Recent results and plans of the NA64 experiment at the CERN SPS.

Mikhail Kirsanov INR RAS (Moscow)

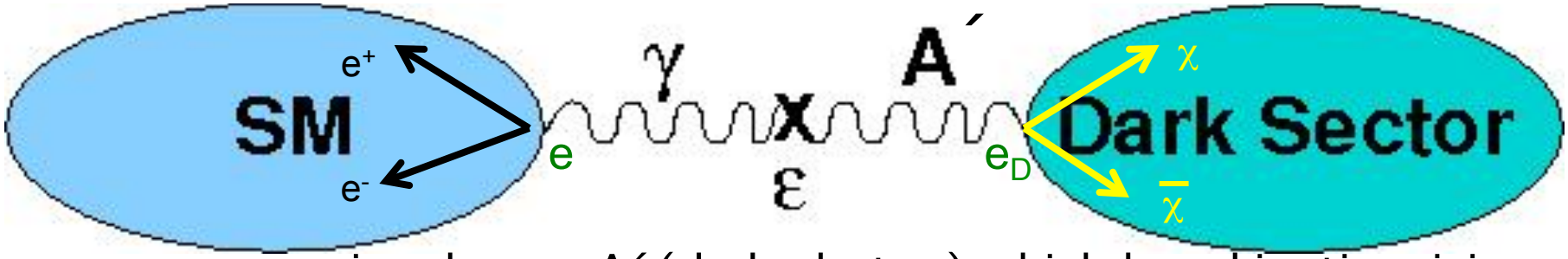
QUARKS online workshops-2021
June 2021

Outline

- Motivation
- The NA64 experiment
- Runs NA64
- Simulation of the Dark Matter production
- Analysis of the data
- Results on A’ in invisible mode
- Plans for the invisible mode
- Visible mode: X-boson, motivation
- Event selection, efficiency, backgrounds
- Results on the X-boson search
- Conclusion, near and more distant plans of NA64

Vector portal to Dark Sector

Okun, Holdom' 86 .. $\alpha_D = e_D^2/4\pi$



- new massive boson A´(dark photon) which has kinetic mixing with ordinary photon: $\Delta L = \varepsilon/2\, F^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu}$

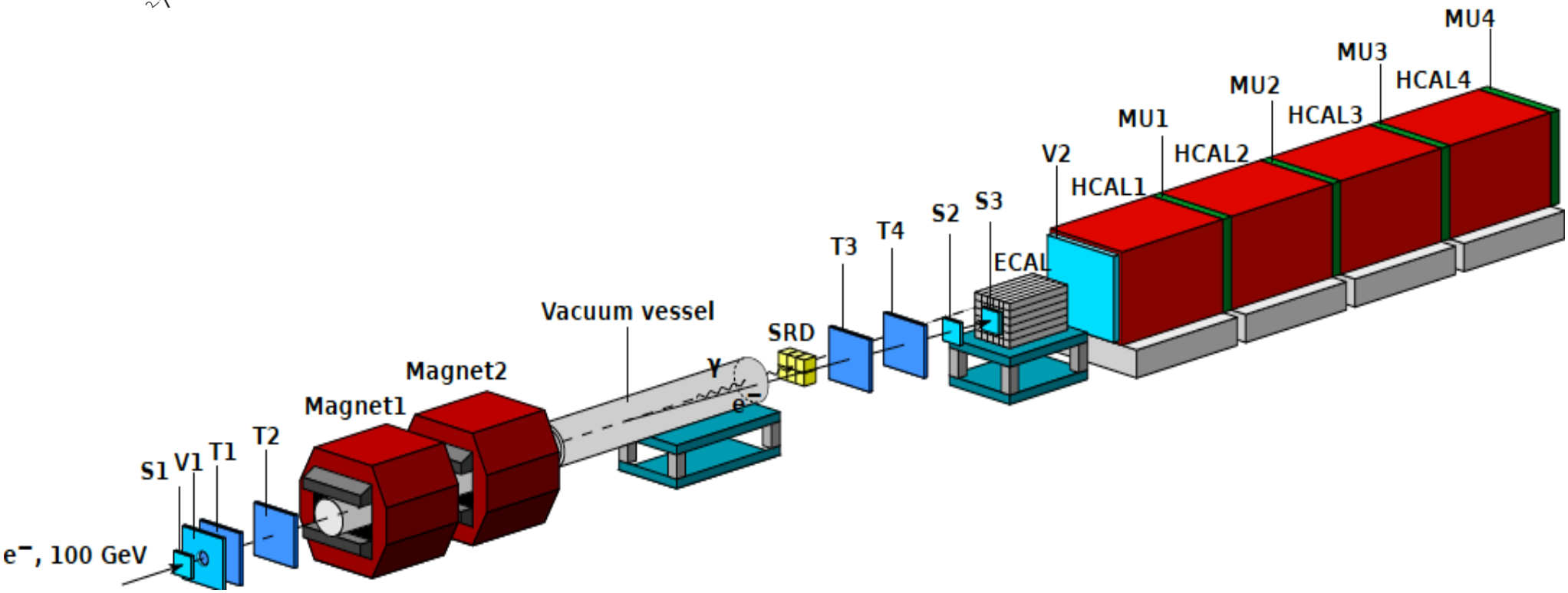
- Production: A´- bremsstrahlung $e^- Z \rightarrow e^- Z A'$, $\sigma \sim Z^2 \varepsilon^2 / m_{A'}^2$

- Decays:
  - Visible: $A' \rightarrow e^+e^-, \mu^+\mu^-$, hadrons,..
  - Invisible: $A' \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi}$ if $m_{A'} > 2m_\chi$ assuming $\alpha_{DM} \sim \alpha >> \varepsilon$.
    Can explain $(g-2)_\mu$, astrophys. observations
    - Cross section for χ–DM annihilation: $\sigma v \sim \overbrace{[\alpha_{DM}\, \varepsilon^2 (m_\chi/m_{A'})^4]}^{y}\, \alpha/m_\chi^2$

Thermal dark matter

- Assume that in the early Universe dark matter is in equilibrium with the SM matter. At some temperature the dark matter decouples
- DM density today tells us about the annihilation cross-section. Correct DM density corresponds to $\langle\sigma_{an}v\rangle \sim O(1)$ pbn
- The most popular models of dark matter χ:
    - Scalar dark matter
    - Majorana dark matter
    - Pseudo Dirac dark matter

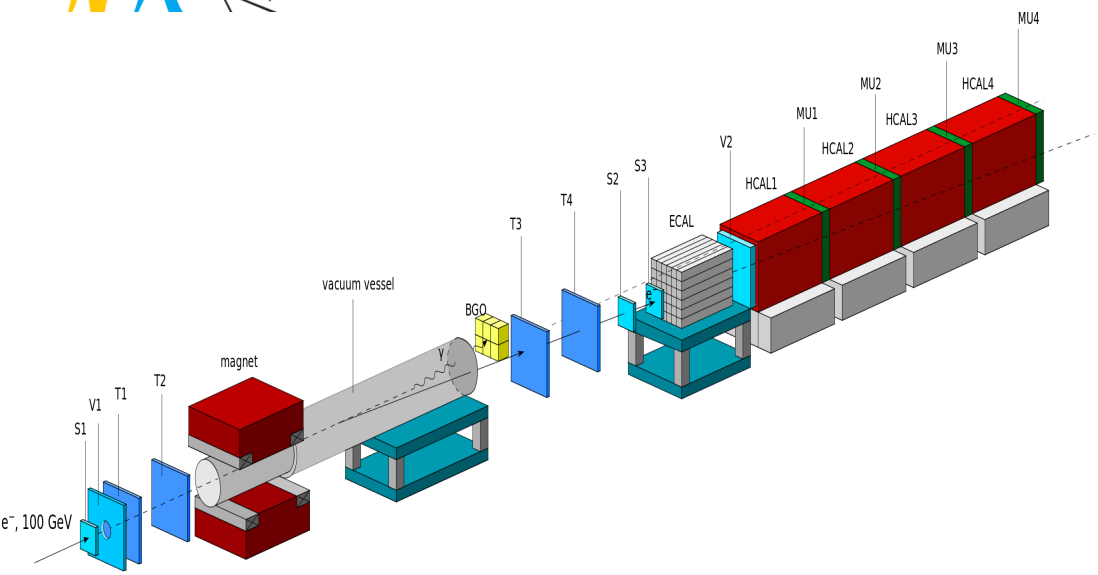
NA64 experiment setup (invisible mode)



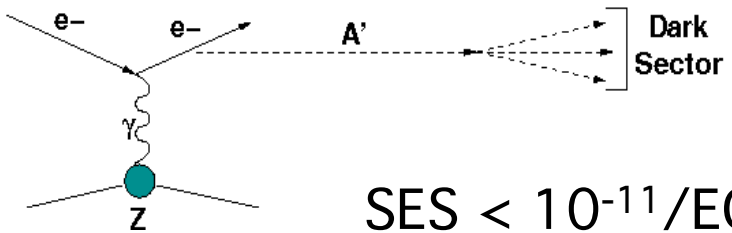
~50 researchers from 12 institutes
Proposed in 2014, first test runs in 2015

NA64 experiment setup

Search for A´->invisible decays at CERN SPS



S.Andreas et al., arXiv: 1312.3309
S.G., PRD(2014)



SES < 10^{-11}/EOT

Signature:

- in: 100 GeV e- track
- out: $E_{ECAL} < E_0$ shower in ECAL
- no energy in Veto and HCAL

Main components :

- clean 100 GeV e- beam
- e- tagging system: tracker+SRD
- hermetic ECAL+HCAL

Background:

- μ, π, K decays in flight
- upstream interactions
- Tail < 50 GeV in the e- beam
- Energy leak from ECAL+HCAL

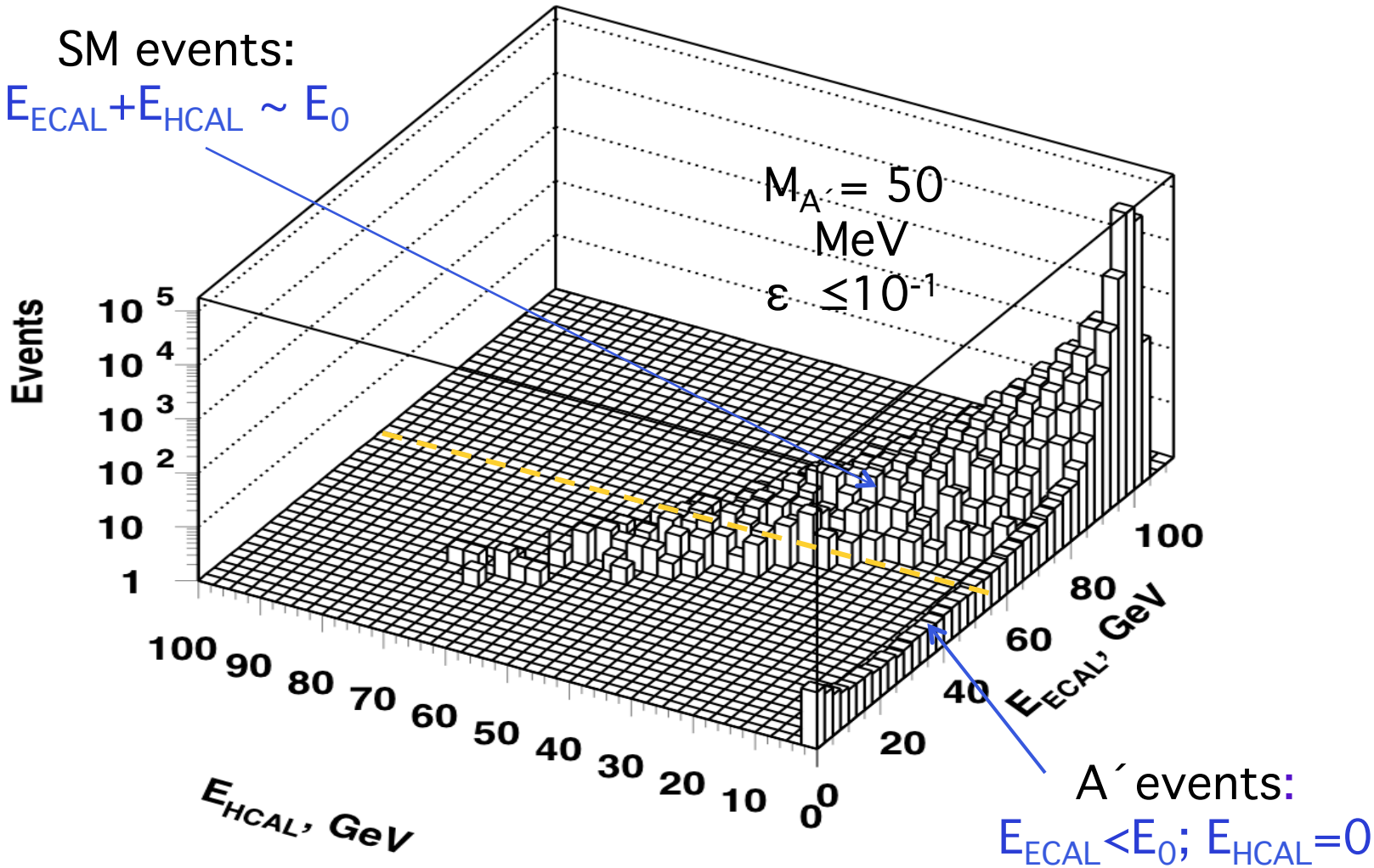
Summary of the NA64 runs

- **Invisible mode configuration, first run 12.10-09.11 2016**
  - Subrun1 2016 EOT ~ 2×10^{10}, S_0 rate $1.5\div2.2\times10^{6}$;
  - Subrun2 2016 EOT ~ 1.5×10^{10}, S_0 rate $2.4\div3.2\times10^{6}$;
  - Subrun3 2016 EOT ~ 1.0×10^{10}, S_0 rate $4.6\div5.0\times10^{6}$; ~0.6 day
  - Run 2017 EOT ~ 5.4×10^{10}, S_0 rate $4\div6\times10^{6}$
  - Run 2018 EOT ~ 1.9×10^{11}, S_0 rate $6\div8\times10^{6}$
  - Total number ~ 2.89×10^{11} eot

