

# Probing Inelastic Dark Matter at the LHC, FASER and STCF

卢致廷 Chih-Ting Lu

*06285@njnu.edu.cn*



**NNU** · 南京师范大学  
NANJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

**Collaborators:**

Jianfeng Tu, Lei Wu

e-Print: [2309.00271](https://arxiv.org/abs/2309.00271) [hep-ph]

**第九届中国LHC物理年会**  
The 9th China LHC Physics Workshop

# Contents

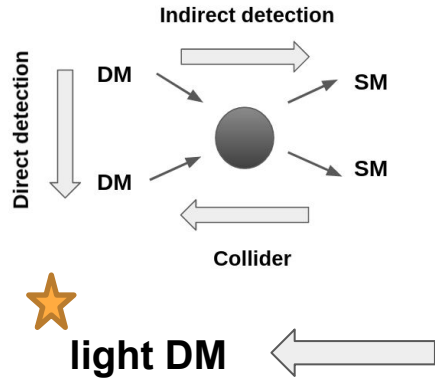
1. Motivation for inelastic DM models
2. Review of inelastic DM models
3. Search for inelastic DM at the LHC, FASER and STCF
4. Conclusion

# Contents

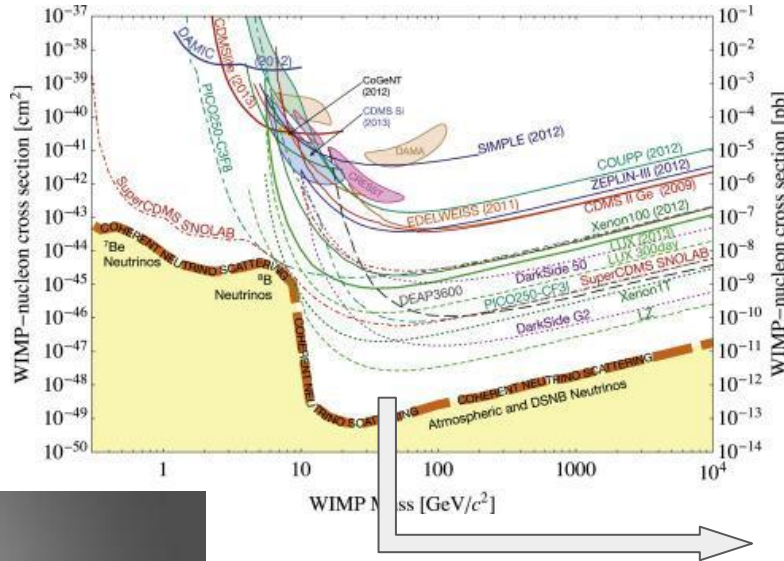
- 1. Motivation for inelastic DM models**
2. Review of inelastic DM models
3. Search for inelastic DM at the LHC, FASER and STCF
4. Conclusion

# Dark Matter Physics

Weakly interacting massive particles  
(WIMPs)



## DM direct detection

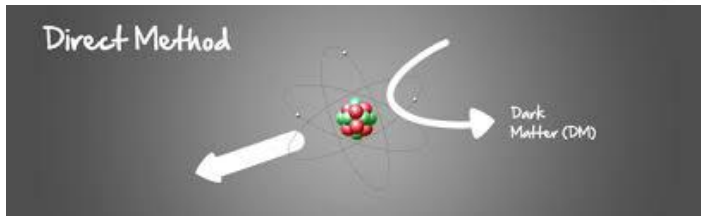


Very heavy DM

1. Co-annihilation
2. pseudoscalar mediator
3. leptophilic

suppressed DM nucleon scattering cross section

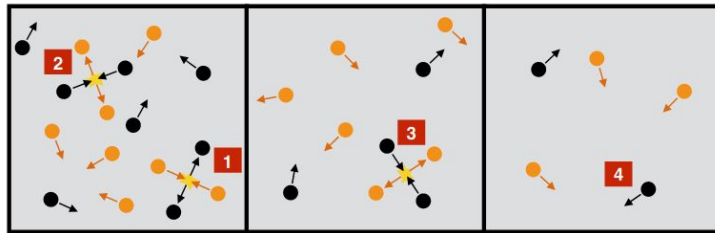
JHEP 04 (2021) 269    JHEP 04 (2022) 080  
 JHEP 03 (2022) 005  
 Phys.Dark Univ. 37 (2022) 101061



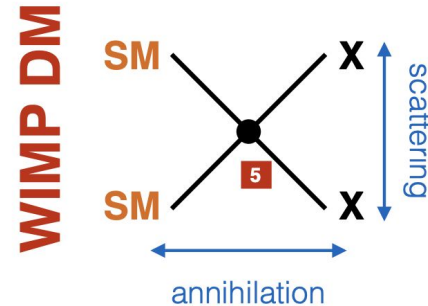
# DM thermal history

## Standard thermal relic

- (1) When the temperature  $kT \gg m_X c^2$ , both the SM and DM were in thermal equilibrium,  $SM + SM \leftrightarrow X + X$
- (2) As the universe cools to  $kT \lesssim m_X c^2$ , only  $X + X \rightarrow SM + SM$  is possible and drastically reducing DM abundance.
- (3) DM becomes so dilute and the abundance is frozen-out and survives to this day.

