

# Dark sector searches at Belle II and other experiments at $e^+e^-$ colliders

IPA2022: Interplay between Particle and Astroparticle physics 2022

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**Luigi Corona** - University and INFN of Pisa

on behalf of the Belle II collaboration and including material by the KLOE, BaBar,

Belle and BES III collaborations

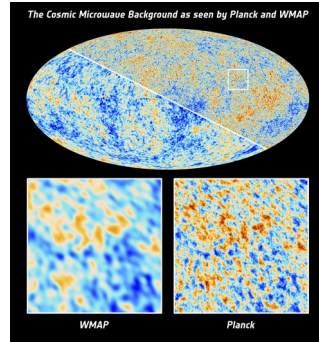
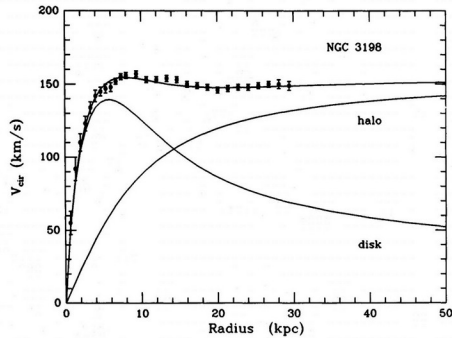
✉ [luigi.corona@pi.infn.it](mailto:luigi.corona@pi.infn.it)



# Dark matter puzzle

- DM is one of the most compelling phenomena in support for physics beyond the Standard Model

Albada et al., [Astrophysical Journal \(1985\)](#)

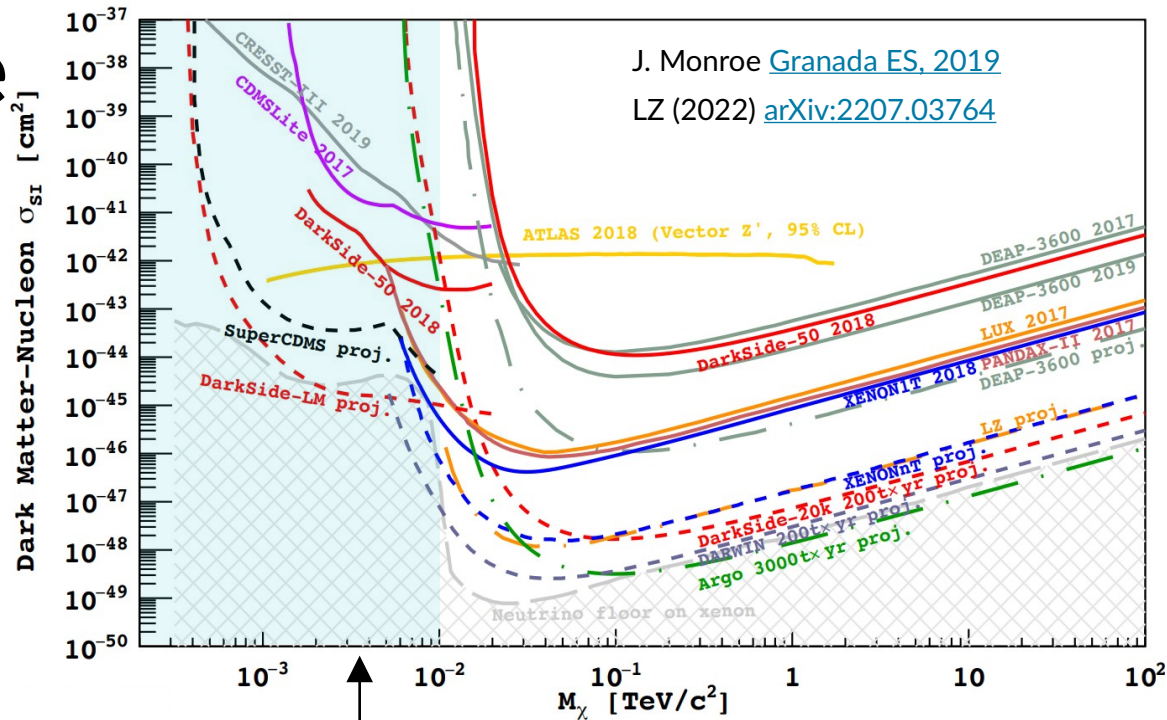
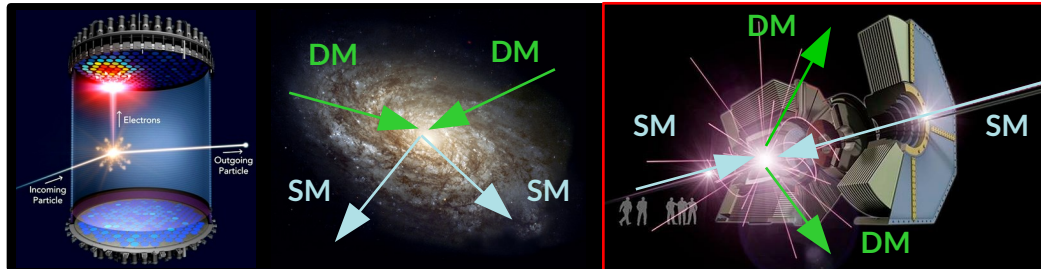


- How to search for it?

Direct

Indirect

Colliders



J. Monroe [Granada ES, 2019](#)

LZ (2022) [arXiv:2207.03764](#)

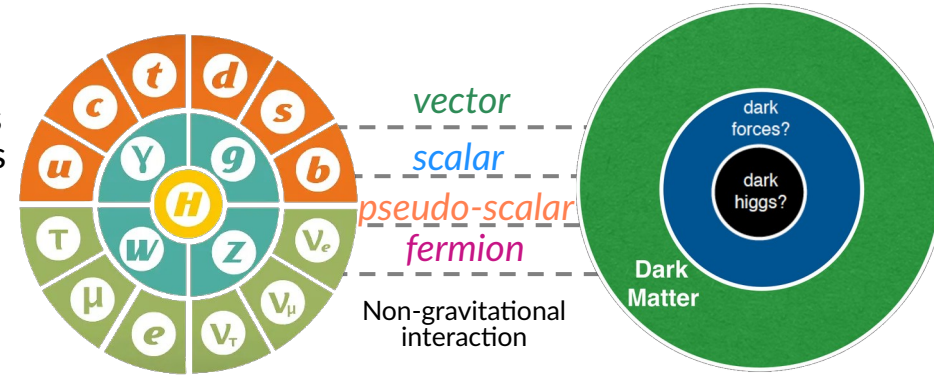
Focus on dark sector searches at  $e^+e^-$  colliders

Searches at colliders

- DM weakly couples to SM particles and it can be produced in SM particles annihilation at accelerators
- several signatures involving light dark sector mediators too

# Light dark sectors

- Null dark-matter-search results at the electroweak scale by the LHC and direct detection experiments motivates the interest for models with low-mass dark matter candidates
- Theoretical scenarios introducing light dark matter with  $M \sim O(\text{MeV-GeV})$  need light mediators too
- Dark matter does not interact directly with the Standard Model
- Dark matter may interact with Standard Model through several “portal” interactions [1, 2]:
  - **vector portal** (dark photon ( $A'$ ),  $Z'$ ,...)
  - **scalar portal** (dark scalar ( $S$ ), dark Higgs,...)
  - **pseudo-scalar portal** (axions, axion-like particles ( $ALP$ )),
  - **neutrino portal** (heavy neutrinos ( $N$ ))
- Not just solving the dark matter puzzle. Could explain:
  - some astrophysics anomalies: positron excess in cosmic rays, ..., (PAMELA, Fermi, ...)
  - some anomalies in  $B$  meson decays:  $R_{D^*}$ ,  $R_{K^*}$ ,... (Belle, LHCb, ...)
  - the  $(g - 2)_\mu$  anomaly, recently confirmed at Fermilab [3]



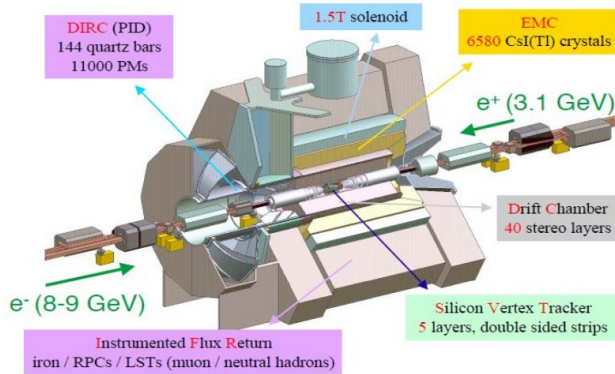
- [1] Batell et al., [Phys. Rev. D 80, 095024 \(2009\)](#)
- [2] Essig et al., [arXiv:1311.0029 \(2013\)](#)
- [3] Abi et al., [Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 141801 \(2021\)](#)



# Experiments at $e^+e^-$ colliders

- Many experiments at  $e^+e^-$  colliders have been providing important contribution to dark sector searches

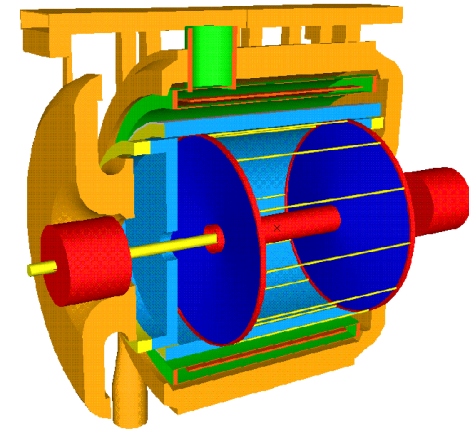
## BABAR detector



- Experiments at B-factories
  - BABAR @ PEP-II (2000-2008)
  - Belle @ KEKB (1999 - 2010)
  - Belle II @ SuperKEKB (2018 - )
- $\rightarrow \sqrt{s} = 10.58 \text{ GeV (Y(4S))}$

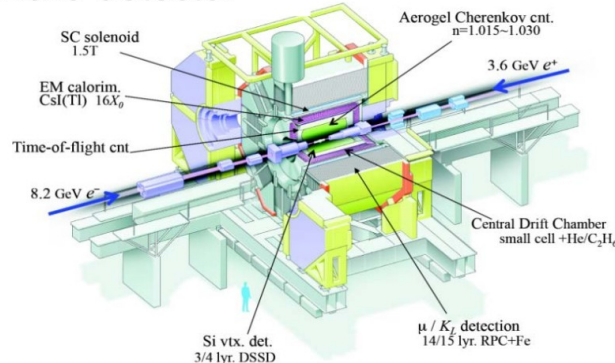
This talk: **the focus mostly on B-factories**

## KLOE detector

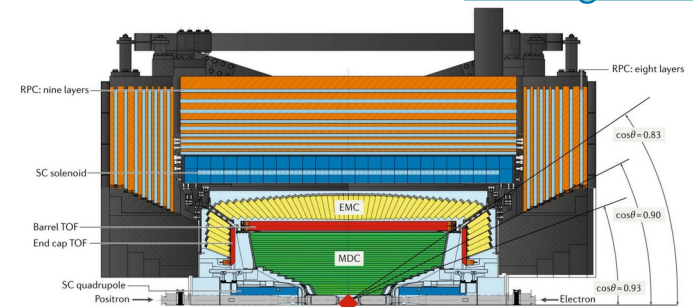


- KLOE (2001 - 2006) and KLOE-2 (2014 - 2018) @ DAΦNE
  - $\rightarrow \sqrt{s} = 1.019 \text{ GeV } (\Phi \text{ meson})$
- BES III (2009 - ) @ BEPC II
  - $\rightarrow \sqrt{s} = 2 - 4.95 \text{ GeV}$

## Belle detector



## BESIII detector See [Gianluigi's talk!](#)



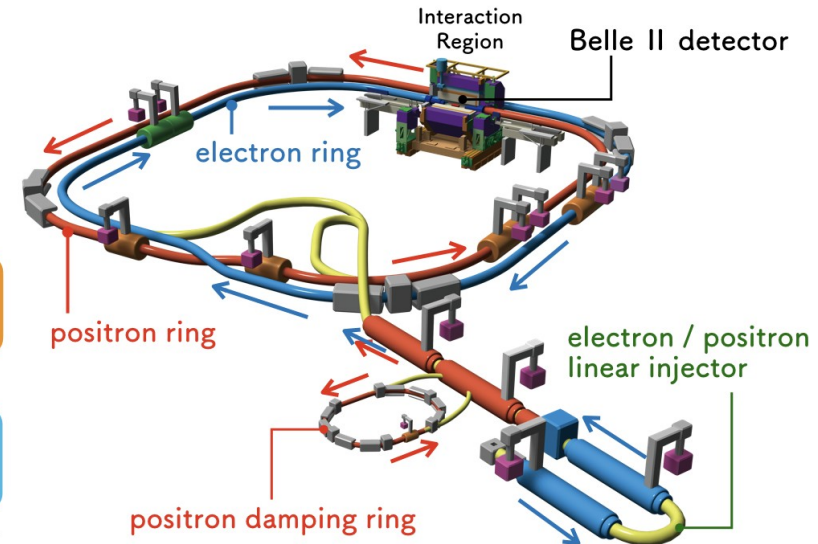
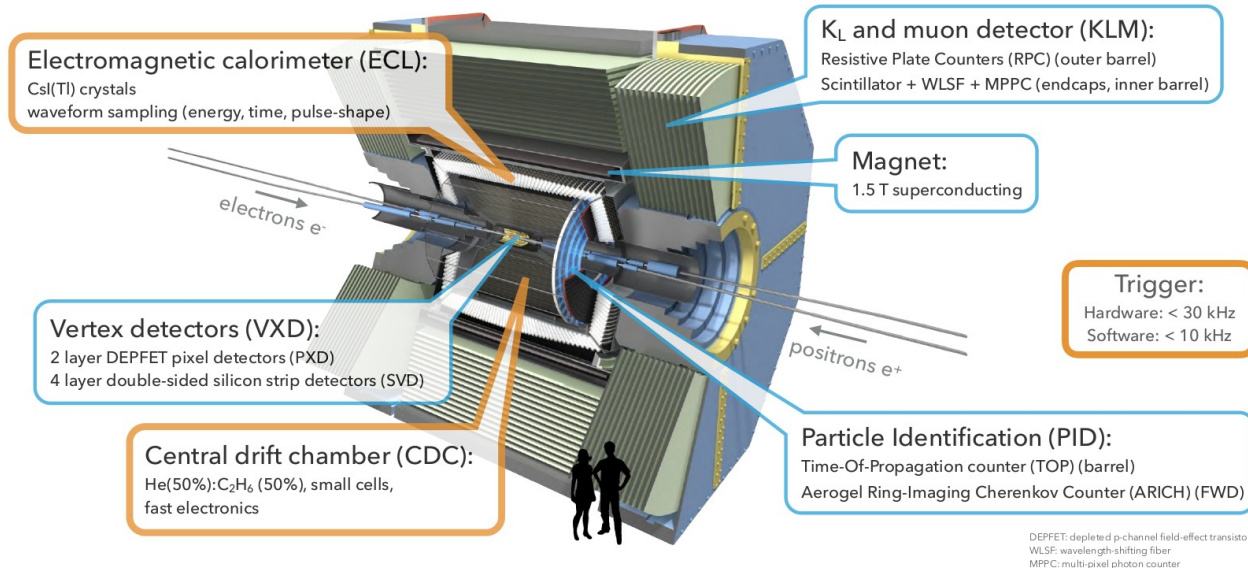


# Experiments at B-factories

See [Alan's talk](#) on Belle II!

Belle II Physics Book, [PTEP 2019 12 \(2019\)](#)

- Asymmetric  $e^+e^-$  colliders optimized for the production of  $B$  meson pairs, but also  $D$  mesons,  $\tau$  leptons, ...
- High peak luminosity  $L > 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
- BABAR and Belle collected  $\sim 1.5 \text{ ab}^{-1}$
- SuperKEKB
  - New generation of B-factories
  - target peak luminosity:  $6.5 \cdot 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
- Belle II target integrated luminosity:  $50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$ 
  - Belle II collected  $424 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  in 3 years of data taking



# Dark Sector searches at B-factories

**Negligible interaction probability of dark matter with the detector**

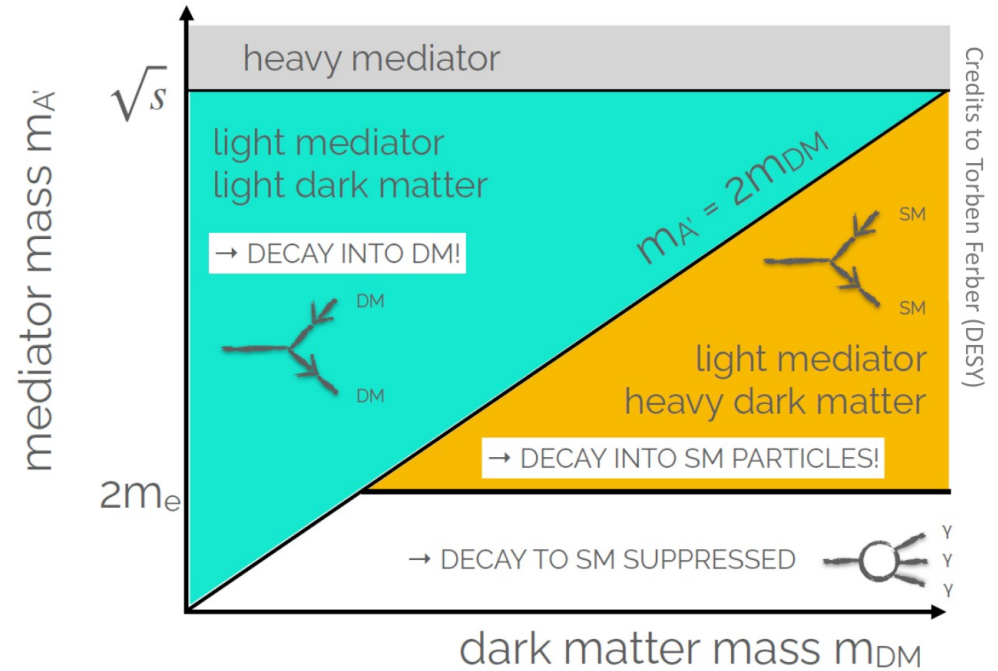
- Search for mediators (visible or invisible)
- Search for final states with missing mass
- Search for both

**Advantages of B-factories**

- High luminosity ( $L > 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ )
- Well known initial state
- Clean environment with low background
- Hermetic detector with good PID performance

**Excellent reconstruction capabilities for low multiplicities and missing energy signatures at B-factories**

The relationship between mass of the mediators and DM candidates leads to different topologies.



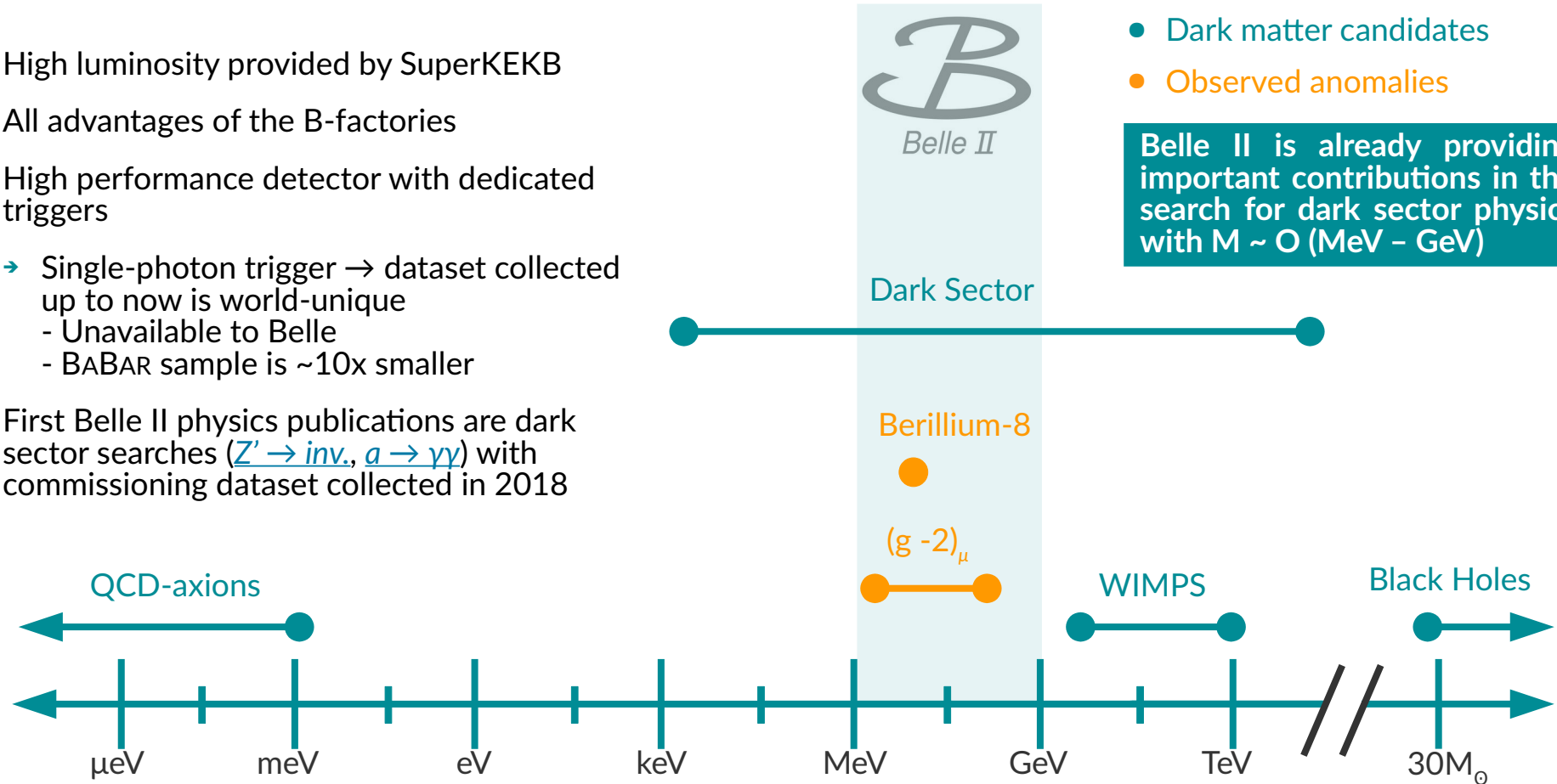
# Dark Sector searches at Belle II

[1] Battaglieri et al., [arXiv:1707.04591](https://arxiv.org/abs/1707.04591)

- High luminosity provided by SuperKEKB
- All advantages of the B-factories
- High performance detector with dedicated triggers
  - ➔ Single-photon trigger → dataset collected up to now is world-unique
    - Unavailable to Belle
    - BABAR sample is ~10x smaller
- First Belle II physics publications are dark sector searches ( $Z' \rightarrow inv.$ ,  $a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ) with commissioning dataset collected in 2018

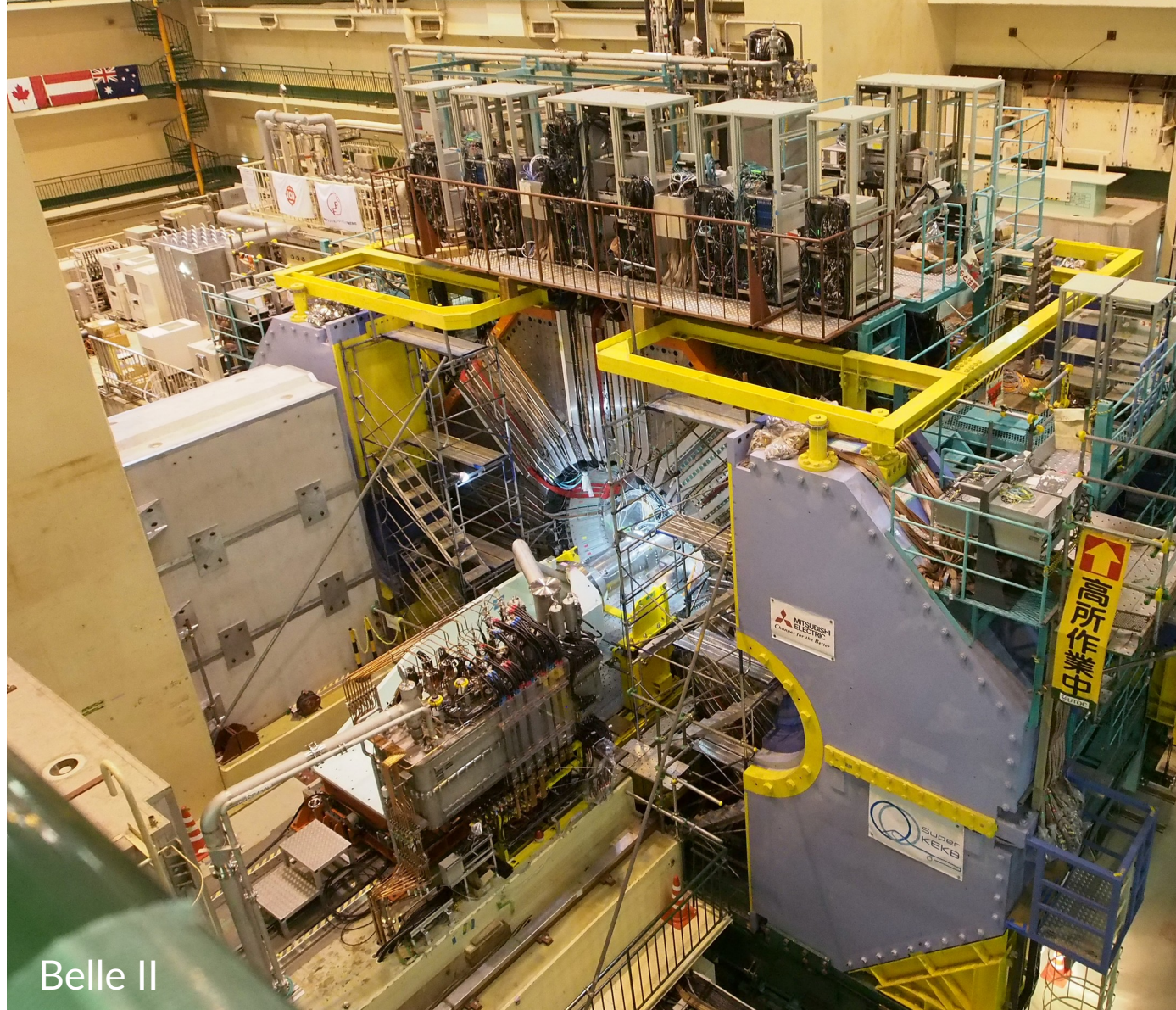
- Dark matter candidates
- Observed anomalies

Belle II is already providing important contributions in the search for dark sector physics with  $M \sim O$  (MeV - GeV)





Overview on  
dark sector  
searches:  
***Z' boson***



Belle II

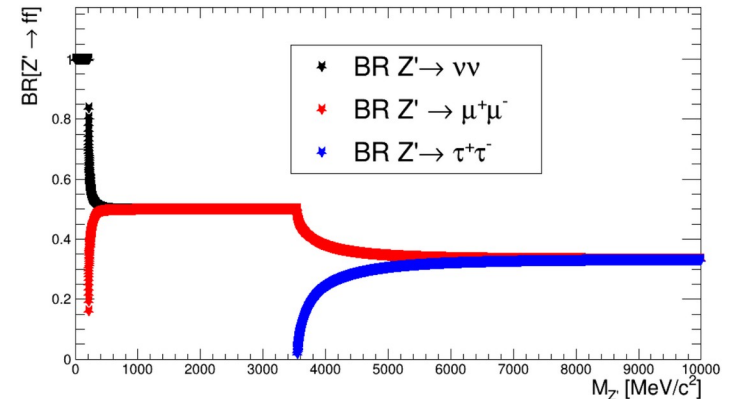
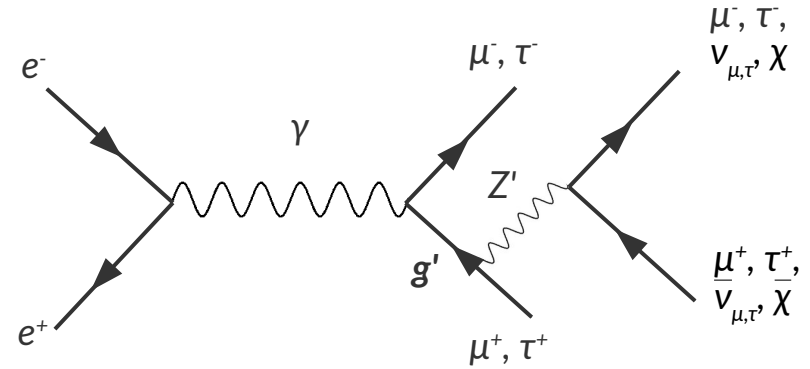
# Search for a $Z'$ boson

