

Hunting for new physics using long-lived particles

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Hello to you all

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October 2018 Larry Lee RPV and long-lived SUSY October 2019 Christián Peña Long-lived particles at CMS October 2020 Kate Pachal Long-lived particles at ATLAS

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Today I'll bring you a fresh perspective on our LLP program and an update on some of the work ATLAS is doing now and towards Run 3

Dark matter!

Cosmological evidence is the only positive confirmation of DM we currently have!
What we know about

dark matter: - Long lifetime - No EM charge

Specific relic density

What we don't know: - Mass

 - How it connects to the Standard Model

4 If there is some interaction with the Standard Model, at a moderate energy scale, \rightarrow then we should be able to produce DM at the LHC!

LHC dark matter limits today

ATLAS Exotics Searches* - 95% CL Upper Exclusion Limits

Status: May 2020

*Only a selection of the available mass limits on new states or phenomena is shown.

†Small-radius (large-radius) jets are denoted by the letter j (J).

ATLAS Preliminary

 $\sqrt{5}$ – 8 13 TeV $\int \int \frac{dt}{t} = (2.2 - 120)$ fb⁻¹

Where is the new physics?

• We **know** it's out there

Where is the new physics?

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- So why haven't we seen it yet? A couple possible reasons:
	- 1. It is above the scale accessible by the LHC
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- So why haven't we seen it yet? A couple possible reasons:
	- 1. It is above the scale accessible by the LHC
	- 2. It isn't where we have been looking
- In case 1, not much we can do about it. But we have all the power in case 2! Need to understand where else to look.

What if we've been thinking too simplistically?

How to get the right amount of dark matter in the universe

Freeze-out scenarios: lots of DM in the early universe, decouples once temperature drops enough

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Still gets you the right relic density

Suppressed decays in dark matter models

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Only decay for Y is to qχ

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[arXiv:2001.05024](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2001.05024.pdf) & Jan Heisig

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Limited phase space e.g. Kshort VS Klong lifetimes

Limited phase space e.g. Kshort VS Klong lifetimes K^0 _S \rightarrow ππ $K⁰$ \rightarrow πππ Mass of K⁰ just a bit larger

than mass of three pions Lifetime 9e-11 s versus 5e-8 s

Limited phase space e.g. Kshort VS Klong lifetimes

Limited phase space e.g. AMSB-style pure Wino LSP

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Decays via heavy particle e.g. heavy neutrinos

Limited phase space e.g. AMSB-style pure Wino LSP

• **Any model** with small couplings, small mass splittings, or decays via off-shell particles can result in long lived particles (LLPs)

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* corrected compared to recording - I missed a decimal place

Connecting lifetime to location

- $cr =$ simple distance metric. Order 30cm^{*} for $\tau = 1$ nanosecond
- Lorentz boost $\beta y = p/M$. Ranges from ~ 0.8 or 0.9 for really heavy particles to ~ 30 for really light ones.

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	- Tracker d0 and z0 resolution ~ 0.02 -0.1 mm while ECal pointing resolution ~ 50 mm
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Mean distance travelled $=$ β γcτ

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Values of $\tau \sim 10^{-13}$ to 10⁻⁷ seconds are "long-lived particles"

Mean distance travelled $= \beta \gamma c \tau$

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Different detector systems for different targets

- Lighter particles have higher βγ and so travel farther for the same lifetime
- Muon spectrometer becomes useful for Higgs-portal-style signatures
- For target masses > order 100 GeV (i.e. EW SUSY), **inner detector is critical**

How do we use our detectors for these searches?

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For heavy LLPs, can use timing as well

What would new long-lived physics look like?

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Triggering

Electrons?? Trigger unsure

- Long-lived particle searches often have small and/or unusual backgrounds due to ~no simple Standard Model processes imitating signatures
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	- Occasionally, even beam-induced backgrounds and cavern backgrounds
- For almost all background contributions, no possibility of simulating them well
- So you will see fully data-driven background estimates for ~all LLP searches!

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Selection: missing momentum in event, high momentum track with large dE/dx

Backgrounds in the dEdx search

dE/dx

Ionisation is a **distribution**: There are always tails with SM particles at high p and dEdx

р

κ

 π^+

Backgrounds in the dEdx search

dE/dx

κ

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Ionisation is a **distribution**: There are always tails with SM particles at high p and dEdx

How do we predict tails?

Backgrounds in the dEdx search

Momentum

dE/dx

 π^*

Ionisation is a **distribution**: There are always tails with SM particles at high p and dEdx

How do we predict tails?

