BSM LLPs, which can generically appear

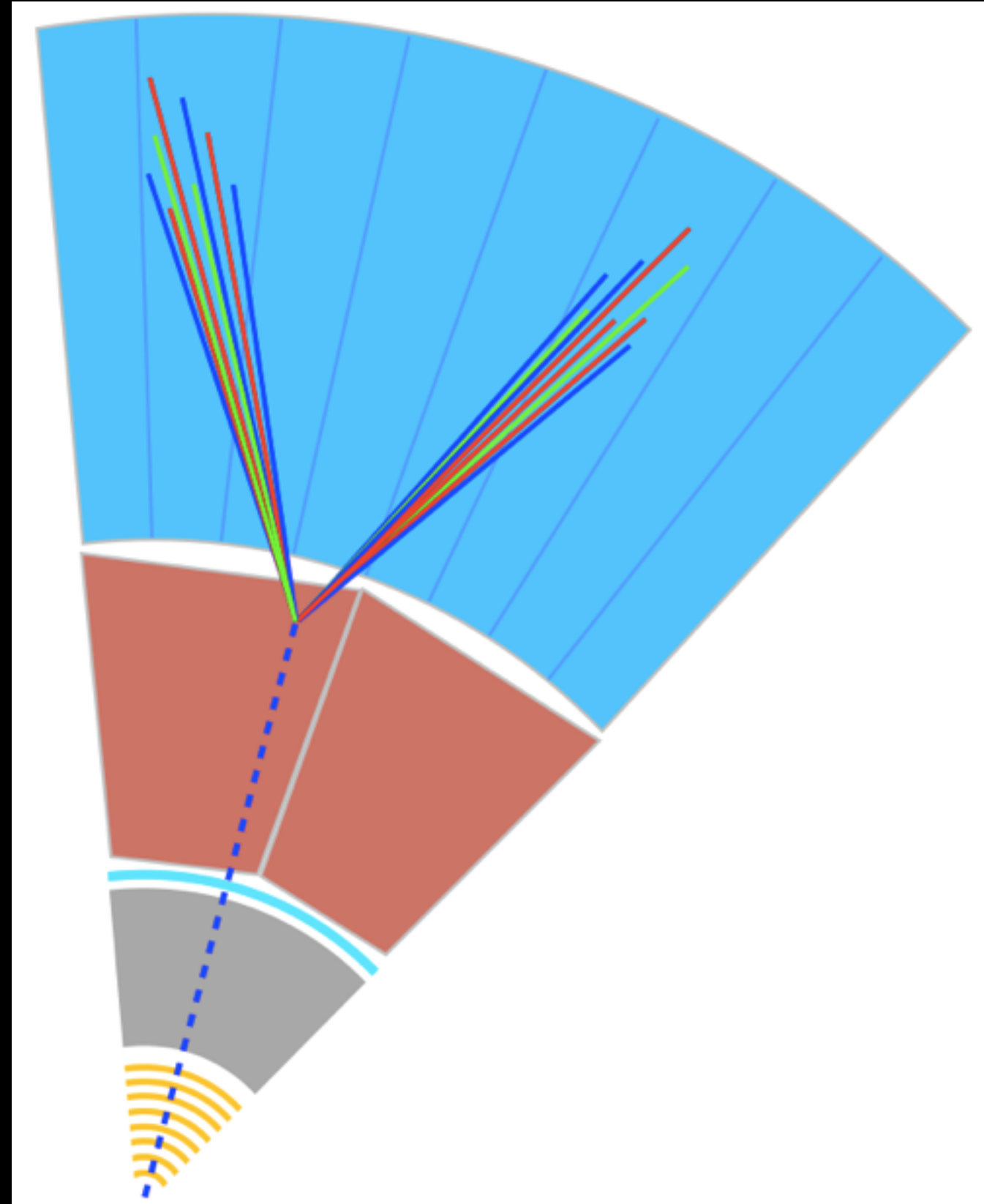
- Lifetime is usually best treated as a free parameter
- A few canonical example BSM classes that yield LLPs

Talks by Strassler, Knapen, Shuve, others

The lifetime frontier at the LHC

Long-lived particle searches are experimentally driven

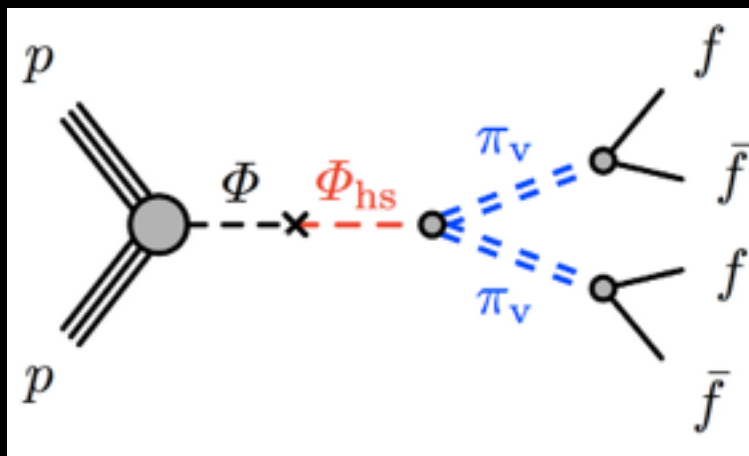
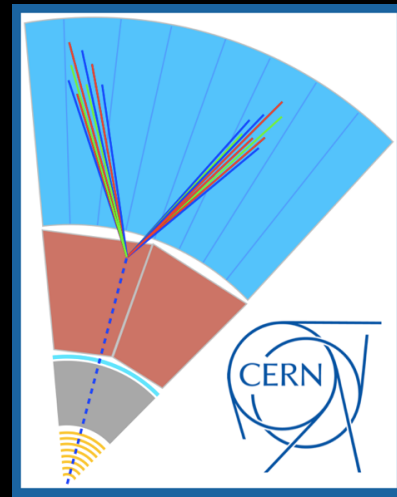
Luckily it's easy to get LLPs in our usual BSM frameworks — a few examples here



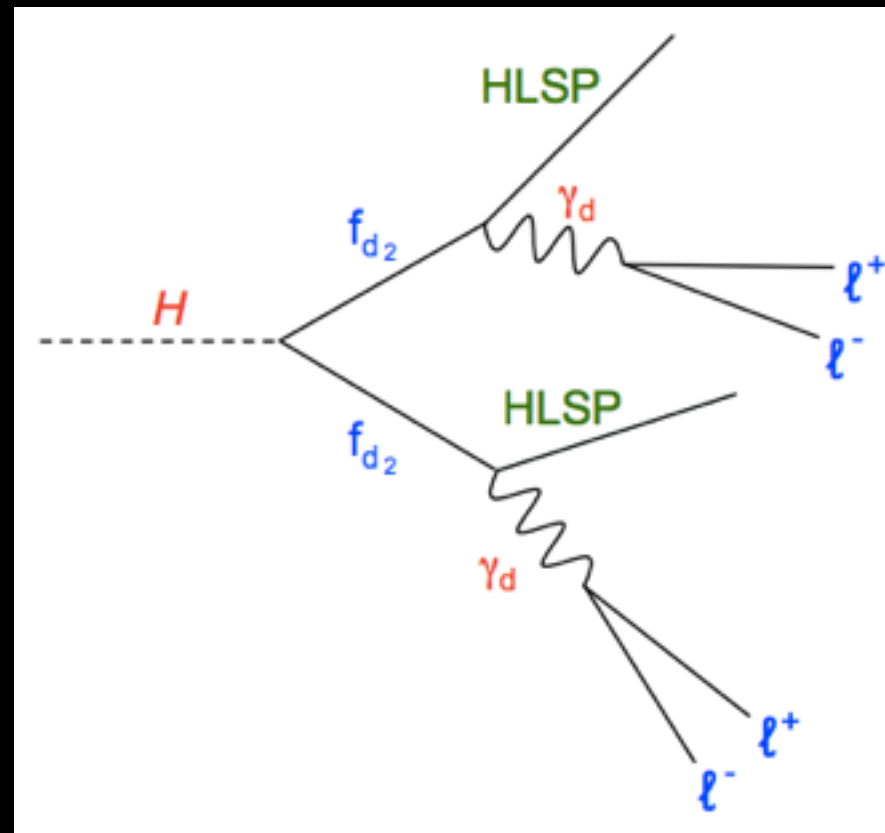
BSM example: Hidden sector portals

Higgs portal

- Small width of h_{125} \rightarrow easy to get BSM physics
- A wide range of LLP signatures can arise



Higgs mixing with hidden sector scalar

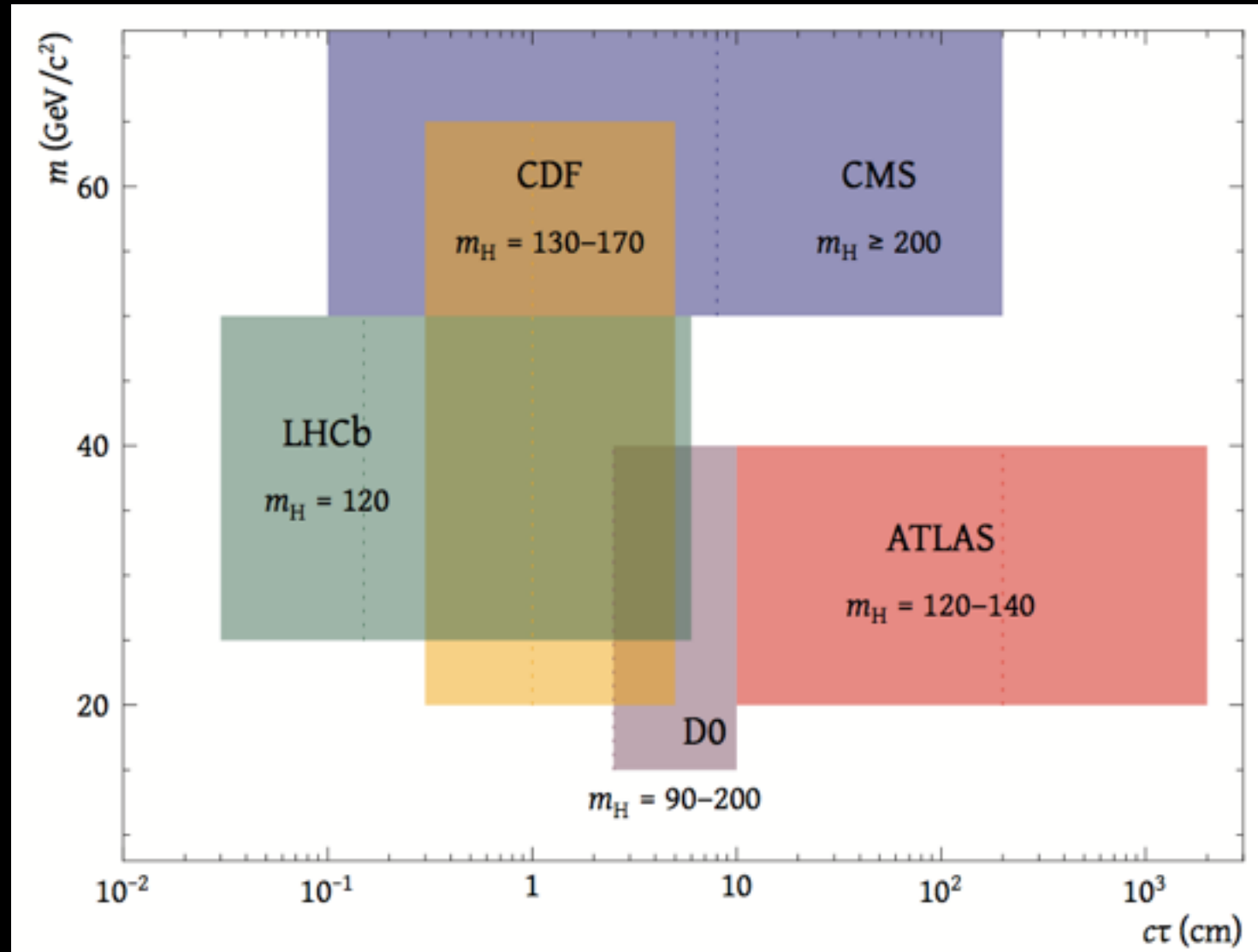
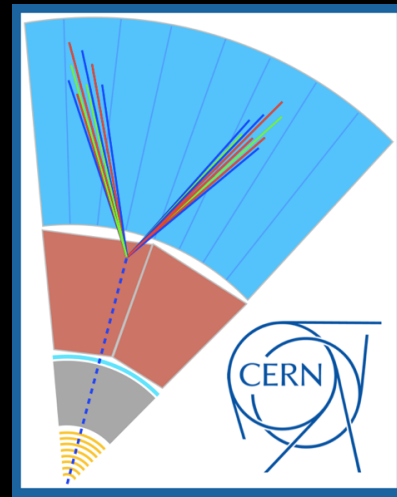


Higgs decaying to dark sector fermions which decay to dark photons and lepton-jets

- Can use Higgs VBF and associated production modes for triggering on additional prompt objects

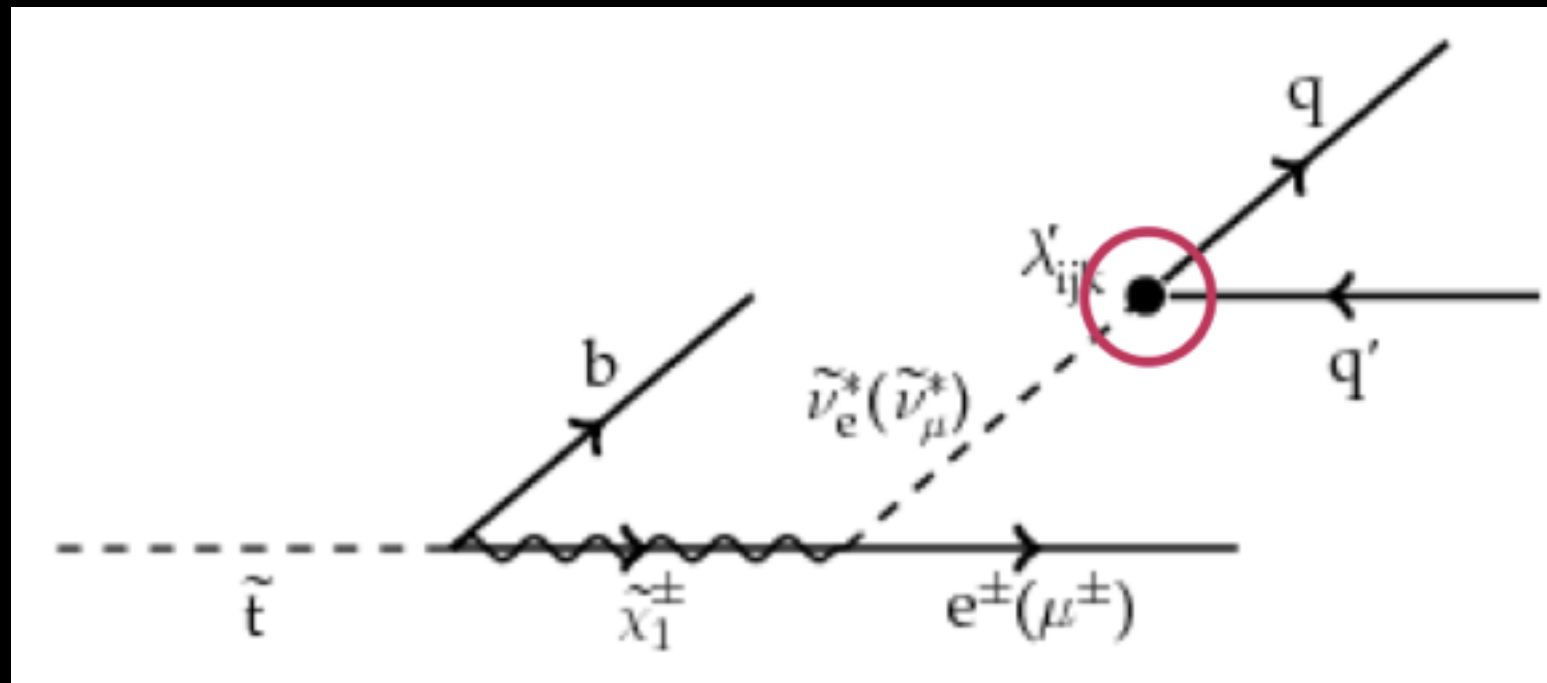
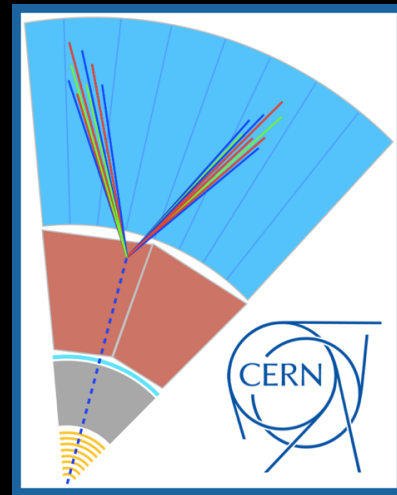
BSM example: Hidden sector portals

Higgs portal is also good for comparison among experiments



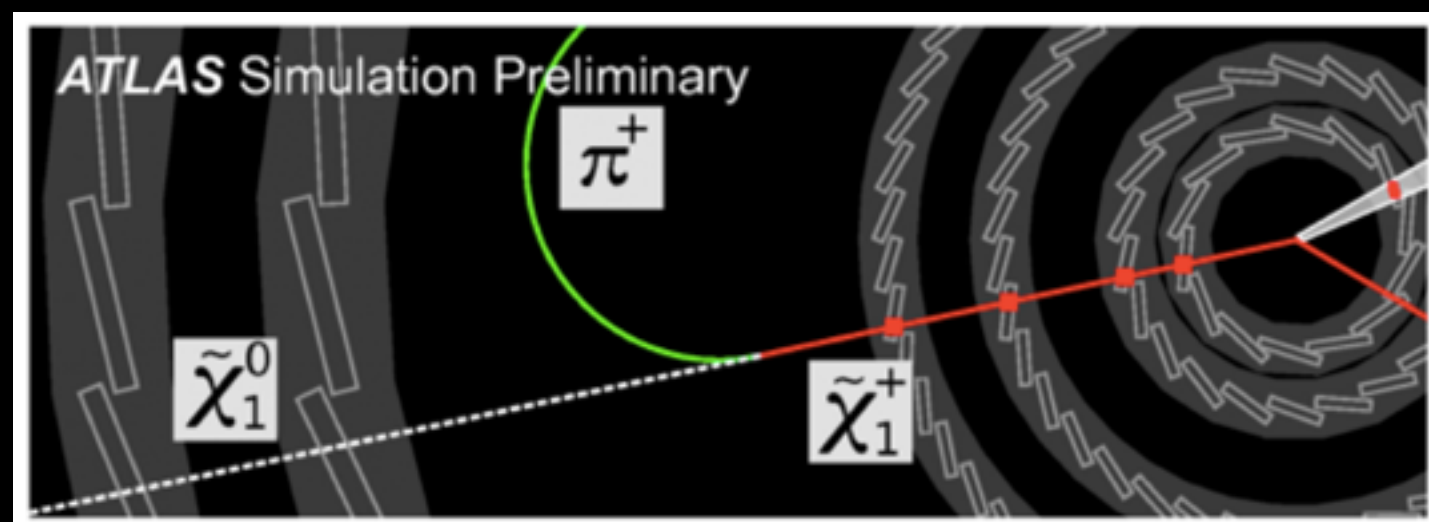
Pieter David thesis, LHCb, 2016

BSM example: RPV SUSY



$$|\lambda| < 10^{-8}$$

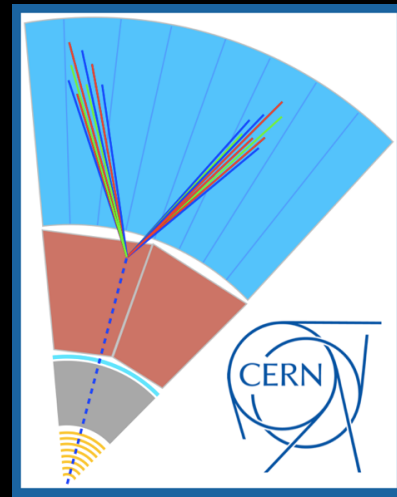
Electroweak symmetry
gives degeneracy of
NLSP and LSP masses if
little mixing between
Higgsino / gauginos



