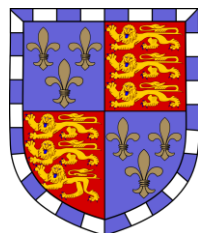


ATLAS Muon Spectrometer Displaced Vertex Searches

IoP HEPP 2026, Edinburgh

Julian Wack

Supervisor: Oleg Brandt

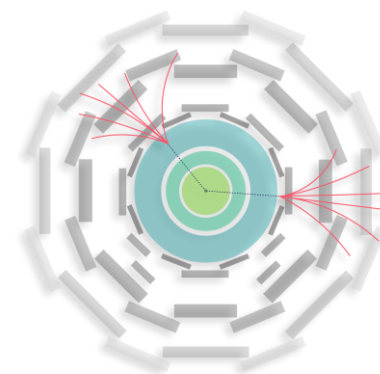
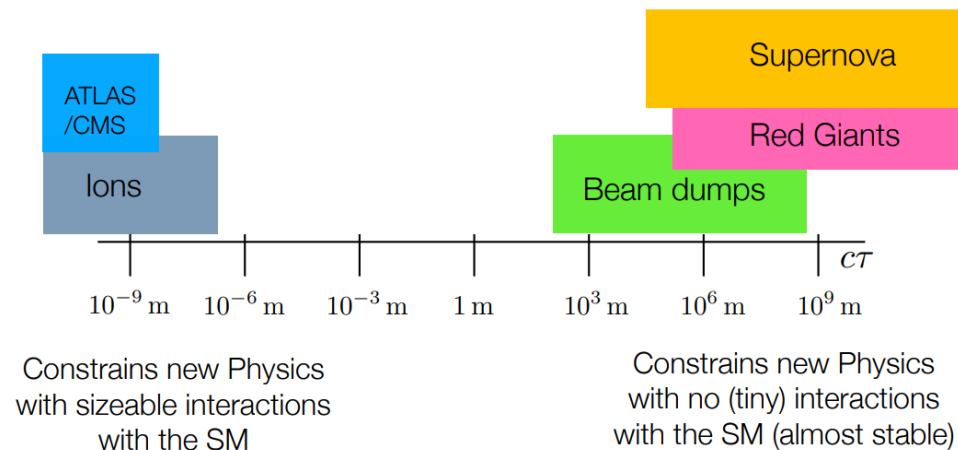


Overview

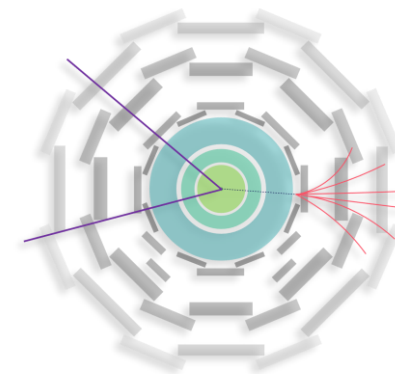
- Extensive search program at the major collider experiments
Hope to observe wealth of new physics didn't manifest
 - Are we looking in the right place?
- **Large lifetimes** can occur very naturally

$$\tau^{-1} = \frac{1}{2m_X} \int d\Pi_f |\mathcal{M}(m_X \rightarrow \{p_f\})|^2$$

- Challenging signatures for general purpose detectors
 - Sparked a now substantial Long-Lived Particle (LLP) program
 - Within existing collaborations but also beyond: ANUBIS, FASER, SHiP, ...
- Searching for **neutral LLPs** decaying into **high multiplicity hadronic showers**
 - **Signature driven approach** → sensitive to a range of models
- ATLAS Muon Spectrometer:
 - Large size and displacement from interaction point
 - Shielding by Calorimeters
 - Tracking abilities & small material budget