- Missing momentum is **independent** of track dEdx
- Use **control regions** with low missing momentum to predict SM backgrounds
- Convert prediction from p and dEdx to most likely particle mass

Optimised for lower lifetimes

Optimised for lower lifetimes Events / 50 GeV Events / 50 GeV • Data *ATLAS* $10²$ Background \sqrt{s} = 13 TeV, 36.1 fb⁻¹ \cdots m(\widetilde{g}) = 1600 GeV, $\tau(\widetilde{g})$ = 10 ns \cdots m(\widetilde{g}) = 2000 GeV, $\tau(\widetilde{g})$ = 10 ns 10 Metastable selection, SR 1 $\overline{}$ **Data** at high p and missing momentum2 Data/**B** Mass (1986)
Mass (1986)
Mass (1986) 0

0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000

Mass [GeV]

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[Phys. Lett. B 788 \(2019\) 96](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0370269318308268)

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Phys. Lett.

788 (2019) 96

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TODO

Setting limits with dEdx

• Above: recent reinterpretation

 $m(\widetilde{g})$ [GeV] 28

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Setting limits with dEdx

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Setting limits with dEdx

- Pure wino LSP scenarios naturally predicts a $\tilde{\chi}^{\pm}_1$ lifetime around 0.2 ns 1
- Signature: track that vanishes midway through inner detector
- Similar to dEdx, commonly reinterpreted (including covering key range in pure-Higgsino LSP)

- Trigger: missing energy
- Backgrounds:
	- Real hadrons & leptons that dramatically change direction (bremsstrahlung, material interactions, multiple scattering)
	- Fake tracklets made from misassociated hits
- Extract templates in control regions and perform fit in signal regions to get normalisations

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Indirect detection example: displaced leptons

- Search for two light leptons (3 SRs: ee, μμ, eμ) not originating from the collision point
- Requires special "large radius" tracking for displaced objects, customised electron and muon identification

 $\widetilde{\ell}$

 $\widetilde{\ell}$

p

p

 \tilde{G}

 \tilde{G}

 ℓ

 ℓ

Background estimation

μμ: extrapolate from cases where cosmic muons correctly tagged

Measure probability of tagging each half of cosmic muon

Apply to 1-tagged control sample to estimate SR events $\overline{32}$

Main backgrounds

- Cosmic ray muons
- "Fake" electrons: track misassociated to calorimeter energy deposit
- Heavy-flavour decays

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All leptons must be isolated and of good quality (track/calo agreement, good track, …)

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$$
\begin{array}{c|c}\n\hline\n\text{B} & \text{B} \\
\hline\n\text{C} & \text{Sig} \\
\hline\n\text{D} & \text{B}\n\end{array}
$$

2) Estimate: Quality of two leptons independent. $N_{\text{sig}} = N_{\text{B}}^* N_{\text{C}} / N_{\text{D}}$

L₁ quality

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L₁ quality

Results from displaced lepton search

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Why LLP searches are the right target for Run 3

- When we decide to do any search, must consider a couple factors:
- We should look **somewhere important**
	- **Motivated by theory**: we already know LLPs are strongly motivated in many BSM models
- We should look **somewhere effective**
	- Look for targets which will benefit most from **increasing datasets**
	- Find **opportunities** where the LHC dataset and our technical abilities give us the most power, so work invested will yield better results
	- Prioritise "**discovery potential**"!
	- LLPs are a great candidate for effectiveness as well

Rule of thumb: with **high backgrounds**, sensitivity $S \approx s/\sqrt{b}$ $s, b \propto \mathcal{L}$, therefore $\mathcal{S} \propto \sqrt{\mathcal{L}}$ Need 4x the data to double the analysis reach!

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- Extending HLT tracking to full event in all jet and MET signatures Run 3
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Better data flow

- Due to size of large-radius tracking output, was impossible to run on all events
- Filtering step used information in standard reconstruction to pick events which would be processed with LRT - essentially acts as a second trigger with signal efficiency < 1
- Ongoing work has reduced LRT output size so that no filters needed in Run 3
- Result: **increased acceptance for every analysis** using large-radius tracking; corresponding sensitivity increase

- Testing new interpretations for LLP searches can be tricky after the fact!
- This is one of our **key points for improvement**. Internally, new framework for code preservation allowing easy re-running within the collaboration
- What about for **external users**? Continually looking for improved ways to make our results useful - let us know any suggestions!

ATLAS + CMS (+ Dark matter + …)

- Newly established **LHC LLP working group** could give us a chance to solve problems together
	- Establish joint benchmarks and directions?
	- Sharing software/simulation/etc work?
	- Common guidelines for reinterpretation materials?

