

# Dark matter search at Belle II

Enrico Graziani

INFN – Roma 3

on behalf of the Belle II Collaboration



## OUTLINE OF THE TALK

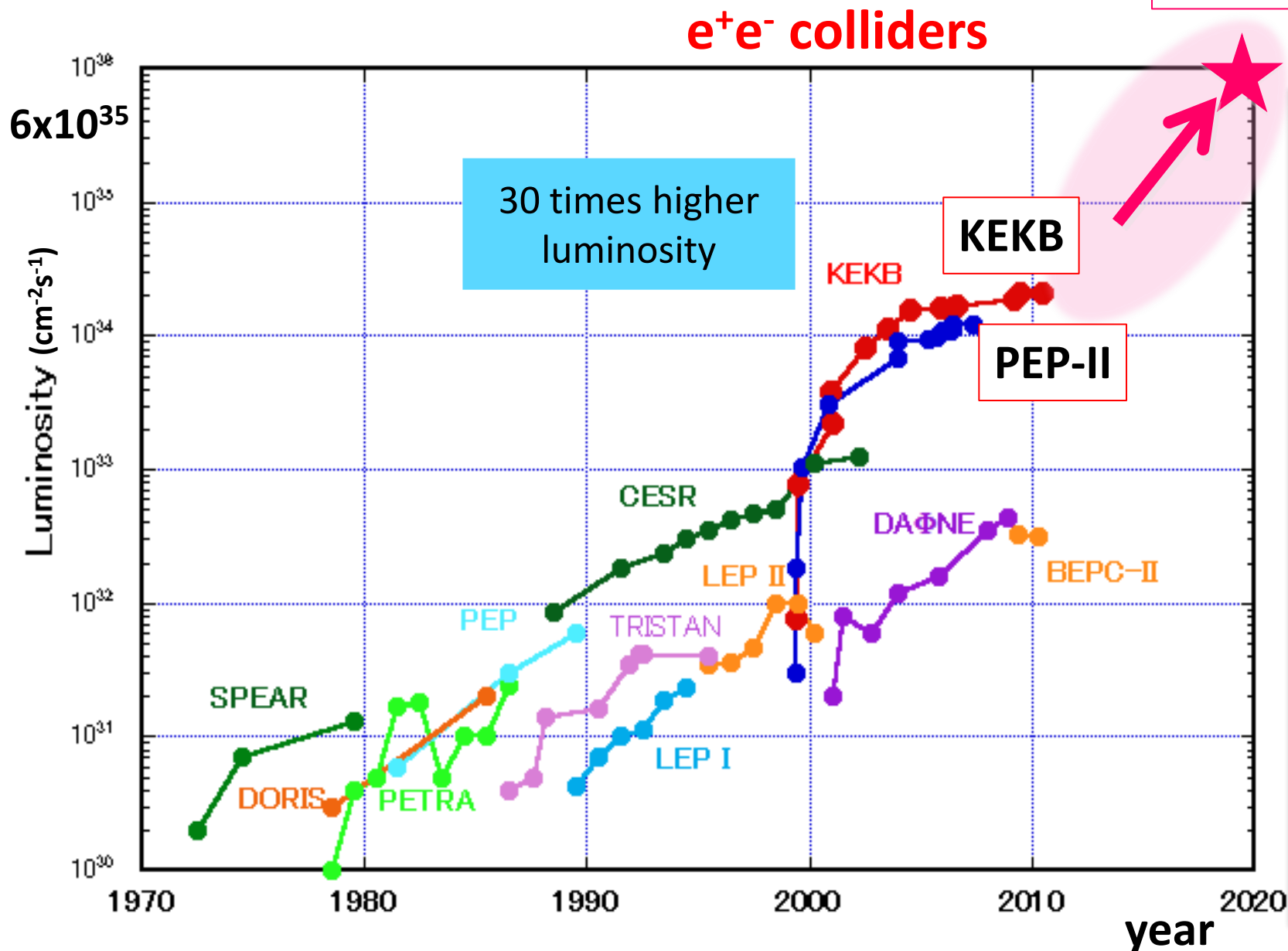
- ✓ Light dark sector models
- ✓ Belle II and SuperKEKB
- ✓ An example:  $L_\mu$ - $L_\tau$  invisible  $Z'$
- ✓ Results
- ✓ Perspectives & Summary

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



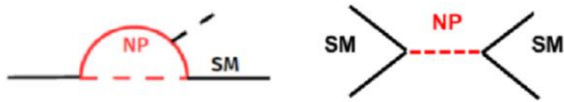

# Peak luminosity trend



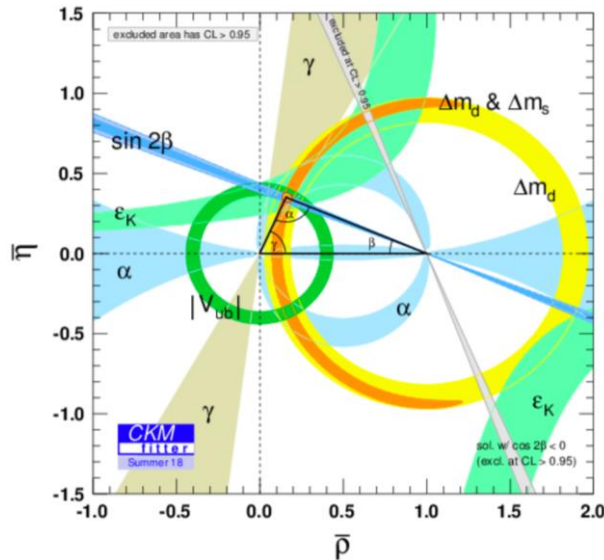
# Dark matter hunt: «classical» approach

## Intensity / precision frontier

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

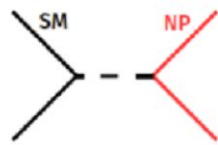


If NP found in direct searches, it is reasonable to expect NP effects in  $B$ ,  $D$ ,  $\tau$  decays



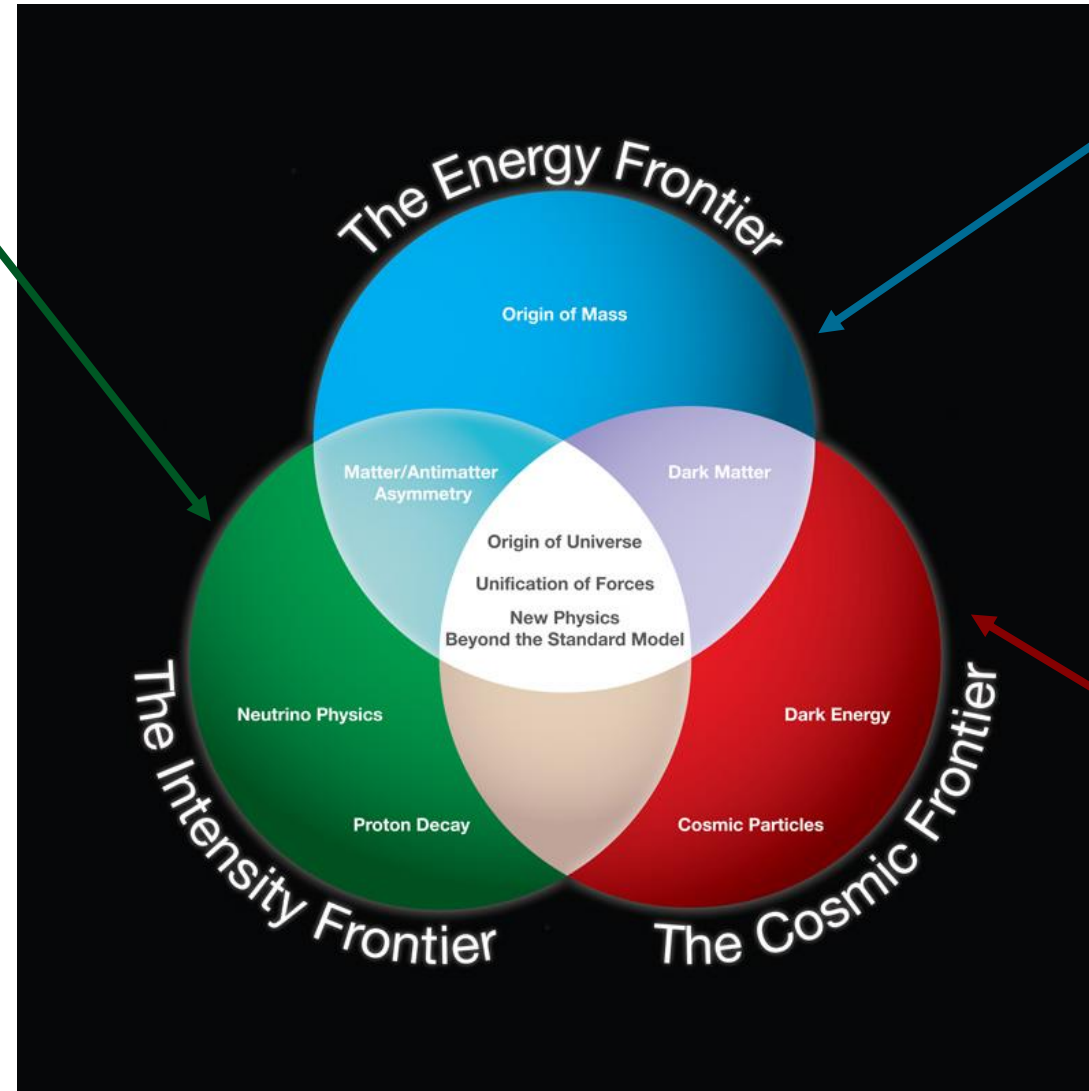
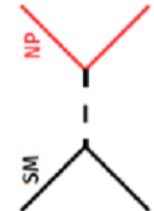
## Energy frontier

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

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

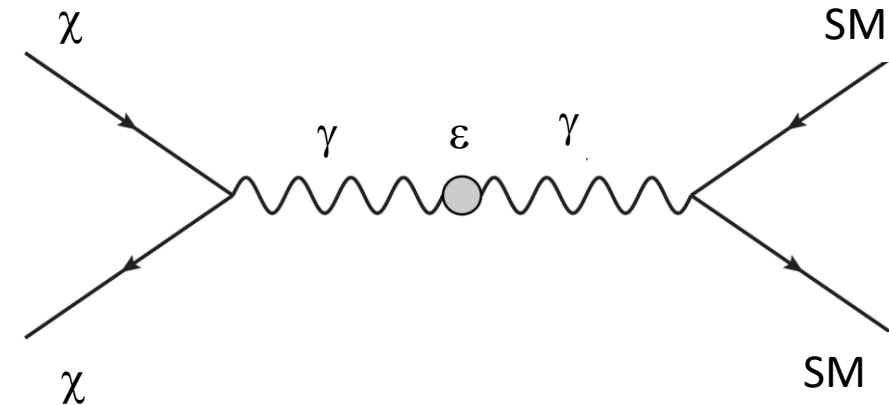
$$\Rightarrow \text{few GeV} < m_\chi < \text{few TeV}$$

It modeled decades of direct  
search experiment design

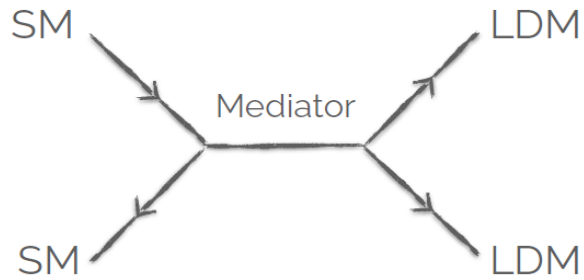
*WIMP miracle*

**If annihilation via a light force carrier,  $\chi$  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



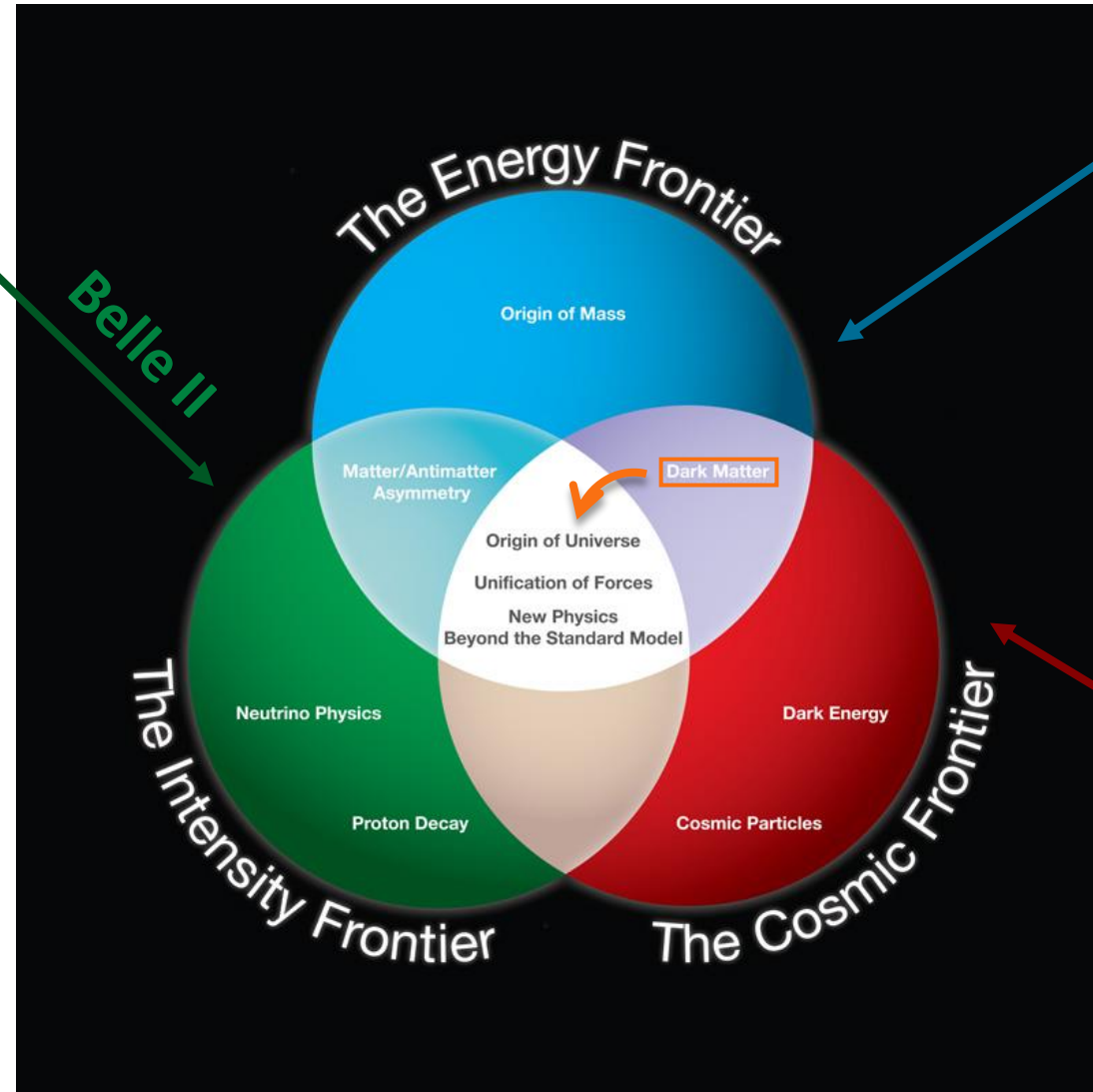
# Dark matter hunt: alternative approach



