

# Higgs portal long-lived particle searches at the FCC-hh

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UNIVERSITÄT BONN

The logo of the University of Bonn, consisting of a blue square in the top-left corner and a grey square in the bottom-right corner, separated by a white curved line. Below the logo, the word "BONN" is written in white capital letters on a yellow rectangular background.

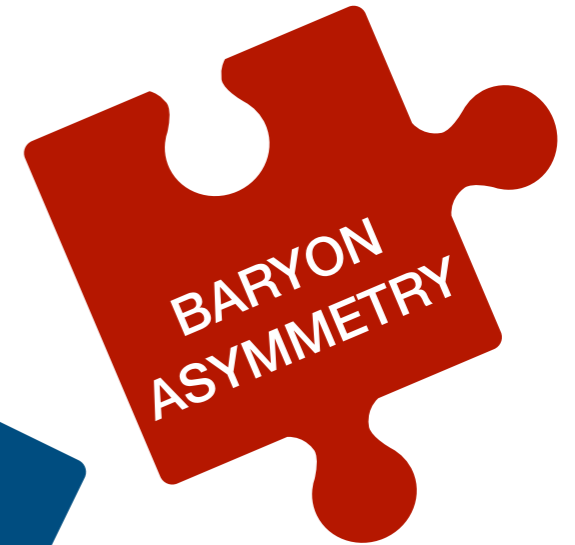
**Bonn Fall HEP Meeting 2024:**  
*Embracing Diversity in High Energy Physics*

October 8, 2024

**Standard Model** of  
particle physics  
(**SM**)

*successfully explains  
many fundamental  
phenomena of particles*

Still many pieces **missing from the SM**, like



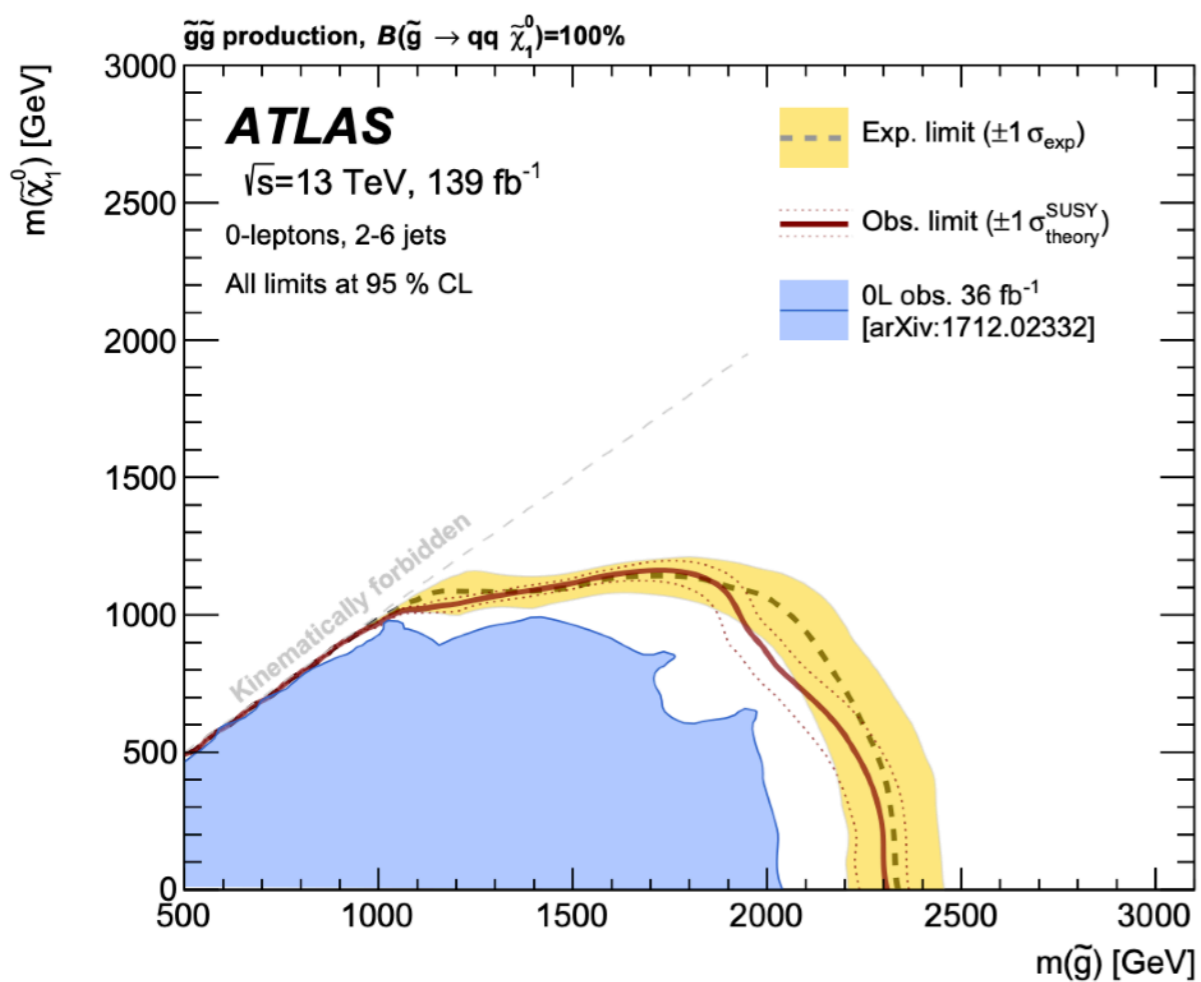
*and many more...*

**We need to look beyond the SM (BSM)**

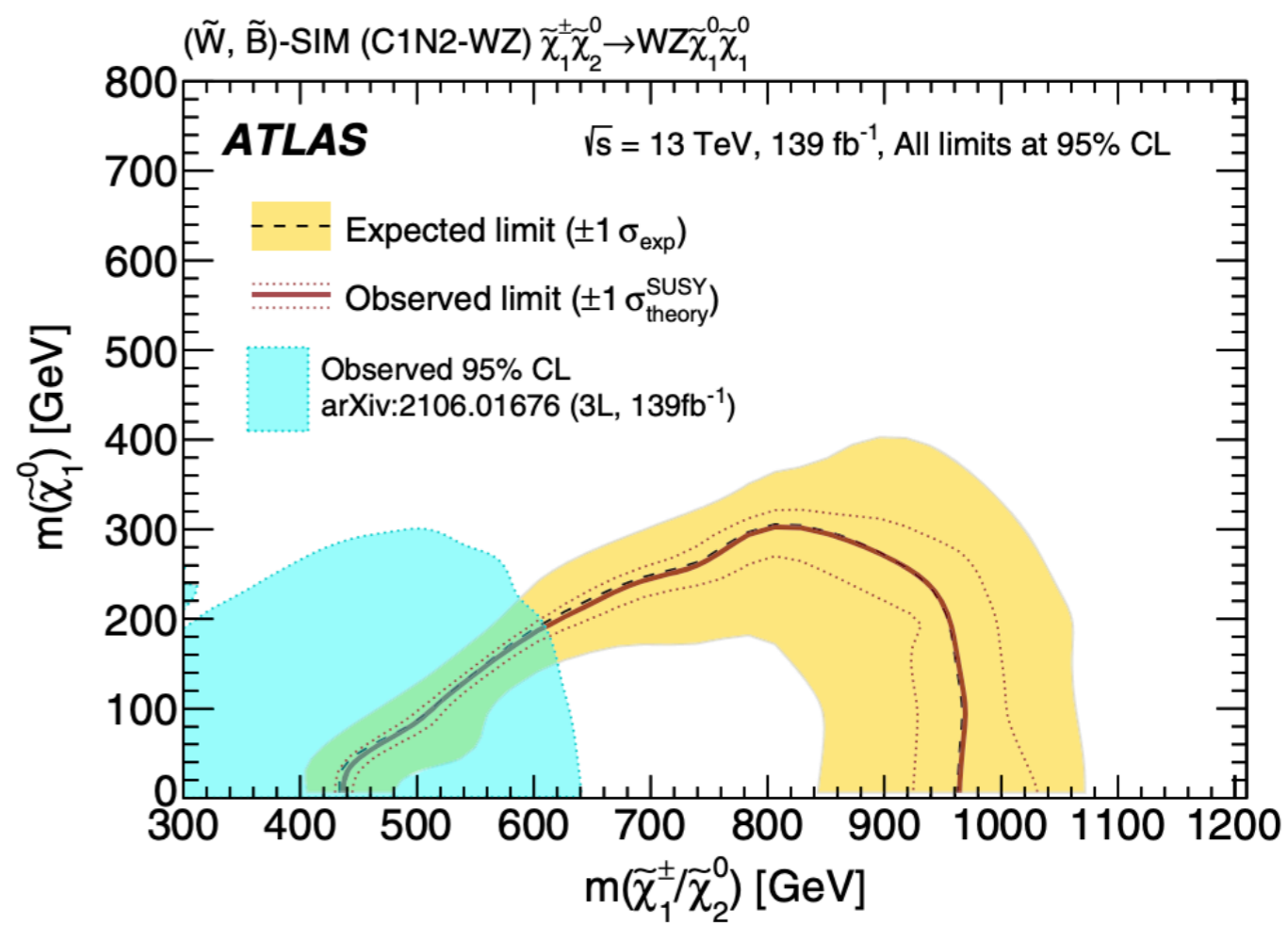
Experiments provide exhaustive bounds on where new physics cannot be  
and precise measurements of the SM

This gives us directions to look further...

# For example, limits on supersymmetric particles at the LHC



ATLAS, JHEP 02 (2021) 143



ATLAS, PRD 104 (2021) 11, 112010

# Takeaway Message

Experiments are putting **stronger constraints on the nature of new physics, especially for the conventional scenarios**

1

New physics appears at a scale beyond LHC or HL-LHC's reach

Extend mass reach by increasing centre of mass energy or with higher precision

Scale is within LHC's reach, but the process is very rare or have large backgrounds

2

Increase luminosity or more sophisticated analyses to reduce backgrounds

3

Their signatures are so unusual that they are overlooked in the present searches

More inclusive or smarter trigger strategies

# Takeaway Message

3

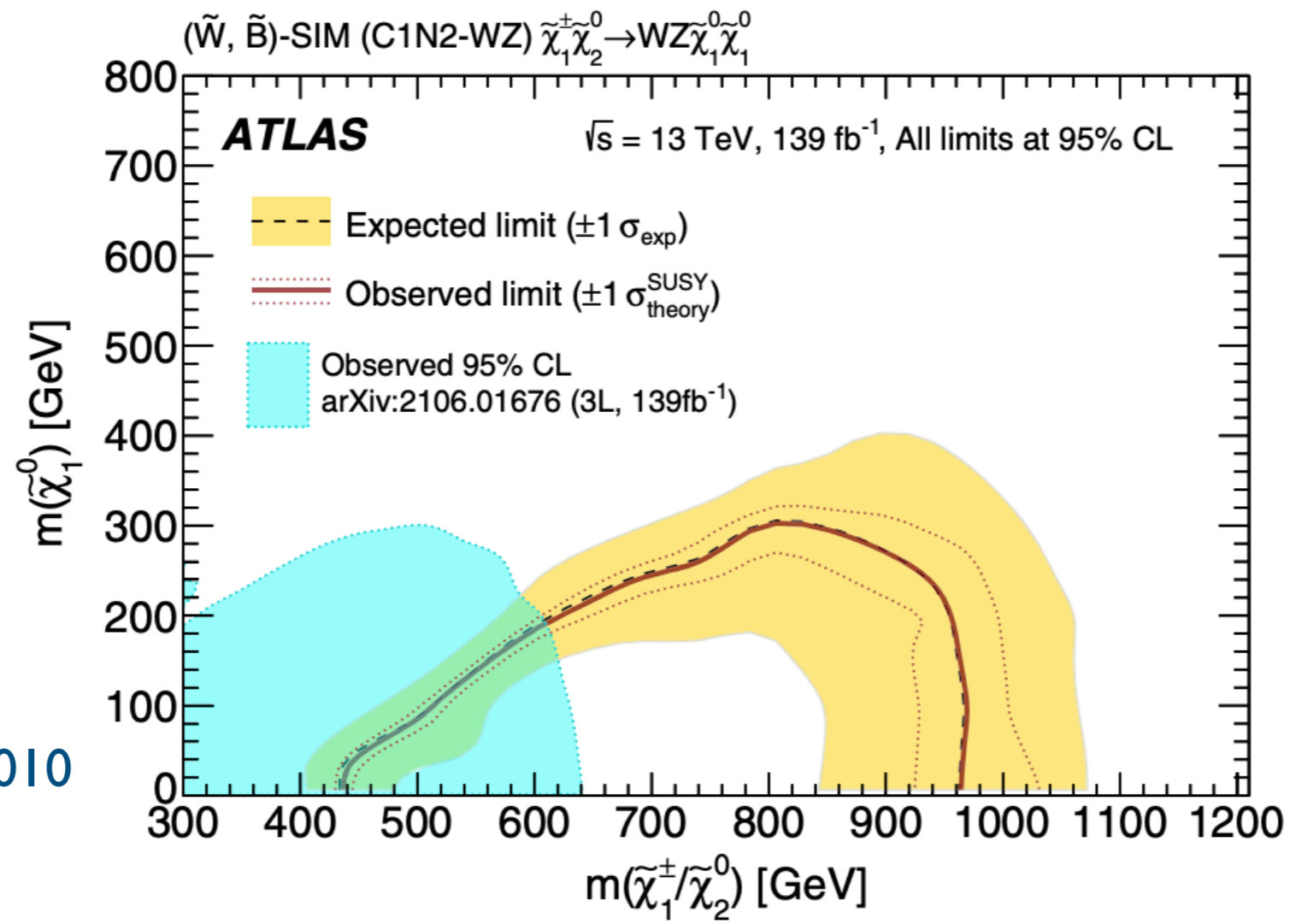
Their signatures are so unusual that they are overlooked in the present searches

More inclusive or smarter trigger strategies

**Are we covering the full phase-space of new physics?  
Or are we missing something?**

*Let us revisit some of the assumptions in our search results...*

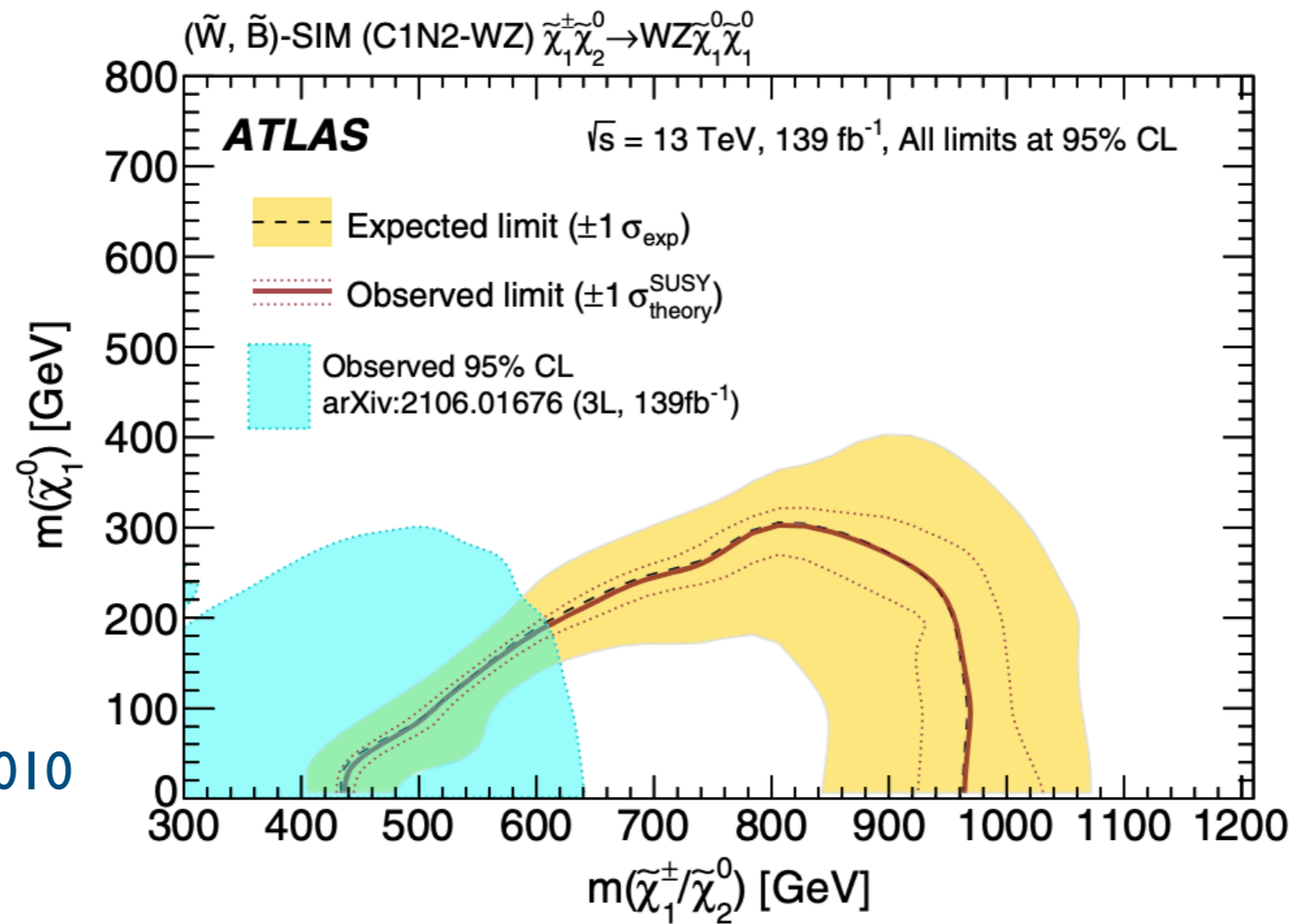
# Illustration



ATLAS, PRD.104.112010

Wino-like EWinos are excluded up to masses of 960 GeV

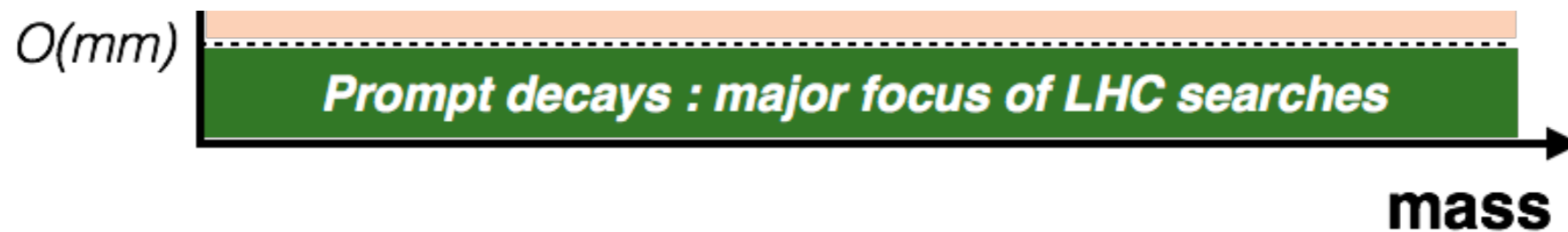
# Illustration



ATLAS, PRD.104.112010

Wino-like EWinos are excluded up to masses of 960 GeV  
*only if*

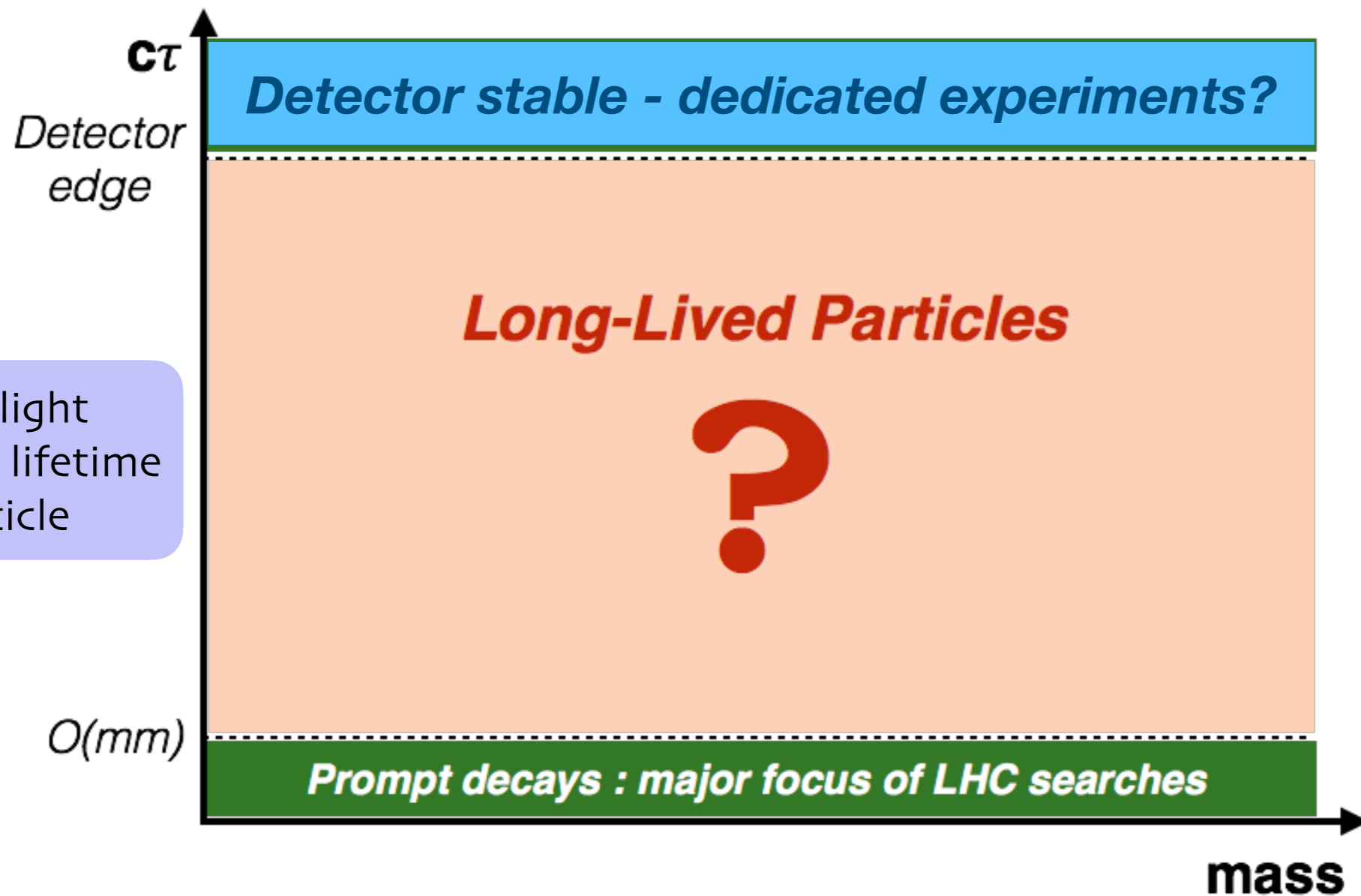
- there is large mass difference between the LSP (bino-like neutralino) and the NLSP (wino-like EWinos)
- $\text{Br}(\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow WZ \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 100\%$
- only wino and bino are present in the spectrum, other particles are decoupled and  $M_2 > M_1$
- the decay is **prompt**



