LFV τ searches at Belle II: $\tau \to 3\mu$ analysis strategy

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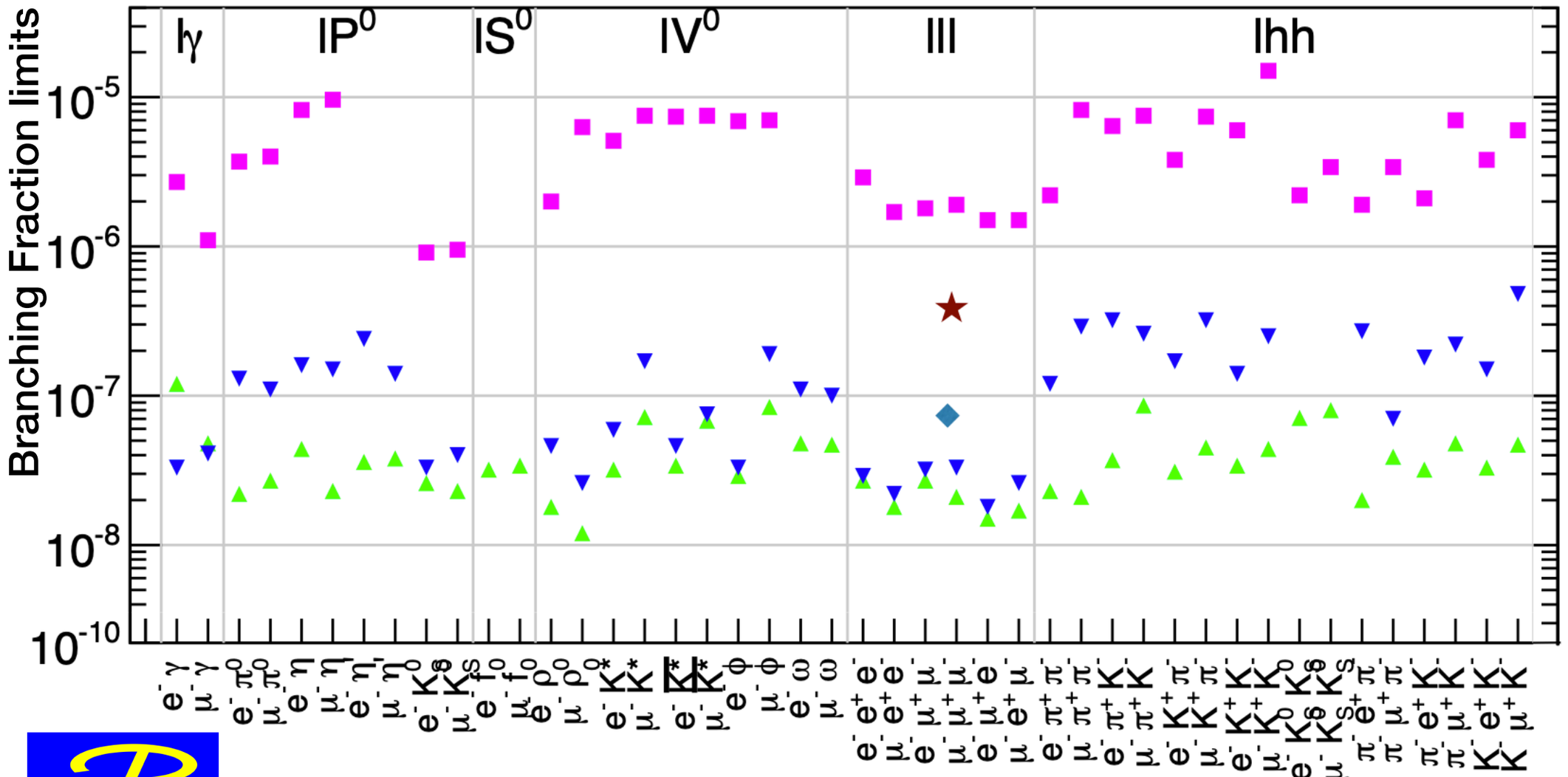
Status of the τ LFV searches

Lepton Flavor Violation (LFV) is allowed in various extensions of the Standard Model (SM) but it has never been observed

Advantages of studying τ physics at B-factories:

- τ produced in pairs
- Well defined initial state energy
- Clean environment
- High hermeticity of the detector



τ LFV golden channels

Search various decay modes:

- $\tau \to \ell\ell\ell$
- $\tau \to \ell K_s, \Lambda h$
- $\tau \to \ell V_0 (\to hh')$
- $\tau \to \ell P^0 (\to \gamma\gamma)$
- $\tau \to \ell hh'$
- $\tau \to \ell\gamma$

