

TEVPA 2022

AUGUST 8-12
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
KINGSTON, ON

The Semi-Visible Dark Photon

A. Abdullahi, MH, D. Massaro, S. Pascoli
to appear on arXiv soon.

and inspired by G. Mohlabeng, [Phys. Rev. D 99, 115001 \(2019\)](#)

Matheus Hostert

mhostert@pitp.ca (University of Minnesota and Perimeter Institute)



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Self-consistent sector of matter particles

The SM has very little room for new particles and forces at low scales.

\mathcal{L}_{SM}

Dark Matter

Neutrino masses?

Anomalous measurements:
 $(g - 2)_\mu$? MiniBooNE? ...?

\mathcal{L}_{SM}

DARK SECTOR (DS)

Heavy neutrinos

$$\frac{M_N}{2} \overline{N^c} N$$

Neutrino masses?

Dark photons

$$G_{SM} \times U(1)_X$$

New fundamental forces?

Dark scalars

$$V(H, S)$$

Scalar degrees of freedom

Renormalizable Portals:
(SM SINGLET) X (DS SINGLET)

DARK SECTOR (DS)

$$\bar{L}\tilde{H}N$$

Heavy neutrinos

$$\frac{M_N}{2}\overline{N^c}N$$

Neutrino masses?

Neutrino portal

$$B_{\mu\nu}X^{\mu\nu}$$

Dark photons

$$G_{SM} \times U(1)_X$$

New fundamental forces?



Vector portal

$$S^\dagger S (H^\dagger H)$$

Dark scalars

$$V(H, S)$$

Scalar degrees of freedom

Scalar portal

Dim-5 axion "portal"
special, see other talks

$$\frac{a}{\Lambda}G_{\mu\nu}\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}$$

\mathcal{L}_{SM}

Renormalizable Portals:
(SM SINGLET) X (DS SINGLET)

To Catch'em all

$$\bar{L}\tilde{H}N$$

Neutrino portal

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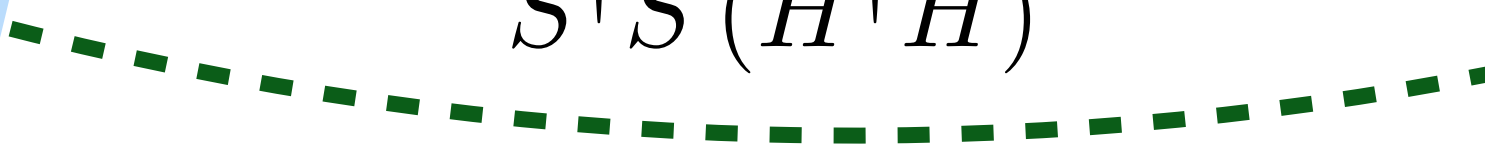
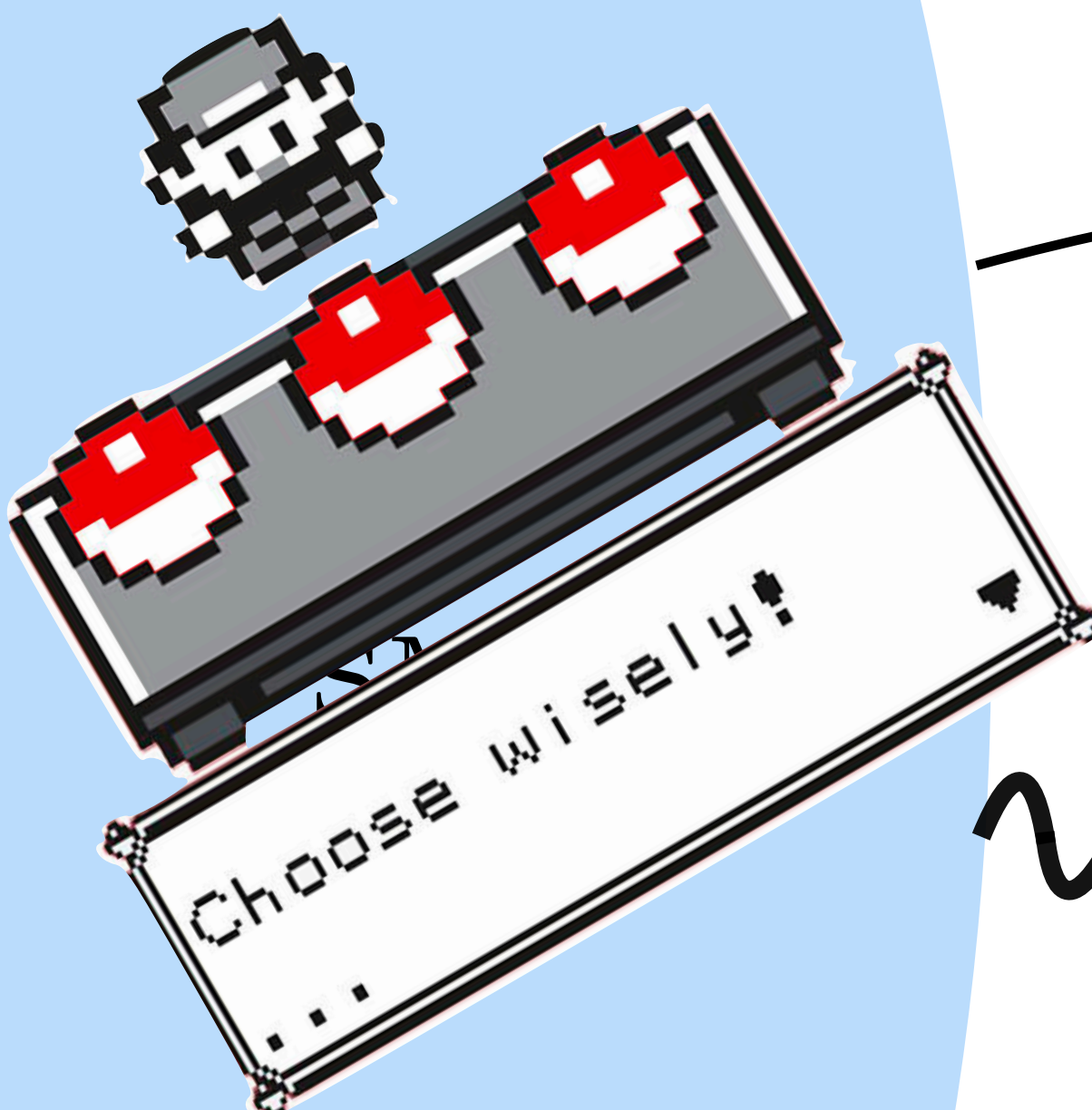
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Scalar degrees of freedom

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$$\frac{a}{\Lambda} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}$$



Dark $U(1)_X$ symmetry

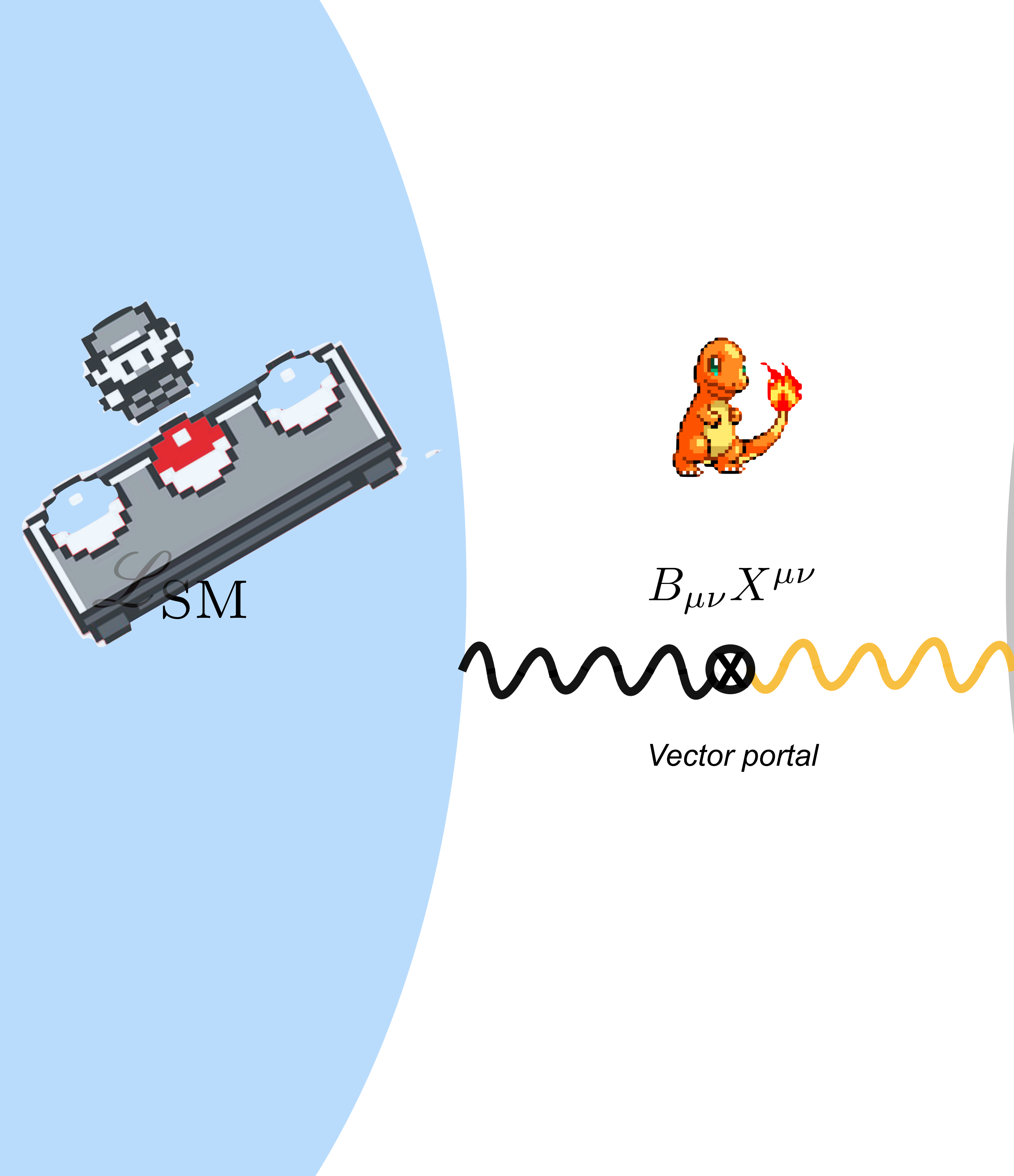
- i) Kinetic mixing expected at some level



$$\epsilon \sim \frac{g_X e}{16\pi^2} \log \left(\frac{\mu^2}{m_F^2} \right) \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-3})$$

- ii) May be broken spontaneously or Stückelberg(-ed) with mass $m_{Z'}$

- iii) Anomalies: pick dark charges wisely (or you may get burned 🔥)



Dark $U(1)_X$ symmetry

$$\mathcal{L} \supset g_D A'_\mu J_X^\mu$$

Couples to some dark current.
It may contain:

1) dark matter

$$\psi$$

2) heavy neutral leptons

$$\bar{L}\tilde{H}\psi$$

A'



$$J_X^\mu$$

$$J_{EM}^\mu$$

Couples to
electromagnetic
current

$$\mathcal{L} \supset e Q_f A'_\mu \bar{f} \gamma^\mu f$$

Dark $U(1)_X$ symmetry

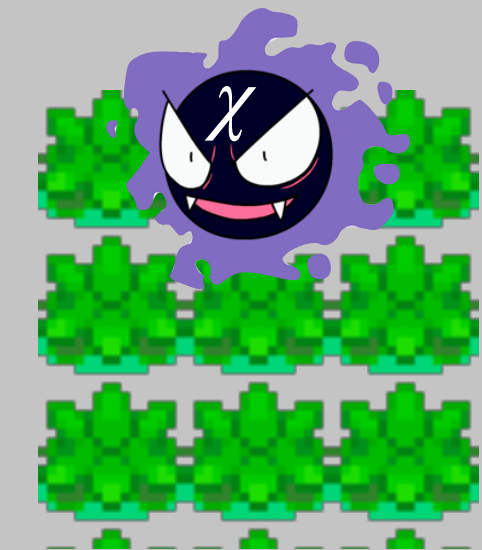
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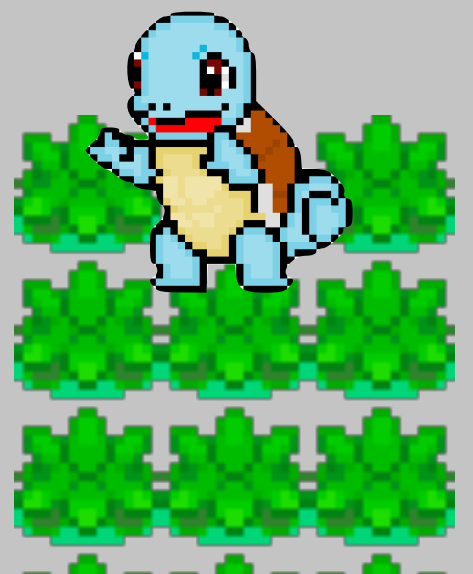
1) dark matter

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2) heavy neutral leptons

$$\bar{L}\tilde{H}\psi$$



$$\mathcal{L} \supset eQ_f A'_\mu \bar{f}\gamma^\mu f$$



A'



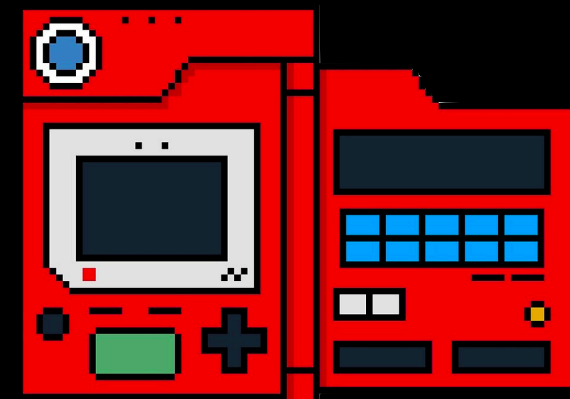
$$J_{EM}^\mu$$

Couples to
electromagnetic
current

$$J_X^\mu$$

Dark Photons as a portal to:

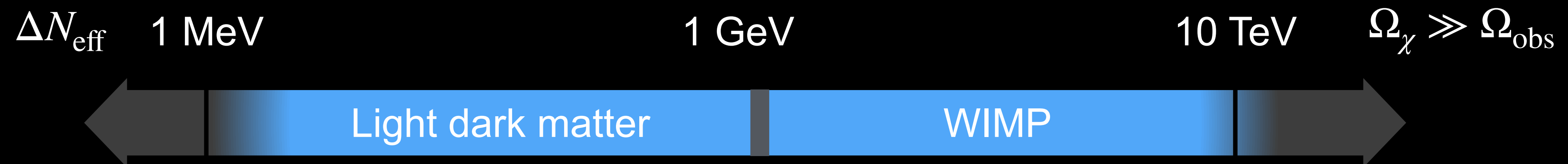
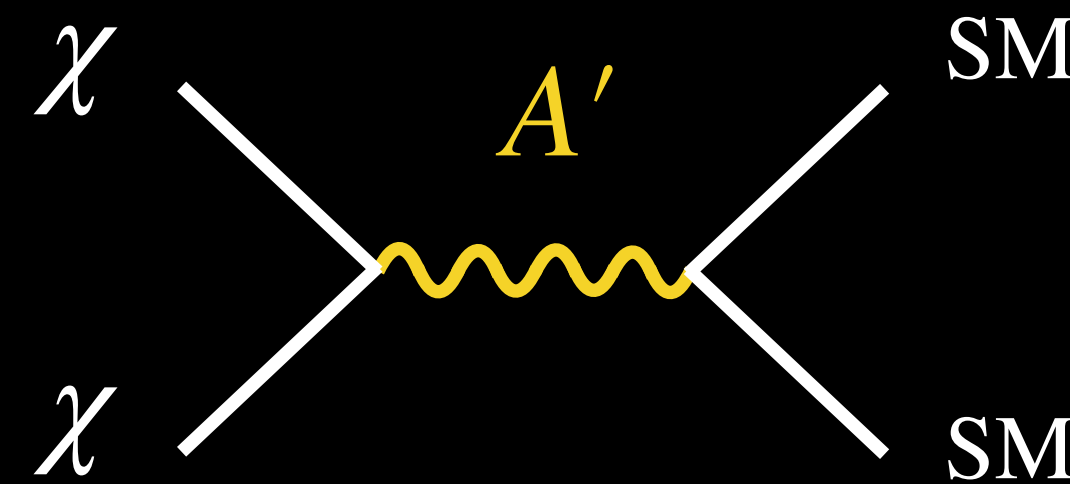
Models of Heavy Neutral Fermions (HNFs)



Light Dark Matter

Thermal freeze-out dark matter with direct annihilation to SM particles

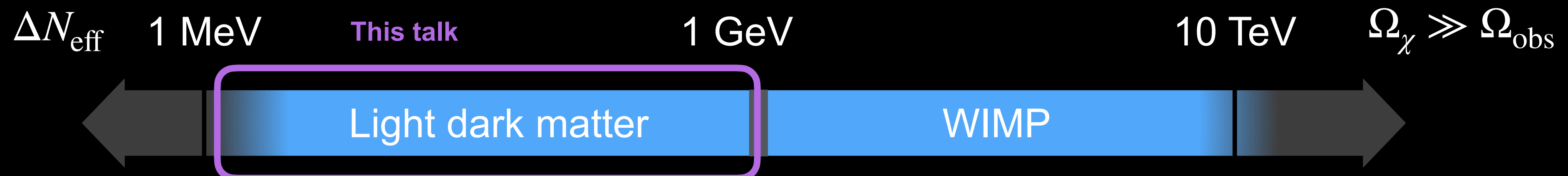
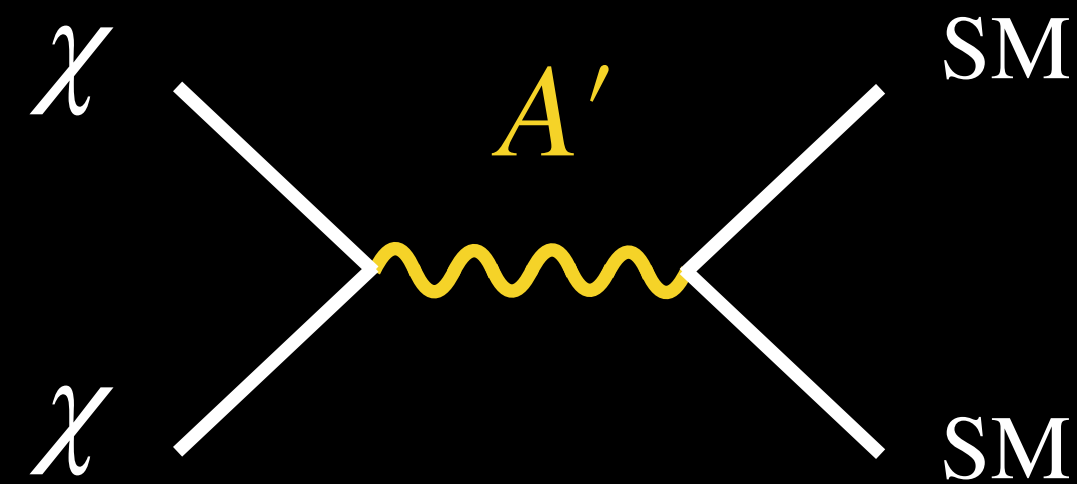
Predictive and testable!



Light Dark Matter

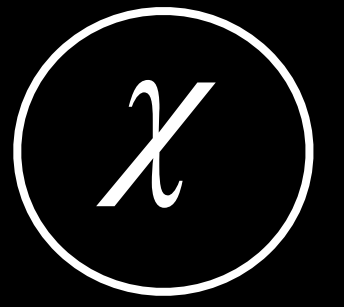
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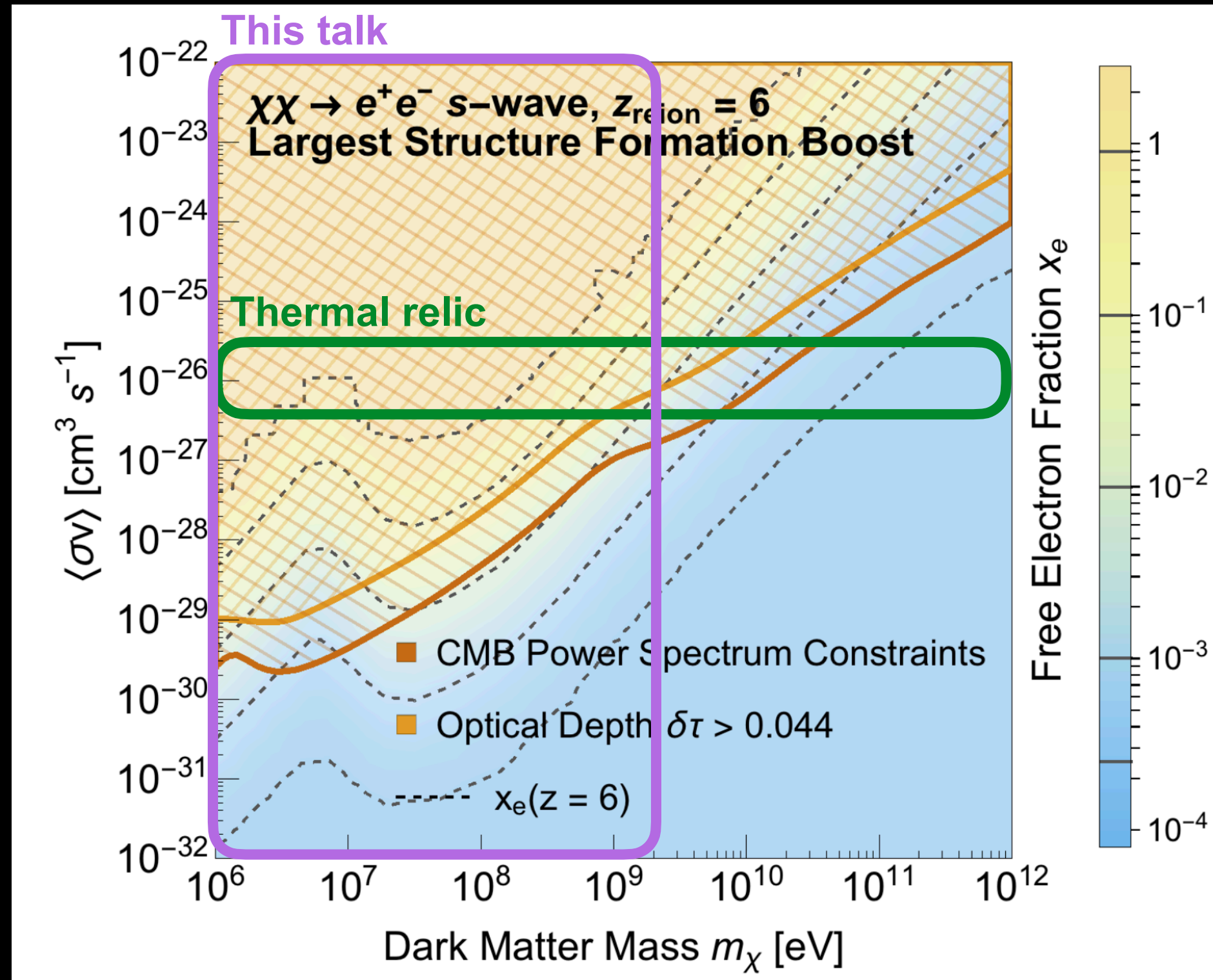
Light Dark Matter

Freeze-out and CMB limits

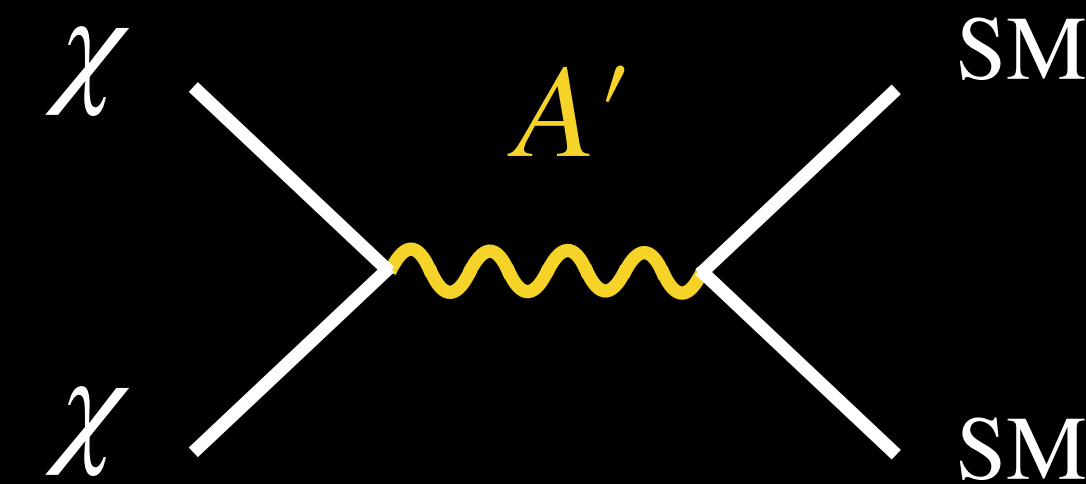


Self-annihilations inject energy into CMB at late times (H/He ionization)

H. Liu, T. Slatyer, J. Zavala, 1604.02457



S-wave annihilation (i.e. velocity-independent annihilation $x_{\text{sec}} \langle\sigma v\rangle \sim a$) is excluded by CMB at low masses.

