

---

# **FASER AND THE FORWARD PHYSICS FACILITY NEW EYES FOR THE LHC**

Argonne Physics Division Colloquium  
Jonathan Feng, UC Irvine, 10 May 2024



**SIMONS**  
FOUNDATION



**HEISING-SIMONS**  
FOUNDATION

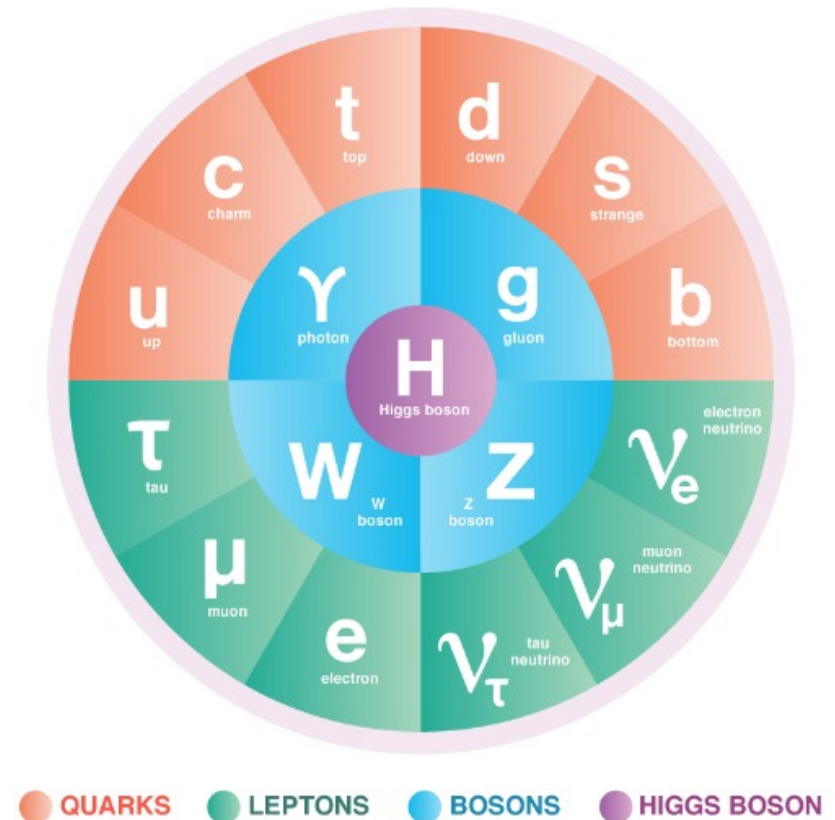


UC  
IRVINE



# THE STANDARD MODEL OF PARTICLE PHYSICS

- The Standard Model is the reigning theory of fundamental particles and their interactions. The last particle predicted by the SM, the Higgs boson, was discovered at CERN in 2012.
- But the SM is not the last word, because many fundamental questions remain. For example:
  - Neutrino Masses: the SM predicts that neutrinos are massless, but they aren't.
  - Dark Matter: The particles of the SM make up only ~15% of the matter in the universe.
- These questions imply that there are more particles left to discover, and probably many more.





# THE LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

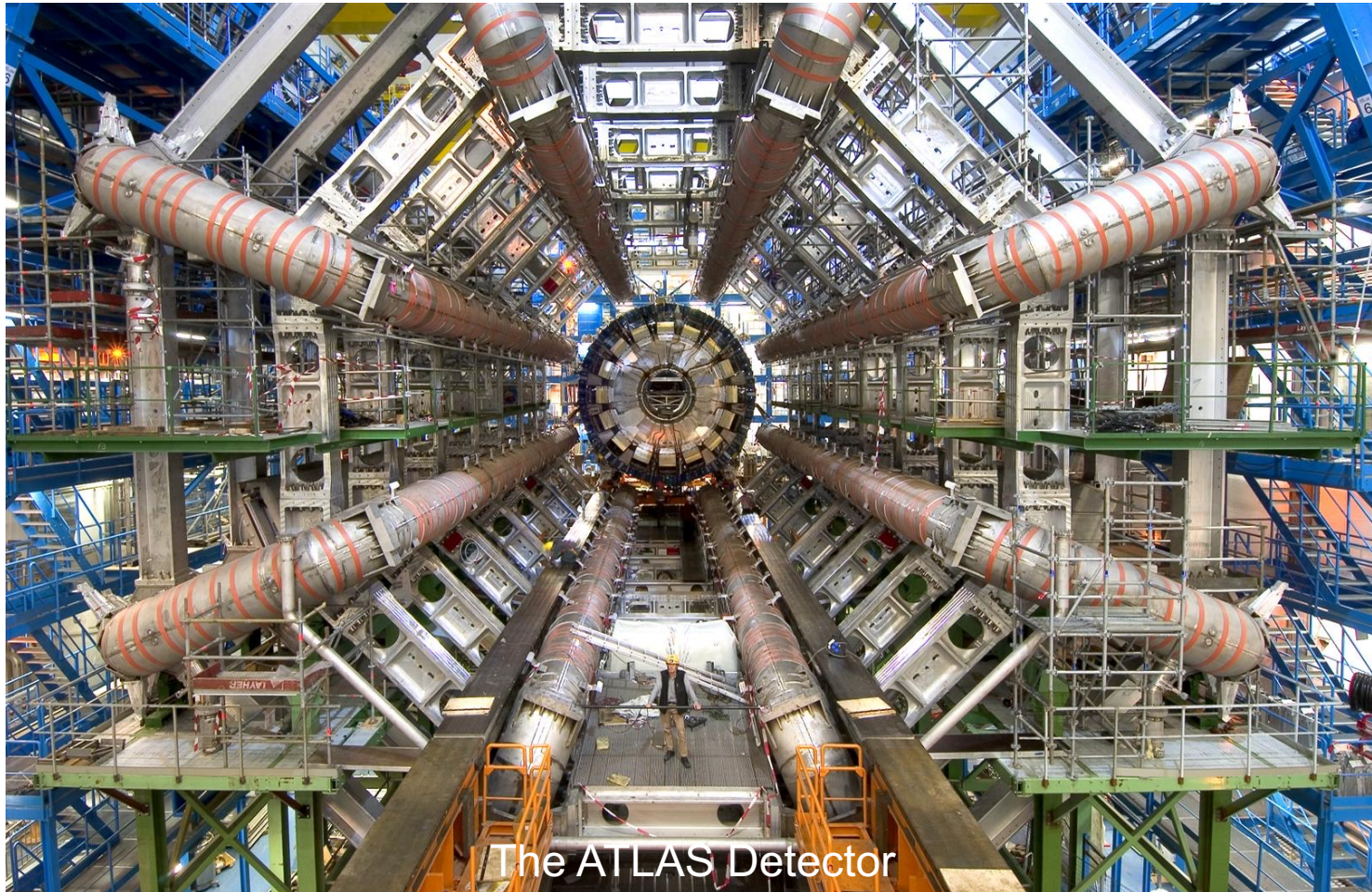


Particle colliders have been key to progress for many decades. The state of the art is currently the LHC, currently colliding protons with protons at a center-of-mass energy of 13.6 TeV.



# LHC DETECTORS

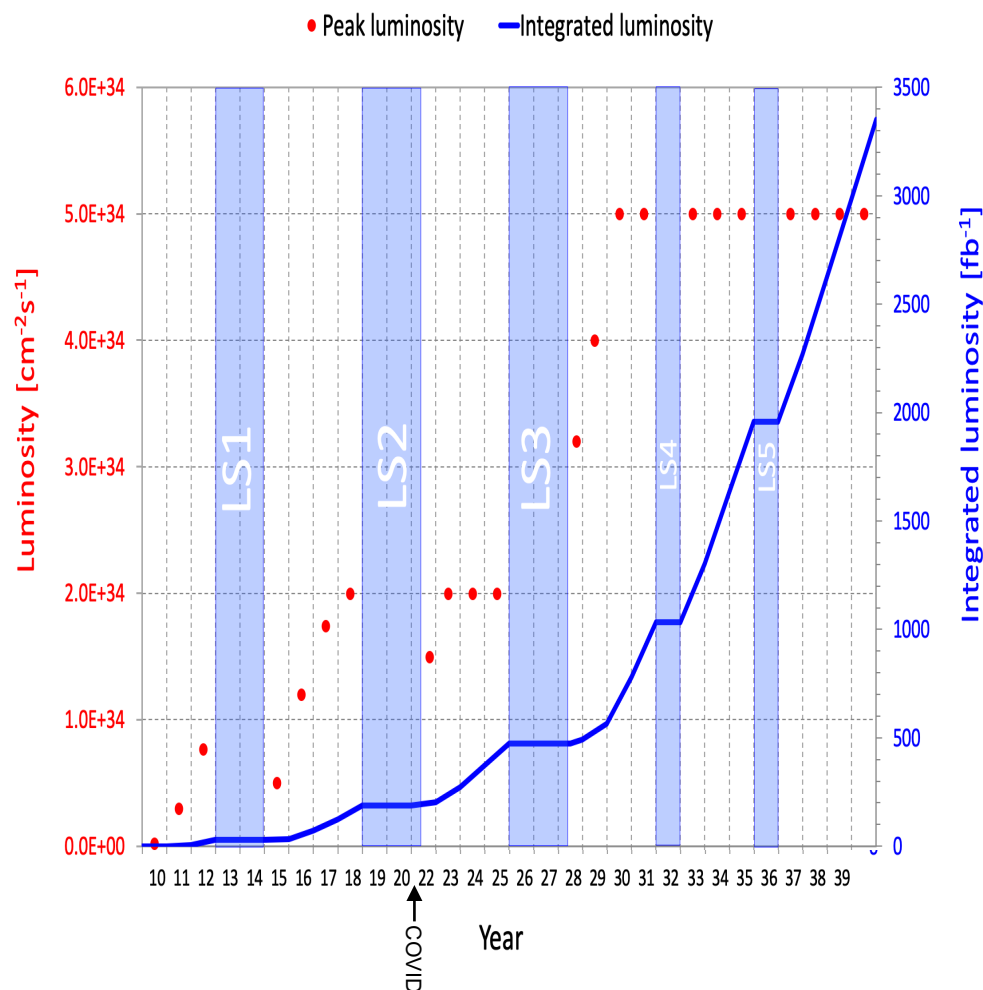
The protons collide at 4 points around the LHC, and each point is surrounded by a large detector to view the results of the collisions. These detectors cost ~\$1B, and were constructed over decades by thousands of collaborators.



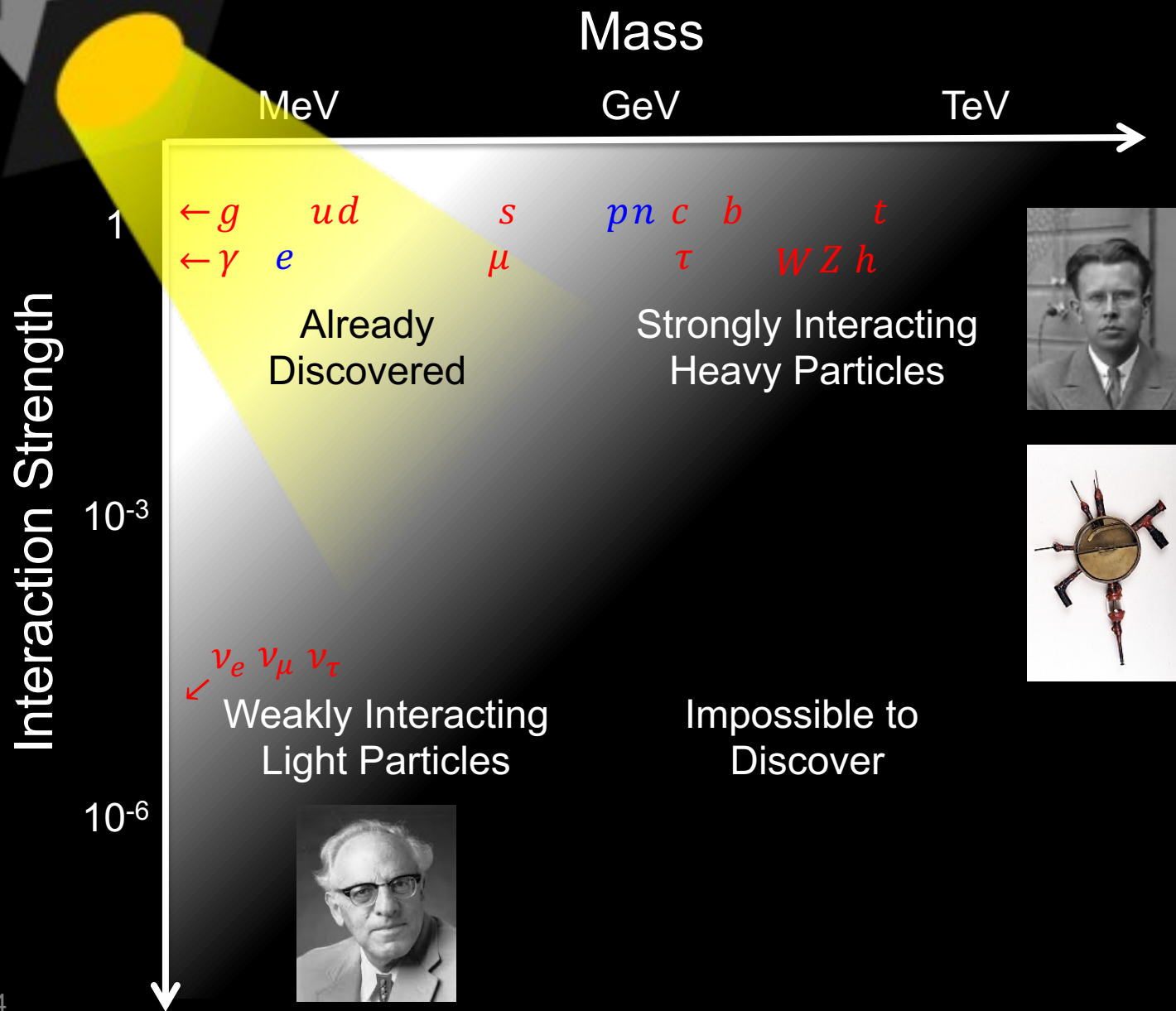


# LIFETIME OF THE LHC

- The LHC became the future of particle colliders in 1993 when the US canceled the SSC, which was being built in Texas.
- But although the LHC started running in 2010, it is scheduled to run until the 2040s and is still in its youth
  - a postdoc in terms of years
  - a kindergartener in terms of number of collisions (integrated luminosity)
- Are we using the LHC to its full potential? If not, what can we do to enhance its discovery prospects?

