

Rare signatures at missing momentum experiments

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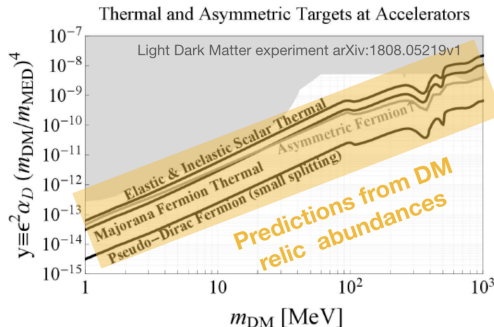
Quarks 2026, Petrozavodsk, May 18-23, 2026

Motivations for searching for light DM mediators

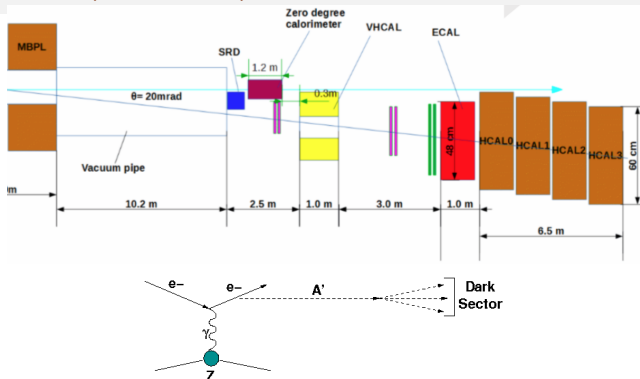
- They are popular candidates for solution of experimental anomalies: MiniBooNE, ^8Be , XENON1T
- They could act as a mediator to a Dark Detector (DS). DS consists of particles and fields which are singlets with respect to the gauge group of the SM. It interacts with the SM possibly via a new interaction transmitted by the mediator.

DARK MATTER $\longleftrightarrow$ MEDIATOR $\longleftrightarrow$ STANDARD MODEL

- The most popular models of Dark Matter χ mediated by vector: **Scalar Dark Matter, Majorana Dark Matter, Pseudo Dirac Dark Matter**

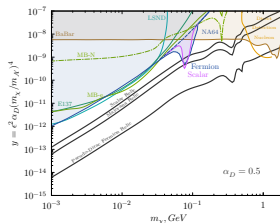
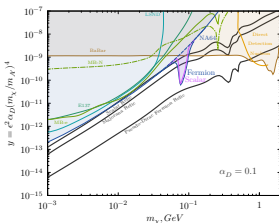
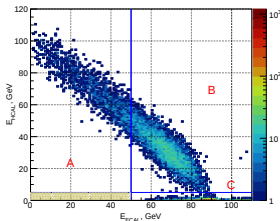


NA64e experiment setup (invisible mode): Proposed by S.Gninenko Phys.Rev.D 89 (2014) 7, 07500 (INR Moscow)

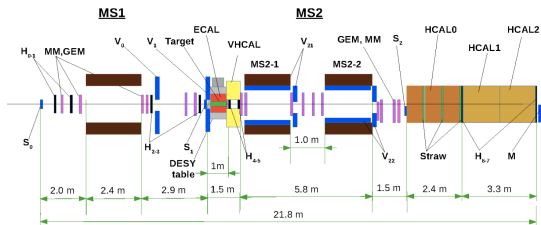
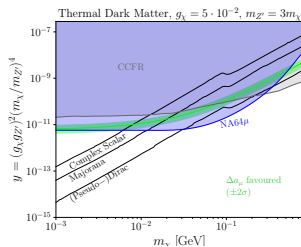
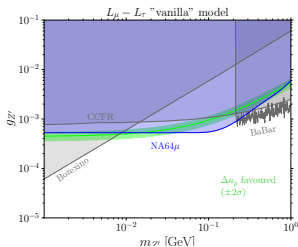


- **NA64** is designed to search for dark sector physics in missing-energy events with $e^\pm, \mu, \pi, K, p$ beams.
- **Main Components:** a) clean $E_0 = 100 \text{ GeV } e^-$ beam; b) e^- tagging system: tracker+SRD; c) hermetic ECAL+HCAL;
- **Signature:** a) in: $100 \text{ GeV } e^-$ track; b) out: $E_{\text{ECAL}} < E_0/2$ electromagnetic shower in ECAL; c) no energy in Veto and HCAL;
- **Background:** a) μ, π, K decays in flight; b) upstream interaction; c) Tail $< 50 \text{ GeV}$ in the e^- beam; d) energy leak from ECAL+HCAL