LDM → Light Dark Matter  
Mediators → portals

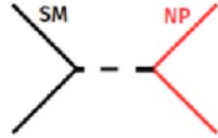


**Light Dark Sector with  
interactions ~ unsuppressed by  
a (possibly large) NP scale  $\Lambda$**



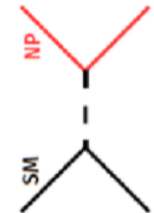
## Energy frontier

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



## Cosmic frontier

Direct effect search in (mostly)  
underground experiments





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

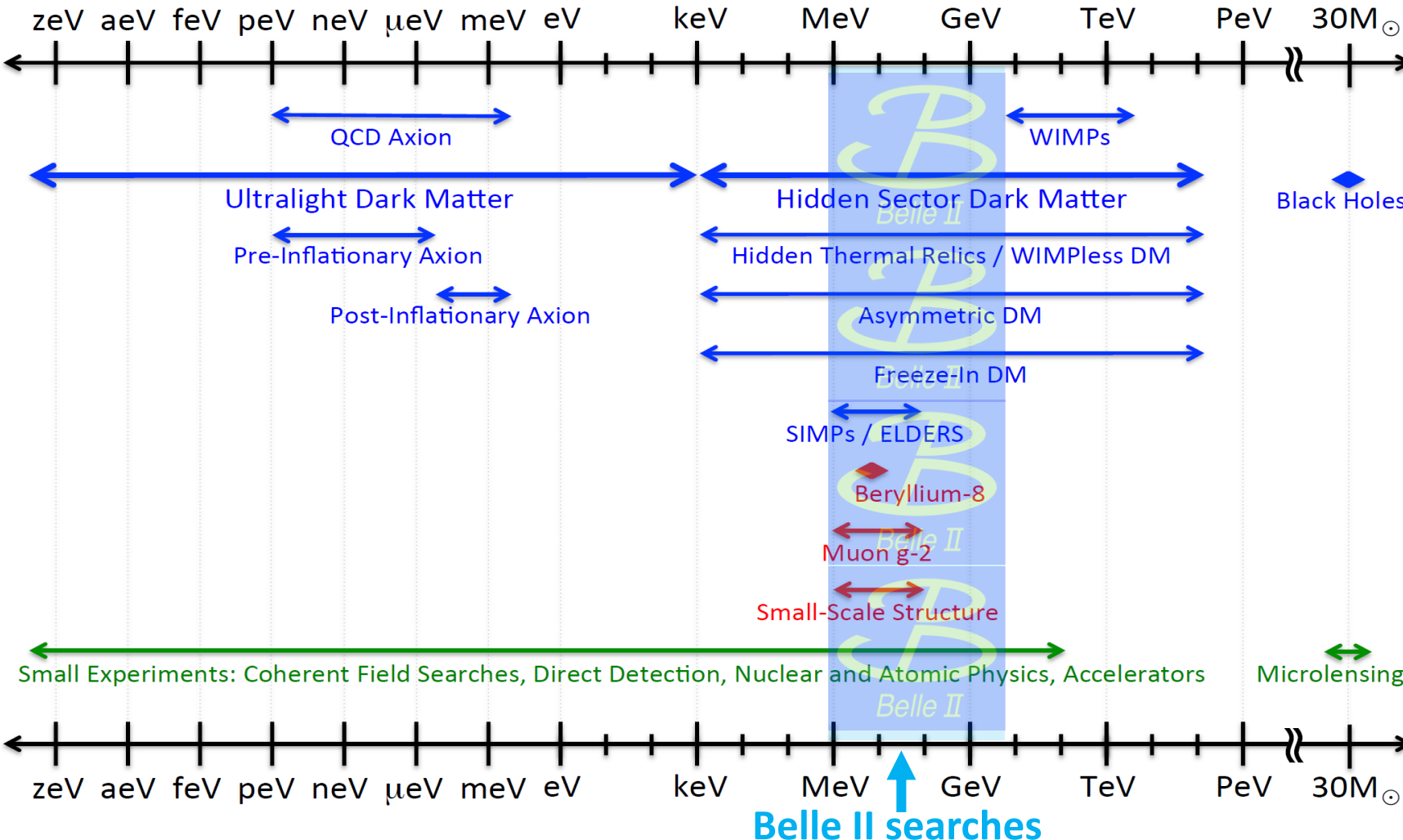
- Closeness to the light region
- Clean, low background, «energy conserving» environment, closed kinematics
- 3d momentum conservation, as opposed to  $p_T$
- Easiness of tag & probe techniques
- Full Event Interpretation



- 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  $\tau$  decays
- 
- Cleanliness and luminosity sometimes compensate for cross section → competition

# 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

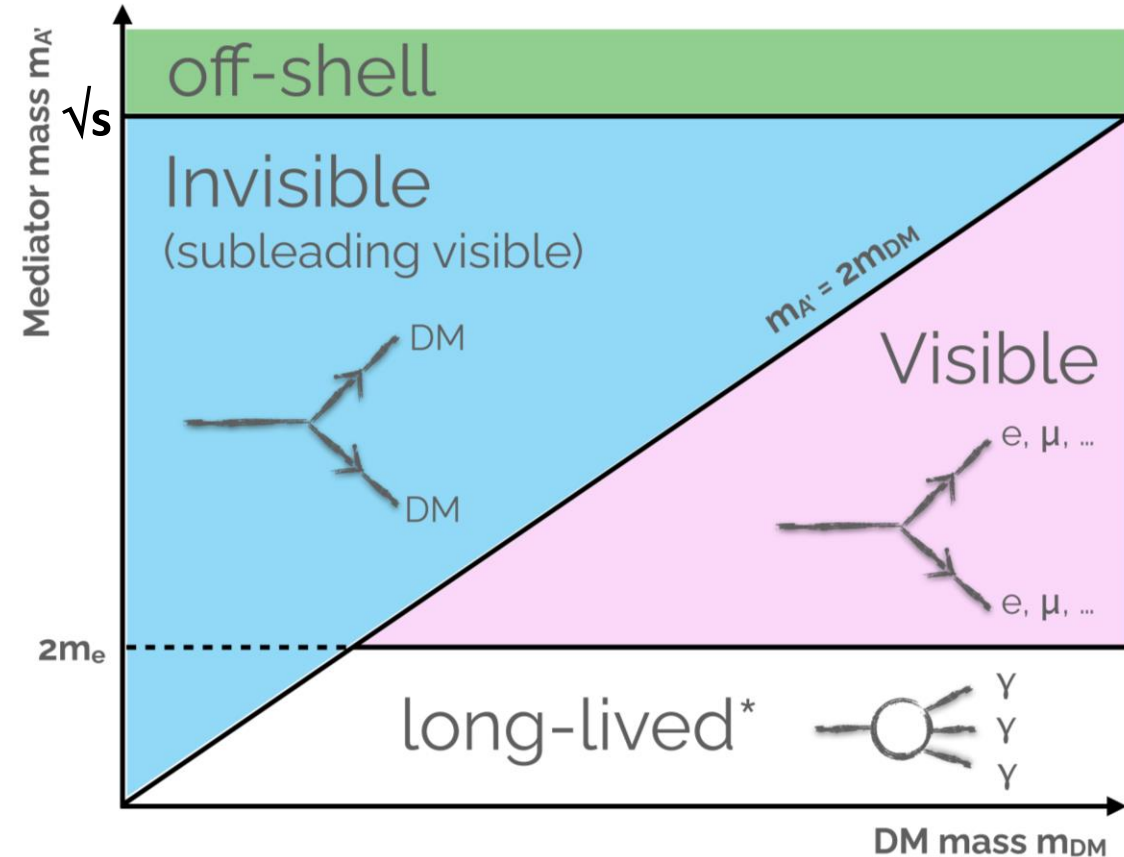
Dark Higgs, scalars

### Neutrino portal

Sterile neutrino

# Light Dark matter hunt

Different signatures depending on the DM  $\leftrightarrow$  mediator mass relation

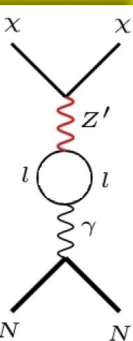
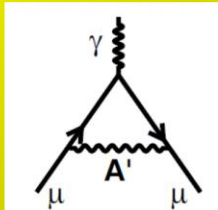


Probability of interaction of LDM detectors is negligible

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

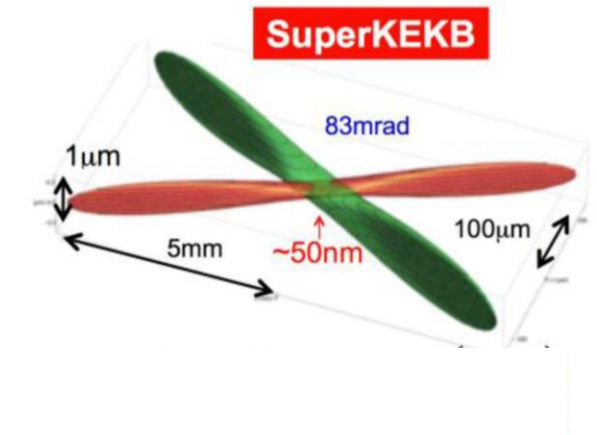
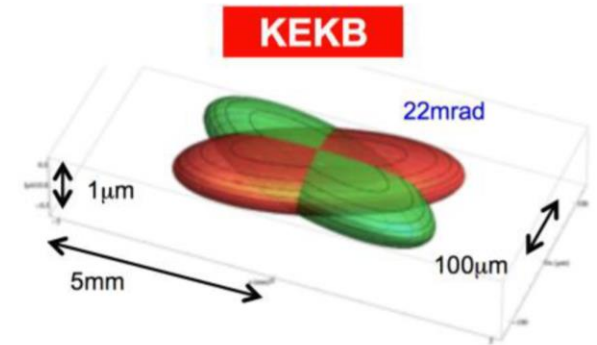
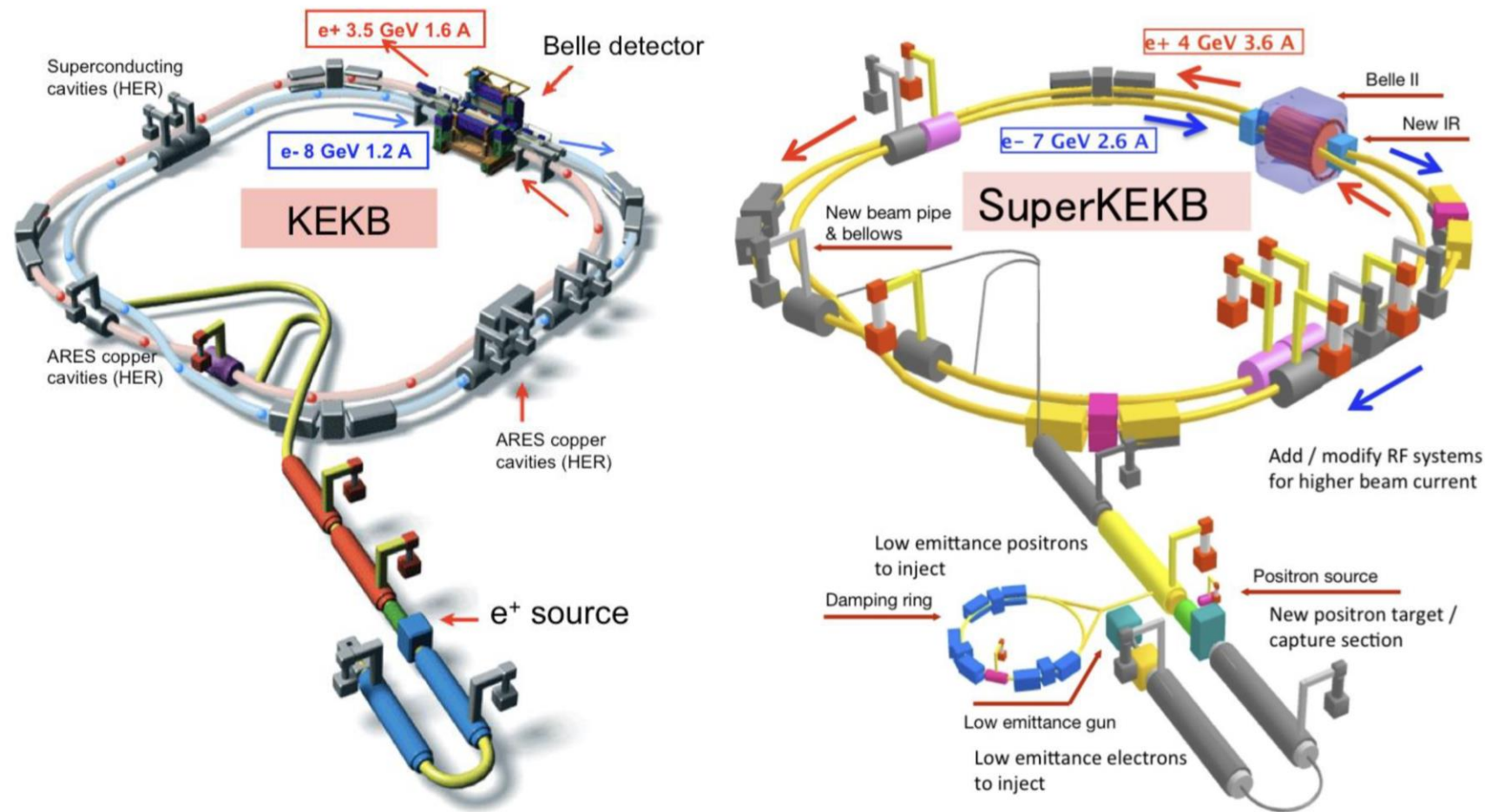
## Additional benefits:

- 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

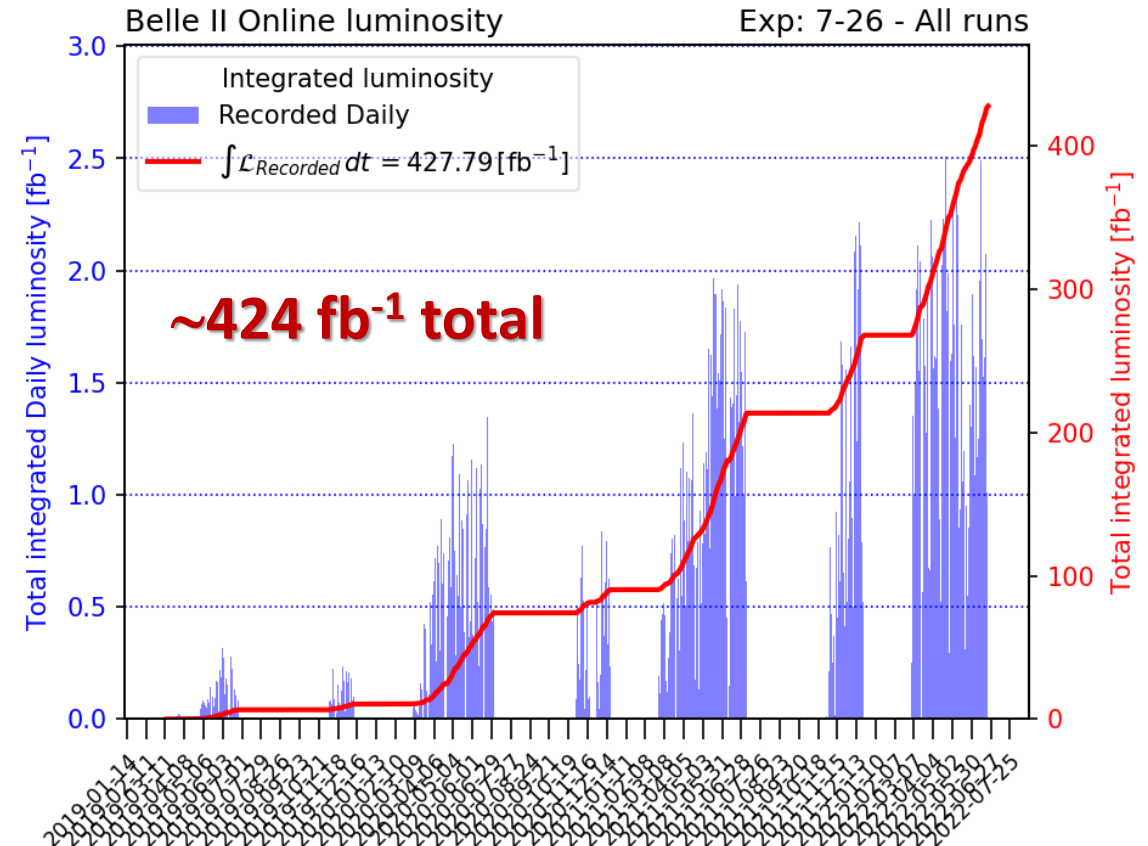
x30

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

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

Currently in shutdown LS1 since July 2022

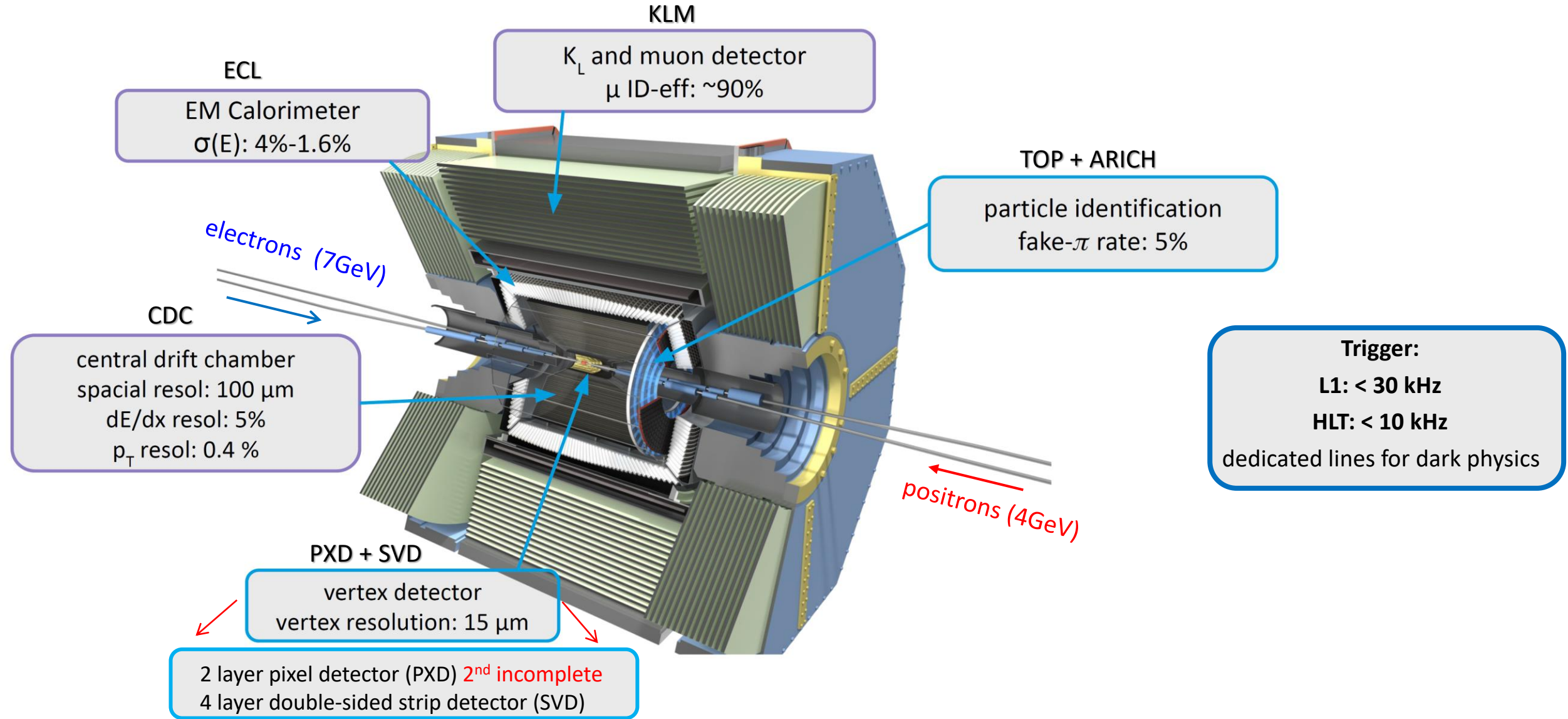
## Collected luminosity up to now: 2019-2022



