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# Light Hidden Sector Search

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**ASTROCENT**



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POLAND



# MULTIPLE SIGNATURES

## ACCELERATOR-BASED SEARCHES

Prompt decays  
(incl. Higgs) & resonances

Displaced decays (LLP)

Ionization  
(millicharged particles)

Missing  
mass/energy/momentum

DM rescattering

## DARK MATTER SEARCHES

DM direct detection  
(non-relativistic)

DM indirect detection  
& astrophysical probes

Neutrino interactions  
(NSI,  $\nu$  prod. rates...)

Neutrino physics:  
Thursday sessions

Quantum sensors

Precision physics:  $(g-2)_\mu$ , flavor physics, isotope shifts,...

Flavor physics: Wednesday sessions

Axion & Axion-like particles (ALPs): Friday sessions

...and many other signatures 2

**SIGNATURES**

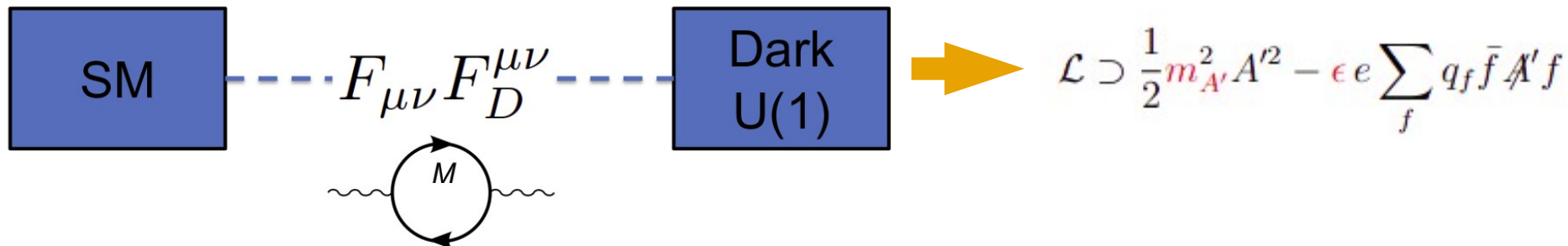
THIS TALK ↑

# EXPERIMENTAL LANDSCAPE (ACCELERATOR)

Experiment	Facility	Beam Config	Beam Energy	Det Signature	Timeline
US-based					
HPS	CEBAF @ JLab	electron FT	1-6 GeV	LLP	running
COHERENT	SNS @ ORNL	proton FT	1 GeV	rescattering	running
CCM	LANSE @ LANL	proton FT	0.8 GeV	rescattering	running
SpinQuest/DarkQuest	MI @ FNAL	proton FT	120 GeV	LLP	construction, proposed upgrade
LDMX	LESA @ SLAC	electron FT	4-8 GeV	Missing X	R&D funding, 2024
BDX	CEBAF @ JLab	electron BD	11 GeV	rescattering, Millicharged	proposed
JPOS	CEBAF @ JLab	positron FT	11 GeV	Missing X	proposed
PIP-II BD	PIP-II @ FNAL	proton FT	1 GeV	rescattering, LLP	proposed (2029)
SBN-BD	Booster @ FNAL	proton BD	8 GeV	rescattering	proposed (2029)
REDTOP	TBD	proton FT	1-5 GeV	Missing X, LLP, Prompt	proposed
M <sup>3</sup>	MI @ FNAL	muon FT	15 GeV muons	Missing X	proposed
FNAL- $\mu$	muon campus @ FNAL	muon FT	3 GeV	LLP	proposed
International					
Belle-II	SuperKEKB @ KEK	e+e- collider	150 MeV	Missing X, LLP, Prompt	running
CODEX-p	LHC @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	LLP	construction (2023)
CODEX-b	LHC @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	LLP	proposed (2026)
LHCb	LHC @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	LLP, Prompt	running, future upgrade planned
NA62	SPS-H4 @ CERN	proton BD	400 GeV	LLP	dedicated running planned
FASERnu	LHC @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	rescattering	running
milliQAN	LHC @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	Millicharged	running
DarkMESA	MESA @ Mainz	Electron FT	150 MeV	rescattering, LLP	construction (2023)
NA64-e	SPS-H4 @ CERN	electron FT	100-150 GeV	Missing X, Prompt	running
NA64-mu	SPS-M2 @ CERN	muon FT	100-160 GeV	Missing X	commissioning
NA64/POKER	SPS-H4 @ CERN	positron FT	100 GeV	Missing X	planned (2024)
PIONEER	$\pi$ E5 @ PSI	proton FT	10-20 MeV pions	Prompt	planned (2028)
FASER2	FPF @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	LLP	proposed (2029)
FORMOSA	FPF @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	Millicharged	proposed (2029)
FASERnu2	FPF @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	rescattering	proposed (2029)
FLArE	FPF @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	rescattering	proposed (2029)
SND@LHC	LHC @ CERN	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	rescattering	running
Advanced SND@LHC	FPF	pp collider	6.5-7 TeV	rescattering	proposed (2029)

# PROTOTYPE SCENARIO – DARK PHOTON

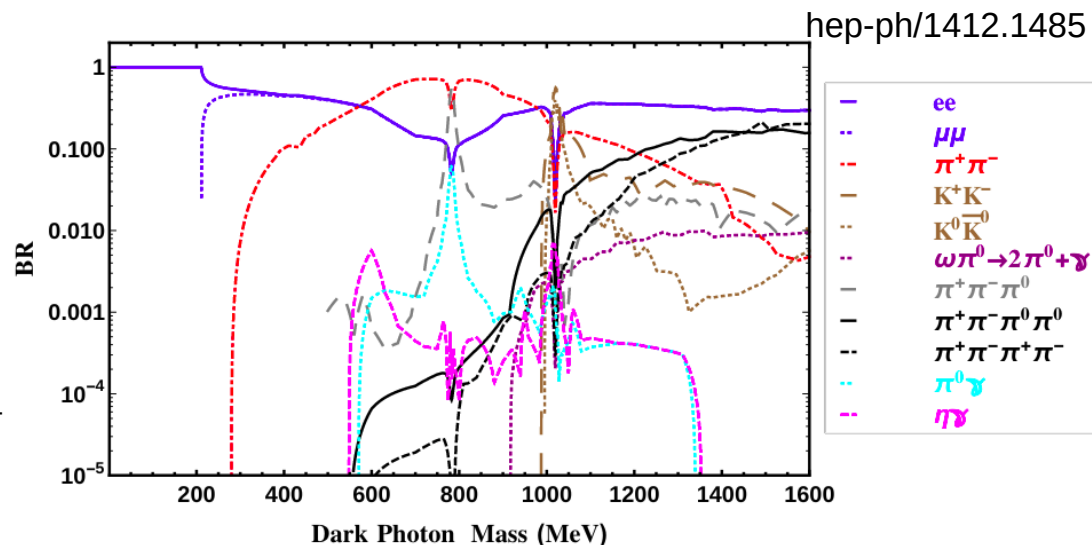
- New light ( $\sim$ sub-GeV) vector secluded from the SM, coupled via kinetic mixing  
(can be induced by heavy new fields at the loop level charged under both  $U(1)$  and  $U(1)_D$ )
- Suppressed couplings to SM fermions



