Recent Dark Sector results at Belle II

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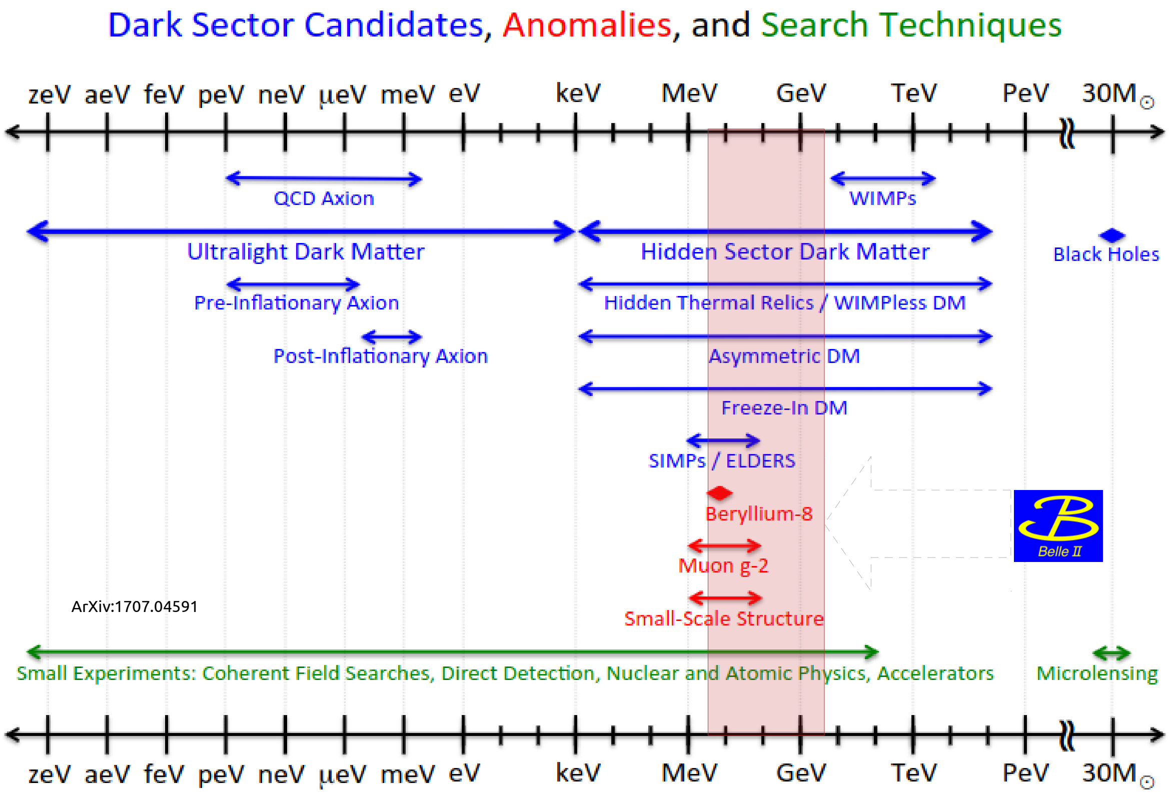
Light Dark Matter at B-factories



- **Dark Matter** is one of the most compelling reasons for **New Physics**
- B-factories at e^+e^- collider can access the mass range favored by **light dark sector**

  → Possible sub-GeV scenario:
  DM weakly coupled to SM through a **light mediator X**:

1. Vector portal
   Dark Photons, Z' bosons
2. Pseudo-scalar portal
   Axion Like Particles (ALPs)
3. Scalar portal
   Dark higgs/Scalars
4. Neutrino portal
   Sterile Neutrinos

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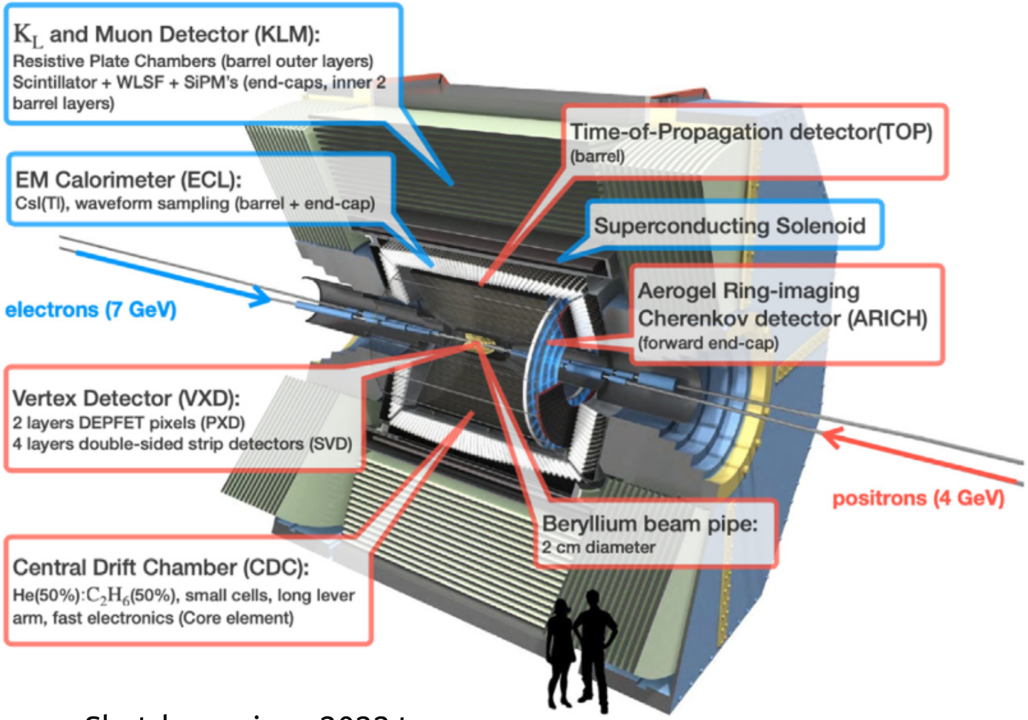
Dark Sector @ Belle II

- Signature-based

- Advantages from the **low particle multiplicty** at lepton colliders + **hermetic detector**:
  → Belle II at SuperKEKB asymmetric e^+e^- collider

  - running at 10.58 GeV, well-known **initial condition**
  - efficient reconstruction of **neutrals**
  - specific low-multiplicity **triggers (not present at Belle)**
  - excellent particle identification system

Unprecedented luminosity
4.7 x 10^{34} cm^{-2} s^{-1}



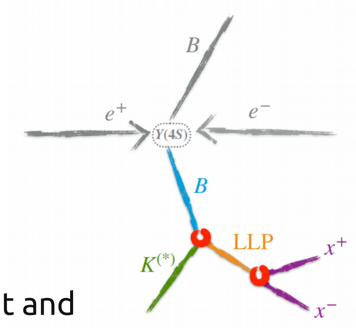
- Shutdown since 2022 to install two-layer pixel detector
- 424 fb^{-1} collected to date

Recent Dark Sector results

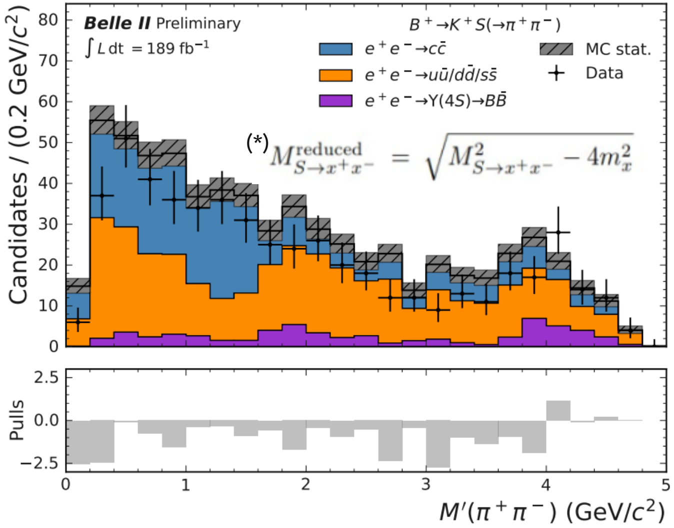
Search for a long-lived (pseudo-)scalar particle in $b \to s$