NA64e current results: brems. and annihilation channels



- $E_{beam} \simeq E_{HCAL} + E_{ECAL}$ is the energy conservation for the experimental facility
- NA64e allows to probe invisible decays of Dark Matter mediators: $eN \rightarrow eNX (X \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi})$, where X is a general hidden boson (spin 0, spin 1, spin 2) the mediator between SM and DM particle χ (Scalar, Dirac or Majorana).
- Signal box (A) of missing energy signature: no events in $E_{ECAL} \lesssim 50$ GeV & $E_{HCAL} \lesssim 1$ GeV
- Resonance annihilation channel using the secondary positrons present in the EM shower in the target induced by the initial electron beam
- Improvement limit on ϵ up to factor 10 in the resonant region $m_{A'} \simeq (2m_e E_{cut})^{1/2}$
- Probing resonant $e^+e^- \rightarrow A' \rightarrow \chi\chi$ production by electron beam: Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 9 (2108.04195 [hep-ph])
- Current result for combined statistics 9.37×10^{11} : Phys.Rev.Lett. 131 (2023) 16, 161801



- Experimental runs
 - 3 w run at M2 in Oct.- Nov. 2021
 - 3 w run in April 2022, 100-160 GeV μ ,
 - 3 w run in July + Aug 2023, 100-160 GeV μ ,
- GOAL: probing $L_\mu - L_\tau$ scenario and some DM benchmark models with NA64 μ Phys.Rev.D 104 (2021) 7, 076012, e-Print: 2107.13297 [hep-ph]
- Current result: Phys. Rev. Lett. 132 (2024) 21, 211803
PHYSICAL REVIEW D 110, 112015 (2024) $\rightarrow 1.98 \times 10^{10}$ MOT

Probing Millicharged particles (MCP) with NA64e

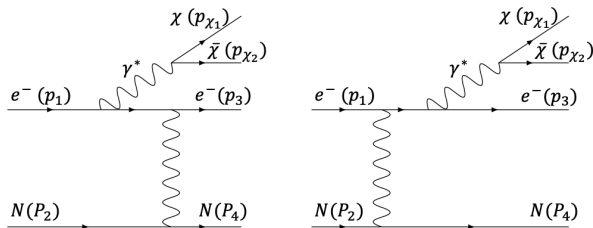


Figure: Feynman diagrams for MCP pair production process.

The Lagrangian can be written as follows

$$\mathcal{L} \supset i\bar{\chi}\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu\chi - m_\chi\bar{\chi}\chi + e\epsilon A_\mu\bar{\chi}\gamma^\mu\chi, \quad (1)$$

where m_χ is the Dirac mass of the hidden MCPs and A_μ is the SM photon.

