

Looking forward to Naturalness

Results and prospects for low-mass searches in the forward region at the LHC

Is There Still Room for Naturalness? NORDITA 2022

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European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

April 25, 2022

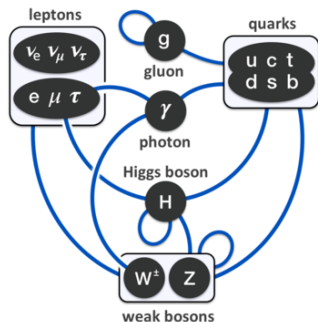


The Standard Model

The Standard Model (SM) of elementary particles:

- Most **successful theory** describing subatomic particles and their interactions.
- Accommodates strong, weak and electromagnetic interactions:

$$G_{\text{SM}} = G_{\text{QCD}} \times G_{\text{EW}} = SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$$



SM is strongly predictive and precise:

- t predicted (observed) on 1973 (95),
- W/Z predicted (observed) on 1962 (83),
- g predicted (observed) on 1962 (78),
- H predicted (observed) on 1964 (2012),
- Good agreement with experimental results.

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THE STANDARD MODEL: IT HAS TO BREAK DOWN AT SOME POINT BUT JUST KEEPS CHUGGING ALONG!

MCK, COMAZON

But also an incomplete theory:

- Inability to explain gravity.
- Dark matter and dark energy.
- Baryogenesis problem (BNV, CPV).
- Towards a GUT (gauge unification).
- Neutrino masses.
- **Hierarchy problem and fine-tuning.**

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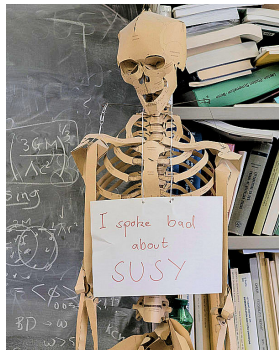
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- **Is there still room for Naturalness?**

Still no New Physics at the LHC?

- 1 **NP is “collider-phobic”**: we need dedicated experiments (axions, dark photons, sub-GeV DM, sterile neutrinos), *e.g.* FASER, CODEX-b, MATHUSLA, LZ, DUNE, ADMX, etc.

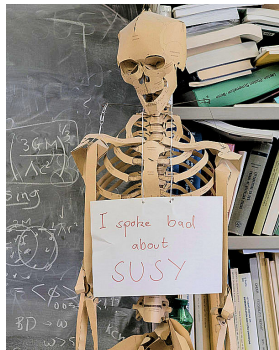
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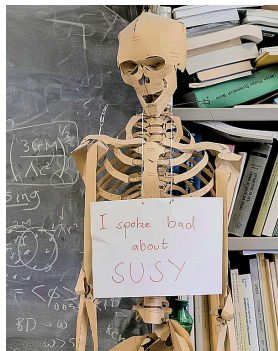
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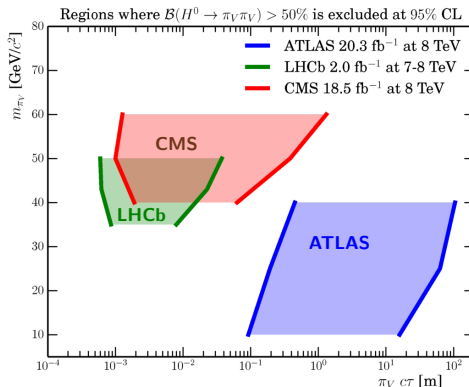
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- 3 **The NP scale is \sim EW scale but operating in “stealth mode”**: heavy mediators, tiny couplings, compressed spectra, large backgrounds \rightarrow **ideal for LHCb to explore!**



Hunting for Stealth New Physics

- The LHCb experiment is a **natural candidate** to search for stealth physics.
- Originally designed as a heavy-flavor experiment, but now a general purpose detector.
- Ability to deal with low-mass backgrounds, soft triggers and particle identification.
- Excellent vertex resolution and tracking capabilities.
- Unique coverage complementary to ATLAS and CMS:



The LHCb detector



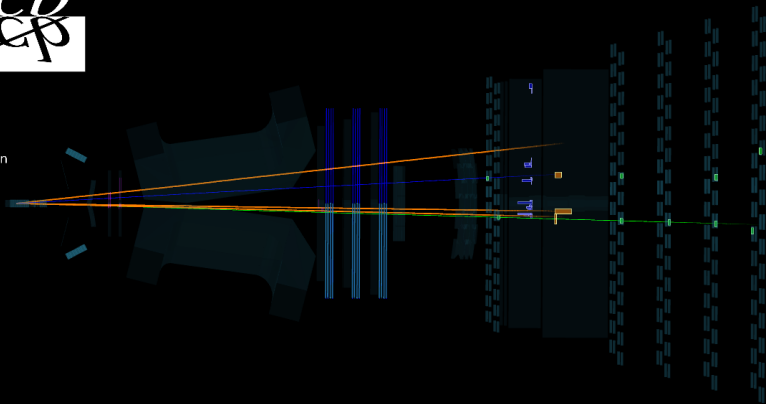
LHCb is a 20×5 m GPD in the forward region (originally designed for HF physics).

Side view

Event 216853

Run 4052454

LHCb Simulation



The LHCb detector



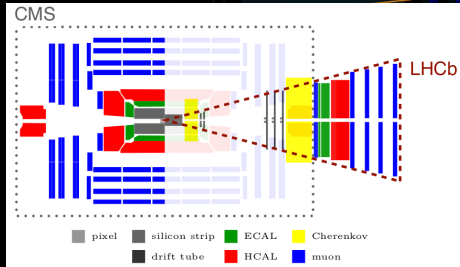
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Single-arm **forward** spectrometer ($2 < \eta < 5$) along the beamline (z).

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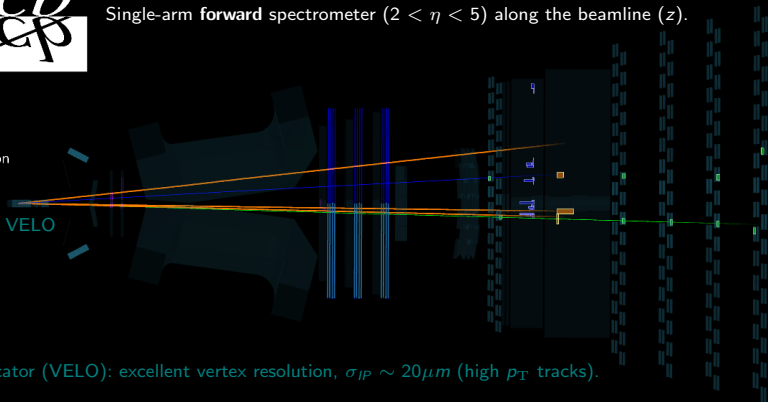
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Vertex LOcator (VELO): excellent vertex resolution, $\sigma_{IP} \sim 20 \mu m$ (high p_T tracks).

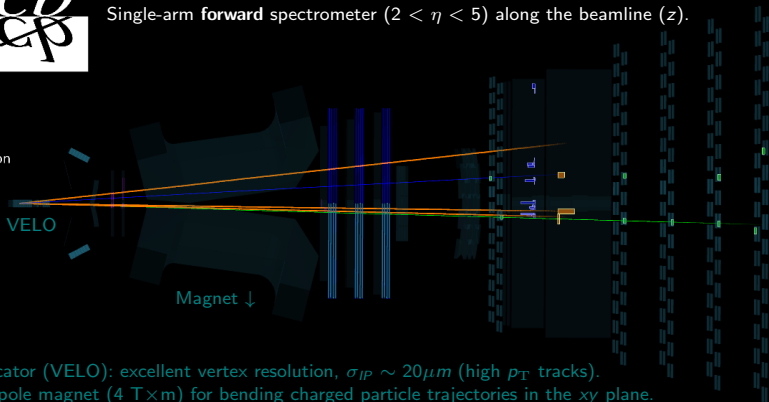
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Vertex LOcator (VELO): excellent vertex resolution, $\sigma_{IP} \sim 20 \mu m$ (high p_T tracks).
Magnet: dipole magnet (4 T×m) for bending charged particle trajectories in the xy plane.

