## Dark sector at the **B-factories**

- I. Introduction: Dark matter and B-factories
- II. A selection of recent Dark Sector analyses at BaBar, Belle & Belle II



Uppsala Universitet



martina.laurenza@physics.uu.se







FPCapri 2024

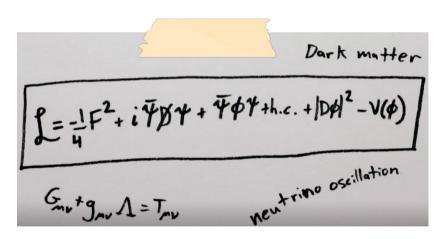
Anacapri, June 19th-21st 2024





## Standard Model: open questions

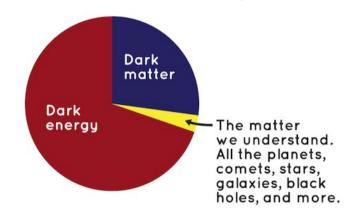
- The Standard Model (SM) is the best tested theory of nature at fundamental level describing particles and their interactions
- there are still open questions coming from observations unexplained by the SM
  - no explanation of the observed matter-antimatter asymmetry
  - no dark matter candidate or dark energy explanation
  - no explanation of mass hierarchy, ...
- and tensions between measurements and SM predictions that need to be interpreted (see (g-2)<sub>μ</sub> for example)





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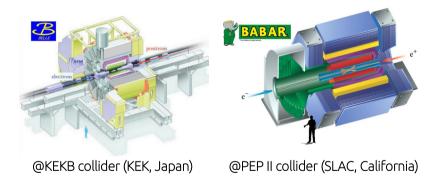


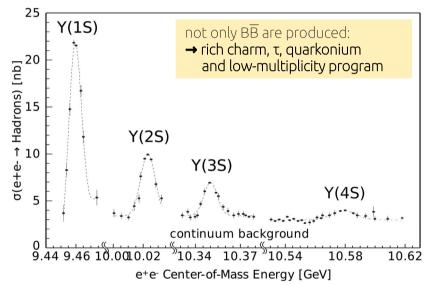


## B-factories: first generation

Dedicated experiment at e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup>asymmetric-energy colliders for the production of a BB pairs.

Main process: e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> → Y(4S) → BB



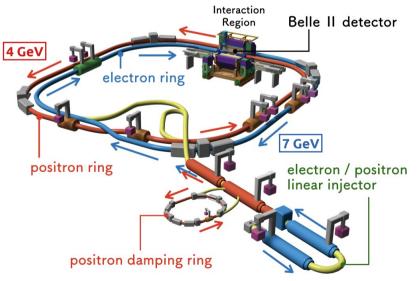


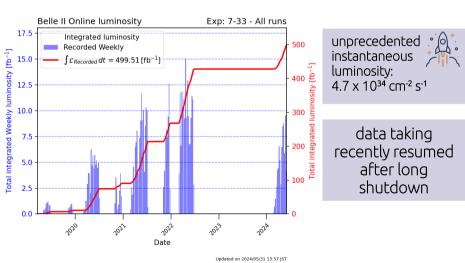
- Belle and BaBar have collected together 1.5 ab-1
  - → the majority of existing measurements are limited by statistical uncertainties



## SuperKEKB: a second generation B-factory

- The solution of the second sec
- SuperKEKB is a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation asymmetric e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider at the Y(4S) energy located at **Tsukuba**, **Japan**
- target instantaneous luminosity is 6x10<sup>35</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> (x30 KEKB/Belle)

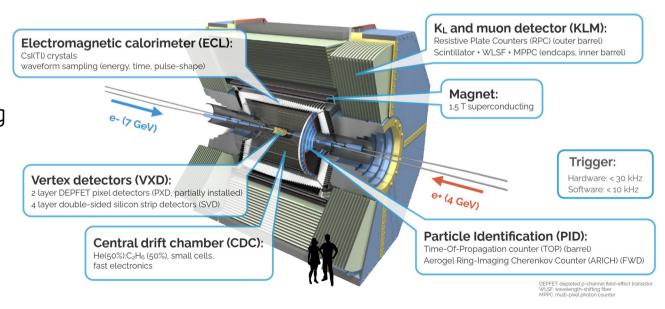






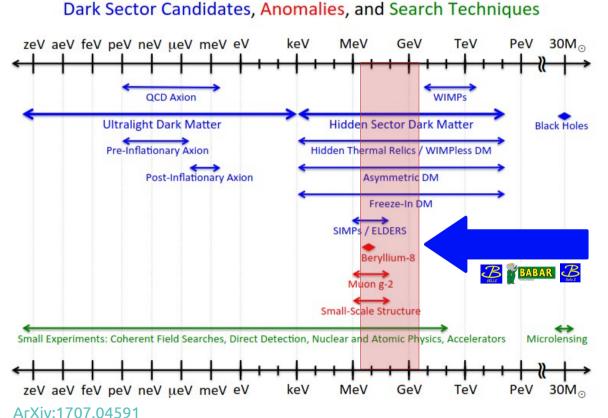
### Dark Matter at B-factories: Why

- efficient reconstruction of **neutrals**  $(\gamma, \pi^0, \eta, \eta'...)$
- high trigger efficiency (including some specific trigger for low-multiplicity events)
- excellent particle identification capabilities
- very good **vertexing**





## Light Dark Matter at B-factories

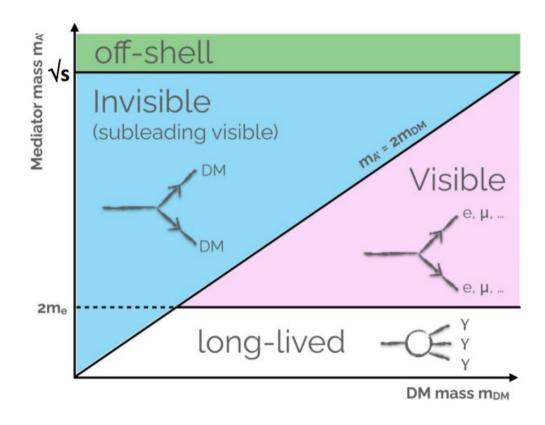


B-factories at e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider can access the mass range favored by light dark sector

- → possible sub-GeV scenario: DM weakly coupled to SM through a light mediator:
  - Vector portal (Dark Photons, Z' bosons)
  - Pseudo-scalar portal (ALPs)
  - Scalar portal (Dark higgs/Scalars)
  - Neutrino portal (Sterile Neutrinos)



## Light Dark Matter at B-factories: possible signatures





# Recent Dark Sector Analyses Results







I. 2' II. (Pseudo-)Scalars

III. B-Mesogenesis

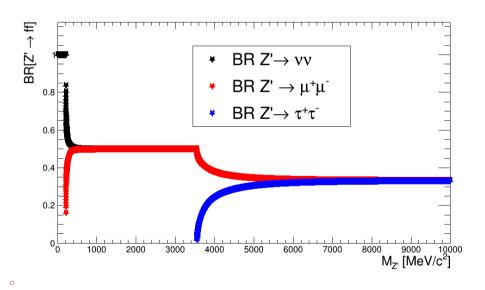


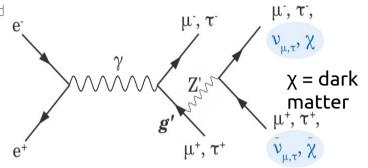
Z'

