# Recent results from the FASER experiment

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Oxford particle physics seminar 12th November 2024





The University of Manchester

#### Forward at the LHC

Experiments at the LHC designed to search for heavy and strongly coupled particles

W/Z, Higgs, top, SUSY, ...



Produced isotropically at high p<sub>T</sub>

#### Forward at the LHC

High rate of **light hadrons** also produced in *non-instrumented* **far-forward (low p**<sub>T</sub>) region



1% of **pions** produced in forward ~10<sup>-6</sup>% of solid angle

#### Forward at the LHC

Light, weakly coupled particles produced in proliferation in forward region.



Neutrinos of all flavours, and BSM particles

- FASER is a new, small, experiment at the LHC:
  - In TI12 located 480 m from the ATLAS interaction point Aligned with the ATLAS collision Line of Sight
  - Low background environment: LHC magnets deflect charged particles (e.g. muons); shielded by 100 m of rock/concrete
  - Maximal neutrino flux



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# **FASER Location**

#### **FASER** location

- Old SPS  $\rightarrow$  LEP tunnel ideal location:
  - On line-of-sight (with some digging)
  - Shielded by ~100m rock/concrete
  - Low beam backgrounds













#### **Beam backgrounds**

- FLUKA simulations and *in situ* measurements used to assess expected backgrounds.
  - IP1 collisions (shielded by 100m rock) 0
  - Off-orbit protons hitting beam pipe aperture near TI12 Ο
  - **Beam-gas interactions** Ο
- Low particle flux along beam axis due to LHC optics.





Muons (@L=2x10 <sup>-34</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	
Energy threshold [GeV]	Charged Particle Flux [cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]
10	0.40
100	0.20
1000	0.06

Muon charge asymmetry due to LHC magnets

3000

negative muons

positive muons

4000

kinetic energy (GeV)

5000

## **FASER detector & installation**

#### Aperture: 20 cm y Length: 7 m The FASER detector arXiv:2207.11427 **x Front Scintillator** I inked with I HC veto system clock (time colliding Two 20mm scintillators bunches within IP1) Tracking spectrometer stations Scintillator 350x300mm wide 3 layers per station with 8 ATLAS veto system TO ATLAS IP SCT barrel modules in each layer ν, Α' Three 20mm scint. Electromagnetic 300x300mm wide Calorimeter Decay volume 4 I HCb outer EM calorimeter modules **FASERv** emulsion Interface detector Tracker (IFT) 1.1 ton detector Trigger / timing 730 layers of 1.1mm tungsten+emulsion scintillator station neutrino target and 10mm thick scintillators tracking detector Magnets with dual PMT readout Provides 8λ. Trigger / pre-shower for triggering and timing 0.57 T dipoles scintillator system measurement ( $\sigma$ =400ps) 200mm aperture 12 1.5m decay volume

#### EHN1 - 2020

- Area in CERN's Prevessin site ("EHN1", neutrino platform) used for full detector commissioning.
- Baseplate mock-up on cement including 1% slope (simulate slope of LHC).



#### Commissioning & Surface dry run - 2020

• Surface dry run, before disassembly and installation in LHC tunnel.







### Commissioning & Surface dry run - 2020

- First tests of operating tracker plane next to magnet (including tests lowering next to magnetic field).
- Combined tests of TDAQ and tracker systems in cosmic data taking, reconstructed in offline software.







#### Commissioning & Surface dry run - 2020

- First assembly of upper frame with one tracker station, calorimeter, all scintillators, and two magnets and combined run.
- Some "horizontal cosmics" events recorded.



#### Installation in TI12 - March 2021









#### **Installation in TI12 - 2021**



#### FASER operations - 2022-2024

- Successfully collected 35 fb<sup>-1</sup> in 2022, 33 fb<sup>-1</sup> in 2023, and 120 fb<sup>-1</sup> in 2024.
- Data taking efficiency > 97%.
- Due to change in LHC beam setup, muon background ~2x higher in 2024 data.
  - Issue for FASER (will see why later), hopefully move to more optimal nominal horizontal crossing angle for 2025.