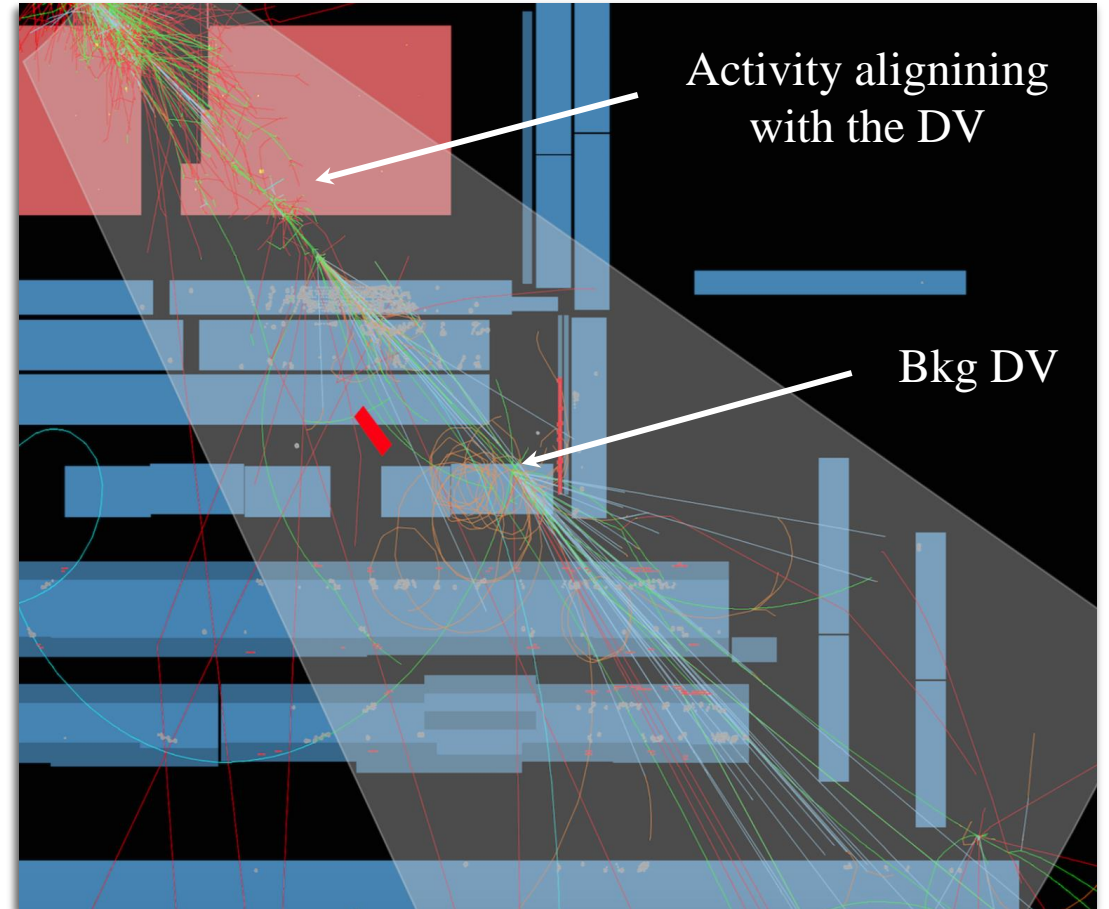
2 displaced vertex event



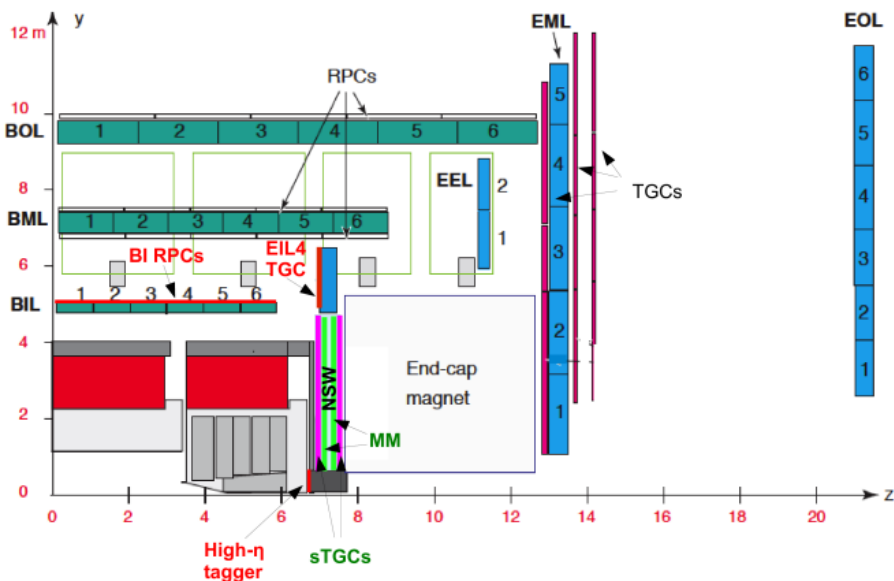
Associated production

Search Strategy

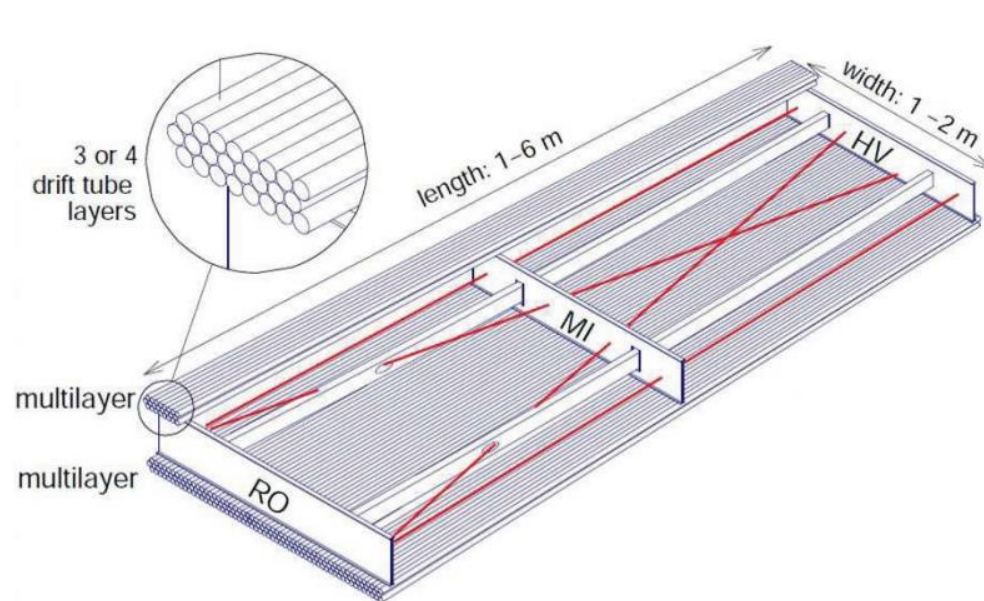
- Selections:
 - Event level: Trigger & missing energy
 - Displaced vertex reconstruction
 - Vertex quality & sufficient activity in the MS
 - Vertex isolation from tracks and jets
- Main background from **jets punching through the calorimeters**
 - Depending on vertex multiplicity, can be background free
 - Minimal case, 1 displaced vertex, requires data driven background estimation via ABCD method
- Extrapolate signal efficiency to other lifetimes to set limits on $\sigma \times \mathcal{B}$ as a function of $c\tau$



