

# No **track** left behind

Jonathan Kriewald  
IJS

Based on arXiv:2510.00856

**Felica 2025**

# No **track** left behind: From Silicon hits to LLP **reconstruction**

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# No **track** left behind: From Silicon hits to LLP **reconstruction**

How to Be Okay with Having an  
Experimental Friend

■ Method 1 of 3: gauge him away



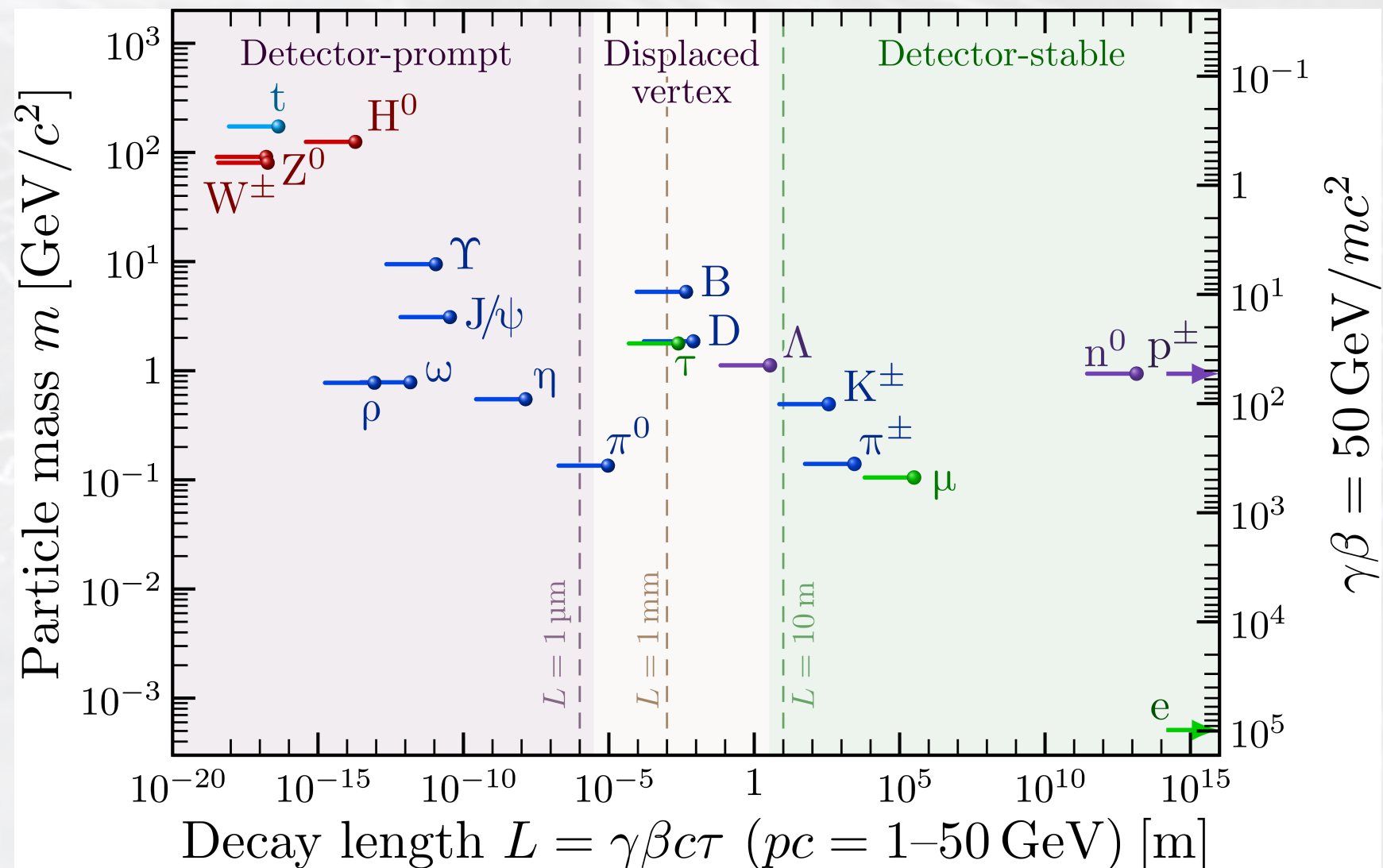
# Long-lived Particles

(In the Standard Model)

SM particle **lifetimes** span  
>30 orders of magnitude

Experiments measure  
“**detector-stable**” particles

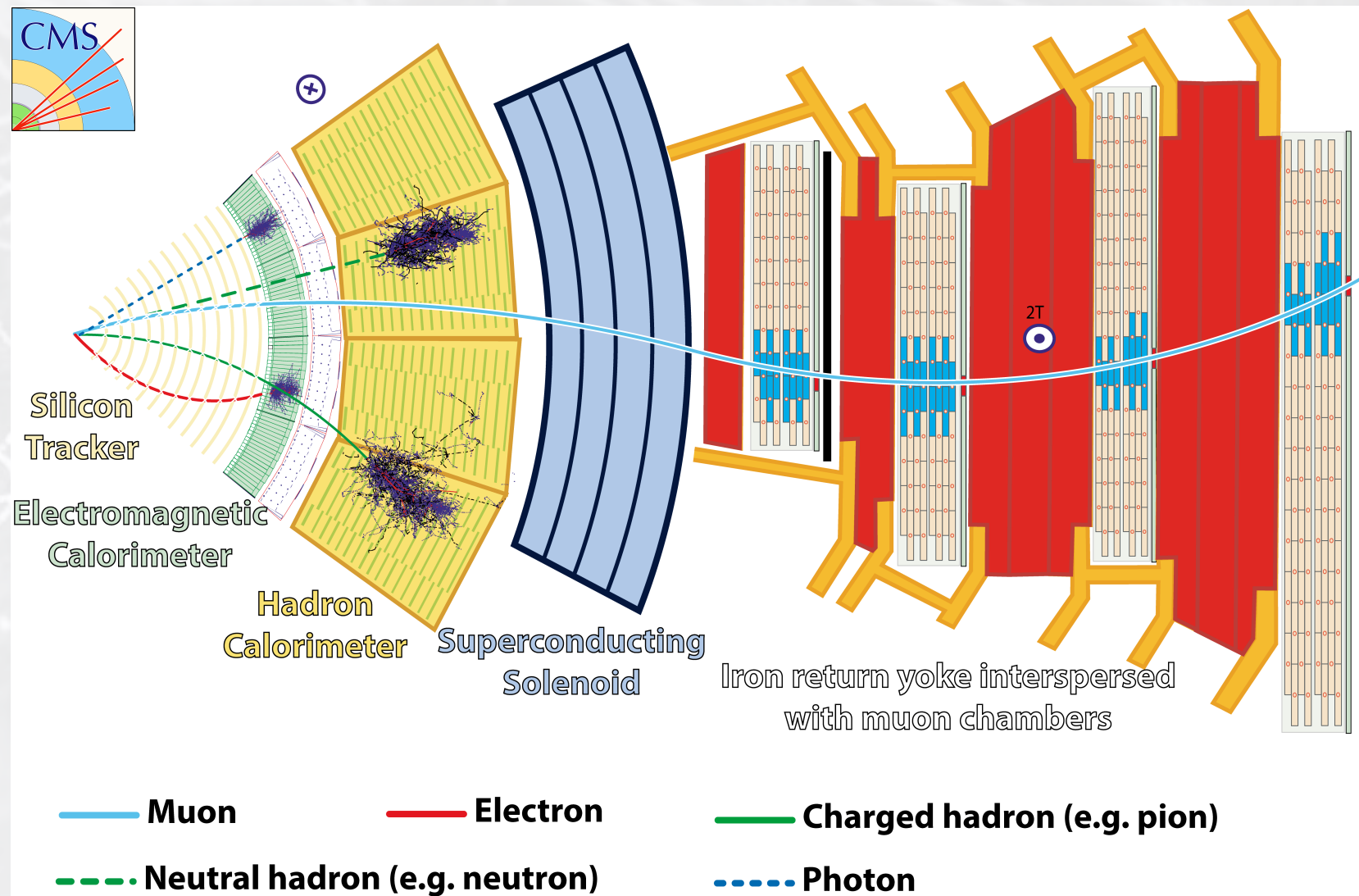
Reconstruct unstable  
particles from detector-  
stable **decay products**



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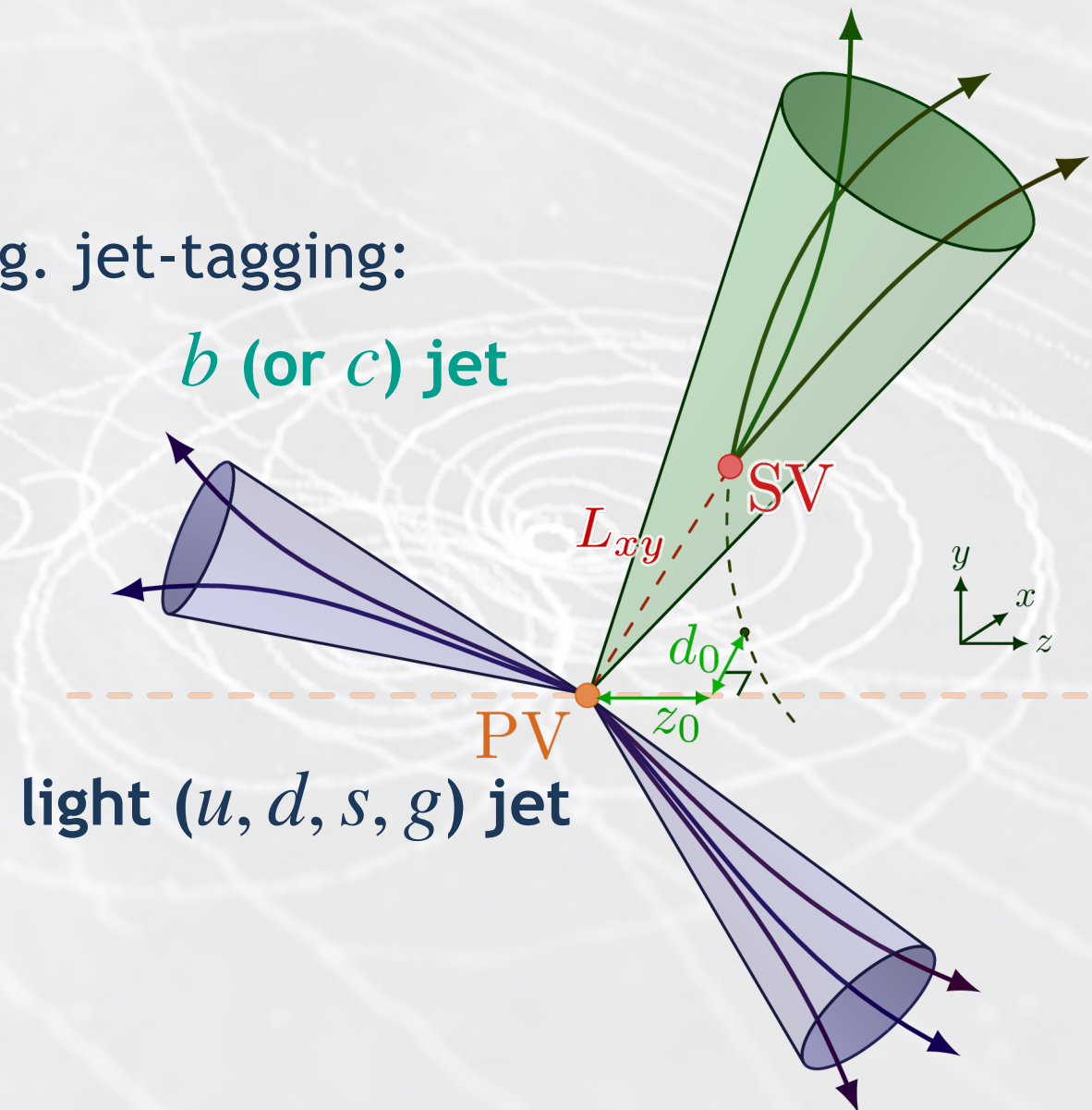
# Long-lived Particles

(In the Standard Model)

Reconstruct unstable particles from detector-stable **decay products**

**(Displaced) Vertex** finding/  
fitting **crucial step** in any  
event **reconstruction**

e.g. jet-tagging:



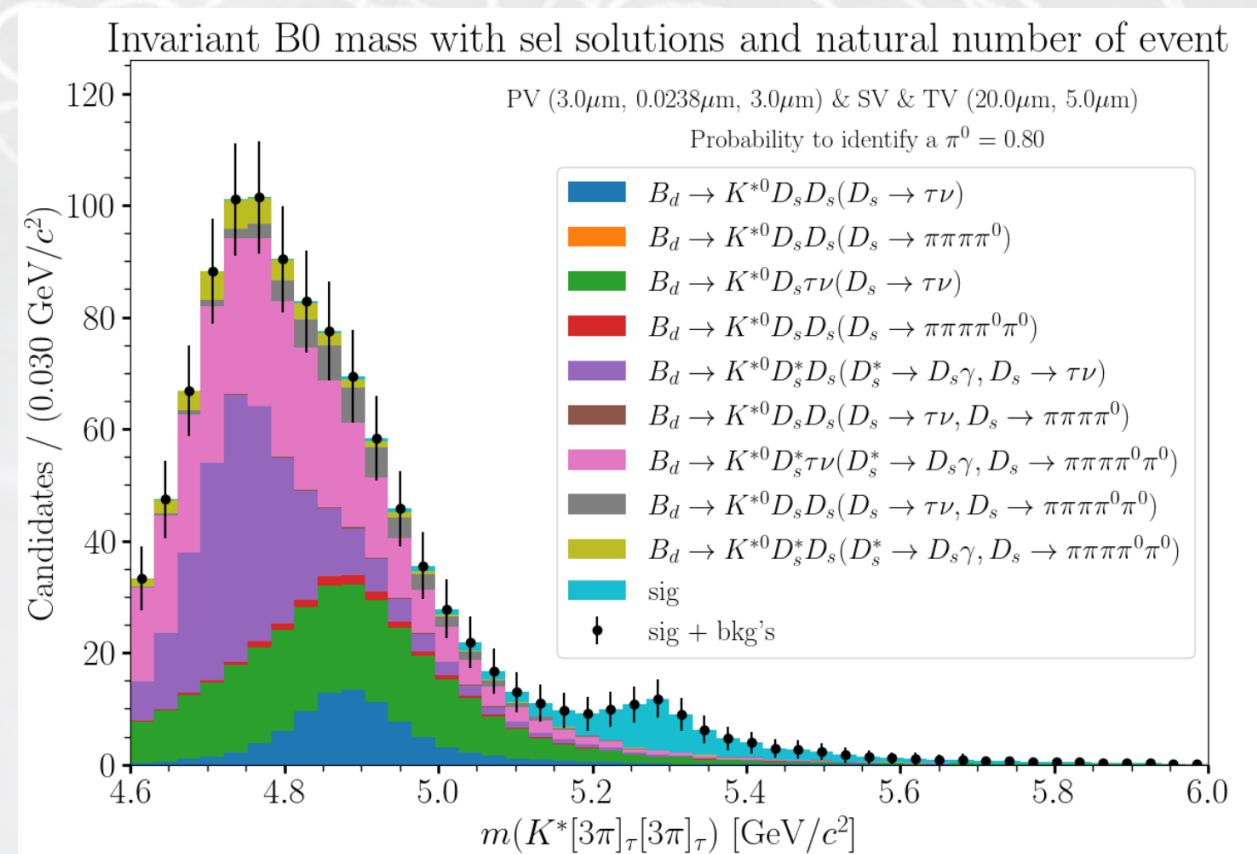
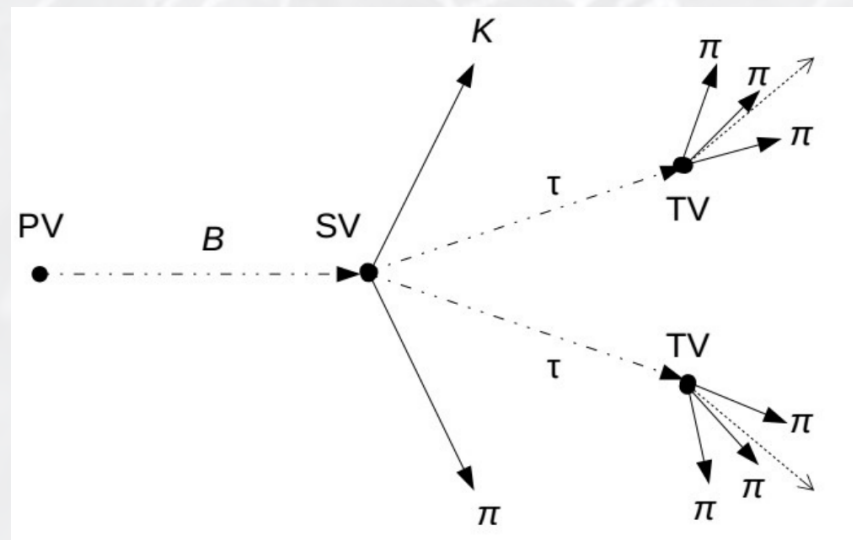
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e.g.  $B \rightarrow K^*(\rightarrow K^+\pi^-)\tau^+\tau^-$



Tristan Miralles & Stéphane Monteil: FCC Ana note March 2025

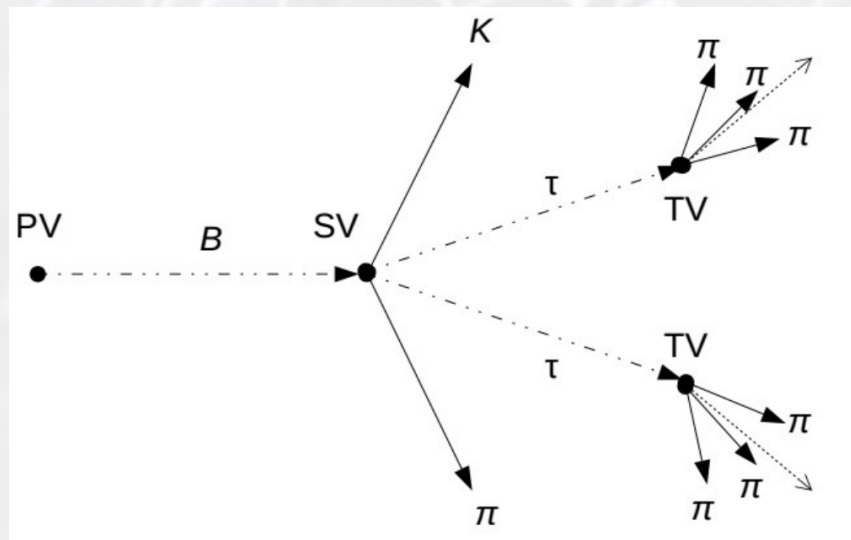
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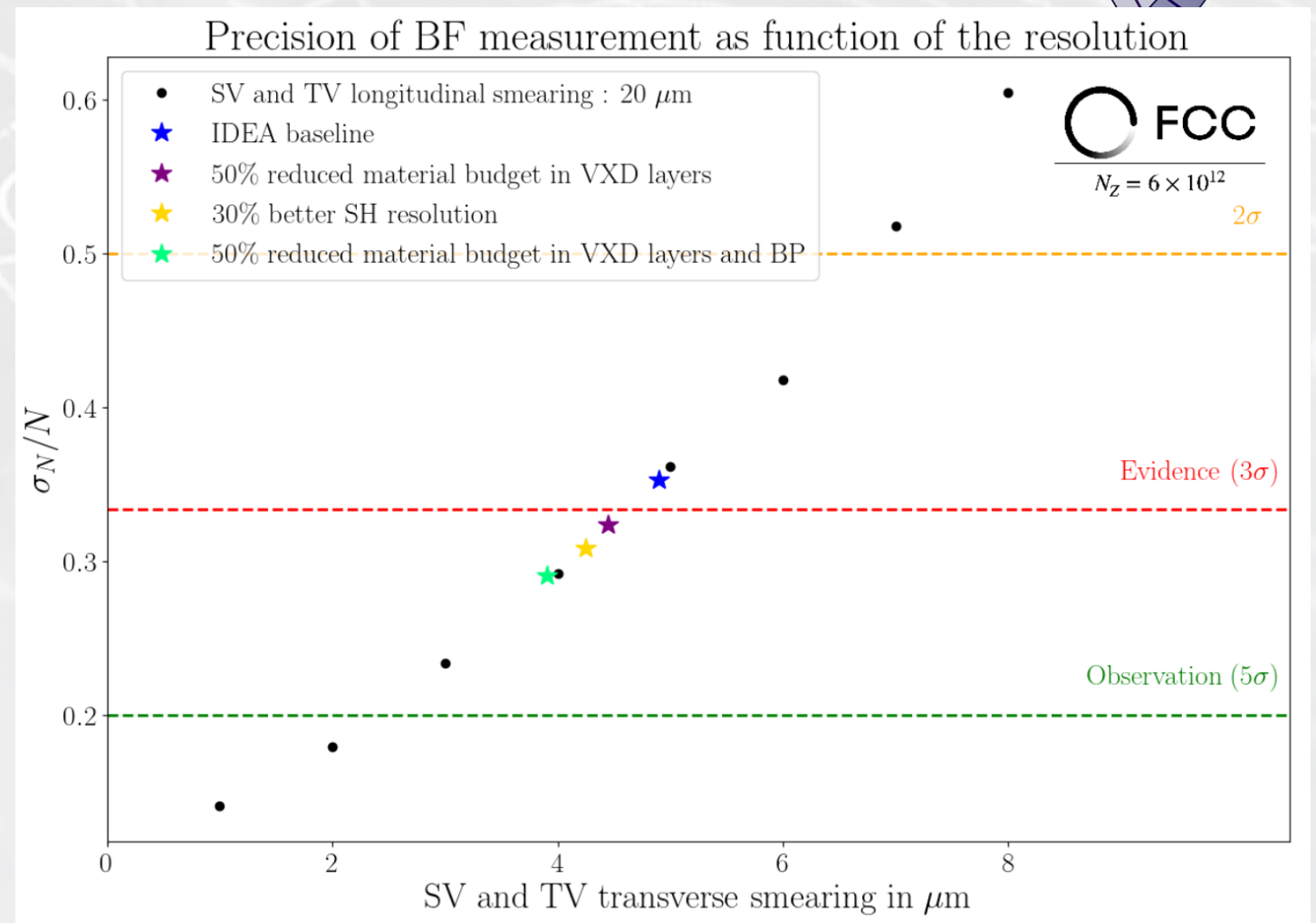
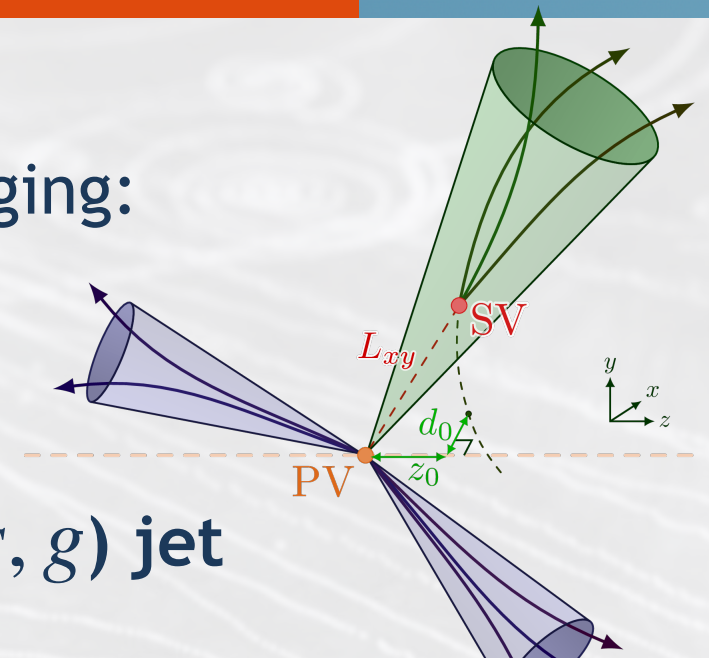
e.g.  $B \rightarrow K^*(\rightarrow K^+\pi^-)\tau^+\tau^-$



e.g. jet-tagging:

$b$  (or  $c$ ) jet

light ( $u, d, s, g$ ) jet



Tristan Miralles & Stéphane Monteil: FCC Ana note March 2025

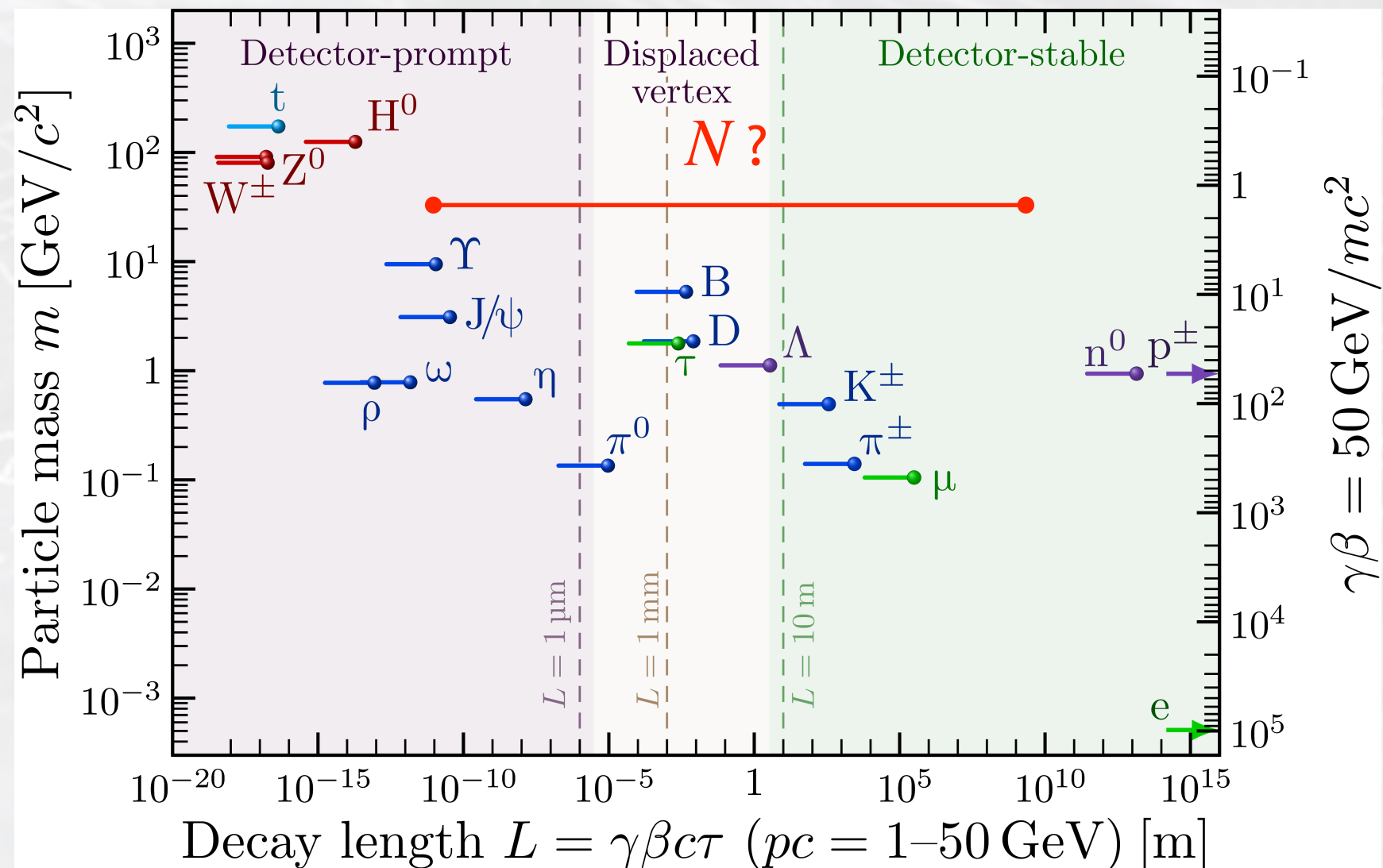
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Reconstruct unstable  
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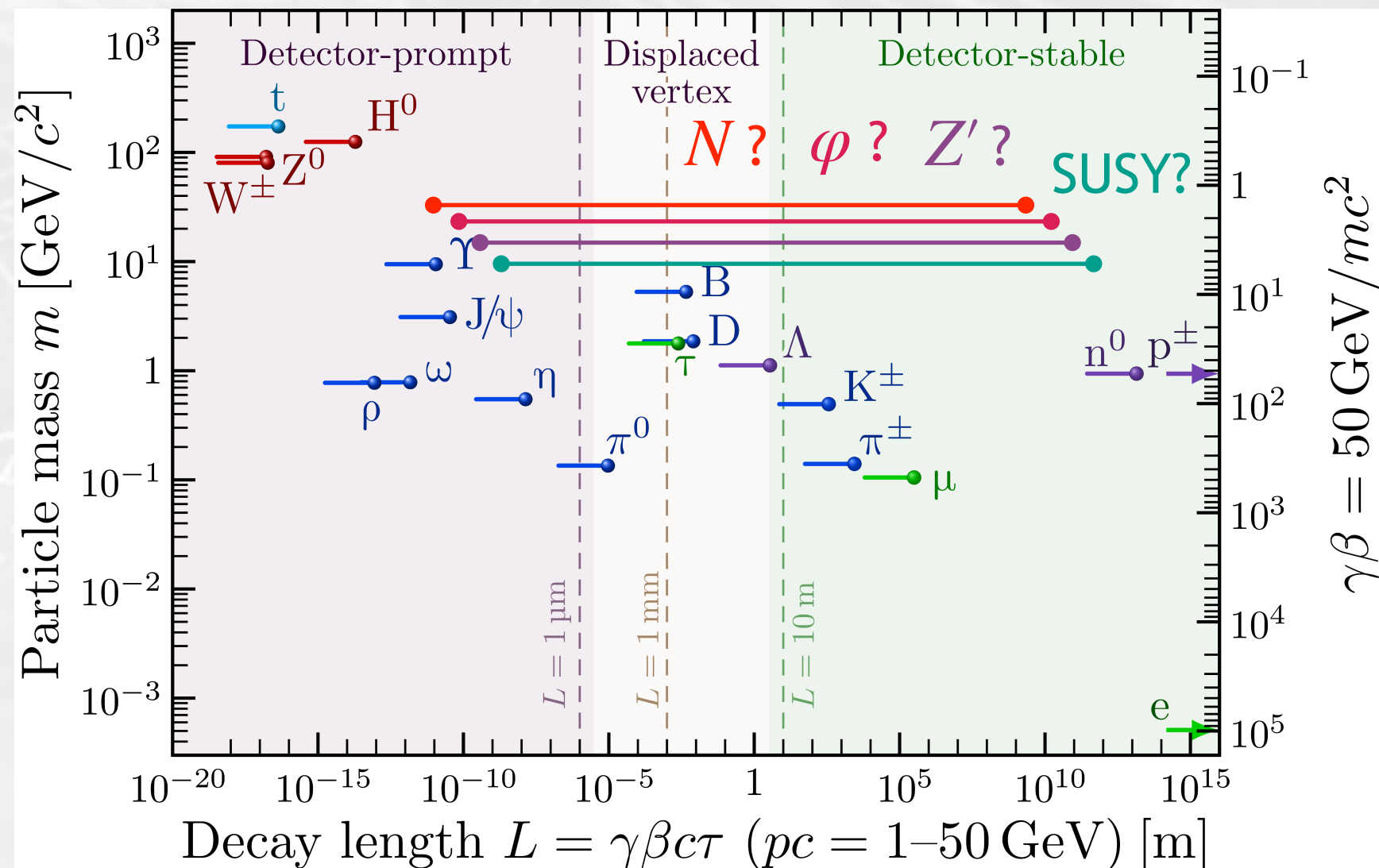
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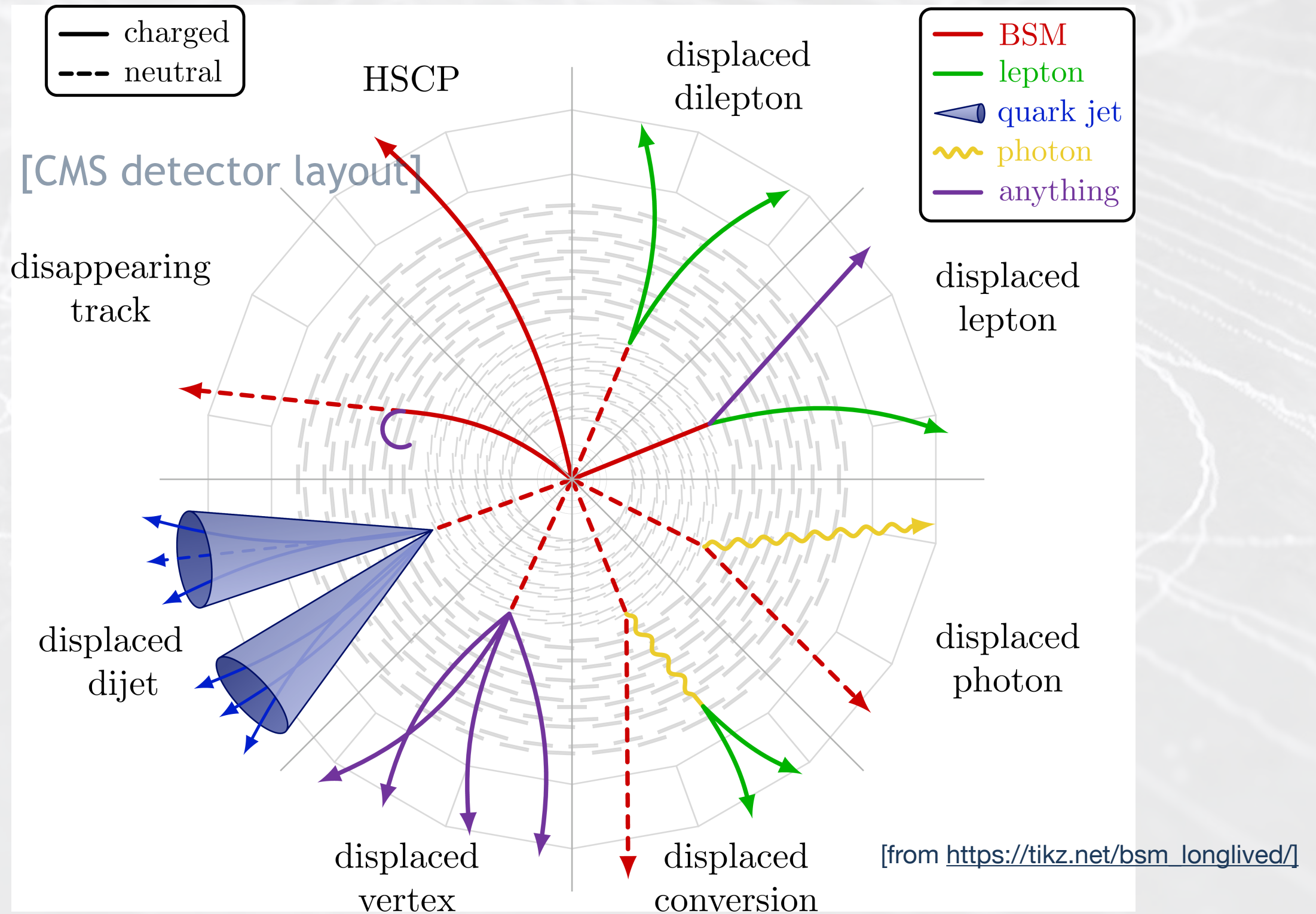
Reconstruct unstable  
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LLPs appear in many BSM theories, dedicated LLP searches emerge as powerful probe

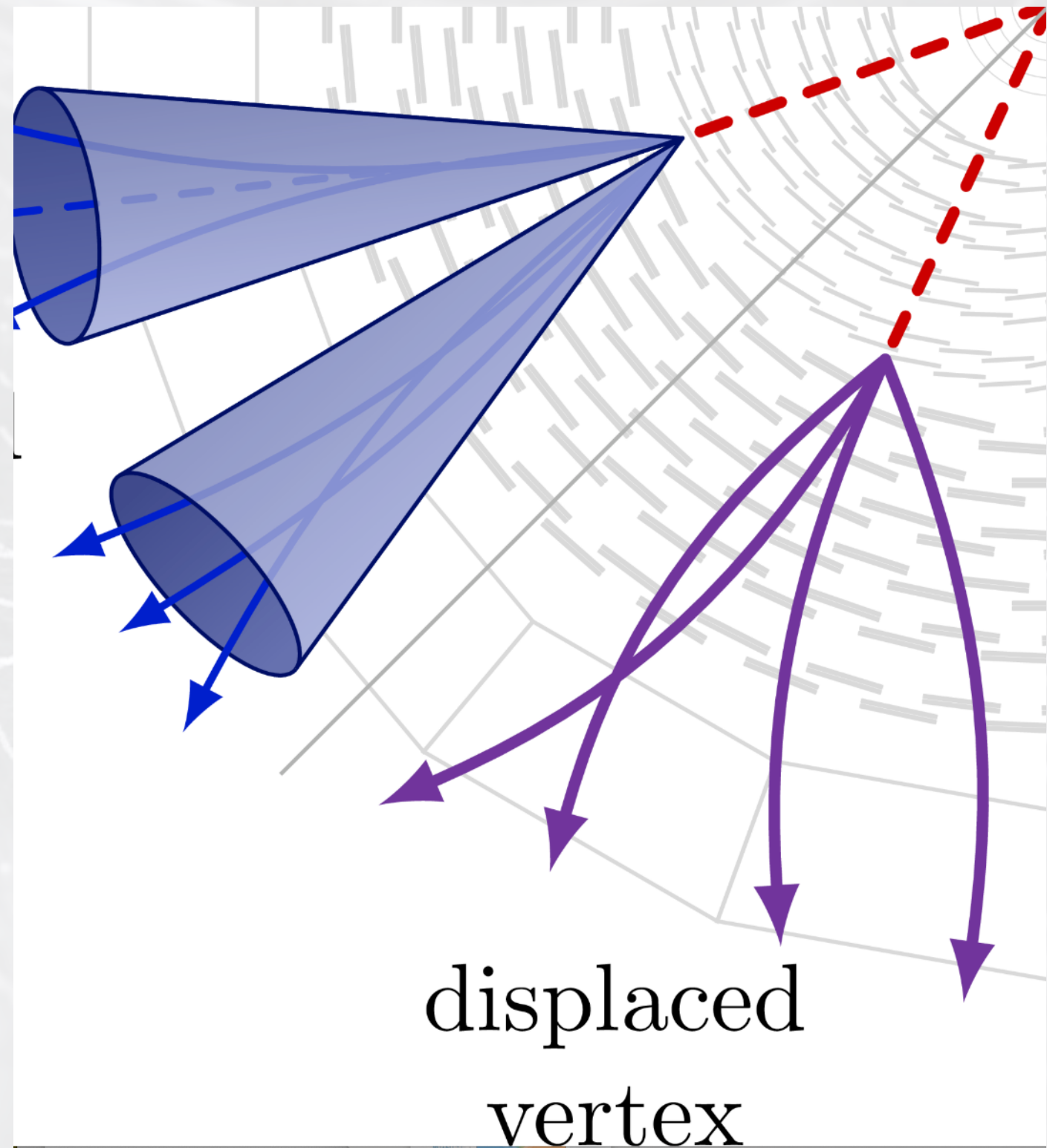
Cut on lifetime and reconstructed mass  $\Rightarrow$  **low to no SM backgrounds**

# LLP Signatures



# LLP Signatures

Focus here on **Displaced Vertex** searches  
(with or without jets)



[from [https://tikz.net/bsm\\_longlived/](https://tikz.net/bsm_longlived/)]