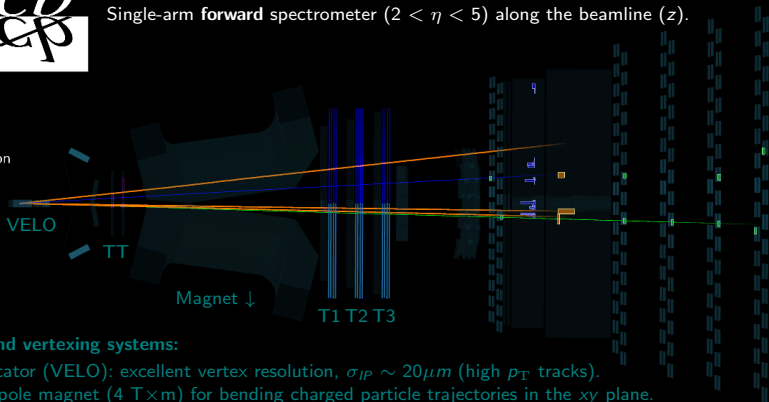
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Tracking and vertexing systems:

VErtex LOcator (VELO): excellent vertex resolution, $\sigma_{IP} \sim 20 \mu\text{m}$ (high p_T tracks).

Magnet: dipole magnet (4 T \times m) for bending charged particle trajectories in the xy plane.

Silicon Tracker: one tracking station upstream and three stations ($\delta p/p \sim 0.4\%$) downstream the magnet.

The LHCb detector

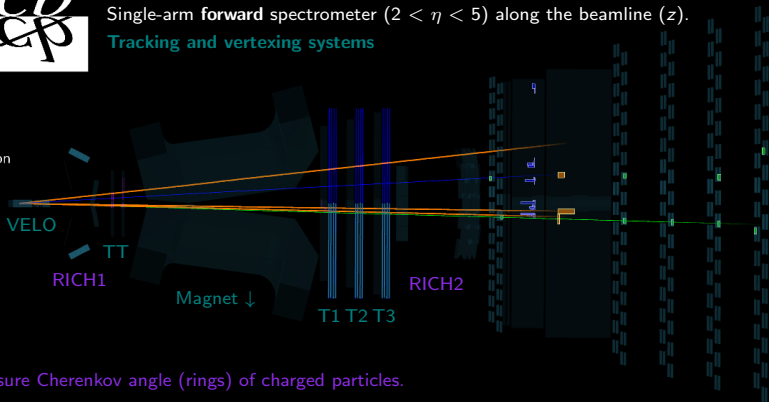


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Tracking and vertexing systems

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RICH: measure Cherenkov angle (rings) of charged particles.

The LHCb detector

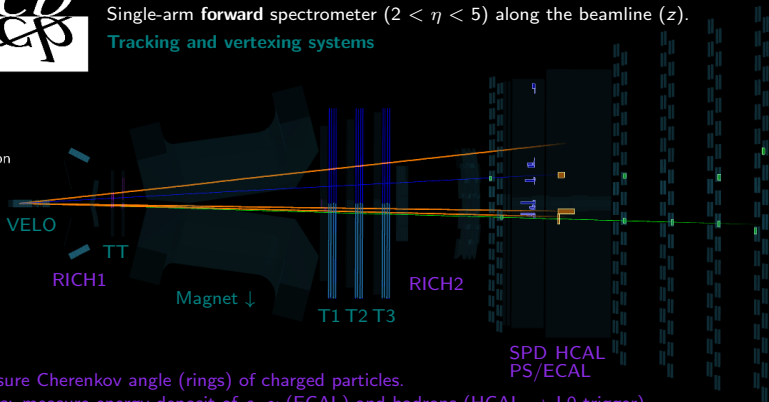


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RICH: measure Cherenkov angle (rings) of charged particles.

Calorimeters: measure energy deposit of e , γ (ECAL) and hadrons (HCAL \rightarrow L0 trigger).

The LHCb detector

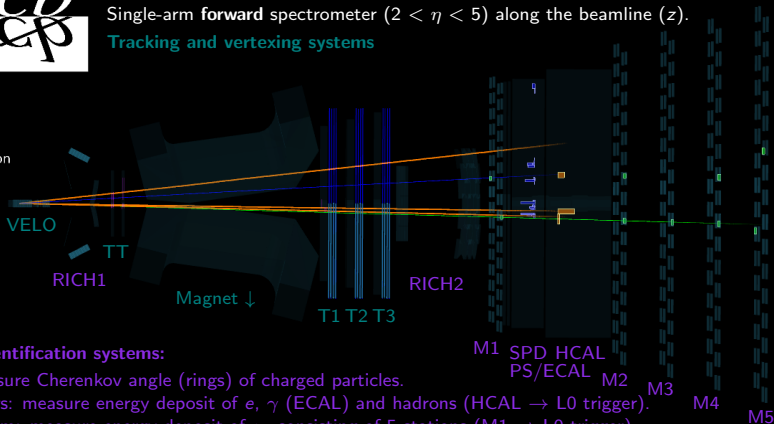


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Particle identification systems:

RICH: measure Cherenkov angle (rings) of charged particles.

Calorimeters: measure energy deposit of e , γ (ECAL) and hadrons (HCAL \rightarrow L0 trigger).

Muon system: measure energy deposit of μ , consisting of 5 stations (M1 \rightarrow L0 trigger).

The LHCb detector



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Single-arm **forward** spectrometer ($2 < \eta < 5$) along the beamline (z).

Tracking and vertexing systems

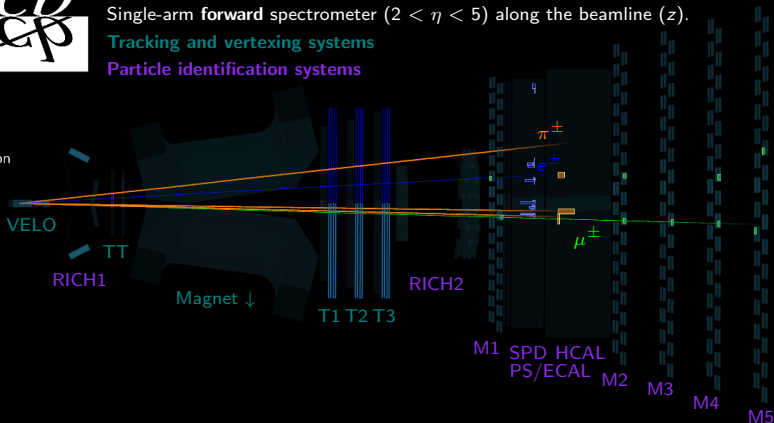
Particle identification systems

Side view

Event 216853

Run 4052454

LHCb Simulation



The LHCb detector



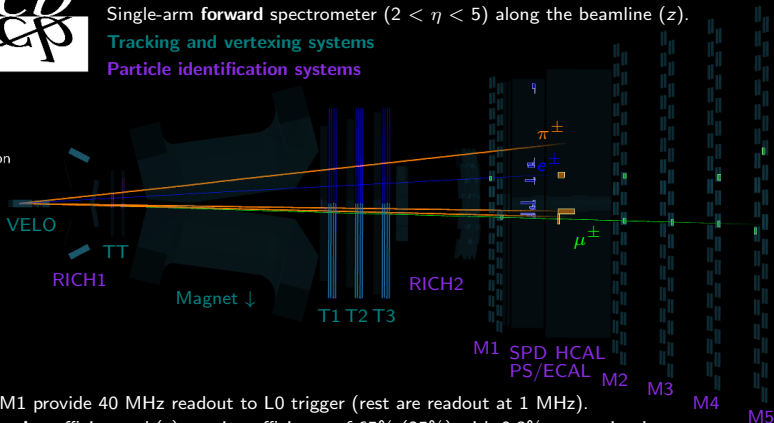
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Tracking and vertexing systems

Particle identification systems

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LHCb Simulation



HCAL and M1 provide 40 MHz readout to L0 trigger (rest are readout at 1 MHz).

Good **jet tagging** efficiency: b(c) tagging efficiency of 65% (25%) with 0.3% contamination.