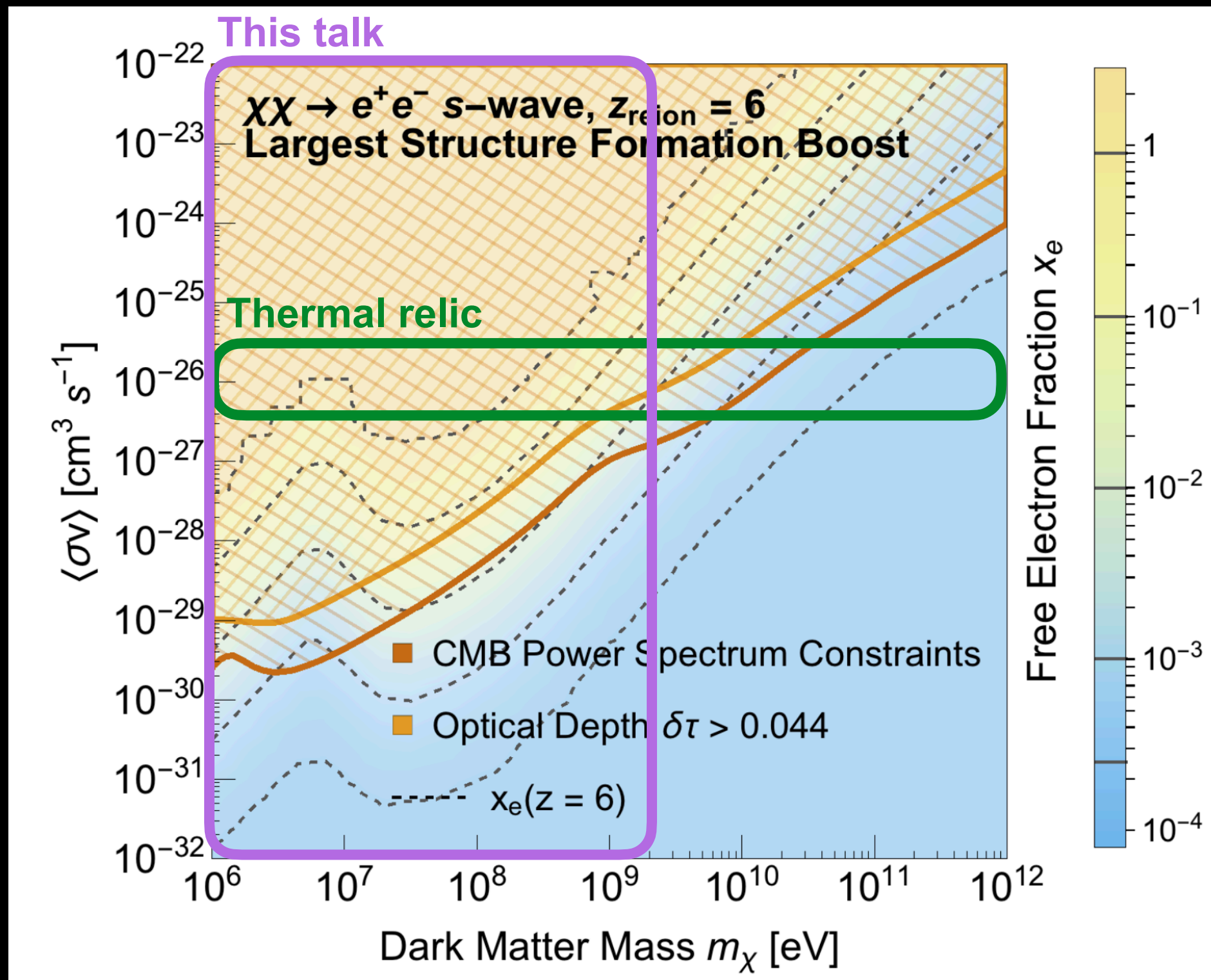


Light Dark Matter

Freeze-out and CMB limits

Self-annihilations inject energy into CMB
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H. Liu, T. Slatyer, J. Zavala, 1604.02457



Solution 1) no charged states are produced,

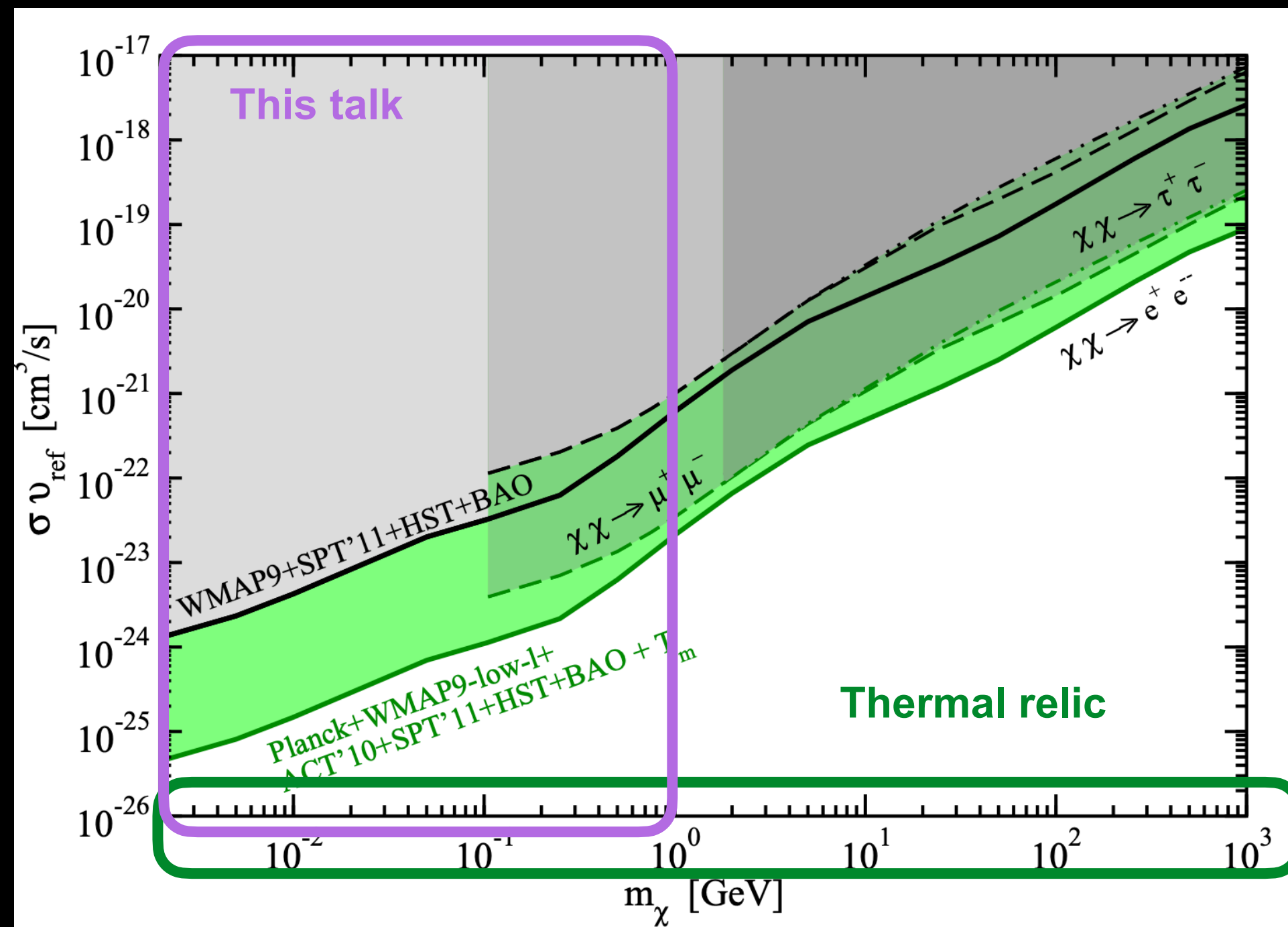
- “Neutrinophilic” dark matter
- Annihilations to dark states (secluded)

Light Dark Matter

Freeze-out and CMB limits

Self-annihilations inject energy into CMB at late times (H/He ionization)

Diamanti et al, arXiv:1308.2578



Solution 1) no charged states are produced,

- “Neutrinophilic” dark matter
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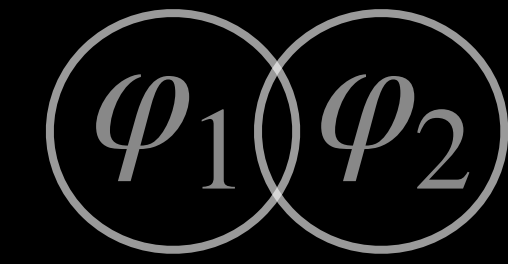
Solution 2) late annihilation \neq freeze-out annihilation,

- p-wave annihilation, $\langle \sigma v \rangle \sim bv^2$
- Resonantly-enhanced annihilations
- Asymmetric dark matter
- Forbidden annihilation
- **Co-annihilation (“inelastic” Dark Matter)**

DM can only annihilate with heavier partner which eventually decays away ($\psi_2 \rightarrow \psi_1 + \dots$)

Light Dark Matter

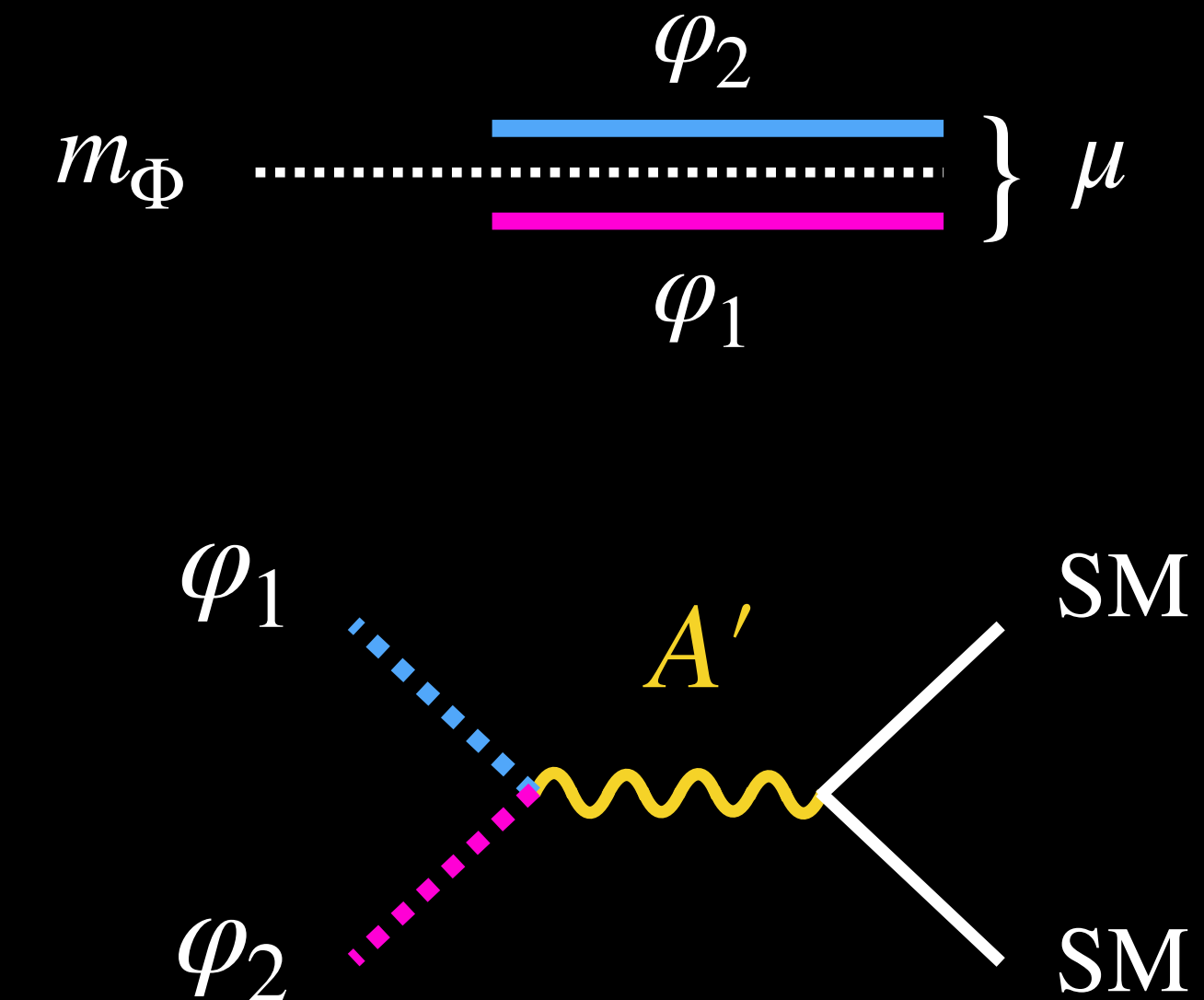
Complex scalar



$U(1)_X$ charged complex scalar $\Phi \sim \varphi_1 + i\varphi_2$ with an induced small mass splitting. The term $\mu\Phi^2$ splits pair by breaking $U(1)_X$ by 2 units.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} \supset m_{\Phi}^2 |\Phi|^2 + \frac{\mu}{2}(\Phi^2 + h.c.)$$

$$J_X^\mu = i(\Phi^* \partial^\mu \Phi - \Phi \partial^\mu \Phi^*) = (\varphi_2 \partial^\mu \varphi_1 - \varphi_1 \partial^\mu \varphi_2)$$

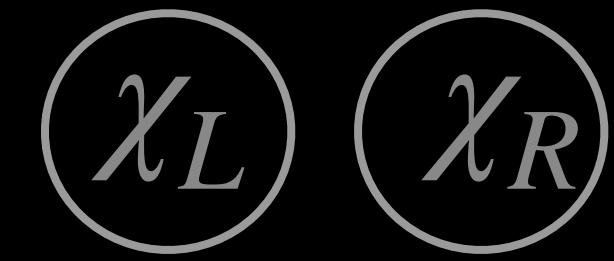


CP conservation ensures that no diagonal coupling appear.

Light Dark Matter

(Pseudo)Dirac Fermion

iDM

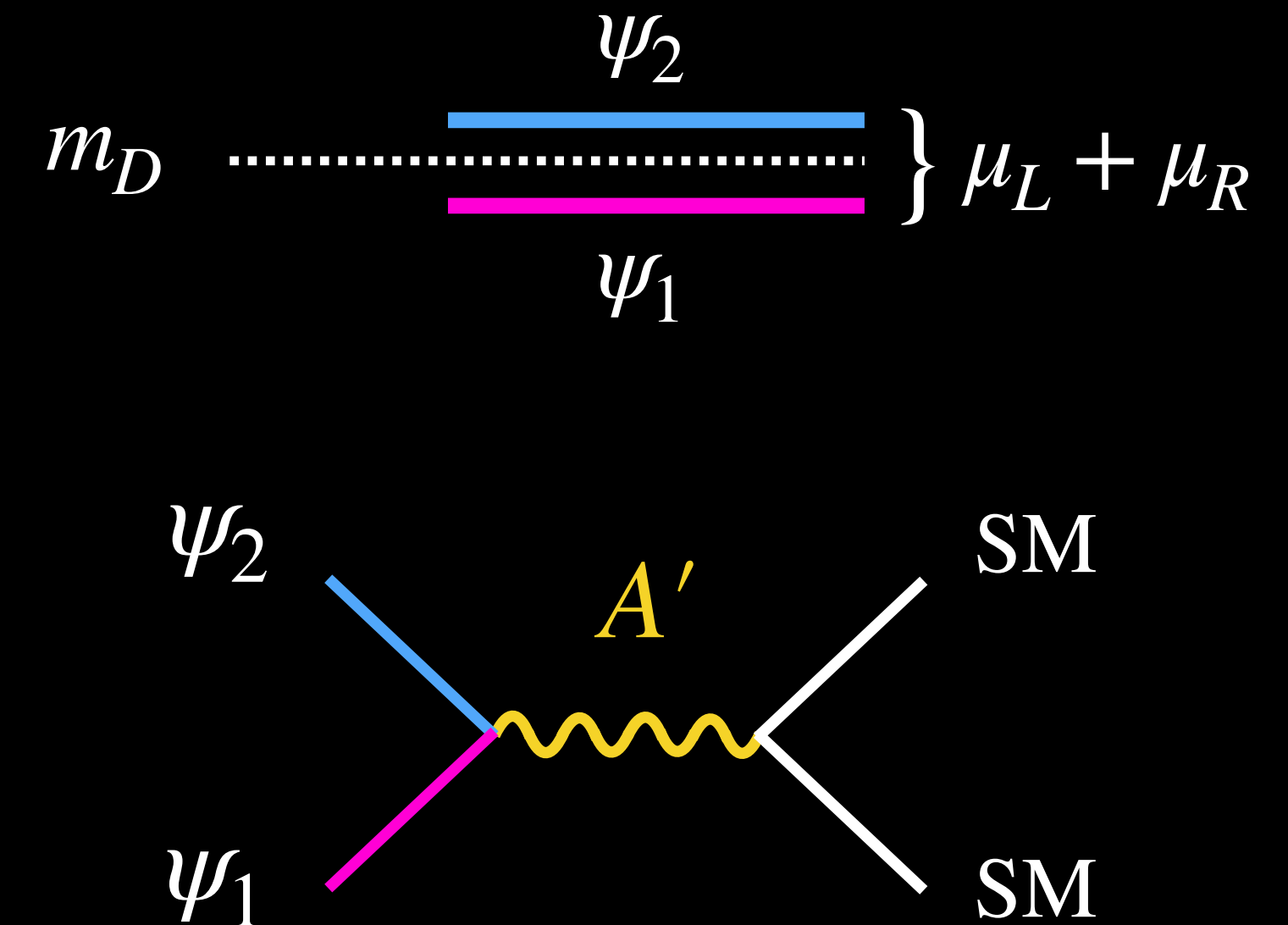


$U(1)_X$ charged fermion $\Psi = \psi_L + \psi_R$. In addition to the Dirac mass the dark fermion can be split by Majorana masses, again breaking the $U(1)_X$ by 2 units.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} \supset \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\chi}_L & \bar{\chi}_R^c \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mu_L & m_D \\ m_D & \mu_R \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \chi_L^c \\ \chi_R \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J_X^\mu = \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi$$

If $\mu_L = \mu_R = 0$, χ is a Dirac particle, else, if $\mu \neq 0$, χ splits into two Majorana states, ψ_1 and ψ_2 with a mass splitting $\mu_L + \mu_R$.

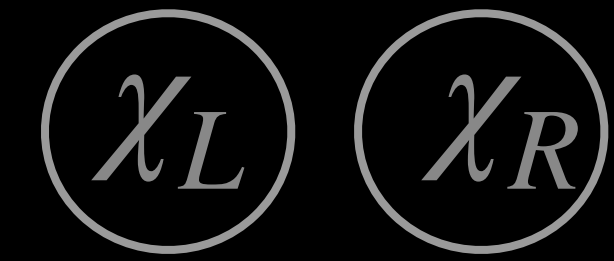


Quasi-preserved C symmetry (exact if $\mu_L = \mu_R$) forbids off-diagonal couplings, even for large $\mu_L + \mu_R$

Light Dark Matter

(Pseudo)Dirac Fermion

iDM

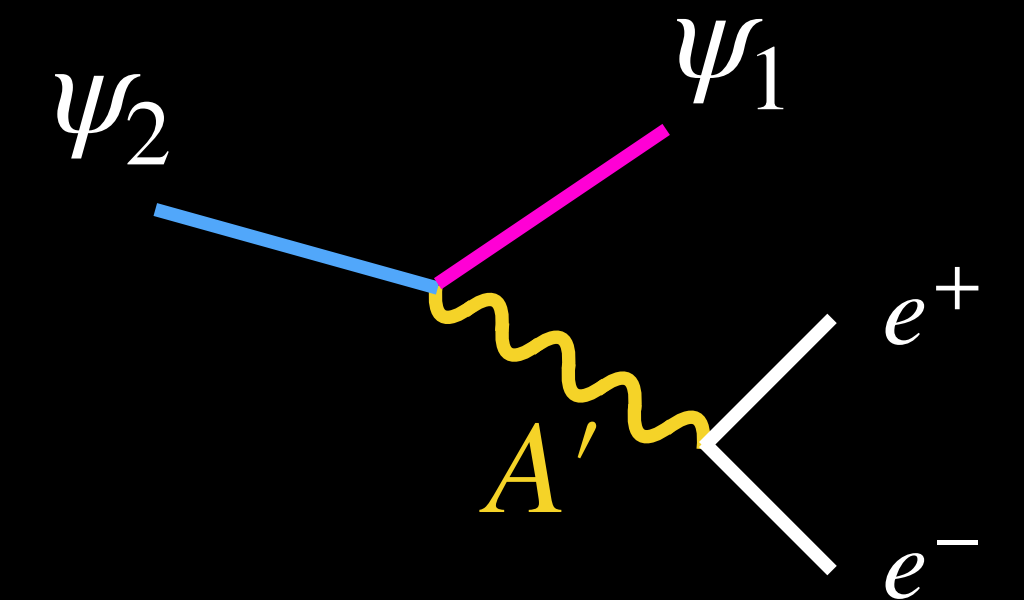
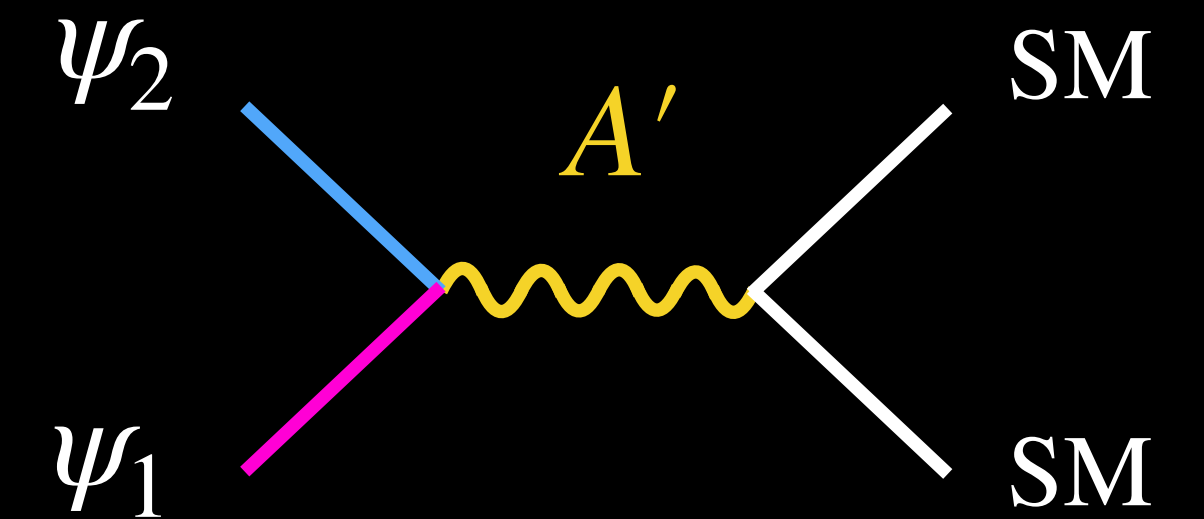
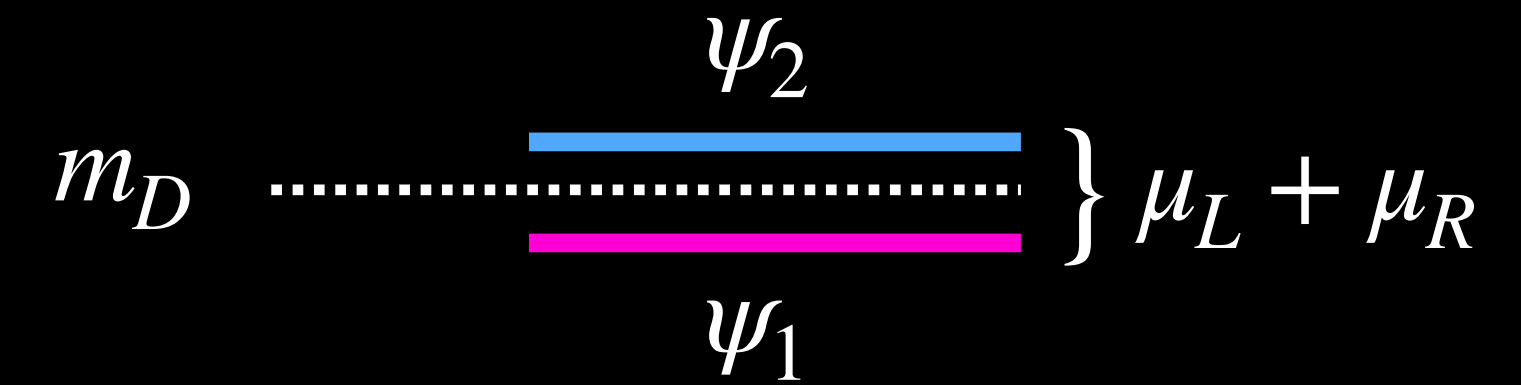


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$$J_X^\mu = \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi = \bar{\psi}_2 \gamma^\mu \psi_1$$

