

Dark matter search at Belle II

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INFN – Roma 3

on behalf of the Belle II Collaboration



OUTLINE OF THE TALK

- ✓ Light dark sector models
- ✓ Belle II and SuperKEKB
- ✓ An example: L_μ - L_τ invisible Z'
- ✓ Results
- ✓ Perspectives & Summary

DMNet Dark Matter Studies in Accelerator Physics
3rd DMNet international symposium
26-28 September 2023
Palazzo Moroni, Padua, Italy

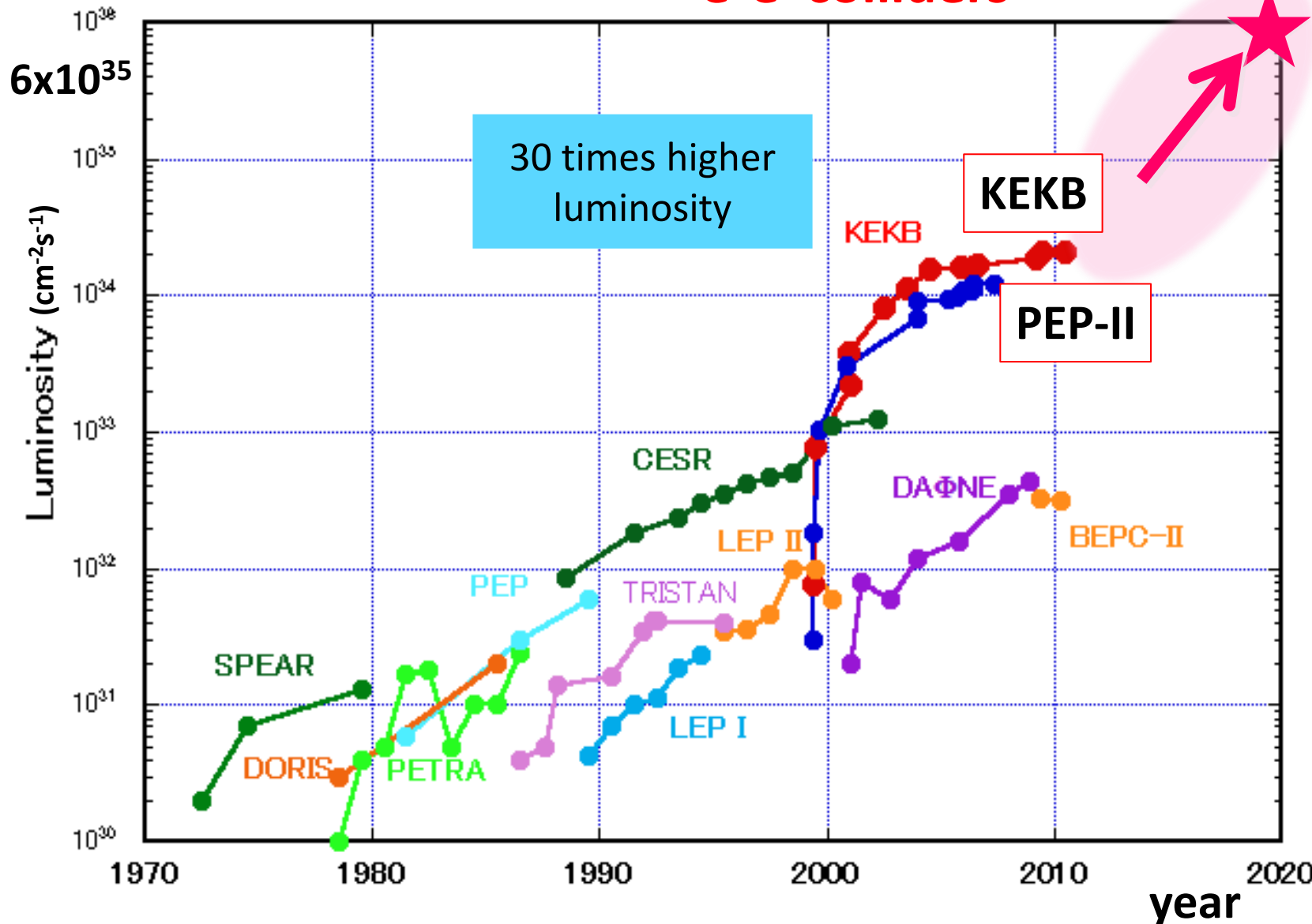
The complex block contains a red header with the DMNet logo and symposium information. Below the header is a 2x2 grid of images: top-left shows the Belle II detector; top-right shows a tunnel view of the SuperKEKB accelerator; bottom-left shows a satellite in space; bottom-right shows a radio telescope array.

Peak luminosity trend

e^+e^- colliders

SuperKEKB

Final goal: $L = 50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$



Very rich physics program

Flavour physics

- CKM matrix
- CPV in B decays

BSM physics

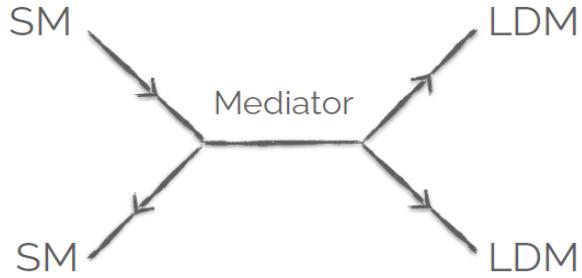
- Rare decays
- NP in loops in $b \rightarrow s\gamma$, $b \rightarrow sll$
- $B \rightarrow D^{(*)}\tau\nu$
- LFV in τ decays

New particles (quarkonium)

Dark sector

see S.Robertson's talk

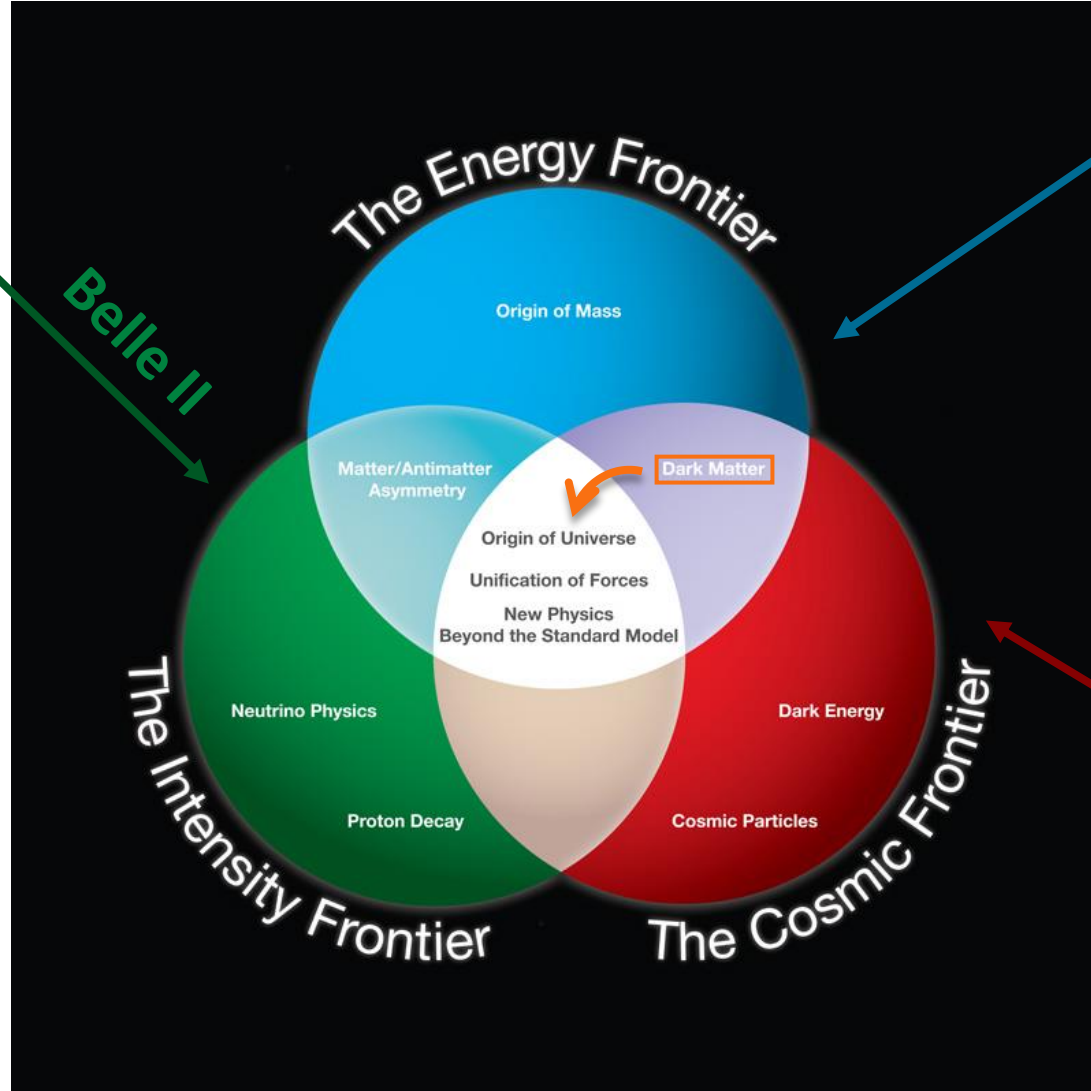
Dark matter hunt



LDM → Light Dark Matter
Mediators → portals

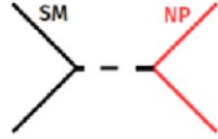


The possibility of LDM make intensity machines genuine discovery machines



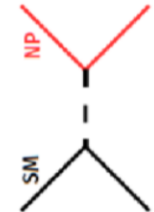
Energy frontier

Direct production of new particles - limited by beam energy (LHC – ATLAS, CMS)



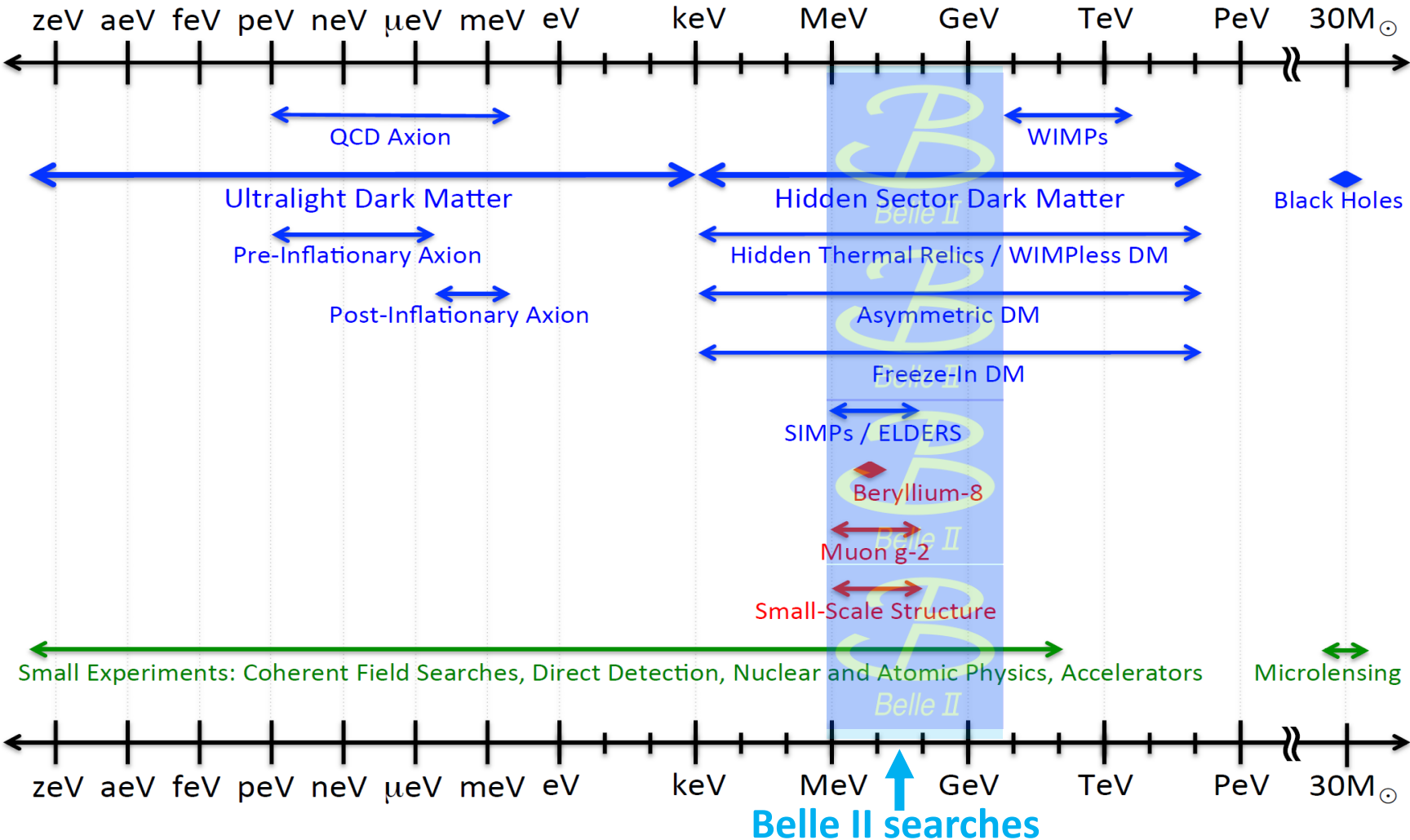
Cosmic frontier

Direct effect search in (mostly) underground experiments



Searching for dark matter

Dark Sector Candidates, Anomalies, and Search Techniques



Dark matter/mediators

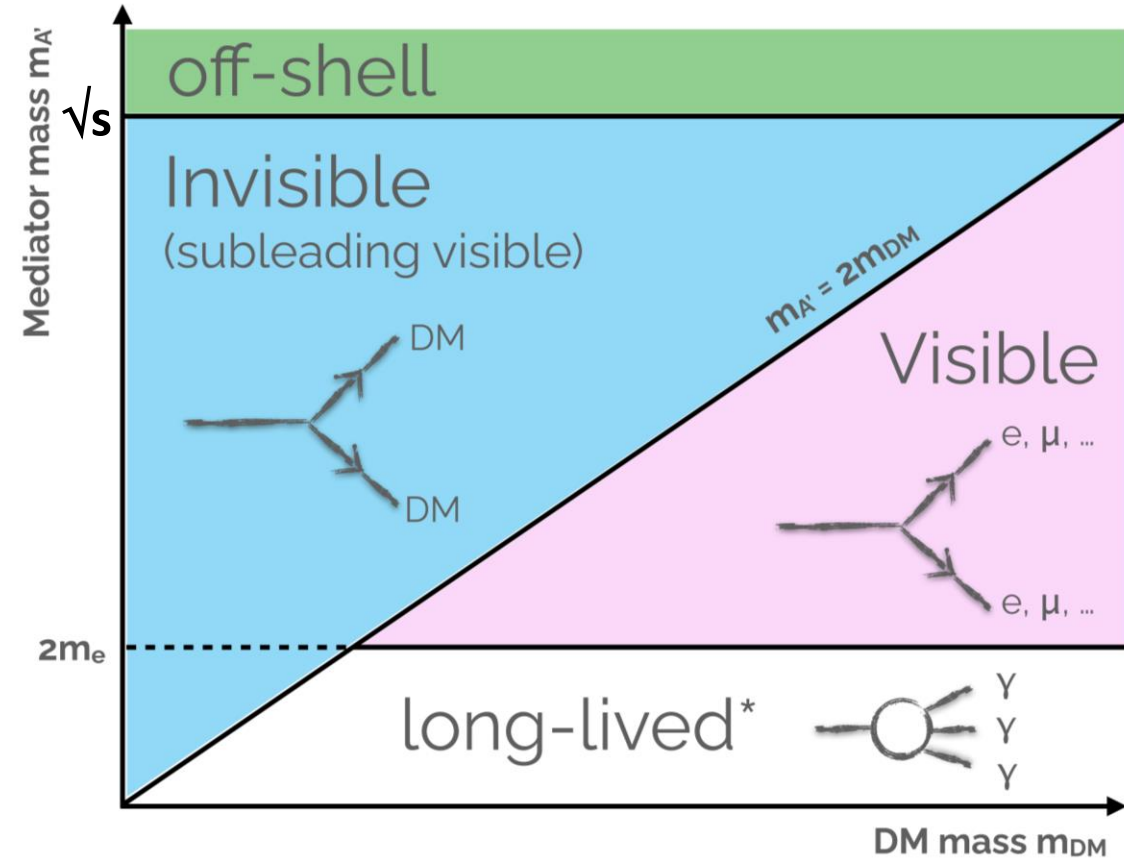
- Vector portal** ←
 - Dark photon, Z' , ...
- Pseudoscalar portal** ←
 - Axions, **ALPs**, ...
- Scalar portal** ←
 - Dark Higgs, scalars
- Neutrino portal** ←
 - Sterile neutrino

Light dark matter hunt

Different signatures depending on the DM \leftrightarrow mediator mass relation

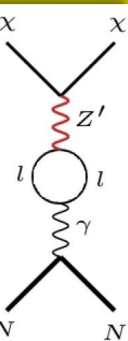
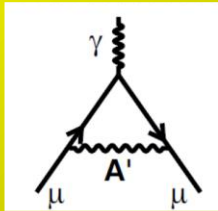
Probability of interaction of LDM detectors is negligible

