# Sensitivity of prompt searches to long-lived particles



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## Introduction

- Increasing interest in searches for long-lived particles, which are incredibly challenging analyses.
- Dealing with non-standard objects, have to provide their own calibration, systematics, data-driven method for instrumental backgrounds…
- All this leads to:

ATLAS SUSY papers : 128, long-lived: 19 ATLAS Exotics papers : 180, long-lived: 15

- Can we make use of the more numerous prompt searches to set limits on scenarios with long-lived particles?
- This is obviously sub-optimal in terms of sensitivity but allows to cover a wider model space without the need for dedicated year-long analyses
- Example RPV SUSY (18 papers), small couplings can easily lead to displaced decays but:

results. In all models, the RPV couplings and the SUSY particle masses are chosen to ensure prompt decays of the SUSY particles. Diagrams of the first three benchmark simplified models, which involve

s section ranges from  $175 \pm 23$  fb for a  $\tilde{t}$  mass The generated stops decay promptly through

r. When optimizing the signal event selection,

THIS search targets a moder where the top squark is the lightest supersymmetric particle and decays through baryon-number-violating RPV  $\lambda''$  couplings,  $\tilde{t} \to \bar{q}_i \bar{q}_k$ . The couplings are assumed to be sufficiently large for the decays to be prompt, but small enough to neglect the single-top-squark resonant

missing transverse momentum, whose magnitude is referred to as  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . Only prompt decays of SUSY particles are considered. It is an extension of an earlier search performed by the ATLAS experiment [22]

# RPC to RPV transition

• RPV SUSY provides a great model to test the sensitivity of prompt searches to longlived decays:



- Is there a gap between RPC and prompt RPV SUSY? Are light gluinos or stops still allowed with small RPV couplings? **[ATLAS-CONF-2018-003](https://atlas.web.cern.ch/Atlas/GROUPS/PHYSICS/CONFNOTES/ATLAS-CONF-2018-003/)**
- Lifetime distribution is an exponential, everything that decays after the muon spectrometer is MET, looks exactly the same as RPC



## Signal models

- RPV SUSY, considering only baryon-number violating coupling UDD
- LSP is bino-like and  $m_{N1}=200$  GeV (allow top quark in the decay)
- LSP lifetime depends on λ" and choice of squark masses



# Signal models

- Additional R-hadron model inspired by split-SUSY
- In this model the gluino is long-lived and the neutralino stable, in previous slide the neutralino is long-lived



**R-hadron model**

• RPV SUSY models with small couplings feature both prompt and displaced decay products



# Suite of analyses

- All the RPC and prompt models are covered except for prompt Gqq (RPV 0L not ready on time)
- No dedicated analysis for the long-lived intermediate regime



#### Lifetime comparisons



# Systematics on displaced objects

- Displaced jet energy scale
	- Studied jet response in MC as a function of radial decay length
	- Almost no variation in response up to ~1m in radial decay length
	- Response increases linearly up to 30% above the nominal value at 1.6 m
	- Assign deviation as uncertainty, conservative as data might follow the same trend
- Displaced jet b-tagging
	- Run tracking variations on signal MC, assign deviation from nominal as systematic
	- Variation of 20% on SRs with ≥ 4 b-tags, and a signal with 1 ns lifetime
- Displaced lepton systematics
	- No systematic, leptons require impact parameter cuts  $(z_0$  and  $d_0$  significance) no acceptance of displaced leptons
- Missing energy uncertainties
	- Hard object systematics are propagated to MET
	- No uncertainty on soft term, tracks required to originate from primary vertex
	- No uncertainty on MET trigger, no variation seen on trigger efficiency turn-on



## Results Gqq model

- RPC 0L 2-6 jets provides strong limits until the signal produces no MET
- Gluino mass limits drop 2 TeV  $\rightarrow$  1 TeV with a neutralino lifetime of 1 ns
- Missing RPV 0L to cover the high side of the spectrum