- **Visible mode configuration first run 22.09-01.10 2017**
  - Subrun 1 WCAL 40X0 EOT ~ 2.4×10^{10}, S_0 rate ~3×10^{6}
  - Subrun 2 WCAL 30X0 EOT ~ 3×10^{10}, S_0 rate $4\text{-}5\times10^{6}$
  - Run 2018 S4 in WCAL EOT ~ 3×10^{10}, beam 150 GeV
  - Total EOT ~ 8.4×10^{10}

Simulation of eZ->eZA´; A´-> invisible @ BG

A´emission in the process of e-m shower development.
σ(e^-Z->e^-ZA´) (Bjorken et al. 2009)

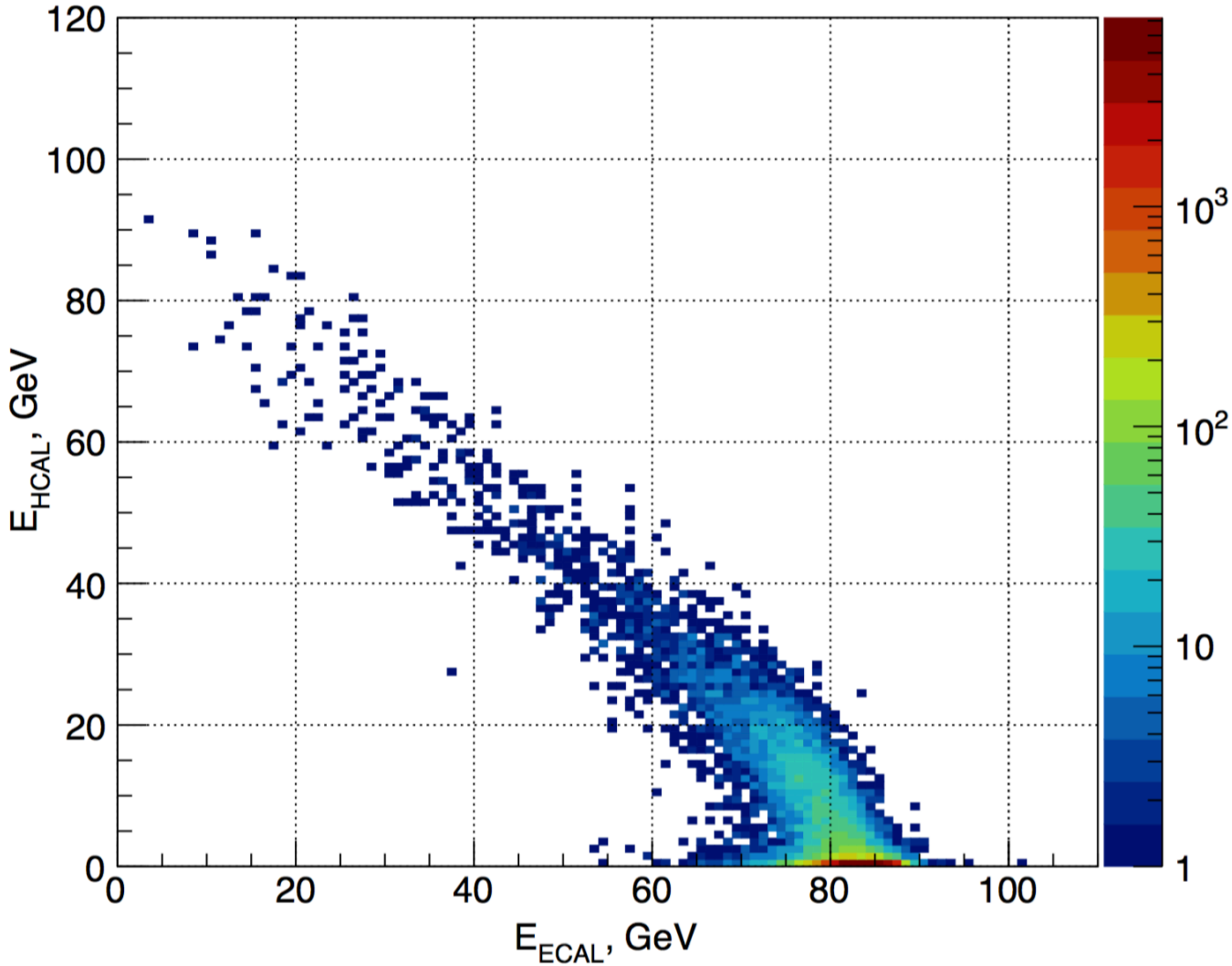


DM processes simulation: DMG4

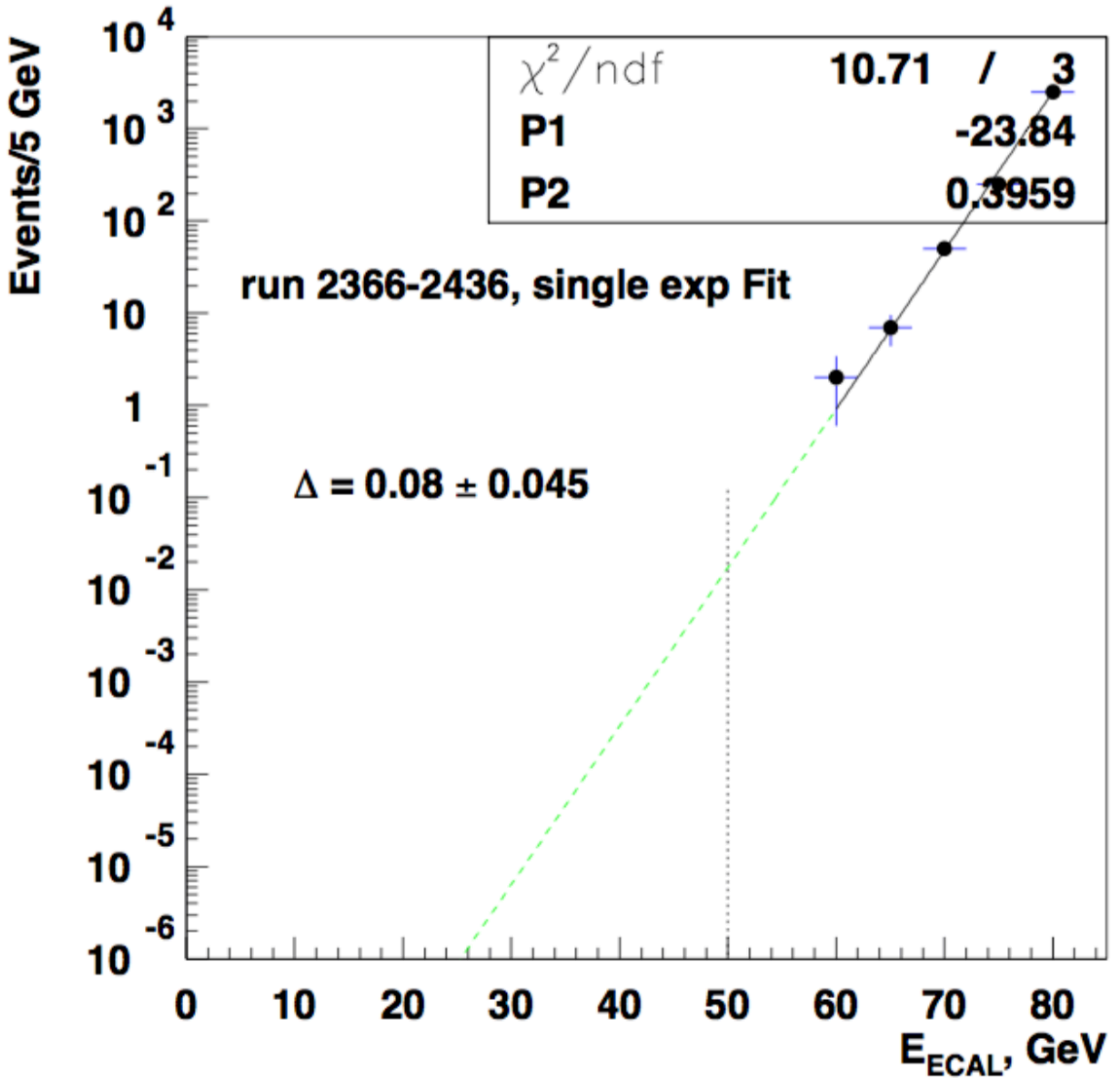
- Fully Geant4 compatible package DMG4 is developed arXiv:2101.12192 [hep-ph]. Can be used in any full simulation program based on the Geant4 toolkit
- Bremsstrahlung processes off electrons and muons (like $eZ \rightarrow eZA'$), gamma conversion to ALP, annihilation processes (like $e^+e^- \rightarrow A' \rightarrow \chi\chi$) can be simulated
- DM messengers: vector (A'), axial vector, scalar, pseudoscalar
- Invisible and visible (to SM particles) decays
- For the total cross section we use the full matrix element calculations (ETL) (arXiV:1712.05706 [hep-ph]) through the K-factors applied to the IWW cross sections. These K-factors can be as small as 1/15 for electrons at $M_A \sim 1$ GeV
- We continue to develop the package (more exact WW differential cross sections, other processes etc.)

Background, combined data 2016 - 2018

2.86 x 10^{11} EOT



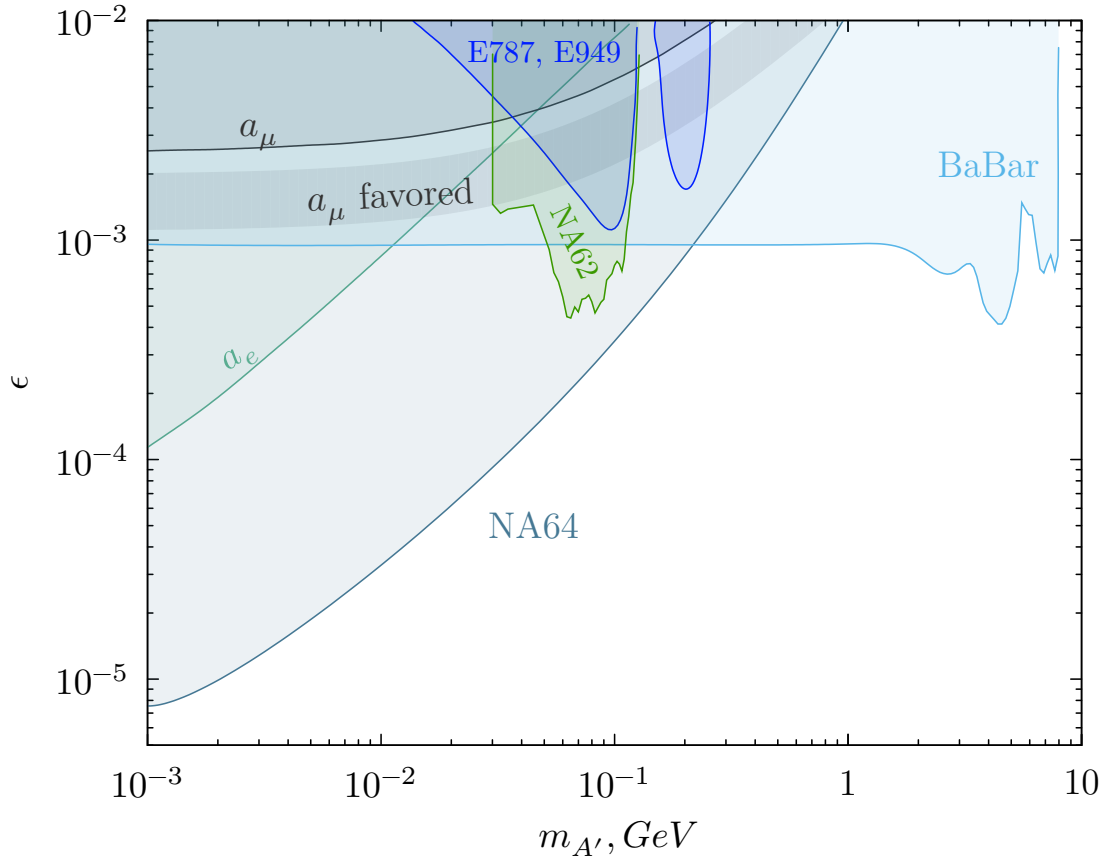
Background: example of extrapolation



Background source	Background number, n_b
punchthrough γ's, cracks, holes	< 0.01
loss of dimuons	0.024 ± 0.007
$\mu \to e\nu\nu$, π, $K \to e\nu$, K_{e3} decays	0.02 ± 0.01
e^- interactions in the beam line	0.43 ± 0.16
μ, π, K interactions in the target	0.044 ± 0.014
accidental SR tag and μ, π, K decays	< 0.01
Total n_b	0.53 ± 0.17

