

### Accelerator Probes for Millicharged Particles

#### Yu-Dai Tsai, Fermilab/U.Chicago (WH674)

An overview (see a lot of refs in the following slides), plus

[1] The FerMINI Experiment (<u>1812.03998</u>, *PRD '19*)

[2] Millicharged Particles (MCPs) in Neutrino Experiments (1806.03310, PRL '19)

[3] Cosmic-ray Produced MCPs in Neutrino Observatories (2002.11732, NEW) + ongoing works!

Email: <a href="mailto:ytsai@fnal.gov">ytsai@fnal.gov</a>; arXiv: <a href="mailto:https://arxiv.org/a/tsai\_y\_1.html">https://arxiv.org/a/tsai\_y\_1.html</a>

### Outline

- Intro (theory & models) of millicharged particles (MCP)
- Experimental Program Overview
  - Colliders
  - Electron Fixed-Target
  - Proton Fixed-Target: NuMI facilities, BNB Facilities, DUNE
- Details on Proton Fixed-Target / Neutrino Experiments
- Specialized Experiments: MilliQan & FerMINI
- Millicharged Strongly Interacting Dark Matter (EDGES related)
- Cosmic-Ray Production and Neutrino Observatories

### Millicharged Particle & Dark Matter

### Finding Minicharge

- Is electric charge quantized and why? A long-standing question!
- SM U(1) allows arbitrarily small (any real number) charges. Why don't we see them? Motivates **Dirac quantization, Grand Unified Theory (GUT)**, to explain such quantization (anomaly cancellations fix some SM  $U(1)_Y$  charge assignments)
- MCP (not confined) is predicted by some Superstring theories:
   Wen, Witten, Nucl. Phys. B 261 (1985) 651-677
   <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmUI2qf9uyo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmUI2qf9uyo</a> (watch 15:50 to 17:28)
- Link to string compactification and quantum gravity (Shiu, Soler, Ye, PRL '13)
- Conservatively, testing if e/3 is the minimal charge

### Minicharge Dark Sector

- MCP could have natural link to dark sector (dark photon, etc)
- Could account for (sometimes fractional) dark matter (DM) abundance
- Used for the cooling of gas temperature to explain the EDGES anomaly [EDGES collab., Nature, (2018); Barkana, Nature, (2018)].
   A small fraction of the DM as MCP can potentially explain EDGES observation of anomalous absorption of 21 cm spectrum
- See more reference and discussions about this in later pages

### MCP Model

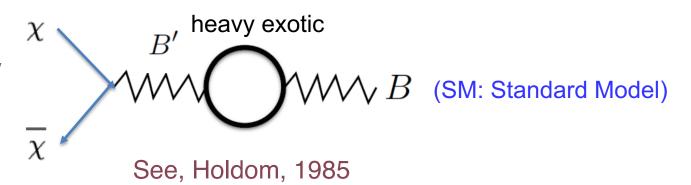
A particle fractionally (or irrationally) charged under SM U(1)

hypercharge 
$$\mathcal{L}_{ ext{MCP}} = iar{\chi}(\partial \!\!\!/ - i\epsilon'eB \!\!\!\!/ + M_{ ext{MCP}})\chi$$

- $\epsilon'$  can in principle be arbitrarily small.
- Can just consider these Lagrangian terms by themselves (no extra mediator, i.e., dark photon). Completely legal! Naively violating the empirical charge quantization (cool).
- We are simply search for MCP!
   Minimal assumptions = most robust constraints/probes.
- This could come from vector portal Kinetic Mixing (Holdom, '85)
  - a nice origin to the above terms
  - help give rise to dark sectors
  - easily compatible with **Grand Unification Theory**

### Kinetic Mixing and MCP Phase

Coupled to new dark fermion χ



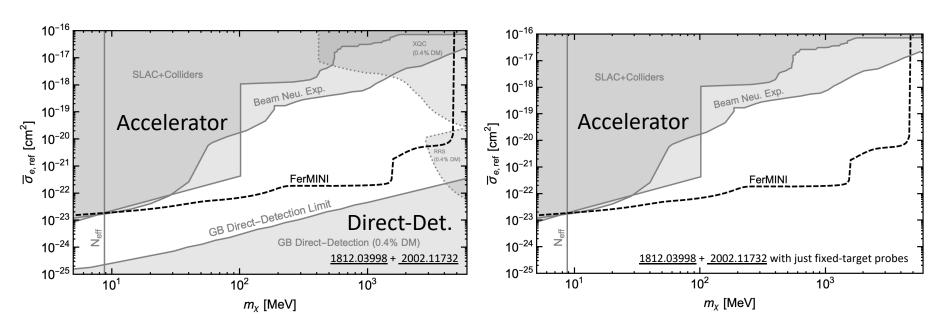
$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} - \frac{1}{4}B'_{\mu\nu}B'^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\kappa}{2}B'_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu} + i\bar{\chi}(\partial \!\!\!/ + ie' \!\!\!\!/ B' + iM_{MCP})\chi$$

- New fermion χ charged under new gauge boson B'.
- Millicharged particle (MCP) can be a low-energy consequence
  of massless dark photon (a new U(1) gauge boson) coupled to
  a new fermion (become MCP in a convenient basis.)

### Important Notes!

- Our search is simply a search for particles (**fermion**  $\chi$ ) with  $\{$ mass, electric charge $\} = \{m_{\chi}, \epsilon e\}$
- Minimal theoretical inputs/parameters
   (need high-energy/intensity machines to probe in MeV –
   GeV+ mass regime)
- Dark photon not necessary for MCP particles (Neff, Self-Int.
   could provide extra constraints)
- Similar bound/sensitivity applies to scalar MCPs

### Not all bounds are created with equal assumptions Example: Constraints on Millicharged Dark Matter



Also consider ambient dark matter

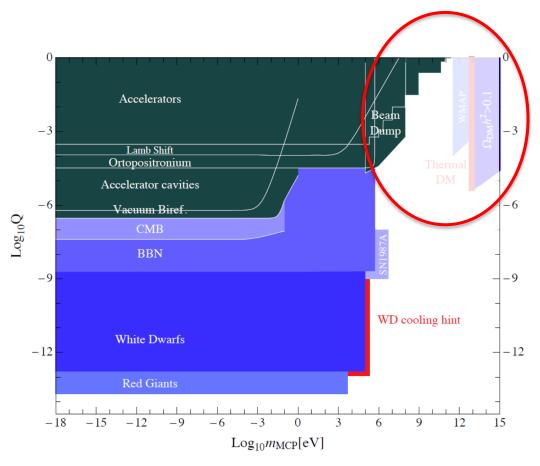
Produce dark particles in collisions

Same mass and interaction strength.