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- RPC 0L 2-6 jets was the only analysis modified to retain efficiency to long-lived signals
- Forbidden by RGE: Phys. Lett. B 346 (1995) 69 Jet cleaning cut was based on track requirements, switched to energy fractions on calorimeter layers
- With the original cleaning, limit dropped 2 TeV  $\rightarrow$  1 TeV at 10 ns lifetime



#### Results Gtt model

- RPC multi-b and RPV 1L cover the full spectrum
- No gluino decaying to tops below 1.8 TeV !
- At high coupling values the decay is prompt and transitions from  $g \rightarrow t \tau_{\chi_1}(\rightarrow t \text{bs})$  to  $g \rightarrow t \text{bs}$





## Results stop model

- Neutralino lifetime and stop branching ratio depends on the stop mass, no second x-axis but contours
- Gap in sensitivity between RPC and prompt RPV regimes, no exclusion for neutralino lifetime of 1 ns. Equivalent to  $\lambda$ " ~10<sup>-4</sup> which is actually the prediction of [MFV SUSY,](https://arxiv.org/abs/1111.1239) very good motivation for new analyses
- At very high coupling, dijet sets very stringent limit on resonant stop production



#### Results R-hadron model

- RPC 0L 2-6 jets closes the gap at low gluino masses (red line)
- R-hadrons from gluinos below 1.5 TeV (and as high as 2.5 TeV) are excluded





## Reinterpretation

- Could we have done this with public data and without running the ATLAS simulation?
	- No, two main ingredients missing, efficiencies and systematics for displaced objects and b-tagging
- Could we provide enough information after this result for others to run such a reinterpretation?
	- Jet response and jet reconstruction efficiency as a function of radial decay length, including impact from JVT
	- B-tagging efficiency as a function of  $p<sub>T</sub>$  and decay length
	- Jet energy scale and b-tagging uncertainties
- Which of the previous ingredients are model-dependent? E.g. 2-prong vs 3-prong decays in R-hadron vs RPV signals.
- Up to here it seems feasible, but there are caveats (next slide)



## Reinterpretation

- Several cuts that are usually ~100% efficient have to be taken seriously when working with displaced signals, not easy to provide efficiencies for these
	- Analyses requiring/vetoing leptons, how to cut on displaced lepton  $d_0$  significance?
	- Angle between MET and track-MET?
	- Cosmic muon veto?
	- Jet/MET cleaning? Original cleaning was ~0% efficient for RPC 0L 2-6 jets analysis
- Very easy to accumulate two or three 25-30% inefficiencies, overestimate of the signal by a factor two if not accounted properly



Cutflow for the stop 0L analysis. The numbers given are the relative efficiency of each cut in per-cent.

#### **Conclusions**

- Presented a reinterpretation of prompt searches to long-lived SUSY signals.
- Prompt searches have some sensitivity to displaced signals. Clearly suboptimal but allows to set limits on uncovered models or parameter-space.
- Difficult to provide material for externals to perform such reinterpretations, specially for cuts designed to remove noise, cosmics or instrumental background
- Should keep in mind all these caveats when designing an analysis, can very easily lose acceptance to long-lived signals



## Backup



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# RPC 0L 2-6 jets jet cleaning

- Modified cleaning criteria led to much better sensitivity at moderate lifetimes
- R-hadron mass limit with 10 ns lifetime:  $1 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow 2 \text{ TeV}$  !

analysis rejects events from detector noise and non-collision background, if at least one of the two leading jets with  $p_T > 100$  GeV fails to satisfy the 'Tight' quality criteria, as described in Ref. [54]. This requirement places a cut on the jet charged particle fraction, defined as the ratio of the scalar sum of the  $p_T$  of the tracks associated with the jet to the jet  $p_T$ . This requirement introduces a high inefficiency for long-lived signals where displaced jets have no associated tracks, and is modified with respect to the original result. The modified requirement is based on the longitudinal calorimeter-sampling profile of these jets, and has been used in ATLAS searches for long-lived particles [15]. The two leading jets are required to have less than 96% of their energy in the electromagnetic calorimeter and less than 80% of their energy in a single calorimeter layer.