The LHCb detector



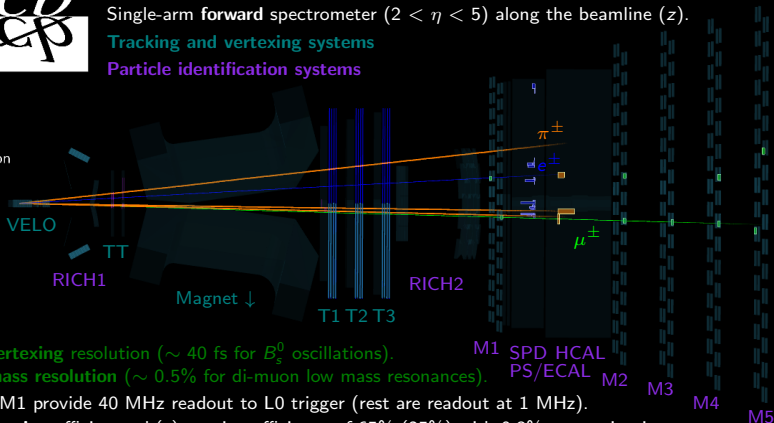
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Tracking and vertexing systems

Particle identification systems

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LHCb Simulation



Excellent **vertexing** resolution (~ 40 fs for B_s^0 oscillations).

Excellent **mass resolution** ($\sim 0.5\%$ for di-muon low mass resonances).

HCAL and M1 provide 40 MHz readout to L0 trigger (rest are readout at 1 MHz).

Good **jet tagging** efficiency: b(c) tagging efficiency of 65% (25%) with 0.3% contamination.

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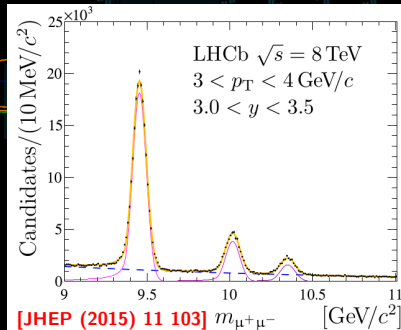
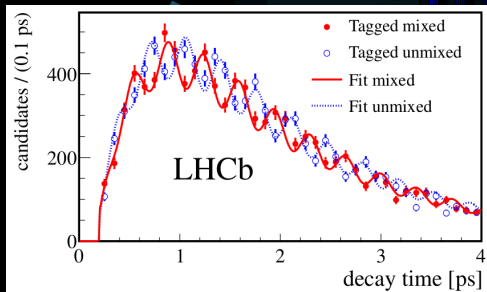
Tracking and vertexing systems

Particle identification systems

Side view

Event 216853

Run 4052454



The LHCb detector



Trajectories of charged particles are **bent** in the xy plane.

Tracking and vertexing systems

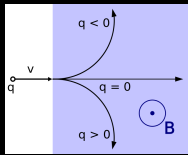
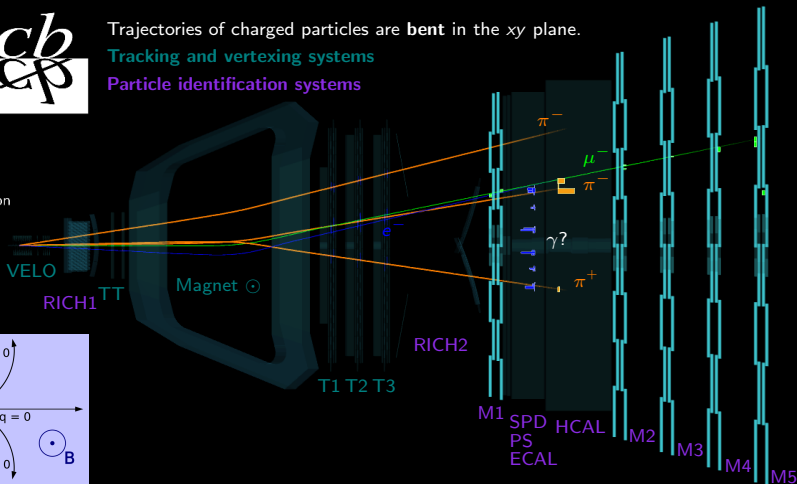
Particle identification systems

Top view

Event 216853

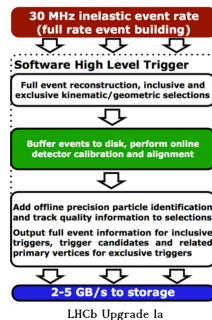
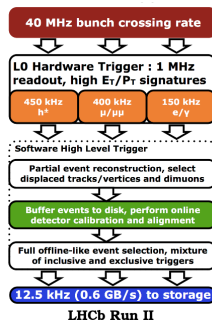
Run 4052454

LHCb Simulation



The LHCb trigger

- Hardware level L0:
 - **removed** for Upgrade Ia (Ula).
 - **benefit for low mass searches.**
- Software level HLT:
 - Topological triggers on DV.
 - Down to $p_T \sim 80 \text{ MeV}/c$ (μ).
 - Ula: full event reco (30 MHz).
 - **benefit for exotic searches.**
- **Turbo** (since 2015) lines:
 - Any event part can be **saved**.
 - Can work **directly** on them.
 - **Online μ -ID and jets in turbo.**



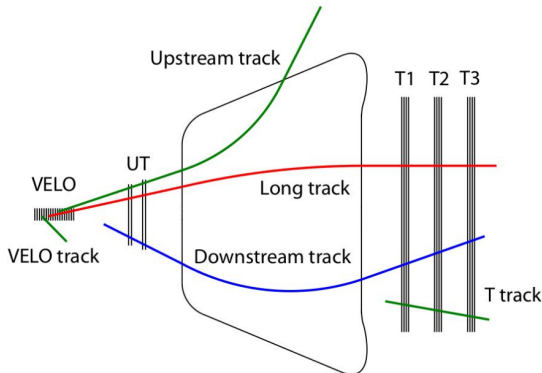
- GPU-based HLT1 (Allen project) from Ula [Comp Soft Big Sci (2020) 4 7]

The LHCb reconstruction

- **Long tracks:**

- Tracks with hits in the tracking stations and in the VELO.
- **Excellent spatial and momentum resolution.**
- Reconstruction of particles decaying within VELO.

- **Downstream tracks** and **upstream tracks** – see backup.

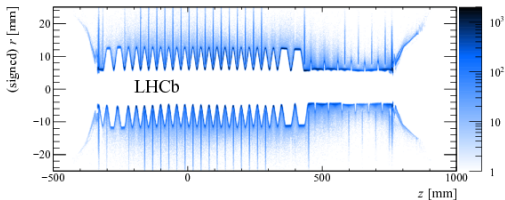
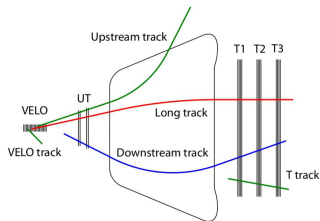


The LHCb reconstruction

• Long tracks:

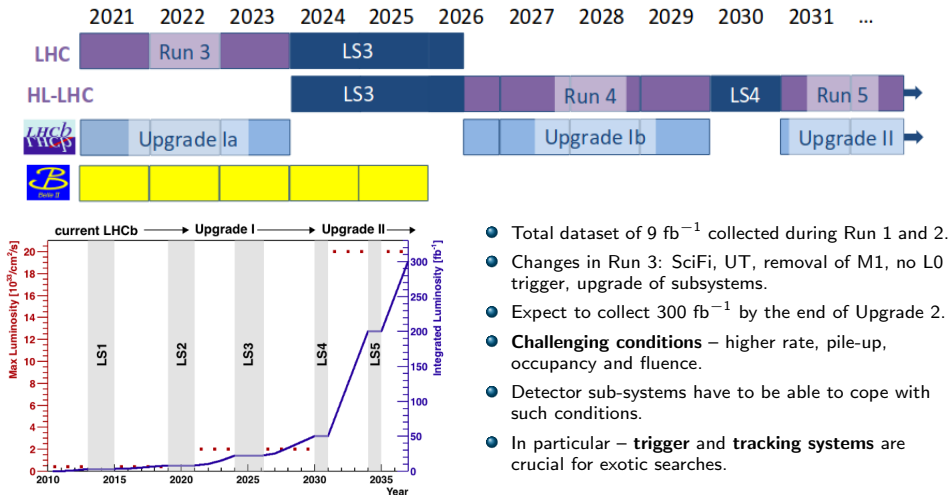
- Tracks with hits in the tracking stations and in the VELO.
- **Excellent spatial and momentum resolution.**
- Reconstruction of particles decaying within VELO.
- Presence of a **VELO envelope** (RF-foil) at ~ 5 mm from beam:
 - Background dominated by heavy flavour below 5 mm.
 - **Background dominated by material interactions above 5 mm.**
- Having a precise model of material interactions is **crucial**.
- A **detailed VELO material veto map** is used: **[JINST 13 (2018) P06008]**
 - Sensitivity **improvement** by **one to two** orders of magnitude.
 - See **backup** for more details on the material veto map.

