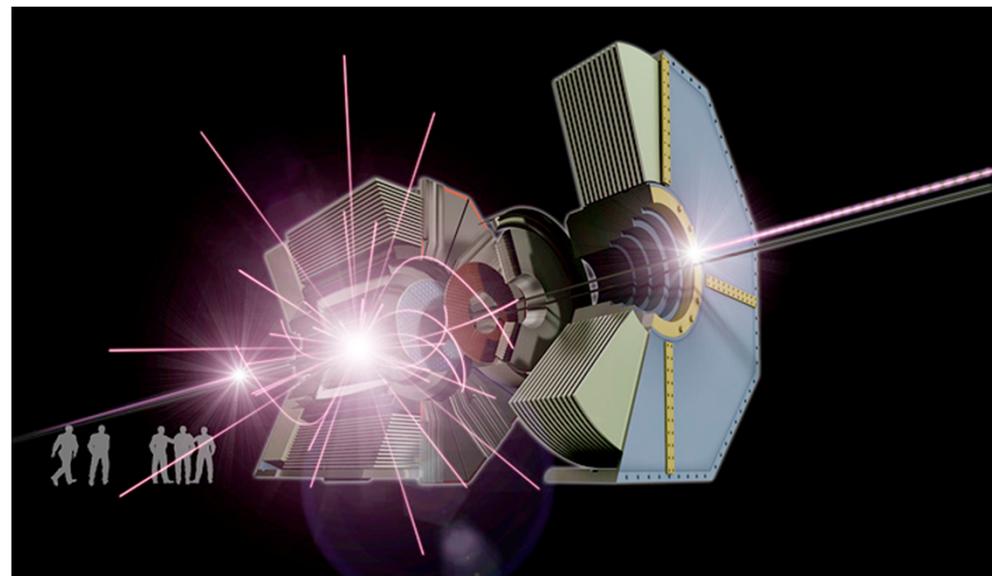


# 19. Božični simpozij fizikov Univerze v Mariboru 19th Christmas Symposium of Physicists of the University of Maribor

## The Dark Side of Belle II



**Peter Križan**

*University of Ljubljana and J. Stefan Institute*

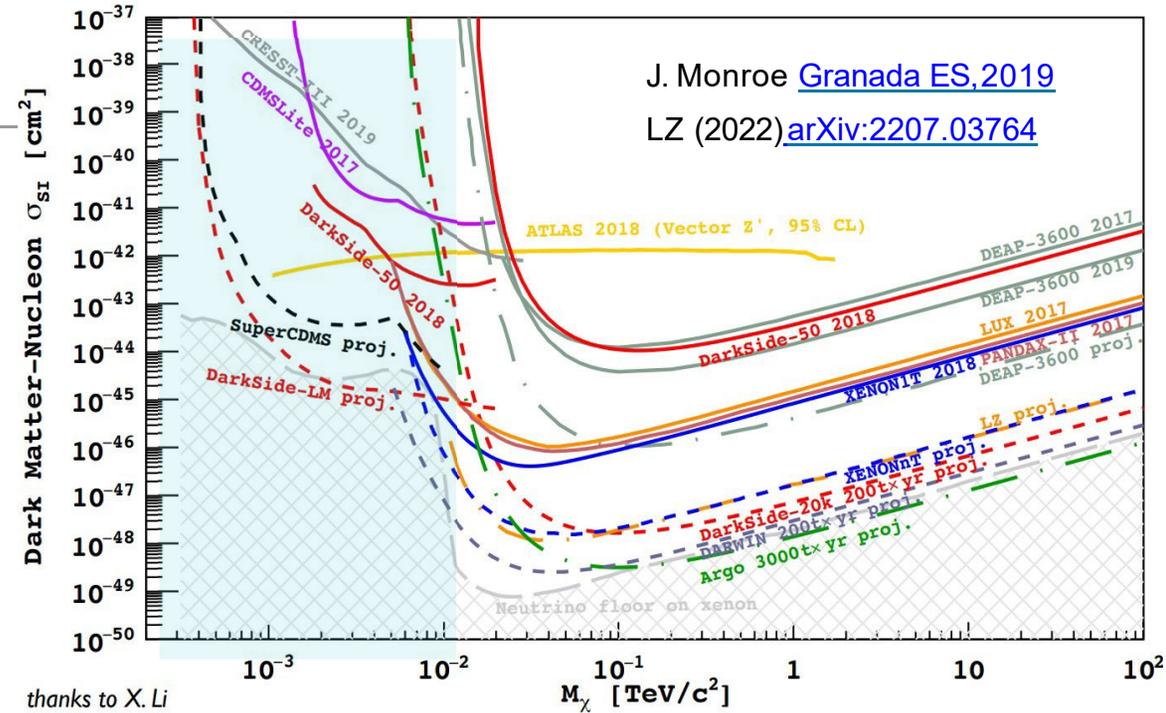
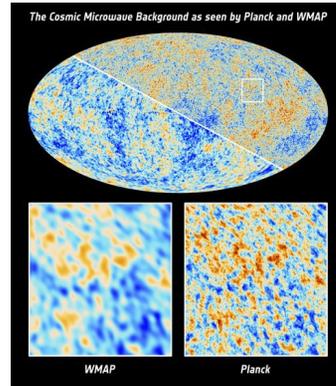
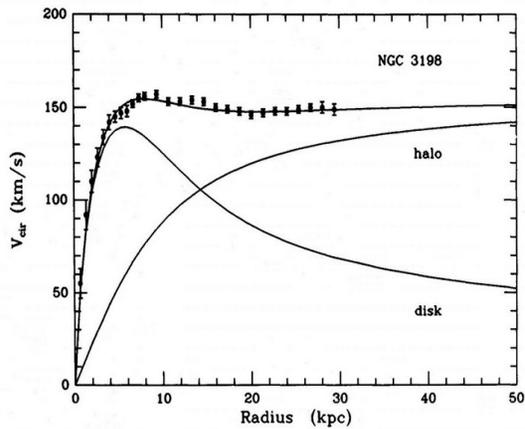
*Univerza v Ljubljani*

Maribor, December 15, 2022



# Dark matter puzzle

Dark matter is one of the most compelling phenomena in support for physics beyond the Standard Model

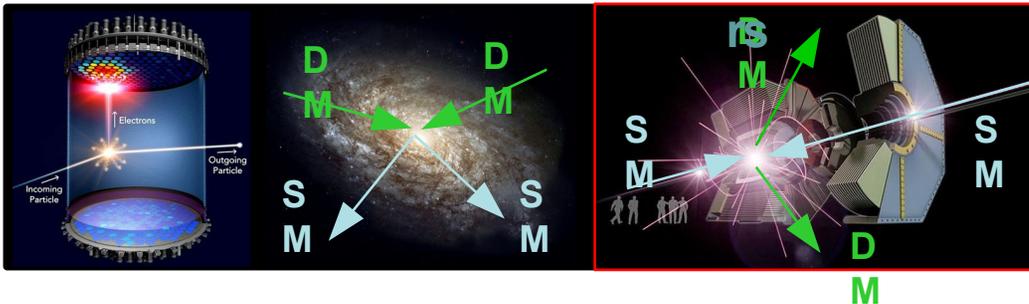


How to search for it?

Direct

Indirect

Collide



## 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

This talk: dark sector searches at an  $e^+e^-$  collider

# 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 particles
- 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, ...) → Luka Šantelj (Friday)
  - 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 \(2021\)](#)