- Search for mediators
- Search for missing energy signature
- Search for both

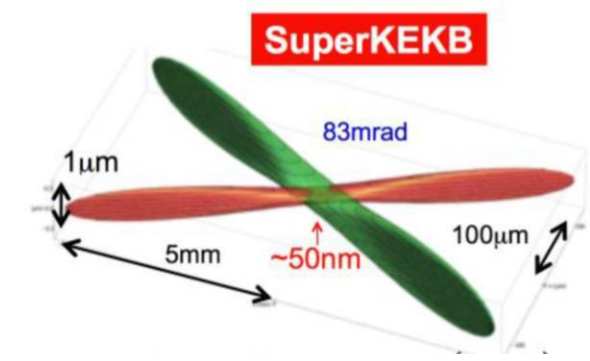
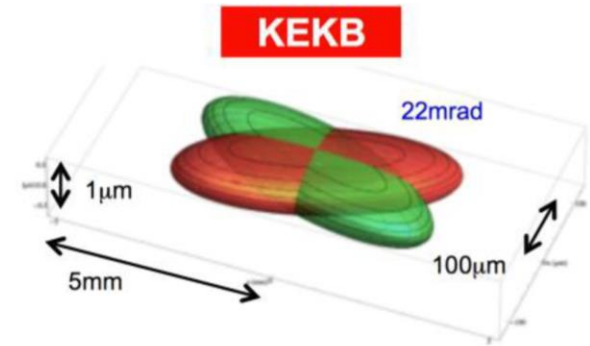
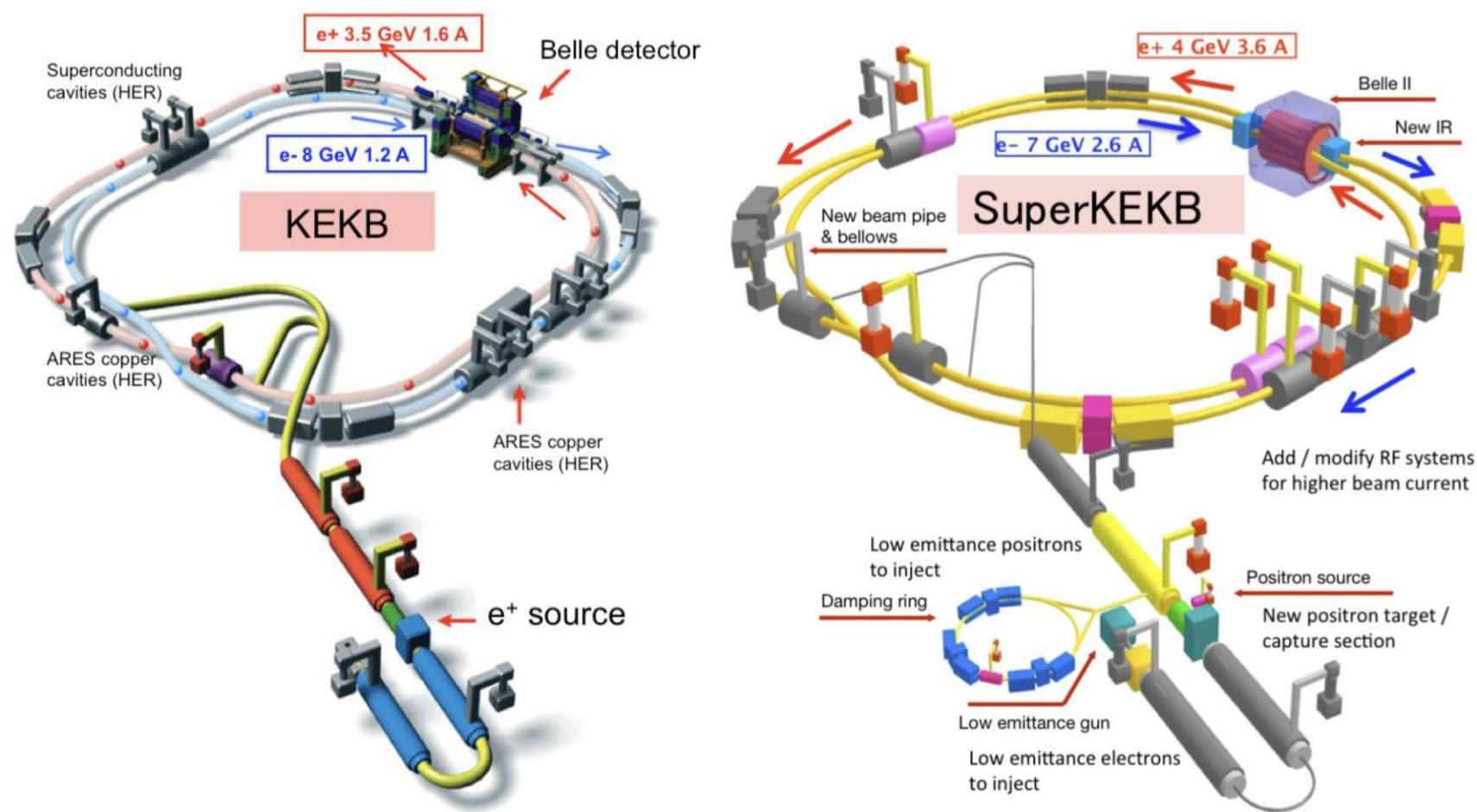


Additional benefits:

- Explanations of some astrophysics anomalies (PAMELA, AMS, FERMI, ...)
- Explanation of the $(g-2)_\mu$ effect
- Explanation (with additional hypotheses) of some flavour anomalies (LHCb, Belle, ...)
- Some light mediators (not interacting with quarks) could escape direct search exclusion limits



From KEKB to SuperKEKB



Nano-Beam scheme

- moderately increased beam currents
- Squeeze beams @IP by $\sim 1/20$

From KEKB to SuperKEKB

- **Upgraded rings**

- New e⁺ Damping Ring
- Increased currents

- **Nano-beam scheme**

- New Final Focus magnets (QCS)
- Large crossing angle

x20

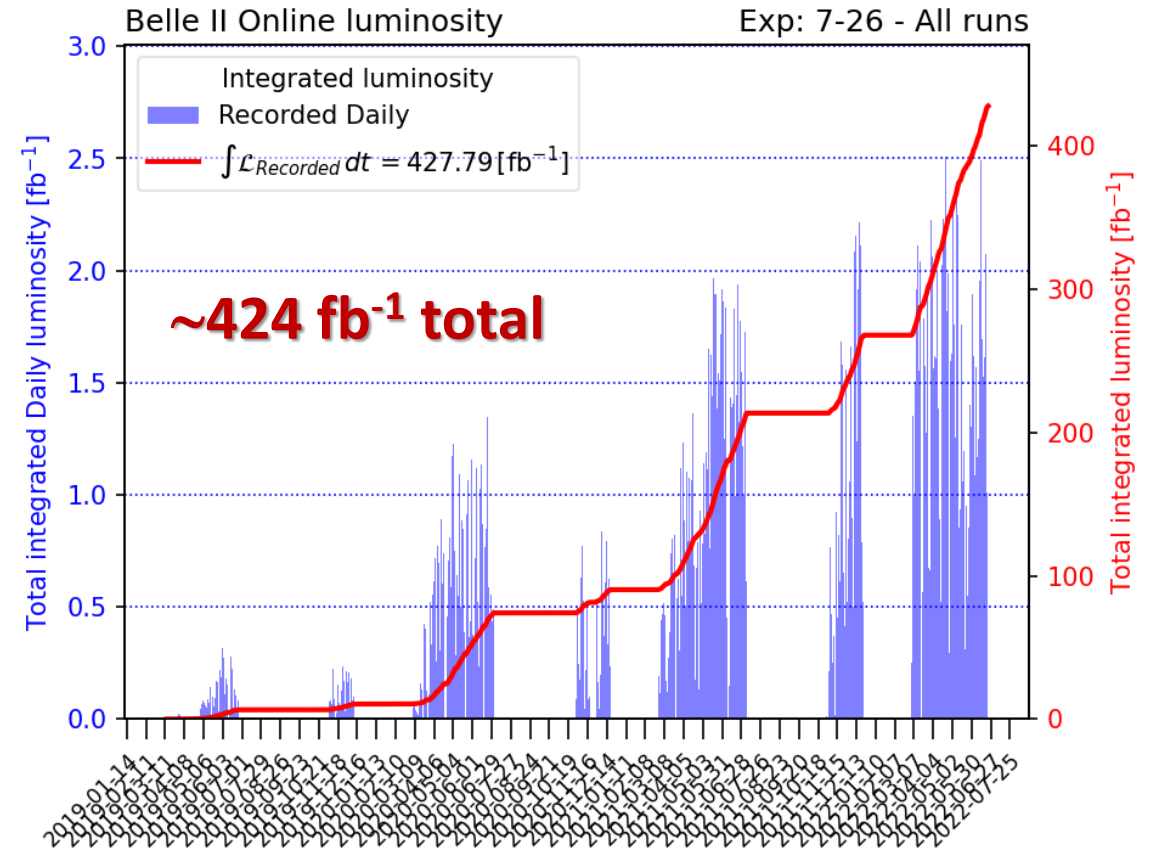
x30

Final goal : 50 ab⁻¹

Peak luminosity world record: **$4.7 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$**

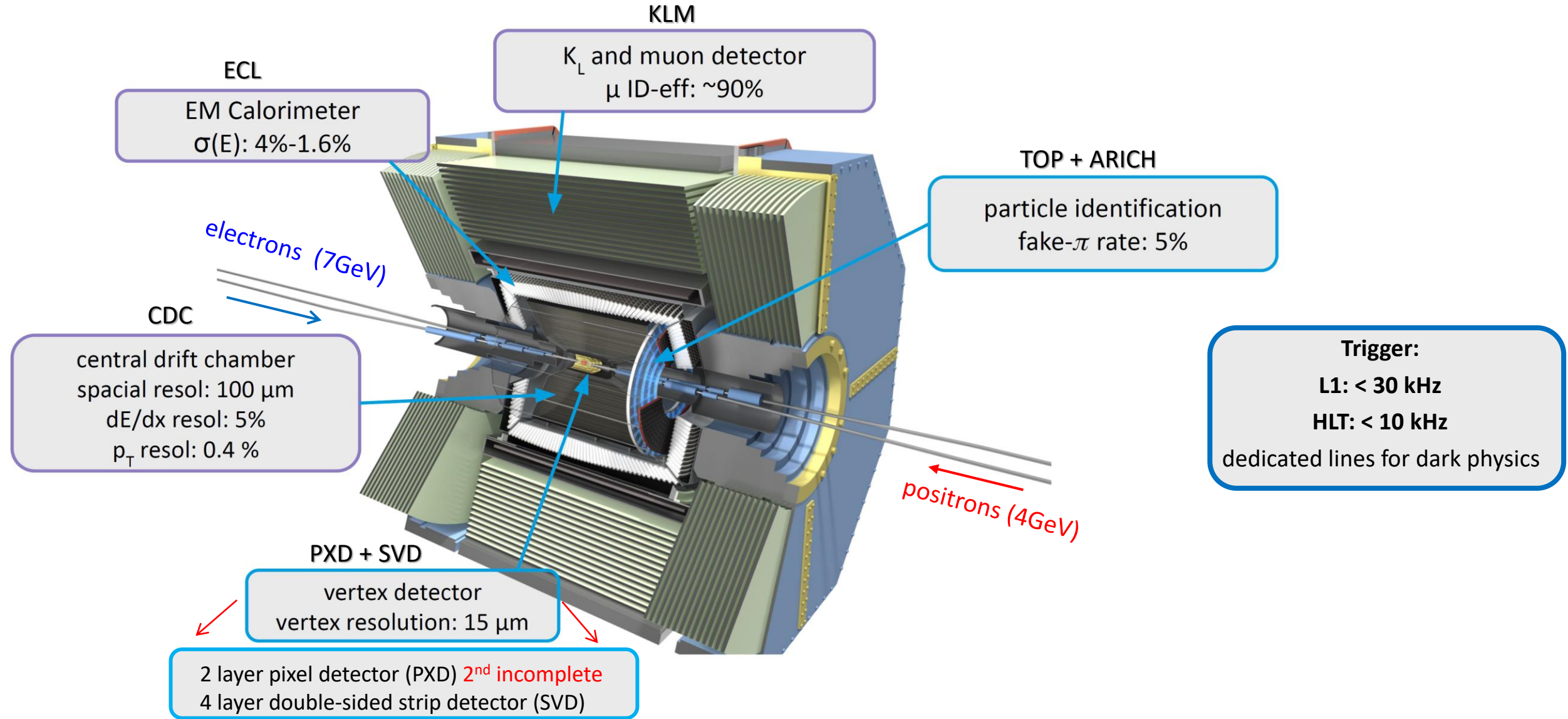
Currently in shutdown LS1 since July 2022

Collected luminosity up to now: 2019-2022



Restart run in December 2023

Belle II detector



Key factors for dark sector physics: trigger, high backgrounds, precise knowledge of acceptance/veto, PID

Belle II trigger

Dark sector physics

- Low multiplicity signatures
- Huge backgrounds from beam, Bhabha, two-photon

Level 1 hardware-based combines info from CDC, ECL, KLM

- Tracks, clusters, muons
- Two-track trigger
- Three-track trigger
- $E_{ECL} > 1$ GeV trigger

Single muon

- CDC + KLM

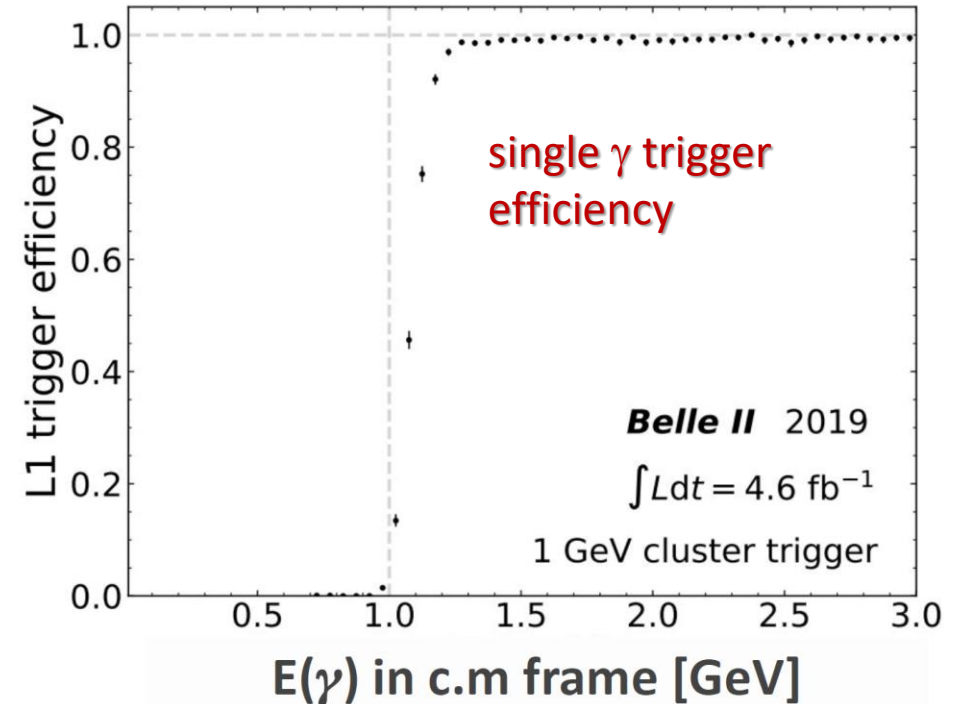
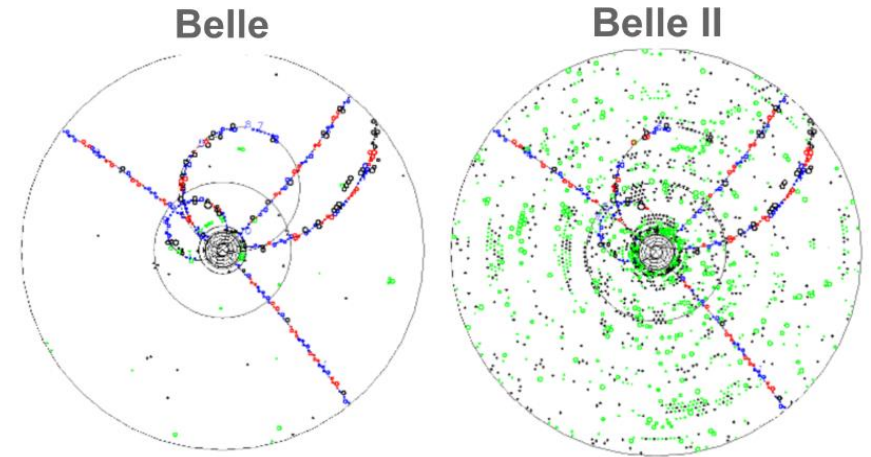
Single track

- Neural based

Single photon

- $E_\gamma > 0.5, 1, 2$ GeV

Displaced-vertex trigger
• Under study



What can we do at B-factories that we can't at the LHC?

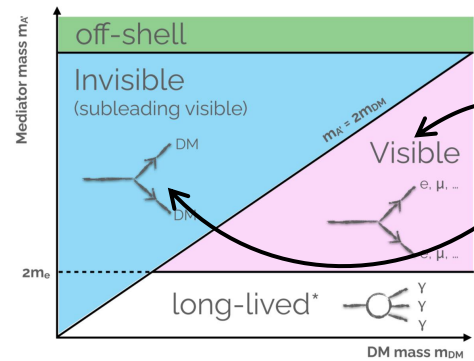
- Closeness to the light region
- Clean, low background, «energy conserving» environment, closed kinematics
- 3d momentum conservation, as opposed to p_T
- Easiness of tag & probe techniques
- Full Event Interpretation



- Low multiplicity signatures
 - Missing energy channels
 - Invisible particles, often in closed kinematics regime
 - Some fully neutral final states accessibility
 - Dark sector signatures in B and τ decays
- Cleanliness and luminosity sometimes compensate for cross section → competition

Search overview: models \leftrightarrow signatures \leftrightarrow topologies

Models are growing up \sim exponentially (a warm thank's to theoreticians to provide us so many ideas). They should be used both to exclude (or confirm!) and as wonderful excuses to search for signatures & topologies as model independently as possible

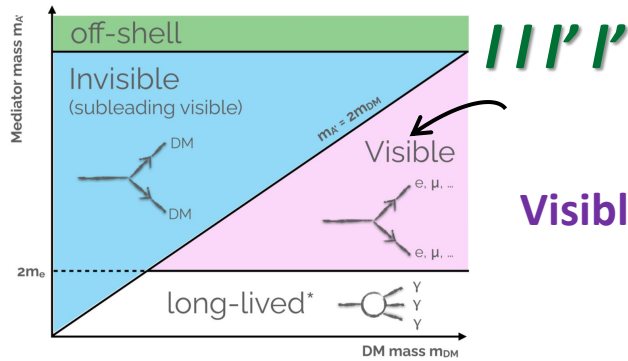
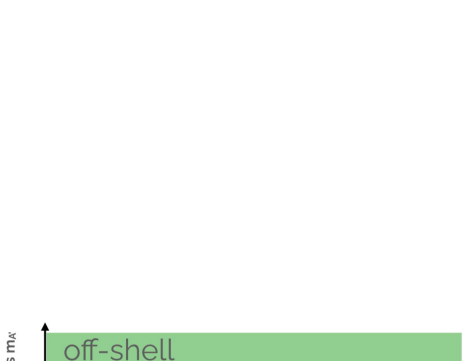
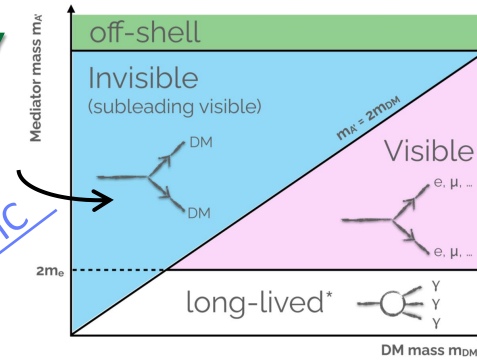
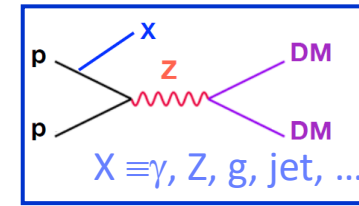


// (γ) (+missing)