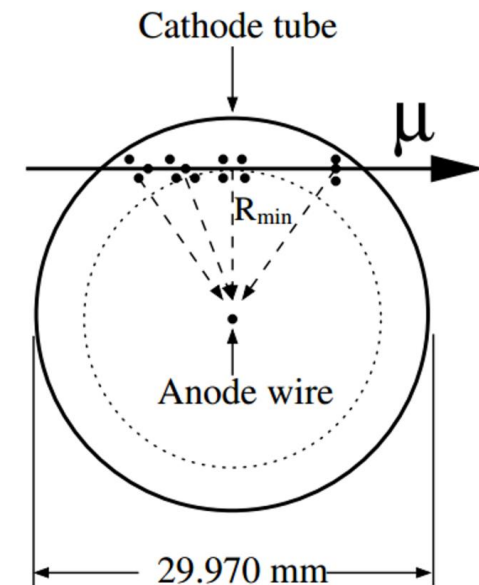
ATLAS Muon Spectrometer



[JINST 19 P05063](#)



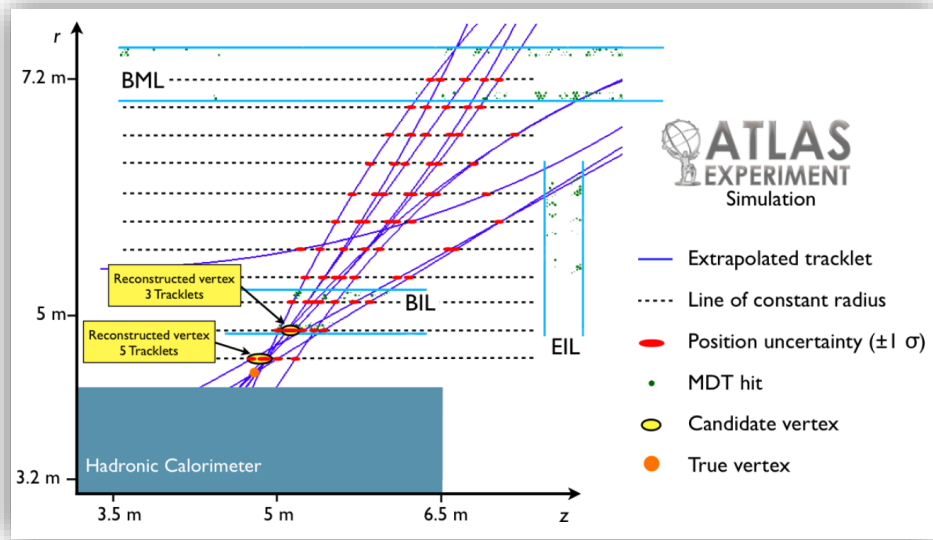
[JINST 3 S08003](#)



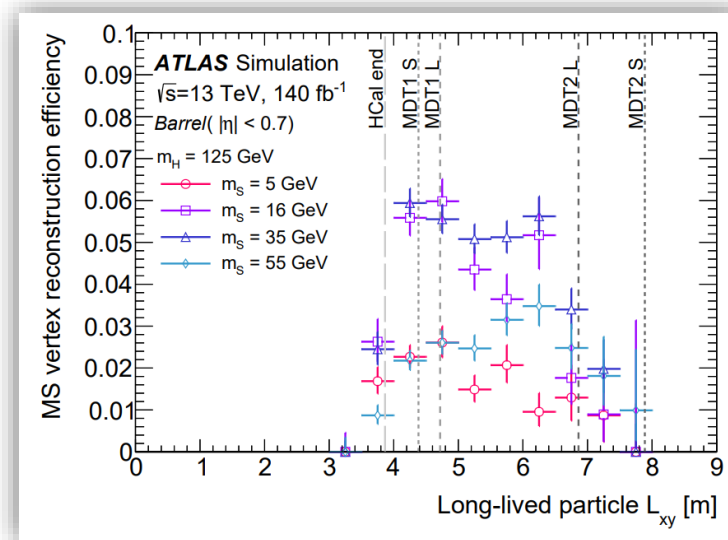
- Tracking provided via monitored drift tubes (MDTs)
- Each chamber contains 2 multilayers, featuring 3 - 4 tubes
- Contained within the toroidal magnetic field in the barrel but outside in the endcaps
 - **Different MS vertex reconstruction algorithm** in the barrel & endcaps