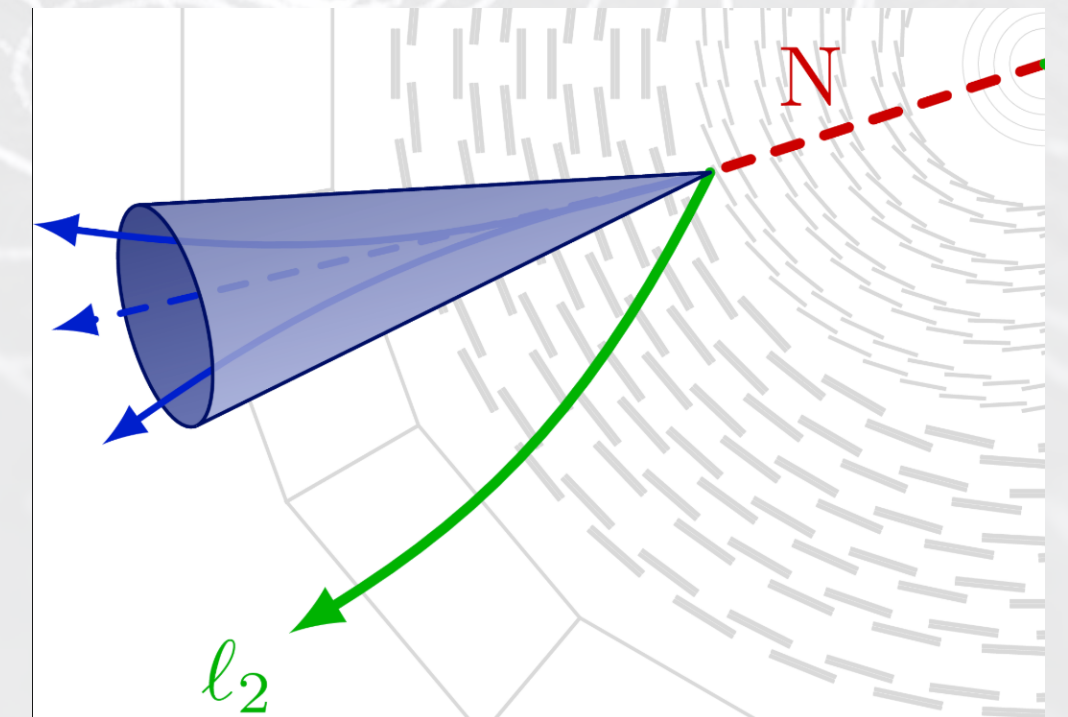
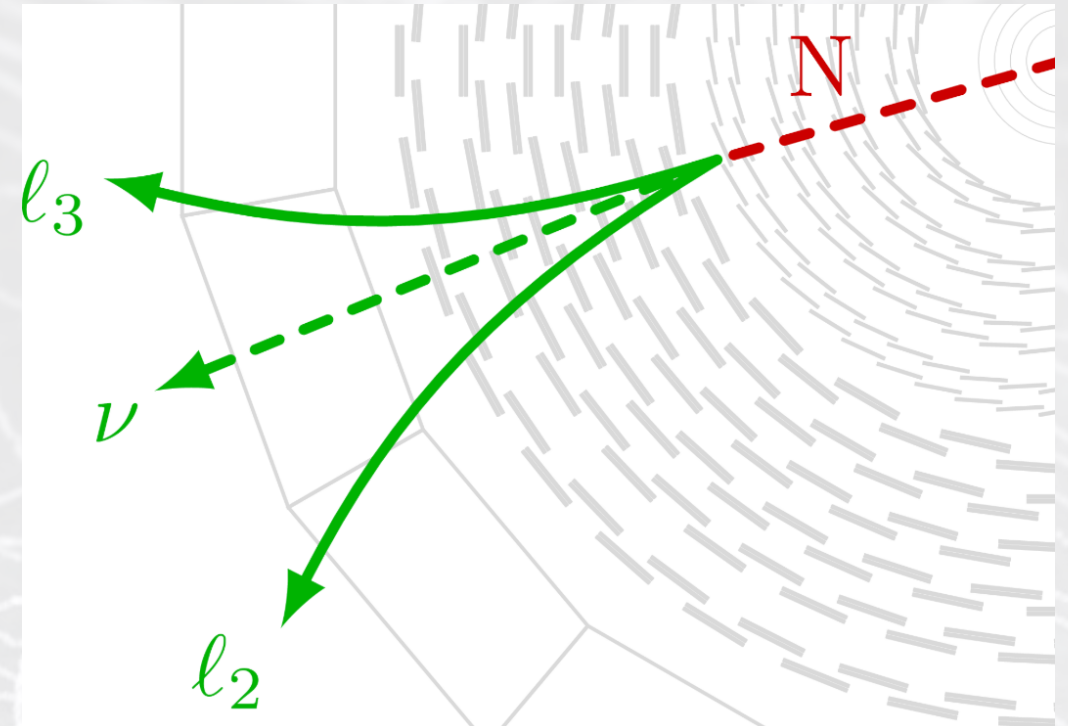
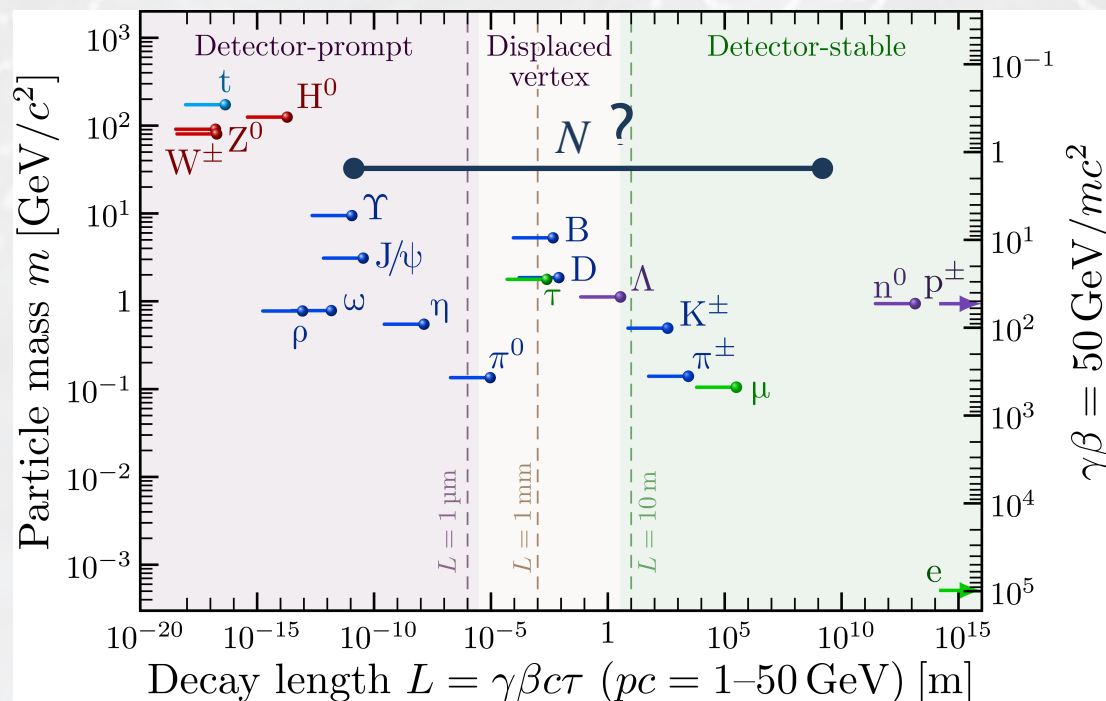
# LLP Signatures

Focus here on **Displaced Vertex** searches

(with or without jets)

e.g. heavy neutral leptons (HNL)  $N$ :

Cut on lifetime and reconstructed mass  $\Rightarrow$  low to no SM backgrounds



[from [https://tikz.net/bsm\\_longlived/](https://tikz.net/bsm_longlived/)]

# LLP searches in a nutshell:

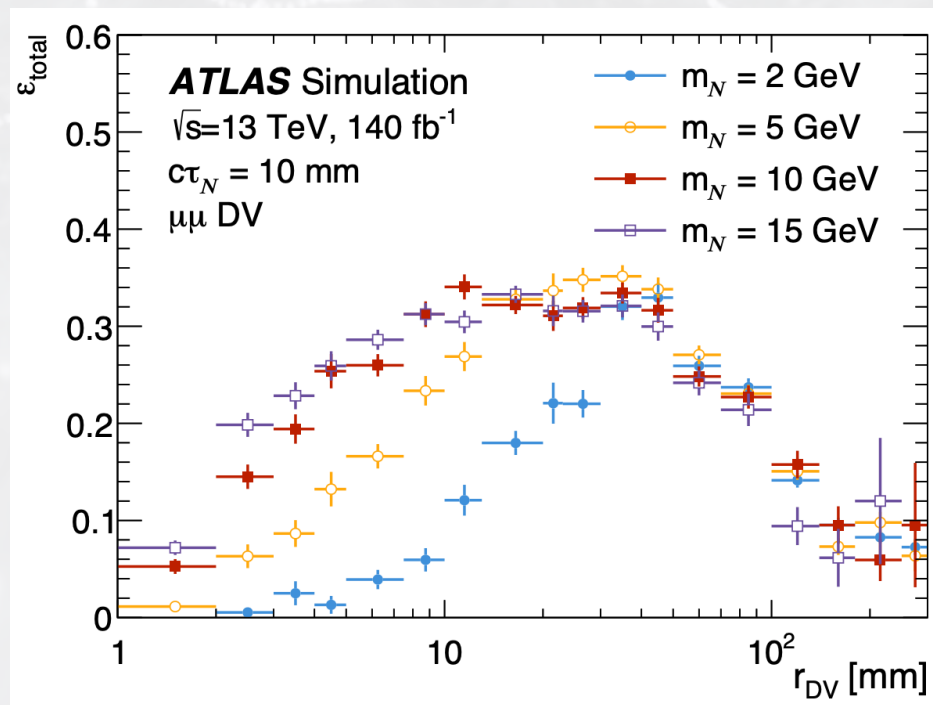
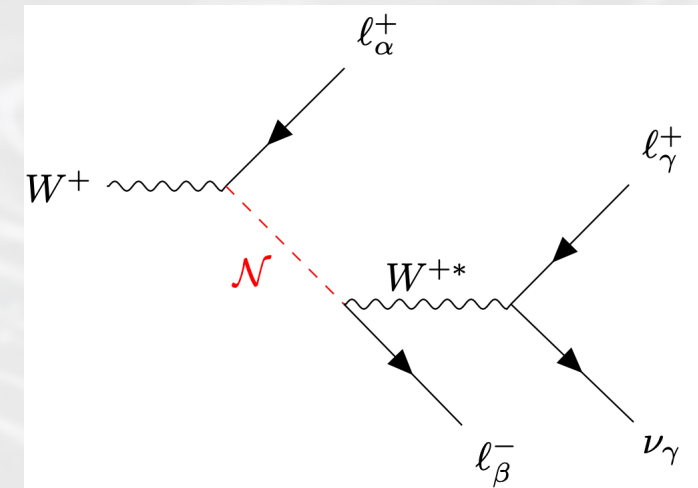
HNL  $N$  from  $W$  decay with leptonic final state

0.) Reconstruct tracks/  
energy flow

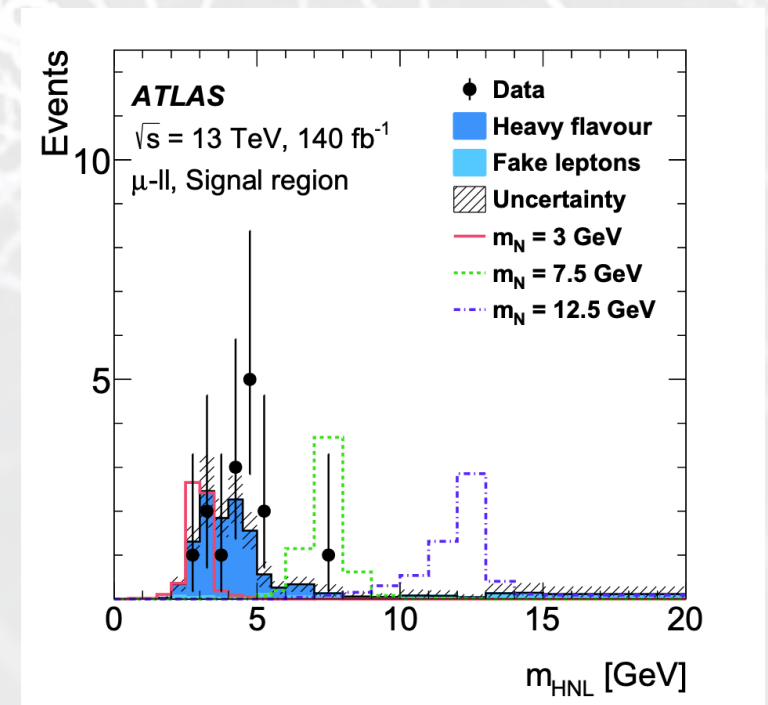
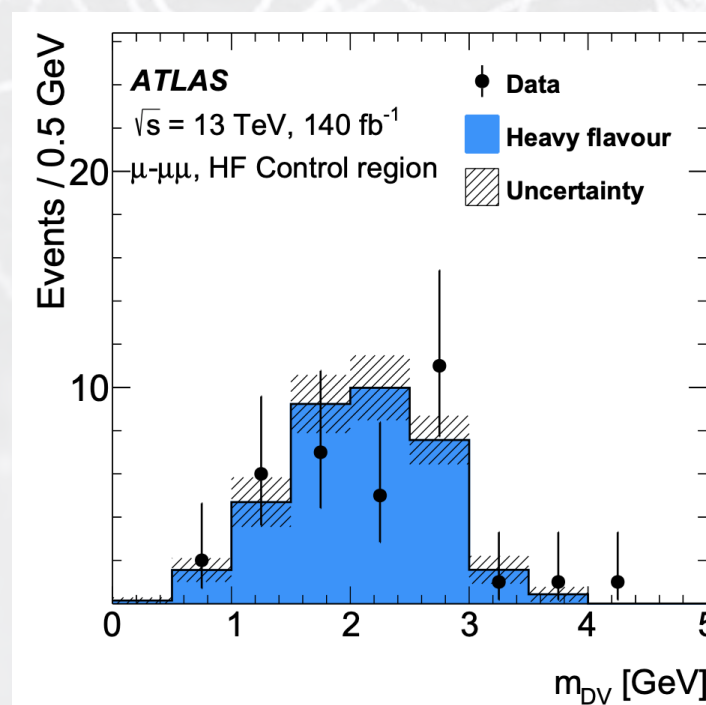
1.) Identify and fit  
decay **vertex**

2.) Reconstruct **vertex  
kinematics**

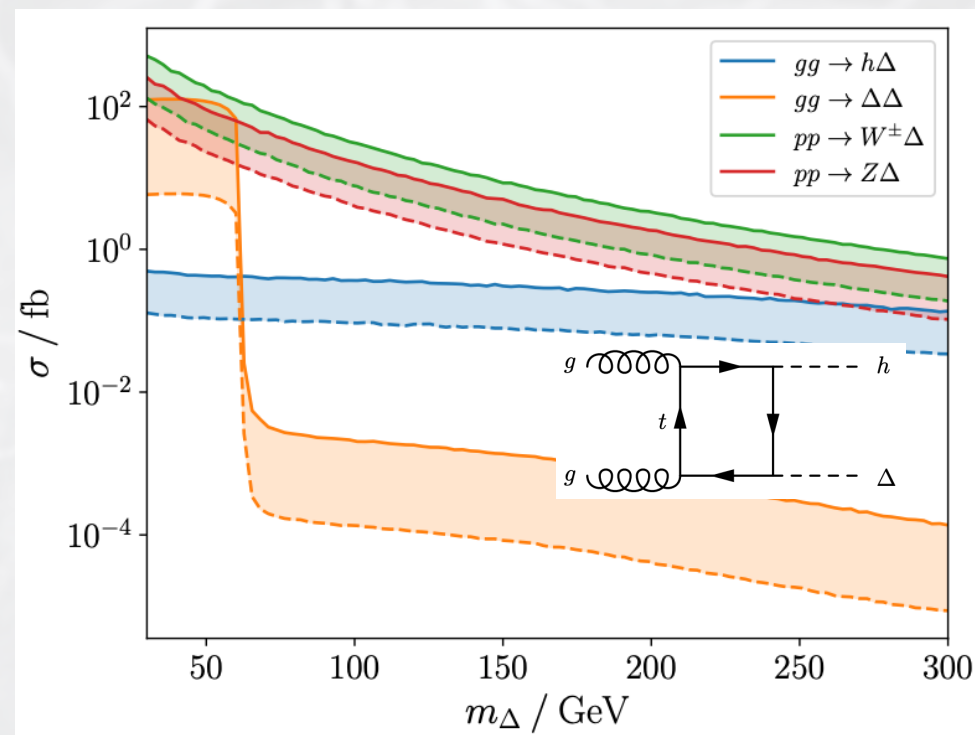
3.) Reconstruct **LLP  
kinematics**  
(constrained fit)



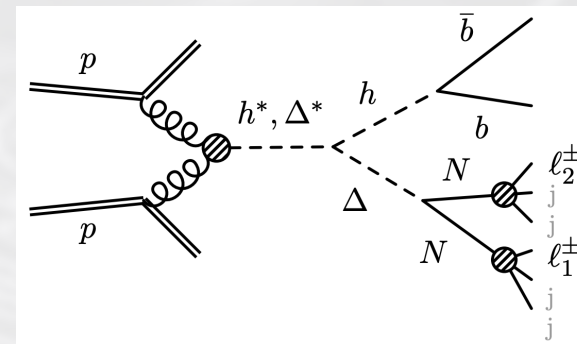
ATLAS [arXiv:2503.16213]



# LLP pheno in a nutshell:

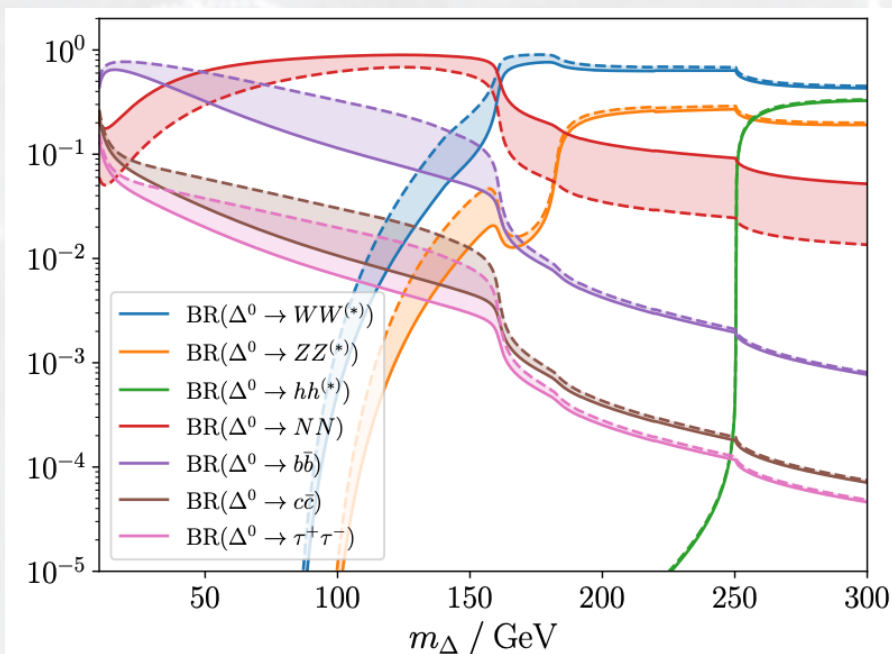


[from Fuks, JK, Nemevšek, Nesti arXiv:2503.21354]



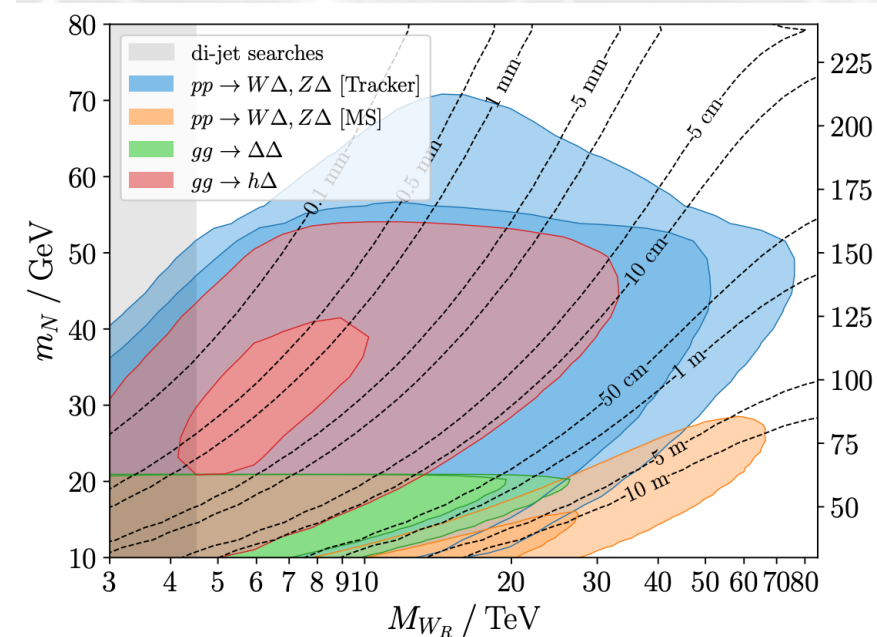
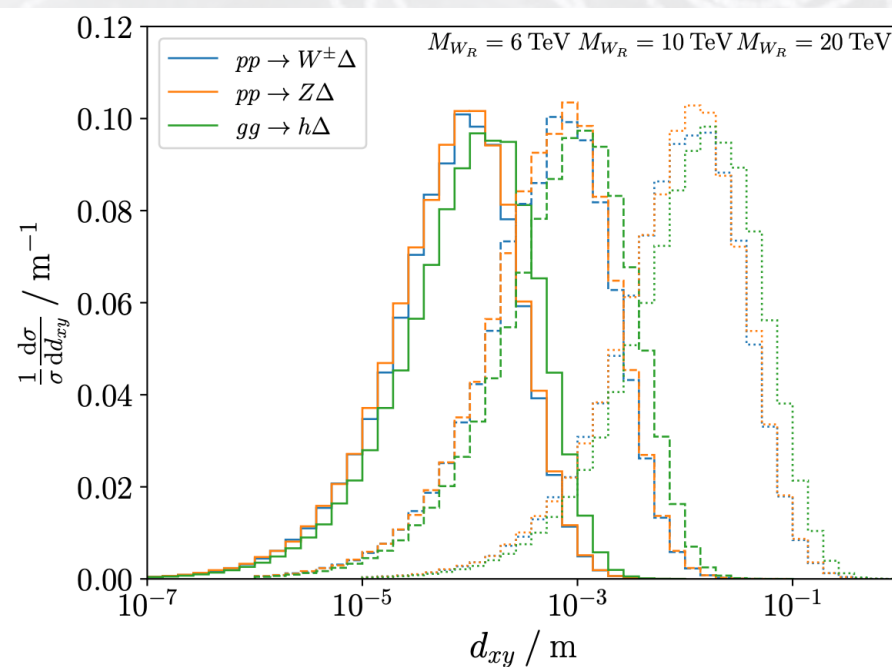
$$\mathcal{N} = \int_{d_{xy}^{\min}}^{d_{xy}^{\max}} \frac{d\mathcal{N}}{d(d_{xy})} = \int d\Phi_3 \frac{d\sigma}{d\Phi_3} \left( e^{-\frac{d_{xy}^{\min}}{\langle d_{xy} \rangle}} - e^{-\frac{d_{xy}^{\max}}{\langle d_{xy} \rangle}} \right)$$

## 1.) Calculate $\sigma \times \text{BR}$



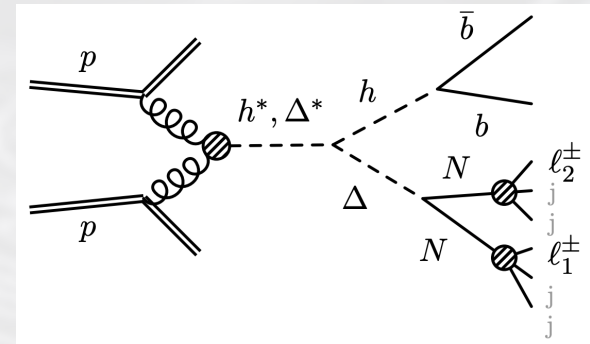
## 2.) Calculate displacement in the Lab-frame