#### **Different assumptions**

Details of these figures will be explained later

### A few years ago ...

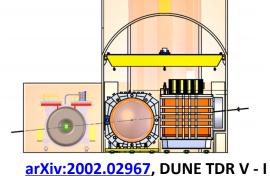


Haas, 2017, Fermilab Wine & Cheese

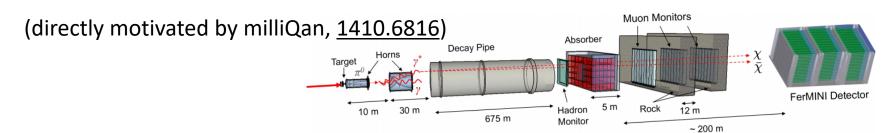
### Our Three Ways to Produce/Study MCPs

#### More reference shown in following slides!

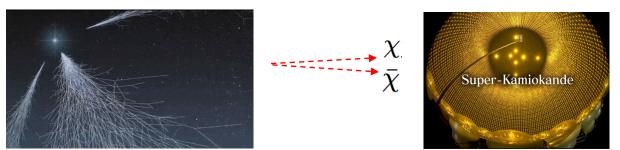
(1) MCPs in fixed-target neutrino experiments, 1812.03998



(II) Fixed-target produced MCP detected by specialized detector (FerMINI), 1812.03998



(II) Cosmic-ray production and detection in large neutrino observatories, 2002.11732



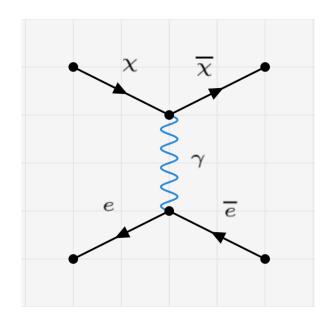
by Chantelauze, Staffi, and Bret

Super-K, http://www-sk.icrr.u-tokyo.ac.jp/sk/index-e.html

# MCP is interesting itself, and is one of the simplest dark-sector test models for accelerator experiments

### Millicharged Particle: Signature

### MCP Detection: Hard Scattering or Ionization



"Hard" (MeV-level) electron elastic scattering:

Magill, Plestid, Pospelov, **Tsai**, <u>1806.03310</u> (MCP in neutrino Experiments)

• **Ionization (eV-level):** ∼ very low-energy scattering:

MilliQan: arXiv:1410.6816, Haas, Hill, Izaguirre, Yavin

FerMINI: arXiv:1812.03998, Kelly, Tsai

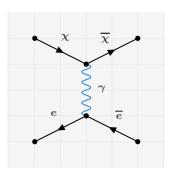
### MCP Detection: Electron Scattering

- $Q^2$  is the squared 4-momentum transfer.
- lab frame:  $Q^2 = 2m_e (E_e m_e)$ ,  $E_e m_e$  is the electron recoil energy.
- Expressed in **recoil energy threshold**,  ${E_e}^{(min)}$ , we have

$$\sigma_{e\chi} \simeq 2.6 \times 10^{-25} \text{cm}^2 \times \epsilon^2 \times \frac{1 \text{ MeV}}{E_e^{(\text{min})} - m_e}.$$

Sensitivity greatly enhanced by accurately measuring low energy

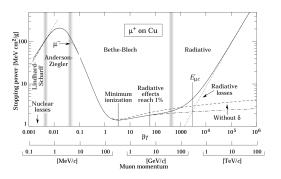
electron recoils for MCP's & light-mediator scattering



#### MCP Detection: Ionization

- Want very low momentum transfer: ionization and scintillation signature
- Signature proportional to dE/dx of the MCP, referred to as energy loss/stopping power
- Can be approximated with the Bethe-Bloch Formula (various modified versions and detailed considerations.)

$$\left\langle -\frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle \propto \epsilon^2.$$



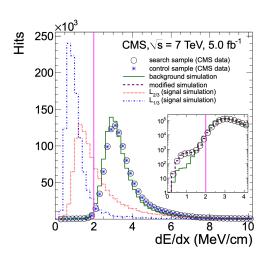
intentionally make the plot small so we don't get into too much details of this. <a href="http://pdg.lbl.gov/2020/reviews">http://pdg.lbl.gov/2020/reviews</a>

### Accelerator Probes: Overview

Note: MeV – GeV+ Dark Sector are motivated by thermal freeze-out dark matter (DM) & anomalies We don't need to search in the dark!

### Collider: LEP & LHC

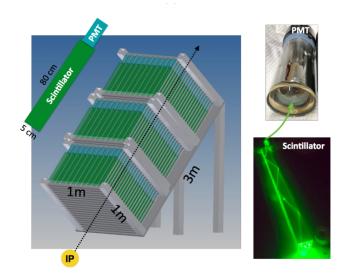
- LEP: **Z decay** (though The coupling to Z is suppressed by  $\sin^2 \theta_W$ .)
- See, H. Goldberg, L.J. Hall, Phys. Lett. B174 (1986) 151.
- S. Davidson, B.A. Campbell, D. Bailey, Phys. Rev. D43 (1991) 2314.
- LHC: A dE/dx study of the particle, focus on ±2e/3 and ±e/3
- selecting tracks with low charge measurements in silicon tracking detector.
- arXiv:1210.2311 (CMS)
- Should redo this analysis with the current data.