## The L<sub>u</sub> – L<sub>t</sub> model

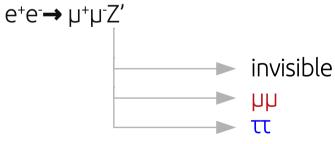
New gauge boson Z' coupling only to the  $2^{nd}$  and  $3^{rd}$  egeneration of leptons  $(L_{\mu}-L_{\tau})^{[1]}$  may explain:

- ∘ long-standing (g-2), anomaly
- dark matter abundance





Searches at B-factories:



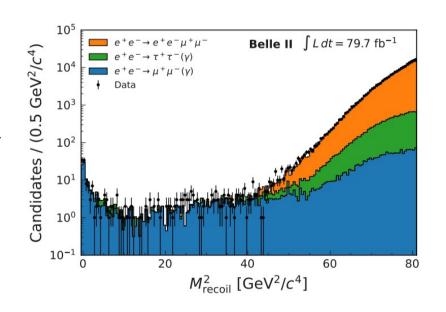


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#### Search for an invisible Z'



- Search for the process: e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup>→ µ<sup>+</sup>µ<sup>-</sup>Z<sup>'</sup>→ inv.
  - → Two possible interpretations:
    - 1) Vanilla,  $BF(Z' \rightarrow v\overline{\underline{v}}) \sim 33-100\%$
    - **2) Full invisible** BF(Z'→ XX) ~ 100%
- Look for a narrow peak in the recoil mass against a μ+μ-pair in events where nothing else is detected
- Dominant background radiative QED processes
- Final State Radiation properties of the emitted Z' fed in a neural network trained for all Z' masses simultaneously

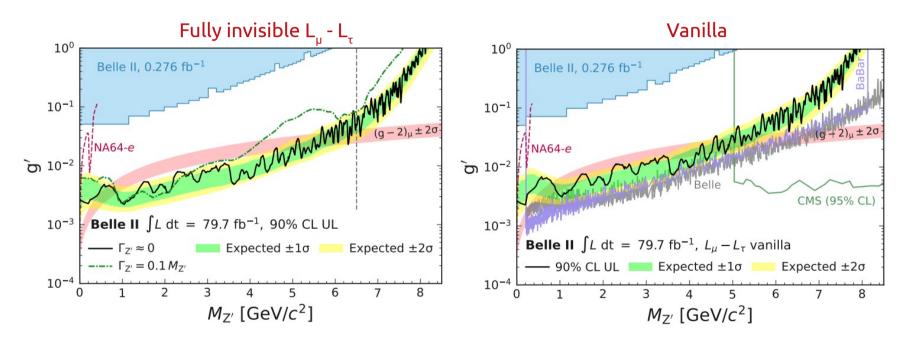




#### Search for an invisible Z'



- No excess found in 79.7 fb<sup>-1</sup>
  - $\rightarrow$  90% CL upper limits on  $\sigma(e^+e^-\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-Z', Z'\rightarrow inv.)$  and on g'
  - $\rightarrow$  (g-2)<sub>µ</sub> favored region excluded for 0.8 < M(Z') < 5 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>





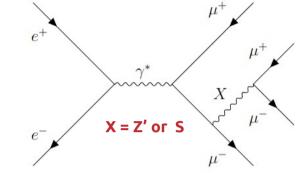
## Search for a µµ resonance in ee → µµµµ

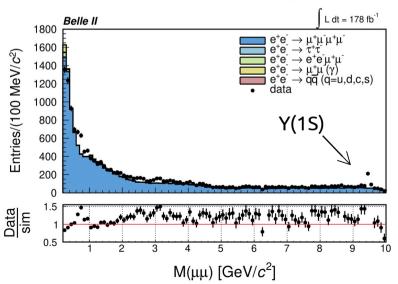


- Search for the process  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- (X \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-)$ , X = Z', S
  - → Look for a peak in the opposite charge di-muon mass distribution in  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$  events
- $(L_{\mu}-L_{\tau})$  model used as benchmark and then performance is checked for the <u>scalar case</u> [5]



- zero charge
- at least three identified as muons
- M(4tracks)  $\sim \sqrt{s}$
- no extra energy
- Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)-based background suppression



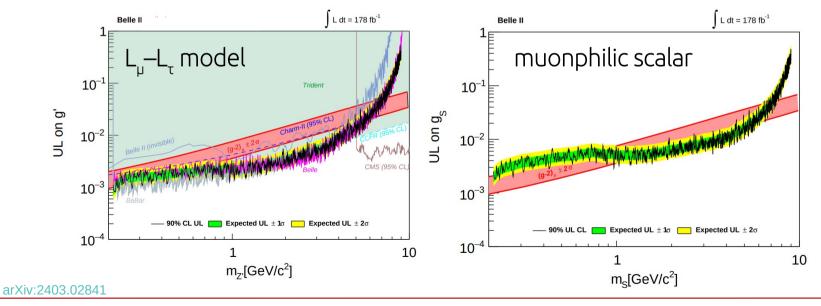




### Search for a µµ resonance in ee → µµµµ

[5] P. Harris, P. Schuster, and J. Zupan, arXiv:2207.08990 [hep-ph]; R. Capdevilla, D. Curtin, Y. Kahn, and G. Krnjaic, J. High Energy Phys. 04 (2022) 129

- No significant excess observed in 178 fb<sup>-1</sup>
  - $\rightarrow$  90% CL upper limits on the process cross-section  $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow X \mu^+\mu^-) \times B(X \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-)$ , with X = Z', S
  - $\rightarrow$  cross section limits are translated into upper limits on the g' coupling constant for the L<sub>u</sub>-L<sub>t</sub> model and on the g<sub>s</sub> coupling constant for the muonphilic dark scalar  $S^{[5]}$





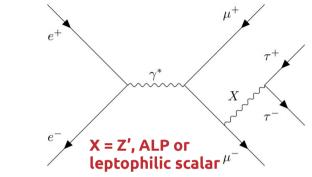
## Search for a tt resonance in ee → µµtt

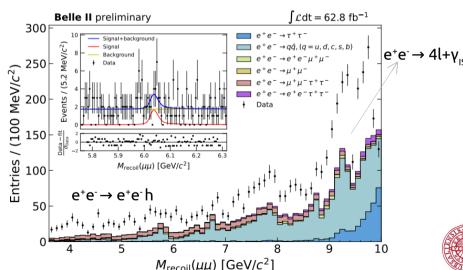


**UPPSALA** 

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- Search for a di-tau resonance in e+e→ μ+μ-τ+τ as a peak in the recoil against two muons
- Reconstruct τ decays to one-charged particle
  - → select **four-track events** with at least two tracks identified as muons
  - → M(4tracks) < 9.5 GeV/c² to suppress the four-lepton backgrounds that peak at the c.m. energy
- Background suppression exploits features of kinematic variables in the signal





