

# Advancing Dark-QCD searches: Model Development, Constraints, and Novel Anomaly Detection Technique

Deepak Kar (with others)

University of Witwatersrand (South Africa)



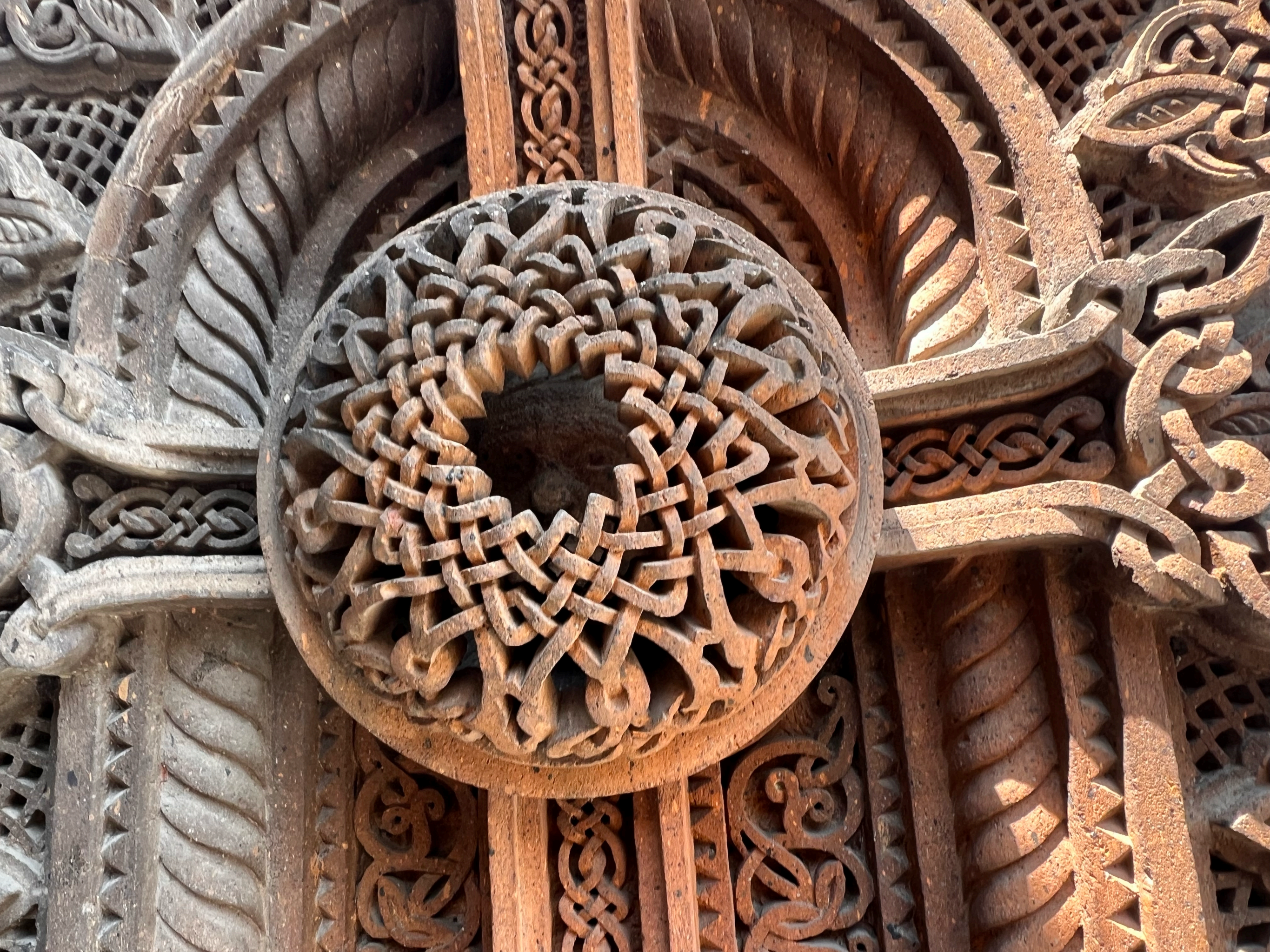
UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



















**JET CLOSE  
TO MET?**

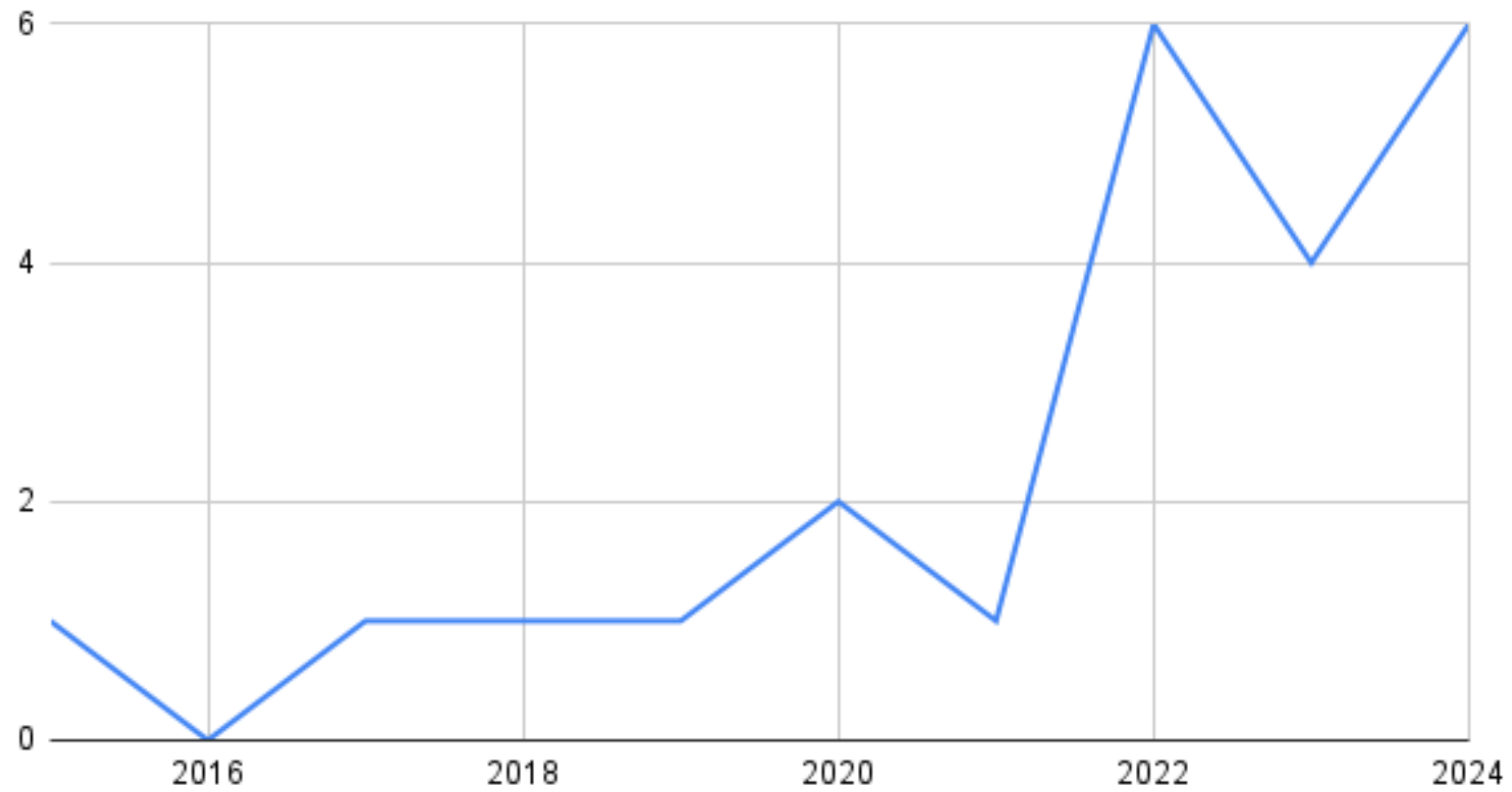


**SEMI-VISIBLE  
JETS!**

imgflip.com



Papers wth SVJ in their title



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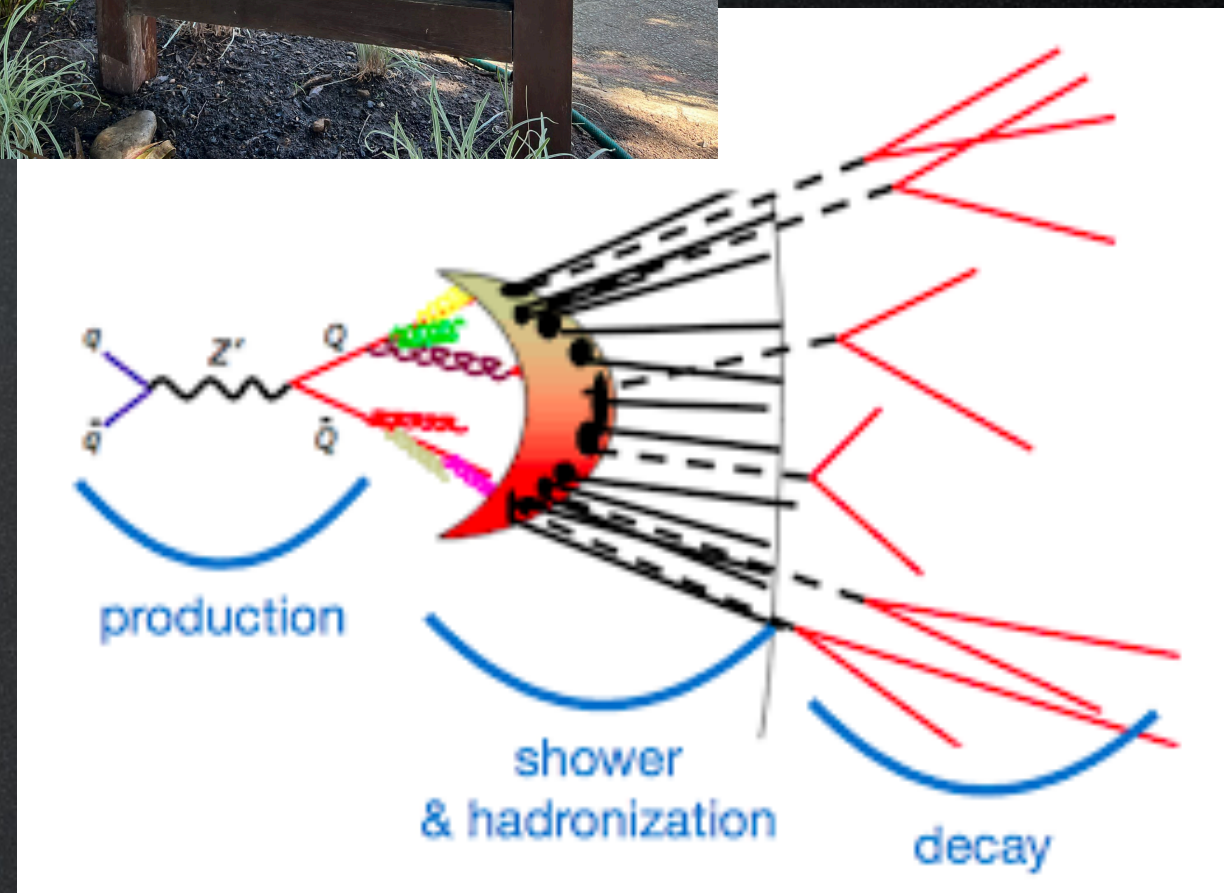


# Dark QCD / Strongly Interacting Dark Sector

- A simple replica of standard QCD!
- Hadronisation in hidden sector, off-diagonal dark hadrons, invisible and stable while diagonal ones can decay back to SM quarks.
- The fraction decaying back to SM determines if we get a visible, invisible or semi-visible jet!



Not a model,  
more like a  
Topology-  
generator



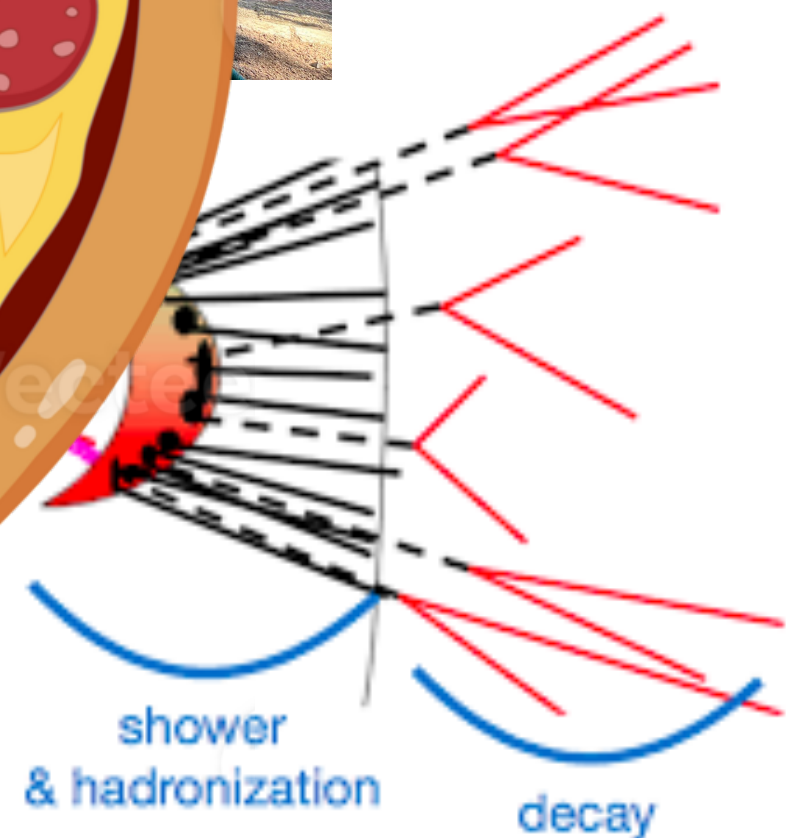


# Dark QCD / Strongly Interacting Dark Sector

- A simple replica of standard QCD
- Hadronisation in the dark sector, off-shell dark hadrons, in the visible sector, stable while dark hadrons can decay back to quarks.
- The fraction decaying to SM determines if a visible, invisible or invisible jet!