• Downstream tracks and upstream tracks – see backup.



The future of LHCb

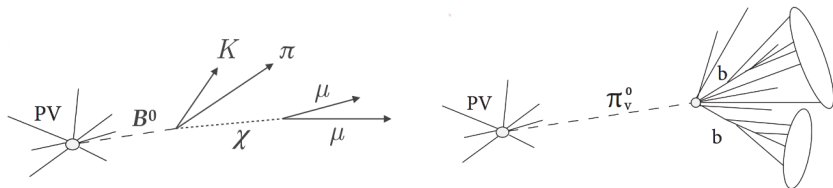
Physics case for an LHCb Upgrade II: Opportunities in flavour physics, and beyond, in the HL-LHC era [CERN-LHCC-2018-027]



- Total dataset of 9 fb^{-1} collected during Run 1 and 2.
- Changes in Run 3: SciFi, UT, removal of M1, no L0 trigger, upgrade of subsystems.
- Expect to collect 300 fb^{-1} by the end of Upgrade 2.
- **Challenging conditions** – higher rate, pile-up, occupancy and fluence.
- Detector sub-systems have to be able to cope with such conditions.
- In particular – **trigger** and **tracking systems** are crucial for exotic searches.

Selection of results and prospects on various signatures and models:

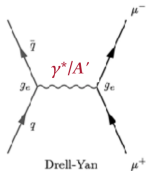
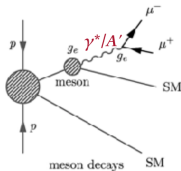
- **Low-mass dimuons:** dark photons, scalar resonances.
- **Long-lived particles:** decaying hadronically and semileptonically.
- **B-meson decays:** hidden sector bosons.
- **Other searches:** ALPs, CMSP.
- **Prospects:** Stealth major report, and CODEX-b.



Low-mass dimuons

Search for dark photons decaying into a pair of muons:

- Kinetic mixing of the dark photon (A') with off-shell photon (γ^*) by a factor ε :
 - ① A' inherits the production mode mechanisms from γ^* .
 - ② $A' \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ can be normalised to $\gamma^* \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$.
- Separate γ^* signal from background and measure its fraction.
- **Prompt-like** search (up to $70 \text{ GeV}/c^2$) \rightarrow **displaced** search ($214 - 350 \text{ MeV}/c^2$).
 - A' is long-lived only if the mixing factor is really small.
- Used 5.5 fb^{-1} of Run 2 LHCb data (13 TeV).



$$n_{\text{ex}}^{A'}[m(A'), \varepsilon^2] = \varepsilon^2 \left[\frac{n_{\text{ob}}^{\gamma^*}[m(A')]}{2\Delta m} \right] \mathcal{F}[m(A')] \epsilon_{\gamma^*}^{A'}[m(A'), \tau(A')]$$

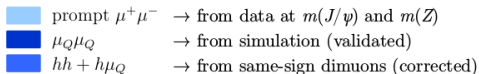
off-shell photon

phase-space

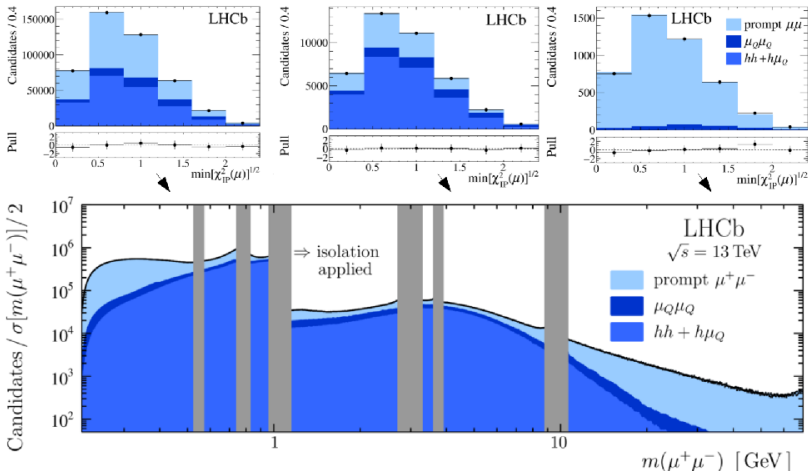
A' / γ^* eff ratio,
 $\varepsilon=1$ for prompt

Dark Photons [PRL (2020) 124 041801]

Using templates
for $\min[\chi^2_{\text{IP}}]$
(small mass dep)

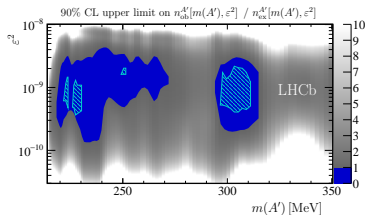
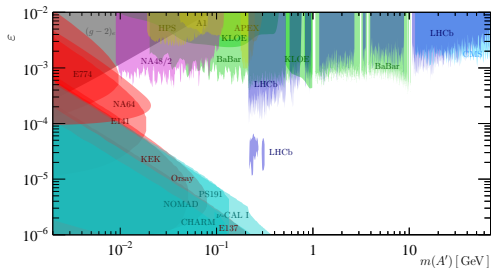
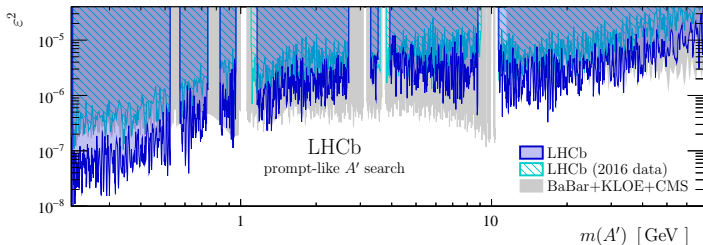


(μ_Q is a muon from a heavy-flavour decay)



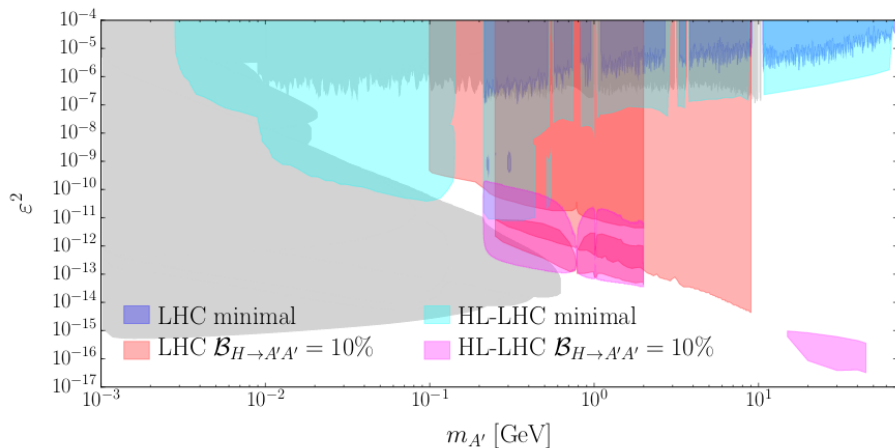
Dark Photons [PRL (2020) 124 041801]

Great sensitivity (especially above 10 GeV and below 0.5 GeV):



Dark Photons – combined prospects

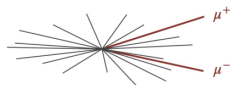
- Minimal scenario (LHCb) + Higgs portal (ATLAS/CMS):



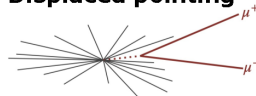
- Signature sensitive to other models \rightarrow **model-independent search:**

+ no isolation requirement
+ non-zero width considered

Inclusive Prompt

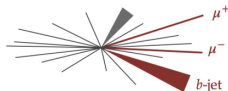


Displaced pointing

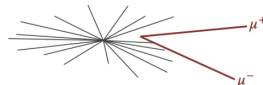


+ non-zero width considered

Prompt + b-jet

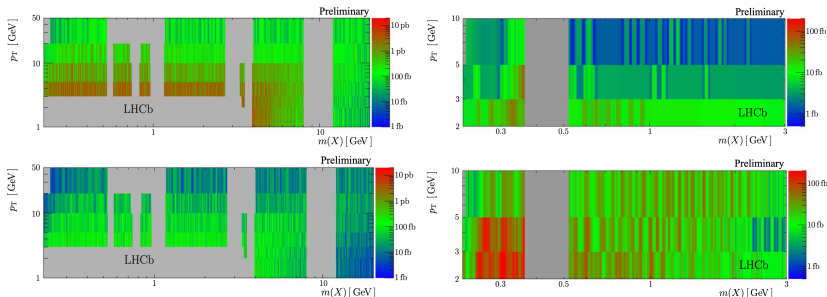


Displaced non-pointing



Dark Photons – non-minimal searches [JHEP 10 (2020) 156]

