Status of the Light Dark Matter eXperiment

Lene Kristian Bryngemark, Lund University

TeVPA, Napoli, Italy, September 11-15 2023

Is present-day dark matter a relic from the hot early universe?

Thermal freeze-out is viable with *minimal* assumptions

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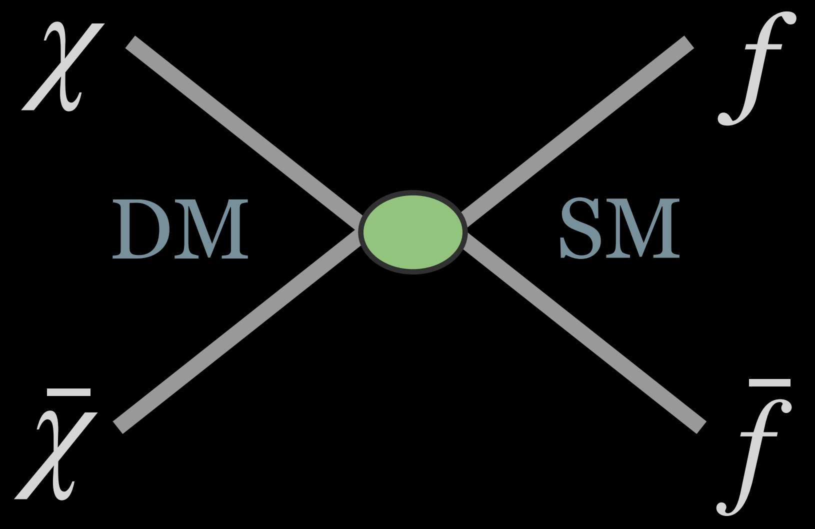
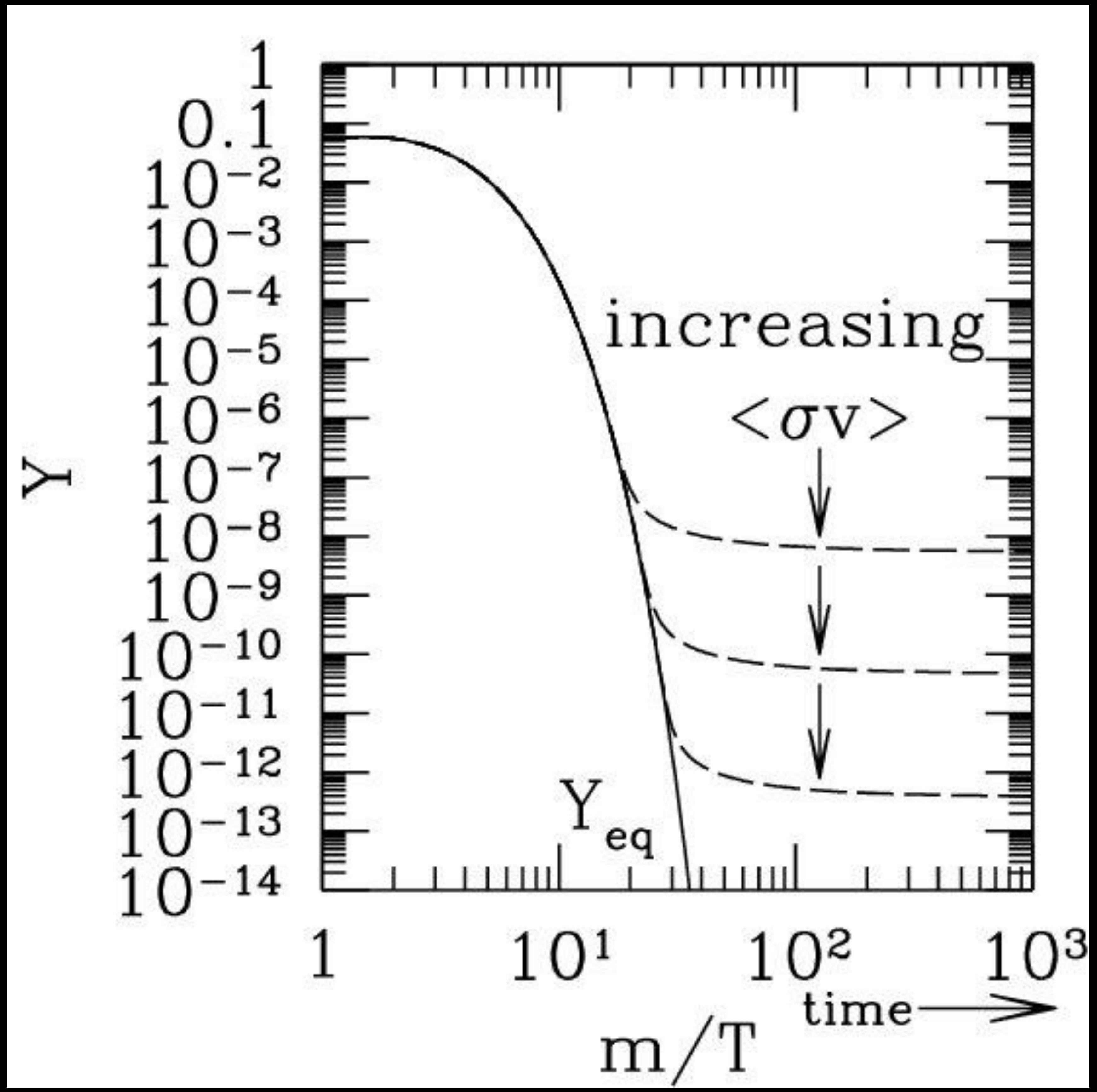


- some minimum non-gravitational interaction



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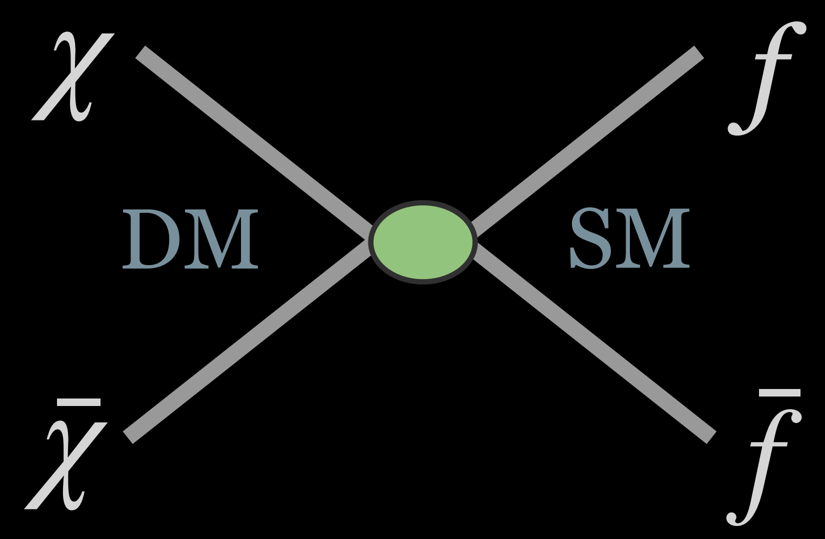
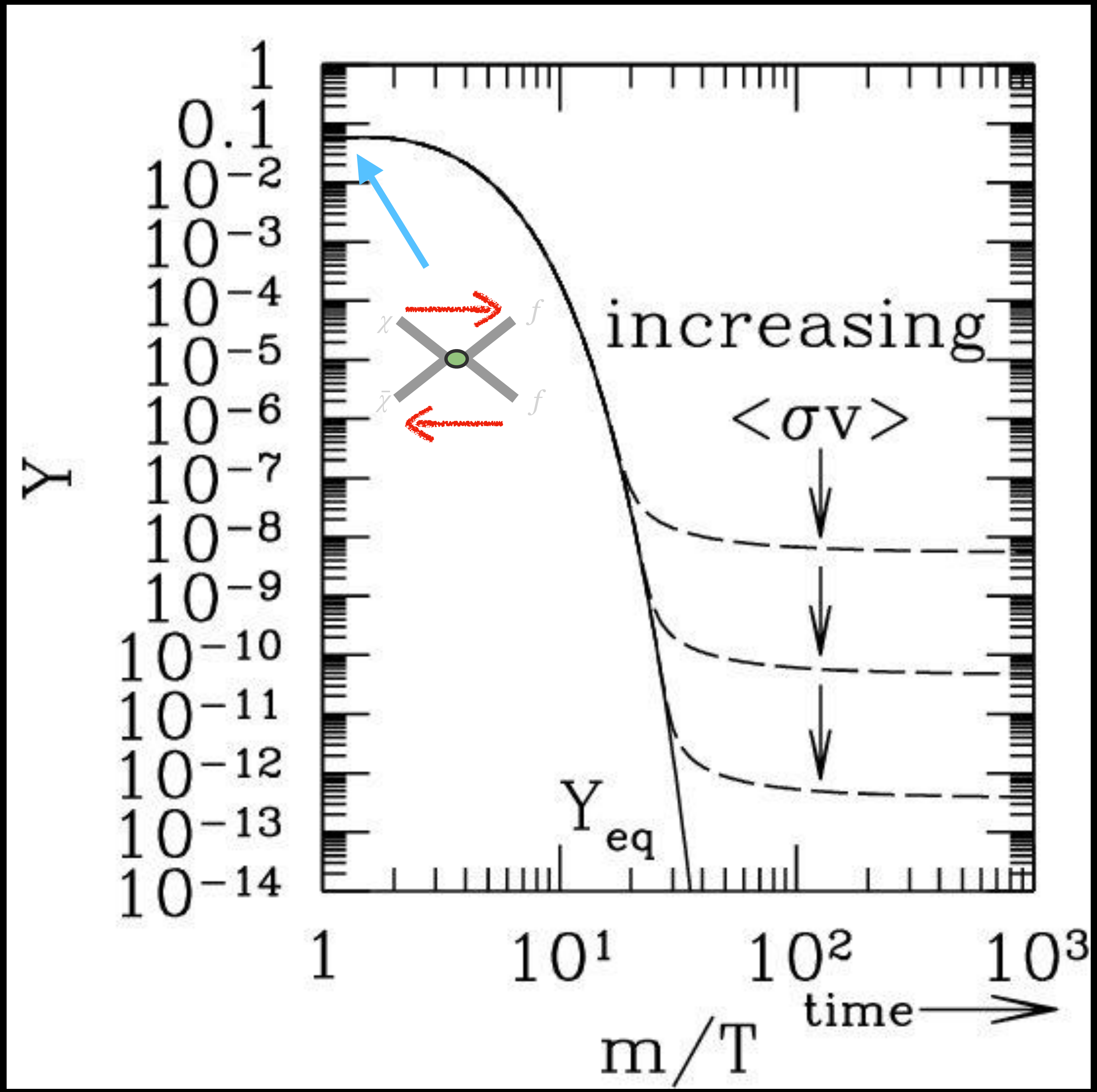


- some minimum non-gravitational interaction
  - → reaches thermal equilibrium at some point in history



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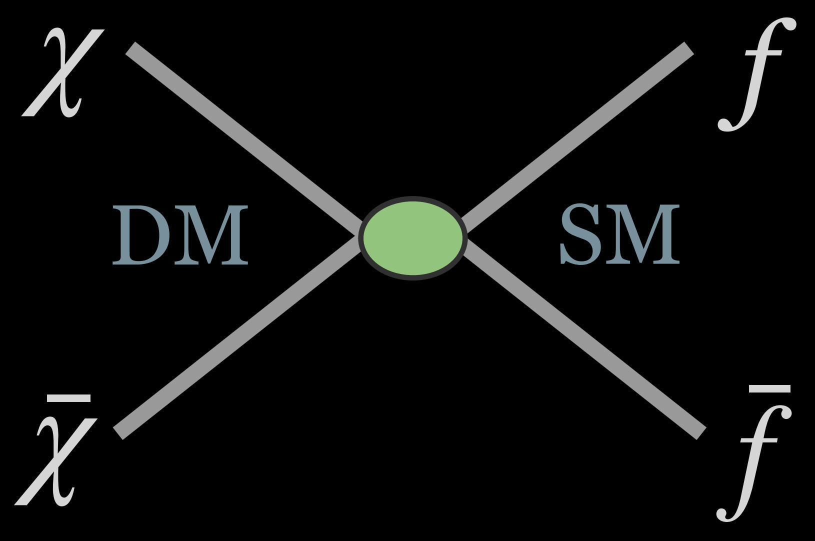

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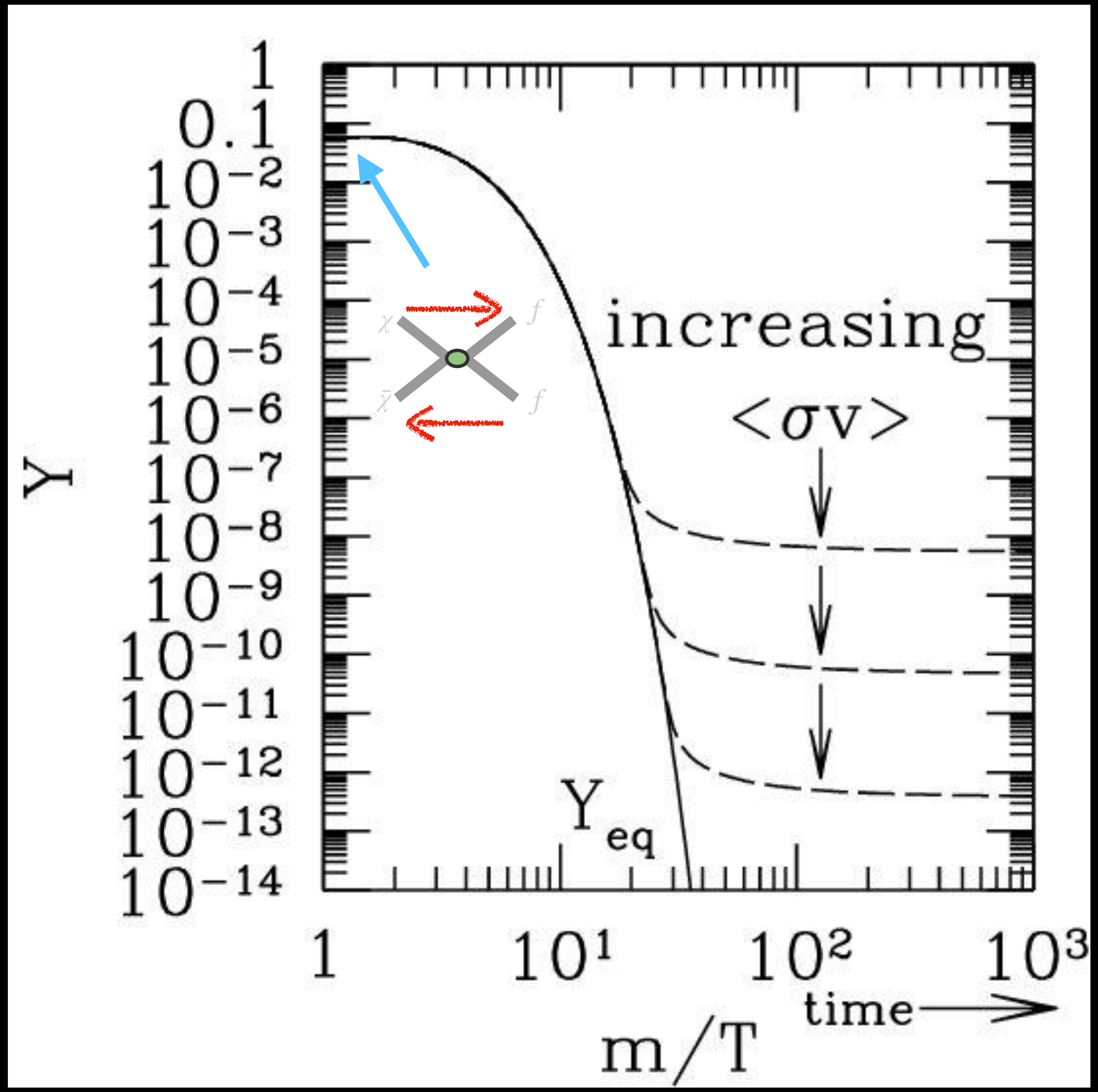

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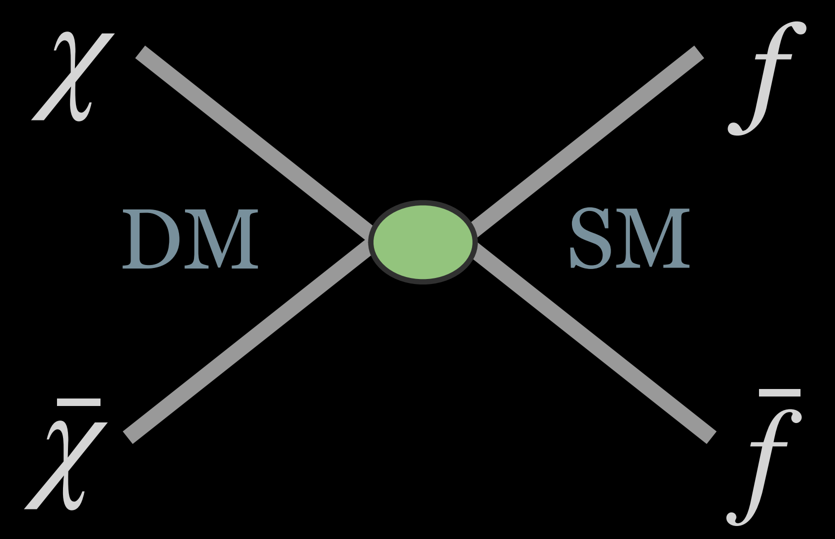

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  - $\rightarrow$ reaches thermal equilibrium at some point in history
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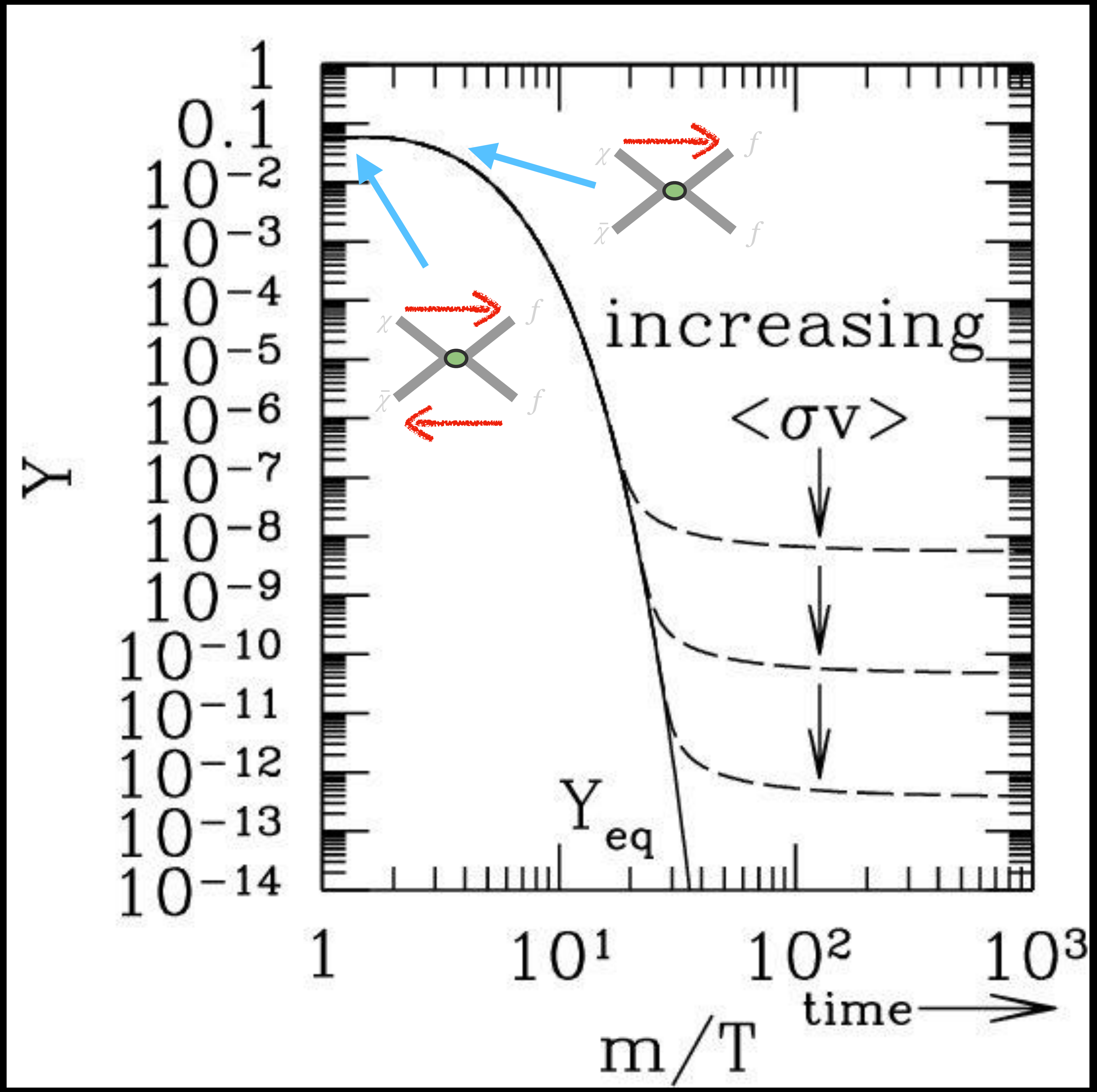
  - process flows in one direction, until



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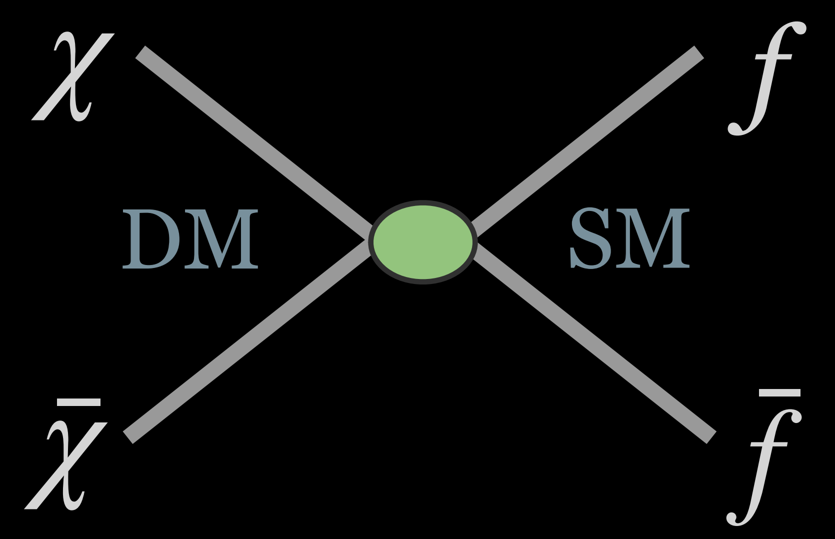

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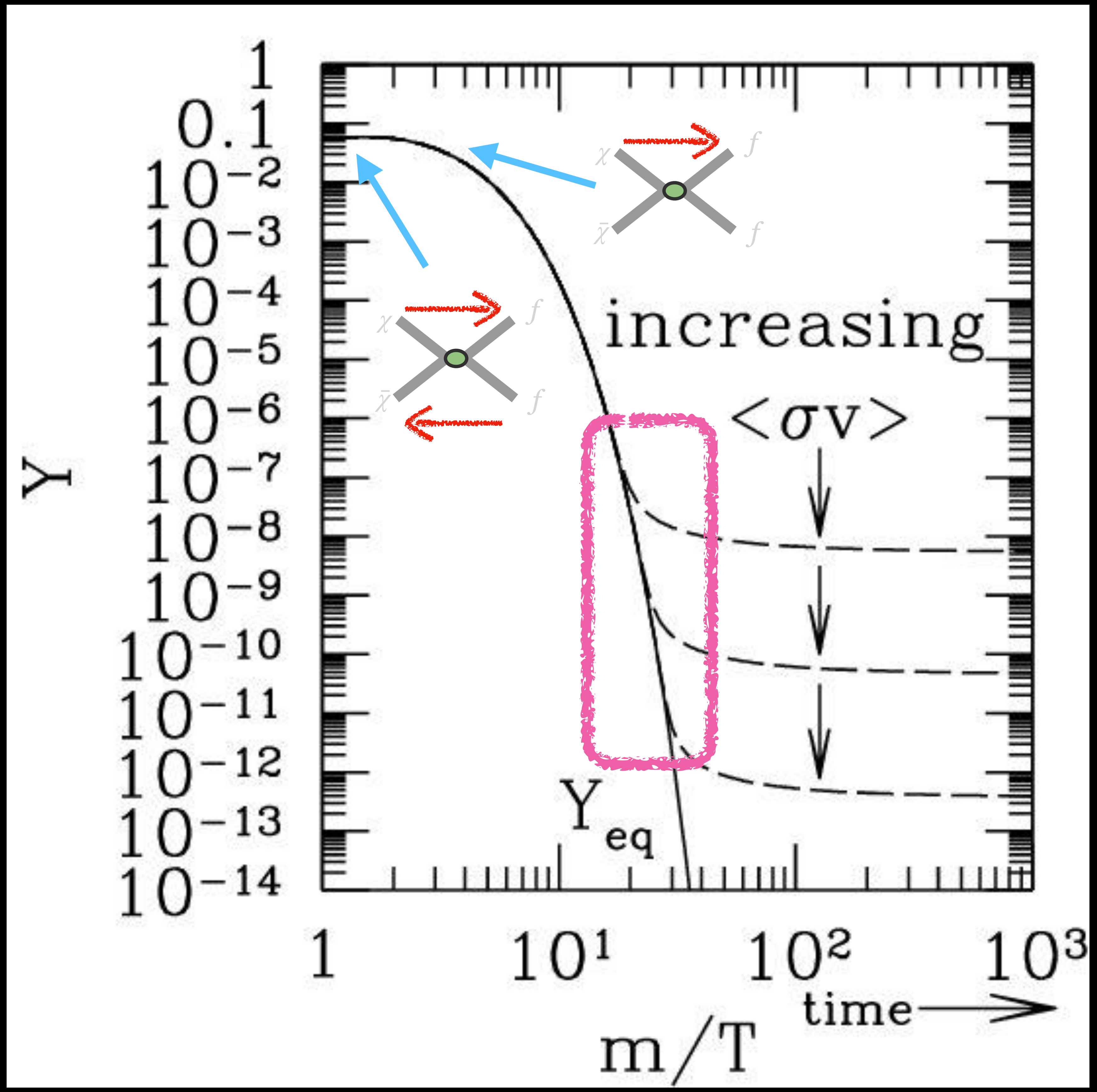

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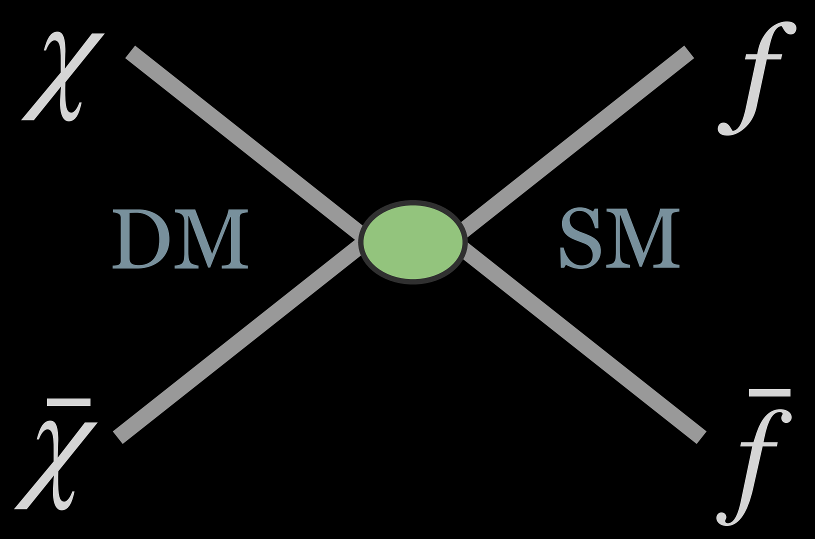

- some minimum non-gravitational interaction
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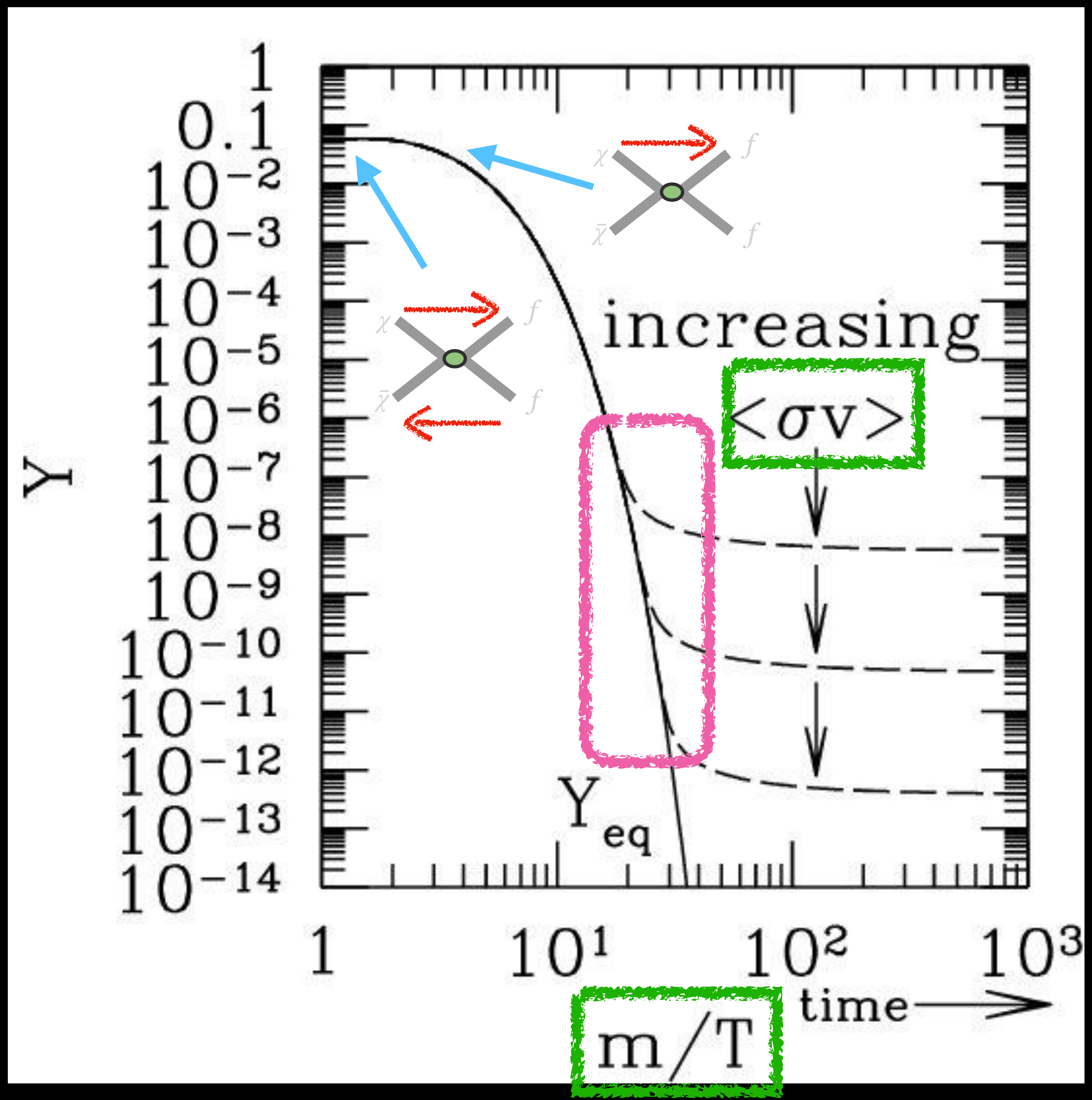
- relates particle mass to interaction strength



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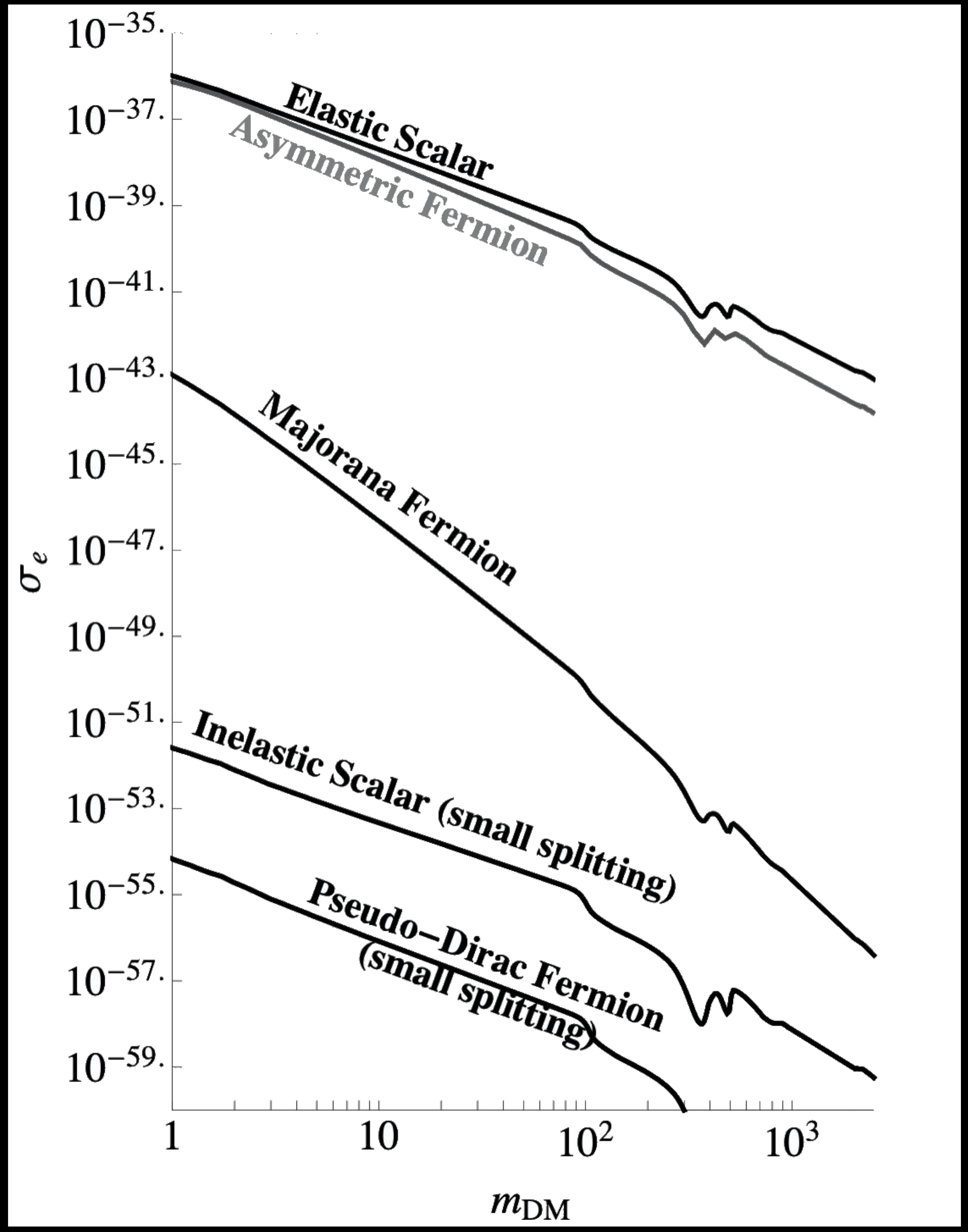
Thermal-relic dark matter: a predictive model

- predicts a minimum interaction strength
    - experimental sensitivity target

DM-electron scattering cross section



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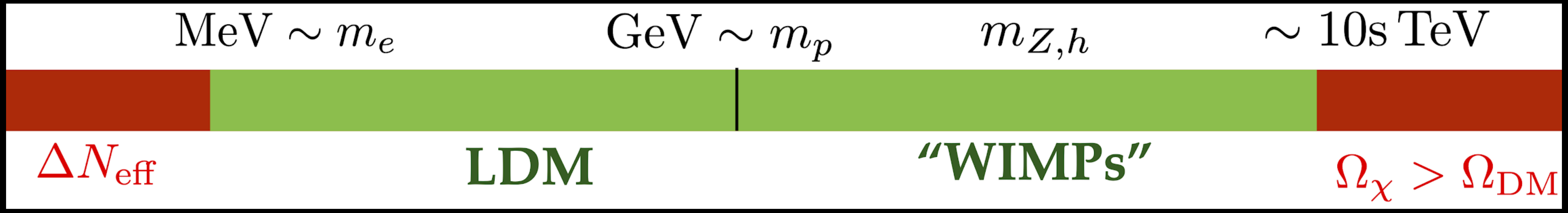
- constrains the ~90 orders of mag. DM mass range



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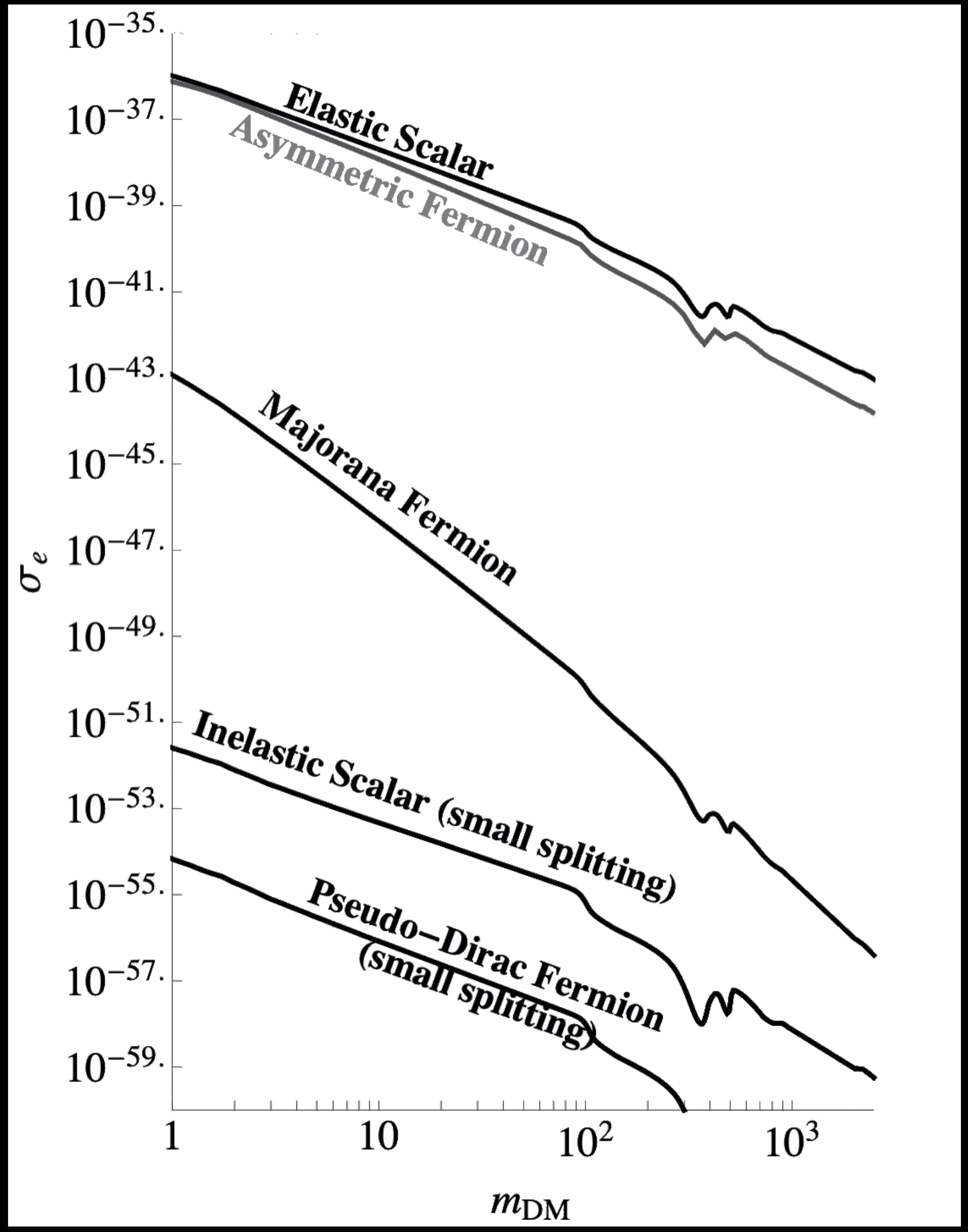

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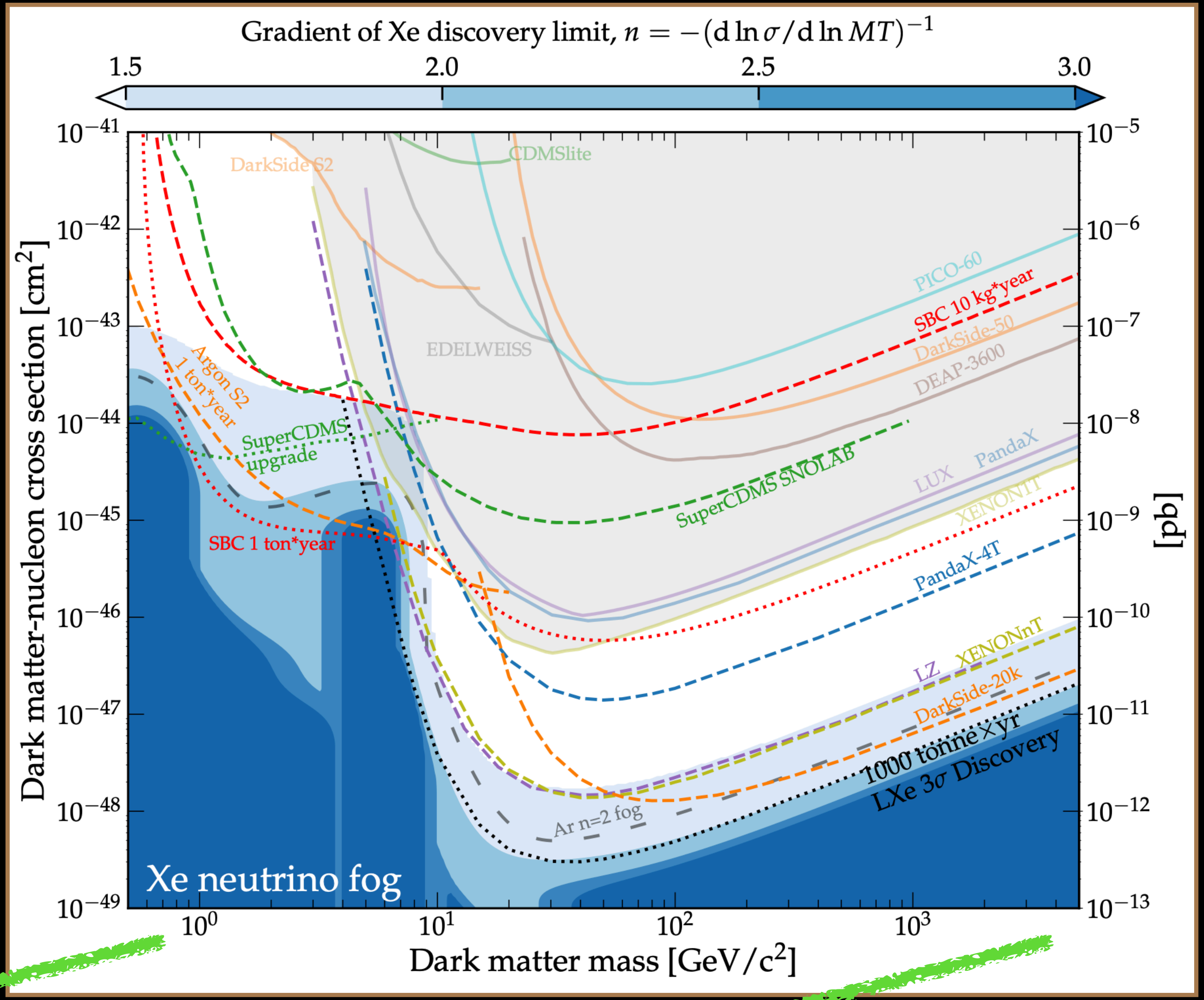

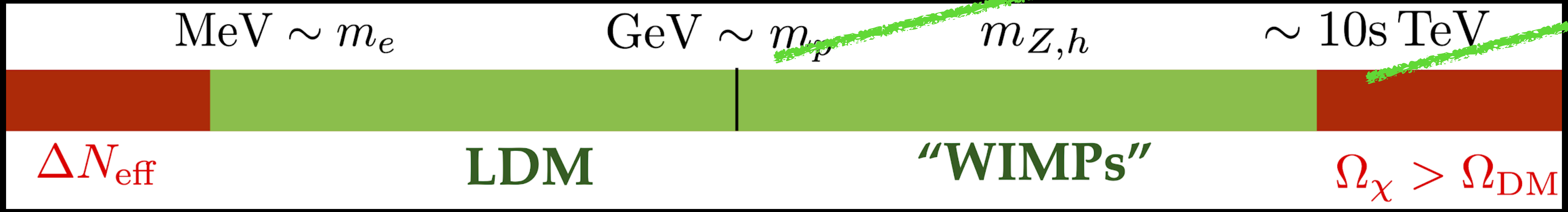

extensively explored by e.g. direct detection

https://arxiv.org/abs/1808.05219

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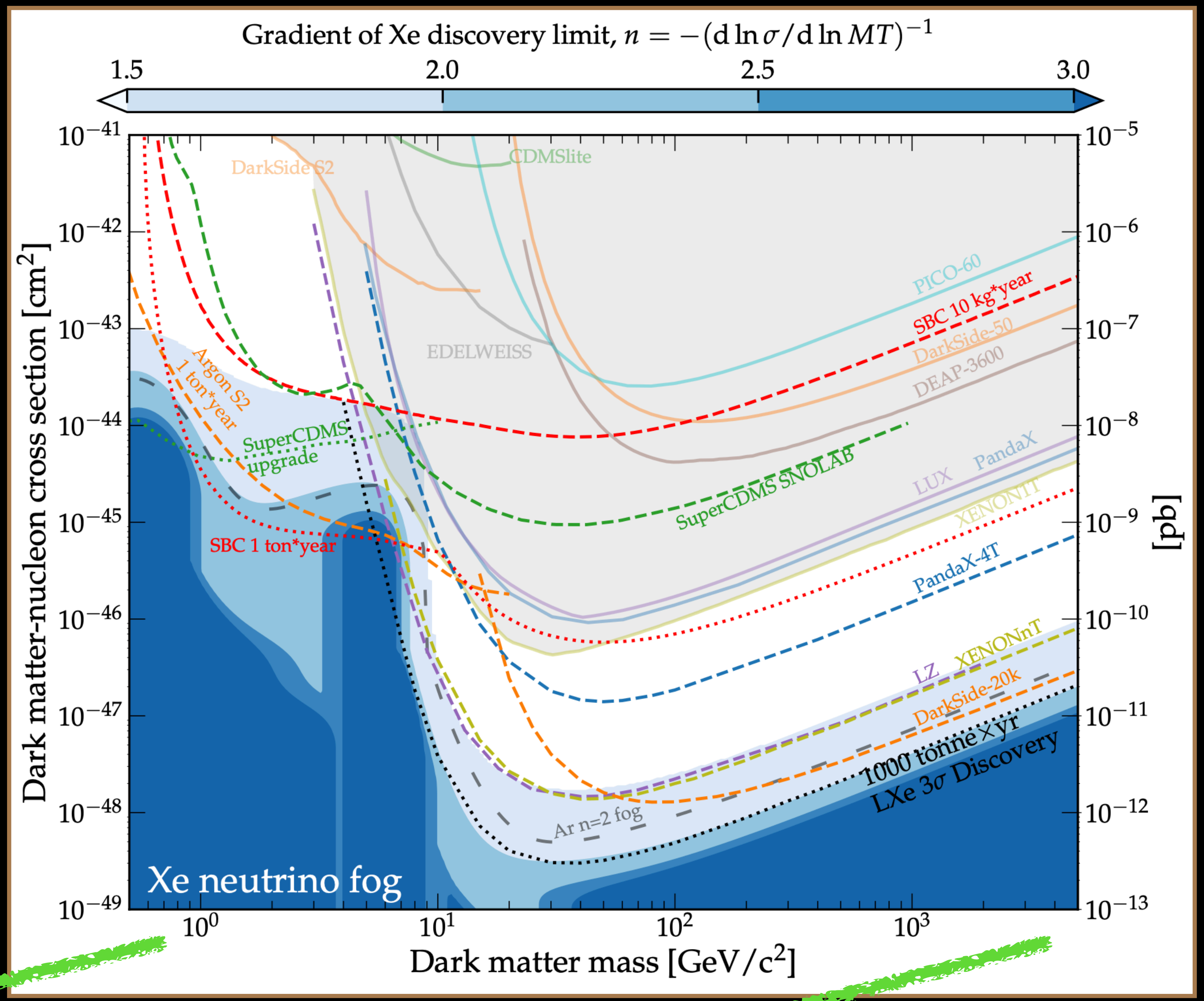

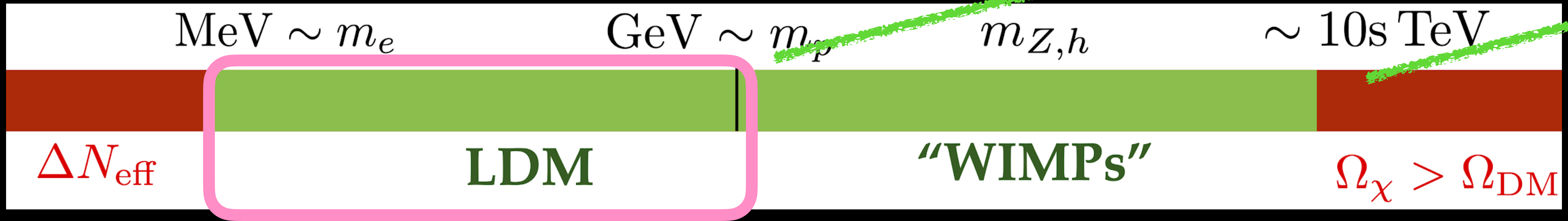

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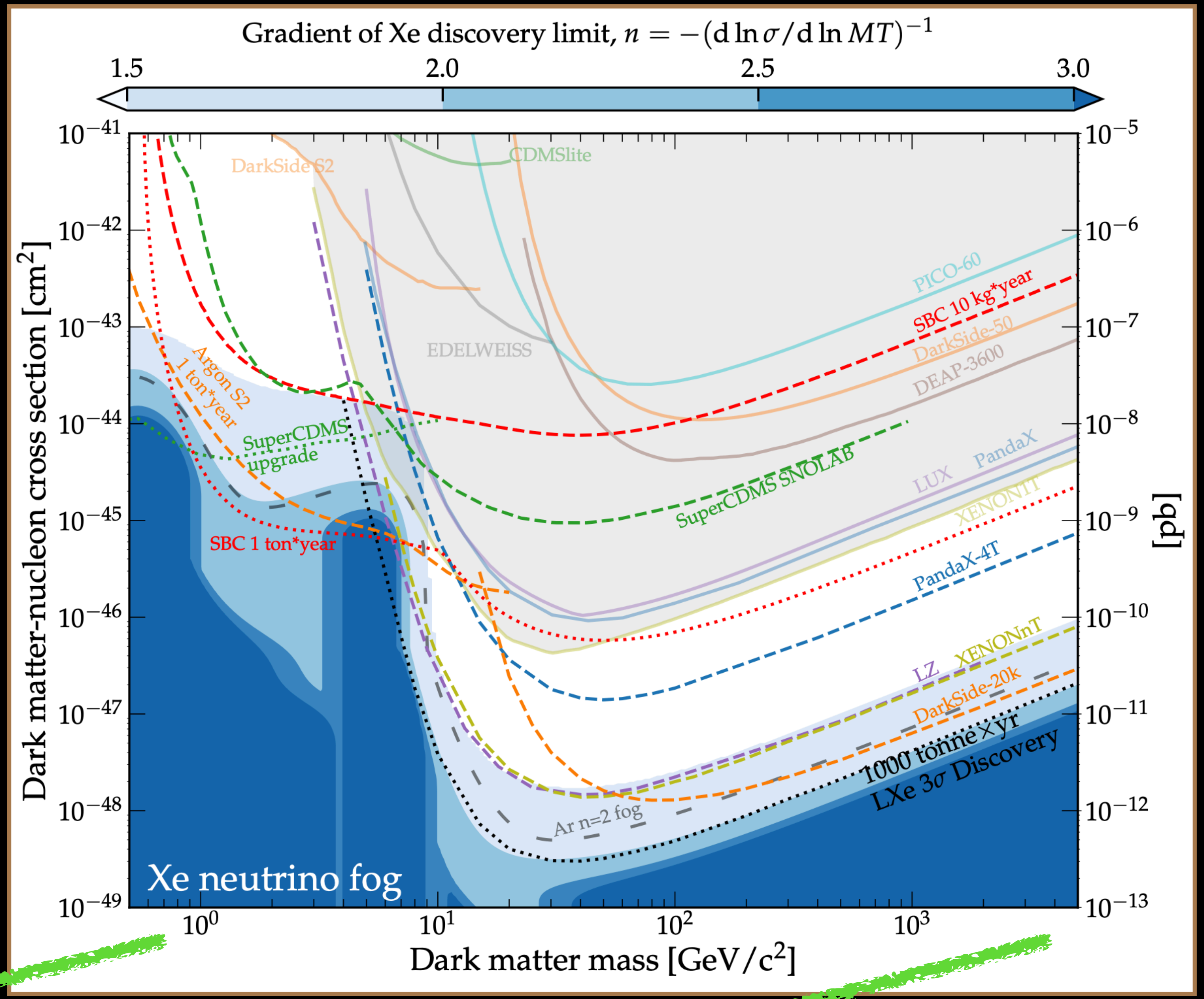

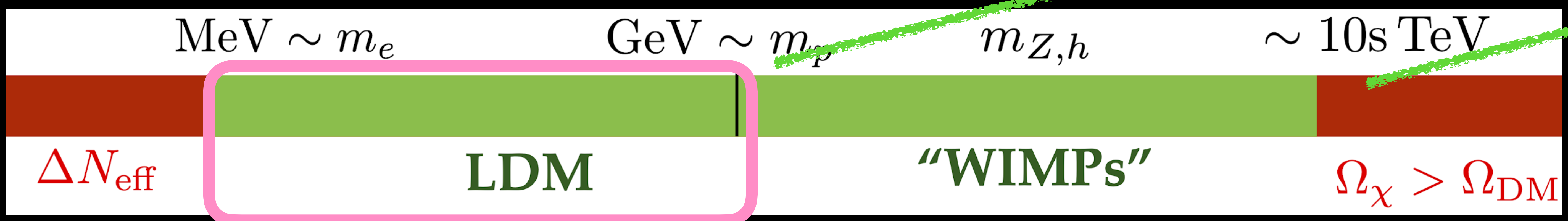

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Thermal-relic dark matter: a predictive model

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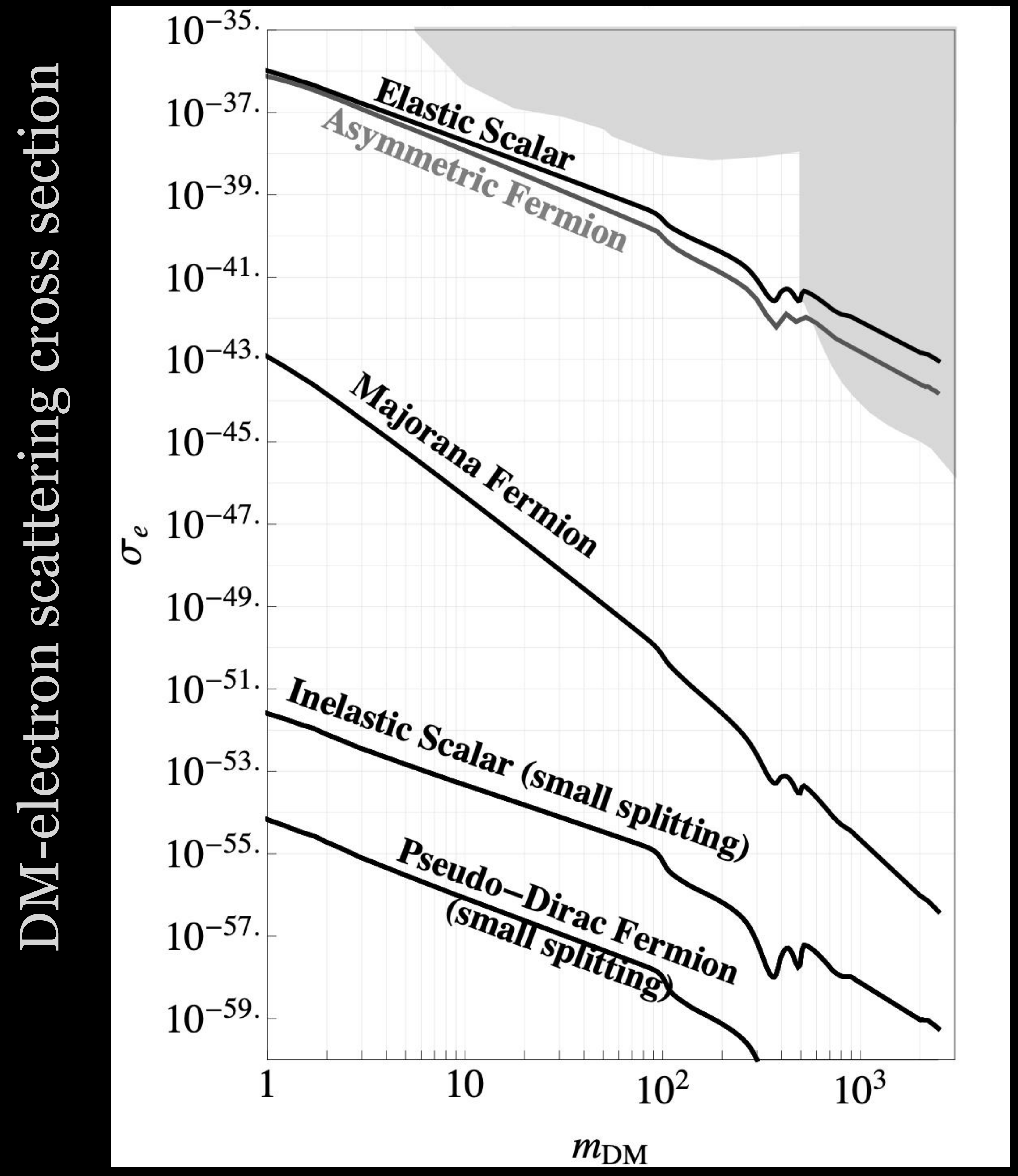
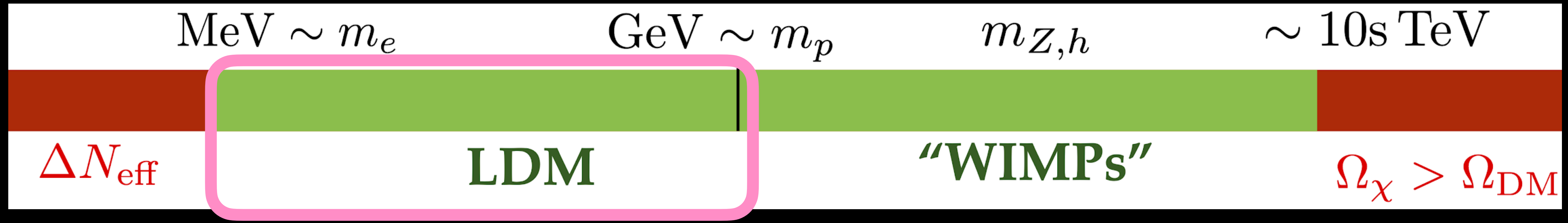
- constrains the ~90 orders of mag. DM mass range
  - light mediator: requires non-SM force/dark sector
  - not very constrained by experiments

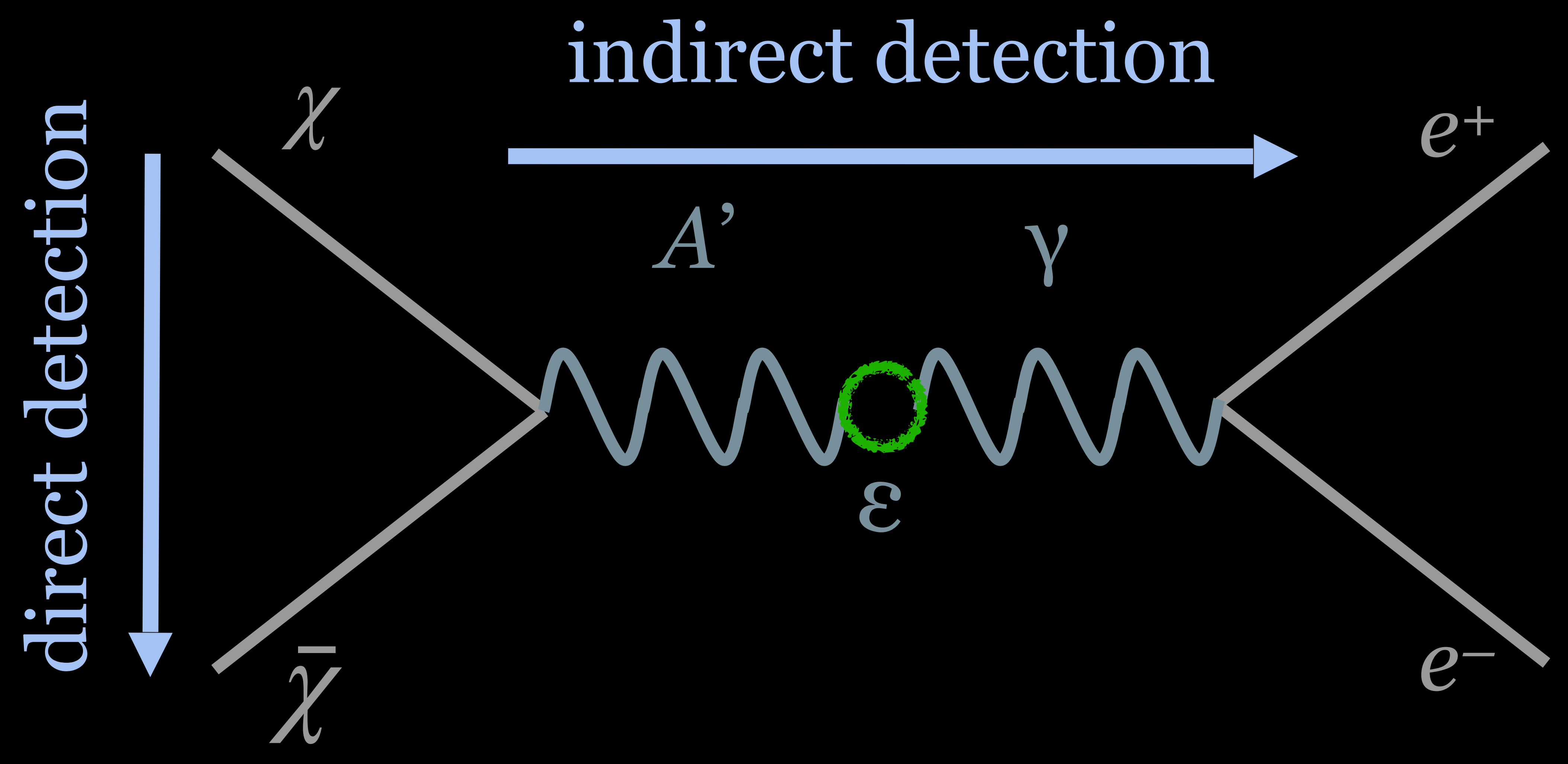




How can we probe this open parameter space?