- Search for **dark scalar** particles S from B decays in **rare b→s transitions**
  - S could mix with SM Higgs with mixing angle θ_s (naturally long-lived for $\theta_S << 1$)
  - $M_S < M_B$, decays of S into dark matter particles must be kinematically forbidden to provide the correct relic density
- Look for S decays into SM final states in **8 exclusive channels**:
  - $B^+ \to K^+ S$
  - $B^0 \to K^{*0} (\to K^+\pi^-) S$

  → **S → ee/μμ/ππ/KK**



- **B-meson candidates** are reconstructed from prompt and displaced charged tracks
- **S candidates** are reconstructed from displaced oppositely-charged tracks pairs
- B-meson kinematics to reject combinatorial background
- **Signature**: bump hunt with extended max likelihood unbinned fits to the (*)reduced mass spectrum, separately for each channel and lifetime



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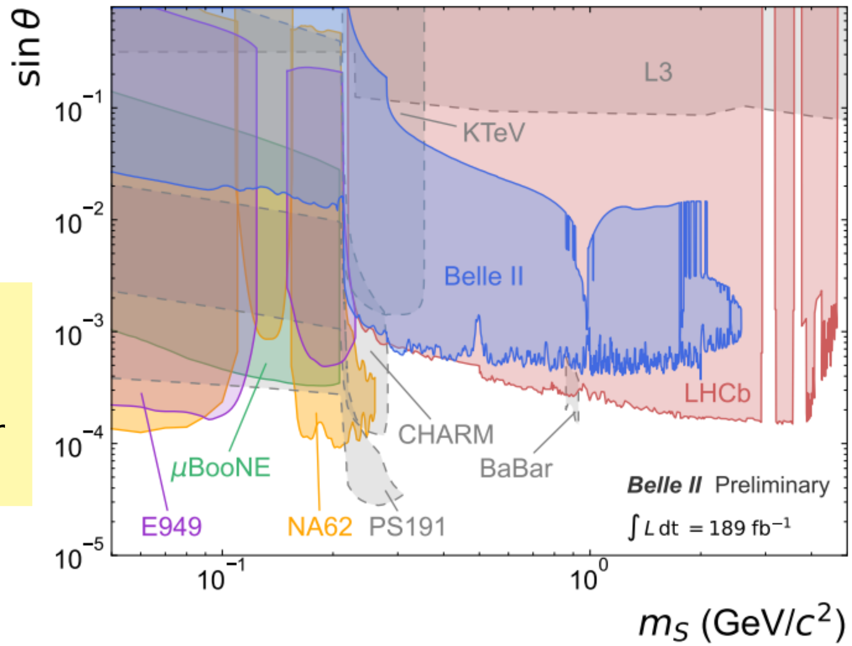
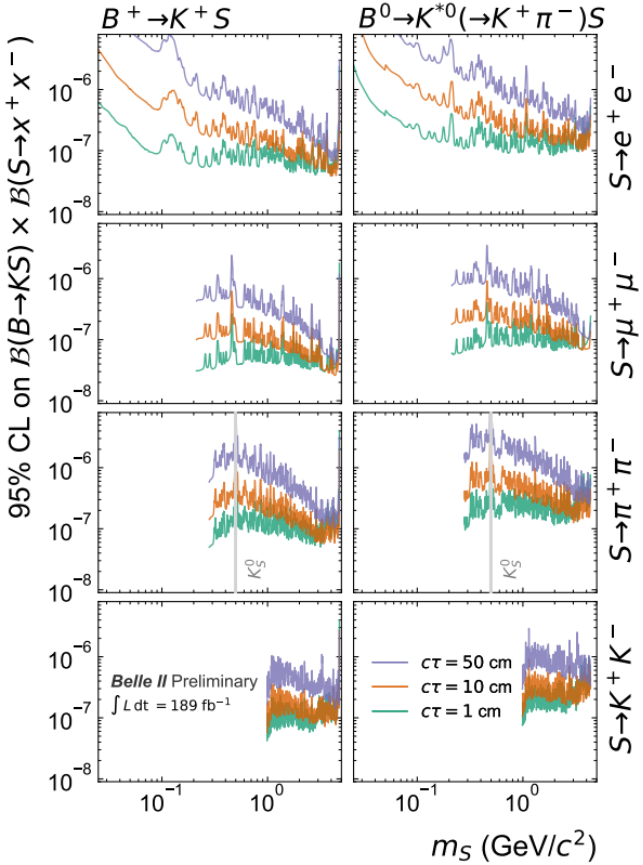
Search for a long-lived (pseudo-)scalar particle in $b \to s$

- **No significant excess found in 189 fb^{-1}**
  - first model-independent 95% CL upper limits on **BF(B→KS)×BF(S→x$^+$x$^-$)**
  - translate into model independent limits on $\sin\theta_s$ vs. m_s

First limits on decay to hadrons

Results are also available for the pseudo-scalar (ALP) model



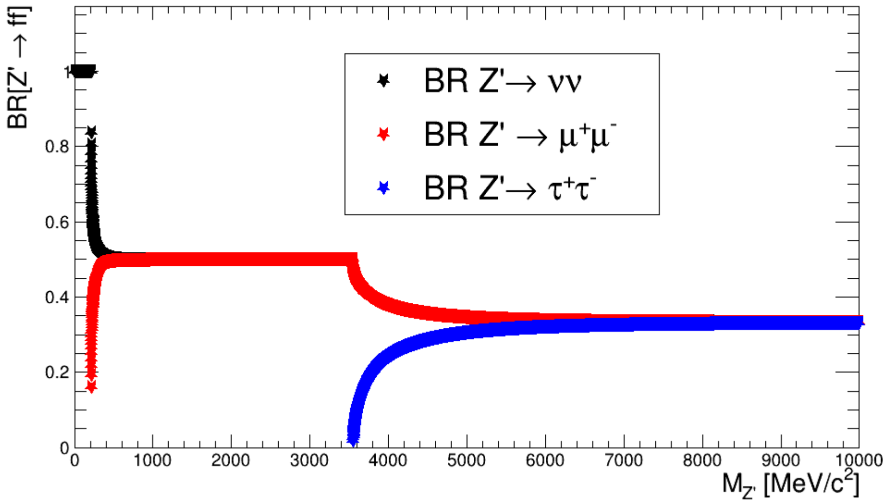


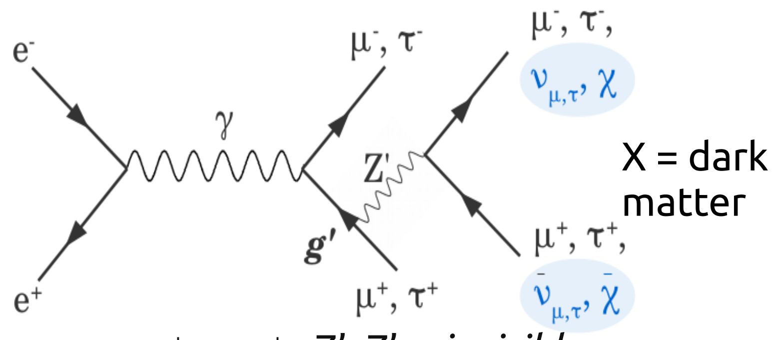
Submitted to PRL: https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.02830