- [1] Shuve et al., [Phys. Rev. D 89, 113004 \(2014\)](#)  
 [2] Altmannshofer et al., [JHEP 106 \(2016\)](#)  
 [3] D. Curtin et al., [JHEP 02 \(2015\) 157](#)

- Vector boson  $Z'$  with a coupling  $g'$  only to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generations of leptons introduced by the  $L_\mu - L_\tau$  model [1, 2, 3]

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{\ell} \theta g' \bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu Z'_\mu \ell \quad \begin{array}{l} \theta = +1 \text{ if } \ell = \mu \\ \theta = -1 \text{ if } \ell = \tau \end{array}$$

- May explain DM abundance, the  $(g - 2)_\mu$  anomaly
- May solve anomalies observed in rare  $B$  decays,  $B \rightarrow K^* \mu \mu$ ,  $R_{K^{(*)}}$
- If lighter accessible DM exists,  $Z'$  could decay to DM
- Possible decays:  $Z' \rightarrow$  invisible (neutrinos or light DM),  $Z' \rightarrow \tau \tau$ ,  $Z' \rightarrow \mu \mu$
- Existing constraints from:
  - $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- Z'$ ,  $Z' \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$  ([BaBar\(2016\)](#), [Belle\(2022\)](#), [CMS\(2019\)](#)),
  - $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- Z'$ ,  $Z' \rightarrow$  invisible ([Belle II\(2020\)](#))
  - neutrino-nucleus scattering processes (neutrino trident production, CCFR and CHARM-II experiments)



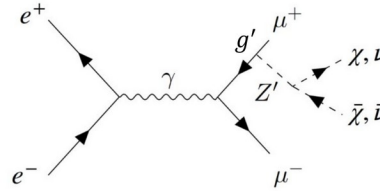


# $Z' \rightarrow$ invisible at Belle II

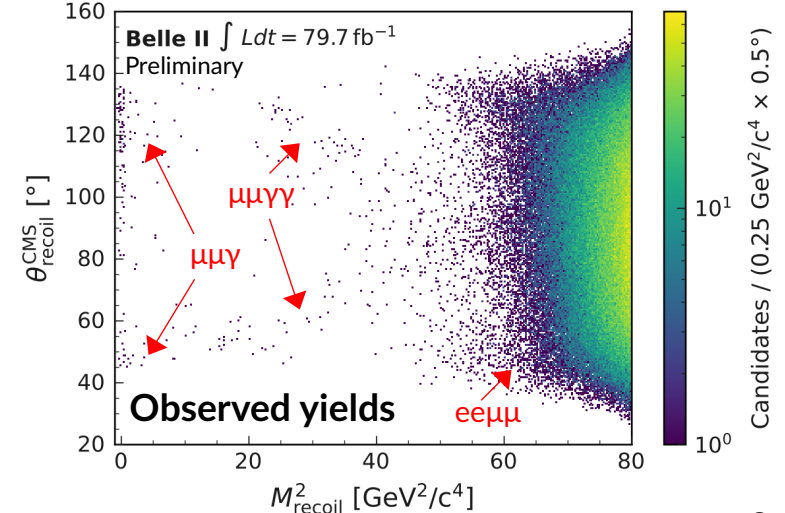
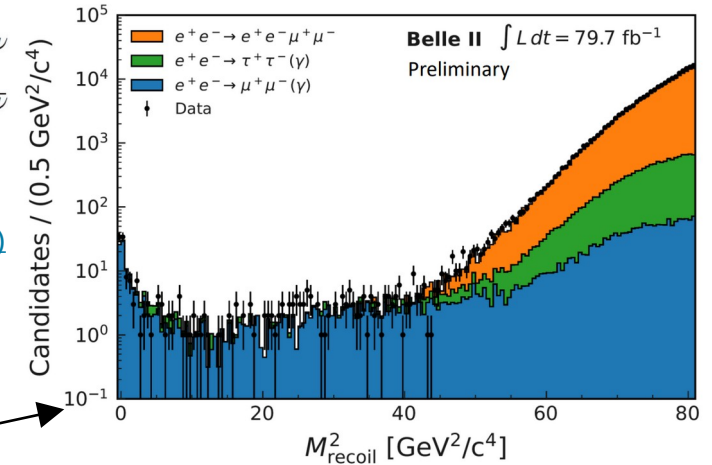
## Analysis

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- +$  missing energy
- Update of the search for an invisible  $Z'$ , with  $0.276 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  collected by Belle II in 2018 (commissioning run) - first search for  $Z' \rightarrow$  invisible >> I. Adachi et al, [PhysRevLett.124.141801 \(2020\)](#)
- Dataset:  $79.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  (2019-2020)
- Event selection:
  - two-track trigger
  - two reconstructed muons,  $p_T^\mu > 0.4 \text{ GeV}/c$
  - no nearby photon
  - Background suppression: different origin of missing momentum
    - background: neutrinos for  $\tau\tau$  and ISR for  $\mu\mu(\gamma)$
    - signal: FSR
- Neural network trained to optimize [Punzi-FOM](#) >> [Eur. Phys. J. C 82, 121 \(2022\)](#)
- Signature: bump in 2D plane of  $\theta_{\text{recoil}}$  recoil vs  $M_{\text{recoil}}^2$

Backgrounds  
 $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- (\gamma)$ : ~ 100% suppressed  
 $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- (\gamma)$ : up to 7 GeV  
 $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$ : above 7 GeV



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





# $Z' \rightarrow$ invisible at Belle II

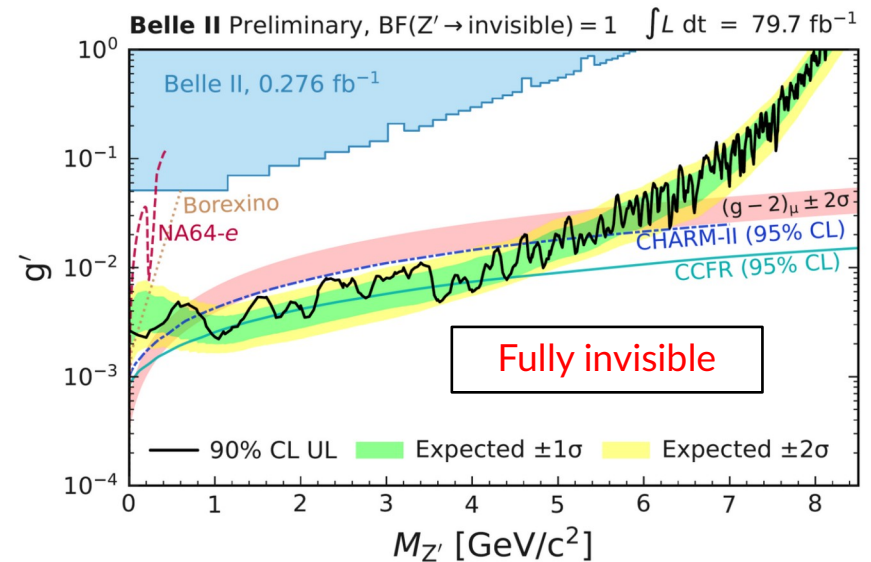
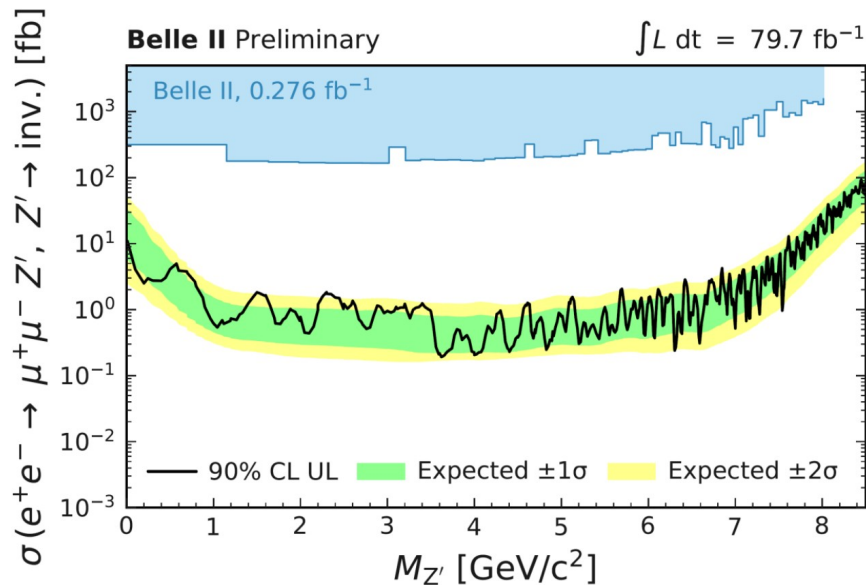
## Results

- No excess found
- Set 90% CL exclusion limits on cross section and coupling
  - Standard  $L_\mu - L_\tau$  model:  $Z'$  decays to Standard Model only
  - Fully invisible scenario:  $\text{BR}(Z' \rightarrow \text{invisible}) = 1$  [ $Z' \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi}$ ]

★ Presented @  
[ICHEP 2022](#)



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



# $Z' \rightarrow \mu\mu$ at BABAR and Belle

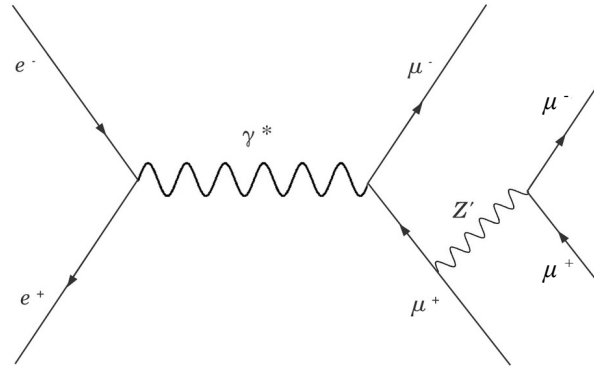
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- Z', Z' \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$
- Search for a di-muon invariant mass peak in  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$  events
  - ➔ Background: mainly from QED  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$  process, as well as peaking backgrounds from  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^- J/\psi$  and  $\rho$

## • BABAR [1]

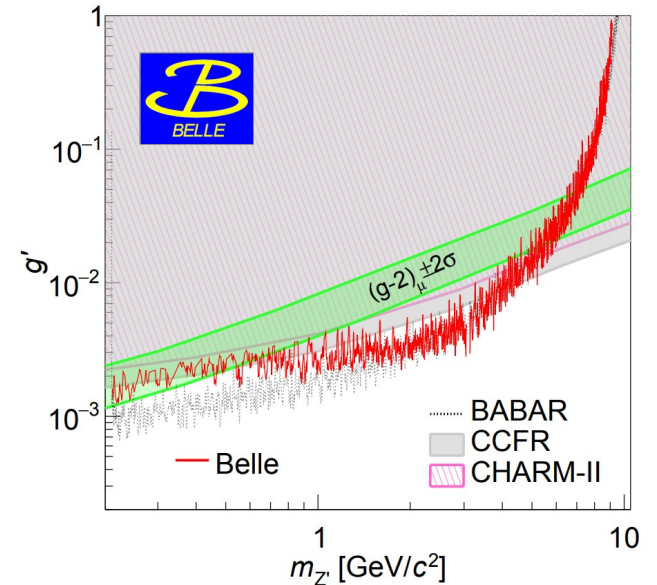
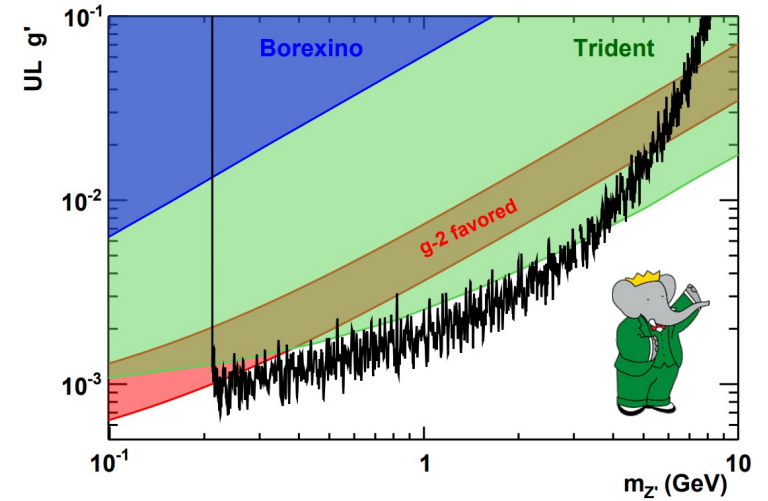
- ➔ Dataset: 514 fb<sup>-1</sup>
- ➔ 90% CL upper limits on  $g'$  at the level of O(10<sup>-3</sup>)
- ➔ a large part of the  $(g - 2)_\mu$  band excluded

## • Belle [2]

- ➔ Dataset 643 fb<sup>-1</sup>
- ➔ Improvement in the upper limits to  $g'$  for  $2 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < m_{Z'} < 8.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



[1] J. P. Lees et al, [PhysRevD.94.011102 \(2016\)](#)  
 [2] T. Czank et al, [PhysRevD.106.012003 \(2022\)](#)

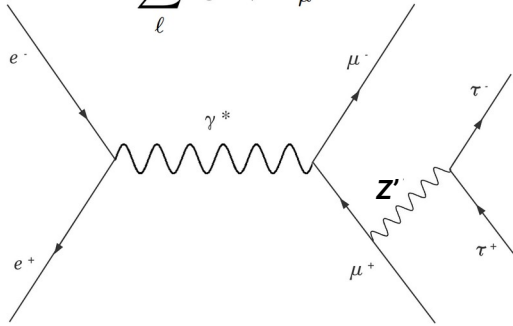


# $Z', S, ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$ at Belle II

$e^+ e^- \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- Z', Z' \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{\ell} \theta g' \bar{\ell} \gamma^{\mu} Z'_{\mu} \ell$$

Vector portal

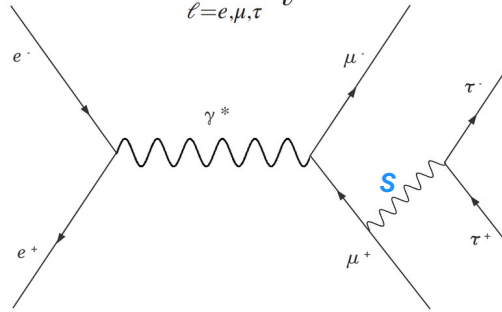


- $Z'$  of the  $L_{\mu} - L_{\tau}$  model
- **First search in  $\tau\tau$**

$e^+ e^- \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- S, S \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$

$$\mathcal{L} = -\xi \sum_{\ell=e,\mu,\tau} \frac{m_{\ell}}{v} \bar{\ell} \phi_L \ell$$

Scalar portal

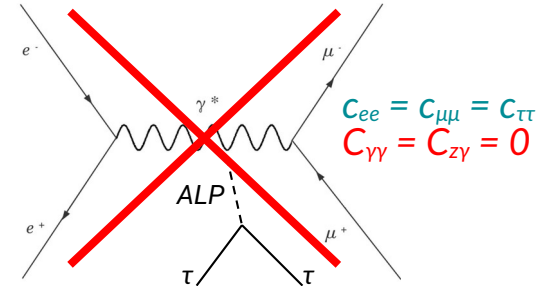
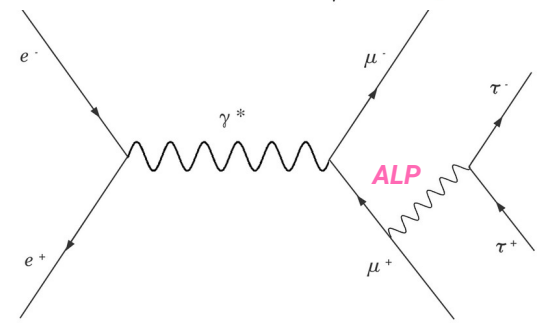


- Leptophilic dark scalar  $S$  model
- Constraints from  $S \rightarrow ee/\mu\mu$  ([BaBar\(2020\)](#), [Belle](#))
  - Model unconstrained for  $M_S > 6.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
  - See [Swagato's talk](#)
- **First search in  $\tau\tau$**

$e^+ e^- \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- ALP, ALP \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$

$$\Gamma(a \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-) = \frac{m_a m_{\ell}^2}{8\pi \Lambda^2} |c_{\ell\ell}^{\text{eff}}|^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_{\ell}^2}{m_a^2}}$$

Pseudo-scalar portal



- $\tau\tau$  system difficult to reconstruct → signature unconstrained
  - Not expected to improve existing limits on  $L_{\mu} - L_{\tau}$
  - Dataset:  $\sim 63 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  (2019+first half of 2020)

- **First search for  $ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$**
- Yukawa-like effective coupling
- $ALP$ - $\tau$  coupling unconstrained

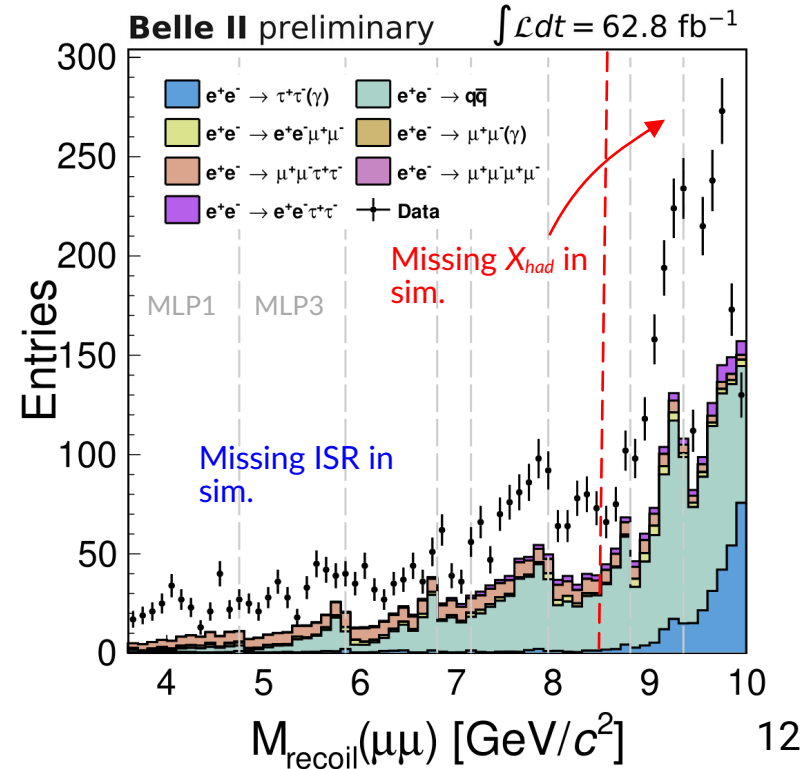
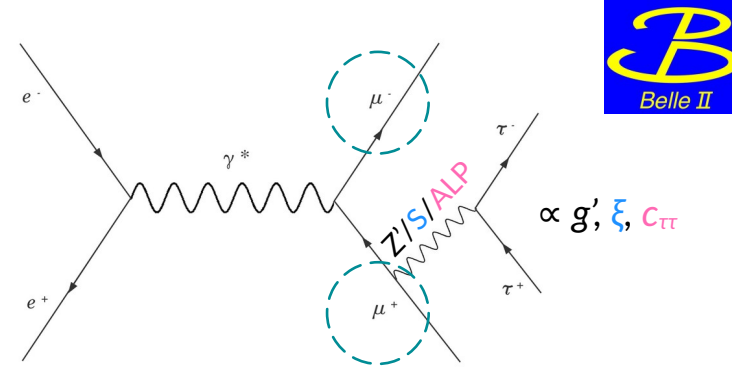


# Z', S, ALP → ττ at Belle II

## Analysis

- Signature: narrow peak in the recoil mass distribution w.r.t the  $\mu^+\mu^-$  in  $\mu^+\mu^-\tau^+\tau^-$  final state
- Event selection:
  - 3-track OR single-muon trigger
  - 1-prong  $\tau$  decays (+ neutrals)  
 $2\mu + 2$  additional tracks ( $e, \mu, \pi$ ) with  $M(4\text{tracks}) < 9.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
  - 8 neural networks trained for different ranges in  $M_{\text{recoil}}(\mu\mu)$
- Main background components:
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-(\gamma)$   
 $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  ( $q = u, d, s, c, b$ )
  - 4-lepton final states **ISR NOT in simulation**
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\pi^+\pi^-$   
 $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-X_{\text{had}}$  (two-photon processes) **NOT in simulation**
- Signal yield from a fit scan over  $M_{\text{recoil}}$  above floating background

data/MC discrepancies:  
**No-peaking expected and understood**

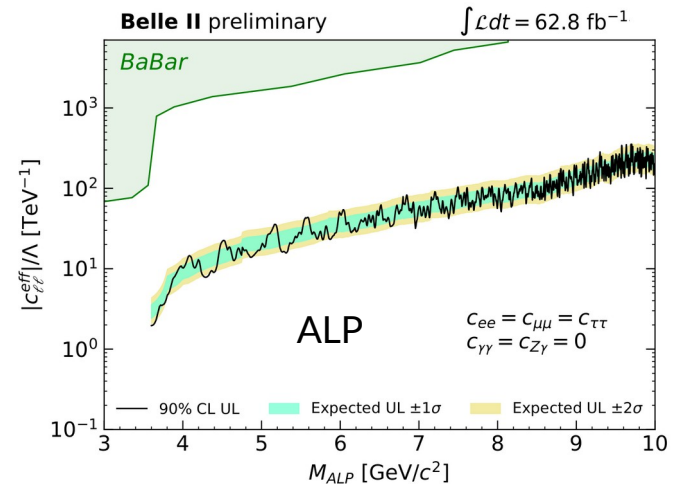
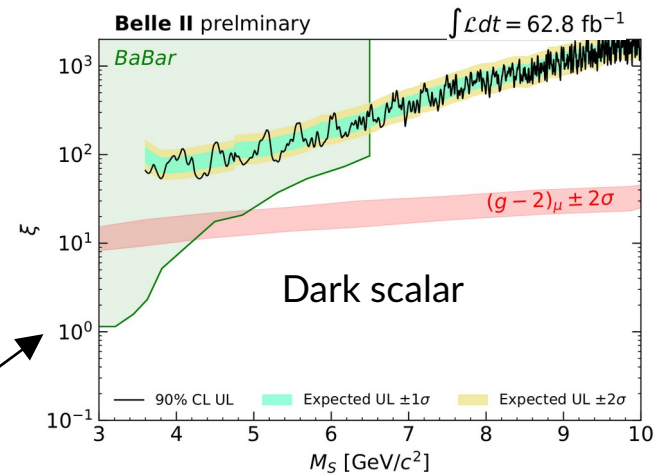
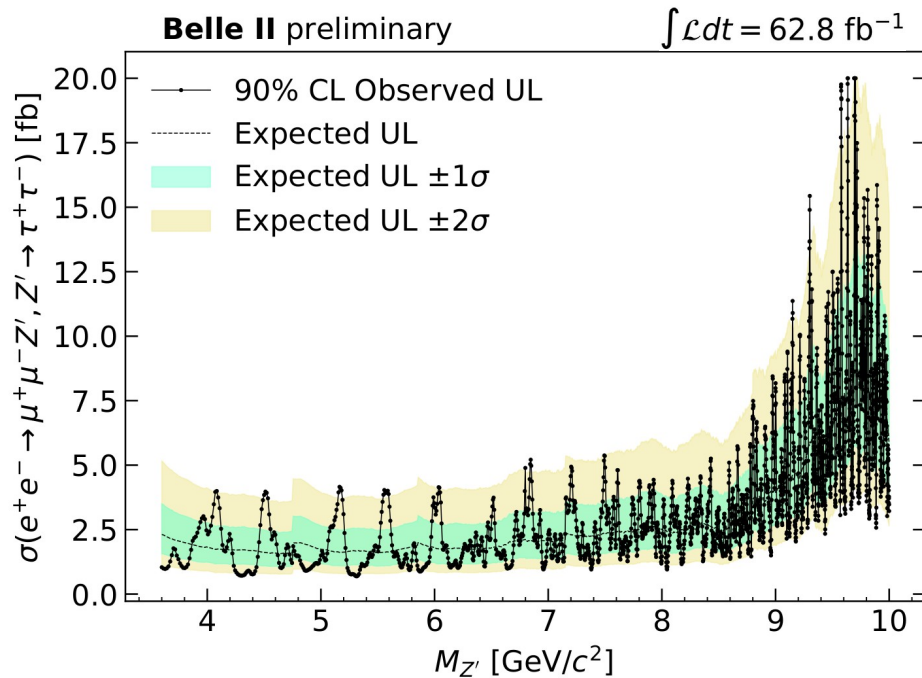


# Z', S, ALP → ττ at Belle II

## Results

- No excess compatible with signal found
- ➔ Set 90% CL UL on cross section and couplings

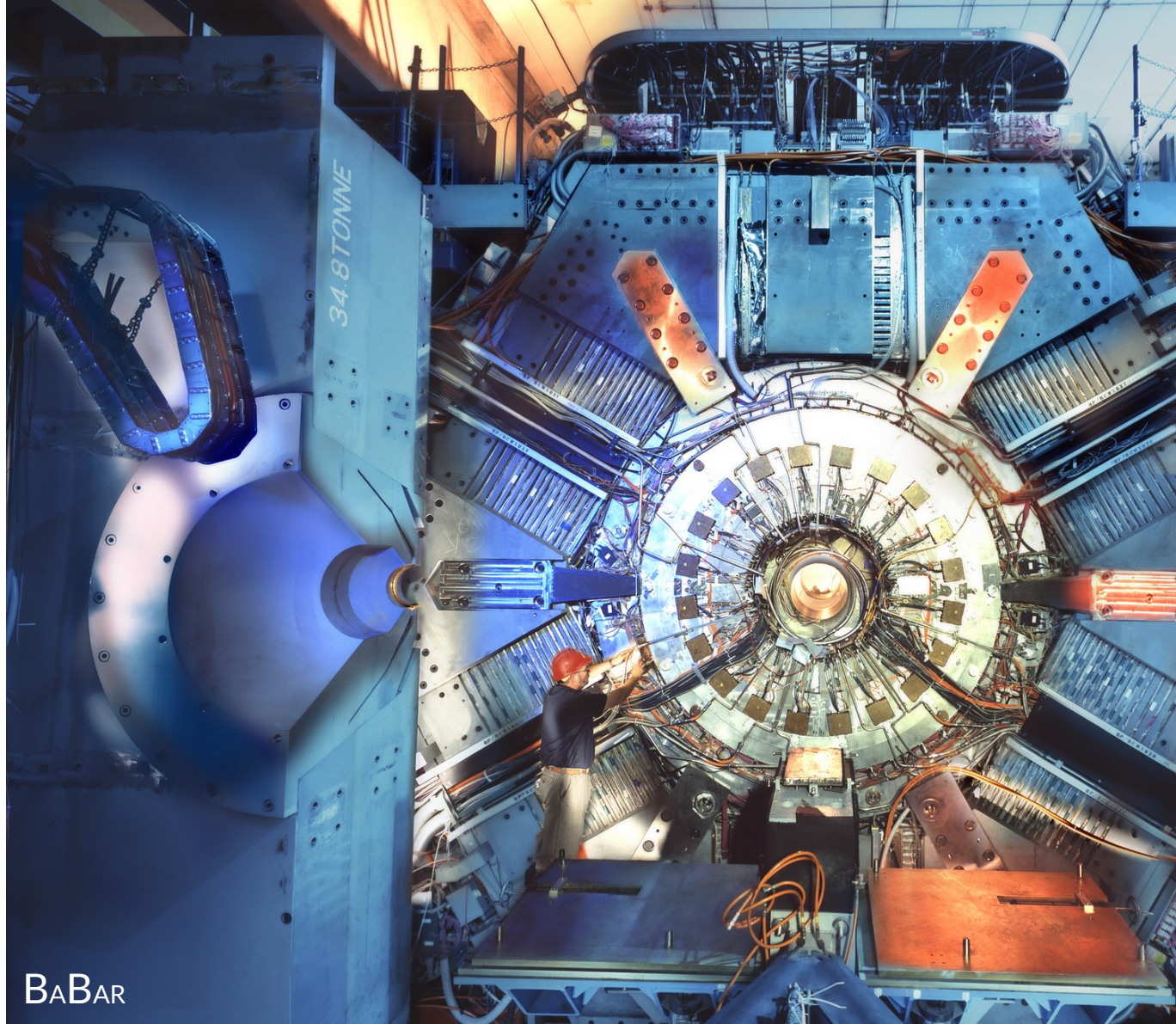
★ Presented @  
[ICHEP 2022](#)