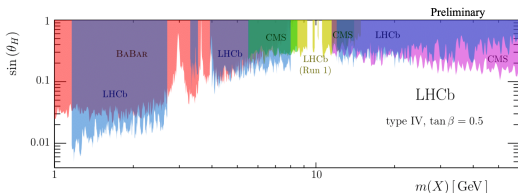
- UL @ 90% C.L. on $\sigma(X \rightarrow \mu\mu)$ (top: inclusive, bottom: b-associated):



- 2HDM Higgs $\theta_H \rightarrow$ world-best limits:

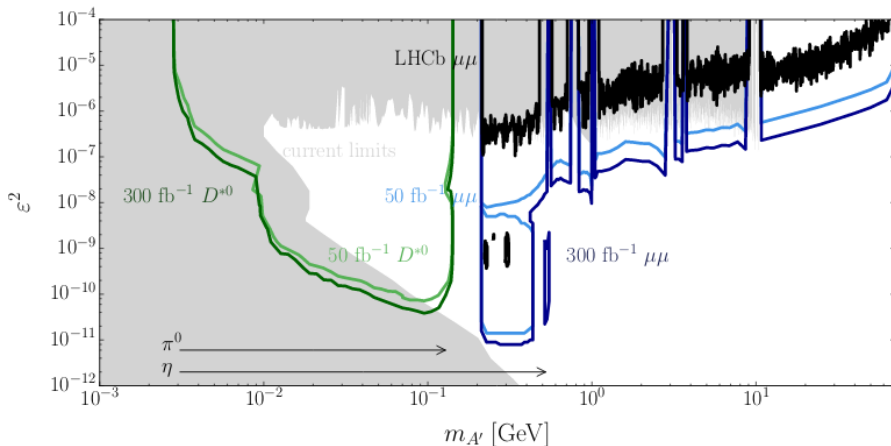
- \rightarrow LHCb R1 [JHEP 09 (2018) 147]
- \rightarrow CMS R1 [PRL 109 (2012) 121801]
- \rightarrow CMS R2 [PRL 124, 131802 (2020)]
- \rightarrow Belle $Y \rightarrow X\gamma$ [PRD 87 (2013) 031102]

- Other scenarios covered too (*i.e.* HV).



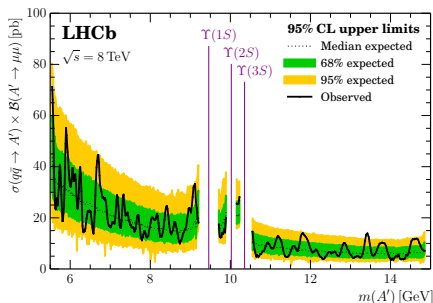
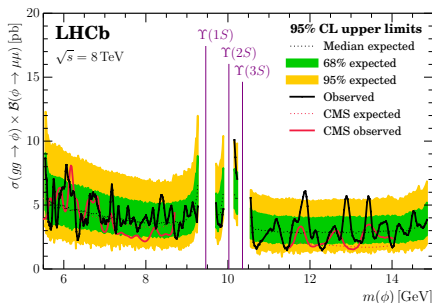
Dark Photons – the future

- Cover di-electron final states in $D^{*0} \rightarrow D^0 A' (ee)$ decays:
 - Hardwareless trigger is required (softer final state than in the di-muon mode),
 - High statistics → get $3 \times 10^{11} D^0$ per inverse fb!
- Prospected reach for Run III and beyond: [\[arXiv:1812.07831\]](#)



Light dark bosons decaying into $\mu\mu$ [JHEP 09 (2018) 147]

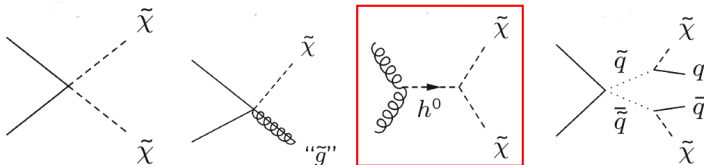
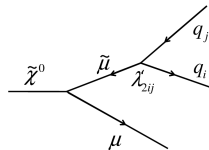
- Light spin-0 particles copiously produced in gluon-gluon fusion:
 - Many models: NMSSM, 2HDM+S, etc.
 - Review on LHC searches: [\[arXiv:1802.02156\]](#)
- Search using LHCb Run 1 (3 fb^{-1}) published in JHEP.
- Look for a di-muon resonance from 5.5 to 15 GeV/c^2 (also between Υ peaks):
 - Mass-interpolated efficiencies in bins of p_T, η (**model independent** results also given).
 - Production x-section (8 TeV) limits for a scalar (vector) boson on the left (right).
 - First scalar limits between 8.7 and 11.5 GeV/c^2 and competitive with CMS elsewhere.
- **No excess observed** ☹ for more details → ask me during the coffee break ☺



Long-lived particles

LLPs decaying into $\mu + \text{jets}$ [arXiv:2110.07293]

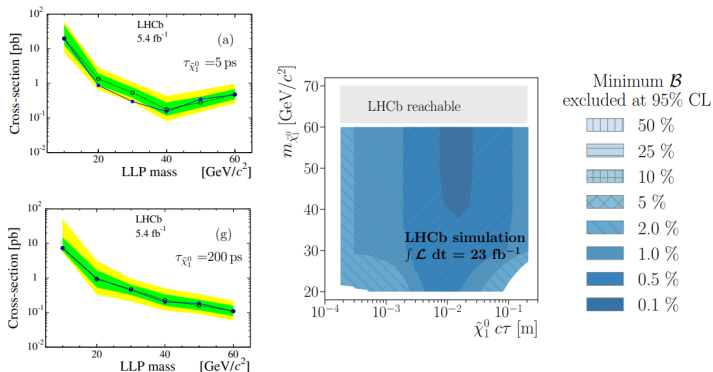
- **Massive LLP into $\mu + \text{two quarks}$ ($\rightarrow \text{jets}$).**
- Signature sensitive to **several benchmark models**:
 - mSUGRA RPV neutralino,
 - Right-handed (Majorana) neutrinos,
 - Simplified MSSM production topologies:



- One particular example: **decay of a Higgs-like particle** into two LLPs.
- Look for a **single displaced vertex** with several tracks + high p_T muon.
- Background dominated by $b\bar{b}$ events and material interactions.

LLPs decaying into $\mu + \text{jets}$ [arXiv:2110.07293]

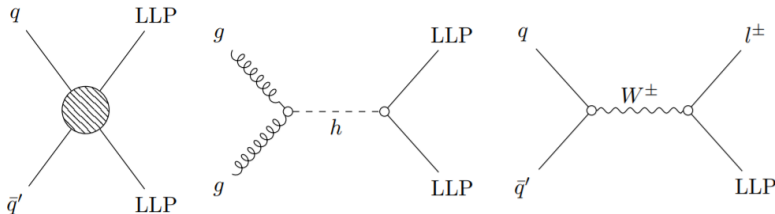
- Search with 5.4 fb^{-1} of LHCb Run 1 and 2 data published.
- Results interpreted in $H^0 \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0$ benchmark model:



- Excluded production cross-section down to $\mathcal{O}(0.1)$ pb.
- Exclude $\mathcal{B}(H^0 \rightarrow \chi\chi)$ down to 0.1% by the end of Run 3 [LHCb-CONF-2018-006]

LLPs decaying into $e^+\mu^-\nu$ [EPJC (2021) 81 261]

- Search for a long-lived particle decaying into $e^+\mu^-\nu$, and produced:
 - via direct pair production (DPP) from pp collisions,
 - from an exotic Higgs decay (HIG), produced in pairs,
 - or from a charged current process (CC).



- LHCb Run 2 (2016 – 2018) dataset (5.38 fb^{-1} at 13 TeV).
- Explore masses between 7 and 50 GeV and lifetimes between 2 and 50 ps.
- Leptonic triggers with low p_T requirements \rightarrow allow to access small LLP masses.