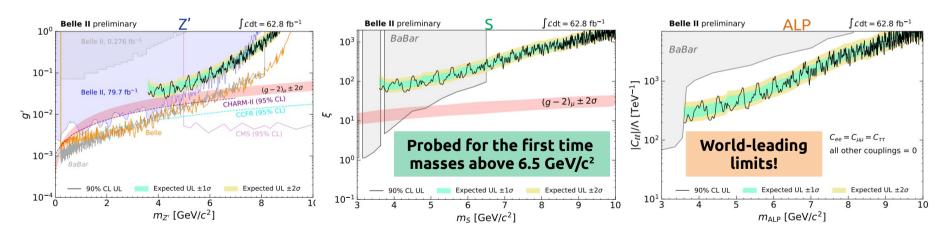
## Search for a tt resonance in ee → µµtt





[4] M. Bauer, M. Neubert, and A. Thamm, J. High Energy Phys. 2017, 44 (2017)

- No significant excess observed in 62.8 fb<sup>-1</sup>
  - $\rightarrow$  90% CL upper limits on the process cross-section  $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow (X \rightarrow \tau^+\tau) \mu^+\mu^-) = \sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow X \mu^+\mu^-)B(X \rightarrow \tau^+\tau)$ , with X = S, ALP, Z'
- Exclusion limits on the couplings for three different models (**Z'**<sup>[2]</sup>, **leptophilic scalar (S)**<sup>[3]</sup>, and **ALP**<sup>[4]</sup>) are derived:



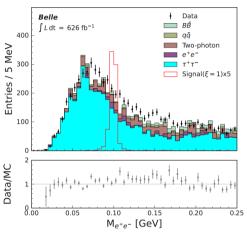


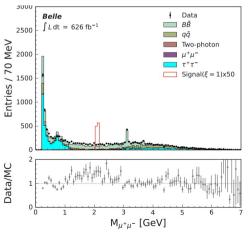
(Pesudo-)Scalars



Mass range probed in this analysis:  $40 \text{ MeV} < m(\Phi_i) < 6.5 \text{ GeV}$ 

- $-\Phi_{l}$  → e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> for m( $\Phi_{l}$ ) < 2m( $\mu$ ) → low mass region
- $-\Phi_{l}$  →μ+μ- for m(Φ<sub>l</sub>) > 2m(μ) → high mass region
- Strategy: search for a narrow peak in m<sub>"</sub> distribution
  - $-e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-\Phi_1$  require 1-prong decay
  - 4 tracks with 0 net charge
- Background:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ ,  $e^+e^-/\mu^+\mu^-$ , qq, BB
  - → define five BDT score to suppress backgrounds
- Maximum Likelihood fit to m<sub>"</sub> distribution
  - → evaluate sensitivities to each mass point

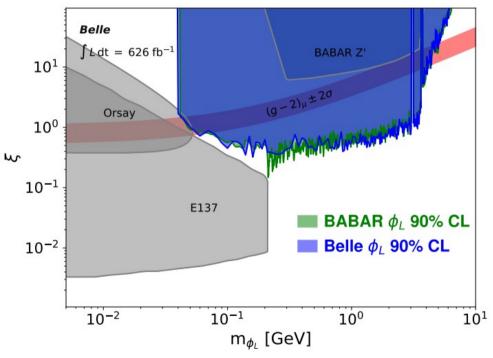








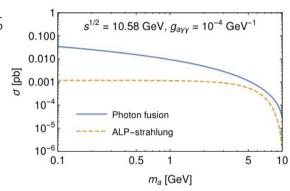
- No significant excess observed in 626 fb<sup>-1</sup>
  - $\rightarrow$  90 % CL UL on  $\xi$  vs m( $\Phi_i$ )



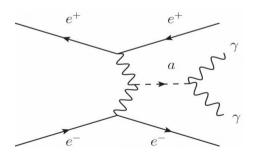
- → comparable or more stringent limits than [7]BaBar (514 fb-1)
- → exclude a wide range of parameter space of the model favored by (g-2)<sub>μ</sub>



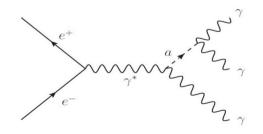
- ALPs are **pseudo-scalars** particles coupling with bosons
- Difference to QCD axions: no relation between the coupling and the mass
- Three possible scenarios:



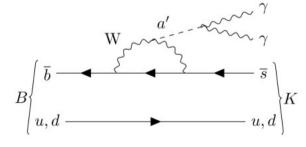
#### Photon-fusion



#### <sup>[9]</sup>ALP-strahlung



#### B-meson decay

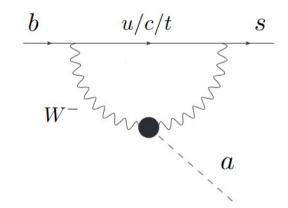




## Search for ALP in B Meson decays



- Search for ALPs that predominantly couple to electroweak gauge bosons
  - → can be emitted in <u>flavour-changing B Meson decays</u>
- Strategy:
  - signal B<sup>±</sup> reconstructed combining a pair of photons with a track identified as a kaon
  - total energy and invariant mass constrained to the nominal B mass and measured c.m. beam energy
  - two BDTs used to separate the signal from each background
- Search targeting prompt ALPs. However, ALPs can be long-lived for small mass and coupling



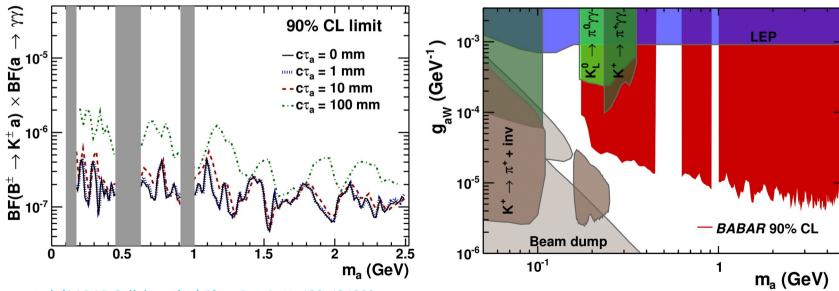
$$\Gamma(a \rightarrow \gamma \gamma) = \frac{g_{aW}^2 \sin^4 \theta_W M_a^3}{64 \pi}$$



## Search for ALP in B Meson decays



- No signal in 424 fb<sup>-1</sup> of data
  - $\rightarrow$  90% C.L. upper limits set on the  $g_{aw}$  coupling constant
  - → BR measured for different lifetimes
- Limits improved of several order of magnitudes





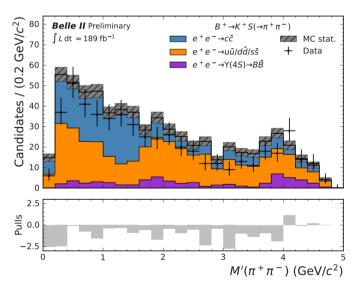
## Search for a long-lived (pseudo-)scalar particle in $b \rightarrow s$



