



Hacking the ATLAS Detector: Looking for Exotic Long-lived Particles using Displaced Jets

https://arxiv.org/pdf/1902.03094.pdf

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LLPs in the SM

- Semi-stable particles everywhere in the SM!
- Long-lived particles (LLPs)
 := do not decay instantly
 (eg Higgs, W/Z, t, etc)



- Decay interaction very weak
- Mediator particle very heavy
- Density of final states very low
- Particles very close in mass



t=0

t~600 s



LLPs in BSM models

- We all know SM has serious flaws...
 - Why is H so light ?
 (Hierarchy Problem)





LLPs in BSM models

- We all know SM has serious flaws...
 - Why is H so light ? (Hierarchy Problem)

• What is **Dark Matter**?





LLPs in BSM models

- We all know SM has serious flaws...
 - Why is H so light ? (Hierarchy Problem)

What is Dark Matter?

Neutrino oscillations + masses











- Proposed solutions often involve LLPs!
 - Why is H so light ? (Hierarchy Problem)

→ SUSY

What is Dark Matter?

→ Hidden Sector





- Proposed solutions often involve LLPs!
 - Why is H so light ? (Hierarchy Problem)

→ SUSY

• What is Dark Matter?

→ Hidden Sector

Neutrino oscillations + masses
 → Heavy Neutral Leptons







could decay within ATLAS detector volume?





Check your blind spot



- ...but ATLAS not designed for highly displaced activity!
- Usually assume new particles are unstable... LHC detectors designed for particles decaying near beam crossing.
- LLP signals look like detector noise
- This is ATLAS and CMS's blind spot!







The ATLAS detector and neutral LLP signatures



A cross section of ATLAS

Muon System (MS)

Hadronic Calorimeter (HCAL)

Electromagnetic Calorimeter (ECAL)

Solenoid Magnet

Transition Radiation Tracker (TRT)

Semiconductor Tracker (SCT)

Inner Detector (ID)





Neutral LLP decaying in **tracker**:

Displaced vertex appearing in tracker





Neutral LLP decaying in calorimeter:

Trackless jet





Neutral LLP decaying in **Muons System**:

lepton-jet or vertex in the MS

https://arxiv.org/abs/1811.07370





Focus on **LLP decaying in HCAL**

How would it compare to a regular SM jet?



Focus on **LLP decaying in HCAL**

How would it compare to a regular SM jet?

- Narrow : shower starts much later, has less time to become spatially separated





several

tracks

0 tracks

18

Focus on **LLP decaying in HCAL**

How would it compare to a regular SM jet?

- Narrow

Trackless:
 neutral LLPs
 -> no hits in ID





Unusual Backgrounds... QCD from multi-jet events

- QCD jets rarely look like CalRatio Jets
- ...but there are a
 LOT of QCD jets
 (>10⁵ x signal!)
- Dominant background!





Unusual Backgrounds... Beam-induced Background

QCD jets

beam halo muons

 Beam-induced background (BIB) from beam halo muons







Unusual Backgrounds... Cosmic Rays

Parallel to LHC beams

- QCD jets
- Beam-induced background (BIB)
- Cosmic Rays can traverse the cavern and leave deposits in the HCAL



Unusual Backgrounds... Beam-induced Background

Parallel to LHC beams

- QCD jets
- Beam-induced background (BIB)
- Cosmic Rays
- Can all look like narrow, trackless jets with high CalRatio!







Analysis using CalRatio Jets



Analysis Strategy

- Three sister analyses: this one for CalRatio jets
- Signature-driven search :
 benchmark model



- 2016 LHC dataset: 33/fb
- Hack ATLAS to look for LLPs!