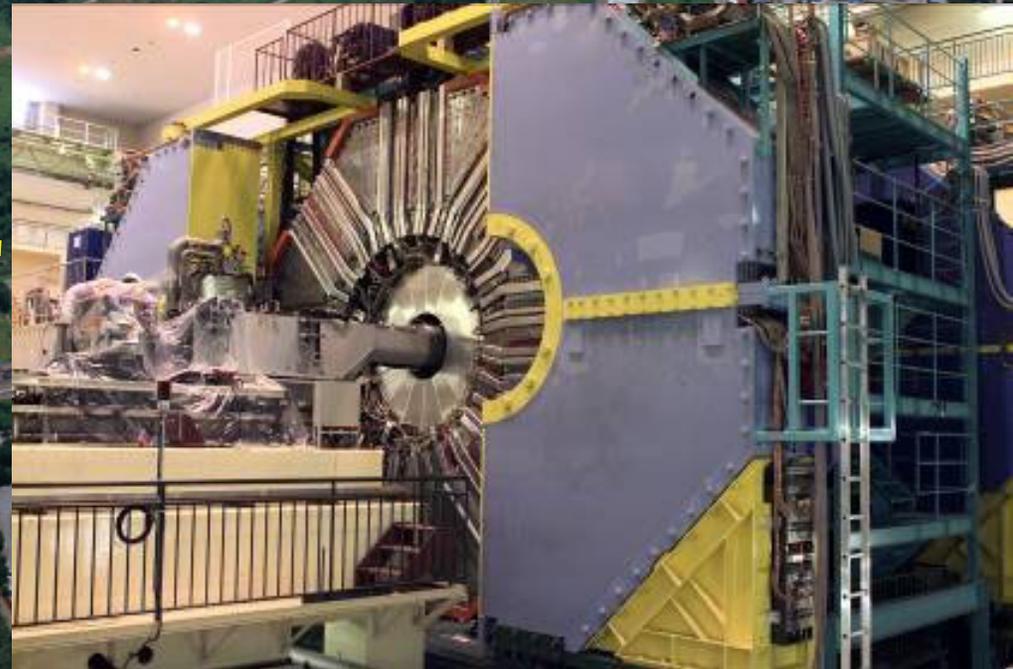
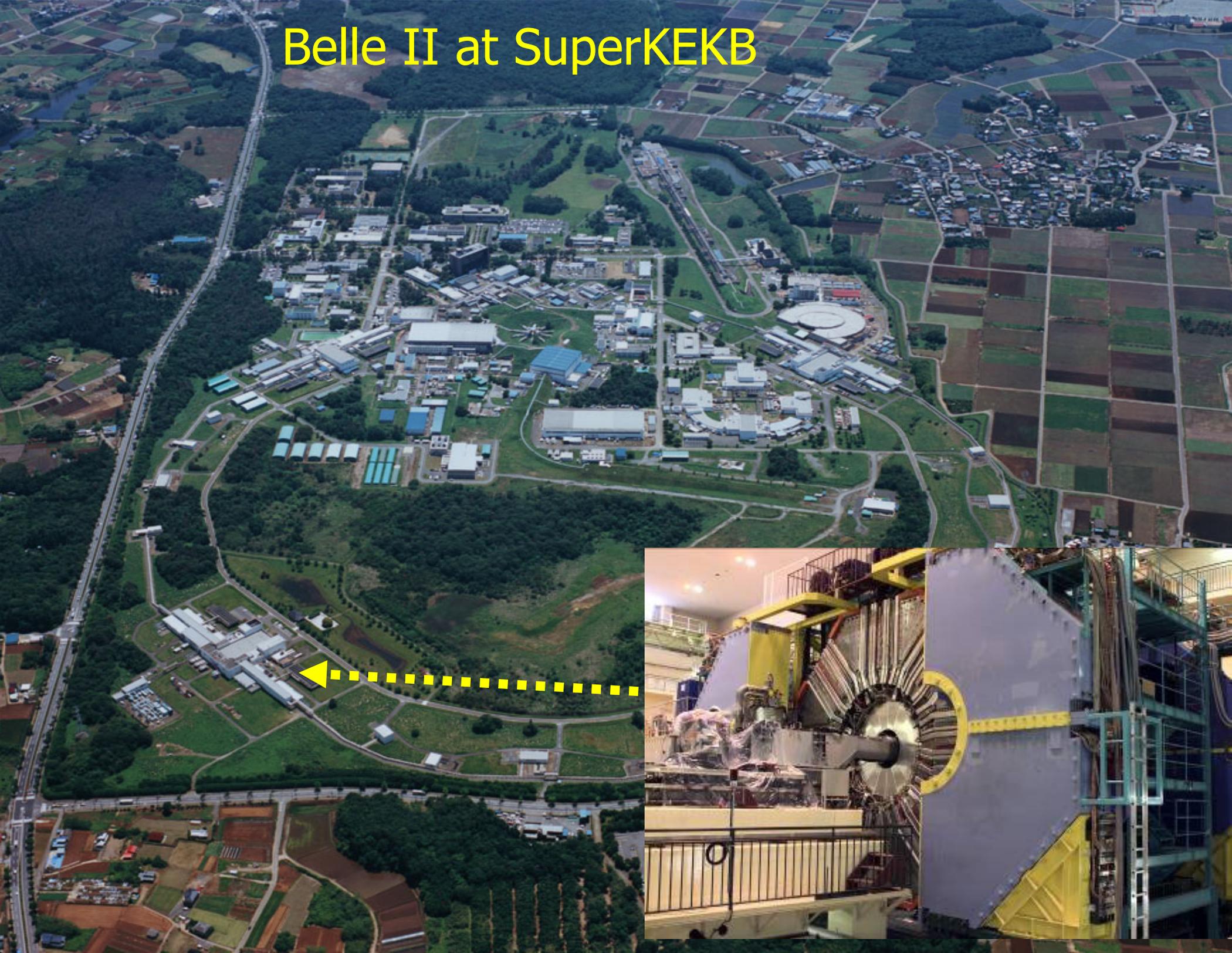
# Outline

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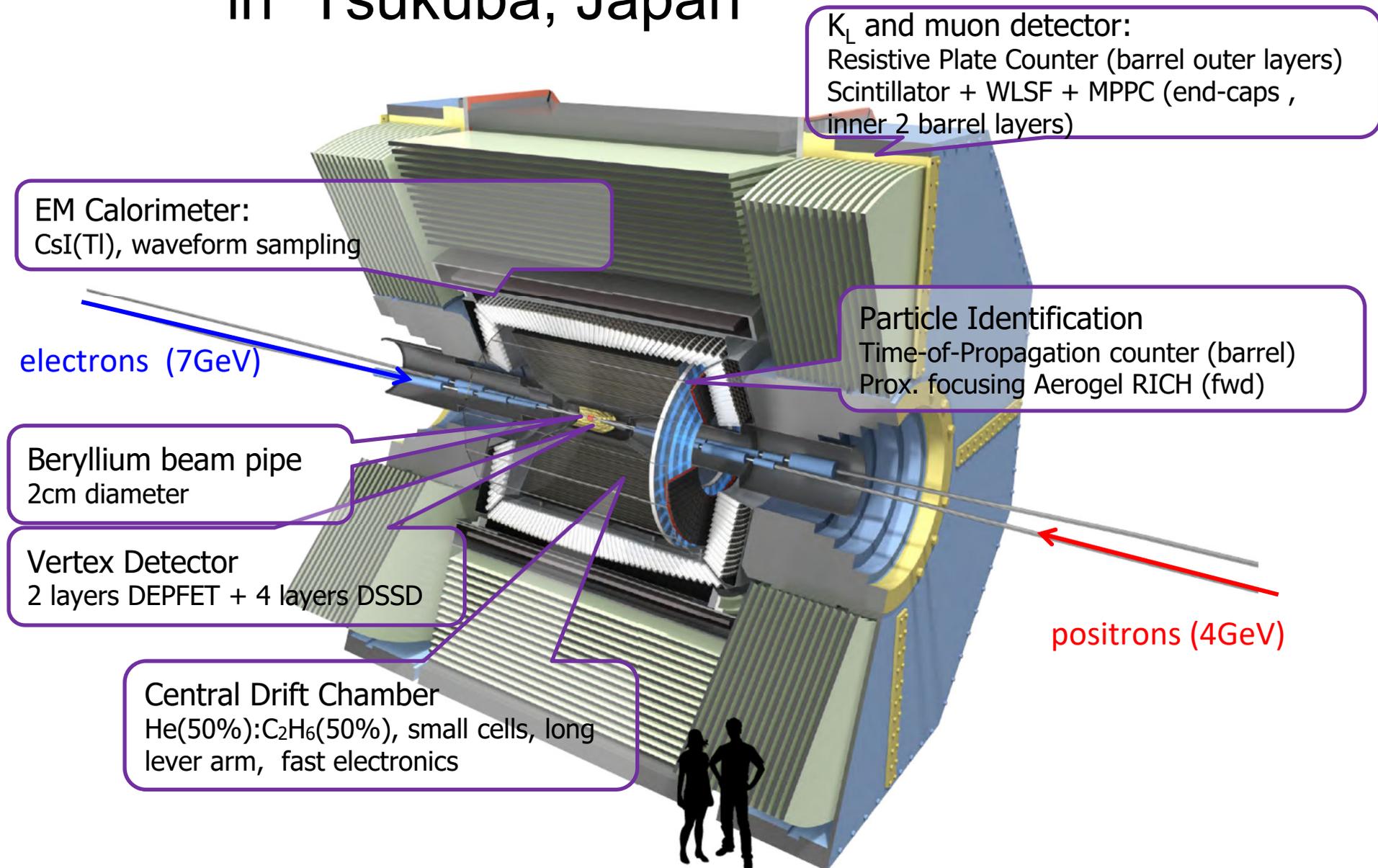
- Belle II and SuperKEKB
- $Z'$  and leptophilic dark scalars
- Dark photons

# Belle II and SuperKEKB

# Belle II at SuperKEKB

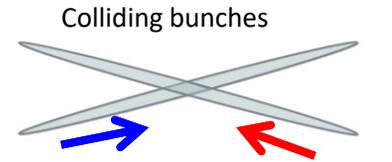
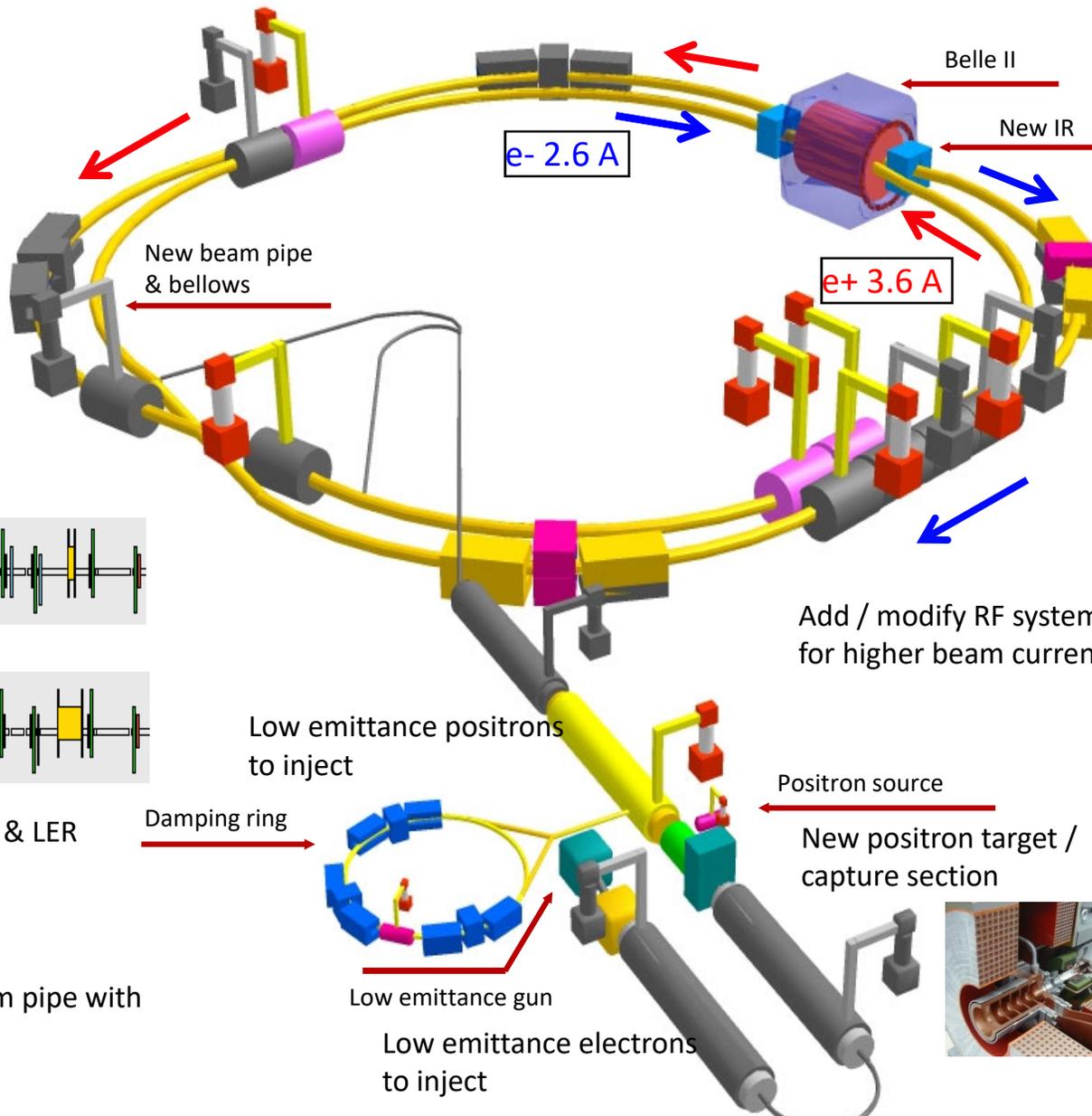


# Belle II at the SuperKEKB $e^+e^-$ collider in Tsukuba, Japan



Almost a total upgrade of Belle → Belle II for better performance and higher rate capabilities.