### 3.) **Simulate** Events & analyse



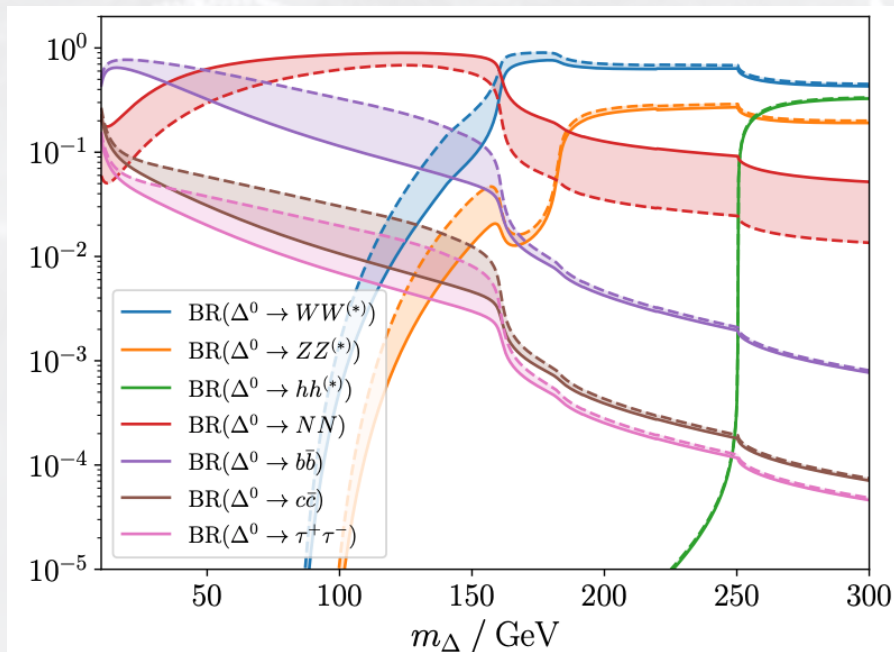
# LLP pheno in a nutshell:

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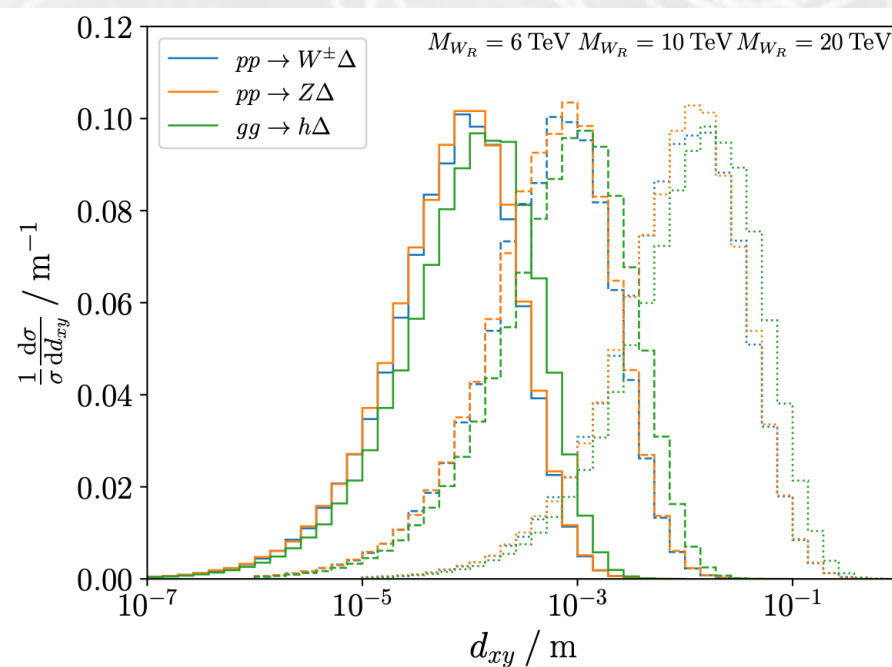


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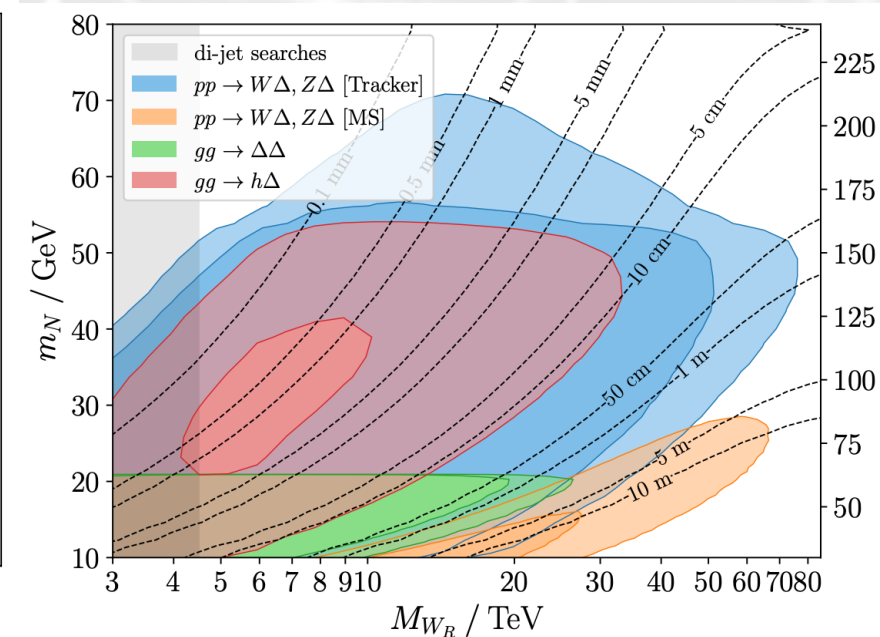
1.) Calculate  $\sigma \times \text{BR}$



2.) Calculate displacement in the Lab-frame



3.) Assume 100/80/X % vertexing efficiency (experiments will take care of it right???)



# Simulation/reconstruction

Event generation: MadGraph  $\rightarrow$  Pythia  $\rightarrow$  **Detector Sim.**  $\rightarrow$  **analysis code**

Full Geant4 detector sim. too slow/unnecessary  $\rightarrow$  fast sim. with e.g. **Delphes**

But no **vertexing** in **Delphes**!



**DELPHES**  
fast simulation

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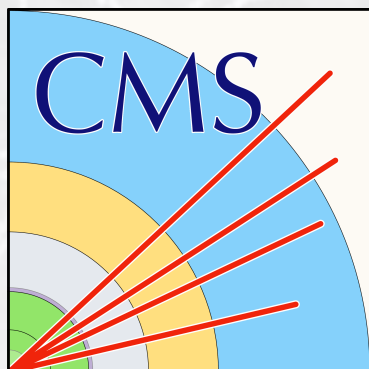


**DELPHES**  
fast simulation

But no **vertexing** in **Delphes**!

Public **vertexing** software stacks:

CMS software/RAVE:



FCCAnalyses:



**FUTURE  
CIRCULAR  
COLLIDER**

ACTS/ATLAS:



- ▶ Too experiment **specific**
- ▶ Too complicated to deploy for **pheno pipeline**
- ▶ Vertexing optimised for **primary vertex/close secondaries** (flavour tagging)

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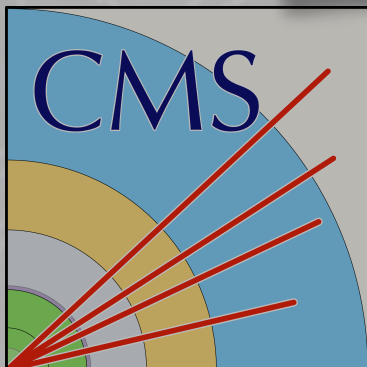
But no vertexing in **Delphes**!

Public vertexing

**We (hep-ph) can and should do better!**

CMS software/Frame

S/ATLAS:



FUTURE  
CIRCULAR  
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- ▶ Too experiment **specific**
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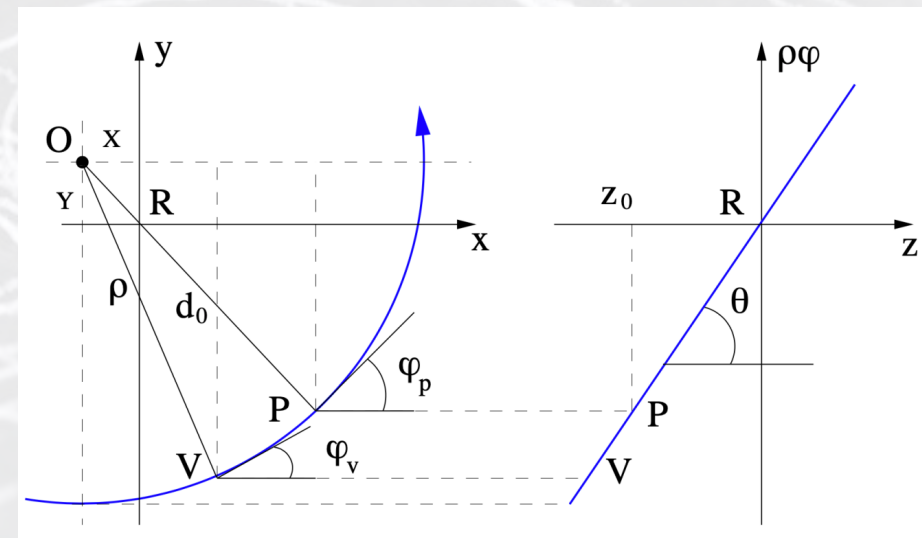
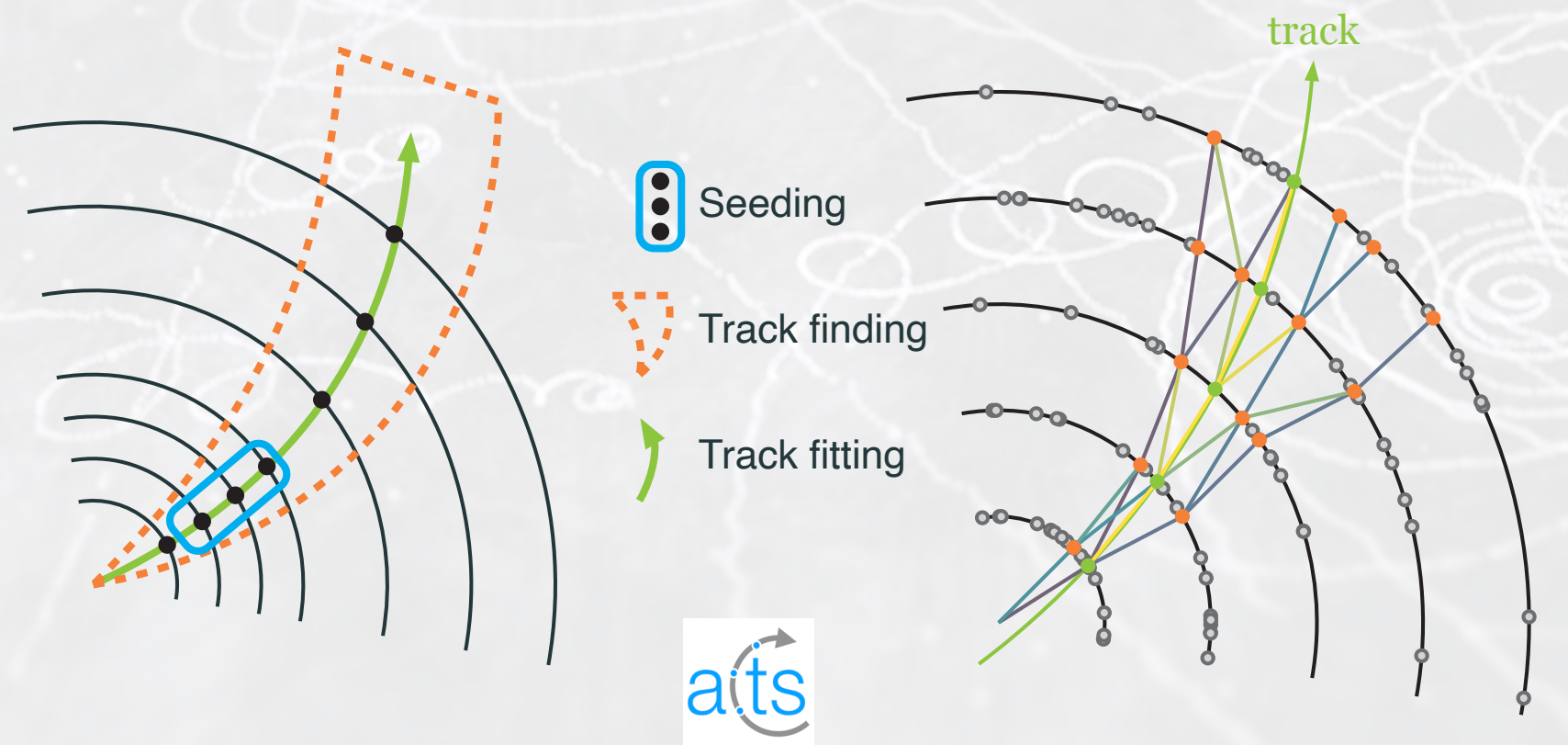
# Tracking in a nutshell

Charged particle trajectory in a (homogeneous) magnetic field  $\approx$  helix curve

Fit track parameters to hit positions in tracker

(e.g. combinatorial Kalman Filter)

$$\vec{x}(\varphi) = \begin{pmatrix} -D_0 \sin \varphi_0 + \frac{1}{2C} (\sin(\varphi + \varphi_0) - \sin \varphi_0) \\ D_0 \cos \varphi_0 - \frac{1}{2C} (\cos(\varphi + \varphi_0) - \cos \varphi_0) \\ z_0 + \frac{\varphi \cot \theta}{2C} \end{pmatrix}$$



(hardest part is pattern recognition, runs in real-time i.e. at 40 MHz)

See e.g. Frühwirth & Strandlie 2010 & 2020 for reviews

# Vertex fitting

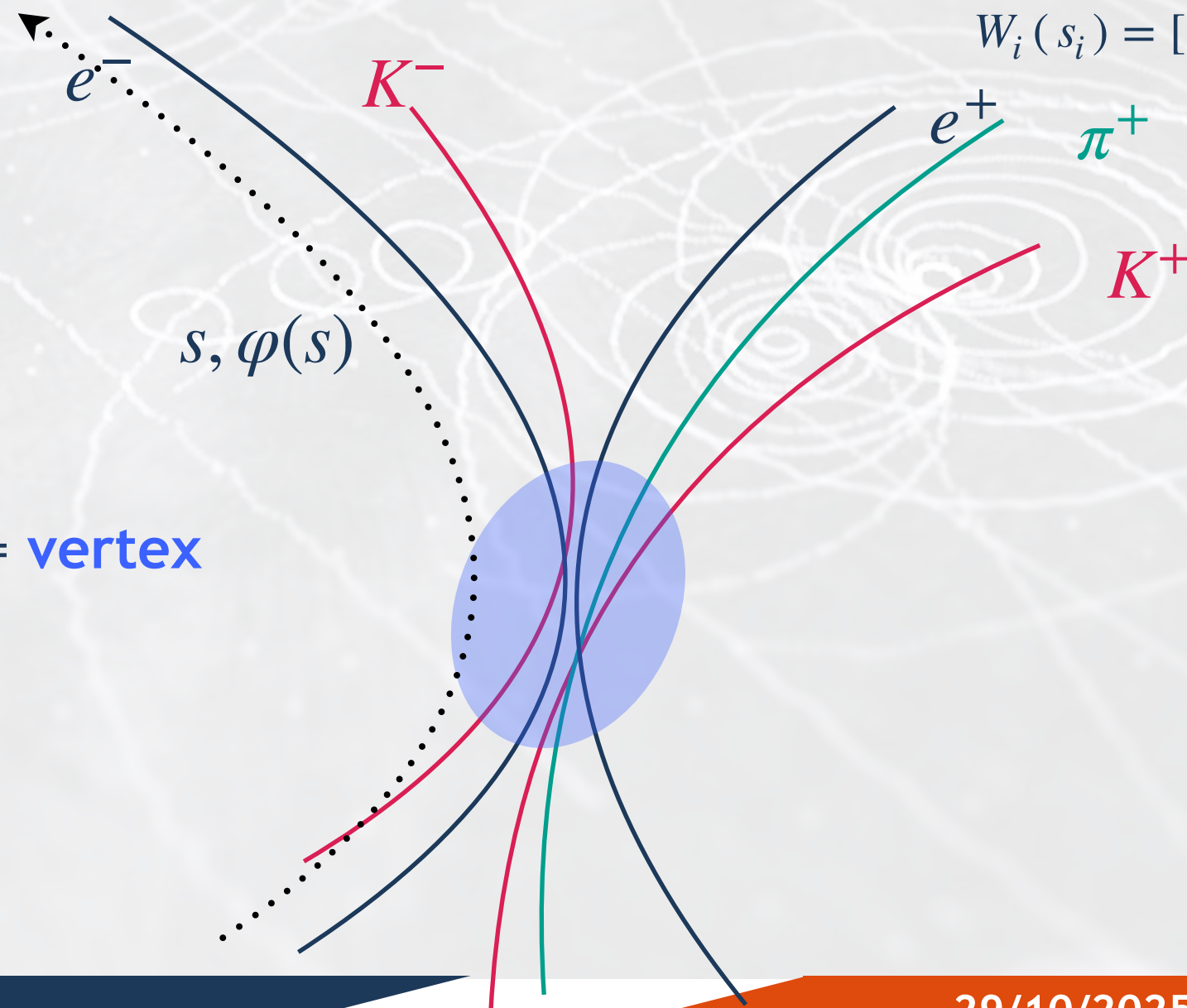
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$$\varphi(s) = \frac{2C}{\sqrt{1 + \cot^2 \theta}} s$$

Fit tracks to a common vertex, minimise:

$$F(\{s_i\}, \vec{v}) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_i^{N_{\text{tracks}}} (\vec{v} - \vec{x}_i(s_i))^T W_i(s) (\vec{v} - \vec{x}_i(s_i)) \right] \\ (+ \text{prior, e.g. beamspot})$$

$$W_i(s_i) = [J_{x\alpha}(s_i) C_\alpha J_{x\alpha}^T(s_i)]^{-1}$$



Find common origin = **vertex**

# Vertex fitting

$$\vec{x}(\varphi) = \begin{pmatrix} -D_0 \sin \varphi_0 + \frac{1}{2C} (\sin(\varphi + \varphi_0) - \sin \varphi_0) \\ D_0 \cos \varphi_0 - \frac{1}{2C} (\cos(\varphi + \varphi_0) - \cos \varphi_0) \\ z_0 + \frac{\varphi \cot \theta}{2C} \end{pmatrix}$$

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**Gauss-Newton** algorithm: solve  $\mathcal{H} \Delta \vec{\alpha} = -g$ ,  $\mathcal{H}$  = Hessian,  $g$  = gradient

Inverting the Hessian scales as  $\mathcal{O}((N+3)^3)$  :

$$\begin{pmatrix} H_{vv} & H_{vs} \\ H_{sv} & H_{ss} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \vec{v} \\ \Delta s_i \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} g_v \\ g_s \end{pmatrix}$$

$$g_v = \left[ \sum_i W_i^0 \vec{r}_i^0 \right] + \tilde{W}(\vec{v}_0 - \vec{v}_p), \quad g_s^i = -\vec{t}_i^{0,T} W_i^0 \vec{r}_i^0$$

$$H_{vv} = \left[ \sum_i W_i^0 \right] + \tilde{W}, \quad H_{ss} = \text{diag}(\vec{t}_1^{0,T} W_1^0 \vec{t}_1^0, \vec{t}_2^{0,T} W_2^0 \vec{t}_2^0, \dots, \vec{t}_N^{0,T} W_N^0 \vec{t}_N^0)$$

$$H_{vs} = H_{sv}^T = - (W_1^0 \vec{t}_1^0, W_2^0 \vec{t}_2^0, \dots, W_N^0 \vec{t}_N^0) .$$

# Vertex fitting

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Inverting the Hessian scales as  $\mathcal{O}((N+3)^3)$  :(

Split system into vertex & phases:

$$\Delta \vec{v} = \vec{v} - \vec{v}_0,$$

$$\vec{v}_0 \sim \text{initial guess}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} H_{vv} & H_{vs} \\ H_{sv} & H_{ss} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \vec{v} \\ \Delta s_i \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} g_v \\ g_s \end{pmatrix}$$

$$H_{ss}^{N \times N} \propto \text{diag}, \quad H_{sv}^{N \times 3}, \quad H_{vv}^{3 \times 3}$$

1.) Optimise phases: scales as  $\mathcal{O}(N)$  :)

$$\Delta s_i = -H_{ss}^{-1} (g_s^i + H_{sv} \Delta v)$$

2.) Then vertex: scales as  $\mathcal{O}(3^3)$

$$\vec{v}^* = \left( \tilde{W} + \sum_i W_i^\perp \right)^{-1} \left( \tilde{W} \vec{v}_p + \sum_i W_i^\perp \vec{x}_i(s_i^0) \right)$$

[see Billoir, Frühwirth, Regler 1985, Billoir & Qian 1992]

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scales as  $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$  :(

**Gauss-Newton** algorithm: solve  $\mathcal{H} \Delta \vec{\alpha} = -\vec{g}$   $\mathcal{H}$  = Hessian  $\vec{g}$  = gradient