- Dark photons can decay into SM fermions

- Lifetime depends on  $\epsilon$   
Decays can be **PROMPT**  
and **DISPLACED**

- Various final states are possible  
Below 500 MeV mass di-lepton  
final states  $e^+e^-$  &  $\mu^+\mu^-$



# LHCb

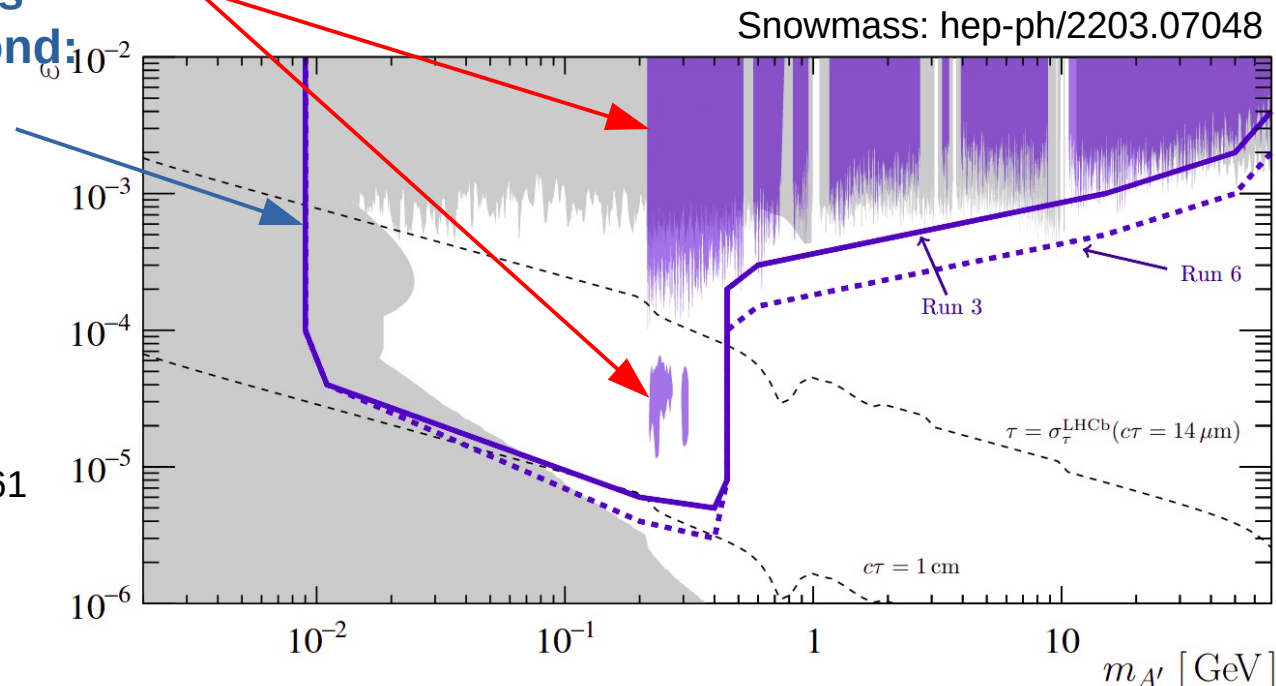
## PROMPT DECAYS + RESONANCES & DISPLACED DECAYS

- Inclusive  $A'$  production + decay into di-muon pairs  $A' \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$
- Search for  $A'$  resonance excess over expected SM  $\mu^+\mu^-$  backgrounds
- Both **PROMPT** and **DISPLACED** decays are studied  
(Run 2 results: hep-ex/1710.02867 & 1910.06926)

### Substantial improvements possible in Run 3 and beyond:

- electron identification in the high-level trigger allows to study  $A' \rightarrow e^+e^-$
- further improvement of the first level trigger (Allen)

physics.ins-det/1912.09161



## PROMPT DECAYS + RESONANCES

## OTHER BOUNDS

**NA48/2, NA62** (past: hep-ex/1504.00607, future Run 3)

Large sample of tagged  $\pi^0$  from kaon decays

Search for dark photon via

$$\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma A', A' \rightarrow e^+ e^-$$

**BaBar** (hep-ex/1406.2980)

Search for narrow resonances in  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma(e/\mu)^+(e/\mu)^-$

Dark photon:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma A', A' \rightarrow e^+e^-, \mu^+\mu^-$

Belle-II physics case: hep-ex/1808.10567

## Expected bounds (selected):

### - Belle-II

SuperKEKB  $e^+e^-$  collider

**Data taking from 2019, upgrade (2022-23)**

Expected 2-3 ab<sup>-1</sup> in 2026

Full dataset 50ab<sup>-1</sup> (100 x BaBar)