Displaced Vertex Reconstruction

- Tracklets: Combine straight line fits from different multilayers to get **curved track estimate**
- Form clusters in $\eta \times \phi$ and back extrapolate
- Iterative χ^2 fit and drop tracklets until good vertex is found



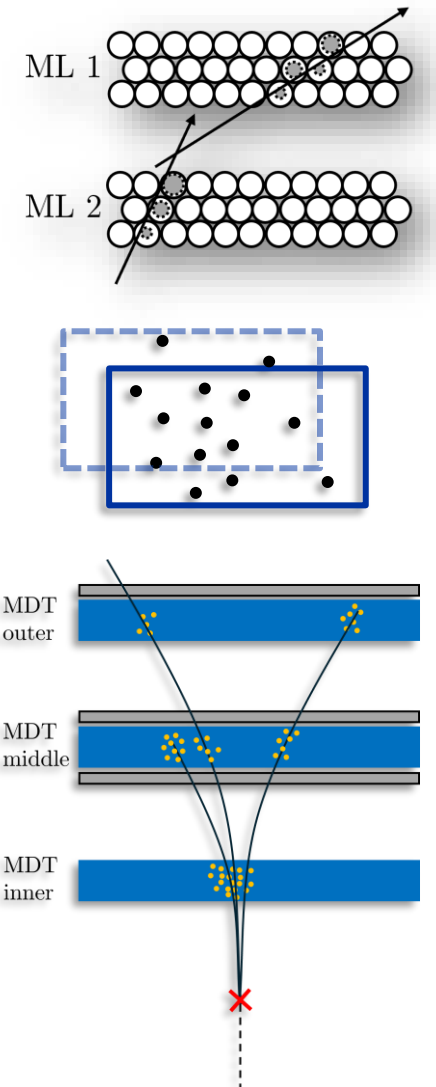
[JINST 9 \(2014\) P02001](#)



[Phys. Rev. D 112 \(2025\) 092001](#)

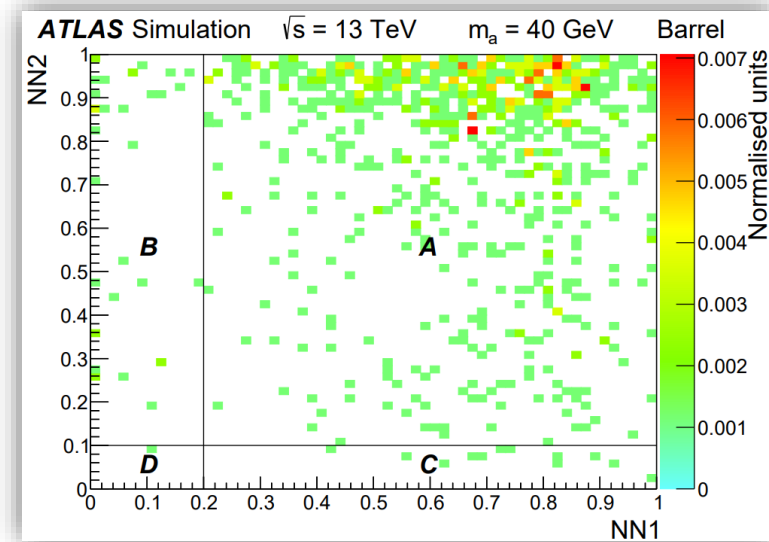
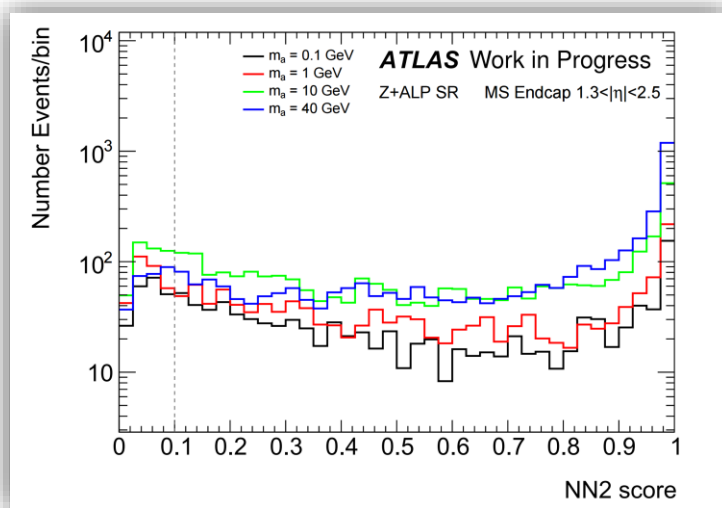
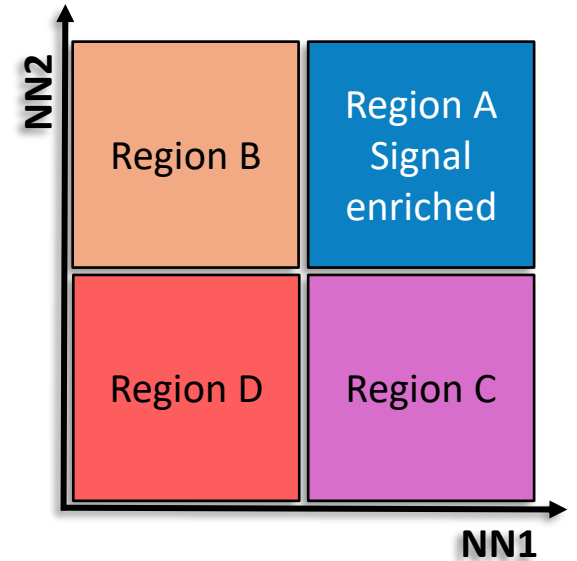
Truth matched DVs passing the signal selections