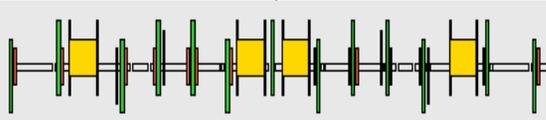
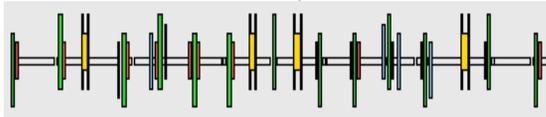
# To get x30 higher luminosity KEKB → SuperKEKB



Colliding bunches  
New superconducting / permanent final focusing quads near the IP



Replace short dipoles with longer ones (LER)

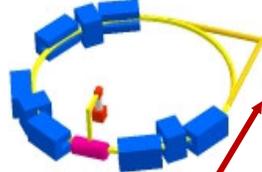


Add / modify RF systems for higher beam current

Redesign the lattices of HER & LER to squeeze the emittance

Low emittance positrons to inject

Damping ring

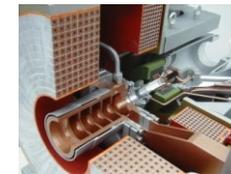


Low emittance gun

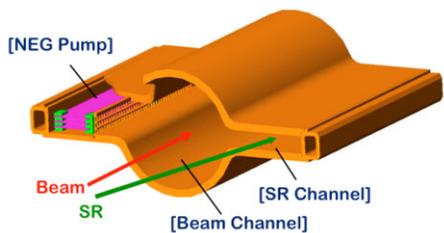
Low emittance electrons to inject

Positron source

New positron target / capture section



TiN-coated beam pipe with antechambers



SuperKEKB, the first new collider in particle physics since the LHC

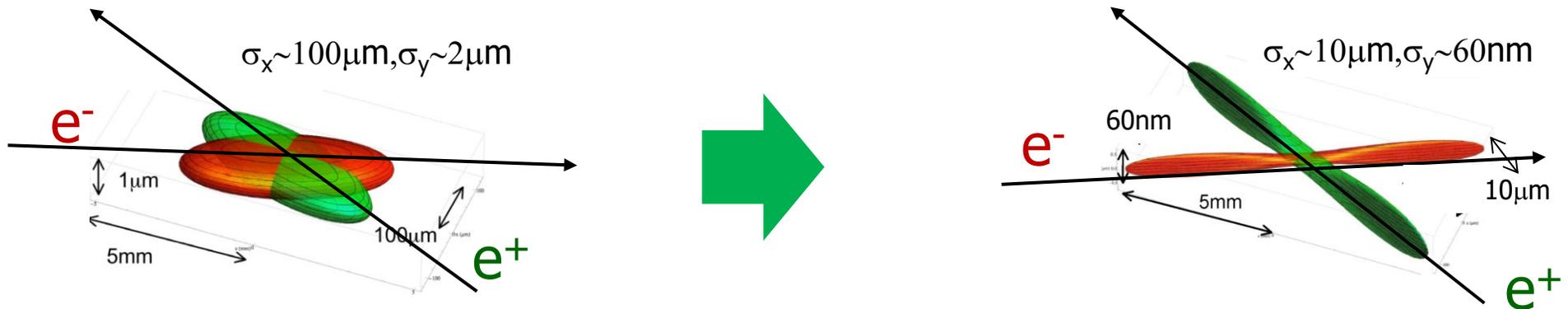


# How big is a nano-beam ?



How to go from an excellent accelerator with world record performance – KEKB – to a 30x times better, more intense facility?

In KEKB, colliding electron and positron beams were already **much thinner than a human hair...**



... For a 30x increase in intensity you have to make the beam as thin as a **few x100 atomic layers!**

# Physics program



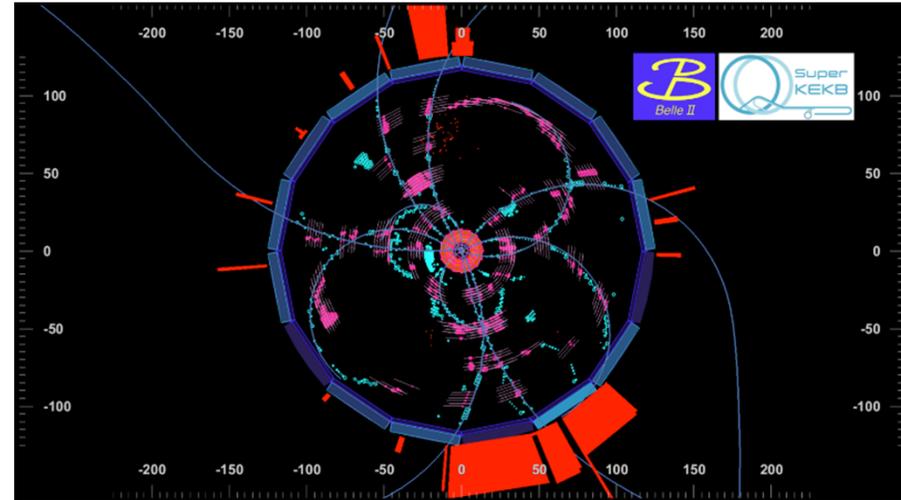
Physics potential summarized in the Belle II 'physics book' PTEP 2019 (2019) 123C01, arXiv:1808.10567

→ More on Belle II and B physics studies → talk by Luka Šantelj on Friday

# Advantages of a B factory in the LHC era

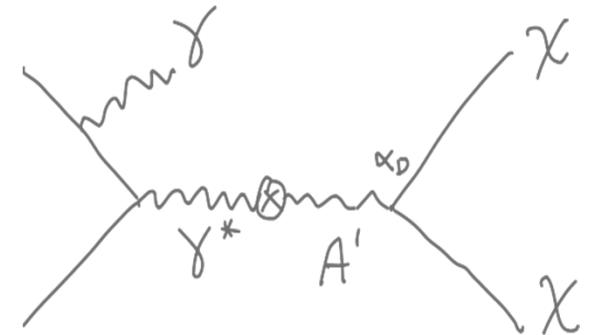
Unique capabilities of a B factory:

- Exactly two B mesons produced
- High flavour tagging efficiency
- Detection of gammas,  $\pi^0$ s,  $K_L$ s
- Very clean detector environment  
(can study decays with **several neutrinos** in the final state, **tau physics**, **dark sector**)

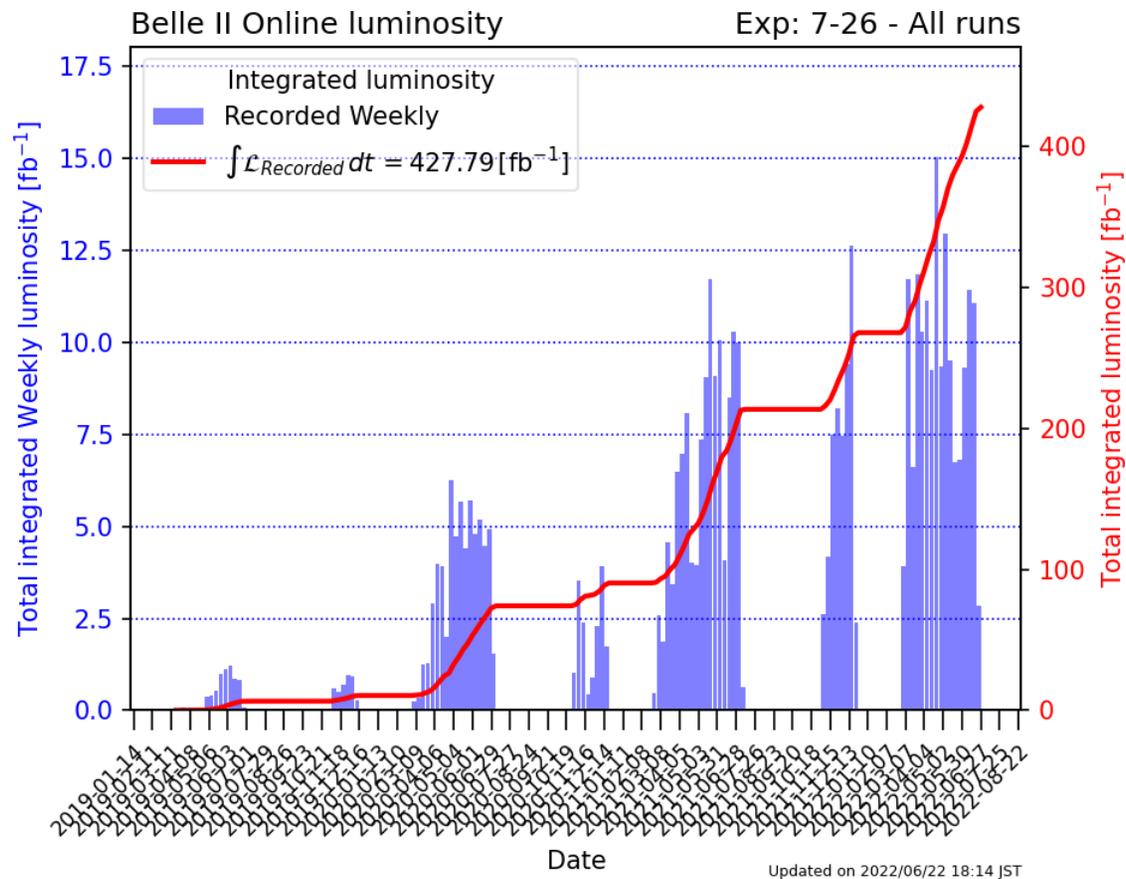


Key for **dark sector**:

- **clean**  $e^+e^-$  environment;
- **loose triggers** (single  $\gamma$ , single track); currently, some are very loose, displaced vertex trigger under development.
- (in the long run) high luminosity.