- Search for dark scalar particles S from B decays in rare b→s transitions
  - S could mix with SM Higgs with mixing angle  $\theta_s$  (naturally long-lived for  $\theta_s << 1$ )
  - $-M_S < M_B$ , decays of S into dark matter particles must be kinematically forbidden to provide the correct relic density
- Look for S decays into SM final states in 8 exclusive channels



- B-meson candidates are reconstructed from prompt and displaced charged tracks
- S candidates are reconstructed from displaced oppositely-charged tracks pairs





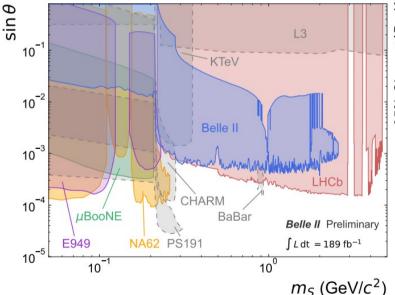
## Search for a long-lived (pseudo-)scalar particle in $b \rightarrow s$

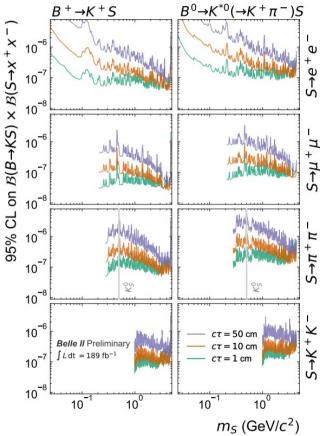


- No significant excess found in 189 fb<sup>-1</sup>
  - first model-independent 95% CL upper limits on BF(B→KS)×BF(S→x+x-)
  - translate into model independent limits on  $\sin\theta_{\varsigma}$  vs.  $m_{\varsigma}$

First limits on decay to hadrons

Results are also available for the pseudoscalar (ALP) model







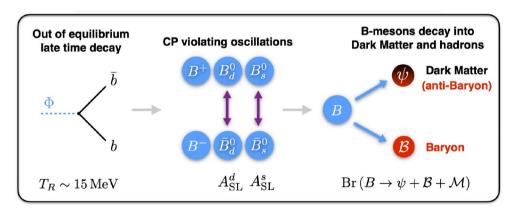
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- Baryogenesis is required in order to produce an initial excess of baryons over antibaryons consistent with observations
- B-Mesogenesis paradigm<sup>[10,11]</sup> explains baryonic + dark matter of the Universe
  - → baryo- and dark matter genesis from B-Meson give rise to **distinctive signals at** collider experiments



 $^{\circ}$  A new dark anti-baryon is proposed  $\psi_{\mathsf{D}}$  which can also explain the Baryon Asymmetry of the Universe (BAU)



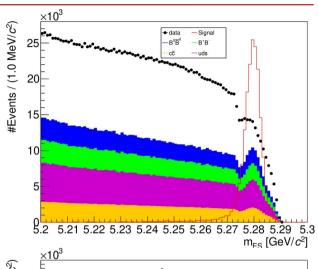
## B-Mesogenesis: Search for B<sup>+</sup> $\rightarrow \wedge \psi_D$

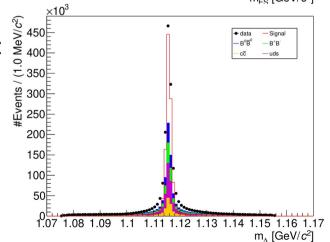


- BaBar analysis on 398.5 fb<sup>-1</sup> of data:
  - signal B meson tagged by fully reconstructing the non-signal B meson ( $B_{\text{tag}}$ )
    - $\rightarrow$  B<sub>tag</sub> candidate is reconstructed via the decays B  $\rightarrow$  SX
    - → selection based on:

$$\Delta E = E_{beam} - E_{tag} \qquad m_{ES} = \sqrt{E_{beam}^2 - p_{tag}^2}$$

- remaining particles are associated to  $B_{sig}$  (B  $\rightarrow \wedge \psi_D$ ):
  - $\rightarrow$  required presence of only one  $\land$  baryon, reconstructed from p- $\pi$  couple
  - $\boldsymbol{\to} \psi_{\text{D}}$  identified as the system recoiling against the  $\mathsf{B}_{\text{tag}}$  and  $\Lambda$  candidates
- signal purity increased via a Multi Variate Analysis





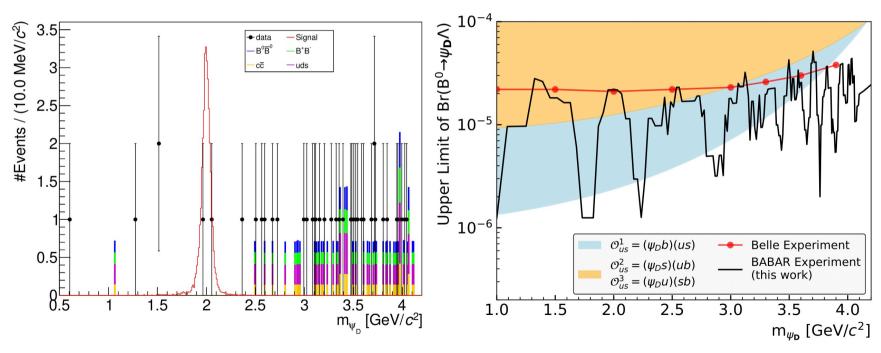


## B-Mesogenesis: Search for B<sup>+</sup> $\rightarrow \wedge \psi_D$



#### No significant signal is observed

- → upper limits on the branching fraction are set
- → a large fraction of the parameter space allowed by B-Mesogenesis is excluded



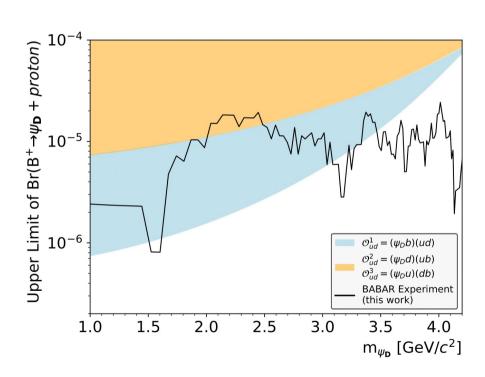


## B-Mesogenesis: Search for B<sup>+</sup> $\rightarrow \psi_D$ +p



- No significant signal is observed in 398.5 fb-1 of data
  - → upper limits on the branching fraction are set

$$m_{\text{miss}}c^2 = \sqrt{(E_{B_{\text{sig}}}^* - E_{\text{p}}^*)^2 - |\vec{p}_{B_{\text{sig}}}^* - \vec{p}_{\text{p}}^*|^2c^2}$$