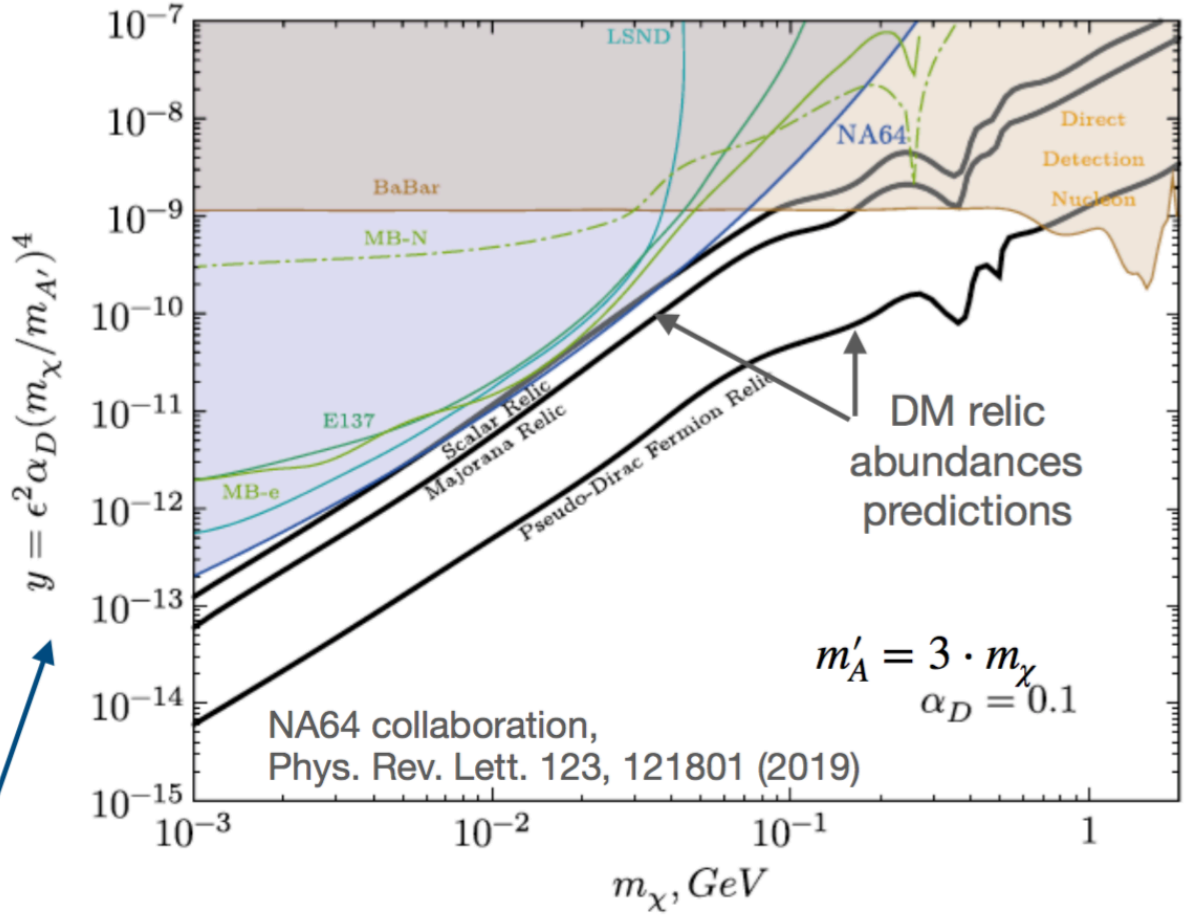
BG from the beam elements is suppressed by multiplicity cuts in MM and Straw tubes

Results



Banerjee et. al.
PRL 123, 121801 (2019)

Limits on y and some popular sub-GeV Thermal Dark Matter models



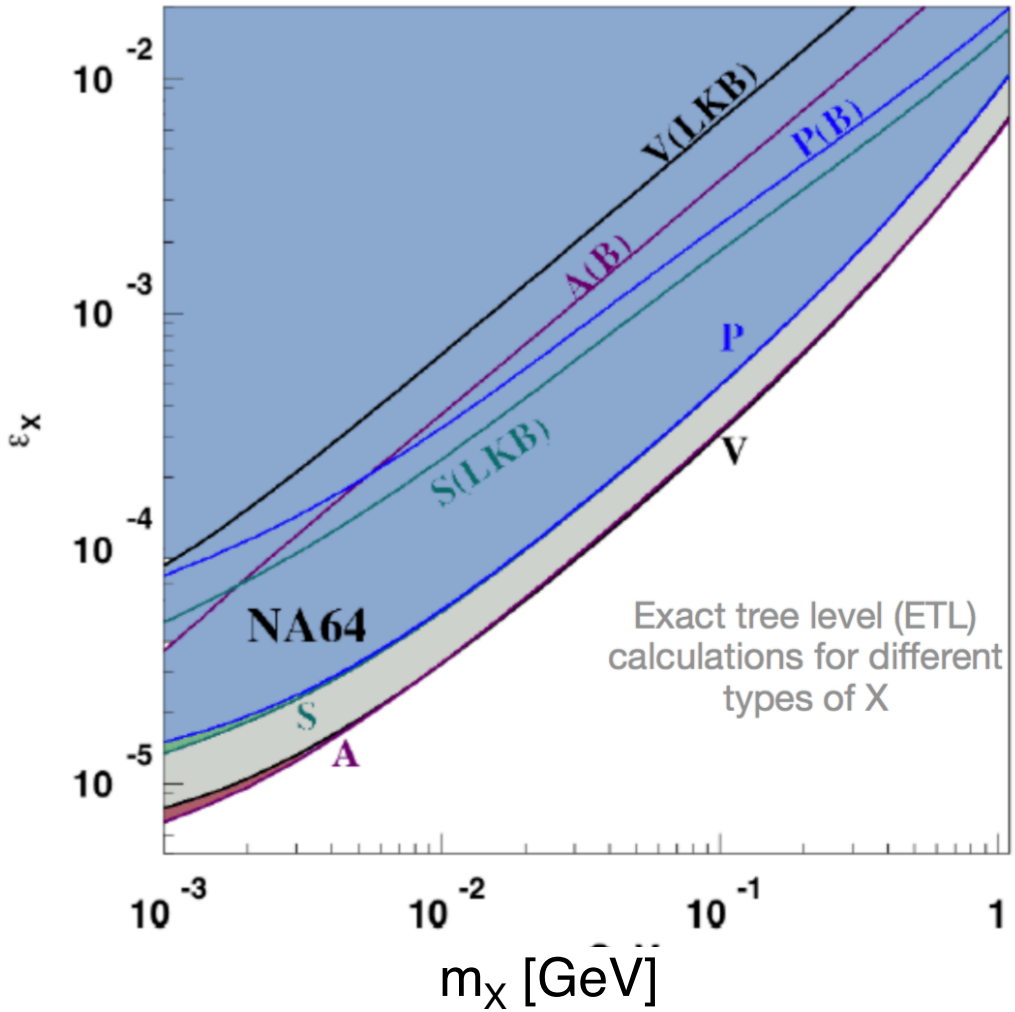
$\alpha_D = 0.1$, $m_{A'} = 3m_\chi$

For $\alpha_D < 0.1$ we start to cover the scalar case

Proportional to **DM<->SM annihilation cross-section**

Limits on generic boson and $(g-2)_e$

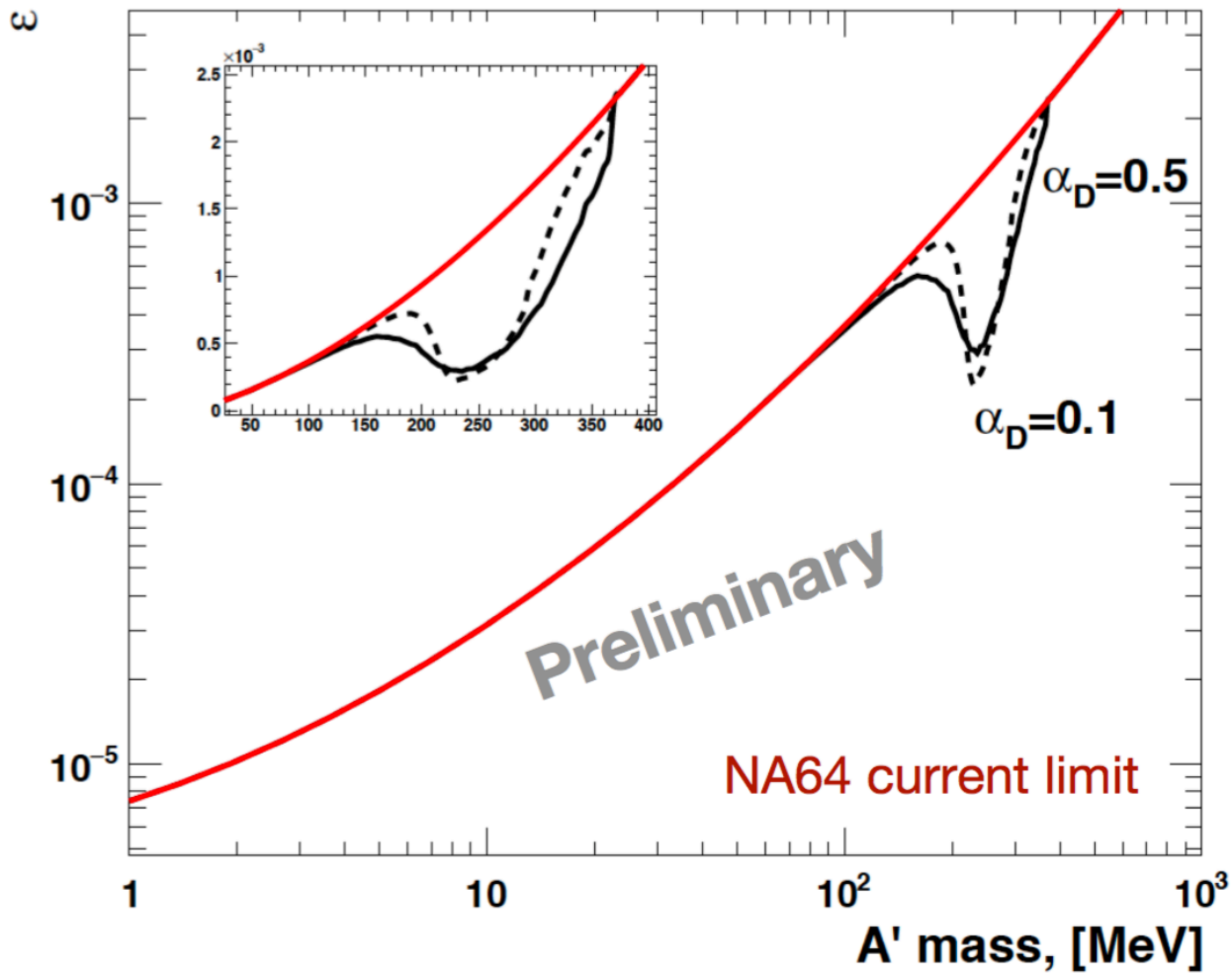
$e^-Z \to e^-ZX; X \to$ **invisible**



Consider also Scalar, Pseudoscalar, Axial vector
Andreev et al.
PRL 126, 211802 (2021)

Results on Δa_e :
LKB +1.6σ,
Berkley -2.4σ

Limits on A' taking into account annihilation

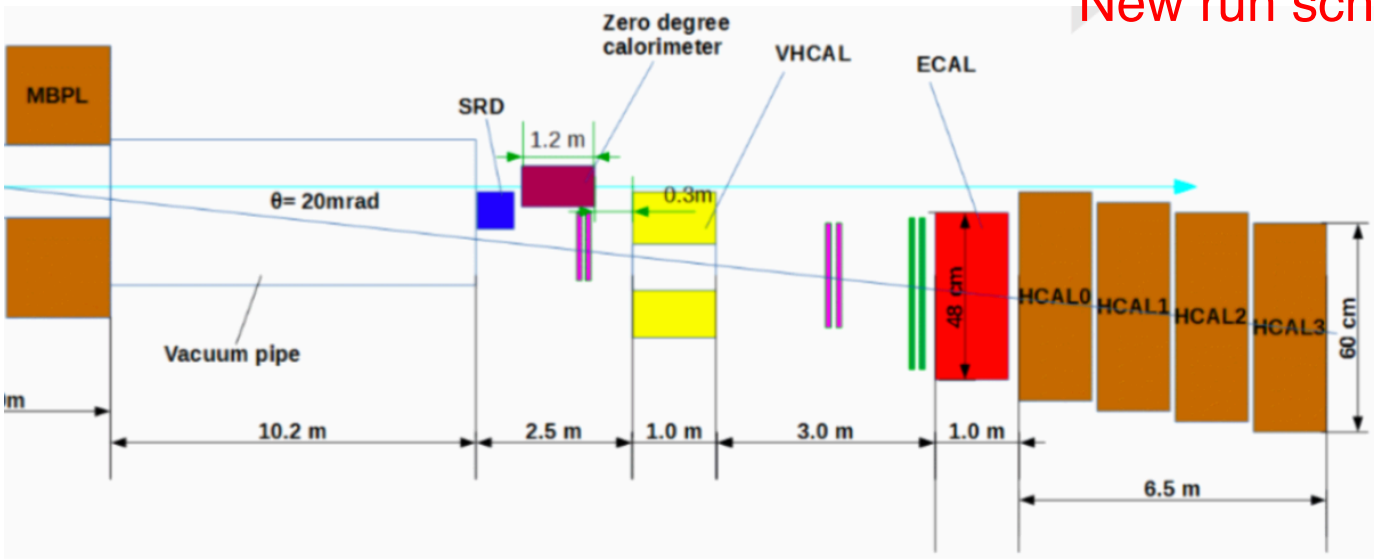


Resonant process
Shower positrons on electrons of the target
$e^+e^- \rightarrow A' \rightarrow \chi\chi$
Paper in preparation