**Vertex fitting** has been conclusively  
solved in the 80's...

Split system

$$\Delta \vec{v} = \vec{v} - \vec{v}_0,$$

$\vec{v}_0 \sim$  **initial guess**

$$H_{ss}^{N \times N} \propto \text{diag}, \quad H_{sv}^{N \times 3}, \quad H_{vv}^{3 \times 3}$$

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scales as  $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$  :(

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Split system

Are you **SCHUR**?

$$\Delta \vec{v} = \vec{v} - \vec{v}_0,$$

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$$H_{ss}^{N \times N} \propto \text{diag}, \quad H_{sv}^{N \times 3}, \quad H_{vv}^{3 \times 3}$$

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[see Billoir, Frühwirth, Regler 1985, Billoir & Qian 1992]

# Initialisation-free vertex fitting

JK [arXiv:2510.00856]

Splitting the Hessian  $\simeq$  **Schur complement**

$$\begin{pmatrix} H_{vv} & H_{vs} \\ H_{sv} & H_{ss} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \vec{v} \\ \Delta s_i \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} g_v \\ g_s \end{pmatrix}$$

Alternative:

1.) Eliminate vertex:

$$\Delta \vec{v} = -H_{vv}^{-1}(g_v + H_{vs}\Delta s)$$

2.) Solve for phases: scales as  $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$  :(

$$(H_{ss} - H_{sv}H_{vv}^{-1}H_{vs})^{N \times N} \Delta s = -(g_s - H_{sv}H_{vv}^{-1}g_v)$$

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$$(H_{ss} - H_{sv}H_{vv}^{-1}H_{vs})^{N \times N} \Delta s = -(g_s - H_{sv}H_{vv}^{-1}g_v)$$

“**Diagonal + Rank-3 update**”

$\Rightarrow$  Use **Woodbury identity**:

scales also as  $\mathcal{O}(N)$  !!!

$$(H_{ss} - H_{sv}H_{vv}^{-1}H_{vs})^{-1} = H_{ss}^{-1} + H_{ss}^{-1}H_{sv}(H_{vv} - H_{vs}H_{ss}^{-1}H_{sv})^{-1}H_{vs}H_{ss}^{-1}$$

Traditional method: 1.) **profile** the phases (nuisance parameters), 2.) get the **vertex**

**New method**: 1.) **profile** the vertex, 2.) optimise the phases

**Schur complements** of the same Hessian  $\Rightarrow$  **stat. & algebraic equivalence** (of **MLE**)

# Initialisation-free vertex fitting

JK [arXiv:2510.00856]

Splitting the Hessian  $\simeq$  **Schur complement**

$$\begin{pmatrix} H_{vv} & H_{vs} \\ H_{sv} & H_{ss} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \vec{v} \\ \Delta s_i \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} g_v \\ g_s \end{pmatrix}$$

Alternative:

1.) Eliminate vertex:

$$\Delta \vec{v} = -H_{vv}^{-1}(g_v + H_{vs}\Delta s)$$

2.) Solve for phases: scales as  $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$  :

$$(H_{ss} - H_{sv}H_{vv}^{-1}H_{vs})^{N \times N} \Delta s = -(g_s - H_{sv}H_{vv}^{-1}g_v)$$

**“Diagonal + Rank-3 update”**

$\Rightarrow$  After eliminating the vertex: no need for **initial guess!**

$$\vec{v}^*(\{s_i\}) = \tilde{S}^{-1} \left( \tilde{W} \vec{v}_p + \sum_i W_i \vec{x}_i \right)$$

$$F(\{s_i\}, \vec{v}^*(\{s_i\})) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i < j} (\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j)^T \left( W_i \tilde{S}^{-1} W_j + W_j \tilde{S}^{-1} W_i \right) (\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j)$$

Traditional: **guess** the **vertex**, check track compatibility, move the **vertex**, repeat

**New method:** tracks determine the **vertex** as **mutual closest point**

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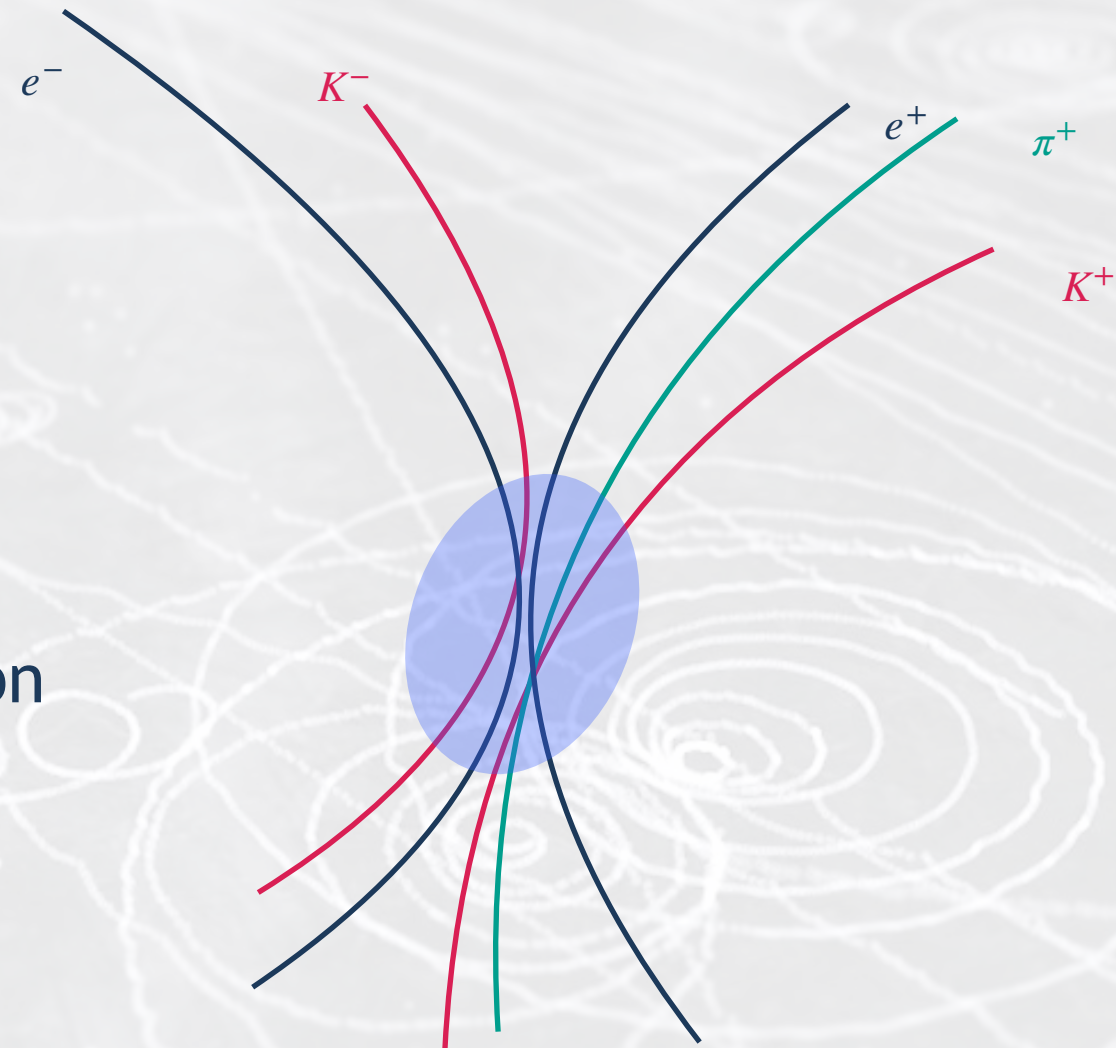
Both converge near-quadratically, but **new method** has practically **global basin**

# Vertex finding

Find common origin = **vertex**

⇒ just fit the tracks

Use **weighted fit** for outlier detection



# Vertex finding

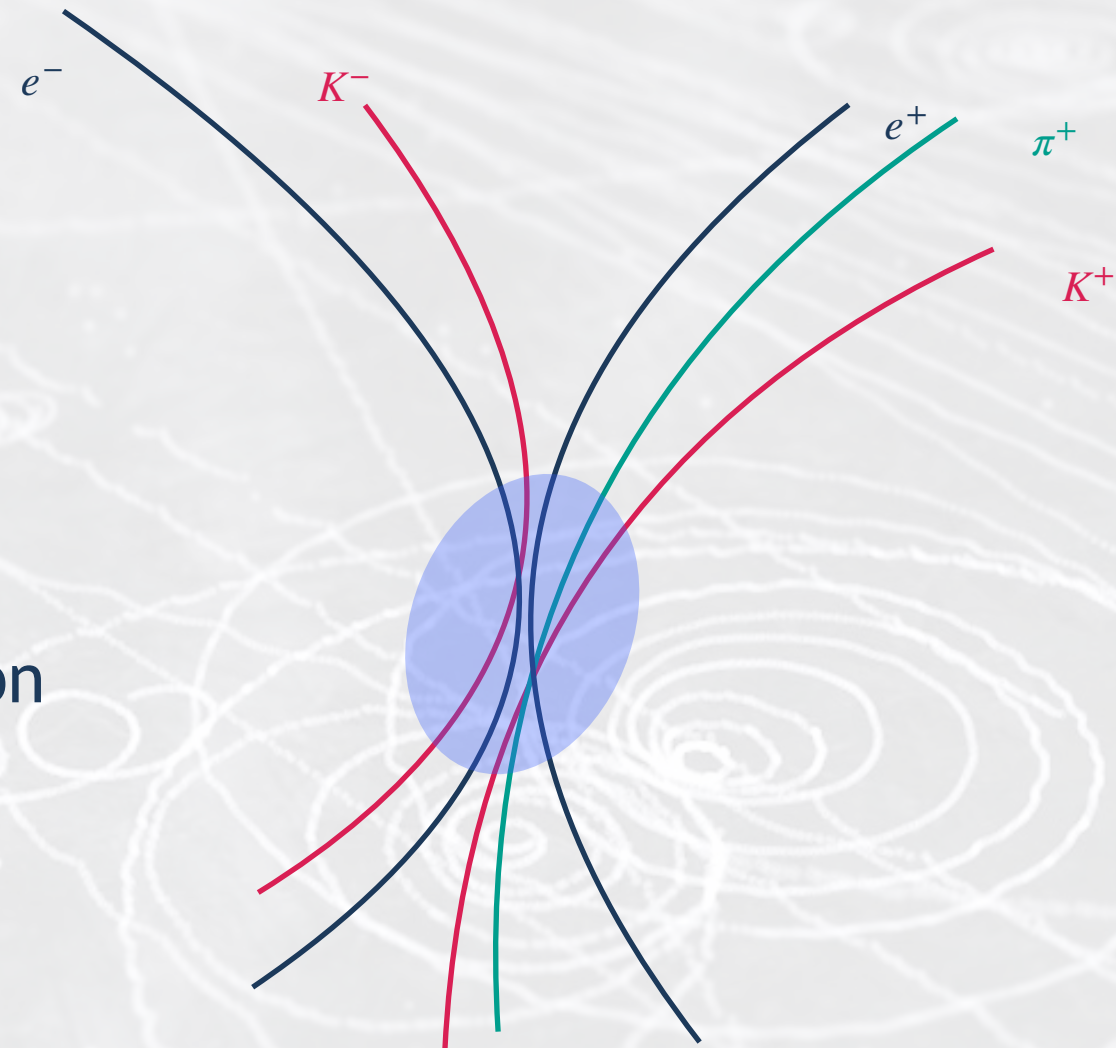
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Use **weighted fit** for outlier detection

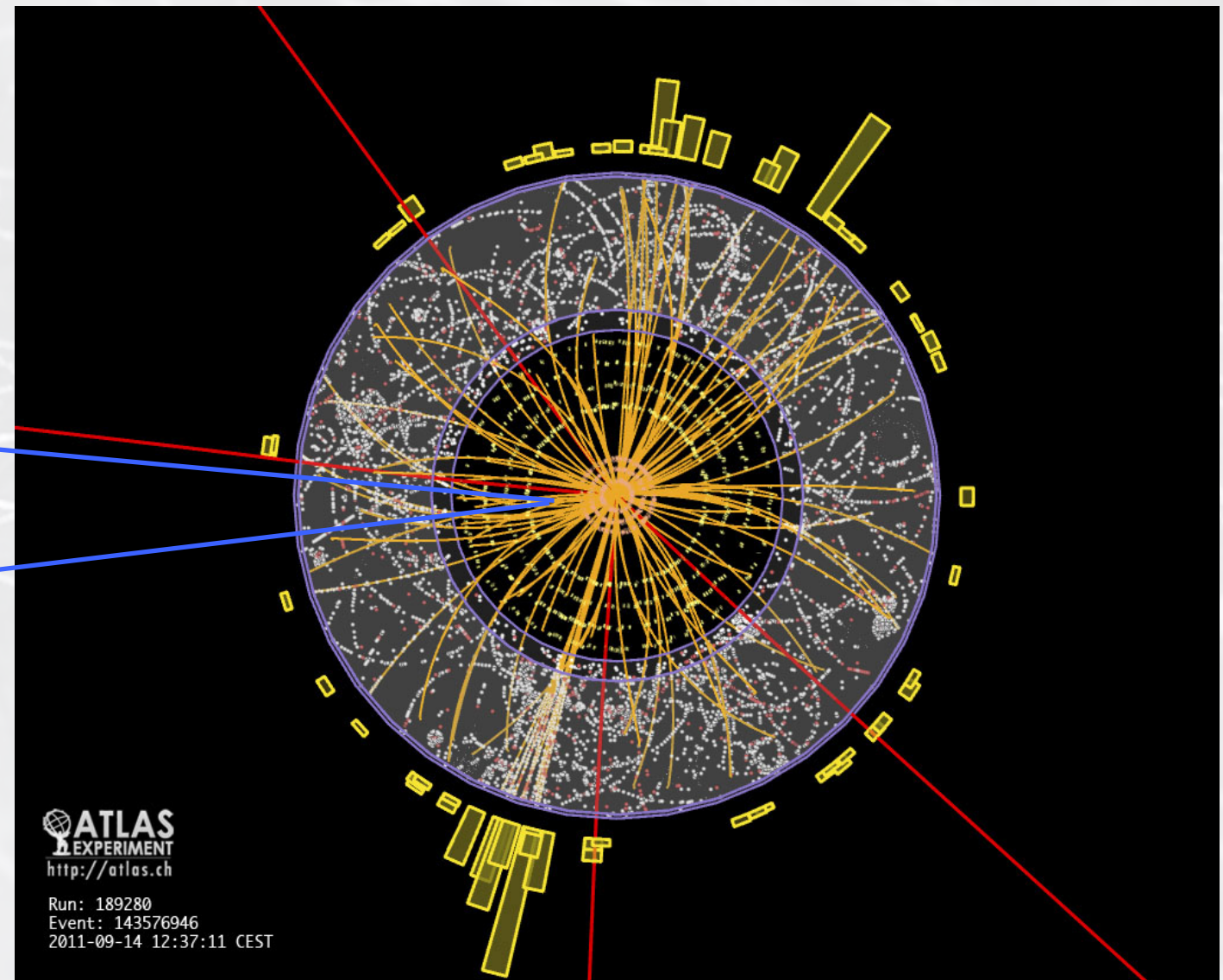
e.g.  $B_s \rightarrow \phi( \rightarrow K^+K^-)e^+e^-$ :

$\pi^+$  doesn't belong and get's **down-weighted/removed**



# Vertex finding

But real events look like this:  
 $\mathcal{O}(100 - 1000)$  tracks / event!



Need to determine a set of tracks to be fitted  $\Rightarrow$  **pattern recognition**

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close secondaries for **flavour tagging**

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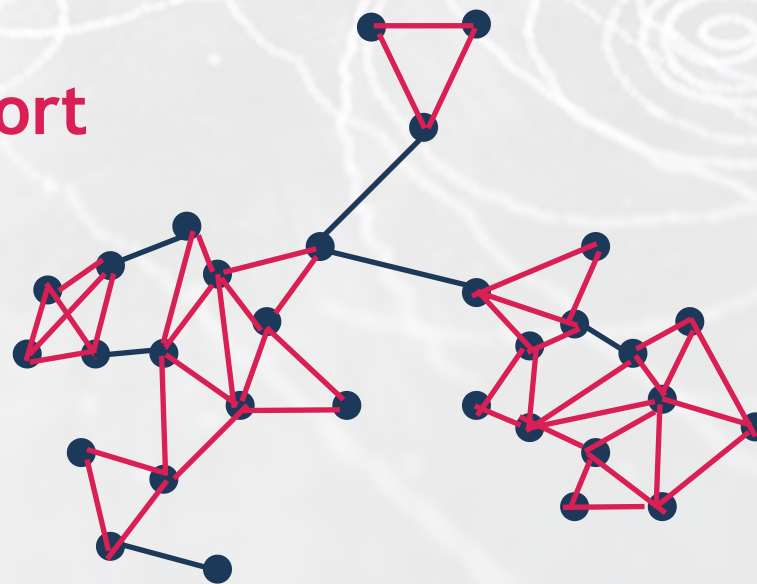
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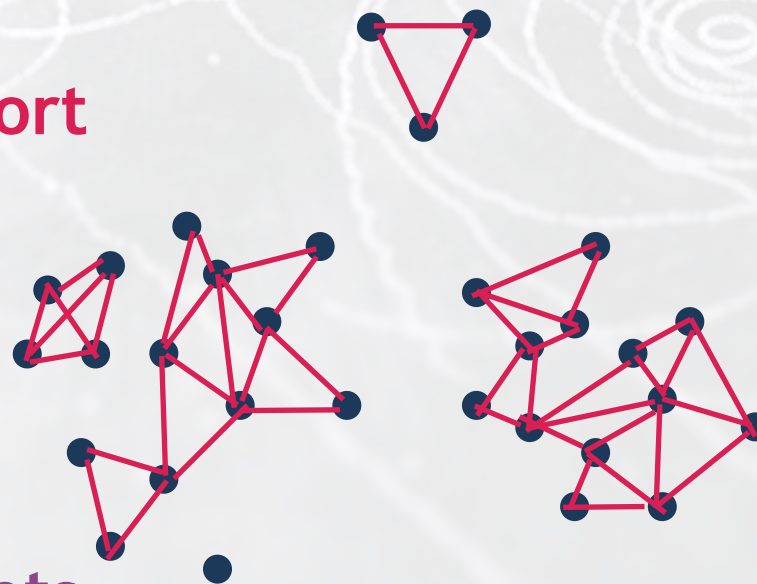
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More pruning/safeguards: timing consistency, mutual  $kNN$ , bridge finding/pruning, tests for intra-connectedness,...