Restart run in december 2023

Resume physics run beginning 2024

# 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
- $E_{\text{ECL}} > 1 \text{ GeV}$  trigger

### Single muon

- CDC + KLM

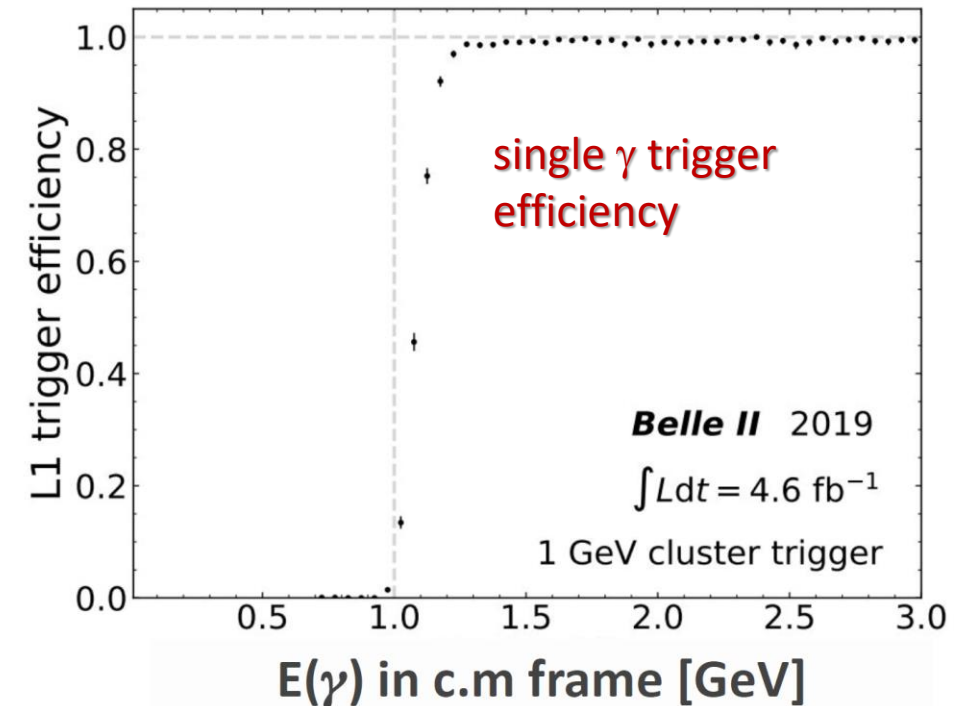
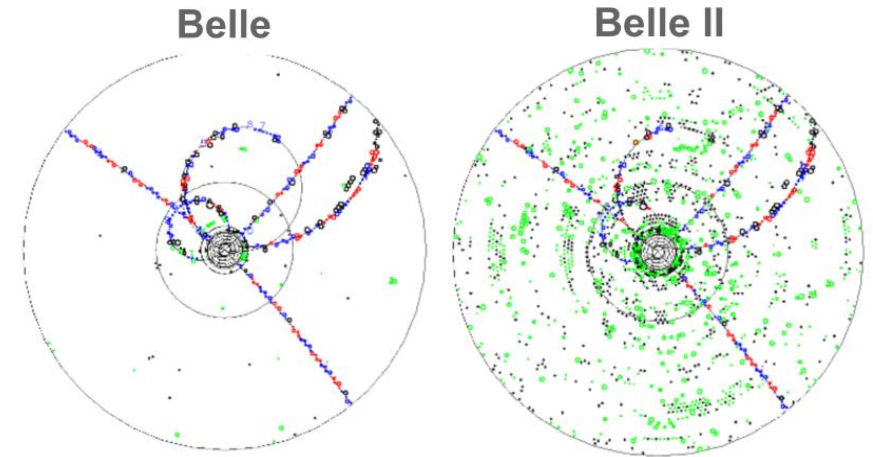
### Single track

- Neural based

### Single photon

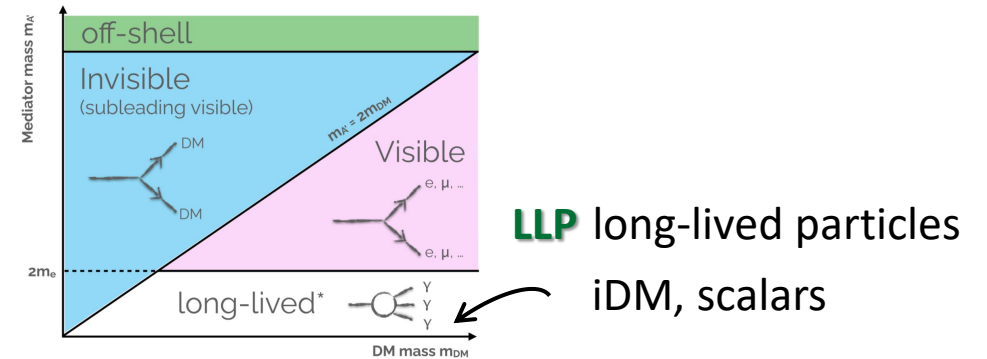
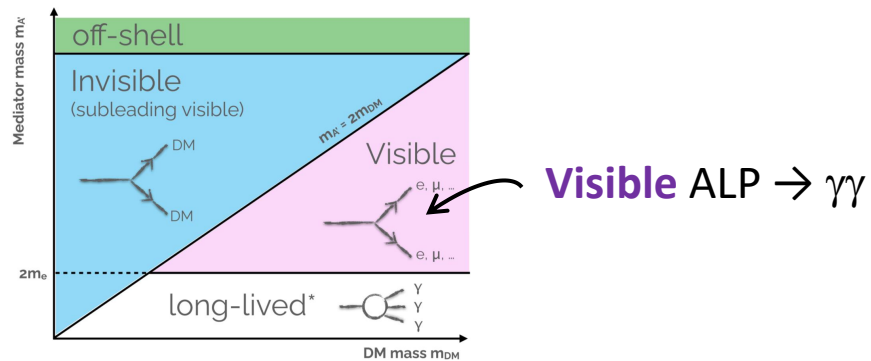
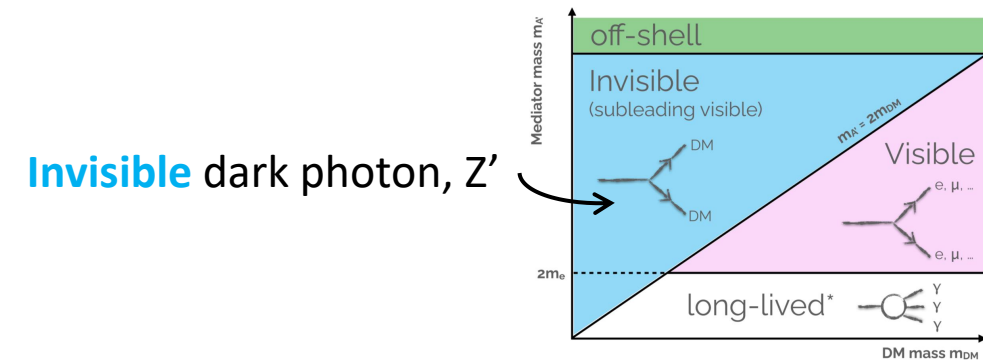
- $E_\gamma > 0.5, 1, 2 \text{ GeV}$

Displaced-vertex trigger  
• Under study



# Belle II dark sector search overview

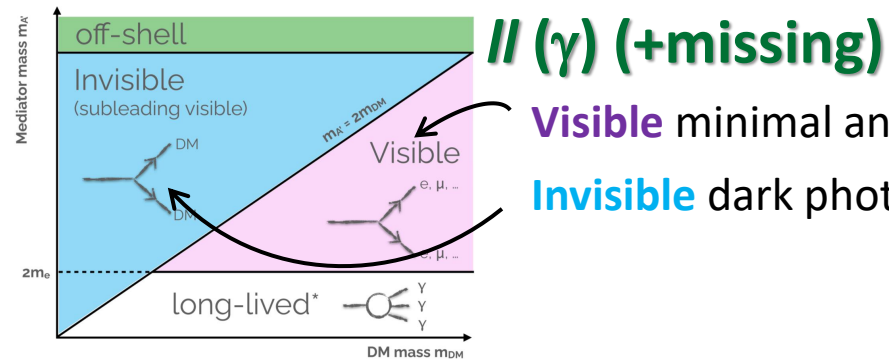
Searches are usually driven by models or proceed according to heuristic approaches





# 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

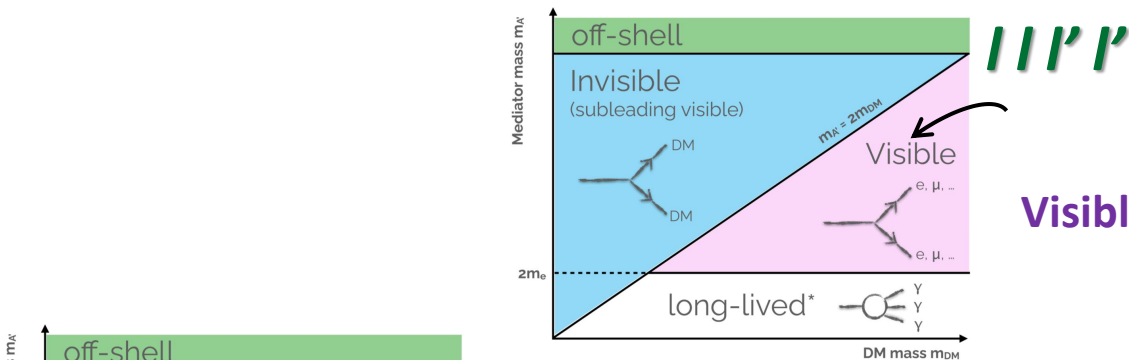
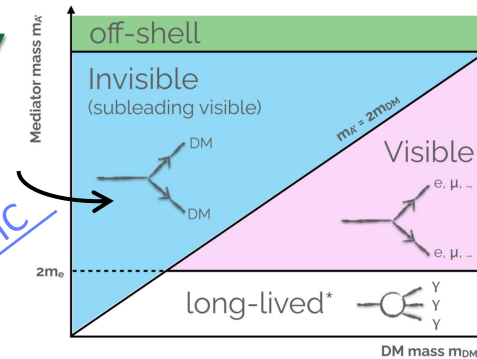
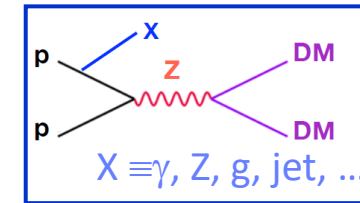


**Visible** minimal and non minimal dark photons, ALP  $\rightarrow$  ff

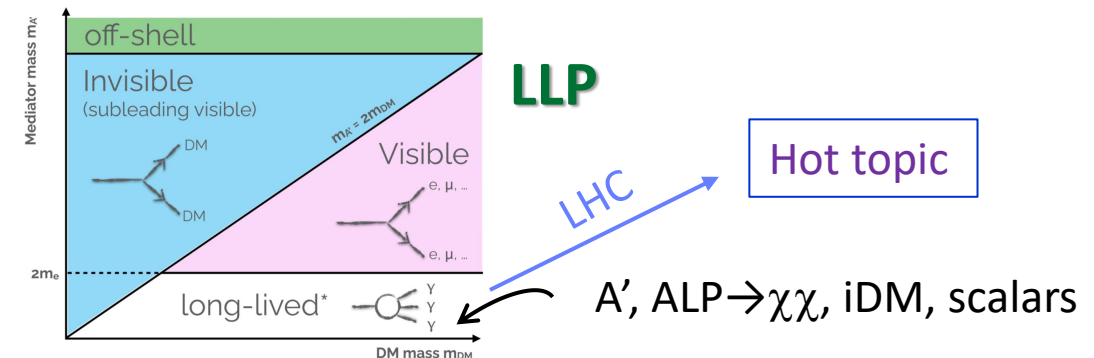
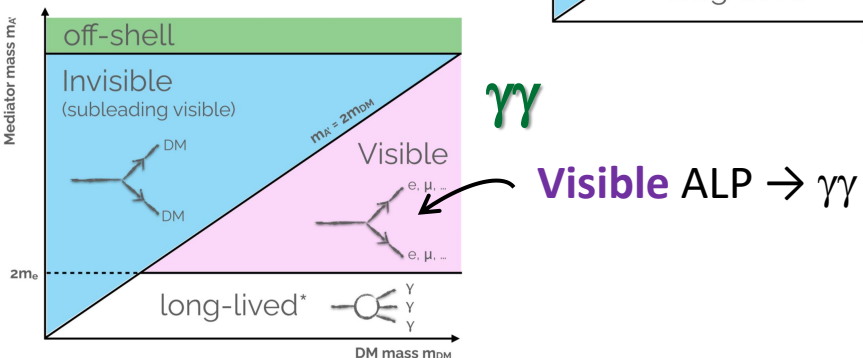
**Invisible** dark photon,  $Z'$

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

**Single  $\gamma$**



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



# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

$L_\mu - L_\tau$

$Z' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$

$Z' \rightarrow \mu\mu$

$Z' \rightarrow \tau\tau$

Axion like particles

$\text{ALP} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

Invisible  $\alpha$  in  $\tau$  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

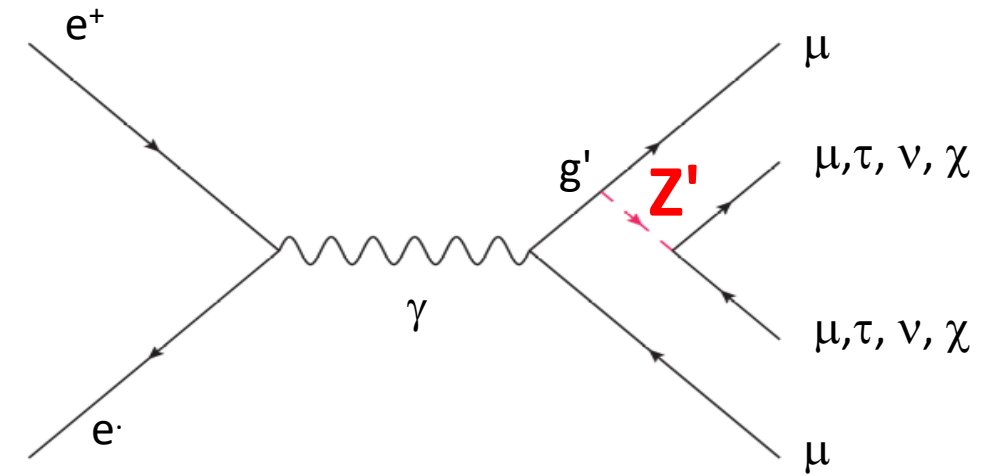
$\gamma A' \quad A' \rightarrow \chi\chi$

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

- Gauging  $L_\mu - L_\tau$ , the difference of leptonic  $\mu$  and  $\tau$  number
- A new gauge boson which couples only to the 2<sup>o</sup> and 3<sup>o</sup> lepton family
- Anomaly free (by construction)
- It may solve
  - **dark matter puzzle** → Sterile  $\nu$ '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