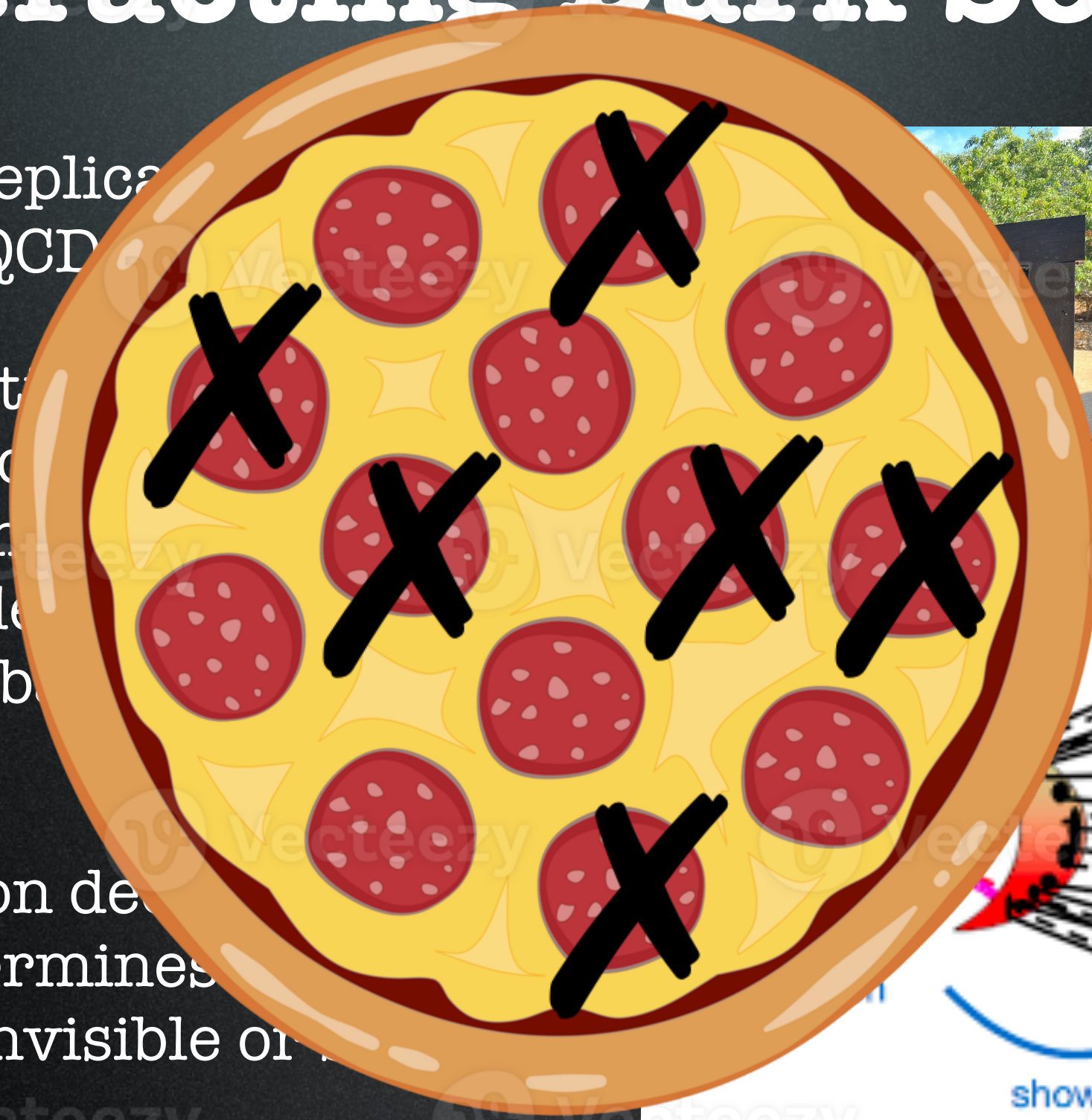
Not a model, more like a Topology-generator



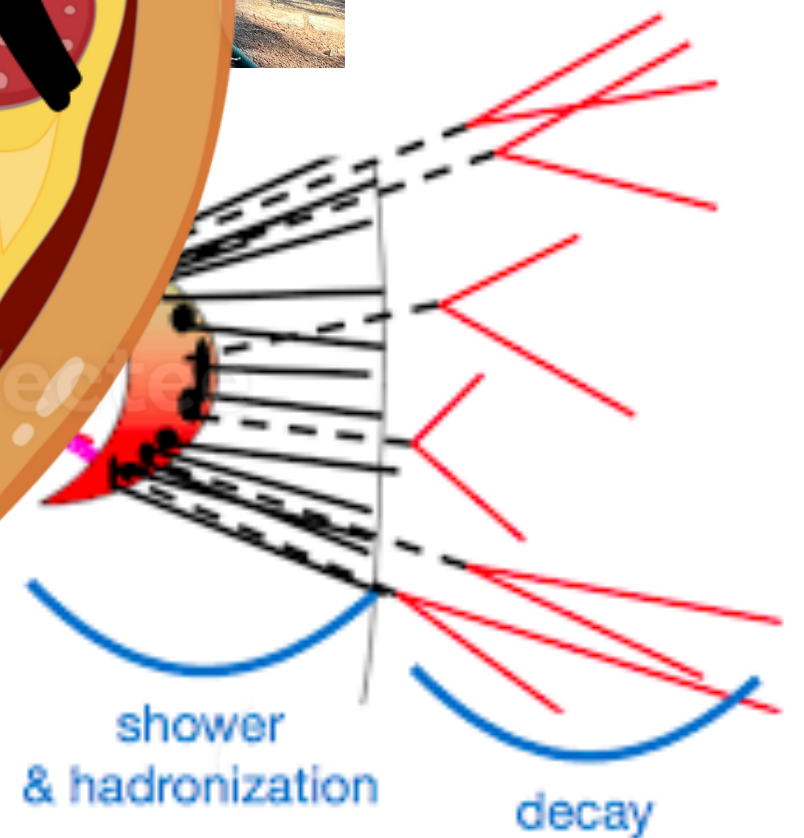


# Dark QCD / Strongly Interacting Dark Sector

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- Hadronisation in the dark sector, off-shell dark hadrons, in the visible sector, stable while dark hadrons can decay back to quarks.
- The fraction decaying to SM determines if a visible, invisible or semi-visible jet!



Not a model, more like a Topology-generator







**Sabine Hossenfelder** ✓

@skdh



That's basically what it is. The "dark sector" or "hidden sector" is a name for increasingly contrived and complex collections of particles (and their interactions) which physicists have invented and that no one has ever seen.



**Benjamin Titus** @Benny\_Switch · Feb 14

Replying to @WKCosmo

Please tell me what "Dark Sector" means. I thought I was well read enough, but I've been seeing this phrase thrown around and all I get from it is "additional Dark things that may or may not be there"



**Will Kinney** ✓

@WKCosmo



There's a very good reason why the default assumption is that dark matter consists of a single type of particle: Dark matter must be stable, and only the lightest particle in a mass hierarchy is stable. For example, the only stable baryon in the Standard Model is the proton.

2:36 AM · Feb 15, 2023 · **72.4K** Views

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# Experimental Results (so far ...)

- CMS s-channel search
- ATLAS t-channel search
- ATLAS (s-channel) dark-jets search



ATLAS EXPERIMENT

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Physics Briefing

Tags: LHC 2023, new physics, dark matter, physics results

## Not a jet all the way: is dark matter hiding in plain sight?

26 May 2023 | By ATLAS Collaboration

What happens if dark-matter particles are produced inside a jet of Standard-Model particles? This leads to a novel detector signature known as semi-visible jets! The ATLAS Collaboration has come up with the first search for semi-visible jets, looking for them in a general production mode where two protons interact by exchanging an intermediate particle, which is then converted into two jets.

The elusive nature of dark matter remains one of the biggest mysteries in particle physics. Most of the searches have so far looked for events where a “weakly interacting” dark-matter particle is produced alongside a known Standard-Model particle. Since the dark-matter particle cannot be seen by the ATLAS detector, researchers look for an imbalance of transverse momentum (or “missing energy”). However, some theoretical models predict a “strongly interacting” dark sector, with dark quarks and gluons as replicas of Standard-Model quarks and gluons. Semi-visible jets would arise when dark quarks decay partially to Standard-Model quarks and partially to stable dark hadrons (the “invisible fraction”). Since they are produced in pairs, typically along with additional Standard-Model jets, the missing energy arises when all the jets are not fully balanced. The direction of the missing energy is often aligned with one of the semi-visible jets, as can be seen in the event display above.





# Work in Progress

- Diverse signatures
- Reviewing/benchmarking the models:  
alternate approaches, checking constraints  
from other collider and non-collider results
- Better discriminating observables including  
Machine-learning based approaches

Make best use of our data ;-)  
This is all we are going to have!



# Leptons lurking in semi-visible jets at the LHC

Cesare Cazzaniga <sup>a,1</sup> , Annapaola de Cosa <sup>b,1</sup> 

<sup>1</sup> ETH Zürich Institute for Particle Physics and Astrophysics, CH-8093 Zürich, Switzerland





## Uncovering tau leptons-enriched semi-visible jets at the LHC

Hugues Beauchesne <sup>a,1</sup> , Cesare Cazzaniga <sup>b,2</sup> , Annapaola de Cosa <sup>c,2</sup> , Caterina Doglioni <sup>d,3</sup> , Tobias Fitschen <sup>e,3</sup> , Giovanni Grilli di Cortona <sup>f,4,5</sup> , Ziyuan Zhou <sup>g,2,6</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Physics  
<sup>2</sup>ETH Zürich  
<sup>3</sup>University of  
<sup>4</sup>Istituto Nazionale  
<sup>5</sup>Istituto Nazionale  
<sup>6</sup>School of Physics  
Received: 13 Jul 2023

**Abstract** The confining dark matter Under the hadronic manifest plified number of jets resulting in leading leptons

## Phenomenology of photons-enriched semi-visible jets

Cesare Cazzaniga <sup>a,1</sup> , Alessandro Russo <sup>c,2</sup> , Emre Sitti <sup>d,1</sup> ,  
Annapaola de Cosa <sup>b,1</sup> 

<sup>1</sup> ETH Zürich,  
<sup>2</sup> Stanford University

Received: date

**Abstract** The confining dark matter Under the hadronic manifest plified number of jets resulting in leading leptons

## Semi-visible jets + X: Illuminating Dark Showers with Radiation

Bingxuan Liu<sup>a</sup> Kevin Pedro<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Science, Sun Yat-sen University, 66 Gongchang Road, Shenzhen, Guangdong 518107, PRC

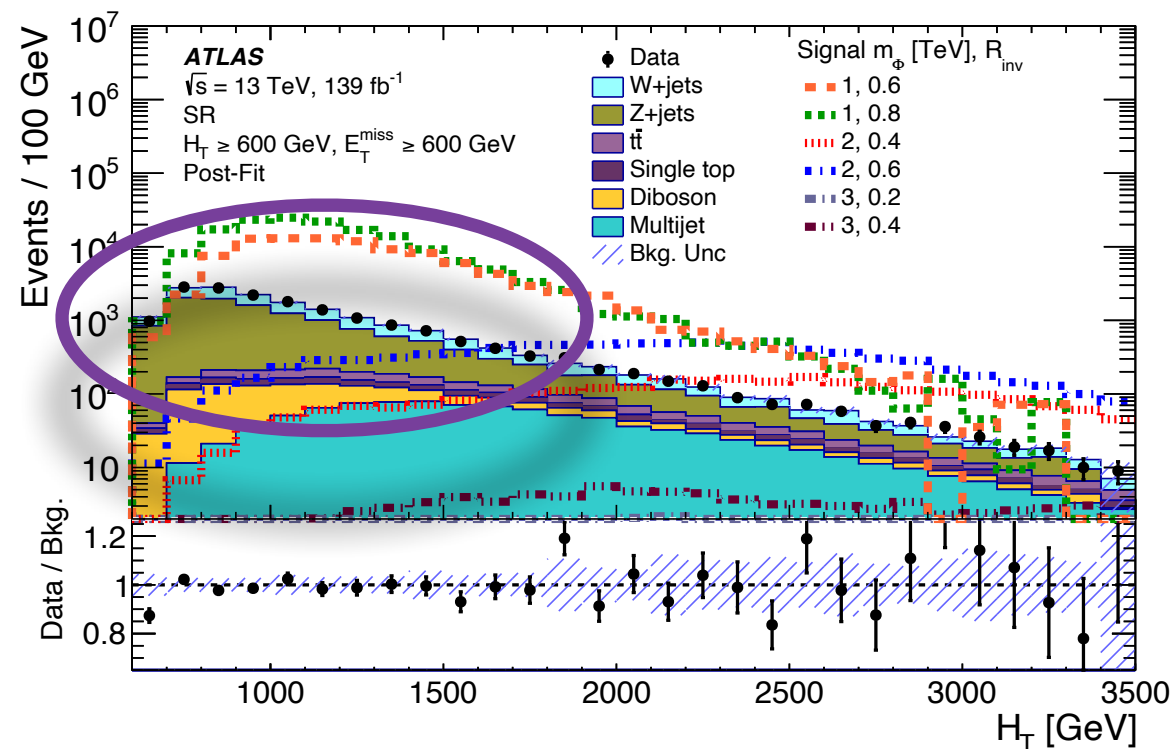
<sup>b</sup> Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, IL 60510, USA

**ABSTRACT:** We investigate the potential to search for semi-visible jets (SVJs) at the LHC using initial-state radiation (ISR). Both photon ISR and jet ISR channels are considered, using a benchmark signal model with the decay of a leptophobic  $Z'$  mediator forming two SVJs. We compare and extend several techniques to decompose the missing transverse

