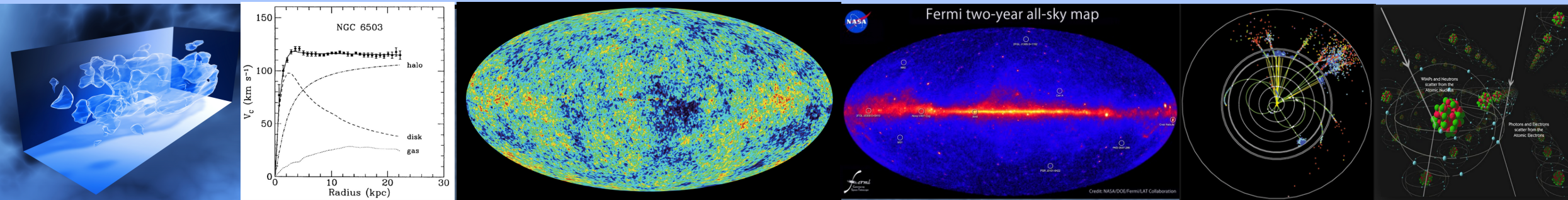




CNUGS

**APPLICATIONS DUE:
February 14, 2026**



Light Dark Matter searches

M. Battaglieri (INFN-Genova)

CNUGS 2026

May 26 - June 13, 2026
Jefferson Lab, Newport News, VA

Launching in 2026, CNUGS builds on the legacy of Hampton University's HUGS program with a re-imagined three-week format.

Join us for advanced training in nuclear and hadronic physics plus exciting new tracks in AI, machine learning, and data science—featuring an integrated AI/ML bootcamp and collaborative hackathon.

Acceptance into the program is competitive, with a limited number of scholarships contingent on grant support from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Topical Seminars

JLab Science: Present and Future
Doug Higinbotham (JLab)

Light Dark Matter
Marco Battaglieri (INFN Genova, Italy)

Global QCD Analysis
Zhihe Yu (BNL)

The Prad Experiment
Tyler Hague (JLab)

Full Lectures

Intro to QCD and Small-x Physics
Ming Li (HU)

Hadron Spectroscopy
TBC

Lattice QCD (5 hrs)
Kostas Orginos (W&M)

Mechanical Properties of Hadrons
Adam Freese (CNF)

Spin Structure of the Proton
TBC

**Experimental Symmetry Tests:
Parity Violation at JLab and Beyond**
Krishna Kumar (UMass, Amherst)

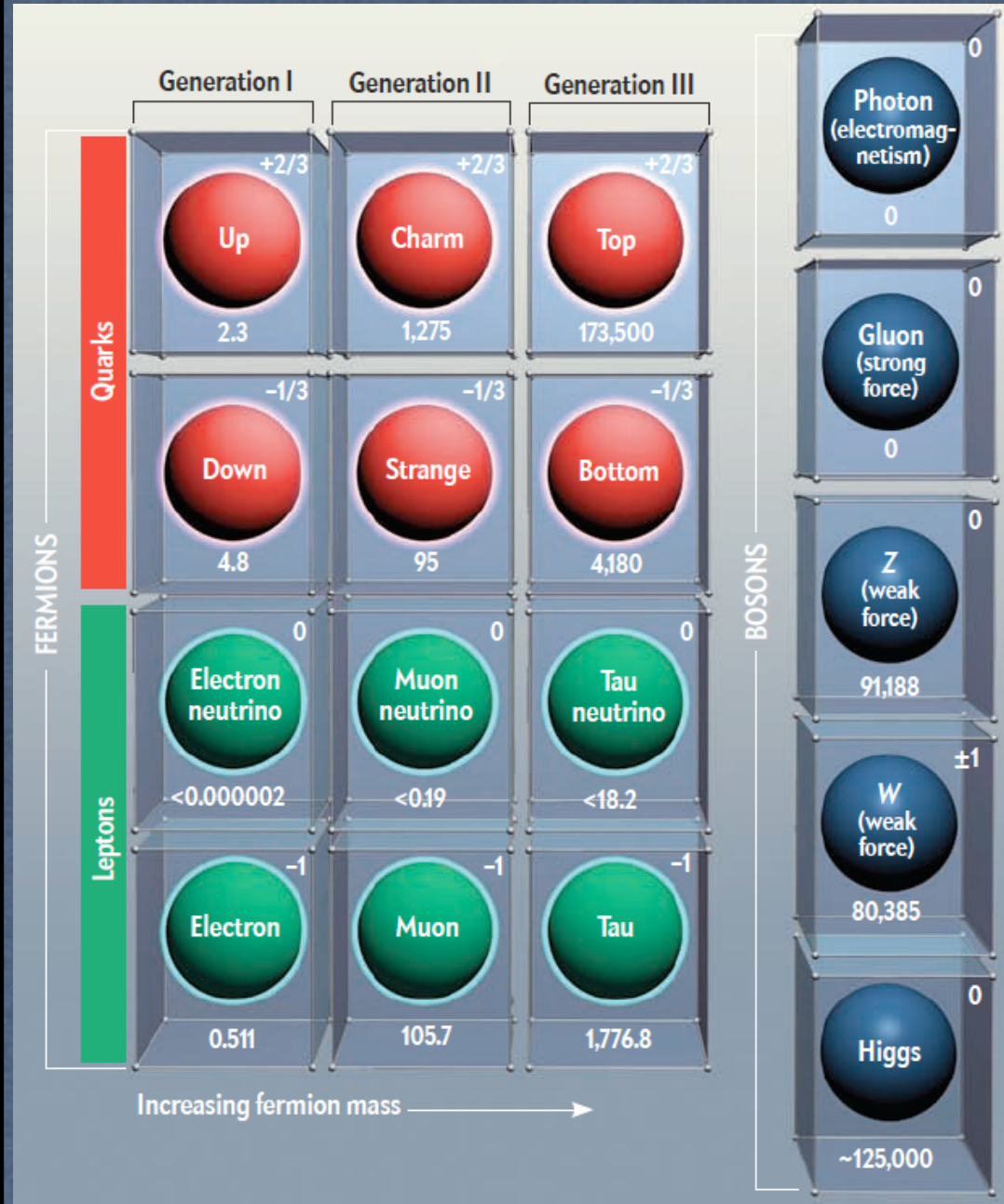
**AI/ML Bootcamp
& Hackathon**



OUTLOOK

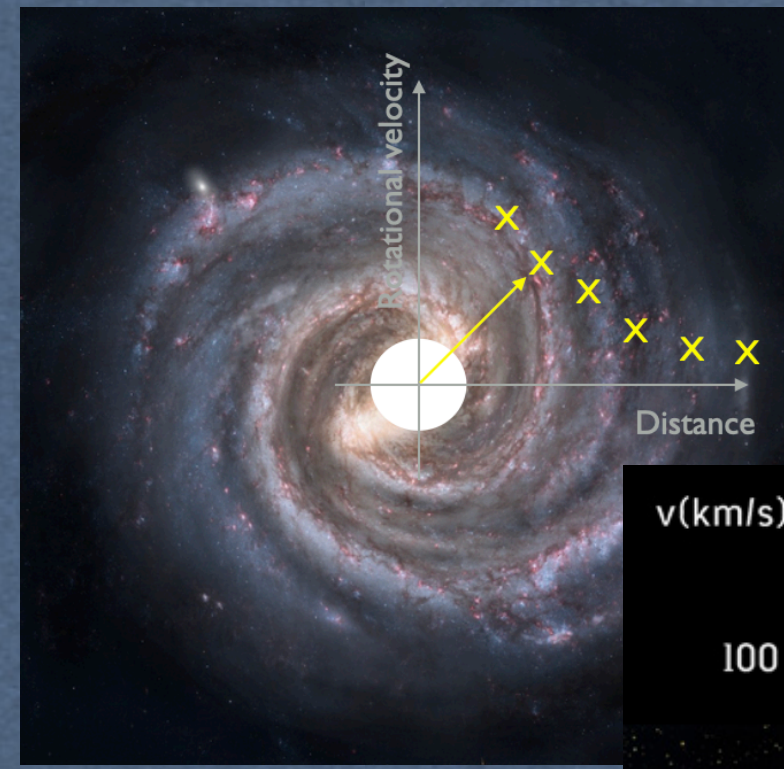
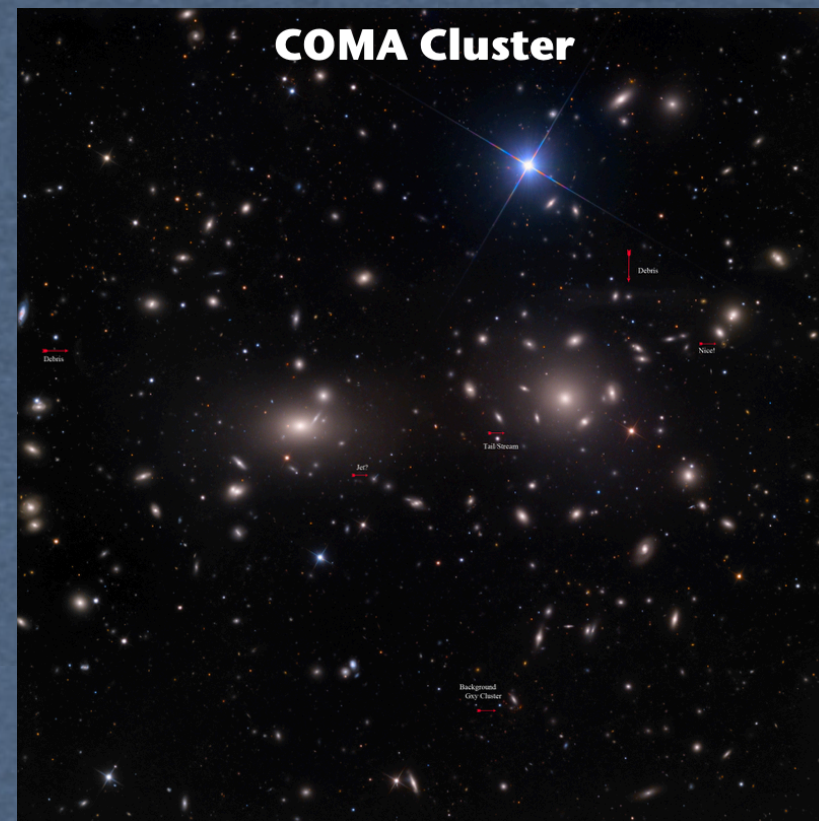
- The Dark Matter (DM) , thermal DM, Light DM and the fifth force (Dark Sector)
- LDM at accelerators (the high intensity frontier)
- Experimental techniques: fixed target experiments
- Completed and planned experiments
- Searching for visible and invisible LDM's decays
- Experimental techniques: pair production (bump hunting and vertexing), meson decays, beam dumps, positron annihilation, missing energy/momentum, secondary beams and search for other LDM flavours
- LDM searches at accelerators: status and plans

Standard Model of particles and interaction

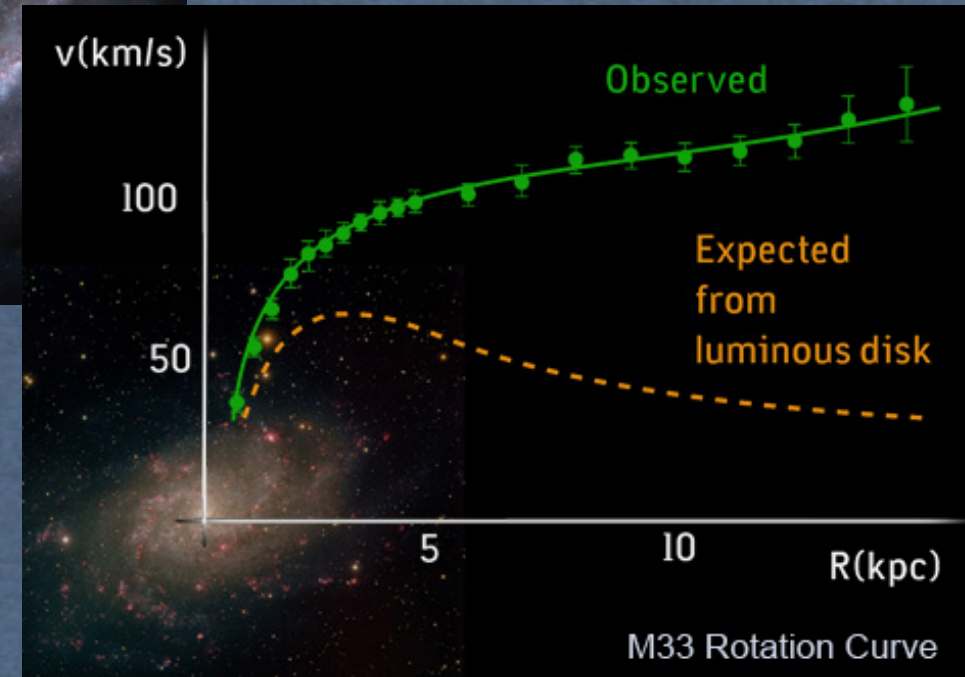


some anomalies ...

1935: Zwicky, Coma and Dark Matter
The gravity of the Stars is not enough to hold clusters together



1970s: Rubin and Flat Rotation Curves



beside visible matter there should be something else
➔ **DARK MATTER**

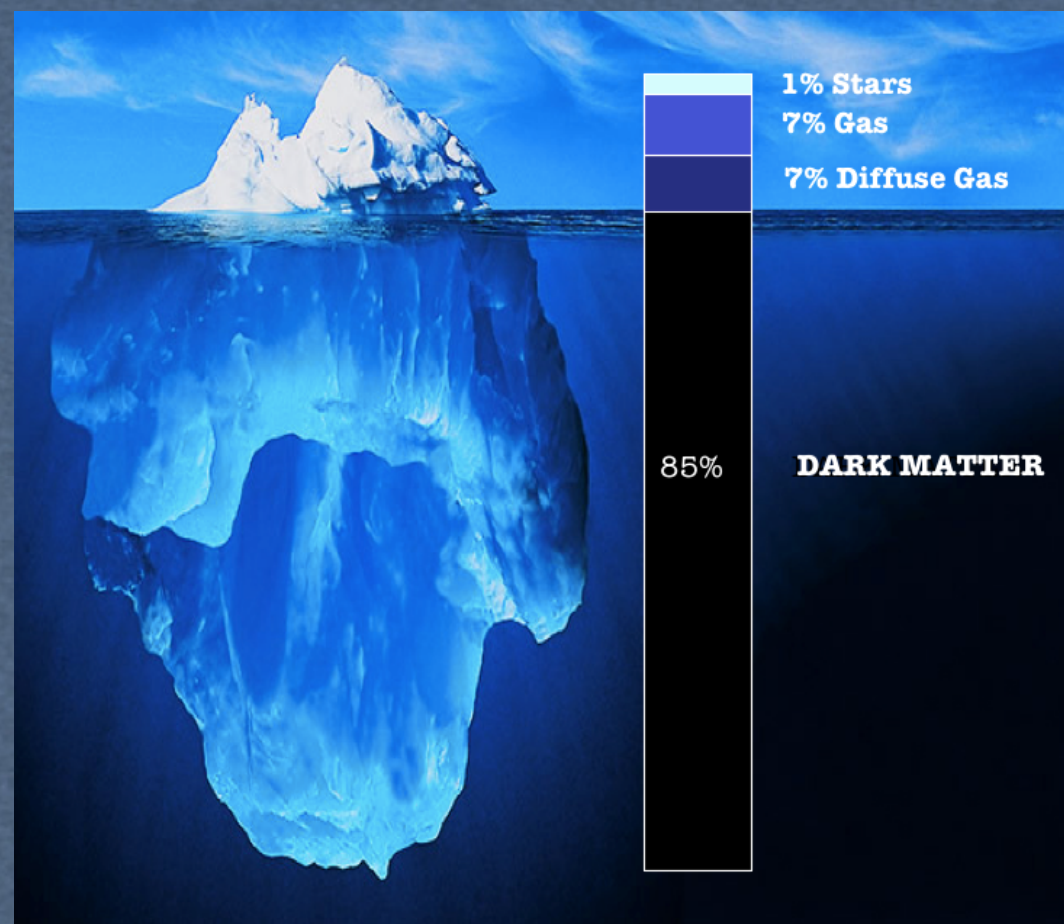
- ★ Gravitational lensing
- ★ Mass balance
- ★ CMB
- ★ Clusters of galaxies
- ★ Cluster collisions
- ★ ...

Compelling astrophysical indications about DM existence

More precise SM prediction
(g-2)_e
1 part over 10¹²

Dark Matter (DM) vs Baryonic Matter (BM)

★ How much DM w.r.t. BM?



★ Does DM participate to non-gravitational interactions?

★ Is DM a new particle?

★ Constraint on DM mass and interactions

- should be 'dark' (no em interaction)
- should weakly interact with SM particles
- should provide the correct relic abundance
- should be compatible with CMB power spectrum

... assuming that the gravity is not modified and DM undergoes to other interactions

★ We can use what we know about standard model particles to build a DM theory

Use the SM as an example: $SM = U(1)_{EM} \times SU(2)_{Weak} \times SU(3)_{Strong}$

Particles, interactions and symmetries

Known particles
& new force-carriers

Particles:
quarks, leptons

Force-carriers:
gluons, γ , W, Z, graviton (?), Higgs, ...

Two options:

- ★ **New matter** interacting through the **same forces**
- ★ **New matter** interacting through **new forces**

Any guess about the DM mass and interaction?

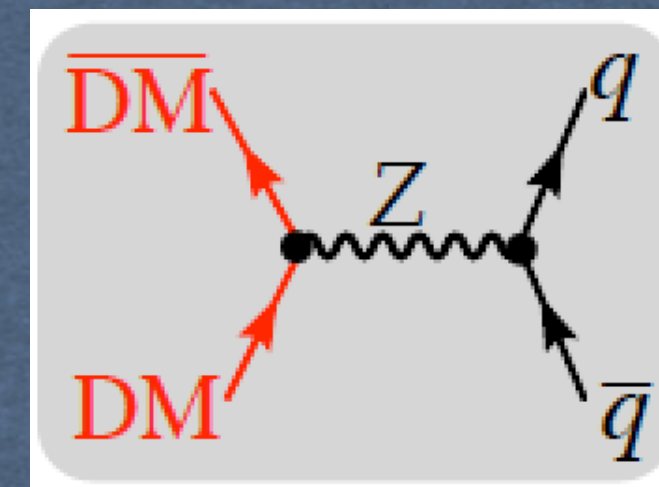
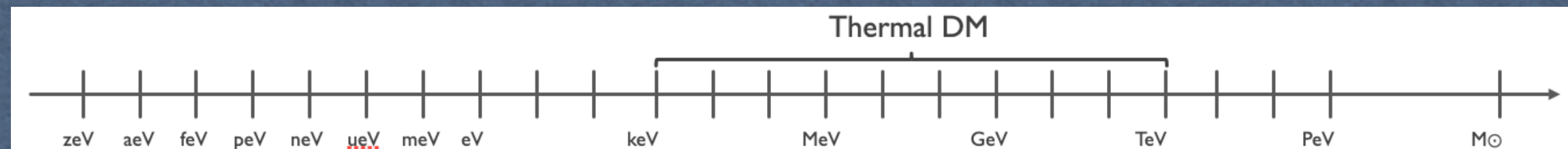
Yes, if we do a couple of assumptions:

- ★ DM thermal origin
in the early Universe DM was in thermal equilibrium with regular matter (via annihilation)
- ★ DM as thermal relic from the hot early Universe
Minimal DM abundance is left over to the present day

Correct DM density for an annihilation xsec: $\langle\sigma v\rangle \sim 3 \times 10^{-26} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s} \sim 1/(20 \text{ TeV})^2$

★ Mass constraints:

- mass too low: can not become non-relativistic in time
- mass too high: overproduced in early Universe



$$\langle\sigma v\rangle \sim M_{\text{DM}}^2/M_{\text{mediator}}^4$$

Any guess about the DM mass and interaction?

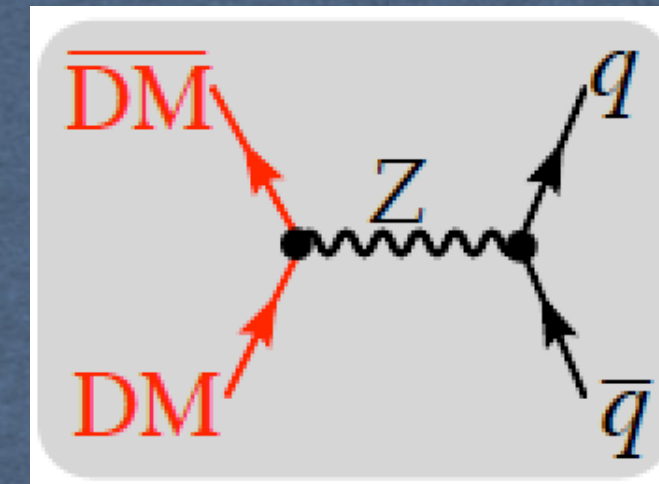
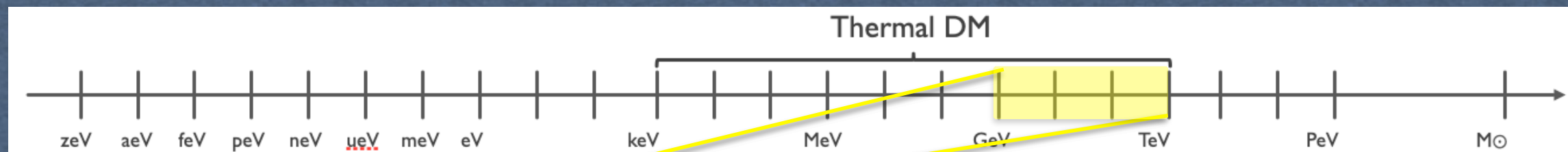
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$$\langle \sigma v \rangle \sim M_{\text{DM}}^2 / M_{\text{mediator}}^4$$

WIMPs (Weakly Interacting Massive Particles)

- Massive DM with massive mediator
- For $\sim 100 \text{ GeV}$ DM mass, weak-scale mediators provide reasonable annihilation rate and range of DM-scattering rates

Thermal origin suggests DM interactions and mass in the vicinity of the weak-scale

$$\sigma_n \sim \frac{\alpha_2^2 \mu_n^2}{m_Z^4} \sim 10^{-38} \text{ cm}^2$$

Z exchange

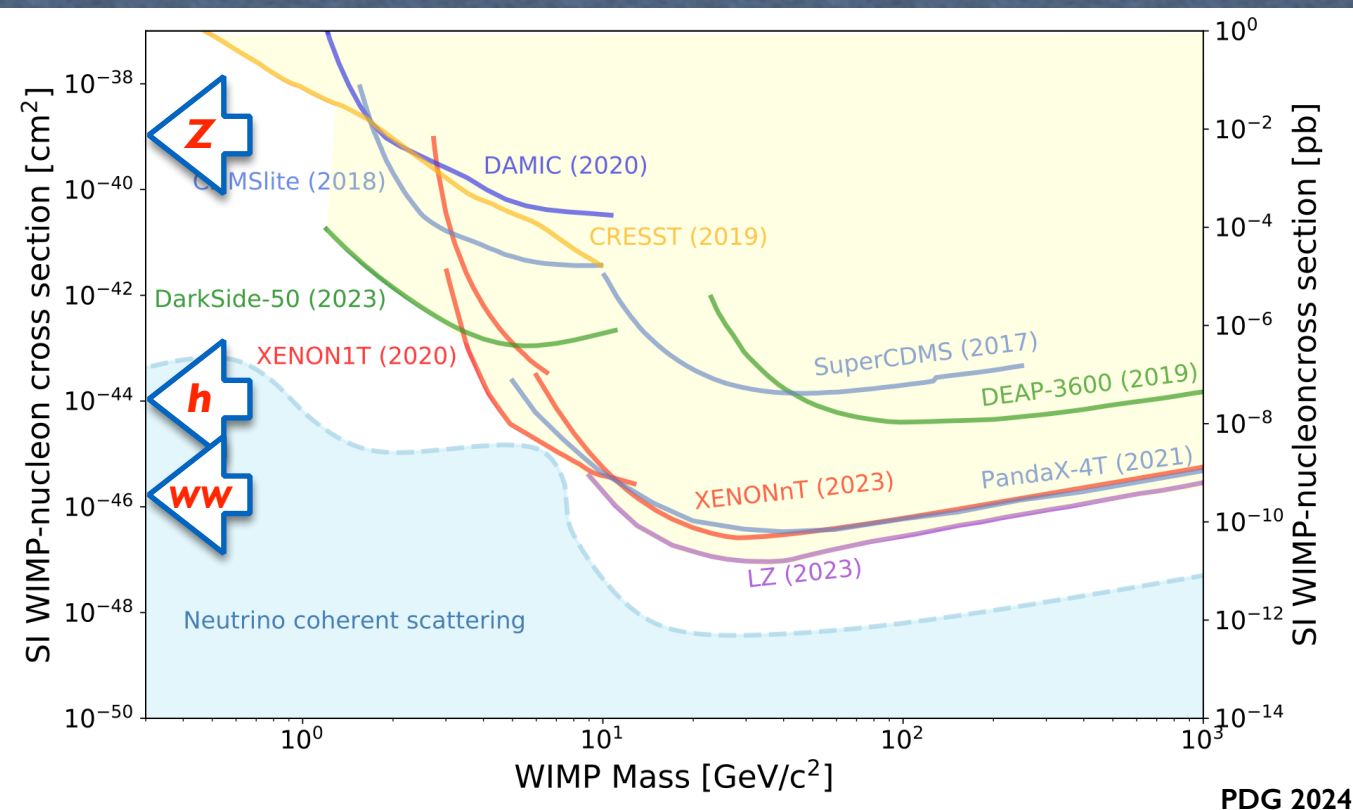
$$\sigma_n \lesssim 10^{-44} \text{ cm}^2$$

Higgs exchange

Exploring the WIMP's option

Slow-moving cosmological weakly interacting massive particles

★ Experimental limits



- DM detection by measuring the (heavy) nucleus recoil
- Constraints on the interaction strength from the DM Direct Detection limits
 - Scattering through Z boson ($\sigma \sim 10^{-39} \text{cm}^2$): ruled out
 - Approaching limits for scattering through the Higgs ($\sigma \sim 10^{-45} \text{cm}^2$)
 - Close to irreducible neutrino background (*neutrino floor*)

Direct Detection

1 MeV

1 GeV

Mz

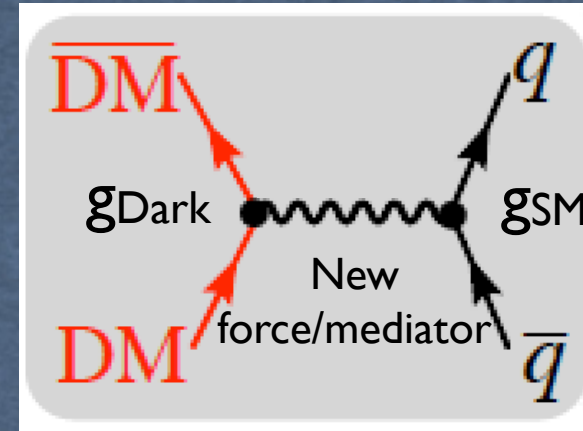
10 TeV

WIMPs

- * No signal observed in Direct Detection
- * Experiments have reduced sensitivity to (light) DM ($< 1 \text{ GeV}$)

★ (Obvious) first guess: DM interaction in the range of the weak force scale (WIMPS) with DM mass in the range of TeV

**WIMPs paradigm is not the only option
(keeping the DM thermal origin)**



$$\langle \sigma v \rangle \sim g_{\text{Dark}}^2 g_{\text{SM}}^2 M_{\text{DM}}^2 / M_{\text{mediator}}^4$$

Light Dark Matter

Light Dark Matter (<TeV) naturally introduces light mediators

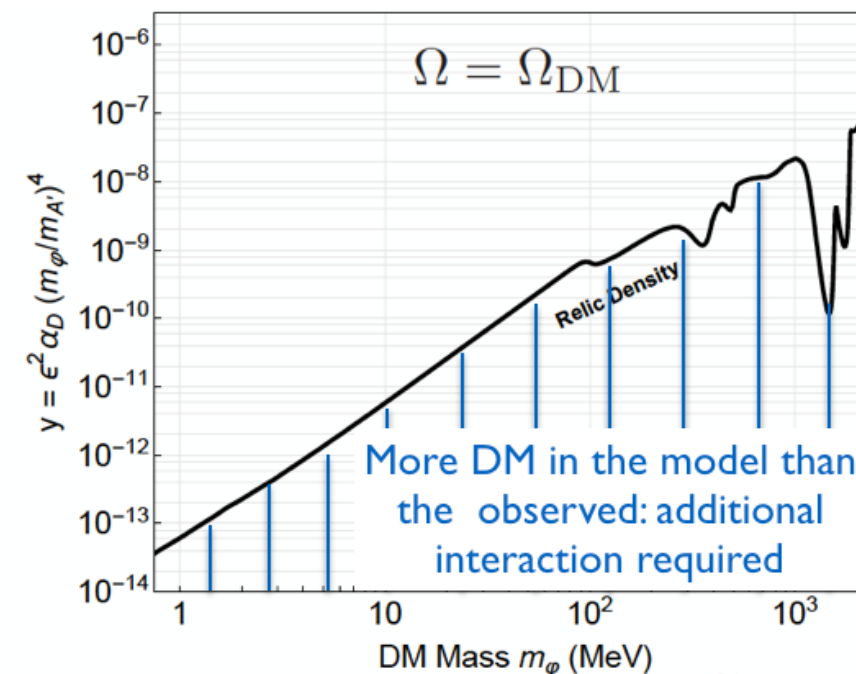
New interaction

★ Definition of [adimensional] variable $y \sim g_{\text{Dark}}^2 g_{\text{SM}}^2 (M_{\text{DM}}/M_{\text{mediator}})^4 \sim \langle \sigma v \rangle M_{\text{DM}}^2$

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle \propto \epsilon^2 \alpha_D \frac{m_\phi^2}{m_{A'}^4} = \epsilon^2 \alpha_D \frac{m_\phi^4}{m_{A'}^4} \frac{1}{m_\phi^2} = \frac{y}{m_\phi^2}$$

Usually computed for $m_{A'}/m_{\phi/\chi} = 3$

But thermal target largely insensitive to this ratio



Neutral doors (portals)

Forces Matter	EM	Weak	Strong	New force?
Electron	✓	✓	—	—
Neutrino	—	✓	—	—
Quarks	✓	✓	✓	—
Dark Matter?	—	—	—	✓

- ★ The new force should be weak
- ★ Different combination of DM and mediator masses are possible:
 - heavy WIMPs / heavy mediators
 - light WIMPs / light mediators
 - heavy WIMPs / light mediators
 - light WIMPs / heavy mediators



focus of this talk!

- ★ Small number of interactions allowed by Standard Model symmetries with dimensionless couplings
- ★ Some of them can be tested directly (e.g. rare B-decay such as $B \rightarrow K + A'$)

Vector Portal	$\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_Y F_{\mu\nu}^Y F'^{\mu\nu}$	kinetic mixing?
Higgs Portal	$\epsilon_h h ^2 \phi ^2$	exotic rare Higgs decays?
Neutrino Portal	$\epsilon_\nu (hL)\psi$	not-so-sterile neutrinos?
Axion Portal	$\frac{1}{f_a} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$	axion-like particles?

New scalars, vectors or fermions are expected to mediate new interactions

The vector portal

*Hidden sector (HS)

present in string theory and super-symmetries

*HS not charged under SM gauge groups (and v.v.)

no direct interaction between HS and SM

HS-SM connection via messenger particles

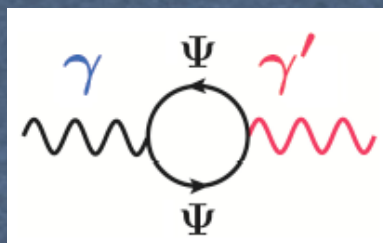
A simple way to go beyond the SM (not yet excluded!):

$SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \times \text{extra } U(1)$

Color Electroweak Hypercharge Hidden sector

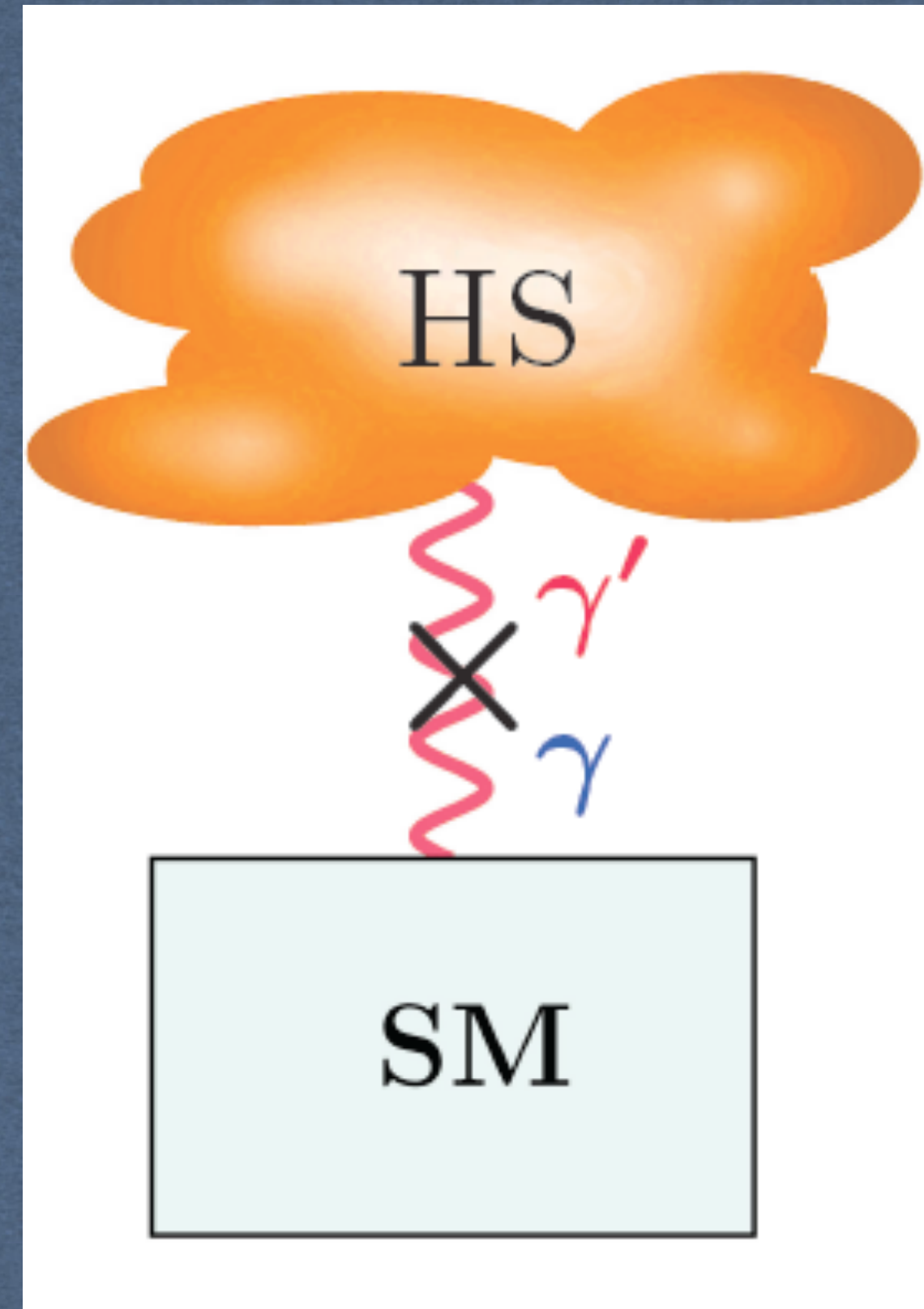
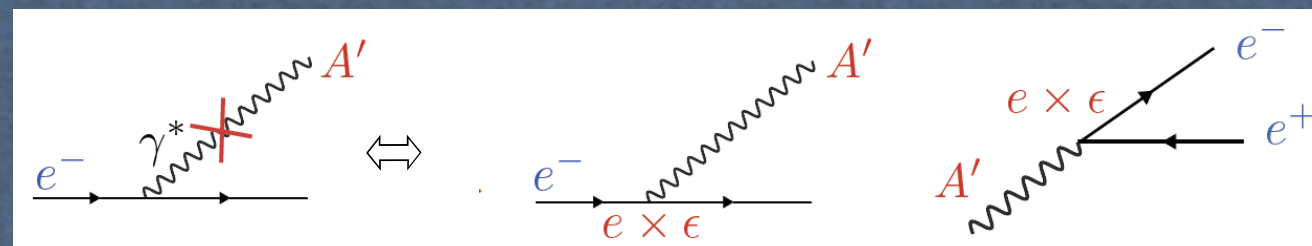
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} - \frac{1}{4} X_{\mu\nu} X^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\chi}{2} X_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{m_{\gamma'}^2}{2} X_\mu X^\mu$$

Hidden
Visible



γ'/A' couples to SM via electromagnetic current (kinetic mixing)

$$\rightarrow A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu + \epsilon a_\mu \quad \chi = \epsilon \sim 10^{-6} - 10^{-2} \quad (\alpha^{\text{DarkProton}} = \epsilon^2 \alpha_\mu)$$



Ψ can be a huge mass scale particle ($M_\Psi \sim 1 \text{ EeV}$) coupling to both SM and HS

A lesson from history

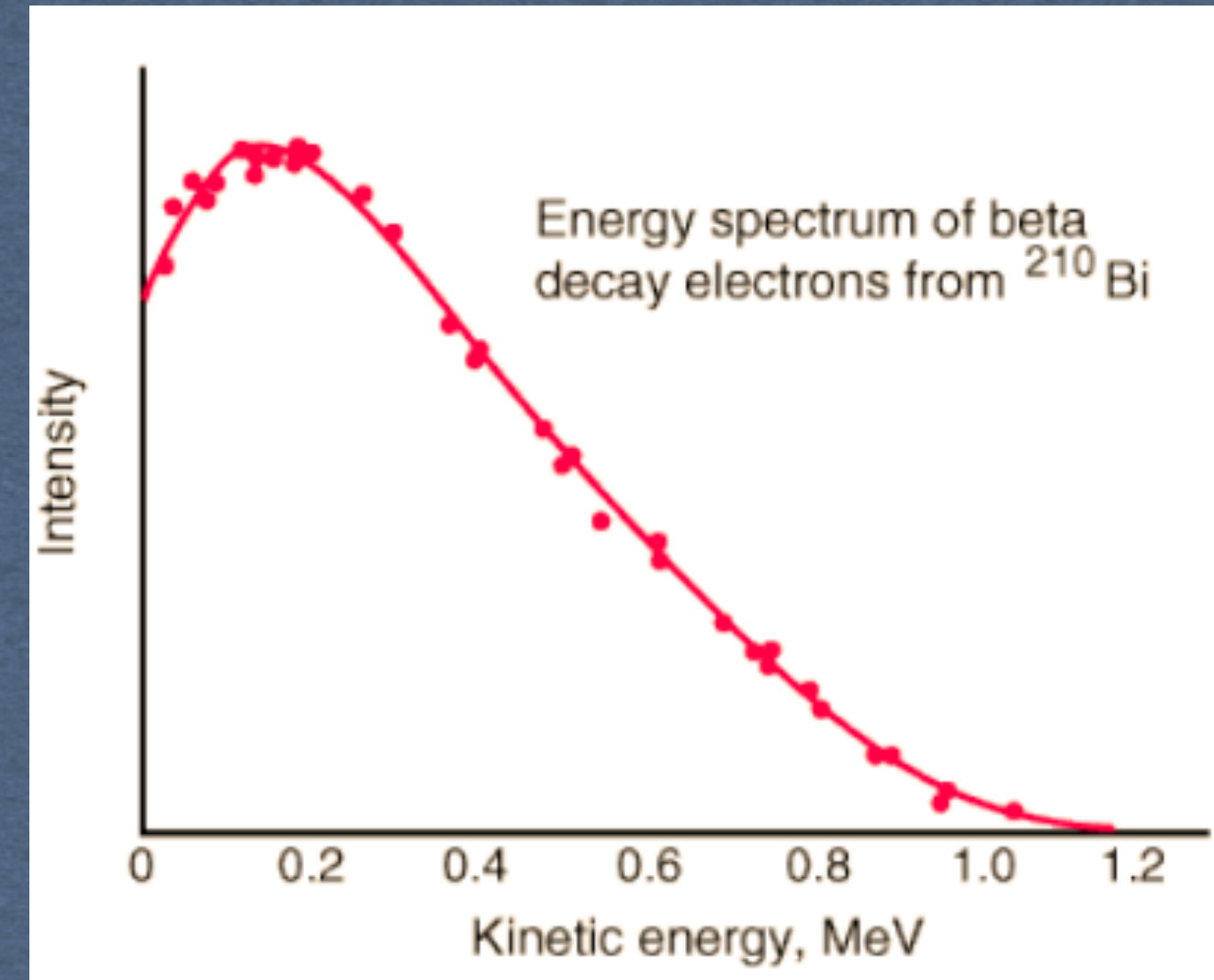
An historical example of a 'Standard Model' and 'hidden sector'

★ Back in the '30 the Standard Model of the elementary particles was: photon, electron and nucleons

★ Beta decay:



Continuous spectrum!



A lesson from history

An historical example of a 'Standard Model' and 'hidden sector'

★ Back in the '30 the Standard Model of the elementary particles was: photon, electron and nucleons

★ Beta decay:



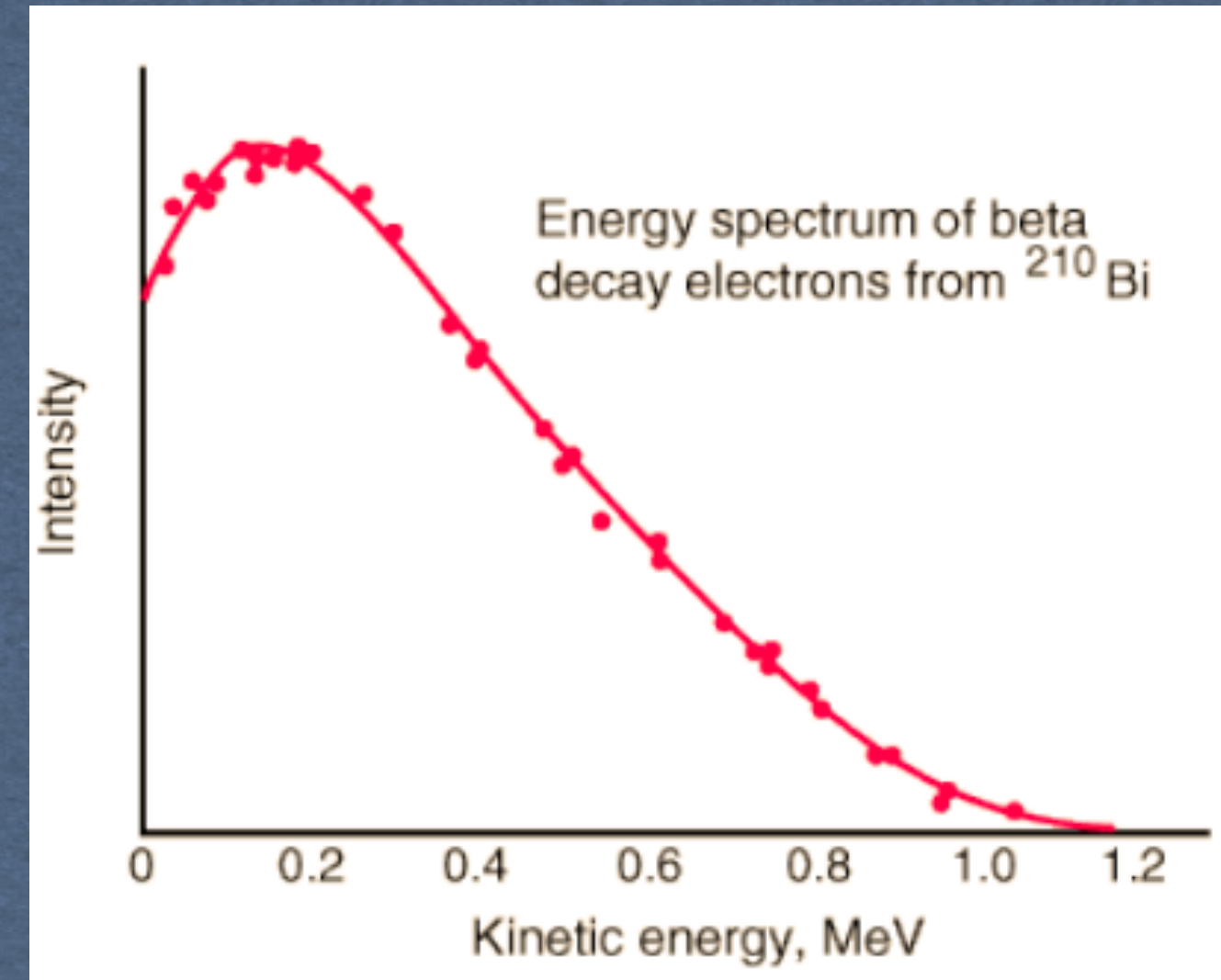
Continuous spectrum!

★ Pauli proposes a radical solution - the neutrino!



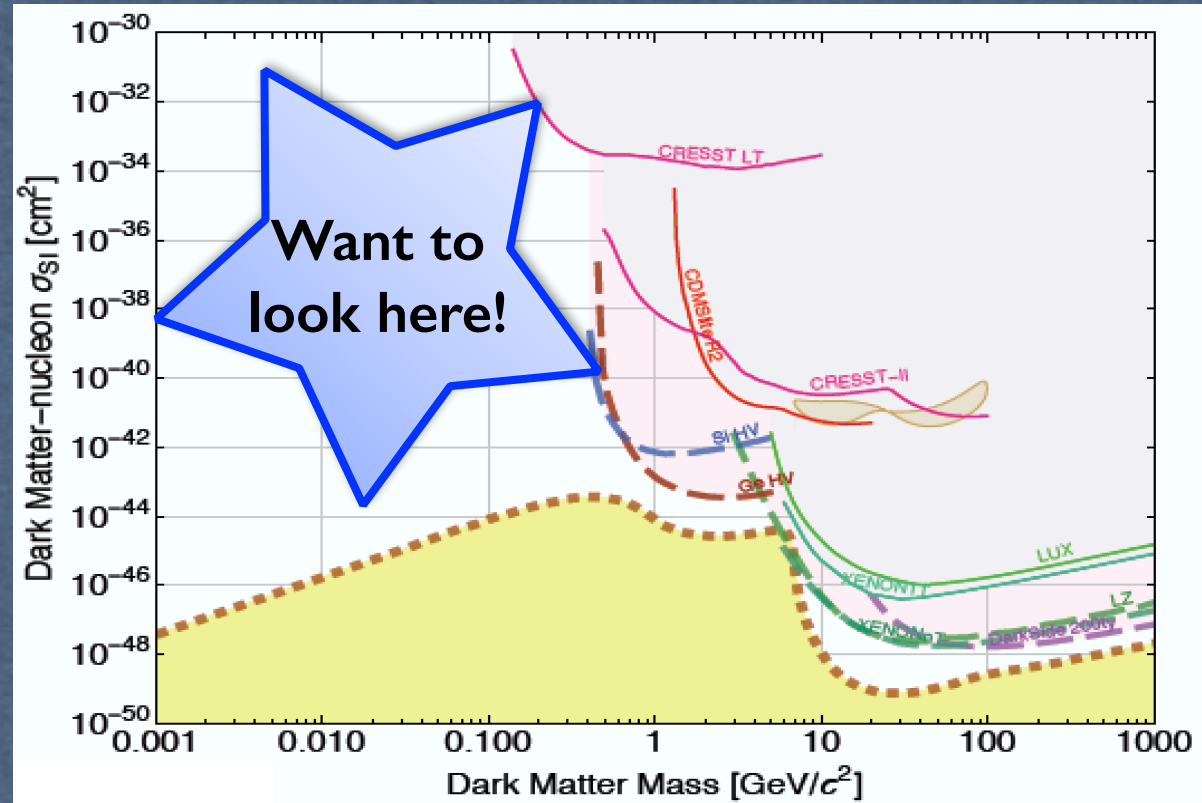
★ Perfect example of a hidden sector!

- neutrino is electrically neutral
- very weakly interacting and light
- interacts with "Standard Model" through "portal" - $(\bar{p}\gamma^\mu n)(\bar{e}\gamma^\mu \nu_e)$
- [... more precisely $(\bar{p}\gamma^\mu (1-g_A\gamma^5) n)(\bar{e}\gamma^\mu (1-\gamma^5) \nu_e)$]



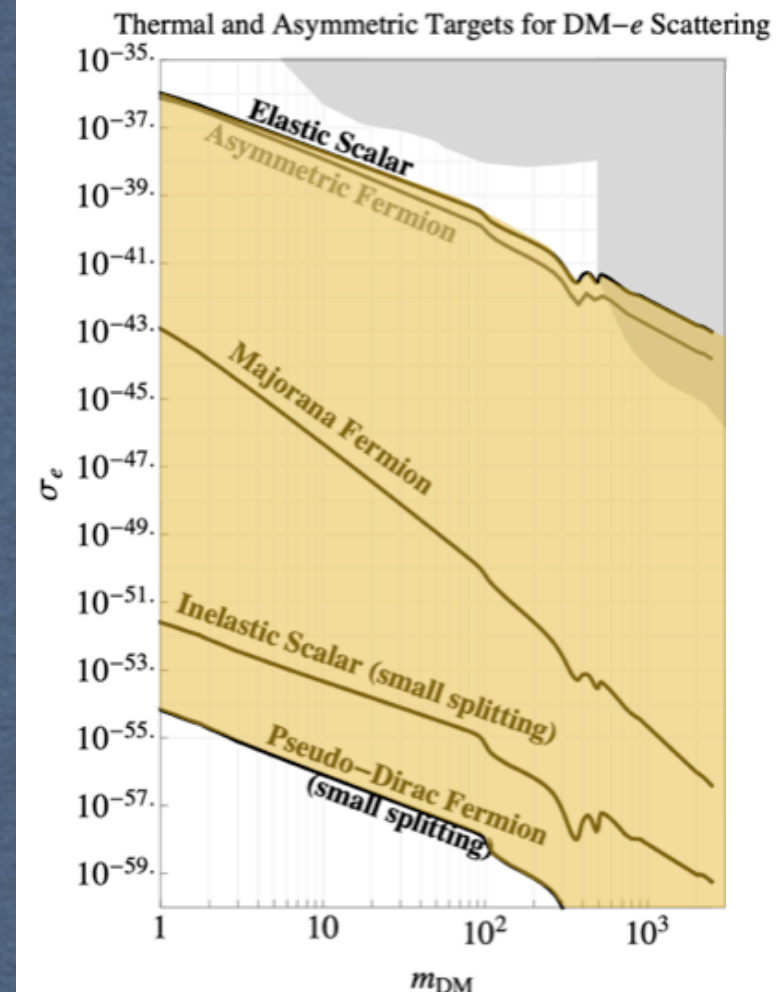
Light Dark Matter

Light Dark Matter with a (almost) weak interaction (new force!)



- Direct Detection is difficult
 - Low mass elastic scattering on heavy nuclei: small recoil
 - Large model dependence
 - Strong dependence on velocity distribution
 - eV-range recoil requires a different detection technology
 - Directionality may help to go behind existing limits at large masses

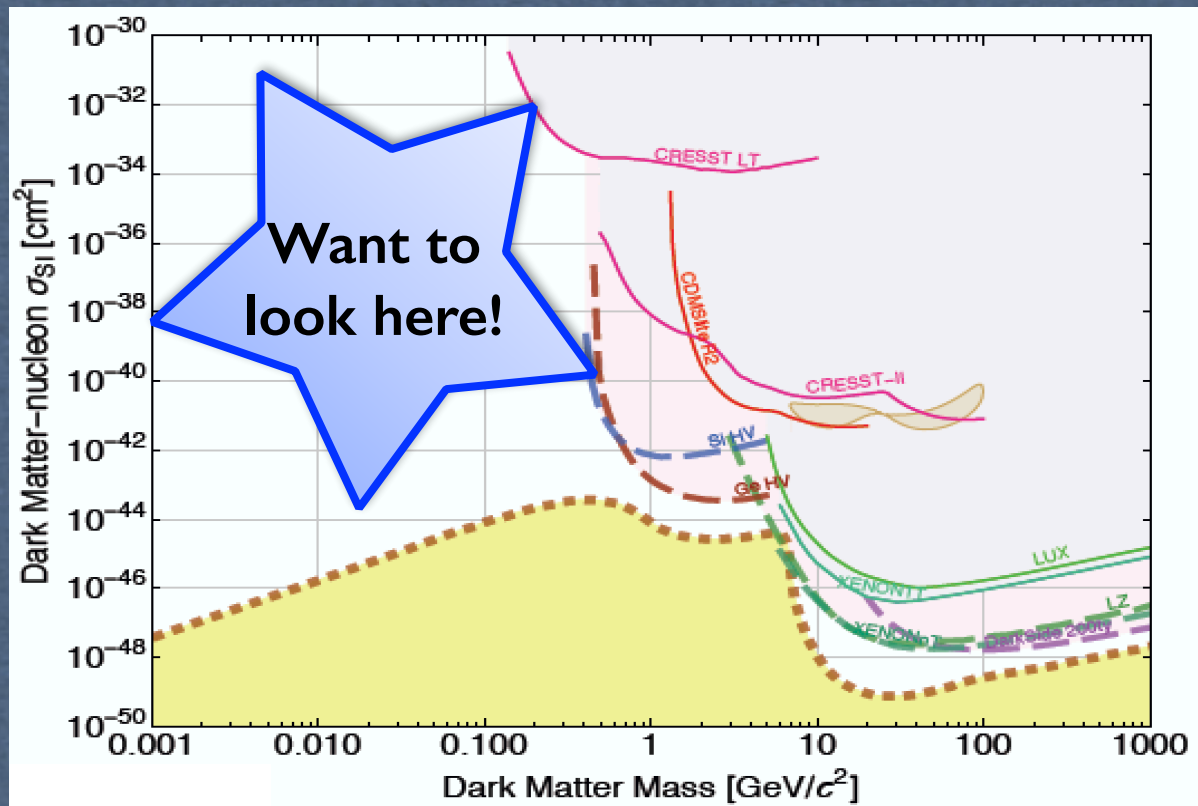
• Direct Detection



- Large dependence (20 orders of magnitude!) of e-DM scattering cross section by the spin details of the DM nature (fermion, scalar, pDirac, ...)
- Cross section has a strong dependence on the DM velocity: $\sigma \sim v^0, v^2, v^4$ (Galactic DM $v \sim 10^{-3}$)
- In relativistic regime, this kinematic suppression disappears (10^{-20} difference to $O(1)$ - $O(10)$)

Light Dark Matter

Light Dark Matter with a (almost) weak interaction (new force!)