- Shortcomings of the algorithm
 - Poor position resolution and limited efficiency
 - Significant reduction of fiducial volume due to rejecting barrel to endcap transition region
- Current development for **hit-to-vertex GNN** based reconstruction



Background Estimation via ABCD Method

- Requires single primary source of background and non-correlated axis variables
 - $\frac{N_A}{N_C} = \frac{N_B}{N_D} \rightarrow N_A^{expected} = \frac{N_B N_C}{N_D}$
- Plane spanned by two Neural Network scores with largely orthogonal input sets
 - NN1 inputs: **isolation and background features**
 - NN2 inputs: **DV characteristics**
- NNs consider correlations between inputs and are responsible for much of the signal – background separation
 - Room for improvement by introducing **topology specific** training



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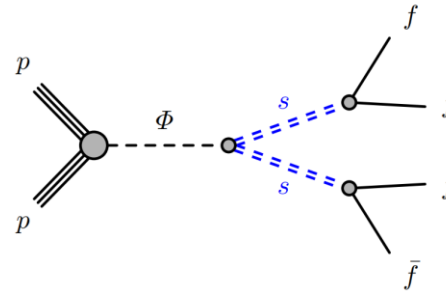
Benchmark Models

1 MS DV

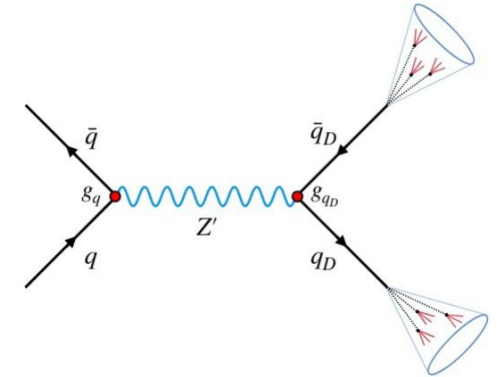
2 MS DV

> 2 MS DV

MS activity triggered

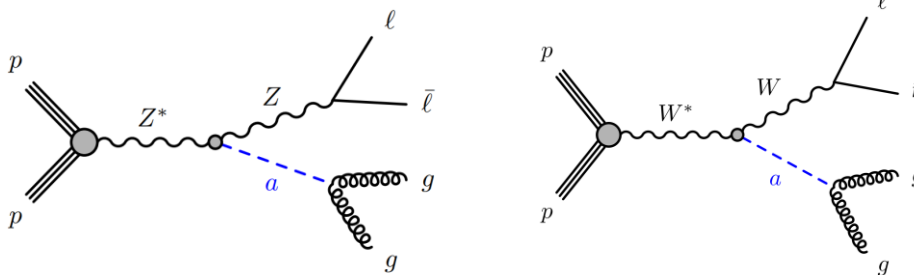


Hidden sector model



Emerging Jets

Associated production triggered



Gluon-philic Axion-like Particles

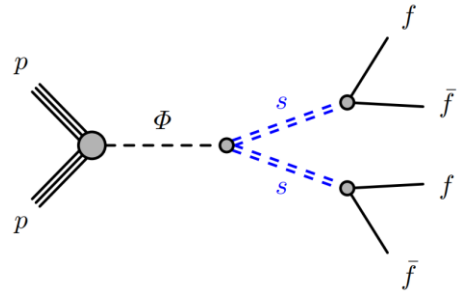
Benchmark Models

1 MS DV

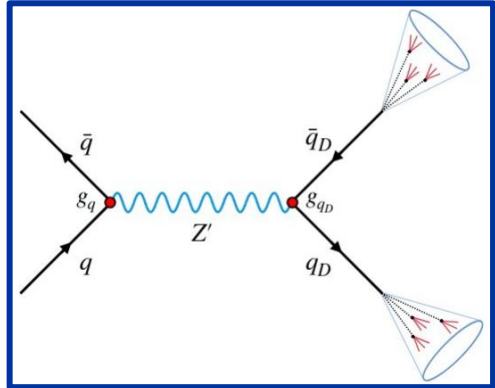
2 MS DV

> 2 MS DV

MS activity triggered

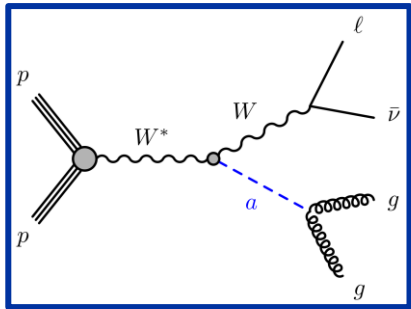
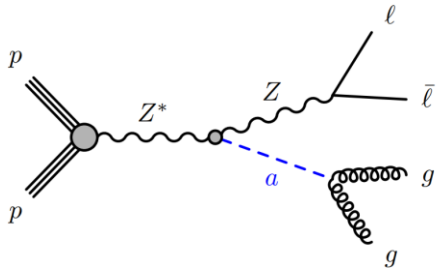