First constraints on S for  $M_S > 6.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  and first direct constraints for  $\text{ALP} \rightarrow \tau\tau$   
- to be submitted for publication

J. P. Lees et al, [PhysRevLett.125.181801 \(2020\)](#)  
M. Bauer et al, [JHEP12\(2017\)044](#)

Overview on  
dark sector  
searches:  
*dark photon*





# Search for a dark photon $A'$

[1] P. Fayet, [Phys. Lett. B 95, 285 \(1980\)](#)  
 [2] P. Fayet, [Nucl. Phys. B 187, 184 \(1981\)](#)

- $U(1)'$  extension of the SM
- New massive vector gauge boson,  $A'$ , with a coupling to the Standard Model photon through the kinetic mixing mechanism, with strength  $\epsilon$  [1,2]

Dark photon field

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{int} = e\epsilon A'_\mu J_{em}^\mu$$

Interaction strength

Electromagnetic current

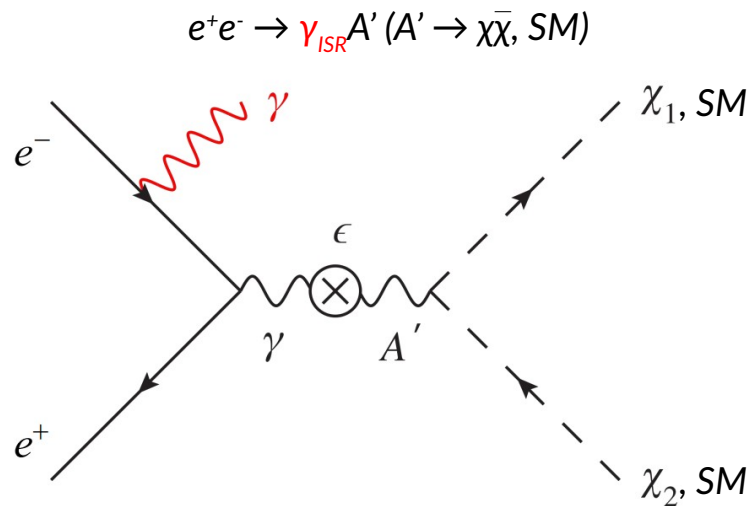
- This gauge boson can be produced at  $e^+e^-$  colliders through different processes:

- direct production:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma_{ISR} A'$
- meson decays:  $\pi^0 \rightarrow A' \gamma$
- dark higgsstrahlung:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'^* \rightarrow A' h'$

- **Direct production with ISR particularly interesting:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma_{ISR} A'$

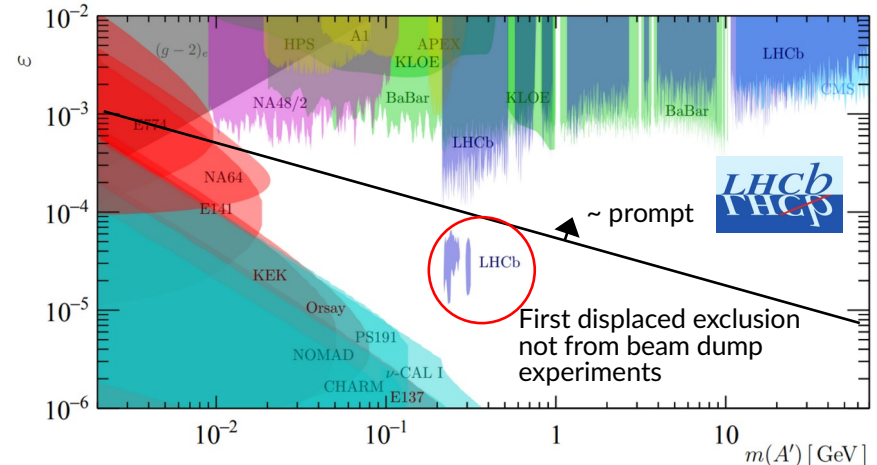
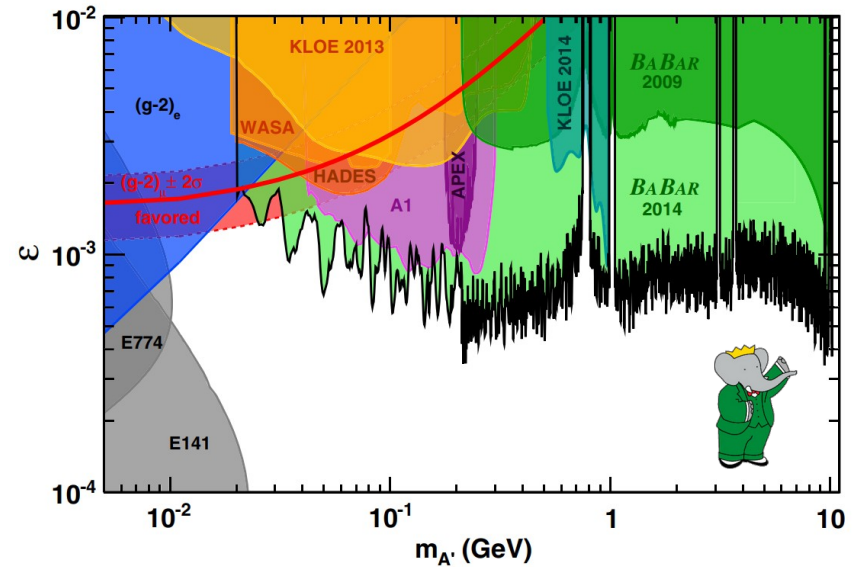
- Two basic scenarios depending on dark photon mass:

- $\rightarrow M_{A'} > 2m_\chi$ : invisible decay  $A' \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi}$
- $\rightarrow M_{A'} < 2m_\chi$ : visible decay in Standard Model particles



# Visible dark photon

- BABAR [1]
  - Full data-set of 514 fb<sup>-1</sup>
  - dark photon visible decay in  $e^+e^-$  and  $\mu^+\mu^-$  final states
  - Signature: bump in the di-lepton invariant mass
  - Background: QED processes  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-(\gamma)$ ,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-(\gamma)$  and resonant backgrounds from  $J/\psi$ ,  $\psi(2S)$  etc. (vetoed)
  - Set 90% CL upper limit on the mixing strength  $\epsilon$  at level of  $O(10^{-3})$ :
- LHCb [2]
  - In the  $\sim 200 - 700$  MeV range better results



[1] J.P. Lees et al, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 201801 \(2014\)](#)

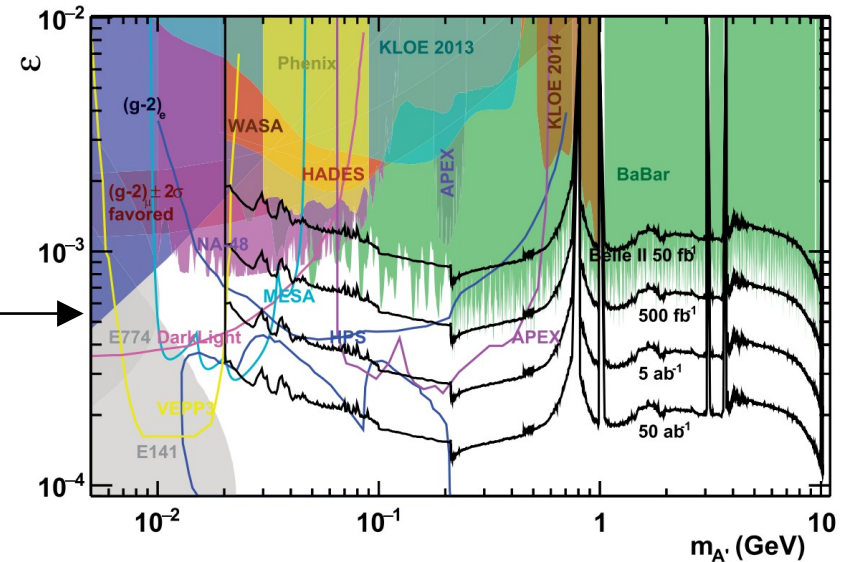
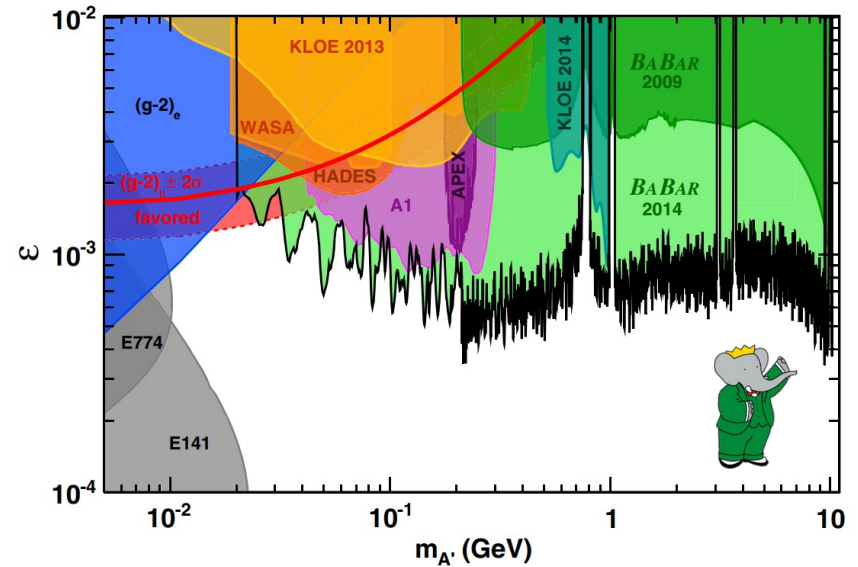
[2] R. Aaij et al, [PhysRevLett.124.041801 \(2020\)](#)

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Belle II is expected to achieve the leading sensitivity [3] - search currently in preparation

- [1] J.P. Lees et al, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 201801 \(2014\)](#)  
 [2] R. Aaij et al, [PhysRevLett.124.041801 \(2020\)](#)  
 [3] E. Kou et al, [Prog Theor Exp Phys \(2019\)](#)

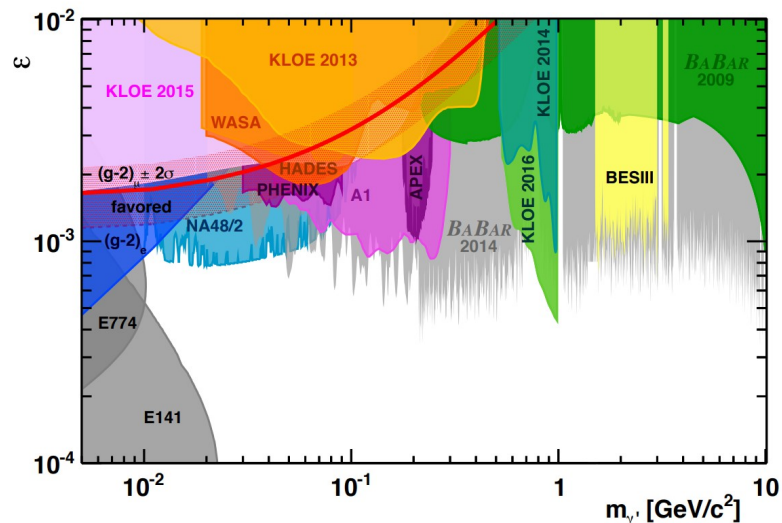


# Visible dark photon at BESIII

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma_{ISR} A', A' \rightarrow l^+l^- (l = e, \mu)$$

- 2.93 fb<sup>-1</sup> @  $\sqrt{s} = 3.773$  GeV
- Untagged photon method to increase statistics
- Search for a narrow peak in  $m_{l^+l^-}$  spectrum
- 90% CL UL on  $\varepsilon \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-4} - 10^{-3})$   
 $1.5 < m_{A'} < 3.4$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

M. Ablikim et al, [Physics Letters B 774, 252 \(2017\)](#)

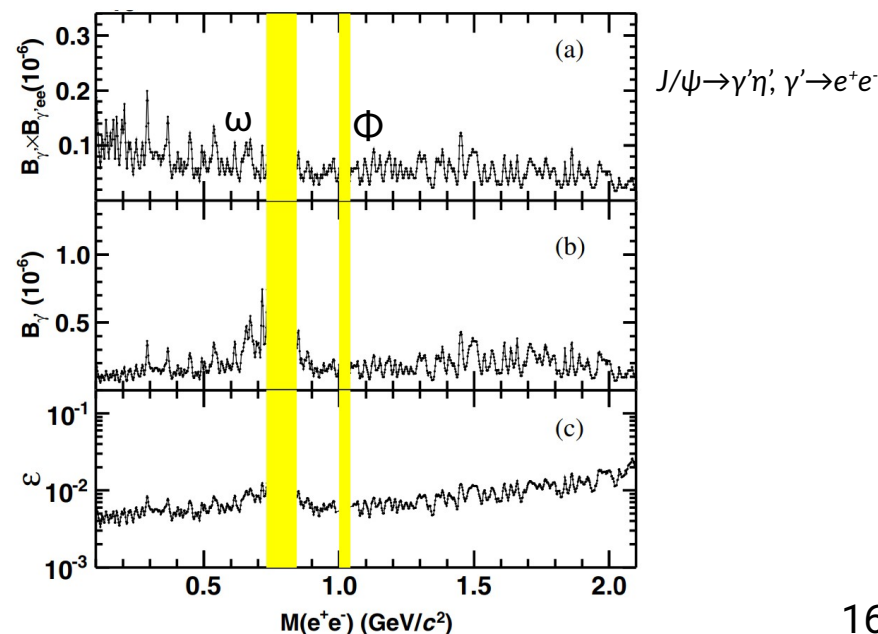


$$J/\psi \rightarrow A' \eta/\eta', A' \rightarrow e^+e^- [1,2]$$

- First search for dark photon via electromagnetic Dalitz decays with 1.3 billion  $J/\psi$
- 90% CL UL on  $\varepsilon \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-3} - 10^{-2})$  for  $0.1 < m_{A'} < 2.0$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

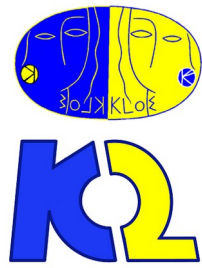
[1] M. Ablikim et al, [PRD.99.012006 \(2019\)](#)

[2] M. Ablikim et al, [PRD.99.012013 \(2019\)](#)





# Visible dark photon at KLOE/KLOE-2



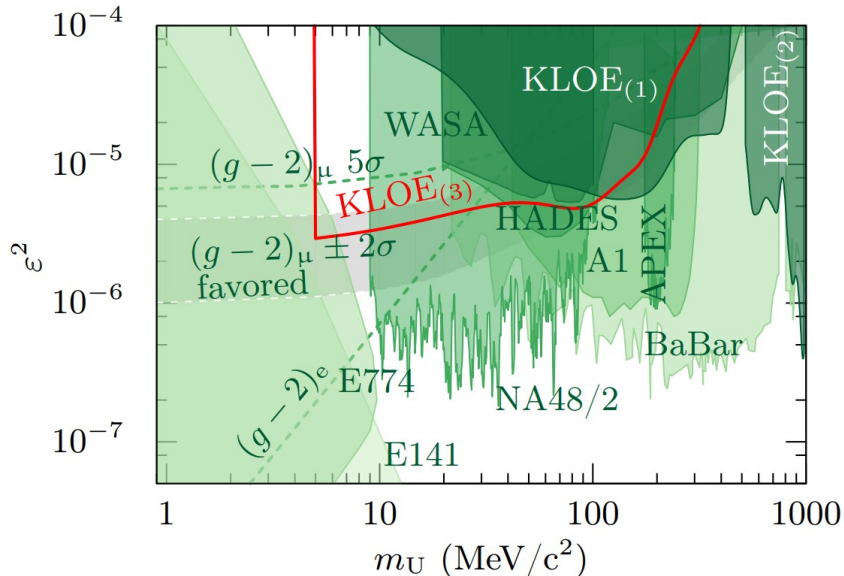
$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma_{ISR} A', A' \rightarrow e^+e^-$$

- $1.54 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  @  $\sqrt{s} = 1.019 \text{ GeV}$
- Search for a narrow peak in  $m_{e^+e^-}$  spectrum
- 90% CL UL on  $\varepsilon^2 \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-6} - 10^{-4})$  in the mass range  $5 - 520 \text{ MeV}/c^2$

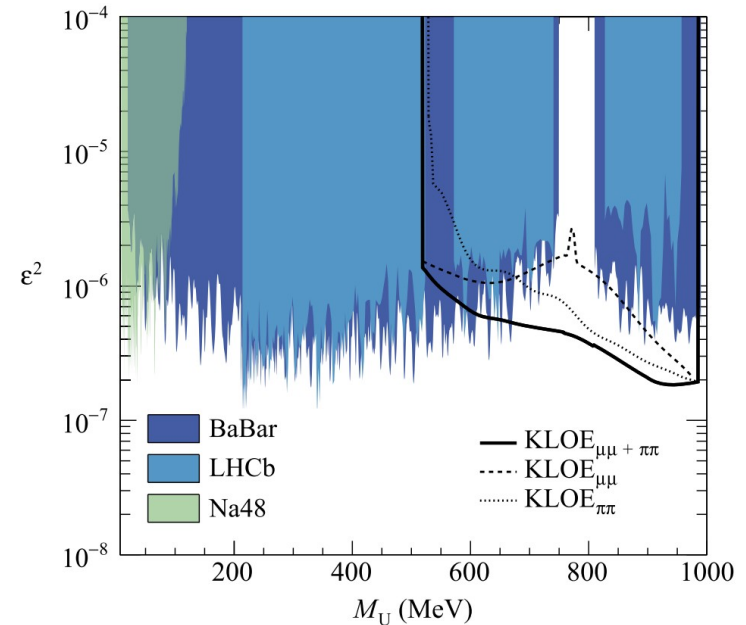
$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma_{ISR} A', A' \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-/\pi^+\pi^-$$

- $1.93 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  @  $\sqrt{s} = 1.019 \text{ GeV}$
- Search for a narrow peak in  $m_{\mu^+\mu^-/\pi^+\pi^-}$  spectrum
- 90% CL UL on  $\varepsilon^2 \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-7})$  in the mass range  $519 - 987 \text{ MeV}/c^2$

A. Anastasi et al, [Phys. Lett. B 750 \(2015\) 633-637](#)

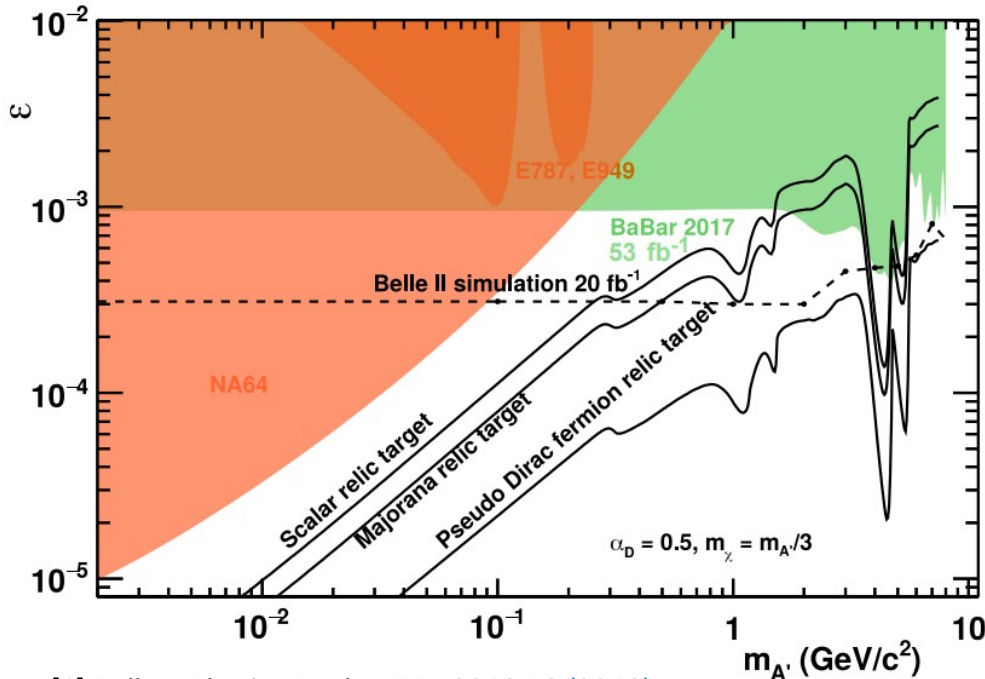
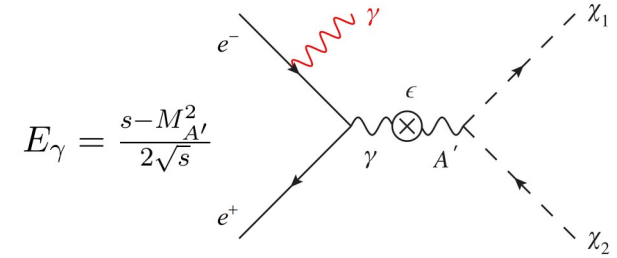


A. Anastasi et al, [Phys. Lett. B 784 \(2018\) 336-341](#)



# Invisible dark photon

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma_{ISR} A' (A' \rightarrow inv.)$ 
  - ➔ Single photon search: single photon trigger needed, present in the full Belle II dataset

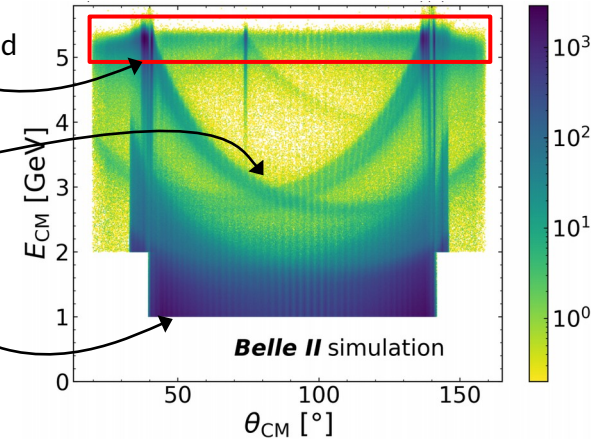


Background simulation assuming 20 fb<sup>-1</sup>

$\gamma\gamma$ , with an undetected photon

$\gamma\gamma\gamma$ , with two undetected photons

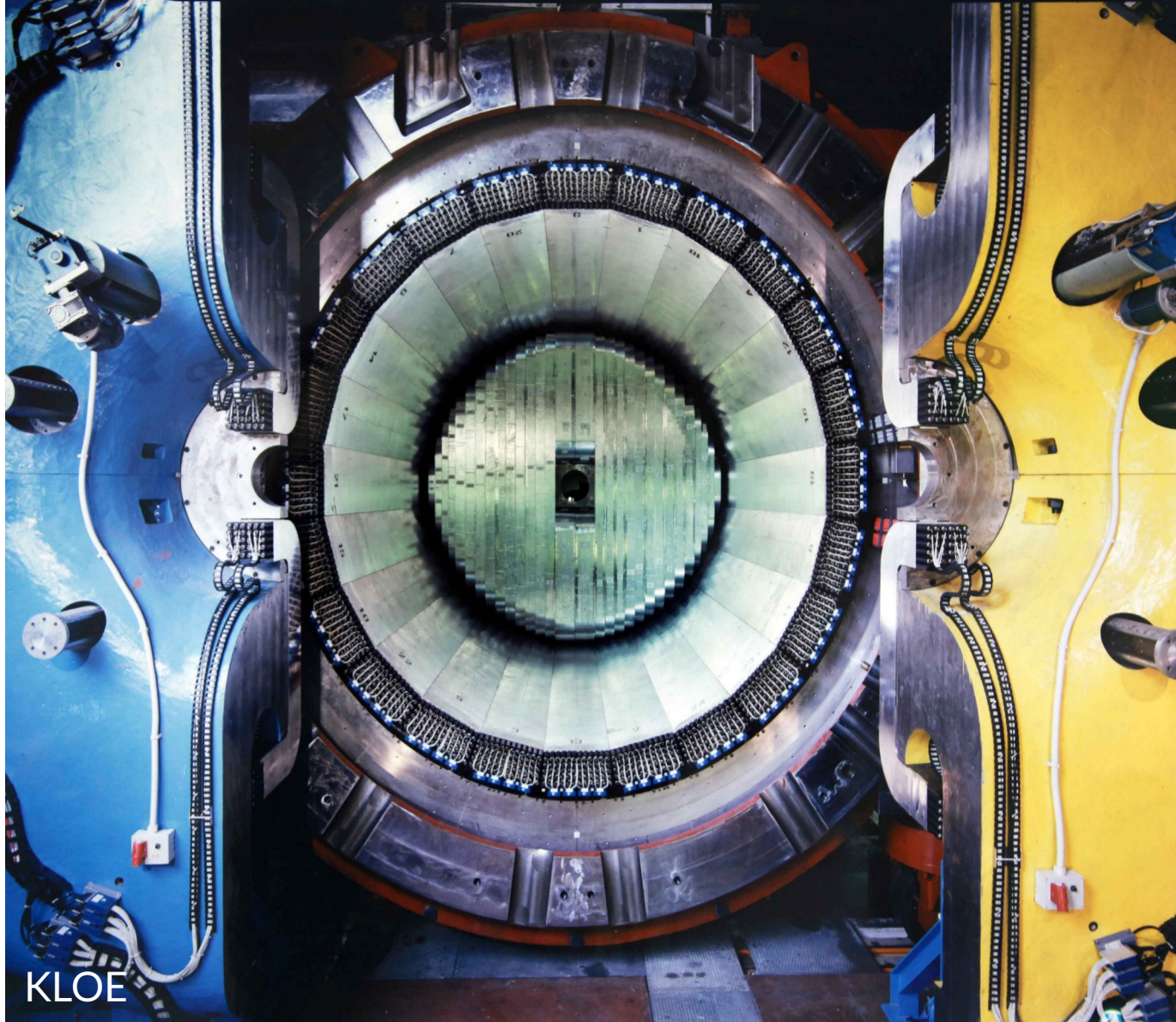
$e^+e^-\gamma$ , with  $e^+e^-$  out of detector acceptance



- Belle II expected to perform better than BABAR [2]:
  - smaller boost: **larger acceptance**
  - **muon detector veto**: reject events with a photon undetected in the calorimeter (efficiency currently under study)
  - **better calorimeter hermeticity**

[1] Belle II Physics Book, [PTEP 2019 12 \(2019\)](#)  
 [2] Less et al, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 131804 \(2017\)](#)

Overview on  
dark sector  
searches:  
*dark Higgs*



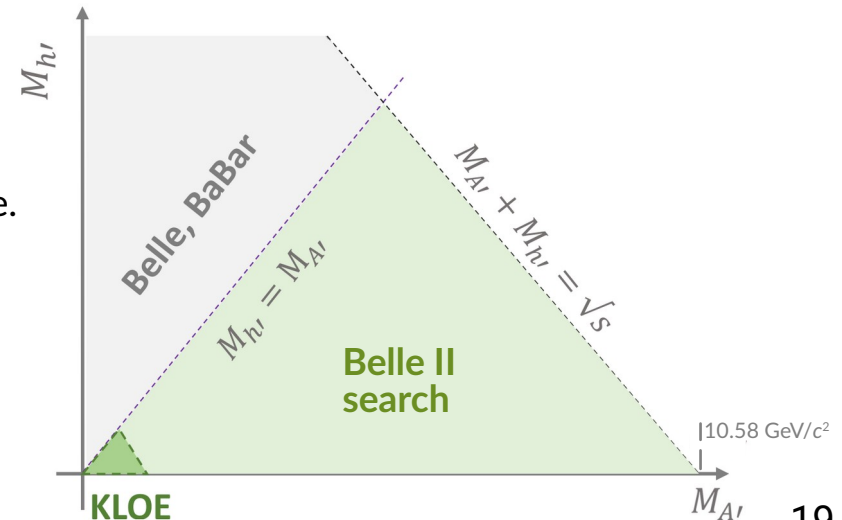
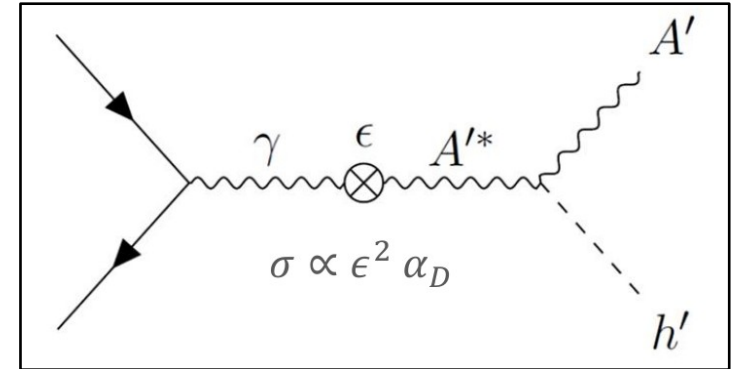
KLOE



