

# Basil Schneider

## contact

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## languages

German (native)  
English (fluent)  
French (moderate)

## computing

Linux  
C++, Python  
Root, RooFit, RooStats  
bash, sed, awk  
git, svn  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
VHDL

## besides physics

Cycling  
Hiking  
Music

## education & employment

- Nov '14 - now **Postdoctoral Fellow** at the **ATLAS experiment** TRIUMF
- Jan '11 - Jul '14 **Ph.D.** at the **ATLAS experiment** University of Bern  
Ph.D. Thesis: A general approach to search for supersymmetry at the LHC by combining signal enhanced kinematic regions using the ATLAS detector (Supervisor: Prof. A. Ereditato)
- Sep '08 - Mar '10 **Master** of Science in **Theoretical Physics** ETH Zurich  
Master Thesis: The partition function of meromorphic conformal field theories at higher genus (Supervisor: Prof. M. Gaberdiel)
- Oct '04 - Sep '08 **Bachelor** of Science in **Experimental Physics** ETH Zurich  
Bachelor Thesis: Untersuchung der Cluster-Struktur von Elastomerpartikeln durch Simulation des Aggregationsvorganges und Partikelgrößen mittels dynamic light scattering (Supervisor: Dr. Cornelius Gauer)
- Sep '04 **Comprehensive entrance exam** ETH Zurich  
Exam at the level of a Matura

## conferences

- Jun '15 **USATLAS Workshop at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**  
Invited speaker for plenary session: "Supersymmetry in run 2"
- May '15 **Mitchell Workshop on Collider and Dark Matter Physics**  
Speaker: "Supersymmetry searches in ATLAS"
- May '13 **1<sup>st</sup> LHC Physics Conference, Barcelona, Spain**  
Poster: "Search for direct production of charginos and neutralinos in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in 21 fb<sup>-1</sup> of pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 8$  TeV with the ATLAS detector"
- Jun '12 **Swiss Physical Society**  
Speaker: "New Optical receiver modules for the insertable B-Layer at the ATLAS project"
- Jun '11 **Physics at LHC, Perugia, Italy**  
Poster: "SUSY Searches at ATLAS in Multilepton Final States with Jets and Missing Transverse Energy"
- Jun '11 **Swiss Physical Society**  
Speaker: "Insertable b-Layer: A new layer for the ATLAS detector at CERN"

## organization

- Sep '11 **Co-organizer of outreach event: Nacht der Forschung**  
Performing experiments in public and discussing results
- Aug '12 **Co-organizer of workshop: SUSY Statistical Interpretations workshop**  
Wrap up lessons learned in previous round of publications and spot possible improvements for next round

## Supervision

Dec '12 - Mar' 14	<b>Benjamin Gerber</b> MSc student, University of Bern
Nov '14 - now	<b>Matthew Gignac</b> PhD student, University of British Columbia
Dec '14 - now	<b>Felix Cormier</b> MSc student, University of British Columbia

## teaching

Jan '11 - now	<b>Lab Course</b> Supervising and assisting Physics undergraduate students working on fundamental experiments in mechanics and electronics	University of Bern
Jan '11 - now	<b>Physics for Biologists</b> Assisting 1 <sup>st</sup> year Physics course	University of Bern
Jul '11 - now	<b>Private lessons for high-school graduates</b> Private lessons in Mathematics, Statistics and Physics	Interlink Schulberatung GmbH
2007/2008	<b>Teaching assistant</b> Teaching assistant for environmental science students in Calculus	ETH Zurich

## papers

I am co-author of 302 ATLAS publications; for a full list, see

<http://inspirehep.net/author/profile/B.Schneider.1>

Publications where my contributions are substantial:

May '14	Search for supersymmetry in events with four or more leptons in $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV pp collisions with the ATLAS detector	arXiv:1405.5086 [hep-ex]
Feb '14	Search for direct production of charginos and neutralinos in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV pp collisions with the ATLAS detector	JHEP04(2014)169
Aug '12	Search for direct production of charginos and neutralinos in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV pp collisions with the ATLAS detector	Phys.Lett. B718 (2013) 841-859

## public notes

Jul '15	First look at proton proton collision data at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV in preparation for a search for squarks and gluinos in events with missing transverse energy, jets, and an isolated electron or muon	ATL-PHYS-PUB-2015-029
Mar '15	Expected sensitivity studies for gluino and squark searches using the early LHC 13 TeV Run-2 dataset with the ATLAS experiment	ATL-PHYS-PUB-2015-005
Jun '14	A general approach to search for supersymmetry at the LHC by combining signal enhanced kinematic regions using the ATLAS detector (PhD thesis)	CERN-THESIS-2014-056
Mar '13	Search for supersymmetry in events with four or more leptons in 21 fb <sup>-1</sup> of pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATLAS-CONF-2013-036
Mar '13	Search for direct production of charginos and neutralinos in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in 21 fb <sup>-1</sup> of pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATLAS-CONF-2013-035
Nov '12	Search for direct production of charginos and neutralinos in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in 13.0 fb <sup>-1</sup> of pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATLAS-CONF-2012-154
Nov '12	Search for Supersymmetry in events with four or more leptons in 13 fb <sup>-1</sup> pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATLAS-CONF-2012-153

## proceedings

Jun '13	Search for direct production of charginos and neutralinos in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in 21 fb <sup>-1</sup> of pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATL-PHYS-PROC-2013-145
Nov '11	The ATLAS IBL BOC Demonstrator	ATL-INDET-PROC-2011-038
Oct '11	SUSY Searches at ATLAS in Multilepton Final States with Jets and Missing Transverse Energy	ATL-PHYS-PROC-2011-201