Unique features of accelerator-based (L)DM search

- * Tagging wrt cosmic anomalies (clear way of distinguish DM from other effects)
- * Unprecedented sensitivity in the keep-out zone for direct DM search
- * High intensity electron beam available to play a significant role in LDM search

Accelerators-based DM search

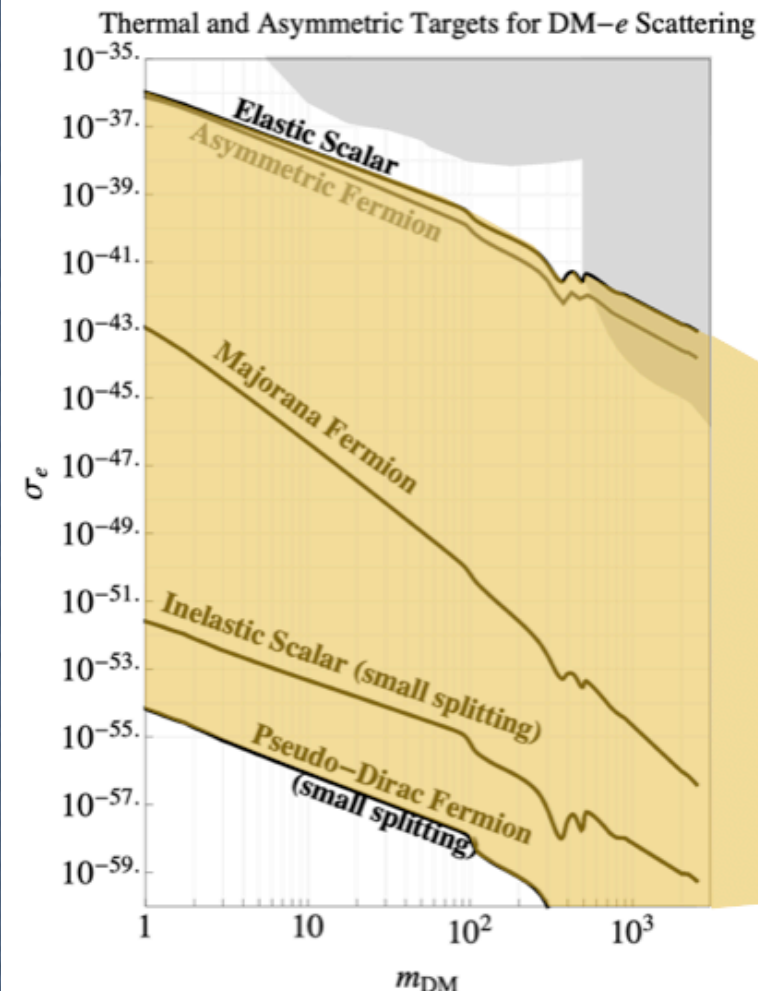
- covers an unexplored mass region extending the reach
- outside the classical DM hunting territory

Particle beams

- High intensity
- Moderate energy

Intensity frontier

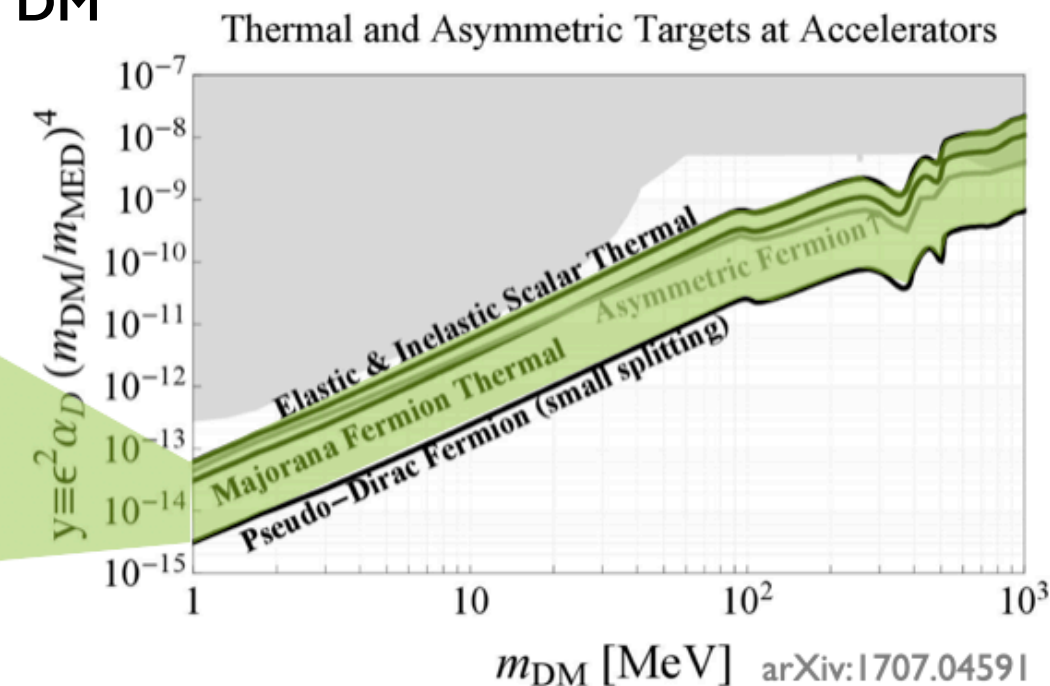
Direct Detection



- Non-relativistic scattering: sensitive to **operator hierarchy and velocity suppression**
- Relativistic scattering probes the **fundamental interaction**
- Most spin-dependent differences washed out

Relativistic DM

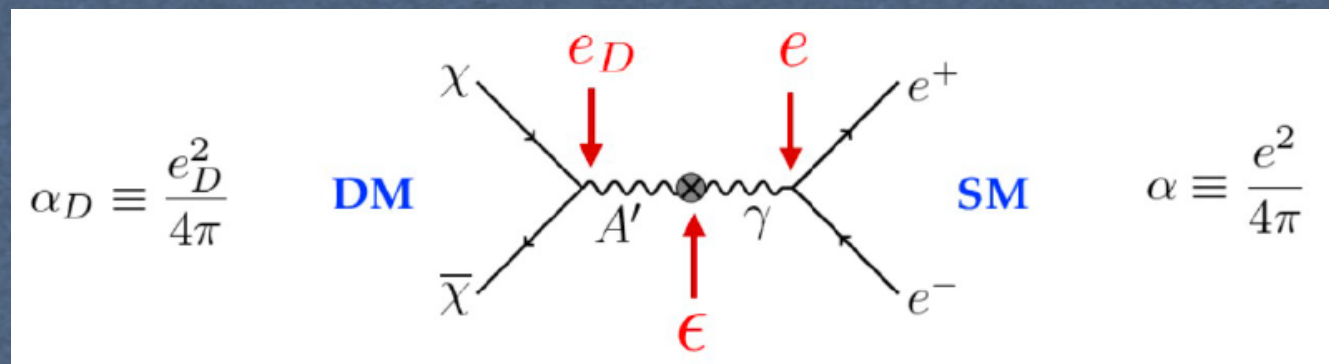
Accelerator based experiment



Dark Photon Signatures

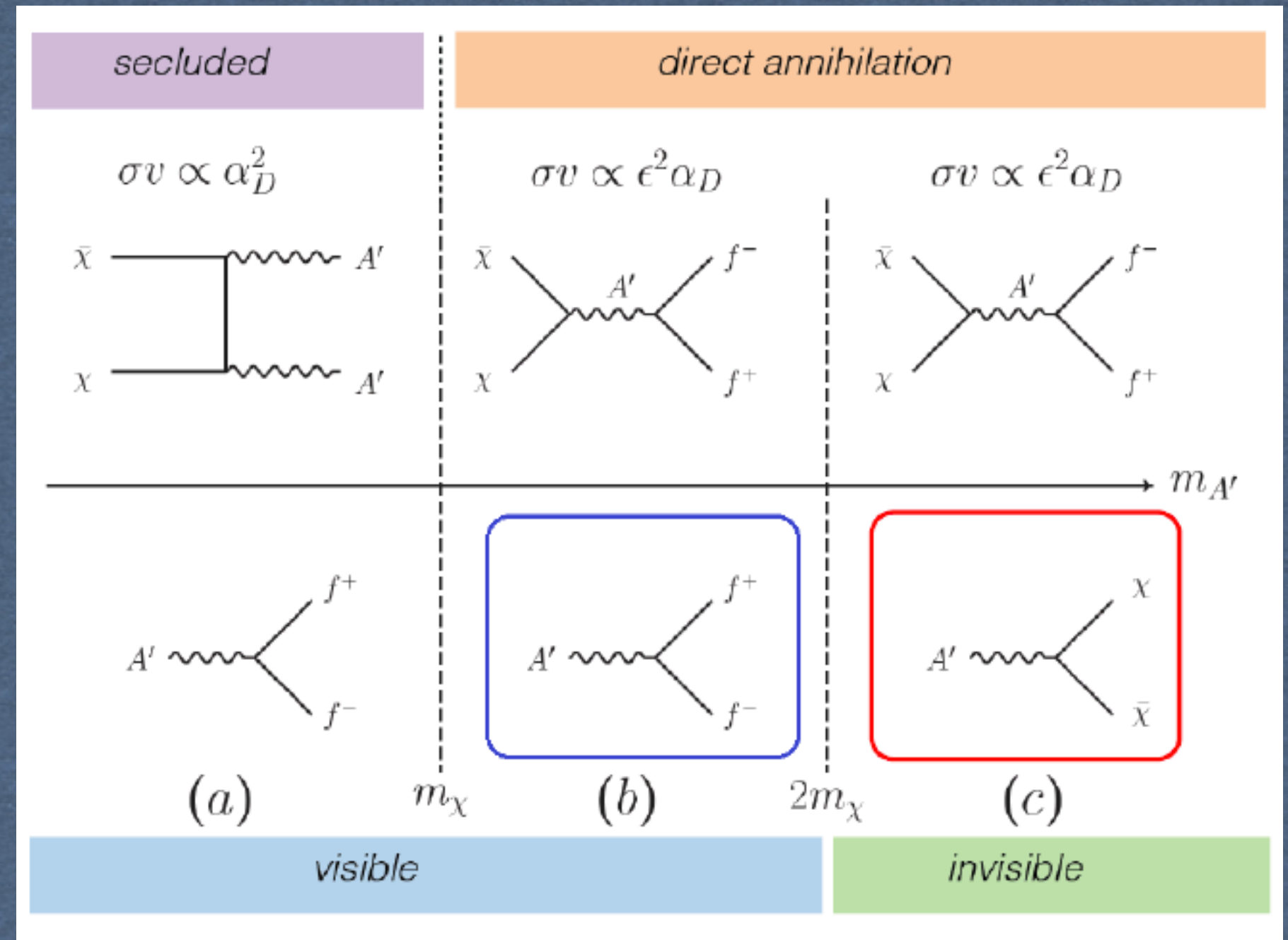
Vector mediated Light Dark Matter

- Vector-Portal: DM-SM interaction mediated by U(1) gauge-boson (dark photon or A') couples to electric charge

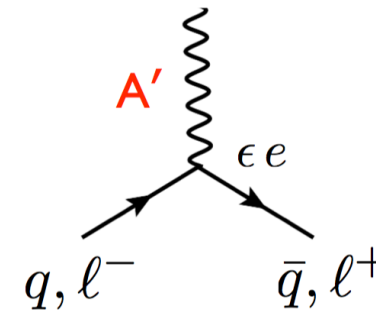
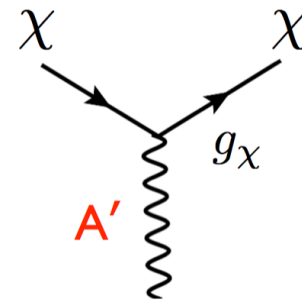
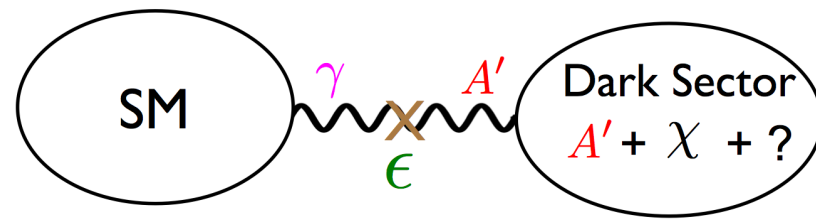


A' interaction scenarios

- **Secluded**: no constraints by cosmology for accelerator based experiments. Any ϵ allowed
- **Visible decay**: final state contains SM particles
- **Invisible decay**: A' decays to Dark Sector invisible particles



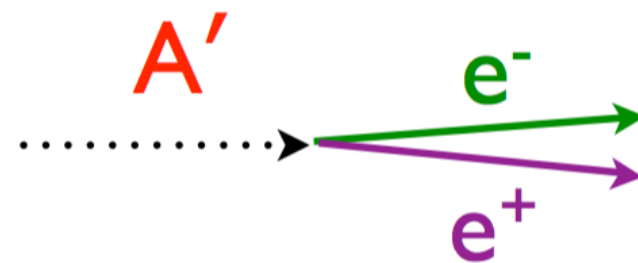
Dark forces and dark matter (Light WIMPs - light mediators)



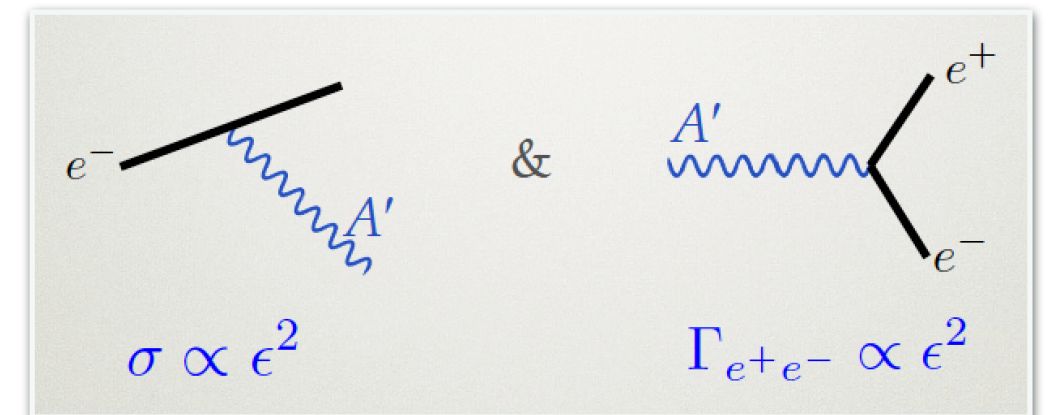
4 parameters: $m_\chi, m_{A'}, \epsilon, g_\chi$

$$m_\chi \sim m_{A'} \sim \text{MeV} - 5 \text{ GeV}$$

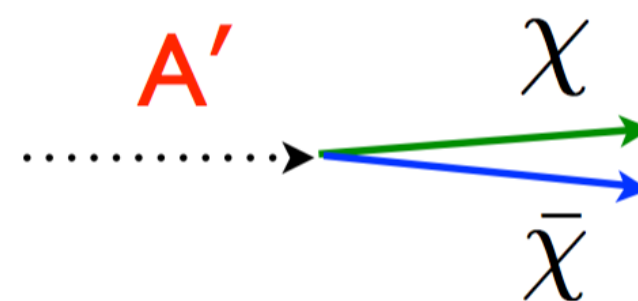
Visible



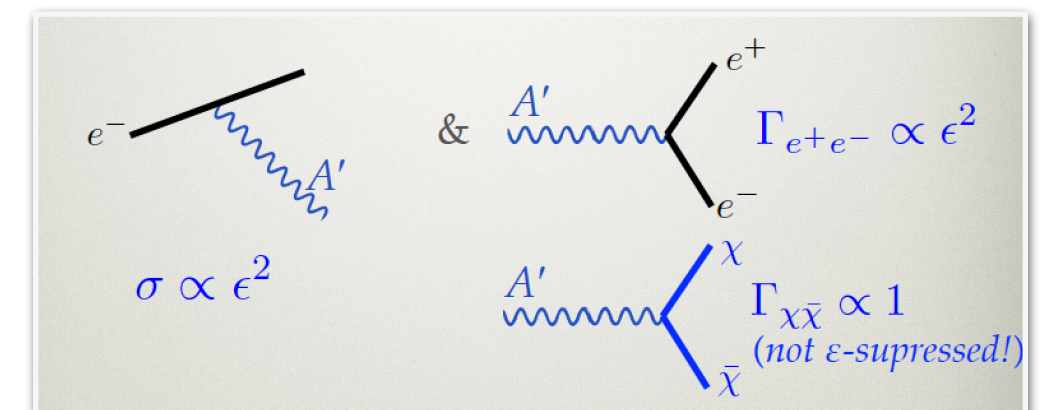
- Minimal decay
- Decay regulated by ϵ^2
- Independent on m_χ
- Requires $m_{A'} < 2m_\chi$



Invisible

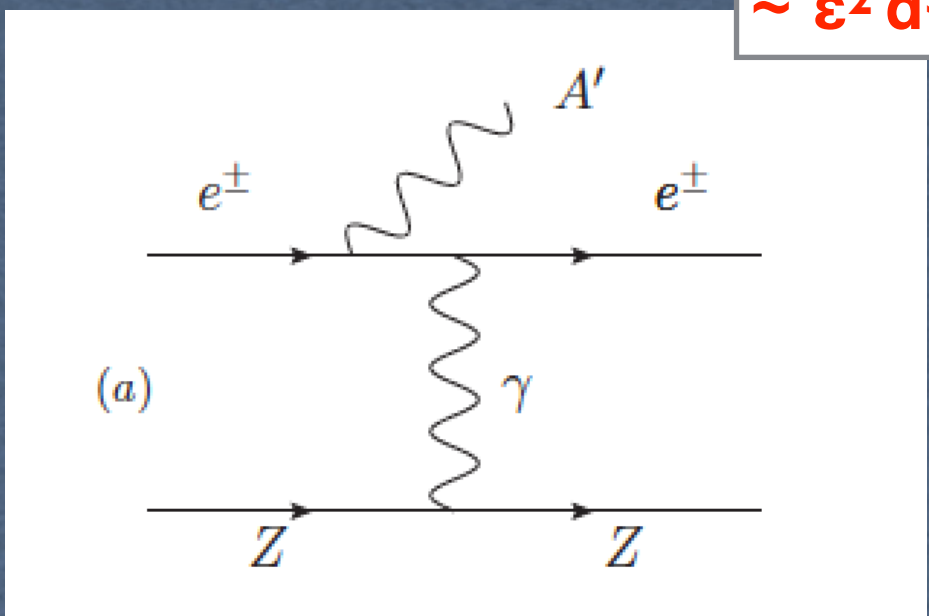


- $m_\chi < 2m_{A'}$
- i) stable and invisible
- ii) decays to SM particles
- Independent on ϵ



A' Production mechanisms - e±

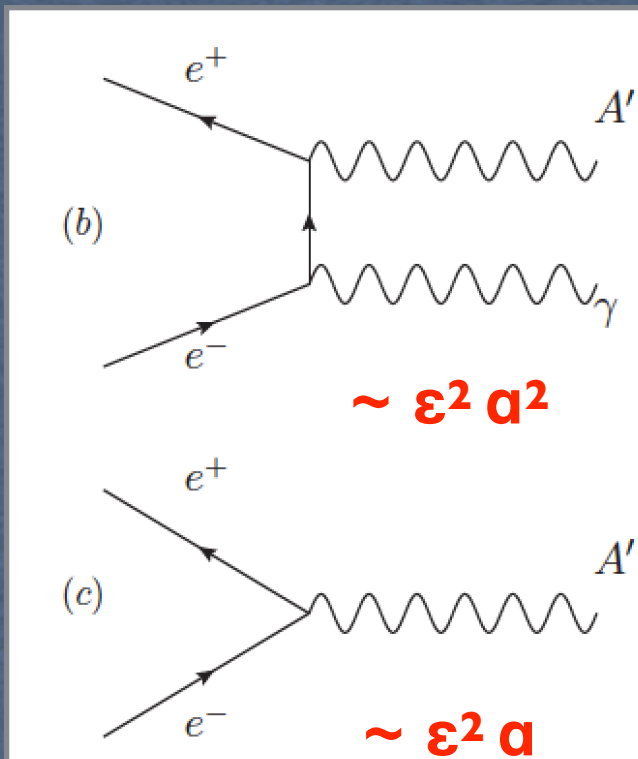
$\sim \epsilon^2 \alpha^3$



The Weizsacker-Williams approximation (A'-strahlung)

- The incoming electron 'see' a fast-moving cloud of effective photons to scatter from
- Photons are almost on-shell (low Q2) → transverse photons ~ e- γ_{Real} scattering
- Same treatment as the regular *bremstrahlung*
- Regularisations occurs in the case of interest $M_{A'} \gg m_{e-}$
- Effective photon flux χ is critical, accounting for nuclear effect using FF

A' Production - positrons



• **NON-RESONANT annihilation**

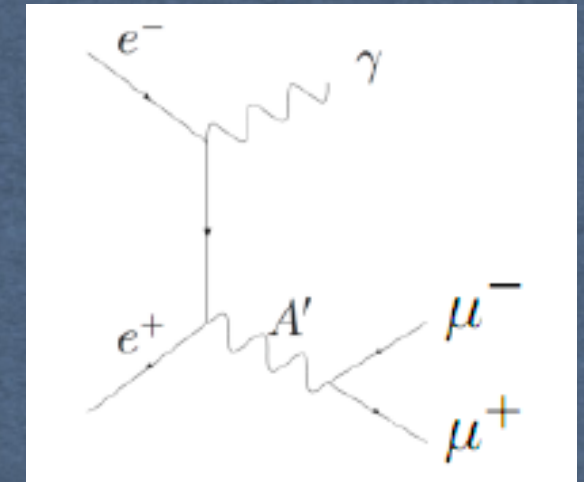
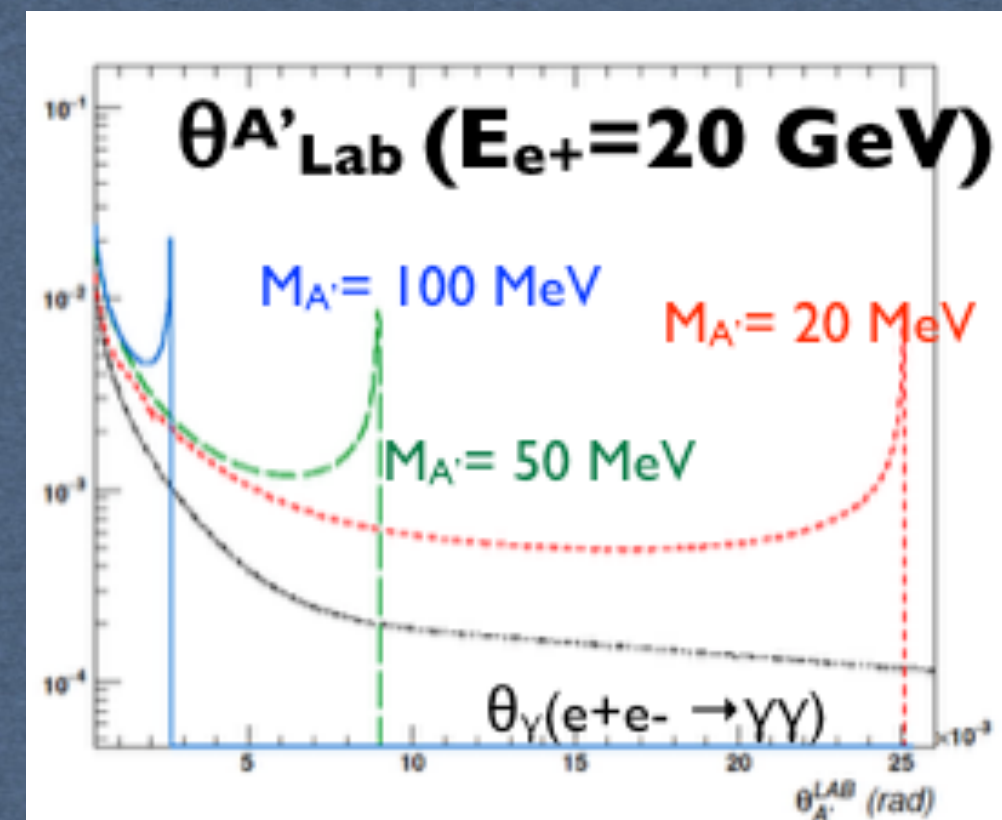
• **A' along (e+e-) direction**

• **RESONANT annihilation**

- **Two-body process**
- **A' forward-peaked along e+ direction**
- $E_{A'} = E_R = m_{A'}^2 / 2m_e$

$$\sigma_r = \sigma_{\text{peak}} \frac{\Gamma_{A'}^2 / 4}{(\sqrt{s} - m_{A'})^2 + \Gamma_{A'}^2 / 4}$$

L.Marsicano et al. Phys.Rev.Lett. 121 (2018) 4, 041802



- Known and used
- Collider (missing mass experiments)
- Thin target experiments (visible decay)

$e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma' \gamma \rightarrow \mu\mu \gamma$
 → BABAR, BELLE, KLOE, CLEO

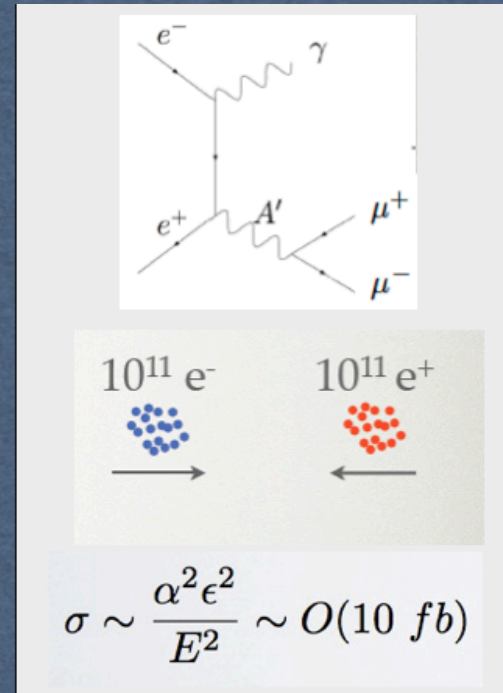
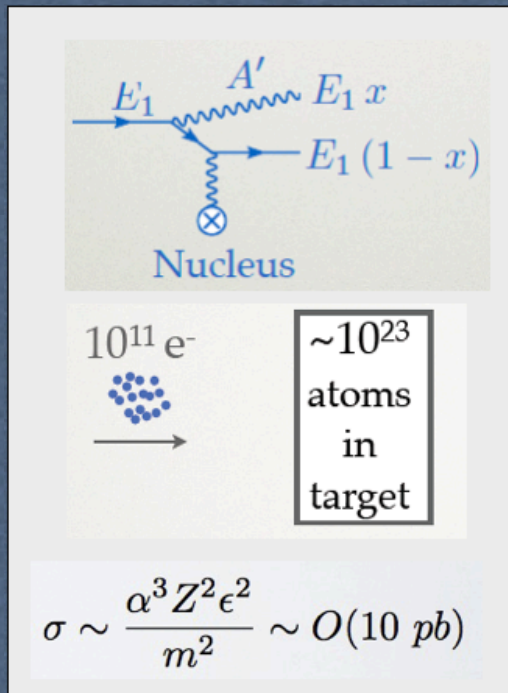
Experimental techniques

Fixed target vs. collider

Fixed target

Fixed Target

e+e- colliders

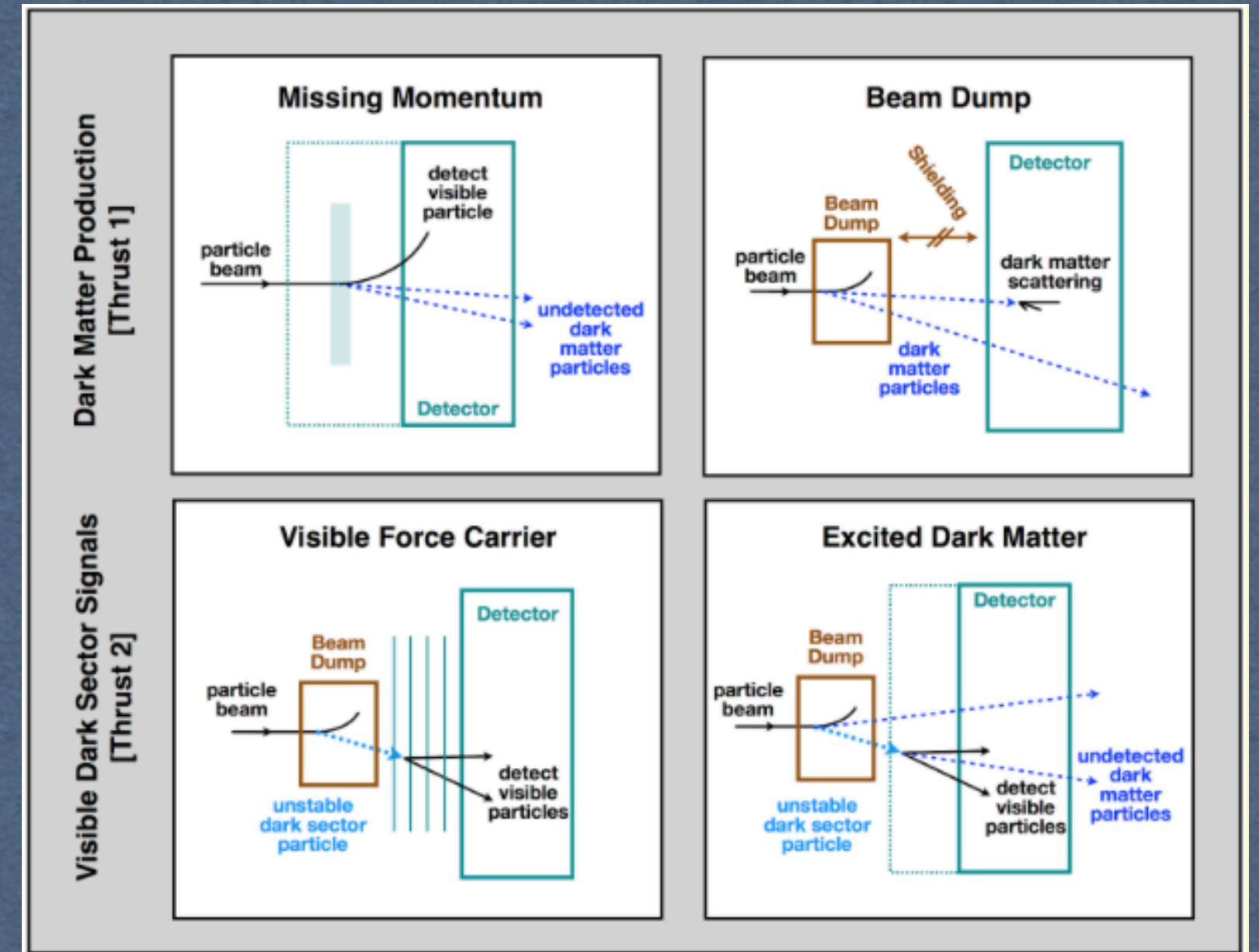


- high backgrounds
- limited A' mass

- low backgrounds
- higher A' mass

* $1/M_{A'}$ vs. $1/E_{\text{beam}}$

* Coherent scattering from Nucleus ($\sim Z^2$)



A' visible and invisible decay at accelerators

e^- fixed target

$N \propto \epsilon^2$

dark bremsstrahlung

APEX @ JLab

Fixed target:
 $e N \rightarrow N \gamma' \rightarrow N \text{ Lepton Lepton}^+$
→ JLAB, MAINZ

p fixed target

$N \propto \epsilon^2$

meson decays

NA48/2 @ SPS (CERN)

Fixed target:
 $p N \rightarrow N \gamma' \rightarrow p \text{ Lepton Lepton}^+$
→ FERMILAB, SERPUKHOV

$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$
 $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \bar{\nu}_\mu$

$p + p(n) \rightarrow V^* \rightarrow \bar{\chi} \chi$
 $\pi^0, \eta \rightarrow V \gamma \rightarrow \bar{\chi} \chi \gamma$

$x + e \rightarrow x + e$
 $x + N \rightarrow x + N$

(near) detector

Meson decays:
 $\pi^0, \eta, \eta', \omega' \rightarrow \gamma' \gamma$ (M)
 $\rightarrow \text{Lepton Lepton} + \gamma$ (M)
→ KLOE, BES3, WASA-COSY, PHENIX

High Energy Hadron Colliders:
 $pp \rightarrow \text{lepton jets}$
→ ATLAS, CMS, CDF&D0

pp collider

Dark Showering
 Electroweak Production
 $N \propto ?$

“lepton jets”
 + meson decays

ATLAS
 CMS
 LHCb
 @LHC

e^+e^- colliders

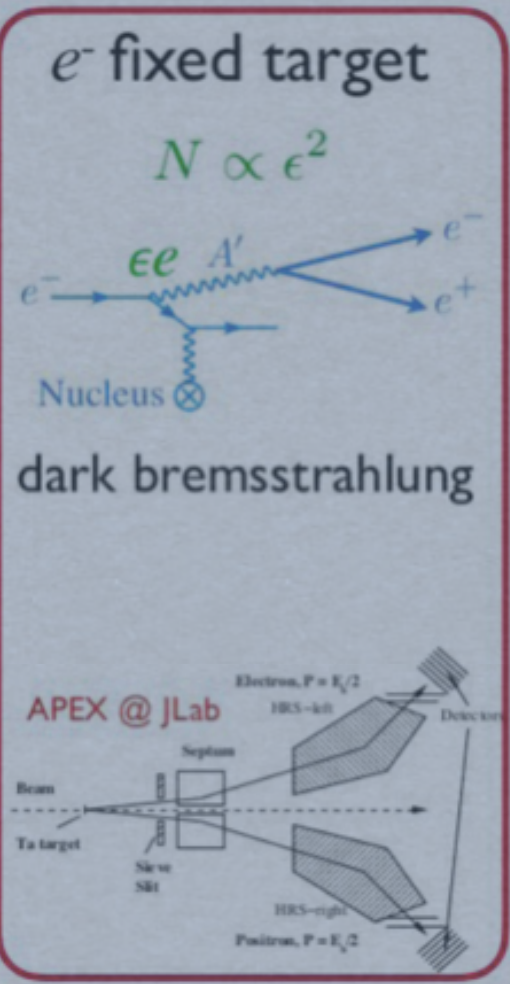
$N \propto \epsilon^2$

+ meson decays

BaBar @ SLAC

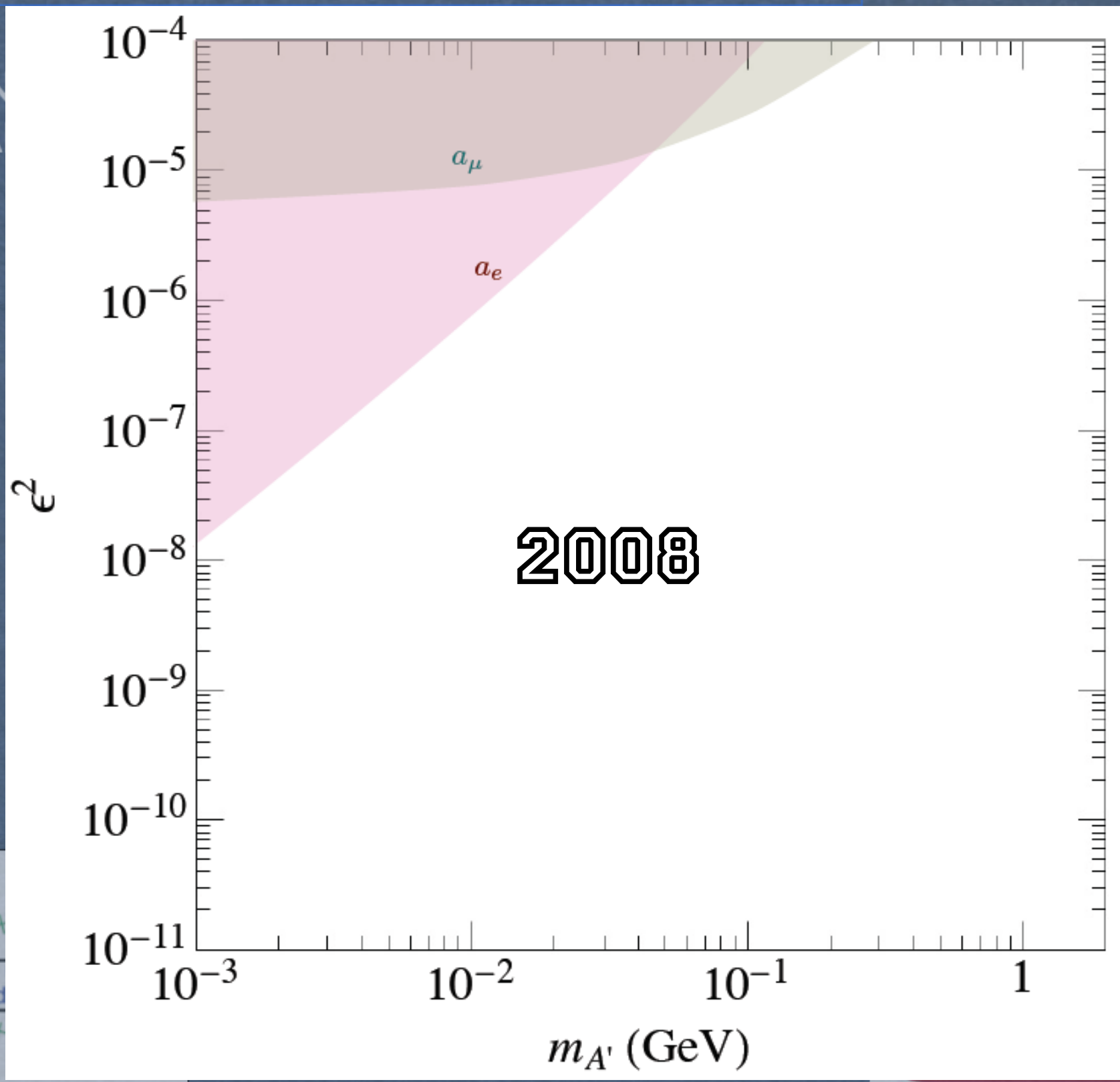
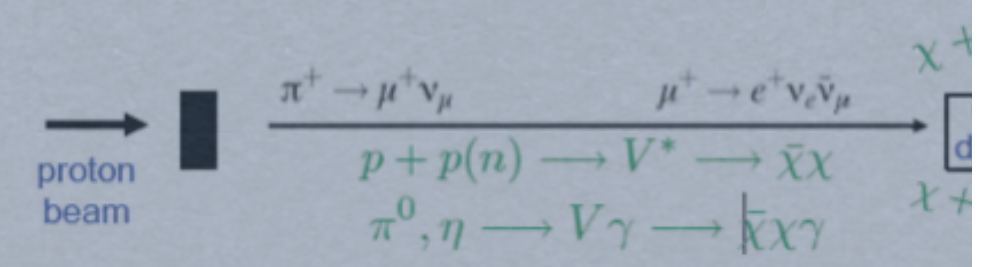
Annihilation:
 $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma' \gamma \rightarrow \mu\mu \gamma$
→ BABAR, BELLE-II, KLOE, CLEO

A' visible decay at accelerators

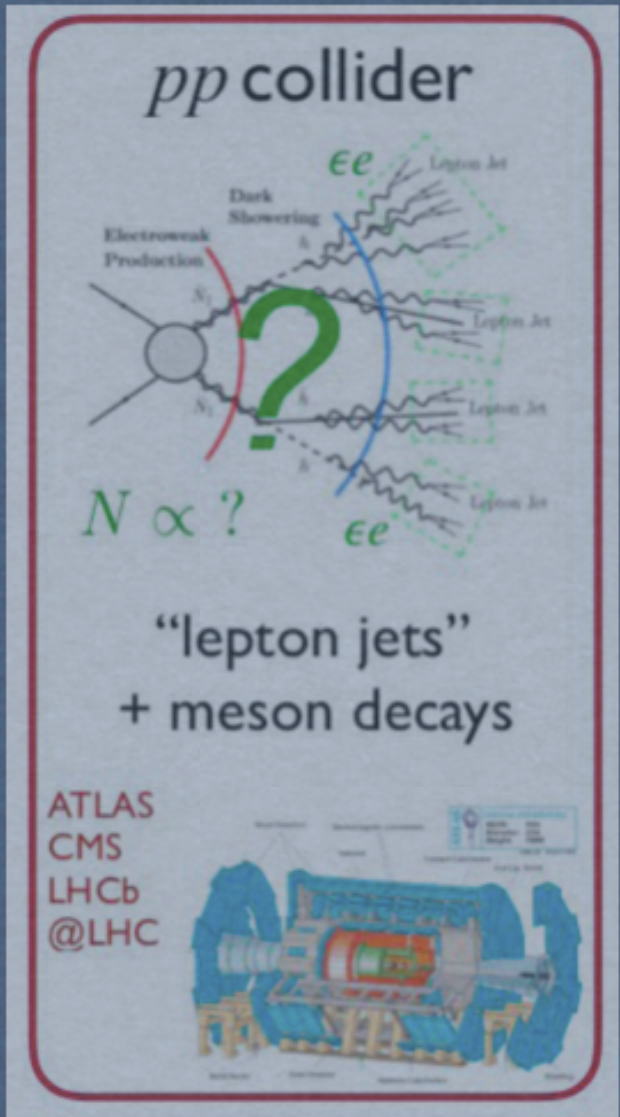


Fixed target:
 $e N \rightarrow N \gamma' \rightarrow N e^+ e^-$
→ JLAB, MA

Fixed target:
 $p N \rightarrow N \gamma' \rightarrow p \text{ Lepton Lepton}^+$
→ FERMILAB, SERPUKHOV



Colliders:
 lepton jets
AS, CMS, LHC



Colliders

γ

$\propto \epsilon^2$

μ^+

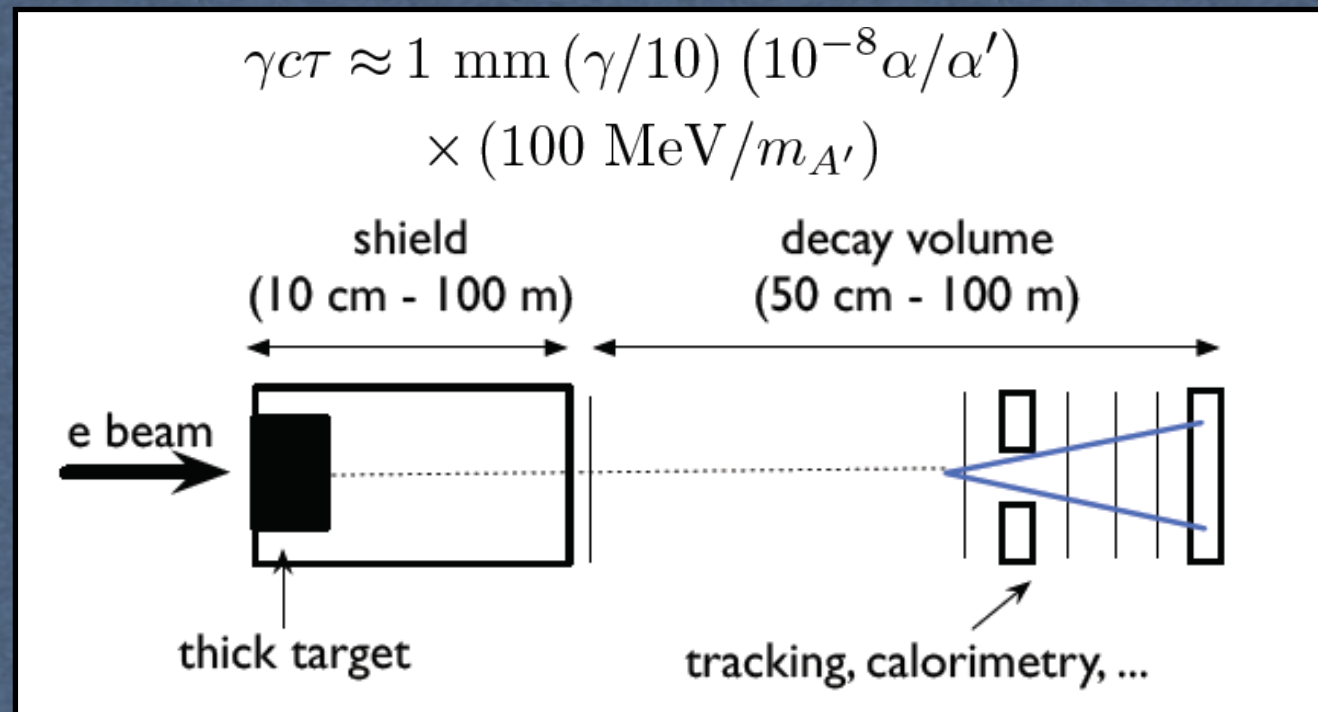
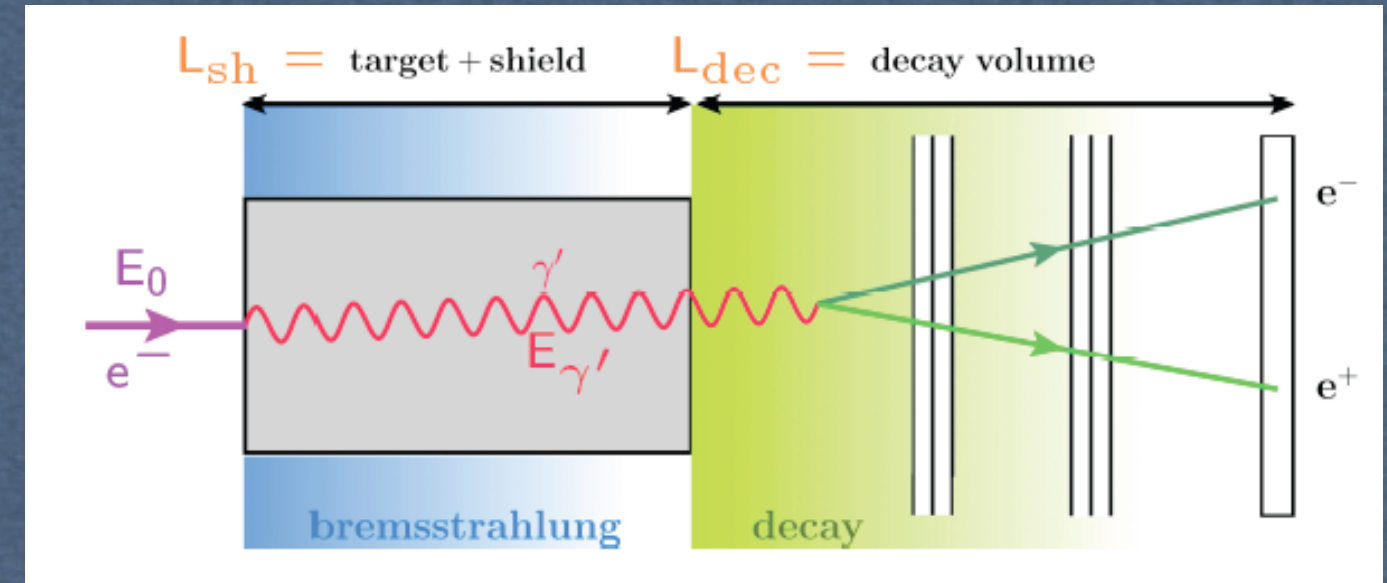
μ^-

decays

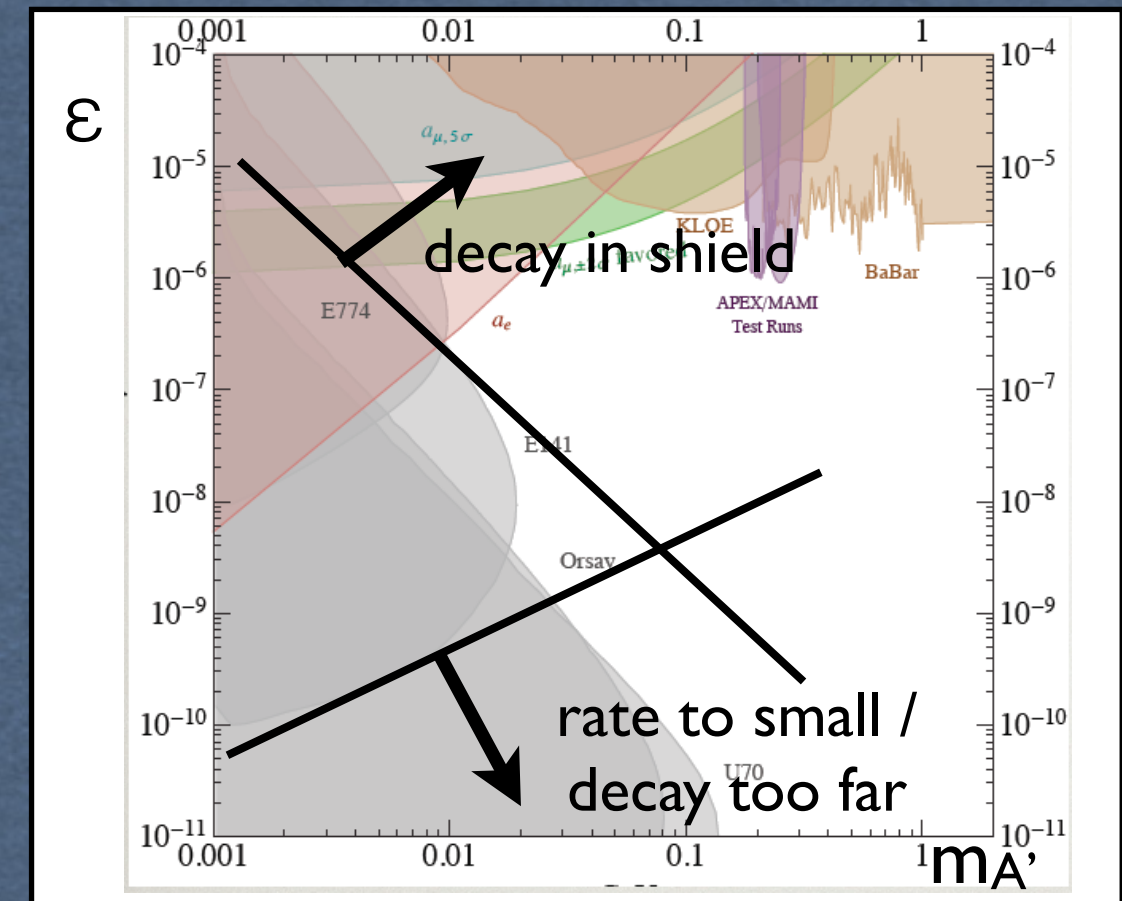
Annihilation:
 $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \gamma' \gamma \rightarrow \mu \mu \gamma$
→ BABAR, BELLE-II, KLOE, CLEO

Beam-dump experiments - visible -

- * e- beam incident on thick target
- * A' is produced in a process similar to ordinary Bremsstrahlung
- * A' carries most of the beam energy
- * A' emitted forward at small angle
- * A' decays before the detector