Hidden sector model



Emerging Jets

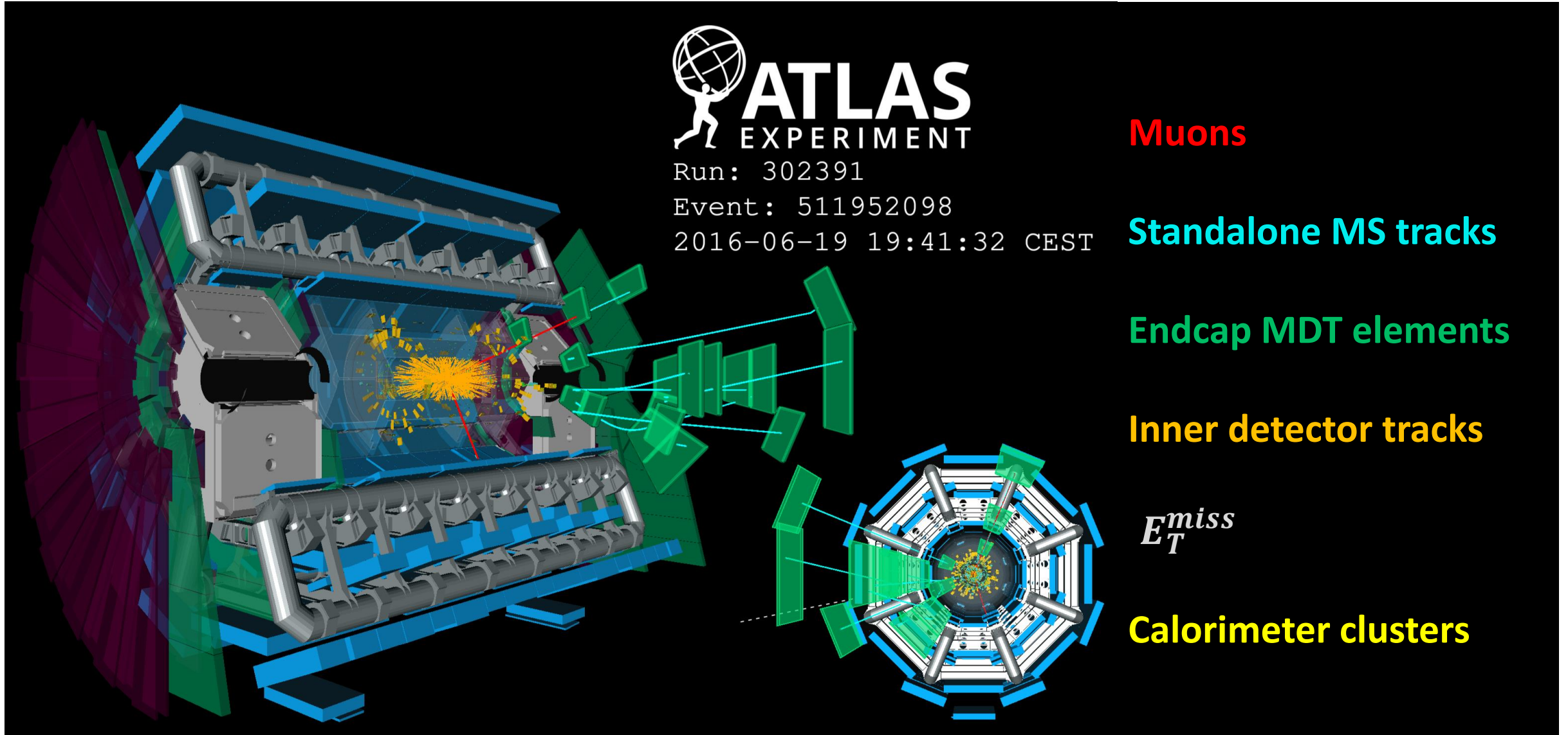
Associated production triggered



Gluon-philic Axion-like Particles

New in Run 3!