Larger sensitivity region can be obtained with a positron beam

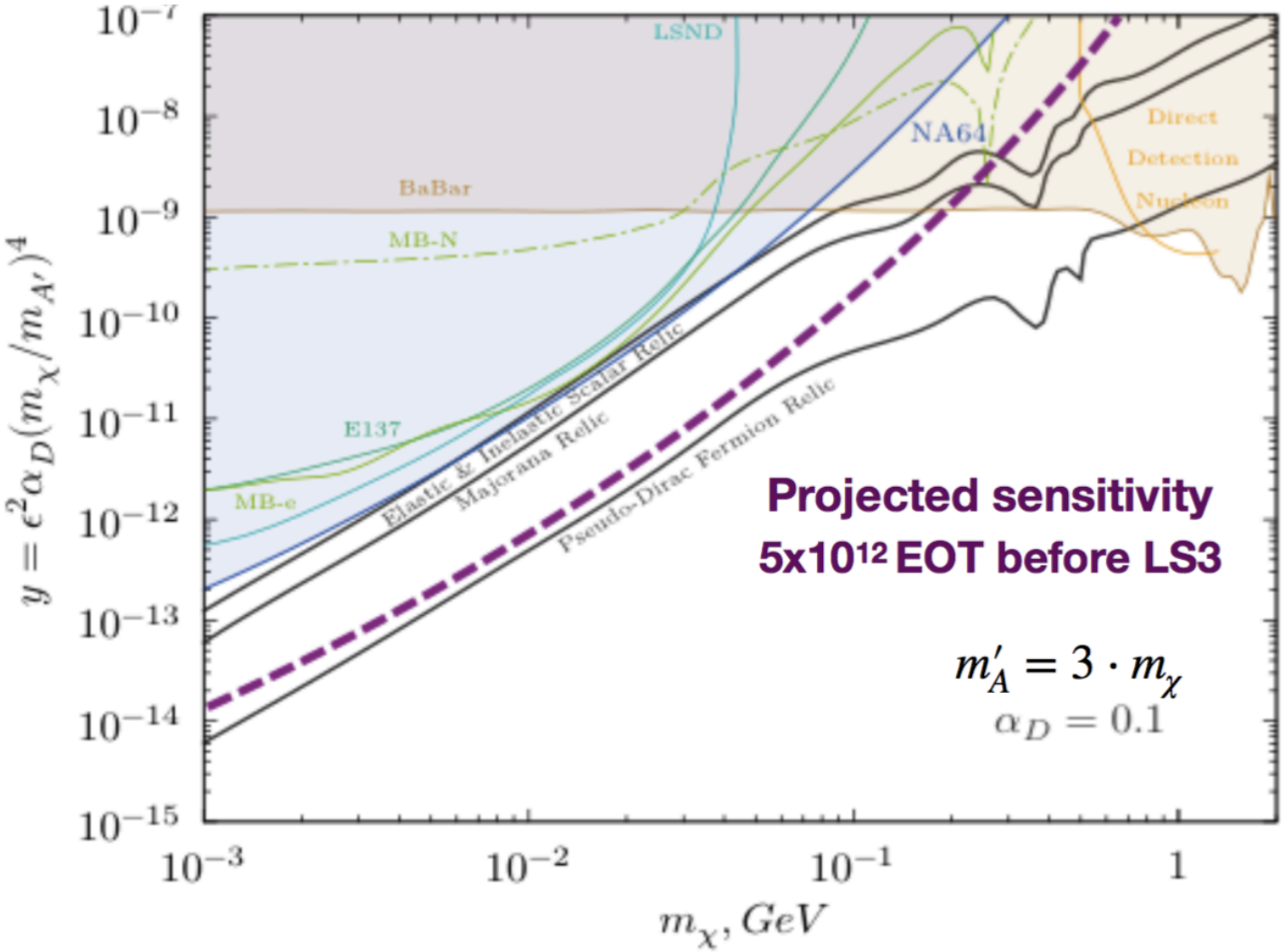
Future prospects for invisible mode

New run scheduled on 11th August



- New subdet. ZDCAL, VHCAL to suppress BG from beam elements and tracker
- New higher granularity SRD
- New low material budget MM
- New ECAL
- Permanent place in NA
- Upgrade of the electronics

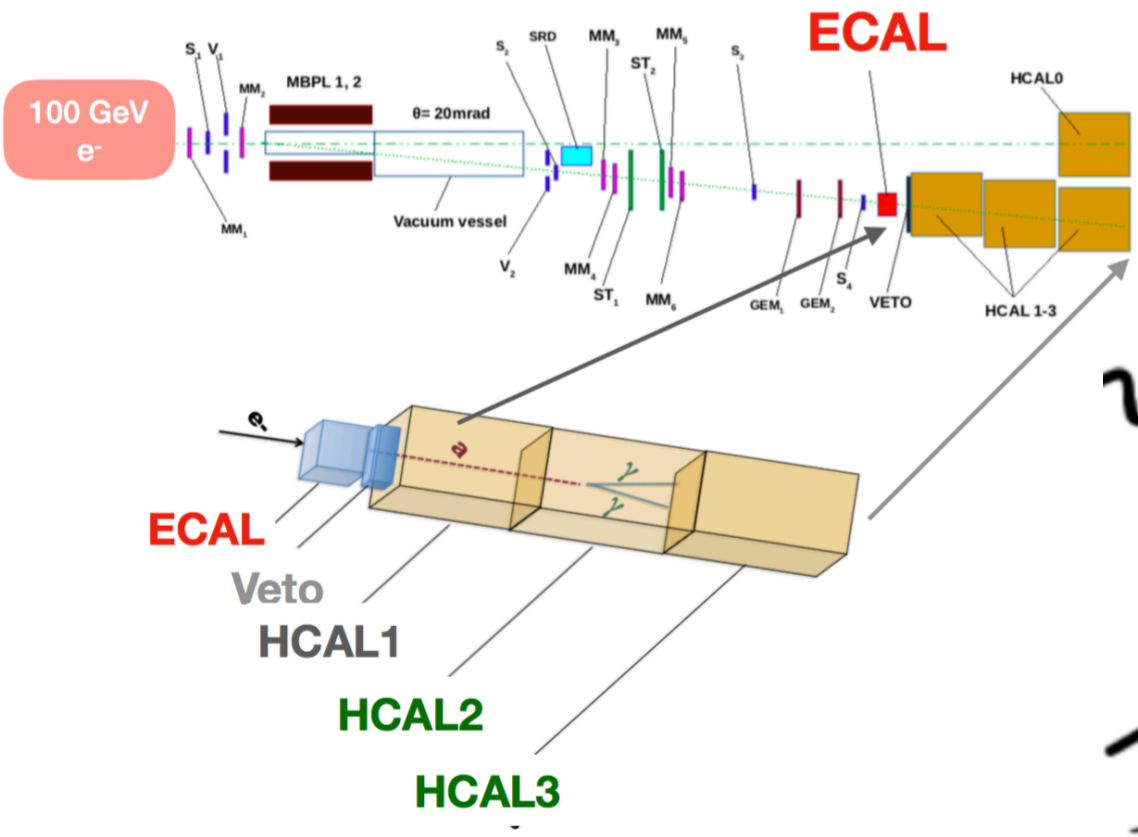
Sensitivity to y and some popular sub-GeV Thermal Dark Matter models



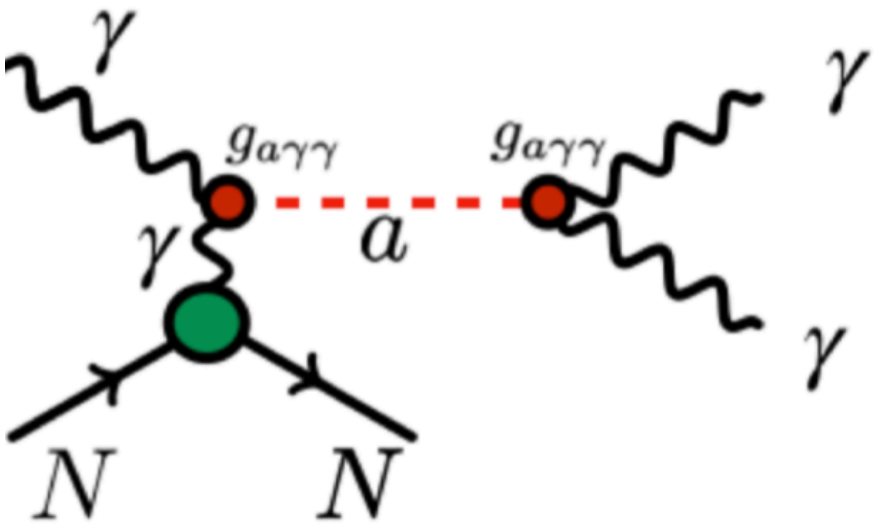
Axion-like particles (ALP) coupled to photons

New way of using the invisible mode geometry: visible decays!

Produced via Primakoff effect of gamma conversion on nuclei



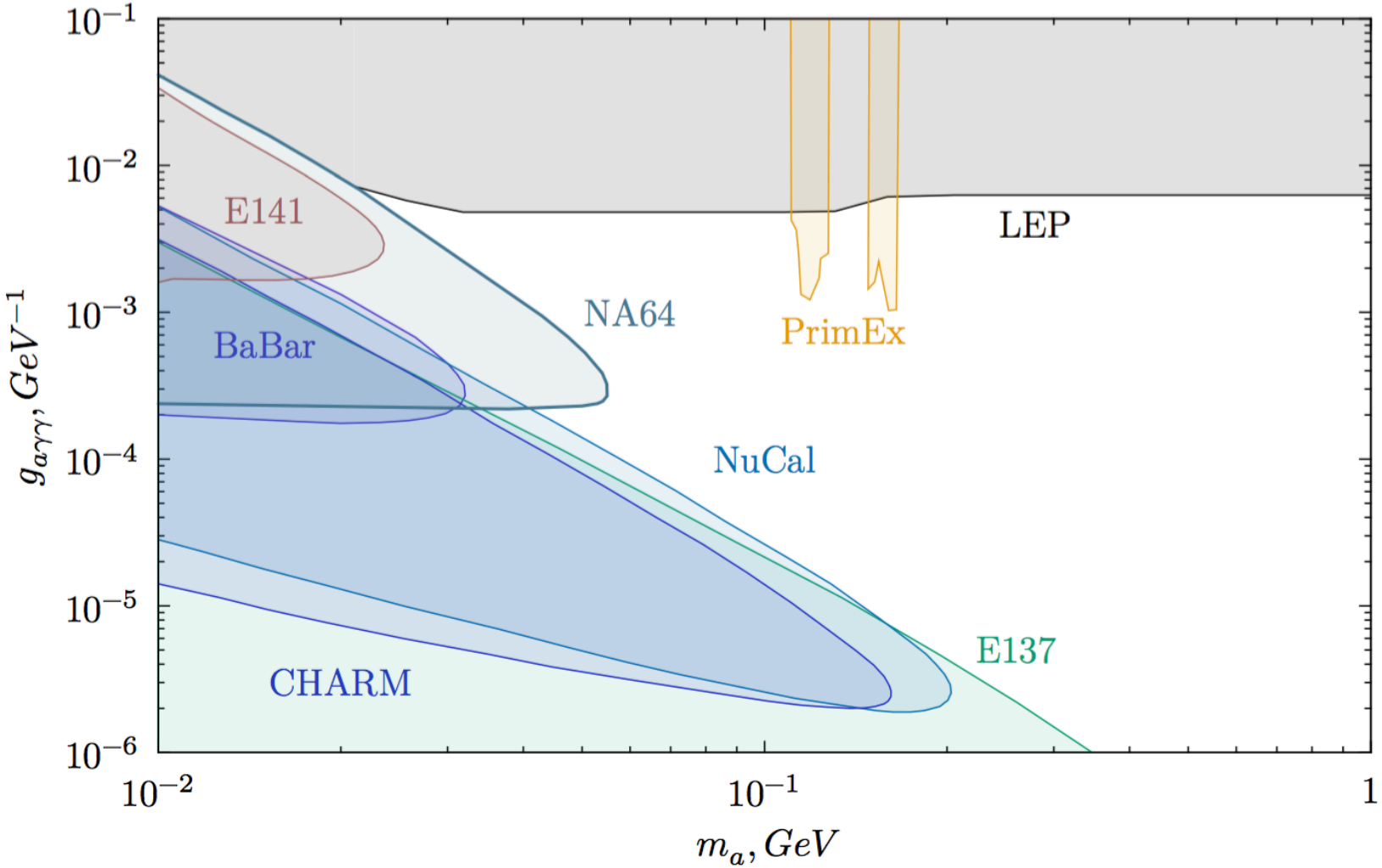
$$L_{int} = -\frac{1}{4} g_{a\gamma\gamma} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} a$$



ALP search strategy

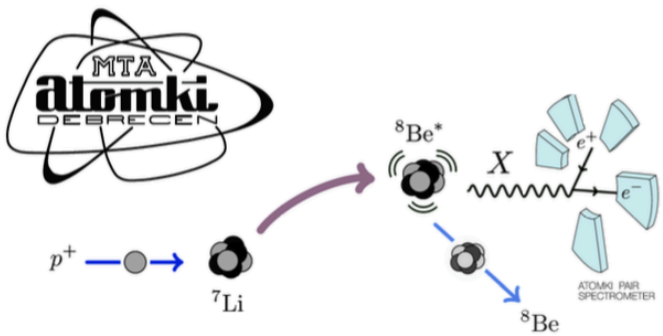
- In addition to invisible decays beyond the detector (missing energy signature) look for decays in HCAL2, HCAL3 with HCAL1 as a veto
- Allows softer cuts on energy deposition in ECAL
- Background: punch-through neutrons and K^0
- Final cut on R = (periphery cells)/(central cell), strong suppression of hadrons

ALP search results



Search for new X-bosons and Dark Photons decaying to e^+e^-

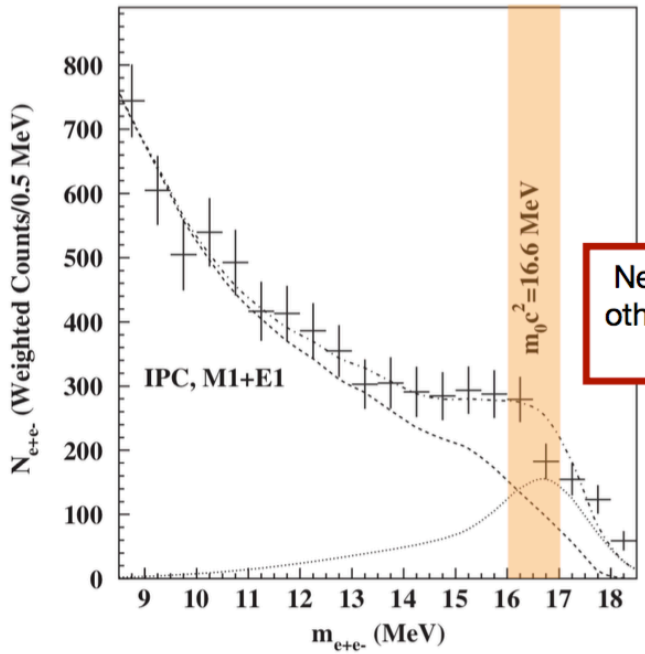
ATOMKI anomaly



- *Scalar, pseudo-scalar, vector, axial-vector* models could explain the anomaly (large literature)
- NA64 addresses the search for X17 in a model independent way, just assuming its non-zero coupling with electrons.
- Vector model used as benchmark.