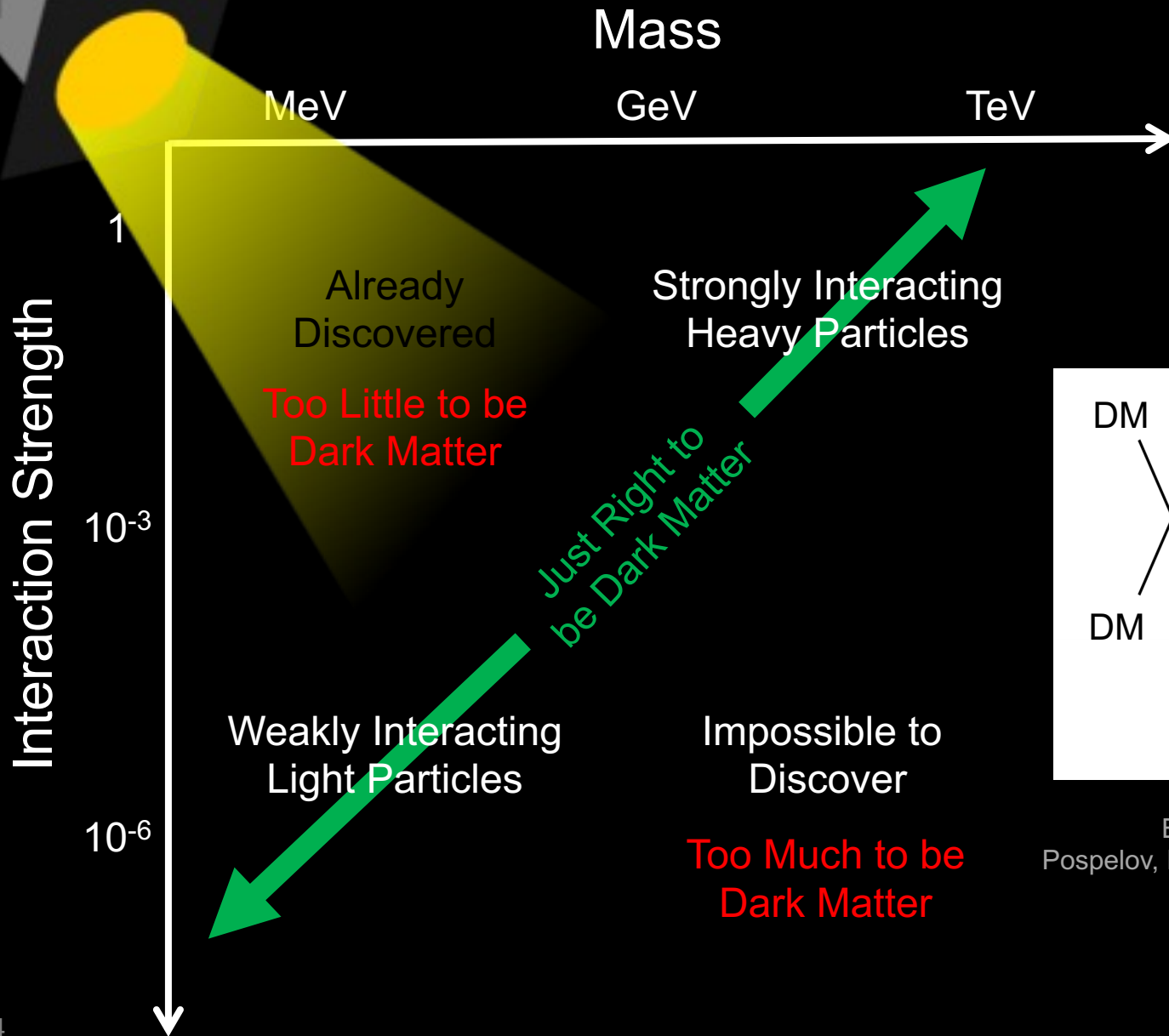


# THE PARTICLE LANDSCAPE





# THE COSMOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE



$$\sigma v \sim \frac{\epsilon^2}{m_{A'}^2}$$

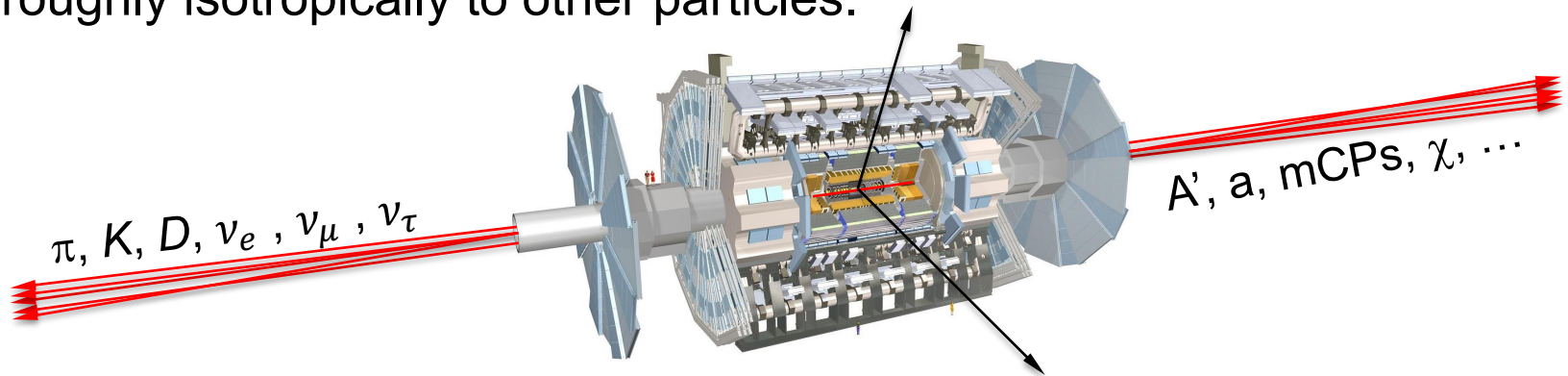
Boehm, Fayet (2003)  
 Pospelov, Ritz, Voloshin (2007)  
 Feng, Kumar (2008)

# FORWARD PHYSICS

- In 2017, we realized that the large LHC detectors, while beautifully optimized to discover new heavy particles, are also **not at all optimally configured to find new light particles.**

Feng, Galon, Kling, Trojanowski (2017)

- Heavy particles ( $W$ ,  $Z$ ,  $t$ ,  $h$ , ...) are produced at low velocity and decay roughly isotropically to other particles.



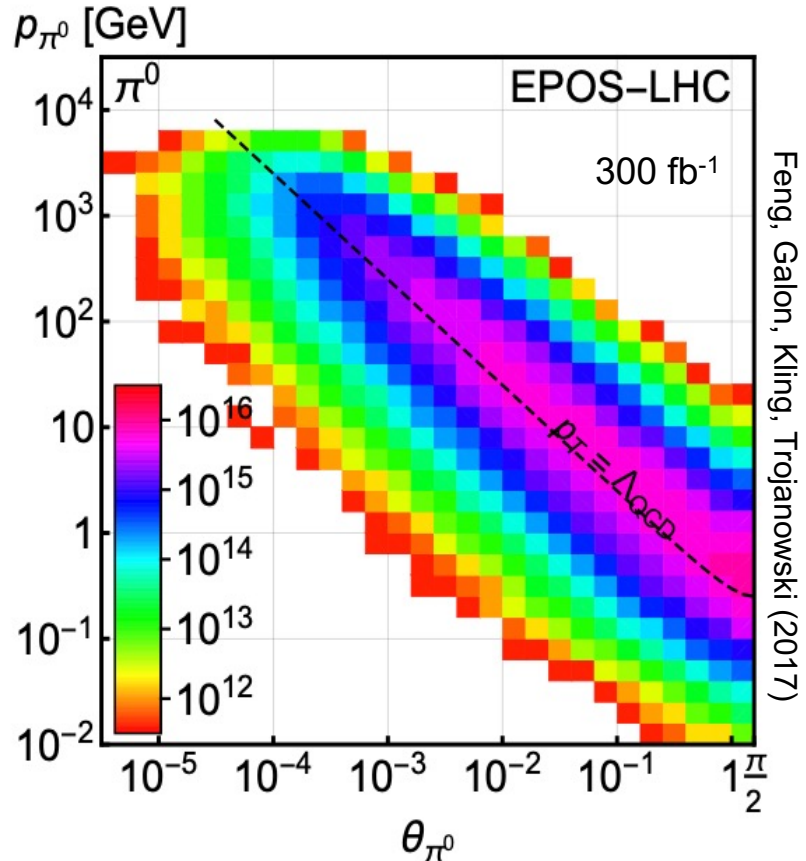
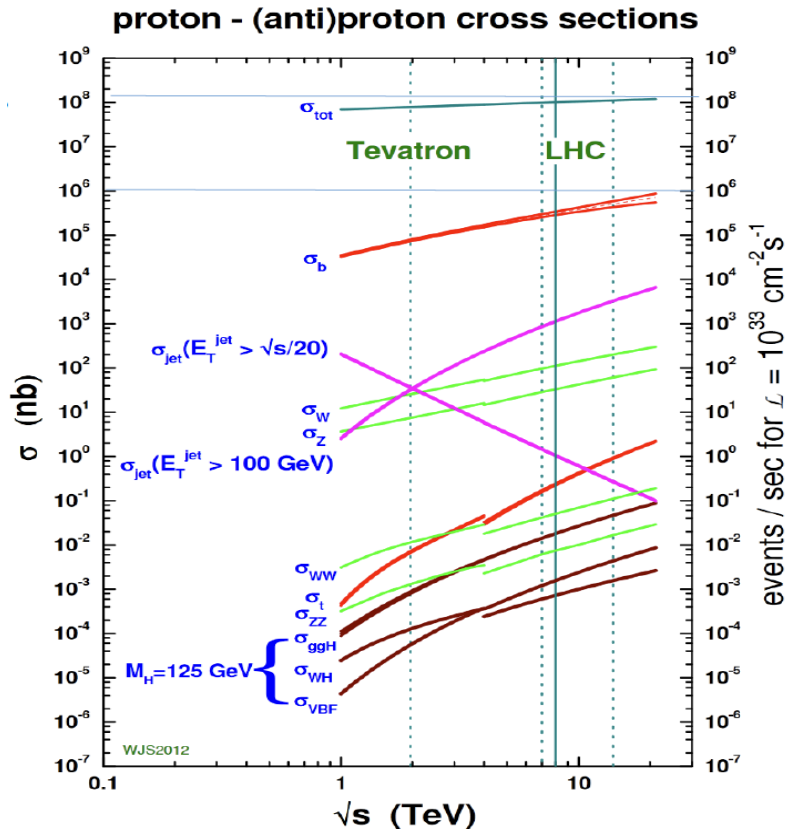
- But high-energy light particles are dominantly produced in the forward direction and escape through the blind spots of these large detectors.
  - This is true for all known light particles: pions, kaons,  $D$  mesons, all neutrinos.
  - It is also true for many proposed new particles, especially those motivated by neutrino mass and dark matter.

De Rujula, Ruckl (1984)

- **These blind spots are the Achilles heels of the large LHC detectors.**



# LIGHT PARTICLES AT THE LHC

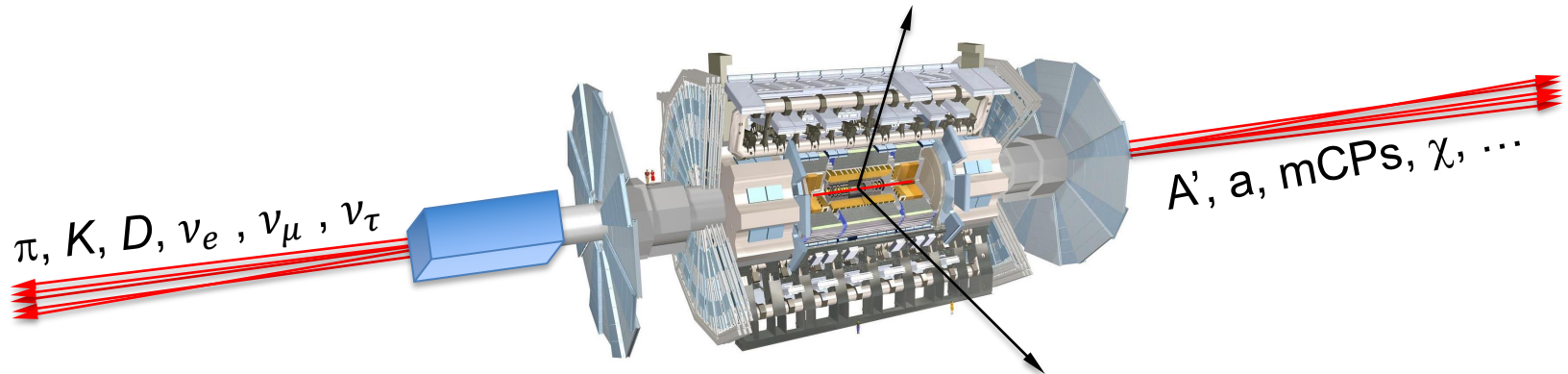


Feng, Galon, King, Trojanowski (2017)

- Most searches have focused on processes with  $\sigma \sim \text{fb, pb}$ .
- But the total cross section is  $\sigma_{\text{tot}} \sim 100 \text{ mb}$  and most of it is typically treated as useless.
- What do these events look like? Consider pions (decays to  $\nu$ , BSM).
- Enormous event rates. Typical  $p_T \sim 250 \text{ MeV}$ , but many with  $p \sim \text{TeV}$  within  $1 \text{ mrad}$  ( $\eta > 7.6$ ) of the beamline.