Search for an invisible Z’

[1] B.Shuve and I.Yavin (2014) Phys. Rev. D 89, 113004;
Altmannshofer et al JHEP 1612 (2016) 106

- New gauge boson Z’ coupling only to the **2nd** and **3rd** generation of leptons (L_μ-L_τ)[1] may explain:
  - long-standing $(g-2)_\mu$ anomaly
  - dark matter abundance





$e^+e^- \to \mu^+\mu^- Z'$; $Z' \to$ *invisible*

- Search for the process: $\mathbf{e^+e^- \to \mu^+\mu^- Z'}$
  → Two possible interpretation:

1) Vanilla, BF($Z' \to \nu\bar{\nu}$) ~ 33-100%
2) Full invisible, BF($Z' \to \chi\bar{\chi}$) ~ 100%

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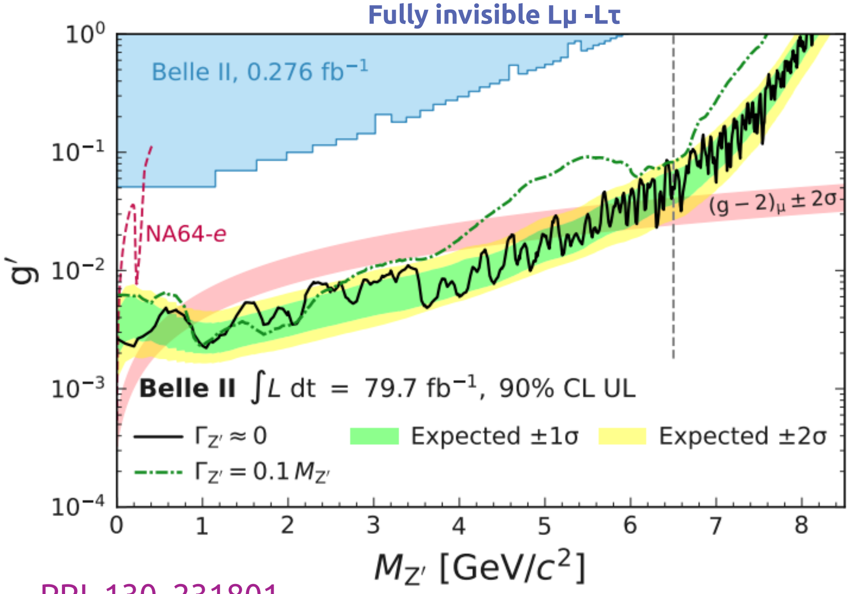
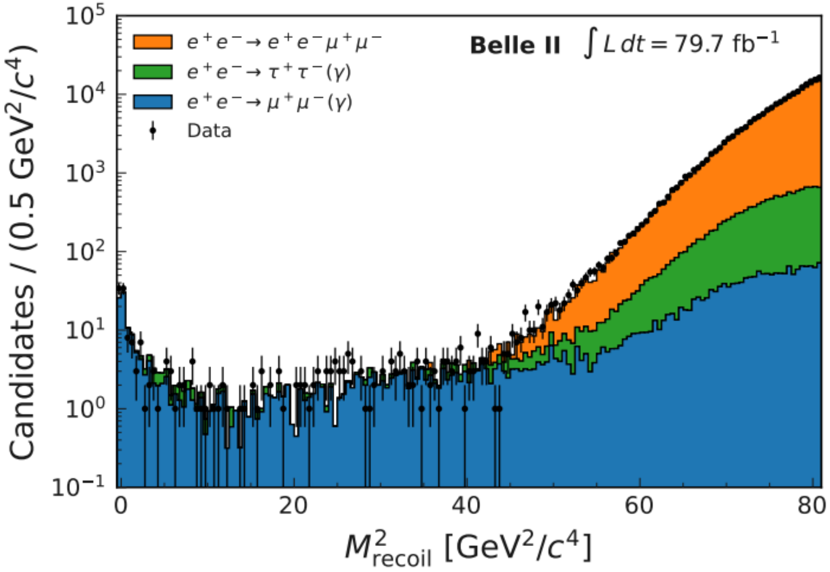
Search for an invisible Z'

- Look for a narrow peak **in the recoil mass against a $\mu^+\mu^-$ pair** in events where nothing else is detected
- Dominant background radiative QED processes:
  1) $e^+e^- \to e^+e^- \mu^+\mu^-$
  2) $e^+e^- \to \tau^+\tau^-(\gamma)$ (especially with both $\tau \to \mu$)
  3) $e^+e^- \to \mu^+\mu^-(\gamma)$
- Final State Radiation properties of the emitted Z' fed in a neural network trained for all Z' masses simultaneously





PRL 130, 231801

- **No excess found in 79.7 fb^{-1}**
  → 90% CL upper limits on **$\sigma(e^+e^- \to \mu^+\mu^- Z', Z' \to$ inv.)** and on g'
  → $(g\text{-}2)_\mu$ favored region excluded for $0.8 < M(Z') < 5$ GeV/c^2

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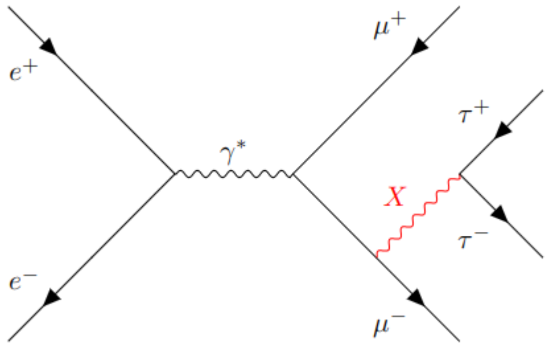
Search for a ττ resonance in ee → μμττ

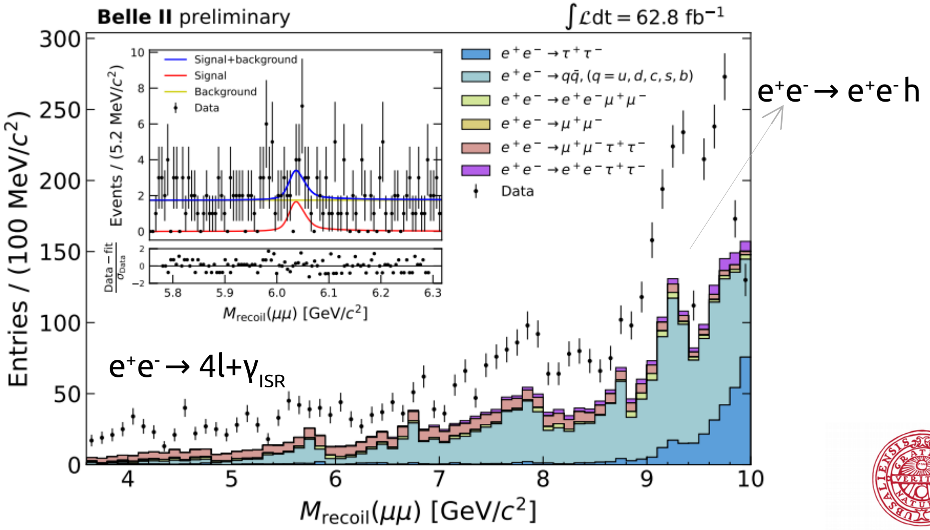
- Search for a **di-tau resonance in $e^+e^- \to \mu^+\mu^-\tau^+\tau^-$** as a peak in the recoil against two muons