Simple → Hard

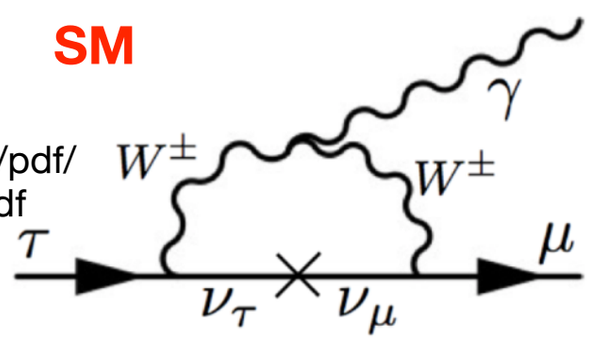
Difficulty of background reduction

Very good determination of τ mass and energy + few physical background sources

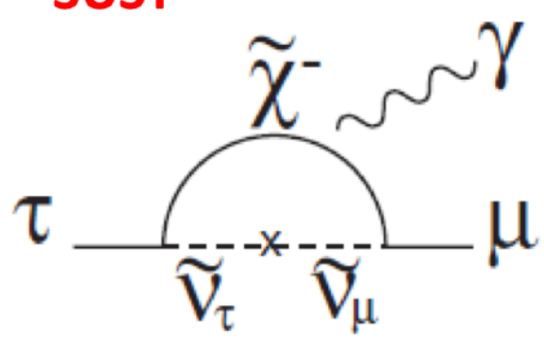
Irreducible physics backgrounds + large uncertainty in mass and energy determination

Golden channel: $\tau \to \mu\gamma$

SM



SUSY



Ref:
https://arxiv.org/pdf/1301.4652.pdf

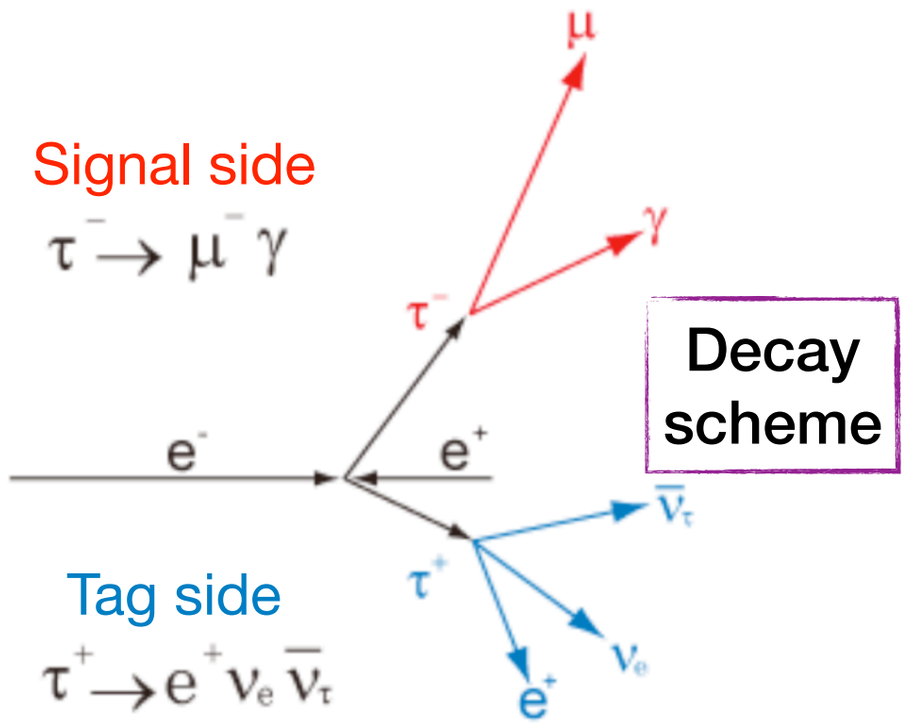
Highest not-SM BF contribution

Signal side

$\tau^- \to \mu^- \gamma$

Tag side

$\tau^+ \to e^+ \nu_e \bar{\nu}_\tau$

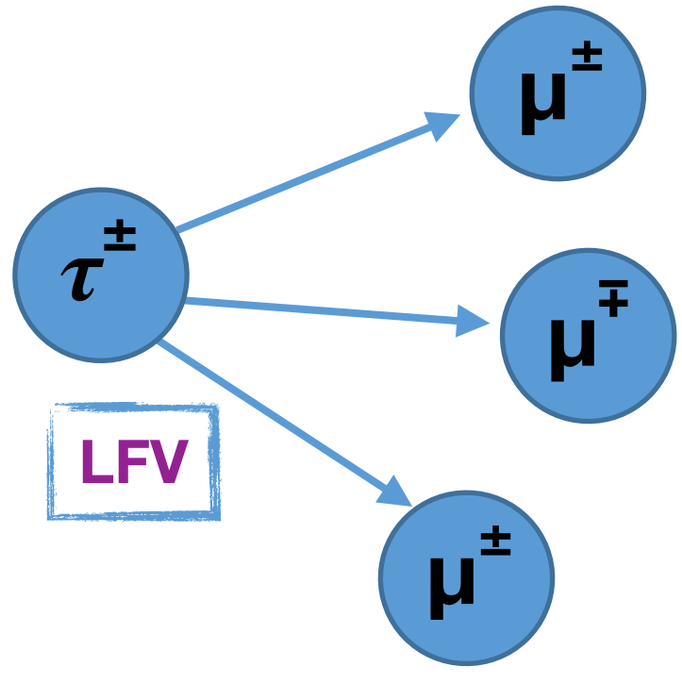


Decay scheme

Analysis motivations: $\tau \rightarrow 3\mu$

Experimental upper limits from **Belle** and **BaBar**:

- Belle: **2.1 x 10^{-8}** @90% confidence level using $\int Ldt = 782 fb^{-1}$
- BaBar: **3.3 x 10^{-8}** @90% confidence level using $\int Ldt = 468 fb^{-1}$



Extrapolating Belle results to full ***Bellell luminosity*** **~10^{-10} range is accessible** (see G. De Pietro talk on the Belle II experiment)

Physics models	$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma)$	$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu)$
SM + ν mixing	$10^{-49} \sim 10^{-52}$	$10^{-53} \sim 10^{-56}$ [1]
SM+heavy Majorana ν_R	10^{-9}	10^{-10}
Non-universal Z'	10^{-9}	10^{-8}
SUSY SO(10)	10^{-8}	10^{-10}
mSUGRA + seesaw	10^{-7}	10^{-9}
SUSY Higgs	10^{-10}	10^{-7}

BF limits on τ LFV decays allow to discriminate NP models!