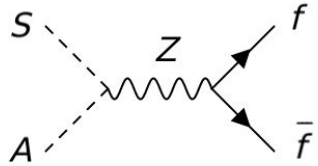


cooling & expanding universe with time



# Dark Matter Co-annihilation Process

co-annihilation

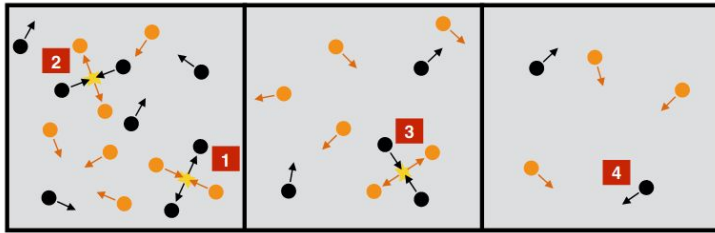


relic density

$$\Omega_{DM} h^2 \propto \frac{1}{\langle \sigma v \rangle_f} \propto e^{2\frac{\Delta^0}{T_f}}$$

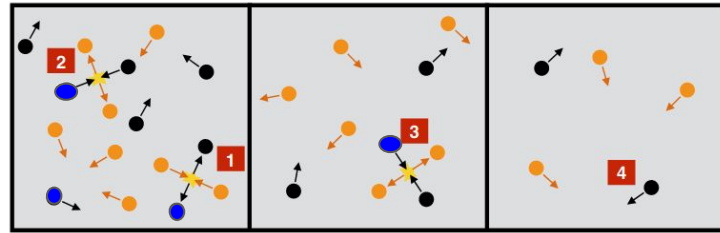
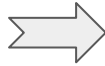
$$\Delta^0 = m_A - m_S \ll m_S$$

$T_f$  is the temperature at which the co-annihilation freeze-out.



cooling & expanding universe with time

● SM ● s (Dark Matter) ☆ annihilation



cooling & expanding universe with time

● A (DM Partner) ☆ co-annihilation

# Motivation : Sub-GeV DM

## The fermionic DM :

(1) Vector mediators :

$$\chi\chi \rightarrow A'A', \chi\chi \rightarrow A' \rightarrow f\bar{f} \quad (\text{s-wave})$$

$$\Rightarrow m_\chi \gtrsim 10\text{GeV} \quad \text{from CMB constraint}$$

Solutions : asymmetric DM, [inelastic DM](#), freeze-in mechanism models, etc ...

(2) Scalar mediators :

$$\chi\chi \rightarrow SS, \chi\chi \rightarrow S \rightarrow f\bar{f} \quad (\text{p-wave})$$

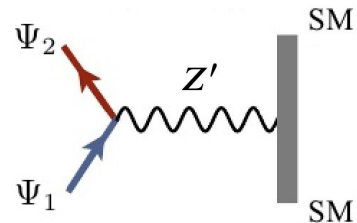
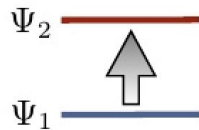
$$\Rightarrow m_\chi \gtrsim 10\text{MeV} \quad \text{from BBN constraint}$$

# Motivation : Inelastic DM

1. The inelastic (or excited) DM model with extra  $U(1)_D$  gauge symmetry is one of the most popular dark sector models with light DM candidate.
2. There are at least two states in the dark sector and there is an inelastic transition between them via the new  $U(1)_D$  gauge boson.
3. If the **mass splitting** between these two states are small enough the **co-annihilation** channel could be the dominant one of DM relic density in early Universe.

Dark matter has 2 nearly degenerate states

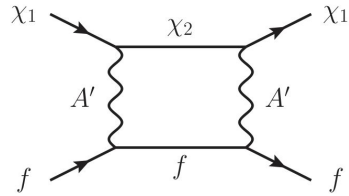
$$\delta m \sim \mathcal{O}(100\text{MeV})$$



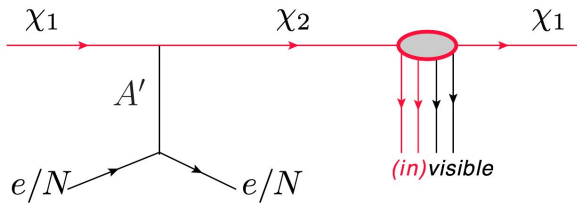


# Motivation : Inelastic DM

The constraint from DM and nucleon inelastic scattering is much weaker than the elastic one in the direct detection experiments.