Sub-GeV dark sector mediator: dark photons

- “Simplest” possible dark sector extension is U(1)
- dark QED + kinetic mixing (ε) = a feeble interaction with SM matter



$$\langle \sigma v \rangle \propto \varepsilon^2 \alpha_D$$

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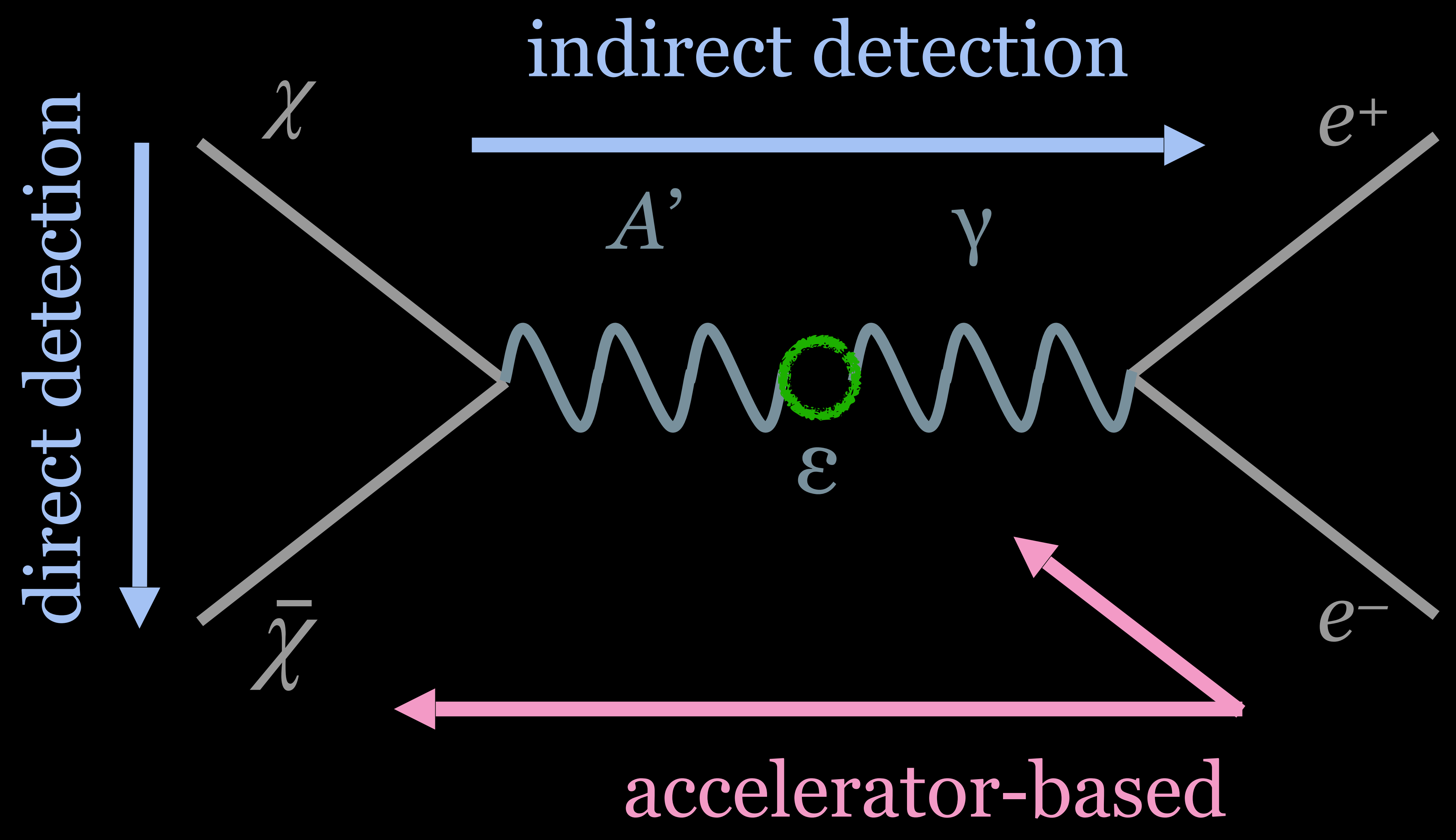

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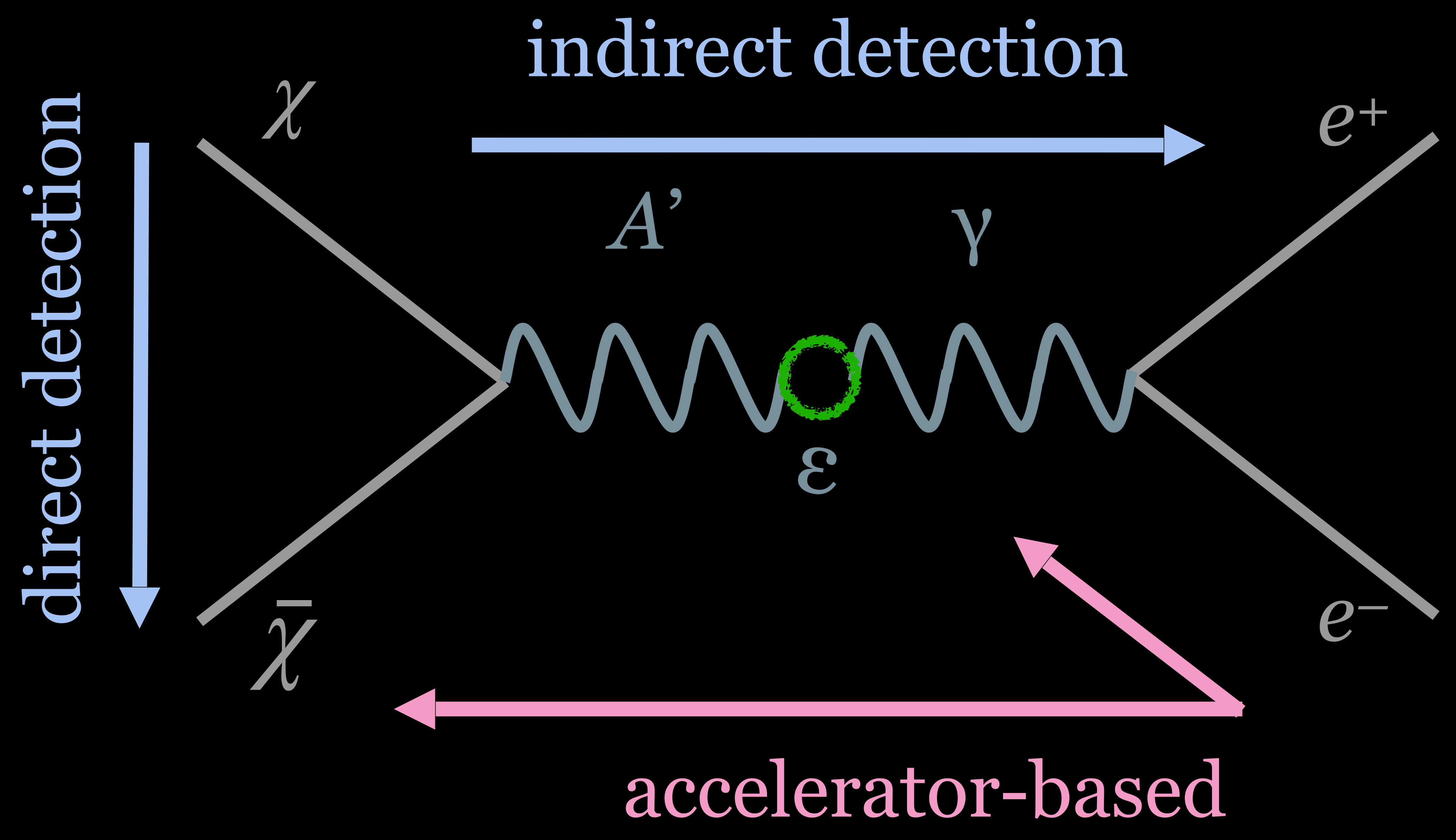

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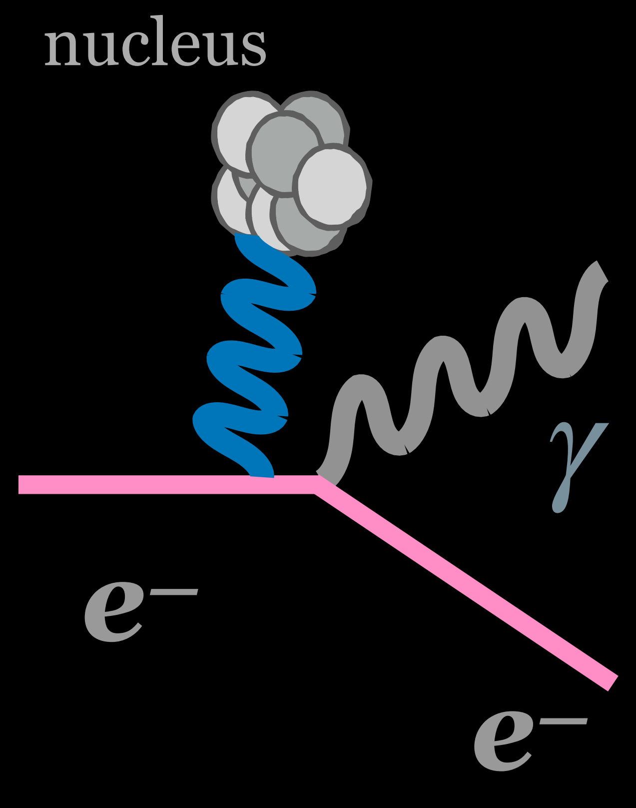
With an electron beam on a fixed target



SM (QED) bremsstrahlung

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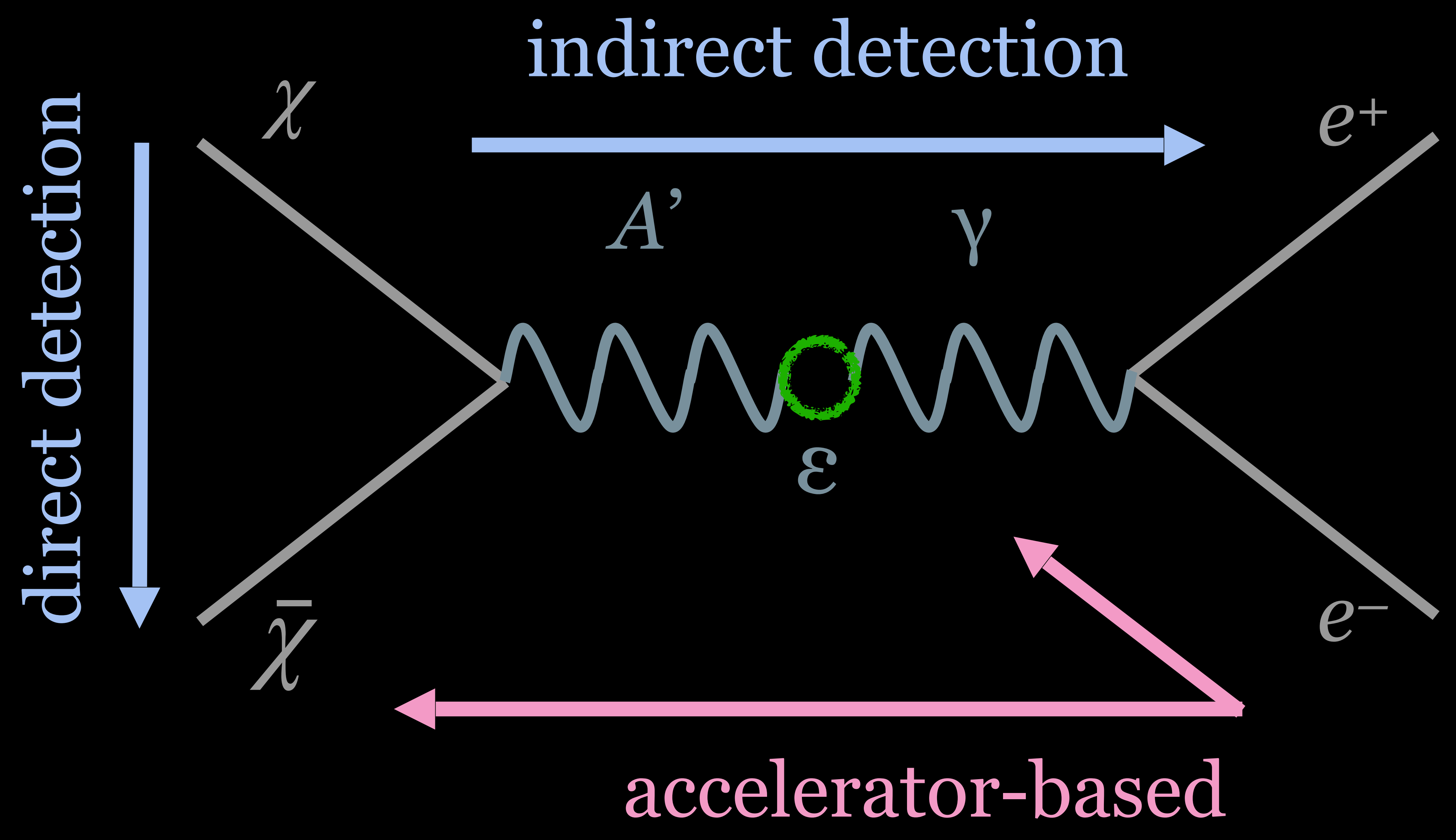

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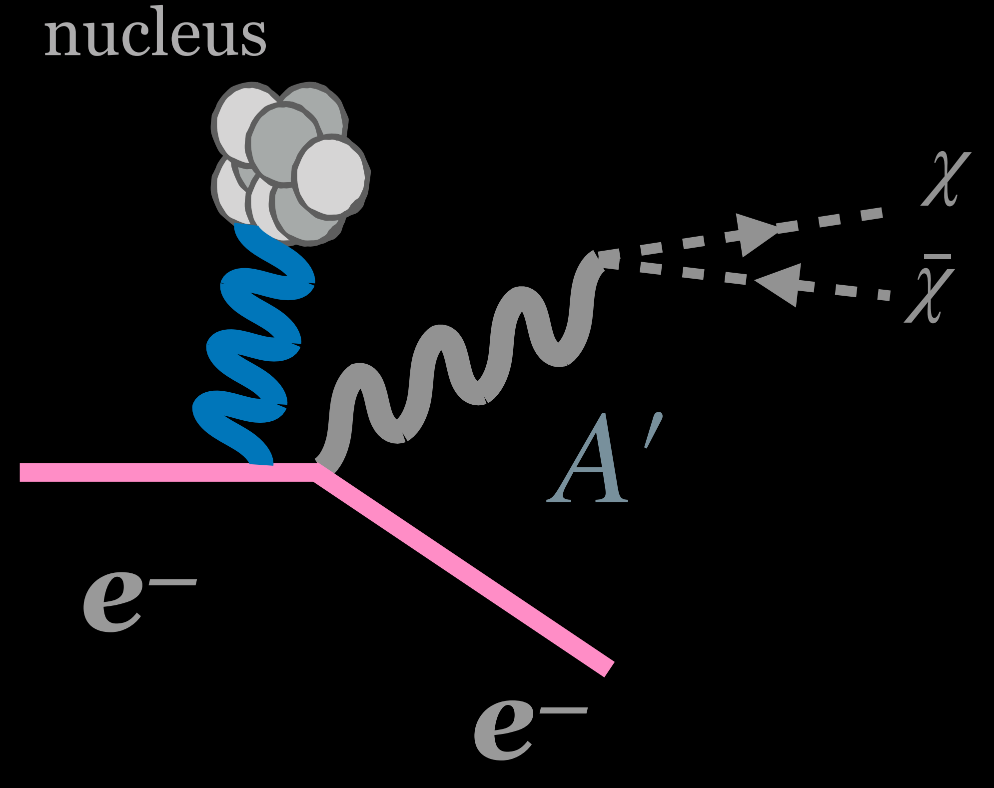

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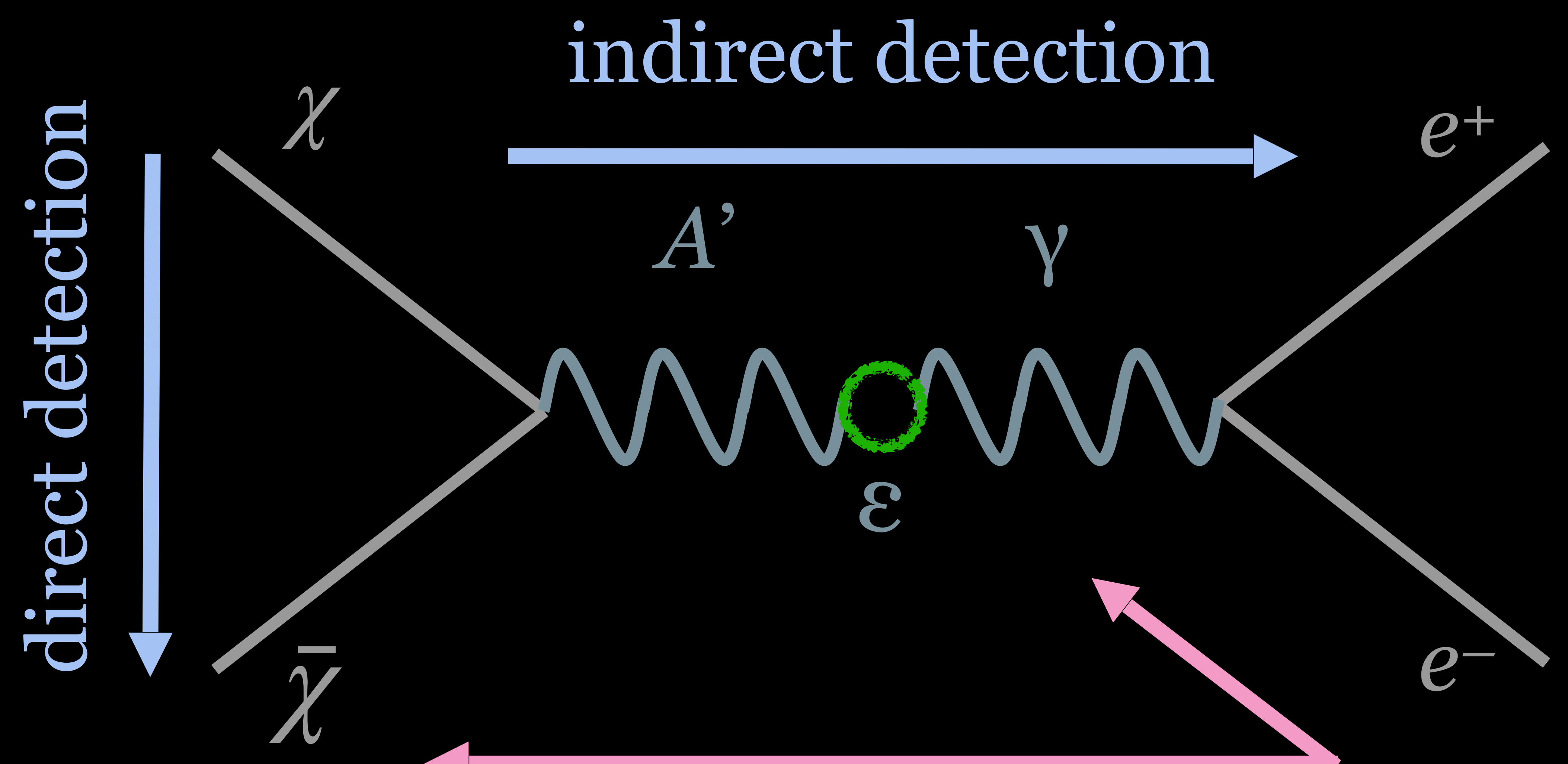

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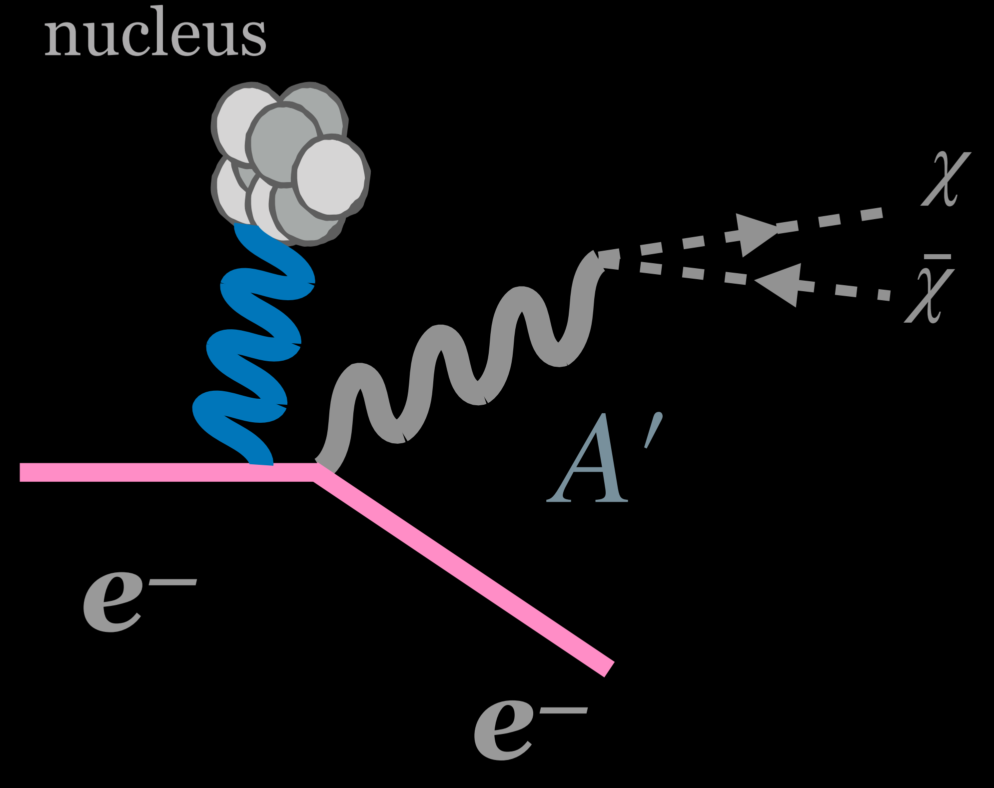
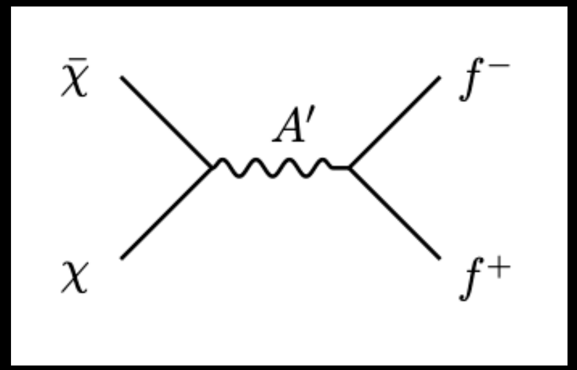


Dark photon bremsstrahlung

A’ production $\propto \varepsilon^2$;
with subsequent DM-SM interactions $\propto \varepsilon^4$

Accelerator → relativistic DM production

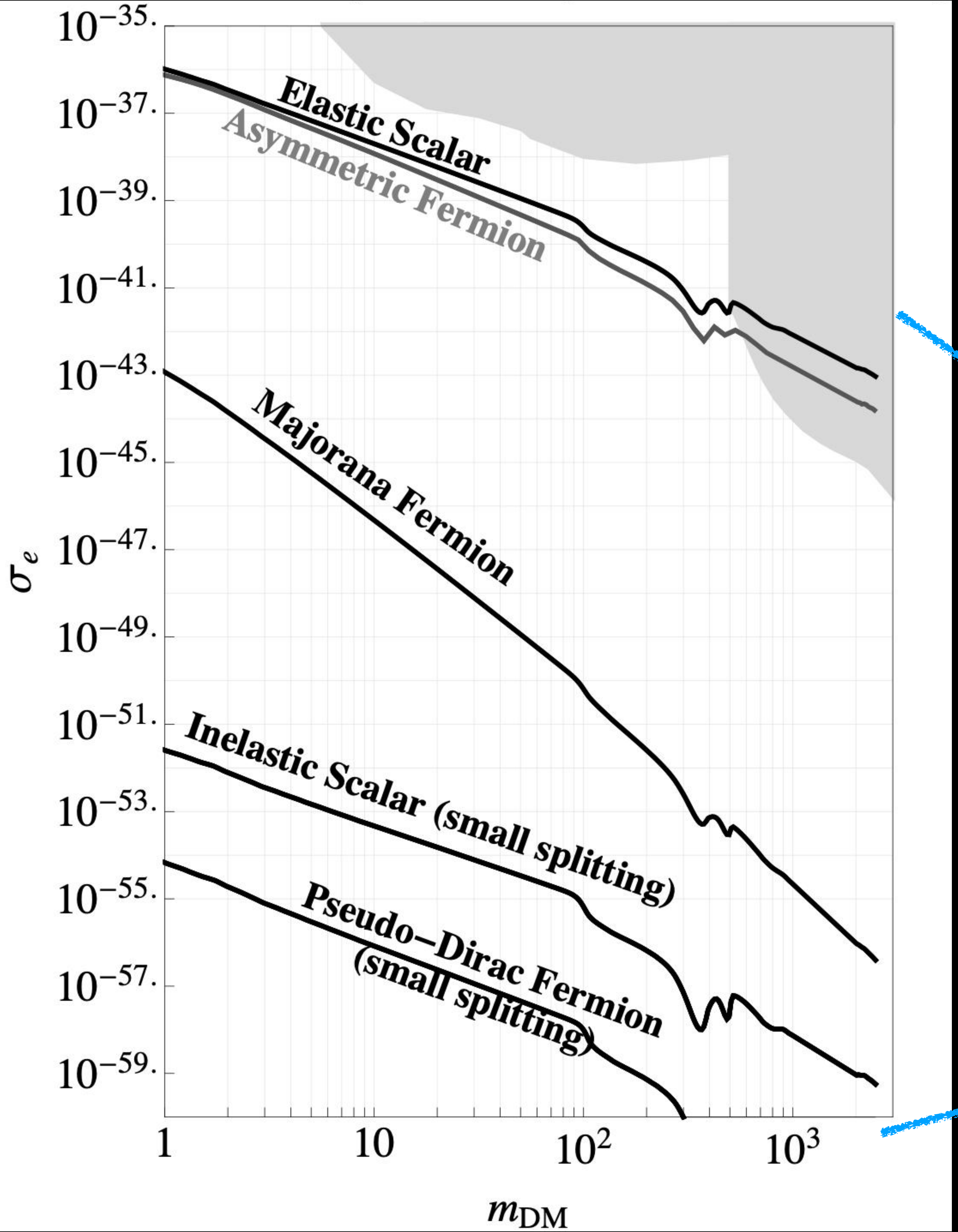
Reduces sensitivity to spin and velocity suppression effects

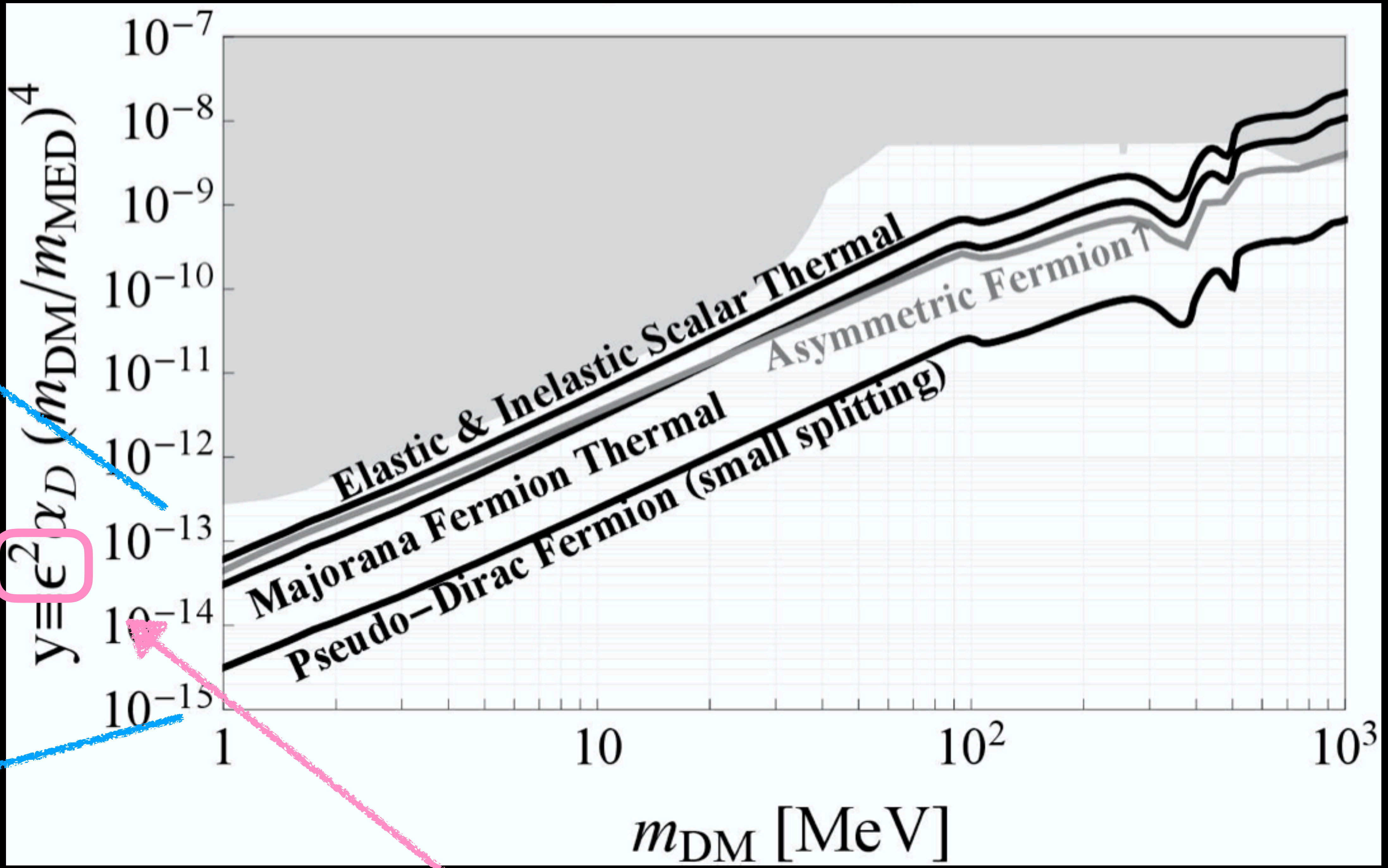


- sub-GeV thermal prediction targets line up within reach at accelerators

$$\sigma v(\chi\chi \to A' \to ff) \propto \varepsilon^2 \alpha_D \frac{m_\chi^2}{m_{A'}^4} = \frac{y}{m_\chi^2}$$

DM-electron scattering cross section





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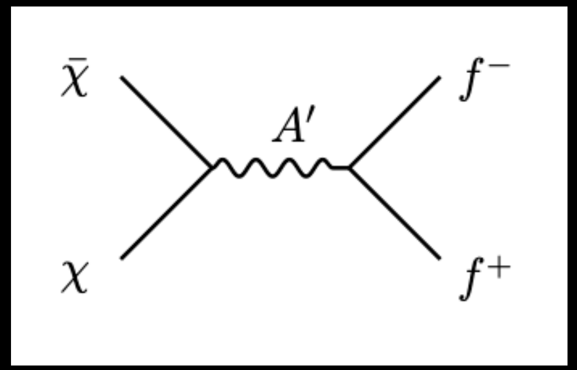

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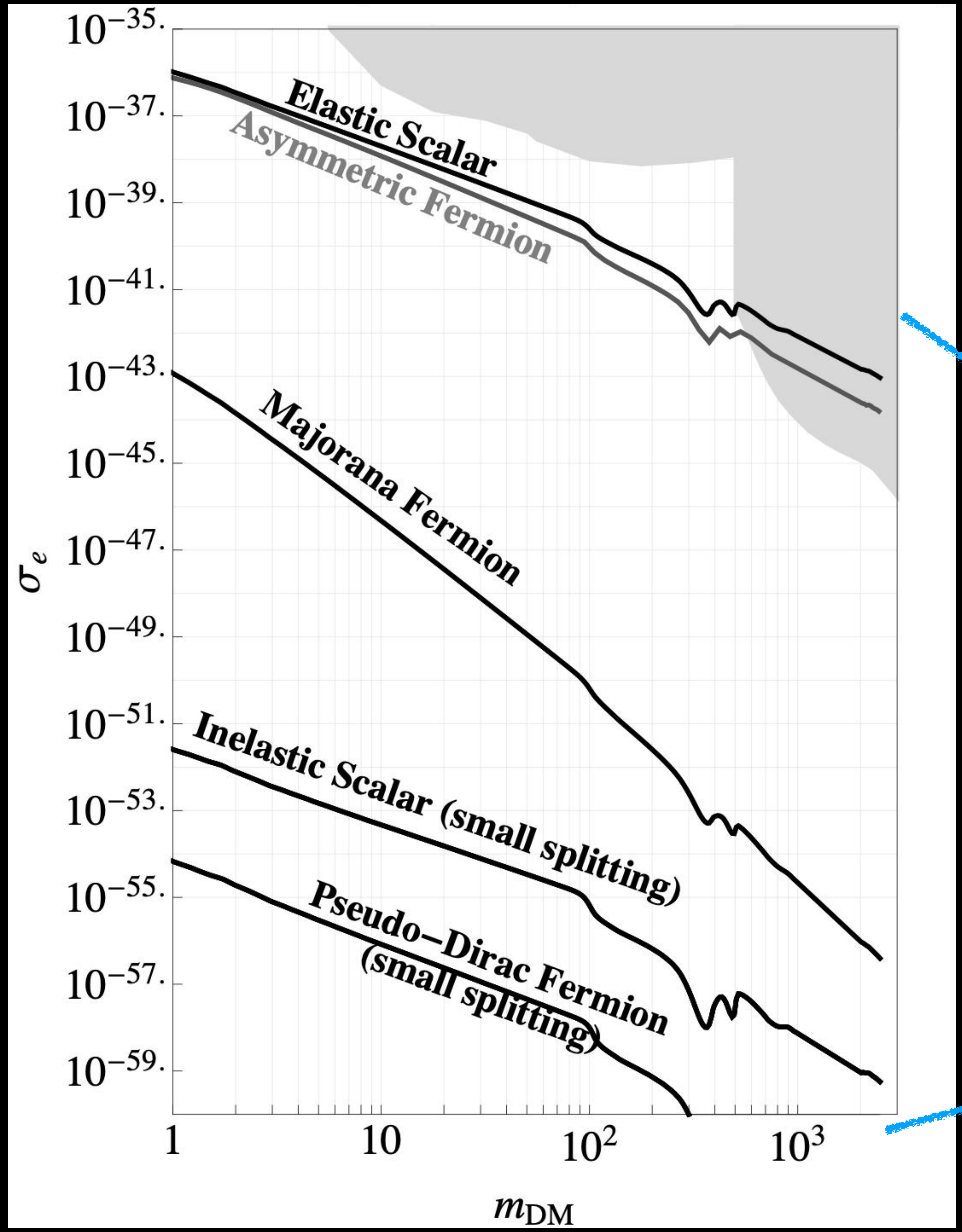
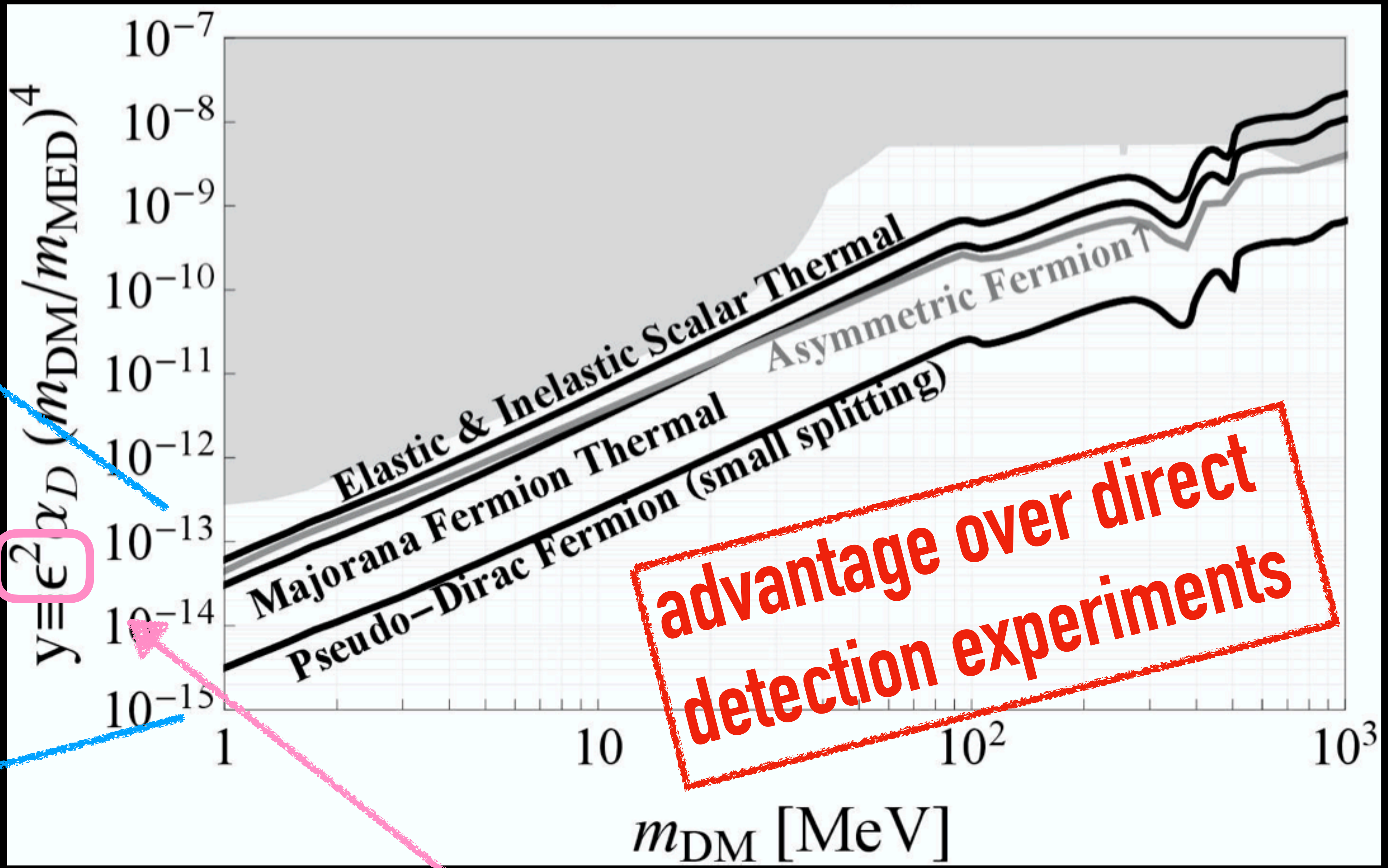
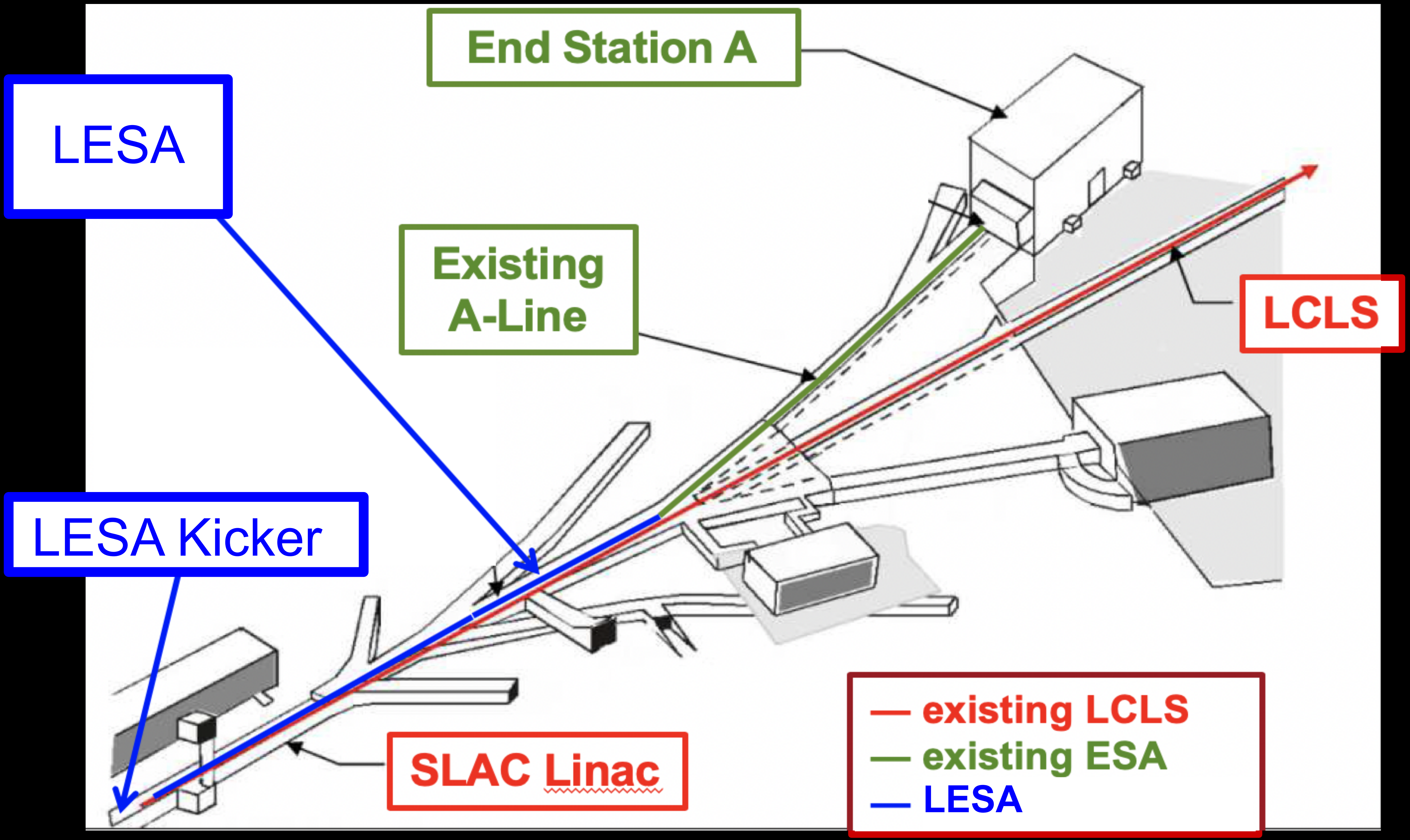




mixing parameter

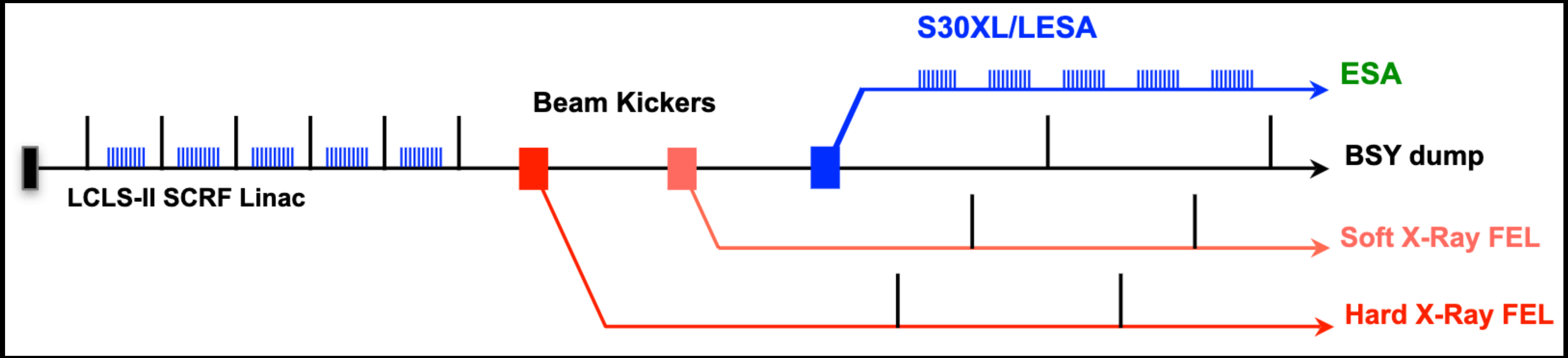
LESA Snowmass 2021 contribution
https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.13215

GeV-scale electron beam at SLAC



LCLS-2 beam at SLAC:

- electron beam for photon science
  - divert unused low-multiplicity bunches via Linac to End Station A (LESA)
- upgrade: 4→8 GeV beam energy
- low current
  - measure each incoming and outgoing electron
- fast repetition rate
  - expect 37.1 MHz bunch frequency
  - and ~10^{14} electrons on target in 1-2 years

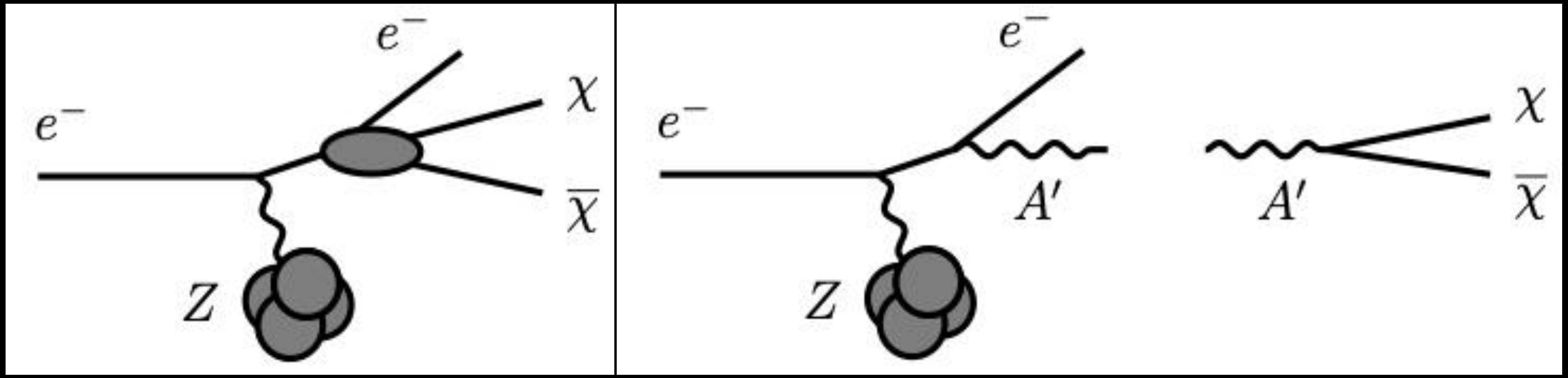


End Station A, upstream

(TK Nelson)

LDMX: a fixed-target missing momentum experiment

LDMX focuses on *escaping* dark matter:



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- strategy: make all SM backgrounds appear in detector
  - veto everything but low-activity events
- agnostic when it comes to (invisible) fate of the *A*'
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More detail: A high efficiency photon veto for the Light Dark Matter eXperiment, JHEP04 (2020) 003

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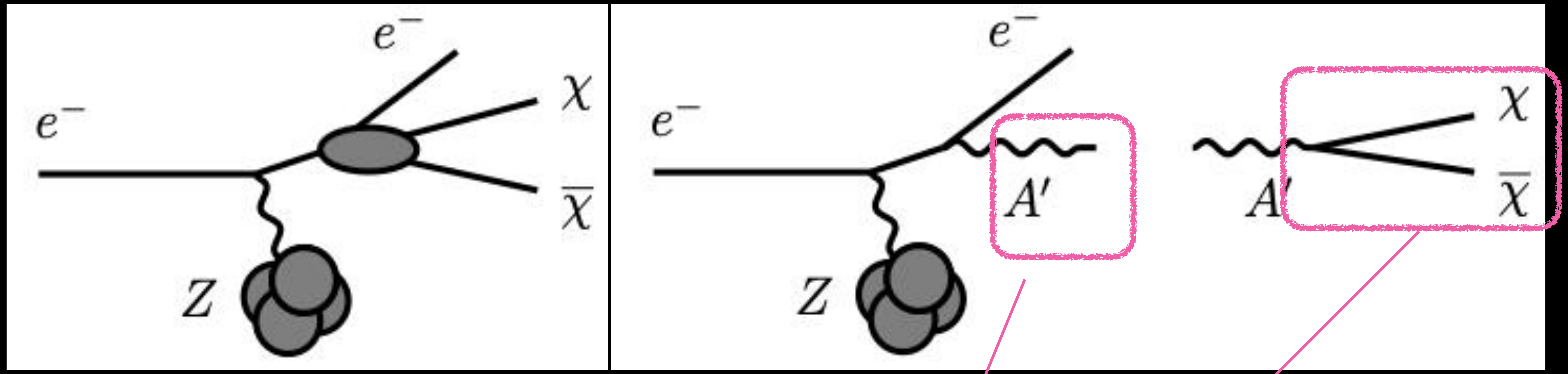

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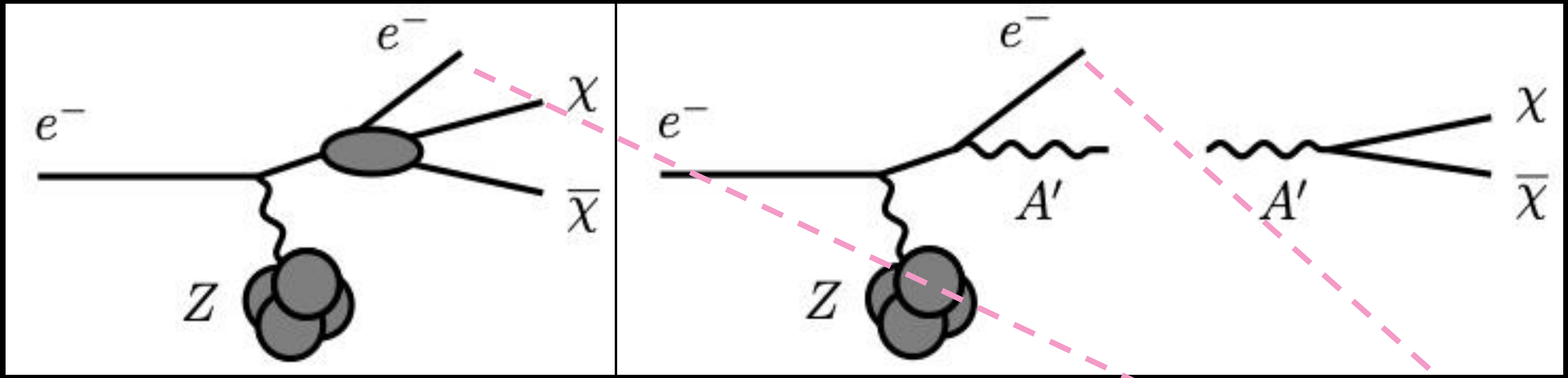

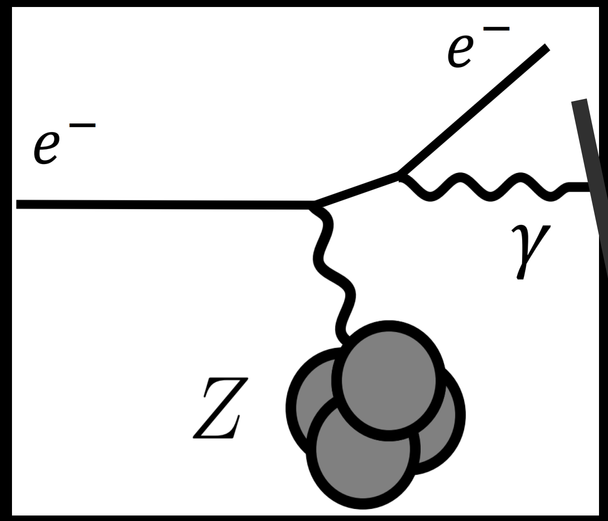

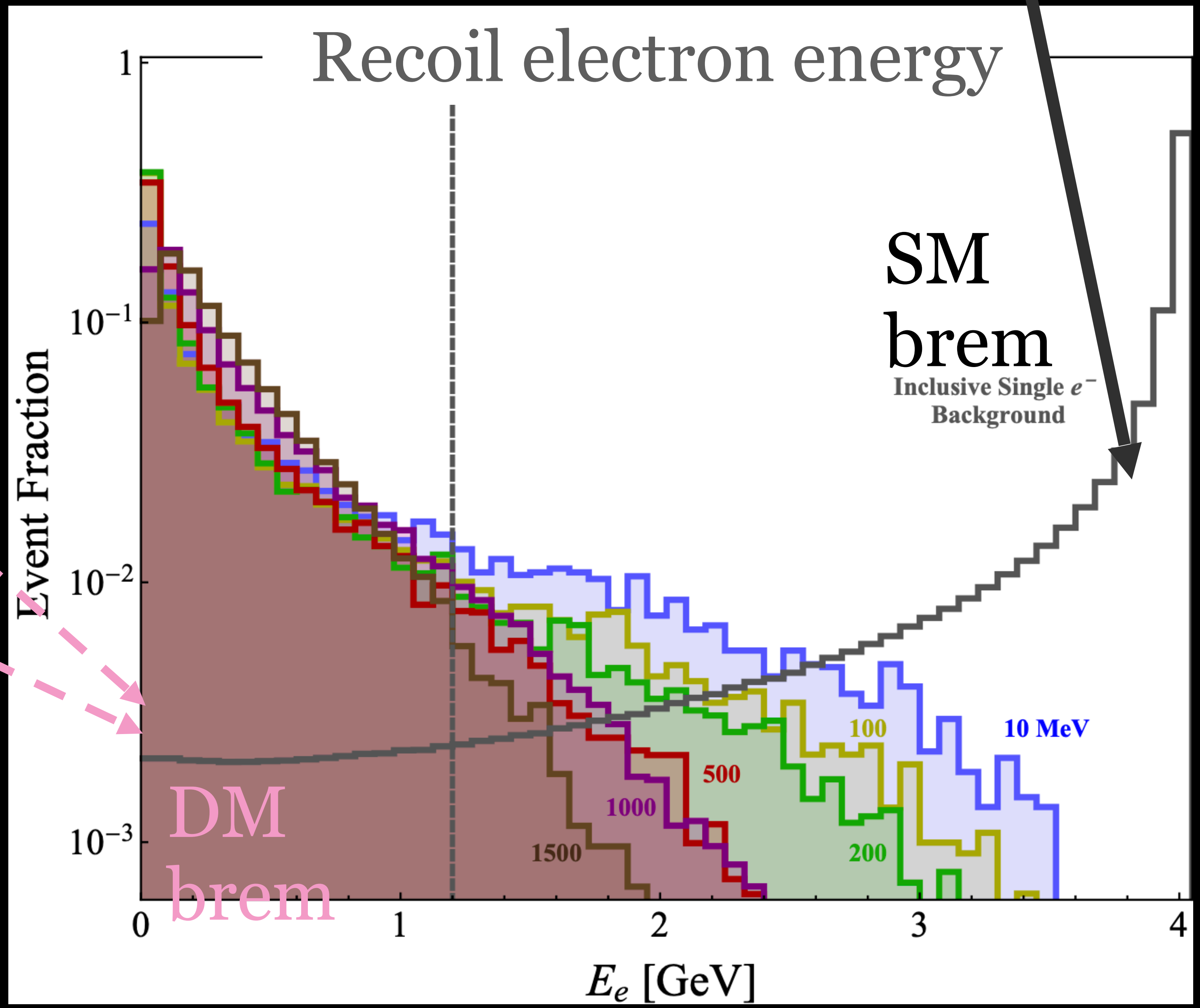

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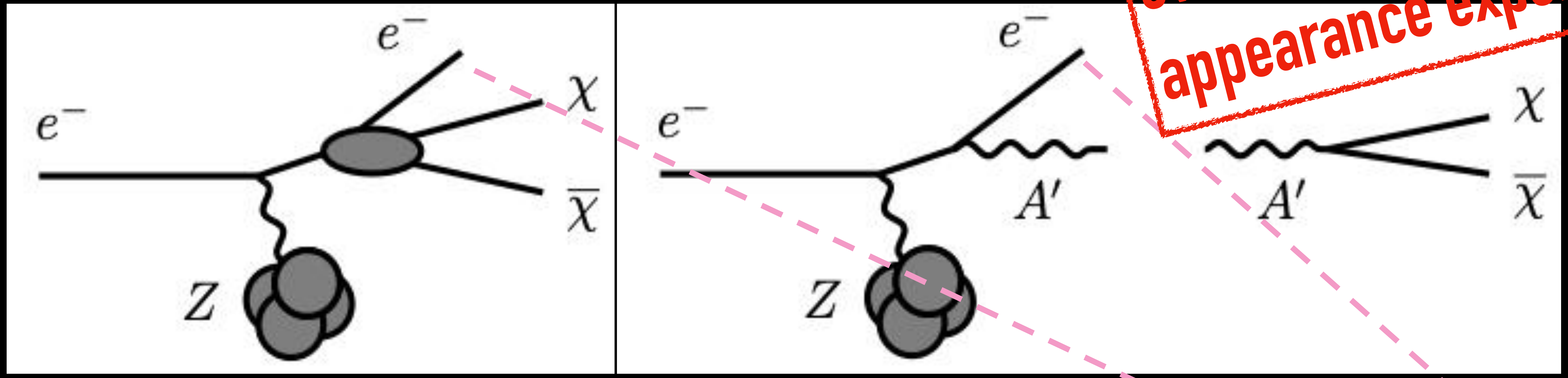