Most of the conventional LHC searches focus on **prompt decay** of particles.

like top quark, W/Z bosons in  
SM  $\tau \sim 10^{-25}$  s  
( $\Gamma \sim 2.5$  GeV)





$c$ : speed of light  
 $\tau$ : proper mean lifetime of the particle

Lifting up the assumption of prompt decays

*open the door to the* **Lifetime Frontier**

**well motivated in many BSM scenarios** **largely unexplored**

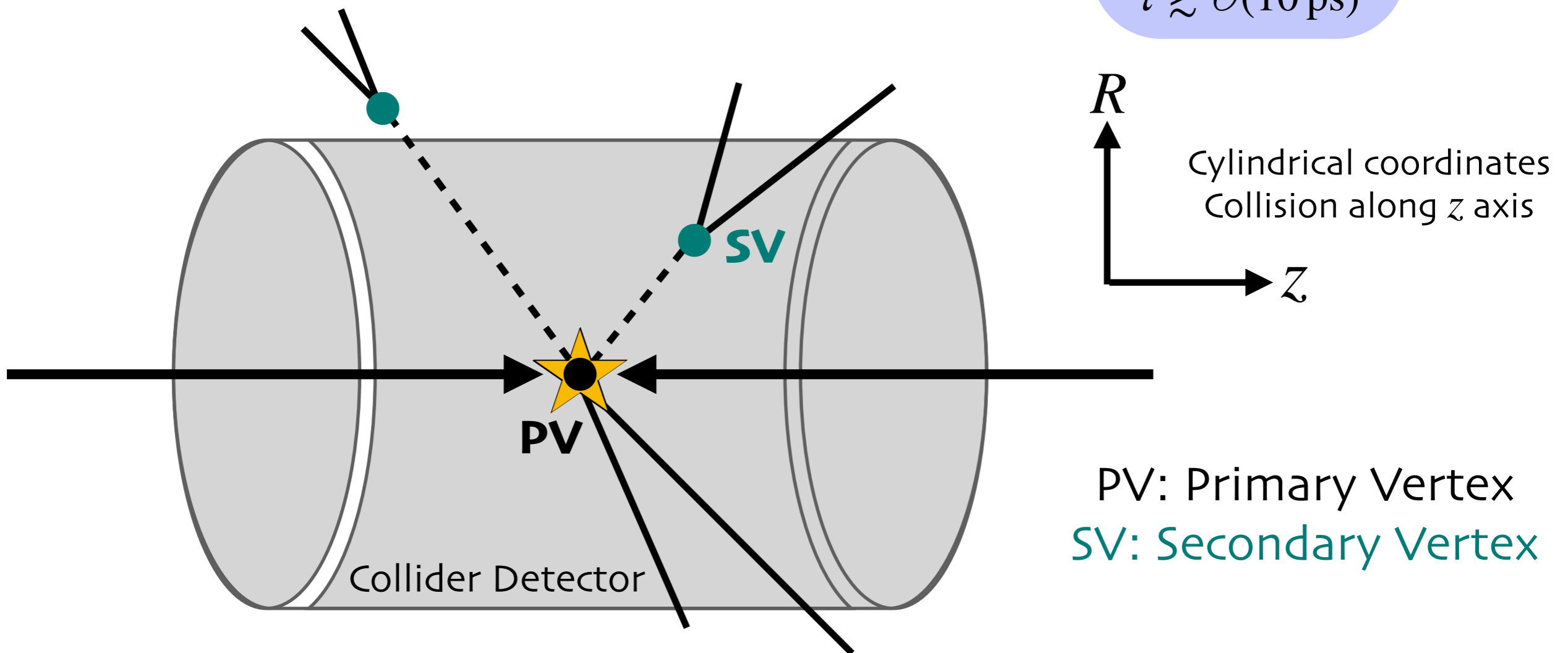
# WHAT ARE LONG-LIVED PARTICLES?

LLPs

Particles with **large lifetimes ( $\tau$ )**

- decays after **traversing a macroscopic distance** in the collider detectors
- or, decays **outside the detector**

$$c\tau \gtrsim \mathcal{O}(\text{mm})$$
$$\tau \gtrsim \mathcal{O}(10 \text{ ps})$$



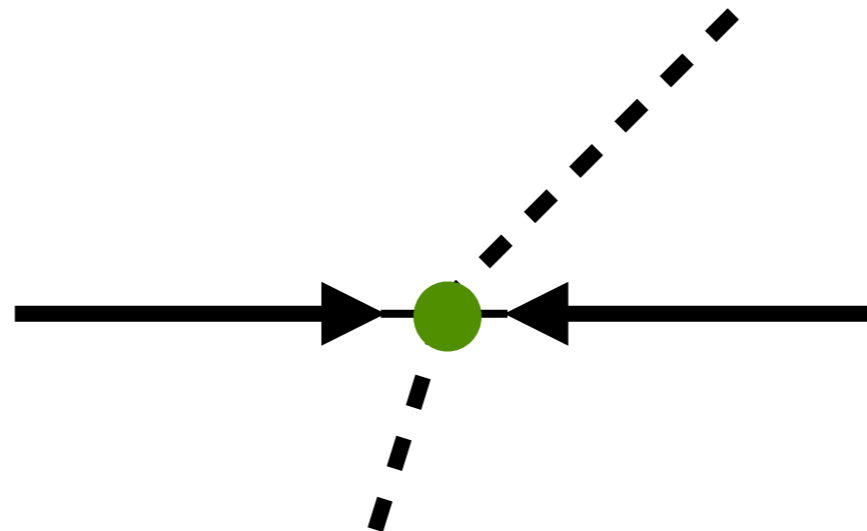
Effect of magnetic field not shown

# LLPs in colliders: the 3 major ingredients

## THEORY

### PRODUCTION

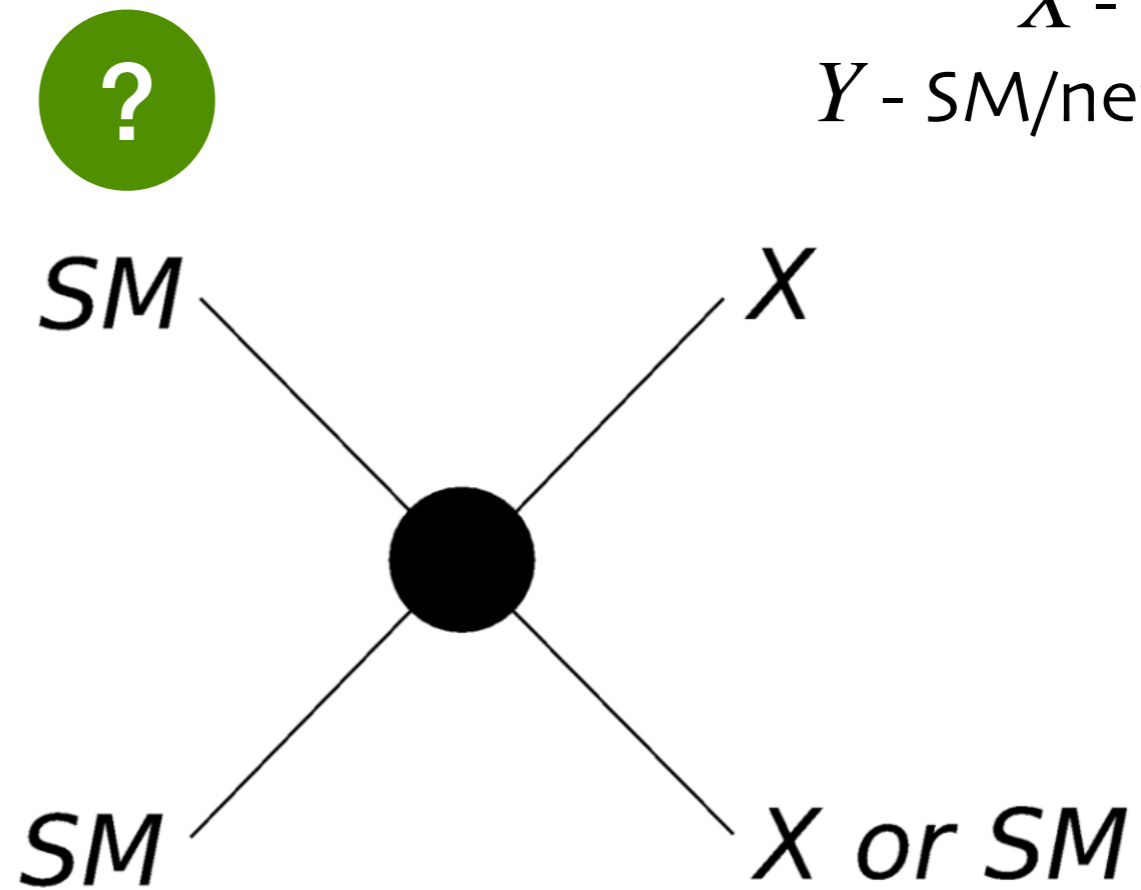
- 📌 Production rate,  $\sigma$
- 📌 Boost and direction



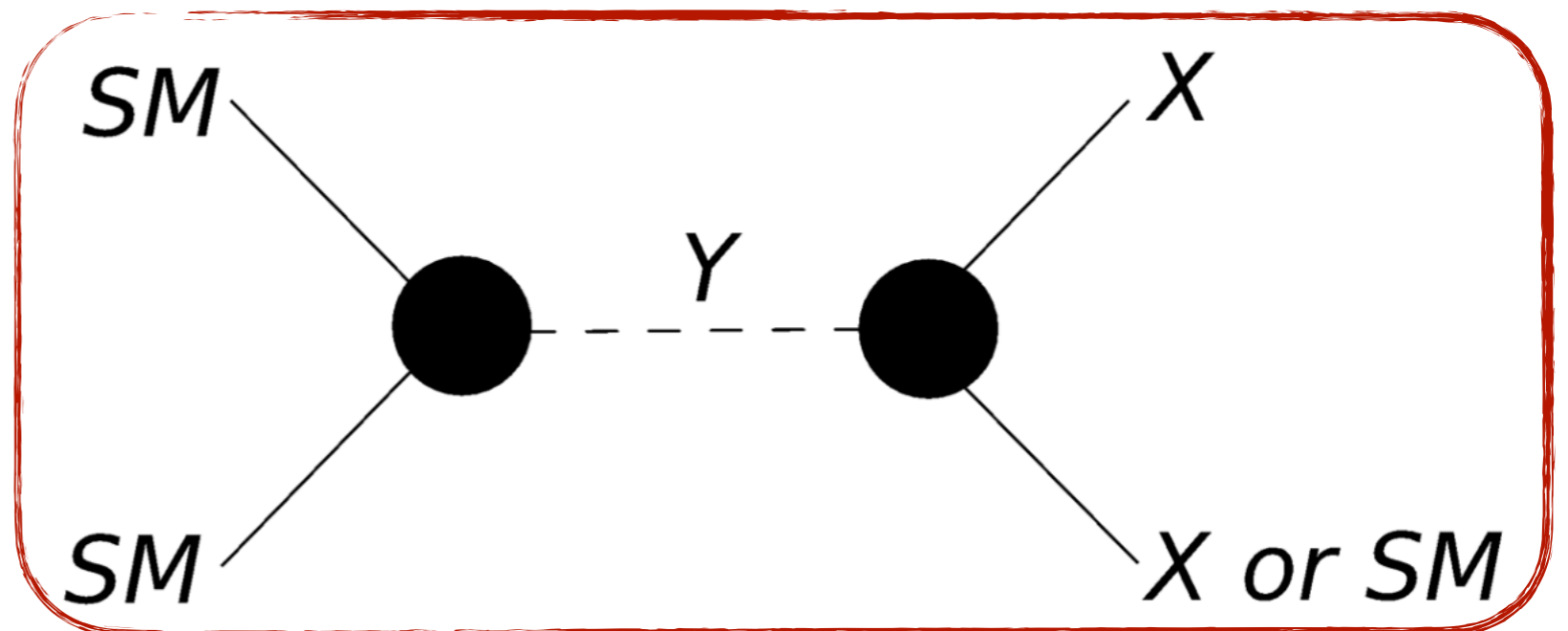
# Production of LLPs in colliders

$X$  - LLP  
 $Y$  - SM/new particle

**Direct Production**



**From the decay of a resonance**



# LLPs in colliders: the 3 major ingredients

## THEORY

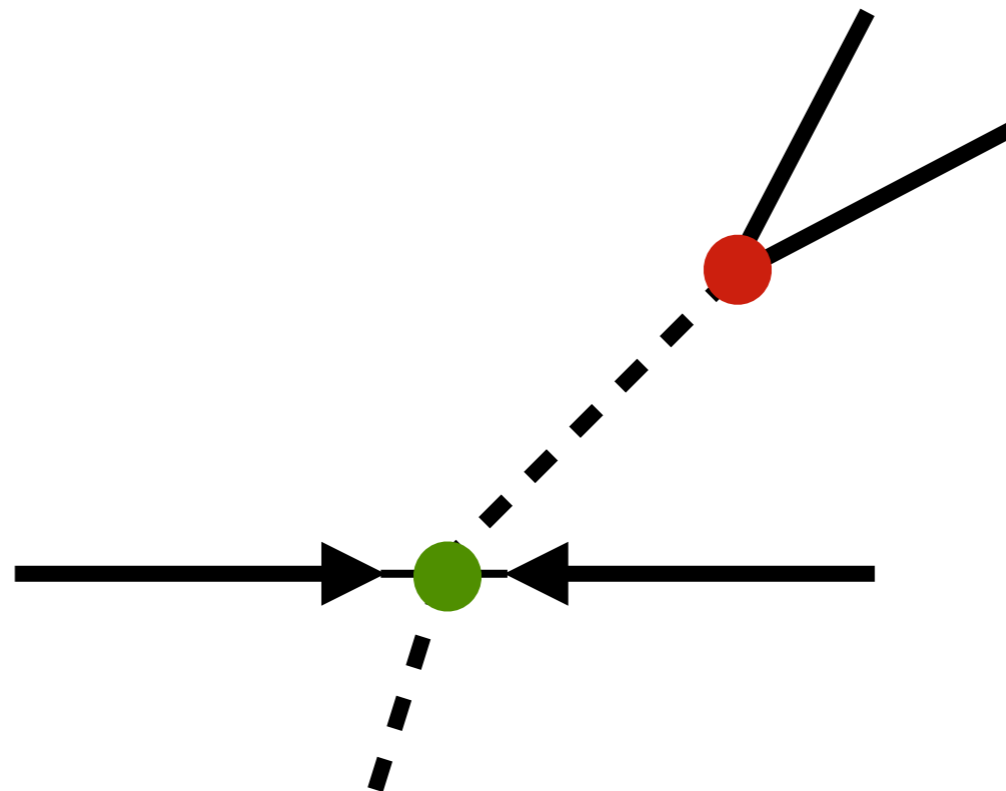
### PRODUCTION

- 📌 Production rate,  $\sigma$
- 📌 Boost and direction

## THEORY

### DECAY

- 📌 Decay width,  $\Gamma$  or Lifetime,  $\tau$
- 📌 Decay modes



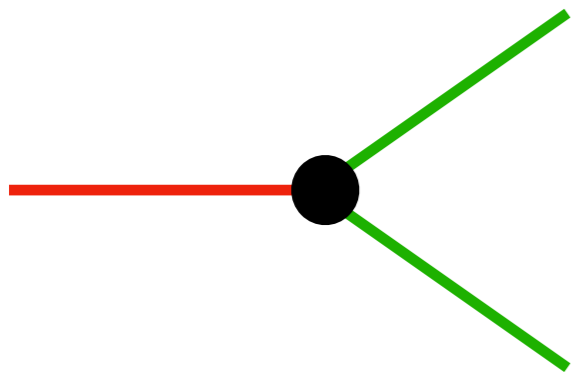
# Reasons behind long lifetimes



$$\Gamma \left( \text{or } \frac{1}{\tau} \right) \propto | \text{Amplitude} |^2 \times (\text{Phase space factor})$$

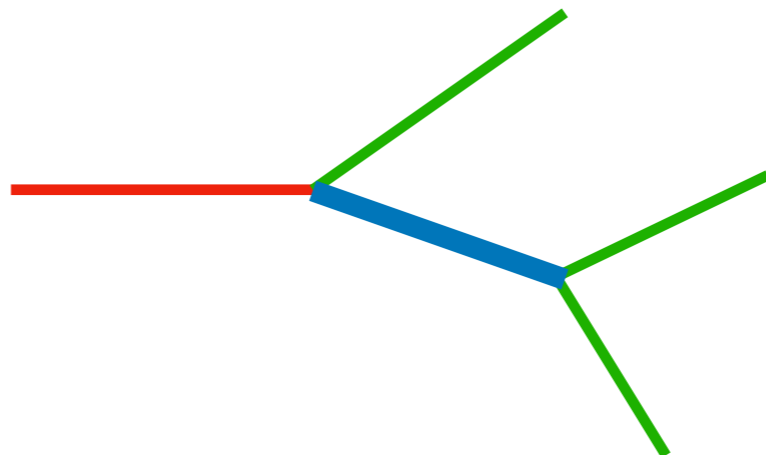
## Small couplings

e.g.,  $c$  and  $b$  quarks (SM),  
RPV SUSY (BSM)



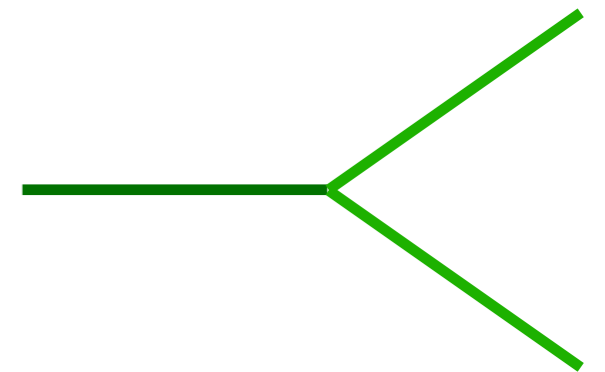
## Heavy scales, $\Gamma \sim \frac{m^5}{M^4}$

e.g., muon (SM),  
gluino in Split-SUSY (BSM)



## Kinematic squeezing

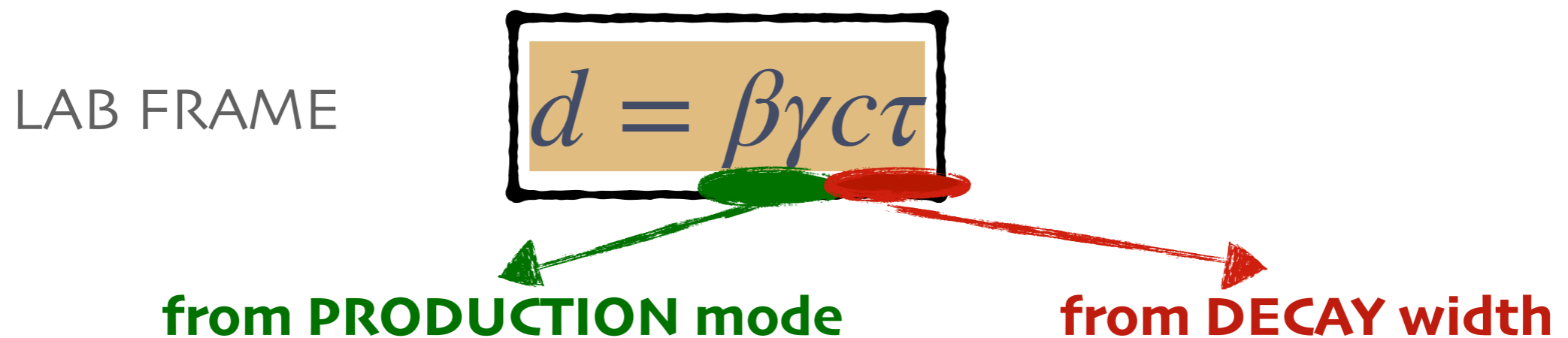
e.g., neutron (SM),  
compressed SUSY  
scenarios (BSM)