### - Heavy Photon Search (HPS)

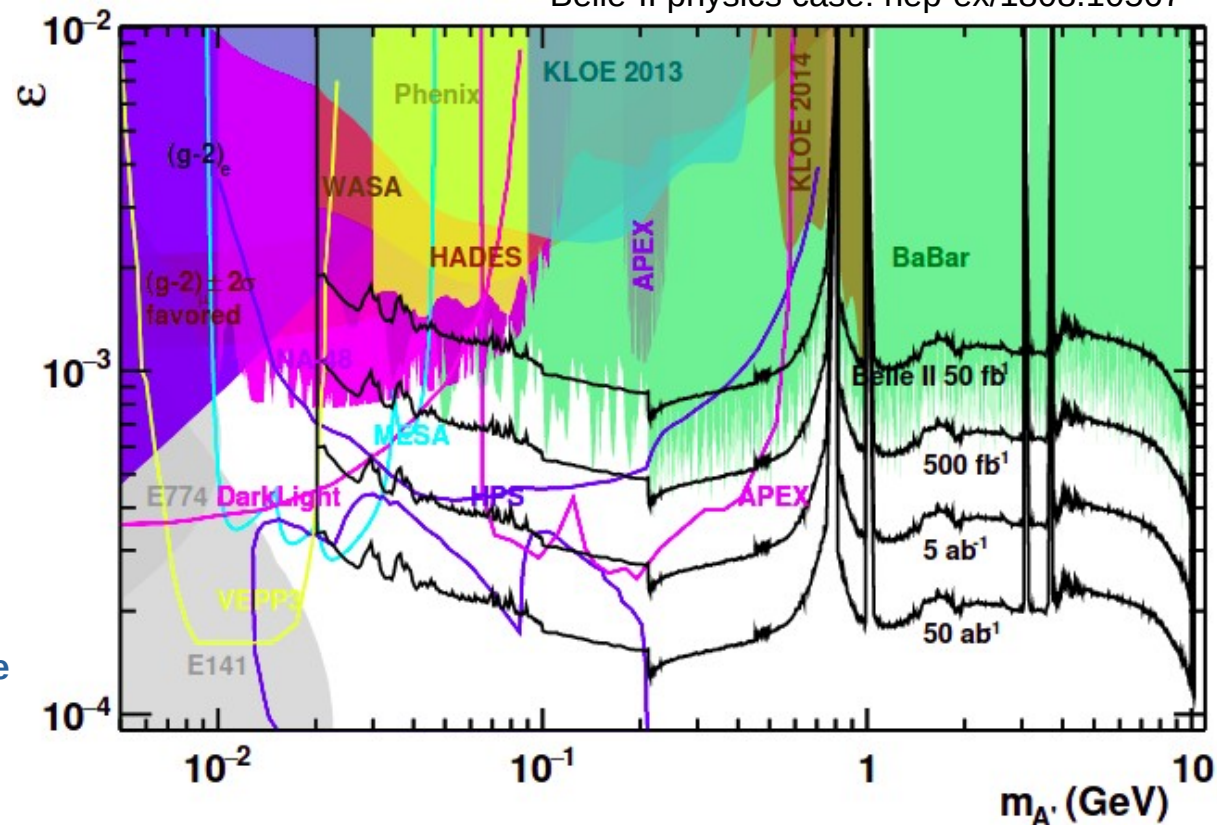
Few GeV electron fixed target

Thin target (<1% X<sub>0</sub>)

Dark bremsstrahlung  $e^- N \rightarrow e^- A' N$

followed by  $A' \rightarrow e^+e^-$

**Data taken in 2019 & 2021 + more to come**

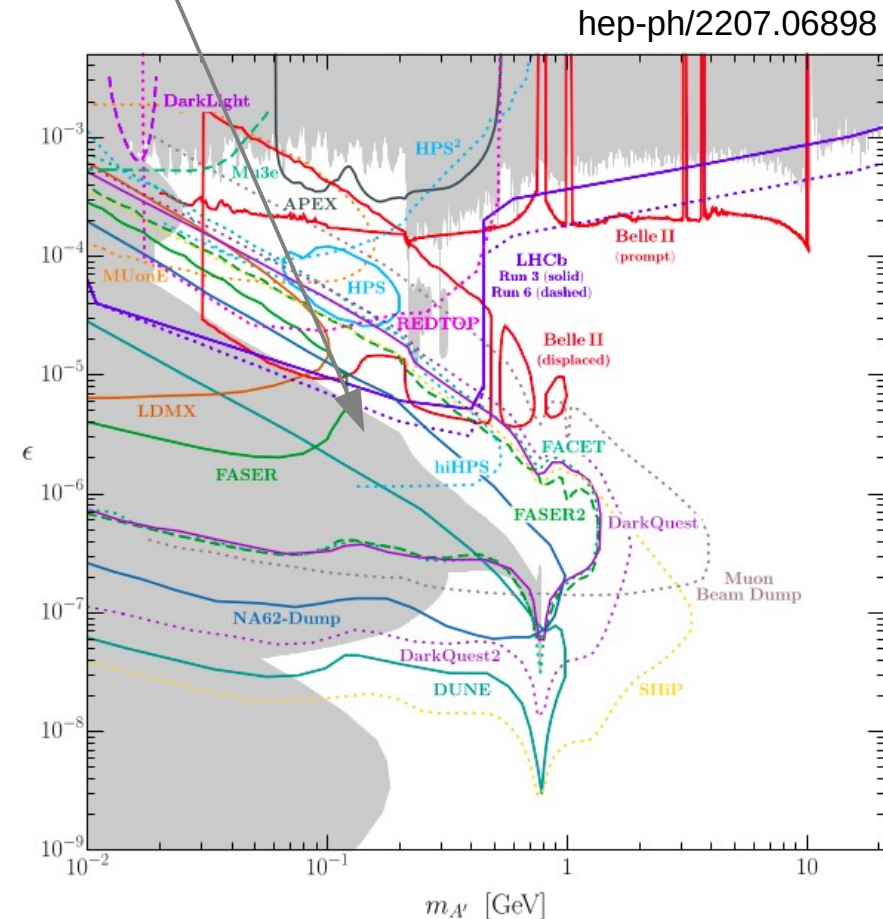
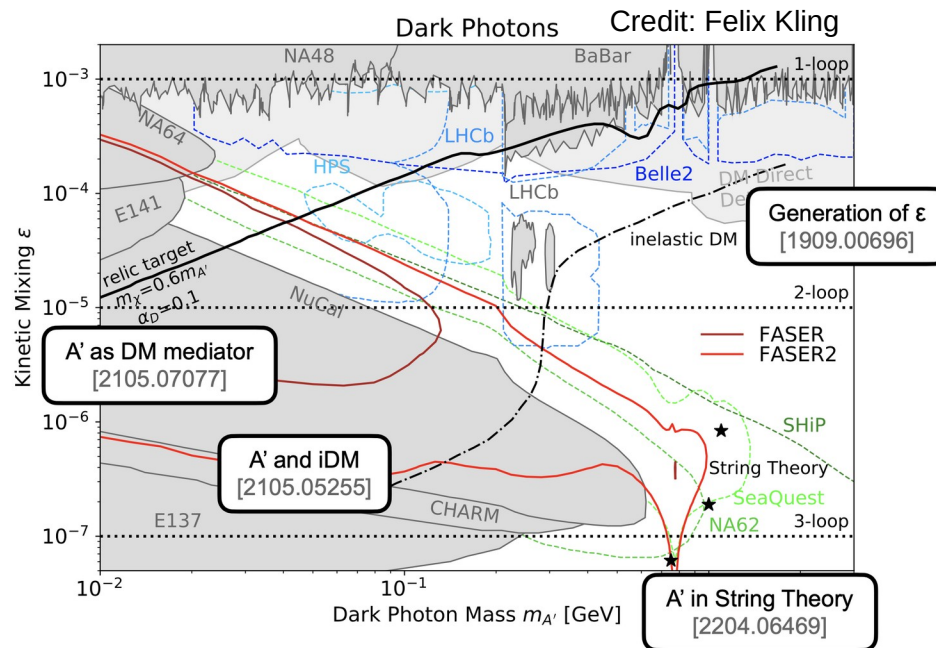