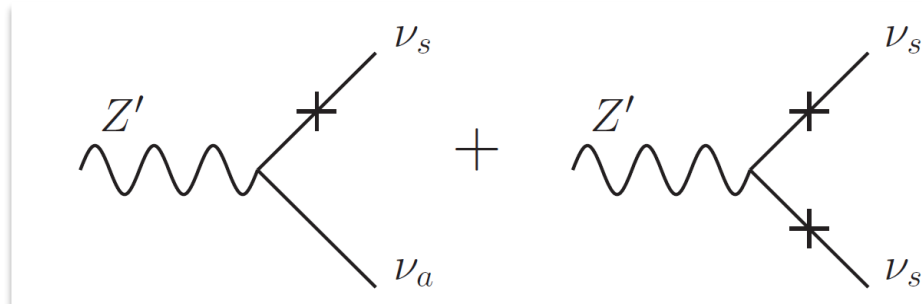
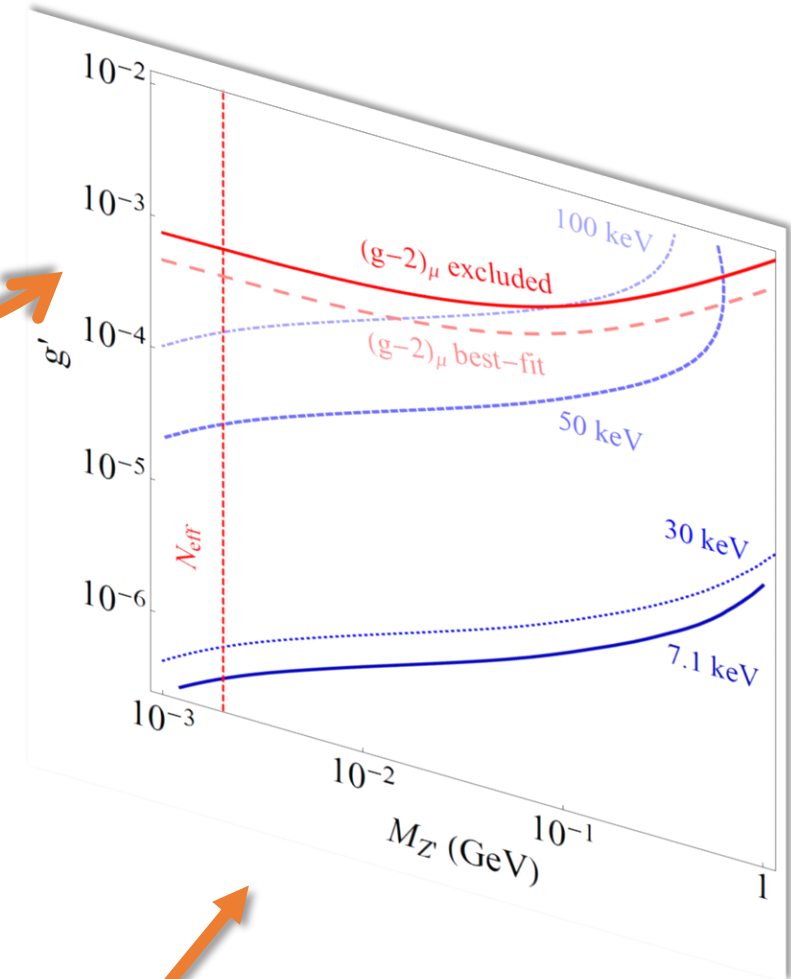


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- dark matter puzzle
  - $(g-2)_\mu$
  - $B \rightarrow K(^*) \mu \mu$ ,  $R_K$ ,  $R_{K^*}$  anomalies
- Sterile  $\nu$ 's
- Light Dirac fermions

Shuve et al. (2014), arXiv 1408.2727  
 Altmannshofer et al. (2016) arXiv 1609.04026



Sterile neutrino abundance

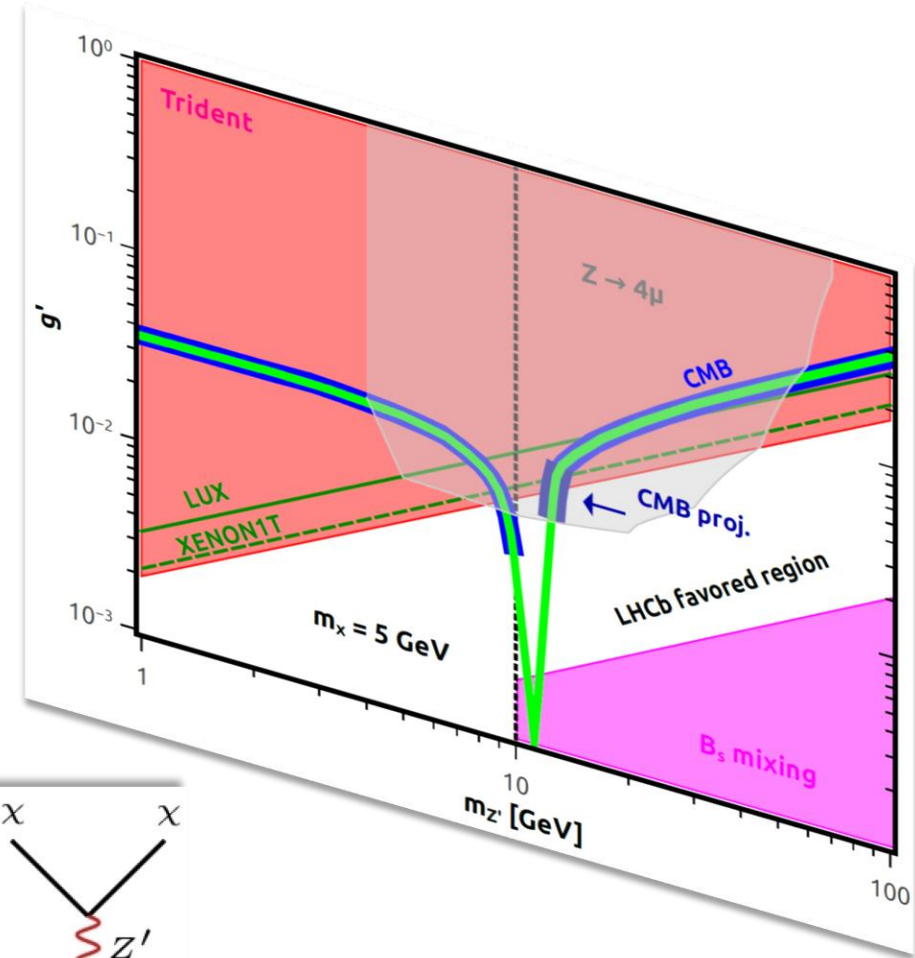
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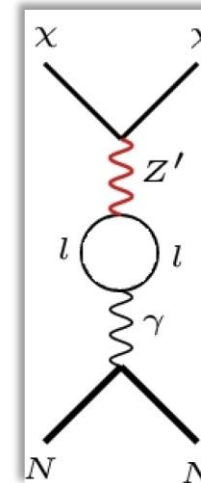
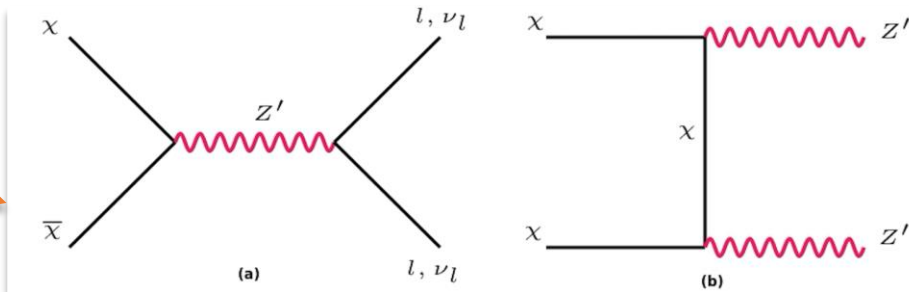
- dark matter puzzle
  - $(g-2)_\mu$
  - $B \rightarrow K(^*) \mu \mu$ ,  $R_K$ ,  $R_{K^*}$  anomalies
- Sterile  $\nu$ 's
- Light Dirac fermions

Shuve et al. (2014), arXiv 1408.2727

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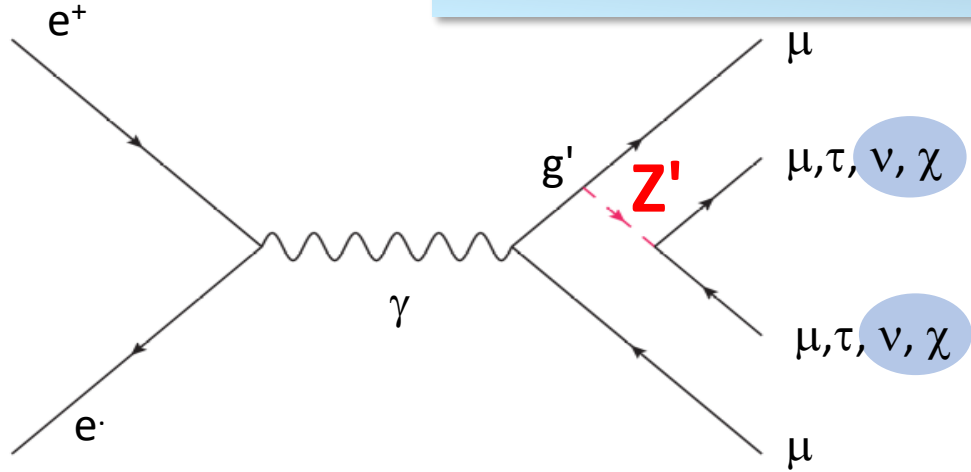
Annihilation



Direct detection



# Z' to invisible: first Belle II physics result



Explored for the first time

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- + \text{missing energy}$$

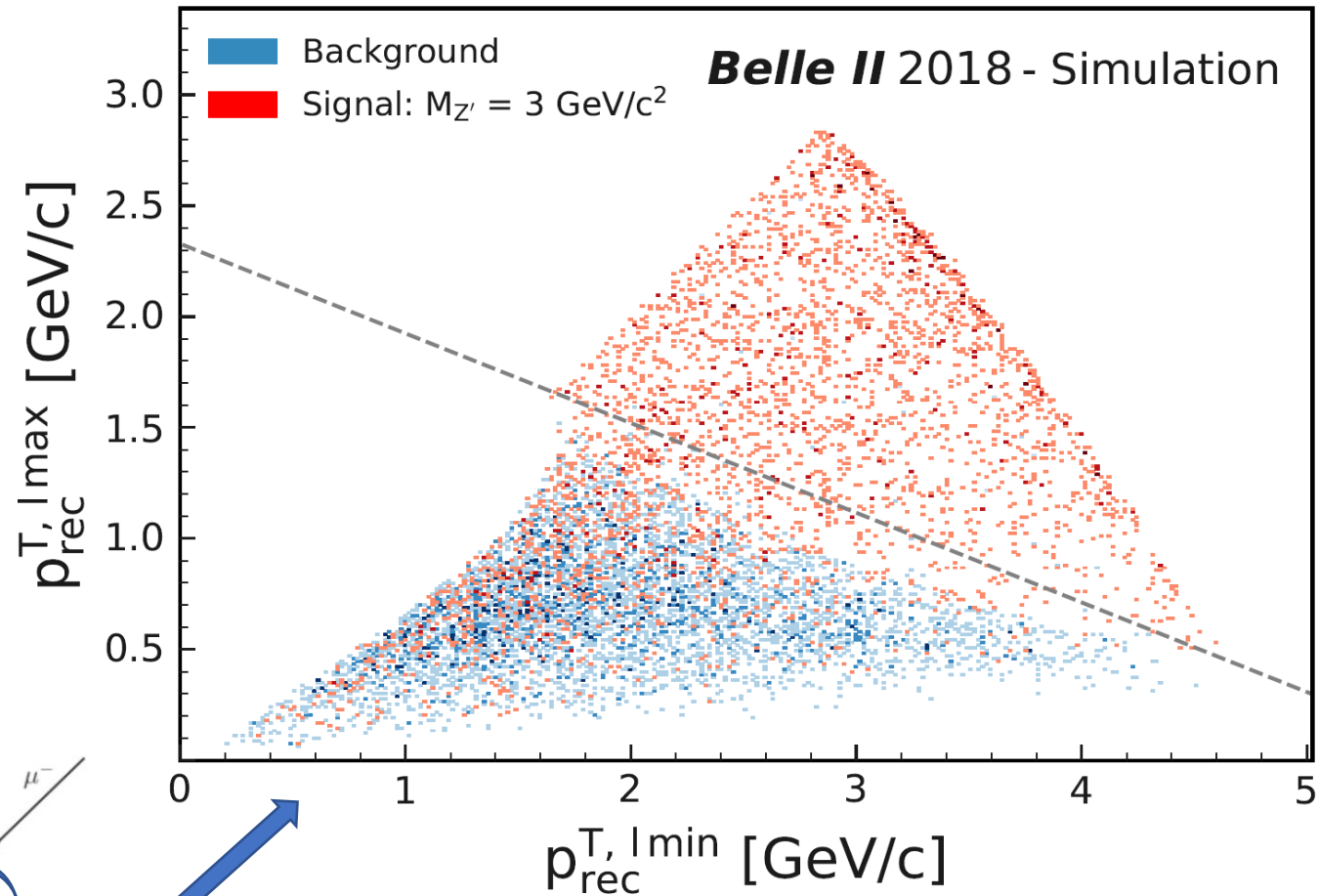
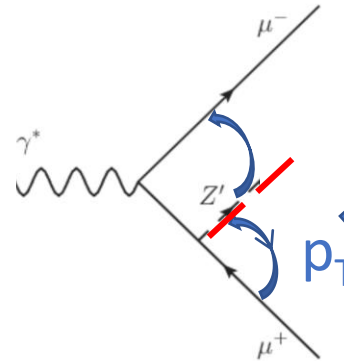
Look for bumps in recoil mass against a  $\mu^+\mu^-$  pair

Main backgrounds:

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- (\gamma)$$

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

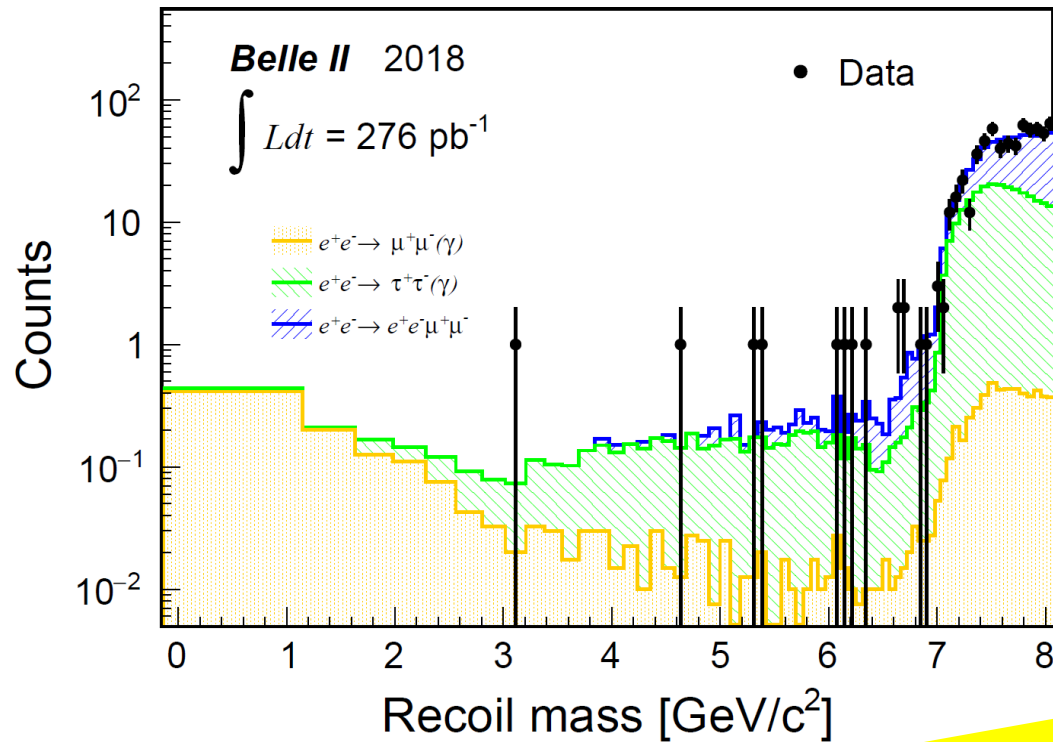
$$e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \mu^+\mu^-$$