Experiment-focused approach

LLPs can be a generic feature of BSM ideas

- Lifetime is usually best treated as a free parameter
- No clear old-school preferential motivations w.r.t. production and decay modes

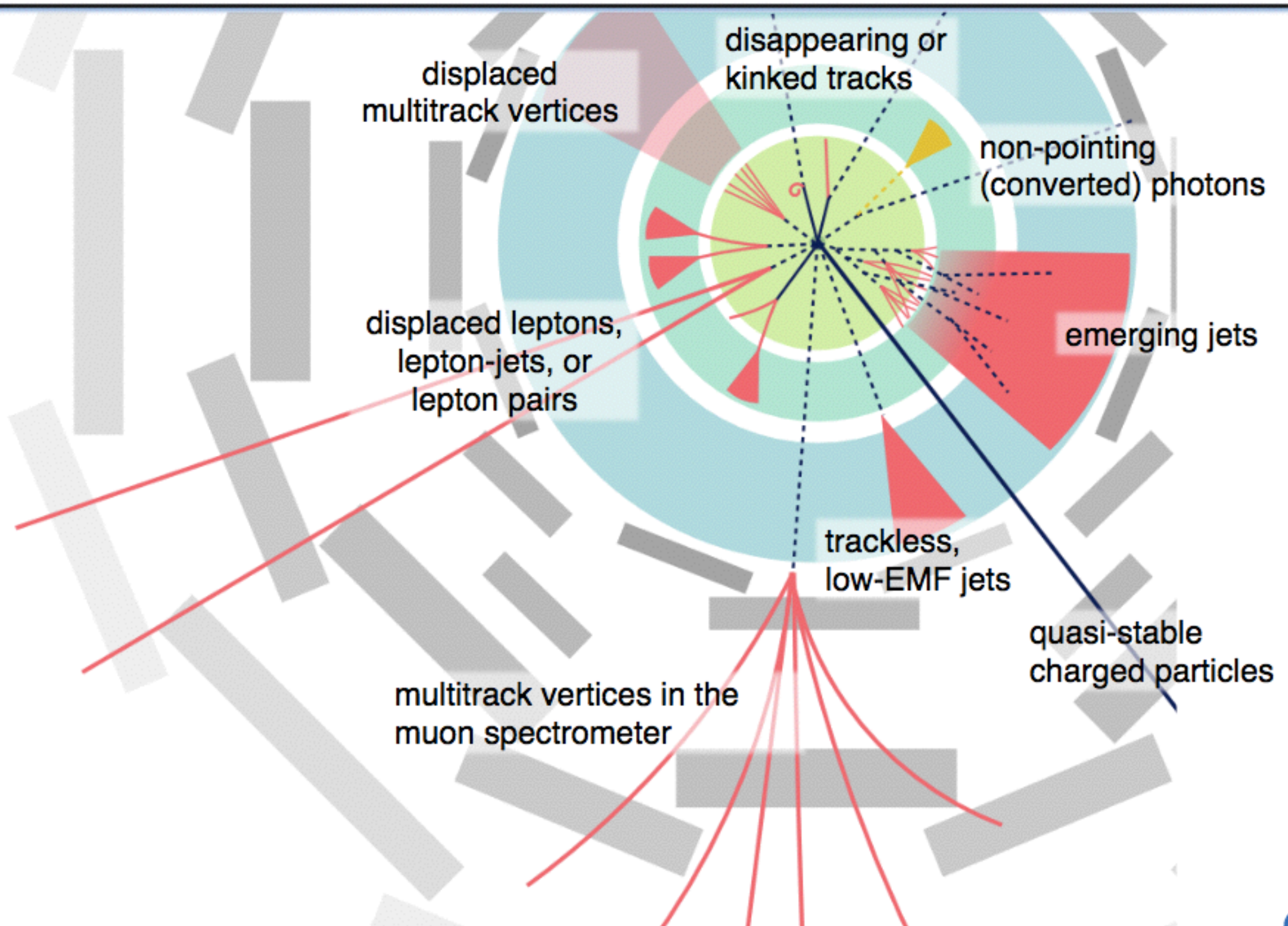


This is **good news** for signature-minded experimentalists, because it means that particles can decay in various subsystems of the detector with impunity! This means a large number of intriguing, non-standard detector objects and often difficult triggering strategies.

The **bad news** is that this this means a large number of challenging, non-standard detector objects and difficult triggering strategies. But “bad” in this case just means we need to think critically about the large space of production and decay modes and detector objects.

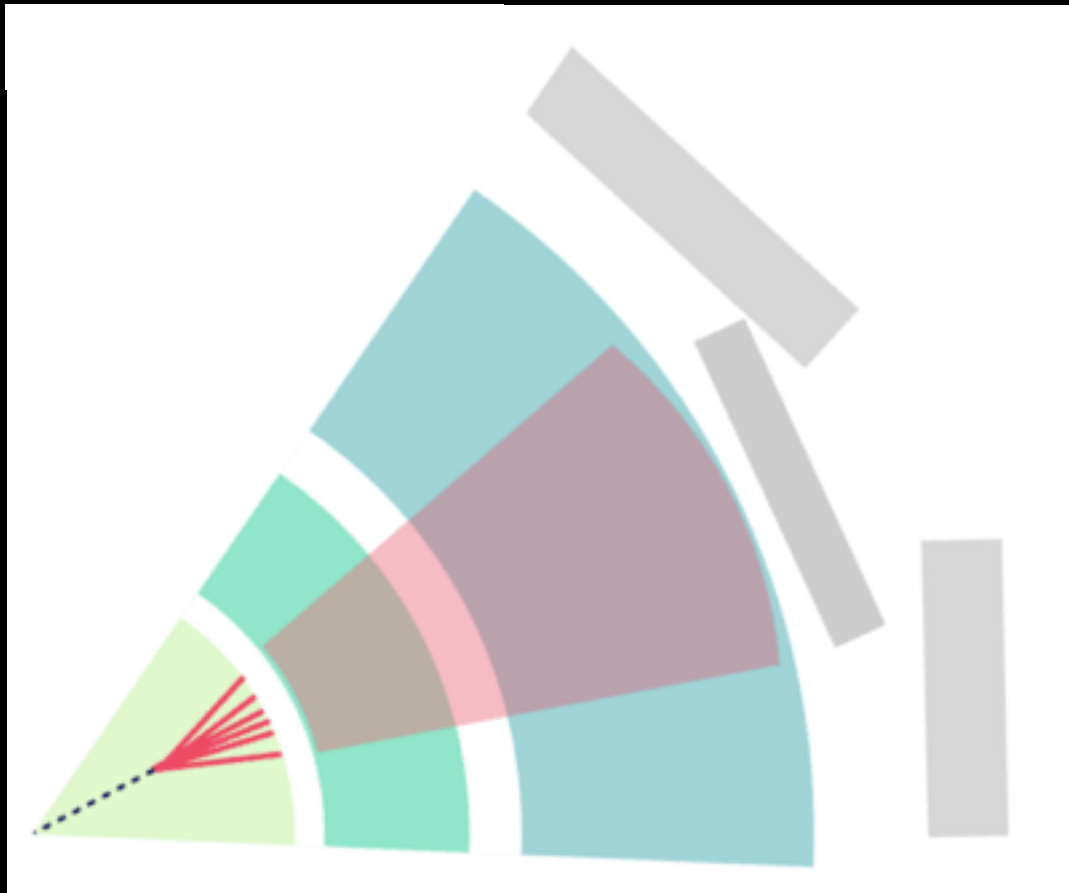
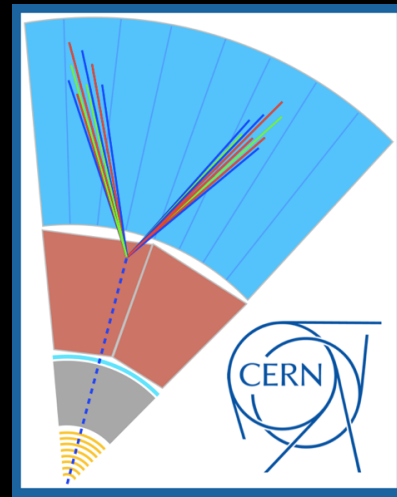
This is the fun part.

Challenges of LHC **LLP** searches

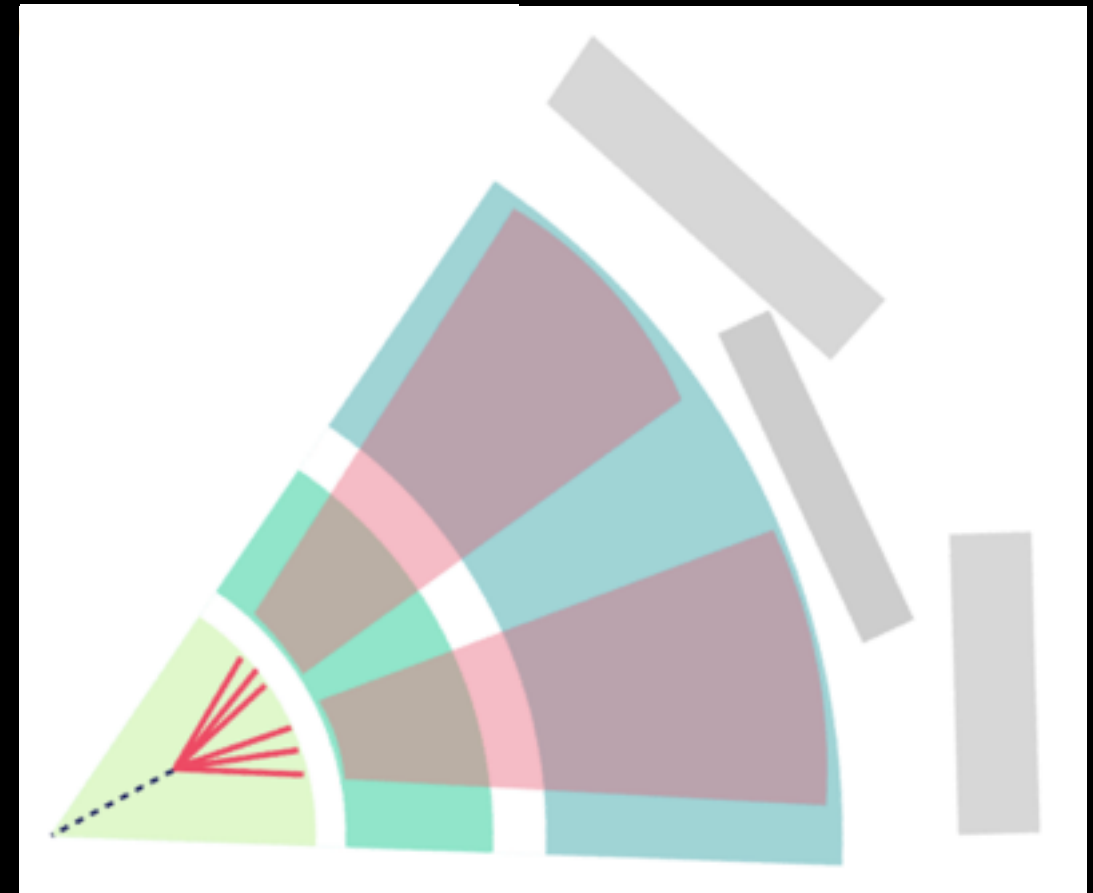


Displaced hadronic jets

The LLP can decay to jets in the inner tracker



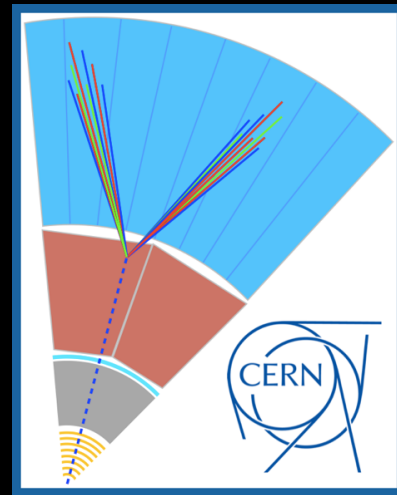
ATLAS approach —
single multi-track vertex



CMS and LHCb —
displaced vertices with
jet pairs downstream

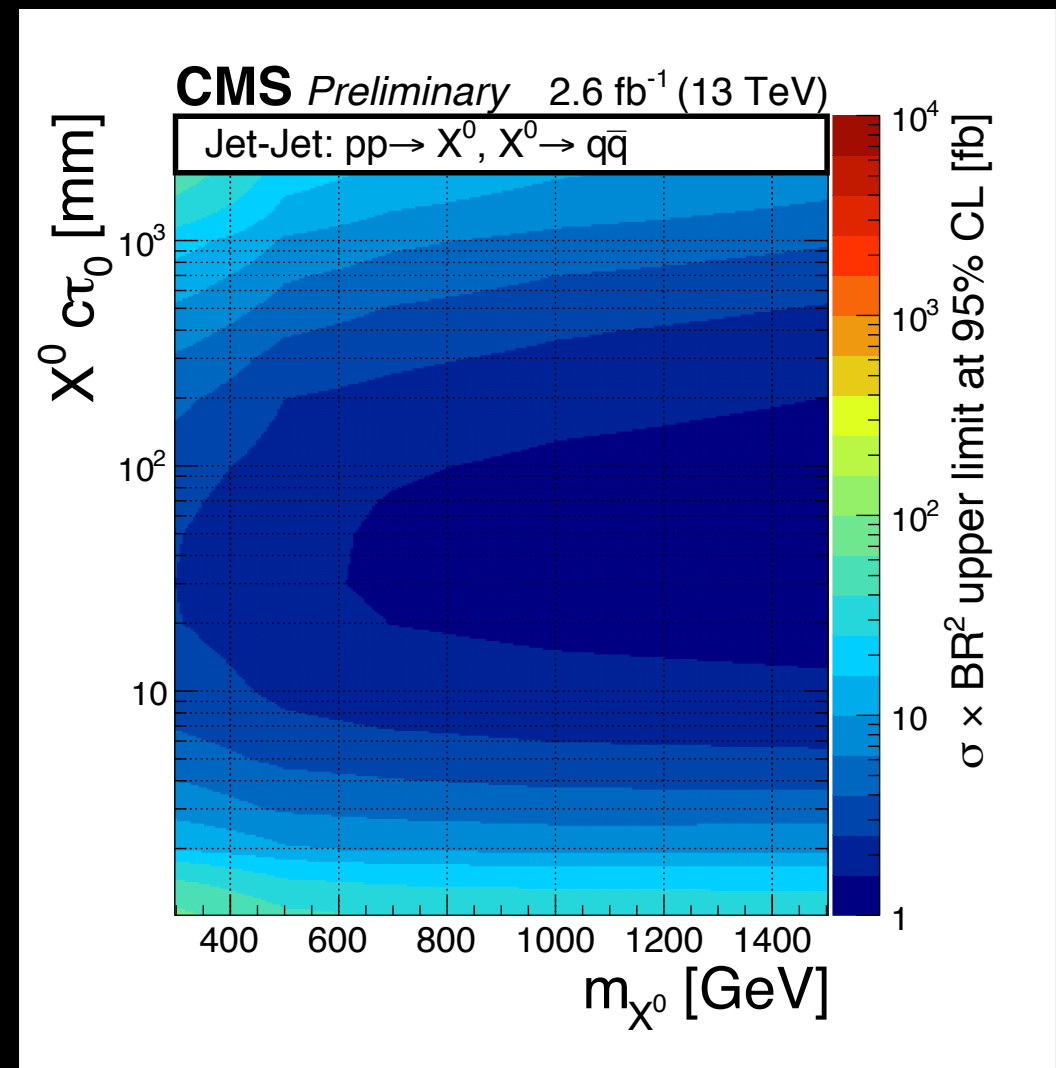
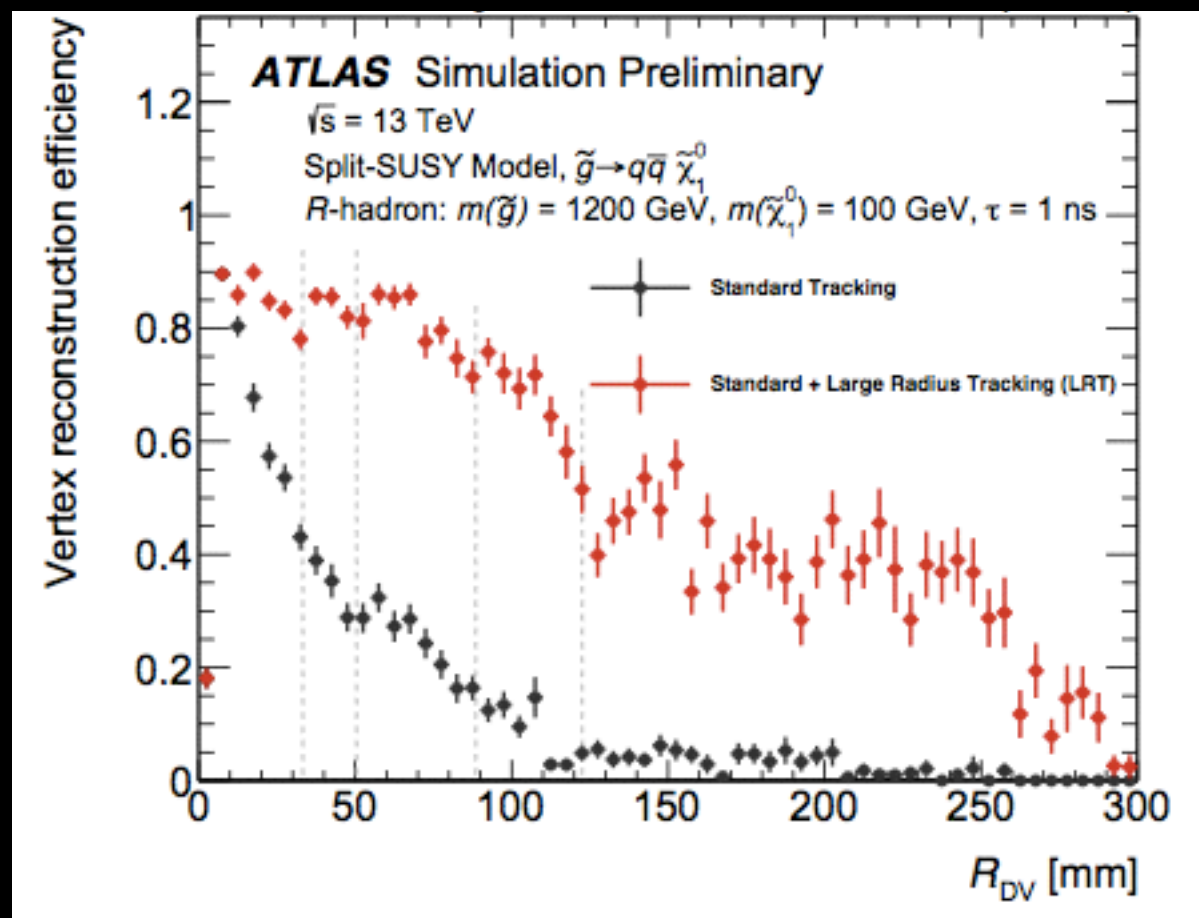
Displaced hadronic jets

