

# Dark sector searches at Belle II

International Conference on Neutrino and Dark Matter - NuDM2024

December 11-14, 2024, Cairo – Egypt

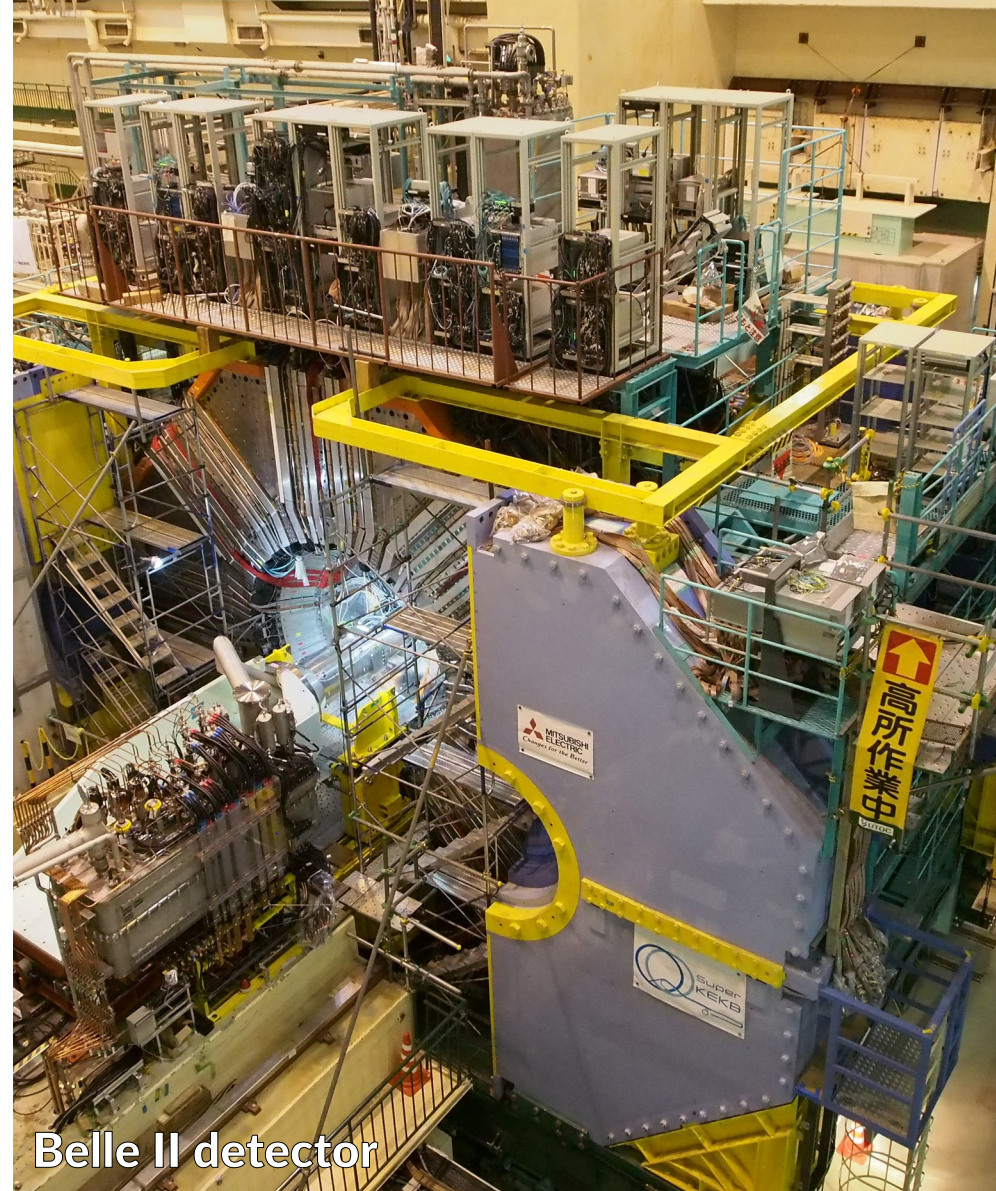
**Luigi Corona** – INFN, Sezione di Pisa  
on behalf of the Belle II collaboration

 [luigi.corona@pi.infn.it](mailto:luigi.corona@pi.infn.it)



# Outline

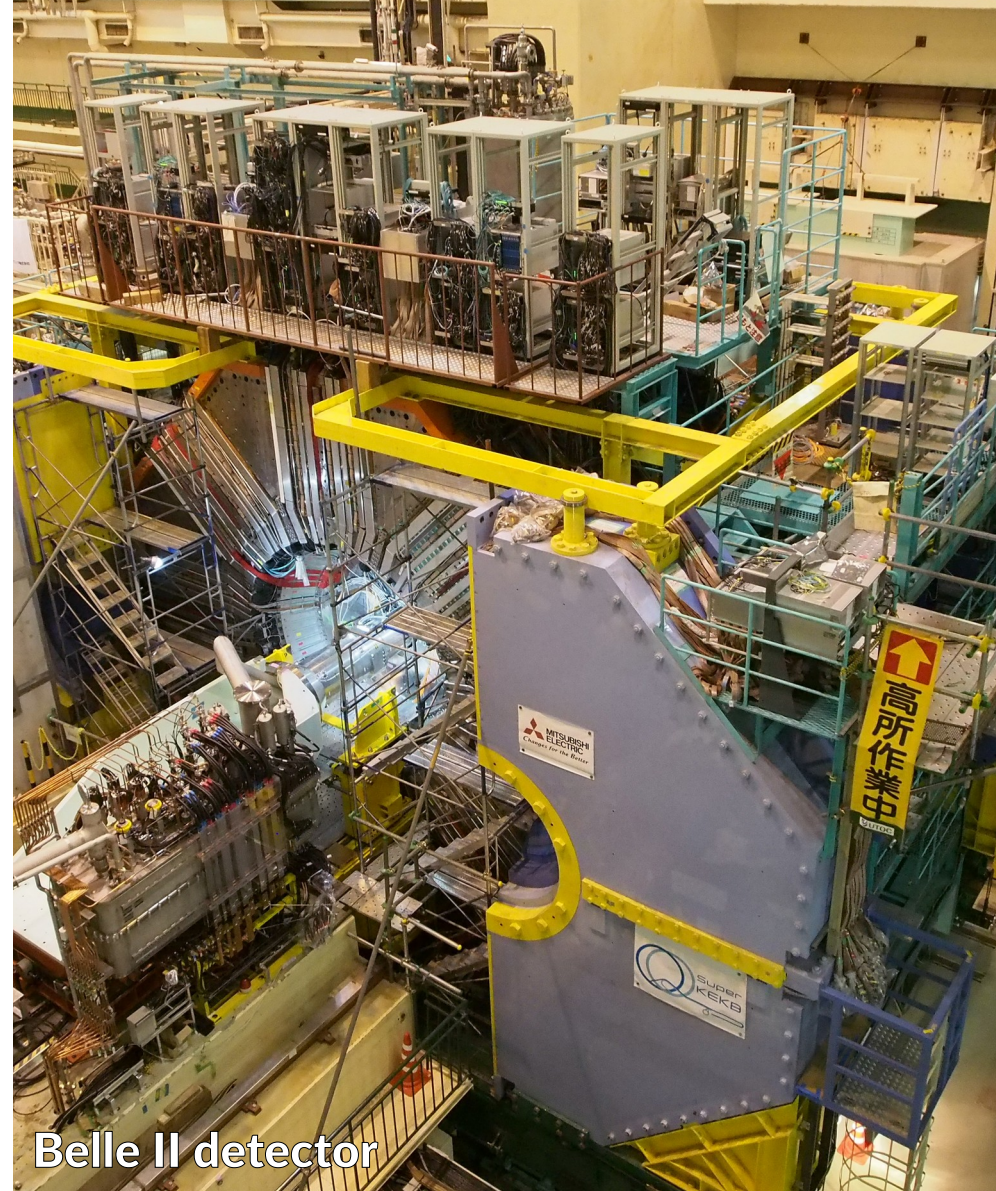
- Introduction to **dark sectors**
- Introduction to the **Belle II** experiment
- Overview of recent **dark sector** searches at Belle II
- Summary and Conclusions



Belle II detector



# Introduction to dark sectors



Belle II detector

# Evidences of dark matter

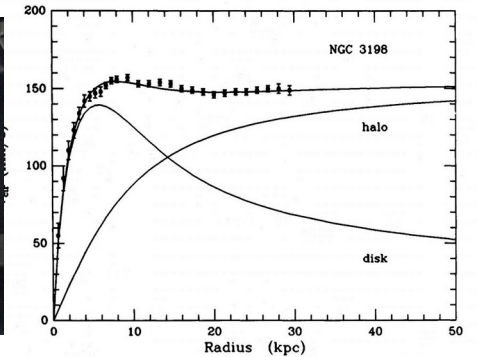
Many **astrophysics** and **cosmological observations** provide evidences for dark matter existence

- Flat rotational curves of galaxies
  - First **evidence of unseen mass**
- Gravitational lensing
- Cosmic Microwave Background anisotropy

F. Zwicky in 1930s

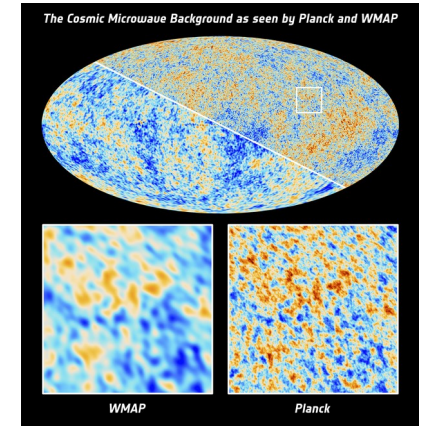
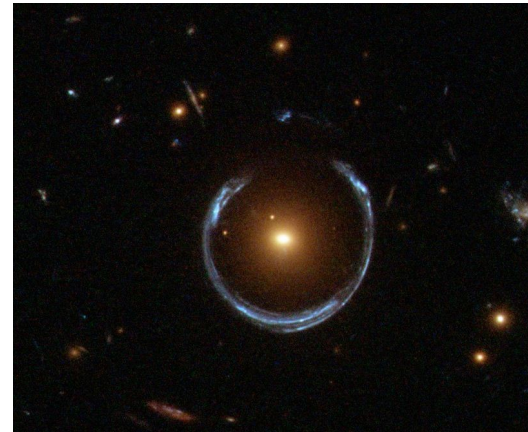


V. Rubin in 1970s



## DM nature is unknown

- It is one of the most compelling phenomena in support for physics beyond the Standard Model
- Awaiting for discovery

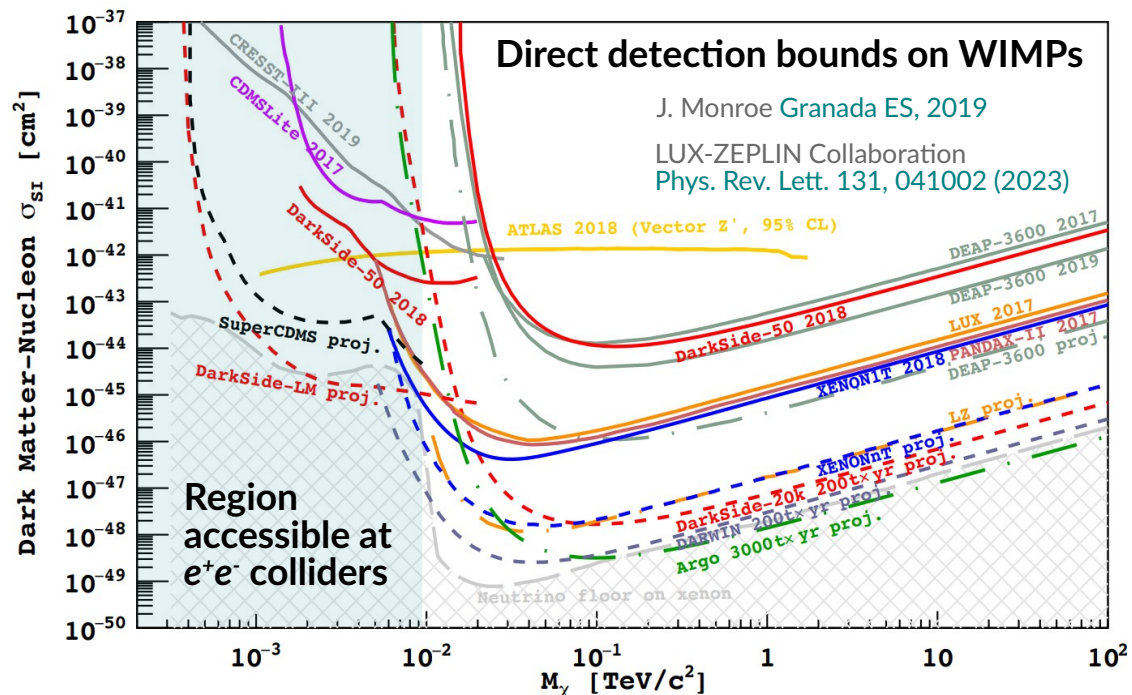




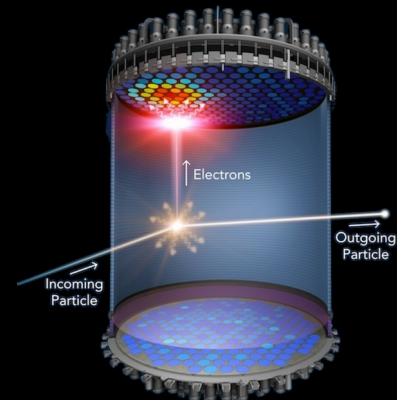
# Dark matter searches

If DM weakly couples to SM particles, it can be produced in SM particles annihilation at accelerators

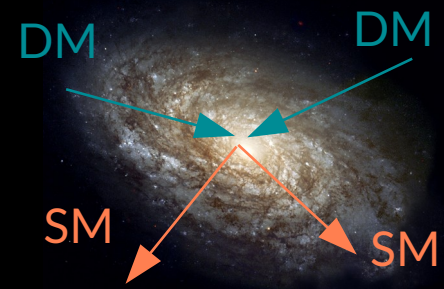
Involve dark sector mediators



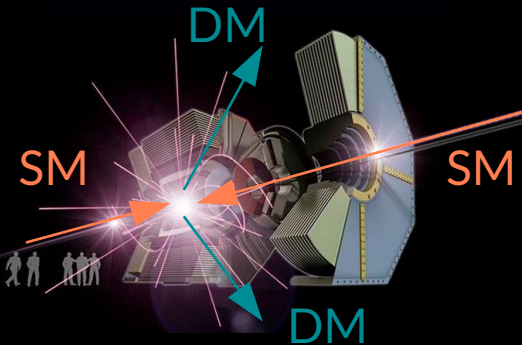
Direct detection



Indirect detection

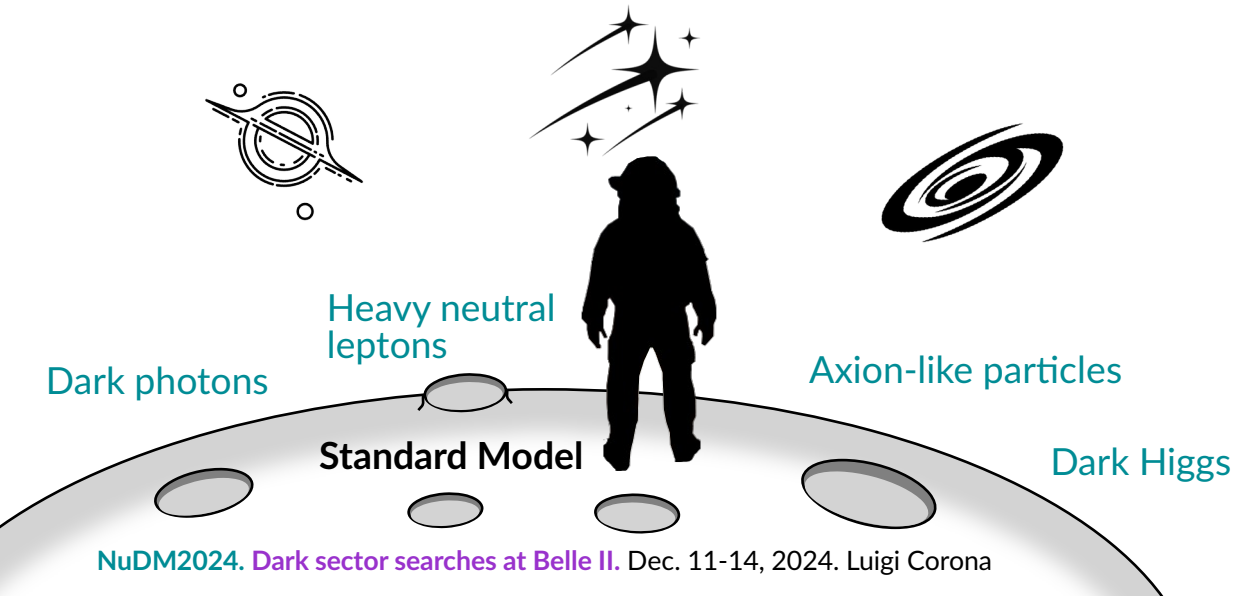


Colliders

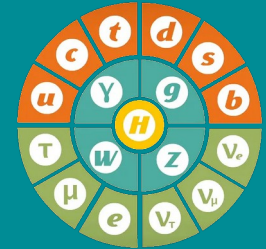


# Dark sector landscape

- No evidence of DM at electro-weak scale in experiments
  - Light DM with  $M \sim \mathcal{O}(\text{MeV-GeV})$  well motivated
    - ▶ They may solve “DM puzzle” and explain observed anomalies like the  $(g - 2)_\mu$
- Light dark mediators involved in the DM interaction with SM
  - “portals” of interaction



