



# The DarkLight@ARIEL experiment

Kate Pachal  
TRIUMF

o.b.o the DarkLight collaboration



# Introduction

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- DarkLight@ARIEL is a **new experiment** to be built **at TRIUMF** searching for low-mass  $e^+e^-$  resonances
  - Following previous work at JLab
  - Compelling scientific motivation and a strong international collaboration covering all relevant areas of expertise

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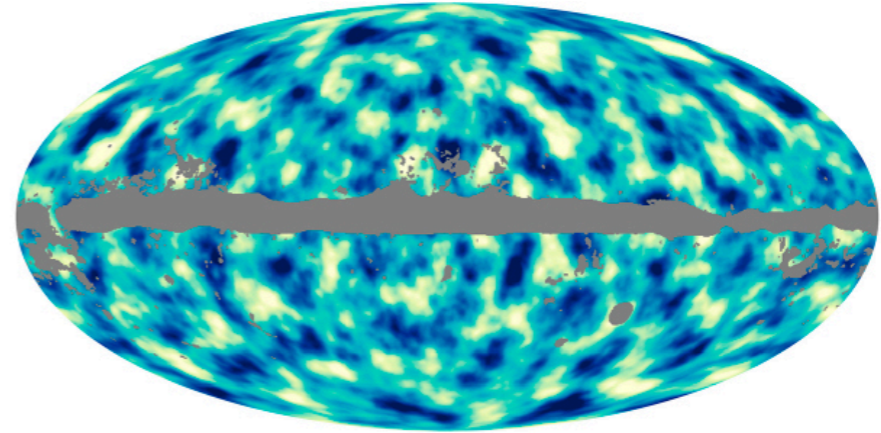
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  - Following previous work at JLab
  - Compelling scientific motivation and a strong international collaboration covering all relevant areas of expertise
- Today: brief overview of **physics motivation**, then outline **current status**
  - **Construction** of full experiment **about to begin**, with initial installations for test experiments in place
  - **Future plans** are converging, with dependence on funding

# Uniting dark matter with particle physics experimental anomalies

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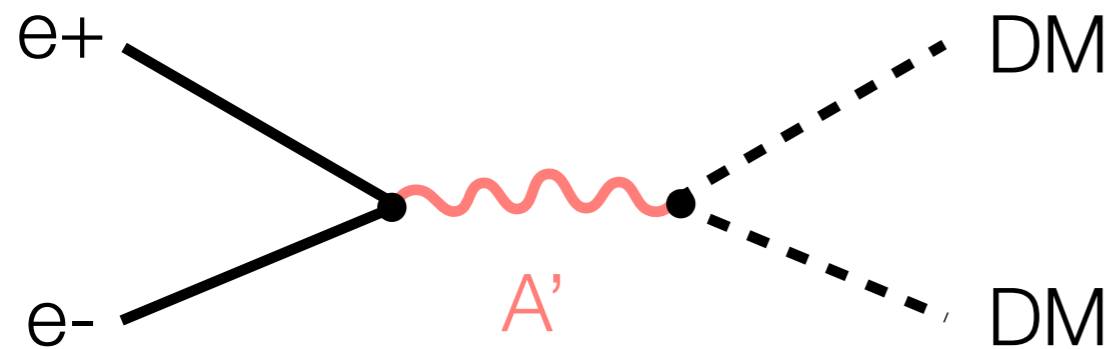
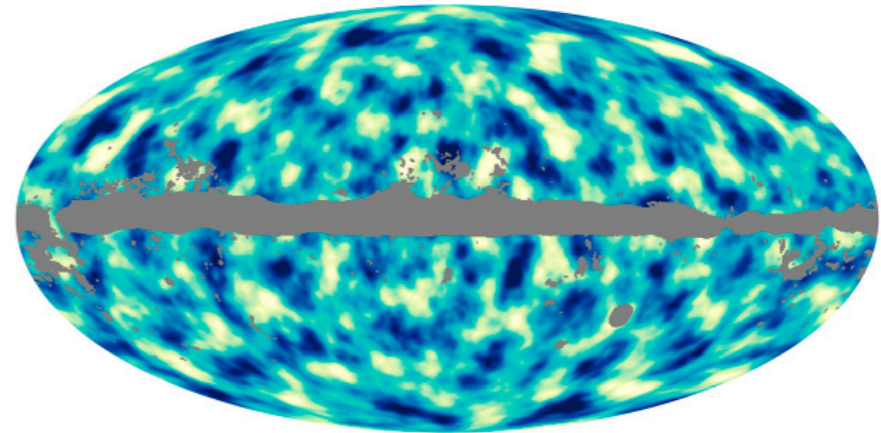
Dark matter remains one of the biggest unsolved mysteries of particle physics



# Uniting dark matter with particle physics experimental anomalies

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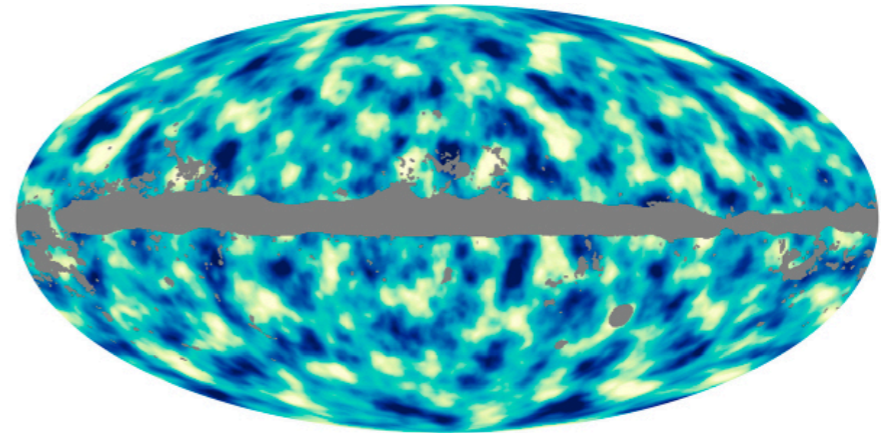
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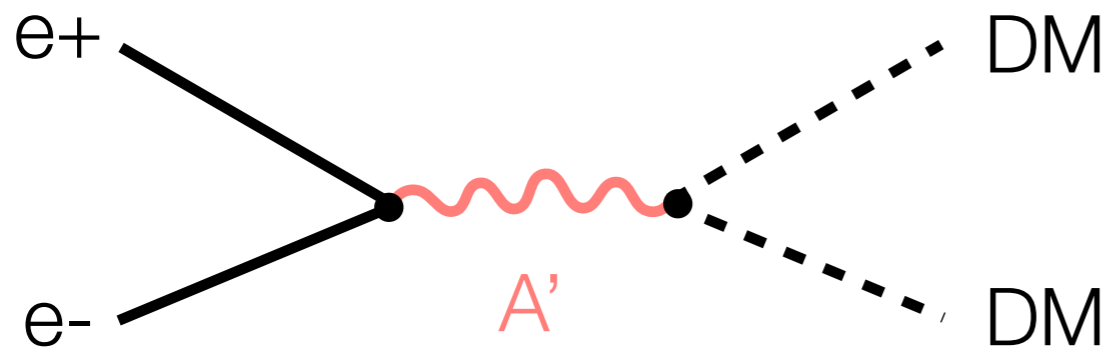
Many many possibilities, but among them: s-channel boson could act as a mediator to dark sector

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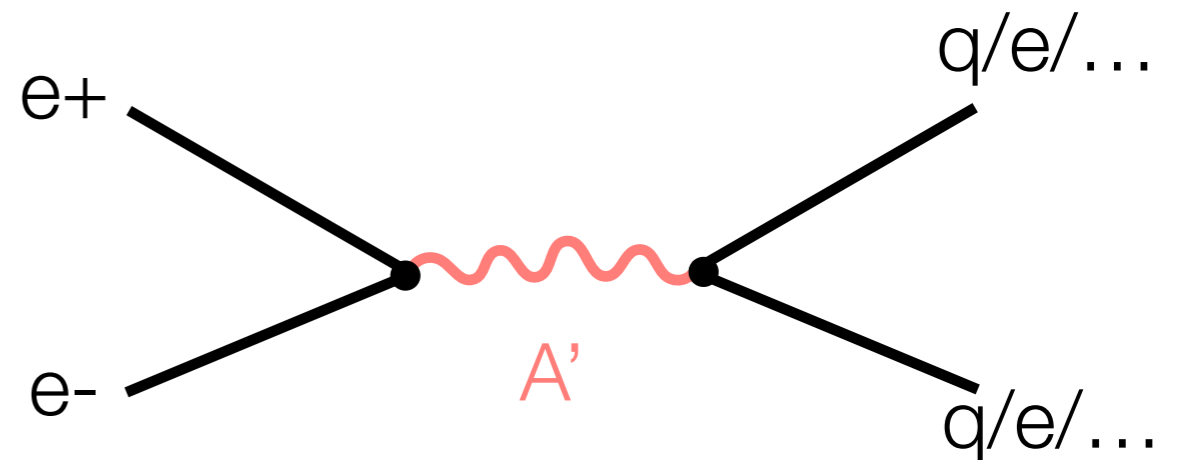
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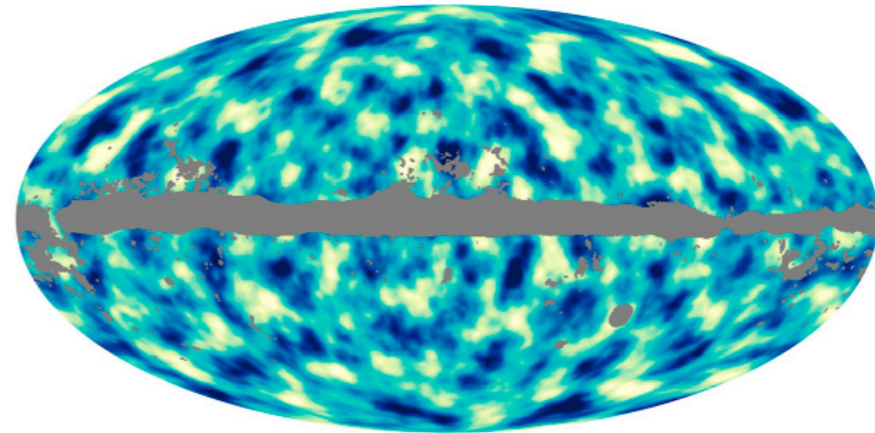


Depending on relative couplings and masses of SM versus dark sector particles, visible decays can dominate

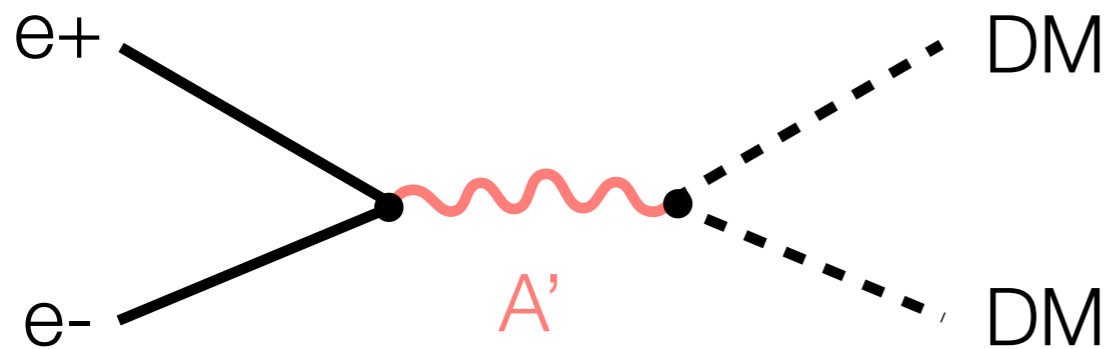


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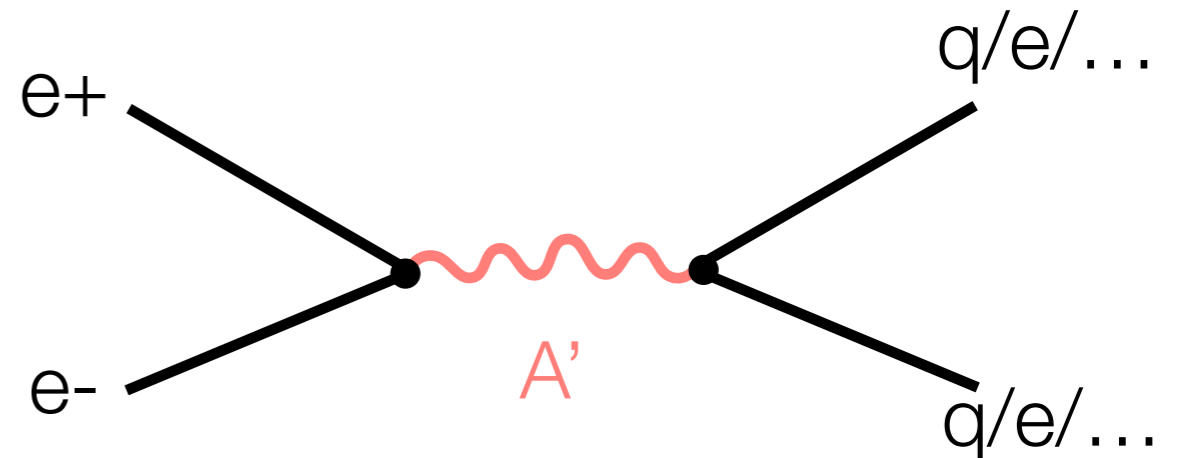
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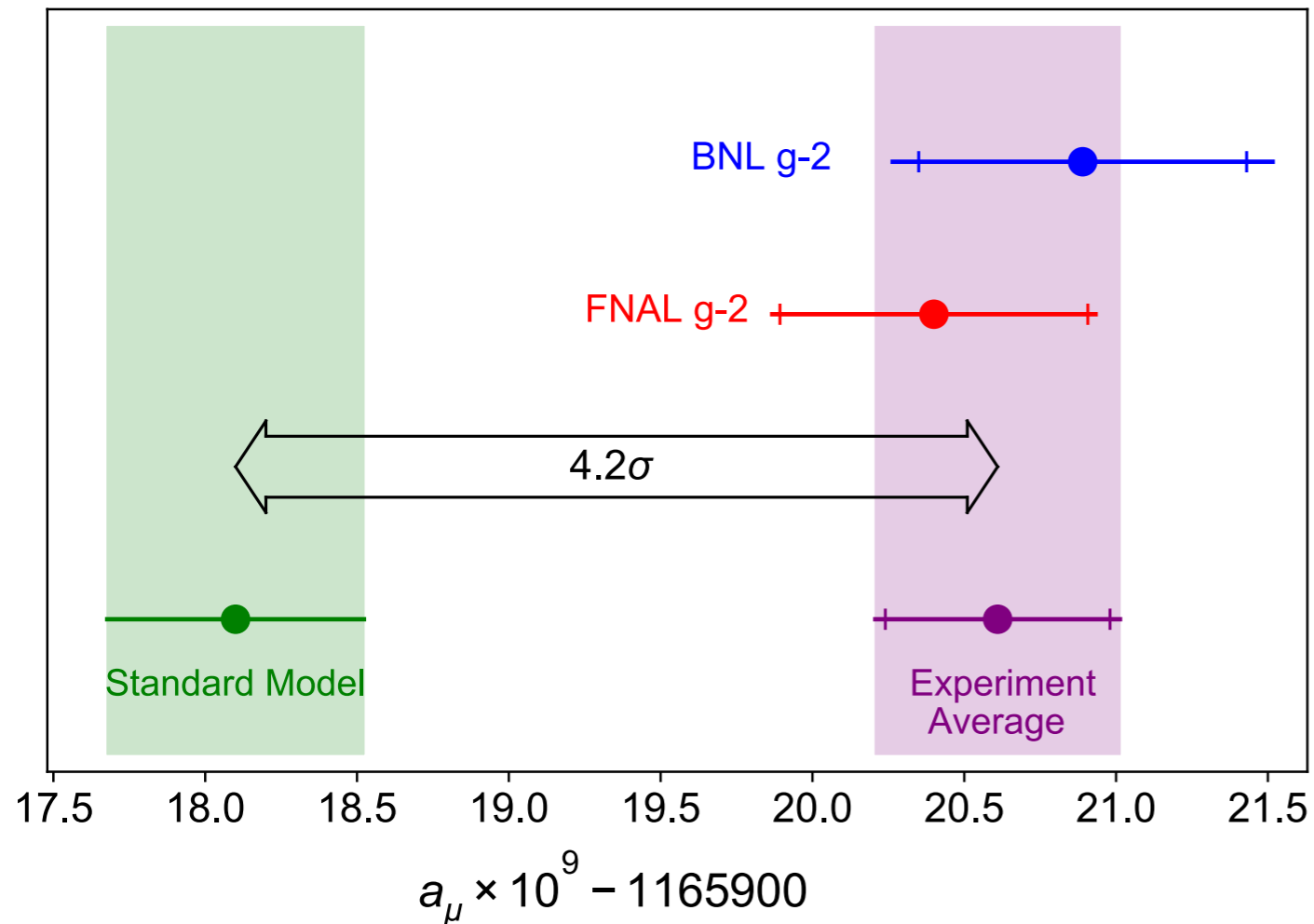
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Where to look for such a particle?  
Some experimental hints .....

# Light BSM boson: existing experimental oddities

Muon g-2: 4.2(?)  $\sigma$  discrepancy

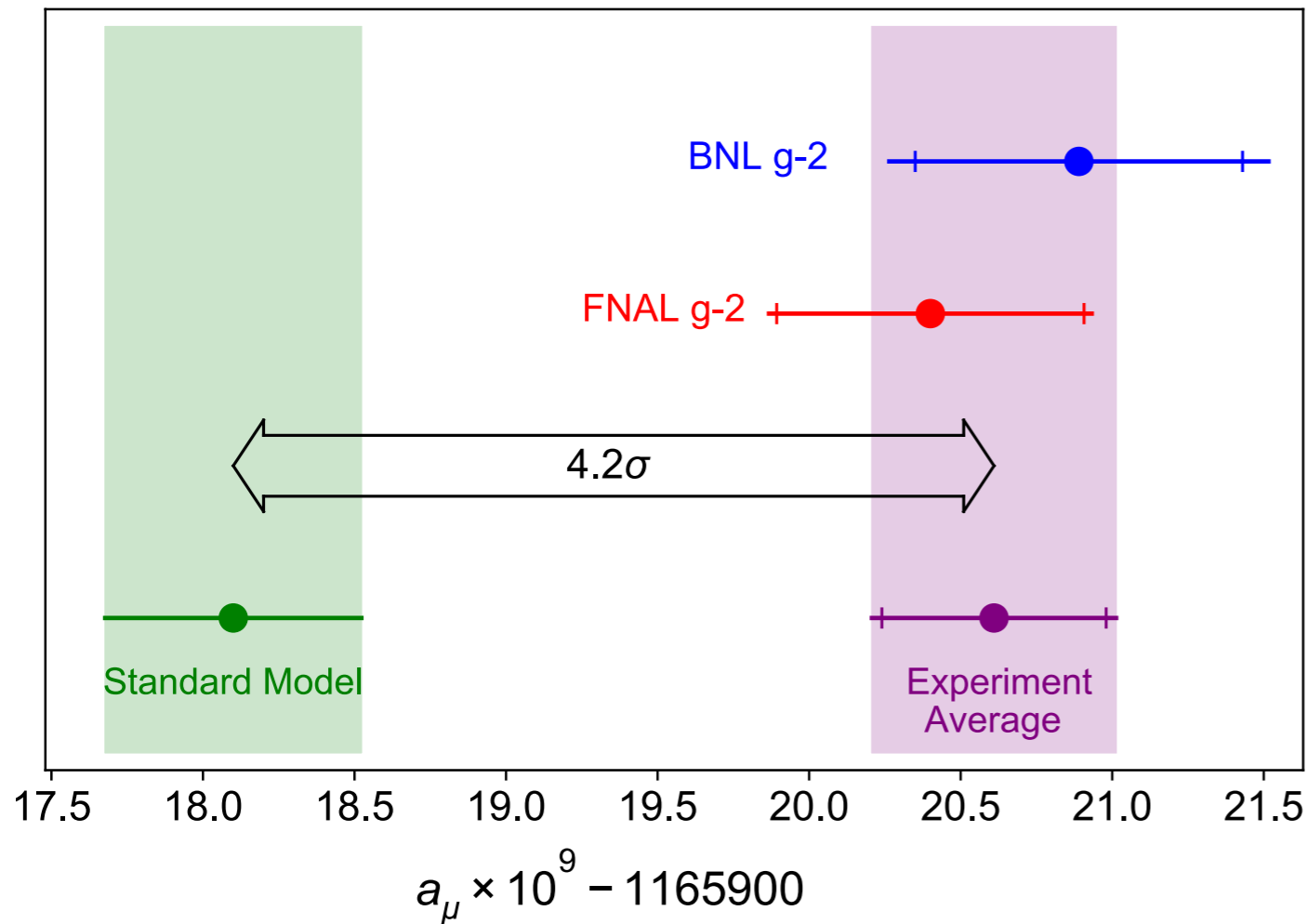


Muon g-2 collaboration,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 141801 (2021)



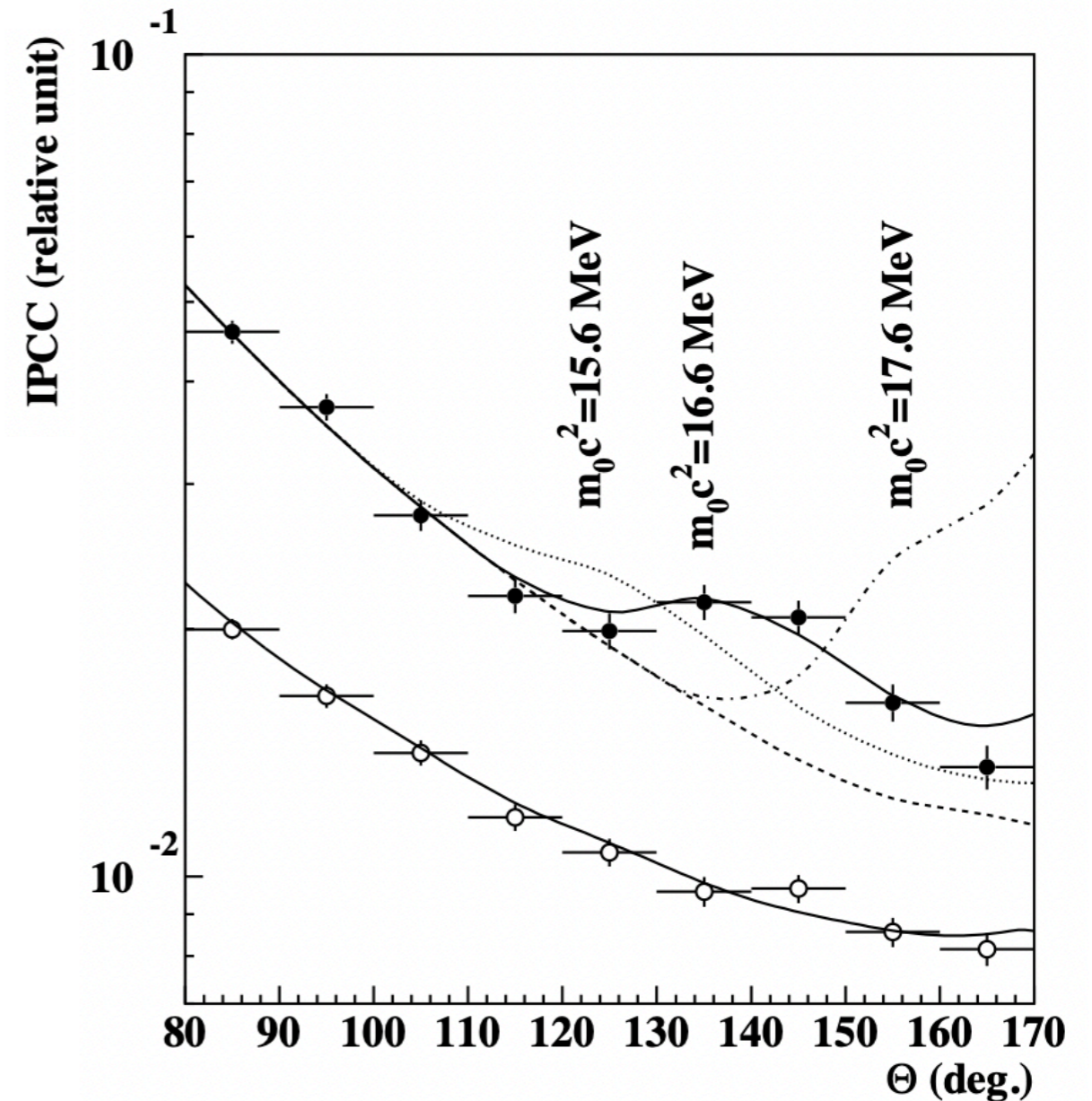
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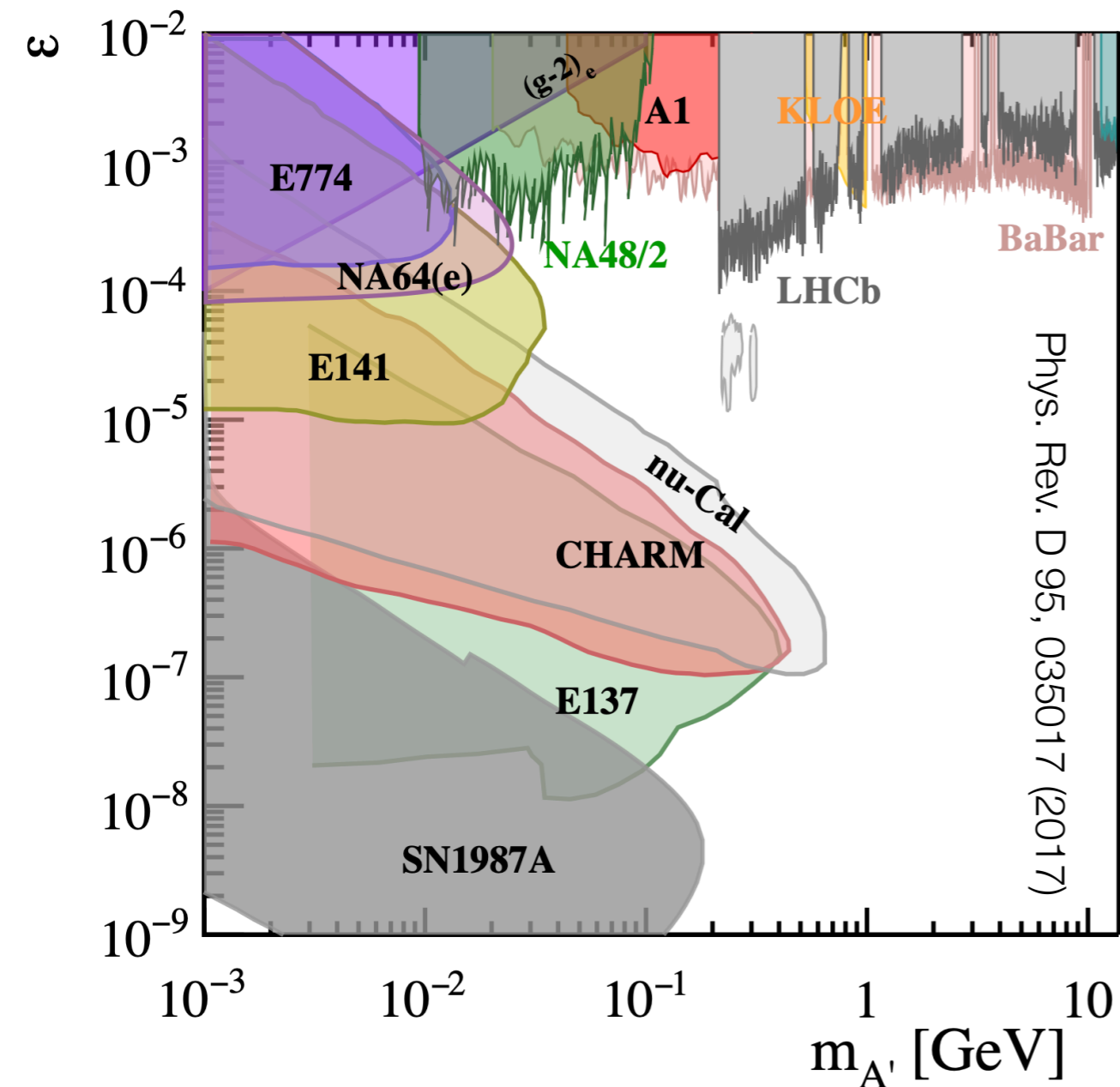
“X17” anomaly



ATOMKI Institute for Nuclear Research,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 042501 (2016)

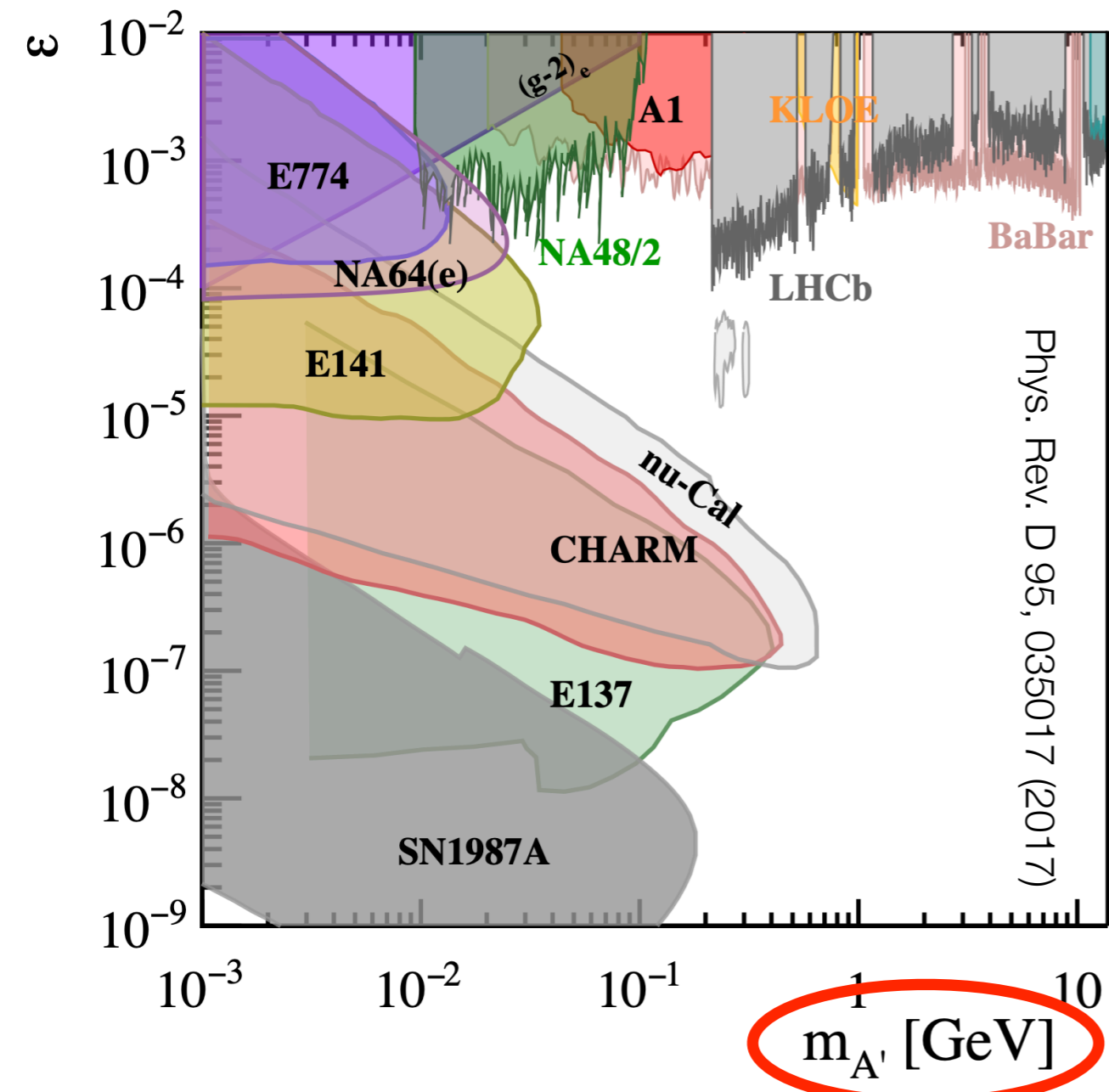
# Model dependence of exclusion limits

Dark photon, visible decays:  
single universal coupling  $\varepsilon$   
proportional to SM  $\gamma$  couplings