The LLP can decay to jets in the inner tracker



[Phys. Rev. D 92, 072004 \(2015\)](#)

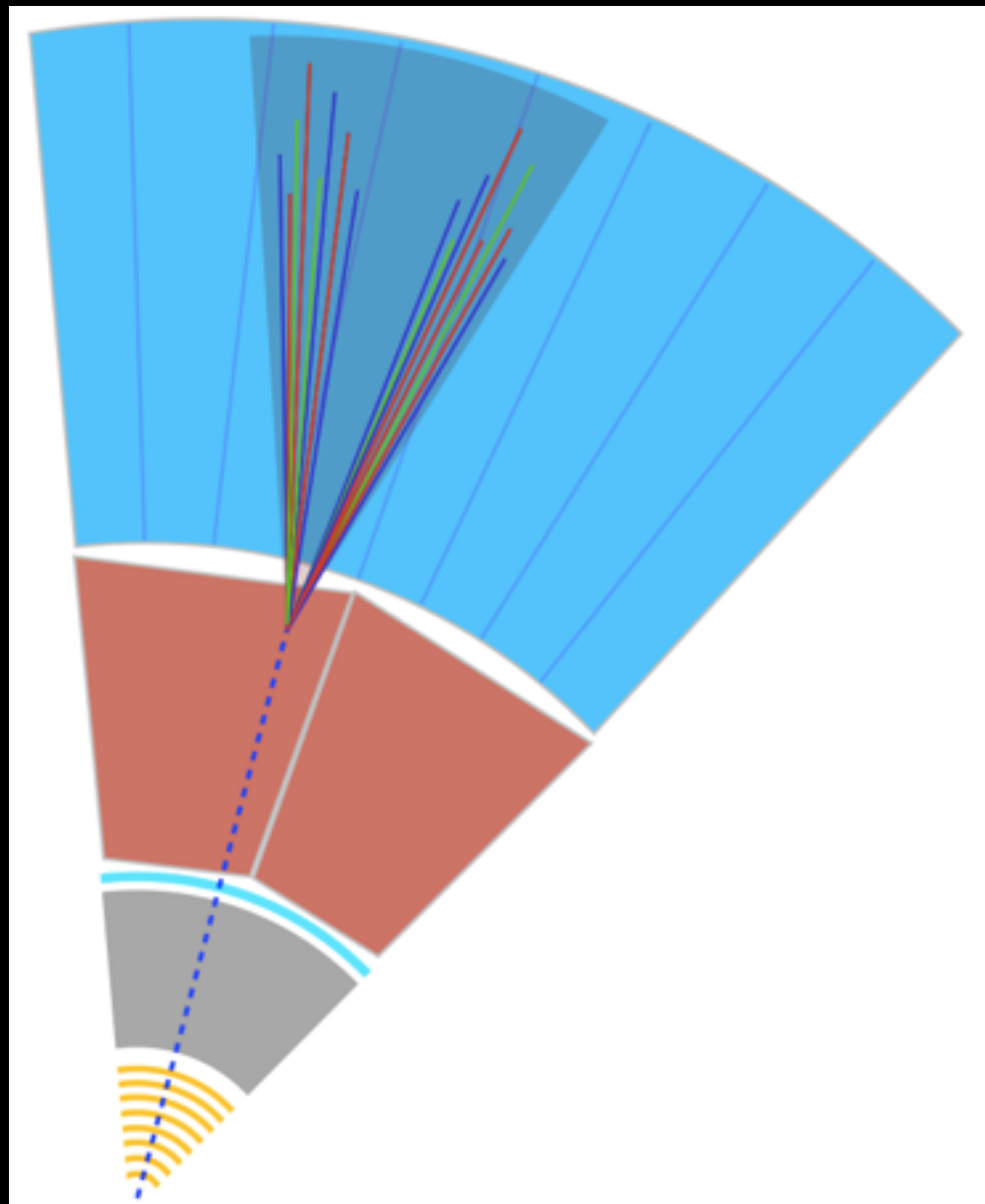
[CMS-PAS-EXO-16-003](#)



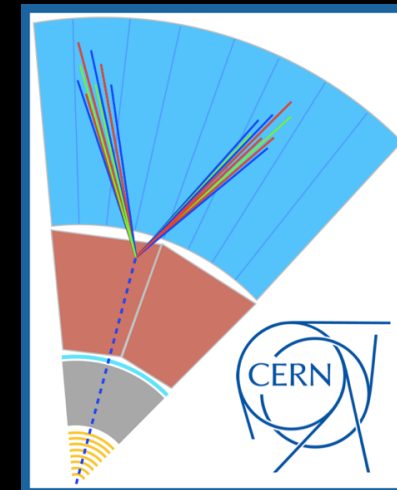
Trigger on MET

Specialized HT trigger
with track veto

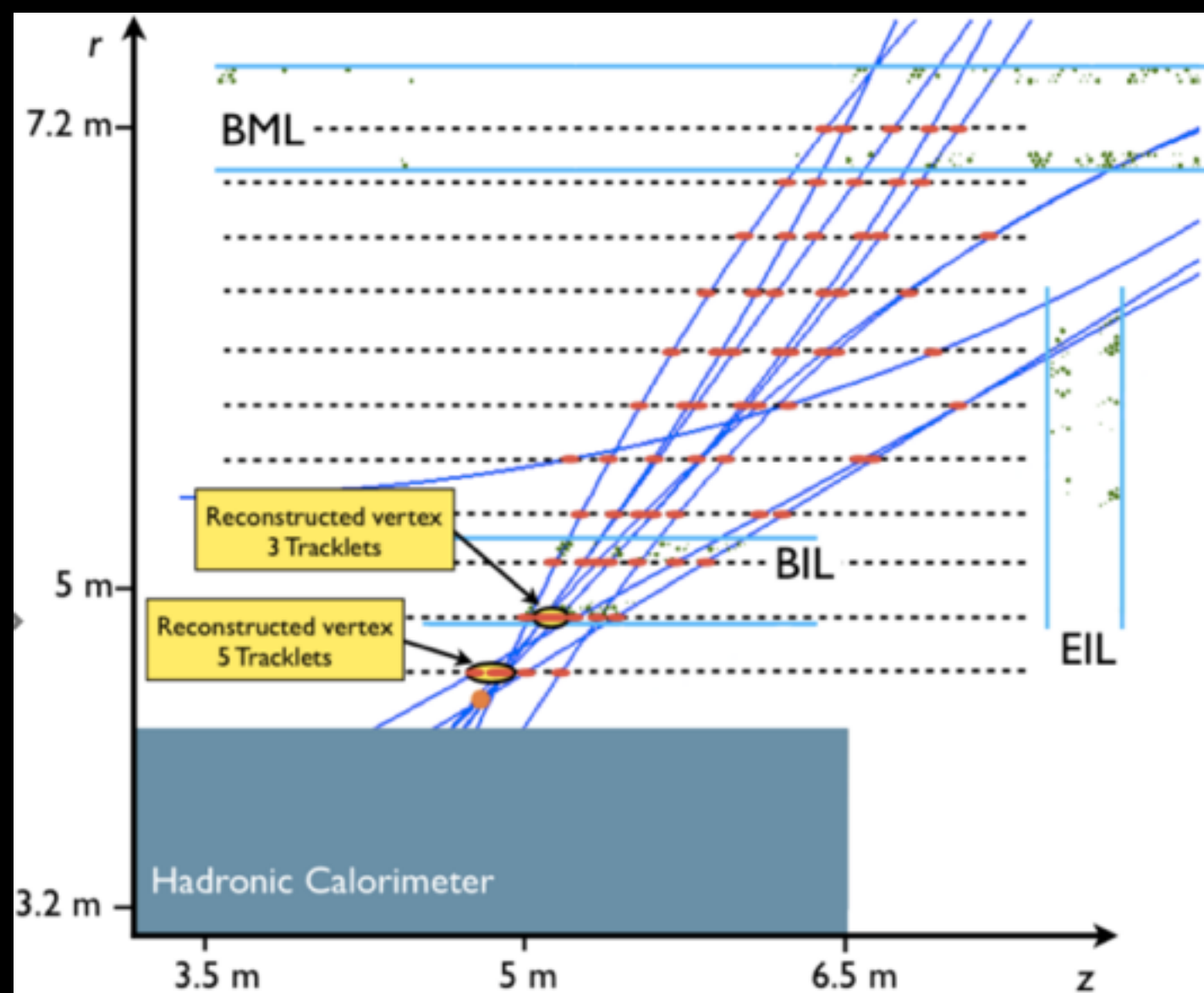
Displaced hadronic jets



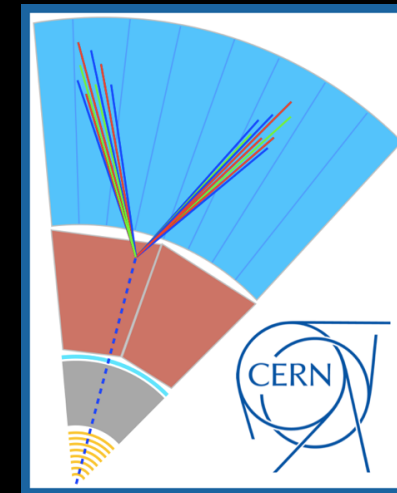
Or the LLP can decay
in or just before the
calorimeter...



...or only in the MS

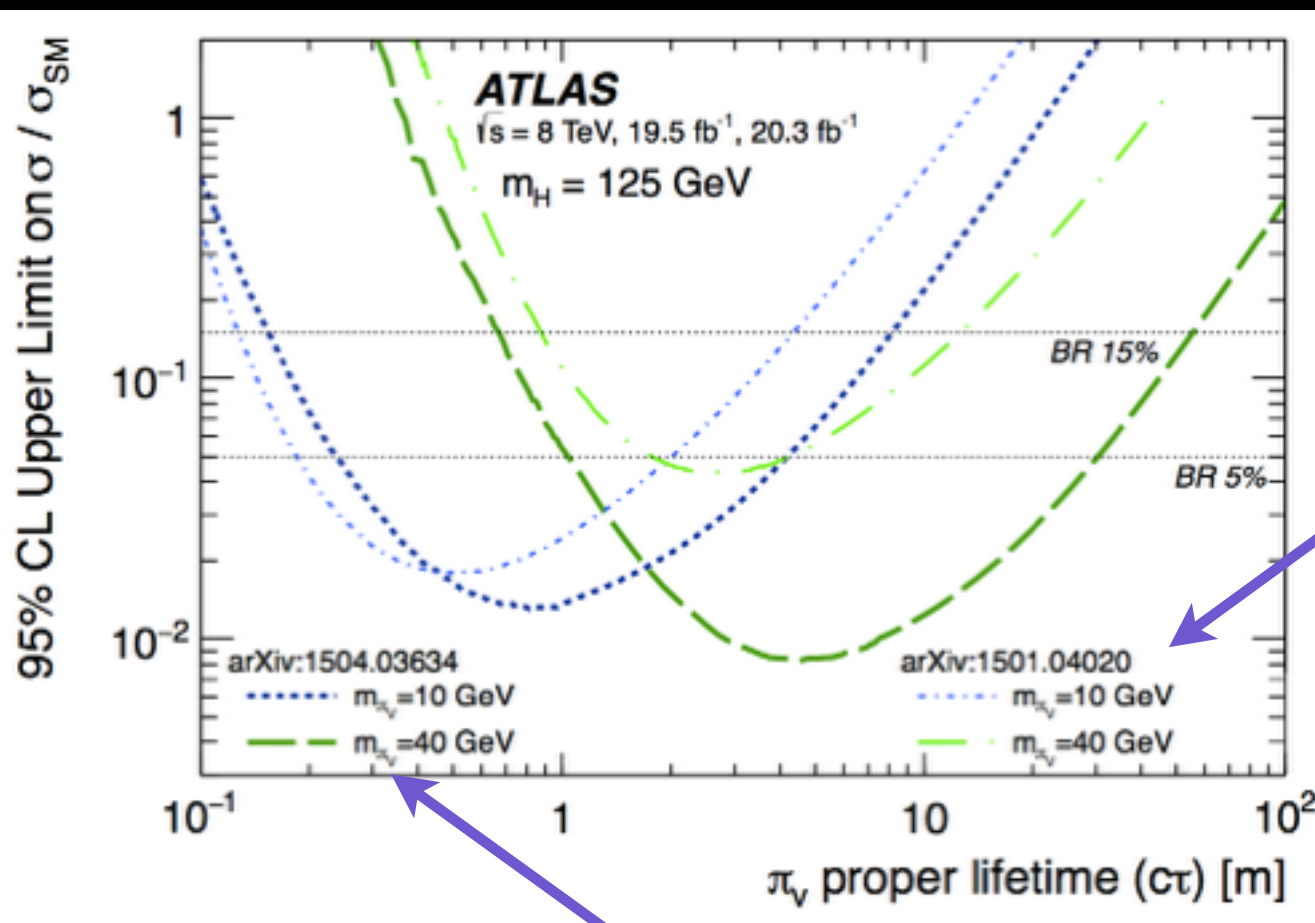


Displaced hadronic jets



CalRatio

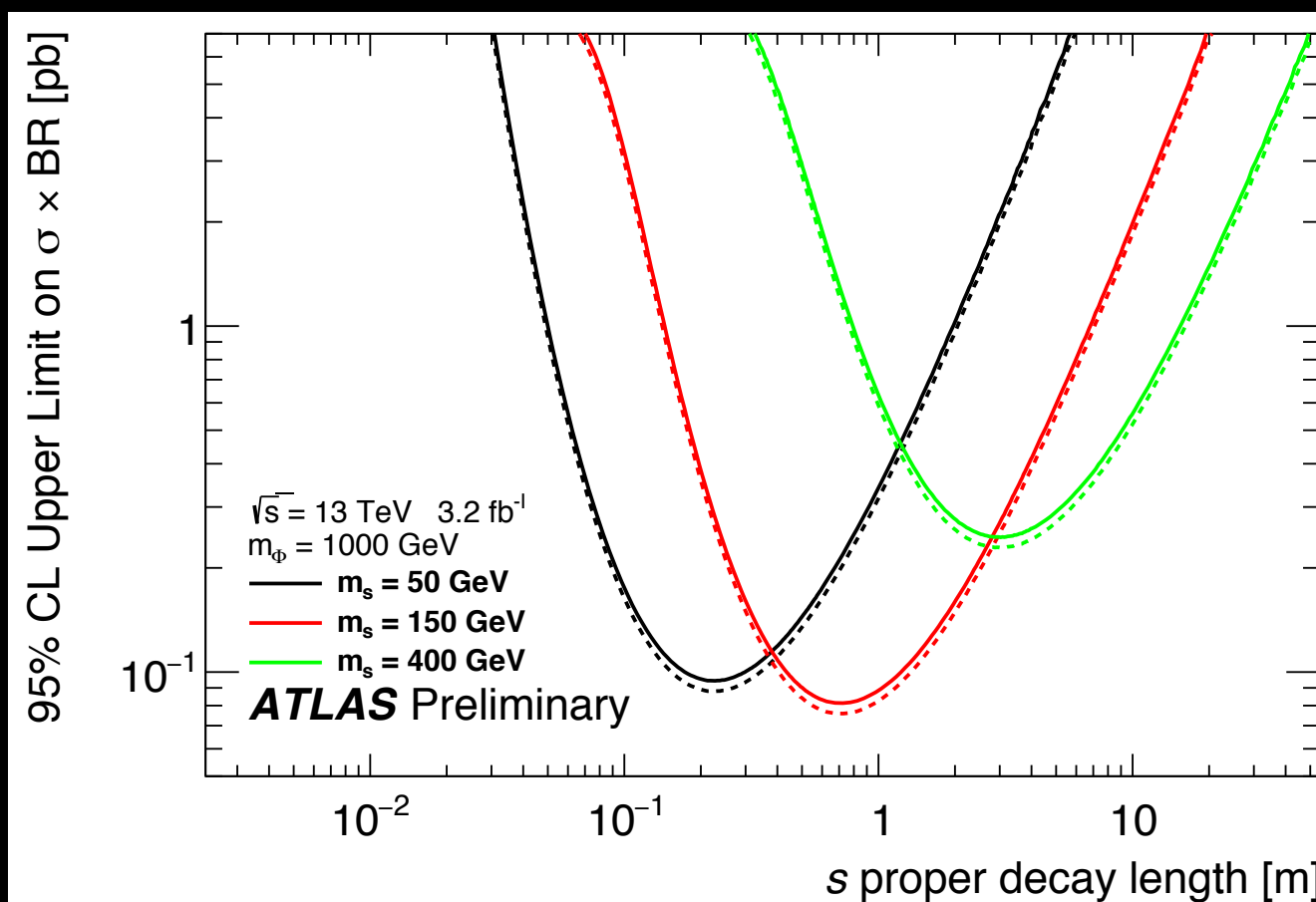
ATLAS-CONF-2016-103



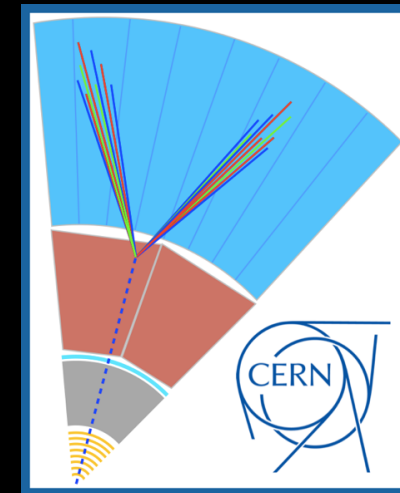
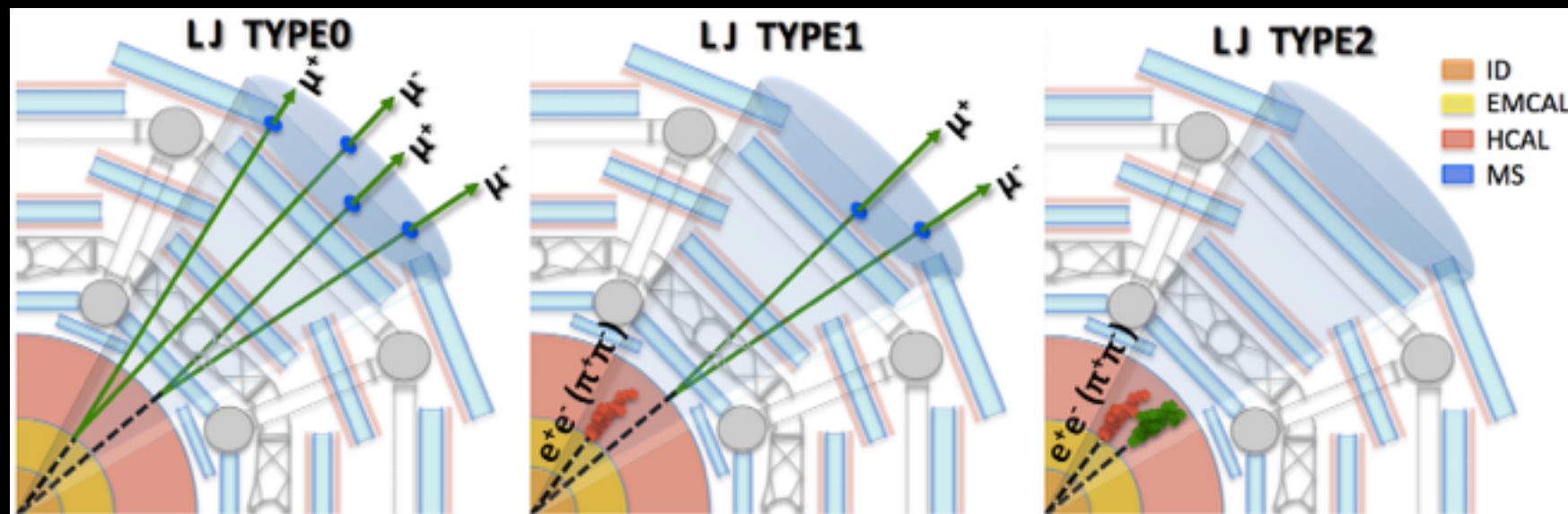
ID/MS

What about for
lower LLP masses,
for $m_{\text{LLP}} / m_X < 5\%$?