Trigger and Dataset Collection





Level 1

How to trigger LLP events at Level 1



High-E⊤ Trigger (full 2016 dataset ~33/fb)

Low-E_T Trigger (1/3 of 2016 dataset ~11/fb)



E_T > 60 GeV HCAL deposit in 'narrow' region: 0.2 x 0.2 (η x φ) (default: 0.8 x 0.8)



E_T > 30 GeV HCAL deposit in 0.2 x 0.2 (η x φ) veto if matching E_T > 3 GeV ECAL deposit

Level 1 : Hardware trigger, no track info, only rough calo info



HLT : Computing farm, access to tracking information

Two analysis streams



• Low-ET Trigger for $m_{\phi} \le 200$ GeV: more sensitive, even with 1/3 data • Better off with High-ET Trigger for $m_{\phi} > 200$ GeV



Preselection



Preselection On jet and event variables Key Filtering Calculation



Preselection

- Require 2 jets (pT > 40 GeV)
- Pick events with trackless jets: $\sum \Delta R_{min}$ (jet, track)



Regular SM events: $\Sigma \Delta R_{min} \sim 0$

Event with 2 CalRatio-like jets: $\Sigma \Delta R_{min} \sim 2$

Preselection: $\Sigma \Delta R_{min} > 0.5$

 $\Delta R_{min} \sim 0$

 $\Delta R_{min} \sim 1$

 $\Delta R_{min} \sim 0$

 $\Delta R_{min} \sim 1$

∆R_{min} ~0



Signal vs Background using Machine Learning

(Focus on Per-Jet BDT)





Identify signal jets: Per-jet BDT

- Multi-class Boosted Decision Tree (BDT): separate jets as signal-like, BIB-like or multijet-like
- Inputs: MLP decay position, jet width/energy variables, timing information...
 - Trained on BIB Data, multijet MC, signal samples





Per-Jet BDT performance









Selection Optimisation





- Final selections remove any significant BIB or cosmics
- Optimised for high S/B in search region 'A'

| | High- $E_{\rm T}$ selection: | Main data | BIB | Cosmic rays | Signal (m_{Φ}, m_s) | Signal (m_{Φ}, m_s) | Signal (m_{Φ}, m_s) |
|--|---|-----------|--------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | = (1000, 150) GeV | = (600, 150) GeV | = (400, 100) GeV |
| | | | | | $c\tau = 1.17 \text{ m}$ | $c\tau = 1.72 \text{ m}$ | $c\tau = 1.46 \text{ m}$ |
| Preselection: | Pass trigger, 2 clean jets & $\sum \Delta R_{\min} > 0.5$ | 1375483 | 183015 | 526.0 | 26.2% | 22.4% | 17.5% |
| Event cleaning: | High- $E_{\rm T}$ per-event BDT > 0.1 | 4515 | 192 | 7.6 | 25.4% | 21.2% | 15.3% |
| | Trigger matching | 3627 | 119 | 3.8 | 24.5% | 20.4% | 15.0% |
| | -3 < t < 15 ns | 3388 | 110 | 3.2 | 24.0% | 20.0% | 14.8% |
| High- <i>E</i> ^T selection: | $\sum_{j_{1}, j_{2}} \log_{10}(E_{\rm H}/E_{\rm EM}) > 1$ | 1815 | 61 | 2.7 | 21.7% | 16.8% | 11.5% |
| | $H_{\rm T}^{\rm miss}/H_{\rm T} < 0.6$ | 1421 | 41 | 2.1 | 18.1% | 15.2% | 10.9% |
| | $p_{\rm T}(j_1) > 160 {\rm ~GeV}$ | 774 | 26 | 0 | 17.5% | 13.6% | 7.50% |
| | $p_{\rm T}(j_2) > 100 {\rm ~GeV}$ | 459 | 15 | 0 | 16.5% | 11.8% | 5.56% |
| Region A : | | 10 | 1 | 0 | 10.7% | 7.74% | 3.10% |
| | Low- $E_{\rm T}$ selection | Main data | BIB | Cosmic rays | | Signal (m_{Φ}, m_s) | Signal (m_{Φ}, m_s) |
| | | | | | | = (200, 50) GeV | = (125, 25) GeV |
| | | | | | | $c\tau = 1.07 \text{ m}$ | $c\tau = 0.76$ m |
| Preselection: | Pass trigger, 2 clean jets & $\sum \Delta R_{\min} > 0.5$ | 2180349 | 95247 | 319.1 | | 7.58% | 4.33% |
| Event cleaning: | Low- $E_{\rm T}$ per-event BDT > 0.1 | 40474 | 678 | 65.1 | | 6.26% | 2.73% |
| | Trigger matching | 34567 | 538 | 42.1 | | 5.97% | 2.51% |
| | -3 < t < 15 ns | 33680 | 519 | 23.4 | | 5.86% | 2.46% |
| Low- <i>E</i> _T selection: | $\sum_{j_{1}, j_{2}} \log_{10}(E_{\rm H}/E_{\rm EM}) > 2.5$ | 722 | 13 | 18.3 | | 0.92% | 0.39% |
| | $p_{\rm T}(j_1) > 80 {\rm ~GeV}$ | 304 | 6 | 7.3 | | 0.69% | 0.16% |
| | $p_{\rm T}(j_2) > 60 { m GeV}$ | 136 | 4 | 3.5 | | 0.60% | 0.10% |
| Region A. | | 7 | 0 | 0.4 | | 0 4201 | 0.070 |