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Dark photon decay branching ratios:

$$1 \quad \bullet \quad A' \rightarrow \psi_2 \psi_1$$

$$e^2/g_D^2 \quad \bullet \quad A' \rightarrow f^+ f^-$$

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Light Dark Matter

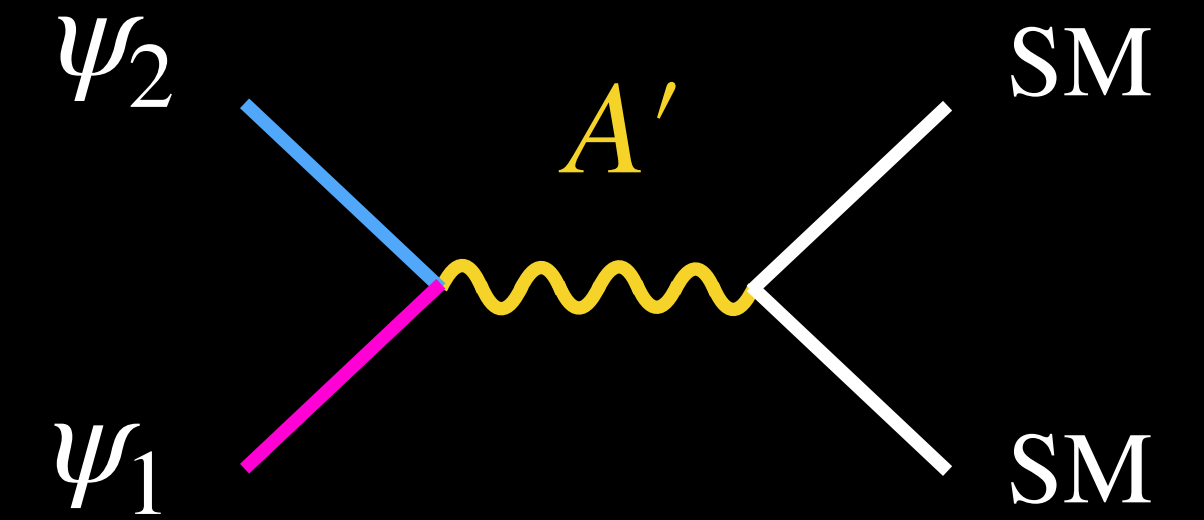
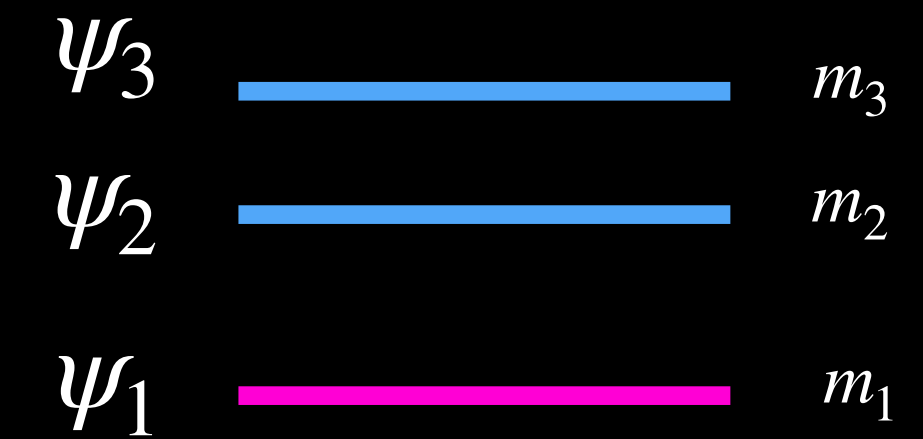
Dark “inverse seesaw”



$U(1)_X$ charged fermion $\chi = \chi_L + \chi_R$ and a neutral η_L . Dirac dark particle split by its mixing with Majorana, breaking $U(1)_X$ by 1 unit.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} \supset \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\eta}_L \quad \bar{\chi}_L \quad \bar{\chi}_R^c) \begin{pmatrix} \mu_L & \Lambda_L & \Lambda_R \\ \Lambda_L & 0 & M_X \\ \Lambda_R & M_X & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \eta_L^c \\ \chi_L^c \\ \chi_R \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J_X^\mu = \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi = V_{ij} \bar{\psi}_i \gamma^\mu \psi_j$$



Dark photon decay branching ratios:

$$1 \quad \bullet \quad A' \rightarrow \psi_3 \psi_3, \psi_3 \psi_2, \dots$$

$$\frac{e^2}{g_D^2} \quad \bullet \quad A' \rightarrow f^+ f^-$$

Light Dark Matter

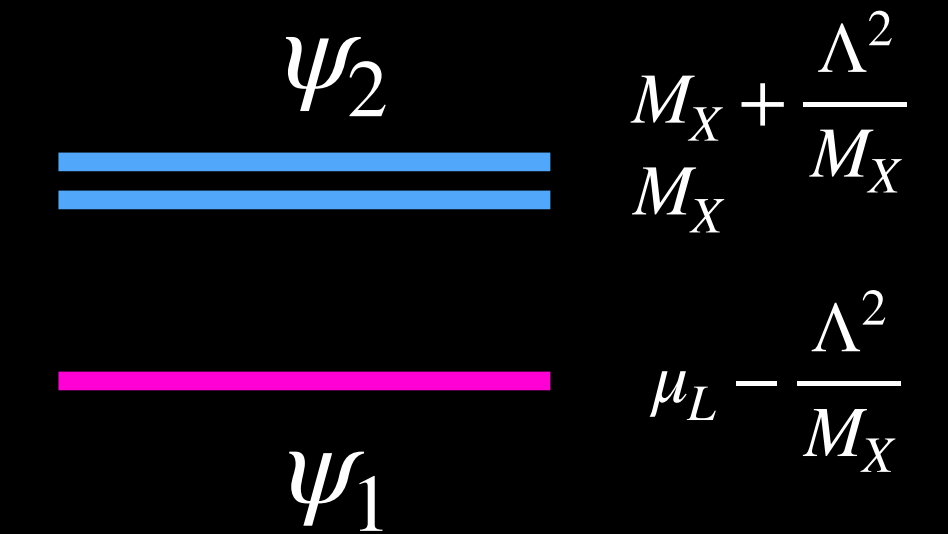
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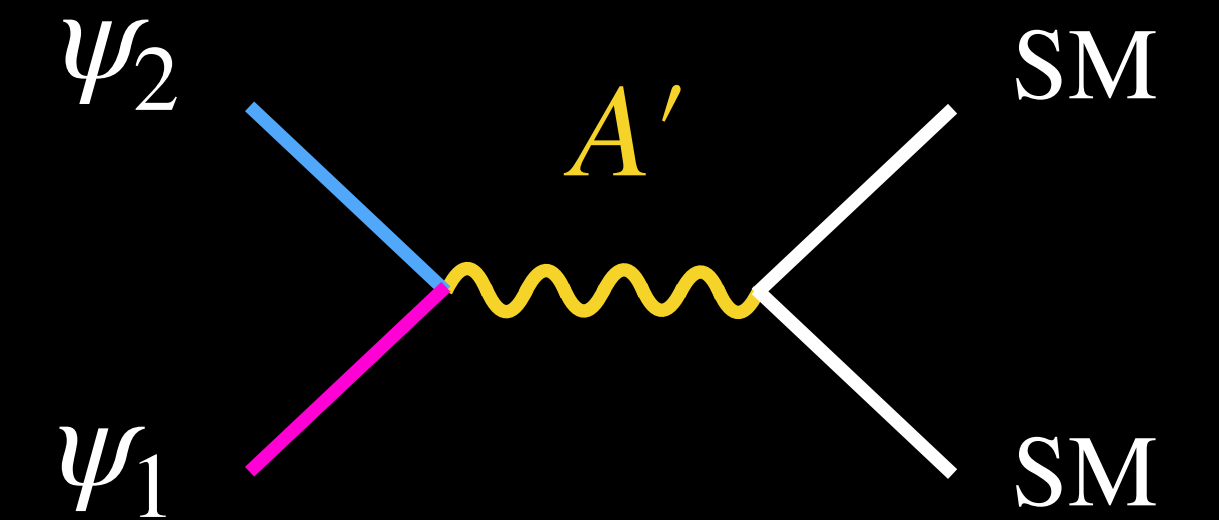
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$$J_X^\mu = \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi = (\theta^2 \bar{\psi}_1 \gamma^\mu \psi_1 + \theta \bar{\psi}_2 \gamma^\mu \psi_1 + \bar{\psi}_2 \psi_2)$$



Where $\theta \sim m_1/m_2 \ll 1$. We treat the (pseudo)Dirac pair in ψ_2 as a single Dirac particle.



Dark photon decay branching ratios:

- 1 ● $A' \rightarrow \psi_2 \psi_2$
- θ^2 ● $A' \rightarrow \psi_1 \psi_2$
- θ^4 • $A' \rightarrow \psi_1 \psi_1$
- ϵ^2/g_D^2 • $A' \rightarrow f^+ f^-$

Light Dark Matter

A dark Dirac fermion seesaw



$U(1)_X$ charged fermion $\chi = \chi_L + \chi_R$ and a neutral $\eta = \eta_L + \eta_R$.

No breaking of the $U(1)_X$.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} \supset \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\eta}_L & \bar{\eta}_R^c & \bar{\chi}_L & \bar{\chi}_R^c \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & M_1 & 0 & M_L \\ M_1 & 0 & M_R & 0 \\ 0 & M_R & 0 & M_2 \\ M_L & 0 & M_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \eta_L^c \\ \eta_R \\ \chi_L^c \\ \chi_R \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J_X^\mu = \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi$$

Light Dark Matter

i2DM



A dark Dirac fermion seesaw

$U(1)_X$ charged fermion $\chi = \chi_L + \chi_R$ and a neutral $\eta = \eta_L + \eta_R$.

No breaking of the $U(1)_X$.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} \supset \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\eta}_L \quad \bar{\chi}_L) \begin{pmatrix} M_1 & M \\ M & M_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \eta_R \\ \chi_R \end{pmatrix}$$

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Light Dark Matter

i2DM

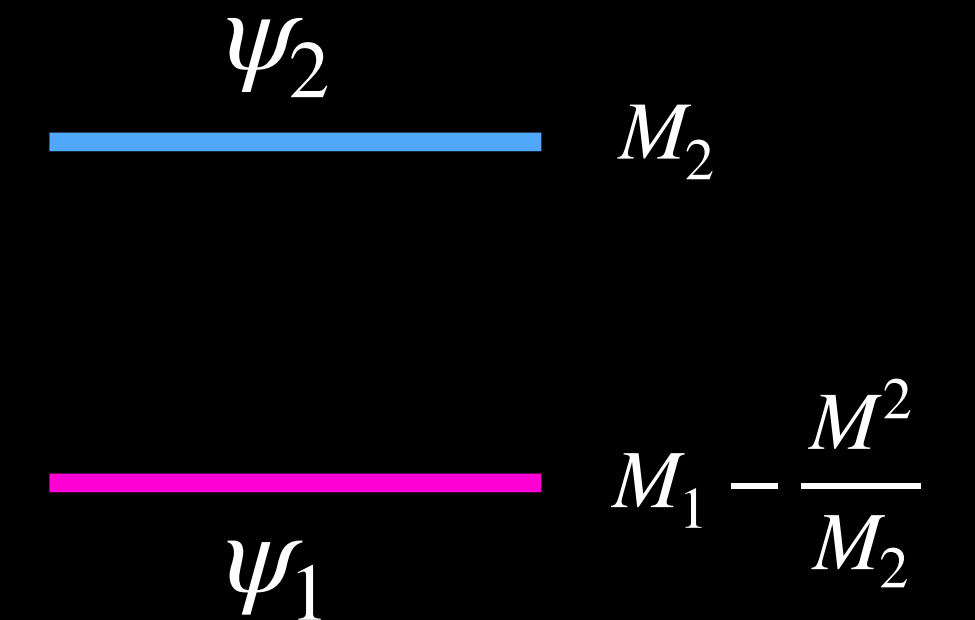


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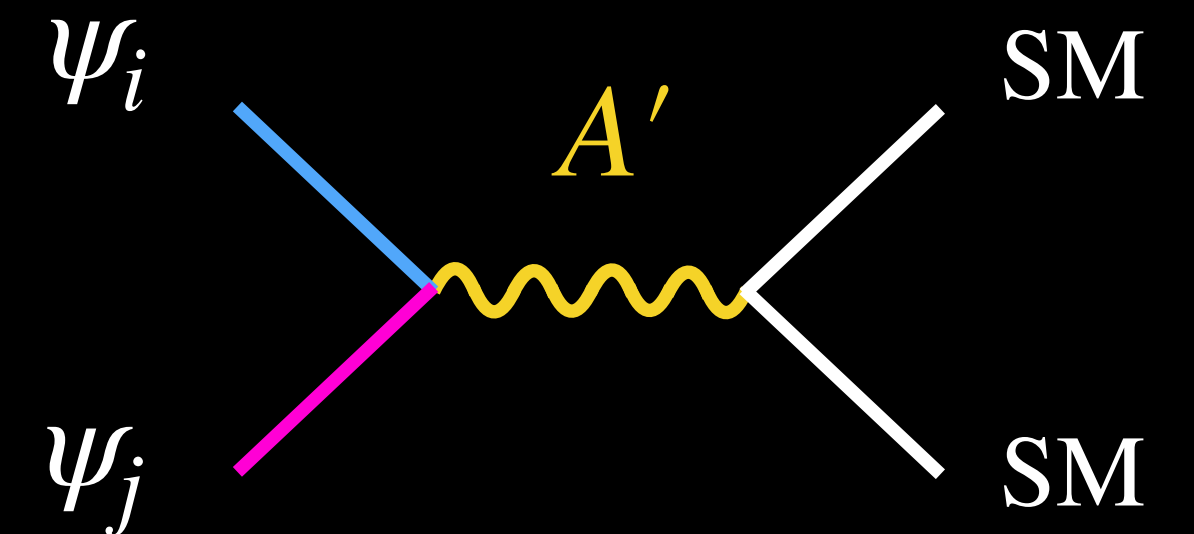


$$J_X^\mu = \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi = (\theta^2 \bar{\psi}_1 \gamma^\mu \psi_1 + \theta \bar{\psi}_2 \gamma^\mu \psi_1 + \bar{\psi}_2 \psi_2)$$

Where $\theta \sim m_1/m_2$, and no Majorana masses allowed. We have 2 Dirac particles.

Dark photon decay
branching ratios:

- 1 ● $A' \rightarrow \psi_2 \psi_2$
- θ^2 ● $A' \rightarrow \psi_1 \psi_2$
- θ^4 • $A' \rightarrow \psi_1 \psi_1$
- ϵ^2/g_D^2 • $A' \rightarrow f^+ f^-$



A. Filimonova et al, [arXiv:2201.08409](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.08409)

Dark Photons and Heavy Neutral Fermions

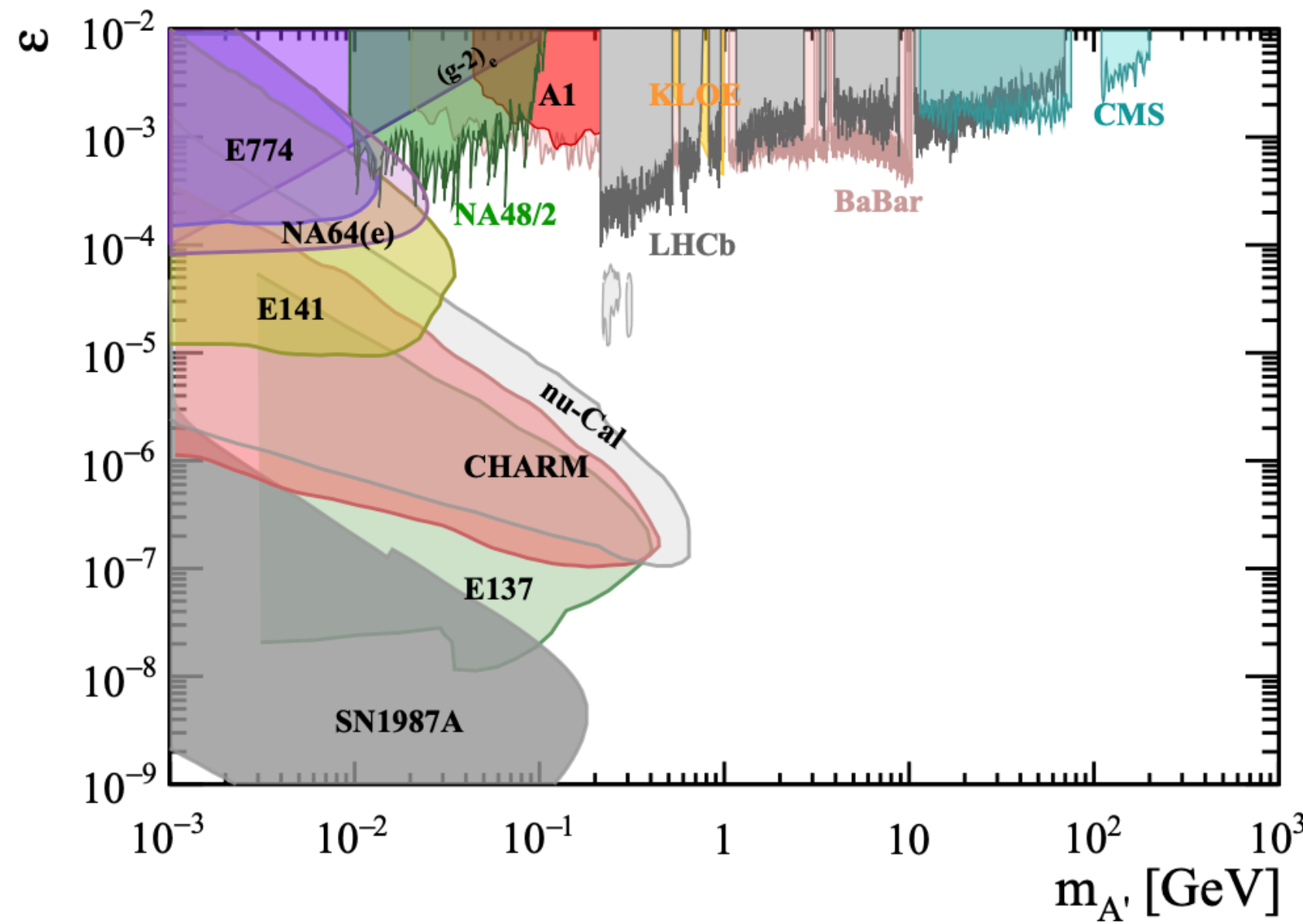
Phenomenology



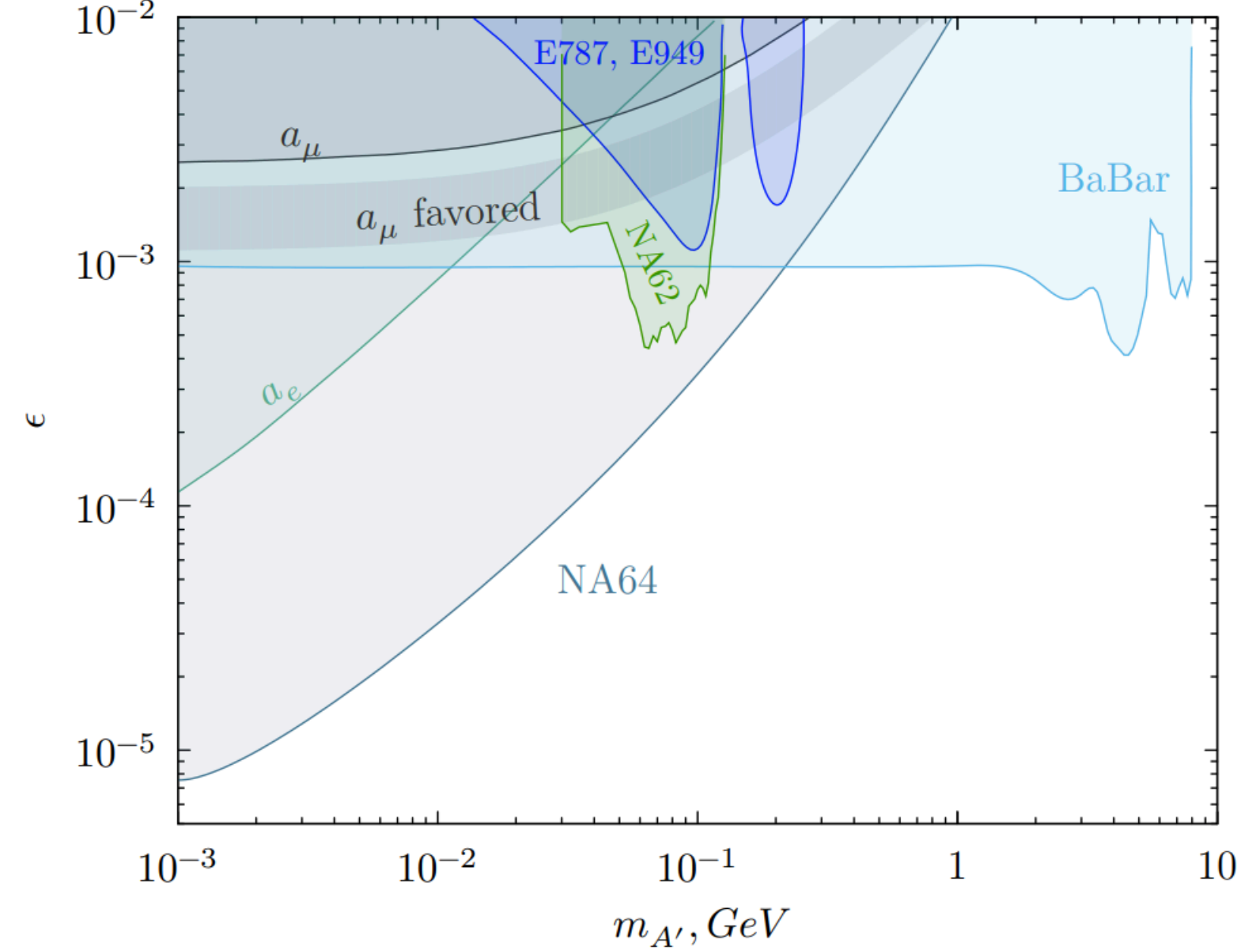
Dark Photons

Visible and Invisible dark photon explanations of $(g - 2)_\mu$ are ruled out

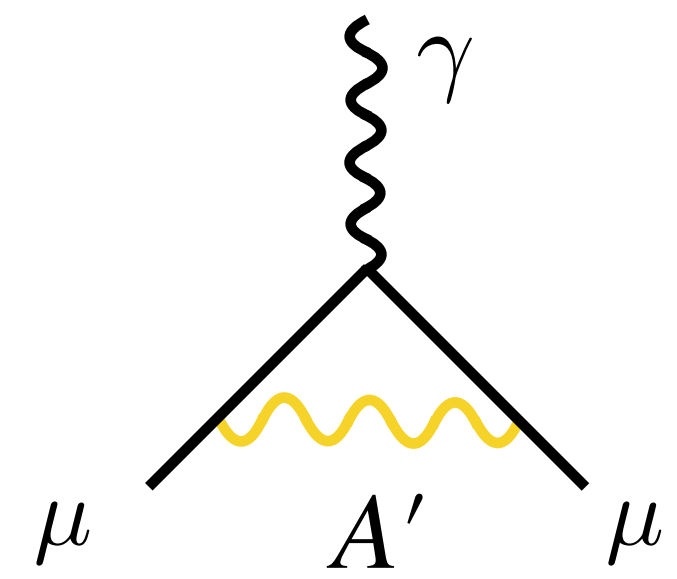
M. Fabbrichesi et al,
SpringerBriefs in Physics 2020, [2005.01515](#)



D. Banerjee et al, PRL 123, 121801 (2019)



Hypothetical vector bosons contribute positively:



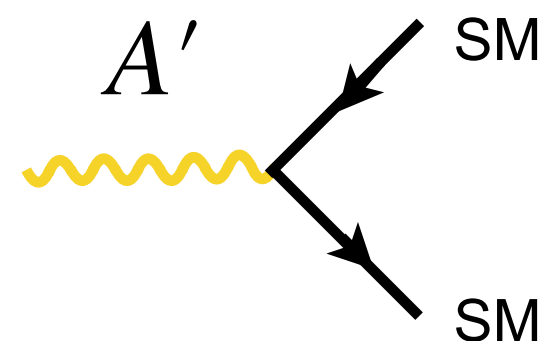
$$\Delta\alpha_\mu^{A'} \sim \frac{\varepsilon^2 \alpha m_\mu^2}{3\pi m_{A'}}$$

for

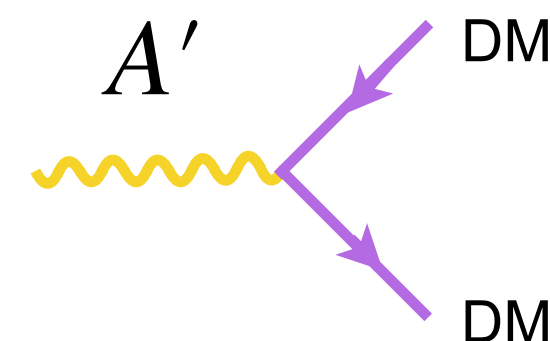
$$m_\mu \ll m_{A'}$$

Pospelov, PRD80:095002,2009

Visible:

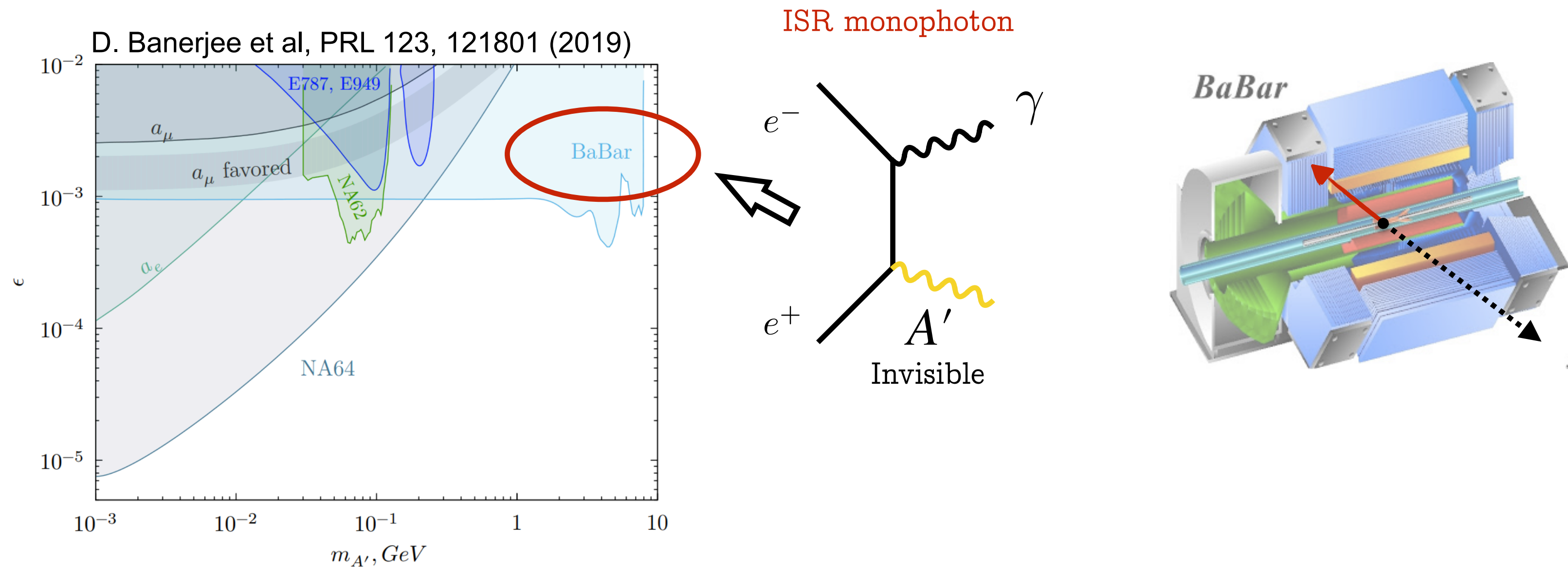


Invisible:



Dark Photons at BaBar

Initial state radiation searches (monophotons)

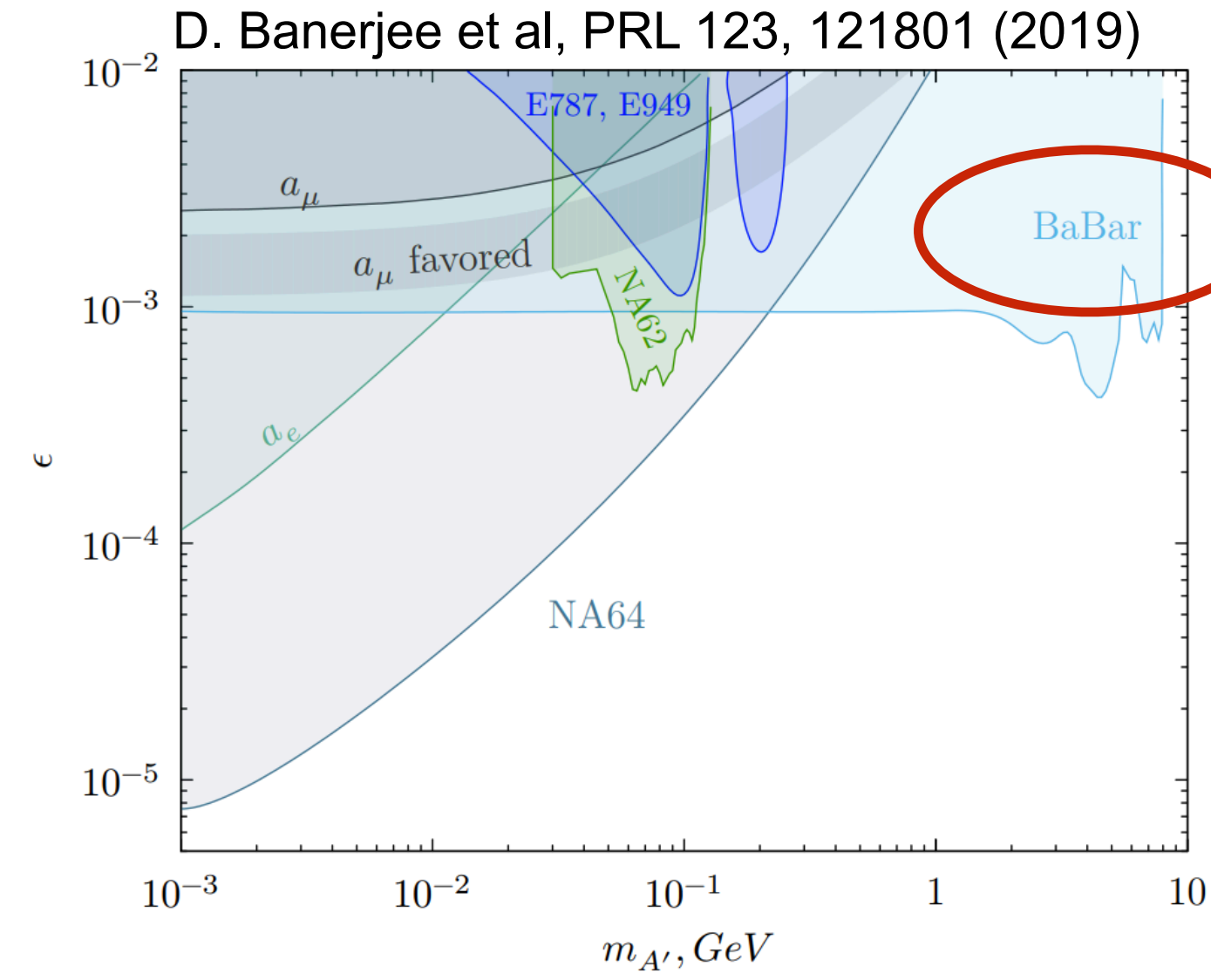


A single photon recoiling against an invisible massive particle. Dark photon mass reconstructed as:

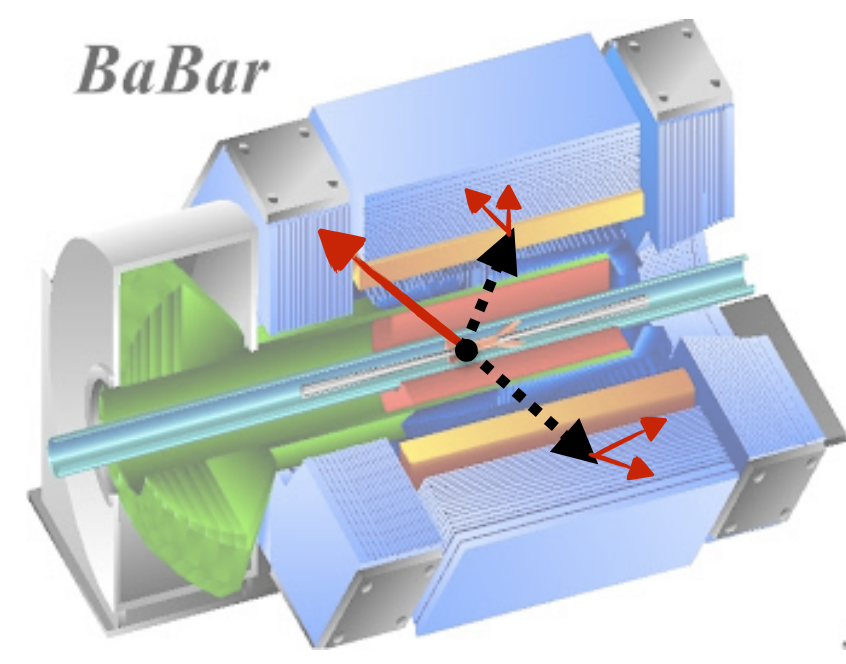
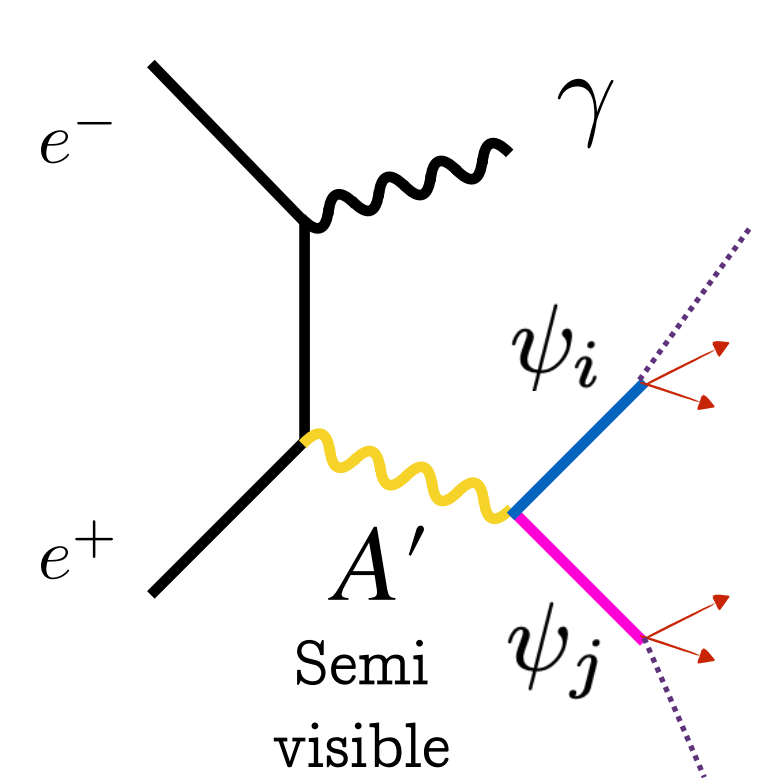
$$M_X^2 = s - 2E_\gamma^{\text{CM}}\sqrt{s}$$

Dark Photons at BaBar

Initial state radiation searches (monophotons)



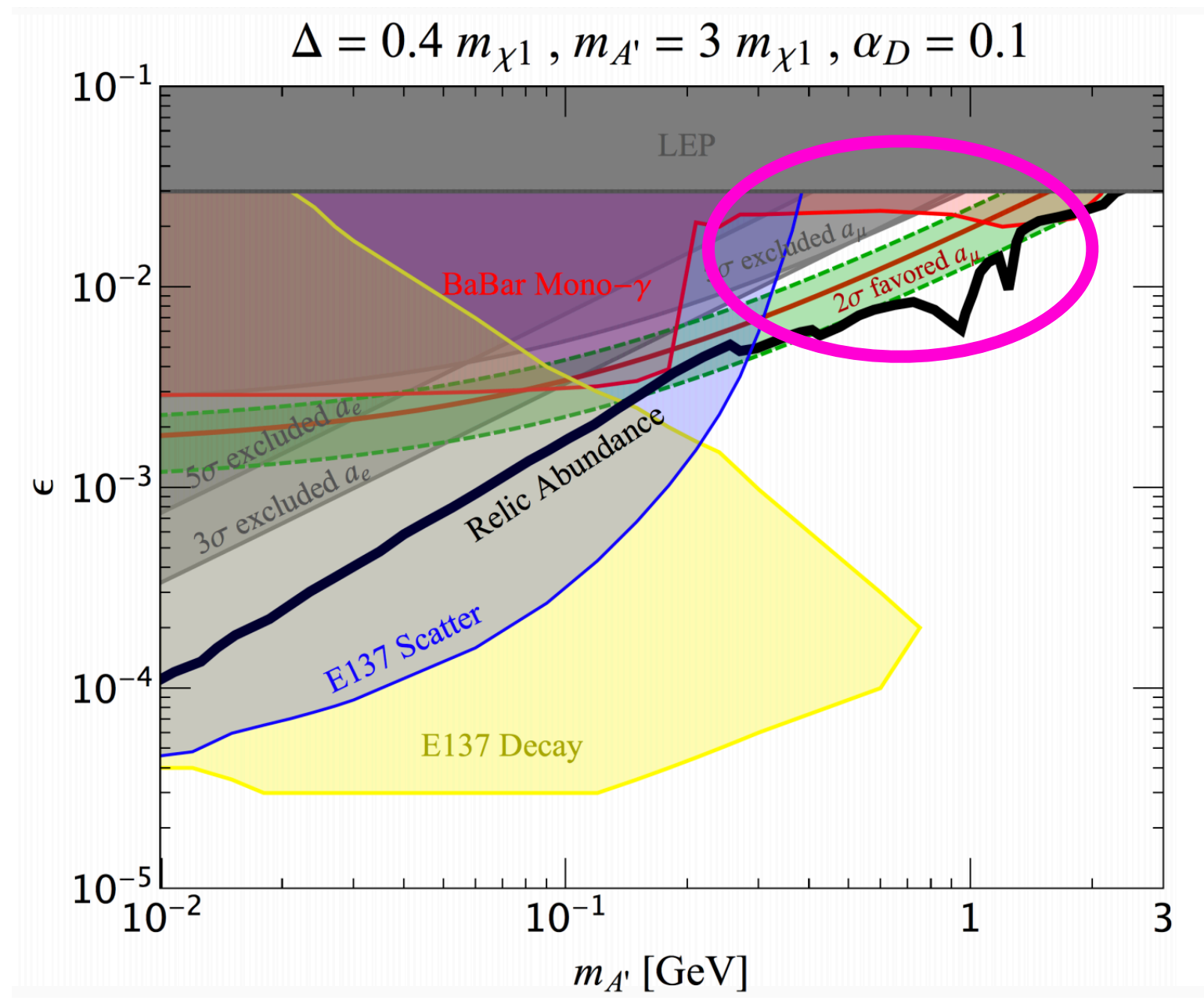
ISR monophoton



If A' decays semi-visibly, then additional tracks are vetoed in the mono photon selection.

For example, taking $\epsilon = 2.1 \times 10^{-2}$
 $m_{A'} = 1.25 \text{ GeV}$ we need $P_{\text{missing } A'} < 2.2 \times 10^{-3}$

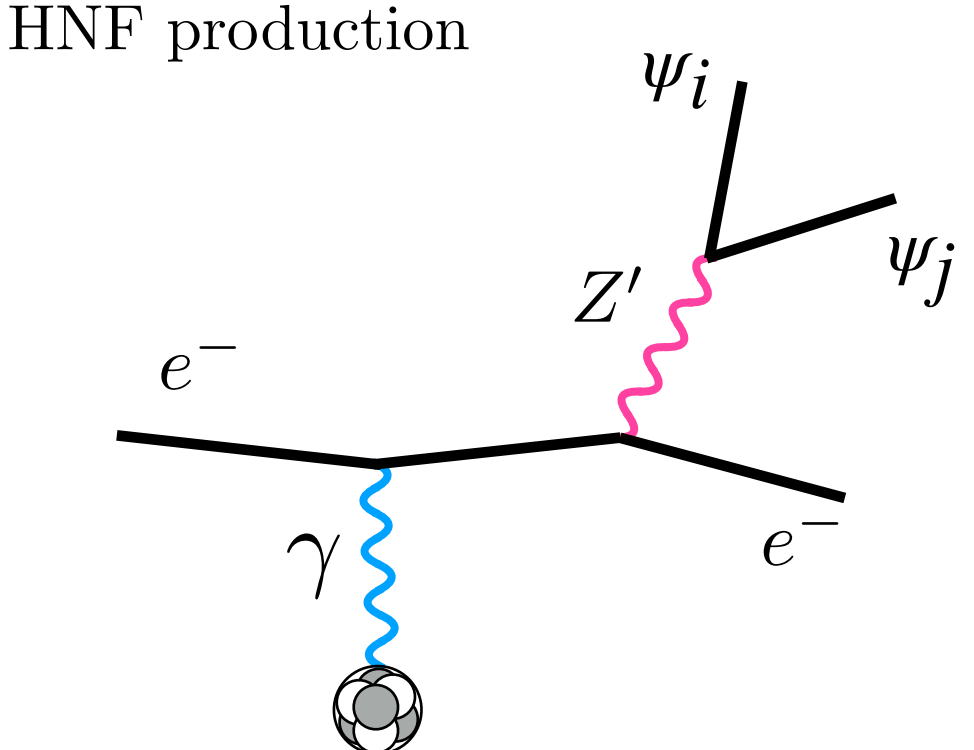
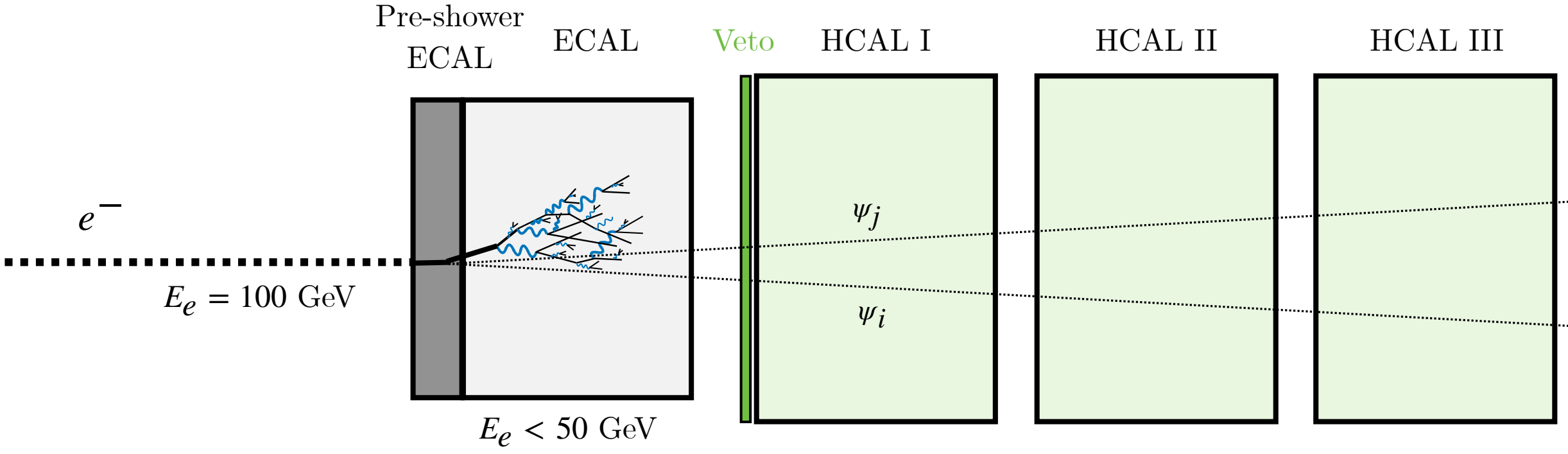
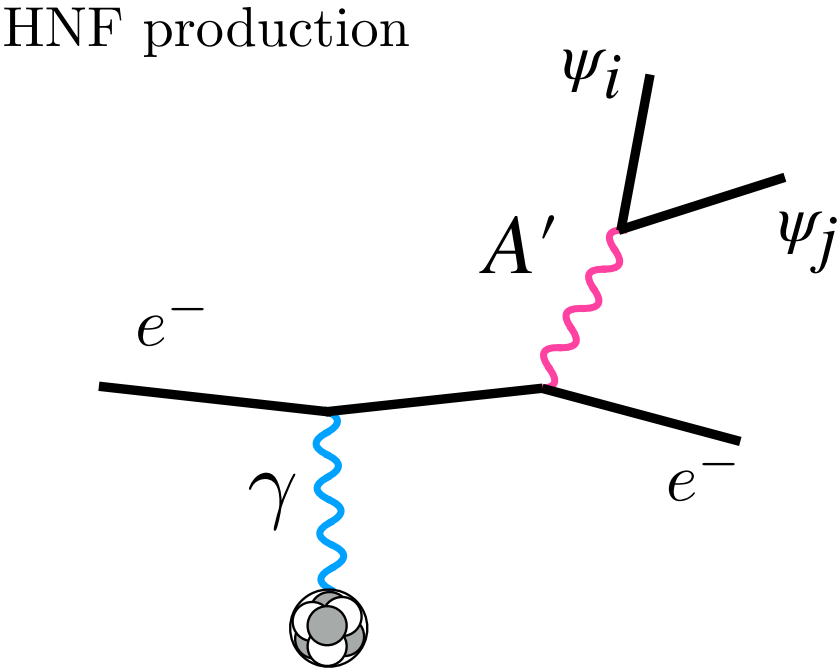
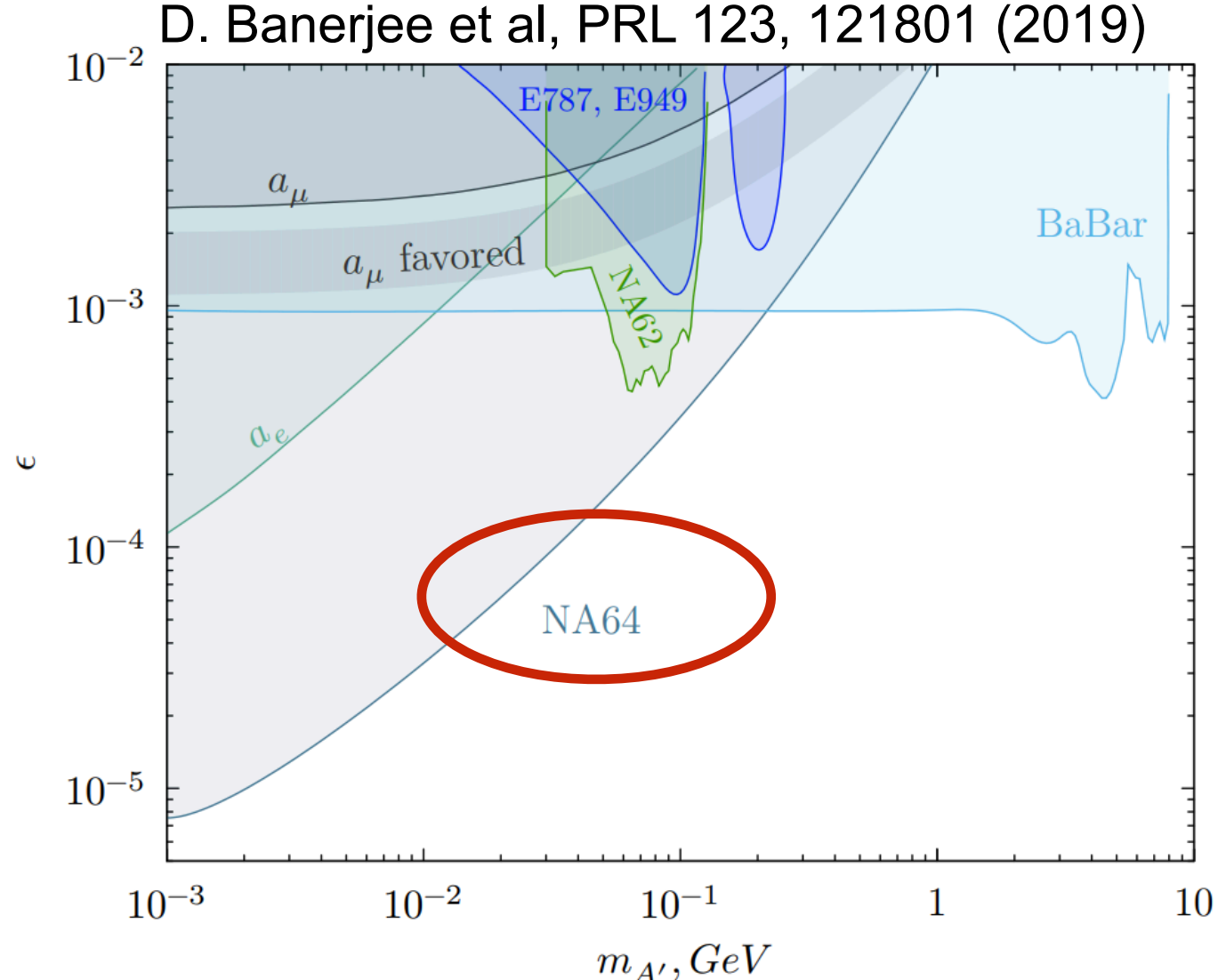
New $(g-2)_\mu$ region of interest around dark photon masses of 0.3 to 3 GeV.