# DETECTING FORWARD PARTICLES

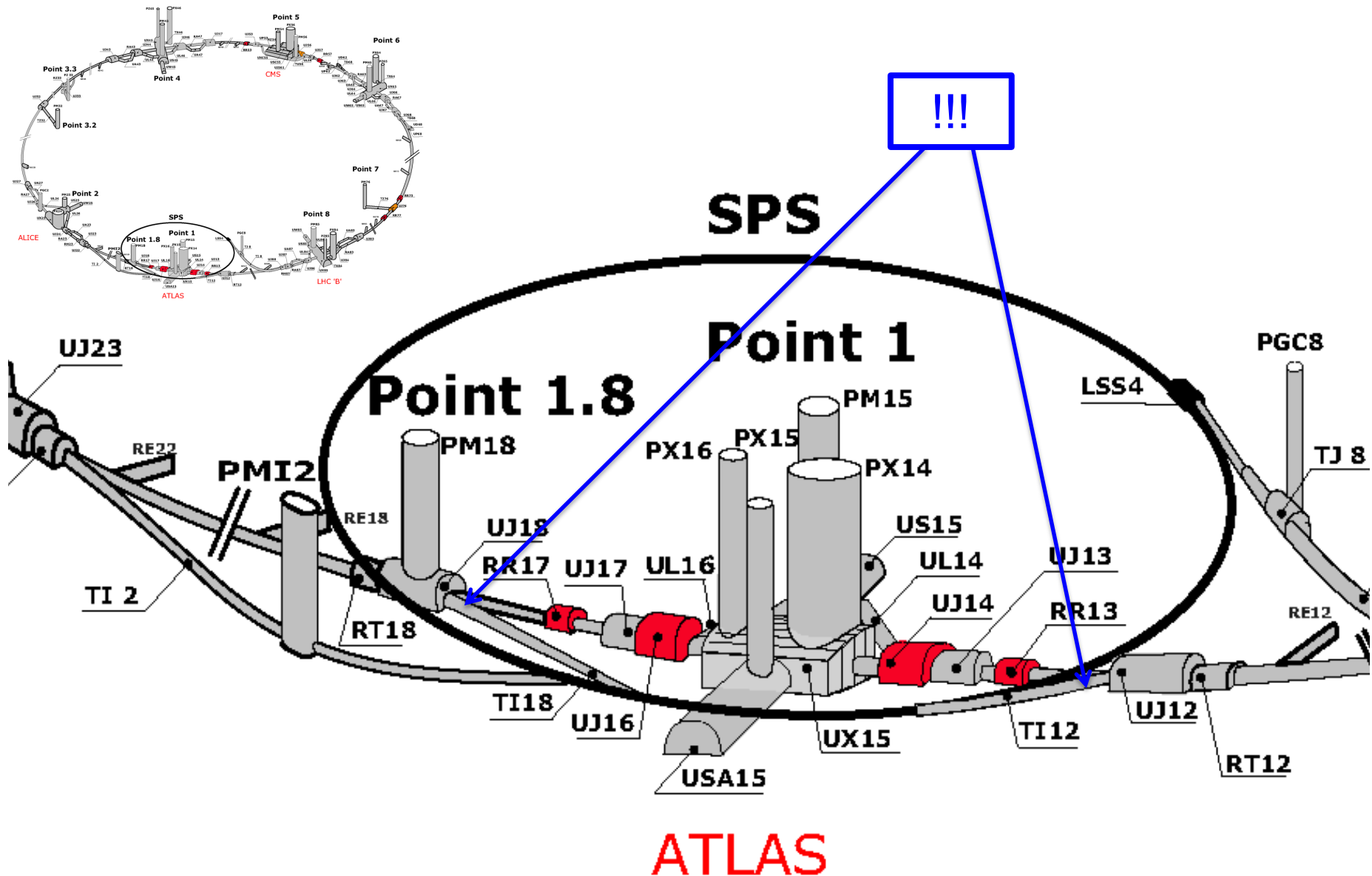
- To capture the enormous forward flux, we need to detect particles that are produced in the forward direction along the beamline.
- Problem: we can't just put the detector there: they will block the protons from coming in.



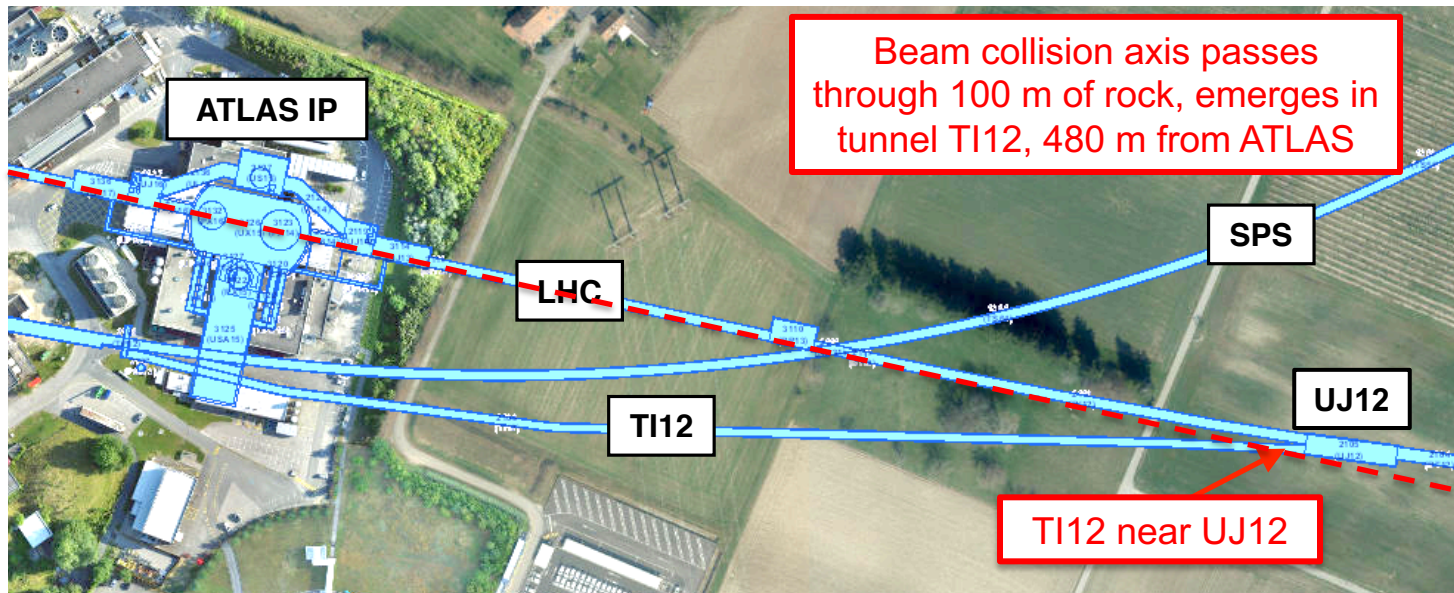
- Solution: the LHC is a circular collider! If we go far enough away, the LHC proton beam will curl away, while all the light, weakly-interacting particles we are looking for will go straight.




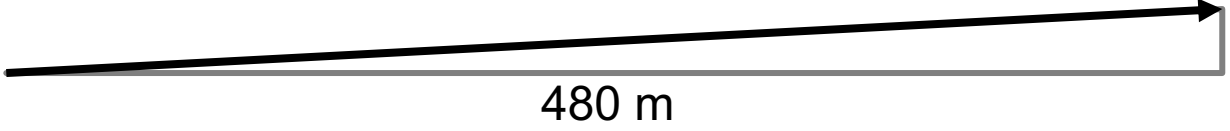
# MAP OF THE LHC

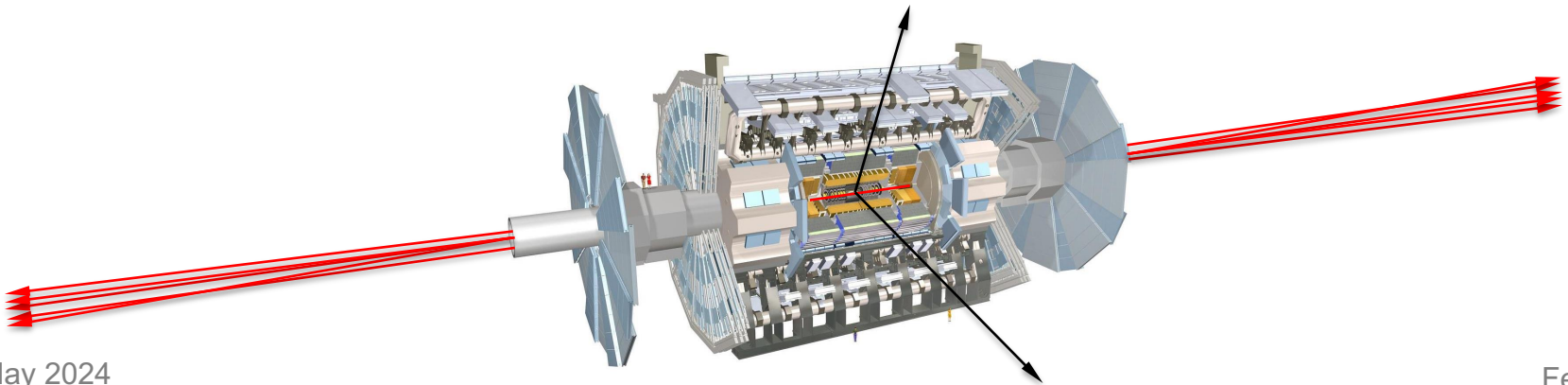


# THE FORWARD REGION



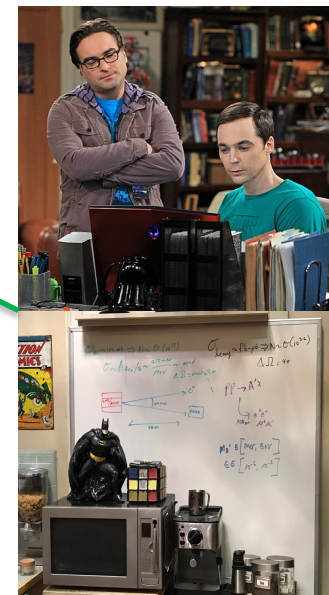
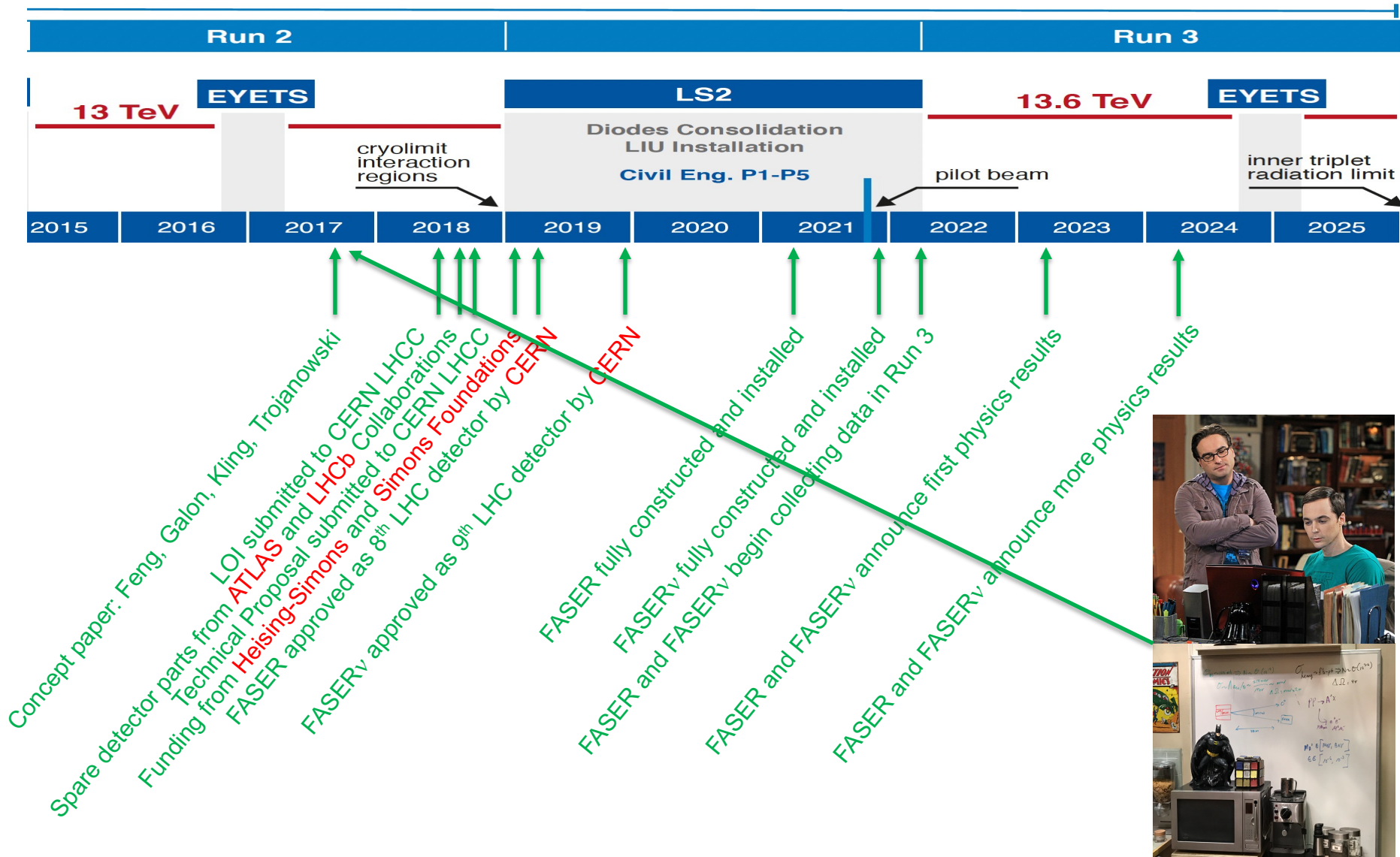
# HOW BIG DOES THE DETECTOR HAVE TO BE?

- Momentum:  250 MeV  
1 TeV
- Space:  12 cm  
480 m
- The opening angle is 0.2 mrad (the moon is 7 mrad). Even 480 m away, most of the signal passes through an 8.5" x 11" (A4) sheet of paper.
- Neutrinos and many new particles are therefore much more collimated than shown below, motivating a relatively small, fast, and inexpensive experiment at the LHC: the ForwArd Search ExpeRiment (FASER).





# FASER AND FASER<sub>v</sub> TIMELINE



# THE FASER COLLABORATION NOW

97 collaborators, 26 institutions, 10 countries



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE



KYUSHU  
UNIVERSITY



UC  
IRVINE

$u^b$  UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN



Technion  
Israel Institute of Technology



NAGOYA UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY of  
WASHINGTON

JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ



מכון ויצמן למדע  
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE



KEK



UNIVERSITY OF  
OREGON



International laboratory  
covered by a cooperation  
agreement with CERN



清华大学  
Tsinghua University



ROYAL  
HOLLOWAY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI  
FEDERICO II



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL



CHIBA UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY  
OF SUSSEX

Nikhef



UNIVERSITÄT  
BONN

ETH zürich

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

# PREPARATION OF THE FASER LOCATION

- The beam collision axis was located to mm accuracy by the CERN survey department. To place FASER on this axis, a trench was required to lower the floor by 46 cm.
- The trench was completed by an Italian firm just hours before COVID shut down CERN in March 2020.