## (HIGHLY) DISPLACED DECAYS

# RACE FOR LOWER COUPLINGS

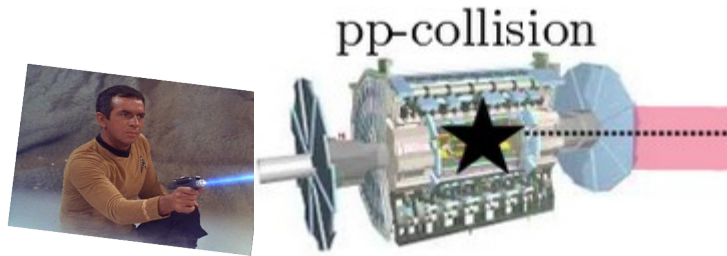
- Many past bounds (CHARM, E141, LSND, NuCal, Orsay, ...)
- Multiple future experimental proposals (beam-dumps, collider, neutrino...)
- Interesting theory targets



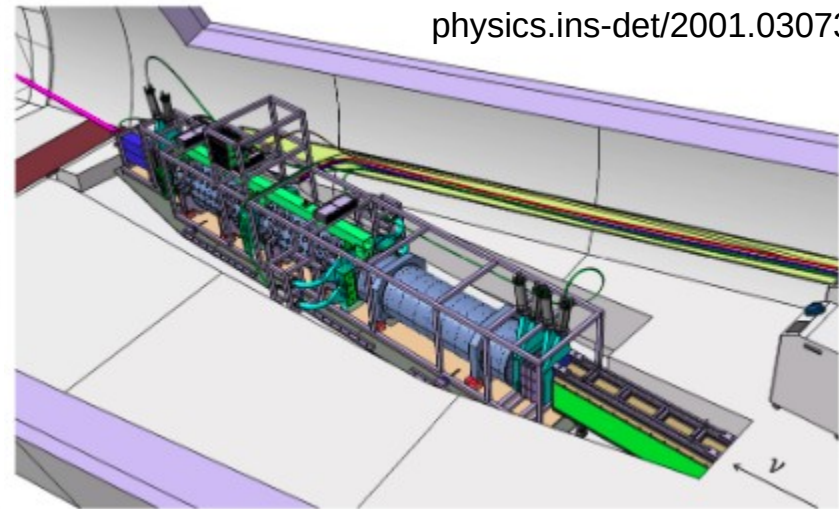
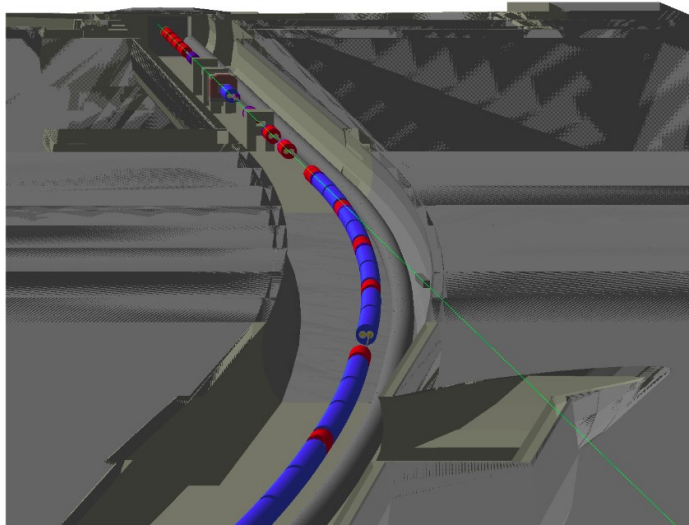
physics.ins-det/1812.09139  
 hep-ph/1811.12522  
 physics.ins-det/1811.10243  
 hep-ph/1708.09389

# FASER

- Far-forward region of the LHC (~480m away from the ATLAS IP)



- Exploits large forward p-p scat. cross section
- High-intensity of pions  $\pi^0$  etc.  
 e.g. rare  $A'$  production ( $\pi^0 \rightarrow A' \gamma$ )
- Detection:  $A' \rightarrow e^+ e^-$