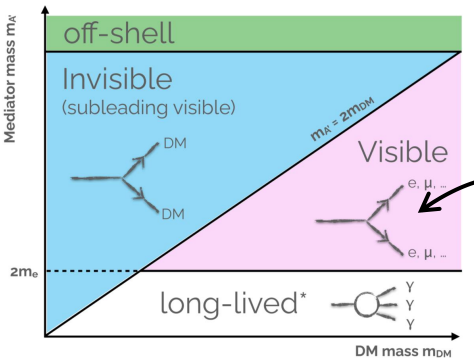
Visible minimal and non minimal dark photons, ALP \rightarrow ff
Invisible dark photon, Z'

Invisible dark photon, ALP $\rightarrow \chi\chi$, iDM, LLP

Single γ

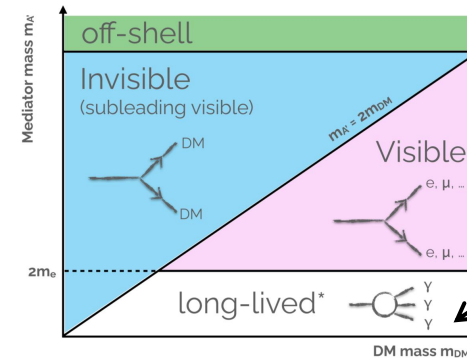


Visible non minimal dark photons, ALP \rightarrow ff, scalars, $\mu\mu\tau\tau$, $\tau\tau\tau\tau$



$\gamma\gamma$

Visible ALP $\rightarrow \gamma\gamma$



LLP long-lived particles

Hot topic

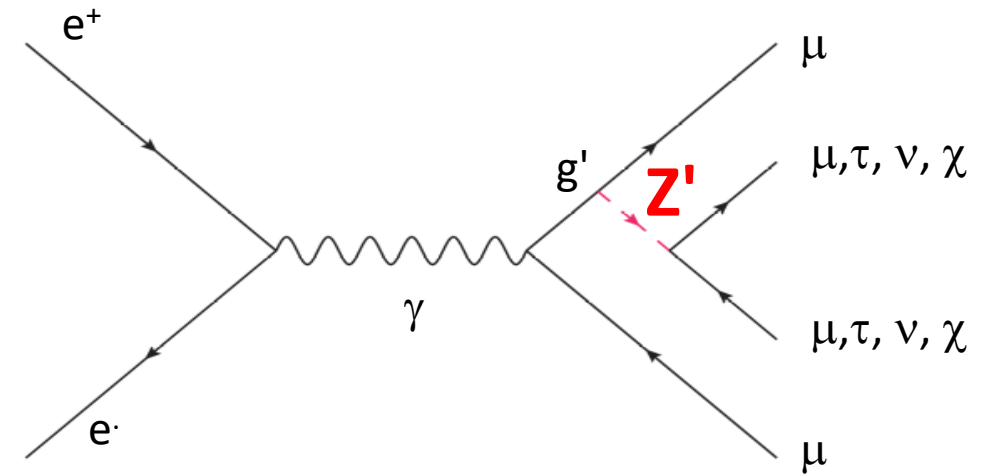
A', ALP $\rightarrow \chi\chi$, iDM, scalars

Z' : $L_\mu - L_\tau$ model

- Gauging $L_\mu - L_\tau$, the difference of leptonic μ and τ number
- A new gauge boson which couples only to the 2^o and 3^o lepton family
- Anomaly free (by construction)
- It may solve
 - **dark matter puzzle** ➤ Sterile ν 's
➤ Light Dirac fermions
 - $(g-2)_\mu$
 - $B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \mu\mu$, R_K , R_{K^*} anomalies

Shuve et al. (2014), arXiv 1408.2727

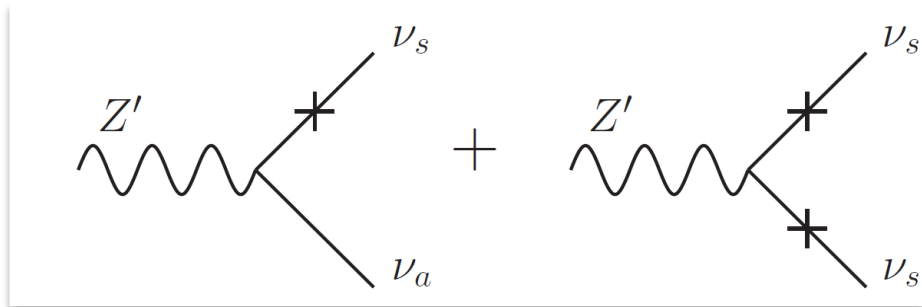
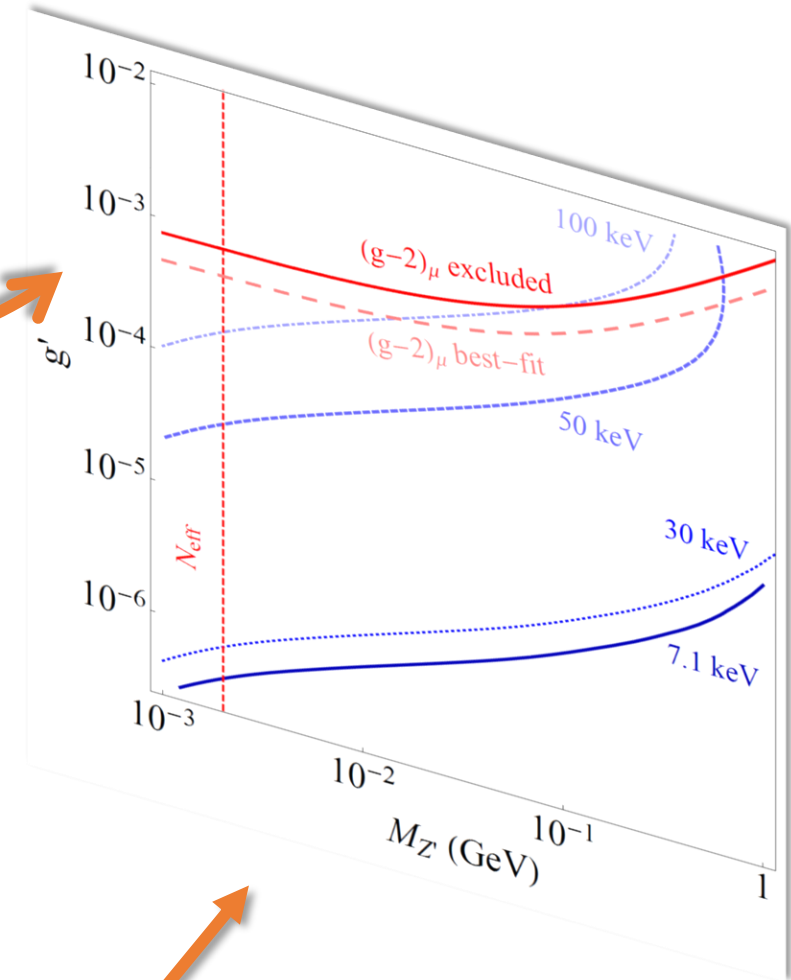
Altmannshofer et al. (2016) arXiv 1609.04026



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 - **dark matter puzzle**
 - **Sterile ν 's**
 - **Light Dirac fermions**
 - **$(g-2)_\mu$**
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Shuve et al. (2014), arXiv 1408.2727
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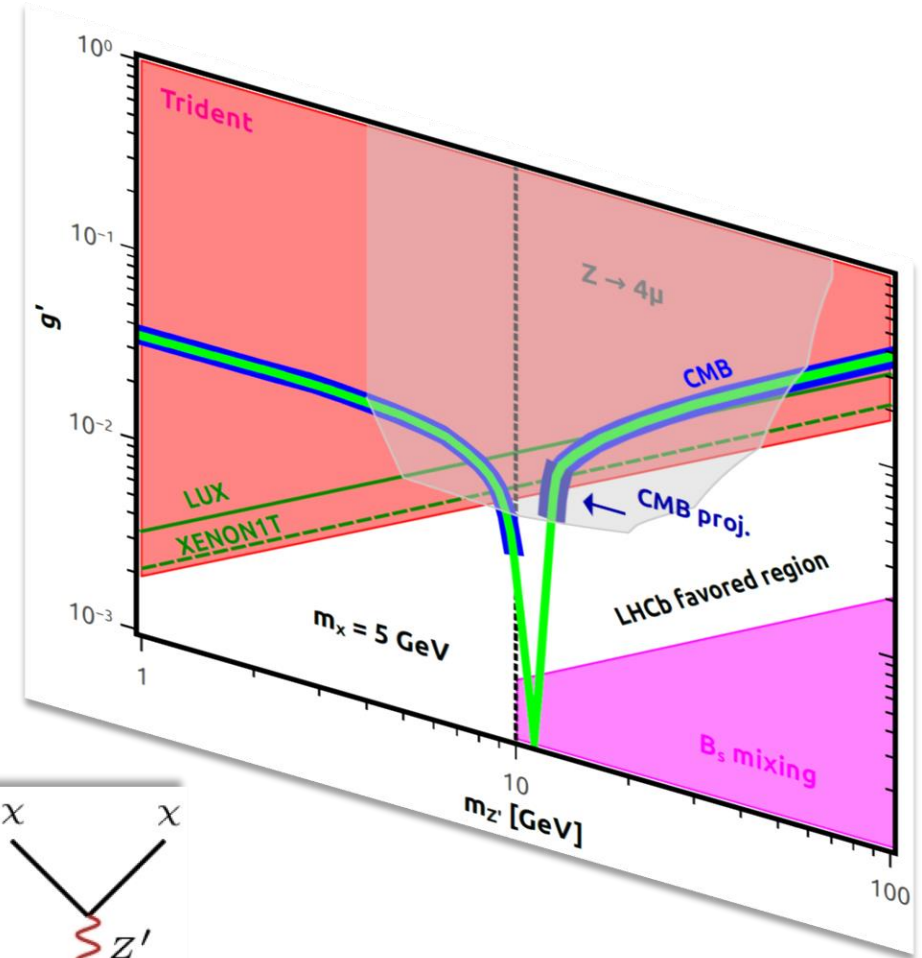
Sterile neutrino abundance

Z': $L_\mu - L_\tau$ model

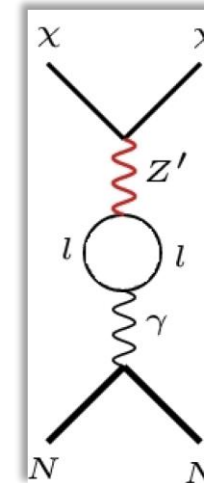
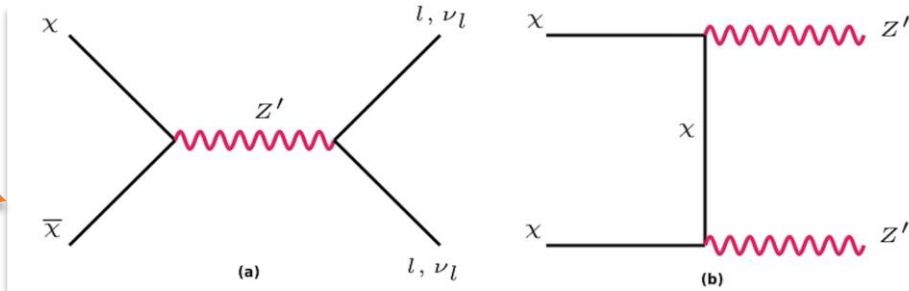
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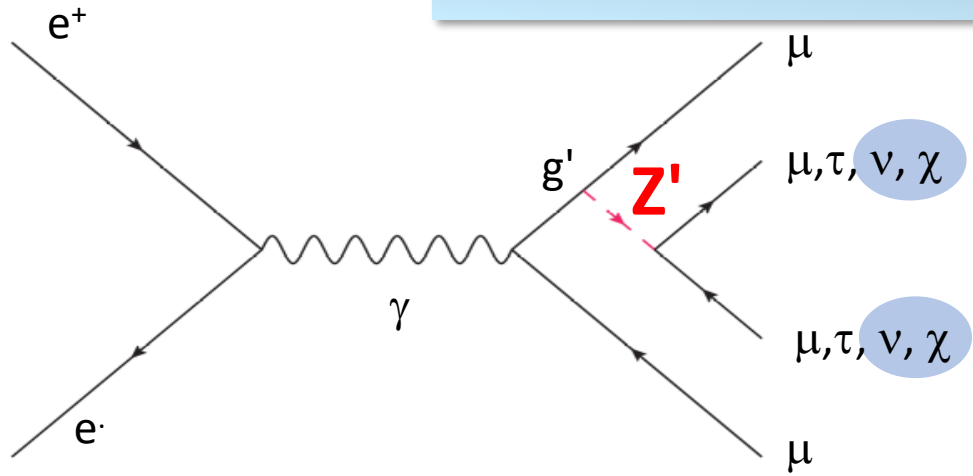


Annihilation



Direct detection

Z' to invisible: first Belle II physics result

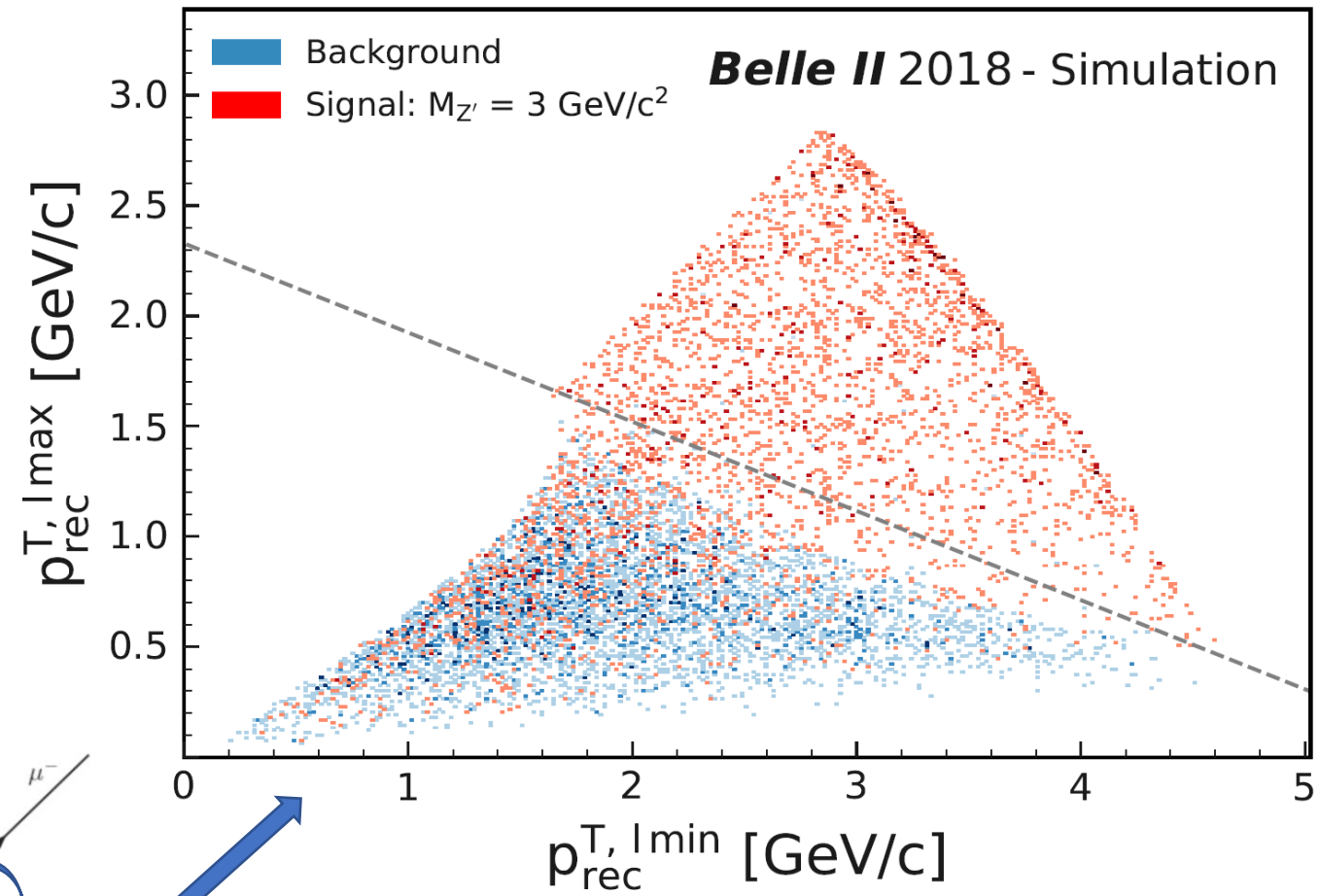
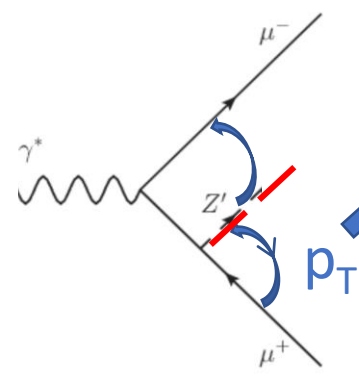


Explored for the first time
 $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- + \text{missing energy}$

Look for bumps in recoil mass against a $\mu^+\mu^-$ pair

Main backgrounds:

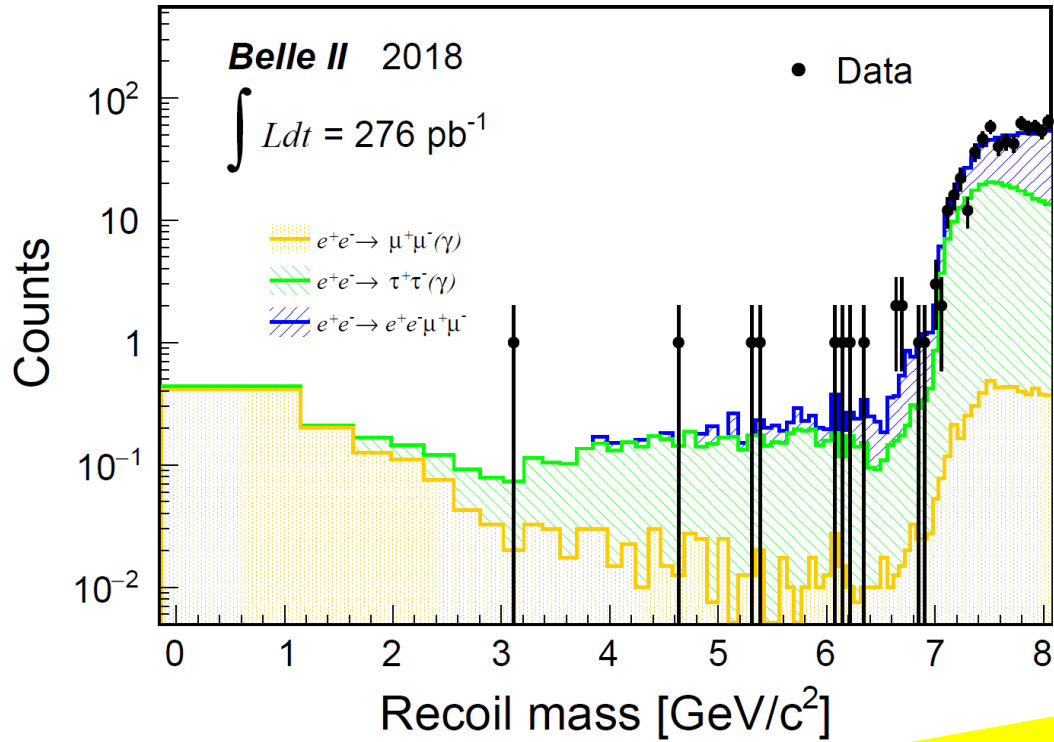
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- (\gamma)$
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- (\gamma), \tau^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm \nu \nu$
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \mu^+\mu^-$