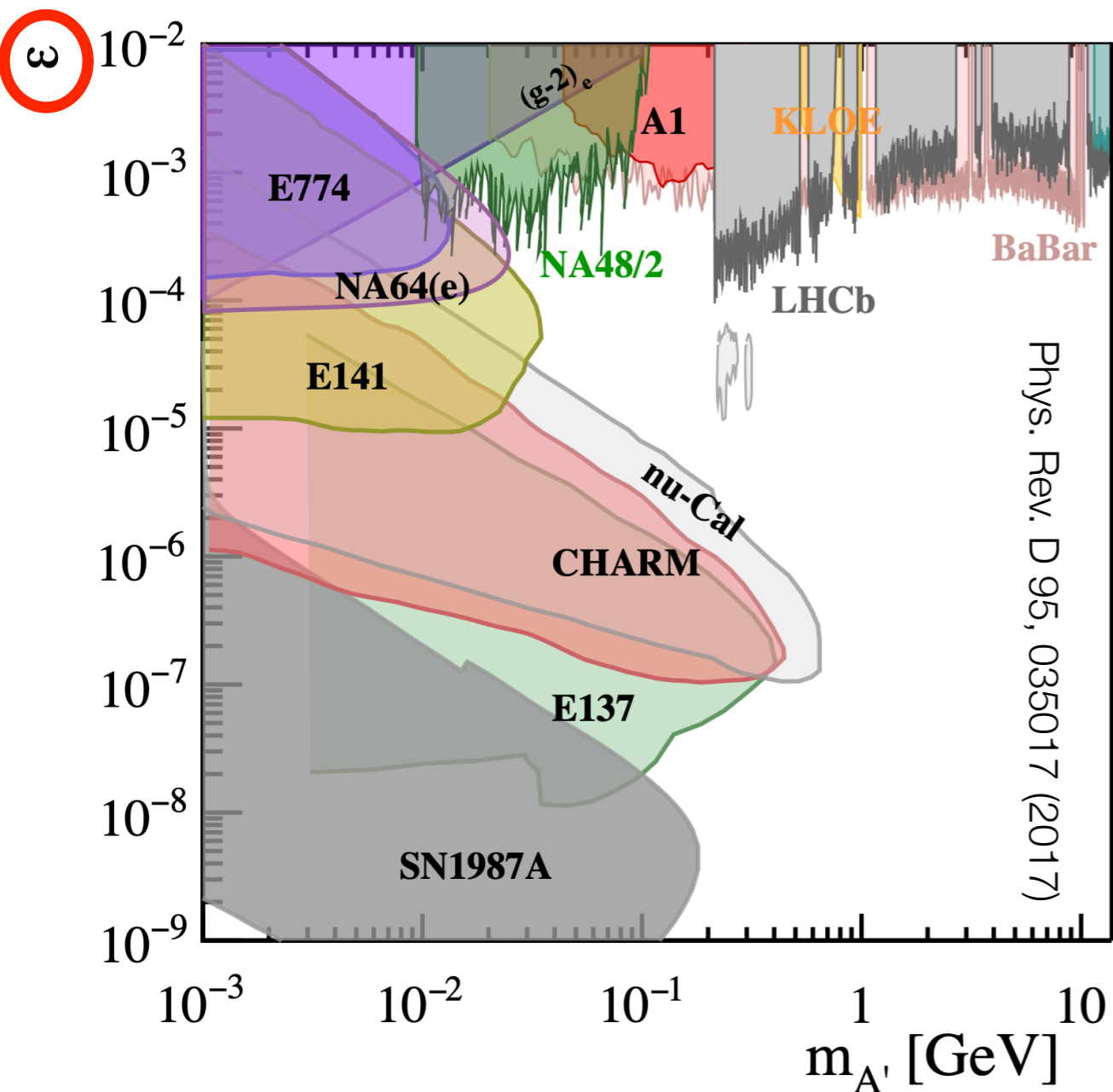
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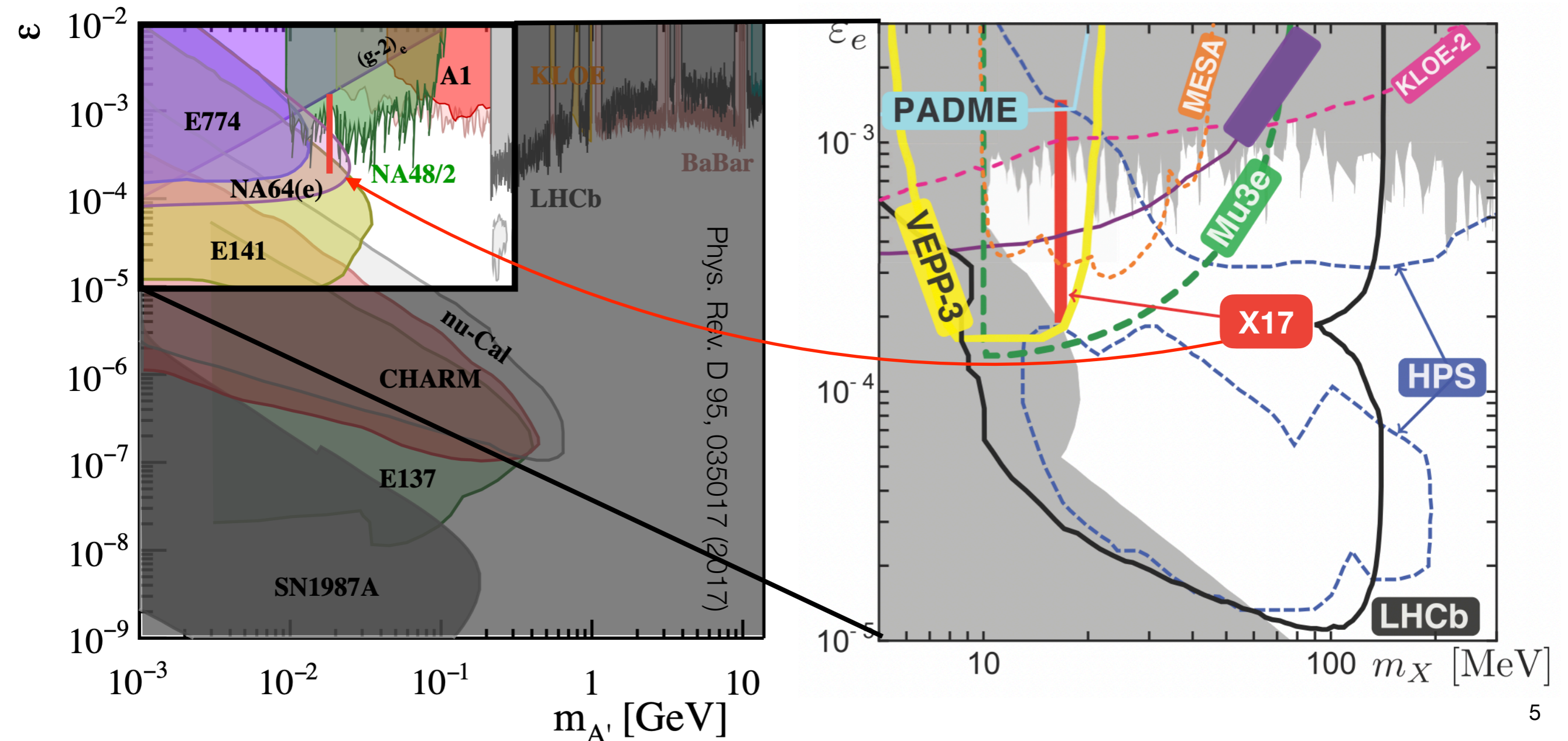
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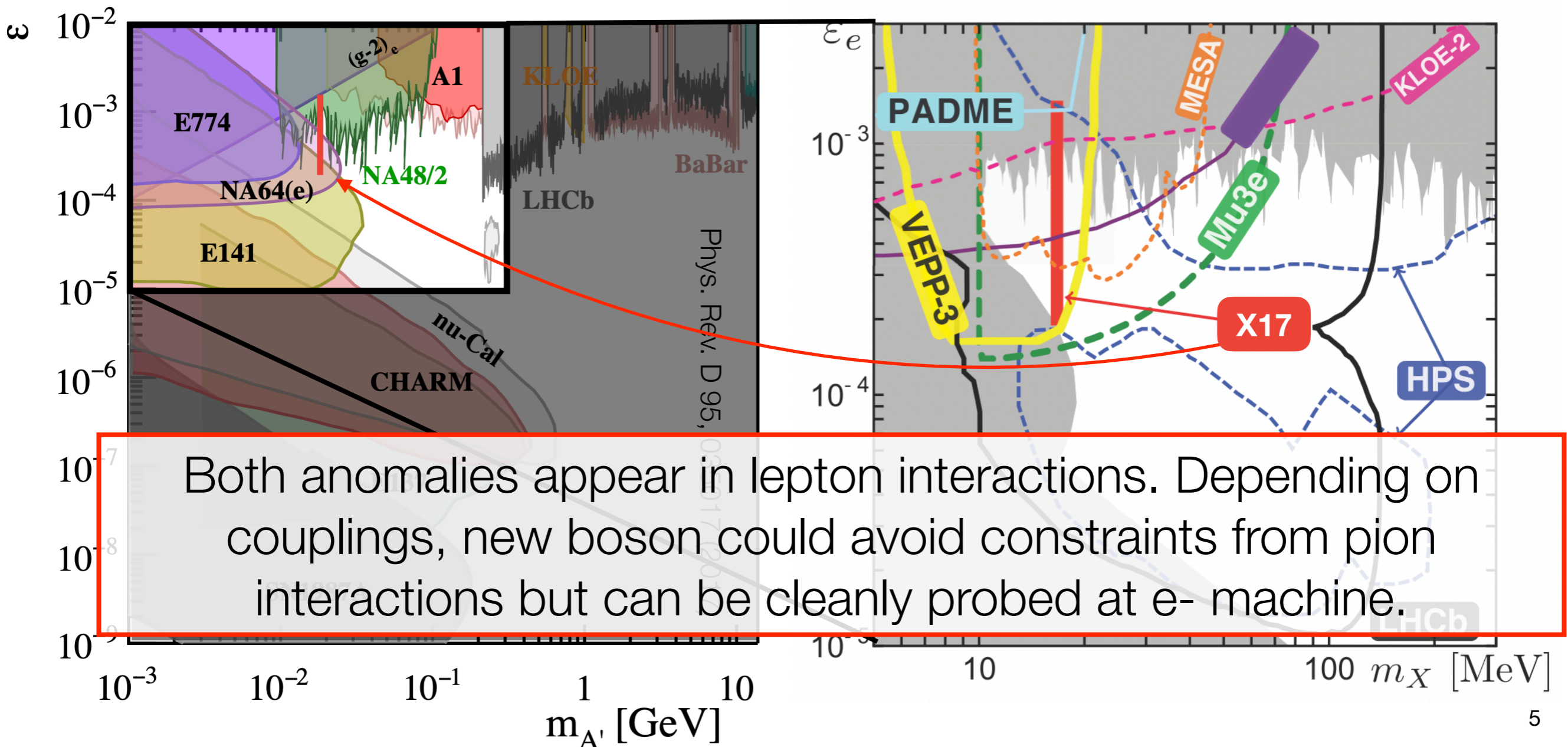
Massive boson with reduced  
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from  **$e+e-$  interactions only**



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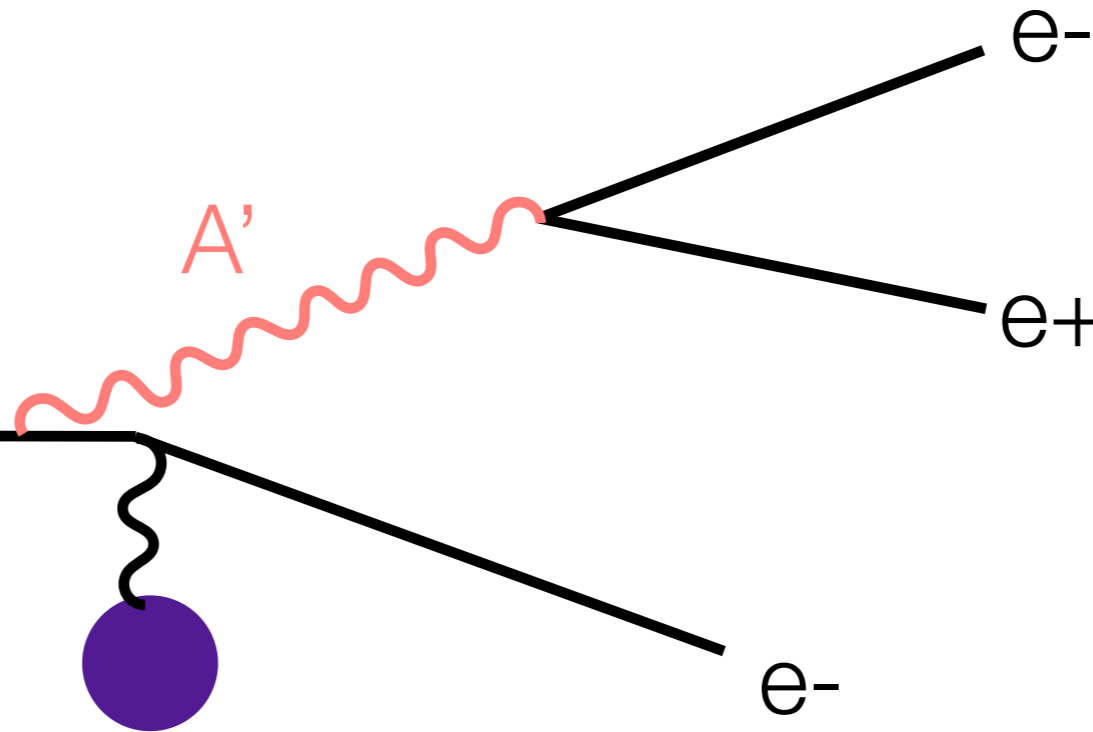
# The DarkLight @ ARIEL experiment

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Moderate energy,  
high intensity  $e^-$  beam  
from ARIEL e-linac

30 MeV  $e^-$  beam

Nucleus



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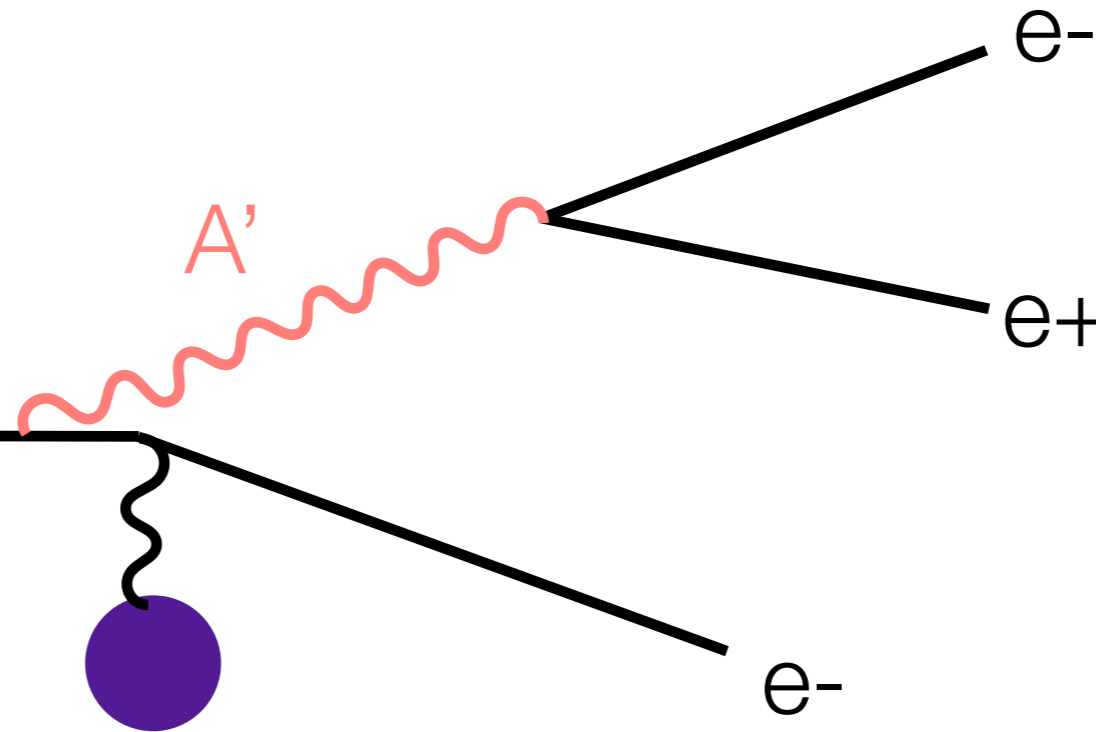
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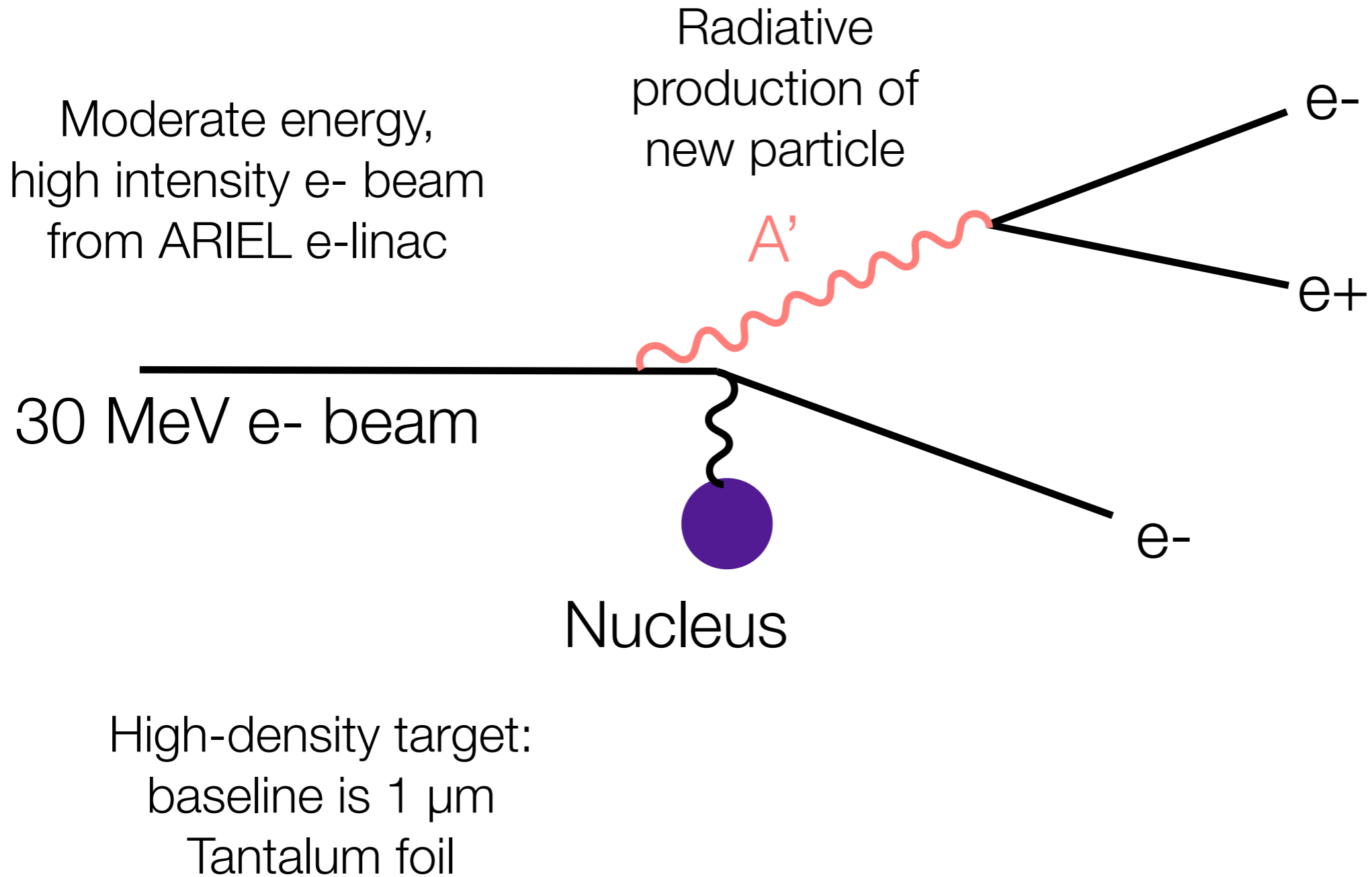
High-density target:  
baseline is 1  $\mu\text{m}$   
Tantalum foil





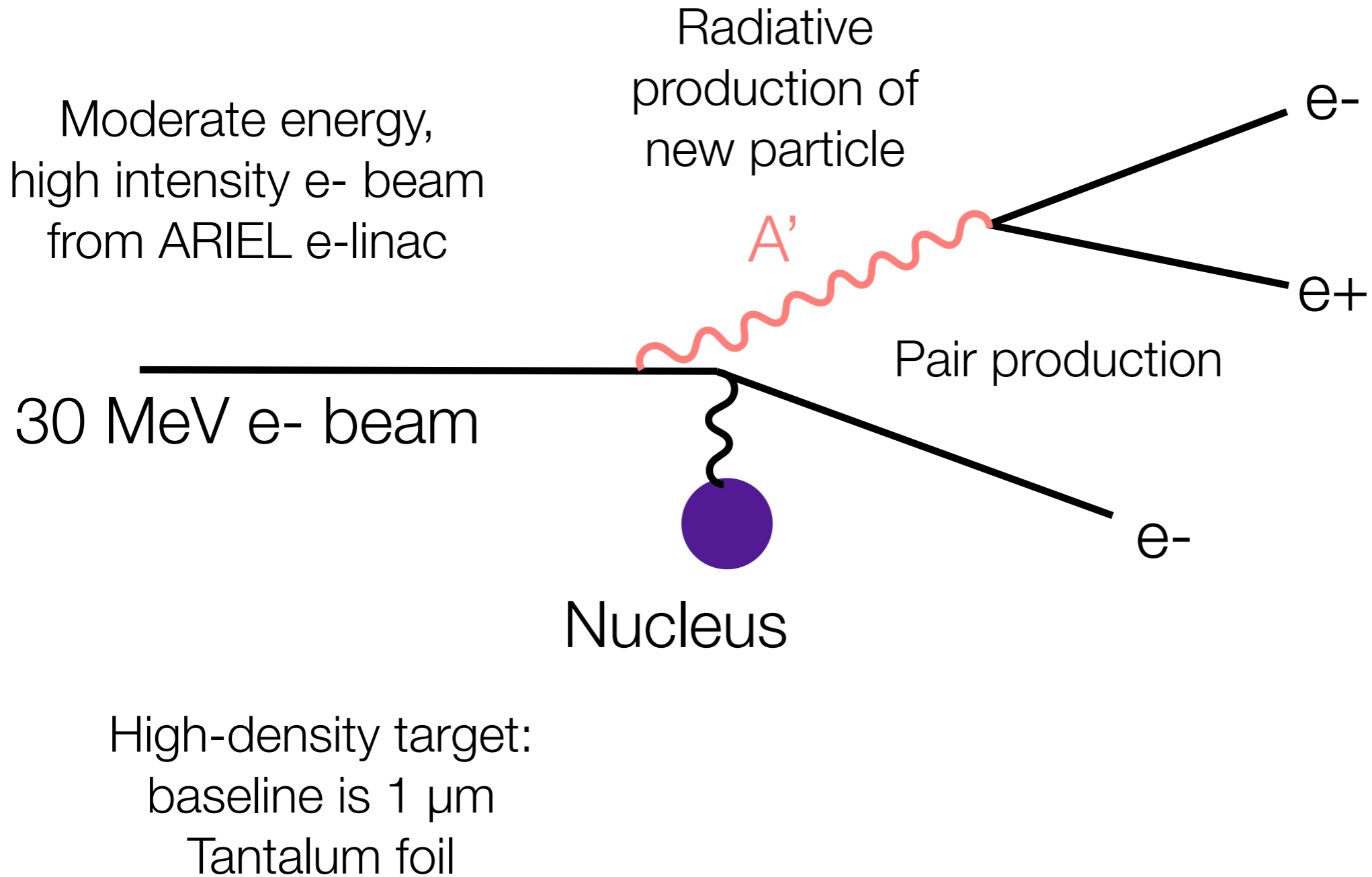
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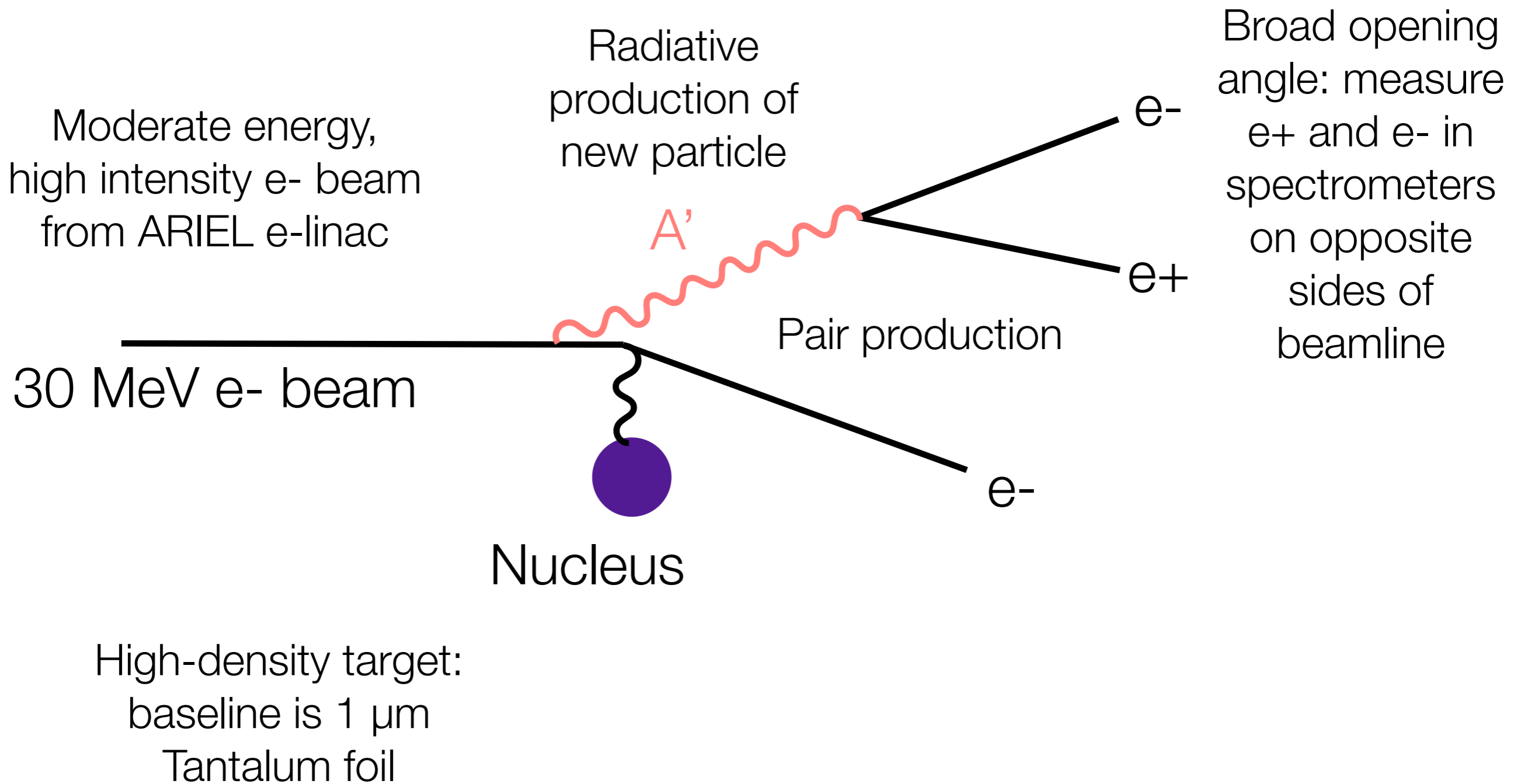