LLPs decaying into $e^+\mu^-\nu$ [EPJC (2021) 81 261]

Simulation:

- Signal (DPP and HIG) using MSSM RPV model – LLP as $\tilde{\chi}_0^1$ light neutralino,
- Signal (CC) using LRSM model – LLP as a HNL from on-shell W boson decay,
- Several **signal samples** per model for different LLP mass and lifetimes.
- **Background sample** simulated for QCD $b\bar{b}$ events.

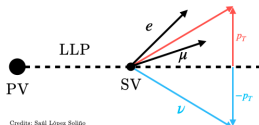
Selection:

- Require good quality DVs with minimum displacement and kinematic requirements.
- Leptons isolated to suppress QCD background – isolation optimised with same-sign data.
- After full selection \rightarrow 60k $b\bar{b} \rightarrow e\mu X$ events (consistent with observed yield).

LLPs decaying into $e^+\mu^-\nu$ [EPJC (2021) 81 261]

Corrected mass approach:

- LHCb is a non-hermetic spectrometer \rightarrow we **can not do invisibles**.
- However, we can compute a proxy to X +invisible invariant mass \rightarrow **corrected mass**.
- **Required** to have only one **massless** invisible in the final state (ν).
- **Required** to know the **direction of flight** of the parent particle.



- 1 Assume LLP origin vertex approximately be the same as the pp collision.
- 2 Obtain a (pseudo) decay vertex using the di-lepton systems.
- 3 Project the di-lepton system momenta to the LLP direction of flight.

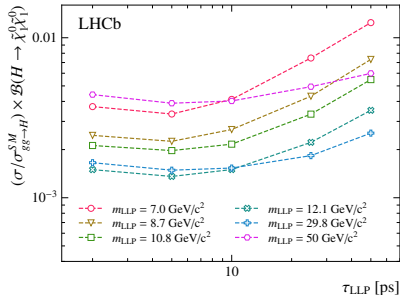
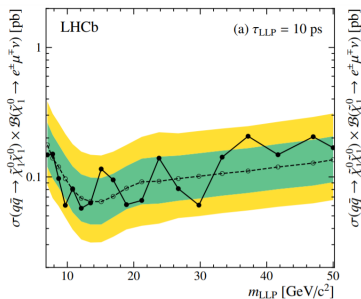
$$m_{\text{corr}} = \sqrt{m(e\mu)^2 + p(e\mu)^2 \sin^2 \theta} + p(e\mu) \sin \theta$$

Corrected mass as a good proxy to real mass \rightarrow discriminating variable.

LLPs decaying into $e^+\mu^-\nu$ [EPJC (2021) 81 261]

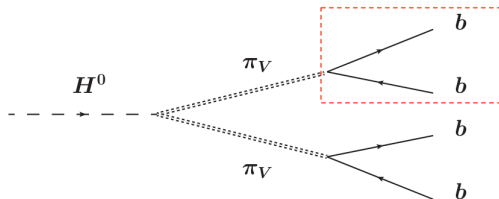
Results:

- Simultaneous ML fit to m_{corr} and LLP flight distance in two BDT bins.
- Systematics dominated by choice of signal models.
- UL at 95% C.L. on σB per model – **no excess found**.
- Best UL for DPP with lifetimes below 10 ps and masses above 10 GeV \rightarrow order of 0.1 pb.



LLPs decaying into jet pairs [EPJC (2017) 77 812]

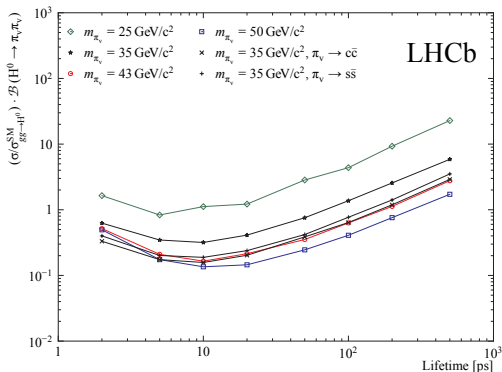
- Possible scenarios to accommodate this signature:
 - LSP in gravity mediated/BNV or LNV SUSY models,
 - **HV π_V decaying to $b\bar{b}$ – especially with SM-like $H^0 \rightarrow \pi_V\pi_V$ production.**
- In most of the cases **only one** of the two π_V decays into the LHCb acceptance.
- Experimental signature is a **single displaced vertex** with two associated jets.



- Reconstruct the displaced vertex and find two associated jets.
- Use π_V detachment to **discriminate** between signal and background.
- Background dominated by $b\bar{b}$ events and **material interactions**.

LLPs decaying into jet pairs [EPJC (2017) 77 812]

- Search with full LHCb Run 1 (3 fb^{-1}) dataset published.
- Limits at 95% C.L. as a function of π_ν lifetime for several π_ν masses:

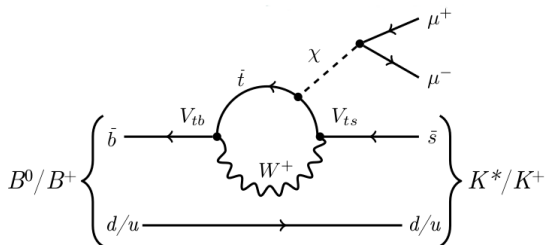


- Plan to analyse final state including kaons and pions (lower π_ν masses).
- Improved simulation models including dark showers (multiple dark hadrons).

B-meson decays

Hidden-sector bosons in $B \rightarrow K^{(*)}\chi(\mu^+\mu^-)$

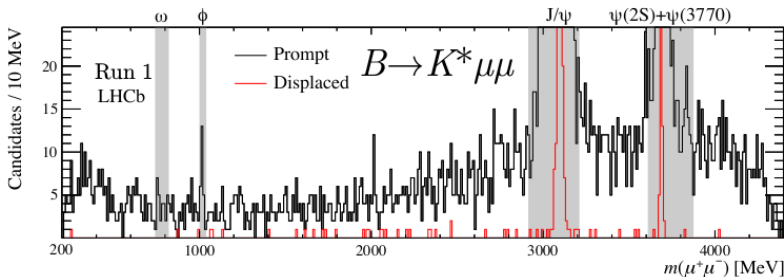
- $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\chi$ [PRL 115 (2015) 161802] / $B^+ \rightarrow K^+\chi$ [PRD 95 (2017) 071101 (R)]
- Search for hidden-sector bosons $\chi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ in $b \rightarrow s$ penguin decays:
 - Axial-vector portal (χ as axion) [LNP 741 (2008) 3]
 - **Scalar** (Higgs) portal (χ as inflaton) [JHEP 05 (2010) 10]



- First dedicated search ($K^{*0}\chi$) over such a large mass range:
 - **Pro:** $K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$ vertex leads to better $\tau(\chi)$ resolution and less background.
 - **Con:** $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0}\chi$ has smaller branching fraction than the $B^+ \rightarrow K^+\chi$ mode.
- Allow for prompt and **detached** di-muon candidates – up to 1000 ps (~ 30 cm).

Hidden-sector bosons in $B \rightarrow K^{(*)}\chi(\mu^+\mu^-)$

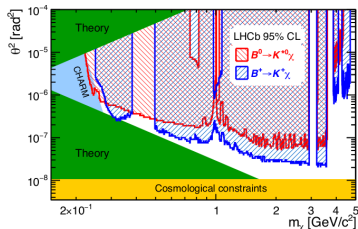
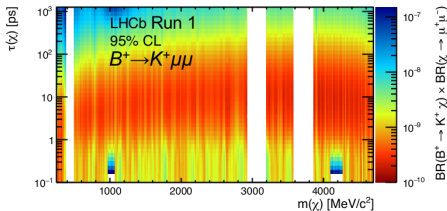
- Full LHCb Run I dataset (3 fb^{-1}) used for both searches.
- Look for a narrow di-muon peak (mass resolution between 2 and 9 MeV/c^2).
- Exclude narrow QCD resonances - mass distribution: **[PRL 115 (2015) 161802]**



- MVA selection almost independent of χ mass and decay time (uBoost).