# Search for a dark Higgs (and dark photon)

[1] Batell et al., [Phys. Rev. D 79, 115008 \(2009\)](#)

- Dark photon  $A'$ 
  - mass produced by the Higgs mechanism involving a dark Higgs boson [1]
- Dark higgs  $h'$ 
  - couples to  $A'$  with  $\alpha_D$
  - does not mix with Standard Model 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  $h'$



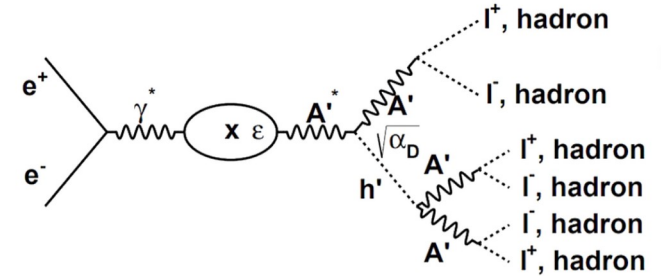


# Search for a dark Higgs at BABAR and Belle

[1] J. P. Lees et al [PhysRevLett.108.211801 \(2012\)](#)  
 [2] I. Jaegle et al, [PhysRevLett.114.211801 \(2015\)](#)

- BABAR [1] and Belle [2] searched for the visible  $h'$

→ Signal: three pairs of tracks ( $ee, \mu\mu, \pi\pi$ ) at the same mass and no missing energy



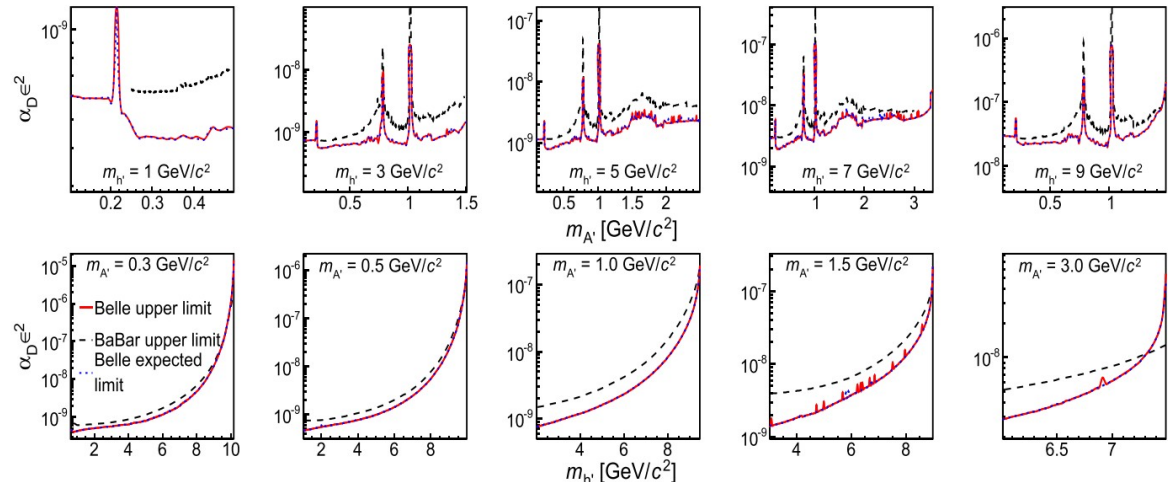
→ Background: almost background free

- Full data-sets from both experiments (BABAR:  $516 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ , Belle:  $977 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ )

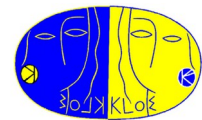
- 90% CL upper limits on  $\epsilon^2 \cdot \alpha_D$  at the level of  $O(10^{-8} - 10^{-10})$ :

→ Belle limits improve upon and explore slightly wider mass ranges than BABAR

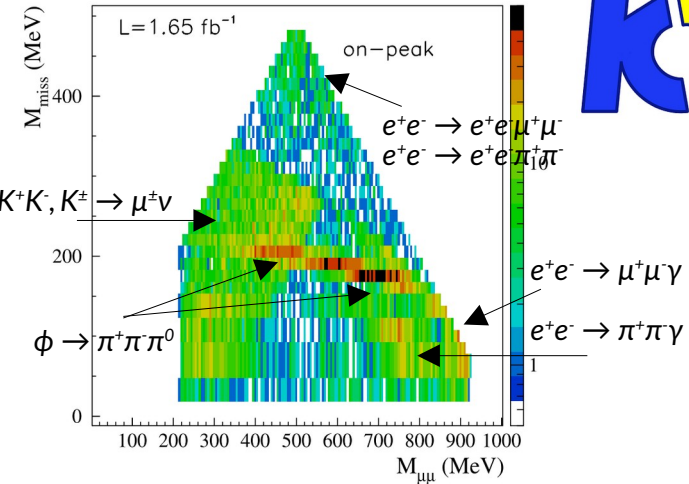
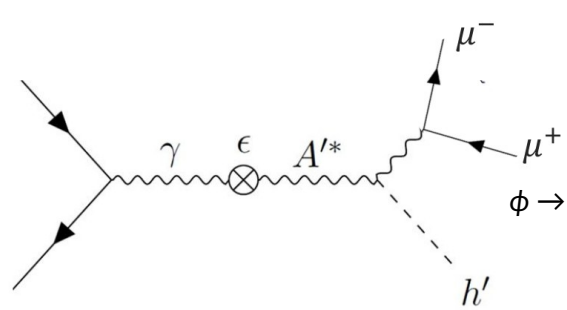
Upper limits at 90% CL on  $\epsilon^2 \cdot \alpha_D$



# Search for a dark Higgs at KLOE/KLOE-2



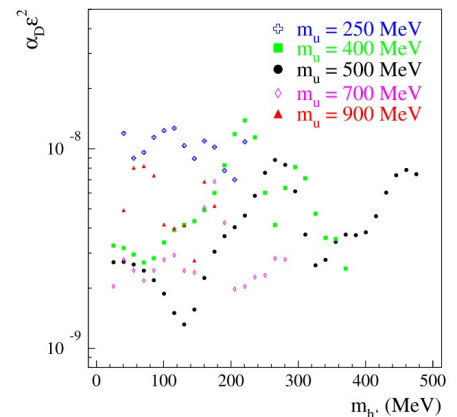
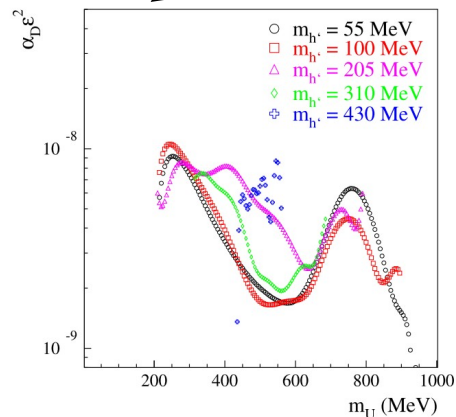
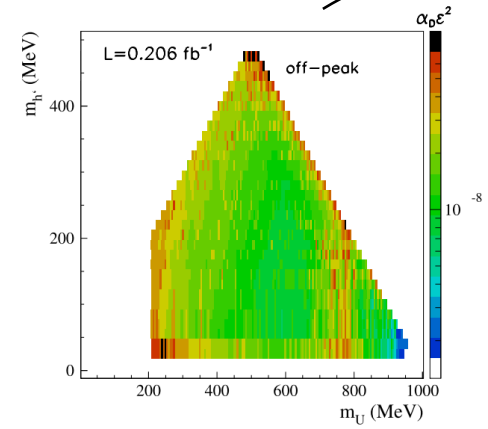
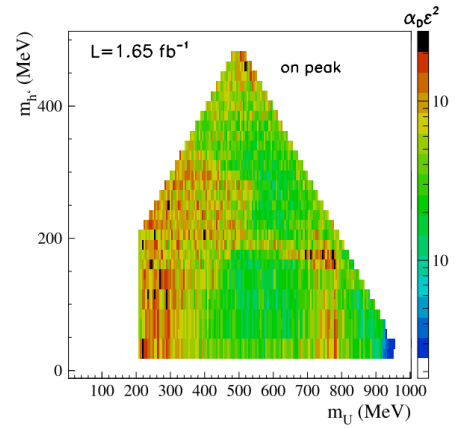
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'h', A' \rightarrow \mu\mu, h' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$
- Signature: 2D peak in recoil vs dimuon mass
- Data:
  - $1.65 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  at the  $\phi$  resonance
  - $0.21 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  off-peak
- Limits on  $\varepsilon^2 \cdot \alpha_D$  range from  $10^{-9} - 10^{-8}$
- Assuming  $\alpha_D = \alpha_{em} \rightarrow \varepsilon \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-4} - 10^{-3})$
- First limits for  $M_{h'} < M_{A'}$



on-peak and off-peak combined

A. Anastasi et al, [Phys. Lett. B 747 \(2015\) 365-372](#)

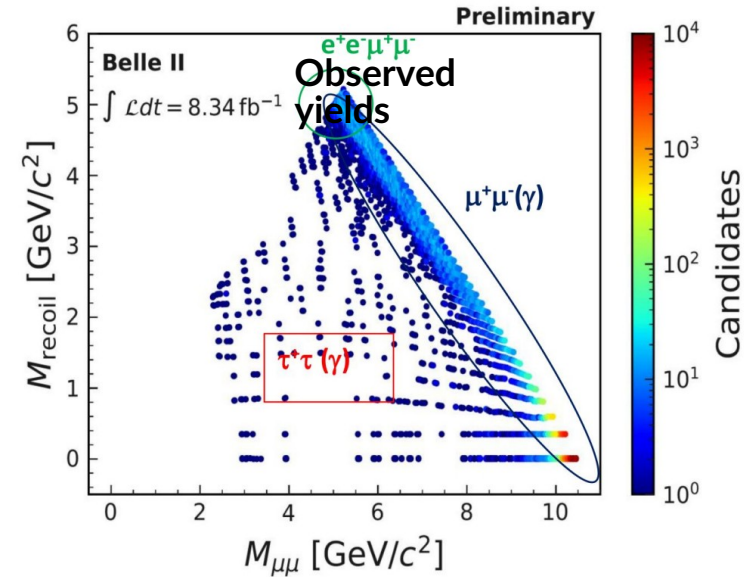
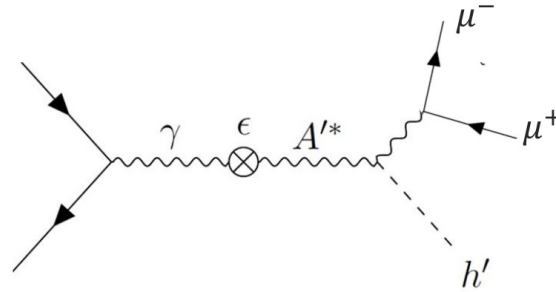
90% CL upper limits in  $\varepsilon^2 \cdot \alpha_D$



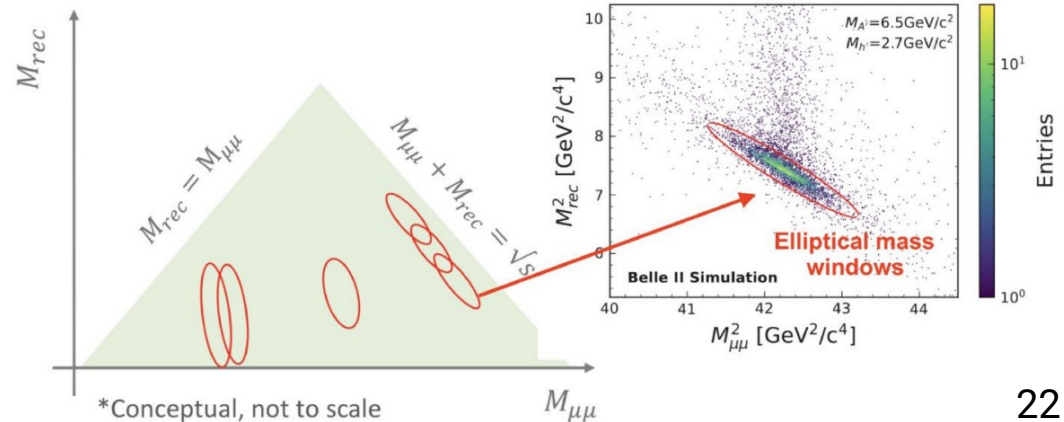
# Dark higgsstrahlung at Belle II

## Analysis

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'h', A' \rightarrow \mu\mu, h' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$ 
  - Dataset:  $8.34 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  (2019)
  - Signature: 2D peak in recoil vs dimuon mass
  - Background from QED:
    - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-(\gamma)$  (79%)
    - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-(\gamma)$  (18%)
    - $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$  (3%)



- 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
- Analysis strategy:
  - scan for excess in 2D plane of  $M_{\text{recoil}}$  vs  $M_{\mu\mu}$  in  $\sim 9000$  elliptical mass windows



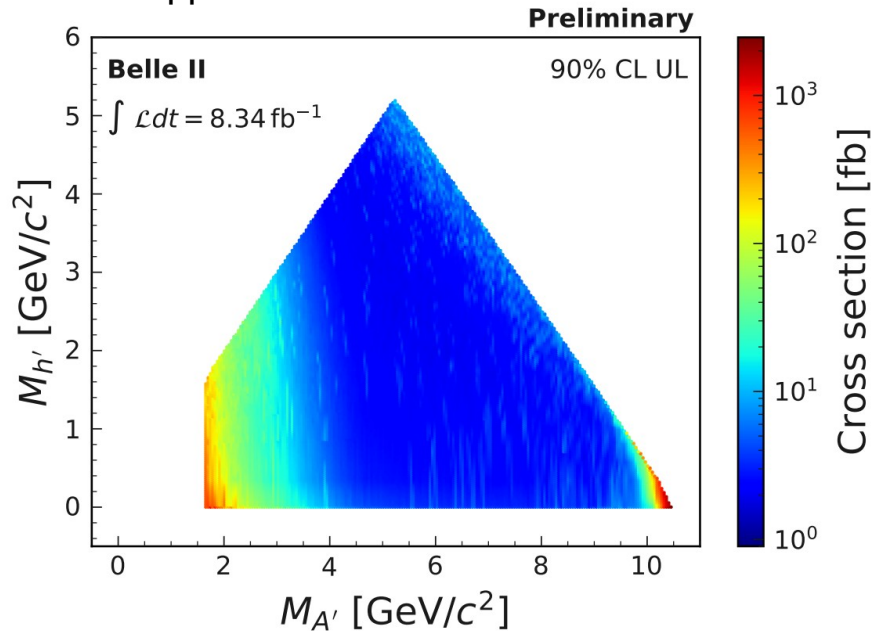
# Dark higgsstrahlung at Belle II

★ Presented @  
Moriond 2022

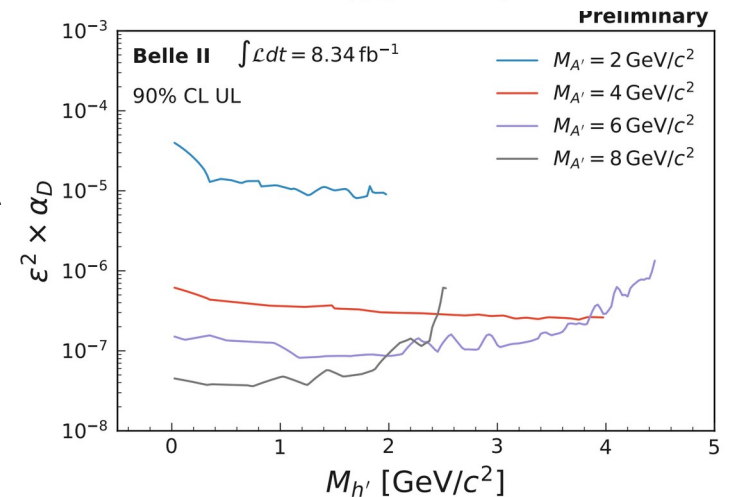
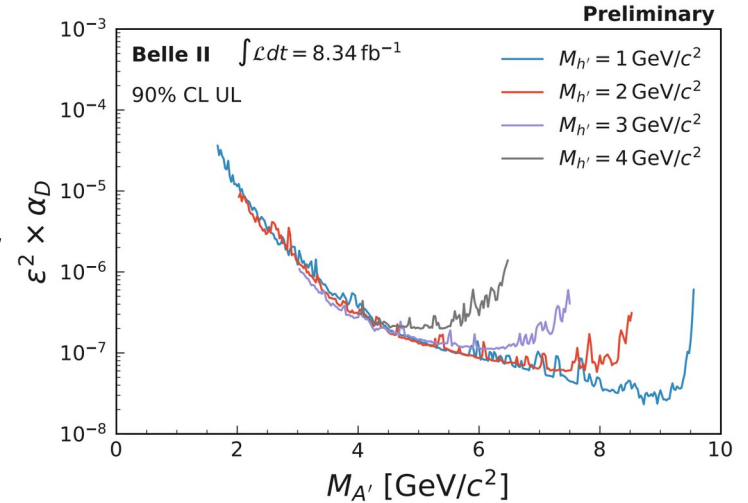


## Results

- No significant excess above background was observed
- 90% CL upper limits



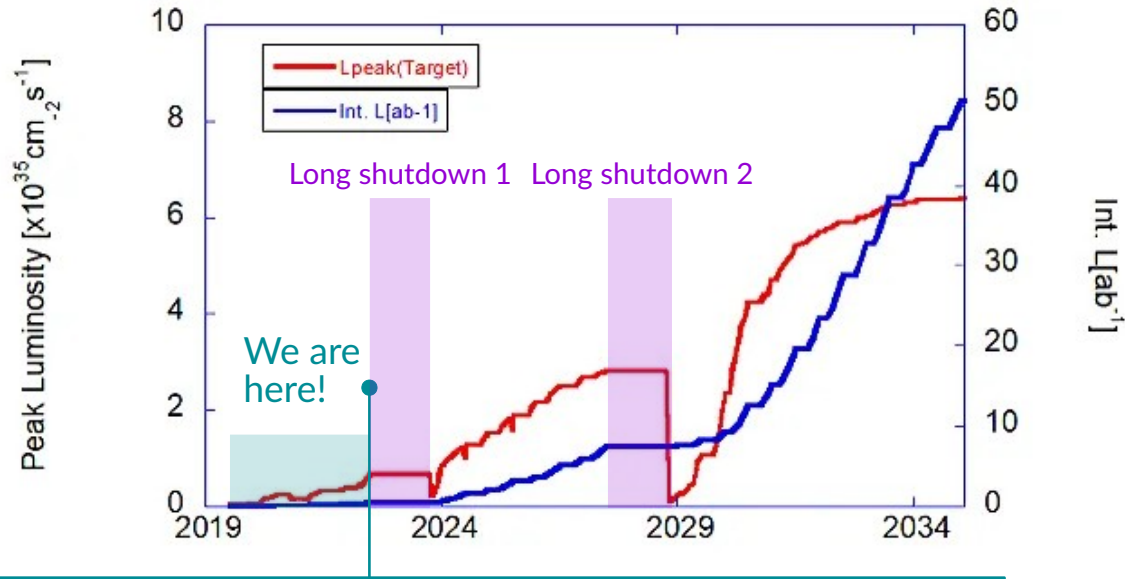
World leading limits for  $1.65 < M_{A'} < 10.51 \text{ GeV}/c^2$   
- submitted to PRL → [arxiv.2207.00509](https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.00509)





# Belle II perspectives

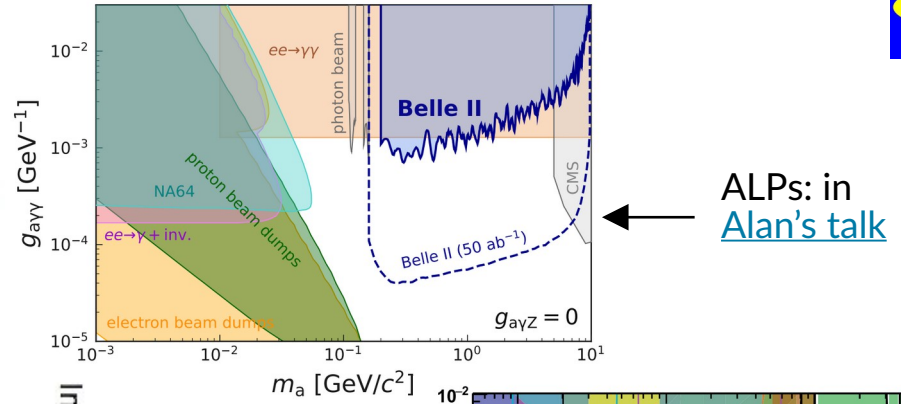
Luminosity projection plot (plan for the coming years)



- 424  $\text{fb}^{-1}$  collected up to now
- **Current results are still strongly limited by dataset size**
  - world-leading results already published with early datasets

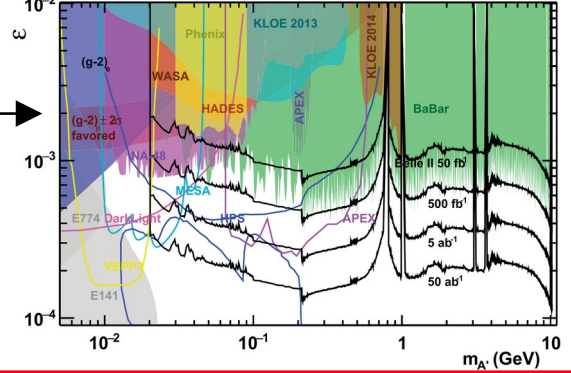
# Belle II perspectives

Luminosity projection plot (plan for the coming years)



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

Visible dark photon



- 424 fb<sup>-1</sup> collected up to now
- **Current results are still strongly limited by dataset size**
  - ➔ world-leading results already published with early datasets

- In next years, Belle II will collect 100x the dataset collected up to now
  - ➔ It will lead the exploration of dark sectors in the MeV-GeV mass range

# Summary and conclusions

- Experiments at  $e^+e^-$  colliders offer excellent opportunities to probe dark sector models
  - sensitive to regions of parameters that can solve the dark matter puzzle and explain Standard Model anomalies

- Belle, BaBar, BESIII and KLOE excluded many dark sector models
  - in this talk: a subset of results

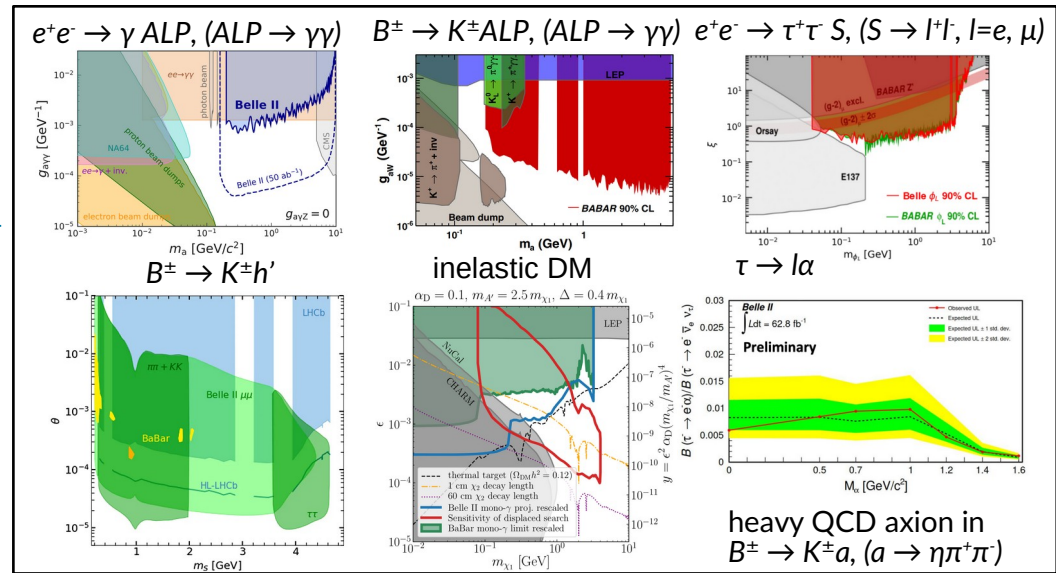


Latest results also shown in [Alan's talk](#), [Swagato's talk](#) and [Alberto's talk](#)

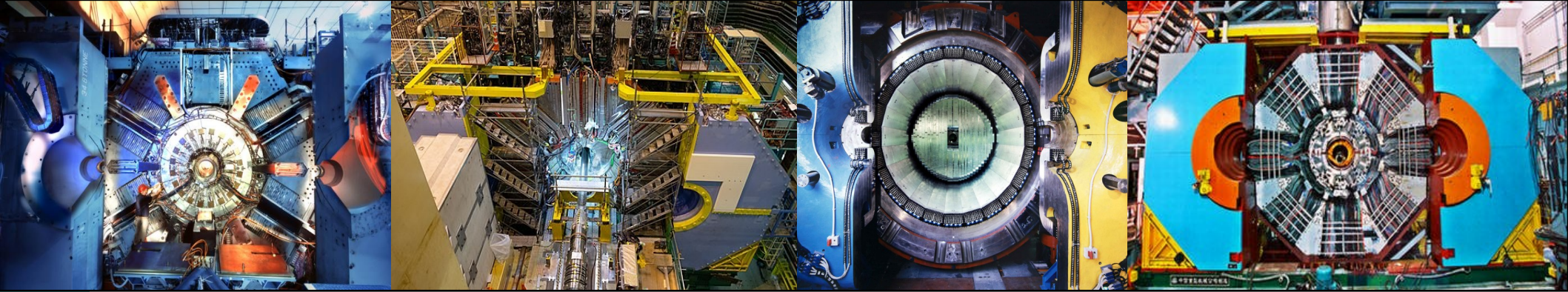
- Belle II will progressively lead the exploration of dark sectors at the luminosity frontier

- World-leading results with early data:
  - $Z' \rightarrow$  invisible: [Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 \(2020\) 141801](#) (NEW updated result to be submitted for publication)
  - $a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ : [Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 161806 \(2020\)](#)
  - $h' \rightarrow$  invisible: [arxiv.2207.00509](#) NEW
  - $Z', S, ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$  NEW
- Will lead in the MeV-GeV mass range in the coming years

## Many other searches







# Thank you for the attention

**Luigi Corona** - University and INFN of Pisa  
on behalf of the Belle II collaboration and including material by the KLOE, BaBar,  
Belle and BES III collaborations  
✉ [luigi.corona@pi.infn.it](mailto:luigi.corona@pi.infn.it)





# Backup slides

# Topics presented in this talk

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- Z'$ , ( $Z' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$ ); >> I. Adachi et al, [PhysRevLett.124.141801](#) >> **NEW**: update @ Belle II [ICHEP 2022](#) Z' boson

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- Z'$ , ( $Z' \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ ); >> J. P. Lees et al, [PhysRevD.94.011102 \(2016\)](#) >> T. Czank et al, [PhysRevD.106.012003 \(2022\)](#)

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- Z', S, \text{ALP}$ , ( $Z', S, \text{ALP} \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ ); >> **NEW** @ Belle II [ICHEP 2022](#)

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma A'$ , ( $A' \rightarrow l^+l^-/\pi^+\pi^-$ ,  $l=e, \mu$ ); >> J.P. Lees et al, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 201801 \(2014\)](#) >> M. Ablikim et al, [Physics Letters B 774, 252 \(2017\)](#) >> A. Anastasi et al, [Phys. Lett. B 750 \(2015\) 633-637](#) >> A. Anastasi et al, [Phys. Lett. B 784 \(2018\) 336-341](#) dark photon A'

- $J/\psi \rightarrow A' \eta/\eta'$ ,  $A' \rightarrow e^+e^-$ ; >> M. Ablikim et al, [PRD.99.012006 \(2019\)](#) >> M. Ablikim et al, [PRD.99.012013 \(2019\)](#)

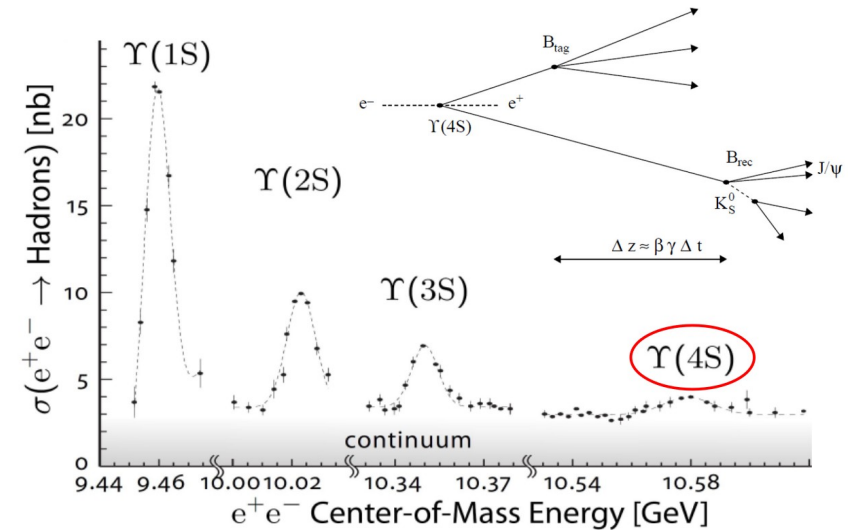
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma A'$ , ( $A' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$ ); >> Less et al, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 131804 \(2017\)](#)

