



# Rare charm decays at BESIII

Zhi-Jun Li (李志军)  
Sun Yat-sen University

On behalf of the BESIII Collaboration

12<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on the CKM Unitarity Triangle  
September 21, 2023, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

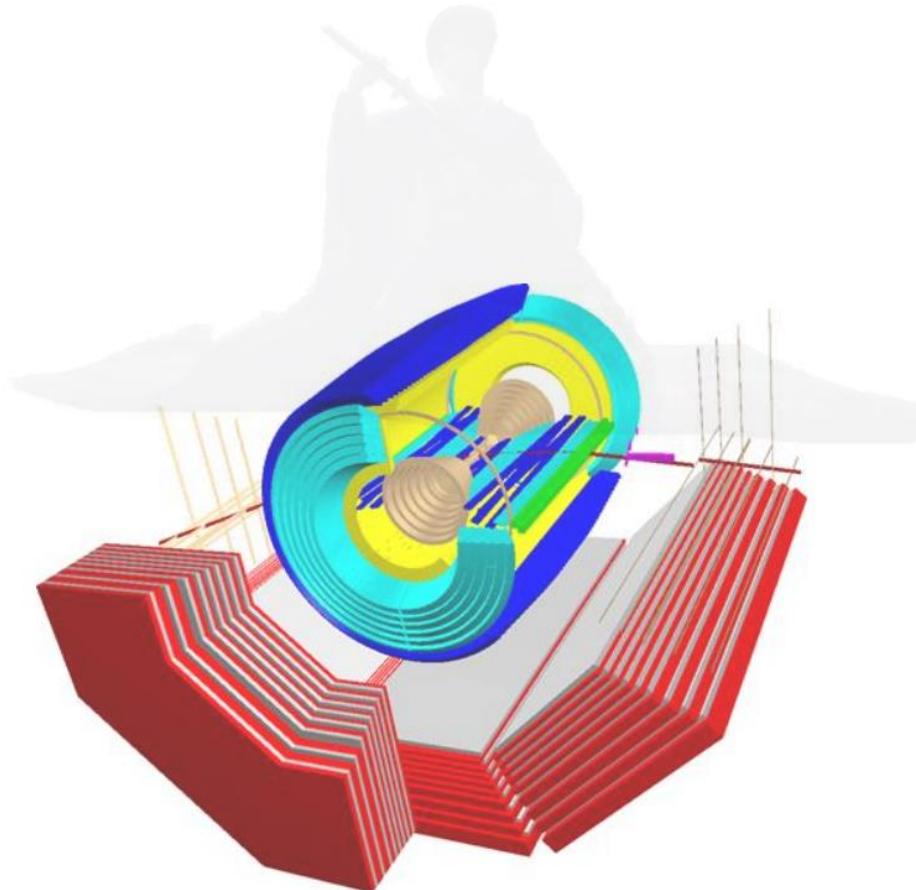
[lizhj37@mail2.sysu.edu.cn](mailto:lizhj37@mail2.sysu.edu.cn)

---

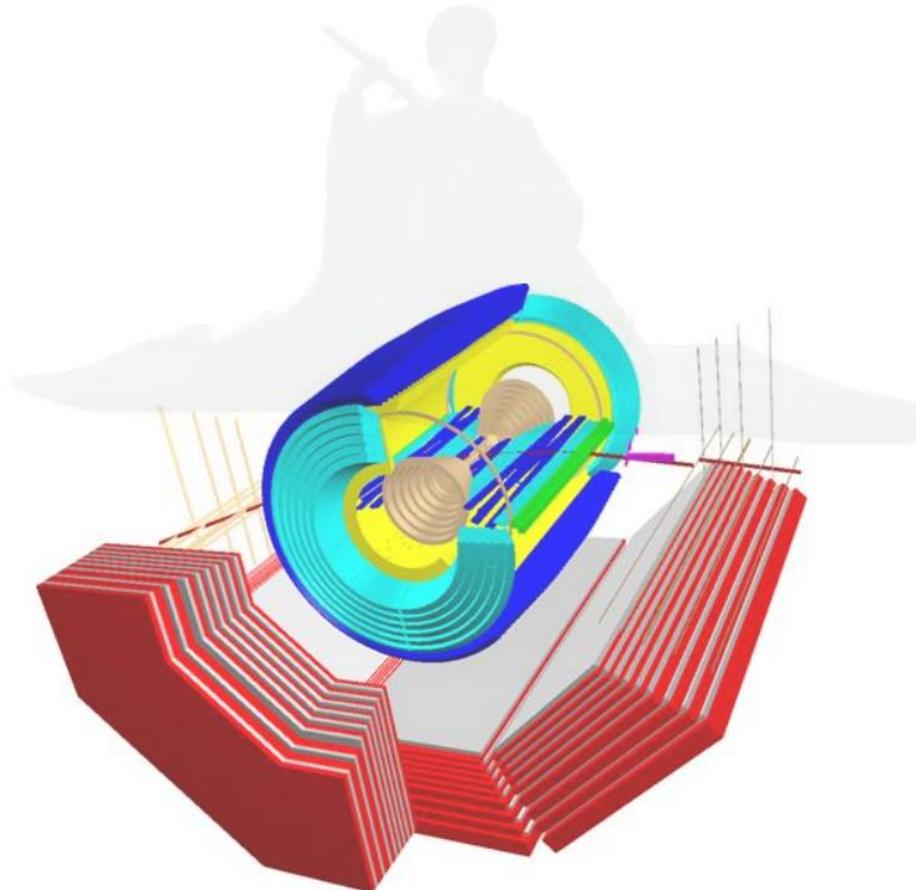
# OUTLINE

---

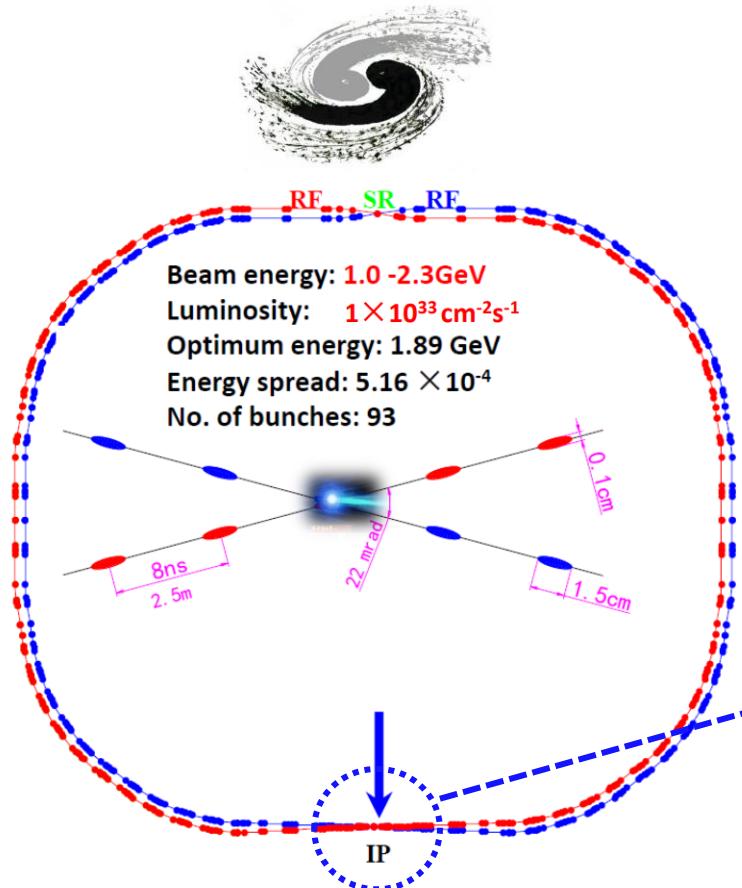
- BEPCII and BESIII
- Charmonium Weak Decays
- FCNC Processes
- Baryon/Lepton Number Violation
- Charged Lepton Flavor Violation
- Summary



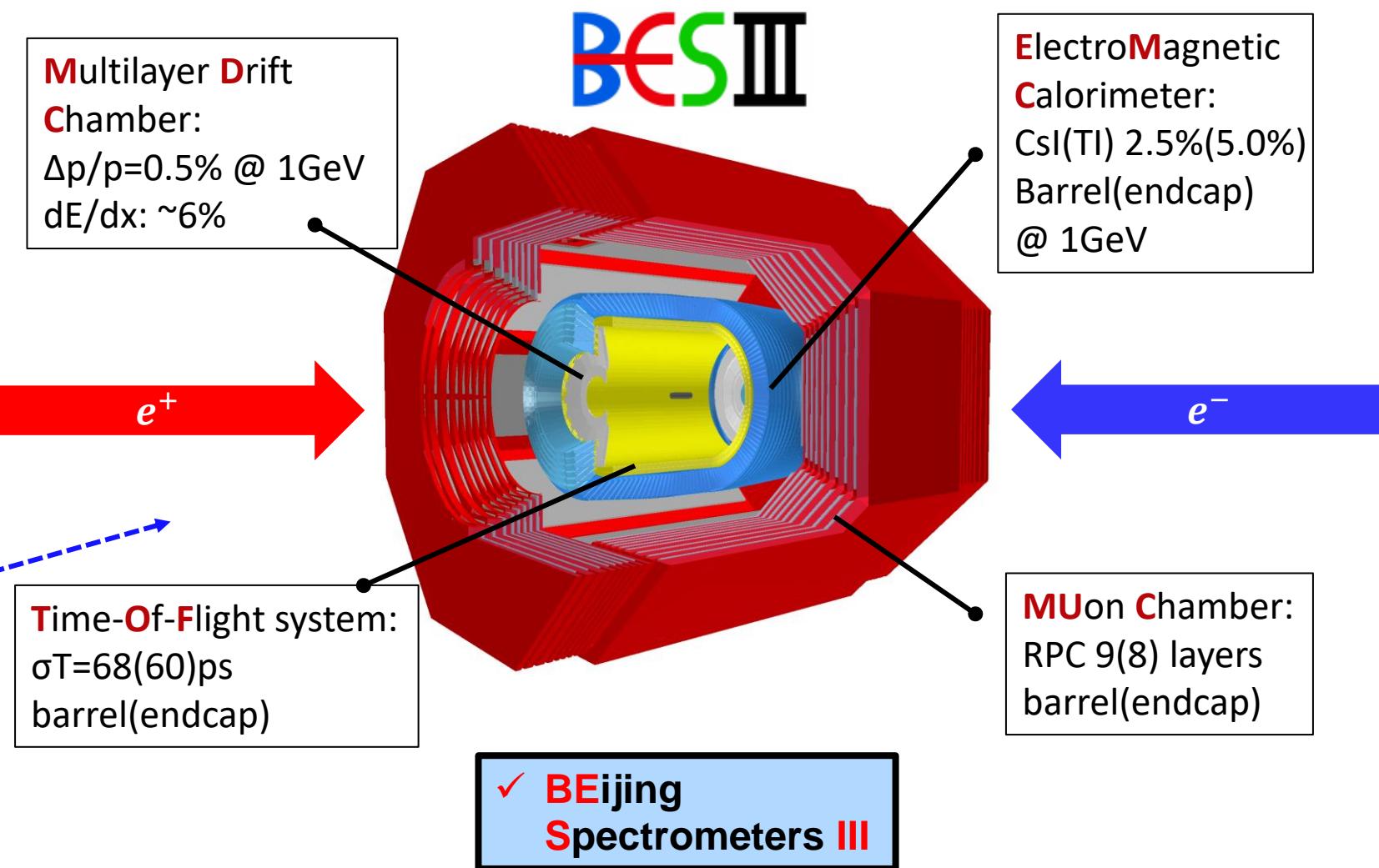
- BEPCII and BESIII
- Charmonium Weak Decays
- FCNC Processes
- Baryon/Lepton Number Violation
- Charged Lepton Flavor Violation
- Summary