FSR vs ISR +  $\tau$  decay

# Z' to invisible: first result

## Pilot run physics results

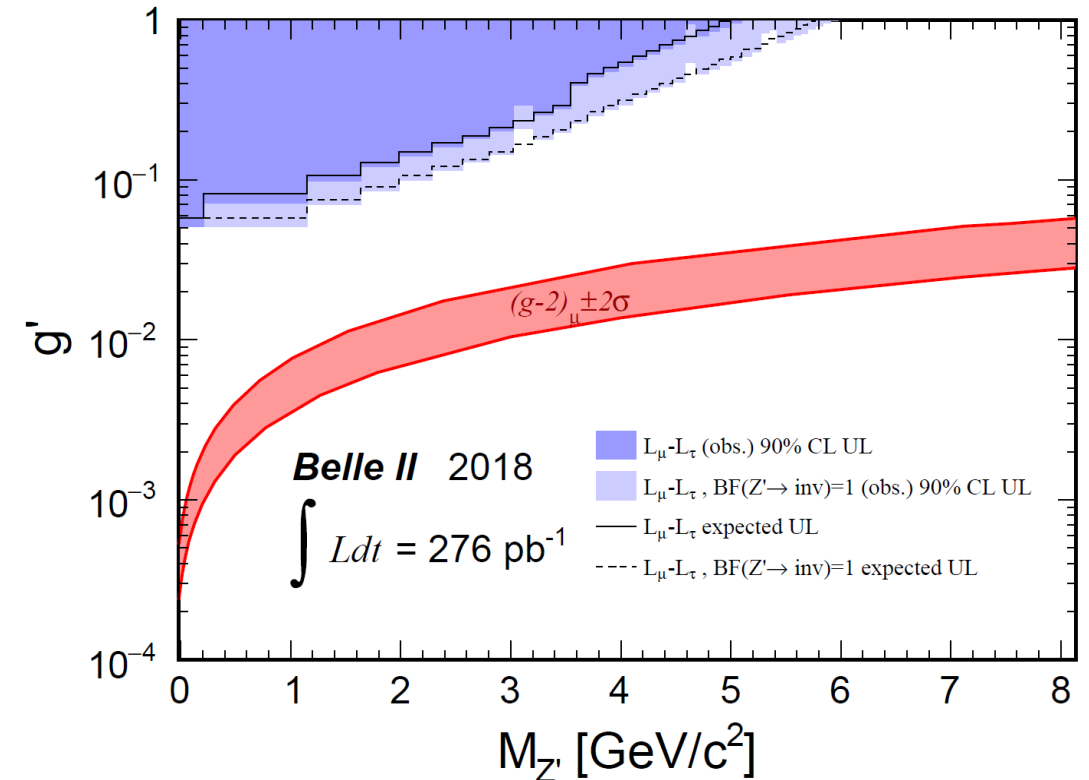


**First physics paper by Belle II**  
**PRL 124 (2020), 141801**

## Systematics

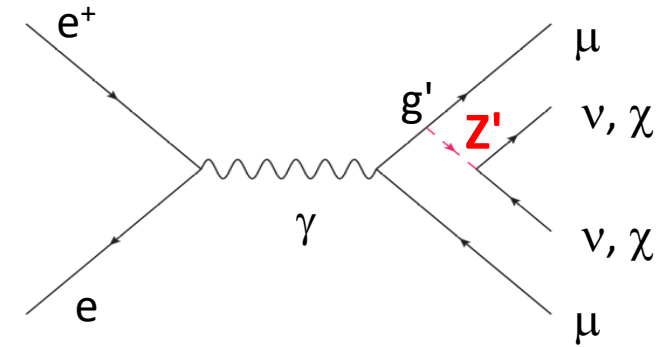
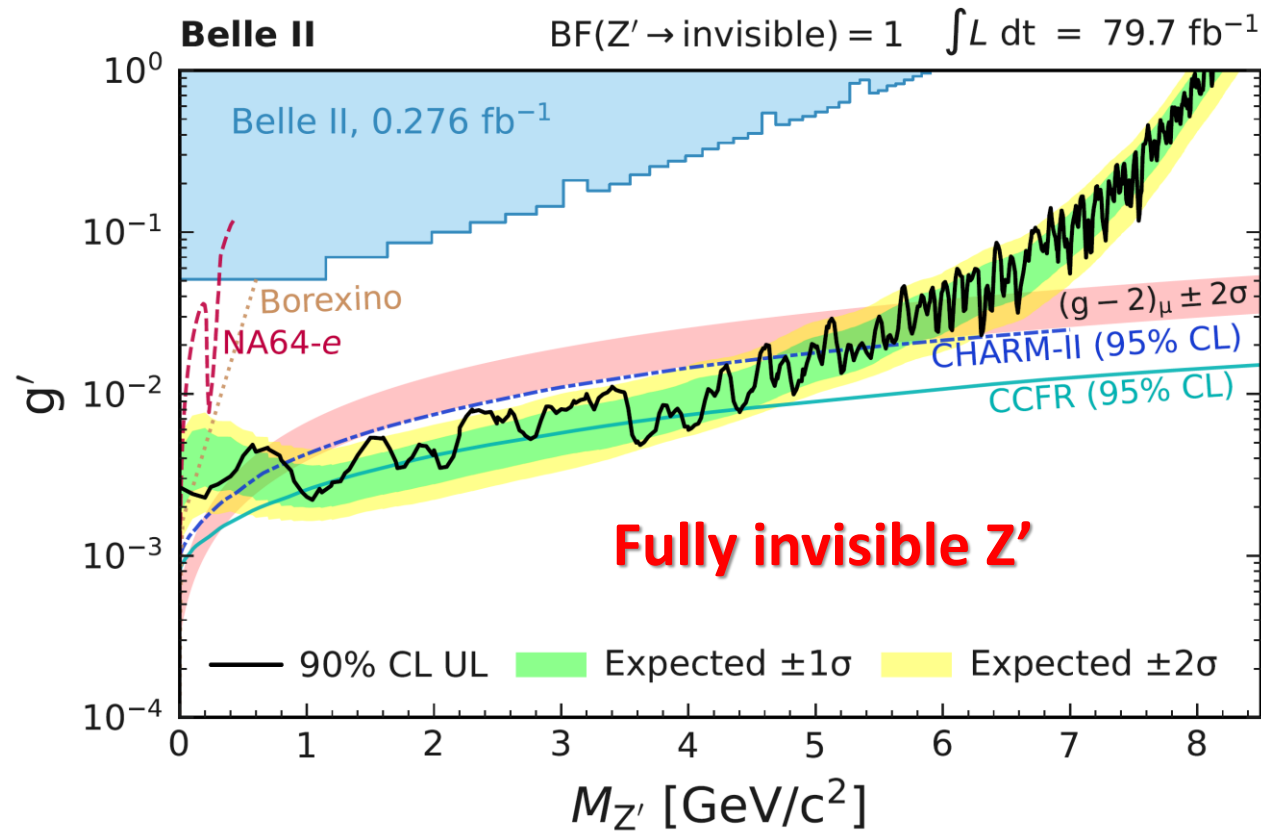
Source	Error
Trigger efficiency	6%
Tracking efficiency	4%
PID	4%
Luminosity	1.5%
Background before $\tau$ suppression	2%
$\tau$ suppression (background)	22%
Discrepancy in $\mu\mu$ yield (signal)	12.5%

will decrease with new data



# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

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



see M.Laurenza's talk

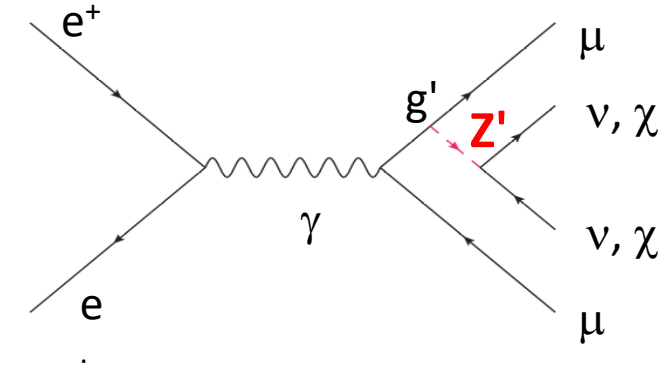
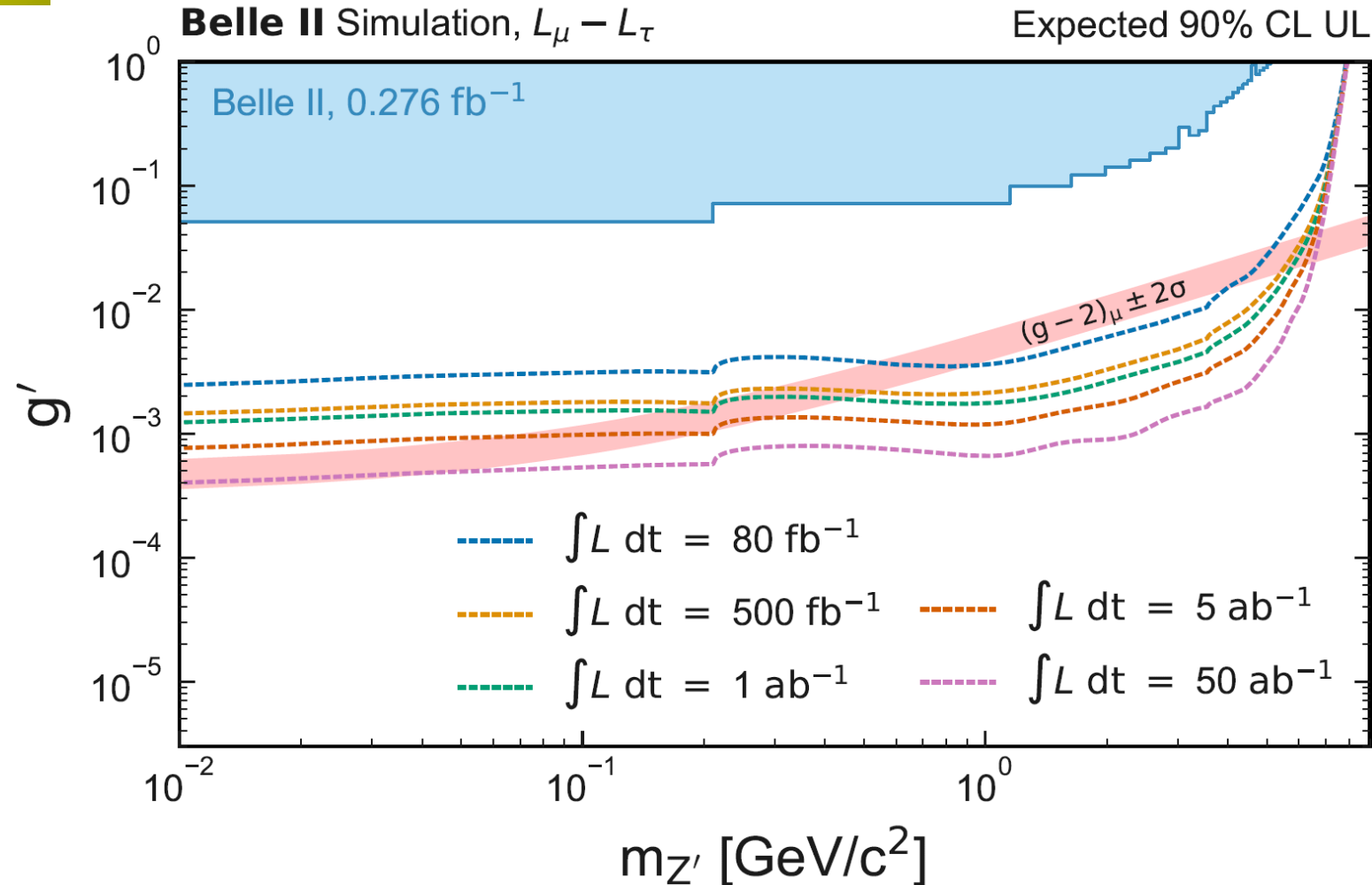
PRL 130, 231801 (2023)

**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: results

Belle II physics reach @ Snowmass  
arXiv: 2207.06307v1

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



# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

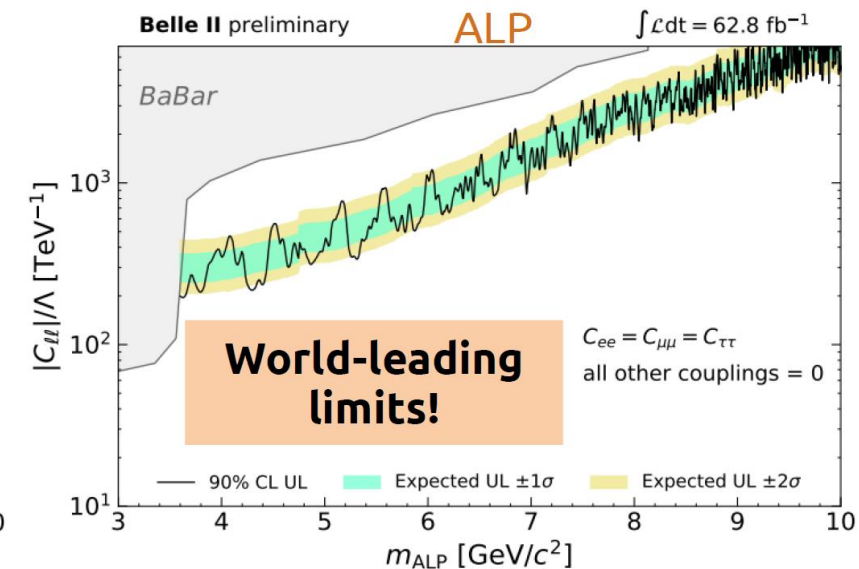
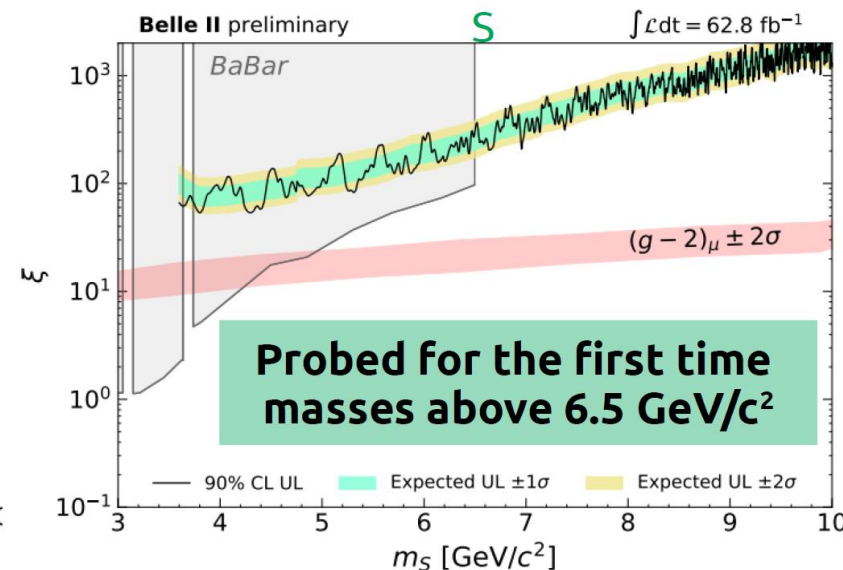
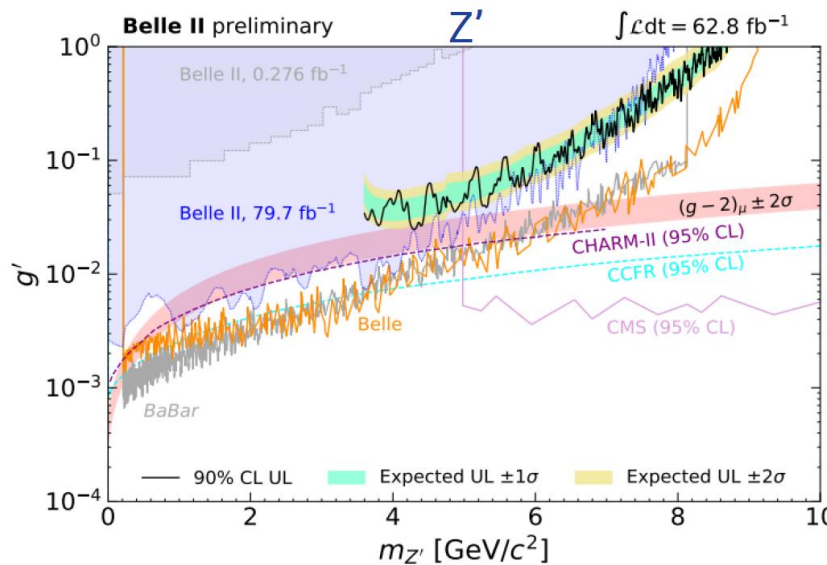
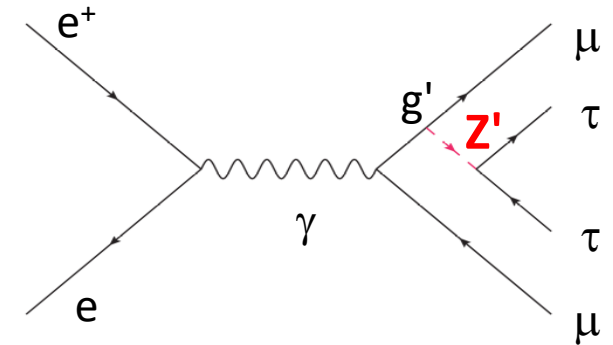
$$Z' \rightarrow \tau\tau$$