CalRatio for
higher-mass
scalars

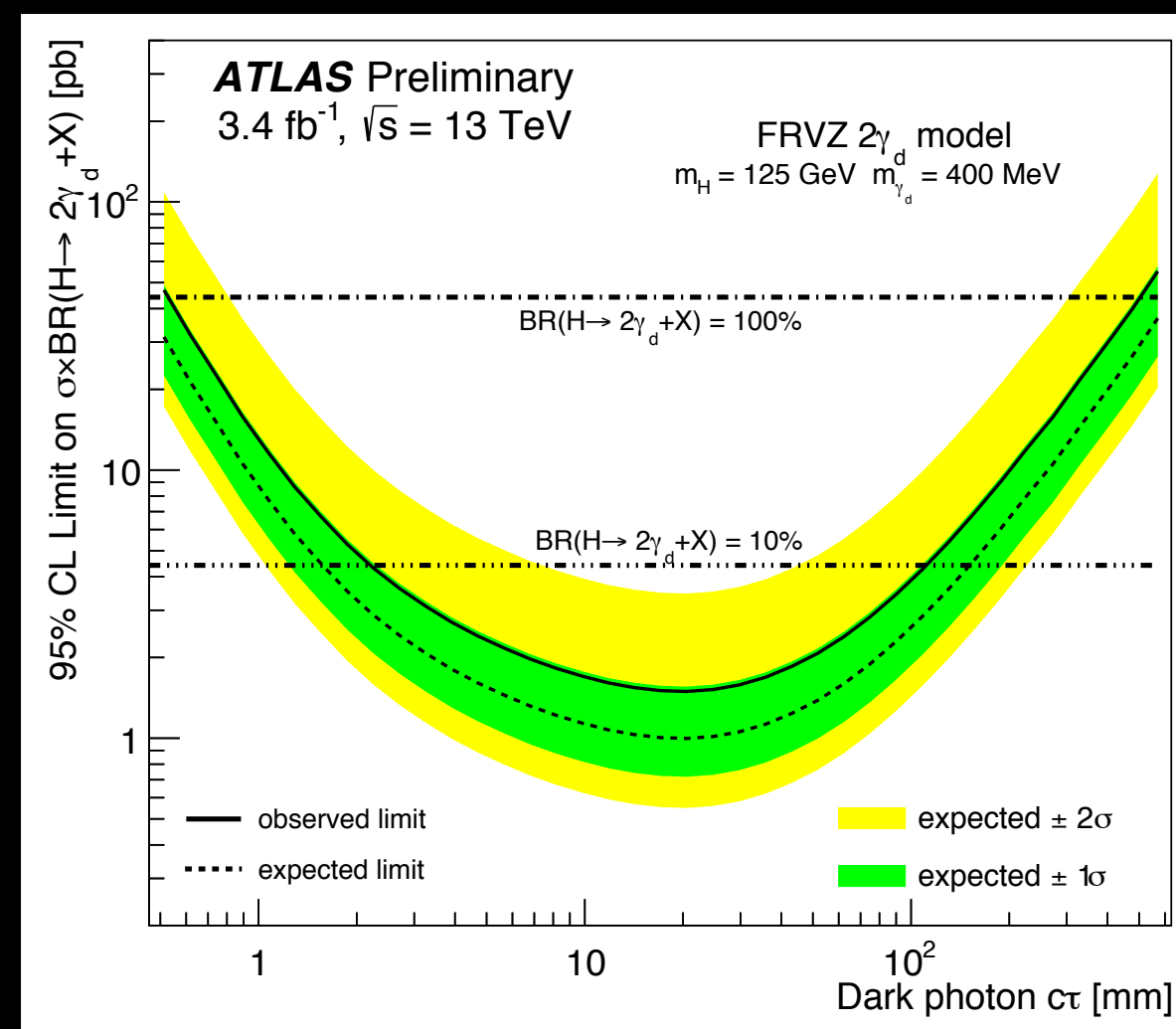
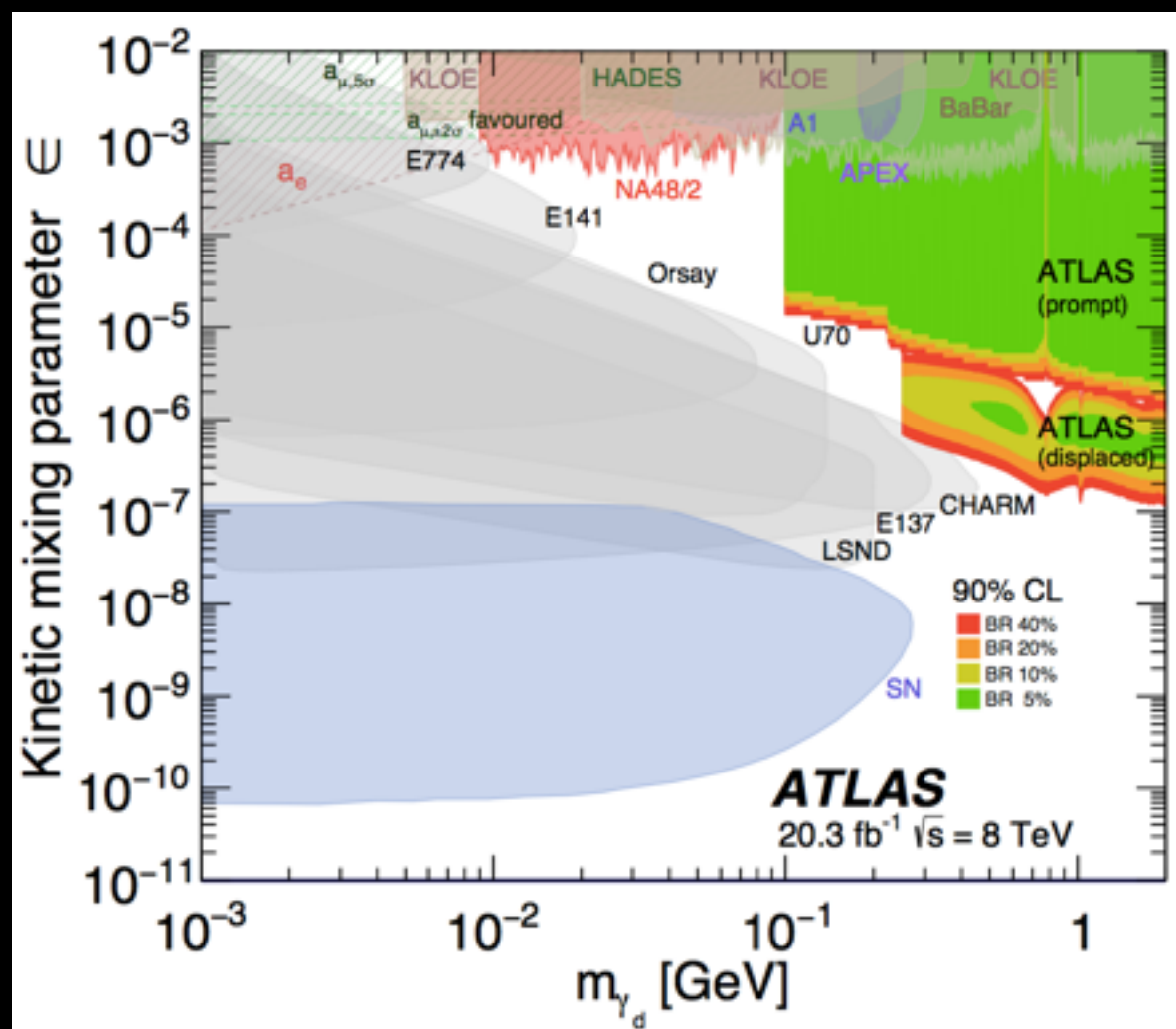


Displaced lepton-jets



JHEP 1602 (2016) 062

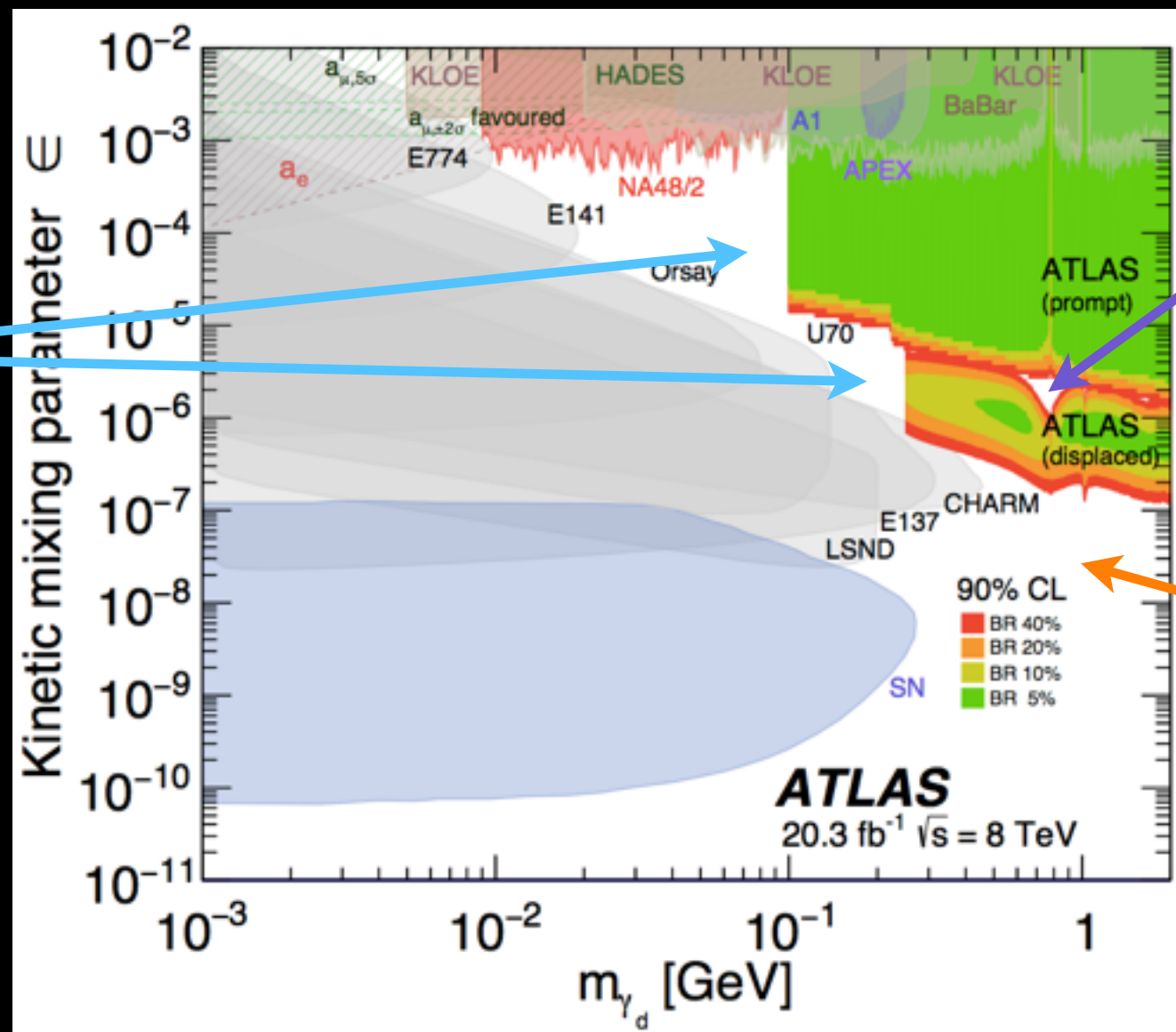
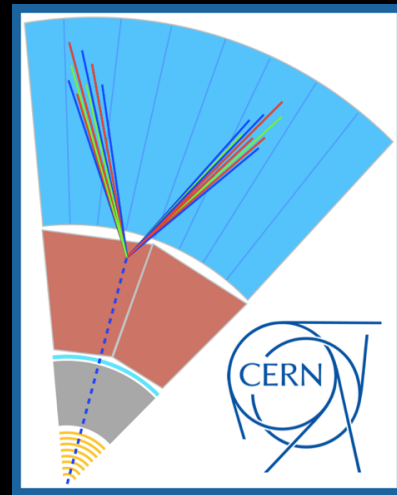
ATLAS-CONF-2016-042



Improving displaced lepton-jets

Displaced lepton-jets

- Clearly apparent gaps where a discovery could be hiding
- Run 2 improvements already made (single LJ trigger, etc.)
- A minimal, flexible model can elucidate gaps



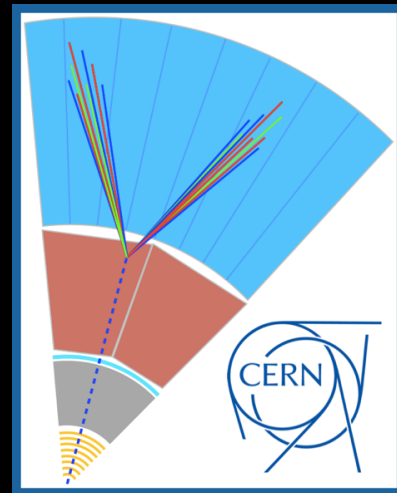
Low-mass:

New triggers
for non-
standard LAr
deposits

Mass-gap:
Pion-jets

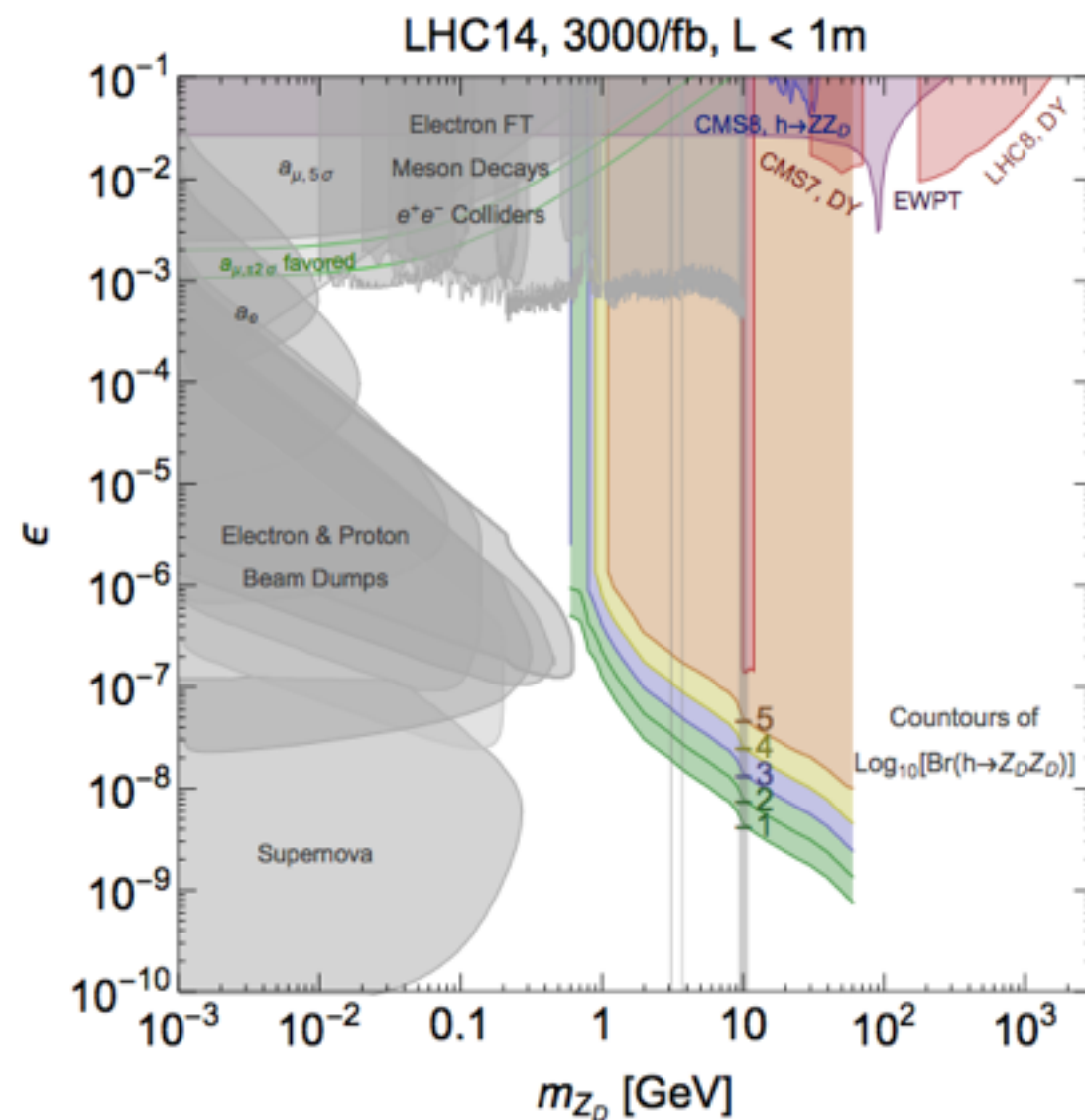
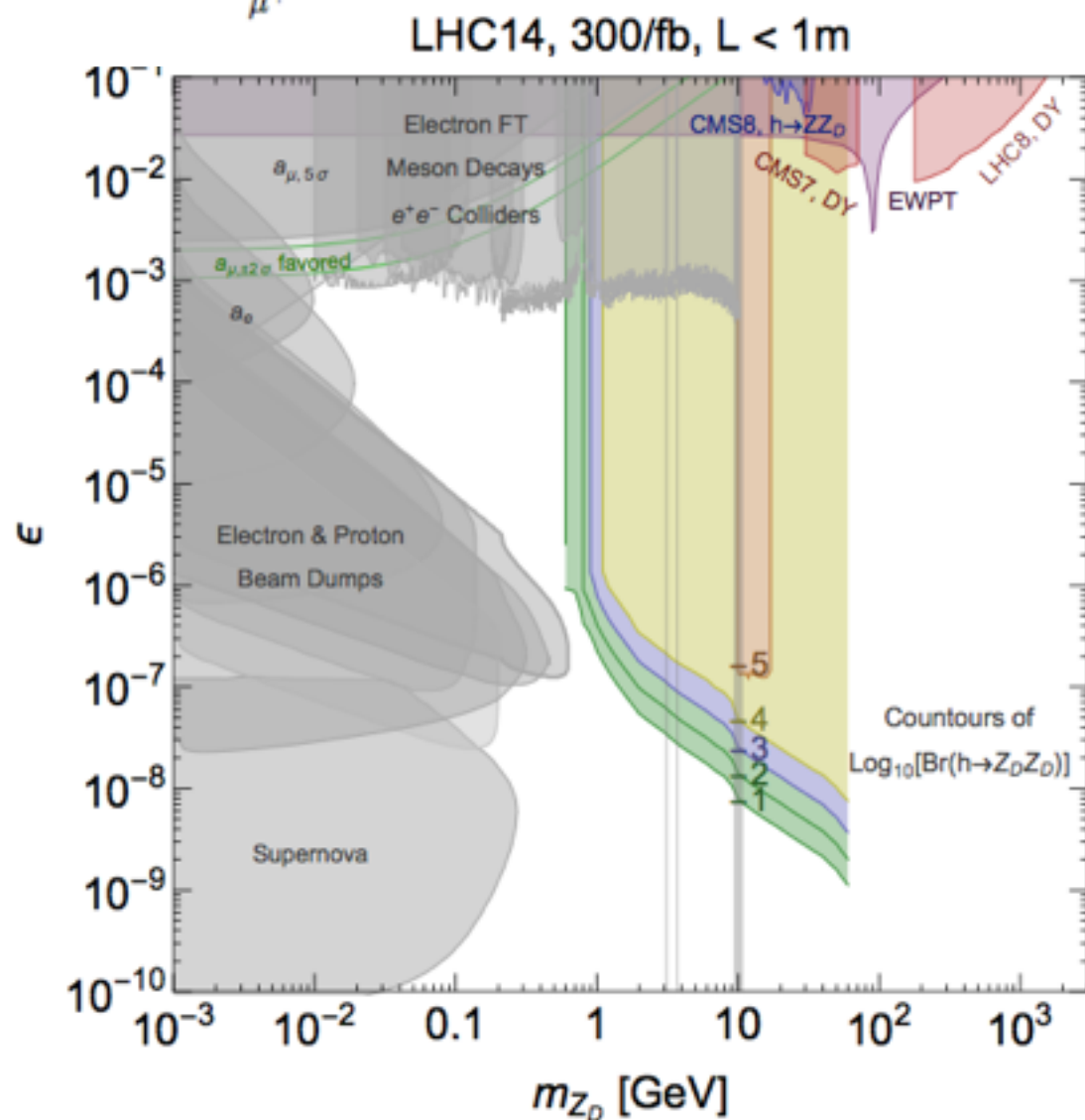
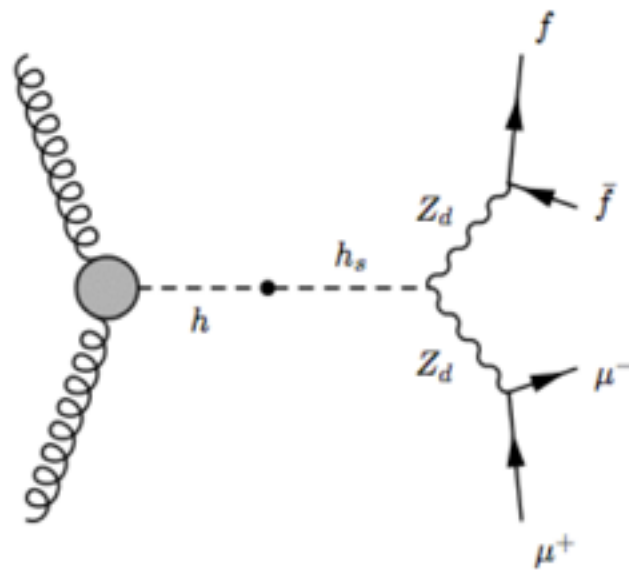
Very-displaced
region: Need to
trigger on
single LLP
decays