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow (A' \rightarrow l^+\pi^+l^-\pi^-)$  ( $h' \rightarrow A'A' (A' \rightarrow l^+\pi^+l^-\pi^-)$ ),  $l=e, \mu$ ; >> J. P. Lees et al [PhysRevLett.108.211801 \(2012\)](#) >> I. Jaegle et al, [PhysRevLett.114.211801 \(2015\)](#) dark Higgs h'

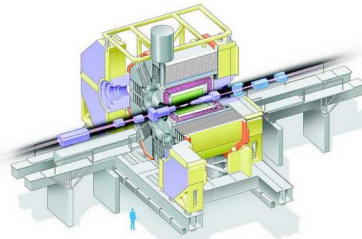
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'h'$ ,  $A' \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ ,  $h' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$ ; >> A. Anastasi et al, [Phys. Lett. B 747 \(2015\) 365-372](#) >> Belle II, [arxiv.2207.00509](#)

# Experiments at B-factories

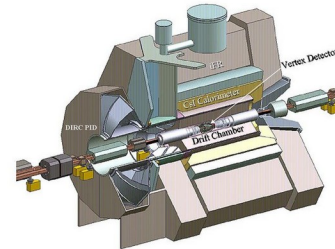
- Asymmetric  $e^+e^-$  colliders optimized for the production of  $B$  meson pairs, but also  $D$  mesons,  $\tau$  leptons, ...
- Collisions occur at  $\Upsilon(nS)$  resonances
  - ➔ Mainly at  $\Upsilon(4S)$ :  $\sqrt{s} = 10.58$  GeV just above the production threshold of  $B\bar{B}$   
 $BR(\Upsilon(4S)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



## First generation of B-factories

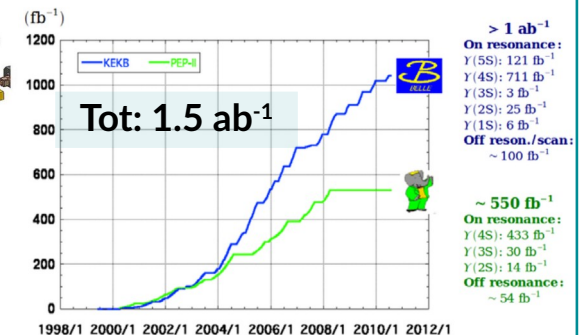


**Belle@KEKB, KEK, Tsukuba (JP)**  
 1999–2010,  $\int L dt = 1 \text{ ab}^{-1}$



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

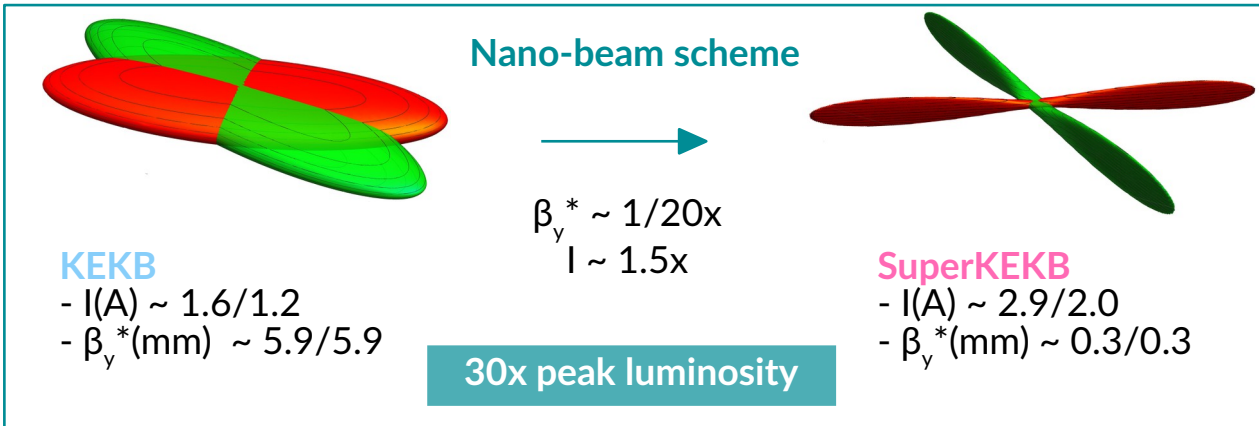
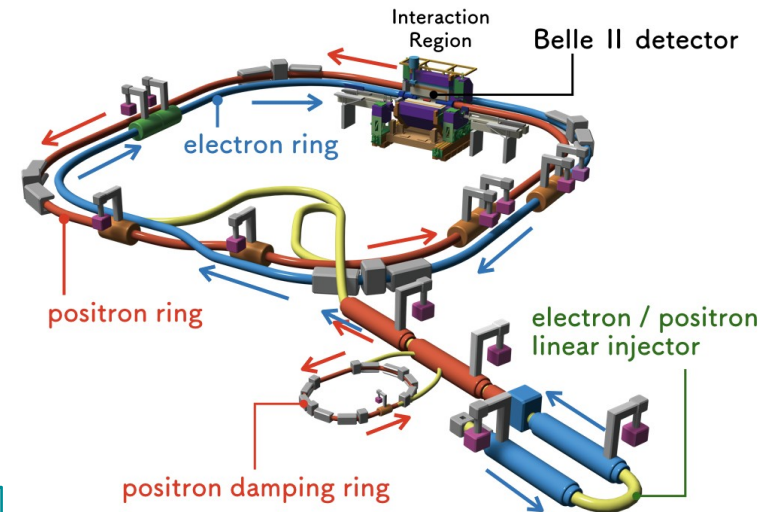
## Integrated luminosity of B factories



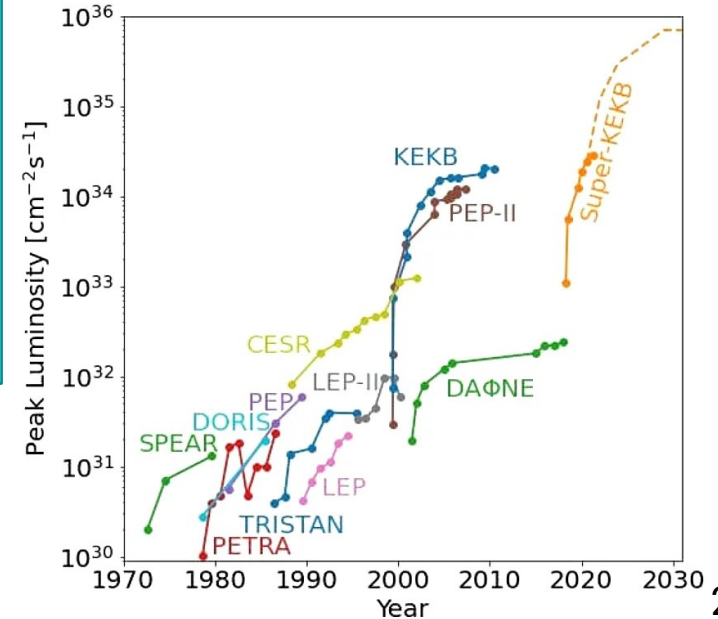


# SuperKEKB

- 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)
- ➔ Highest world peak luminosity with the nano-beam scheme

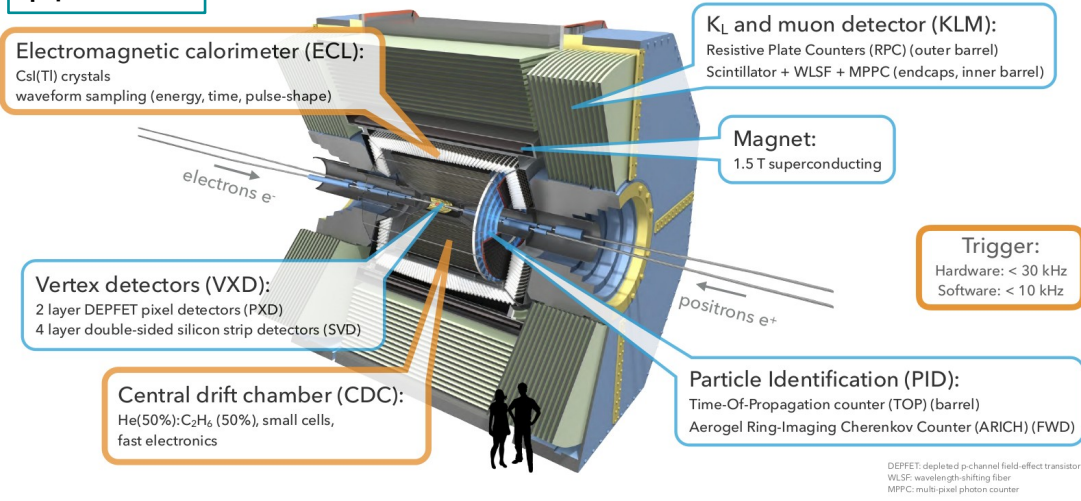


- World record luminosity on December 2021:  $3.8 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
- I( $e^-/e^+$ ) = 820/1034 mA and  $\beta_y^* = 1 \text{ mm}$
- Target peak luminosity:  $6.5 \cdot 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$



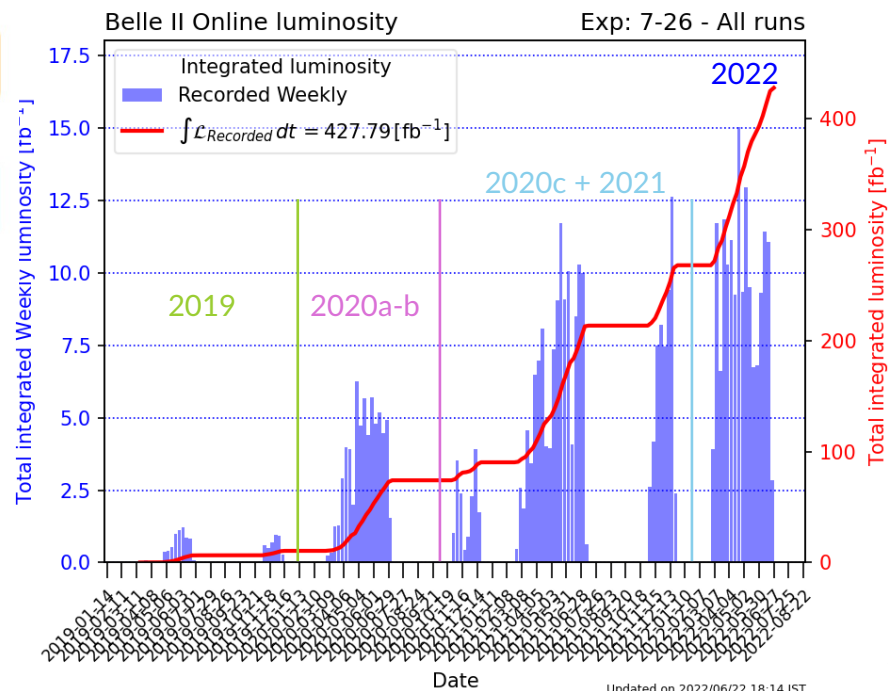
# Belle II at SuperKEKB

$\beta\gamma = 0.28$



- Major upgrade of Belle@KEKB → better resolution, PID and capability to cope with higher background
- Covers more than 90% of the total solid angle

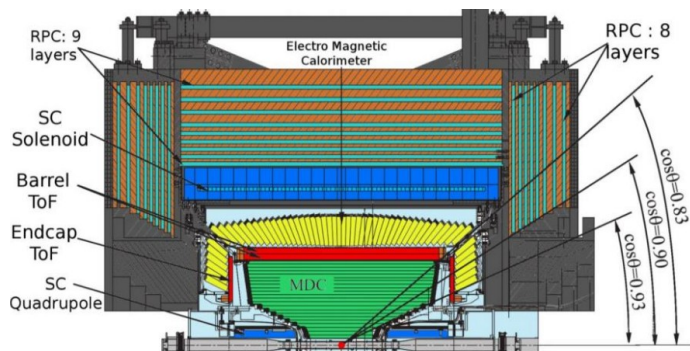
- First collisions during commissioning run on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2018  
→ 0.5 fb<sup>-1</sup> collected in 2018
- First collisions with the full detector on March 2019  
→ ~ 430 fb<sup>-1</sup> collected in 3 years of data taking
- Target integrated luminosity of the Belle II experiment: **50 ab<sup>-1</sup>** (x30 Belle + BaBar)



# BESIII and KLOE experiments

- Experiments at symmetric  $e^+e^-$  colliders running at tau-charm and  $\phi(1019)$  mass regions, respectively
- **Physics objectives:** study the light hadron spectroscopy and search for new physics phenomena [1,2]

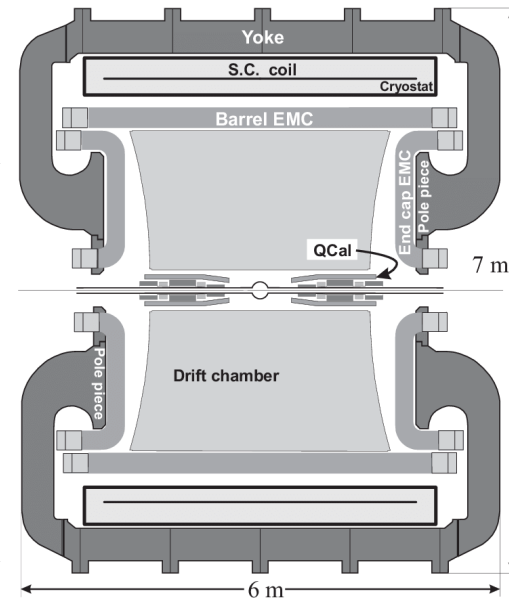
## BESIII experiment See [Gianluigi's talk!](#)



- BESIII (from 2009)
  - Dataset:
    - collected large data samples at several energy points between 2 – 4.95 GeV

## KLOE experiment

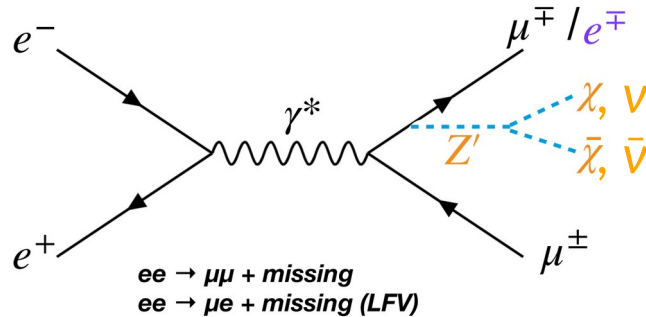
- KLOE (2001 – 2006)
  - Dataset:
    - 2.5 fb<sup>-1</sup> data at  $\phi$  peak
    - 250 pb<sup>-1</sup> off-peak
- KLOE-2 (2014 – 2018)
  - detector upgrade
  - extension of the KLOE physics program
  - Dataset:
    - 5.5 fb<sup>-1</sup> data at  $\phi$  peak



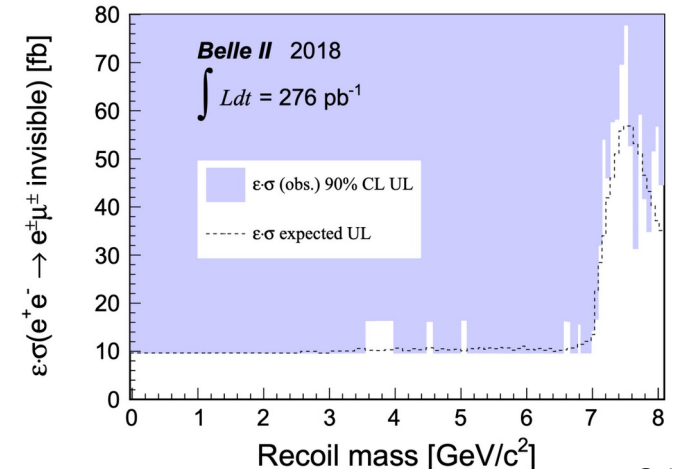
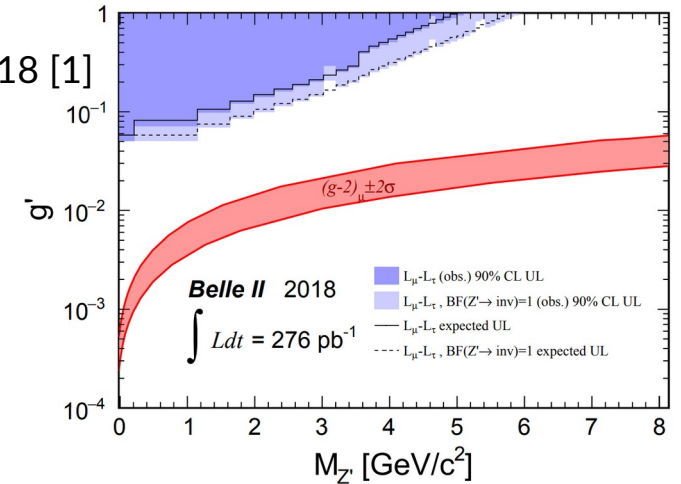
- [1] CZ. Yuan et al, [Nat Rev Phys 1, 480–494 \(2019\)](#)  
[2] G. Amelino-Camelia et al, [Eur. Phys. J. C 68, 619–681 \(2010\)](#)

# $Z' \rightarrow$ invisible at Belle II

- First time search for an invisible  $Z'$ , with  $0.276 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  collected by Belle II in 2018 [1]
- Hermetic Belle II detector and clean  $e^+e^-$  collisions allow precision determination of missing energy



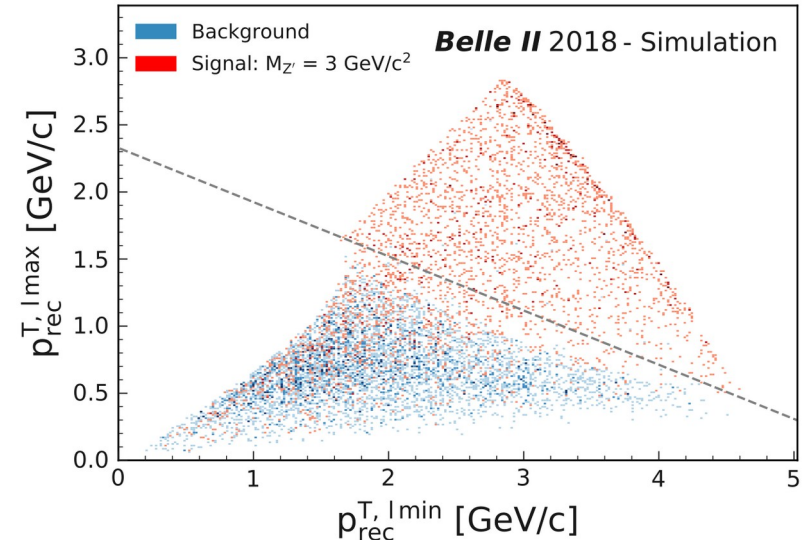
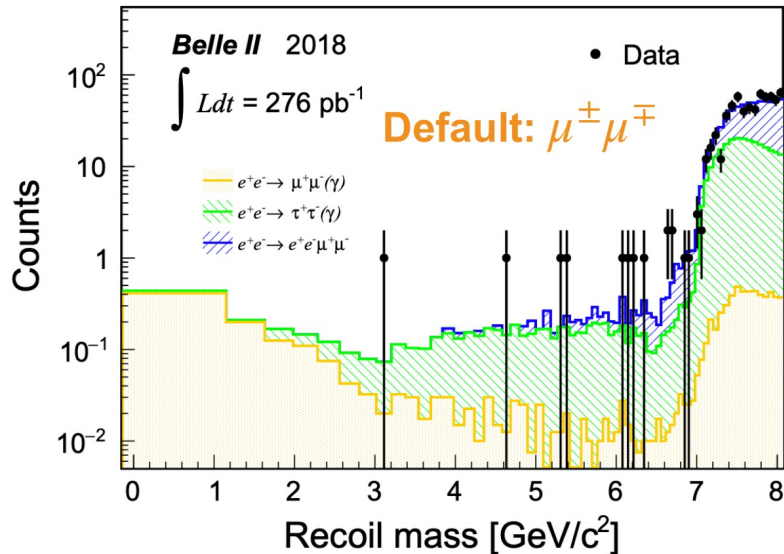
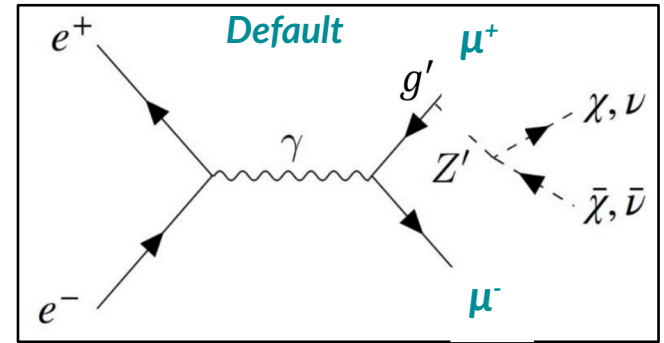
- Search for a narrow peak in the recoil mass distribution against  $\mu^+\mu^-$  (LFV:  $\mu^\pm e^\mp$ )
- 90% CL upper limits on the coupling constant  $g' \sim \mathcal{O}(5 \times 10^{-2})$
- First model independent limits on  $\epsilon \cdot \sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow e^\pm \mu^\mp + \text{invisible})$  down to 10 fb





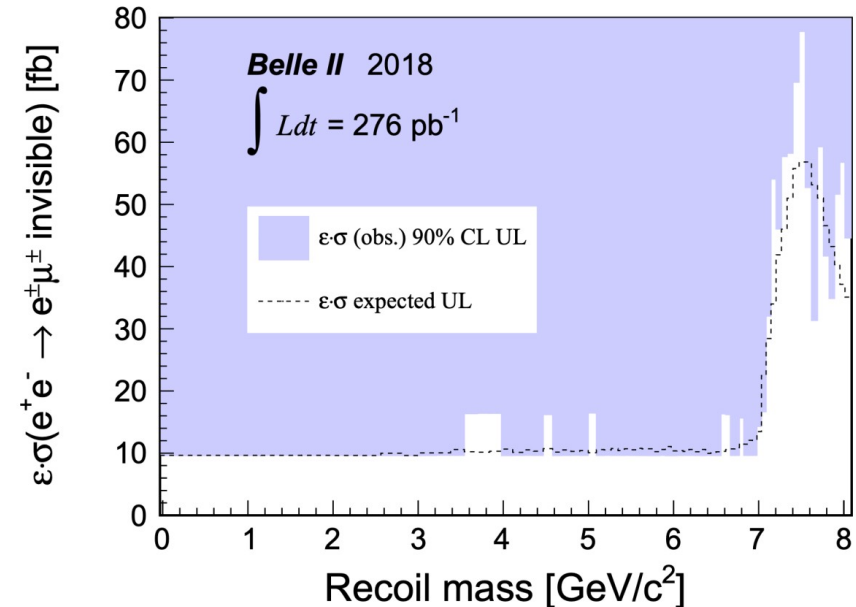
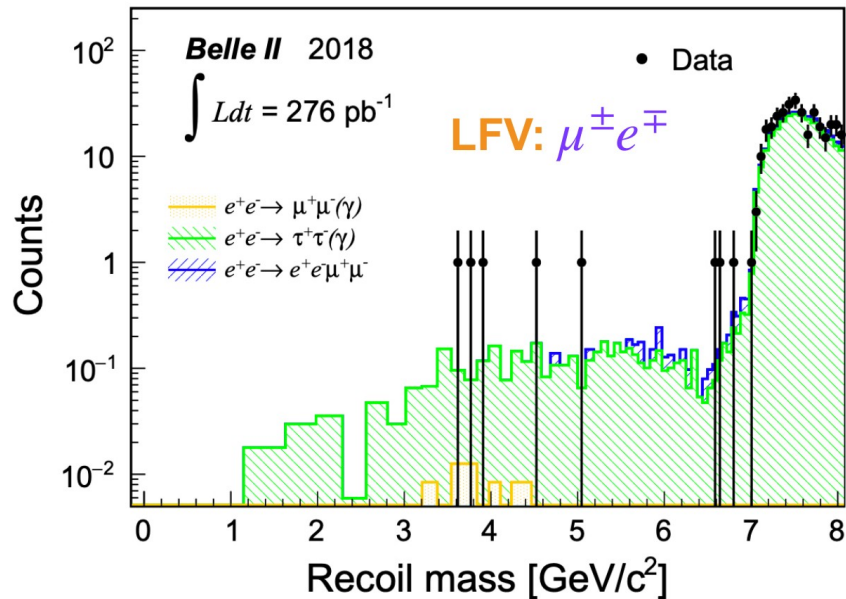
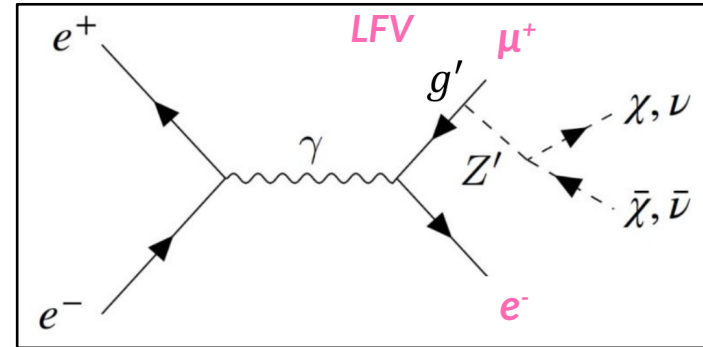
# $Z' \rightarrow$ invisible at Belle II

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- + \text{Missing Energy}$
- Main background components:
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-(\gamma)$ : missing energy due to neutrinos
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-(\gamma)$ : missing energy due to undetected photons
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$ : missing energy due to undetected electrons
- Dedicated background suppression based on the different origin of missing momentum in background (neutrinos for  $\tau\tau$  and ISR for  $\mu\mu(\gamma)$ ) and signal (FSR)
- No significant excess observed in data



# $Z' \rightarrow$ invisible (LFV) at Belle II

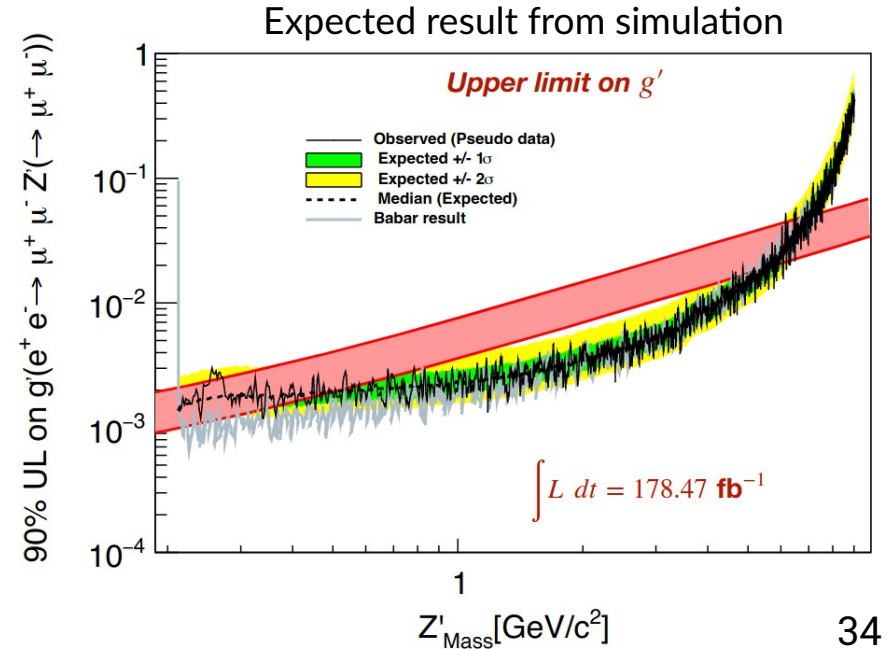
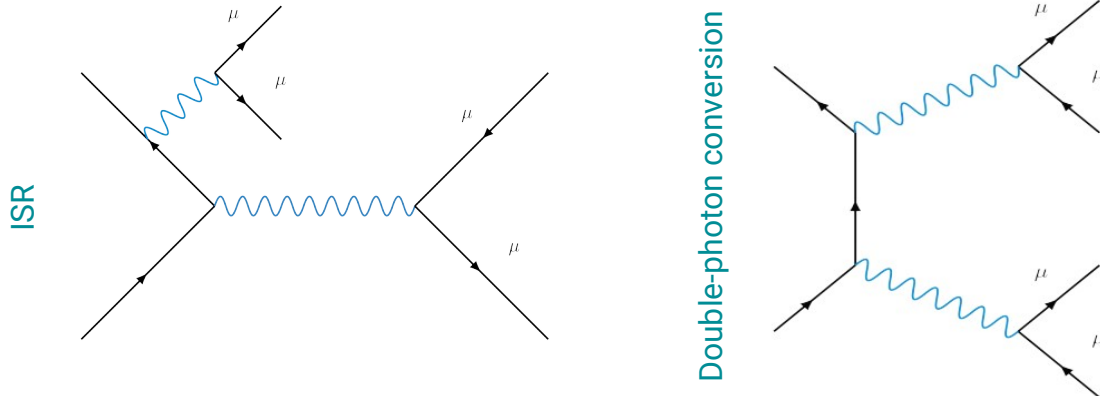
- No excess observed in data
- First model independent limits on  $\epsilon \cdot \sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow e^\pm\mu^\mp + \text{invisible})$  down to 10 fb
- First Belle II physics publication: [Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 \(2020\) 141801](https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.03341)



# $Z' \rightarrow \mu\mu$ at Belle II

- Data set:  $\sim 178 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  (2020 - 2021). Ongoing analysis, will be finalized by beginning of 2023
- Main background components from QED processes:  $\mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$ , ISR, double photon conversion, combinatorial as well as peaking background
- Event selection:
  - 3-track OR single-muon trigger
  - 4 tracks (at least 3 identified as muons) with invariant mass compatible with the  $Y(4S)$  + no energy deposit in the ECL
  - 4 neural networks trained for different ranges in dimuon invariant mass  $M(\mu\mu)$
- Signal yield from a fit scan over  $M(\mu\mu)$  above floating background

Competitive with early data set ( $\sim 178 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ ) due to aggressive background suppression!