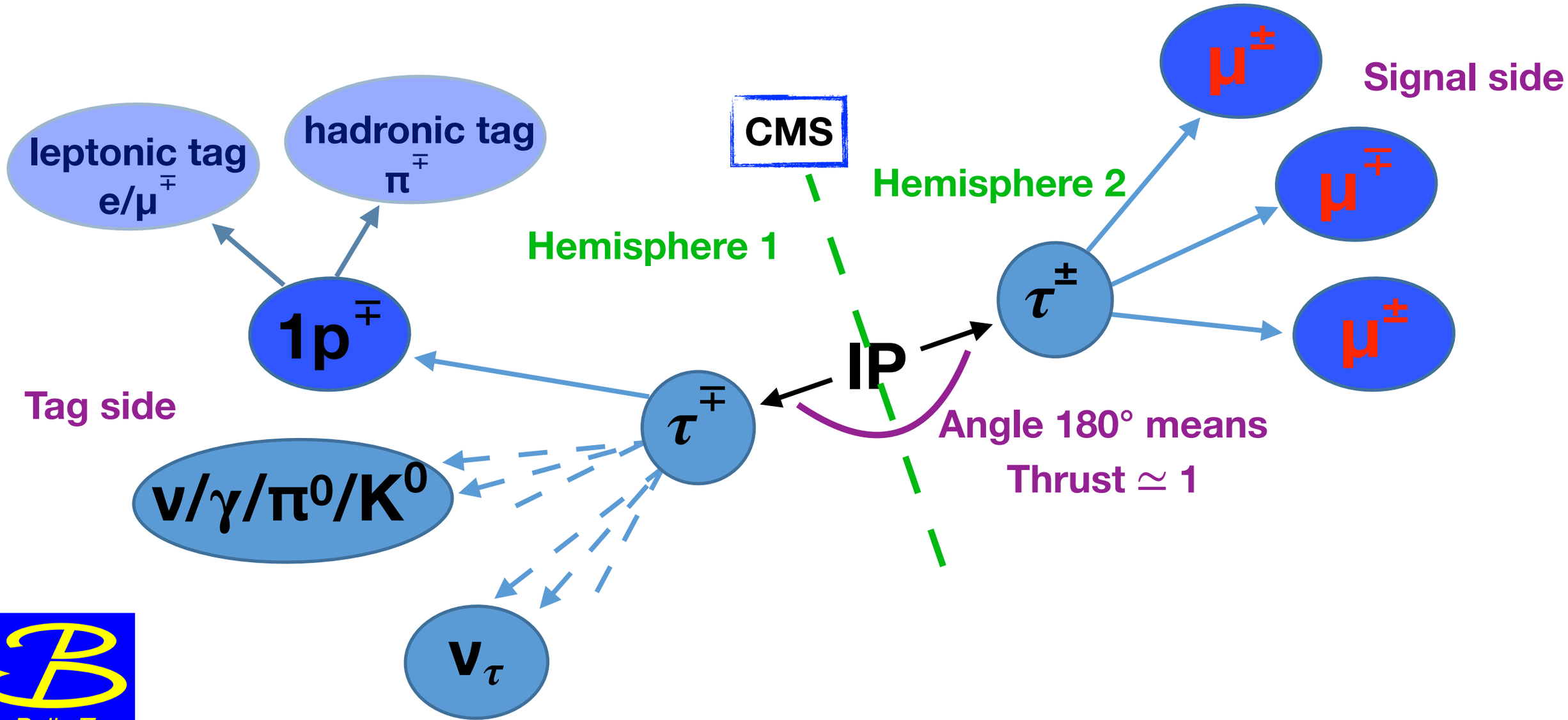
Ref.
[1]: M. Blanke, et al., Charged Lepton Flavour Violation and (g – 2)μ in the Littlest Higgs Model with T-Parity: a clear Distinction from Supersymmetry, JHEP 0705, 013 (2007).