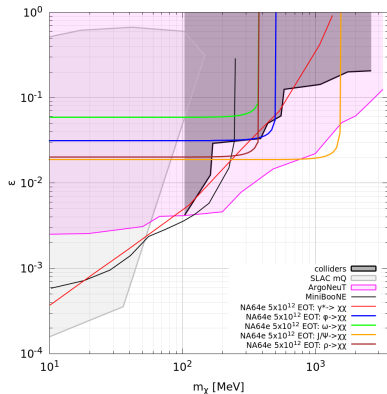
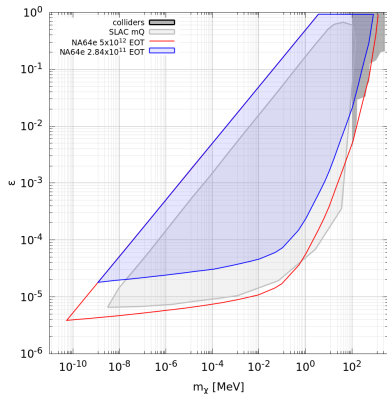
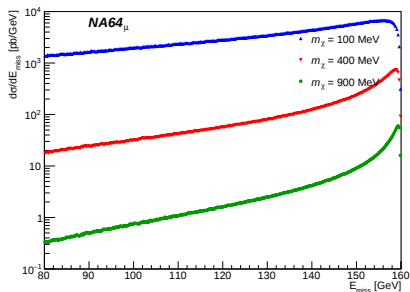
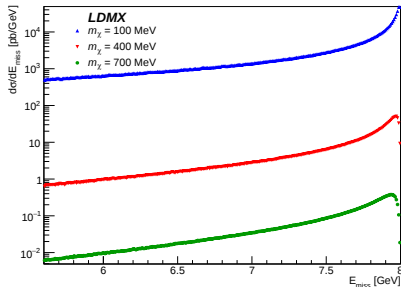
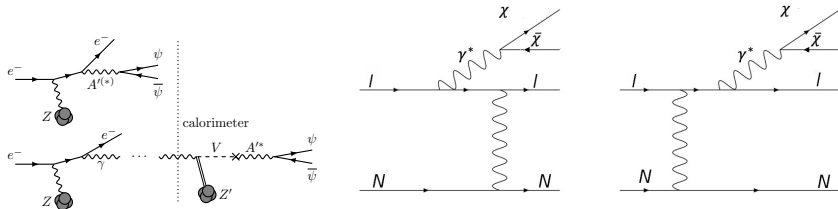
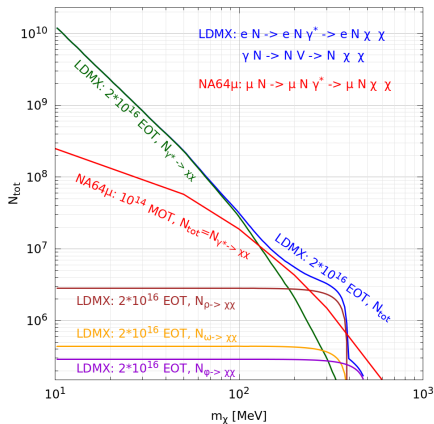
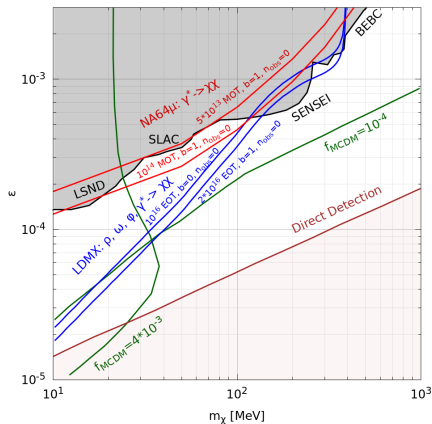


Figure: The expected sensitivity (90% C.L.) of NA64e in the (ϵ, m_χ) plane. We take into account invisible decays of vector mesons to the MCPs and MCP production by the energetic beam electrons via bremsstrahlung-like mode $\gamma^* \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi}$ for the prospect statistics $N_{EOT} = 5 \times 10^{12}$ and MCP mass range $10 \text{ MeV} \leq m_\chi \leq 1.5 \text{ GeV}$. The Sub-MeV limits are complementary to the CONNIE experiment.

