

# Detector Challenges of the strong-field QED experiment LUXE at the European XFEL

Veta GHENESCU

Institute of Space Science, Atomistilor 409, P.O. Box MG-23, Bucharest-Magurele RO-077125, ROMANIA

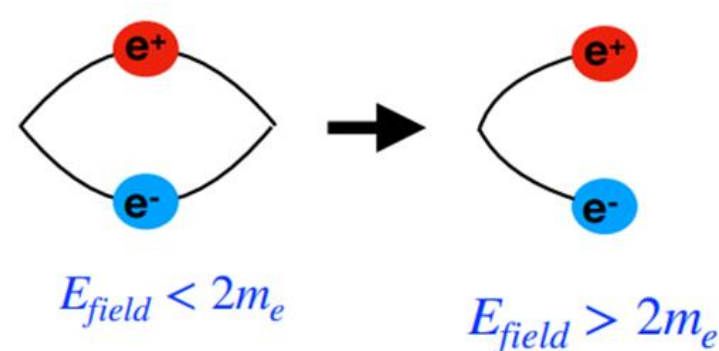
on behalf of the LUXE and FCAL Collaborations



## Introduction

- Quantum electrodynamics (QED) is the world's most precisely known (and tested) theory.
- LUXE will study non-perturbative and non-linear QED phenomena in the strong-field regime.
- Vacuum boils if field large enough to create real pairs:  
"critical fields" = work field over  $\lambda_{Compton} > 2m_e$
- More details on LUXE physics:  
LUXE CDR: [Eur.Phys.J.ST 230 \(2021\) 11, 2445-2560](#)  
LUXE website: <https://luxedeasy.de>

QED becomes non-perturbative above Schwinger-Limit!



$$E_{field} = \frac{\epsilon e}{m_e}$$

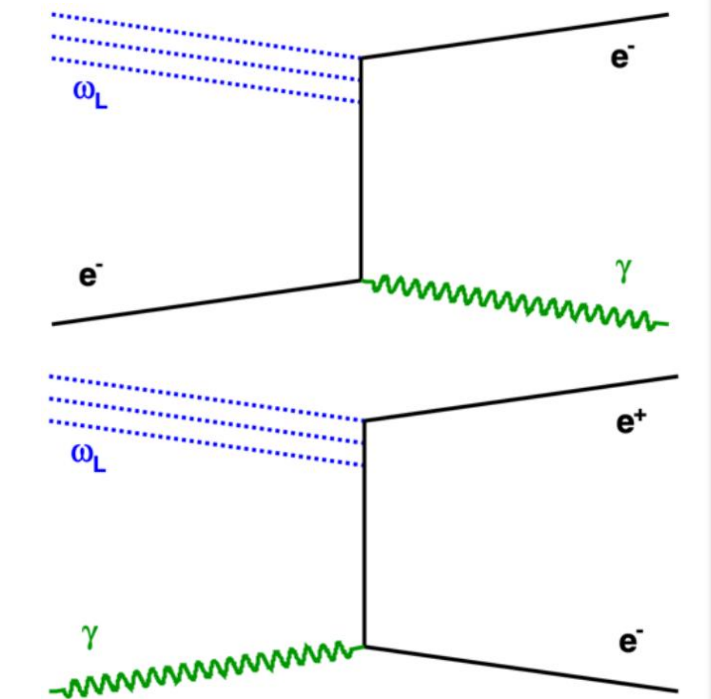
Schwinger-Limit:

$$\epsilon_{crit} = \frac{m_e^2 c^3}{\hbar e}$$

e.g. for electrical field:

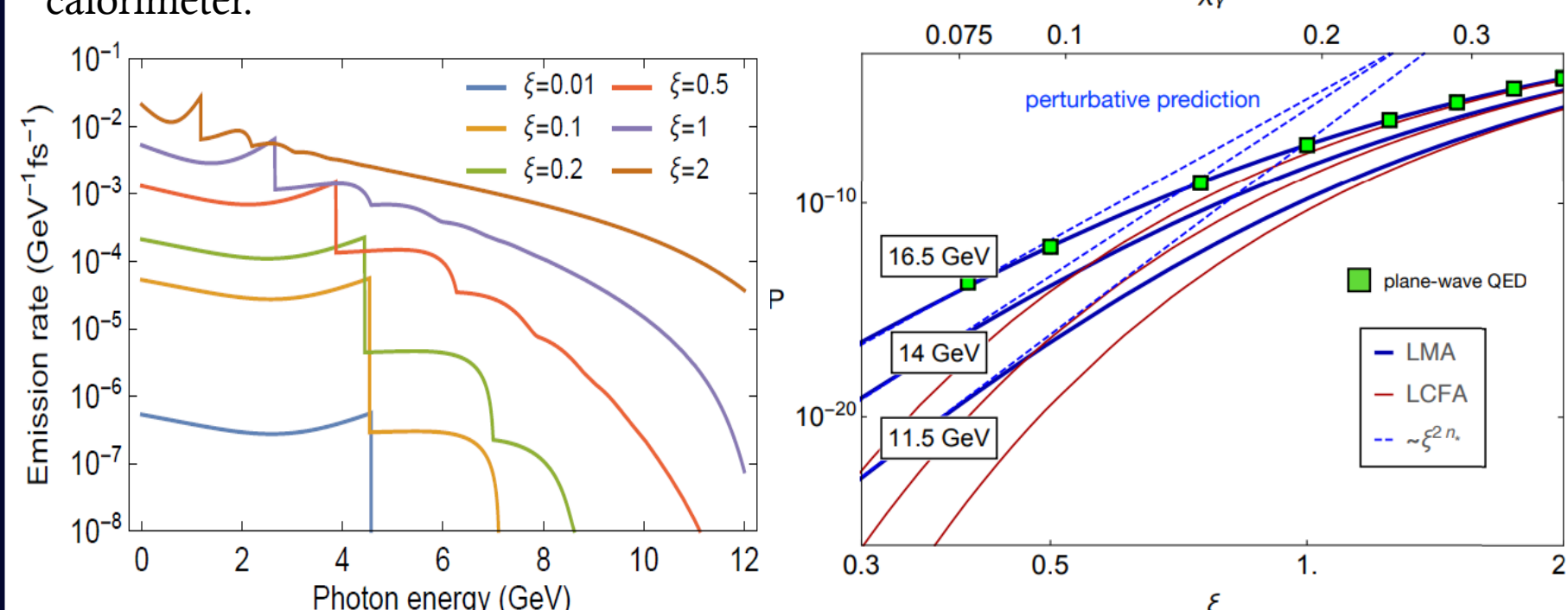
$$\epsilon_{crit} \approx 1.32 \cdot 10^{18} \text{ V/m}$$