FSR vs ISR + τ decay

Z' to invisible: first result

Pilot run physics results

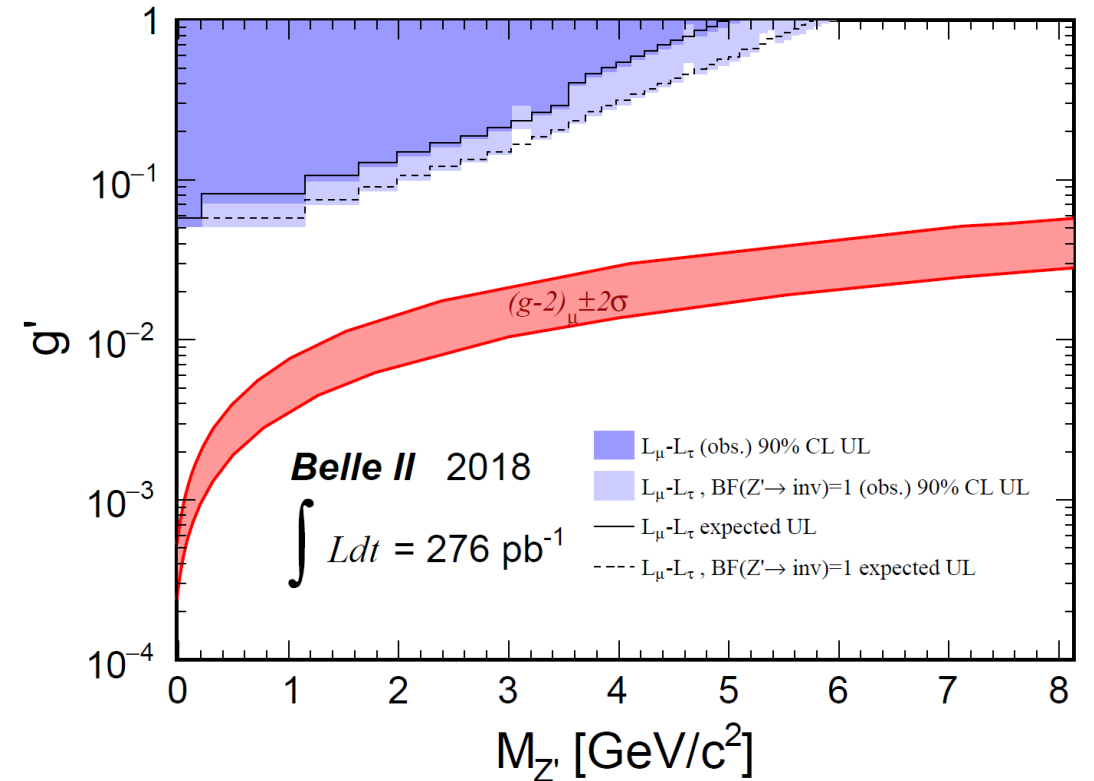


**First physics paper by Belle II
 PRL 124 (2020), 141801**

Systematics

Source	Error
Trigger efficiency	6%
Tracking efficiency	4%
PID	4%
Luminosity	1.5%
Background before τ suppression	2%
τ suppression (background)	22%
Discrepancy in $\mu\mu$ yield (signal)	12.5%

will decrease with new data



Belle II dark sector search overview: results

$$L_\mu - L_\tau$$

$Z' \rightarrow$ invisible

$Z' \rightarrow \mu\mu$

$Z' \rightarrow \tau\tau$

Axion like particles

$ALP \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

Invisible α in τ decays

$\tau \rightarrow l\alpha$

Dark Higgsstrahlung

$A'h' \quad A' \rightarrow \mu\mu, h' \text{ invisible}$

LLP dark scalar in B decays

$B \rightarrow kS \quad S \rightarrow ee, \mu\mu, \pi\pi, kk$

In progress

LLP Dark Higgsstrahlung with IDM

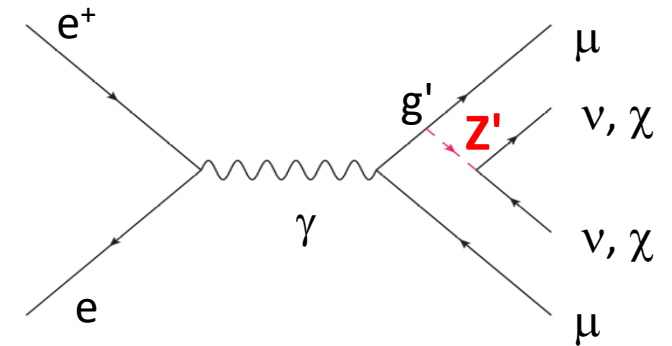
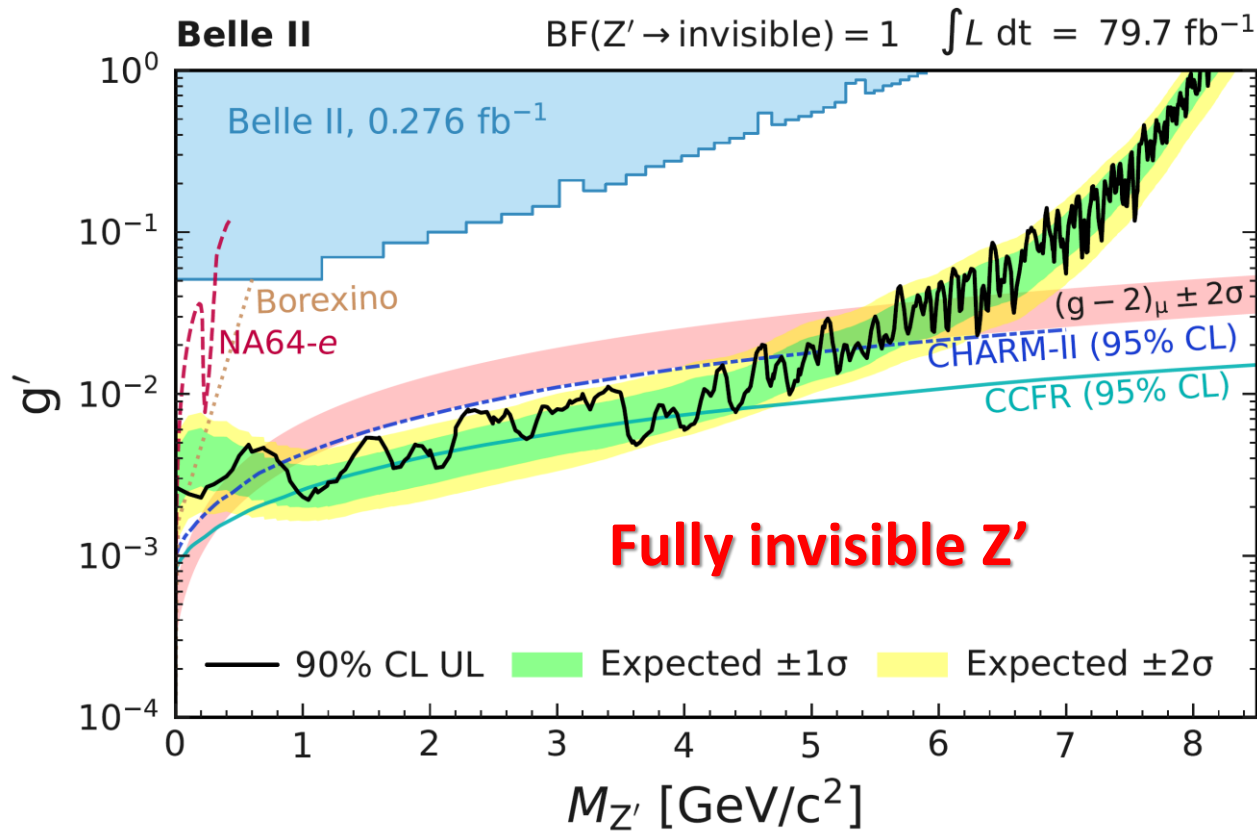
$A'h' \quad A' \rightarrow \chi_1\chi_2, h' \rightarrow \mu\mu, \pi\pi, kk$

Invisible dark photon

$\gamma A' \quad A' \rightarrow \chi\chi$

Belle II dark sector search overview: results

$L_\mu - L_\tau$
 $Z' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$



see M.Laurenza's talk

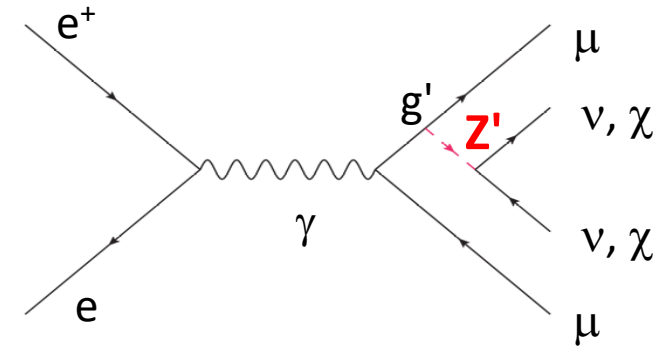
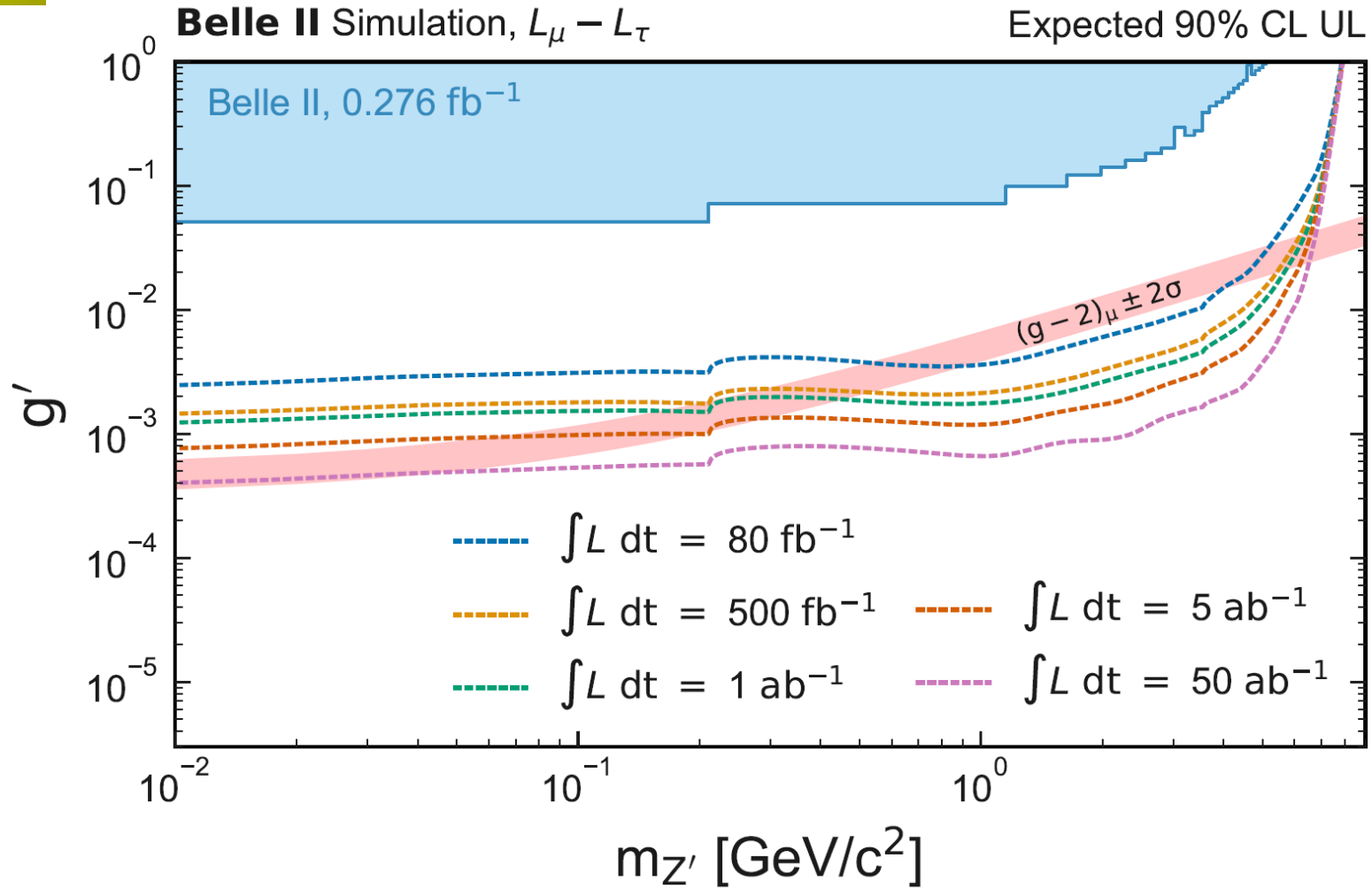
[PRL 130, 231801 \(2023\)](#)

fully invisible Z' as origin of $(g-2)_\mu$ excluded for $0.8 < M_{Z'} < 5.0 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

Belle II dark sector search overview: projections

$L_\mu - L_\tau$
 $Z' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$

Belle II physics reach @ Snowmass
[arXiv: 2207.06307v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.06307v1)

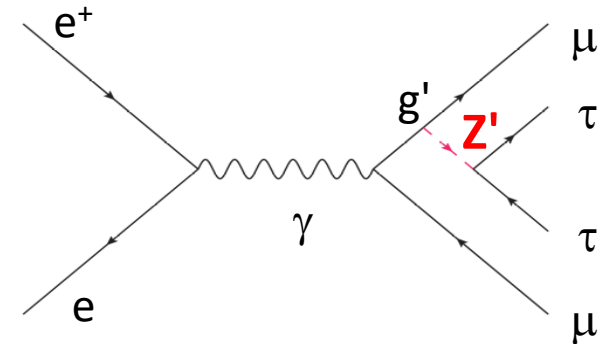


Belle II dark sector search overview: results

$$Z' \rightarrow \tau\tau$$

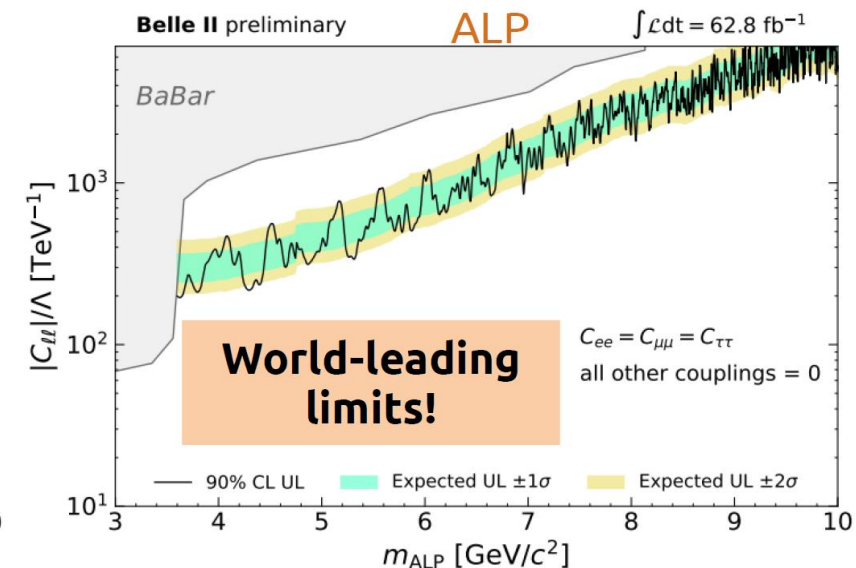
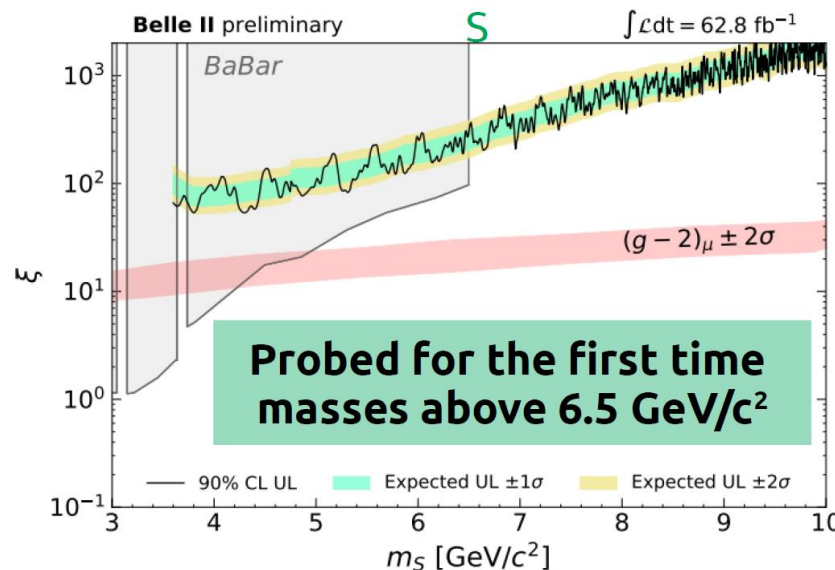
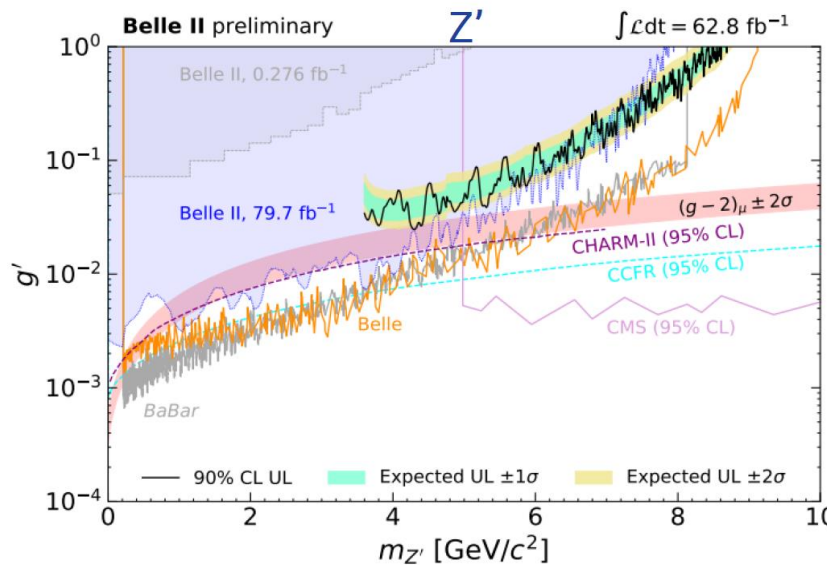
Reinterpreted also as