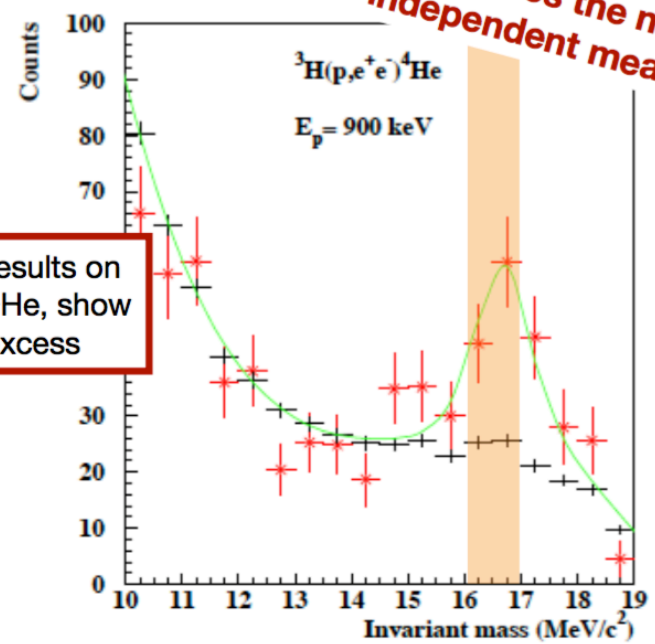
$$e^-Z \to e^-ZX_{17};\ X_{17} \to e^+e^-$$

Motivates the need of an independent measurement



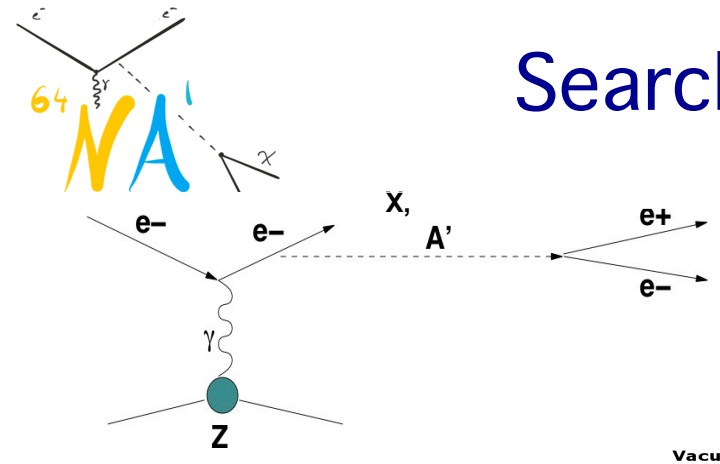
A.J. Krasznahorkay et al. Phys. Rev. Lett.116, 042501 (2015)

New recent results on other nuclei, ^{4}He, show a similar excess

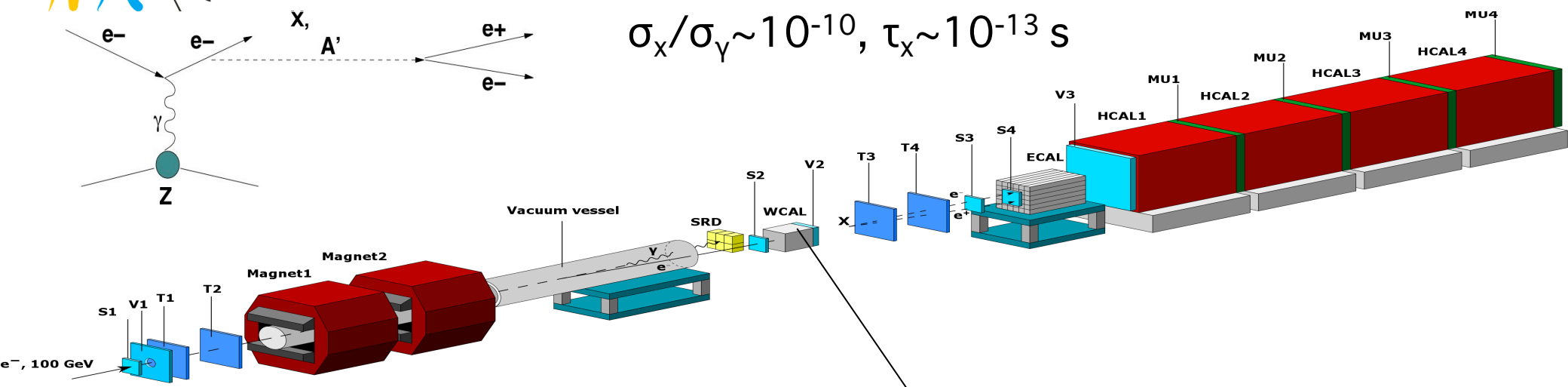


A. J. Krasznahaorkay et. Al Arxiv:1910.10459 (2019)

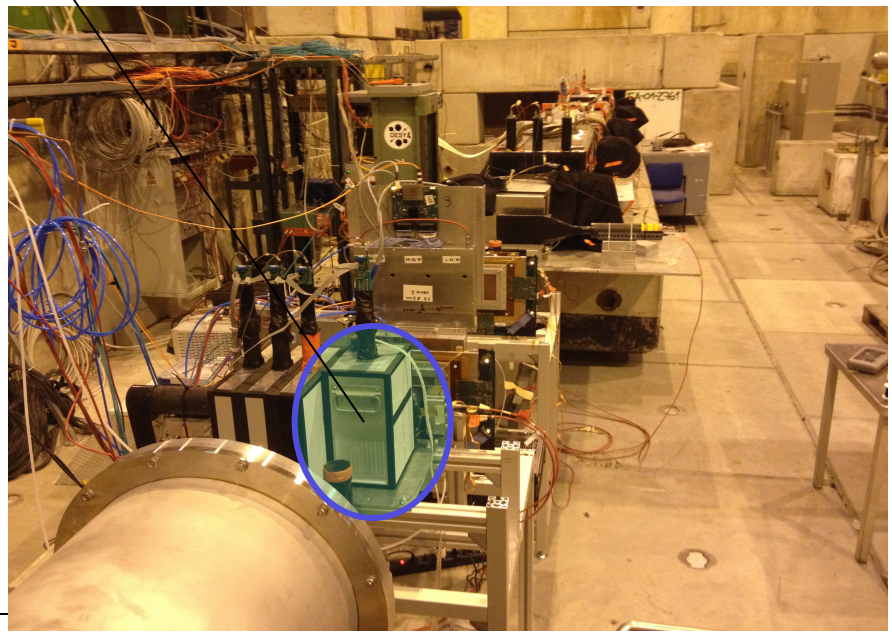
Search for X(A´)->e^+e^- decays



$\sigma_X/\sigma_\gamma \sim 10^{-10}$, $\tau_X \sim 10^{-13}$ s

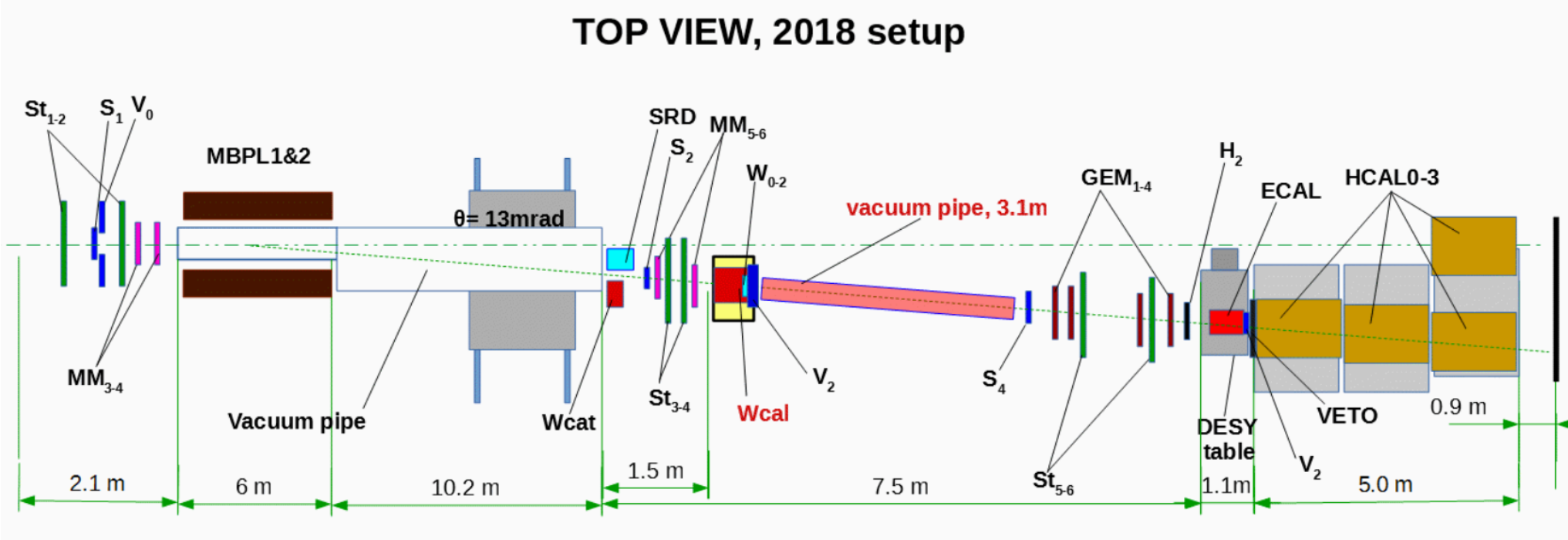


- Compact tungsten calorimeter WCAL
  - X decays outside WCAL dump
- Signature: two separated showers from a single e-
  - $E_{WC} < E_0$, and $E_0 = E_{WC} + E_{EC}$
  - θ_{e+e-} too small to be resolved

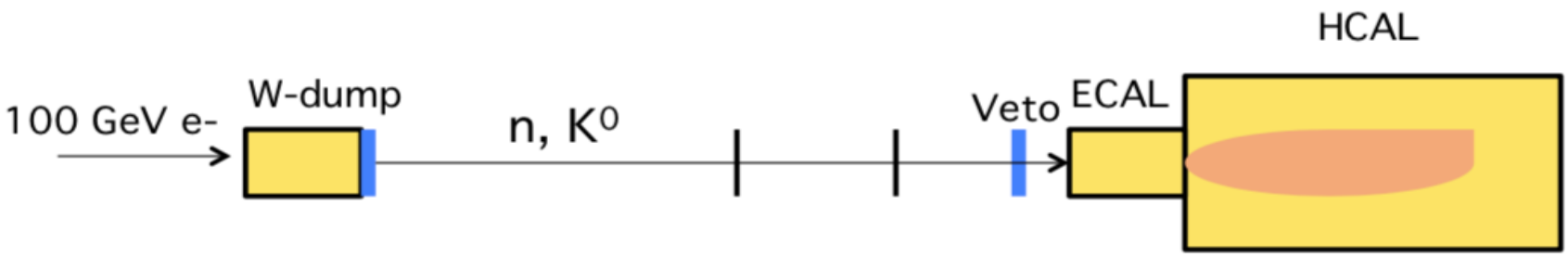


2018 run

More data, $3x10^{10}$ EOT(less than expected, SPS problems) were taken in June 2018 with the visible mode configuration optimized for bigger ε (short-lived X): 150 GeV beam, veto counter inside WCAL box, vacuum decay tube, larger distance WCAL - ECAL



Main background from $K^0_S \to \pi^0 \pi^0 \to \gamma$'s $\to e^+e^-$ decay chain

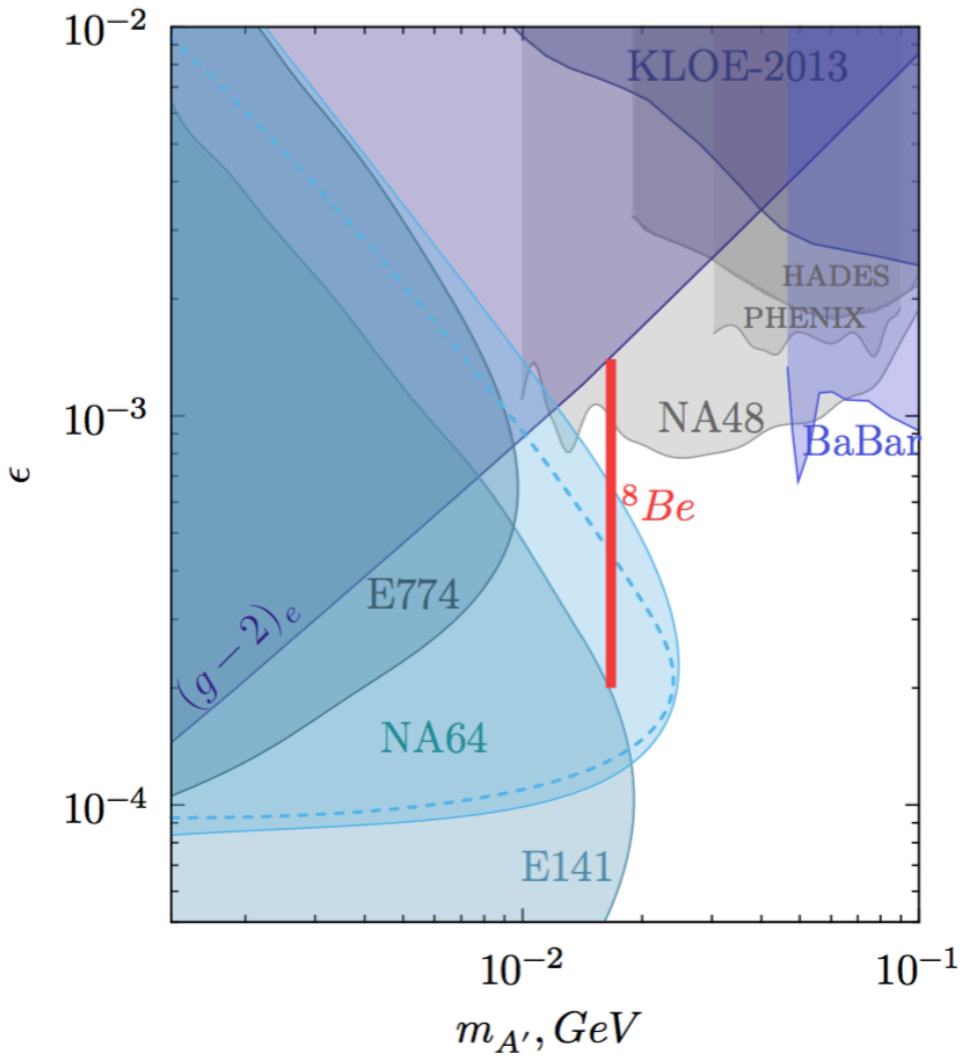


We used control sample to estimate this BG: fully neutral events

We performed also a search for pseudoscalar bosons. Here, we used also data collected in the invisible mode configuration, similarly to the ALP search

