

New approach to DM searches with mono-photon signature

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A detailed visualization of a particle detector, likely a liquid noble gas detector. It features a central horizontal tube with several segmented sections. From this tube, numerous thin, glowing lines (representing particle tracks) radiate outwards in various directions. Some tracks form loops or spirals. The background is dark with a grid-like pattern and some faint, larger-scale structures, suggesting a complex experimental setup. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greys, and bright white/yellow highlights from the particle tracks.

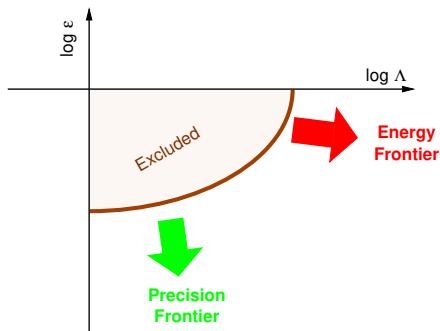
Introduction

Dark Matter

Many hints for existence of Dark Matter (DM), but its nature is unknown.

Many possible scenarios, wide range of masses and couplings to consider.

No direct evidence within the LHC energy reach

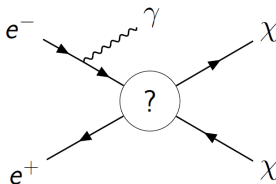


⇒ two options:

- new physics mass scales are even larger
⇒ energy frontier
- new particles are light, but their couplings to SM are very small
⇒ precision frontier

Mono-photon signature

The mono-photon signature is considered to be the most general way to look for **DM particle production** in future e^+e^- colliders.



DM can be pair produced in the e^+e^- collisions via exchange of a new **mediator particle**, which couples to both electrons (SM) and DM states

This process can be detected, if **additional hard photon radiation** from the initial state is observed in the detector...

Outline

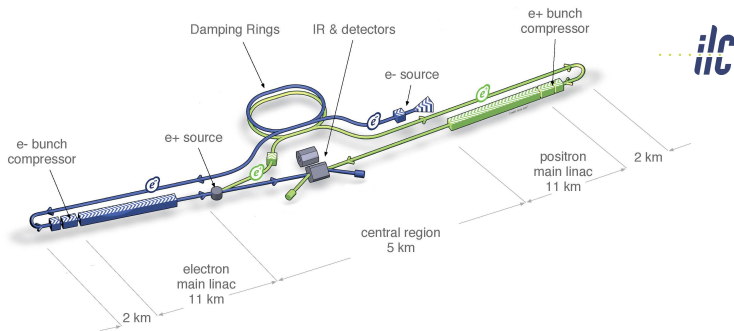
- 1 Introduction
- 2 Colliders
- 3 Simulating mono-photon events
- 4 Analysis approach
- 5 Results
- 6 Conclusions

For details: J. Kalinowski et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 80 (2020) 634, [arXiv:2004.14486](#)
J. Kalinowski et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 81 (2021) 955, [arXiv:2107.11194](#)

A detailed visualization of a particle collider, likely the LHC. It shows a long, horizontal tunnel with a series of superconducting magnets. Two beams of particles, represented by glowing yellow and blue dots, are accelerated towards each other. At the point of collision, a bright flash of light is visible, with numerous tracks of particles radiating outwards. The background is dark and filled with complex, glowing patterns of light and particles, suggesting a high-energy environment.