Reinterpreted also as

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

Accepted by PRL  
arXiv:2306.12294

see M.Laurenza's talk



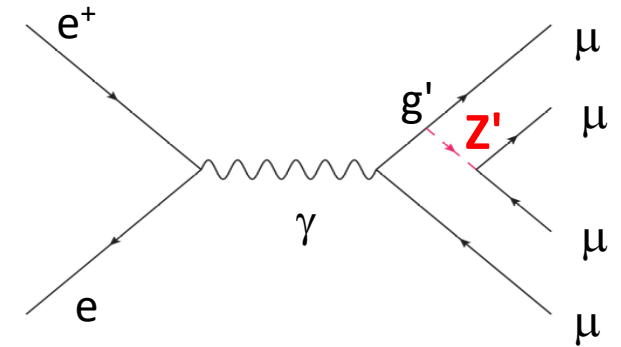


# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

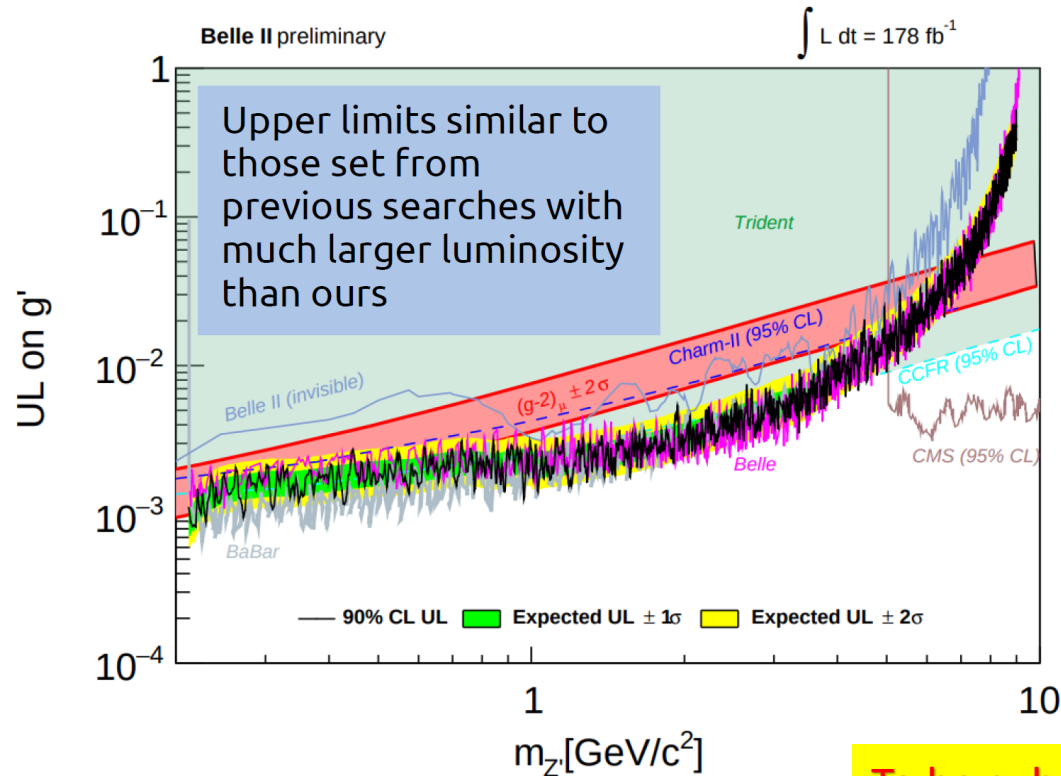
$$Z' \rightarrow \mu\mu$$

Reinterpreted also as

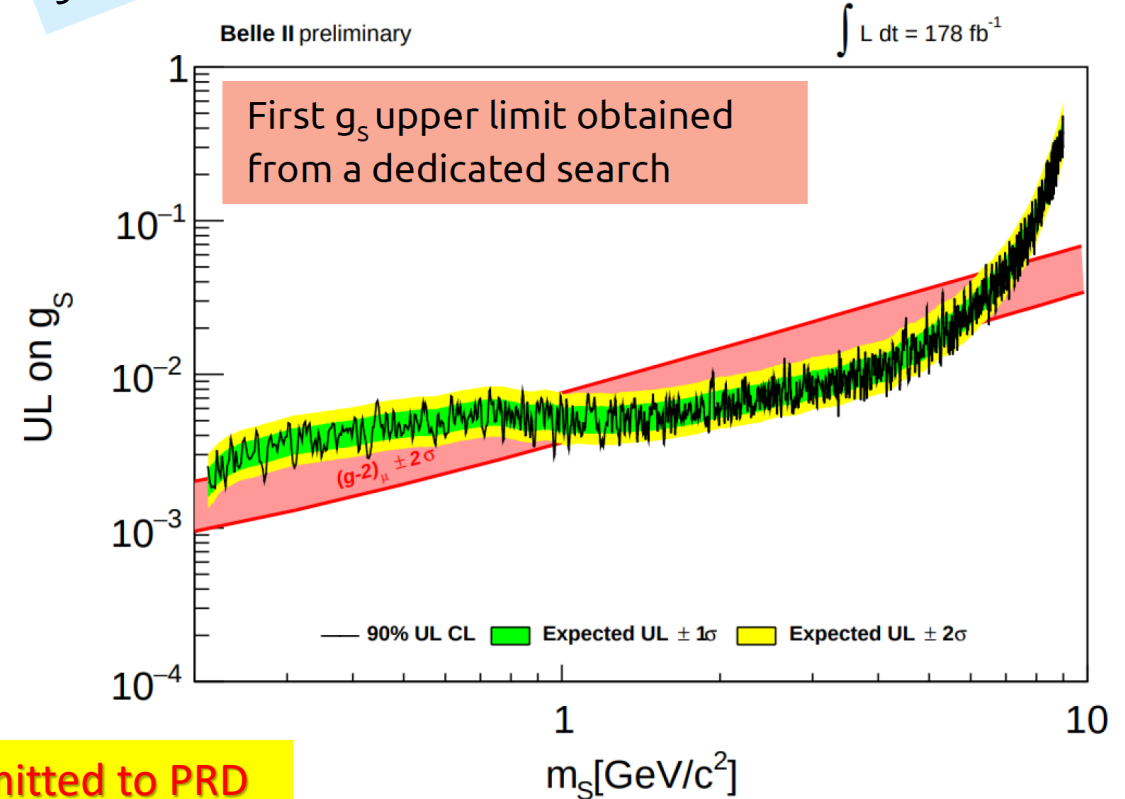
- Muonphilic dark scalar  $S \rightarrow (g-2)_\mu$



see M.Laurenza's talk



To be submitted to PRD

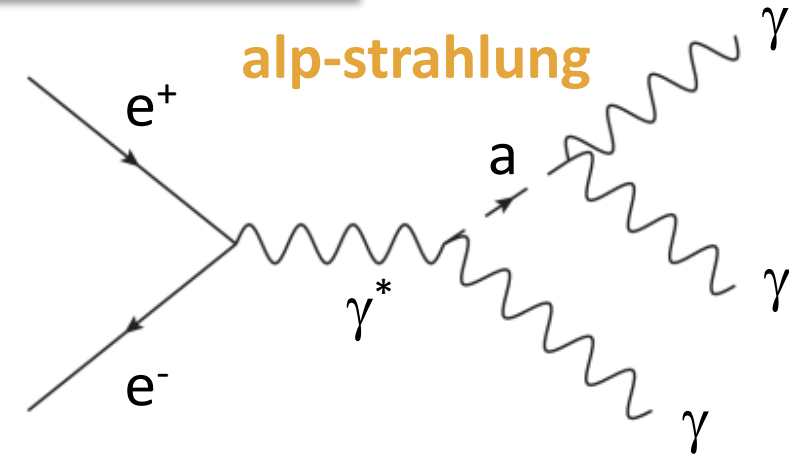
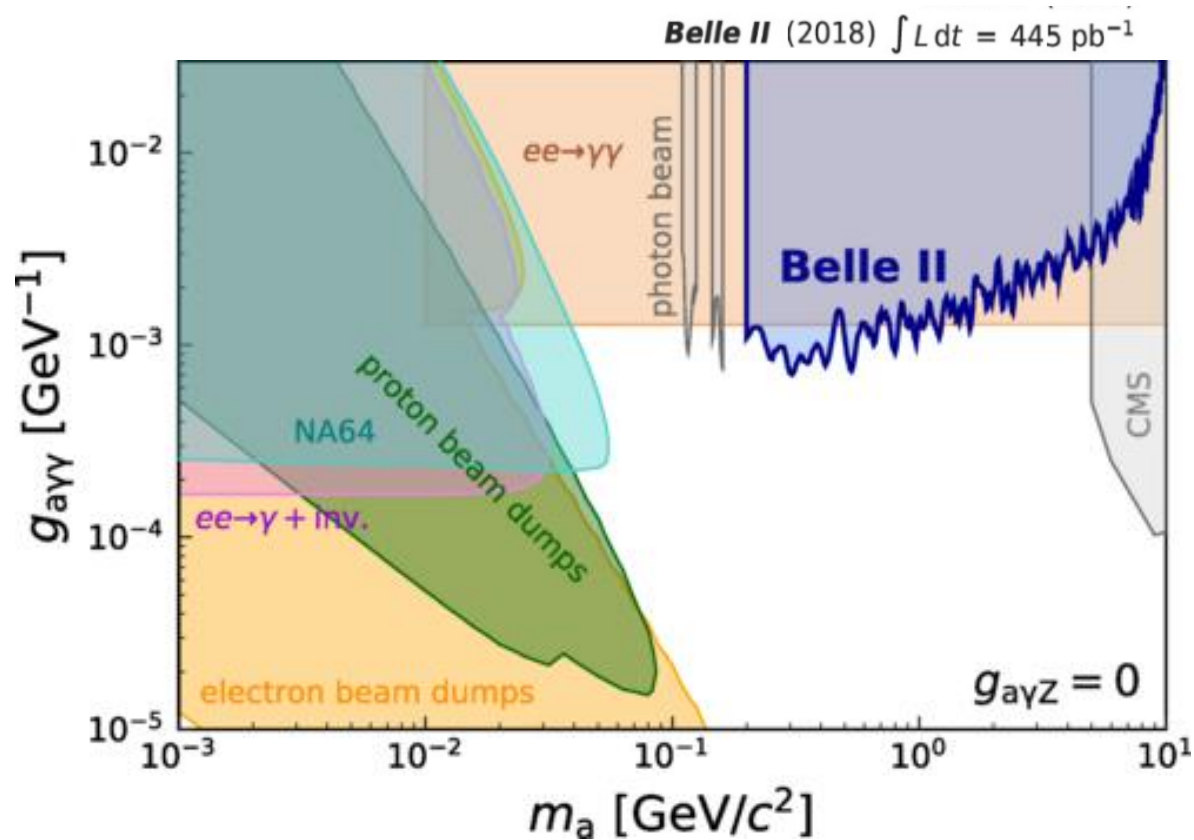


# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

Axion like particles

ALP  $\rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

## Pilot run physics results



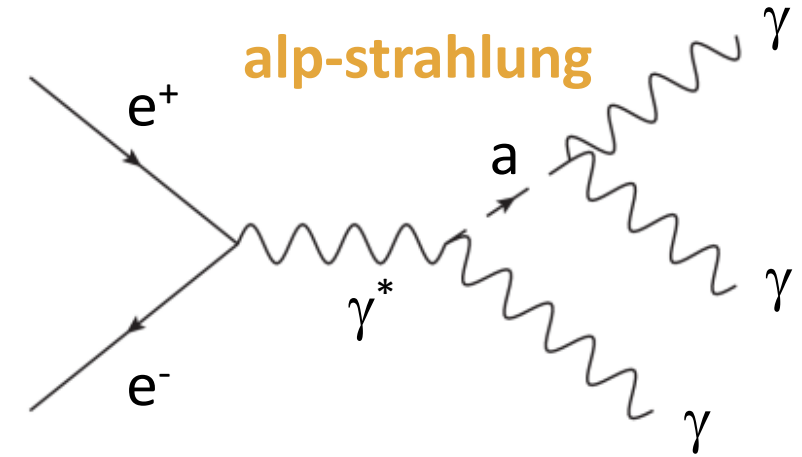
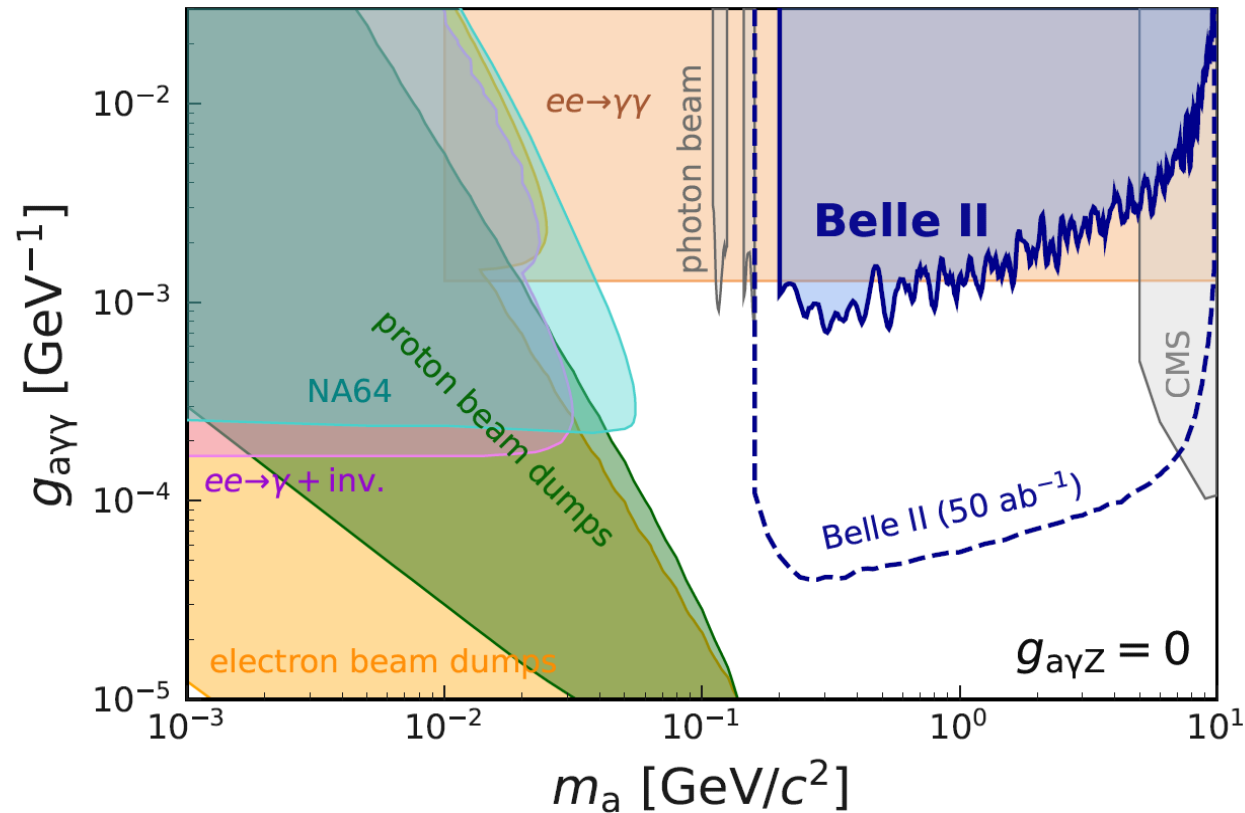
see L.Zani's talk

PRL 125, 161806 (2020)

# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

Axion like particles

$ALP \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

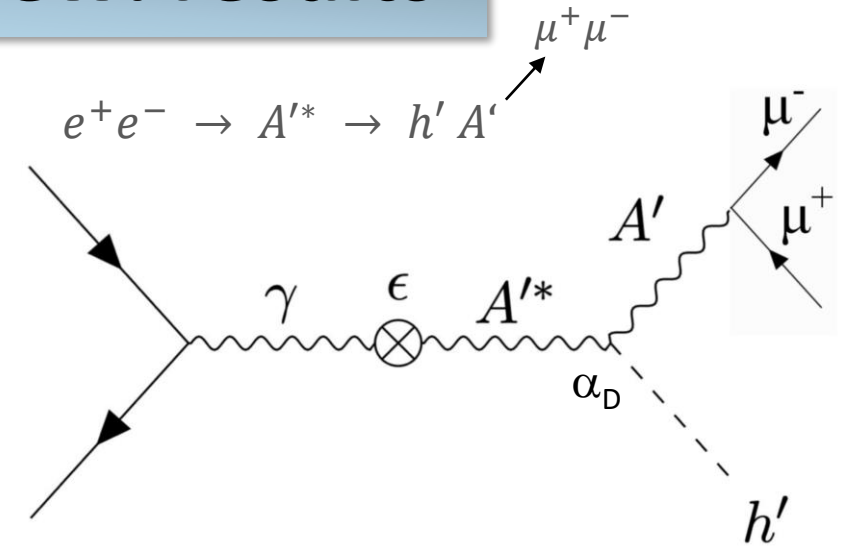
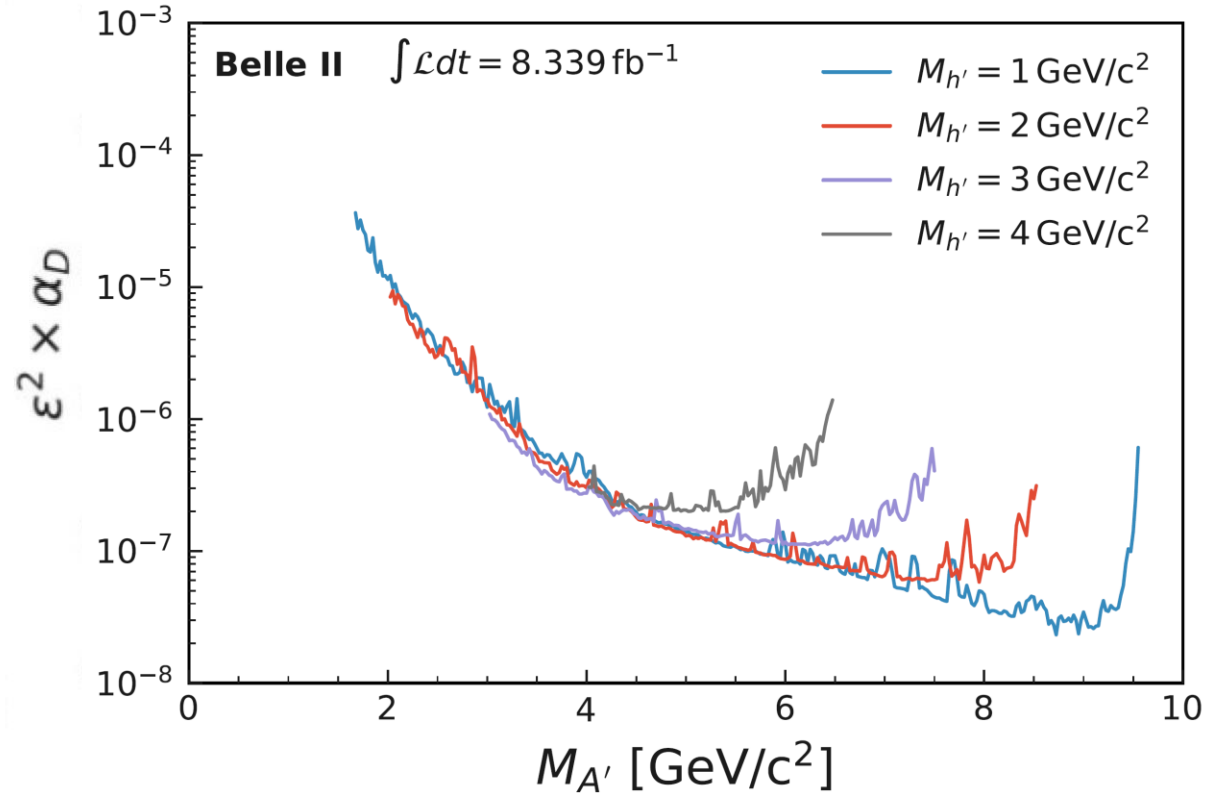