An observation of LFV in τ decays would be a clear signature of NP

Signal preselection

Requirement adopted to reconstruct the decay:

- **thrust**: discriminate between spherical and boosted events;
- the two τ point to opposite **hemispheres**;
- Exactly **4 tracks** coming nearby the IP;
- **Signal** tracks loosely identified as **muons**
- **1prong track nature divides the study into leptonic and hadronic tag cases**



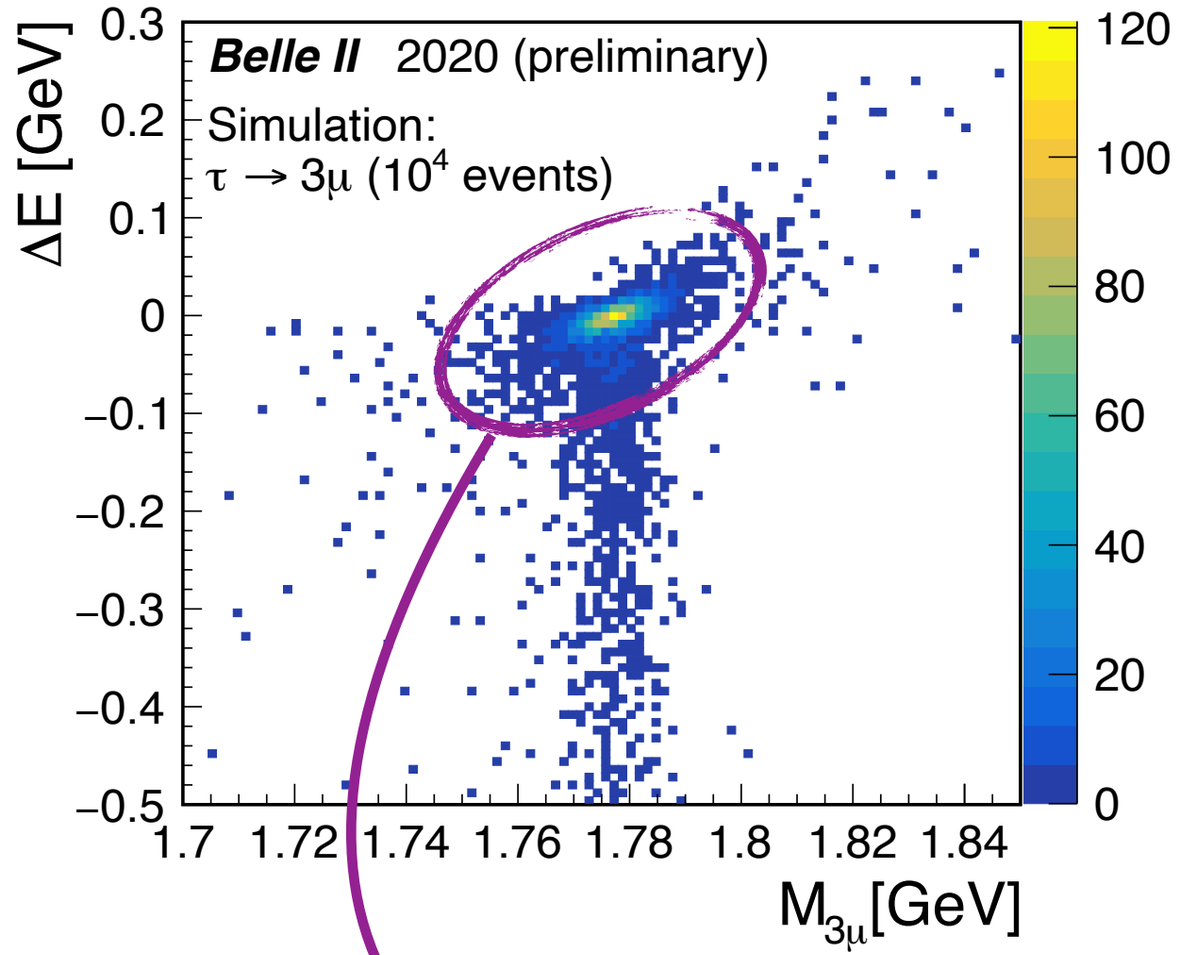
Signal determination: signal region

Signal identification in LFV τ analysis is usually done using a τ mass and ΔE selection