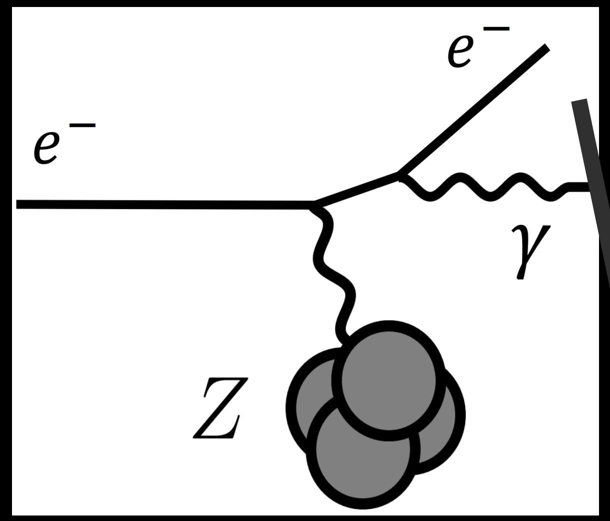

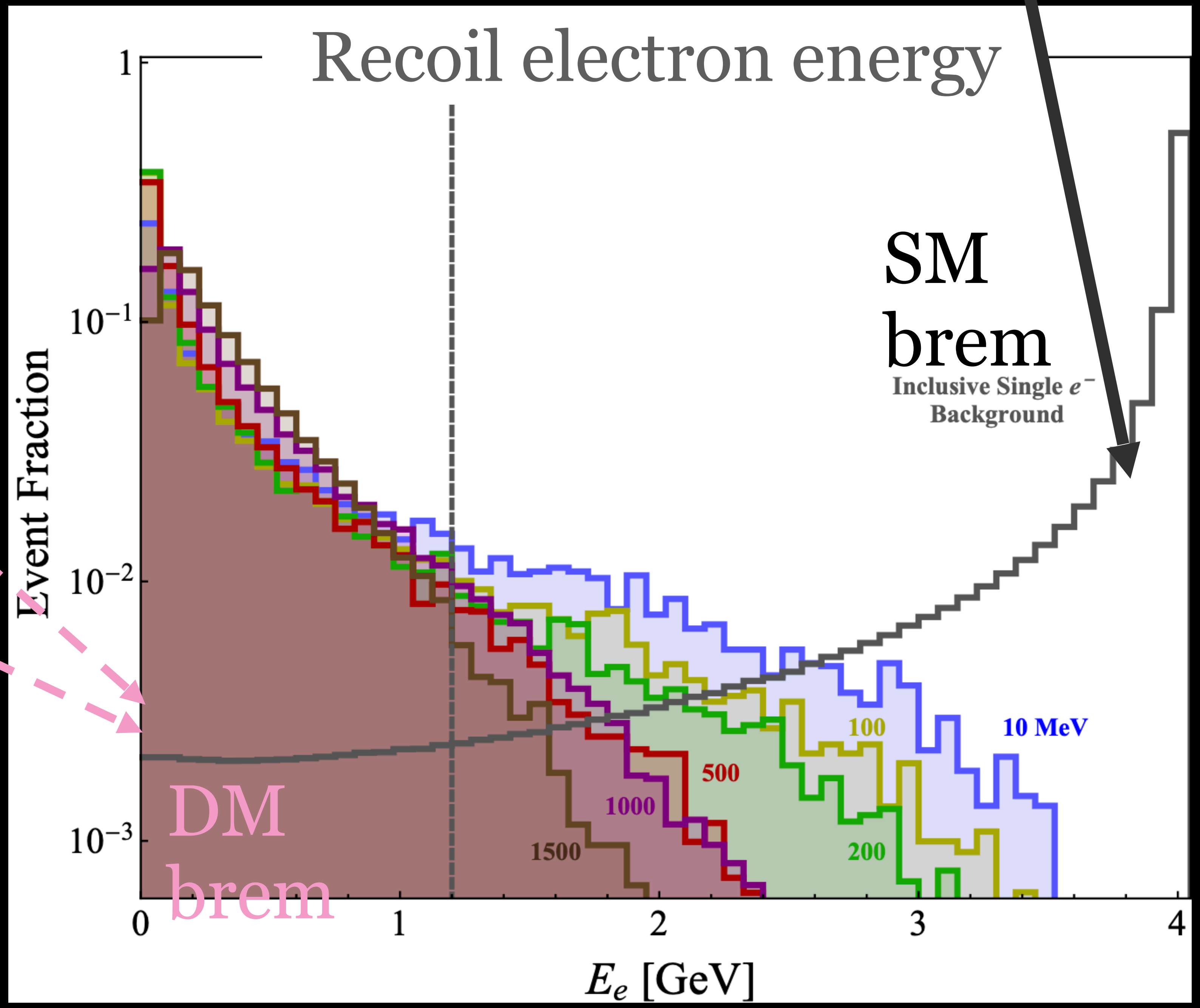

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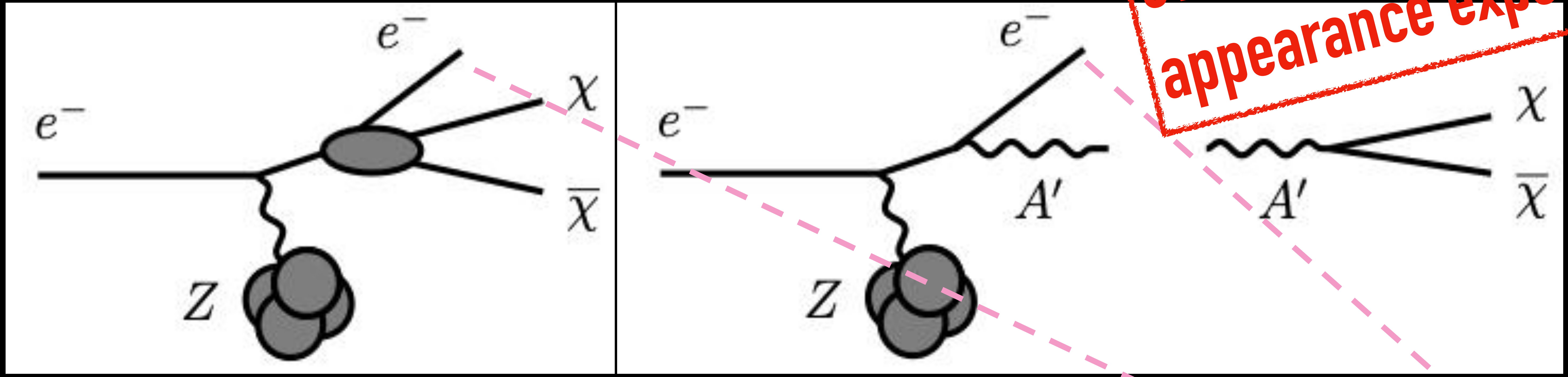

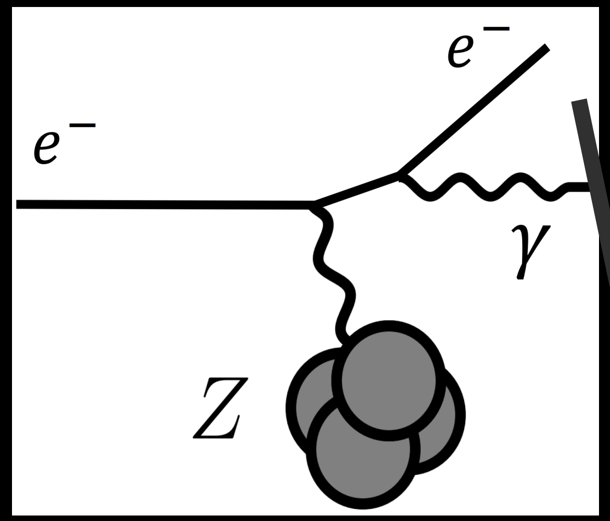

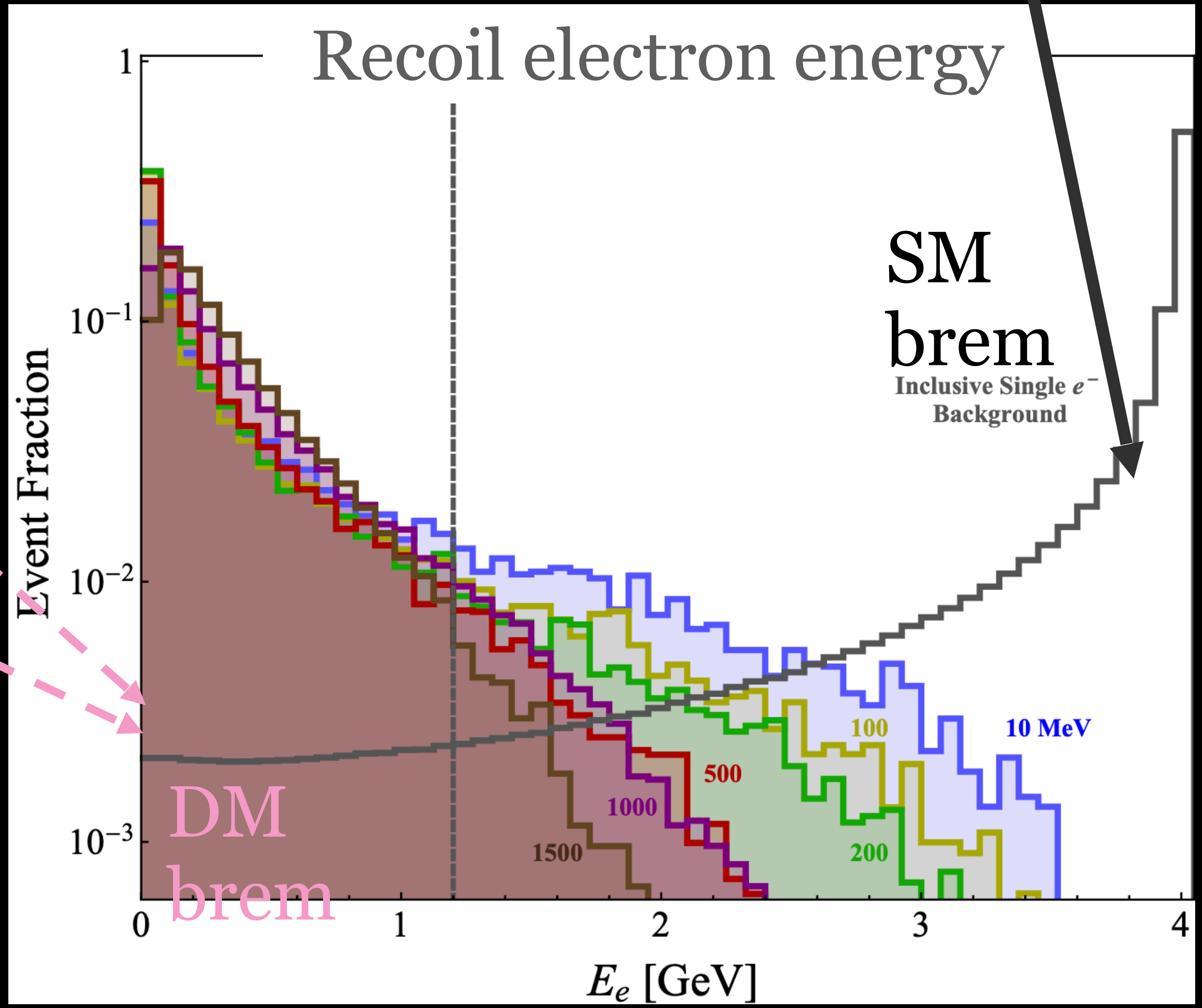

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Massive photon → momentum kick; missing *momentum* experiment

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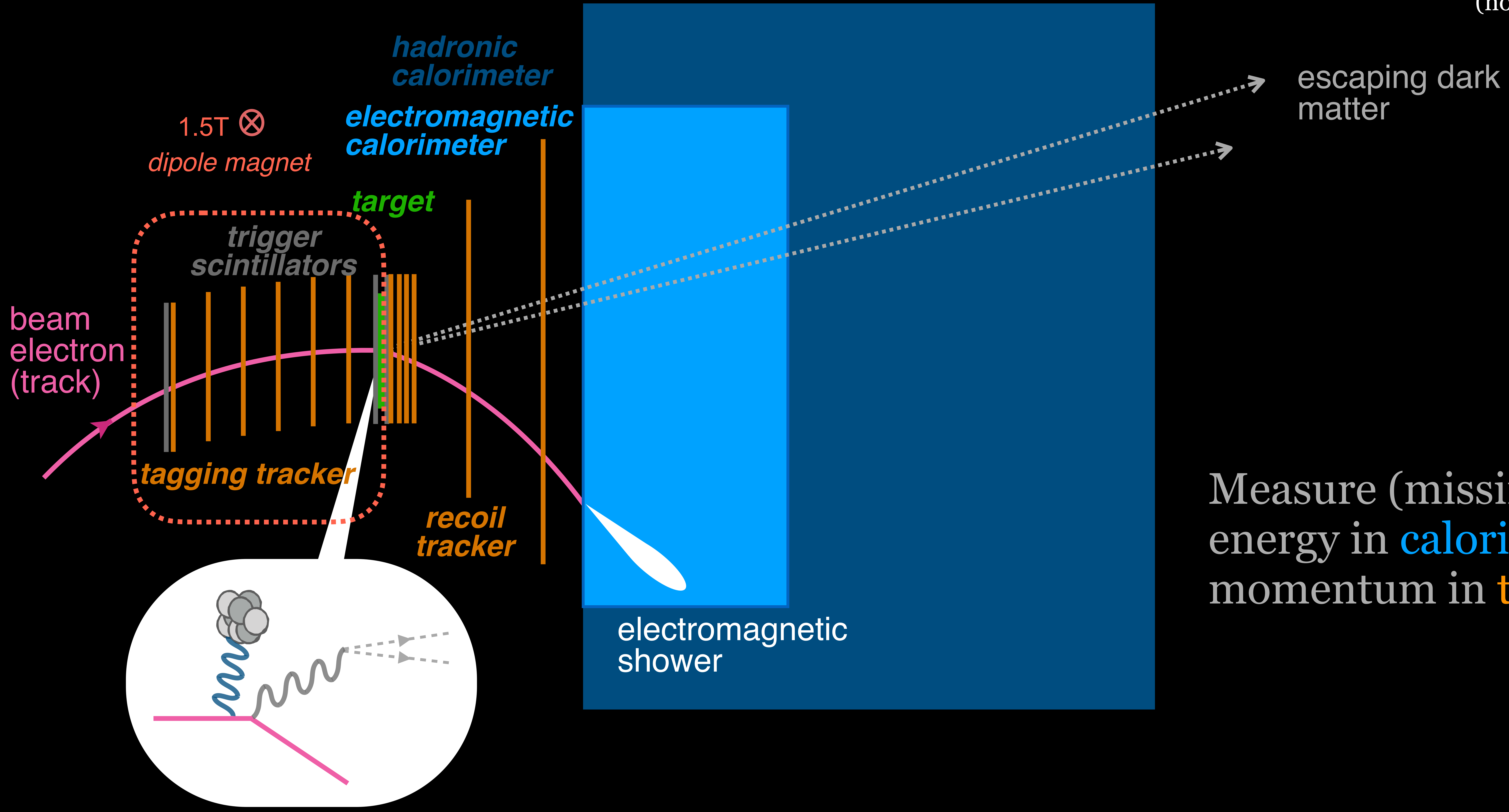
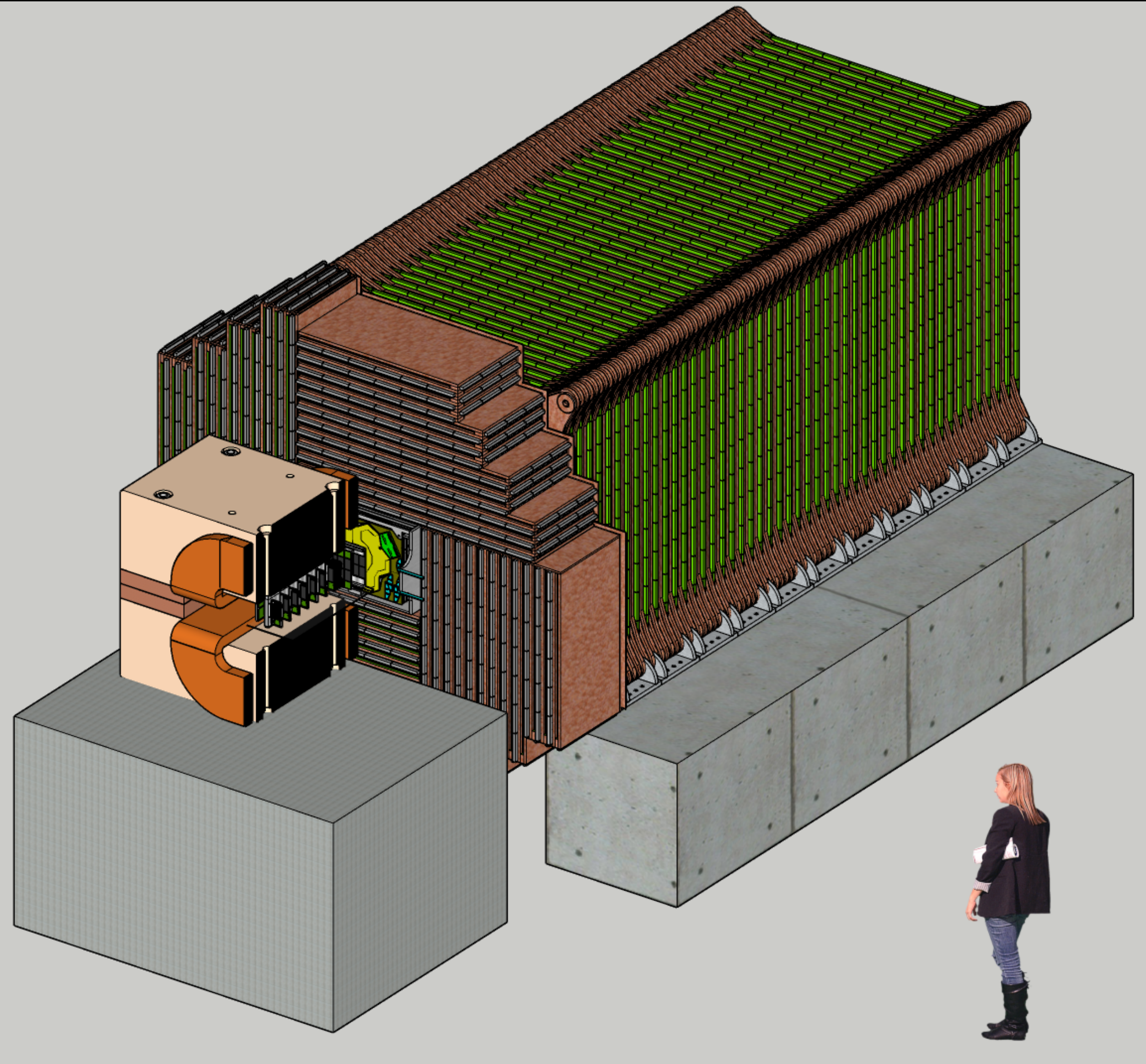
LDMX detector concept

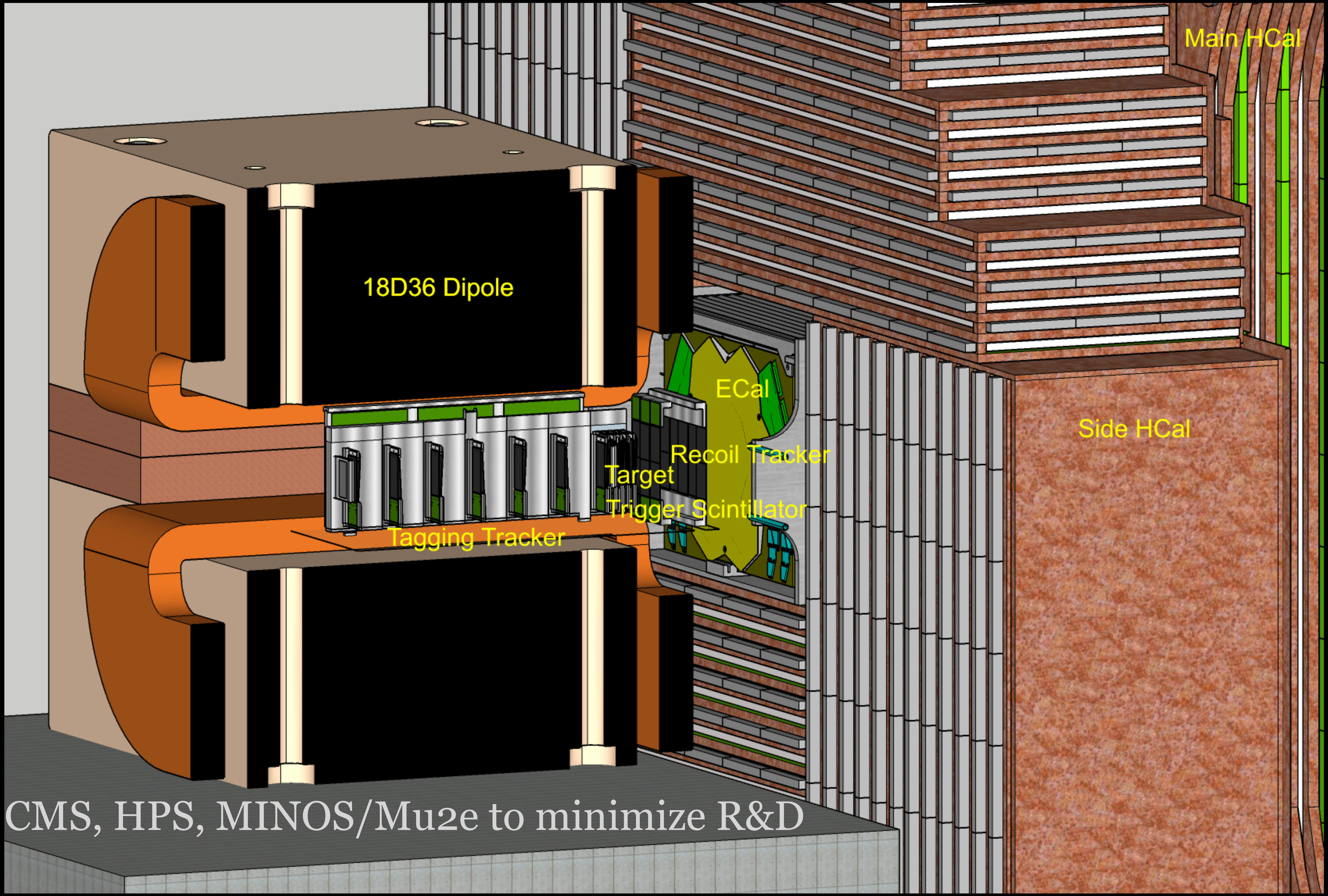
Signal cartoon
(not to scale)



Measure (missing) energy in calorimeters, momentum in trackers

Current design in more detail





Leverage technologies from CMS, HPS, MINOS/Mu2e to minimize R&D

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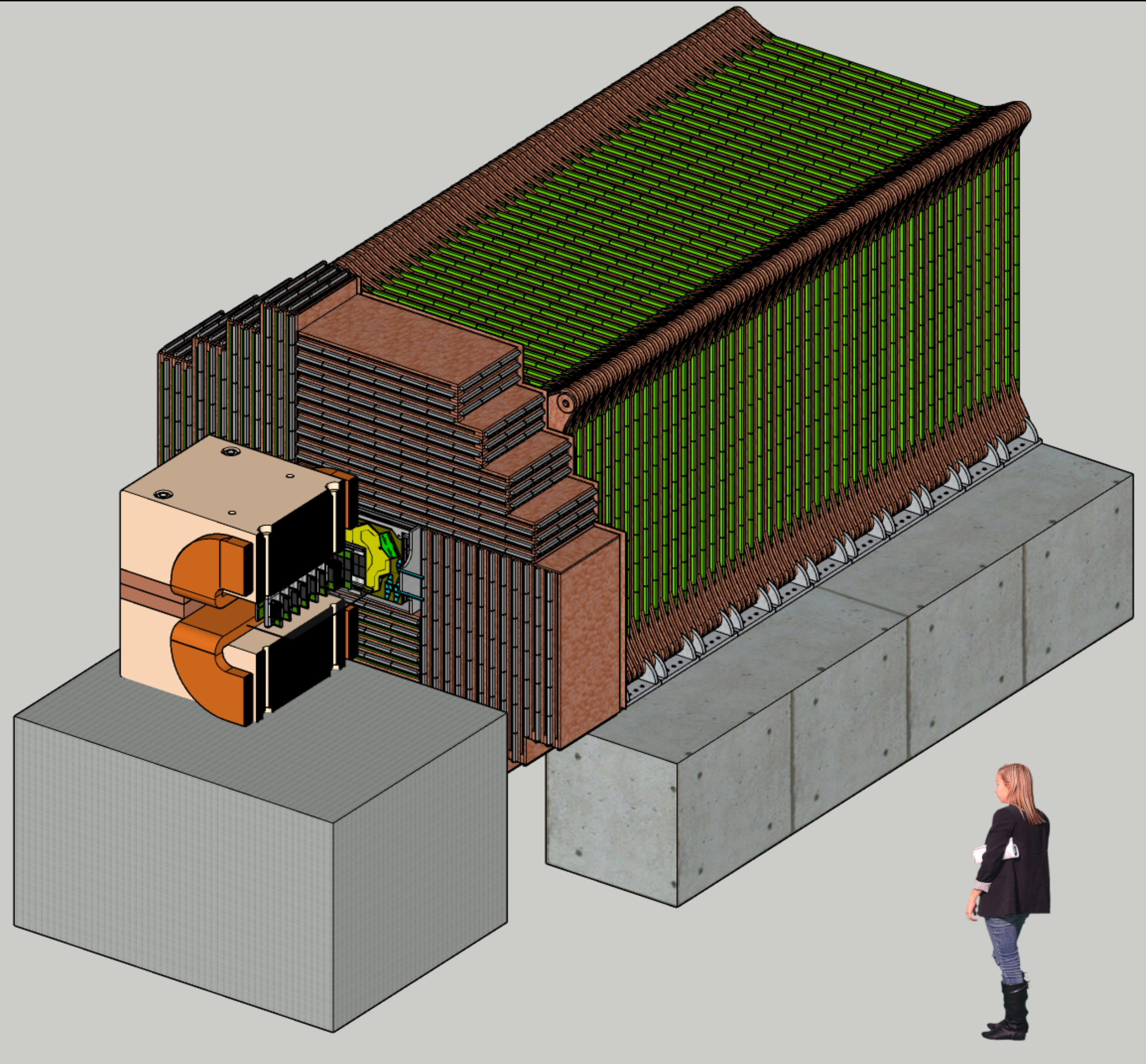
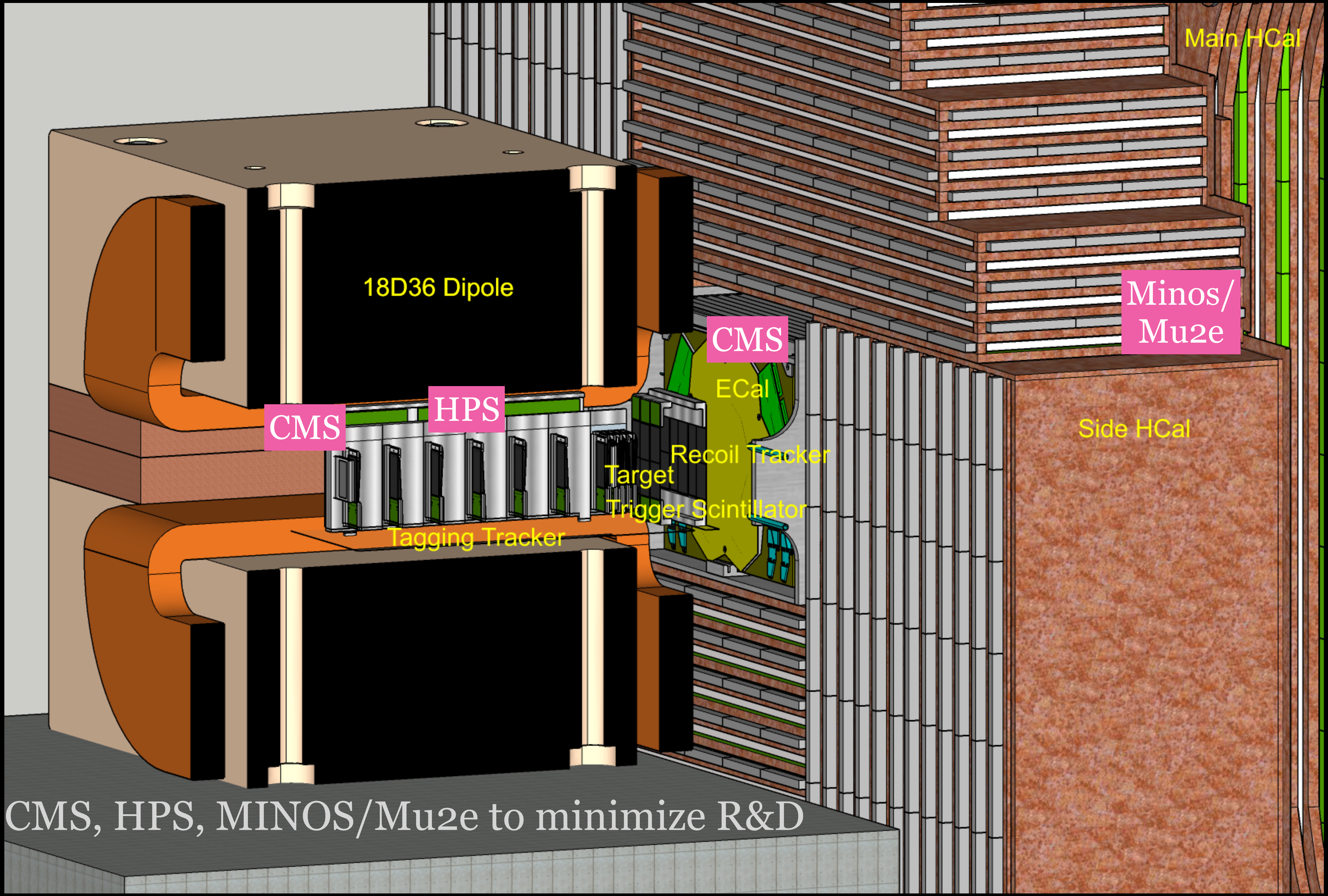
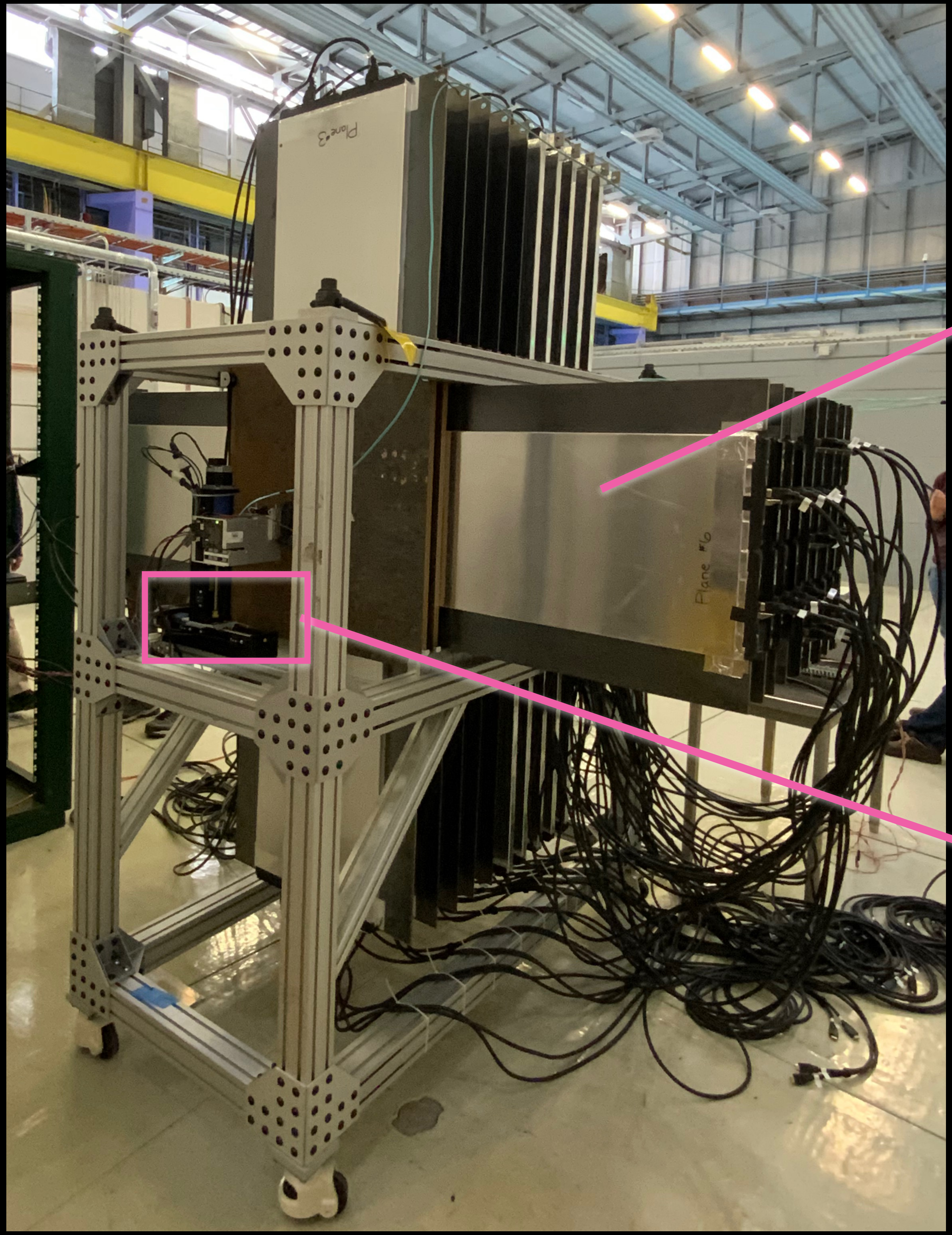




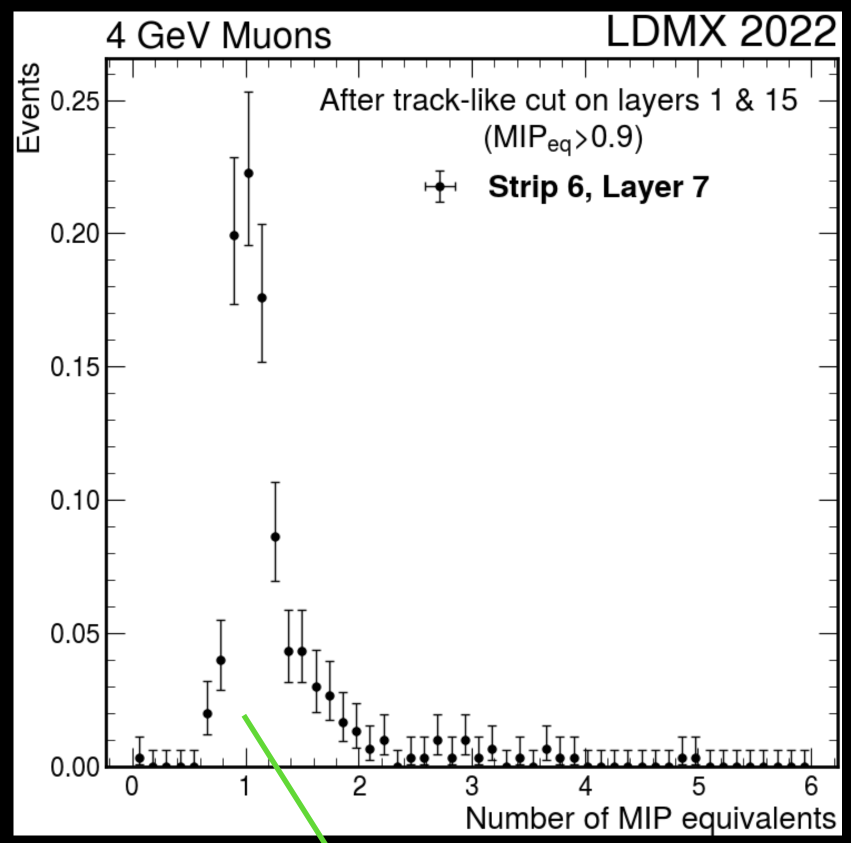
Leverage technologies from CMS, HPS, MINOS/Mu2e to minimize R&D

Current status: prototype beam tests

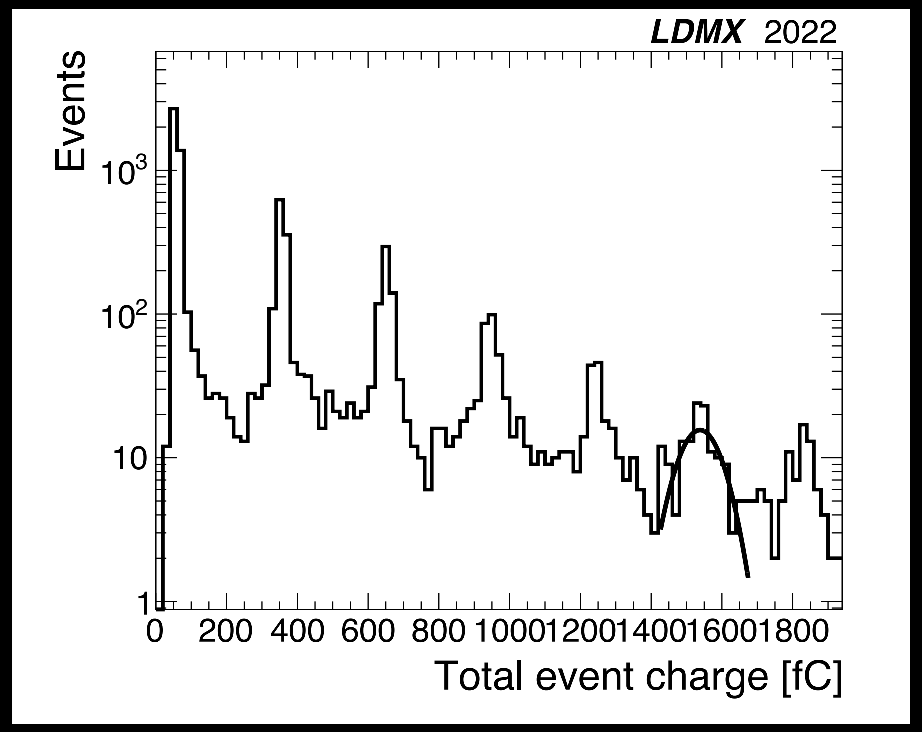


CERN test beam, March-April 2022

Hadronic calorimeter

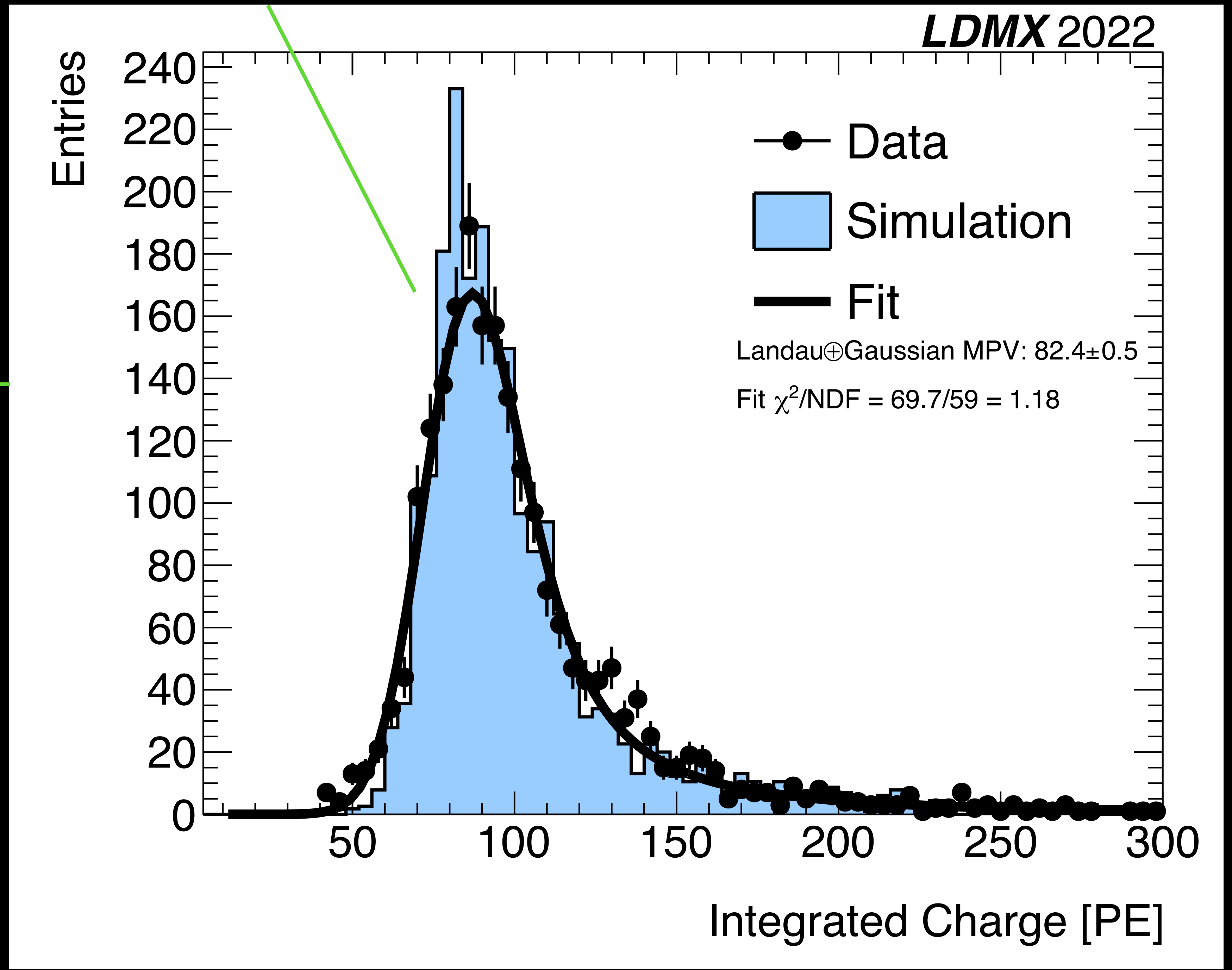


MIP response



TS single-photoelectron SiPM gain calibration

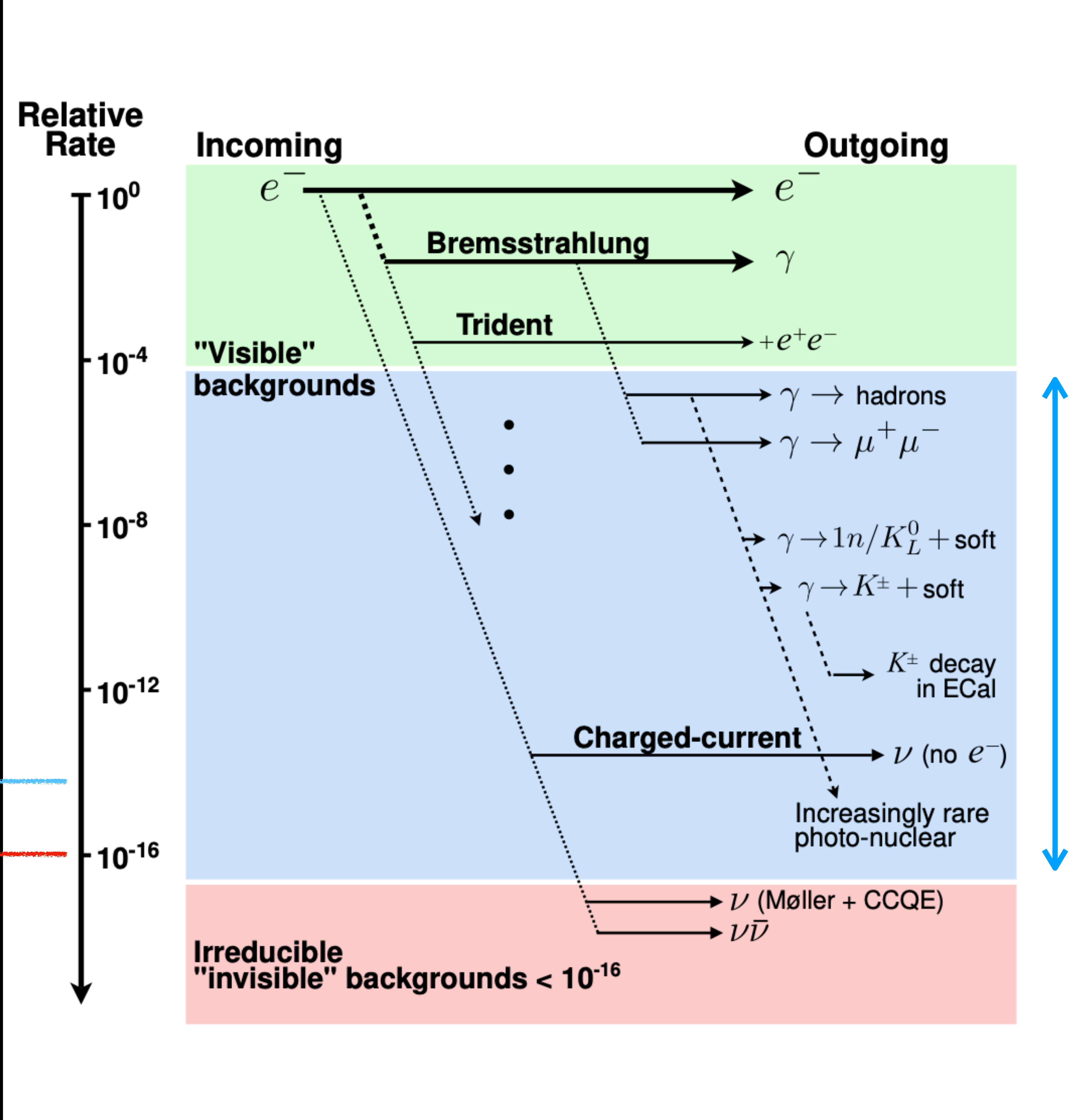
Trigger scintillator (TS)



Backgrounds

https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.15173

shaping the requirements on the detector



expected reach Phase 1

expected ultimate dataset

fate of bremsstrahlung photon

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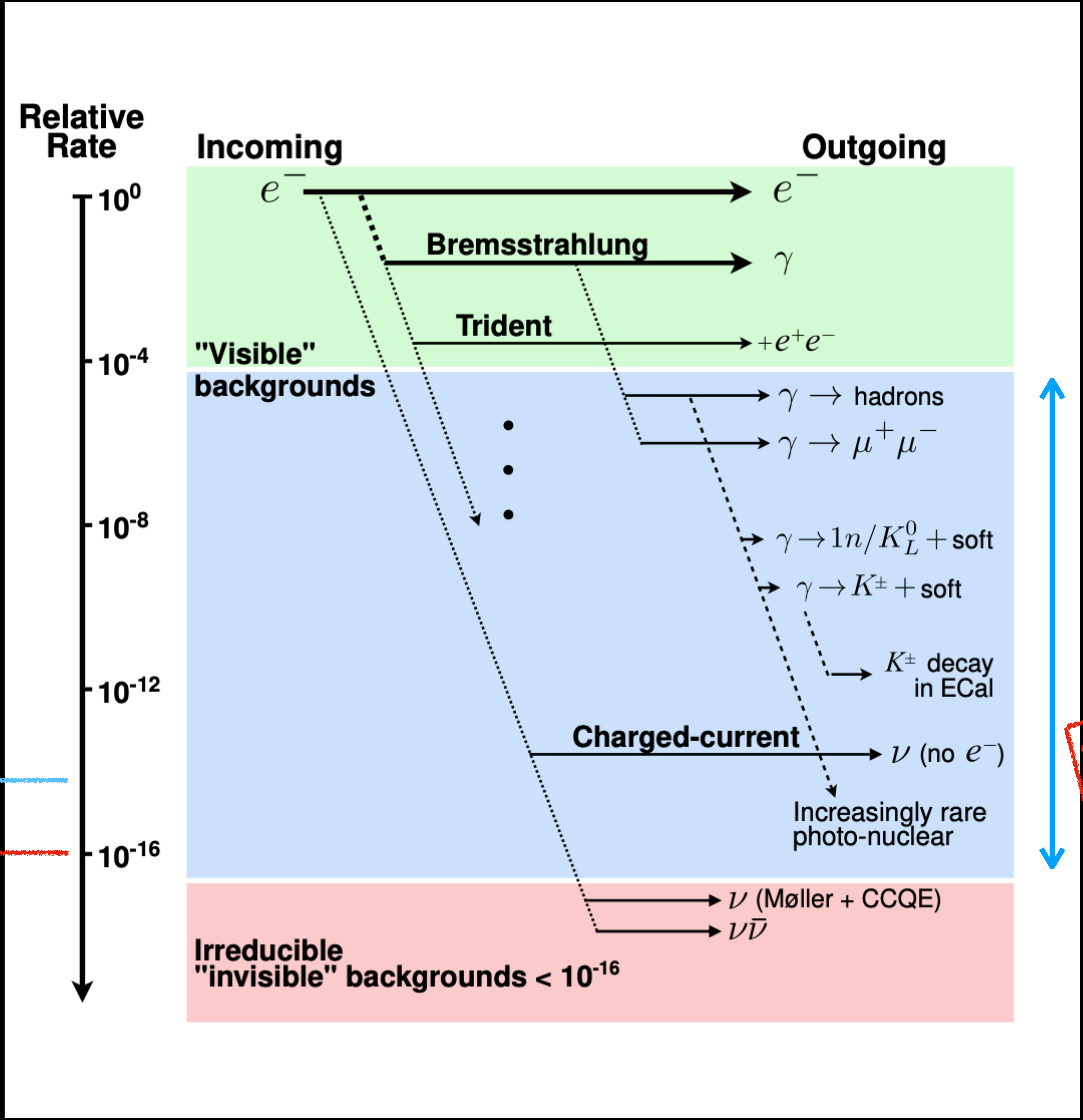

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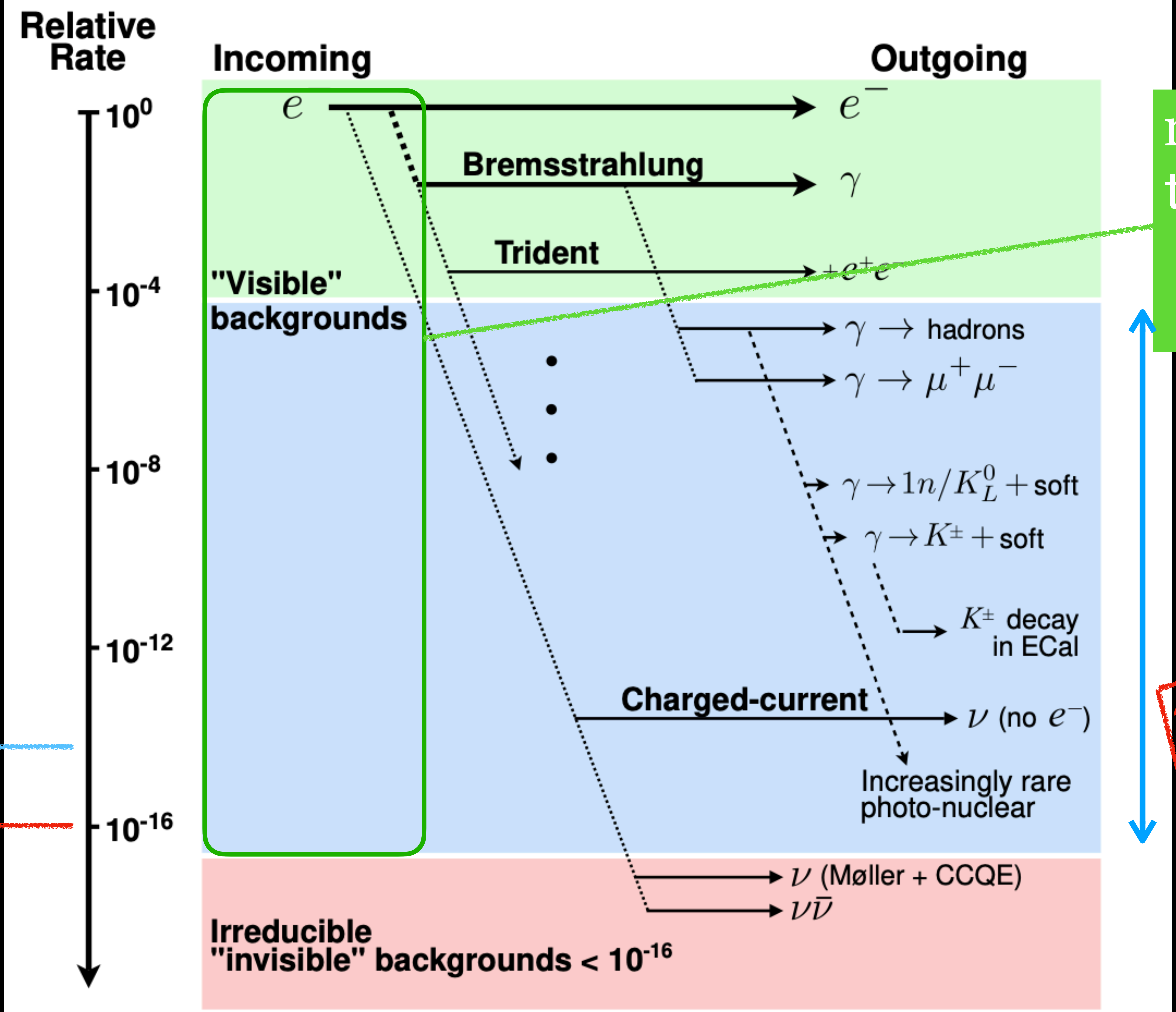

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make visible with tracker and high-granularity calorimetry

fate of bremsstrahlung photon

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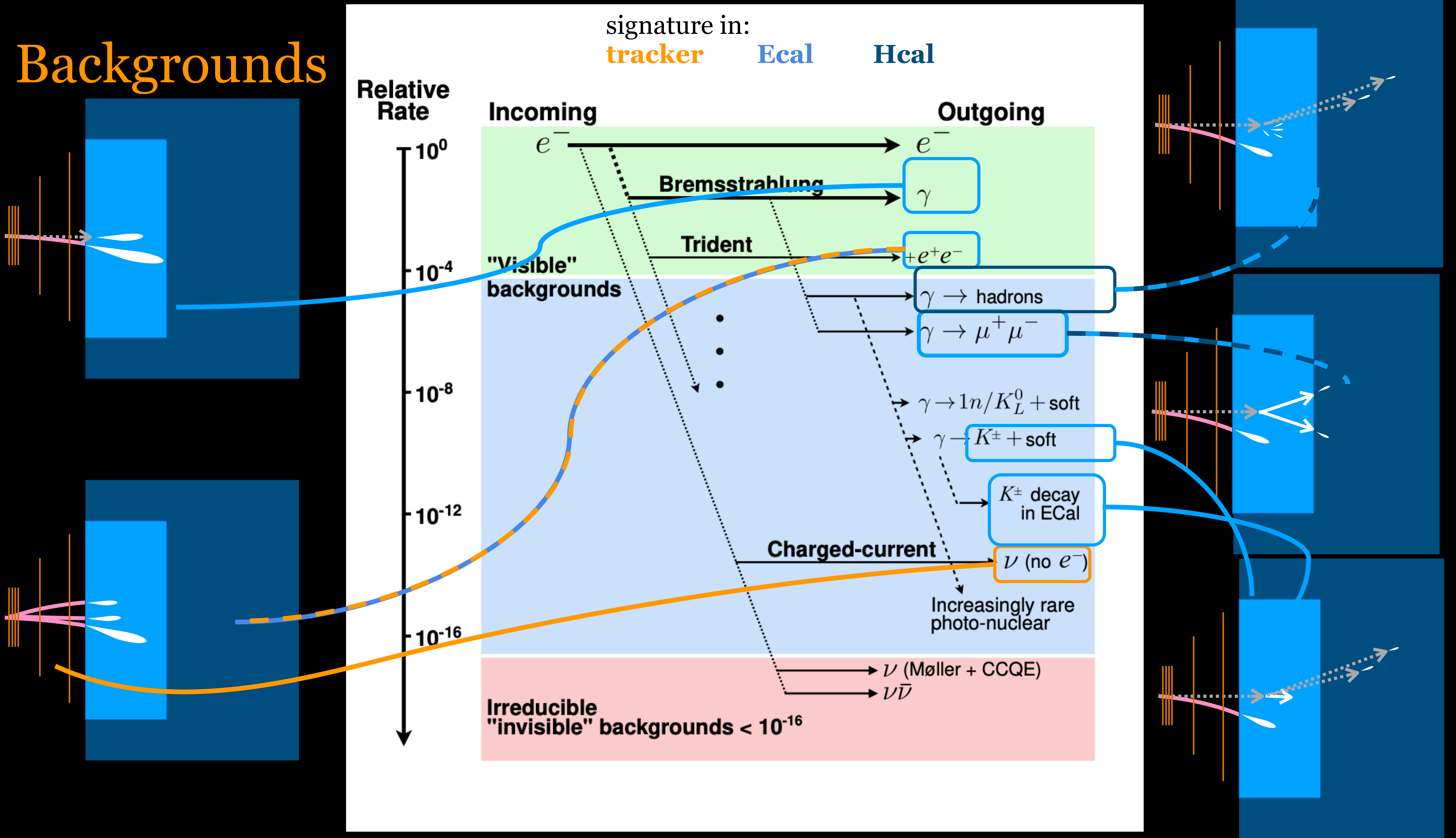