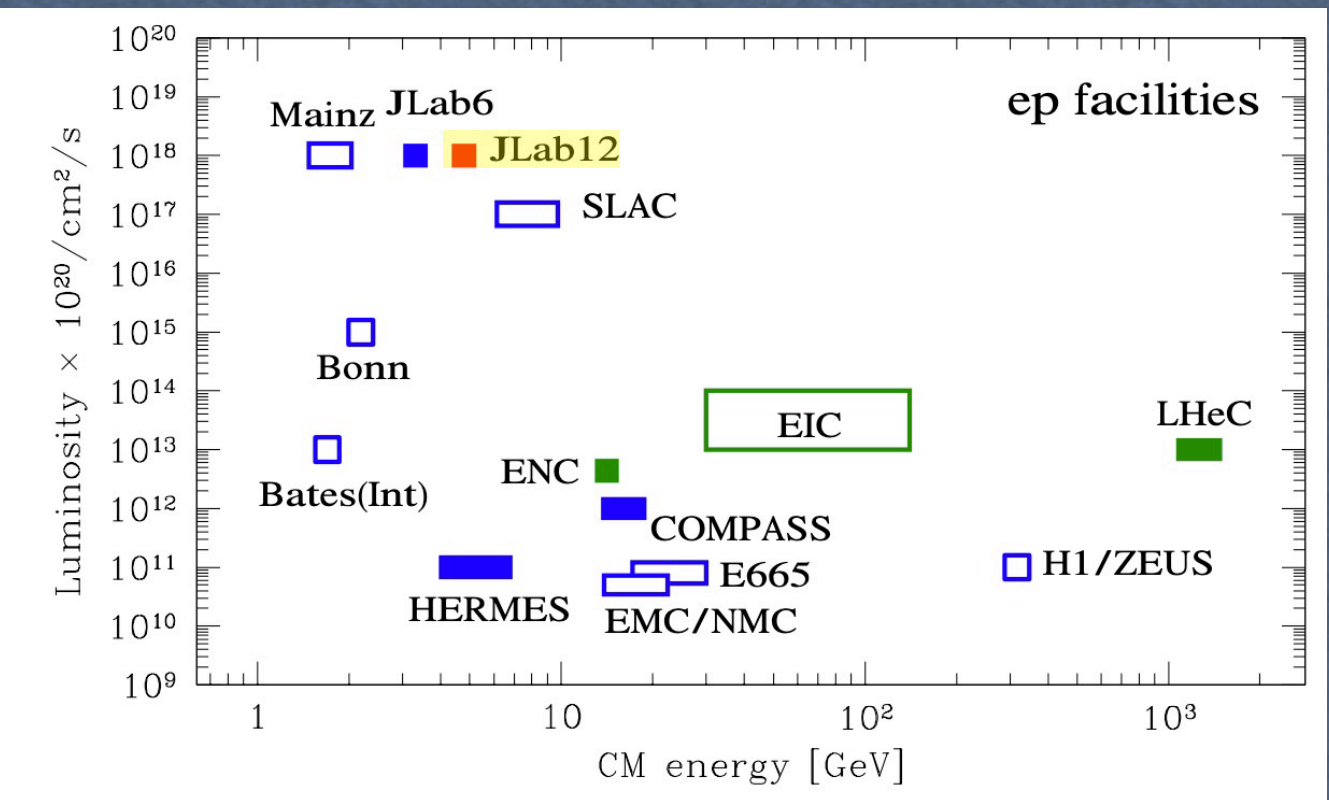
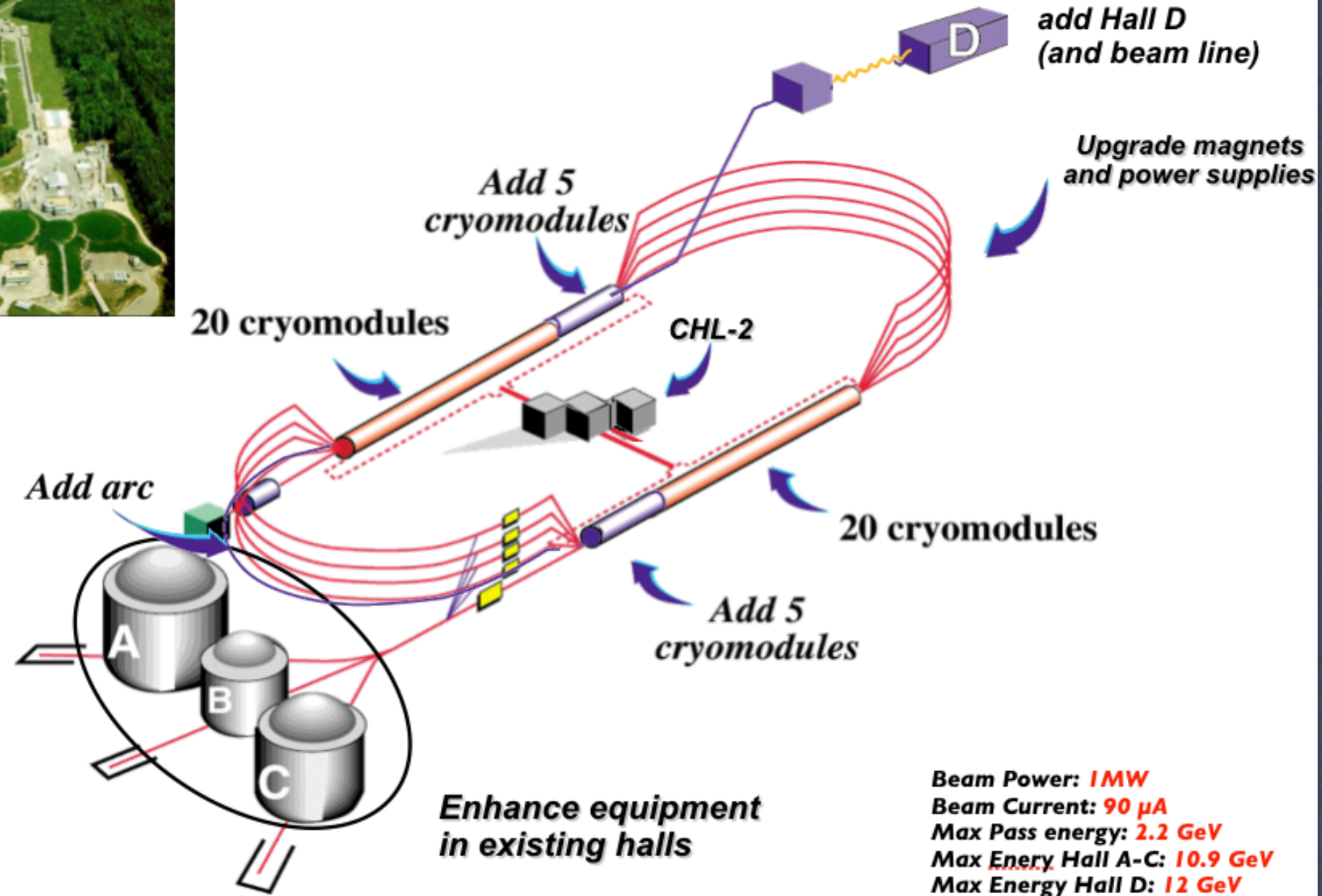


$$\gamma c \tau \approx 1 \text{ mm} (\gamma/10) (10^{-8} \alpha/\alpha') \times (100 \text{ MeV}/m_{A'})$$



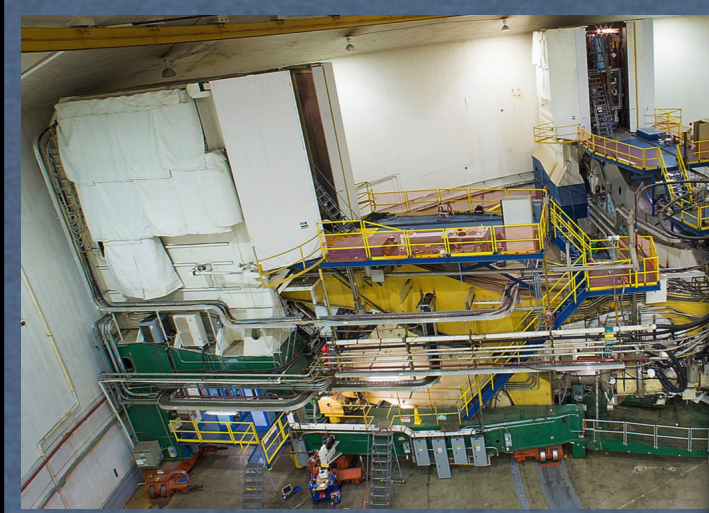
Jefferson Lab

The intensity frontier



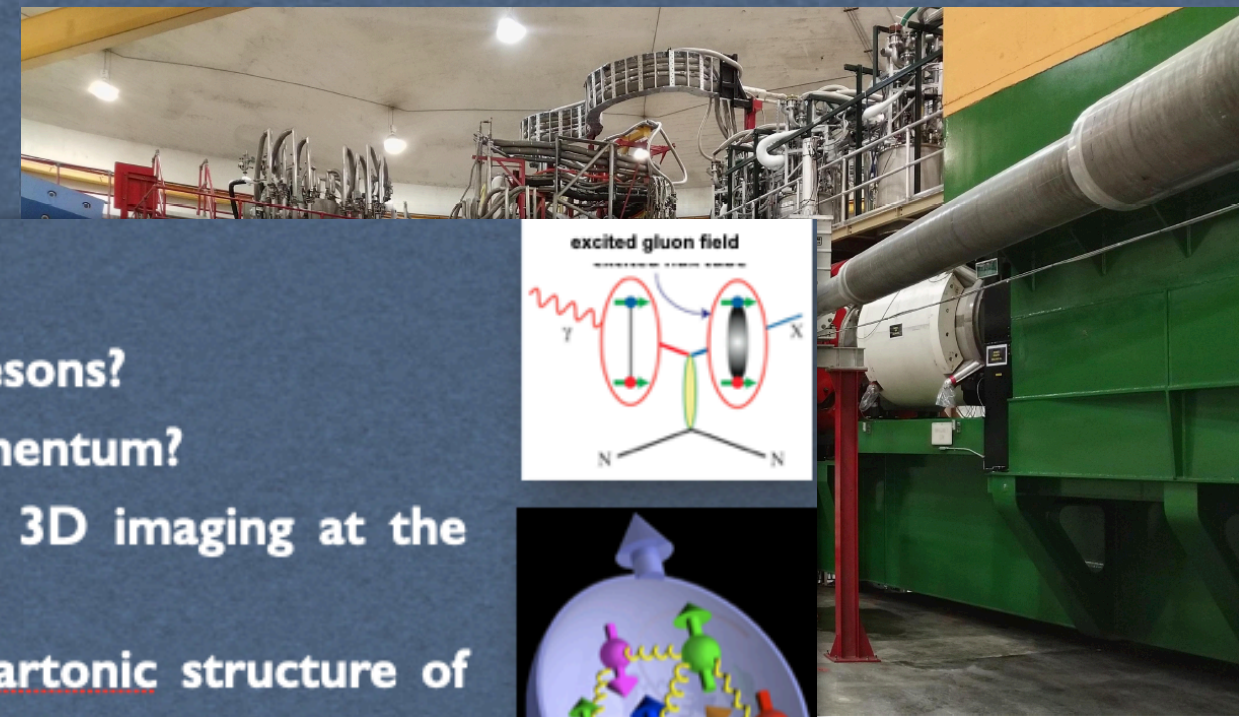
- * Primary Beam: Electrons
- * Beam Energy: 12 GeV
- $10 > \lambda > 0.1 \text{ fm}$
- nucleon \rightarrow quark transition
- baryon and meson excited states

- * 100% Duty Factor (cw) Beam
- * Polarization
- coincidence experiments
- Four simultaneous beams
- Independent E and I
- spin degrees of freedom
- weak neutral currents



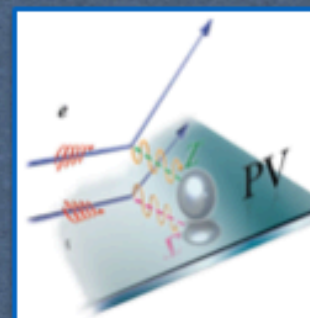
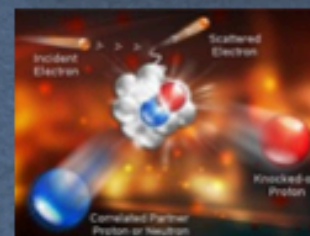
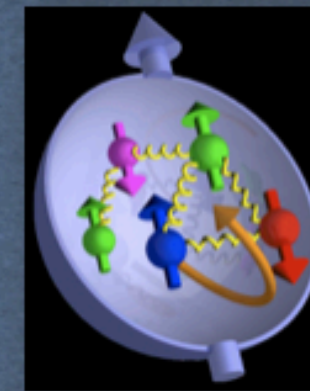
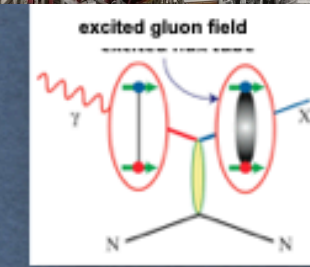
Hall A

Hall C



JLab Scientific mission

- What is the role of gluonic excitations in the spectroscopy of light mesons?
- Where is the missing spin in the nucleon? Role of orbital angular momentum?
- Can we reveal a novel landscape of nucleon substructure through 3D imaging at the femtometer scale?
- What is the relation between short-range N-N correlations, the partonic structure of nuclei, and the nature of the nuclear force?
- Can we discover evidence for physics beyond the standard model of particle physics?

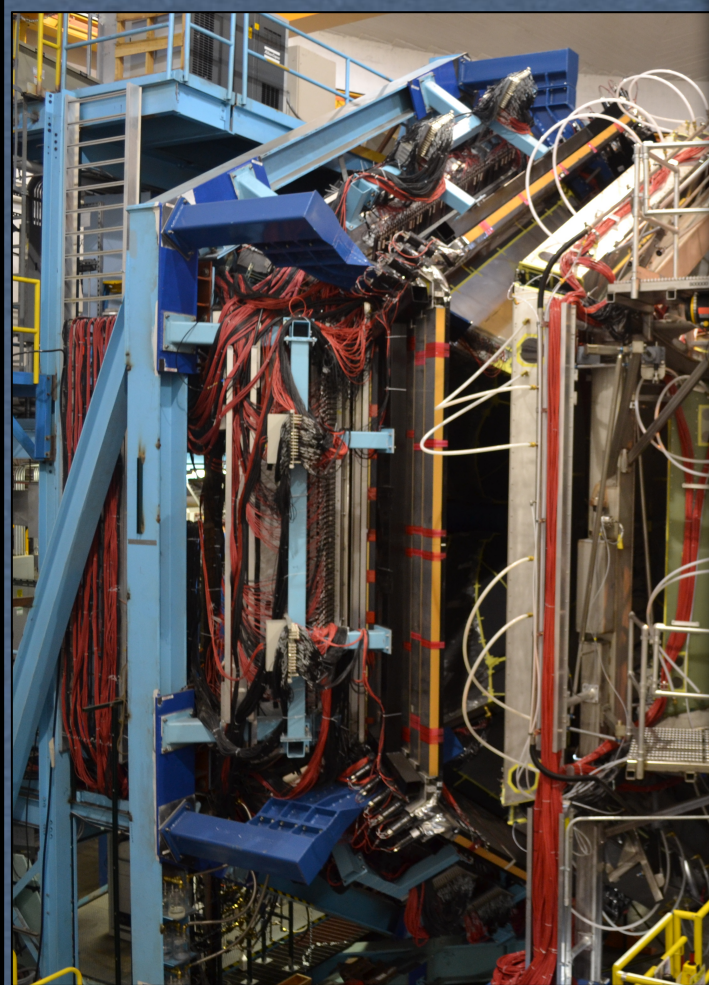


12 GeV experimental program is in full swing

- 33 experiments completed out of 91 approved
- ~8 years of physics ahead (~30 weeks/year)

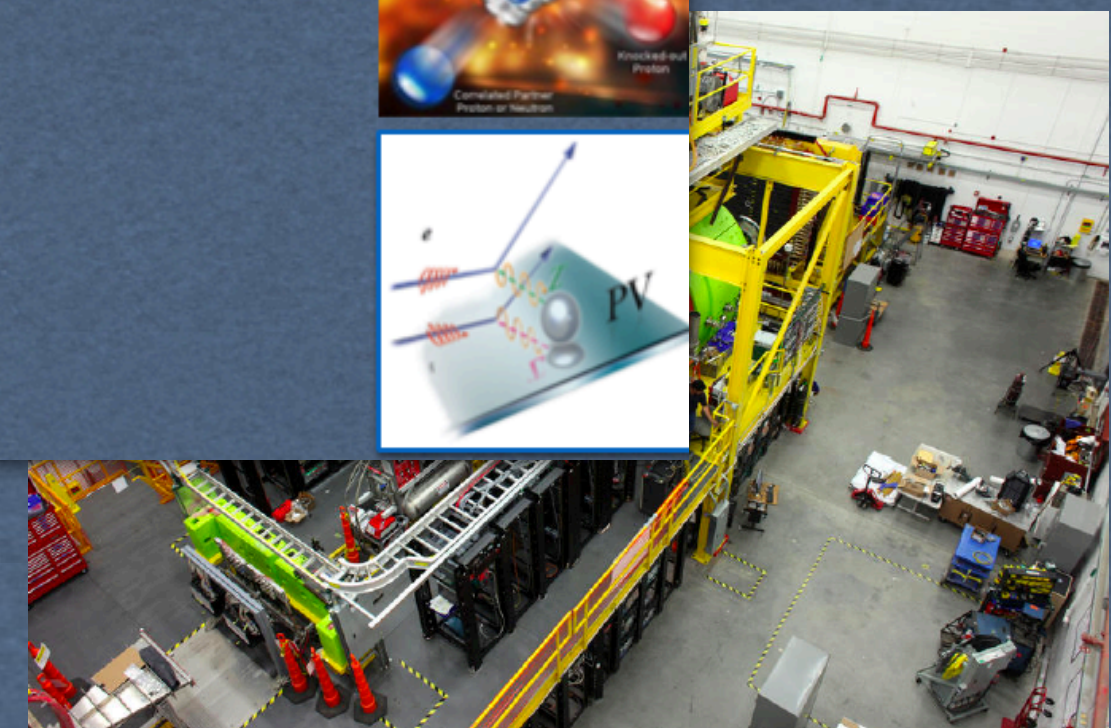
Future opportunities at CEBAF

- Higher Energy
- Higher luminosity
- Positron beam

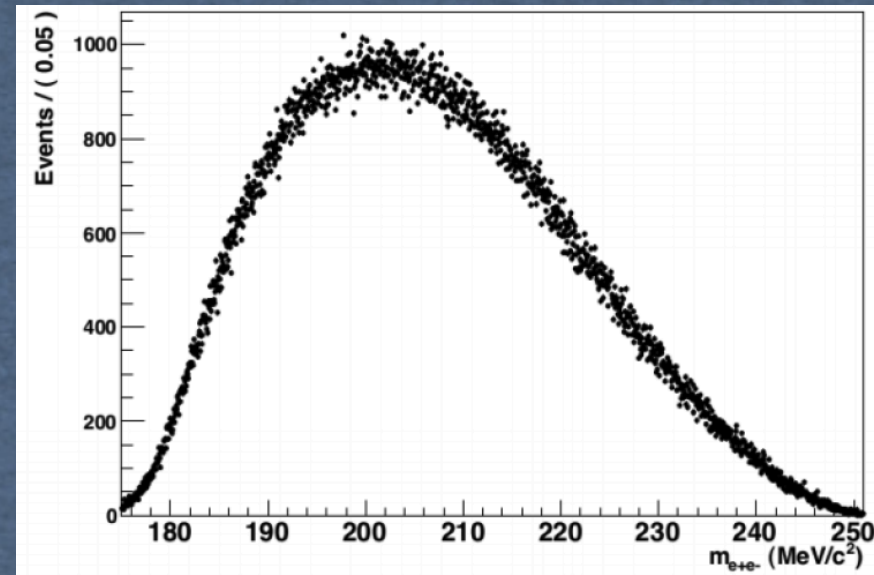
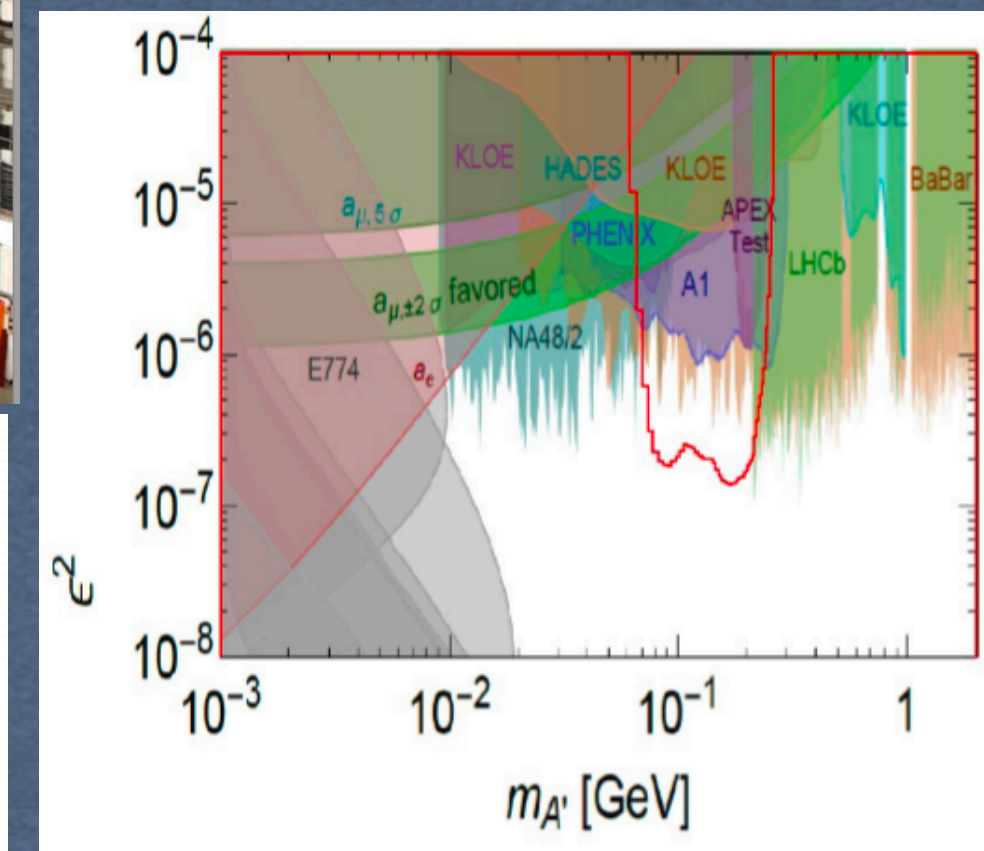
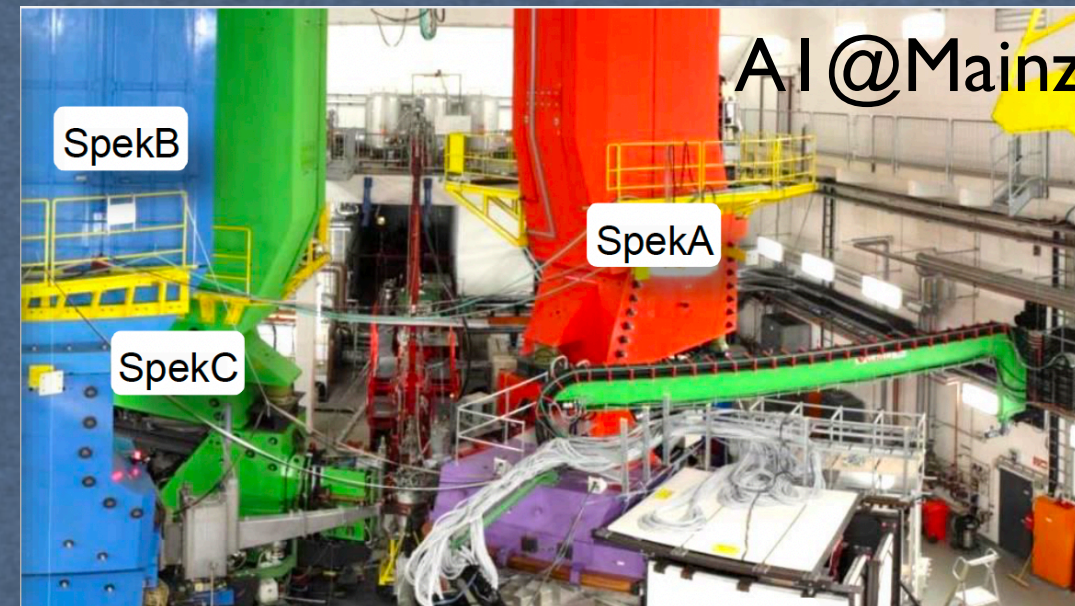
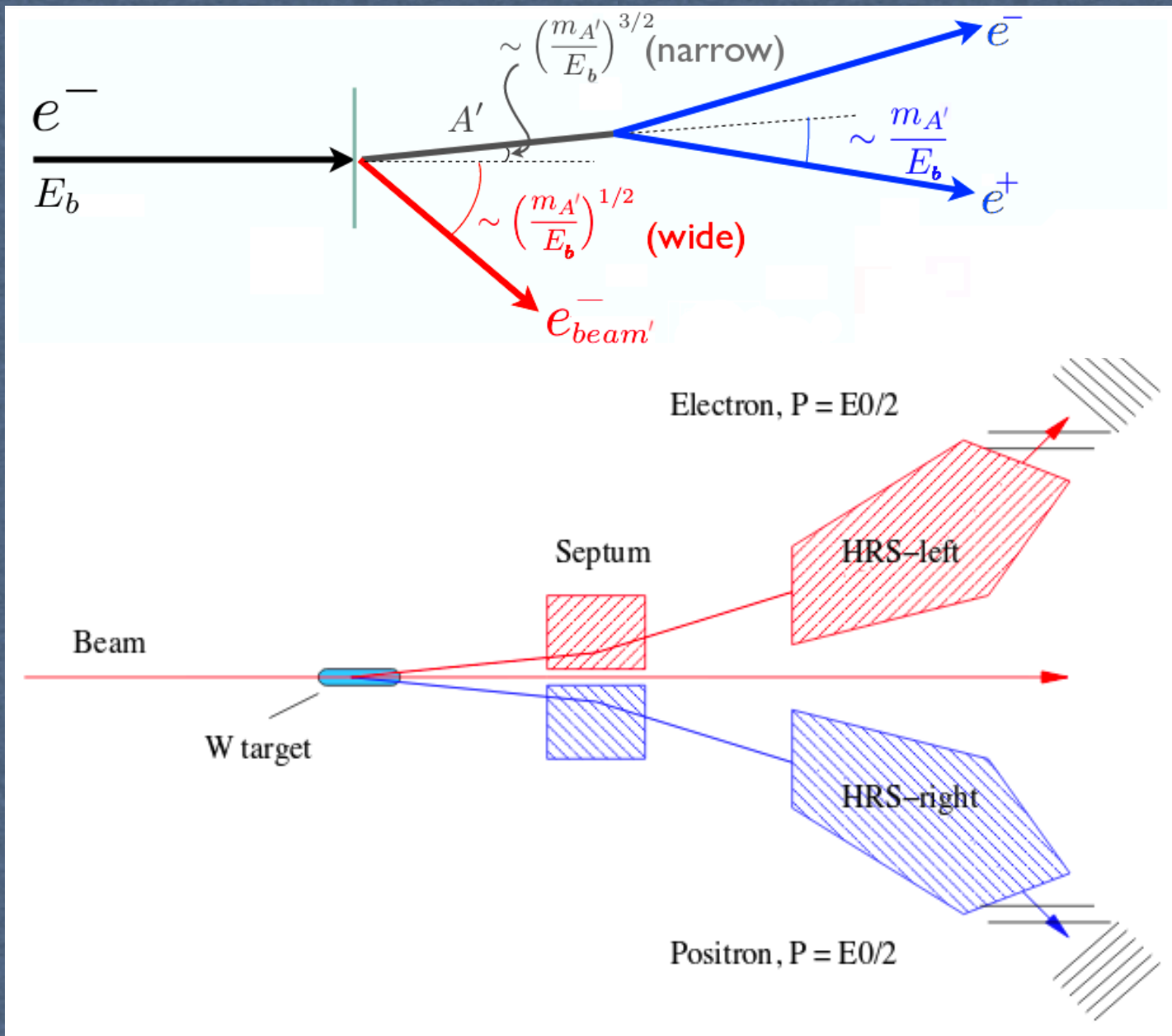


Hall B

Hall D

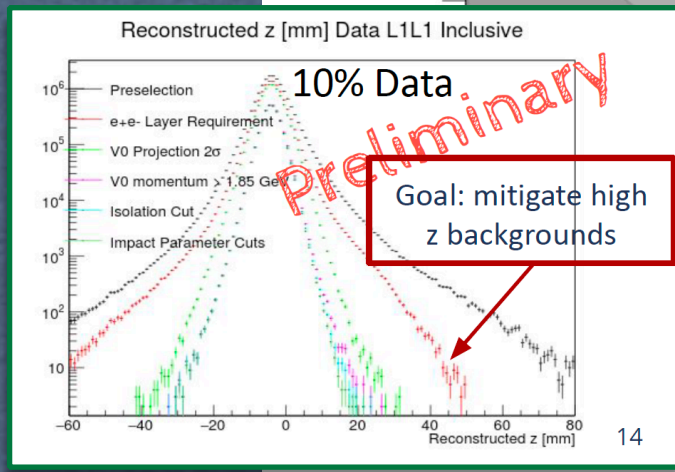
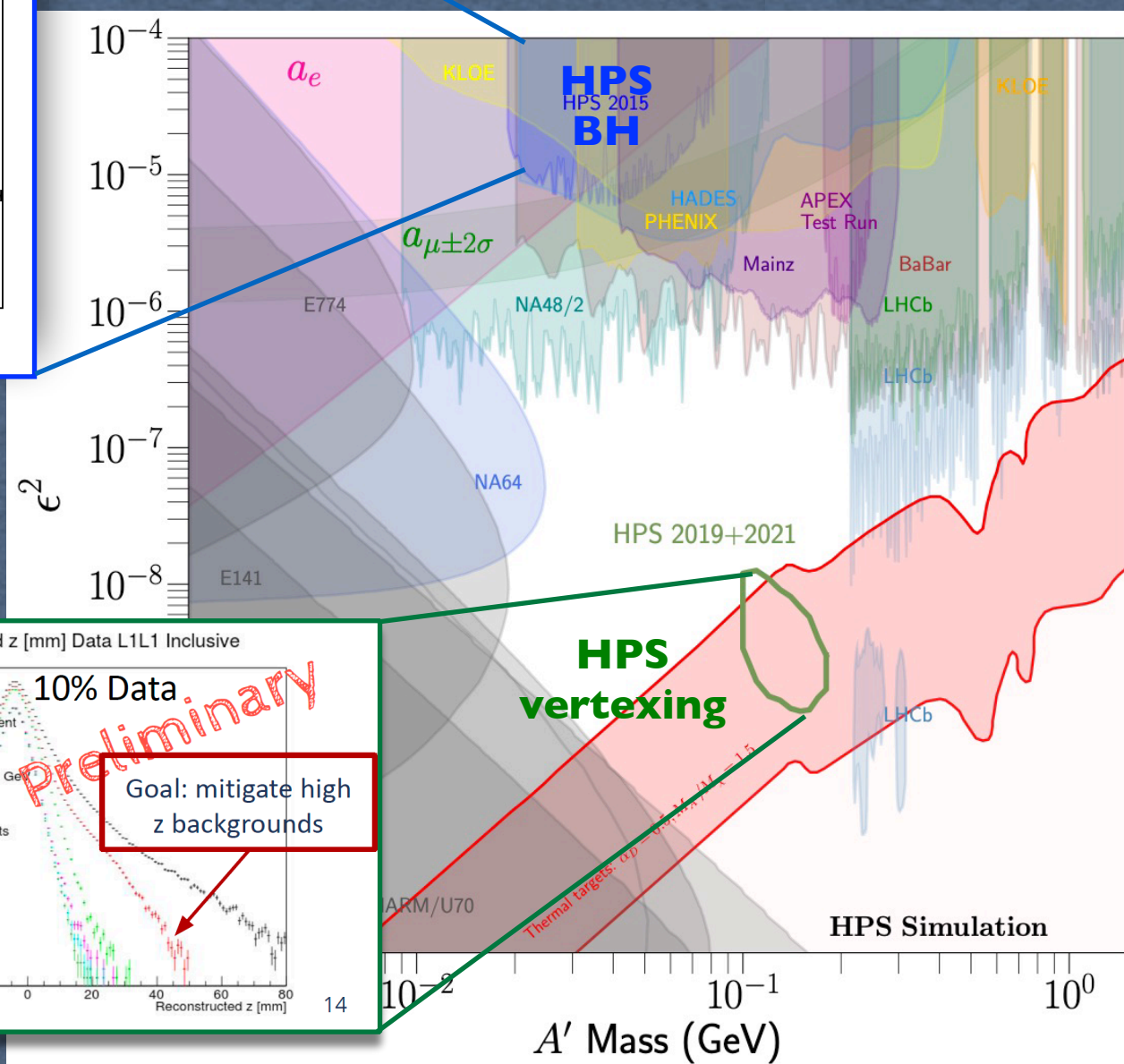
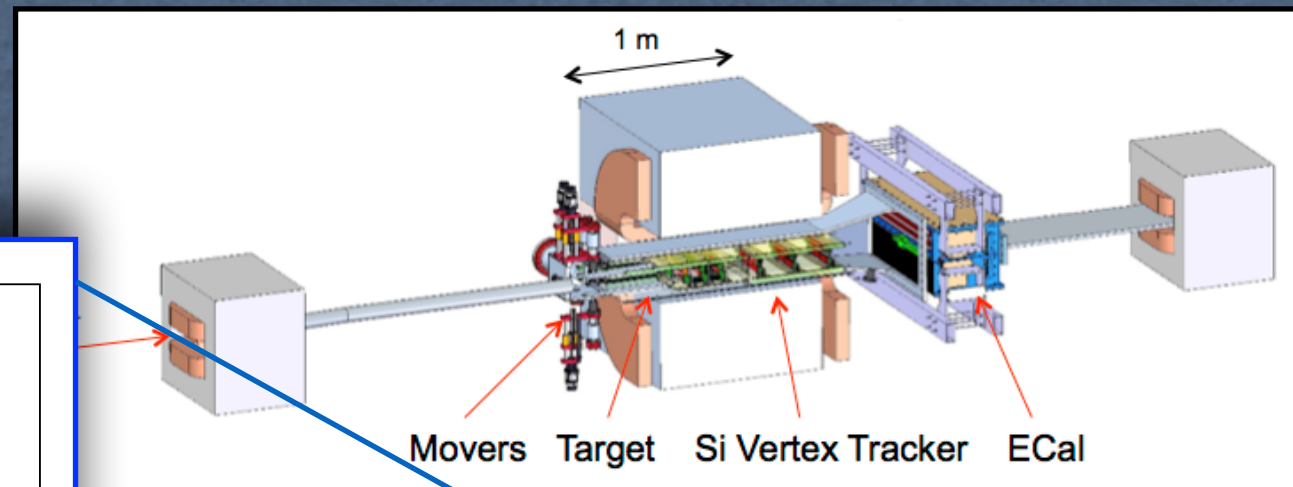
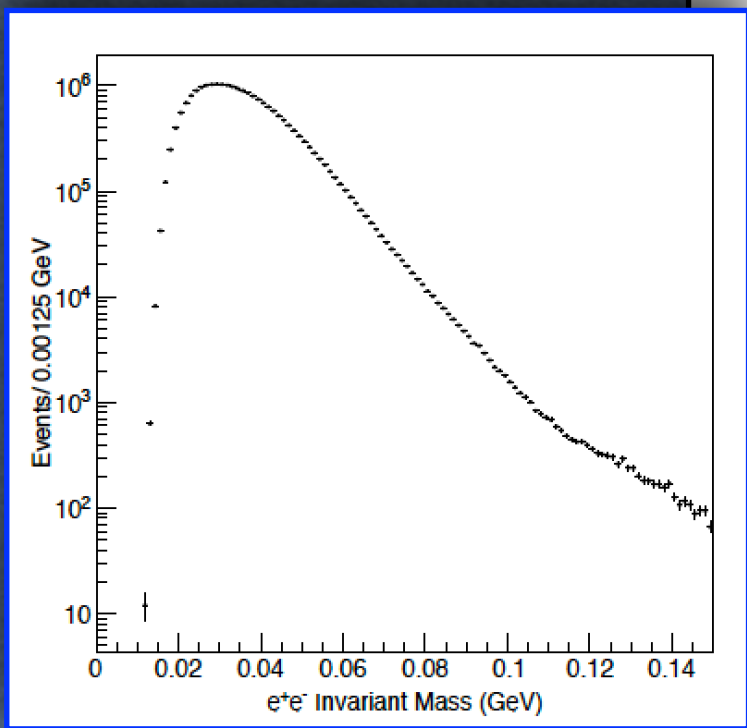
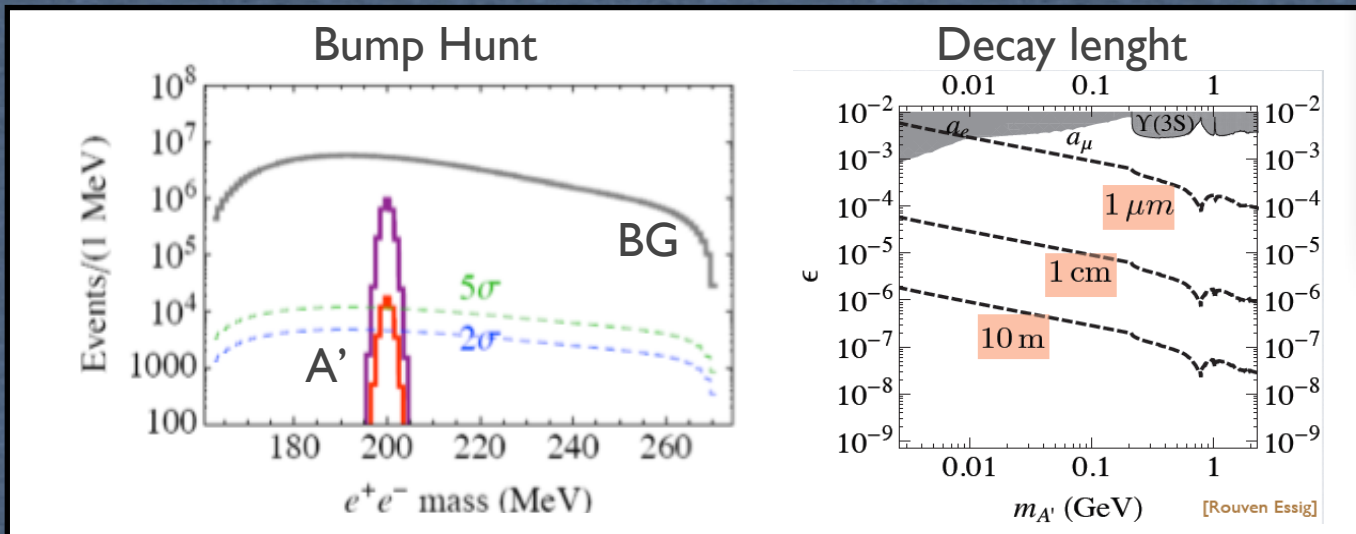
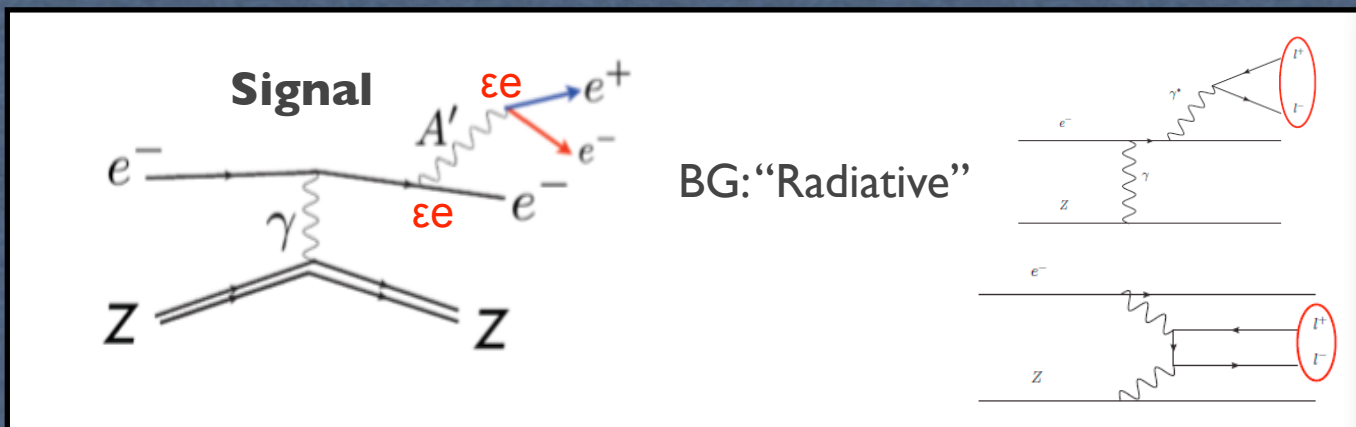


APEX@JLab and AI@Mainz



- Dark photon searched as a narrow resonance in e^+e^- mass over a smooth QED background
- Two High Resolution Spectrometers (HRSs) in coincidence to measure events with an e^- in one arm and e^+ in the other

Heavy Photon Search @ JLab visible decay

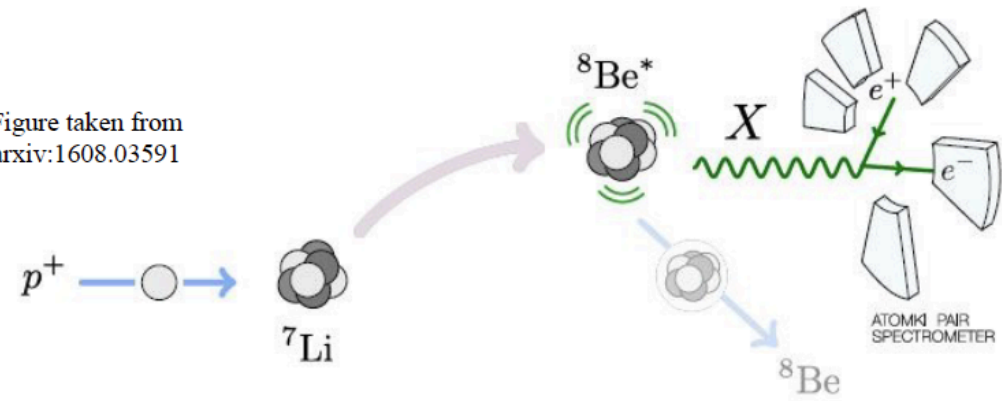


- 1) Bump Hunting (BH)**
 Narrow e^+e^- -resonance over a QED background
 → good mass resolution: $\sigma_{A' \text{ mass}} \sim 1 \text{ MeV}$
- 2) Secondary decay vertex (vertexing)**
 Detached vertex from few mm to tens cm
 → good spacial resolution: $\sigma_{\text{vertex}} \sim 1 \text{ mm}$

Heavy photon signatures in HPS
 BH + Vertexing = enhanced experimental reach

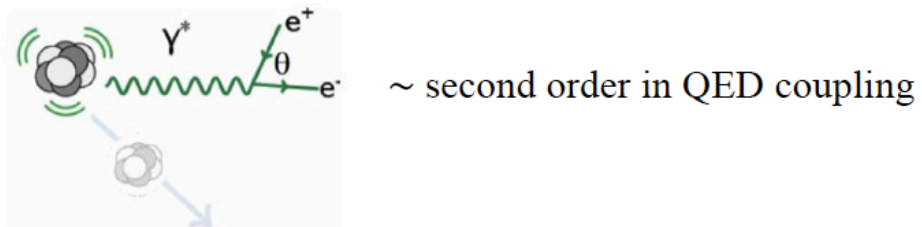
XI7 The Atomki anomaly

Figure taken from arxiv:1608.03591

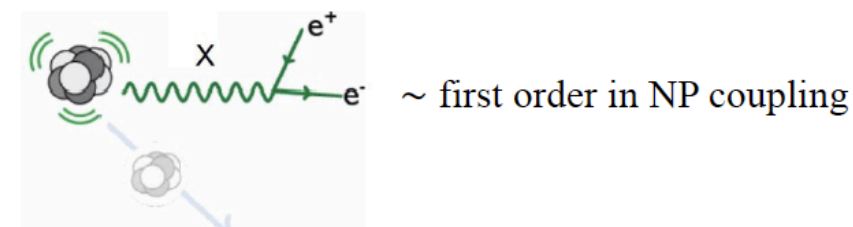


Energy released in nuclear transitions is $O(1 - 10)$ MeV

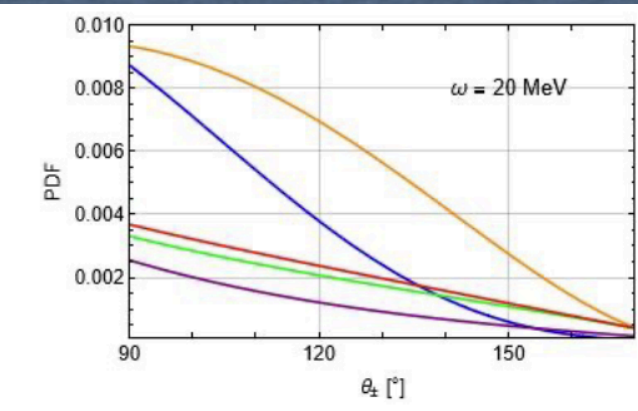
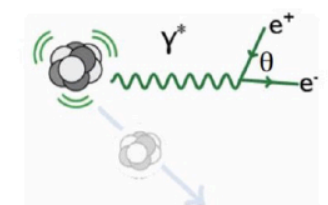
QED processes:



NP processes:

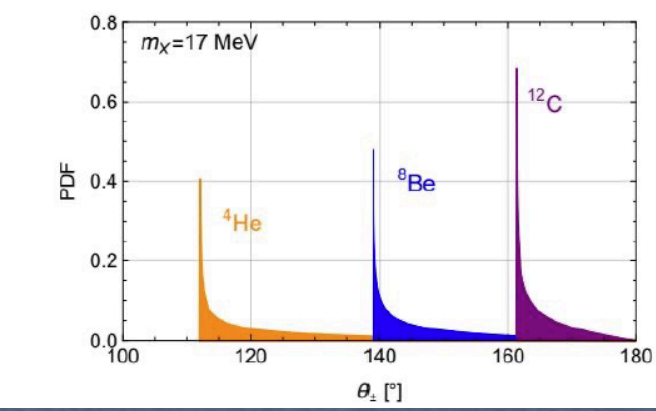
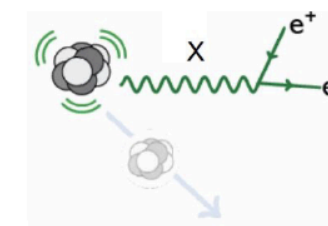


QED:



At large angles, QED predicts that the angular correlation of lepton pairs drops rapidly.

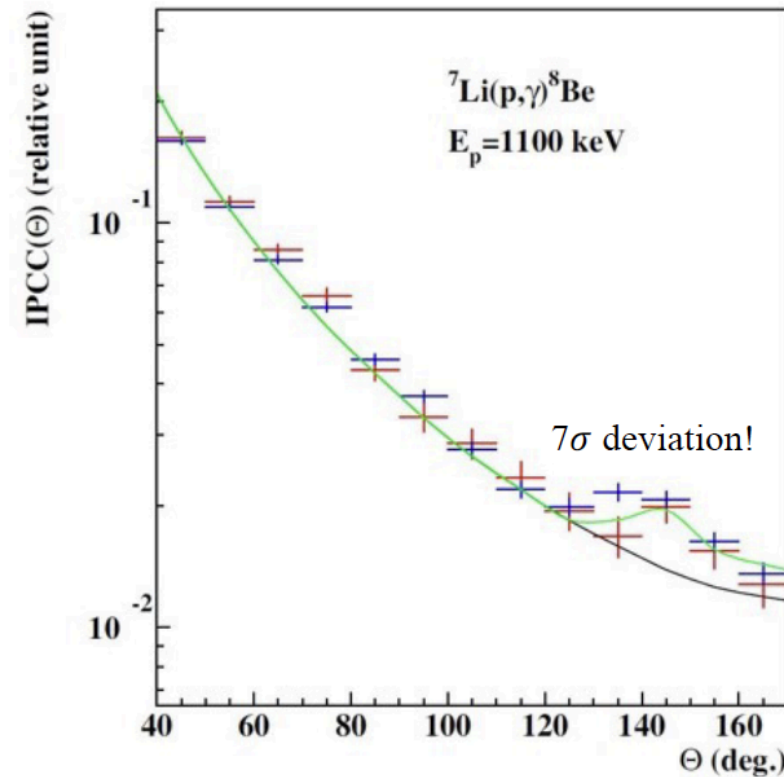
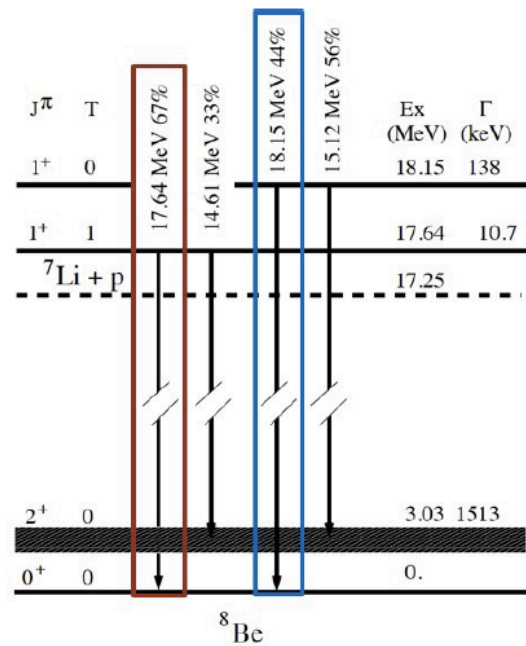
NP:



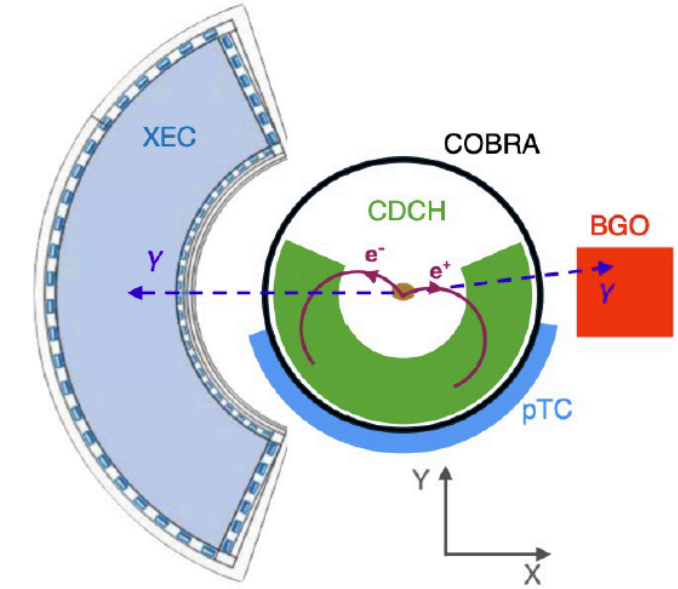
Bump-like distribution peaked at large angles!

XI7 The Atomki anomaly

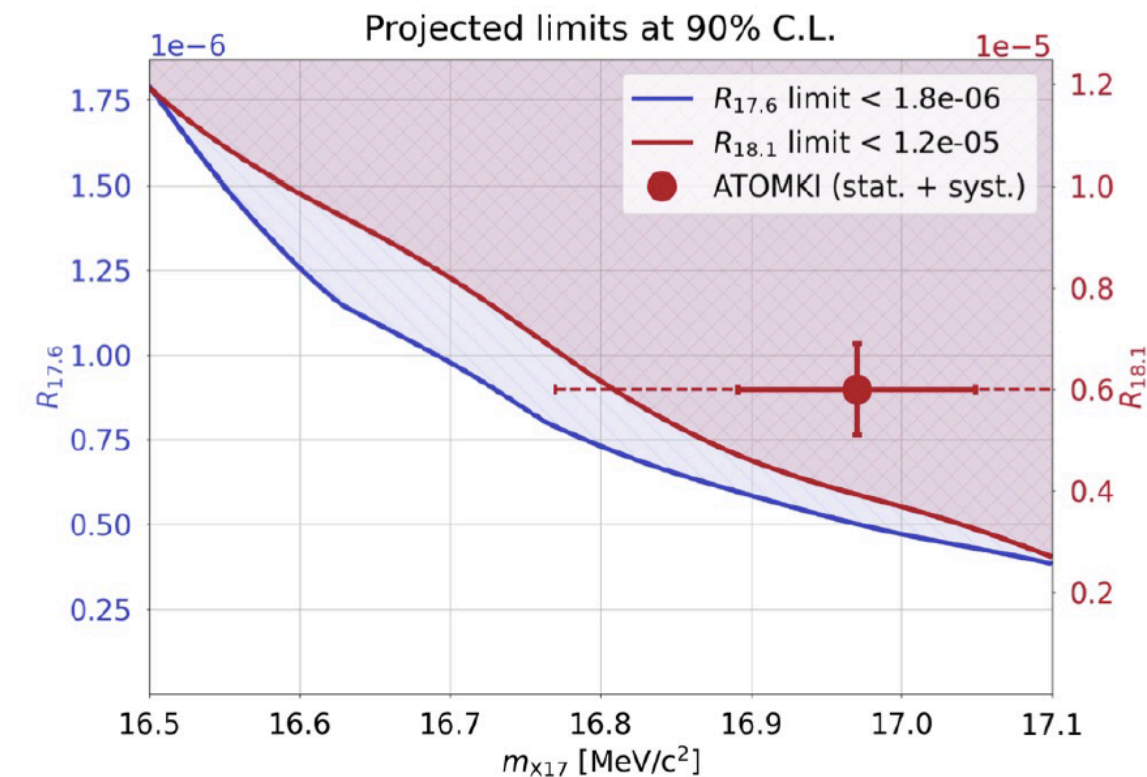
- In 2016 and 2018 the ATOMKI collaboration investigated the 18.15 MeV energy level of Beryllium8.
 - They observed an anomalous peak of events in both the measurements.
- Phys.Rev.Lett.* 116 (2016) 4, 042501
J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 1056 012028



Unconfirmed by
MEG-II



- In order to confirm the Atomki anomaly, MEG-II re-measured the Beryllium transitions at the PSI
- They took data during 2023 with energy beam at 1080 keV.
- Their results show no significant signal.
- They conclude that their measurement agrees with Atomki result with a p -value of 6% (1.5σ)



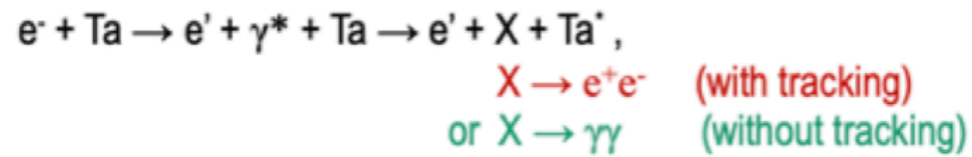
XI7 search at JLab

- Search for the XI7 in e^+e^- invariant mass
- Currently running at JLab

Search for Hidden Sector New Particles in the 3 – 60 MeV Mass Range

Proposal submitted to JLab PAC49

- New (hidden) particle in MeV-scale mass range in forward electroproduction reactions from a heavy A solid target.