Dark Matter WG **EFT WG Electroweak WG Forward Physics WG Heavy Flavour WG** Long-lived Particles WG **Machine Learning WG MB & UE WG Top WG** [lhc-working-groups](https://lpcc.web.cern.ch/lhc-working-groups)
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	- Simplified models currently in development by DM group naturally include LLPs
	- Can we facilitate more study into this overlap?

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Reach out - let's work together!

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They could be your topic of the week *every* **week!**

LHC: energies and datasets

LHC: energies and datasets

- Amount of data collected: "luminosity"
- Measure in "inverse femtobarns": more fb $^{-1}$ = more data

LHC: energies and datasets

- Center of mass energy: "TeV"
- Higher energy = higher rate of interesting processes

Indirect detection example: Displaced vertices + a muon

Vertex far away from collision point

High p_T muon and MET used for triggering

μ not required to come from DV, but must not point to collision

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t \tilde{t} *t* $\begin{matrix} \mathscr{M} \ p \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \tilde{t} \end{matrix}$ *p* λ_2' 23*k µ q* λ'_{23k} *µ q* Vertex far away from collision point High-mass vertex excludes Klong

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• **Cosmic muon** background reduced by rejecting events where MS activity is opposite muon

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Results of DV + muon

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Improving analysis targeting

- LLP analyses fairly simple at this point and target signals not necessarily most important for Run 3
- **dEdx**: optimise for lighter signals; add two-track signal region to improve targeting of SUSY-specific models
- **Disappearing track**: attempting to target even shorter lifetimes
- **Displaced leptons**: optimise directly for staus, focusing on lowering lepton p_T threshold, add 1 displaced lepton $+$ 1 tau SR
- **In general**: move away from long-lived squarks/gluinos and target direct EWK production instead

L-violating bilinear coupling

μ′ *i* L_iH_{μ}

- Representative interactions between Higgsinos/leptons and Higgses/sleptons
	- $\tilde{\chi}^0 \rightarrow \ell^{\pm} W^{\mp}, \nu Z$
	- $\tilde{\chi}^{\pm} \rightarrow \ell^{\pm} Z$, $W^{\pm} \nu$
- Get neutrino masses automatically
- *t* \tilde{t} *t* \tilde{t} $\tilde{\chi}^{\pm}_1$ 1 $\tilde{\chi}^0_1$ 1 *p p* ϵ *b* ν *W* ϵ *t* ν *b b*
- Can convert terms between bilinear and trilinear depending on basis, so other analyses have implications here and vice-versa

Run 1 summary: huge variations in final states and kinematics with small changes in model parameters!

Lepton coupling, L-violating LLE: λ

Primes indicate flavour indices: determine different combinations of leptons

- LSP decays to leptons via sneutrino/slepton
- Very small λ: get nonzero lifetime for intermediate particle and we'll see displaced lepton pairs (covered by dilepton DV) or one displaced, one prompt (should be some coverage from exotics HNL? Displaced leptons?)
- Medium λ : lots of prompt leptons in the final state. Constraints from electroweak 3L and 4L analyses

Leptons and jets, L-violating LQD: λ'

- Couple quarks to leptons and neutrinos: get LSP decay to jets and I/_V
- Small λ': long-lived N1 leads to displaced jets; coverage from DV analyses
- Medium λ': multijets and lepton or significant MET. Constraints from multijet 0L, EW 3L (not shown today), stop B-L (discussed already), multijet 1L (see next section) at present 49

B-violation with tons of quarks, UDD: λ''

Note different indices will result in different quark flavours!

Jet-filled final states, but with t's present you can have lepton(s) and MET as well

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What about dark matter in RPV?

•

- Gravitino takes over as most likely dark matter candidate
- RPV would allow its decay, but proportionally to gravitational coupling, and thus the lifetime is really really long

LLP searches and the Higgsino mass gap

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Why standard searches don't suffice

What is a trigger?

Data leaves detector at 40 MHz: way more than we can process and store!

Hardware L1 trigger reduces flow to 100 kHz

> Software HLT passes ~1 kHz: 40,000 x less

A perfect drop of physics!