Colliders

International Linear Collider



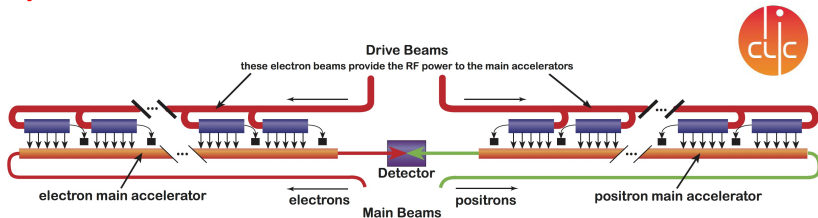
ILC Scheme | © www.forts-cw.de

Technical Design (TDR) completed in 2013

[arXiv:1306.6328](https://arxiv.org/abs/1306.6328)

- superconducting accelerating cavities
- 250 – 500 GeV c.m.s. energy (baseline), 1 TeV upgrade possible
- footprint of 31 km
- polarisation for both e^- and e^+ (80%/30%)

Compact Linear Collider



Conceptual Design (CDR) presented in 2012

CERN-2012-007

- high gradient, two-beam acceleration scheme
- staged implementation plan with energy from 380 GeV to 3 TeV
- footprint of 11 to 50 km
- e^- polarisation (80%)

For details refer to [arXiv:1812.07987](https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.07987)

Running scenarios

Staged construction assumed for both ILC and CLIC.

ILC

Total of 4000 fb^{-1} assumed at 500 GeV (H-20 scenario)

- $2 \times 1600 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ for LR and RL beam polarisation combinations
- $2 \times 400 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ for RR and LL beam polarisation combinations

assuming polarisation of $\pm 80\%$ for electrons and $\pm 30\%$ for positrons

[arXiv:1903.01629](https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.01629)

CLIC

Total of 5000 fb^{-1} assumed at 3 TeV

- 4000 fb^{-1} for negative electron beam polarisation
- 1000 fb^{-1} for positive electron beam polarisation

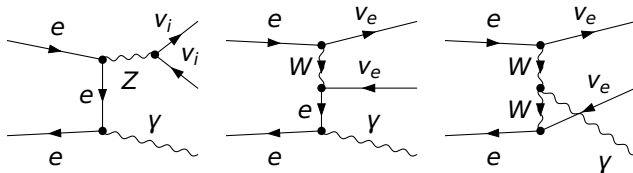
assuming polarisation of $\pm 80\%$ for electrons

[arXiv:1812.06018](https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.06018)

Simulating mono-photon events

For proper estimate of the mono-photon signature sensitivity **consistent simulation** of BSM processes and of the SM backgrounds is crucial.

“Irreducible” background comes from **radiative neutrino pair-production**



Detector acceptance & reconstruction efficiency

⇒ significant contribution from **radiative Bhabha scattering**

WHIZARD provides the ISR structure function option that includes all orders of soft and soft-collinear photons as well as up to the third order in high-energy collinear photons.

However, WHIZARD ISR photons are not ordinary final state photons: they represent all photons radiated in the event from a given lepton line.

ISR structure function cannot account for hard non-collinear photons
 \Rightarrow all “detectable” photons generated on Matrix Element level

Dedicated procedure developed to avoid double-counting of ISR and ME

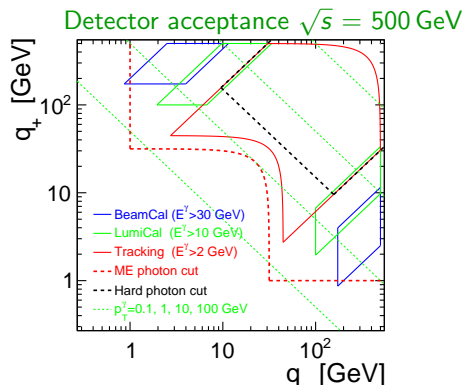
For details: J. Kalinowski et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 80 (2020) 634, arXiv:2004.14486

Two variables, calculated separately for each emitted photon:

$$q_- = \sqrt{4E_0 E_\gamma} \cdot \sin \frac{\theta_\gamma}{2},$$

$$q_+ = \sqrt{4E_0 E_\gamma} \cdot \cos \frac{\theta_\gamma}{2},$$

are used to separate the “soft ISR” emission region from the region described by ME calculations.