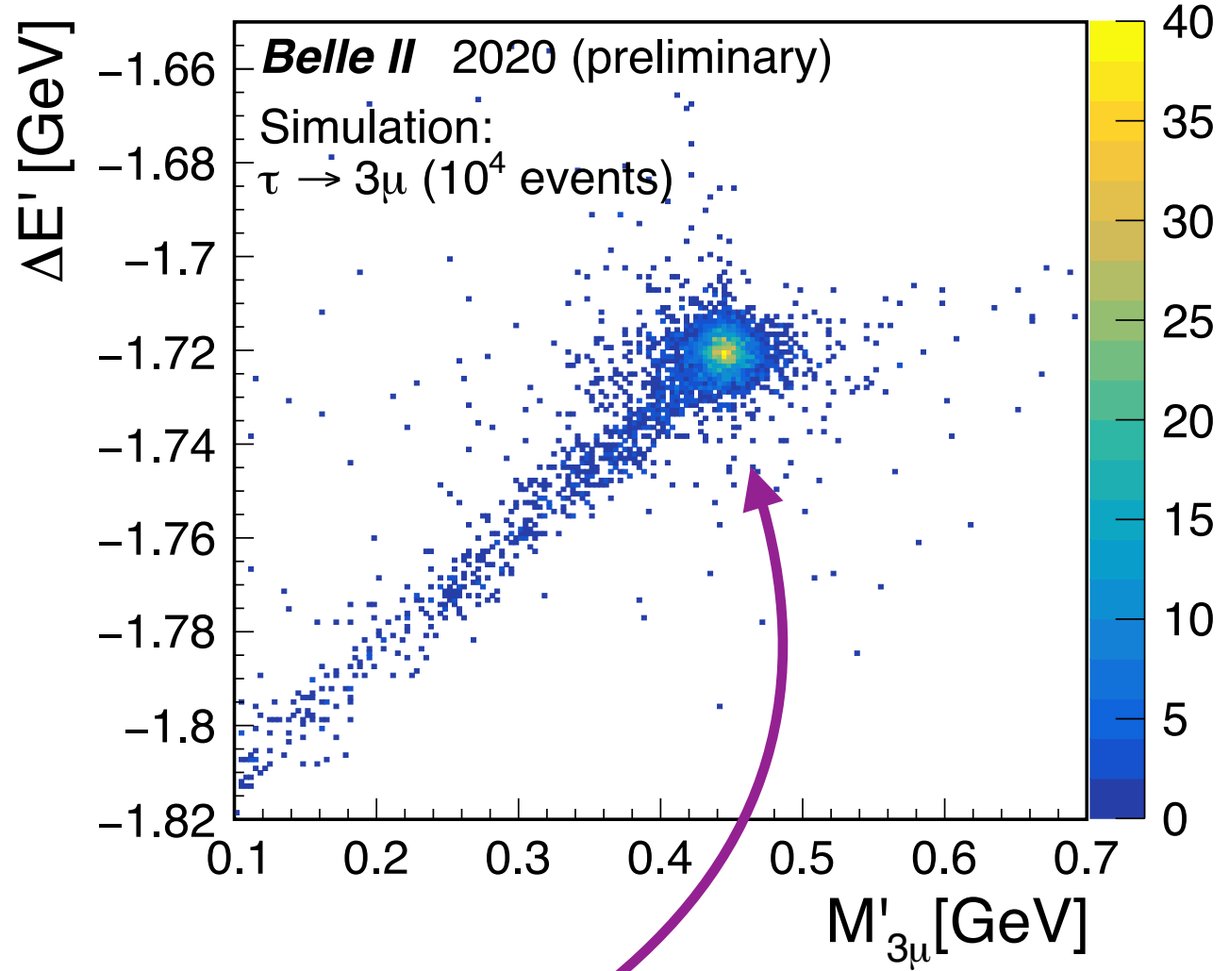
$$\Delta E \equiv E_\tau - E_{beam}$$

$E_\tau \rightarrow E_{3\mu}$, $E_{beam} \rightarrow \sqrt{s}/2$

ΔE VS M of signal τ



ΔE' VS M' of signal τ



$$\begin{pmatrix} M'_{3\mu} \\ \Delta E' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} cos\theta & sin\theta \\ -sin\theta & cos\theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} M_{3\mu} \\ \Delta E \end{pmatrix}$$

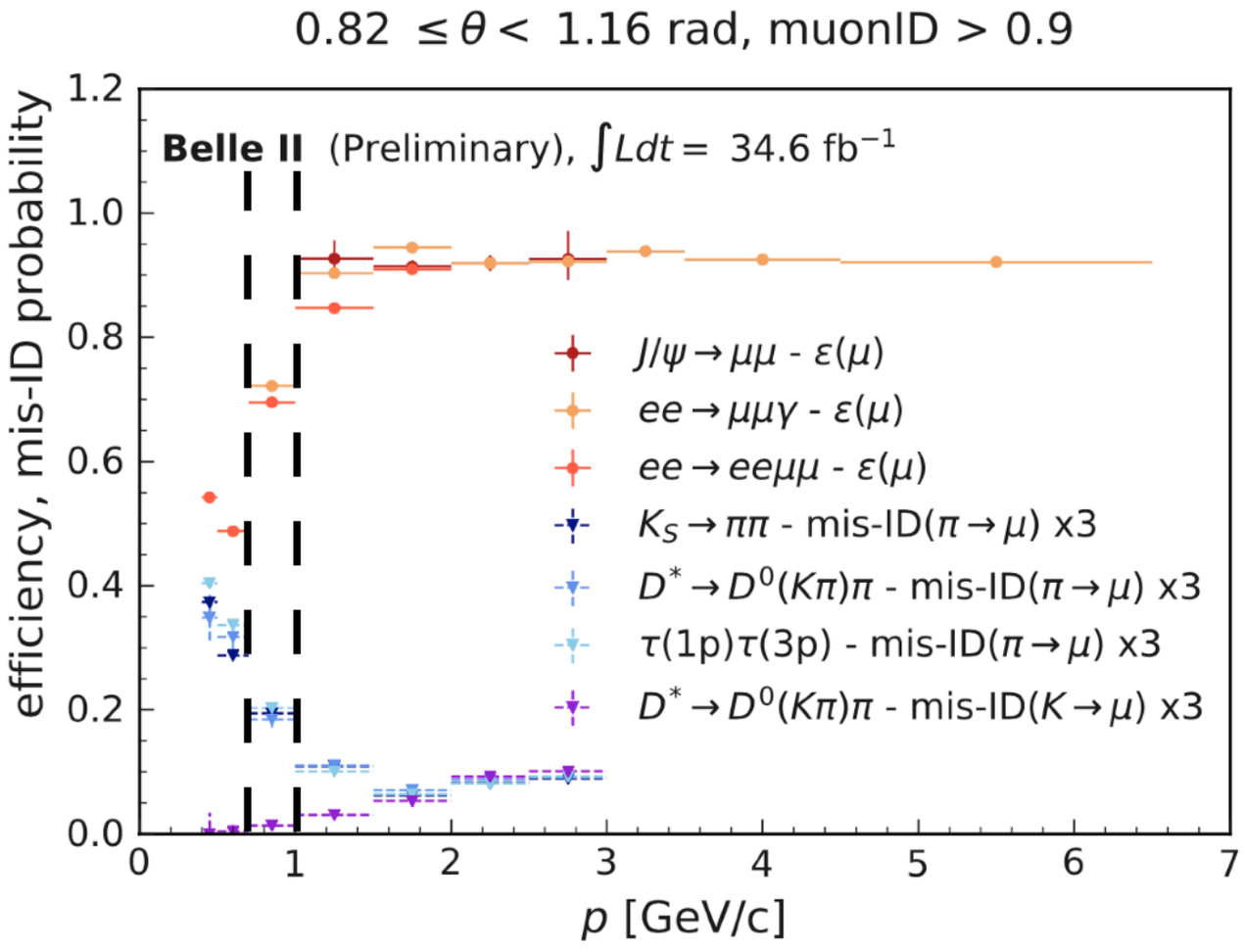
axis rotation of $\theta \simeq 75°$ to reduce variable correlation→improve selection performances