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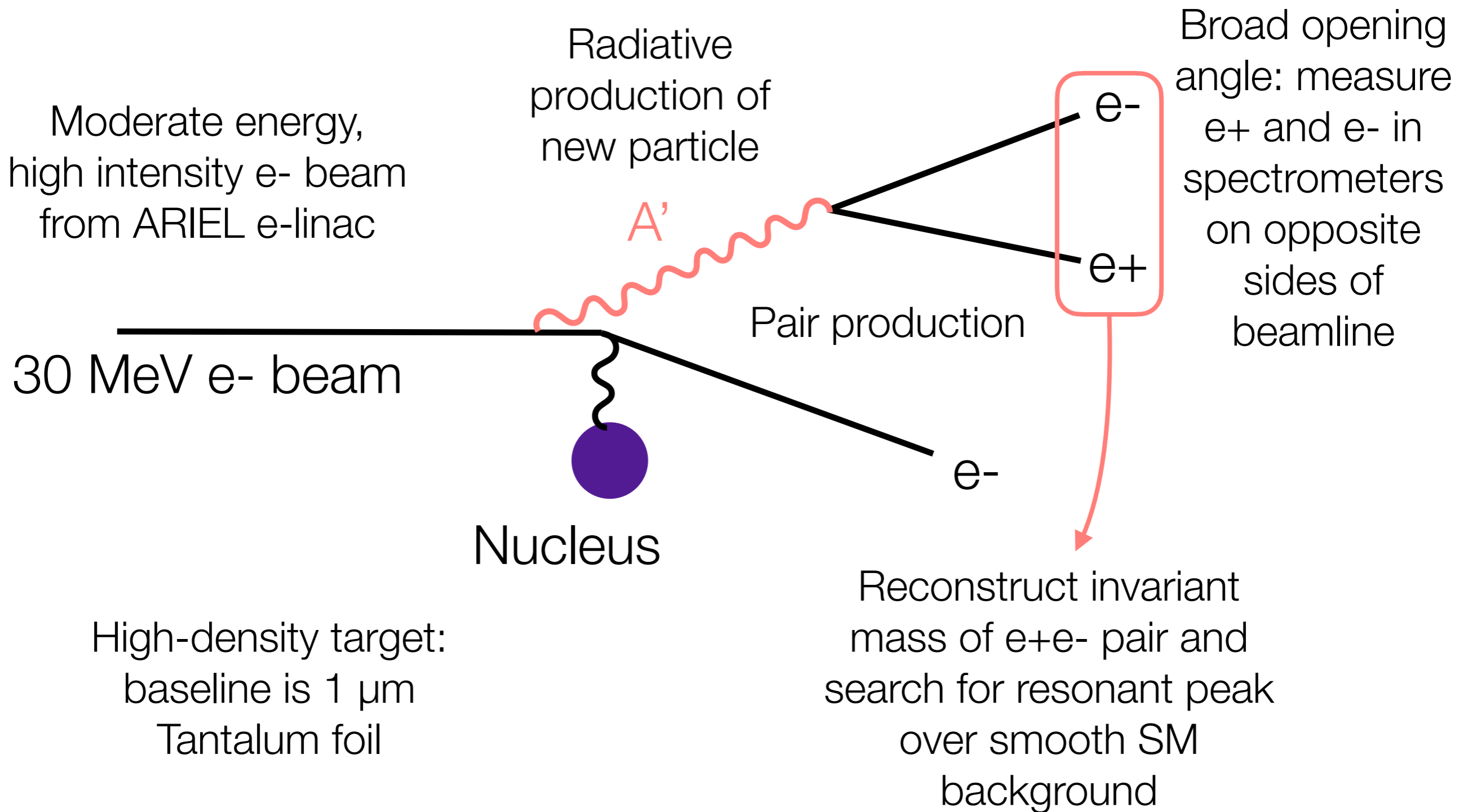
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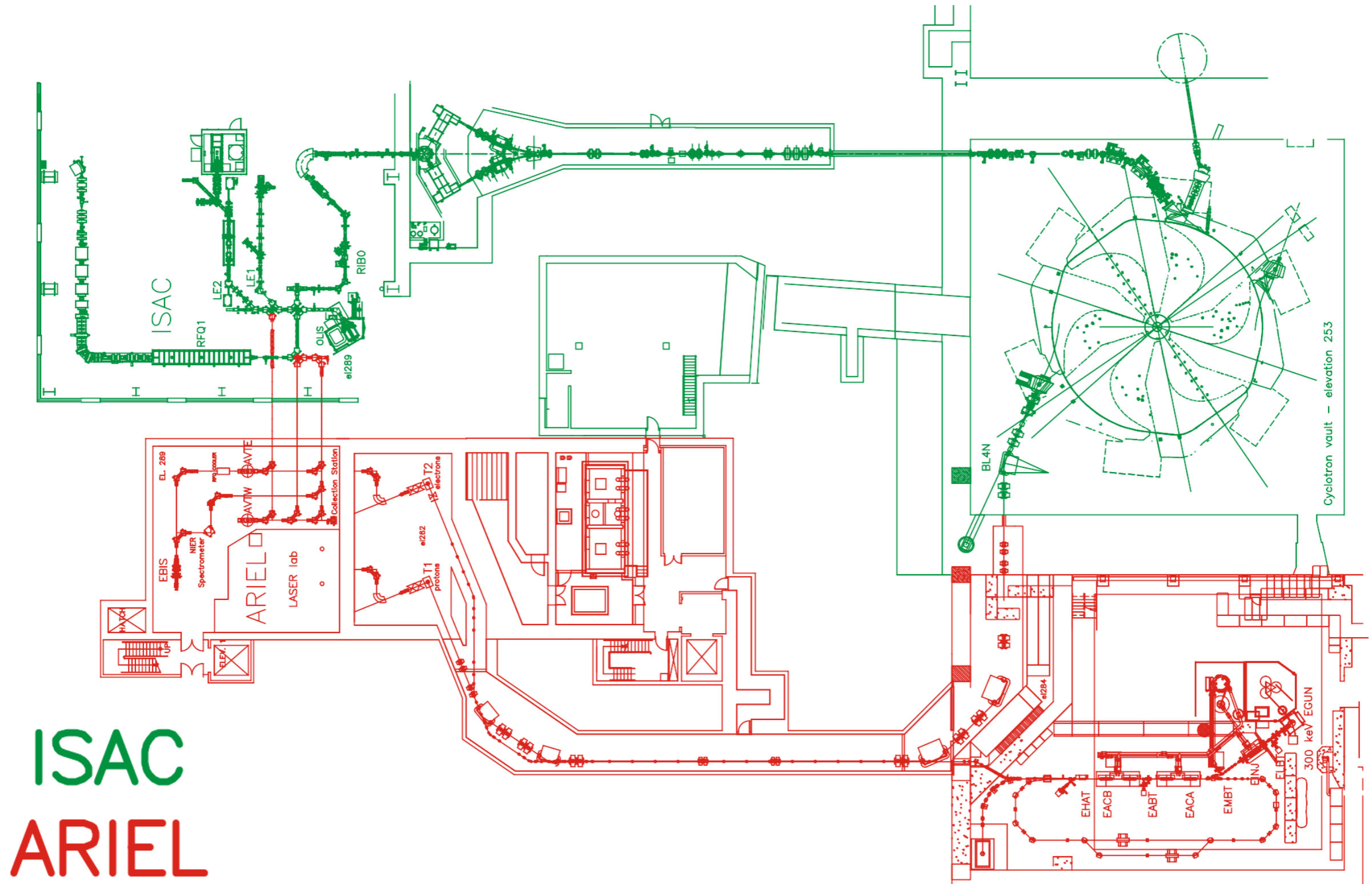
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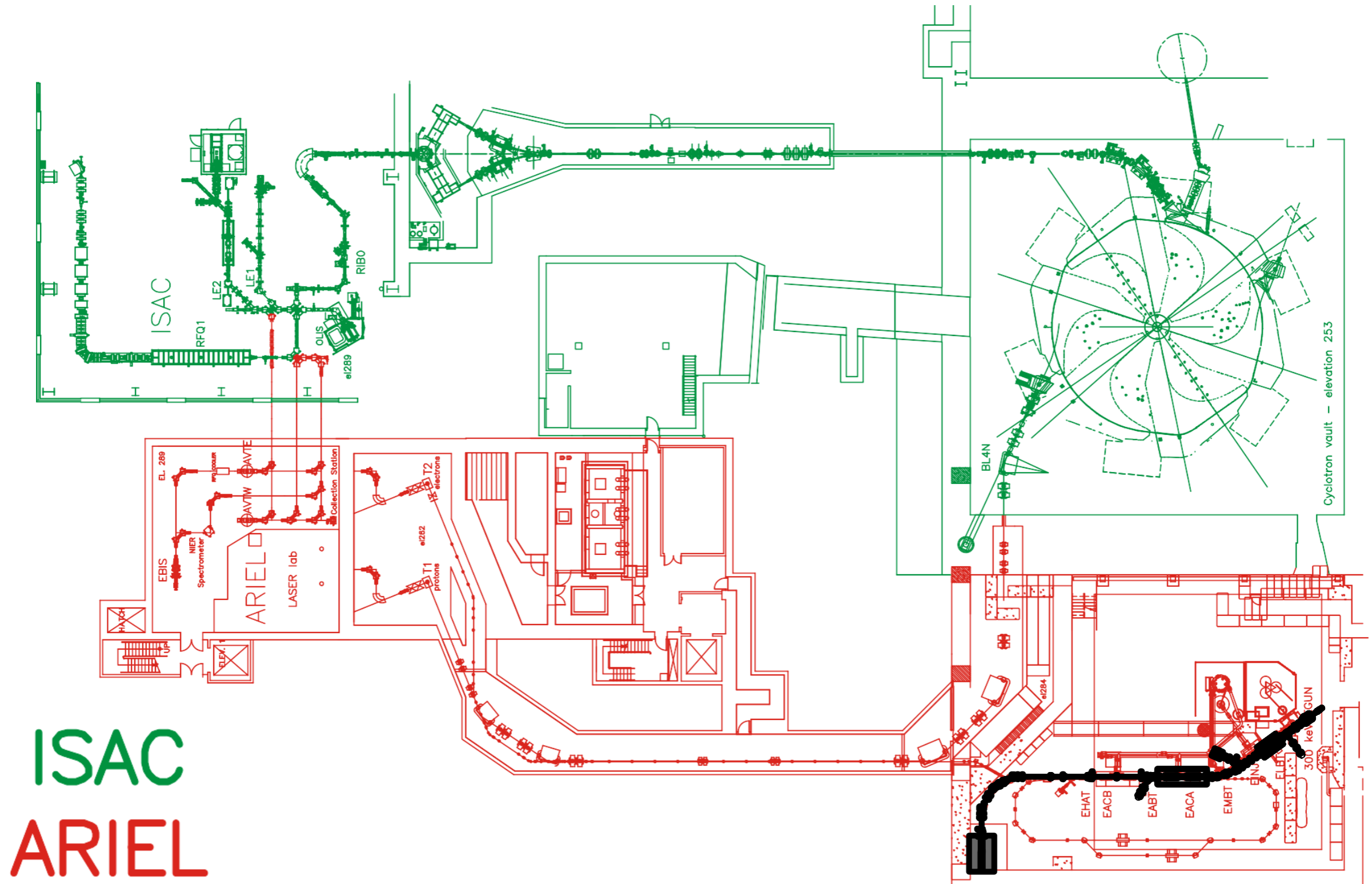
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# The accelerator: TRIUMF ARIEL e-linac

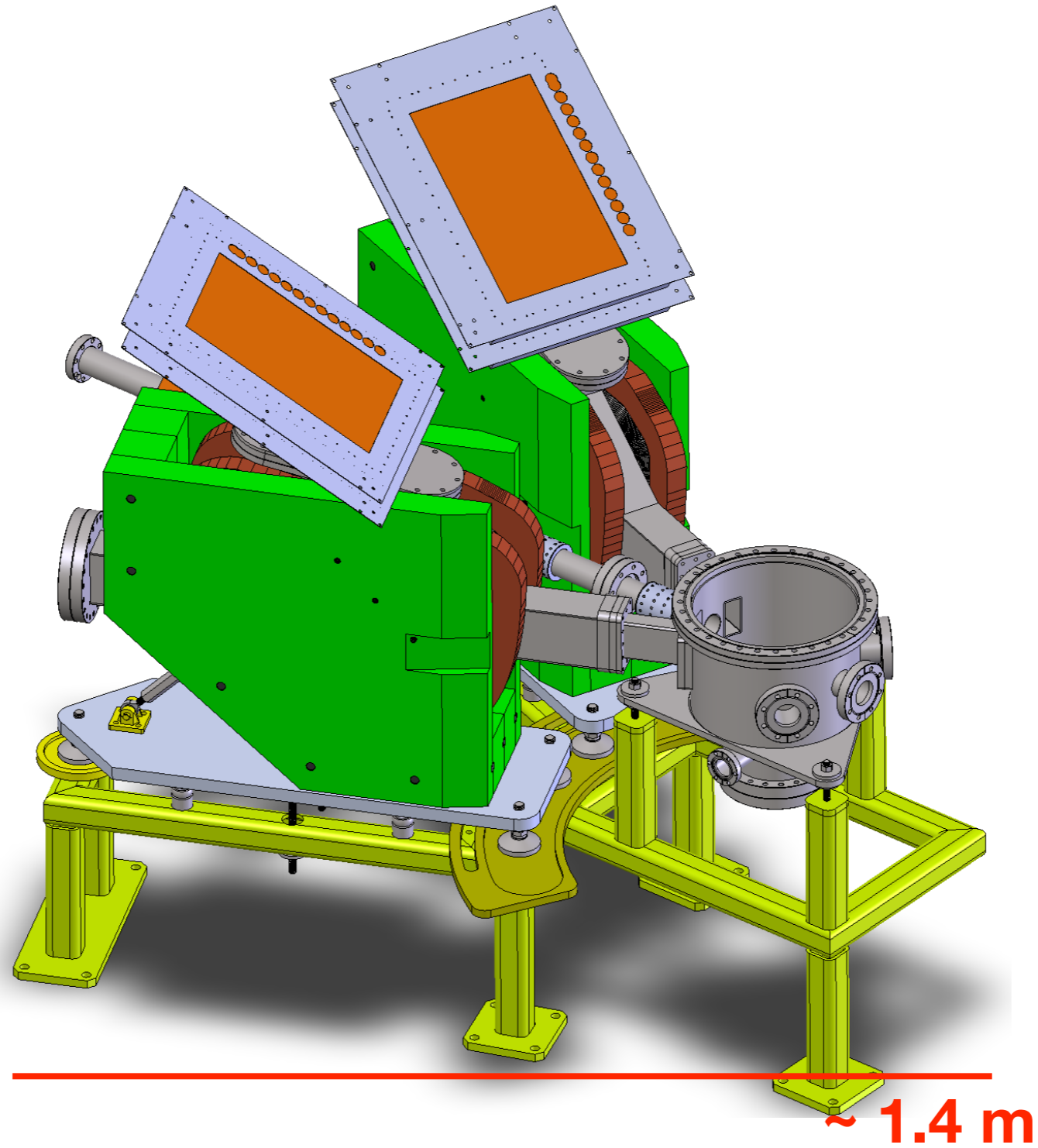


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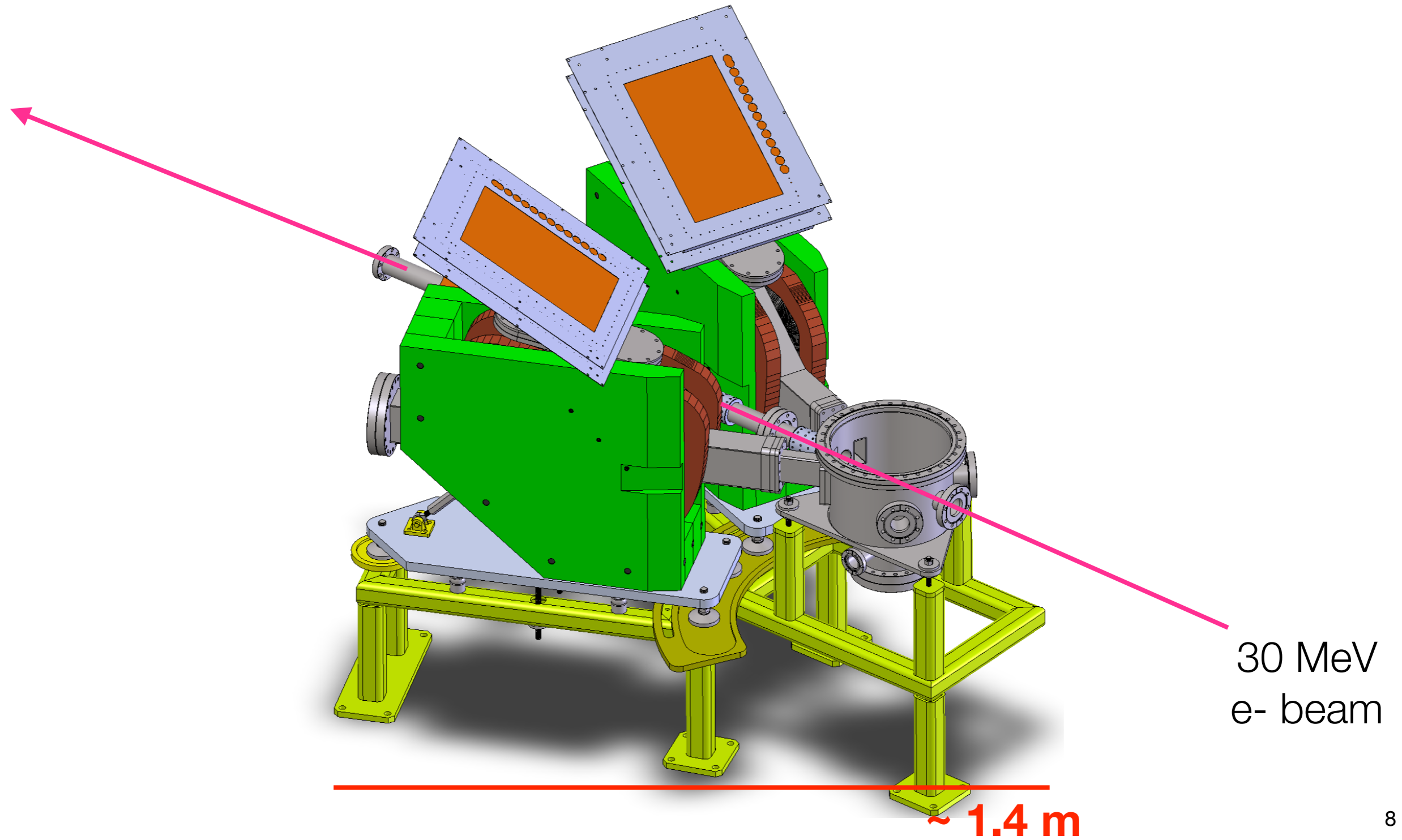
# Experiment overview

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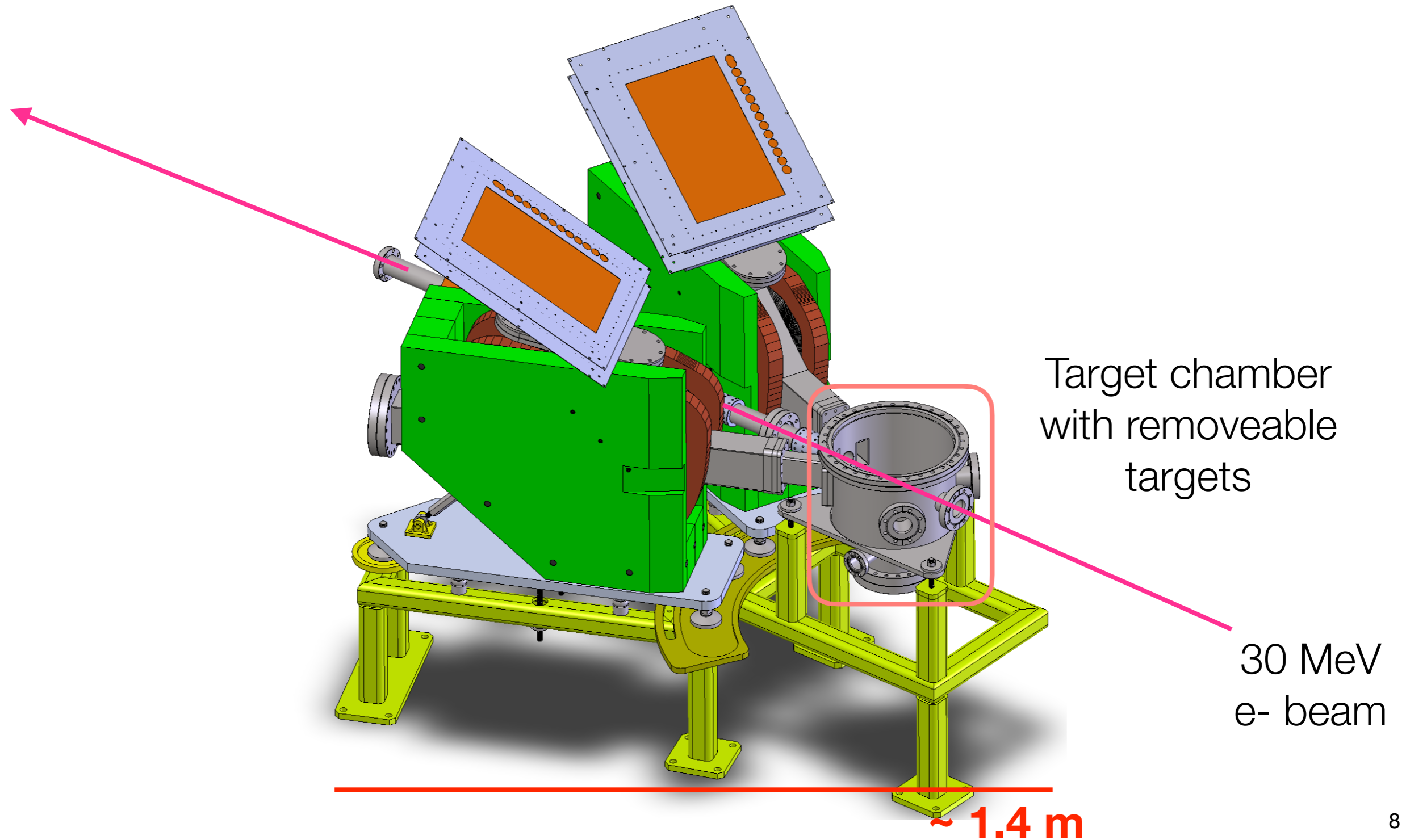
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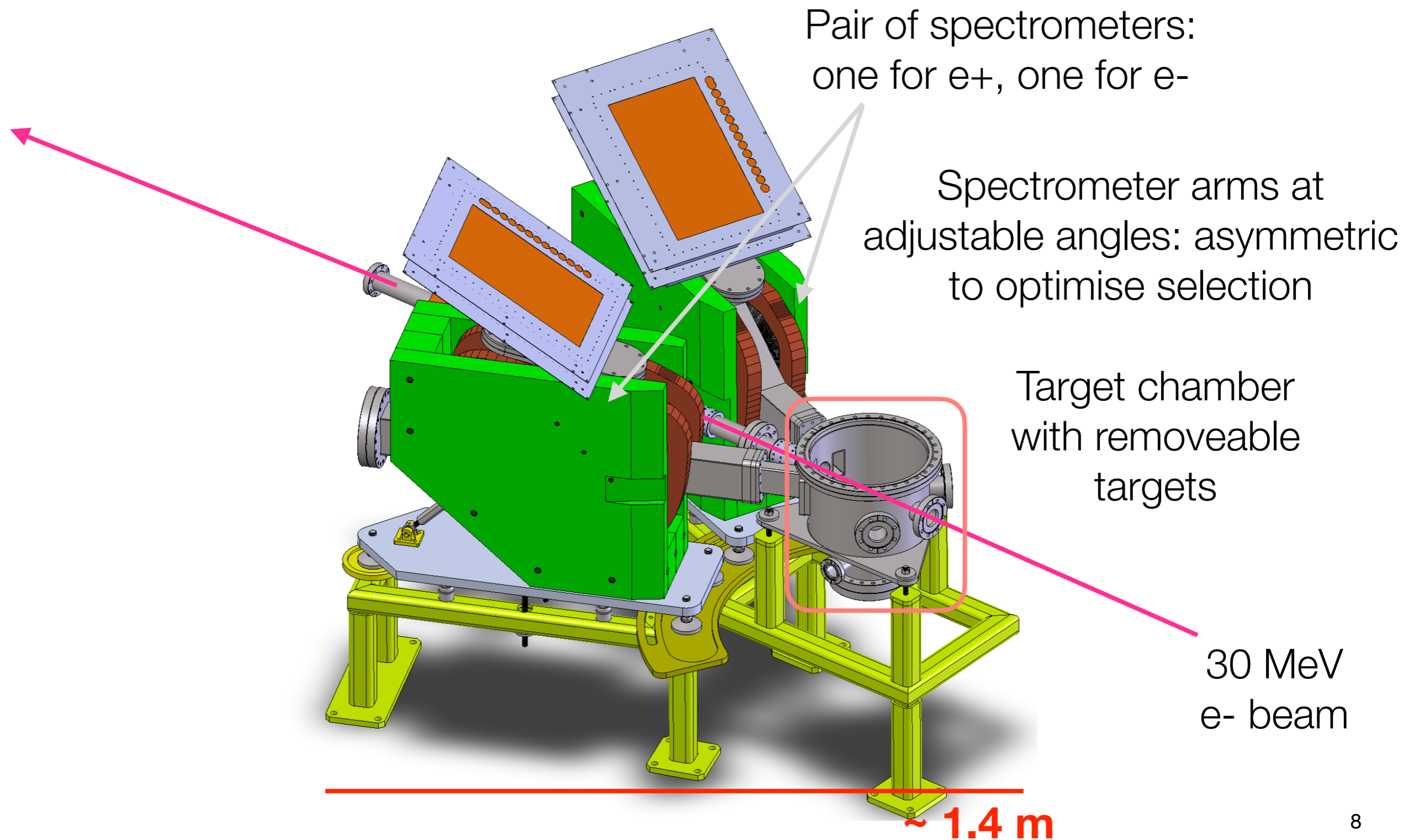
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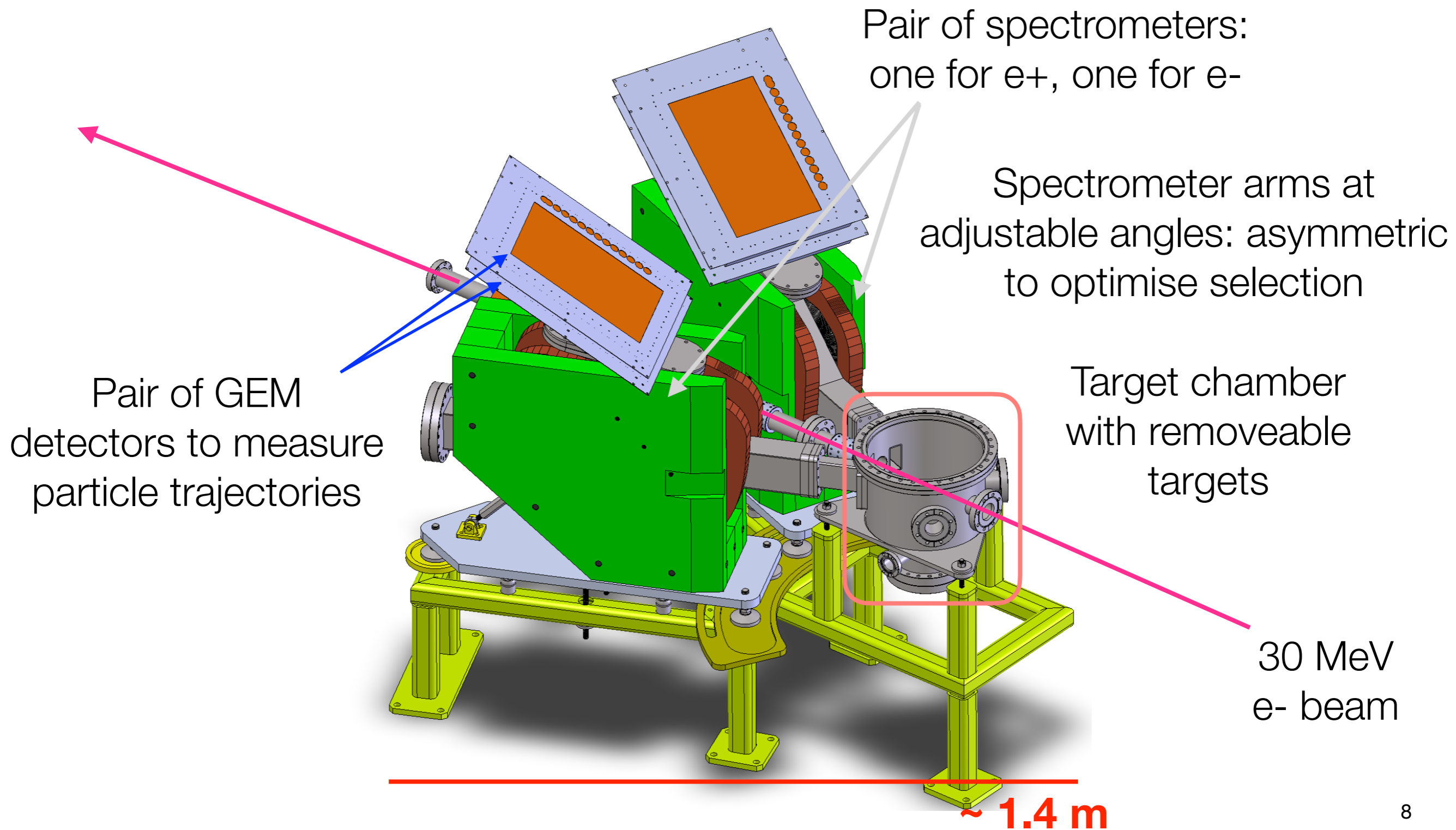
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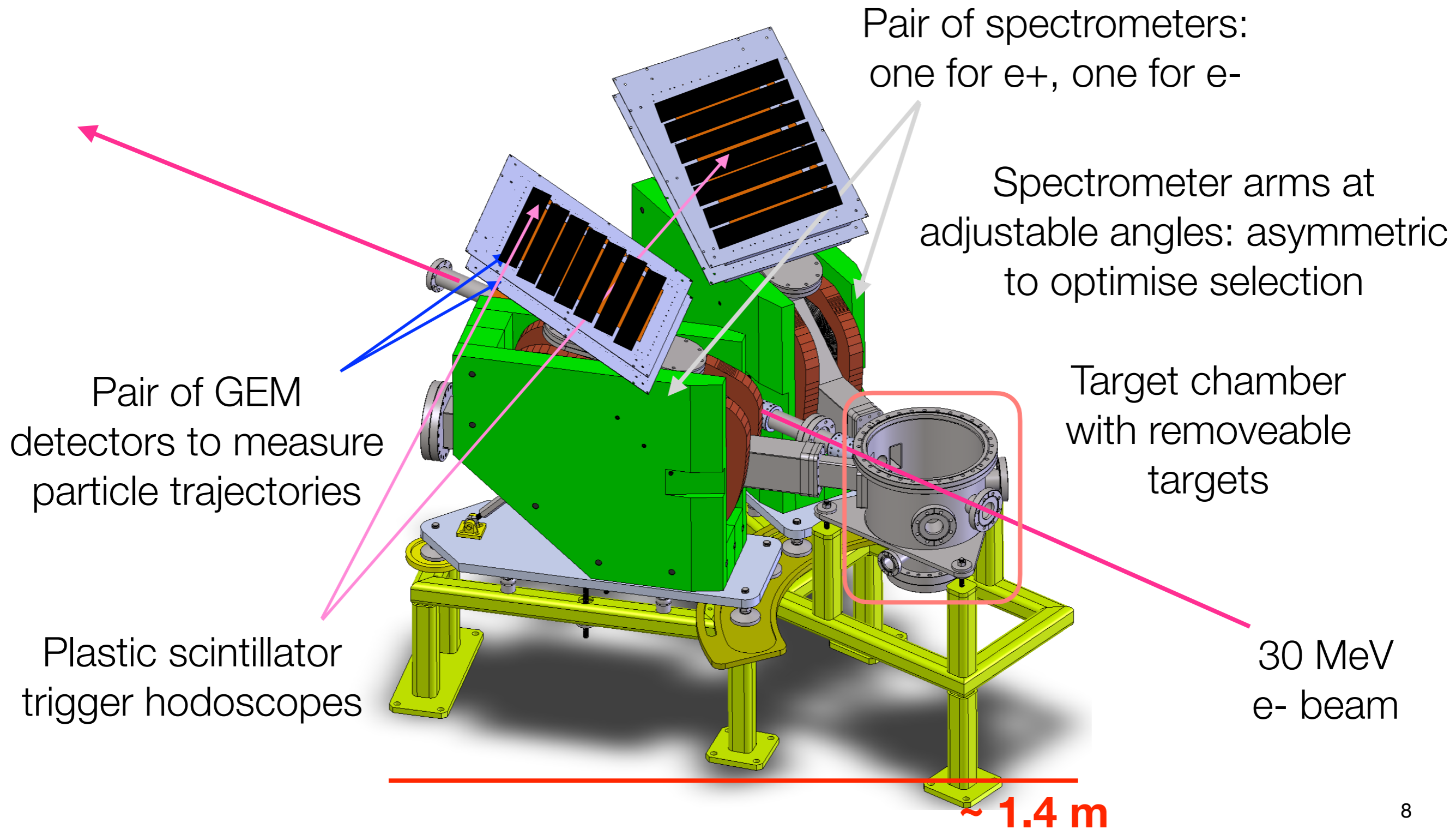