Belle II physics reach @ Snowmass  
**arXiv: 2207.06307v1**

# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

## Dark Higgsstrahlung

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



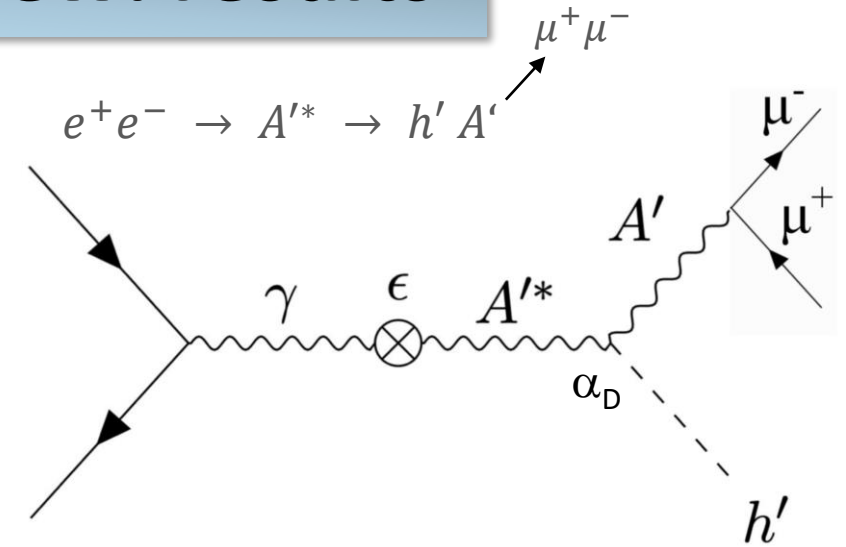
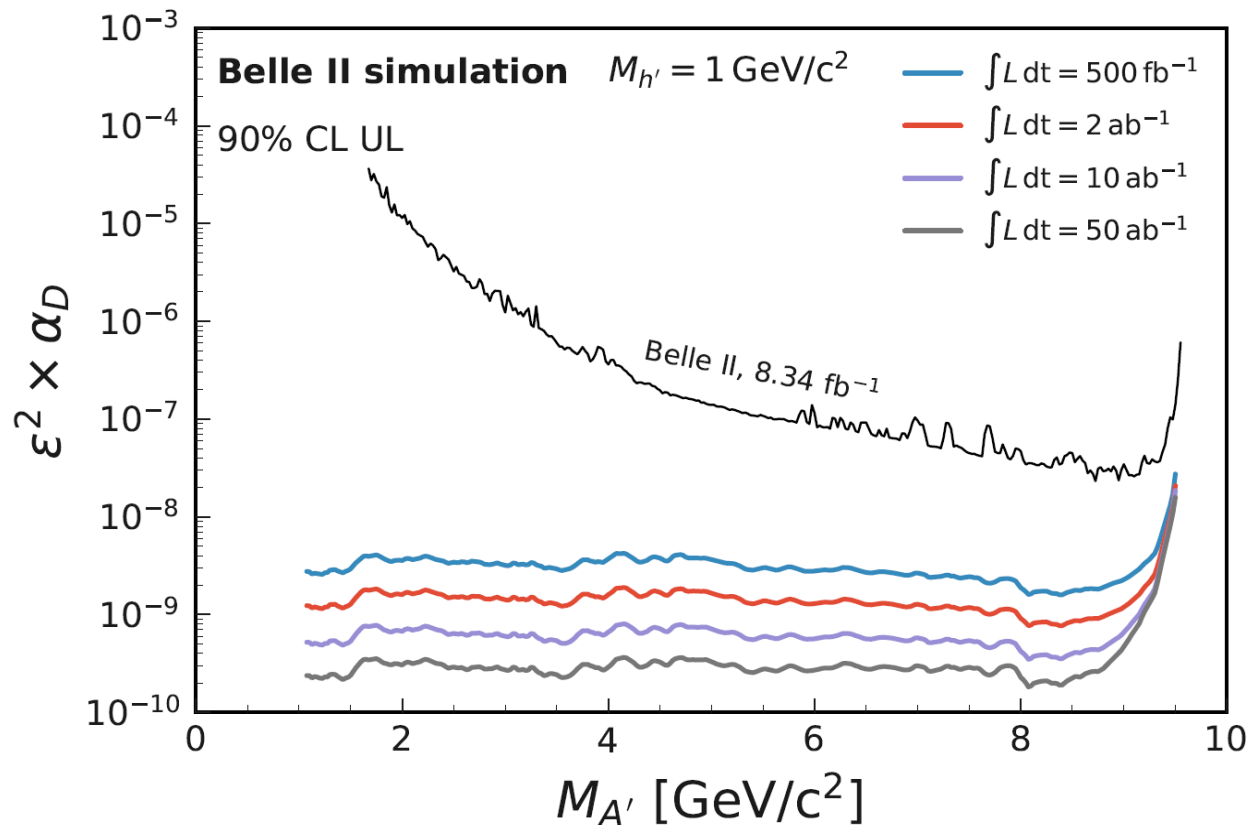
see L.Zani's talk

PRL 130, 071804 (2023)

# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

## Dark Higgsstrahlung

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



Belle II physics reach @ Snowmass  
**arXiv: 2207.06307v1**



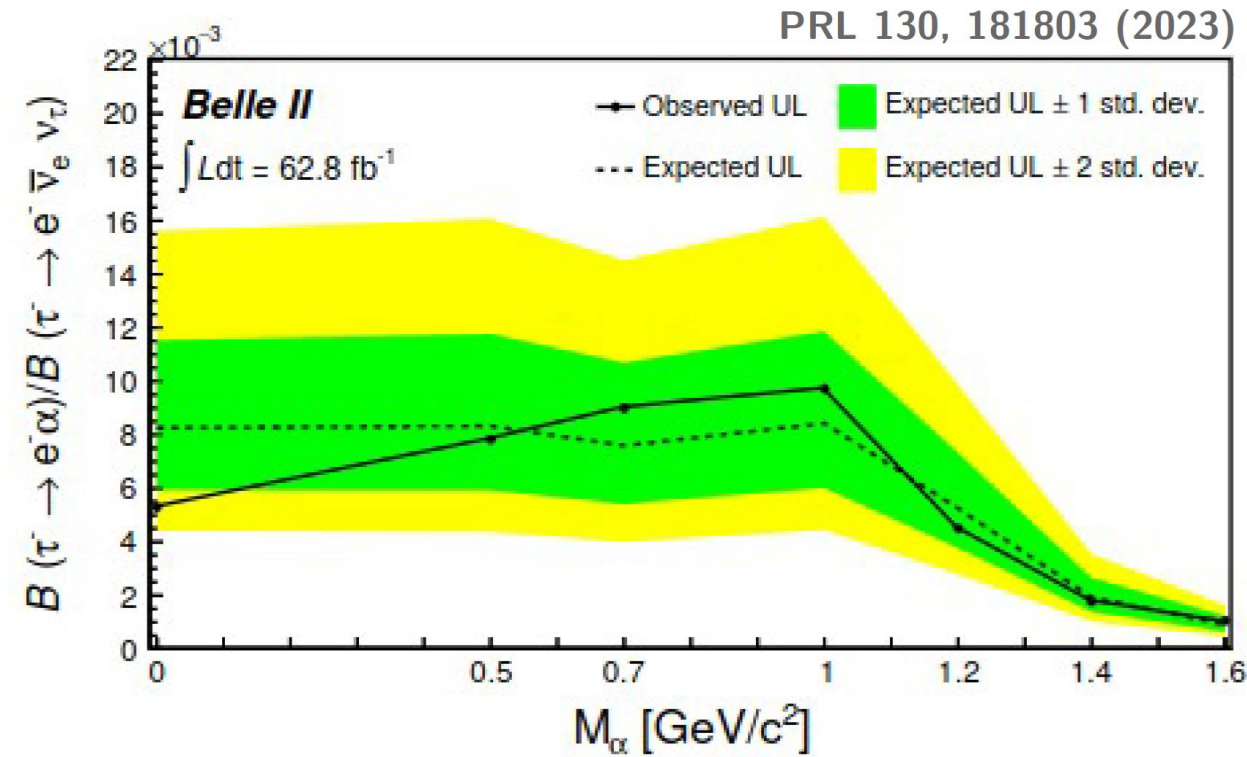
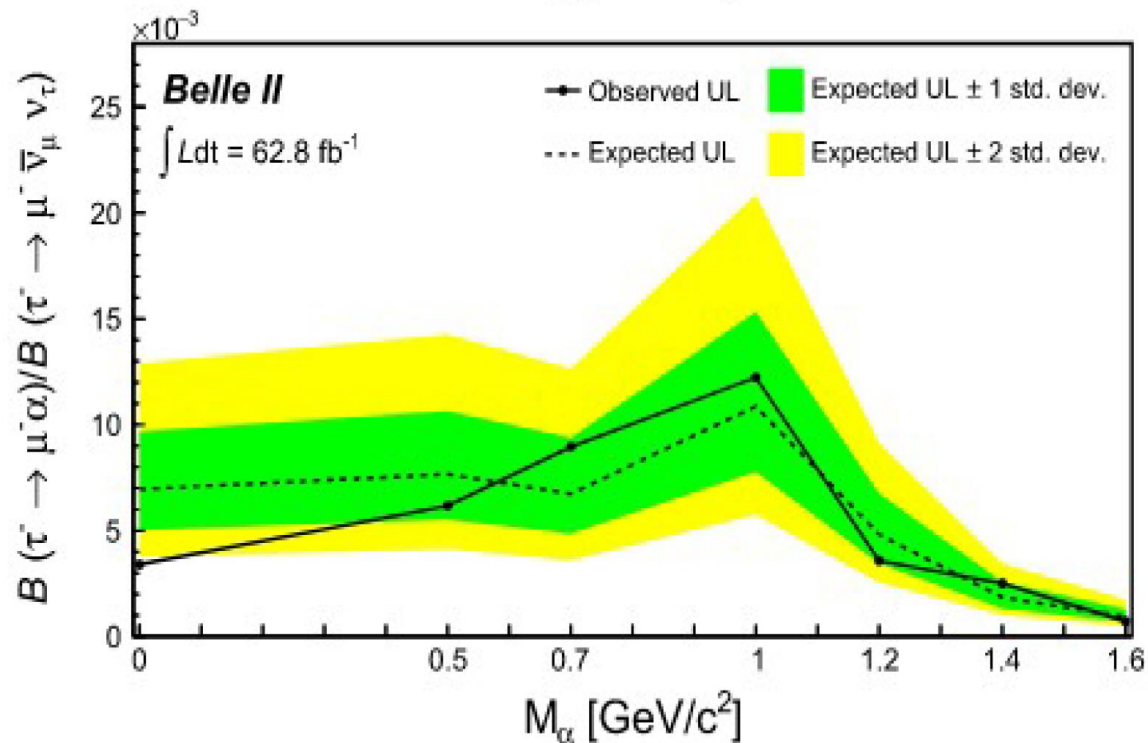
# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

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

LFV, possible ALP candidate

PRL 130, 181803 (2023)

see L.Zani's talk



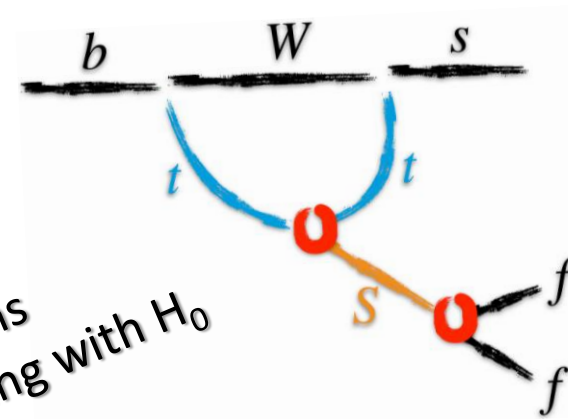
# Belle II dark sector search overview: results

see L.Zani's talk

LLP dark scalar in B decays

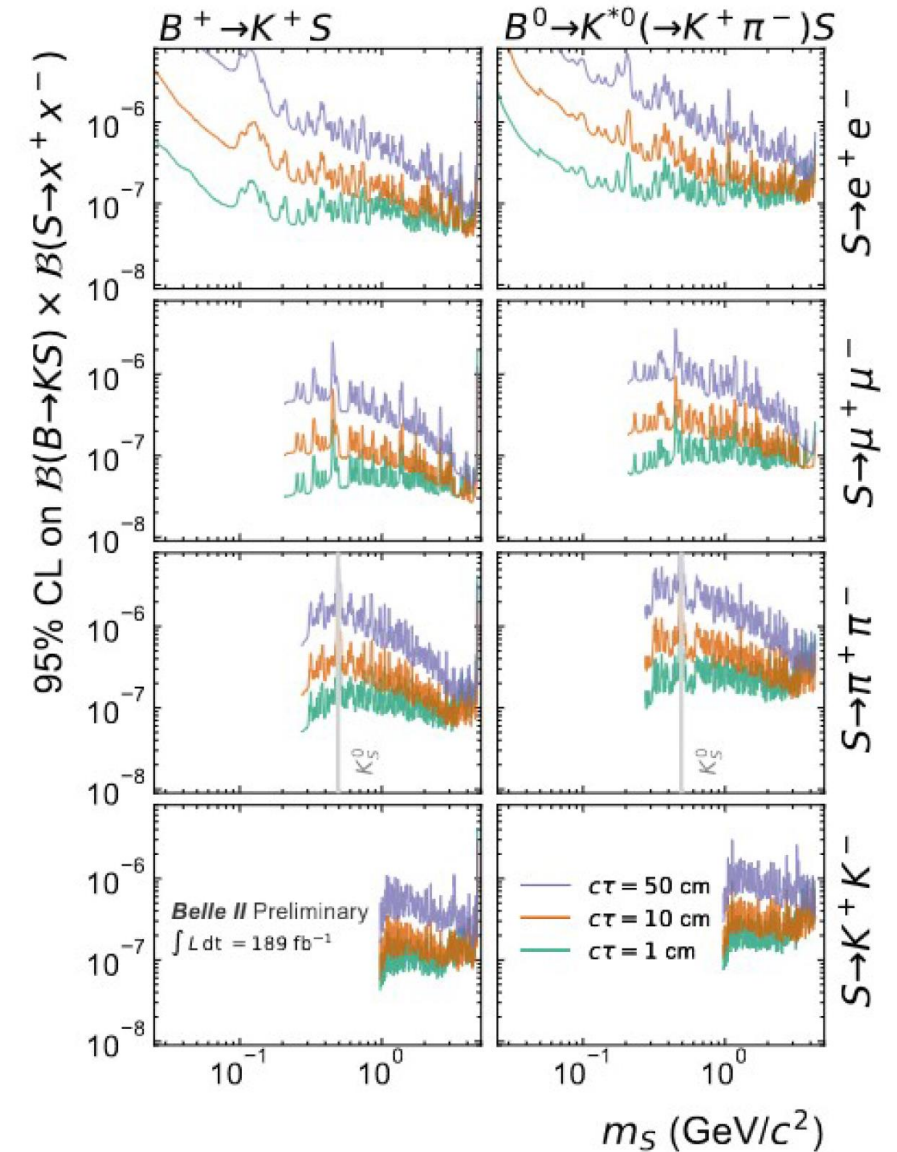
$B \rightarrow kS$   $S \rightarrow ee, \mu\mu, \pi\pi, kk$