- Leptophilic dark scalar $S \rightarrow (g-2)_\mu$
- ALP with τ coupling



[PRL 131, 121802 \(2023\)](#)

see M. Laurenza's talk



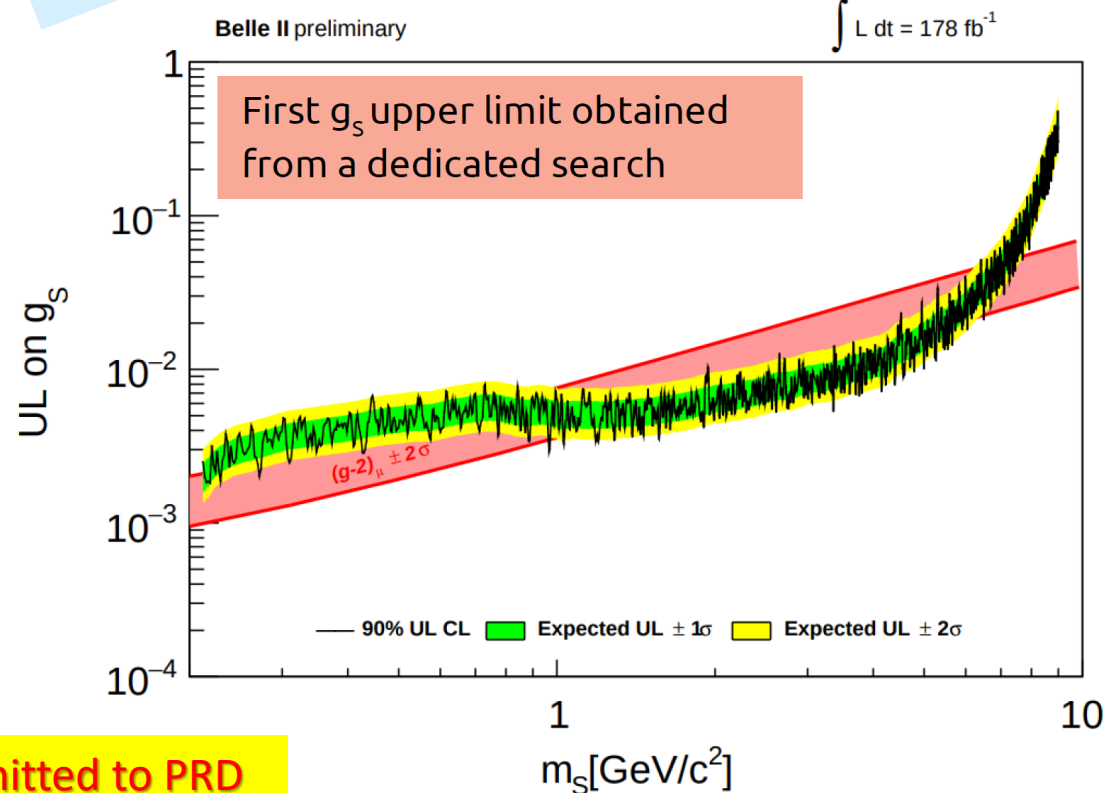
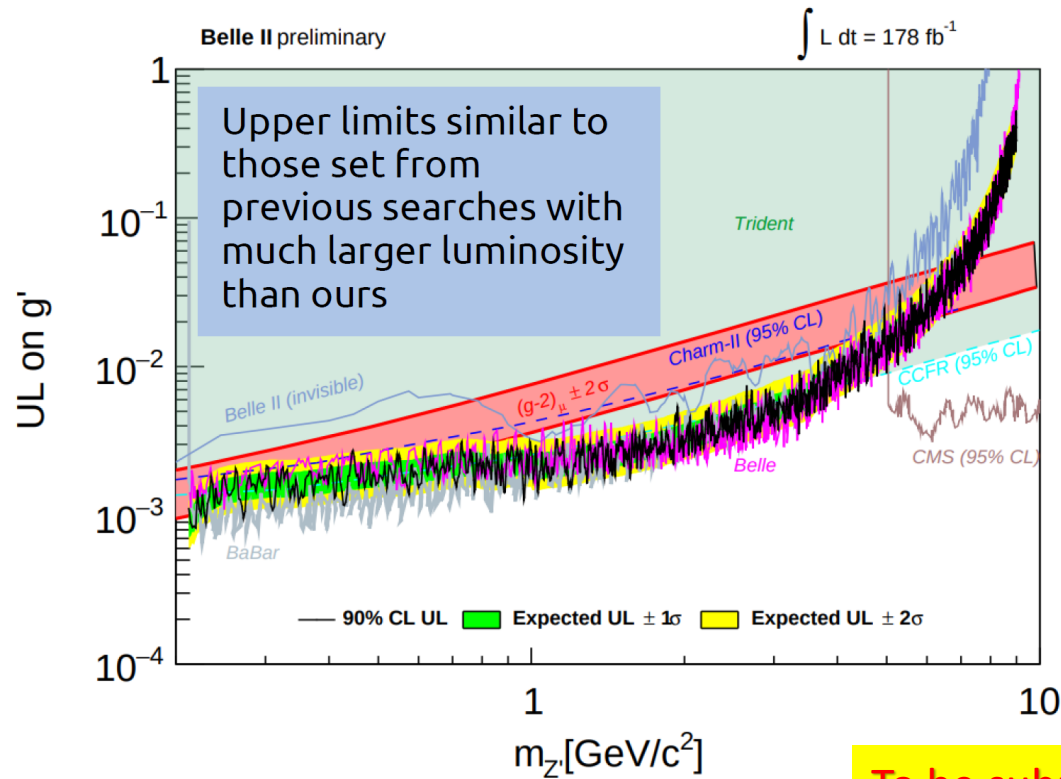
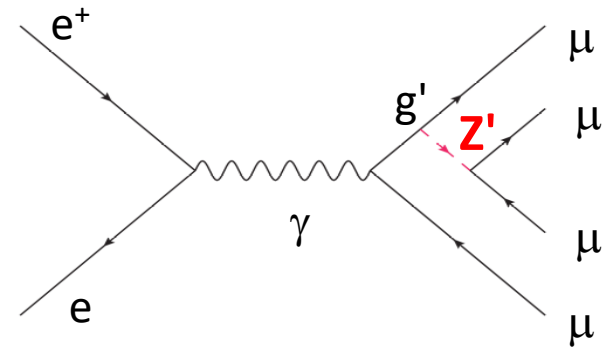
Belle II dark sector search overview: results

$L_\mu - L_\tau$
 $Z' \rightarrow \mu\mu$

Reinterpreted also as

- Muonphilic dark scalar $S \rightarrow (g-2)_\mu$

see M.Laurenza's talk



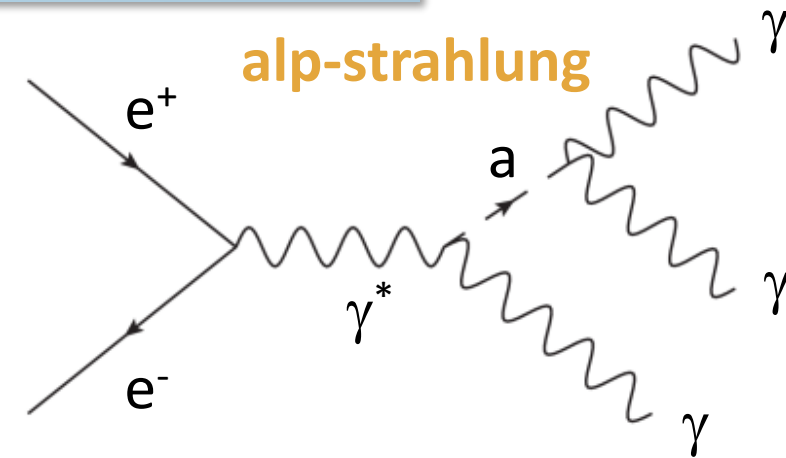
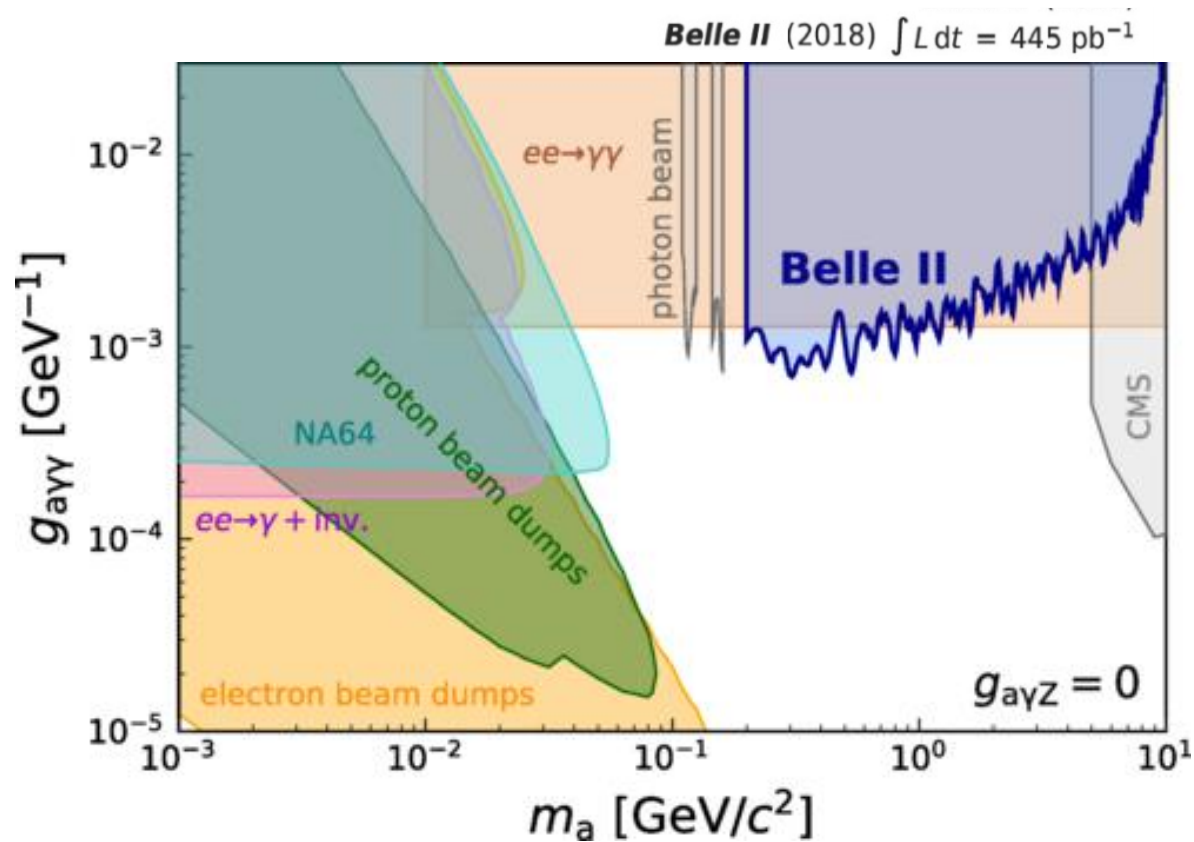
To be submitted to PRD

Belle II dark sector search overview: results

Axion like particles

ALP $\rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

Pilot run physics results



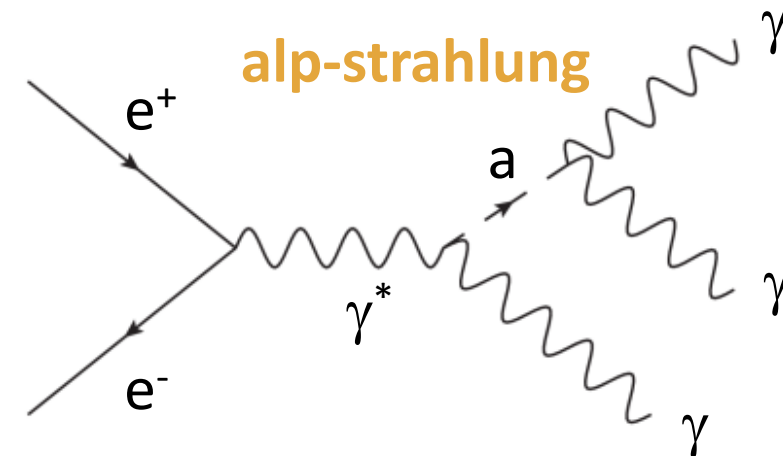
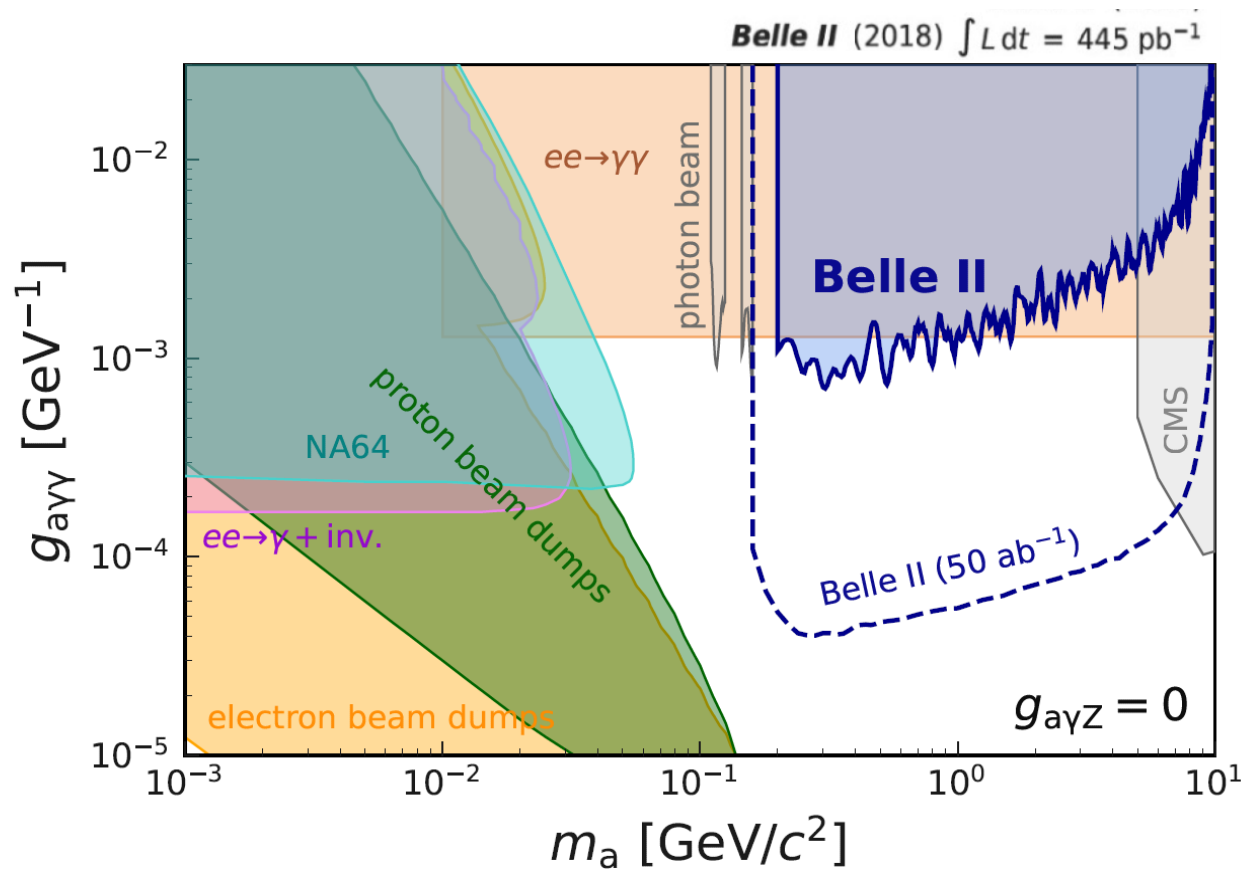
see L.Zani's talk

[PRL 125, 161806 \(2020\)](#)

Belle II dark sector search overview: projections

Axion like particles

ALP $\rightarrow \gamma\gamma$



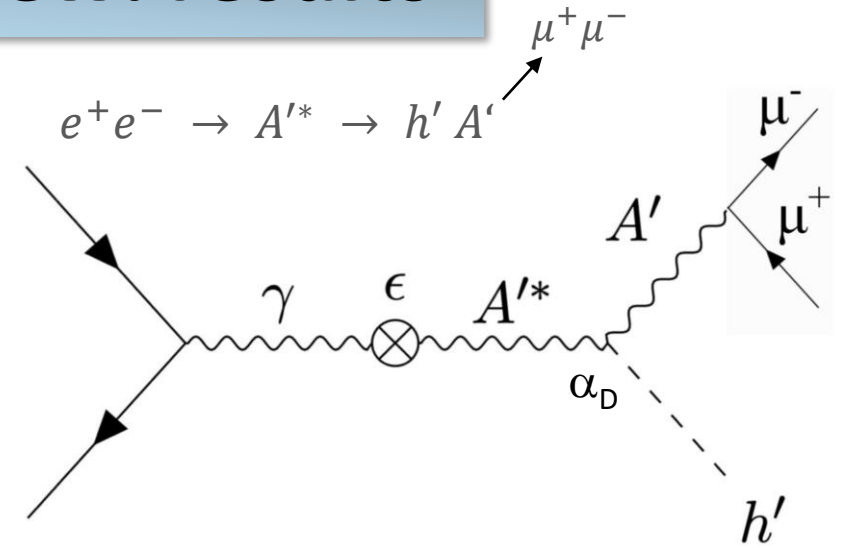
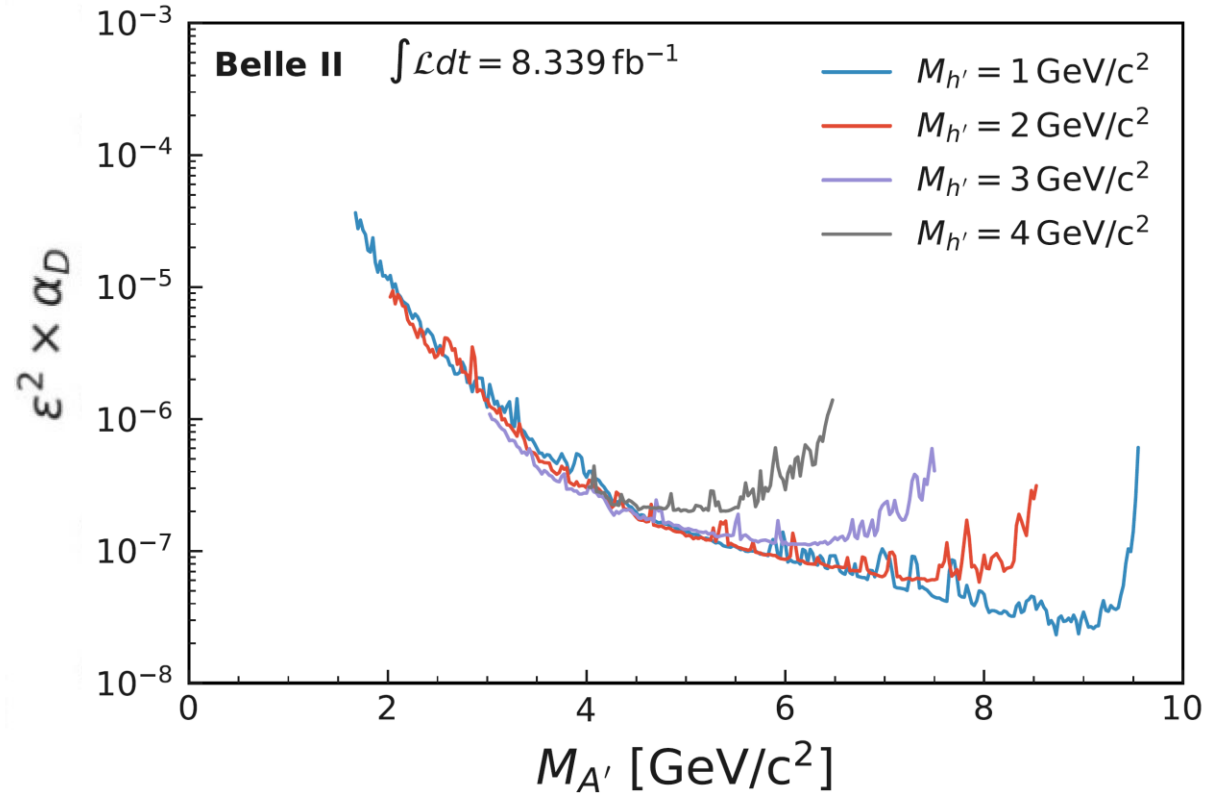
Belle II physics reach @ Snowmass