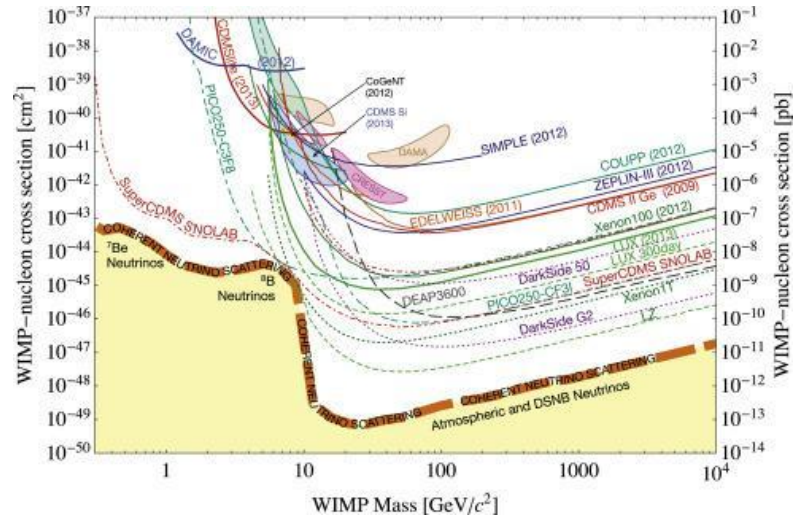


PHYS. REV. D **99**, 015021 (2019)



Phys.Rev.Lett. 119 (2017) 16, 161801

DM direct detection



# Contents

1. Motivation for inelastic DM models
- 2. Review of inelastic DM models**
3. Search for inelastic DM at the LHC, FASER and STCF
4. Conclusion

# Fermion inelastic DM model

$$Q_D(\Phi) = +2 \text{ and } Q_D(\chi) = +1.$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}} = |D_\mu H|^2 + |D_\mu \Phi|^2 - V(H, \Phi),$$

$$V(H, \Phi) = -\mu_H^2 H^\dagger H + \lambda_H (H^\dagger H)^2 - \mu_\Phi^2 \Phi^* \Phi + \lambda_\Phi (\Phi^* \Phi)^2 \\ + \lambda_{H\Phi} (H^\dagger H)(\Phi^* \Phi),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_\chi = \bar{\chi}(i\partial\!\!\!/ + g_D \not{X} - M_\chi)\chi - \left( \frac{f}{2} \bar{\chi}^c \chi \Phi^* + H.c. \right),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_\chi = \frac{1}{2} \bar{\chi}_2 (i\partial\!\!\!/ - M_{\chi_2}) \chi_2 + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\chi}_1 (i\partial\!\!\!/ - M_{\chi_1}) \chi_1 \\ - i \frac{g_D}{2} (\bar{\chi}_2 \not{X} \chi_1 - \bar{\chi}_1 \not{X} \chi_2) - \frac{f}{2} h_D (\bar{\chi}_2 \chi_2 - \bar{\chi}_1 \chi_1),$$



$$\chi_{1,2}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\chi(x) \mp \chi^c(x)).$$

# Review of inelastic DM models

In the unitary gauge, the scalar fields can be expanded as

$$H(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + h(x) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (v_D + h_D(x))$$

Expand the kinematic mixing term in the first order of epsilon:

$$\mathcal{L}_{X,gauge} = -\frac{1}{4} X_{\mu\nu} X^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\sin\epsilon}{2} B_{\mu\nu} X^{\mu\nu}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{Z'f\bar{f}} = -\epsilon e c_W \sum_f x_f \bar{f} Z' f$$

$$m_{Z'} \simeq g_D Q_D(\Phi) v_D$$

$$x_l = -1, \quad x_\nu = 0, \quad x_q = \frac{2}{3} \text{ or } \frac{-1}{3}$$

# Review of inelastic DM models

After the SSB of this  $U(1)_D$  gauge symmetry, we expect the accidentally residual  $Z_2$  symmetry,  $\chi_1 \rightarrow -\chi_1$ , can be left such that  $\chi_1$  are stable and become DM candidates in our University.

**Gauge interaction :** 
$$-i\frac{g_D}{2}(\overline{\chi_2}\not{X}\chi_1 - \overline{\chi_1}\not{X}\chi_2)$$

**The term to trigger the mass splitting :** 
$$- \left( \frac{f}{2} \overline{\chi^c} \chi \Phi^* + H.c. \right)$$

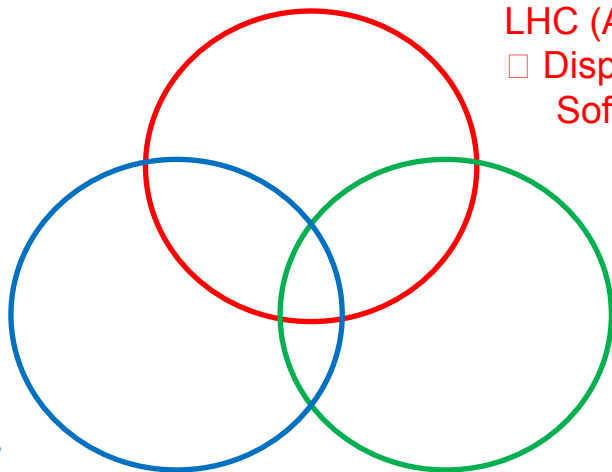
**Mass eigenstates and mass splitting :** 
$$M_{\chi_{1,2}} = M_\chi \mp f v_D \quad \Delta_\chi \equiv (M_{\chi_2} - M_{\chi_1}) = 2f v_D$$

# Contents

1. Motivation for inelastic DM models
2. Review of inelastic DM models
- 3. Search for inelastic DM at the LHC, FASER and STCF**
4. Conclusion