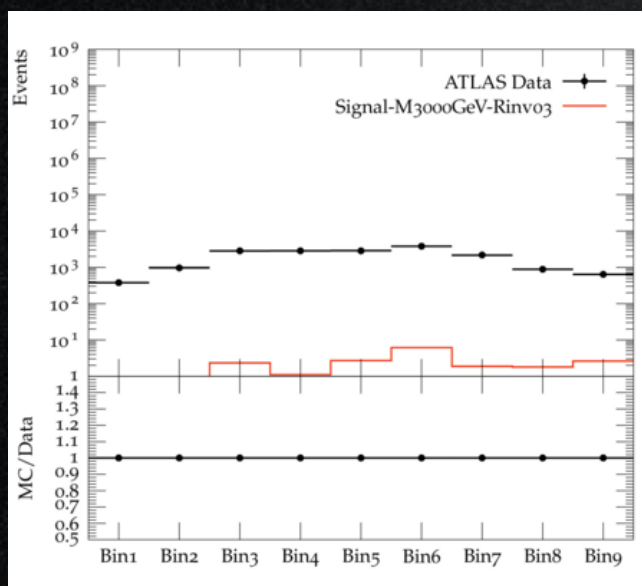


# B-philic SVJ

with: Sukanya Sinha and Wandile Nzuza



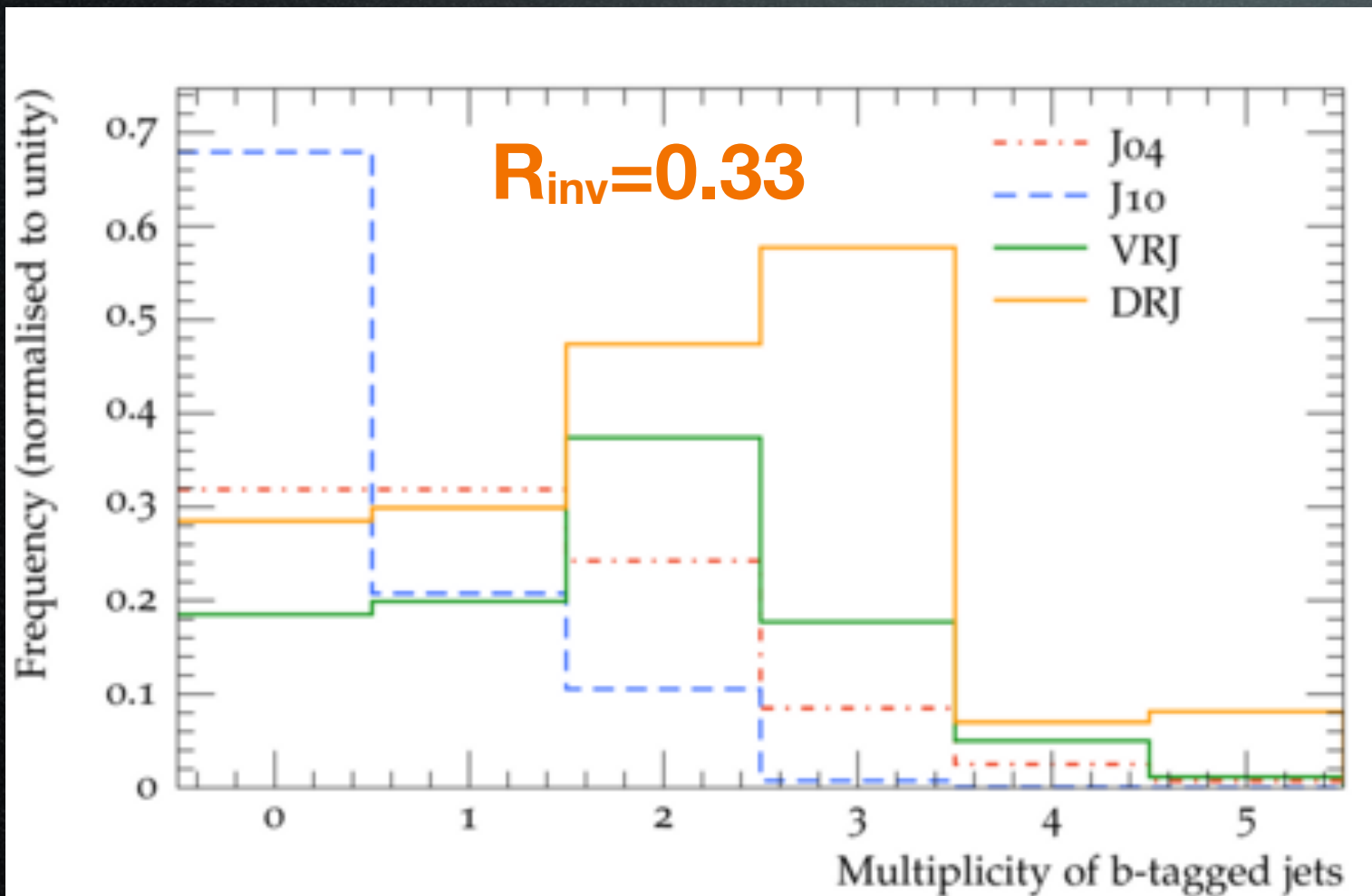
- ✦ Can we reduce our dominant background in the most signal-rich region?
- ✦ Theoretically: well motivated, helicity flipping suppression can force the dark  $\rho$  to go to  $b\bar{b}$ .
- ✦ The advantage: the SVJ candidate can be better identified by the presence of b-hadrons.



Not excluded  
by the  
above result!



# Jets to use:



- ✦ J04: typically SVJs have a larger spread
- ✦ J10: higher  $p_T$  threshold
- ✦ VRJ: expanded radius based on a mass-like parameter  $p/p_T$  of the jet (used j04 as inputs)
- ✦ DRJ: allows the radius by an additional term, which captures the  $p_T$ -weighted standard deviation of the distances between pairs of constituents.

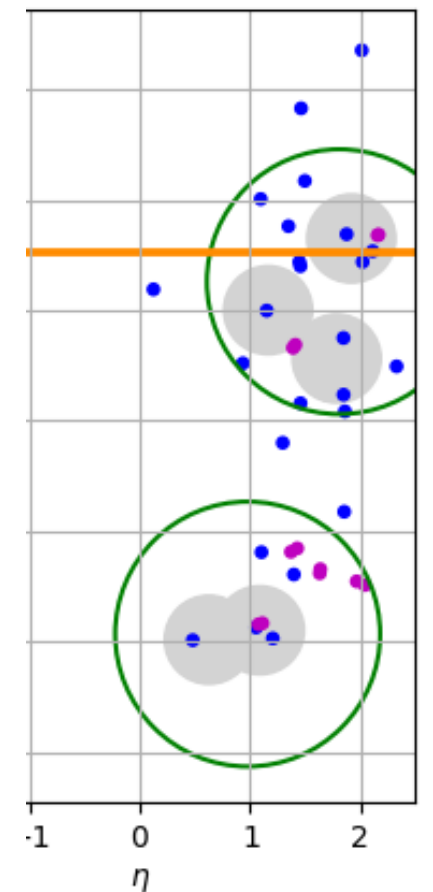
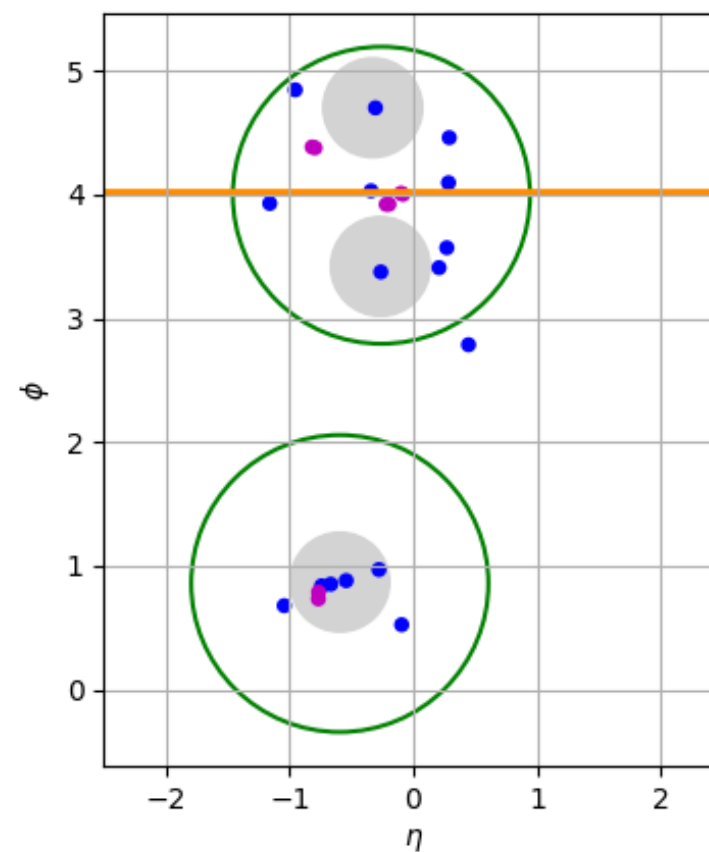
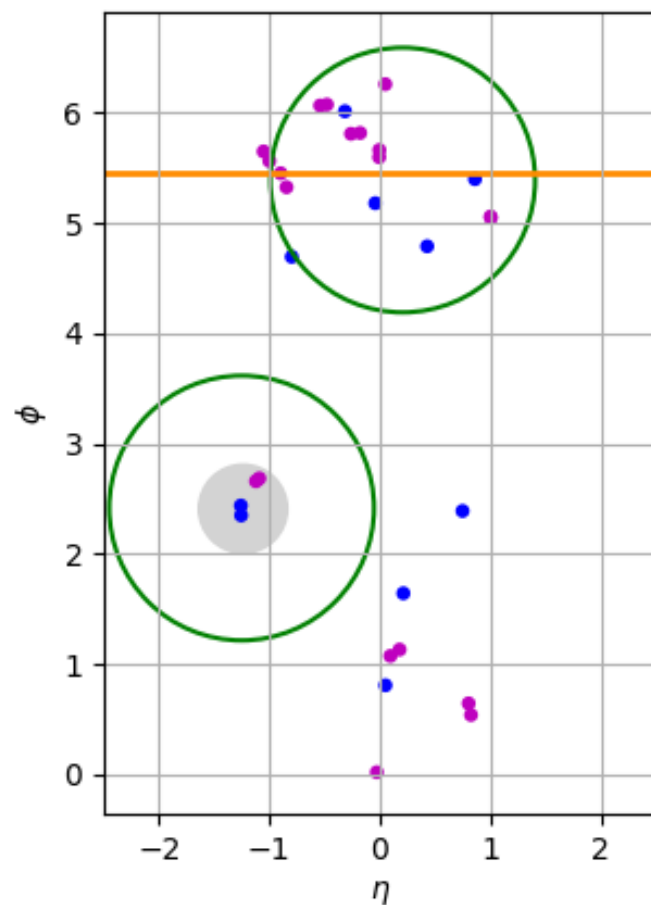
Selection	Selection Efficiency in %	
	Signal $R_{inv} = 0.33$	Signal $R_{inv} = 0.67$
J04	33	12
J10	11	3
VRJ	60	35
DRJ	81	66

**Jet multiplicity:  
indicative of  
signal selection  
efficiency**



# Example Events

Shows the advantage of using VR jets



J04  
VRJ  
MET

Dark hadrons  
B-hadrons



# Signal Models

- Only Pythia8 HV model so far, and the model parameters are still being discussed\* ...
- Herwig7 dark shower model, almost there ...

## Dark Sector Showers and Hadronisation in Herwig 7

Suchita Kulkarni<sup>1</sup>, M.R. Massoumina<sup>2</sup>, Simon Plätzer<sup>1,3</sup>, and Dominic Stafford<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Physics, NAWI Graz, University of Graz, Universitätsplatz 5, A-8010 Graz, Austria

<sup>2</sup> IPPP, Department of Physics, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, United Kingdom

<sup>3</sup> Particle Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Vienna, Boltzmanngasse 5, A-1090 Wien, Austria

<sup>4</sup> Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Notkestr. 85, 22607 Hamburg, Germany

August 20, 2024

**Abstract.** We present a novel simulation of a strongly interacting dark sector also known as the Hidden Valley scenarios using angular ordered showers and the cluster hadronisation model in Herwig 7. We discuss the basics of this implementation and the scale hierarchies underpinning the simulation. With the help of a few benchmarks, we show the effect of variation of dark sector parameters on thrust and angularities within the dark sector, and study correlation functions, which can be helpful for understanding the angular structure of these events. Finally we comment on the uncertainties introduced due to lack of knowledge of hadronisation parameters within the dark sectors.

### 1 Introduction

Standard Model (SM) extensions featuring new confining non-Abelian sectors [1,2] coupled with the SM via some portal present an exciting opportunity for new physics searches at colliders as they produce unique, previously unexplored signatures in the form of anomalous jets. The non-Abelian sectors could feature any gauge group, num-

the extreme signatures such as soft-unclustered energy patters [23, 24, 25, 26]. Results from first experimental searches for semi-visible jets are also available [27, 28]. For a review on strongly-coupled theories see e.g. [29, 30, 31].