Background rejection: signal side

The most **powerful discriminating variable** between signal and background is the **muonID** →cut-based selection optimised in bins of muon momentum (**new wrt BaBar and Belle**)

Momentum ranges:

- **p_μ<0.7 GeV**: μ do not reach the μ detector (KLM)
- **0.7<p_μ<1 GeV**: μ reach KLM but not many layers are crossed
- **p_μ>1 GeV**: μ reach KLM and many layers are crossed

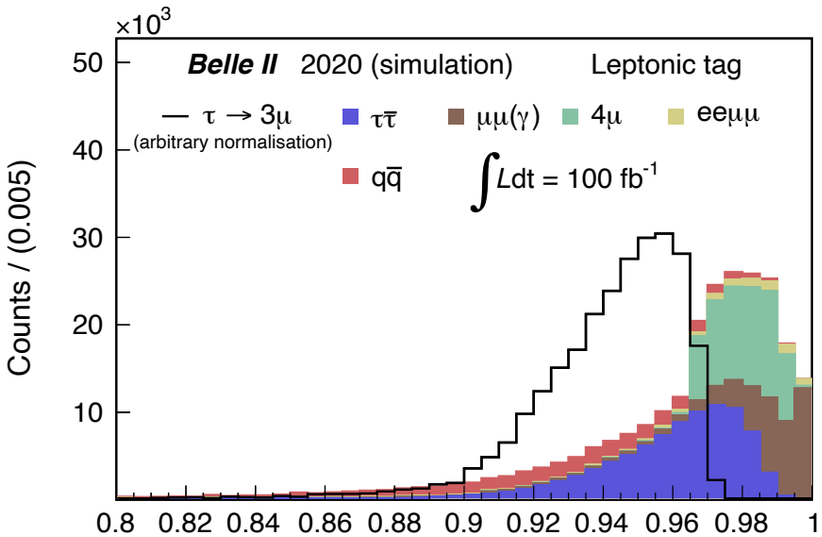


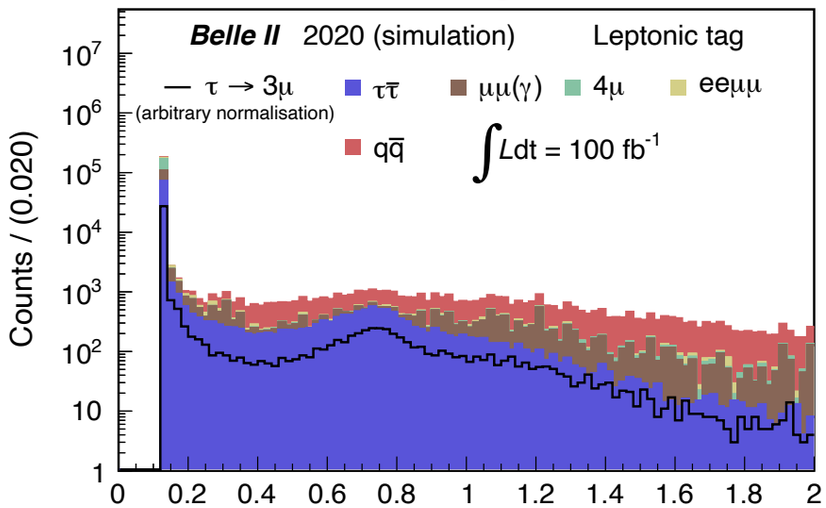
Ref: https://docs.belle2.org/record/2062/files/BELLE2-NOTE-PL-2020-027.pdf