Background Estimate





• 2 ~uncorrelated variables, divide plane into 4 regions

 $N_{\rm A}^{\rm bkg} = N_{\rm B}^{\rm bkg} \cdot N_{\rm C}^{\rm bkg} / N_{\rm D}^{\rm bkg}$





• 2 ~uncorrelated variables, divide plane into 4 regions

 $N_{\Delta}^{\text{bkg}} = N_{\text{B}}^{\text{bkg}} \cdot N_{\text{C}}^{\text{bkg}} / N_{\text{D}}^{\text{bkg}}$

(m_a, m_s)=(600,150) GeV ligh-E_ Selection igh-E_ Selection main data_ Signal 0.5 0.5 High-E_T per-event BDT High-E_T per-event BDT ATLAS 0.002 ATLAS Simulation Similar for mostly √s=13 TeV, 33.0 fb⁻¹ 0.00[.] √s=13 TeV 0.4 **Iow-E**_T! 0.4 in A В 0.0014 А 0.3 0.3 0.0012 0.001 0.2 Blinded by 0.0008 0.0006 ignoring A! Bkg D 0.0004 D mostly in 0.0002 0<u>.</u> 1 2 3 4 5 0<u>`</u> B,C,D 2 $\sum \Delta R_{min}$ (jet, tracks) 3 1 5 $\sum \Delta R_{min}$ (jet, tracks)



• 2 ~uncorrelated variables, divide plane into 4 regions

 $N_{\Delta}^{\text{bkg}} = N_{\text{B}}^{\text{bkg}} \cdot N_{\text{C}}^{\text{bkg}} / N_{\text{D}}^{\text{bkg}}$

(m_a, m_s)=(600,150) GeV gh-E_ Selection igh-E_ Selection main data_ Signal 0.5 0.5 High-E_T per-event BDT High-E_T per-event BDT ATLAS 0.002 ATLAS Simulation Similar for mostly √s=13 TeV, 33.0 fb⁻¹ 0.00[.] √s=13 TeV 0.4 **Iow-E**_T! 0.4 in A B 0.0014 А 0.3 0.3 0.0012 0.001 0.2 Blinded by 0.0008 0.0006 ignoring A! Bkg D 0.0004 D mostly in 0.0002 0₀ 1 2 3 4 5 0<u>`</u> B,C,D 2 3 $\sum \Delta R_{min}$ (jet, tracks) 1 $\sum \Delta R_{min}$ (jet, tracks)

| | Main selections | Estim. A | A | В | С | D | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----|---|-----|-----|----|
| No excess | | (a posteriori) | | | | | |
| | High- $E_{\rm T}$ selection | $8.5^{+2.3}_{-2.0}$ | 10 | 9 | 187 | 253 | |
| | Low- $E_{\rm T}$ selection | $5.3^{+2.1}_{-1.6}$ | 7 | 2 | 70 | 57 | 40 |



Statistical Interpretation





Limit Setting



- No excess → 95% CL limits (CLs method)
- Simultaneous **S+B likelihood fit** to all regions:

- Uncertainties as nuisances with Gaussian constraints.
 - Bkg uncertainty ~25%
 - Main signal uncertainty: Jet Energy (re-derive for CalRatio jets) ~15%
 - Total signal uncertainty: 10-25% depending on model 42



Combination with MS vertex analysis







MS vertex analysis

- Same benchmark models as CalRatio search
- LLPs decaying in the MS
- Reconstructed as displaced vertices:
 - 1- and 2-vertex channels





- Simultaneous fit of likelihood functions for each search
- Analyses dominated by different uncertainties
- Common resource for theorists







What Next for LLP searches?