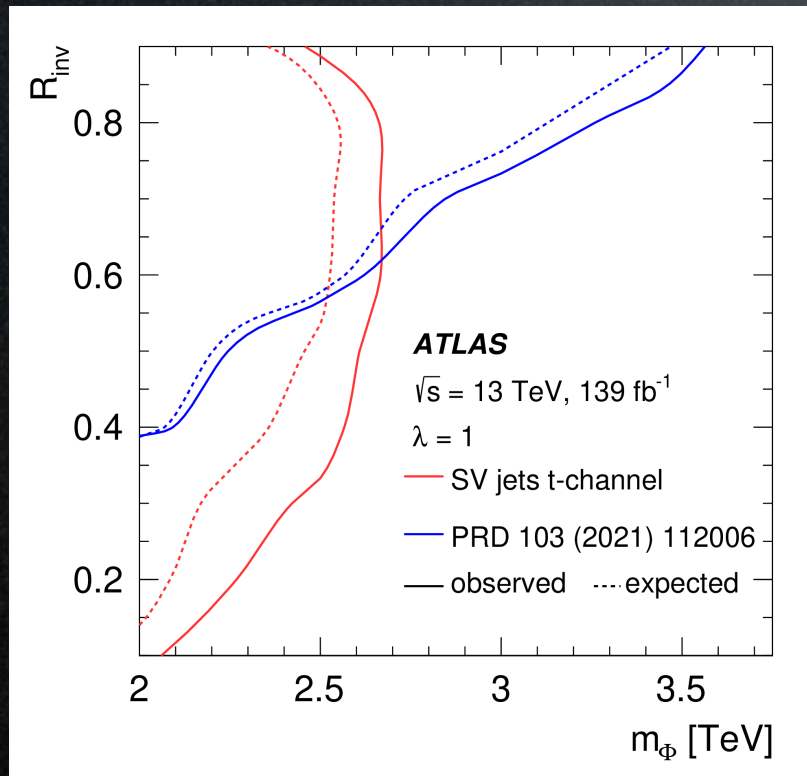
Given the rich theoretical and phenomenological landscape presented by confining Hidden Valleys, a systematic exploration is necessary. Among the requirements, development of reliable event generators, used to analyse the

v1 [hep-ph] 19 Aug 2024



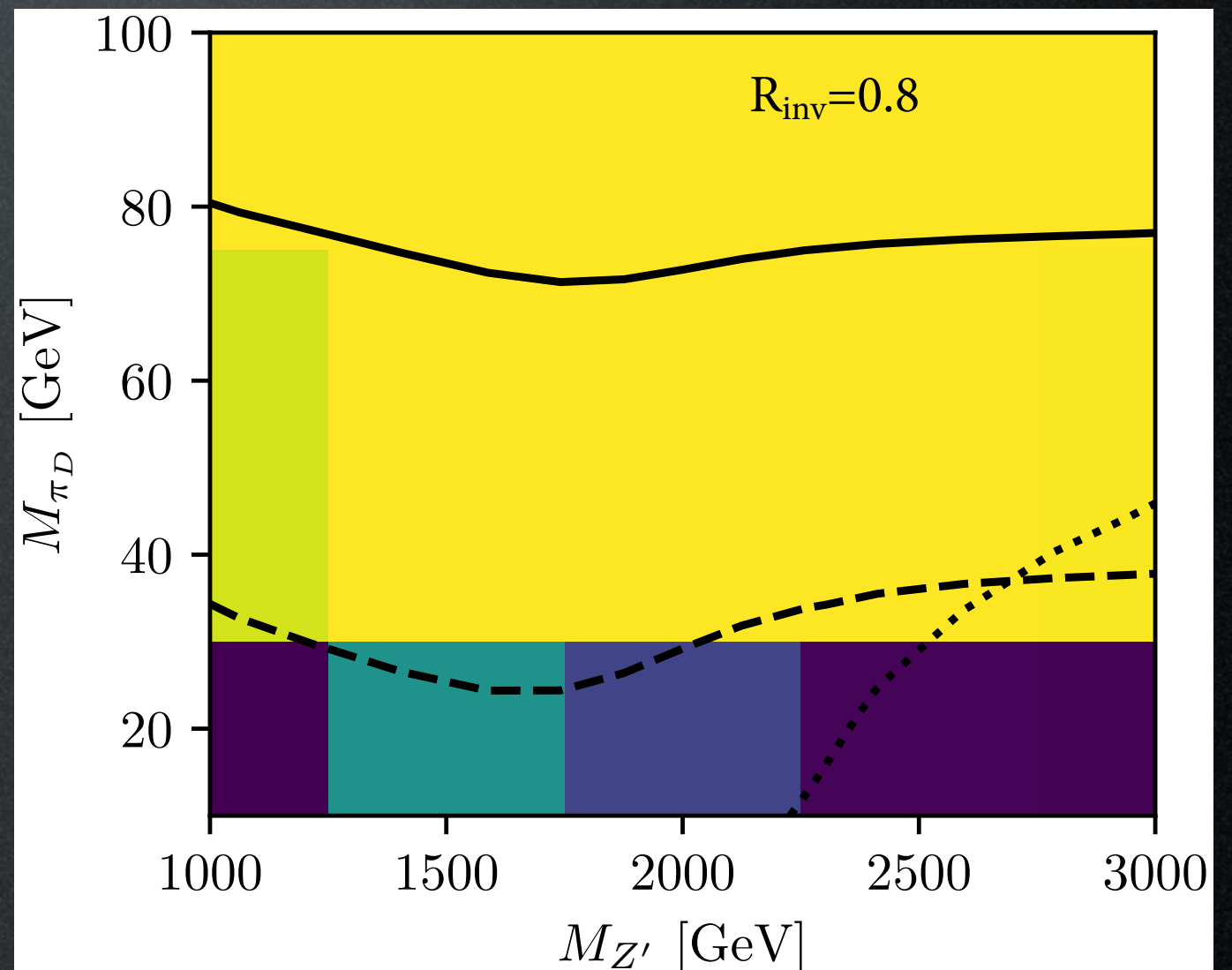
# WiP: Estimating constraints from current results/Reinterpretation

with: Clarisse Prat, Sukanya Sinha, Suchita Kulkarni, Jon Butterworth, Andy Buckley



Expected and observed exclusion contours at 95% CL for semi-visible jets signal, using the mono-jet analysis selection.

The CONTUR  
(Constraints On New  
Theories Using Rivet)  
approach



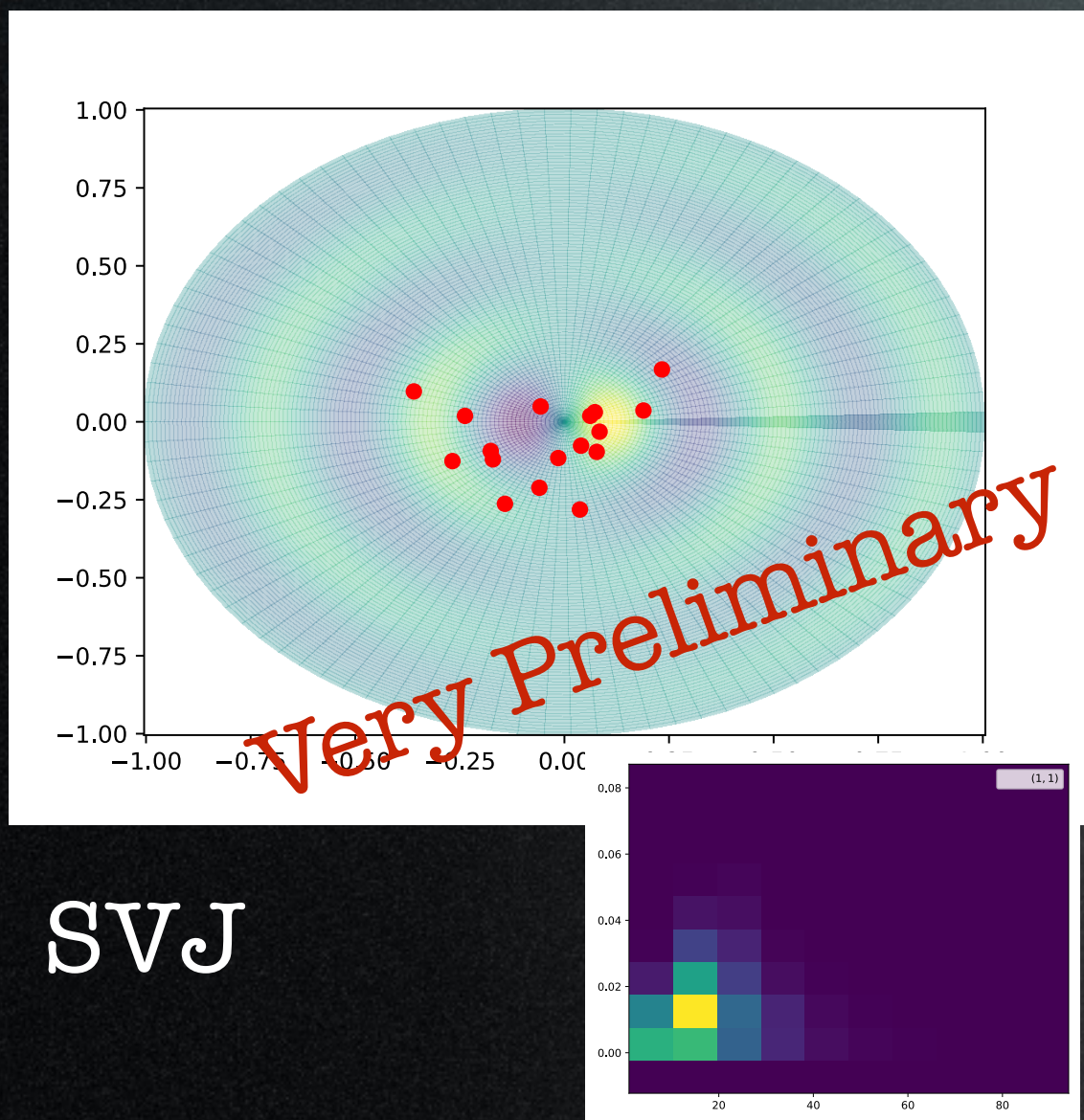


# WiP: New Observables

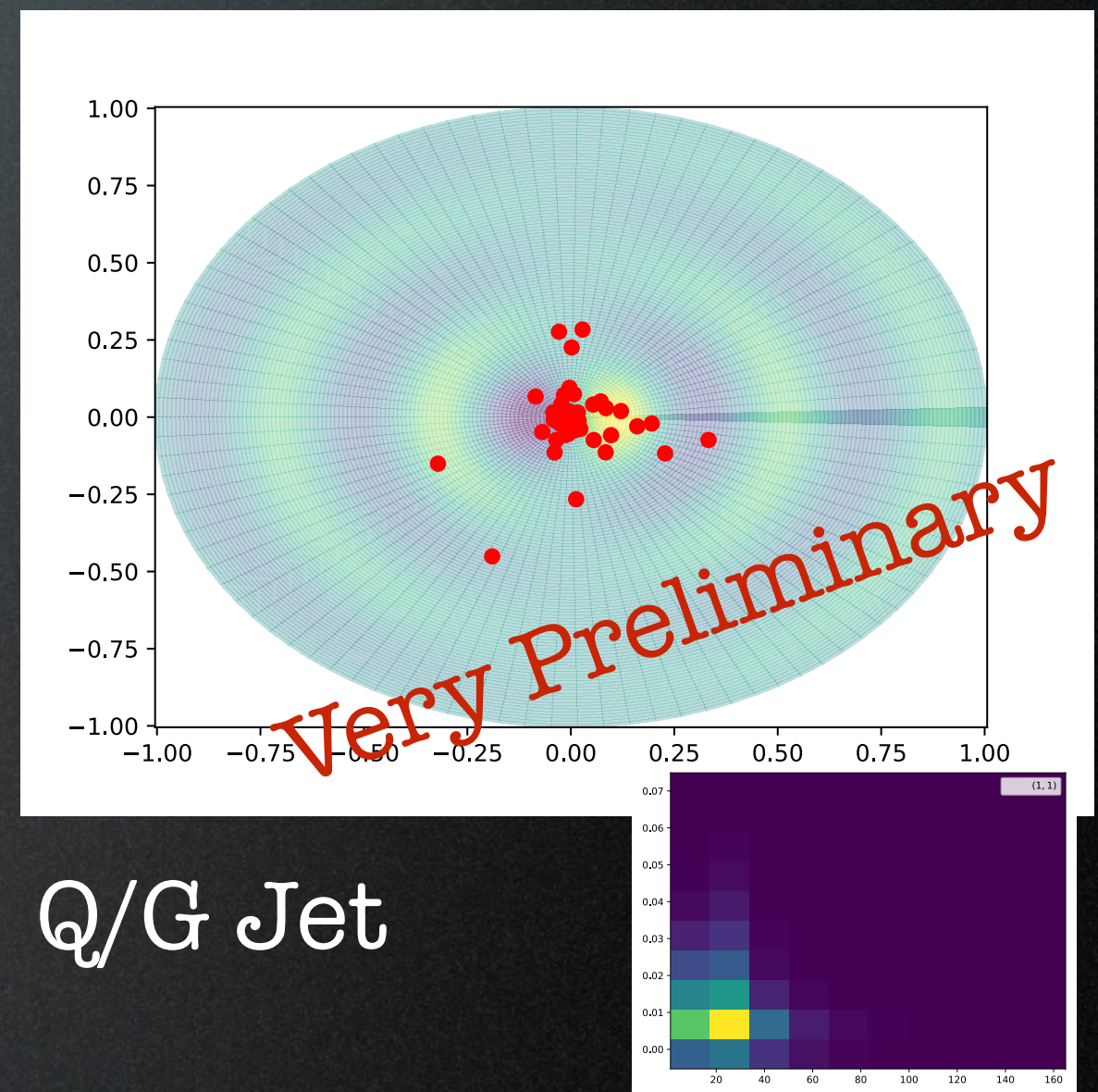
with: Andy Buckey

SVJs rather than having prongs like top-quarks, have holes.

Can we calculate overlap with cylindrical Bessel functions?