## “Portals” of interaction



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{vector}} \sim \varepsilon F^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}} \sim |H|^2 (\kappa S + \lambda S^2)$$

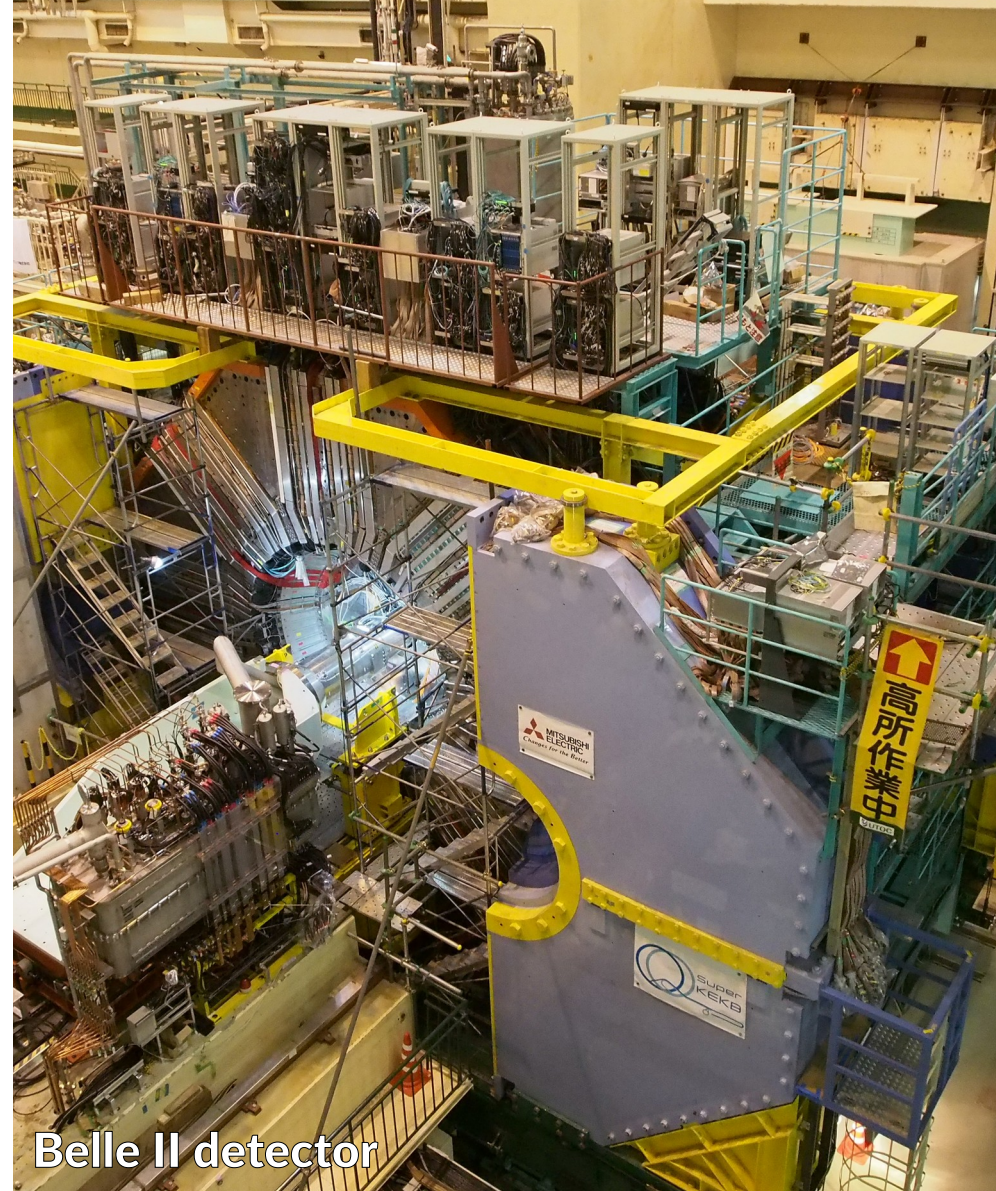
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{fermion}} \sim y H L N$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pseudo-scalar}} \sim \frac{1}{f_a} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} a + \dots$$





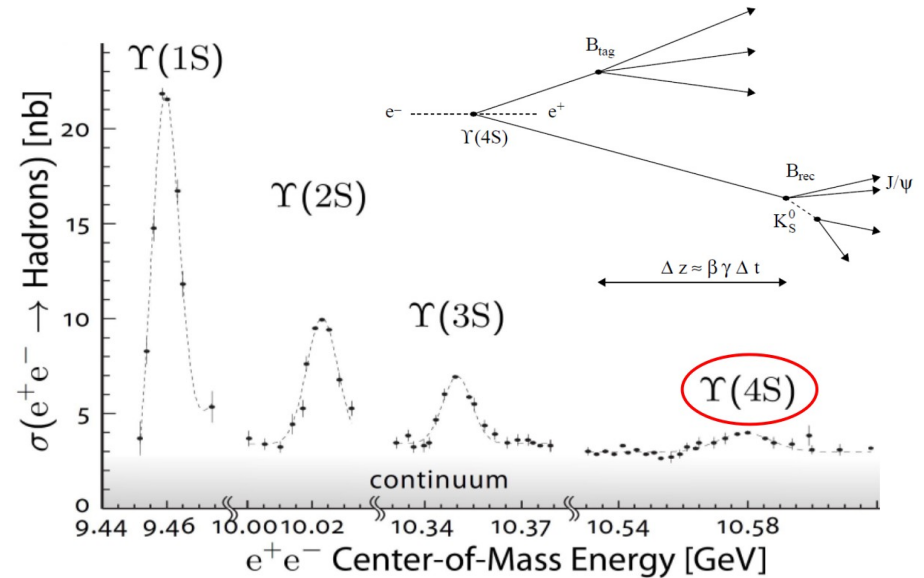
# The Belle II experiment



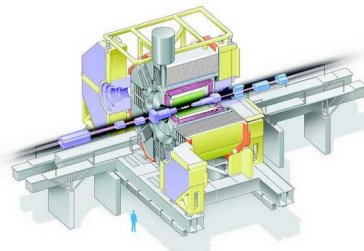
Belle II detector

# B-factories

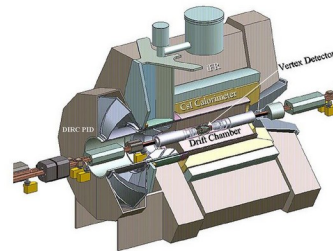
- Asymmetric  $e^+e^-$  colliders optimized for the production of  $B$  meson pairs, but also  $D$  mesons,  $\tau$  leptons, ...
- Collisions occur at  $Y(nS)$  resonances
  - ➔ Mainly at  $Y(4S)$ :  $\sqrt{s} = 10.58$  GeV just above the production threshold of  $B\bar{B}$   
 $BR(Y(4S) \rightarrow B\bar{B}) > 96\%$
- Asymmetric beam energies: boosted  $B\bar{B}$  pairs, for CP-violation time-dependent measurements
- High peak luminosity  $L > 10^{34}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>



## First generation of B-factories

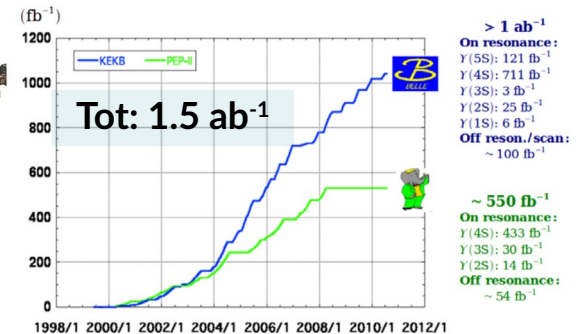


Belle@KEKB, KEK, Tsukuba (JP)  
1999–2010,  $\int L dt = 1 \text{ ab}^{-1}$



BABAR@PEP-II, SLAC (USA)  
1999–2008,  $\int L dt = 0.5 \text{ ab}^{-1}$

## Integrated luminosity of B factories

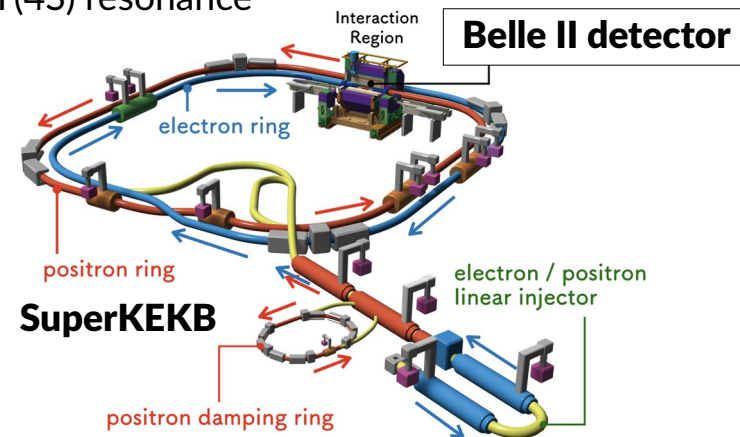
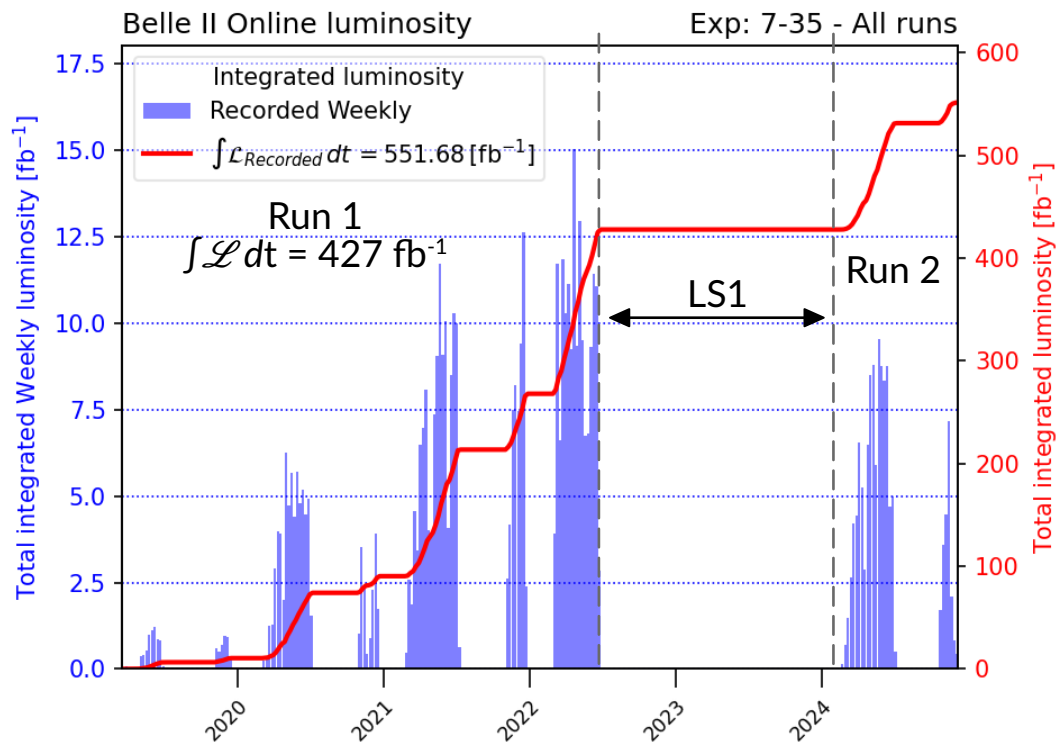




# The Belle II experiment at SuperKEKB



- **Belle II** Luminosity-frontier experiment that searches for physics beyond the Standard Model
- **SuperKEKB** Asymmetric  $e^+e^-$  collisions mainly at 10.58 GeV, i.e. at the  $\Upsilon(4S)$  resonance



- **Long-shutdown (LS1)** Several accelerator and detector maintenance and improvements

## High luminosity

**Target**

$$\int \mathcal{L} dt = 50 ab^{-1}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{peak} = 6 \times 10^{35} cm^{-2}s^{-1}$$

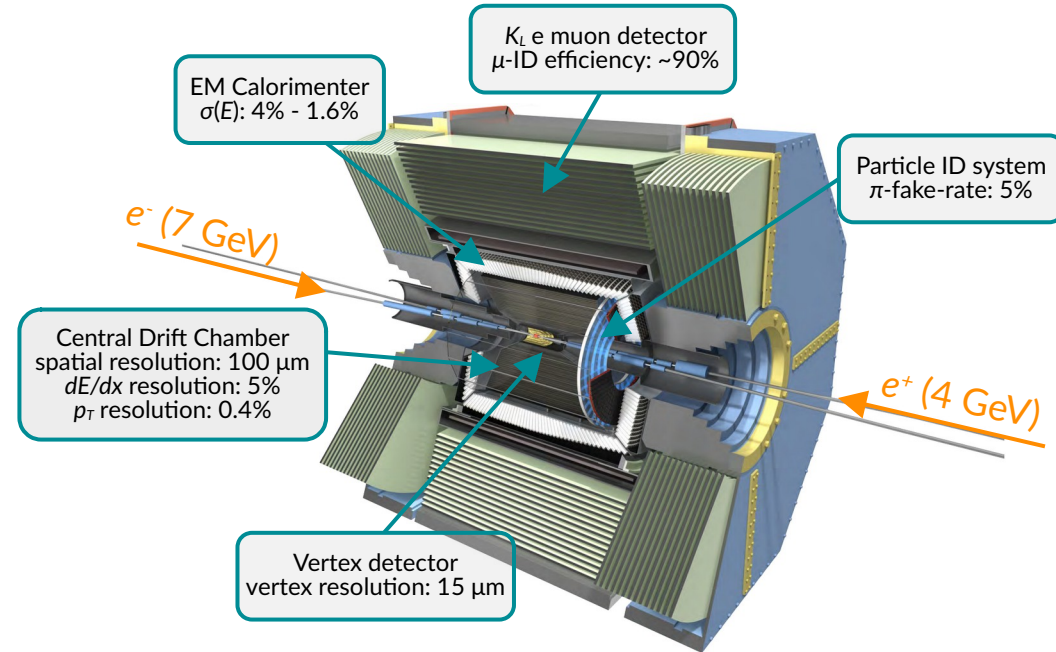
**Achieved**

$$\int \mathcal{L} dt > 550 fb^{-1}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{peak} = 4.7 \times 10^{34} cm^{-2}s^{-1}$$

# The Belle II experiment at SuperKEKB

- Belle II Upgrade of Belle at KEKB → Hermetic detector with excellent particle identification (PID) performance
- Well known initial-state condition ( $e^+e^-$  collisions)
- Clean environment with low background
- Dedicated low-multiplicity triggers
  - Suppress high-cross-section QED processes without “killing” the signal
  - Precise knowledge of acceptance and efficiencies of the detector required
  - Example: single-photon trigger available in the full collected data set → makes Belle II dataset unique