Results with 8.4 x 10^{10} EOT (+invis. mode data for pseudoscalar)

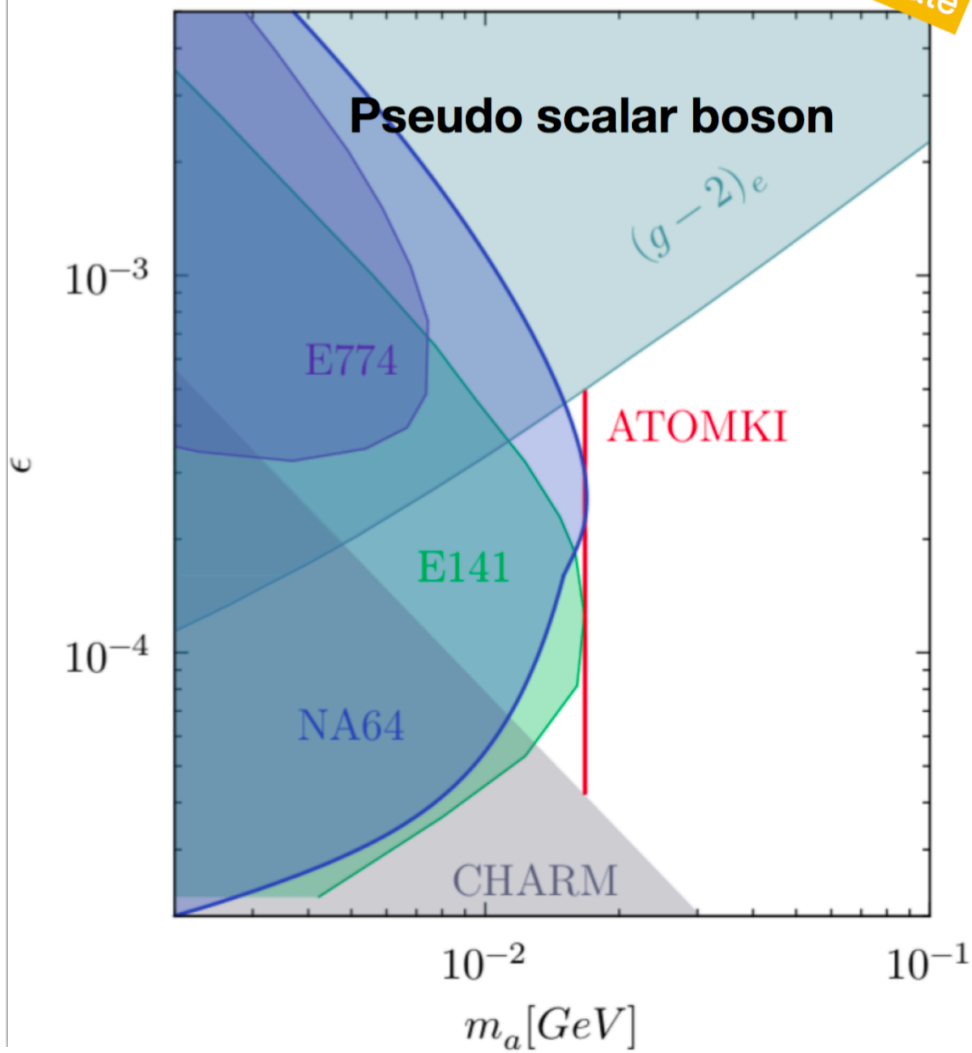
Vector, PRD 107, 071101 (R) 2020



arXiv: 2104.13342 [hep-ex]

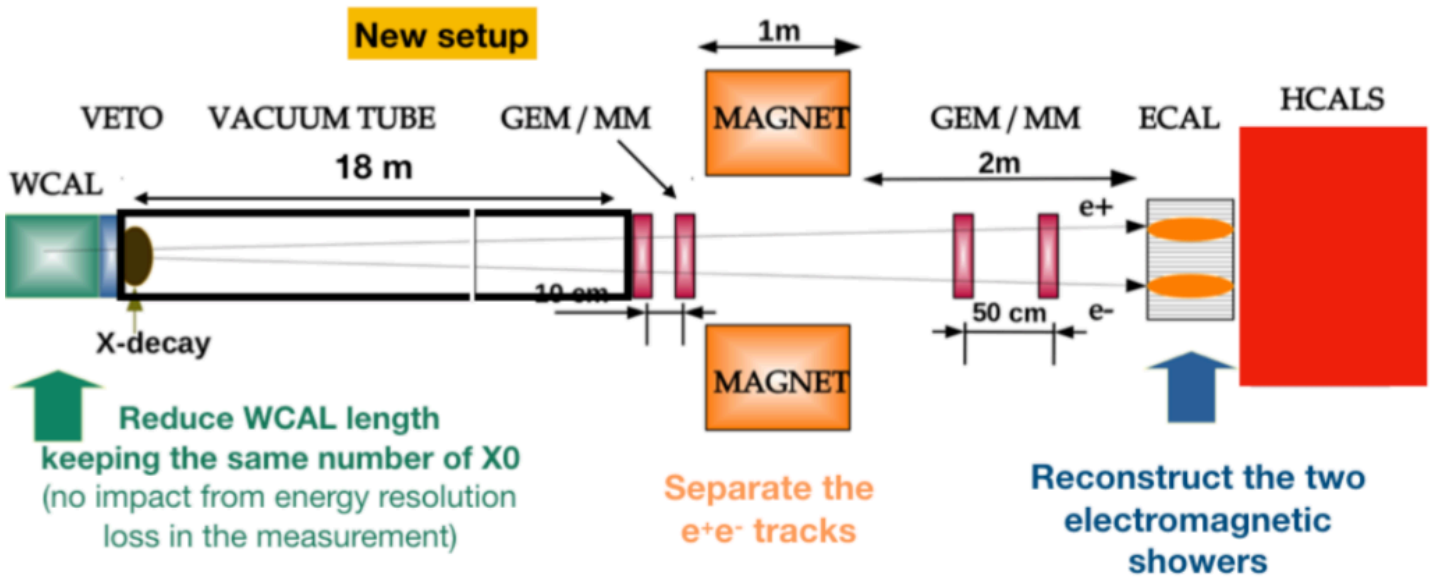
$e^-Z \to e^-Za;\ a \to e^+e^-$

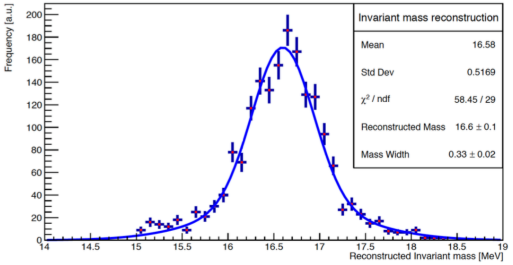
Update



Plans for the visible mode (2022)

Full parameter space
Invariant mass reconstruction





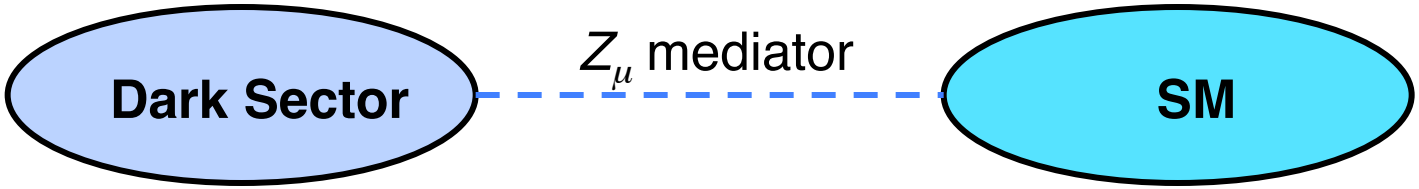
For vector:
cover ε up to
1.3×10^{-3}
with 10^{12} EOT

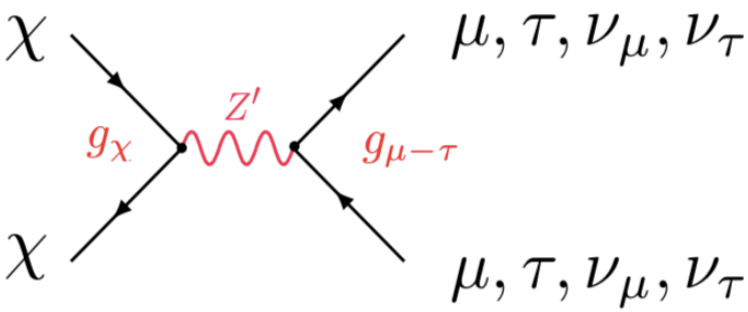
- New further optimized tungsten calorimeter WCAL
- Long decay tube
- Large area M
- Wide ECAL

Project described in
EPJ C 80 12 1159 (2020)

NA64μ

L_μ-L_τ Charged Dark Matter and Z_μ mediator





$$J^\mu_\chi = g_\chi \times \begin{cases} i\chi^*\partial_\mu\chi + h.c. & \text{Complex Scalar} \\ \overline{\chi}_1\gamma^\mu\chi_2 + h.c. & \text{Pseudo–Dirac Fermion} \\ \frac{1}{2}\overline{\chi}\gamma^\mu\gamma^5\chi & \text{Majorana Fermion} \\ \overline{\chi}\gamma^\mu\chi & \text{Dirac Fermion} \end{cases}$$

Gninenko, Krasnikov 1801.10448
Kahn, Krnjaic, Tran, Whitbeck 1804.03144

- free parameters m_χ, $m_{Z\mu}$, g_χ, g_μ
- Z_μ decays:

- $m_{Z\mu}<2m_\chi$-decays into SM, $Z_\mu \to \nu\nu, \mu^+\mu^-, \tau^+\tau^-$
- $m_{Z\mu}>2m_\chi$- invisible decays into DM: $Z_\mu \to \chi\chi, \nu\nu$,

$\alpha_D >> \alpha_{SM}$, $\alpha_D=g_\chi^2/4\pi$, $\alpha_{SM}=g_\mu^2/4\pi$

- Cross section for χ–DM annihilation:

$\Gamma_{inel} = n_\chi < \sigma v >$

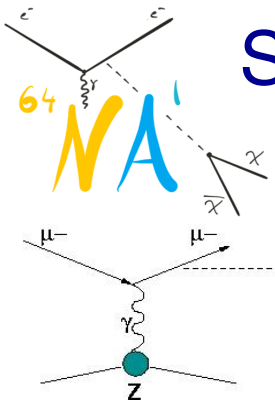
$\sigma v \approx [(g_\chi g_\mu)^2(m_\chi/m_{A'})^4]/m_\chi^2 = y/m_\chi^2$;

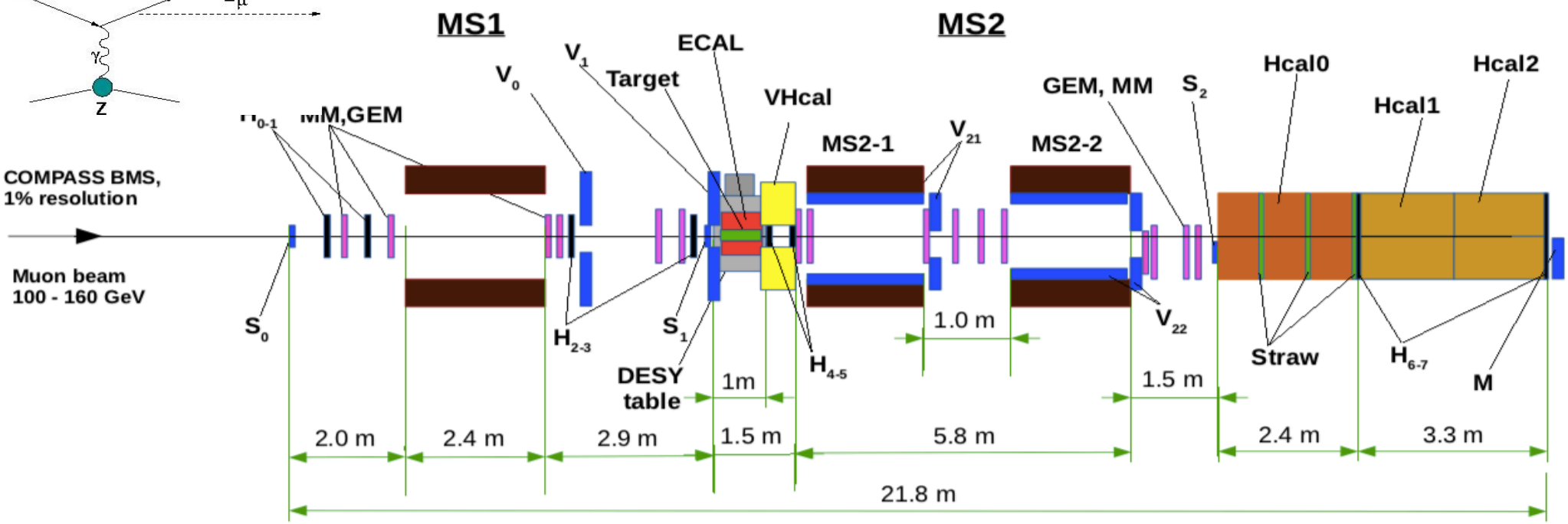
$y=[(g_\chi g_\mu)^2(m_\chi/m_{A'})^4]$ - useful variable to compare FTE sensitivities

Search for Z_μ in missing energy events on M2 beam

Motivated by $(g\text{-}2)_\mu$ measurements

Proposal NA64μ (2019)