# BEPCII and BESIII

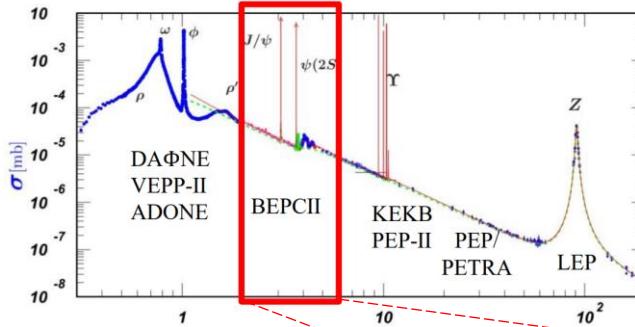


✓ Beijing Electron  
Positron Collider II



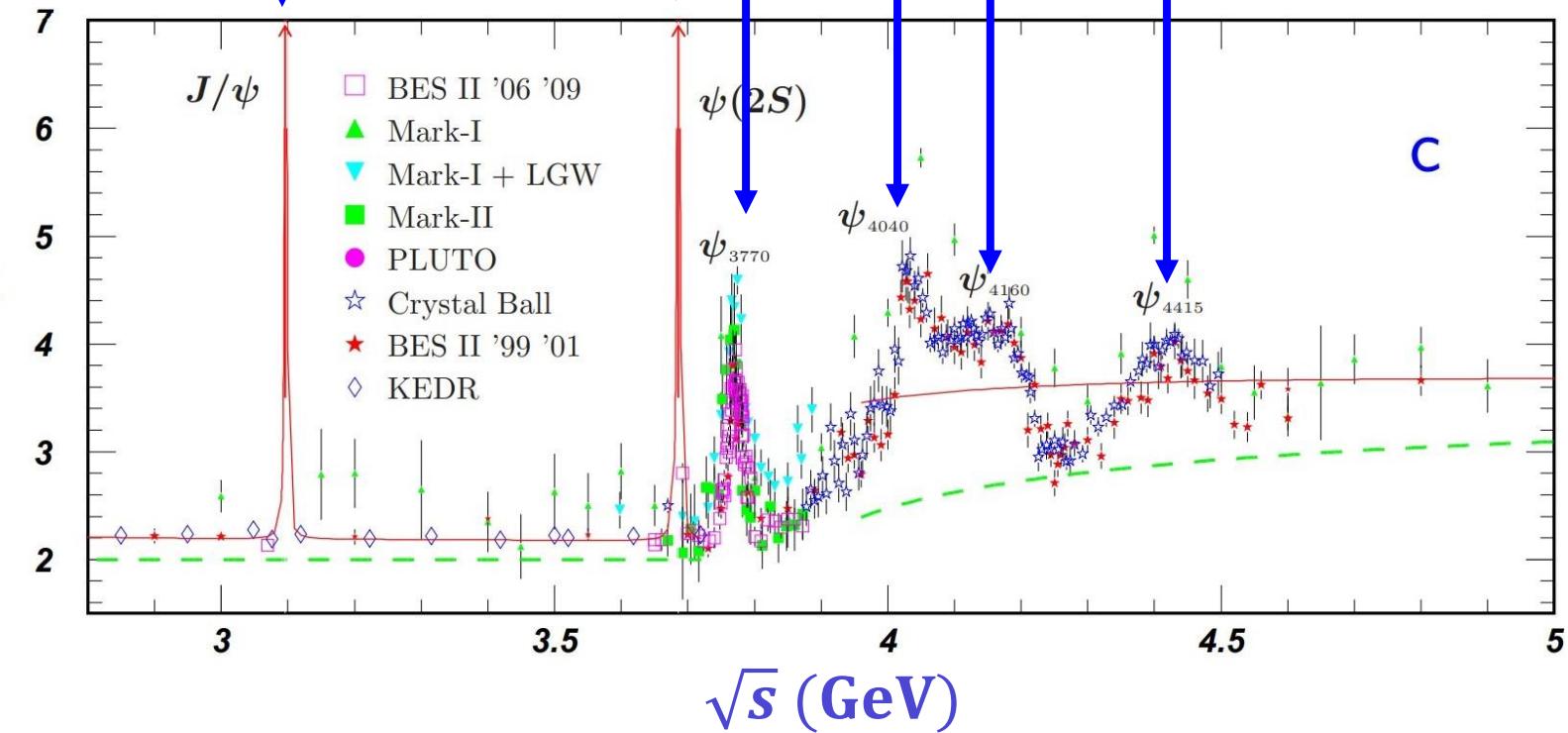
✓ BEijing  
Spectrometers III

# Data samples at BESIII



- ✓ BESIII has collected the largest charmonium data samples on threshold
- ✓  $> 20 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  data above 4.0 GeV in total
- ✓  **$20 \text{ fb}^{-1} \Psi(3770)$**  will be coming in 2024, large  $D$  meson sample from  $\psi \rightarrow D\bar{D}$

**$R$**



# New physics searches at BESIII

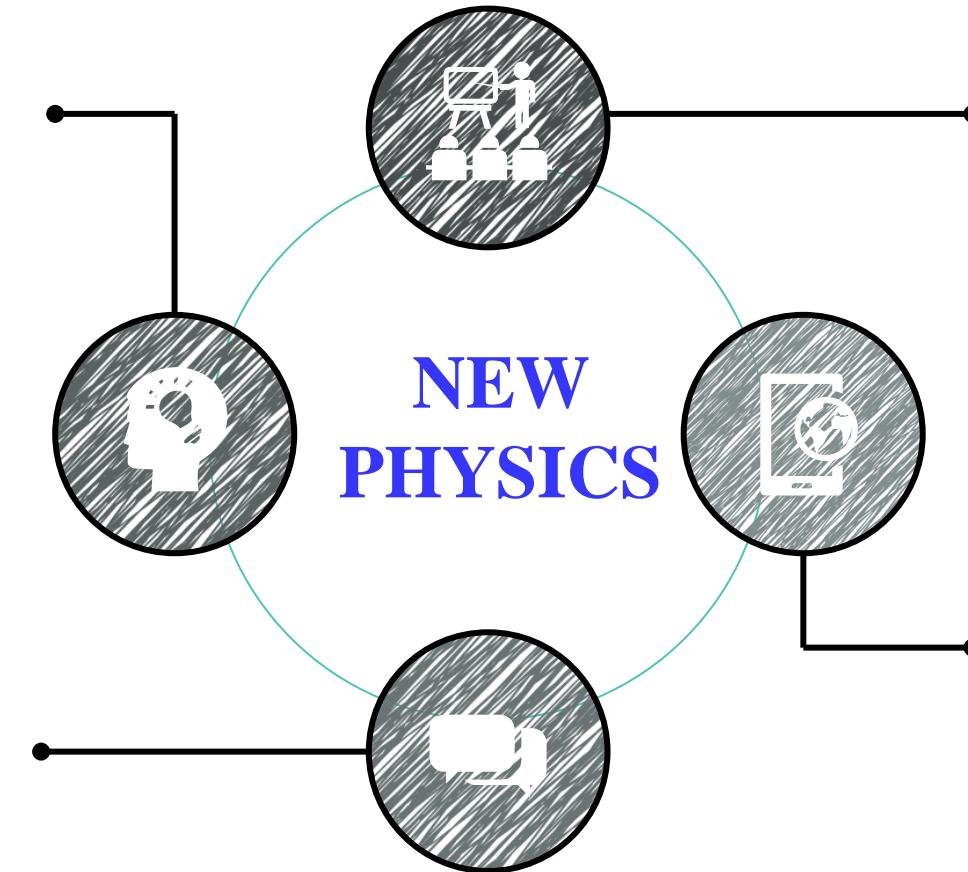


## Symmetry violation

- ✓ Charged Lepton Flavor Violation
- ✓ Lepton Number Violation
- ✓ Baryon Number Violation
- ✓ CP violation
- ✓ C parity violation
- ✓ ...

## Vary rare decay

- ✓ Charmonium weak decay
- ✓ Flavor Changing Neutral Current process
- ✓ ...



## Exotic particle

- ✓ Dark photon  $\gamma'$
- ✓ Axion-like particle  $a$
- ✓ Light Higgs  $Z^0$
- ✓ SUSY particles
- ✓ ...

## Other process

- ✓ Invisible decay
- ✓ Lepton universality test
- ✓ ...

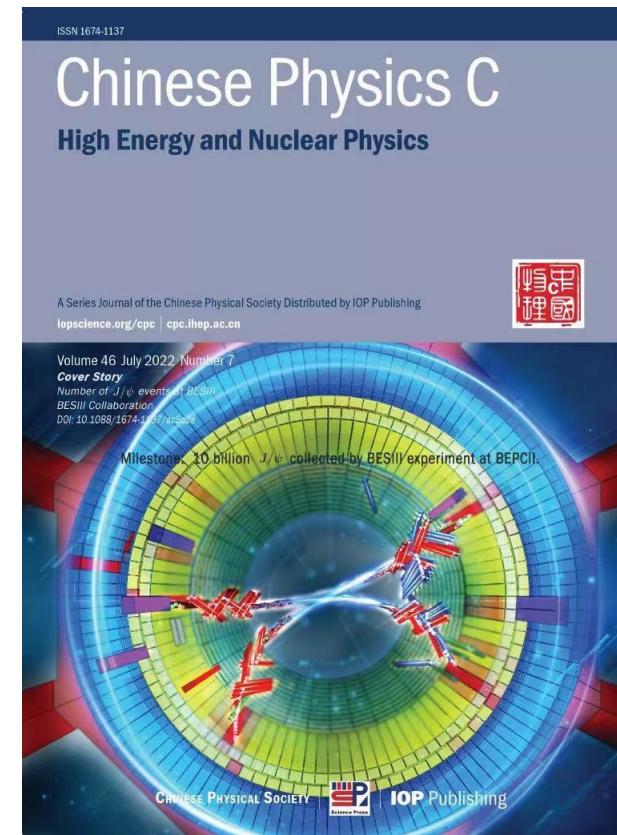
# BESIII physics data



- ✓ Physics of BESIII
- NSR 8 (11) 2021



- ✓ 10 billion  $J/\psi$  collected by BESIII
- CPC 46 074001 (2022)

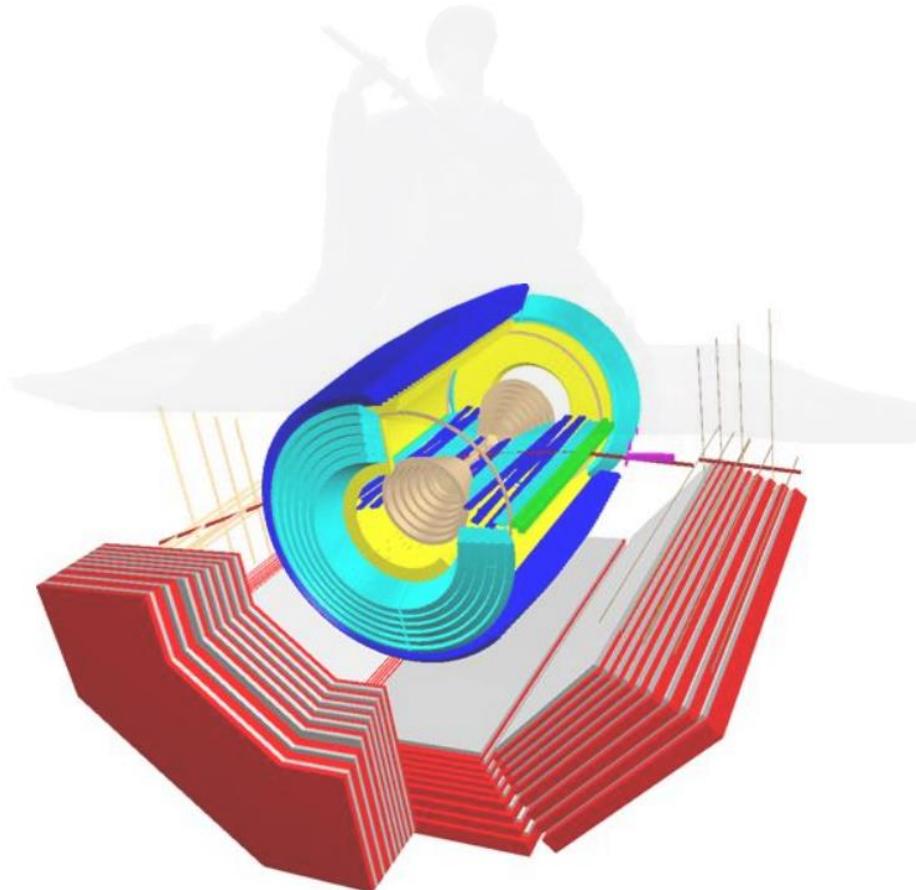


---

# OUTLINE

---

- BEPCII and BESIII
- **Charmonium Weak Decays**
- FCNC Processes
- Baryon/Lepton Number Violation
- Charged Lepton Flavor Violation
- Summary



# Charmonium weak decay

- Charmonium weak decays are **allowed in SM**, but highly suppressed by strong and EM decays
- The inclusive  $J/\psi$  weak decay branching fraction is predicted to be at the order of  **$10^{-8}$  or below in SM** Z. Phys. C 62 271 (1994)

- Some **new physics models** can enhance the BF of  $J/\psi$  weak decay to  **$10^{-5}$** , e.g. Top-color model, two-Higgs doublet model