physics.ins-det/2001.03073

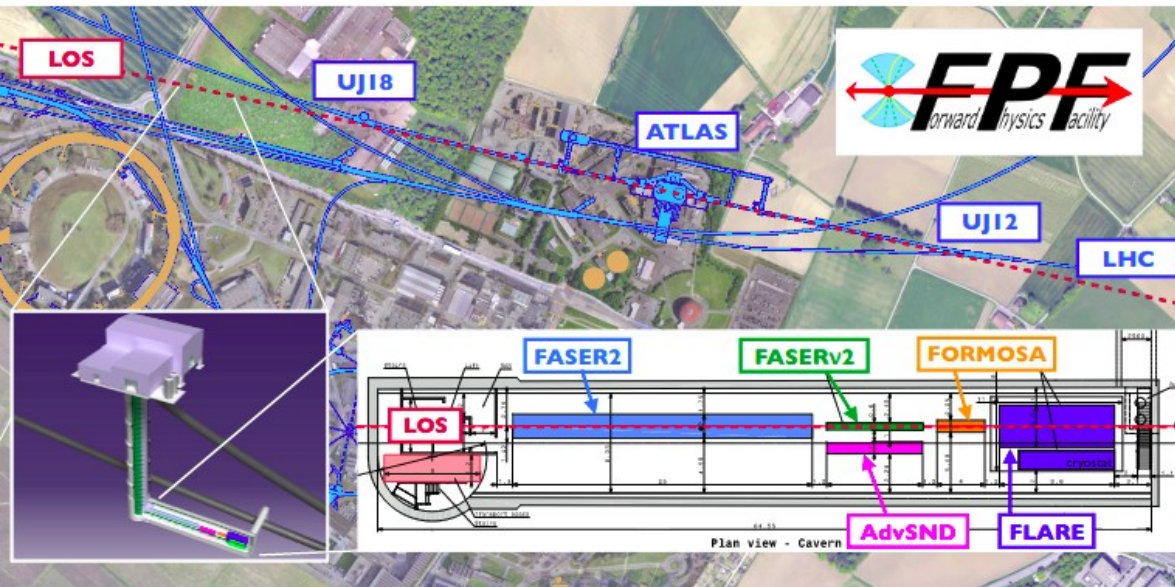
Data taking started with LHC Run 3

Preliminary study from Run 2 ➡ first neutrino candidate events at the LHC

hep-ex/2105.06197

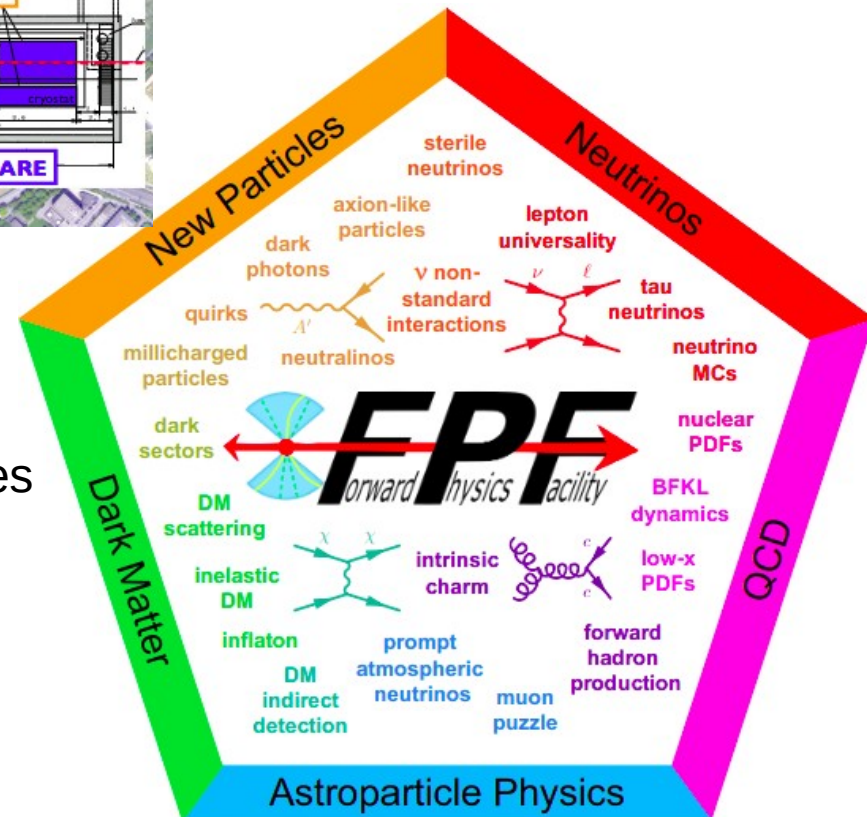


# FORWARD PHYSICS FACILITY



- Proposed for the HL-LHC era
- New underground facility to host several experiments

- Rich physics program for both SM and BSM
- FASER 2: search for dark photons and other light unstable species
- Light dark matter
- Neutrino physics & QCD
- Connections to astrophysics



## (HIGHLY) DISPLACED DECAYS

# LIGHT DARK SCALARS

- Coupling to SM fermions due to the mixing with the SM Higgs

$$\boxed{\text{SM}} \quad \text{---} \quad h^\dagger h \phi_D^\dagger \phi_D \quad \text{---} \quad \boxed{\text{Dark Scalar}}$$

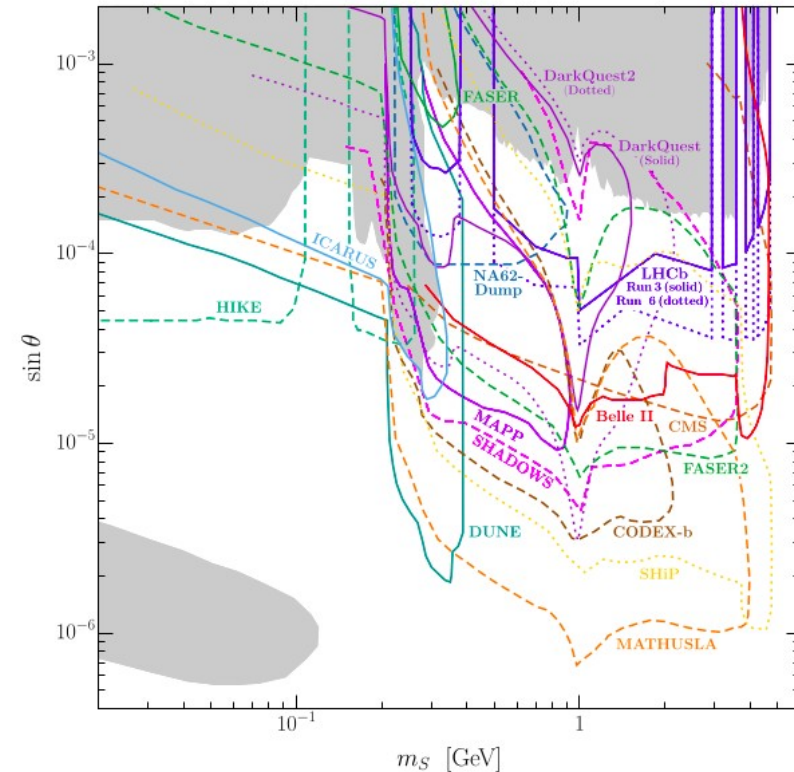
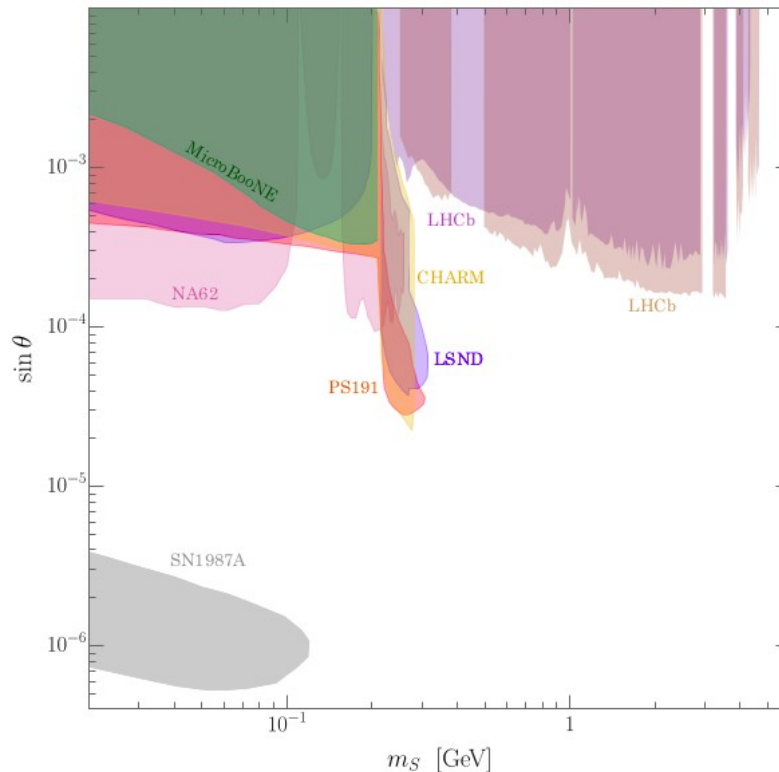
- Mixing angle  $\theta$

- **Recent progress:**

recast of past bounds from LSND (hep-ph/2004.14515, added bremsstrahlung) and PS191 (hep-ph/2105.11102) MicroBooNE search for  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ S \rightarrow e^+ e^-$  (hep-ex/2106.00568)

- Numerous future proposals

hep-ph/2207.06898



# LIGHT DARK MATTER VIA DARK PHOTON

- Dark photon can also mediate interactions between the SM and a "thermal" DM relic  $\chi$
- Suppressed SM couplings of  $A'$  yield correct DM relic density for  $\sim \text{MeV-GeV } \chi$  **LDM**