- Explore new channels:
 - ID + CalRatio
 - MS + CalRatio
 - CalRatio + missing energy
 - LLP decays in ECAL



What Next ? Re-interpretation

- LHC is a billion-dollar machine :
 - → How can we preserve analyses for the future?



- Why?
 - Duty to the taxpayer I
 - Test new models without repeating search
 - Faster feedback to theory community
 - Improved modelling of backgrounds



What Next ? Re-interpretation

 How? Searches with SM backgrounds : Particle-level measurements in search/control regions + eg CONTUR https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.05296



- Lepto-quark search + control region measurements
 https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.00377
- Double-differential 4-lepton mass measurement
 https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.05892
- Missing energy + jets unfolded measurements
 https://arxiv.org/abs/1707.03263



What Next ? Re-interpretation

 How? Searches with Non-SM bkg (eg CalRatio jets): use eg RECAST <u>https://arxiv.org/abs/1010.2506</u>



- Preserve + automate entire workflow in Docker
- Theorists may request new signals to be propagated
- Upcoming note: CalRatio search as proof of concept





- Long-lived particles occur in many BSM models...
- ... but in the blind spot for LHC experiments!
- LLP community: plug gap with signature-driven searches
 → Showed CalRatio jets example

Summary

- No sign of LLPs yet... but programme very active
 → stay tuned!
- In meantime, focus on demonstrating re-interpretation of signature-driven search







Backup



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ATLAS Overview





Signal Samples



Statistically independent!

- We consider a range of different options for the mass of the mediator
 - From Higgs-like...
 - ... to 1 TeV!
- And masses of the LLPs
- For each hypothesis, we have two samples with different lifetimes:
 - One for training BDTs, systematic and cross-checks
 - the other for evaluating analysis efficiency

| | | | Ļ | | 7 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------|------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>m</i> ⊕ [GeV] | <i>m</i> _s [GeV] | LF=5 m $c\tau$ [m] Events | | LF = <i>cτ</i> [m] | =9 m Events |
| low mass samples | | | | | |
| 1 | 5 | 0.127 | 400k | 0.229 | 200k |
| | 8 | 0.200 | 400k | 0.375 | 200k |
| 125 | 15 | 0.580 | 400k | 0.715 | 200k |
| 125 | 25 | 0.760 | 400k | 1.210 | 200k |
| | 40 | 1.180 | 400k | 1.900 | 200k |
| | 55 | 1.540 | 400k | 2.730 | 200k |
| | 8 | 0.170 | 400k | 0.290 | 200k |
| 200 | 25 | 0.540 | 400k | 0.950 | 200k |
| | 50 | 1.070 | 400k | 1.900 | 200k |
| high mass samples | | | | | |
| 400 | 50 | 0.700 | 400k | 1.260 | 200k |
| 400 | 100 | 1.460 | 400k | 2.640 | 200k |
| (00 | 50 | 0.520 | 400k | 0.960 | 200k |
| 600 | 150 | 1.720 | 400k | 3.140 | 200k |
| | 50 | 0.380 | 400k | 0.670 | 200k |
| 1000 | 150 | 1.170 | 400k | 2.110 | 200k |
| | 400 | 3.960 | 400k | 7.200 | 200k |
| | | | | | |

Used analysis efficiency/limits, and BDT training for BDT testing

Used mainly for and systematics

SATLAS How to trigger LLP events UCL

- Combatting QCD / Pileup at Trigger level:
 - Requiring a high ET threshold or lack of activity in before the HCAL
- Combatting BIB at Trigger level:





• Low-ET Trigger for $m_{\phi} \le 200$ GeV: more sensitive, even with 1/3 data • Better off with High-ET Trigger for $m_{\phi} > 200$ GeV









BIB timing plots





ATLAS



0



5

Cluster z [m]