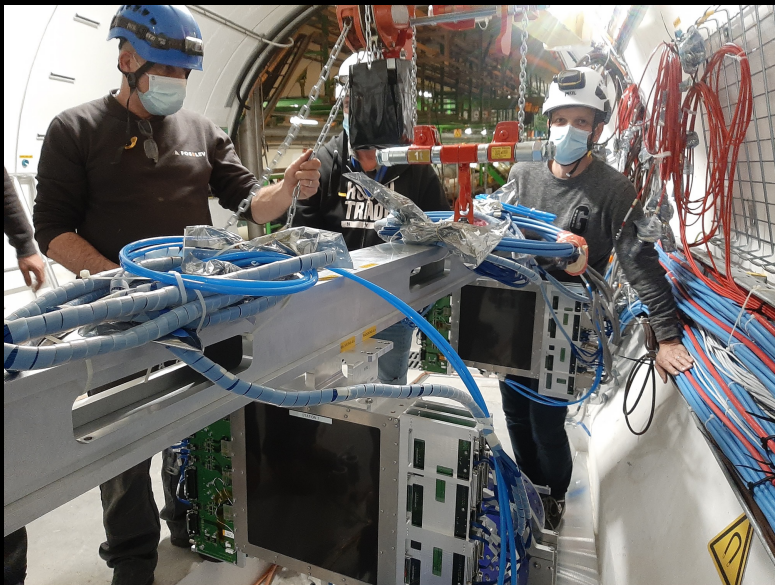
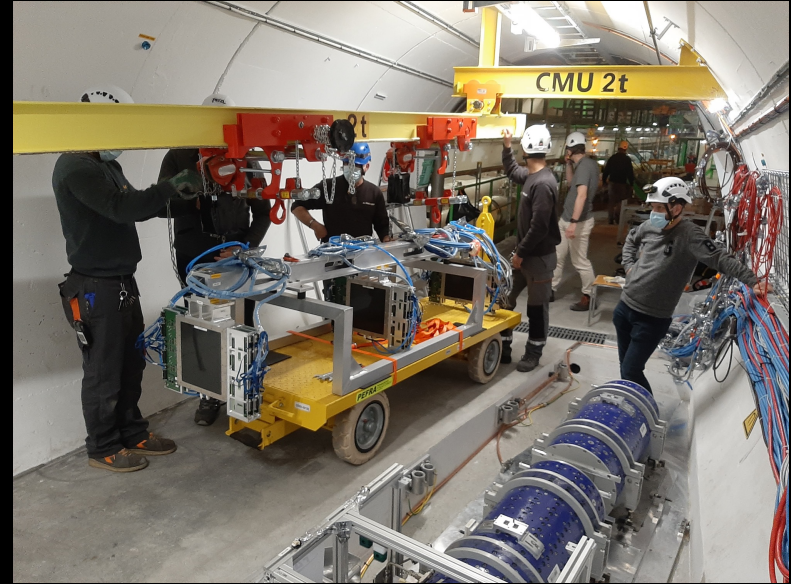


# FASER AND THE LHC





# FASER INSTALLATION





# THE FASER DETECTOR

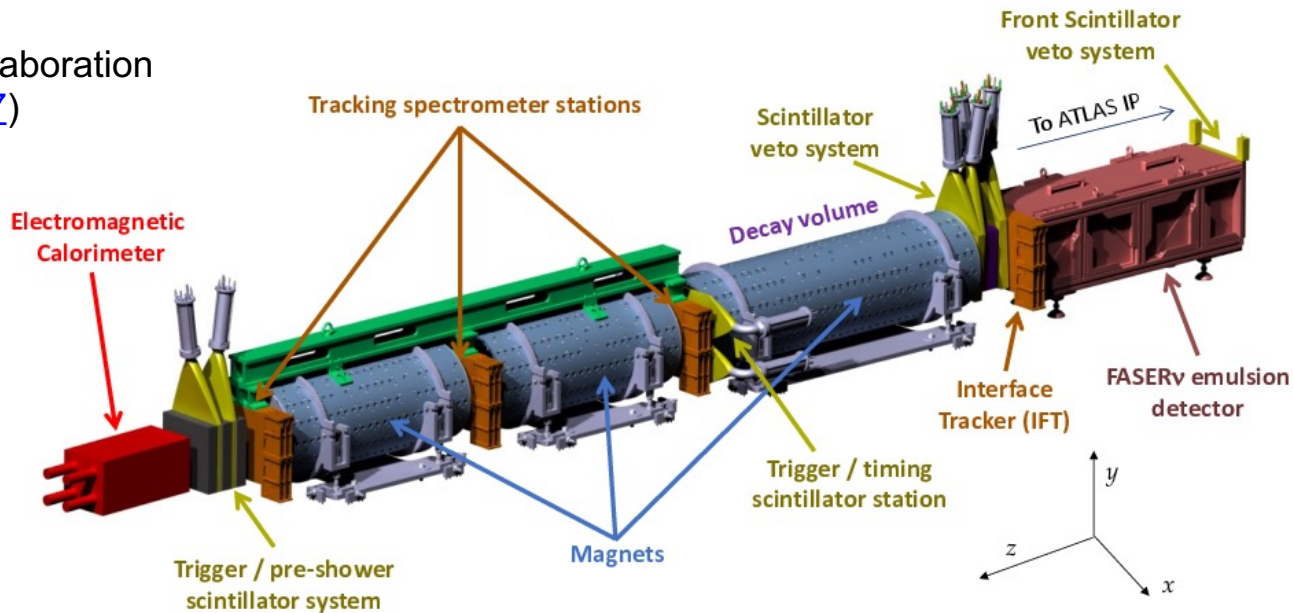




# THE FASER DETECTOR

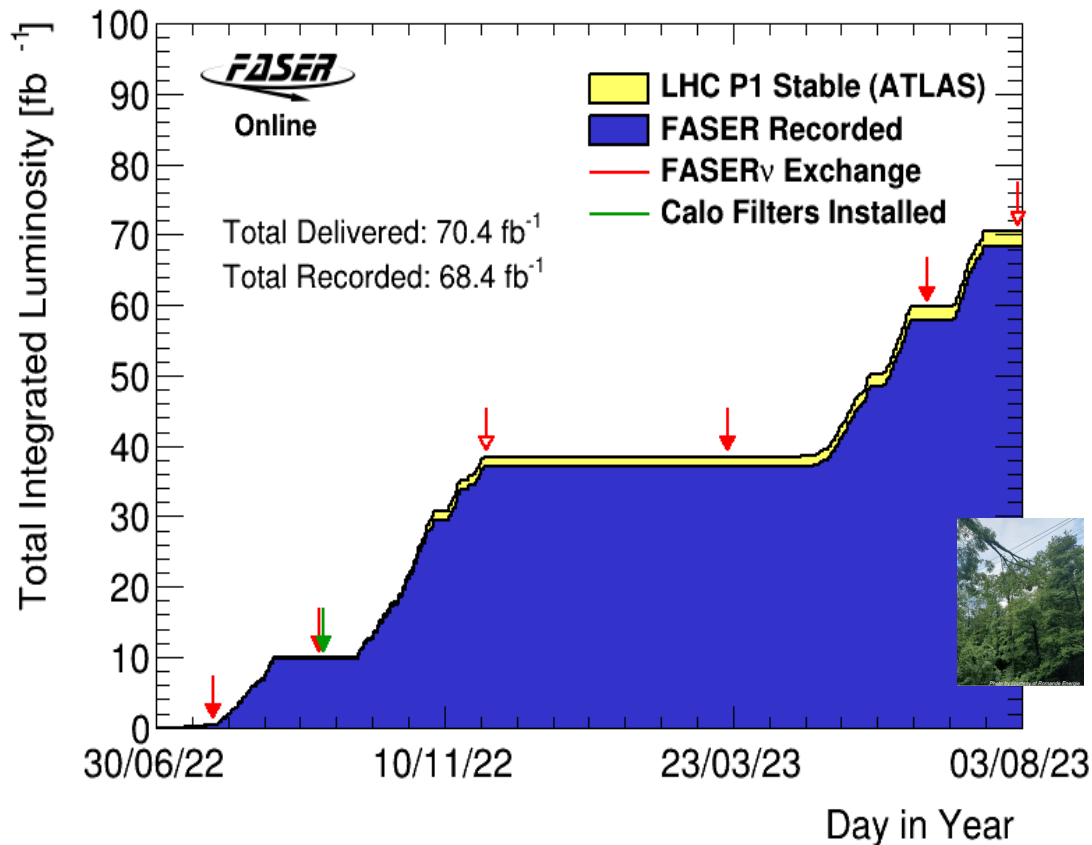
- Design challenges: small (no room), low maintenance (no access), fast (2 years to build).
  - Size: Total length  $\sim 5$  m, decay volume:  $R = 10$  cm,  $L = 1.5$  m.
  - Magnets: 3 permanent dipoles (Halbach design), 0.57 T, deflect charged particles in  $y$ .
  - Tracker: composed of 4 stations  $\times$  3 layers  $\times$  8 mod. = 96 ATLAS SCT modules.
  - Calorimeter: composed of 2  $\times$  2 LHCb ECAL modules.
  - Scintillators: 4 stations, each 1-2 cm thick,  $>99.999\%$  efficient. 4-layer veto  $\sim (10^{-5})^4 \sim 10^{-20}$ .
  - FASERv: 770 interleaved sheets of tungsten + emulsion. 1 m long, 1.1 ton total mass. Micron-level spatial resolution, but no timing. Becomes over-exposed from muons, must be replaced after  $\sim 30 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ .
- The experimental environment: 88 m underground, shielded from ATLAS by 100 m of rock  $\rightarrow$  extremely quiet. Trigger on everything,  $\sim \text{kHz}$  trigger rate dominated by muons from ATLAS.

FASER Collaboration  
([2207.11427](https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.11427))



# FASER DATA TAKING IN 2022 AND 2023

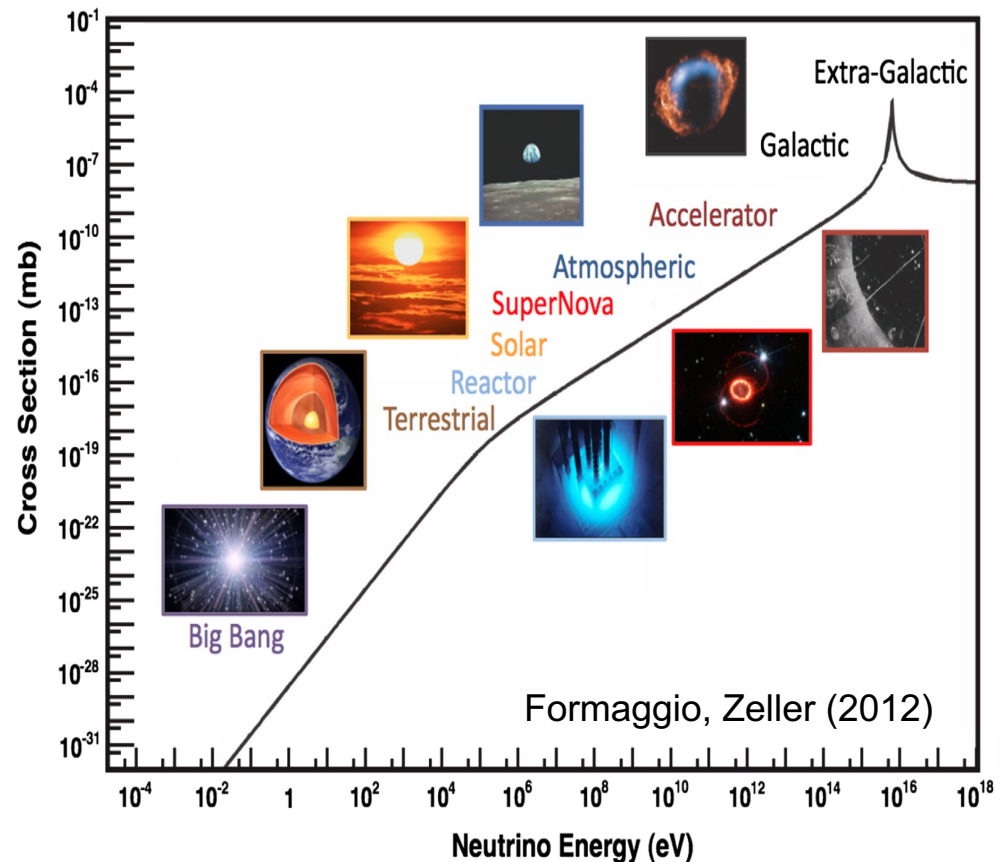
- FASER was constructed in 18 months. We saw our first cosmic ray event on 18 March 2021.
- After LS2 from 2018-2021, the LHC started running again from Jul to Nov 2022 and Apr to Jul 2023.
- FASER began recording data immediately.
  - Recorded 97% of delivered luminosity
  - Largely automated: no control room, 2 shifters controlling and monitoring the expt from their laptops



- FASER<sub>v</sub> emulsion exchanged periodically to prevent overexposure
  - 3 boxes in 2022 (0.5, 10, 30  $\text{fb}^{-1}$ )
  - 2 boxes in 2023 (20, 10  $\text{fb}^{-1}$ )

# COLLIDER NEUTRINOS

- Neutrinos are the least understood of all known particles, and the only ones with confirmed BSM properties.
- They have been discovered from many sources, each time with stunning implications for particle physics, astrophysics, and cosmology.

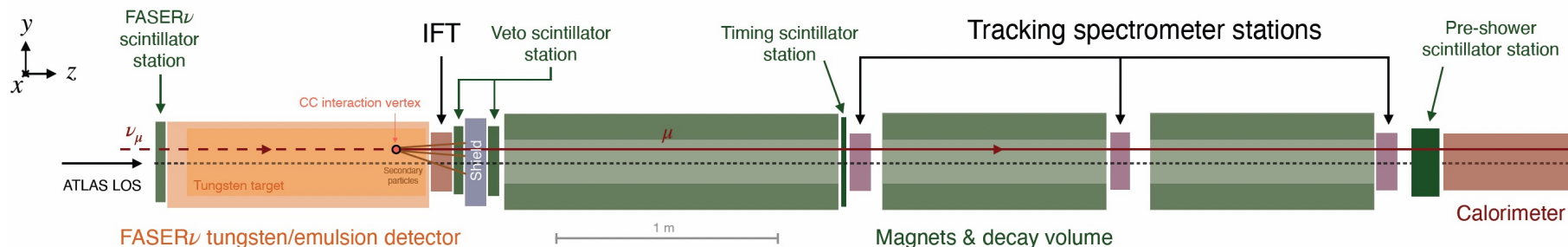


- But before FASER, neutrinos produced at a particle collider (since 1971) had never been directly observed: they interact very weakly, and the highest energy ones, which are most likely to interact, pass through the blind spots of existing detectors.



# COLLIDER NEUTRINO SEARCH

- Neutrinos produced at the ATLAS IP travel 480 m and pass through FASER $\nu$ . Occasionally, they can interact through  $\nu_{\mu}N \rightarrow \mu X$ , producing a high-energy muon, which travels through the rest of the detector.