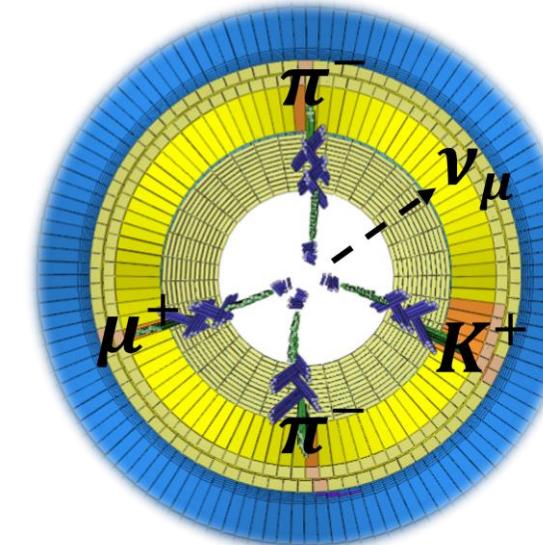
PLB 345, 483 (1995)  
 PLB 119, 136 (1982)  
 PRD 15, 1958 (1977)  
 PRD, 60, 014011 (1999)

- Semi-leptonic weak decay

- $J/\psi \rightarrow D_{(s)}^{(*)-} l^+ \nu_l$
- $l = e, \mu$

- Hadronic weak decay

- $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{\Sigma}^-$
- $J/\psi \rightarrow D_{(s)}^{(*)-} \pi^+$



- ✓ An event display of  $J/\psi \rightarrow D^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$ ,  $D^- \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^-$

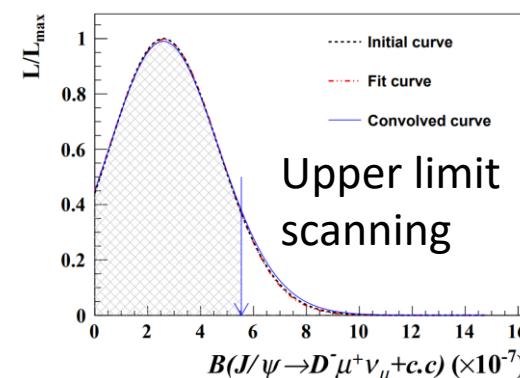
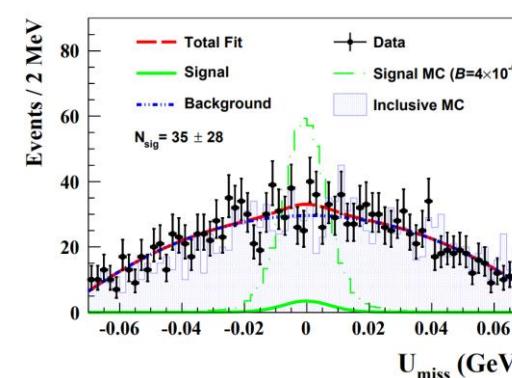
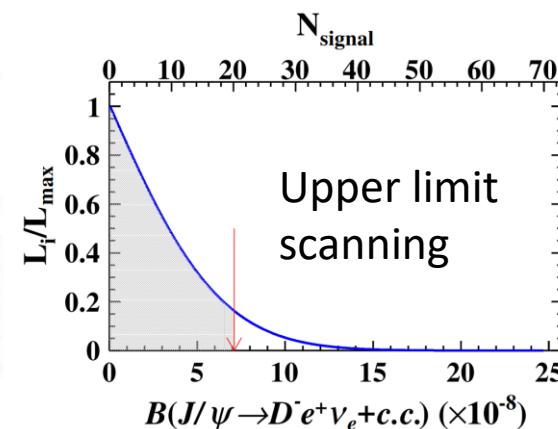
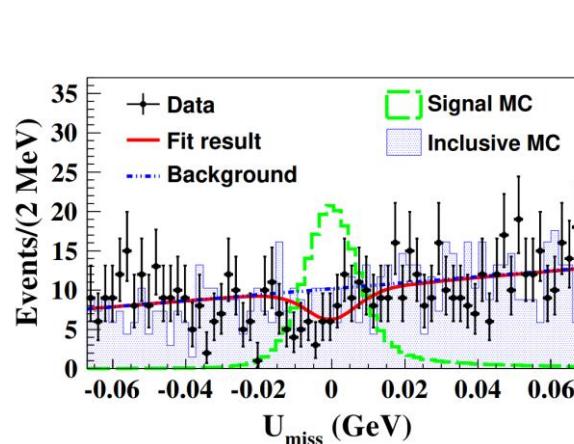
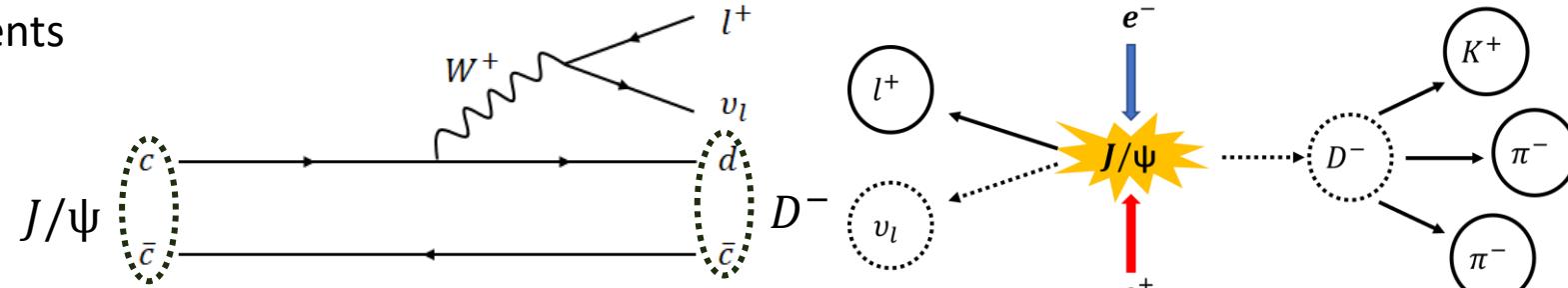
EPJC, 54, 107, 2008  
 PRD, 78:074012, 2008  
 AHEP, 2013:706543, 2013  
 PRD, 92:074030, 2015  
 JPG:NPP, 44:045004, 2017

Theoretical model (SM)	QCDSR ( $\times 10^{-11}$ )	CLFQ ( $\times 10^{-11}$ )	BSW ( $\times 10^{-11}$ )	CCQW ( $\times 10^{-11}$ )	BSM ( $\times 10^{-11}$ )
$J/\psi \rightarrow D^- e^+ \nu_e$	$0.73^{+0.43}_{-0.22}$	$5.1 - 5.7$	$6.0^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$	1.71	$2.03^{+0.29}_{-0.25}$
$J/\psi \rightarrow D^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$0.71^{+0.42}_{-0.22}$	$4.7 - 5.5$	$5.8^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$	1.66	$1.98^{+0.28}_{-0.24}$
$J/\psi \rightarrow D_s^- e^+ \nu_e$	$18^{+7}_{-5}$	$53 - 58$	$104.0^{+9.0}_{-7.5}$	33	$36.7^{+5.2}_{-4.4}$
$J/\psi \rightarrow D_s^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$17^{+7}_{-5}$	$55 - 57$	$99.3^{+9.5}_{-6.5}$	32	$35.4^{+5.0}_{-4.3}$

# Search for $J/\psi \rightarrow D^- l^+ \nu_l + c.c.$



- Analyzing  $(10087 \pm 44) \times 10^6$   $J/\psi$  events
- Using  $D^- \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^-$  to reconstruct D
- Fit in  $U_{miss} (= E_{miss} - c \cdot |P_{miss}|)$



- $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow D^- e^+ \nu_e + c.c.) < 7.1 \times 10^{-8}$  @90% C. L.
- **The upper Limit (UL) is improved by more than two orders of magnitude**

JHEP 06, 157 (2021)

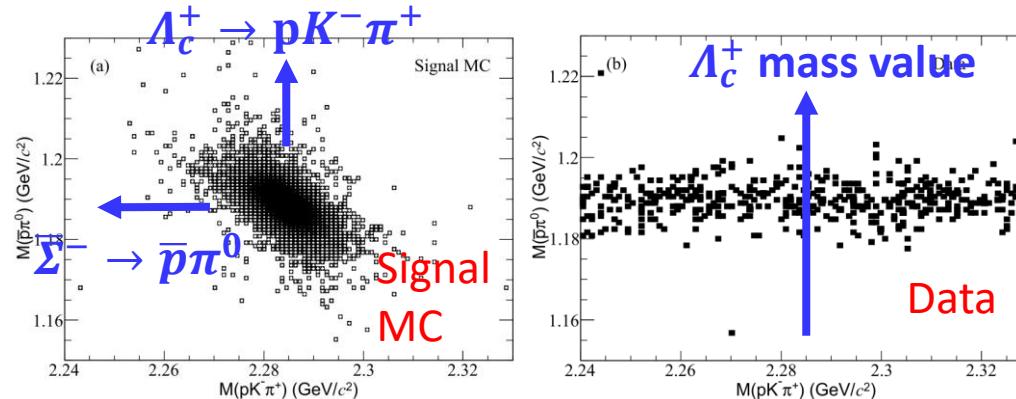
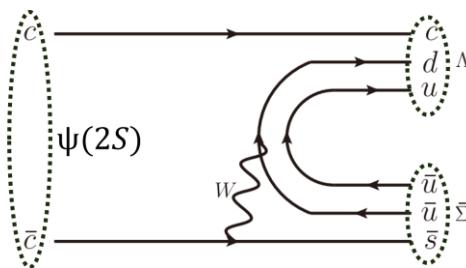
- $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow D^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu + c.c.) < 5.6 \times 10^{-7}$  @90% C. L.
- **The first search for the charmonium weak decay with a muon in the final state.**

arXiv:2307.02165

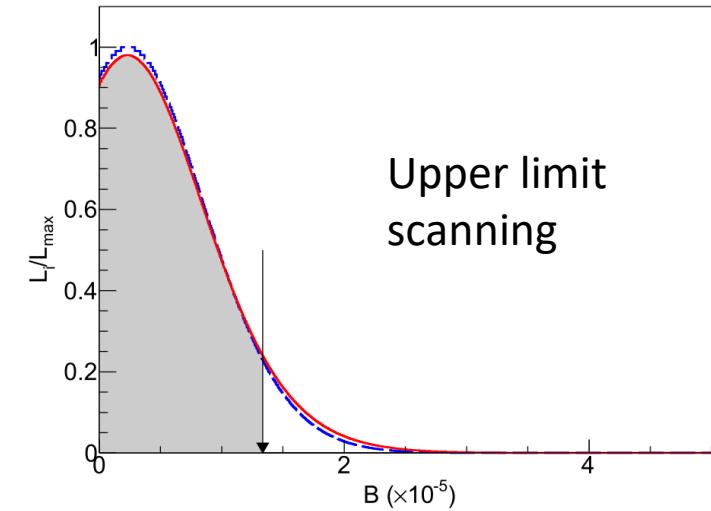
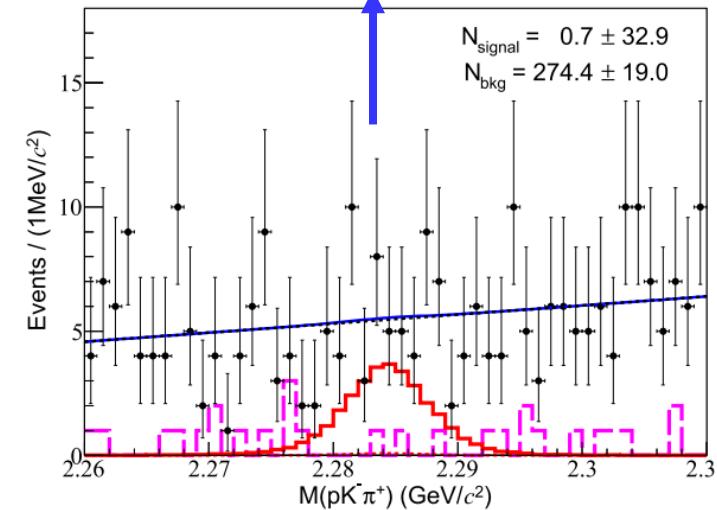
# Search for $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{\Sigma}^- + c.c.$



- Analyzing  $(448.1 \pm 2.9) \times 10^6$   $\psi(2S)$  events
- Using  $\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow pK^-\pi^+$ ,  $\bar{\Sigma}^- \rightarrow \bar{p}\pi^0$
- Fit in  $M(pK^-\pi^+)$  to extract signals