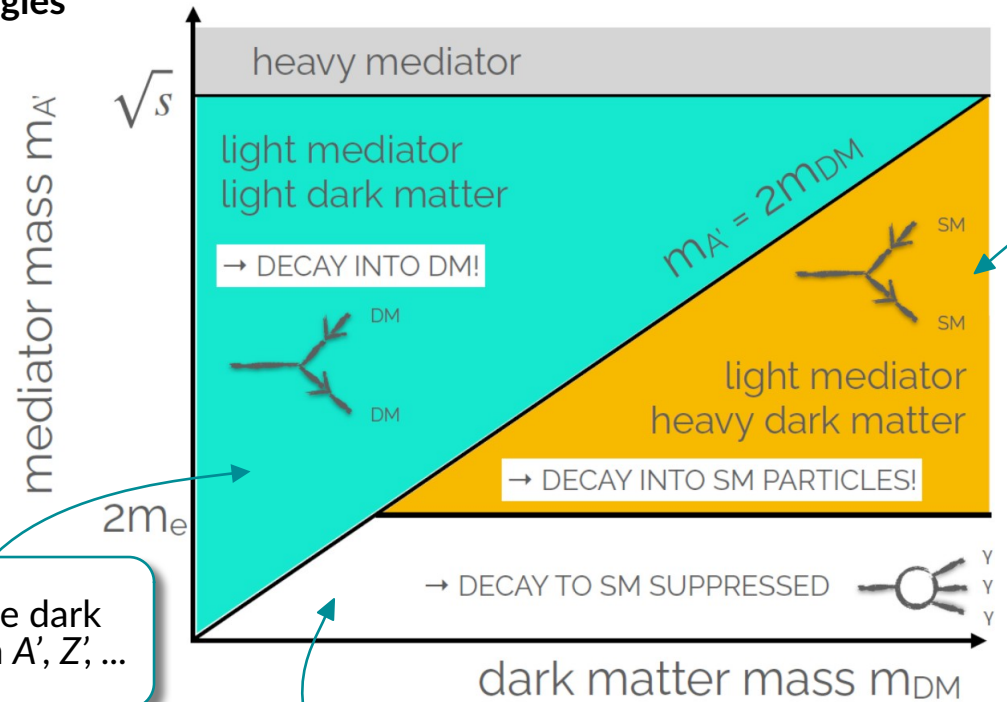


Excellent reconstruction capabilities for low multiplicities and missing energy signatures

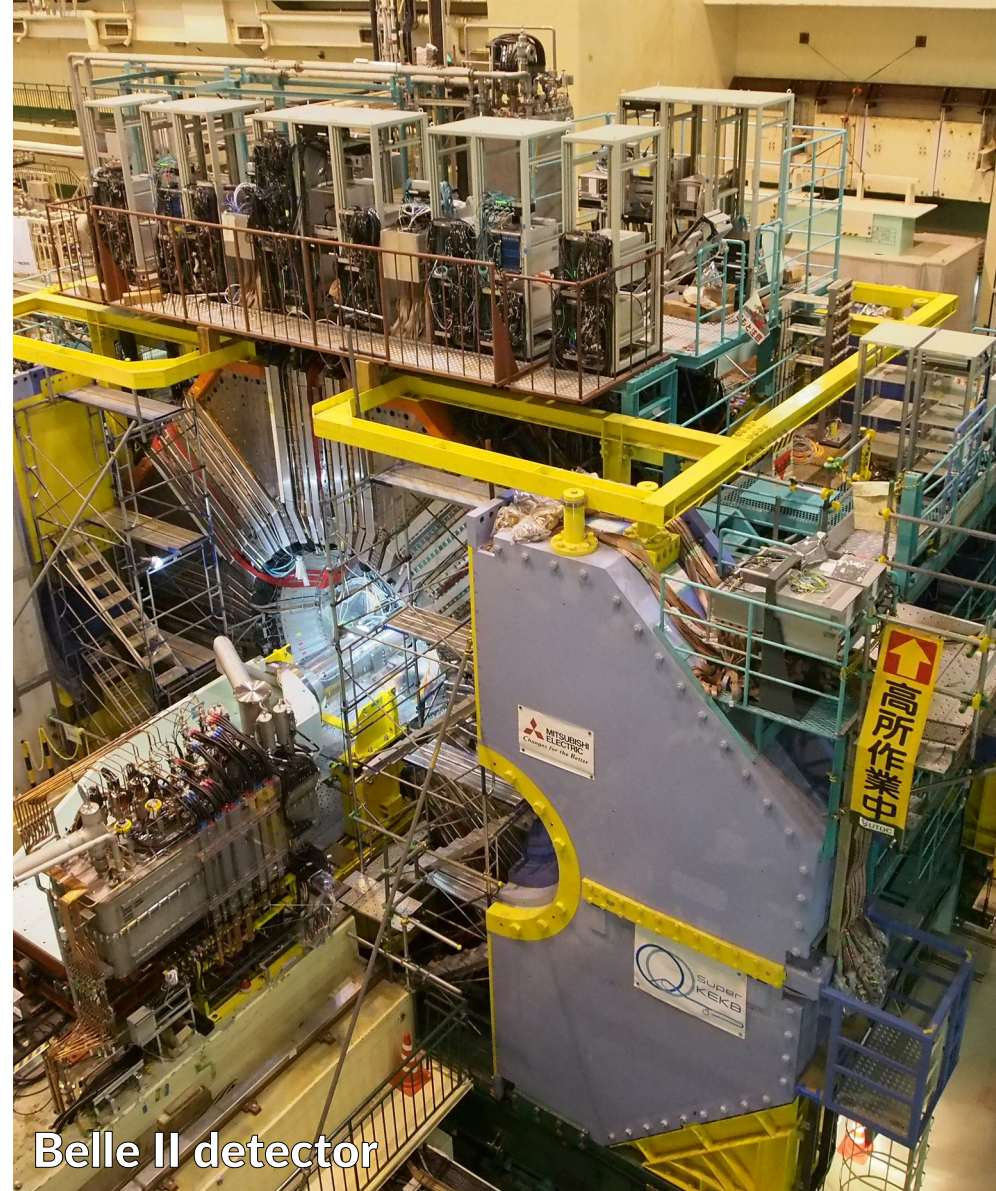


# Dark sector experimental signatures

- The relationship between mass of the mediators and mass of DM candidates leads to different topologies
- Negligible interaction probability of DM with the detector
  - Search for final states with **missing mass**
  - Search for **mediators (visible or invisible)**
  - Search for both
- In models where decay to SM is suppressed
  - **Long-lived mediators**
- Belle II Sensitive in  $M \sim \mathcal{O}(\text{MeV-GeV})$ 
  - Search for **dark sector particles** produced in  $e^+e^-$  annihilations or in rare meson decays



# Exploring the dark sectors at Belle II



Belle II detector



# Search for $Z'$ bosons

Shuve et al., Phys. Rev. D 89 , 113004 (2014)  
 D. Curtin et al., JHEP 02 (2015) 157  
 Altmannshofer et al., JHEP 106 (2016)

- Massive  $Z'$  boson with a coupling  $g'$  only to leptons with  $\mu$ - and  $\tau$ -lepton numbers  $\rightarrow L_\mu - L_\tau$  extension of the SM

- It may explain  $(g - 2)_\mu$  anomaly and DM abundance

- Possible decays:

- $Z' \rightarrow$  invisible ( $\nu\bar{\nu}$  or  $\chi\bar{\chi}$ ),  $Z' \rightarrow \mu\mu$ ,  $Z' \rightarrow \tau\tau$

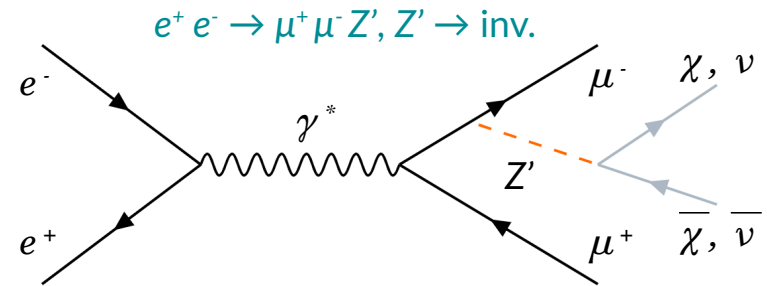
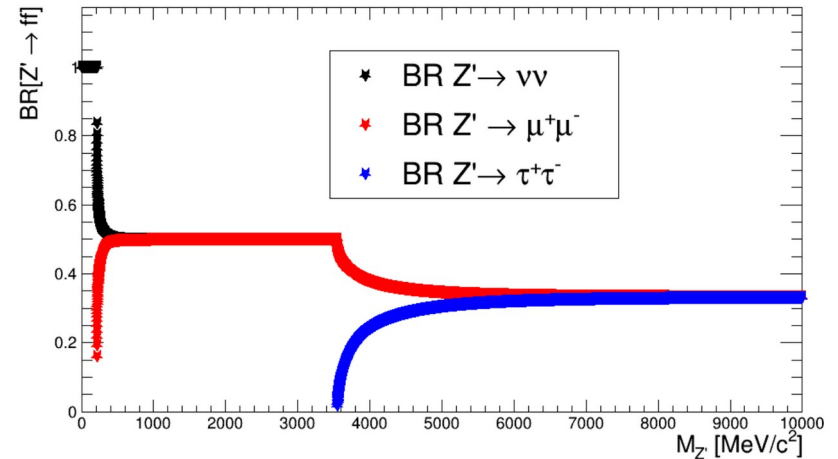
- $Z' \rightarrow$  invisible ( $Z' \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}/\chi\bar{\chi}$ )

- If light DM  $\chi$  kinematically accessible exists,  
 **$BR(Z' \rightarrow \text{invisible}) = 100\%$**

- Profit from the excellent Belle II capabilities for missing energy signatures

- Existing limits from BaBar (2016), CMS (2019), Belle II (2020), Belle (2022), BESIII (2024), NA64- $e$  (2022), NA64- $\mu$  (2024), neutrino-nucleus scattering experiments (CCF, CHARM)

$L_\mu - L_\tau$  model  $Z'$  branching ratios in leptons

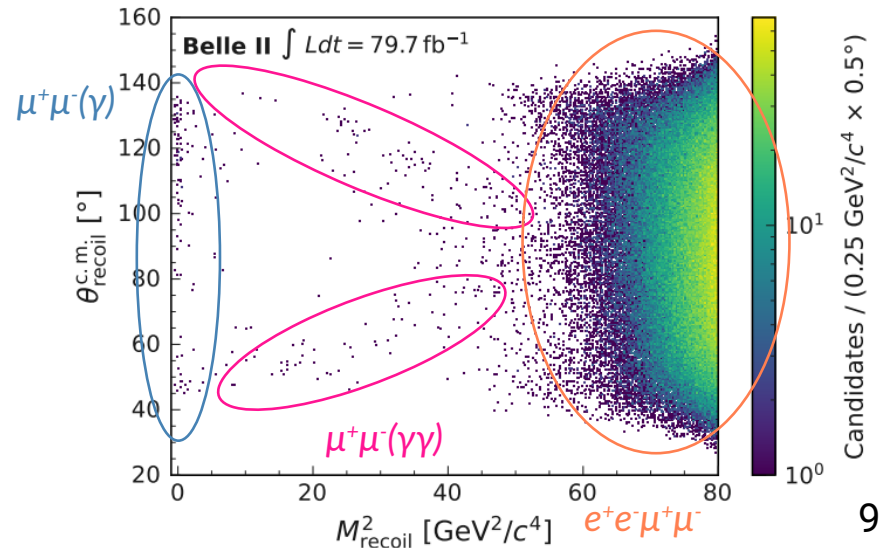
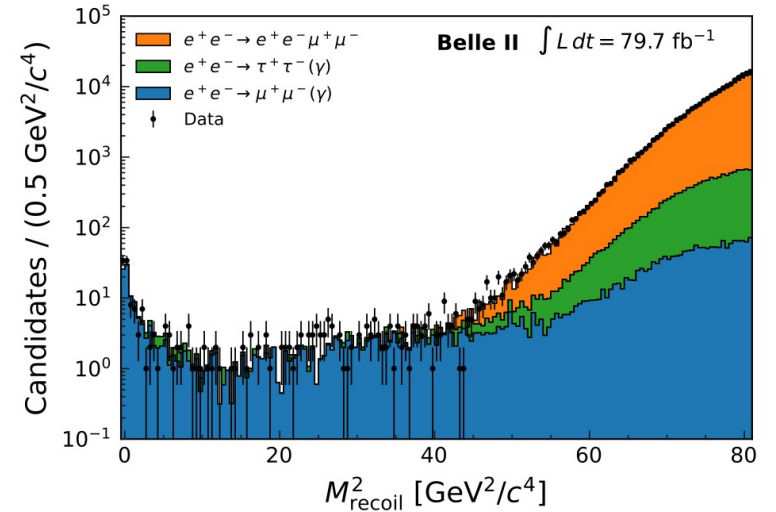


# Z' → invisible

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 231801 (2023)

- Searched for through the process  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-Z', Z' \rightarrow \text{inv.}$
- Signal signature is a **narrow peak in the recoil mass of the two final-state muons**
- Challenging  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-(\gamma)$  suppression tackled with **neural network** trained simultaneously on all  $Z'$  mass hypotheses
  - Based on  $Z'$  property to be emitted as final state radiation (FSR) from one of the two muons in the final state
    - ▶ Different origin of missing energy with respect to main background components
- Signal extracted through **2D binned likelihood fit to  $M_{\text{recoil}}^2$  vs  $\theta_{\text{recoil}}^{\text{CMS}}$**

$$M_{\text{recoil}}^2(\mu\mu) = s + M(\mu\mu)^2 - 2\sqrt{s}(E_{\mu^+}^{\text{CMS}} + E_{\mu^-}^{\text{CMS}})$$

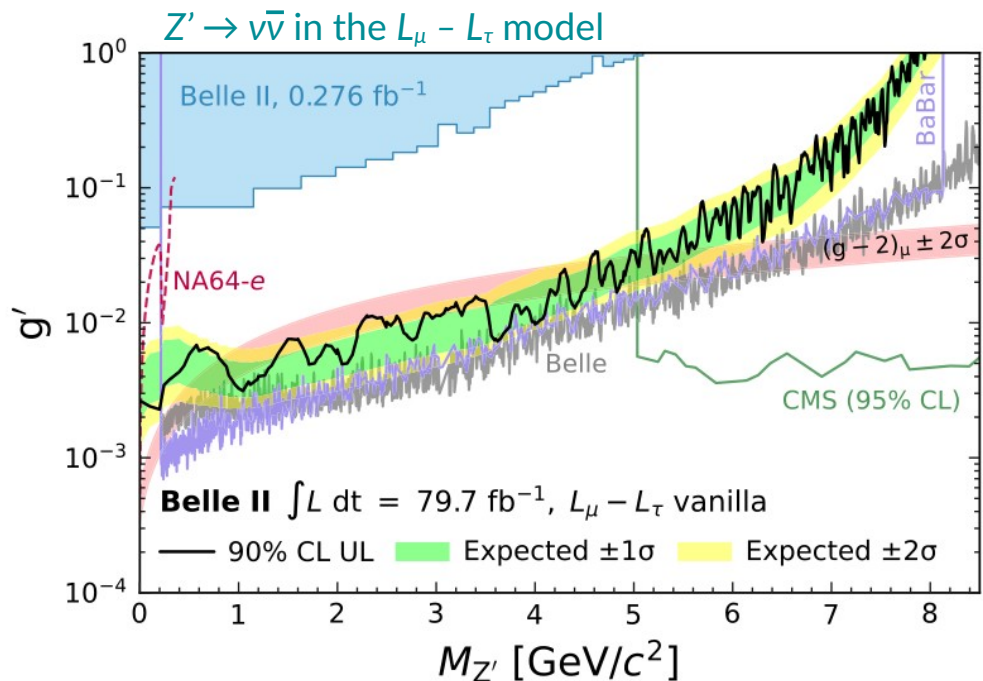
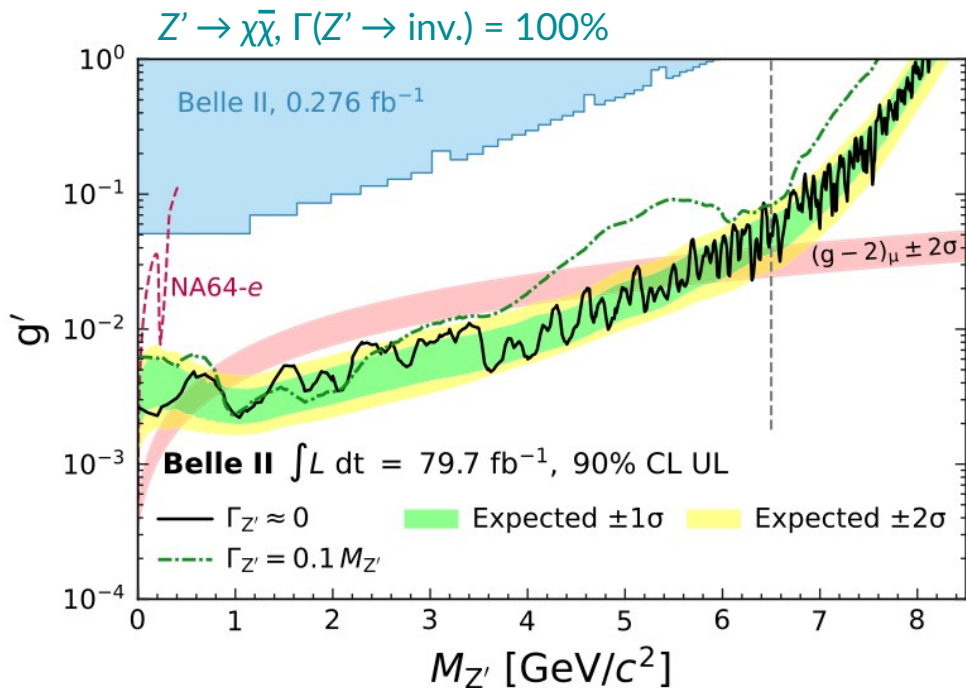