VS





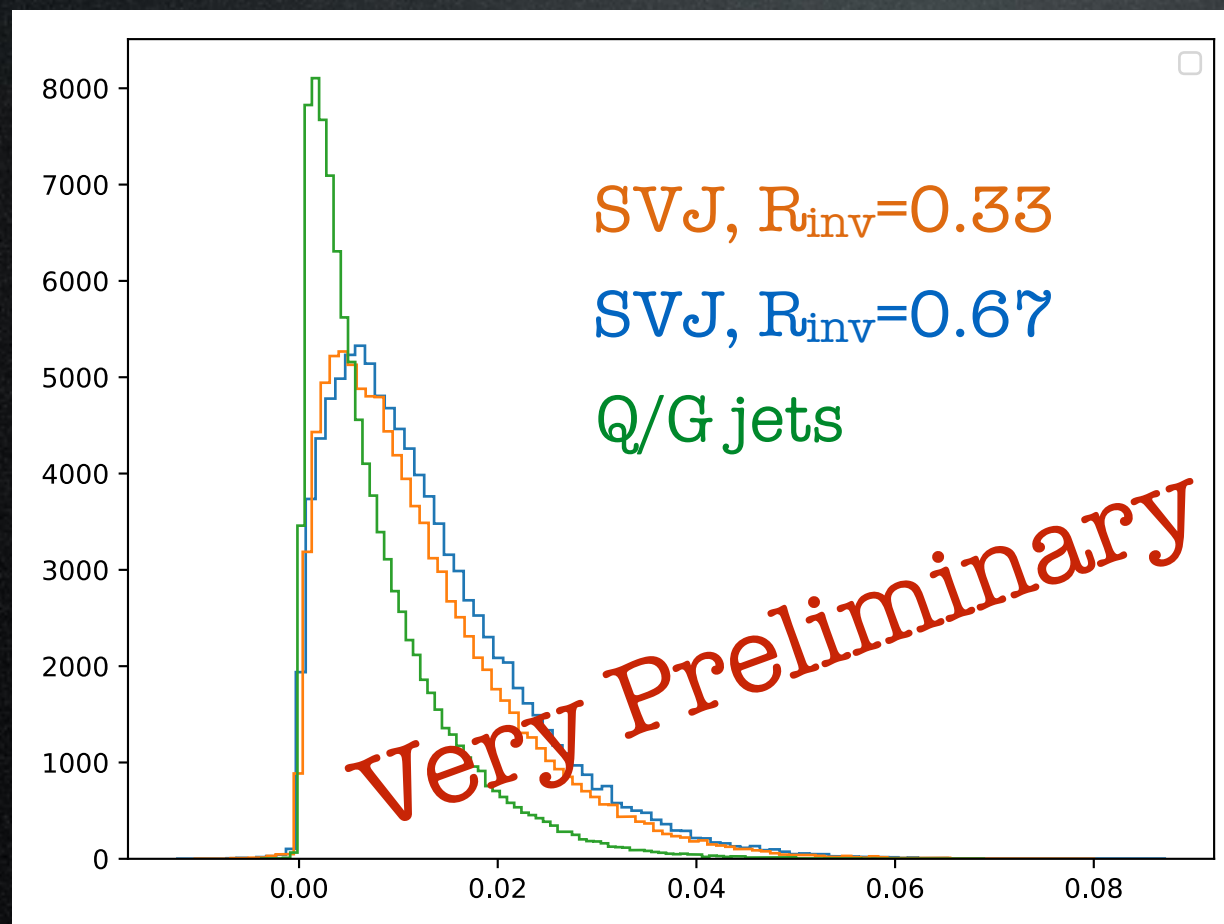
# WiP: New Observables

with: Andy Buckey

SVJs rather than having prongs like top-quarks, have holes.

Can we calculate overlap with cylindrical Bessel functions?

We can, somewhat ...





# WiP: Using AD

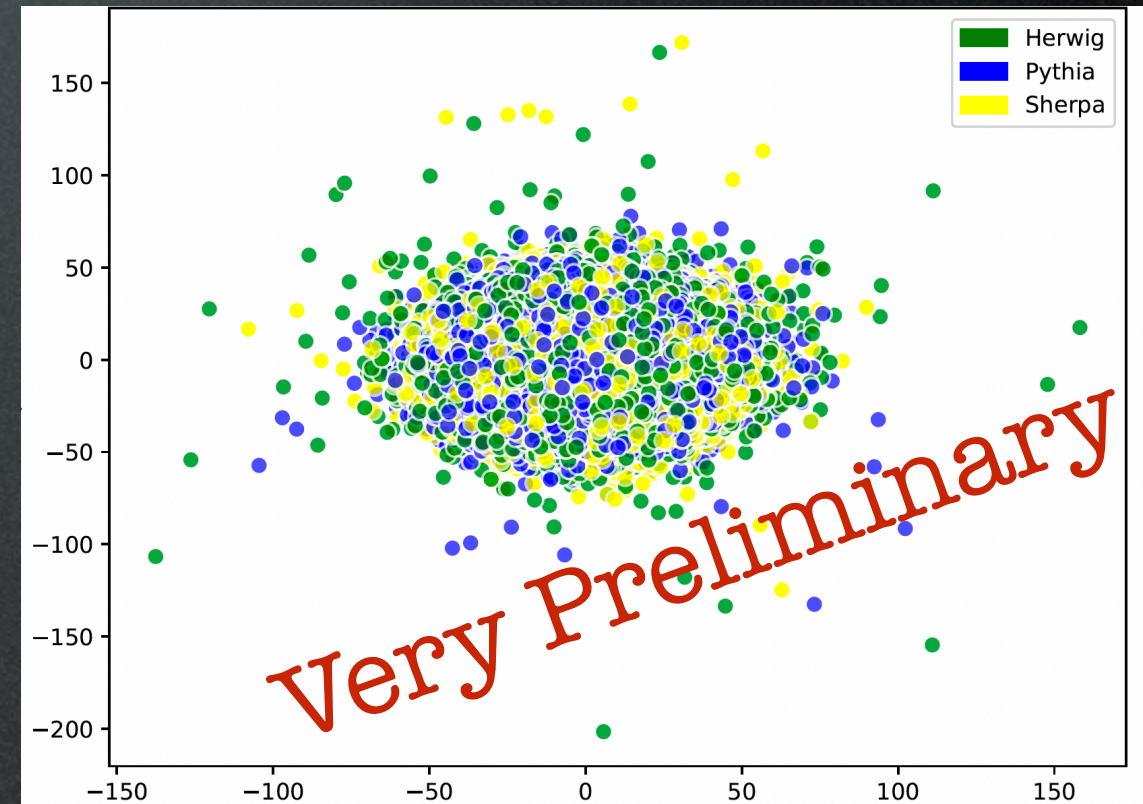
with: Sukanya Sinha, Pratik Jahwahar, Caterina Doglioni

- Standard approach: use multiple signal simulations, single bg simulation to extract anomaly, to use on data.
- Drawback: for a not so well defined signal model, inherent bias.
- Enter BEAD: Background Enhanced Anomaly Detection



# WiP: BEAD

- Use multiple background simulation models, apply loose requirements based on general signal characteristics.
- Try to find gaps in a multidimensional latent space!
- Proof-of-principle approach.





# Summary

- Novel signatures (i.e SVJ!) are fun!
- Perhaps we need more a bottom up/  
signature driven approach than a top  
down/model driven approach?
- Unless we search for them, can't really  
rule them out, can we?

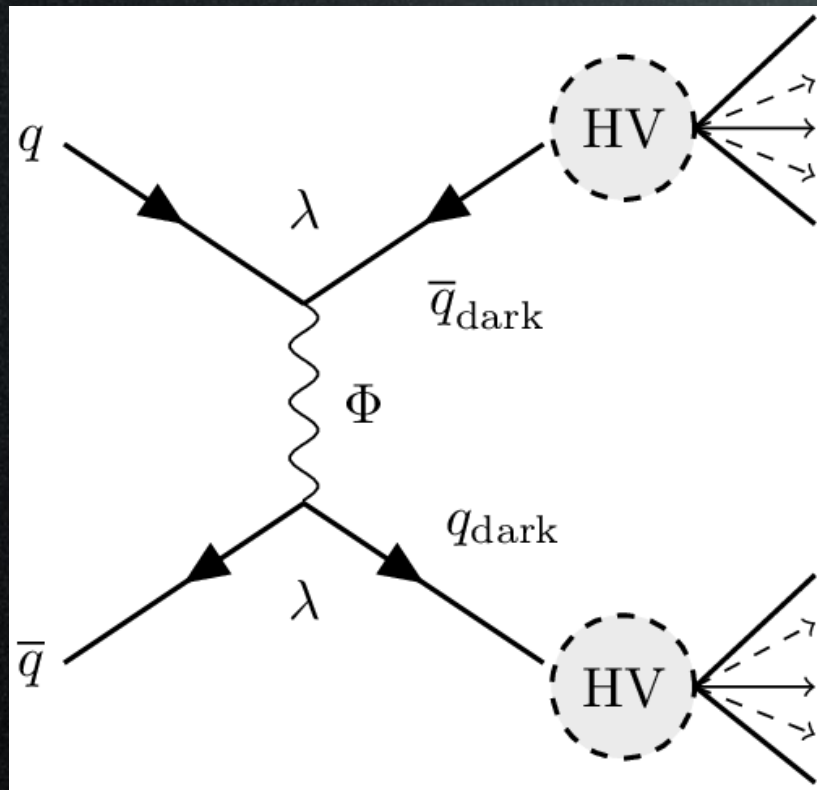




# Backup



# ATLAS SVJ Search



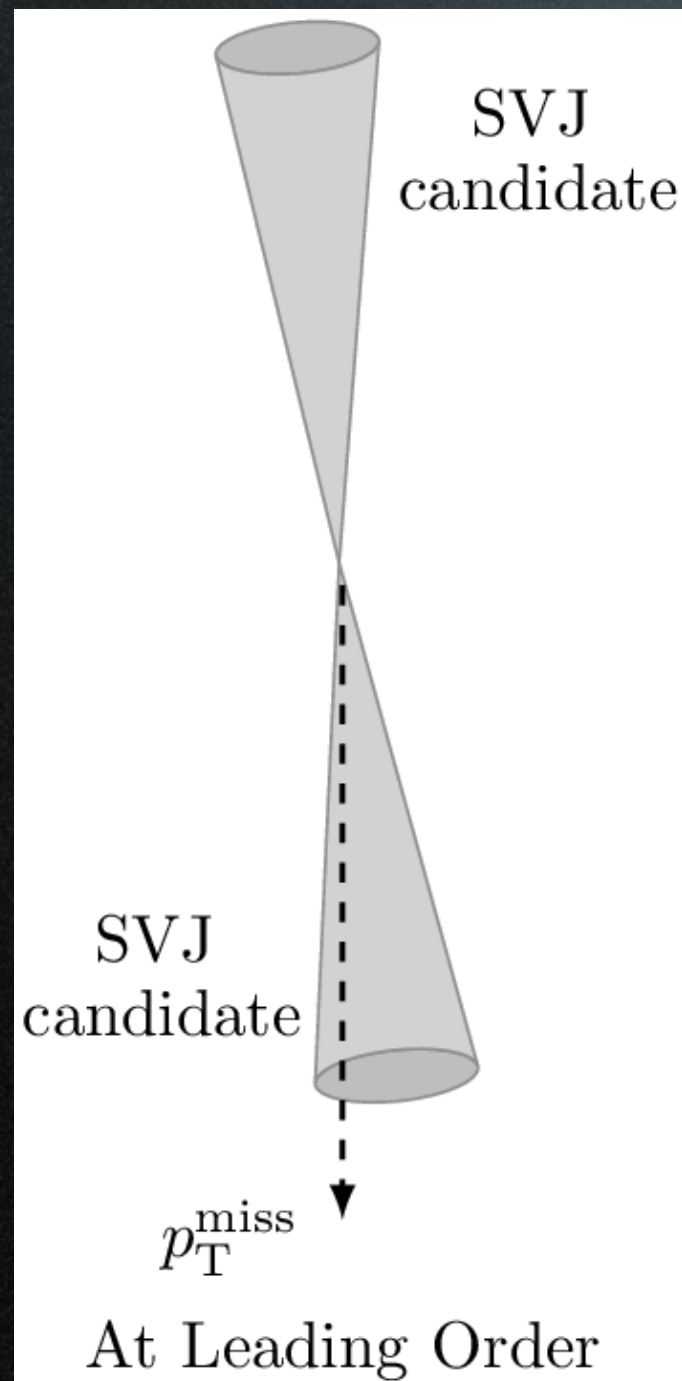
Results in jets interspersed with dark hadrons, with missing transverse momentum direction aligned with one of the SVJs in leading events. Not so for events with extra jets and large boost.