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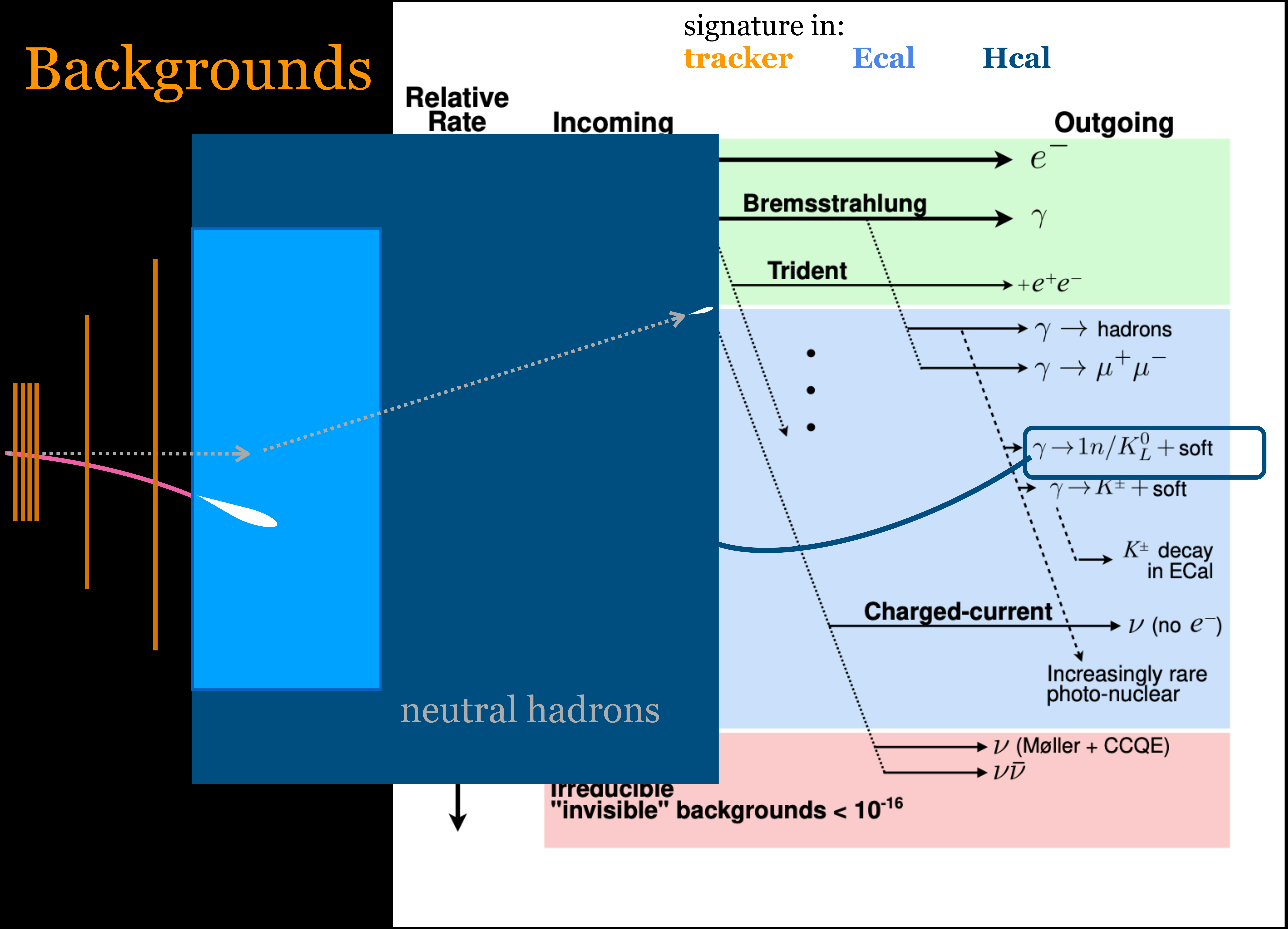

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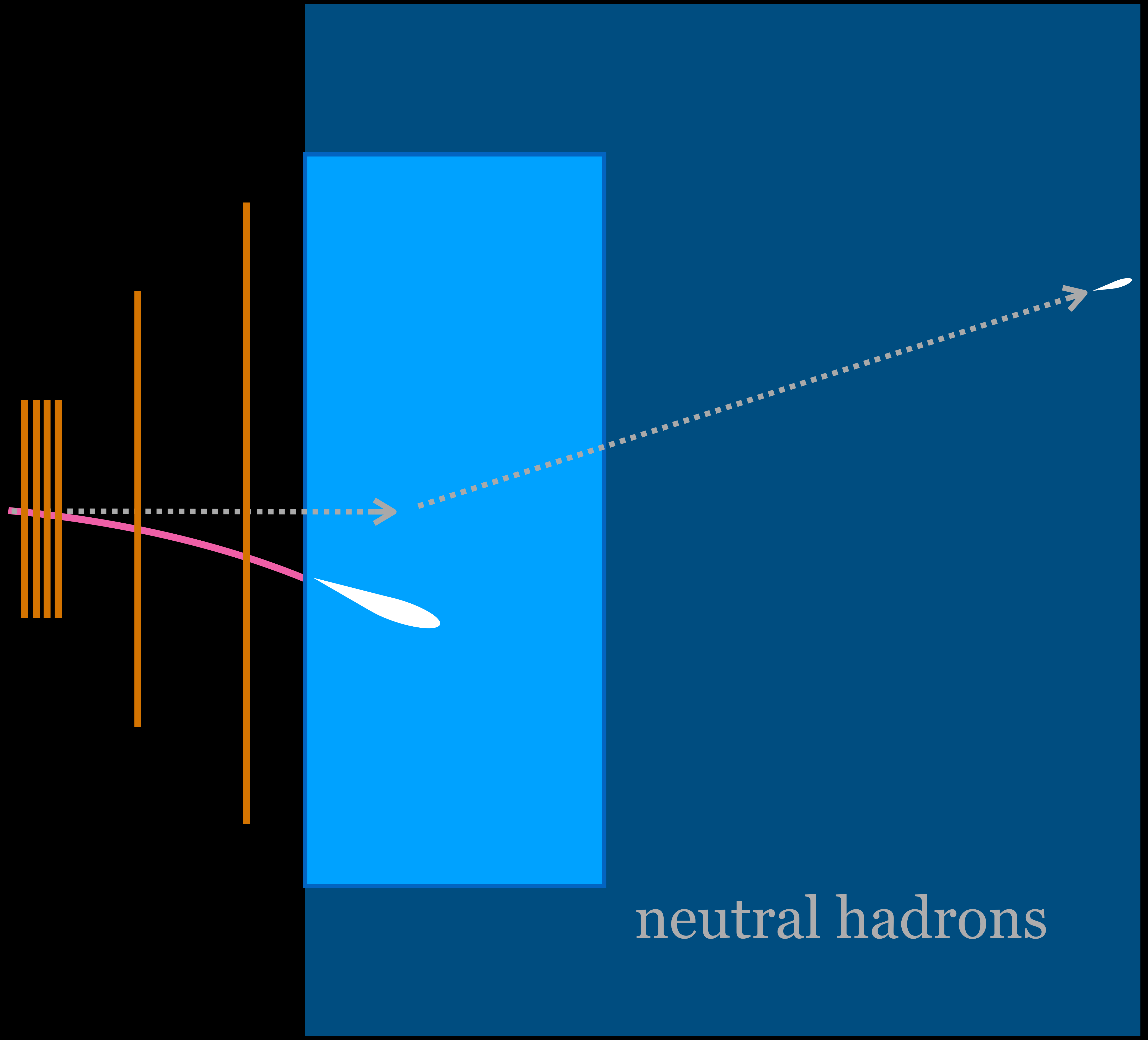
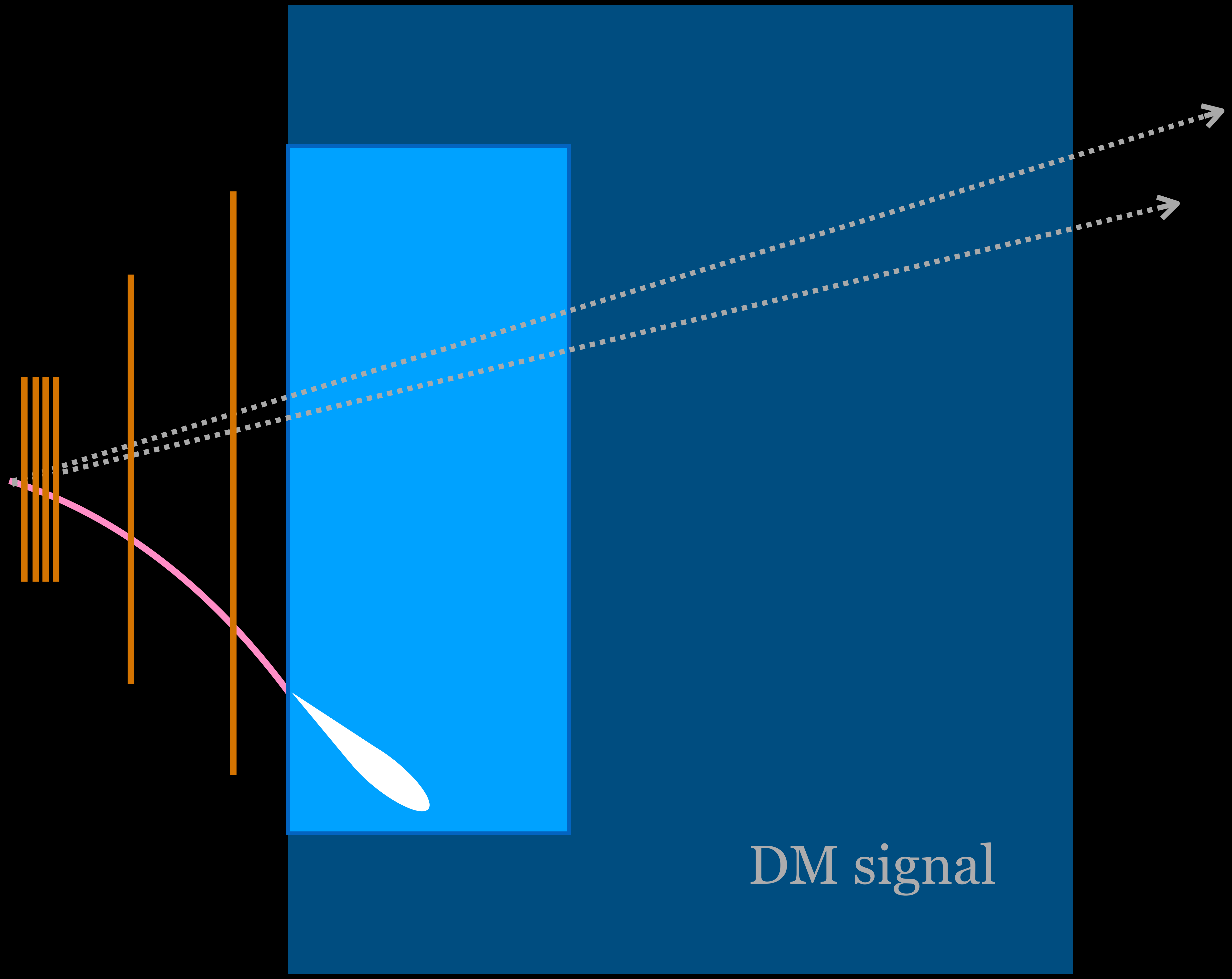
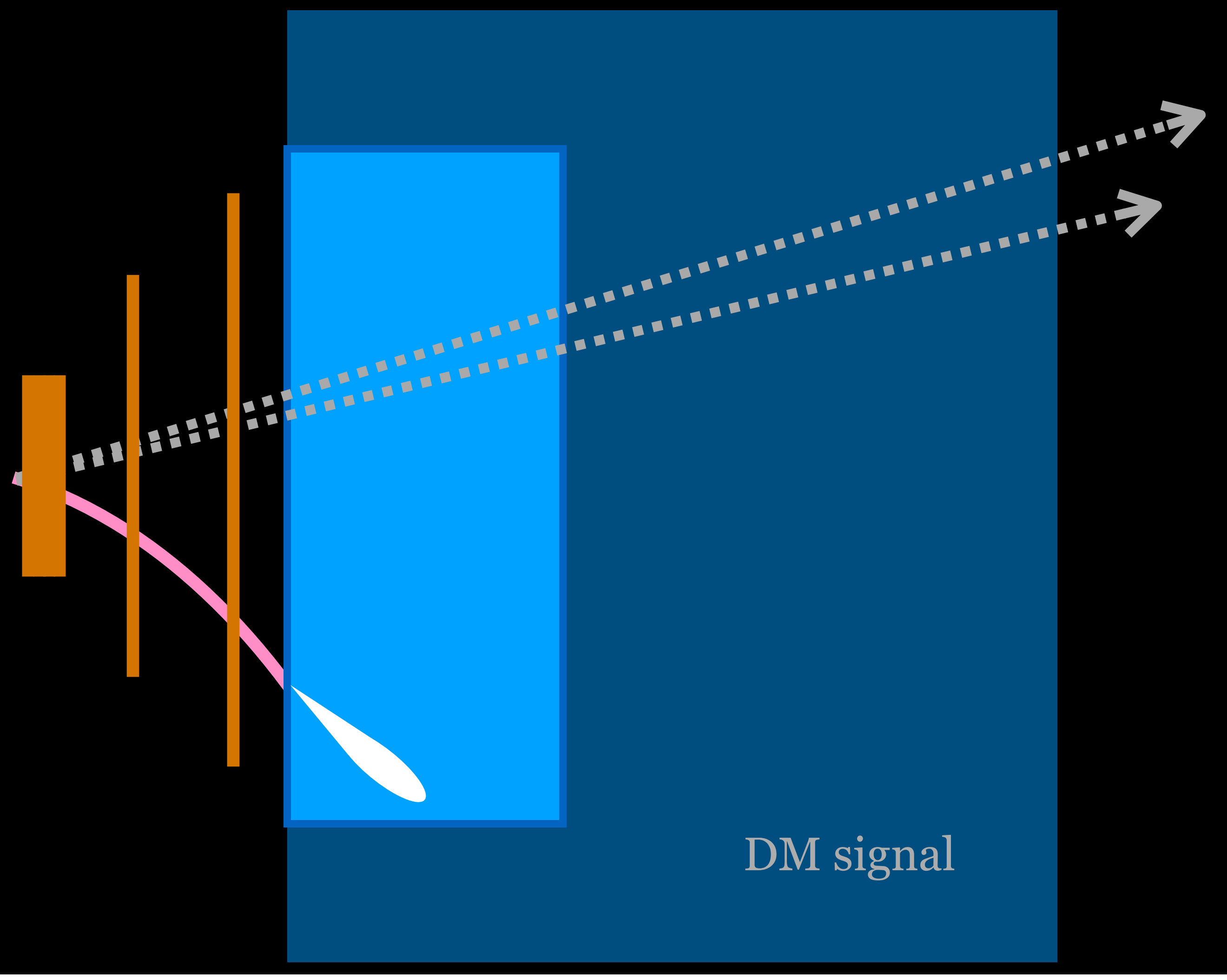




Event selection/vetoes for invisible DM

Goal: no background from ~10^{14} electrons on target



First handle: recoiling electron

- Count incoming electrons, measure in Ecal, calculate missing energy
  - trigger if consistent with one electron losing significant energy
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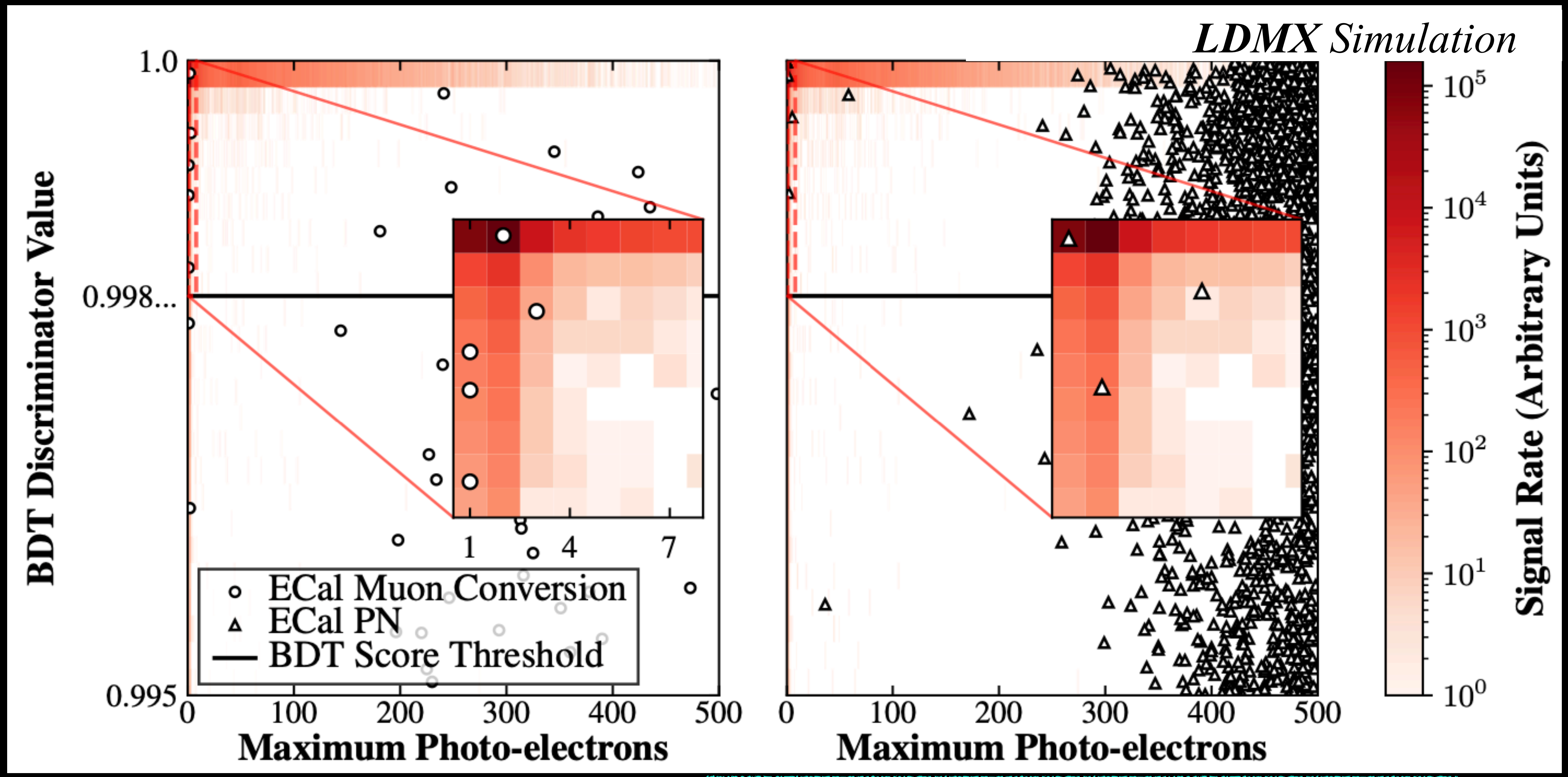
Exploit high-granularity Ecal features

- BDT trained to reject photonuclear events in Ecal
- MIP tracking powerful on sparse events



Veto on Hcal activity

- allow no activity above detector noise
- deep enough to tease out even single neutrons

extensively studied for 4 GeV beam in https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.05535, JHEP04 (2020) 003

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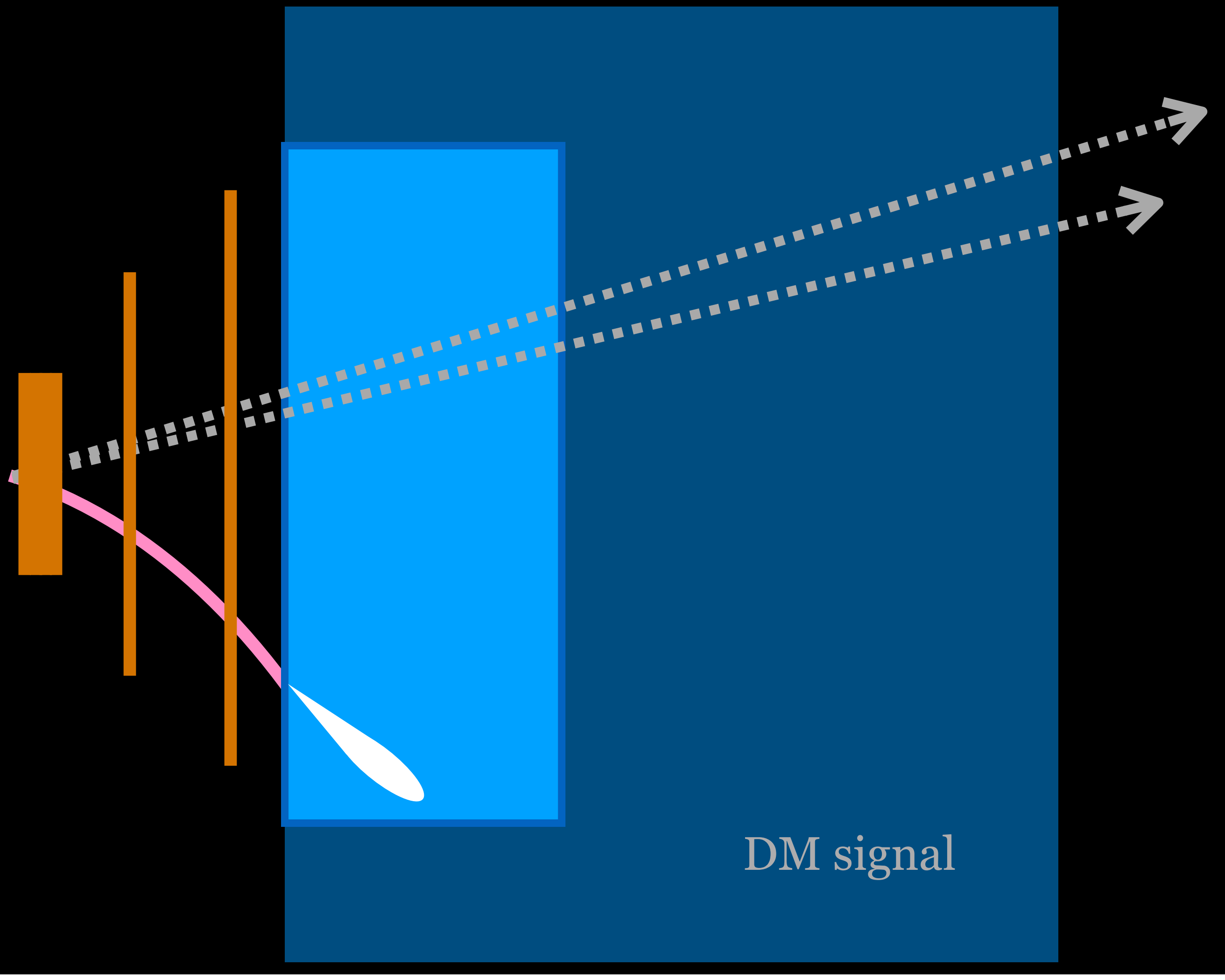

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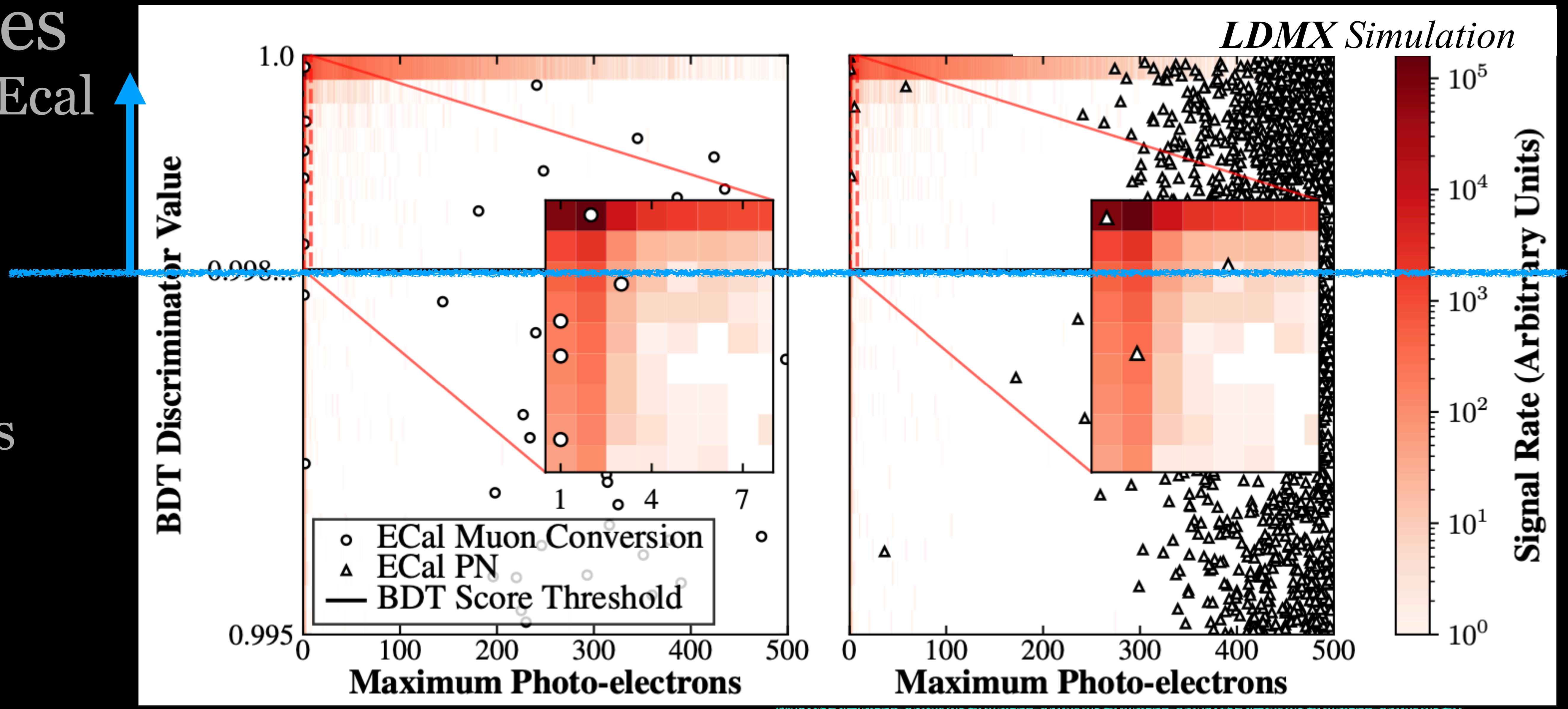

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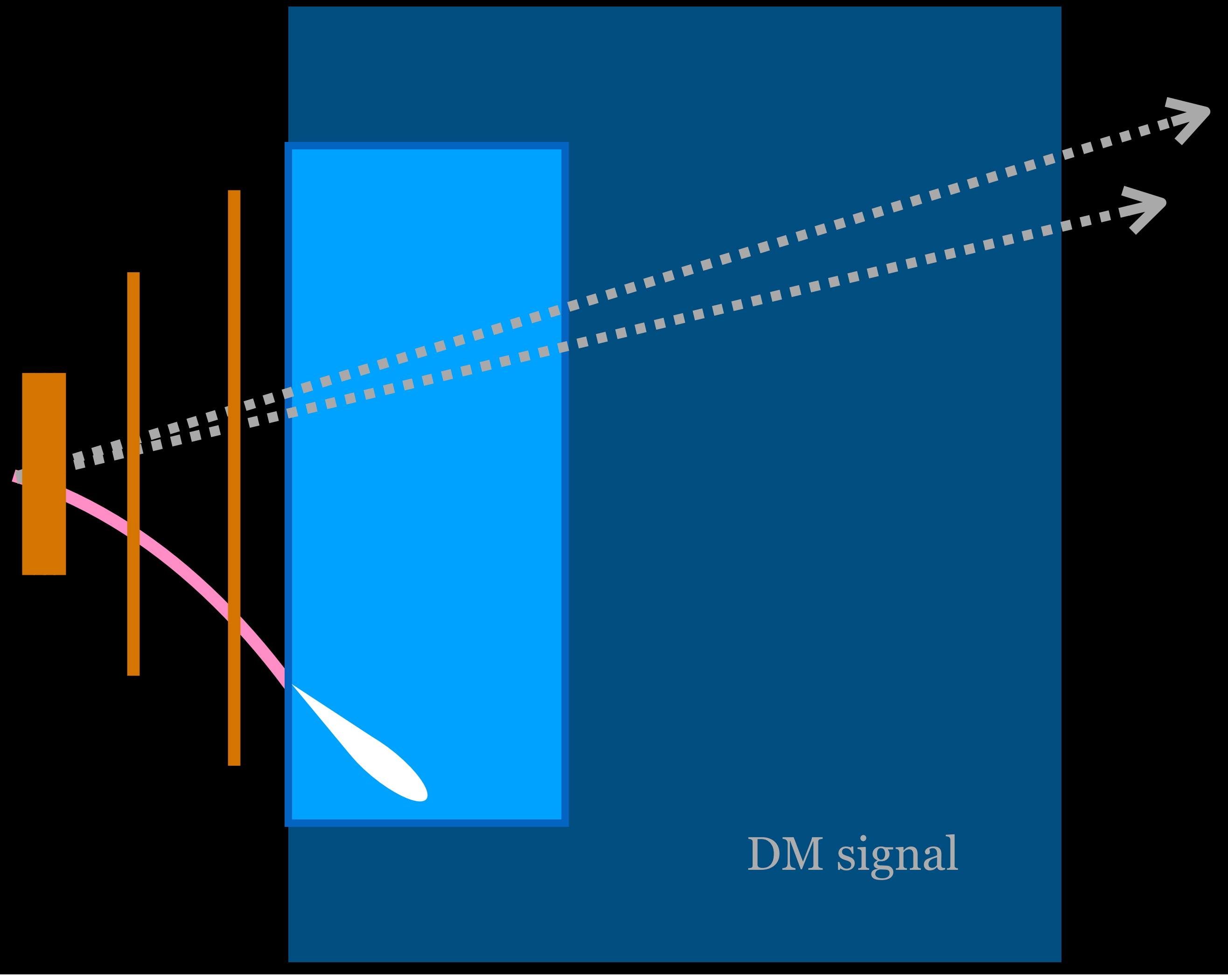

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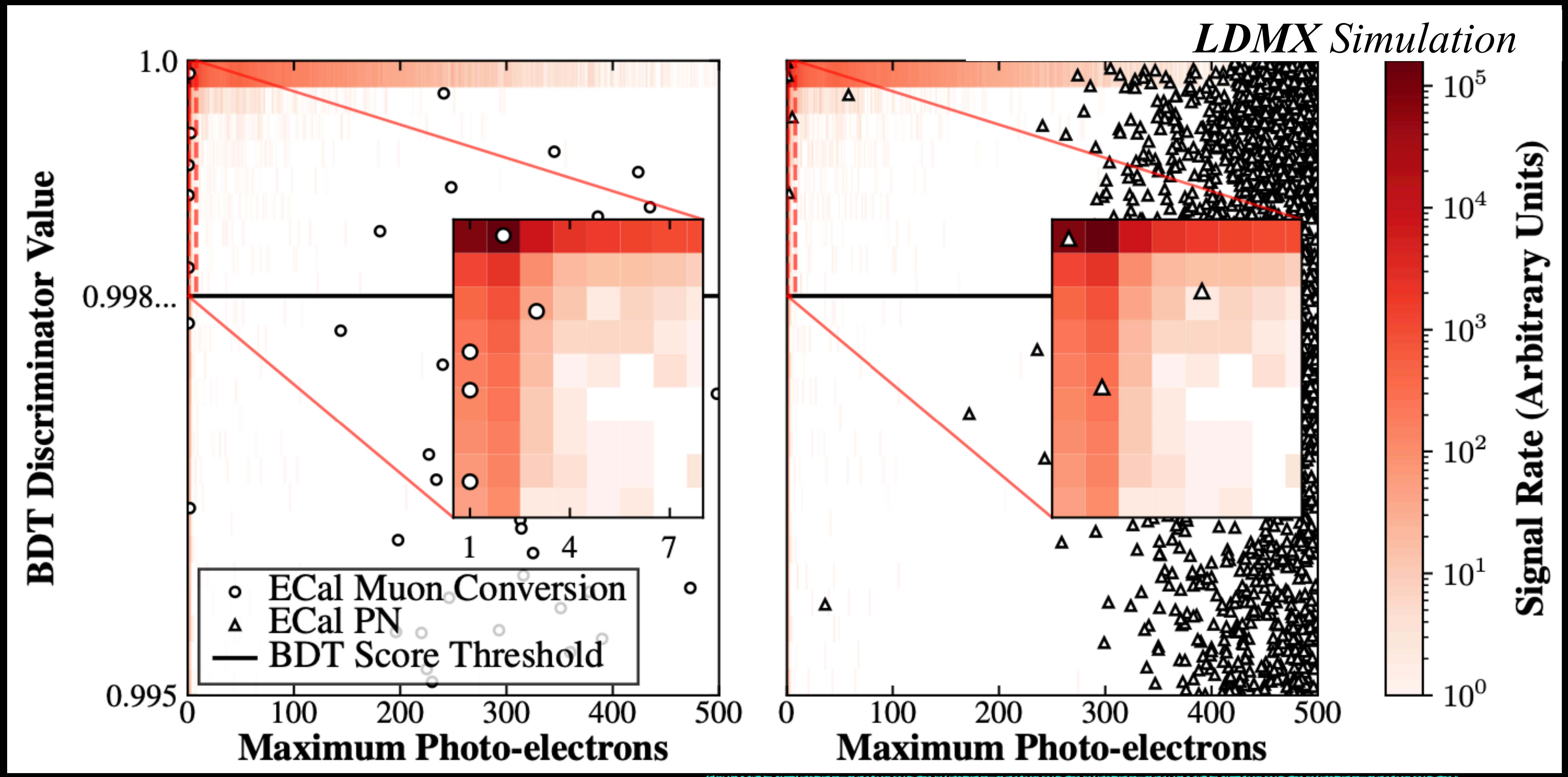

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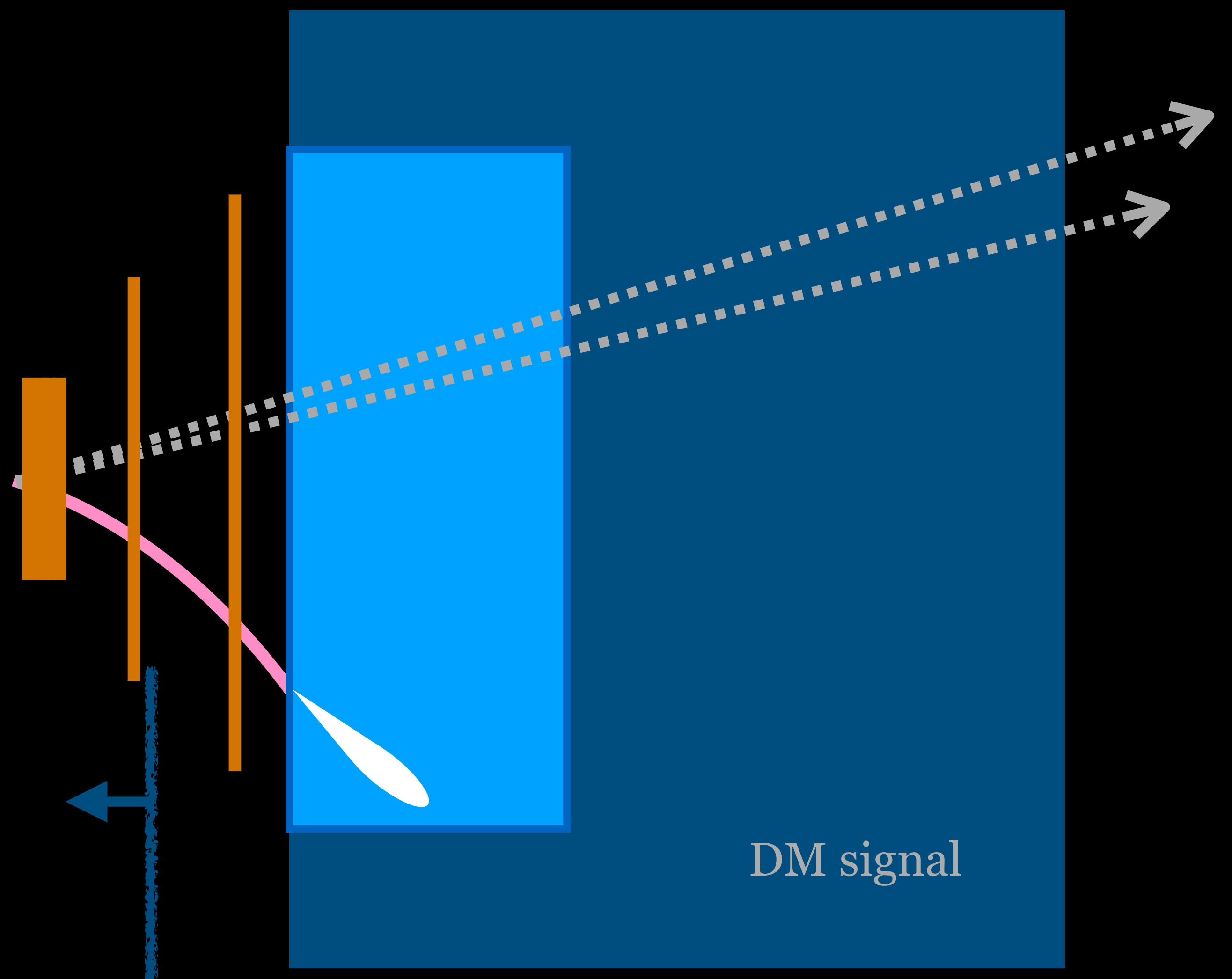

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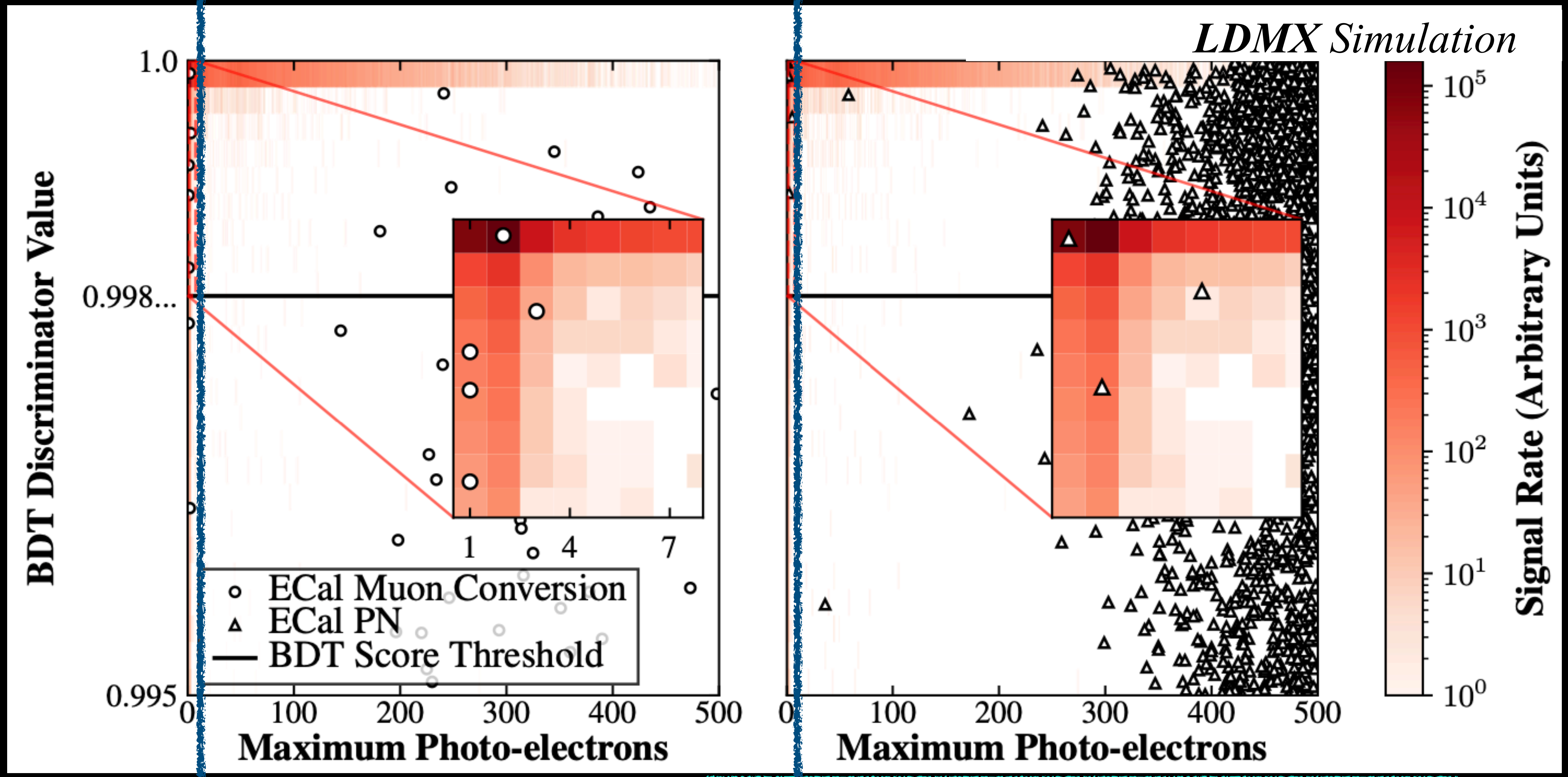

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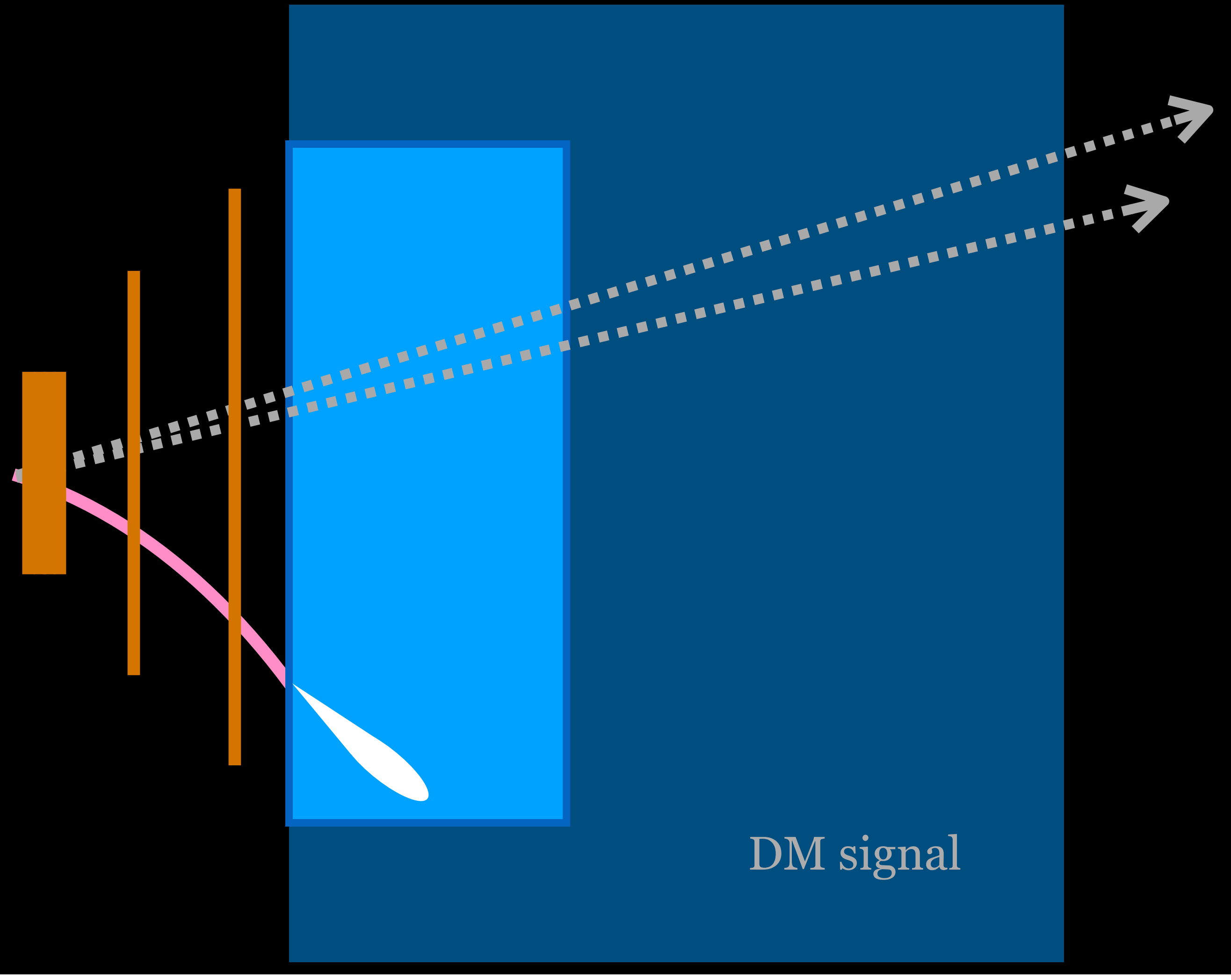

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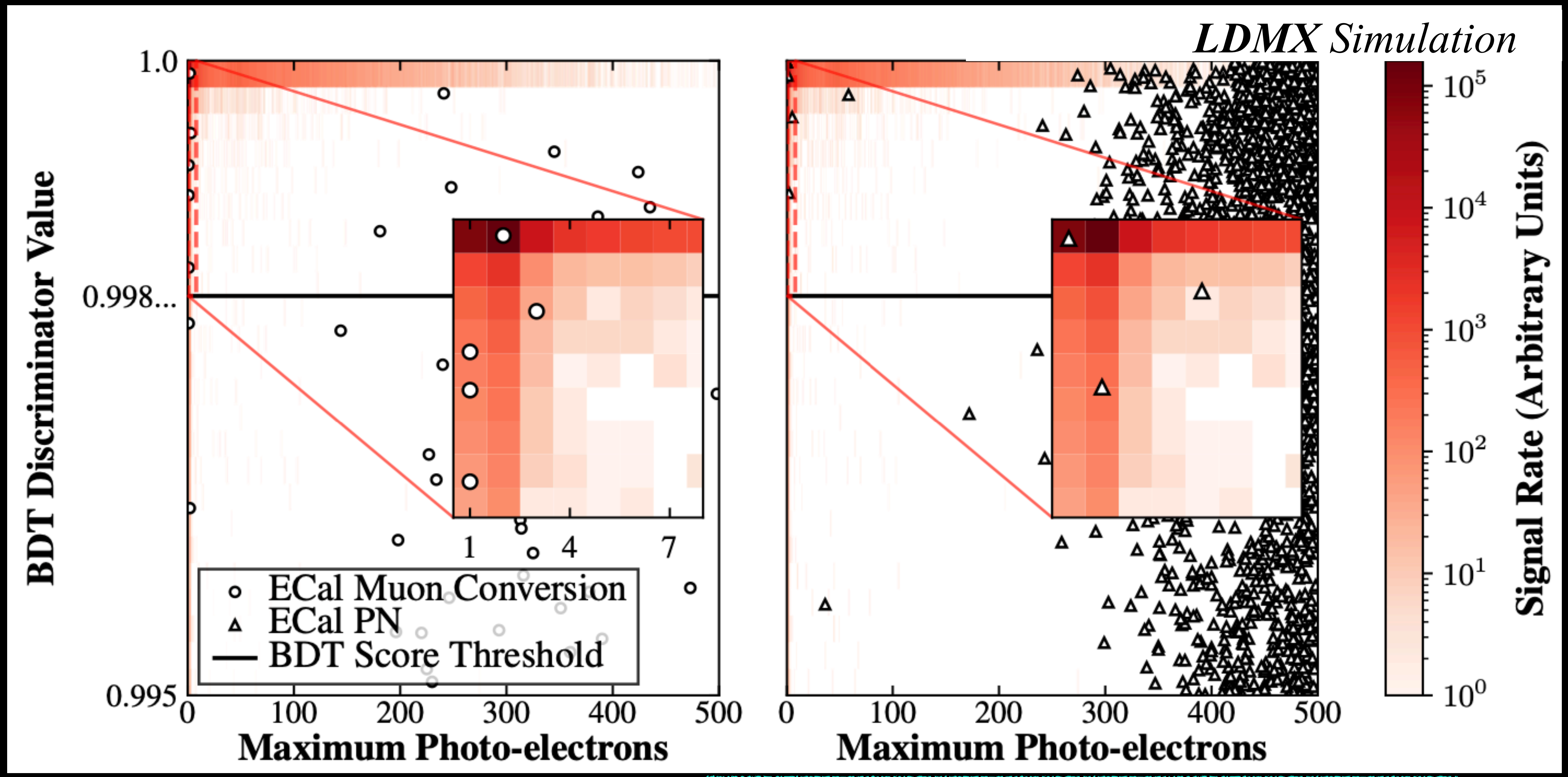

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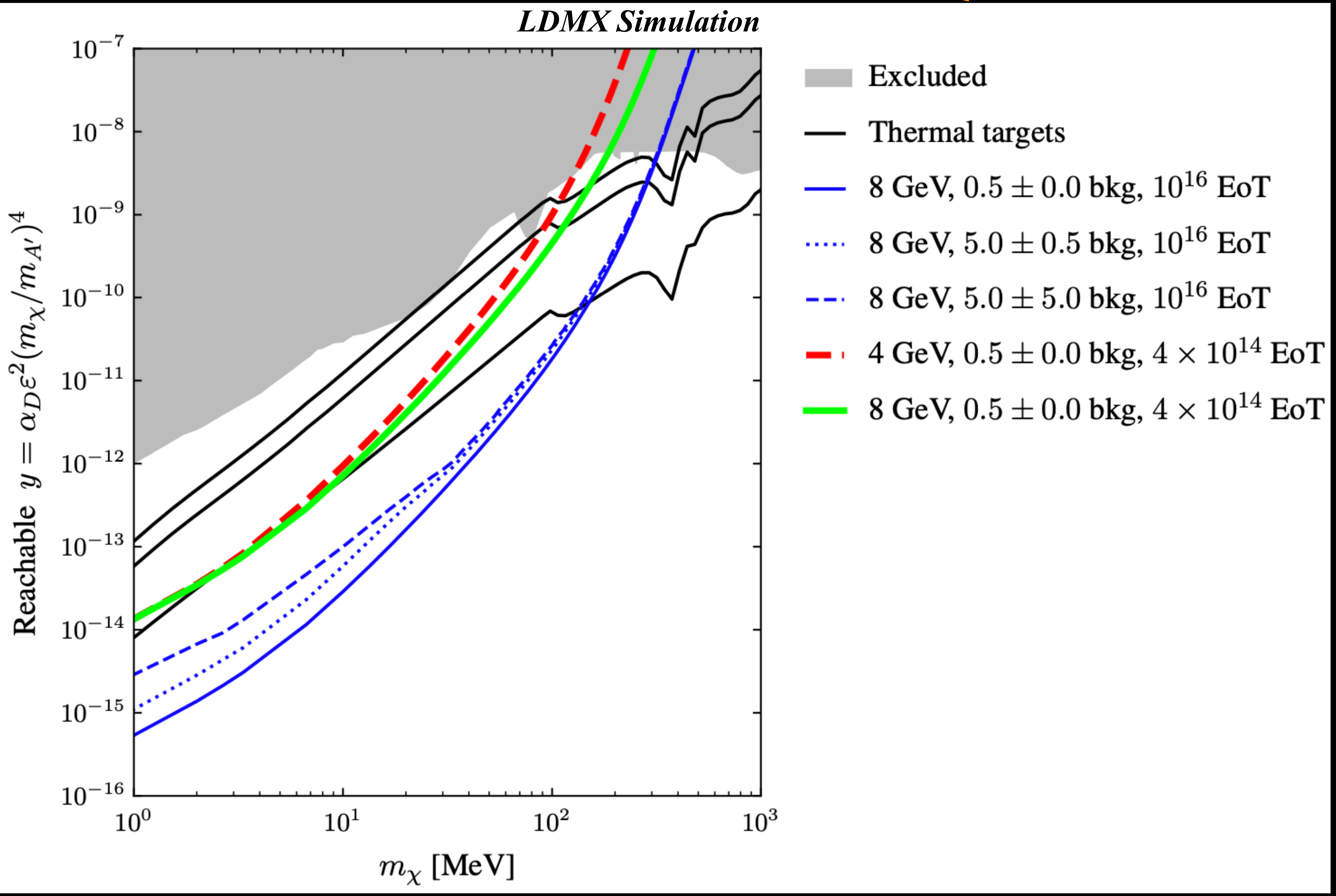
New result! Impact on sensitivity going from 4 to 8 GeV beam (and final dataset size)



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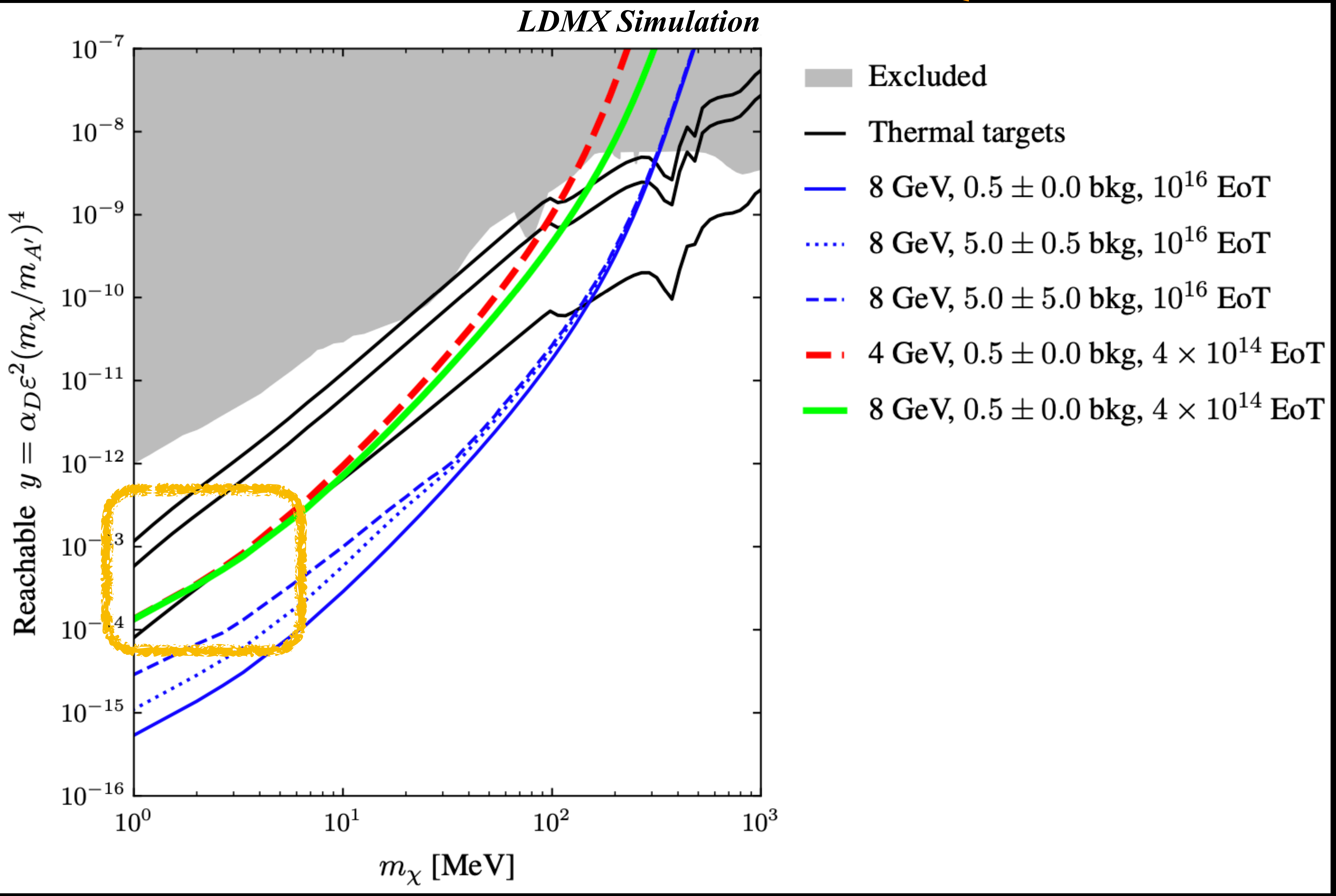

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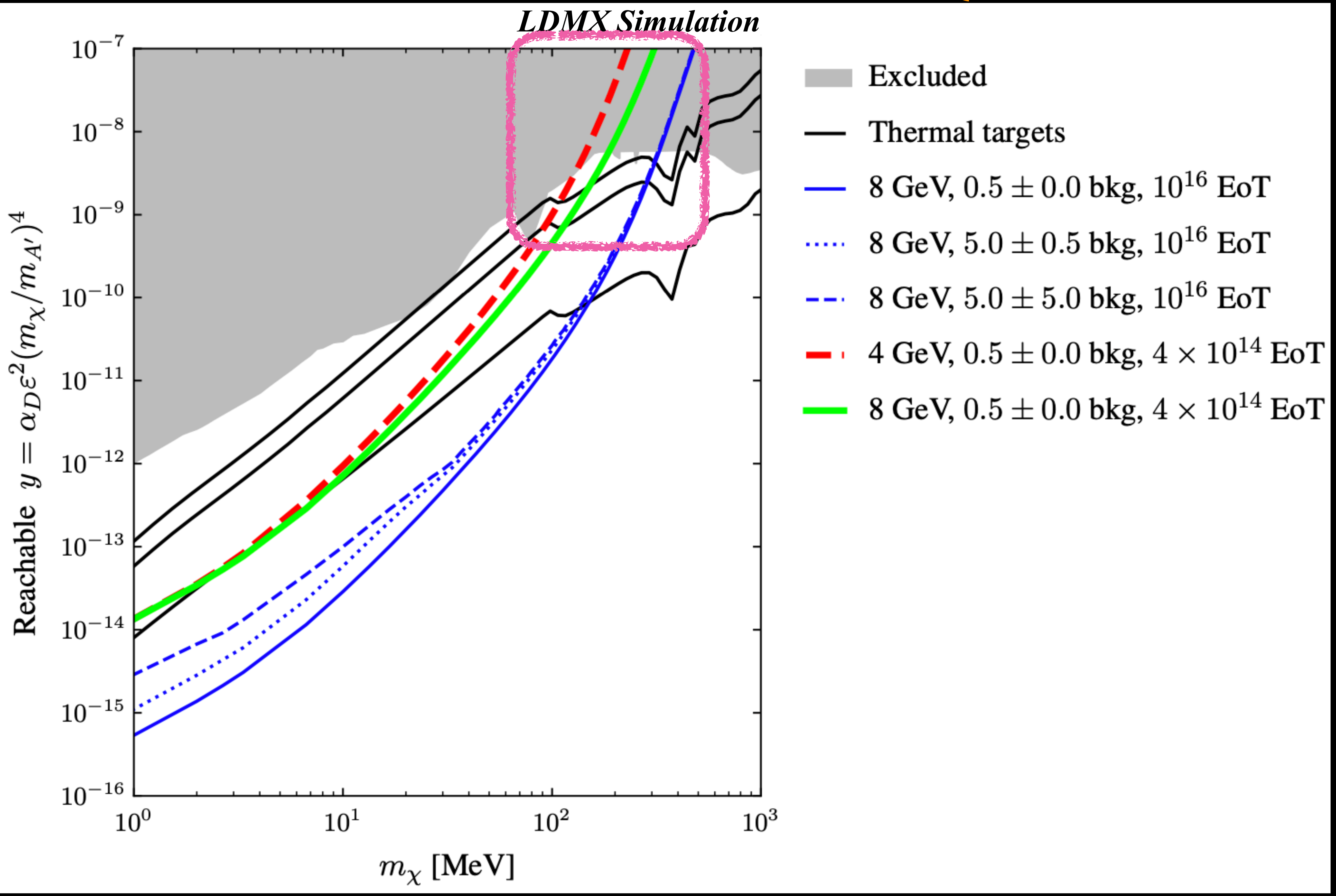