BDT feature examples













Decay position estimate using machine learning

- Multi-layer Perceptron (MLP) regression
- Objective: estimate LLP decay positions
- Inputs:
 - jet energy in each ECAL+HCAL layer
 - jet η
 - truth LLP decay positions
- Trained on range of signal models to reduce model dependence





MLP inputs

- Signal jets used to train have:
 - $\Delta R(jet, truthLLP) < 0.2$
 - ▶ pT > 50 GeV
 - Standard jet cleaning
- ~1M signal jets used for training, from 9m samples
- Input variables:
 - Hadronic Energy Fraction, Central Barrel: Divided into three layers in the *xy*-direction, these three variables show the energy fraction for the central barrel section of the hadronic calorimeter;
 - Hadronic Energy Fraction, Extended Barrel: Divided into three layers in the *xy*-direction, these three variables show the energy fraction for the exterior barrel section of the hadronic calorimeter;
 - Hadronic Energy Fraction, Endcap: Divided into four layers in the *z*-direction, these four variables show jet energy fraction for the forward endcap hadronic calorimeter;
 - Electromagnetic Energy Fraction, Barrel: Divided into four sections in *xy*-direction, these four variables show the energy fraction for the barrel section of the EM Calorimeter;
 - Electromagnetic Energy Fraction, Endcap: Divided into four sections in the *z*-direction, these four variables show the energy fraction for the endcap section of the EM Calorimeter;
 - Jet η : The jet pseudorapidity is included in the training so that the MLP learns at which specific set of layers it should look for when prediciting decays.



Per-jet BDT inputs

Jet selections:

The selection for jets in the training samples are:

- jet $p_{\rm T} > 40 \,{\rm GeV}$
- jet $p_{\rm T} < 550$ GeV: There are not many signal jets above 550 GeV and since events are flattened as a function of jet $p_{\rm T}$, this gives these events an artificially large weight. To avoid this they are eliminated from the training sample. They are not eliminated from any other part of the analysis.
- jet $|\eta| < 2.5$
- Clean LLP jet

Further, for signal jets - those produced by the decay of an LLP, the following additional requirements are made:

- $\Delta R < 0.2$ between the jet axis an the closest LLP
- truth L_{xy} > 1250 mm if jet |η| ≤ 1.4: This cuts was determined by examining the sensitivity of the MLP results.
- truth $L_z > 3500$ mm if jet $|\eta| > 1.4$: This cuts was determined by examining the sensitivity of the MLP results.

As a result of these cuts, the per-jet BDT is sensitive to LLP's that decay in front of the ECAL.

Signal: 9m samples QCD: JZ2-JZ12 BIB: 2016 noiso data

Input variables:

Jet p_T First Cluster Radius Shower Center BIB ΔT - Positive Hadronic Layer 1 Fraction Predicted L_{xy} Jet Latitude Jet Longitude Energy Density BIB ΔT - Negative Max Track p_T Sum p_T of all Tracks Predicted L_z



Per-event BDT

- Separate events as: signal-like vs BIB/QCD-like
- Inputs:
 - jet signal- & BIB-weights, pT, timing, cluster info
 - event-level variables eg: H_T/H_T^{miss}, M_{eff}
- Trained on signal vs BIB data
- Separately for High-E_T and Iow-E_T analyses





Per-Event BDT inputs

High ET low, intermediate & high mass signal vs. BIB data

- Low ET : low mass signal passing trigger vs. BIB data
- Input variables:
 - the per-jet BDT signal-weights of the CalRatio jet candidates and of the BIB jet candidates;
 - the per-jet BDT BIB-weights of the CalRatio jet candidates and of the BIB jet candidates;
 - $p_{\rm T}$, time and number of clusters of the CalRatio jet candidates;
 - $H_{\rm T}^{\rm miss}/H_{\rm T}$, where $H_{\rm T}$ is the scalar sum of jet $p_{\rm T}$ for jets with $p_{\rm T} > 30$ GeV and $|\eta| < 3.2$ and $H_{\rm T}^{\rm miss}$ is the magnitude of the negative vectorial sum of the same jets;
 - M_{eff} , which is defined as the scalar sum of H_{T} and $H_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$;
 - $\Delta \phi$ (jet^{sig₁}, jet^{sig₂}) and ΔR (jet^{sig₁}, jet^{sig₂}), the opening angle and distance between the two most signal-like jets in the event;
 - the mean signal-weight value of all the clean jets in the event
 - the mean BIB-weight value of all the clean jets in the event