Simplified DM model

UFO model covering most popular scenarios of DM pair-production

⇒ [FeynRules wiki](#)

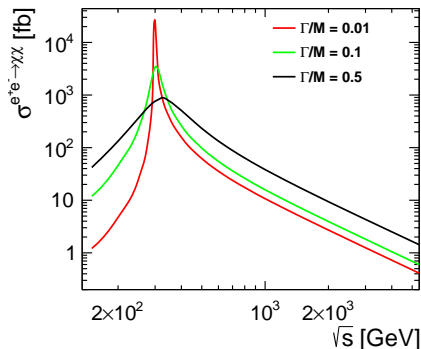
Possible **mediators**:

- scalar
- pseudo-scalar
- **vector**
- pseudo-vector
- V–A coupling
- V+A coupling

Possible **DM candidates**:

- real or complex scalar
- Majorana or **Dirac fermion**
- real vector

Cross section for $e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi\chi$ for
 $M_\chi = 50 \text{ GeV}$ and $M_\gamma = 300 \text{ GeV}$



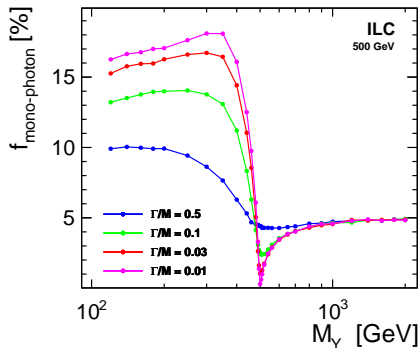
Tagging efficiency

based on DELPHES simulation

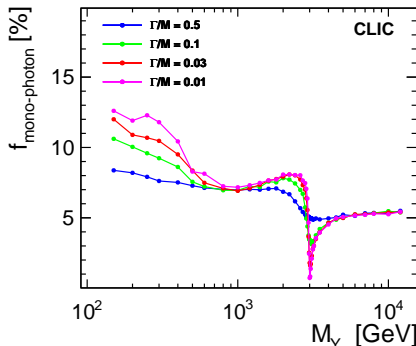
Mono-photons reconstructed only in a fraction of generated signal event

$$\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi\chi\gamma_{\text{tag}}) = f_{\text{mono-photon}} \cdot \sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi\chi(\gamma))$$