Event from 2022 with 21.9 GeV muon traversing FASER spectrometer



Run 8336 Event 1477982 2022-08-23 01:46:15 Event from 2023 with 1.3 TeV muon traversing FASER spectrometer



# **Recent results from FASER**

#### **BSM** searches (LLPs)



## FASER physics

#### **Neutrino measurements**



# **BSM** searches at FASER

#### **FASER** physics

- FASER is sensitive to new light (MeV-GeV mass) weakly interacting long-lived particles (LLPs).
- Long-lived particles at FASER:

pp  $\rightarrow$  LLP + X, LLP travels ~ 480m, LLP  $\rightarrow e^+e^-, \mu^+\mu^-, \pi^+\pi^-, \gamma\gamma, \dots$ 



LLPs could also be produced by interactions in neutral beam absorbers (TAN) then travel ~ 350 m to FASER



PLB 848 (2024) 138378

#### **Dark photon search**

- Search for dark photons decaying into  $e^+e^-$  using 27 fb<sup>-1</sup> of 2022 data.
- No veto signal, two tracks and E(calo) > 500 GeV.



#### **Dark photon search**

- Total background prediction (dominated by neutrinos) =  $(2.3 \pm 2.3) \times 10^{-3}$
- No events in unblinded signal region
- Set world-leading constraints in new region of parameter space



#### **Axion Like Particles (ALPs)**

- Search for a light pseudoscalar particle decaying to a pair of photons.
- ALPs reaching FASER have momentum up to TeVs.
- Using 58 fb<sup>-1</sup> of 2022 + 2023 data.



#### ALPs signature



#### **ALPs backgrounds**

- Dominant background: neutrino interactions → 0.4 ± 0.4 events
- Negligible backgrounds from other sources: neutral hadrons, large-angle muons, non-collision/cosmic
- Backgrounds validated in control regions



arXiv:2410.10363

NEW!

#### **ALPs results**

- Expect 0.4 ± 0.4 from v interactions
- 1 observed event
- Exclude uncovered parameter space significantly



arXiv:2410.10363

 $L = 57.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ 

400

m<sub>a</sub> [MeV]

500

ALP-W

**NEW!** 

arXiv:2410.10363 NEW!

#### "ALPtrino" event display



#### **Preshower upgrade**

- ALPs decays to 2 photons generally separated by < 1 mm</li>
  → cannot be resolved in current detector.
- Preshower upgrade:
  - Layers of monolithic silicon pixel detectors (high-granularity hexagonal pixels) with tungsten absorber
  - Identify photons separated by ~200 μm
  - Installation by 2025




# **Neutrinos at FASER**

# Why study collider neutrinos?

- 1. Neutrino interactions (all flavours) at **unexplored TeV energies**
- 2. Probe of **forward hadron production**, novel inputs for:
  - QCD (gluon PDFs at low-x, intrinsic charm)
  - Astroparticle physics (collider counterpart of highenergy cosmic rays interactions: cosmic ray muon puzzle)
- 3. Probe of hadron structure (proton/nuclear PDFs)
- 4. Background to BSM searches





# Forward hadron production and nuclear PDFs



Figure adapted from: J. Phys. G 50 (2023) 3, 030501

#### Forward hadron production and nuclear PDFs



# **Neutrinos at FASER**

Two methods of detecting collider neutrinos with FASER:

#### 1) Emulsion detector:

- detect all neutrino flavours
- excellent spatial resolution
- slow (each film must be scanned, digitised, and processed)

 $\nu_{\mu}$ 

#### 2) Electronic spectrometer:

- fast analysis (only using electronic components of detector)
- separate anti-neutrino/neutrino (muon charge)
- can study only **CC muon neutrino** interactions (so far)



#### **FASER** $\nu$ detector

- FASER*v*: tungsten emulsion detector
  - 3D tracking detector, 50 nm precision, no timing
  - ο Total mass 1.2 tons, 285 X<sub>0</sub>, 10.1  $\lambda_{int}$
- Needs to be exchanged every ~3 months (during technical stops) to control track density ≤ 1 × 10<sup>6</sup> tracks/cm<sup>3</sup>
  - 10 emulsion detectors in total needed for 2021-2024 data



dispersed in gelatin media

	Interactions	Mean energy	
$\nu_e + \overline{\nu_e}$	~1300	~830 GeV	
$\nu_{\mu}+\overline{\nu_{\mu}}$	~20400	~630 GeV	
$\nu_\tau + \overline{\nu_\tau}$	21	965 GeV	

<u>Assumptions</u>: tungsten emulsion detector (25 cm x 25 cm x 100 cm), 14 TeV, 150 fb-1,  $E_v > 100$  GeV