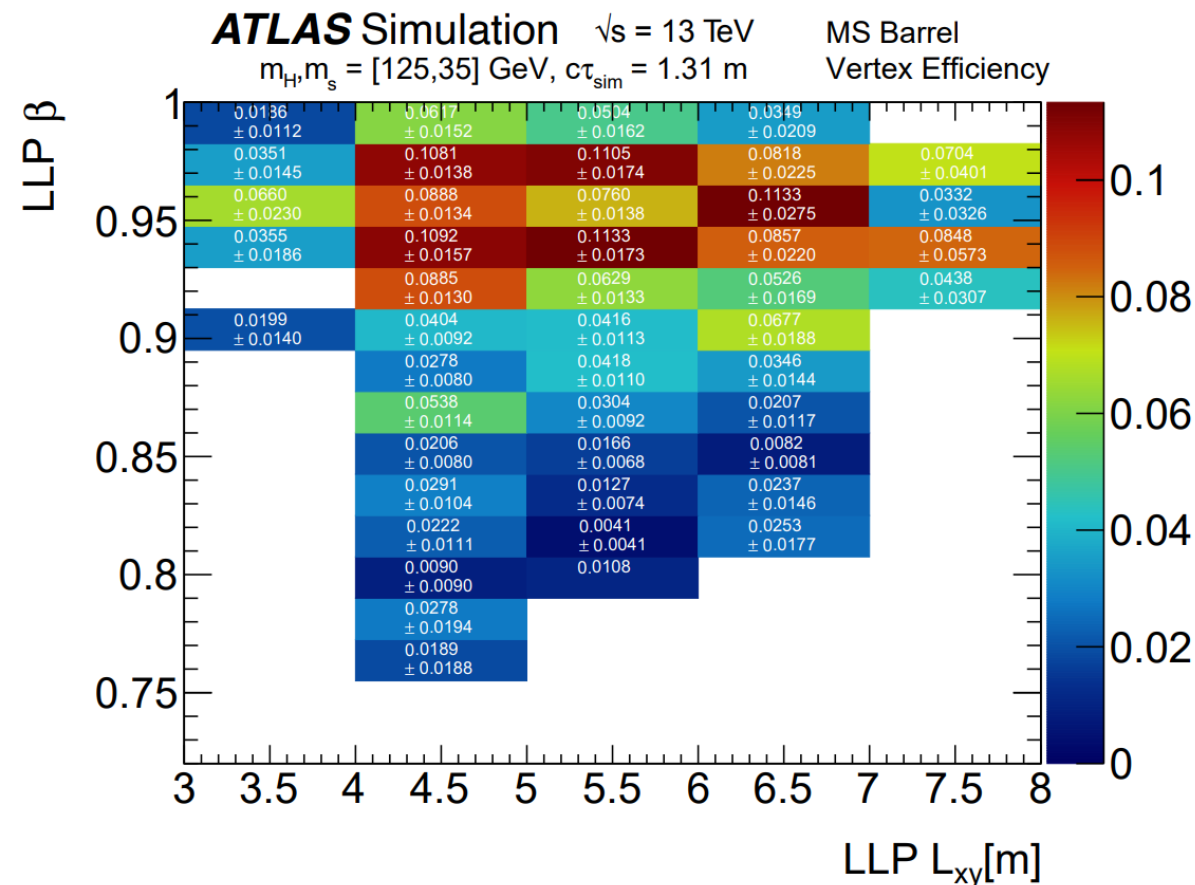
Run 2 Event Display: Z+DV



Lifetime Extrapolation and Limit Setting

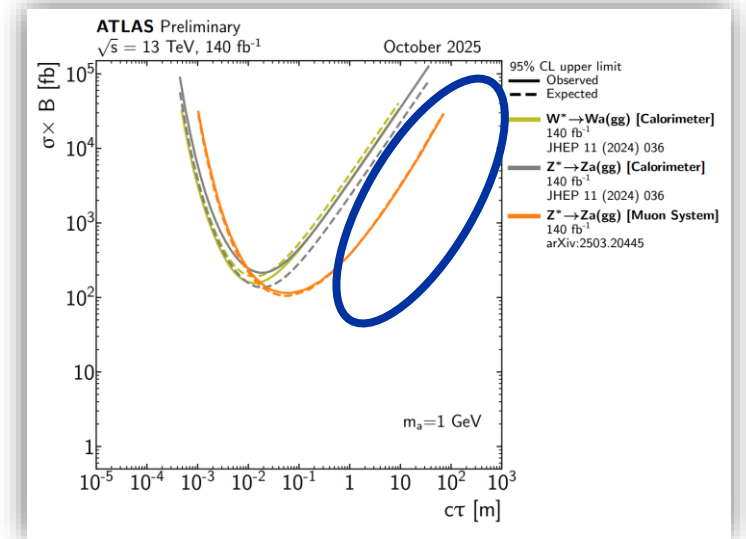
- To set limits on $\sigma \times \mathcal{B}$ as a function of the lifetime, need to extrapolate the yields to different $c\tau$ values
 - Avoids need for full MC simulations at many $c\tau$ values
- Sample lab frame decay length $L_{xyz} \sim \text{Exp}(\beta\gamma c\tau)$ and parameterise signal selection efficiency as a function of the decay position
 - Get ABCD plane yields for the chosen $c\tau$ value
 - Test closure of the method by comparing with full-sim sample at the lifetime one extrapolated to
- For the observed yields n_A, n_B, n_C, n_D , fit Poisson likelihood to extract the signal strength μ and find 95% confidence interval on $\sigma \times \mathcal{B}$

$$\mathcal{L}(n_A, n_B, n_C, n_D | \mu, \theta_\mu) = \prod_{i=A,B,C,D} \frac{e^{-N_i} N_i^{n_i}}{n_i!}$$