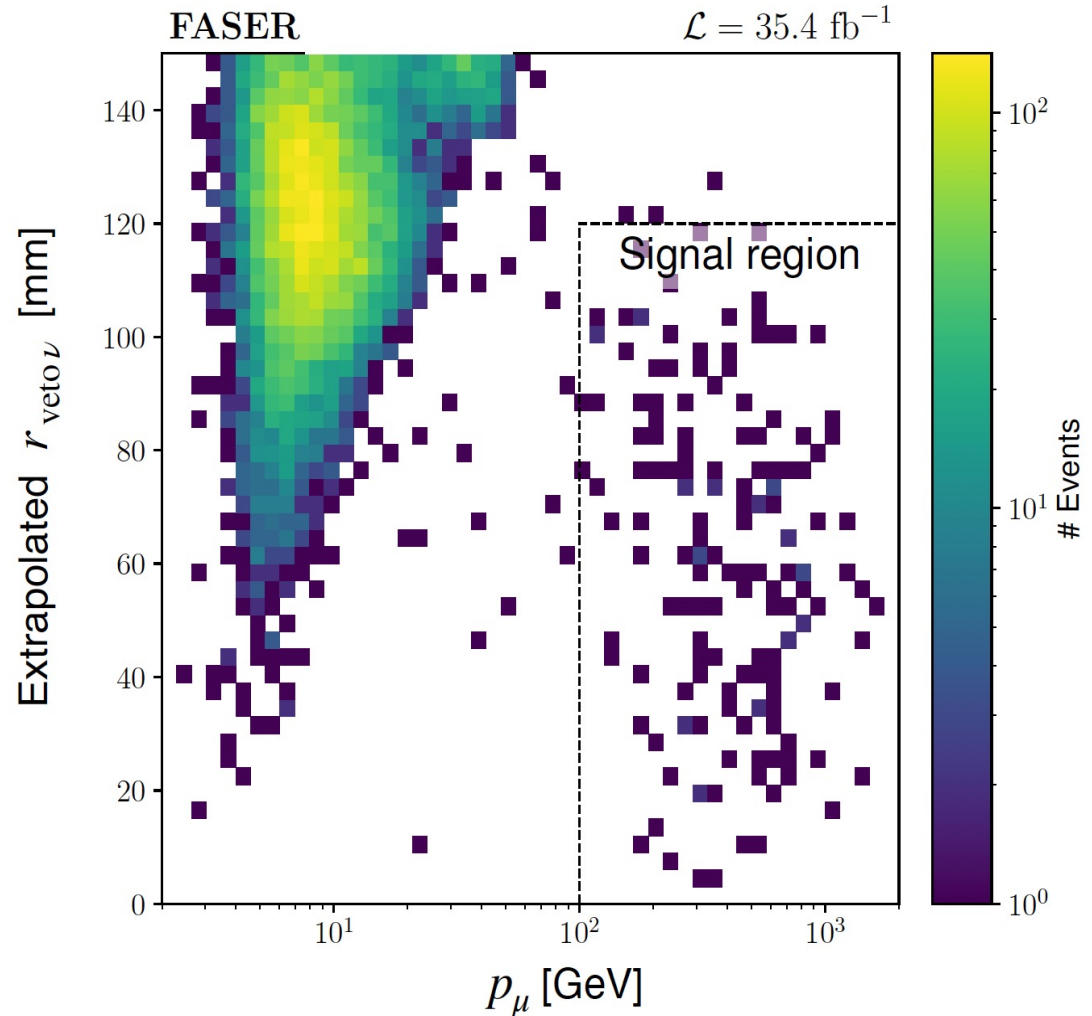


FASER Collaboration ([2303.14185](#), PRL)

- The signal is no charged particle passing through the upstream veto scintillators, hits in the downstream scintillators, and a single charged track,  $>100$  GeV, in the central region of downstream trackers.
- Leading backgrounds from neutral hadrons produced in the rock, muons that enter from the side, or beam 1 background contribute  $\lesssim 1$  event.
- Expect  $151 \pm 41$  events from simulations, with the large uncertainty arising from the poorly understood flux of forward hadrons.

# COLLIDER NEUTRINO RESULTS

- After unblinding, we found 153 signal events.
- 1st direct detection of collider neutrinos.
  - Signal significance of  $\sim 16\sigma$
  - Muon charge  $\rightarrow \nu$  and  $\bar{\nu}$
  - These include the highest energy  $\nu$  and  $\bar{\nu}$  interactions ever observed from a human source
- Following the FASER observation, SND@LHC, a complementary experiment in the “other” forward direction, discovered an additional 8 neutrinos.



FASER Collaboration ([2303.14185](https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.14185), PRL)

# DISCOVERY OF COLLIDER NEUTRINOS

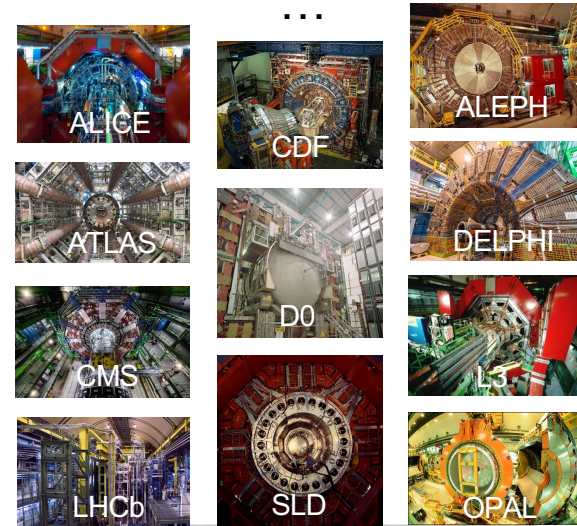
---



# LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

FASER  
“Tabletop,” 18 months,  
~\$1M

153 neutrinos



All previous  
collider detectors

Building-size, decades,  
~\$1B

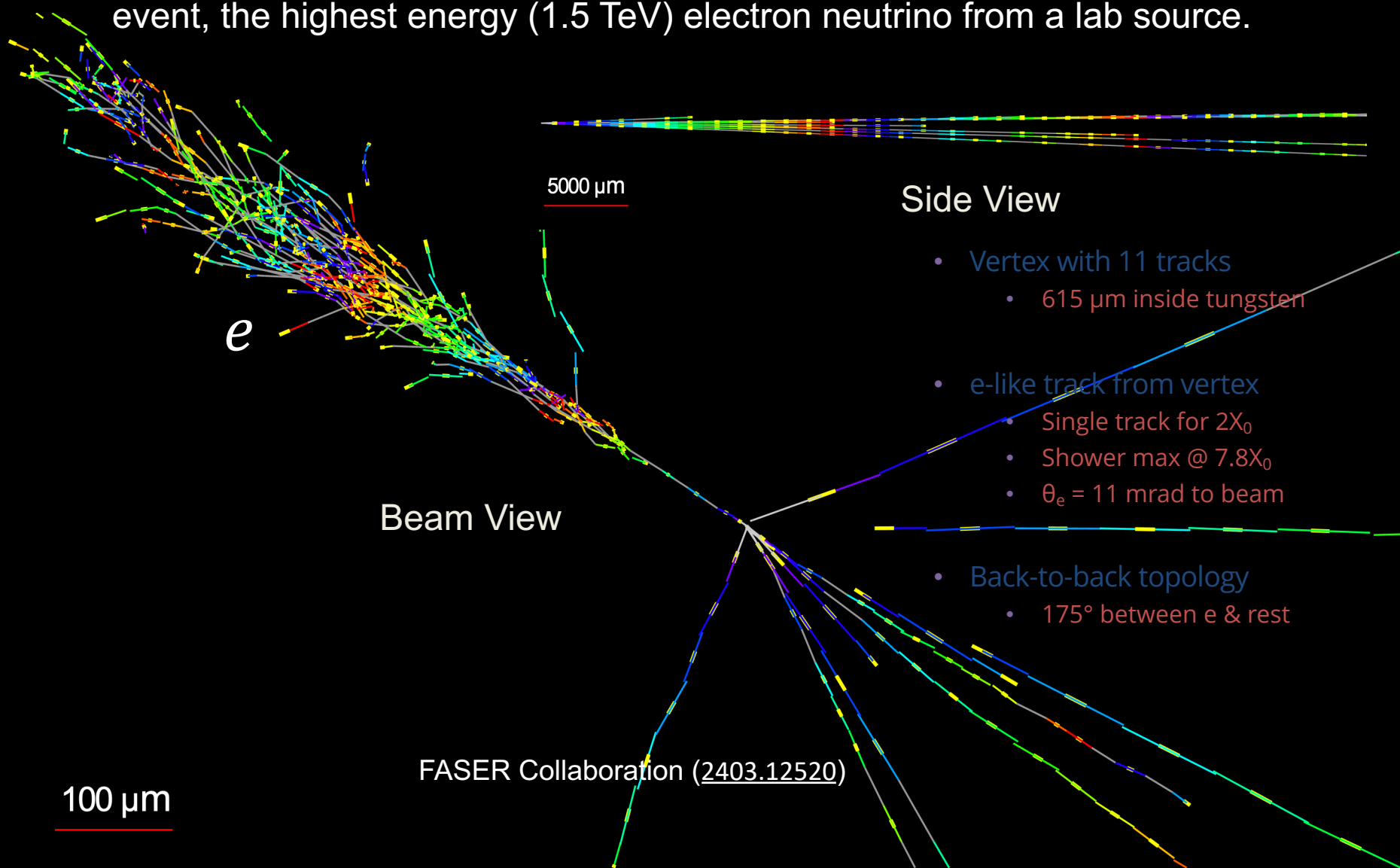
0 neutrinos

16 $\sigma$  discovery, opening a new window  
at the high energy frontier



# NEUTRINOS FROM EMULSION IN FASER <sub>$\nu$</sub>

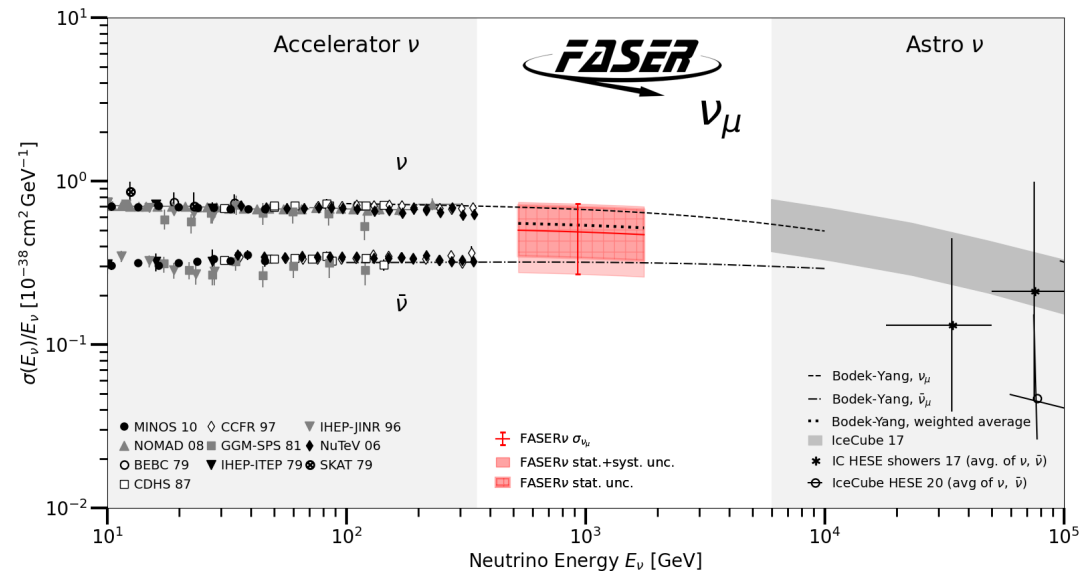
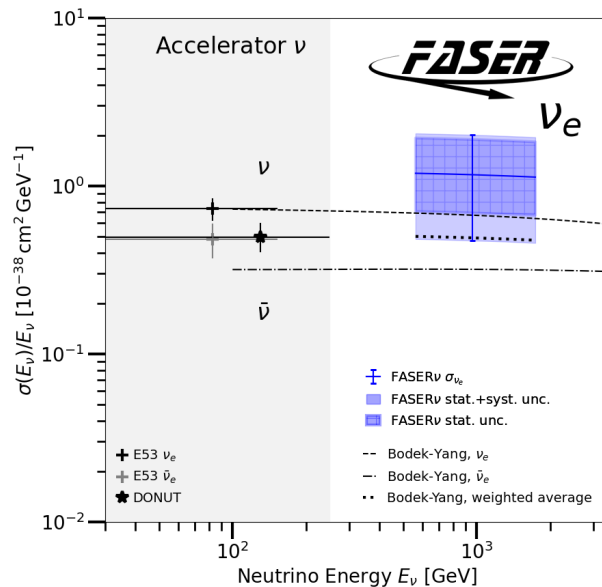
The discovery analysis did not even use the emulsion data! With the emulsion, we have now observed the first collider electron neutrinos, including the “Pika- $\nu$ ” event, the highest energy (1.5 TeV) electron neutrino from a lab source.



# TeV NEUTRINO CROSS SECTIONS

- Following these discoveries, we can then move on to studies, including the first measurement of neutrino cross sections at TeV energies.
- Results are consistent with SM DIS predictions.

Xie, Gao, Hobbs, Stump, Yuan (2024)

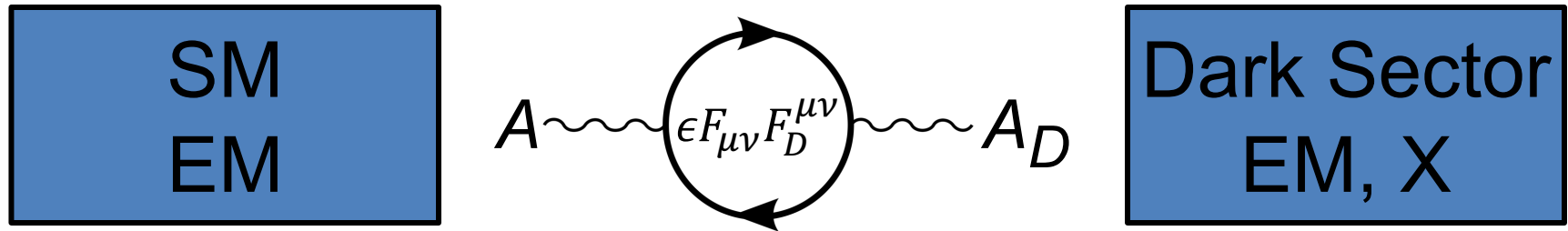


FASER Collaboration (2403.12520)

- These measurements use only 1.7% of the data already collected in 2022 and 2023. Much more to come; we expect to triple the world's supply of tau neutrinos, identify the first anti-tau neutrino, ...

# NEW PARTICLE SEARCHES

- FASER can also look for new light and weakly-interacting particles.
- For example: suppose there is a dark sector that contains dark matter  $X$  and also a dark force: dark electromagnetism.



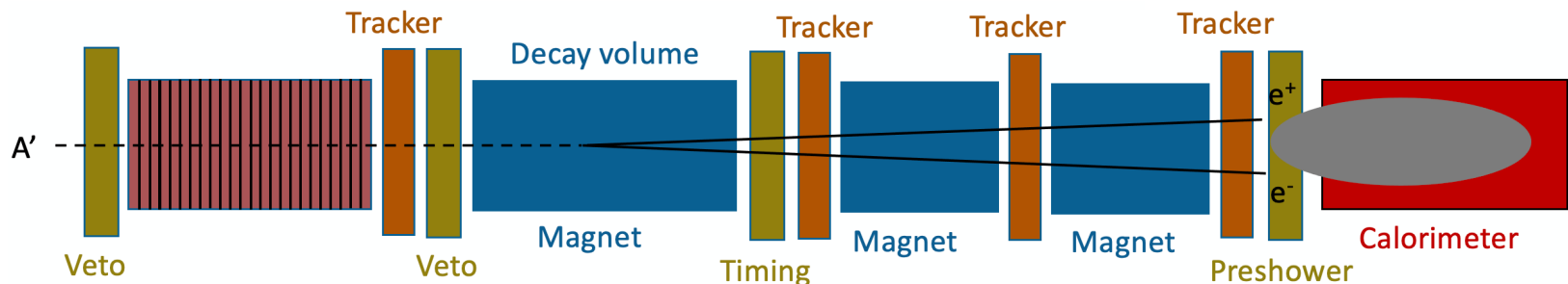
- The result? **Dark photons  $A'$** , like photons, but with mass  $m_{A'}$ , couplings suppressed by  $\epsilon$ .