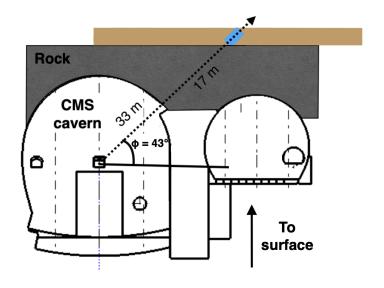


### More Proton Experiments

### milliQan

- MilliQan: arXiv:1410.6816, Haas, Hill, Izaguirre, Yavin
- Also will show an update from the milliQan-prototype!
- From milliQan Collaboration:
- LOI: <u>1607.04669</u>
- First result update:
   2005.06518
   (will get into this more)





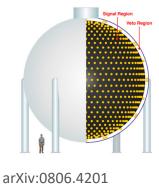
### **Proton Fixed-Target**

#### **Example Beams:**

Booster Neutrino Beam (BNB)

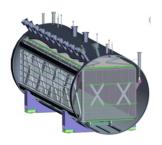


#### **MiniBooNE Detector**



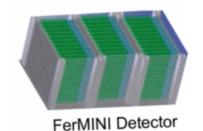
arXiv:0806.4201
MiniBooNE collaboration

#### MicroBooNE Detector

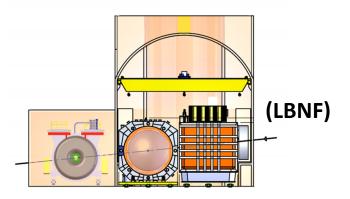


arXiv:1612.05824
MicroBooNE collaboration

- Nutrino Main Injector (NuMI)
- Long Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF)



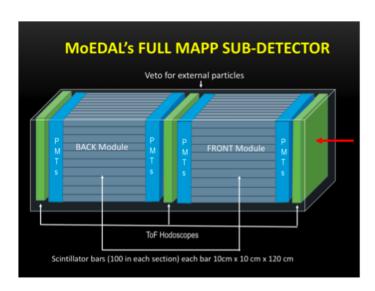
**DUNE Near Detector** 



**Discuss details later** 

### Other Probes

MOEDAL@LHC: <a href="https://www.mdpi.com/2218-1997/5/2/47">https://www.mdpi.com/2218-1997/5/2/47</a>
 (MoEDAL Collaboration Progress Report), see MAPP sub-detector



### Lepton Fixed-Target Machines

### SLAC mQ

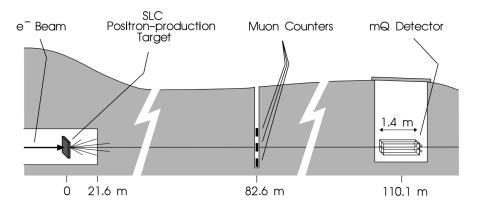
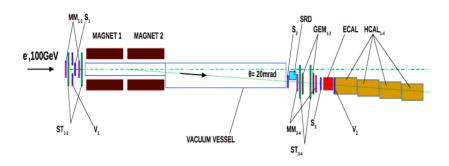


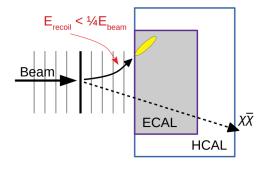
FIG. 1. Layout of the experiment. Shown is a vertical cross section.

- 29.5 GeV Electron Beam
- Prinz et al, PRL 98, <u>9804008</u>
- The detector consists of a 2 x 2 array of blocks of plastic scintillator, each having dimensions 21 cm x 21 cm x 130 cm, and each coupled to an 8-in. hemispherical photomultiplier tube.
- The longitudinal axis of the array lies along the beam direction.
- employ a scintillation counter designed to be sensitive to signals as small as a single scintillation photon (from a single excitation or ionization).
- Motivated milliQan and IFerMINI
   (much better sensitivity to do this in Hadron machines if background is controlled)

# Fixed-Target Machines LDMX & NA64

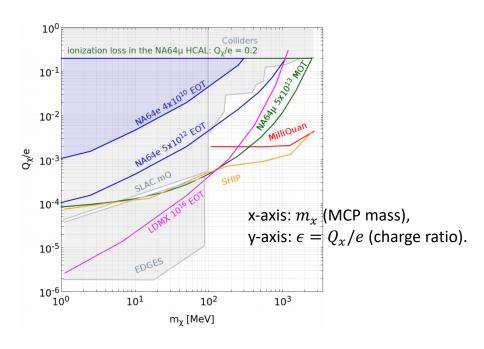


<u>1710.00971</u> (NA64 collaboration)



1808.05219 (LDMX collaboration)

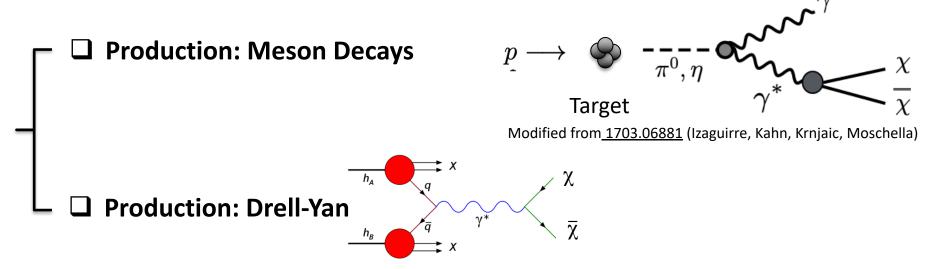
Won't get into details for these



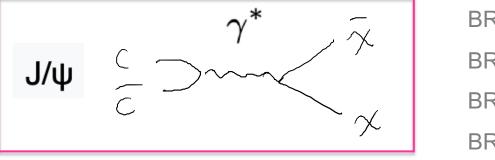
- Berlin, Blinov, Krnjaic, Schuster, Toro, 1807.01730
- Gninenko, Kirpichnikov, Krasnikov, 1810.06856
- (consider both electron and muon modes)

### MCP in Fixed-Target Neutrino Experiment

### **Some Production Channels of MCP**



☐ Heavy (vector) mesons are important for high-mass mCP's in high-energy beams



$$BR(\pi^0 \rightarrow 2y) = 0.99$$

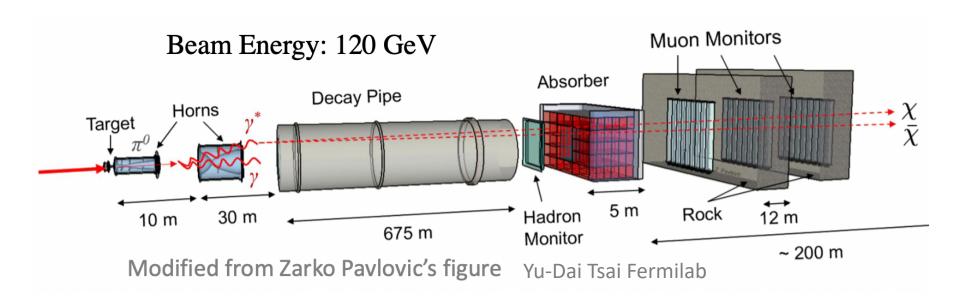
BR(
$$\pi^0 \to \gamma e^- e^+$$
) = 0.01