# First direct observation of collider neutrinos

- Measure CC muon (anti-)neutrino interactions using electronic components of detector
- Signature selection:
  - No hits in FASERv scintillator station
  - Track in spectrometer with p > 100 GeV
  - Track within r < 120 mm when extrapolated back to FASERv scintillator





# First direct observation of collider neutrinos

#### 3 background sources:



#### **First observation of collider electron neutrinos**

Observation with more than **16 sigma significance**:

$$n_{\nu} = 153^{+12}_{-13}(\text{stat})^{+2}_{-2}(\text{bkg}) = 153^{+12}_{-13}(\text{tot})$$

Compatible with **expectation: 151 ± 41** (from mean/envelope of DPMJET and SIBYLL predictions)



NB: GENIE errors do not include systematic uncertainties on detector effects

## Muon neutrino candidate event



arXiv:2403.12520 NEW!

#### First observation of collider $\nu_e$ and $\nu_\mu$ with FASER $\nu$

N trõ

- Analysis of first 9.5 fb<sup>-1</sup> of data from 2022.
  - Target mass of 128.6 kg
  - ~ 1.7% of data so far





#### First observation of collider $\nu_e$ and $\nu_\mu$ with FASER $\!\nu$

- CC neutrino candidates selected from vertices with at least 5 tracks:
  - Electrons: short track, EM shower
  - Muons: long track, no secondary particles
- Large angular separation between lepton and CC remnants.



#### **High purity selection**

Vertex reconstruction<br/> $(N_{\text{track}} \ge 5, N_{\text{track}}(\tan\theta \le 0.1) \ge 4)$  $E_e$  or  $p_{\mu} > 200$  GeV $\tan\theta_e$  or  $\tan\theta_{\mu} > 0.005$  $\phi > 90^{\circ}$ 

#### First observation of collider $\nu_e$ and $\nu_\mu$ with FASER $\!\nu$

#### **Backgrounds:**

- **Neutral hadron** interactions estimated from simulations, validated with data
- **Neutral current** (NC) muon neutrino interactions, estimated in simulation

#### Total background expectation:

- Electron: 0.025 ± 0.015
- Muon: 0.22 ± 0.09



#### First observation of collider $\nu_e$ and $\nu_\mu$ with ${\rm FASER}\nu$

First observation of collider  $\nu_e$ 

		Expected background	Expected signal	Observed	Significance
- ALAN	$\nu_e$ CC	0.025+0.015-0.010	1.1-3.3	4	5.2σ
	$\nu_{\mu}  \text{CC}$	0.22 <sup>+0.09</sup> -0.07	6.5-12.4	8	5.7σ



### **Electron neutrino candidate event**



#### First observation of collider $\nu_e$ and $\nu_\mu$ with FASER $\!\nu$

First cross section measurements at TeV energies:



# **FASER2** and the FPF

#### **Further forward (to the future): Forward Physics Facility**

Proposed dedicated facility for the HL-LHC that could house a suite of experiments.



#### **FPF** physics overview



#### **FPF physics: new particles**

• FASER2 will be complementary to existing/proposed experiments and uniquely sensitive to certain DM/BSM models e.g. inelastic DM, quirks.



# **FPF physics: neutrinos**

- Study neutrino interactions at TeV energies (including  $\bar{\nu}_{\tau}/\nu_{\tau}$ )
- Study PDFs by neutrino DIS
- Study forward hadron production via neutrino flux measurements







#### FASER2 baseline design



# Conclusions

# Looking forward to more physics

- Successful operation of FASER in Run-3 (190 fb<sup>-1</sup> recorded so far)
- First physics results coming out:
  - First  $v_e$ ,  $v_\mu$  cross sections
  - BSM searches (ALPs and dark photon limits)
- Prospects
  - Additional data be collected in 2025 (~100-125 fb<sup>-1</sup>) & 2026 (~30 fb<sup>-1</sup>)
  - Pre-shower detector upgrade in 2025 to enhance ALPs sensitivity
  - FASER in Run-4 approved
  - Proposed dedicated Forward Physics Facility (2031-) in HL-LHC era that would extend and complement existing/proposed physics programme





CERN

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We also thank:

- LHC for the excellent performance
- ATLAS Collaboration for providing luminosity information
- ATLAS SCT Collaboration for spare tracker modules
- ATLAS for the use of their ATHENA software framework
- LHCb Collaboration for spare ECAL modules
- CERN FLUKA team for the background simulation
- CERN PBC and technical infrastructure groups for the excellent support

# **Additional slides**

# **FASER Collaboration**

89 collaborators, 25 institutions, 10 countries





- A **new small experiment** in an old LEP injector tunnel to search for **long-lived particles** produced in Interaction Point 1 (IP1/ATLAS) at the **LHC** in Run-3 and beyond (2021+).
- First concept in 2017 (Feng, Galon, Kling, Trojanowski), approved by CERN in March 2019 (limited budget ~ 2M\$).
- To be fully built & installed in the current Long Shutdown (2020).
  - Detector concept: constructed and installed quickly & cheaply (reuse detector components), simple and robust design (limited tunnel access), minimise services (ease for installation).
- 65 collaborators, 19 institutions, 8 countries.

# The light, weakly interacting frontier

• Light, weakly interacting particles can travel macroscopic distances before decaying.



# $h \qquad \phi, \chi$ Standard Model $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ $\Delta \mathcal{L} = \frac{\epsilon}{2} F^{Y,\mu\nu} F'_{\mu\nu}$ Hidden sector $U(1)_{d^2}$ $QCD-like SU(3)_{d^2}$

# Light and weakly coupled

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{portal}} = \sum O_{\mathrm{SM}} \times O_{\mathrm{DS}}$$

- Hidden sector physics:
  - New mediating particles, couplings to SM via mixing with SM "portal" operator
  - Related to nature of DM (mediator or candidate), baryogenesis, neutrino oscillations...
  - Can possibly resolve low-energy experiment anomalies (<u>muon g-2</u>, <u>proton size</u>, <u>Be8</u>)
- Typically long-lived particles (LLPs) that travel macroscopic distances before decaying to SM particles.

Portal	Coupling
Dark Photon, $A_{\mu}$	$-rac{\epsilon}{2\cos heta_W}F'_{\mu u}B^{\mu u}$
Dark Higgs, $S$	$(\mu S+\lambda S^2)H^{\dagger}H$
Axion, $a$	$rac{a}{f_a}F_{\mu u} ilde{F}^{\mu u},\ rac{a}{f_a}G_{i,\mu u} ilde{G}_i^{\mu u},\ rac{\partial_{\mu}a}{f_a}\overline{\psi}\gamma^{\mu}\gamma^5\psi$
Sterile Neutrino, $N$	$y_N LHN$

# Looking forward

- ATLAS/CMS searches for heavy, strongly interacting new particles (high p<sub>T</sub>, isotropic)
- If new particles light and weakly coupled, cross sections in acceptance of ATLAS too low
  - Light: produced in pi, K, D, B decays
  - Weakly-interacting: need extremely large SM event rate to see them
- Benefit from high rate of of hadrons produced in ATLAS in forward region.

 $\sigma_{inel}(13 \text{ TeV}) \sim 75 \text{ mb}, N_{inel} (Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)  $M_{inel}(Run3, 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}) \sim 10^{16}$ (mostly in forward region)

high p<sub>T</sub>

#### Looking forward

- Expect in forward region during Run-3 (150 fb<sup>-1</sup>)  $\sim 2.3 \times 10^{17} \pi^0$ ,  $\sim 2.5 \times 10^{16} \eta$ ,  $\sim 1.1 \times 10^{15} D_1 \sim 7.1 \times 10^{13} B$
- For  $E(\pi^0) > 10$  GeV, 2% of  $\pi^0$  within 10 cm of line-of-sight of beam after ~500 m, despite only covering (2x10<sup>-6</sup>)% of solid angle



#### **FASER: ForwArd Search ExpeRiment**



#### **Neutrinos passing through FASER**

For 35 fb <sup>-1</sup>	Ve	Vμ	ντ
Main source	Kaons	Pions	Charm
# traversing FASERv	<b>~10</b> <sup>10</sup>	~1011	~108
# interacting in FASERv	≈200	≈1200	≈4

[PRD 104, 113008]

#### **Electronic neutrino analysis distributions**



#### **FASER**<sub>V</sub> selected CC candidate events




#### **Preparation of TI12/UJ12**

 Significant work to prepare TI12 for FASER, including lowering of floor by ~50 cm and installation of gangway/protective shield.