# Search for inelastic DM from three frontier experiments

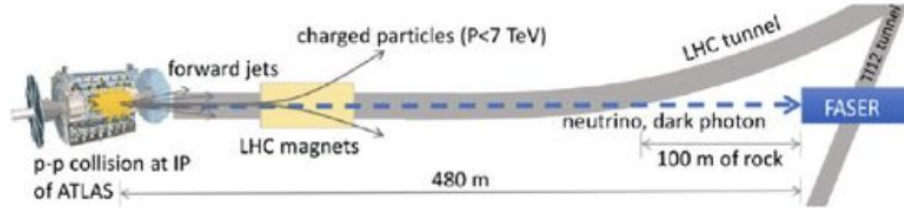
Lifetime Frontier:  
LHC (FASER)  
□ Long-lived particles



Energy Frontier:  
LHC (ATLAS, CMS)  
□ Displaced muon-jet,  
Soft lepton pair

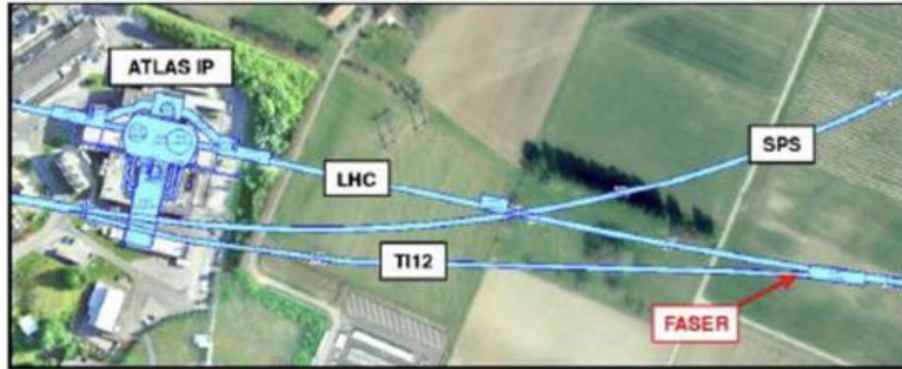
Intensity Frontier:  
STCF  
□ mono-photon

# FASER (ForwArD Search ExpeRiment)



process:

$pp \rightarrow \chi_2 + \chi_1$ ,  $\chi_2$  travels  $\sim 480\text{m}$ ,  
then  $\chi_2 \rightarrow \chi_1 f \bar{f}$ .



**FASER** :  $L = 1.5\text{m}$ ,  $R = 0.1\text{m}$ ,

**FASER 2** :  $L = 5\text{m}$ ,  $R = 1\text{m}$ .

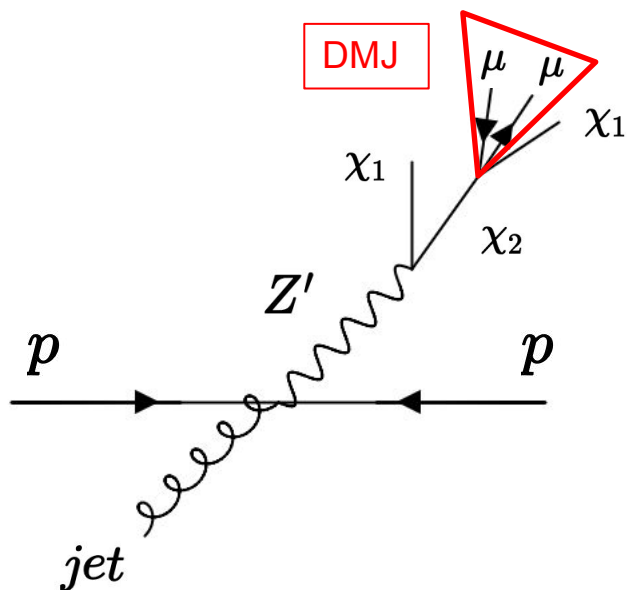
$$E_{\text{vis}} > 100 \text{ GeV}$$

the integrated luminosity,  $\mathcal{L}$ ,

for FASER and FASER 2 is  $150 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  and  $3 \text{ ab}^{-1}$



# Displaced Muon-Jet (DMJ)



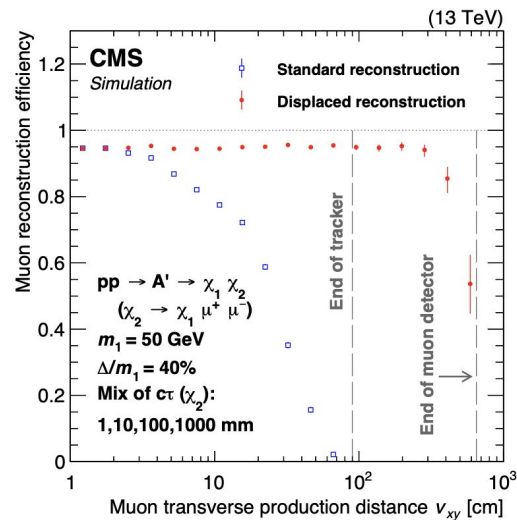
Event selections:

$$p_T^j > 120 \text{ GeV}$$

$$p_T^\mu > 5 \text{ GeV}$$

$$d_\mu > 1 \text{ mm}$$

$$R_{\chi_2}^{xy} < 30 \text{ cm}$$

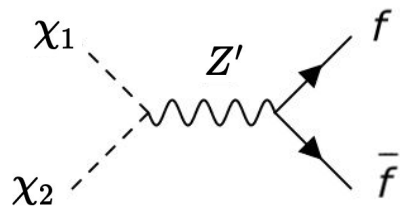


e-Print: [2305.11649](https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.11649) [hep-ex]