Main processes of interest in LUXE



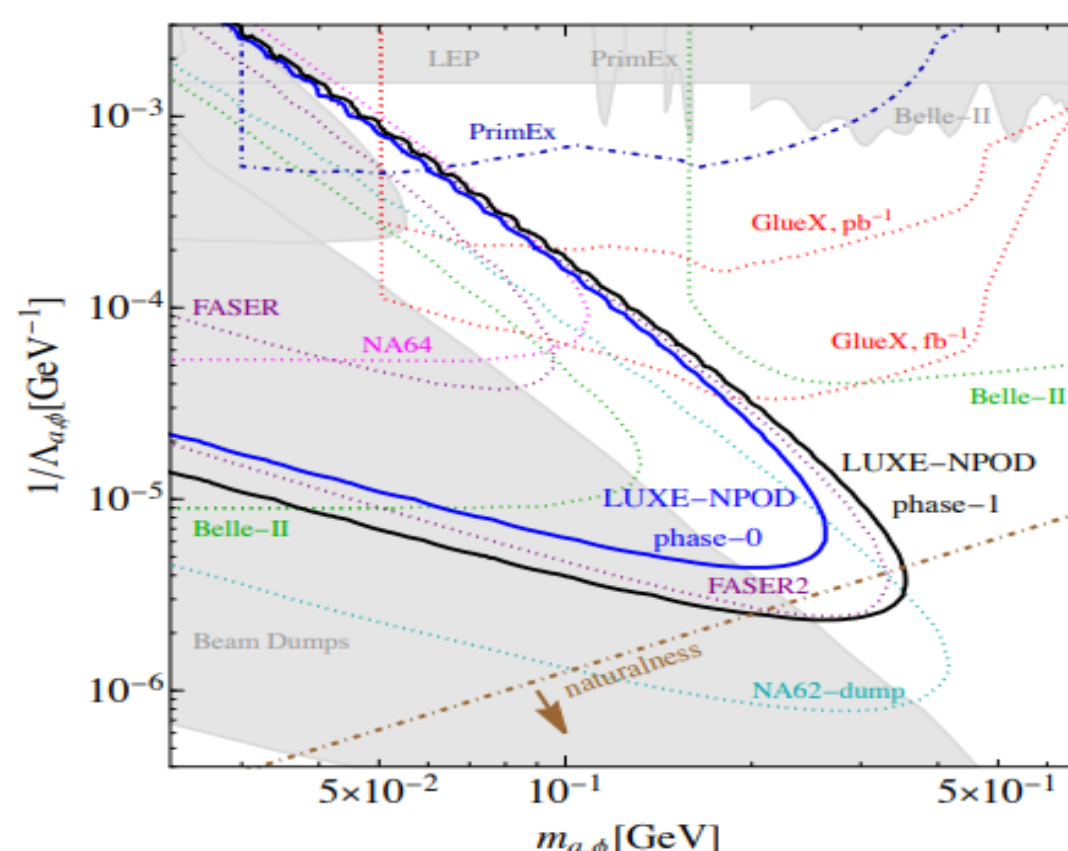
## Goals

- Non-linear Compton scattering and Breit-Wheeler pair production:**  
Reconstruct Compton edge in electron (Scintillator or Cherenkov detector) or photon spectrum (Photon spectrometer);  
Measure positron rate with combined pixel tracking detector and EM calorimeter.