[arXiv: 2207.06307v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.06307v1)

Belle II dark sector search overview: results

Dark Higgsstrahlung

$A'h'$ $A' \rightarrow \mu\mu$, h' invisible



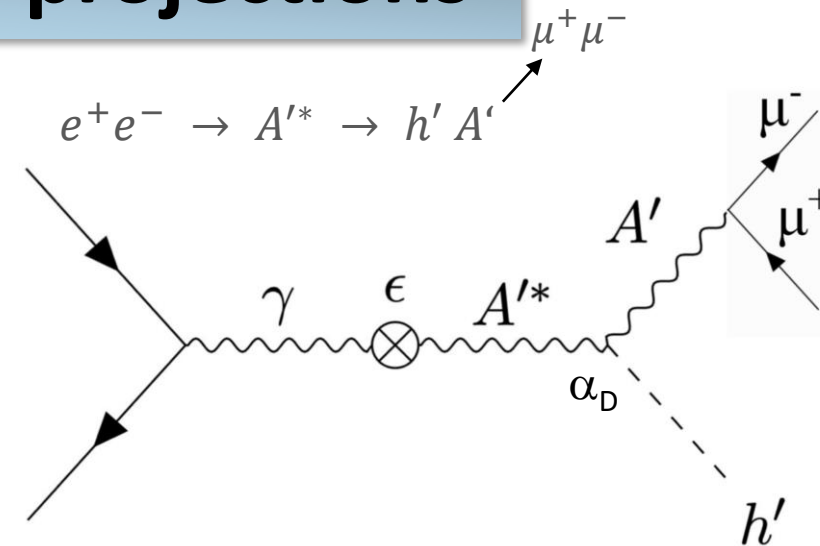
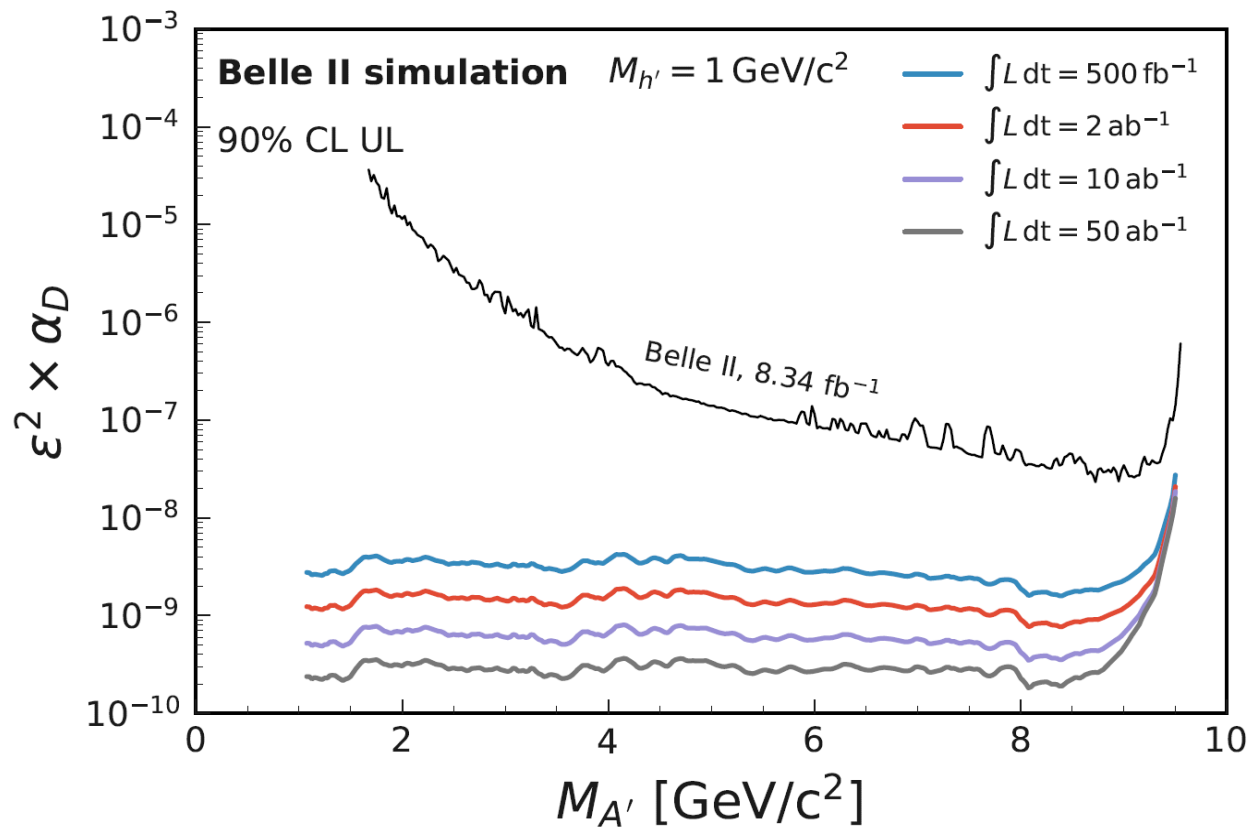
see L.Zani's talk

PRL 130, 071804 (2023)

Belle II dark sector search overview: projections

Dark Higgsstrahlung

$A'h' \rightarrow \mu\mu, h'$ invisible



Belle II physics reach @ Snowmass

arXiv: 2207.06307v1

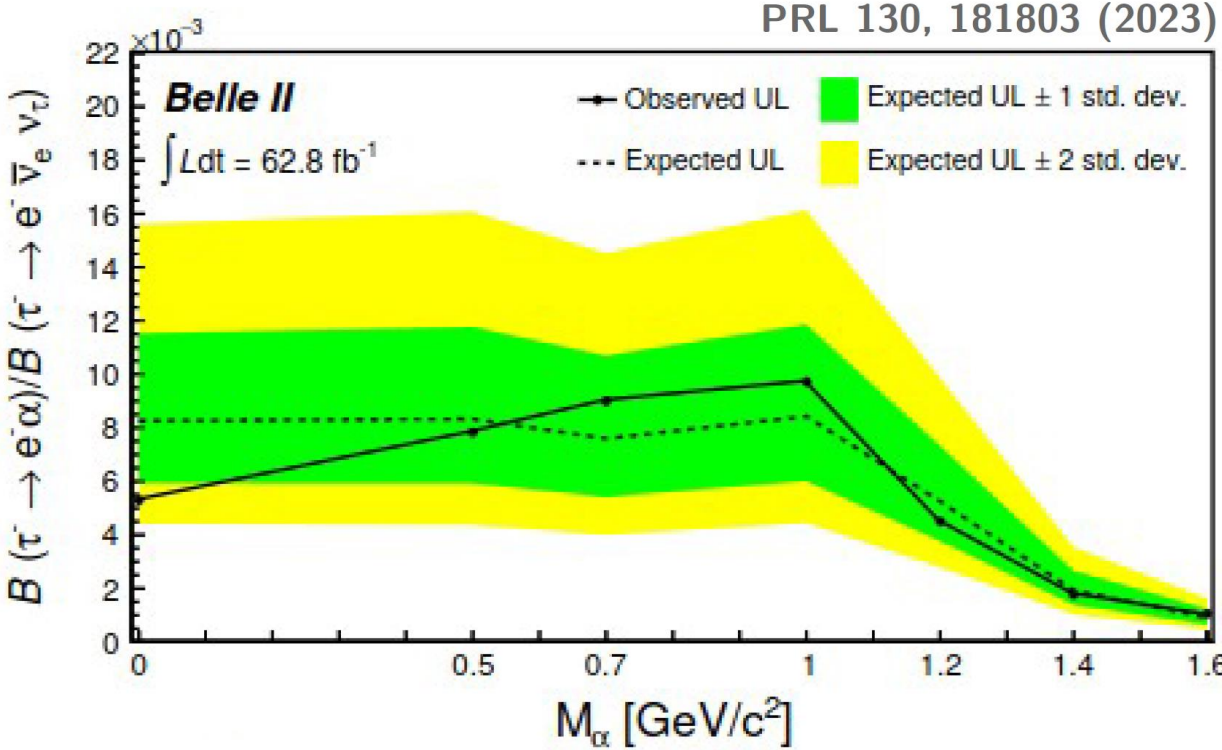
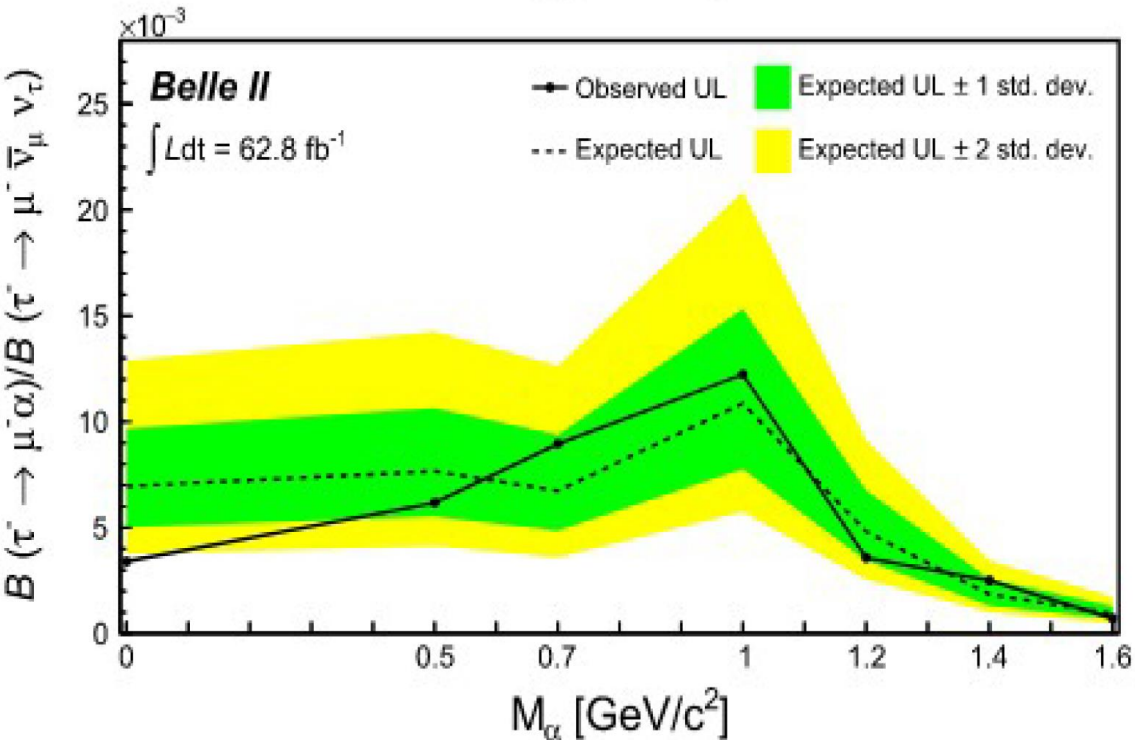
Belle II dark sector search overview: results

Invisible α in τ decays
 $\tau \rightarrow l\alpha$ $l=e,\mu$

LFV, possible ALP candidate

[PRL 130, 181803 \(2023\)](#)

see L.Zani's talk

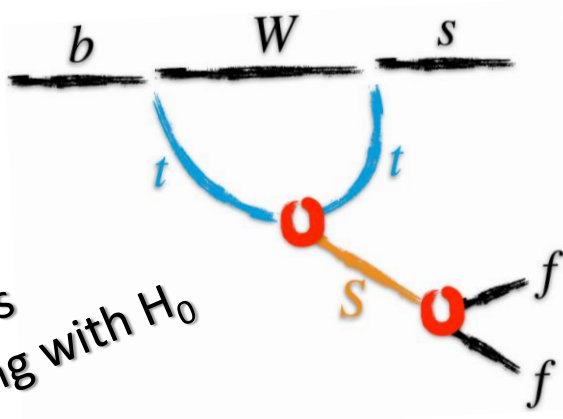


[PRL 130, 181803 \(2023\)](#)

Belle II dark sector search overview: results

see L.Zani's talk

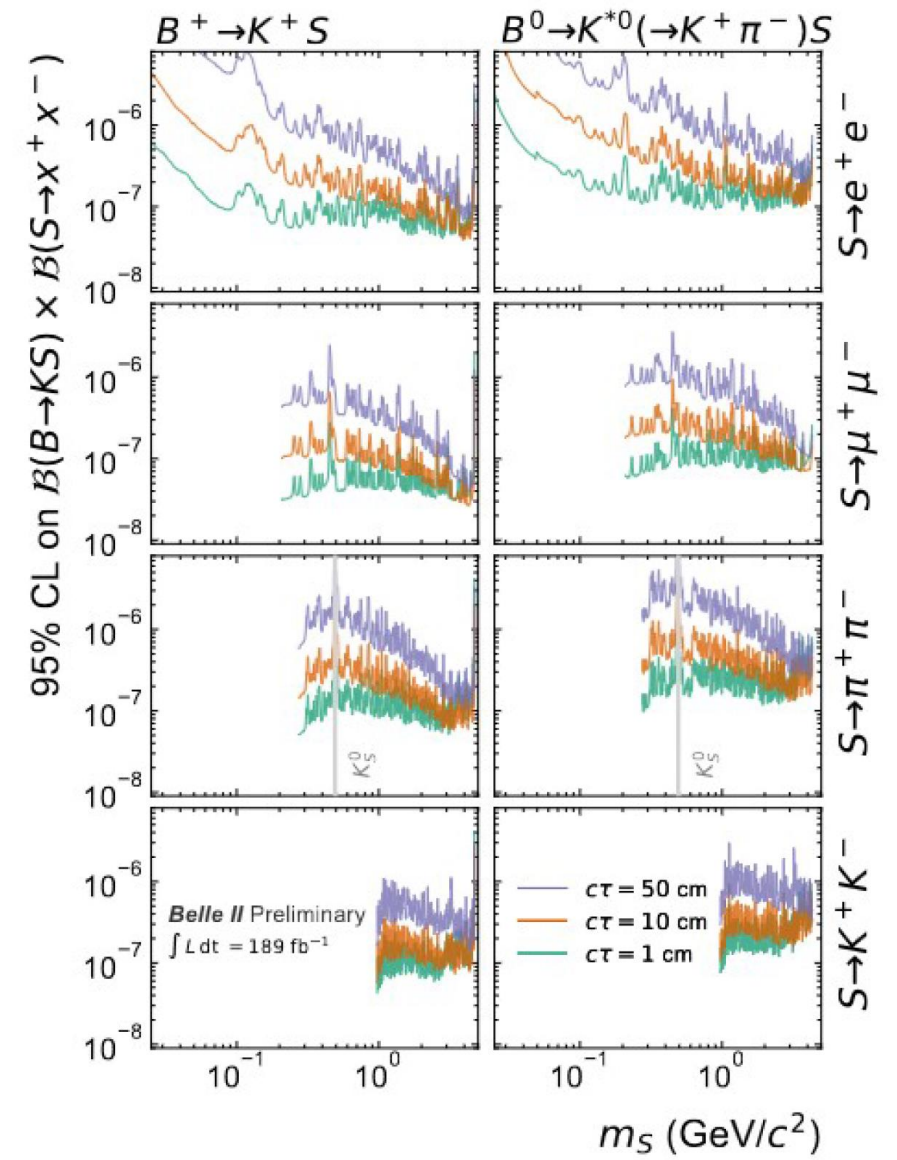
LLP dark scalar in B decays
 $B \rightarrow kS$ $S \rightarrow ee, \mu\mu, \pi\pi, kk$



$b \rightarrow s$ transitions
 Possible mixing with H_0
 LLP signature

$$S \rightarrow e^+e^- / \mu^+\mu^- / \pi^+\pi^- / K^+K^-$$

Submitted to PRL
[arXiv:2306.02830](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.02830)