Extract **connected components**

$\Rightarrow$  4 **vertex candidates** to be fitted (+ 1 outlier track)

# Vertexing performance

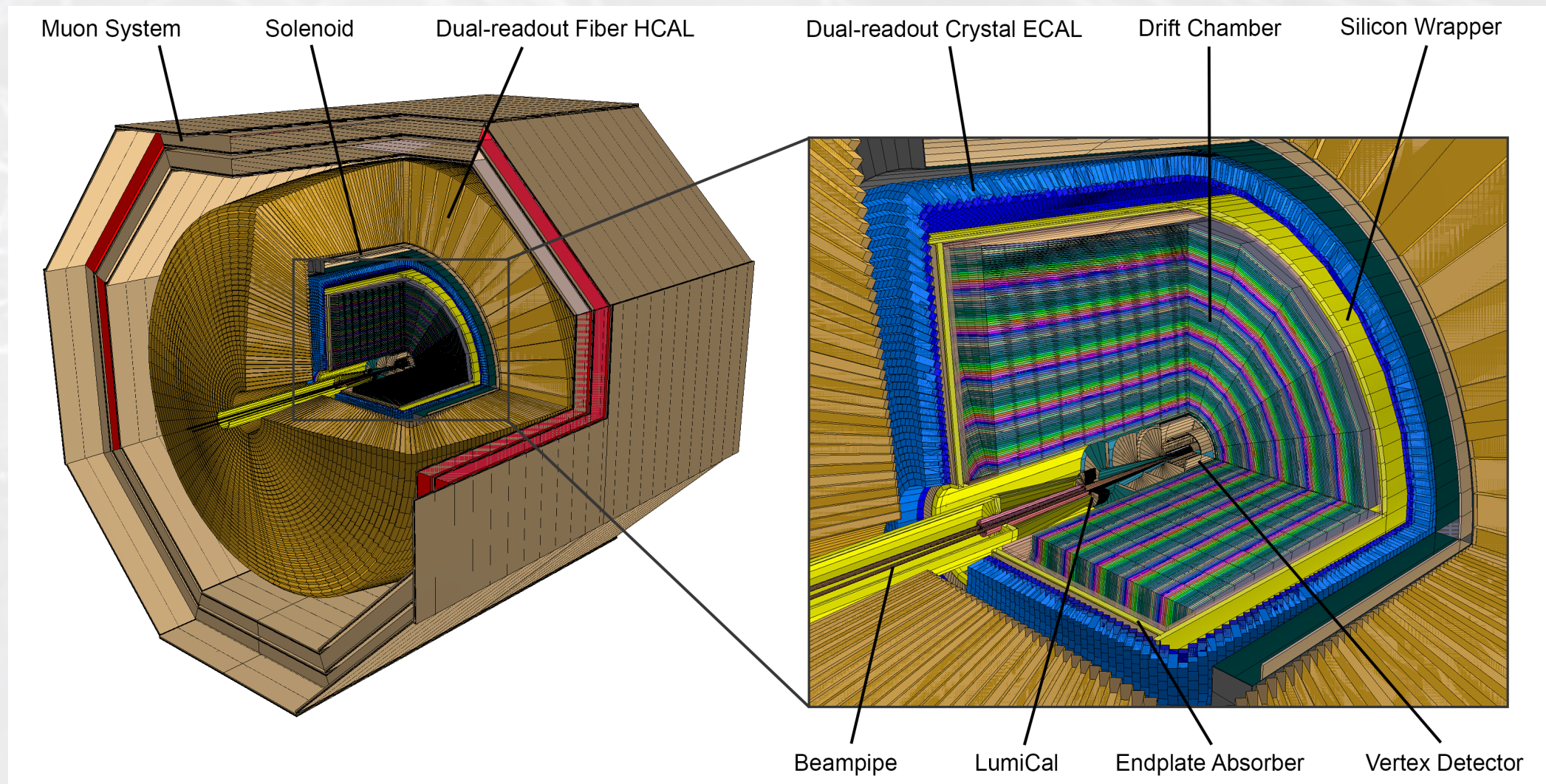
Example process at FCC-ee:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow Zh, h \rightarrow NN$  with  $N \rightarrow \ell^\pm q \bar{q}'$

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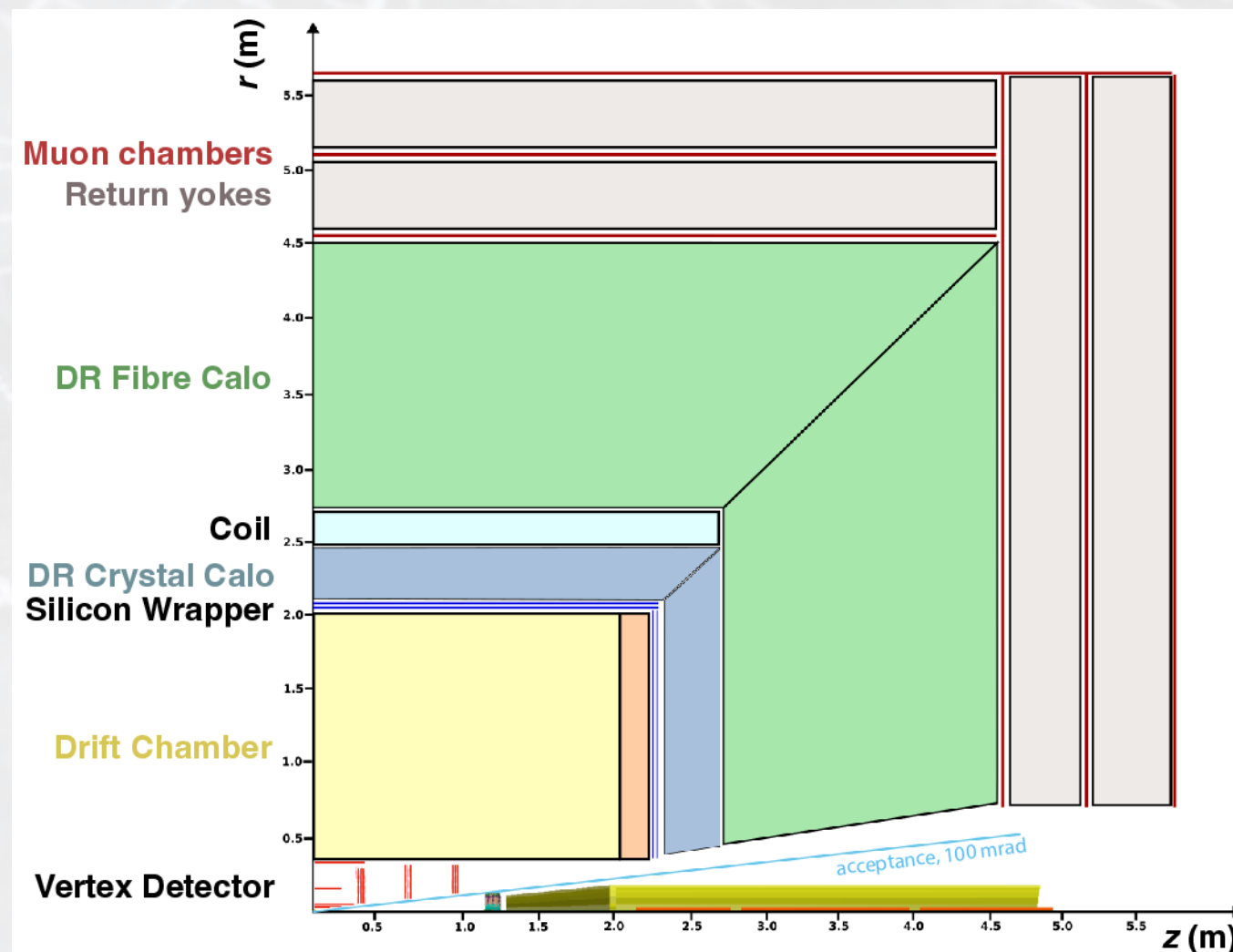


[arXiv:2502.21223]

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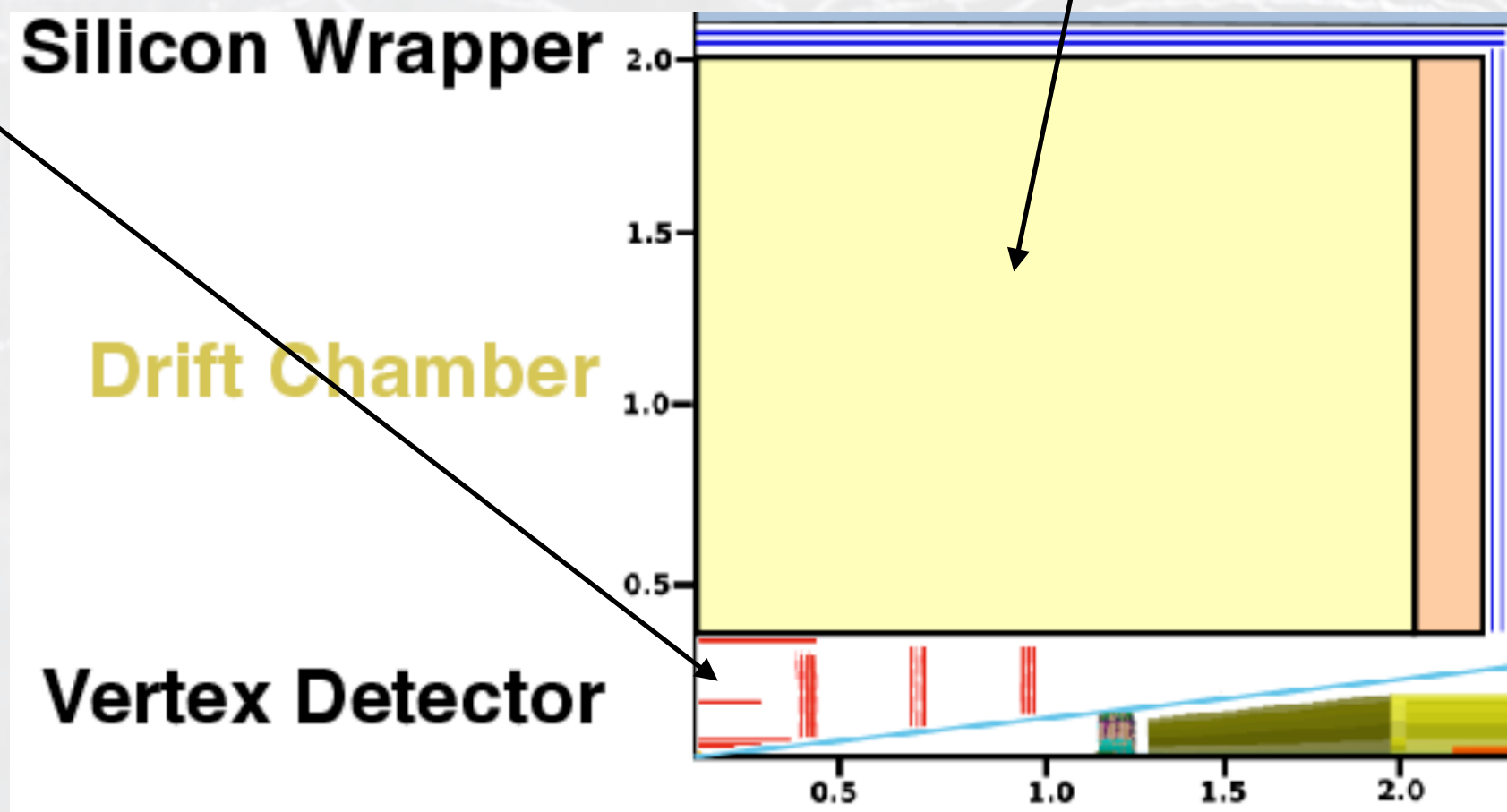
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Vertex Detector: single hit resolution of  $3 - 7 \mu\text{m}$ , Drift Chamber:  $\simeq 100 \mu\text{m}$

Silicon wrapper: timing resolution  $\simeq 30 \text{ ps}$



[arXiv:2502.21223]

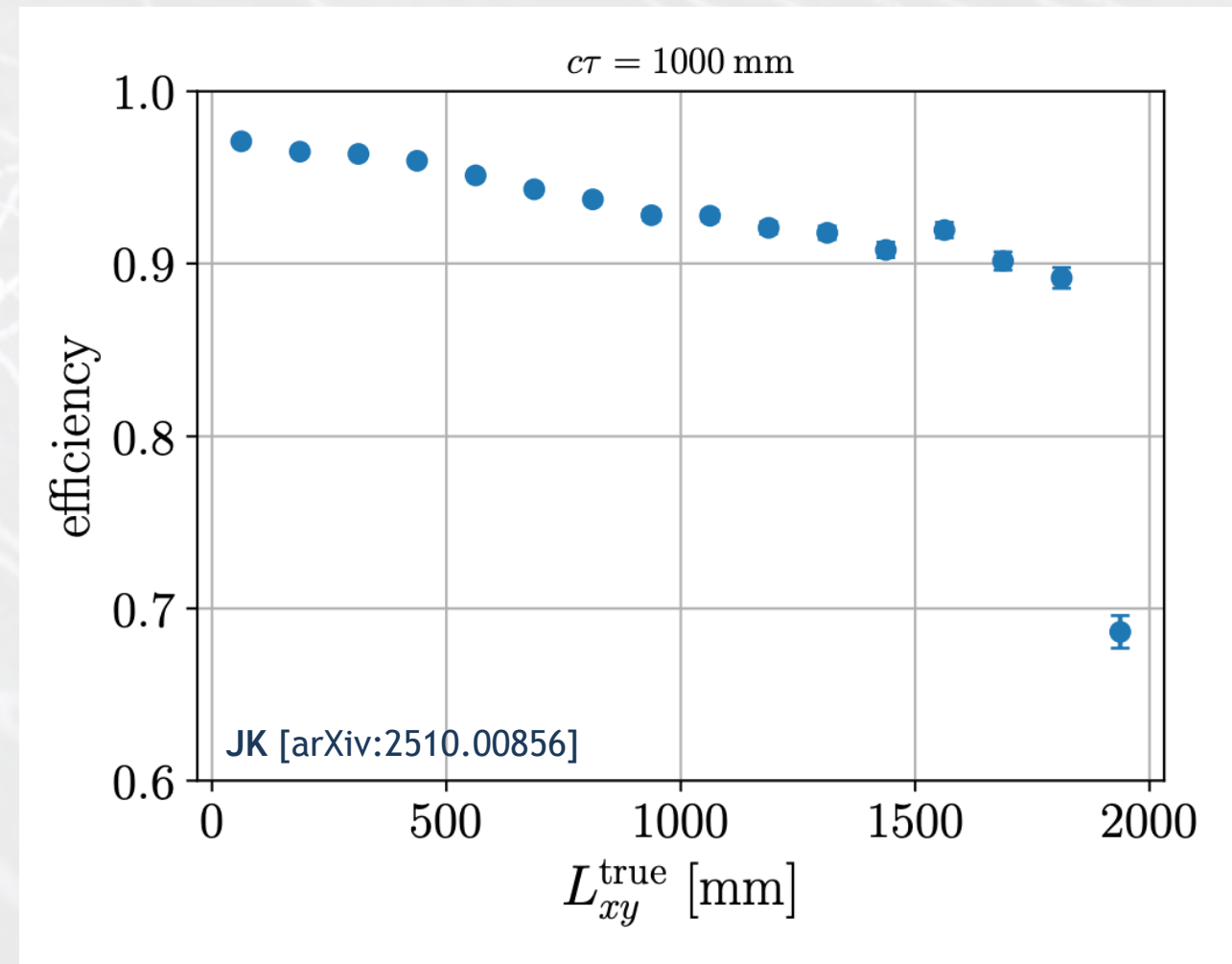
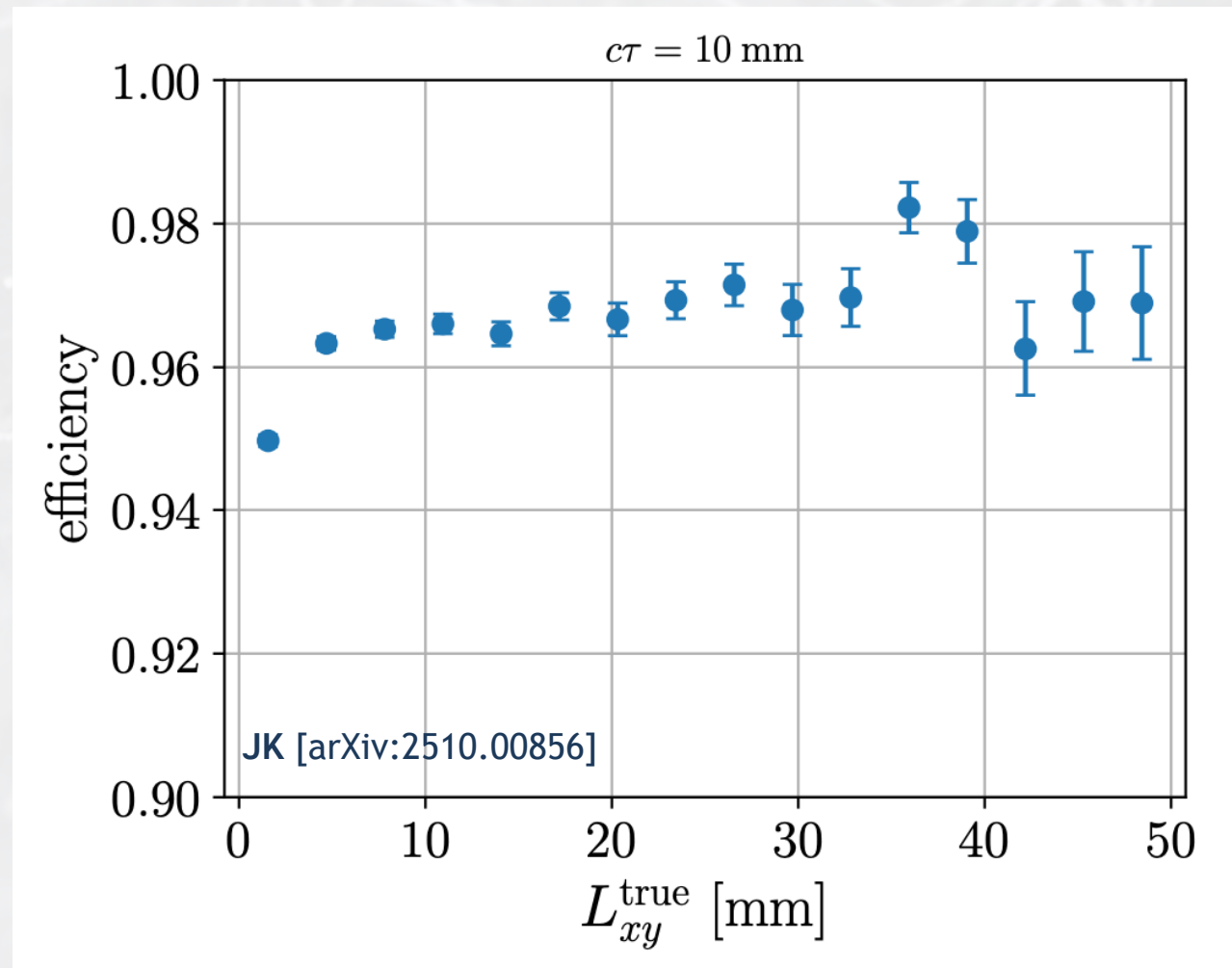
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Reconstruct **two vertices simultaneously**,  $m_N = 45 \text{ GeV}$



Efficiency > 90% over the **entire fiducial volume!**

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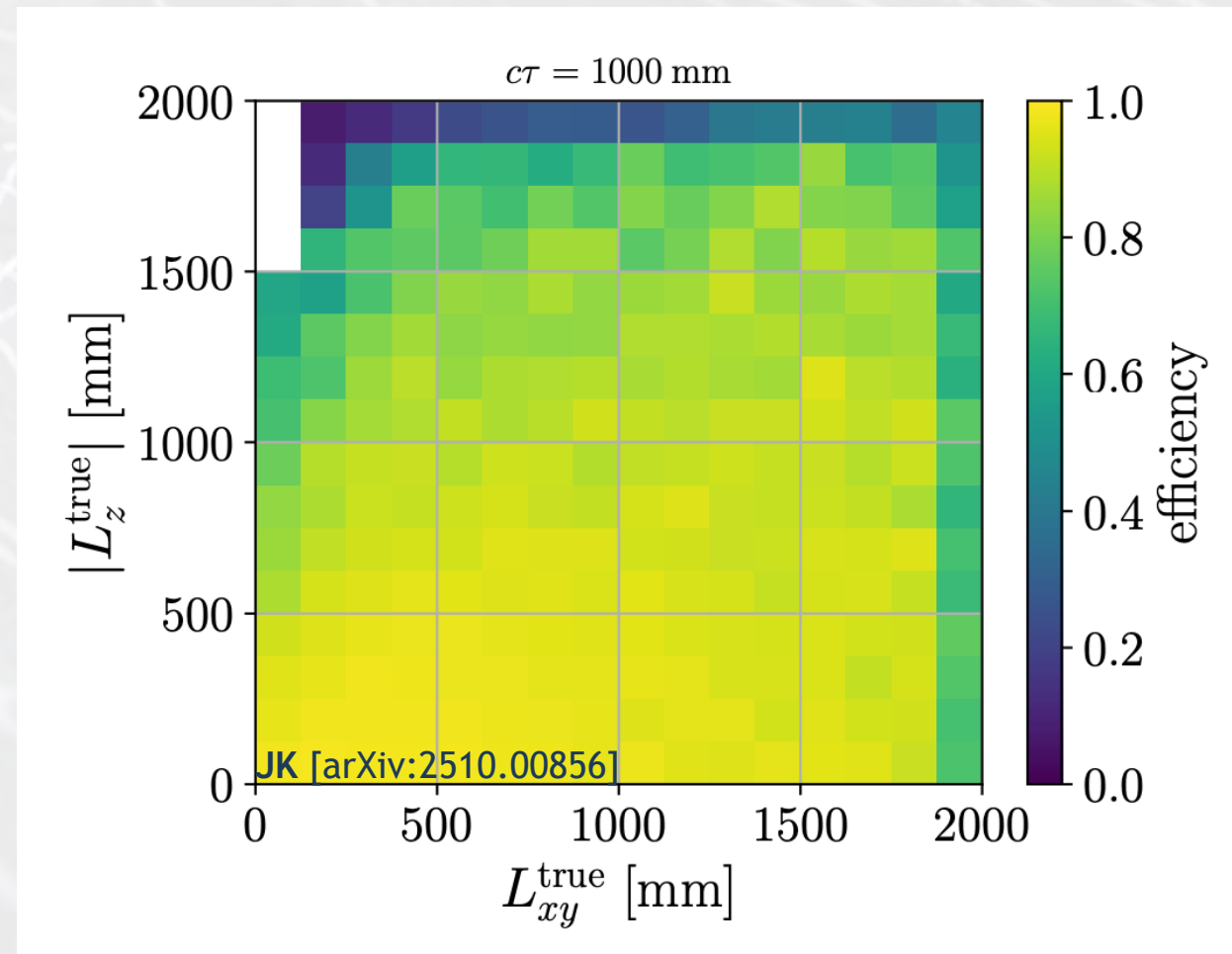
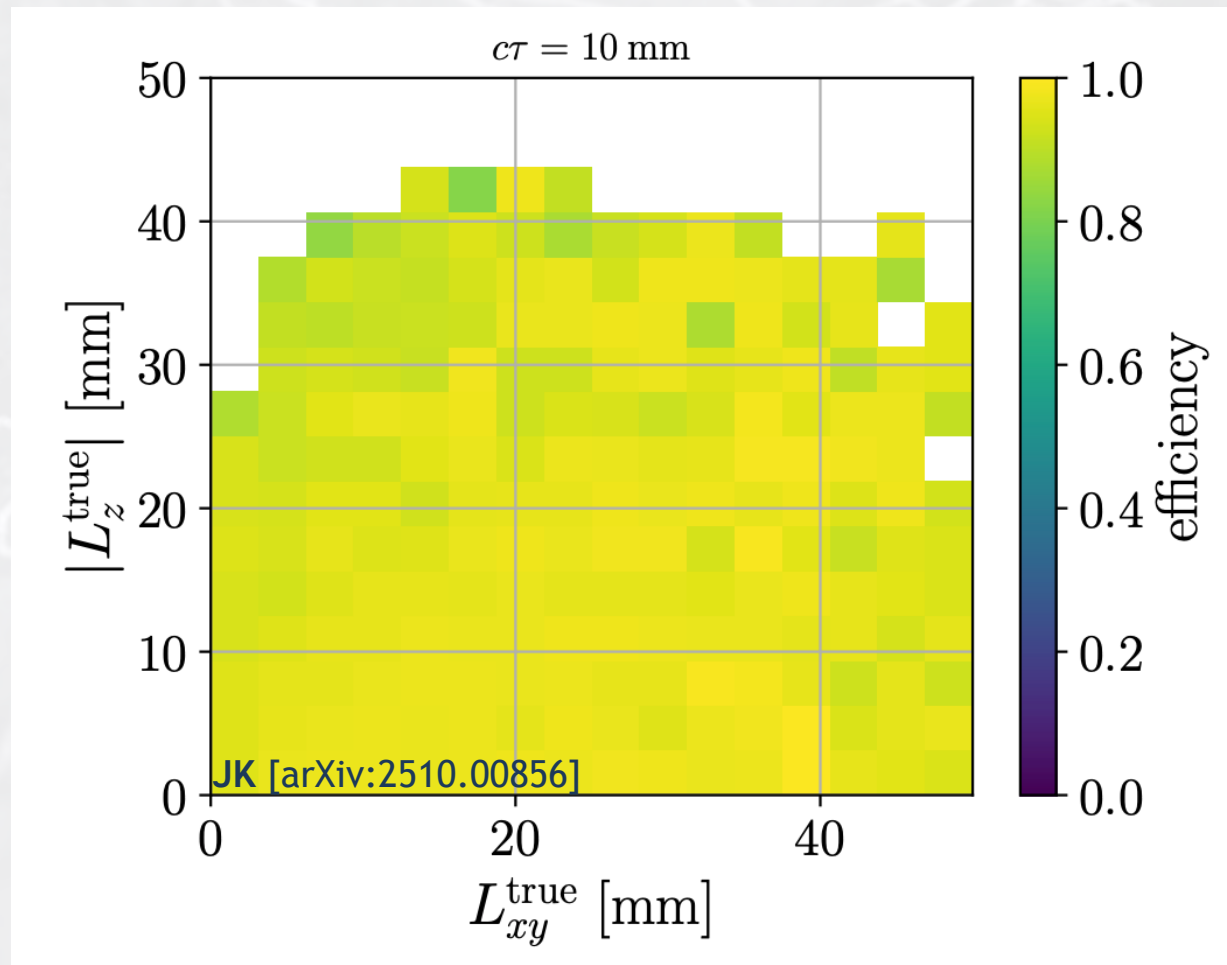
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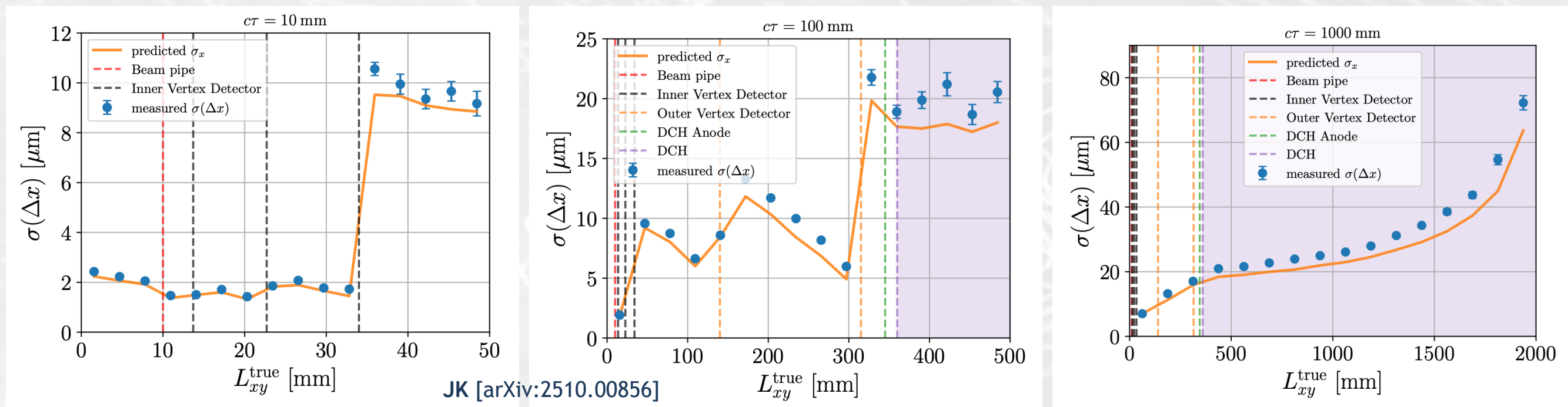
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Resolution  $\lesssim 2 \mu\text{m}$  in the inner vertex Detector!