ATLAS Detector

L1 Trigger

More dEdx: R-hadrons

 \tilde{g} ud \sim 20% of these hadrons are charged *g*˜*sd*¯ $\tilde{g} s\bar{u}$

- Long lived squark or gluino results in R-hadron. Charged fraction hypothesized ~20%
- R-hadron interacts minimally with calorimeter (think very high pT pion) missing energy signature
- Case where stable charged particle not necessarily going to do better at long lifetimes: charge flipping can occur as R-hadron collects & deposits quarks in calorimeter. Can have ID track and nothing in the MS

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Cosmic ray vetos

- \cdot ~70% of cosmic events in ATLAS reconstructed as two muons. Remainder are missing top half (timing identified as backward-going).
- In these cases, use muon spectrometer hits to check opposite a reconstructed muon
	- Use direction from spectrometer hits to do matching, rather than η/φ w.r.t. origin
- Additional veto for cases where incoming muon would have passed through non-instrumented slice at $n=0$
- Efficiency for eliminating cosmics = 99.7% as tested in cosmic run

Pierfrancesco Butti

Next: outside-in starts from TRT seeds and extrapolates backwards. Both restrict candidates to near PV.

- Inside-out tracking (ATLAS primary)
	- Find **seeds** (pixel detector only) using 3-hit groups.
	- **Extend** seeds to strips detector layers with combinatorial Kalman filter
	- Assess track candidates: χ2, number of holes, number of shared hits, etc. Throw away suboptimal ones

• **Extend to TRT**

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What's a Kalman filter?

- "Linear quadratic estimation". Algorithm which uses set of points to predict next point in the set using joint probability distribution of those already observed.
- Prediction step, then once next point is added, taken into account and probability distribution adjusted.

Large-radius tracking in ATLAS

- After inside-out and outsidein standard tracking, leftover points can now be used for second-pass tracking
- Sequential Kalman filter. Otherwise much the same as standard tracking but with loosened z0 and d0 requirements

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Large radius tracking and ATLAS data flow

- LRT is slow and has a high fake rate: can not run in default reconstruction
- Instead, define filters based on standard reconstruction to identify some fraction of events (currently \sim 10%)
- These events are separately reconstructed from RAW with all machinery of interest to long lived particle searches
- Get to keep all tracks selected by LRT, but need to sacrifice some events to keep rates low. Adds a triggerlike layer of inefficiency to analyses requiring LRT

Large-radius tracking in CMS

Lower efficiency, lower fake rate Efficiency sacrifice worth it to get to run in all data!

- Large radius tracking run as part of *standard reconstruction* in **CMS**
- Tracking in 4 steps (seeding, track finding, fitting, selecting good tracks) repeated many times with loosening restrictions. Each pass, used points are removed
- This reduces combinatorics for next pass. Large-radius tracks allowed as late iterations.

ATLAS track triggers in Run 3

- Cancellation of FTK project means need to find an alternative form of pileup suppression in Run 3
- Proposal: full-scan tracking above some p_T threshold (TBD) for events passing jet or MET L1 trigger
- This allows rejection of pileup jet triggered events and more accurate MET
- Tracking in trigger runs within ROIs: even full scan. Identify ROI, use modified fast tracking (different seed finding, fast Kalman filter) to get initial candidates. Offline ambiguity solver produces precision tracks. Probably sacrifice precision tracks in Run 3.
- Tracking in trigger is an opportunity for LLPs can use MET or jet L1 to seed custom trigger - but it is also a hazard: rejection of jets with tracks not associated to PV could kill displaced signals. Studies ongoing.

ATLAS track trigger in Runs 4-5

- HTT (hardware track trigger) current plan but up in the air: details will depend on readout speed of ITk components.
	- Pattern matching in AM chips
	- First and second stage tracking done by FPGAs
- L1Track: 4 MHz rate, can fit tracks with $pT > 4$ GeV. First stage fit only, happens in ROI. Can be done on ~10% of detector.
- Global HTT: Second stage (HLT) tracking to be done in full detector using similar associative memory pattern matching. Can run on ~10% of events as requested by Event Filter
- Option to replace global HTT with CPUs if performance and computing budget seem comparable

CMS track trigger in Runs 4-5

- Hardware level at run 1: "stubs" in outer tracker
	- Assume we have a track originating from beam and passing through two closely spaced tracking layers. Pass if two hits + beamline compatible with high pT track
	- FPGA-based second stage will extend stubs into track candidates. Two algorithms being tested, so far similar performance: extending stubs geometrically into tracklets, or Hough transforms + Kalman filters.
- Software at HLT
	- Moving to GPUs allows many-thread processing
	- New algorithms plus smart data formatting/accessing tunes for GPUs make most efficient use of it

MIP timing detector

[CERN-LHCC-2017-027](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2296612?ln=en)