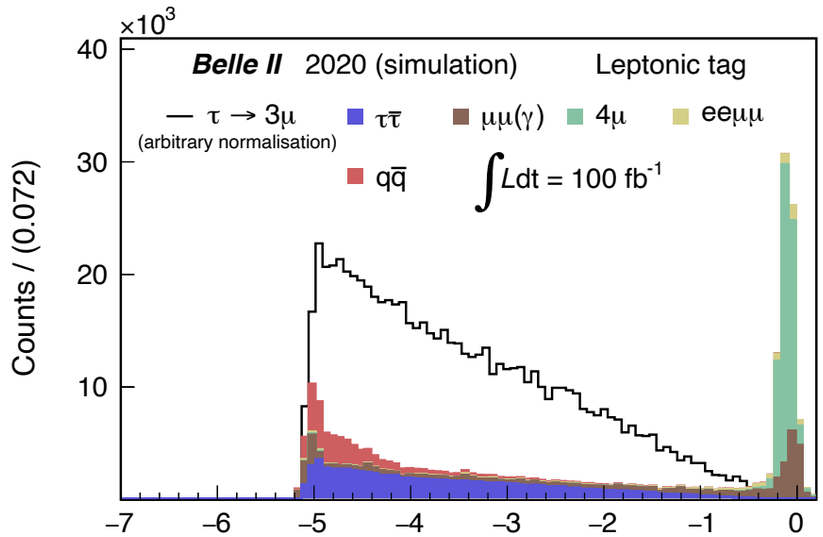
Background rejection: tag side

Several cuts on event and tag side variables to further reduce background contributions