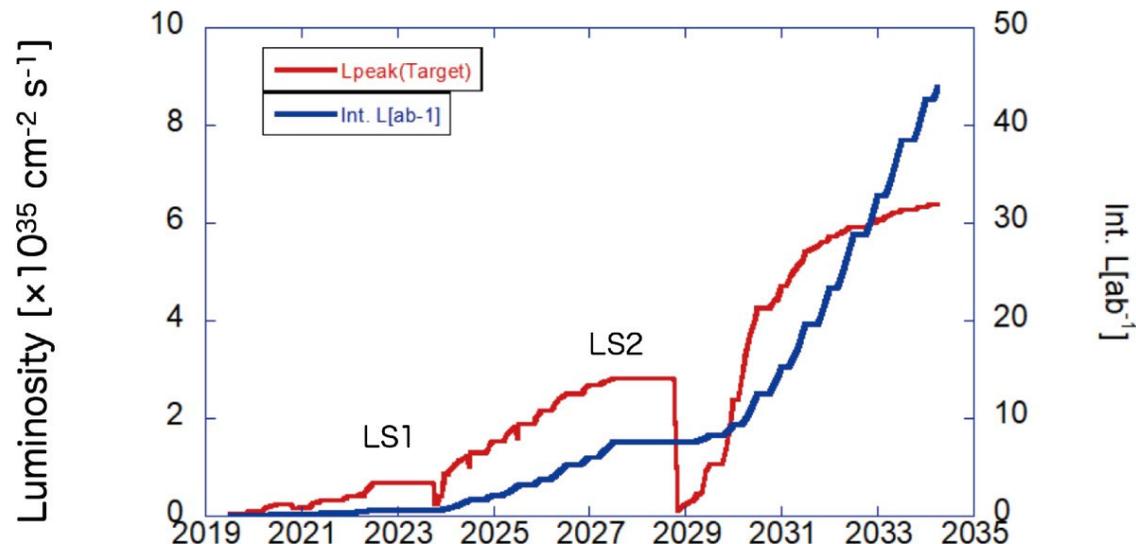


- Belle II has collected 428 fb<sup>-1</sup> since March 2019.
- Currently in the long shutdown 1 to install the two-layer pixel detector, July 2022 – September 2023.



# SuperKEKB

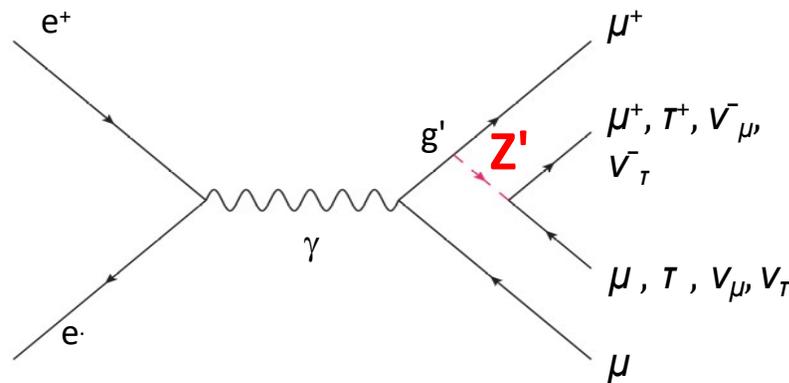
- World's highest instantaneous luminosity collider,  $4.7 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ . Target is  $6 \times 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ :
  - increase current while reducing injection backgrounds;
  - reduce catastrophic beam loss events;
  - control emittance blowup and beam instability;
  - hardware upgrades in LS2  $\rightarrow$  international task force.



$Z'$  and leptophilic dark scalars

# The $L_\mu - L_\tau$ gauge boson $Z'$

- Couples only to 2nd and 3rd generations. Evades strong limits from electron production and decay.
- Could explain muon  $(g-2)_\mu$ , and B decay anomalies  $R_{D^*}$ ,  $R_K$ ,  $R_{K^*}$ .



$\tau^+ \tau^- Z'$  is also possible, but less sensitive

- Existing limits from BaBar, CMS, and Belle on  $Z' \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$  strongly constrain parameter space relevant for  $(g-2)_\mu$ .

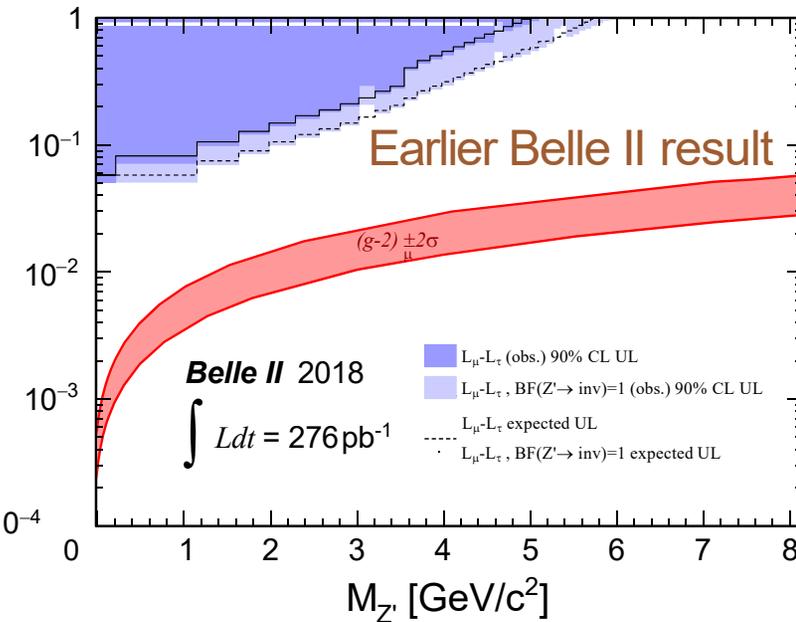
Phys. Rev. D 94 (2016) 011102

Phys. Lett. B 792 (2019) 345

Phys. Rev. D 106 (2022), 012003

- Only published result on  $Z' \rightarrow \nu\nu$  is an early Belle II result
  - most relevant for  $m_{Z'} < 2m_\mu$ .

Belle II, Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 (2020) 141801



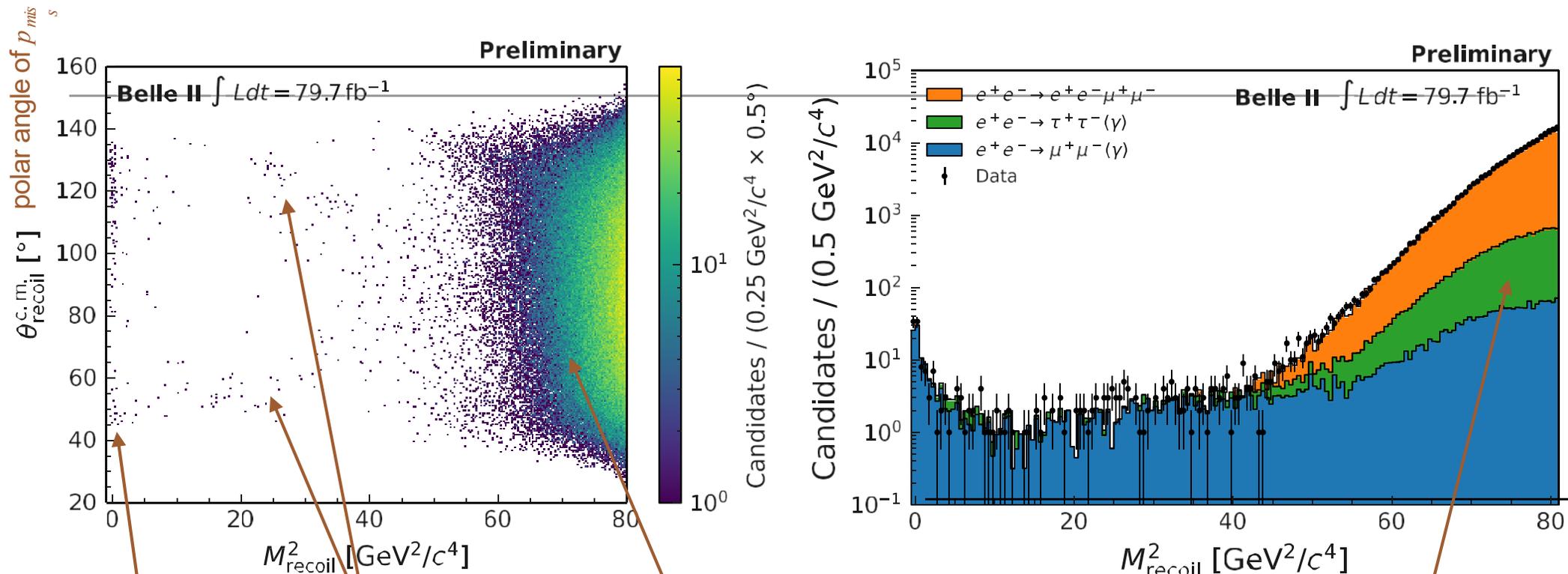
# Search for an invisible $Z'$ in the final state with two muons and missing energy at Belle II

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- Signature: pair of muons with missing mass =  $m_Z$ .
- Backgrounds:
  - $\tau^+\tau^-$ , with both  $\tau \rightarrow \mu\nu V^-$ ;
  - $\mu^+\mu^- \gamma$  ;
  - $\mu^+\mu^- \gamma \gamma$  ;
  - $\mu^+\mu^- e^+e^-$  ;

out of acceptance or missed
- Key:  $Z'$  is final state radiation. Train neural net to identify characteristic kinematics.