- Reconstruct **τ decays to one-charged particle** ($+nh^0$)
  → select **four-track events** with at least two tracks identified as muons
  → **M(4track) < 9.5 GeV/c²** to suppress the four-lepton backgrounds that peak at the c.m. energy

- **Background suppression exploits features of kinematic variables in the signal** (*X* arising from a final state radiation, system recoiling against the 2 muons is a tau pair)



X = Z', ALP or leptophilic scalar



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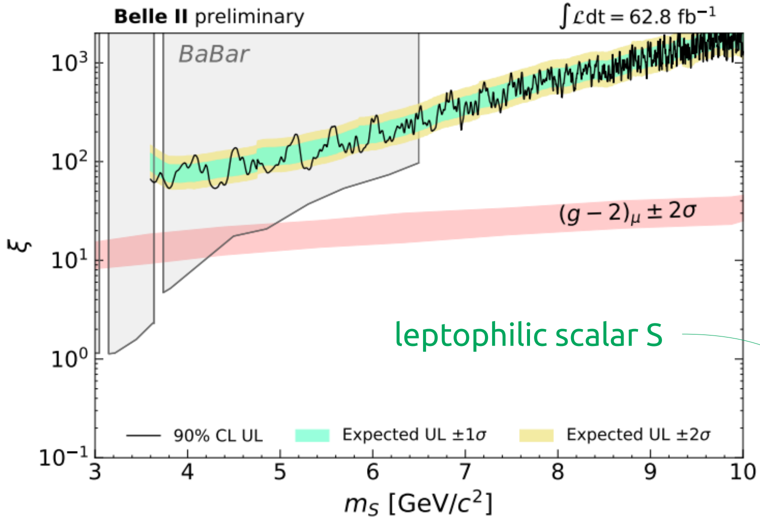
Search for a ττ resonance in ee → μμττ

[2] B. Batell, N. Lange, D. McKeen, M. Pospelov, and A. Ritz, Phys. Rev. D 95, 075003 (2017)
[3] M. Bauer, M. Neubert, and A. Thamm, J. High Energy Phys. 2017, 44 (2017); M. Bauer, M. Neubert, S. Renner, M. Schnubel, and A. Thamm, J. High Energy Phys. 2022, 1 (2022)
[4] W. Altmannshofer et. al. JHEP 12 (2016) 106

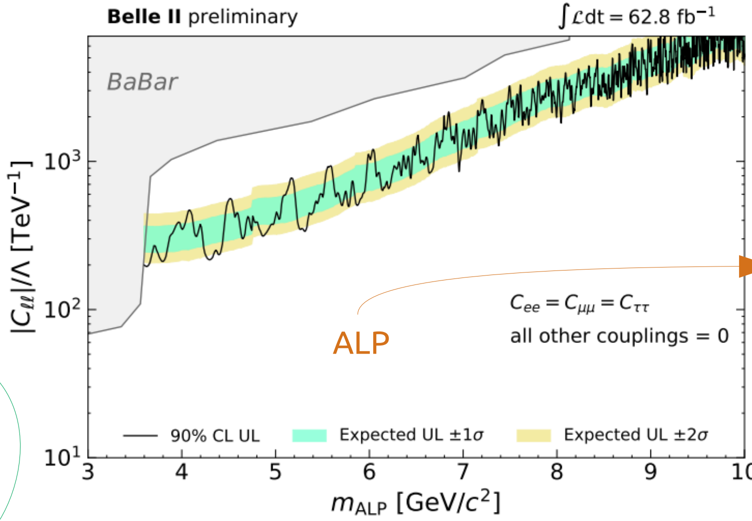
Accepted by PRL: arXiv:2306.12294

- **No significant excess observed in 62.8 fb^{-1}**
  → 90% CL upper limits on the process cross-section
  $\sigma(e^+e^- \to (X \to \tau^+\tau^-)\,\mu^+\mu^-) = \sigma(e^+e^- \to X\,\mu^+\mu^-)B(X \to \tau^+\tau^-)$, with X = S, ALP, Z'

- Exclusion limits on the couplings for three different models (leptophilic scalar S[2], ALP[3] and Z'[4]) are derived:



Probed for the first time masses above 6.5 GeV/c²



World-leading limits!

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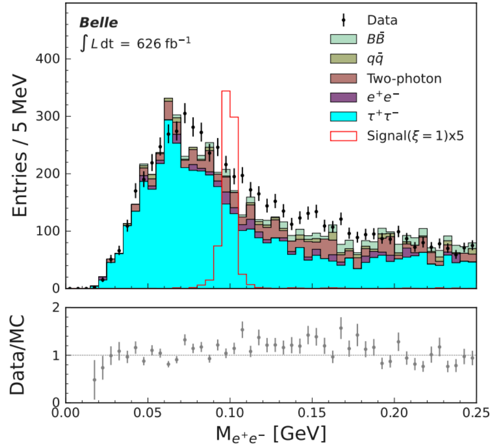
Search for a dark leptophilic scalar in τ decays at Belle

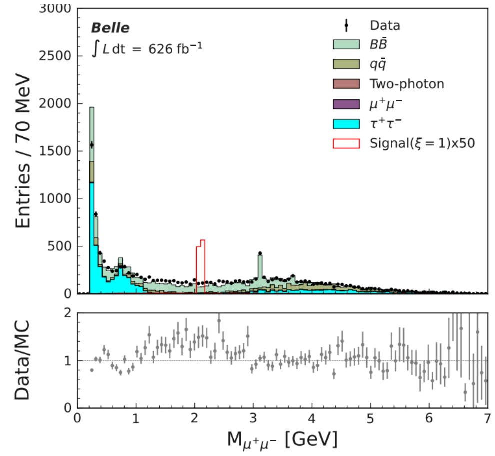
- Search for a narrow peak in m_{ll} distribution
- Mass range probed in this analysis:
  40 MeV < m(Φ_l) < 6.5 GeV
  – $\Phi_l \to e^+e^-$ for m(Φ_l) < 2m(μ) → low mass region
  – $\Phi_l \to \mu^+\mu^-$ for m(Φ_l) > 2m(μ) → high mass region

- **Strategy:**
  → $e^+e^- \to \tau^+\tau^-\Phi_l$ require 1-prong decay
  → 4 tracks with 0 net charge

- **Background:** $e^+e^- \to \tau^+\tau^-$, $e^+e^-/\mu^+\mu^-$, $q\bar{q}$, $B\bar{B}$
  → Define five BDT score to suppress backgrounds

- Maximum Likelihood fit to m_{ll} distribution
  → Evaluate sensitivities to each mass point





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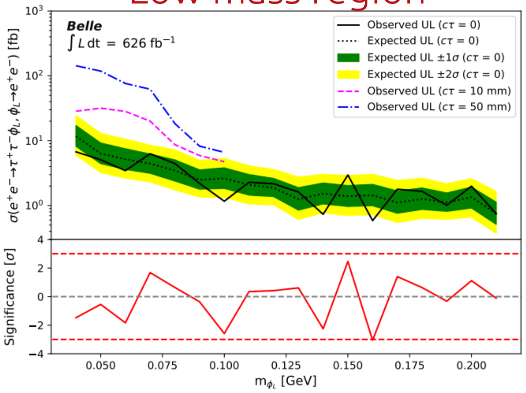
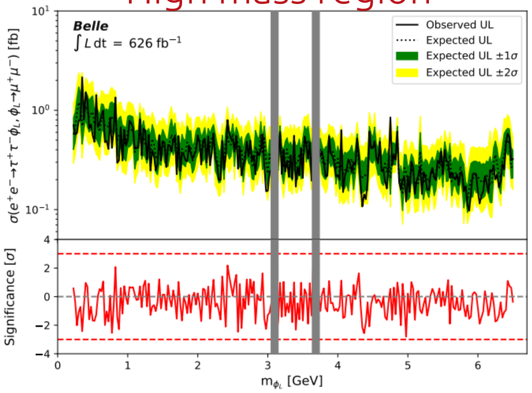
Search for a dark leptophilic scalar in τ decays at Belle