Uncertainty model agrees well with MC-data (within 5-10%)

# Long-lived Particle reconstruction

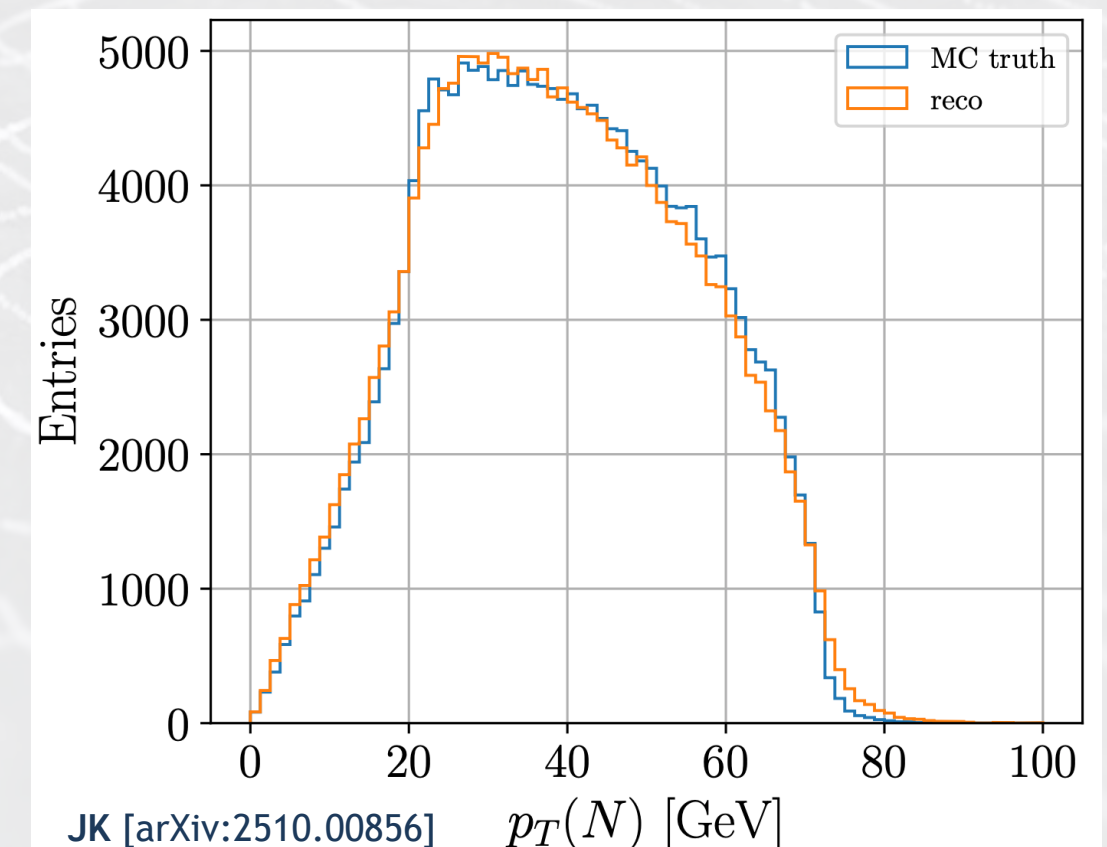
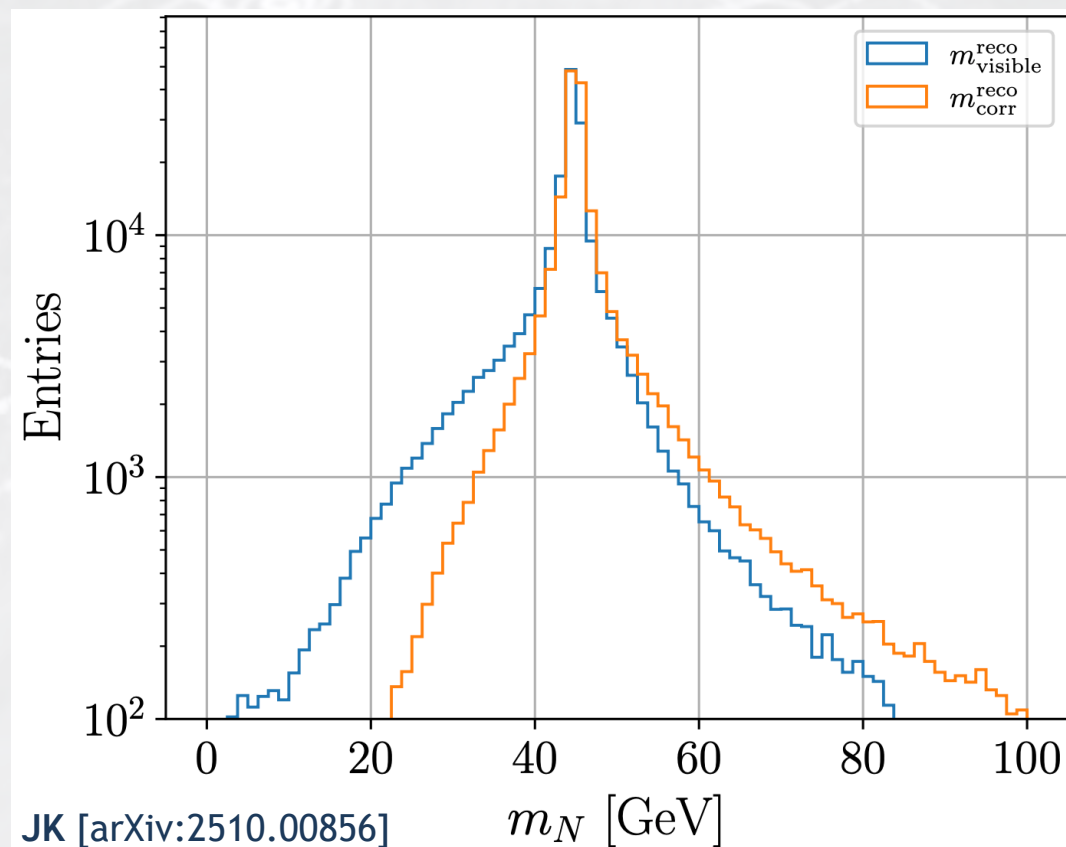
Match reconstructed **vertices** to **leptons** and **jets** to reconstruct **LLP kinematics**

Define  $p_T$ –weighted track overlap score:

$$s_{\text{overlap}} = \frac{2 \sum_{i \in \text{shared}} (p_T^i)^\alpha}{\sum_{i \in \text{jet}} (p_T^i)^\alpha + \sum_{i \in \text{DV}} (p_T^i)^\alpha}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$p_{\text{LLP}}^\mu = \sum_{i \in \text{jets, leptons}} p_i^\mu$$



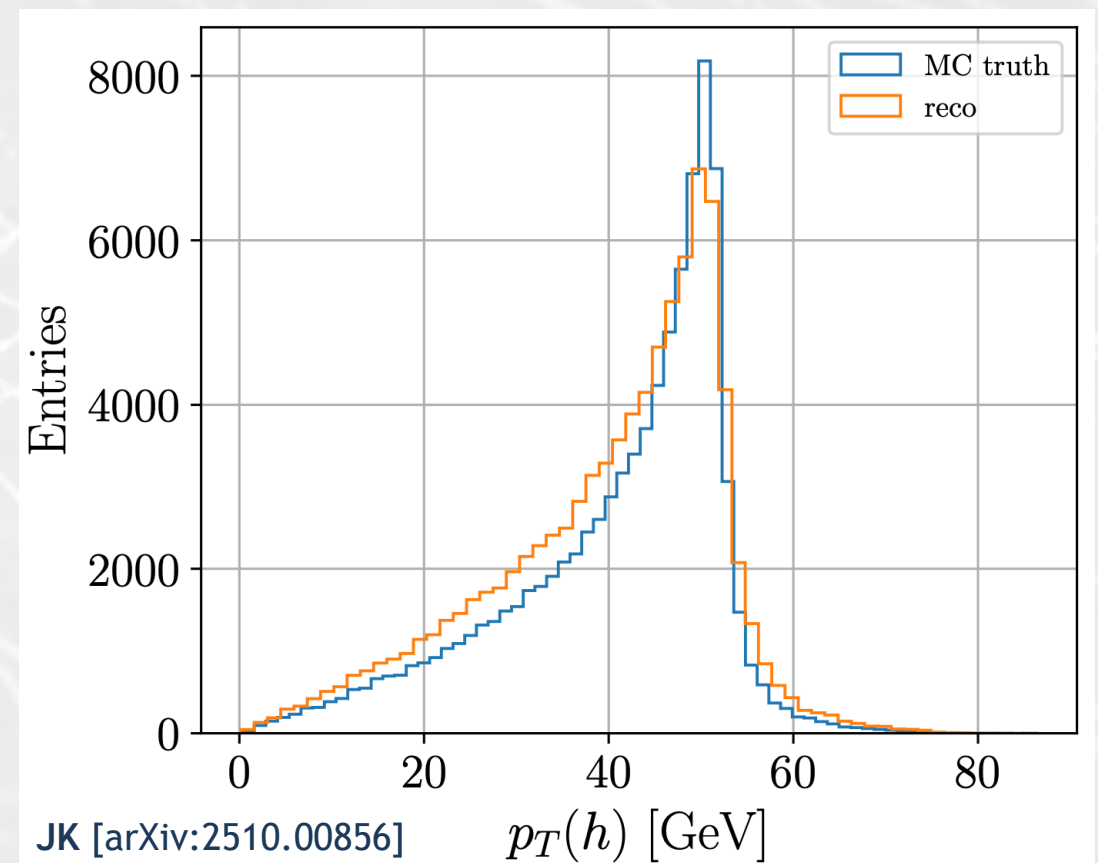
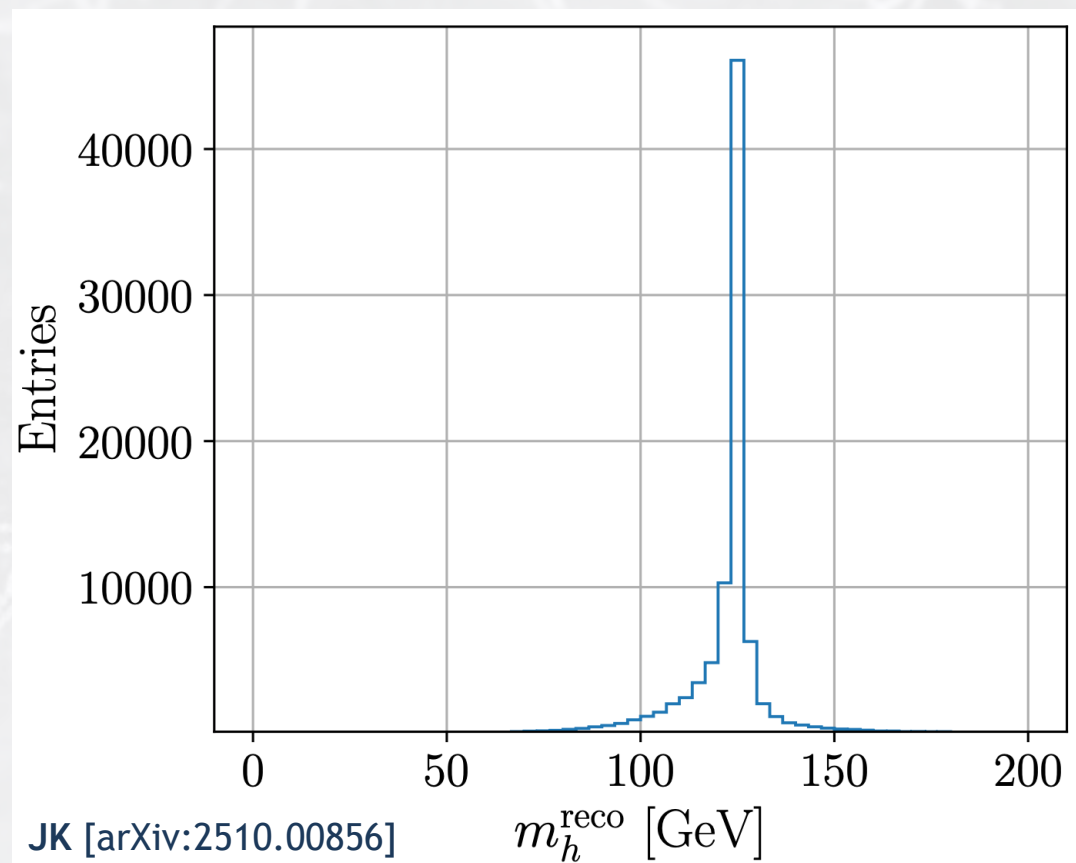
2 mass proxies:  $p_{\text{LLP}}^2$  &  $m_{\text{corr}} = \sqrt{m_{\text{vis}}^2 + p_\perp^2} + p_\perp$

Very good agreement of reconstructed  $p_T$

# Long-lived Particle reconstruction

Match reconstructed **vertices** to **leptons** and **jets** to reconstruct **LLP kinematics**

Reconstruct **parent kinematics** ( $e^+e^- \rightarrow Zh, h \rightarrow NN$ )



⇒ Allows to reconstruct the entire production & decay topology!

# Full analysis

Example process at FCC-ee:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow Zh, h \rightarrow NN$  with  $N \rightarrow \ell^\pm q \bar{q}'$

Scan over wide range of masses and lifetimes  $m_N$  &  $c\tau_N$

Event (pre-)selection:

Possible SM backgrounds: heavy flavour  
( $b, c$  hadrons,  $\tau$ -decays)

- ▶ 4 reconstructed jets (exclusive durham  $k_T$ , remove isolated leptons from jets)
- ▶ Reconstructed **primary vertex** with  $\leq 2$  (lepton) tracks (from  $Z \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-, \nu \bar{\nu}$ )
- ▶ 2 **reconstructed vertices** with at least 3 tracks each Mitigates most  $V_0$  backgrounds & material interactions
- ▶ **Transverse displacement**  $L_{xy} \geq 500 \mu\text{m}$

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Additional kinematic cuts:  $\Rightarrow$  reduce SM backgrounds to  $< 1$  Event

- ▶ Window cut on  $m_{\text{corr}} \in [0.8 m_N, 1.5 m_N]$
- ▶ Window cut on  $m_h^{\text{reco}} \in [100, 150] \text{ GeV}$

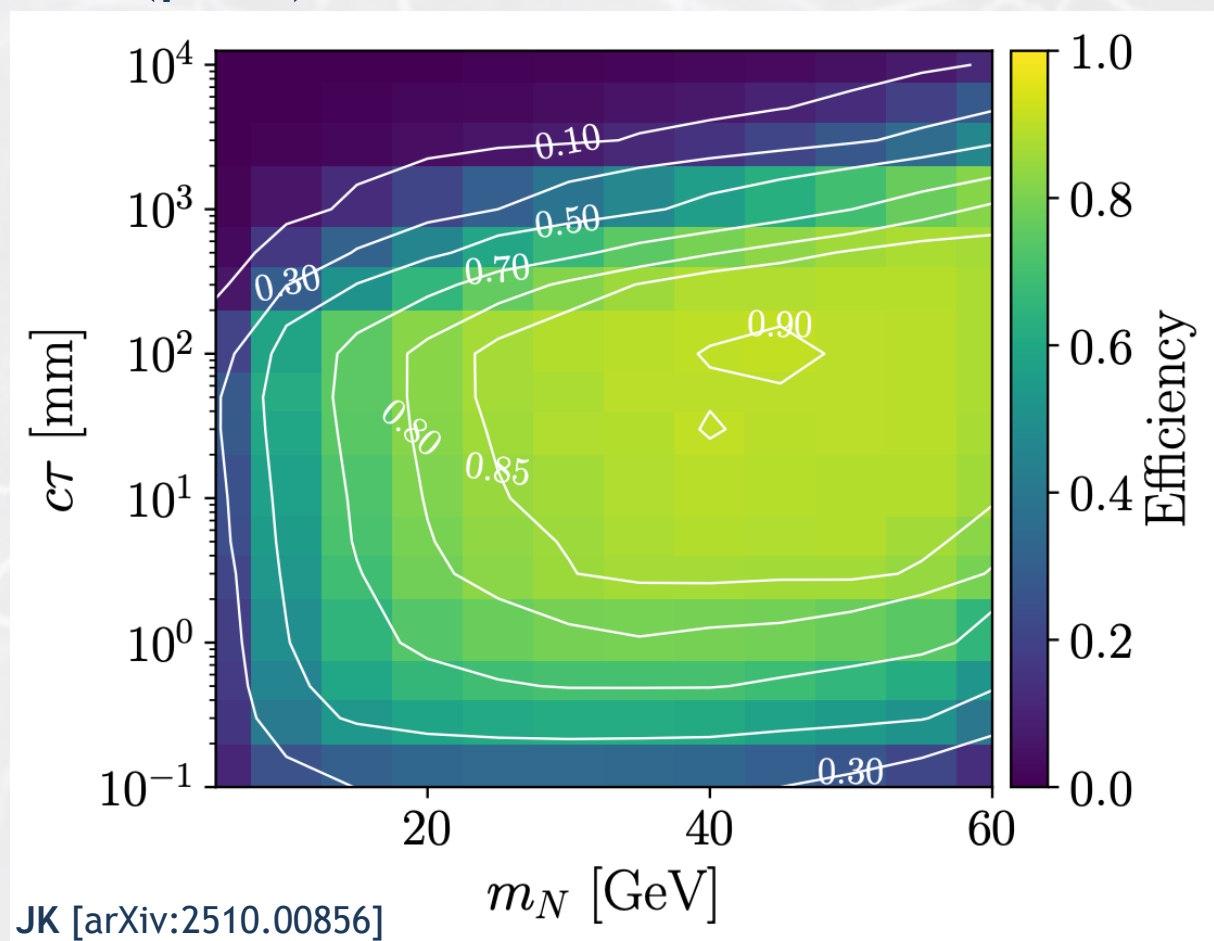
Remaining (rare) backgrounds:  $\gamma$  conversions, miss-ID, BIB, cosmic rays, (can all be vetoed/mitigated)