## Summary

- e<sup>+</sup> e<sup>-</sup> B-factories provide unique opportunities to study light dark matter and mediators
- BaBar and Belle collected 1.5 ab<sup>-1</sup> of data
  - still producing dark sector physics with world's unique or leading results
- Belle II is a super B-factory with excellent sensitivity for dark sector searches
  - competitive or better limits with a subset of the available data
  - recorded 424 fb<sup>-1</sup> to date, more results with higher statistics and improved analyses will be produced
- This is a very exciting time to look for new physics beyond the Standard Model, especially in the Dark Sector



Backup



## Summary

1. Search for an Invisible Z' in a Final State with Two Muons and Missing Energy at Belle II



2. Search for a  $\mu^+\mu^-$  resonance in four-muon final states at Belle II



3. Search for a  $\tau^+\tau^-$  Resonance in  $e^+e^-\to \mu^+\mu^-\tau^+\tau^-$  Events with the Belle II Experiment



4. Search for a dark leptophilic scalar produced in association with  $\tau+\tau-$  pair in e+eannihilation at center-of-mass energies near 10.58 GeV



5. Search for an Axionlike Particle in B Meson Decays



6. Search for a long-lived spin-0 mediator in  $b \rightarrow s$  transitions at the Belle II experiment



7. Search for B Mesogenesis at BABAR



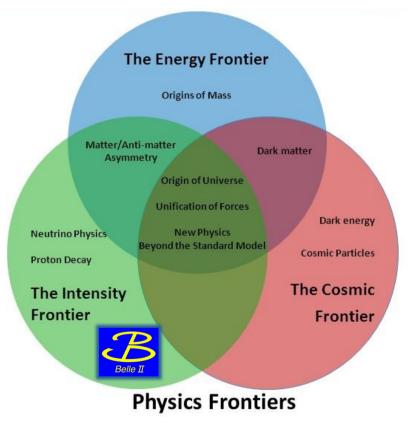
8. Search for Evidence of Baryogenesis and Dark Matter in  $B^+ \rightarrow \psi_D + p$  Decays at BABAR **BABAR** 





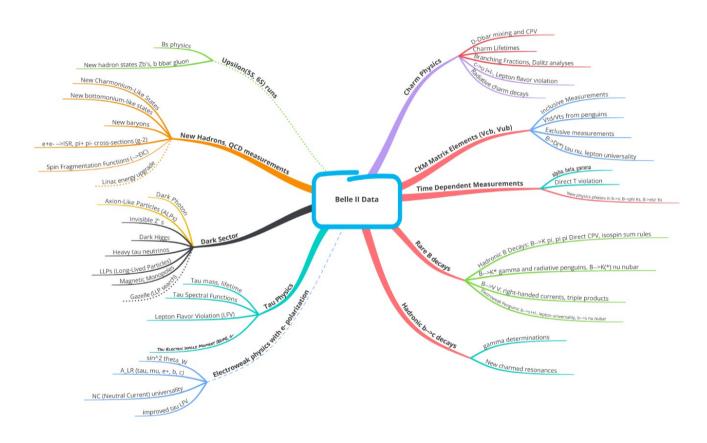
## Moving beyond the Standard Model

- at energy frontier experiments are able to discover new particles
  - $\rightarrow$  mass reach for new particle  $O(1 \text{ TeV}/c^2)$
- at rare/precision frontier, observable signatures of new particles or processes can be obtained through measurements of flavor physics reactions at lower energies
  - → an observed discrepancy can be interpreted in terms of (New Physics) NP models
    - unprecedented sensitivity to the effect of NP
    - probes NP mass scale higher than the one accessed at the energy frontier



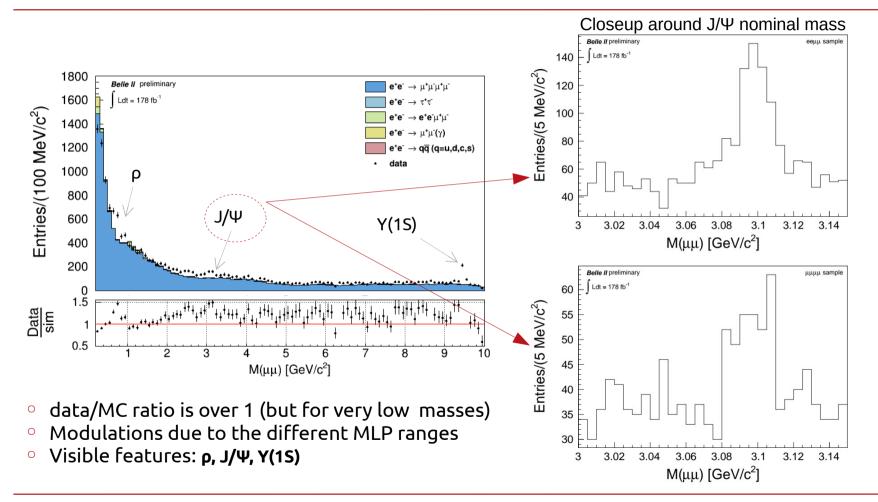


## Belle II: the physics program

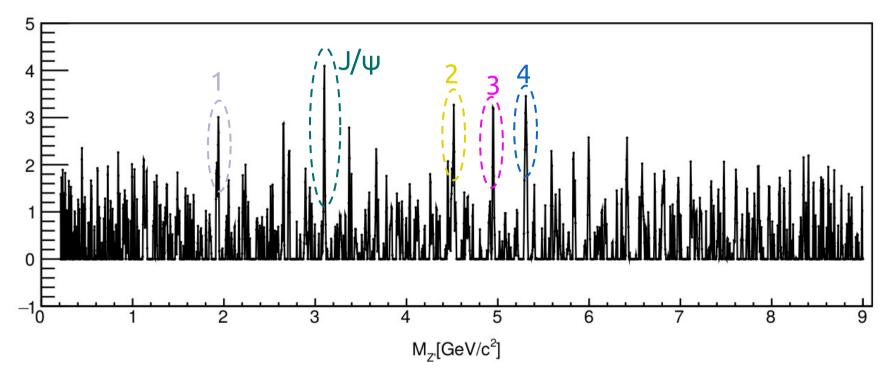




## Search for a μμ resonance in ee → μμμμ: J/Ψ



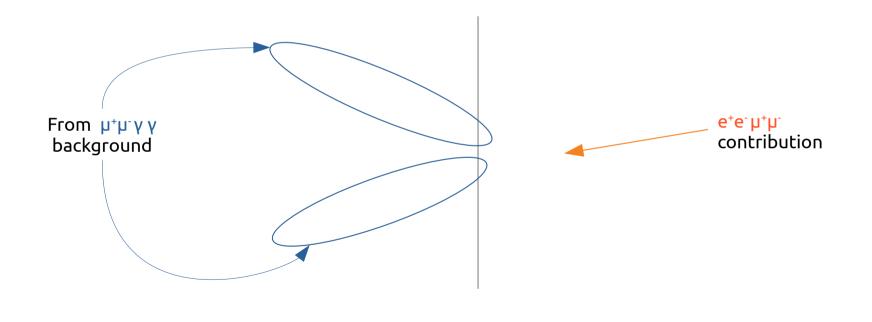




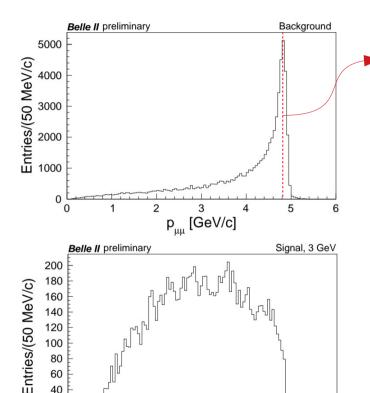


#### Search for an invisible Z'

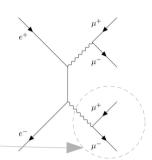
- The signal yield extraction is performed through a two-dimensional fit
  - $\rightarrow$  exploit of the features in the M<sup>2</sup><sub>recoil</sub> vs.  $\theta_{recoil}$  distribution
  - $\rightarrow$  double the sensitivity with respect to the one-dimensional fit