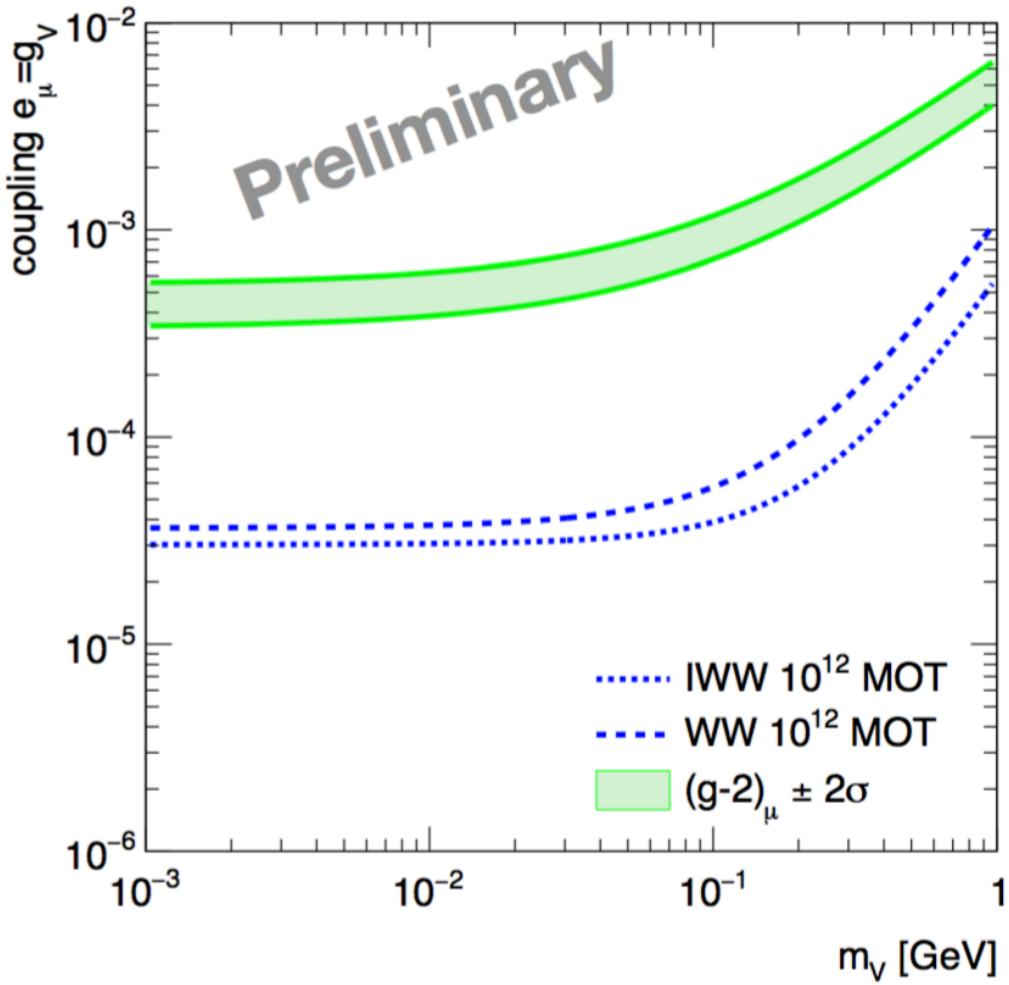
Main components :

- 100-160 GeV μ- beam, $I_\mu \sim 10^7 \mu$/spill.
- in μ tagging: BMS+MS1(MBPL+tracker)
- out μ tagging: MS2 (2MBPL+tracker)
- 4π fully hermetic ECAL+Veto+ HCAL

Signature:

- in: 160 GeV μ- track
- out: < 80 GeV μ- track
- small energy in the ECAL, Veto, HCAL
- Sensitivity ~ g_μ^2

Pilot run on M2 already in october 2021



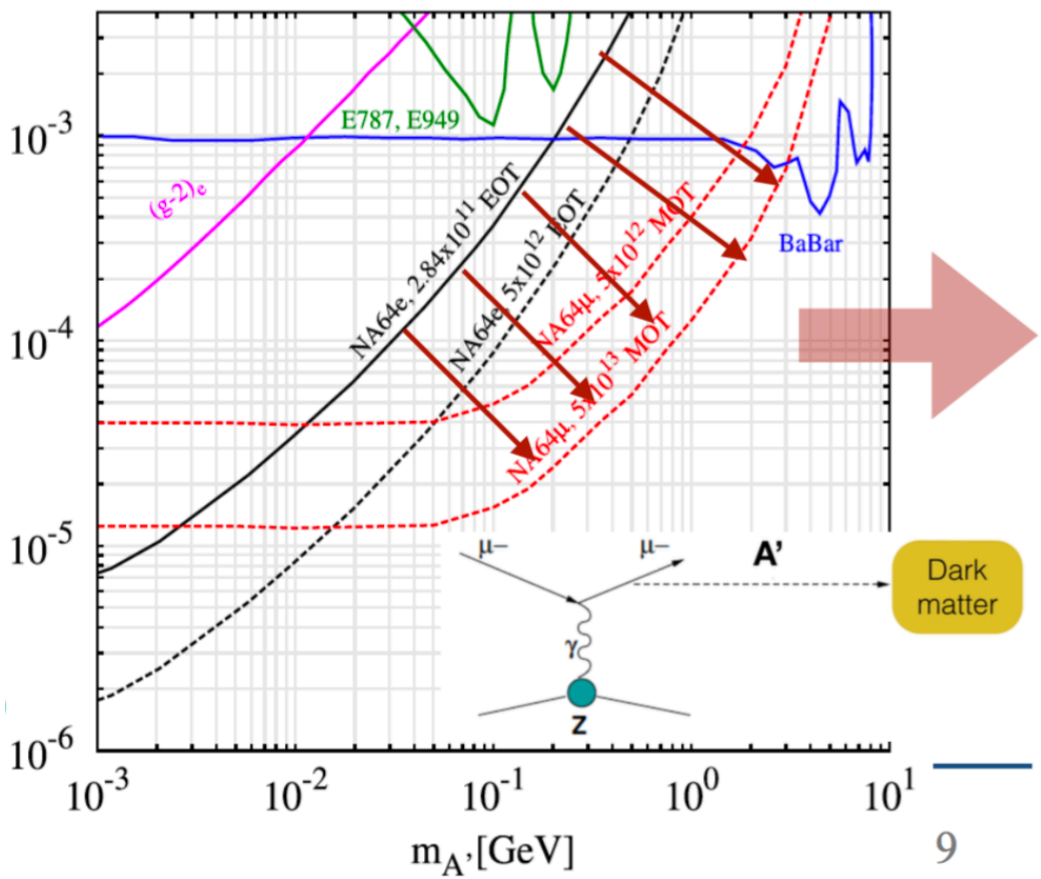
We moved recently to WW cross sections, they are close to ETL, σ_{tot} and $d\sigma/dXd\psi$, Ψ – recoil muon angle

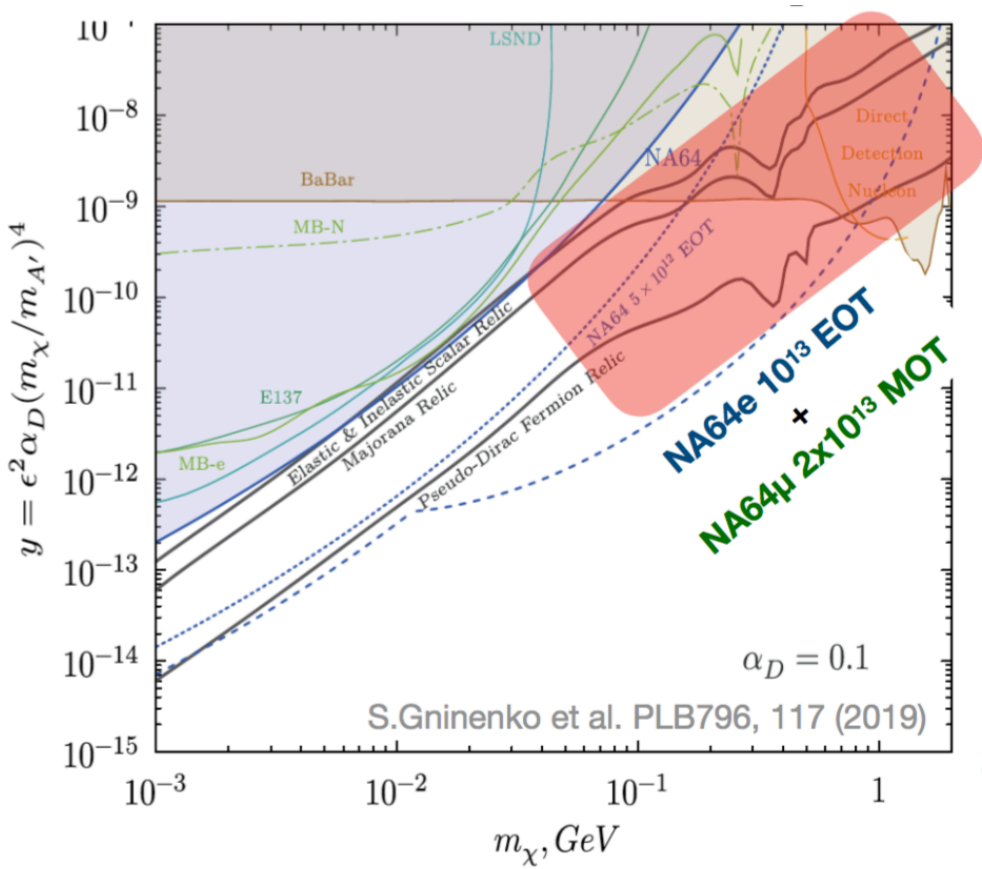
Pilot run (~10^{10}?) to check trigger rate and noise conditions

- New wide HCAL
- New special ECAL

Searches for A' with NA64μ

Better sensitivity to heavy A' (>100 MeV)



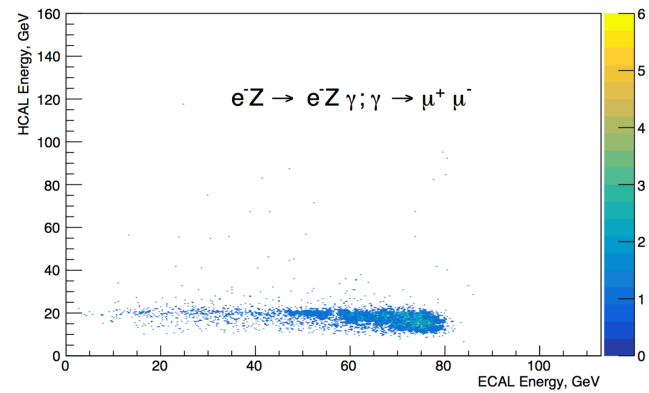


9

Backup slides

Backup

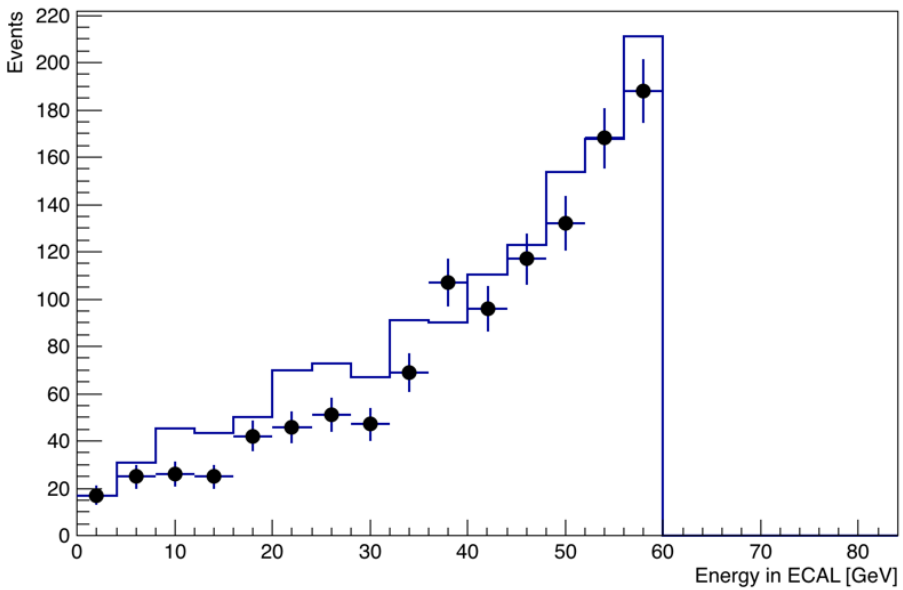
Dimuon production as a reference process

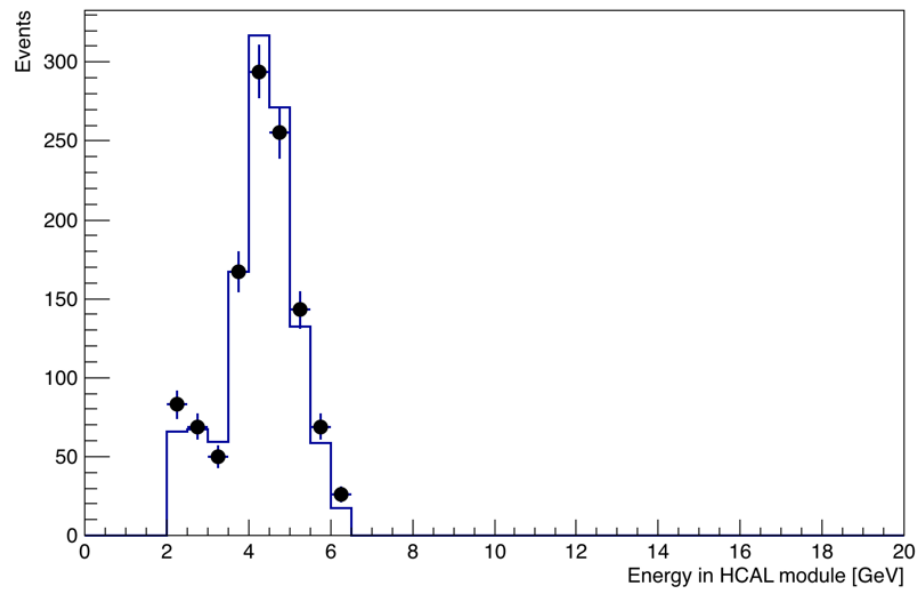


- There is an excellent reference process: gamma to muons conversion. It is rather rare and has many similarities with our signal
- Several 10^4 dimuon pairs with both muons reaching all HCAL modules are registered in the 2016 runs
- The process is available in GEANT4, off by default
- We bias the cross section in GEANT4 by a factor of 200 in order to have good statistics with reasonable CPU time.
- Reasonable agreement DATA - MC