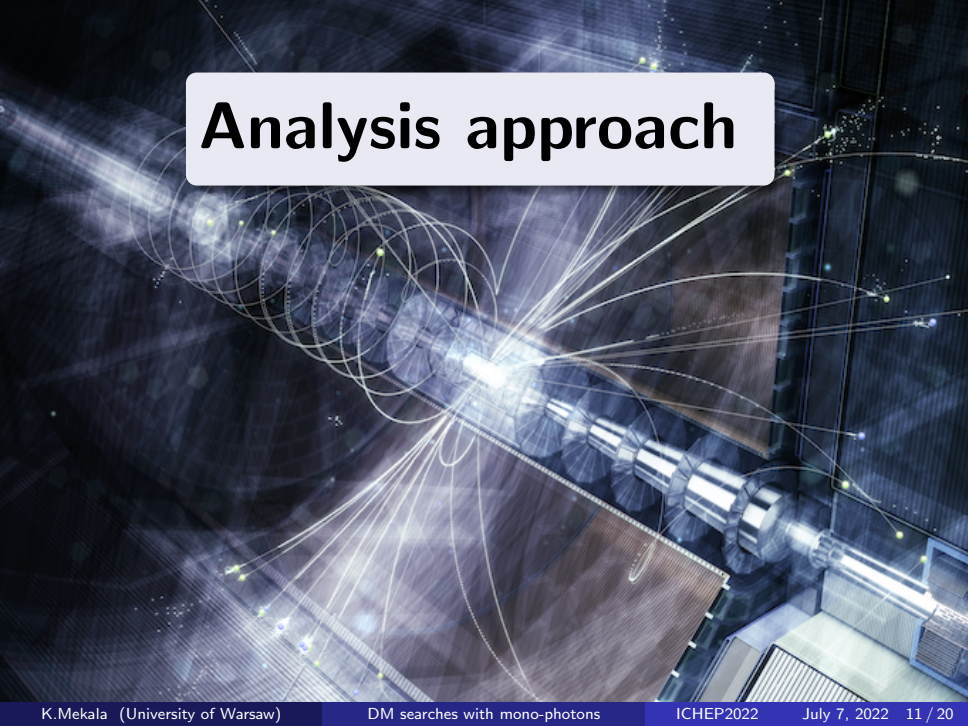
ILC @ 500 GeV



CLIC @ 3 TeV



Emission strongly suppressed for narrow mediator with $M_\gamma \sim \sqrt{s}$

The background of the slide is a complex, abstract image. It features a central, horizontal, metallic-looking structure that resembles a particle detector or a beam pipe. From this central structure, numerous thin, glowing lines radiate outwards, some forming loops or spirals, suggesting particle tracks or data paths. The overall color scheme is dark blue and black, with bright white and yellow highlights from the glowing elements. The text 'Analysis approach' is prominently displayed in a white box at the top center.

Analysis approach

Light mediator exchange

Eur. Phys. J. C 81 (2021) 955 [arXiv:2107.11194]

DM production via light mediator exchange **still not excluded**
for scenarios with very small mediator couplings to SM, $\Gamma_{\text{SM}} \ll \Gamma_{\text{tot}}$

“Experimental-like” approach

- ⇒ focus on cross section limits as a function of mediator mass and width
- ⇒ reduced dependence on the dark sector details

Detector response simulated in the DELPHES framework (fast simulation).

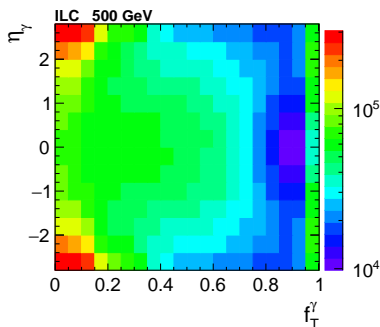
Background vs. signal distributions

arXiv:2107.11194

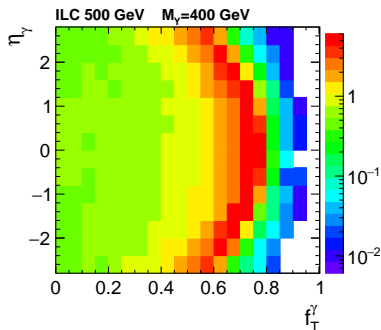
For mono-photon events, two variables fully describe event kinematics

⇒ use 2D distribution of (p_T^γ, η) to constrain DM production

Background



Signal



ILC 500 GeV (-80%/+30%) 1600 fb^{-1} $M_\gamma = 400 \text{ GeV}, \Gamma/M = 0.03$

Signal normalised to unpolarised DM pair-production cross section of 1 fb

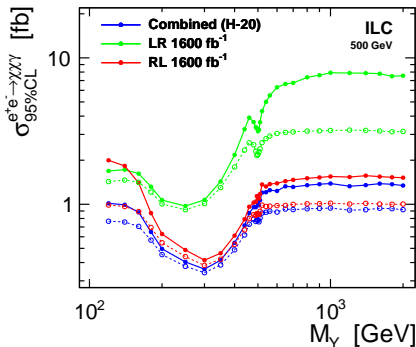
Cross section limits for radiative events (with tagged photon)