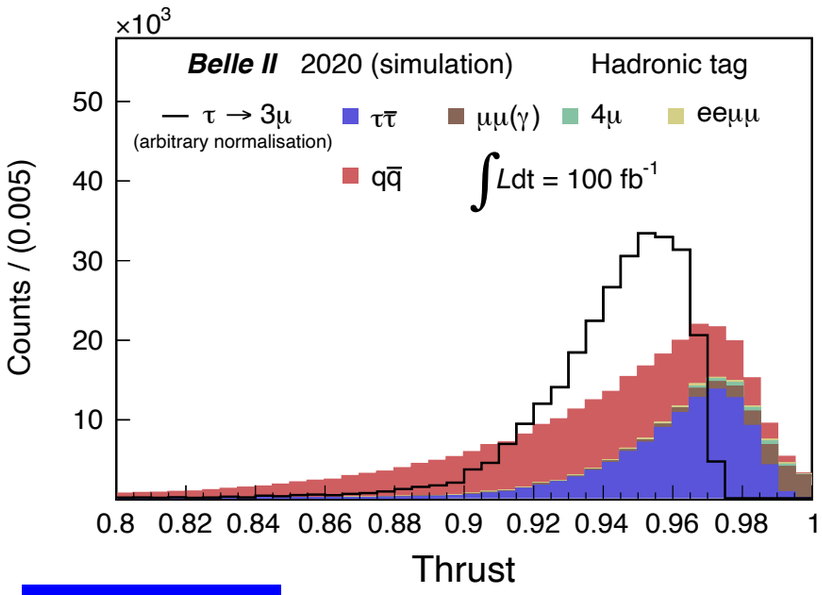
Leptonic tag case

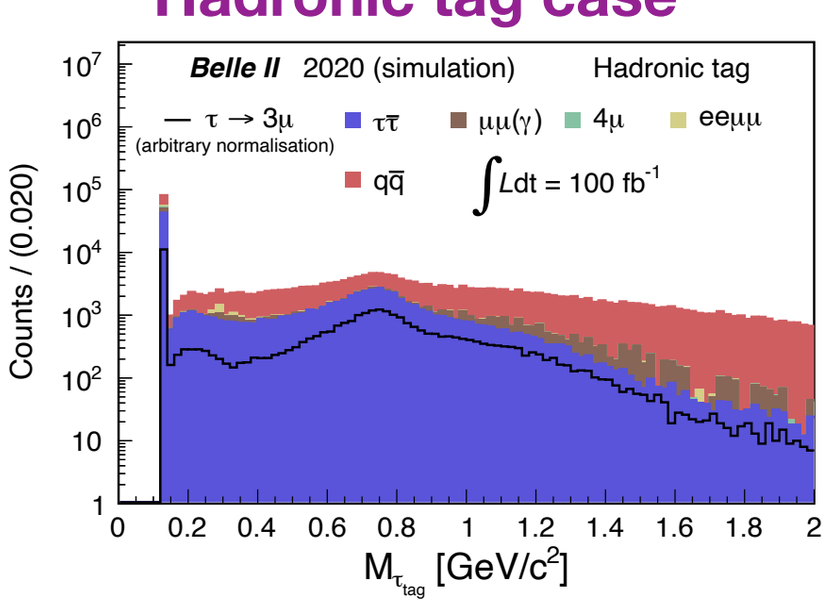


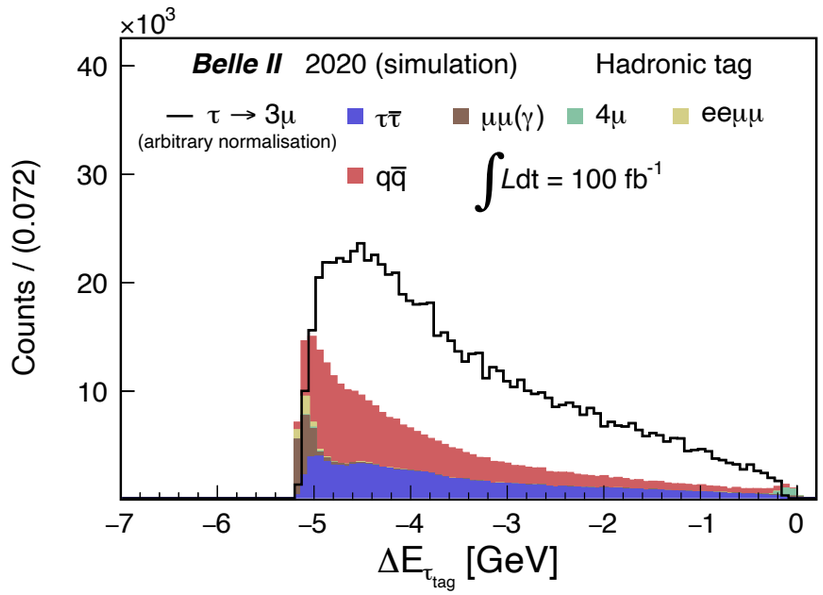




Hadronic tag case

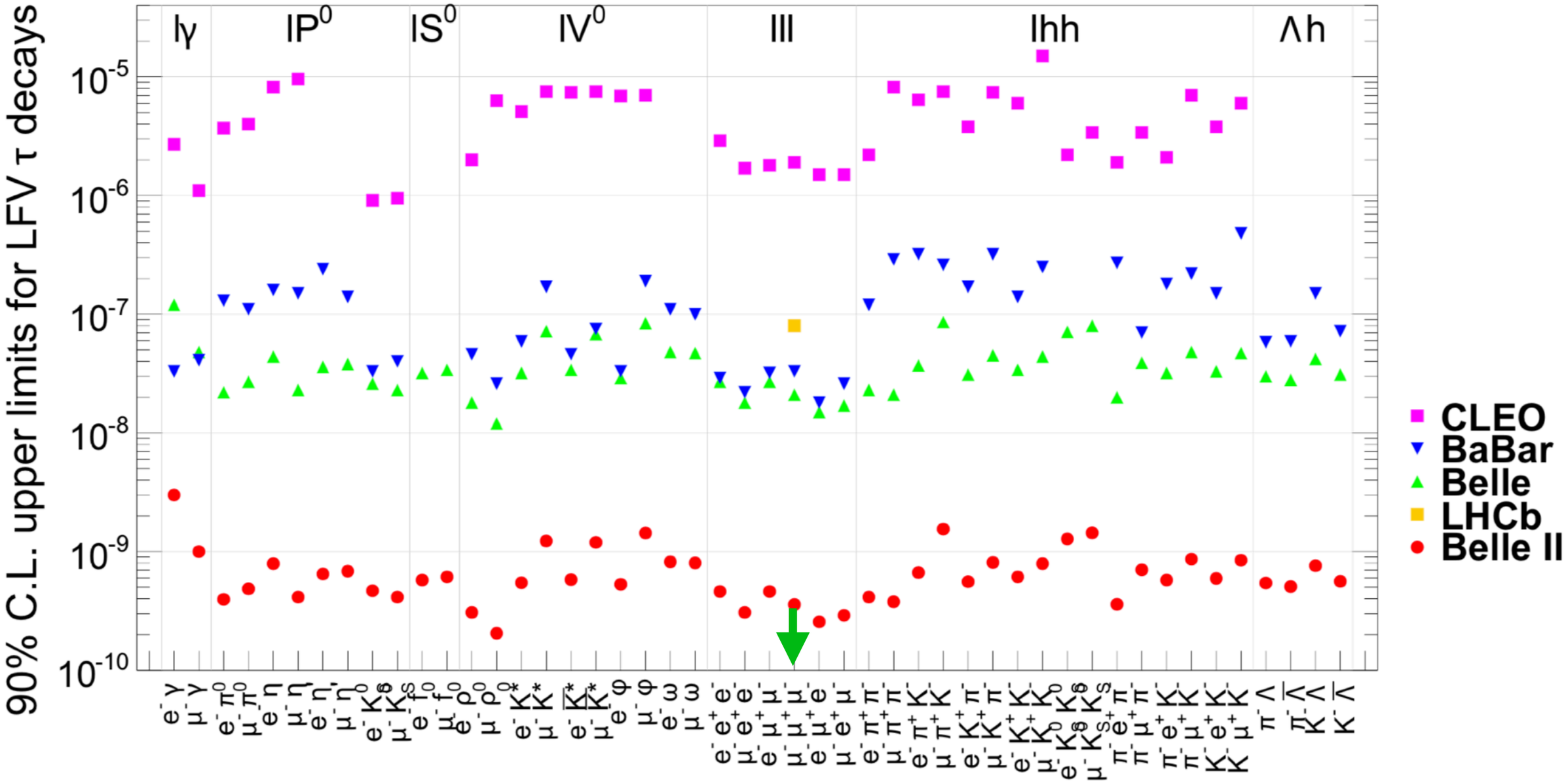






Distribution of variables at an early stage of the selection

Expected limits results



Belle II is expected to improve the results of previous B-factory by a factor ~100 with statistics only but…

With a better analysis strategy the results can be even better… and they are coming soon!

Conclusions

- **The Belle II experiment will be able to search for many LFV τ decays** within the next years **thanks to advantages** provided by the B-factory

- Several NP contributions are accessible by Belle II → the aim is to further **improve existing limits and search for NP hints**

- **τ → 3μ channel is very promising**
  - New optimised analysis is being performed @ Belle II
  - Improved μID algorithm is expected to improve previous results

- **Final results are on the way → let's wait for more data to come!**