Events with two central jets, MET trigger, leading jet  $p_T > 250$  GeV,  $H_T > 600$  GeV, MET  $600 > G_T$ , jet closest to MET with  $\Delta\Phi < 2$

Define: SVJ (muon veto), and three CRs, 1L, 1L1B, 2L (with muons and b-tagged jets)



# The topology and the challenges

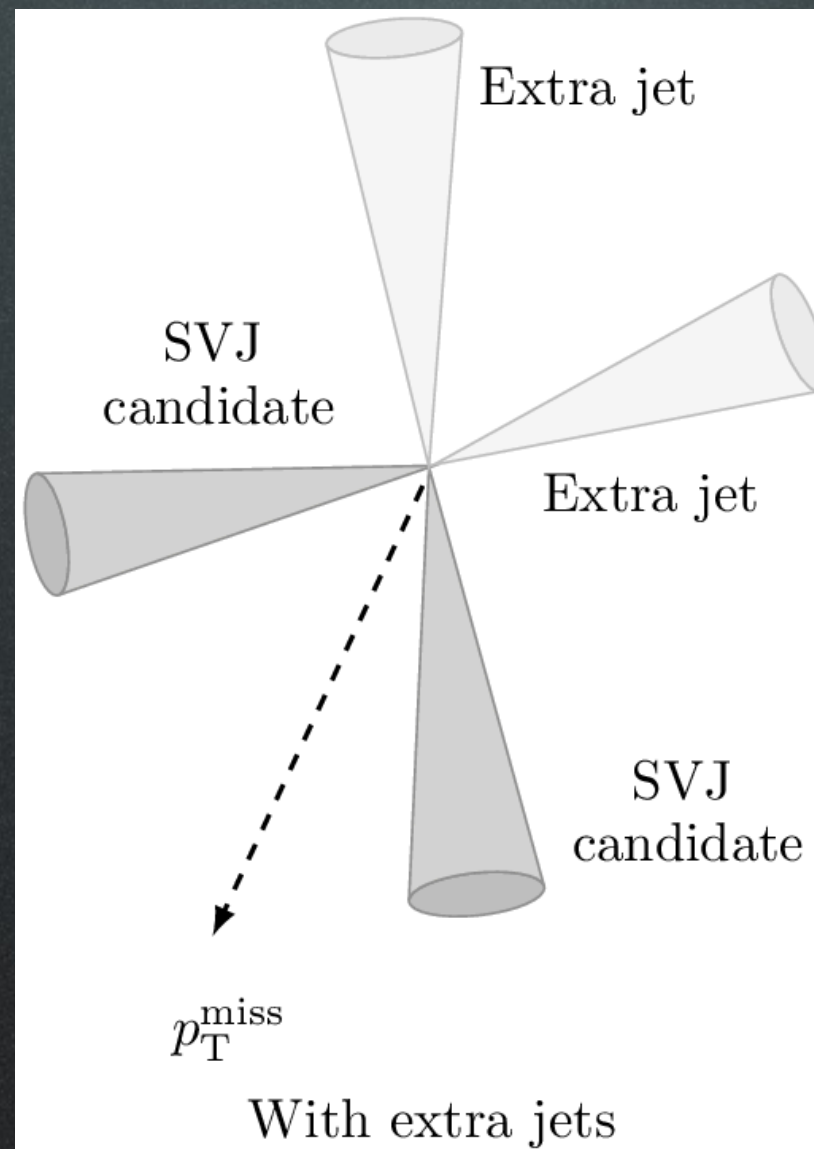
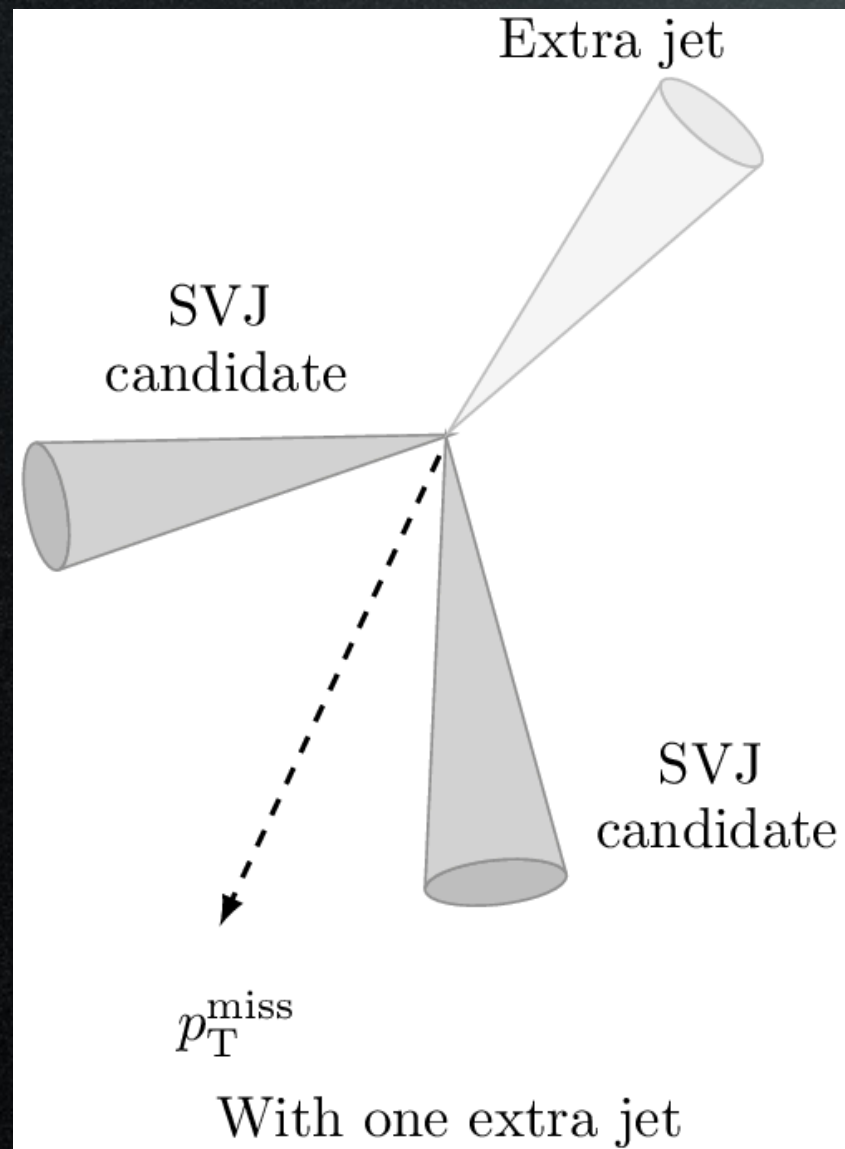


Same fraction  
of dark hadrons  
In each jet

Why any **MET**?



# The topology and the challenges



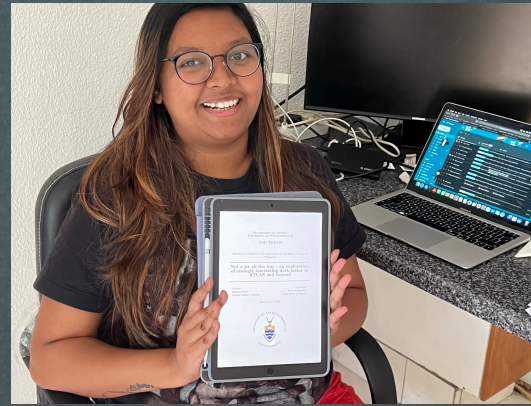
A real event will look like this!

Quantum fluctuations, and boost by extra jets

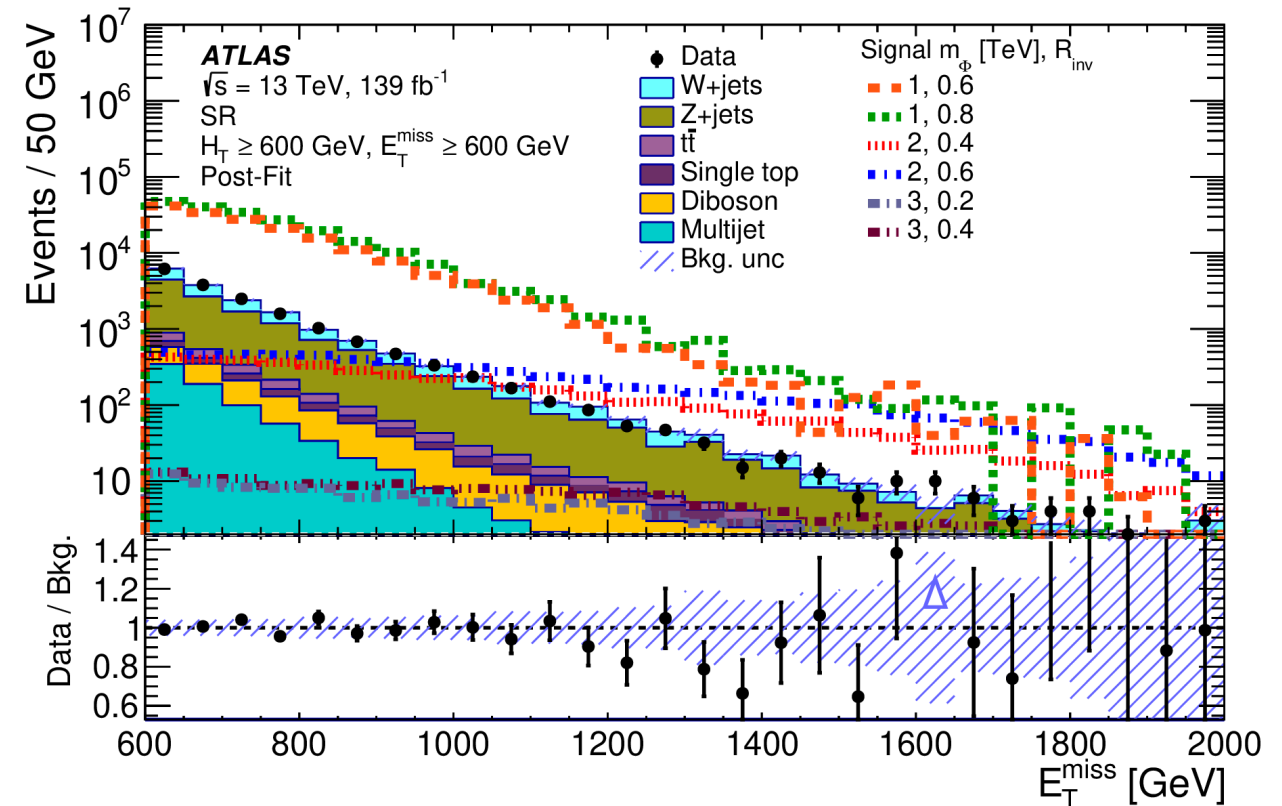
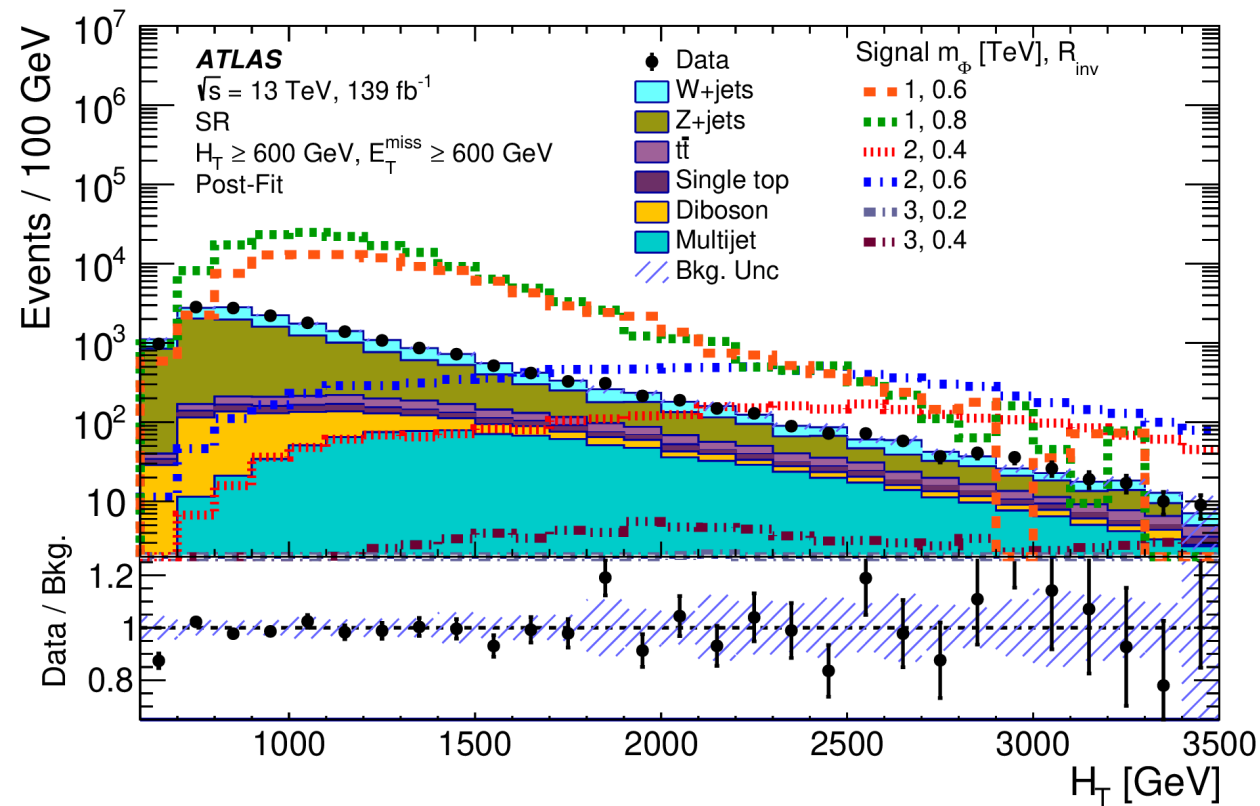
Therefore **MET**