MeV  $\sim m_e$

GeV  $\sim m_p$

$m_{Z,h}$

$\sim 10\text{s TeV}$

$\Delta N_{\text{eff}}$

**LDM**

**"WIMPs"**

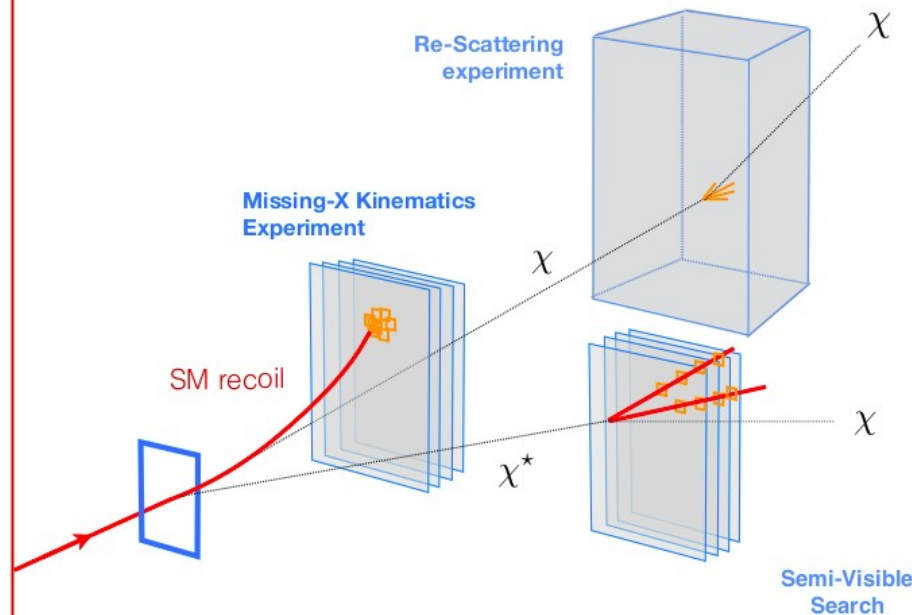
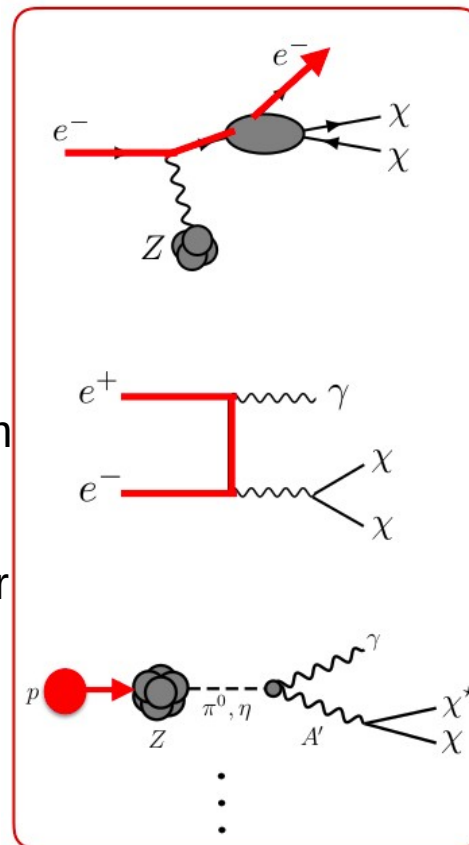
$\Omega_\chi > \Omega_{\text{DM}}$

- If kinematically available  $A'$  can dominantly decay into two DM particles

$$A' \rightarrow \chi \chi$$

- This can be detected:
  - as missing mass/energy/momentum
  - via DM re-scatterings in a distant detector

Snowmass: hep-ph/2207.00597



Dark Matter  $\chi$

Excited State  $\chi^*$

# BaBar, NA64

**BaBar** (hep-ex/1702.03327)

Single photon signature in  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma A'$ ,  $A' \rightarrow \chi \chi$  (inv.)

**Missing mass:** initial 4-momenta known,  
final-state photon momentum reconstructed

to be improved by Belle-II

**NA64** (1906.00176)

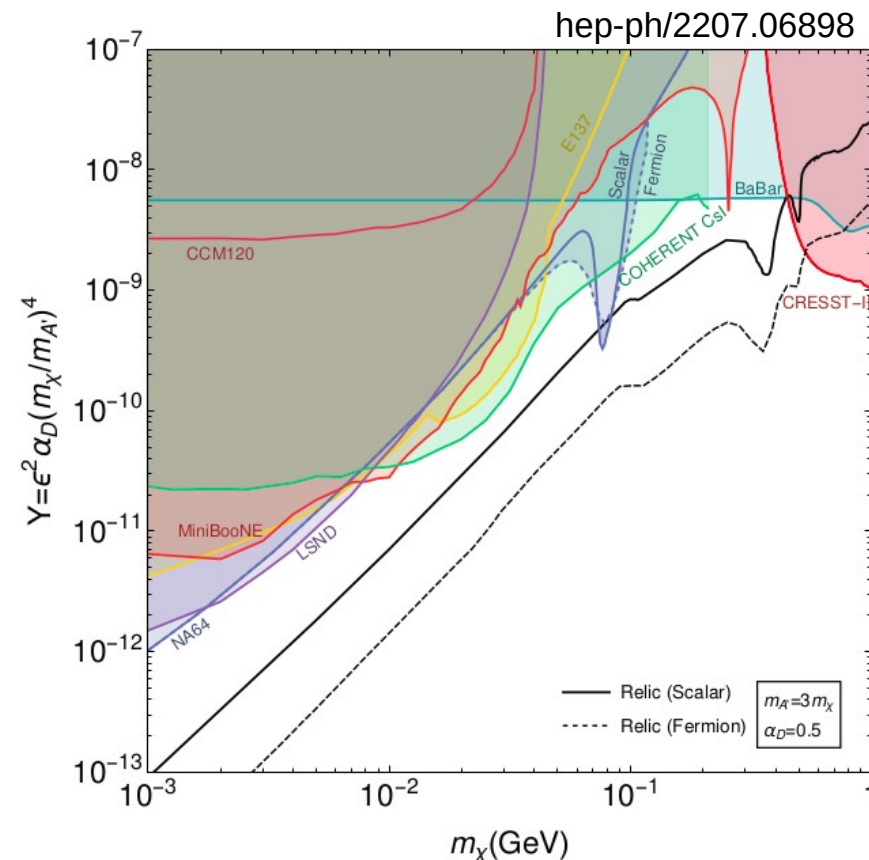
Electron beam-dump (SPS, primary p beam)

Dark photon bremsstrahlung  $e^- Z \rightarrow e^- A' Z$   
&  $A' \rightarrow \chi \chi$

**Missing energy:**

final-state Z momentum unknown...  
but it carries away a very small fraction of E  
so it has negligible impact on E budget