Holdom (1986)

- For low  $\epsilon$ , dark photons are long-lived particles (LLPs), can be produced in ATLAS, pass through rock and magnetic fields unhindered, and decay in FASER.

# DARK PHOTON SIGNAL

- Focus on masses in the 10-100 MeV range.
- Produced through meson decay  $\pi/\eta \rightarrow A'\gamma$  or “dark bremsstrahlung”  $pp \rightarrow ppA'$ .
- Travel straight and unimpeded through 480 m of rock/concrete.
- Then decay through  $A' \rightarrow e^+e^-$ .

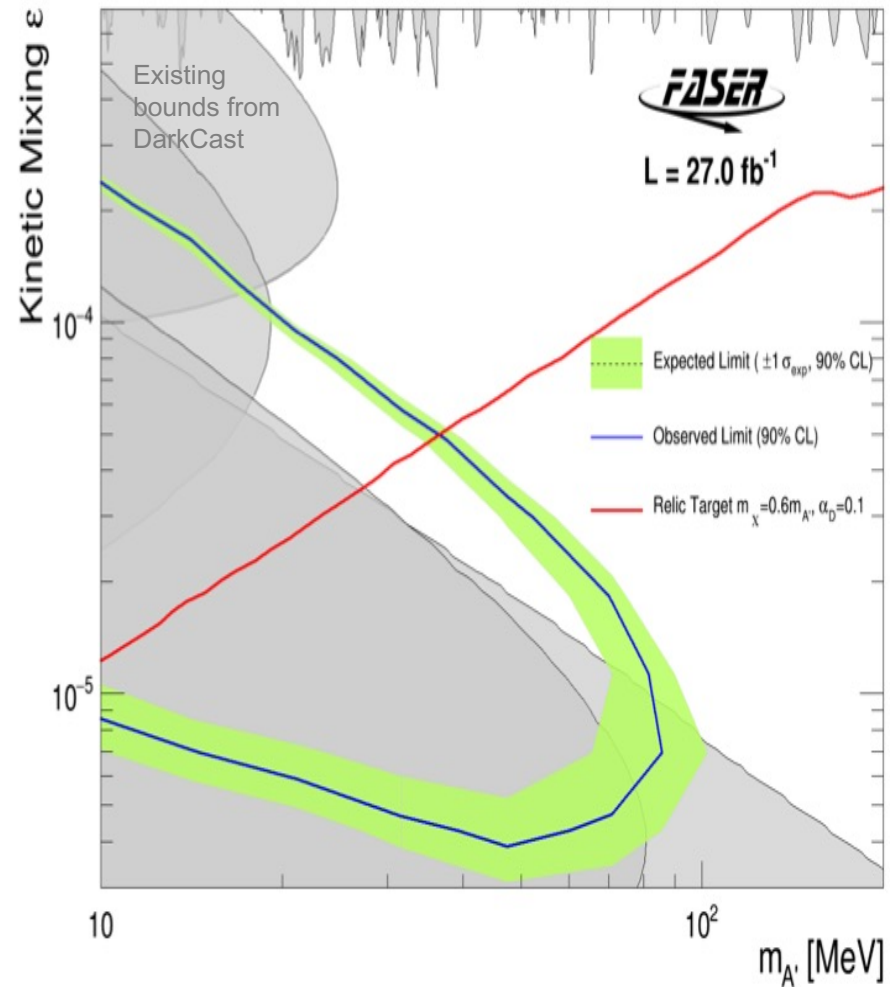


- The signal is no charged particle passing through the upstream veto scintillator detectors, followed by two very energetic (100s of GeV) charged tracks in downstream trackers. Tracks are very collimated, but magnet splits them sufficiently to be seen as 2 tracks in trackers.



# DARK PHOTON RESULTS

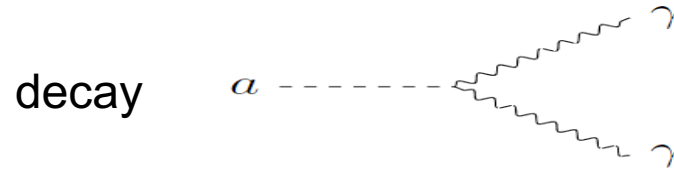
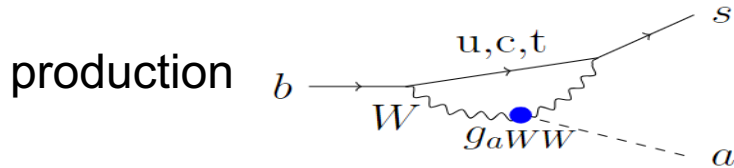
- After unblinding, no events seen, FASER sets limits on previously unexplored parameter space.
- First new probe of the parameter space favored by dark matter from low coupling since the 1990's.
- Bodes well for the future
  - Background-free analysis
  - Started probing new parameter space with the first day of data
  - Ended up ~100 times more sensitive than previous experiments.
  - Improvements in analysis and 50 times more data to come



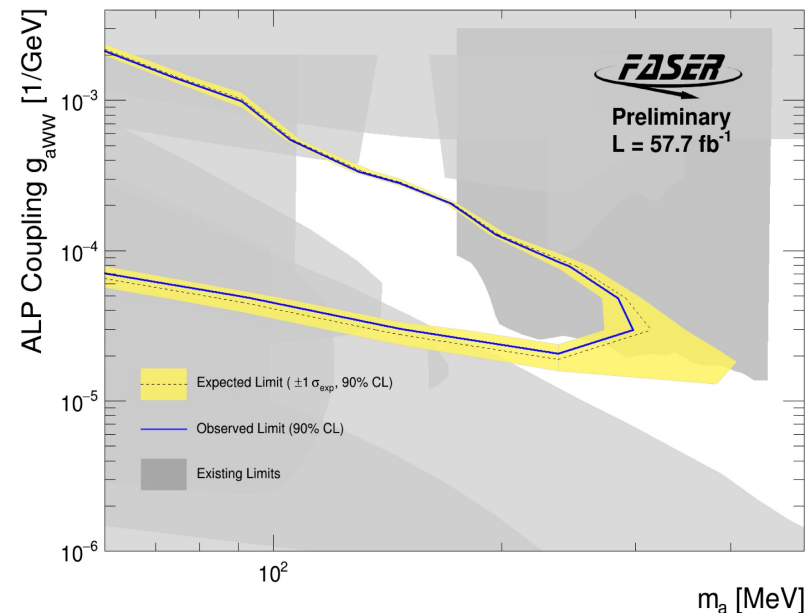
FASER Collaboration ([2308.05587](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.05587), PLB)

# ALP-W SEARCH RESULTS

- Can also look for LLPs with purely photonic final states. E.g., ALP-Ws



- Signal is no hits in veto scintillators,  $>1$  TeV energy deposit in ECAL.
- Background: Expect  $0.42 \pm 0.32$  from  $\nu$  interactions in  $58 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  (yesterday's signal, today's background)
- 1 event seen, excludes new parameter space. Benefits from LHC's high energy, lots of B's.
- FASER is approved to run through Run 4 (-2031), with improvements in analysis, hardware upgrades (high granularity pre-shower). We will be testing many other new ideas, e.g., other new force carriers ( $U(1)_{B-L}$ ,  $U(1)_B$ , protophobic), ALP- $\gamma$ , ALP-g, light-shining-through-walls axions, dark Higgs bosons, sterile neutrinos, light neutralinos, inflatons, quirks, etc., all with world leading sensitivities.

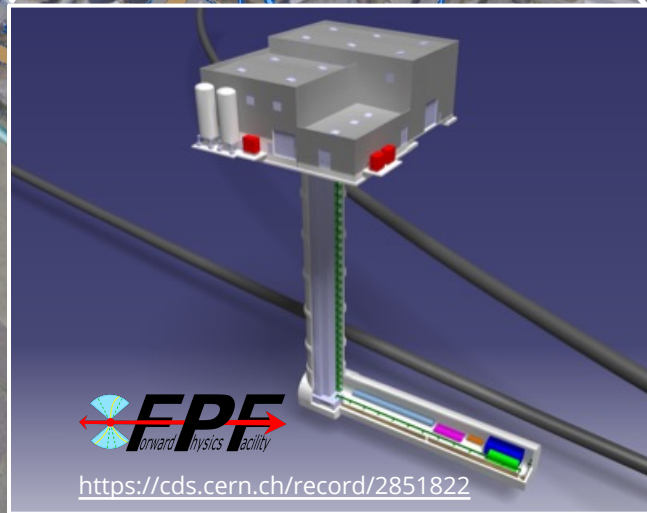
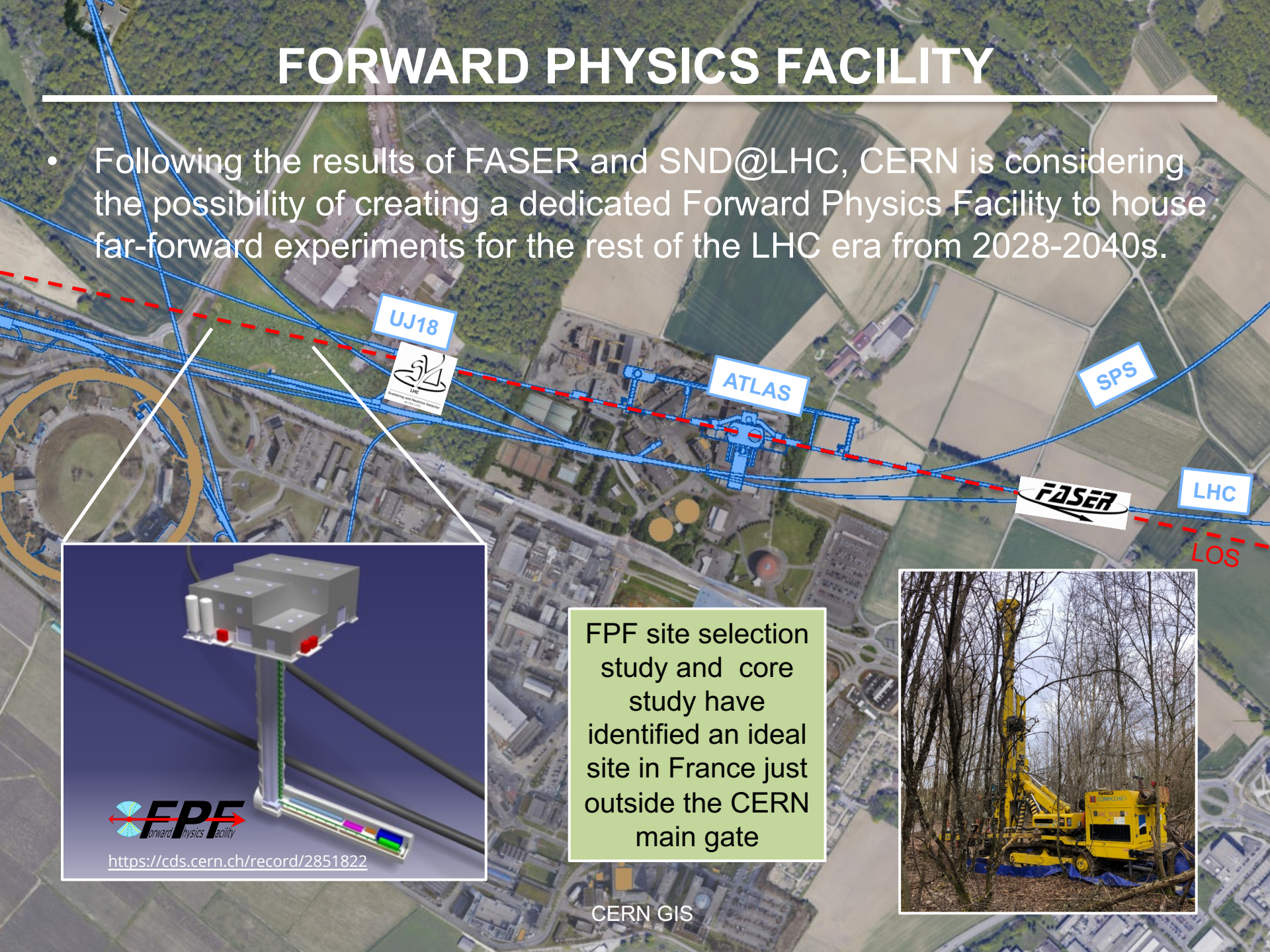






# FORWARD PHYSICS FACILITY

- Following the results of FASER and SND@LHC, CERN is considering the possibility of creating a dedicated Forward Physics Facility to house far-forward experiments for the rest of the LHC era from 2028-2040s.



<https://cds.cern.ch/record/2851822>

FPF site selection study and core study have identified an ideal site in France just outside the CERN main gate

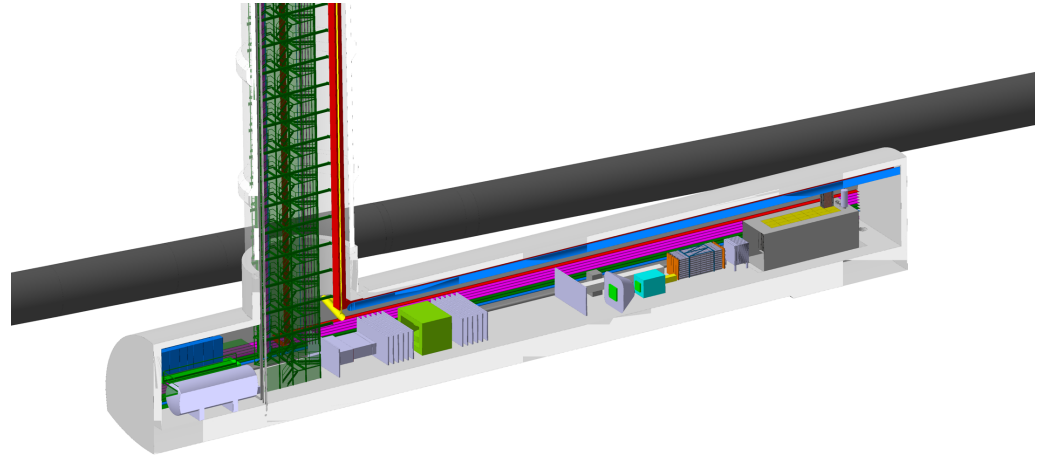
CERN GIS





# THE FACILITY

- A cylindrical cavern surrounding the LOS, 620-695 m west of the ATLAS IP.
- 75 m long, 12.5 m in diameter, covers  $\eta > 5.1$ .
- Preliminary (Class 4) cost estimate: 30 MCHF.
- Can be constructed independently of the LHC, does not disrupt LHC running.
- Timeline: construct in LS3/early Run 4, physics starts in late Run 4/Run5.