Will have a  $\Lambda_c^+$  peak if signals exist

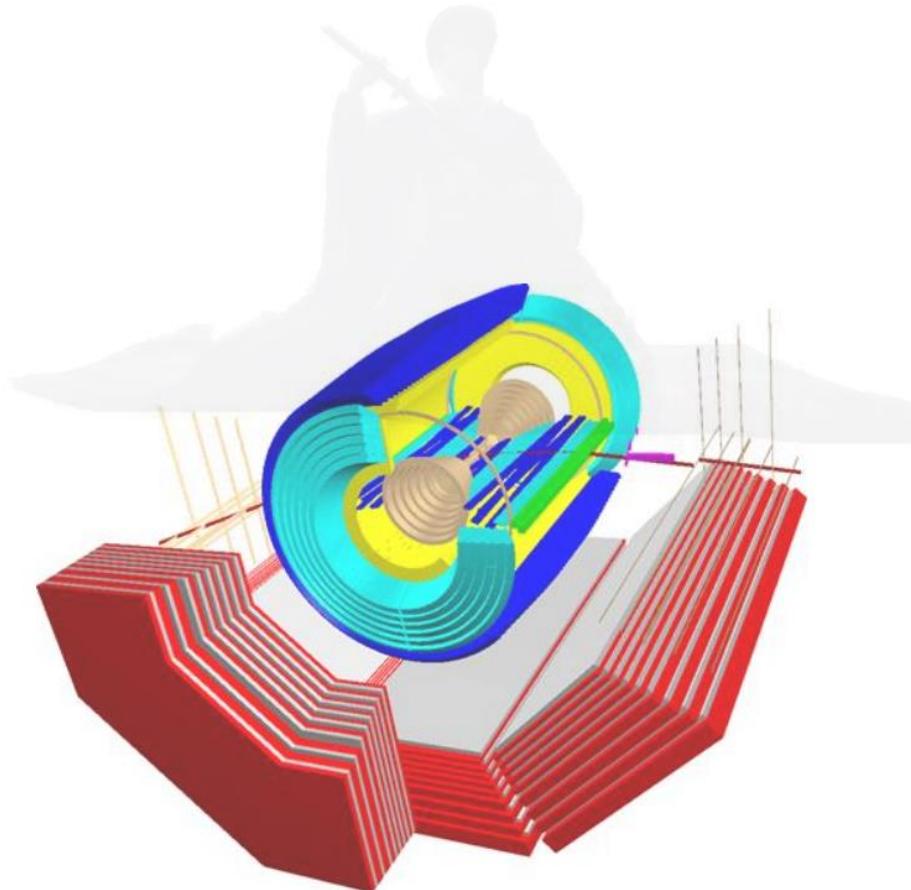


- $\mathcal{B}(\psi(3686) \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{\Sigma}^- + c.c.) < 1.4 \times 10^{-5}$  @90% C. L.
- The first search for the charmonium baryonic weak decay
- An additional 2.3 billion events at BESIII are available now. This larger data sample offers an opportunity to further improve the sensitivity.

# OUTLINE

---

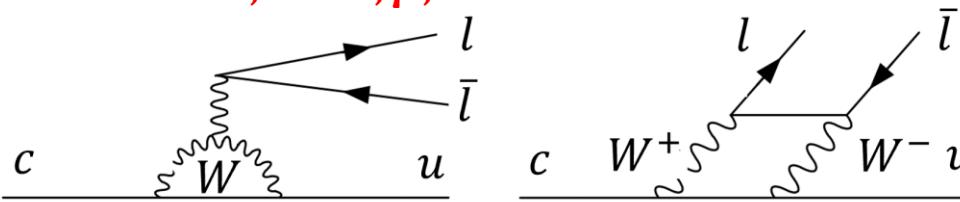
- BEPCII and BESIII
- Charmonium Weak Decays
- **FCNC Processes**
- Baryon/Lepton Number Violation
- Charged Lepton Flavor Violation
- Summary



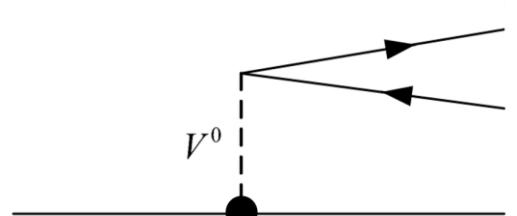
# D meson and FCNC process



- Flavor changing neutral current (FCNC) process
  - ✓ FCNC is strongly suppressed by GIM mechanism and can happen only through loop diagram:
    - **BF  $10^{-9} \sim 10^{-15}$  in SM for D meson**
  - ✓ The suppression in charm decay is much stronger than B & K system, stronger diagram cancellation due to the down-type quarks involved
  - ✓  $c \rightarrow u\bar{l}, l = e, \mu, \nu$

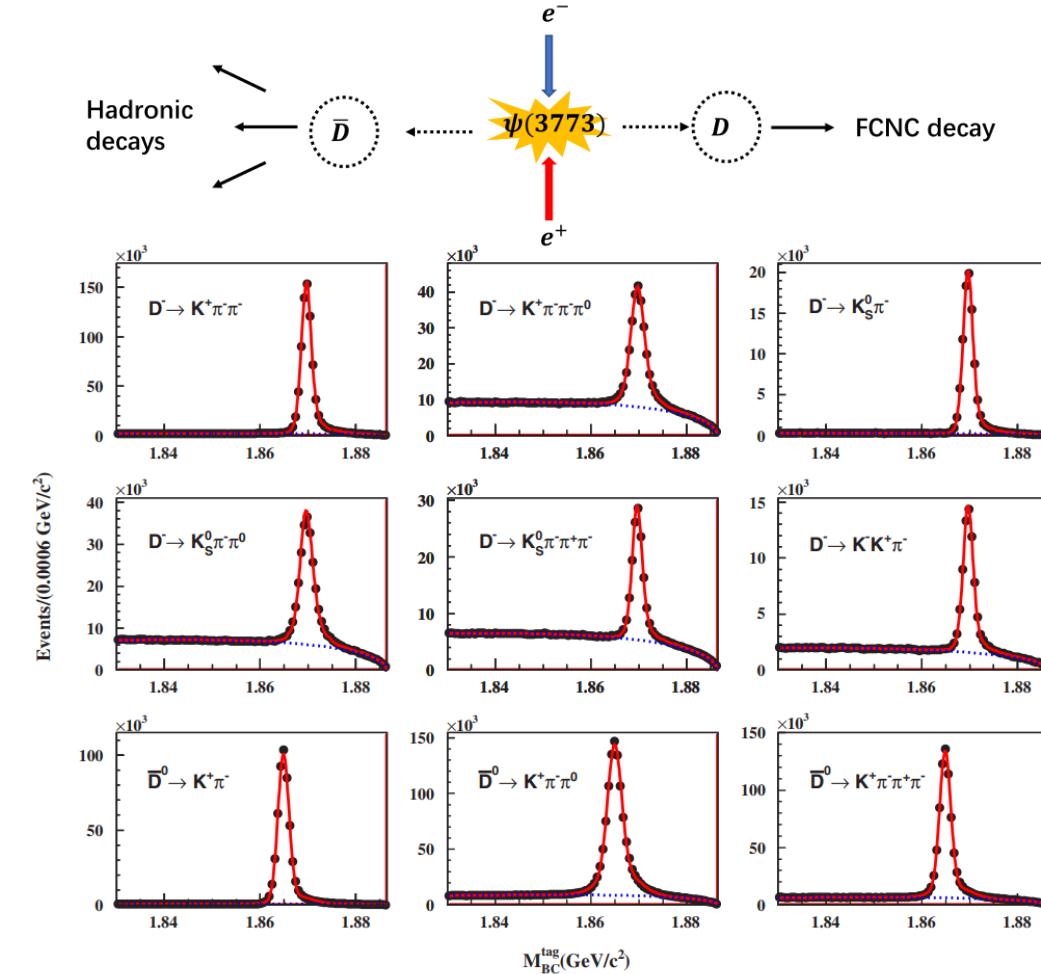


- ✓ Short distance (SD) process: FCNC



- ✓ Long distance (LD):
  - Non-FCNC,
  - Through vector meson
  - $D \rightarrow hV, V \rightarrow l\bar{l}$

- D meson at **BESIII: Double tag method (less background)**

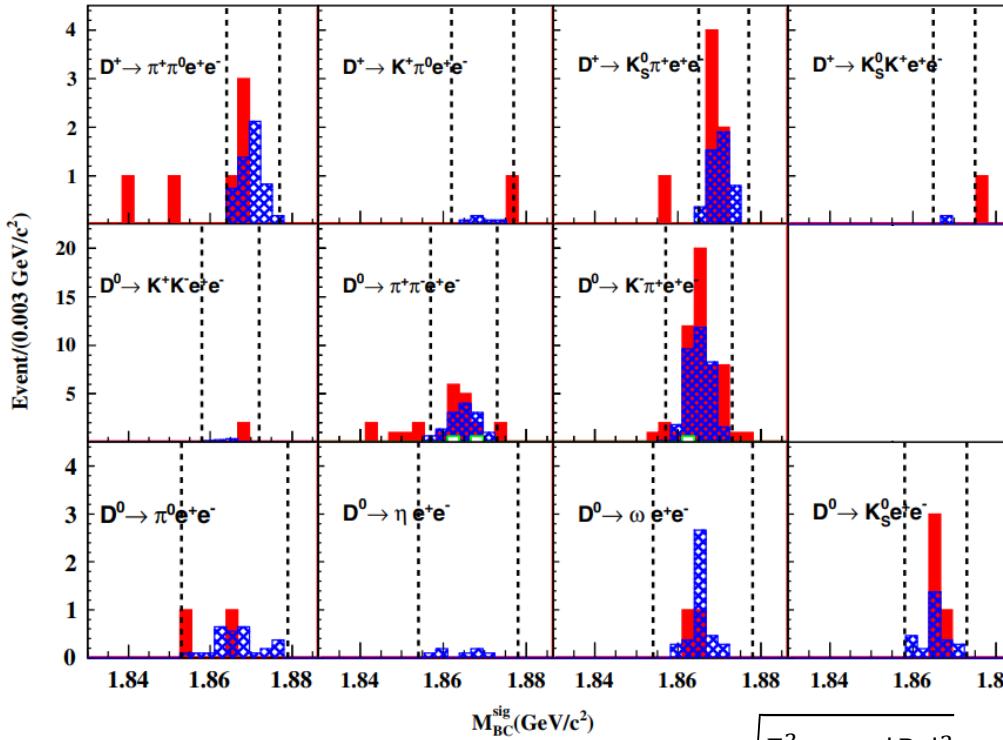


- ✓ Tag D meson by hadronic decays at BESIII

# Search for $D \rightarrow h(h')$ $e^+e^-$ and $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\nu\bar{\nu}$



$D \rightarrow h(h')e^+e^-$



✓ Red: data

✓ Blue: background MC

- ✓ Upper limit of  $\mathcal{B}(D \rightarrow h(h')e^+e^-)$ :
- At the level  $< 10^{-5} \sim 10^{-6}$

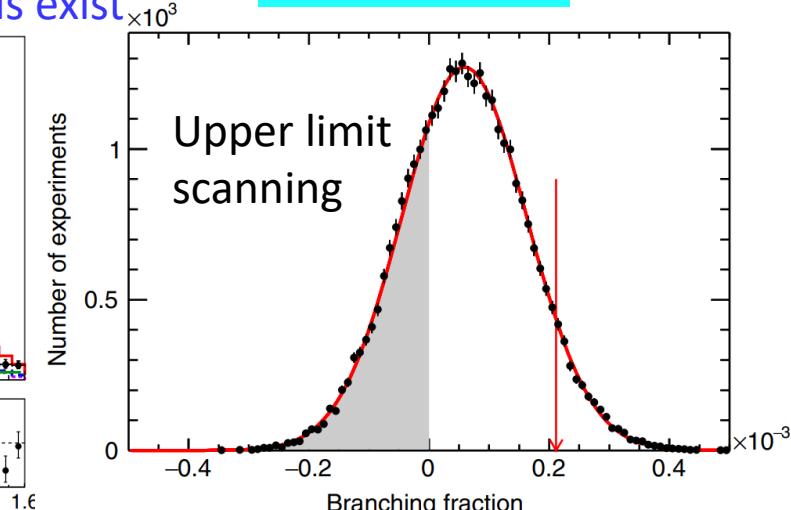
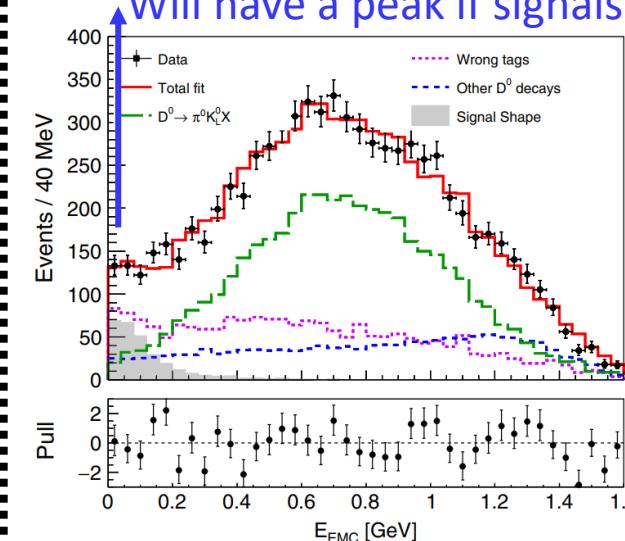
$$M_{BC}^{sig} = \sqrt{\frac{E_{beam}^2}{c^4} - \frac{|P_D|^2}{c^2}}$$

**20  $fb^{-1}$**  samples at BESIII are coming soon. This larger data sample offers an opportunity to further improve the sensitivity.