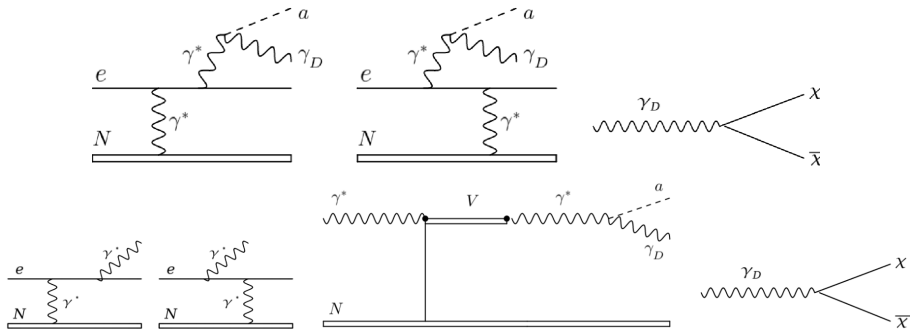
Probing MCP with NA64 μ and LDMX



Probing MCP with NA64 μ and LDMX: EPJC, 2505.04295



Probing Dark Axion Portal

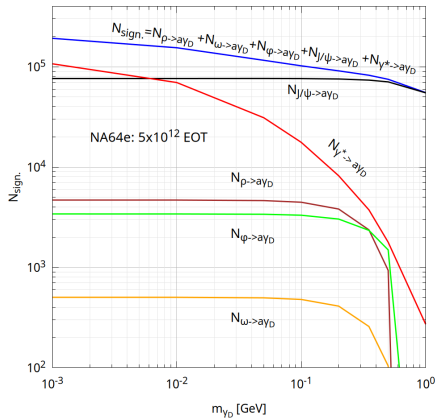
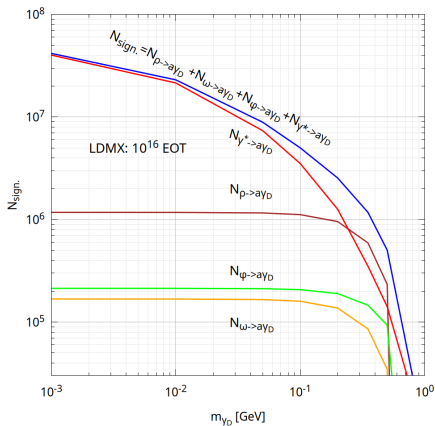


$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{dark axion portal}} \supset \frac{g_a \gamma \gamma_D}{2} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}'^{\mu\nu}, \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{DS}} \supset \bar{\chi} (i \gamma^\mu D_\mu - m_\chi) \chi, \quad (2)$$

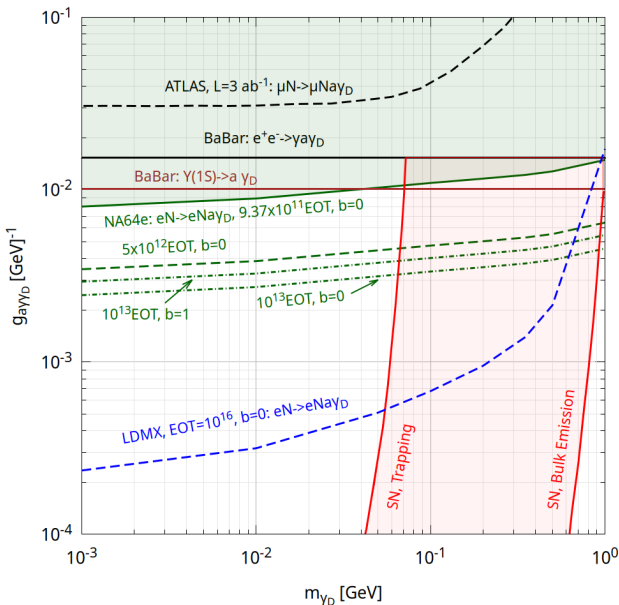
$$N_{\gamma^* \rightarrow a \gamma_D} \simeq \text{EOT} \cdot \frac{\rho N_A}{A} L_T \int_{E_{\min}}^{E_{\max}} dE_{\text{miss}} \frac{d\sigma_{2 \rightarrow 4}(E_e)}{dE_{\text{miss}}}, \quad N_{V \rightarrow a \gamma_D} \simeq N_V \times \text{Br}_{V \rightarrow a \gamma_D}, \quad (3)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{VMD}} \supset - \sum_V \frac{e m_V^2}{g_V} A_\mu V^\mu, \quad \Gamma_{V \rightarrow a \gamma_D} = \frac{e^2 g_a^2 \gamma \gamma_D}{96 \pi} \frac{m_V^3}{g_V^2} \left(1 - \frac{m_{\gamma_D}^2}{m_V^2} \right)^3. \quad (4)$$

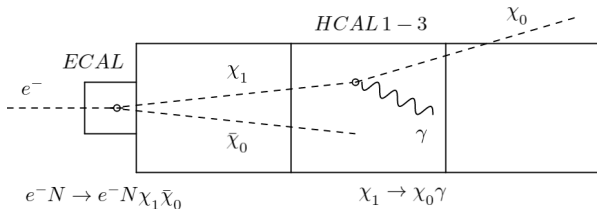
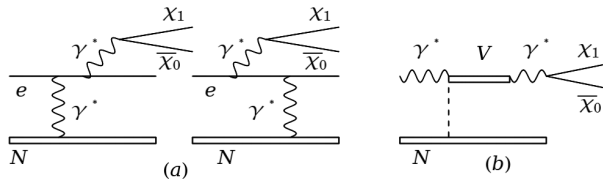
Probing Dark Axion Portal: number of signal events