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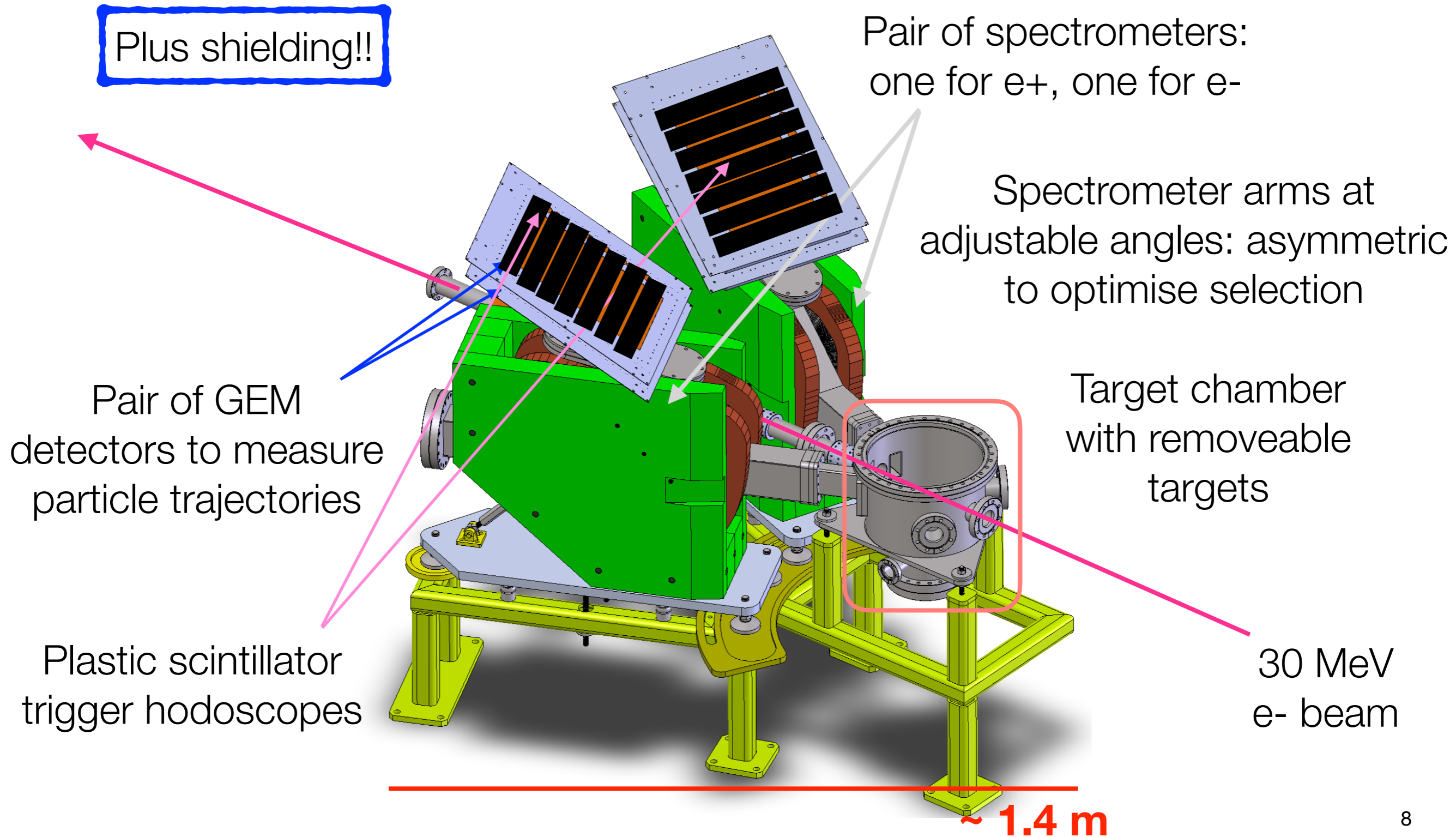
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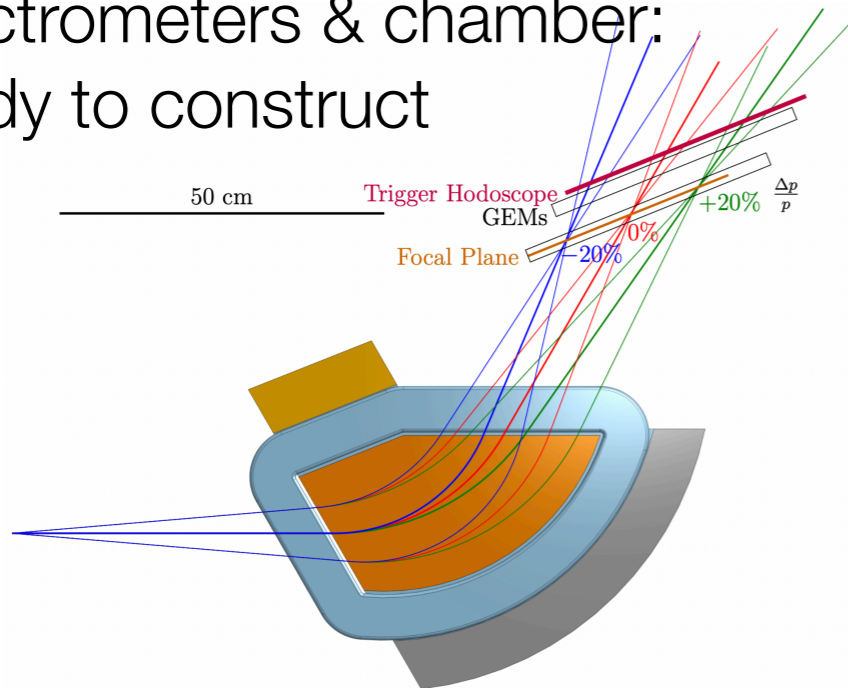
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# Detector components status

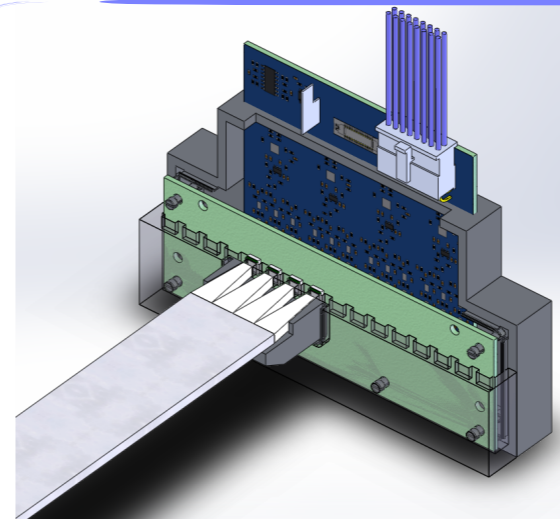
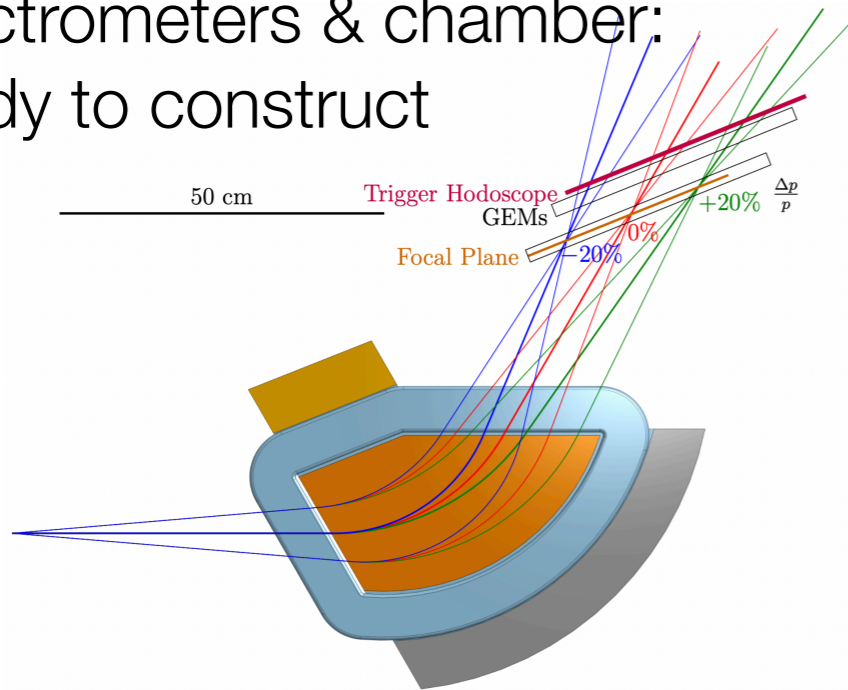
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Spectrometers & chamber:  
Ready to construct

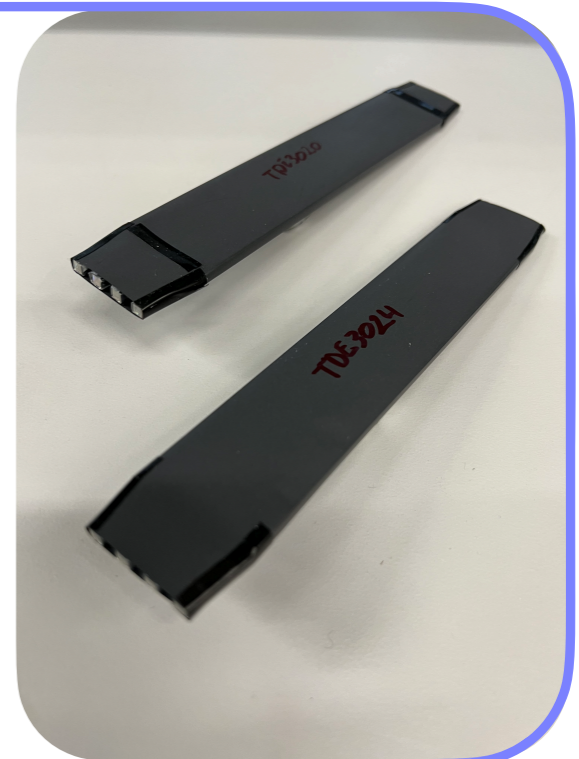


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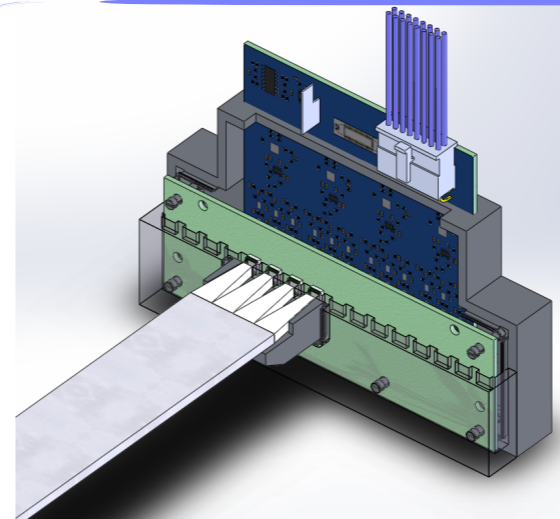
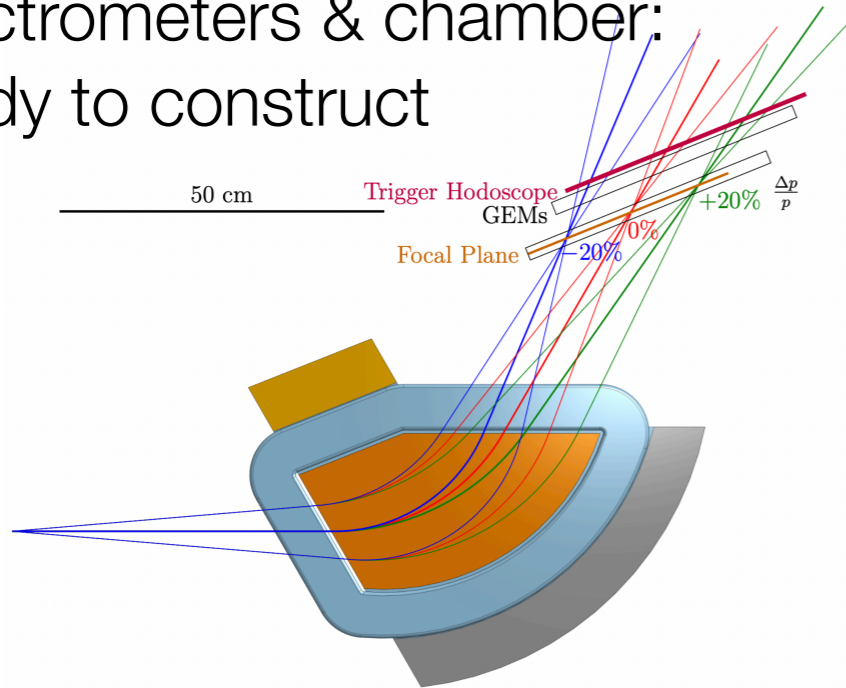


Triggers:  
testing 2nd prototype

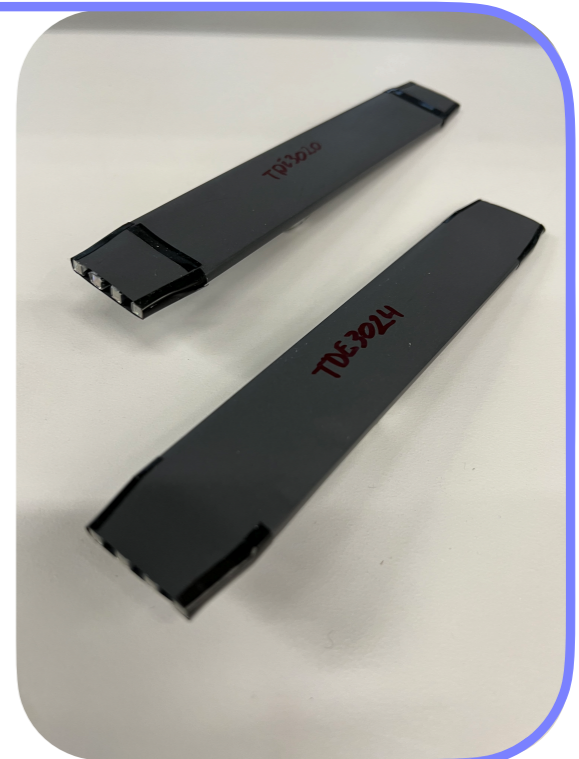


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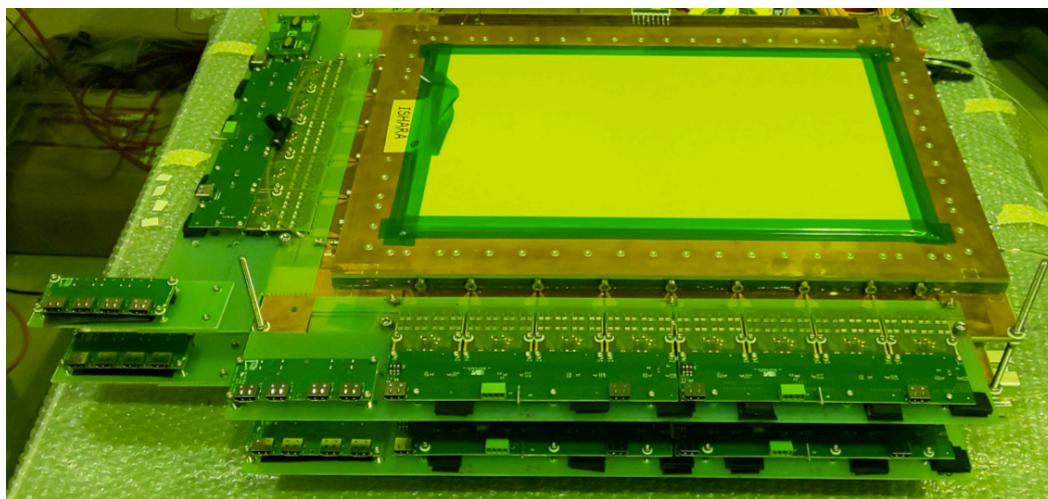
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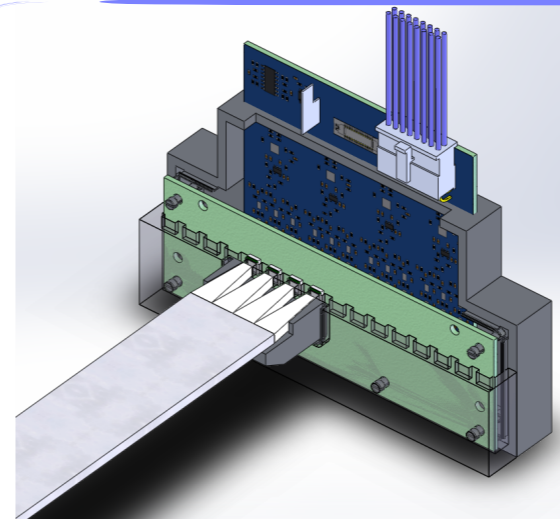
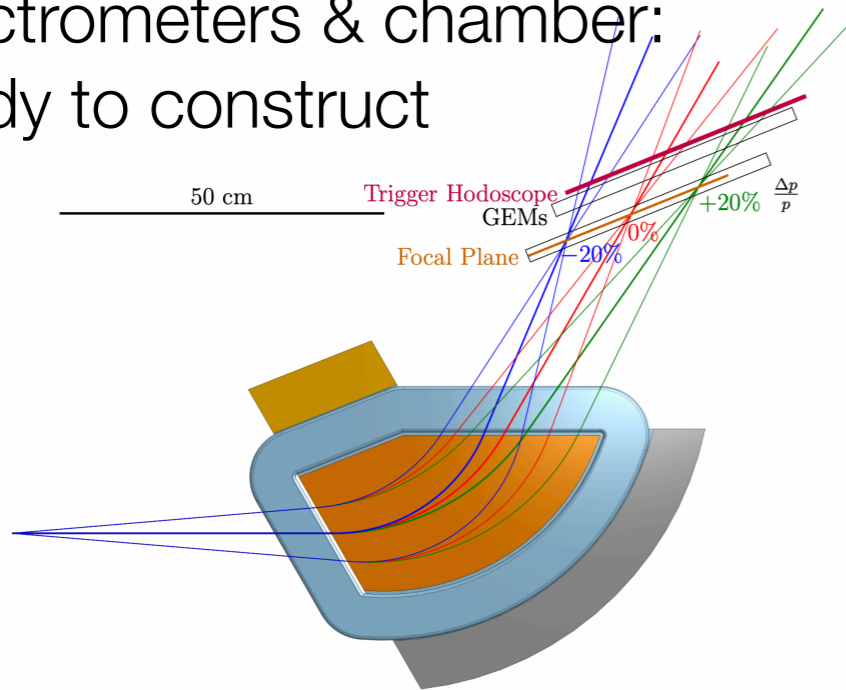
GEMs: complete; commissioning



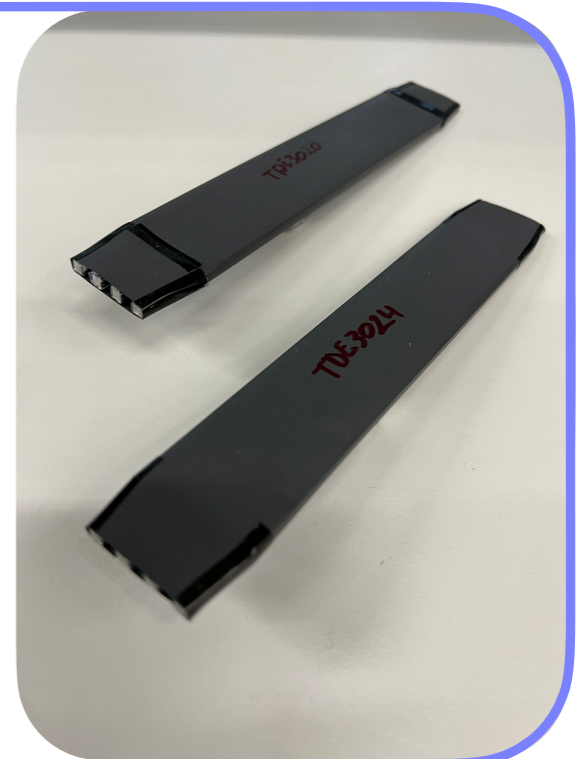


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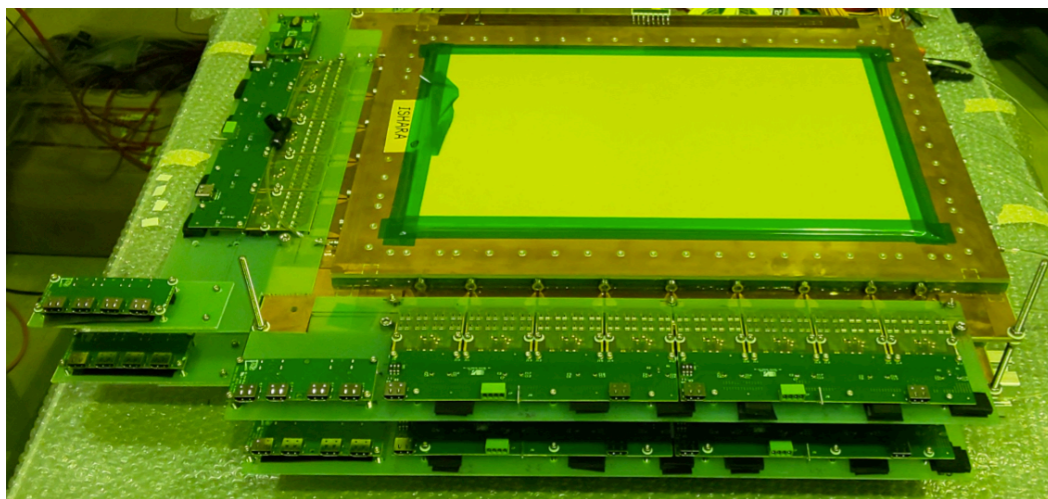
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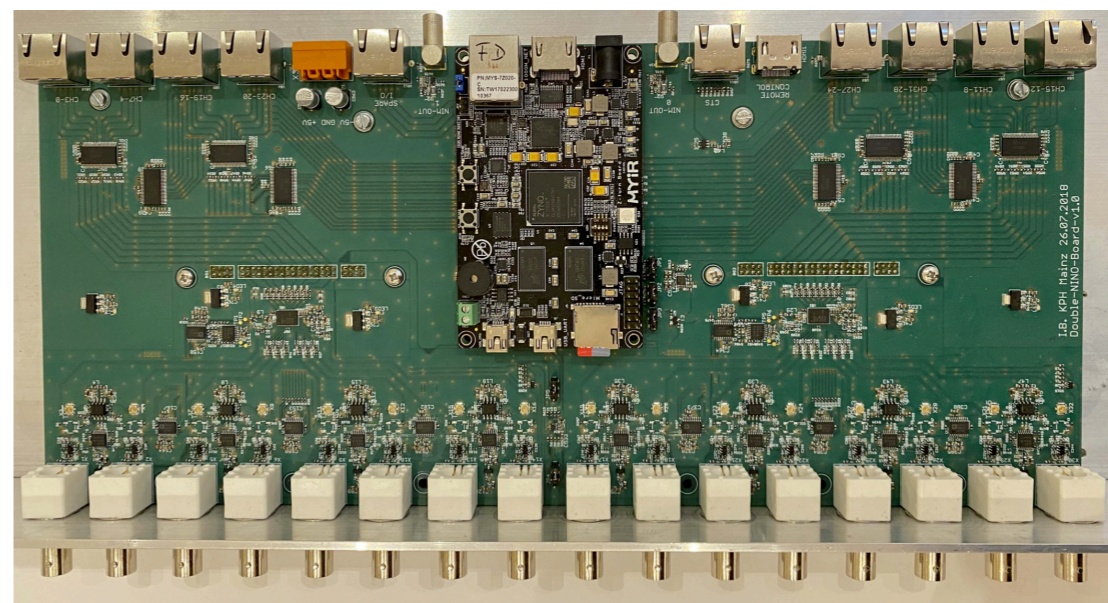
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Readout/DAQ: in progress



# 30 MeV running at the ARIEL e-linac

- First experimental stage is a full run ( $18 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ ) at 30 MeV
  - Full detector to be installed in Fall 2023. Run shortly afterwards
- Locate experiment near beam dump to control beam spread from foil target

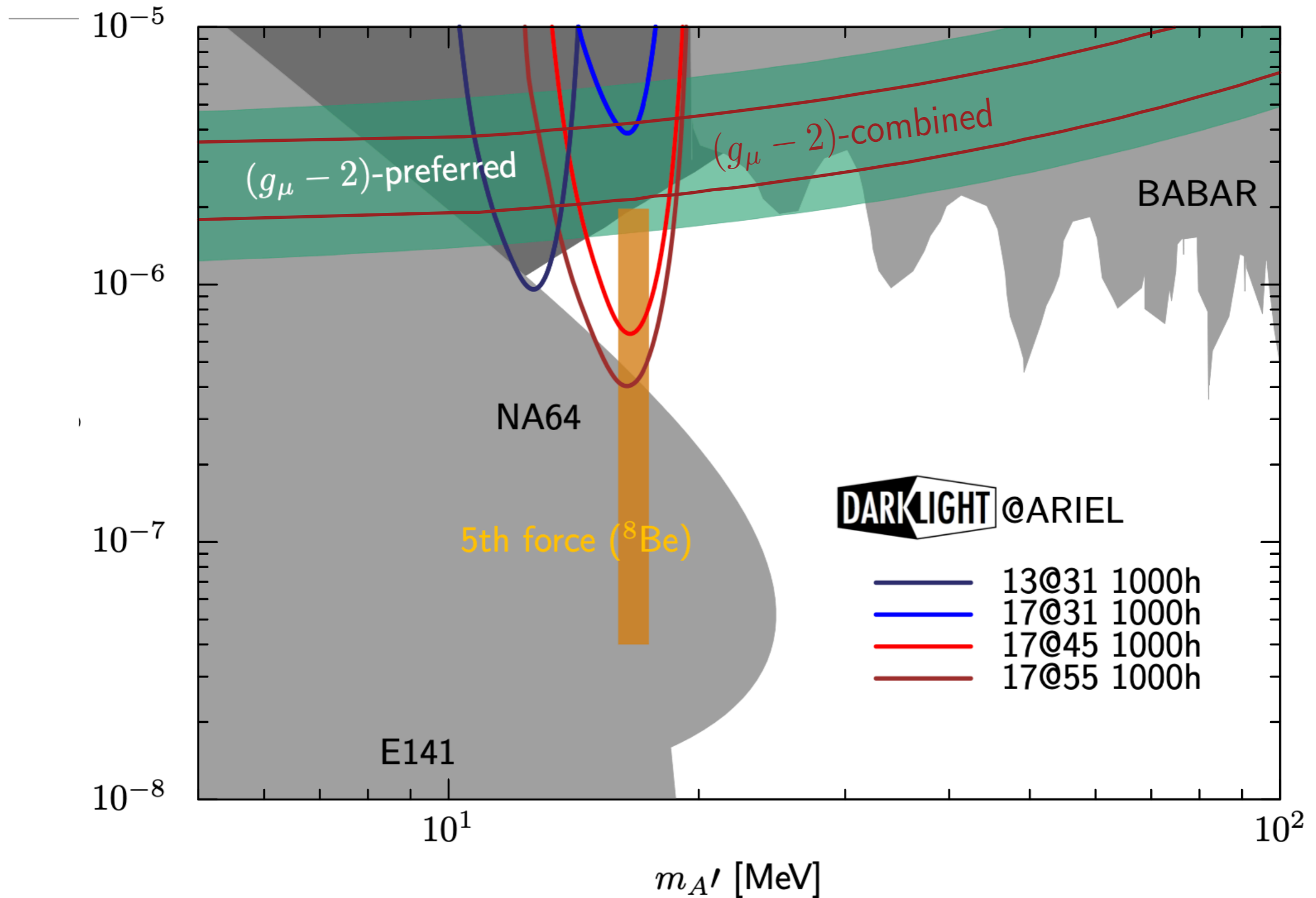


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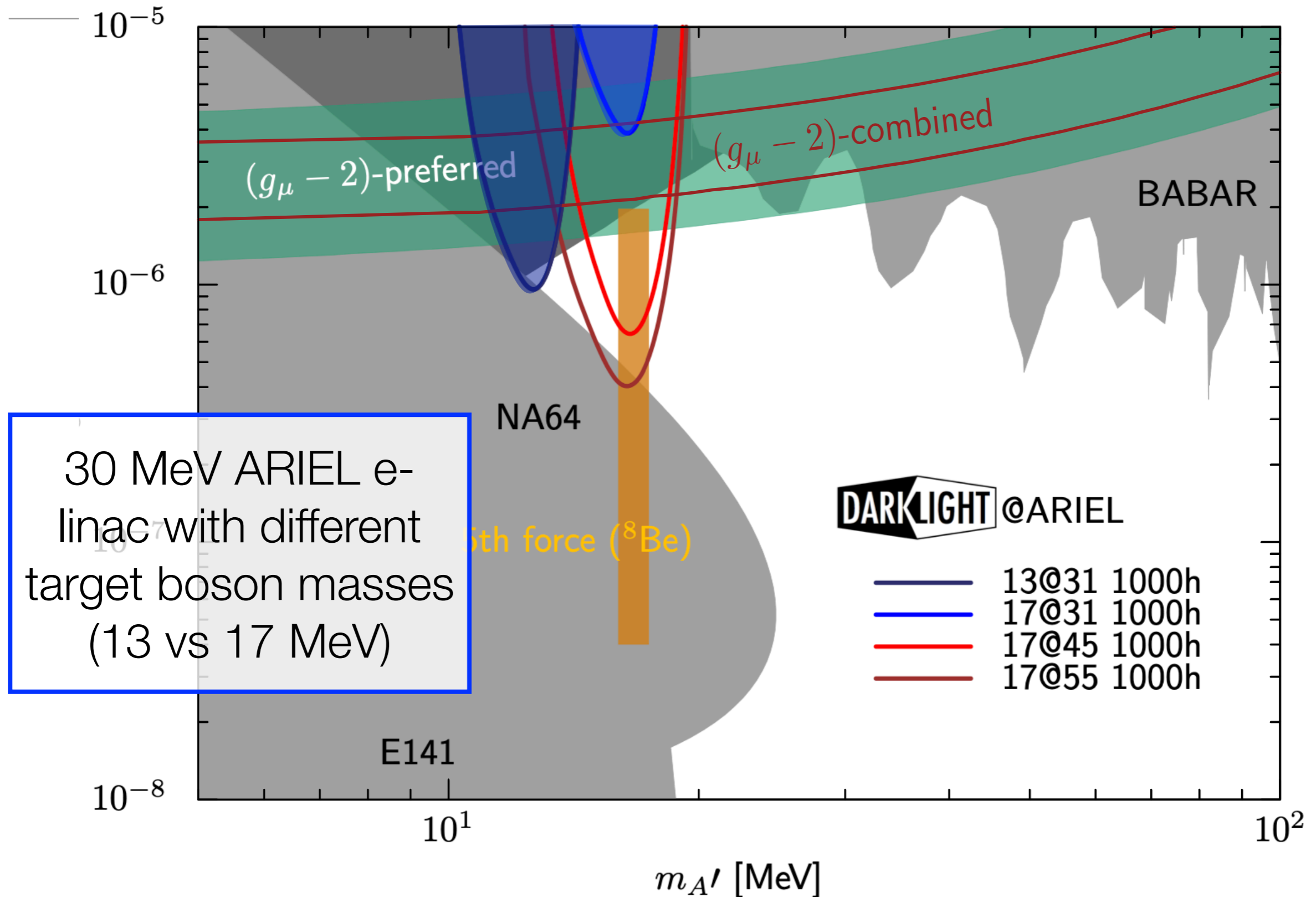
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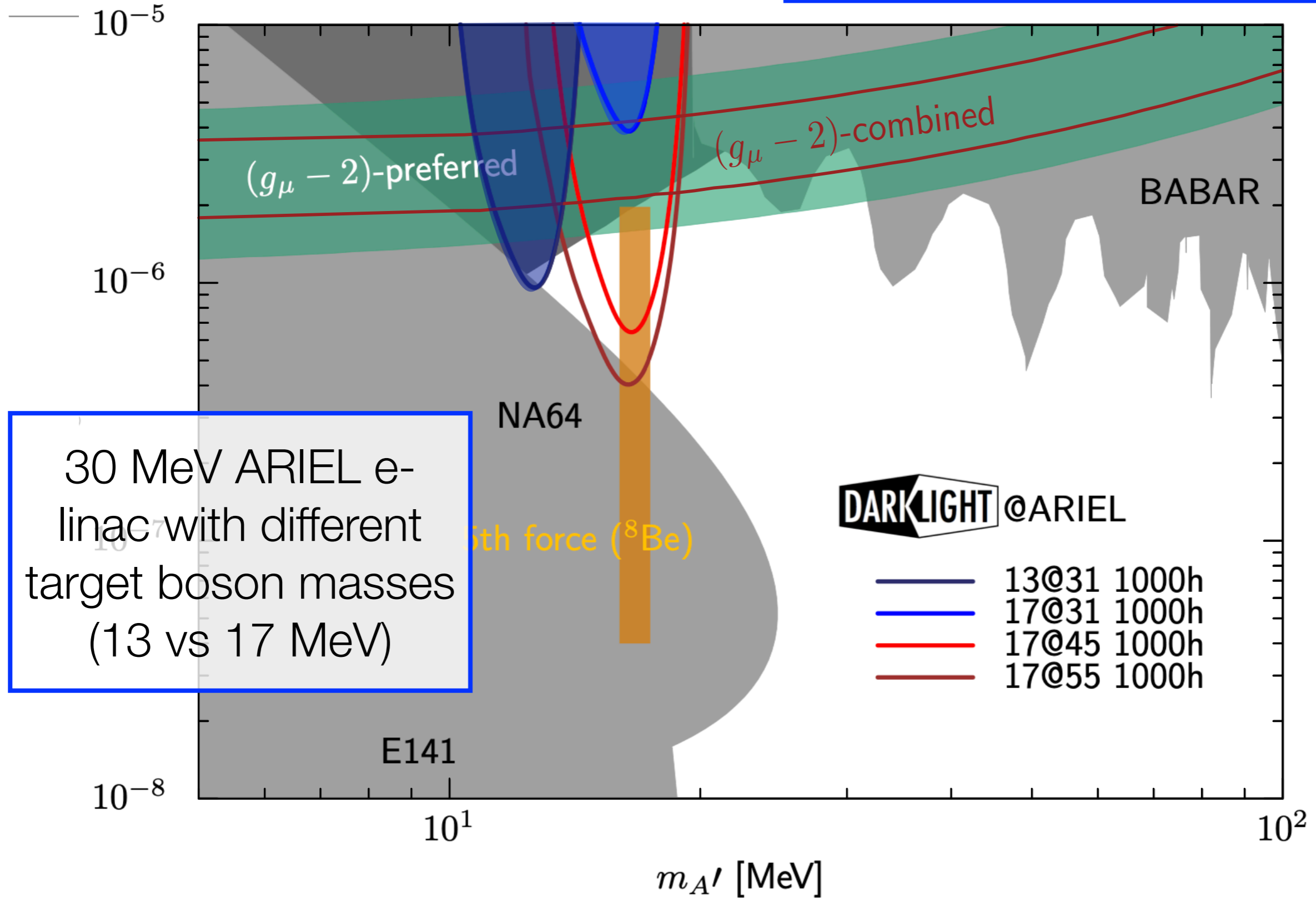