# Soft lepton pair

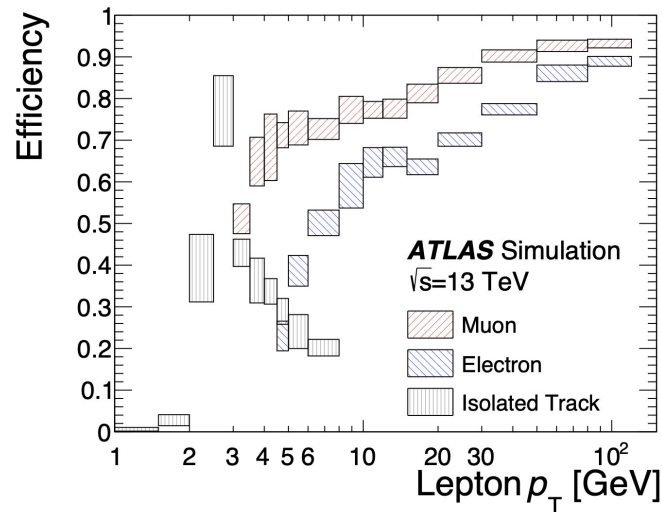
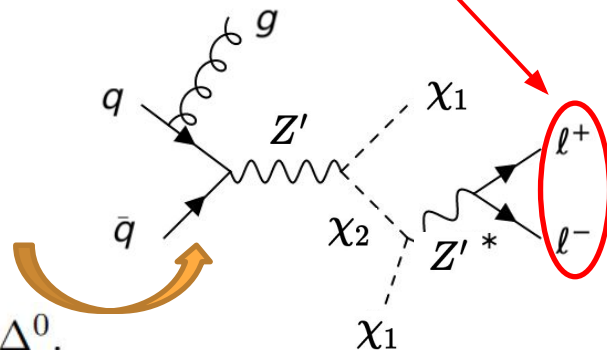
The compressed mass spectrum search at the LHC is closely related to the DM co-annihilation mechanism.

**Co-annihilation**



$\chi_1 \chi_2 \rightarrow f \bar{f}$  for a small  $\Delta^0$ .

**LHC signature (soft leptons)**



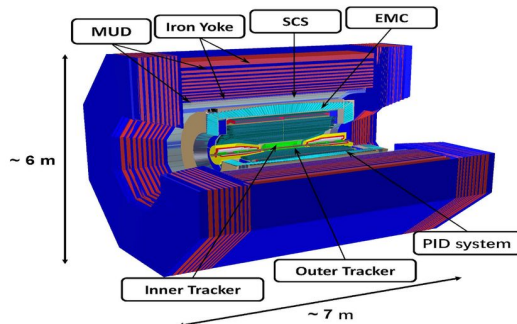
We recast the following ATLAS analysis for the inelastic DM models:

G. Aad et al. (ATLAS),

Phys. Rev. D **101**, 052005 (2020), 1911.12606.

# 中国超级陶-粲装置

## Super Tau-Charm Facility (STCF)



Designed STCF:

1. Peak luminosity  $0.5-1 \times 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  at 4 GeV.
2. Energy rang  $E_{\text{cm}} = 2-7 \text{ GeV}$ .
3. Single Beam Polarization (Phase II)

Process: **Mono-photon**

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma Z' \rightarrow \gamma(\chi_1\chi_2)$$

missing energy

Event selections:

In the barrel region ( $|z_\gamma| < 0.8$ )