Mass range: [3 ÷ 60] MeV

- Target: Tantalum ($_{73}\text{Ta}^{181}$) film, thickness: $1 \mu\text{m}$, 2.5×10^{-4} r.l. density: 16.69 g/cm^3
 $N(\text{Ta}) = 0.56 \times 10^{19} \text{ atoms/cm}^2$

Experimental method:

- ✓ “bump hunting” in the invariant mass spectrum over the beam background.
- ✓ direct detection of decay particles (e^+e^-) and scattered e^-

Detection criteria:

- scattered electron is in the PbWO_4 acceptance with $E_e = [30 \text{ MeV to } 0.7 \times E_{\text{beam}}]$;
- decay e^- and e^+ are in the PbWO_4 within energy: $[0.03 - 0.8 \times E_{\text{beam}}]$
- Target to PbWO_4 distance $L=7.5 \text{ m}$ beam energy optimized for $E_e = 2.2 \text{ GeV}$ and 3.3 GeV

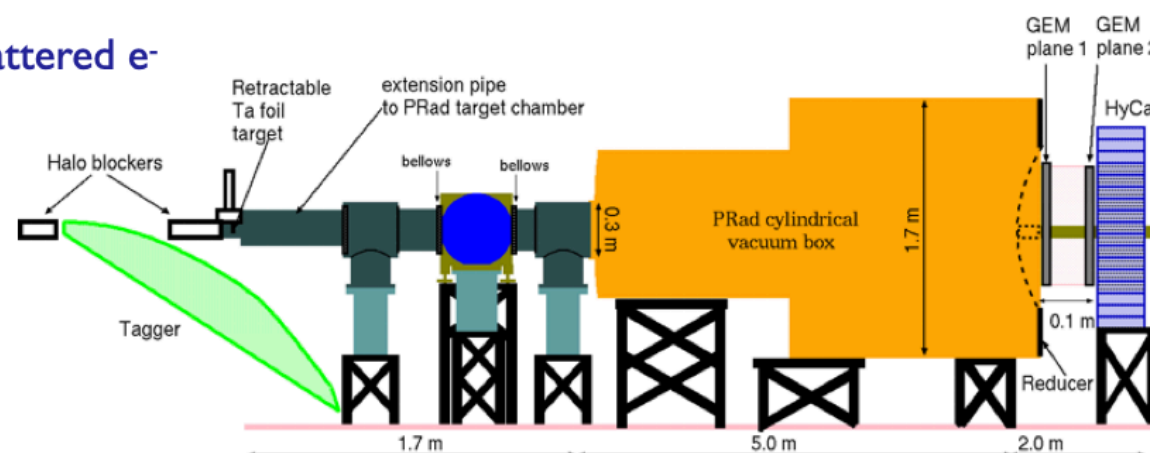
Beam time request

	Time [days]
Setup checkout, tests and calibration	4.0
Production at 2.2 GeV @ 50 nA	20.0
Production at 3.3 GeV @ 100 nA	30.0
Energy change	0.5
No target background sampling at 2.2 & 3.3 GeV	5.5
Total	60.0

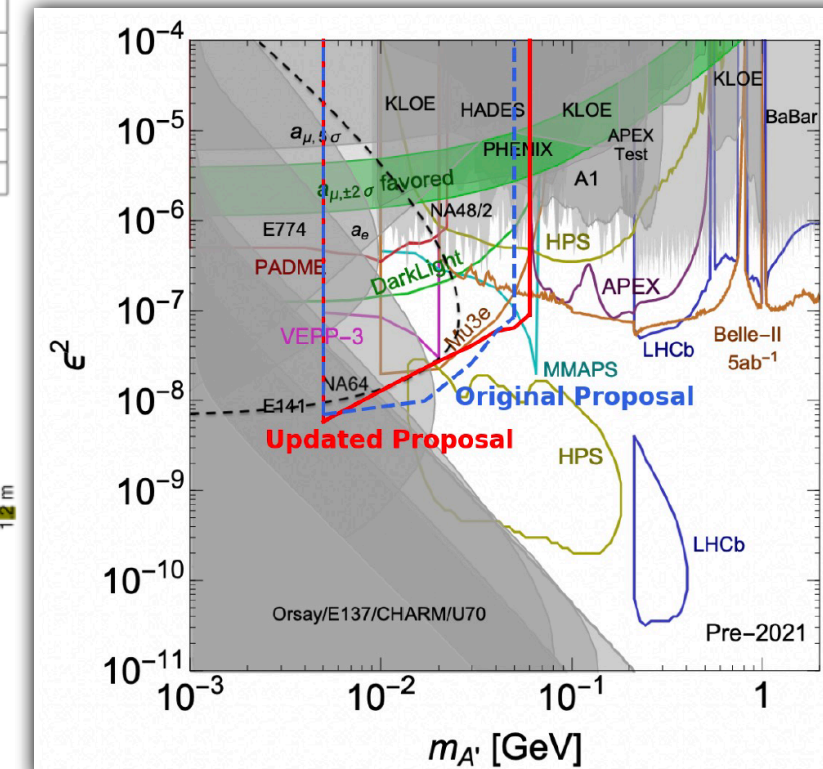
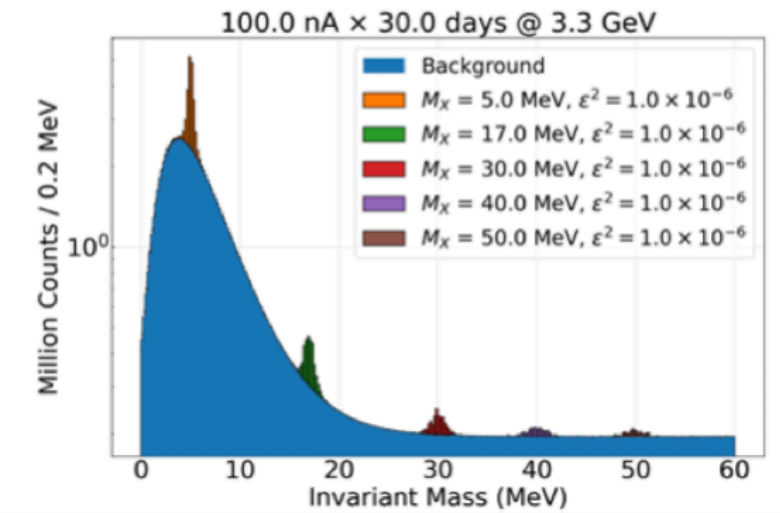
Search sensitivity

m_X MeV	σ_{m_X} MeV	Background Counts	Signal Counts (5.0 Significance)	Lowest ϵ^2	lowest ϵ^2 combined with signal from 20 days at 2.2 GeV
30 days of 3.3 GeV at 100 nA					
5.0	0.263	22.02M	23.48k	6.86E-09	5.94E-09
17.0	0.467	3.60M	9.50k	9.83E-09	8.51E-09
30.0	0.692	3.06M	8.76k	2.60E-08	2.25E-08
40.0	0.938	4.08M	10.11k	5.71E-08	4.94E-08
50.0	1.009	4.38M	10.48k	8.37E-08	7.24E-08

Experimental Setup (Side View)



Sensitivity Example for $\epsilon^2 = 10^{-6}$

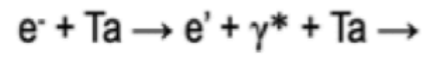


X17 search at JLab

- Search for the X17 in e^+e^- invariant mass
- Currently running at JLab

Search for Hidden

- New (hidden) particle in MeV-s in forward electroproduction reaction



Mass range: [3 ÷ 60] MeV

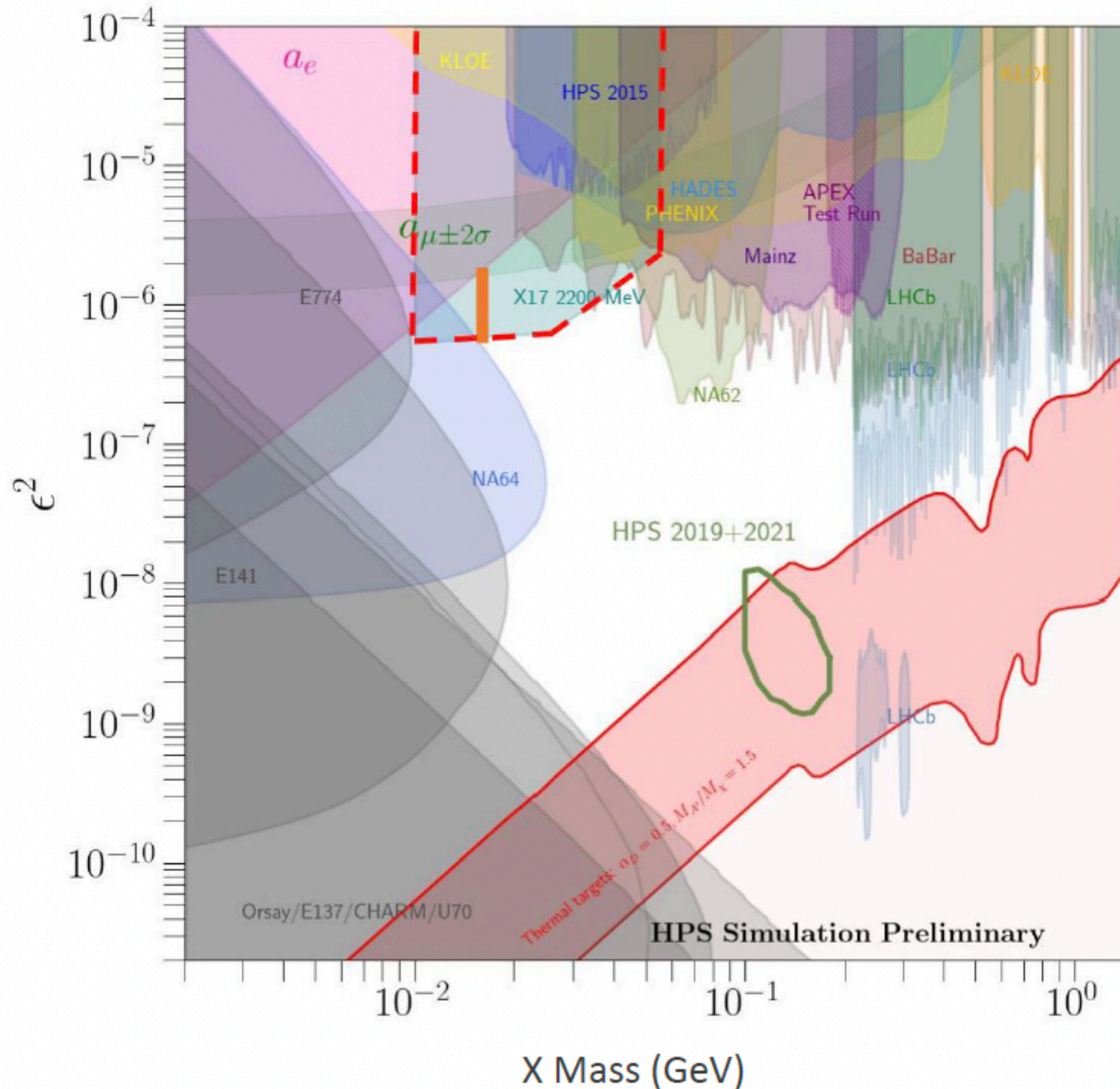
- Target: Tantalum (${}_{73}\text{Ta}^{181}$)
density: 16.69 g/cm³
 $N(\text{Ta}) = 0.56 \times 10^{19}$

Experimental method:

- ✓ “bump hunting” in the invariant beam background.
- ✓ direct detection of decay

Detection criteria:

- scattered electron is in the Pb $E_e = [30\text{MeV to } 0.7 \times E_{\text{beam}}]$;
- decay e^- and e^+ are in the PbW [0.03 – 0.8 $\times E_{\text{beam}}$]
- Target to PbWO4 distance $L =$ optimized for $E_e = 2.2$ GeV and

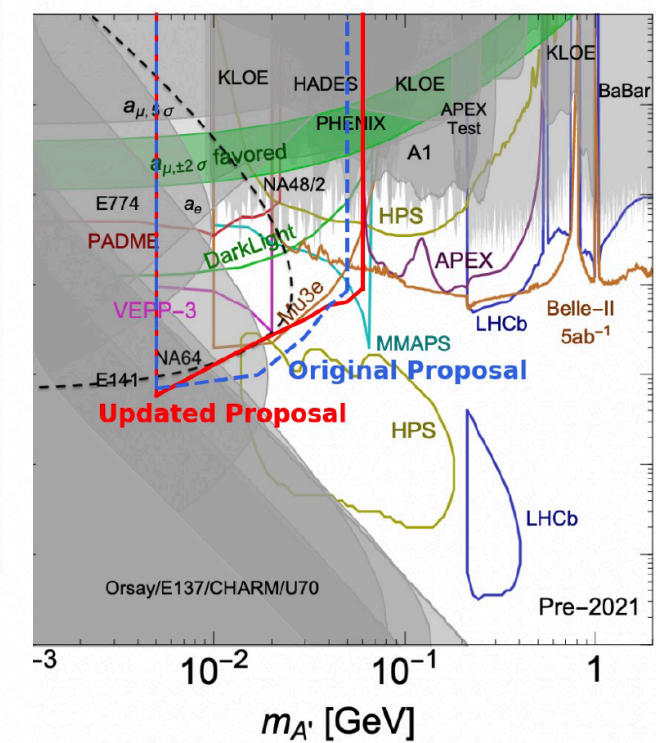
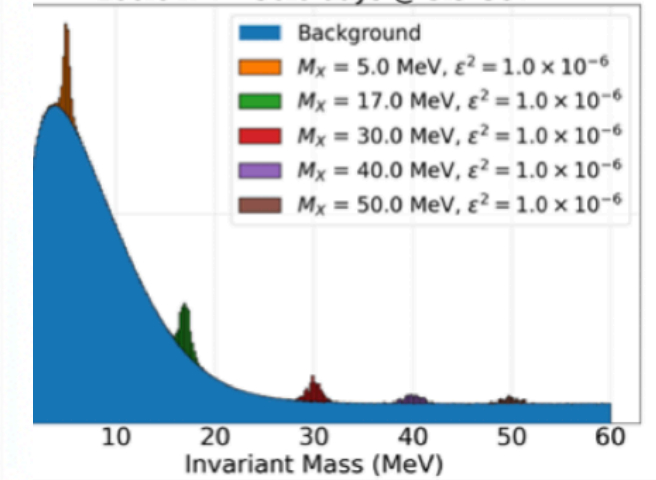


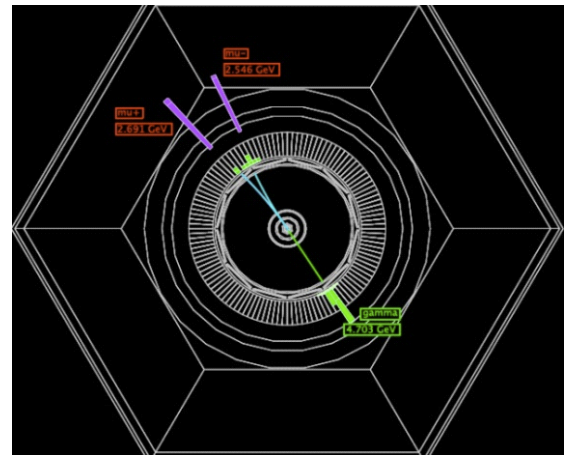
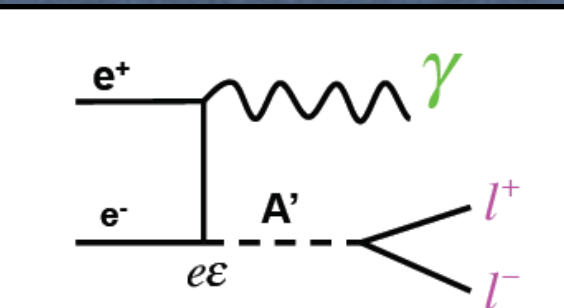
ge

Proposal submitted to JLab PAC49

Sensitivity Example for $\epsilon^2 = 10^{-6}$

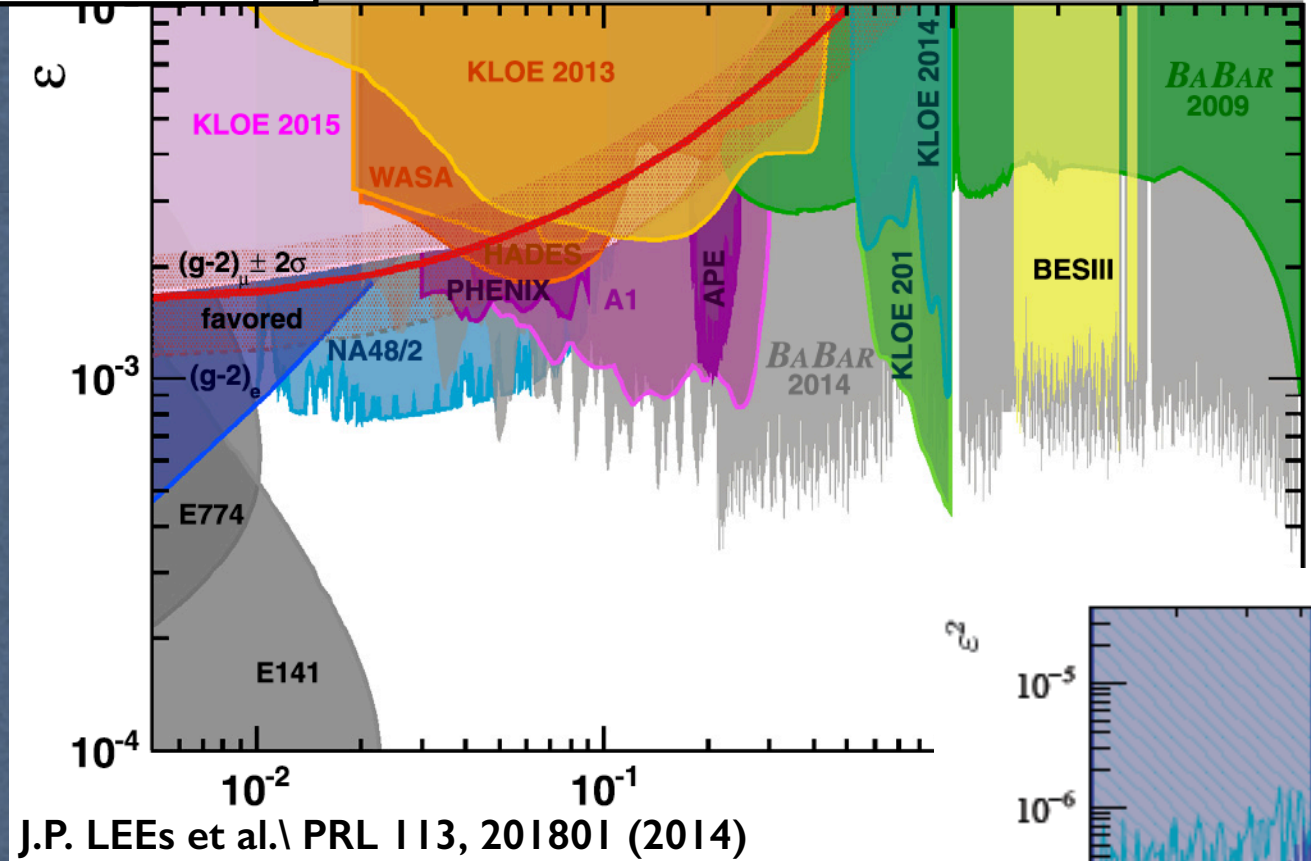
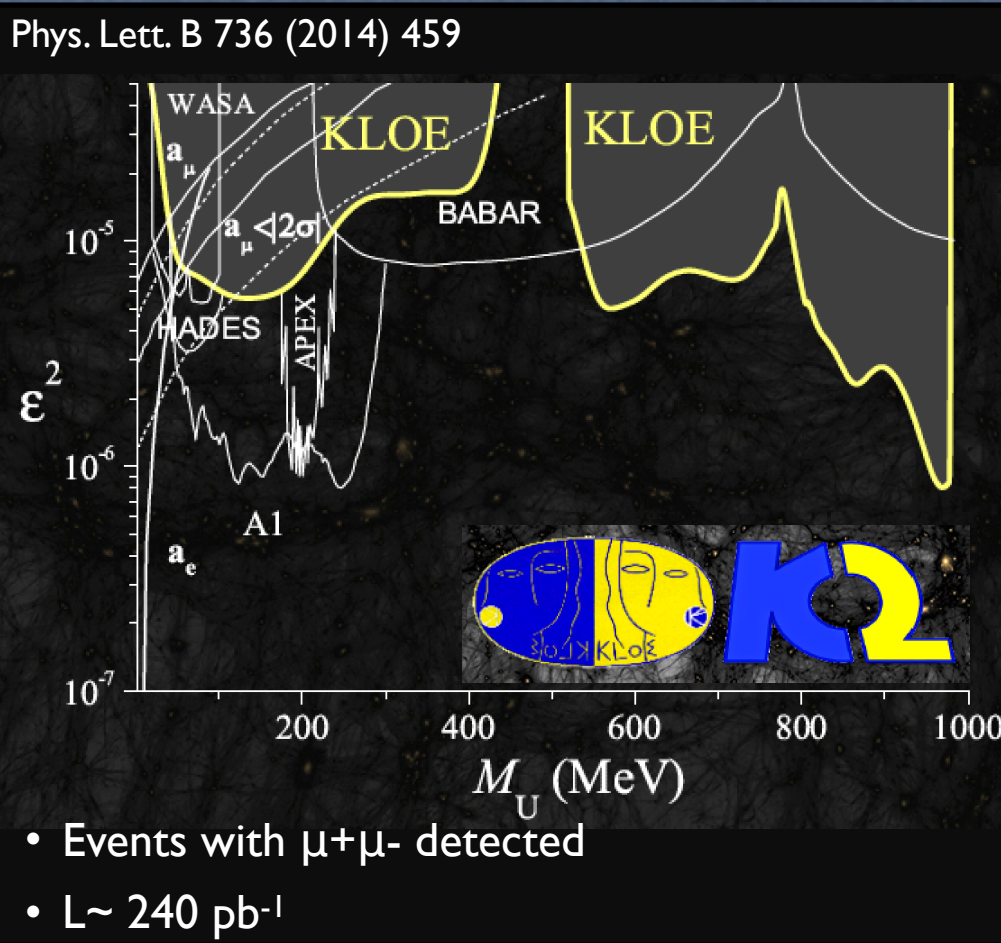
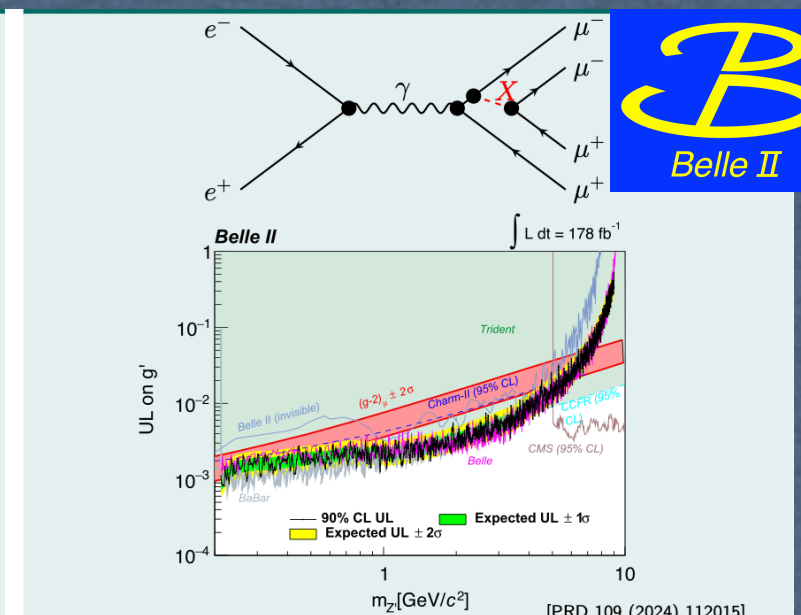
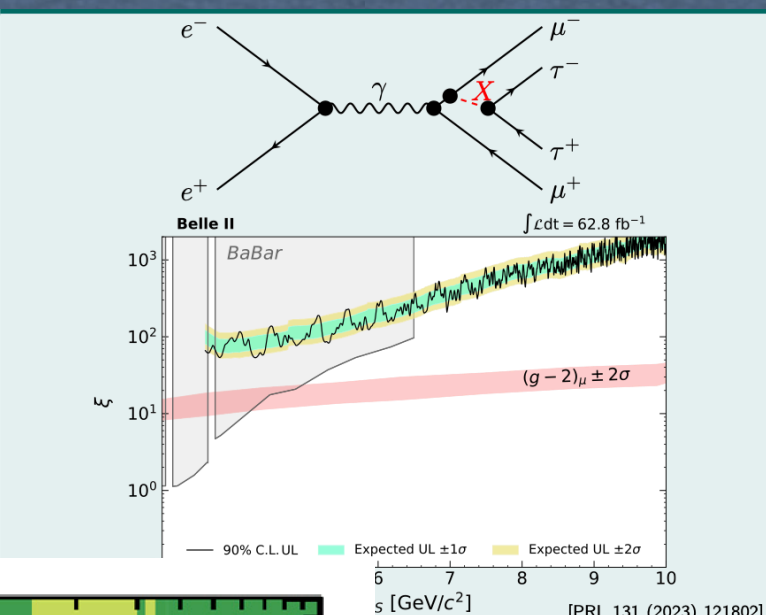
100.0 nA × 30.0 days @ 3.3 GeV



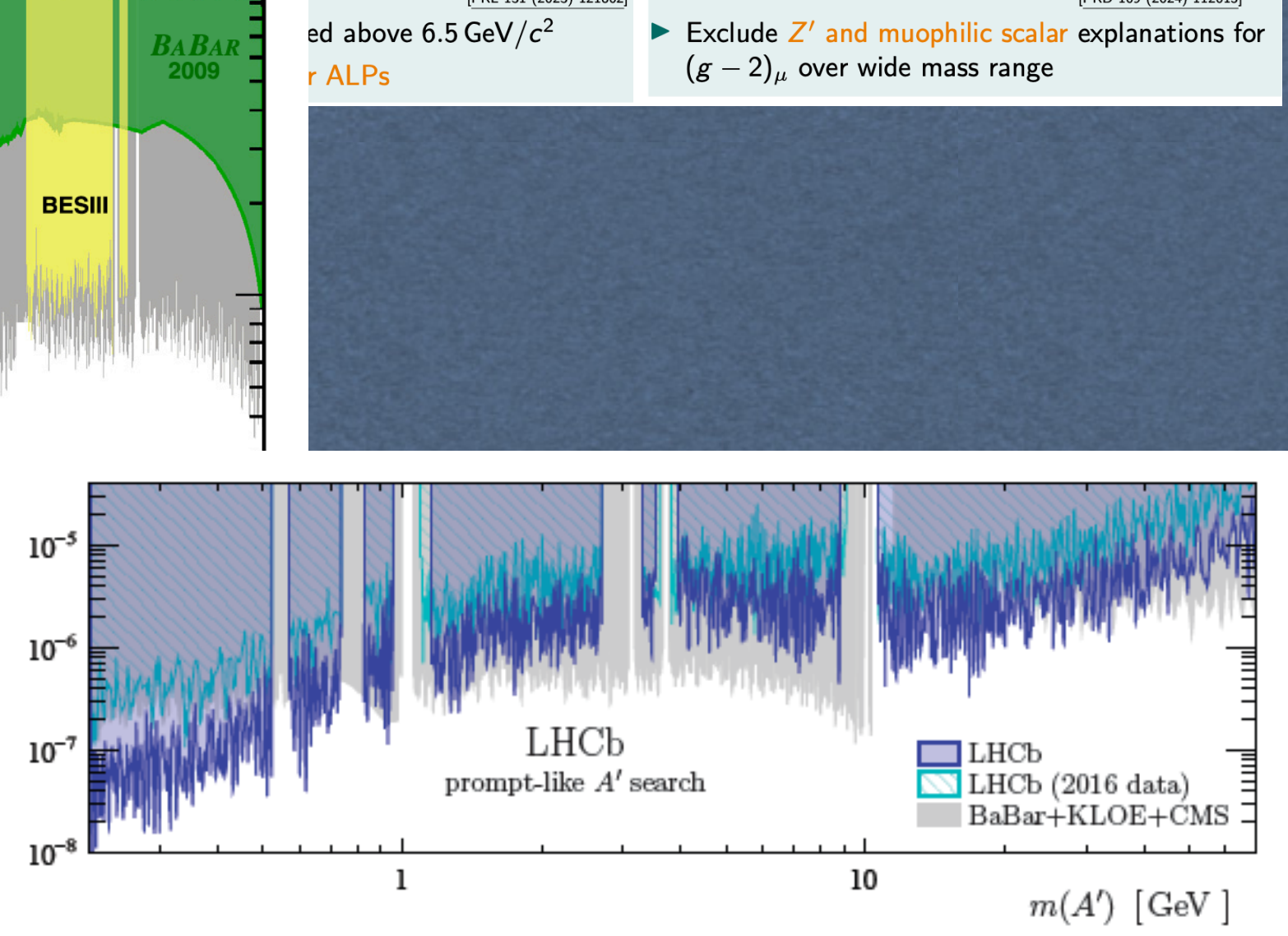


- 1 gamma + 2 opposite leptons
- Di-lepton mass fit to a bg
- Mass resolution: 1.5 MeV - 8 MeV
- Int (L) = 514 fb⁻¹

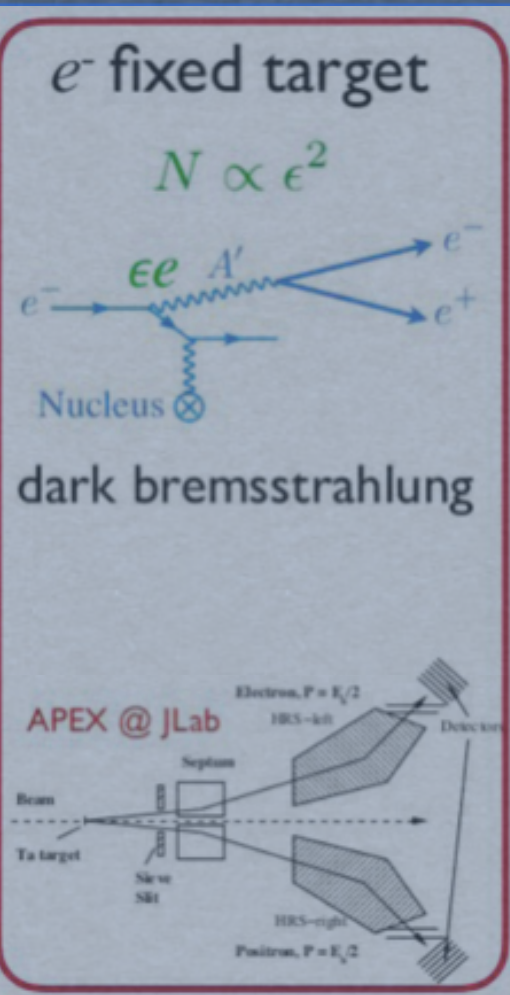
e+e- Colliders - visible -



J.P. LEES et al. \ PRL 113, 201801 (2014)



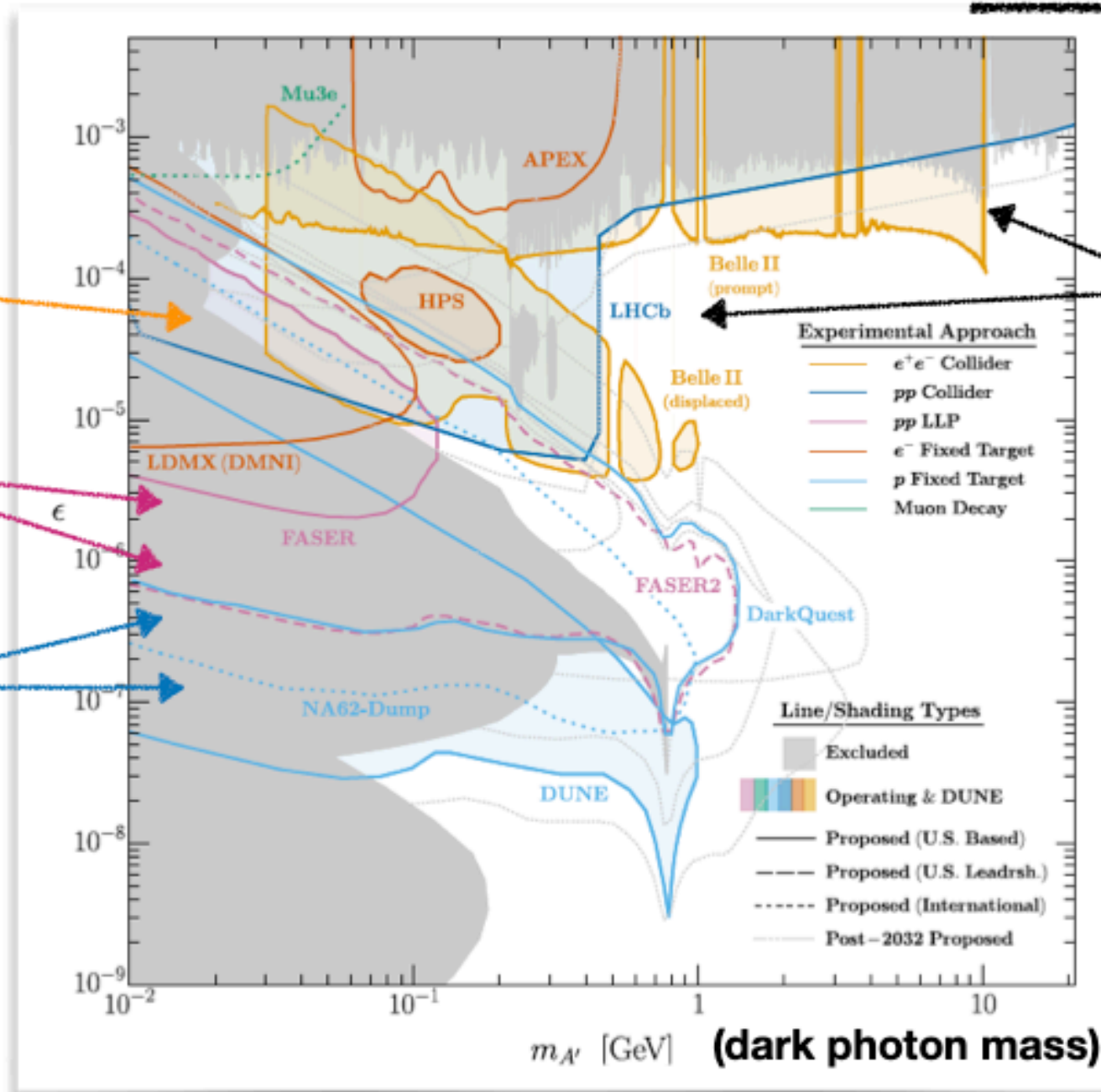
A' visible decay at accelerators



Fixed target
 $e N \rightarrow N \gamma'$
 \rightarrow JLAB

$$\epsilon B^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu}$$

electron fixed target
 forward detectors
 proton beam-dump



energy frontier
 Colliders

Batell et al.,
 2207.06905

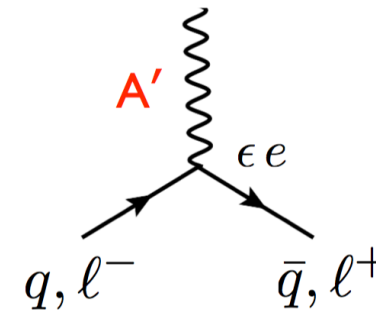
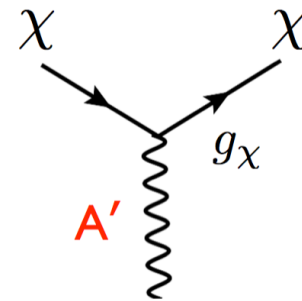
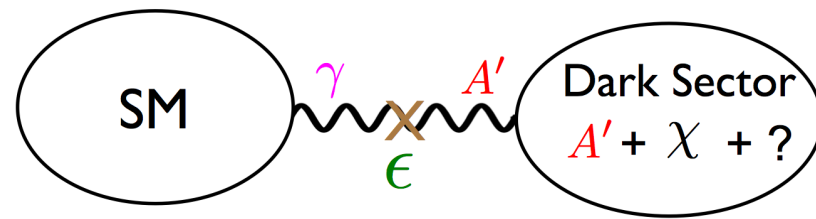
This entire parameter space predicts a **dark sector in thermal equilibrium with the SM**

2023

S.Gori

ArXiv:2305.01715 :Feebly Interacting Particles: FIPs 2022 workshop report

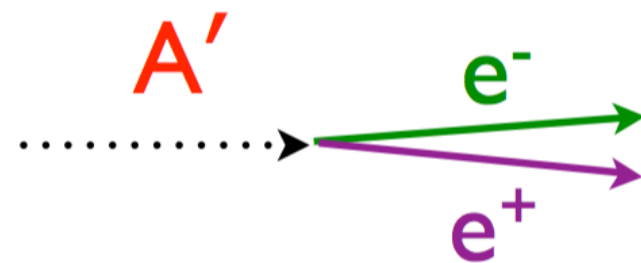
Dark forces and dark matter (Light WIMPs - light mediators)



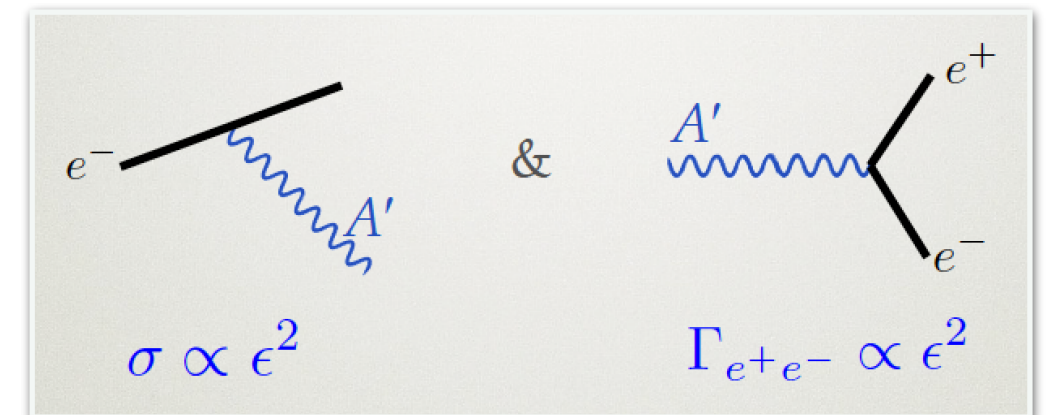
4 parameters: $m_\chi, m_{A'}, \epsilon, g_\chi$

$$m_\chi \sim m_{A'} \sim \text{MeV} - 5 \text{ GeV}$$

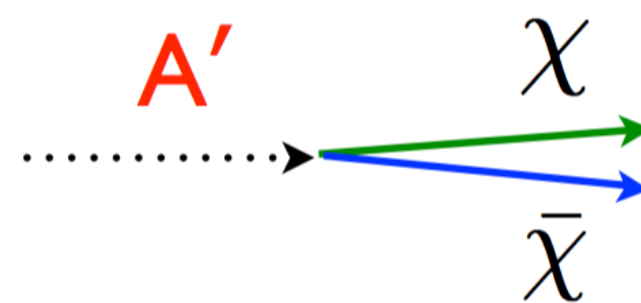
Visible



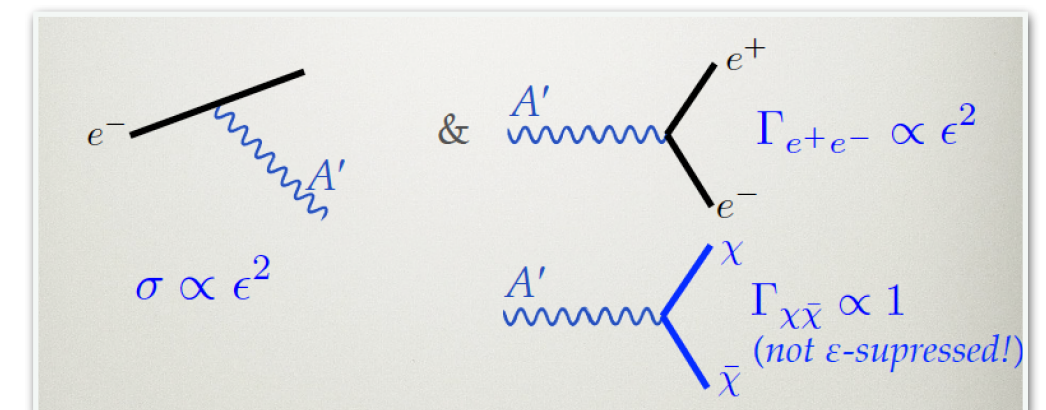
- Minimal decay
- Decay regulated by ϵ^2
- Independent on m_χ
- Requires $m_{A'} < 2m_\chi$



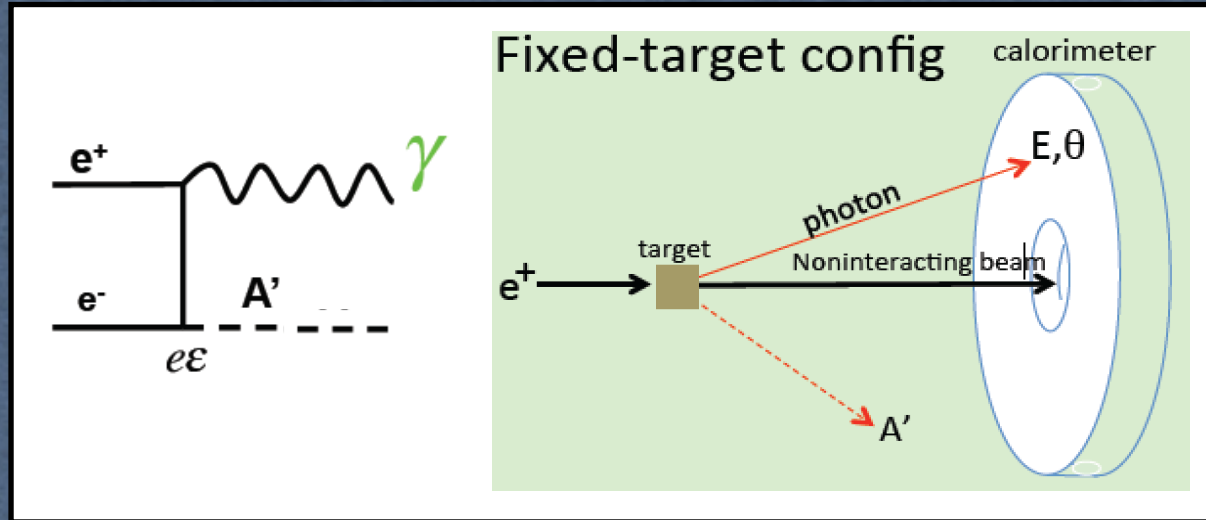
Invisible



- $m_\chi < 2m_{A'}$
- i) stable and invisible
- ii) decays to SM particles
- Independent on ϵ

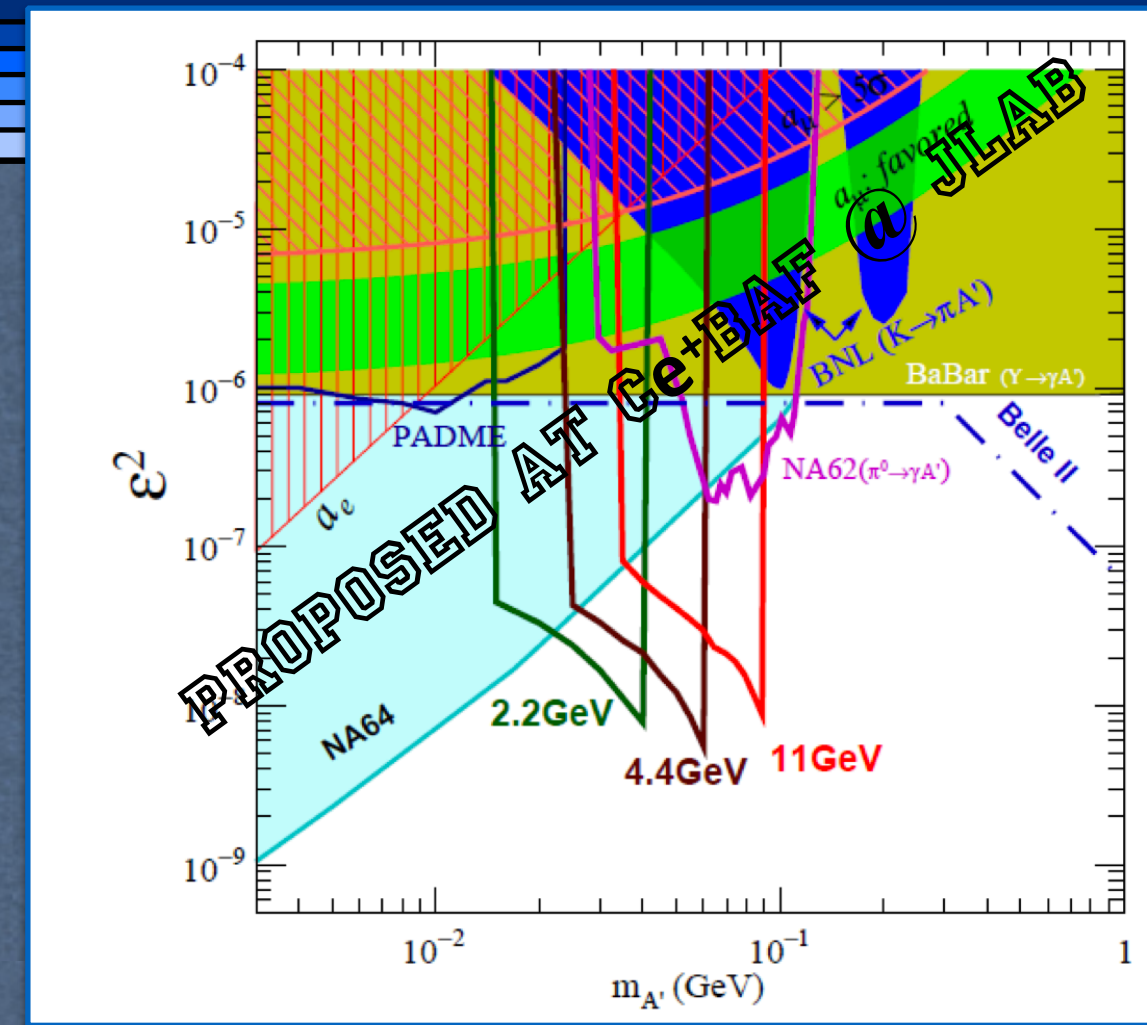


e^+ annihilation on fixed (thin) target visible/invisible



Missing mass search:

- Independent of A' decay mechanism
- Bump hunt (monophoton@collider)
- Need a positron beam
- Limited $M_{A'}$ accessible
 - 1 GeV beam: $M_{A'} < 31$ MeV
 - 5 GeV beam: $M_{A'} < 71$ MeV



VEPP3

- $E_{e^+} = 500$ MeV
- EOT $\sim 10^{15} - 10^{16}$ year $^{-1}$

LNF

- $E_{e^+} = 550$ MeV
- EOT $\sim 10^{13} - 10^{14}$ year $^{-1}$

Cornell

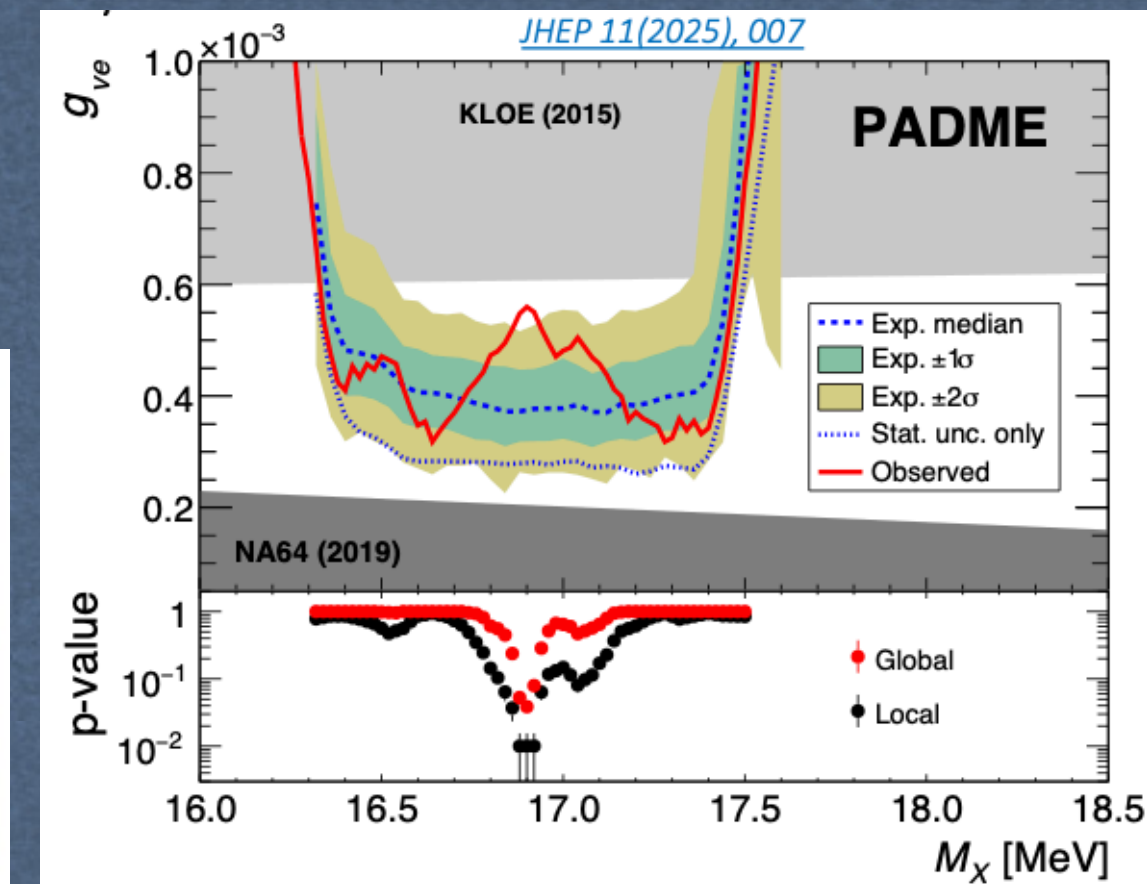
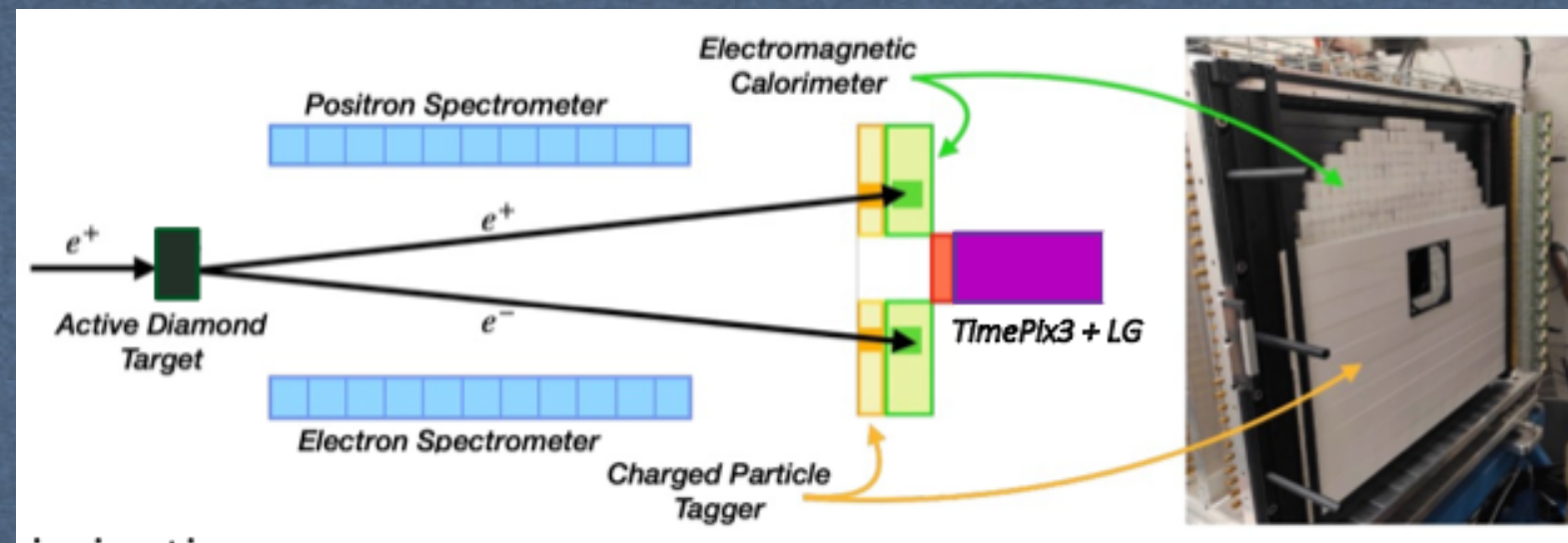
- $E_{e^-} = 5.3$ GeV
- EOT $\sim 10^{17} - 10^{18}$ year $^{-1}$