Coming soon: Displaced leptons



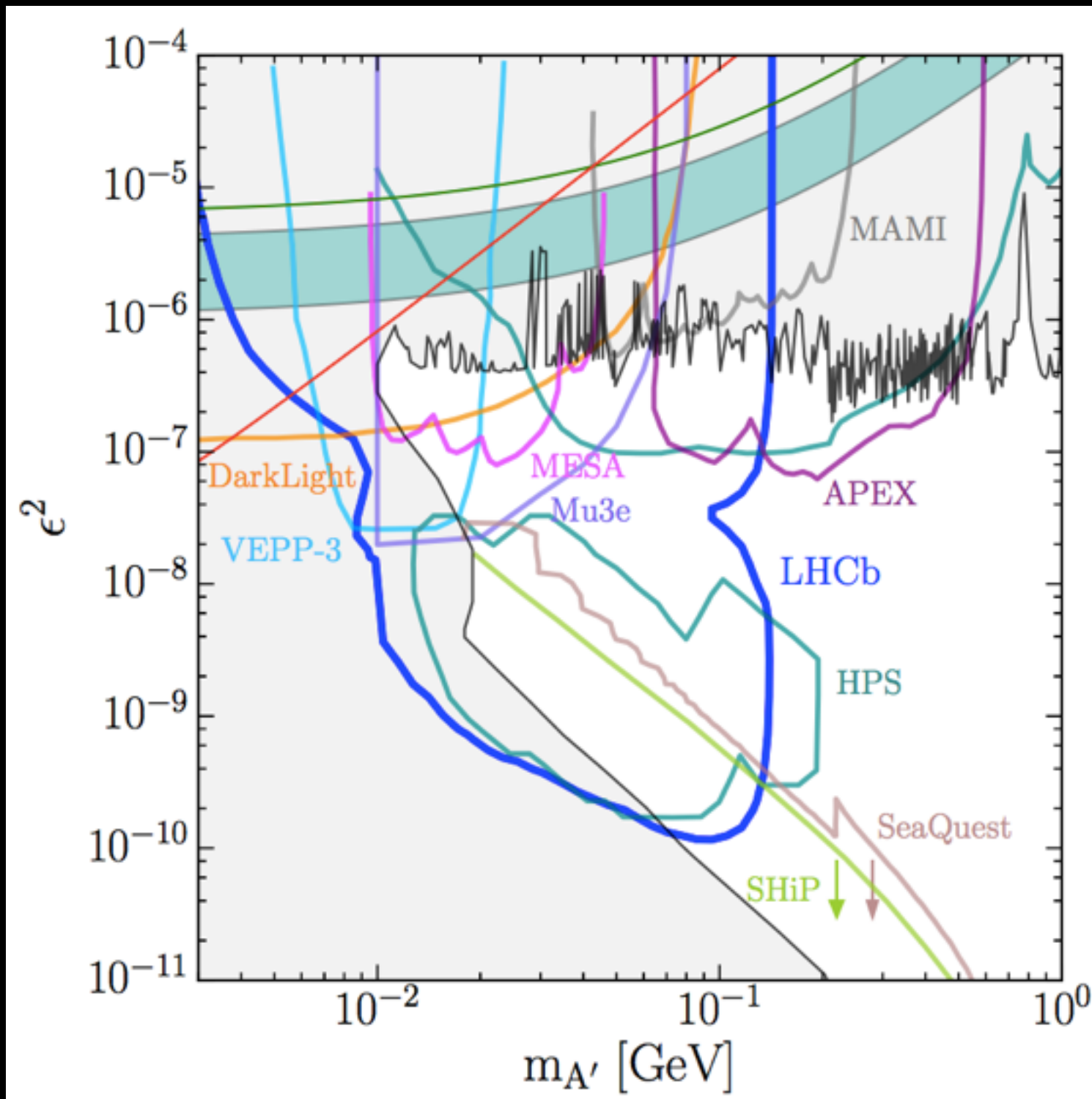
Higgs mixing with dark Higgs and subsequent decay to long-lived Z_{dark} pairs

Search underway now in ATLAS using MS-only muons



On the horizon: Dark photons at LHCb Run 3

[arXiv:1509.06765](https://arxiv.org/abs/1509.06765)



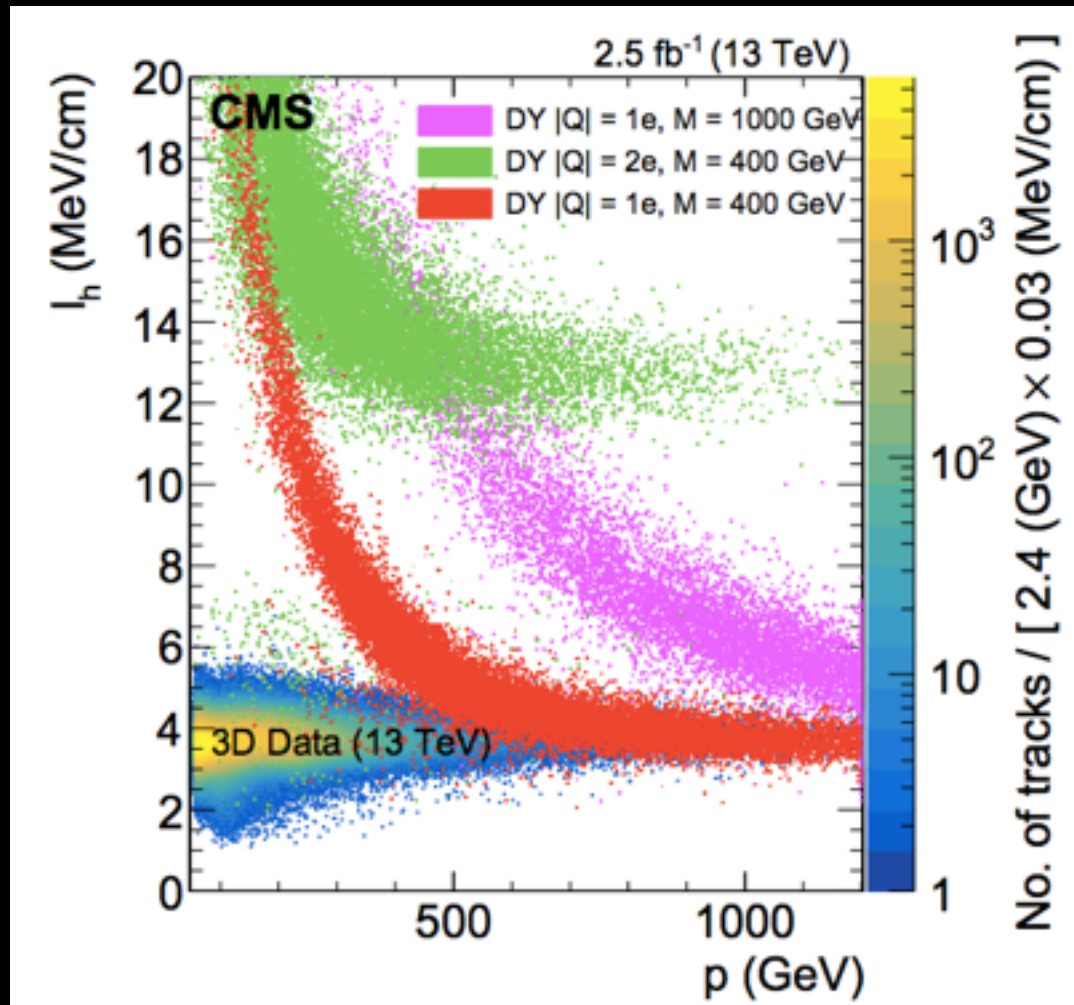
Hidden gauge boson
from charm meson
decays
 $D^{*0} \rightarrow D^0 \gamma$

Rate in LHCb ~ 700 kHz
 $\rightarrow \sim 5$ trillion events in
LHC Run 3

Closes (some of) the gap
between APEX/HPS
resonance search and
vertexing searches

What we do: Charged LLPs

[Phys. Rev. D 94, 112004 \(2016\)](#)

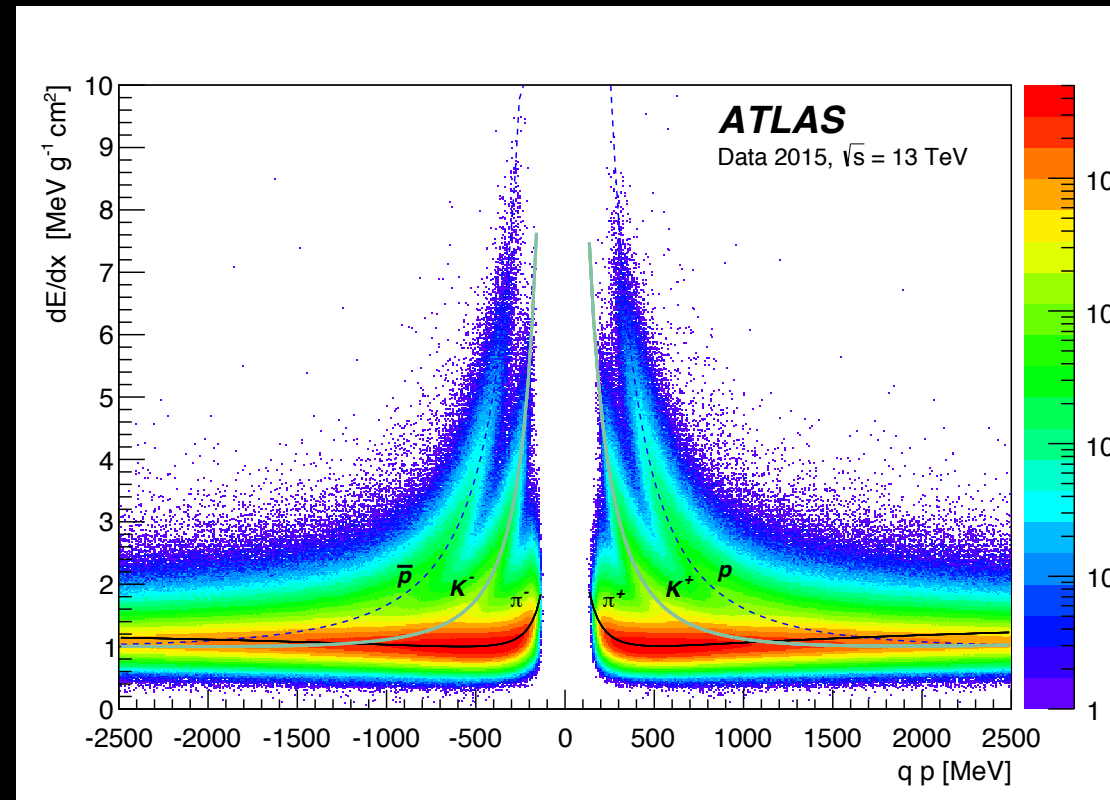


Estimator of dE/dx in pixels and silicon tracker

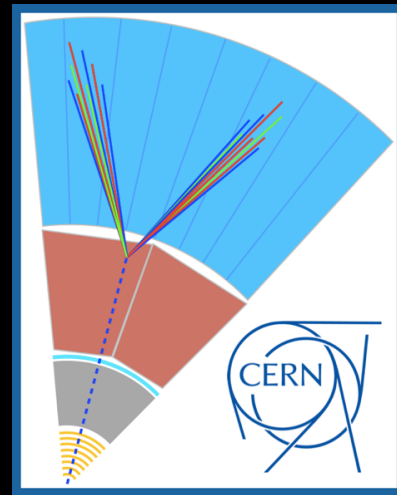
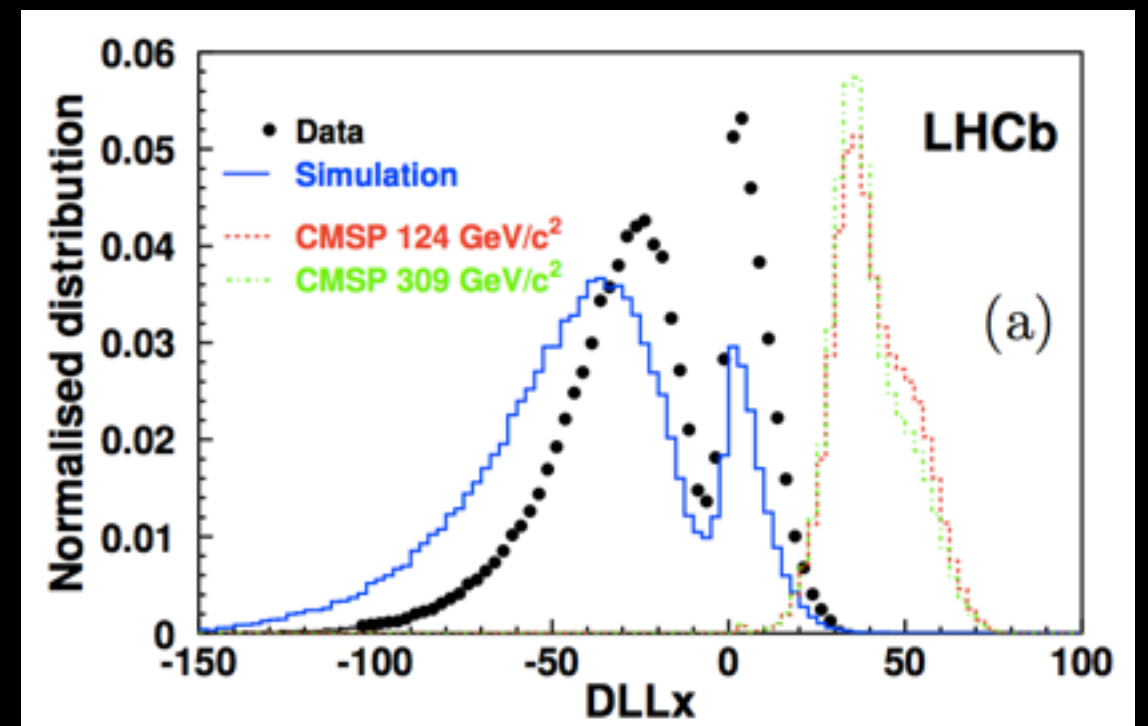
How to get to lower masses?