Peak corresponding to the maximum muon pair momentum



- → transformed variables fed into MLP in order to reduce their change with the Z' mass
- $\rightarrow$  five separate MLPs in different M( $\mu\mu$ ) intervals
- $\rightarrow$  selection optimized in each interval with a figure of merit
- → background rejection factor from 2 to 14
- $\rightarrow$  signal efficiency from 20% to 35%

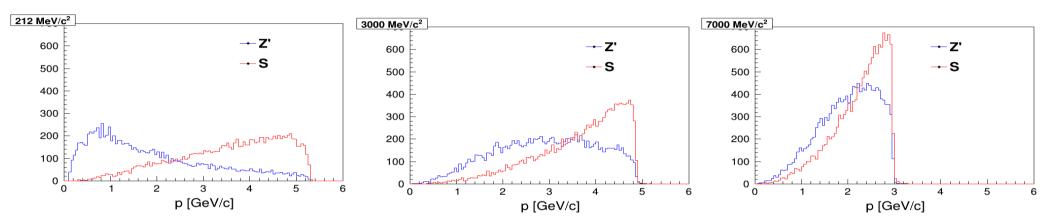


 $p_{\mu\mu}$  [GeV/c]

40

20

#### Search for a μμ resonance in ee → μμμμ: muonphilic dark-scalar



Difference: Z' is softly produced at low masses, S have a hard momentum spectrum also in the low mass region.

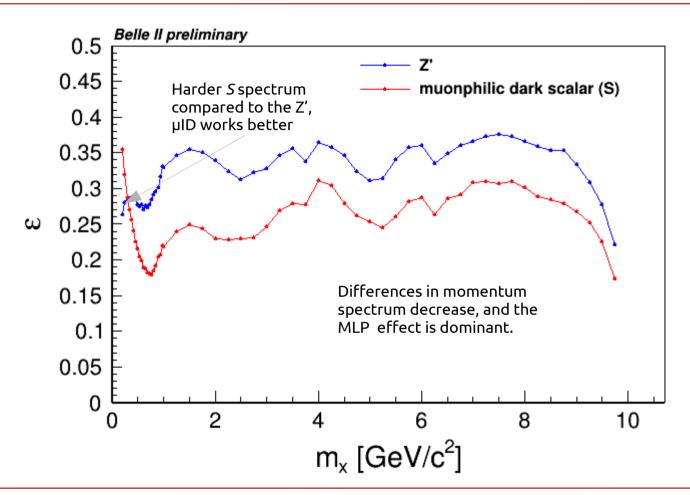
In  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- X$  interactions X can be:

- A vector: production occurs through a s-wave process
- → A scalar: production occurs through a p-wave process

At low S masses the p-wave suppression makes the scalar process grow slowly with the energy, while there is no suppression for vector processes.



### Search for a μμ resonance in ee → μμμμ: muonphilic dark-scalar



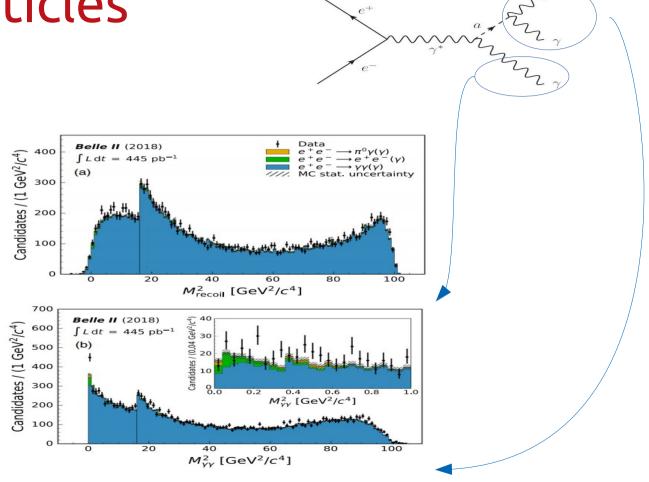


# **Axion-Like Particles**

Experimental signature

#### Looking for:

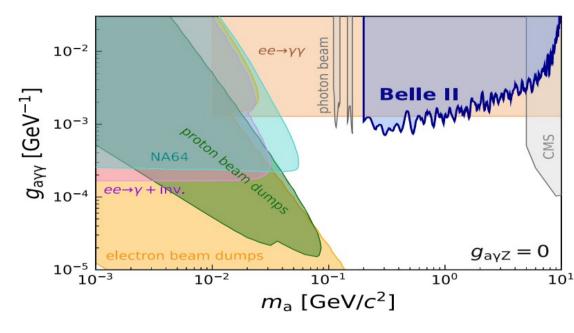
- three photons summing up to beam energy and no other particles;
- No tracks;
- Search for a bump into diphoton and recoil mass. Backgrounds:
- 1  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma \gamma(\gamma)$ ;
- 2  $e^+e^- \to e^+e^-(\gamma)$ ;
- $e^+e^-$ →Pγγ, P =  $\pi^0$ , η, η'.

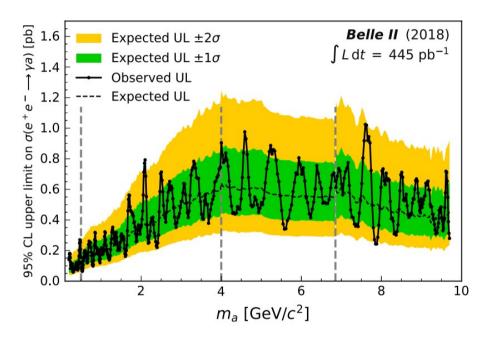


# **Axion-Like Particles**

 $g_{avv}$  and cross-section upper limit

Second Belle II physics paper: Abudinén et al. (Belle II Collaboration) Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 161806





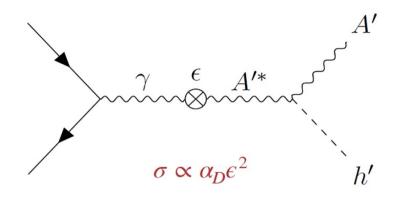
$$\sigma_{a} = \frac{g_{a y y}^{2} \alpha_{QED}}{24} \left(1 - \frac{m_{a}^{2}}{s}\right)^{3}$$

Measurement performed with 445 pb<sup>-1</sup>

- These limits are the first obtained for the fully reconstructed three-photon final state;
- They are more restrictive than previous limits.