#### **Preparing TI12**

- Unused ventilation and cable trays removed.
- TI12 sealed off with dust-proof tent.



#### Visit to TI12 Dec 2019

Some of the FASER Collaboration in TI12







# **Digging the trench**







## **Civil engineering**







#### Beam backgrounds

• In situ measurements using emulsion detectors and TimePix BLM in TI12 in 2018 confirm expected particle flux, and correlation with IP1 luminosity.



#### **Radiation levels**

- Radiation level predicted to be very low in TI12 due to dispersion function of LHC at TI12.
- Measurements using BatMon radiation monitor in 2018 confirm FLUKA expectations:
  - less than 5 x 10<sup>-3</sup> Gy/year
  - less than 5 x 10<sup>7</sup> 1 MeV neutron equivalent fluence/year

#### FASER detector does not need radiation hard electronics







- The FASER magnets are 0.55T permanent dipole magnets based on the Halbach array design
  - 1x magnet 1.5 m (decay volume)
  - 2x magnets 1.0 m for spectrometer
- Thin to minimise digging in tunnel floor
- Minimise services (power, cooling, etc.)





## Magnets

• First two magnets (1m) assembled. Third 1.5m decay volume magnet expected by the end of October.





# **Scintillators**

- Veto station:
  - Suppress incomi....
    99%
  - Pb absorber (20 X<sub>0</sub>) for  $\gamma$  conversion to be vetoed by scintillator

#### • Trigger/timing:

- Target timing resolution < 1 ns</li>
- Light guides bent 90° to reduce width

#### • Trigger/preshower:

- Trigger (coincidence with other trigger sta
- Pb preshower layer (conversion + ID of  $\gamma$ ) + low-Z absorber to reduce calorimeter backsplash





# **Scintillators**

- Scintillator planes produced at CERN
- Characterisation of scintillator, light guides, and PMTs of going
  - Scintillator layers tested with cosmic measured > 99.8%
  - Readout through CAEN digitiser validated.



Cosmic tests



Scintillator with curved light guide



#### *Lнср* гнср

# Calorimeter

- EM calorimeter for energy, electron/ $\gamma$  ID, triggering
  - Build from 4 spare LHCb outer ECAL modules
  - Thanks to the LHCb Collaboration!
  - 66 layers x (2mm Pb + 4mm plastic scintillator),
    25 X₀
  - ~1% energy resolution, light read by single PMT







## Calorimeter

- Calibration/tests using both <sup>137</sup>Cs source and cosmics setup and running
- Cosmic-ray test stand to allow combined testing of scintillator stations and calorimeter
  - Calorimeter performing as expected







## **Tracker overview**

- 3 tracking stations, each containing 3 layers
  - Each layer uses 8 spare ATLAS SCT barrel modules 0
    - Thanks to the ATLAS Collaboration!
  - 80 μm strip-pitch, 40 mrad stereo angle, 1536 channels/module 0
- 80 SCT modules tested and confirmed as good for FASER



ATLAS SCT barrel module



Flex cables





- Quality Assurance (QA) of SCT modules (after long time in storage)
- 80 modules tested and found good for use in FASER.



# **Tracker layer**



# **Tracker Monitoring, Cooling, and Power**

- Low radiation environment → simple water chiller at ~ 15 °C sufficient to cool ASICs
- Dry air in tracking stations (avoid condensation)
- WIENER system for power supply
- Custom board for tracker interlock & monitoring (TIM)
- Detector Control System (DCS) under development.









## **Tracker prototype layer**

• First prototype layer produced and mounted in September 2019.

• Undergone extensive tests to characterise mechanical and electrical tracker components.





# **Tracker prototype layer**

- Thermal measurements
- Readout tests (calibrations/scans) and noise measurements
- Metrology for pre-alignment (~ few microns precision)







**FEA** simulation









## Metrology studies

## **Pilot neutrino detector**

- Pilot neutrino detector (two modules, 15 kg each) installed in TI18 tunnel in 2018:
  - 12.5 cm x 10 cm/module: 100 layers of 1 mm Pb plates, 120 layers of 0.5 mmW plates
  - Collected 12.5 fb<sup>-1</sup> of data (~30 neutrino interactions expected)



Pilot neutrino detector

All reconstructed tracks

Reconstructed neutral vertex