Bud, Magazinik, Pál, Osborne, et al. CERN CE (2024)

## Proposed Civil Engineering Schedule

Civil engineering PFP Indicative Schedule	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	
LHC Operation Period	LHC														
HL-LHC Operation	HL-LHC														
Further infrastructure/Integration studies	Feasibility work and Concept Design														
Site Investigation					SI										
Technical design stage							Technical design								
Detailed design									Detailed design						
Procurement of design consultants															
Detailed design															
Tender specifications and drawings															
Environmental permits and consents															
Construction Contracts									Construction Contracts						
Market survey															
Tender and award															
Mobilisation															
Construction Works															
Site installation and enabling works															
Shaft															
Tunnelling and caverns															
Surface works															

NB Very early stage estimate for schedule

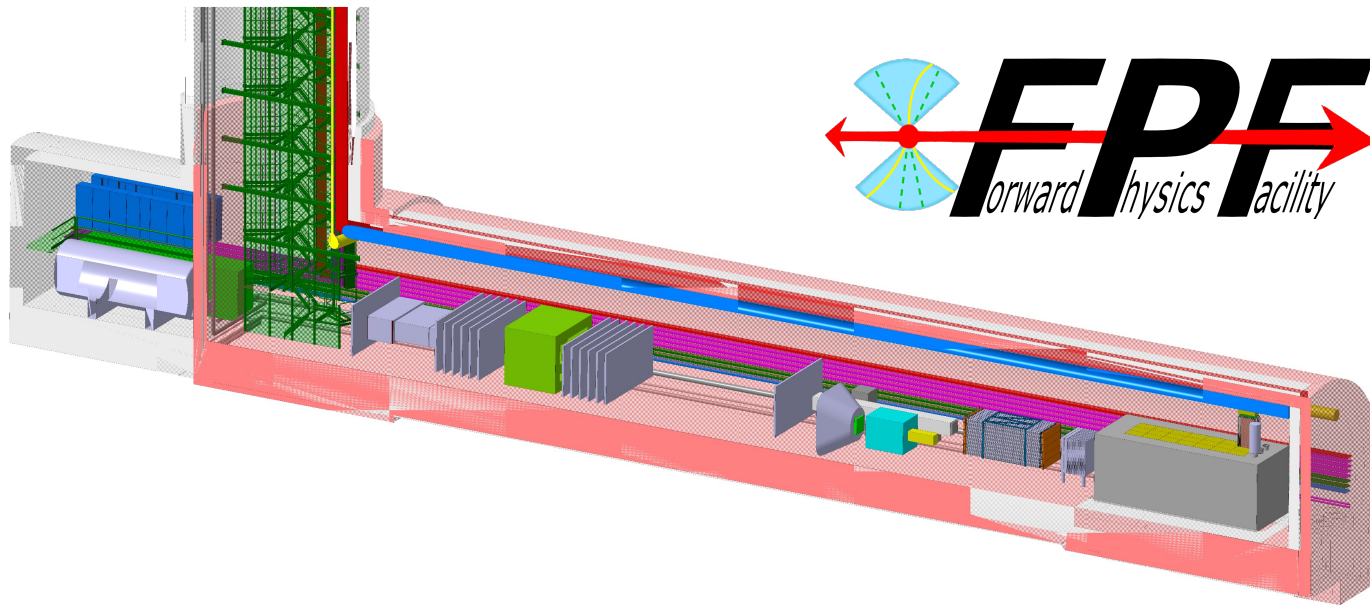
★ Design must be frozen before technical design can begin



SCE  
Site and Civil Engineering

# FPF EXPERIMENTS

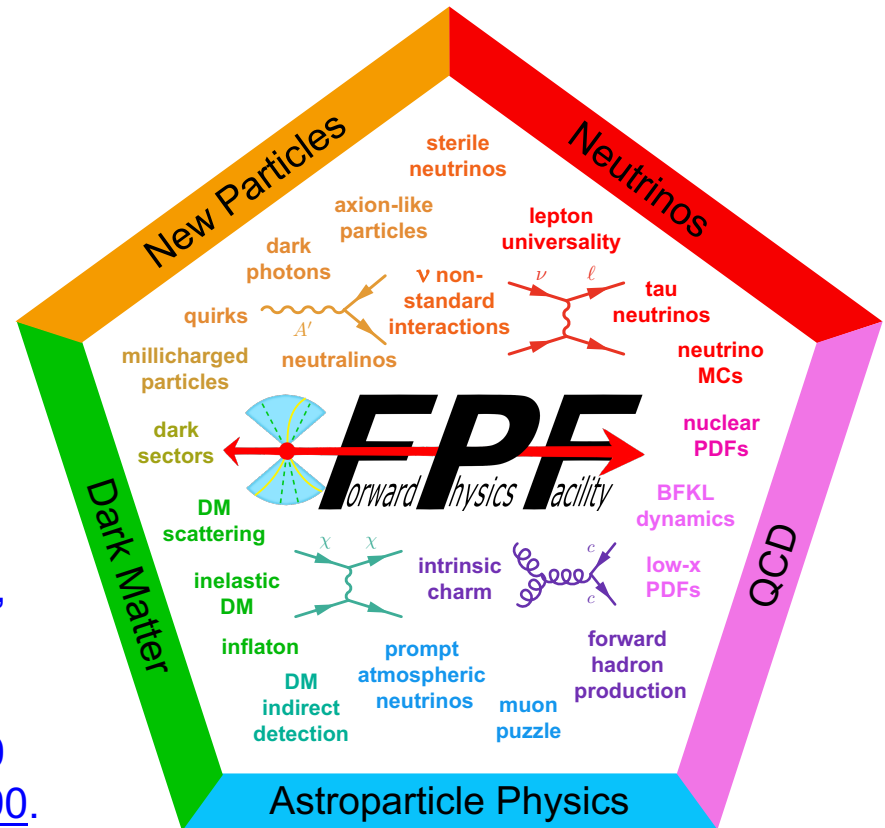
- At present there are 4 experiments being designed for the FPF
  - FASER2: magnetized spectrometer for BSM searches
  - FASERv2: emulsion-based neutrino detector
  - FLArE: LArTPC neutrino detector
  - FORMOSA: scintillator array for BSM searches (successor to MilliQan)



- These represent a huge jump relative to the existing experiments:
  - 10,000 times greater (decay volume \* luminosity) for BSM searches.
  - Will detect millions of TeV neutrinos, ~1000 neutrinos/day!

# FORWARD PHYSICS FACILITY

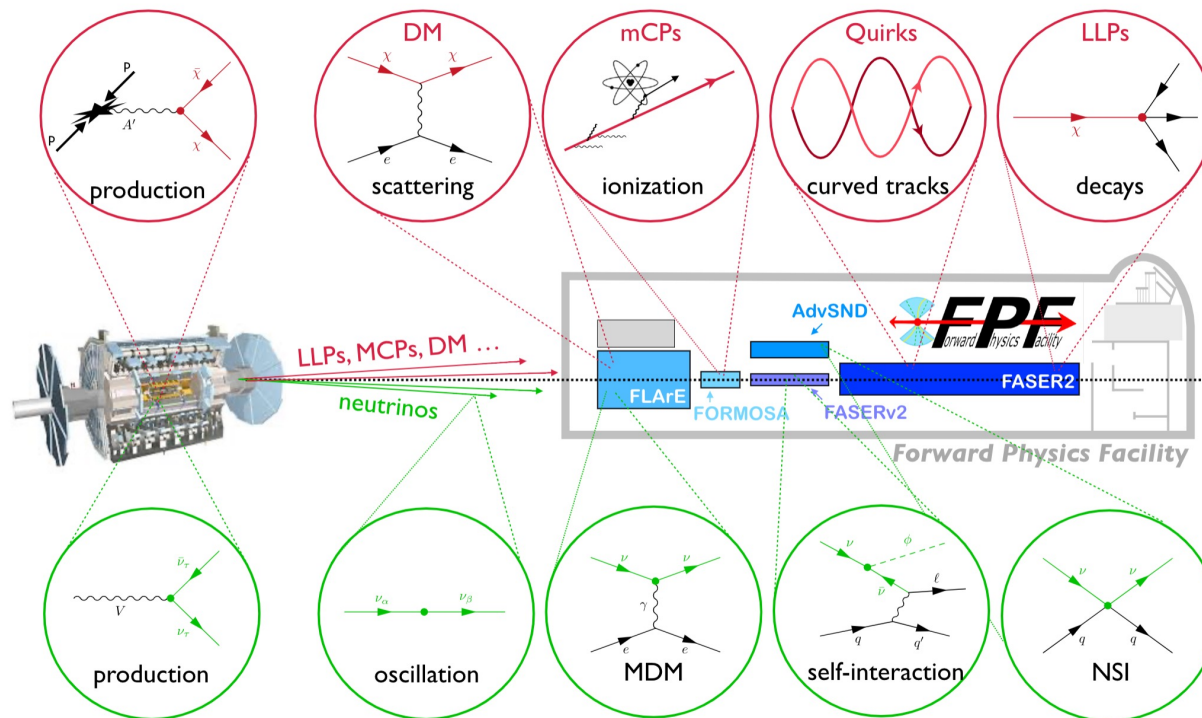
- The physics program has been defined by a large and broad community.
- FPF Meetings
  - [FPF Kickoff Meeting](#), 9-10 Nov 2020
  - [FPF2 Meeting](#), 27-28 May 2021
  - [FPF3 Meeting](#), 25-26 Oct 2021
  - [FPF4 Meeting](#), 31 Jan - 1 Feb 2022
  - [FPF5 Meeting](#), 15-16 Nov 2022
  - [FPF6 Meeting](#), 8-9 Jun 2023
  - [FPF7 Meeting](#), 29 Feb – 1 Mar 2024
- FPF Papers
  - FPF “Short” Paper: 75 pages, 80 authors, Phys. Rept. 968, 1 (2022), [2109.10905](#).
  - FPF White Paper: 429 pages, 392 authors+endorsers representing over 200 institutions, J. Phys. G (2023), [2203.05090](#).
- Snowmass 2022: “Our highest immediate priority accelerator and project is the HL-LHC, ... including the construction of auxiliary experiments that extend the reach of HL-LHC in kinematic regions uncovered by the detector upgrades.”





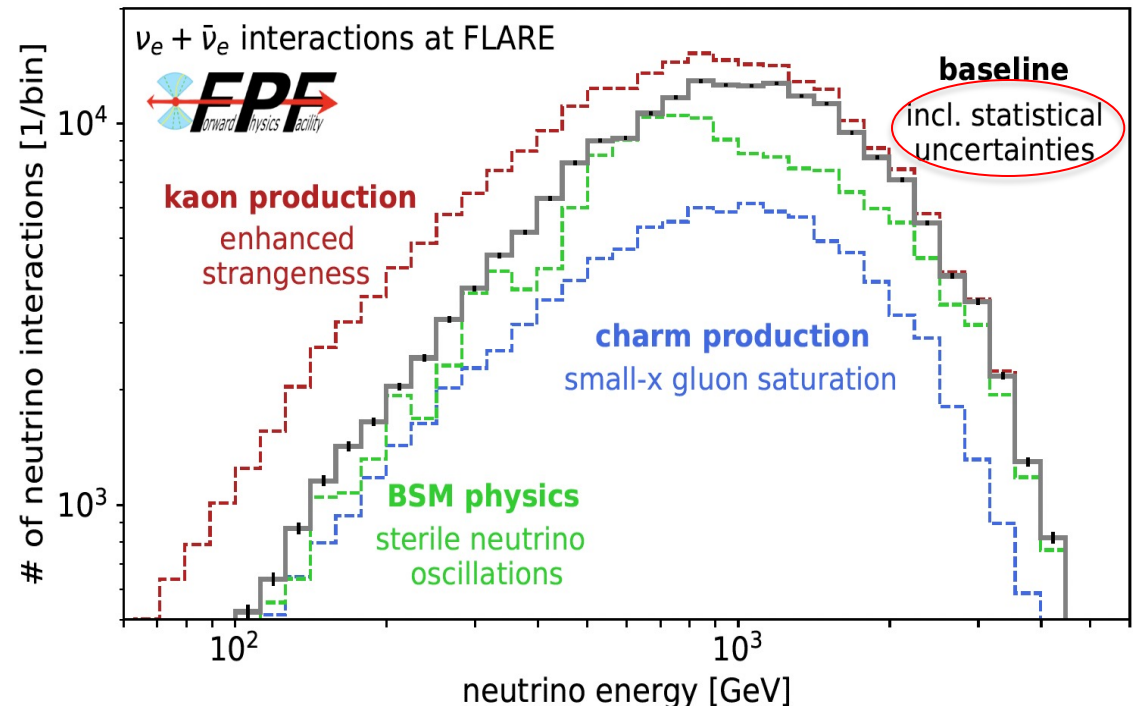
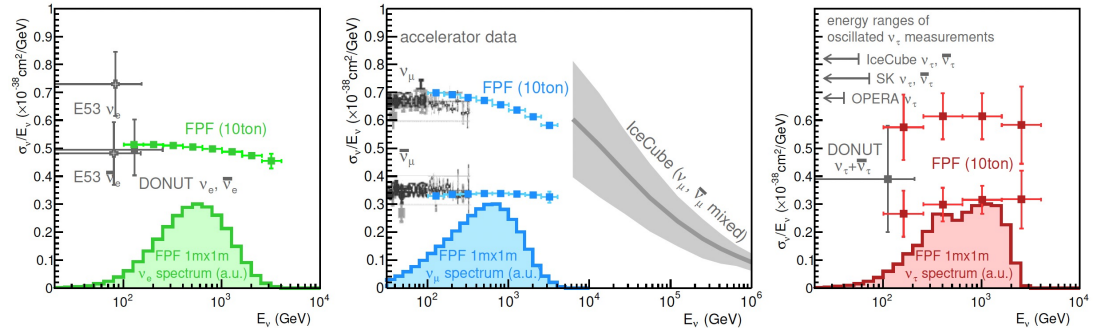
# NEW PHYSICS AT THE FPF

- The FPF is proposed to run at the HL-LHC with implications for
  - New physics in neutrino properties: neutrino blind  $\rightarrow$  neutrino factory ( $10^6$  neutrinos at the highest human-made energies ever).
  - New particles: dark matter, dark sectors, milli-charged particles, new force particles, new Higgs-like particles, sterile neutrinos, quirks, ...