## Signal models

• Signals simulated with aMC@NLO\_MG5+Pythia8 and run through full ATLAS simulation



Summary of signal models. First and second generation squark masses are assumed to be degenerate ( $\tilde{q} = \tilde{u}$ ,  $\tilde{d}$ ,  $\tilde{s}$ ,  $\tilde{c}$ ). Left- and right-handed superpartner masses are also assumed to be degenerate ( $\tilde{q}$ =  $\tilde{q}$ 1,  $\tilde{q}$ 2), except for the stop model where the righthanded top quark partner is assumed to be lighter.

#### Suite of analyses



Main characteristics of the most sensitive signal region per analysis. Only an illustrative subset of the cuts that define each signal region are included here. A dash (–) is used to indicate that the variable is not used in the analysis selection. The requirement of two same-sign leptons is denoted as SS. The variables used to illustrate the signal region selections are defined in the text.

#### Cutflow RPC 0L 2-6 jets



Cutflow for the 0-lepton Meff4j-3000 signal region, considering a signal in the Gqq model with m( $\tilde{g}$ , $\tilde{\chi}$ 10) = (1800,200) GeV, and different neutralino lifetimes. The numbers given are the relative efficiency of each cut in per-cent.

• Updated cleaning cut has ~70% efficiency for 1 ns lifetime, original cleaning cut had ~0% efficiency



#### Cutflow RPV 1L



Cutflow for the RPV 1L analysis, considering a signal in the Gtt model with m( $\tilde{g}$ , $\tilde{\chi}$ 10) = (1800, 200) GeV, and different lifetimes and branching fractions. The BR in the column headers refer to BR( $\tilde{g} \rightarrow$  tbs). The numbers given are the relative efficiency of each cut in per-cent.



Cutflow for the RPV 1L analysis, considering a signal in the stop model with m( $\tilde{t}$ 1, $\tilde{\chi}$ 10) = (800, 200) GeV, and different lifetimes and branching fractions. The BR in the column headers refer to BR( $t_1 \rightarrow b$ s). The numbers given are the relative efficiency of each cut in per-cent.

#### Cutflow RPC stop 0L



Cutflow for the stop 0L analysis, considering a signal in the stop model with  $m(I_1,\tilde{\chi}10) = (600, 200)$  GeV, and different lifetimes. The numbers given are the relative efficiency of each cut in per-cent. The DxAOD skimming step requires at least one of the following four criteria to be fullfilled: HT > 150 GeV; at least one loose electron with pT > 100 GeV or at least two loose electrons with pT > 20 GeV; at least one muon with pT > 100 GeV or at least two muons with pT > 20 GeV; or at least one photon with pT > 100 GeV or at least two photons with pT > 50 GeV.

## Cutflow RPC stop 1L



Cutflow for the stop 1L analysis, considering a signal in the stop model with  $m(I_1,\tilde{\chi}10) = (700, 200)$  GeV, and different lifetimes. The numbers given are the relative efficiency of each cut in per-cent. The DxAOD skimming step requires at least one of the following criteria to be fullfilled: one of the ETmiss triggers has fired and there is at least one loose muon (electron) with pT > 3.5 (4.5) GeV; or one of the ETmiss or lepton triggers has fired and there is at least one loose lepton with pT > 25 GeV.

#### Cutflow RPC 0L 2-6 jets, R-hadron



Cutflow for the 0-lepton Meff4j-3000 signal region, considering a signal in the R-hadron model with m( $\tilde{g}$ , $\tilde{\chi}$ 10) = (1800,100) GeV, and different R-hadron lifetimes. The numbers given are the relative efficiency of each cut in per-cent.