# $Z' \rightarrow$ invisible selected events



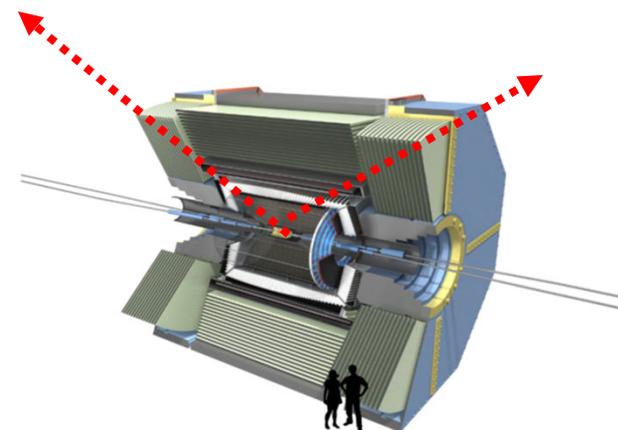
$\mu^+\mu^-\gamma$ ,  $\gamma$  in calorimeter but missed

$\mu^+\mu^-\gamma\gamma$ : 1  $\gamma$  near  $0^\circ$ , other in calorimeter barrel/endcap gap

$e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$  dominant at high masses

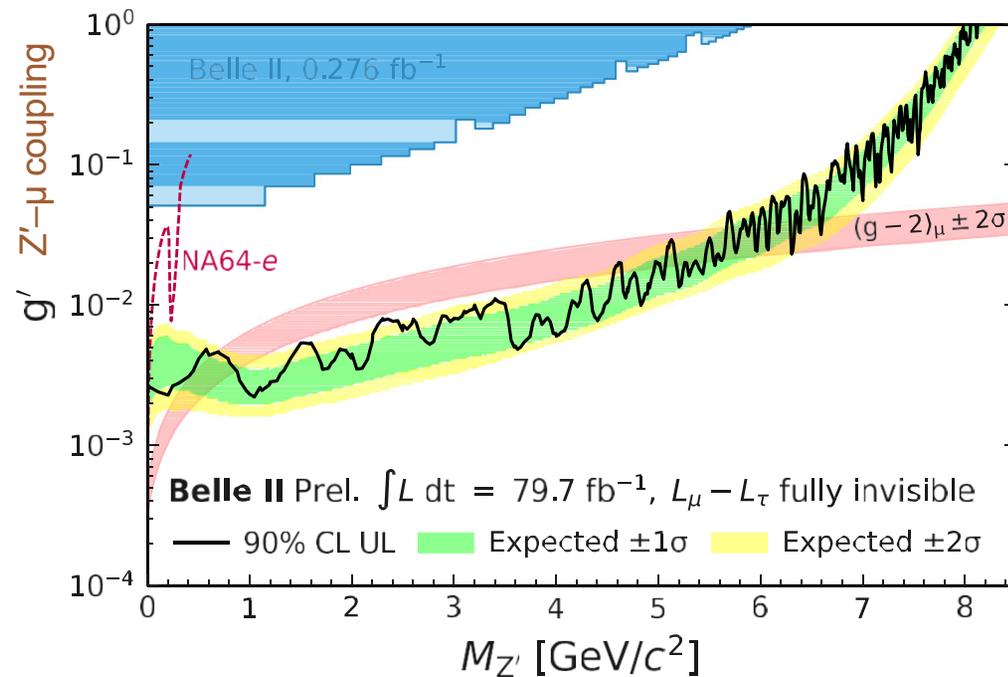
$\tau^+\tau^-$  strongly suppressed by neural net

Expected signature:  
 band in 2D plane of  $\vartheta_{\text{recoil}}$  vs  $M_{\text{recoil}}^2$



# $Z' \rightarrow$ invisible, results

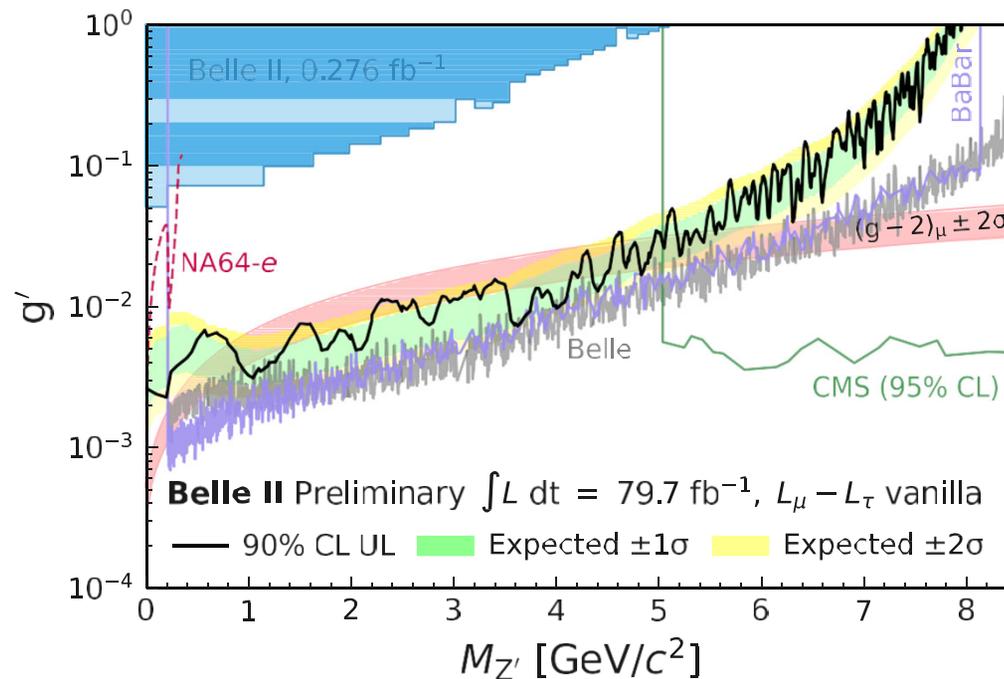
- Fit 2D distribution  $\theta_{recoil}^{cm}$  vs  $M_{recoil}^2$ ; no excess observed



- For  $\mathcal{B}(Z' \rightarrow \text{invisible}) = 1$ ,  $(g-2)_\mu$  parameter space excluded for  $0.8 < M_{Z'} < 5.0 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ . First such limits.

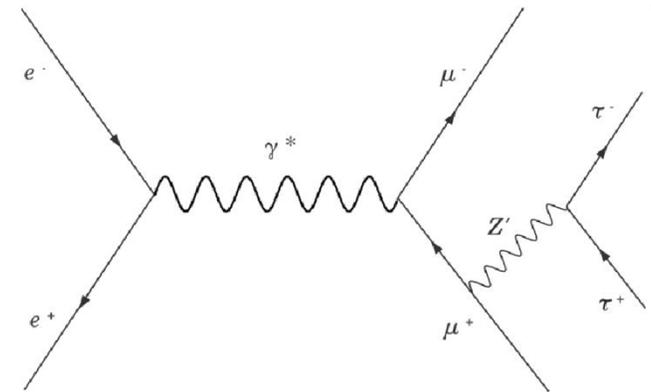
# Z' results, Z' → standard model only

- If Z' decays only to standard model particles, limits improved below  $2m_\mu$ , but region could still explain  $(g-2)_\mu$ .  
- we have ideas for improvements.



# First search for a $\tau^+\tau^-$ resonance in $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\tau^+\tau^-$ events with the Belle II experiment

- $Z' \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$  (strong existing  $\mu^+\mu^-$  constraints);
- Leptophilic scalar  $S$  with mass-dependent coupling;
  - BaBar has searched for  $S \rightarrow e^+e^-$  or  $\mu^+\mu^-$  in association with a tau pair.