G. Mohlabeng, Phys. Rev. D 99, 115001 (2019)

Searches for invisible dark photons at NA64

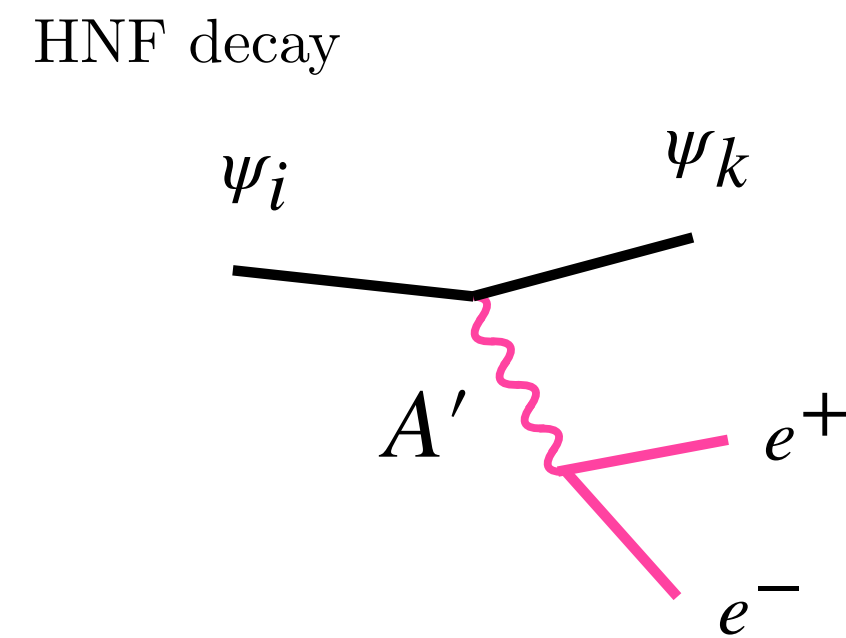
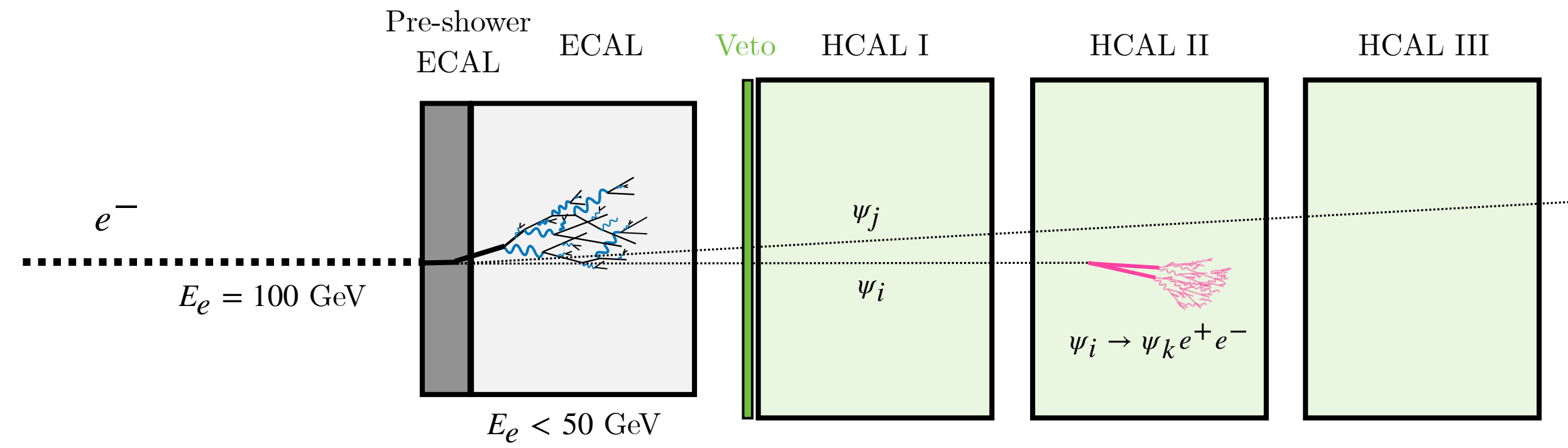
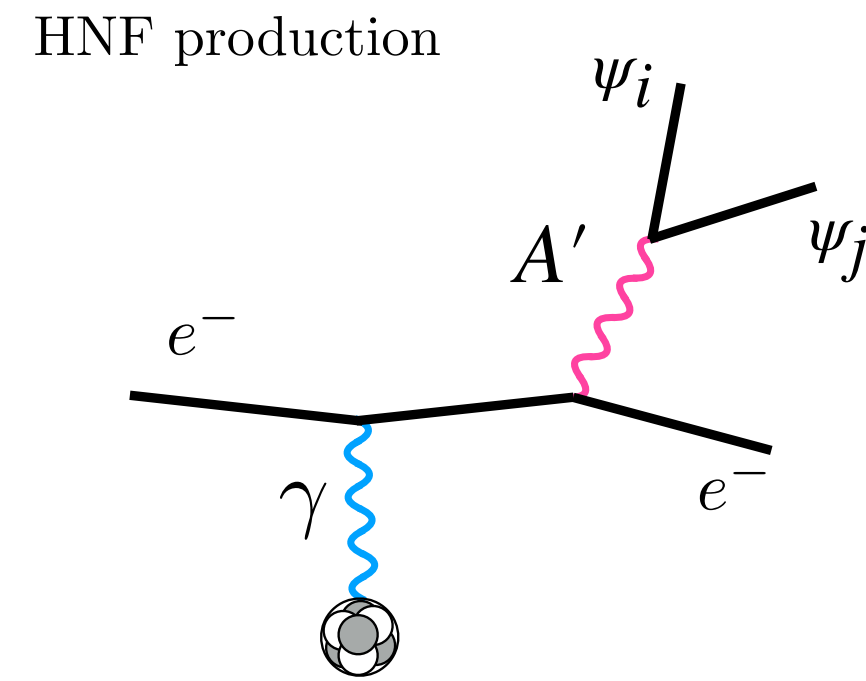
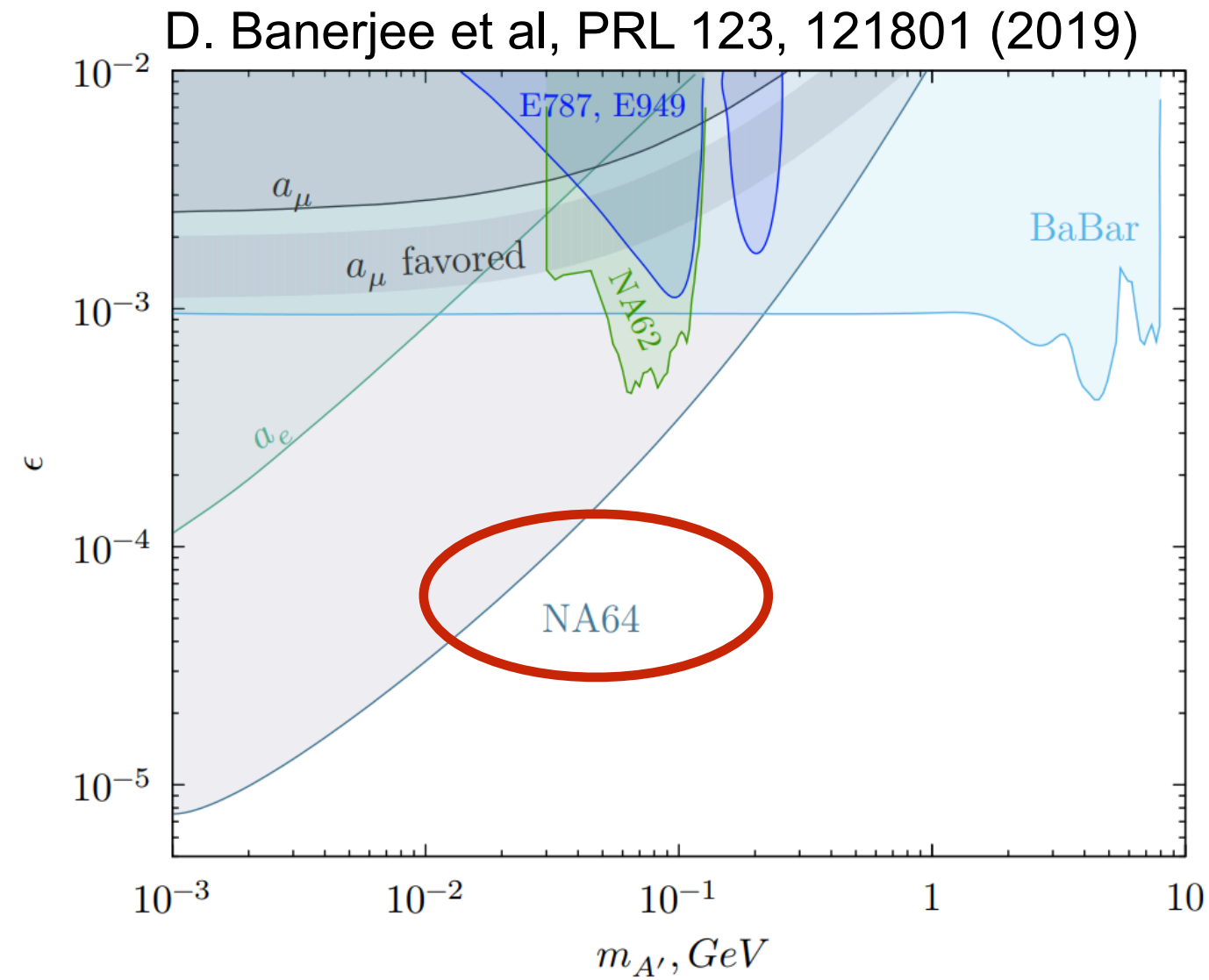
Electrons on target



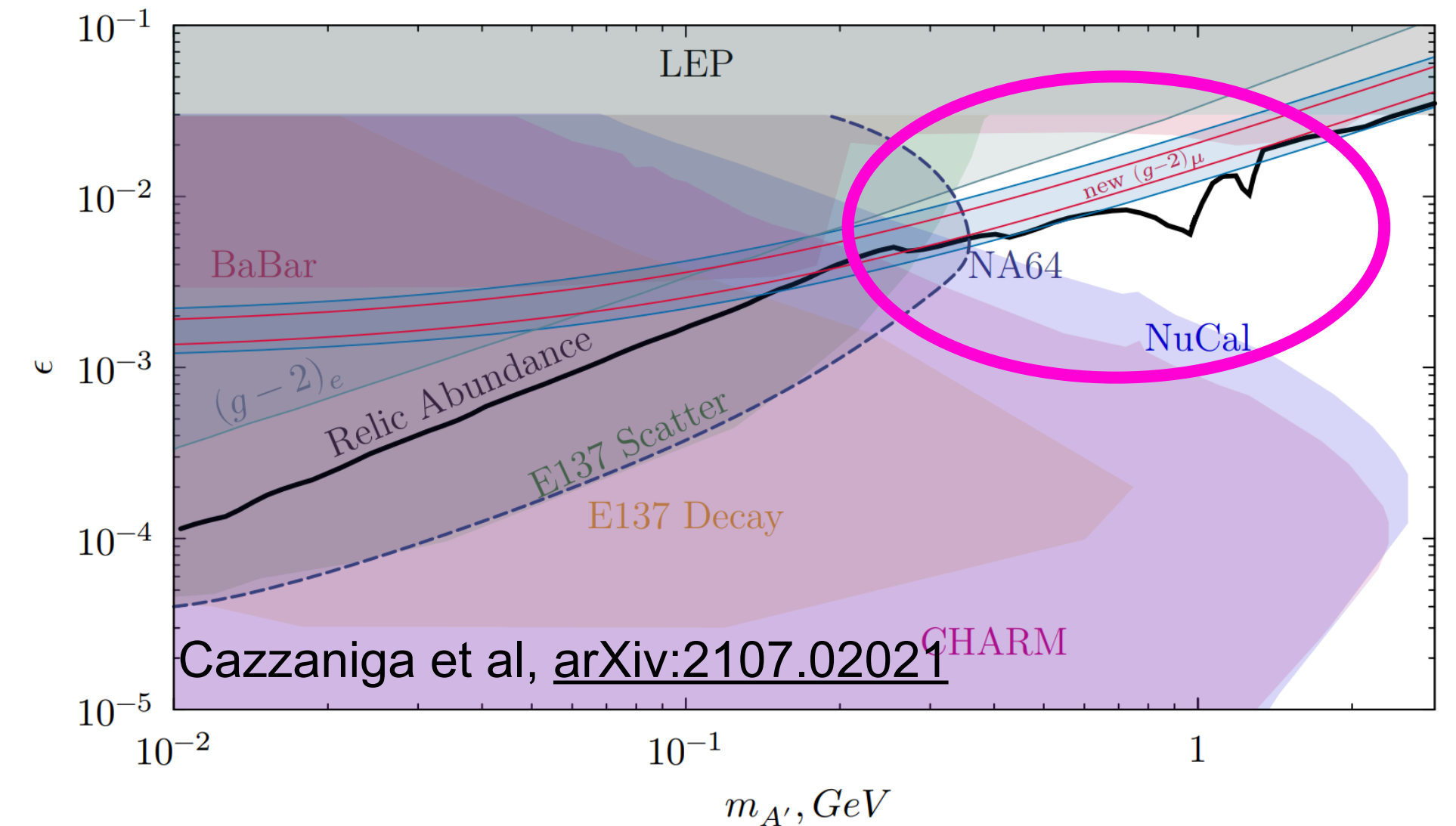
Fixed-target searches for invisible A' also very sensitive.

Searches for invisible dark photons at NA64

Electrons on target



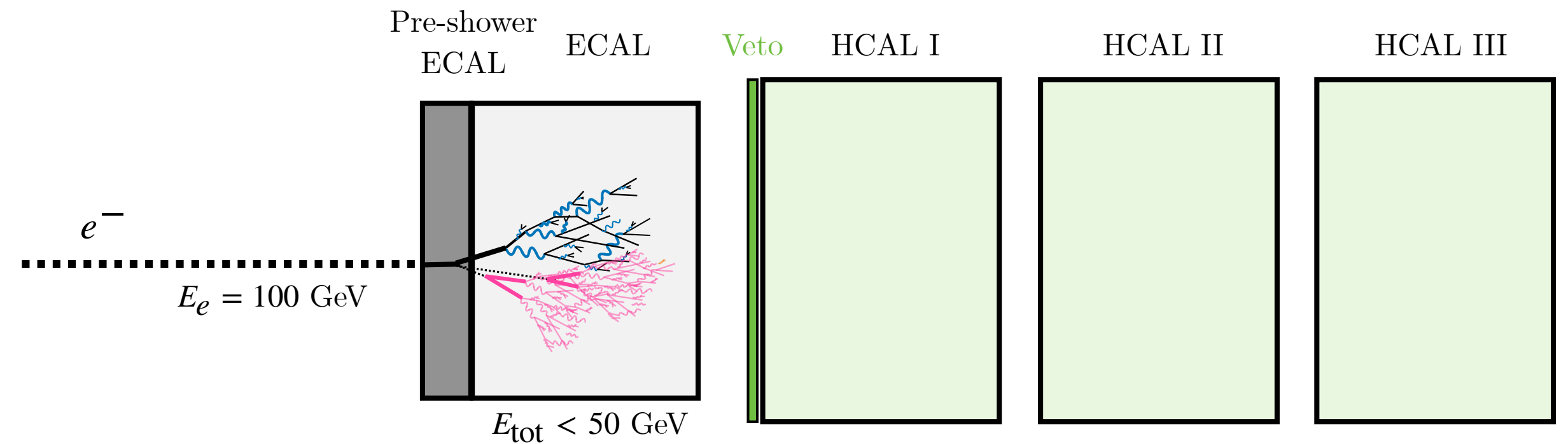
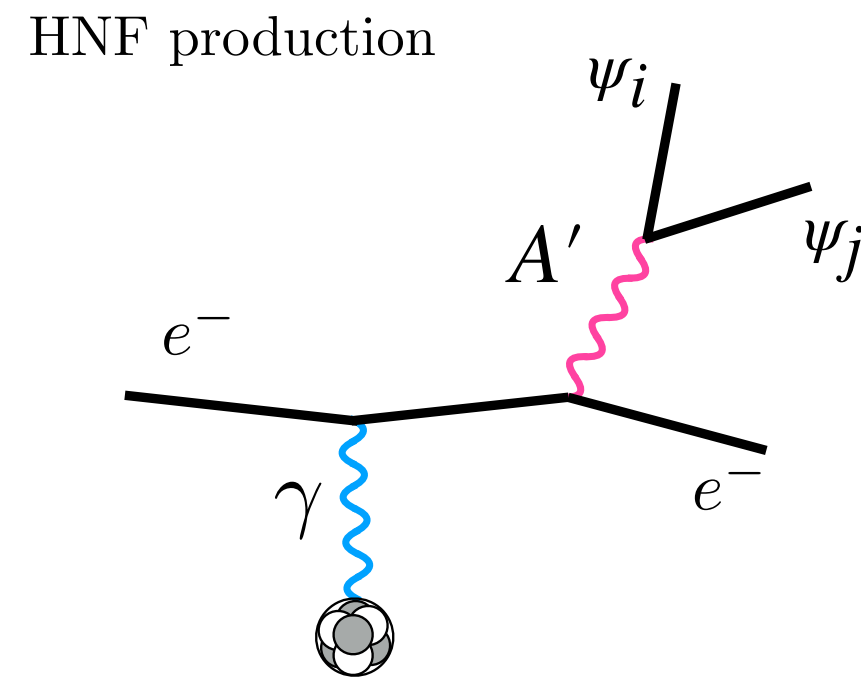
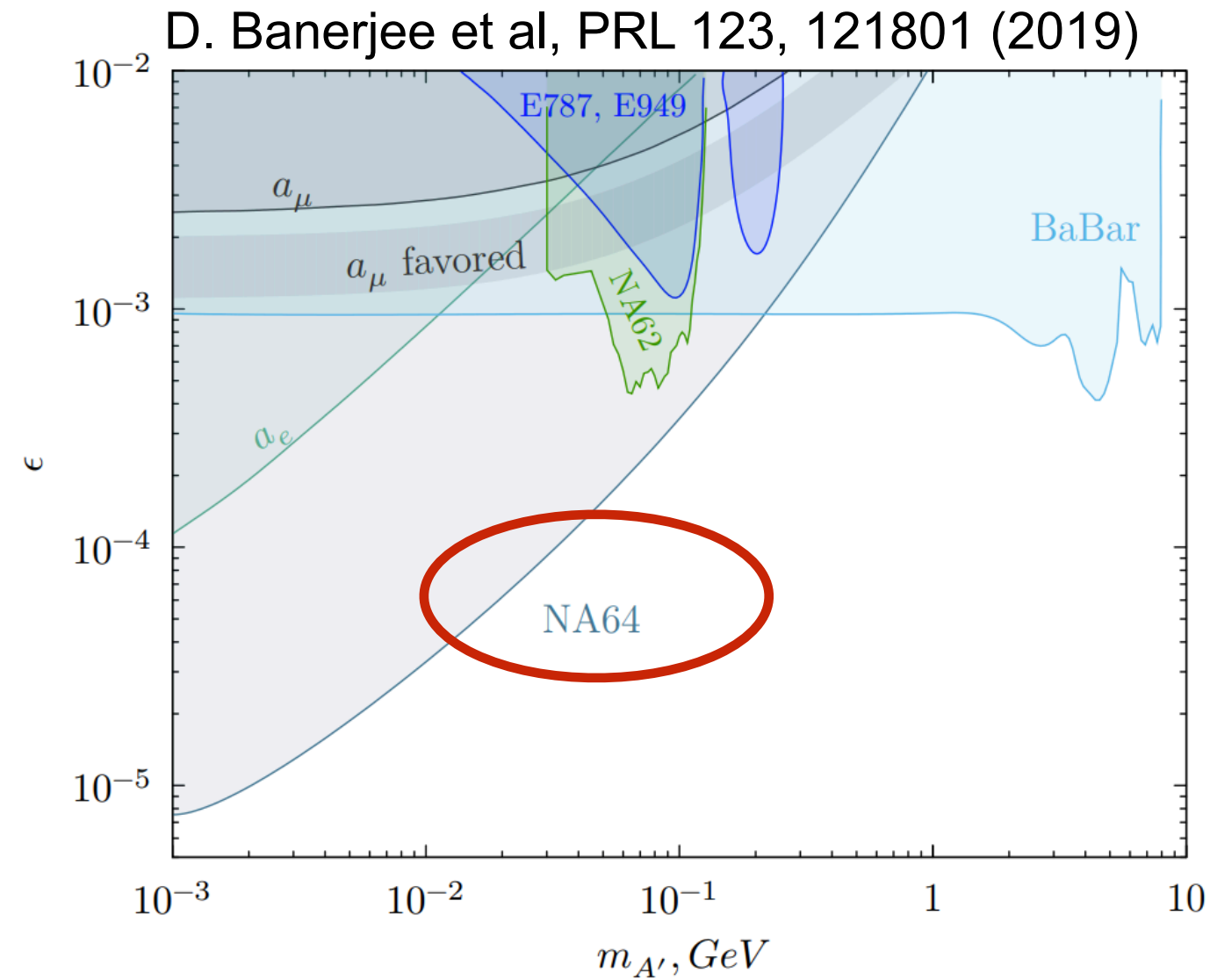
$$\Delta = 0.4m_{\chi_1}, m_A = 3m_{\chi_1}, \alpha_D = 0.1$$



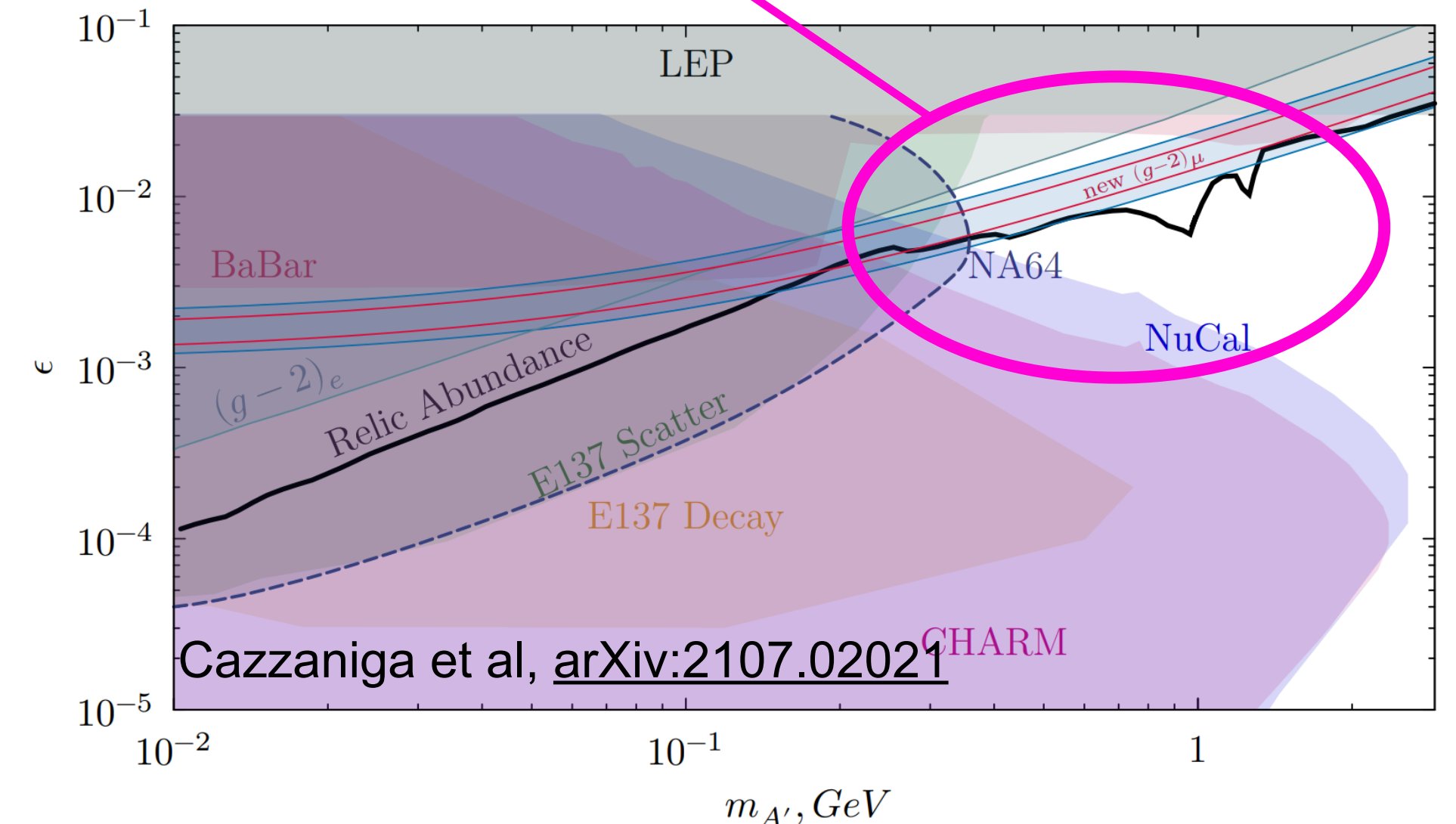
Fixed-target searches for semi-invisible A' with displaced decay. Getting close to the $(g-2)$ region.

Searches for invisible dark photons at NA64

Electrons on target



$$\Delta = 0.4m_{\chi_1}, m_A = 3m_{\chi_1}, \alpha_D = 0.1$$



Currently, the $g-2$ region is where prompt decays happen.

We estimate the sensitivity of a search where the HNF decay happens inside the detector.

Currently being performed by the collaboration!