# LLP decays in colliders

## Decay length in the detector

$d$  is the **product** of  $\beta\gamma$  and  $c\tau$  **distributions**



$$\beta\gamma = \frac{p}{m} : \text{boost factor}$$

$c$  : speed of light

$\tau$  : proper mean lifetime  
of the particle

Lighter particles  $\Rightarrow$   
more displaced as  
compared to heavier  
ones for the same  
lifetime

# LLPs in colliders: the 3 major ingredients

## THEORY

### PRODUCTION

- Production rate,  $\sigma$
- Boost and direction

## THEORY

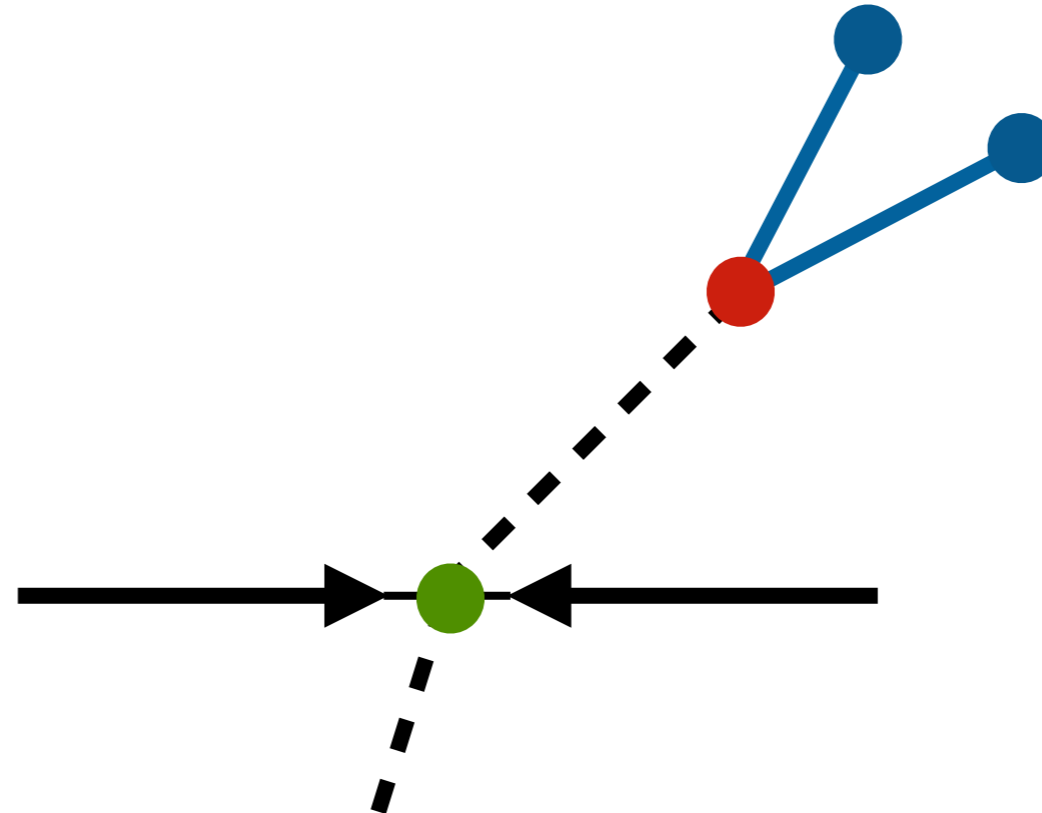
### DECAY

- Decay width,  $\Gamma$  or Lifetime,  $\tau$
- Decay modes

## EXPERIMENT

### DETECTION

- depends on
- what it decays into
- where it decays





# The 3 major ingredients

THEORY

## PRODUCTION

- Production rate,  $\sigma$
- Boost and direction

THEORY

## DECAY

- Decay width,  $\Gamma$  or Lifetime,  $\tau$
- Decay modes

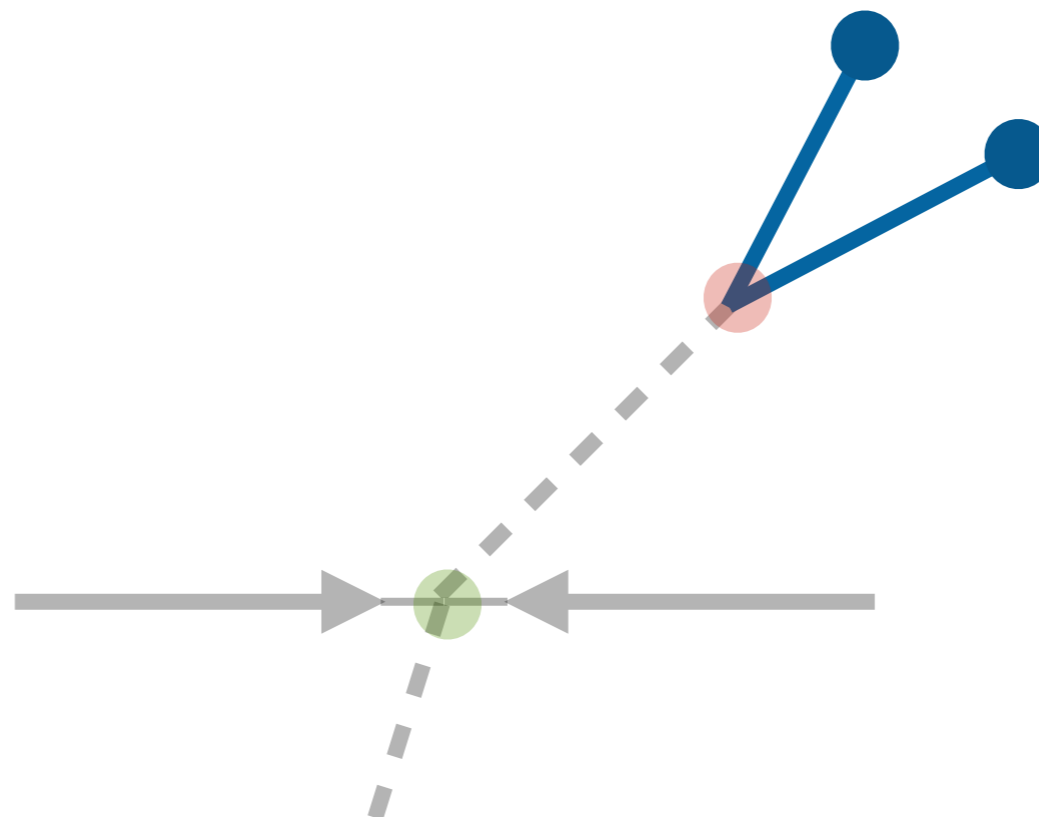
EXPERIMENT

## DETECTION

depends on

- what it decays into
- where it decays

*similar for prompt decays as well*



# The 3 major ingredients

THEORY

## PRODUCTION

- Production rate,  $\sigma$
- Boost and direction

THEORY

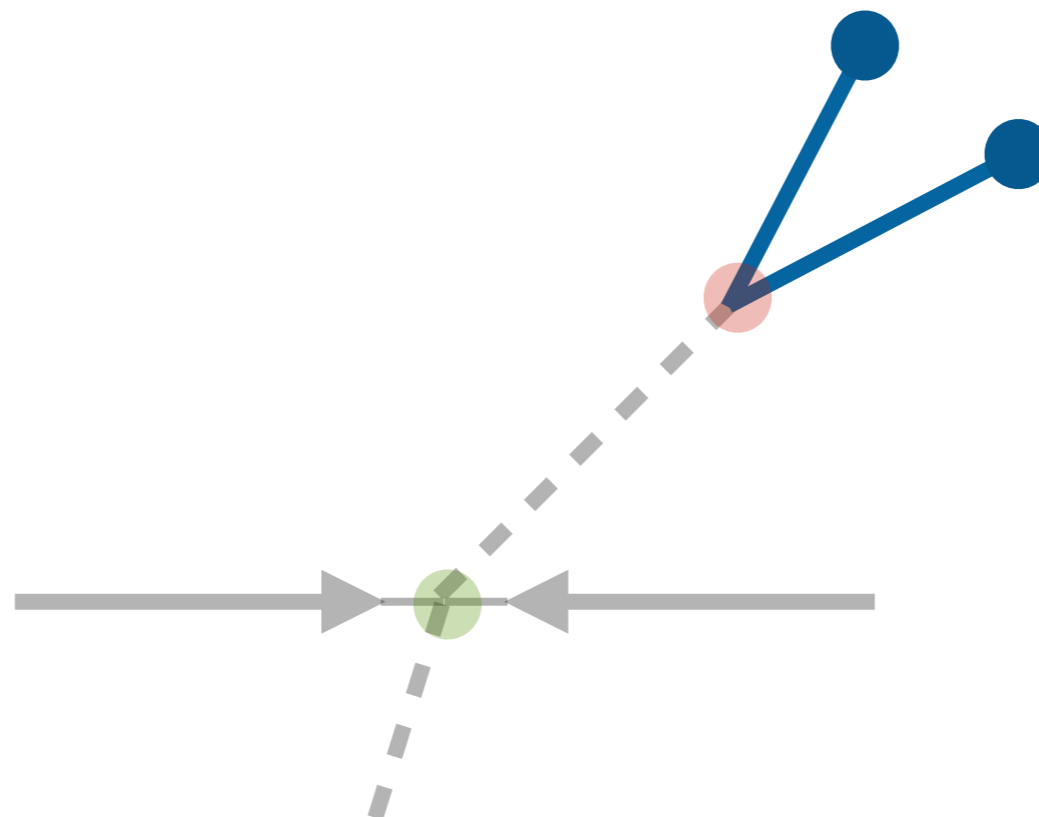
## DECAY

- Decay width,  $\Gamma$  or Lifetime,  $\tau$
- Decay modes

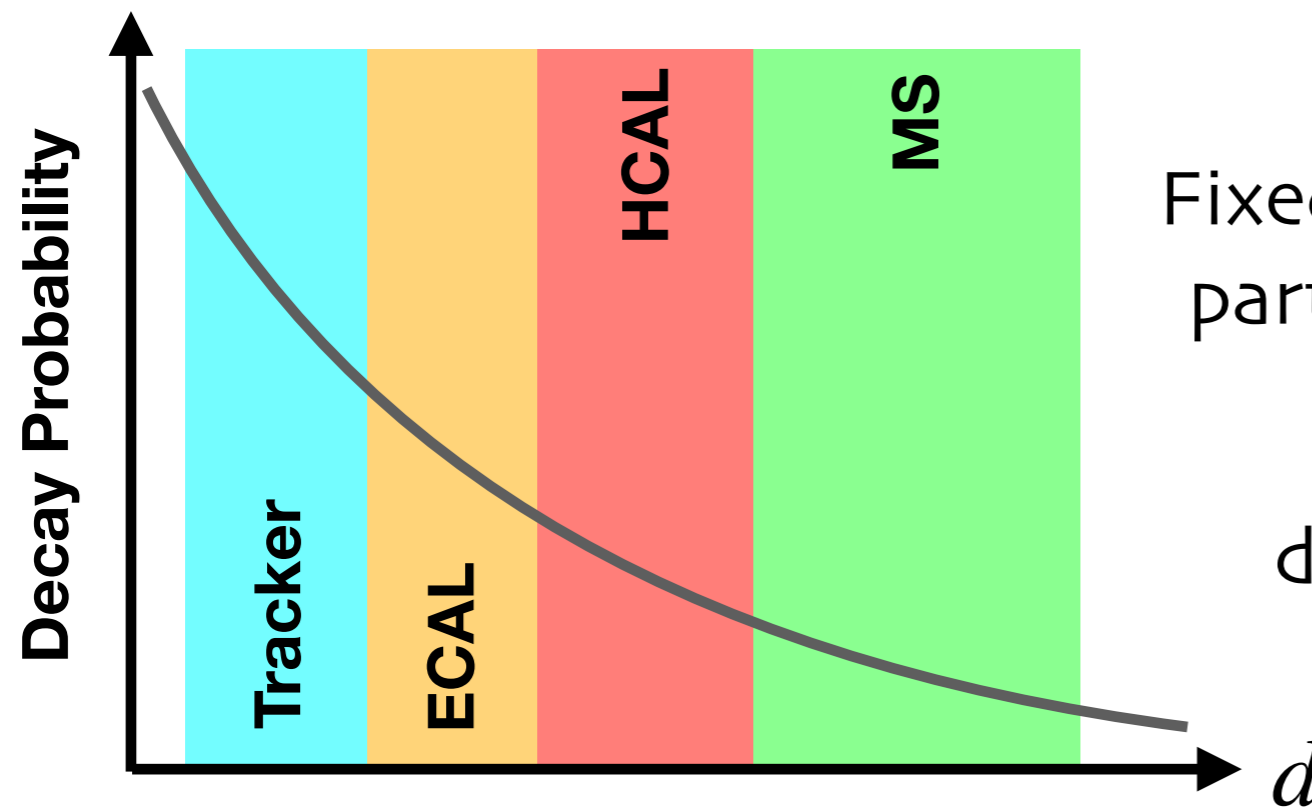
EXPERIMENT

## DETECTION

- depends on
- what it decays into
- where it decays



# Decay position of the LLP



Fixed  $m$  and  $c\tau$  of a BSM particle with a particular production and decay mode



different probabilities to decay in different parts of the detector

Say, a BSM particle decays to two electrons

## Prompt scenario

**Final state signature fixed**

2 electrons  $\Rightarrow$  energy deposits in the ECAL with associated tracks in the Tracker

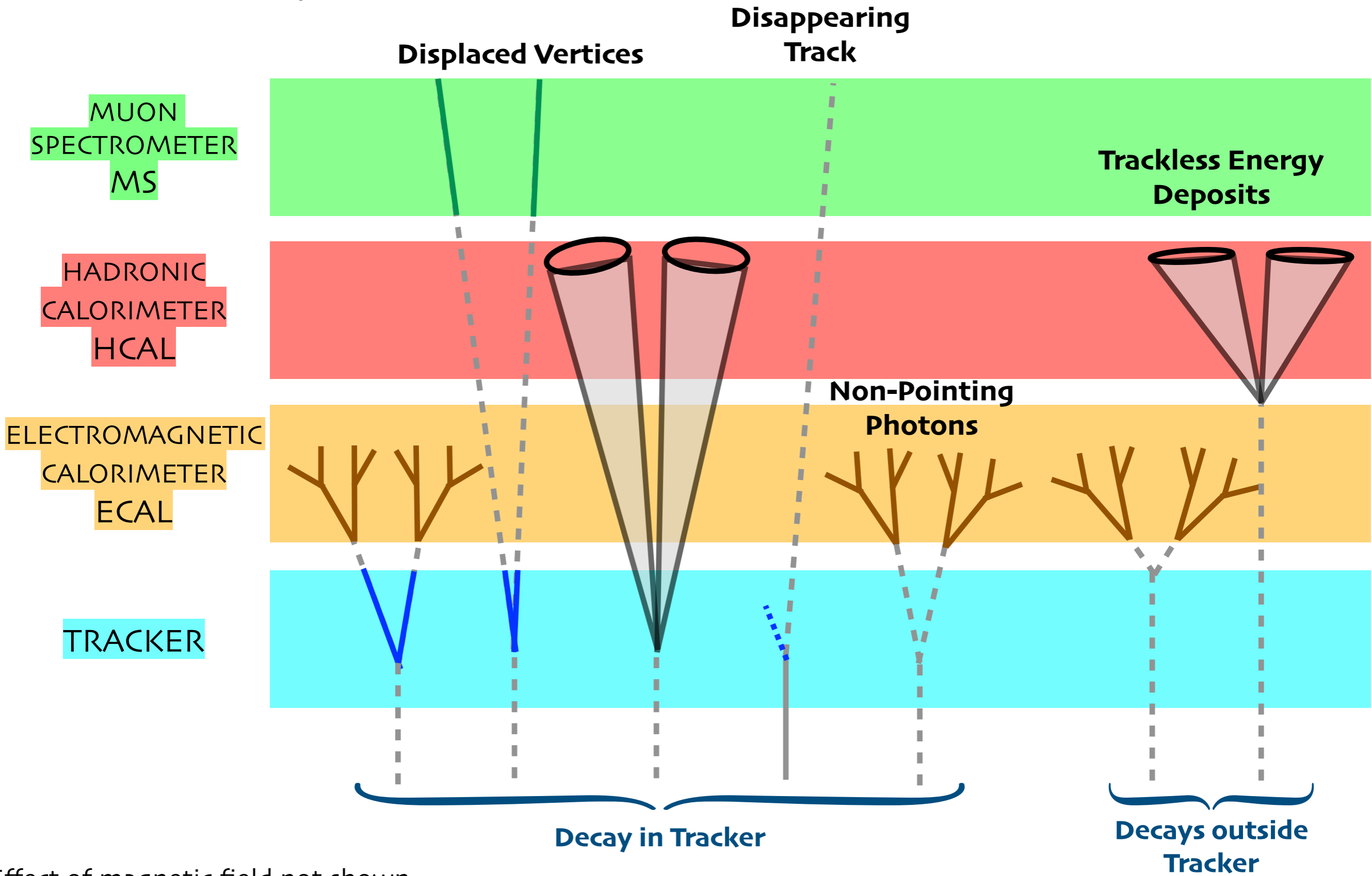
## LLP

**DECAYS WHERE?**

**Tracker:** displaced vertex  
**ECAL:** trackless energy deposit  
**HCAL/MS: ?**

# A Peek in to the Exotic Signatures of LLPs

*not a complete list*



Effect of magnetic field not shown

# Long-lived particles in the Higgs portal

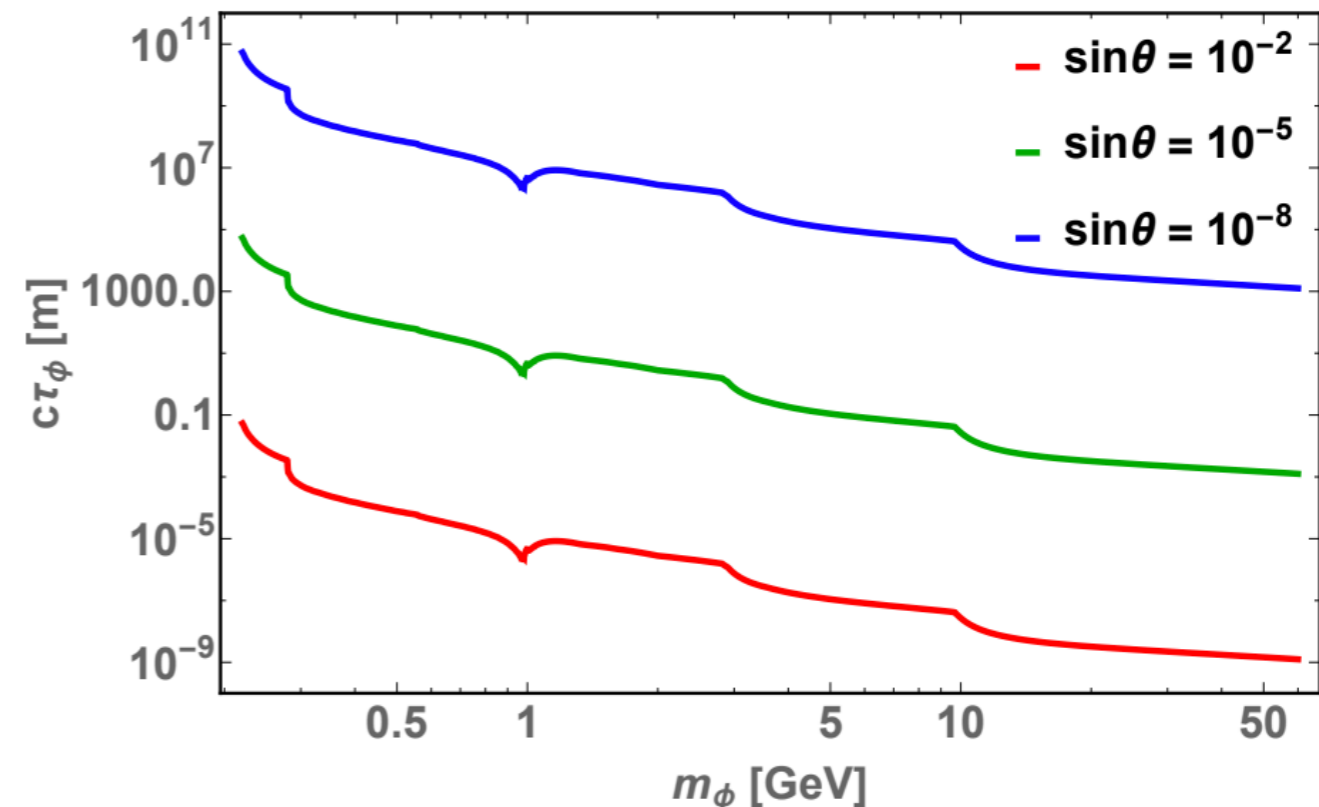
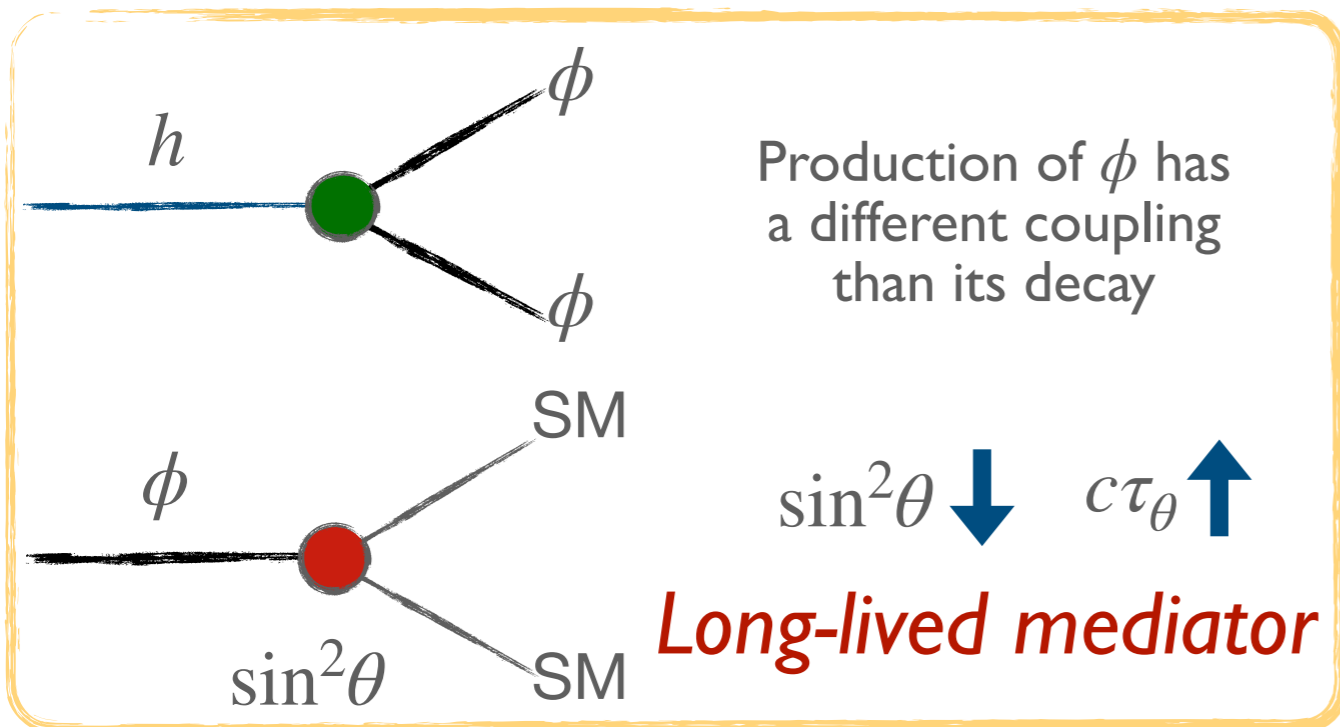
Shigeki Matsumoto, et al., *JHEP* 07 (2019) 050