# Full analysis

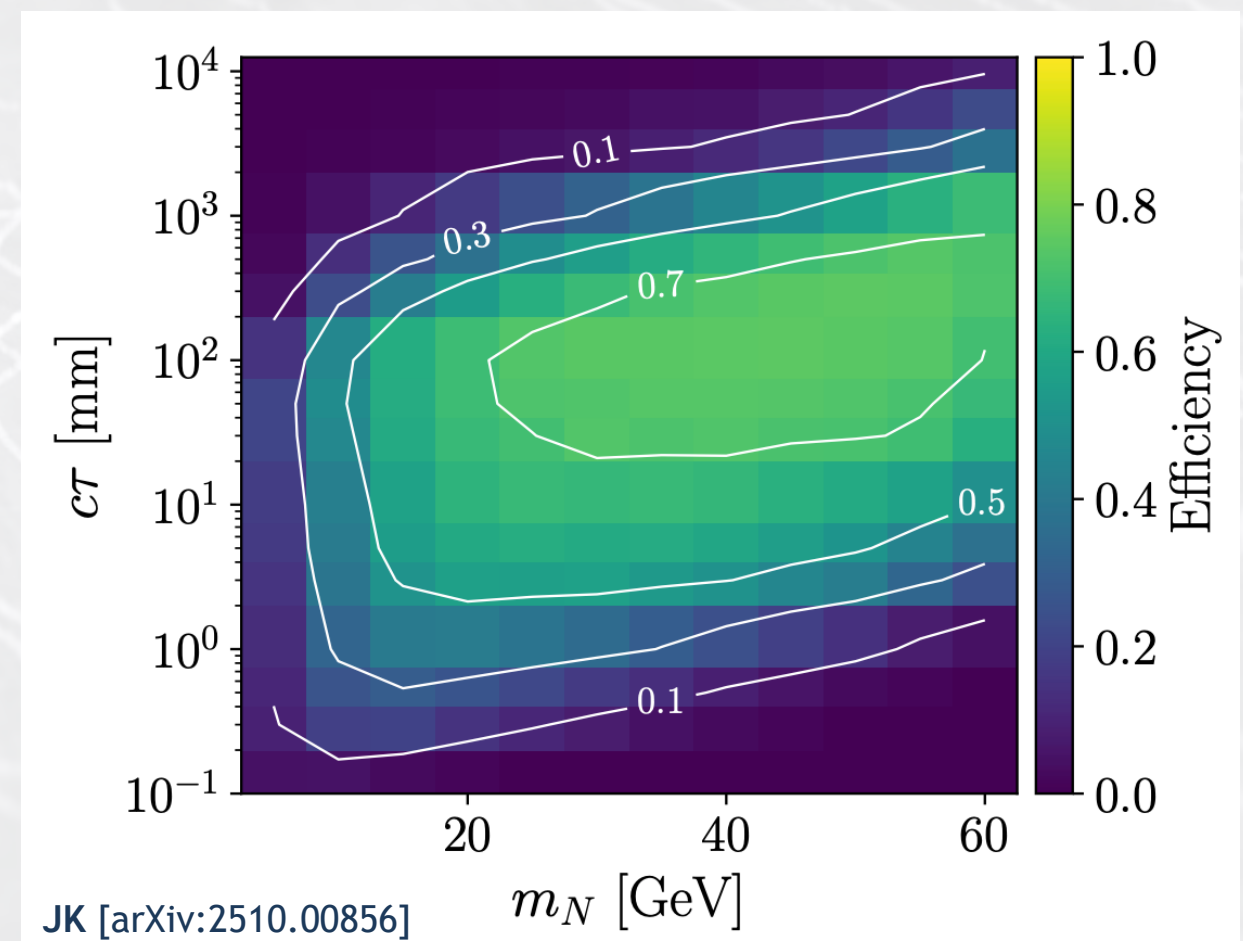
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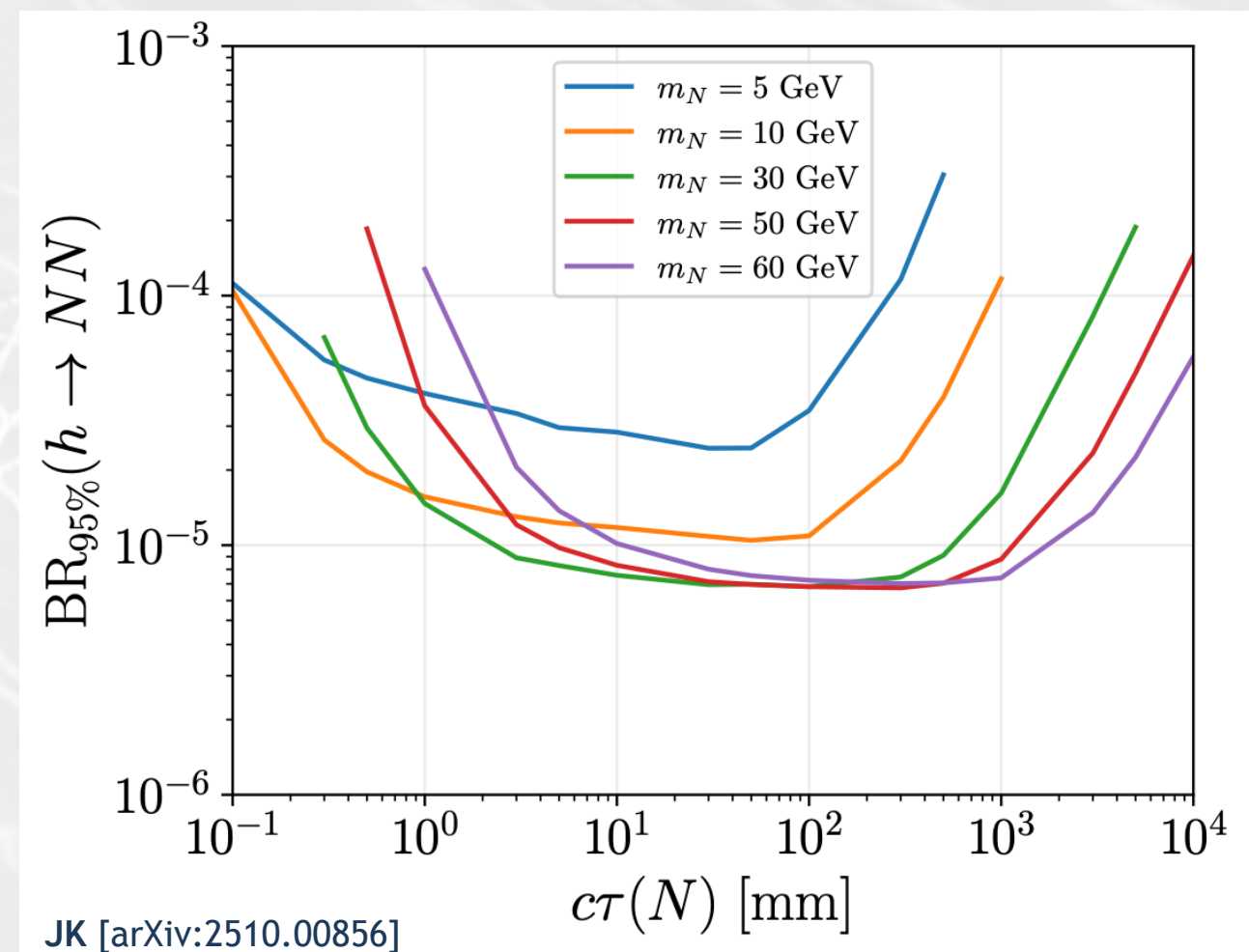
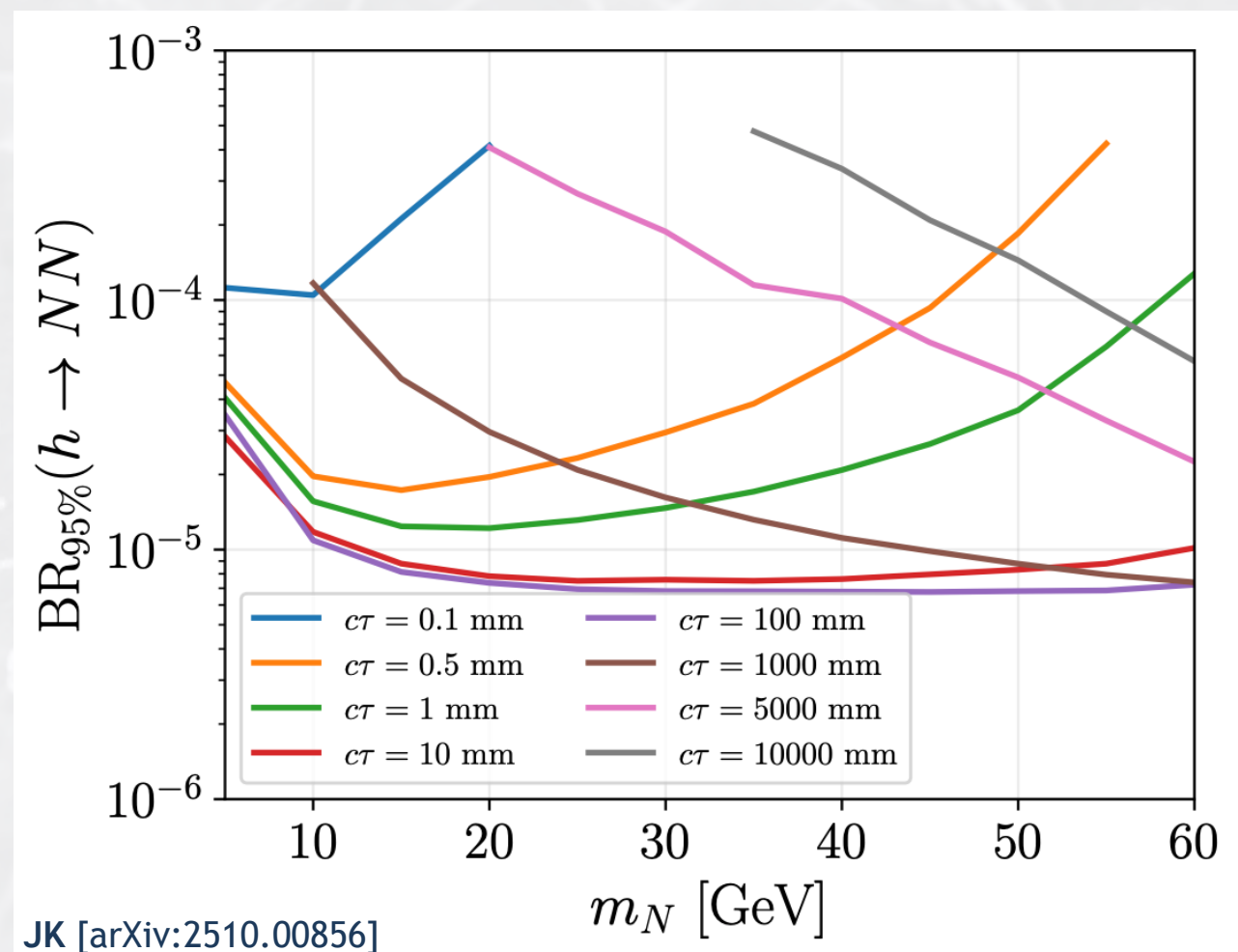
Additional kinematic cuts:



$\Rightarrow$  very high **selection/reconstruction efficiencies** over wide range of  $m_N$  &  $c\tau_N$

# Results: upper limits on $\text{BR}(h \rightarrow NN)$

Set upper limits at 95 % CL: at least 3 reconstructed events



$\Rightarrow$  FCC-ee sensitive to  $\text{BR}(h \rightarrow NN) \lesssim 6 - 7 \times 10^{-6}$

# Conclusions

- ▶ **Long-lived particles** common to many BSM theories
  - ⇒ Rich hep-ph and hep-ex programs
  - ⇒ FCC-ee strongly sensitive to many interesting signatures
- ▶ No suitable tools for pheno available :(

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Entire **track-to-LLP-kinematics** pipeline implemented in  
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Check it out: <https://github.com/jkriewald/delphes-LLP>

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Thanks for listening!

## Bonus content

# Weighted fit (IRLS)

Assign (sigmoid) weights based on single track  $\chi^2$

$$w_i = \psi(\chi_i^2) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(\frac{\chi_i^2 - \chi_c^2}{\beta})}$$

Minimise weighted likelihood:

$$F_w(\{s_i\}, \vec{v}) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_i^{N_{\text{tracks}}} w_i (\vec{v} - \vec{x}_i(s_i))^T W_i(s) (\vec{v} - \vec{x}_i(s_i)) \right]$$

Outlier weights  $\rightarrow 0$ , inlier weights  $0.5 \leq w_i \leq 1$

# Vertex timing

Simplified track timing model:  $\tau_i(s_i) = \tau_i^{\text{ref}} - \frac{s_i^{\text{ref}} - s_i}{\beta_i}$

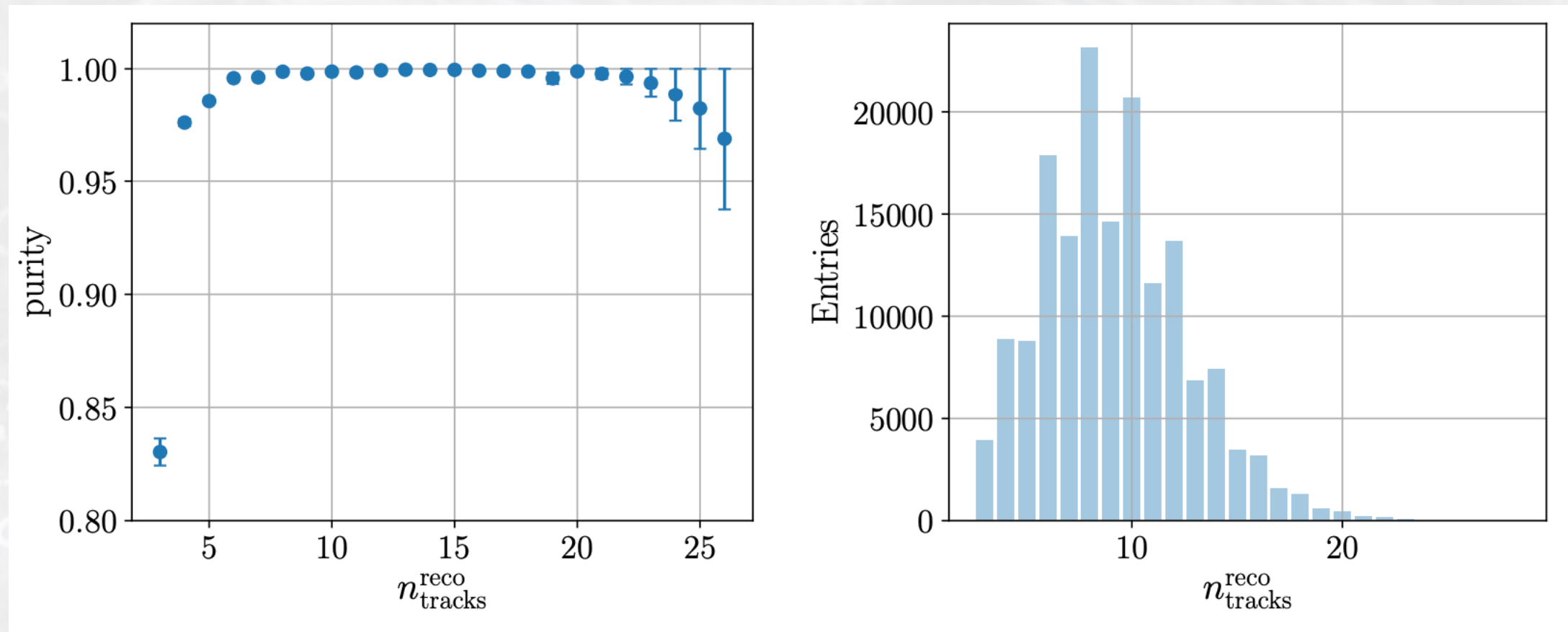
Add to likelihood:

$$F_{\tau}(\{s_i\}, \tau_v) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \frac{(\tau_v - \tau_i(s_i))^2}{(\sigma_{\tau}^i)^2}$$

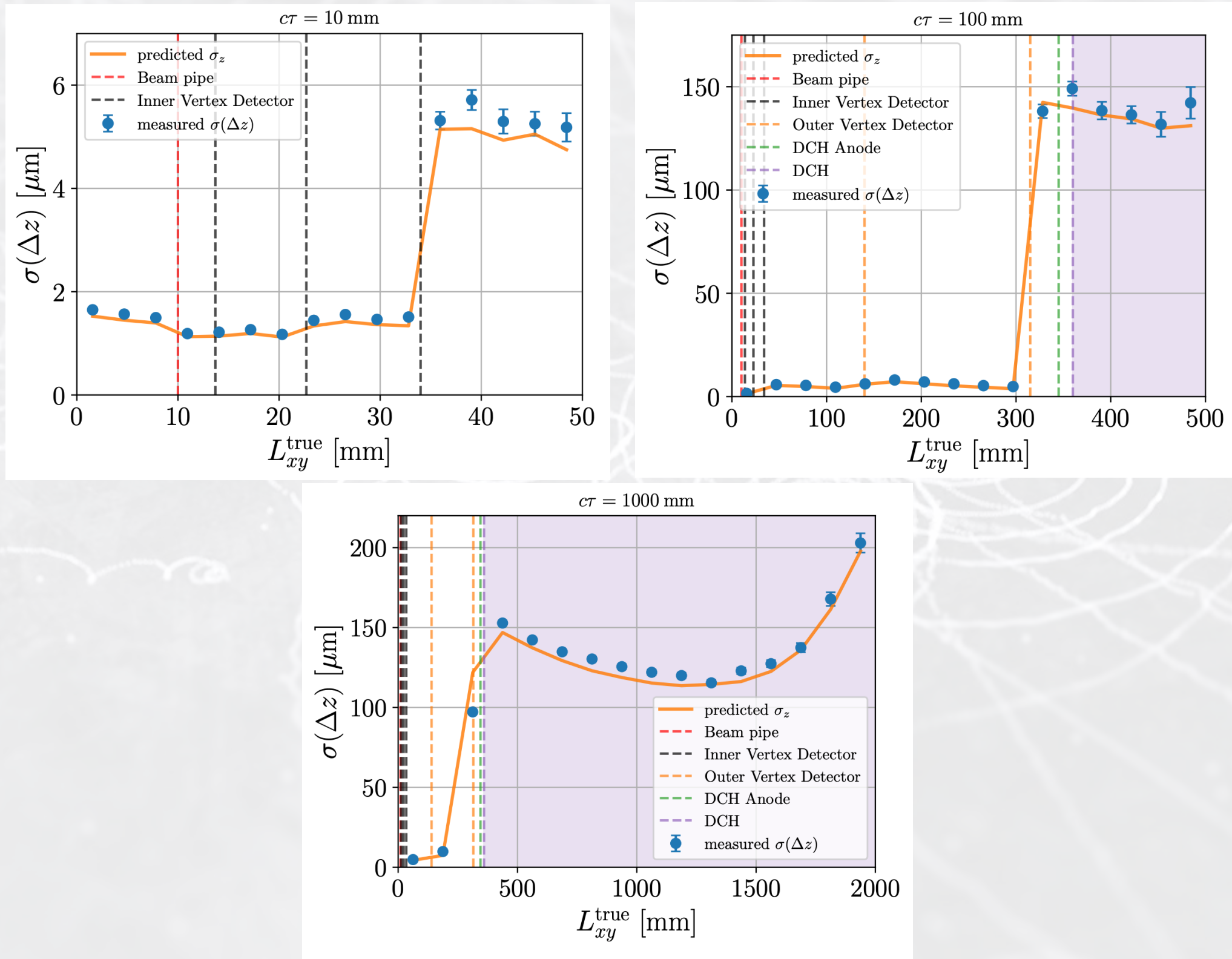
(Approximately) decoupled from spatial fit:  $(\sigma_{\tau} \gg \sigma_{\vec{x}})$

$$\tau_v^{\star} = \frac{1}{\sum_i \frac{1}{(\sigma_{\tau}^i)^2}} \sum_j \frac{1}{(\sigma_{\tau}^j)^2} \tau_j(s_j^{\star})$$

# Purity



# Longitudinal resolution



# Pseudo-rapidity reconstruction