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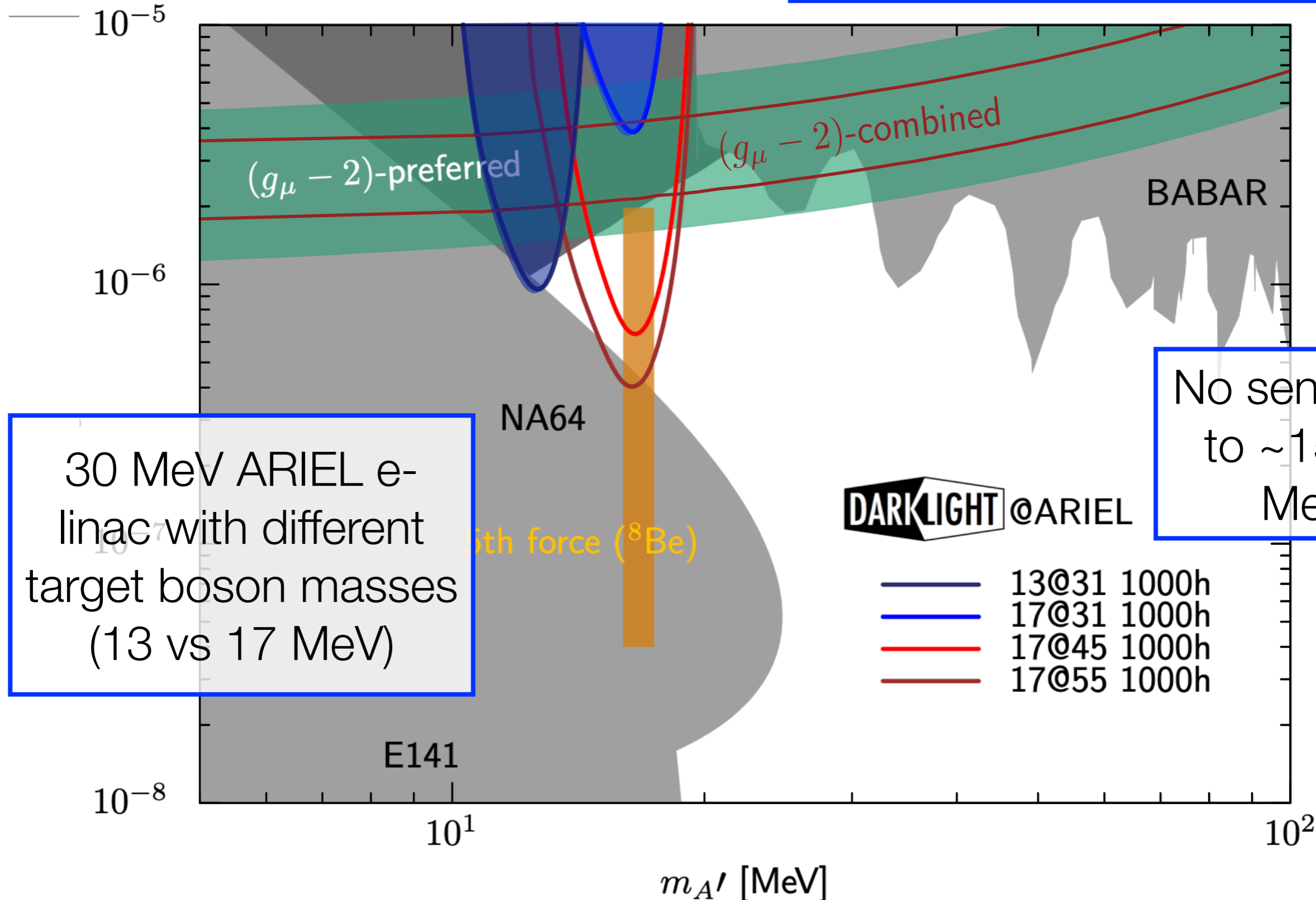
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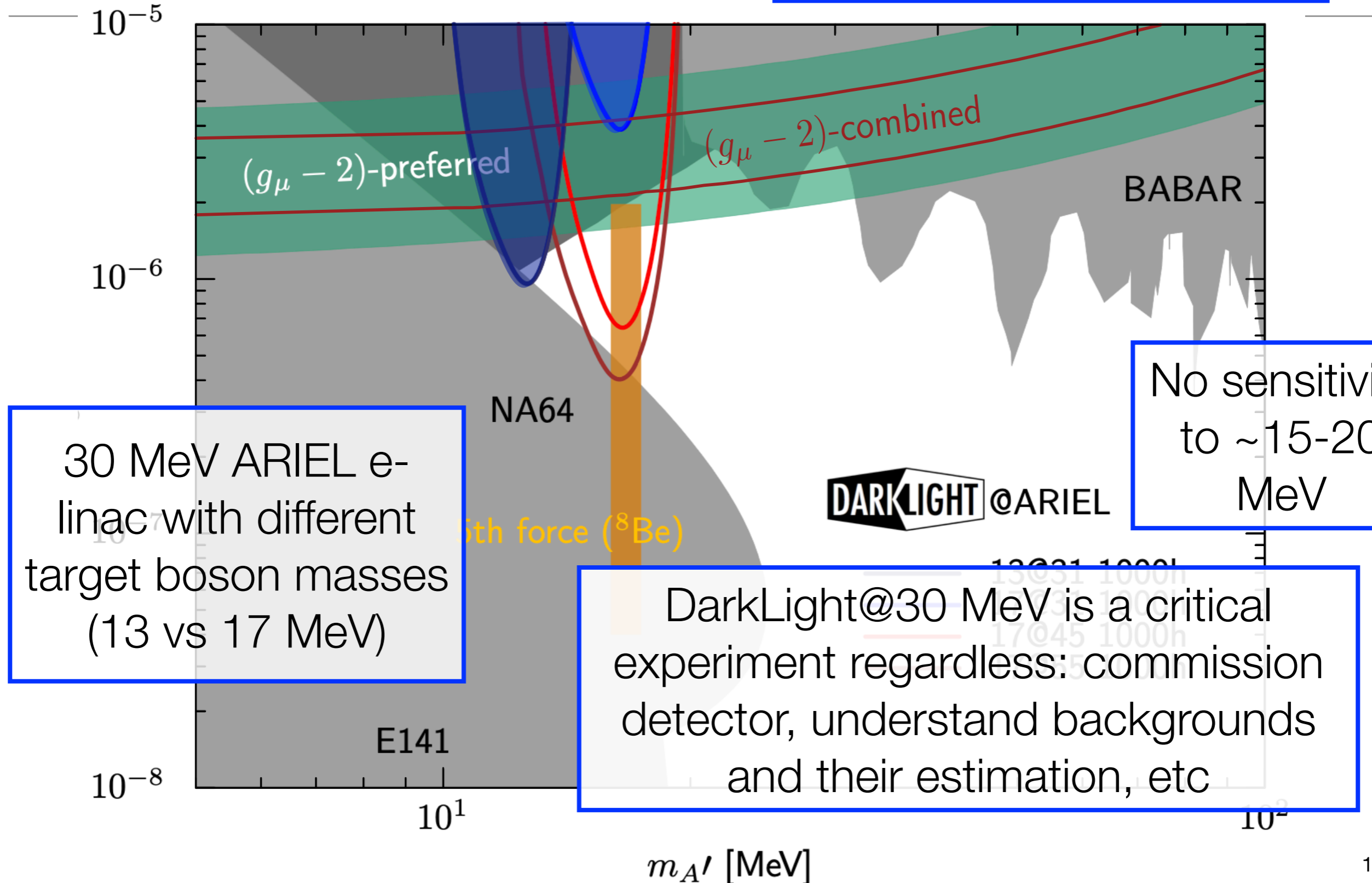


30 MeV ARIEL e-linac with different target boson masses (13 vs 17 MeV)

No sensitivity to  $\sim 15-20$  MeV

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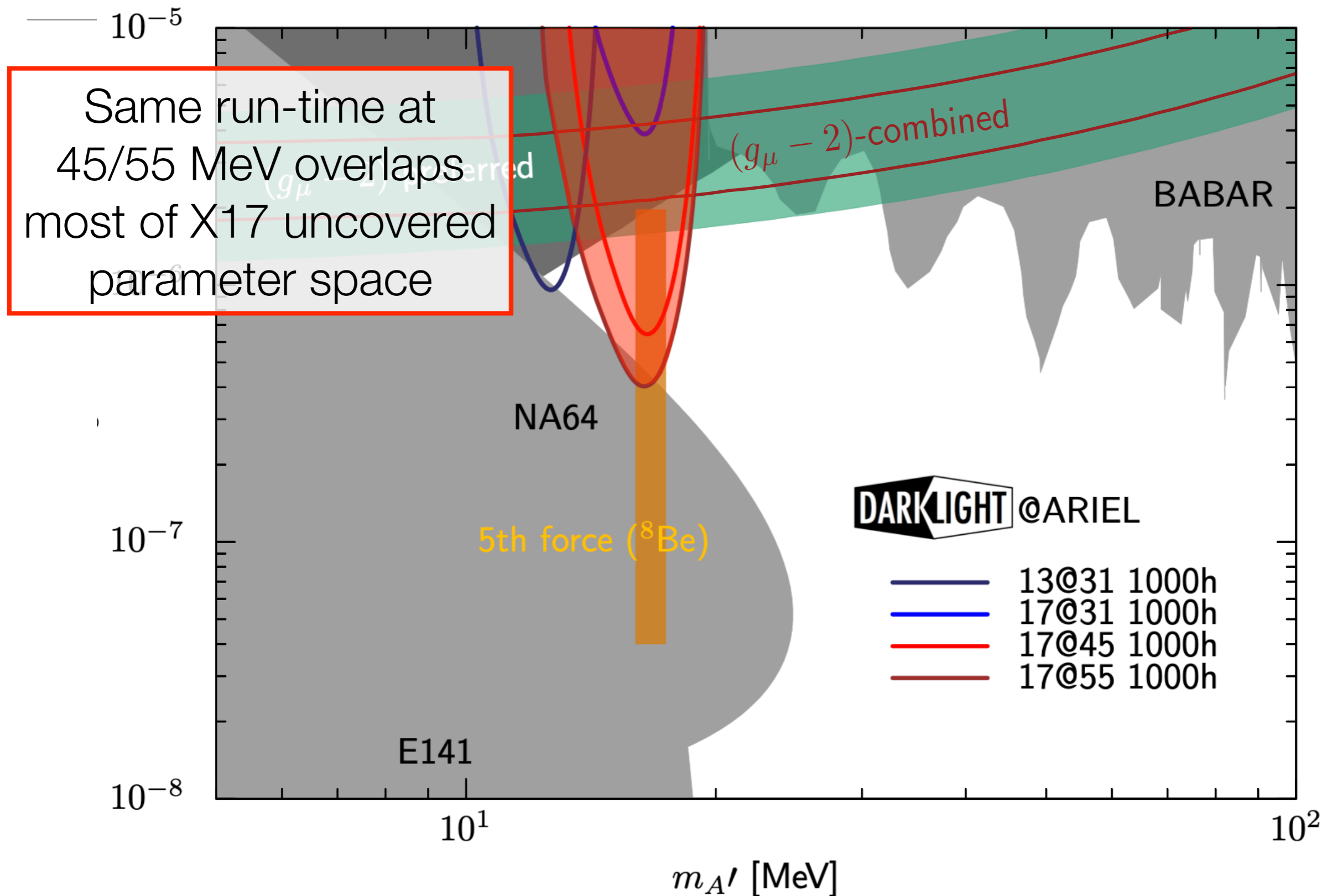
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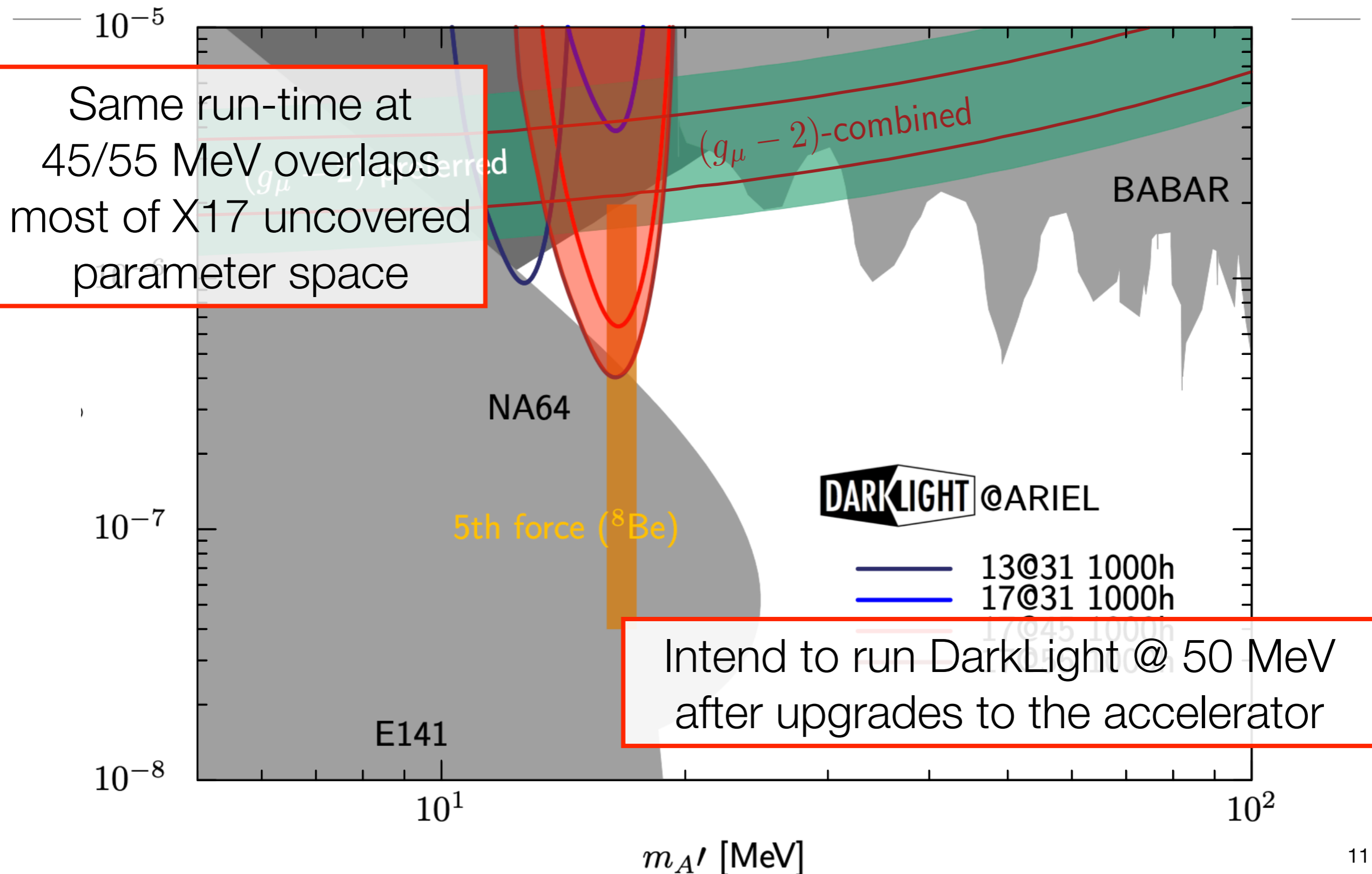
DarkLight@30 MeV is a critical experiment regardless: commission detector, understand backgrounds and their estimation, etc



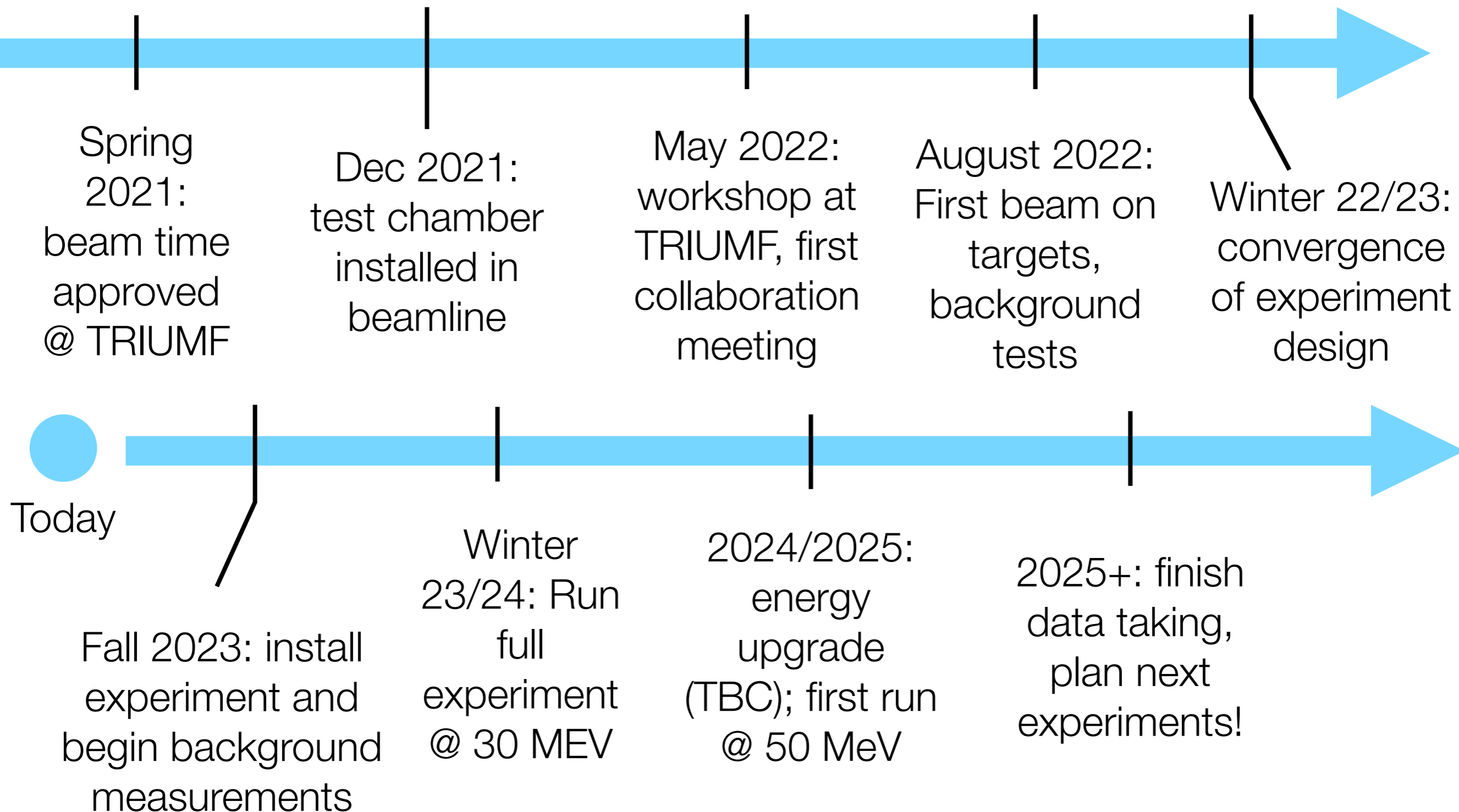
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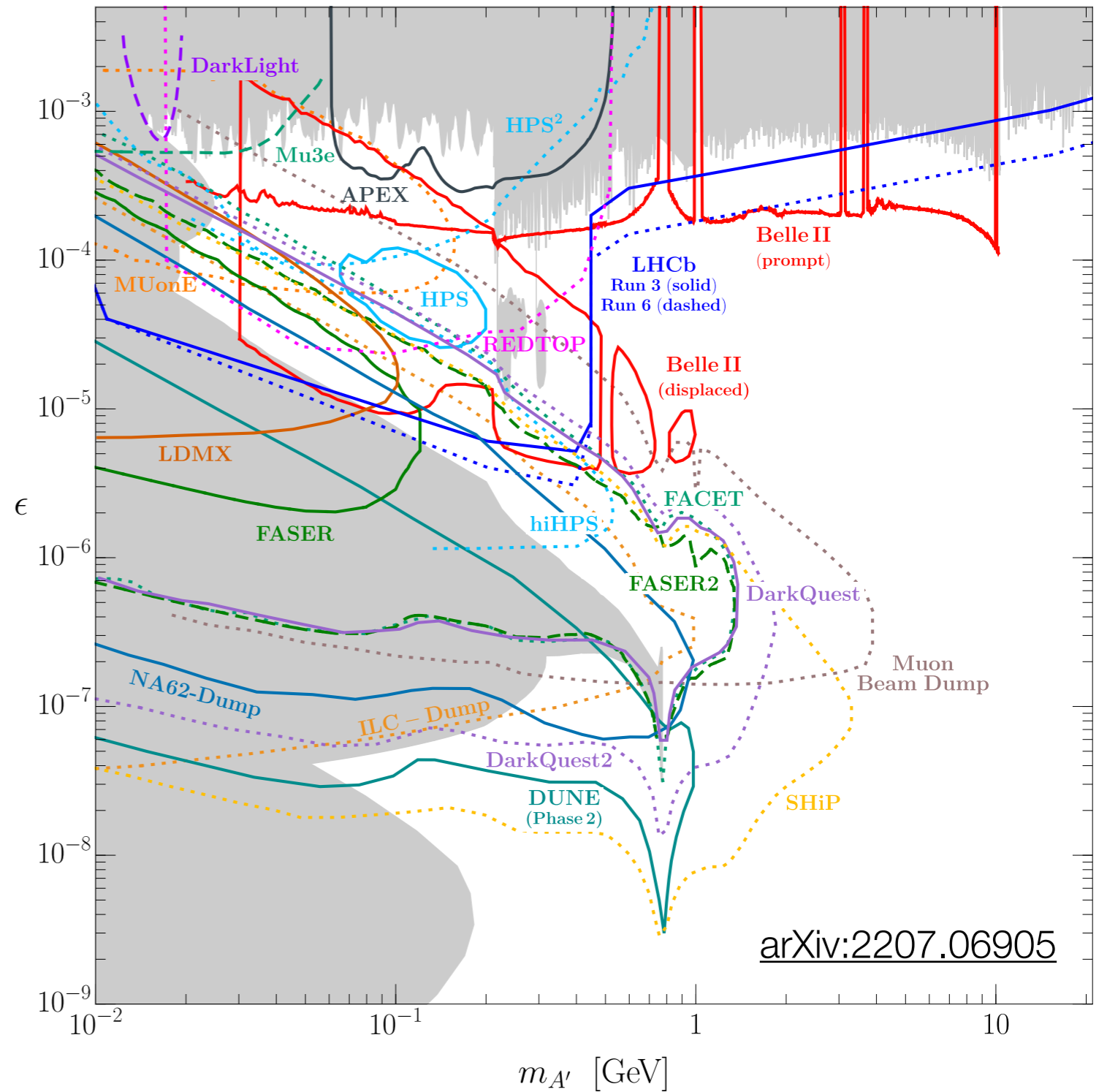


# DarkLight timeline



# Conclusions

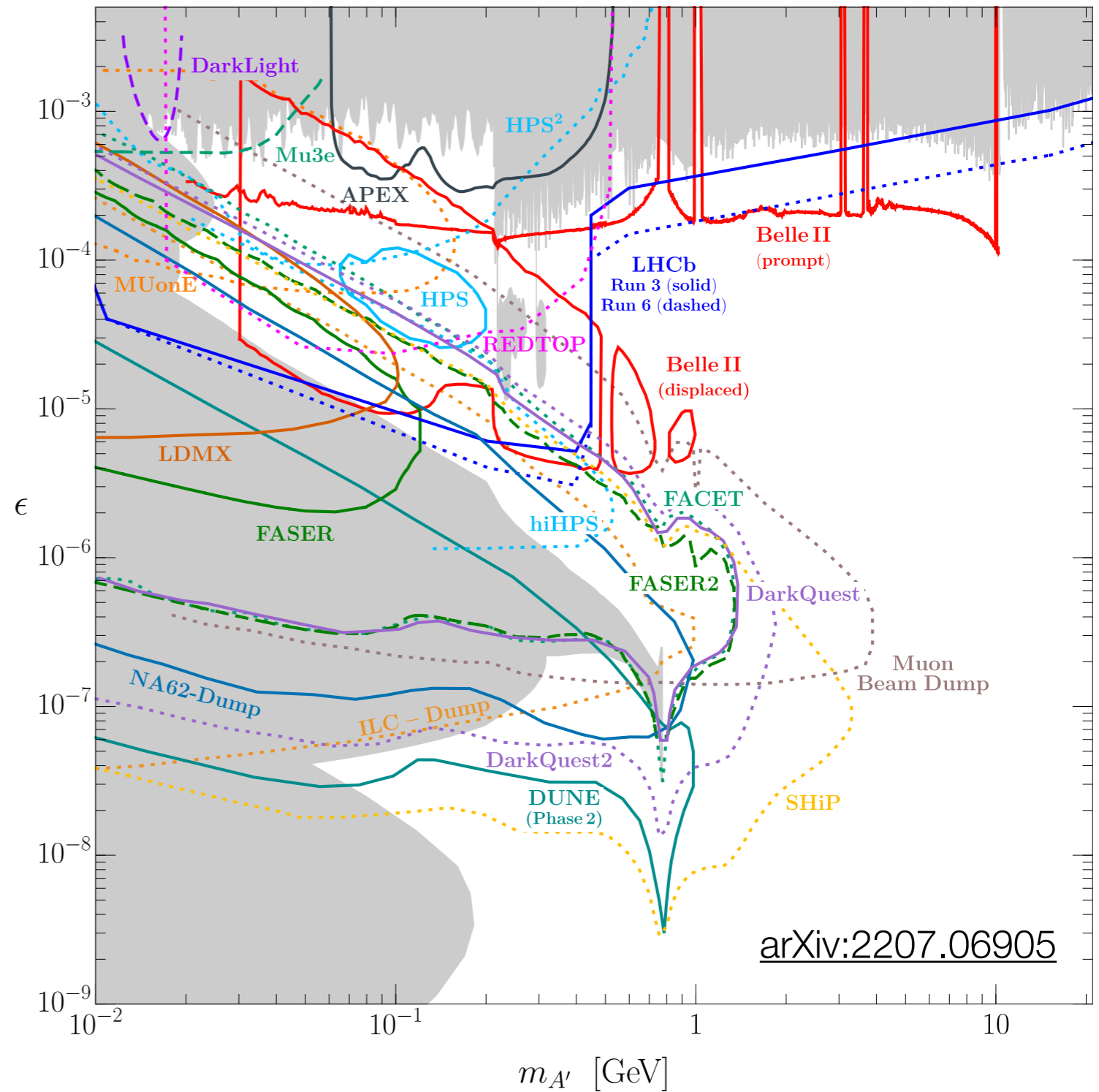
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Probing an interesting and accessible region - lots of community **interest & efforts** focusing here