□ Analyzing **2.93  $fb^{-1}$**  data at  $\sqrt{s} = 3.773$  GeV

Will have a peak if signals exist

$D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\nu\bar{\nu}$

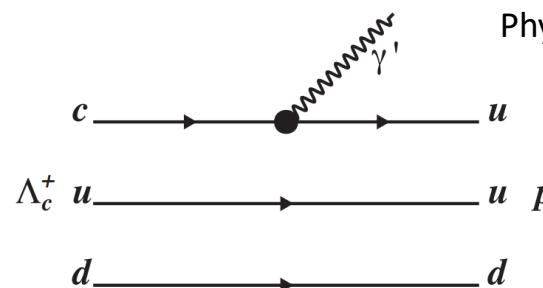


- ✓  $E_{EMC}$ : EMC energy not associated with  $\pi^0$  and tag D decays
- ✓ If has signals, it will have events exceeding zero in  $E_{EMC}$
- ✓  $\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\nu\bar{\nu}) < 2.1 \times 10^{-4}$  @90% C. L.
- ✓ The first experimental results of search for  $c \rightarrow uv\bar{\nu}$  processes

# Search for massless dark photon via $\Lambda_c \rightarrow p\gamma'$

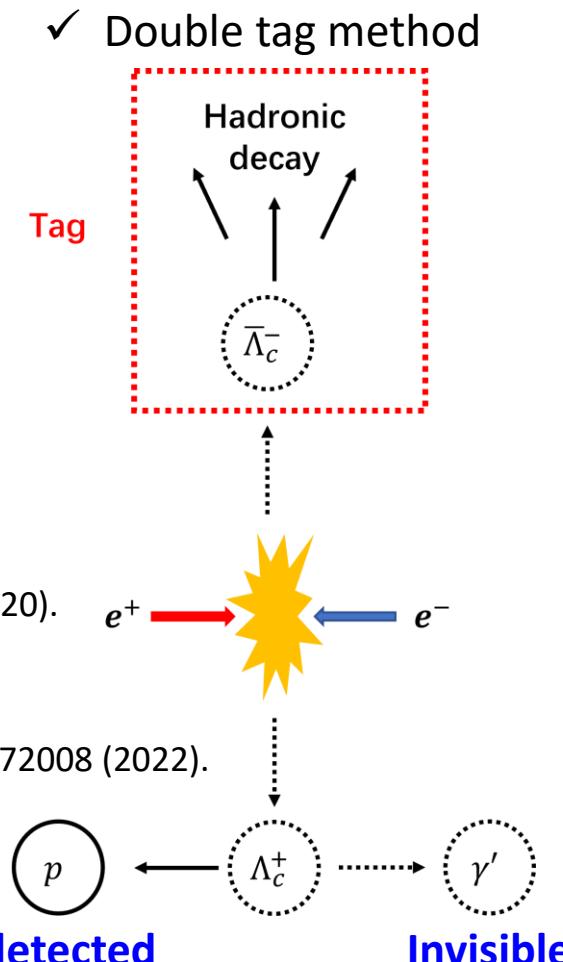


- ✓ New physics: An extra Abelian gauge group,  $U(1)_D$ , Causing the associated gauge boson, the dark photon
- ✓ If symmetry remains unbroken, it will cause a **massless dark photon  $\gamma'$**
- ✓  $\gamma'$  can be produced via **FCNC process**  
 $c \rightarrow u\gamma'$  (**BF  $10^{-5}$  in new physics**)



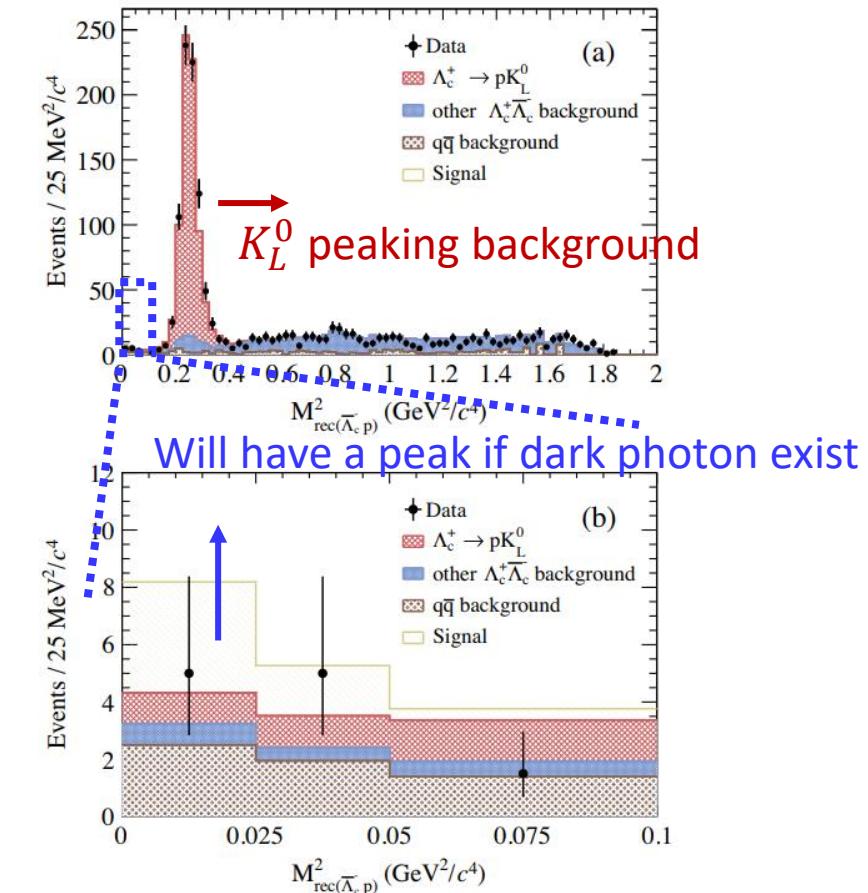
Phys. Rev. D 102, 115029 (2020).

Phys. Rev. D 106, 072008 (2022).



□ Analyzing  $4.5 fb^{-1}$  data @ $4.6\sim4.699$  GeV

$$M_{rec}^2 = |(E_{\Lambda_c} - E_p)^2 - (\vec{P}_{\Lambda_c} - \vec{P}_p)^2|$$

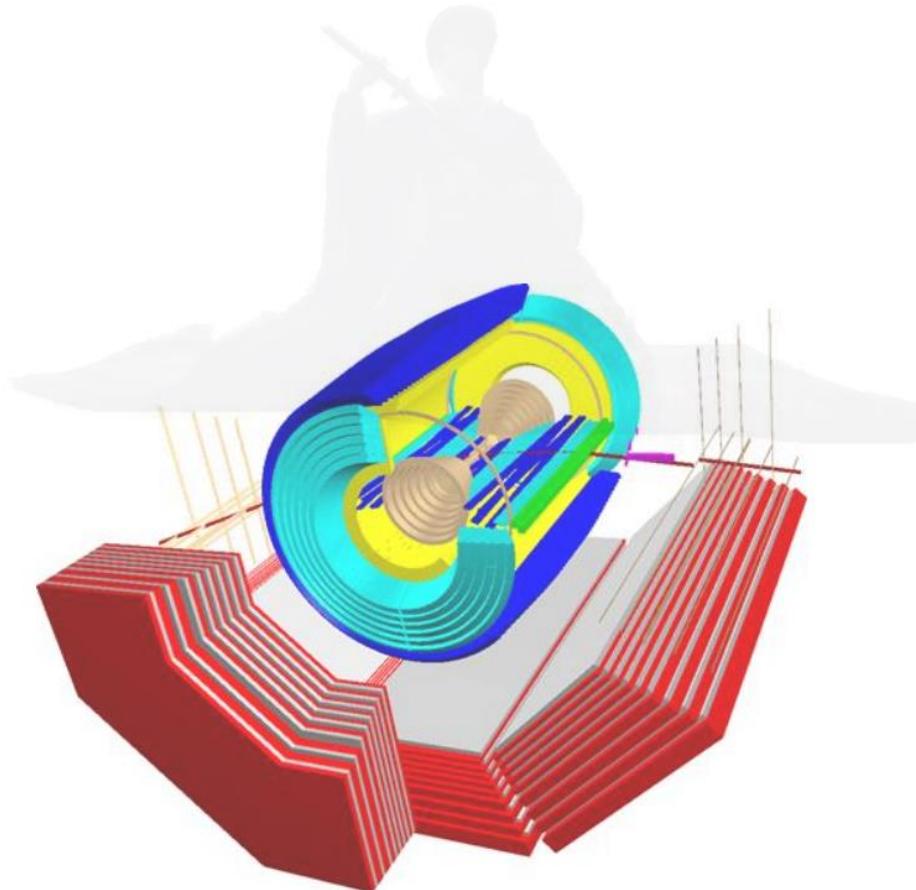


- ✓ The first search for massless dark photon
- ✓  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_c \rightarrow p\gamma') < 8.0 \times 10^{-5}$  @90% C. L.
- ✓ New physics prediction:  $\sim 10^{-5}$

# OUTLINE

---

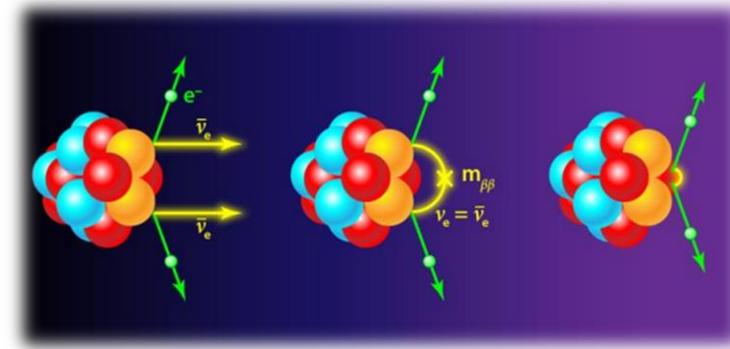
- BEPCII and BESIII
- Charmonium Weak Decays
- FCNC Processes
- **Baryon/Lepton Number Violation**
- Charged Lepton Flavor Violation
- Summary



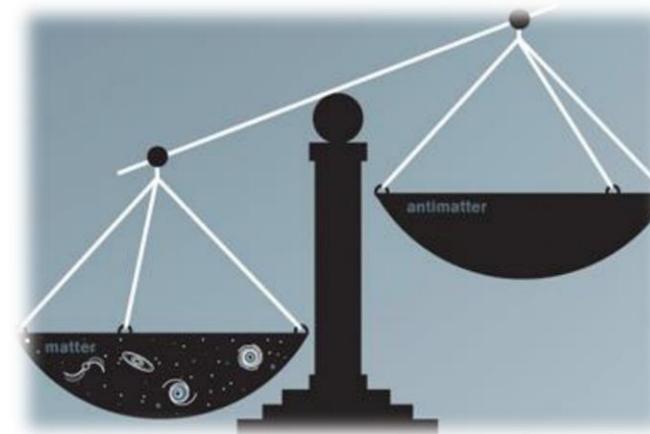
# Lepton / Baryon Number Violation



- ✓ Lepton Number Violation (**LNV**) processes can be used to test the nature of neutrino, **Dirac or Majorana?**
- ✓ Neutrinoless double beta decay is the most promising
- ✓ LNV can also be probed with hadron-lepton decays



- 
- ✓ In the SM, baryon number is always conserved.
  - ✓ However, baryon anti-baryon number is highly asymmetric in the universe. Baryon Number Violation? (**BNV**)
  - ✓ BNV is allowed in GUT and SM extensions  $\Delta(B - L) = 0$
  - BF:  $10^{-29} \sim 10^{-39}$
  - ✓ Furthermore, another BNV under dimension seven operators allow  $\Delta(B - L) = 2$



PRD 22 1694 (1980)  
PRD 101 015017 (2020)  
PRD 72 095001 (2005)  
PRD 59 091303 (1999)  
JHEP 05 030 (2009)  
PRL 120 132501 (2018)  
PRD 93 094026 (2016)  
JHEP 08 068 (2011)