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



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

Submitted to PRL  
arXiv:2306.02830

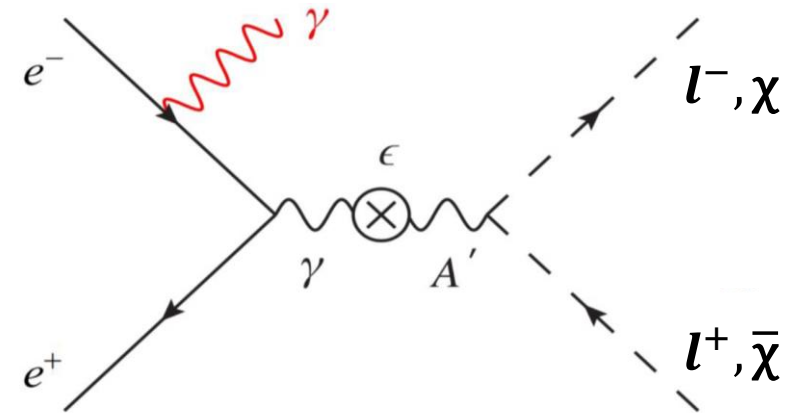


***In progress Belle II dark searches***

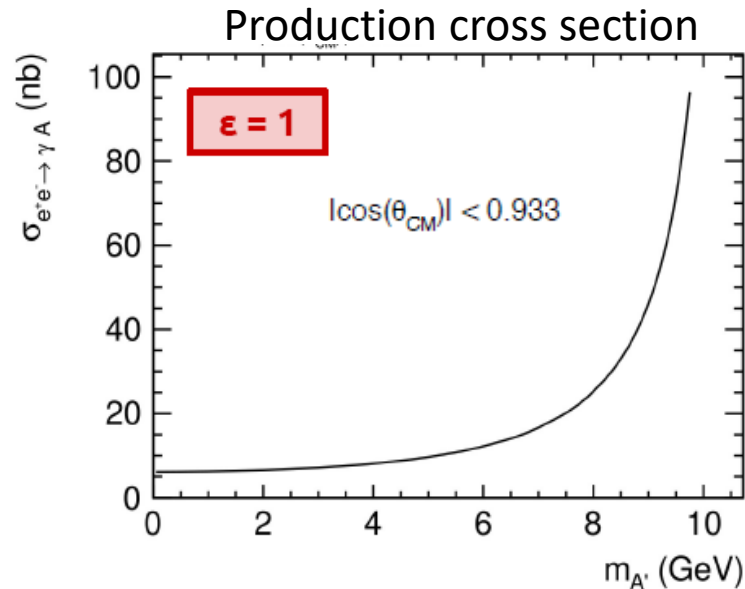
# Dark photon: introduction

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  $\epsilon$
- Couples to dark matter with strength  $\alpha_D$
- Mass through Higgs or Stuckelberg mechanism



Minimal dark photon



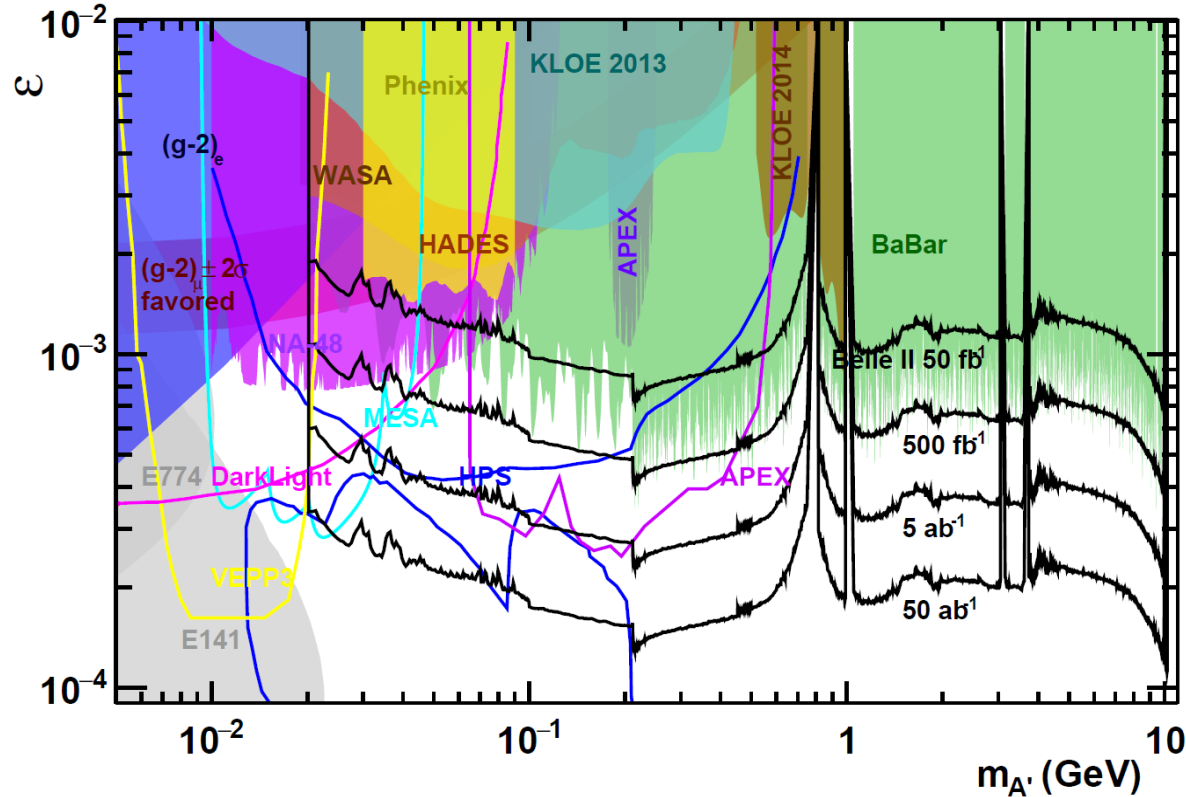
two basic scenarios depending on  $A'$  vs  $\chi$  DM mass relationship

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

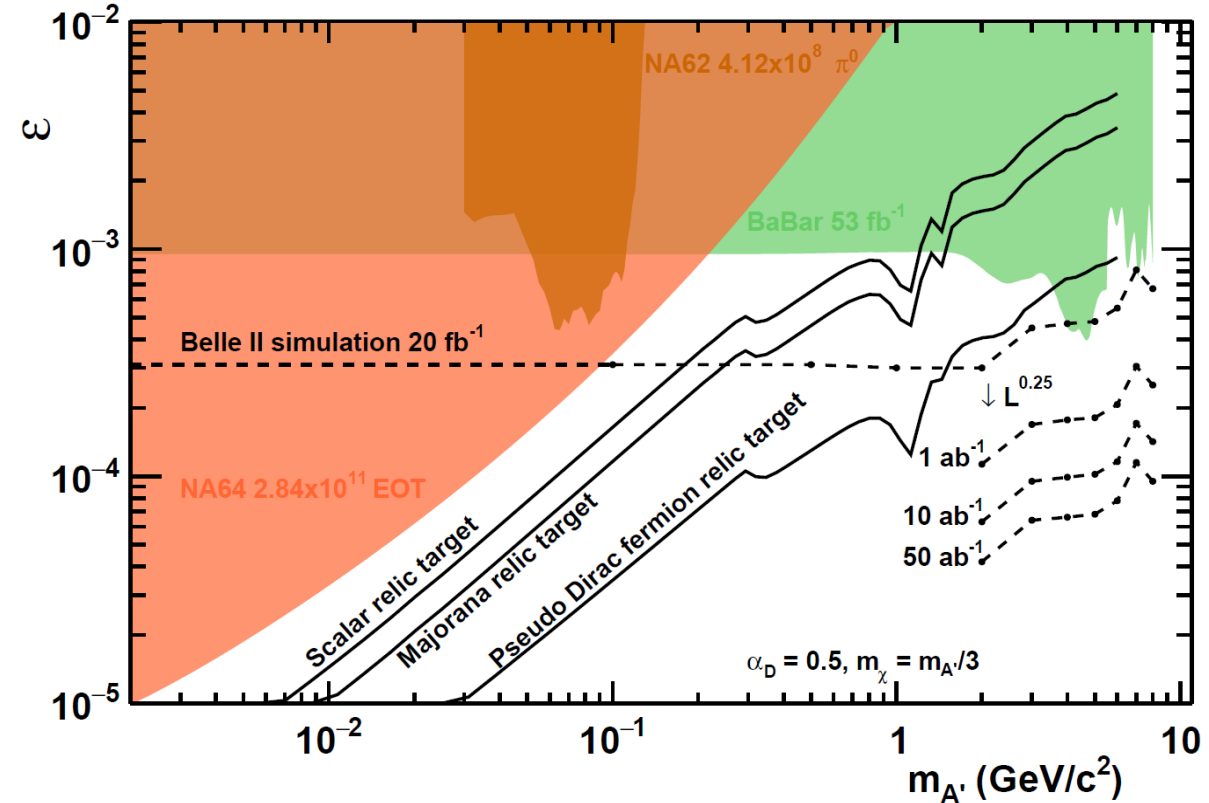
$m_{A'} > 2m_\chi \Rightarrow A'$  decays  $\approx 100\%$  invisibly to DM particles

# Dark photon: luminosity projections

## Visible



## Invisible



Belle II physics reach @ Snowmass  
**arXiv: 2207.06307v1**

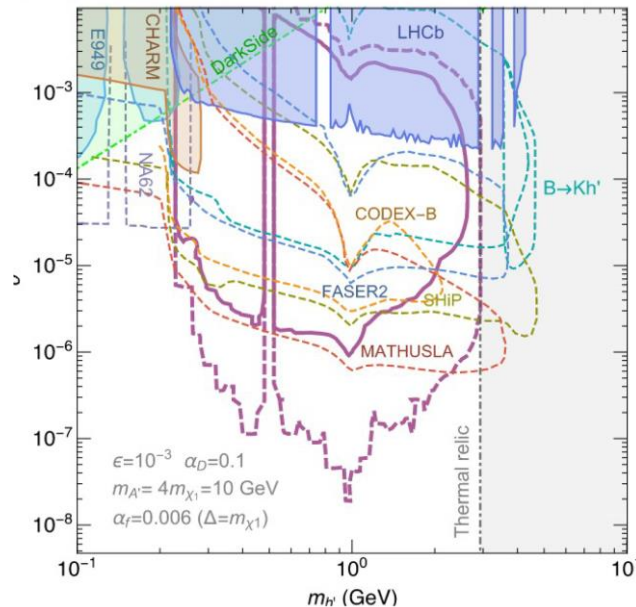
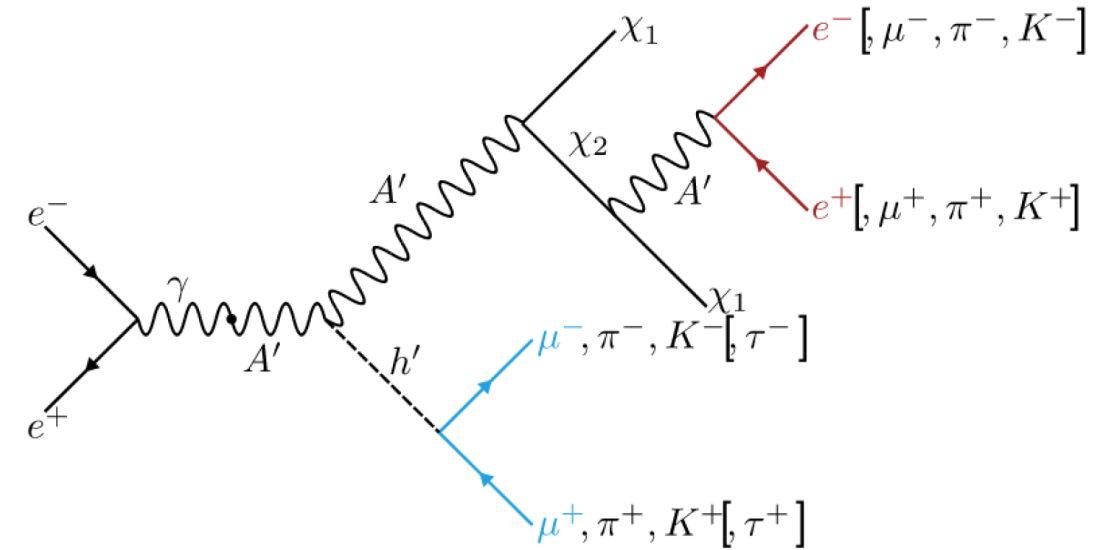
### Belle II vs BaBar

- ✓ Calorimeter with no projective cracks in  $\phi$
- ✓ Larger acceptance
- ✓ KLM veto



# Inelastic dark matter with dark Higgs

- Dark photon  $A'$  and dark Higgs  $h'$
- Two dark matter states  $\chi_1$  and  $\chi_2$  with a small mass splitting
- $\chi_1$  is stable  $\rightarrow$  dark matter candidate
- $\chi_2$  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 $^{-1}$

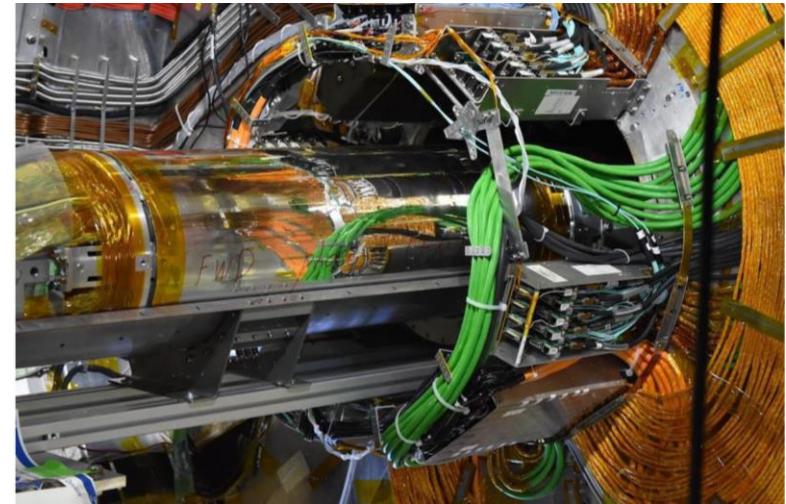
-- Belle II 50 ab $^{-1}$

LLP signature

JHEP 04 (2021), arXiv:2012.08595

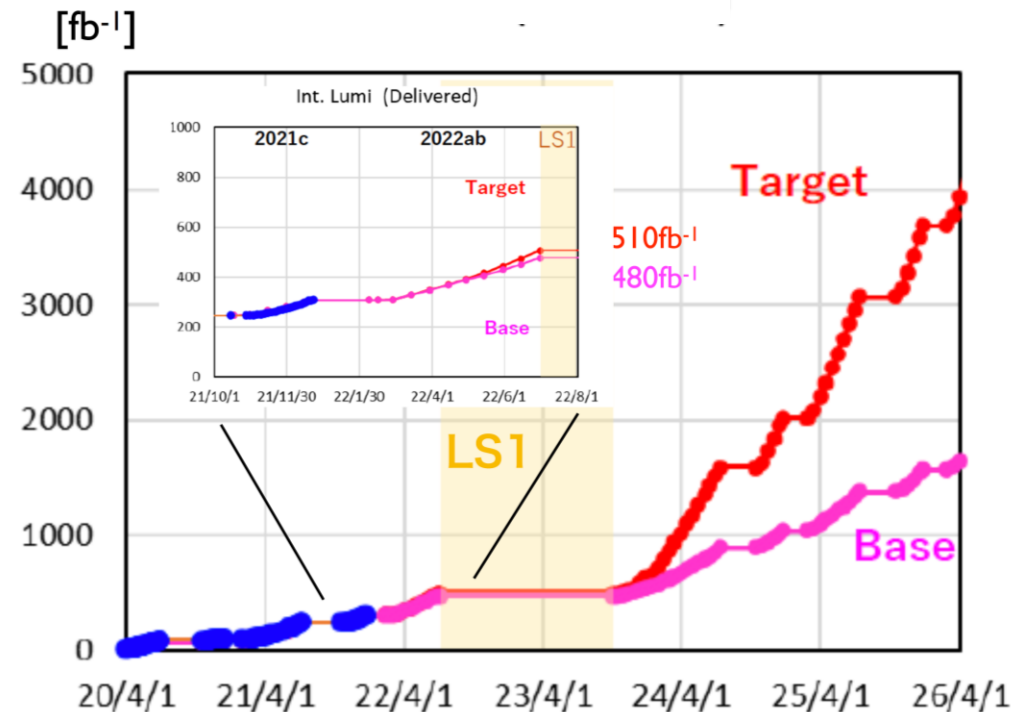
# Belle II and SuperKEKB after shutdown

- 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  $424 \text{ fb}^{-1}$
  - 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