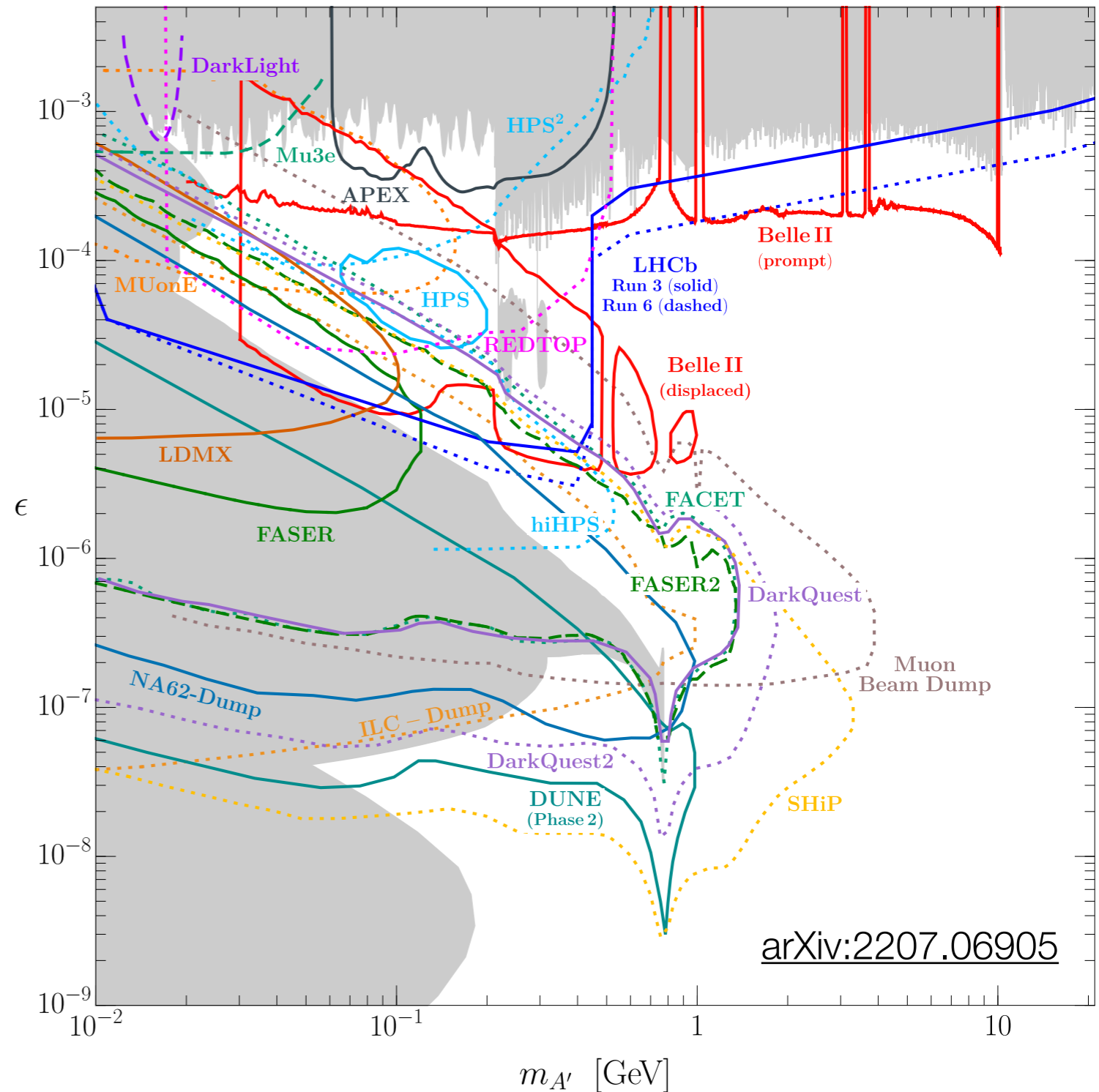


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DarkLight will **add to continual progress** from many experiments searching for new bosons and dark matter at accelerators

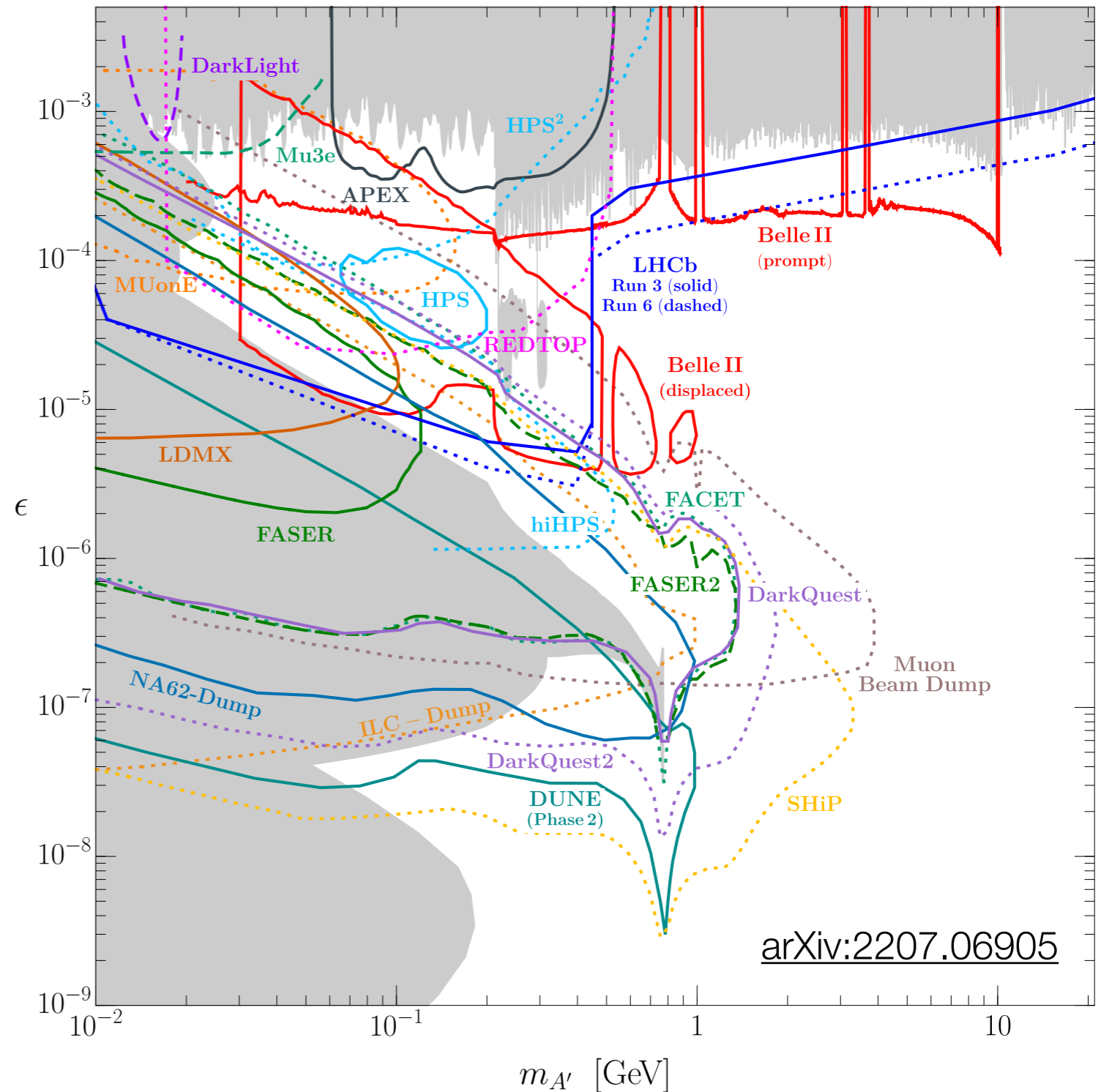


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**Exciting results to look forward to in next years!**

# Collaboration

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA

University of British Columbia, Canada

Hampton University, Hampton, VA, USA

TJNAF, Newport News, VA, USA

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA

St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Stony Brook University, NY, USA

TRIUMF, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

University of Mainz, Germany

University of Manitoba, Canada

University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



Thank you!





Backup slides

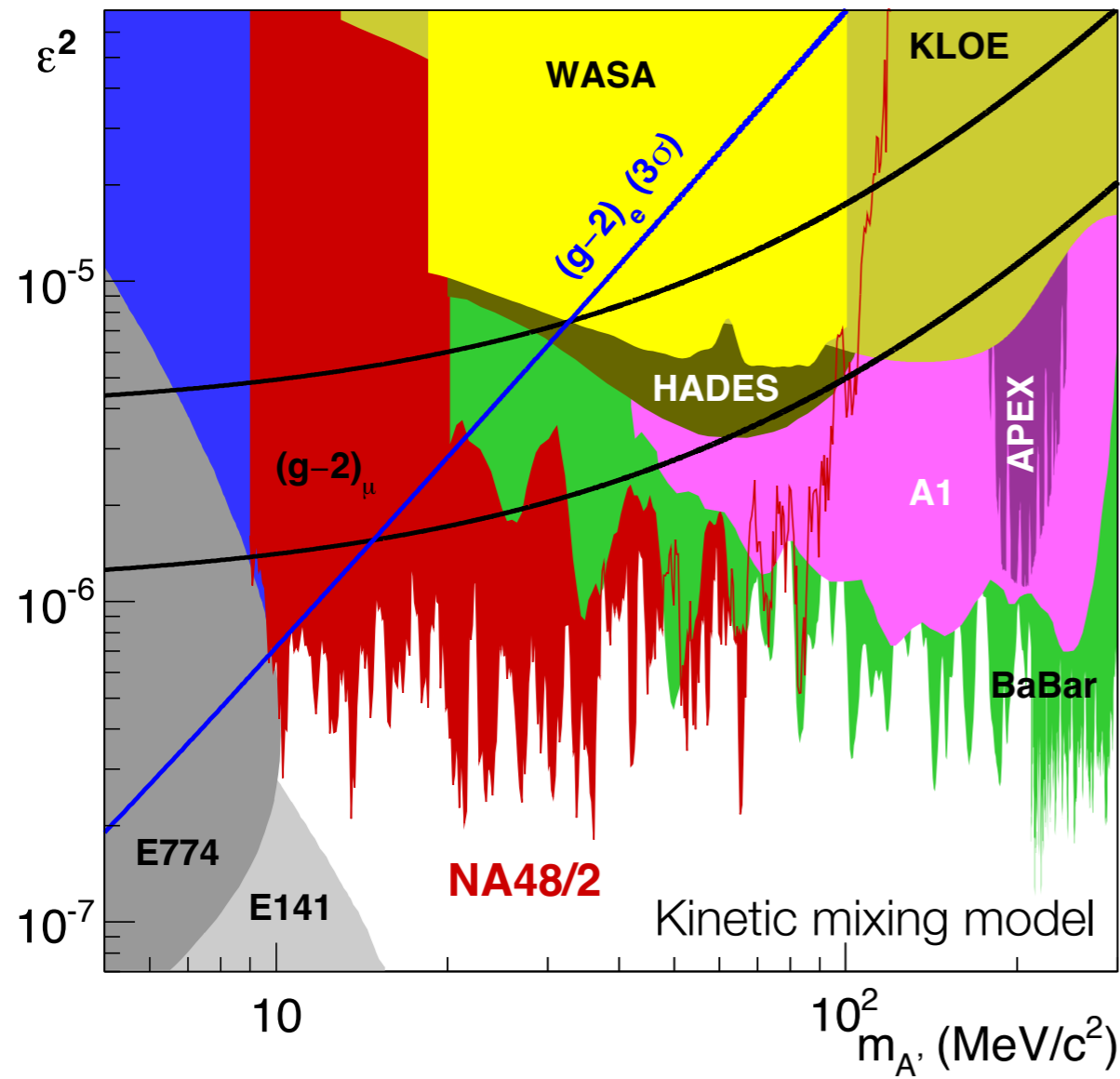
The image shows a hand-drawn technical diagram on a grid background. The diagram consists of several intersecting lines, including solid and dashed lines, forming various geometric shapes. There are several small circles, some of which are spirals, and several small crosses or plus signs scattered throughout the drawing. The overall appearance is that of a technical sketch or a diagram related to engineering or mathematics.

# Light BSM boson: $g-2$ anomaly

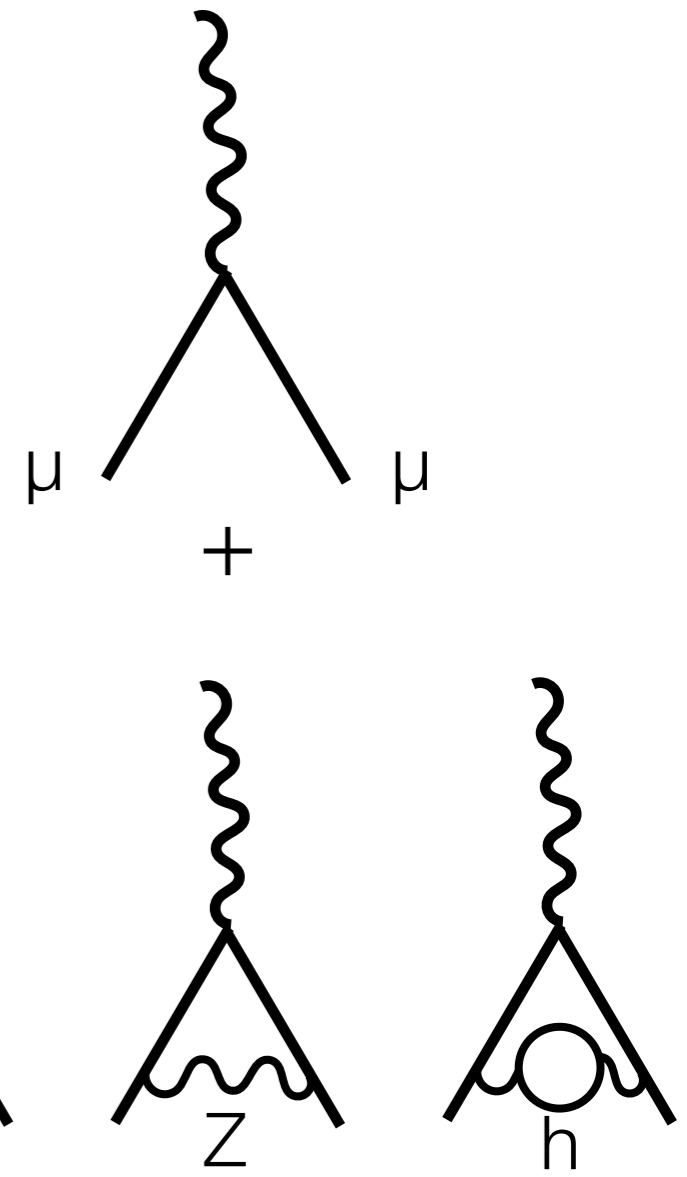
Many investigations into source of  $4.2 \sigma$  muon  $g-2$  anomaly

One possibility: new massive boson

Would be low mass, moderate coupling - kinetic mixing model disfavoured, but experimentally accessible region

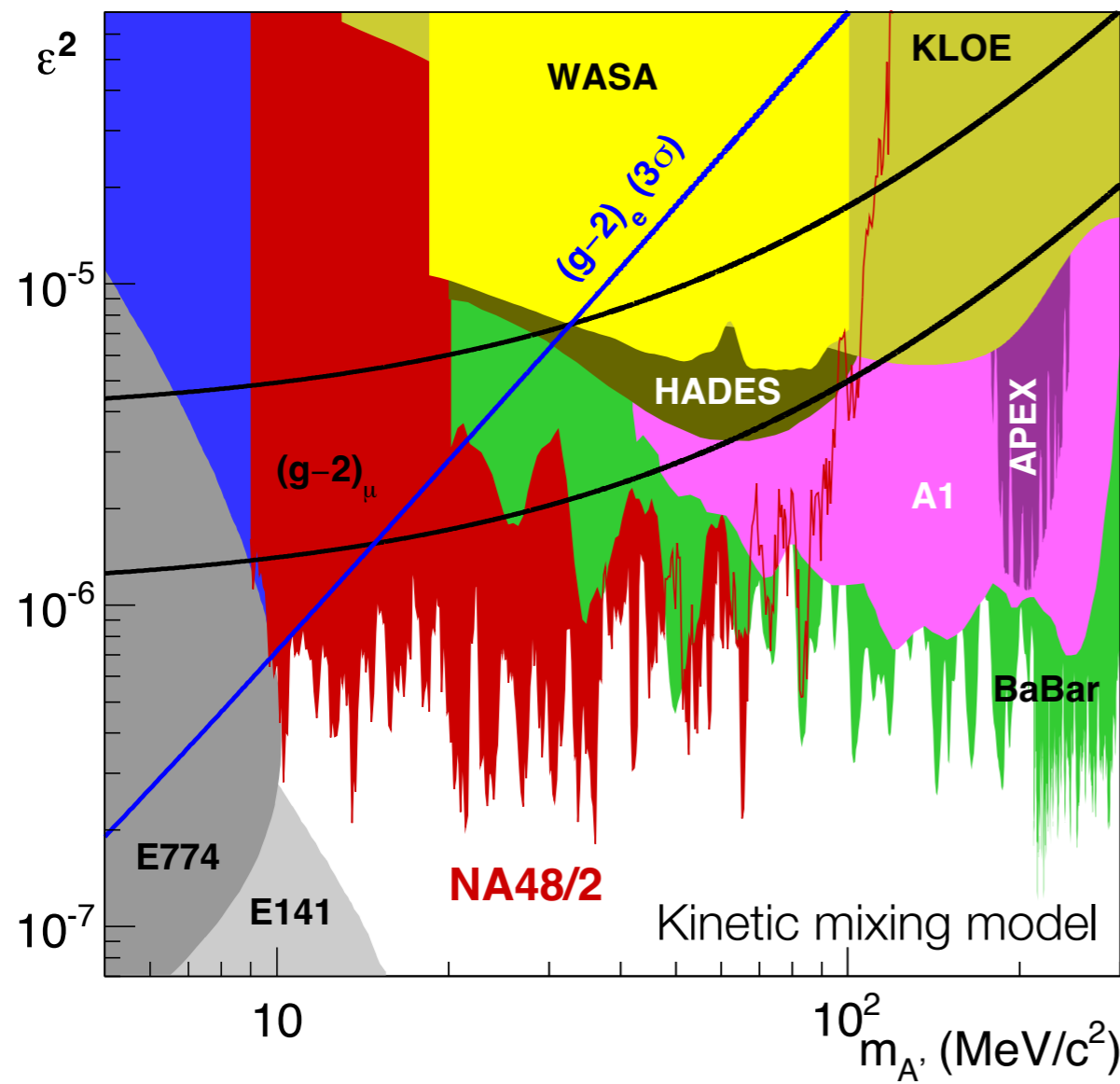


NA48 collaboration,  
Phys.Lett. B746 (2015) 178-185

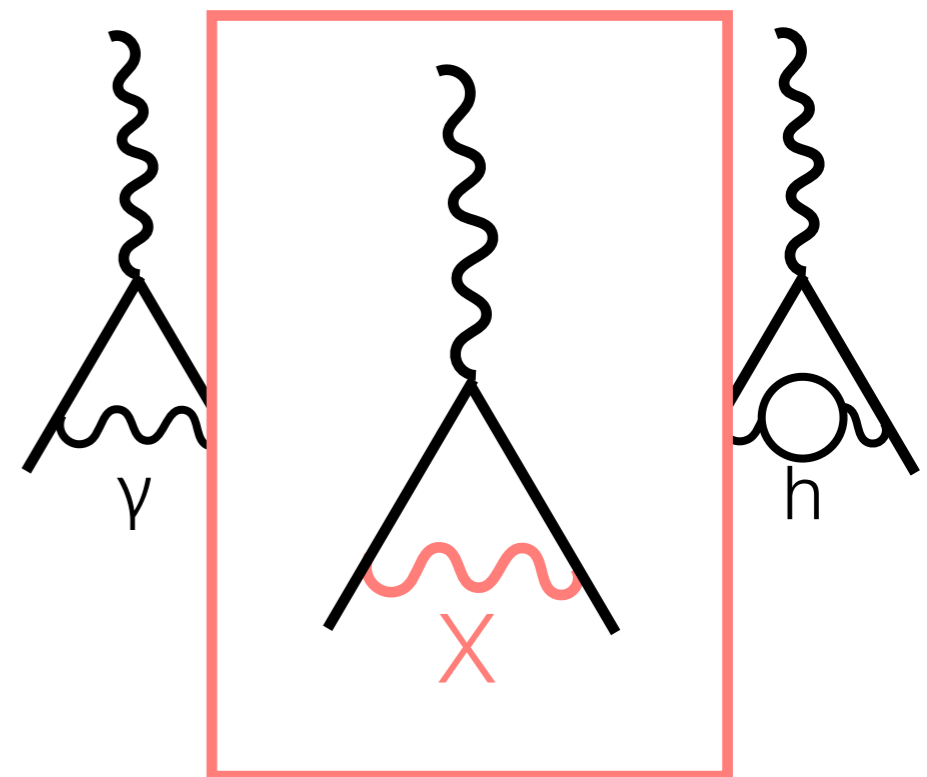
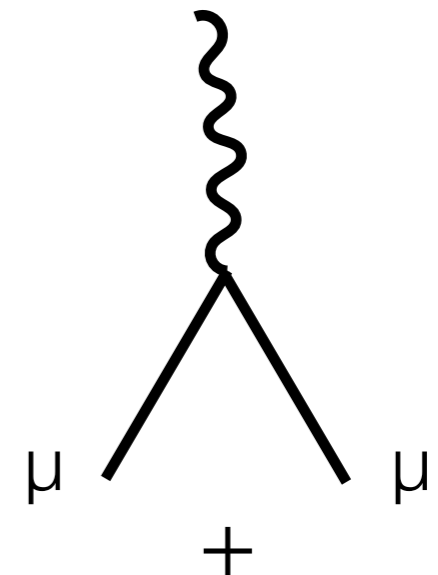


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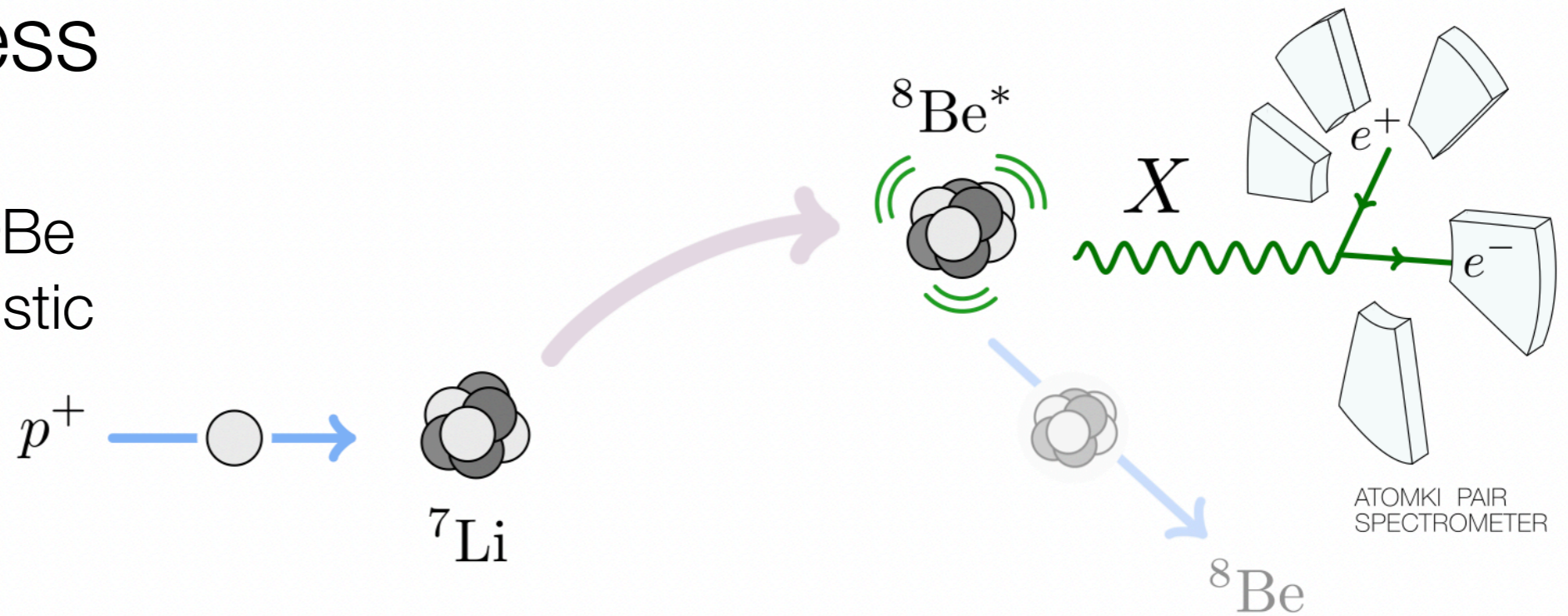


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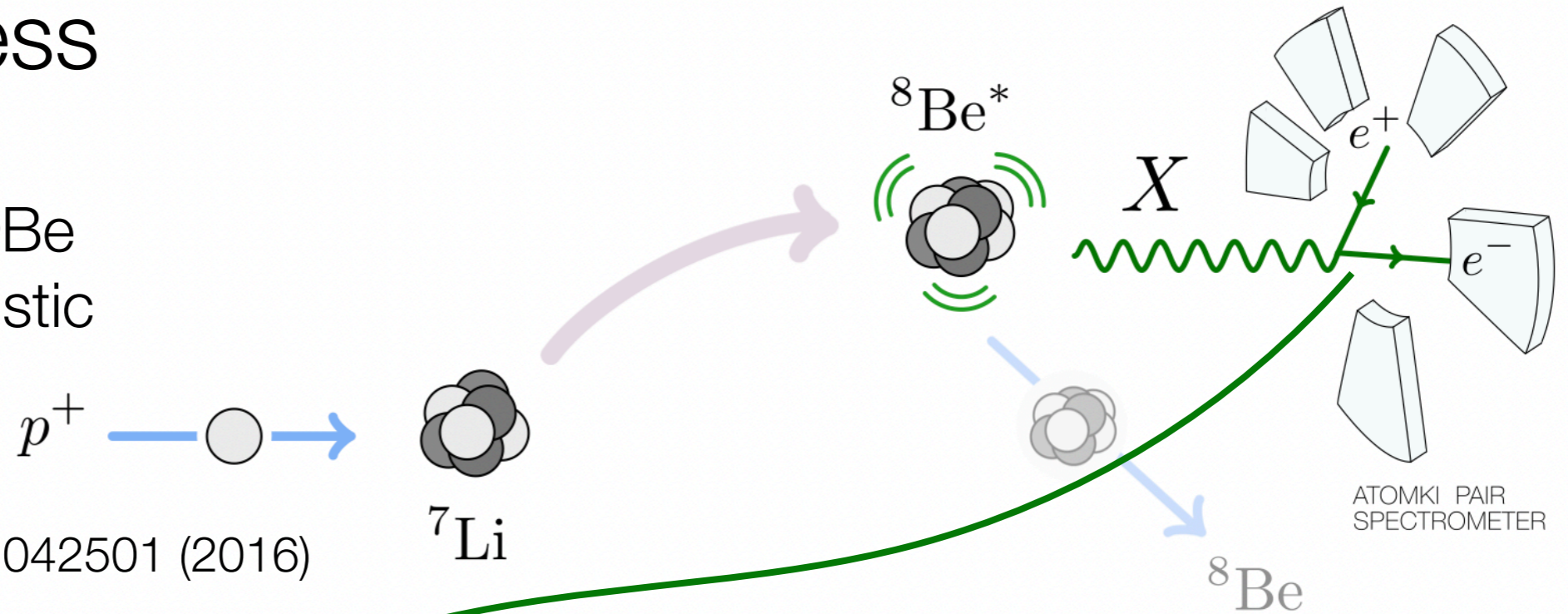
Decay of excited  ${}^8\text{Be}$   
through characteristic  
energy levels



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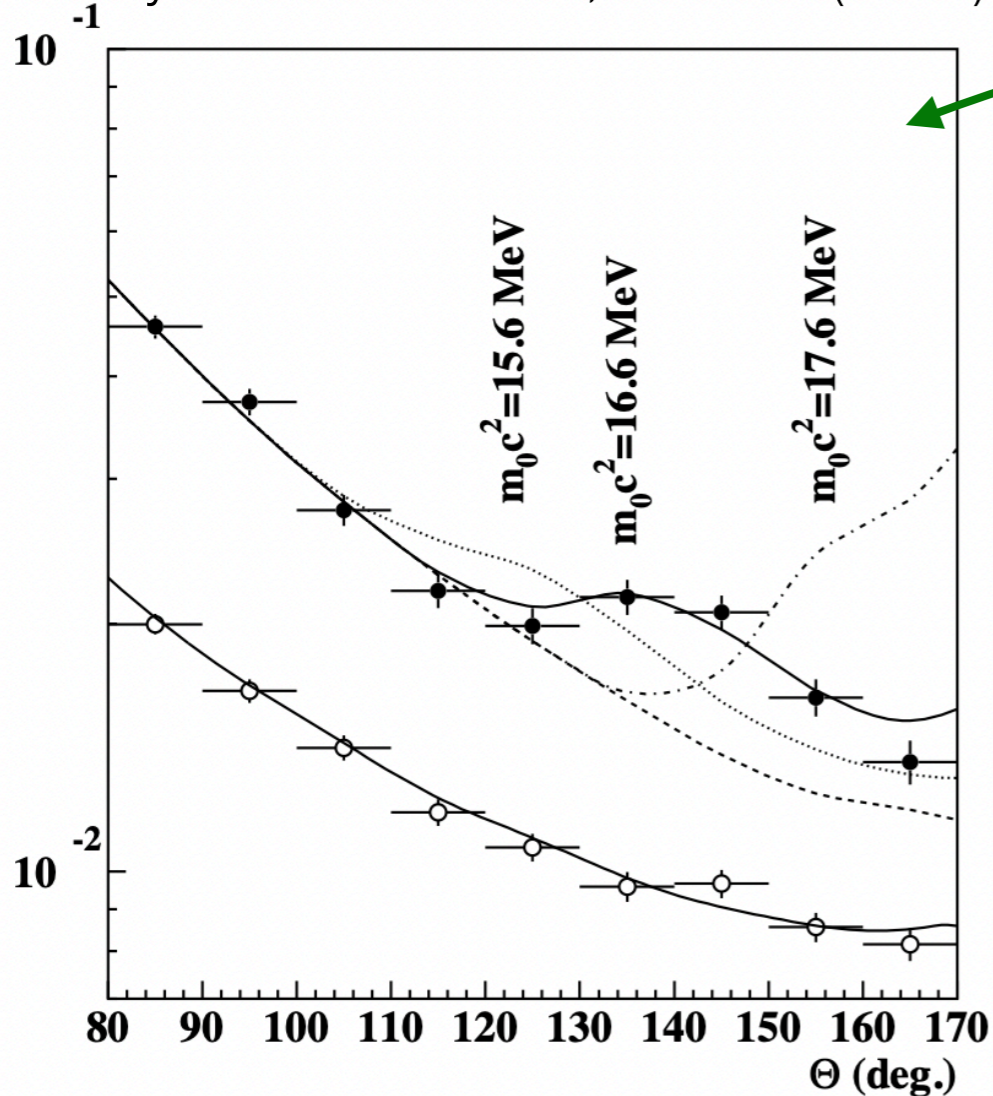
Phys. Rev. D 95, 035017 (2017)