Hidden-sector bosons in $B \rightarrow K^{(*)}\chi(\mu^+\mu^-)$

- BR normalised to $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi)$ ($\sim 10^{-4}$) or $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0} \mu^+ \mu^-)$ ($\sim 10^{-7}$).
- Constraints on $\tau(\chi)$ between 0.1 and 1000 ps (left), **[PRD 95 (2017) 071101 (R)]**
- Constraints on mixing angle θ^2 between the Higgs and χ in the inflaton model (right):

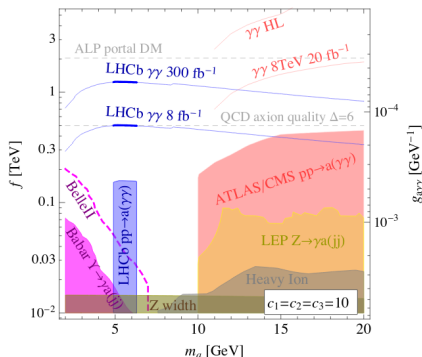


- No evidence for signal observed.**
- Large fraction of allowed inflaton parameter space ruled out.**

Other searches

ALPs decaying into pairs of photons

- Constraints from LHC resonance searches above $m_a \sim 60 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ($a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma, jj$).
- **But** – poor limits for low masses \rightarrow use $\gamma\gamma$ x-section measurements. [PLB (2018) 06 039]
- LHCb **could cover** the region between 3 and 10 GeV/c^2 (recast): [JHEP 1901 (2019) 113]

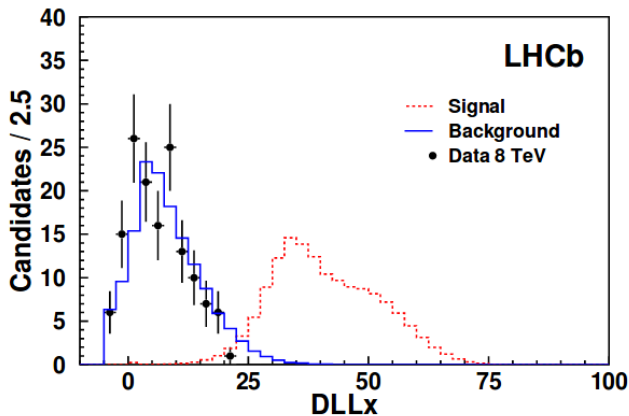


- Trigger (MVA) for **soft** $\gamma\gamma$ searches.
- **Two** selections [LHCb-PUB-2018-006] [arXiv:1906.09058]
 \rightarrow **B**: cut around $m(B_s^0)$ (since 2015).
 \rightarrow **ALP**: up to 11 GeV/c^2 (only 2018).
- **Planned search** using 2018 LHCb data.

Requirement (2x2 cell clusters)	B	ALP
$E_T(\gamma)$ [GeV]	> 3.5	> 5
$E_T(\gamma_1) + E_T(\gamma_2)$ [GeV]	> 8	> 11
$M(\gamma_1\gamma_2)$ [GeV/c^2]	[3.5, 6.0]	[6.0, 11.0]
$p_T(\gamma_1\gamma_2)$ [GeV/c]	> 2	> 5

Identify exotic signatures using RICH sub-detectors

- Use likelihoods to separate particles according to their masses, β , energy loss...
- Proof of concept (search for CMSP particles at LHCb) **[EPJC (2015) 75:595]**
- An example – distinguish between exotic heavy particles from Drell-Yan muons:



Prospects

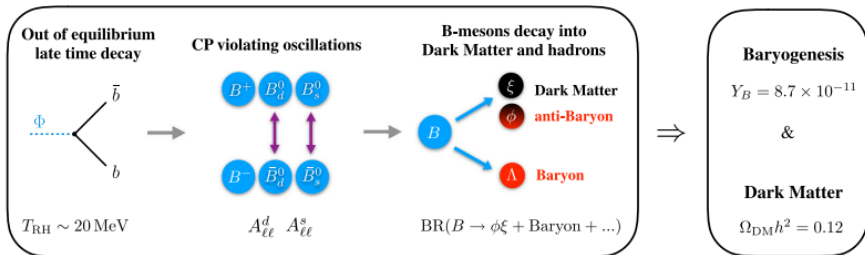
- Major report on STEALTH physics at LHCb published in Reports on Progress in Physics **[ROPP (2022) 85 024201]** [[arXiv:2105.12668](#)]
- More than 20 proposed searches on different models are described:

4.1	Neutral Naturalness	23	4.6	Dark Photons	44
4.1.1	Z Portal to a Confining Hidden Sector	23	4.6.1	Dark photons in multi-lepton searches	44
4.1.2	Confining Hidden Valleys and the Twin Higgs model	26	4.6.2	Minimal Dark photons	46
4.2	Composite Higgs	28	4.6.3	Long Lived Dark photons	47
4.2.1	Novel B-decay signatures of light scalars at high energy facilities	28	4.7	Light new scalars	50
4.2.2	ALPs from composite Higgs models	30	4.7.1	Exotic Higgs Decay	50
4.3	Dark Sectors	32	4.7.2	Single (pseudo-)scalar production	51
4.3.1	Probing dark sectors with long-lived particles	32	4.8	Axion-Like Particles	54
4.3.2	LHC probes of co-scattering dark matter	34	4.8.1	Probing the flavor conserving ALP couplings	55
4.4	Dark Matter and Baryogenesis	36	4.8.2	Probing the flavor violating ALP couplings	55
4.4.1	Mesogenesis: Baryogenesis and Dark Matter from Mesons	36	4.9	True Muonium	57
4.4.2	Collider Implications of Baryogenesis and DM from B Mesons	38	4.10	Soft Bombs/SUEPs/Dark Showers	57
4.5	Neutrino Masses	40	4.11	Quirks	59
4.5.1	Heavy neutral leptons from Drell-Yan production	40			
4.5.2	Heavy neutral leptons from Meson decays	42			

- **B-mesogenesis:** baryonic DM from B -hadron decays **[EPJC (2021) 81 964]**
- **Confining HV:** dark hadrons decaying into SM light hadrons **[JHEP (2020) 115]**
- **Composite ALP:** light pseudoscalar in Composite Higgs models **[EPJC (2022) 82 3]**

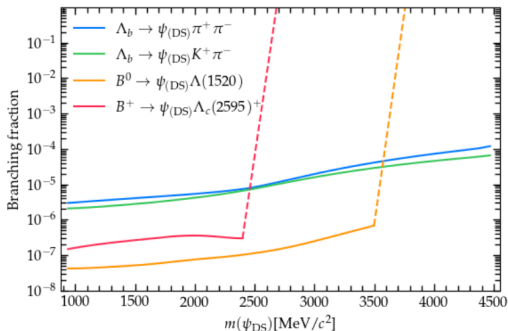
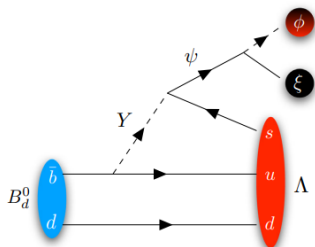
S1: B-mesogenesis

- Explain baryon asymmetry and DM abundance at the same time.
- Propose a DM candidate with baryon number: **[PRD 99, 035031]**
- Observables in the model are $A_{SL}^{s,d}$ and $\mathcal{B}(H_b \rightarrow \Psi_{(DS)} + X)$.



S1: B-mesogenesis

- Predictions of \mathcal{B} down to 10^{-6} and $A_{SL}^{s,d}$ between 10^{-5} and 10^{-3} .
- $A_{SL}^{s,d}$ is measured with high precision, while $\mathcal{B}(H_b \rightarrow \Psi_{(DS)} + X)$ has been never studied.
- LHCb can constrain the allowed space by the end of Run 3 (15 fb^{-1}) [EPJC (2021) 81 964]



S2: Confining HV

- Generic search for $H \rightarrow SS$ where $S \rightarrow K^+K^-$ instead of to HF: [JHEP (2020) 115]

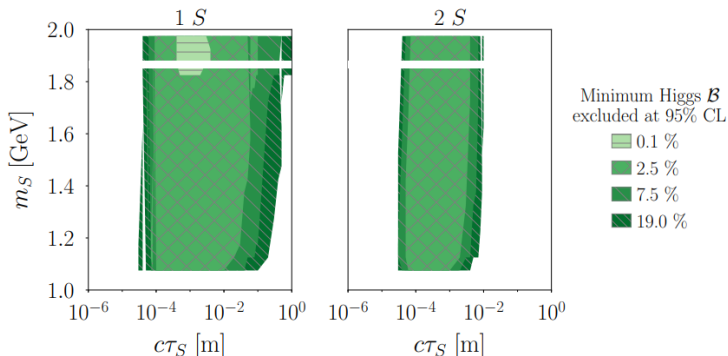
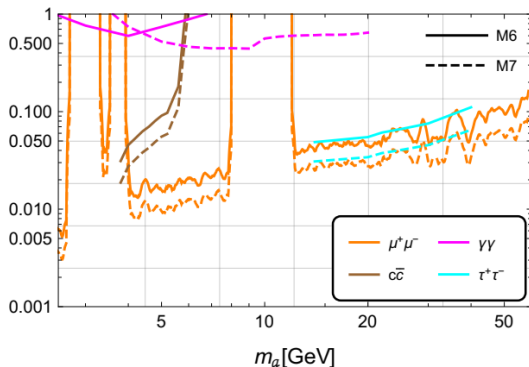


Figure 3. Range of S lifetime and mass for which a 95% CL exclusion of the branching fraction of the decay $h \rightarrow SS$ is possible at LHCb with an integrated luminosity of 15 fb^{-1} for different values of this branching fraction. We assume $\text{BR}(S \rightarrow K^+K^-) = 100\%$ in these plots. Left plot shows the limits when searching for just one S at the event, while right plot when searching for both of them.