# Search for LNV decay $D \rightarrow K\pi e^+e^+ + c.c.$

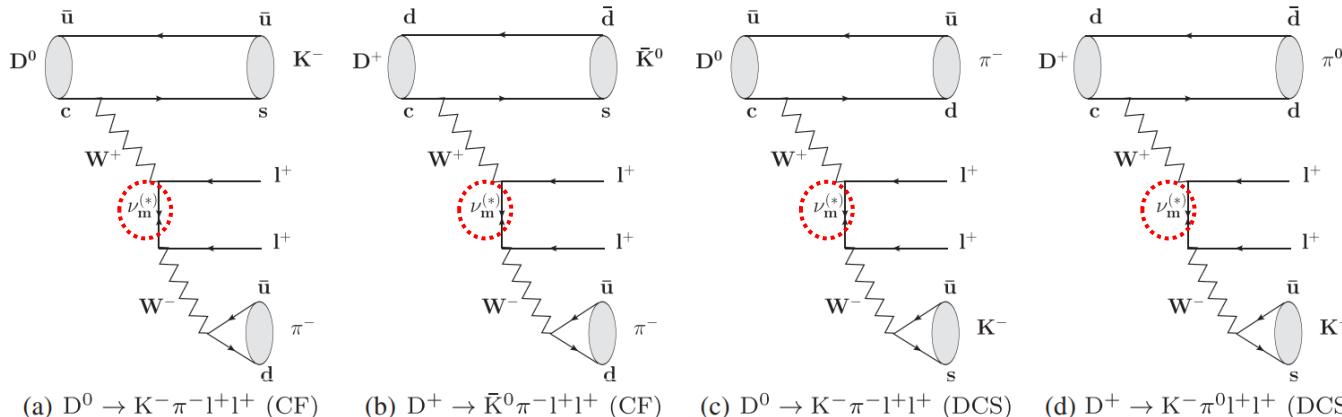


- ✓ LNV processes is given by exchanging a single **Majorana neutrino**

✓ Analyzing  $2.93 fb^{-1}$  data at  $\sqrt{s} = 3.773$  GeV

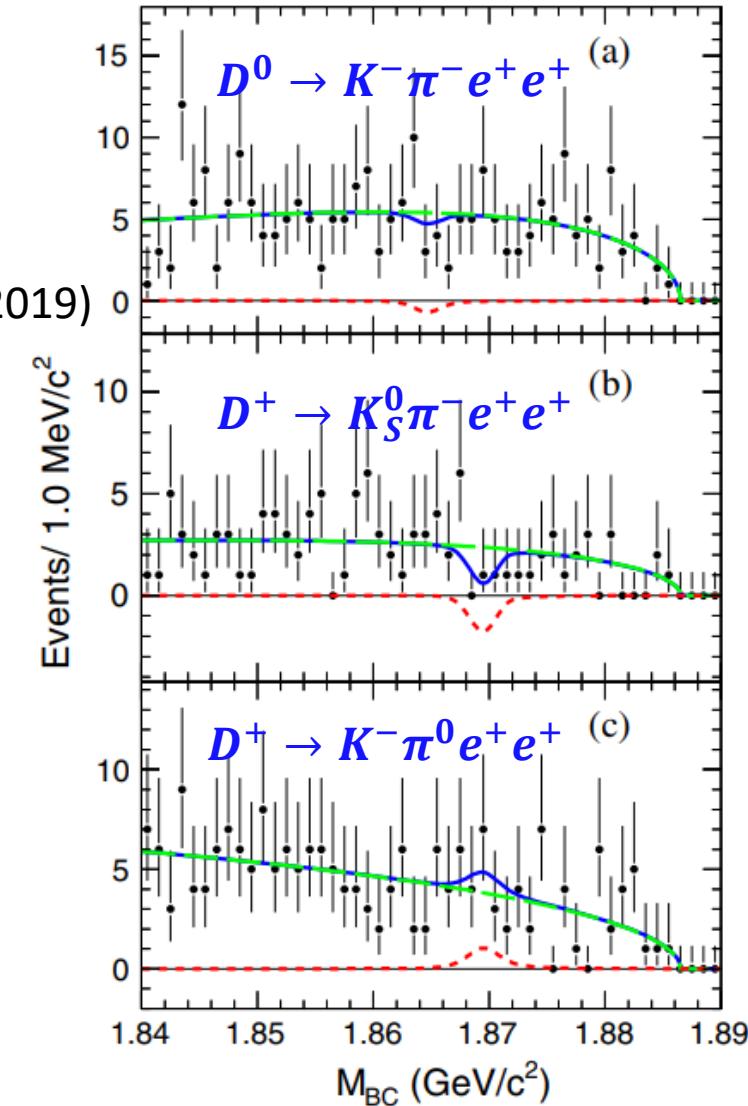
- $\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^-e^+e^+) < 2.8 \times 10^{-6}$  @90% C.L.
- $\mathcal{B}(D^+ \rightarrow K_S^0\pi^-e^+e^+) < 3.3 \times 10^{-6}$  @90% C.L.
- $\mathcal{B}(D^+ \rightarrow K^-\pi^0e^+e^+) < 8.5 \times 10^{-6}$  @90% C.L.

- ✓ Majorana neutrino is searched for with different mass assumptions



$$M_{BC}^{sig} = \sqrt{\frac{E_{beam}^2}{c^4} - \frac{|P_D|^2}{c^2}}$$

PRD 99 112002 (2019)



# Search for BNV decay $D^0 \rightarrow pe$



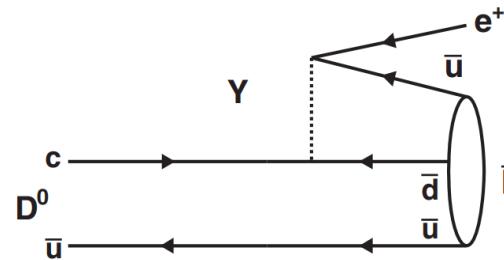
- ✓ Baryon anti-baryon number is highly asymmetric in the universe. Baryon Number Violation? (BNV)

- ✓ BNV is allowed in GUT and SM extensions  $\Delta(B - L) = 0$

- BF:  $10^{-39}$

- ✓ Analyzing  $2.93 fb^{-1}$  3.773 GeV data

- Double Tag method is applied, very clean background

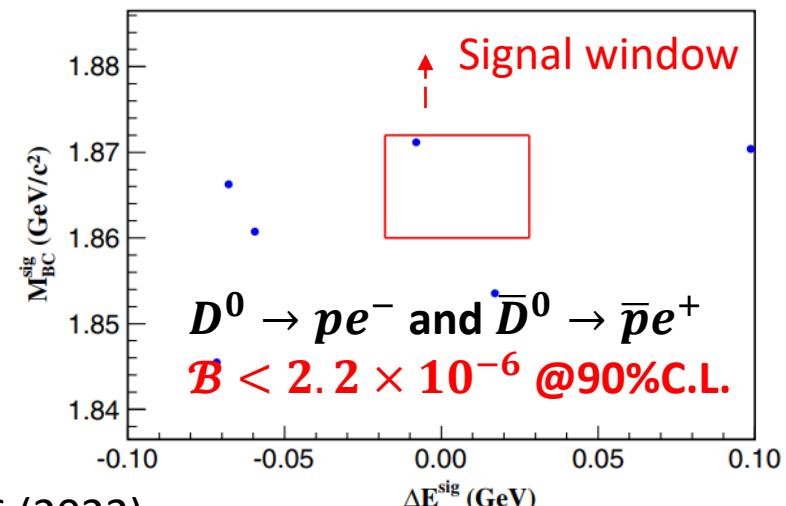
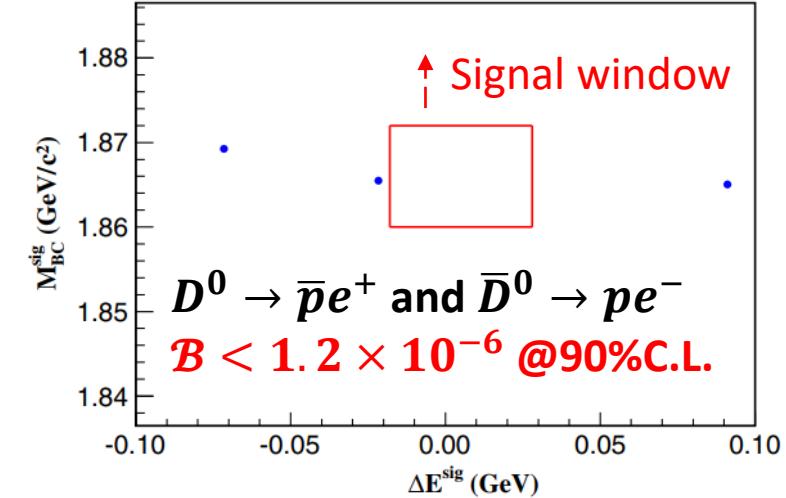


✓  $D^0 \rightarrow \bar{p}e^+$  in SU(5)

- X, Y : **leptoquarks** with electric charge  $\frac{4}{3}e$  or  $\frac{1}{3}e$

$$M_{BC}^{sig} = \sqrt{\frac{E_{beam}^2}{c^4} - \frac{|P_D|^2}{c^2}}$$

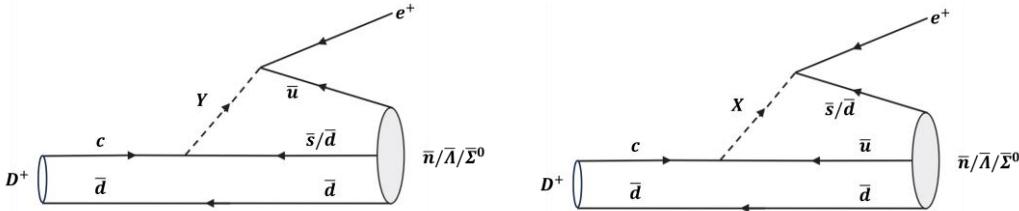
$$\Delta E^{sig} = E_D - E_{beam}$$



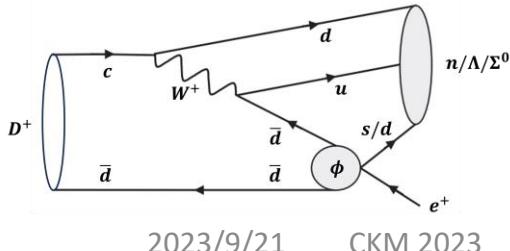
# Search for BNV decay $D^+ \rightarrow (\text{anti}-)n/\Lambda/\Sigma^0 e^+$



- ✓ BNV is allowed in GUT and SM extensions  $\Delta(B - L) = 0$
- BF:  $10^{-29}$  for  $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda}e^+$   
 $10^{-39}$  for  $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{n}e^+$
- ✓ Another BNV under dimension seven operators allow  $\Delta(B - L) = 2$



- X, Y : **leptoquarks** with electric charge  $\frac{4}{3}e$  or  $\frac{1}{3}e$

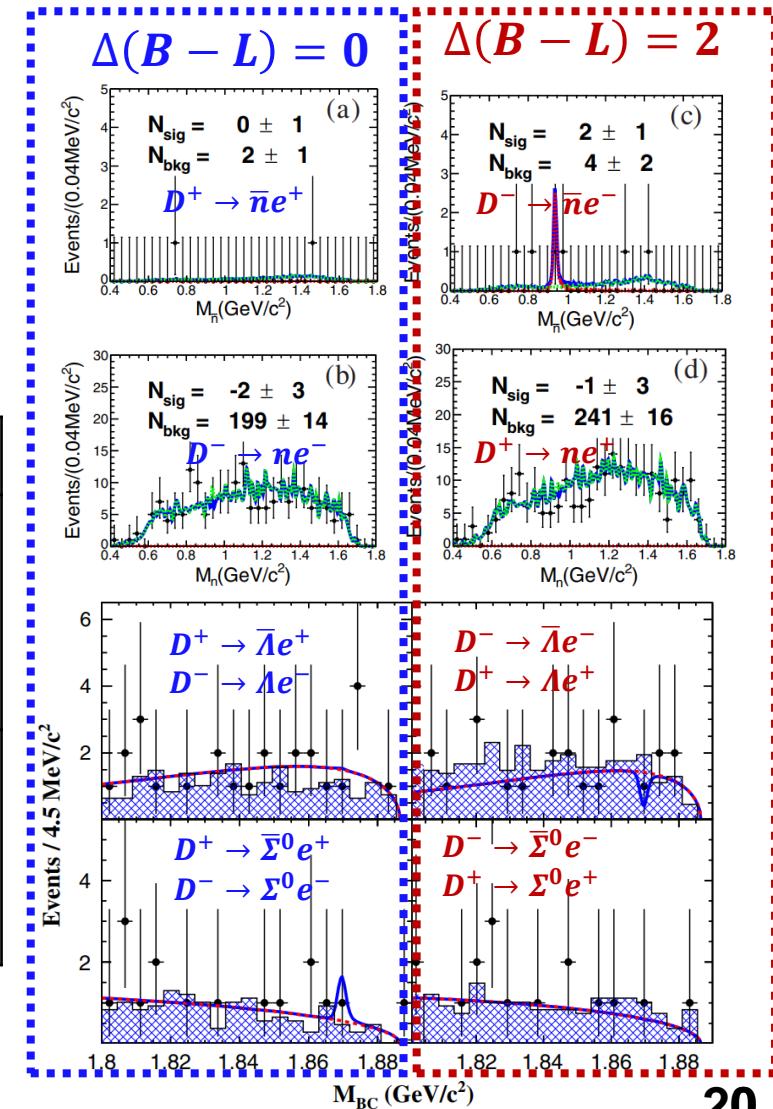


- elementary scalar field  $\phi$

- ✓ Analyzing  $2.93 fb^{-1}$  3.773 GeV data
  - Double Tag method is applied
- ✓  $n, \bar{n}$  are regarded as missing particle
- ✓ Using  $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-$  to reconstruct  $\Lambda$
- ✓ Using  $\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \gamma\Lambda$  to reconstruct  $\Sigma^0$