## Light Scalar Mediator

$$\mathcal{L} \subset -m_\phi^2 \phi^2 - \sin\theta \frac{m_f}{v} \phi \bar{f} f - \lambda_{h\phi\phi} h\phi\phi + \dots$$

Mixing highly constrained

Not severely constrained so far

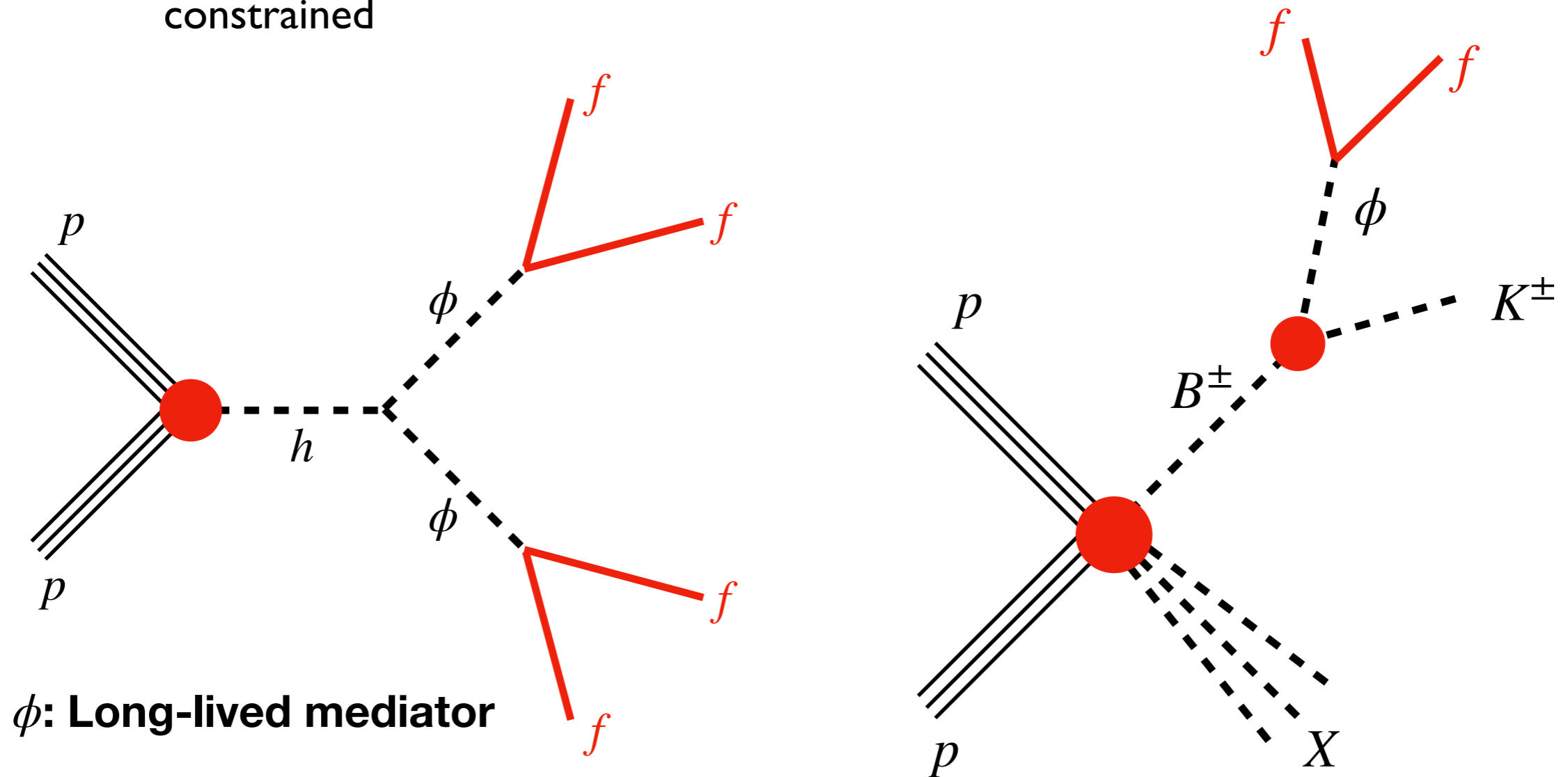


# Long-lived particles in the Higgs portal

$$\mathcal{L} \subset -m_\phi^2 \phi^2 - \sin\theta \frac{m_f}{v} \phi \bar{f} f - \lambda_{h\phi\phi} h\phi\phi + \dots$$

Mixing highly constrained

Not severely constrained so far



# Light Long-Lived Particles

*produced from decay of SM particles, like the Higgs boson,  $m_{LLP} \leq m_h/2$*

Decay products often have low  $p_T$

Not much radiation associated with production

## Triggering?

Difficult to trigger if there are no associated prompt hard particles

## Primary vertex identification?

More chances of incorrect assignment of primary vertex

$$\beta\gamma = \frac{p}{m} \quad \text{High boost for small } m$$

## Displaced vertices?

Larger decay length in the detector - secondary vertex reconstruction difficult as efficiency of Tracker decreases with increasing displacement

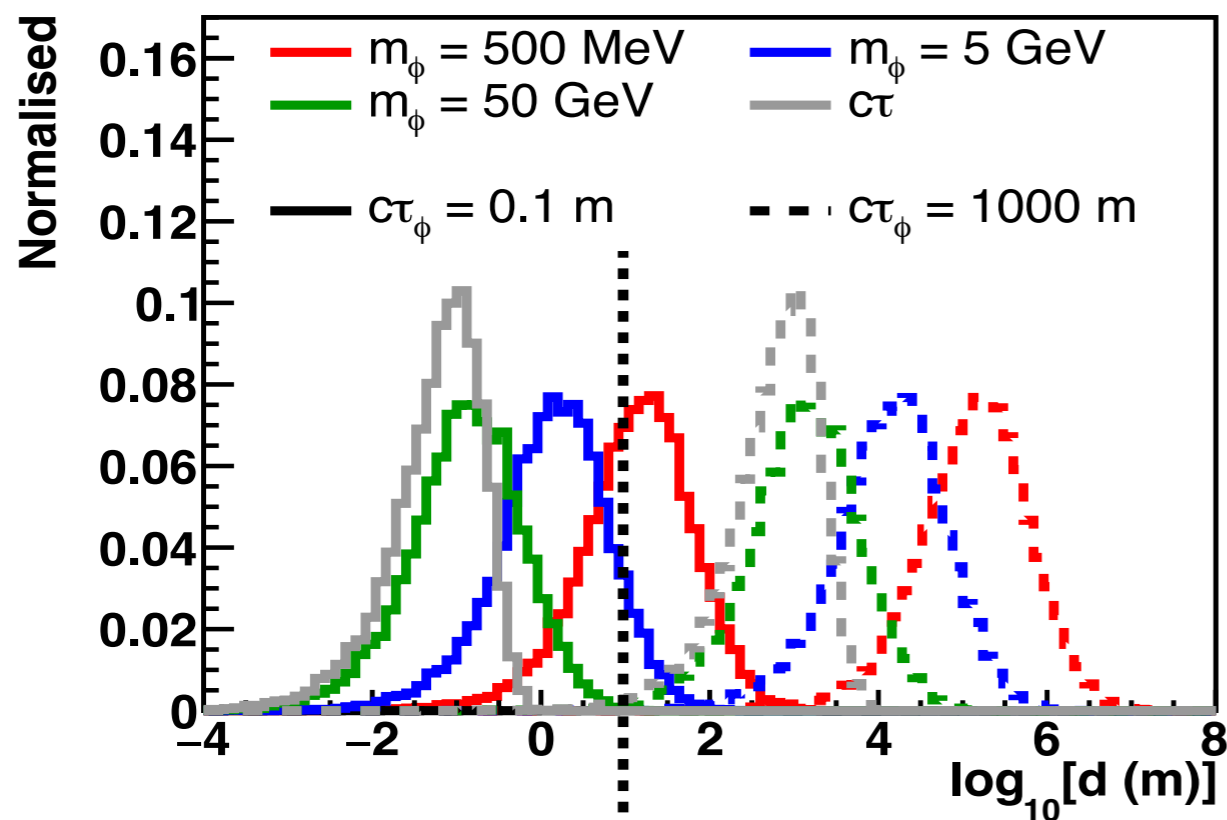
## Delayed decay products?

Relativistic LLP - no significant time delay in decay products

## Decays outside the collider detector?

# Dedicated detectors for LLPs

Distribution of decay length in the lab frame,  $d = \beta\gamma c\tau$



*ATLAS and CMS main detectors can probe*

*after  $\mathcal{O}(10) \text{ m}$ , ATLAS and CMS main detectors lose sensitivity*

## HL-LHC:

FASER	1811.12522
FACET	2201.00019
MATHUSLA	1901.04040
CODEX-b	1911.00481
ANUBIS	1909.13022
AL3X	1810.03636

**FCC-ee:** HECATE 2011.01005

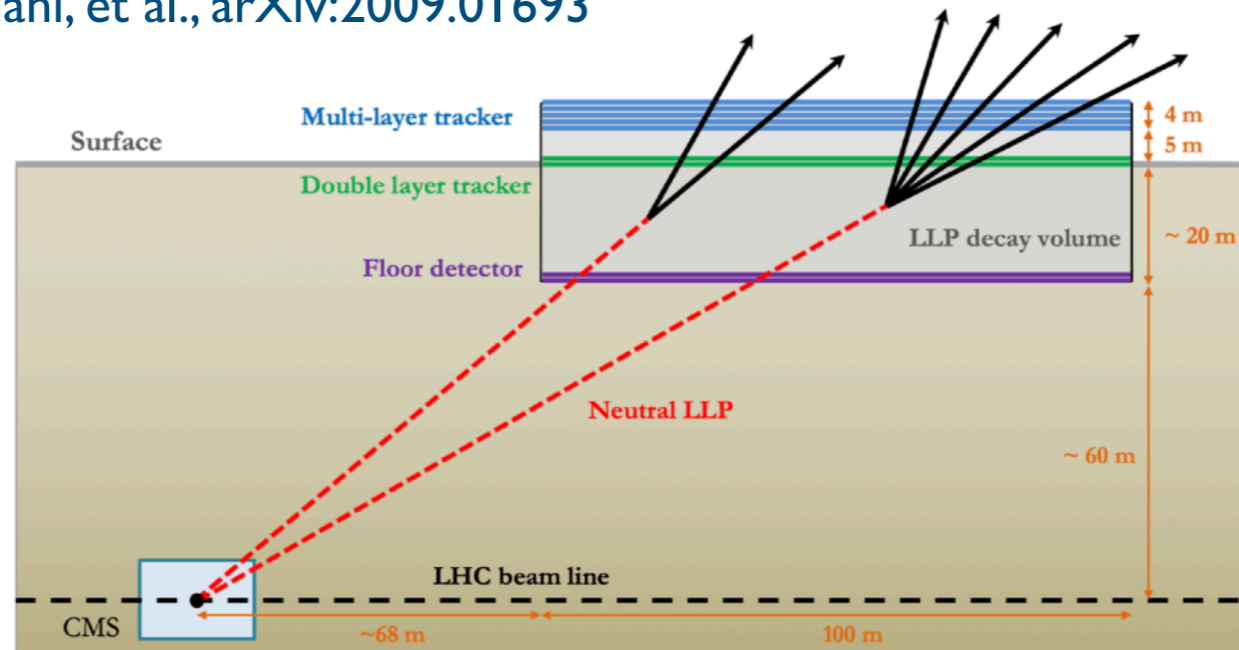
**ILC:** near/far detectors 2202.11714

**BELLE-II:** GAZELLE 2105.12962



# MATHUSLA and CODEX-b

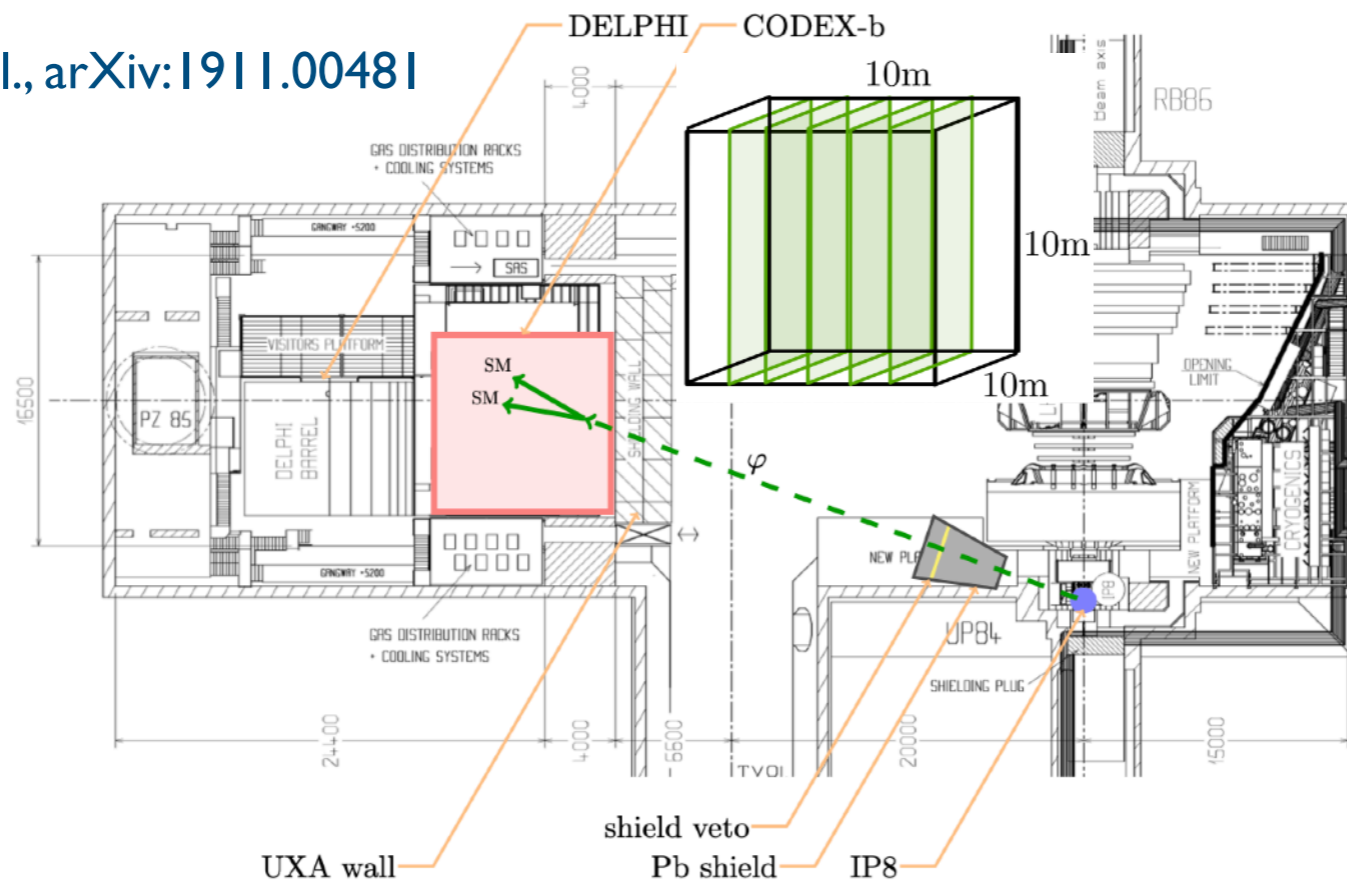
Cristiano Alpigiani, et al., arXiv:2009.01693



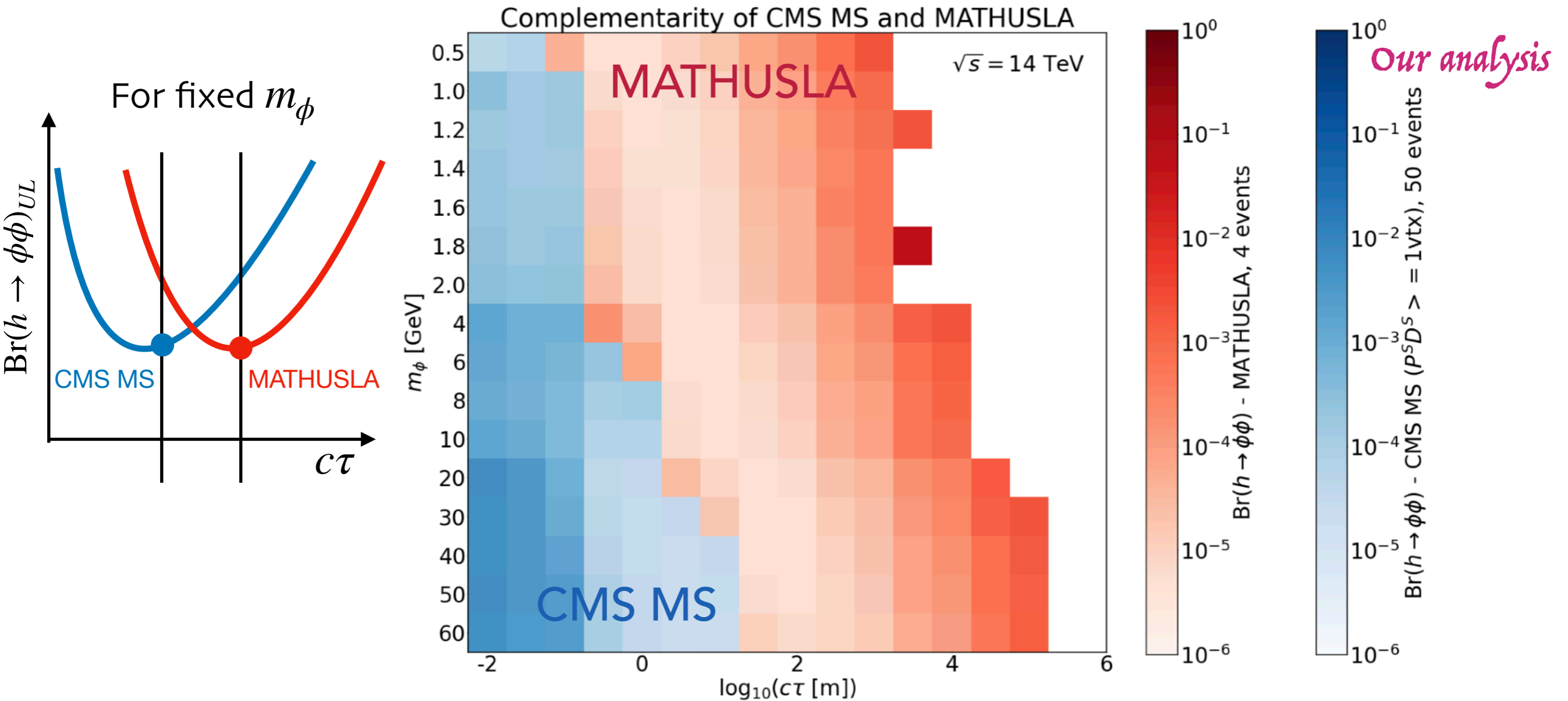
**BACKGROUND FREE!**  
**observation of few events (~4)**  
**enough to claim discovery**

validated and extended  
analysis for our benchmarks

Giulio Aielli, et al., arXiv:1911.00481



# CMS MS and MATHUSLA



**CMS MS + MATHUSLA:**  
 can probe  $c\tau \lesssim 10^5 \text{ m}$  for  $m_\phi = 60 \text{ GeV}$ ,  
 without any gap if  $\text{Br}(h \rightarrow \phi\phi) \gtrsim 0.1 \%$

# Precise measurements - precursors to discoveries

---

Looking back...