$$BR(\pi^0 \rightarrow e^- e^+) = 6 * 10^{-6}$$

$$BR(J/\psi \to e^-e^+) = 0.06$$

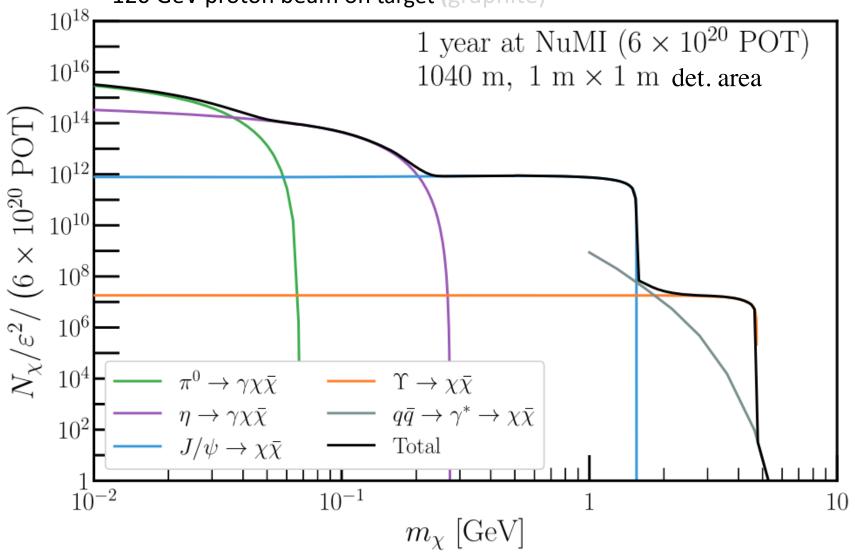
### MCP Produced in Fixed-Target Experiments

Example: Neutrinos at the Main Injector (NuMI) beamline See <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/1507.06690">https://arxiv.org/abs/1507.06690</a> (NuMI collaboration)



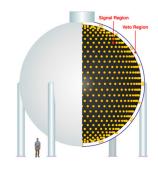
### MCP Production/Flux

120 GeV proton beam on target (graphite)



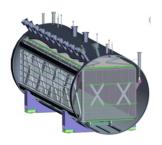
### **Scattering Detectors**

#### MiniBooNE Detector



arXiv:0806.4201
MiniBooNE collaboration

#### MicroBooNE Detector

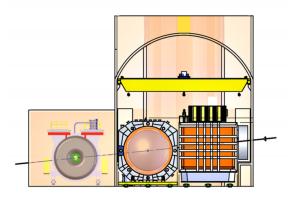


arXiv:1612.05824
MicroBooNE collaboration

#### Other beams:

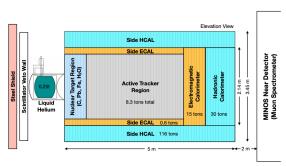
- BNB
- LBNF (future)

#### **DUNE Near Detector**



arXiv:2002.02967, DUNE TDR V - I

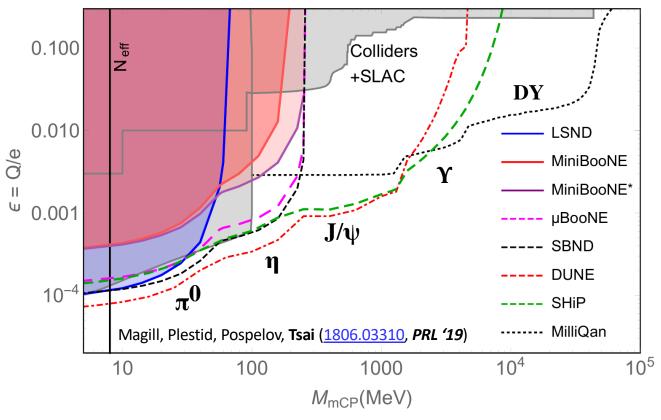
#### **MINERvA Detector**



arXiv:1109.2855

MINERvA collaboration

### Sensitivity at Neutrino Detectors



- Electron recoil-energy threshold: MeV to 100 MeV
- Can use timing information to improve sensitivity
- Double-hit to reduce background (see next page)
- Will include more updates later!

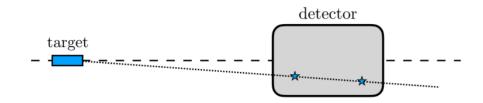
x-axis:  $m_x$  (MCP mass), y-axis:  $\epsilon = Q_x/e$  (charge ratio).

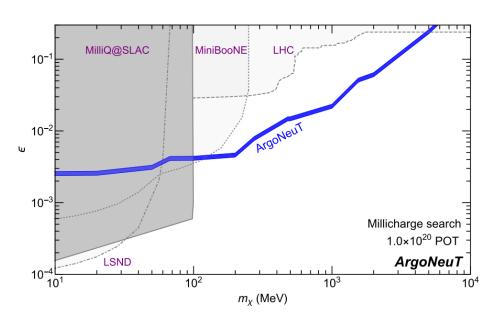
### **Analysis Summary (skip)**

		$N \times 10^{20}$		$A_{\text{geo}}(m_{\chi})[\times 10^{-3}]$		Cuts [MeV]		
	Exp. (Beam Energy, POT)	$\pi^0$	η	$1~{ m MeV}$	$100~{\rm MeV}$	$E_e^{\min}$	$E_e^{\max}$	Bkg
Existing	LSND $(0.8 \text{ GeV}, 1.7 \times 10^{23})$	130	_	20	_	18	52	300
Future	mBooNE (8.9 GeV, $2.4 \times 10^{21}$ )	17	0.56	1.2	0.68	130	530	2k
	$mBooNE* (8.9 \text{ GeV}, 1.9 \times 10^{20})$	1.3	0.04	1.2	0.68	75	850	0.4
	$\mu \text{BooNE } (8.9 \text{ GeV}, \ 1.3 \times 10^{21})$	9.2	0.31	0.09	0.05	2	40	16
	SBND (8.9 GeV, $6.6 \times 10^{20}$ )	4.6	0.15	4.6	2.6	2	40	230
	DUNE (80 GeV, $3.0 \times 10^{22}$ )	830	16	3.3	5.1	2	40	19k
	SHiP (400 GeV, $2.0 \times 10^{20}$ )	4.7	0.11	130	220	100	300	140

- $\varepsilon \propto E_{e,R,min}^{1/4} Bg^{1/8}$
- $\cos \theta > 0$  is imposed (\*except for at MiniBooNE's DM run where a cut of  $\cos \theta > 0.99$  effectively reduces backgrounds to zero [Dharmapalan, MiniBooNE, (2012)]).
- Efficiency of 0.2 for Cherenkov detectors, 0.5 for nuclear emulsion detectors, and 0.8 for liquid argon time projection chambers.