# Results



Sukanya Sinha:  
former PhD student,  
now in UofM

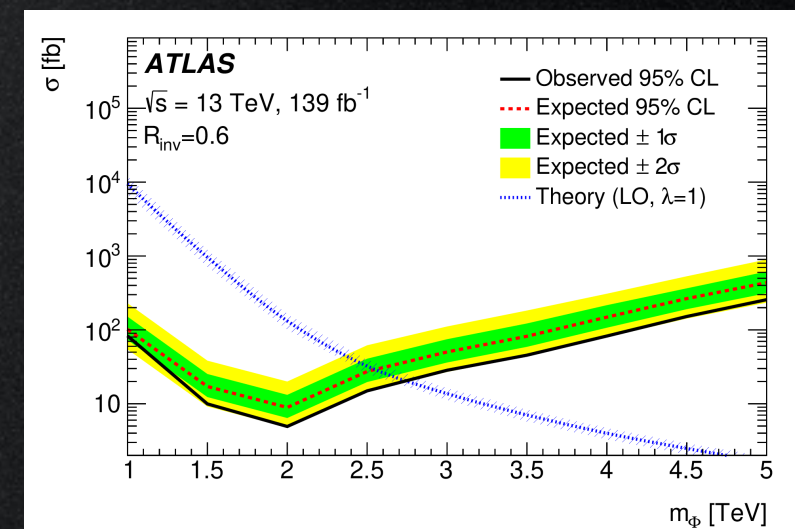
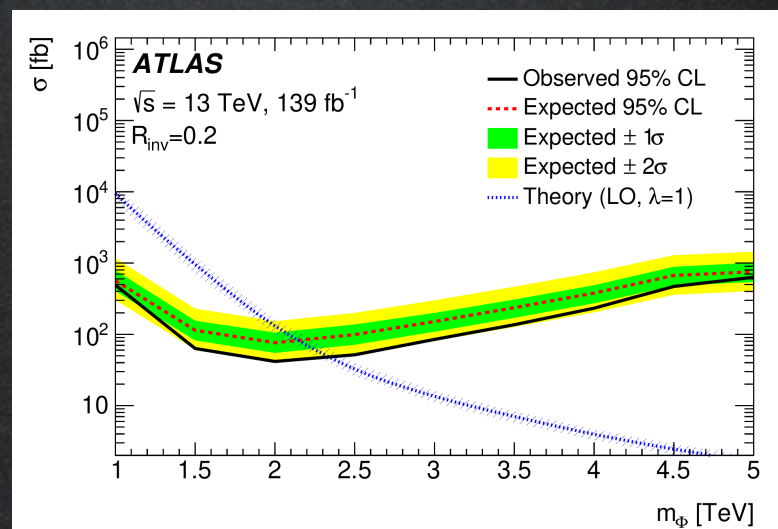
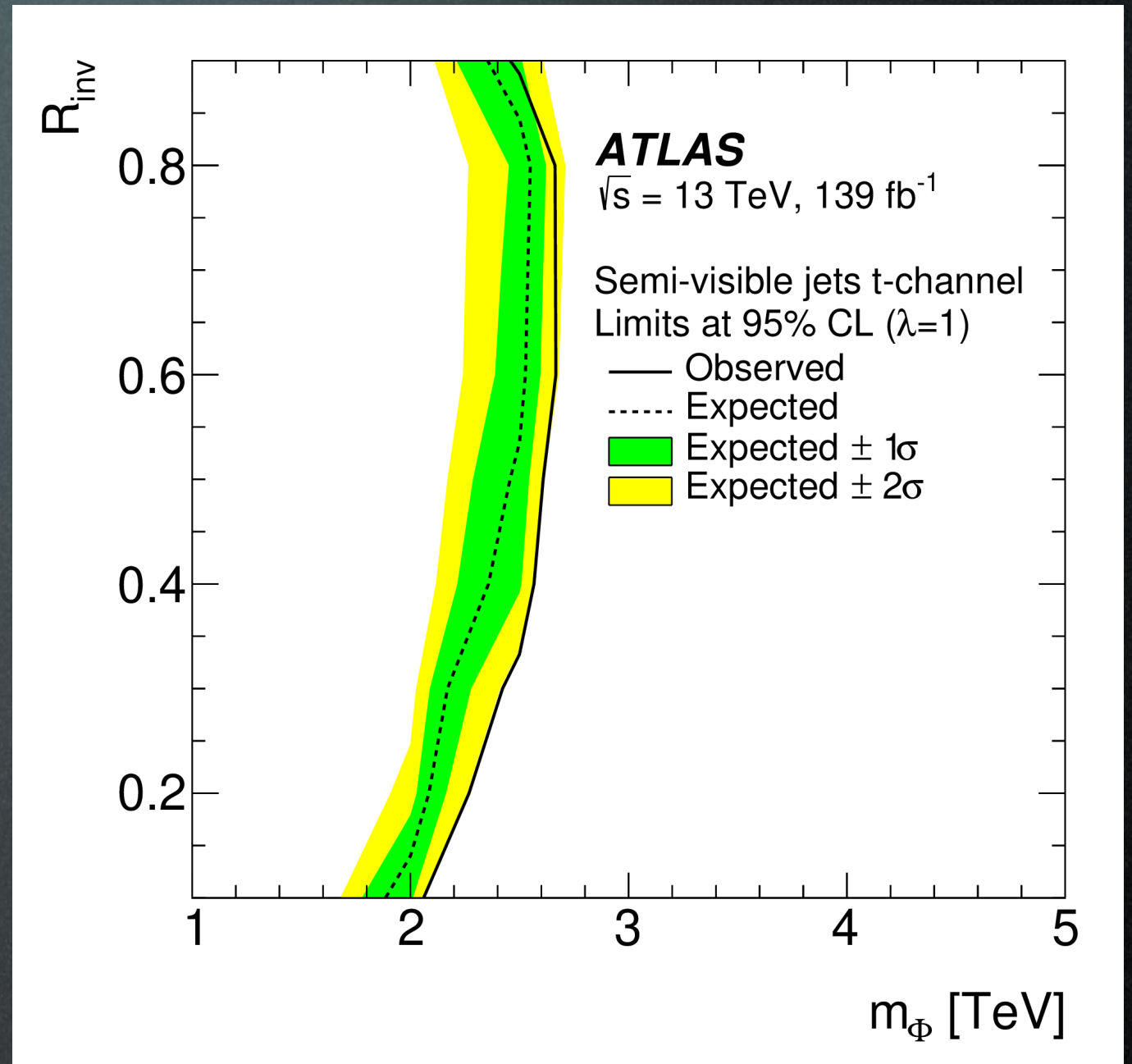


Excellent agreement between data and background prediction:  
 $H_T$  and MET



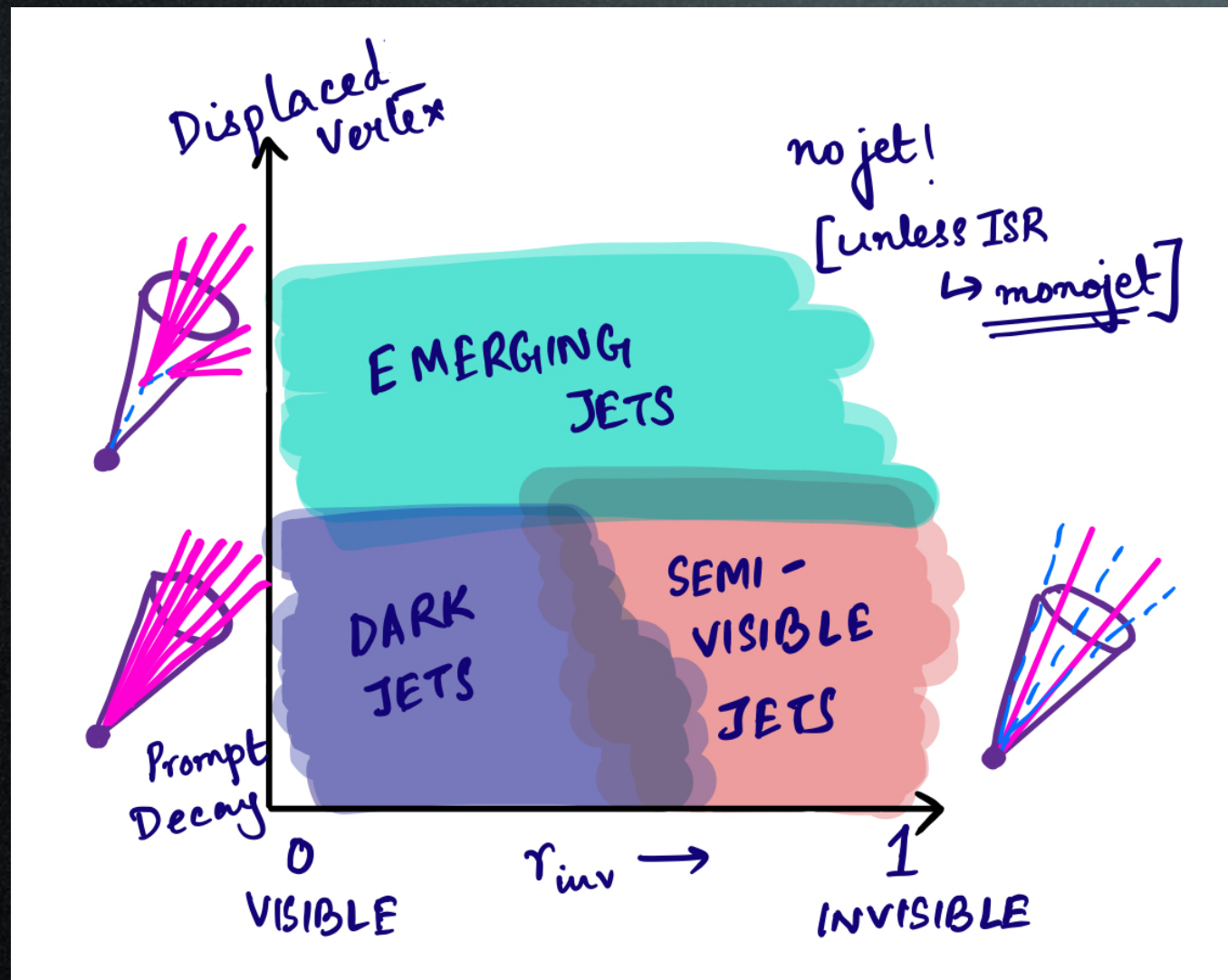
# Results

- ✦ Limits on mediator mass separately for each  $R_{\text{inv}}$
- ✦ Data yield in SR, proxy for model independent limit with this SR selections: 17388

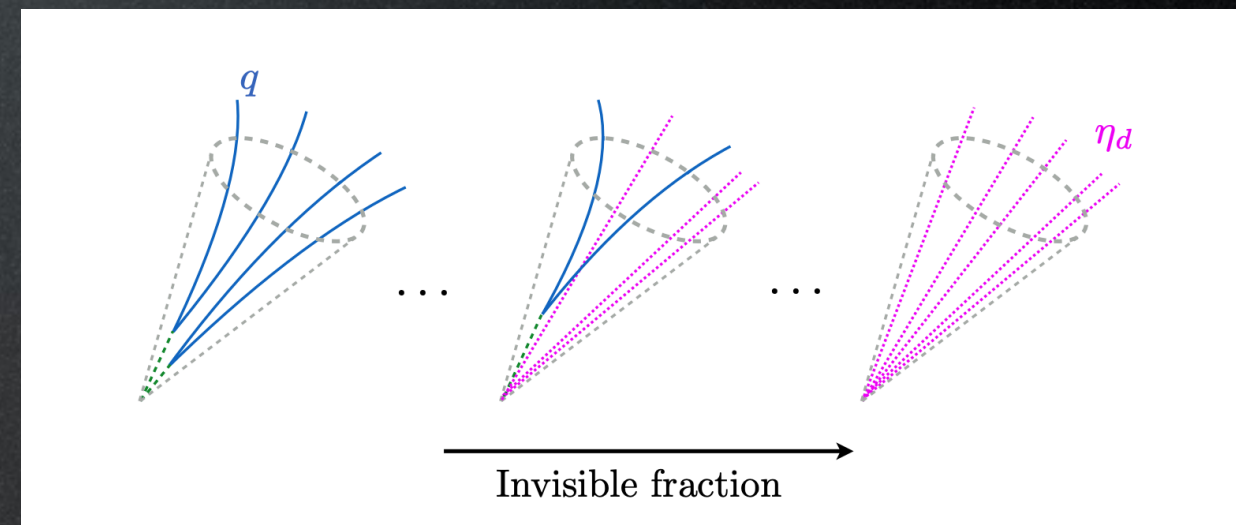




# Semi-visible jets!



Dark hadrons decaying in a QCD-like fashion, fully (dark jets) or partially back to visible sector (semi-visible jets, based on Cohen et al)



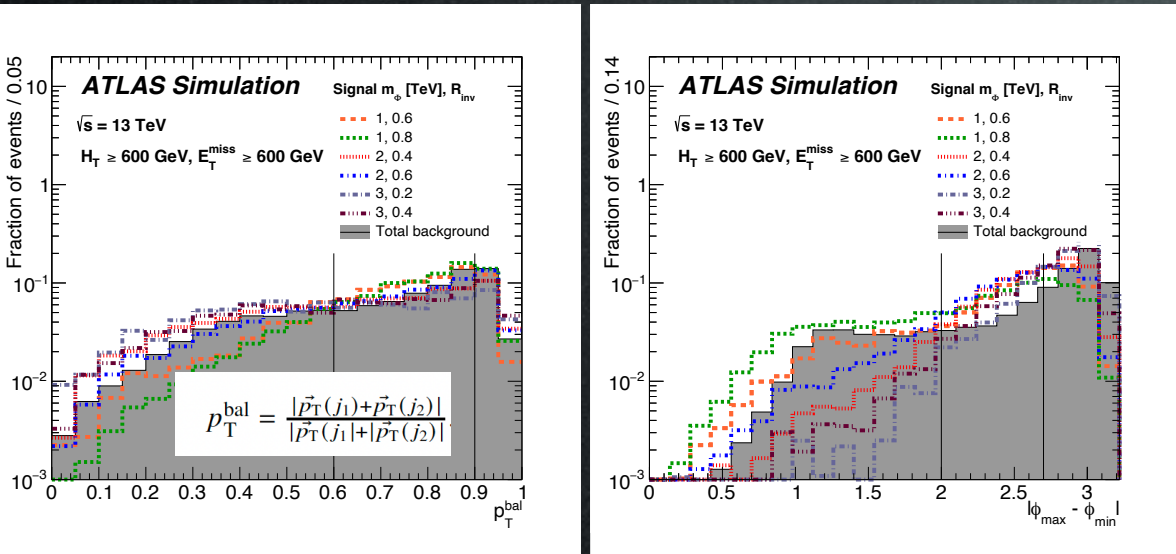
$R_{inv}$  = Ratio of stable dark hadrons over number of hadrons