Vector Mediator

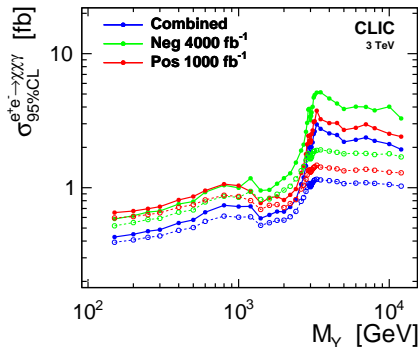
$\Gamma/M = 0.03$

with and without systematics


ILC @ 500 GeV



CLIC @ 3 TeV



Systematic effects reduced for on-shell production of narrow mediator

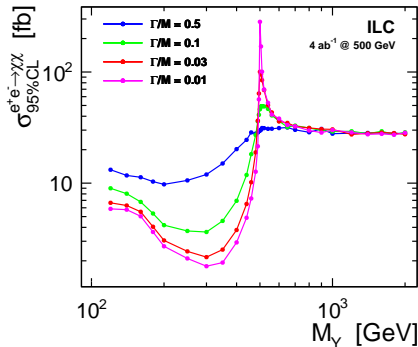
A detailed visualization of a particle detector, likely a liquid argon time-projection chamber (LArTPC). The image shows a central cylindrical structure with a series of hexagonal segments, representing the detector's internal geometry. Numerous glowing yellow and blue tracks emanate from a central point, representing particle trajectories. The background is dark with a grid-like pattern, suggesting a 3D reconstruction of the detector volume.

Results

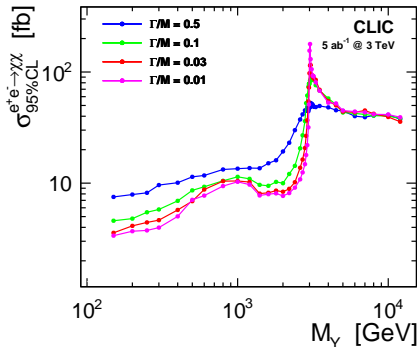
Cross section limits for total DM production cross section Corrected for probability of hard photon tagging!

Combined limits for Vector mediator

ILC @ 500 GeV



CLIC @ 3 TeV

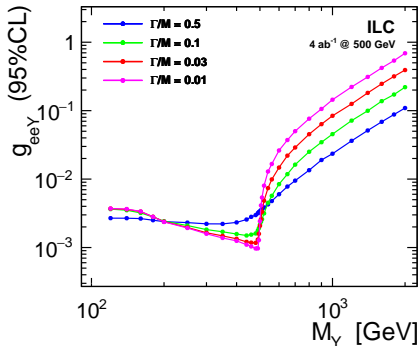


Radiation suppressed for narrow mediator with $M_Y \sim \sqrt{s} \Rightarrow$ weaker limits

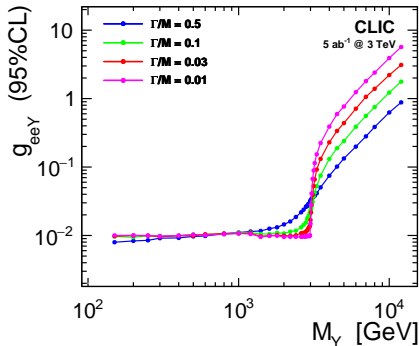
Coupling limits for mediator coupling to SM fermions
 $\mathcal{O}(1)$ mediator coupling to DM, fixed by mediator width

Combined limits for **Vector mediator**

ILC @ 500 GeV



CLIC @ 3 TeV



Almost uniform sensitivity to mediator coupling $g_{ee\gamma}$ up to kinematic limit

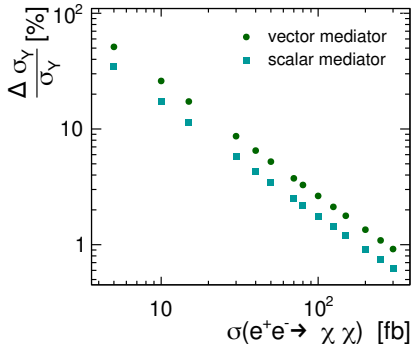
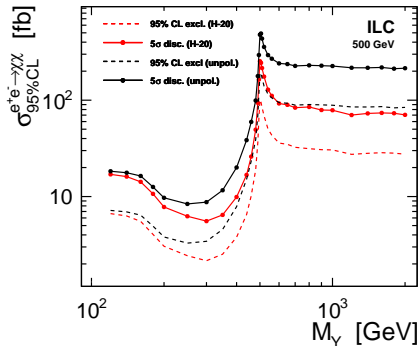
Mediator studies