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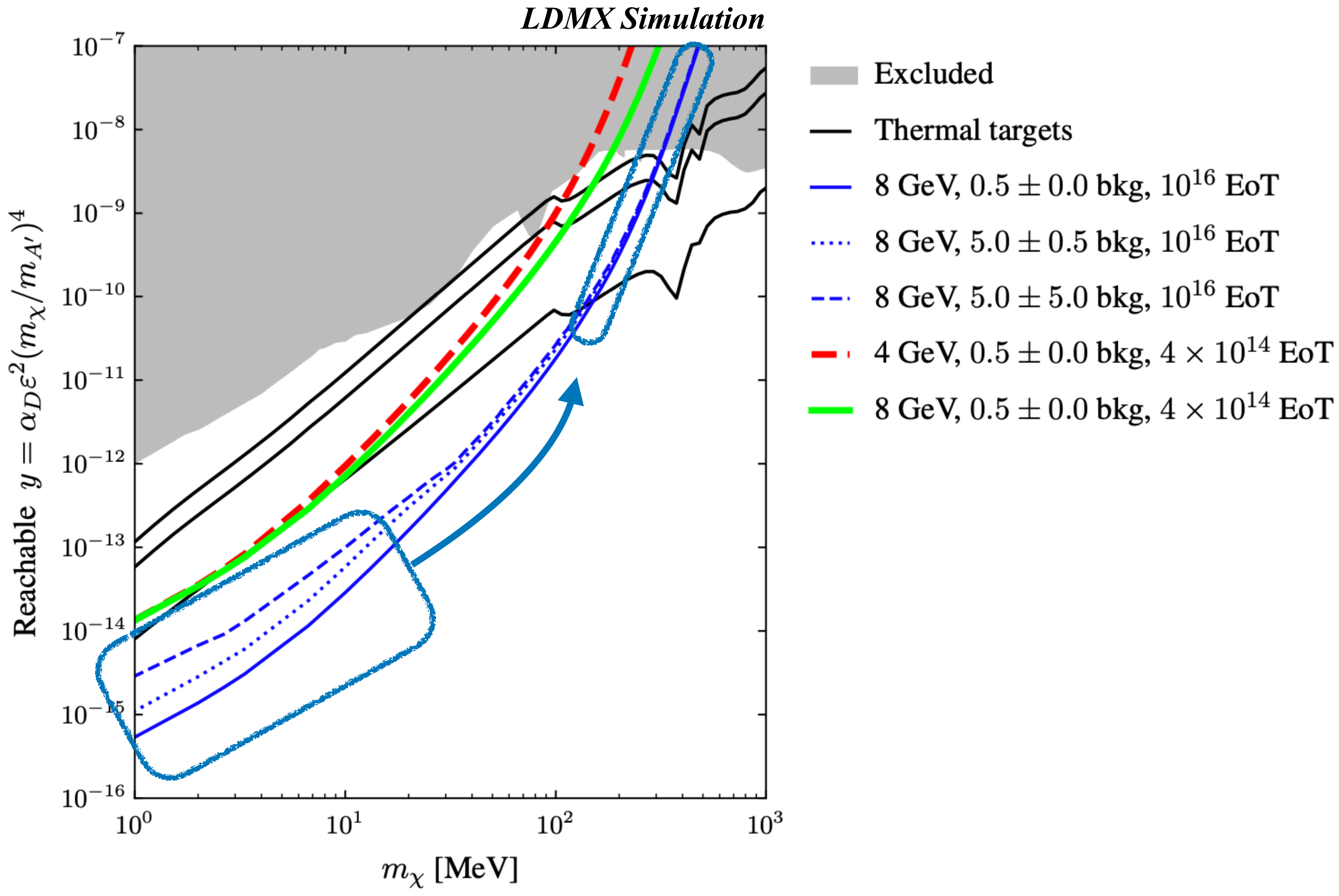

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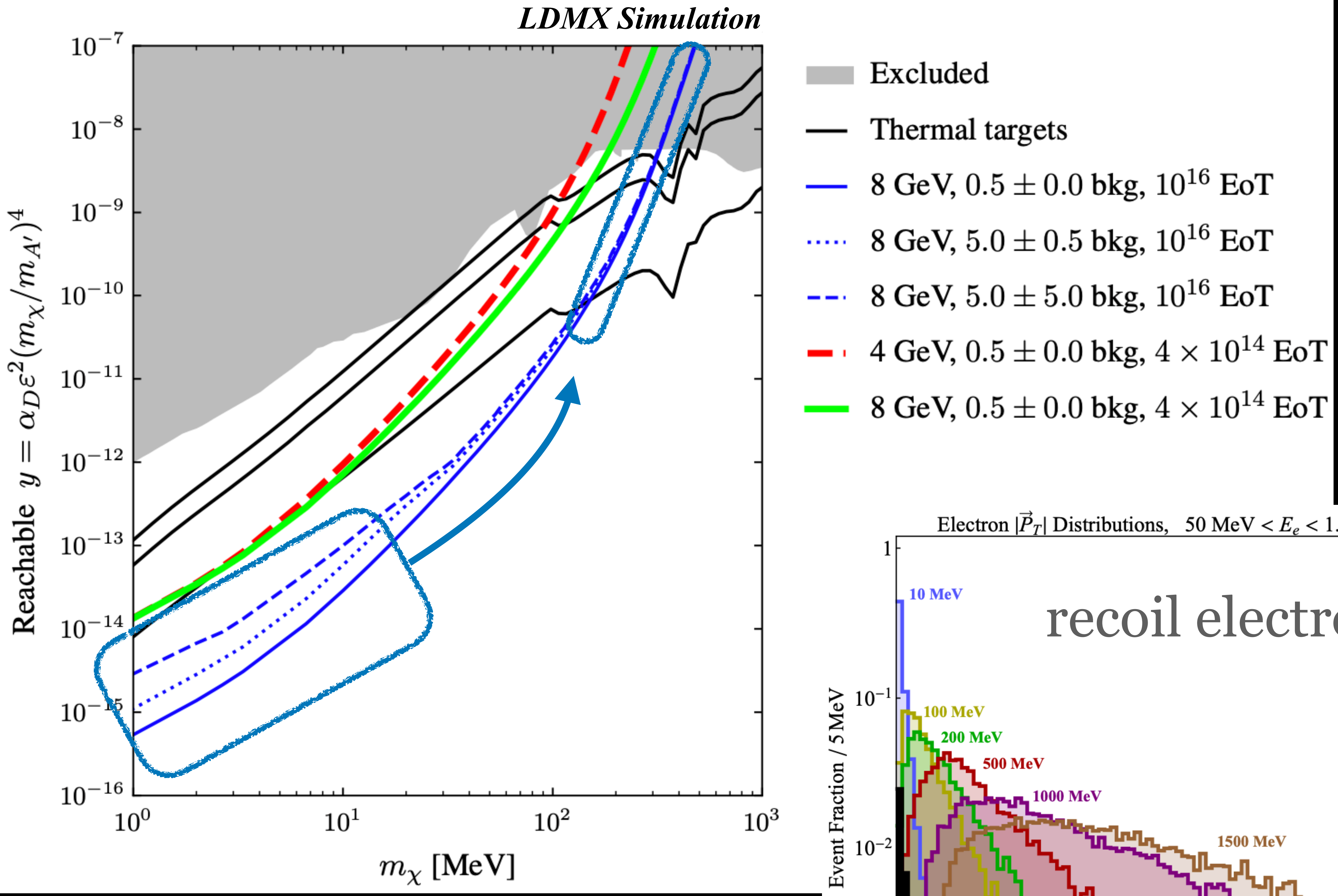

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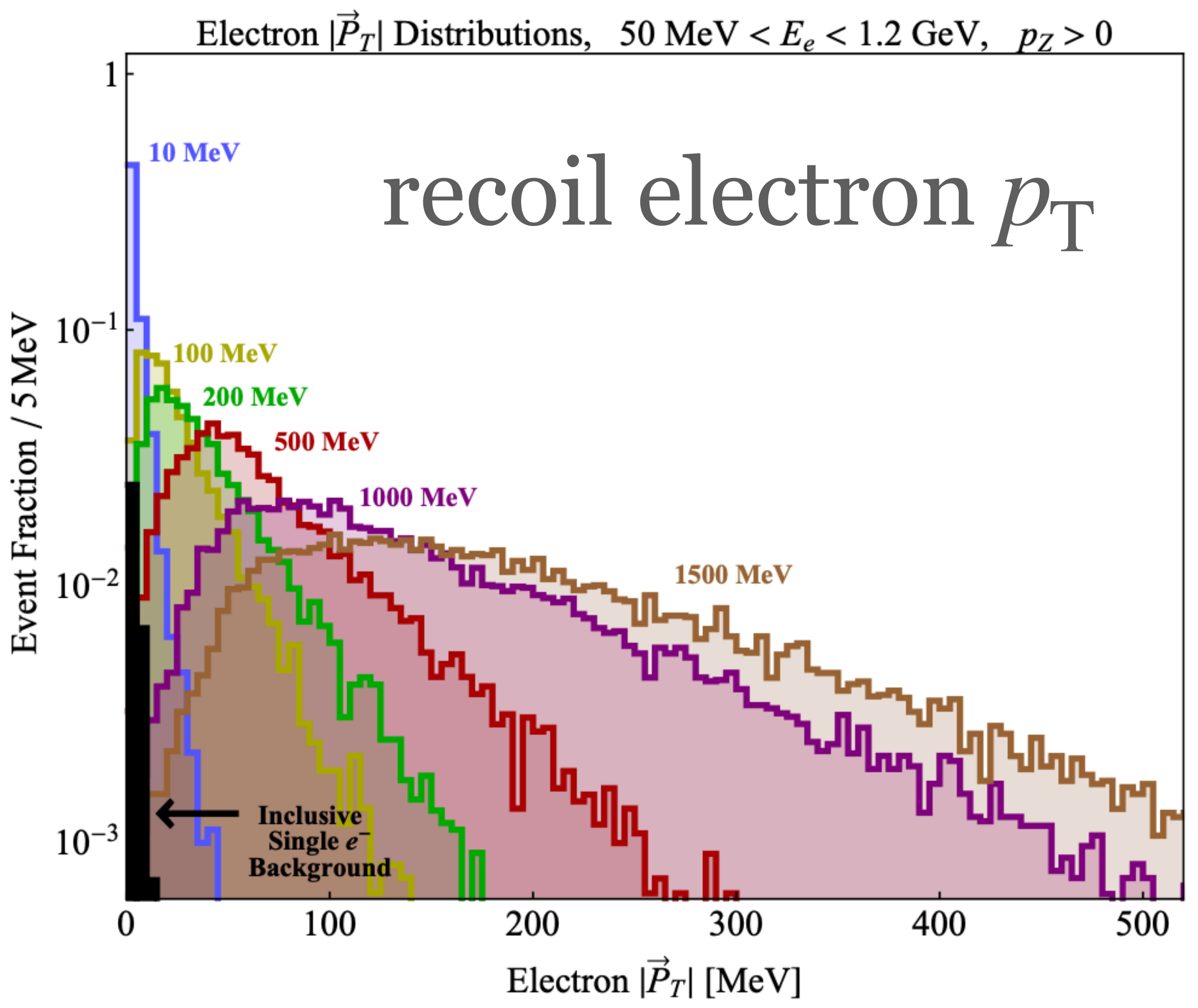

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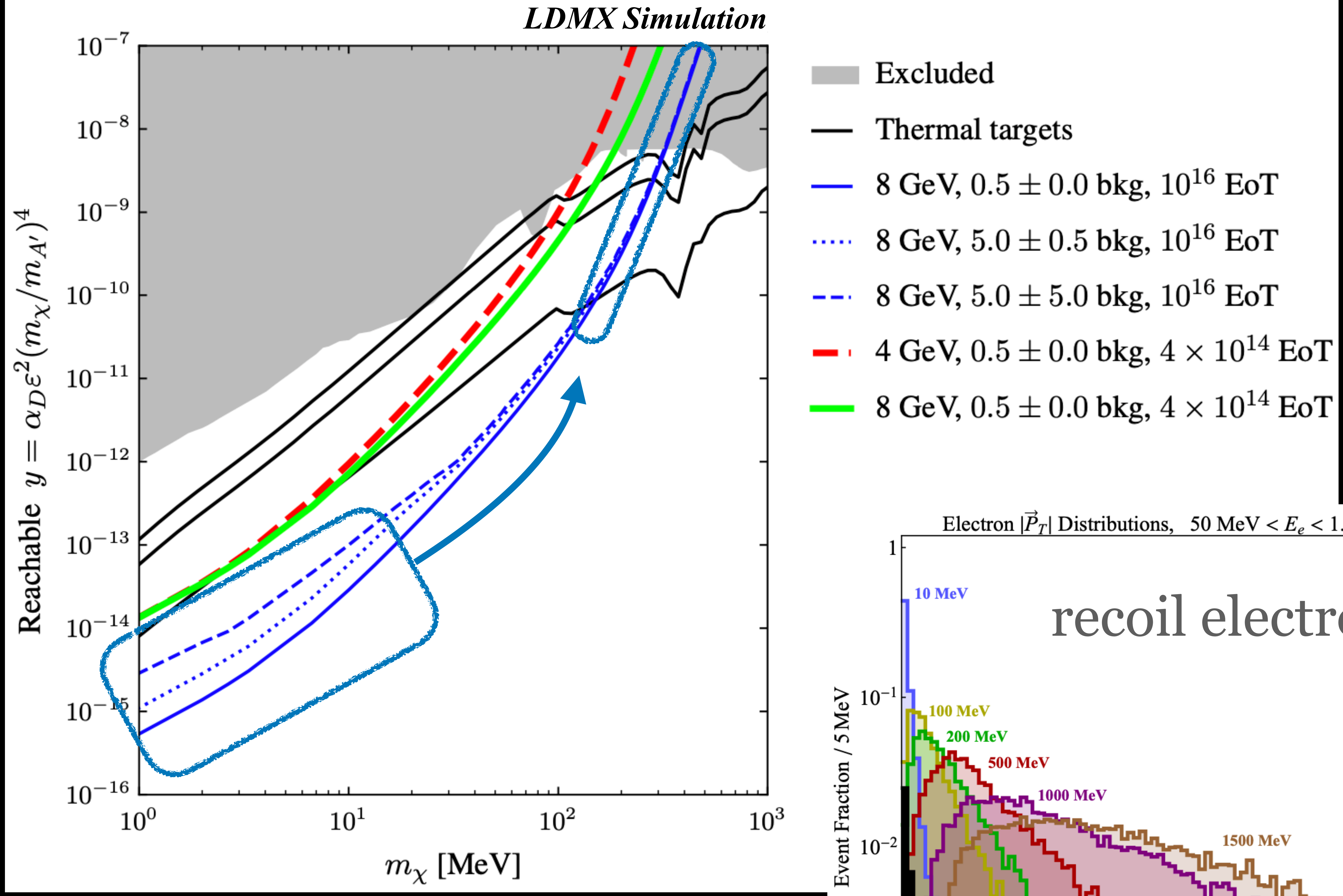

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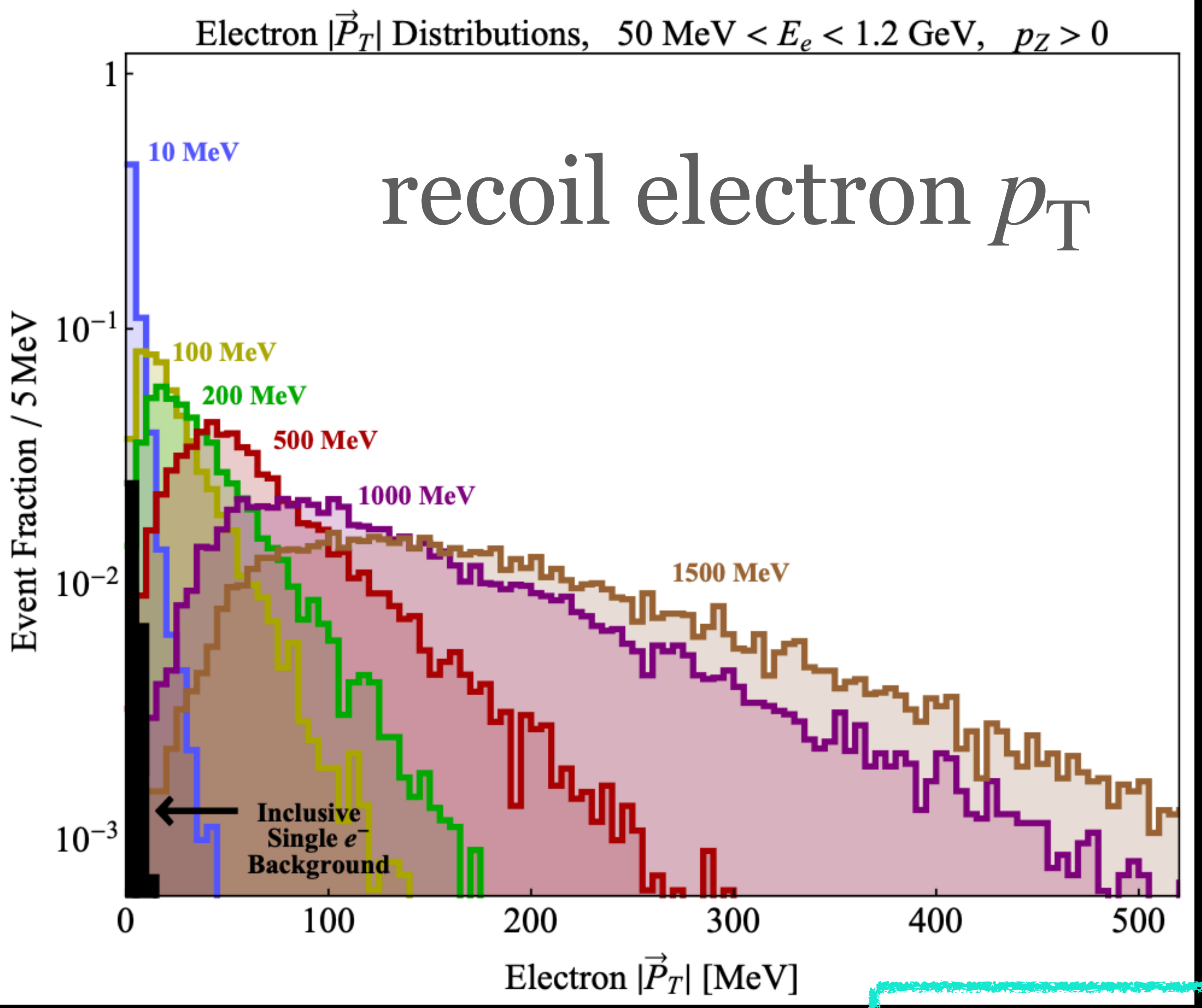

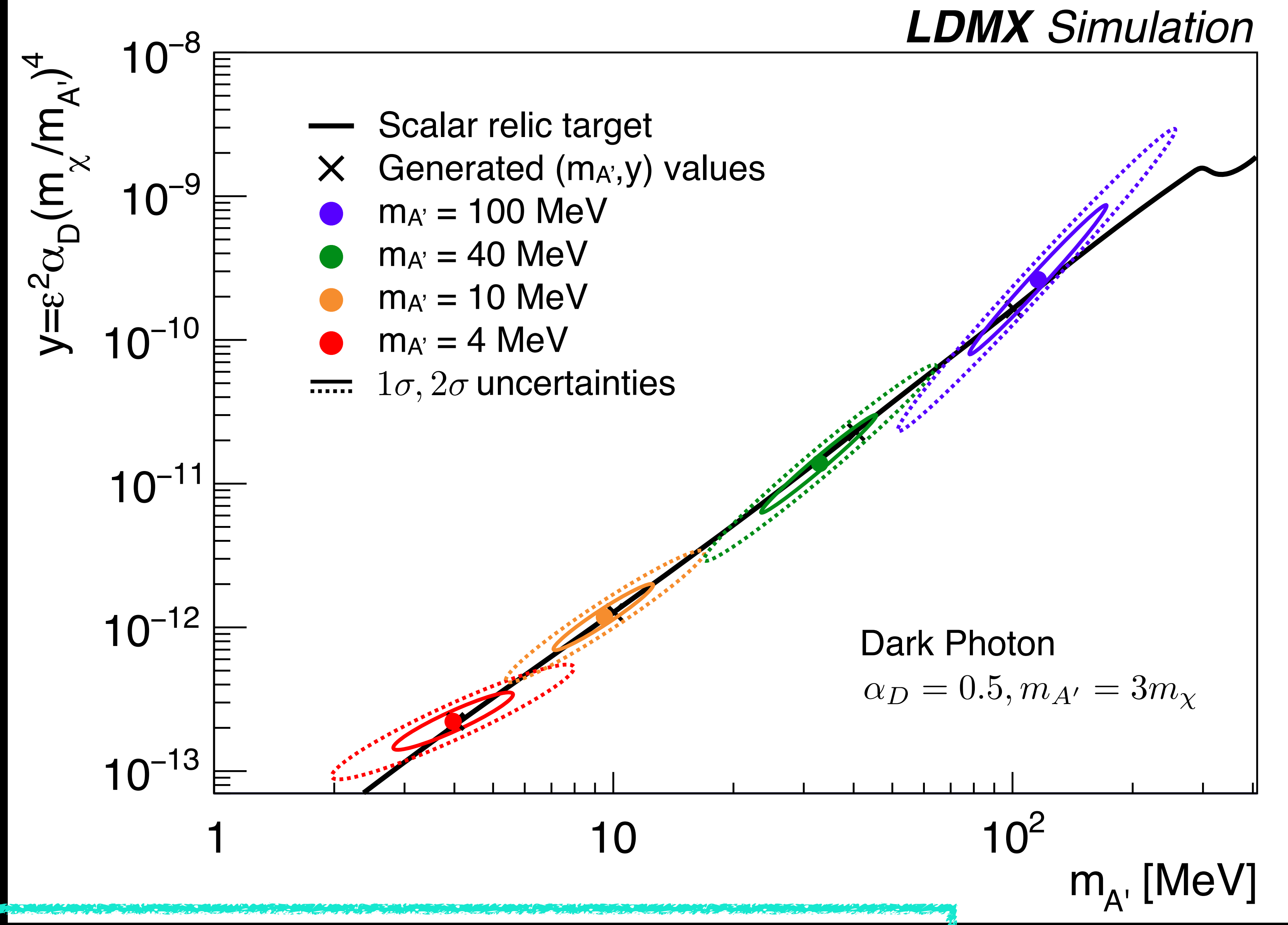

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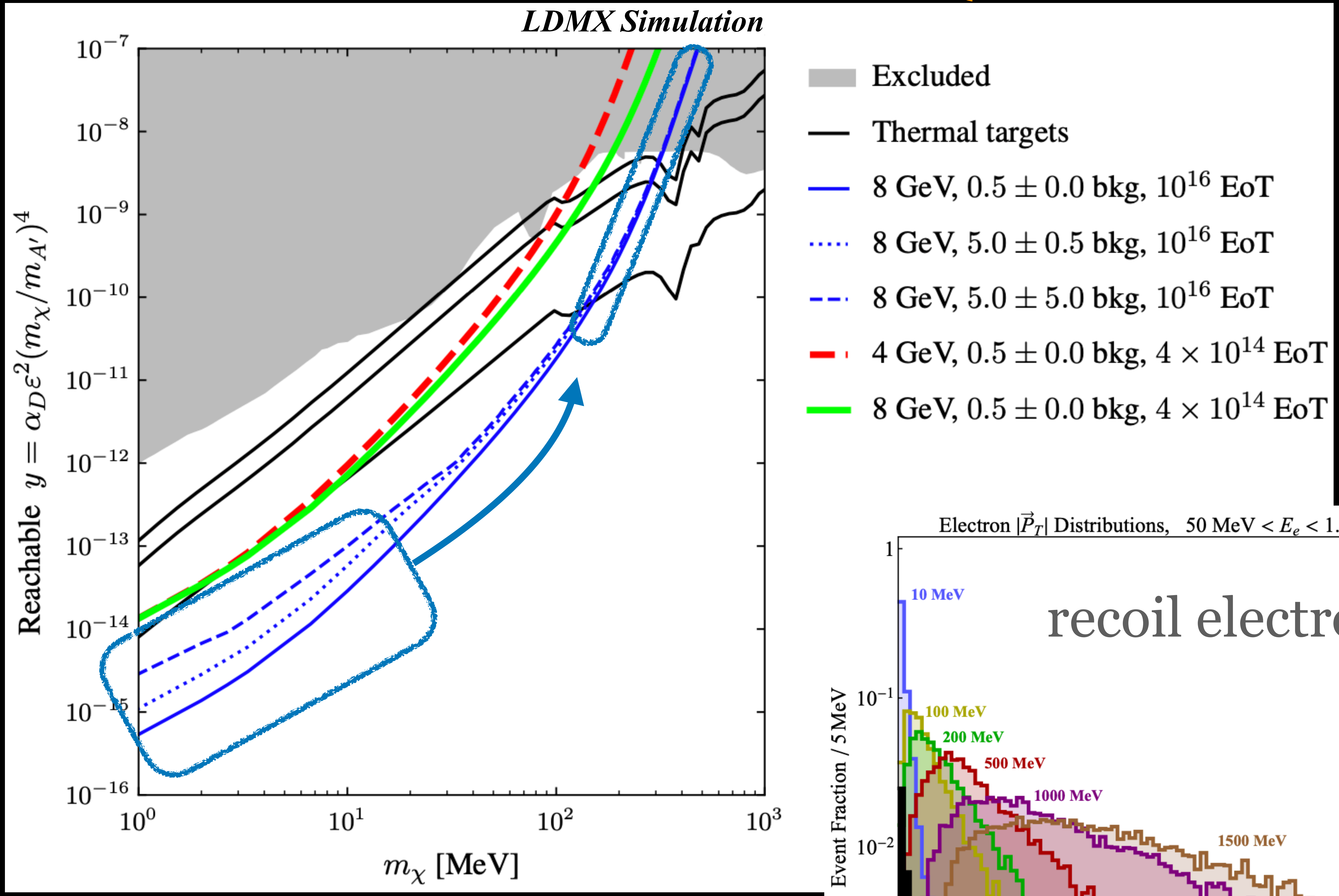

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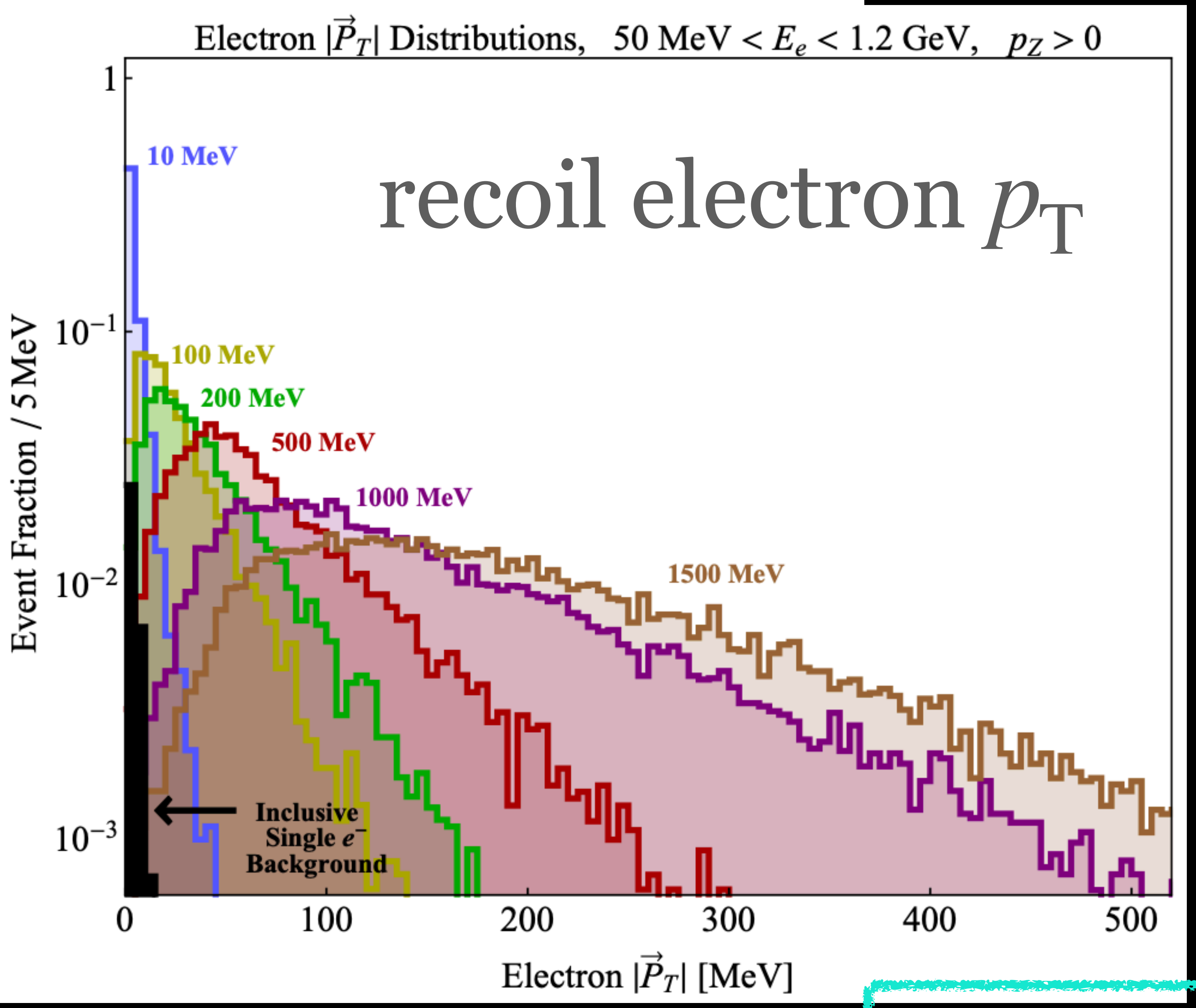

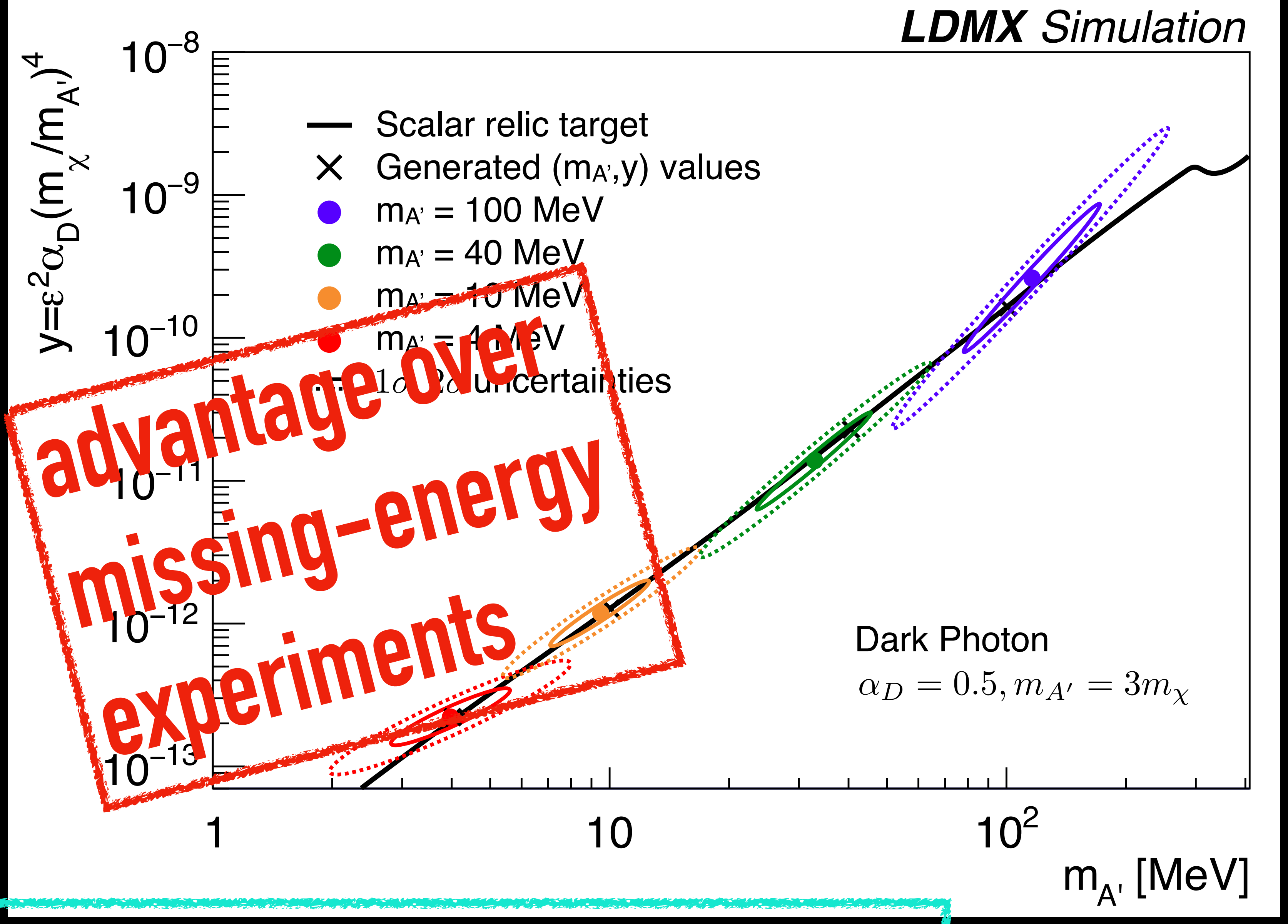

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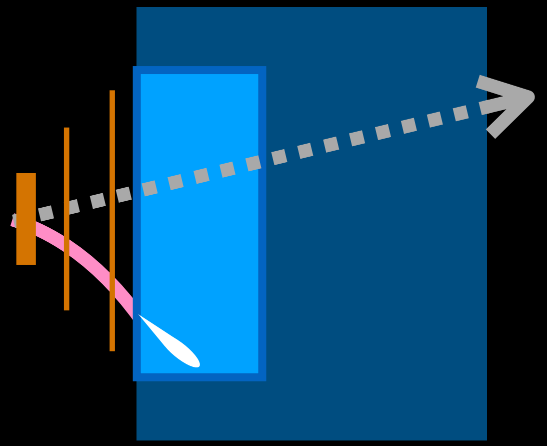
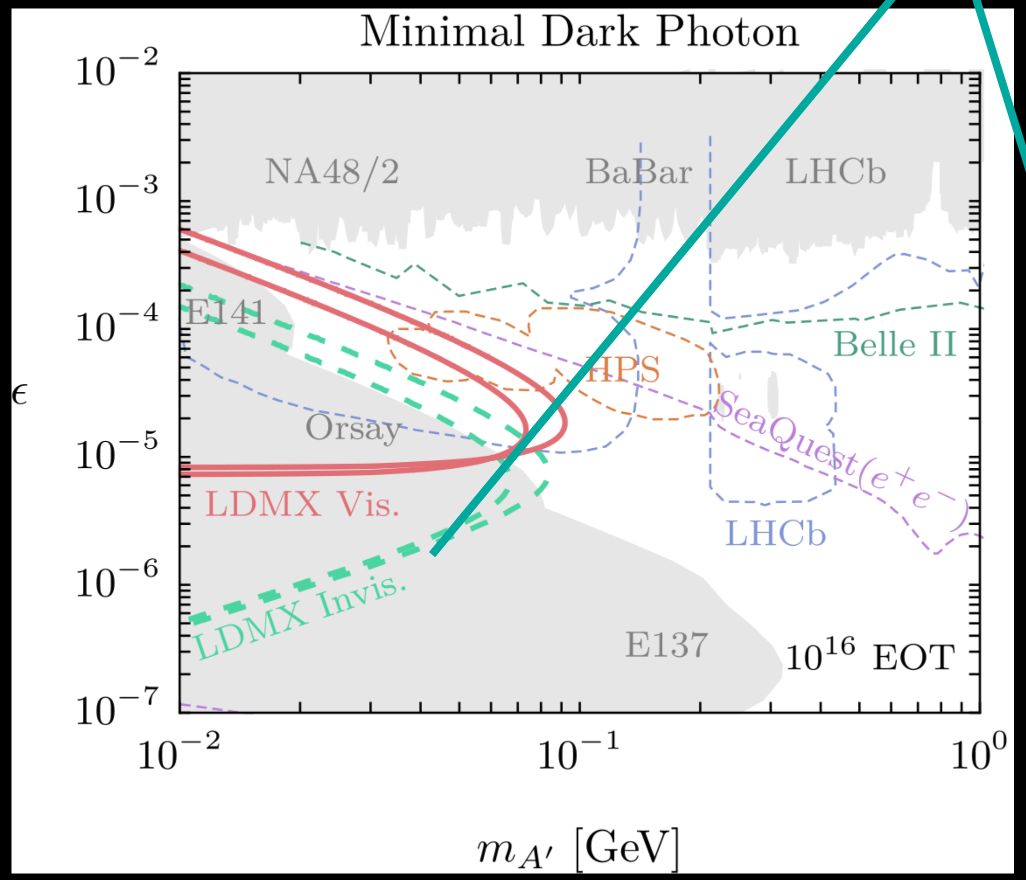
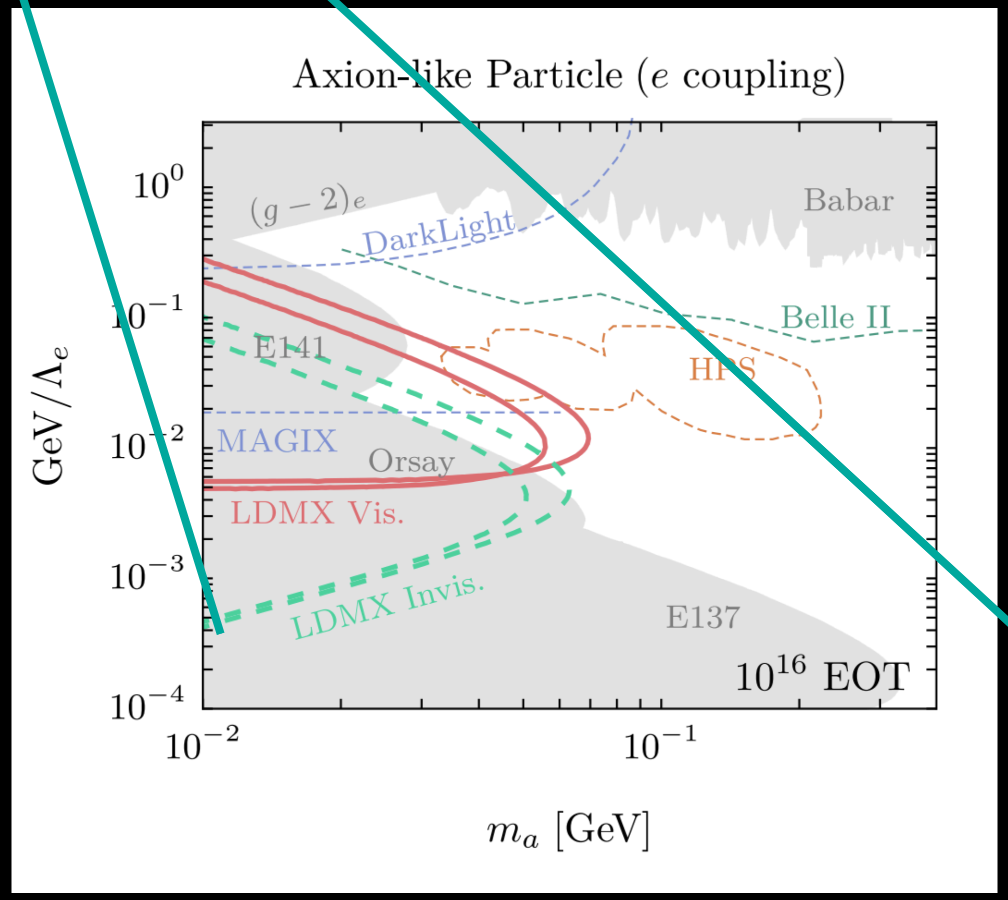
A rich physics potential



Interpret missing momentum measurements

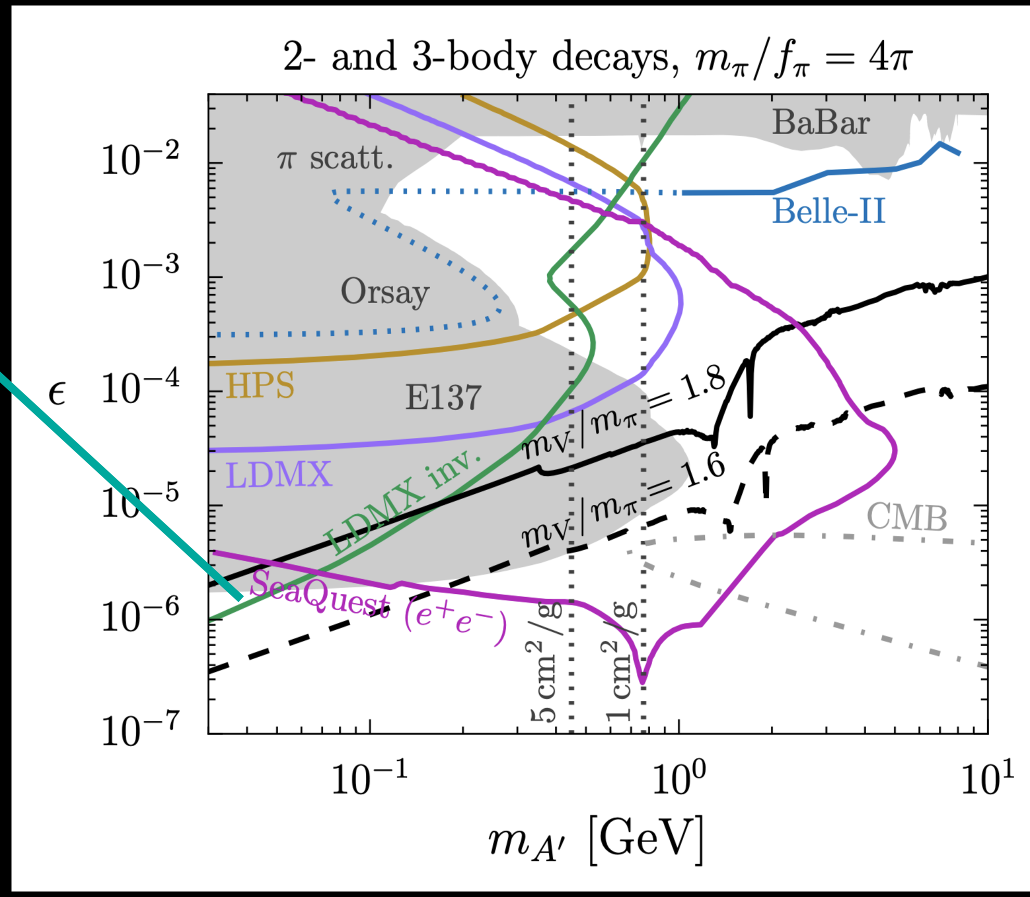
Secluded DM models, millicharge particles, invisibly decaying dark photons or mesons, axion-like particles, ...





Phys. Rev. D 99, 075001 (2019), https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.01730

SIMPs



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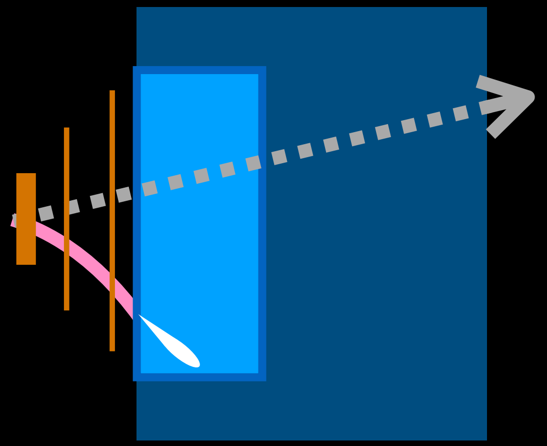

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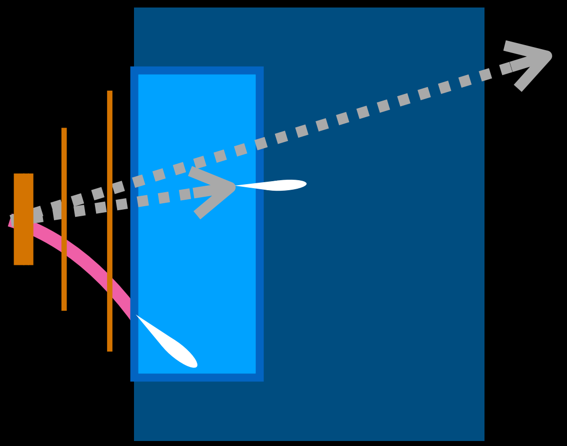
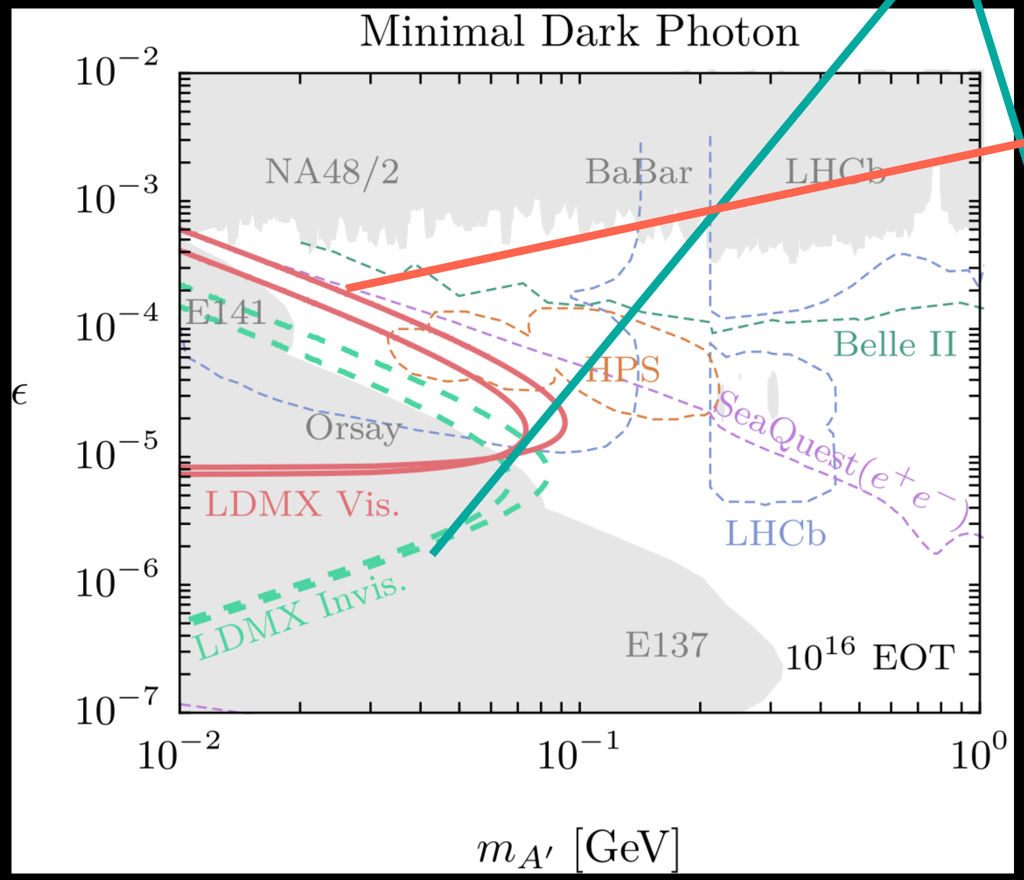
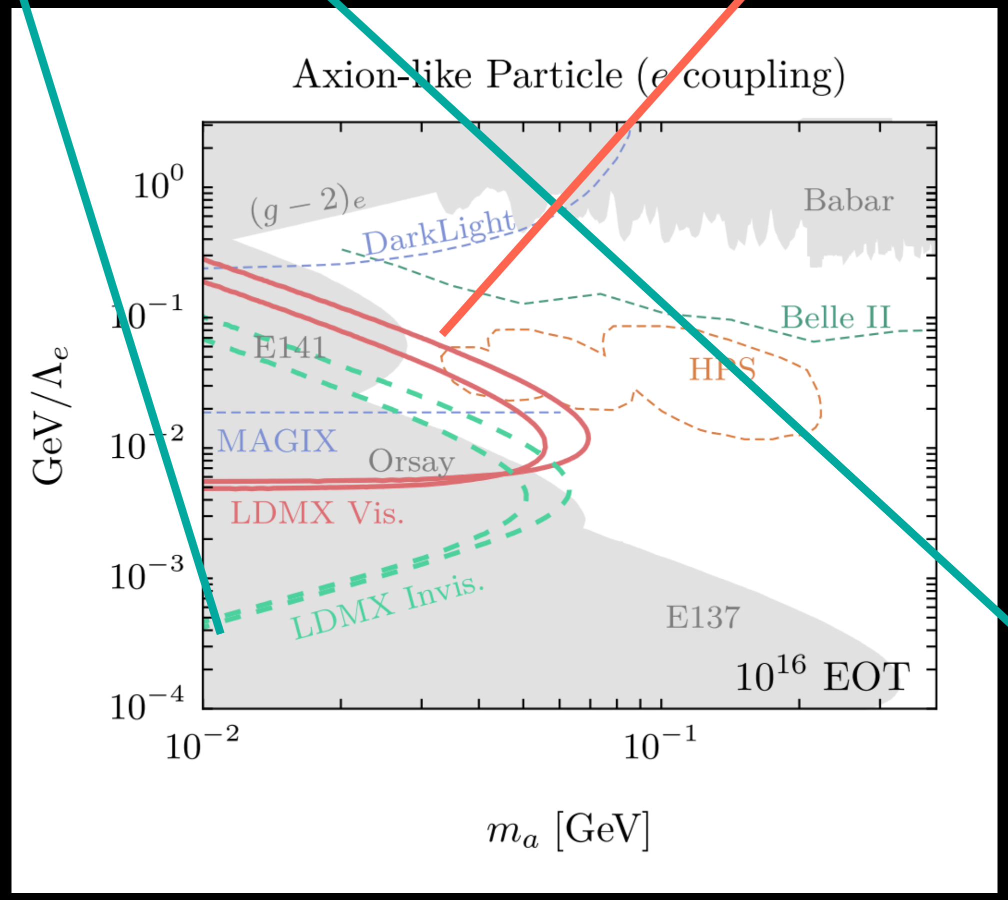
Interpret as a short-baseline beam dump

Displaced visibly decaying dark photons, axion-like or long-lived particles, inelastic dark matter, …







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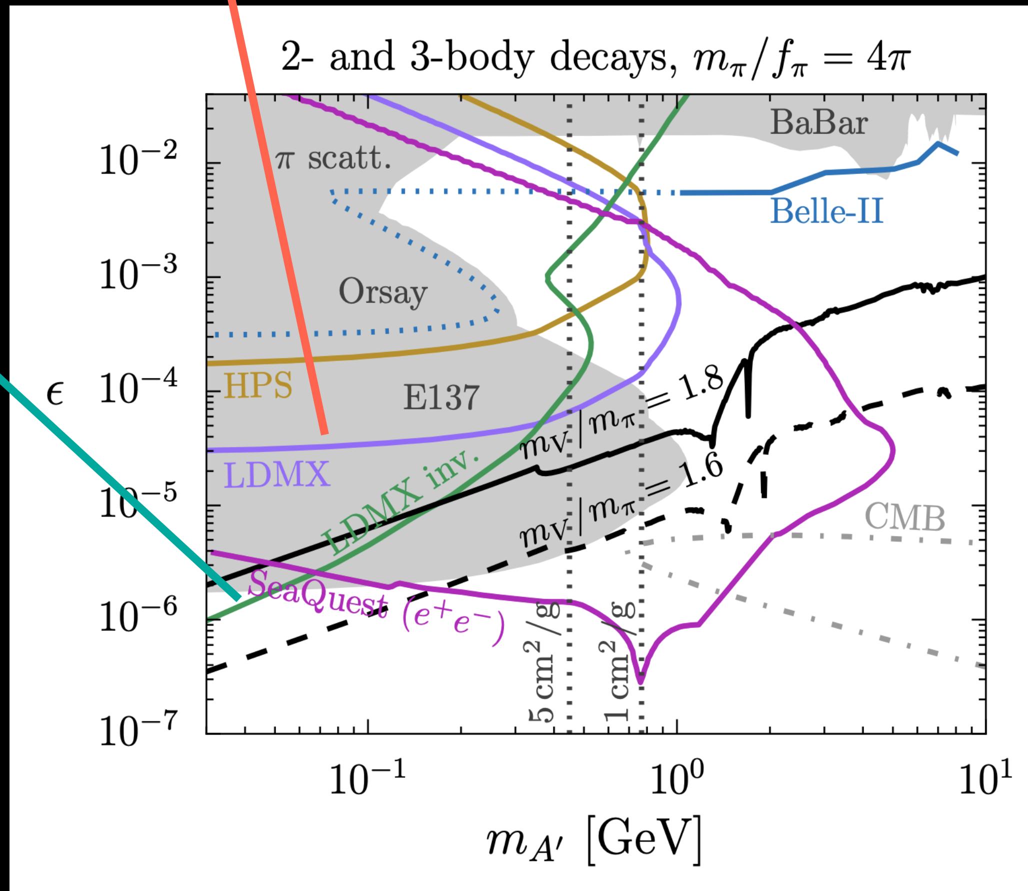

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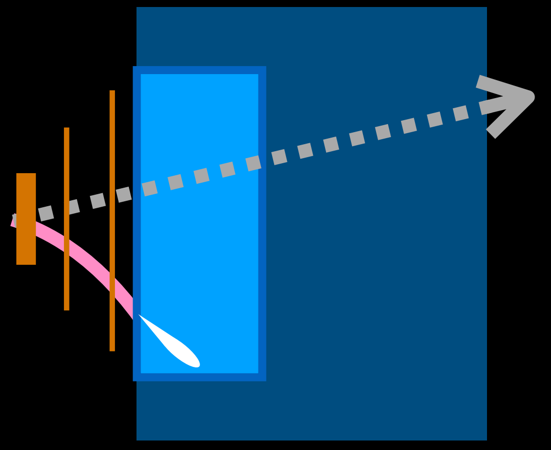

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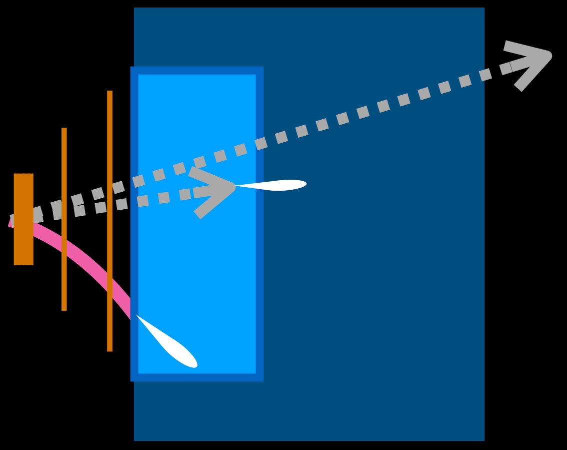

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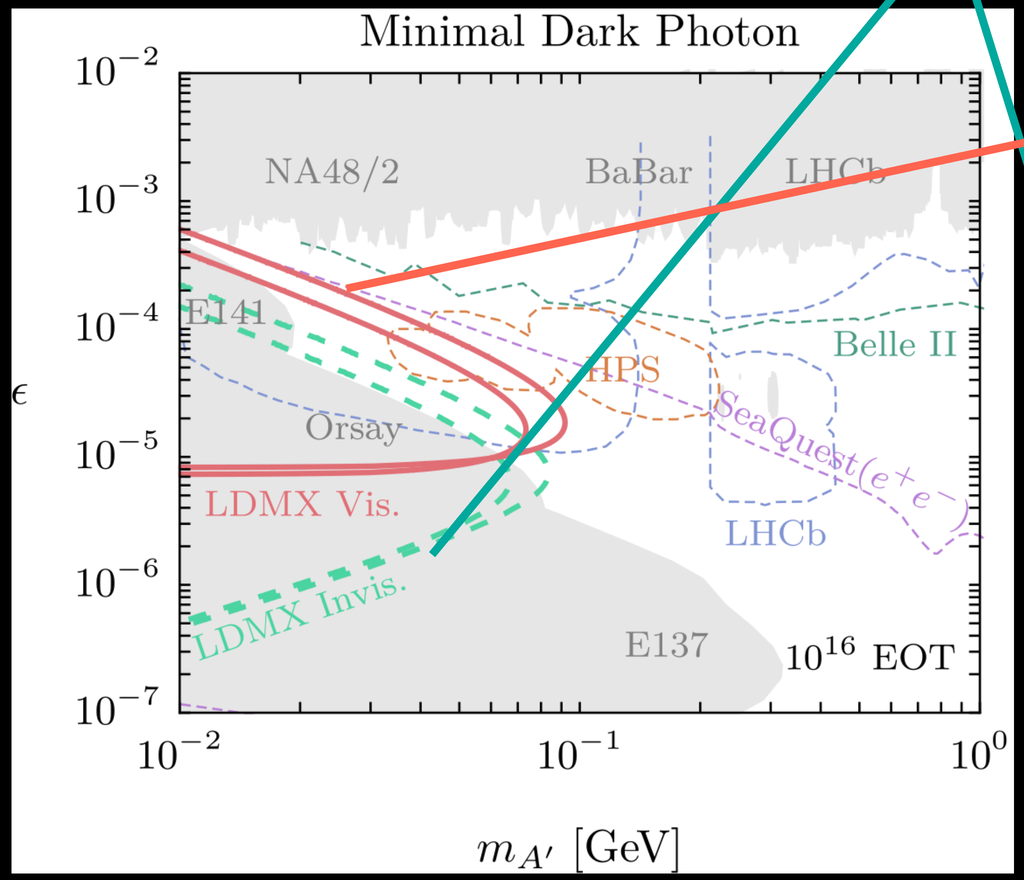

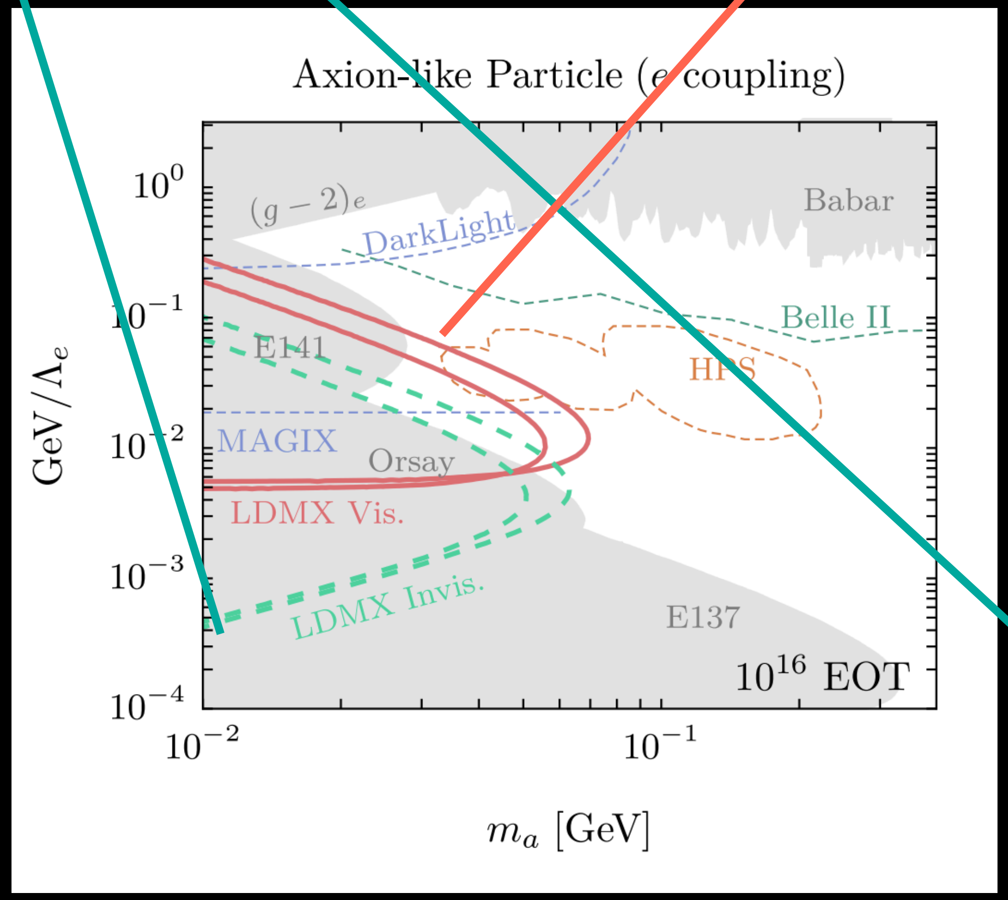

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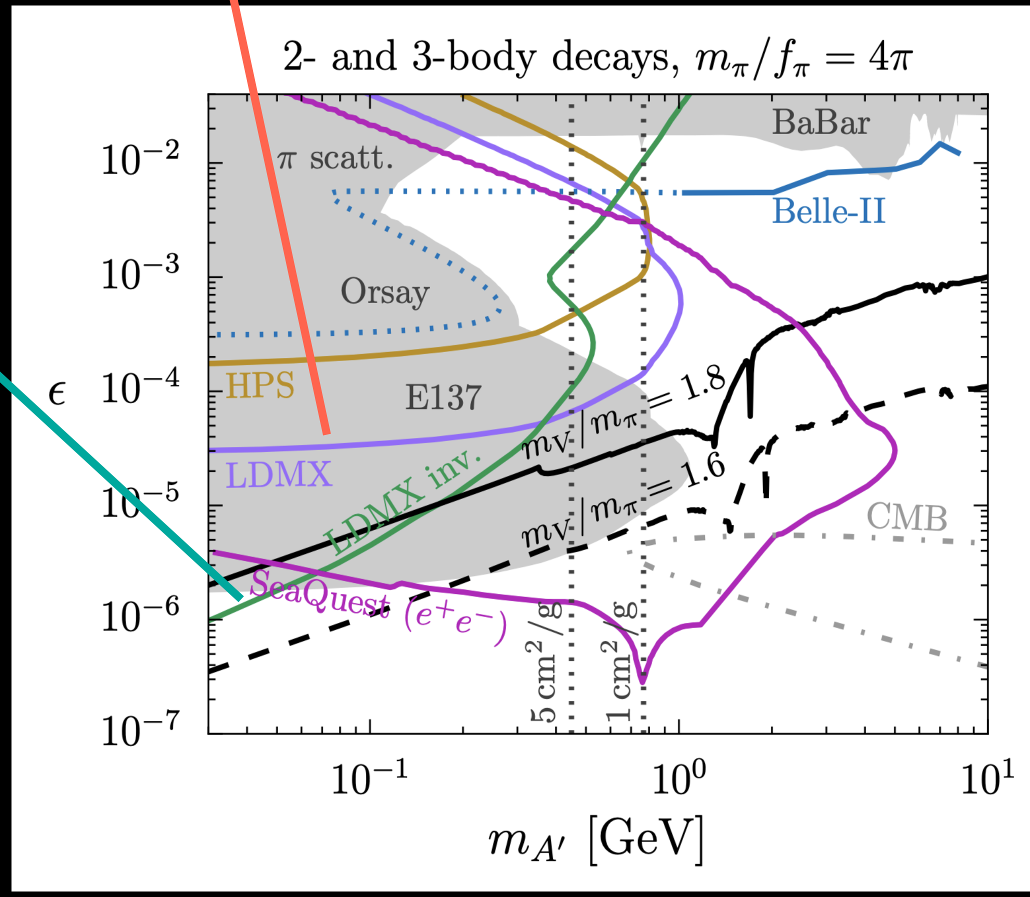
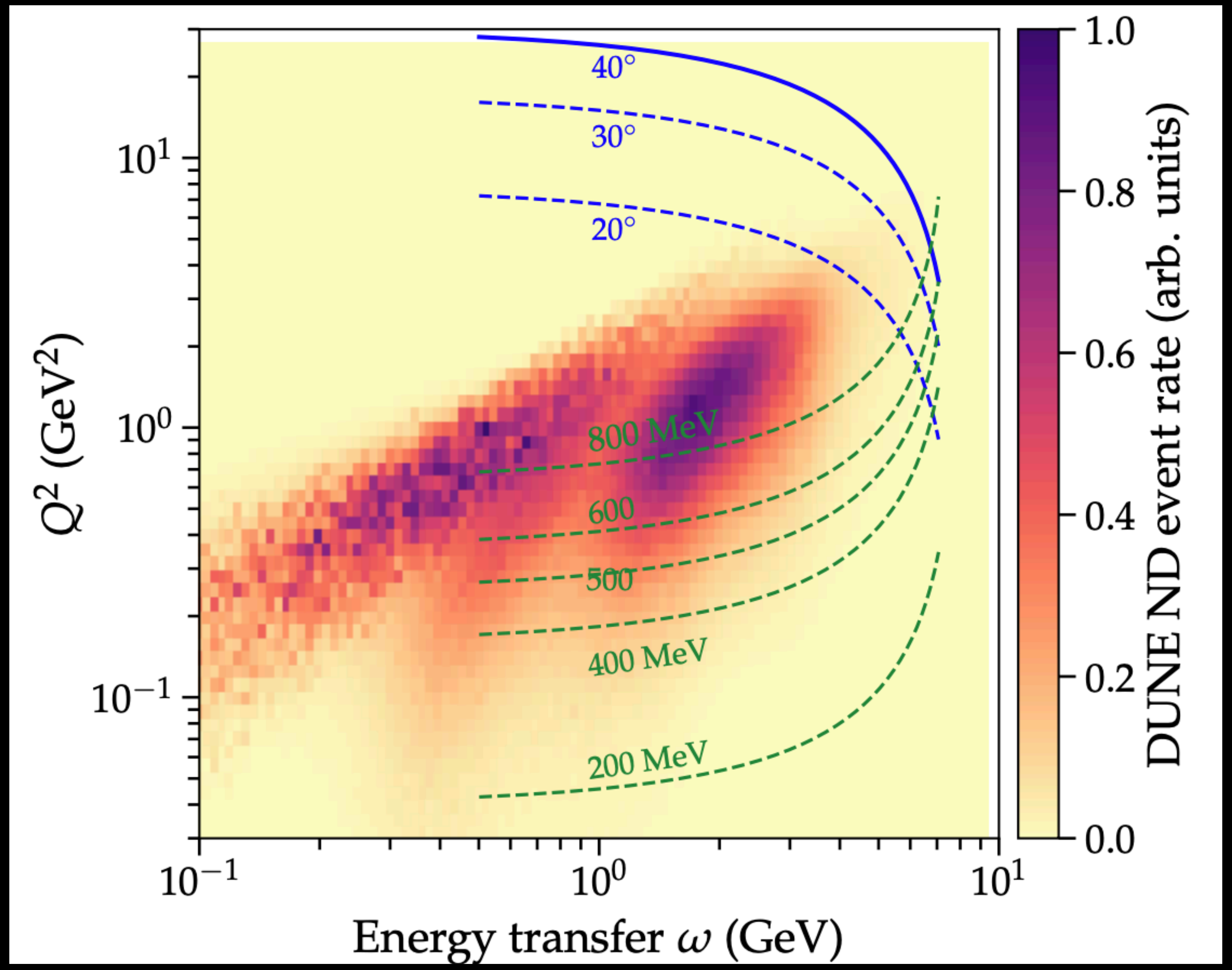


Electro-nuclear scattering particle spectra constrain theoretical uncertainties in neutrino experiments



Overlap of LDMX acceptance (curves) and DUNE DIS phase space (color)

see also: vector meson decays, Phys. Rev. D 105, 035036 (2022), https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.02104 and spin-1 DM models (submitted to JCAP), https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.0220

Searching for DM with an electron beam at the GeV scale is a well-motivated and worthwhile effort.

- LDMX can *conclusively probe the stable matter mass range* for DM of thermal origin, and has a broad physics potential beyond this goal
- Simulation and hardware understanding rapidly maturing → design is being finalized
  - can reach required background rejection — confirmed in new 8 GeV sensitivity study submitted to JHEP!
  - prototype beam tests performed at CERN, paper in preparation

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation
Kungl. Fysiografiska Sällskapet i Lund
Crafoord foundation
Caltech
Carnegie Mellon University
Fermilab
Lund University
University of Minnesota Driven to Discover®
UC Santa Barbara
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory
Stanford University
Texas Tech University
University of Virginia

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backup

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Lepton-Nucleus Cross Section Measurements for DUNE with the LDMX Detector ,Phys. Rev. D 101, 053004,
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Background rejection to < 1 event
at 4 GeV: A High Efficiency Photon Veto for the Light Dark Matter eXperiment, J. High Energ. Phys. 2020, 3 (2020)
https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.05535,
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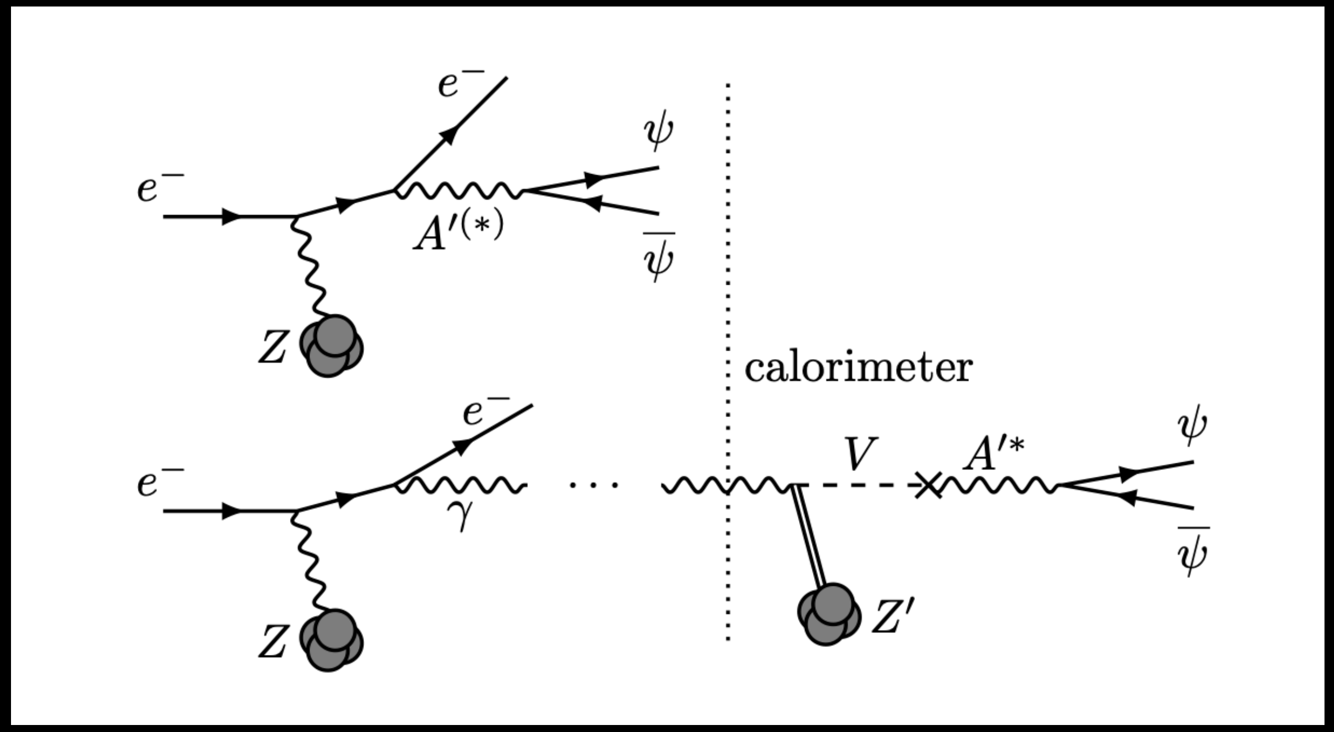
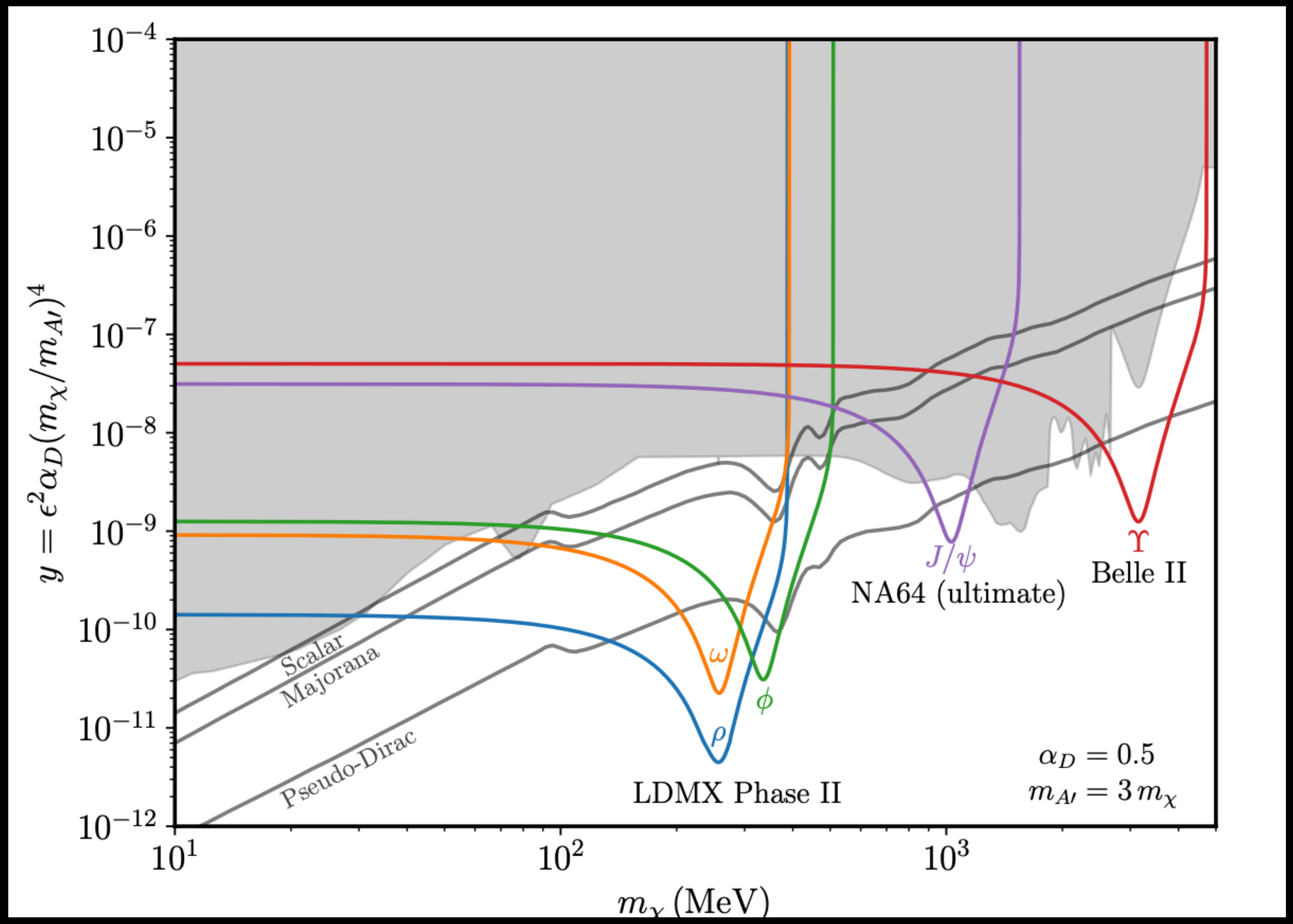
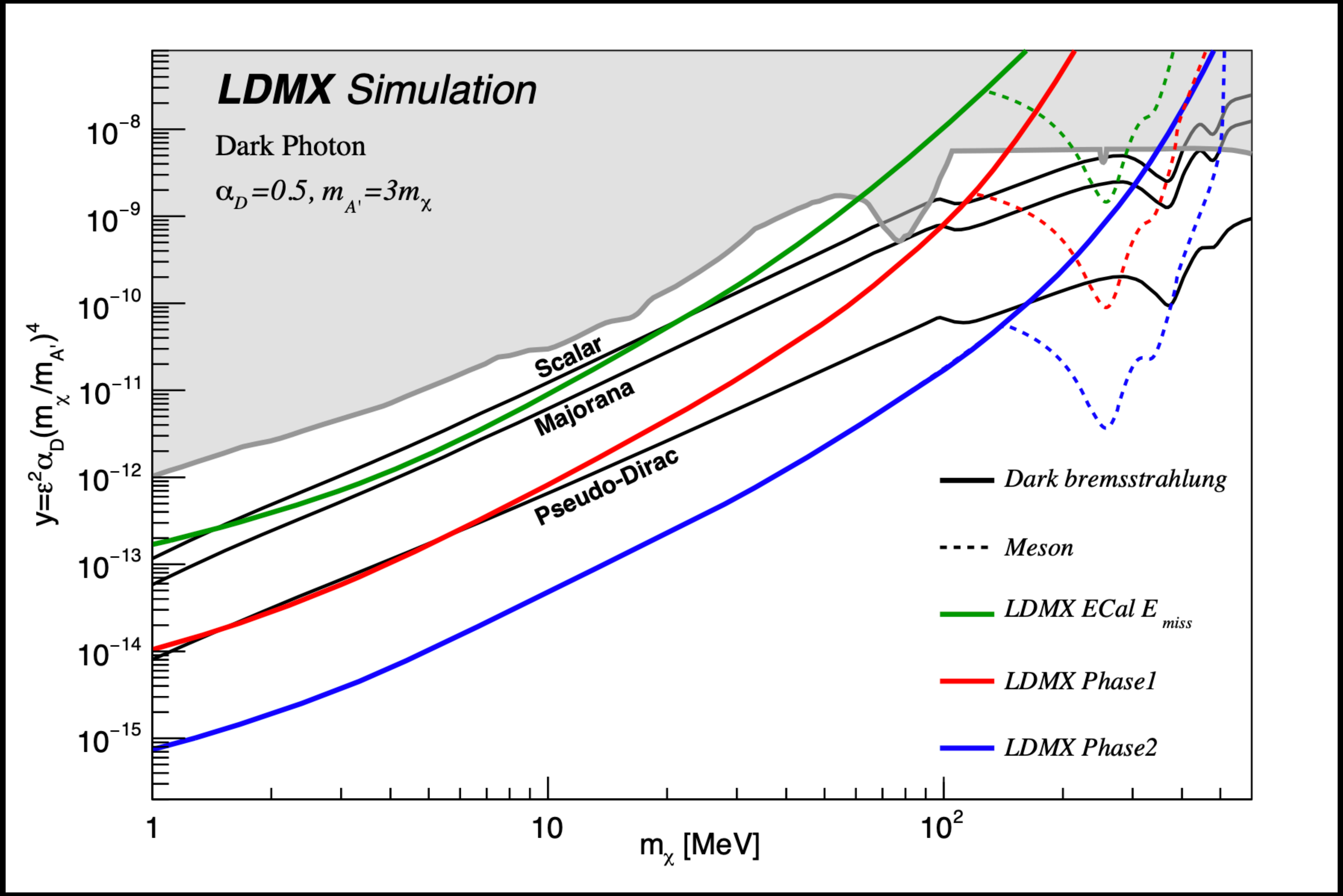
Light Dark Matter eXperiment (LDMX),
https://arxiv.org/abs/1808.05219

Probing invisible meson decays





https://arxiv.org/pdf/2112.02104.pdf

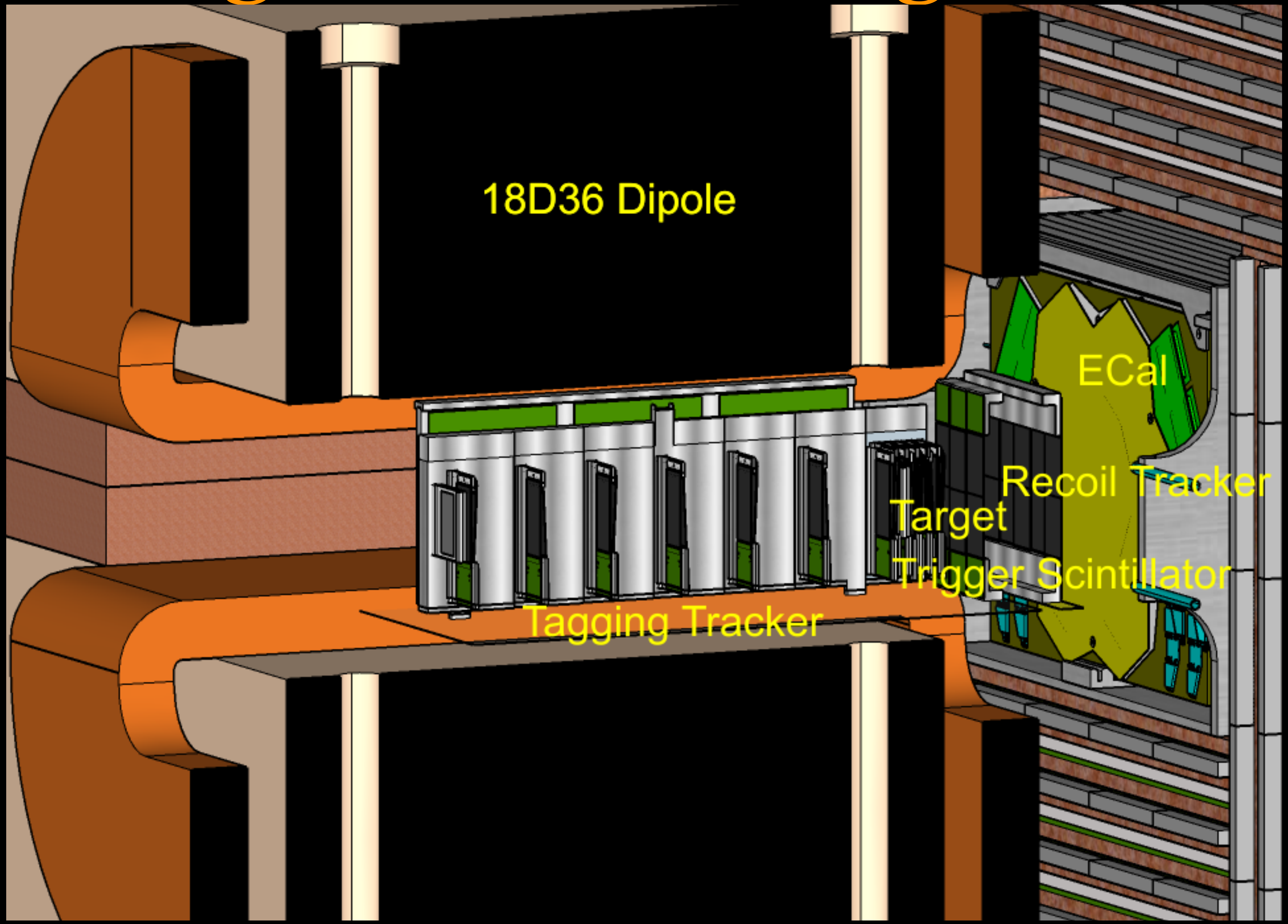


LDMX Snowmass 2021 contribution
https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.08192

Detectors pre-target: knowing what's coming in

Trigger scintillators:

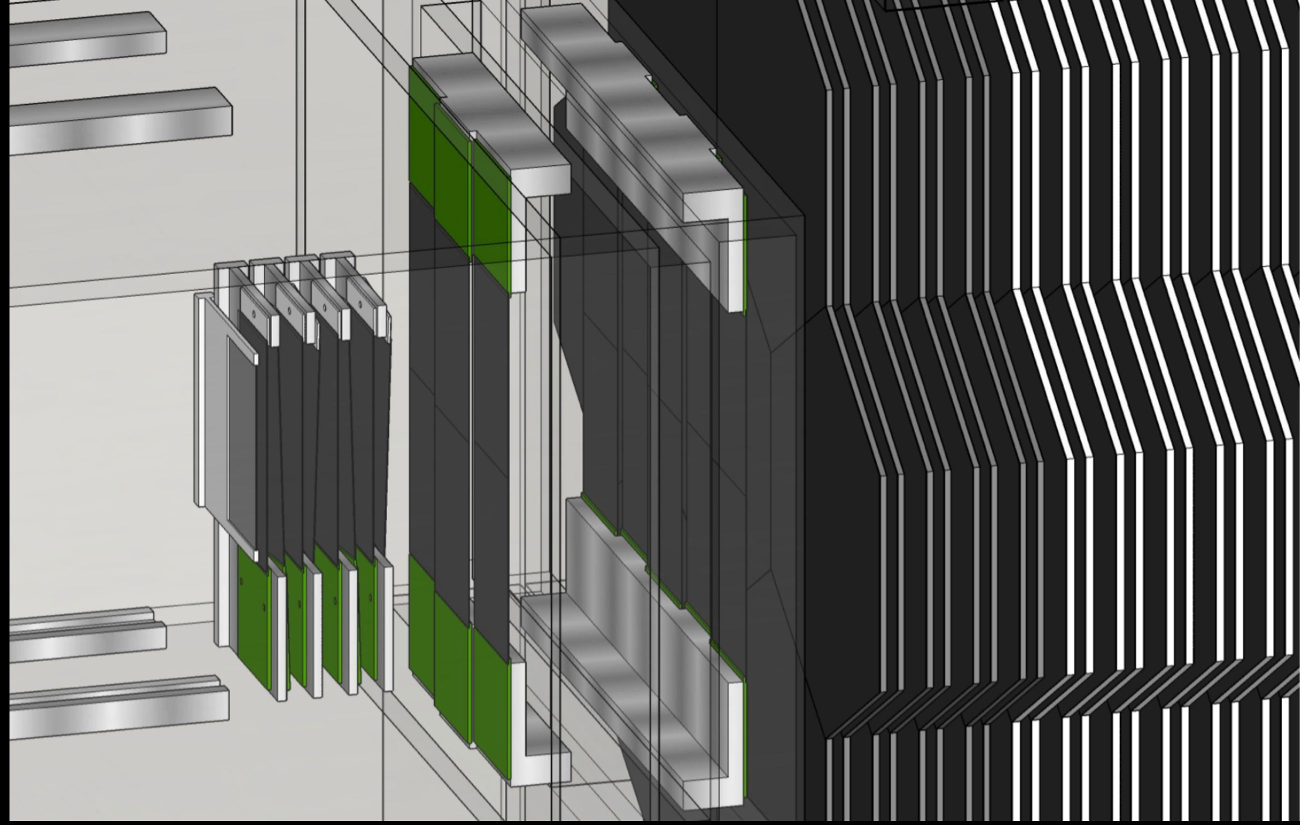
- Trigger-level electron counting, input to missing-energy trigger
- 3 arrays of horizontal scintillating bars, positioned along incoming beam



Tagging tracker (based on HPS tracker design):

- Tag beam electrons (momentum and impact parameter), offline
- 7 double-sided silicon strip modules, 100 mrad stereo angle
  - 10 cm apart, along incoming beam trajectory
  - vertically oriented strips for optimal momentum resolution

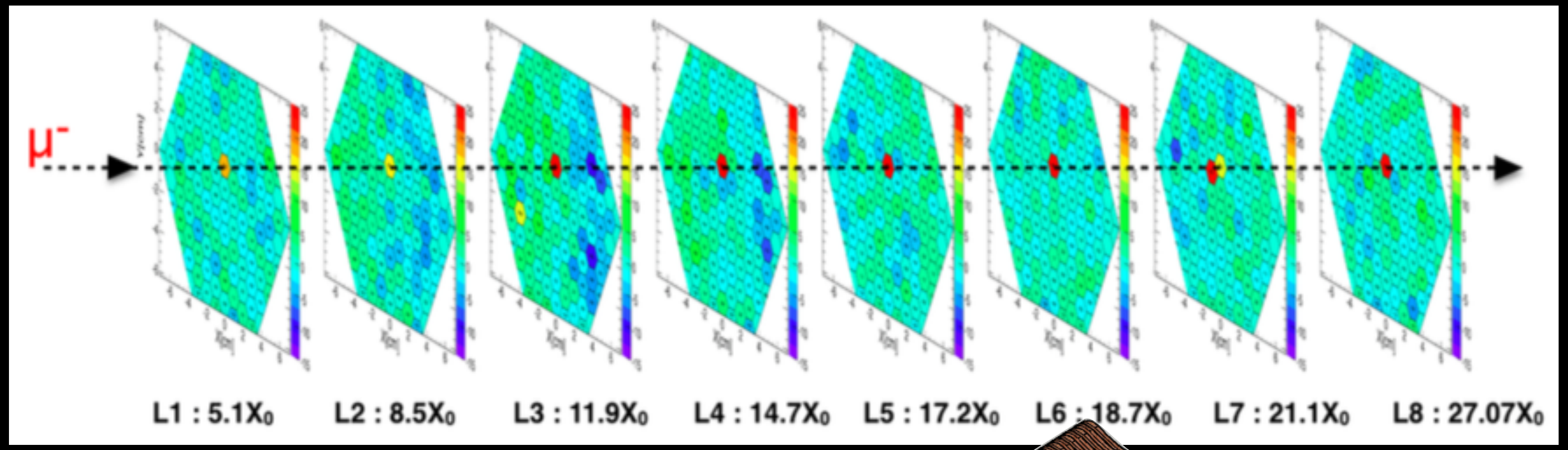
After target: recoil tracker, Ecal and Hcal



A.Martelli on behalf of CMS, arXiv:1708.08234

Recoil tracker:

- optimized for momentum resolution and acceptance at 1-2 GeV

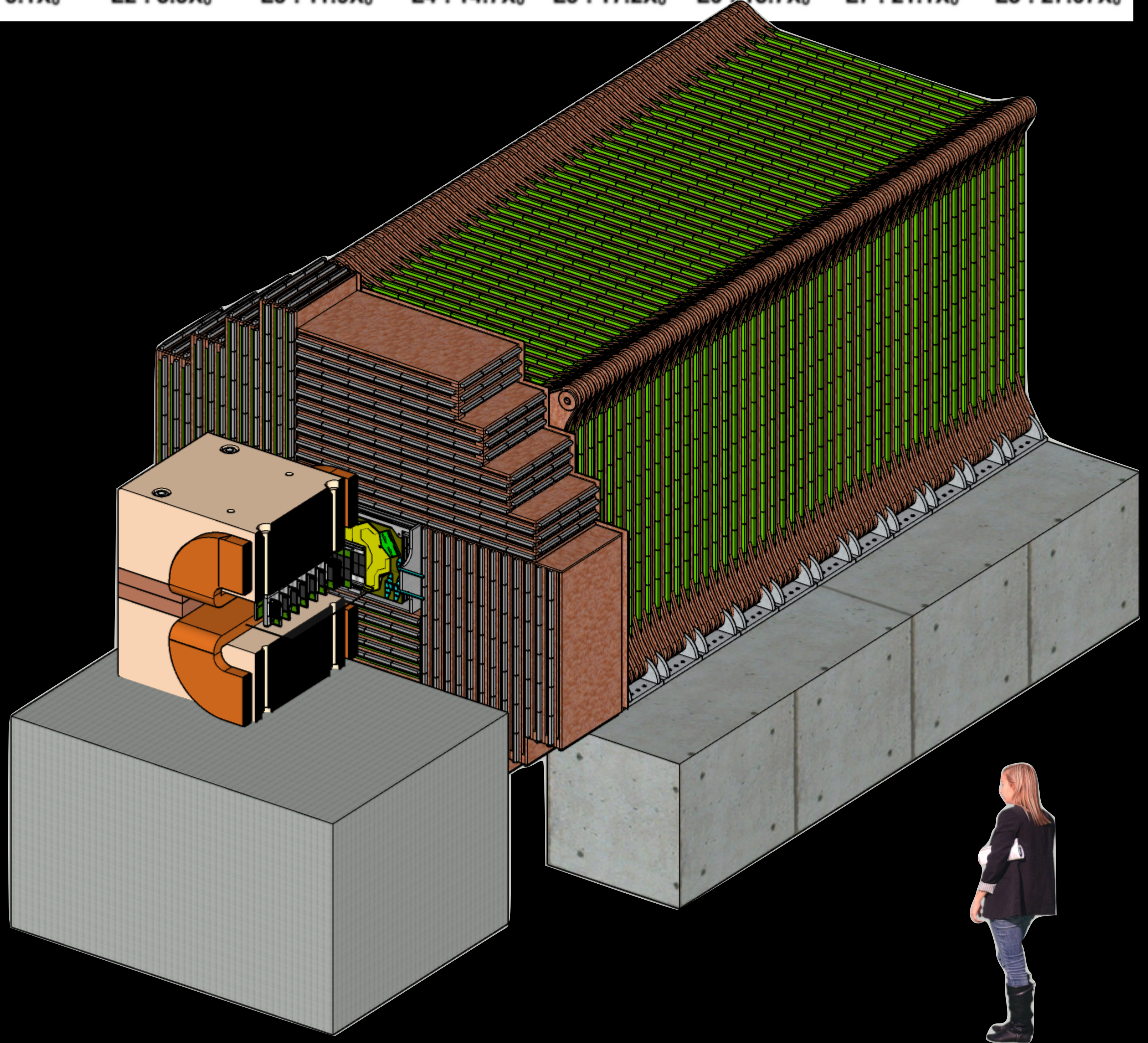


Electromagnetic calorimeter (based on CMS HGCal upgrade):

- high-granularity, capable of MIP tracking
- 40 X_0 Si-W calorimeter, radiation hard

Hadronic calorimeter (adapted from Mu2e cosmic ray veto):

- on all sides and behind Ecal for wide and deep coverage
- sampling calorimeter, steel absorber, 17λ deep
- readout in scintillator bars of alternating x/y orientation



Event selection/vetoes

Goal: no background from ~10^{14} electrons on target

First handle: recoiling electron

- trigger on Ecal $E < 1.5$ GeV (1e);
- select recoil electron momentum < 1.2 GeV
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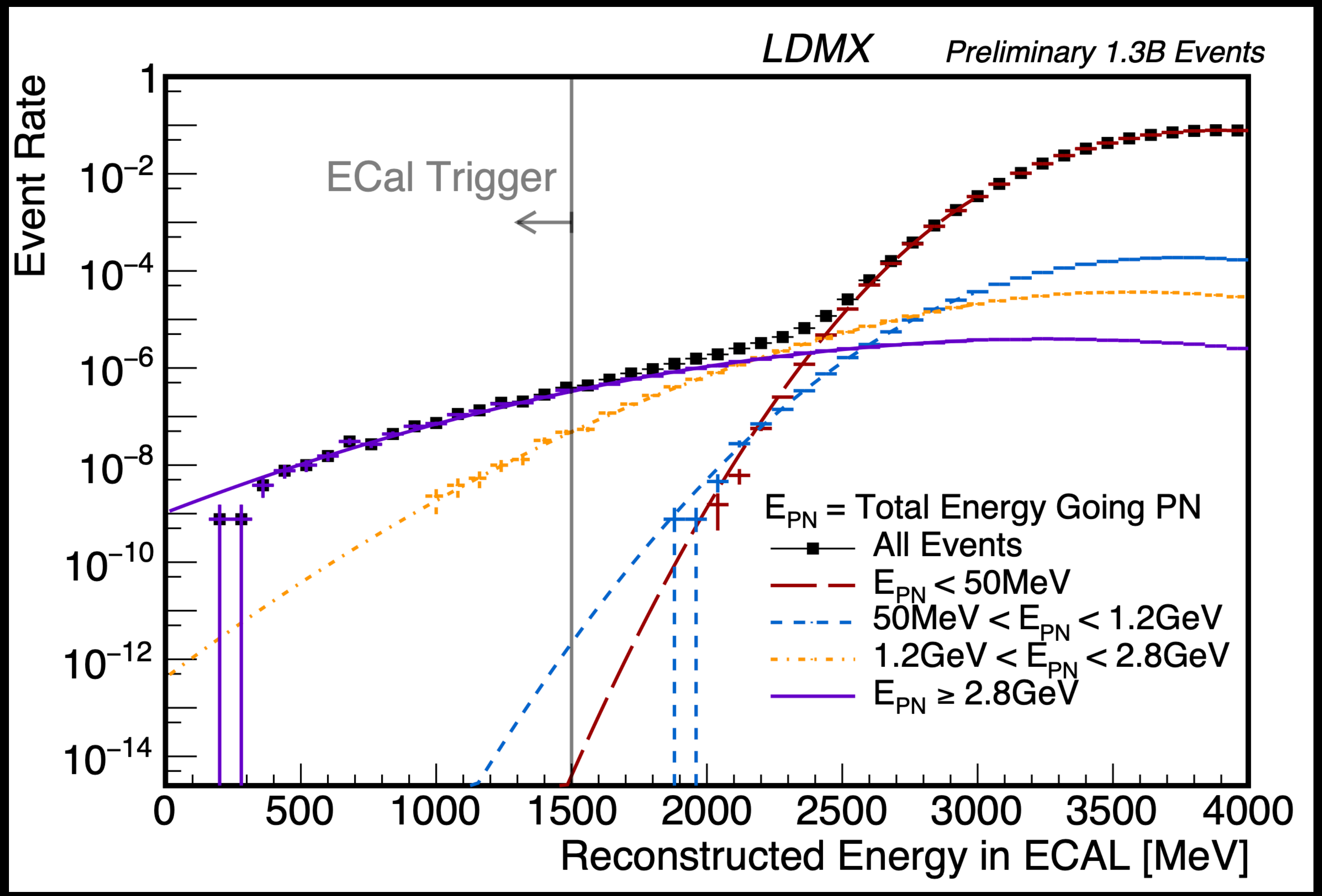
Exploit high-granularity Ecal features

- BDT trained to reject photonuclear events in Ecal
- MIP tracking powerful on sparse events

Veto on Hcal activity

- allow only a few photoelectrons
- deep enough to tease out even single neutrons



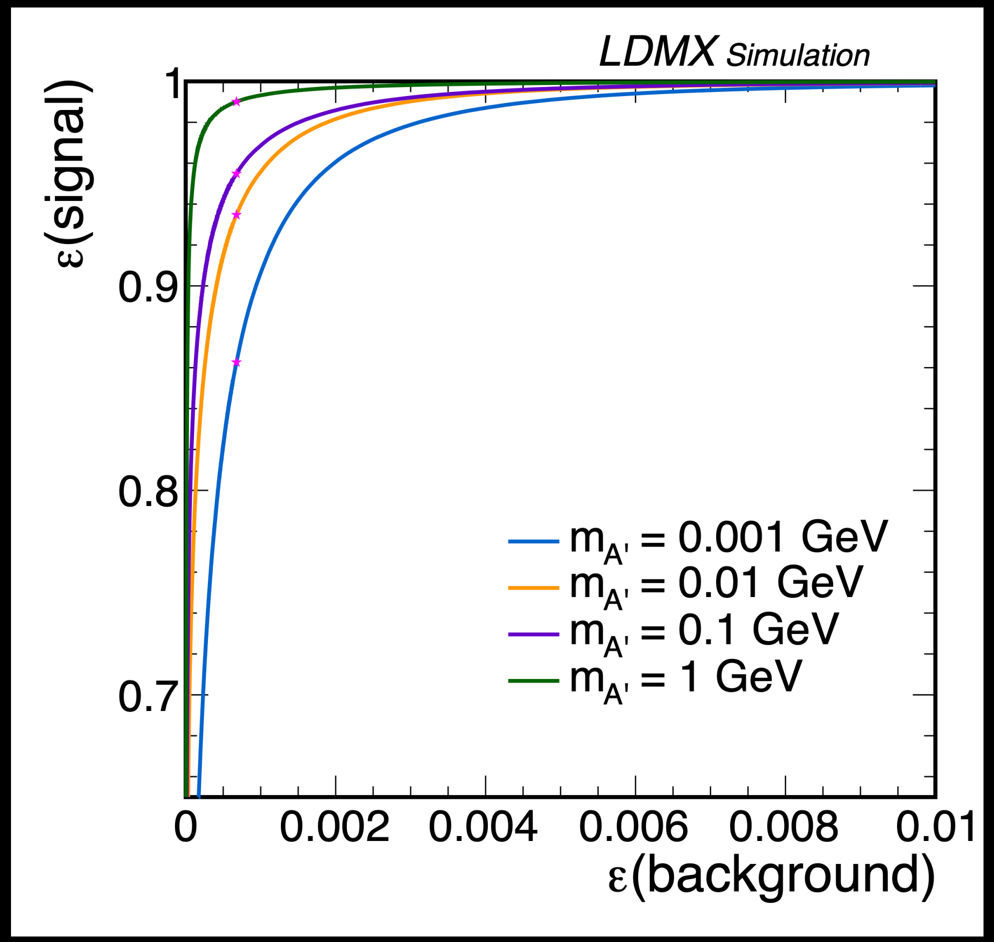


	Photo-nuclear		Muon conversion	
	Target-area	**ECal**	**Target-area**	**ECal**
EoT equivalent	4×10^{14}	2.1×10^{14}	8.2×10^{14}	2.4×10^{15}
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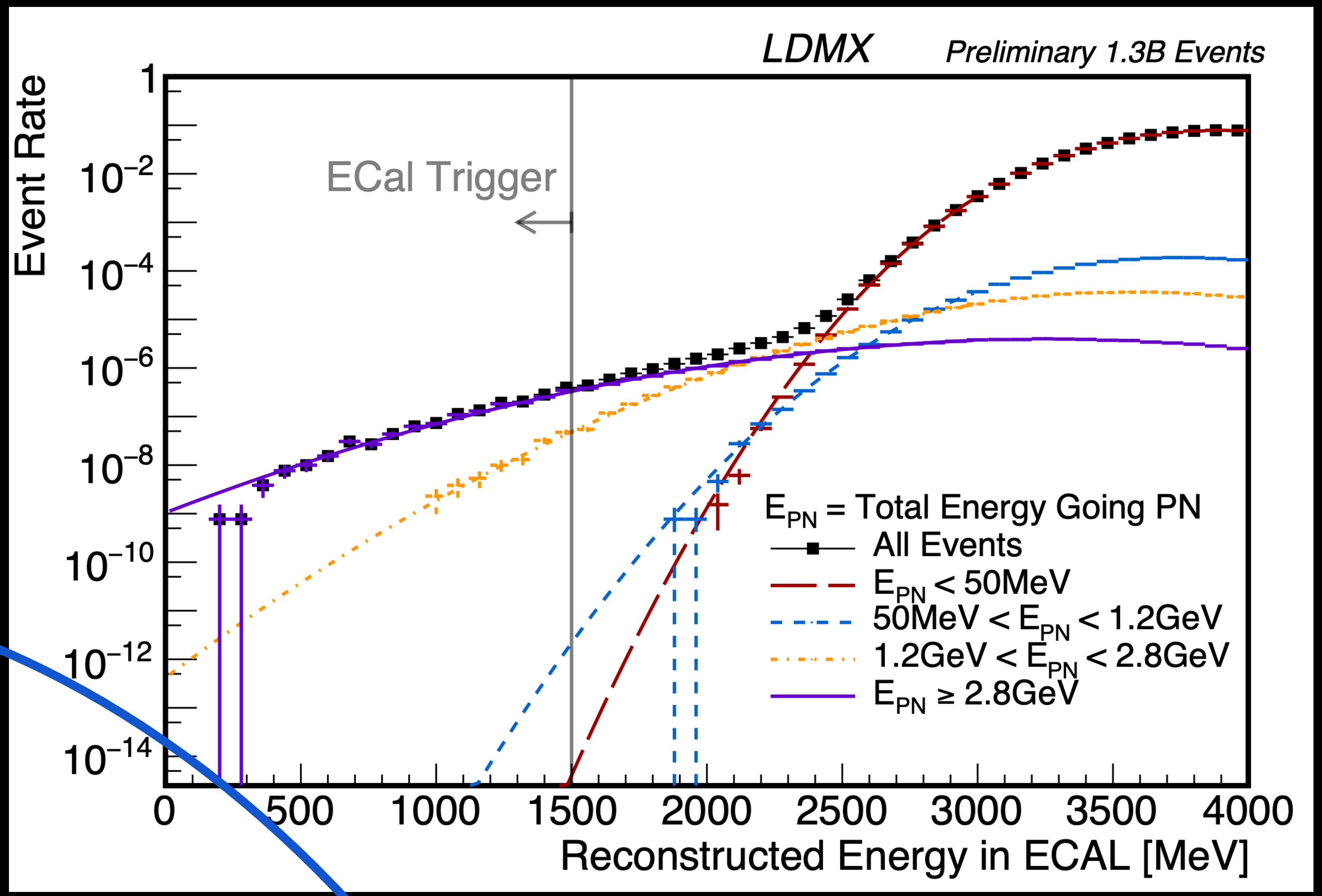
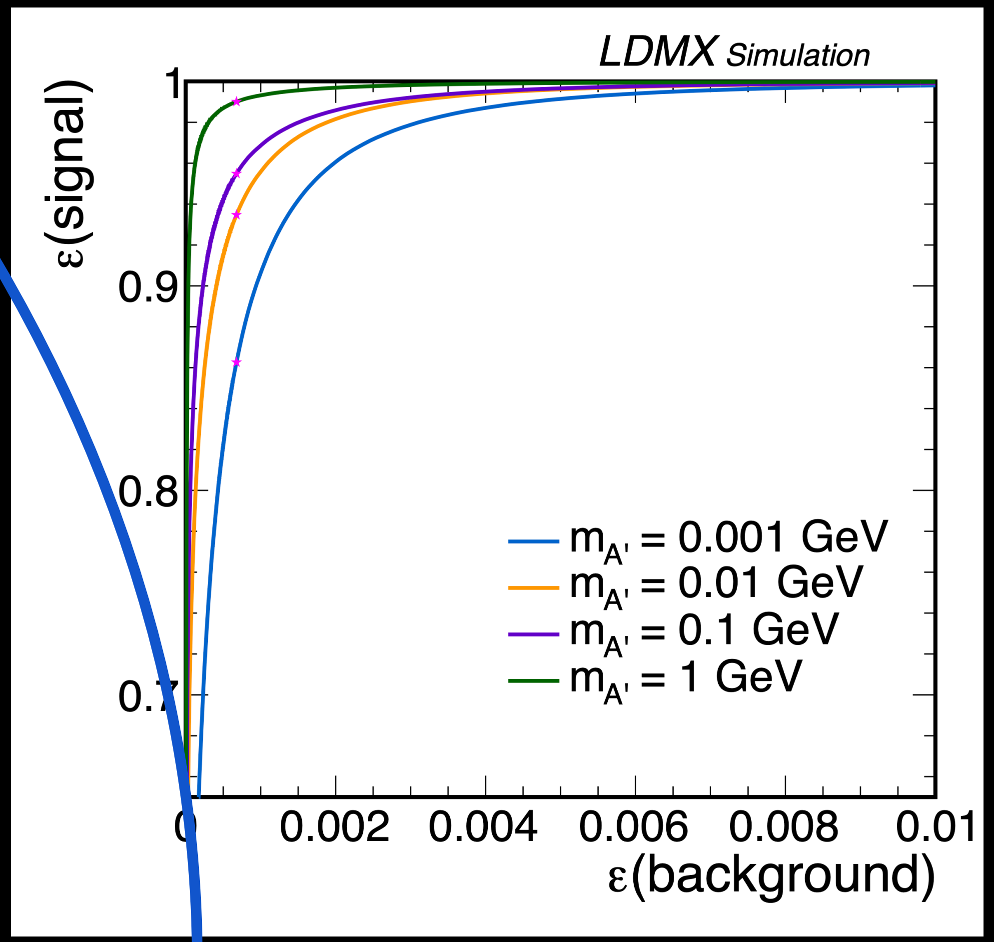
most challenging background:





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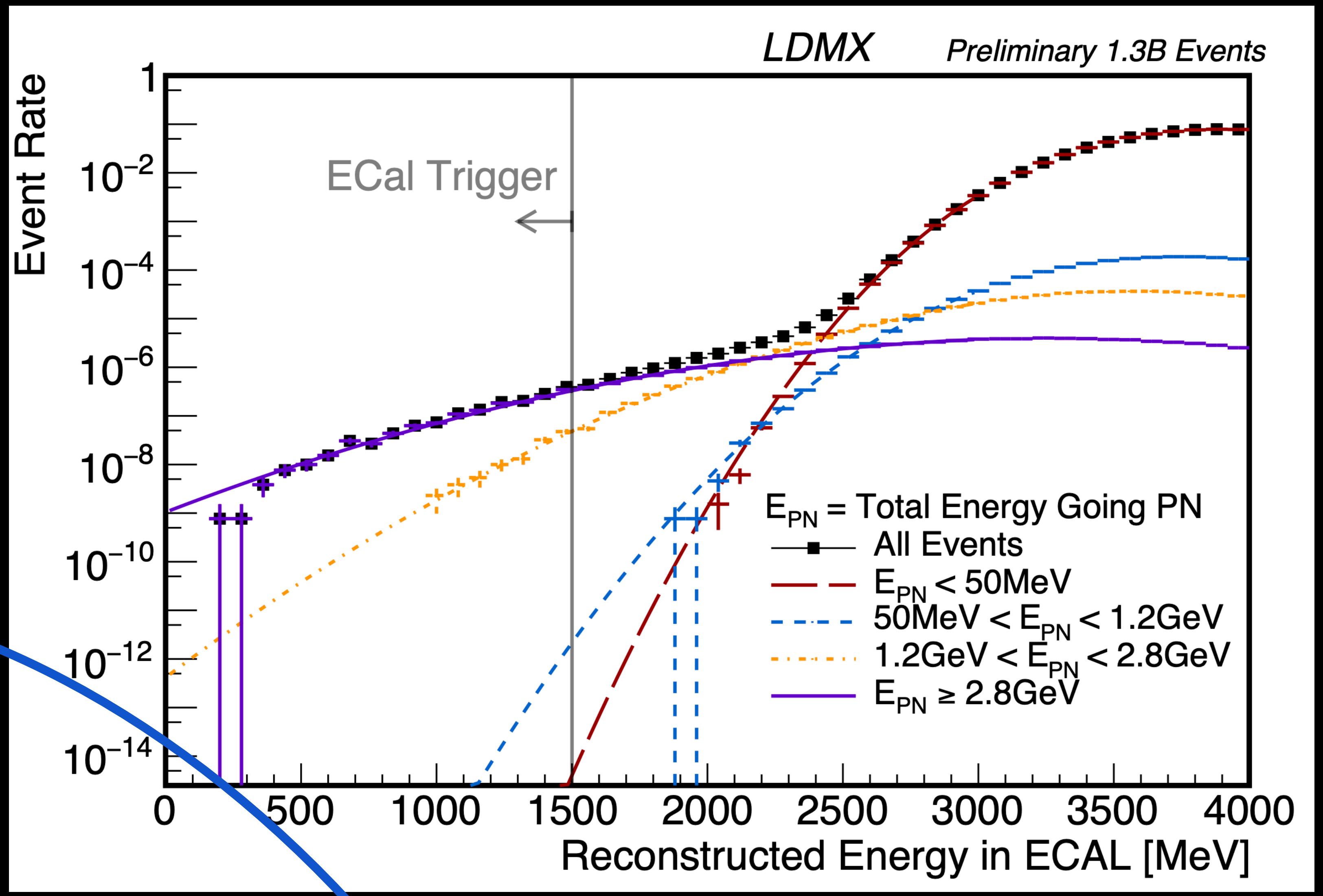
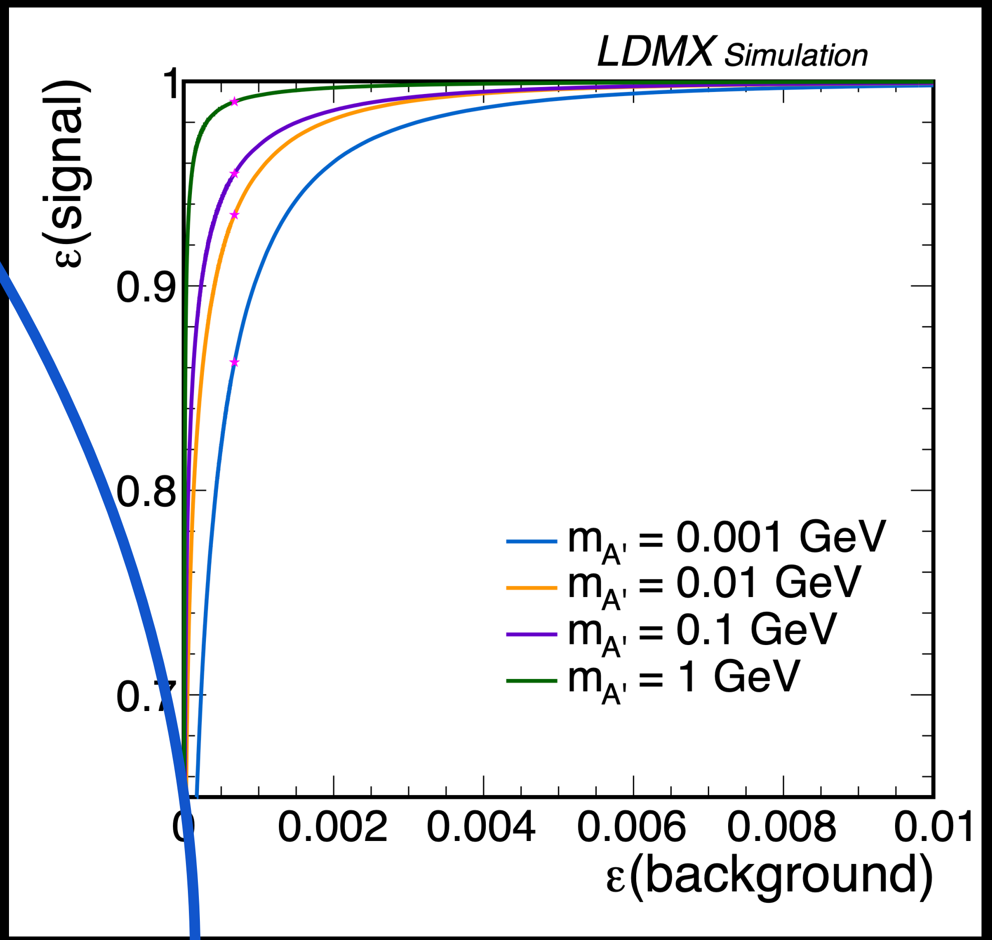
most challenging background:

down to 10^8





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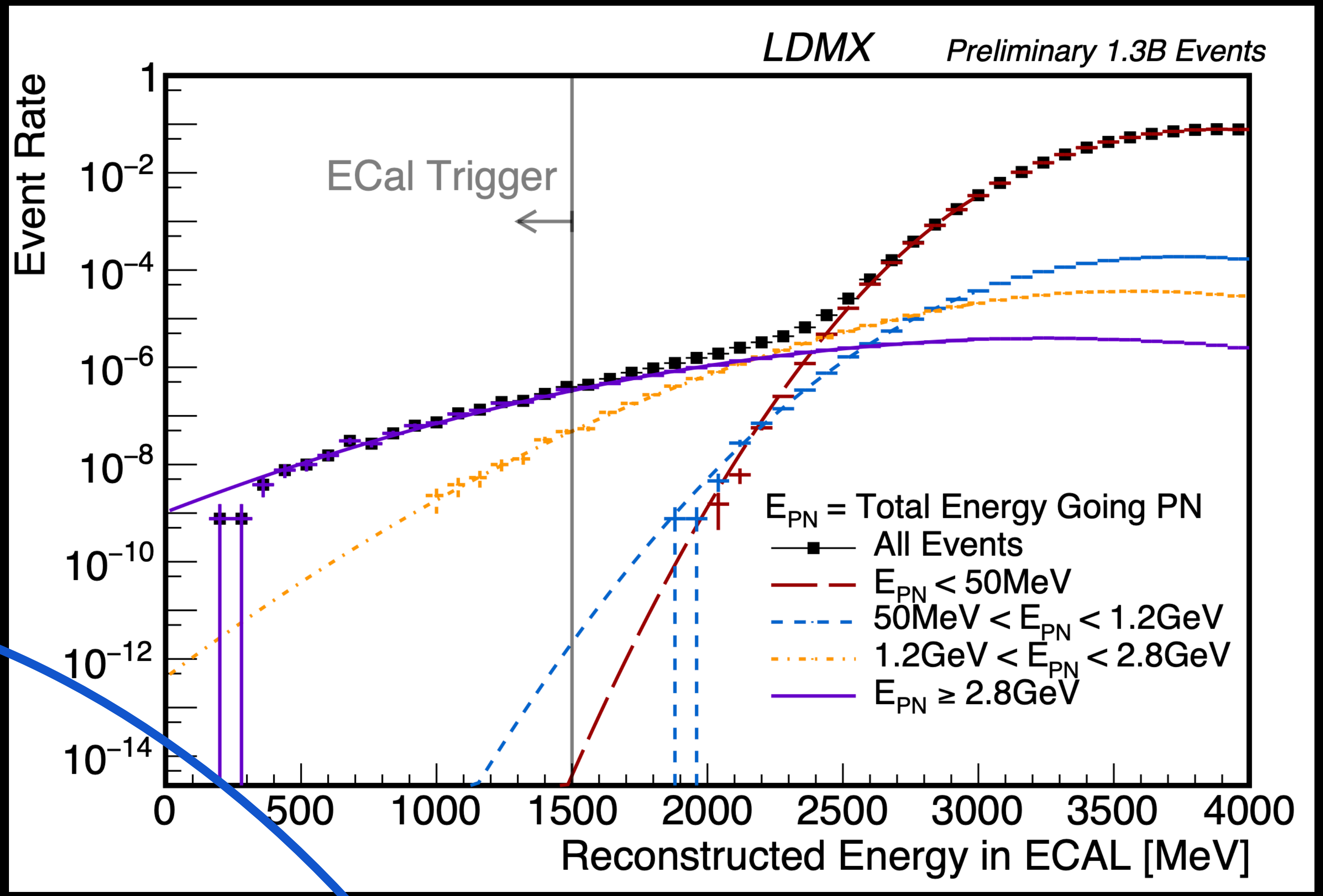

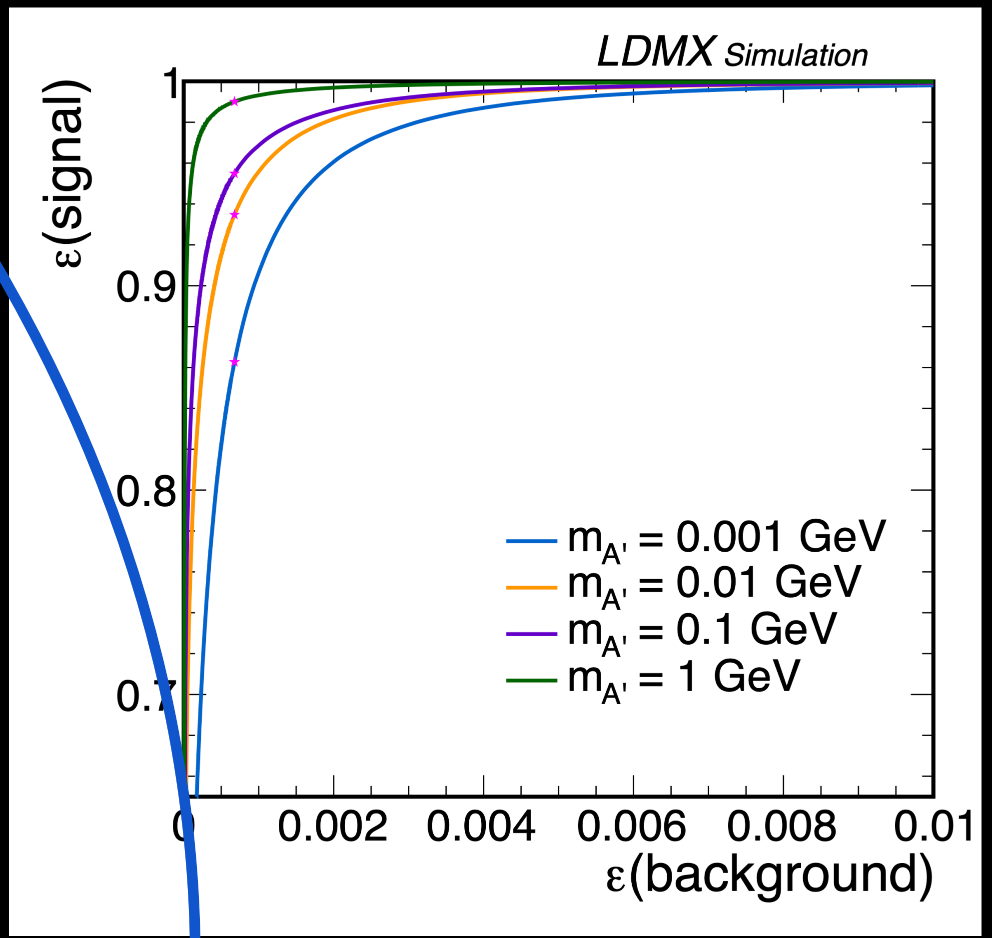

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LDMX

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Veto on Hcal activity

down to 10

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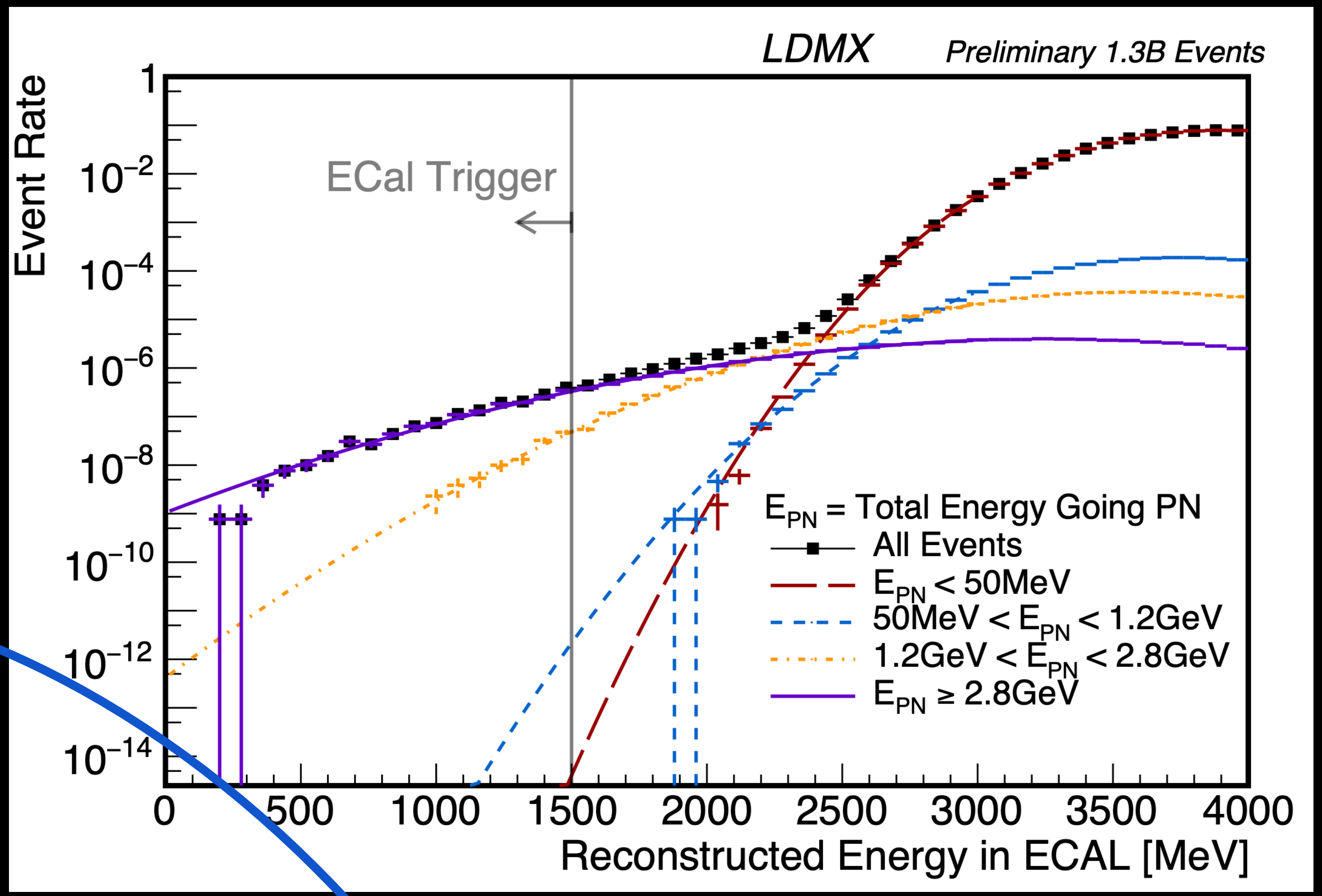

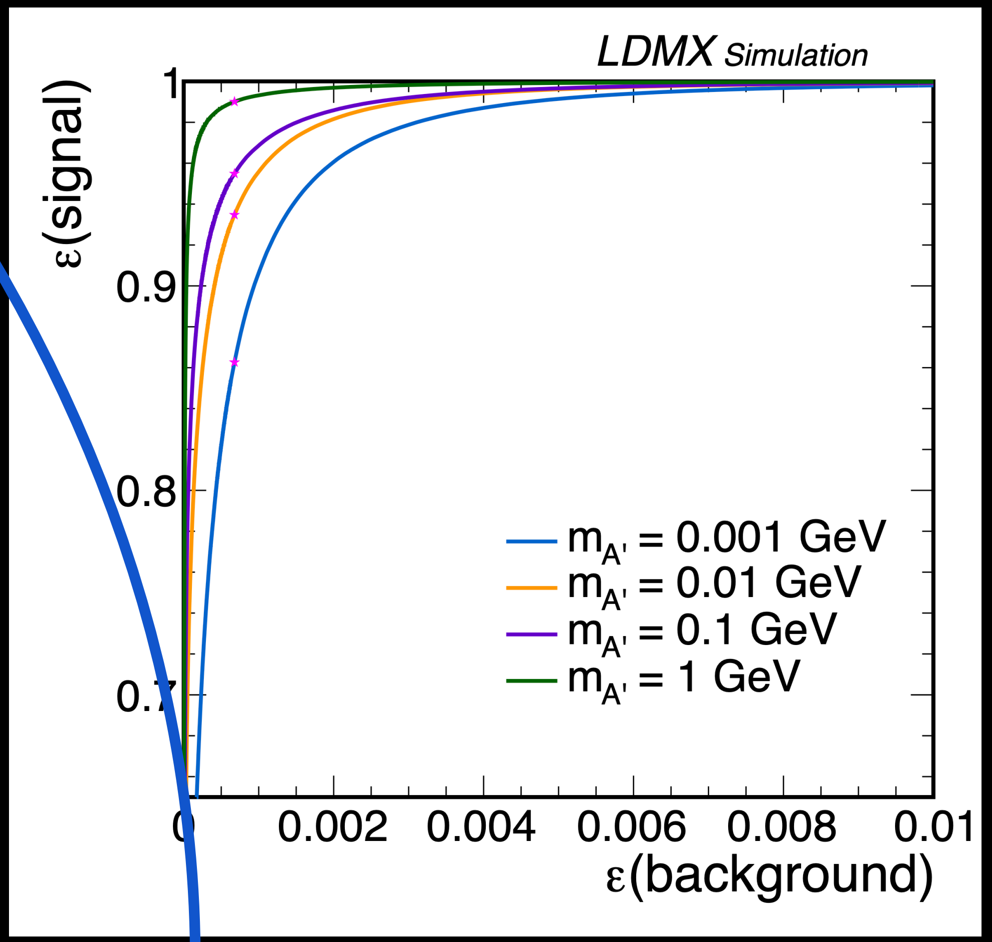

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down to 10^5

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down to <1!

Veto on Hcal activity

down to 10

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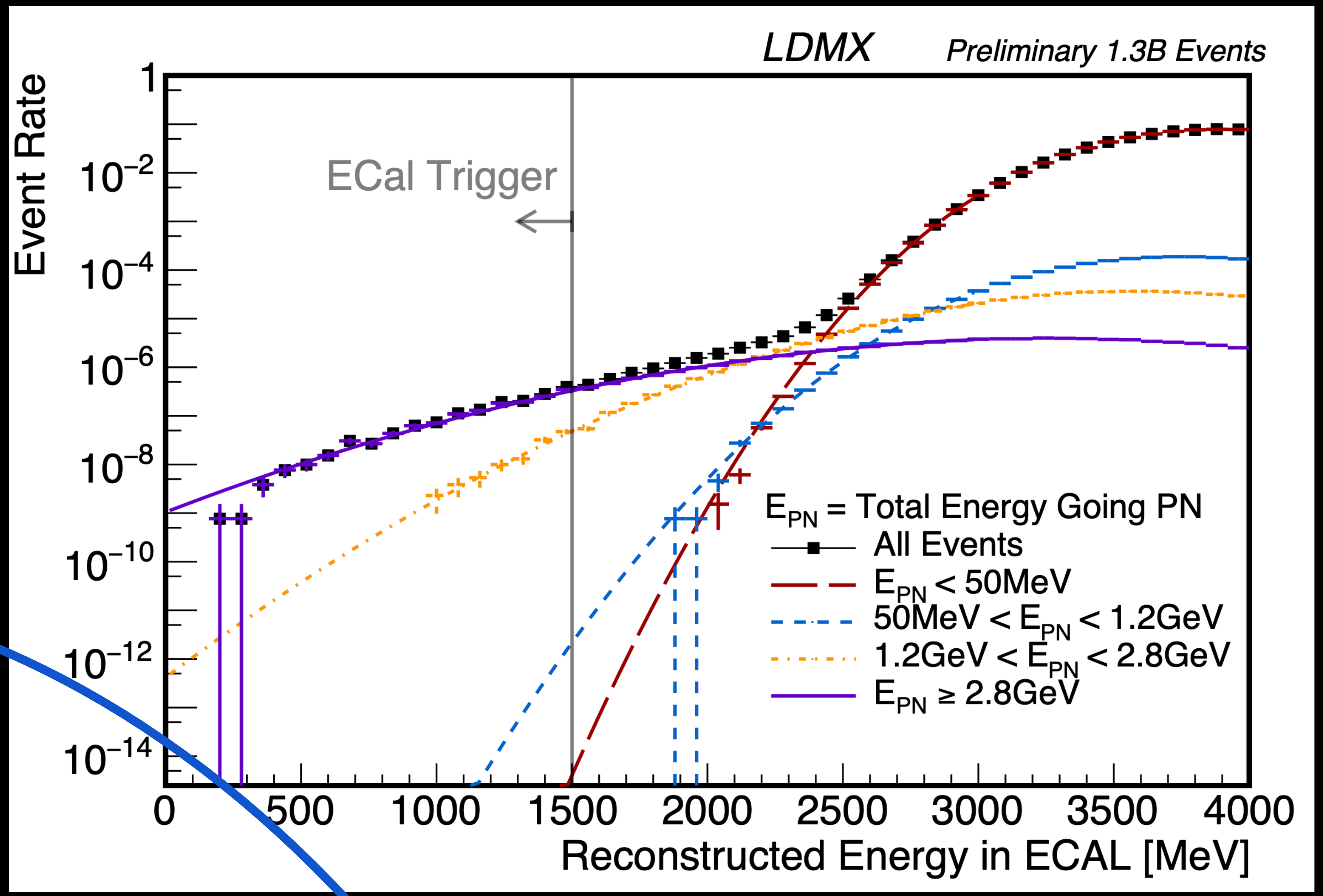

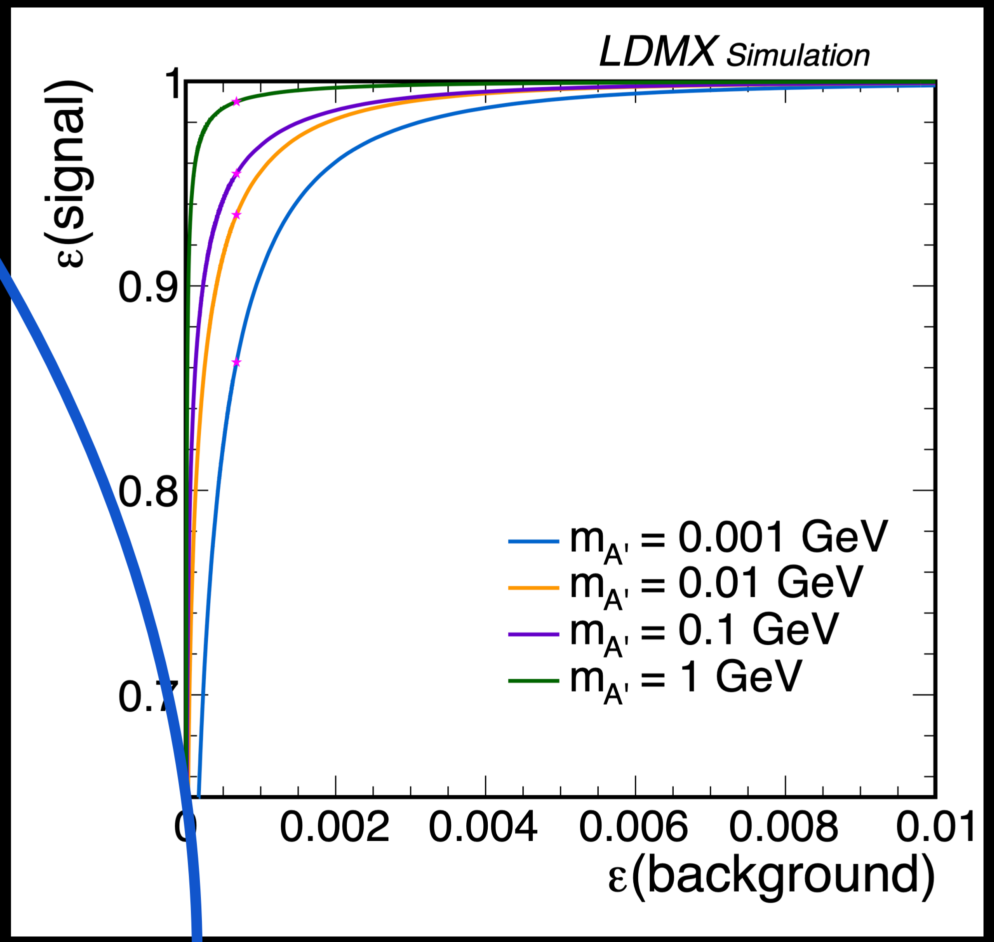

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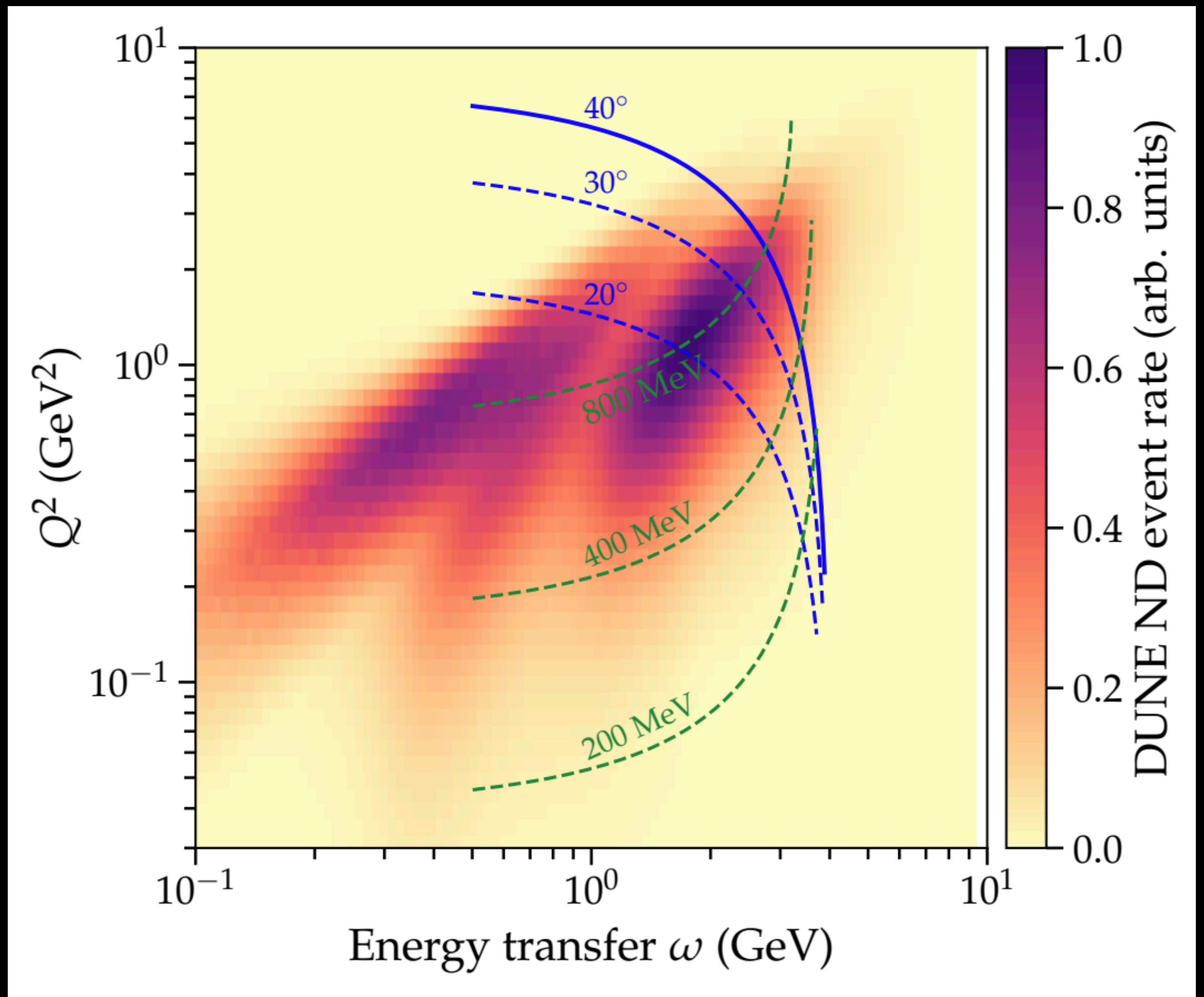
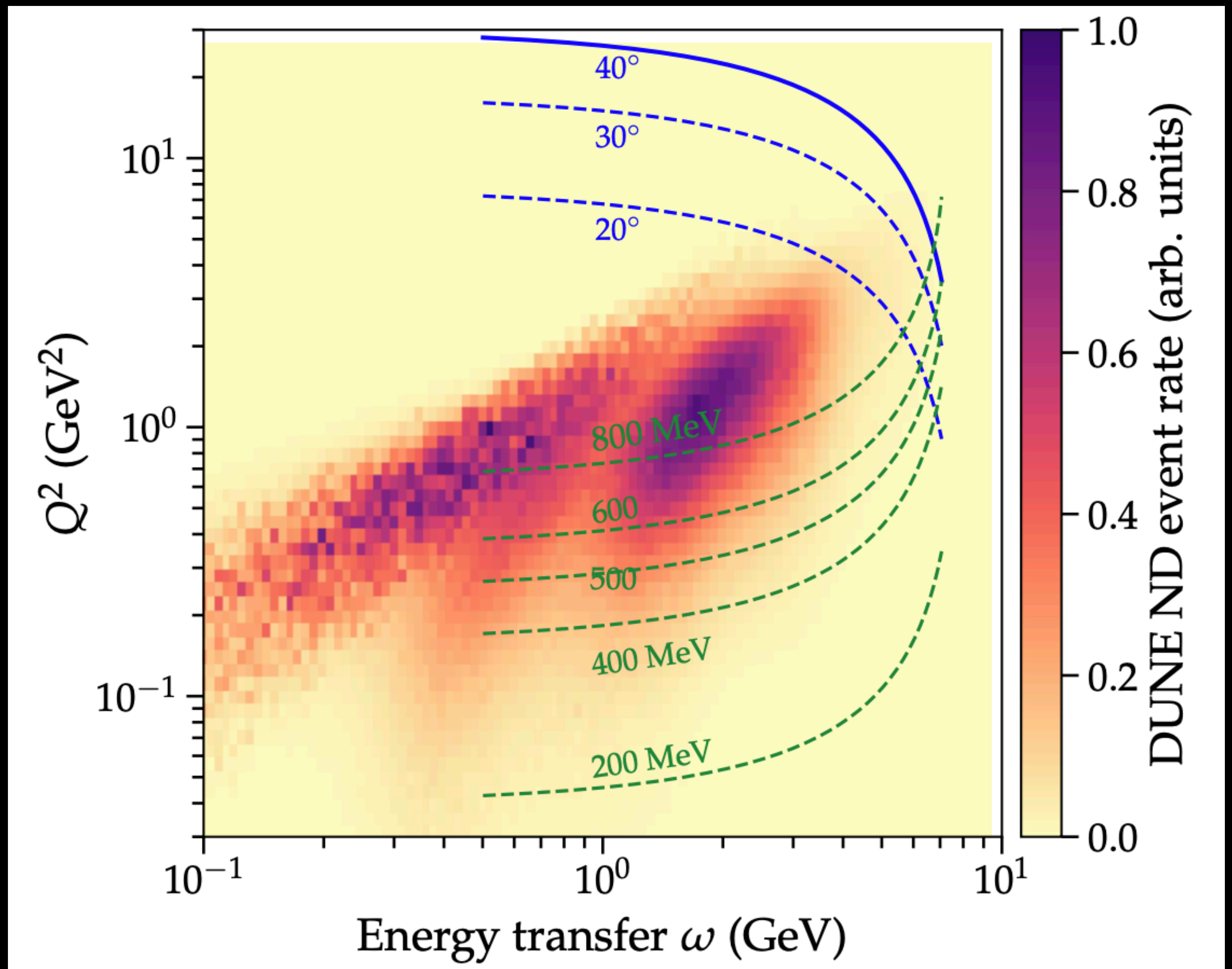
Electronuclear measurements at 4 and 8 GeV



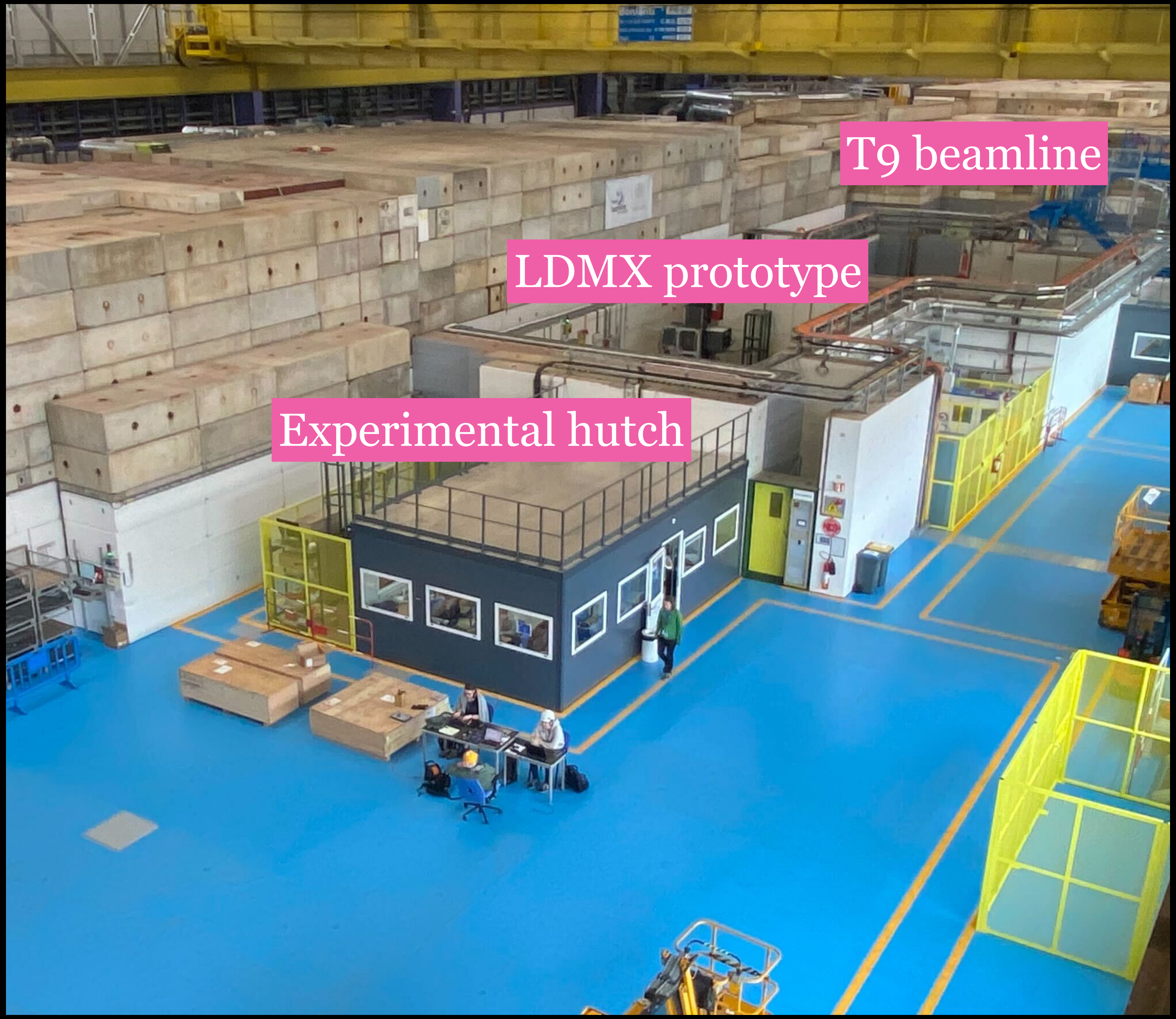


Curves show LDMX acceptance, color scale represents event rate for DIS events in DUNE, indicating the relevant phase space

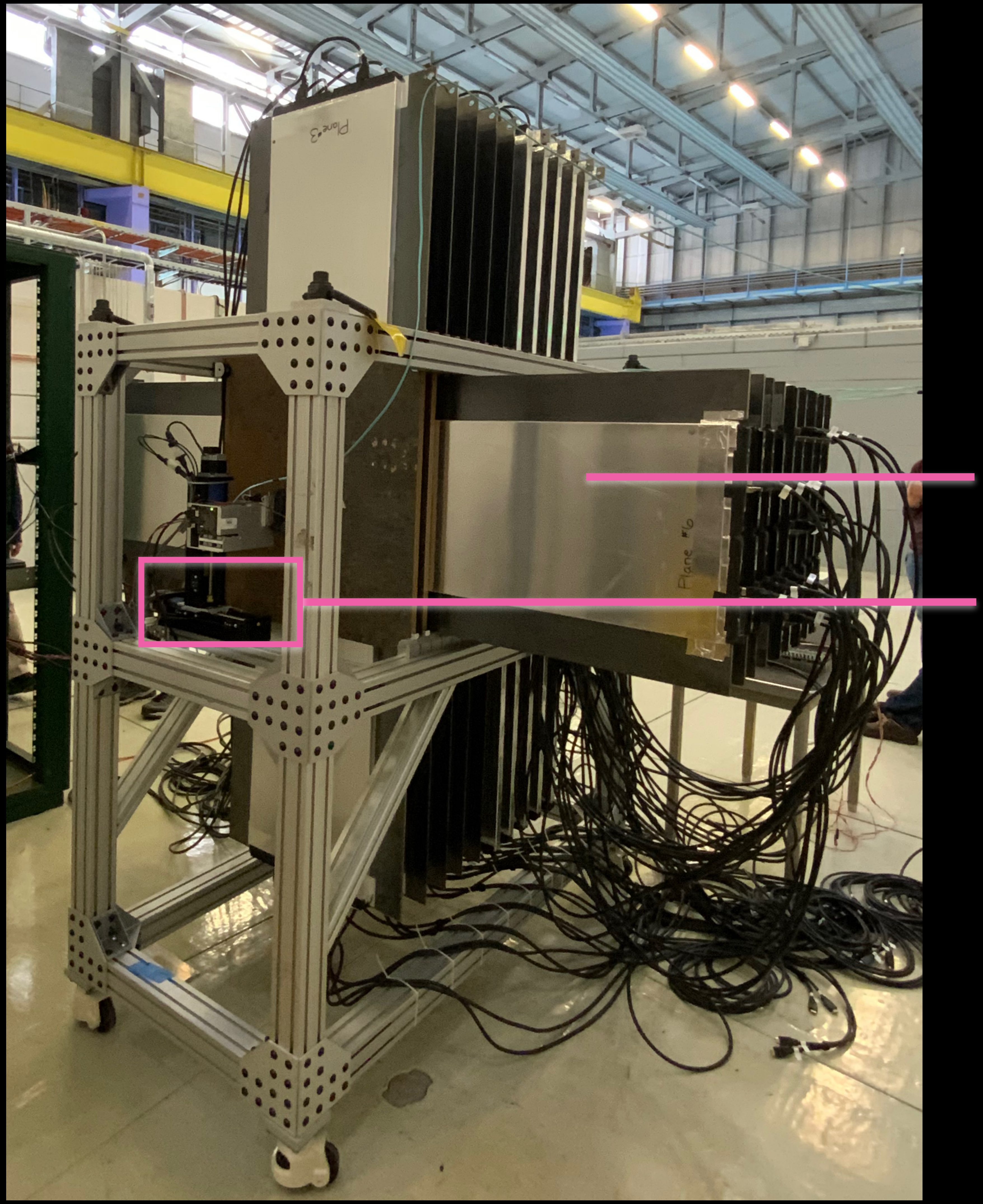
Prototype at CERN Testbeam

CERN East Area: T9 beamline

- PS protons → East Area
- Beam via North Target to T9: e, μ, π
  - Beamline's configuration isolates final particle species from secondary beam
    - ~1k particles/spill
    - Particle ID: Cherenkov detectors
- Maximum intensity: Few million particles/spill

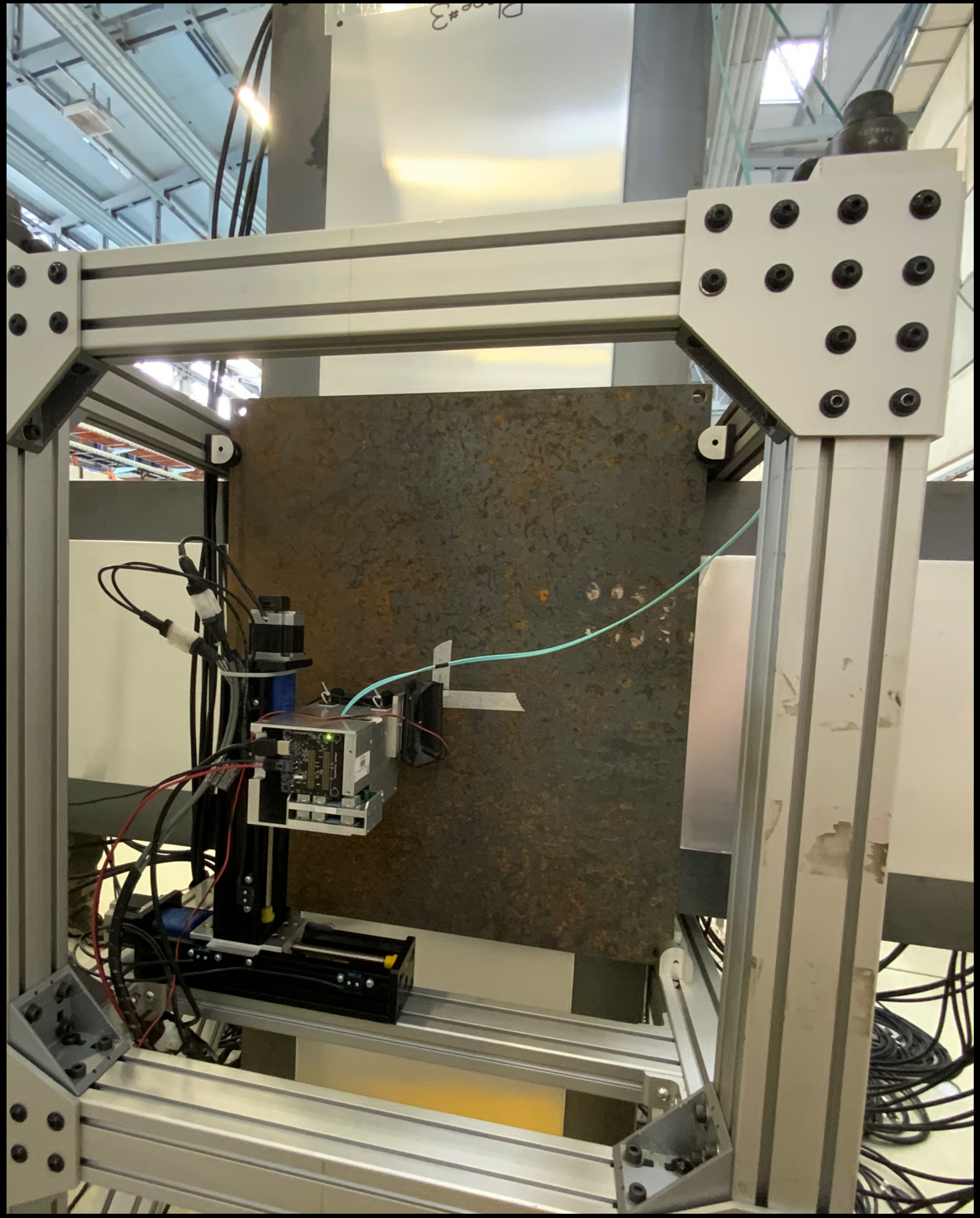


Prototype in the beam area



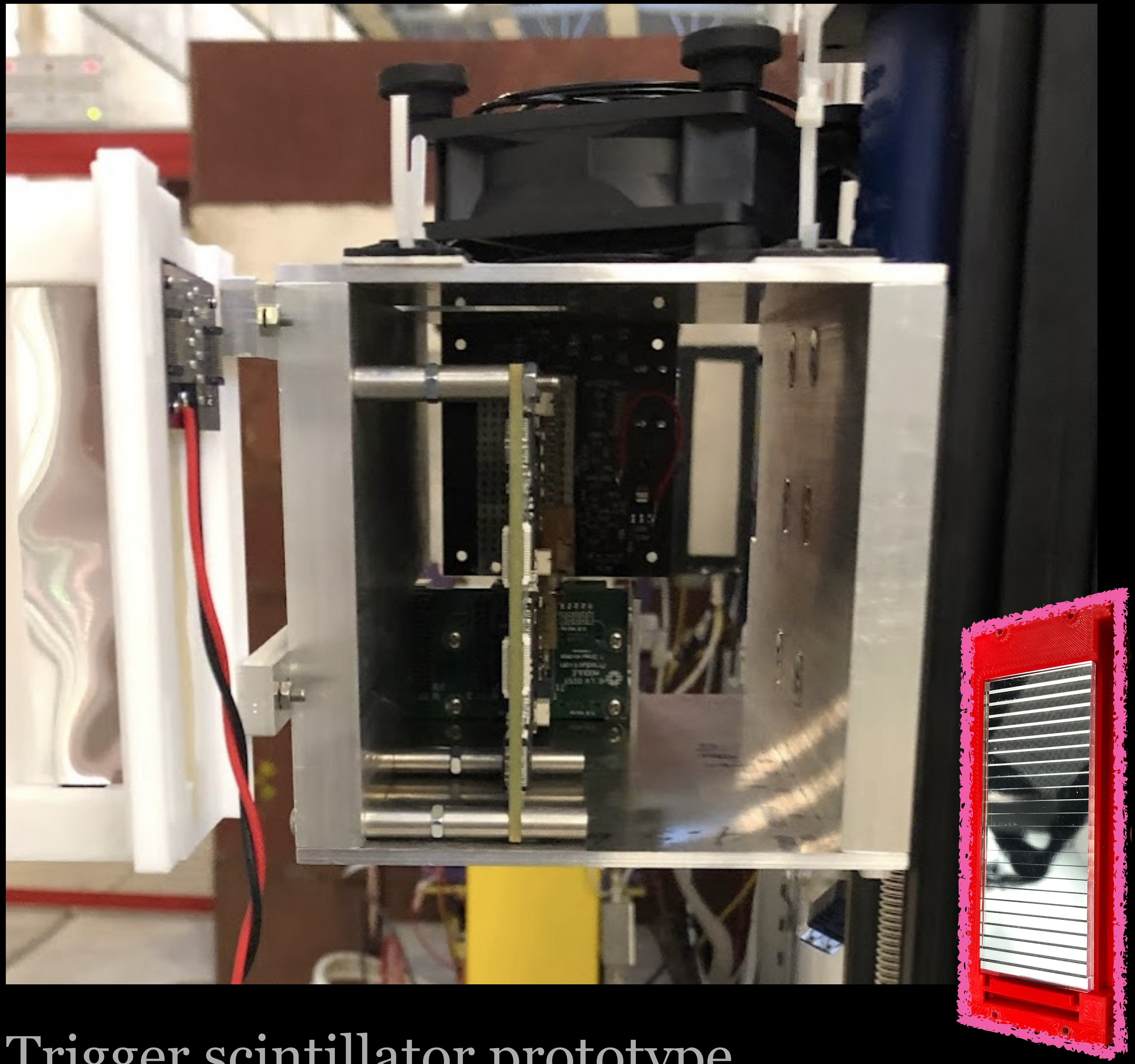
Hadronic Calorimeter
(HCal)

Trigger scintillator
(TS)



CERN test beam, March-April 2022

Prototype subdetectors



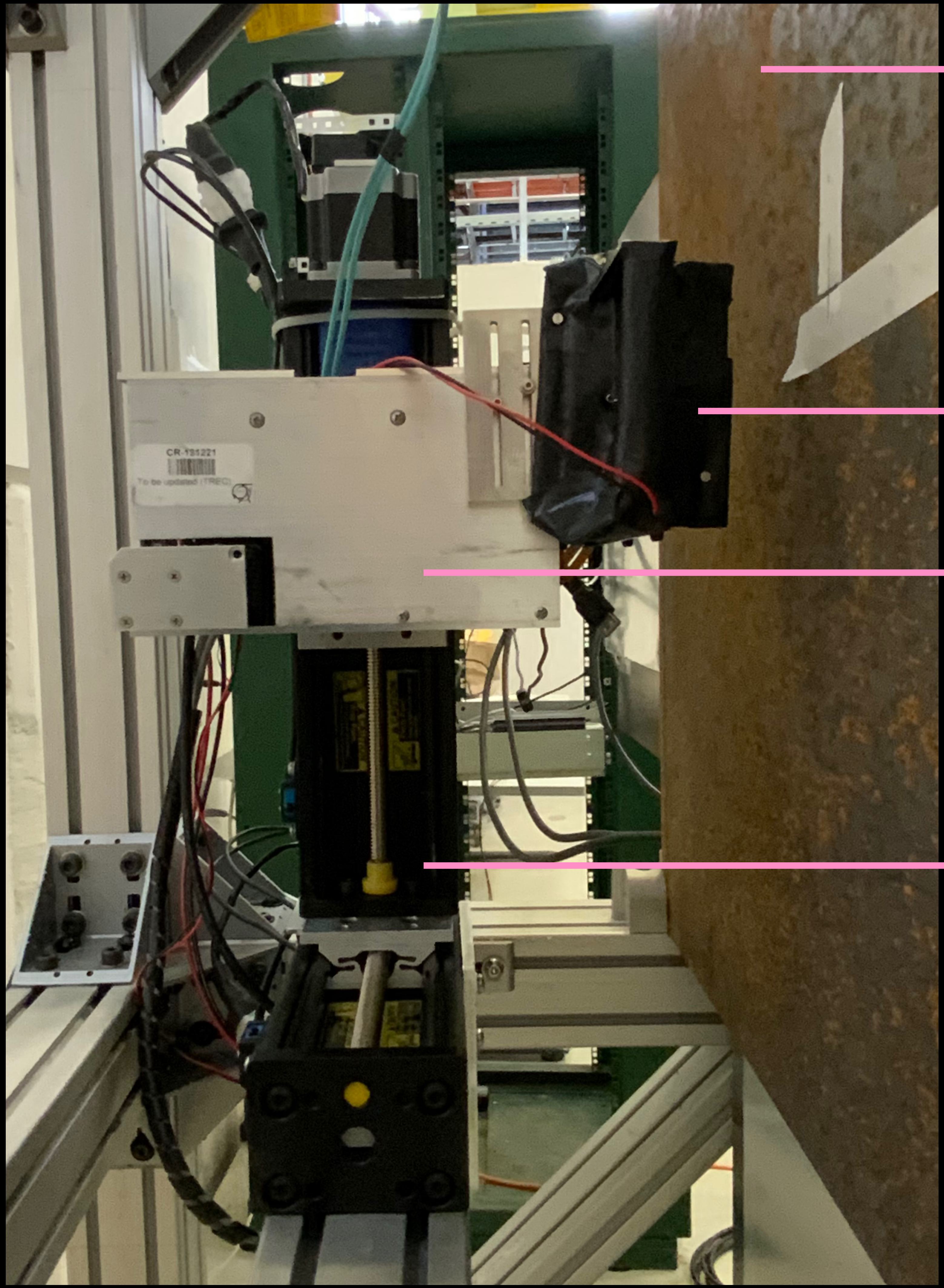
Trigger scintillator prototype

Inset: Aluminium-coated bare scintillator bar array in its 3D-printed holder

Hadronic calorimeter scintillator bars layer

Inset: Fibre optic cable pokes through bare scintillator bar

Trigger scintillator (TS) prototype

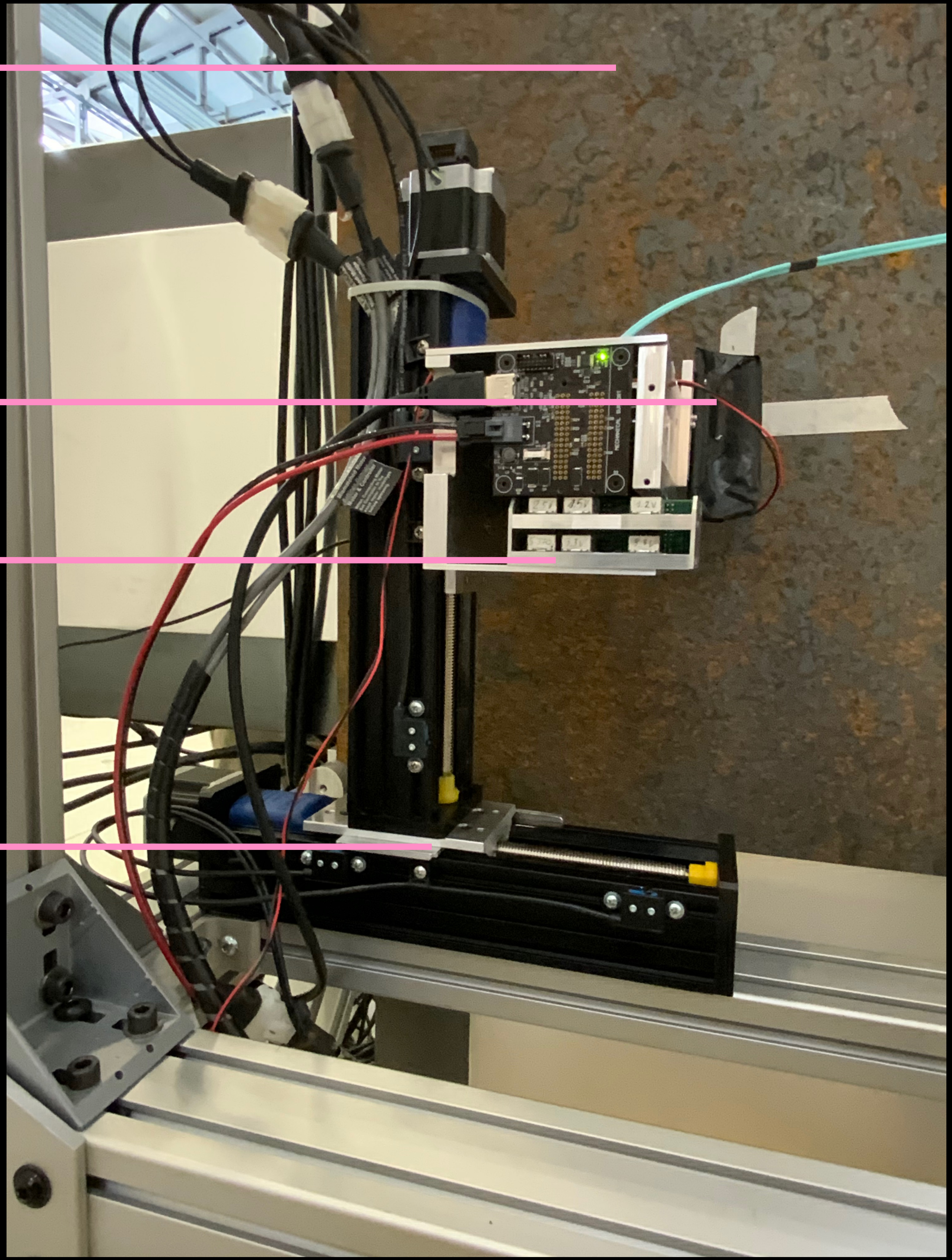


First steel absorber layer
of the hadronic calorimeter

TS plastic scintillator
encased in black tape
for light tightness

TS readout electronics

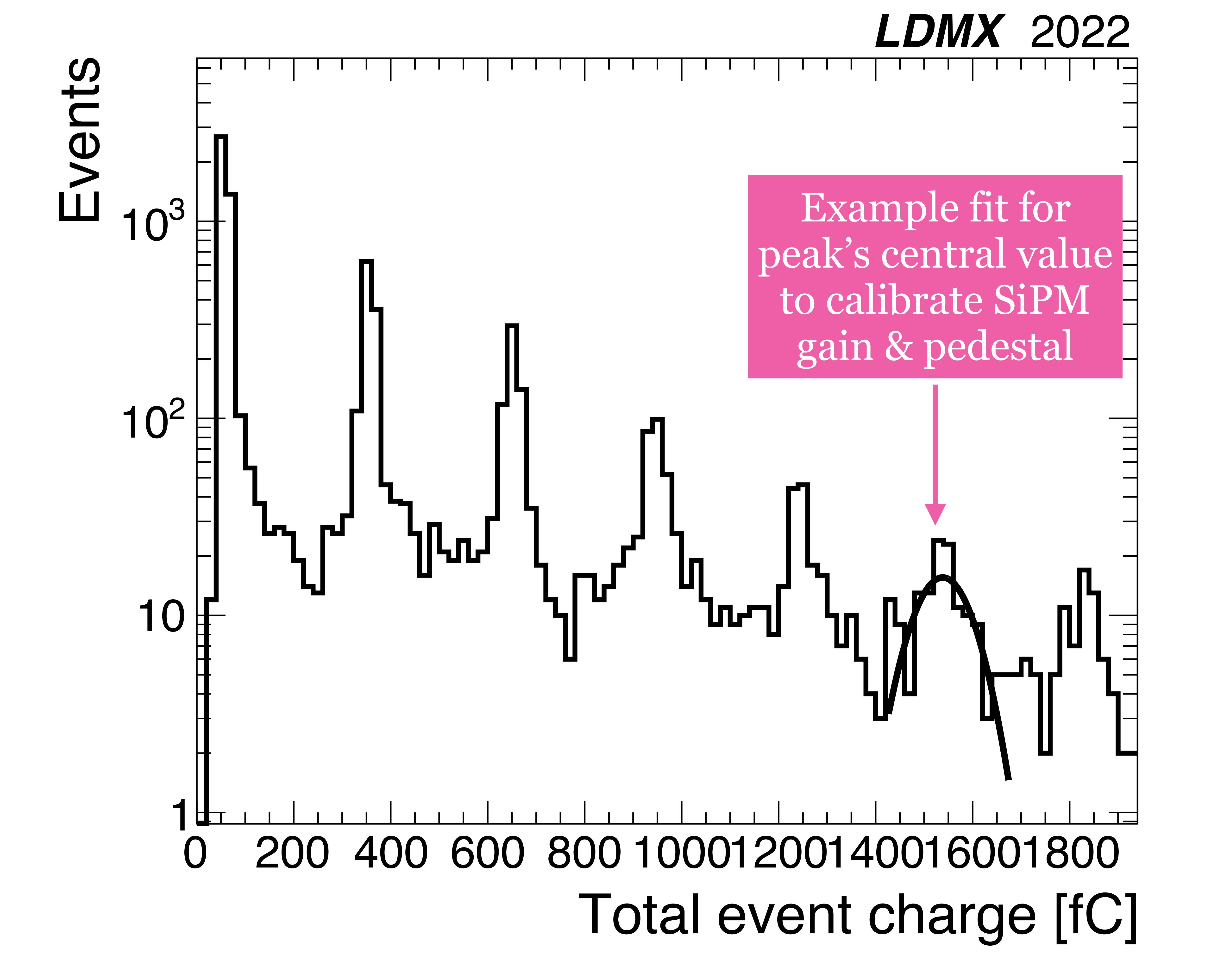
Gantry to adjust
position of TS in beamspot



TS: Single photoelectron spectrum

Gain calibration

- Integrated charge/event for each TS channel
- Peaks
  - 1st: System pedestal
  - Additional: integer numbers of Si photomultiplier pixels firing



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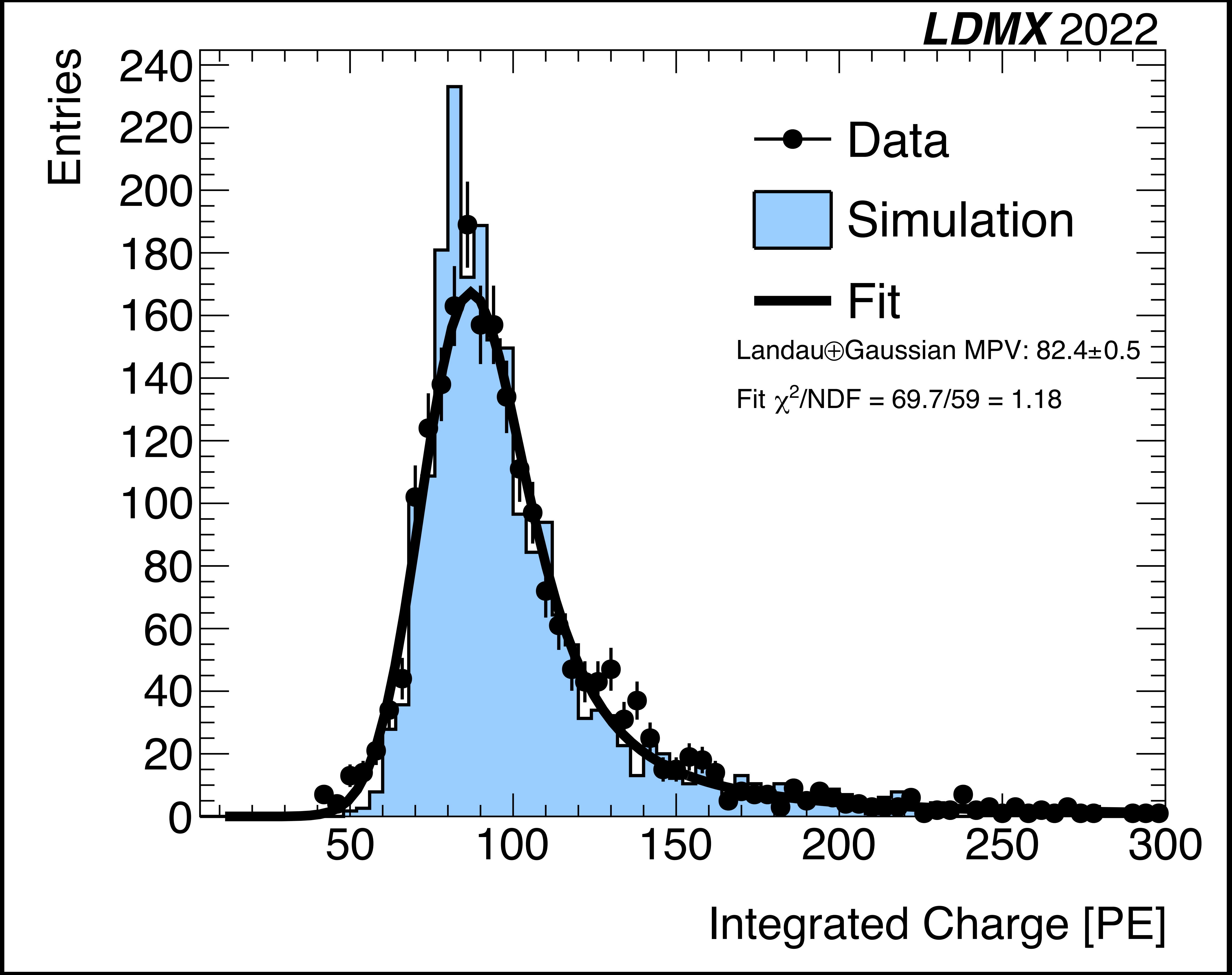
LDMX

TS: Plastic MIP response

4 GeV electron beam

- Amplitude: Sum of charge measured over several time samples
  - Normalized to 1 photoelectron equivalent
- Most probable value of channel's response to MIP = 82 photoelectrons
  - Model: Landau + Gaussian convolution



Hadronic calorimeter (HCal) prototype

19 alternating layers, usually[1] Al cover • scintillator bars • steel absorber plate

9 layers with 2 quad bars

10 layers with 3 quad bars

6 HGCRoc boards (384 total channels; 64 per board) required for readout

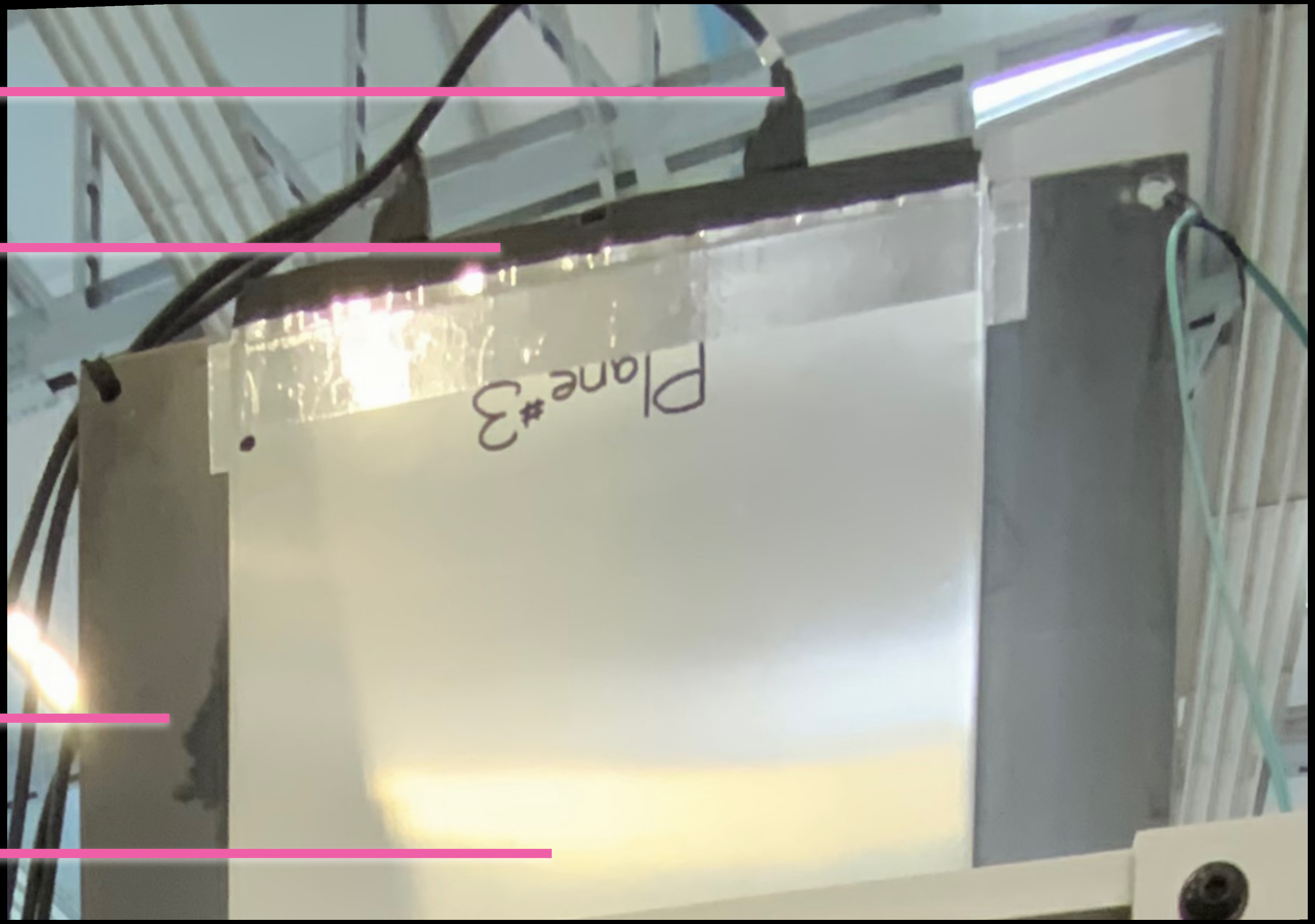
HDMI cable

Readout manifold

Scintillator bars with readout

Steel absorber

Aluminium cover



Example: Section of a vertical layer of the HCal

[1] First HCal layer is steel absorber, then scintillator bars

CERN test beam, March-April 2022

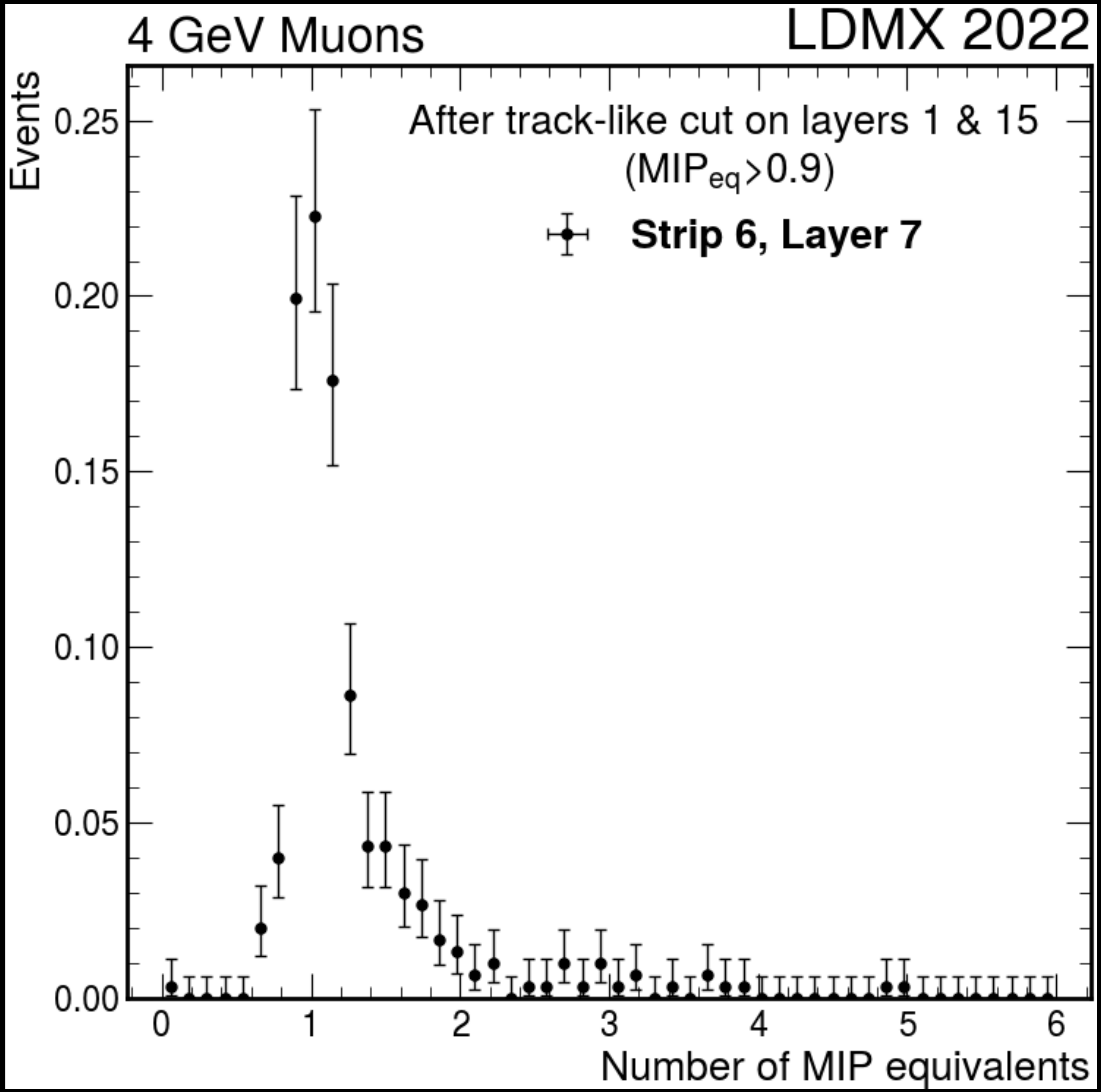
HCal: MIP response

4 GeV muon beam

- Sum of ADC counts in a single layer and strip of HCal prototype

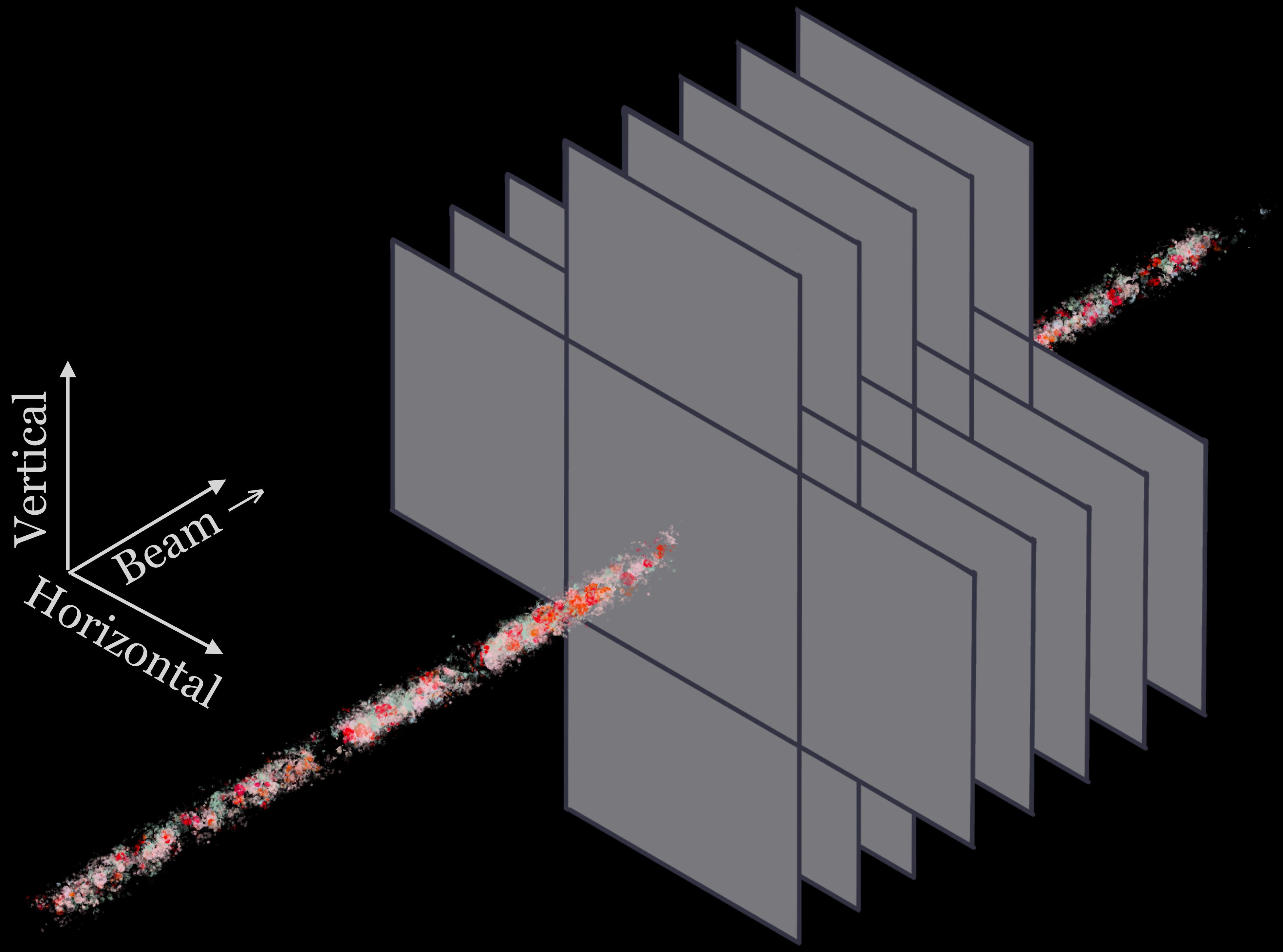
$$N_{MIPeq} = \frac{\sum \text{ADC counts}}{\text{Measured value for 1 MIP}}$$