1970's: precision measurements of neutral currents → the existence of  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons and hints of their masses

1980's:  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons observed in the CERN Sp $\bar{p}$ S collider

1990's: CERN LEP measured properties of  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons with high precision → inferring the mass of the still undiscovered top quark

1995: Top quark observed at the Tevatron

With the measured top quark mass, precision measurements at the LEP, SLAC Linear Collider and Tevatron led to a better prediction of the Higgs boson mass

2012: Higgs boson discovered at the LHC

# Electron-positron colliders

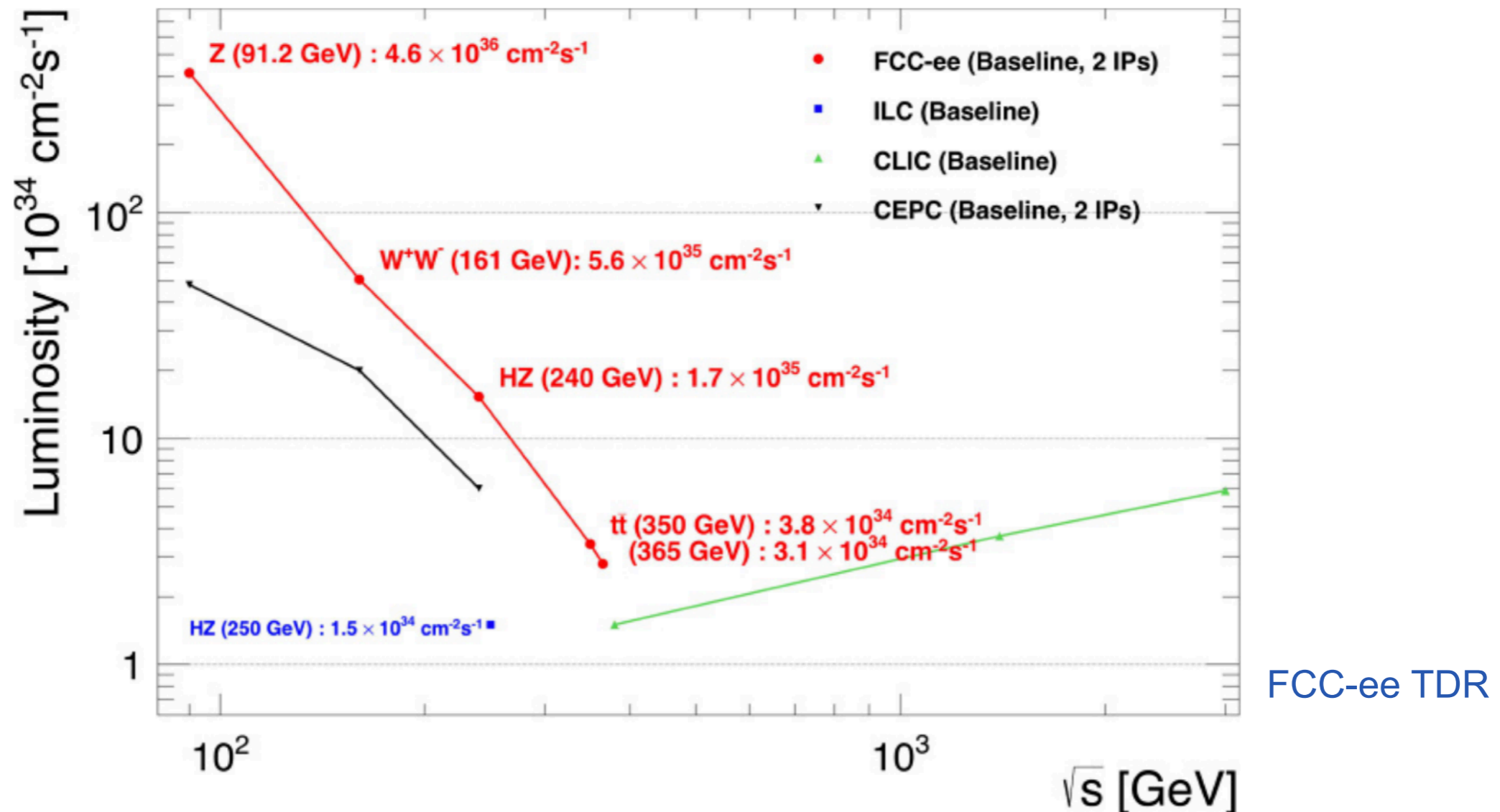
Towards more precision...

International Linear Collider (ILC)

Circular Electron Positron Collider (CEPC)

Compact Linear Collider (CLIC)

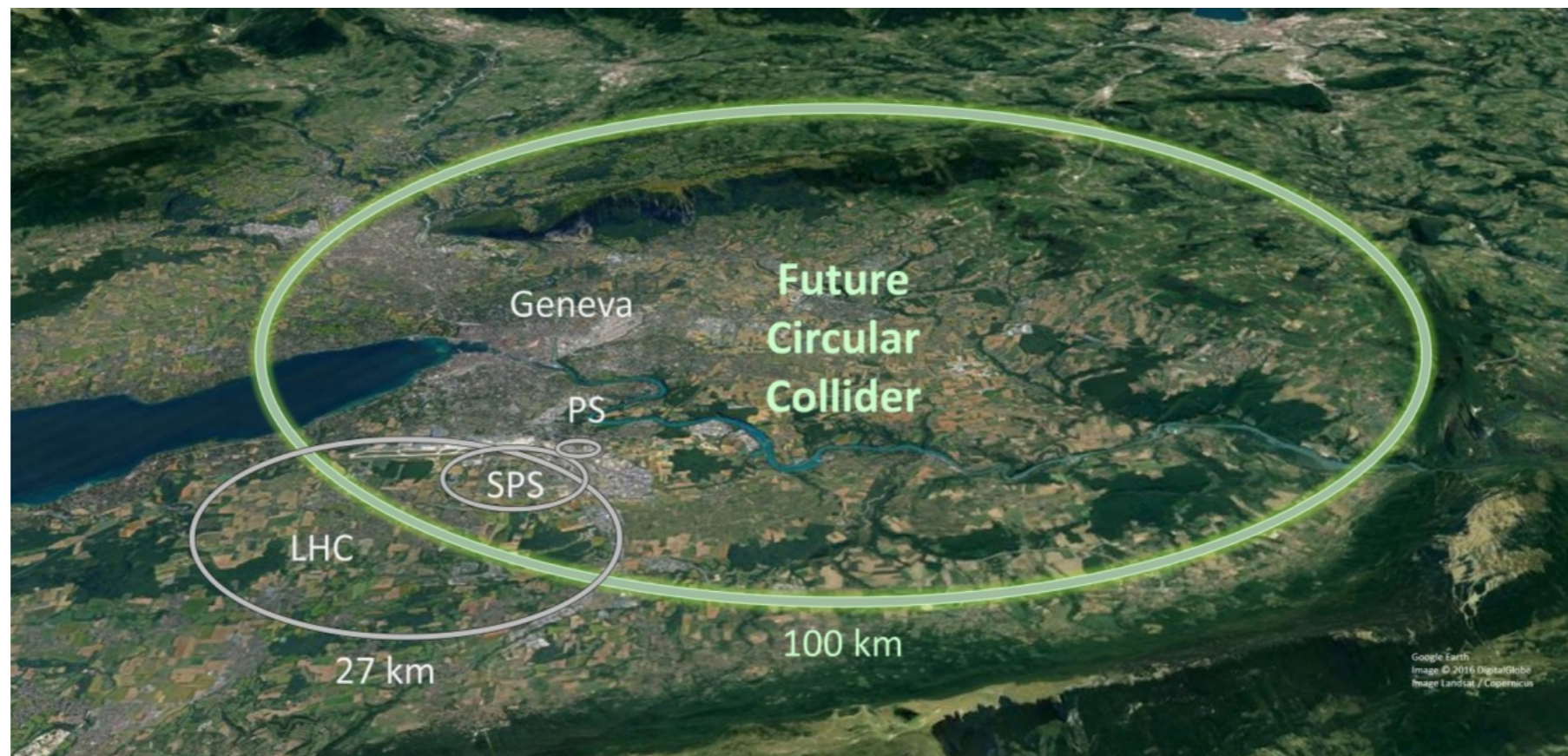
Future  $e^+e^-$  Circular Collider (FCC-ee)



# FCC-ee: More surprises

The FCC-ee 100 km tunnel is designed to host subsequently a future circular hadron collider (FCC-hh) of increased centre-of-mass energy:

100 TeV compared to the 14 TeV HL-LHC



FCC study, CERN

# Discovery after indirect evidence

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Even when precision measurements provides indirect evidence of particles, **we need to produce them directly to understand its properties**

As is true for the EW gauge bosons, Higgs boson and the top quark - at least we had the SM to extract their properties from indirect measurements

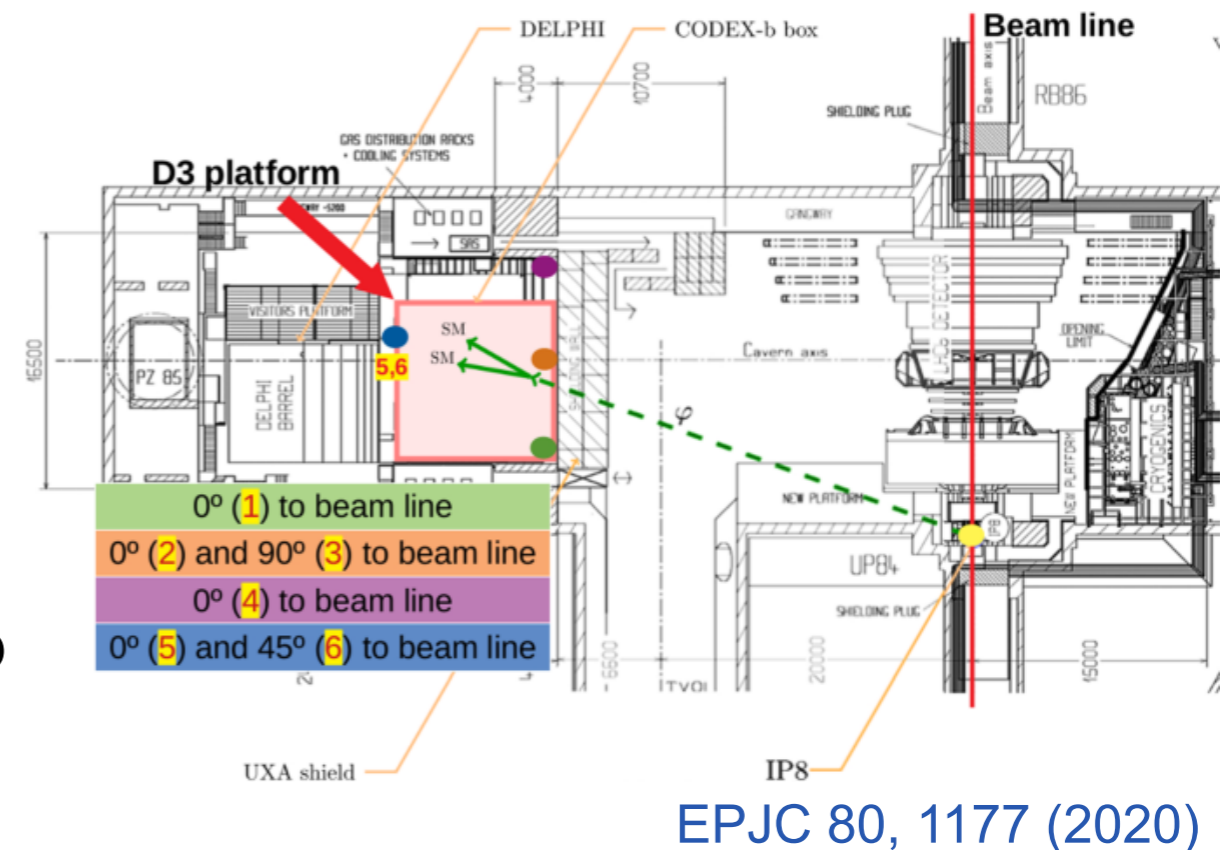
FCC-ee will be sensitive to new phenomena at scales of tens of TeV

With the current technology, direct particle production at this scale can **only be achieved by a hadron collider of around 100 TeV energy range**

# Why should we talk about dedicated detectors at FCC-hh now?

For LHC or HL-LHC, the dedicated detectors are accommodated in empty shafts or available halls around the main detectors

For example, see for CODEX-b



But this might not be optimal for the LLP models beyond the SM

The Future Colliders are in their conceptual design phase now



Optimise and integrate dedicated LLP detectors with the main detector design

# Proposal for DELIGHT and FOREHUNT @ FCC-hh

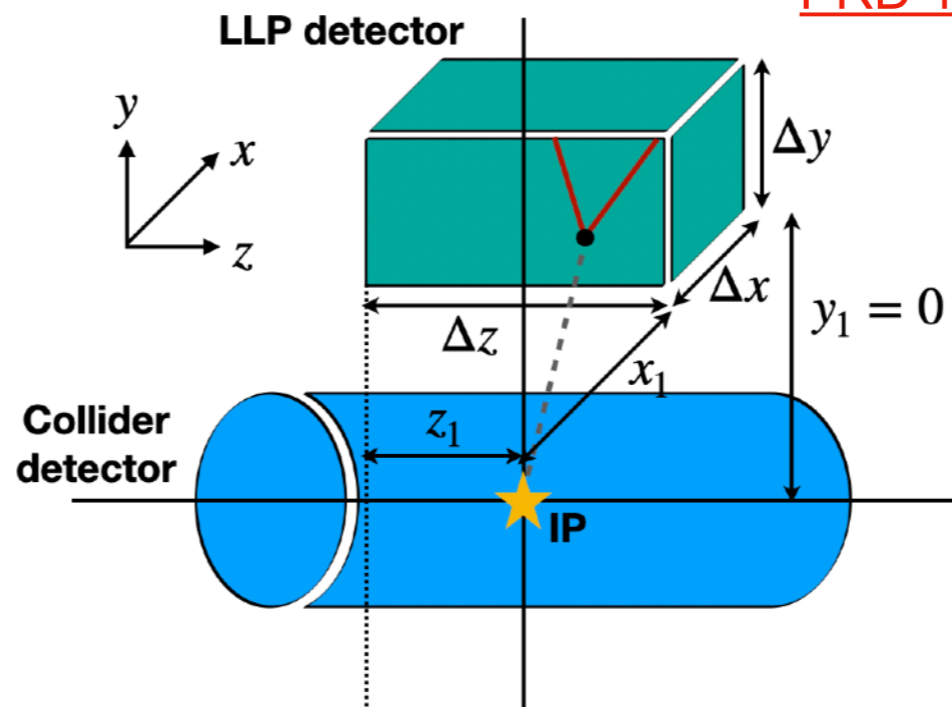
## FCC-hh design under study — Room for optimisation

Bhattacharjee, Matsumoto, RS,  
[PRD 106 \(2022\) 9, 095018](#)

(A) Transverse detector:

DELIGHT

Detector for long-lived particles  
at high energy of 100 TeV



$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &= 25 \text{ m} \\y_1 &= 0 \text{ m} \\z_1 &= -\Delta z/2 \\ \Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z\end{aligned}$$

**DELIGHT (A):** The same as the dimensions of the MATHUSLA detector, i.e.  $\Delta x \times \Delta y \times \Delta z = 25 \times 100 \times 100 \text{ m}^3$ .

**DELIGHT (B):** Four times bigger than the MATHUSLA detector, i.e.  $\Delta x \times \Delta y \times \Delta z = 100 \times 100 \times 100 \text{ m}^3$ .

**DELIGHT (C):** The same decay volume as the MATHUSLA detector with different dimensions, i.e.  $\Delta x \times \Delta y \times \Delta z = 200 \times 50 \times 50 \text{ m}^3$ .

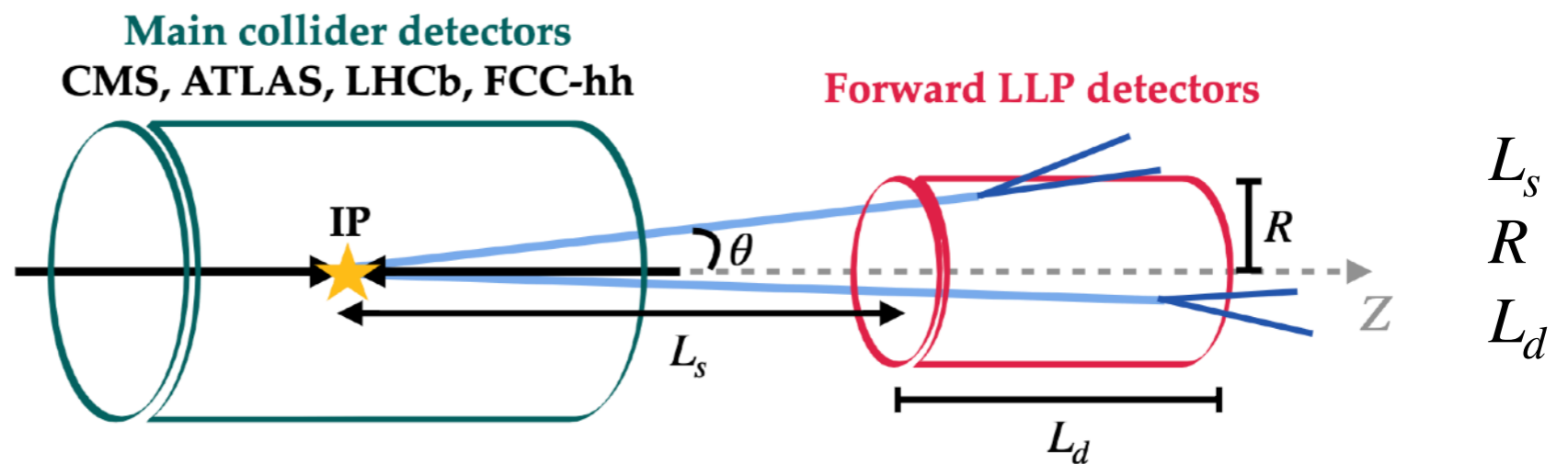


# Proposal for DELIGHT and FOREHUNT @ FCC-hh

FCC-hh design under study — Room for optimisation

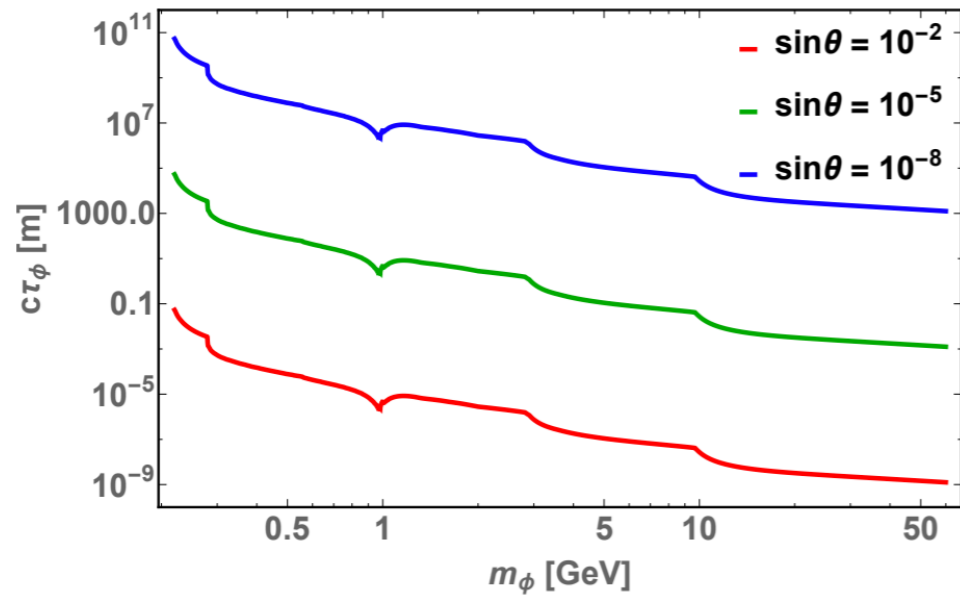
(B) Forward detector:

FOREHUNT  
Forward Experiment  
for Hundred TeV



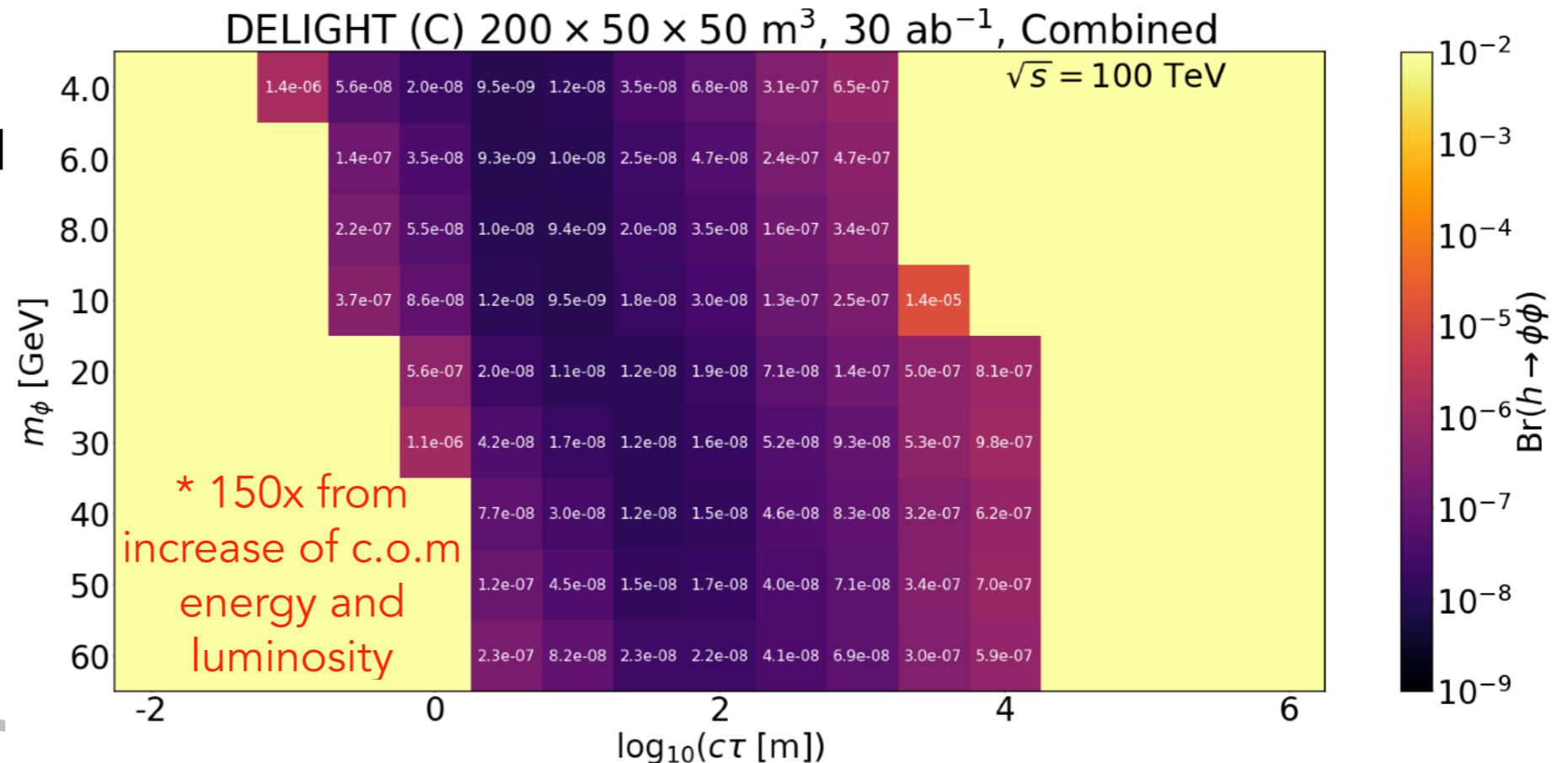
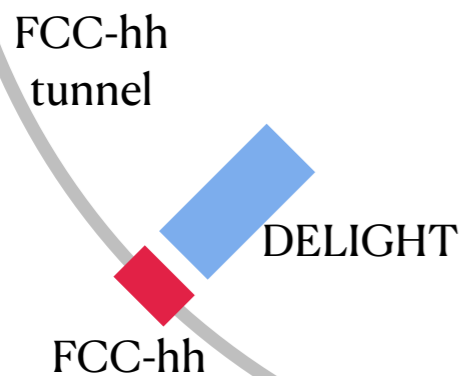
Bhattacharjee, Dreiner, Ghosh, Matsumoto, RS, Solanki,  
[PRD 110 \(2024\) 1, 015036](#)

# LLPs from Higgs boson decay in DELIGHT

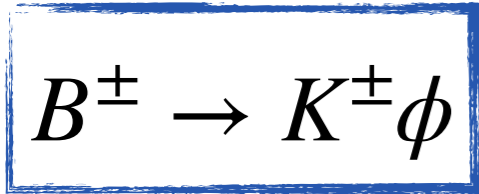


- long tunnel-like detector - better shielding against cosmic rays
- closer to IP - use of materials with high shielding power & active veto components to reduce background
- RPCs and possibility of a calorimeter element
- integration with the trigger system of FCC-hh

Improvement by  $430^*$  compared to MATHUSLA



# FASER-2 @ HL-LHC vs FASER-2 @ FCC-hh



**FASER2**  $L_s = 480$  m  
 $R = 1$  m  $p_\phi > 100$  GeV  
 $L_d = 5$  m

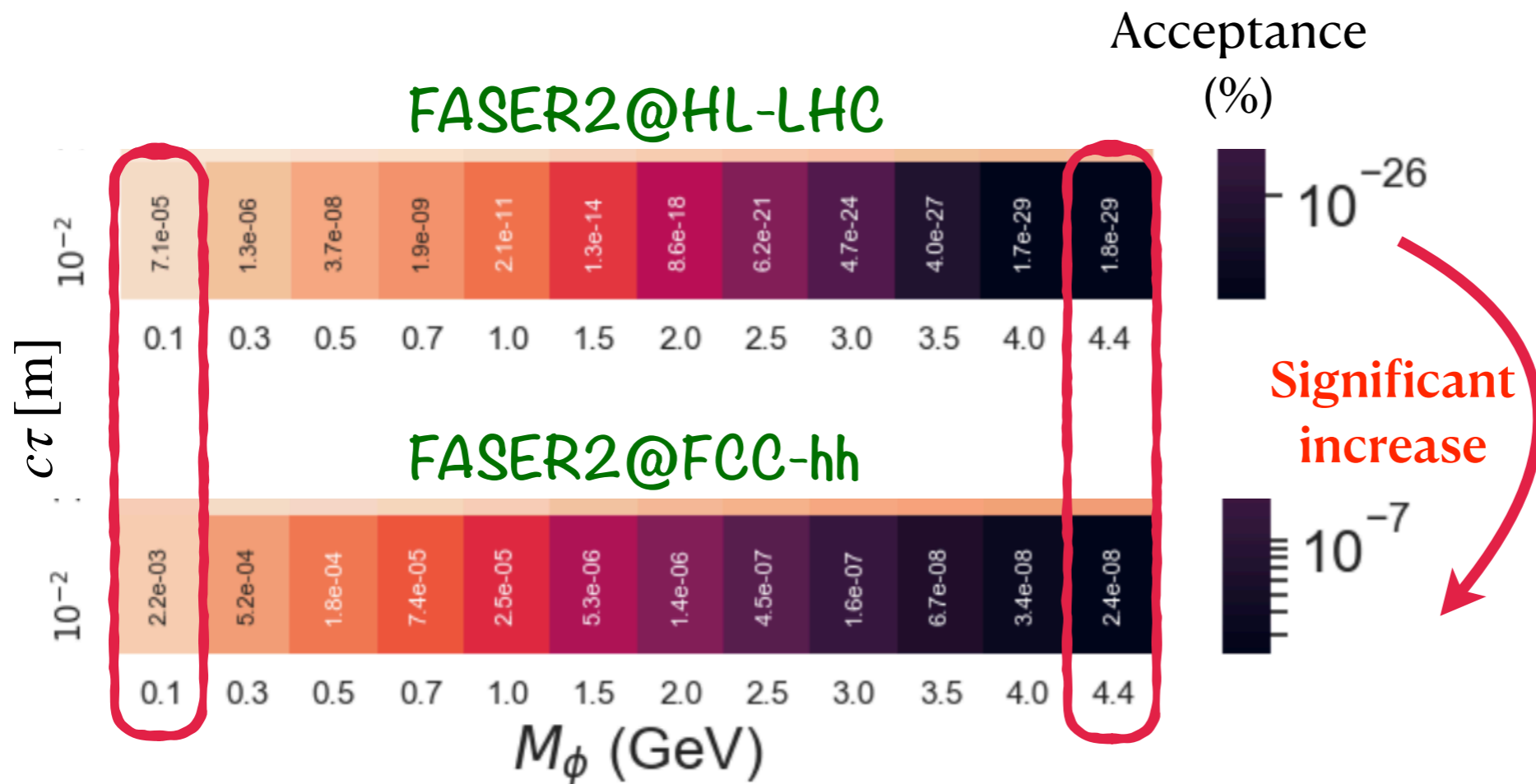
$B$ -mesons more energetic at 100 TeV collider



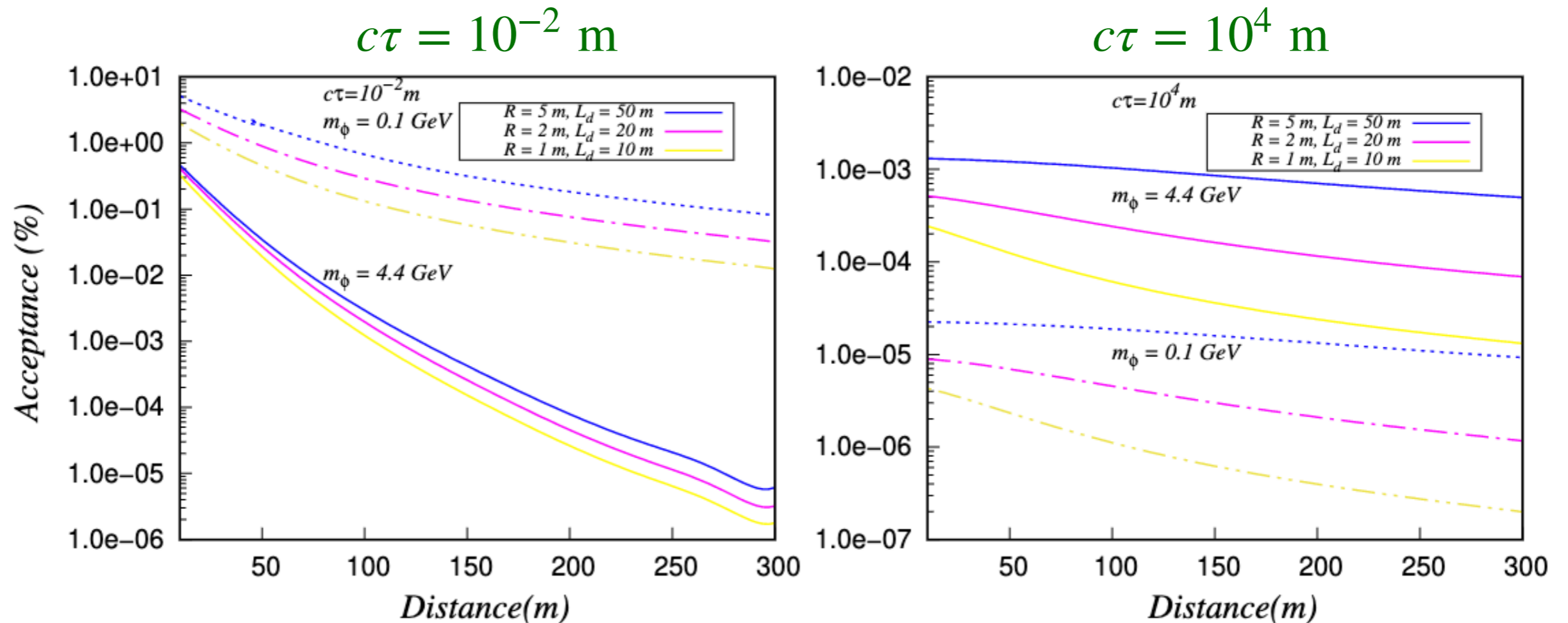
The LLP coming from  $B$ -meson decay has larger boost



Increased efficiency for smaller decay lengths and heavier masses



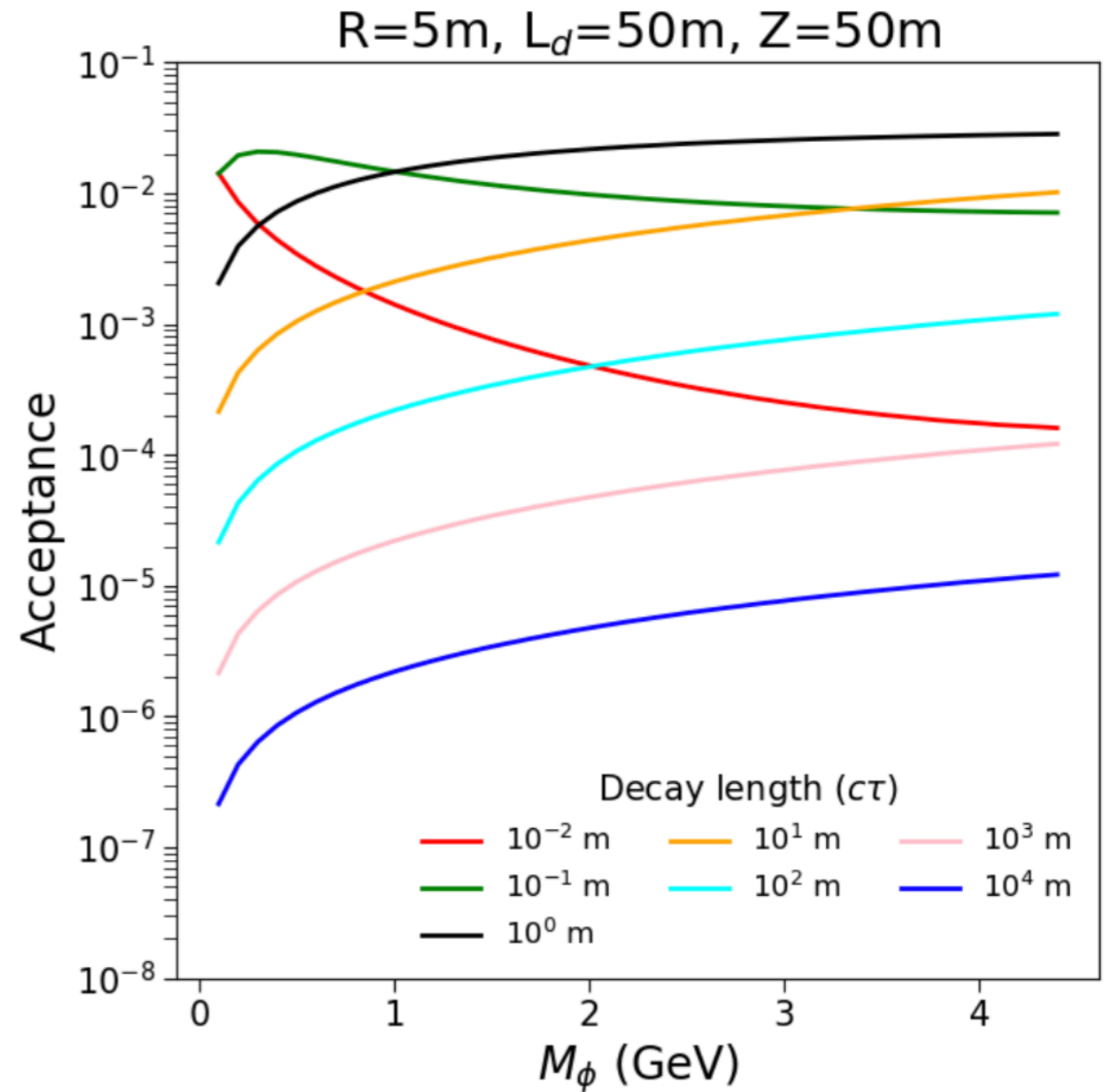
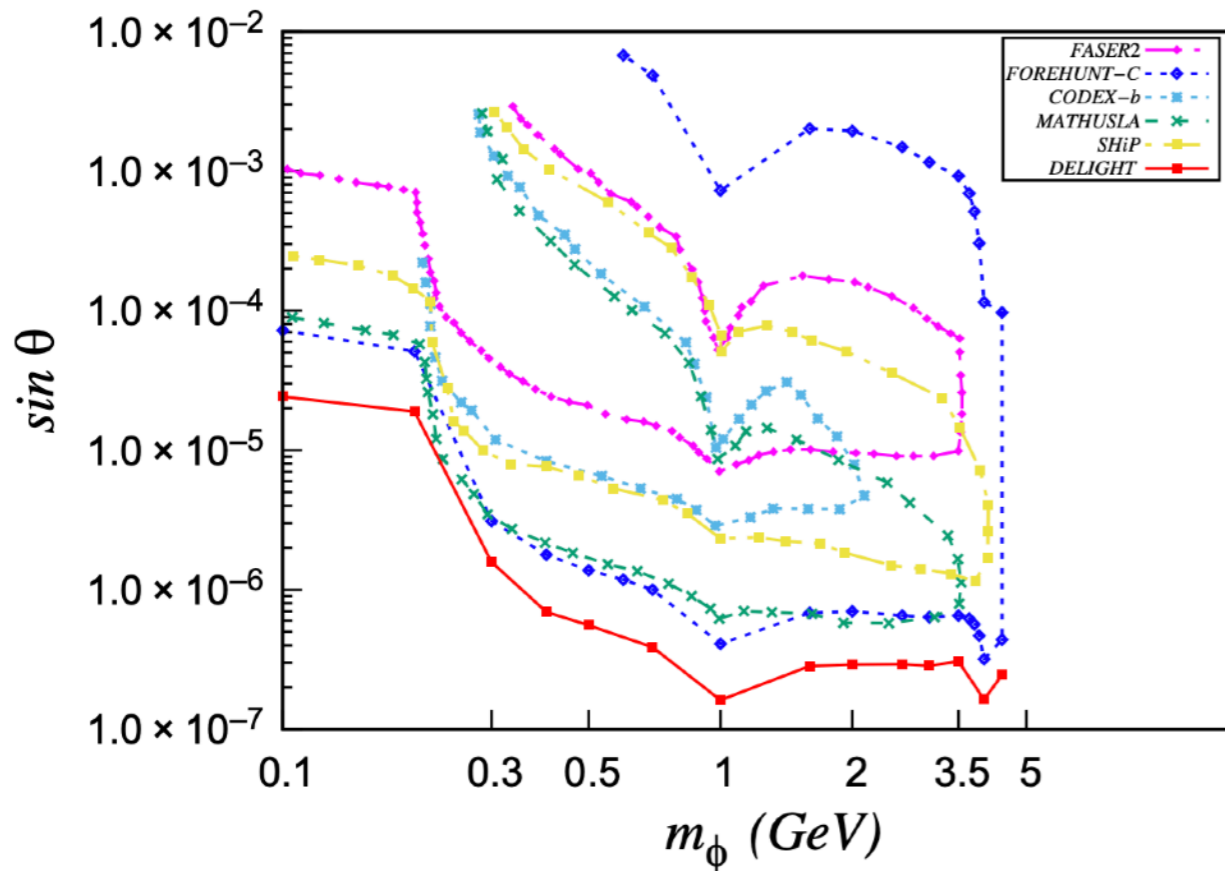
# Optimising FOREHUNT for LLPs from $B$ -meson decay