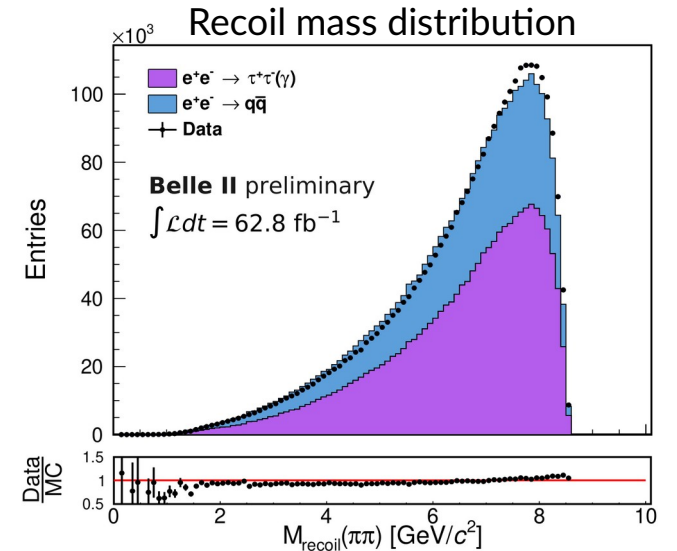
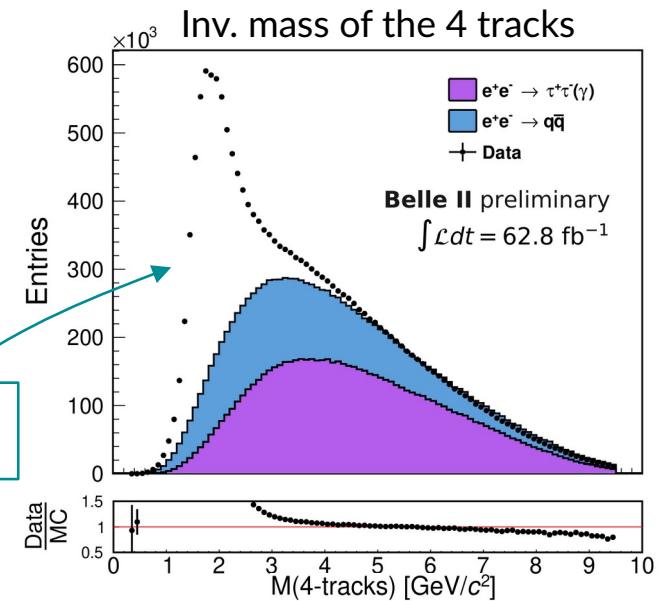


# $Z', S, ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$ at Belle II

## Data validation

- Control sample: “ $\pi^+ \pi^- \tau^+ \tau^-$ ” (2 identified **pion tracks** (tagging pions, rather than 2 muons) + 2 additional tracks ( $e, \mu, h$ ))
  - no sensitivity to signal
  - data/MC comparison for a wide region of the recoil mass distribution
- Main contribution from  $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^- (\gamma)$  and  $e^+ e^- \rightarrow q \bar{q}$  (both generated with ISR)
 

$M(\pi\pi) > 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$   
**NOT** applied
- $M(\pi\pi) > 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  (for tagging pions) to remove the part of the mass spectrum where there are missing components in MC, like hadron components at low invariant mass of 4-tracks
  - two-photon  $e^+ e^- \rightarrow e^+ e^- X_{had}$ , with hadronic  $X_{had}$  up to 4 tracks
  - **already observed at Belle II**
- Mass dependent data/MC ratio discrepancy  $\sim 15\%$
- The background is measured directly from data by fitting.** Data/MC comparison is useful to better understand data

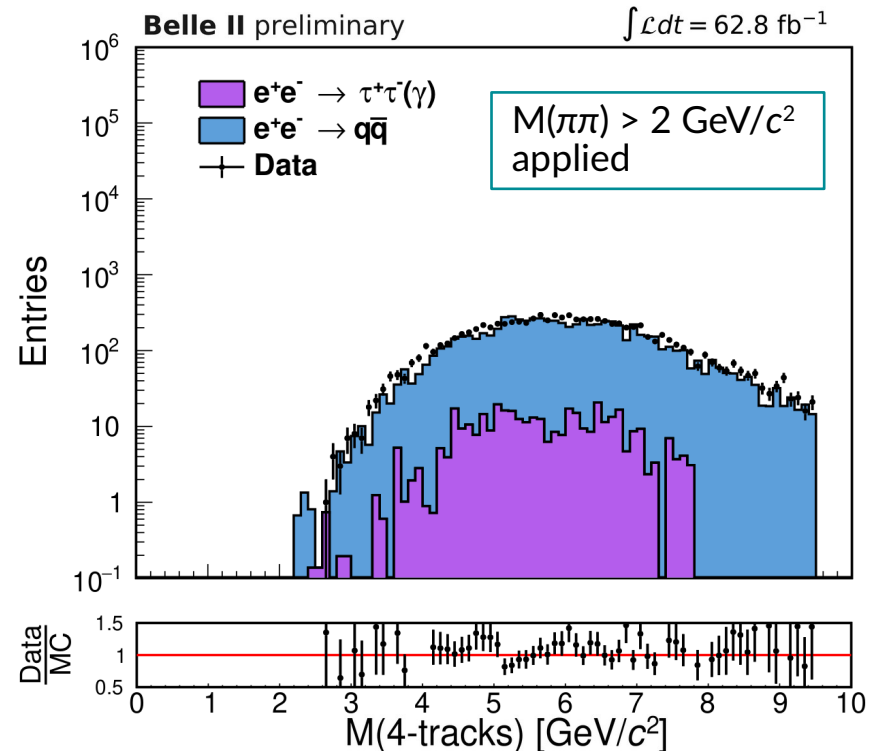
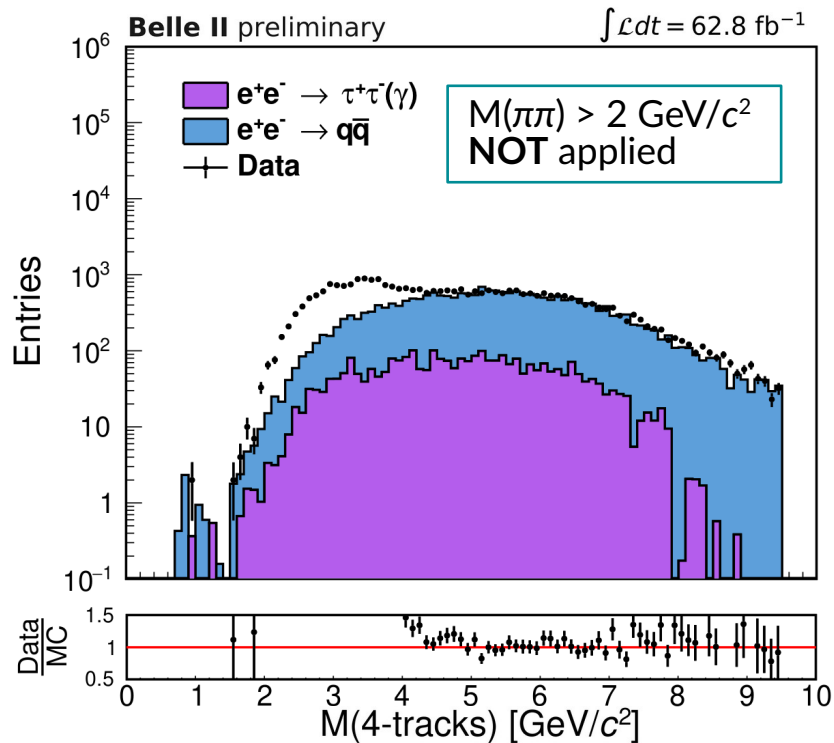




# $Z', S, ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$ at Belle II

Data validation: after MLP selection

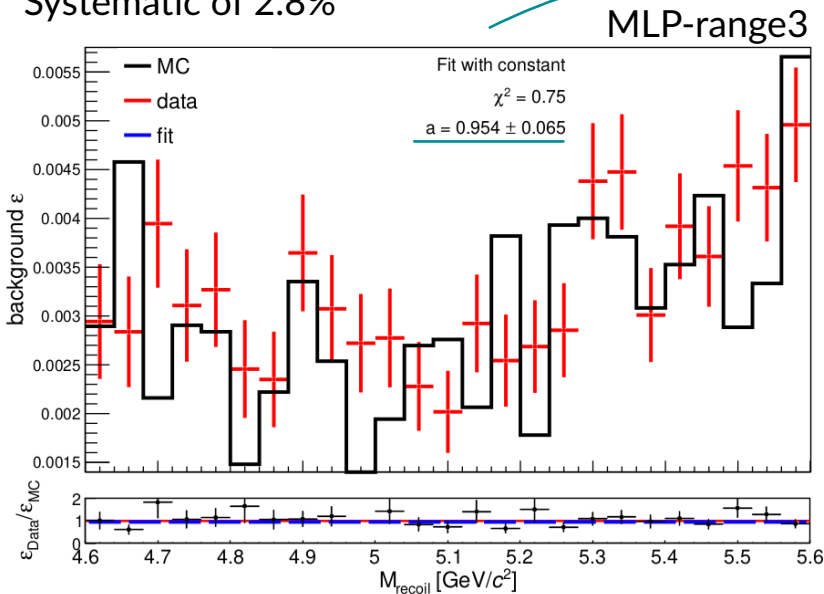
- Control sample: " $\pi^+\pi^-\tau^+\tau^-$ ": M(4-tracks) distribution (invariant mass of the 4 tracks)
- Two photon hadronic processes not fully removed by MLP selection  $\rightarrow$  source of discrepancy
  - $\rightarrow$  removing it with  $M(\pi\pi) > 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  data/MC agreement is reasonable



# $Z', S, ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$ at Belle II

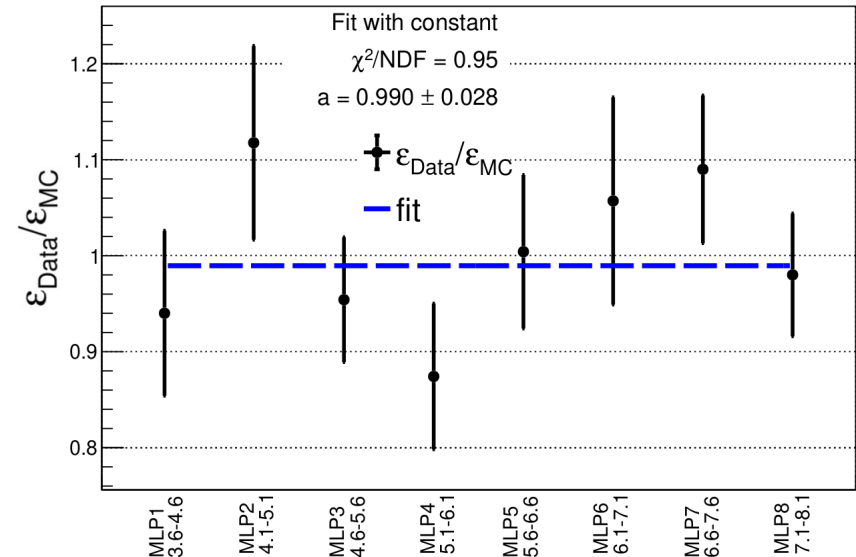
## Data validation: MLP efficiency

- Comparison data/MC of the MLP background efficiency with control sample control sample when  $M(\pi\pi) > 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  - check that MLP selection is reliable
- With these comparisons we study the data/MC agreement of the **signal-like background component**, to evaluate the signal systematics
- Systematic of 2.8%



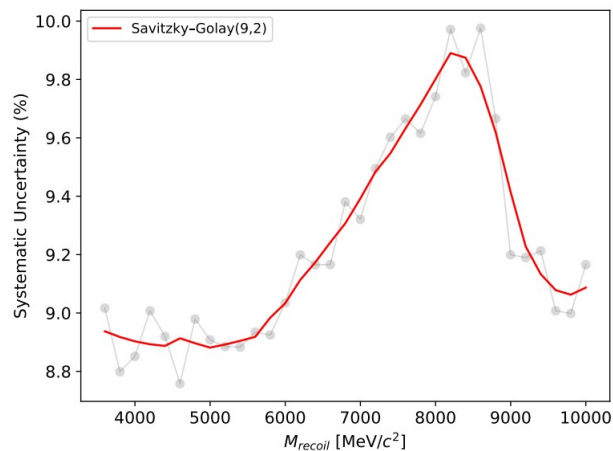
### MLP efficiency:

- fraction of surviving events after applying the MLP selection
- more reliable than the number of events surviving the MLP selection



# Z', S, ALP → $\tau\tau$ systematics

Source	Systematic Uncertainty
MLP selection	2.8%
<i>fff</i> trigger efficiency	2.5%
CDCKLM trigger efficiency	1%
Mass resolution	3%
Tracking efficiency	3.6%
PID selection	(3.9 - 6.2)%
Fit (sig+bkg)	4%
Signal efficiency interpolation	2.5%
Luminosity	1%
Others (preselection, beam energy shift, momentum resolution)	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>(8.8% - 9.9%)</b>



- **Effect of systematics on the final results is O(1%)**
- **We are mainly limited by statistics**

MLP from data/MC comparison using control sample

**fff efficiency** from signal efficiency obtained applying *fff* efficiency measured with different configurations

**CDCKLM efficiency, PID** from signal efficiency obtained varying CDCKLM efficiency and PID corrections within their systematics

**Mass resolution** from signal yield returned by the fit simulating the effect of momentum resolution measured on data (from [Belle II internal study](#)) on the signal peak resolution

**Fit** from signal yield, and its error, extracted from the fit compared with the generated one applying a bootstrap technique on MC

**Signal efficiency interpolation** from RMS of nominal and interpolated signal efficiencies

**Tracking efficiency** from internal study

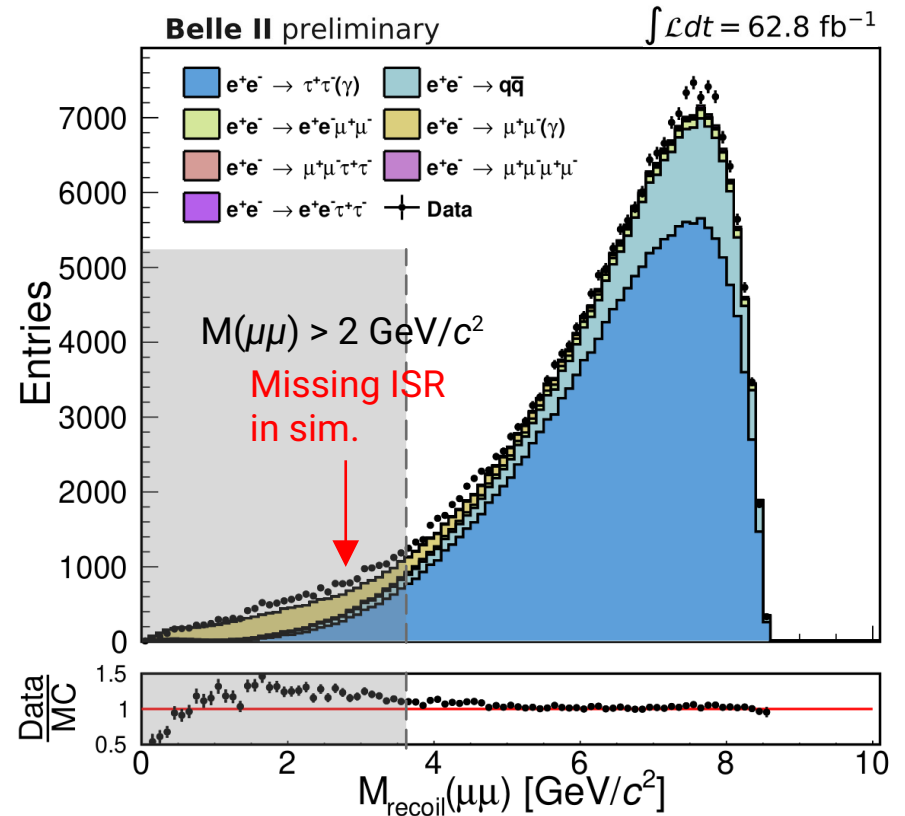
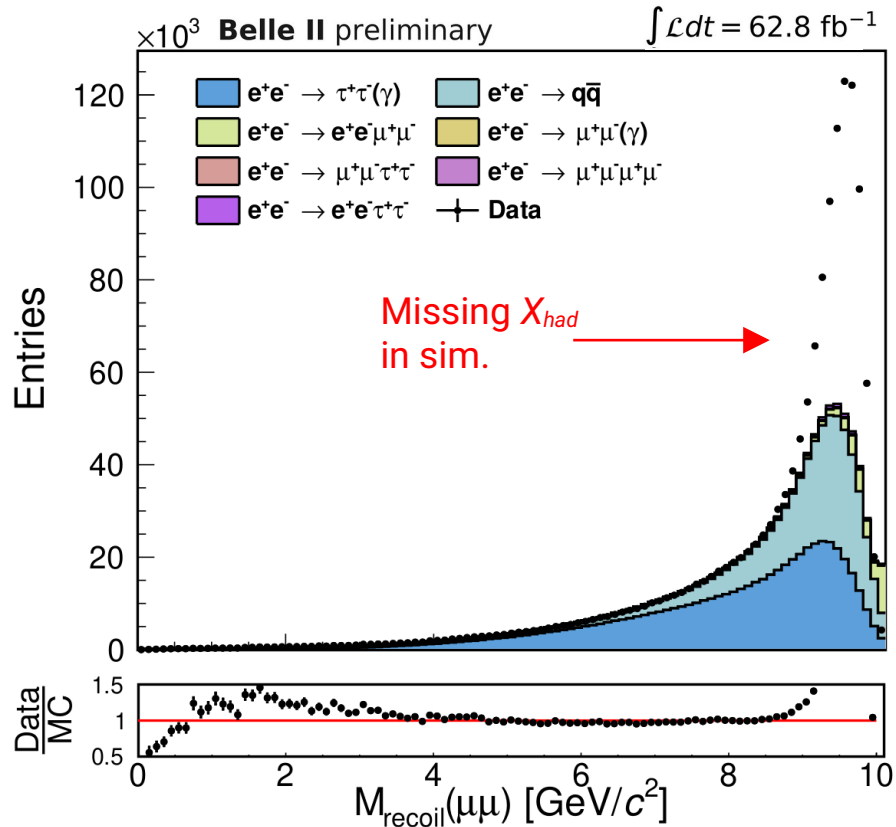
**Luminosity** from the difference in the measured offline luminosity on Bhabha and  $\gamma\gamma$  events

# $Z', S, ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$ at Belle II

Full data unboxing

$M(\mu\mu) > 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  for the tagging muons

- Without applying the NN selection, the agreement is reasonable where data and MC are comparable



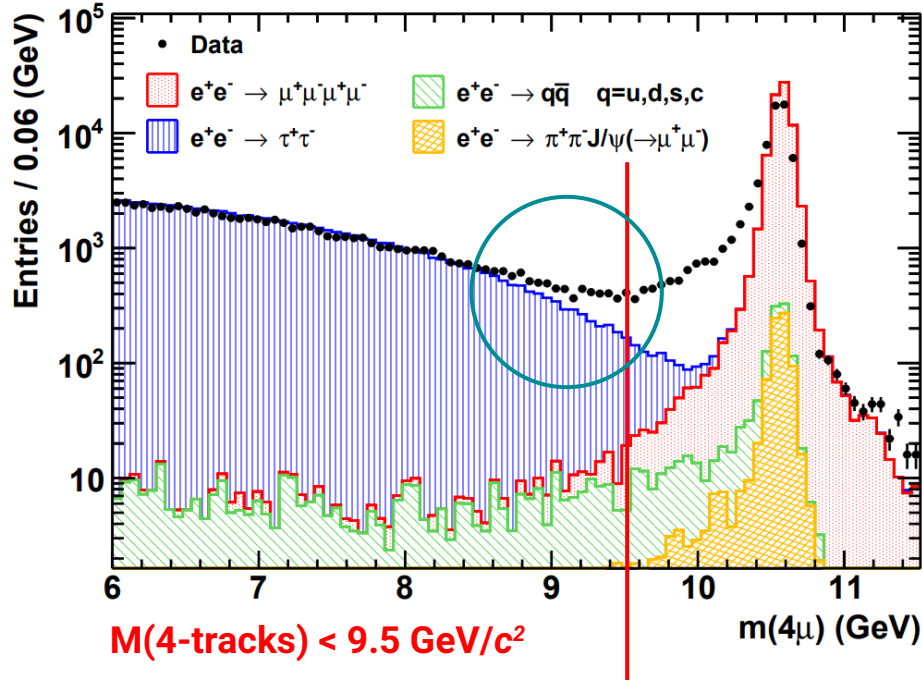


# $Z', S, ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$ at Belle II

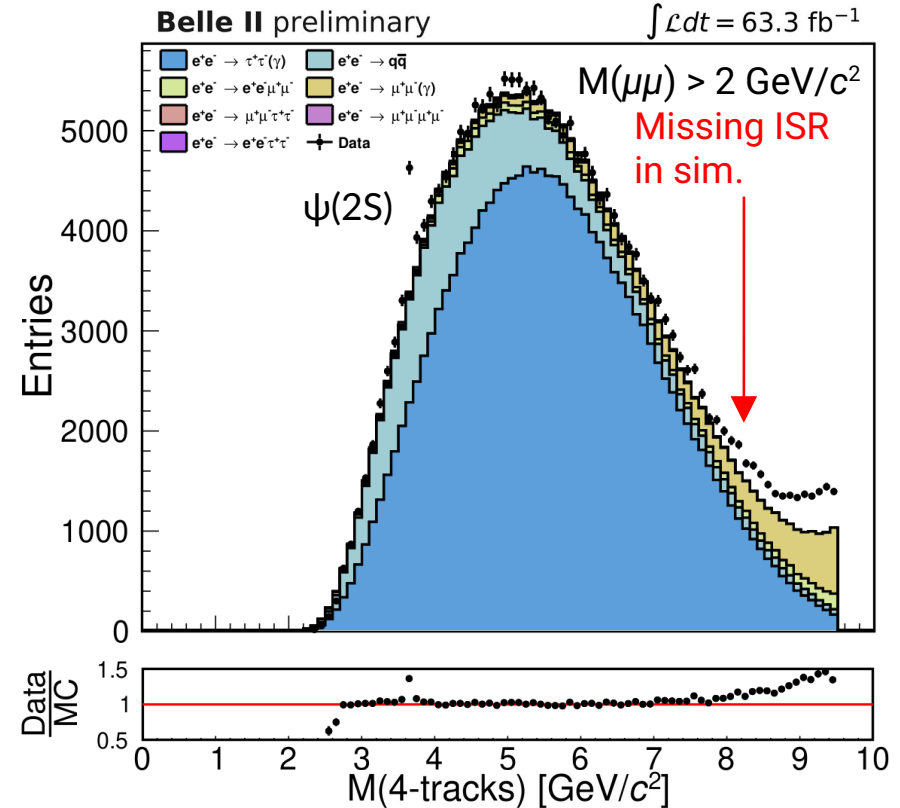
Full data unboxing

- Without applying the NN selection, the agreement is reasonable where data and MC are comparable

$M(\mu\mu) > 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  for the tagging muons



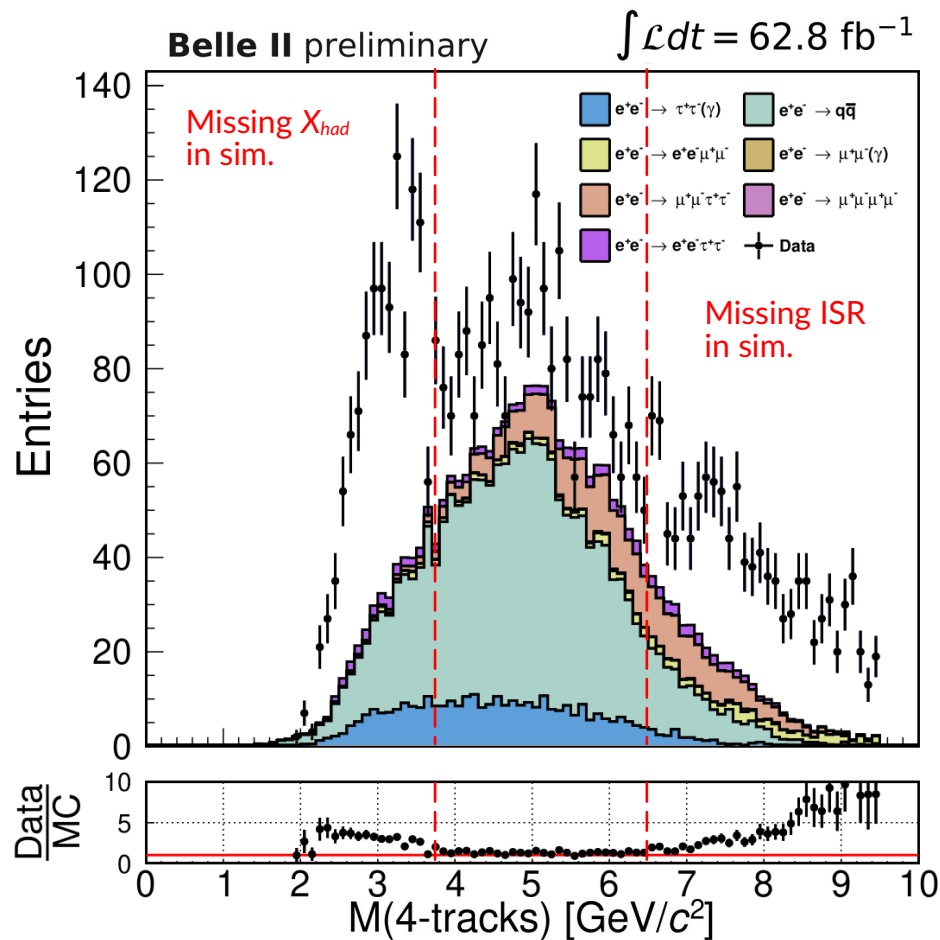
$Z' \rightarrow \mu\mu$  at BaBar  
J. P. Lees et al., [PhysRevD.94.011102](https://arxiv.org/abs/1508.04092)