Mode (+c.c.)	$\mathcal{B}^{UL} @ 90\% \text{C.L.}$
$D^+ \rightarrow \bar{n}e^+$	$< 1.4 \times 10^{-5}$
$D^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda}e^+$	$< 6.5 \times 10^{-7}$
$D^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Sigma}^0 e^+$	$< 1.3 \times 10^{-6}$
$D^+ \rightarrow ne^+$	$< 2.9 \times 10^{-5}$
$D^+ \rightarrow \Lambda e^+$	$< 1.1 \times 10^{-6}$
$D^+ \rightarrow \Sigma^0 e^+$	$< 1.7 \times 10^{-6}$

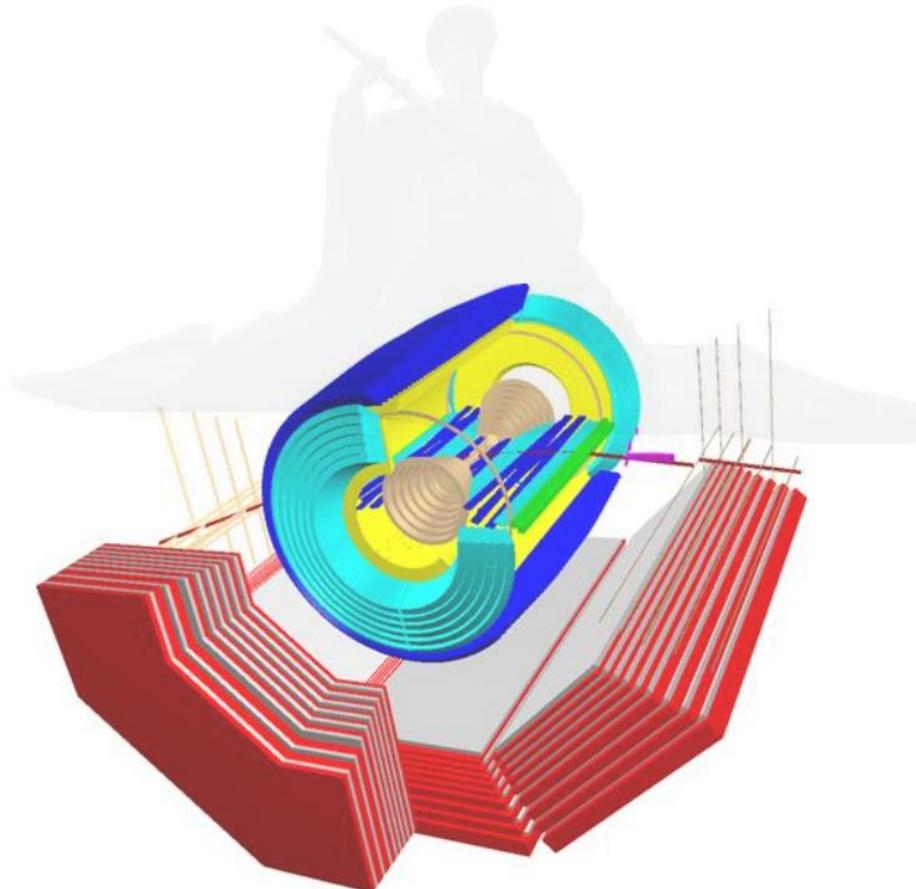
Phys. Rev. D 101, 031102(R) (2020)  
 Phys. Rev. D 106, 112009 (2022)



# OUTLINE

---

- BEPCII and BESIII
- Charmonium Weak Decays
- FCNC Processes
- Baryon/Lepton Number Violation
- **Charged Lepton Flavor Violation**
- Summary



# CLFV of $J/\psi$



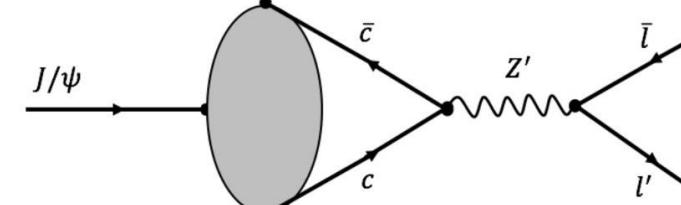
- ✓ With neutrino mixing, Charged Lepton Flavor Violation (**CLFV**) is allowed in extended SM, but very **rare** to be detected.

$$BR(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) = \frac{3\alpha}{32\pi} \left| \sum_{i=2,3} U_{\mu i}^* U_{e i} \frac{\Delta m_{1i}^2}{M_W^2} \right|^2 < 10^{-54}$$

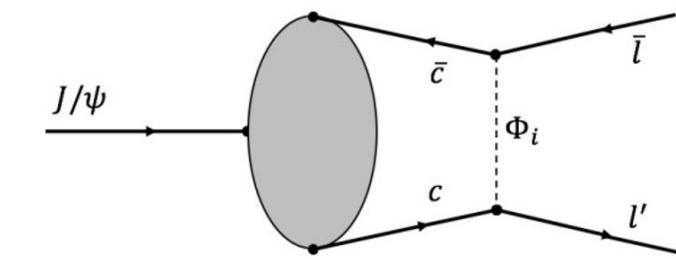
- ✓ Some **new physics** models can enhance the BF of CLFV to a detectable level:

- $BF(J/\psi \rightarrow e\mu) @ 10^{-16} \sim 10^{-9}$
- $BF(J/\psi \rightarrow e\tau) @ 10^{-10} \sim 10^{-8}$

- Model-independent prediction
- Rotating mass matrix
- Unparticle physics
- Effective Lagrangian
- MSSM with gauged baryon and lepton number



✓ CLFV via  $Z'$  or leptoquarks



Phys. Lett. B 496, 89 (2000)

Phys. Rev. D 63, 016003 (2000).  
Rev. D 83, 115015 (2011).  
Phys. Rev. D 63, 016006 (2000).

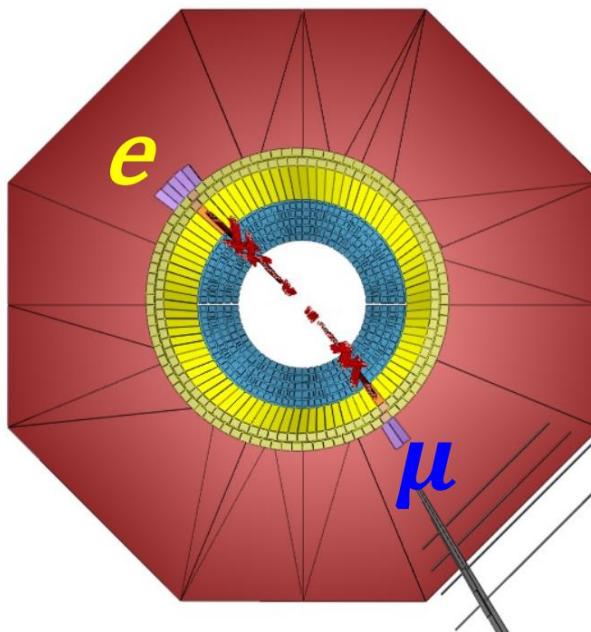
Phys. Lett. A 27, 1250172 (2012).  
Phys. Rev. D 94, 074023 (2016).  
Phys. Rev. D 97, 056027 (2018).

**BESIII has collected  $10^{10} J/\psi$ , offering an opportunity to search them**

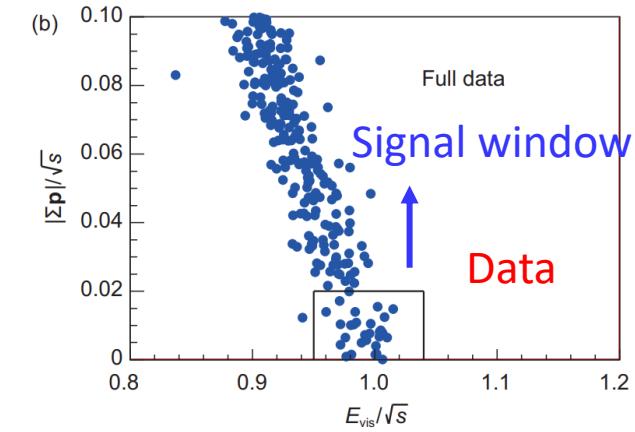
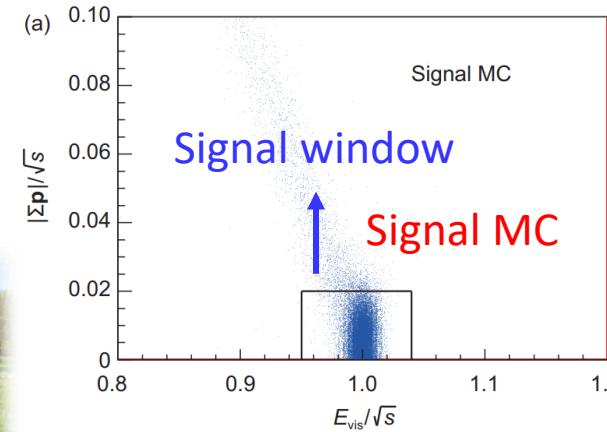
# Search for $J/\psi \rightarrow e\mu$



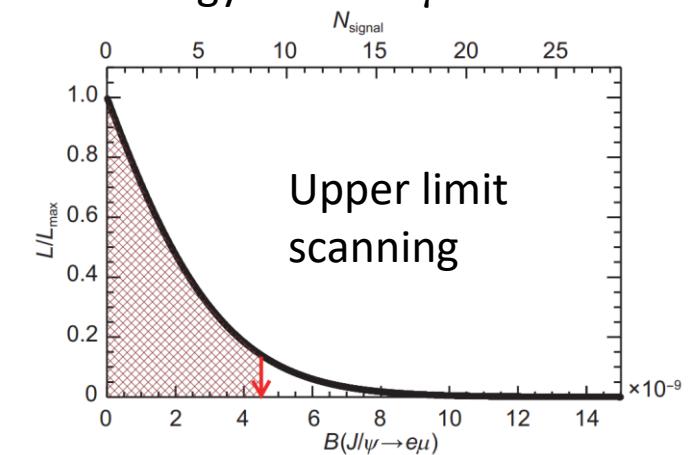
- ✓ Analyzing  $8.998 \times 10^9 J/\psi$  events
- ✓ **29 candidate events** are observed
- ✓ Estimated background:  $36.8 \pm 4.0$



- ✓  $B(J/\psi \rightarrow e\mu) < 4.5 \times 10^{-9}$  @90% C. L.
- ✓ **New physics prediction:**  $10^{-16} \sim 10^{-9}$
- ✓ Improves the previous published limits by a factor of more than 30
- ✓ **The most precise CLFV search in heavy quarkonium**