Measure of lack of Cherenkov radiation

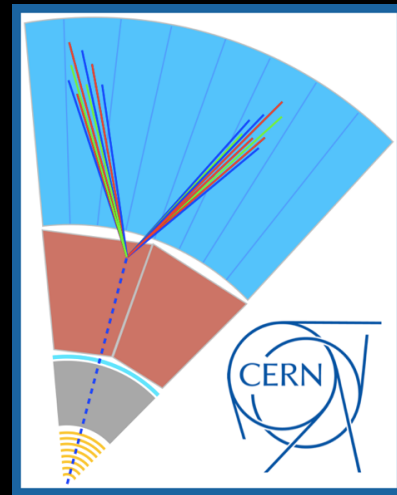
[Phys. Rev. D 93, 112015 \(2016\)](#)



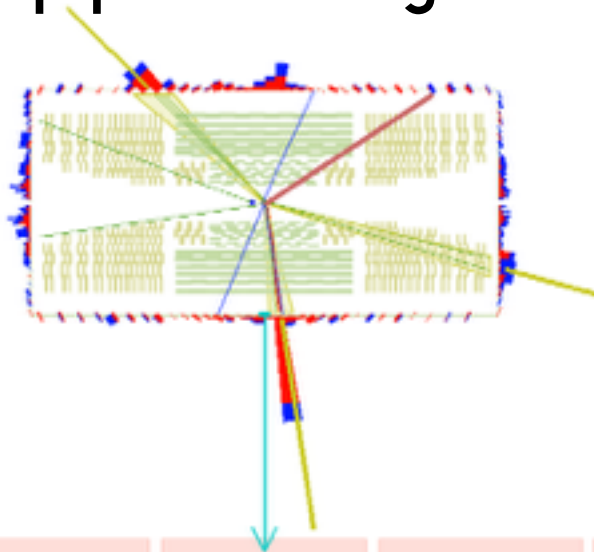
[Eur.Phys.J. C75 \(2015\) no.12, 595](#)



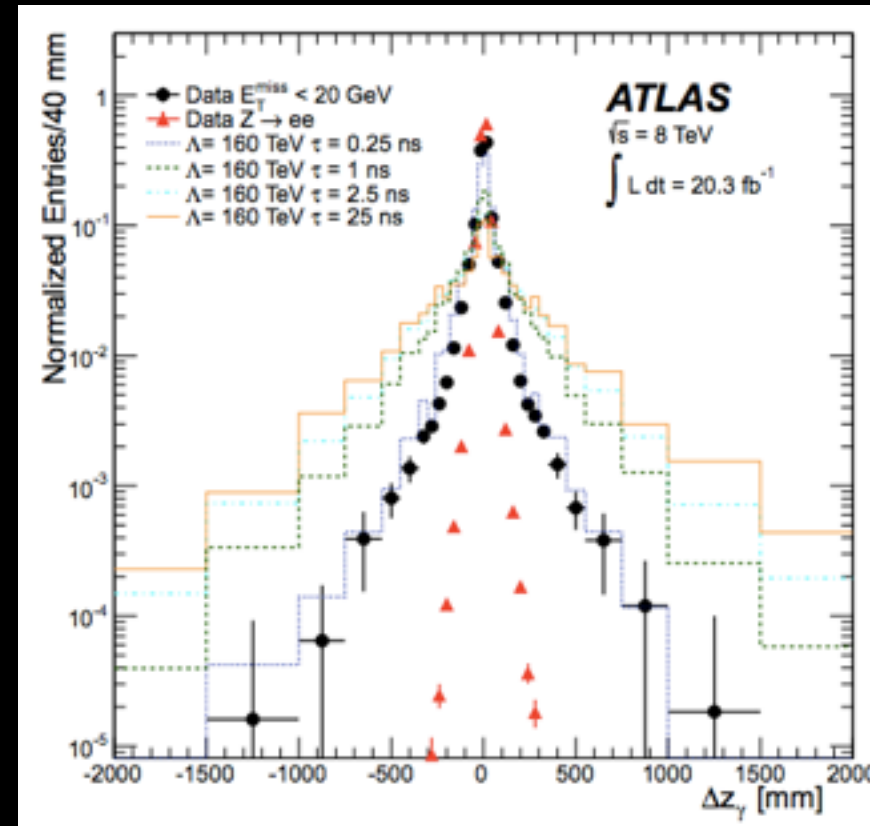
Other great searches not covered here



Disappearing tracks

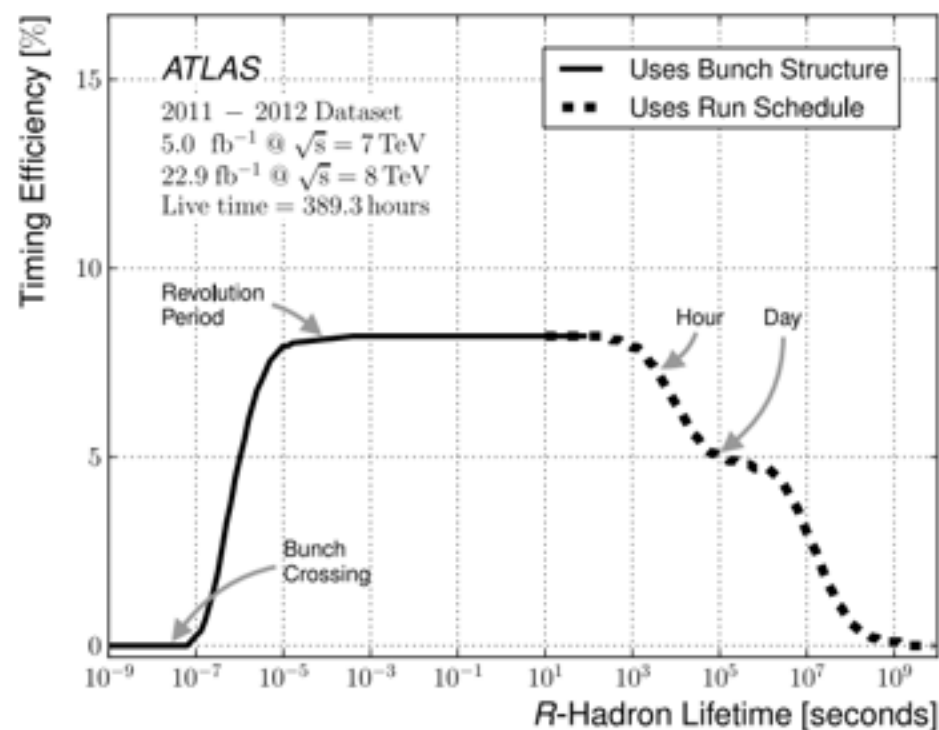


[JHEP 1501 \(2015\) 096](#)



Non-pointing photons

[Phys. Rev. D 90, 112005 \(2014\)](#)



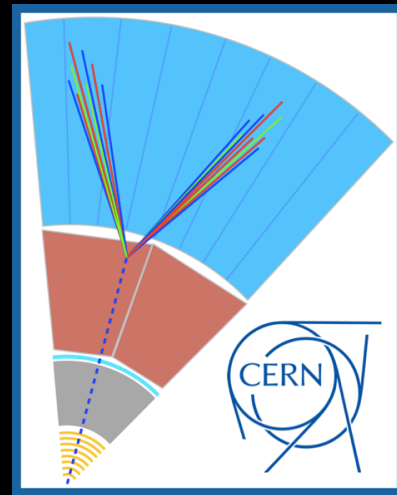
Stable/stopped particles

[Phys. Rev. D 88, 112003 \(2013\)](#)

What we could do better

Incremental improvements can be and are being made to all or most of these searches

- For Run 2, have had to adapt to increased pileup conditions, changing trigger thresholds, etc.
- This will be even more essential moving into the High-Luminosity era



But we should take a step back, as well, and look at the broader picture

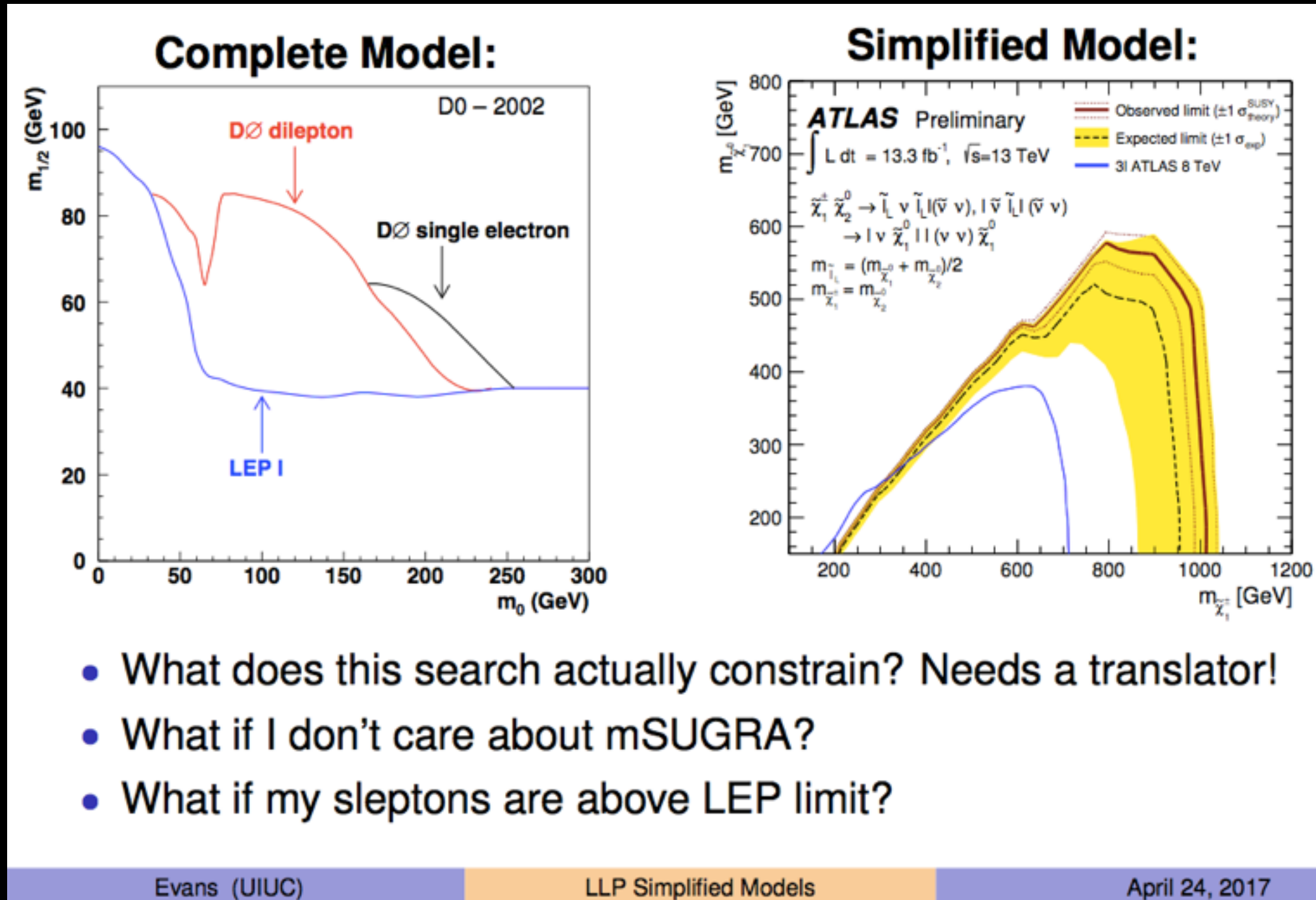
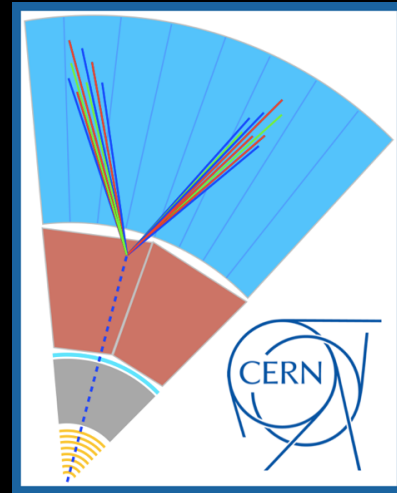
These searches often require non-standard analysis methods, triggers, backgrounds, that can consume a lot of time

There's a danger in spending a large amount of time and effort to make incremental improvement in an existing search when the existing search may be a bit too narrow in scope already

In the end we're trying to address one question:

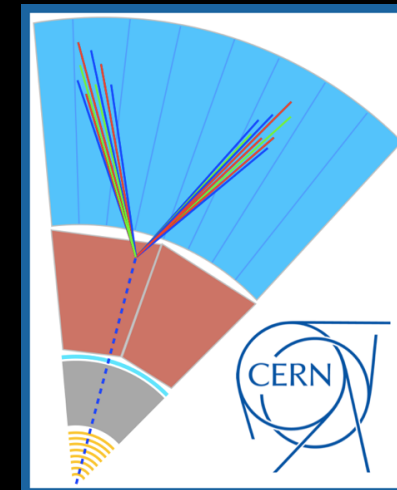
How do we best ensure that we don't miss
BSM LLP signatures for the remainder
of the LHC program?

How do we know we're not missing a discovery?
We don't. But we can avoid being too narrow in scope.



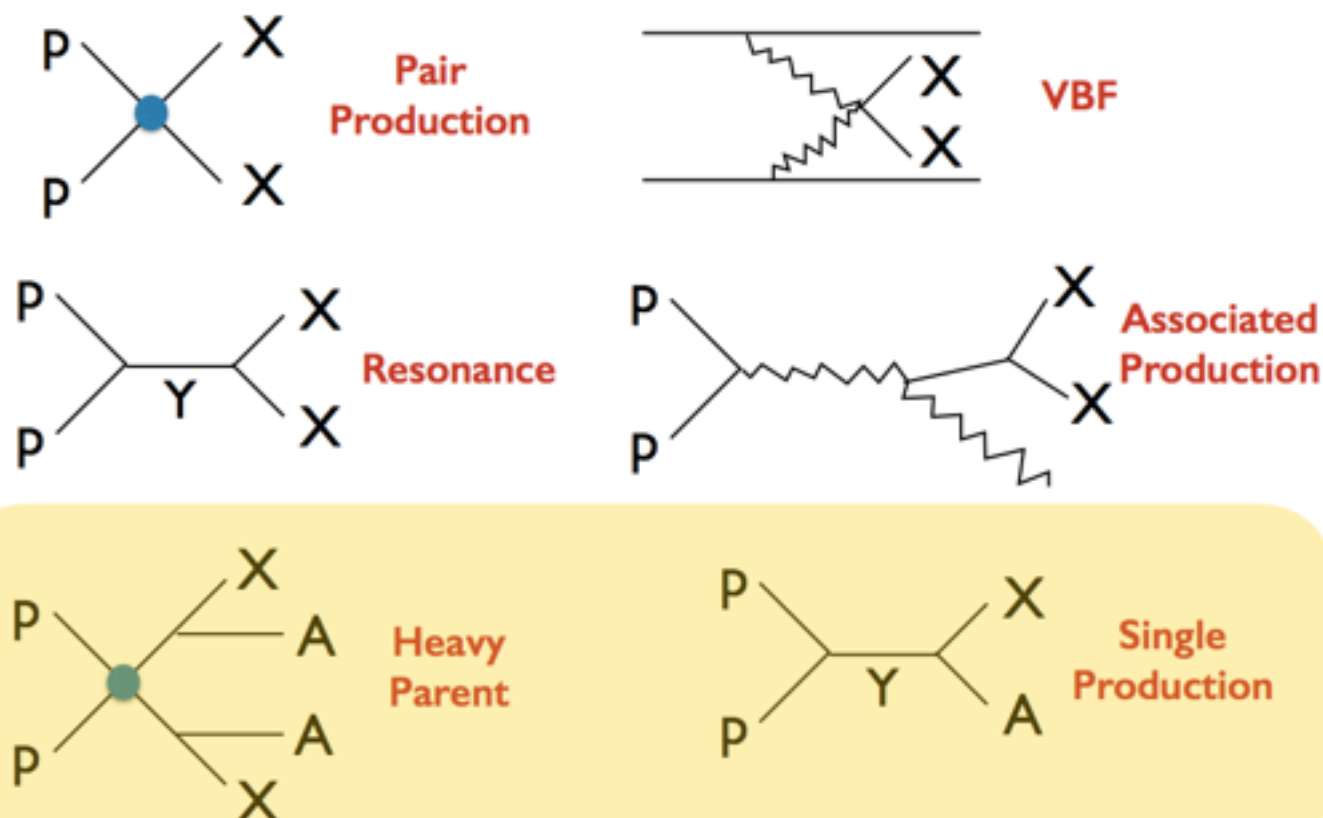
Simplified models could inform our search strategies and elucidate uncovered signatures and areas of parameter space

Simplified models



LLP Production Modes

(See Simplified Models summary)



A = invis, j, top, W, Z, L, h (oof...) ... maybe even γ ?

Notes by D. Curtin

Organized around LLP production and decay modes, always focused on what's experimentally important

Group of theorists and experimentalists recently completed a proposal of a minimal set of simplified models

LLP Decay Modes

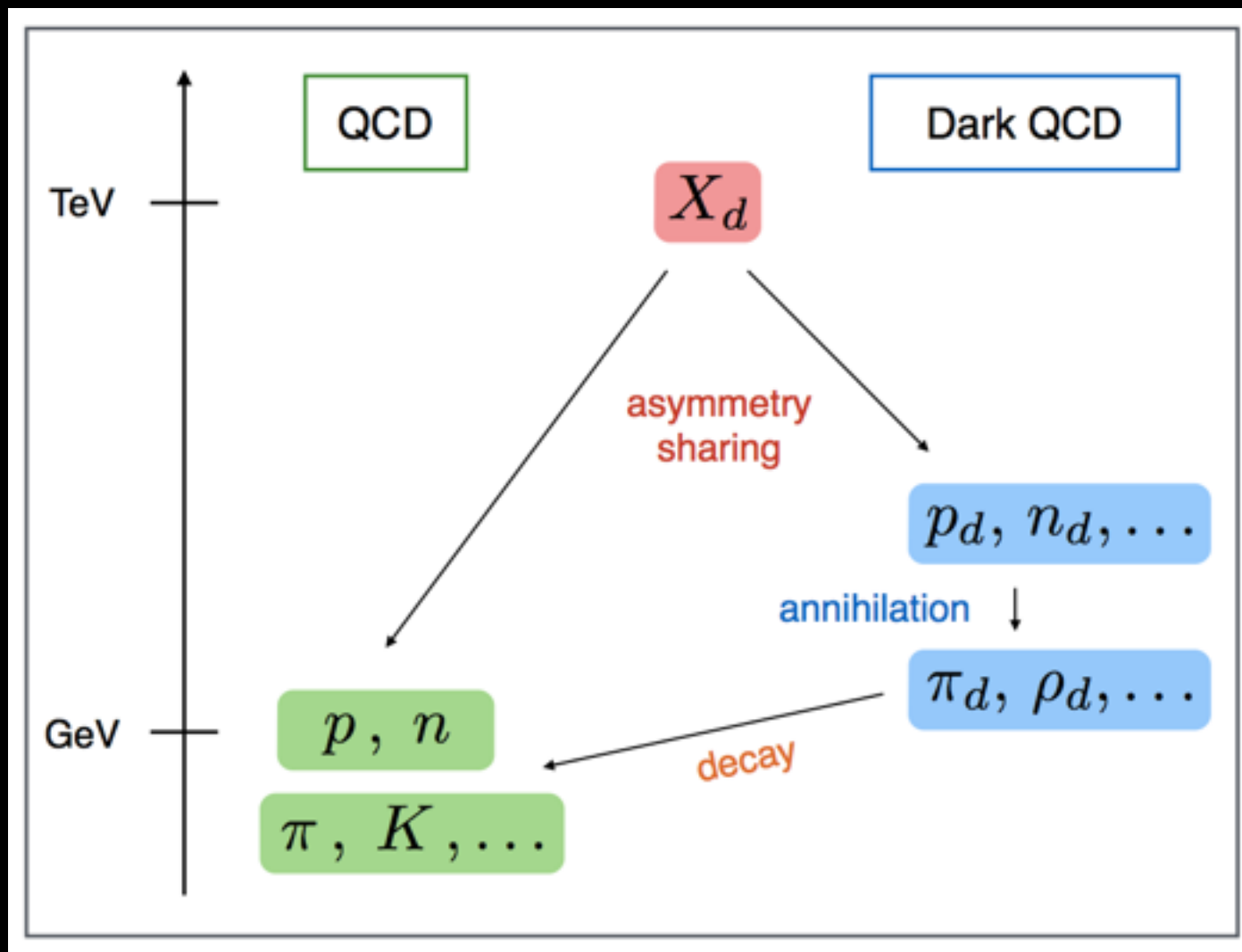
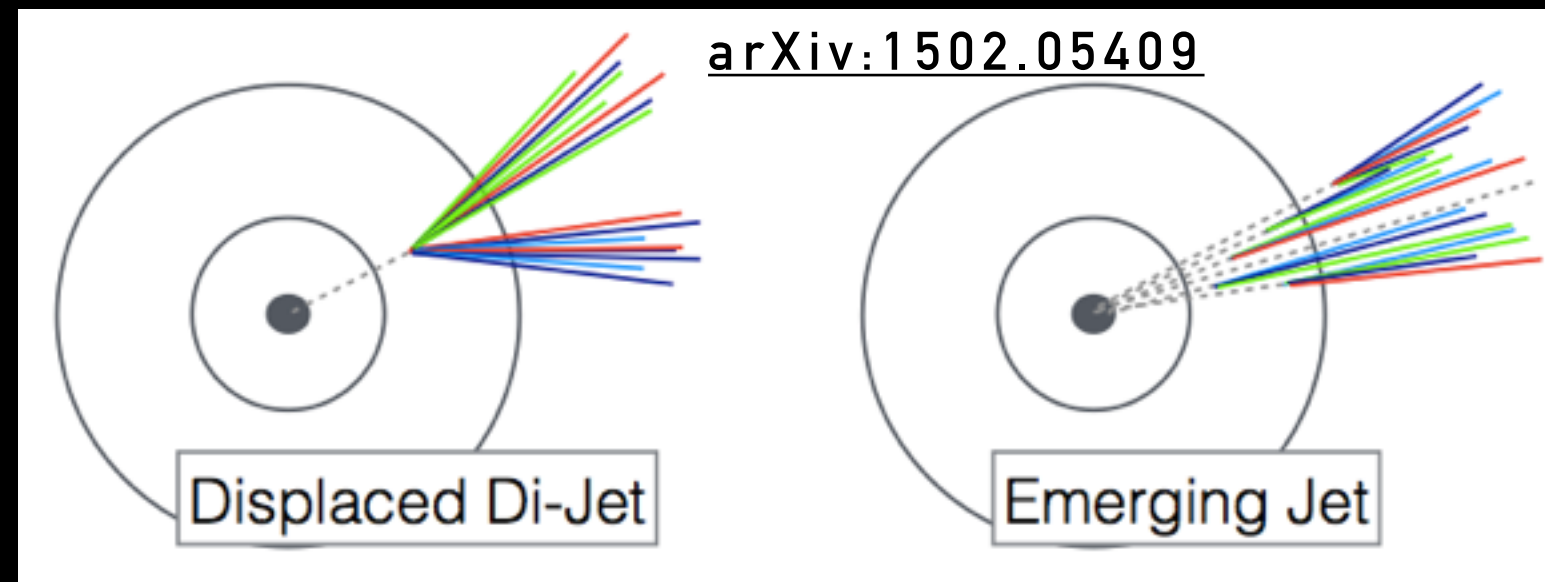
Many possibilities, but keep it simple for now while ensuring coverage:

$X \rightarrow \mu\mu, ee, \tau\tau, jj, \gamma\gamma$
for simplicity either gauge- or Yukawa-ordered

$X \rightarrow \mu, e, \tau, j, \gamma + \text{invis}$
(GMSB-like)

Frontiers/uncovered realms: Emerging jets

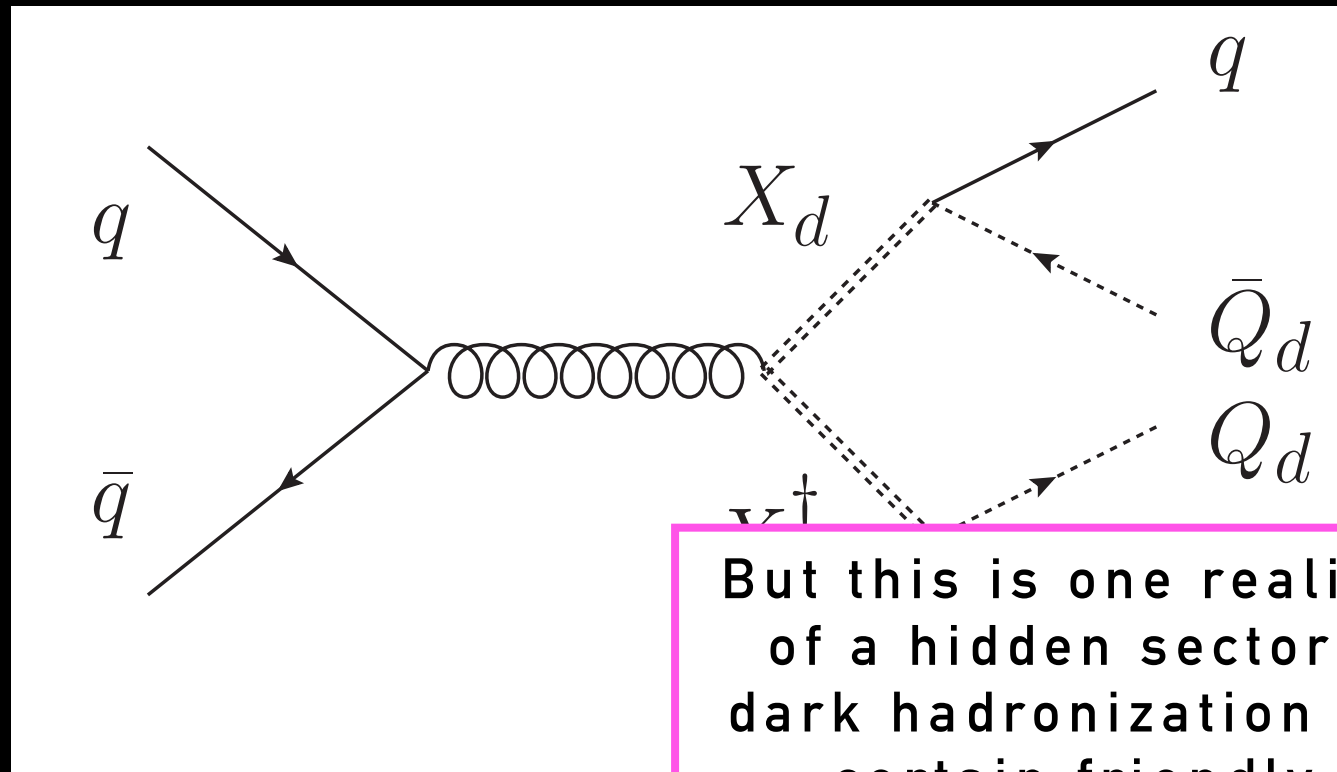
Why should beyond-the-Standard Model physics be simple, like a U(1) symmetry? What about dark QCD?



A novel LHC signature where dark or hidden sector quarks decay to the visible sector via multiple displaced vertices of varying displacements within the same jet object. Pair-produced dark quarks then give rise to neither prompt jets nor a pair of displaced jets pointing to the same displaced vertex, but to emerging jets.

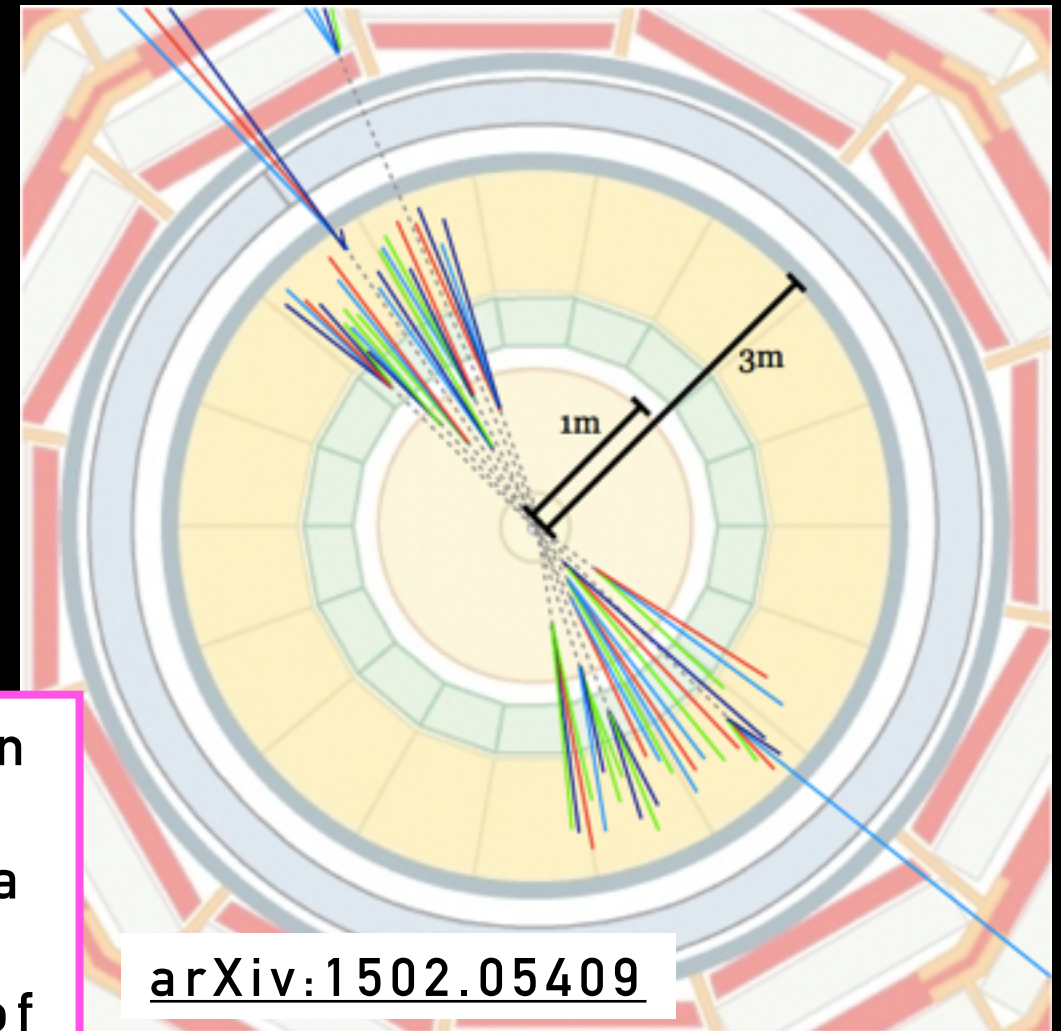
Frontiers/uncovered realms: Emerging jets

Dark QCD-like sectors



But this is one realization
of a hidden sector with
dark hadronization with a
certain friendly jet
multiplicity and choices of
mediator, dark vector
meson, dark pion masses,
dark confinement scale.

How to design a
comprehensive approach?



[arXiv:1502.05409](https://arxiv.org/abs/1502.05409)

Dark QCD \rightarrow dark quarks, displaced vertices / tracks, lifetimes \rightarrow jets w/multiple
Analysis strategy could be comprehensive approach? + 2 dark-QCD / emerging jets

Need non-standard tracking for large- d_0 tracks + secondary vertex finding routines

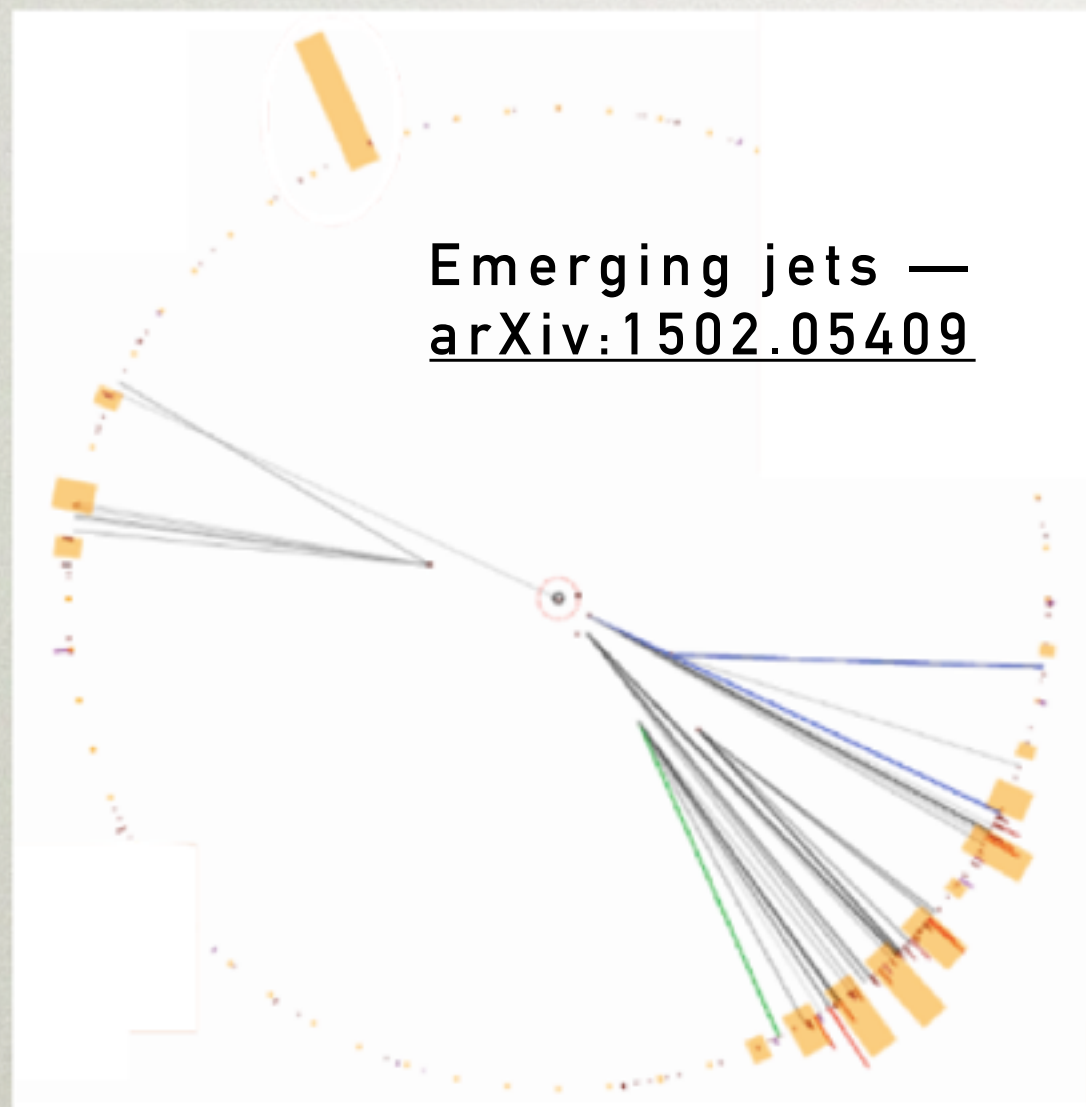
Searches underway in ATLAS and CMS; hopefully public results soon-ish!

Frontiers/uncovered realms

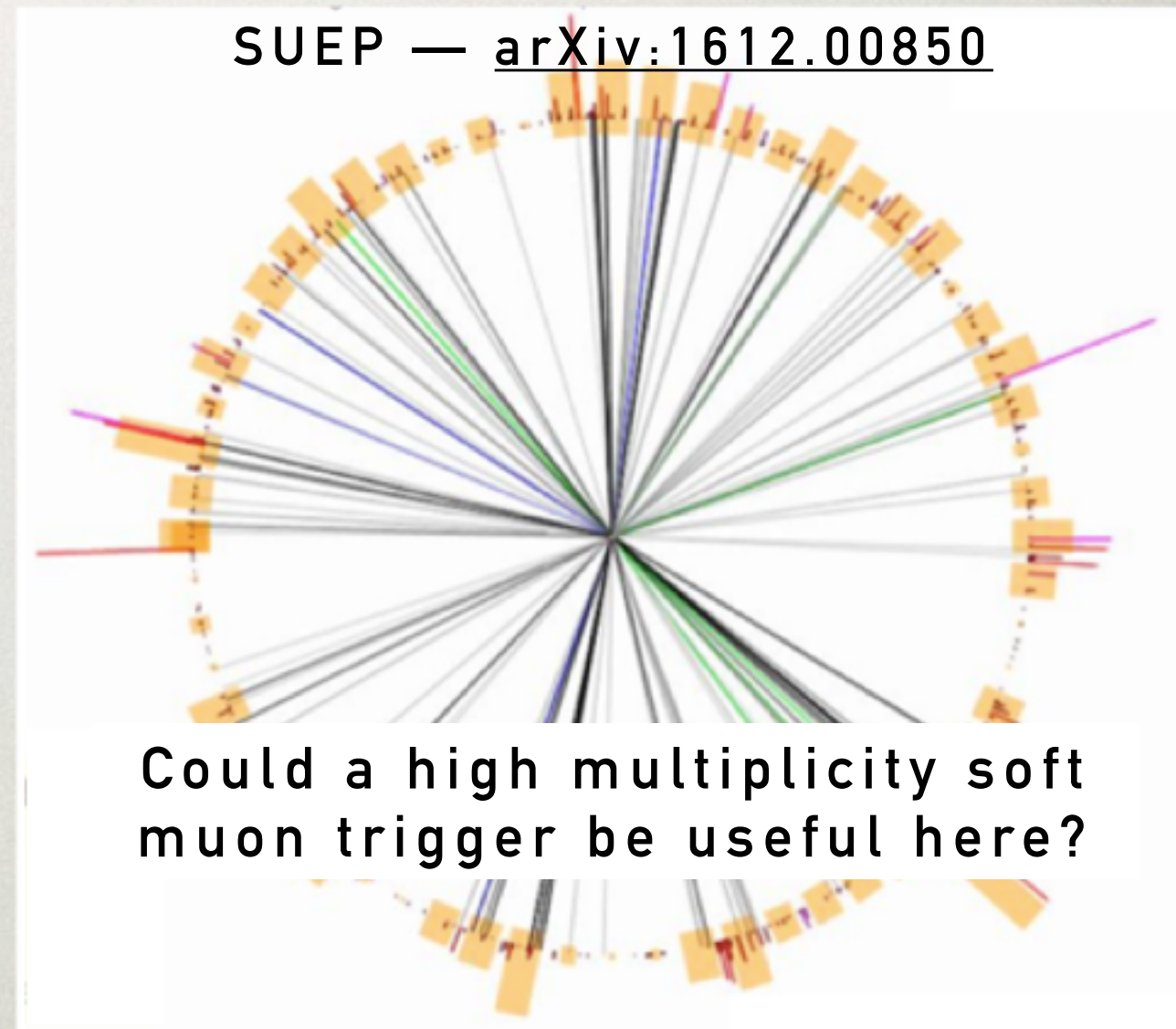
Dark QCD-like sectors

- Emerging jets vs. SUEP (soft, unclustered energy patterns)
- How to interpolate between these two?
- Dark showers WG in LHC LLP Community — laying groundwork now

Schwaller, Stolarski, Weiler 2015

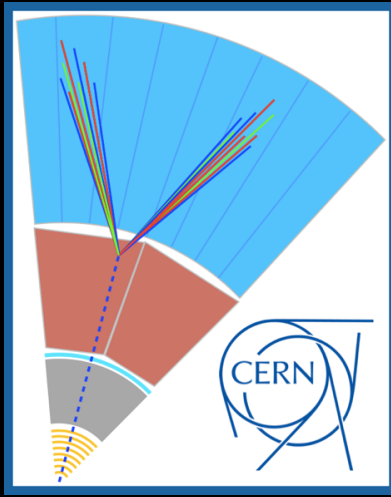


Knapen *et al.*, 2016



Images by M. Strassler

What triggers are missing?

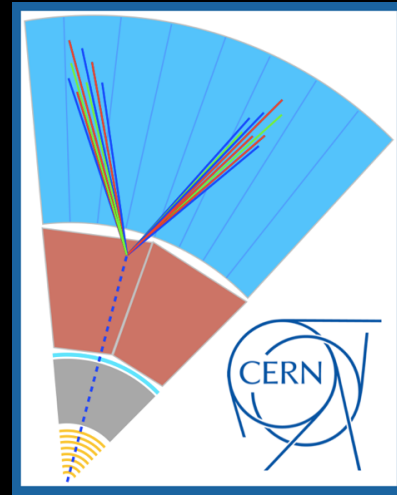


It turns out that ATLAS and CMS current HLT menus are **actually pretty good** for most LLP signatures

- ATLAS displaced vertex triggers in MS are effective, inclusive and versatile
- CMS triggers for displaced jets in inner tracker are as good as possible given current bandwidth limitations
- ATLAS CalRatio trigger (large HCal deposit, veto on EMCal) is also versatile and robust
 - ATLAS also ran a high- p_T EMCal-only trigger (RCalRatio) but hasn't been utilized fully for analysis
- For other LLP production modes, not clear there's even a need for hybrid prompt+displaced triggers
 - Just use prompt triggers and do offline DV searches!

But there are some opportunities for high-level triggers that still don't exist

What triggers are missing?



New triggers?