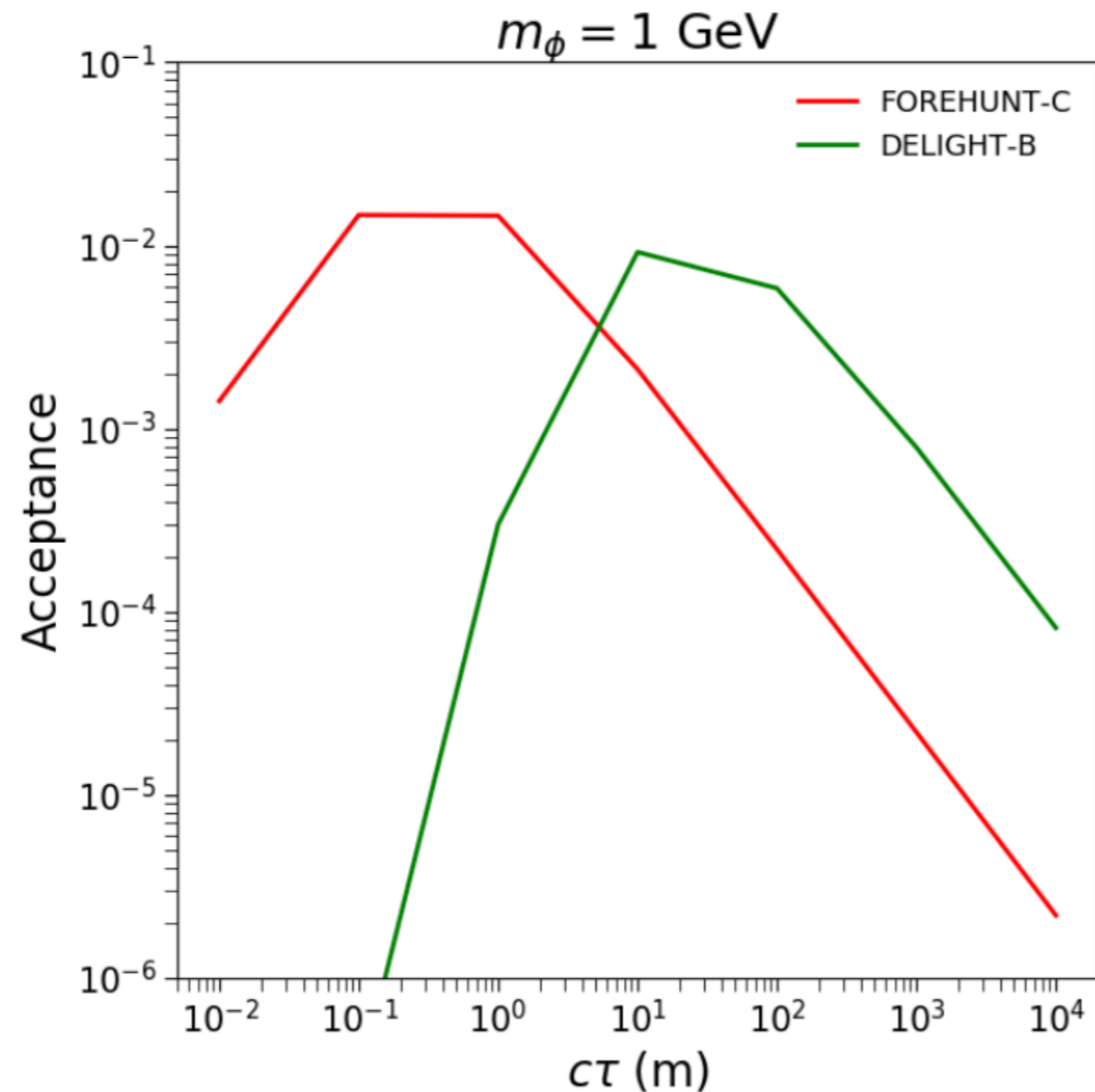
- Decrease of acceptance with increasing distance of the detector is **more prominent for smaller decay length**
- Small decay length: higher acceptance for lighter LLP  
Large decay length: higher acceptance for heavier LLP

# LLPs from B-meson decay in FOREHUNT

Detector Configuration @100 TeV	Radius (R)	Length ( $L_d$ )	Position (Z)
FOREHUNT-A	1 m	10 m	50 m
FOREHUNT-B	2 m	20 m	50 m
FOREHUNT-C	5 m	50 m	50 m
FOREHUNT-D	2 m	20 m	75 m
FOREHUNT-E	5 m	50 m	75 m
FOREHUNT-F	5 m	50 m	100 m



# LLPs from B-meson decay in FOREHUNT and DELIGHT



LLPs more in  
*forward direction*  
for *lower  $c\tau$*  at a  
particular distance  
from the  
interaction point

$$d = \beta\gamma c\tau$$



**More boost in the  
forward direction**

For smaller decay lengths, FOREHUNT performs better than DELIGHT

**Complementarity between forward and transverse detectors**

# More on FOREHUNT...

## (A) Bending and width of the beampipe

- Placing the detector at 50 m might still contain the beampipe within it - reduces acceptance

## (C) Multiple detectors in the forward direction

- A second detector at 300 m increases overall signal acceptance by 50%
- Energy threshold of the second detector can be reduced as the first detector plays the role of an active veto

## (B) Off-axis forward detector

- In case placement along the beamline close to the IP is not feasible, place the detector off-axis – 1 m off-axis reduces acceptance by a factor of 2
- Placing the detector 300 m along the beamline is better than shifting it 5 m off-axis

## (D) Elements of the detector

- Layers of RPCs: for 5 m radius of the detector, cost per layer of RPC would be around 245 k€
- Triplet RPC layers: 0.1 cm spatial and 0.4 ns temporal resolutions [1909.13022](https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.13022)
- Possibility of adding calorimeter and integration with FCC-hh trigger system being studied