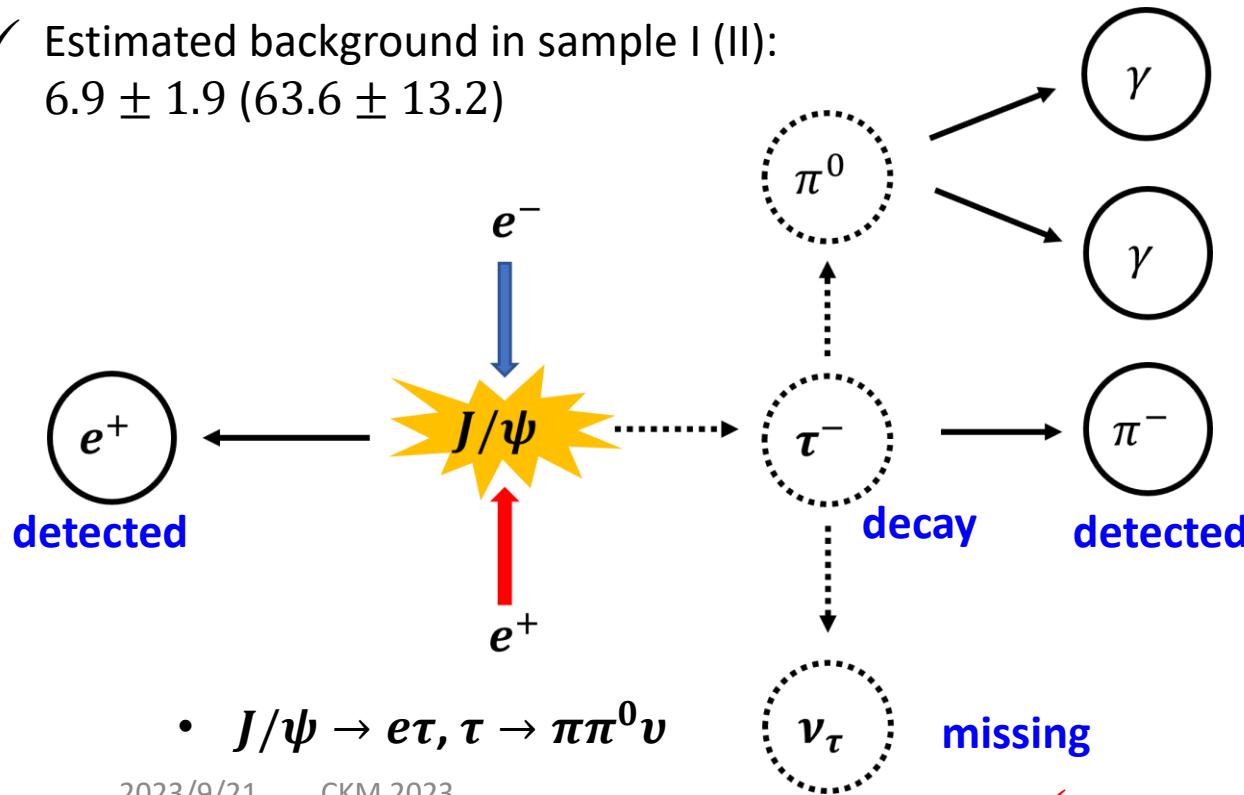
- $\sum \vec{p}$ : the magnitude of the vector sum of the momenta
- $E_{vis}$ : the total reconstructed energy of  $e$  and  $\mu$



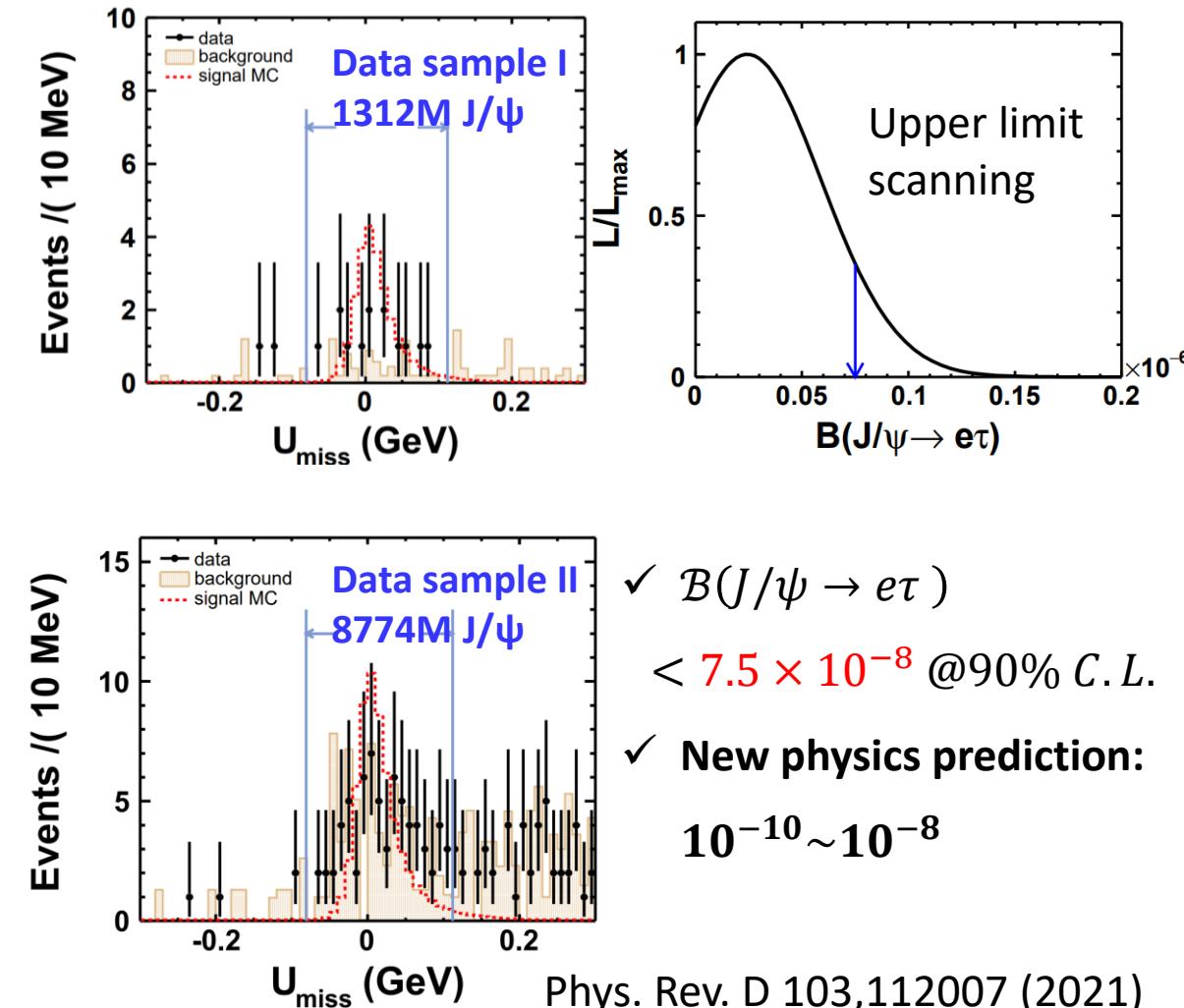
# Search for $J/\psi \rightarrow e\tau$



- ✓ Analyzing  $10.1 \times 10^9 J/\psi$  events
- ✓ **13 (69) candidate events** are observed in sample I (II)
- ✓ Estimated background in sample I (II):  
 $6.9 \pm 1.9$  ( $63.6 \pm 13.2$ )



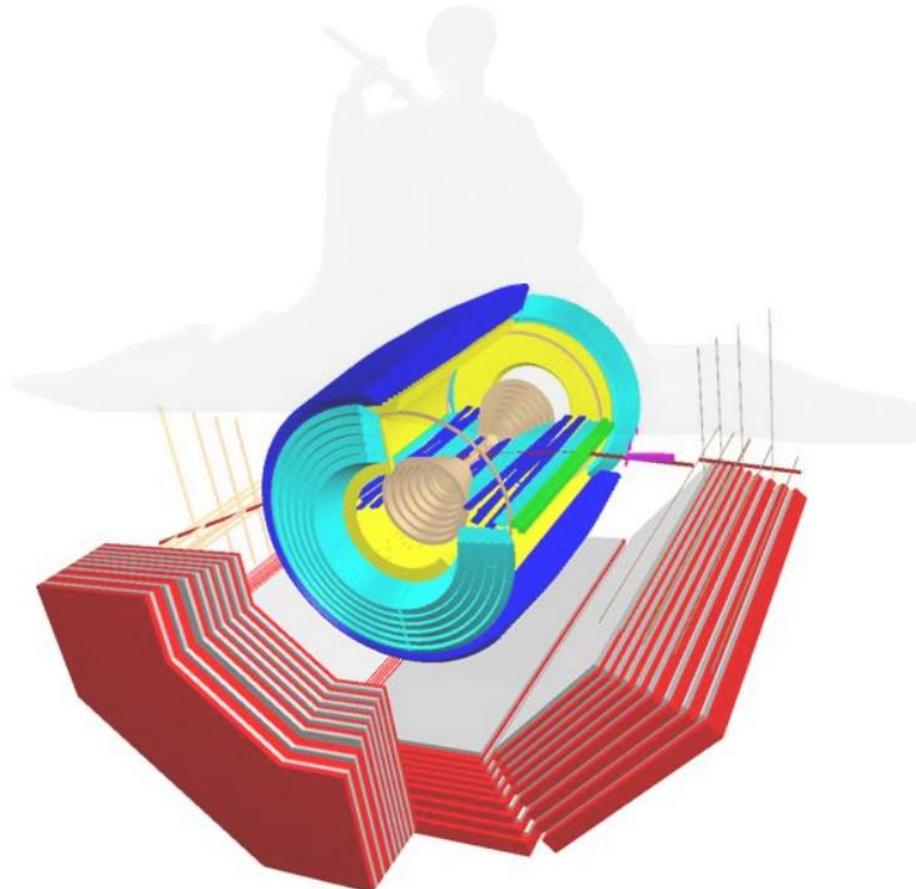
- ✓  $U_{miss} = E_{miss} - c|\vec{P}_{miss}|$
- $E_{miss}$ : missing energy
- $\vec{P}_{miss}$ : missing momentum



# OUTLINE

---

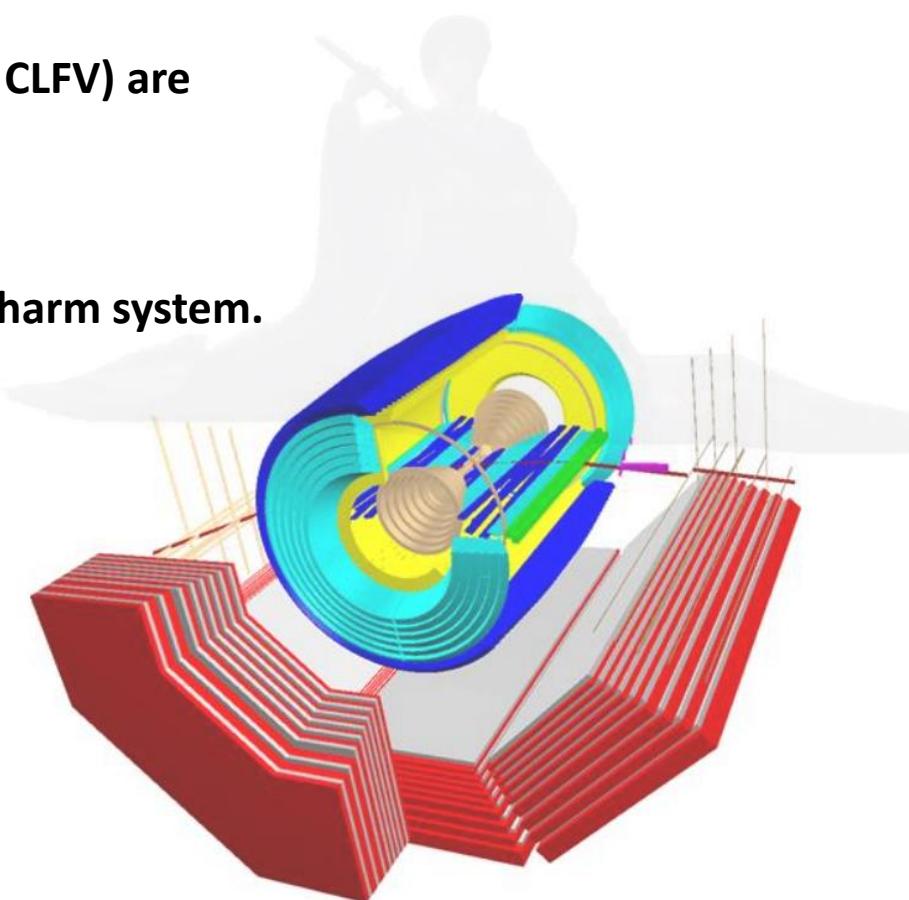
- BEPCII and BESIII
- Charmonium Weak Decays
- FCNC Processes
- Baryon/Lepton Number Violation
- Charged Lepton Flavor Violation
- **Summary**



# Summary



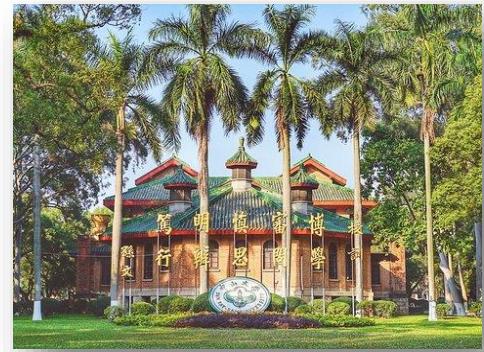
- The rare decays and symmetry violation processes (LNV, BNV, CLFV) are essential to probe New Physics beyond the Standard Model
- BESIII has performed wide studies on these processes in the charm system.
- BESIII has collected  $10^{10} J/\psi$  and  $2.7 \times 10^9 \psi'$  events
- BESIII will collect  $20 fb^{-1}$  @ 3.773 GeV data sample ( $D\bar{D}$ )
- More & better results are coming soon!



**BESⅢ**



thank you



12<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on the CKM Unitarity Triangle  
September 21, 2023, Santiago de Compostela, Spain



**中山大學**  
SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY

[lizhj37@mail2.sysu.edu.cn](mailto:lizhj37@mail2.sysu.edu.cn)