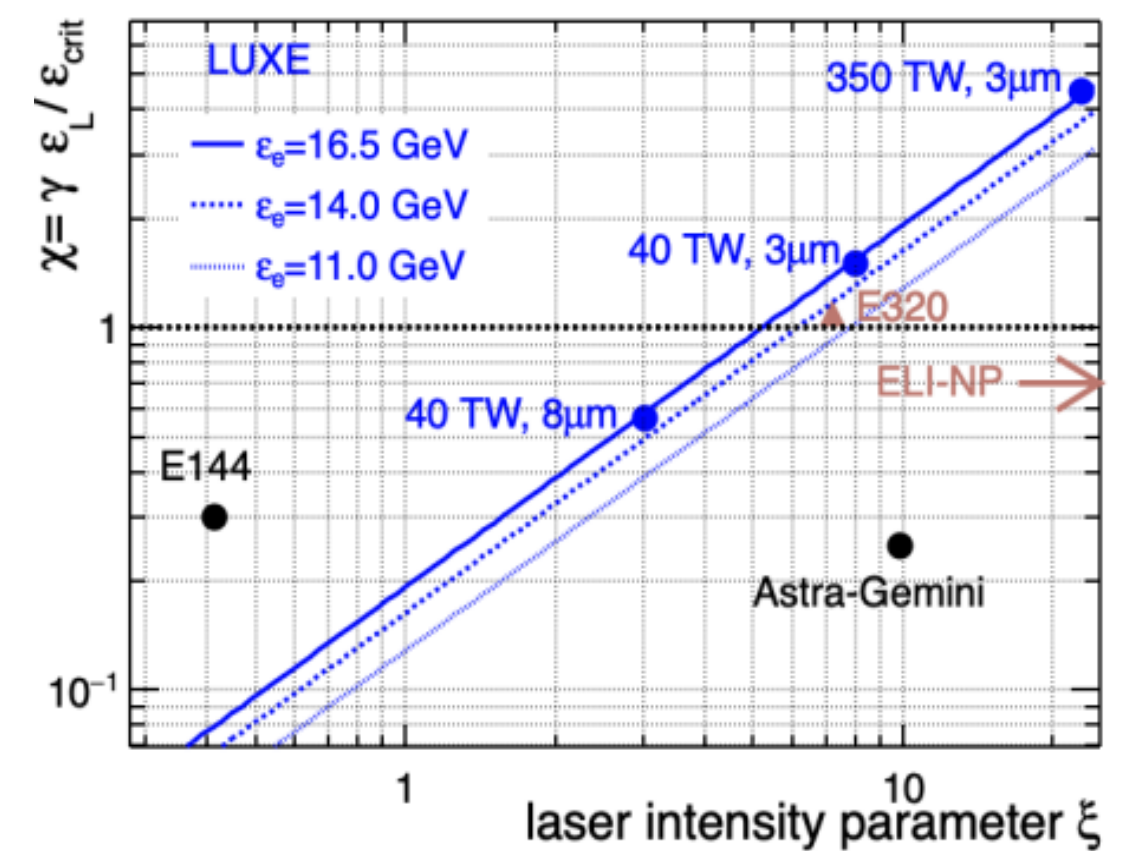
- Search for BSM physics:

The high-intensity photon beam can be used to search for (pseudo-) scalars or millicharged particles ((mCPs)) in beam-dump.



- LUXE in Strong-Field QED space parameters:

- First set-up to enter  $\xi > 1$  and  $\chi > 1$  regime!
- Directly study collisions between LASER and real GeV photons.



## Detectors

European XFEL electron beam:

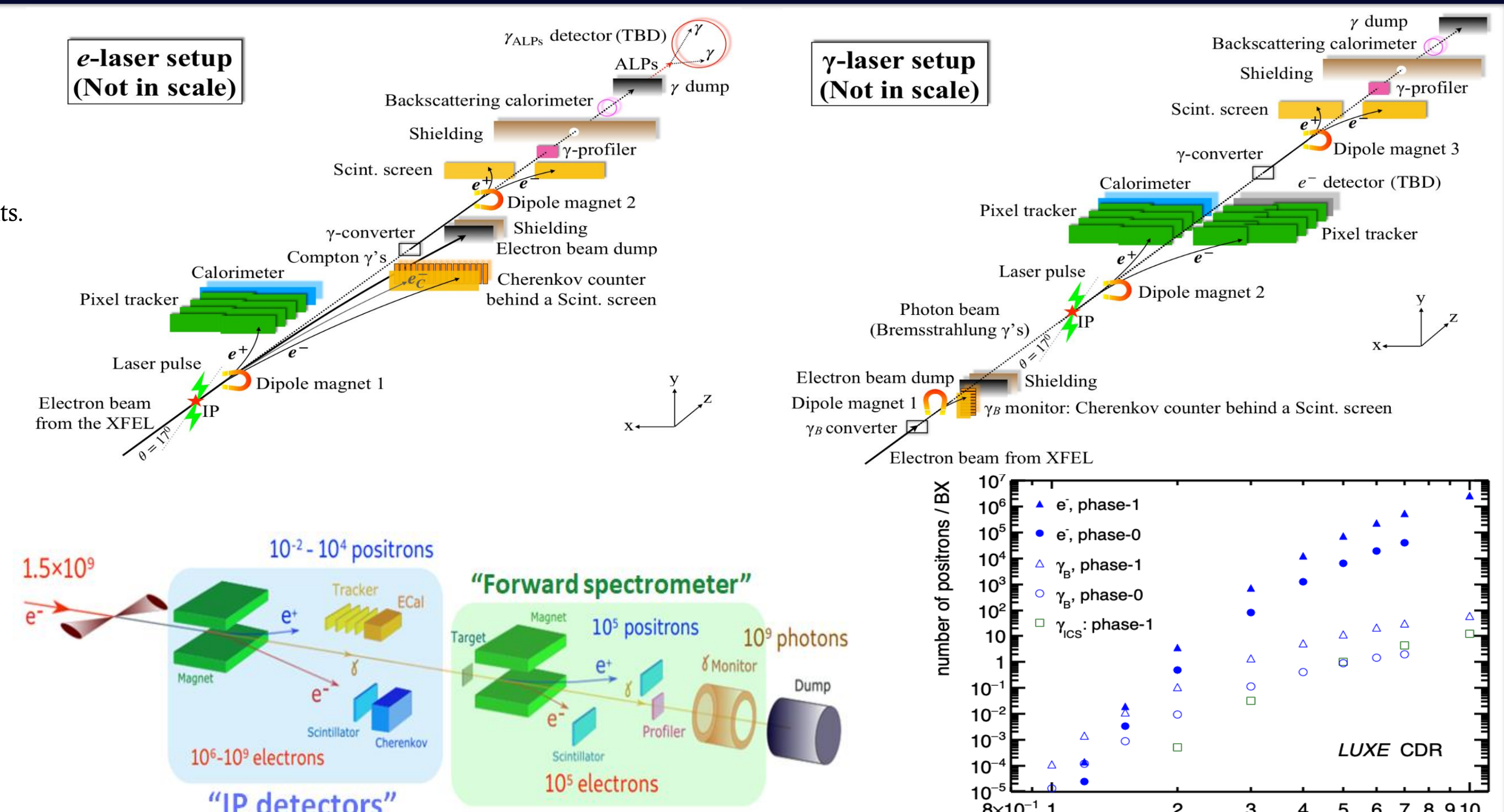
- Energy 16.5 GeV @ 10 Hz (possible 10 GeV and 14 GeV).
- LUXE uses one out of 2700 bunches per train.
- Collide 1 Hz with laser and 9 Hz for background measurements.
- Normalized emittance 1.4 mm mrad.

Laser:

- Laser wavelength = 800.00 nm (1.5498 eV).
- Repetition rate ~1 Hz.
- Power:
  - Phase 0: 40 TW, focal spot size: 3 or 8  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $\xi = 7.9$ ).
  - Phase 1: 350 TW, focal spot size: 3  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $\xi = 23.6$ ).

Use different detector technologies!!!

- Measure fluxes and energy spectra of  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$  and  $\gamma$ .
- Particles fluxes vary between  $\sim 10^{-2}$  ( $e^+$ ) and  $10^9$  ( $e^-$ ,  $\gamma$ ) per laser shot.



## FLAME - LumiCal new readout:

- FLAME is a System on Chip (SoC) solution.
- 130 nm CMOS technology.
- 32 mix-mode channels per ASIC.
- Each channel contains FE+10 bit ADC.
- Followed by high speed data link.
- Online data processing:
  - Pedestal, CM subtraction.
  - Pulse detection.
  - Deconvolution.
  - ToA and amplitude reconstruction.