- **No significant excess observed in 626 fb^{-1} in all mass region**

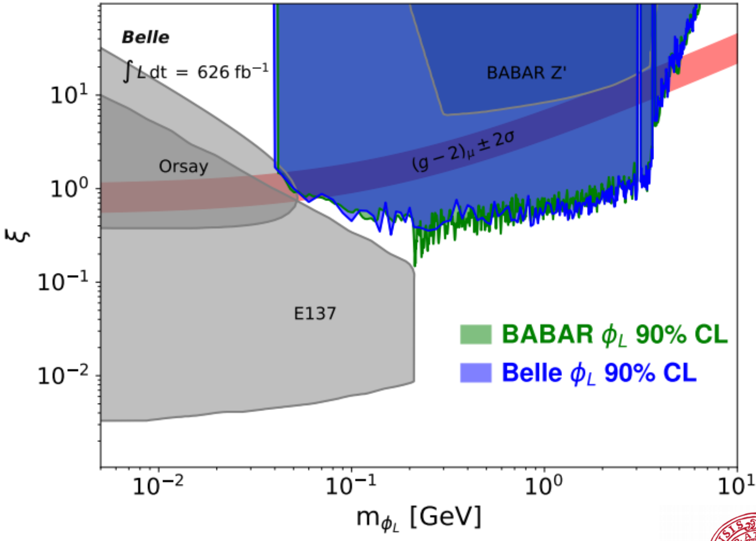
Low mass region



High mass region



Submitted to PRL: arXiv:2207.07476



- **90 % CL UL on ξ vs m(Φ_l)**
  - → Comparable or more stringent limits than BaBar (Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 181801)
  - → Exclude a wide range of parameter space of the model favored by $(g\text{-}2)_\mu$

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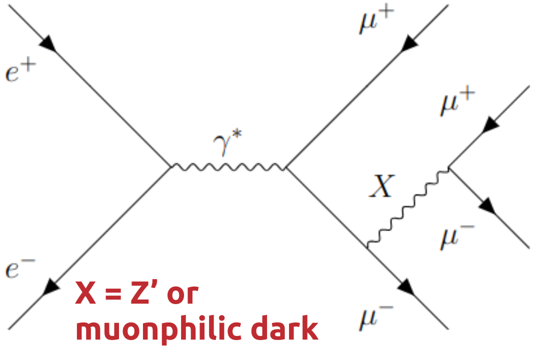
Search for a μμ resonance in ee → μμμμ

- Search for the process **$e^+e^- \to \mu^+\mu^- X$**, with **$X \to \mu^+\mu^-$ (X = Z', S)**
  → Look for a peak in the opposite charge di-muon mass distribution in **$e^+e^- \to \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$** events

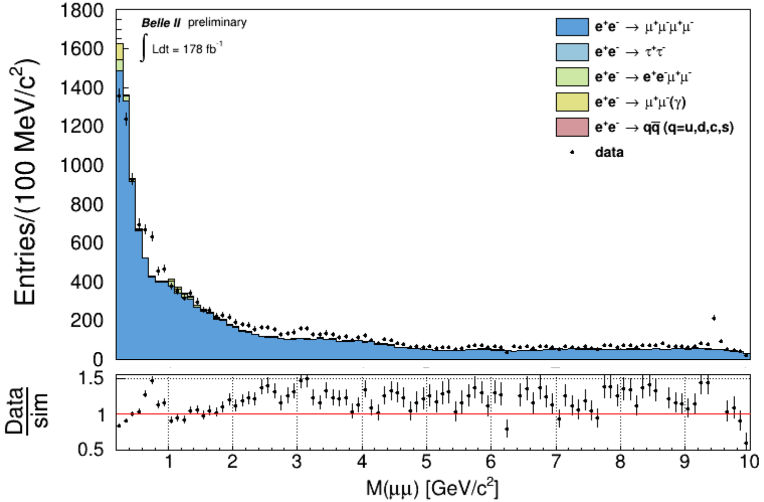
- **$(L_\mu - L_\tau)$ model** used as benchmark and then performances are checked for the scalar case

- Events selected have **4 charged particles**
  - At least **three identified as muons**
  - M(4-track) ~ $\sqrt{s}/c^2$
  - No extra energy

- Dominant background: SM ***$e^+e^- \to \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$***
  - Suppression achieved by exploiting the features of kinematic distributions in signal events (**presence of a resonance in both candidate and recoil muon pairs**)



X = Z' or muonphilic dark scalar



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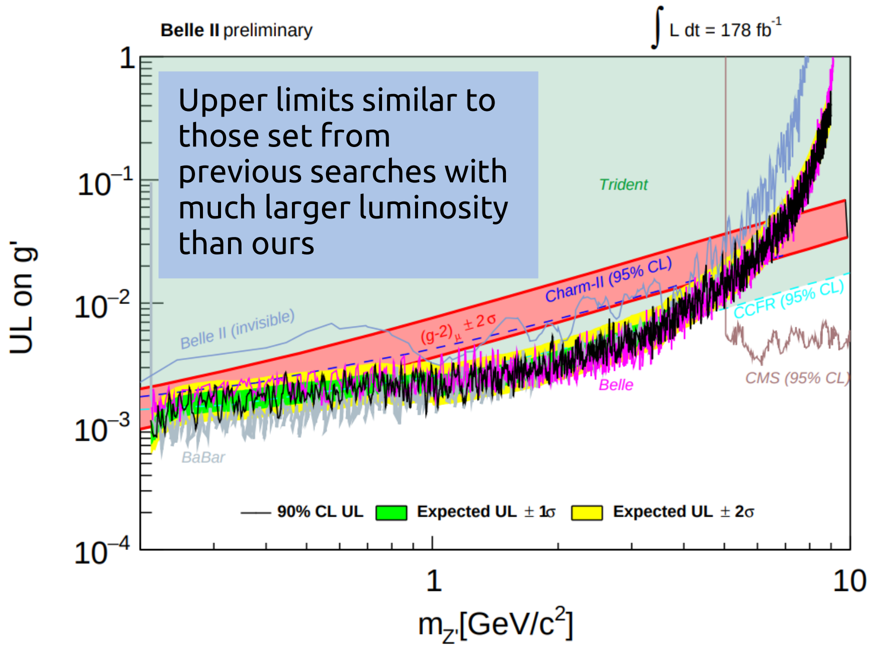
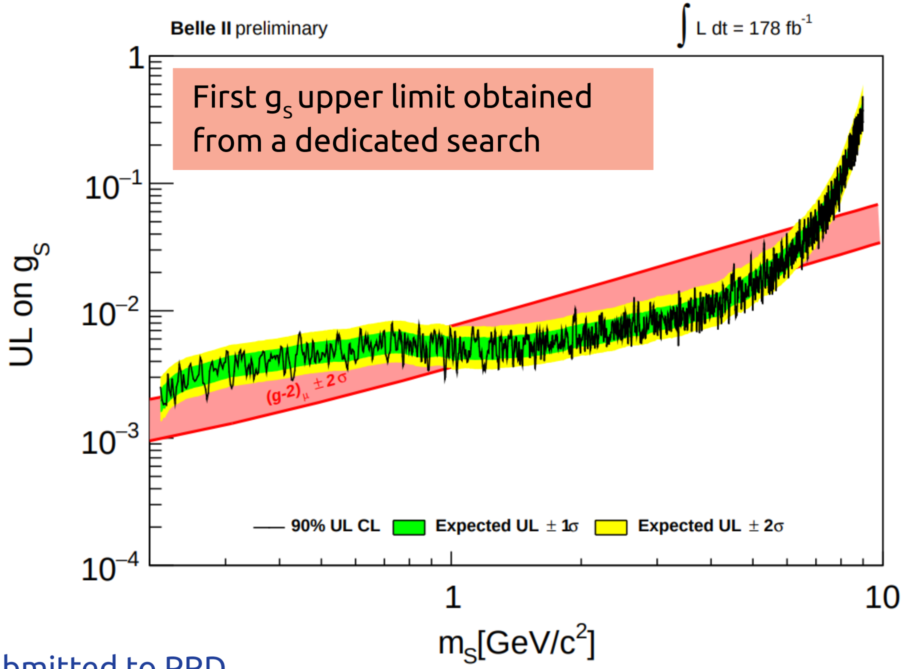
[5] P. Harris, P. Schuster, and J. Zupan, arXiv:2207.08990 [hep-ph]; R. Capdevilla, D. Curtin, Y. Kahn, and G. Krnjaic,J. High Energy Phys. 04 (2022) 129