$$E_\gamma > 25 \text{ MeV}$$

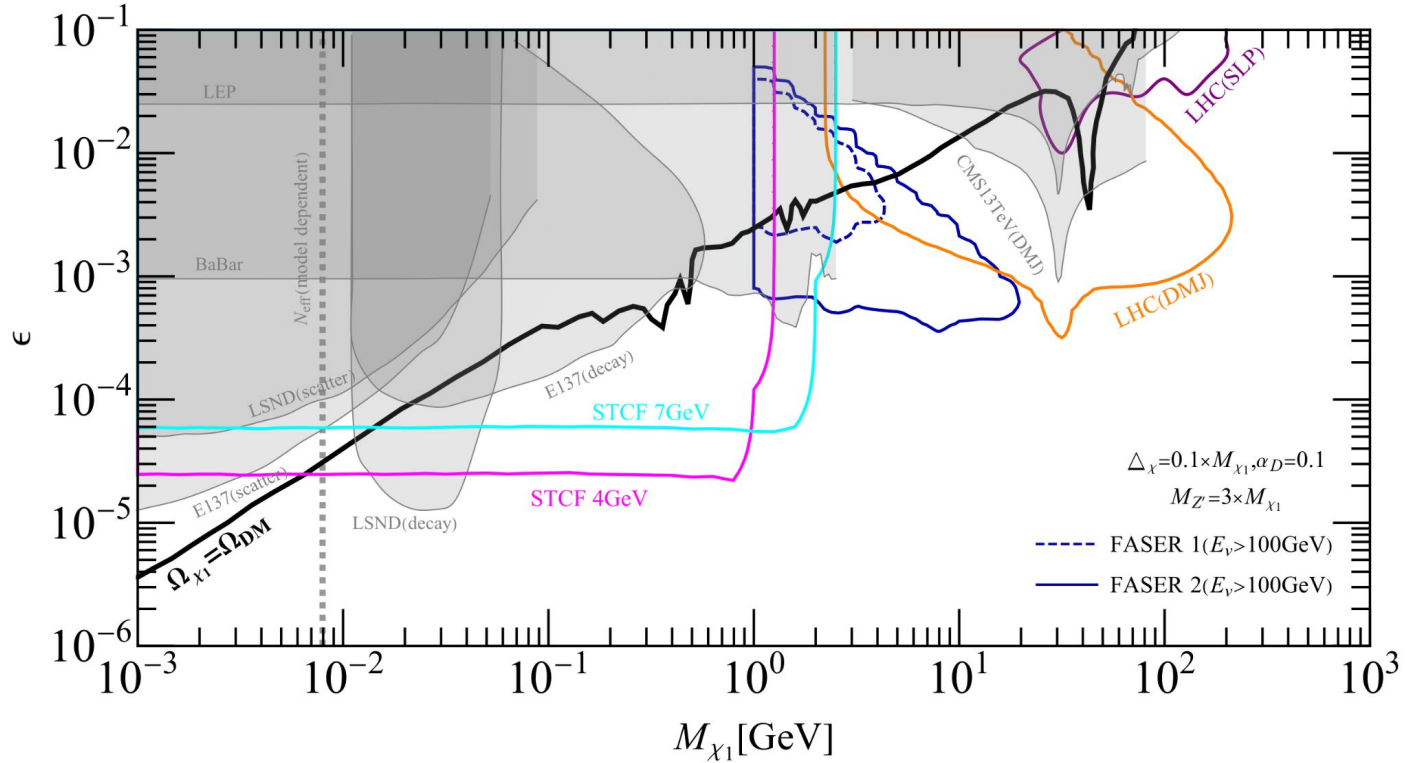
In the end-caps region

$$(0.92 > |z_\gamma| > 0.86)$$

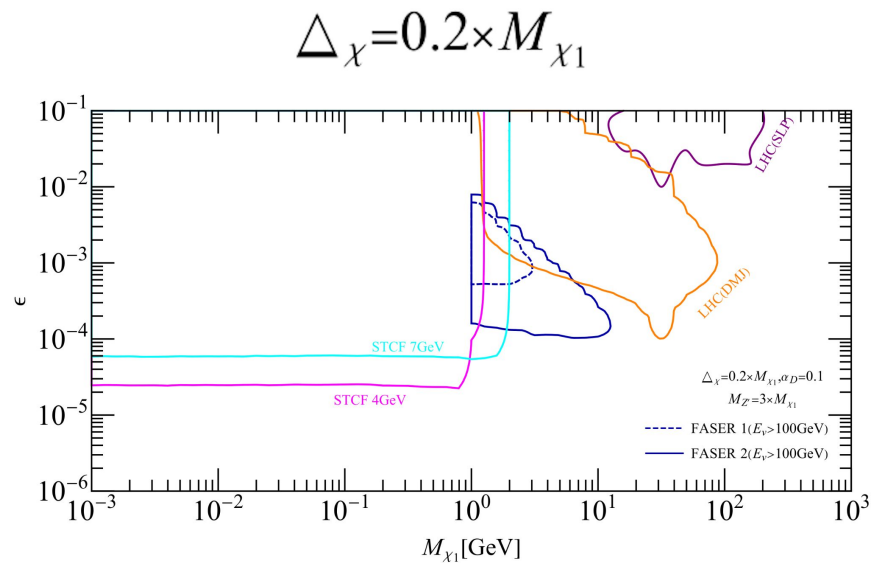
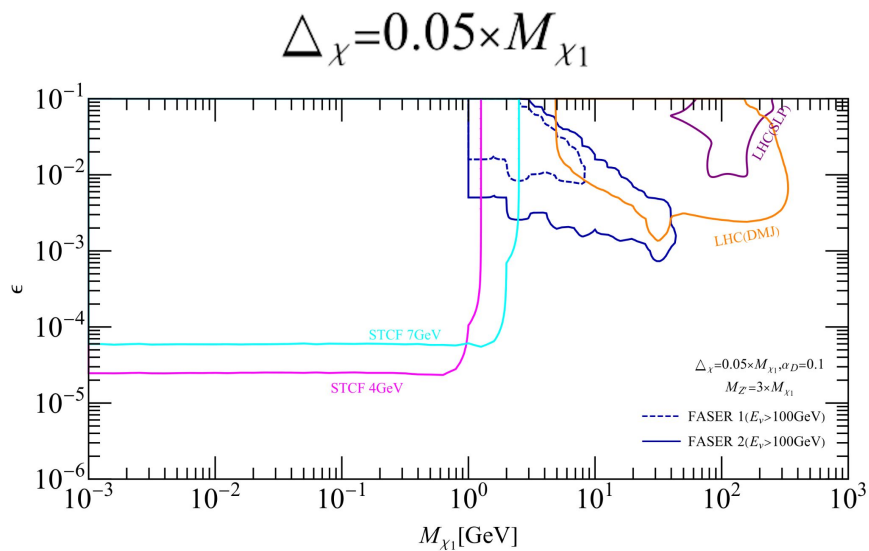
$$E_\gamma > 50 \text{ MeV}$$

$$z_\gamma \equiv \cos \theta_\gamma$$

# Projected Sensitivities of Three Frontier Experiments



# Projected Sensitivities of Three Frontier Experiments



# Contents

1. Motivation for inelastic DM models
2. Review of inelastic DM models
3. Search for inelastic DM at the LHC, FASER and STCF
- 4. Conclusion**