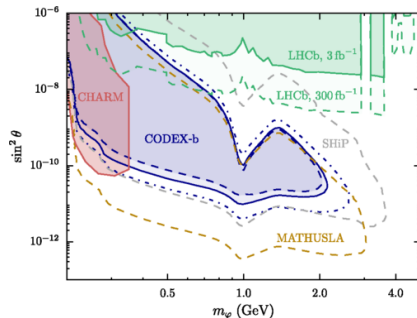
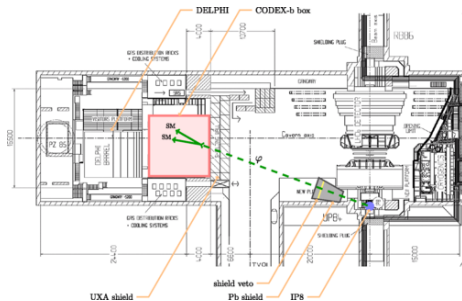
S3: Composite ALP

- Axion-like particle in the context of Composite Higgs models: [EPJC (2022) 82 3]
- Low-mass pseudoscalar decaying into pairs of leptons, quarks or photons.
- Reinterpretation of existing $\gamma\gamma$ (QCD axion projections) and $\mu\mu$ (experimental) boundaries.
- Studies for final states consisting of $\tau\tau$ and $c\bar{c}$ into D mesons.



Extended reach for LLPs (CODEX-b + LHCb)

- Compact detector for exotics: **[PRD 97 (2018) 015023]**
 - Box of tracking layers to search for decays-in-flight of LLPs generated at IP8.
 - Interface with LHCb for identification and partial reconstruction of possible LLP events.
- Prospects for several benchmark models studied:
 - Prospects (various detectors) for $B \rightarrow X_s \varphi$ (φ as a light scalar) shown below.
 - LHCb has already provided limits for this signature using Run 1 data **[PRD 115 (2015) 161802]**



- LHCb proved to be **very competitive** for Stealth physics:
 - Excellent vertexing, tracking and soft trigger.
 - Especially competitive for low masses and lifetimes.
 - Rich variety of models and signatures can be approached.
- **Bright prospects** for the future:
 - Removal of hardware trigger → access softer kinematics.
 - Better vertex resolution and tracking capabilities.
 - New techniques under development for ideas on new signatures.
- **Many other existing results and proposed studies** not covered:
 - LFV Higgs decays [EPJC (2018) 78 1008]
 - HNLs from B and D meson decays, or prompt W decays [EPJC (2021) 81 248]
- **Major report** on Stealth physics at LHCb: more than 20 models covered.



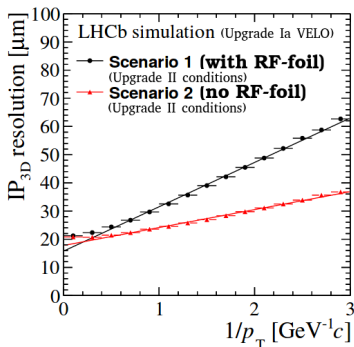
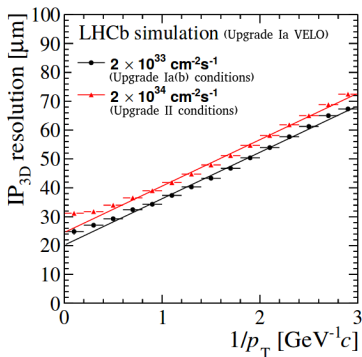
Thanks for your attention!

Backup

The upgraded LHCb VELO

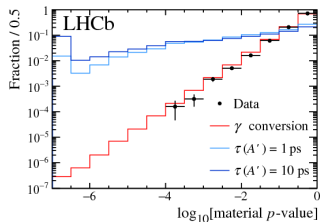
● Upgrade II VErteX LOcator: [CERN-LHCC-2017-003]

- Probably based on Upgrade Ia VELO (silicon pixels).
- Access to shorter lifetimes, better PV and IP resolution, and real-time alignment.
- But – 10x multiplicity, pile-up and radiation damage w.r.t. Upgrade Ia(b).
- Possibility of removing RF-foil for Upgrade II:
 - better IP resolution + no material interactions.

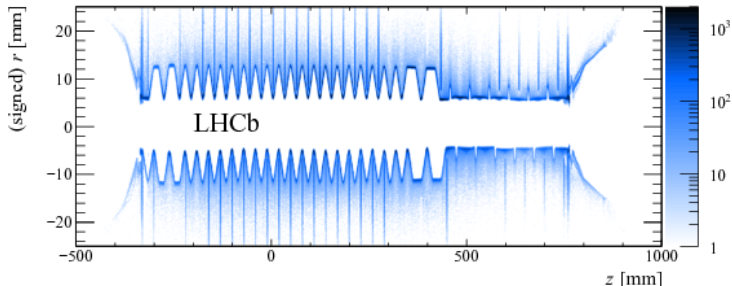


VELO material map [JINST 13 (2018) P06008]

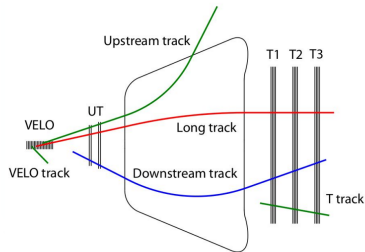
- Background dominated by material interactions for displaced searches at LHCb.
- Mandatory to **keep control** of material interactions – veto them in an efficient way:



- Background mainly due to γ conversions (left plot).
- A new VELO material map has been developed:
 - Model in **great detail** both sensors & envelope.
 - Assign a **p-value** to material interaction hypothesis.
 - Sensitivity improvement by $\mathcal{O}(10)$ to $\mathcal{O}(100)$.
 - Based on data from **beam-gas collisions** (plot below).



The LHCb reconstruction



• Downstream tracks:

- Reconstruction of particles decaying beyond VELO.
- Tracks with worse vertex and momentum resolution.
- Trigger on downstream tracks → better for LLP (≤ 2 m) signatures.
- Optimisation studies on-going [LHCb-PUB-2017-005]

• Upstream tracks:

- Reconstruction of soft charged particles bending out of the acceptance.
- New tracker (UT) – high granularity, closer to beam pipe.
- Proposal to add magnet stations (MS) inside the magnet → improve low p resolution.

Jet reconstruction and identification at LHCb

- Jet reconstruction: **[JHEP (2014) 01 033]**
 - Particle flow algorithm (including neutral recovery) \rightarrow jet input.
 - Anti- k_T algorithm for clustering ($R = 0.5$) \rightarrow efficiency $> 95\%$ for $p_T > 20$ GeV.
 - Jet energy scale calibrated on data (using $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu + \text{jets}$),
 - Energy resolution from 10 to 15% for a p_T range between 10 and 100 GeV.
- Secondary Vertex (SV) identification and jet tagging: **[JINST 10 (2015) P06013]**
 - Reconstruct SV from displaced tracks \rightarrow kinematic and quality requirements on both,
 - Train two Boosted Decision Trees (BDTs) for a two-step jet flavour tagging:
 - SV displacement from PV, kinematics, charge and multiplicity;
 - SV corrected mass, defined as $M_{\text{corr}}(\text{SV}) = \sqrt{M^2 + p^2 \sin^2 \theta} + p \sin \theta$.
 - BDT(bc|udsg) to separate light and heavy flavour jets, BDT(b|c) to separate b from c-jets.
 - Tagging efficiency of b(c)-jets of 65% (25%) with 0.3% contamination from light jets.