Search for a μμ resonance in ee → μμμμ

- **No significant excess observed in 178 fb^{-1}**
  → 90% CL upper limits on the process cross-section **σ(e^+e^- → X $\mu^+\mu^-$)** x **B(X → $\mu^+\mu^-$)**, with X = *S*, Z'
  → Cross section limits are translated into upper limits on the g' coupling constant for the $L_\mu - L_\tau$ model and on the g_s coupling constant for the muonphilic dark scalar *S*[5]





To be submitted to PRD

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Conclusion

- Belle II/SuperKEKB is a **unique environment** to search for **light dark matter or mediators**
- **Excellent sensitivity** for dark sector searches
- **World's leading results** are obtained with a subset of the full available data
- 424 fb^{-1} recorded to date, **more results with higher statistics and improved analyses will be produced**

Thank you!

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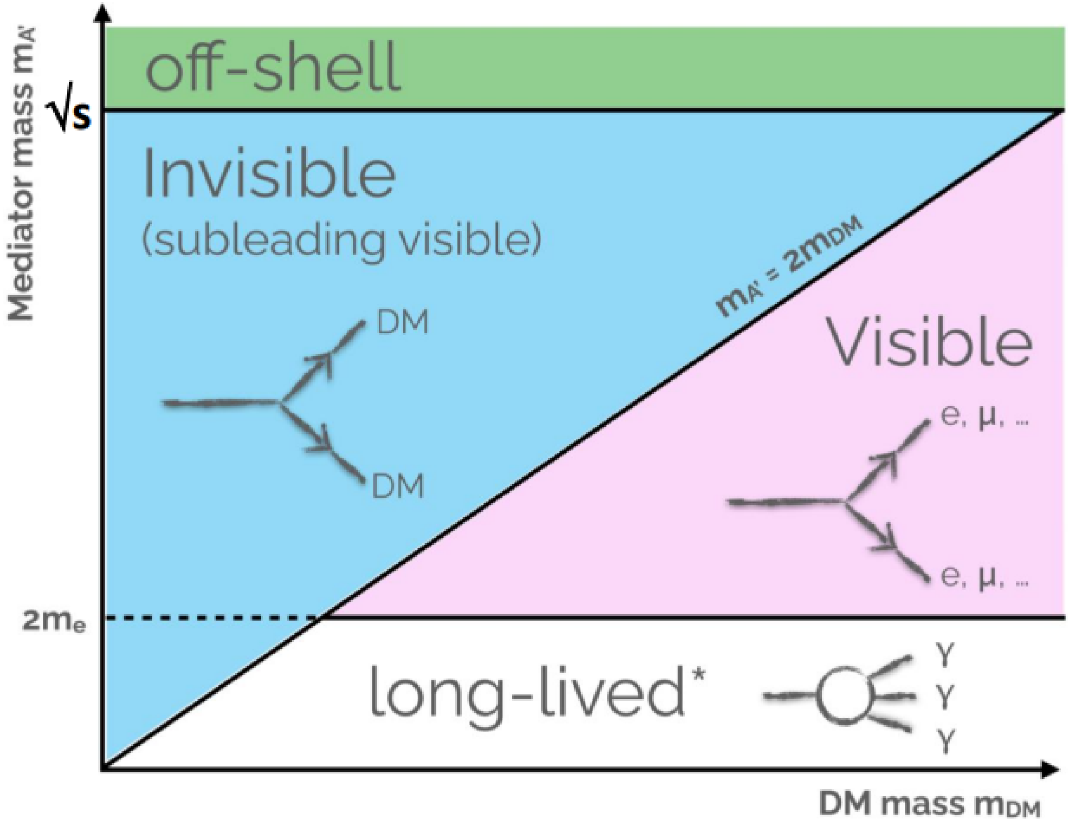
Backup

Light Dark Matter possible signatures



- Once produced, the mediator can have three different types of decays:
  1. Invisible decays
  2. Leptonic decays
  3. Hadronic decays

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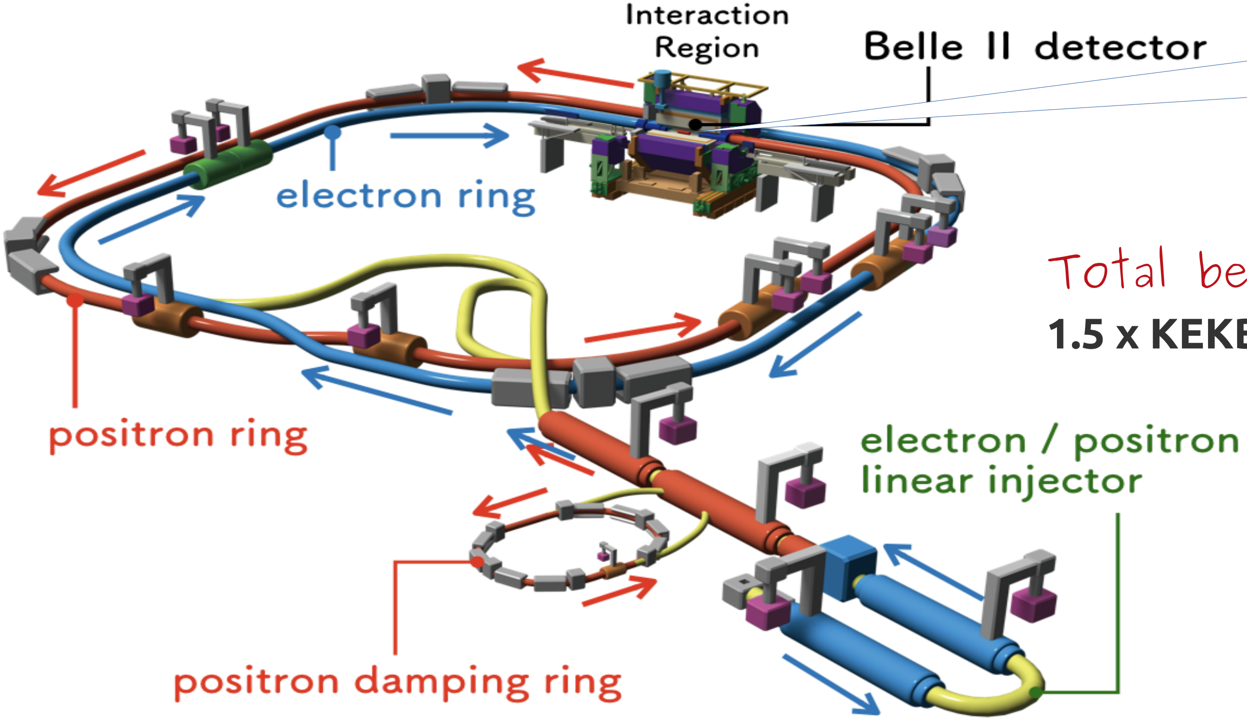
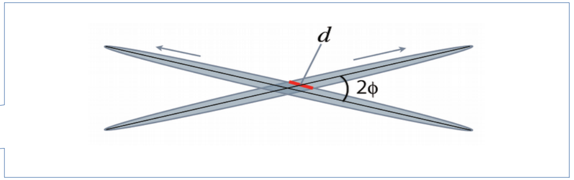
SuperKEKB