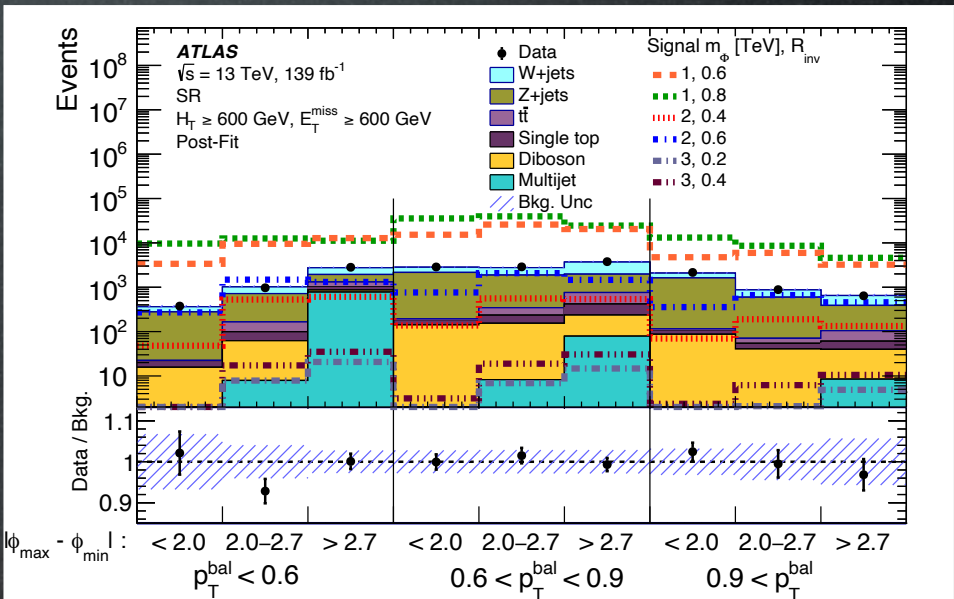
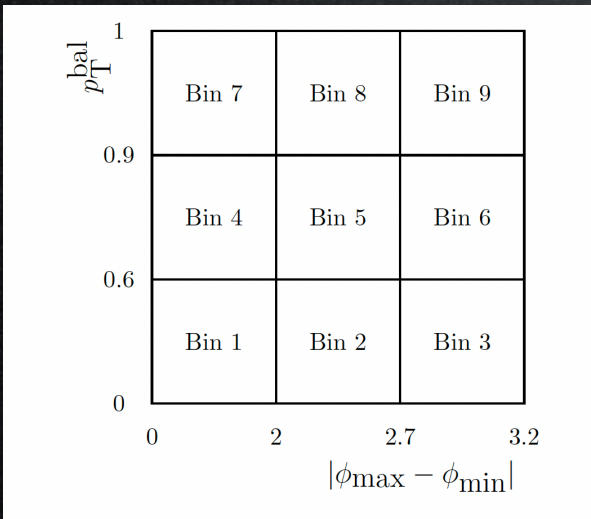
# Background Estimate

Two sensitive observables:

Partially data-driven method, simultaneously fit SR and three CRs to obtain scale factors for each bg process:



Used to Form a 9-bin grid, with yields in each bin treated as observables:



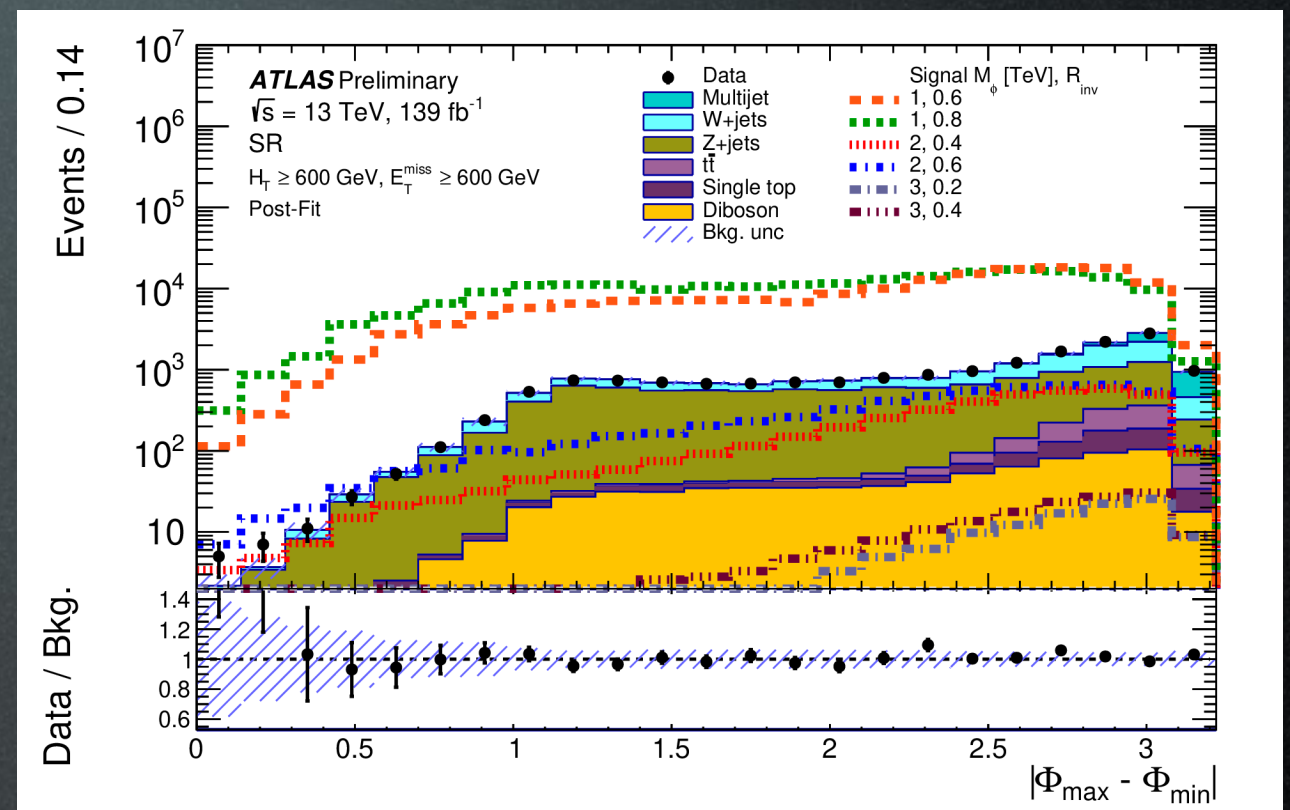
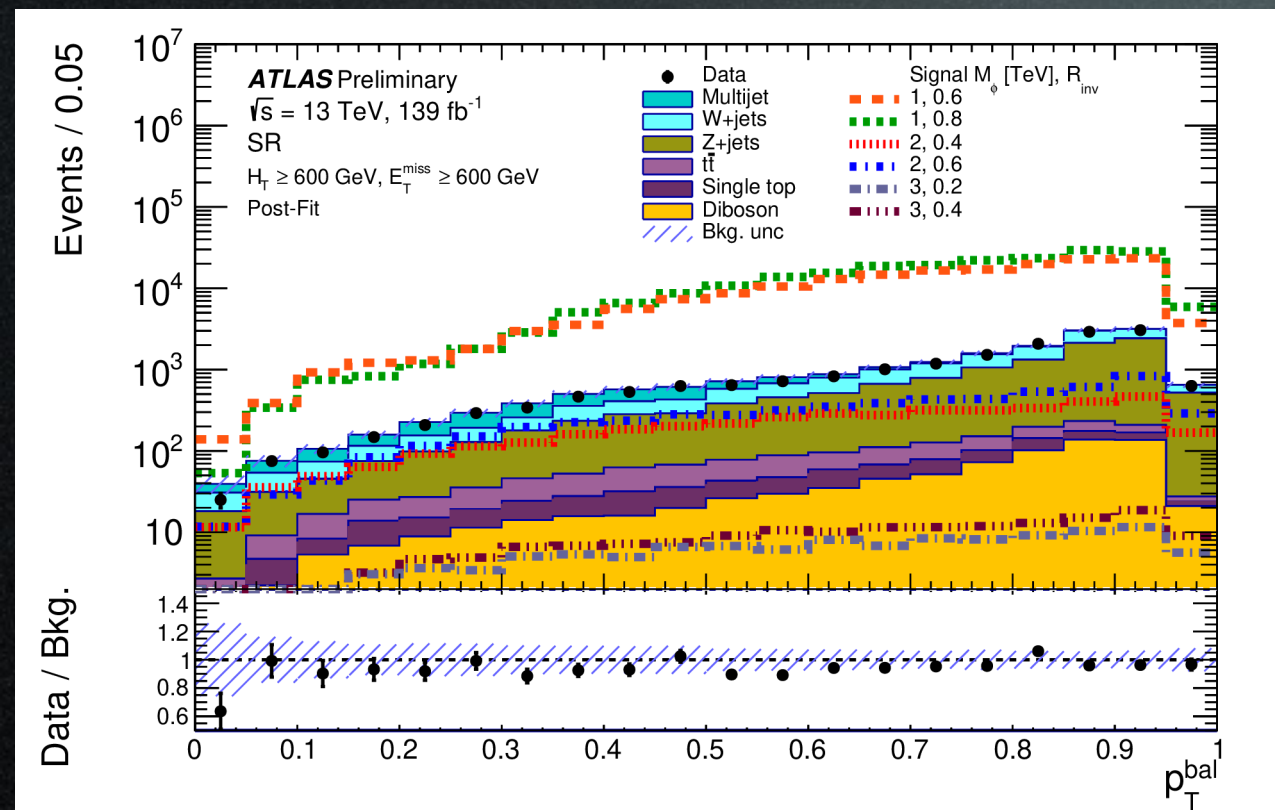
Process	$k^{\text{SF}}$
Z+jets	$1.18 \pm 0.05$
W+jets	$1.09 \pm 0.04$
Top processes	$0.64 \pm 0.04$
Multijet	$1.10 \pm 0.04$

Multijet reweighed in using a dedicated VR given by MET within 250 to 300 GeV, then fitted

Absence of signal, good postfit agreement :(



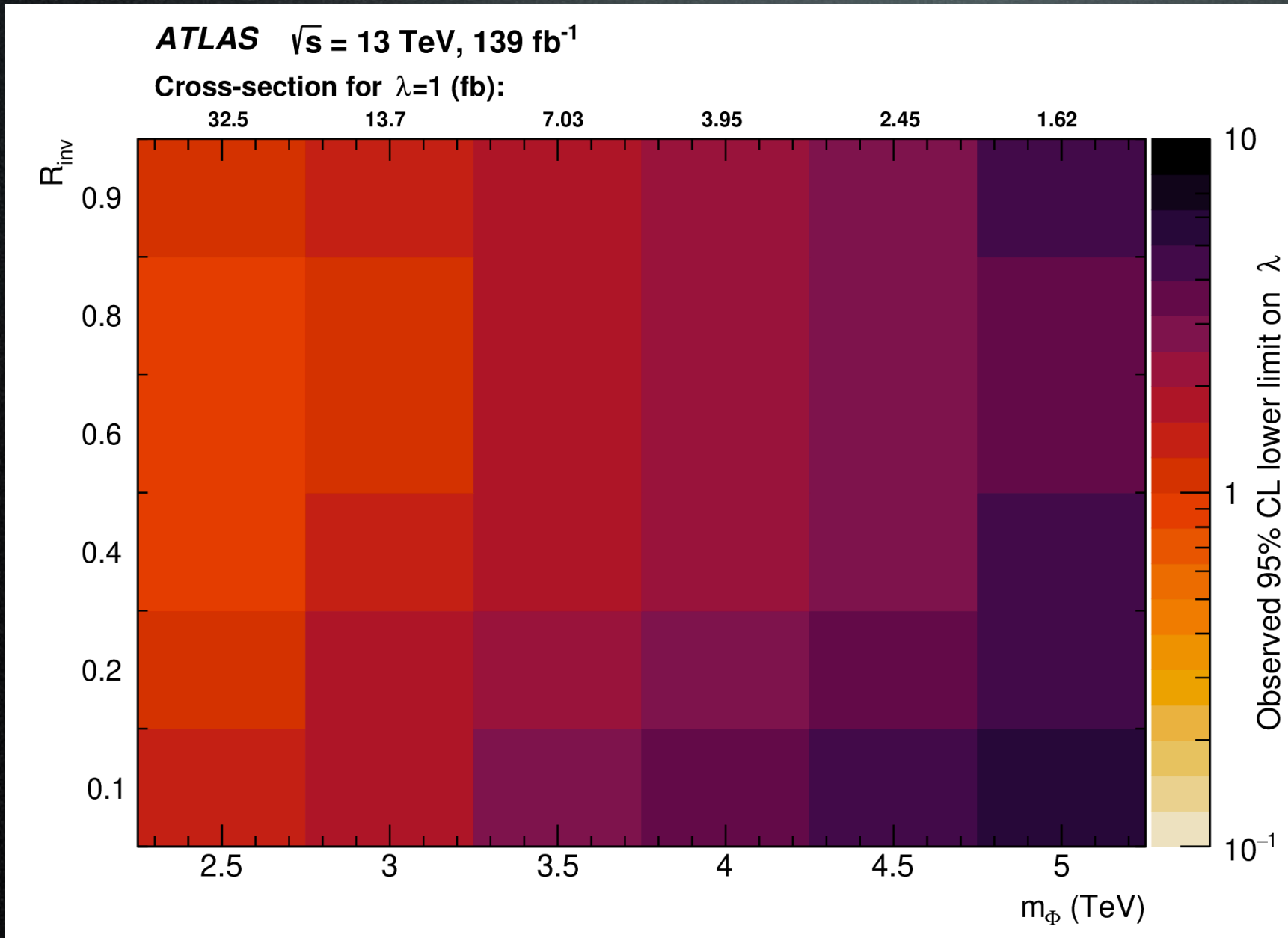
# ATLAS SVJ-t Results



Excellent agreement between data and background prediction:  
 $p_{T\text{balance}}$  and max-min  $\phi$



# ATLAS SVJ-t Results



For mediator mass of 2.5 TeV or higher can also express the limits in terms of the  $q$ - $q_d$ - $\phi$  vertex coupling strength  $\lambda$ , with the XS scaling as  $\lambda^4$