There is one new CMS high-level trigger that could be very useful:

Consider $X \rightarrow \tau\tau$

τ LI thresholds are much lower than jets due to calo shape

two τ pT thresholds

20,12 GeV @ LI,

35,25 GeV @ HLT

optimized for $h \rightarrow \tau\tau$

but inefficient for

$h \rightarrow XX, X \rightarrow \tau\tau$

New CMS trigger suggestion:

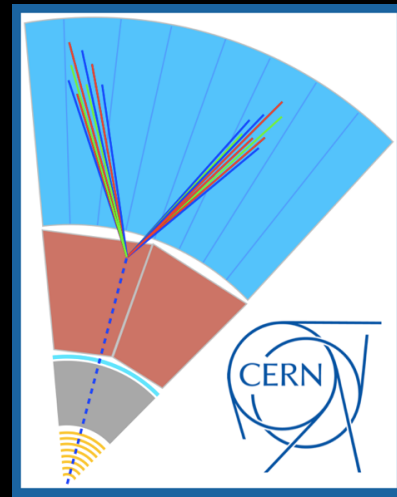
run displaced jet reconstruction on LI τ seeds

Would be very sensitive to e.g. $h \rightarrow (X \rightarrow \tau\tau)(X \rightarrow bb)$

and many other models (light boosted X decaying hadronically, not just $\tau\tau$)... very physically motivated.

Notes by D. Curtin

What triggers are missing?



CMS displaced taus — hopefully underway now

High-multiplicity soft muon trigger for both ATLAS and CMS

- Could be very useful for SUEP

Inner detector hit-occupancy trigger (ATLAS)

- Instead of expensive large- d_0 tracking in a dense environment, count hits not associated to tracks in a cone around some calorimeter deposit

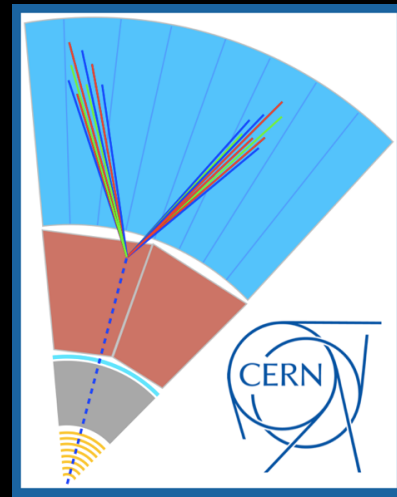
Comprehensive studies of existing b-triggers

- How could judicious use of b-jet methods improve sensitivity to small-lifetime BSM LLPs?

What we could do better

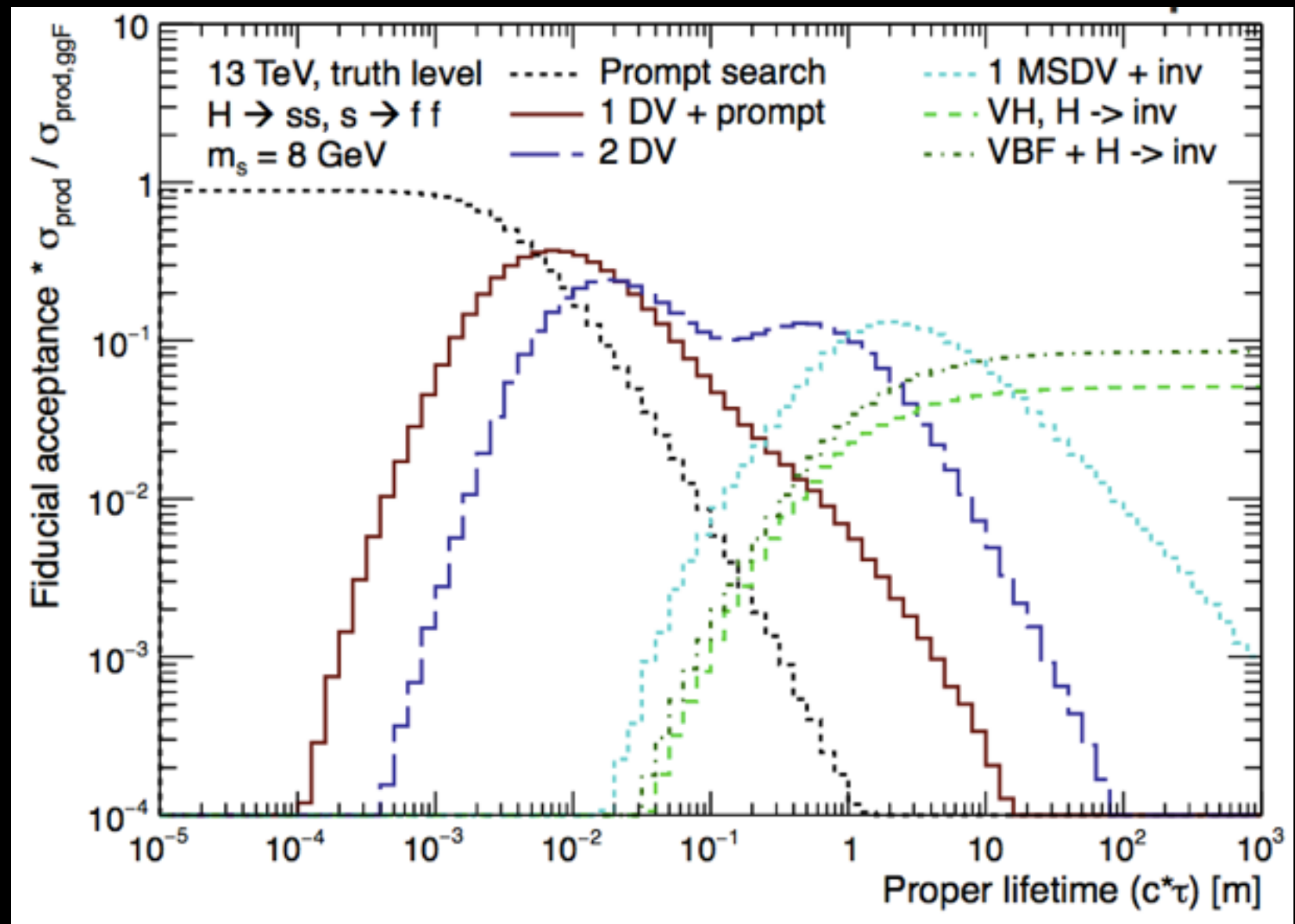
Where do our prompt and displaced searches overlap?

- Truth study by H. Russell for h_{125} decaying to fermions via a pair of 8 GeV LLPs
- How to compel prompt searches to run long-lived signal MC through their search and vice versa?



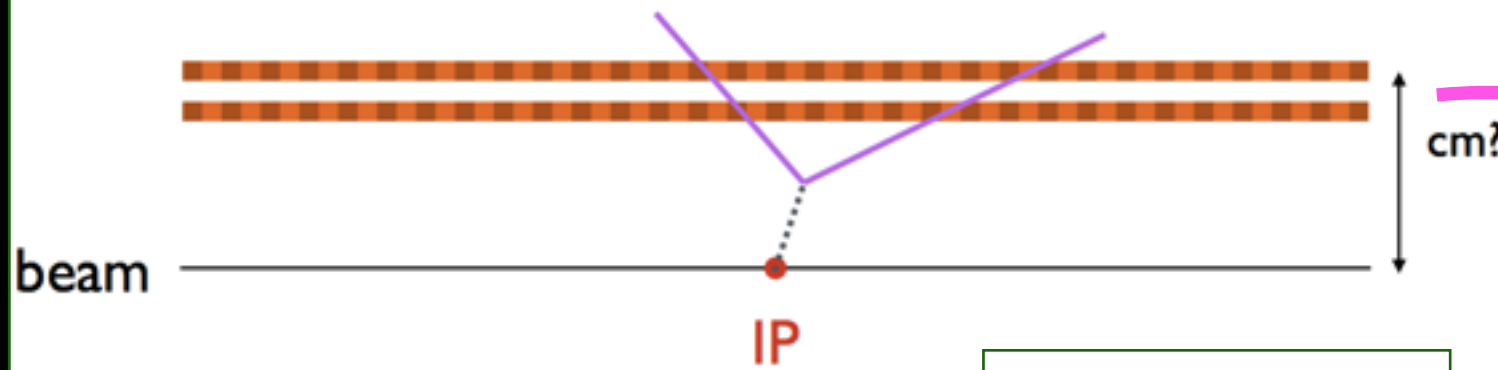
Probably our smaller-lifetime coverage isn't this good, but need to know the answer

Also need comprehensive studies of existing b-triggers for small-to-intermediate lifetime signatures, because...



Possible detector upgrades

What about triggering on very short decay lengths in tracker?



D. Curtin

Some sort of **tracklet-based DV reconstruction** in the double-layer to trigger on possible LLP decay?

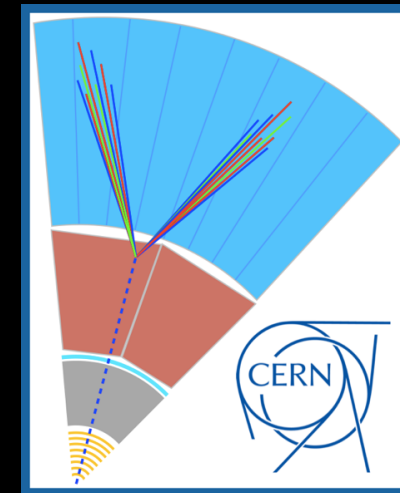
- This would likely significantly improve our sensitivity to h_{125} decays to shorter-lifetime LLPs! But by how much?
- Would also help with very short lifetime charged LLPs
- Pileup would likely make it useless!
- Would probably be incinerated by the beam!
- What about a purposely temporary next-to-beam tracking layer that would only survive a certain integrated luminosity and die?

Blue sky idea for ATLAS:

Simple high-resolution double-tracking layer inside the IBL



LHC Long-Lived Particle Community



...in collaboration with the theory/pheno community and MoEDAL, SHiP, milliQan, MATHUSLA, etc., enthusiasts

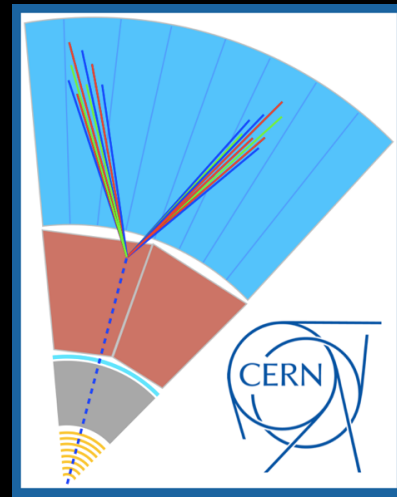
Overall goal is to address one question:

How do we best ensure that we don't miss BSM LLP signatures for the remainder of the LHC program?

Currently producing a community **white paper** with recommendations resulting from our April 2017 workshop... https://indico.cern.ch/e/LHC_LLP_April_2017

...and you should join the effort!

LHC Long-Lived Particle Community



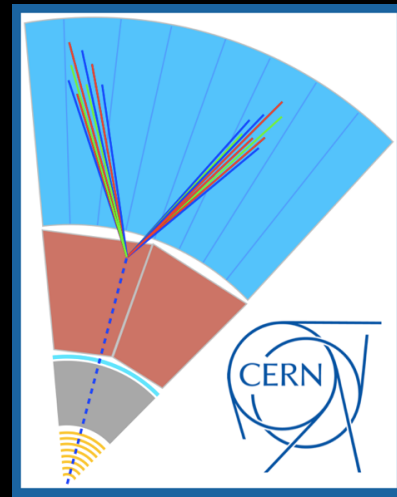
What areas of LLP searches need understanding or improvement?

- Simplified models
- Re-interpretation / presentation of results
- Backgrounds — wealth of wonderful and scary info [here](#)
- Triggers
 - B-triggers for small and intermediate lifetime LLPs
 - Studies for how to lower kinematic thresholds for soft, light LLPs
 - A few triggers that we don't have:
 - Displaced tau(s) for CMS (and ATLAS?)
 - High multiplicity soft muon triggers
 - FTK for tracklets for multiple signatures
 - ID hit occupancy triggers
- Dark QCD-like sectors

LHC LLP Community Workshop

[https://indico.cern.ch/e/LHC LLP April 2017](https://indico.cern.ch/e/LHC_LLAPril_2017)

CERN EGroup: [lhclp](#)



After the workshop (i.e., now)

- Spring and summer homework/projects
 - Perform and implement high-priority recommendations for triggers and trigger studies
 - Upgrade studies
 - Solidify recommendations for presentation of search results
 - Include high-priority, already-published analyses in the RECAST framework
 - Collect code library of simplified models
 - Write-up (chapter editors assigned)
- Autumn workshop in Trieste
 - 18-20 October 2017

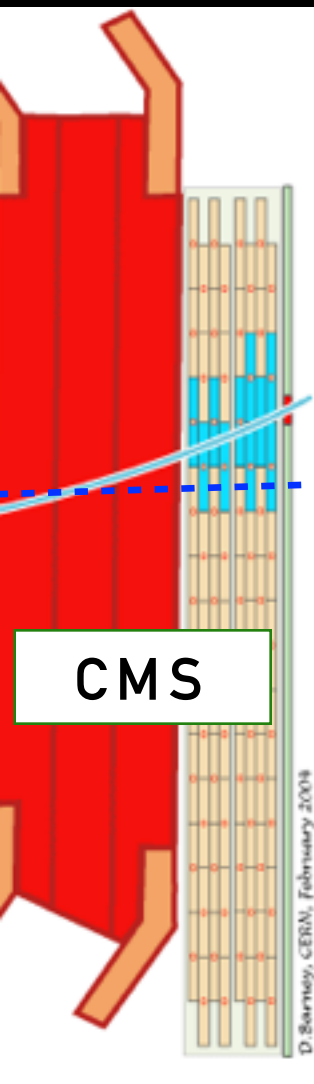
[https://indico.cern.ch/e/LHC LLP October 2017](https://indico.cern.ch/e/LHC_LLPOctober_2017)

Join us!

Long-shots and opportunities

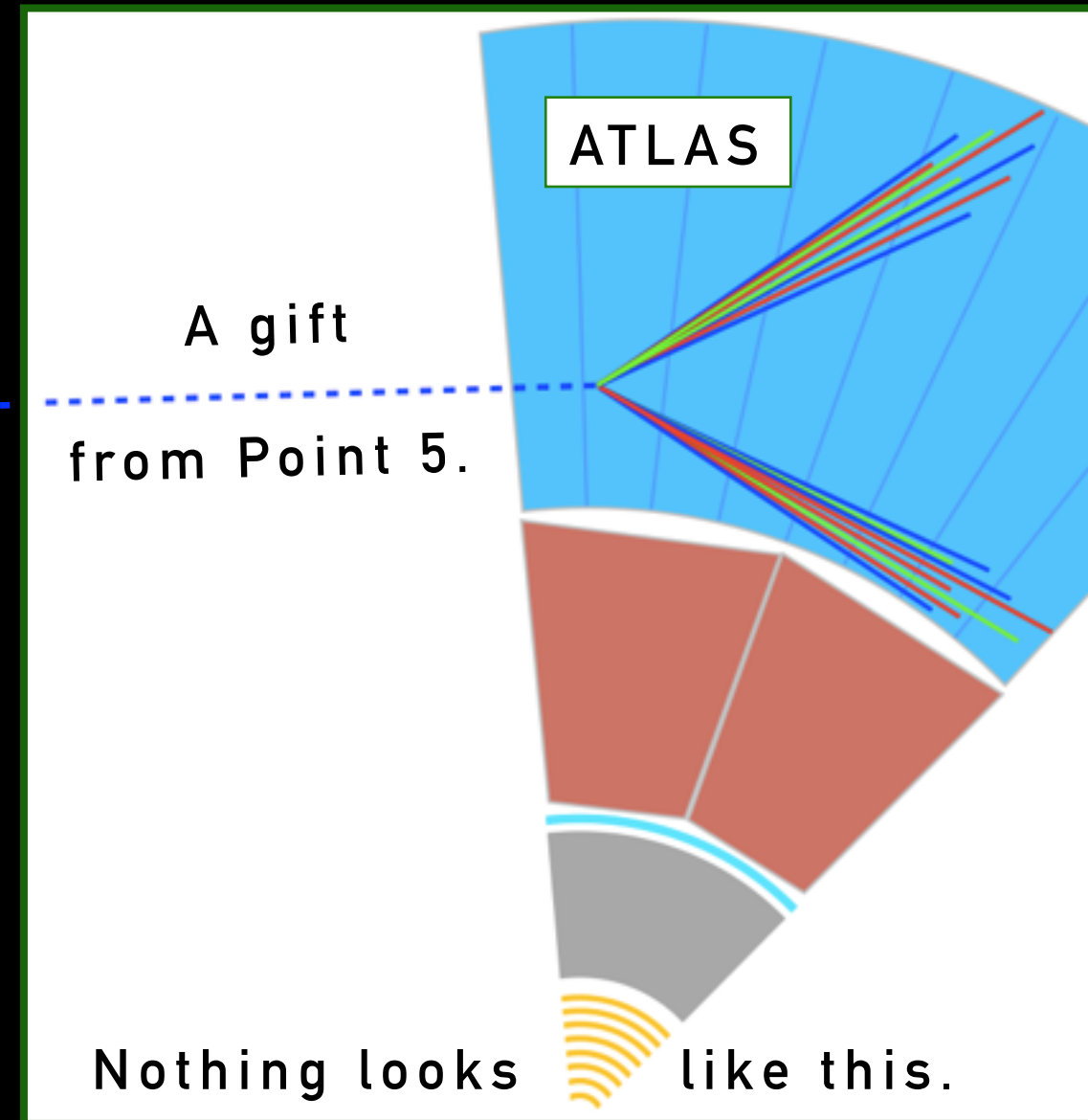
What are we missing?

- What about nearly-trivial insanities?



- ATLAS and CMS can each be used as a detector for LLPs produced in the other
- Solid angle coverage is vanishingly small, $\sim 10^{-7} \dots$ \leftarrow insane
- ...but non-zero. And the signature is so rare that it would immediately show up in unfilled bunch crossings \leftarrow trivial
- A quizzical use of time? Why not spend a month looking for this and getting a limit, as a proof of concept?
- Remember that the LHC is our only good source of Higgses, Ws, etc., for a very long time.

- Side benefit, speaking of trivial: The result would trivially be featured in the popular science press; reaching the public in novel ways is of utmost importance in 2017



Meade, Nussinov, Papucci, Volansky mentioned this in passing in 2009

The future is experimental

Our job as physicists is not to find SUSY or WIMP dark matter or sequential SM Z' or QBH or VLQs or...

After our first look at 13 TeV, our traditional motivation paradigms are dead

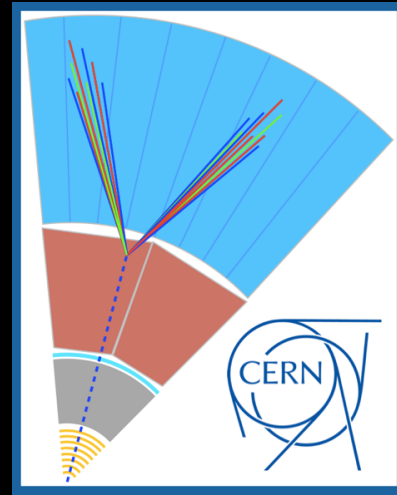
The Higgs discovery only answered one open question — does the SM Higgs exist? — and raised a bunch of others!

But these other questions are no longer accompanied by guaranteed discoveries

Scary: Where do we look?

Freedom: Everywhere! We have one of the most sophisticated devices ever built at our disposal, and our job is to push it to its limits, to map out all available experimental object space

This means bold new ideas involving LLPs. 2017 is the perfect time to be bold!



END