Dimuon reconstruction

HCAL module 3





Dimuons selection: $E_{ECAL} < 60$ GeV

$2.5 < E_{HCAL1} < 6.35$

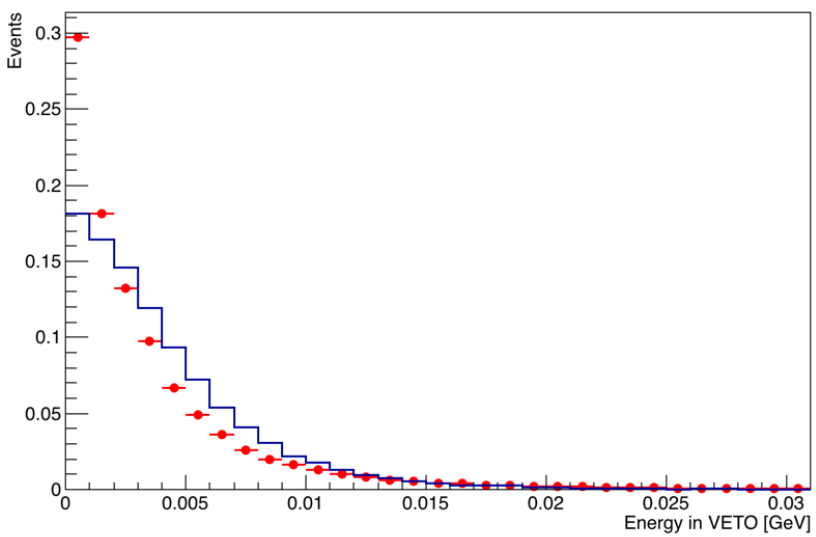
$2 < E_{HCAL3} < 6.35$

Left plot: number of dimuons in DATA ~ 0.92 of MC prediction, slightly smaller at high intensity -> efficiency correction

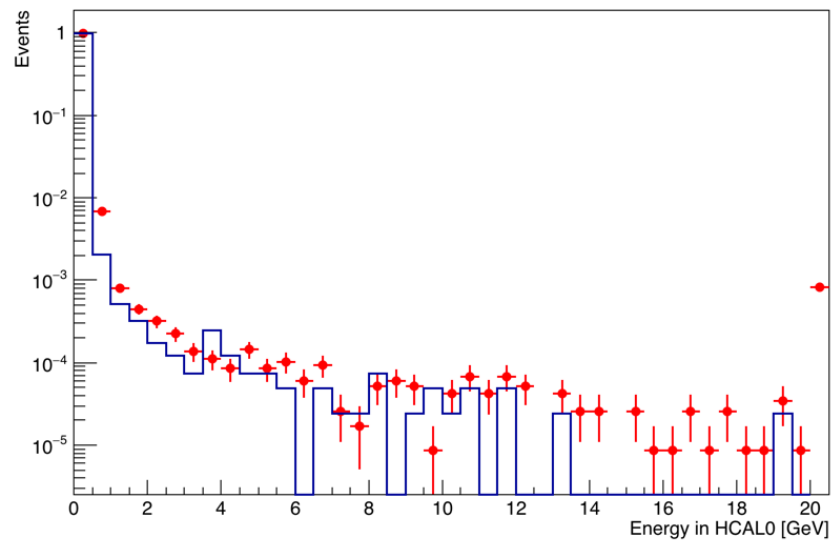
Analysis: efficiency corrections and uncertainties

Efficiency type	Method	Efficiency	uncertainty
Trigger and SRD selection, DAQ	Dimuons analysis	0.91	10%
VETO cut	Comparison MC - data in calib. runs	1	5%
HCAL cut	Comparison MC - data in calib. runs	0.99	5%

Veto: cut at 0.01 GeV



HCAL0: cut at 1 GeV

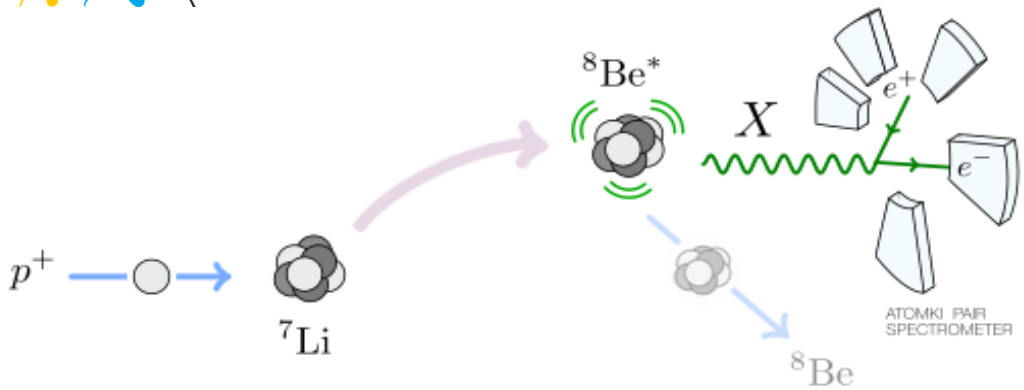


Analysis

- Data collected in the automn 2016 run are divided in 3 bins: low, medium and high intensity
- For each bin the background, efficiency corrections and their uncertainties are estimated
- The expected sensitivity was calculated with ProfileLikelihood method
- The limits are calculated with CL_S method

ATOMKI $^8Be^*$ anomaly: a new 17 MeV gauge boson?

$^7Li(p,\gamma)^8Be$, M_X =17 MeV



Feng et al, 2016

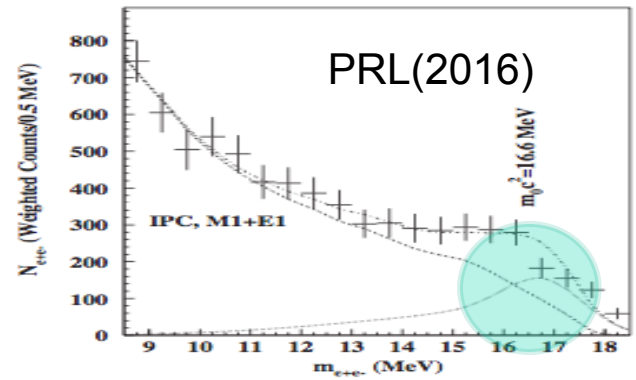
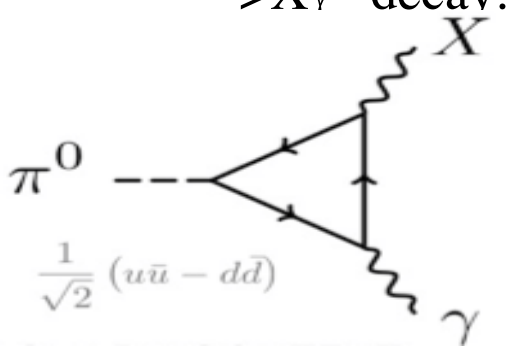


FIG. 5. Invariant mass distribution derived for the 18.15 MeV transition in ^{8}Be.

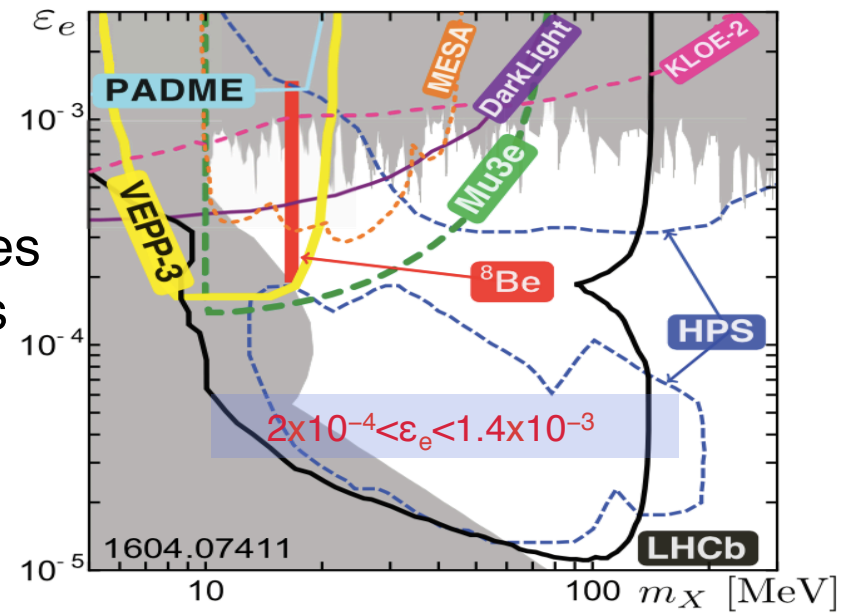
X cannot be A´due to constraints from π^0->Xγ decay:



$\Gamma(\pi^0\text{->}X\gamma)\sim(\varepsilon_u q_u-\varepsilon_d q_d)^2\sim 0$

if $2\varepsilon_u=-\varepsilon_d$ -> protophobic X

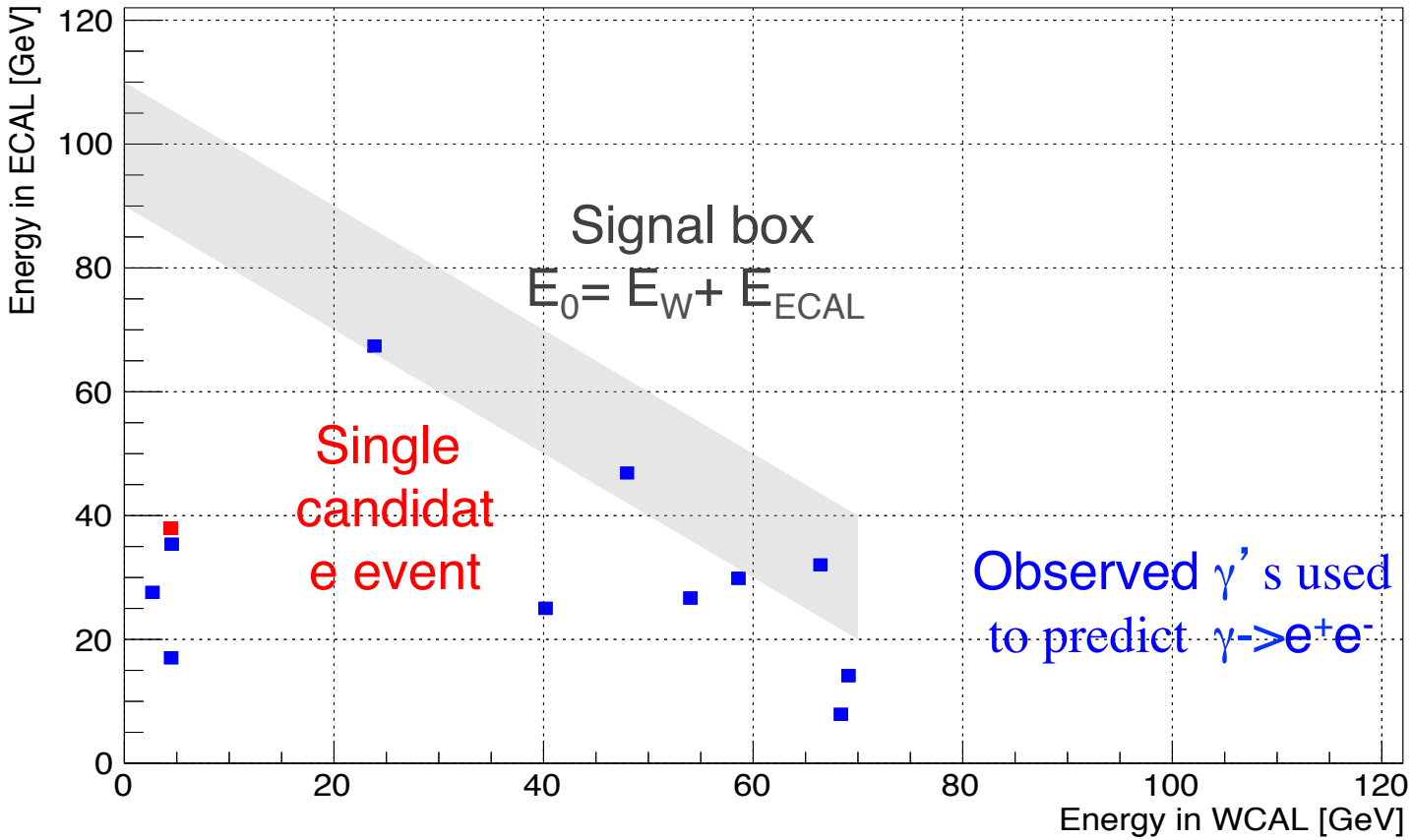
Coloured lines are projects



Final estimate of the background

Source of background	Events
e^+e^- pair production by punchthrough γ	< 0.001
$K_S^0 \to 2\pi^0; \pi^0 \to \gamma e^+e^-$ or $\gamma \to e^+e^-$; $K_S^0 \to \pi^+\pi^-$	0.06 ± 0.034
$\pi N \to (\geq 1)\pi^0 + n + ...; \pi^0 \to \gamma e^+e^-$ or $\gamma \to e^+e^-$	0.01 ± 0.004
π^- hard bremsstrahlung in the WCAL , $\gamma \to e^+e^-$	< 0.0001
$\pi, K \to e\nu$, K_{e4} decays	< 0.001
$eZ \to eZ\mu^+\mu^-; \mu^\pm \to e^\pm\nu\nu$	< 0.001
punchthrough π	< 0.003
Total	0.07 ± 0.035

Results from 2017 run, 5.4×10^{10} EOT



Event selection 2018 at 150 GeV: criteria

- SRD tag (with only 2 modules because of smaller bend)
- E_{WCAL} < 105 GeV (preliminary trigger selection E_{WCAL}< ~110 GeV)
- E_{V2} < 0.6 MIP (no charged particles after WCAL).
- E_{S4} > 1.5 MIP (two charged particles in ECAL).
  Control region for neutrals: E_{S4} < 0.7 MIP
- E_{WCAL} + E_{ECAL} > 125 GeV
- Shower profile in ECAL compatible with electron (or with two very close electrons)
- Small energy in VETO and HCAL