# $Z' \rightarrow$ invisible

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 231801 (2023)

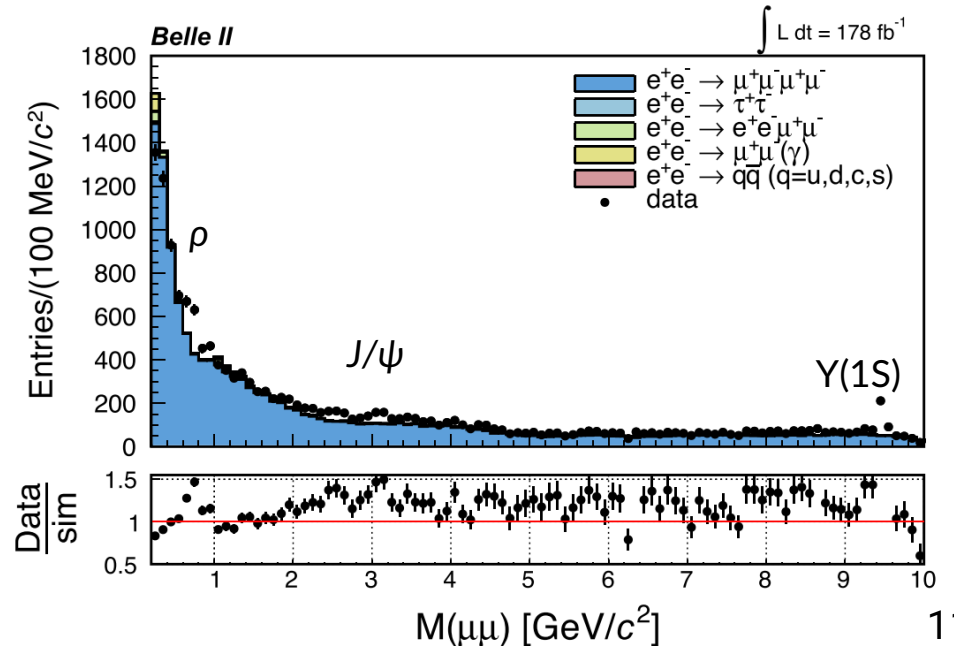
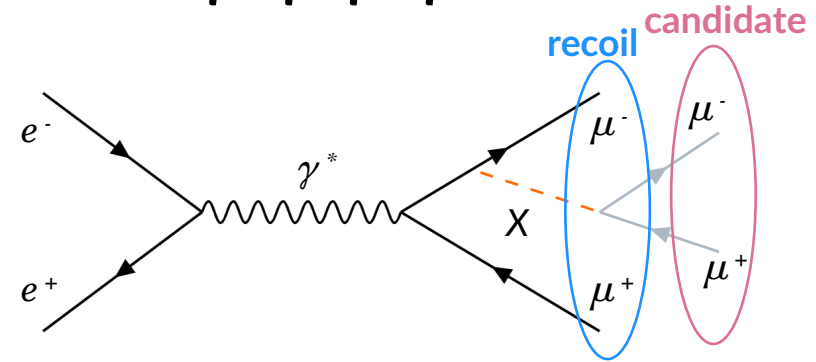
- No significant excess found in  $79.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ 
  - $(g - 2)_\mu$  region escluded for  $M_{Z'} \in (0.8, 5.0) \text{ GeV}/c^2$  for  $\Gamma(Z' \rightarrow \text{inv.}) = 100\%$



# Search for a $\mu\mu$ -resonance in $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. D 109, 112015 (2024)

- Four-track final state with at least **three identified as muons**
  - Four-track invariant mass compatible with collision  $\sqrt{s}$
  - No extra energy
- Signal signature is a **narrow peak in the opposite-charge di-muon mass  $M(\mu\mu)$**
- Challenging aggressive suppression of main **SM background  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$** 
  - Based on classifiers trained exploiting the features of kinematic distributions in signal events
    - ▶ Presence of a resonance in both **candidate** and **recoil** muon pairs
- Signal extracted through fits to  $M(\mu\mu)$



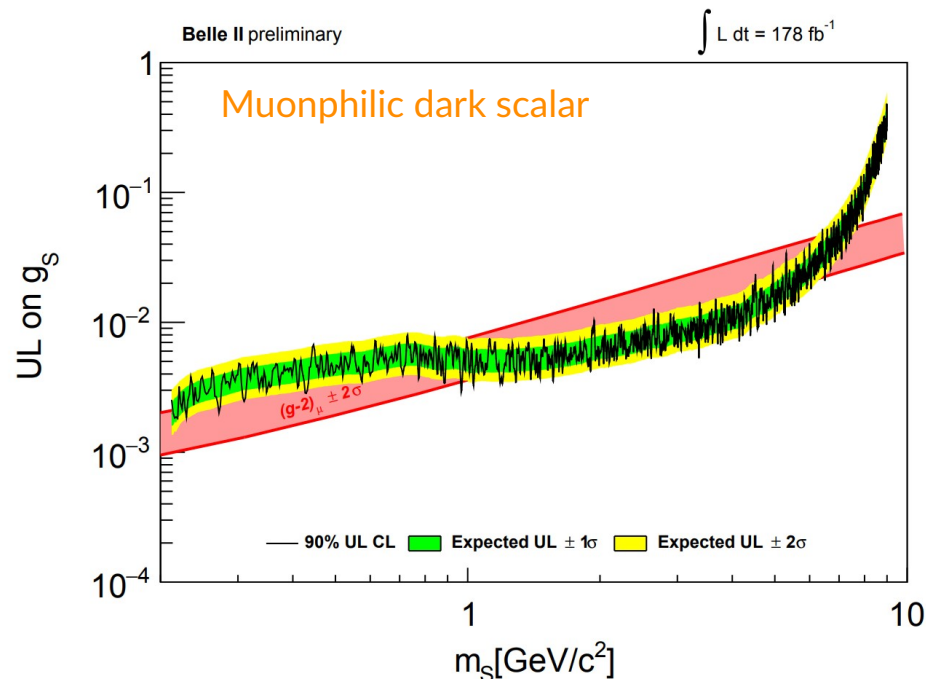
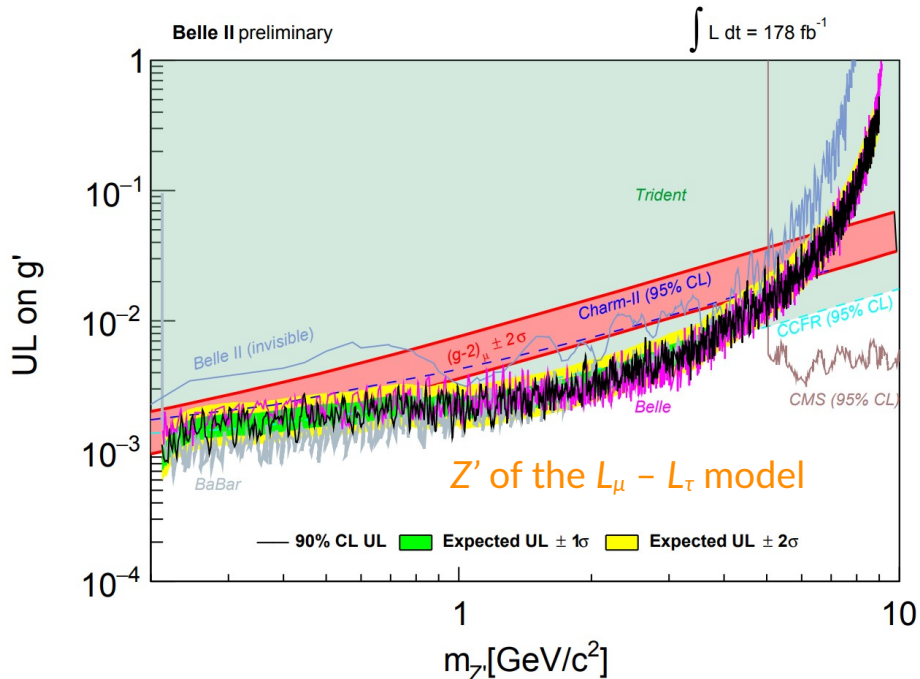
# Search for a $\mu\mu$ -resonance in $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$ : results

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. D 109, 112015 (2024)

P. Harris et al., arxiv-2207.08990 (2022)  
S. Gori et al., arxiv-2209.04671 (2022)

- No significant excess found in  $178 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ 
  - ➔ Competitive 90% CL upper limits on the  $g'$  coupling of the  $L_\mu - L_\tau$  model ( $Z'$ ) with BaBar ( $> 500 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ ) and Belle ( $> 600 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ ) results
  - ➔ First 90% CL upper limits for the muonphilic scalar model from a dedicated search

Efficiency is re-evaluated for the muonphilic scalar model

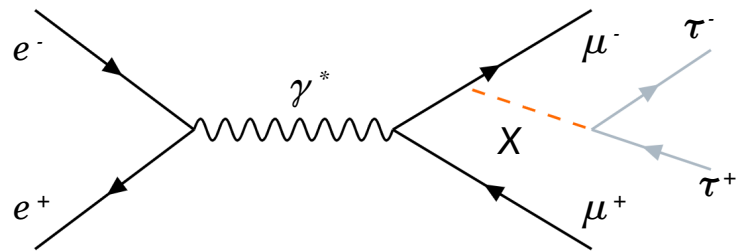




# Search for a $\tau\tau$ -resonance in $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\tau^+\tau^-$

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, 121802 (2023)

- Four-track final state:  $\tau$  decay in  $\tau \rightarrow l\nu\bar{\nu}$ ,  $\tau \rightarrow h\nu\bar{\nu}$
- Signal peaks in the recoil mass of  $\mu^+\mu^-$   $M_{\text{recoil}}(\mu\mu)$
- Challenging background rejection to reduce event contamination with missing energy not associated with signal signature

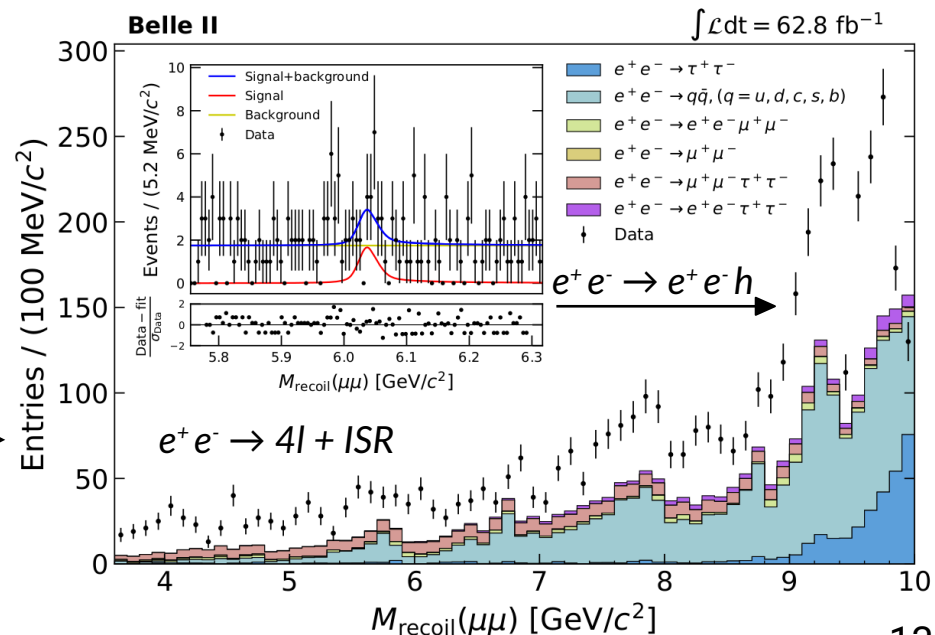


- Eight classifiers trained on different regions of recoil mass
  - ▶ Based on resonance  $X$  properties (FSR) and  $\tau\tau$  system

- Signal extracted through fit to  $M_{\text{recoil}}(\mu\mu)$  distribution

- Background measured directly on data to minimize impact of not correctly simulated backgrounds

- Smooth background on the scale of signal resolution ( $\sim 10$  MeV)  $\rightarrow$  not problematic



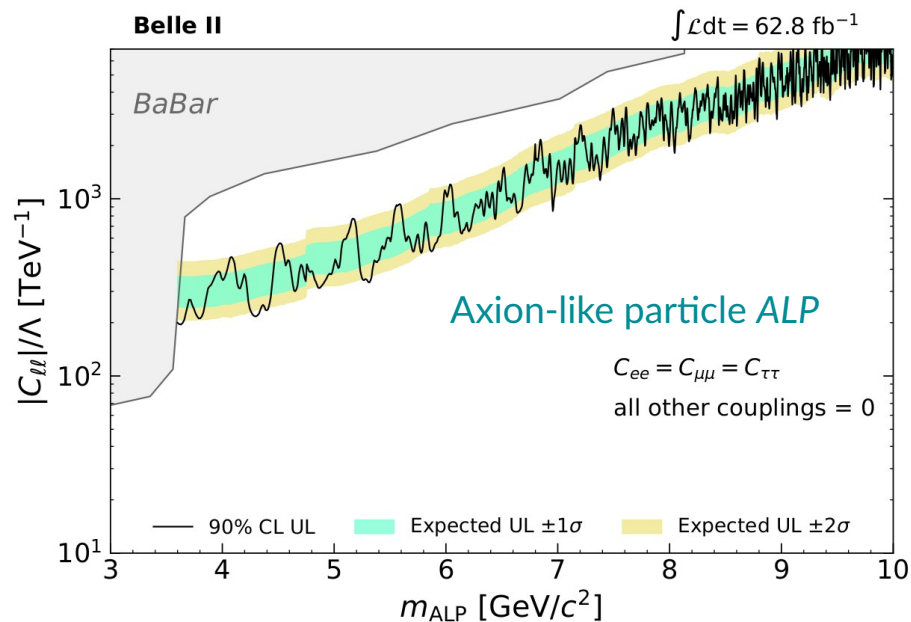
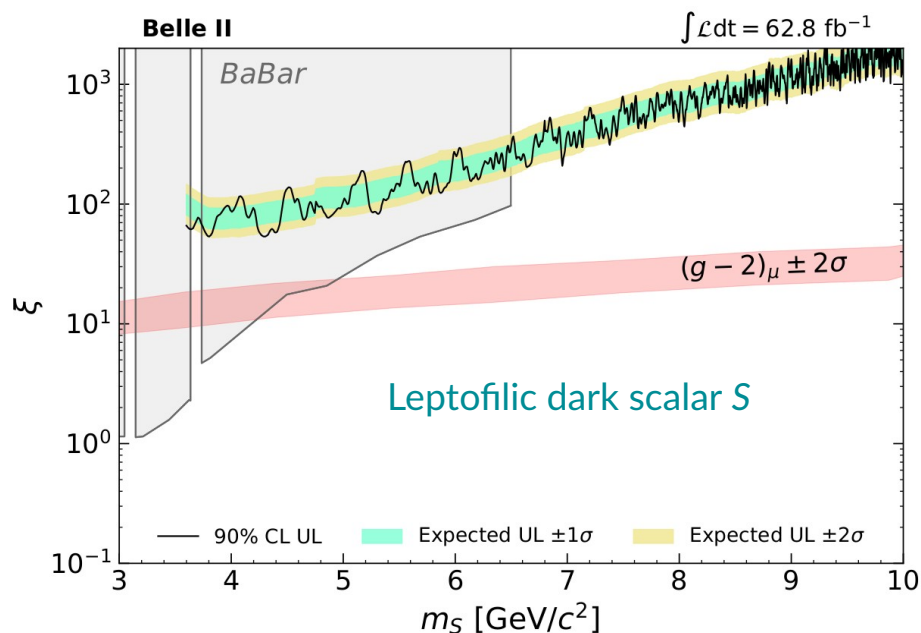
# Search for a $\tau\tau$ -resonance in $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\tau^+\tau^-$