# $Z', S, ALP \rightarrow \tau\tau$ at Belle II

Full data unboxing: after MLP selection

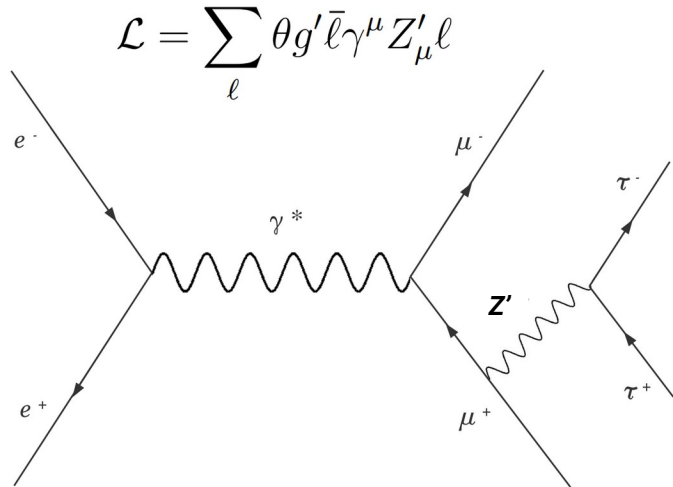
- In our analysis we do not select events with  $M(\mu\mu) > 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ 
  - missing hadronic components in MC not removed
- Fraction of no-ISR ( $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$ ,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\tau^+\tau^-$ ,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\tau^+\tau^-$ ) components over the total from 80% to 10% in  $M_{\text{recoil}}(\mu\mu)$
- In the region of  $M(4\text{tracks})$  where the contribution from both sources of discrepancy is lower (**NOT missing**) the agreement is way better
- **Discrepancies** expected, understood, non-peaking in  $M_{\text{recoil}}(\mu\mu)$ 
  - signal mass resolution: 1.5 - 30  $\text{MeV}/c^2$
- Expected worsening in sensitivity because of the higher background w.r.t simulation
  - measured directly from data through a fit



# $Z' \rightarrow \tau\tau$ at Belle II

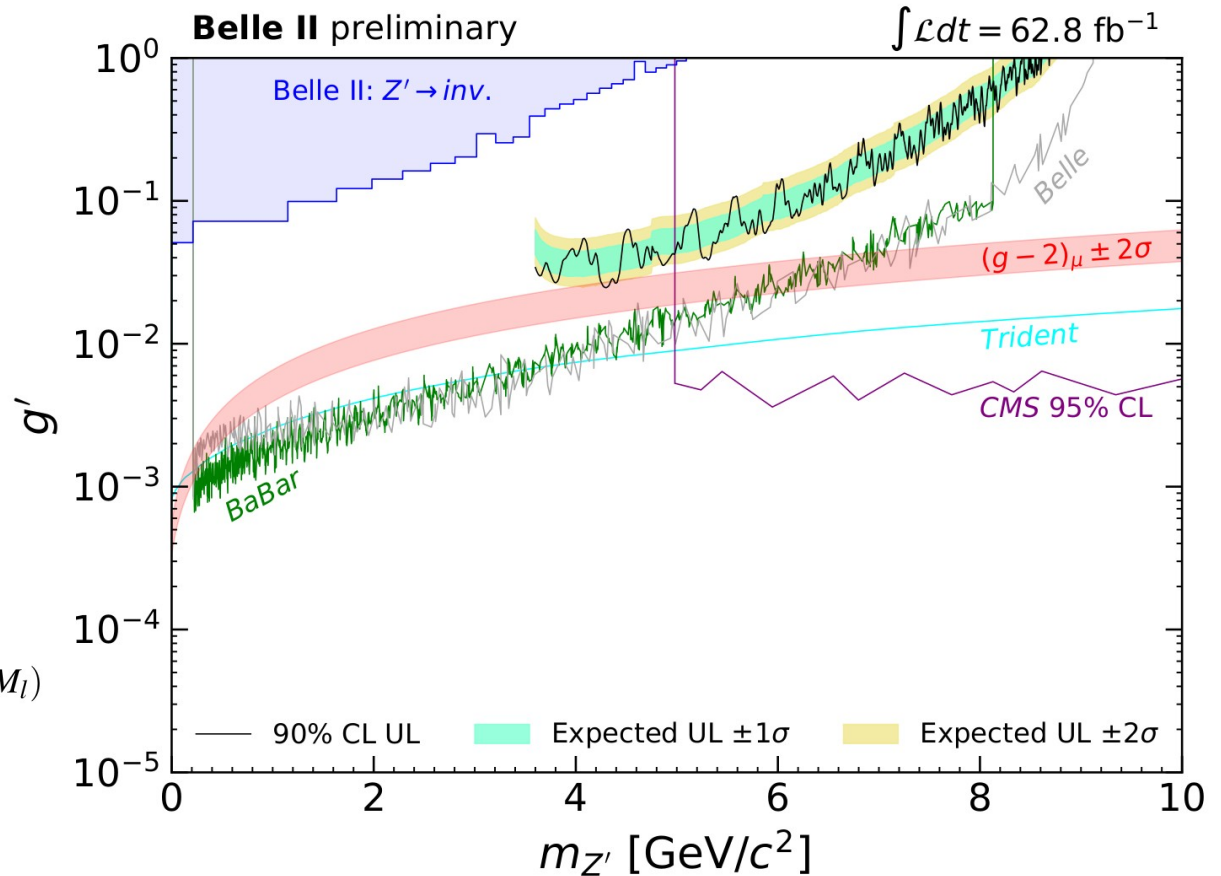
$L_\mu - L_\tau$  model

- [1] Shuve et al., [Phys. Rev. D 89, 113004 \(2014\)](#)
- [2] Altmannshofer et al., [JHEP 106 \(2016\)](#)
- [3] D. Curtin et al., [JHEP 02 \(2015\) 157](#)



$$\Gamma_{Z' \rightarrow l+l^-} = \frac{(g')^2 M_{Z'}}{12\pi} \left( 1 + \frac{2m_l^2}{M_{Z'}^2} \right) \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_l^2}{M_{Z'}^2}} \theta(M_{Z'} - 2M_l)$$

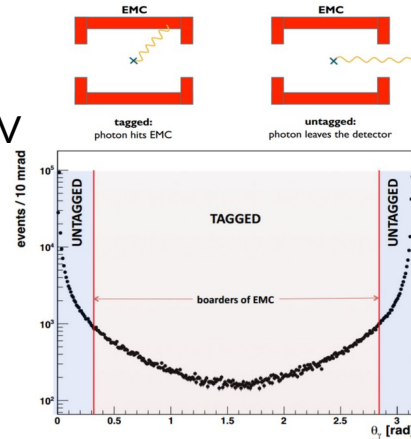
$$\Gamma_{Z' \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}} = \frac{(g')^2 M_{Z'}}{24\pi}$$



# Visible dark photon at BESIII

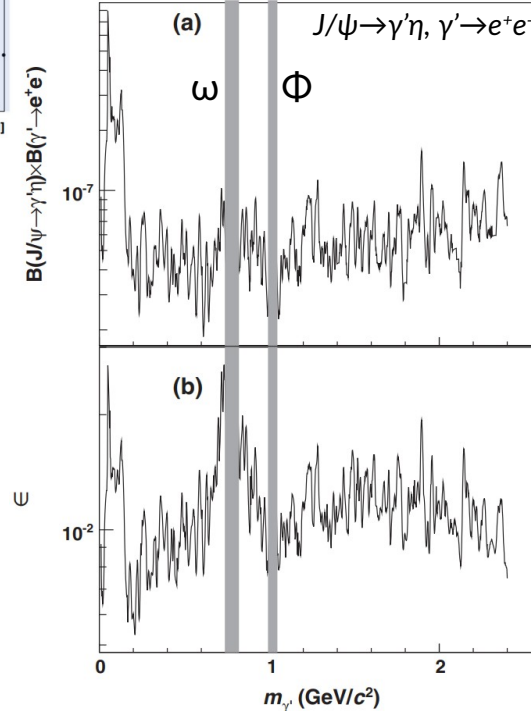
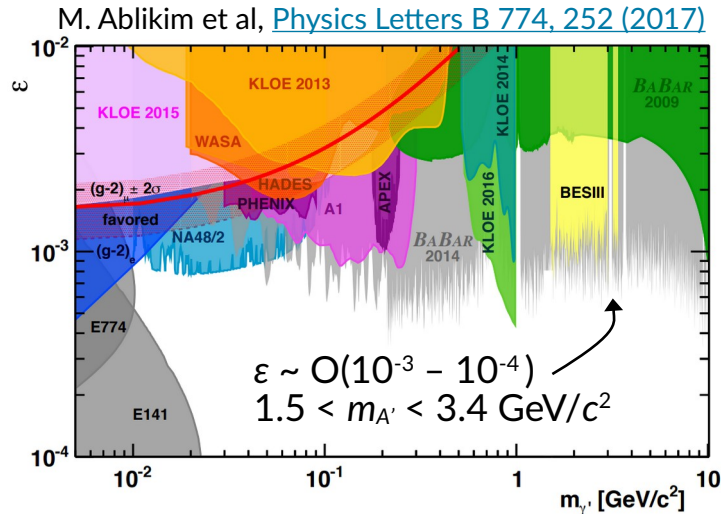
$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma_{ISR} A', A' \rightarrow l^+l^- (l = e, \mu)$$

- $2.93 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  @  $\sqrt{s} = 3.773 \text{ GeV}$
- Untagged photon method to increase statistics
- Search for a narrow peak in  $m_{l^+l^-}$  spectrum
- 90% CL UL on  $\varepsilon$

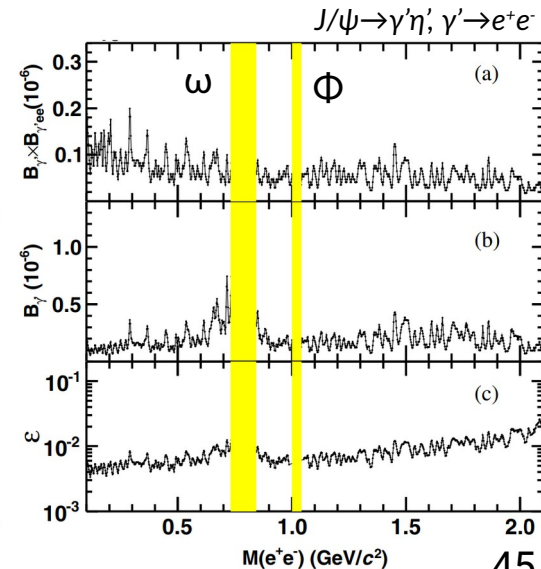


$$J/\psi \rightarrow A' \eta/\eta', A' \rightarrow e^+e^- [1,2]$$

- First search for dark photon via electromagnetic Dalitz decays with 1.3 billion  $J/\psi$
- 90% CL UL on  $\varepsilon \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-3} - 10^{-2})$  for  $0.1 < m_{\gamma'} < 2.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



- [1] M. Ablikim et al, [PRD.99.012006 \(2019\)](#)  
 [2] M. Ablikim et al, [PRD.99.012013 \(2019\)](#)





# Invisible dark photon

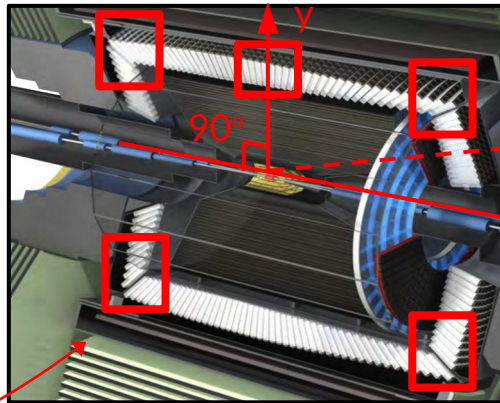
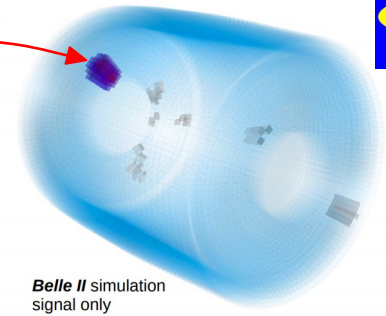
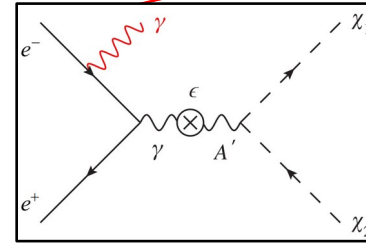
- Single photon search
- Single photon in the final state needs a single photon trigger, present in the full Belle II dataset

- Signature: peak in the energy of the photon depending on the  $M_{A'}$

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

- Main background components:
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-(\gamma)$ : electrons out of acceptance
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma(\gamma)$ : photons lost in e.m. calorimeter inefficient regions (**gaps**)
  - cosmic rays

- Event selection criteria based on  $E_\gamma$  vs  $\theta_\gamma$  distribution

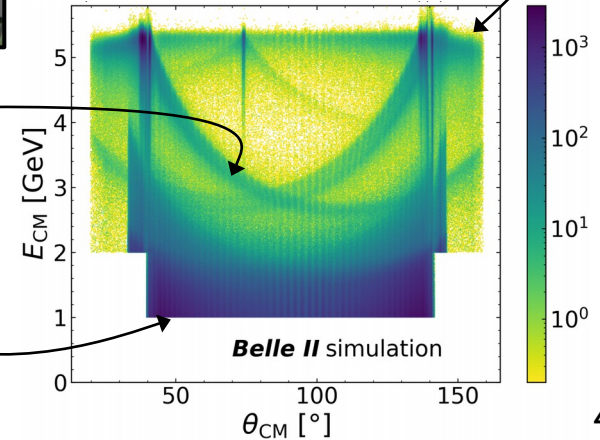


$\gamma\gamma$ , with an undetected photon

Background simulation assuming 20/fb

$\gamma\gamma\gamma$ , with two undetected photons

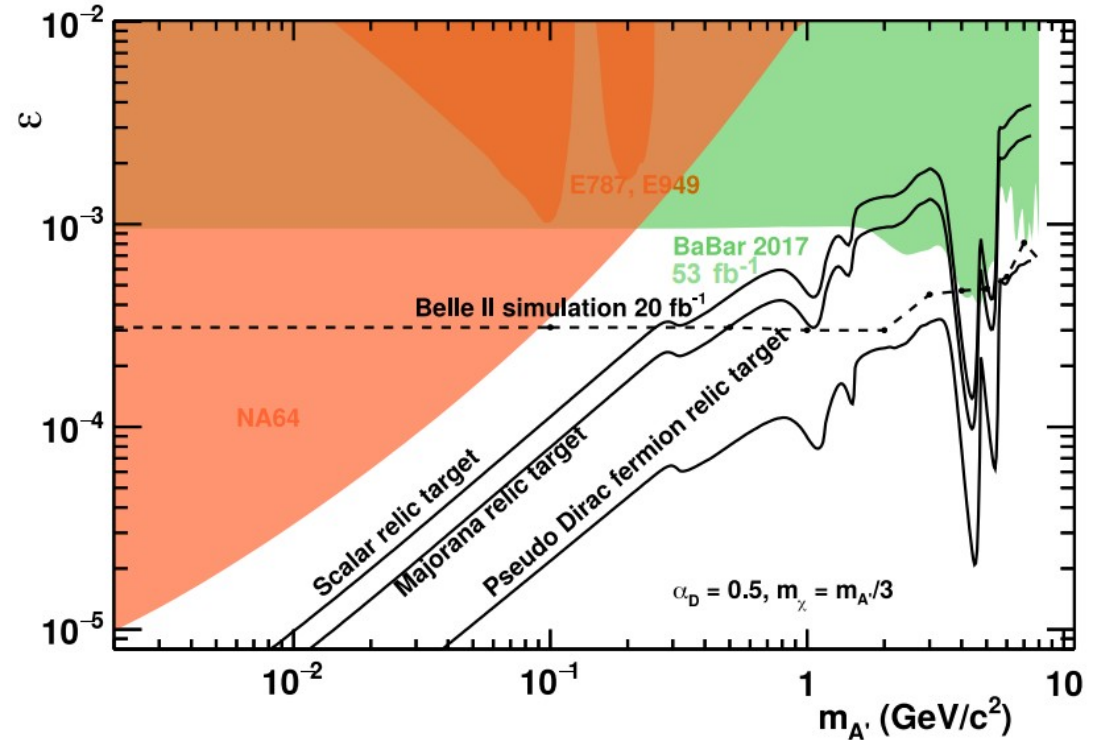
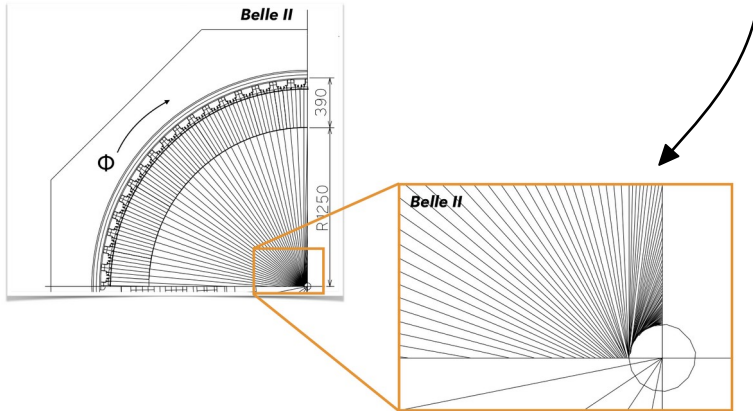
$e^+e^-\gamma$ , with both  $e^+e^-$  out of detector acceptance



# Expected 90% CL exclusion on $\epsilon$

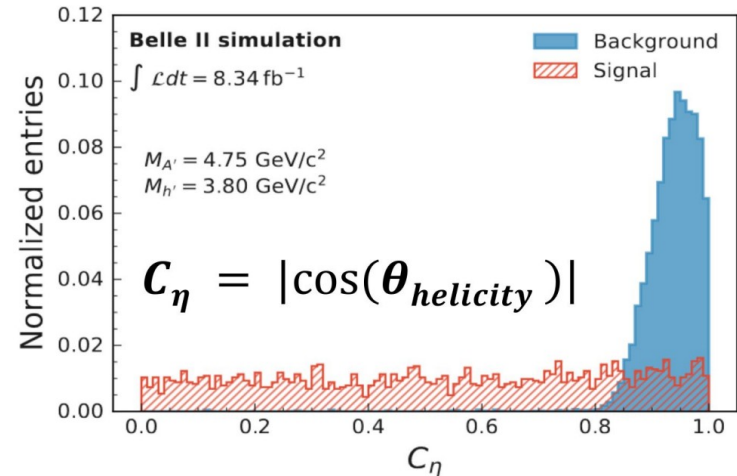
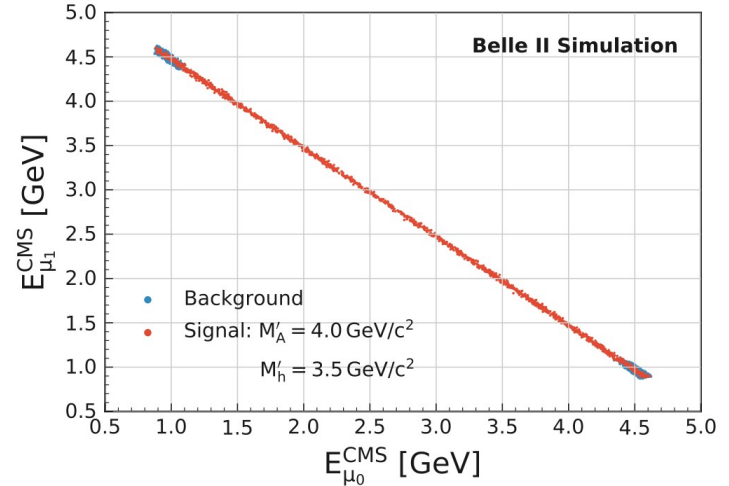
[1] Belle II Physics Book, [PTEP 2019 12 \(2019\)](#)  
 [2] Less et al, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 131804 \(2017\)](#)

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma_{ISR} A'$  ( $A' \rightarrow inv.$ ): very promising @ Belle II, even with low statistics [1]
- Expected to perform better than BaBar [2]:
  - smaller boost:
  - larger acceptance
  - muon detector veto:
  - reject events with a photon undetected in the calorimeter (efficiency currently under study)
  - no e.m calorimeter cracks in pointing to the interaction region: **better calorimeter hermeticity**



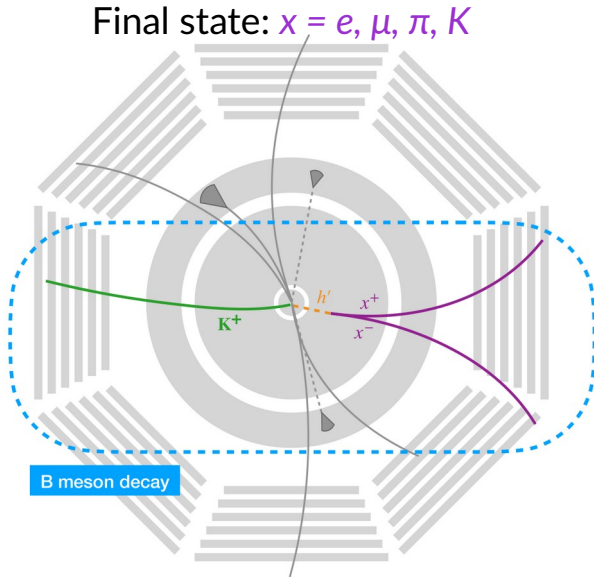
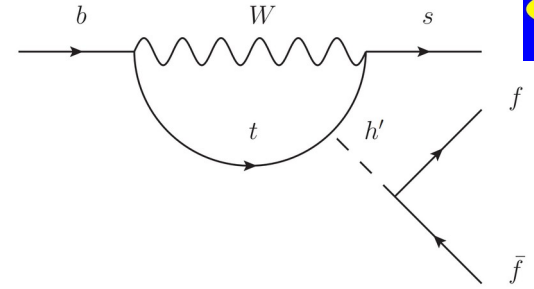
# Dark higgstrahlung at Belle II

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'h', A' \rightarrow \mu\mu, h' \rightarrow \text{invisible}$ 
  - Signature: 2D peak in recoil vs dimuon mass
- Analysis strategy:
  - scan+count in elliptical mass windows (9k overlapping ellipses)
- Background from QED:
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-(\gamma)$
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-(\gamma)$
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$
- Background suppression based on helicity angle (muon energy asymmetry)

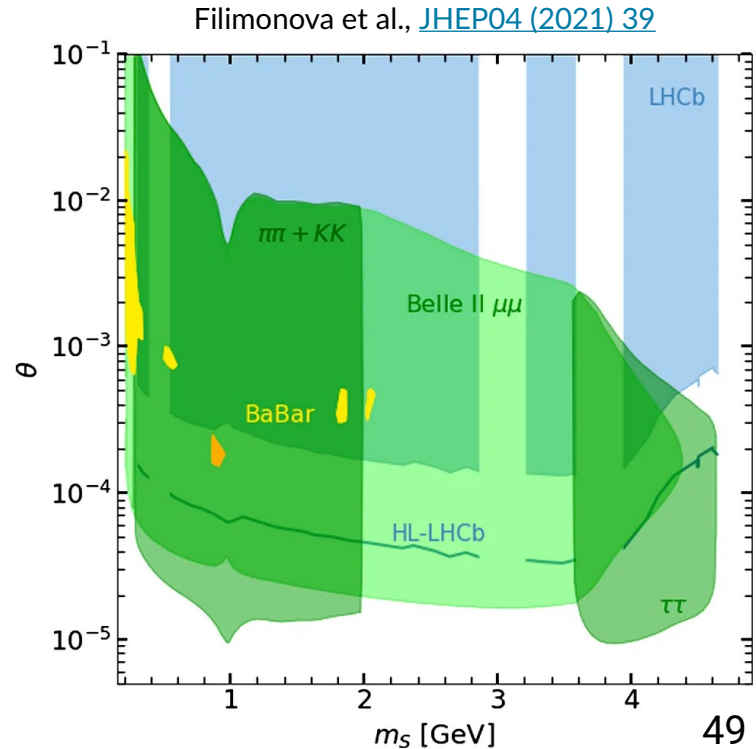
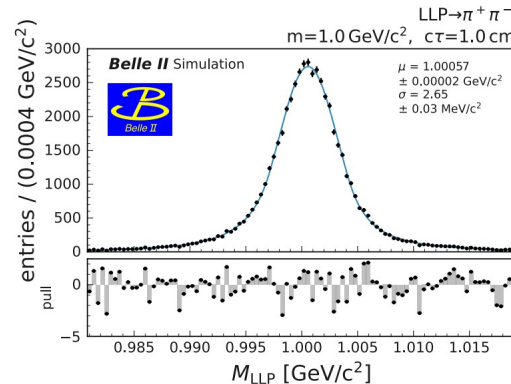


# Highlights on $B \rightarrow Kh'$

- Long-lived  $h'$  produced in  $b \rightarrow s$  transition
- $h'$  mixes with the Standard Model Higgs boson with angle  $\theta$
- Search for a bump in the invariant mass of tracks coming from a displaced vertex
- Event selection is very clean, but not quite at zero background
- LHCb and Belle II complementary



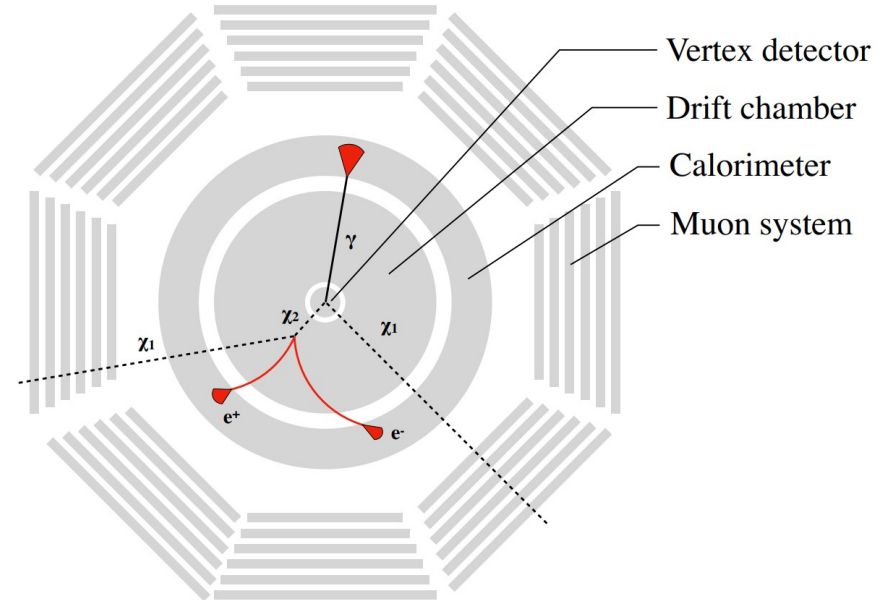
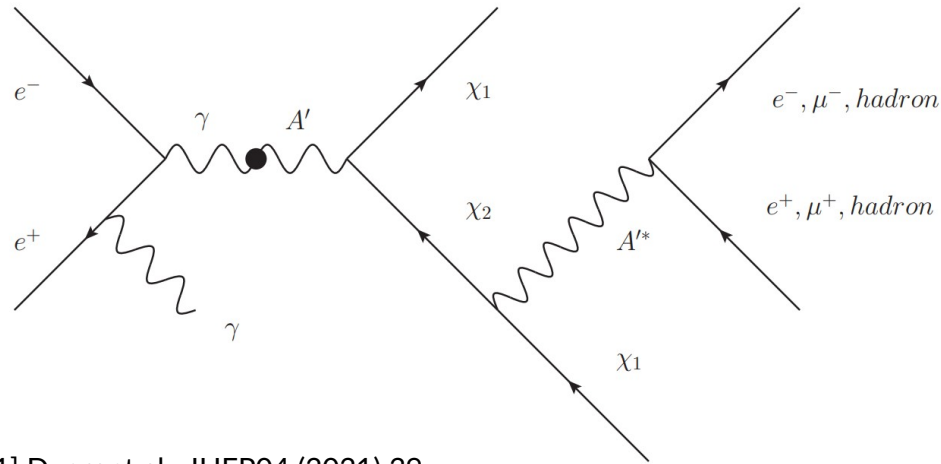
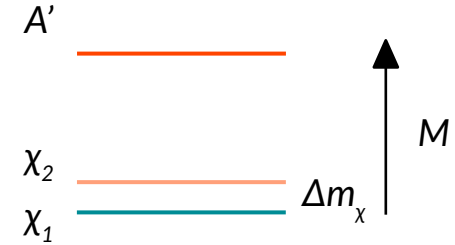
- Exclusion regions expected with  $50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$  at Belle II in green
- Analysis timescale  $\sim$  beginning of 2023