- Resolution \sim 30 ps in timing and \sim 3mm in z direction
- Barrel coverage (ATLAS only has forward coverage with HGTD): therefore can use for centrally produced LLPs
- Lutetium-yttrium orthosilicate crystals (LYSO) + silicon photomultipliers

Beyond CMS and ATLAS

- Long lived neutral particle can **only** be seen via decay products
- As long as we can get **full efficiency** and **zero background** with our detector, always better to search closer to collision point
- But when a signal has **low trigger efficiency** (due to low mass or high pileup) or **high backgrounds** this is really difficult

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Lots of decays at larger distances, and fewer backgrounds so we can trigger on lower masses

ATLAS/CMS

Few decays in detector: if any backgrounds, hard to set strong limits!

Lots of decays at larger distances, and fewer backgrounds so we can trigger on lower masses

Put a detector volume anywhere out here and reconstruct signal tracks!

ATLAS/CMS

Few decays in detector: if any backgrounds, hard to set strong limits!

Lots of options for location, shape, can deliver similar sensitivity

ATLAS/CMS

As long as there is enough decay volume and solid angle coverage, can get interesting results!

Example: MATHUSLA

- Above-ground detector uses plastic scintillators
- Decay volume 20 m deep
- Several tracking layers above, one triggering layer below

([arXiv:1811.00927](https://arxiv.org/abs/1811.00927), [arXiv:1901.04040\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.04040)

MATHUSLA is a leading proposal today, with **long lifetime reach** and the bonus opportunity to study **cosmic ray showers**

FASER

[J. Feng, I. Galon, F. Kling, S. Trojanowski](https://arxiv.org/abs/1708.09389) [P. Agrawal et al](http://www.apple.com/uk) [M. Raggi, V. Kozhuharov](http://inspirehep.net/record/1414155/files/fulltext.pdf)

- FASER experiment now approved by LHCC and moving forward! Only approved dedicated LLP search at LHC.
- Downstream 480m from ATLAS, specialises in sub-GeV signals (e.g. dark photons)
	- Very light signals are produced along the beamline, as opposed to heavier particles which are produced centrally
- Can have a tiny experiment: just 10cm diameter by 5 m long
- Triggering/veto layer, empty decay volume, then 3 tracking layers and an EM calorimeter

Note on dark photons: generic term for neutral vector particle which has some interaction with SM fermions (e.g. kinetic mixing). Considered to have a nonzero but very small mass (viable DM candidate)

MATHUSLA

- Design: nominally 100x100x20 m
	- Modular; can easily scale up or down as needed to fit budget
- Location near CMS site, already discussed
- Technology likely plastic scintillator + SiPM: RPCs considered but gas + high voltage too inconvenient/dangerous
- Cosmic ray backgrounds challenging: down-going easy to veto, but splash back (albedo) requires more work
- However, opportunity for measuring with fine granularity incoming cosmic ray showers also. Physics case document in progress for this.

MATHUSLA, FASER, SHiP, etc

- So many models one could compare in that any specific interpretation would appear biased
- However, can roughly group proposals by type: forward/light and off-axis/ heavier. One of each is complementary but more than one per category is not necessary

CODEX-b

- Off-axis experiment 25m from LHCb interaction point, volume \sim 10x10x10 m
	- Existing chamber near LHCb where remains of DELPHI currently sit: old detector could be removed for extra space
- Detector design options: 6 layers of RPCs, option for scintillatorbased calorimetry.
- Add shielding between LHCb and experiment
- Initial tests of detector tech already completed

[V. Gligorov, S. Knapen, B. Nachman, M.](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.99.015023) [Papucci, D. Robinson](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.99.015023)

AL3X

- ALICE has no current plans for Run 5, when LHC heavy ion program likely finished
- AL3X would reuse portions of ALICE detector (particularly time projection chamber and L3 magnet) for a LLP search program during Run 5
- Requires modified IP: move it downstream by ~11 m and deliver higher luminosity (100 fb-1). Add additional shielding between IP and experiment
- Experiment affordable; cost of moving IP to be determined

ANUBIS

- Instrument ATLAS access shaft with removable layers of tracking detector (RPCs) in order to use shaft as decay volume
- Close enough to integrate with ATLAS beam crossing information
- 18m vertical depth and 18m diameter. Four equally spaced tracking stations
- Coverage comparable to CODEX-b in lifetime and depth
- Budget ~ 10M euros

ble current 13 TeV dataset, double LLP analysis reach ATLAS & CMS double current 13

New LLP detector design finalisation, tests, building, installation, commissioning

New experiment taking data!