JLab (future)

- $E_{e^-} = 11$ GeV
- EOT $\sim 10^{18} - 10^{19}$ year $^{-1}$

PADME @ LNF invisible/visible

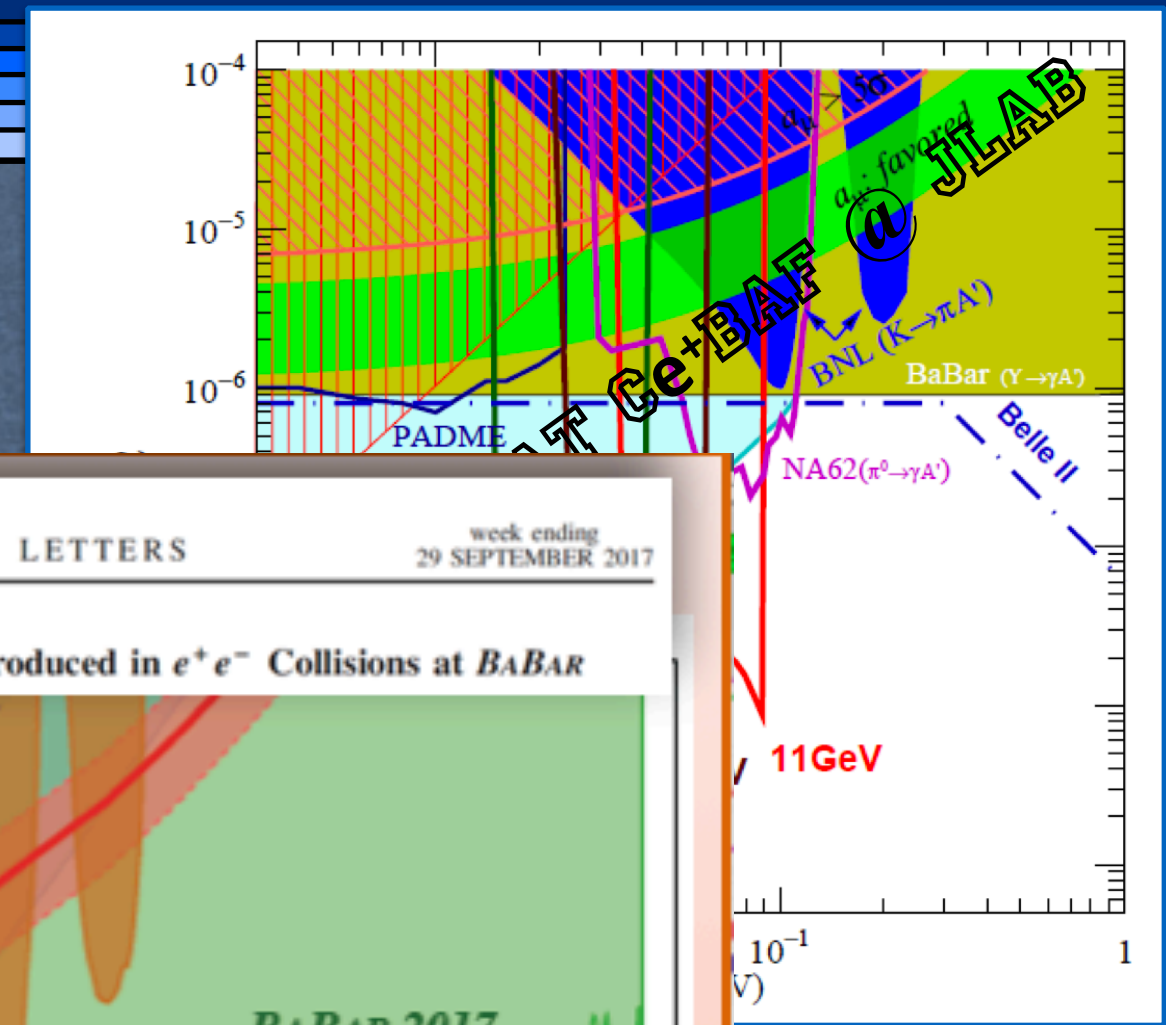
- e^+ beam 550 MeV
- Diamond active target
- EM calorimeter: 616 BGO crystals
- TIMEPIX3 for beam spot
- $\sim 6 \cdot 10^{11}$ POT (+ $5 \cdot 10^{11}$ POT on tape)
- Focus on X17 visible decay



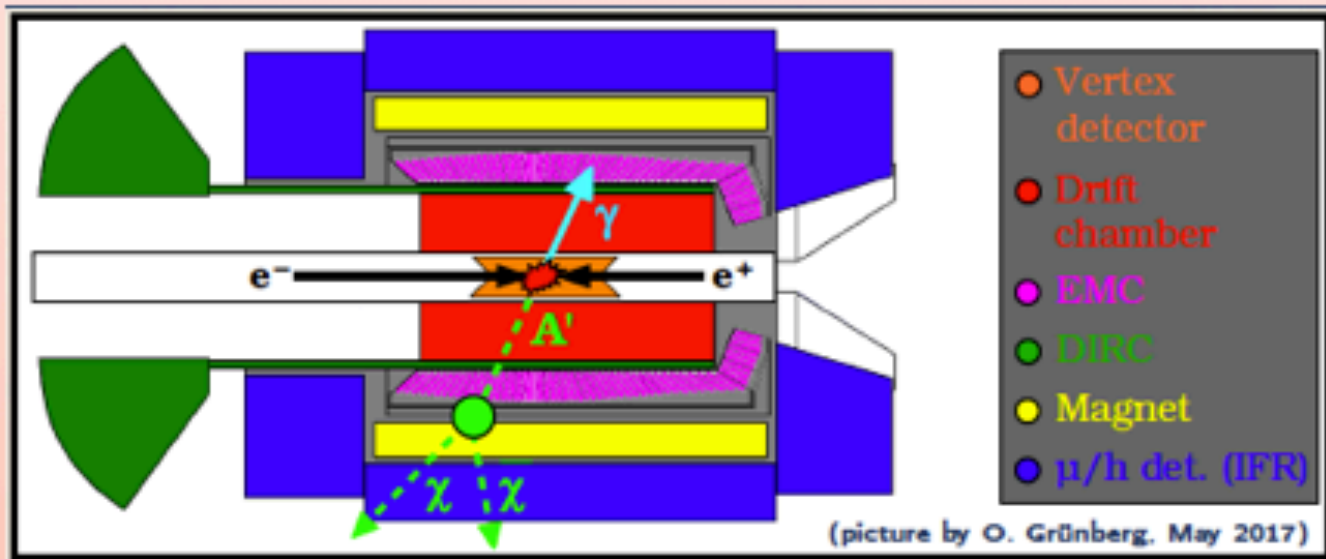
e^+ annihilation on fixed (thin) target visible/invisible

Fixed-target config calorimeter

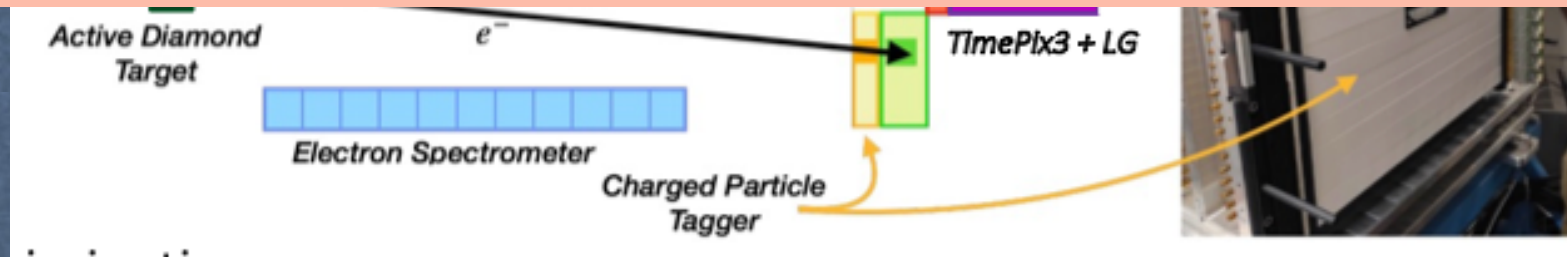
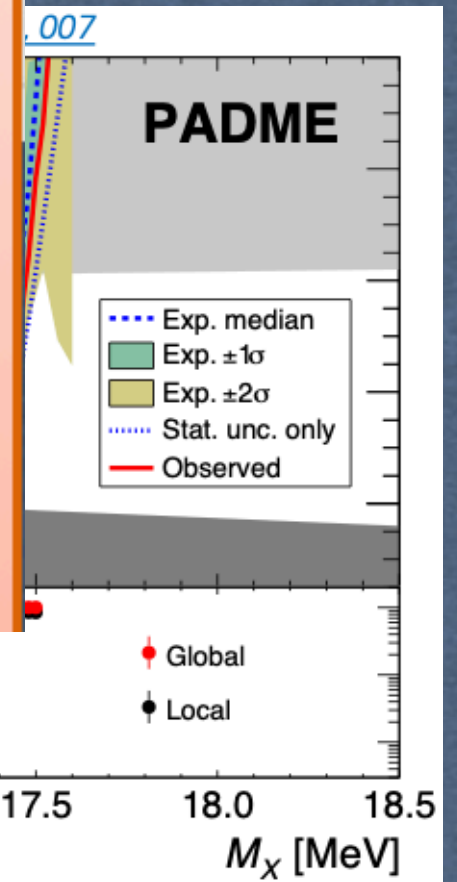
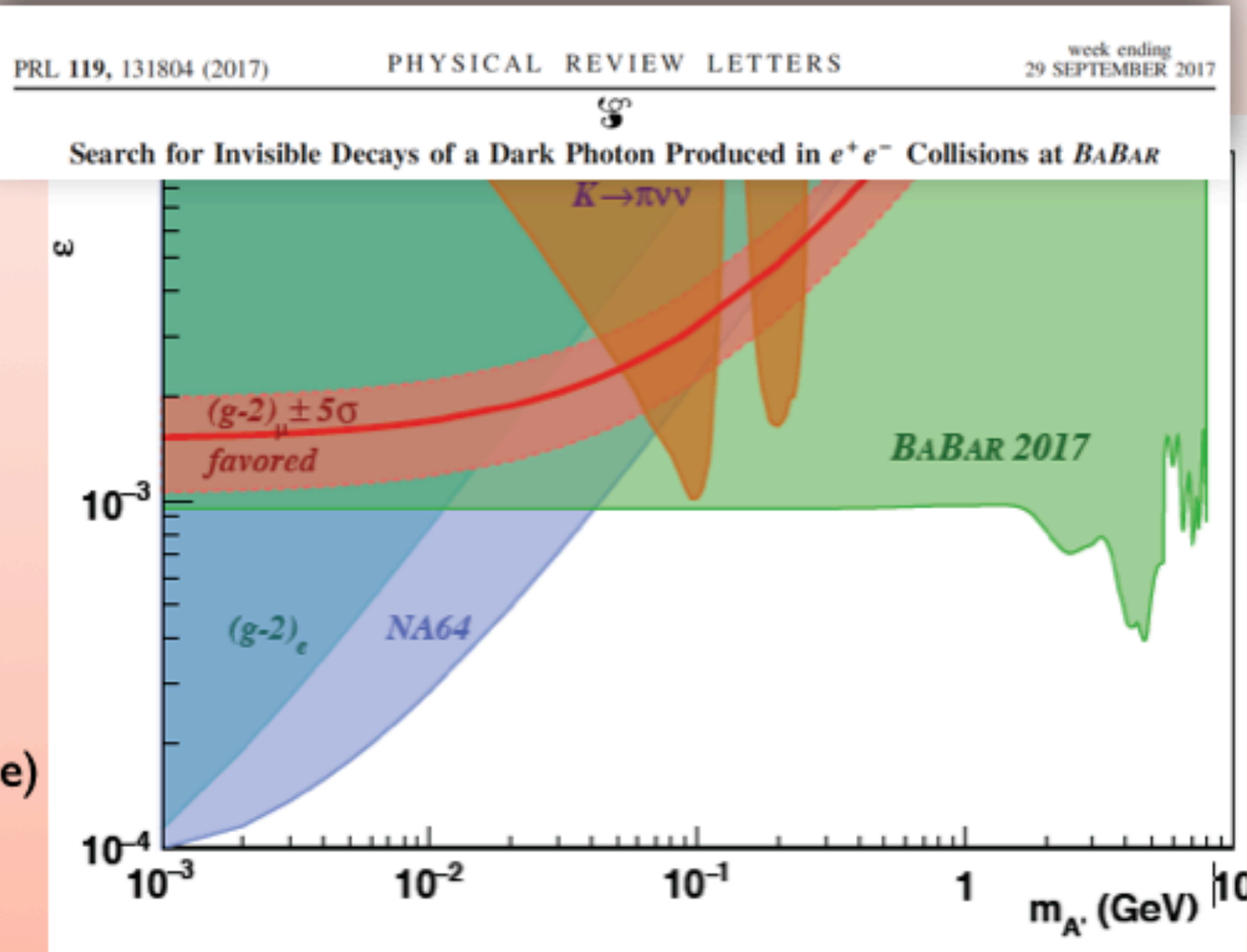
Missing mass search:
• Independent of A' decay mechanism



Similar techniques at e^+e^- colliders BaBar @ SLAC



- Missing mass exp ($e^- e^+ \rightarrow \gamma A'$ with $A' \rightarrow$ invisible)
- Mono-photon trigger
- Exclusion plots based on $\sim 50 \text{ fb}^{-1}$



- VEPP
- Corne
- PA
- $e^+ b$
- Diam
- EM calorimeter: 6 Pb-BGO crystals
- TIMEPIX3 for beam spot
- $\sim 6 \cdot 10^{11}$ POT (+ $5 \cdot 10^{11}$ POT on tape)
- Focus on X17 visible decay

The BDX experiment

invisible decay

Two step process

I) An electron radiates an A' and the A' promptly decays to a χ (DM) pair

II) The χ (in-)elastically scatters on a e-/nucleon in the detector producing a visible recoil (GeV)

PhysRevD.88.114015 E.Izaguirre,G.Krnjaic, P.Schuster, N.Toro

X production

A' yield: $N_{A'} \propto \frac{\epsilon^2}{m_{A'}^2}$

χ cross-section: $\sigma_{\chi e} \propto \frac{\alpha_D \epsilon^2}{m_{A'}^2}$

Number of events: $N_\chi \propto \frac{\alpha_D \epsilon^4}{m_{A'}^4}$

- Intense electron beam
- ~ few GeV range energy

X detection

elastic on electrons

Inelastic on nuclei

B
D
X
@
J
L
a
b

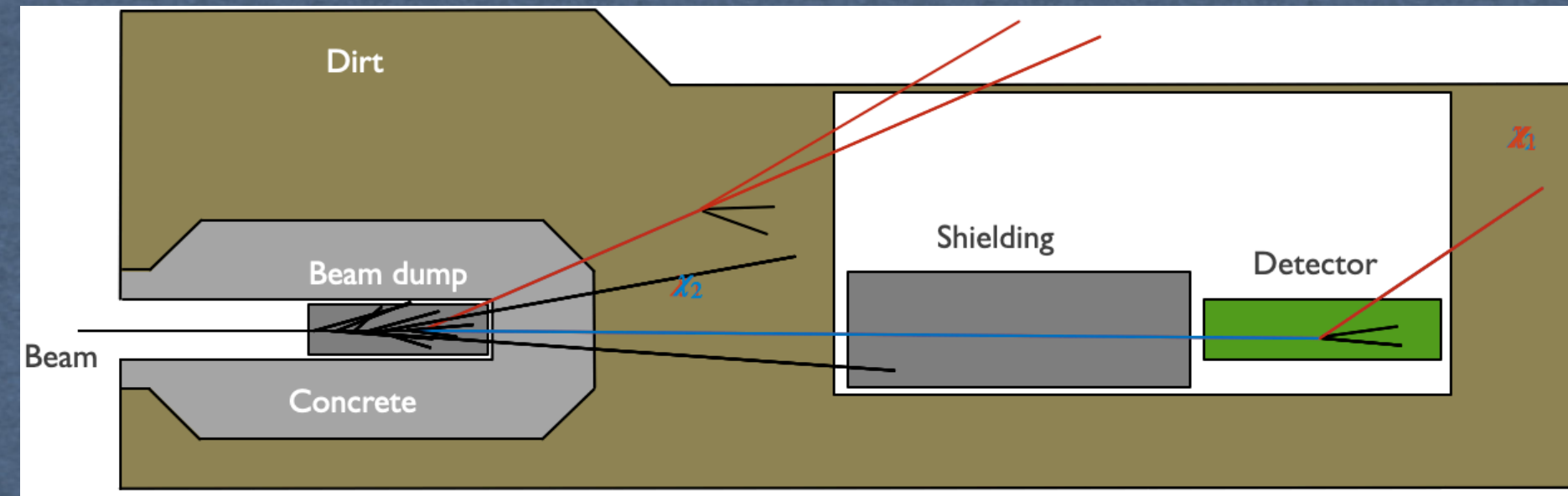
Experimental signature in the detector:

X-electron \rightarrow **EM shower** \sim **GeV energy**

Signal vs. background

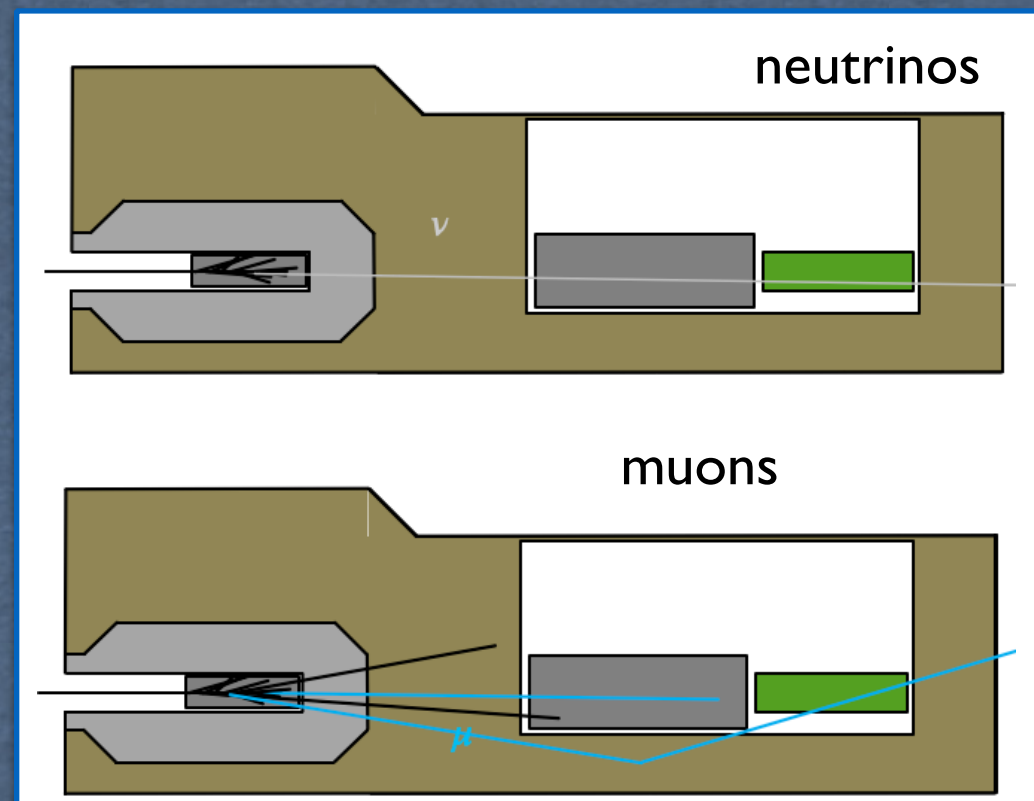
Signal

- **Light Dark Matter** can interact with electrons and nuclei producing an e.m. shower with large energy deposition (>100 MeV) in the detector



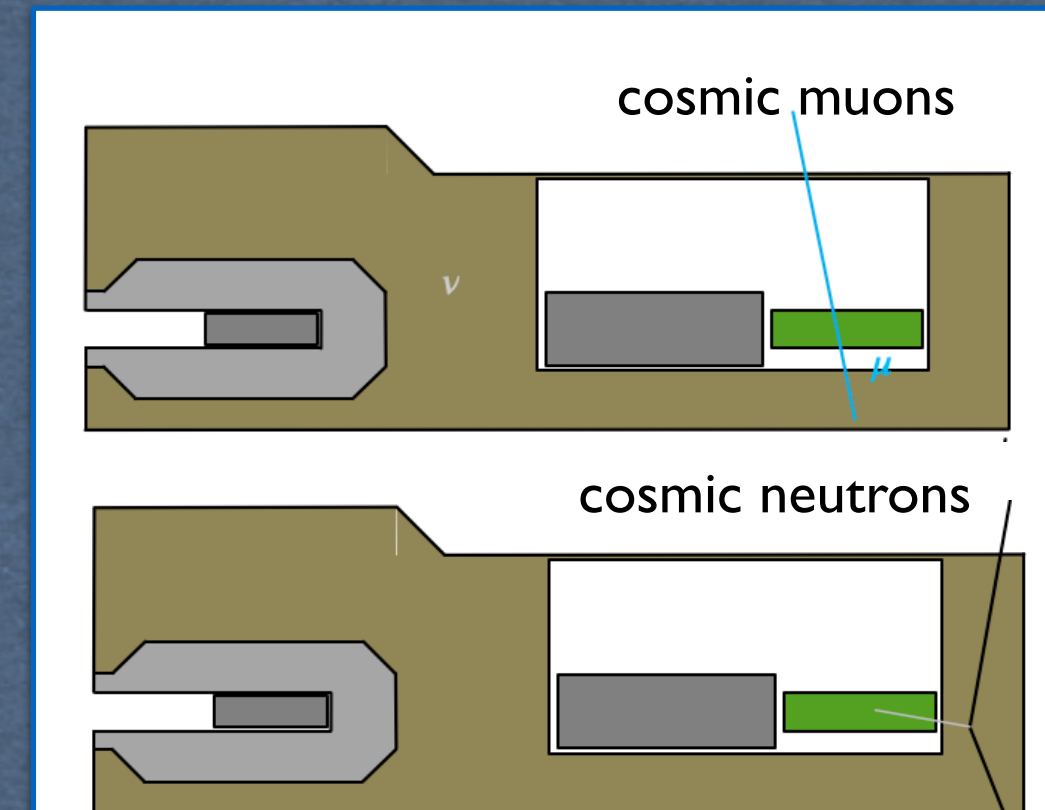
Beam related background:

- Neutrinos can mimic DM interaction
- High energy muons can propagate through shielding reaching the detector



Cosmic background

- CW beam prevents time coincidence
- Cosmic muons
- Cosmic neutron (spallation)



The BDX detector

Detecting LDM

Detector requirements

- EM showers detection capability (\sim GeV)
- Compact foot-print
- Low DAQ threshold to include nucleon recoil detection (\sim MeV)
- Segmentation for topology id

Rejecting the bg

- Beam-related
- Cosmic

Active veto requirements

- High efficiency ($>99\%$) to MIPs
- Fast (\sim ns) for time coincidence with the calorimeter
- Segmentation for bg rejection

Passive veto made by lead bricks

- Lead vault for low energy gamma and avoid self-veto

BDX technology

E.M. calorimeter



A **homogeneous crystal**-based detector combines all necessary requirements

Active veto



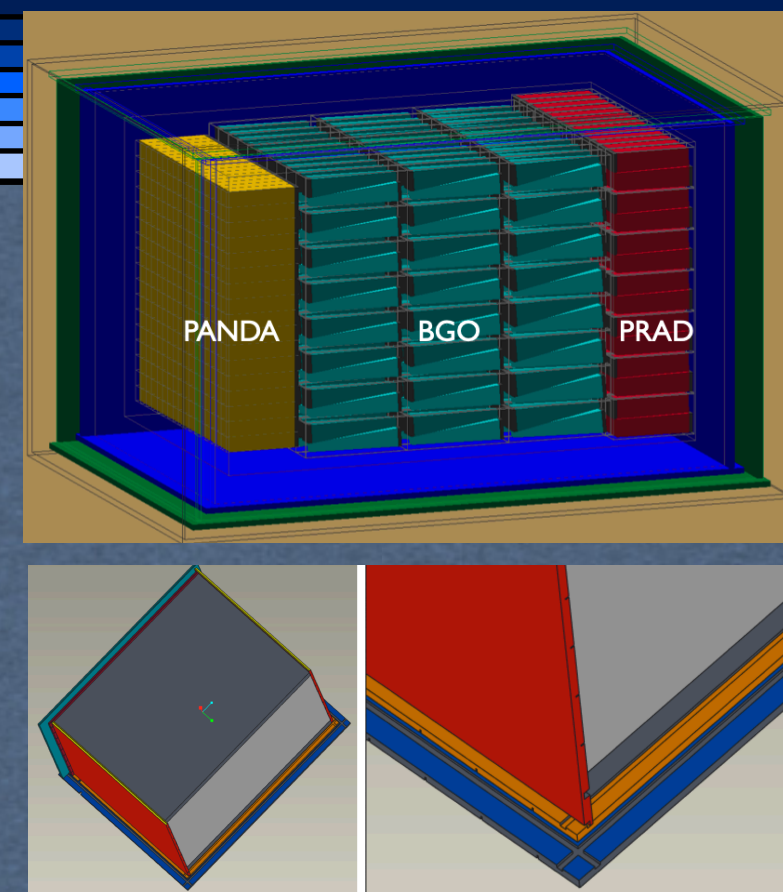
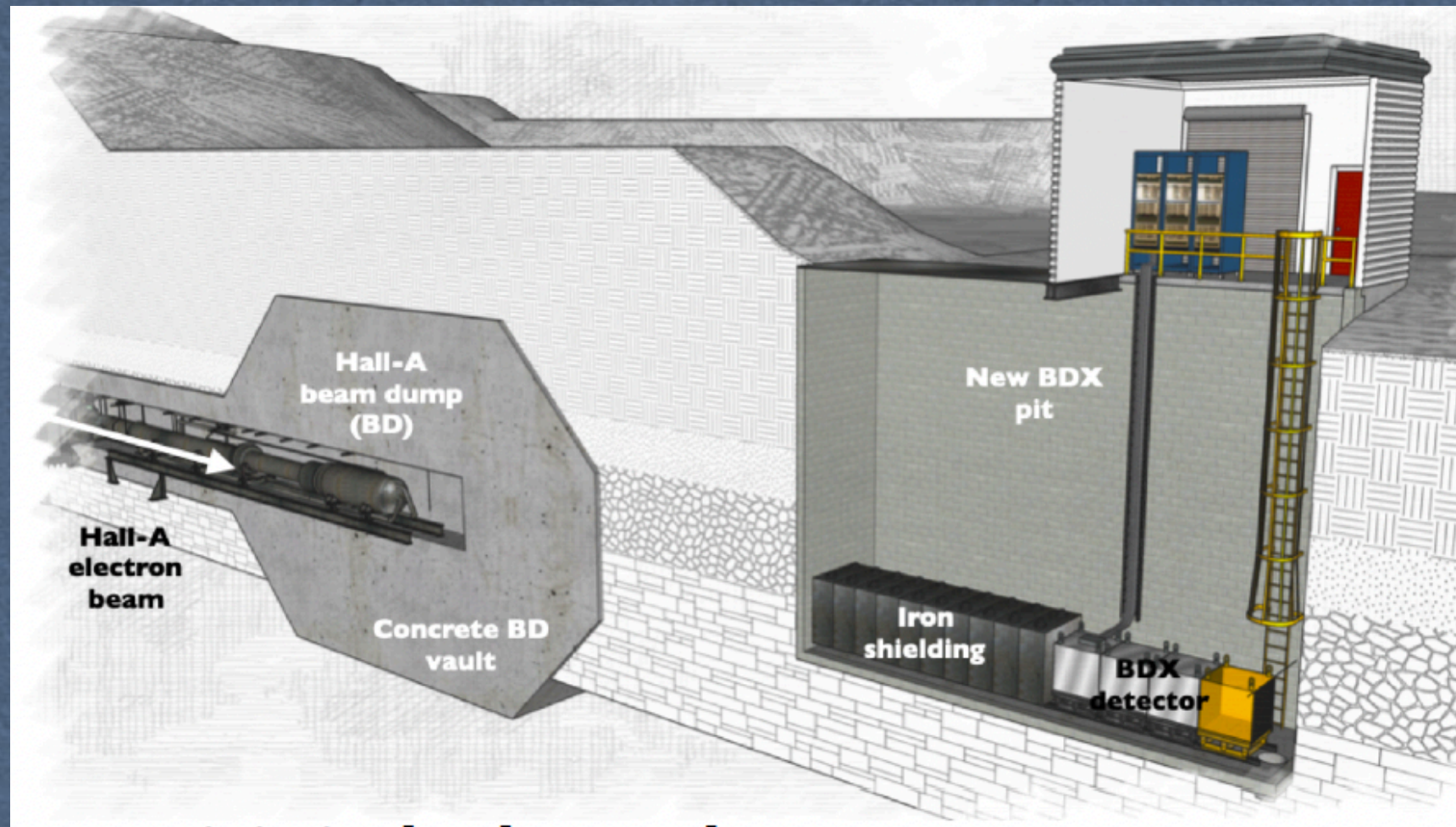
Two layers: of **plastic scintillator**
IV/OV: WLS + SIPM

Passive veto

Lead vault

BDX @ JLab

approved by JLab 2018 PAC with max rate (A)

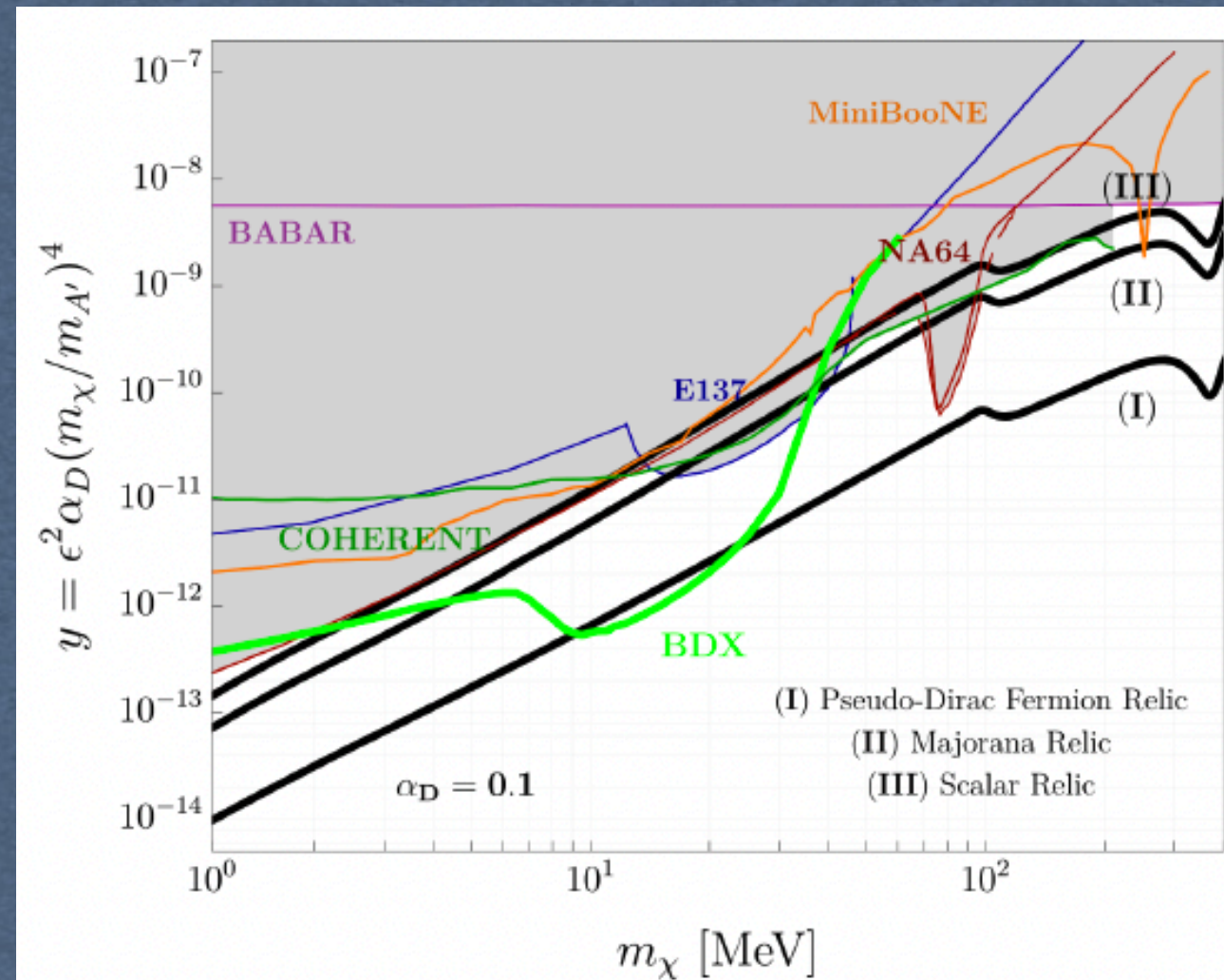


BDX detector

E.M. Calorimeter + 3 veto's layers

- 3 tons of active target (crystals)
- 480 BGO + 1200 PbWO + 800 PbWO
- 6x6 mm² Hamamatsu SiPM readout
- 2 Plastic scintillator veto's + WLS fibres + SiPMs
- Detector Size (L x H x W) : 1.6 x 1.2 x 1.1 m³

- ★ High energy beam available: 11 GeV
- ★ The highest available electron beam current: ~65 uA
- ★ The highest integrated charge: 10²² EOT (41 weeks)
- ★ New experimental hall (~2\$M) at JLab
- ★ BDX detector: 3 tons of active target + veto's layers
- ★ Expected to run in parallel to teller experiment



Accumulating 10²² EOT in ~1y BDX sensitivity is 10-100 times better than existing limits on LDM

BDX-MINI @JLab

invisible decay

- Installed in March 2019
- Run from Dec 2019 to Aug 2020
- Collected 4e21 EOT (40% BDX!) in ~4 months (+ cosmics)
- Good detector performance with high duty factor
- Data analysis in progress

- Two wells dug for bg muon tests
- $E_{\text{beam}}=2.2$ GeV, no muons
- Limited reach but first physics result!

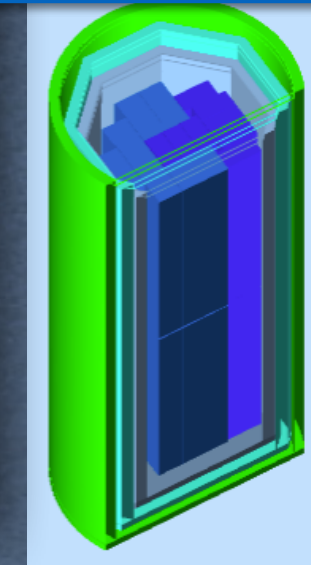
BDX-MINI: small-scale demonstrator to prove the validity and feasibility of the BDX experiment

- 44 PbWO4 PANDA/FT-Cal crystals (~1% BDX active volume)
- 6x6 mm2 SiPM readout
- 2 active plastic scintillator vetos: cylindrical and octagonal (8 sipm each) + 2x lids + Passive W shielding

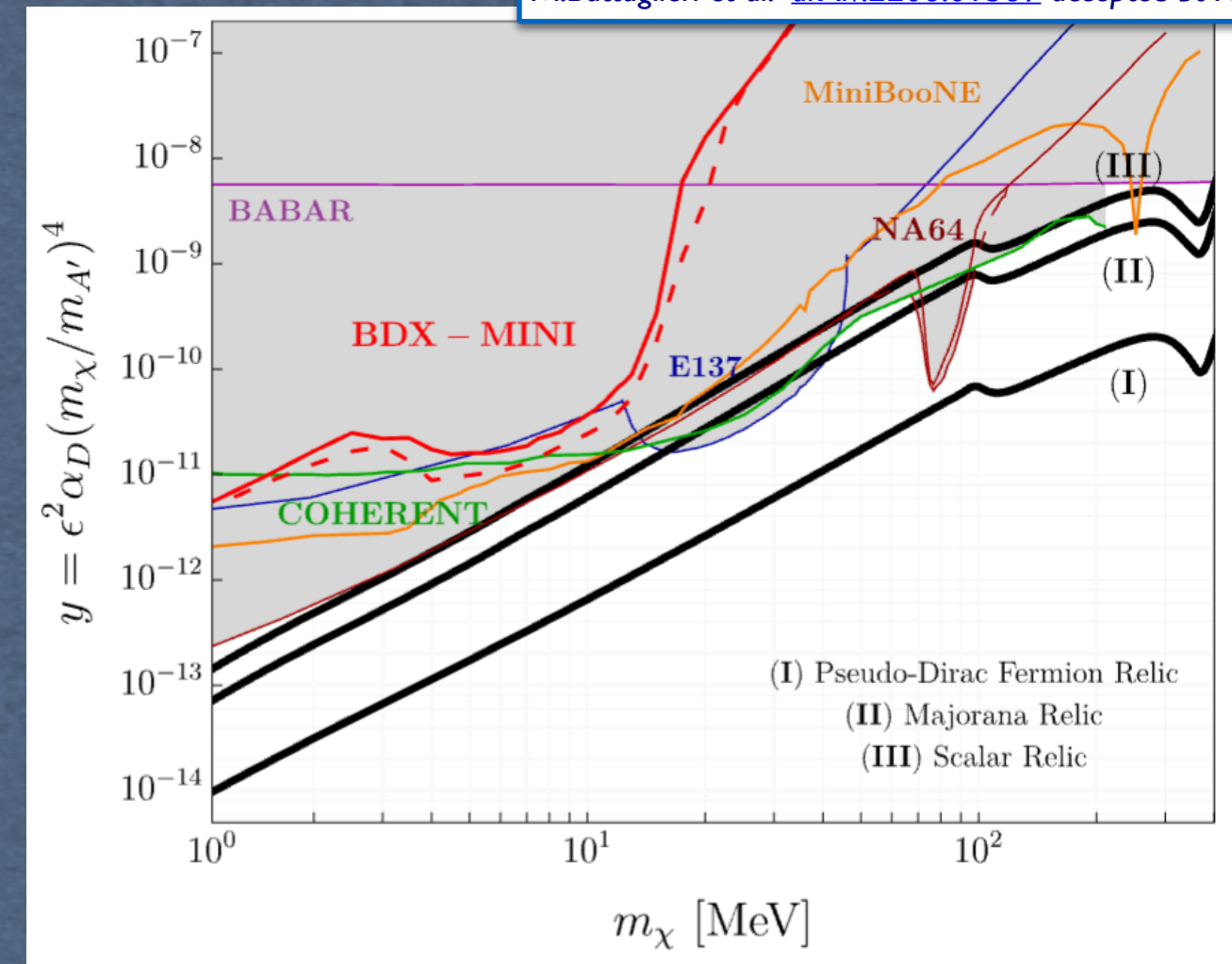
Downstream of the Hall-A beam dump
- TODAY -



M.Battaglieri et al. EPJC (2021) 81: 164

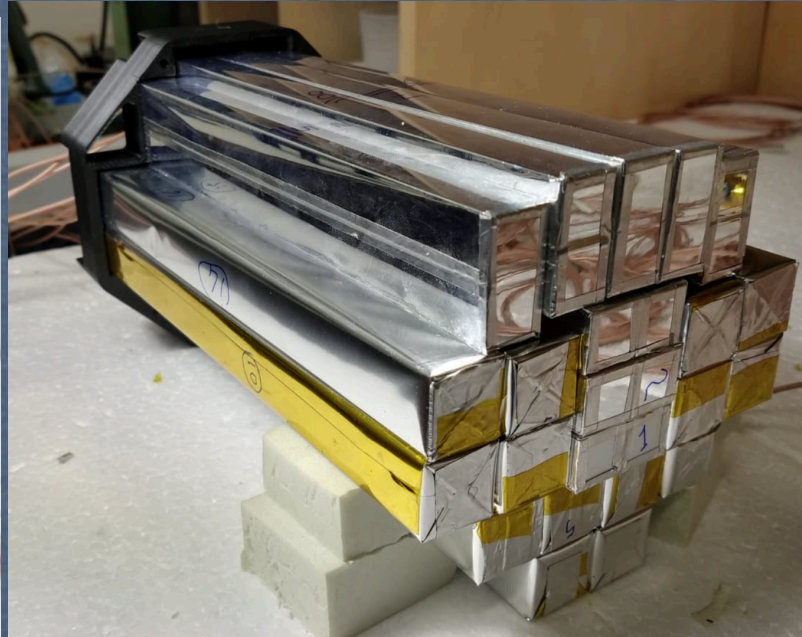
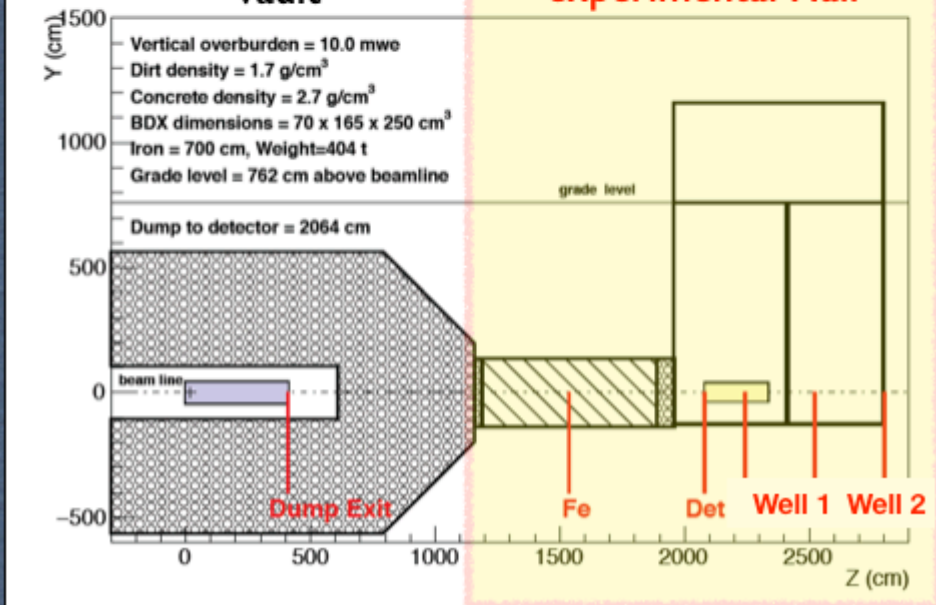


M.Battaglieri et al. arXiv:2208.01387 accepted by PRD



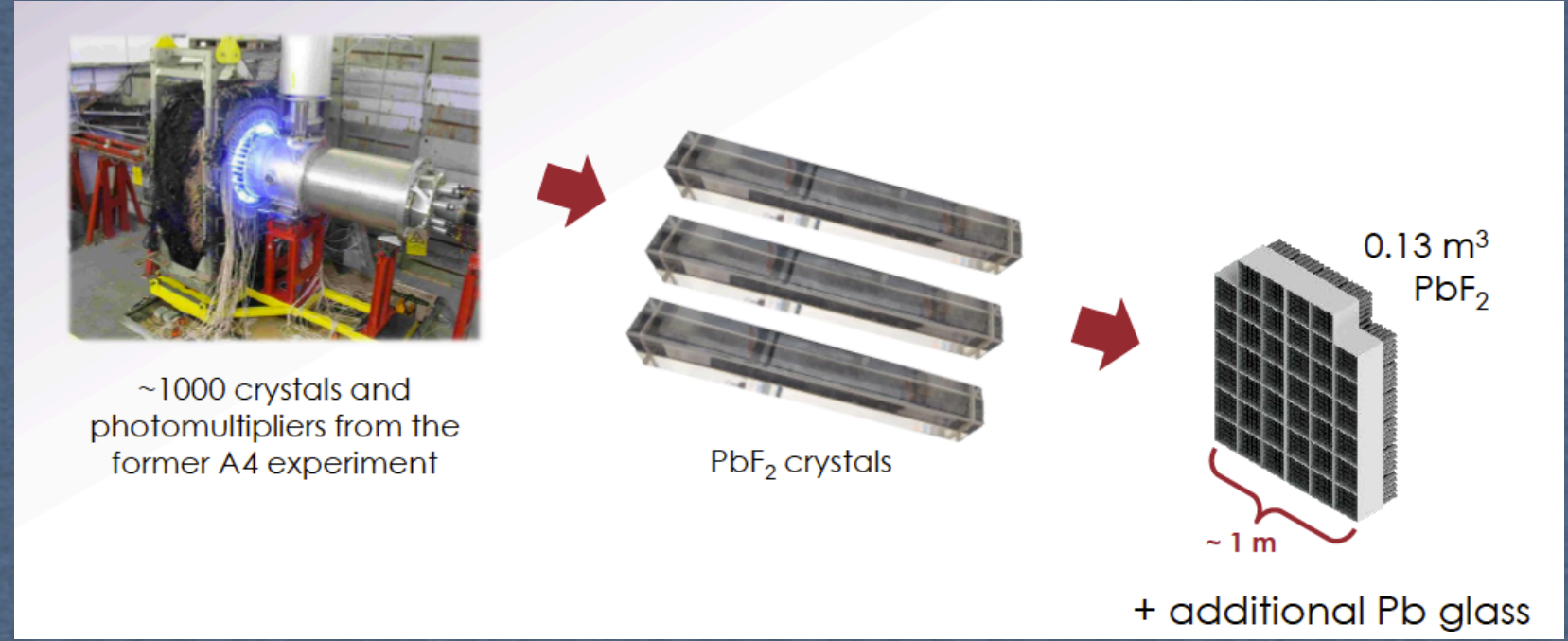
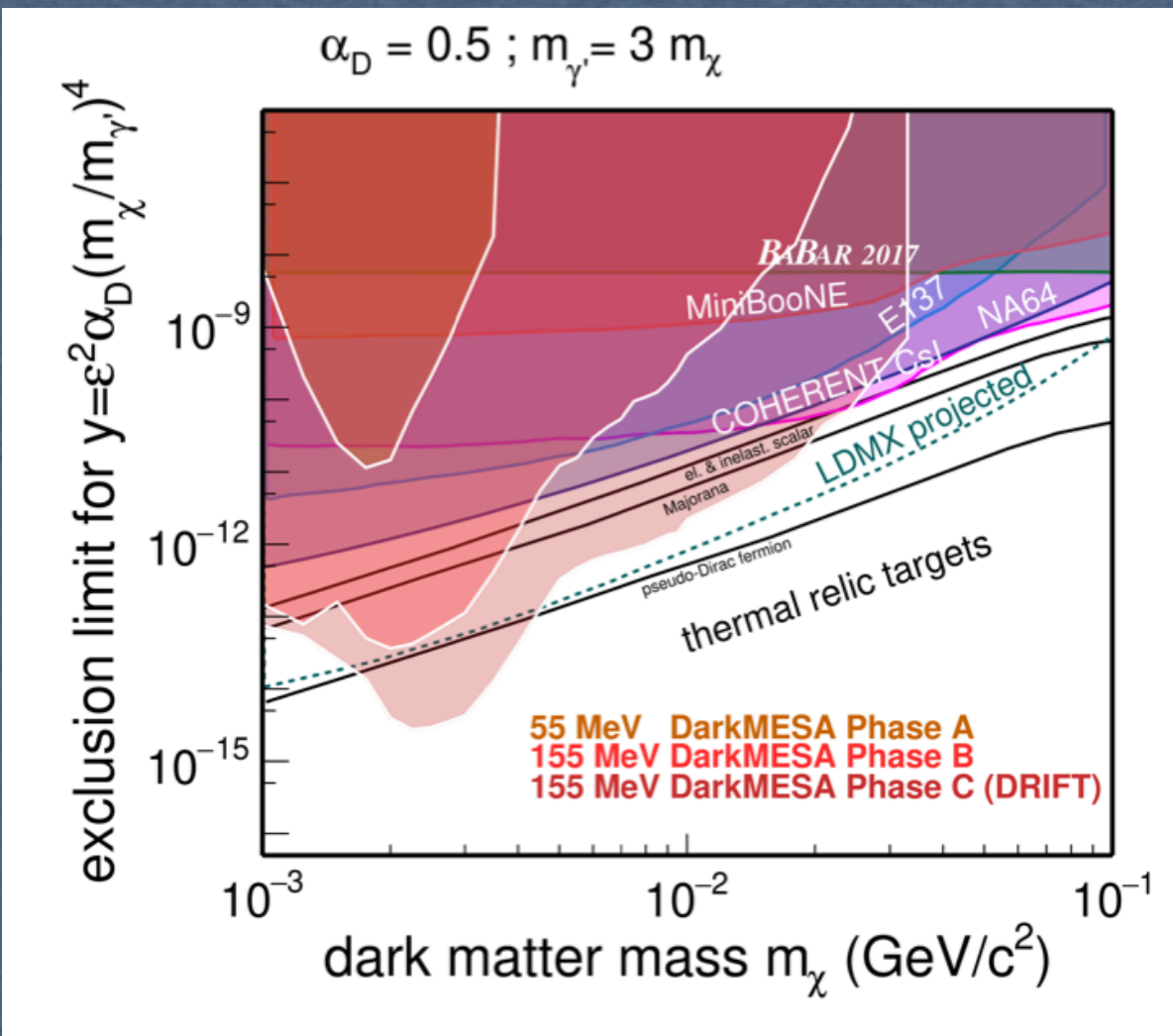
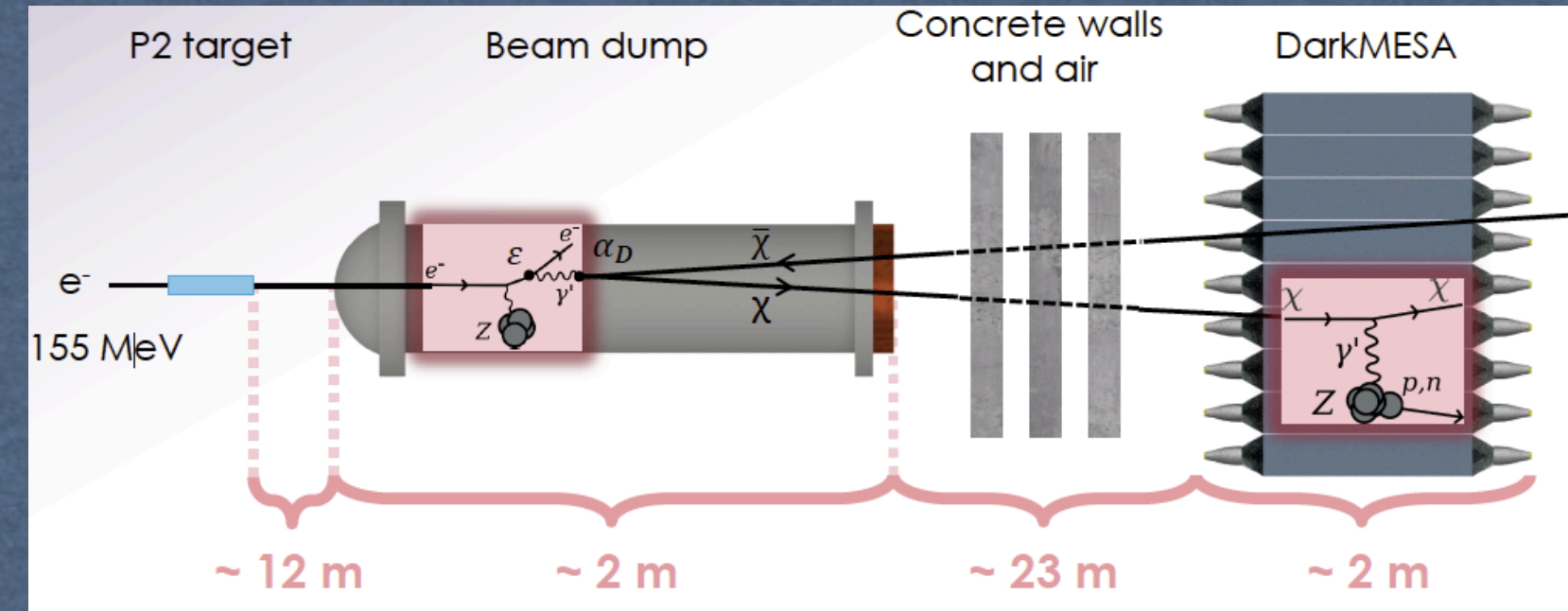
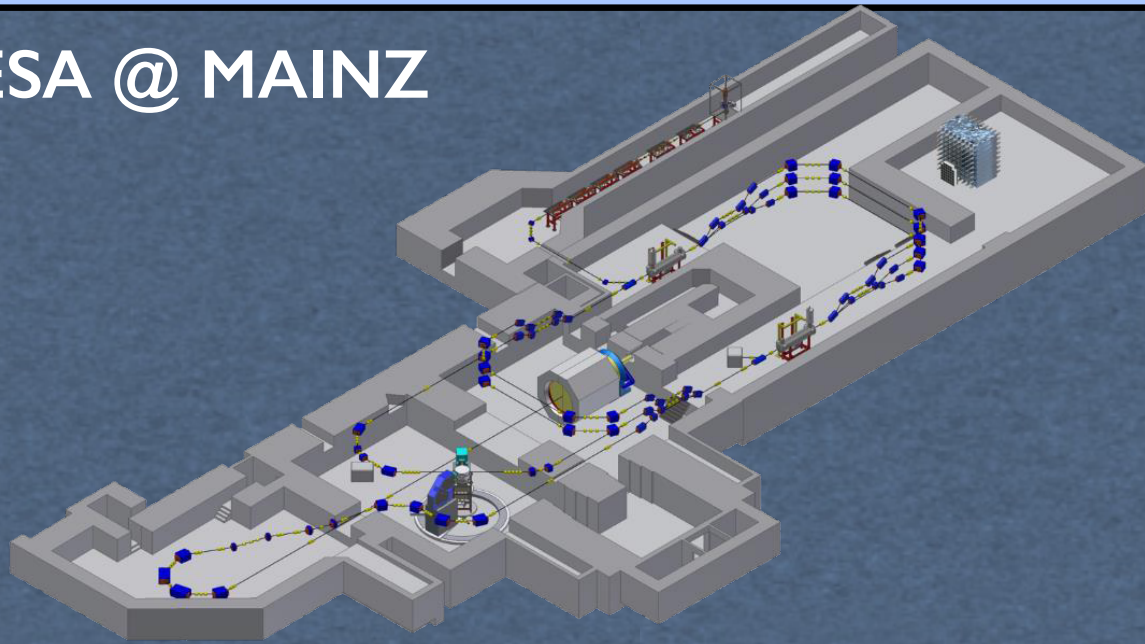
Hall-A beam-dump vault

Proposed BDX new experimental Hall



- Data-taking completed, analysis completed
- Results provide exclusion limits similar to the best existing experiments (E137, NA64, BaBar, ...)