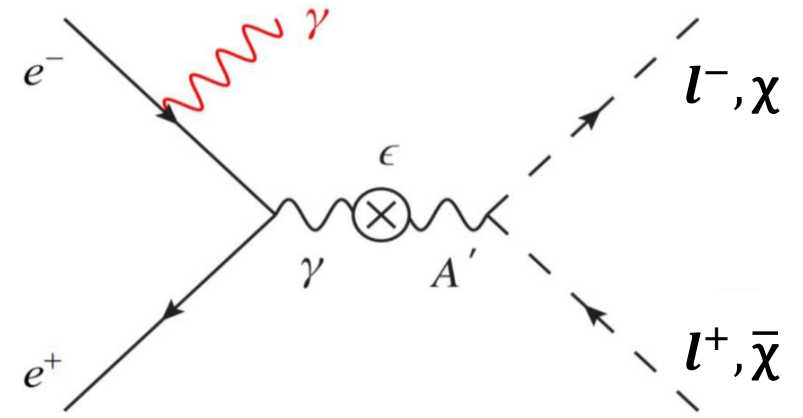


In progress Belle II dark searches

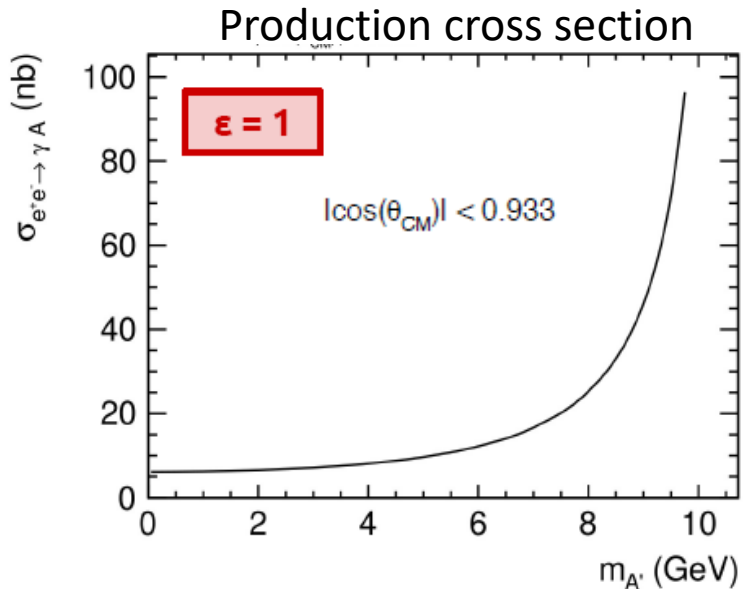
Dark photon: introduction

P. Fayet, Phys. Lett. B **95**, 285 (1980),
P.Fayet, Nucl. Phys. B **187**, 184 (1981)

- Paradigm of the vector portal extension of the SM
- QED inspired: $U(1)' \rightarrow$ new spin 1 gauge boson A'
- Couples to SM hypercharge Y through kinetic mixing ϵ
- Couples to dark matter with strength α_D
- Mass through Higgs or Stueckelberg mechanism



Minimal dark photon



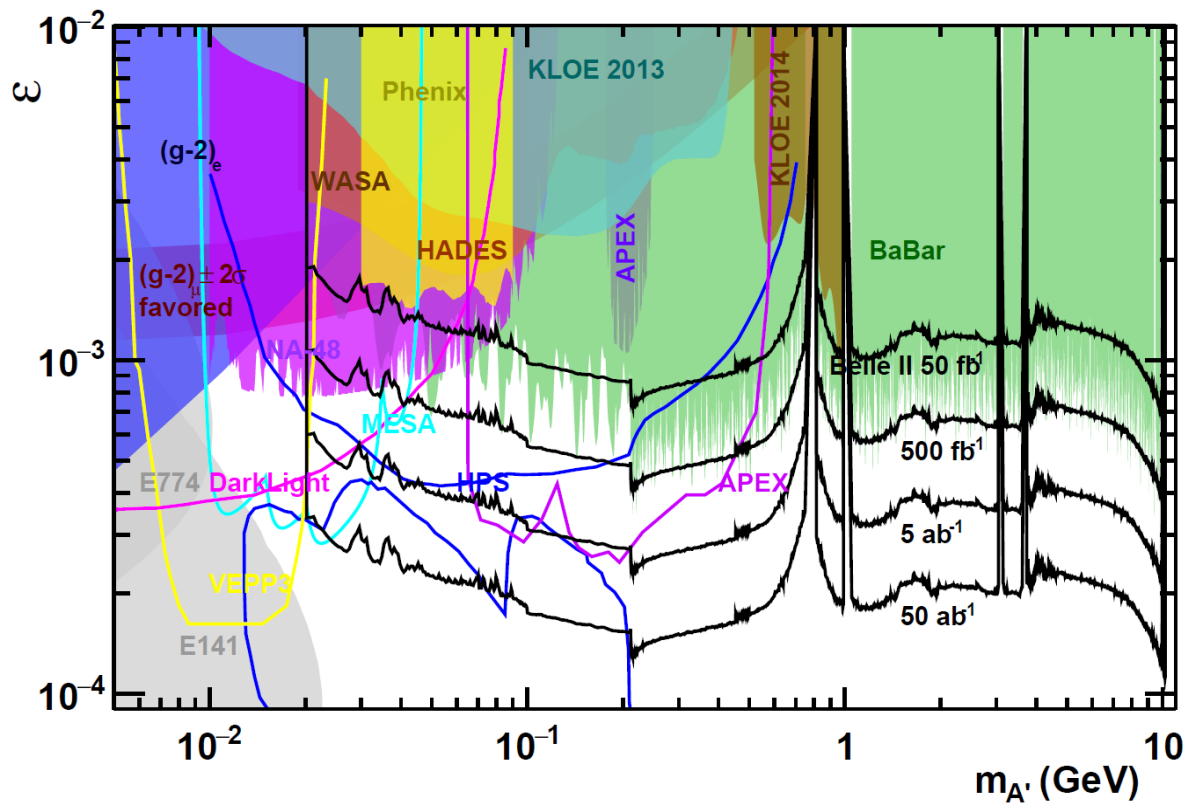
two basic scenarios depending on A' vs χ DM mass relationship

$m_{A'} < 2m_\chi \Rightarrow A'$ decays visibly to SM particles (l, h)

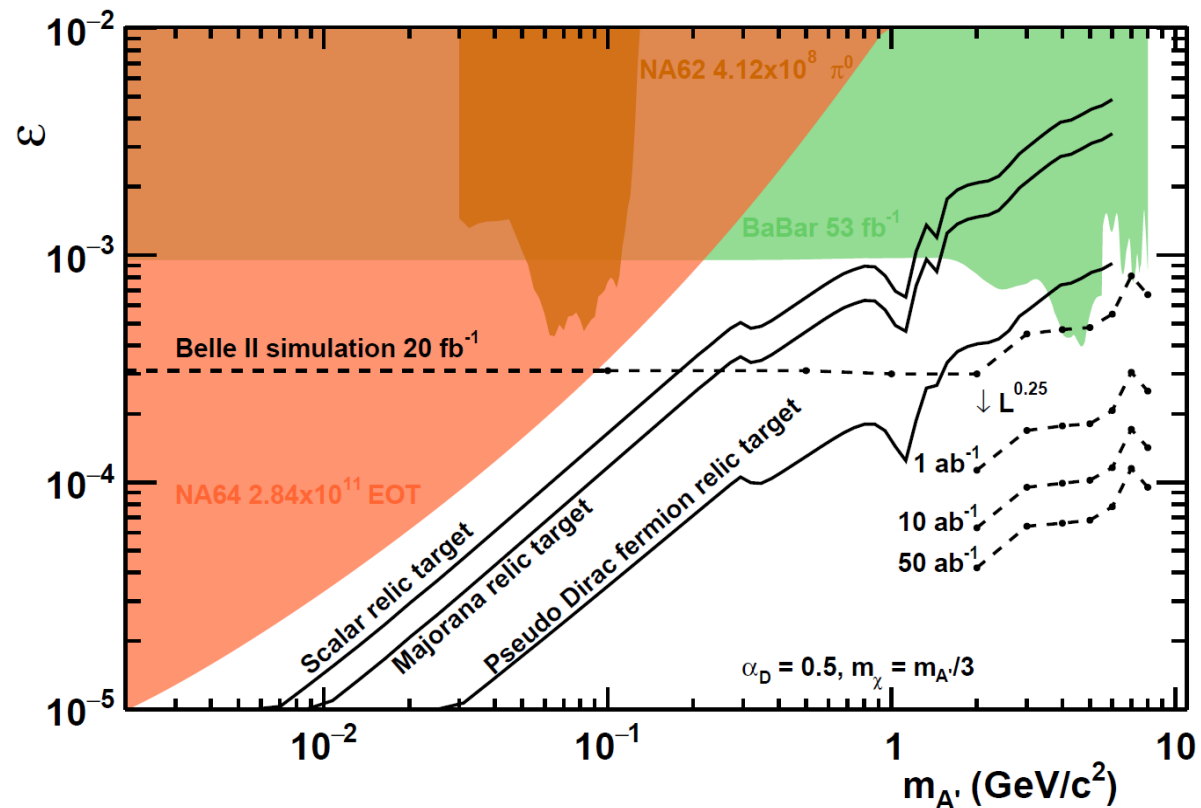
$m_{A'} > 2m_\chi \Rightarrow A'$ decays $\approx 100\%$ invisibly to DM particles

Dark photon: luminosity projections

Visible



Invisible

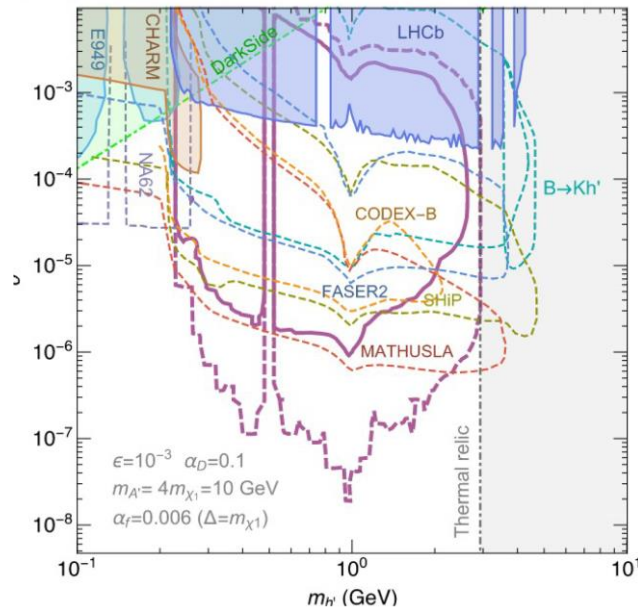
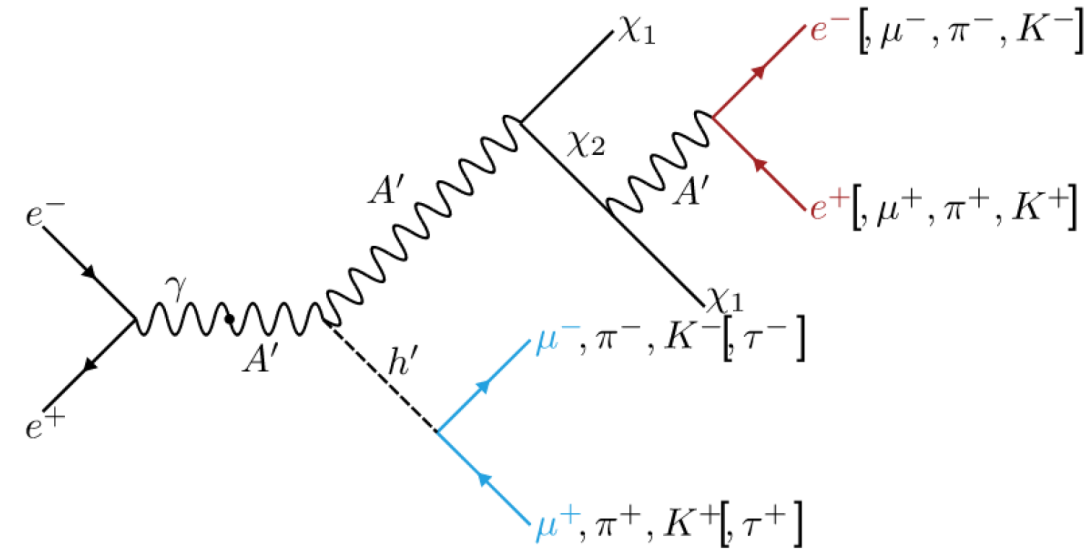


Belle II physics reach @ Snowmass
[arXiv: 2207.06307v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.06307v1)

- Belle II vs BaBar**
- ✓ Calorimeter with no projective cracks in ϕ
 - ✓ Larger acceptance
 - ✓ KLM veto

Inelastic dark matter with dark Higgs

- Dark photon A' and dark Higgs h'
- Two dark matter states χ_1 and χ_2 with a small mass splitting
- χ_1 is stable \rightarrow dark matter candidate
- χ_2 is generally long-lived
- h' is generally long-lived and mixes with SM H_0
- Signature: up to two displaced vertices



— Belle II 100 fb⁻¹

- - Belle II 50 ab⁻¹

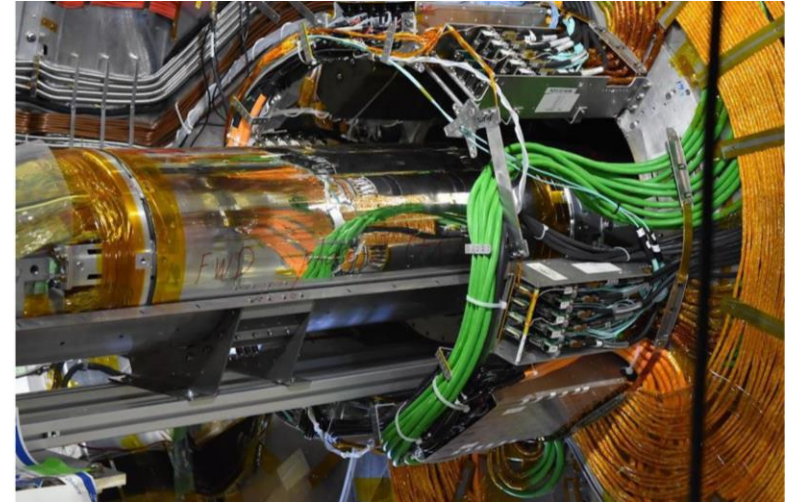
LLP signature

see L.Zani's talk

JHEP 04 (2021), arXiv:2012.08595

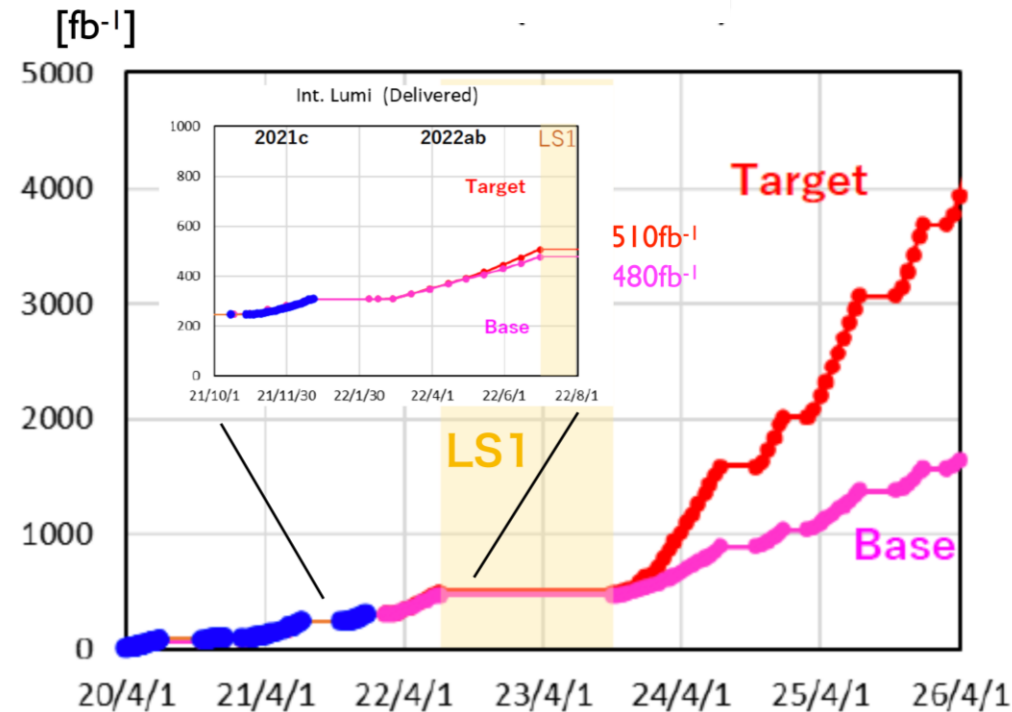
Belle II and SuperKEKB after shutdown

- Currently in shutdown LS1 since summer 2022
 - Accelerator upgrades: mitigate background and increase luminosity
 - Detector upgrades: two layer pixel detector installed
- Restart SuperKEKB in December 2023 and physics beginning of 2024
- Path to $2 \times 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, but new interaction region to go beyond
 - Possible LS2 ~2027
 - Belle II upgrades under study



Target scenario: extrapolation from 2021 run including expected improvements.