## internal notes

Jul '15	First look at proton proton collision data at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV in preparation for a search for squarks and gluinos in events with missing transverse energy, jets, and an isolated electron or muon	ATL-COM-PHYS-2015-718
May '15	ATLAS Large eta task force report	ATL-COM-UPGRADE-2015-013
Feb '15	Expected sensitivity of search for squarks and gluinos in events with isolated leptons, jets and missing transverse momentum at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATL-COM-PHYS-2015-133
Jan '15	Re-interpretations and combinations of electroweak limits in 20.3 fb <sup>-1</sup> pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATL-COM-PHYS-2015-011
Dec '13	Search for supersymmetry in events with four or more leptons in $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV pp collisions with the ATLAS detector	ATL-COM-PHYS-2013-1621
Oct '13	Search for supersymmetry in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in 21 fb <sup>-1</sup> pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATL-PHYS-INT-2013-021
Jul '13	Search for supersymmetry in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in 20.3 fb <sup>-1</sup> pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATL-COM-PHYS-2013-888
Dec '12	Search for Supersymmetry in events with four or more leptons in 20.7 fb <sup>-1</sup> pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATL-COM-PHYS-2012-1819
Dec '12	Search for Supersymmetry in events with four or more leptons in 13 fb <sup>-1</sup> pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATL-PHYS-INT-2012-096
Dec '12	Search for supersymmetry in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in 13 fb <sup>-1</sup> pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector	ATL-PHYS-INT-2012-095
Sep '12	SUSY Searches in the Final States with Three Leptons and Missing Transverse Momentum at ATLAS	ATL-PHYS-INT-2012-059

## references

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## outreach

- Nov '13 - now      **Official ATLAS underground guide**
- Mar '12 - Mar '13    **Masterclasses**  
Helping high school students performing measurements on real data from LHC
- Sep '11                **Nacht der Forschung**  
Presenting LHC physics on a poster and answering questions of the public in a research outreach event at the University of Bern

## awards

- Mar '15                **Faculty award winner of the University of Bern**  
Award for the best PhD thesis in physics at the University of Bern in the year 2014

## Research statement

### Physics program

Despite its success, the Standard Model of Particle Physics is known to be only an effective theory. The most well known extension to the Standard Model is Supersymmetry (SUSY). It could solve several shortcomings of the Standard Model, most notably the hierarchy problem and the missing dark matter candidate. The understanding of the nature of dark matter is one of the biggest goals of physics right now. Even when it would not be explained within SUSY, searches for SUSY particles cover a wide range of the phase-space, due to its nature with many unknown parameters. Now that we discovered the Higgs Boson, SUSY searches will become the driving force for finding hitherto unknown particles. It is of outmost importance to carry on these efforts, even when first searches didn't show any hint of SUSY particles. The unknown SUSY breaking mechanism could drive the particles to higher masses without interfering with naturalness arguments.

Strongly charged SUSY particles have the highest production cross-section for a given mass at the LHC. However, no signs of these particles have been found so far and it might be that electroweak SUSY particles have a considerable lower mass and become the dominant SUSY process at the LHC. During my term as a PhD student at the University of Bern I mainly worked on an electroweak SUSY search in a final state with three leptons. I developed a method to optimize and bin a signal region. By applying my method, I successfully pushed existing exclusion limits on SUSY particle masses by about 100 GeV in a specific model, without the use of additional data. I was the leading analyst in this search and also carried out the statistical interpretation of the search results. The paper was published in JHEP and also presented in the CERN courier journal. In total I worked on three papers and four ATLAS-CONF notes, all with a final state of either three or four leptons. For two publications, I represented the analysis group on a SUSY approval. I'm still working in close collaboration with the SUSY electroweak group, where I'm sometimes consulted as an expert.

When the LHC underwent a technical overhaul, the center of mass energy raised from 8 TeV to 13 TeV. The cross-section ratio gain is by far the largest for strongly produced SUSY particles. In a PUB note, it was shown that for a final state with one lepton, even a few inverse femtobarn are enough, to have the same sensitivity as the full 8 TeV dataset.

### Detector

As a PhD student I worked on the readout electronics of the insertable *b*-layer (IBL). I tested optical receivers to be used for the readout for reliability, frequency and input sensitivity. I defined the tests and performed them, using amongst others FPGAs. To document the tests

of the optical receivers, I set up a Twiki site and presented the results on two different IBL general meetings. The University of Bern joined the IBL effort while I was a student there. I partly built up the hardware activities. With my efforts, the lab became known throughout the IBL community. The University of Bern is still active in this field and considered as expert in terms of optical receivers, thanks to my contributions.

For my postdoctoral fellow position at TRIUMF, I joined the Inner Tracker (ITk) effort, a new tracker to be implemented during the phase 2 upgrade for the High Luminosity LHC around 2025. I started by using the validation software used for the present Inner Detector and applying it to ITk geometries and contributed to the studies to make a physics case for a large eta extension (up to  $\eta = 4$ ) of the ITk. This software package is still in development and I represent the ITk responsible.

I further studied the effects of a new algorithm called TIDE (Tracking in dense environments), which was developed for run 2. In using this new algorithm for ITk geometries, I can help make decisions on the not yet fully defined detector layout. I supervise a PhD student in studying efficiencies as a function of the number of pixel and strip layers. All these studies are an important input to the ITk community in defining the best layout of the inner tracker.