Light mediator scenarios can be discovered at future e^+e^- colliders already for DM production cross sections of $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ fb})$

Percent level measurement for cross sections of $\mathcal{O}(100 \text{ fb})$

Vector mediator at 500 GeV ILC

$M=300 \text{ GeV}, \Gamma=30 \text{ GeV}$



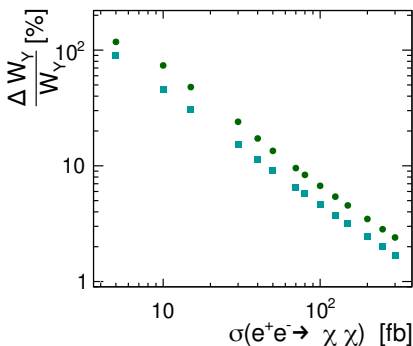
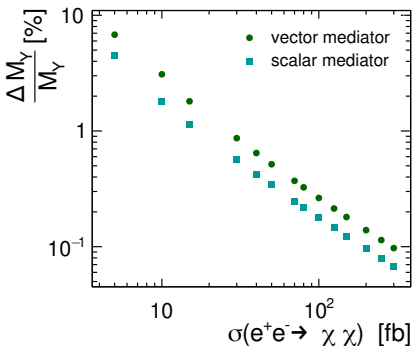
Mediator studies

Light mediator scenarios can be discovered at future e^+e^- colliders already for DM production cross sections of $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ fb})$

Sub-percent precision for mediator mass determination

Vector mediator at 500 GeV ILC

$M=300 \text{ GeV}, \Gamma=30 \text{ GeV}$



Mediator studies

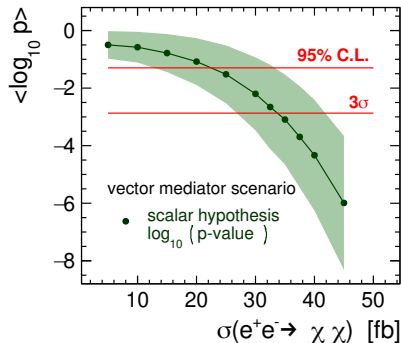
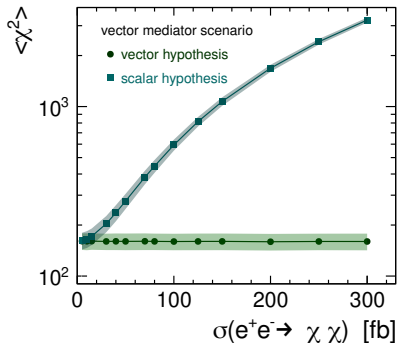
Light mediator scenarios can be discovered at future e^+e^- colliders already for DM production cross sections of $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ fb})$

Mediator coupling structure can be identified using beam polarisation

Vector mediator at 500 GeV ILC

$M=300 \text{ GeV}$, $\Gamma=30 \text{ GeV}$

Signal scenario fit to mono-photon energy spectra for four polarisation settings



A complex visualization of a particle detector, likely a bubble chamber or similar, showing a central horizontal tube with a series of cylindrical segments. Numerous glowing yellow and blue tracks emanate from the tube, curving and branching outwards. The background is dark with a grid-like pattern and some faint, glowing points of light.

Conclusions

New approach to DM searches with mono-photon signature

Future e^+e^- colliders: **complementary option** for DM searches.