# Backgrounds and possible detector design

1

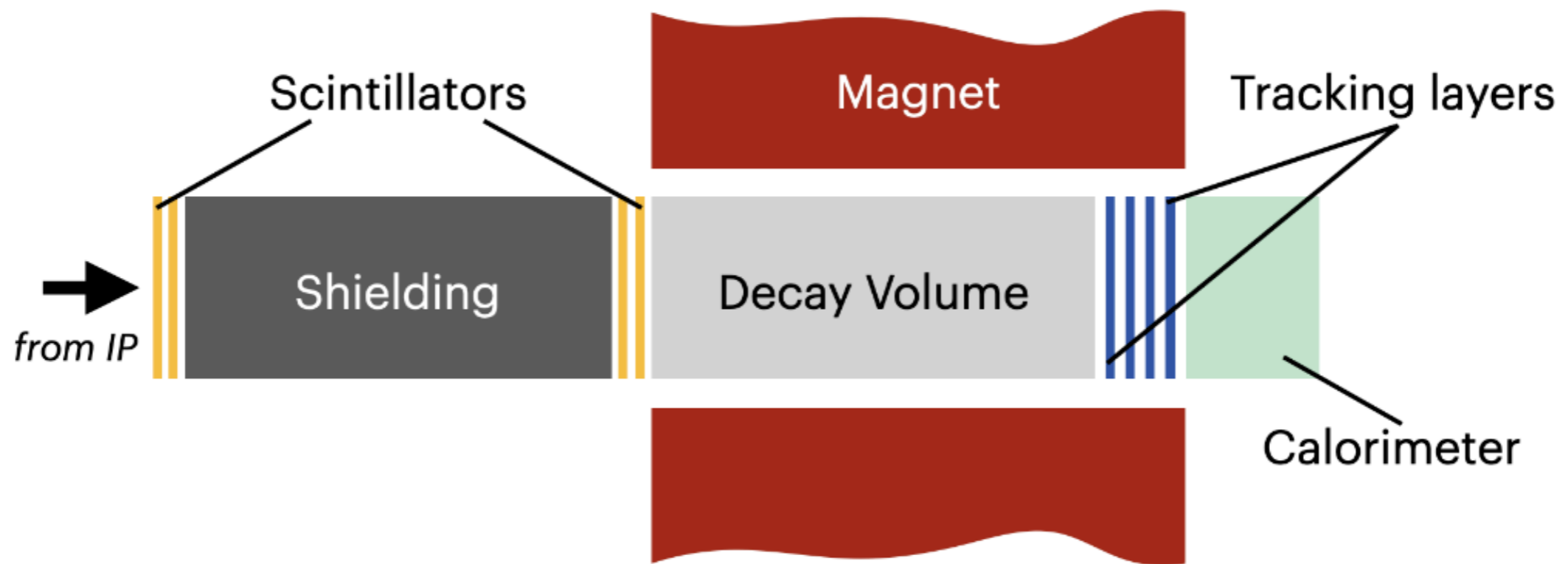
Muons from the IP

2

Neutral hadrons

3

Neutrinos





# Backgrounds and possible detector design

1

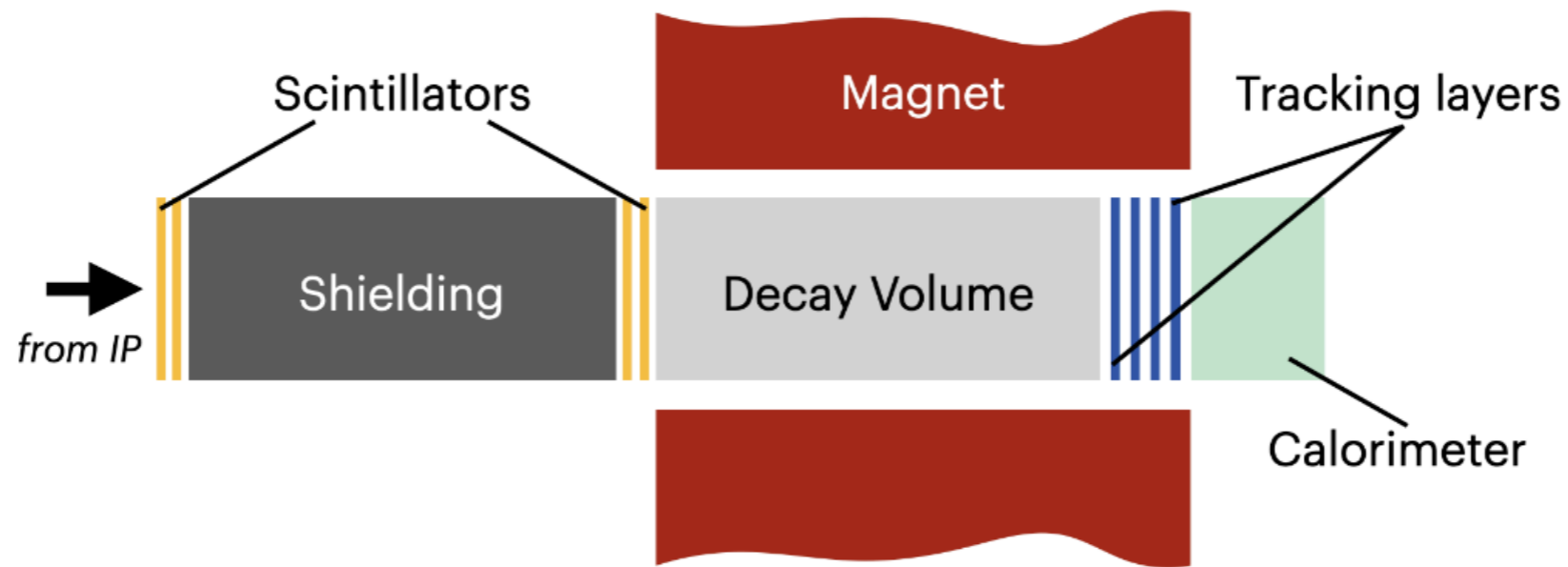
Muons from the IP

2

Neutral hadrons

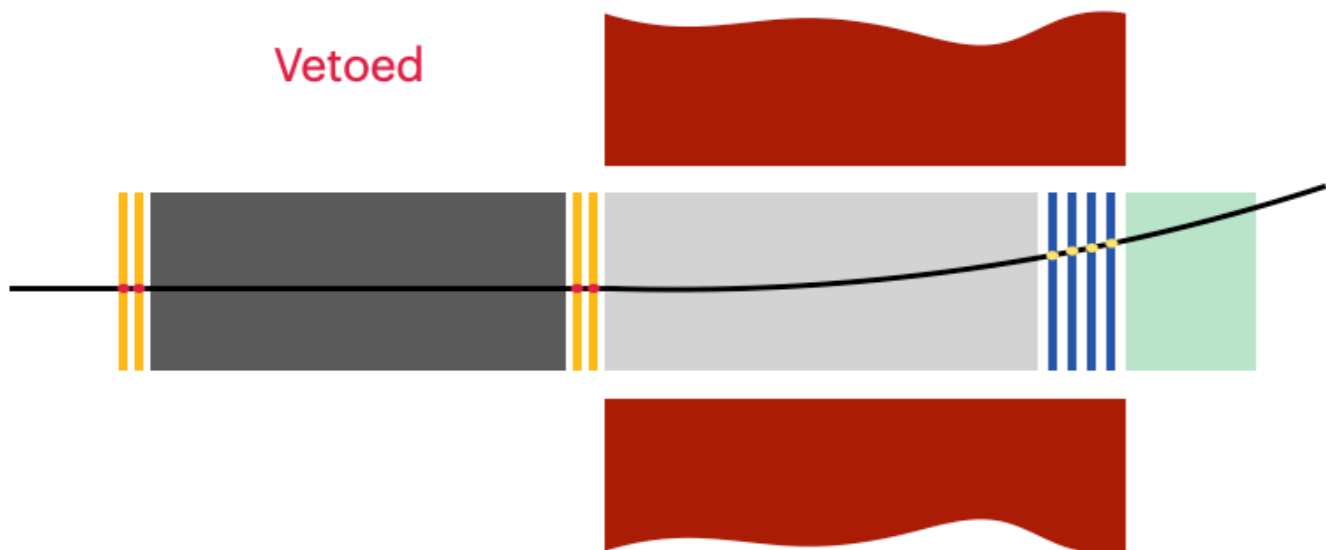
3

Neutrinos



Muons from the IP

Vetoed



Veto events with hits in any of the four scintillator planes

# Backgrounds and possible detector design

1

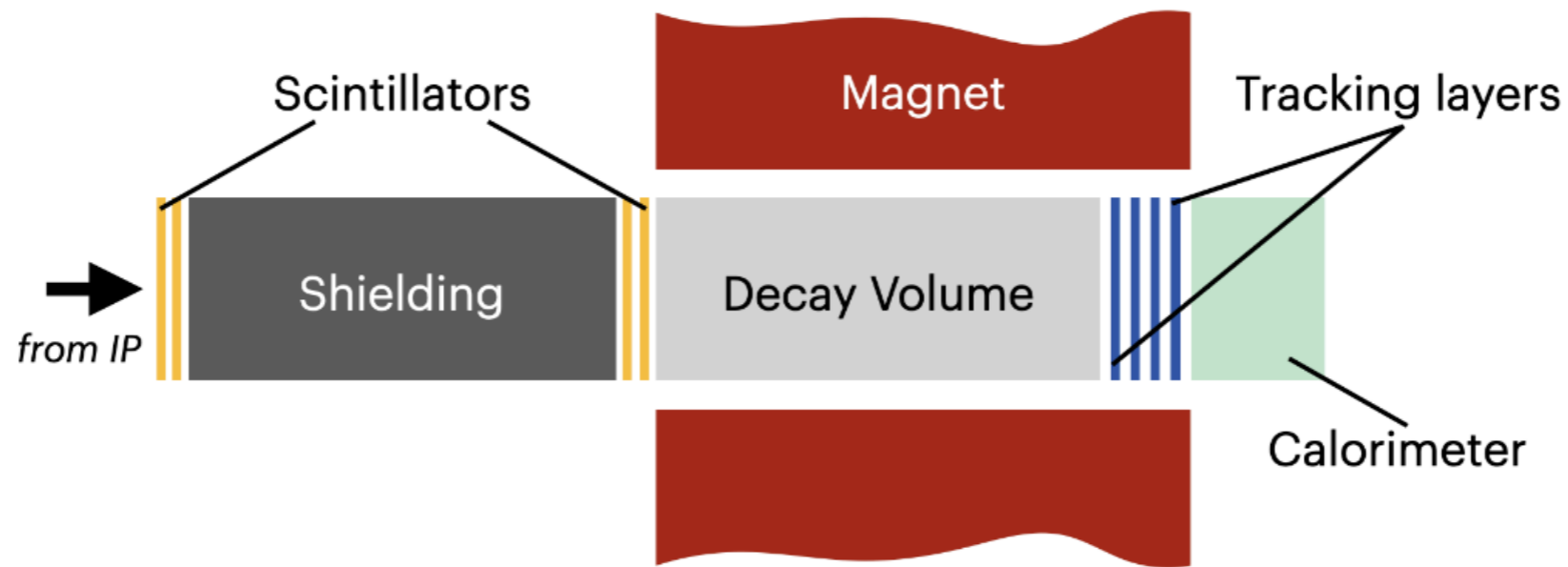
Muons from the IP

2

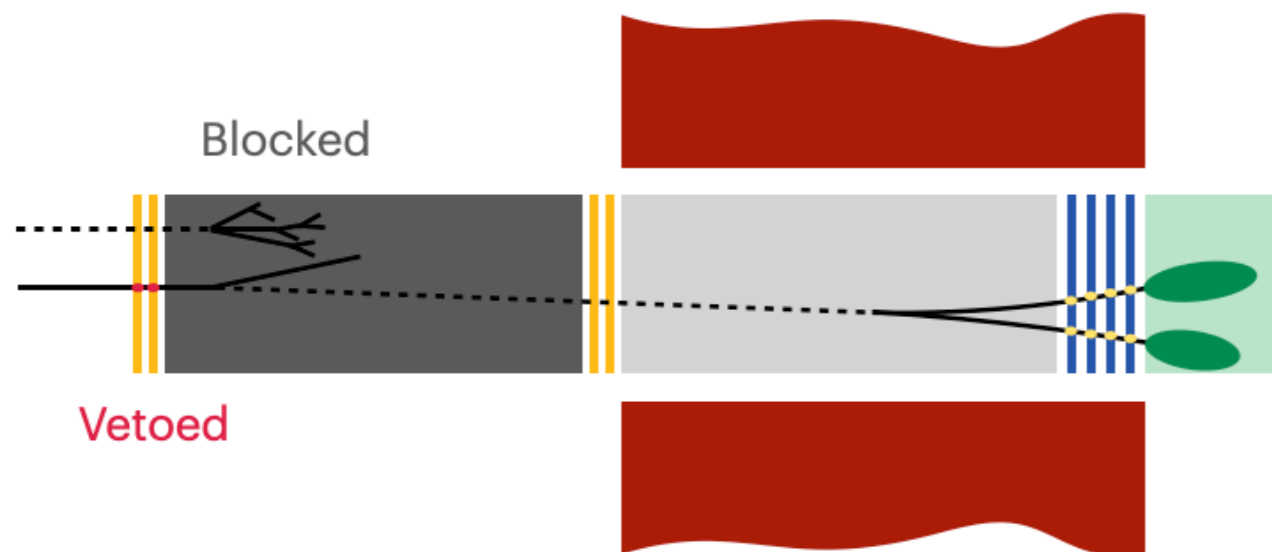
Neutral hadrons

3

Neutrinos



Neutral hadrons



Veto events with hits in any of the four scintillator planes

# Backgrounds and possible detector design

1

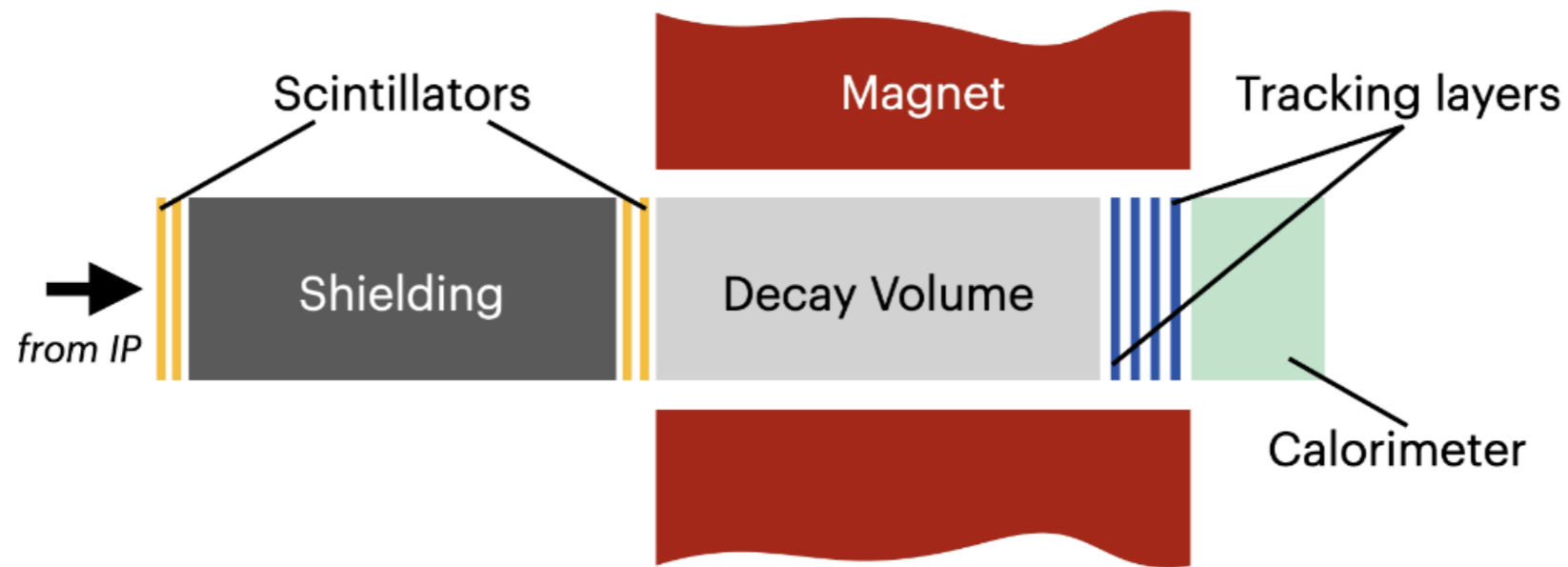
Muons from the IP

2

Neutral hadrons

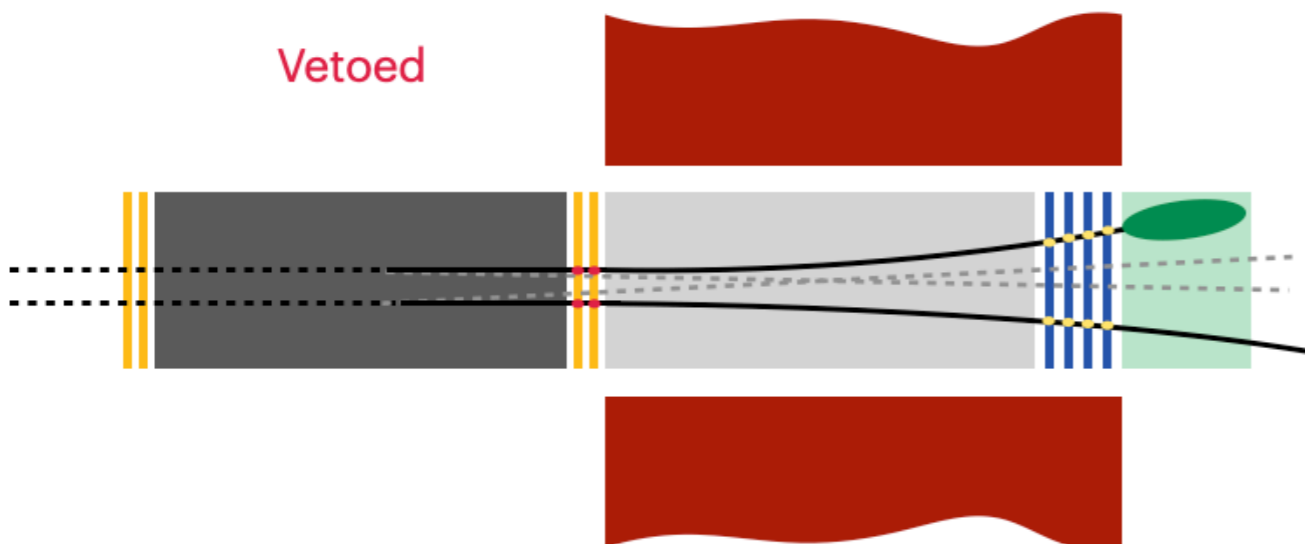
3

Neutrinos



Neutrino interactions

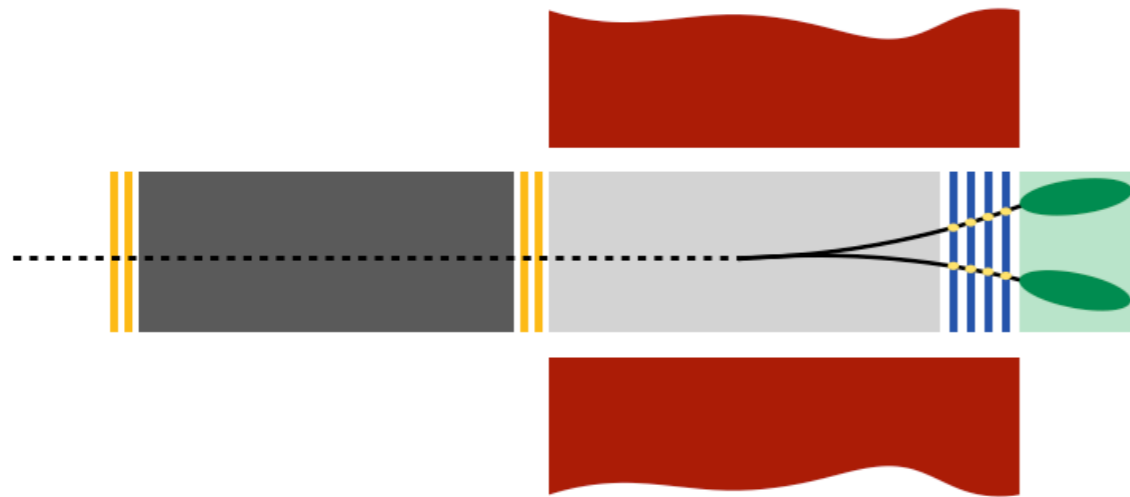
Vetoed



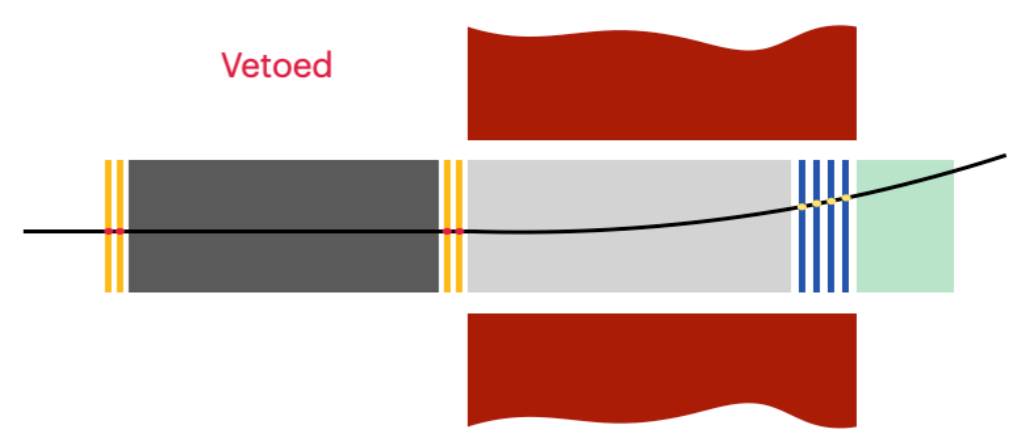
Veto events with hits in any of the four scintillator planes

# Signal and backgrounds

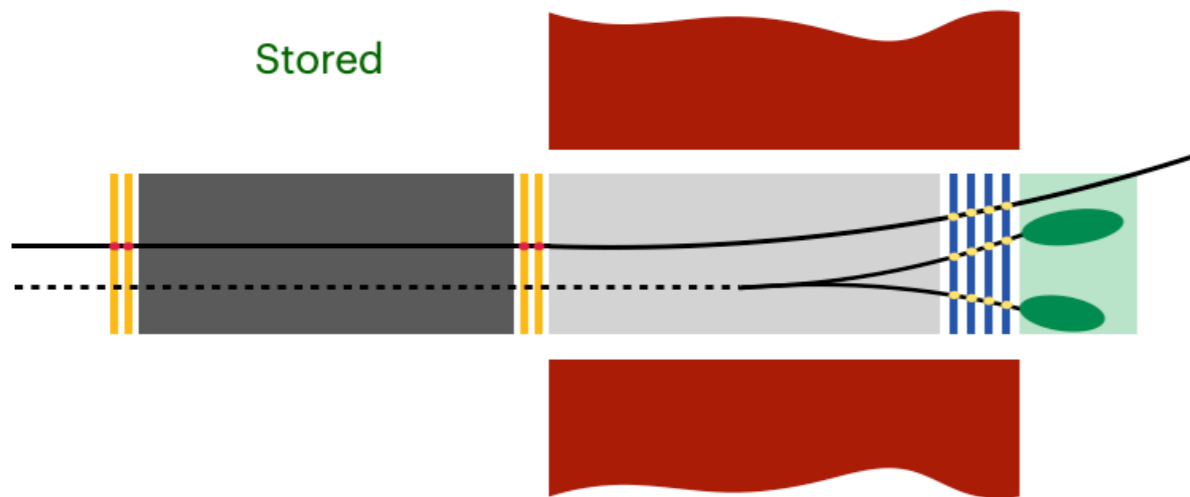
LLP signal



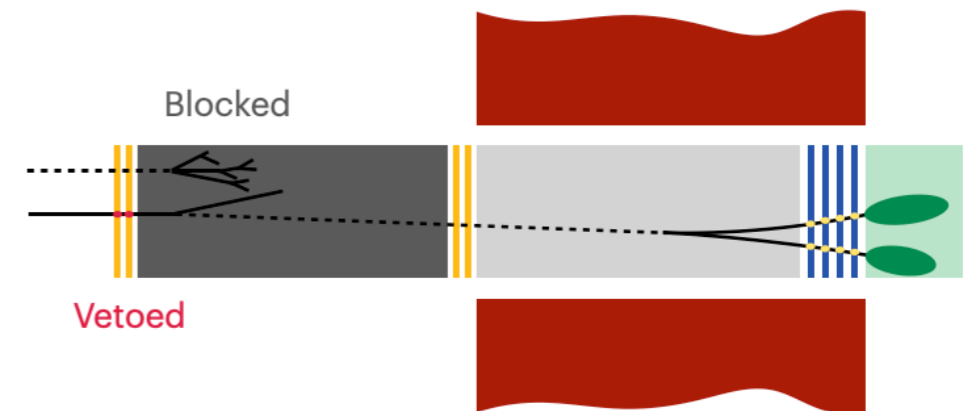
Muons from the IP



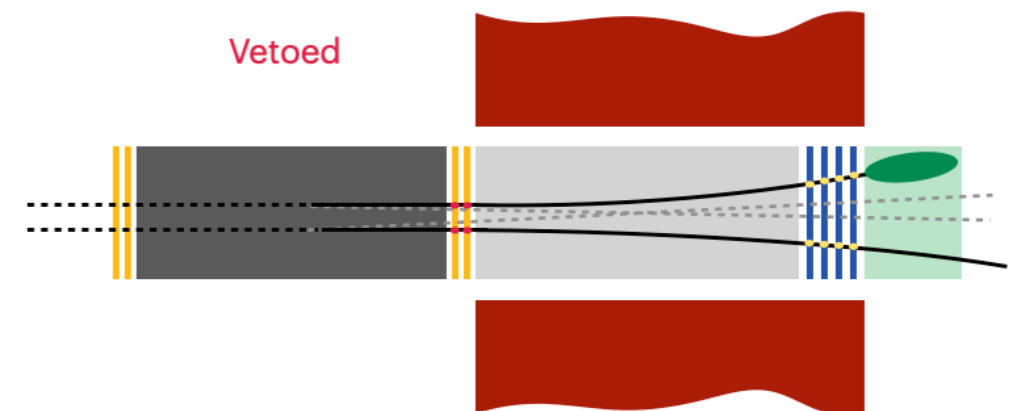
Muons from the IP with a coincident signal



Neutral hadrons



Neutrino interactions



Veto events with hits in any of the four scintillator planes which do not have any calorimeter deposit other than ones which are consistent with the direction of the muon track inferred from the scintillator hits.

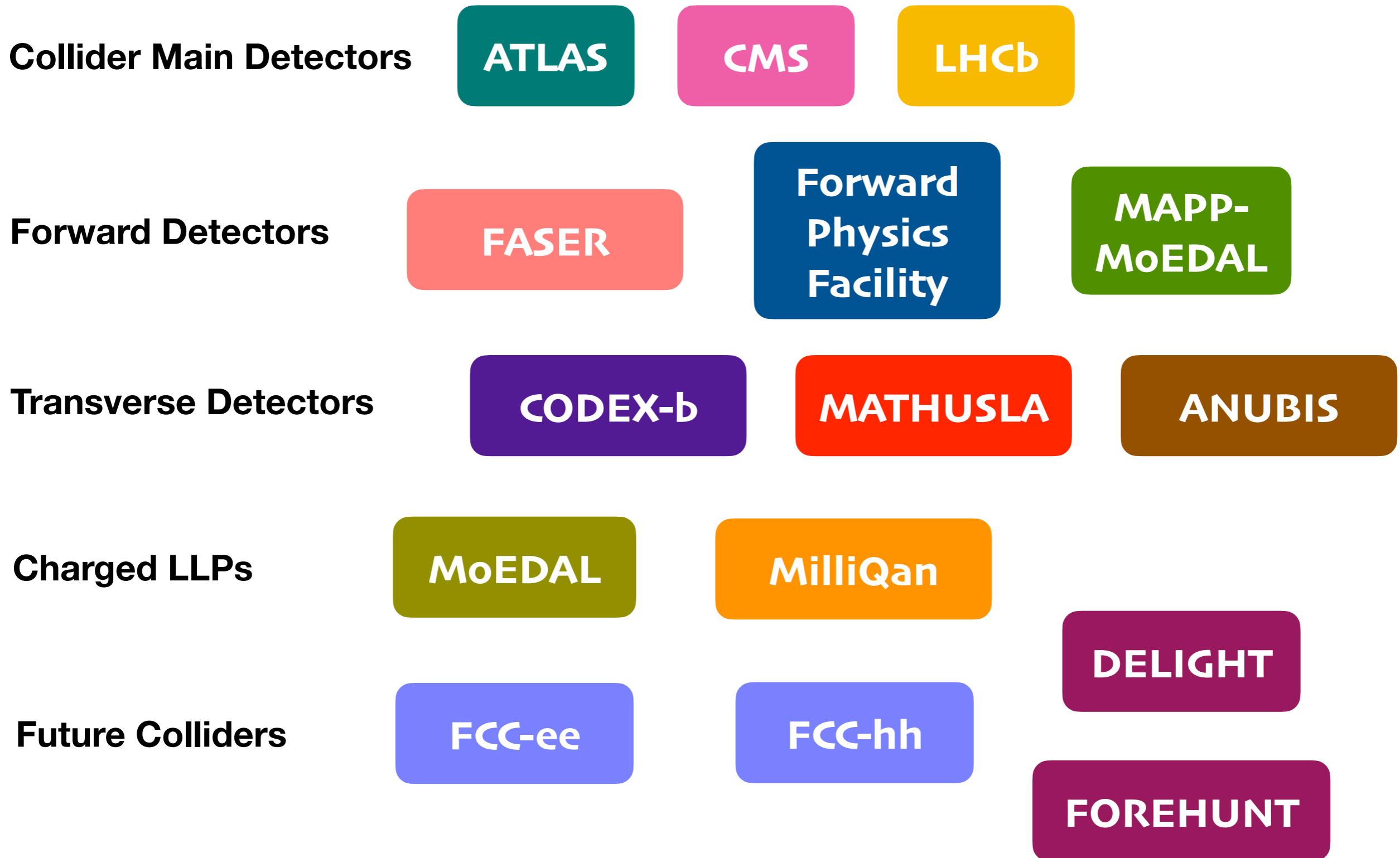
# Summary

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- Why study long-lived particles?
  - Strong limits from conventional searches - look carefully at the assumptions
- Long-lived particles - a brief introduction
  - Displaced decays of BSM particles - plethora of novel signatures
- Dedicated LLP detectors
  - ▶ Importance of future colliders
  - ▶ Proposals for dedicated LLP detectors at the FCC-hh
  - ▶ DELIGHT and FOREHUNT show promise and further detailed studies required

# A Rich Program Ahead to Hunt Down LLPs

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*Keep looking out for new possibilities!*

*Thank you for your attention*

**BACK UP**



# Nature of the Higgs potential

Two important questions that will remain even after HL-LHC and FCC-ee are:

How does the Higgs couple to itself?  
What was the nature of the EWPT?

Both depend on the parameters of the Higgs potential

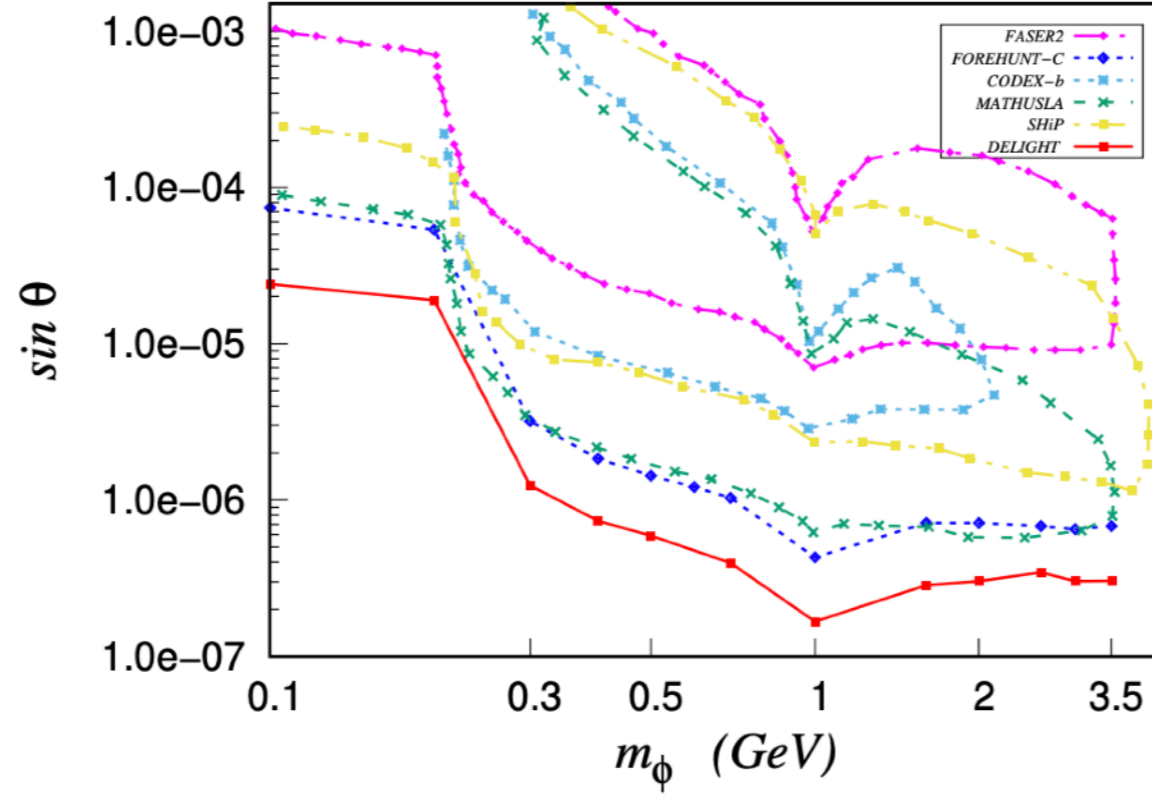
They are known in the SM, but BSM can modify them

Implications for explaining the baryon asymmetry in the Universe

A 100 TeV FCC-hh targets to measure the Higgs cubic self-coupling in the SM with 5% precision, compared to  $\mathcal{O}(50\%)$  sensitivity with HL-LHC

Also, the 100 TeV FCC-hh will have a better mass reach for the additional particles that could affect the EWSB

$m_\phi$ (GeV)	$c\tau$ (m)	FASER2 ( $p_\phi > 100\text{GeV}$ )	CODEX-b ( $E_\phi > 1\text{GeV}$ )	MATHUSLA ( $E_\phi > 1\text{GeV}$ )	FOREHUNT-C ( $p_\phi > 100\text{GeV}$ )	DELIGHT-B ( $E_\phi > 1\text{GeV}$ )
0.1	$10^1$	$1.6 \times 10^{-5}\%$	$1.0 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$1.3 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$2.1 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$6.5 \times 10^{-1}\%$
0.1	$10^4$	$1.5 \times 10^{-8}\%$	$1.1 \times 10^{-5}\%$	$2.1 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$2.1 \times 10^{-5}\%$	$9.2 \times 10^{-4}\%$
2.0	$10^1$	$3.6 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$1.8 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$4.4 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$4.4 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$5.3 \times 10^{-1}\%$
2.0	$10^4$	$4.8 \times 10^{-7}\%$	$1.9 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$3.4 \times 10^{-3}\%$	$4.7 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$1.5 \times 10^{-2}\%$
4.4	$10^1$	$8.6 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$9.2 \times 10^{-3}\%$	$1.3 \times 10^{-2}\%$	<b>1.0%</b>	$2.5 \times 10^{-1}\%$
4.4	$10^4$	$1.5 \times 10^{-6}\%$	$2.3 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$5.0\% \times 10^{-3}\%$	$1.2 \times 10^{-3}\%$	$1.9 \times 10^{-2}\%$



## Multiple forward detectors

$m_\phi$ (GeV)	$c\tau$ (m)	acceptance for first detector at $z=50$ m	acceptance for second detector at $z=100$ m	acceptance for second detector at $z=300$ m
0.1	$10^{-1}$	1.4%	0.56%	0.29%
4.4	$10^{-1}$	0.7%	0.22%	$1.9 \times 10^{-2}\%$
0.1	$10^4$	$2.1 \times 10^{-5}\%$	$1.9 \times 10^{-5}\%$	$9.3 \times 10^{-6}\%$
4.4	$10^4$	$1.2 \times 10^{-3}\%$	$1.0 \times 10^{-3}\%$	$4.9 \times 10^{-4}\%$

$m_\phi$ (GeV)	$c\tau$ (m)	FOREHUNT-C ( $p_\phi > 50$ GeV, $z=100$ m)	FOREHUNT-C ( $p_\phi > 50$ GeV, $z=200$ m)	FOREHUNT-C ( $p_\phi > 50$ GeV, $z=300$ m)
0.1	$10^1$	$3.3 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$1.8 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$1.1 \times 10^{-2}\%$
0.1	$10^4$	$3.3 \times 10^{-5}\%$	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}\%$	$1.2 \times 10^{-5}\%$
2.0	$10^1$	$6.0 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$3.0 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$2.0 \times 10^{-1}\%$
2.0	$10^4$	$7.4 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$4.4 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$3.0 \times 10^{-4}\%$
4.4	$10^1$	1.1%	$5.0 \times 10^{-1}\%$	$3.0 \times 10^{-1}\%$
4.4	$10^4$	$1.6 \times 10^{-3}\%$	$9.0 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$5.9 \times 10^{-4}\%$

Reduced  
threshold for the  
second detector

## Off-axis detectors

$m_\phi$ (GeV)	$c\tau$ (m)	1 m off-axis ( $p_\phi > 100$ GeV)	5 m off-axis ( $p_\phi > 100$ GeV)
0.1	$10^{-1}$	0.83%	$5.5 \times 10^{-2}\%$
4.4	$10^{-1}$	$1.53 \times 10^{-2}\%$	$1.2 \times 10^{-4}\%$
0.1	$10^4$	$1.5 \times 10^{-5}\%$	$8.7 \times 10^{-7}\%$
4.4	$10^4$	$8.4 \times 10^{-4}\%$	$1.7 \times 10^{-4}\%$