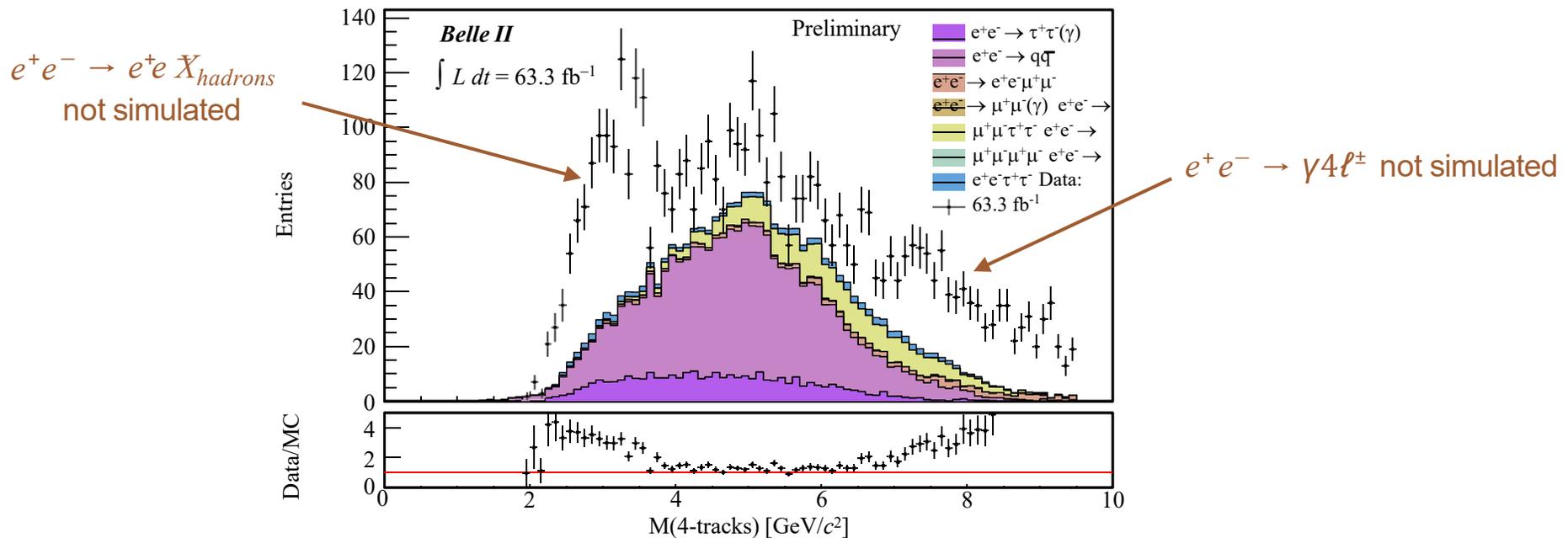


Phys. Rev. Lett. 125 (2020) 181801

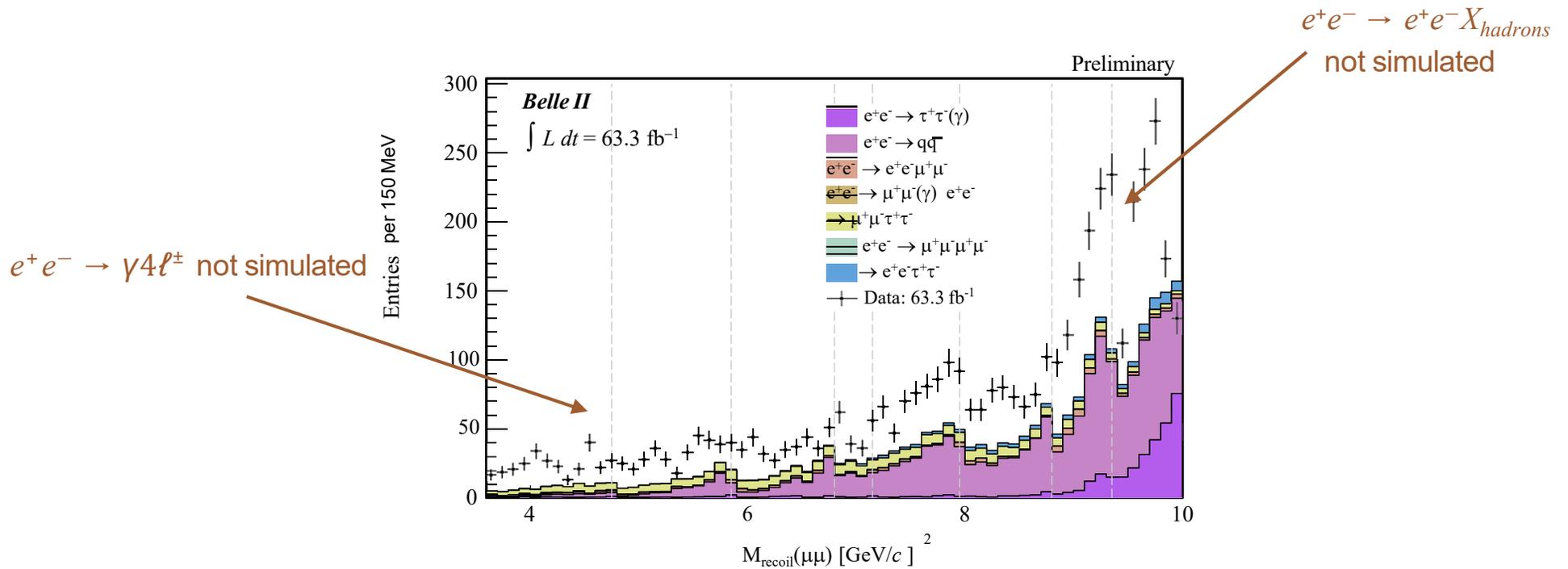
- Axion-like particle coupling to leptons. Assumed to not couple to  $\gamma$ .
- Tau decays  $\rightarrow$  one charged track and at least one neutrino per tau in the final state  $\rightarrow$  Signature: 4 tracks, including  $\geq 2$  muons, missing mass.

# Selected events

- Require  $M(4 \text{ tracks}) < 9.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  to suppress  $e^+e^- \rightarrow 4\ell^\pm$
- Train neural net on distinctive kinematic features:
  - final state radiation
  - consistent with tau pair recoiling against muon pair.



- Look for a peak in the recoil mass spectrum, on a locally-flat background.
  - resolution: 30 MeV @threshold  $\rightarrow$  10 MeV @6 GeV  $\rightarrow$  1 MeV @ 10 GeV.

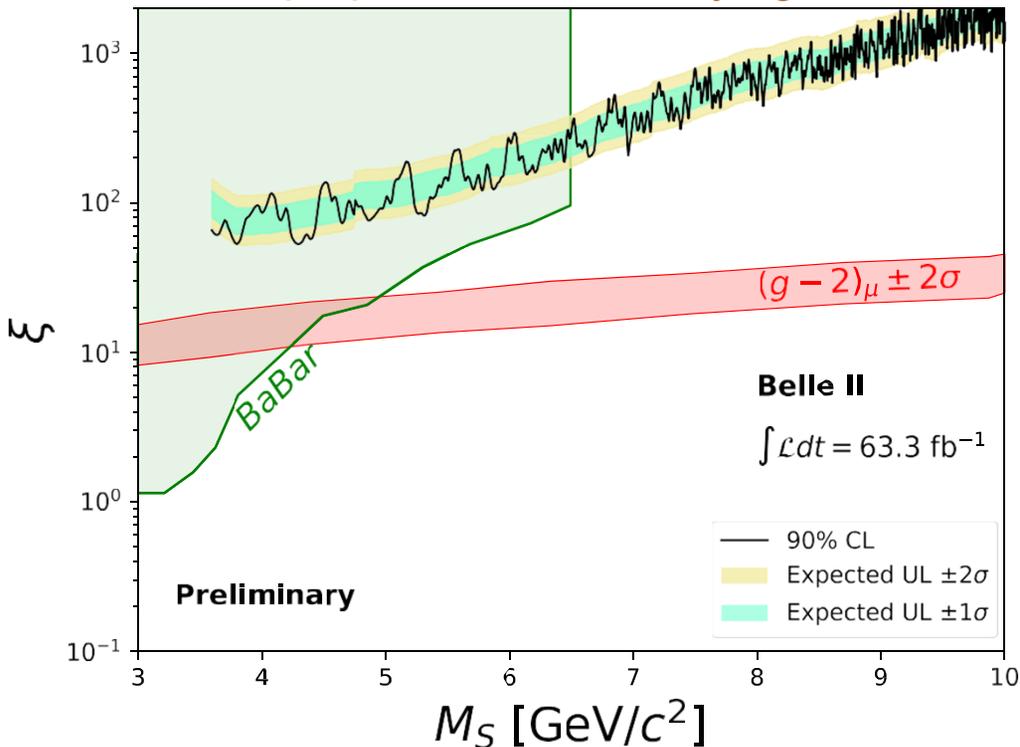


data/MC discrepancies:  
**No-peaking expected and understood**

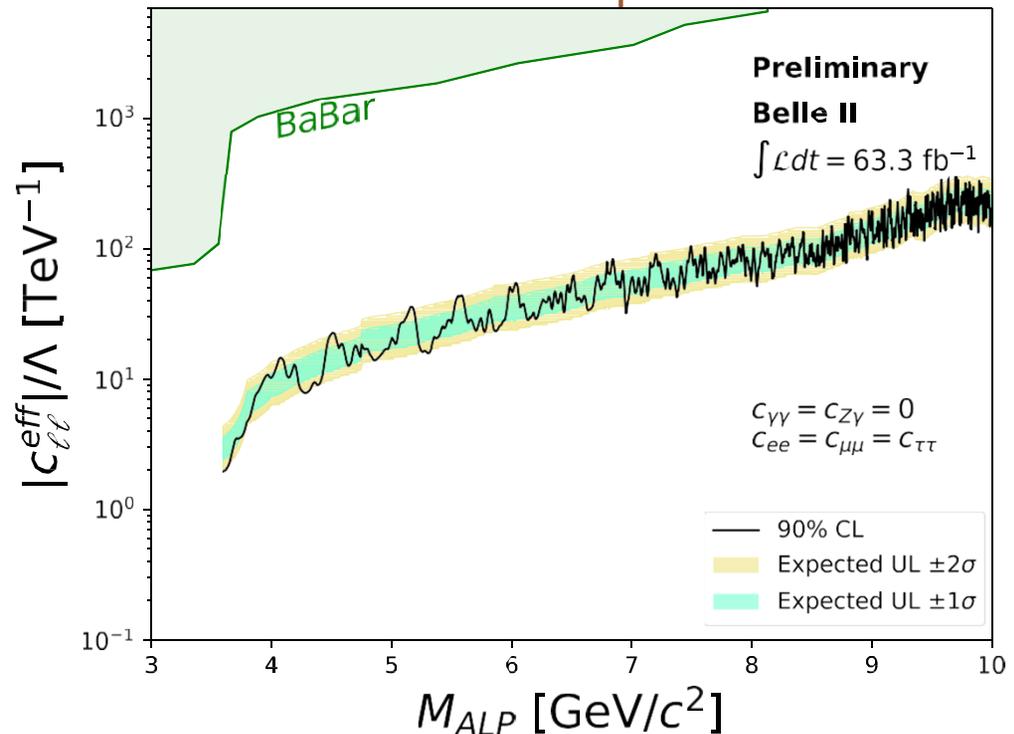
# Tau pair resonance results

- First leptophilic scalar limits above 6.5 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>.
- World leading limits on axion-like particle decays to leptons.