ABCD plots after even cleaning















Validation of ABCD Method

| Validation selections | Estim. A | А | В | \mathbf{C} | D | |
|---|-------------|----|----|--------------|----|--|
| $\mathrm{VR}_{\mathrm{high}\text{-}E_{\mathrm{T}}}$ | 66 ± 15 | 70 | 64 | 57 | 55 | |
| VR_{low-E_T} | 54 ± 17 | 36 | 35 | 34 | 22 | |

The validity of the ABCD method is tested by applying it to two validation regions (VRs). These are similar to the main selections, but have modified requirements and boundaries for the ABCD plane variables, to ensure orthogonality to the high- E_T and low- E_T selections. The VR for the high- E_T selection (VR_{high- E_T}) is defined as the nominal selection except for requiring $100 < p_T(j_1) < 160$ GeV and it is evaluated in the ABCD plane defined within $0.1 < \text{high-}E_T$ per-event BDT < 0.22. The VR for the low- E_T selection (VR_{low- E_T}) is defined as the nominal selection and it is evaluated in the ABCD plane defined within $0.1 < \text{high-}E_T$ per-event BDT < 0.22. The VR for the low- E_T selection (VR_{low- E_T}) is defined as the nominal selection and it is evaluated in the ABCD plane defined within $0.1 < \text{high-}E_T$ per-event BDT < 0.22.

| Main selections | Estim. A | Estim. A | А | В | \mathbf{C} | D | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----|---|--------------|-----|--|
| | (a priori) | $(a \ posteriori)$ | | | | | |
| High- $E_{\rm T}$ selection | $6.7^{+3.2}_{-2.3}$ | $8.5^{+2.3}_{-2.0}$ | 10 | 9 | 187 | 253 | |
| Low- $E_{\rm T}$ selection | $2.5^{+2.5}_{-1.4}$ | $5.3^{+2.1}_{-1.6}$ | 7 | 2 | 70 | 57 | |



















Overview of uncertainties



- ABCD method 22% hight-ET plane, 25% low-ET plane
- Jet energy scale and resolution 1 -10 %
 - Since we use non-standrad jets, estimate additional resolution, which is parametrised as a function of EMF in addition to eta. 1 -17 %
- Trigger efficiency estimated from tag-and-probe method using b-triggers. Small, around 2% for all models
- Pileup RW 1-12 %
- PDF uncertainties 8% to 3%
- BDT mis-modelling, around 2%
- Lumi 2%



Lifetime Extrapolation



 Signal efficiency for other lifetimes by reweighing:

$$w(t) = \frac{\tau_{\text{gen}}}{\exp(-t/\tau_{\text{gen}})} \cdot \frac{\exp(-t/\tau_{\text{new}})}{\tau_{\text{new}}}.$$

- w(t) for each LLP
 weight per-event to τ_{new}
- Method validated in test samples with alternate lifetimes








10

1

10⁻¹

10⁻²

10⁻³

10⁻⁴

* ss [hu.

Limit Setting





Extra Limit Plots







s proper decay length [m]



10

1╞

 10^{-3}

10⁻¹

10²

s proper decay length [m]

10

Extra Combination Plots





https://arxiv.org/pdf/1704.07983.pdf



Figure 4: The average number of primary tracks per unit of angular area as a function of the angular distance from the jet axis. Data (markers) and dijet MC (lines) samples are compared in bins of jet p_T showing the high density in the cores of energetic jets.



SM Jet rate





Figure 6: Inclusive jet cross-section as a function of jet p_T in bins of jet rapidity. The results are shown for jets identified using the anti- k_t algorithm with R = 0.6. For better visibility the cross-sections are multiplied by the factors indicated in the legend. The data are compared to the NLO QCD prediction with the MMHT2014 PDF set corrected for non-perturbative and electroweak effects. The error bars indicate the statistical uncertainty and the systematic uncertainty in the measurement added in quadrature. The statistical uncertainty is shown separately by the inner vertical line.