# Dark Higgsstrahlung

Theory\*



 $e^+e^-\rightarrow A'*\rightarrow h'A', A'\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ 

The dark photon mass could be generated via a spontaneous symmetry breaking mechanism, adding a dark Higgs boson h' to the theory.

In a minimal scenario: a single dark photon A' and a single dark Higgs boson h'.

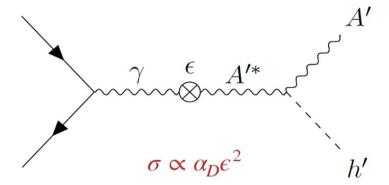
The h' could be produced in the Higgsstrahlung process, which is also sensitive to the dark sector coupling

Different scenarios depending on the mass stop but esis.

We focus on the case:  $m_h$  <  $m_h$  with invisible h', up to now only investigated by KLOE.

# Dark Higgsstrahlung

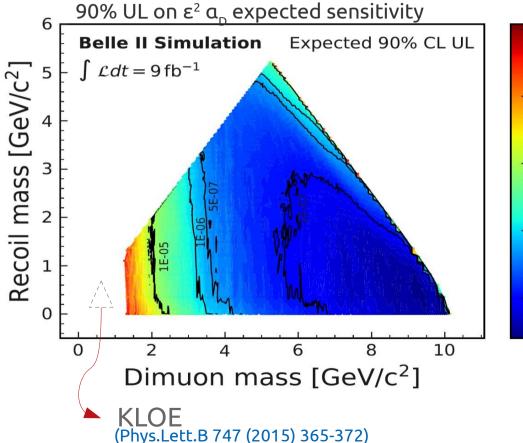
Experimental signature



$$e^+e^-\rightarrow A'*\rightarrow h'A', A'\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$$

# Dark Higgsstrahlung

**Expected sensitivity** 



Very promising results even with 9 fb<sup>-1</sup>.

- Accessing unconstrained regions, well beyond KLOE coverage;
- Probing non-trivial ε²α<sub>n</sub> couplings.

Analysis to be finalized shortly (by end 2021).

 $10^{-3}$ 

 $10^{-4}$ 

10<sup>-5</sup>

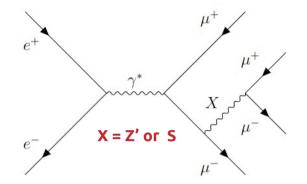
 $10^{-6}$ 

 $10^{-7}$ 

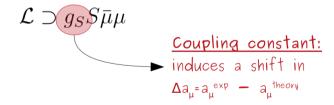
# Dark Higgstrahlung



- Search for the process e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> → μ<sup>+</sup>μ<sup>-</sup>X, with X → μ<sup>+</sup>μ<sup>-</sup>(X = Z', S)
   → Look for a peak in the opposite charge di-muon mass distribution in e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> → μ<sup>+</sup>μ<sup>-</sup>μ<sup>+</sup>μ<sup>-</sup> events
- $(L_{\mu}-L_{\tau})$  model used as benchmark and then performances are checked for the <u>scalar case</u> [5]



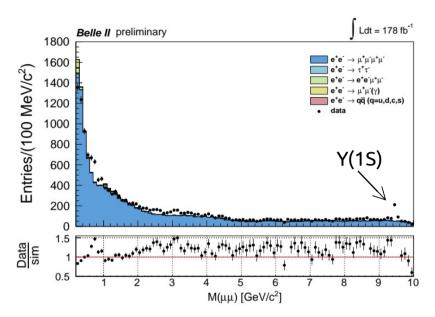
Scalar particle coupling to muons through Yukawa-like interaction Mainly proposed as a way to solve the muon  $(g-2)_{\mu}$  anomaly



If  $m_s \ge 2m_\mu$  the only tree-level decay channel is  $S \to \mu\mu$  ( $S \to vv$ ,  $\gamma\gamma$  also are possible at one loop level, but highly suppressed)



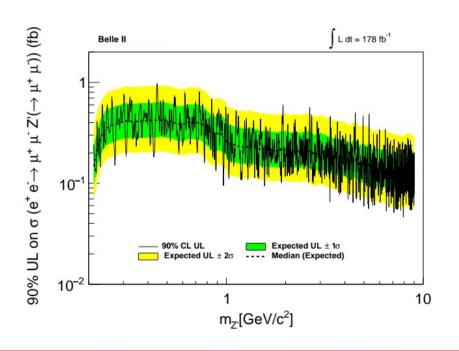
- Events selected have 4 charged particles:
  - zero charge
  - at least three identified as muons
  - M(4tracks) ~  $\sqrt{s}/c^2$
  - no extra energy
- Main SM background contributions:
  - 1)  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$
  - 2)  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \mu^+\mu^-$
  - 3)  $e^+e^- \to \mu^+\mu^-(\gamma)$

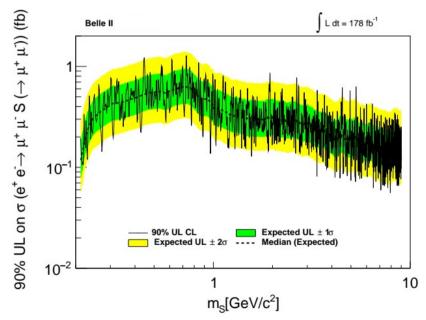


- → Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)-based background suppression
  Signal over background discrimination relying on a few variables sensitive the signal features:
  - (a) Presence of a µµ resonance
  - (b) Production mechanism



- No significant excess observed in 178 fb<sup>-1</sup>
  - $\rightarrow$  90% CL upper limits on the process cross-section  $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow X \mu^+\mu^-) \times B(X \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-)$ , with X = Z', S

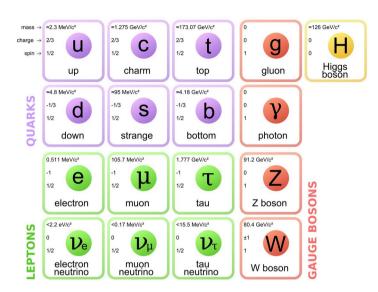






## Standard Model: a successful theory

- the Standard Model (SM) is the best tested theory of nature at fundamental level describing particles ad their interactions:
  - the elementary fermions and bosons have been observed and their properties measured
  - the quark model predicts the vast majority of observed bound states, mesons and baryons