## Double-Hit Consideration: ArgoNeuT Study & Constraint





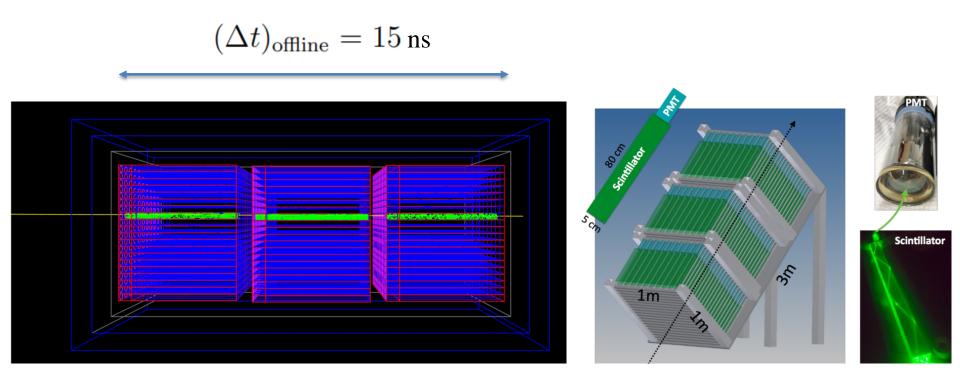
Harnik, Liu, Ornella: multi-scattering, point back to target to reduce the background (ArgoNeuT & DUNE), arXiv:1902.03246 /

ArgoNeuT collab: arXiv:1911.07996

x-axis:  $m_x$  (MCP mass), y-axis:  $\epsilon = Q_x/e$  (charge ratio).

### Specialized MCP Detectors

### MCP Detector Concept



1607.04669, (MilliQan Collaboration)

Ball, Brooke, Campagnari, De Roeck, Francis, Gastal, Golf, Goldstein, Haas, Hill, Izaguirre, Kaplan, Magill, Marsh, Miller, Prins, Shakeshaft, Stuart, Swiatlowski, Yavin

### FerMINI

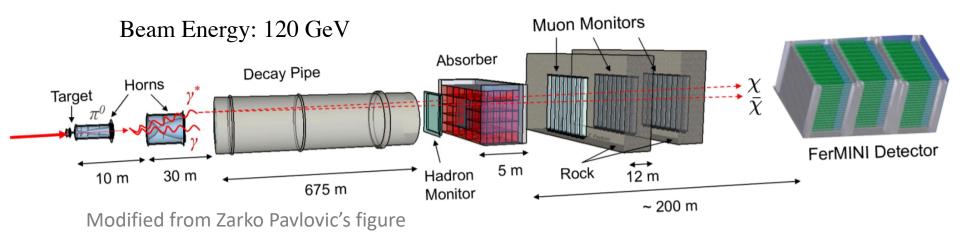
A Fermilab Search for MINI-charged Particle based on scintillating detectors Kelly, Tsai, 1812.03998 (PRD19)

Directly inspired by milliQan concept (Haas, Hill, Izaguirre, Yavin, 1410.6816)

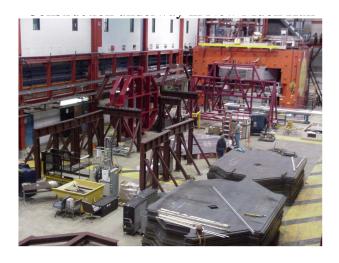
Visually "a detector made of stacks of light sabers,"

can potentially probe other new-physics scenarios like **small-electric-dipole dark fermions**, or **quirks**, etc

# FerMINI @ NuMI-MINOS Hall



An illustration of the FerMINI experiments utilizing the NuMI facility.



Yu-Dai Tsai Fermilab

#### **Photoelectrons (PE) from Scintillation**

 The averaged number of photoelectron (PE) seen by the detector from single MCP is:

$$N_{PE} \propto \left\langle -\frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle \times l_{scint}, \ \left\langle -\frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle \propto \epsilon^2.$$

 $\langle dE/dx \rangle$  is the "mass stopping power" (PDG 2018)

One can use modified **Bethe-Bloch Formula** to get an approximation

- $N_{PE} \sim \epsilon^2 \times 10^6 \text{ for 1}$  meter plastic scintillation bar
- $\epsilon \sim 10^{-3}$  roughly gives one PE



#### **Signature: Triple Coincidence**

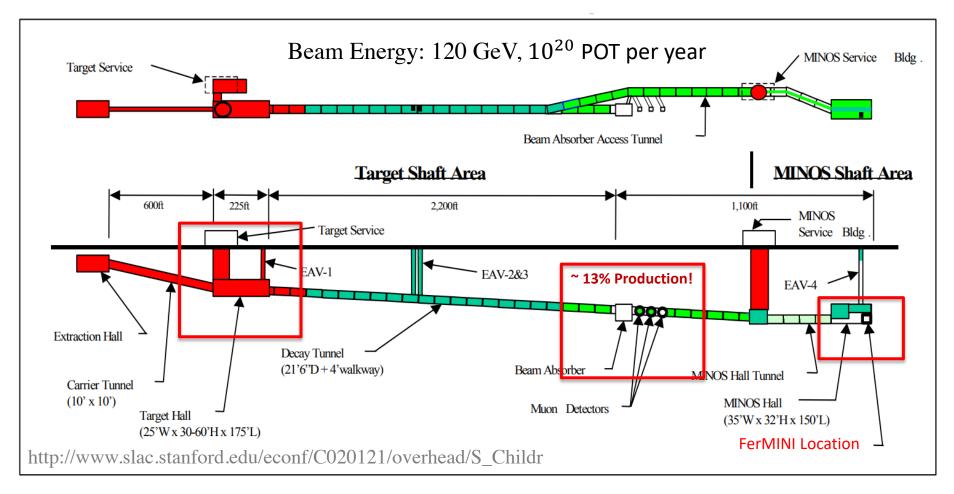
 Based on Poisson distribution, zero event in each bar correspond to

 $P_0 = e^{-N_{PE}}$ , so the probability of seeing triple incident of one or more photoelectrons is:

$$P = \left(1 - e^{-N_{PE}}\right)^3$$

•  $N_{x,detector} = N_x$  (going through detector) x P.