Mono-photon signature: the **most general** way to look for DM production
EFT sensitivity extending to the $\mathcal{O}(10)$ TeV mass scales

New framework for **mono-photon analysis** developed
focus on light mediator exchange and very small mediator couplings to SM

- $\mathcal{O}(10\text{ fb})$ limits on the DM pair-production $e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi\chi(\gamma)$
except for the resonance region $M_\gamma \sim \sqrt{s}$
- $\mathcal{O}(10^{-3} - 10^{-2})$ limits on the mediator coupling to electrons
up to the kinematic limit $M_\gamma \leq \sqrt{s}$

For light mediators limits more stringent than from direct resonance search

If discovered, new mediator can be precisely studied at e^+e^- collider

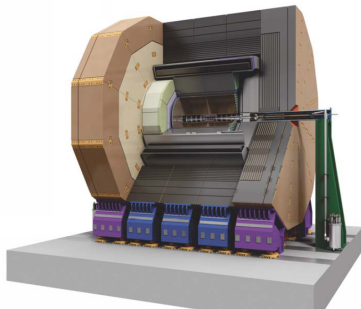
Coupling structure determination possible thanks to beam polarisation

Detector Requirements same for ILC and CLIC

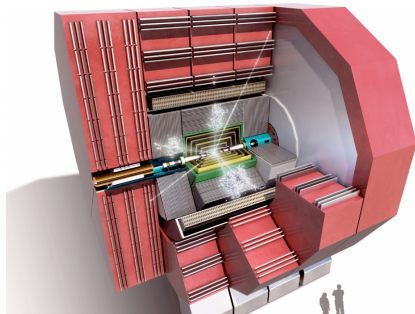
- Track momentum resolution: $\sigma_{1/p} < 5 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$
- Impact parameter resolution: $\sigma_d < 5\mu\text{m} \oplus 10\mu\text{m} \frac{1 \text{ GeV}}{p \sin^{3/2} \Theta}$
- Jet energy resolution: $\sigma_E/E = 3 - 4\%$ (for highest jet energies)
- Hermeticity: $\Theta_{\min} = 5 \text{ mrad}$

Detailed detector concepts for ILC and CLIC:

ILD



CLICdet



Analysis cuts

WHIZARD level selection:

- 1, 2 or 3 ME photons
- at least one ME photon with
$$p_T^\gamma > 2 \text{ GeV} \ \& \ 5^\circ < \theta^\gamma < 175^\circ$$
(ILC 500 GeV)
$$p_T^\gamma > 5 \text{ GeV} \ \& \ 7^\circ < \theta^\gamma < 173^\circ$$
(CLIC 3 TeV)

DELPHES level selection:

- single photon with
$$p_T^\gamma > 3 \text{ GeV} \ \& \ |\eta^\gamma| < 2.8 \text{ (ILC)}$$
$$p_T^\gamma > 10 \text{ GeV} \ \& \ |\eta^\gamma| < 2.6 \text{ (CLIC)}$$
- no other activity in the detector
other reconstructed objects

Simplified DM model

Dark matter particles, X_i , couple to the SM particles via a mediator, Y_j .

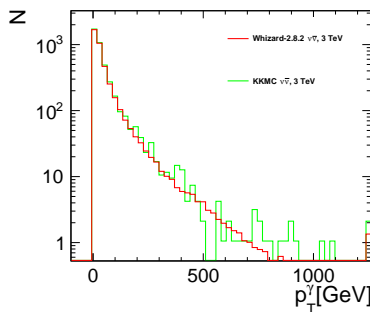
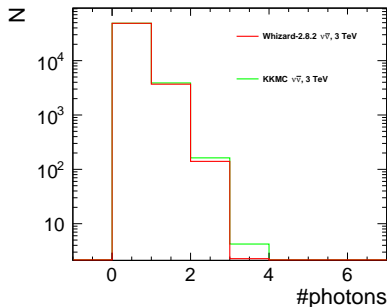
Each simplified scenario is characterized by one dark matter candidate and one mediator from the set listed below:

	particle	mass	spin	charge	self-conjugate	type
DM	X_R	m_{X_R}	0	0	yes	real scalar
	X_C	m_{X_C}	0	0	no	complex scalar
	X_M	m_{X_M}	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	yes	Majorana fermion
	X_D	m_{X_D}	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	no	Dirac fermion
	X_V	m_{X_V}	1	0	yes	real vector
mediator	Y_R	m_{Y_R}	0	0	yes	real scalar
	Y_V	m_{Y_C}	1	0	yes	real vector
	T_C	m_{T_C}	0	1	no	charged scalar