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, 121802 (2023)

J. P. Lees et al., PhysRevLett.125.181801 (2020)  
M. Bauer et al., JHEP09-056 (2022)

- No significant excess found in  $62.8 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ 
  - First limits at 90% CL for a leptophilic dark scalar  $S$  model with  $m_S > 6.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
  - First direct limits at 90% CL for axion-like particle  $ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$

Efficiency is re-evaluated for the leptophilic scalar and ALP models



# $\tau \rightarrow l \alpha$ (invisible) decay

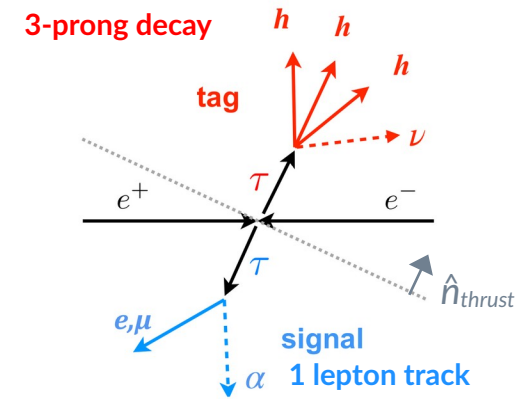
I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 181803 (2023)

- Charged-Lepton Flavour Violation (LFV) is allowed in various SM extensions  $\rightarrow$  it has never been observed
- $\tau$ -decays in new  $\alpha$  bosons that mediate LFV processes are predicted in different theoretical models
- Search for  $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \tau_{\text{sig}} \tau_{\text{tag}}, \tau_{\text{tag}} \rightarrow 3\pi \nu$
- The presence of neutrinos does not allow to define the reference frame in which  $\tau_{\text{sig}}$  is at rest
- $\rightarrow$  Introduce the approximate  $\tau_{\text{sig}}$  reference frame
- Search for a peak in the normalized energy spectrum of the lepton  $x_l$  (in the approximate  $\tau_{\text{sig}}$  reference frame) over the irreducible SM  $\tau \rightarrow l \bar{\nu} \nu$  background

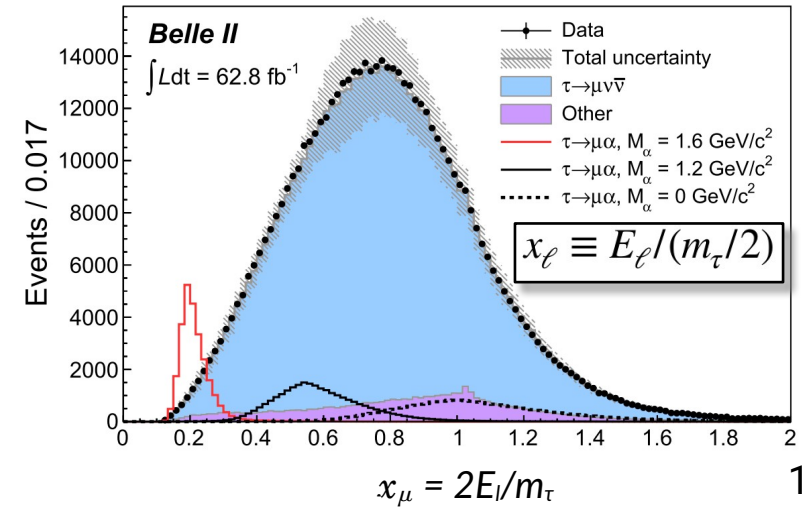
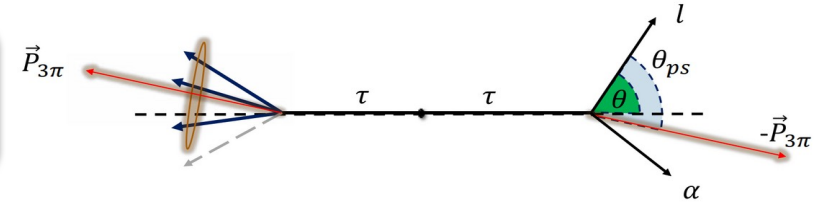
M. Bauer, et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 211803 (2020)

## Cross sections

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow b\bar{b}) &\approx 1.1 \text{ nb} \\ \sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow c\bar{c}) &\approx 1.3 \text{ nb} \\ \sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-) &\approx 0.9 \text{ nb} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \hat{p}_\tau &\approx -\frac{\vec{P}_{\text{tag}}}{|\vec{P}_{\text{tag}}|} \\ E_\tau &\approx \sqrt{s}/2 \end{aligned}$$



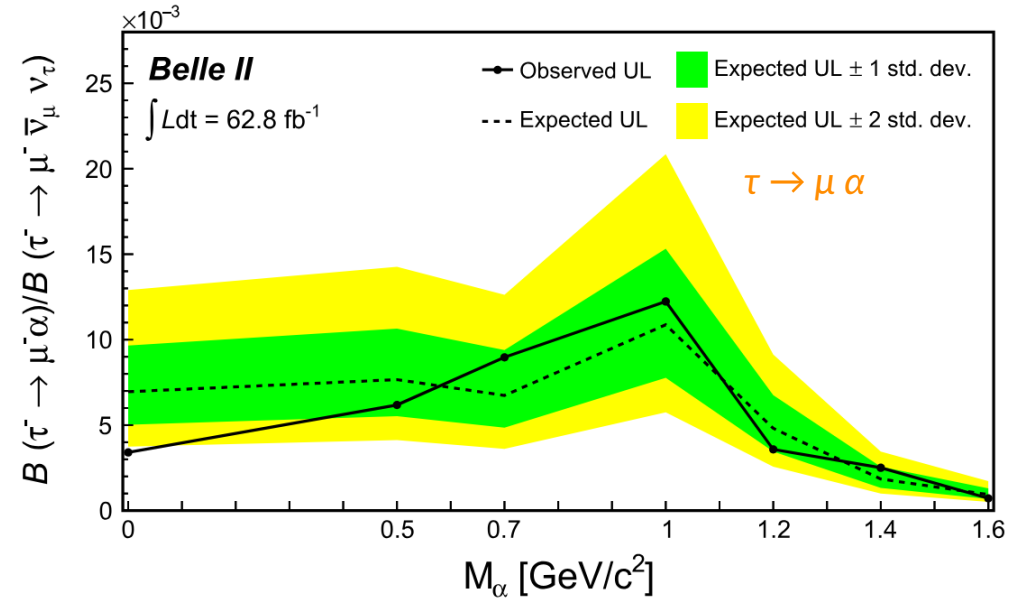
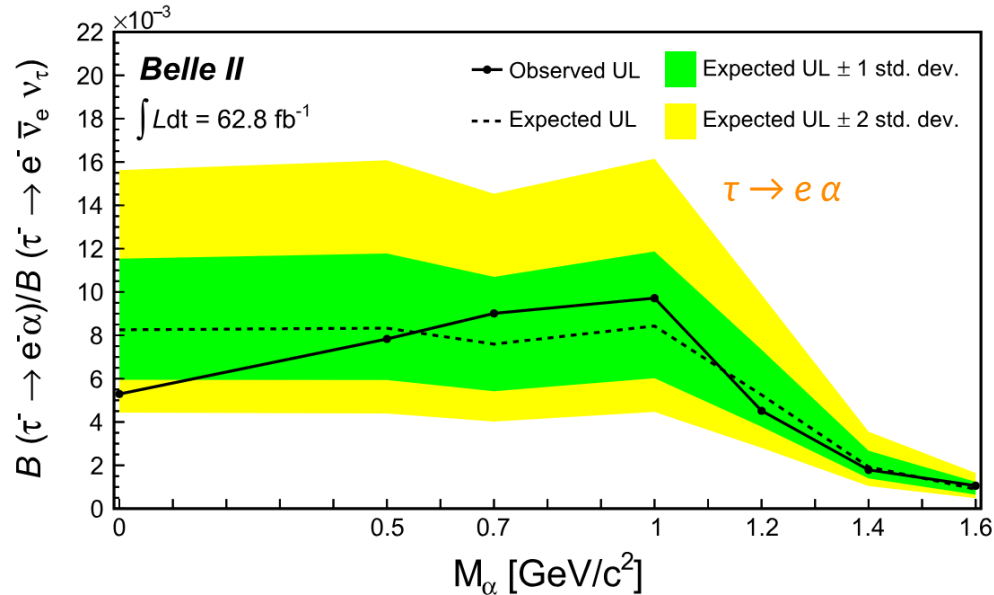


# $\tau \rightarrow l \alpha$ (invisible) decay: results

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 181803 (2023)

ARGUS Collaboration, Z. Phys. C 68, 25 (1995)

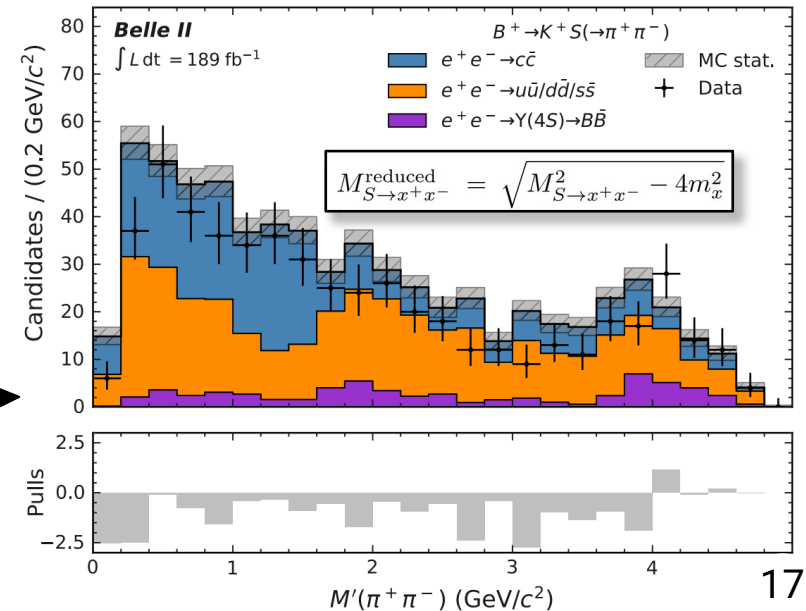
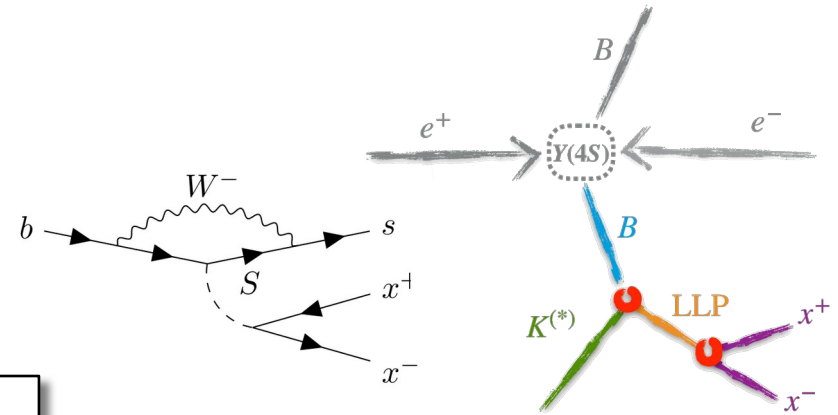
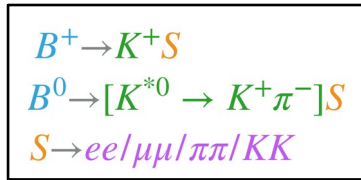
- No excess observed in  $62.8 \text{ fb}^{-1}$
- ➔ Limits from 2.2 to 14 times more stringent with respect to the previous existing limits set by ARGUS



# Long-lived spin-0 boson in $b \rightarrow s$ transitions

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. D 108, L111104 (2023)

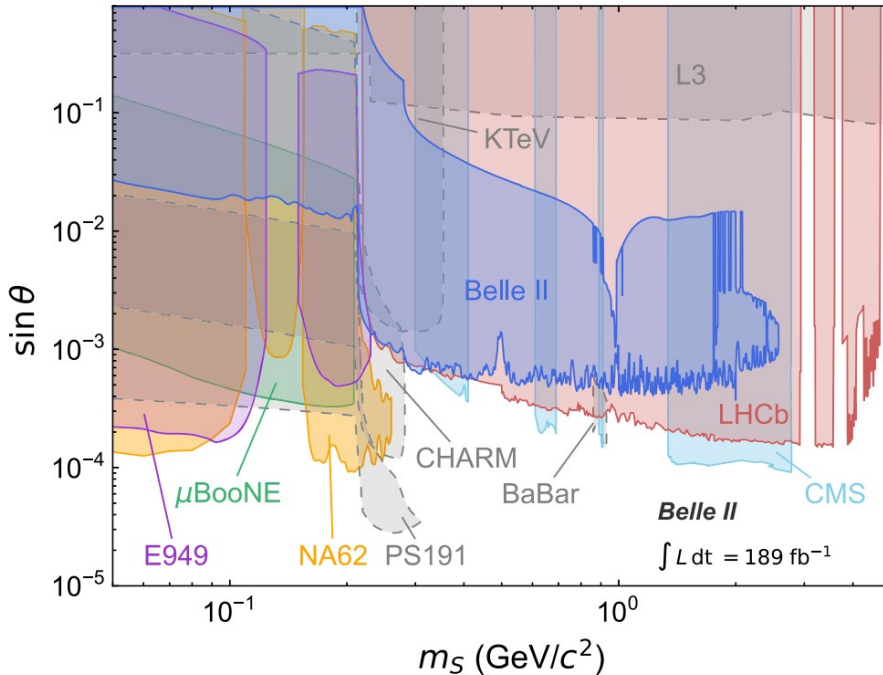
- Search for a **new scalar  $S$**  in  **$B$  meson** decays in  $b \rightarrow s$  transitions
  - ➔  $S$  can mix with SM Higgs boson with mixing angle  $\theta_s$   
→ natural long-lived particle (**LLP**) for small  $\theta_s$
  - ➔ **High performance in LLP vertex reconstruction** are necessary
- **$B$  meson** decays
  - ➔ Eight exclusive “visible” channels reconstructed
  - ➔ Prompt decay of  $K$  or  $K^*$  + **opposite-charged tracks** that make a **displaced vertex**
  - ➔ Backgrounds: combinatorial  $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ ,  $K_S$  vetoed in  $M_{\pi\pi}$  mass, additional peaking backgrounds suppressed with tighter selections on displaced vertices
- Signal extracted through **fit to the LLP reduced mass**, separately for each channel and lifetime