Probing Dark Axion Portal: exclusion plot (2602.11405, accepted for publication in PRD)

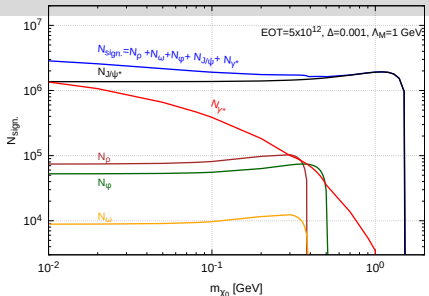
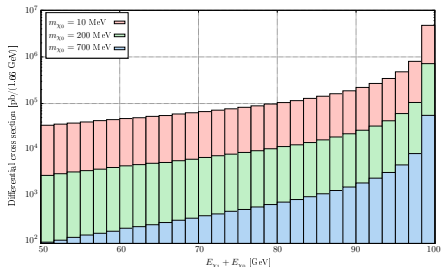


Probing magnetic dipole inelastic DM (MD iDM)



$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{\Lambda_M} \bar{\chi}_1 \sigma^{\mu\nu} \chi_0 F_{\mu\nu}, \quad \Delta = (m_{\chi_1} - m_{\chi_0})/m_{\chi_0} \ll 1, \quad (5)$$

$$E_\gamma \simeq \gamma_{\chi_1} m_{\chi_0} \Delta \lesssim \mathcal{O}(10^{-2}) \text{ GeV} \quad (6)$$

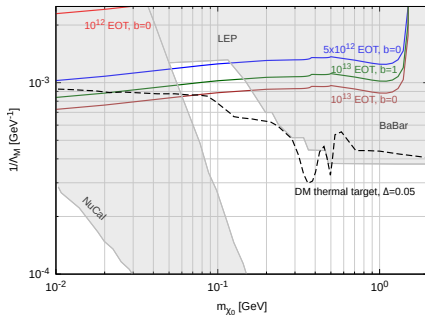
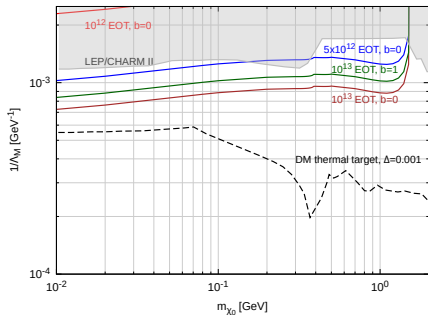


$$N_{\gamma^* \rightarrow \chi_1 \bar{\chi}_0} \simeq \text{EOT} \cdot \frac{\rho N_A}{A} L_T \int_{E_{\min}}^{E_{\max}} dE_{\text{miss}} \frac{d\sigma_{2 \rightarrow 4}(E_e)}{dE_{\text{miss}}}, \quad N_{V \rightarrow \chi_1 \bar{\chi}_0} \propto N_V \times \text{Br}_{V \rightarrow e^+ e^-} \times M_V^2 / \Lambda_M^2.$$

$$N_{\text{sign.}} \simeq N_{\gamma^* \rightarrow \chi_1 \bar{\chi}_0} + \sum_V N_{V \rightarrow \chi_1 \bar{\chi}_0}. \quad (7)$$

V	M_V (MeV)	N_V	$\text{Br}_{V \rightarrow e^+ e^-}$
ρ	775	1.2×10^8	4.7×10^{-5}
ω	782	9×10^6	7.3×10^{-5}
ϕ	1019	8×10^6	2.9×10^{-4}
J/ψ	3097	1.1×10^5	5.9×10^{-2}

Probing MD iDM: expected reach of NA64e (2603.28278, submitted to PRD)



We show that by accounting for heavy vector mesons decays, $\gamma^* N \rightarrow NV (\rightarrow \chi_1 \bar{\chi}_0)$ along with bremsstrahlung-like emission of iDM pairs, $e^- N \rightarrow e^- N \gamma^* (\rightarrow \chi_1 \bar{\chi}_0)$, will allow NA64e to probe still unexplored region of iDM parameter space with sufficiently small splittings, $\Delta = 5 \times 10^{-2}$, and relatively light masses $m_{\chi_0} \lesssim 100$ MeV. To achieve the required sensitivity an upgrade of the NA64e setup is currently in progress.