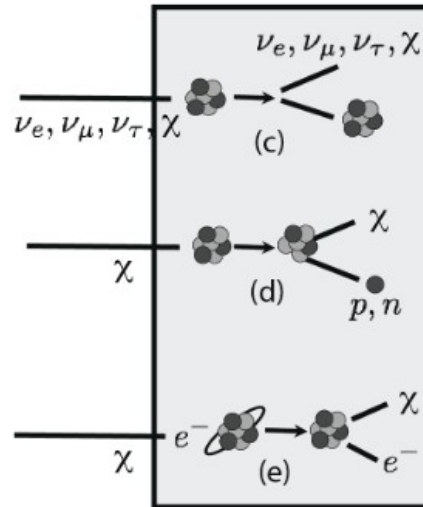
**First runs: 2016-18,**  
**Current run 2021-22**





# DM RE-SCATTERING

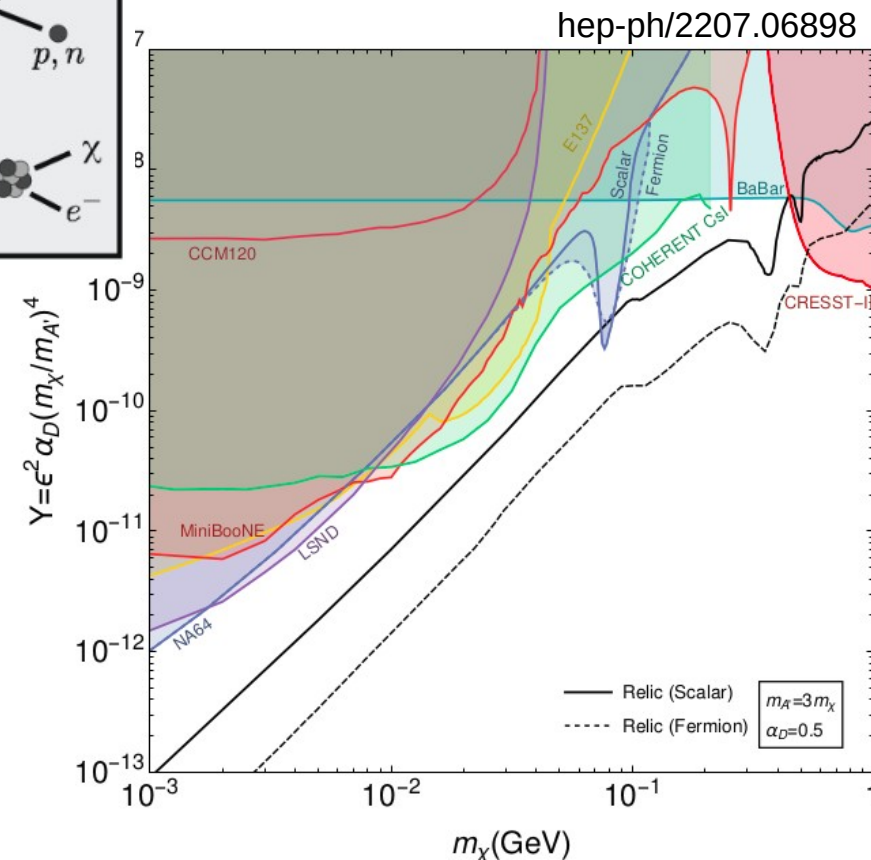
- Idea: sufficiently intense flux of LDM particles can lead to secondary scatterings in distant detectors



- Various scattering signatures:
  - coherent scatterings
  - DM-electron scatterings
  - DM-nucleon scatterings (quasi-)elastic
  - Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS)

Important to reject  $\nu$ -induced backgrounds

CCM120 (hep-ex/2105.14020)  
 COHERENT CSI (hep-ex/1911.06422)  
 LSND (hep-ph/1107.4580, recast)  
 MiniBooNE (hep-ex/1807.06137)





# OTHER PROSPECTS (selected)

## MISSING X

### – Missing momentum

additional final-state  $e^-$  transverse momentum meas.  
helps significantly reducing backgrounds

e.g. LDMX,  $M^3$  hep-ph/1411.1404

### – Positron missing energy

Positron beam annihilations on electrons in the target  
 $e^+e^- \rightarrow A' \rightarrow \text{inv.}$ ; peak in missing  $E \rightarrow \text{DM mass}$

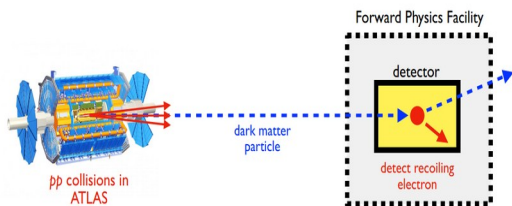
e.g. POKER (NA64 <sub>$e^+$</sub> ) hep-ex/1807.05884

## RE-SCATTERING

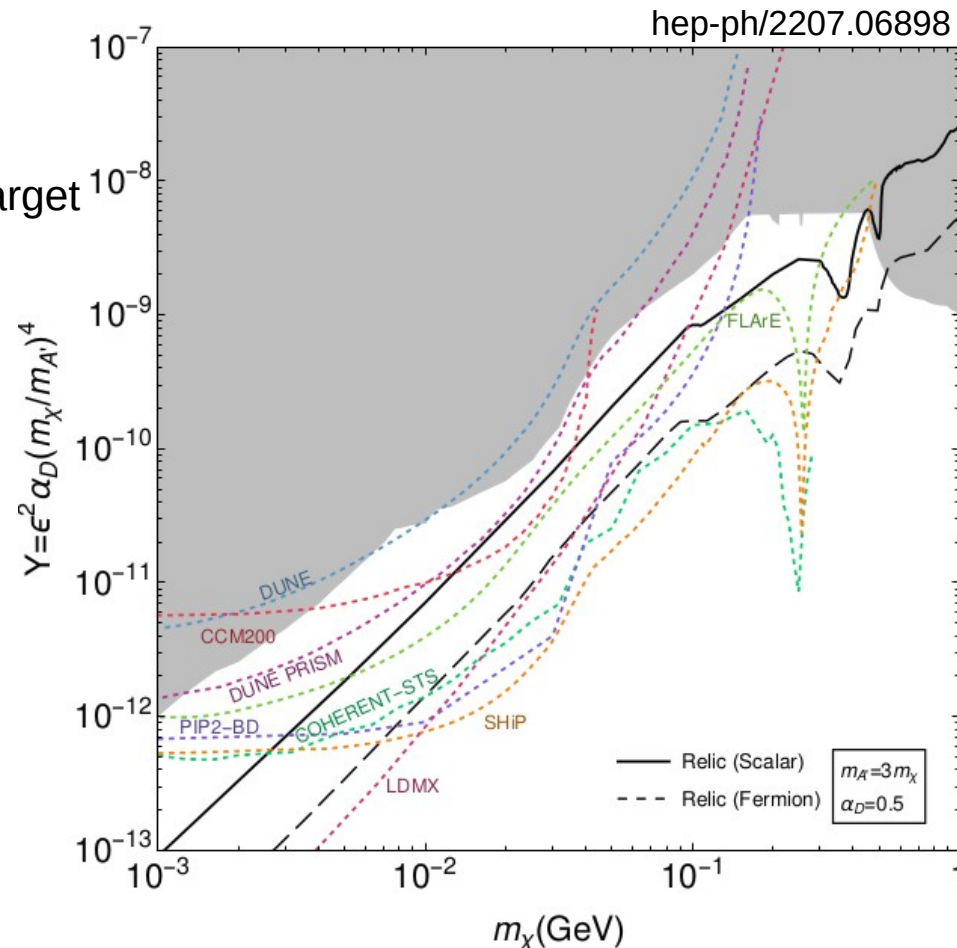
### - Forward Liquid Argon Experiment

(FLArE)