Vertical beam-beam parameter

Total beam current

1.5 x KEKB current

$$L = \frac{\gamma_{\pm}}{2 e r_e} \left(\frac{I_{\pm} \xi_{y\pm}}{\beta^*_{y\pm}} \right) \left(\frac{R_L}{R_{\xi y}} \right)$$

Beta function at the IP

20 times smaller than KEKB

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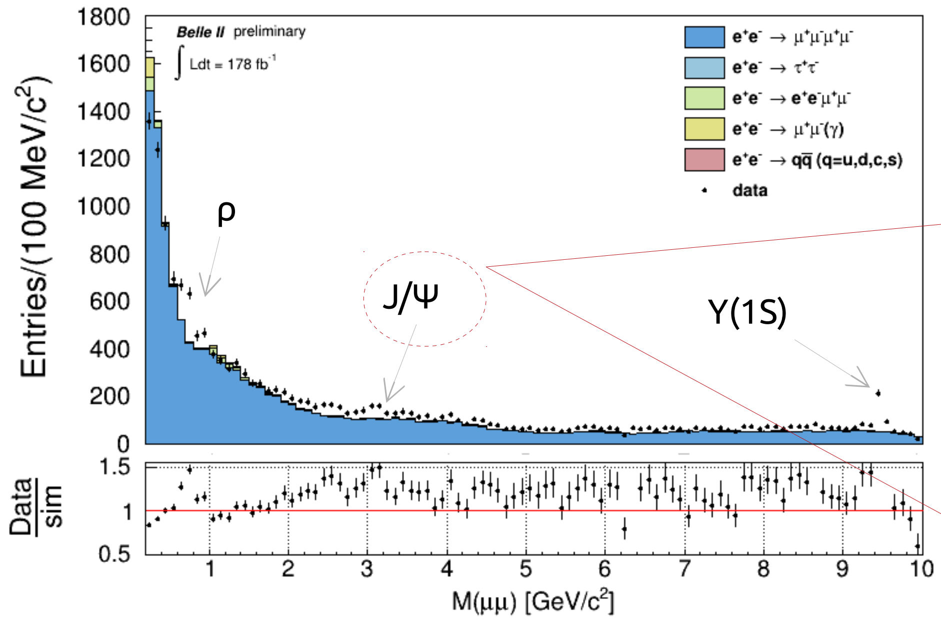
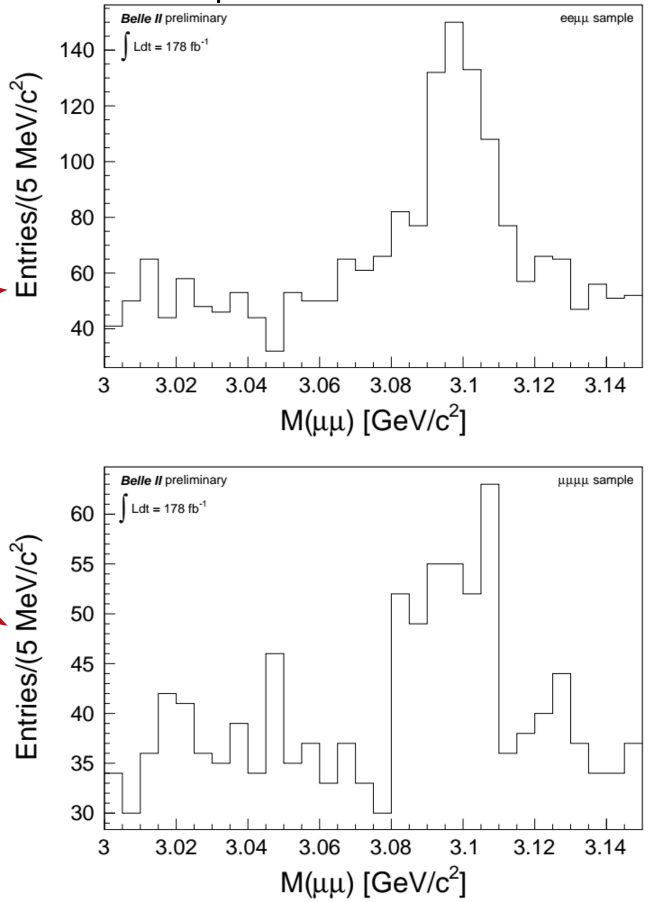
Search for a μμ resonance in ee → μμμμ: J/Ψ

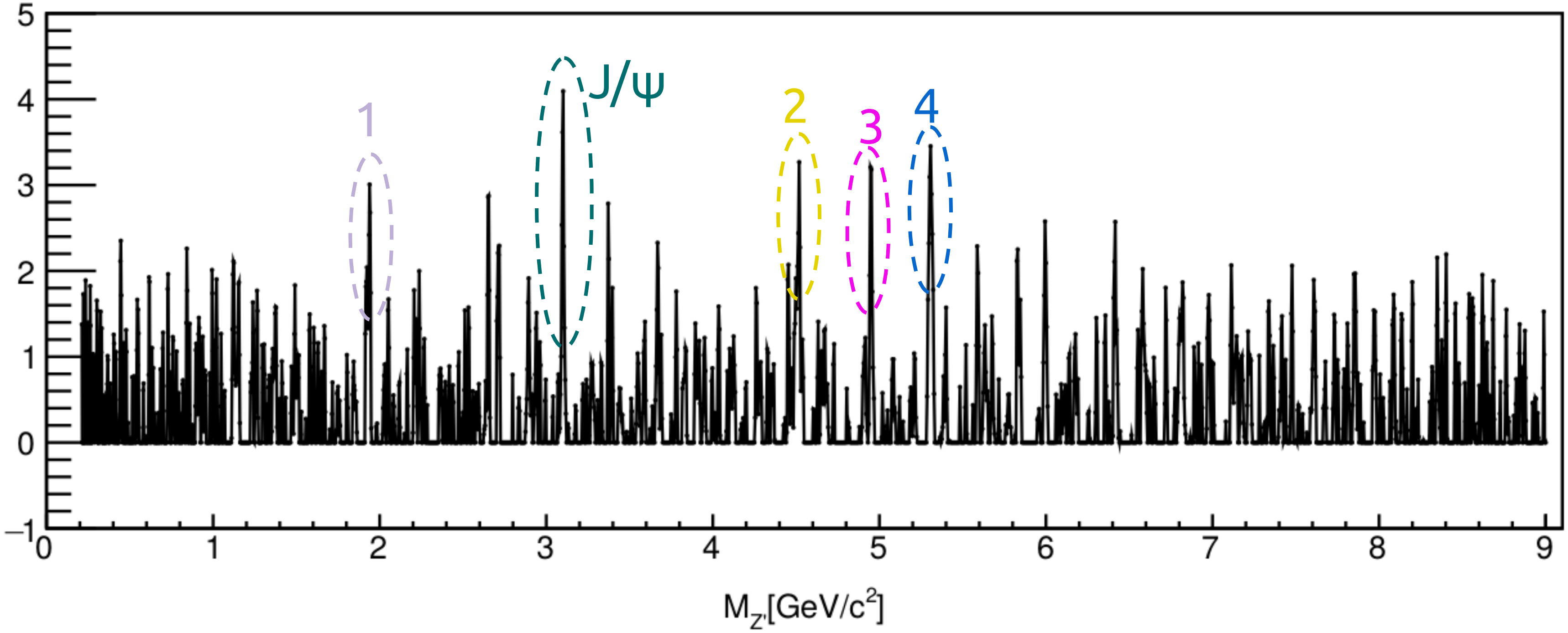


Closeup around J/Ψ nominal mass



- data/MC ratio is over 1 (but for very low masses)
- Modulations due to the different MLP ranges
- Visible features: **ρ, J/Ψ, Y(1S)**