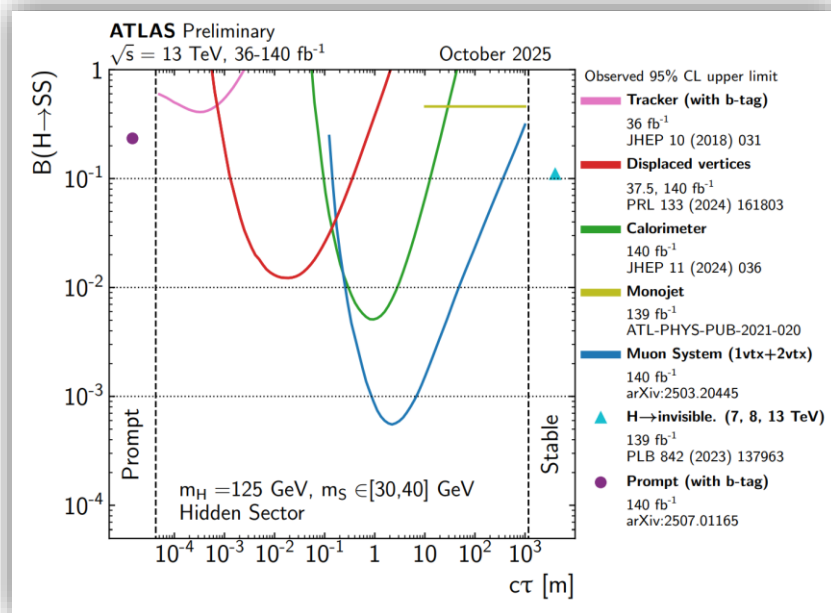


Run 2 Results and Run 3

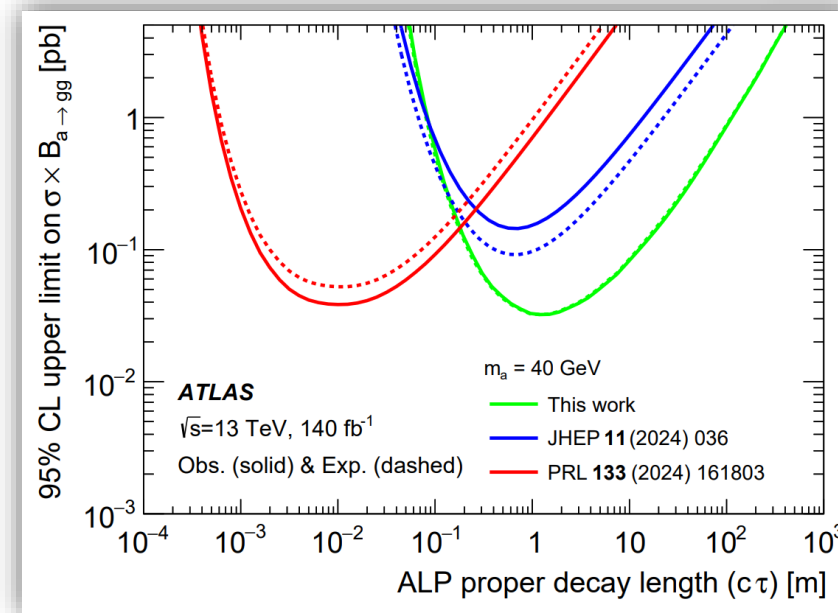
- Complementarity and competitiveness with other analyses
- Additional models targeted for Run 3
 - Expected to extend on existing sensitivity
- Run 3 sensitivity gains
 - Luminosity
 - Access to more discriminating variables
 - NN retraining



[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2025-043](#)



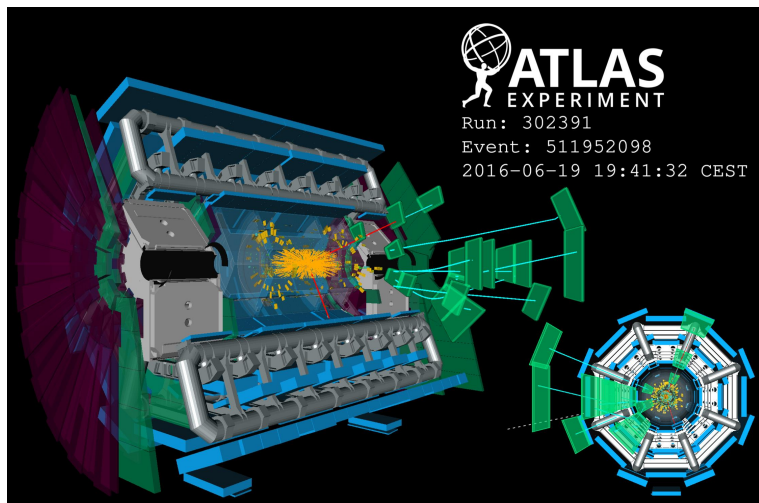
[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2025-039](#)



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Summary

- Philosophy and discovery potential of ATLAS Muon Spectrometer displaced vertex searches
- Non-standard displaced vertex reconstruction
- Background estimation & limit setting
- Complementary & competitive sensitivity: more extensive lifetime coverage of ATLAS' LLP search program
- Run 2 results & expectations for Run 3



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