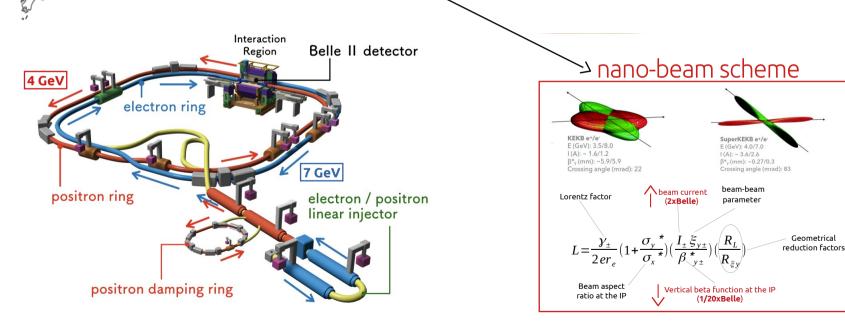
- **interactions** between mesons, baryons and lepton are predicted with a precision of O(1%)
- hundreds of observables (branching ratios, CP violation parameters, asymmetries,
   ...) are measured to be consistent with the theory predictions



# SuperKEKB: a second generation B-factory

SuperKEKB is a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation asymmetric e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider at the Y(4S) energy located at Tsukuba, Japan

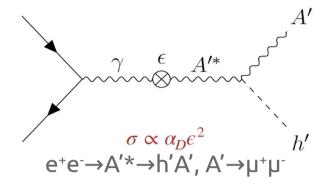
target instantaneous luminosity is  $6x10^{35}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> (x30 KEKB/Belle)





## Dark Higgstrahlung

- The dark photon mass could be generated via a spontaneous symmetry breaking mechanism, adding a dark Higgs boson h' to the theory.
- The h' could be produced in the Higgsstrahlung process, which is also sensitive to the dark sector coupling constant  $a_p$ .





#### Dark Matter

What do we know about dark matter:

#### 1. It exists

2. It is dark—

Existence of dark matter had been established in astrophysics:

- Rotation curve of a disk galaxy
- Spatial distributions of luminous baryonic total matter in a collision of galaxy clusters
- CMB



#### Dark Matter

What do we know about dark matter:

1. It exists

2. It is dark -

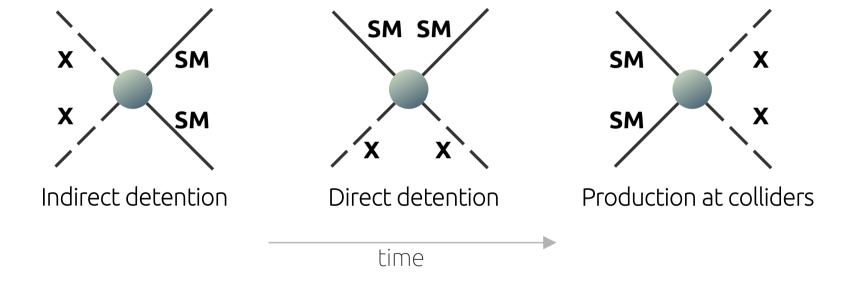
Dark matter does not interact with the electromagnetic force:

- No absorption
- No reflection
- No emission

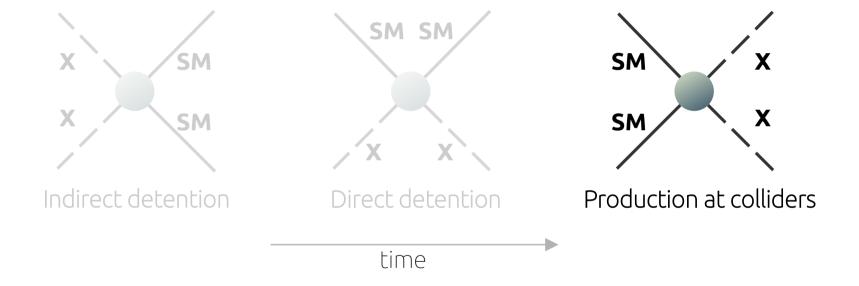
Dark matter is one of the most compelling reasons for new physics



# Dark Matter: three ways of detecting it



# Dark Matter: three ways of detecting it

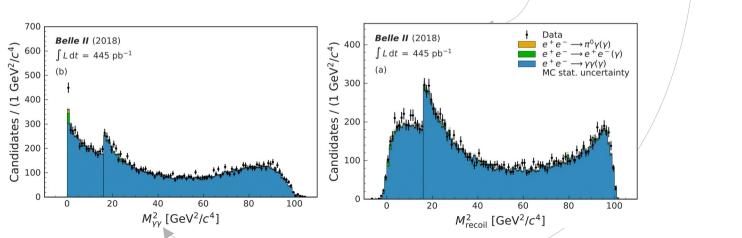




# Search for ALP in e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> → γγγ



- ALPs<sup>[7]</sup> predominantly **coupling to photons (g**<sub>aw</sub>) with B(a $\rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ )  $\approx 100\%$
- Events with at least three photon candidates are selected
  - → photon candidates reconstructed from ECL clusters
  - → looking for an excess in the diphoton or in the recoil squared invariant mass distribution



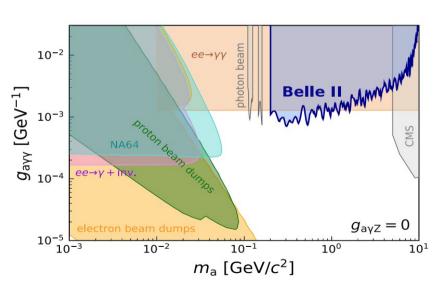
F. Abudinén et al. (Belle II Collaboration) Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 161806

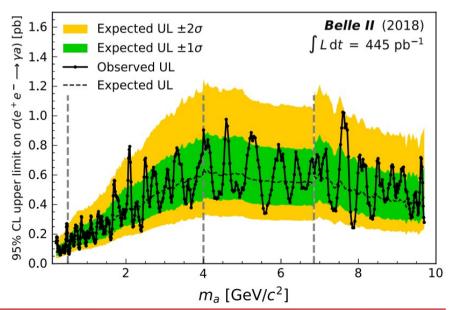
## Search for ALP in e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> → yyy



- No signal found in 445 pb-1 of data
- First limits on gavy set using the <u>fully reconstructed three-photon final state</u>

$$\sigma_a = \frac{g_{a y y}^2 \alpha_{QED}}{24} (1 - \frac{m_a^2}{s})^3$$





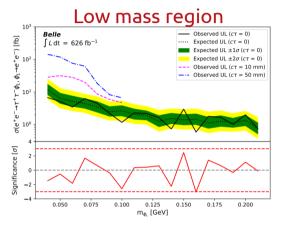
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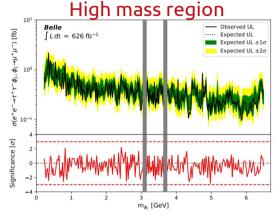


# Search for a dark leptophilic scalar in $\tau$ decays



No significant excess observed in 626 fb<sup>-1</sup> in all mass region





- 90 % CL UL on  $\xi$  vs m( $\Phi_i$ )
  - → comparable or more stringent limits than BaBar (Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 181801, 514 fb<sup>-1</sup>)
  - $\rightarrow$  exclude a wide range of parameter space of the model favored by  $(g-2)_{\mu}$