BeamDump@MAINZ: DARKMESA

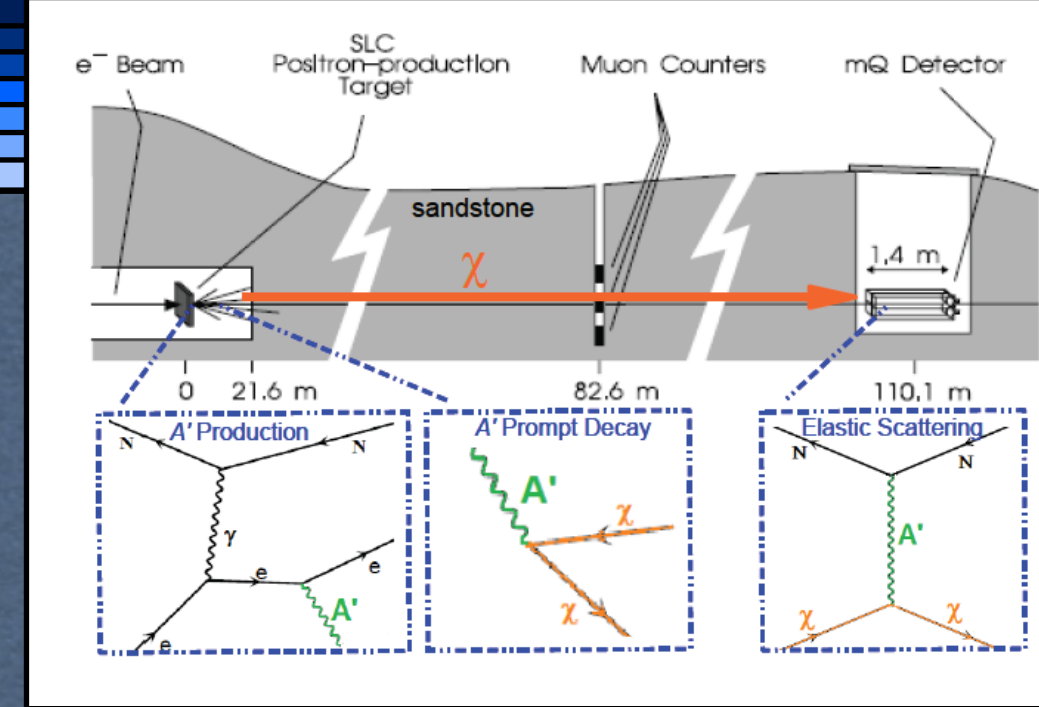


- $\alpha_D=0.5$ and $m_{\gamma'}=3 \cdot m_{\chi}$
- $3 \cdot 10^{22}$ EOT
- Energy detection threshold 14 MeV
- Detector efficiency 90%
- No backgrounds

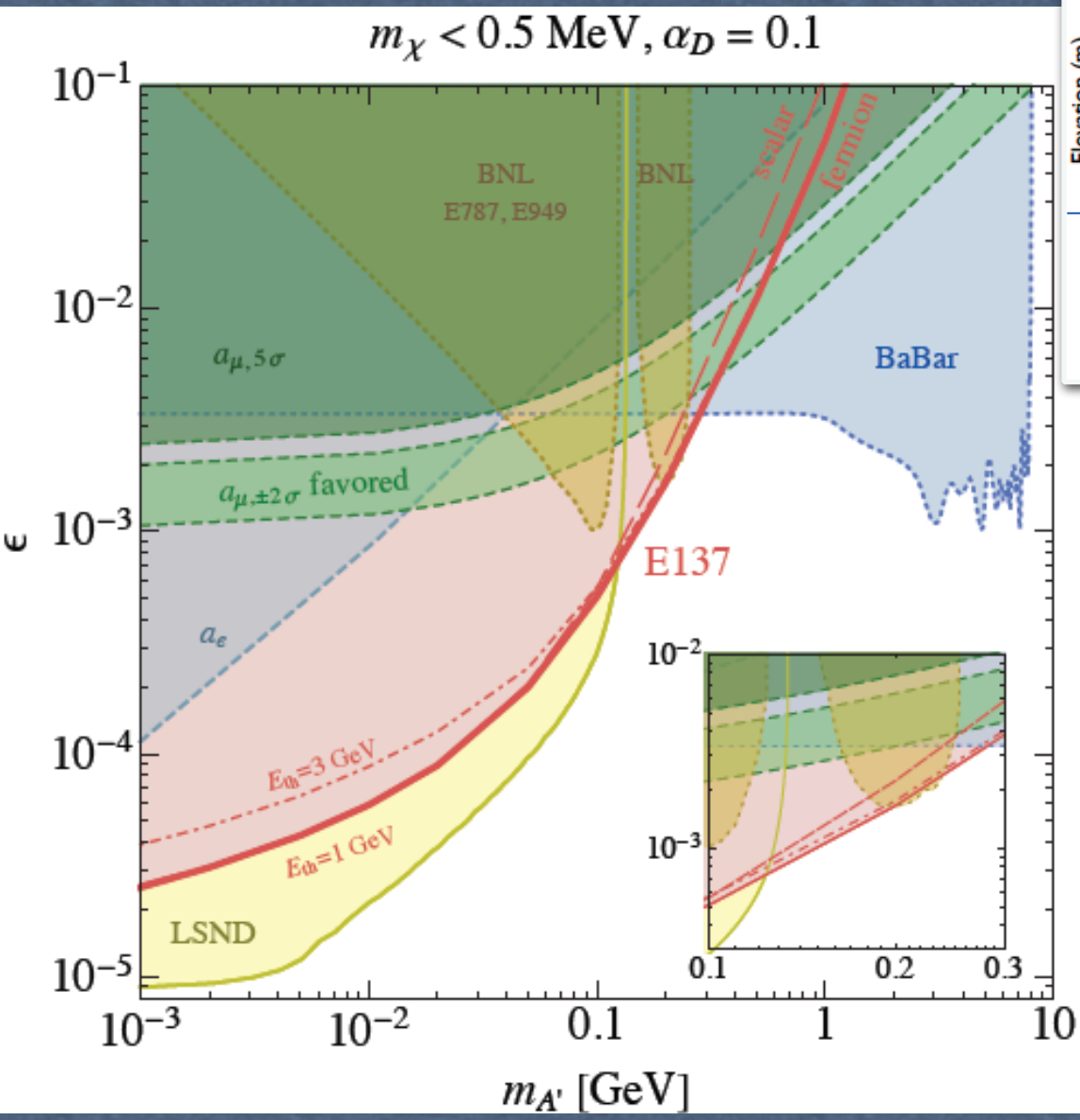
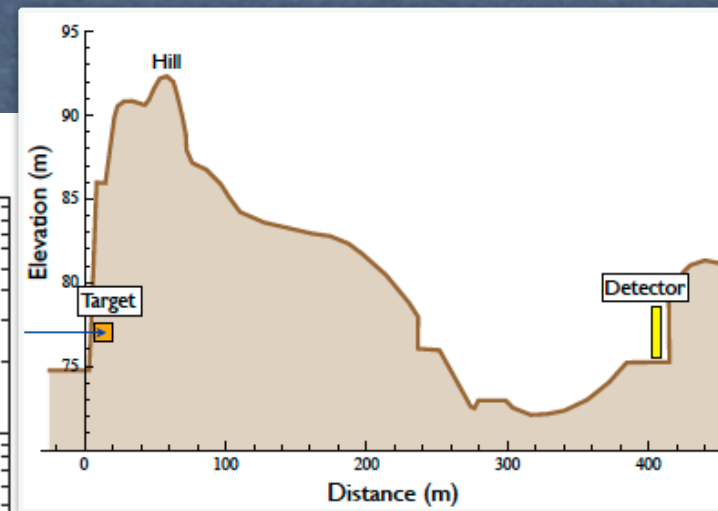
E137@SLAC (<1988)

- SLAC electron beam: 20 GeV, 1.6us pulse length, 180 pulse/s, 2×10^{20} EOT
- Detector: 8 r.l. em calorimeter (hodo + converter + MWPC)
- Size: 1.5m x 1.0 m at ~380m from the BD
- Cosmic bg suppressed by directionality and time coincidence
- Detection Thr (X-e scattering only): 1-2 GeV
- 0 EVENTS DETECTED

mCharge@SLAC (<1998)

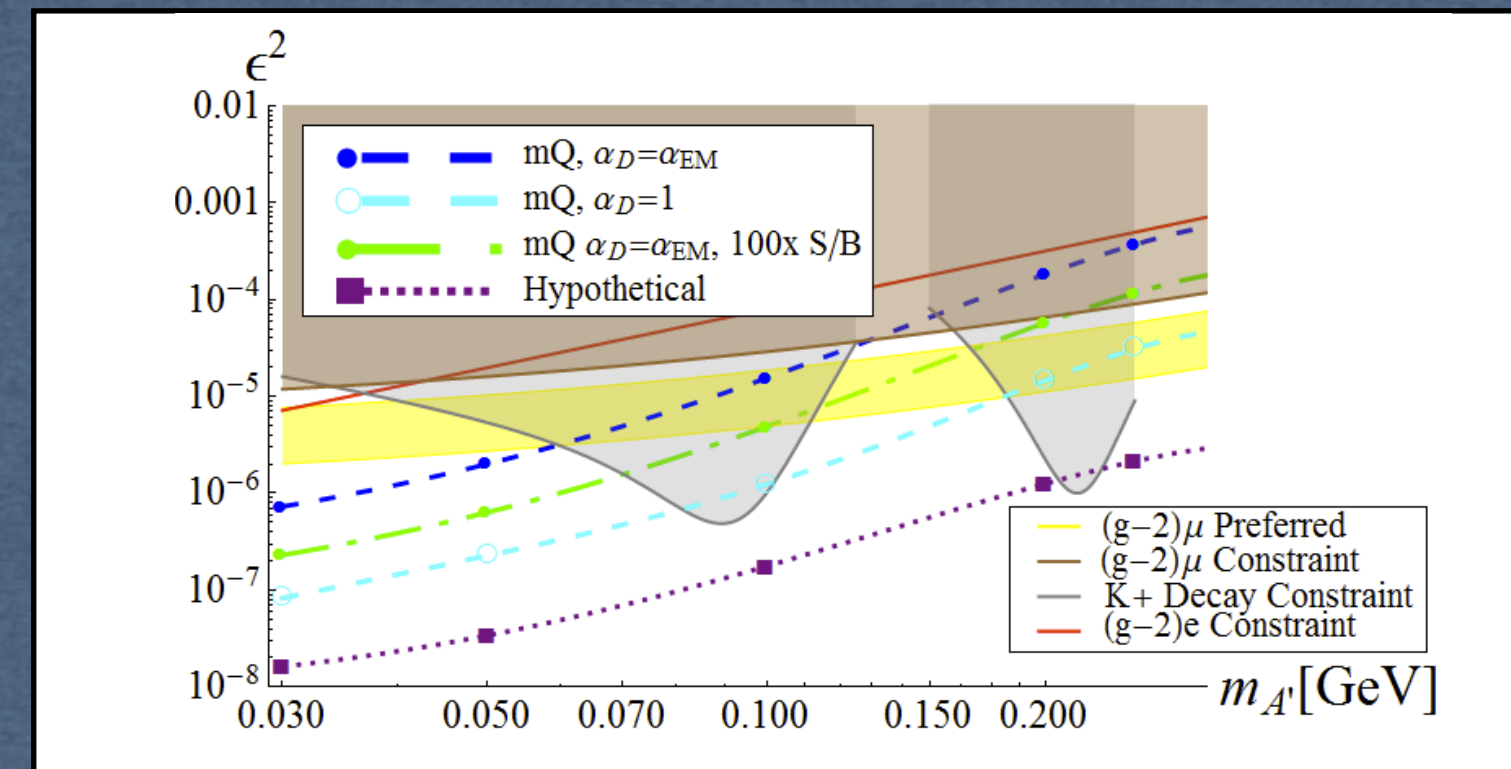


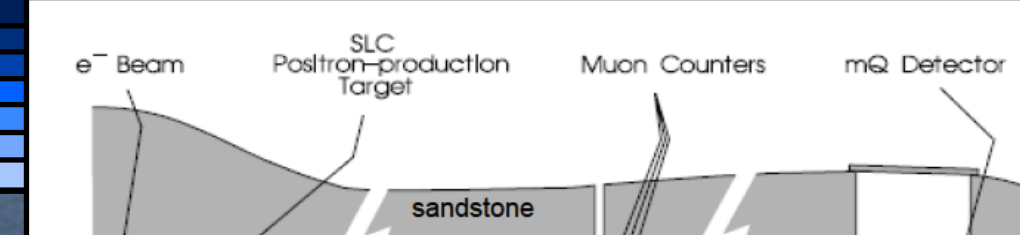
- SLAC electron beam: 29.5 GeV, ~20-30ps pulse length, 120 pulse/s, 10^{19} EOT
- Detector: $(0.4 \times 0.4) \times 1.3$ m plastic scintillator ~110m from the BD
- Cosmic bg suppressed by 250ns window with acc signal
- Detection Thr (X-N scattering only): 1pe - 100keV
- 146k 1pe bg counts



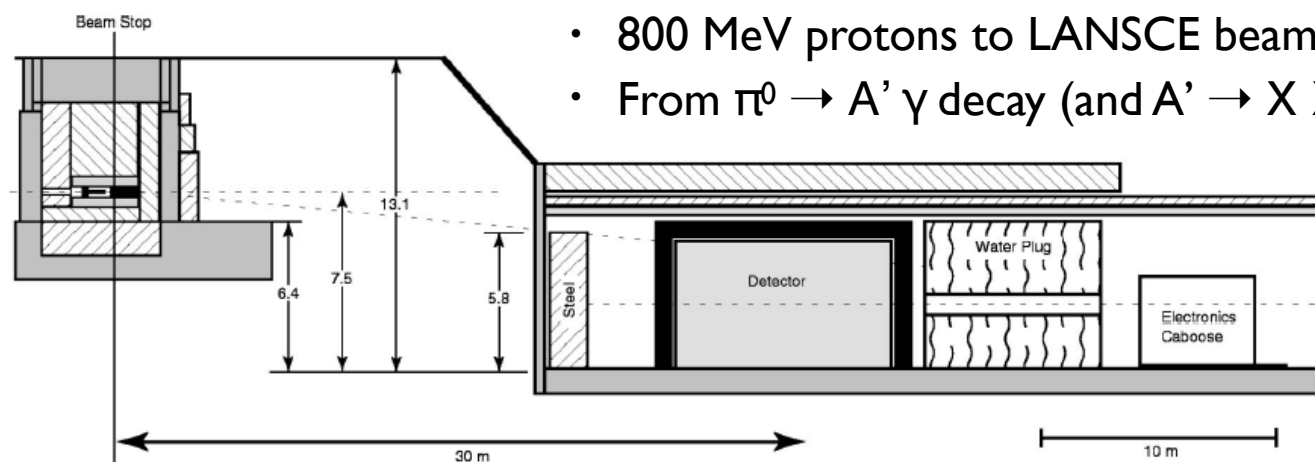
Reinterpreting old data

- Extracted upper limits suffer by poor knowledge of experimental details
- No e^- showering in the BD included: softer DM E spectrum and defocused DM beam
- Limits are overestimated by a factor ~3-4 (depending on the kinematics)





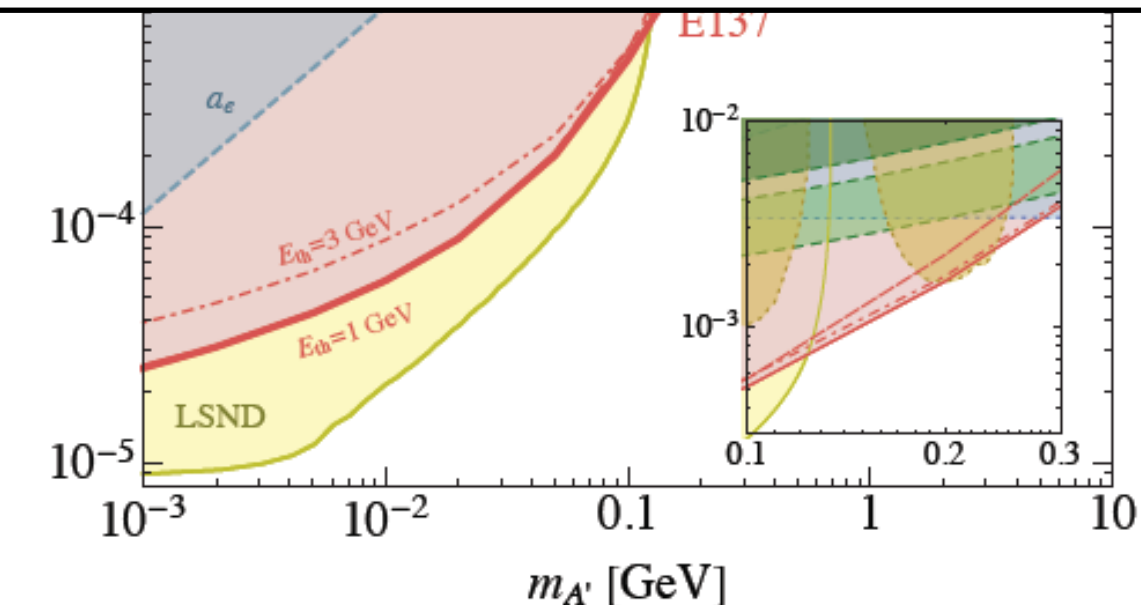
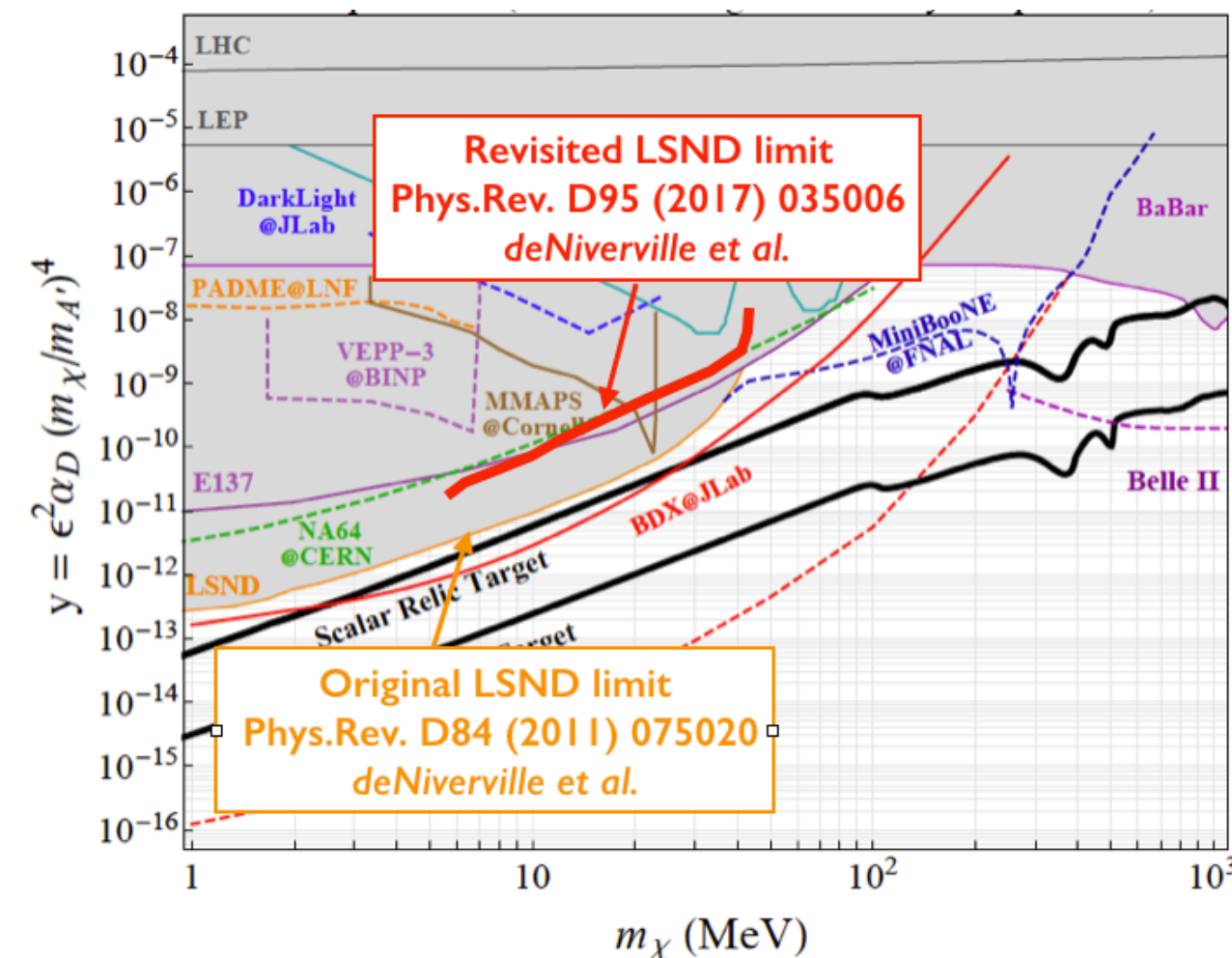
LSND@LosAlamos (1994/98)



- 800 MeV protons to LANSCE beam dump
- From $\pi^0 \rightarrow A' \gamma$ decay (and $A' \rightarrow X X$)

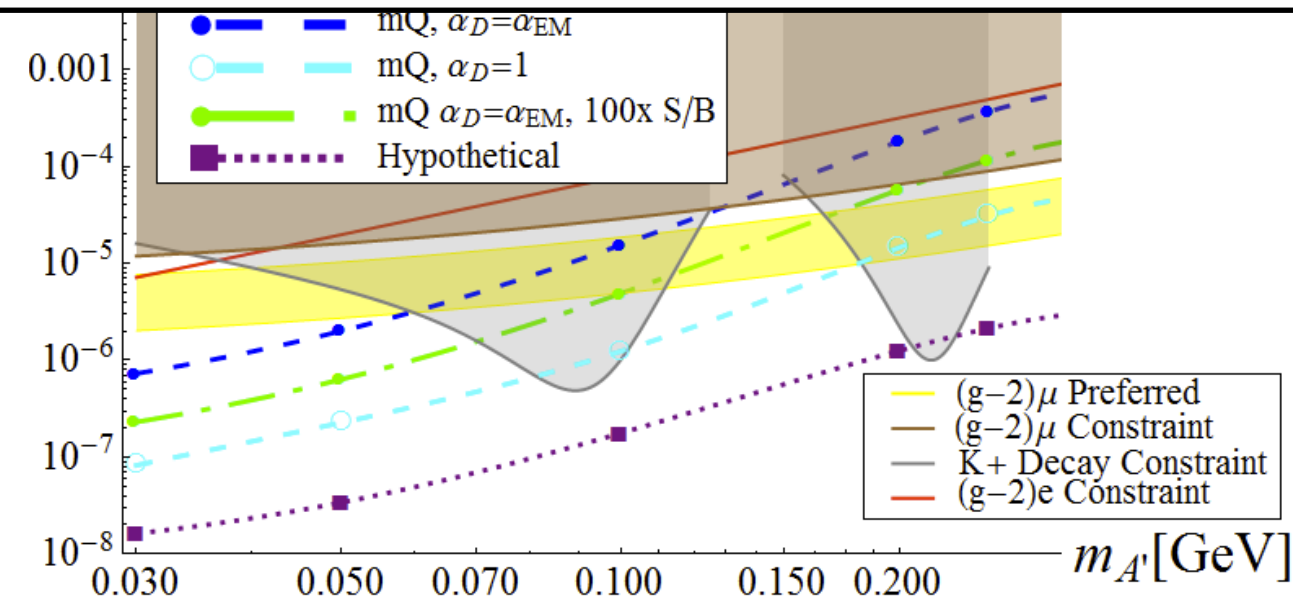
- Upper limits extracted in 2011 using a wrong π^+ spectrum to normalise π^0
- Recently recalculated, found to be overestimated by a factor $\sim 4-5$

Need of new generation of beam-dump experiments optimised for LDM searches



old data

- Extracted upper limits suffer by poor knowledge of experimental details
- No e^- showering in the BD included: softer DM E spectrum and defocused DM beam
- Limits are overestimated by a factor $\sim 3-4$ (depending on the kinematics)

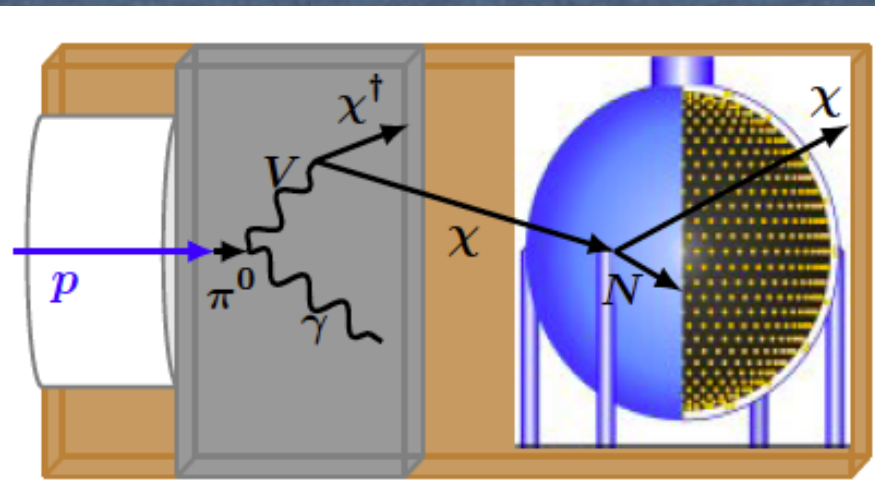


MiniBooNE@FERMILAB

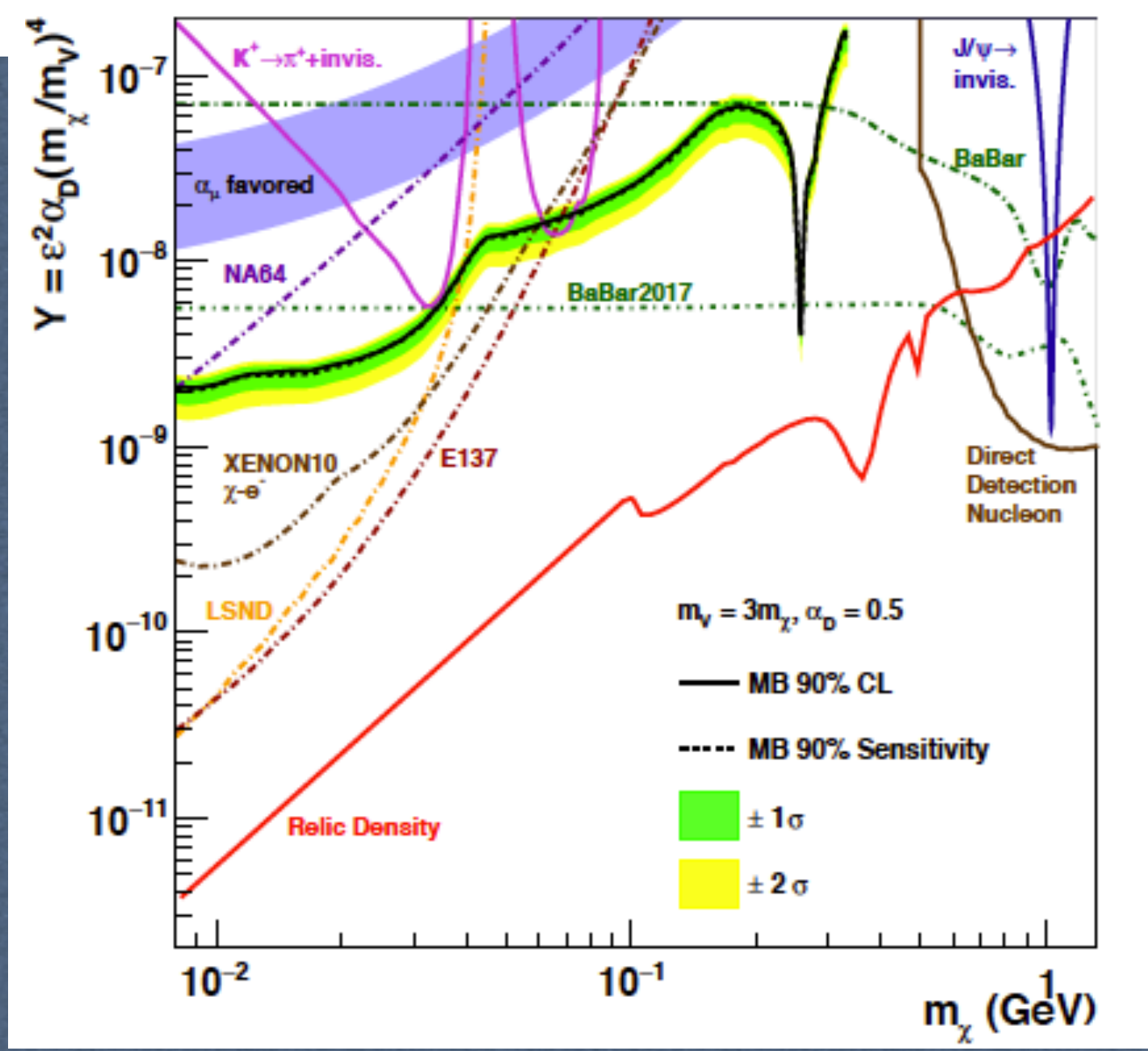
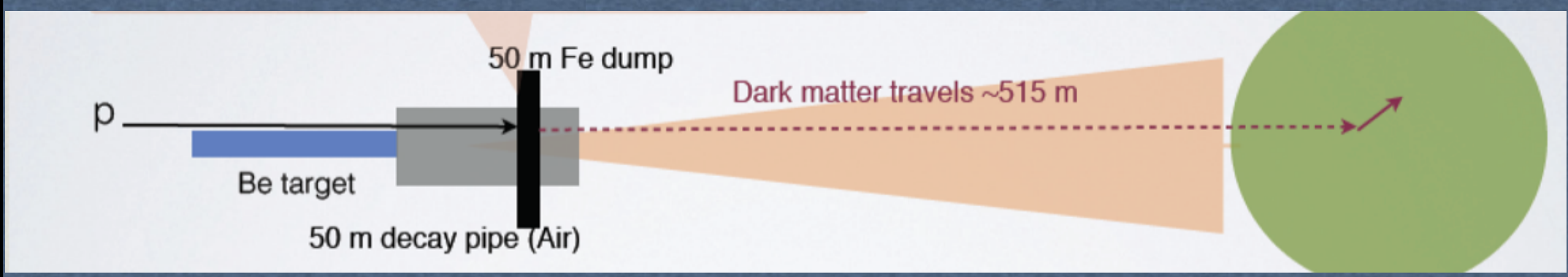
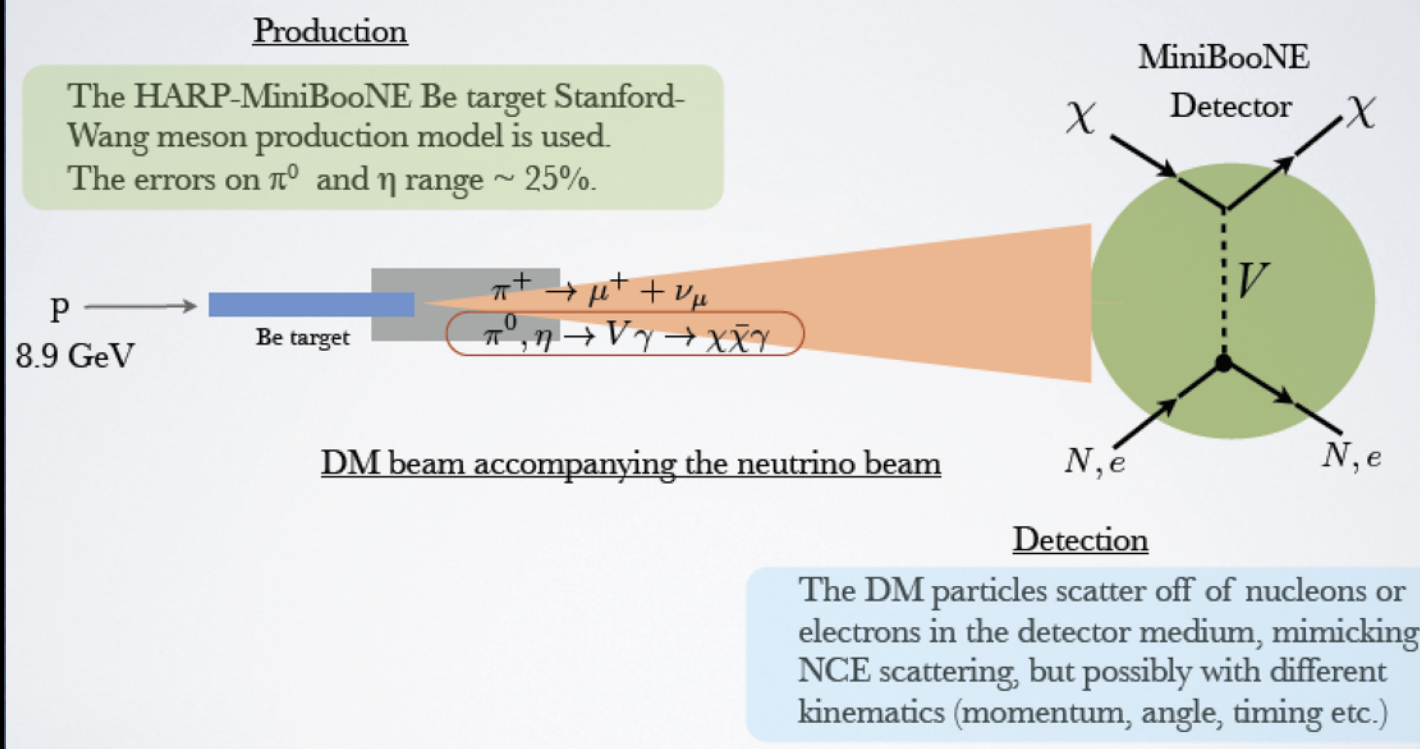
PRL 118, 221803 (2017) PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

Dark Matter Search in a Proton Beam Dump with MiniBooNE

WIMP production and detection mechanism



- BDX-like with an 8 GeV proton beam
- Cherenkov response of 12 m spherical detector with 800 tons mineral oil (CH2)
- Typical operation: 2×10^{20} protons on target (POT) per year
- Similar plans for T2K & ND280 (30 GeV p +50t near detector)

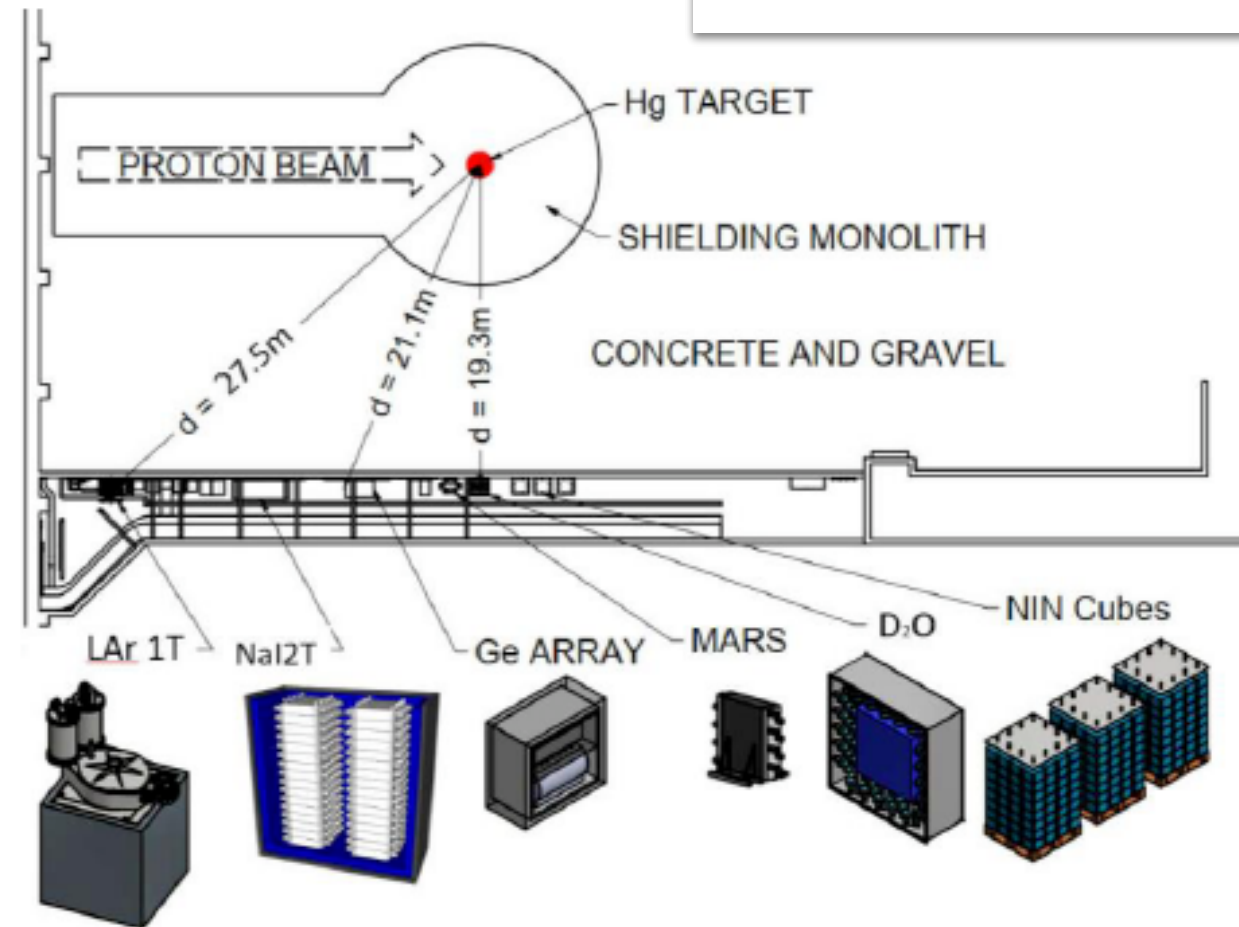
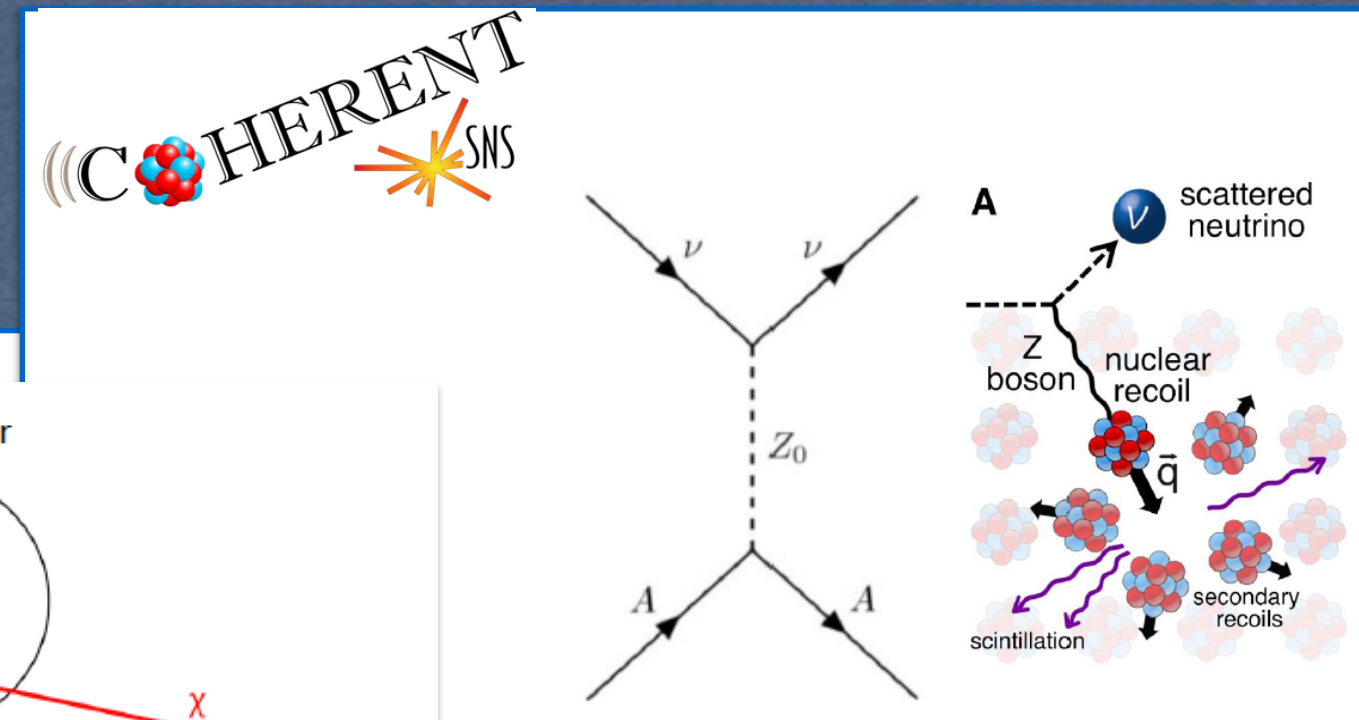
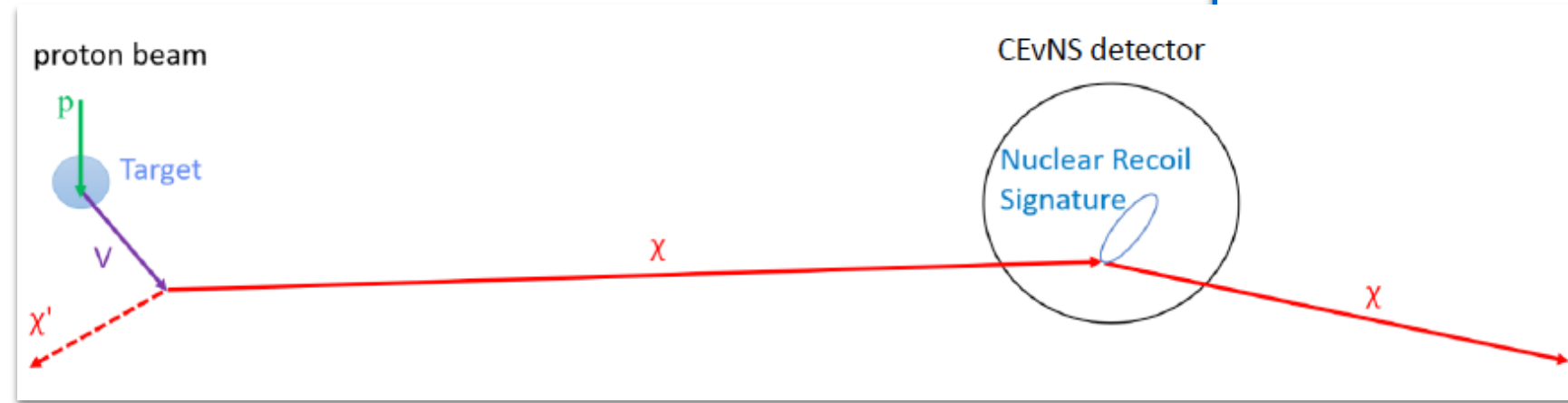


COHERENT@ORNL

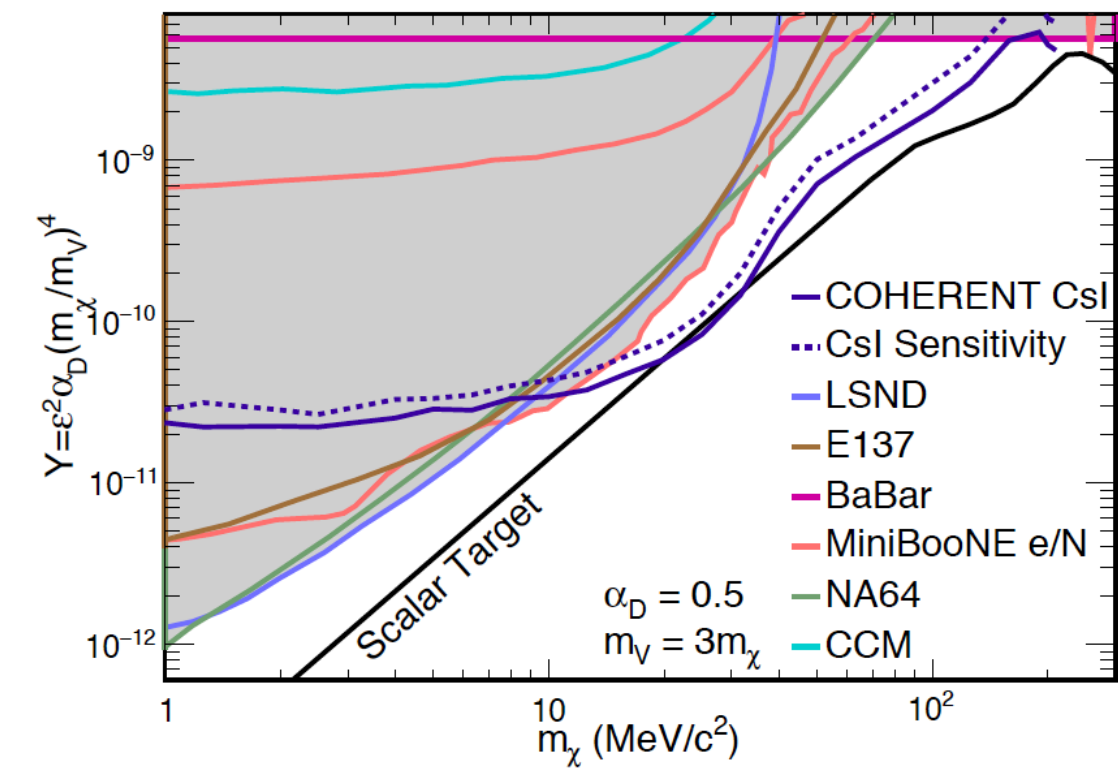
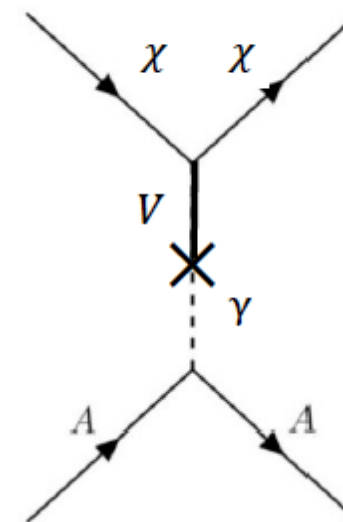
Coherent Elastic ν -Nucleus Scattering (CEvNS)

ORNL spallation Source

- $2 \cdot 10^{23}$ POT
- 14.6 Kg NaI(Tl) detector
- $E_{tr} = 9 \text{ keV}_{re}$

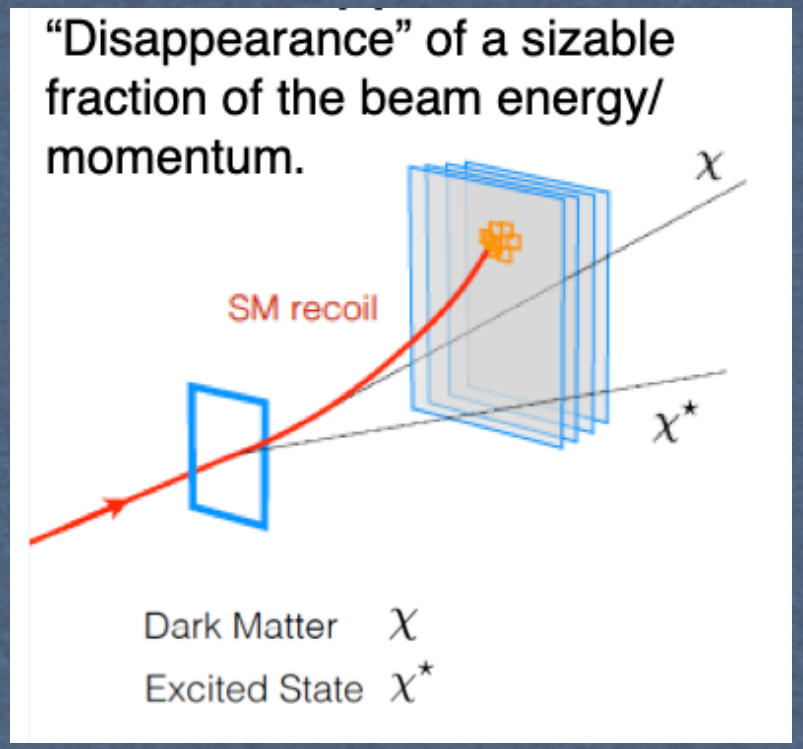
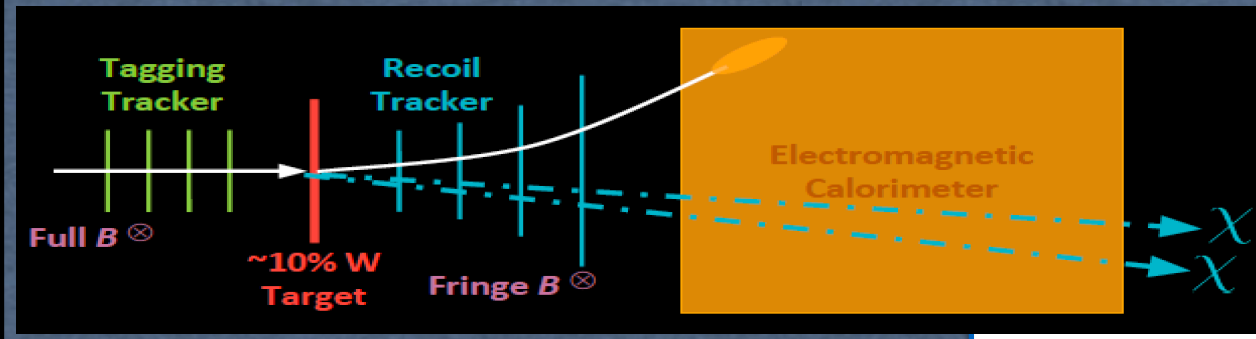


DM Scattering:

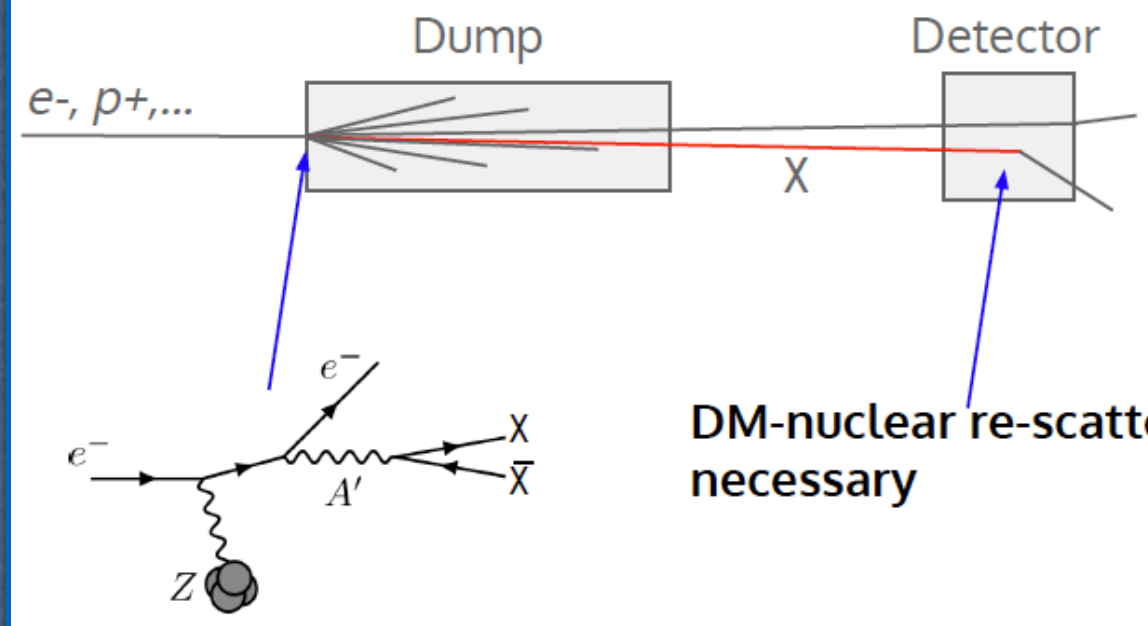


arXiv:2110.11453v1 [hep-ex] 21 Oct 2021 (COHERENT Coll.): First Probe of Sub-GeV Dark Matter Beyond the Cosmological Expectation with the COHERENT CsI Detector at the SNS

Missing energy/momentum BD experiments



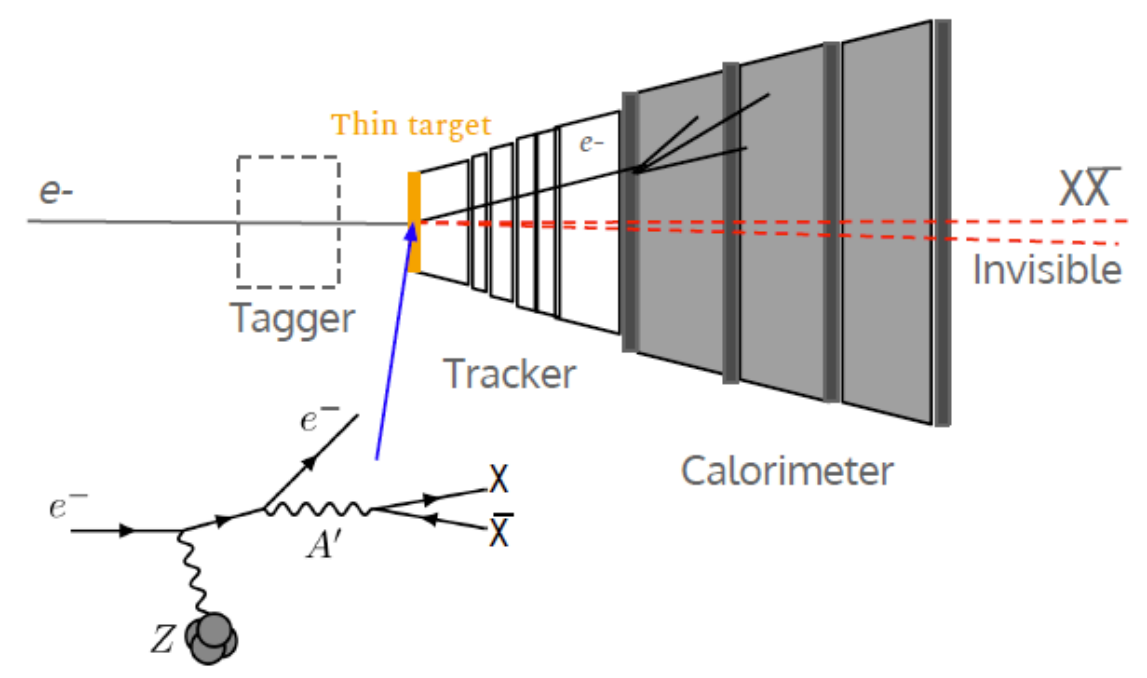
Beam dump



DM-nuclear re-scattering necessary

- Energetic and intense beam
- Massive detector
- More reliable/convincing in case of positive finding

Missing energy/momentum



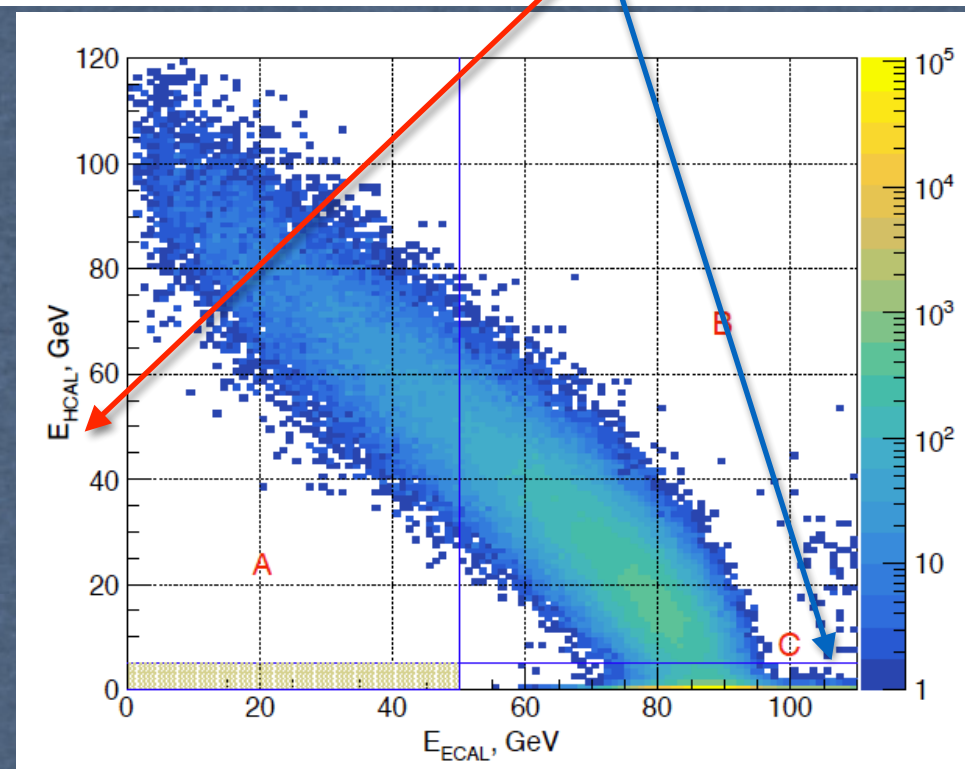
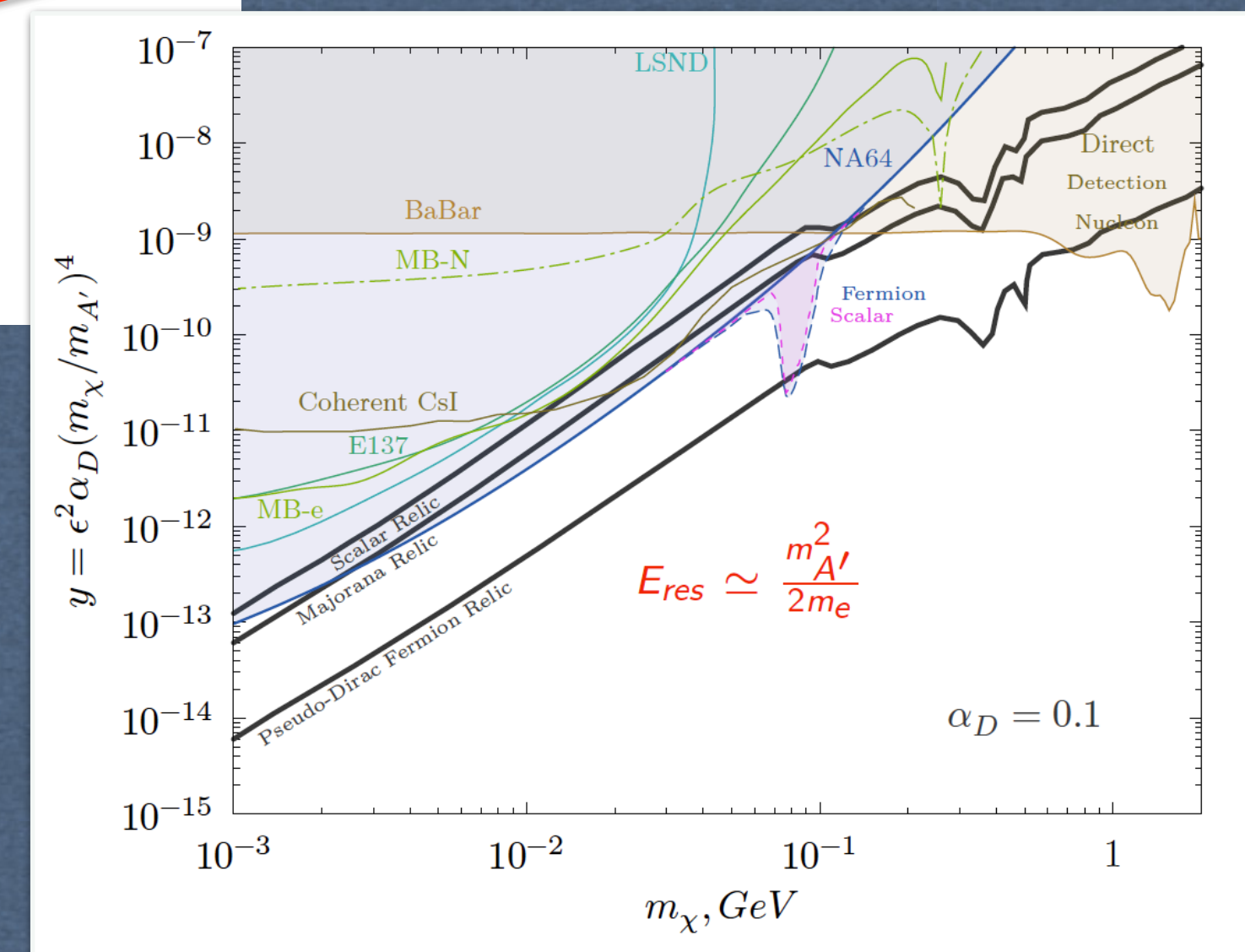
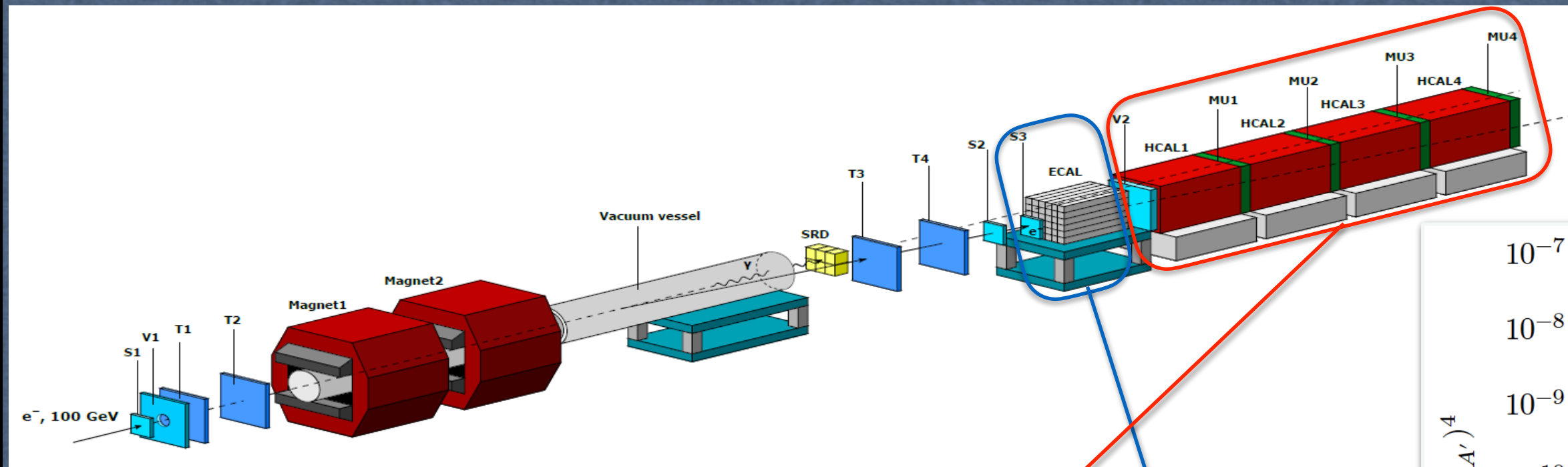
- Low pile-up
- High repetition rate
- Fast and sensitive detectors
- More sensitive in the exclusion plot

MissingMomentum vs BeamDump (disappearance vs appearance)

The two experimental approaches are complementary

Missing energy/momentum BD experiments

NA64 experiment @ CERN SPS

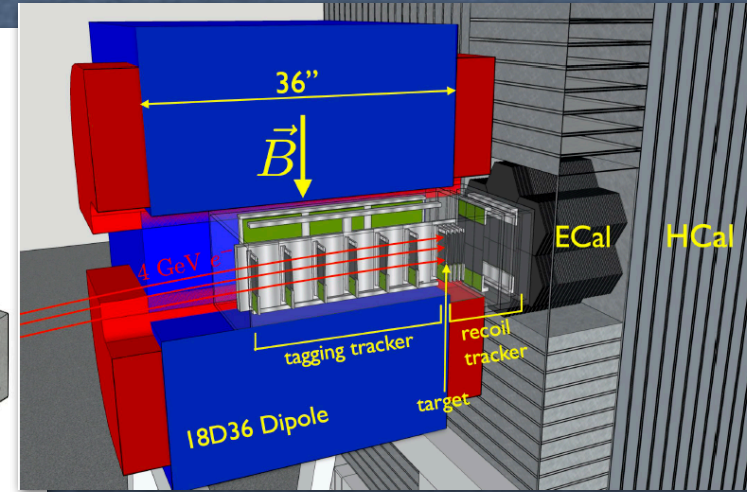
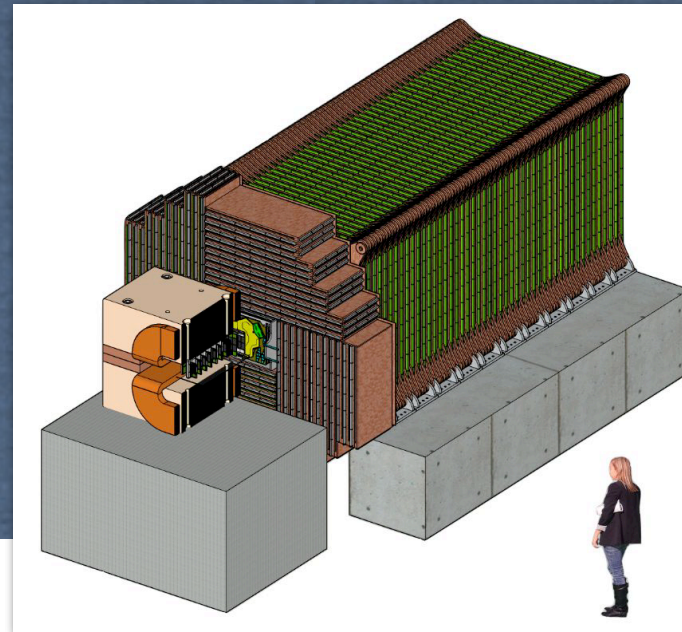


- Active beam-dump experiment
- Missing energy exp ($e Z \rightarrow e Z' A'$ with $A' \rightarrow$ invisible)
- Operates at H4 beam line with 100 GeV SPS electron beam at SPS
- Active target (calorimeter)
- Exclusion plots based on 10^{12} EOT

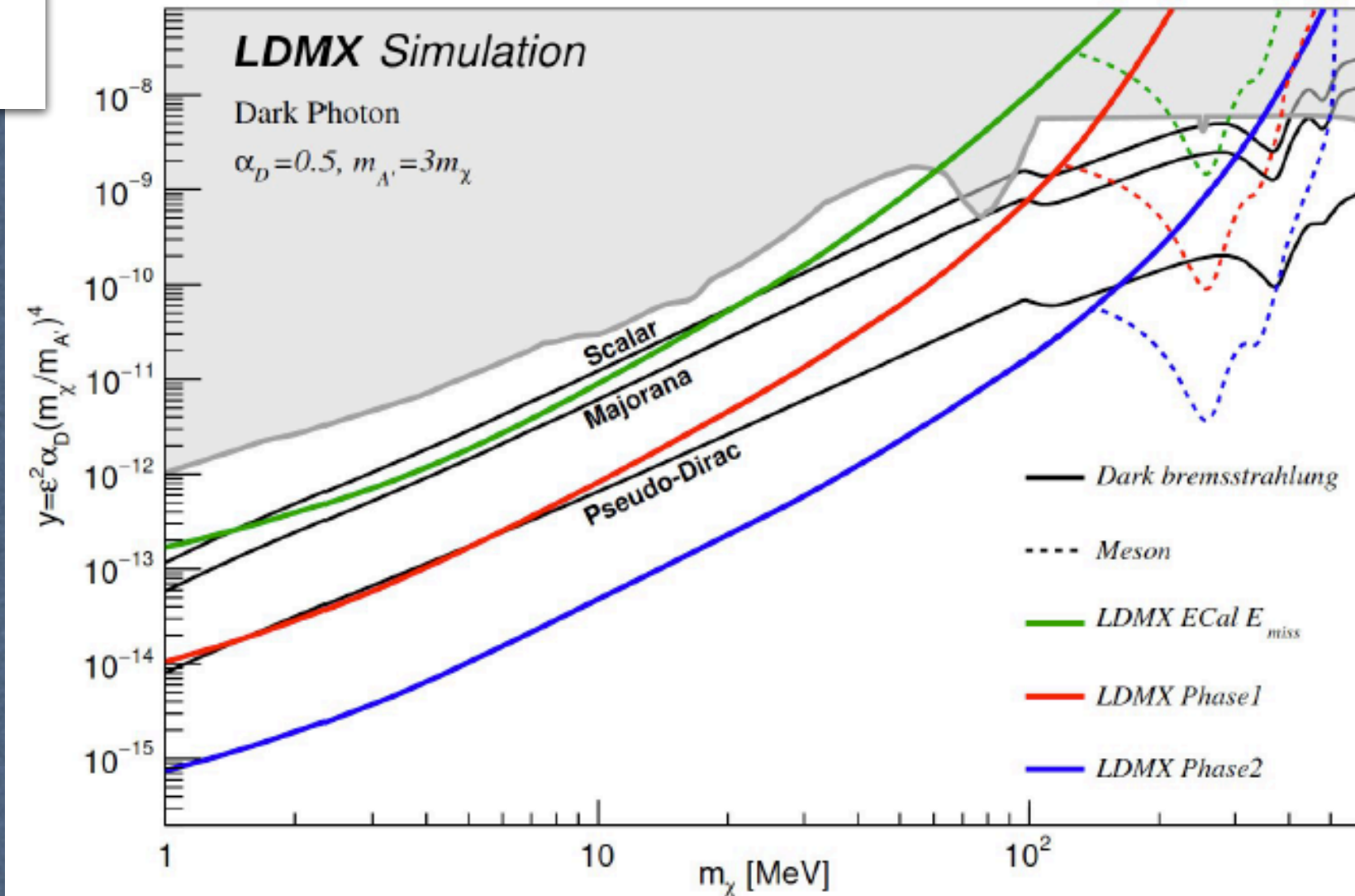
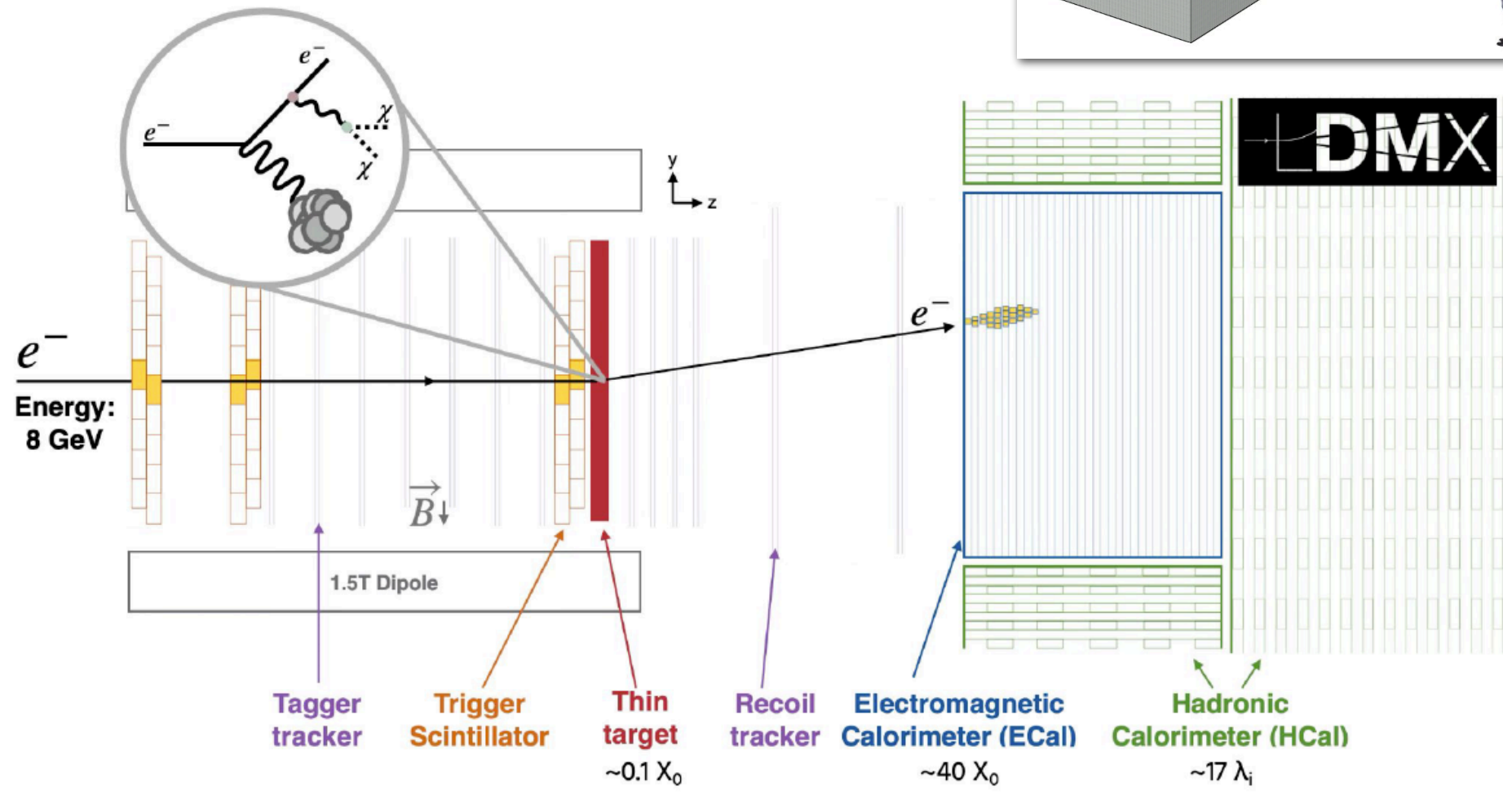
Missing energy/momentum BD experiments

LDMX experiment @ SLAC (future)

- Missing momentum and energy experiment
- Incoming electron is tagged
- Outcoming electron p is measured in the recoil tracker
- Outcoming electron energy measured by ECal
- (neutral) hadrons measured in HCal



- Experimental technique will be tested with LDMAX Phase I ($1e^- / 25ns @ 4GeV$)
- Final reach (ultimate) LDMX Phase II ($1e^- / 1ns @ 8GeV$)



e⁺ annihilation on fixed (thick) target invisible

JPOS
Snowmass 2021

Light dark matter searches with positrons

Jim Alexander¹, Marco Battaglieri^{2,3}, Fabio Bossi⁴, Andrea Bianconi^{5,6}, Mariangela Bondi², Andrea Celentano², Giovanni Costantini^{5,6}, Philip Cole⁷, Raffaella De Vito^{2,3}, Annalisa D'Angelo^{8,9}, Marzio De Napoli¹⁰, Andre Frankenthal¹, Paola Gianotti², Venelin Kozhuharov^{4,11}, Antonio Italiano¹⁰, Lucilla Larza⁸, Marco Leali^{5,6}, Luca Marsicano^{2,4}, Valerio Mascagna^{5,6}, Mauro Raggi^{12,13,1}, Nunzio Randazzo¹⁰, Elena Santopinto², Elton Smith³, Stepan Stepanyan³, Maurizio Ungaro³, Paolo Valente¹³, and Luca Venturini^{5,6}

¹Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA
²Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Genova, 16146 Genova, Italia
³Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, Newport News, Virginia 23606
⁴Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Via E. Fermi 40 Frascati, Italia
⁵Università degli Studi di Brescia, 25123 Brescia, Italia
⁶INFN, Sezione di Pavia, 27100 Pavia, Italia
⁷Lamar University, 4400 MLK Blvd, PO Box 10009, Beaumont, Texas 77710
⁸INFN, Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata, 00133 Roma, Italy
⁹Università di Roma Tor Vergata, 00133 Roma Italy
¹⁰Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Catania, 95125 Catania, Italia
¹¹Faculty of physics, University of Sofia, 5 J. Bourchier Blvd., 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria
¹²Sapienza Università di Roma, piazzale Aldo Moro 5 Roma, Italia
¹³Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Roma, piazzale Aldo Moro 5 Roma, Italia
 Contact author: luca.marsicano@ge.infn.it
 Contact author: mauro.raggi@roma1.infn.it

This LOI presents two complementary approaches to search for light dark matter with a multi-GeV energy positron beam. Light dark matter is a new compelling hypothesis that identifies dark matter with new sub-GeV "hidden sector" states, neutral under standard model interactions and coupling to ordinary matter through a new force. A collider-based searches at the intensity frontier are uniquely suited to explore the dark sector. Using a high-intensity and high-energy positron beam, and exploiting a novel light dark matter production mechanism—positron annihilation on atomic electrons—the proposed experiments will be able to explore new regions in the light dark matter parameter space, confirming or constraining the hypothesis.

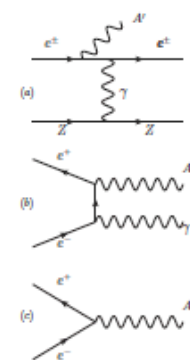
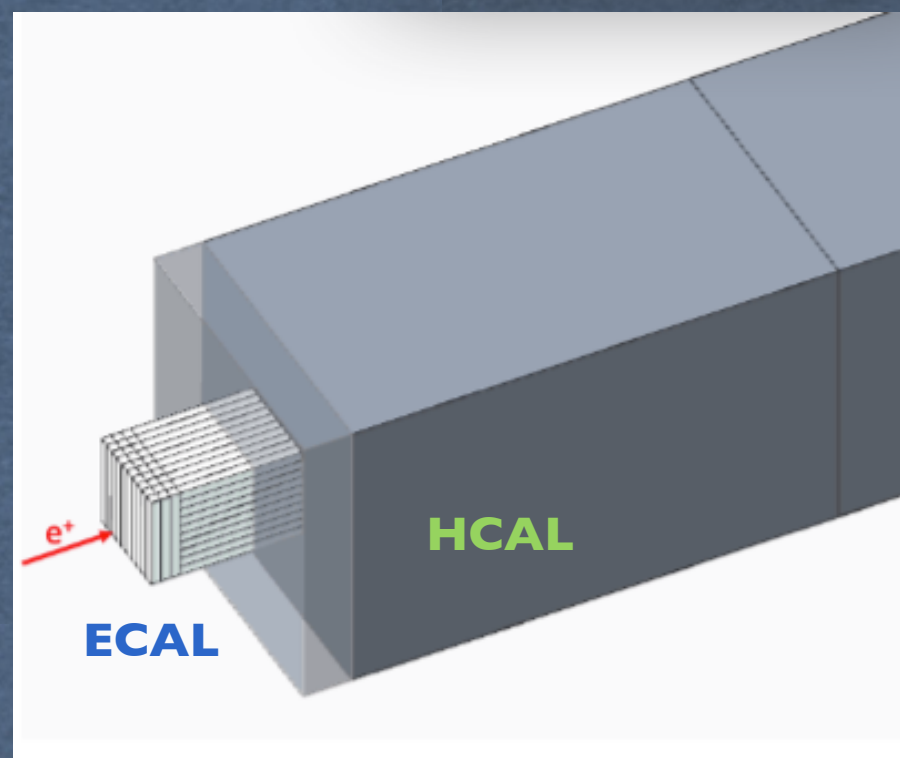
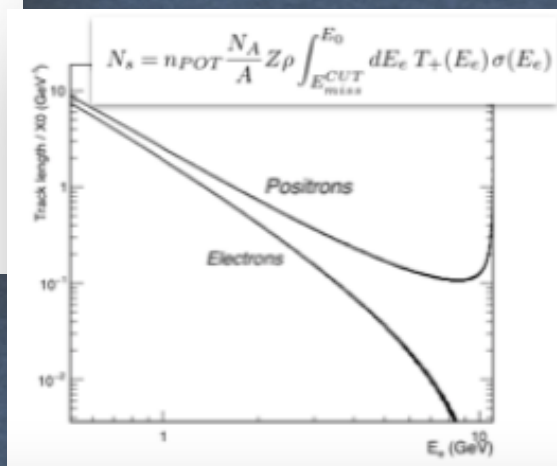
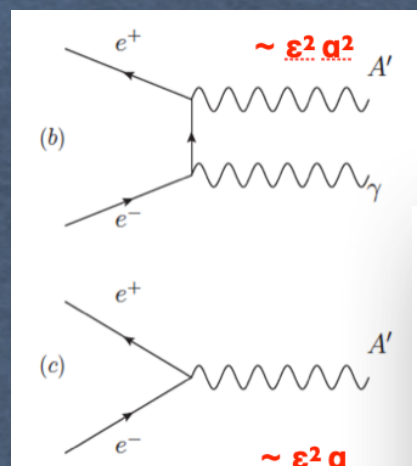


Fig. 1. Three different A' production modes in fixed-target lepton beam experiments: (a) A'-strahlung in e⁺e⁻ nucleus scattering; (b) A'-strahlung in e⁺e⁻ annihilation; (c) resonant A' production in e⁺e⁻ annihilation.

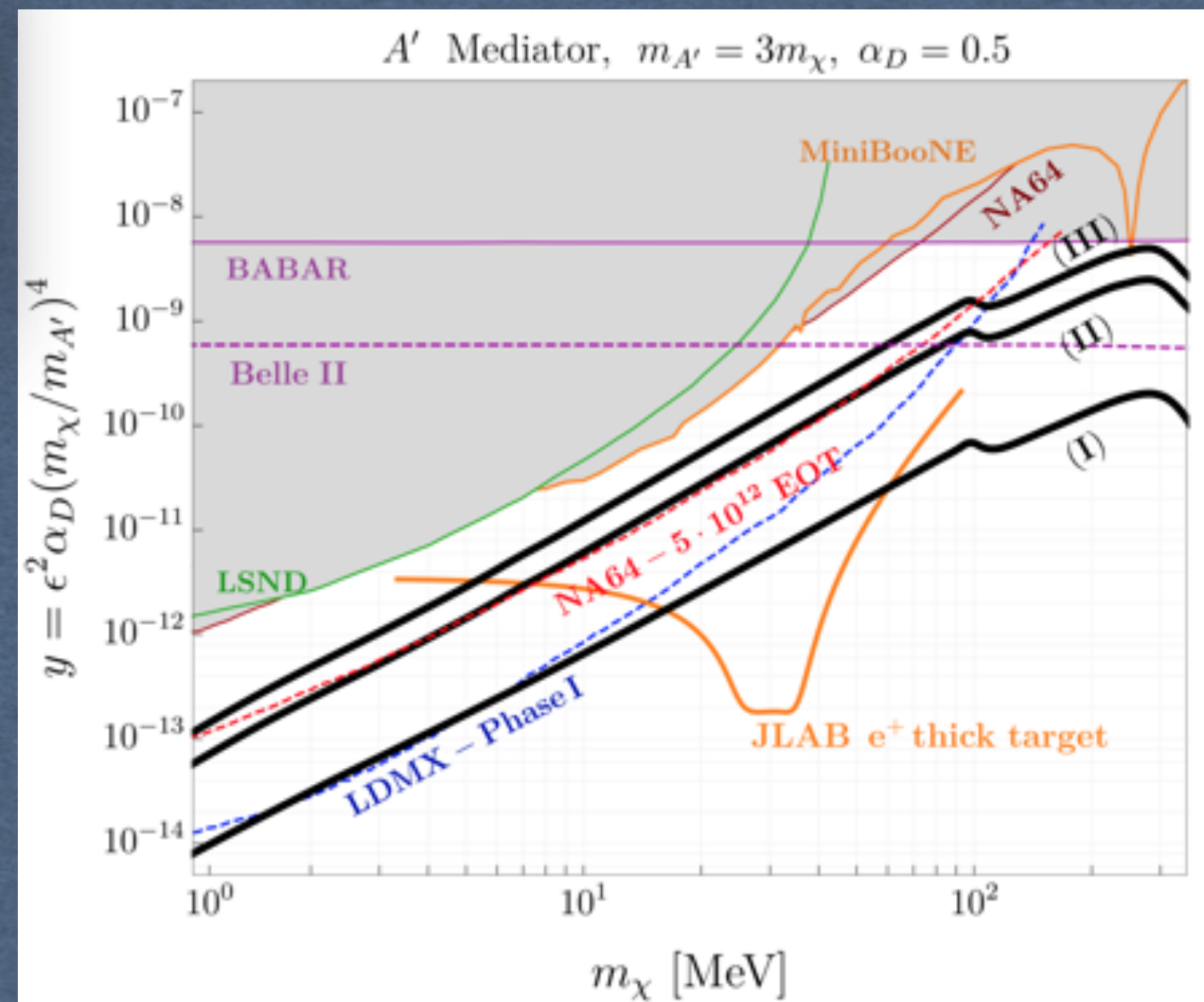
vided that $m_{DM} < m_{MED}$.

Dark sector searches with positron beams on fixed targets

LDM particles can be produced in collisions of electrons or positrons of several GeV with a fixed target by the processes depicted in Fig. 1, with the final state A' decaying to a $\chi\chi$ pair. For experiments with electron beams, diagram (a), analogous to ordinary photon bremsstrahlung, is the dominant process. However, for thick-target setups (where positrons are produced as secondaries from the developing electromagnetic shower), it has been recently shown that diagrams (b) and (c) actually give non-negligible contributions to select

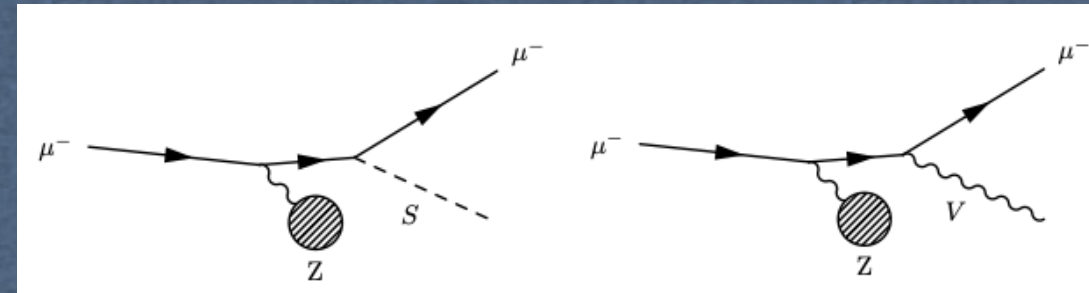


- Active beam-dump experiment (à la NA64 but with positron!)
- Clear signal (peak!) due to the annihilation: $M_{A'} = \text{Sqrt}(2 m_e E_{\text{miss}})$
- Missing energy exp ($e^+ Z \rightarrow e^+ Z' A'$ with $A' \rightarrow$ invisible)
- || e⁺ beam, low current
- Active target (calorimeter)
- Exclusion plots based on 10¹³ POT
- Detector: ECAL to measure e⁺ and an HCAL as a veto



Probing muon-philic forces with secondary muon beam

- Goal: extending LDM searches to muon-philic scenarios requires intense muon beams

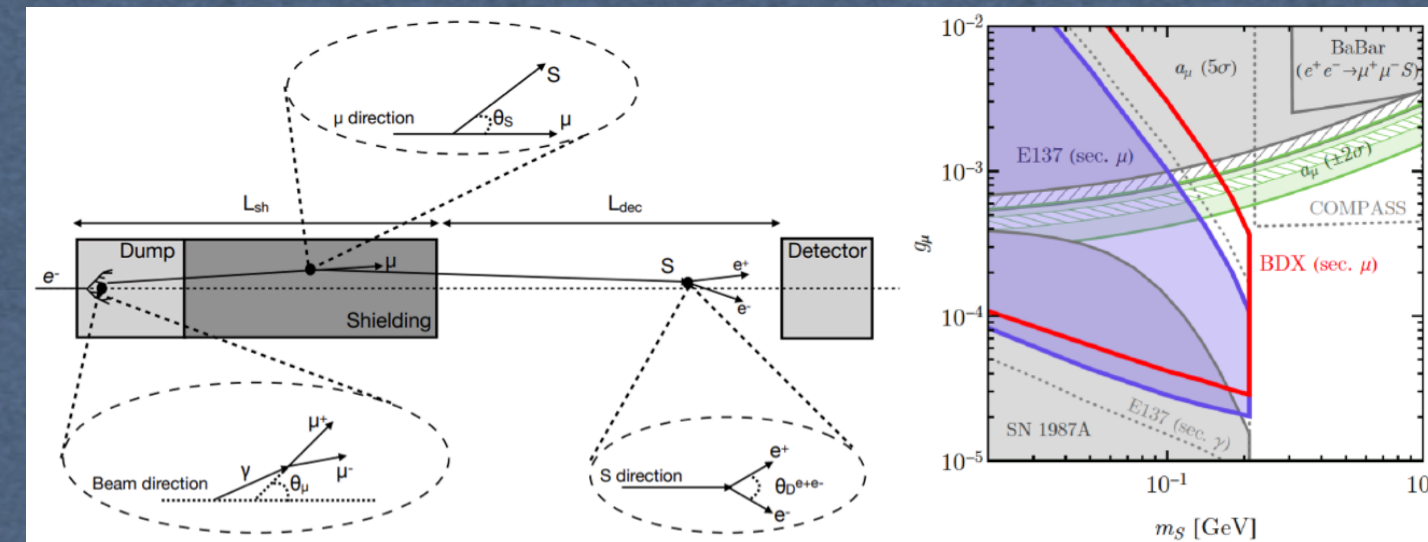


- VECTOR or SCALAR mediator produced with a similar mechanism of A'

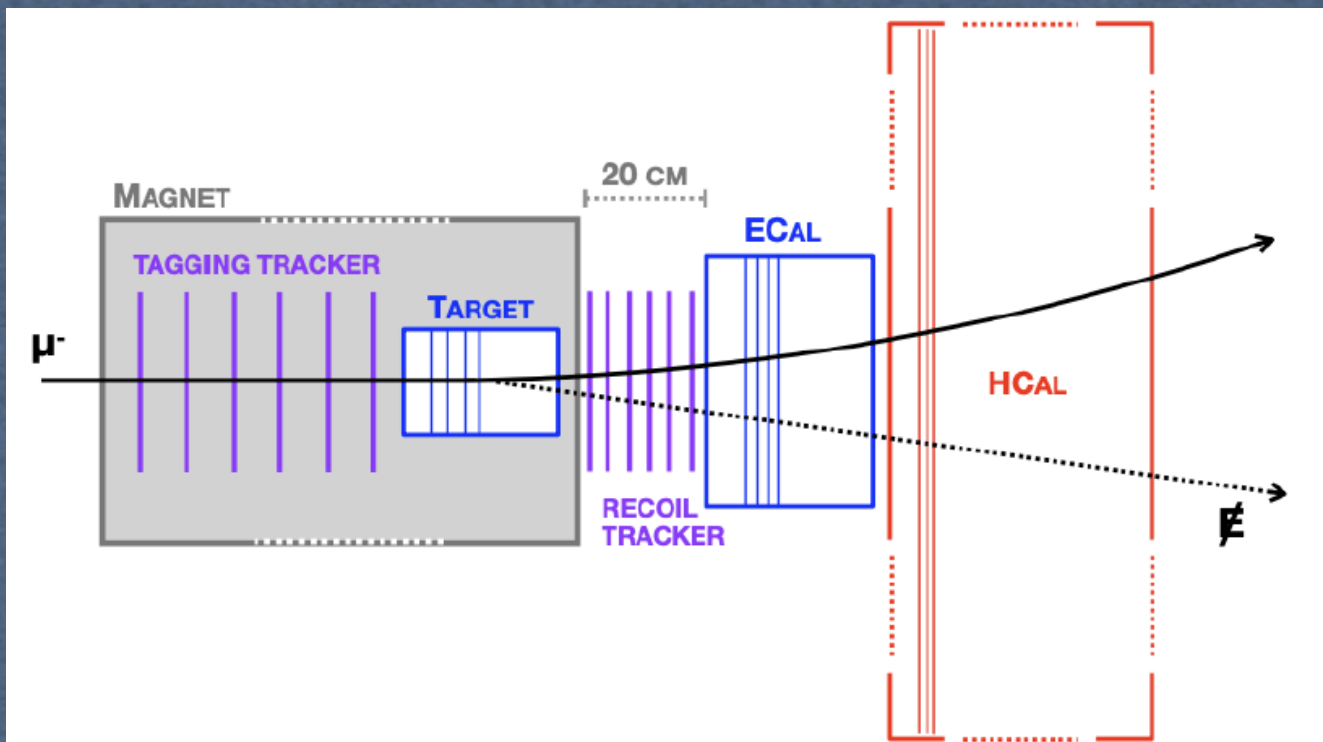
μ BDX @ JLab

- Muon beam dump experiment to probe the visible decay into $e^+e^-(\gamma\gamma)$
- Same infrastructure requested by BDX

L. Marsicano et al., PRD 98, 115022 (2018)

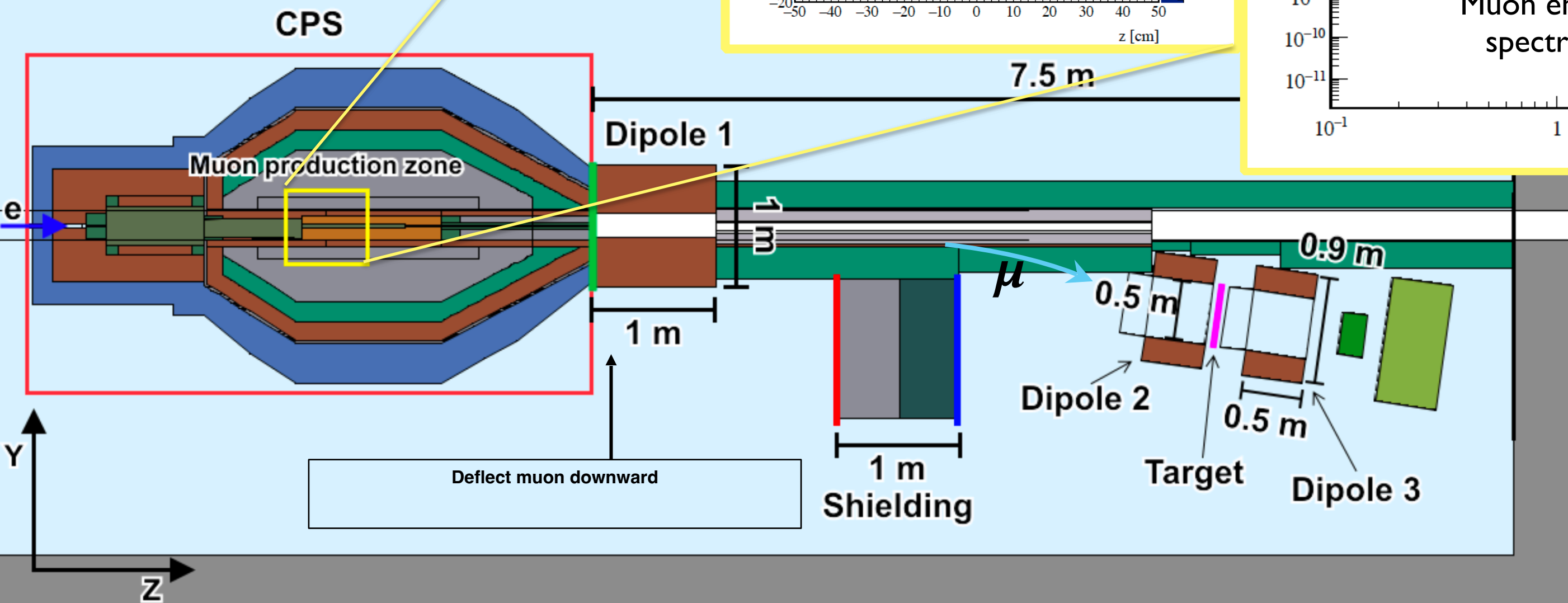
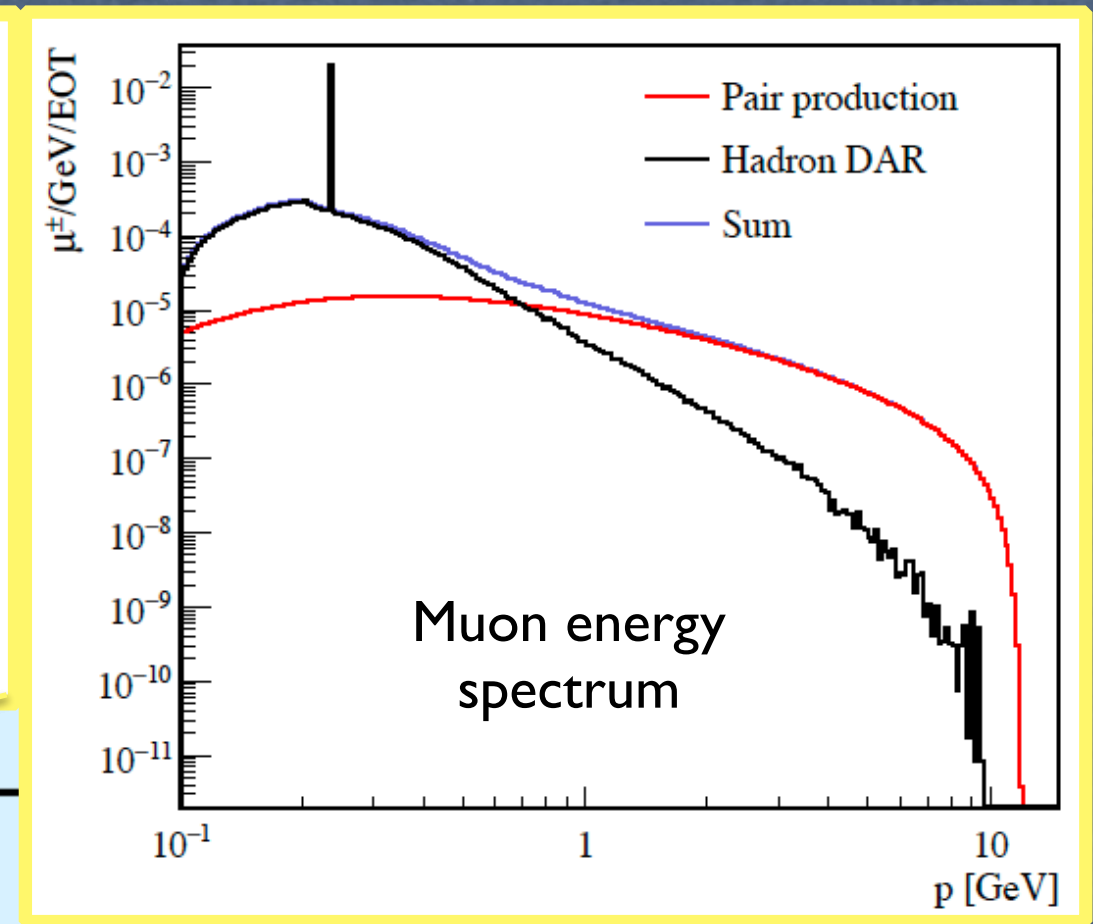
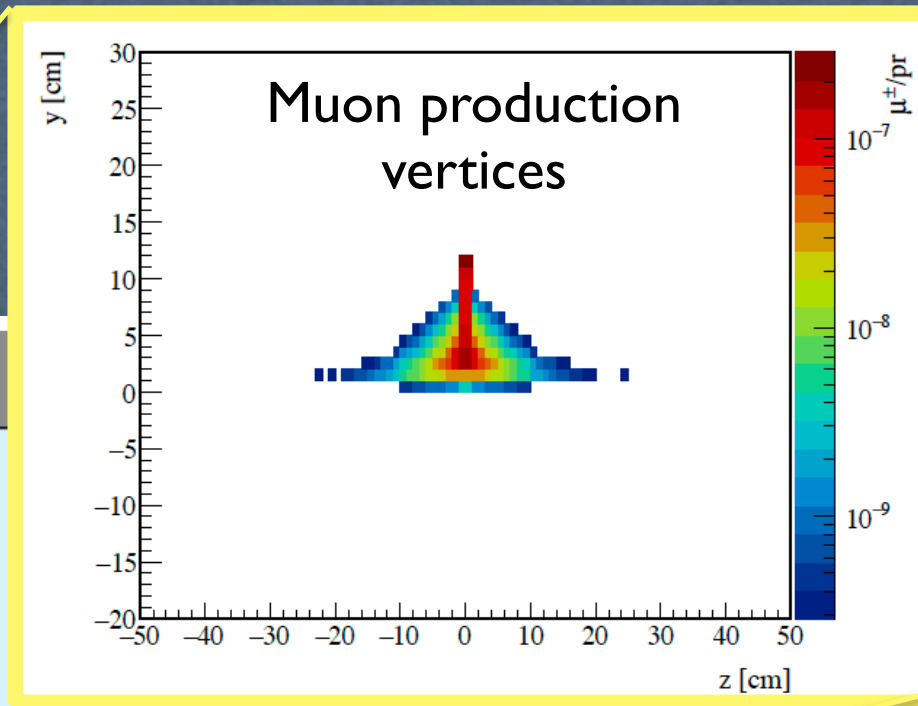
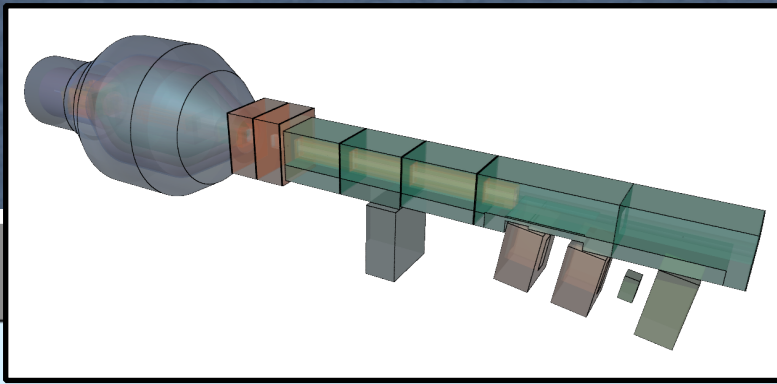


Muon Missing Momentum (μ^3 BDX @ JLab)



- Fixed-target, missing-momentum experiment to probe invisibly decaying particles
- BSM Light gauge boson couples predominantly to muon and or tau
- Scalar or vector mediator of a new force
- Its existence would be a viable explanation of $g-2$ anomaly
- This experiment is similar to M^3 experiment proposed at FERMILAB
 - PROS: Bremsstrahlung backgrounds suppressed, compact experiment, high precision (magnetic spectrometer)
 - CONS: requires a intense high-energy muon beam