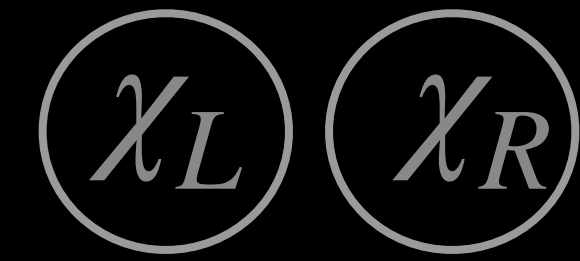
Results

Revisiting BaBar and NA64 limits on A' and HNFs

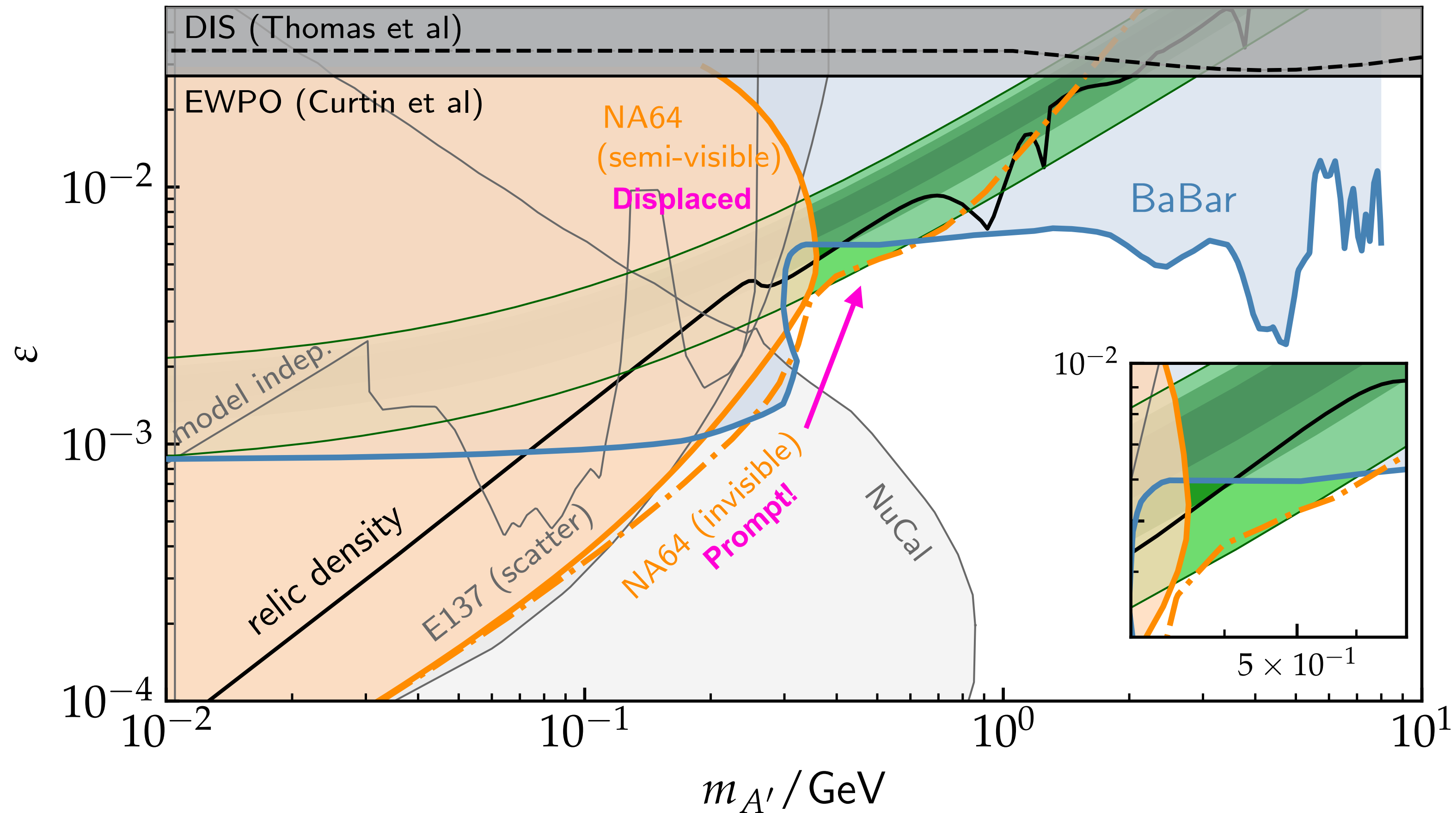


Results of our BaBar and NA64 simulations

(Pseudo)Dirac Fermion



iDM: $\Delta_{21} = 0.5$, $m_1/m_{A'} = 0.33$, $\alpha_D = 0.5$



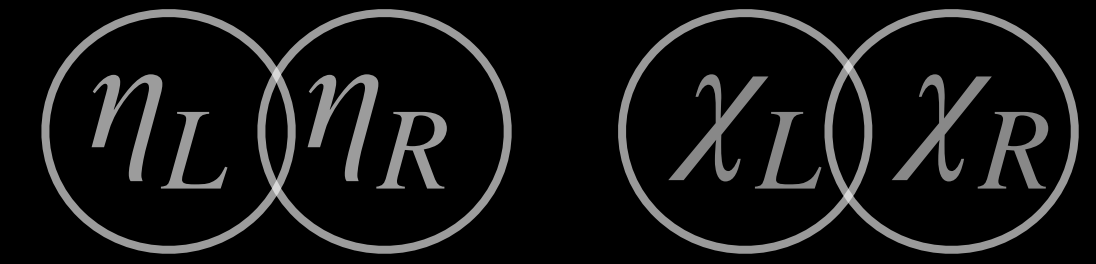
Very small parameter space that **can explain** $(g-2)_\mu$

Only a single “semi-visible” decay from the dark photon is can be easily missed at BaBar when soft*.

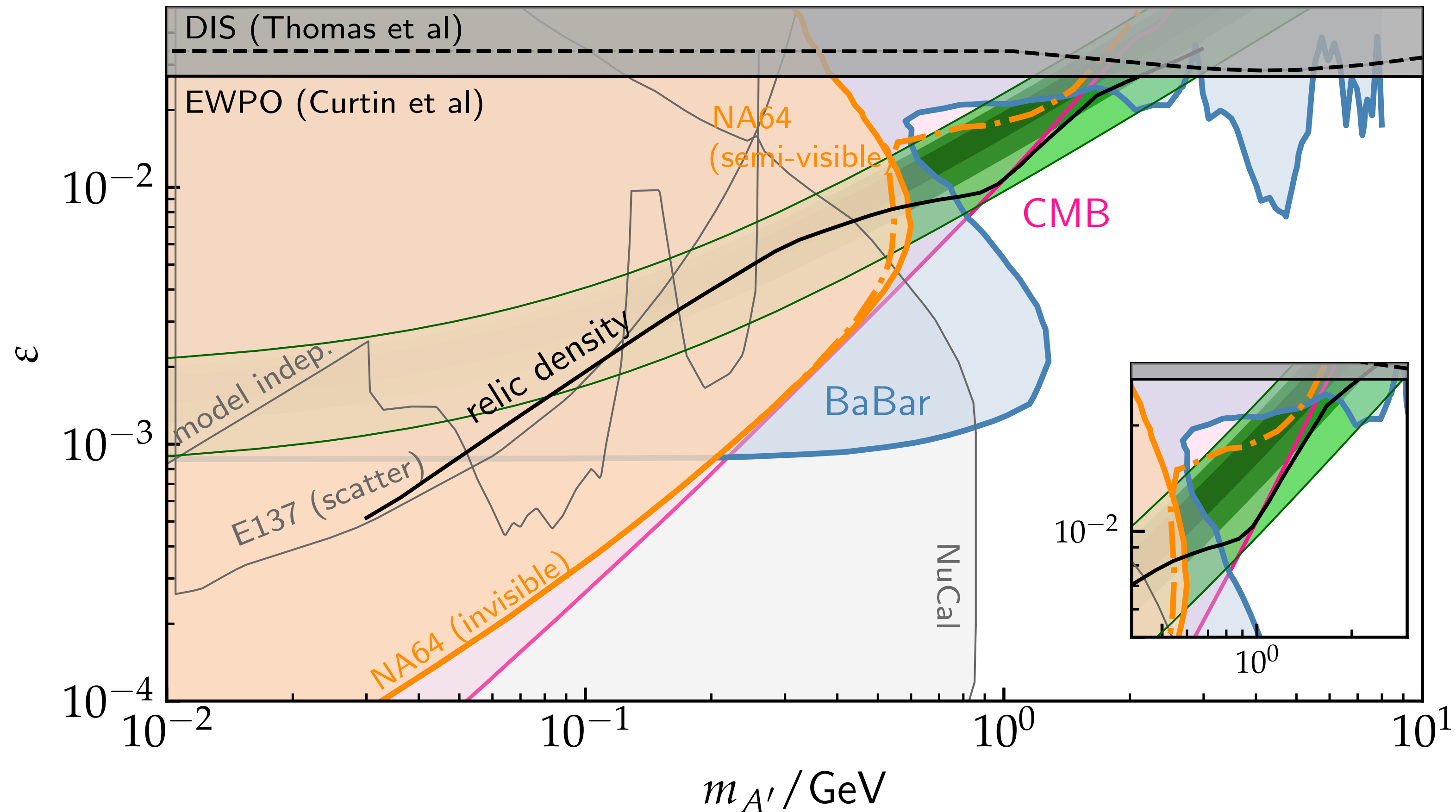
*Updated G. Mohlabeng (2019) with new energy thresholds and angular cuts. BaBar selection assumes $E_e > 100$ MeV for all tracks and less pessimistic assumptions than M. Duerr et al, [arXiv:1911.03176](https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.03176).

Results of our BaBar and NA64 simulations

A dark Dirac fermion seesaw



i2DM: $\Delta_{21} = 0.4$, $m_1/m_{A'} = 0.33$, $\alpha_D = 0.5$, $\theta = 4.5^\circ$



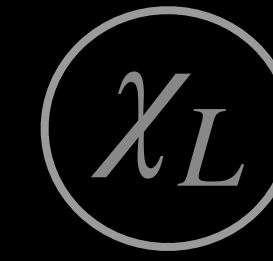
Very small parameter space that
can explain $(g-2)_\mu$

However, ψ_1 cannot be DM as
otherwise it would be excluded by
CMB.

ψ_1 can still be a heavy neutrino that
decays $\psi_1 \rightarrow \nu e^+ e^-$.

Relic density from A. Filimonova et al, [arXiv:2201.08409](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.08409)

Results of our BaBar and NA64 simulations

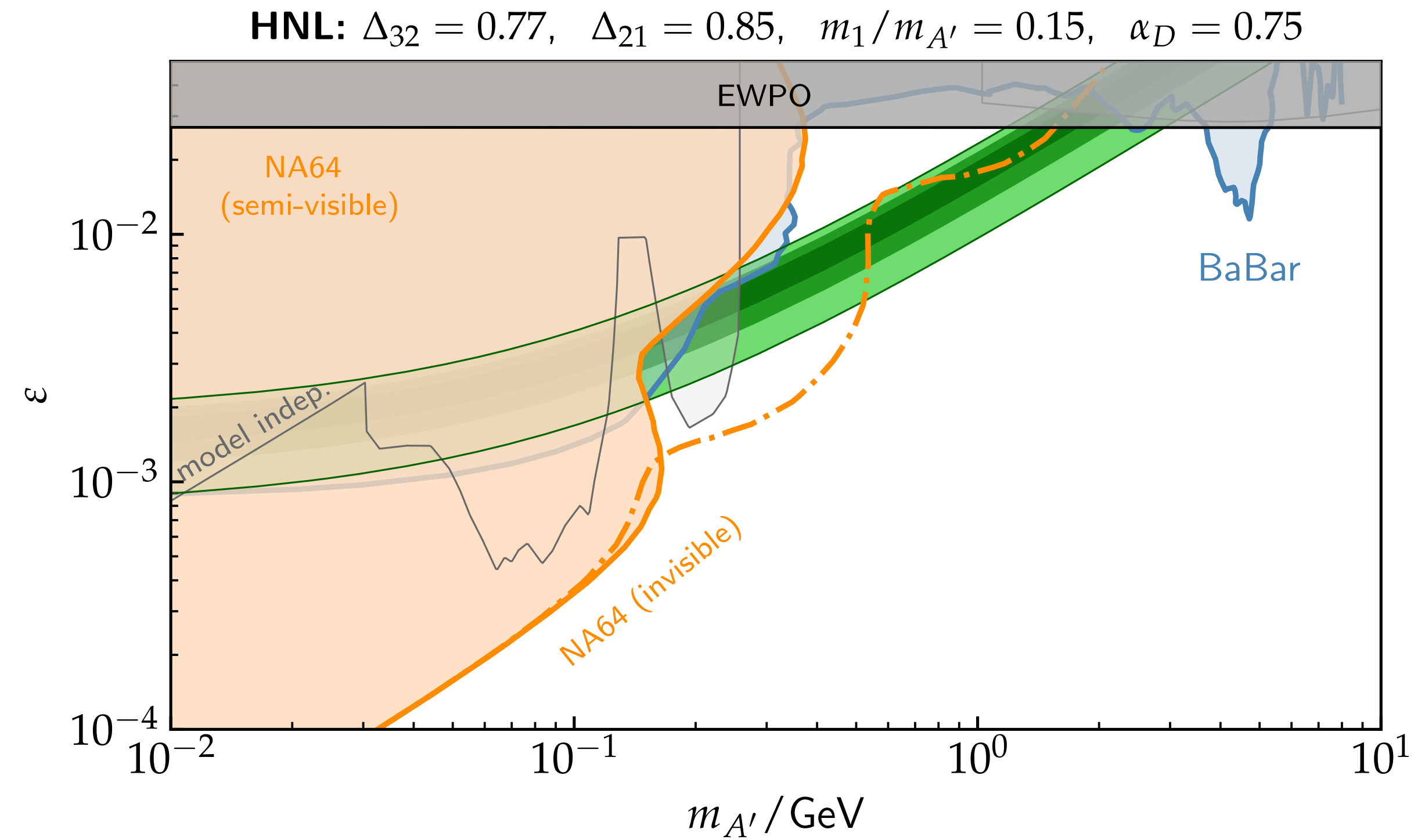


A dark Dirac fermion seesaw

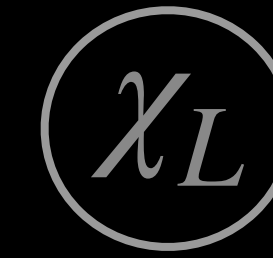
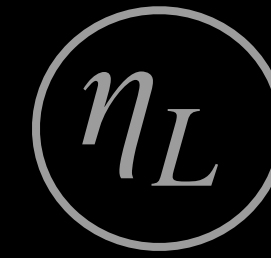
Model can explain $(g-2)_\mu$

(if HNF = HNL)

But ψ_i have to mix with neutrinos as otherwise we overproduce dark matter.



Results of our BaBar and NA64 simulations



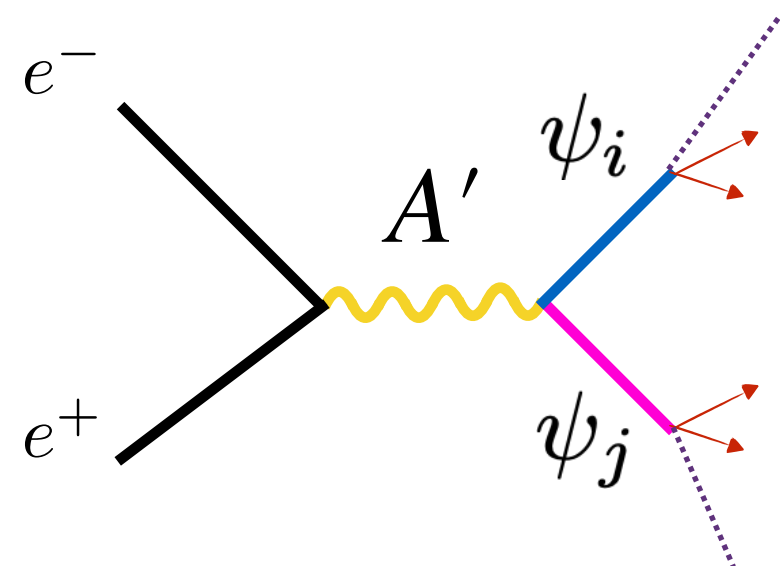
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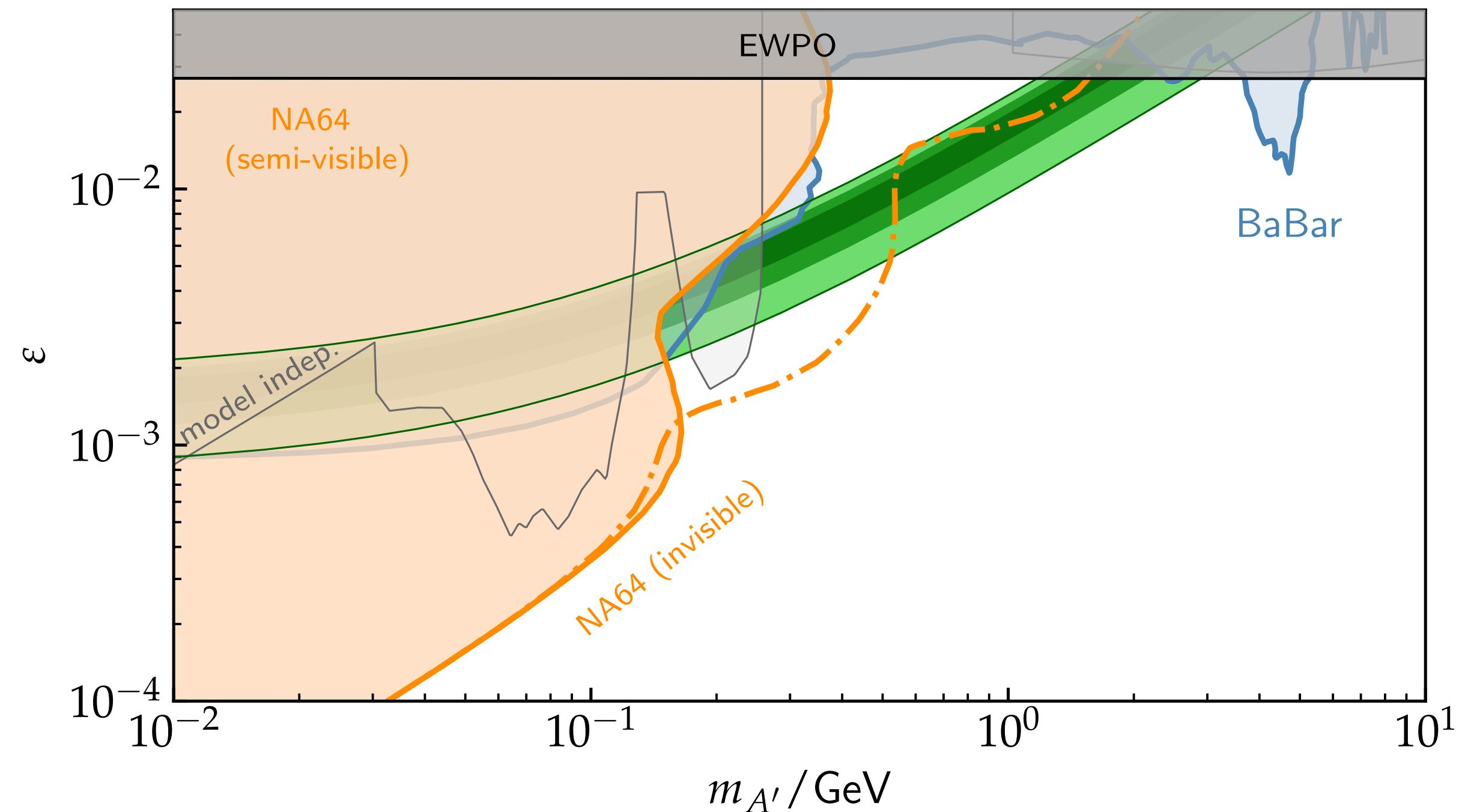
S-channel: lose the photon, but gain in rate.



$\frac{\alpha_D}{\alpha}$ of the ISR rate.

Different kinematics, larger p_T for the fermions.

HNL: $\Delta_{32} = 0.77$, $\Delta_{21} = 0.85$, $m_1/m_{A'} = 0.15$, $\alpha_D = 0.75$



Explanation is possible, but only for large dark couplings:

- i) Landau pole not too far from GeV scale...
- ii) S-channel production can dominate

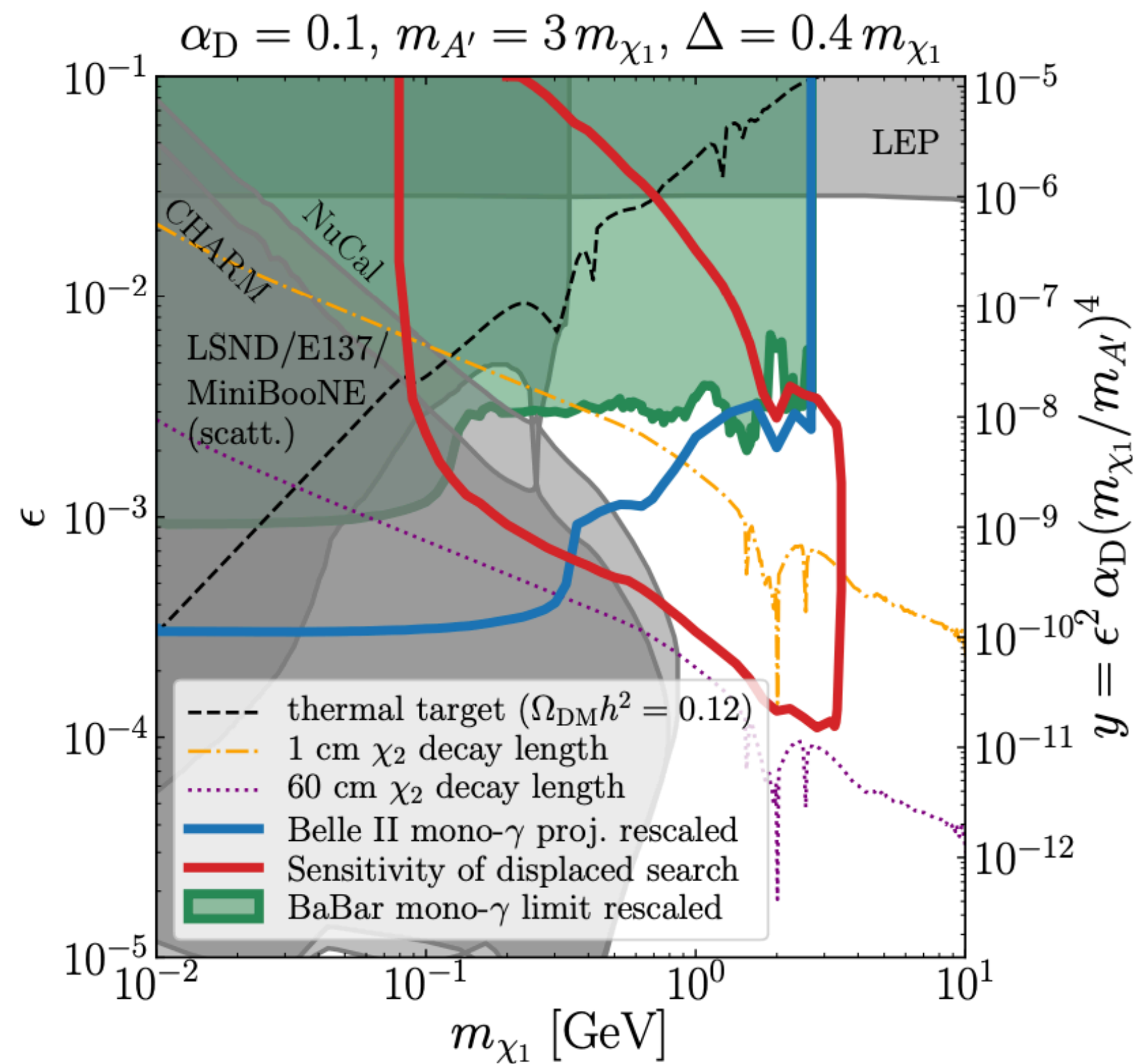
We choose benchmark points in [A. Abdullahi, MH, S. Pascoli, 2020](#), where anomalies in neutrino experiments, including the MiniBooNE excess, can be explained.