- Require MIP-like signature in entrance & exit of HCal



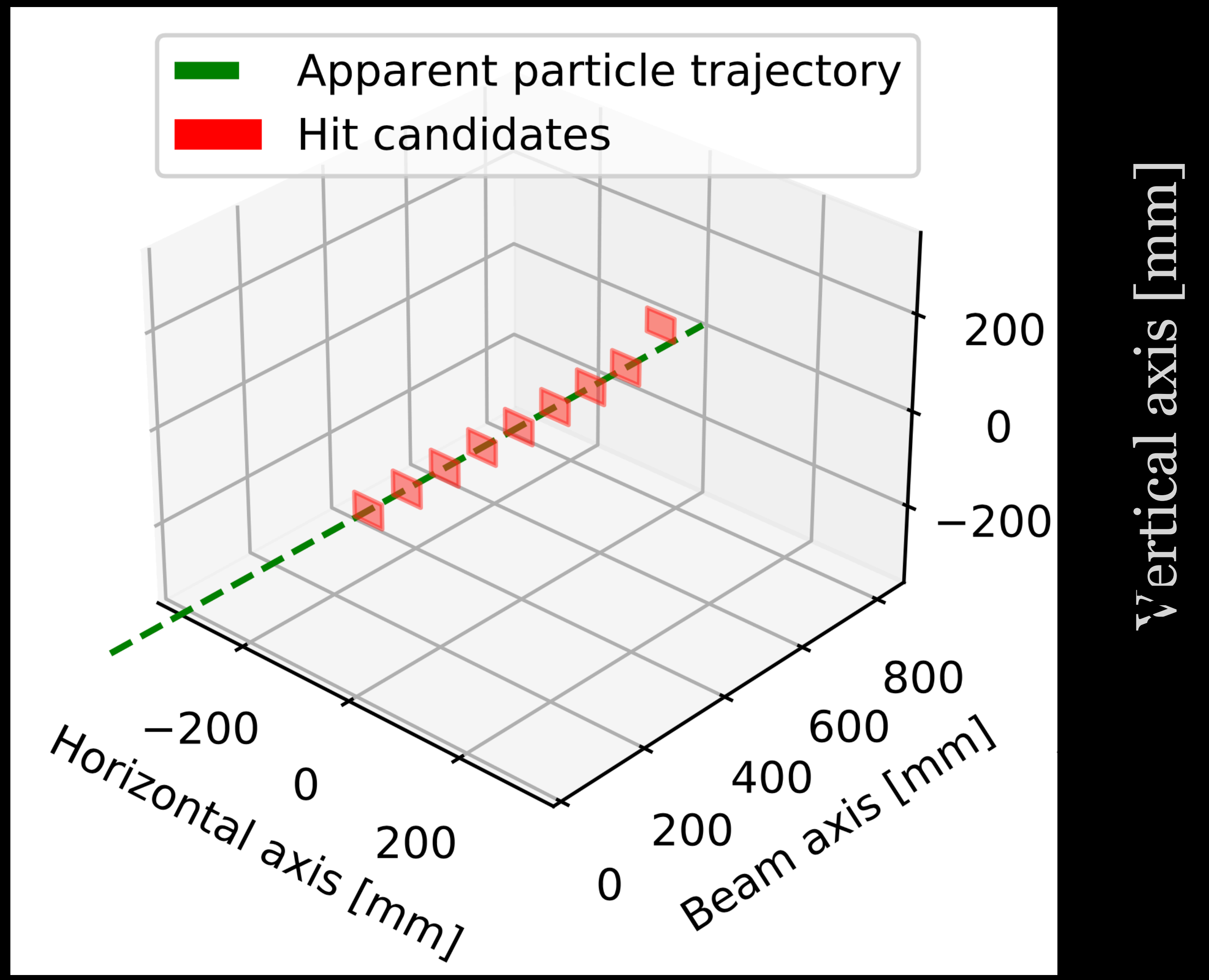
CERN test beam, March-April 2022

Beam & HCal orientation



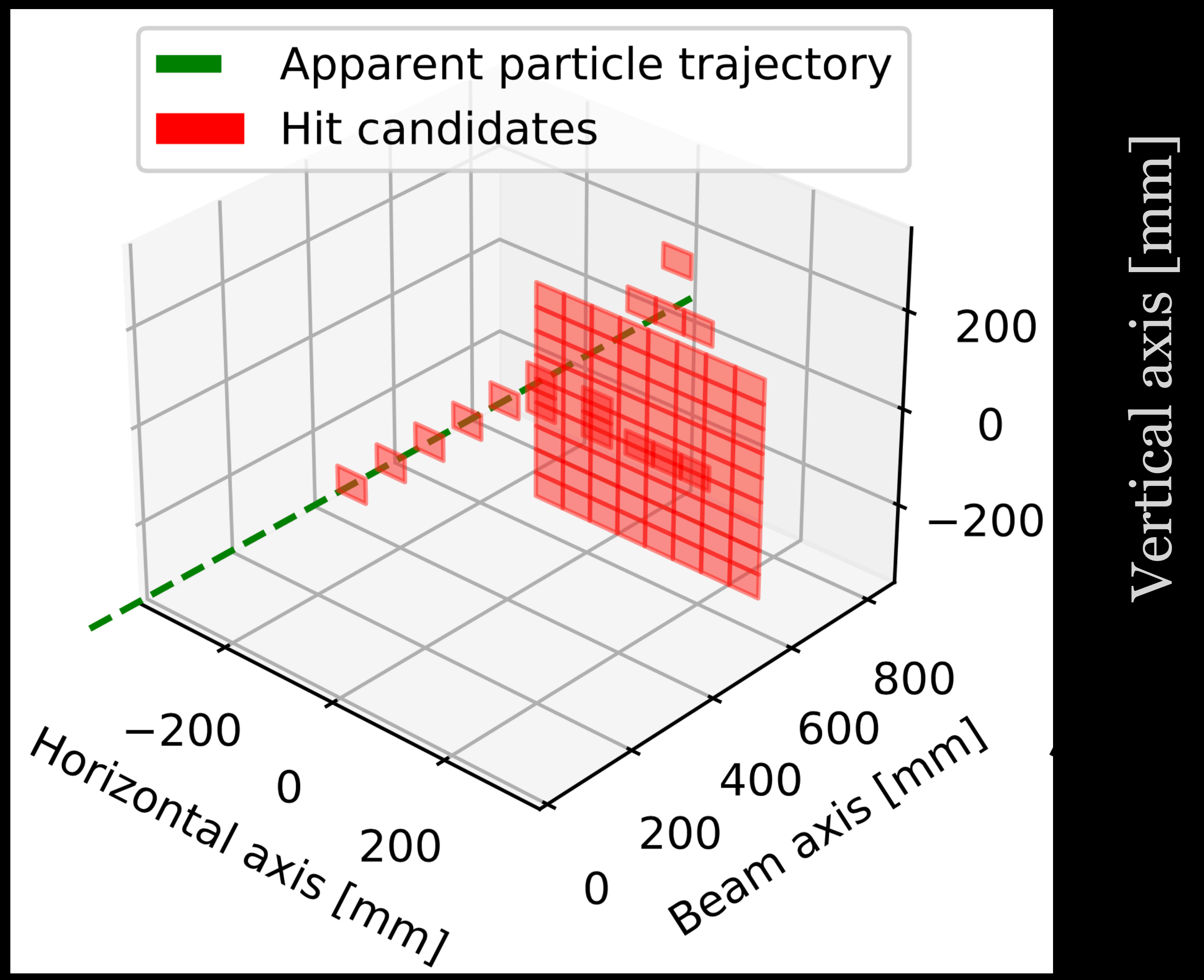
MIP candidate

Sequential, crisp signature in HCal



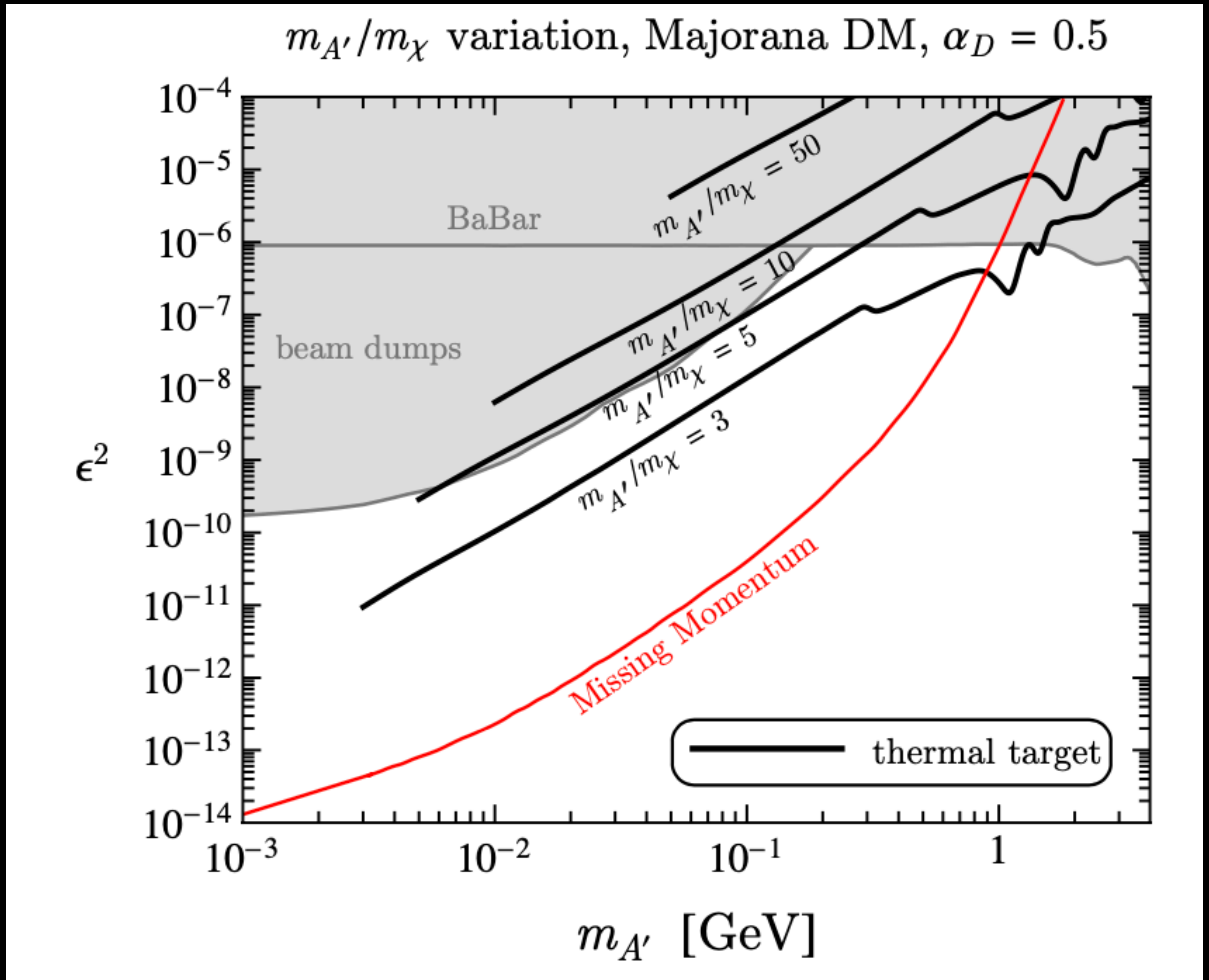
Pion candidate

MIP-like deposits followed by cloud in HCal

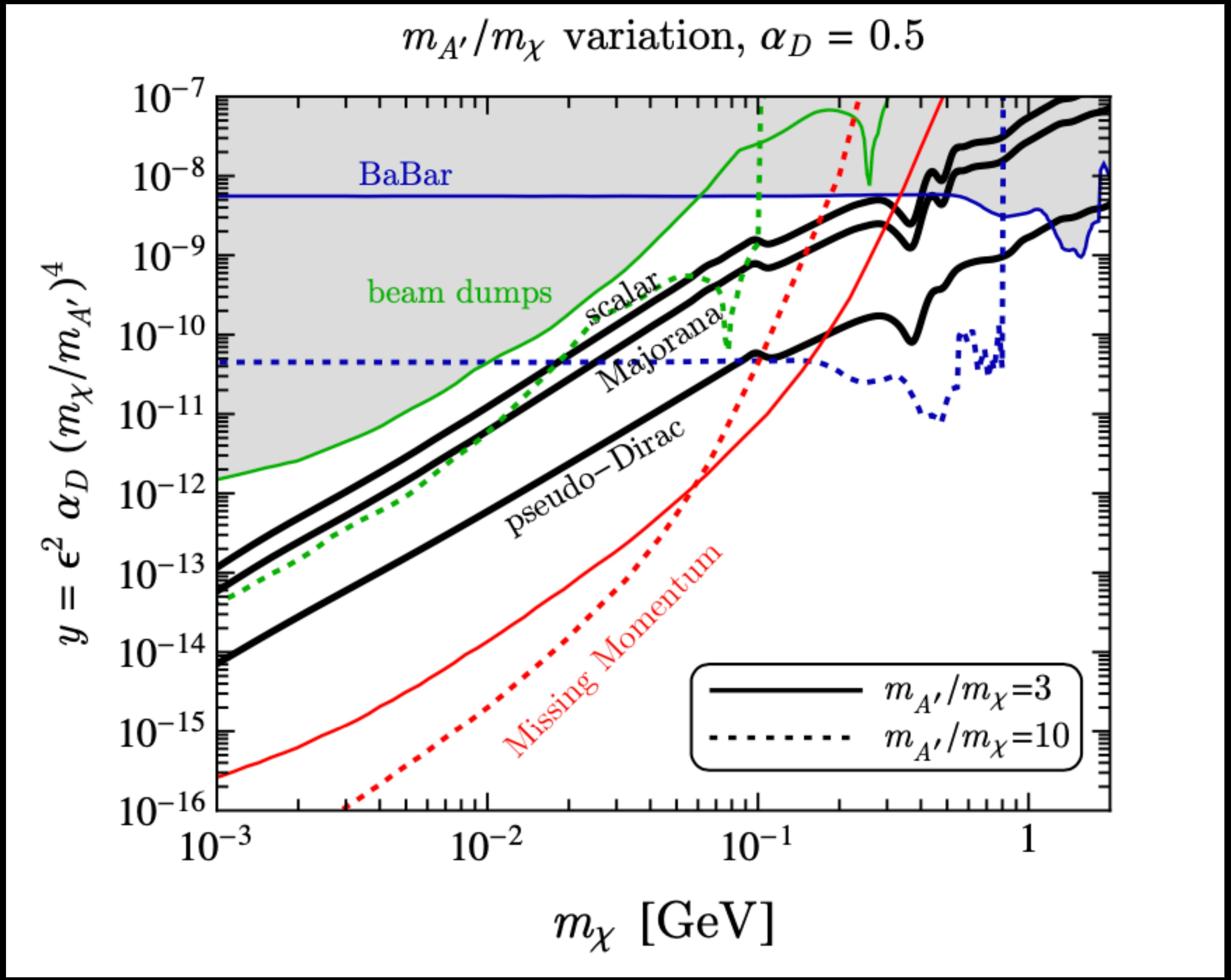


CERN test beam, March-April 2022

Varying mass ratio

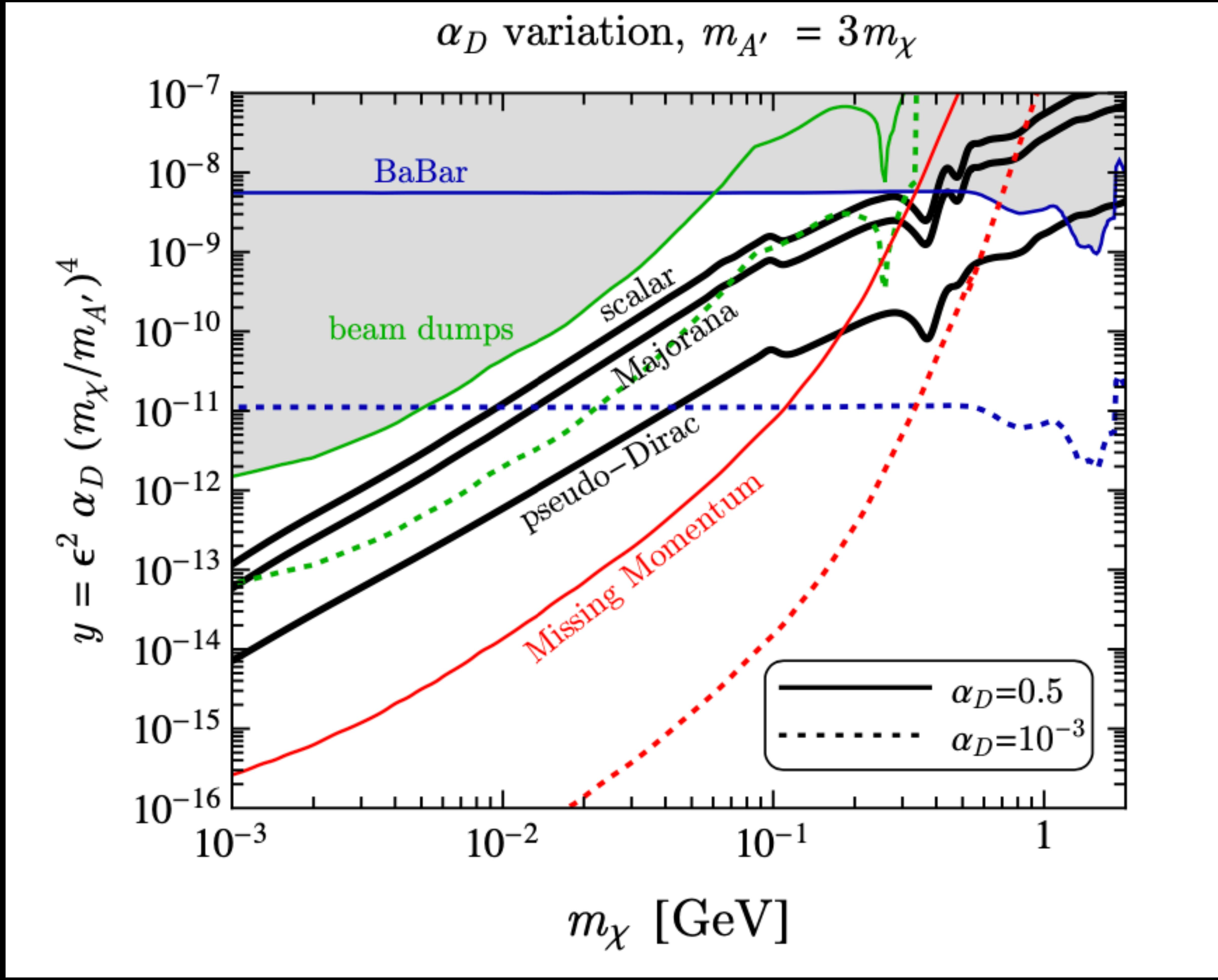


Expressed in ϵ^2, thermal curves move, accelerator line stays



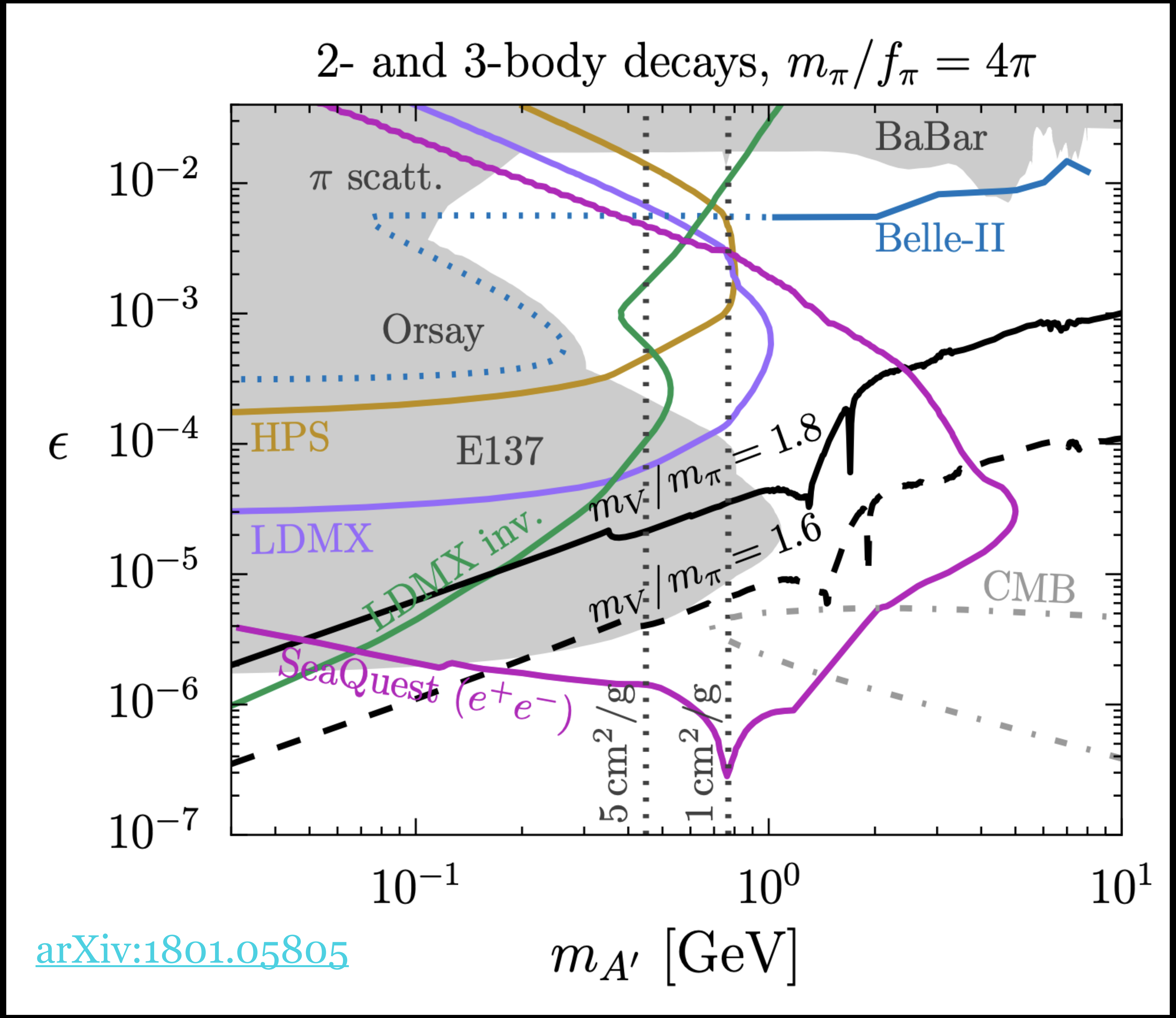
Expressed in y, thermal curves stay, accelerator lines tilt

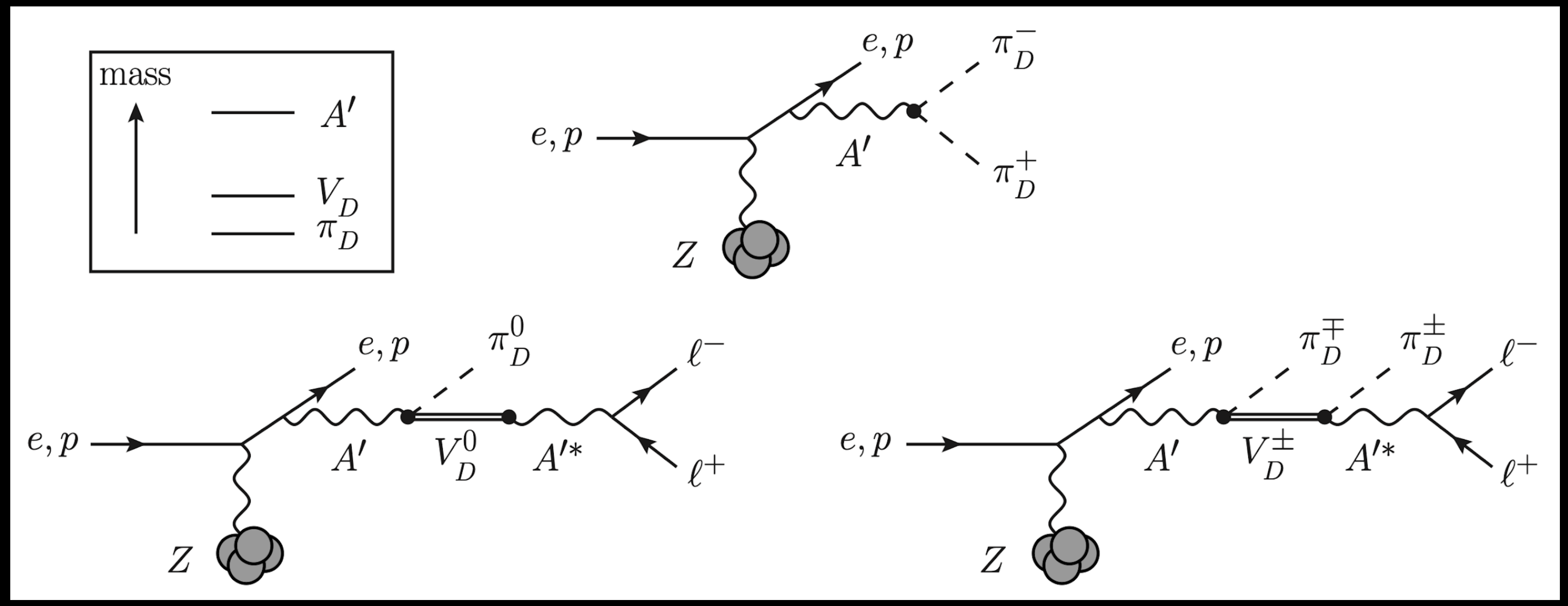
Varying coupling

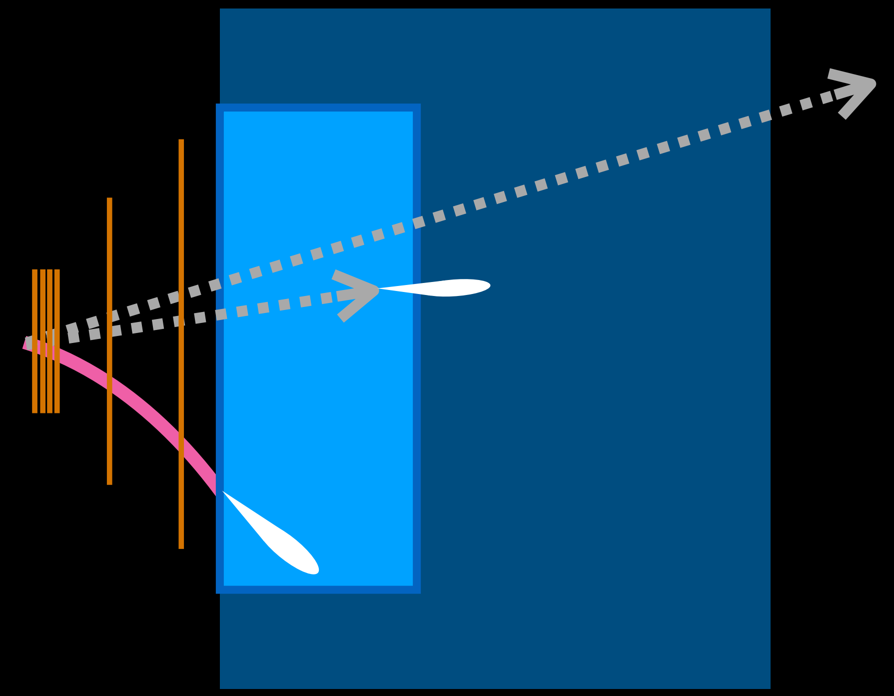


Bottom: parameter space in the y vs. m_χ plane where the solid curves are identical to those shown in Fig. 5 (with $\alpha_D = 0.5$), but the dotted curves show how the constraints and projections vary for the choice $\alpha_D = 10^{-3}$. For fixed values of y, a smaller α_D requires a larger ϵ^2 (i.e. larger mediator coupling), which makes that parameter point *easier* to constrain. Hence, accelerator sensitivity generally improves in the y vs. m_χ plane for smaller α_D. Note that the thermal freeze-out curves in this plane are identical for both values of α_D shown here because the thermal abundance scales with y.

Expected sensitivity: visible signatures (example)



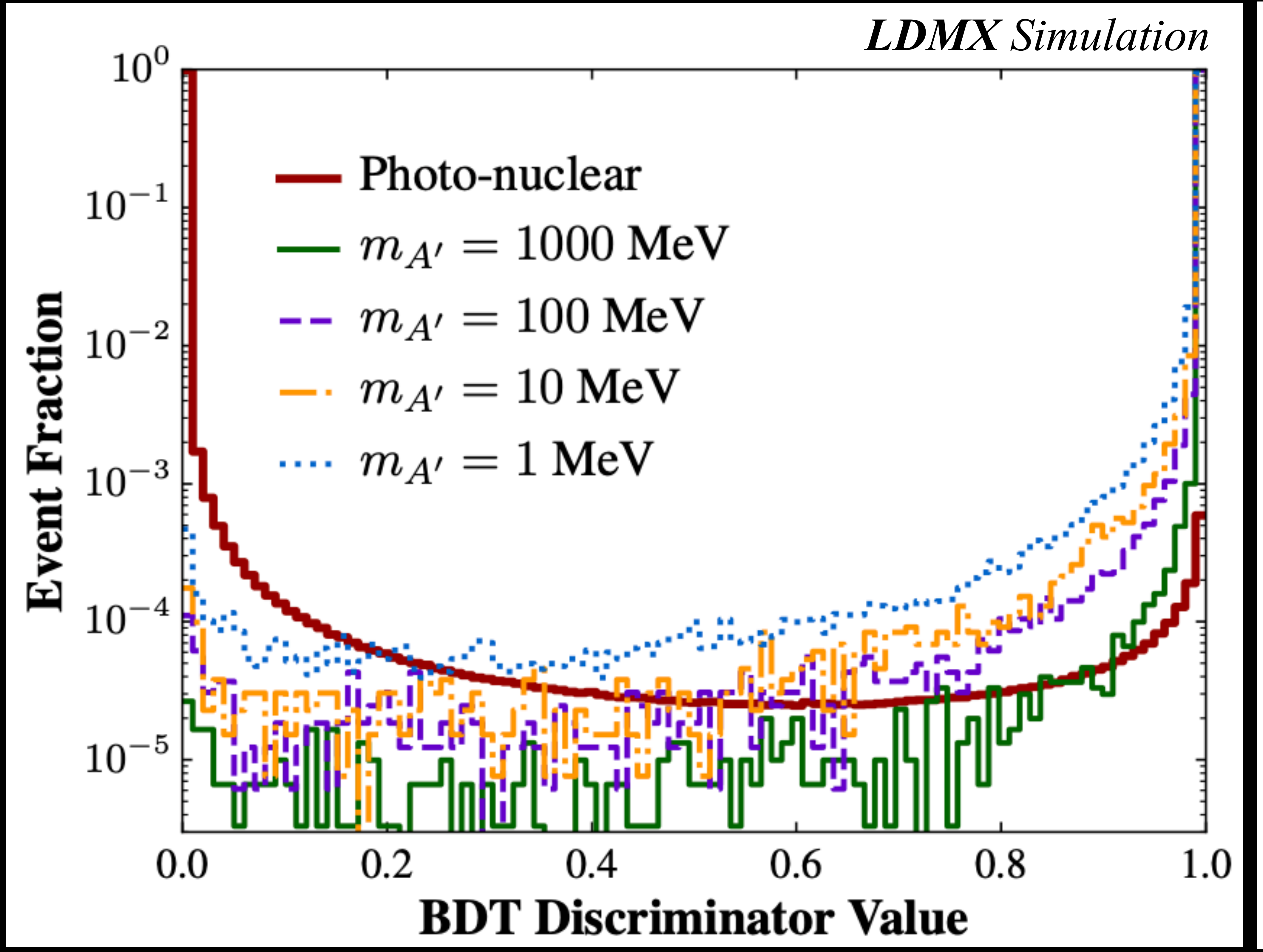


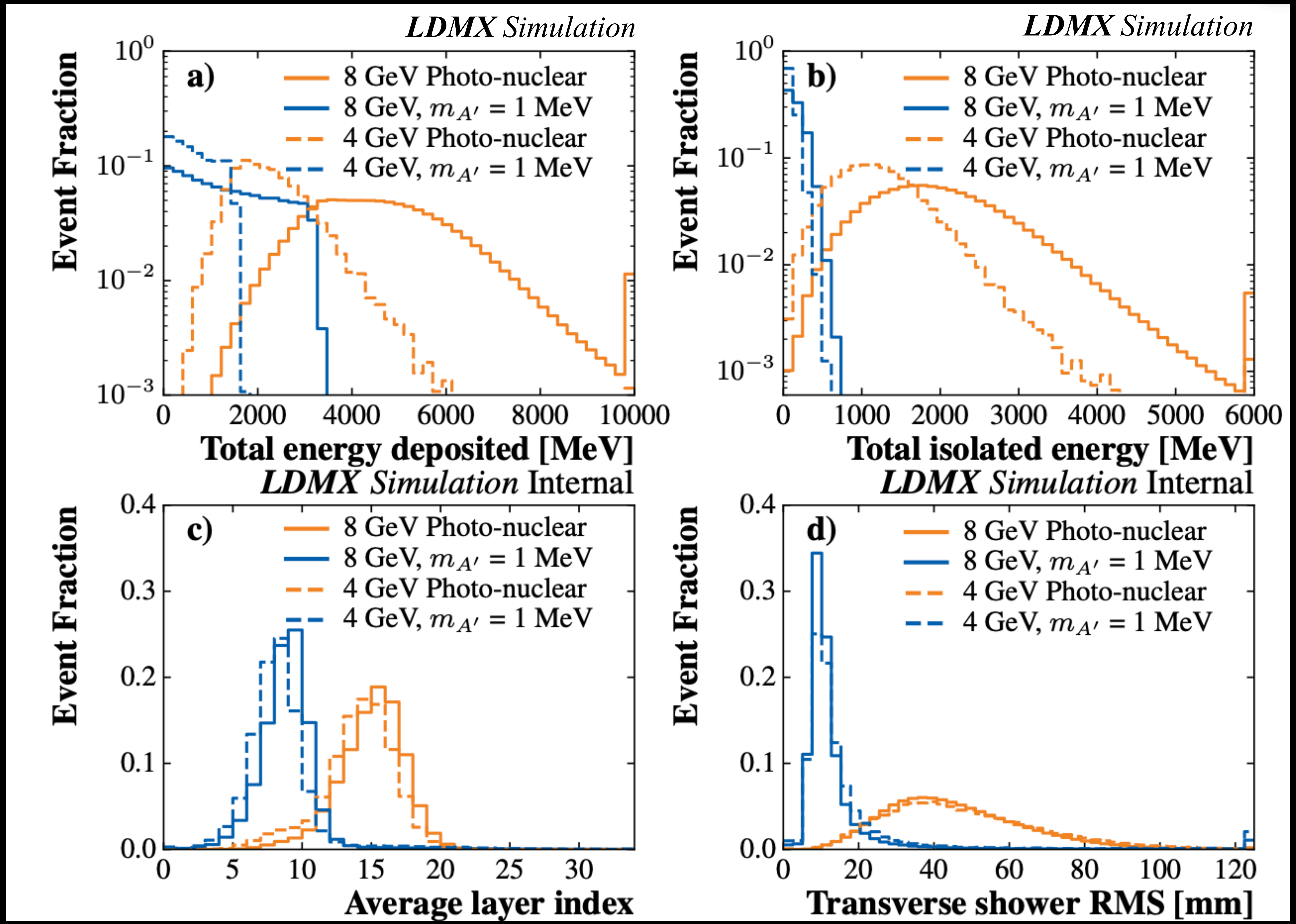


Example displaced decay model:
Strongly Interacting Massive Particles (SIMPs)

- slightly more complicated (indirect) DM depletion mechanism
- *A'* decays to hidden sector pions
- delayed lepton pair production
- → missing momentum or with displaced decay activity

BDT output, and input distributions for key ECal variables at 4 and 8 GeV





Photonuclear interactions

Signal process

Simulation cutflow at 4 and 8 GeV

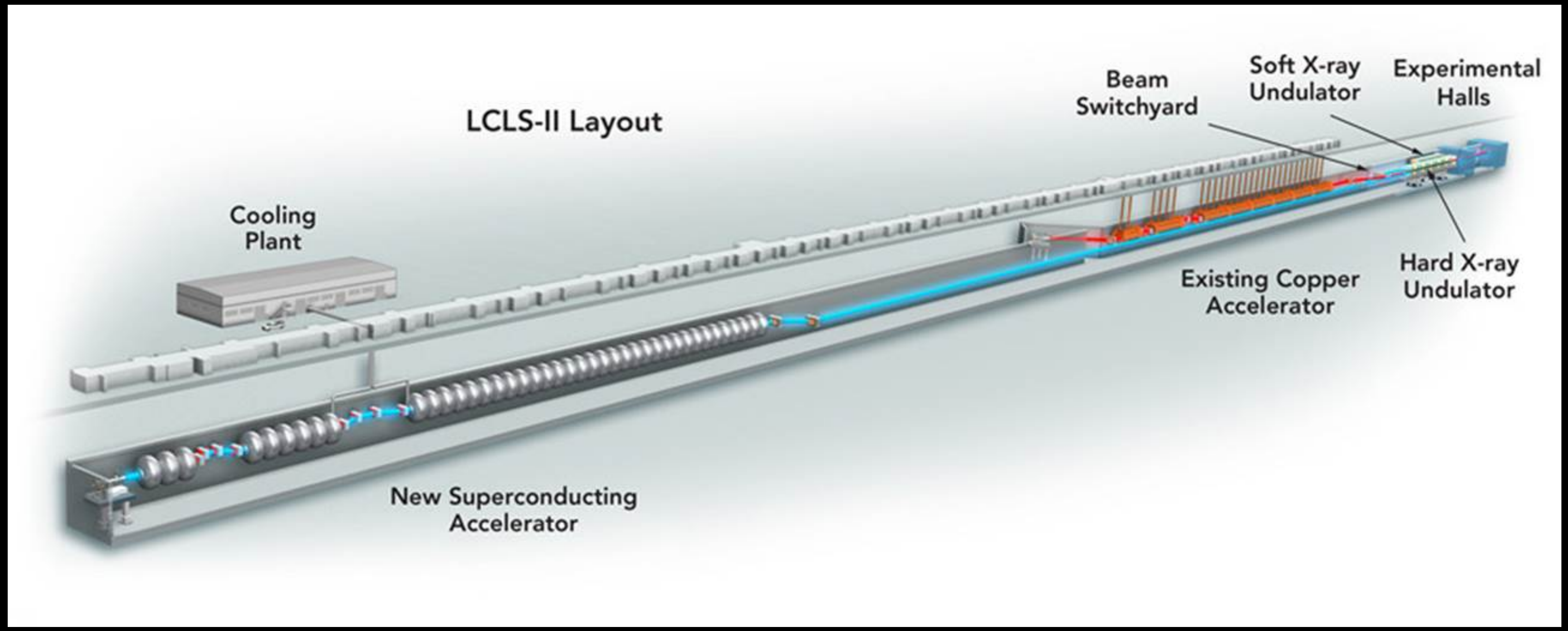
	Photo-nuclear		Muon conversion	
	Target-area	**ECal**	**Target-area**	**ECal**
EoT equivalent	4×10^{14}	2.1×10^{14}	8.2×10^{14}	2.4×10^{15}
Total events simulated	8.8×10^{11}	4.65×10^{11}	6.27×10^{8}	8×10^{10}
Trigger, ECal total energy < 1.5 GeV	1×10^{8}	2.63×10^{8}	1.6×10^{7}	1.6×10^{8}
Single track with $p < 1.2$ GeV	2×10^{7}	2.34×10^{8}	3.1×10^{4}	1.5×10^{8}
ECal BDT (> 0.99)	9.4×10^{5}	1.32×10^{5}	< 1	< 1
HCal max PE < 5	< 1	10	< 1	< 1
ECal MIP tracks = 0	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1

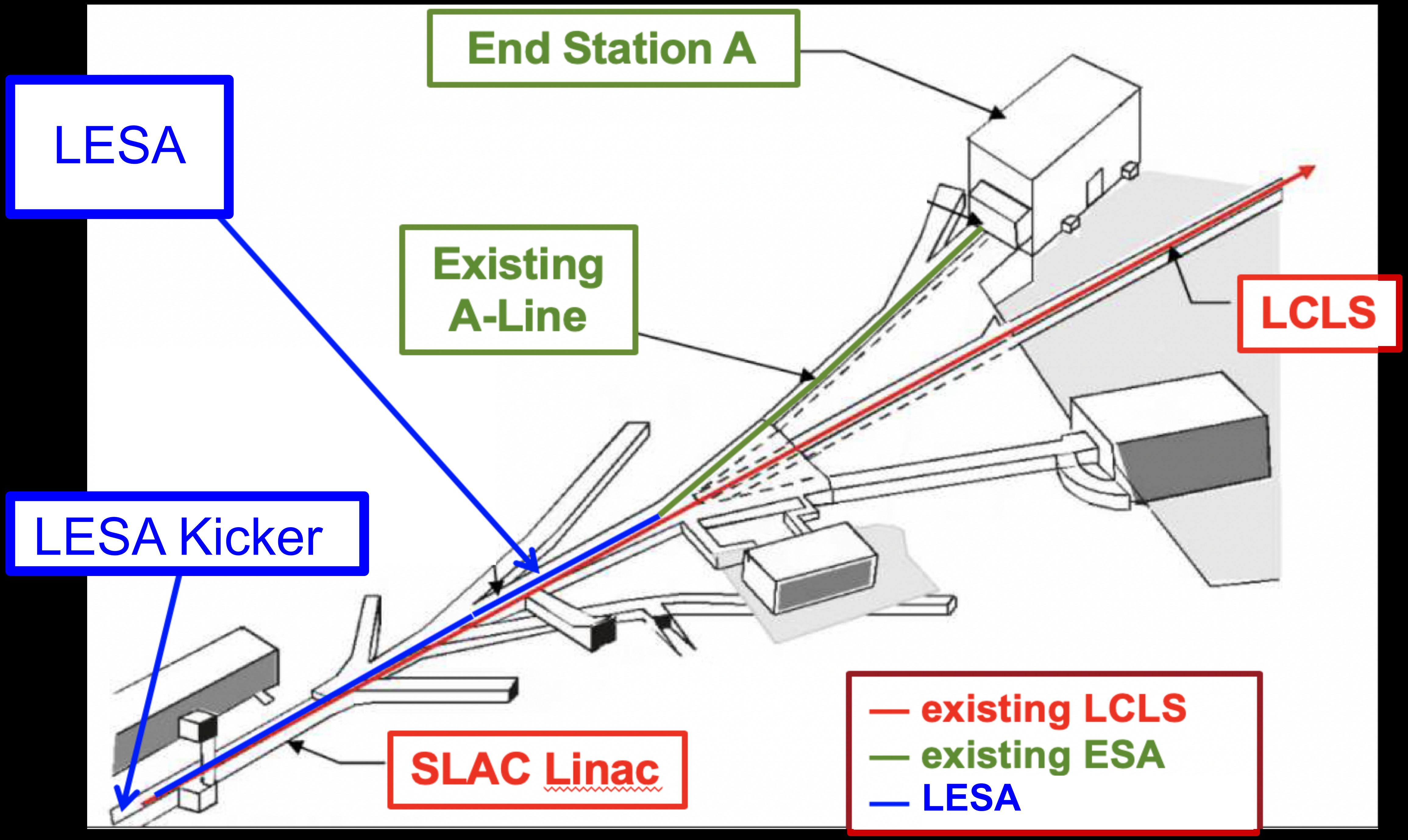
4-GeV beam energy

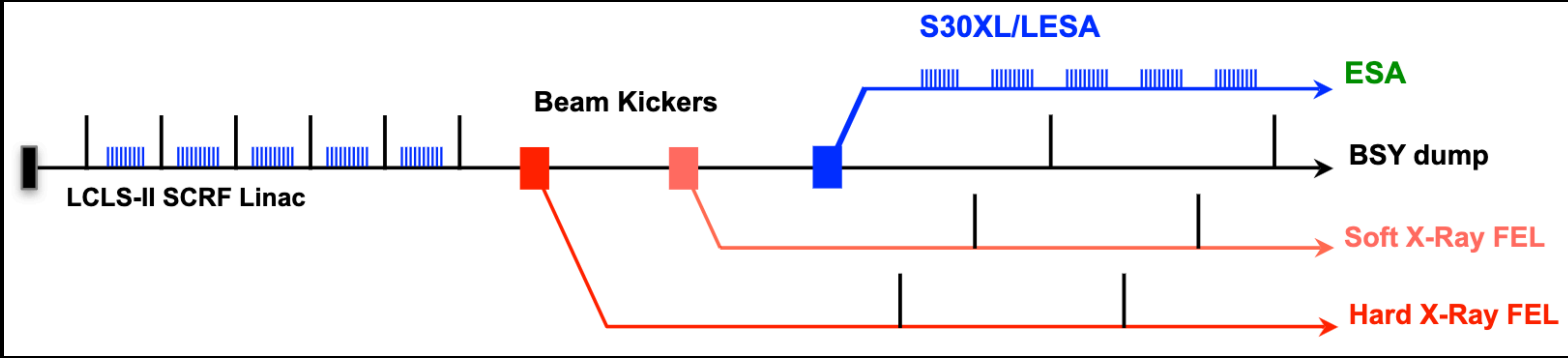
	Photo-nuclear		Muon conversion	
	Target-area	**ECal**	**Target-area**	**ECal**
EoT Equivalent	2.00×10^{14}	2.00×10^{14}	2.00×10^{14}	2.00×10^{14}
Trigger (front ECal energy < 3160 MeV)	7.57×10^{7}	4.43×10^{8}	2.37×10^{7}	8.12×10^{7}
Total ECal energy < 3160 MeV	2.73×10^{7}	7.27×10^{7}	1.76×10^{7}	6.06×10^{7}
Single track with p < 2400 MeV/c	3.03×10^{6}	6.64×10^{7}	5.32×10^{4}	5.69×10^{7}
ECal BDT (85% eff. $m_{A'} = 1$ MeV)	1.50×10^{5}	1.04×10^{5}	< 1	< 1
HCal max PE < 8	< 1	2.02	< 1	< 1
ECal MIP tracks = 0	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1

8-GeV beam energy

GeV-scale electron beam at SLAC







Freeze-in

Phys. Rev. D 99, 075001 (2019), https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.01730

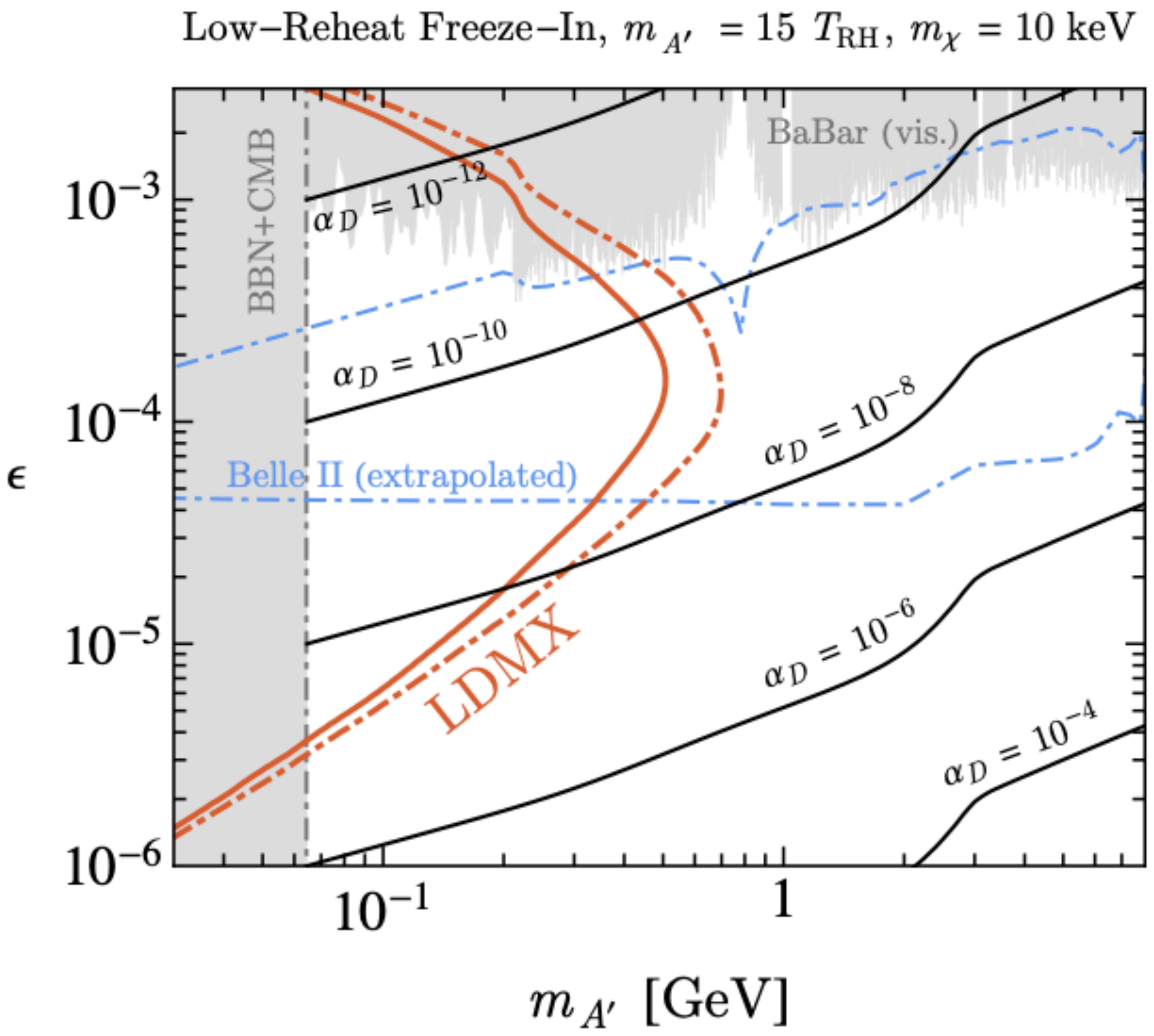
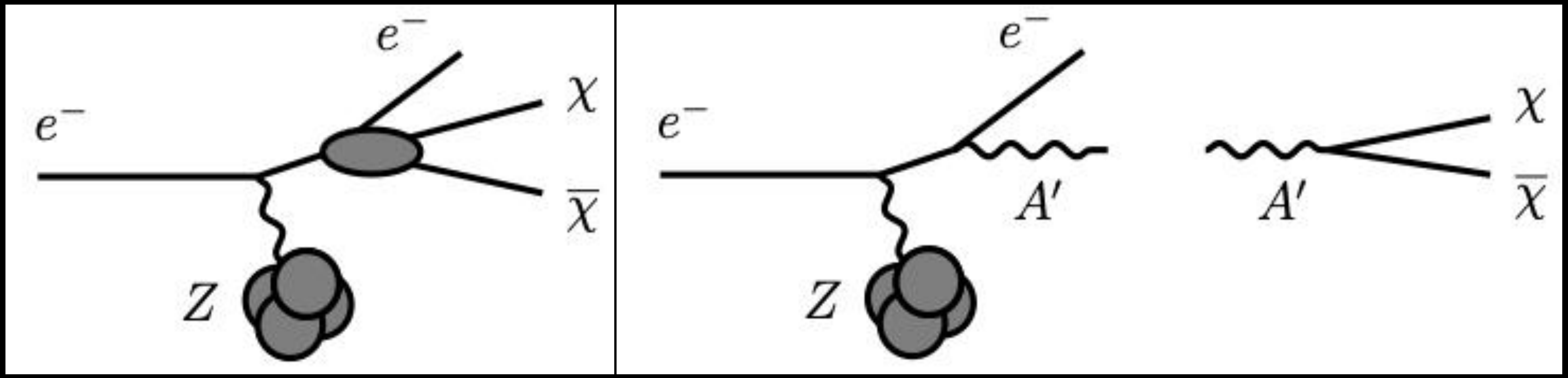
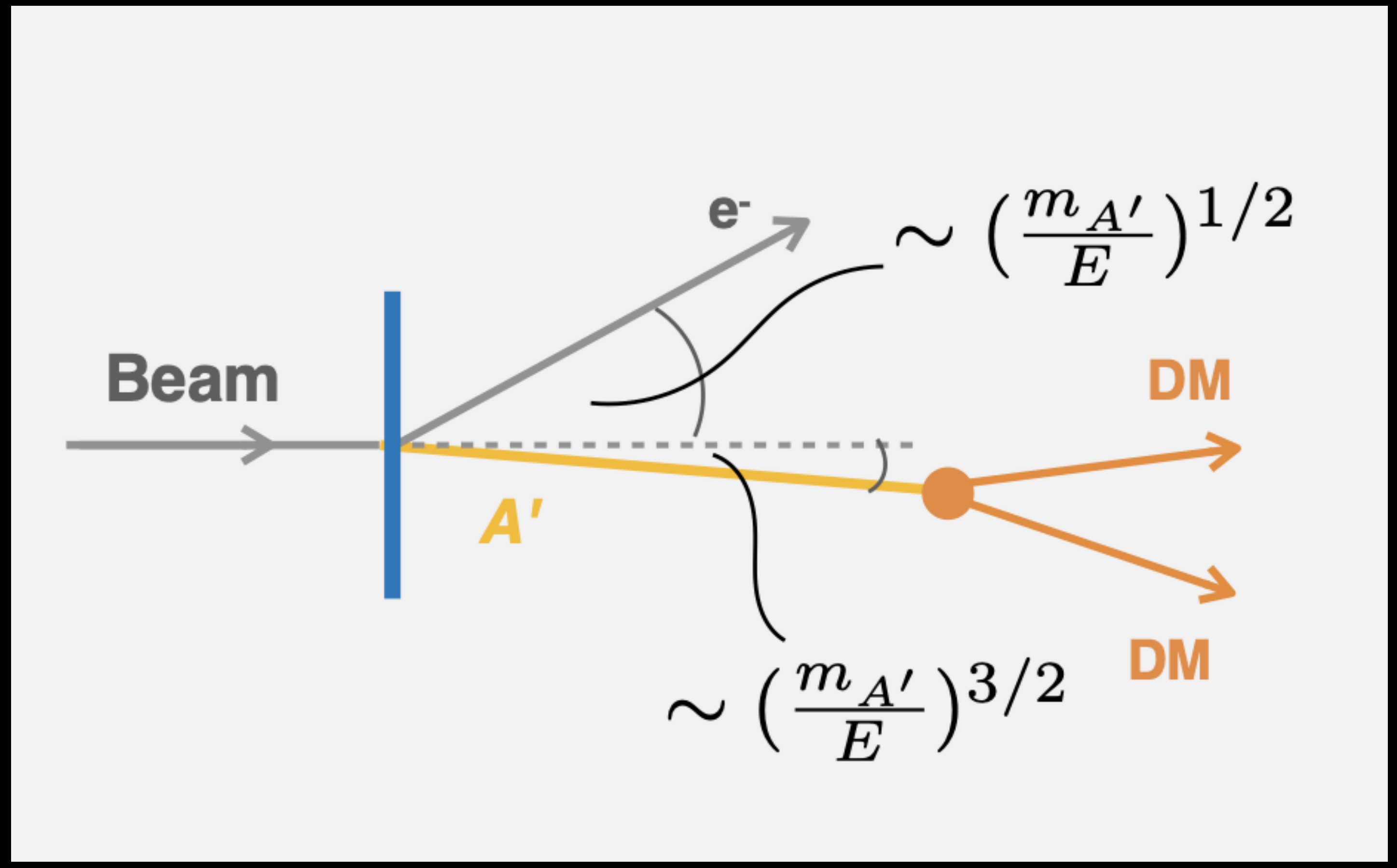


FIG. 14: LDMX sensitivity to the freeze-in scenario with a heavy dark photon and low-reheat temperature. The projected reach of LDMX is shown as the solid red (dashed-dotted red) line for a tungsten (aluminum) target and a 8 (16) GeV beam. The correct relic abundance is obtained along the black contours for different choices of α_D. The gray shaded regions are excluded by the BaBar resonance search [19] and by cosmological constraints on low reheating temperatures [139]. We also show the projected sensitivity of the Belle II monophoton search (blue dot-dashed) as computed by rescaling the 20 fb^{-1} background study up to 50 ab^{-1} assuming statistics limitation only [1, 87].

LDMX: a fixed-target missing momentum experiment

LDMX focuses on *escaping* dark matter:





- massive dark photon (*A*’) bremsstrahlung in thin target
- agnostic when it comes to (invisible) fate of the *A*’
  - notice that energy goes missing
- strategy: make “all” SM backgrounds appear in detector
  - veto everything but low-activity events

More detail: [A high efficiency photon veto for the Light Dark Matter eXperiment], JHEP04 (2020) 003

What do we need from Dark Matter to produce it with a ~GeV electron beam?

- Has to be light
  - In the mass range of known stable particles — can't be a classical WIMP
    - Has to interact through some other mediator
- Not too feeble to ever happen
  - Rate should respect present DM relic abundance, unitarity, ...

And from us: a suitable beam and detection strategy