# Conclusion

- The inelastic DM model is one kind of simple UV complete DM model to allow the sub-GeV DM candidate. On the other hand, this model can easily escape the strong DM direct detection constraints.
- We consider the Energy Frontier (LHC), Lifetime Frontier (FASER) and Intensity Frontier (STCF) experiments to search for inelastic DM for the DM mass from 1 MeV to 210 GeV.
- In our benchmark settings, we found that the parameter space for the observed DM relic density can be covered by the combination of these experiments.

Thank you  
for your attention

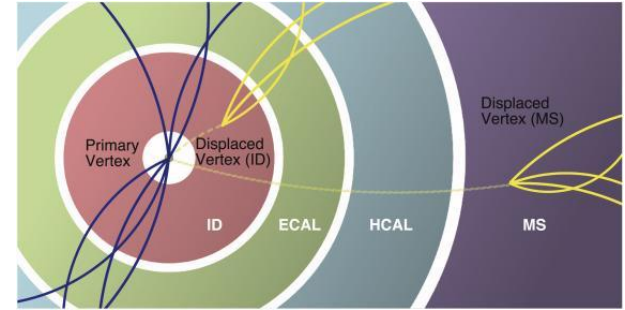


# Back-up Slides

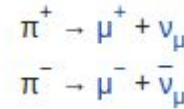
# Long-lived particles (LLPs)

## LLPs in Standard Model (SM) :

1. neutron : mean lifetime = 879.4(6) s       $n^0 \rightarrow p^+ + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e + \gamma$
2. charged pion : mean lifetime =  $2.6033 \pm 0.0005 \times 10^{-8}$  s



JPPNP 3695 (2019)

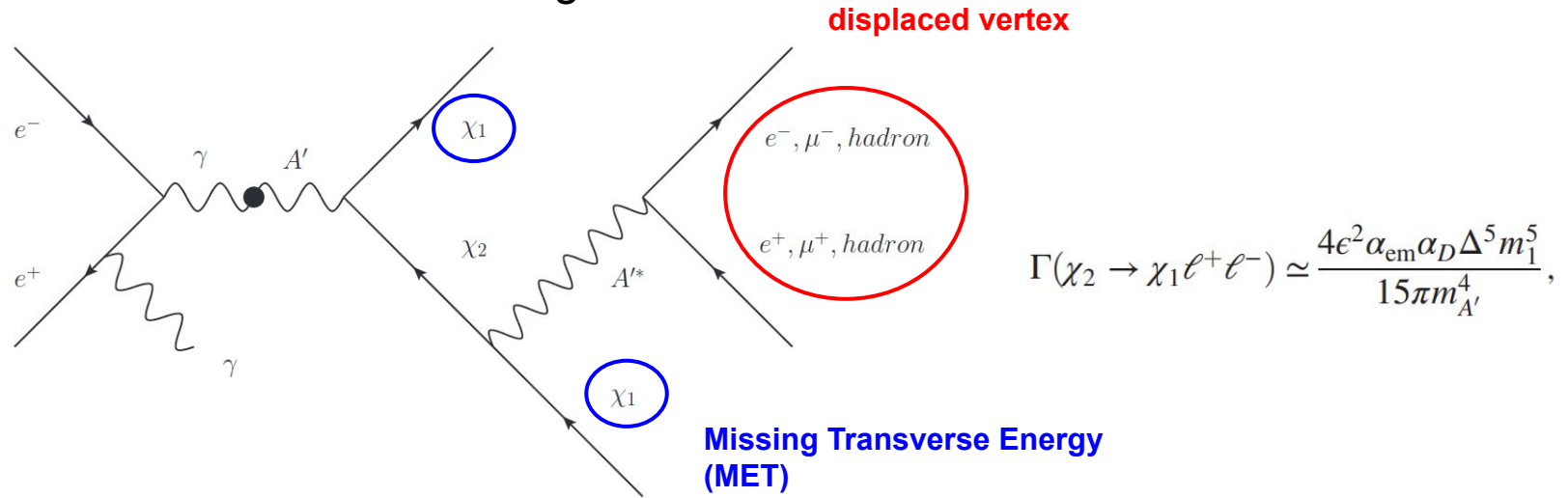


## LLPs in the beyond Standard Model (BSM) :

1. Heavy neutral leptons  $\rightarrow$  neutrino mass and mixing, matter-antimatter asymmetry.
2. Hidden mesons  $\rightarrow$  dark matter models, twin Higgs models, mirror fermion models.
3. The excited state in inelastic dark matter models.