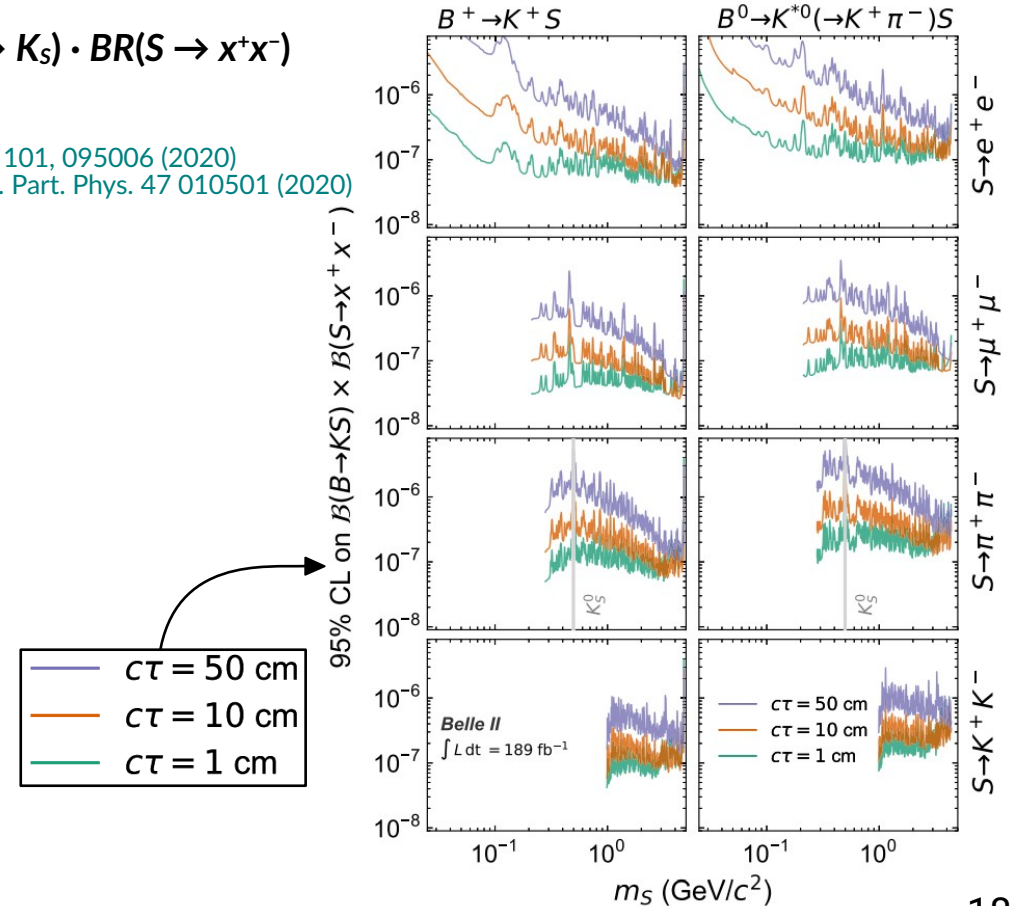
# Long-lived spin-0 boson in $b \rightarrow s$ transitions: results

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. D 108, L111104 (2023)

- No significant excess observed in  $189 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ 
  - ➔ First model-independent limits at 95% CL on  $BR(B \rightarrow K_S) \cdot BR(S \rightarrow x^+x^-)$
  - ➔ First limits on decays to hadrons
- Interpretation as dark scalar  $S$ 
  - A. Filimonova et al. Phys. Rev. D 101, 095006 (2020)
  - J Beacham et al. J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 47 010501 (2020)



Limits for each channel and lifetime





# Inelastic dark matter with a dark Higgs



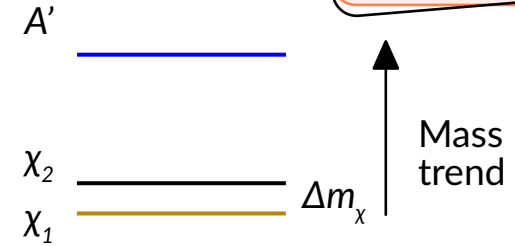
Inelastic dark matter ...

- Expanded dark sector with **two dark matter states with a small mass splitting** and a **dark photon**
  - $\chi_1$  is **stable** (relic candidate),  $\chi_2$  is **long-lived**
- Focus on  $m_{A'} > m_{\chi_1} + m_{\chi_2}$ 
  - the decay  $A' \rightarrow \chi_1 \chi_2$  is favored

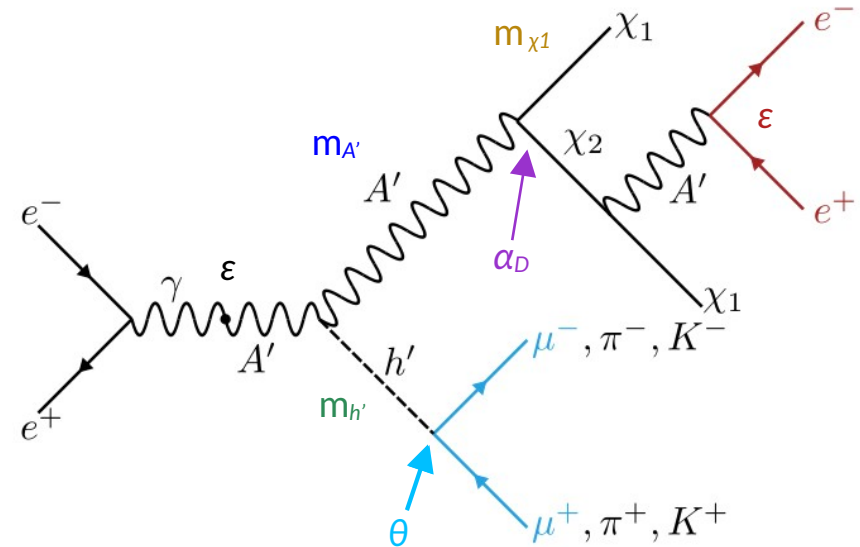
... with a dark higgs (provide mass to  $A'$ )

- $h'$  mixes with Standard Model Higgs with  $\theta$ 
  - $h'$  is **natural long-lived (LLP)** for small  $\theta$

- We have 4 dark sector particles:  $A'$ ,  $h'$ ,  $\chi_1$  and  $\chi_2$
- We have 7 parameters:  $m_{A'}$ ,  $m_{h'}$ ,  $m_{\chi_1}$ ,  $\Delta m_\chi$ ,  $\theta$ ,  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\alpha_D$



$$e^+e^- \rightarrow h'(\rightarrow x^+x^-)A'(\rightarrow \chi_1\chi_2(\rightarrow \chi_1e^+e^-), x = \mu, \pi, K$$

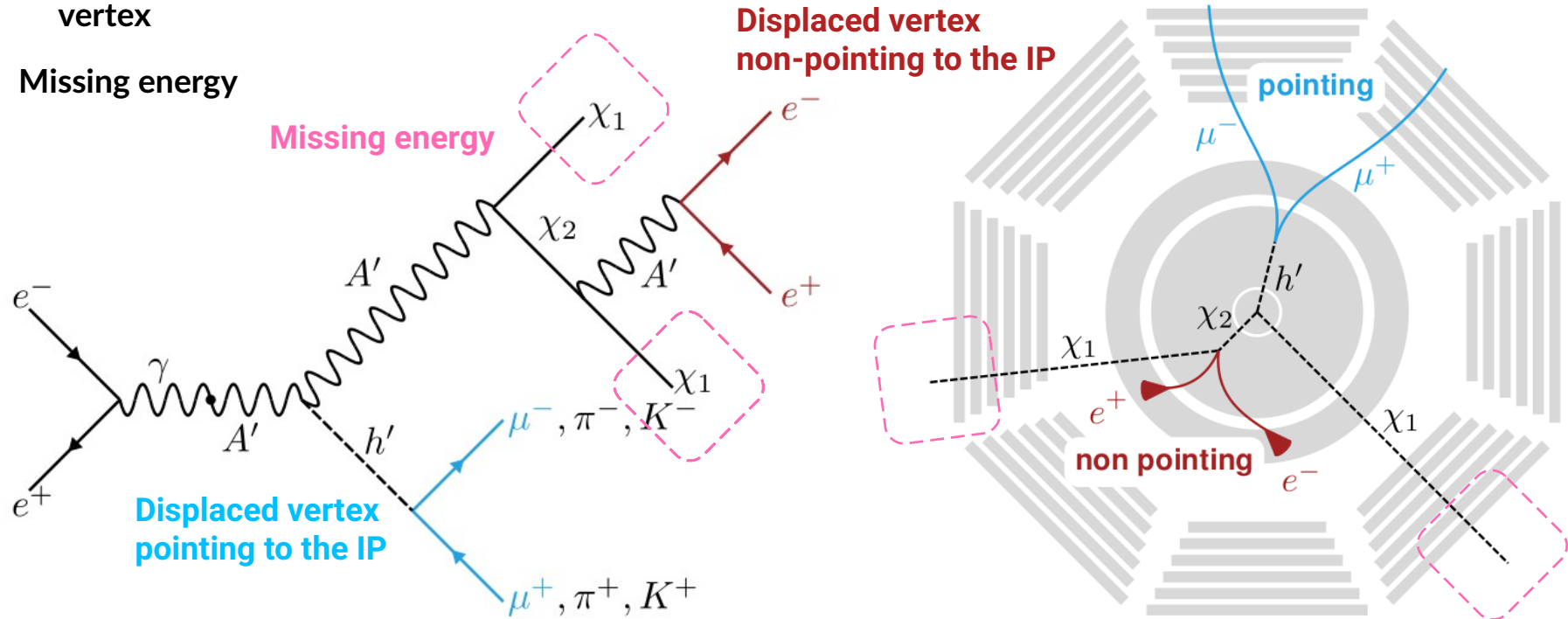


# IDM with a dark Higgs: signature



- Four tracks in the final state
  - 2 forming a **pointing displaced vertex**
  - 2 forming a **non-pointing displaced vertex**
- Missing energy

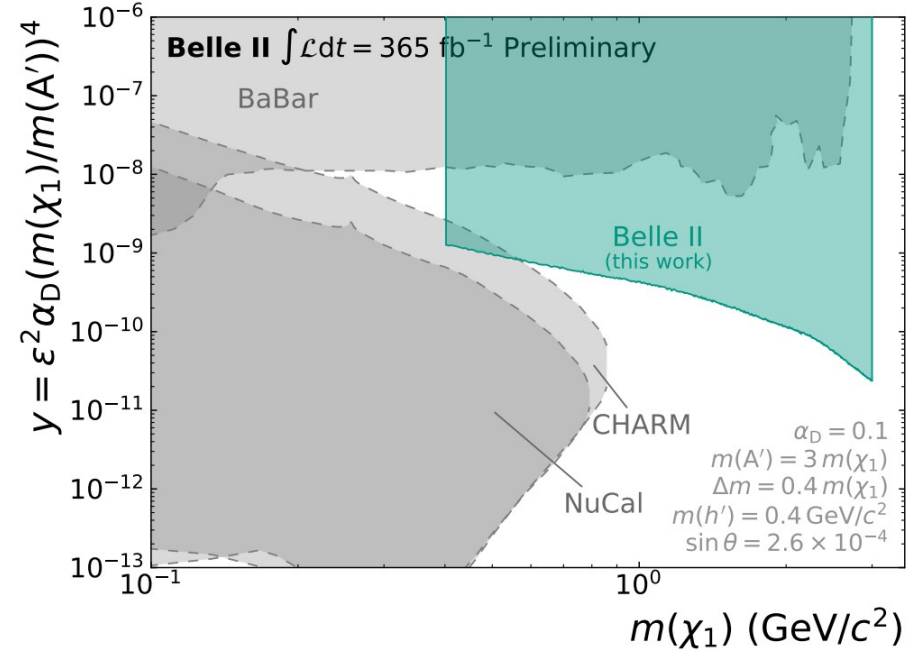
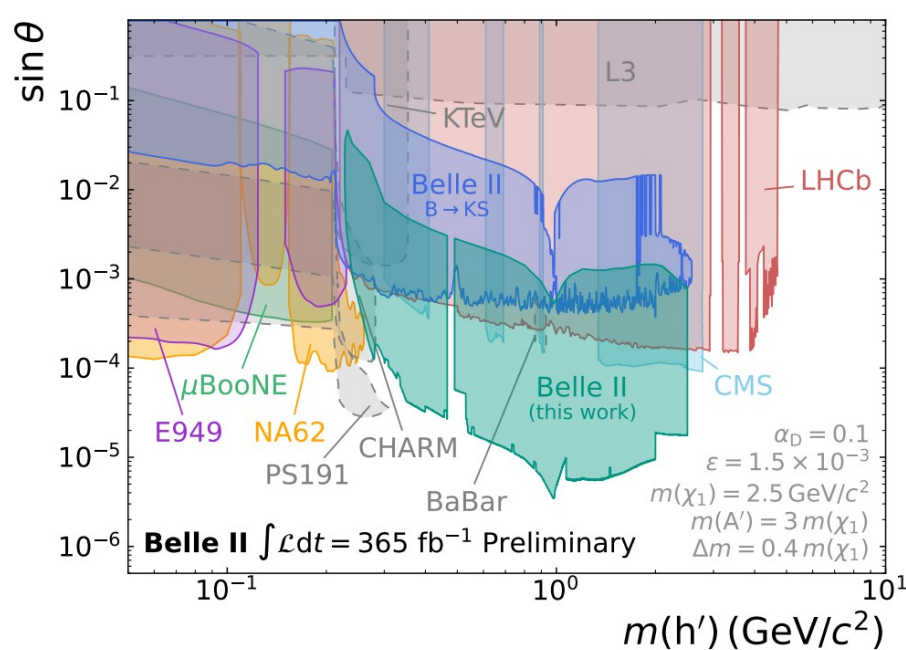
- Challenging for tracking and trigger
- Almost zero background analysis



# IDM with a dark Higgs: preliminary



- Cut-and-count strategy for extracting signal yields
- Expected background estimated in data from sidebands to not rely on MC
- No significant excess found in the individual final states or the combination → set 95% CL upper limits



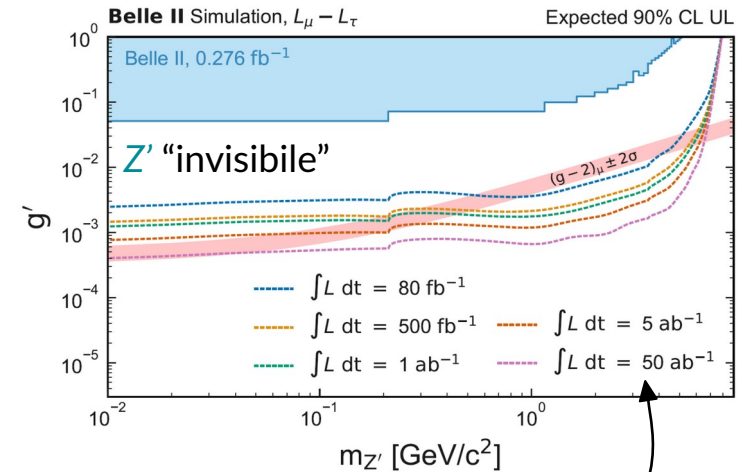


# Summary and conclusions

- Belle II has a **unique sensitivity** to **light dark sector**
  - ➔ Complementary to higher energy colliders and beam-dump experiments
  - ➔ World-leading results published with partial Run 1 datasets ( $< 427 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ )
- **Many frontiers of improvements**
  - ➔ **Increase data sample size, improved analysis techniques, and reduced systematic uncertainties**
- ▶ Search for an invisible  $Z'$  in  $ee \rightarrow \mu\mu Z'$  *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **130**, 231801 (2023)
- ▶ Search for a **resonance decaying to  $\mu\mu$**  in  $ee \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu\mu$  events *Phys. Rev. D* **109**, 112015 (2024)
- ▶ Search for a **resonance decaying to  $\tau\tau$**  in  $ee \rightarrow \mu\mu\tau\tau$  events *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **131**, 121802 (2023)
- ▶ Search for the LFV  $\tau \rightarrow l \alpha$  (**invisible**) decay *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **130**, 181803 (2023)
- ▶ Search for a **long-lived spin-0 boson** in  $b \rightarrow s$  transitions *Phys. Rev. D* **108**, L111104 (2023)
- ▶ Search for **inelastic dark matter** with a **dark Higgs** **New**

**Many more analyses published and ongoing at Belle and Belle II ...**

Snowmass paper [arxiv:2207.06307](https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.06307)



Belle II target integrated luminosity is  $50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$  (almost x100 the dataset collected so far)

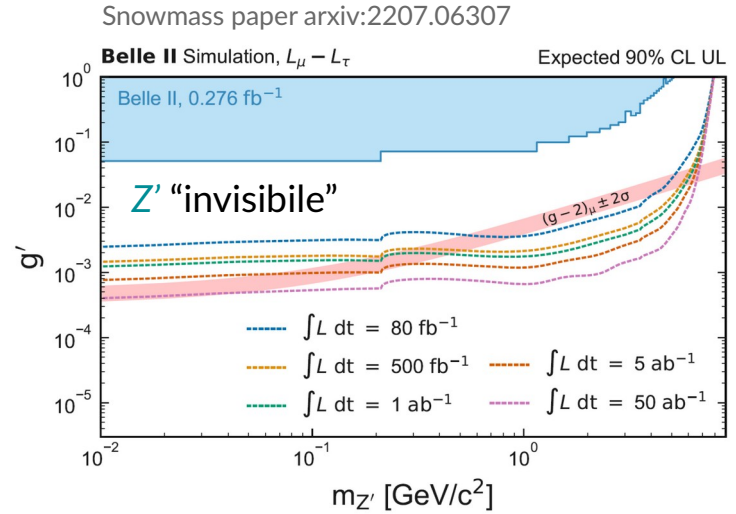
Thank you!