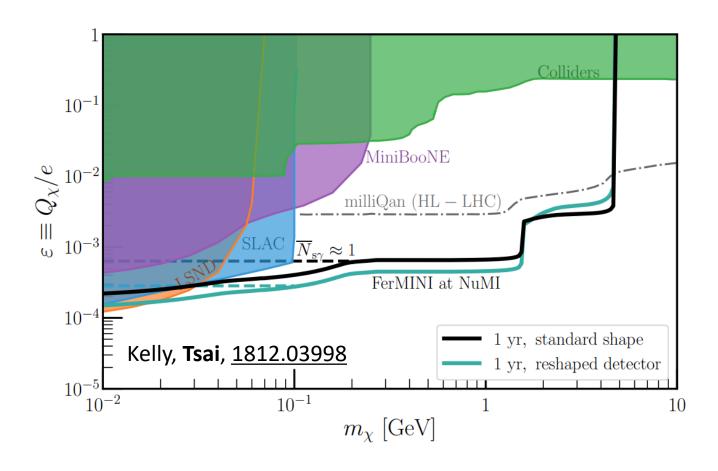
#### Site 1: NuMI Beam & MINOS ND Hall



**NuMI**: Neutrinos at the Main Injector

MINOS: Main Injector Neutrino Oscillation Search, ND: Near Detector

## FerMINI @ MINOS

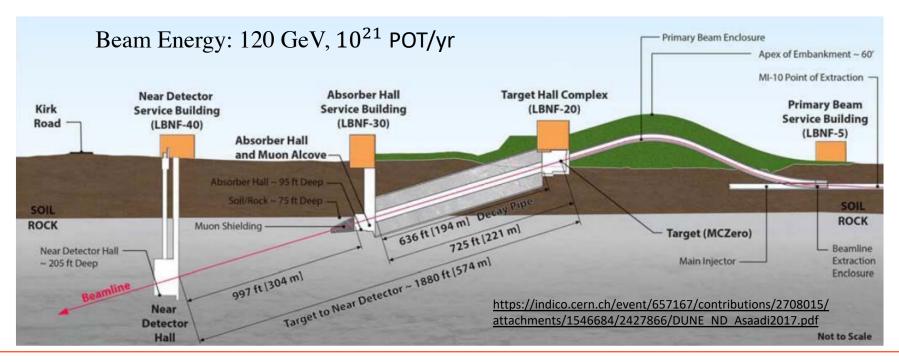


Yu-Dai Tsai, Fermilab

Different epsilon now,  $\varepsilon$ =Q/e

Now it's literally fraction of the charge!

#### Site 2: LBNF Beam & DUNE ND Hall



Jonathan Asaadi - University of Texas Arlington

**LBNF: Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility** 

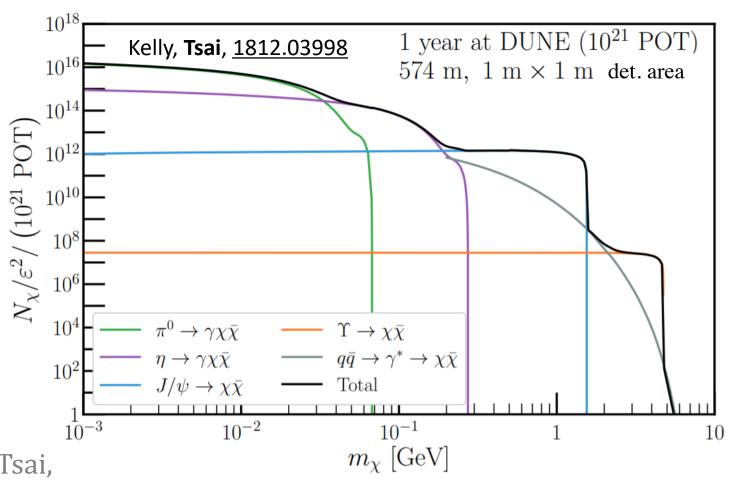
There are many other **new physics opportunities** 

in the **near detector hall!** 

Combine with **DUNE PRISM**?

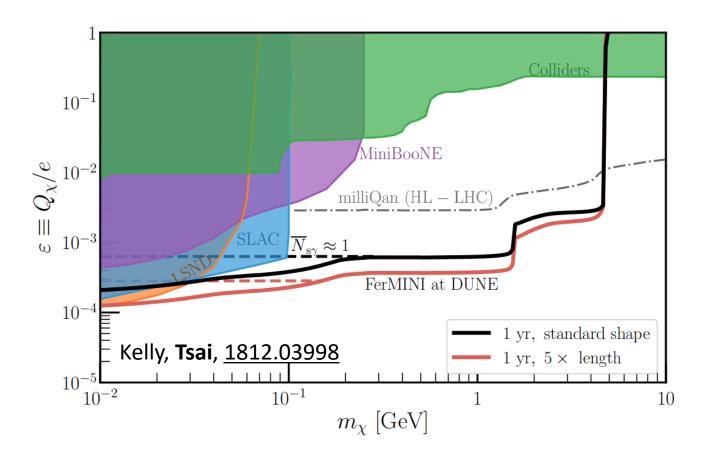
#### **MCP Production/Flux**

120 GeV proton beam on target (graphite)



Yu-Dai Tsai, Fermilab

# FerMINI @ DUNE



Yu-Dai Tsai, Fermilab

- Hope to Incorporate it into the near detector proposal.
- + DUNE PRISM? & combine with DUNE to get timing?