Leptophilic scalar decaying to  $\tau^+\tau^-$

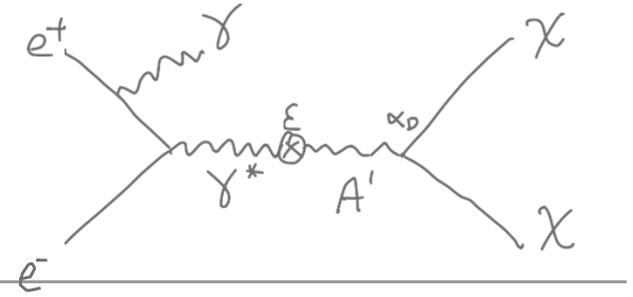


axion-like particle



# Dark photons

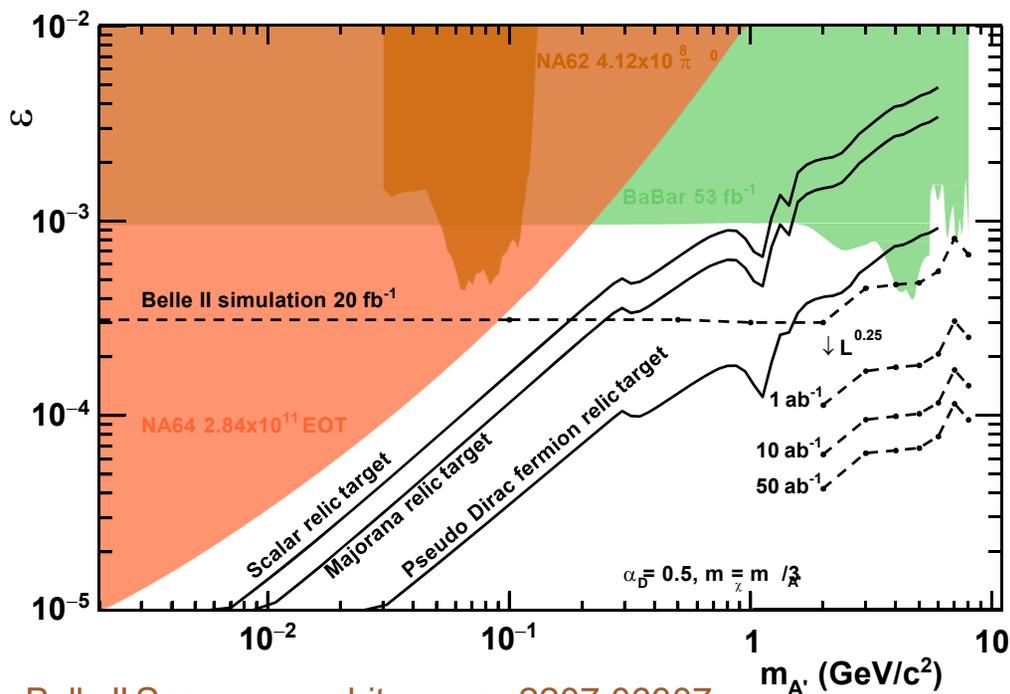
# Dark photons and Belle II



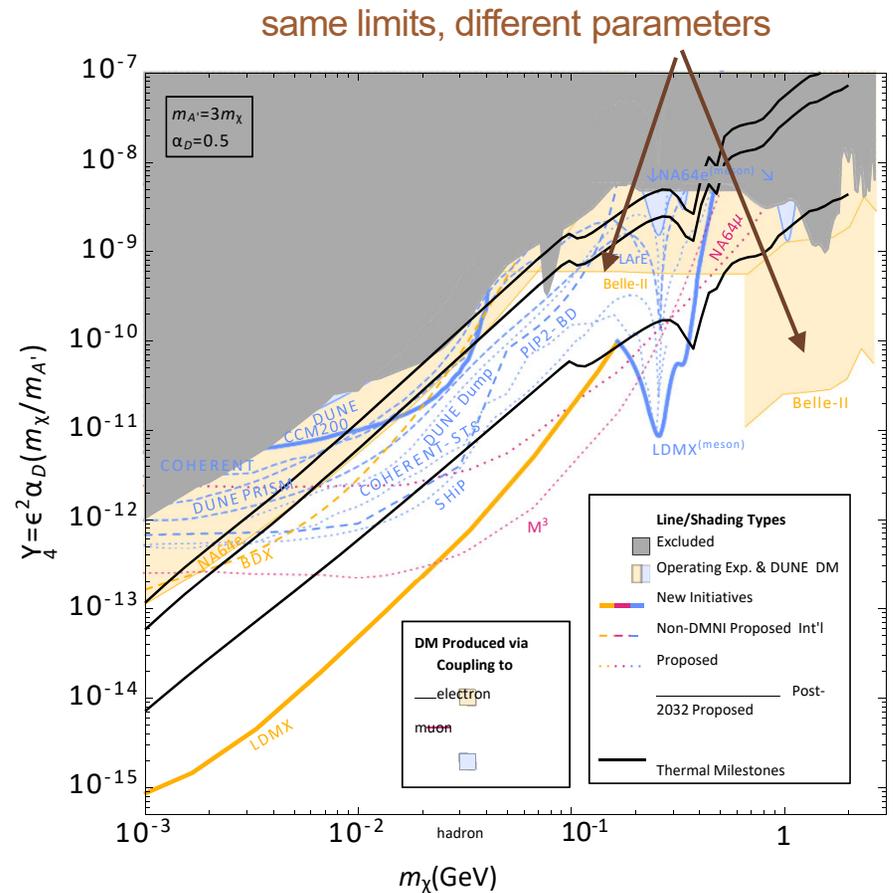
- Simplest case: on-shell production of a dark photon  $A'$  via initial-state radiation. Will decay to dark matter if kinematically allowed. “Single photon” analysis.
- Plan is to publish on current data set. Challenge is to quantify backgrounds:
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$       all but one  $\gamma$  out of acceptance or missed
  - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma e^+e^-$
  - cosmic rays
  - single beam (non-luminosity)

# Belle II sensitivity, invisible dark photon decays

- Belle II will have unique sensitivity to regions of parameter space consistent with observed dark matter relic density.



Belle II Snowmass white paper 2207.06307



$m_\chi$  (GeV)  
Snowmass RF6 report  
2209.04671

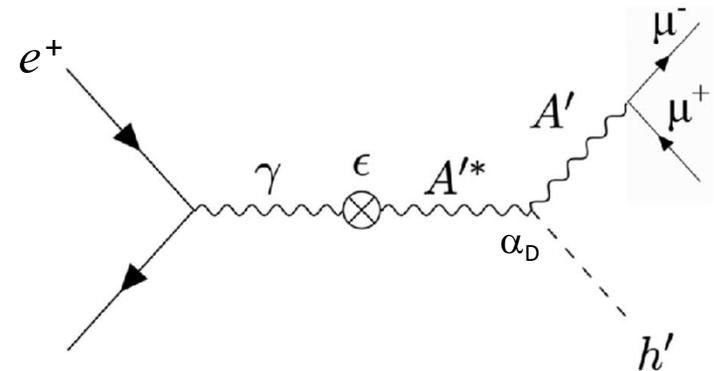
# Search for a dark photon and an invisible dark Higgs boson in $\mu^+\mu^-$ and missing energy final states with the Belle II experiment

- Dark sector could also contain a dark Higgs  $h'$ .

- We consider the case where

- $m_{A'} < 2m_\chi \Rightarrow A'$  decays to standard model;

- $m_{h'} < m_{A'} \Rightarrow h'$  is long lived / invisible (does not mix with Higgs).



- KLOE studied this configuration at lower mass; BaBar and Belle studied  $m_{h'} > m_{A'}$ ; different signature.

Phys. Lett. B 747, 365 (2015)

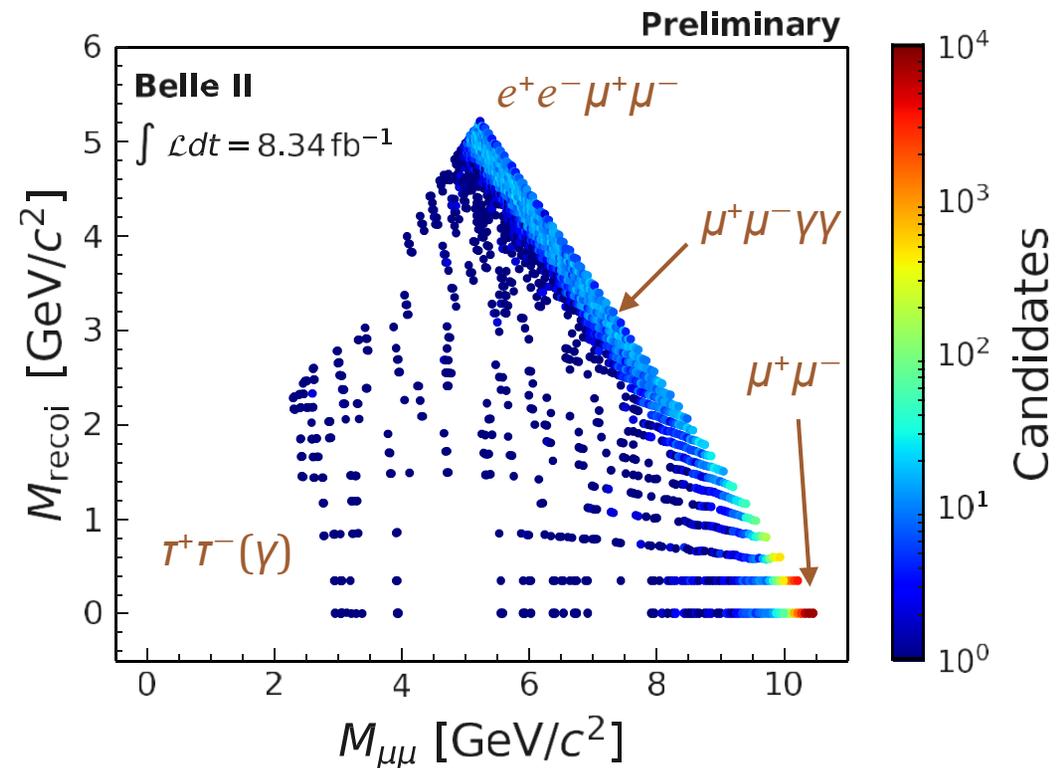
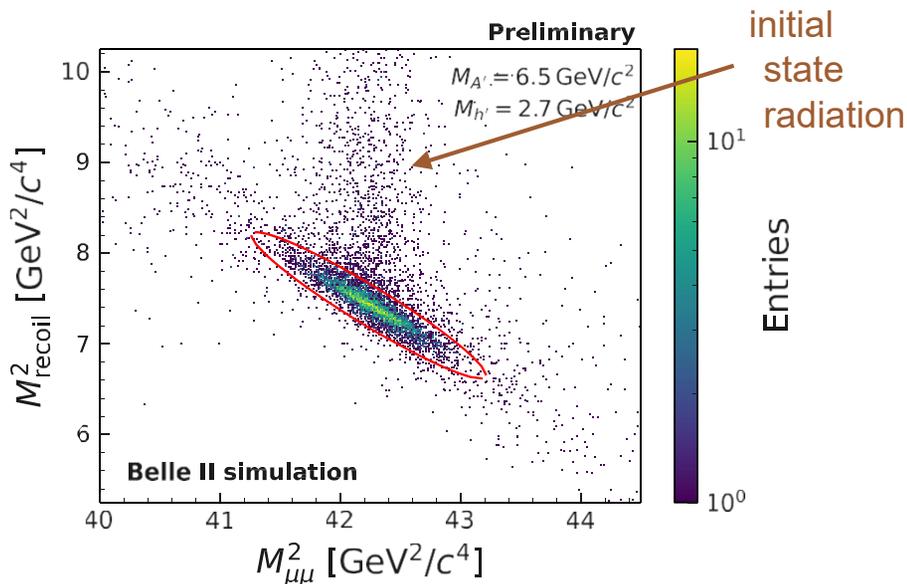
Phys. Rev. Lett. 108, 211801 (2012)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 114, 211801 (2015)