Backup slides

# Belle II perspectives

- Target integrated luminosity: 50  $\text{ab}^{-1}$
- Target peak luminosity:  $6 \times 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

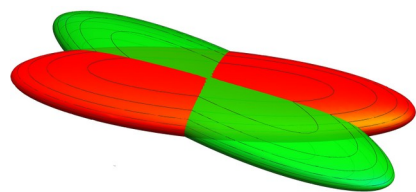


- 550  $\text{fb}^{-1}$  collected (Run 1 ( $427 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ ) + Run 2)
- **Obtained results are strongly limited by statistics**
  - World-leading results already published with early datasets (less than collected dataset of  $427 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ )

- In next years, Belle II will collect 100-times the dataset collected up to now
- ➔ **The best is yet to come!**

# SuperKEKB

- New generation of B-factory that provides luminosity to the Belle II experiment
- ➔ Asymmetric beam energies:  $e^-$  (7 GeV) /  $e^+$  (4 GeV)  
Operating mainly at Y(4S), but foreseen runs from Y(2S) to Y(6S)
- ➔ Designed to reach the world highest peak luminosity with the nano-beam scheme



KEKB

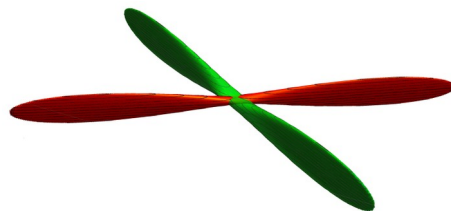
- $I(A) \sim 1.6/1.2$
- $\beta_y^*(mm) \sim 5.9/5.9$

Nano-beam scheme

$$\beta_y^* \sim 1/20x$$

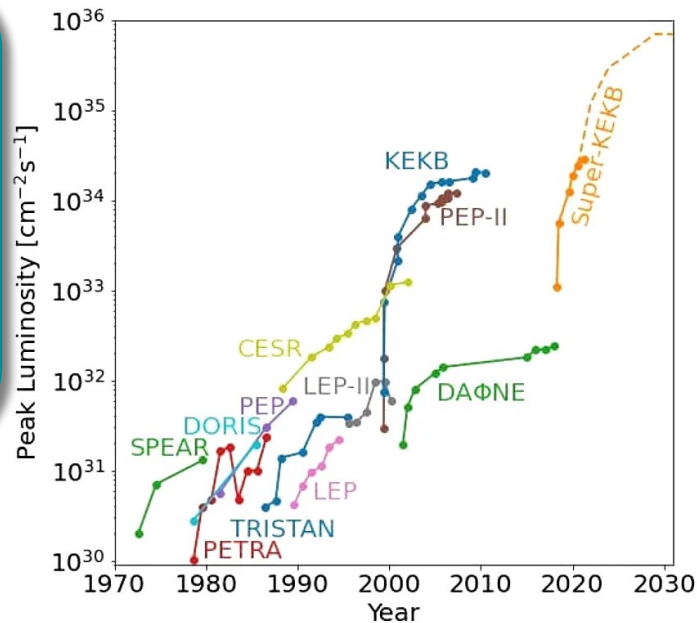
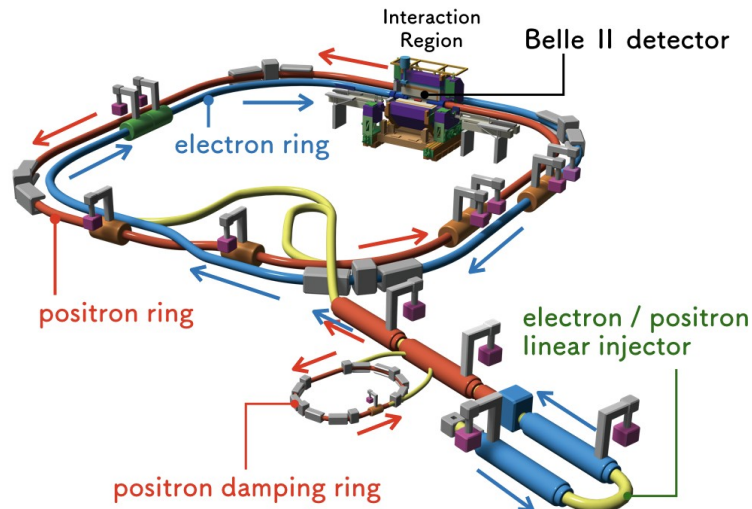
$$I \sim 1.5x$$

30x peak luminosity



SuperKEKB

- $I(A) \sim 2.9/2.0$
- $\beta_y^*(mm) \sim 0.3/0.3$

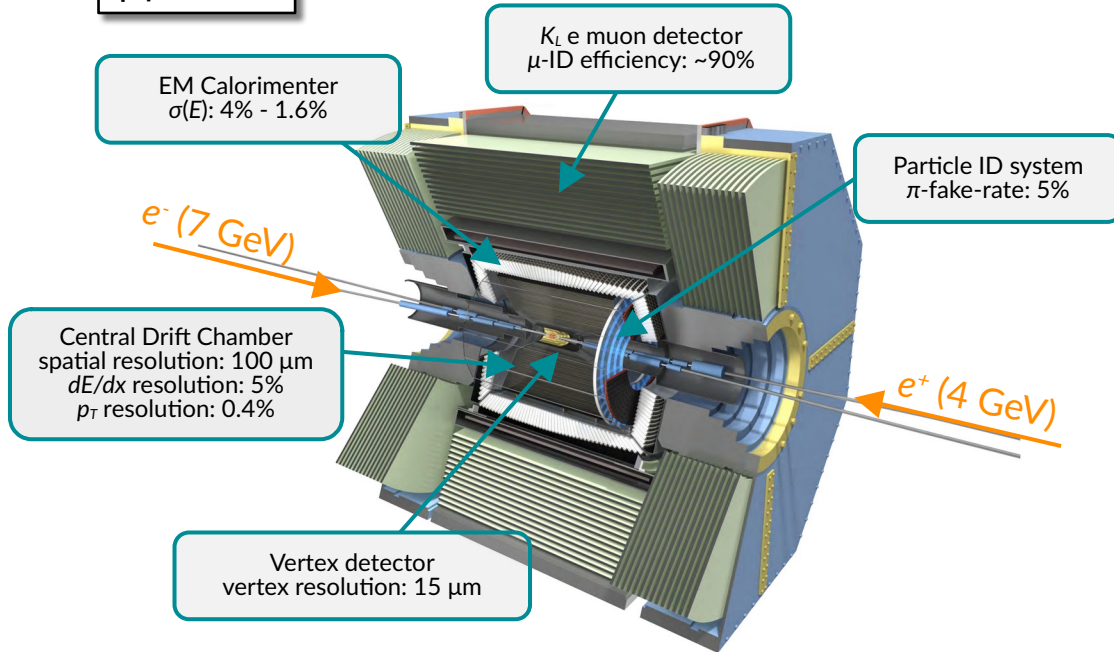


- World record luminosity:  $4.7 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
- Target peak luminosity:  $6 \cdot 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$



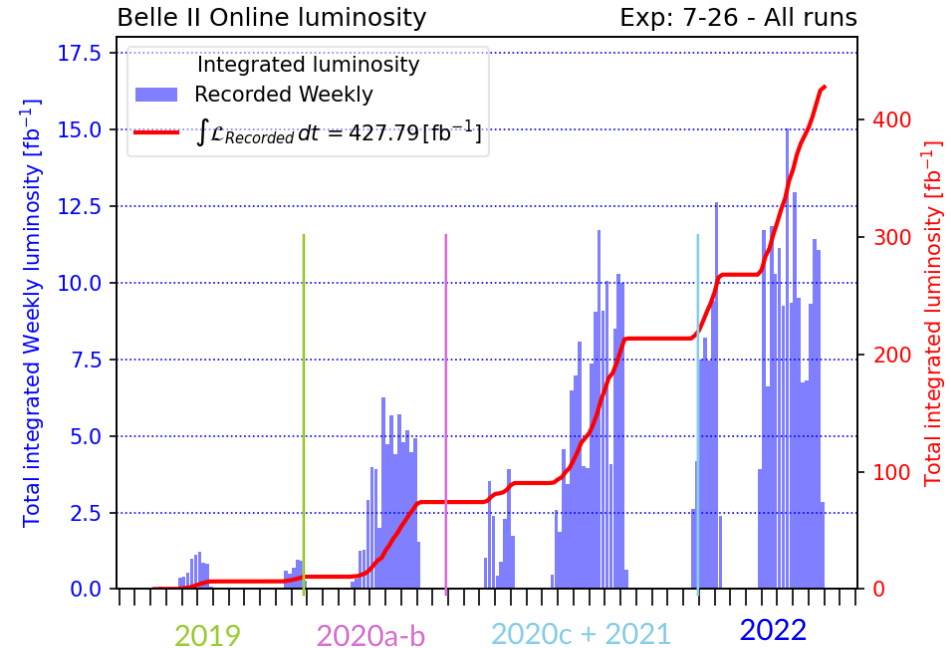
# Belle II at SuperKEKB

$$\beta\gamma = 0.28$$



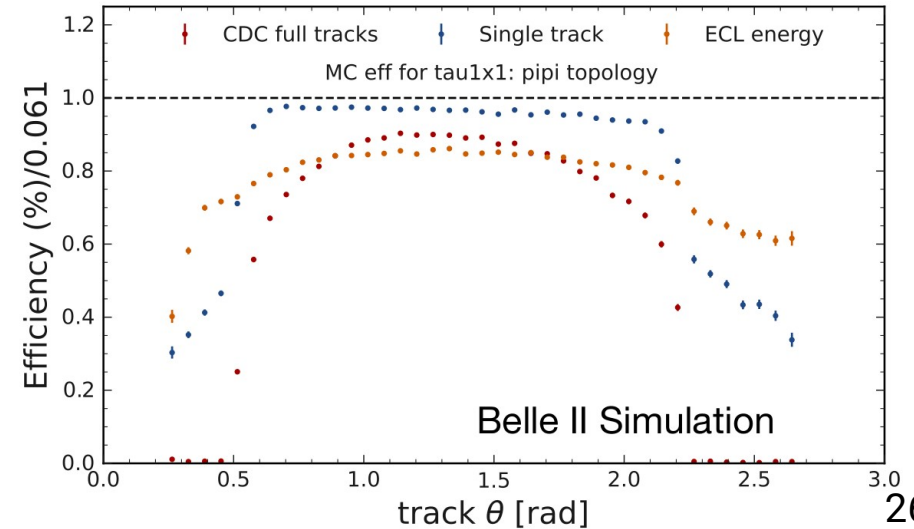
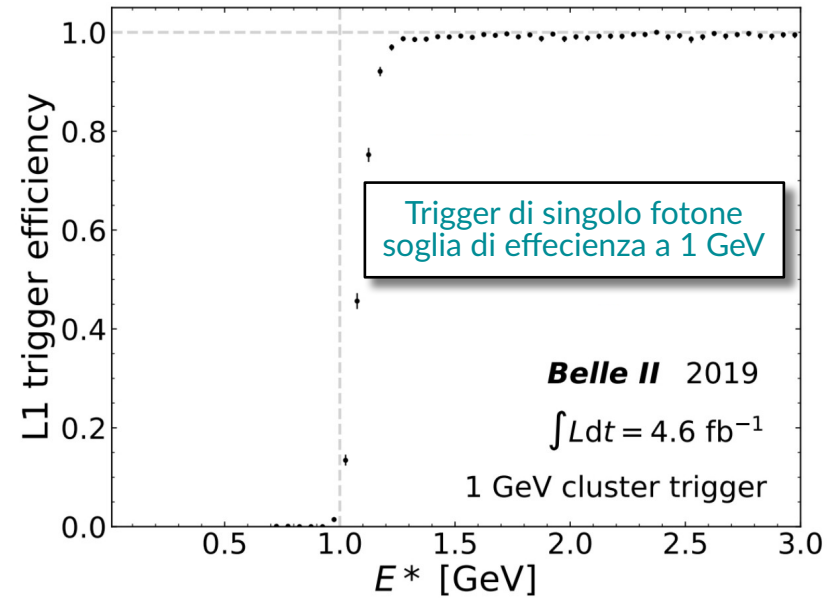
- Major upgrade of Belle@KEKB  $\rightarrow$  better resolution, particle identification (PID) and capability to cope with higher background
- Covers more than 90% of the total solid angle

- First collisions during commissioning run on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2018
  - $\rightarrow$  0.5  $\text{fb}^{-1}$  collected in 2018
- First collisions with the full detector on March 2019
  - $\rightarrow$  > 540  $\text{fb}^{-1}$  collected in 4 years of data taking
- Target integrated luminosity of the Belle II experiment: **50  $\text{ab}^{-1}$**  (x30 Belle + BaBar)



# Low-multiplicity triggers

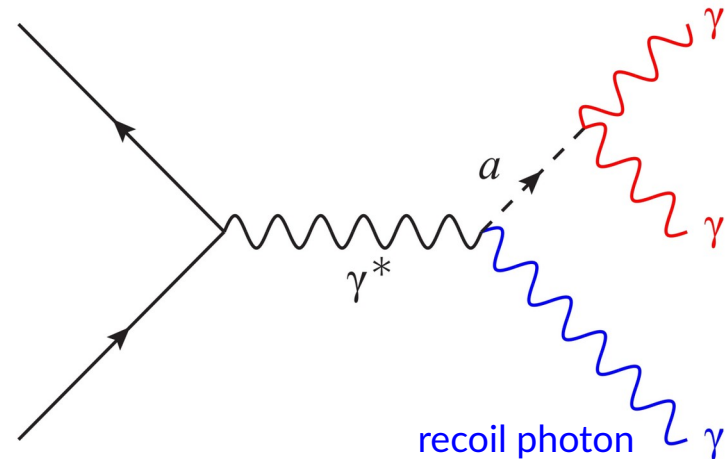
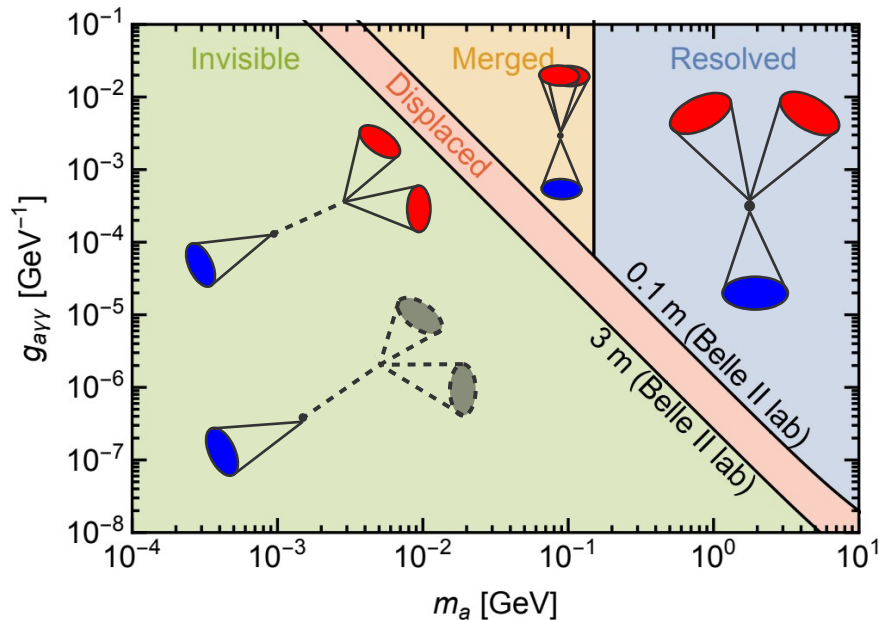
- Two-level trigger
  - Hardware-based Level 1 Trigger (L1):  $< 30$  kHz
  - Software-based High Level Trigger (HLT):  $< 10$  kHz
- Devised specific low-multiplicity trigger lines
  - Suppress high-cross-section QED processes **without “killing” the signal**
  - **Precise knowledge of acceptance and efficiencies of the detector required**
- Examples
  - Single-photon trigger
  - Single-muon trigger
  - Single-track trigger