Future prospects

Fixed targets and neutrino experiments

Belle-II — displaced vertices

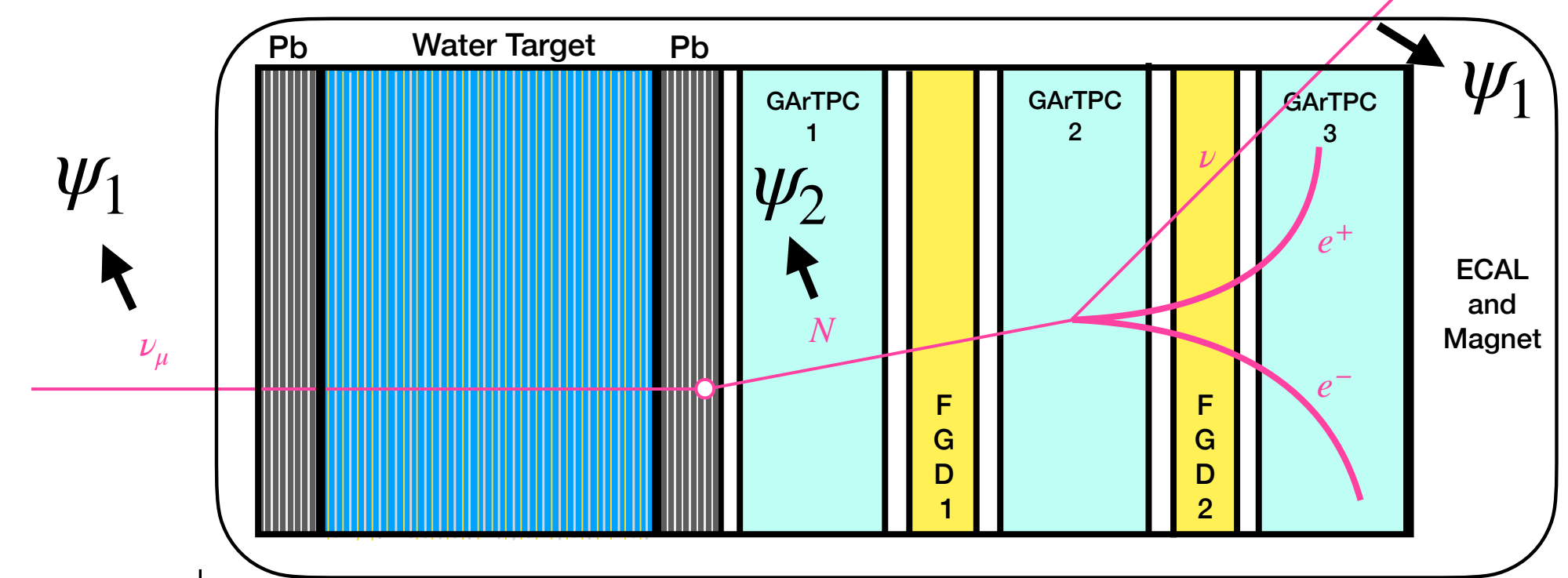
M. Duerr et al, [arXiv:1911.03176](https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.03176)



**S-channel production not included,
sensitivity can be much better.**

Neutrino experiments

Argüelles, Foppiani, MH, [arXiv:2205.12273](https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.12273)



Current T2K data: zero-background, zero-event limit that constrains decay-like signatures and upscattering enhanced by upstream lead. Signature in GAR-TPCs.

Short-baseline program can also look for similar signatures in LAr-TPCs. B. Batell et al, [arXiv:2106.04584](https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.04584)

Conclusions

A semi-visible dark photon with $m_{Z'} \sim 1$ GeV and $\varepsilon \sim 10^{-2}$ is easy to look for, but so far, limits are rather weak.

Interesting solution to the $(g-2)_\mu$ puzzle and can also have connections to the anomalies in the neutrino short-baseline program.

A plan for the future to extend our coverage of these models:

1. Searches for A' in CERN's NA64 program allowing for prompt decay signature.
2. Make use of $\psi_1 \rightarrow \psi_2 \rightarrow \psi_1 e^+ e^-$ upscattering signatures at neutrino experiments.
3. Searches for monophotons and displaced vertices at Belle-II.
4. Eventually, LDMX could dig much deeper into parameter space.

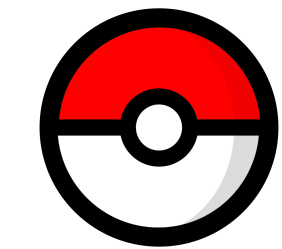
Conclusions

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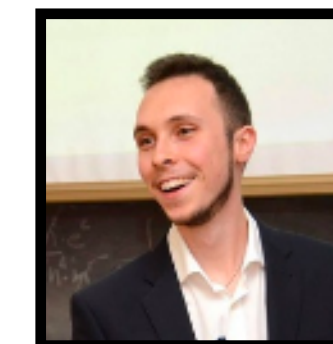
Thank you

Happy hunting!

Collaborators:



Asli Abdullahi
Fermilab



Daniele Massaro
Uni of Bologna



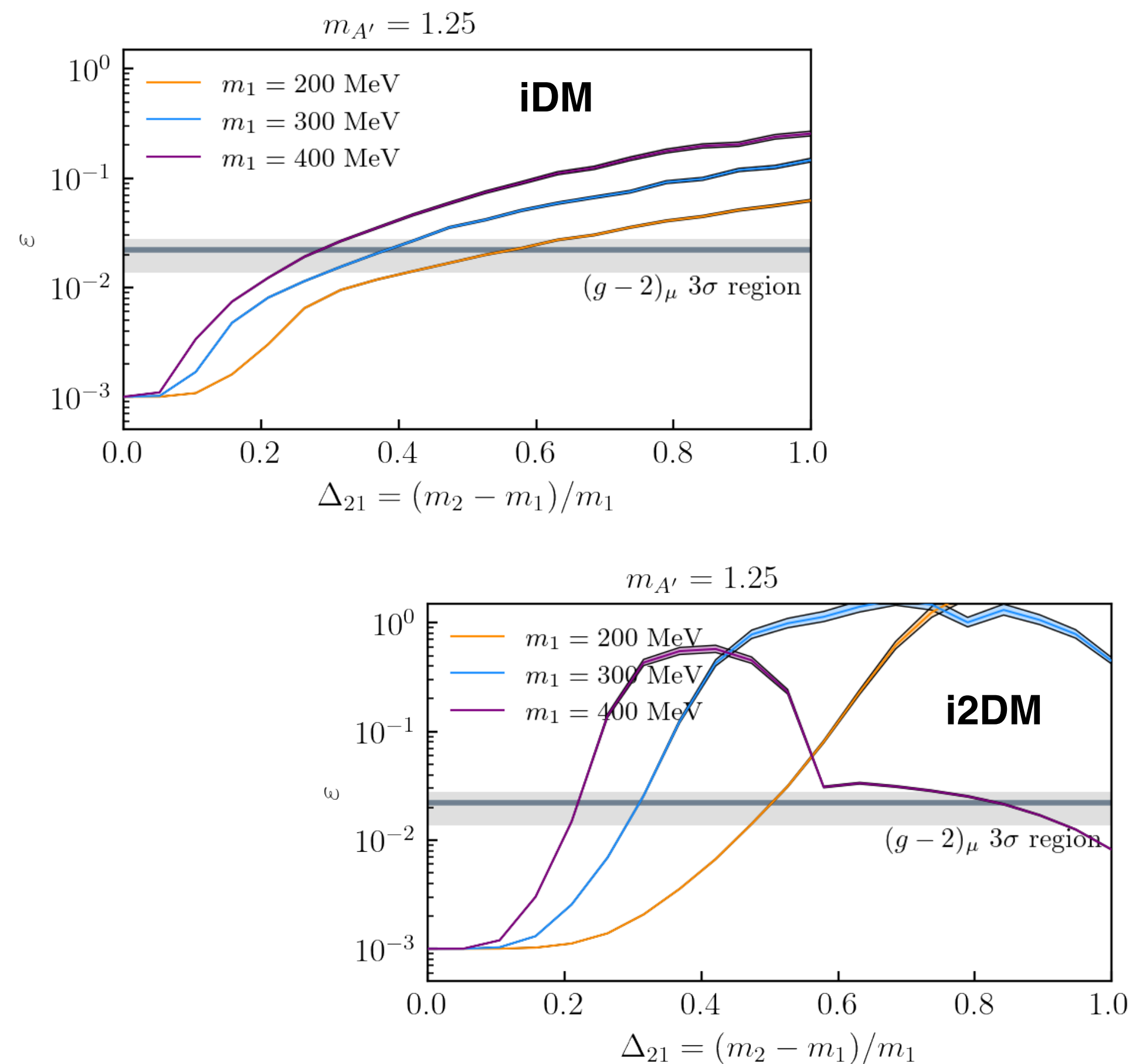
Silvia Pascoli
Uni of Bologna

Back-up slides

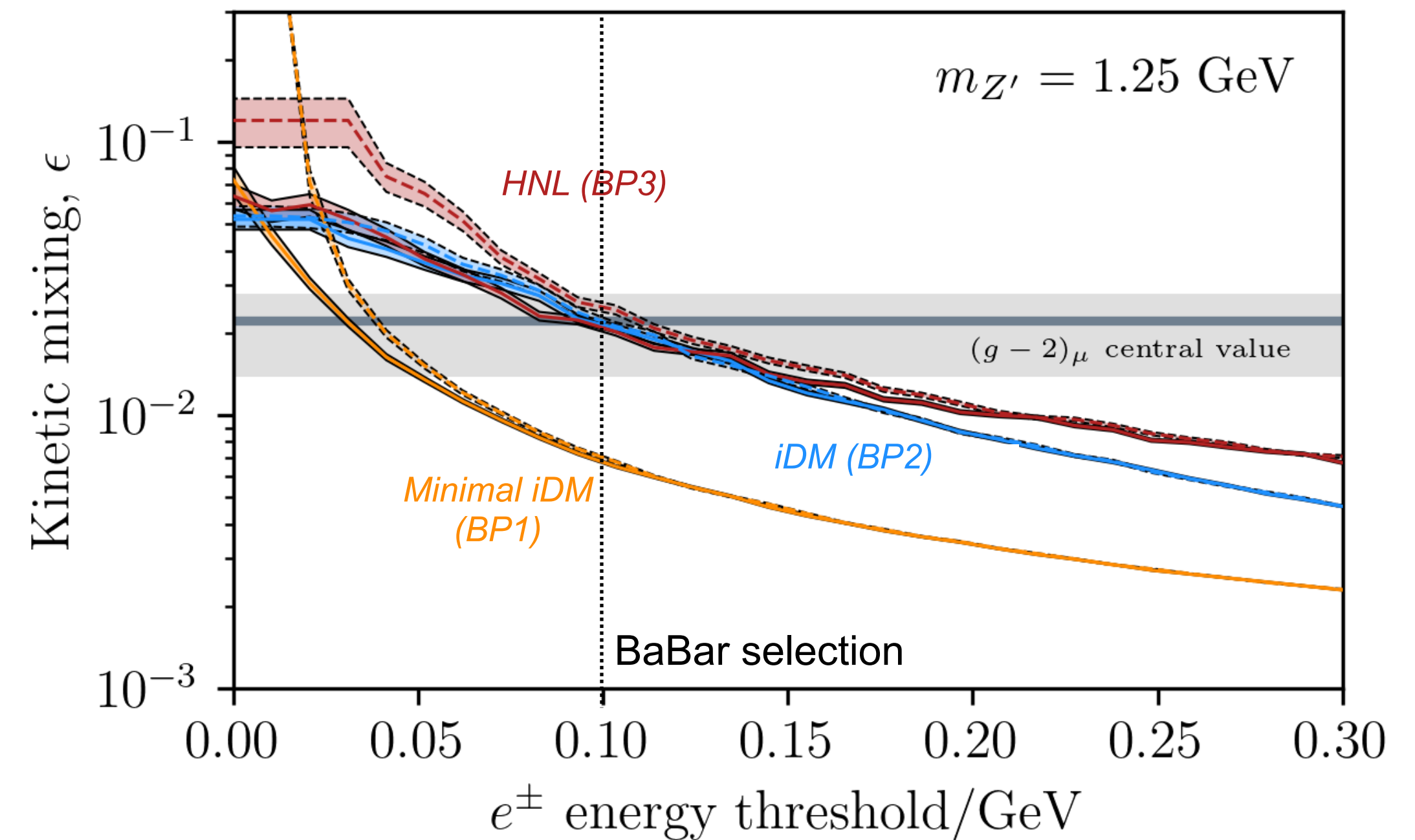
Signal characteristics

Dependence of the results on simulation assumptions

Smaller **mass splittings** gives very soft electrons, which are often missed.

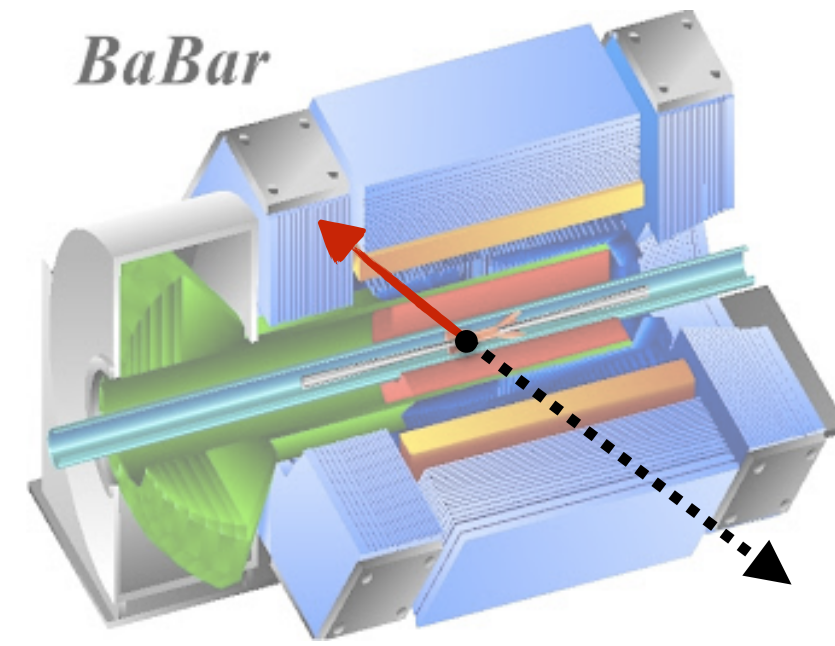
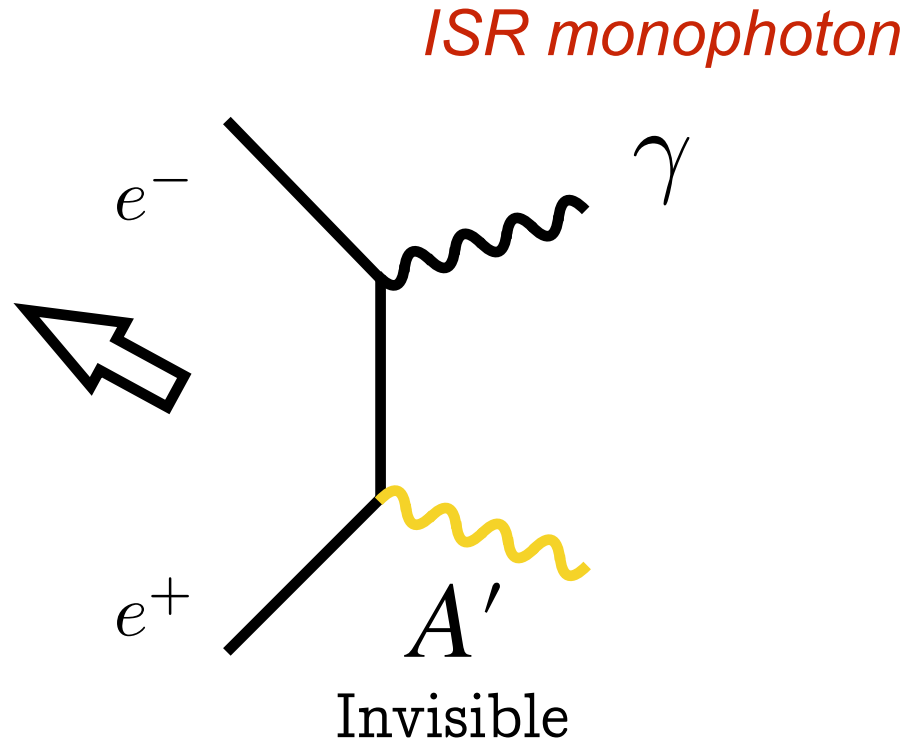
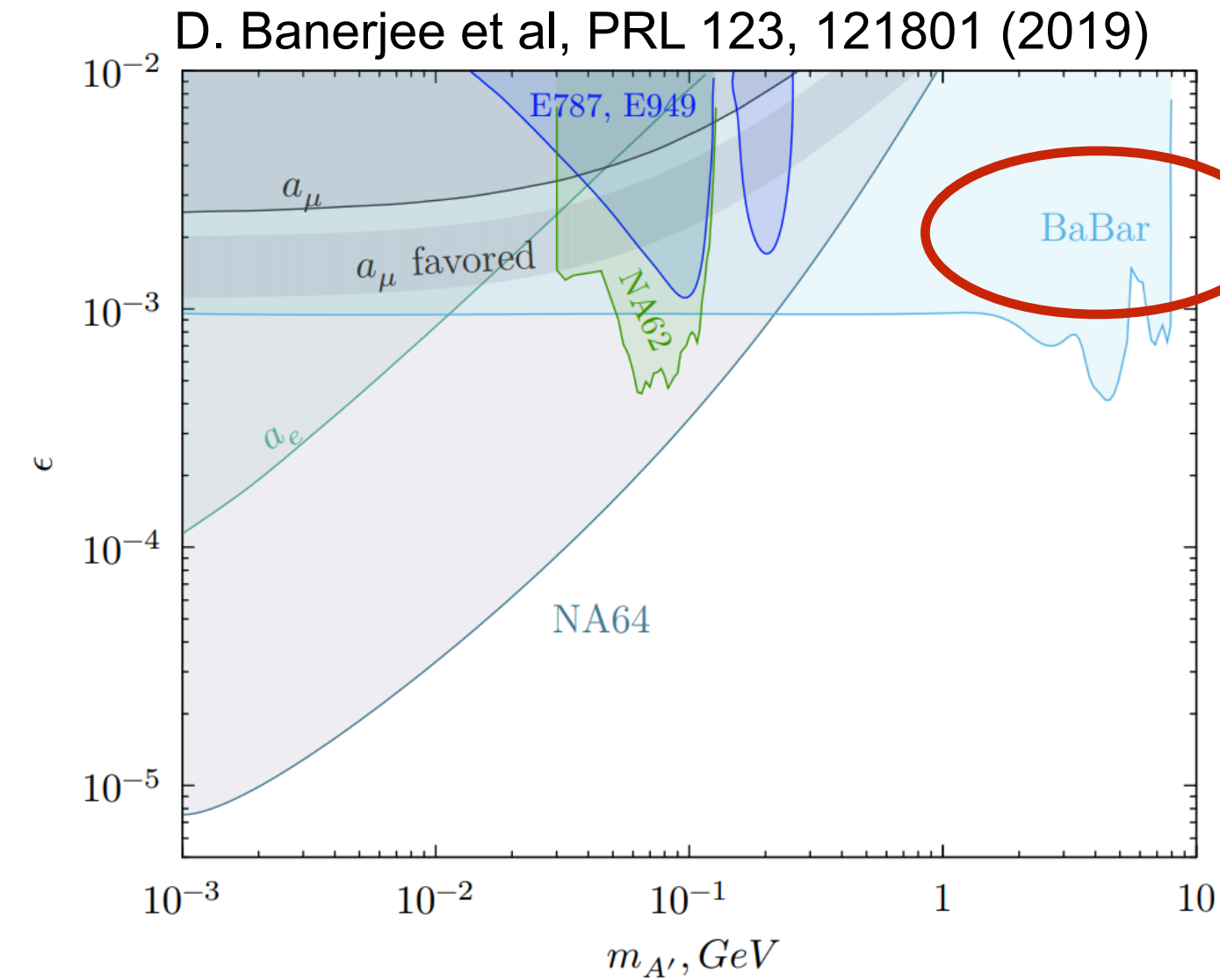


At BaBar, **energy thresholds** are the dominant source of “invisible” dark photon events:

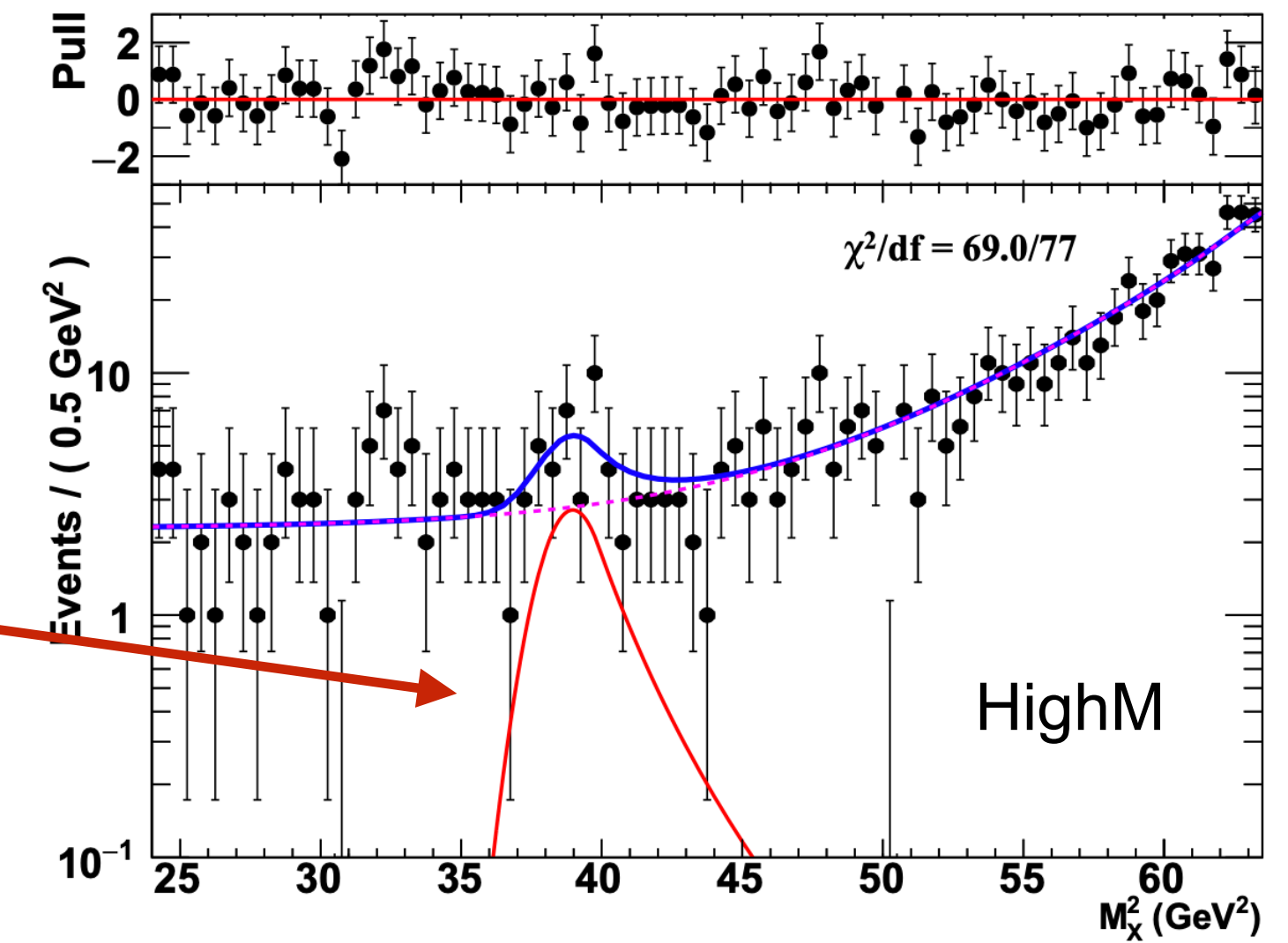


Dark Photons at BaBar

Photon recoiling against missing energy

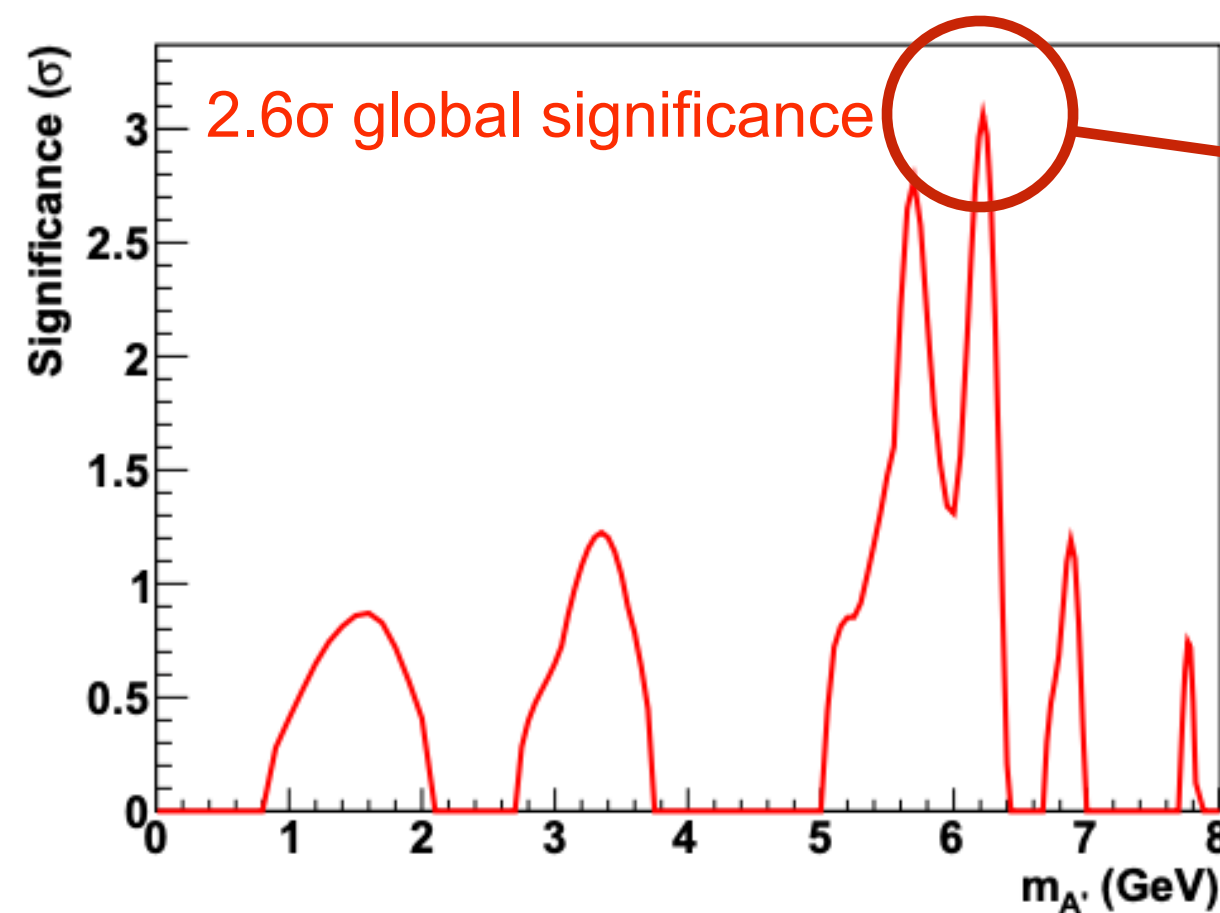


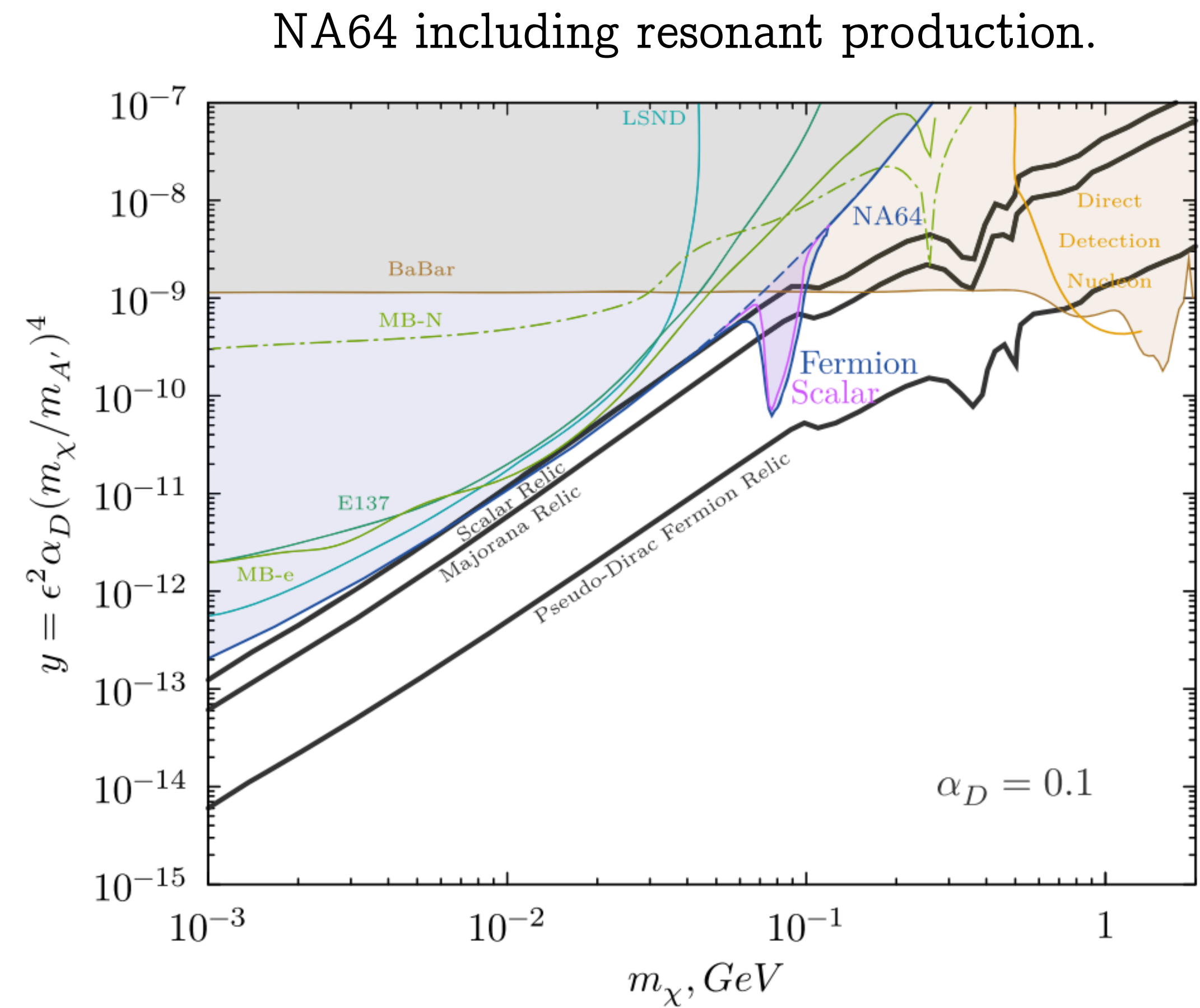
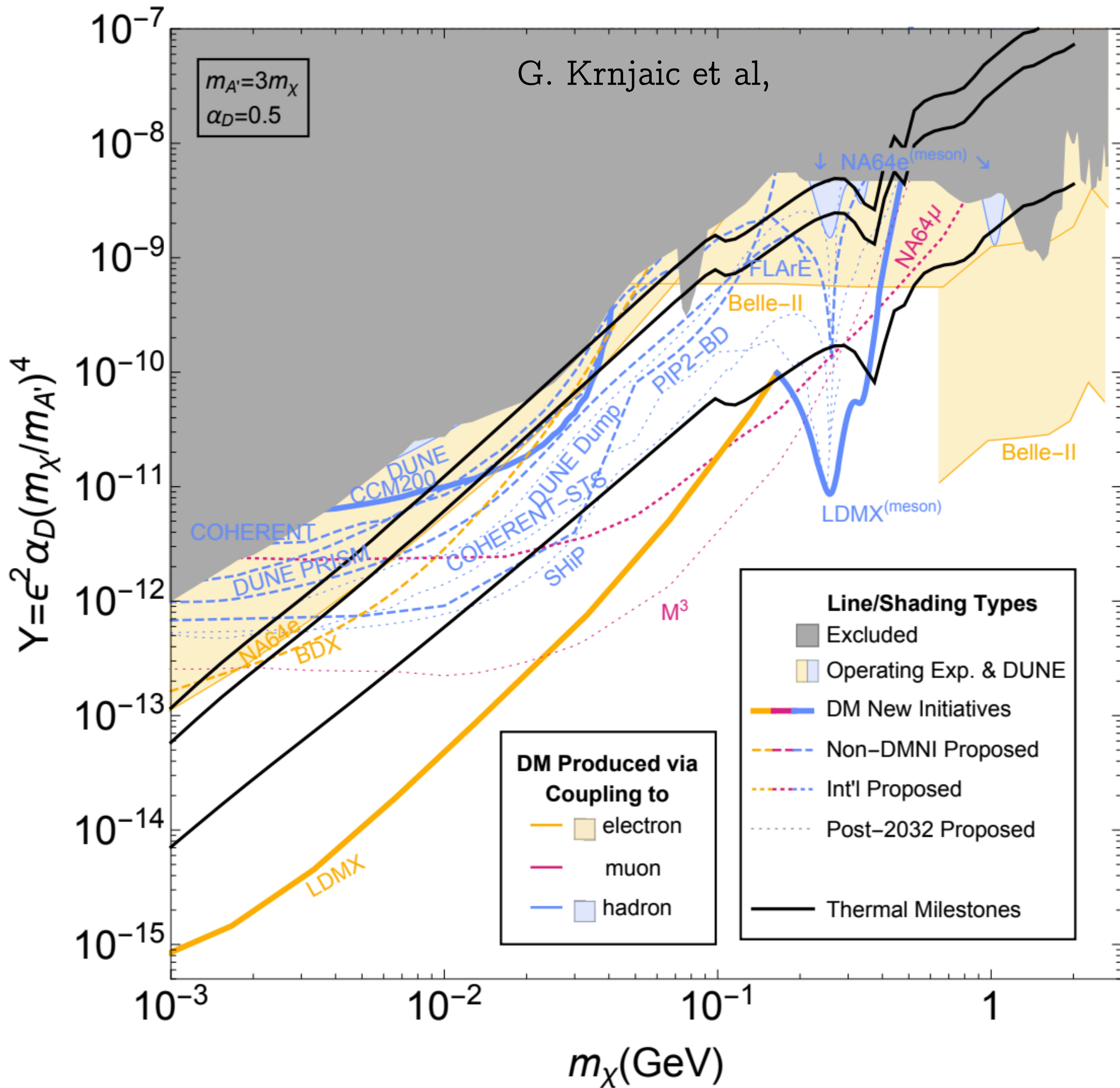
BaBar collab., PRL 119, 131804 (2017)



A single photon recoiling against an invisible massive particle. Dark photon mass reconstructed as:

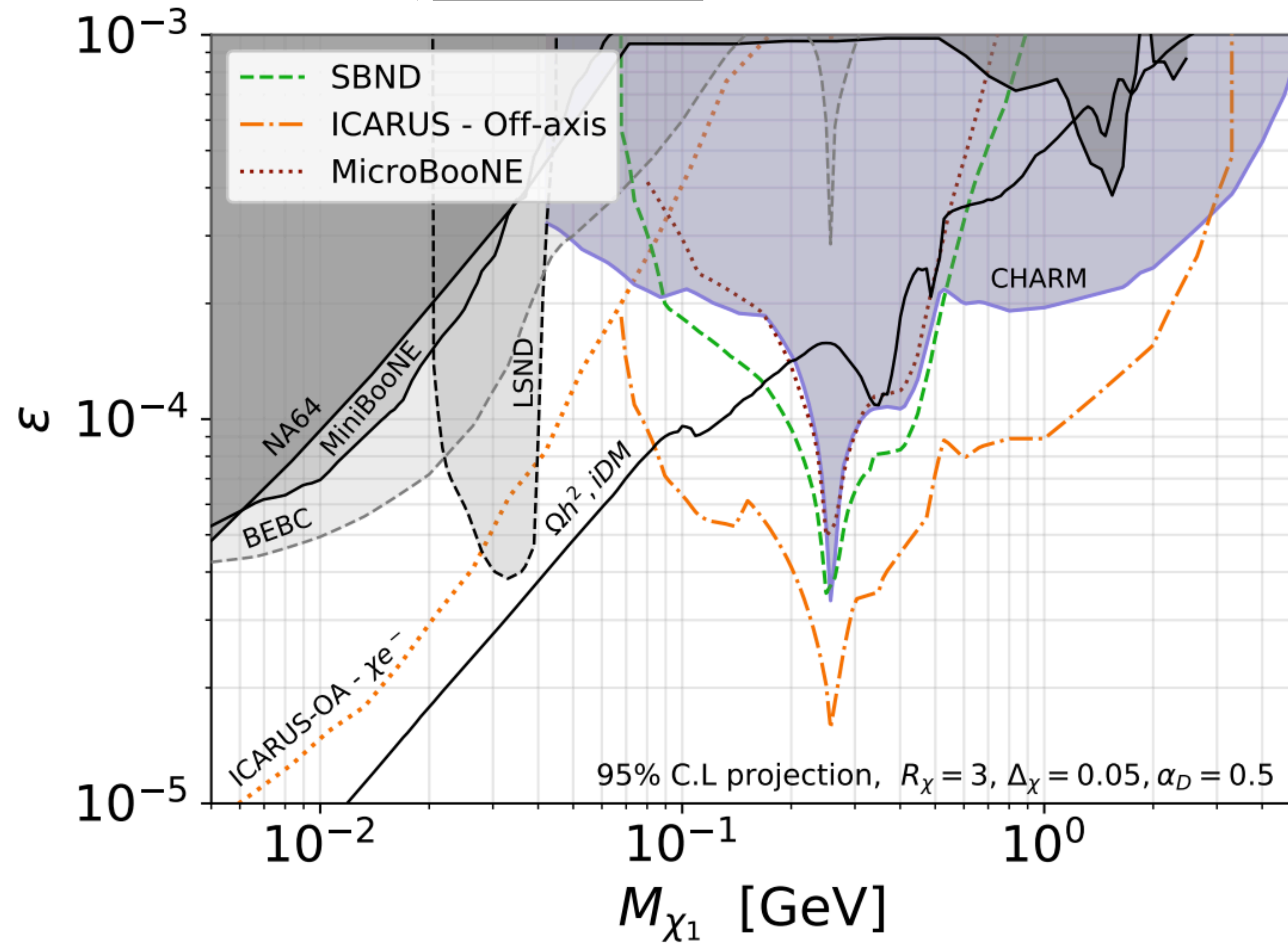
$$M_X^2 = s - 2E_\gamma^{\text{CM}} \sqrt{s}$$





iDM at the Short-Baseline program at FNAL.

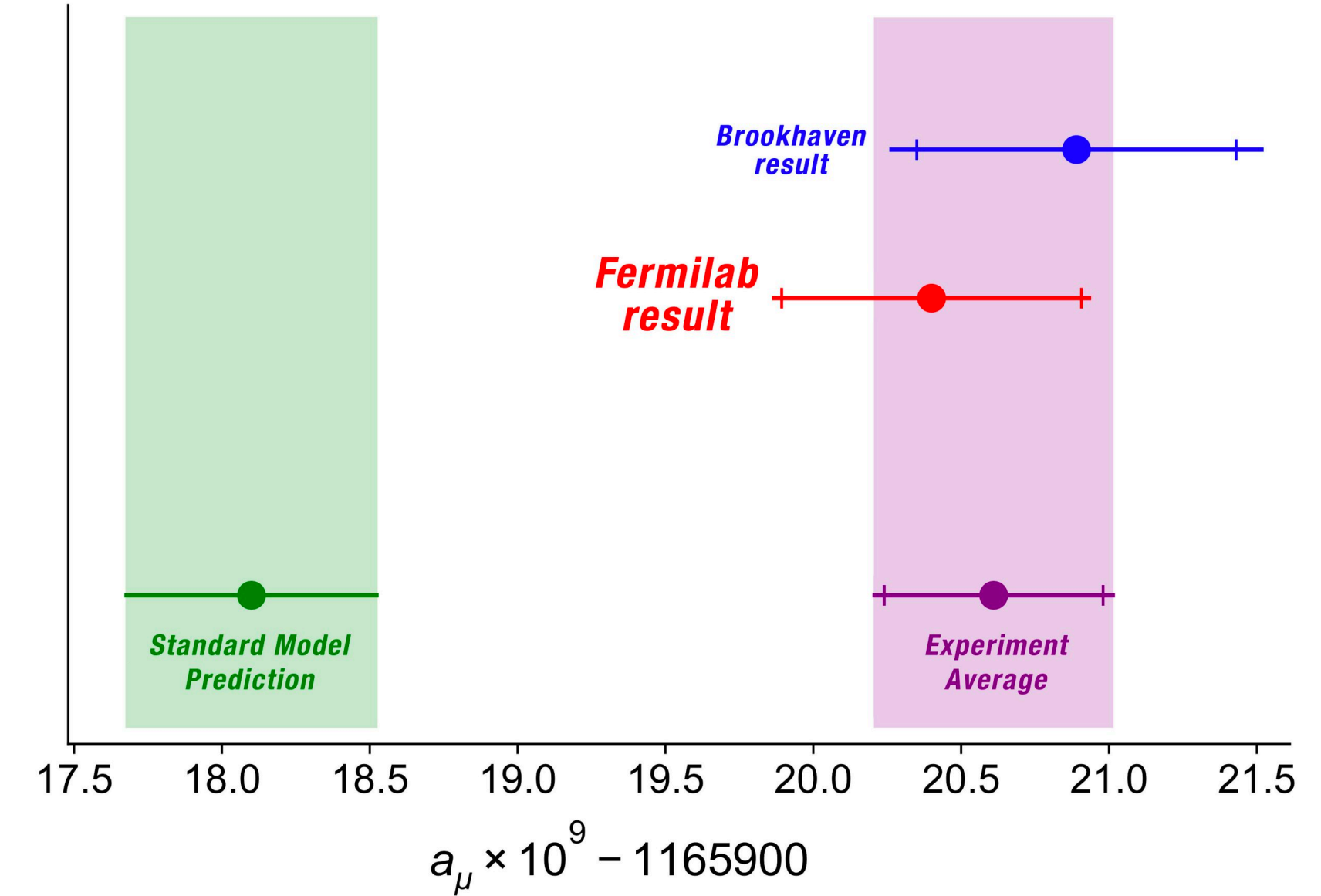
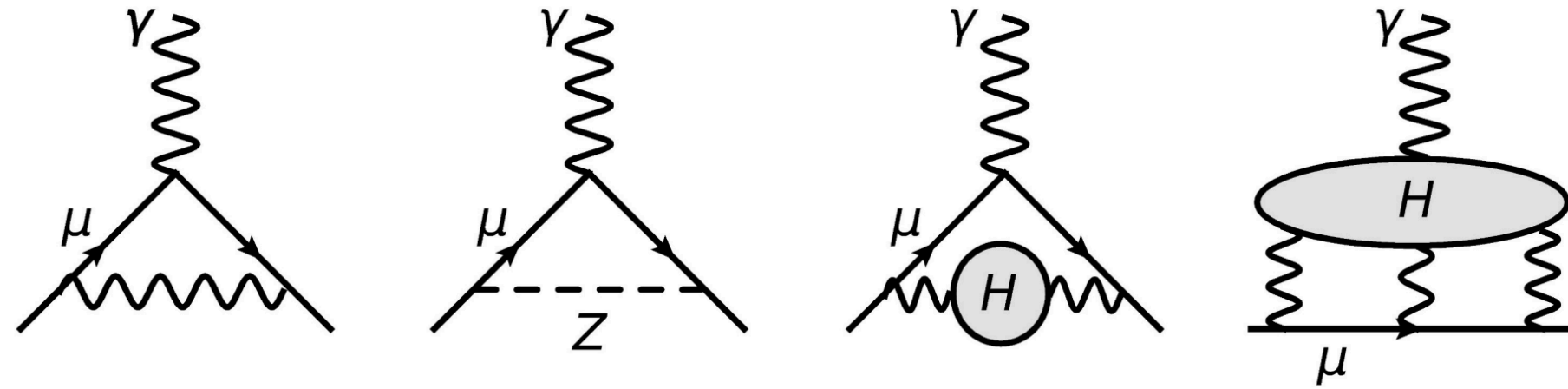
B. Batell et al, [arXiv:2106.04584](https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.04584)



Dark forces contributing to $(g-2)_\mu$

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_\mu^{\text{SM}} &= a_\mu^{\text{QED}} + a_\mu^{\text{EW}} + a_\mu^{\text{HVP, LO}} + a_\mu^{\text{HVP, NLO}} + a_\mu^{\text{HVP, NNLO}} + a_\mu^{\text{HLbL}} + a_\mu^{\text{HLbL, NLO}} \\
 &= 116\,591\,810(43) \times 10^{-11}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Phys. Rept. 887 (2020) 1-166



$$a_\mu^{\text{EXP}} = 116\,592\,061(41) \times 10^{-11}$$

Muon $(g-2)$ BNL., PRD73:072003,2006
 Muon $(g-2)$ FNAL 10.1103/PhysRevLett.126.141801

$$\Delta a_\mu = a_\mu^{\text{EXP}} - a_\mu^{\text{SM}} = 251 \times 10^{-11}$$

Combination of BNL and FNAL results stands at a 4.2σ discrepancy with theory white-paper calculations (see also, lattice results).

If theory predictions are indeed under control, then new physics must not be too far out of reach

$$\Delta a_\mu^{\text{NP}} \sim \frac{g^2}{16\pi^2} \frac{m_\mu^2}{\Lambda^2}$$

$$\frac{\Lambda}{g} \sim \text{few 100s of GeV}$$

DarkNews, a Python-based generator for dark neutrino sectors

A. Abdullahi, J. Hoefken, MH, D. Massaro, S. Pascoli, [arXiv:2207.04137](https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.04137)



DarkNews is a fast MC generator for new physics in neutrino-nucleus scattering. Including vector, scalar, and dipole mediators. Models with up to 3 HNLs.

```

DarkNews-generator - zsh - mhostert

Dark News

Model:
1 majorana heavy neutrino(s).
kinetically mixed Z'

Experiment:
MicroBooNE
fluxfile loaded: ../fluxes/MiniBooNE_FHC.dat
POT: 1.225e+21
nuclear targets: ['Ar40']
fiducial mass: [85.0] tonnes

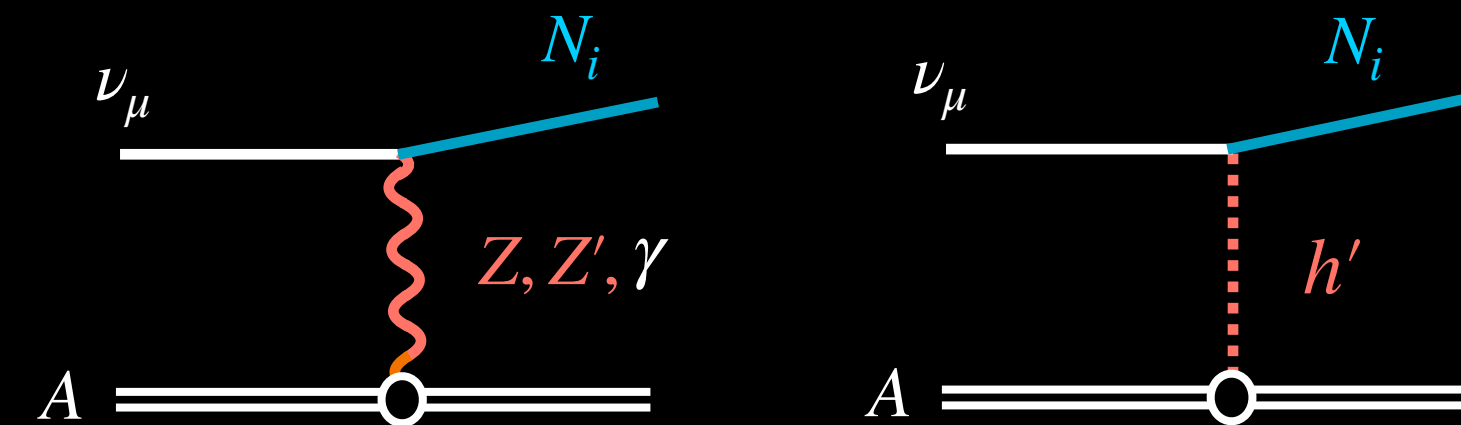
Note that the directory tree for this run already exists.

Generating Events using the neutrino-nucleus upscattering

nu(mu) Ar40 -> N4 Ar40 -> nu_light e+ e- Ar40
Helicity conserving upscattering.
N4 decays via off-shell Z'.
Predicted (790 +/- 9.5) events.
    
```

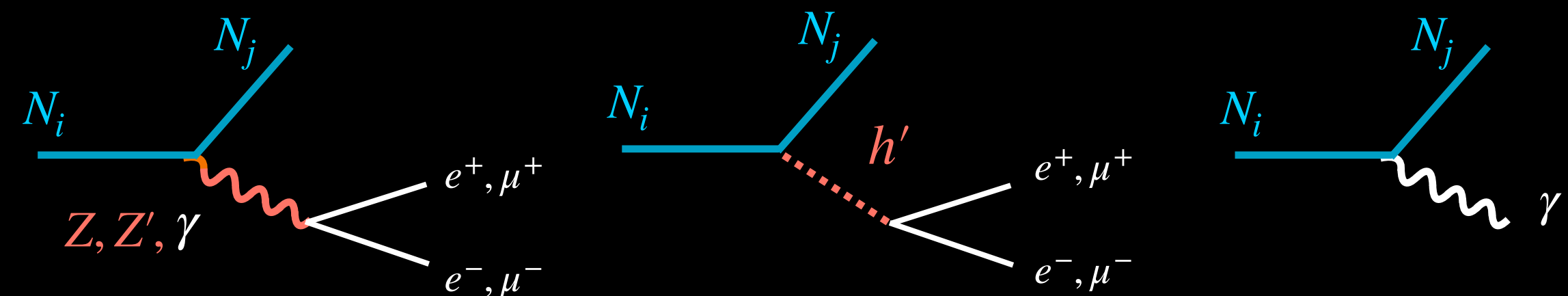
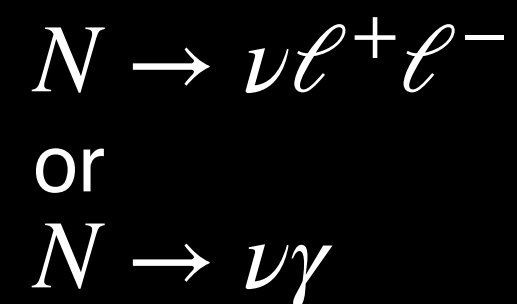
Focused on GeV accelerator experiment, including the processes:

Scattering:



Helicity conserving or flipping $\nu \rightarrow N$

HNL decay:



N may be Majorana or Dirac, with either helicity states.