## Dark Current Background @ PMT (may skip)

- Major Background Source!
- dark-current frequency to be  $v_B$ = 500 Hz for estimation (1607.04669)
- For each tri-PMT set, the background rate for triple incidence is

$$v_B^3 \Delta t^2 = 2.8 \times 10^{-8}$$
 Hz, for  $\Delta t = 15$  ns. (for a set of triple PMT)

- Consider 400 such PMT sets: the total background rate is 400 x 2.8 x  $10^{-8}$  ~  $10^{-5}$  Hz
- ~ 300 events per year of trigger-live time
- Quadruple coincidence can reduce this BG to essentially zero!

# Detector Background (may skip)

- We will discuss two major detector
   backgrounds and the reduction technique
- SM charged particles from background radiation (e.g., cosmic muons):
  - Offline veto of events with > 10 PEs
  - Offset middle detector
- Dark current: triple coincidence

## FerMINI Collaboration (BRN proposal)



Chris Hill OSU



Andy Haas NYU



Jim Hirschauer Fermilab



**David Miller**U Chicago



David Stuart
UCSB



**Zarko Pavlovic** Fermilab



**Yu-Dai Tsai** Fermilab/U.Chicago



**Cindy Joe** Fermilab



**Ryan Heller** Fermilab



Maxim Pospelov
Minnesota / Perimeter



**Ryan Plestid** McMaster



Albert de Roeck CERN



Joe Bramante Queen's U

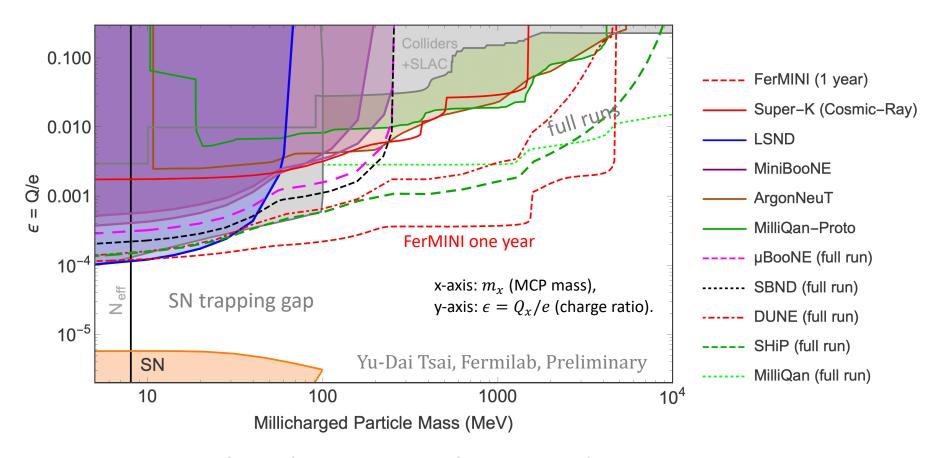


Bithika Jain ICTP-SAIFR

#### **Broader Message**

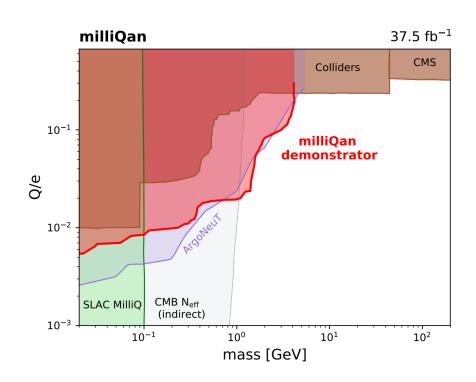
- 1. LHC entering long shutdown
- 2. NuMI (and other beams) operating, shutting down in 5 years
- 3. Broadening the physics case for fixed-target facilities
- **4. DUNE near detector design** underway
- 5. Can develop at NuMI/MINOS and then move to DUNE
- 6. don't have to wait for HL-LHC
- 7. New low-cost detectors? Fermilab + CERN collaboration?
- 8. Synergy between dark matter, neutrino, and collider community. (contact <a href="mailto:ytsai@fnal.gov">ytsai@fnal.gov</a>)

# Compilation of MCP Probes

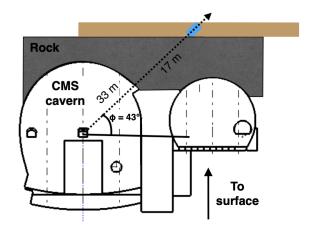


- One can combine the FerMINI with neutrino detector to improve sensitivity or reduce background
- Filling up the MCP "cavity". One new probe soon on arXiv!

## Proto-milliQan Update!



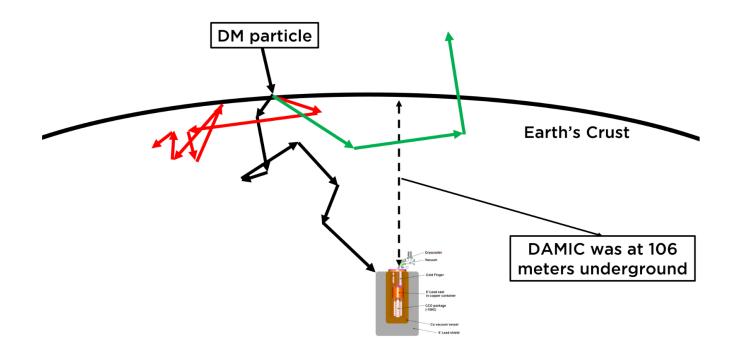
MilliQan prototype: updates on the results <a href="https://arxiv.org/pdf/2005.06518.pdf">https://arxiv.org/pdf/2005.06518.pdf</a> (milliQan Collaboration)



- ~1% of the full milliQan (total of 18 bars)
- LHC '18 of 37.5 fb-1 at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV.
- A prototype scintillator-based detector is deployed to conduct the first search at a hadron collider
- 20 and 4700 MeV is excluded at 95% confidence level for charges between 0.006e and 0.3e

# Strongly Interacting Dark Matter

DM-SM Interaction too strong that attenuation stop the particles from reach the direct detection detector



**DMATIS (Dark Matter ATtenuation Importance Sampling), Mahdawi & Farrar '17** 

#### Reference Cross-Section

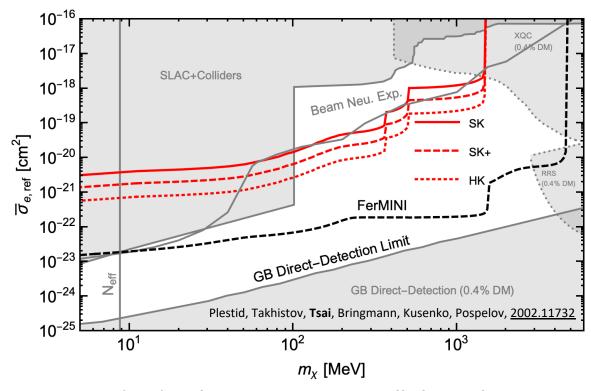
$$\bar{\sigma}_{\mathrm{e,ref}} = \frac{16\pi\alpha^2 \epsilon^2 \mu_{\chi e}^2}{q_{\mathrm{d,ref}}^4}, q_{\mathrm{d,ref}} = \alpha m_e$$

- Reference Cross-section for MCP-Electron Scattering (Direct Detection)
- $\mu_{\chi e}$  is the reduced mass of the electron and  $\chi$  ,  $\alpha$  is the fine structure constant.
- $q_{ref}$  is a reference momentum transfer (for normalization)
- We choose the typical momentum transfer in DM-electron collisions for noble-liquid and semiconductor targets.
- This just is a normalization! Can choose the other one for comparison
- Comparing to e.g. SENSEI, CDMS-HVeV, XENON10, XENON100, and DarkSide-50

# FerMINI Probe of Millicharged SIDM

MCP / LDM with ultralight dark photon mediators

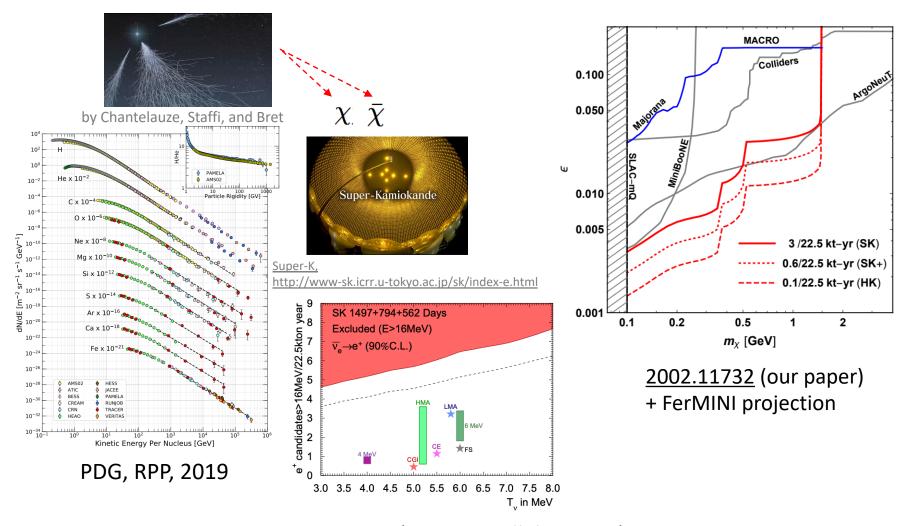
$$\bar{\sigma}_e \simeq \frac{16\pi\alpha^2 \epsilon^2 \mu_{\chi e}^2}{q_{ref}^2}, \ q_{ref} = \alpha m_e$$



- Here we plot the electron-scattering Millicharged SIDM see 1905.06348 (Emken, Essig, Kouvaris, Sholapurkar)
- Cosmic-Ray Production/Super-K Detection <u>2002.11732</u> (our paper)
- FerMINI can help close the Millicharged SIDM window!

Yu-Dai Tsai, Fermilab

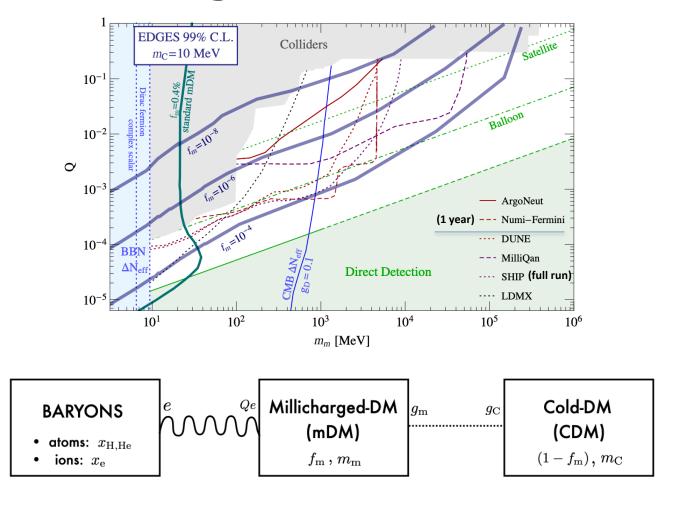
#### MCP in Neutrino Observatories



Yu-Dai Tsai Fermilab

1111.5031 (Super-K Collaboration)

# Reviving MDM for EDGES



Liu, Outmezguine, Redigolo, Volansky, '19

## More on MCP/DM & 21-cm Cosmology

Some more reference of Millicharged DM (mDM) and constraints.

See, e.g.,

McDermott, Yu, Zurek, 1011.2907;

EDGES explanation to  $\sim 100$  GeV.

Muñoz, Dvorkin, Loeb, 1802.10094, 1804.01092;

Berlin, Hooper, Krnjaic, McDermott, 1803.02804;

Kovetz, Poulin, Gluscevic, Boddy, Barkana, Kamionkowski, 1807.11482;

Liu, Outmezguine, Redigolo, Volansky, 1908.06986:

"Reviving Millicharged Dark Matter for 21-cm Cosmology,"

Introduces a long-range force between a subdominant mDM and the dominant cold dark matter (CDM) components. Leads to efficient cooling of baryons in the early universe. Extend the range of viable mDM masses for

### **Looking Ahead**

- Exploring Energy Frontier of the Intensity Frontier: Fixed-Target Exp.
   (complementary to and before HL-LHC upgrade)
- Other models: renormalizable portals, axions, inelastic dark matter,
   SIMP/ELDER, cosmology-driven models
- Decay Detector: CHARM, NuCal, NA62, SeaQuest (e.g. <u>1908.07525</u>), DUNE
   Near Detector, SHiP
- Other low-cost alternatives/proposals (~\$1M) to probe exotic stable particles (MilliQan & FerMINI) and new forces (Dark/LongQuest)
- Dark sectors in neutrino observatories (e.g. <u>2002.11732</u>)

# Thank you! Special thanks to the organizers Gaia, Diego, and Simon