in the Forward Physics Facility (LHC)



hep-ph/2101.10338  
hep-ph/2107.00666  
hep-ex/2203.05090



# MILLICHARGED PARTICLES

- Test of charge quantization, new particles with  $Q < 0.1 e$

GUT and string theory motivations

Also induced by massless dark photons

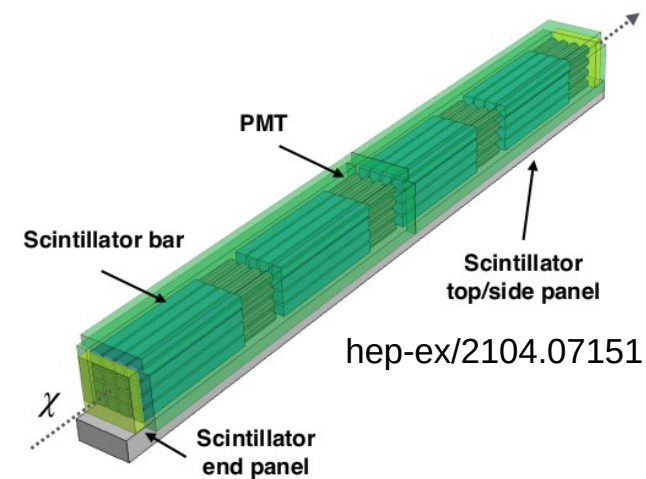
- **milliQan** detector

Sensitive to small energy depositions  $dE/dx$

Plastic scintillator for detection

Segmented into 4 longitudinal "layers"

- signature ( $E_{\text{dep}} \sim \text{eV}$ ) 4 time-coincident hits



## Data taking started with LHC Run 3

- Future similar proposals:

- milliQan-like in proton beam-dump

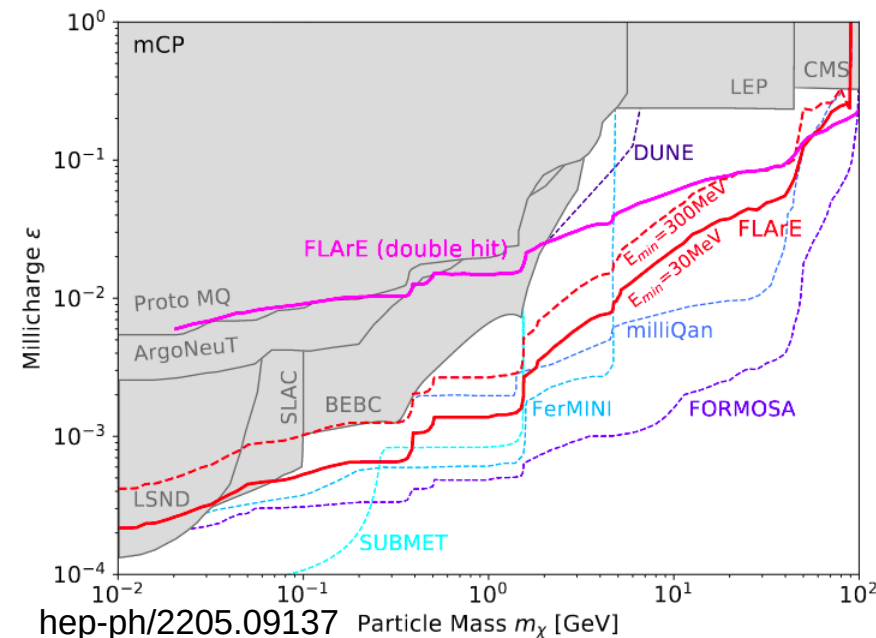
FerMINI (FermiLAB), SUBMET (J-PARC)

(hep-ph/1812.03998, hep-ex/2102.11493)

- Forward Physics Facility at the LHC

FORMOSA (hep-ph/2010.07941)

FLArE (LArTPC, re-scattering signature a-la-DM)



# CONCLUSIONS

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- Light Hidden Sectors – exciting target for the ongoing & future proposed searches
- Motivations: dark matter, top-down (GUT, string theory,...), anomalies, ...
- Multiple signatures are possible & past bounds can be recast  
See also: Physics Beyond Colliders, LHC@LLP working group, ...
- Accelerator-based search for MeV-GeV new particles:
  - **search for decays (prompt & displaced)**
  - **search for missing mass/energy/momentum**
  - **search for re-scattering or ionization**
- Selected facilities:
  - CERN: SPS (NA62, NA64,...), LHC (FASER, LHCb, milliQan,...)
  - FermiLAB, e.g. neutrino beams and experiments, KEK (Belle-II), ...and many other

**THANK YOU!**

# EXP. LANDSCAPE (2) (NEUTRINO BEAMS)

- Current and future neutrino experiments are also great lab to study light new physics
- High statistics, large volumes and detector capabilities
- Specific BSM runs might also be used (e.g. MiniBooNE beam-dump mode hep-ex/1807.06137)

Experiment			$\mu$ BooNE	SBN (ICARUS/SBND)	NOVA	DUNE	Hyper-K	JSNS2	CCM
$L_{\text{base}}$ (km)/ $L_{\text{T2ND}}$ (km)			0.47	0.6/ 0.11	810/0.9	1300/ 0.574	295/ 0.28/ $\sim 1$	0.024/ 0.048	0.023/ NA
$\nu$ Beam	Ep (GeV)		8	8	120	80 – 120	30	3	0.8
	Intensity (MW)		0.03	0.03	0.75	1.2 - 2.4	1.3	1	0.1
	$\langle E_\nu \rangle$ (GeV)		0.6	0.6	2	3	0.6	0.04	0.03
Detector Parameters	ND	Tech	LArTPC	LArTPC	Liquid Scint.	LArTPC	Scint./H2O Cerenkov	Gd-Liquid Scint.	LArScint
		$V_A$ (t)	96	112	300	147	4/100	17	5
	FD	Tech	NA	LArTPC	Liquid Scint.	LArTPC	H2O Cerenkov	Gd-Liquid Scint. Cerenkov	NA
		$V_A$ (t)	NA	470	14k	40k	188k	35	NA

(2015-20)