Probing spin-2 DM mediators with NA64e, NA64 μ , M³, E137, and LDMX (EPJC, 2412.10150)

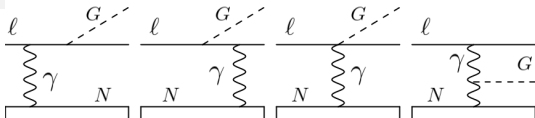
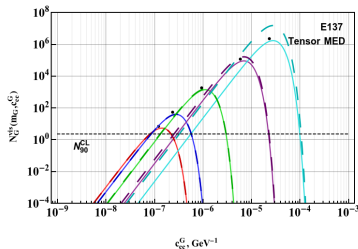
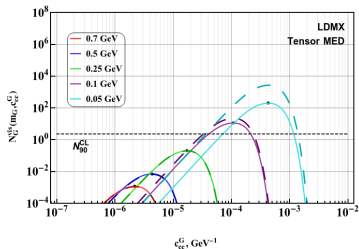
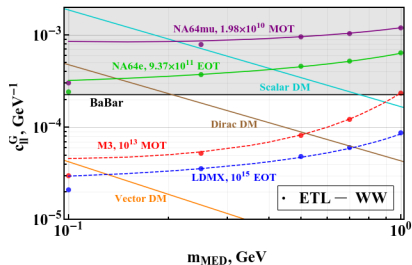
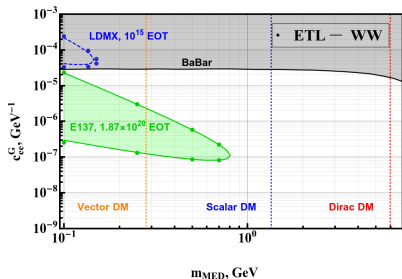


Figure: Feynman diagrams describing bremsstrahlung-like signature for the tensor mediator.

	NA64e	LDMX	NA64 μ	M ³	E137
target material	Pb	Al	Pb	W	Al
Z, atomic number	82	13	82	74	13
A, g · mole ⁻¹	207	27	207	184	27
$x_{\text{cut}} = E_G^{\text{cut}}/E_l$	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.1
$l^\pm$, primary beam	$e^\pm$	e^-	$\mu^\pm$	$\mu^\pm$	e^-
E_l , GeV, beam energy	100	16	160	15	20
vis. mode, $G \rightarrow \text{SM} + \text{SM}$	+	+	-	-	+
inv. mode, $G \rightarrow \text{DM} + \text{DM}$	+	+	+	+	-
LOT _{current}	9.37×10^{11}	-	1.98×10^{10}	-	1.87×10^{20}
LOT _{expected}	5×10^{12}	10^{15}	5×10^{13}	1×10^{13}	-

Table: The benchmark parameters for the spin-2 mediator production cross section $l^\pm N \rightarrow l^\pm N + G$ at the lepton fixed-target experiments.

Probing spin-2 DM mediators with NA64e, NA64 μ , M³, E137, and LDMX (EPJC, 2412.10150)



Conclusion

Prospects of NA64++ before LS3:

– New area at H4 and setup upgrade to run at high intensity with $e^\pm$ -beam. Probing light dark matter parameter space for $m_{A'} > 100$ MeV with resonant A' production.

– Main goal to explore LDM parameter space with $\gtrsim 5 \times 10^{12}$ EOT

– We have probed dark sectors weakly coupled to muons with NA64 $_\mu$:
 $L_\mu - L_\tau \rightarrow Z'$: data collected in 2022-2024

Prospects for fixed target:

– NA64e and NA64 $_\mu$ can be sensitive to the unexplored region of the Millicharged Particles, the Dark Axion Portal scenario, Magnetic Dipole inelastic DM.

– NA64e, NA64 $_\mu$, M³, LDMX: variety scenarios involving spin-1 and spin-2 DM mediators can be tested

– the typical signature is $l + N \rightarrow l + N + \text{MED}$, followed by
 $\text{MED} \rightarrow \text{DM} + \text{DM}$

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