Search for a μμ resonance in ee → μμμμ



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

We extended the Z' search to the case of a muophilic dark scalar, *S*

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

$$\mathcal{L} \supset g_S S \bar{\mu} \mu$$

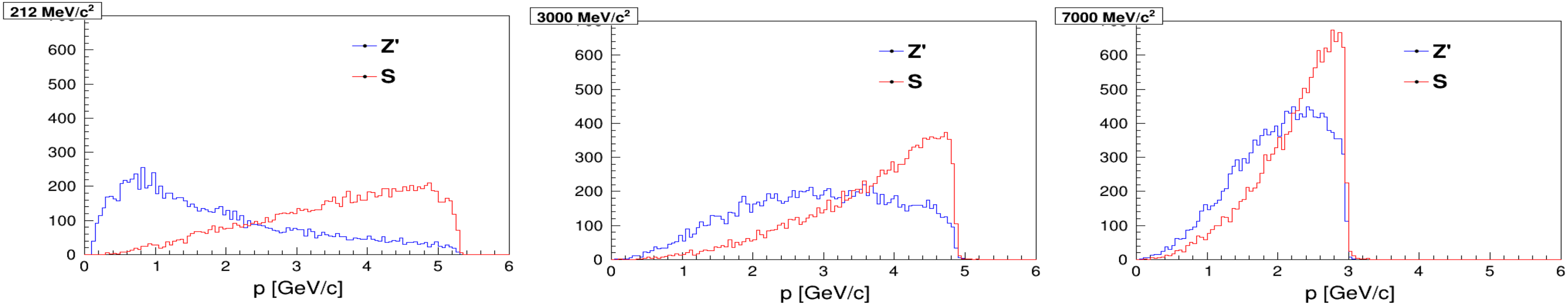
Coupling constant:
induces a shift in
$\Delta a_\mu = a_\mu^{exp} - a_\mu^{theory}$

- If $m_S \geq 2m_\mu$ the only tree-level decay channel is $S \to \mu\mu$
  ($S \to \bar{\nu}\nu$, $\gamma\gamma$ also are possible at one loop level, but highly suppressed)

We reinterpreted our result in terms of the dark scalar *S*, keeping all the steps of the analysis completely unaltered

1) P. Harris, P. Schuster, J.Zupan, Snowmass White Paper: New flavors and rich structures in dark sectors
2) S. Gori, M. Williams, et al., Dark Sector Physics at High-Intensity Experiments
3) D. Forbes, C. HerwigNew Searches for Muonphilic Particles at Proton Beam Dump Spectrometers
4) R. Capdevilla, D. Curtin et al., Systematically testing singlet models for (g − 2)μ

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



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

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

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

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

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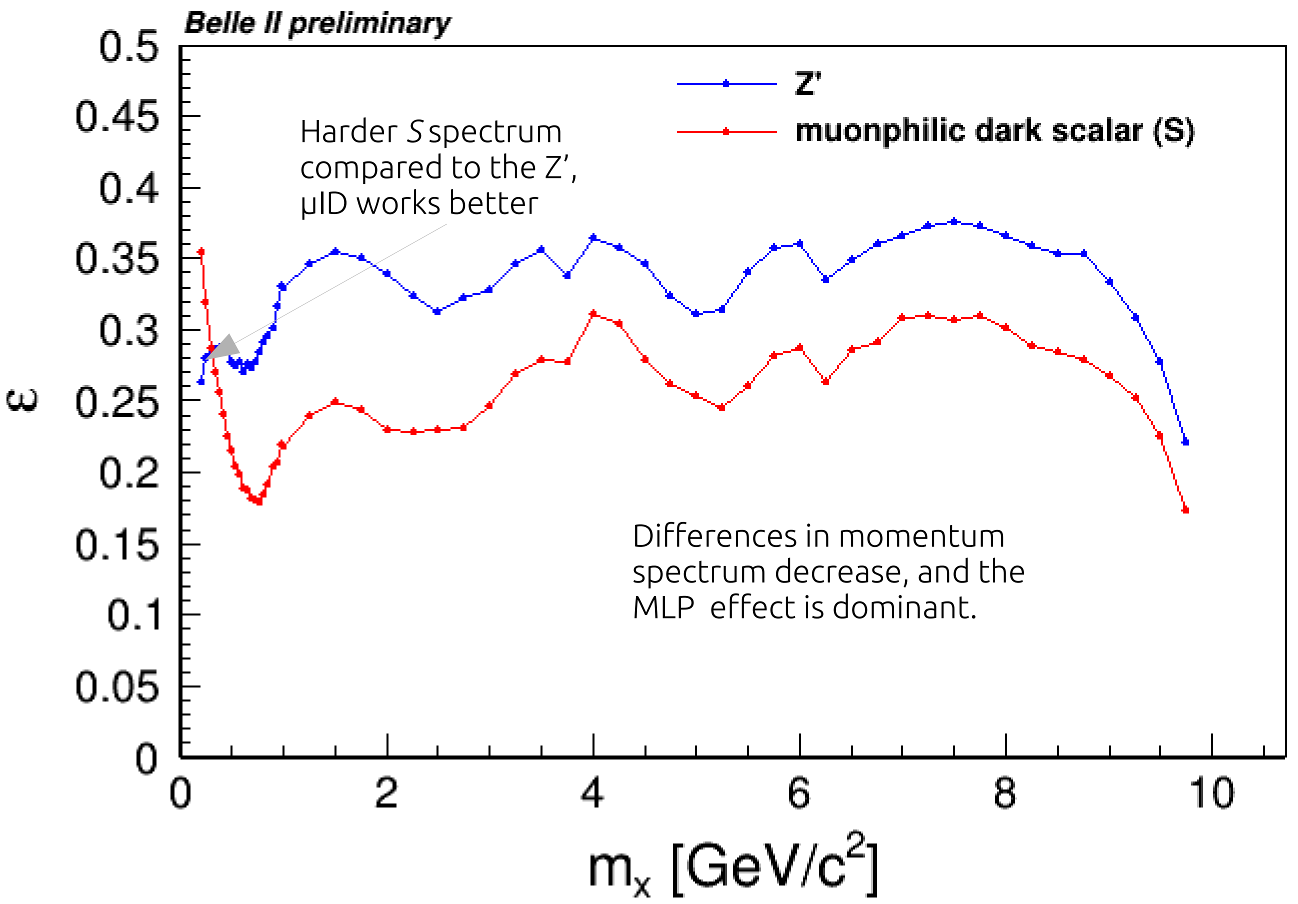
Search for a μμ resonance in ee → μμμμ: muonphilic dark-scalar



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