# Inelastic dark matter (iDM) at Belle II

- 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



[1] Duerr et al., *JHEP04 (2021) 39*  
 [2] Duerr et al., *JHEP04 (2021) 146*

# iDM at Belle II

Signal = peak in

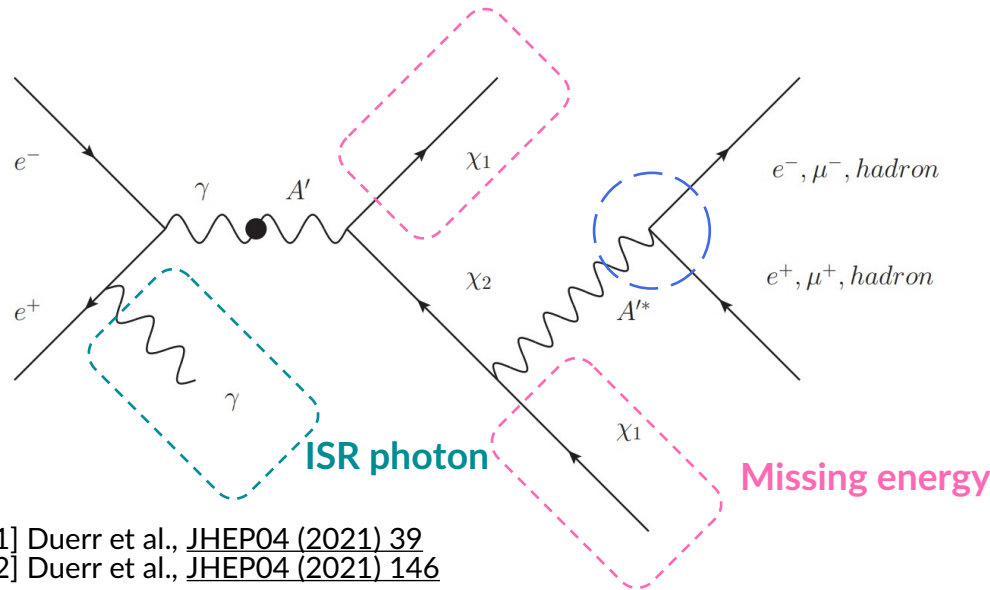
$$E_\gamma = \frac{s - M_{A'}^2}{2\sqrt{s}}$$

+ non-pointing displaced vertex + missing energy

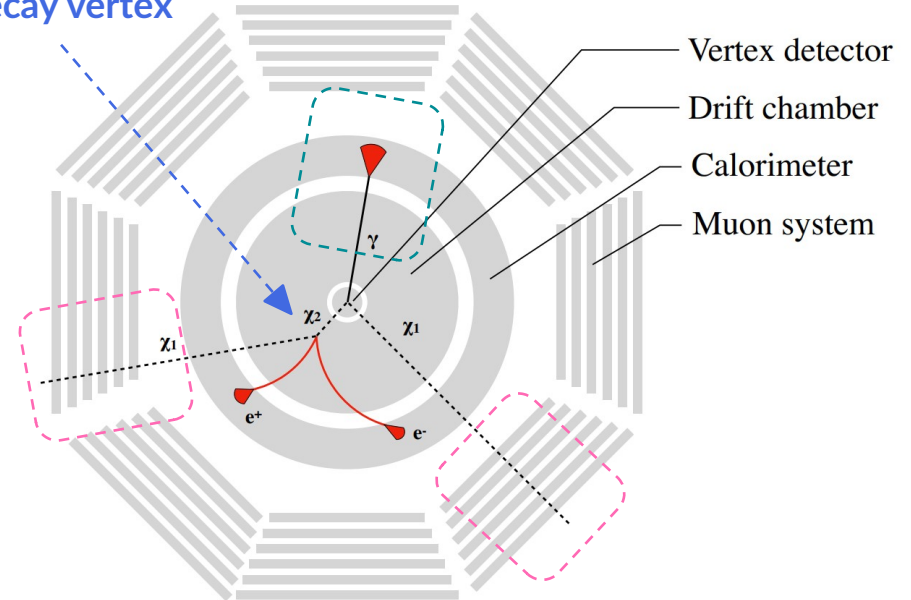


- Expanded dark sector with two dark matter states with a small mass splitting and a dark photon
  - $\chi_1$  is stable (relic candidate)
  - $\chi_2$  is long-lived
- Focus on  $M_{A'} > m_{\chi_1} + m_{\chi_2}$ : the decay  $A' \rightarrow \chi_1 \chi_2$  is favored

- Mandatory to implement new trigger for displaced vertex detection
- Belle II could constrain the kinetic mixing  $\epsilon < 10^{-3} - 10^{-4} \sim 100 \text{ fb}^{-1}$



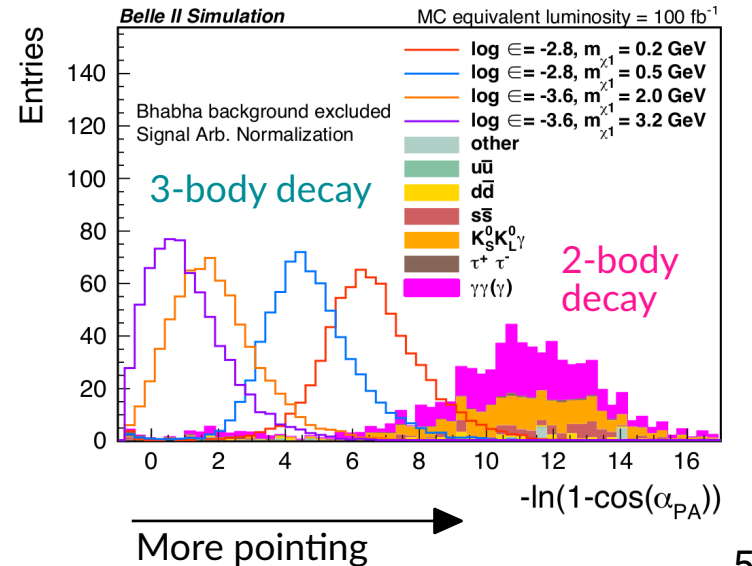
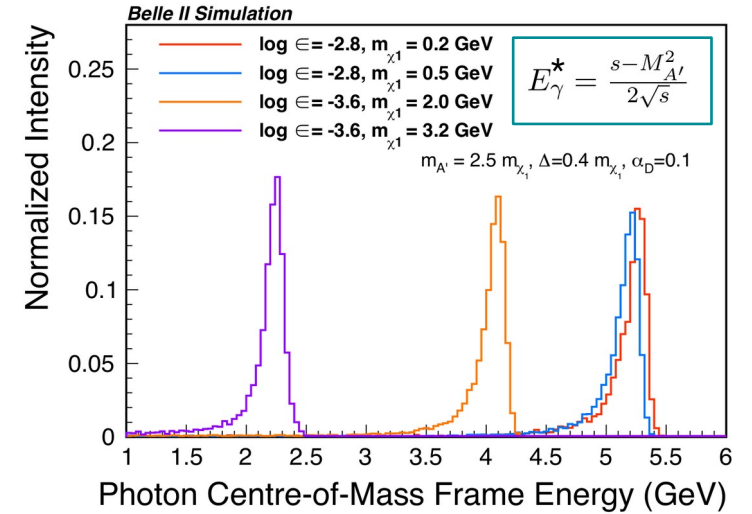
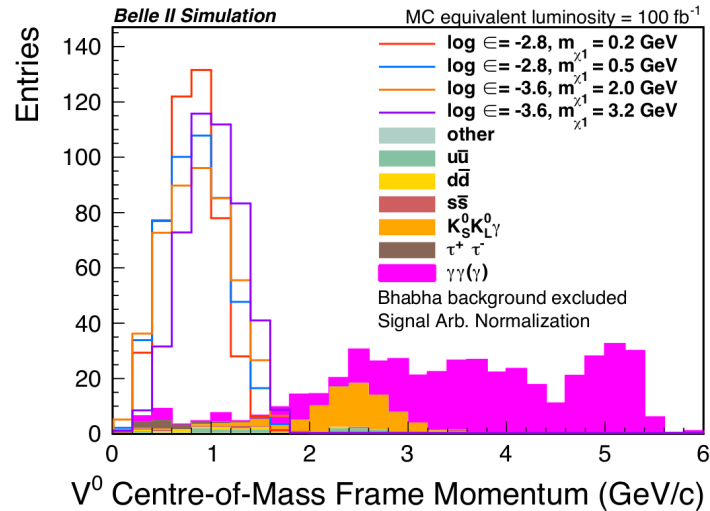
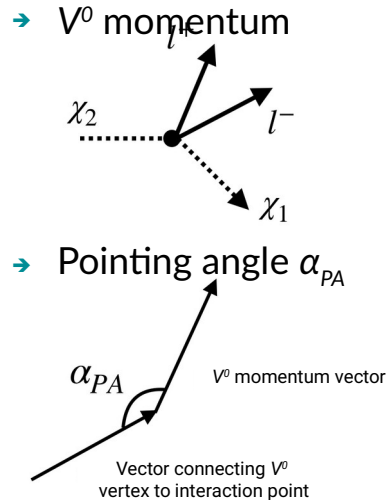
Non-pointing decay vertex



[1] Duerr et al., *JHEP04 (2021) 39*  
 [2] Duerr et al., *JHEP04 (2021) 146*

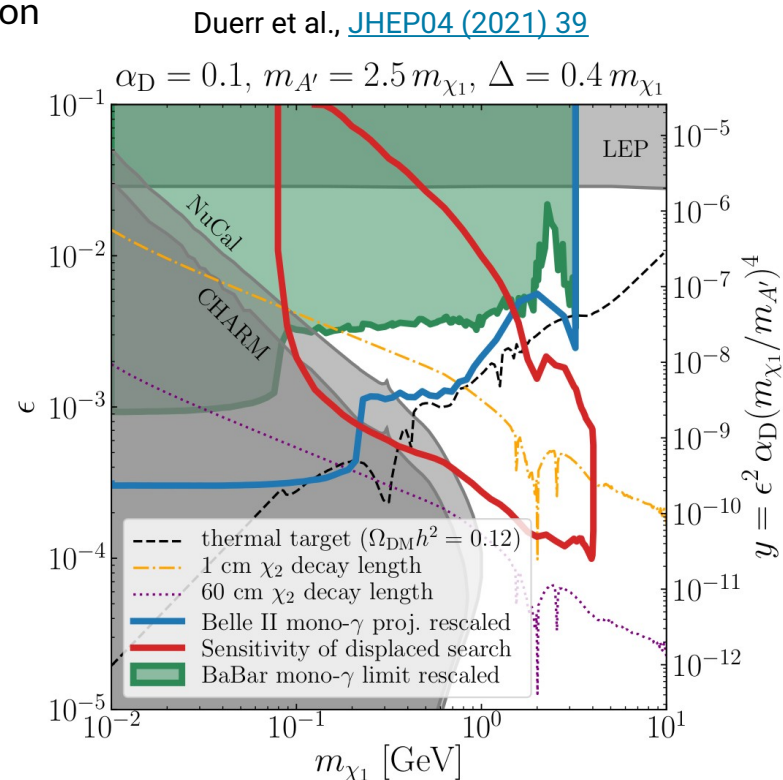
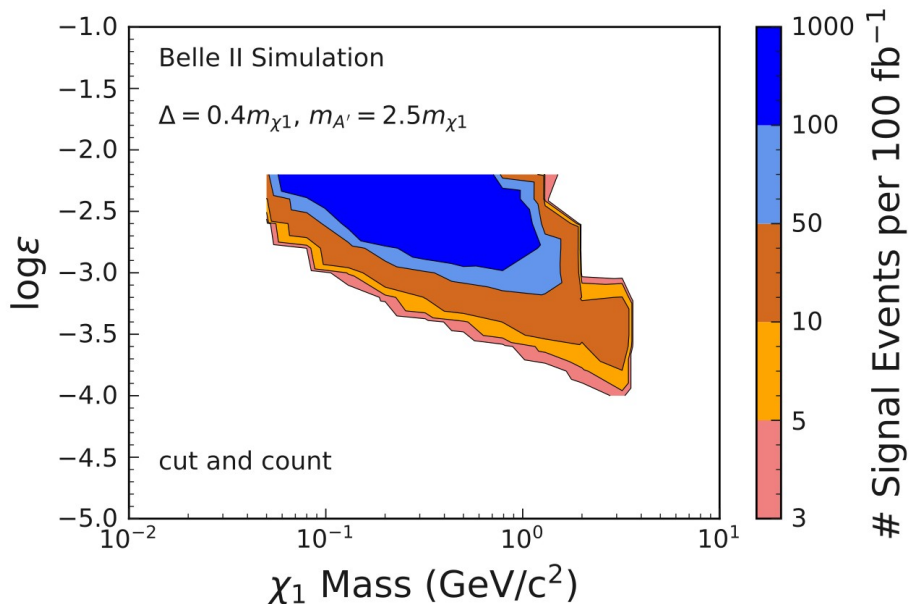
# Search for iDM at Belle II

- Search for a peak in the center-of-mass frame energy of the ISR photon plus a displaced vertex  $V^0$
- Background:
  - photon conversion,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma(\gamma)$ ,  $\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$
  - meson decays,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow K_S^0 K_L^0(\gamma)$ ,  $K_S^0$  decays
- Background suppression:



# iDM prospects at Belle II

- Estimate signal yield by counting events in ISR photon energy window (final analysis will use a template fit)
- With early Belle II dataset expect to probe dark sector-Standard Model couplings down to  $10^{-3} - 10^{-4}$
- Mandatory to implement new trigger for displaced vertex detection
- Analysis timescale  $\sim$  end of 2023

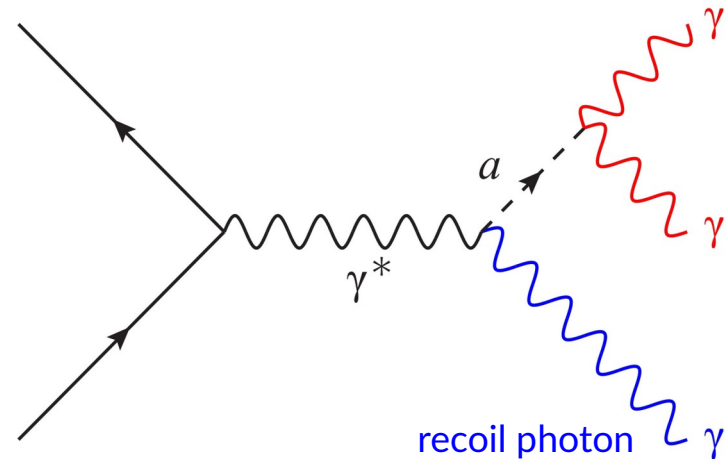
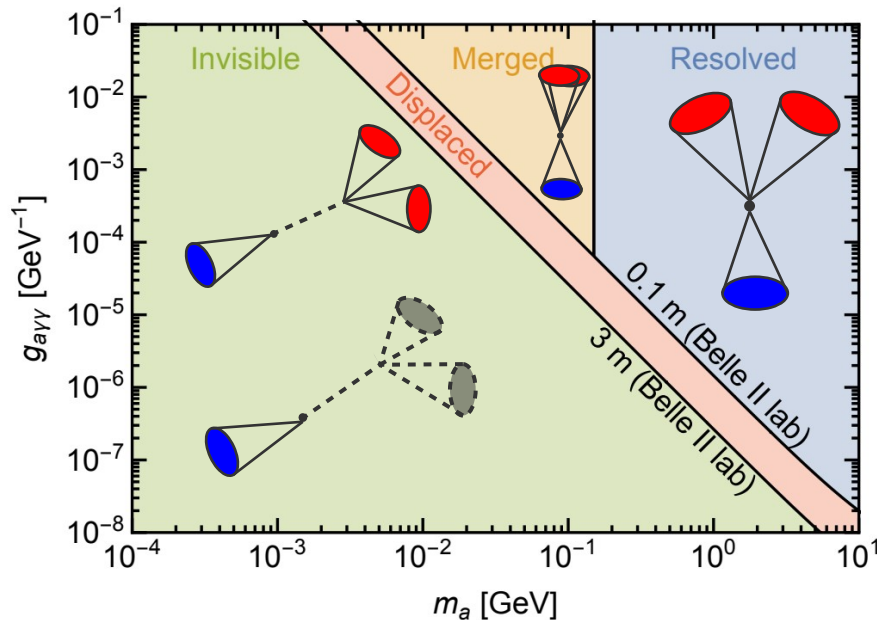




# Axion-like particles (ALP) at Belle II

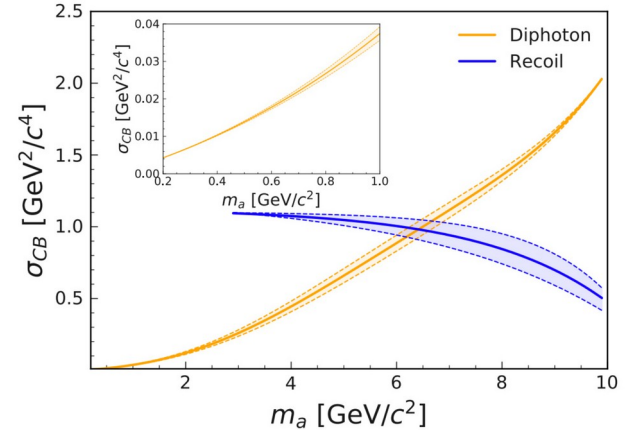


- GeV-scale ALPs: pseudo-scalar portal mediator between dark sector and Standard Model
- If ALP-photon coupling ( $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$ ) dominates, then  $BR(a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \sim 100\%$
- Different topologies depending on model parameters ( $m_a, g_{a\gamma\gamma}$ ): focus on mass region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

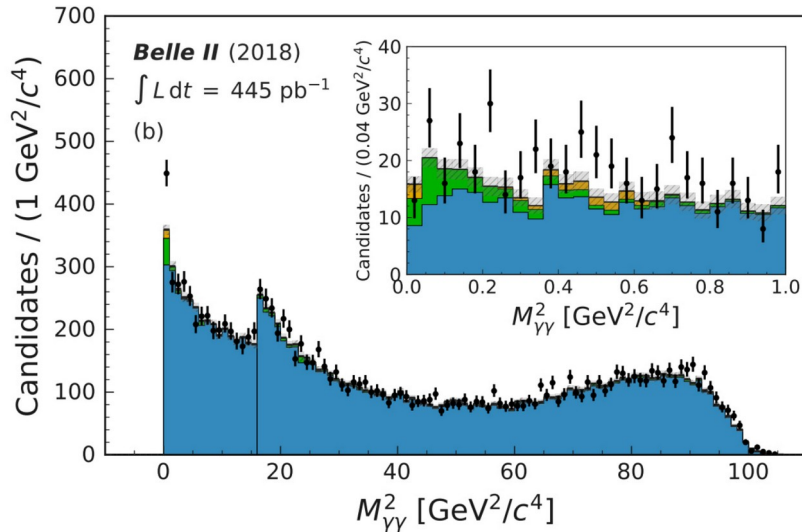


# Search for an ALP at Belle II

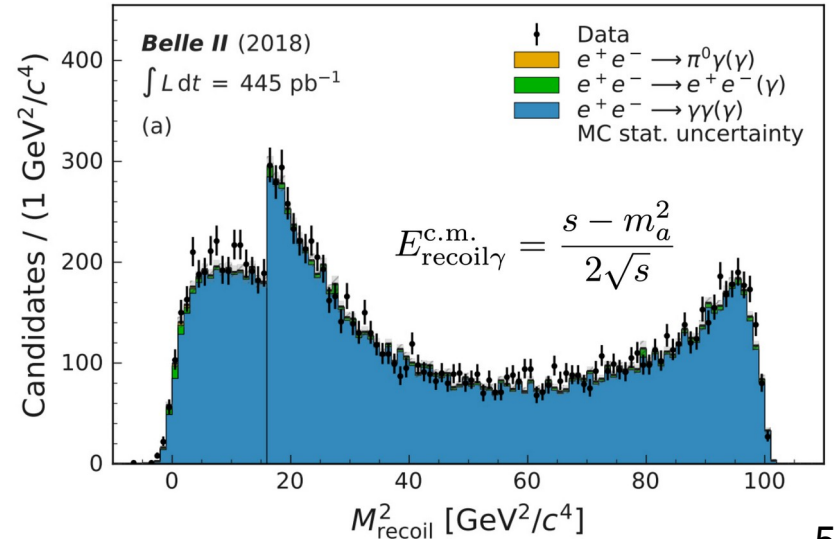
- Select events with three photon invariant mass compatible with collision  $\sqrt{s}$
- Search for a narrow peak in  $M_{\gamma\gamma}^2$  or  $M_{\text{recoil}}^2$  depending on best resolution of signal peak
- Largest background from  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma(\gamma)$



$M_{\gamma\gamma}^2: m_a < 6.85 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

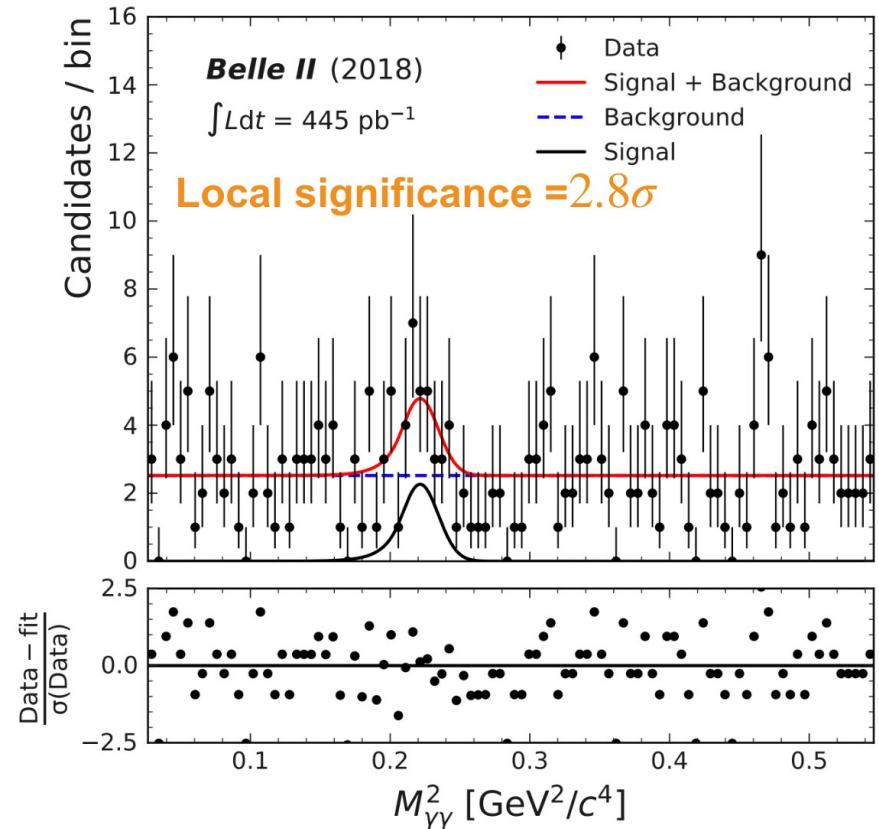
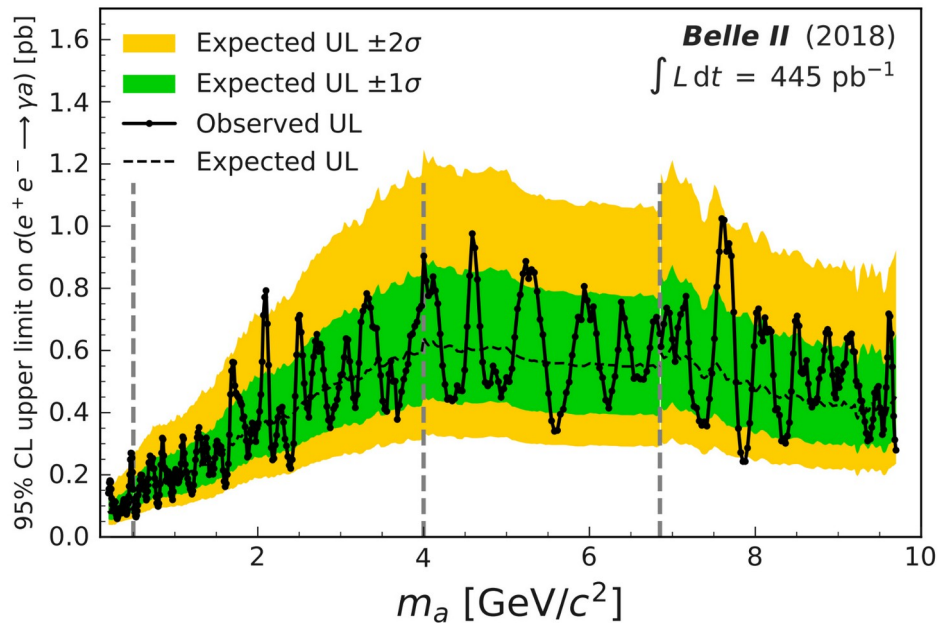


$M_{\text{recoil}}^2: m_a > 6.85 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



# Search for an ALP at Belle II: result

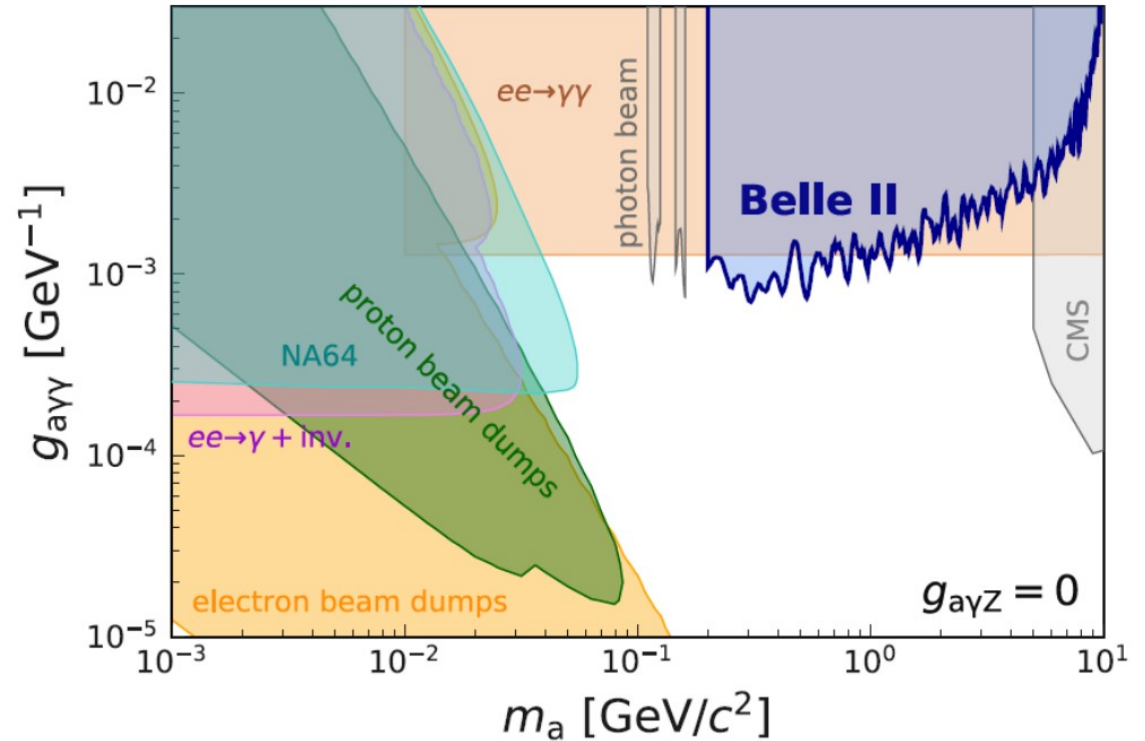
- Search ranges from  $0.2 < m_a < 9.7 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , with the 0.445/fb collected in 2018 with *Belle II*
  - 500 fits with steps of half mass resolution
- No excess in data observed
  - Highest local significance  $2.8\sigma$ , observed at  $m_a = 0.477 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



# Exclusion of $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$

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

- 95% CL upper limits on the coupling constant  $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$   
-  $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$  below  $10^{-3}$
- Limits improve over recast from  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  analysis by LEP-II
- First result for ALP at  $B$ -factories and second physics publication of *Belle II*  
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 161806 \(2020\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.08864)





# Heavy QCD axion: $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ a$ , $a \rightarrow$ hadrons

- Chakraborty et al. ([PRD 104 055036 \(2021\)](#)) estimated sensitivity of heavy QCD axion using some (not DM search) experimental data
  - $a \rightarrow \eta\pi^+\pi^-$ : BABAR [PRL 101, 091801 \(2008\)](#) (with  $\sim 400 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ )
  - $a \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-$ : Belle [PRD 90, 012002 \(2014\)](#) (with  $\sim 700 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ )