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Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 042501 (2016)

IPCC (relative unit)

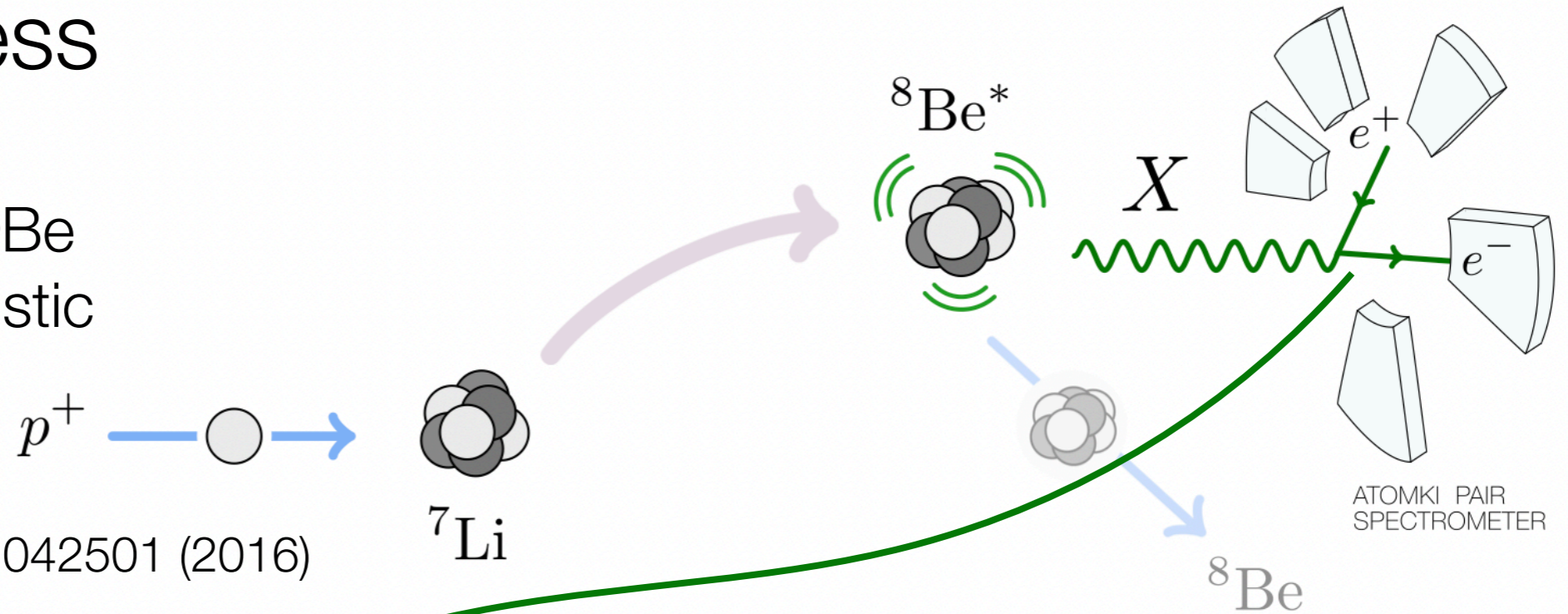


Invariant mass and opening angle of  
 $e^+e^-$  pair show resonant signal

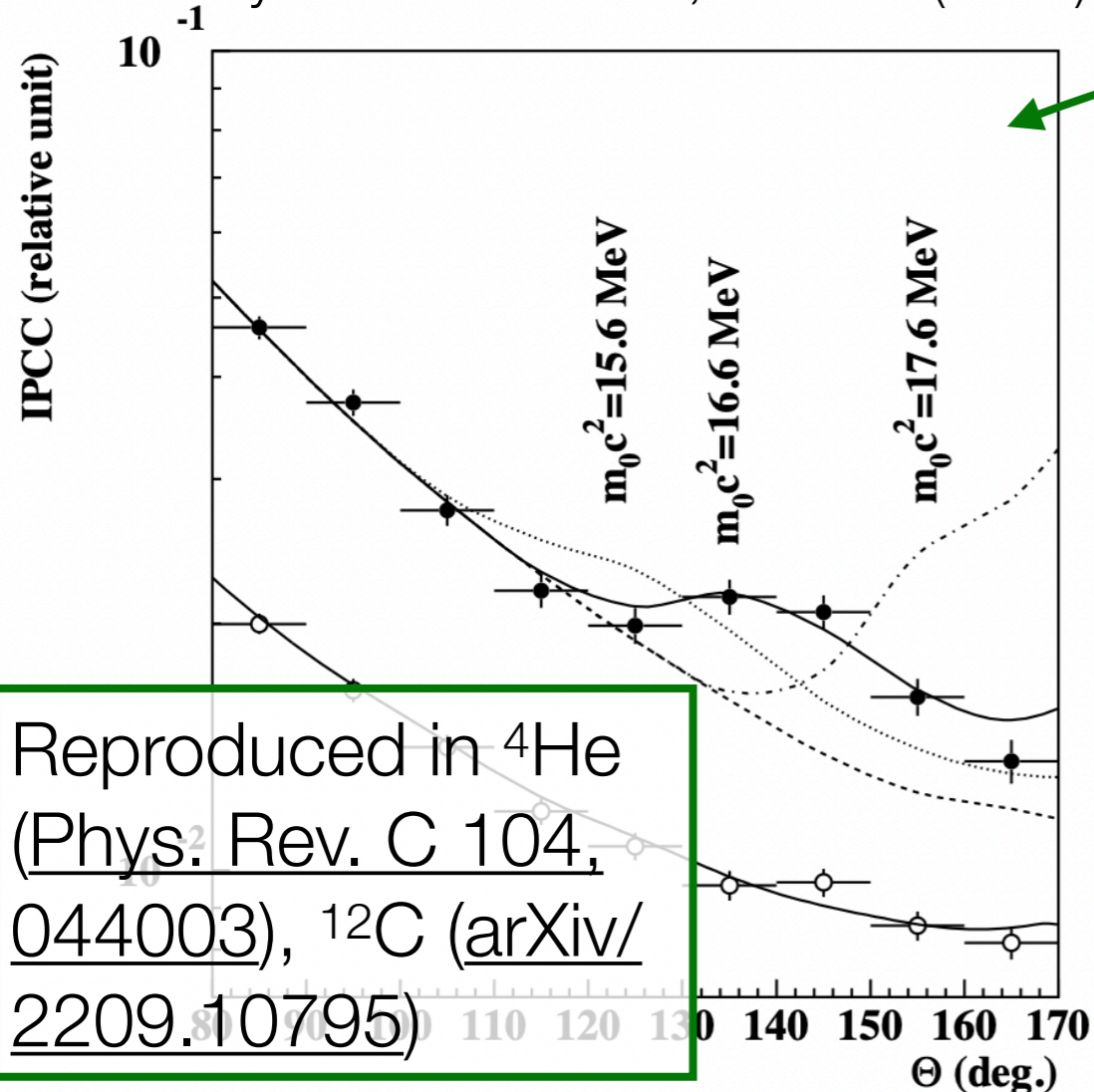
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energy levels



Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 042501 (2016)

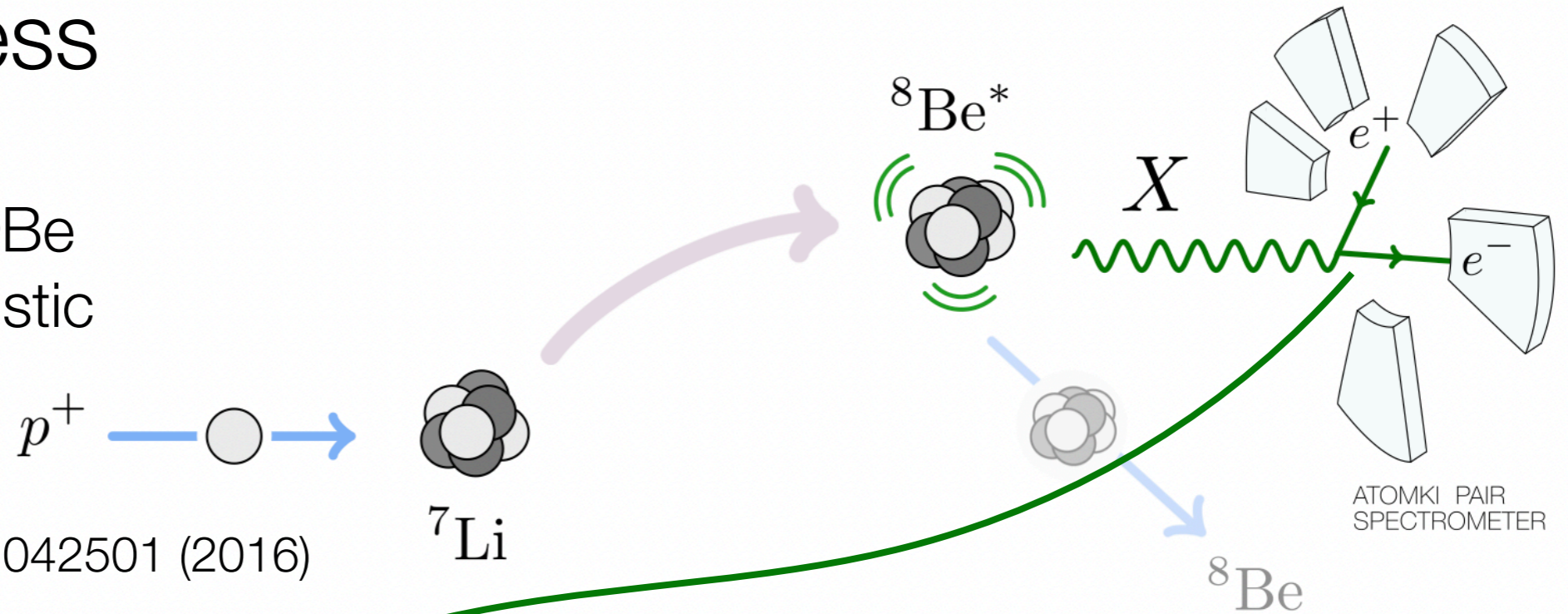


Invariant mass and opening angle of  $e^+e^-$  pair show resonant signal

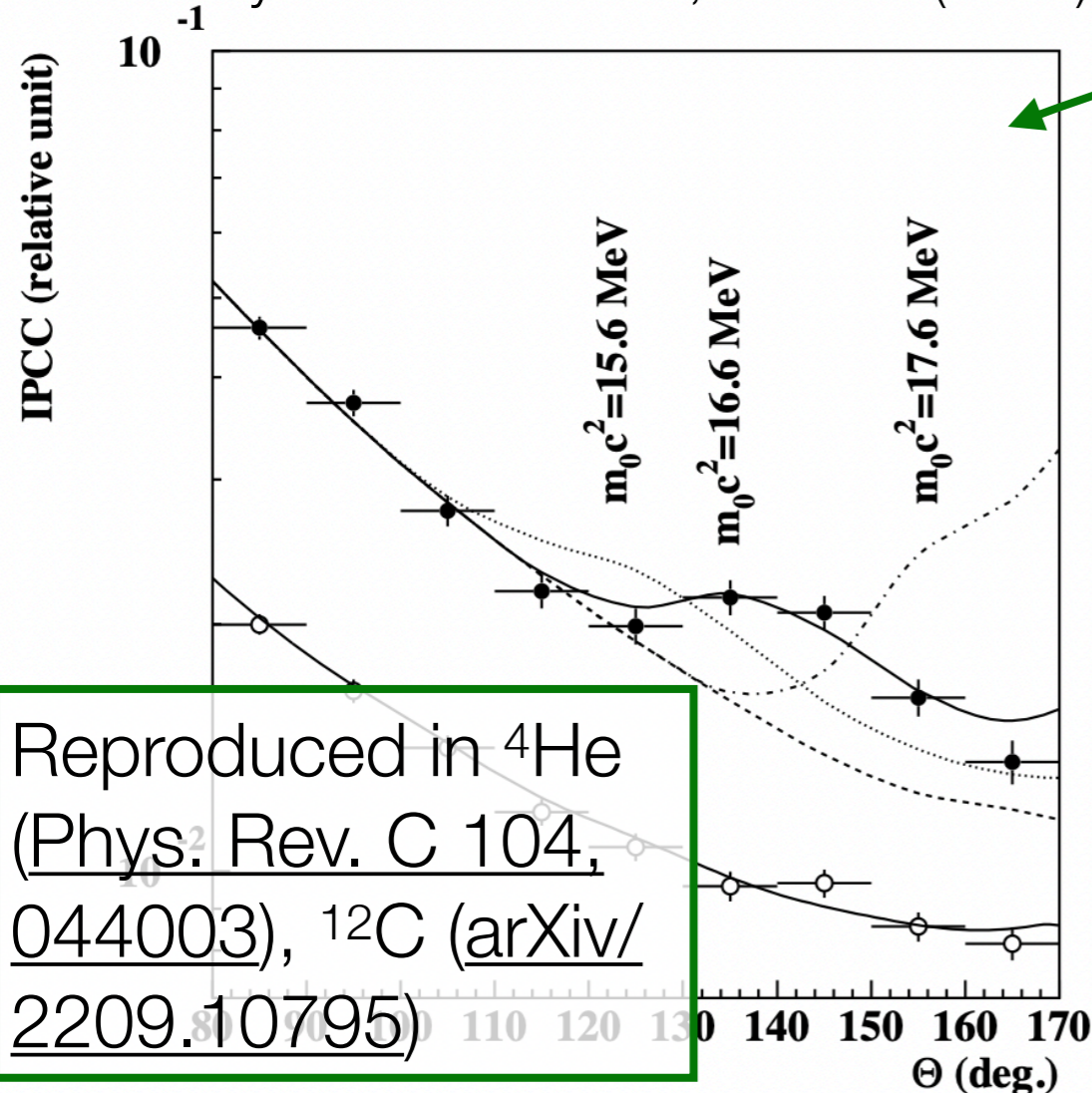
# Light BSM boson: the X17 excess

Phys. Rev. D 95, 035017 (2017)

Decay of excited  $^8\text{Be}$   
through characteristic  
energy levels



Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 042501 (2016)



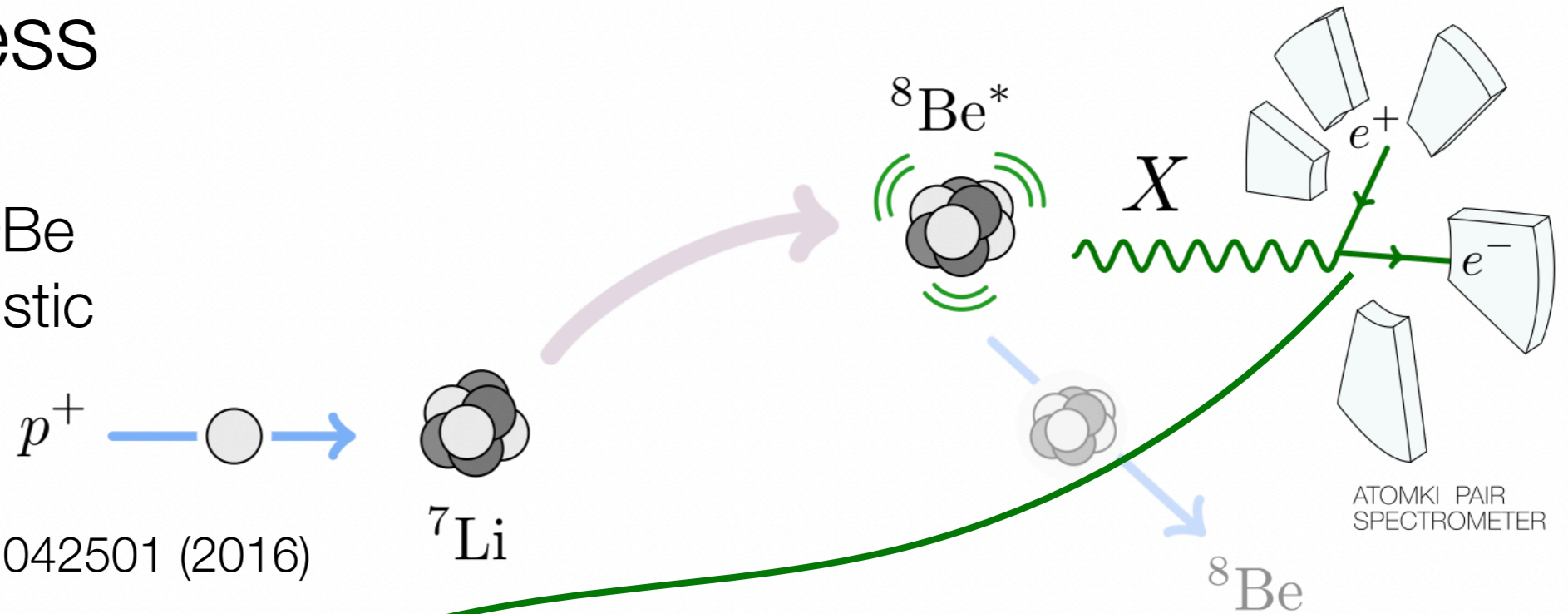
Invariant mass and opening angle of  
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Not-yet-understood detector effect?  
Unexpected SM cause? Possibly!

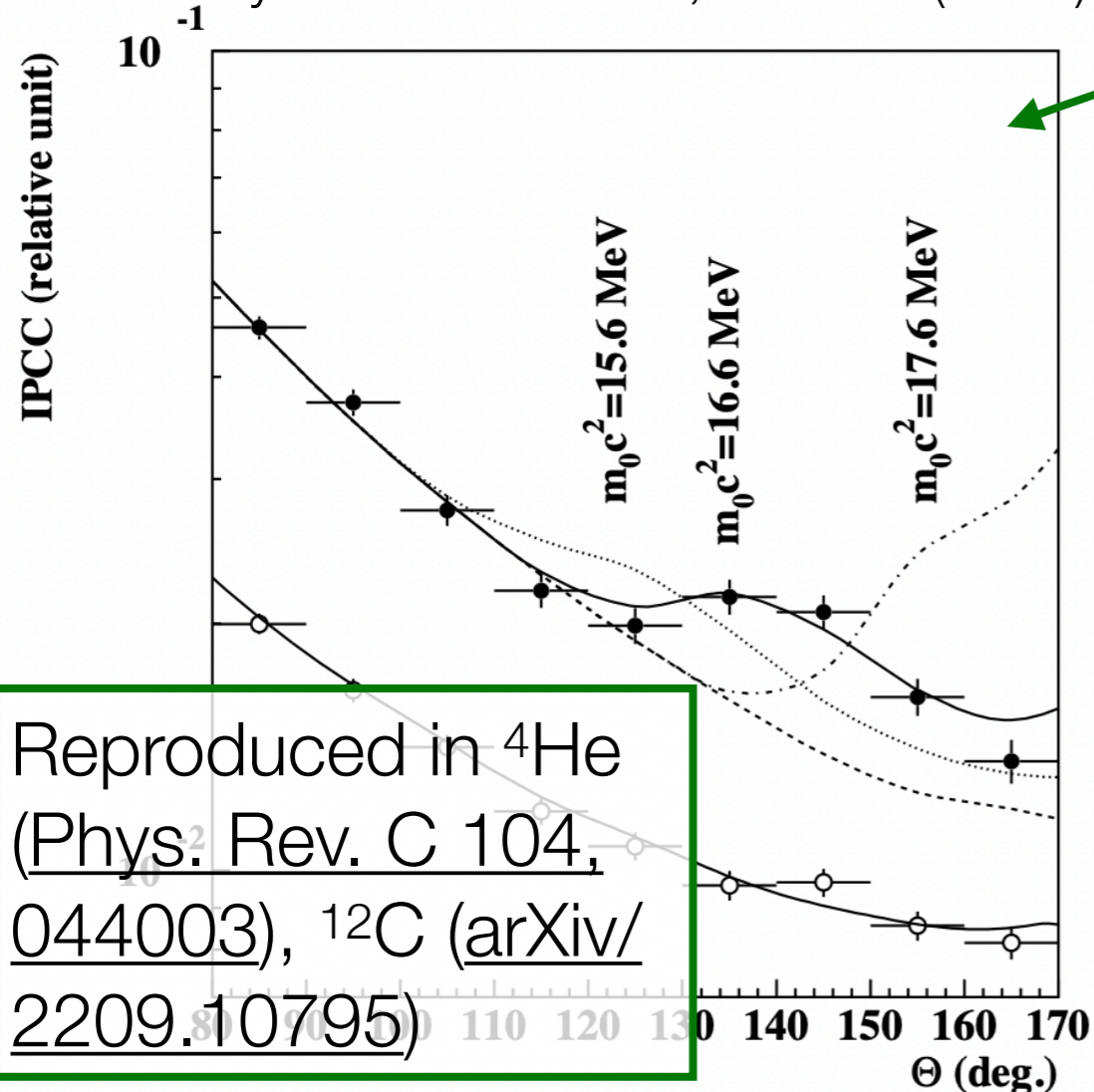
# Light BSM boson: the X17 excess

Phys. Rev. D 95, 035017 (2017)

Decay of excited  $^8\text{Be}$   
through characteristic  
energy levels



Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 042501 (2016)



Reproduced in  $^4\text{He}$   
(Phys. Rev. C 104,  
044003),  $^{12}\text{C}$  (arXiv/  
2209.10795)

Invariant mass and opening angle of  
 $e^+e^-$  pair show resonant signal

Not-yet-understood detector effect?  
Unexpected SM cause? Possibly!

Or, compatible with new boson with  
mass  $\sim 17 \text{ MeV}$



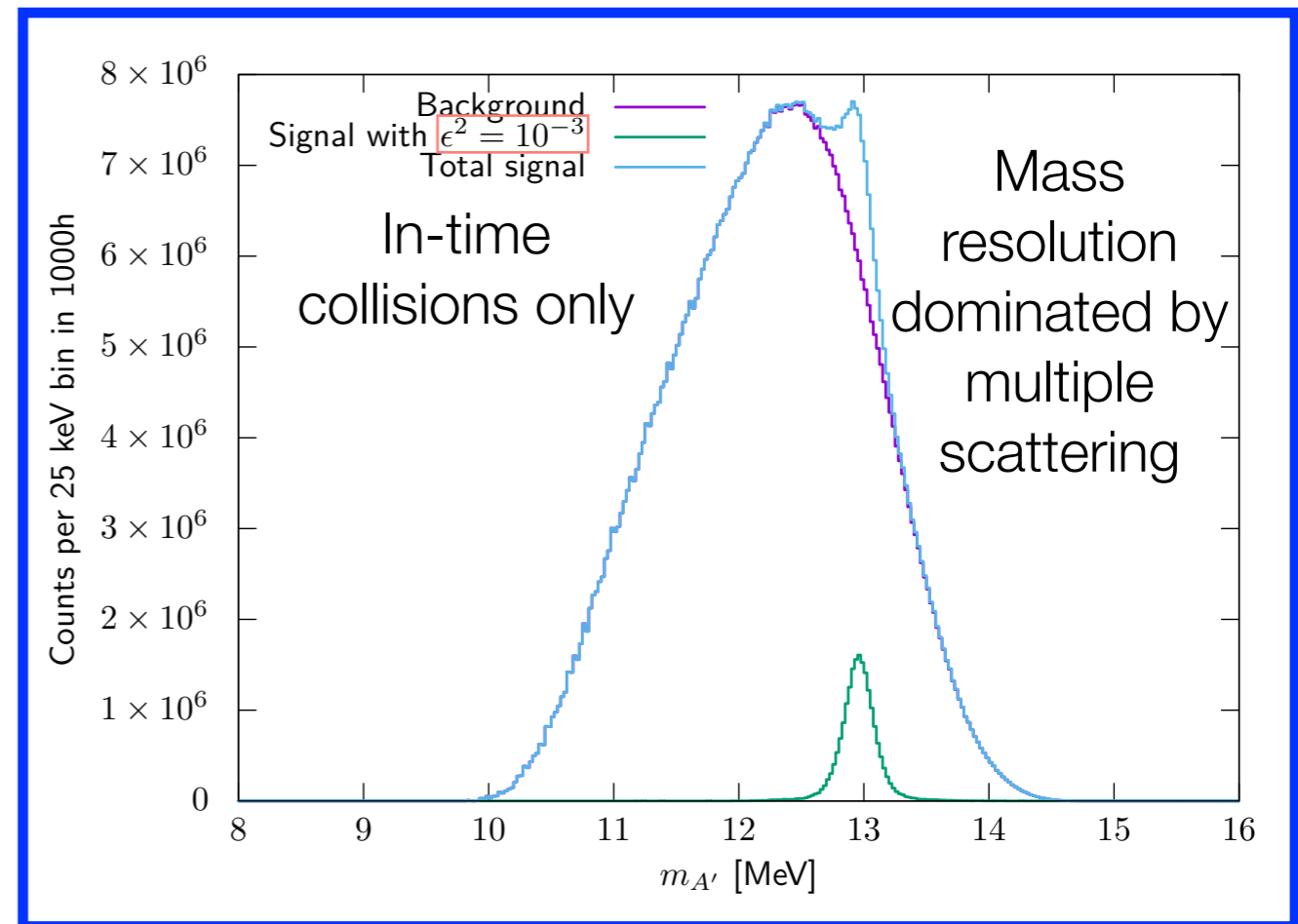
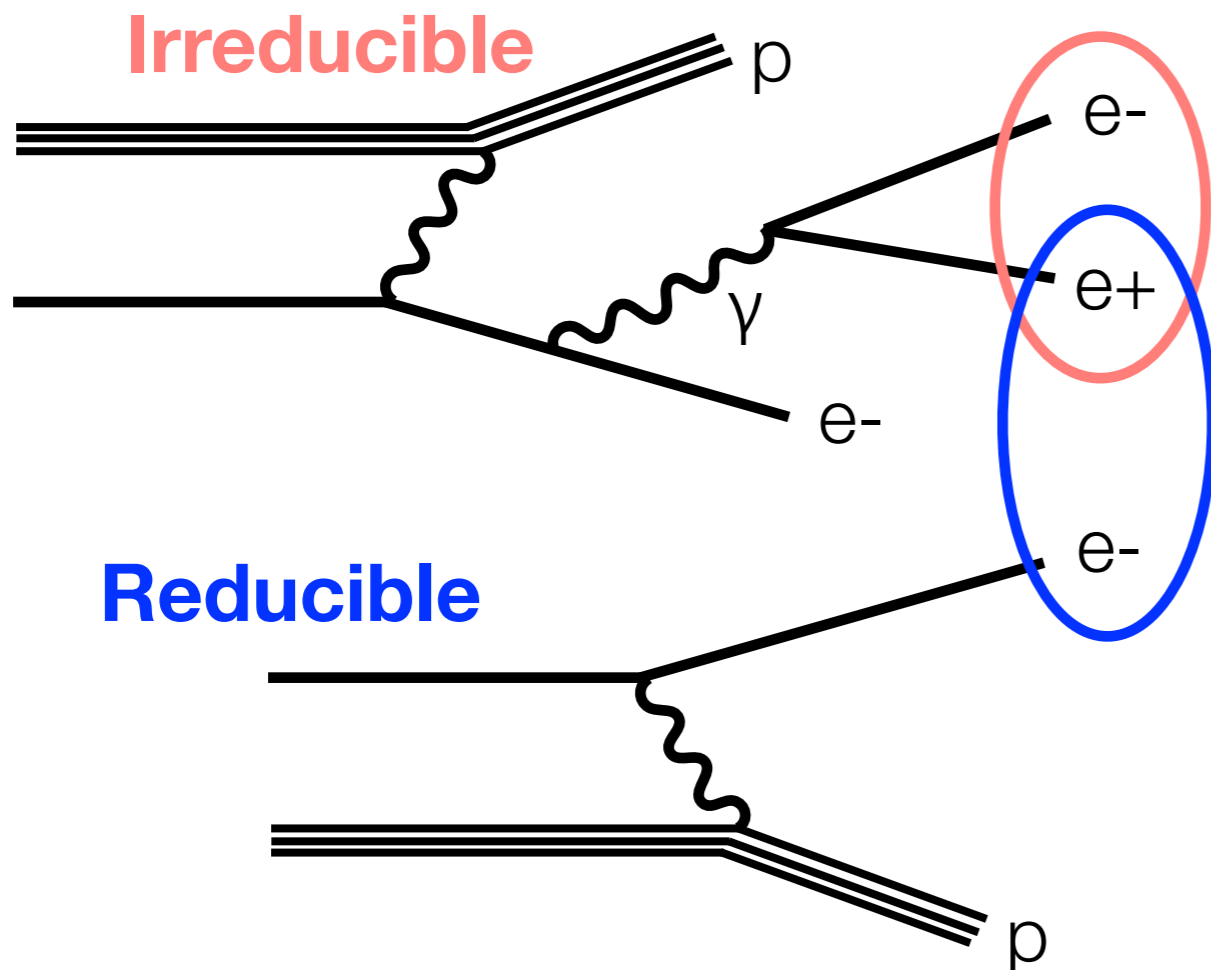
# Complementary experiments

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- Type 1: ATOMKI-like; intending to reproduce and validate experiment
- Montreal, Notre Dame among groups working on this
- No conflict with collider/accelerator goals
- Type 2: mixed hadronic-leptonic
- Leading experiment LHCb: will cover all X17 space (even with protophobic assumptions) with full Run 3 data
- Complementary to DarkLight, which can probe electron coupling independently of hadronic couplings
- Type 3: pure leptonic production
- Lots of experiments covering invisible decay: LDMX, Na64, ...
- A few experiments with similar visible final state sensitivity.
  - Na64 currently setting lower boundary. Future (2023+) runs with modified setup can probe higher  $\varepsilon$
  - MAGIX very powerful here but on longer timeline (2025+)