Validation of the simulation procedure

WHIZARD predictions were compared to the results from the KKMC code for $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu} + N\gamma$

3 TeV CLIC



⇒ very good agreement observed (both for shape and normalisation)

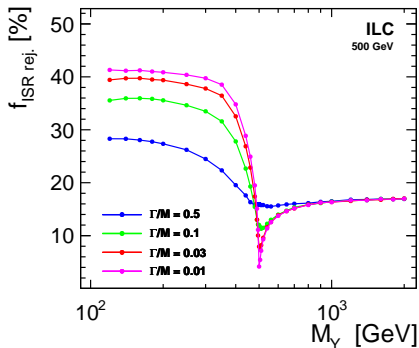
For more details:

J. Kalinowski et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 80 (2020) 634, arXiv:2004.14486

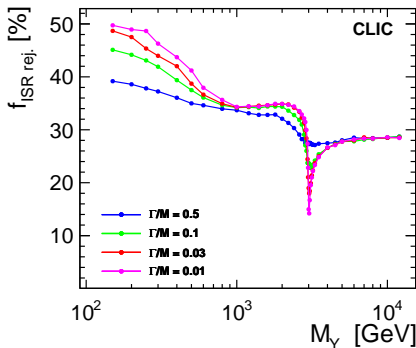
ISR rejection probability

Fraction of events generated by WHIZARD **removed** in merging procedure (ISR photons emitted in the phase-space region covered by ME)

ILC @ 500 GeV



CLIC @ 3 TeV



Systematic uncertainties

following ILD study: Phys. Rev. D 101, 075053 (2020), [arXiv:2001.03011](#)

Considered sources of uncertainties:

- Integrated luminosity uncertainty of 0.26%
uncorrelated between polarisations
- Luminosity spectra shape uncertainty
correlated between polarisations
- Uncertainty in neutrino background normalisation of 0.2% (th+exp)
correlated between polarisations
- Uncertainty in Bhabha background normalisation of 1% (th+exp)
correlated between polarisations
- Uncertainty on beam polarisation of 0.02–0.08% (ILC)/0.2% (CLIC)
correlated for runs with same beam polarisation at ILC

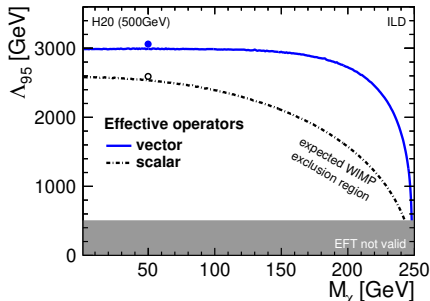
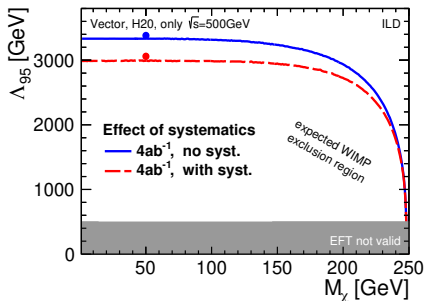
⇒ nuisance parameters in the model fit (11 for ILC, 7 for CLIC)

Comparison with ILD study

arXiv:2001.03011
arXiv:2107.11194

Effective mass scale limits:
$$\Lambda^2 = \frac{M_Y^2}{|g_{ee\gamma} g_{\chi\chi\gamma}|}$$

Limits from fast simulation (points) vs limits from full simulation (lines)



Very good agreement between full simulation and fast simulation results!
⇒ reliable extrapolation to low mediator mass domain...