μ^3 BDX @ KLF

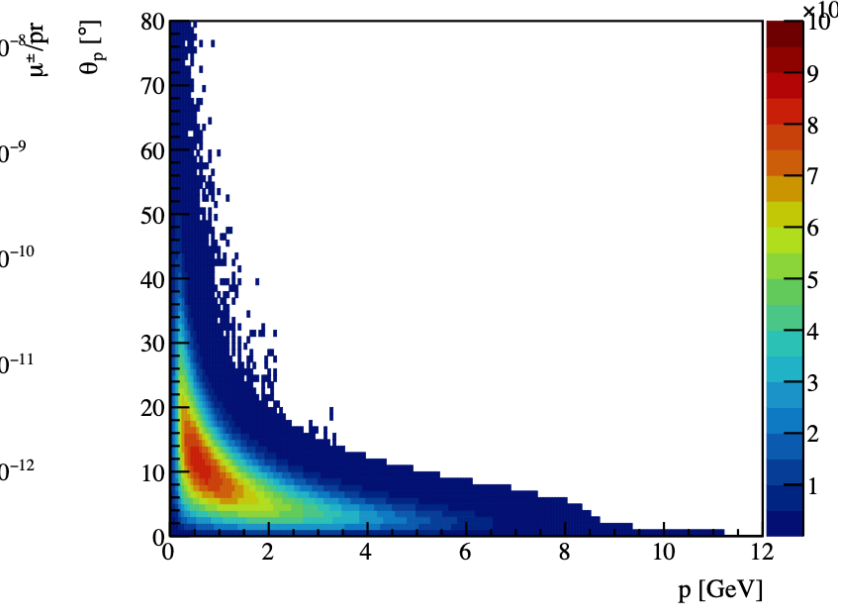
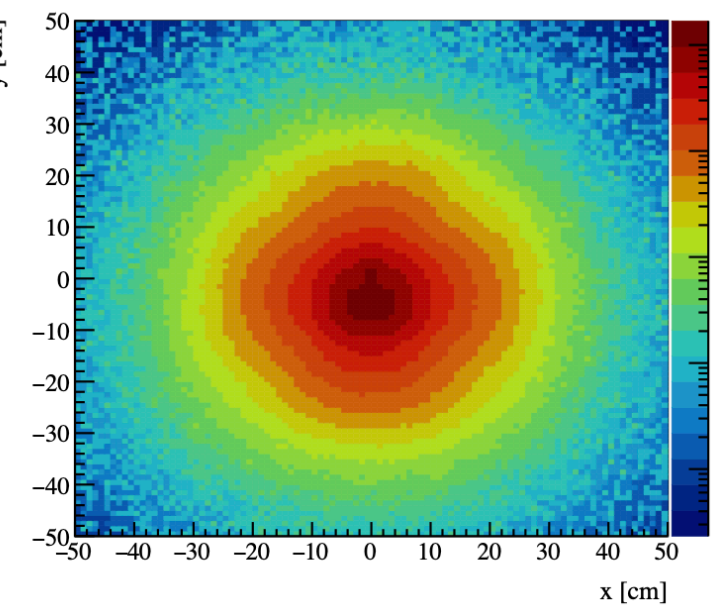
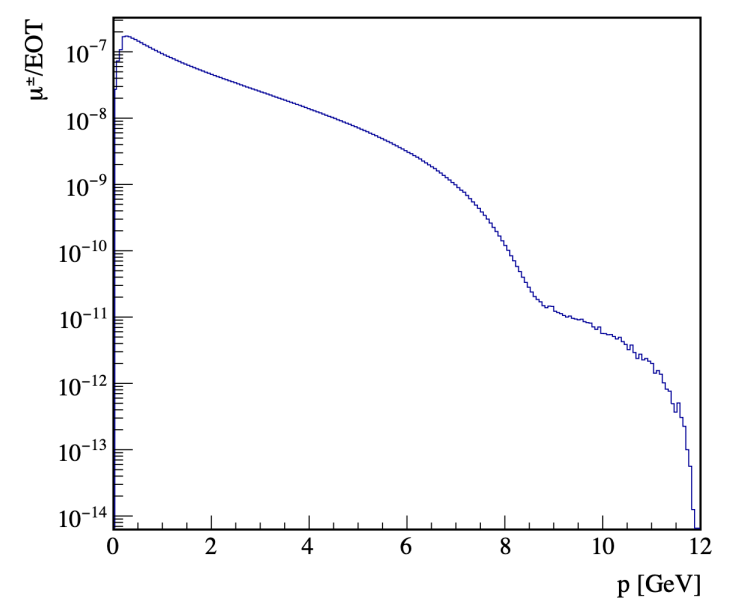
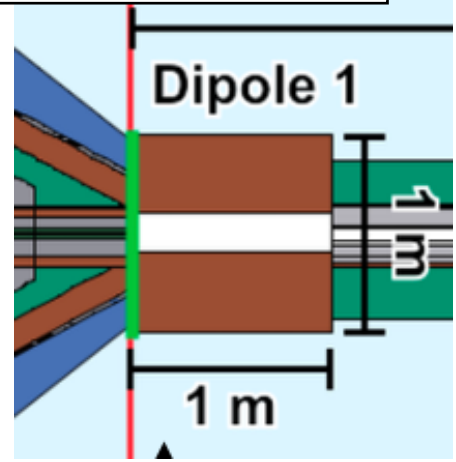


- Experimental setup simulated by FLUKA

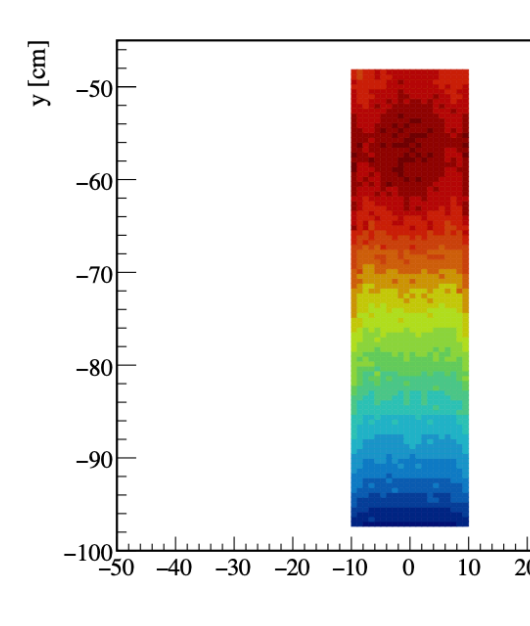
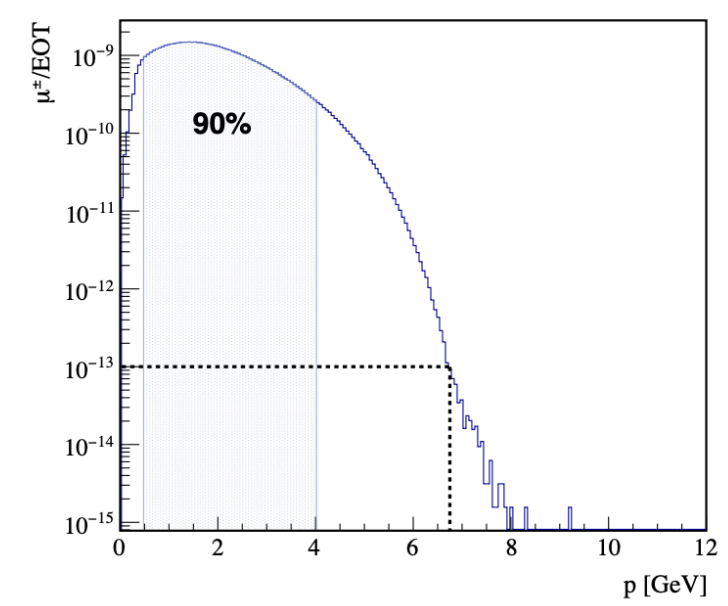
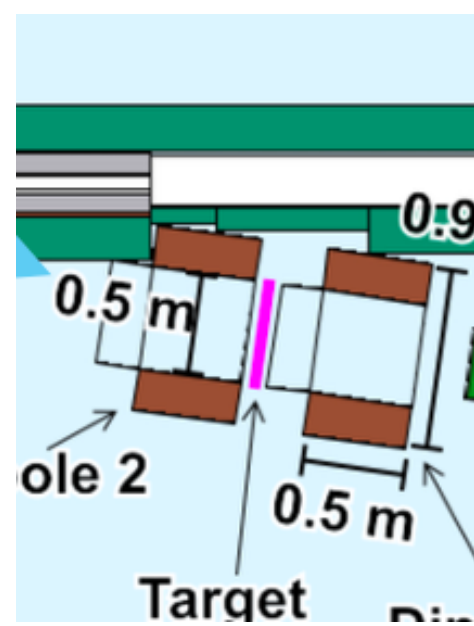
μ^3 BDX @ KLF

Element	Material	Dimension (x,y,z) [cm]	Magnetic field (B_x, B_y, B_z) [T]	
Dipole 1	Yoke	Iron	92, 100, 100	0, 0, 0
	Bore	Vacuum	10, 20, 100	2, 0, 0
Dipole 2	Yoke	Iron	80, 90, 50	0, 0, 0
	Bore	Vacuum	20, 50, 50	-2, 0, 0
Dipole 3	Yoke	Iron	80, 90, 50	0, 0, 0
	Bore	Vacuum	20, 50, 50	2, 0, 0
Shielding	1 st half	Lead	100, 114, 50	0, 0, 0
	2 nd half	Concrete	100, 114, 50	0, 0, 0

• Muon flux downstream of Dipole 1



• Muon flux at the target position

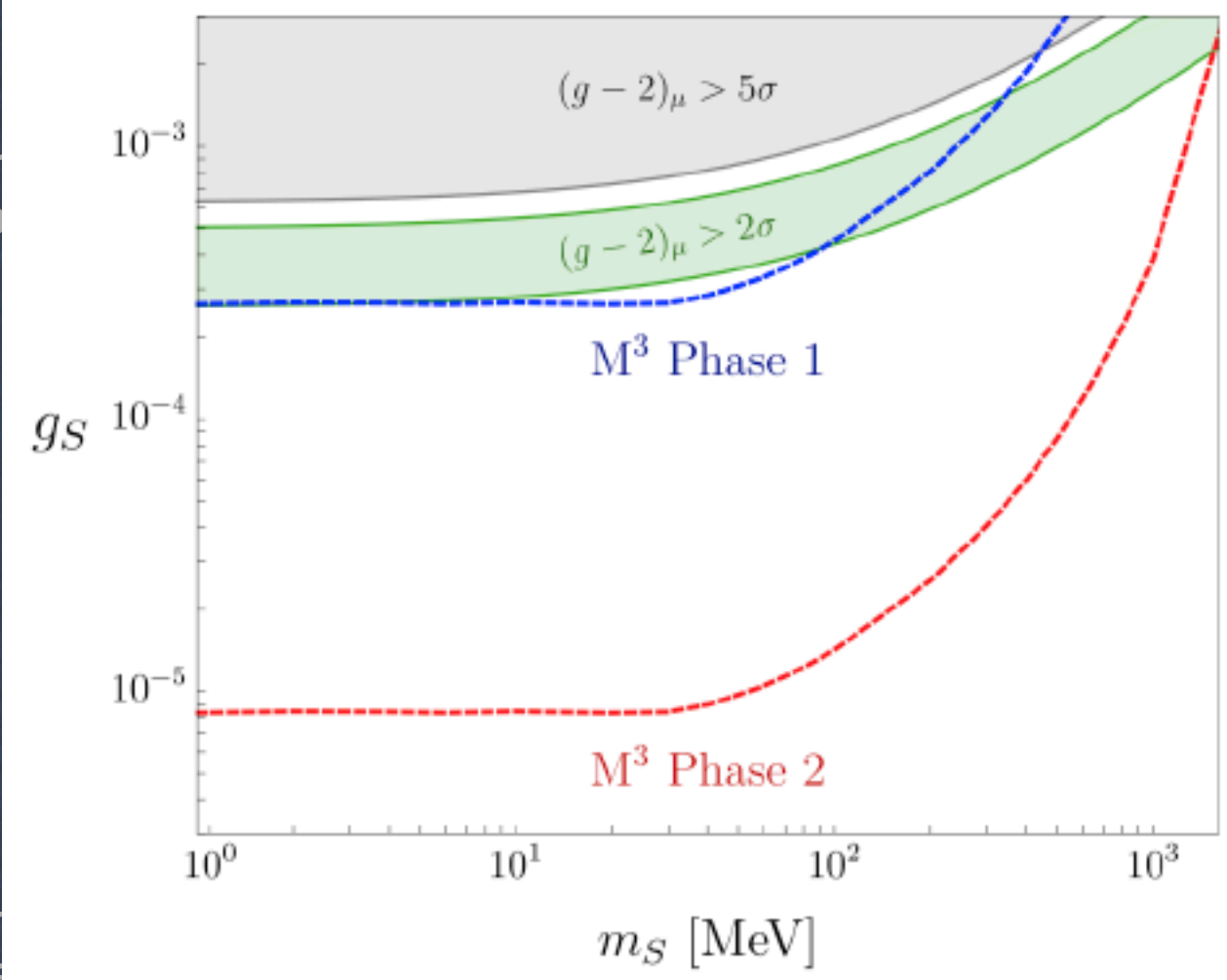


Location	Flux μ/s	σ_x (cm)	σ_y (cm)
CPS's exit	6.75×10^7	7.80	8.09
Target	$\sim 10^4$	$I_e = 2.7 \mu A$	

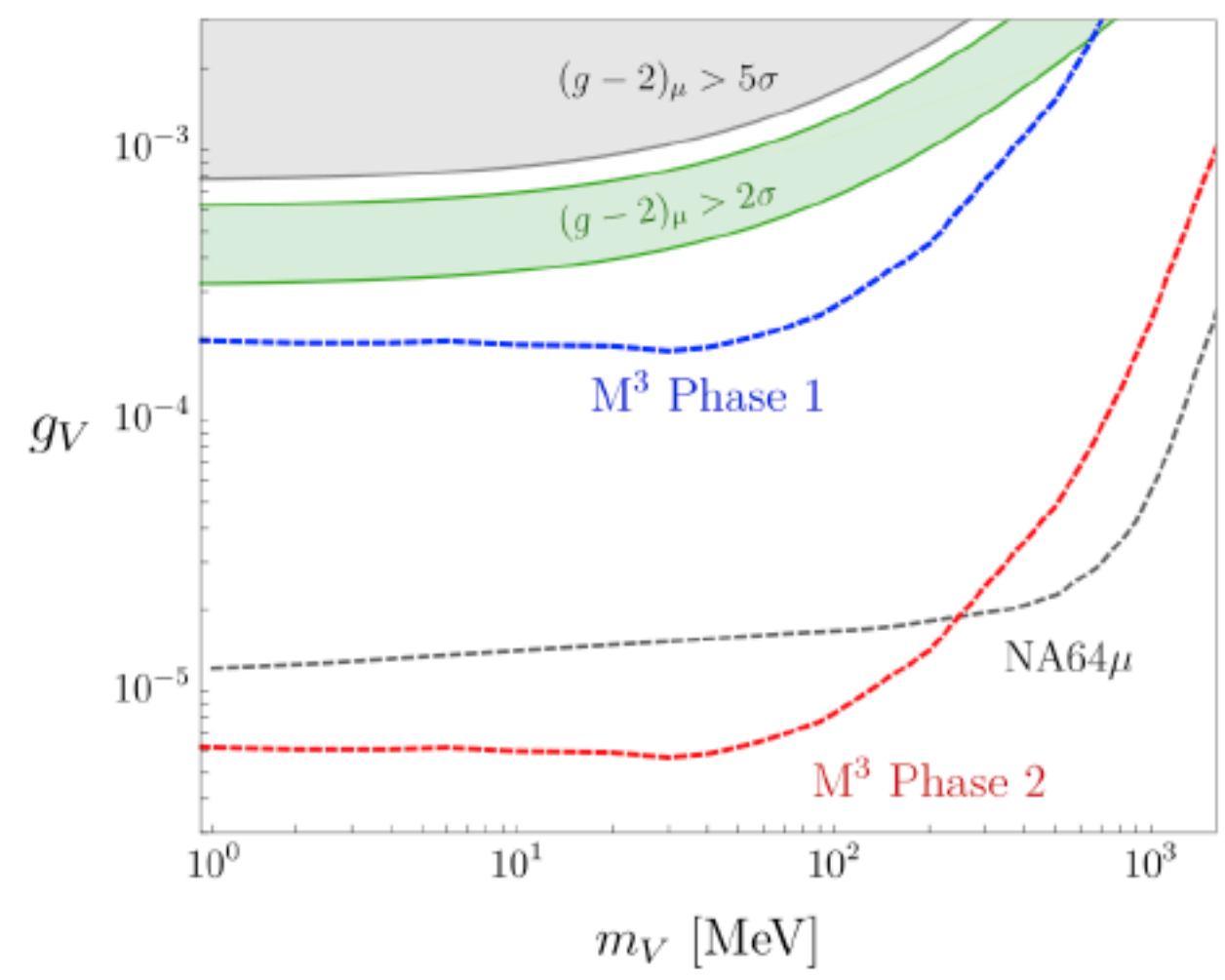
μ^3 BDX @ KLF

- Muon Dipole
- Muon Dipole
- Muon Dipole

Invisibly Decaying Muon – Philic Scalar

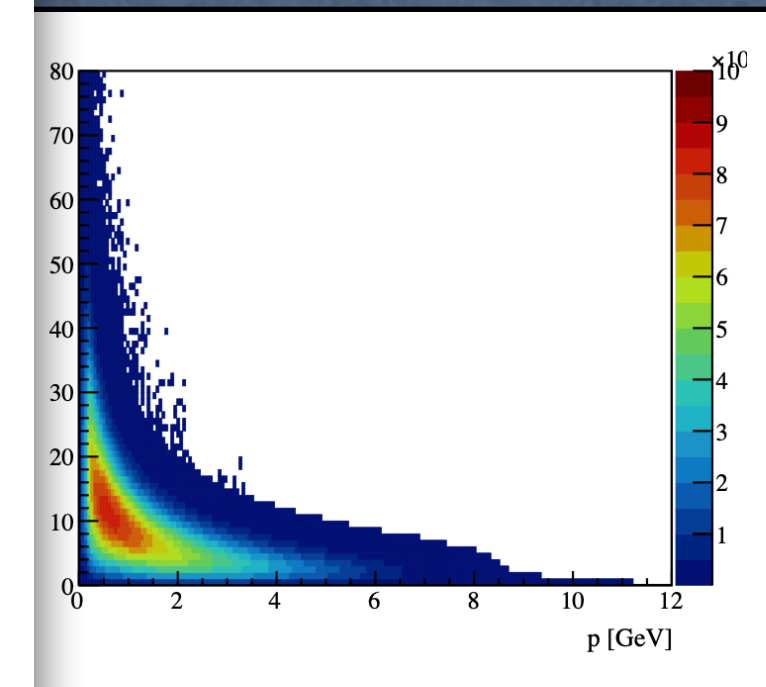


Invisibly Decaying Muon – Philic Vector



- muon beam ~ 15 GeV
- Phase 1: 10^{10} MOT
- Phase 2: 10^{13} MOT

Similar M3@FNAL Phase I MOT in 2 weeks of run!
(Phase II in ~ 3 years (with optimization))



	Flux μ/s	σ_x (cm)	σ_y (cm)
Initial	6.75×10^7	7.80	8.09
Final	$\sim 10^4$	$l_e = 2.7 \mu A$	

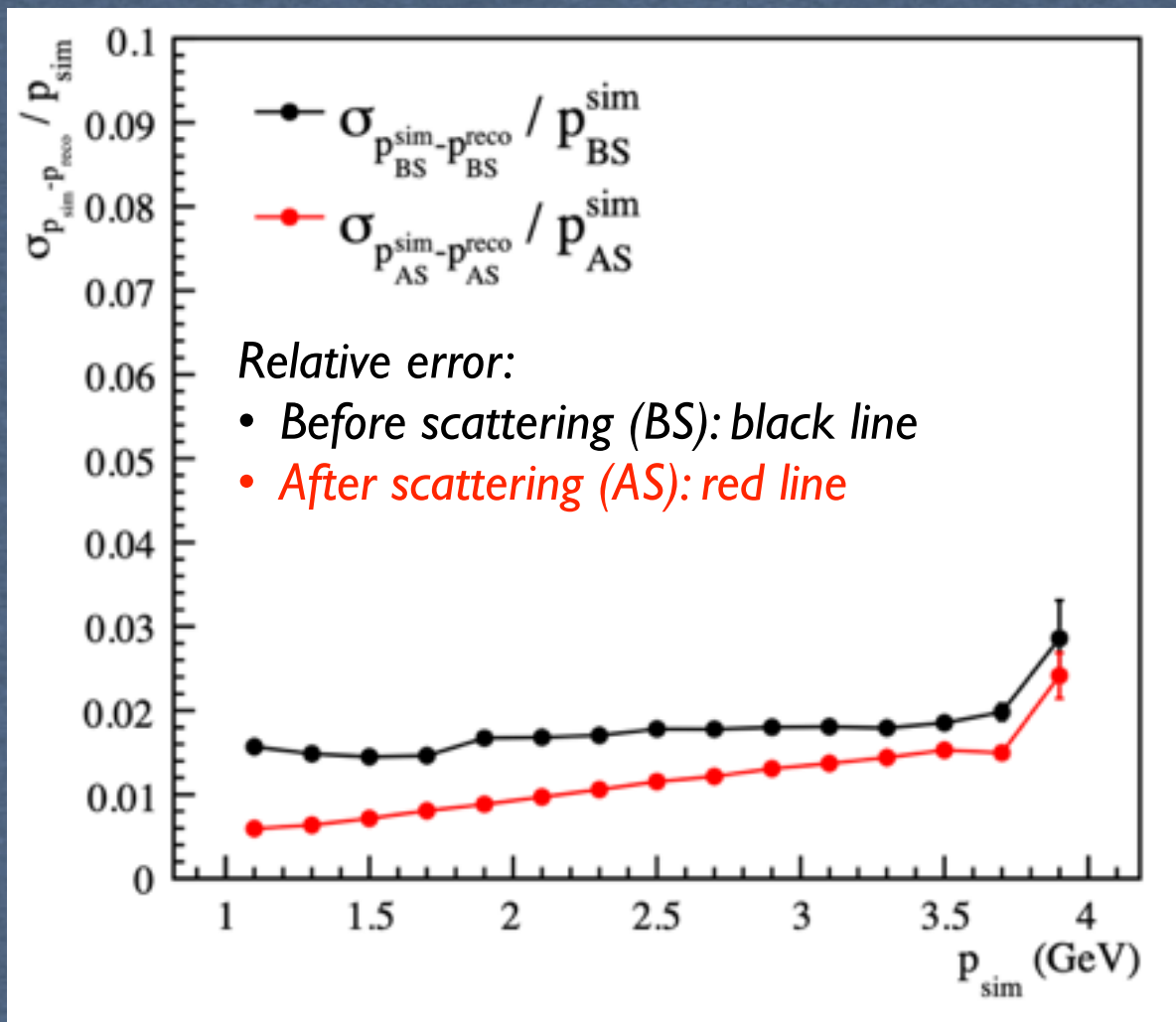
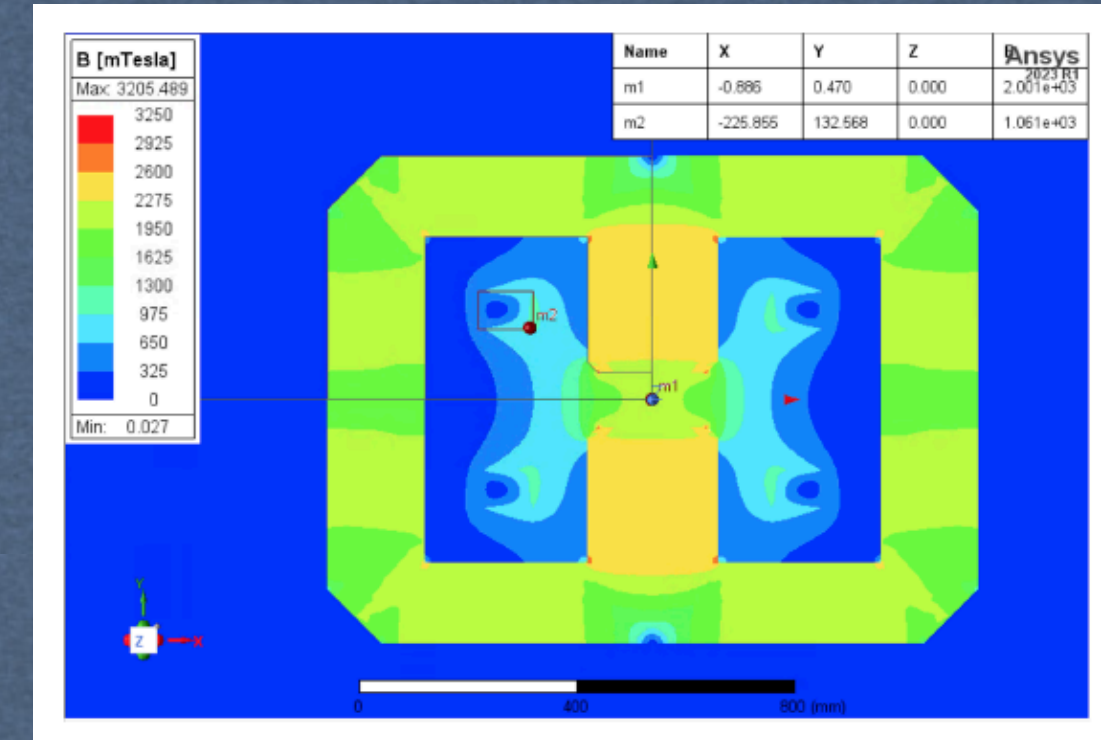
μ^3 BDX @ KLF

Assumptions

- No dead time between hits on the flux detectors, perfect particle Id
- The magnetic field of the dipoles is ideal (2 T on the axes)
- Tracking planes at the entrance of each dipole are separated by 20 cm
- Tracker resolution:
 - δX and δY : 75 μm
 - δZ : 250 μm
- Cut on incoming particles: $1 \text{ GeV} < p_\mu < 4 \text{ GeV}$

Realistic Magnet design

- 2 windings, 40 turns each with $I=5\text{kA}$
- The field at the center is $\sim 1.95\text{T}$, I_{Tot} =of 400 kA for each coil.



Results:

- **Momentum error < 5% for $1 < p_\mu < 4 \text{ GeV}$**
- Error increases with momentum:
 - Higher $p_\mu \rightarrow$ smaller dipole displacement
 - Arc reconstruction in yz-plane worsens
 - Momentum measurement becomes less precise

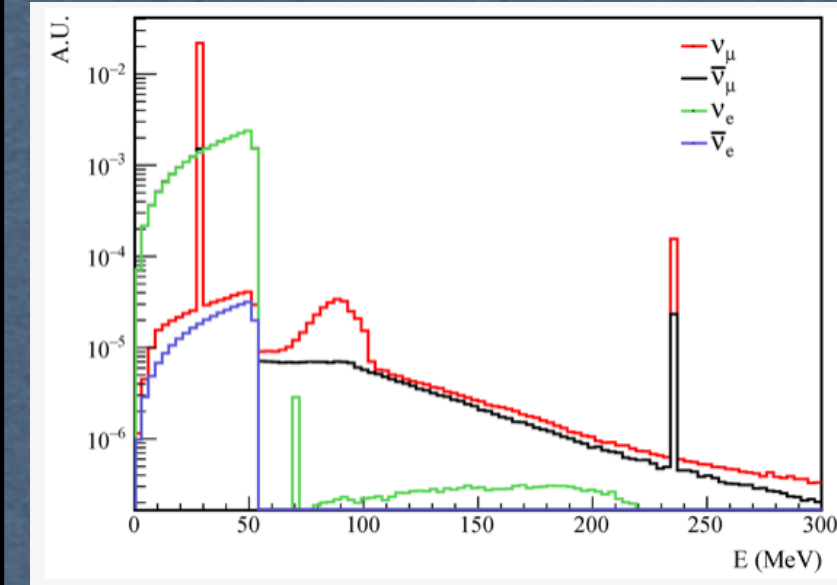
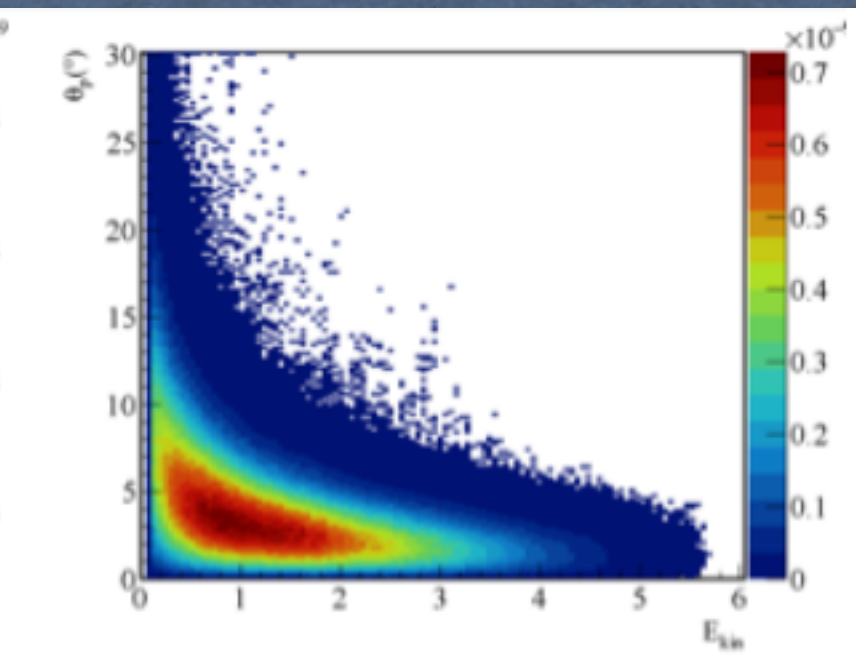
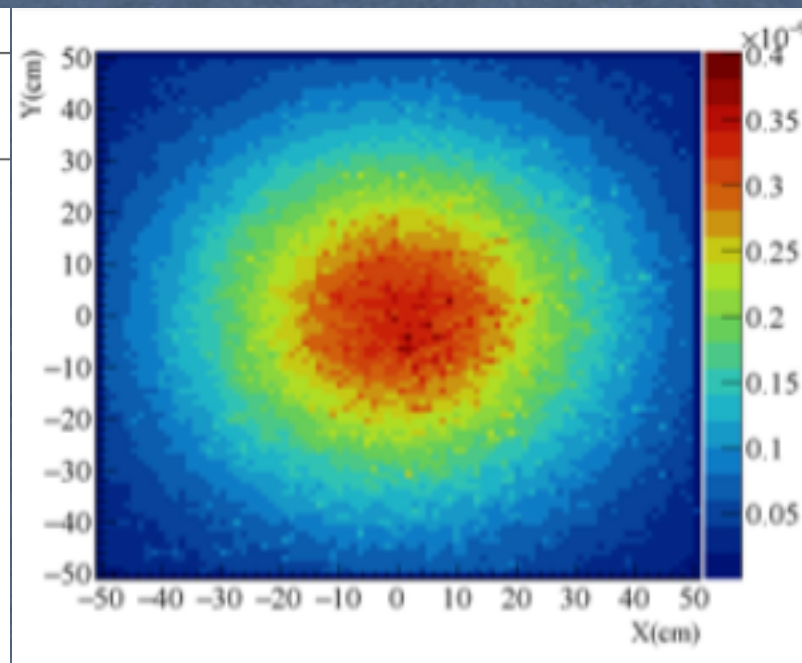
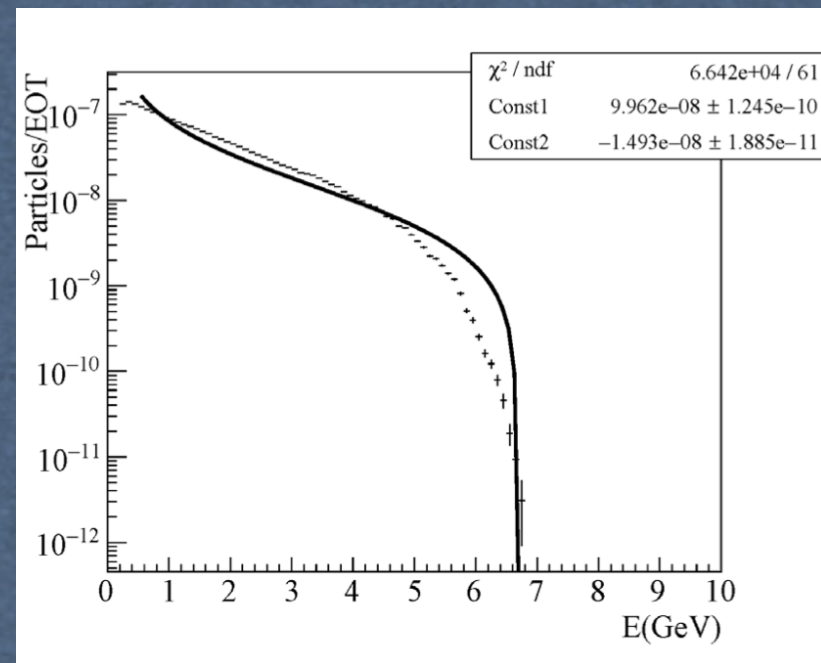
μ^3 @KLF measurement would be sensitive to a missing momentum $\sim 5\%$, down to $\sim 50 - 200 \text{ MeV}/c$

- Final reach of the experiment (upper limits) in progress

Secondary beams @ JLab (Hall-A BemaDump)

Muon beam

- Flux: $9 \cdot 10^{-7}$ μ /EOT (Rate $\sim 3 \cdot 10^8$ μ /s for $I_e=50\mu A$)
- Up to 6 GeV, Bremms.-like E spectrum
- 20x20 cm² beam spot

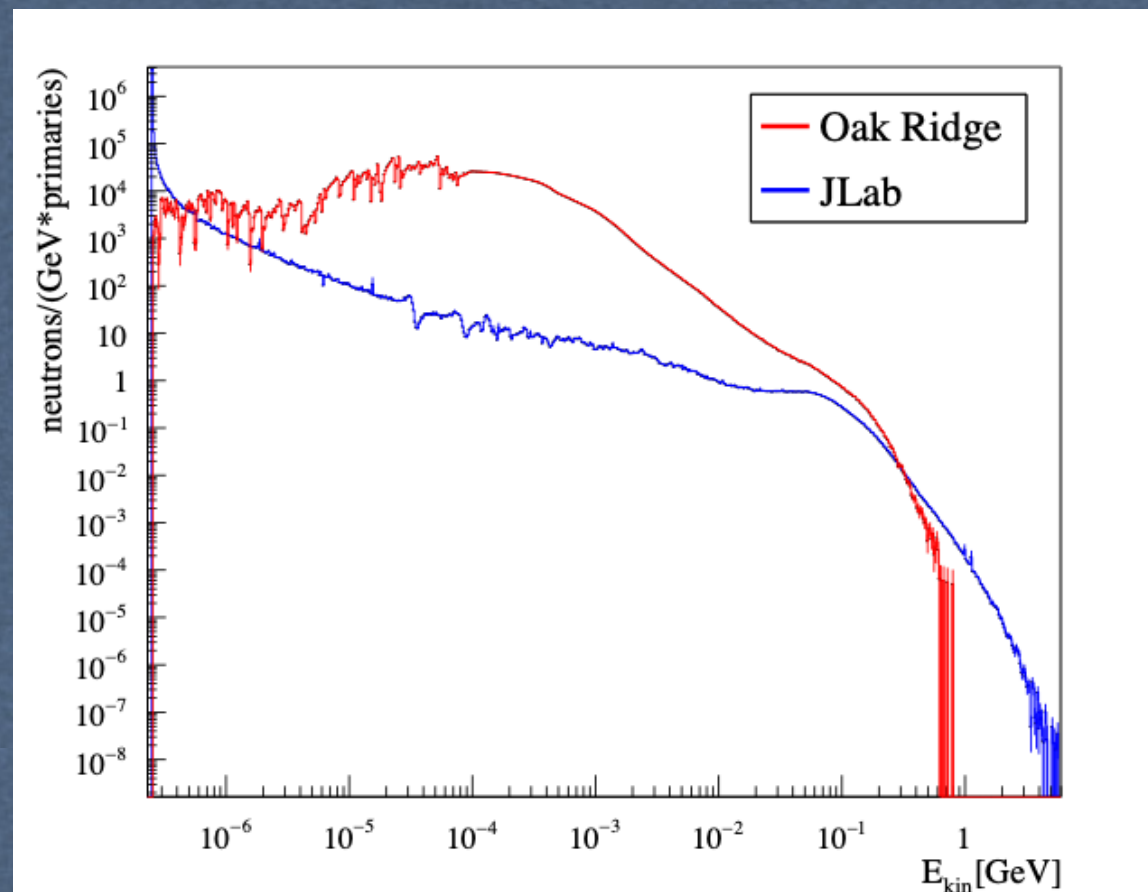


Neutrino beam

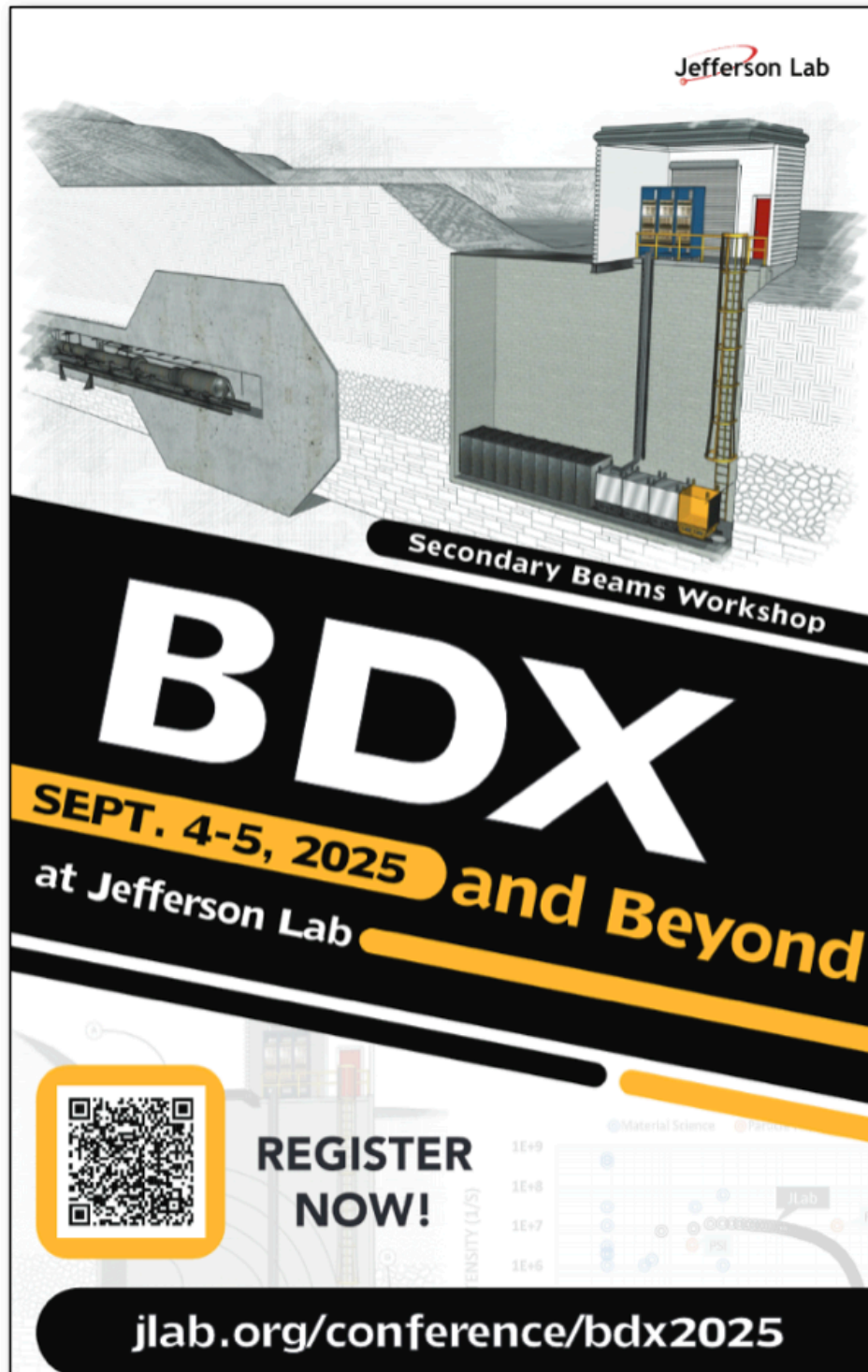
- Flux: $3 \cdot 10^{17}$ ν /m²/year (1 year corresponding to 10^{22} EOT)
- Decay-At-Rest energy spectrum (0-50 MeV)

Neutron beam

Energy Range	Jlab (n/s)	Oak Ridge (n/s)	Ratio (J/O)
0 - 6GeV	7.86e+13	1.41e+17	0.001
0.1eV - 100.0eV	0.00e+00	0.00e+00	inf
100.0eV - 100.0keV	2.13e+13	2.17e+16	0.001
100.0keV - 1.0MeV	4.51e+12	8.60e+16	0.000
1.0MeV - 100.0MeV	4.16e+13	3.26e+16	0.001
100.0MeV - 2.0GeV	1.14e+13	3.43e+14	0.033
2.0GeV - 11.0GeV	2.07e+09	0.00e+00	inf



BDX & beyond




Jefferson Lab

Secondary Beams Workshop

BDX

SEPT. 4-5, 2025 and Beyond

at Jefferson Lab



REGISTER NOW!

jlab.org/conference/bdx2025

Goal

explore opportunities offered by secondary beams at Jefferson Lab to leveraging BDX infrastructures

Format

sharing thoughts and ideas on muon, neutrino, neutron and LDM beams @ JLab

Program

two days of presentations, discussion time, flash talks

(Expected) outcome

to build a new user community e deliver soon after a white paper with results of the brainstorming

Opportunities with secondary beams

- muons (published <https://doi.org/10.3390/instruments8010001>)
- neutrinos (published <https://doi.org/10.3390/instruments8010001>)
- neutrons (paper in preparation)



Cornell University

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[Submitted on 6 Oct 2025]

A Beamdump Facility at Jefferson Lab

Patrick Achenbach, Andrei Afanasev, Pawel Ambrozewicz, Adi Ashkenazi, Dipanwita Banerjee, Marco Battaglieri, Jay Benesch, Mariangela Bondi, Paul Brindza, Alexandre Camsonne, Eric M. Christy, Ethan W. Cline, Chris Cuevas, Jens Dilling, Luca Doria, Stuart Fegan, Marco Filippini, Antonino Fulci, Simona Giovannella, Stefano Grazi, Heather Jackson, Douglas Higinbotham, Cynthia Keppel, Vladimir Khachatryan, Michael Kohl, Hanjie Liu, Zhen Liu, Camillo Mariani, Ralph Marinaro, Kevin McFarland, Claudio Montanari, Vishvas Pandey, Eduard Pozdeyev, Jianwei Qiu, Patrizia Rossi, Riccardo Rossini, Todd Satogata, Glenn Schrader, Adrian Signer, Daniel Smeaton, Marco Spreafico, Diktys Stratakis, Manjukrishna Suresh, Holly Szumilo, Julia Vidal, Davide Terzania, Charlie Velasquez, Michael Wood, Takayoshi Yamazaki, Yuhong Zhang

This White Paper is exploring the potential of interesting muon, neutrino, and (hypothetical) light dark matter beams produced in the form of high-intensity electron beams with beam dumps. Light dark matter production with the approved Beam Dump Experiment (BDX) are driving the construction of a new underground vault at Jefferson Lab that could be extended to a Beam Dump Facility (BDF) with minimal additional installations. The paper summarizes the discussions from the International Workshop on Secondary Beams at Jefferson Lab (BDX & Beyond). Several possible muon physics applications and neutrino detector technologies for Jefferson Lab are highlighted. The potential of a secondary neutron beam will be addressed in a future edition.

Comments: 34 pages, 16 figures, refers to: International Workshop on Secondary Beams at Jefferson Lab (BDX & Beyond)

Subjects: Accelerator Physics (physics.acc-ph), High Energy Physics - Experiment (hep-ex), Nuclear Experiment (nucl-ex)

Report number: JLAB-PHY-25-4560, DOE/OR/23177-8015

Cite as: arXiv:2510.09652 [physics.acc-ph] (or arXiv:2510.09652v1 [physics.acc-ph] for this version) <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2510.09652>

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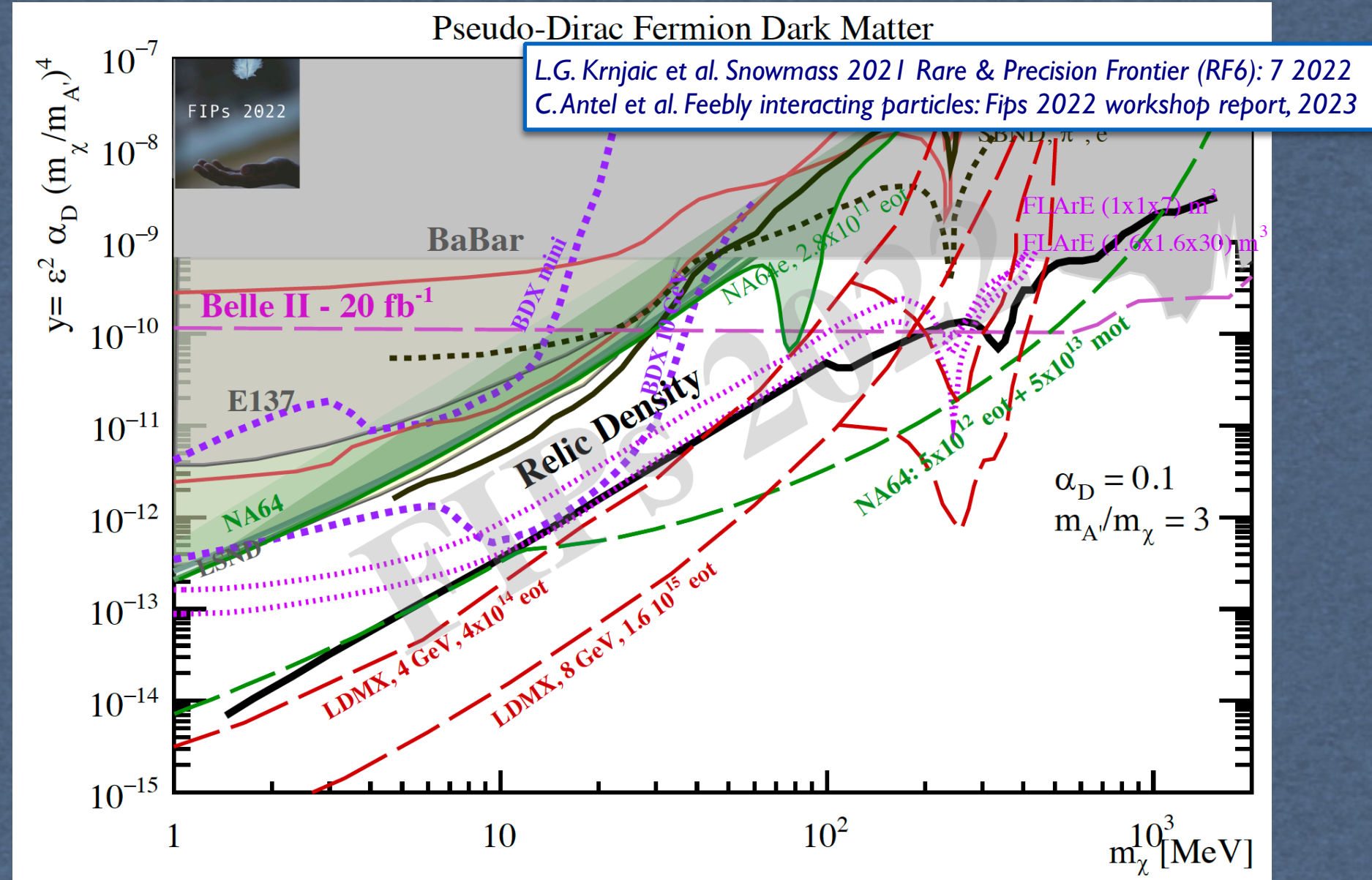
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LDM searches status

Experiment	lab	beam	particle yield/ \mathcal{L}	technique	portals	timescale
current						
ATLAS [1382]	CERN	pp , 13-14 TeV	up to 3 ab^{-1}	visible, invis.	(1,2,3,4)	2042
Belle II [1219]	KEK	e^+e^- , 11 GeV	up to 50 ab^{-1}	visible, invis.	(1,2,3,4)	2035
CMS [1383]	CERN	pp , 13-14 TeV	up to 3 ab^{-1}	visible, invis.	(1,2,3,4)	2042
Dark(Spin)Quest [1256]	FNAL	p , 120 GeV	$10^{18} \rightarrow 10^{20}$	visible	(1,2,3,4)	2024
FASER [1052]	CERN	pp , 14 TeV	150 fb^{-1}	visible	(1,2,3,4)	2025
LHCb [1384]	LHC	pp , 13-14 TeV	up to 300 fb^{-1}	visible	(1,2,3,4)	2042
MicroBooNE [1385]	FNAL	p , 120 GeV (NuMi)	$\sim 7 \times 10^{20}$ pot	visible	(2,4)	2015-2021
NA62 [1174]	CERN	K^+ , 75 GeV	a few 10^{13} K decays	visible, invis.	(1,2,3,4)	2025
NA62-dump [1386]	CERN	p , 400 GeV	$\sim 10^{18}$ pot	visible	(1,2,3,4)	2025
NA64 $_e$ [1387]	CERN	e^-/e^+ , 100 GeV	up to $1 \cdot 10^{13} e^-/e^+$	\cancel{e} , visible	(1,3)	< 2032
PADME [1300]	LNF	e^+ , 550 MeV	$5 \cdot 10^{12} e^+$ ot	missing mass	(1)	< 2023
T2K-ND280 [1388]	JPARC	p , 30 GeV	10^{21} pot	visible	(4)	running
proposed						
BDX [1389]	JLAB	e^- , 11 GeV	$\sim 10^{22}$ eot/year	recoil e	(1,3)	2024-2025
CODEX-b [1030]	CERN	pp , 14 TeV	300 fb^{-1}	visible	(1,2,3,4)	2042
Dark MESA [1390]	Mainz	e^- , 155 MeV	$150 \mu\text{A}$	visible	(1)	< 2030
FASER2 [1068]	CERN	pp , 14 TeV	3 ab^{-1}	visible	(1,2,3,4)	2042
FLaRE [1068]	CERN	pp , 14 TeV	3 ab^{-1}	visible, recoil	(1)	2042
FORMOSA [1068]	CERN	pp , 14 TeV	3 ab^{-1}	visible	(1)	2042
Gamma Factory [1391]	CERN	photons	up to $10^{25} \gamma/\text{year}$	visible	(1,3)	2035-2038?
HIKE-dump [1392, 1191]	CERN	p , 400 GeV	$5 \cdot 10^{19}$ pot	visible	(1,2,3,4)	<2038
HIKE-K $^+$ [1392, 1191]	CERN	K^+ , 75 GeV	10^{14} K decays	visible, inv.	(1,2,3,4)	<2038
HIKE-K $_L$ [1392, 1191]	CERN	K_L , 40 GeV	10^{14} K decays	visible, inv.	(1,2,3,4)	<2042
LBND (DUNE) [1393]	FNAL	p , 120 GeV	$\sim 10^{21}$ pot	recoil e, N	(1,2,3,4)	< 2040
LDMX [1271]	SLAC	e^- , 4,8 GeV	$2 \cdot 10^{16}$ eot	\cancel{p} , visible	(1)	< 2030
M 3 [1394]	FNAL	μ , 15 GeV	10^{10} (10^{13}) mot	\cancel{p}	(1)	proposed
MATHUSLA [1395]	CERN	pp , 14 TeV	3 ab^{-1}	visible	(1,2,3,4)	2042
milliQan [1070]	CERN	pp , 14 TeV	$0.3\text{-}3 \text{ ab}^{-1}$	visible	(1)	< 2032
MoeDAL/MAPP [1396]	CERN	pp , 14 TeV	30 fb^{-1}	visible	(4)	< 2032
Mu3e [1397]	PSI	29 MeV	$10^8 \rightarrow 10^{10} \mu/s$	visible	(1)	< 2038?
NA64 $_\mu$ [1398]	CERN	μ , 160 GeV	up to 2×10^{13} mot	\cancel{p}	(1)	< 2032
PIONEER [1399]	PSI	55-70 MeV, π^+	$0.3 \cdot 10^6 \pi/s$	visible	(4)	phase I approved
SBND [1400]	FNAL	p , 8 GeV	$6 \cdot 10^{20}$ pot	recoil Ar	(1)	< 2030
SHADOWS [1401]	CERN	p , 400 GeV	$5 \cdot 10^{19}$ pot	visible	(2,3,4)	<2038
SHiP [1402]	CERN	p , 400 GeV	$2 \cdot 10^{20}$ pot	visible, recoil	(1,2,3,4)	<2038



From CERN-FIPs workshop report, (SNOWMASS22): several experiments planned/proposed (LHC, SLAC, Mainz, FNAL, KEK, PSI, LPARC) with a variety of beams (proton, leptons, photons), energies (from 150 MeV to 14 TeV) and experimental techniques (visible, invisible, recoil, ..) with a timeline that reaches ~2042

Conclusions

- * Existence of Dark Matter is a compelling reason to investigate new forces and matter over a broad range of mass
- * Accelerator-based (Light)DM search provides unique feature of distinguish DM signal from any other cosmic anomalies or effects (SNOWMASS 2022)
- * Pletora of experimental techniques to cover the LDM broad parameter space
- * Significant interests from funding agencies (DOE/NSF) and labs (CERN and JLab) to run small scale experiments with a great discovery potential
- * Extensive experimental plans at high intensity e-facility to search for LDM: JLab, LNF, Mainz, SLAC (p-beam FNAL and CERN)
- * A new generation of dedicated and optimised experiments at high intensity frontier will test the relic (light) dark matter scenarios
- * Jefferson Lab is a world-leading facility for current and near-future light dark matter searches, with experiments such as APEX, HPS, XI7, and BDX.
- * Ce+BAF will enable new opportunities, including a unique 11 GeV positron beam.
- * Secondary beams of muons, neutrinos, and neutrons further complement the broader program of beyond-the-Standard-Model searches.
- * Discovery or decisive tests of simplest scenarios will possible in the next ~5-8 years!