# Axion-like particles (ALPs)

F. Abudinén et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 161806 (2020)

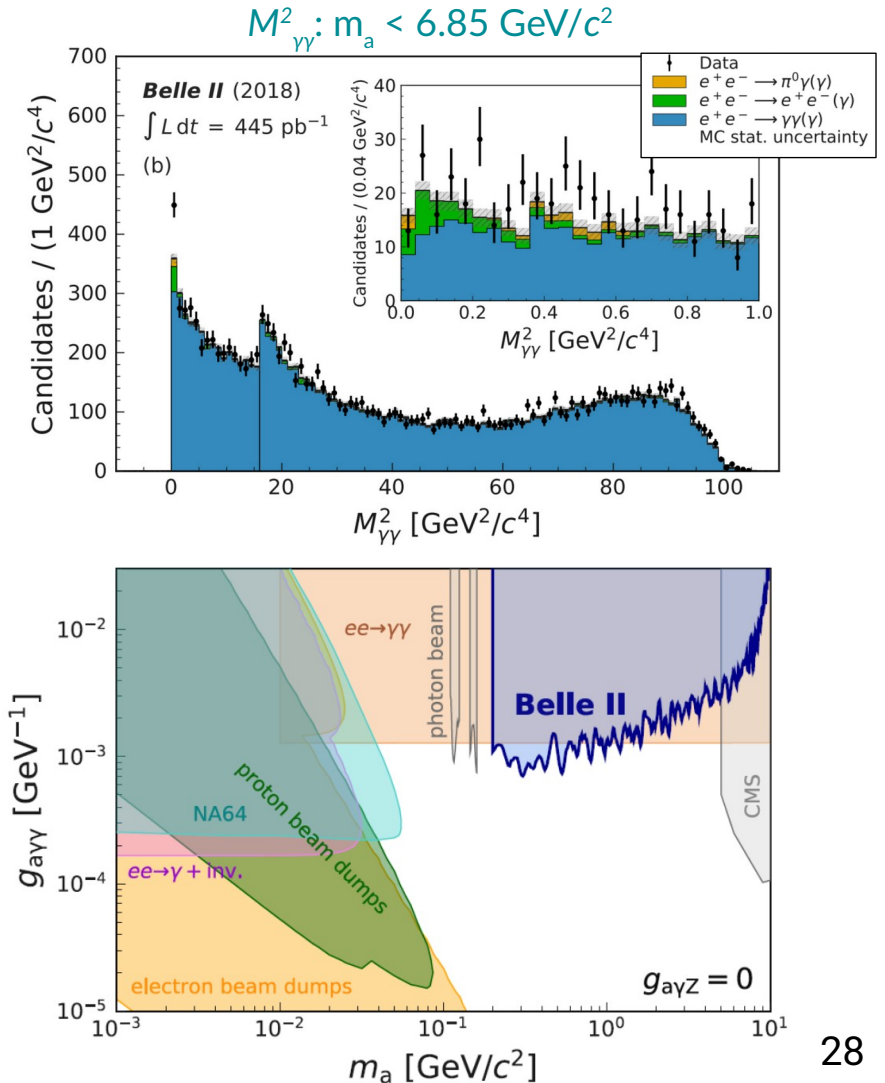
- GeV-scale ALPs: pseudo-scalar portal mediator between dark sector and Standard Model
- If ALP-photon coupling ( $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$ ) dominates, then  $BR(a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \sim 100\%$
- Focus on mass region where ALP decay is prompt and photons can be well **resolved** by Belle II



# Search for an ALP at Belle II

F. Abudinén et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 161806 (2020)

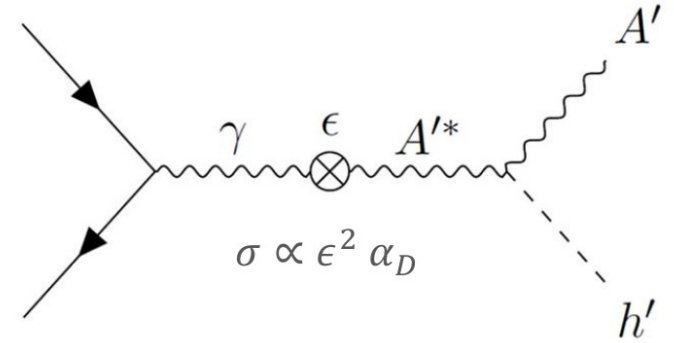
- Event selection:
  - electromagnetic calorimeter trigger (efficiency  $\sim 100\%$ )
  - three- $\gamma$  invariant mass compatible with collision  $\sqrt{s}$
- Signal signature is a **narrow peak** in  $M_{\gamma\gamma}^2$  or  $M_{\text{recoil}}^2$  (depending on best resolution of signal peak)
- Largest background from  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma(\gamma)$
- Signal extracted through fit
  - **No excess observed in  $0.445 \text{ fb}^{-1}$**
  - Upper limits at 95% CL on  $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$
  - **World-leading limits for  $m_a \sim 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$**



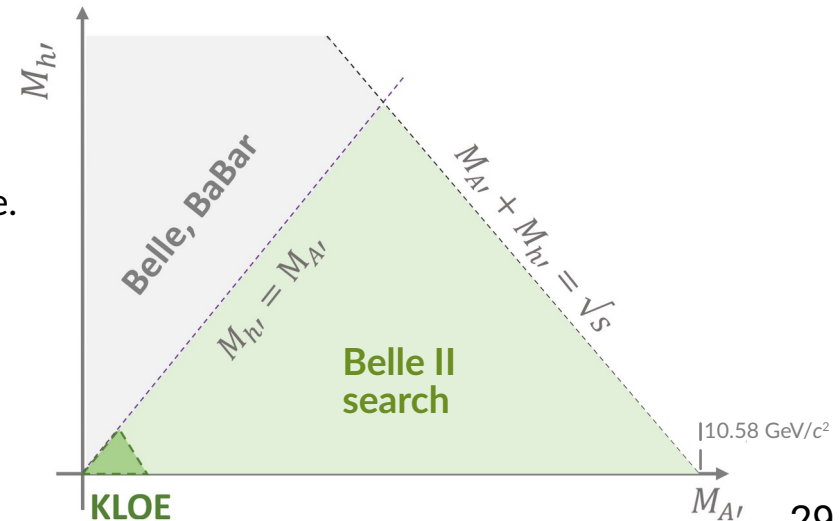


# Search for a dark Higgs (and dark photon)

- Dark photon  $A'$ 
  - kinetic mixing with SM photon with strength  $\epsilon$
  - mass produced by the Higgs mechanism involving a dark Higgs boson
- Dark higgs  $h'$ 
  - couples to  $A'$  with  $\alpha_D$
  - does not mix with SM Higgs
- Both  $A'$  and  $h'$  can be produced at  $e^+e^-$  colliders through the dark higgsstrahlung process
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'^* \rightarrow A' h'$
- Different signatures depending on  $h'$  mass
  - $M_{h'} > M_{A'}$ : prompt decay  $h' \rightarrow A'A'$ , up to 6 tracks in the final state. Investigated by BaBar (2012) and Belle (2015)
  - $M_{h'} < M_{A'}$ :  $h'$  is long-lived, thus invisible. Investigated by KLOE (2015)
- Belle II focuses on the invisible  $h'$



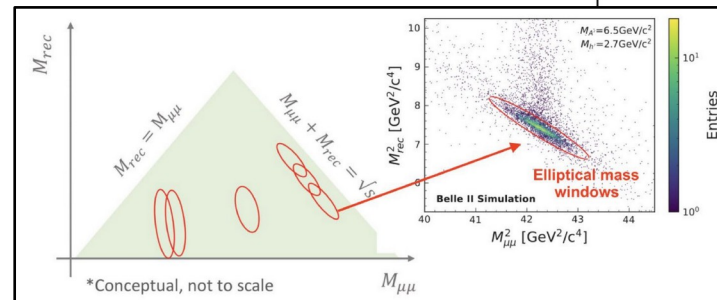
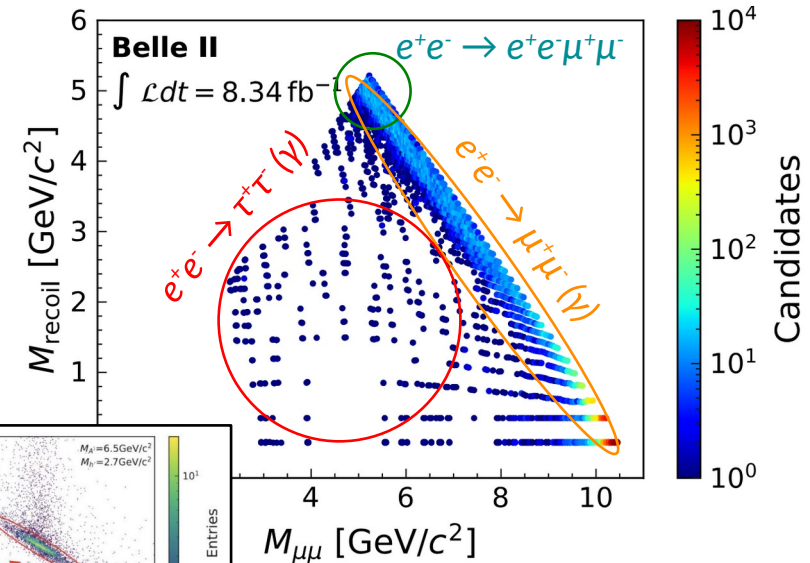
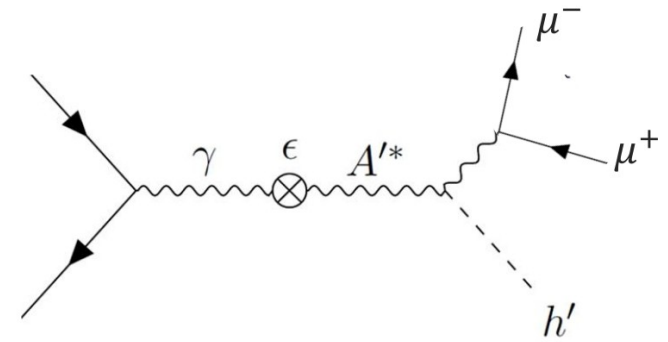
P. Fayet, Nucl. Phys. B 187, 184 (1981)  
 Batell et al., Phys. Rev. D 79, 115008 (2009)



# Dark higgsstrahlung at Belle II

F. Abudinén et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 071804 (2023)

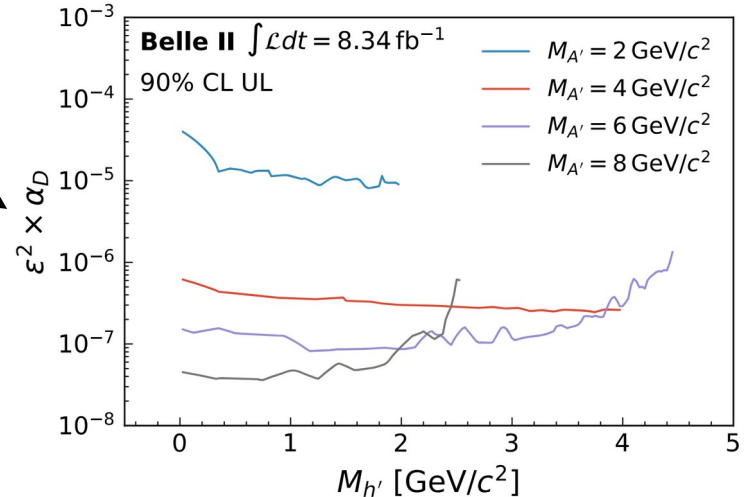
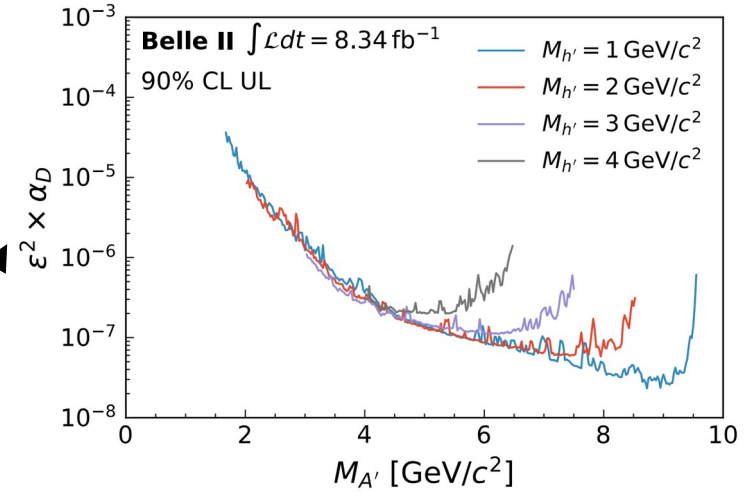
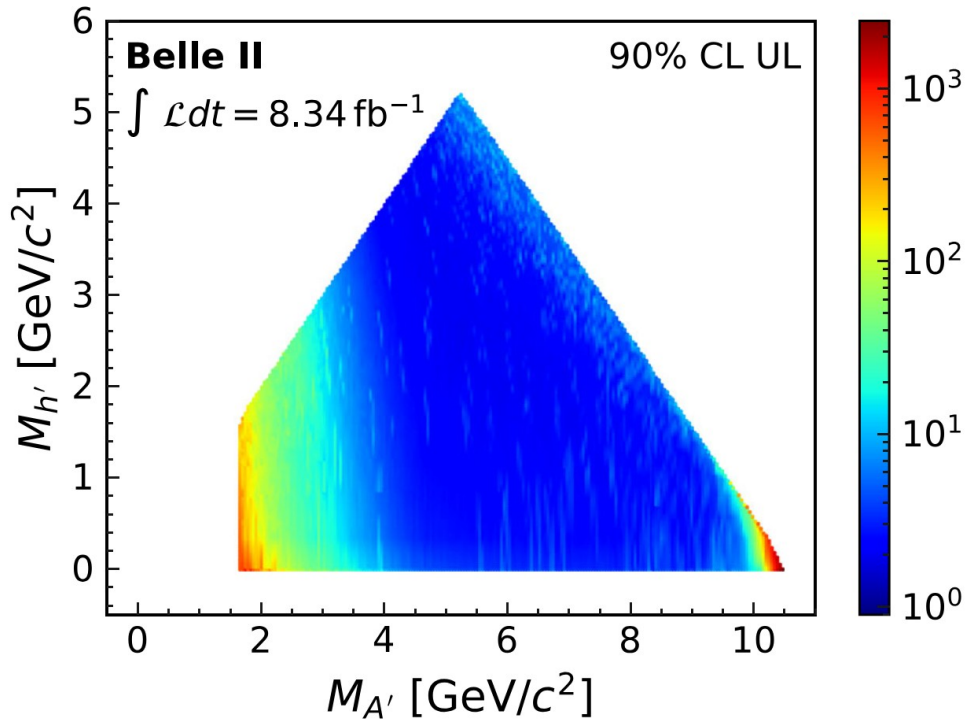
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'h', A' \rightarrow \mu\mu, h' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$
- Same final state as for the invisible  $Z'$ , similar backgrounds:  
 $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- (\gamma), e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- (\gamma), e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$
- Signal signature is a 2D peak in the recoil mass vs the dimuon mass
- Event selection
  - ➔ Two reconstructed muons,  $p_{T^\mu} > 0.1 \text{ GeV}/c$
  - ➔ Recoil momentum in the ECL barrel, no nearby photon
  - ➔ Cut on dimuon helicity angle  
 ➔ efficiently suppress background
- Signal extraction through 2D fit in  $M_{\text{recoil}}$  vs  $M_{\mu\mu}$  plane in elliptical windows



# Dark higgsstrahlung at Belle II: results

F. Abudinén et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 071804 (2023)

- **No significant excess in 8.34 fb<sup>-1</sup>**
  - 90% CL upper limits and world leading limits for  $1.65 < M_{A'} < 10.51 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



# Search for a $\tau\tau$ -resonance in $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\tau^+\tau^-: Z'$

I. Adachi et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, 121802 (2023)

- No significant excess found in  $62.8 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

→ 90% CL upper limits on the  $g'$  coupling of the  $L_\mu - L_\tau$  model ( $Z'$ )