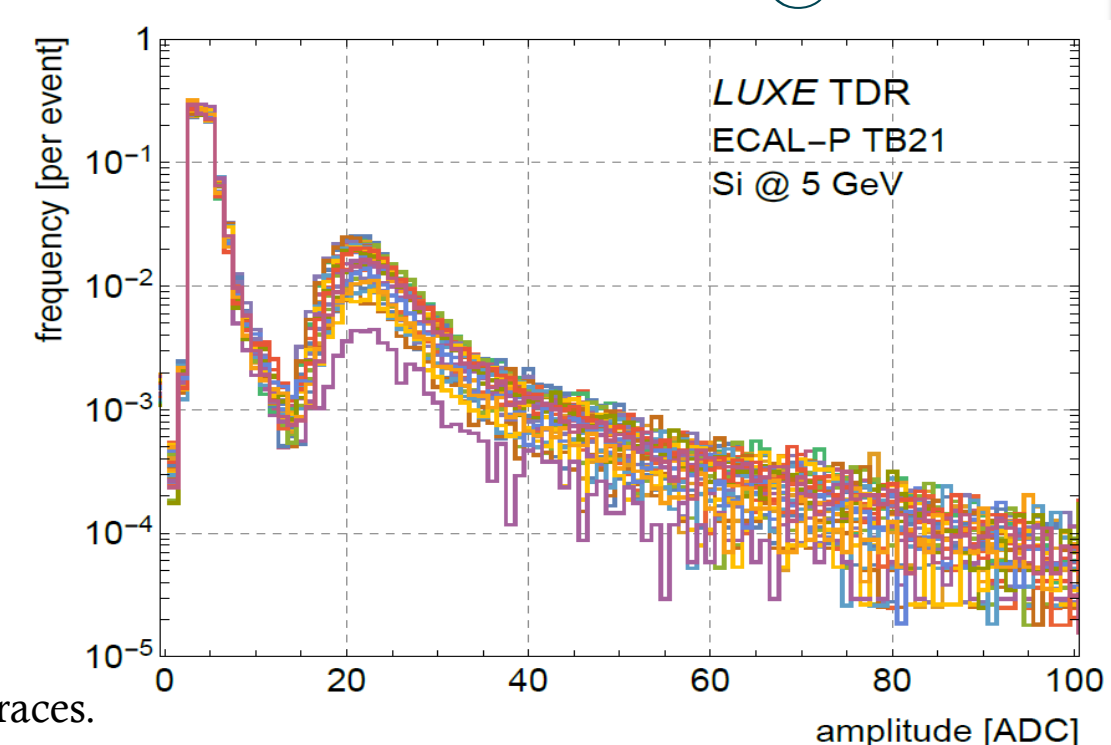
LUXE ECAL design:

- High granularity EM calorimeter.
- Sampling calorimeter with 20 W absorber plates.
- Silicon or GaAs sensors (5x5  $\text{cm}^2$  pads) installed in 1 mm gap between absorber plates.
- Small Molière radius, high spatial resolution of local energy deposits.
- The fiducial volume:  $53 \times 5.2 \times 9 \text{ cm}^3$ .

Test beam infrastructure @ DESY-II:

- Electron beam 1 - 5 GeV energy.
- 6 ALPIDE telescope planes.
- DUT (ECAL calorimeter):
  - FLAME ASIC.
  - Si (320 $\mu\text{m}$ ) sensor or GaAs (500 $\mu\text{m}$ ) sensor with traces.

## ECAL Calorimeter – 1st beamtest @ DESY



## Conclusions & Future Work

- The LUXE experiment will explore strong-field QED using European XFEL and high power laser.
- The calorimeter is designed to measure the number of positrons per bunch crossing in a wide range.
- ECAL will be a compact EM calorimeter with high granularity.
- LUXE is a new experiment designed to test a strong field QED predictions in a region never explored before in clean environments.
- Parasitically: search for BSM physics (axion-like particles (ALPs) or millicharged particles (mCPs) produced in dump).
- The experiment received a stage 0 critical approval (CD0) from the DESY management.
- Installation is foreseen in 2025, the data taking for phase-0 will be in 2025 and 2026, Upgrade to phase-1 laser at 2026.

## Acknowledgements:

This work was partially supported by the Romanian Ministry of Research, Innovation, and Digitization, grant no. 16N/2019 within the National Nucleus Program. The measurements leading to these results have been performed at the Test Beam Facility at DESY Hamburg (Germany), a member of the Helmholtz Association (HGF).