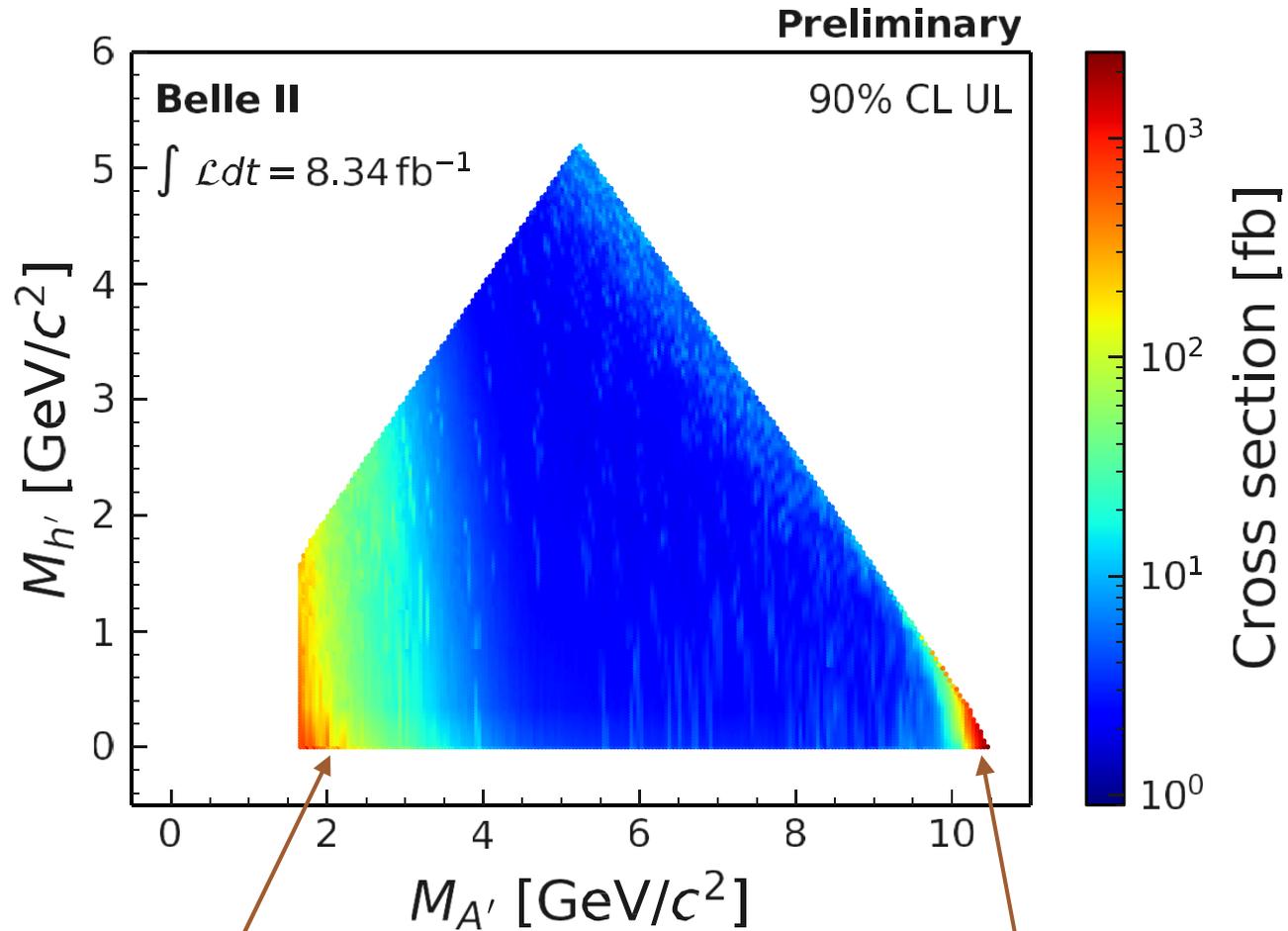
- Signature: muon pair (only) plus missing momentum, but two masses (vs one for invisible  $Z'$ ):
  - $m_{\mu^+\mu^-} = m_{A'}$ ;
  - missing mass =  $m_h$ .
- Backgrounds:
  - $\mu^+\mu^-(\gamma)$ ;
  - $\tau^+\tau^-(\gamma)$  with both  $\tau \rightarrow \mu\nu\nu^-$ ;
  - $e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$ .
- Require missing momentum to be at wide angles; cut on angular distribution of muons.

# Selected events

- Good agreement with simulation.
- Search for peak in 2D; no excess observed in 9003 ellipses.



# Upper limits on cross sections

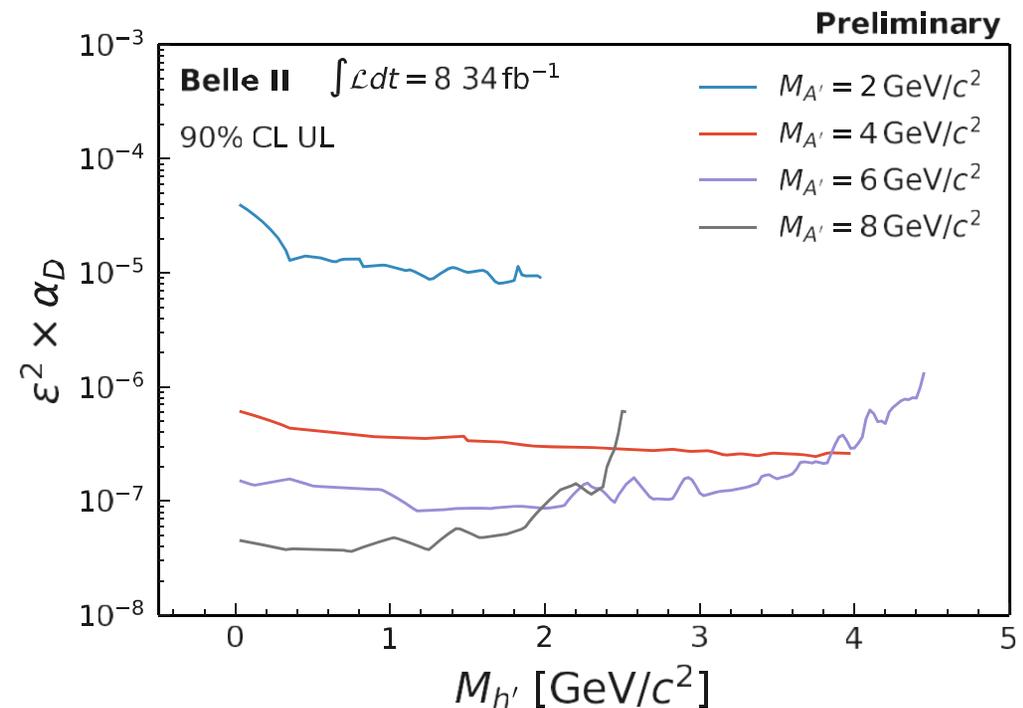
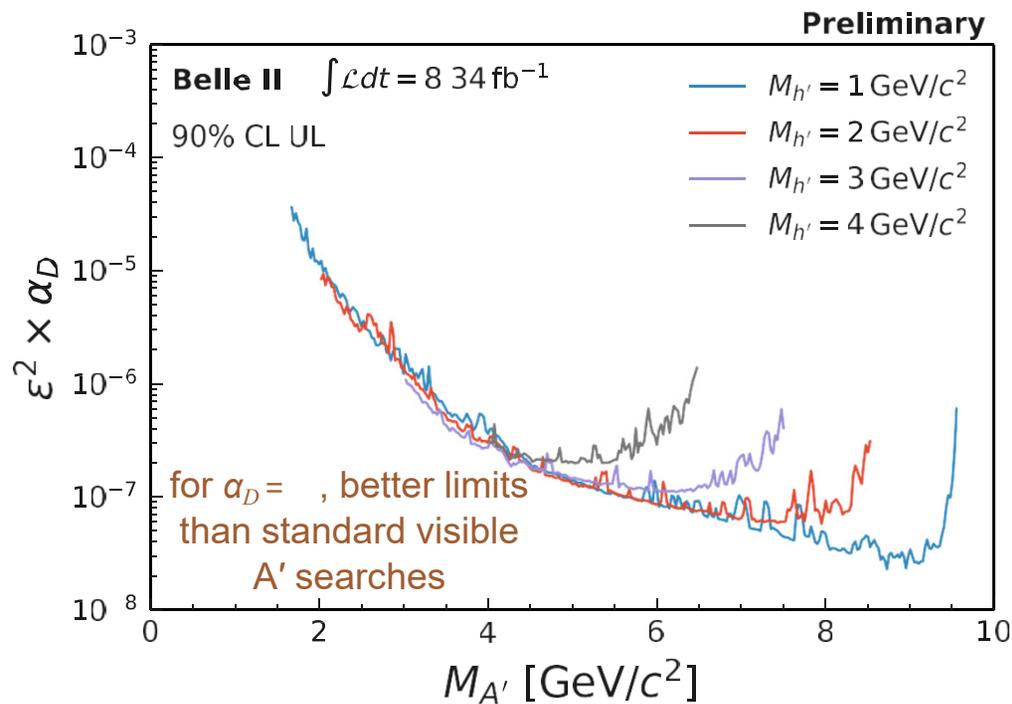


drop in trigger efficiency, which required  $\delta\phi > 90^\circ$  between muons

backgrounds

# Limits on model parameters

- First limits for this mass range.
- Next update: much more data; good trigger efficiency at low mass.



# Summary

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- Belle II has accumulated a near-BaBar sized data set. Several world-leading dark sector results already completed.
  - ALP  $\rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ : PRL 125 (2020) 161806;
  - $Z'$   $\rightarrow$  invisible: PRL 124 (2020) 141801 + update soon;
  - $Z' / S / \text{ALP} \rightarrow$  tau pair: to be submitted soon;
  - dark Higgsstrahlung: 2207.00509, submitted to PRL.
- Projections show that Belle II has unique sensitivity to dark sector physics. We look forward to further increases to SuperKEKB luminosity following long shutdown 1.