# Background processes

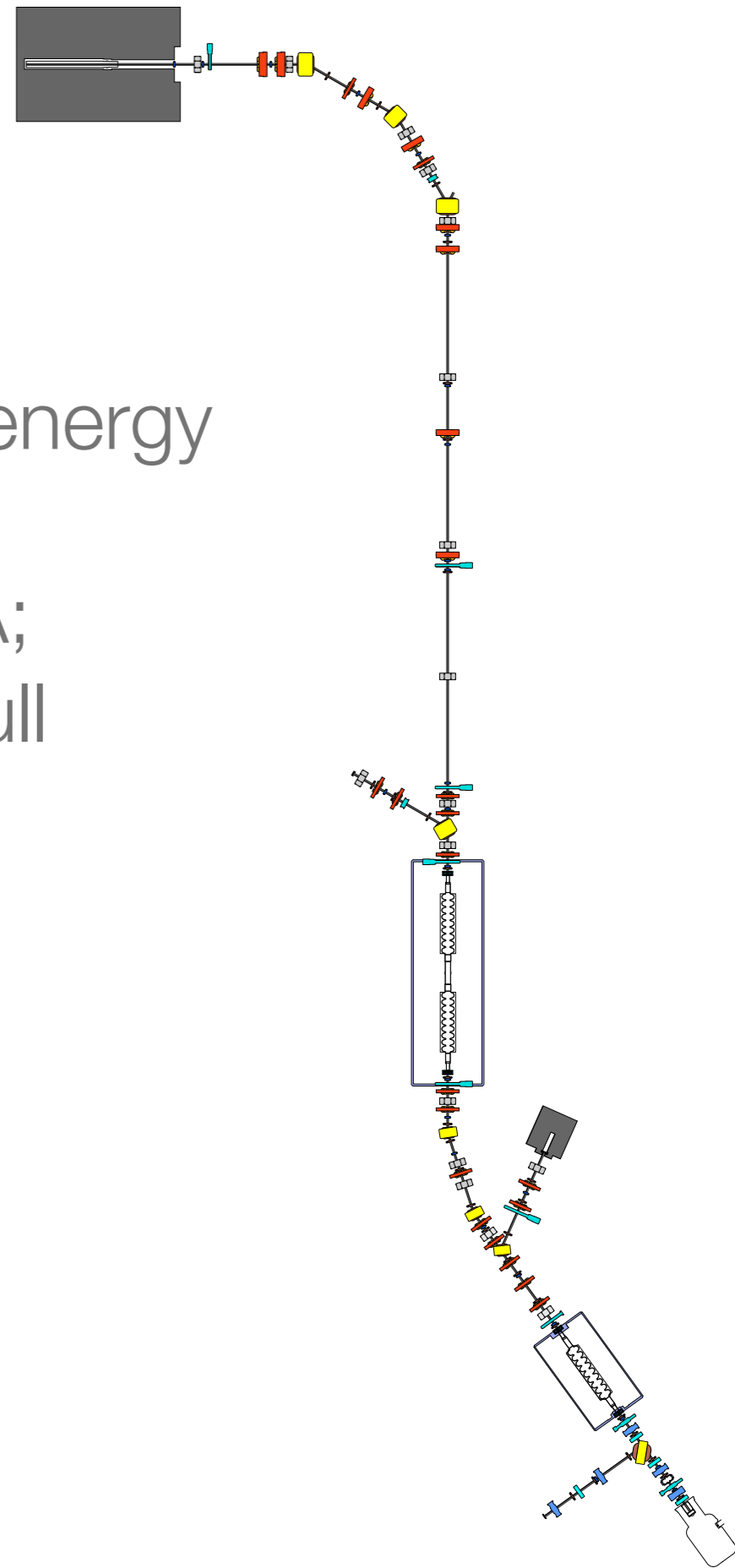
- Dominant background is  $e^+$  from pair production combined with  $e^-$  from simultaneous scattering event. **Coincidence** is key
- Two ways to control rates:
  - 1) angular position of detectors
  - 2) timing resolution  $<$  bunch spacing (1.5 ns)



# ARIEL e-linac facility

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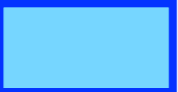
- 650 MHz frequency; currently 30 MeV energy
- Currents: Projections shown for 150  $\mu\text{A}$ ; considering designs that can support full design current of  $\sim$  a few mA
- Total design power  $\sim$  100 kW
- Each bunch has  $\sim 9 \times 10^6$  electrons





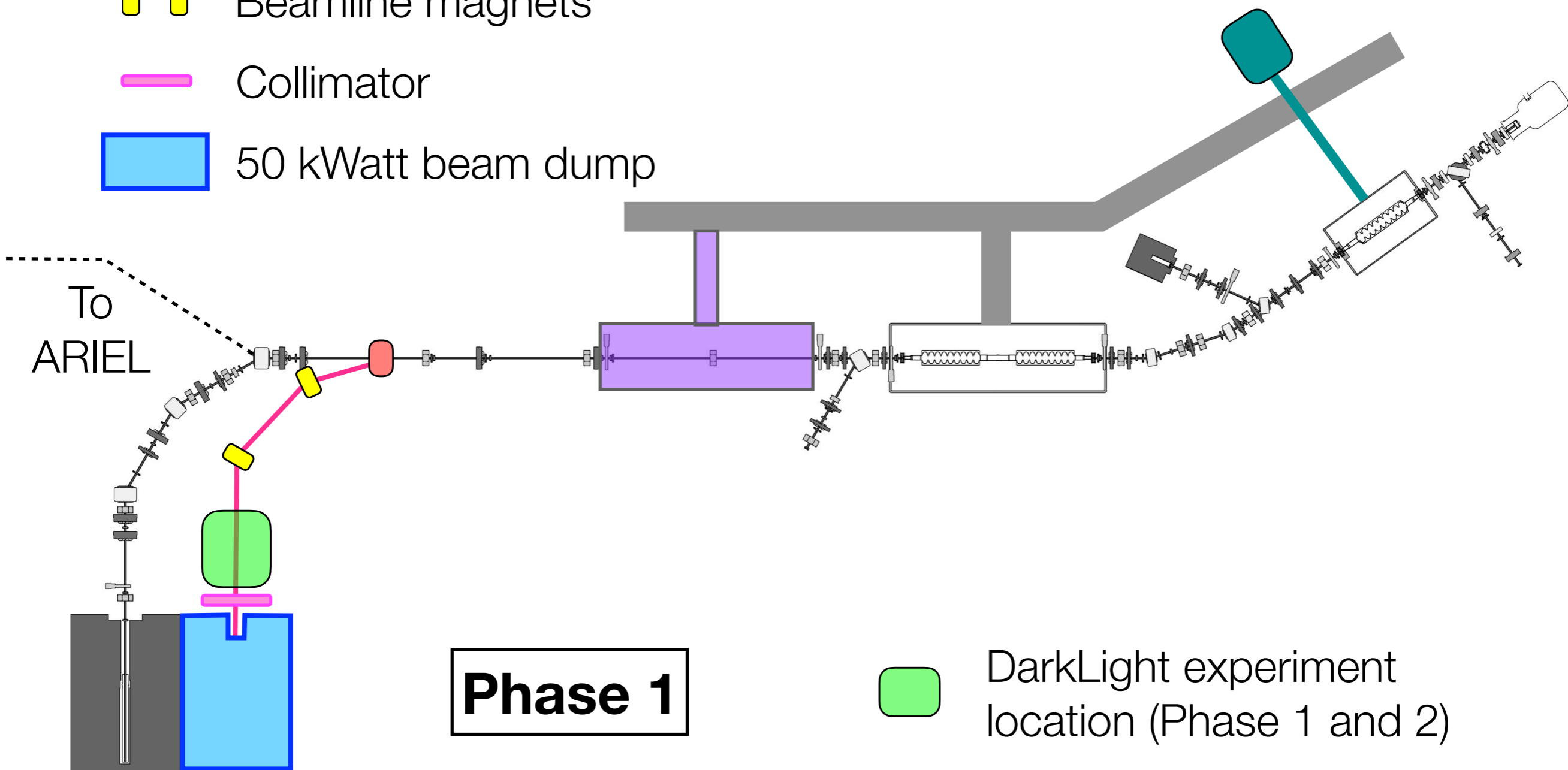
# Why ARIEL?





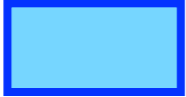
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- Low energy, high intensity beam.
- Energy not much above the production threshold is nice because it gives an opening angle that we can easily pick up with spectrometers
- Peak intensity of 10 mA gives us plenty of instantaneous luminosity - don't need to run forever
- Finally, because the e-linac is available! No need to share beam time with any other targets until ~phase 2, at which point parasitic running will be an option

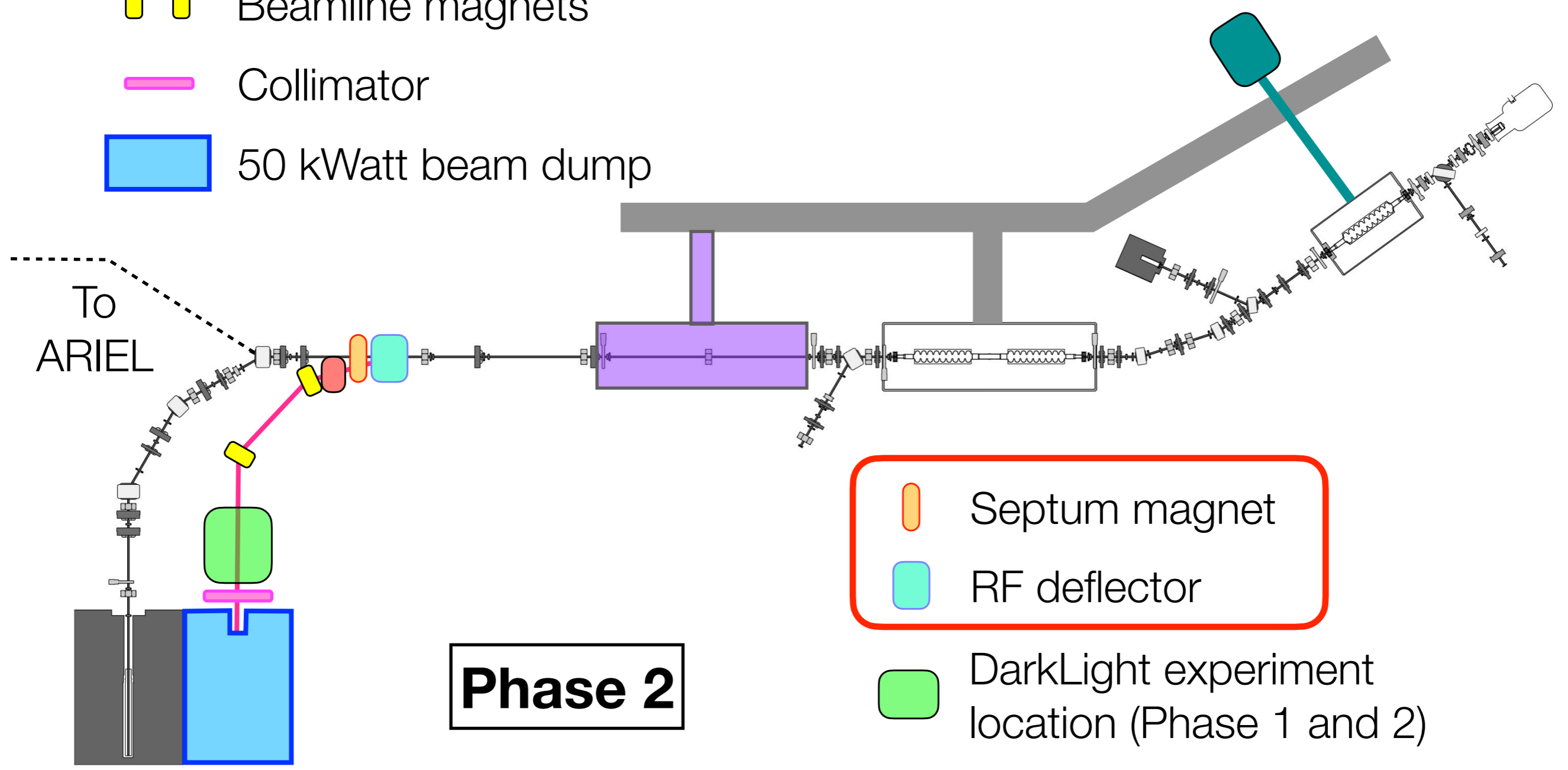
-  New cryomodule
-  Beam pipes
-  Beamline magnets
-  Collimator
-  50 kWatt beam dump

-  Solid state amplifier
-  Dipole magnet






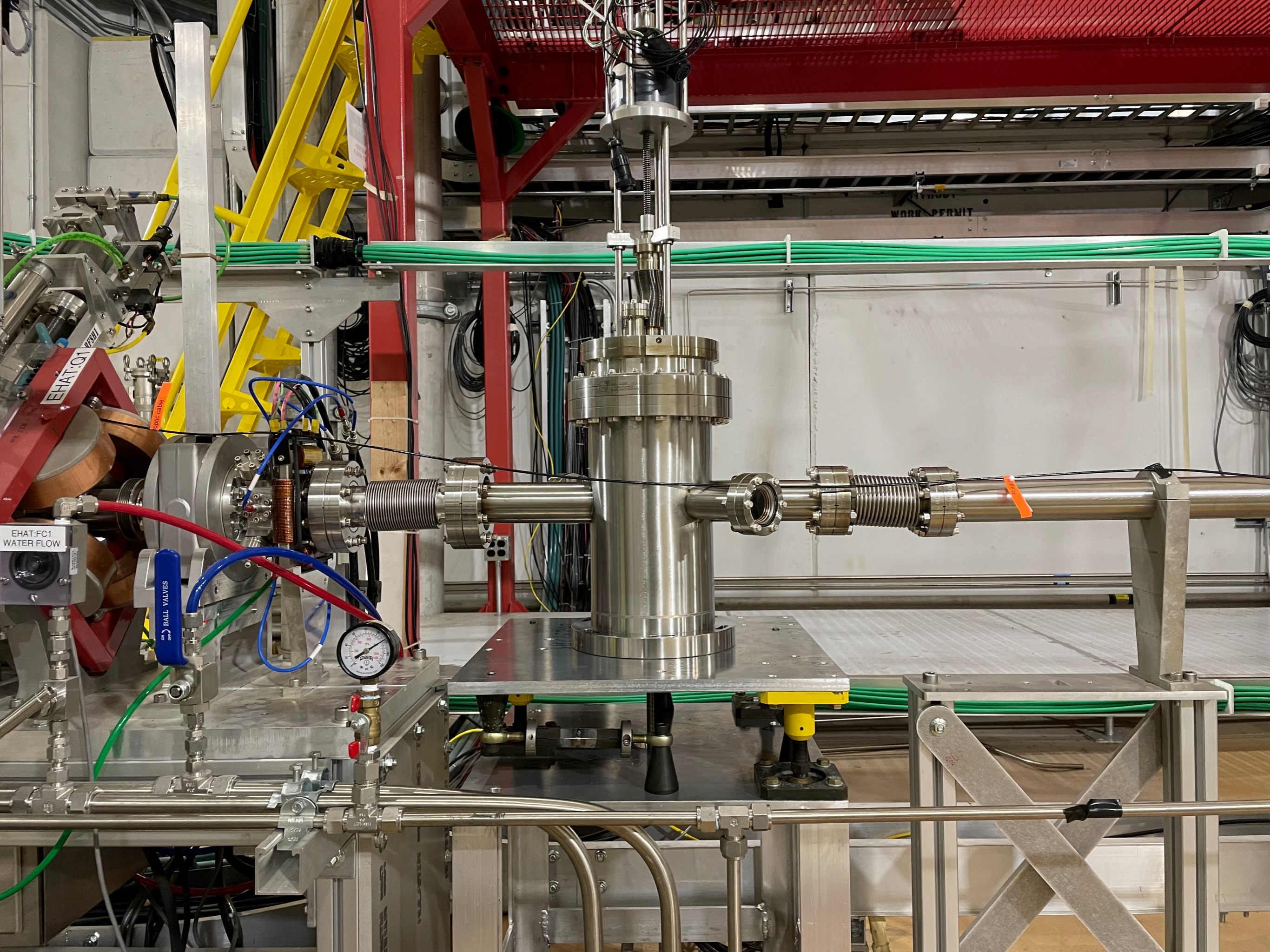
-  New cryomodule
-  Beam pipes
-  Beamline magnets
-  Collimator
-  50 kWatt beam dump

-  Solid state amplifier
-  Dipole magnet



**Phase 2**

-  Septum magnet
-  RF deflector
-  DarkLight experiment location (Phase 1 and 2)



EHAT:Q1

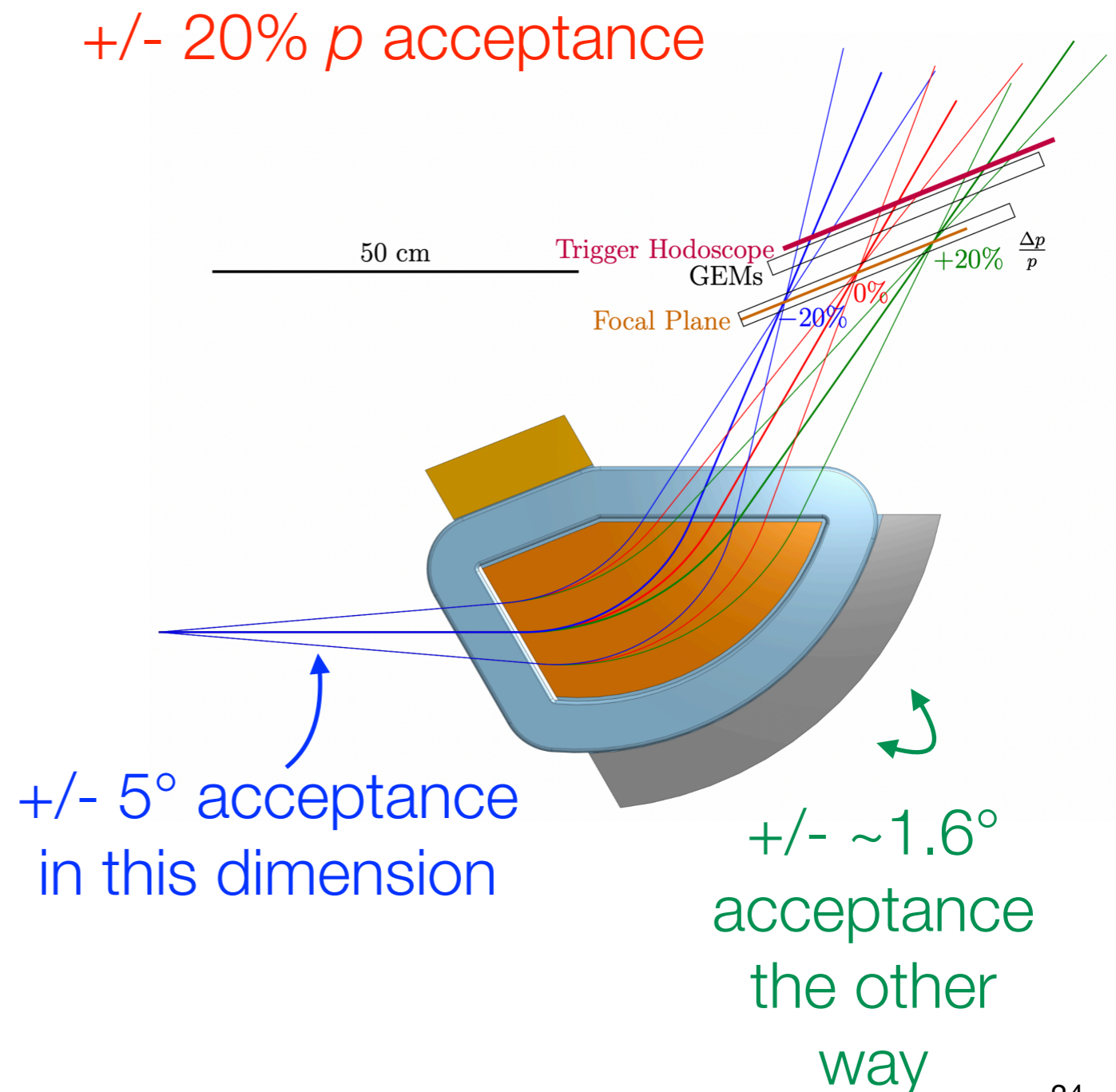
EHAT:FC1  
WATER FLOW

BALL VALVES

WORK PERMIT

# Experiment components: spectrometers

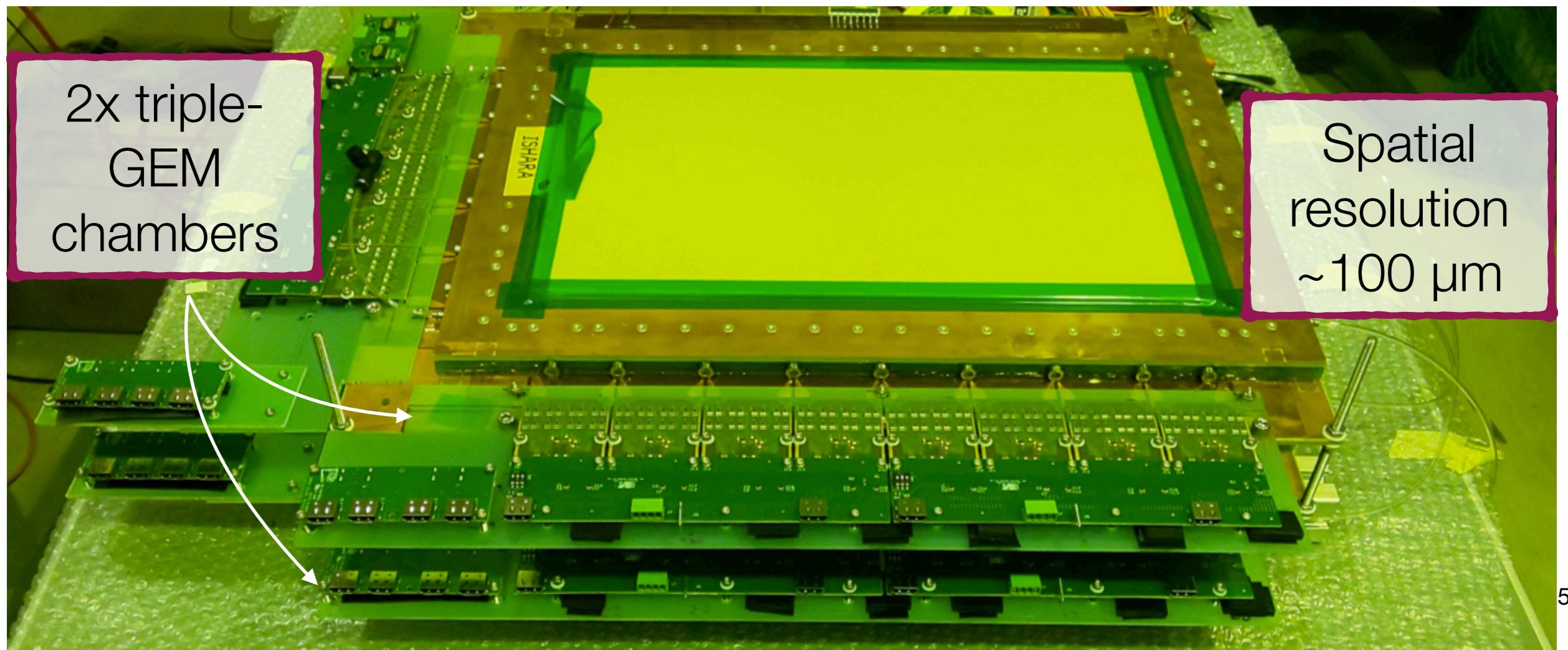
- Two identical dipole spectrometers, 0.32 T
- Design nearing completion
- Try to maximise acceptance, minimise scattering of high-E electrons into detectors
- Metrics of success: low background and best possible mass resolution





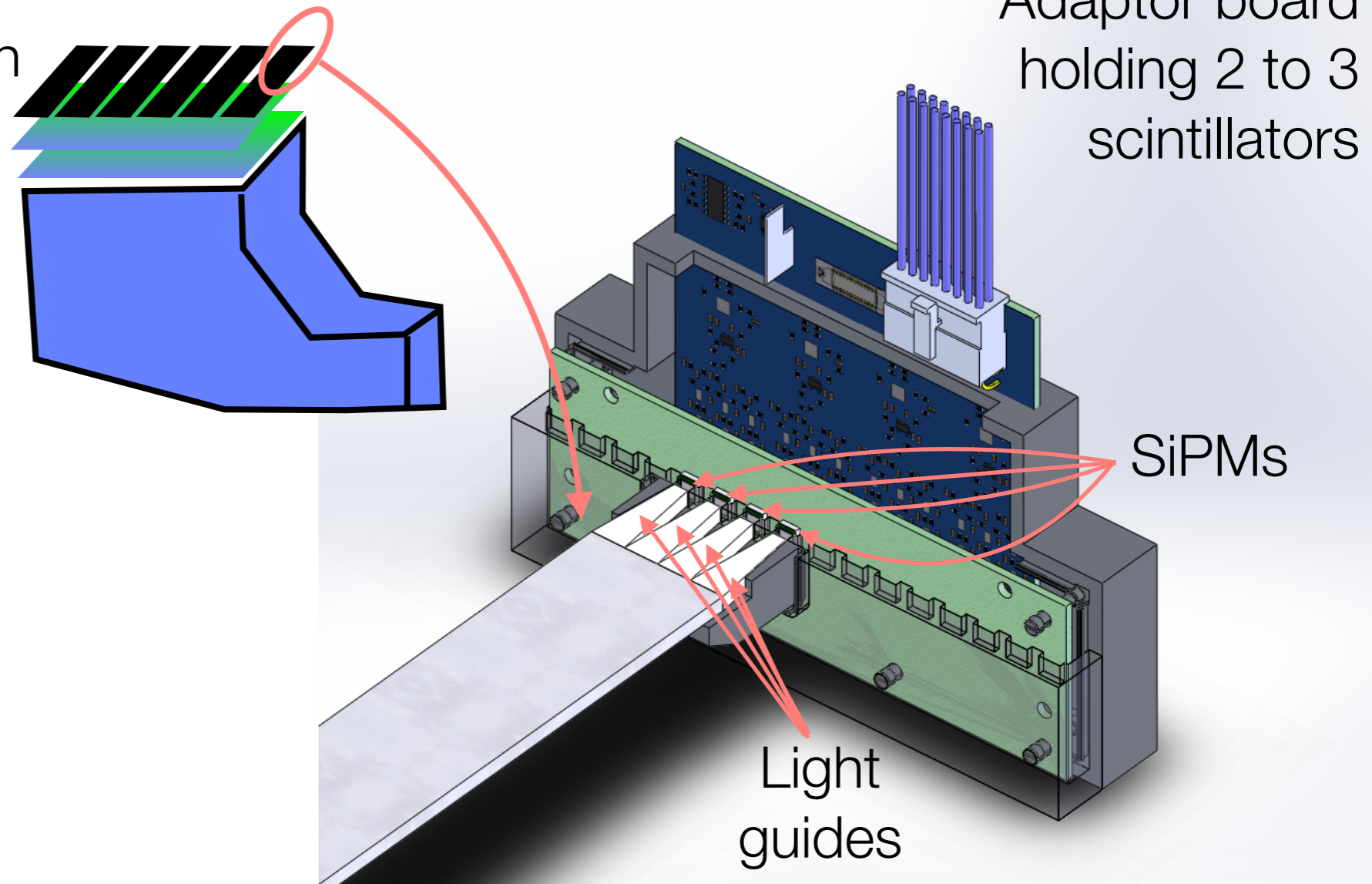
# Experiment components: GEM detectors

- 25 x 40 cm triple-GEMs **already completed** by Hampton University collaborators
- Commissioning in progress (JLab/ELPH)
- GEM fast readout mode takes  $\sim 200 \mu\text{s}$
- Timing resolution probably  $\sim 10 \text{ ns}$  depending on details of readout etc. Tests ongoing



# Experiment components: trigger detectors

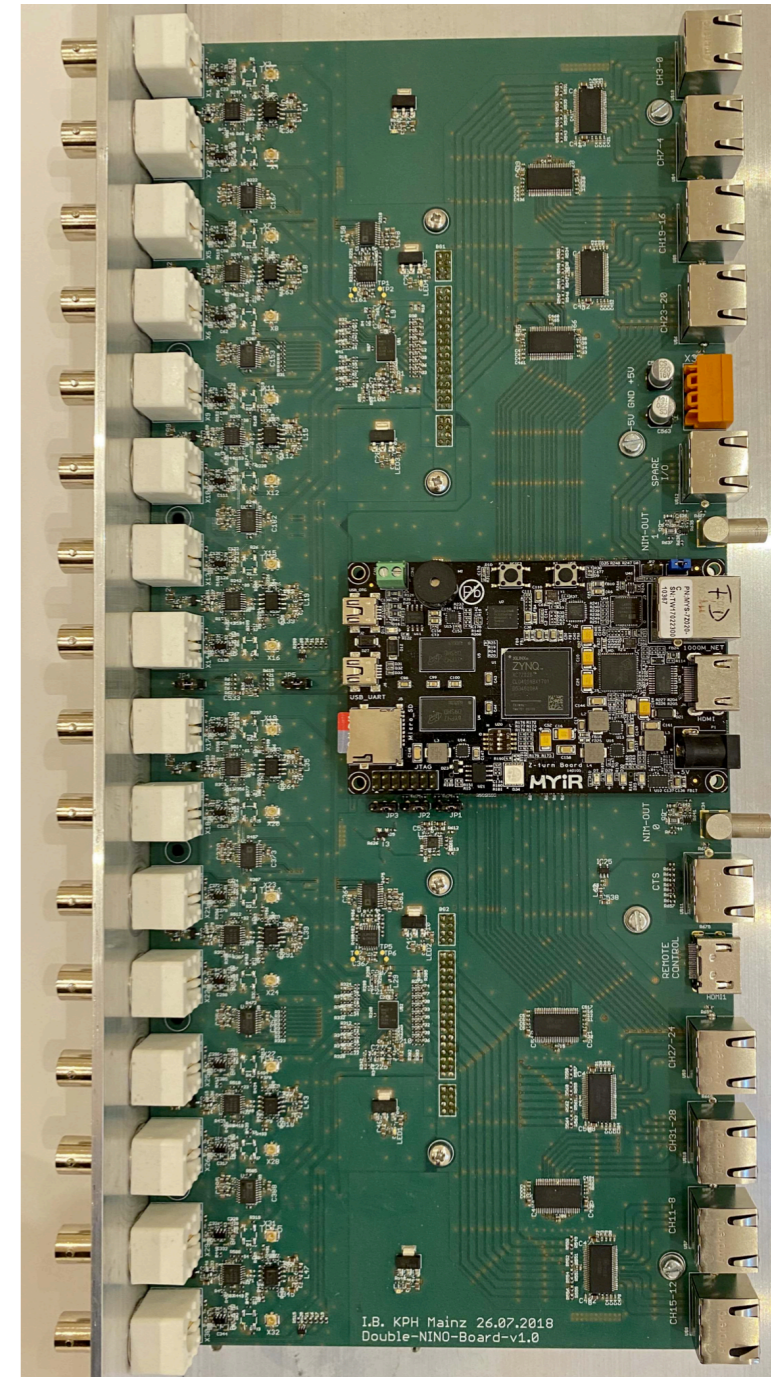
- Key performance metric: timing resolution ~200 ps
- 8 - 10 strips of fast plastic scintillator read out via SiPMs
  - Shielding will be important for longevity
- Prototype testing at TRIUMF under way
- DAQ design in progress



Exact dimensions and number of SiPMs remains open

# Experiment status: read-out and DAQ

- GEM read-out electronics already in place: timing  $\sim 200 \mu\text{s}$
- Trigger uses coincidence of scintillator outputs
  - Discrimination step, then FPGA will determine coincidence between individual scintillator strip pairs
- Investigated various existing systems
  - Likely to begin design from one of DarkSide or alpha-g DAQ boards also designed and manufactured at TRIUMF
  - Also investigating MAGIX experiment board



MAGIX board with 32 inputs & FPGA  
H. Merkel

# Rates and detector timing

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Bunch spacing is 1.5 ns

Rates for various backgrounds from simulation (Preliminary!):

Setup	Irreducible QED	Singles $e^+$	Singles $e^-$	Random coinc.
13@31	9.1 Hz	30.2 kHz	3.6 MHz	168 Hz
17@31	0.83 Hz	18.2 kHz	751 kHz	21 Hz
17@45	11.2 Hz	32.3 kHz	2 MHz	98 Hz
17@55	71.4 Hz	45.1 kHz	8.5 MHz	589 Hz

Trigger rate will be coincidence rate: max  $\sim 600$  Hz  $> 1.5$  ms  
between triggers

Singles  $e^-$  poses greatest challenge: trying to keep this under  
 $\sim 5$  MHz to keep within prediction of GEM timing resolution