Base scenario: conservative extrapolation of SuperKEKB parameters from 2021 run



Dark sector searches in Belle II: future directions

- Align all the searches to the full pre-shutdown luminosity 424 fb^{-1}
 - In most cases with improved analysis techniques: second generation searches
 - We have already reasonable luminosity projections for some of the analyses (Snowmass)
 - We need to enter the dark photon business: both visible and (especially) invisible
- My guess: LLP searches will have a considerable weight in the next years (especially with a new displaced-vtx trigger)
Low SM background, open the possibility to explore small couplings
- Some searches are motivated more than others by g-2 anomaly. Their future may depend by external inputs. My guess: the g-2 focus is moving (has moved?) in the theory field: dispersion relations vs lattice
- ❑ Luminosity will increase, background will increase as well
 - ❑ Most of the searches have low multiplicity signatures → badly affected by machine background
 - ❑ Best effort to keep the single-object (track, muon, photon) trigger lines in working conditions
 - ❑ Display-vertex trigger needed (efficiency decreases abruptly with lifetime): in preparation
- ❖ We are eager of new dark models. Theorists never disappoint our expectations

Short term

Challenges

Summary

- The persisting null results from new physics at LHC searches and in direct underground searches make the light dark sector scenario more and more attractive
- **Belle II** started a broad program of searches orthogonal/complementary to LHC
- Will lead the world sensitivity in most of them

see M.Laurenza's talk

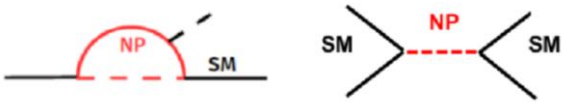
see L.Zani's talk

SPARE SLIDES

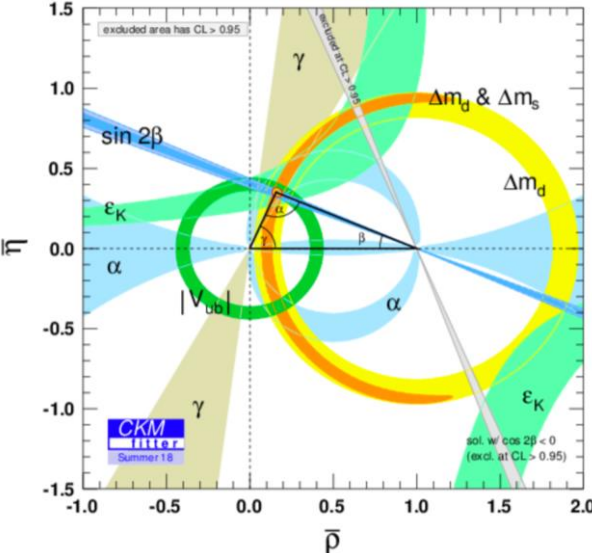
Dark matter hunt: «classical» approach

Intensity / precision frontier

New virtual particles in loops/trees transitions, deviation from SM expectations (B factories, LHCb)

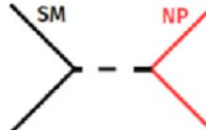


If NP found in direct searches, it is reasonable to expect NP effects in *B*, *D*, *tau* decays



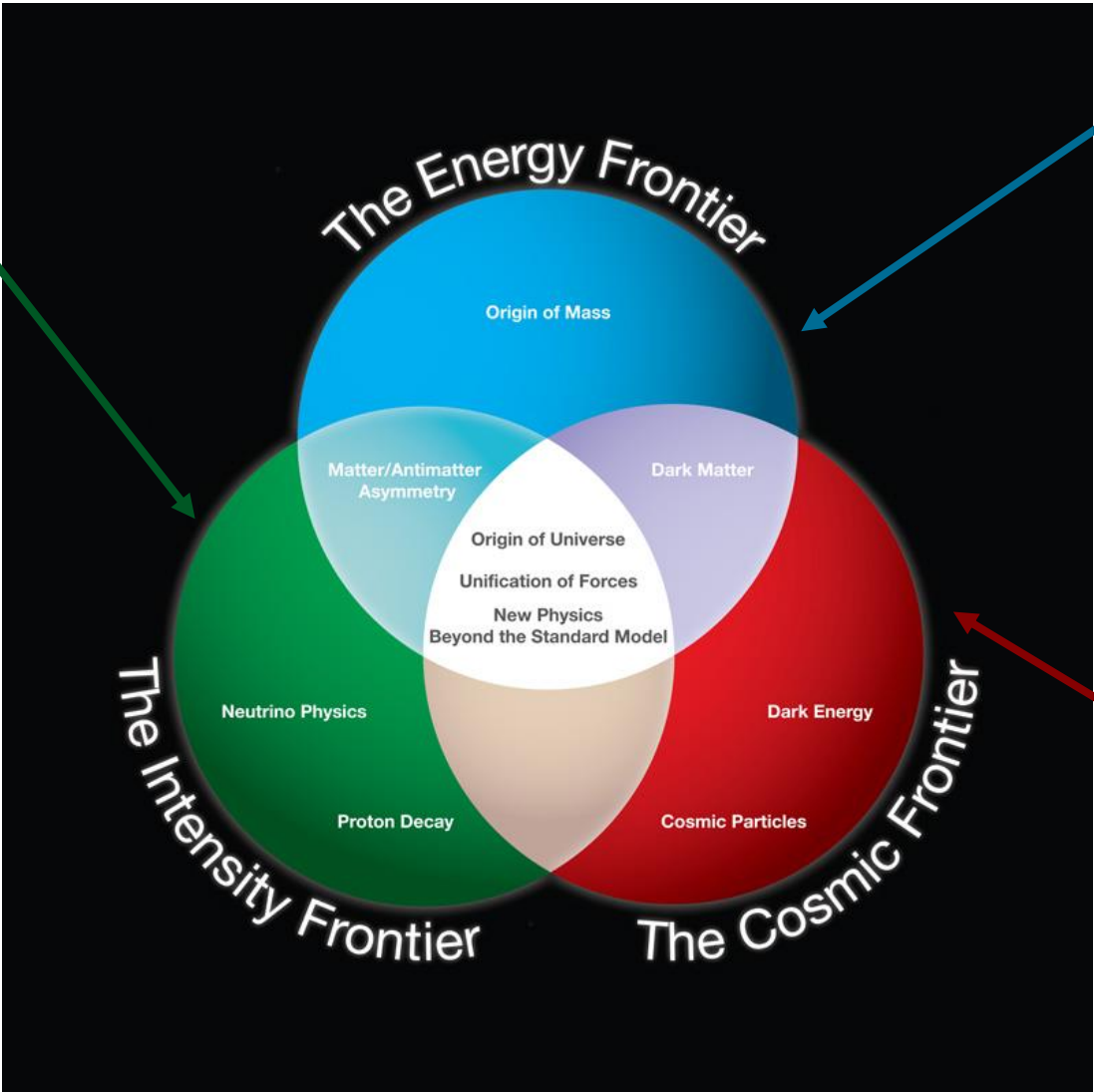
Energy frontier

Direct production of new particles - limited by beam energy (LHC – ATLAS, CMS)



Cosmic frontier

Direct effect search in (mostly) underground experiments



Alternative DM scenario: light WIMPs \Leftrightarrow light mediators

Light dark matter not ruled out if dark mediator(s) exist

WIMP paradigm: $\sigma_{\text{ann}}(v/c) \approx 1 \text{ pb} \Rightarrow \Omega_{\text{DM}} \approx 0.25$

Electroweak mediators \Rightarrow Lee – Weinberg window

$$\sigma(v/c) \propto \begin{cases} G_F^2 m_\chi^2 & \text{for } m_\chi \ll m_W \\ 1/m_\chi^2 & \text{for } m_\chi \gg m_W \end{cases}$$

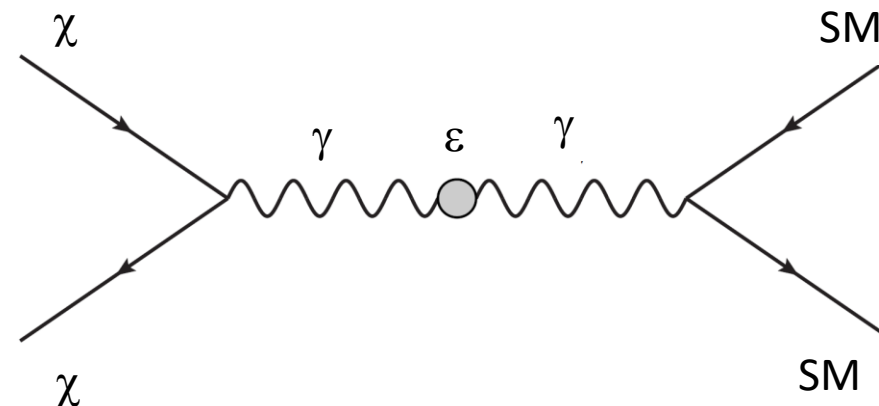
$$\Rightarrow \text{few GeV} < m_\chi < \text{few TeV}$$

It modeled decades of direct search experiment design

WIMP miracle

If annihilation via a light force carrier, χ can be as light as few MeV

Possibility of Light New Physics, mostly with tiny couplings. Some models are minimal (but UV safe) and show diverse DM phenomenology



From KEKB to SuperKEKB



Beam-beam parameter

$$\xi_{y\pm} = \frac{r_e}{2\pi} \frac{N_{\mp} \beta_y^*}{\gamma_{\pm} \sigma_y^* (\sigma_x^* + \sigma_y^*)} R_{\xi_{y\pm}} \propto \frac{N_{\mp}}{\sigma_x^*} \sqrt{\frac{\beta_y^*}{\epsilon_y}}$$

Beam current

$$L = \frac{\gamma_{e\pm}}{2er_e} \left(1 + \frac{\sigma_y^*}{\sigma_x^*} \right) \left(\frac{I_{e\pm} \xi_y^{e\pm}}{\beta_y^*} \right) \left(\frac{R_L}{R_{\xi_y}} \right)$$

Lorentz factor

Classical electron radius

Beam size ratio@IP
1 ~ 2 % (flat beam)

Lumi. reduction factor (crossing angle) & Tune shift reduction factor (hour glass effect)
0.8 ~ 1 (short bunch)

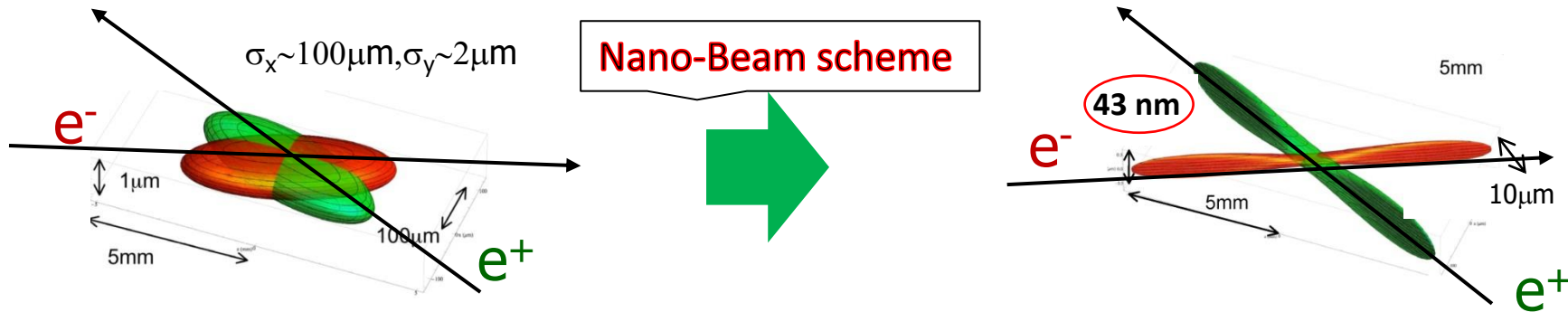
Vertical beta function@IP

- (1) Smaller β_y^*
- (2) Increase beam currents
- (3) Increase ξ_y

$\beta_y^* = 0.30/0.30$ mm
 $I_{+/-} = 2.8/2.0$ A

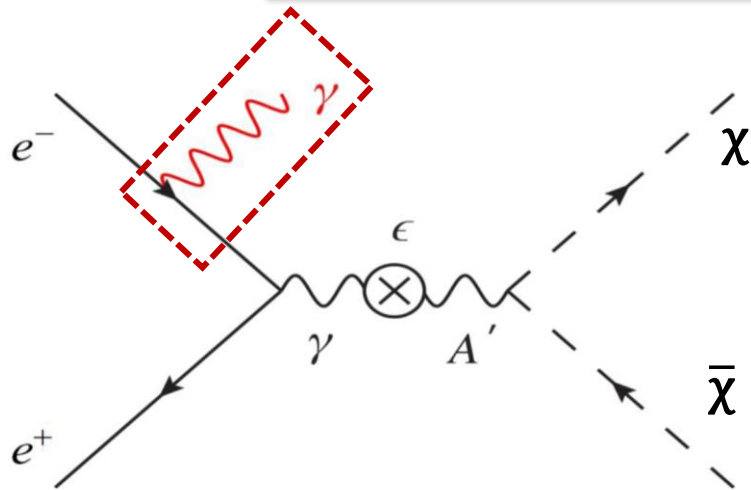
x30

- New e⁺ Damping Ring
- New Superconducting Final Focus (QCS)



... For a 30x increase in intensity you have to make the beam as thin as a few x100 atomic layers

Invisible dark photon: experimental signature



Only **one photon** in the detector

Needs a **single photon trigger**
(not available in Belle, $\approx 10\%$ of data in BaBar)

Needs an excellent knowledge of the **detector acceptance**

$$E_\gamma = \frac{s - M_{A'}^2}{2\sqrt{s}}$$

Bump in recoil mass or photon energy

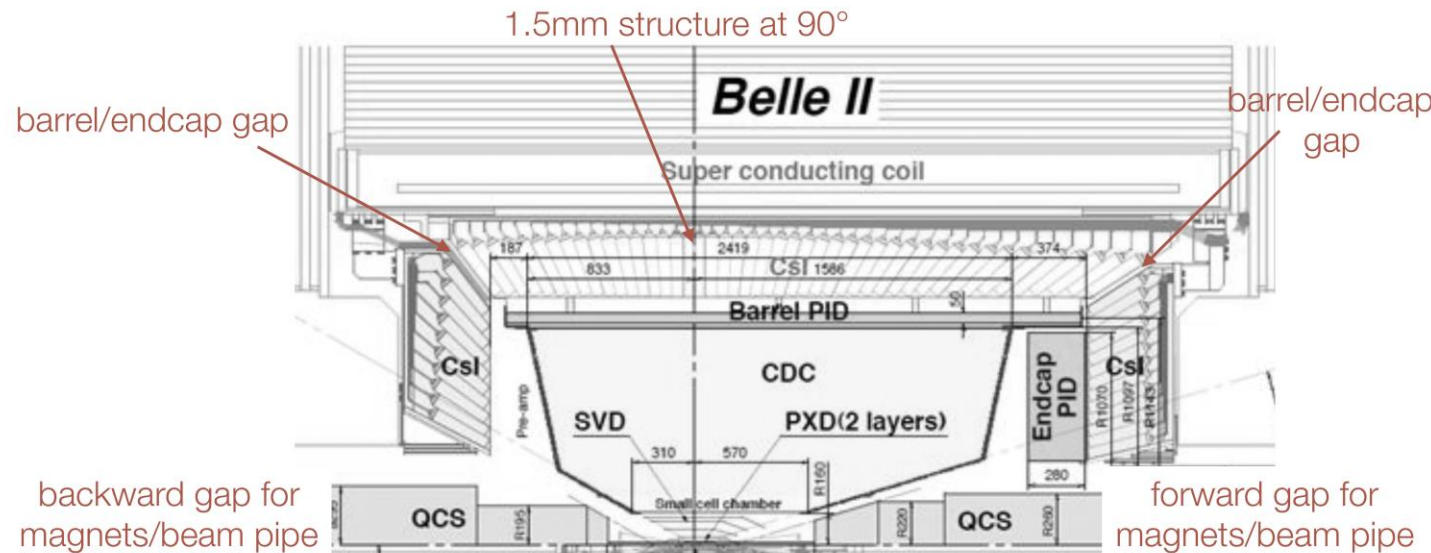
Backgrounds

$e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\gamma(\gamma)$ → high $M_{A'}$ region

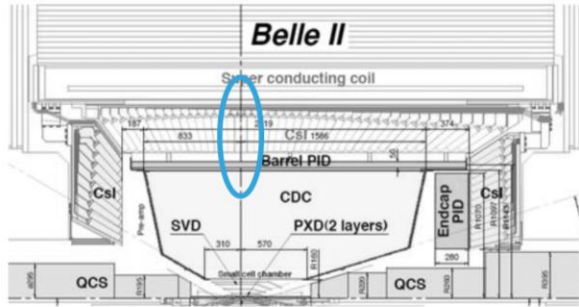
$e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma(\gamma)$ → low $M_{A'}$ region

Cosmics

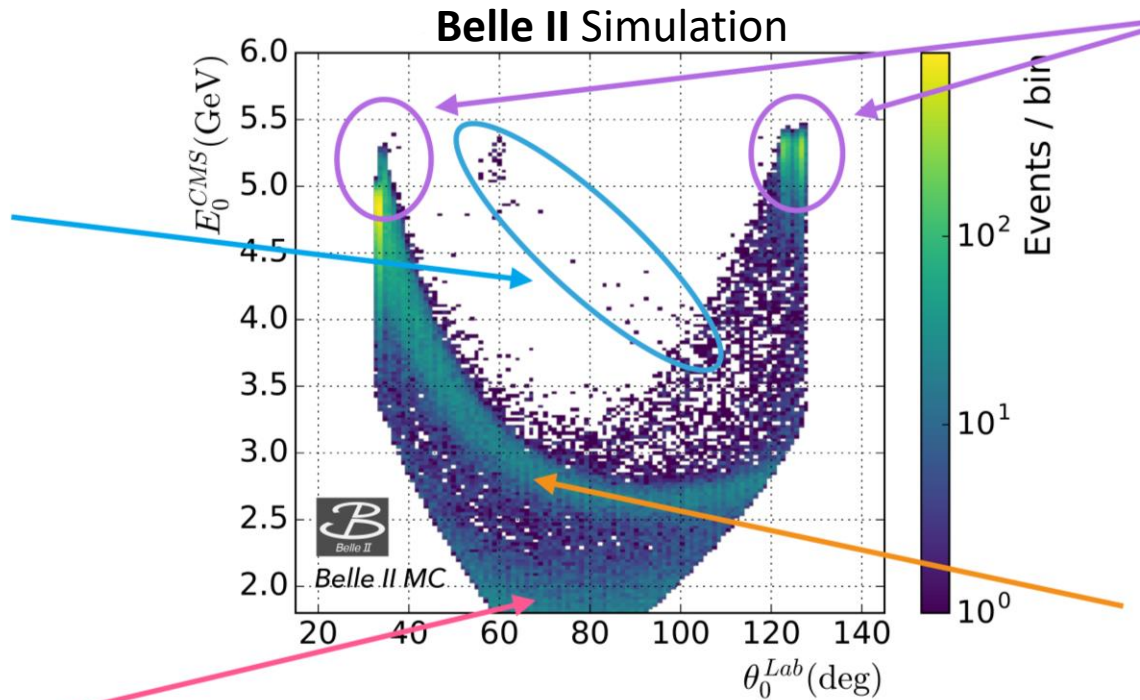
$e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\nu\nu$



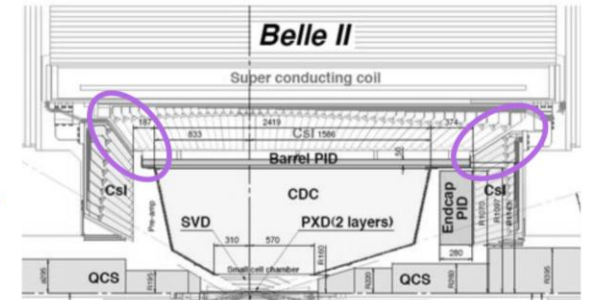
Invisible dark photon: background



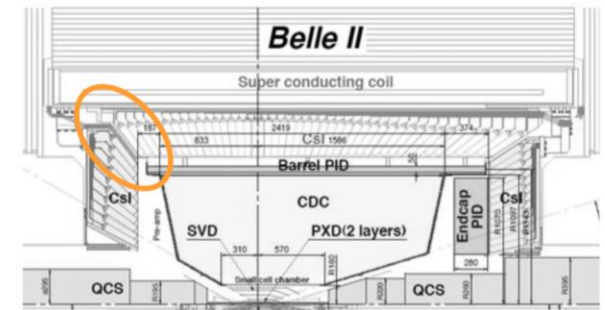
$ee \rightarrow 2\gamma$ and 3γ
 1 γ in ECL 90° gap
 1 γ out of ECL acceptance



$ee \rightarrow eey$
 both electrons
 out of tracking acceptance



$ee \rightarrow 2\gamma$
 1 γ in ECL BWD or FWD gap



$ee \rightarrow 3\gamma$
 1 γ in ECL BWD gap
 1 γ out of ECL acceptance

Crucial usage of KLM to veto photons in ECL gaps