# Motivation : Inelastic DM

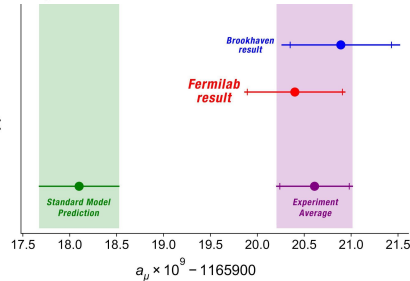
The **excited DM state** can naturally become **long-lived** and leave **displaced vertex** inside detectors after it has been produced at colliders such that we can search for such novel signatures !



# Motivation : Inelastic DM

## 2. Muon g-2 anomaly

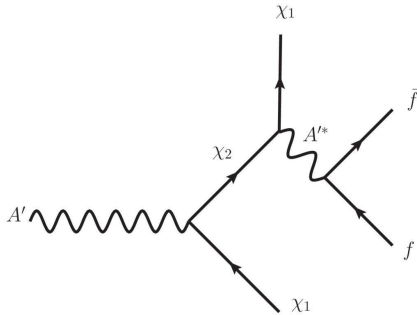
Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 14, 141801



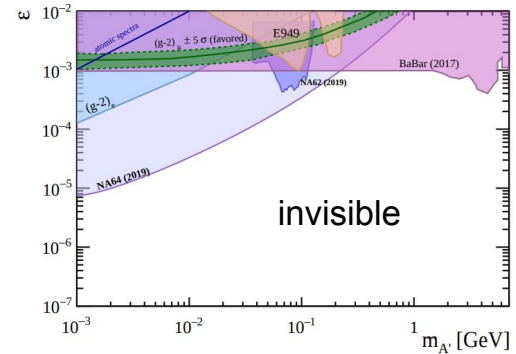
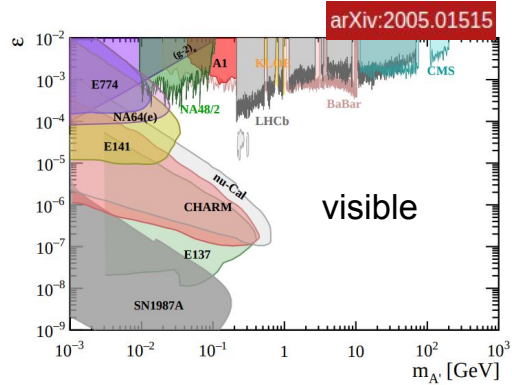
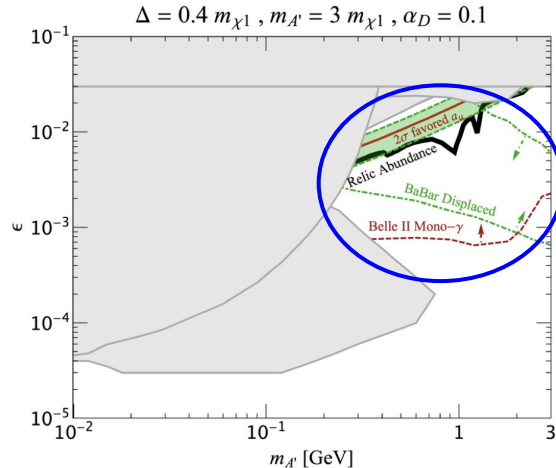
Revisiting the dark photon explanation of the muon anomalous magnetic moment

Gopolang Mohlabeng (Brookhaven) (Feb 13, 2019)

Published in: *Phys.Rev.D* 99 (2019) 11, 115001 • e-Print: [1902.05075](https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.05075) [hep-ph]

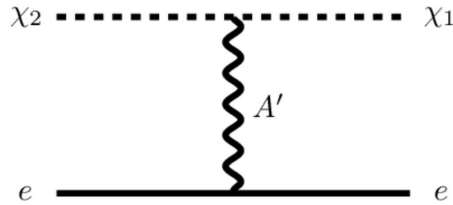


semi-visible



# Motivation : Inelastic DM

## 1. XENON1T excess



*Phys.Lett.B* 809 (2020) 135729 • e-Print: [2006.11938](#)

*JHEP* 01 (2021) 019 • e-Print: [2006.13183](#)

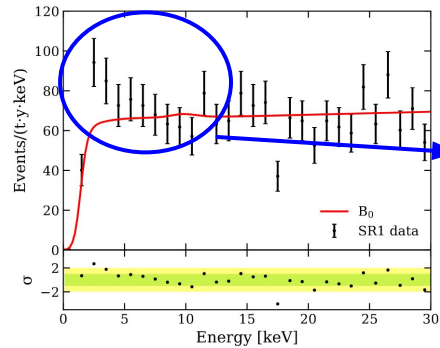
*Phys.Lett.B* 818 (2021) 136408 • e-Print: [2006.15672](#)

*Phys.Lett.B* 810 (2020) 135848 • e-Print: [2006.16876](#)

*Eur.Phys.J.C* 81 (2021) 2, 129 • e-Print: [2007.09105](#)

*JHEAp* 30 (2021) 9-15 • e-Print: [2009.04444](#)

*JHEP* 10 (2021) 135, *JHEP*10 (2021) 135 • e-Print: [2105.00877](#)



The excess of electron recoil events around 2-3 keV