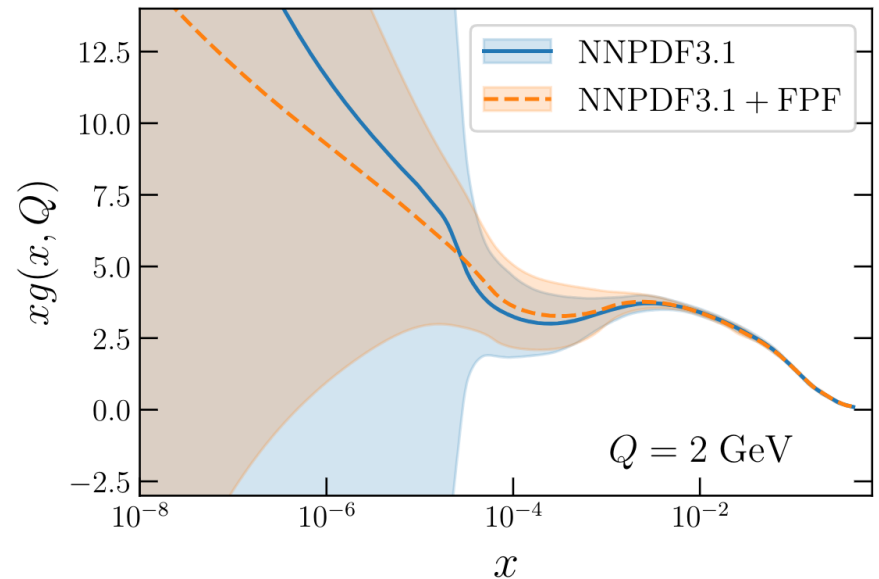
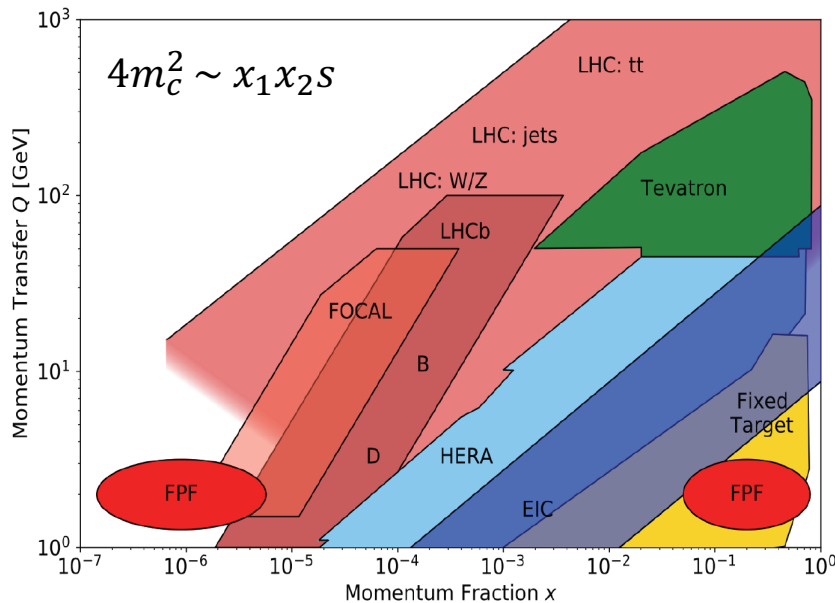
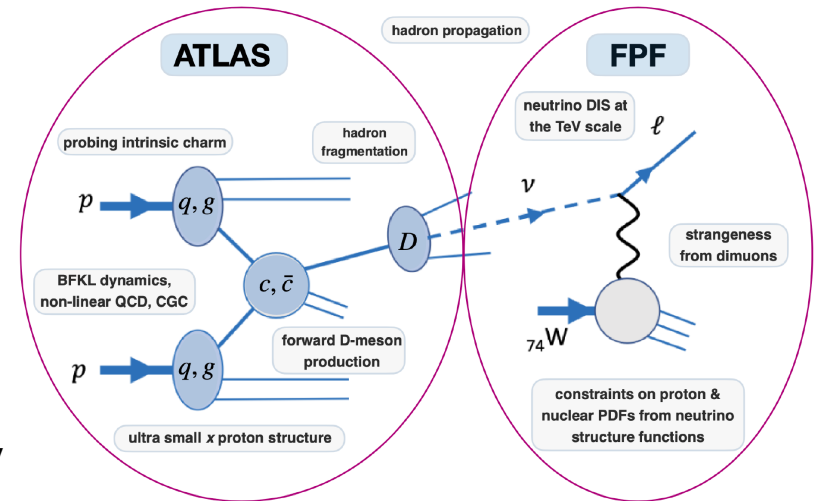
# NEUTRINOS AT THE FPF

- The FPF experiments will see  $10^5 \nu_e$ ,  $10^6 \nu_\mu$ , and  $10^4 \nu_\tau$  interactions at  $\sim \text{TeV}$  energies where there is currently almost no data.
- Neutrinos are produced by forward hadron production:  $\pi, K, D, \dots$   
Dependence on  $E, \eta$  will inform
  - Astroparticle physics: muon puzzle, ...
  - QCD: pdfs at  $x \sim 10^{-1}$ ,  $x \sim 10^{-7}$ , intrinsic charm, small-x gluon saturation, ...
  - Neutrino oscillations:  $\nu_s$  with  $\Delta m^2 \sim 10^3 \text{ eV}^2$



# QCD AT THE FPF

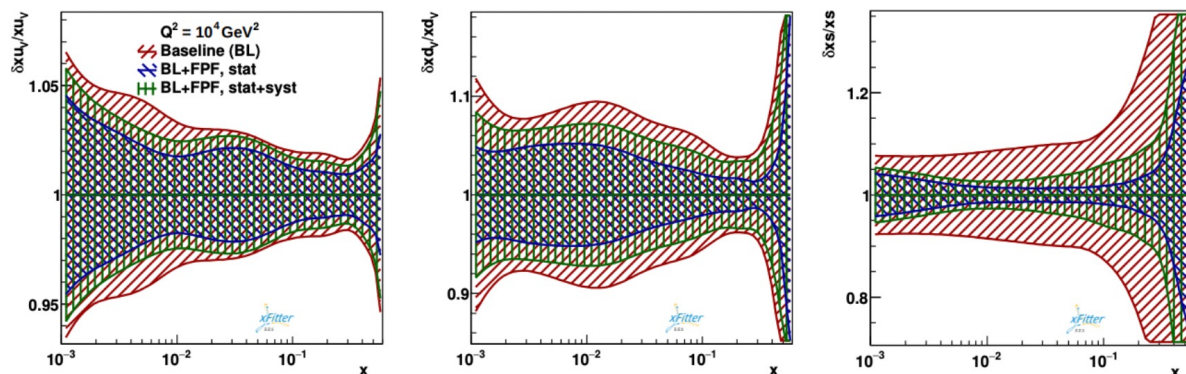
- The FPF will enable a rich program of QCD and hadron structure studies.
- Forward neutrino production is a probe of forward hadron production, BFKL dynamics, intrinsic charm, and proton structure at ultra small  $x \sim 10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-6}$ .
- Important implications for UHE cosmic ray experiments, ATLAS/CMS at HL-LHC, ...



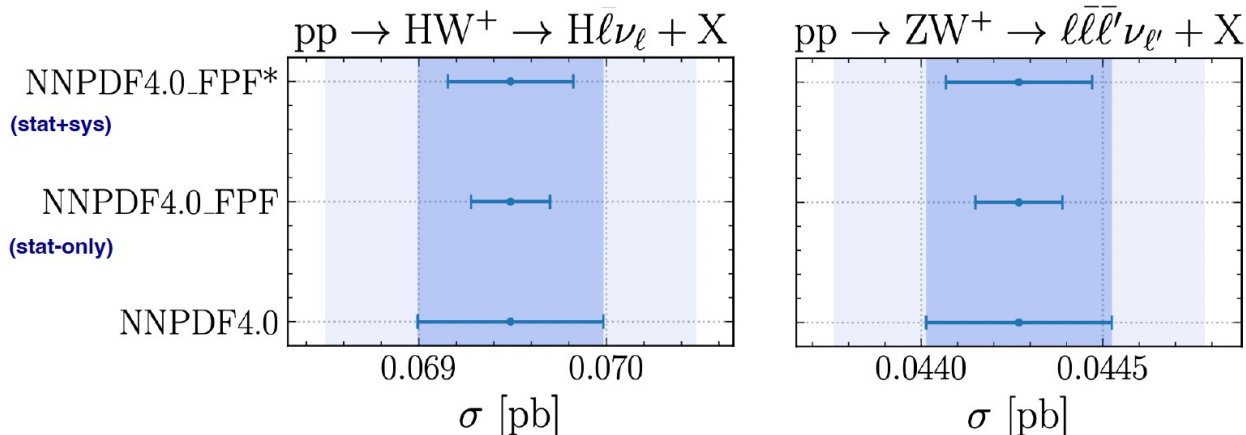


# COMPLEMENTARITY WITH HIGH $P_T$ PHYSICS

- The FPF will provide new constraints on pdfs that will sharpen studies at ATLAS and CMS.
- For example, W, Z, and Higgs boson studies.
- Will also remove degeneracies between pdfs and new physics (“fitting away new physics”), enhancing the reach for new particle searches.



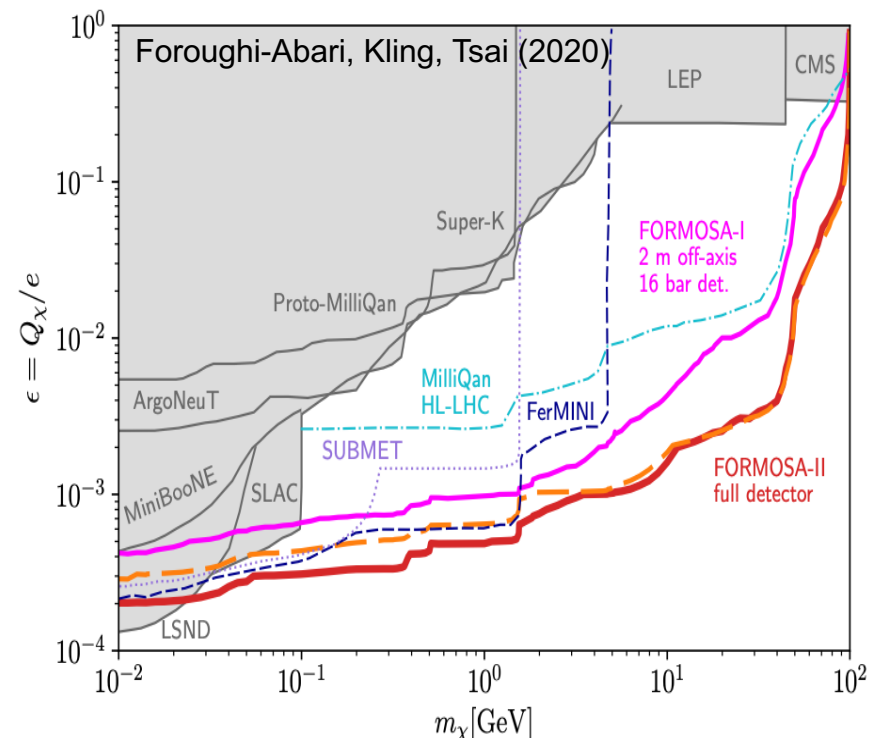
Cruz-Martinez, Fieg, Giani, Krack, Makela, Rabemananjara, Rojo (2023)



Ubbiali et al., in progress

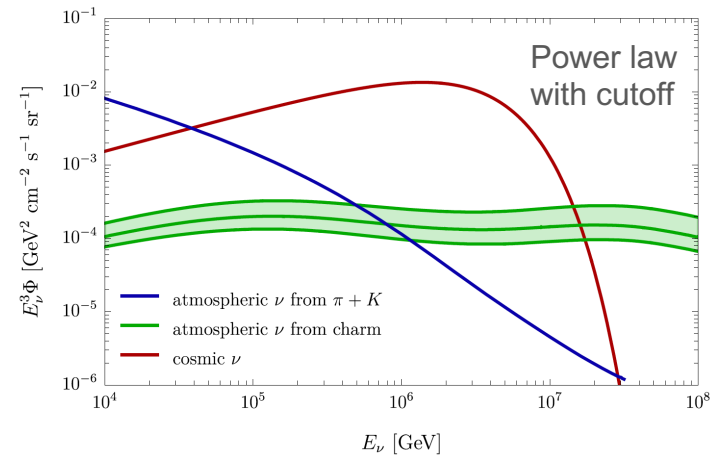
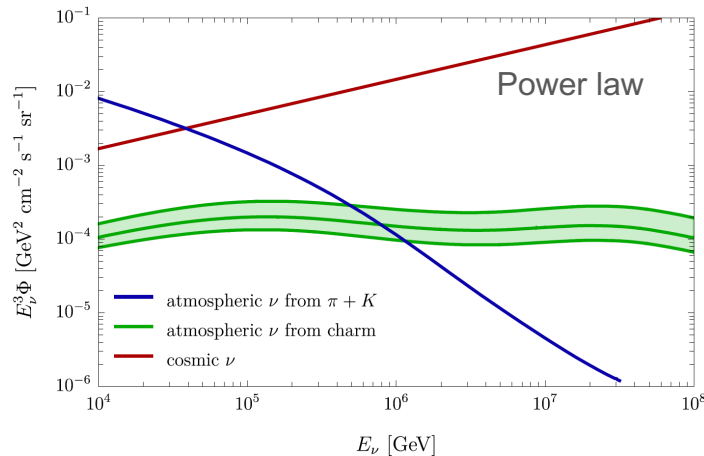
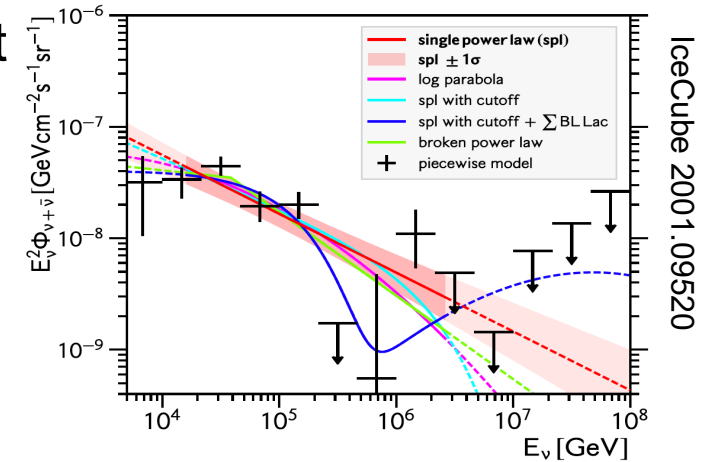
# MILLI-CHARGED PARTICLES AT THE FPF

- A completely generic possibility motivated by dark matter, dark sectors. Currently the target of the MilliQan experiment, located at the LHC near the CMS experiment in a “non-forward” tunnel.
- The MilliQan Demonstrator (Proto-MilliQan) already probes new region. Full MilliQan can also run in this location in the HL-LHC era, but the sensitivity may be improved significantly by moving it to the FPF (FORMOSA).



# ASTROPARTICLE PHYSICS AT THE FPF

- The current IceCube cosmic nu flux can be fit by a power law, a power law with cutoff, ...
- More data may be able to distinguish these, but only if the atmospheric neutrino background from charm is better determined.



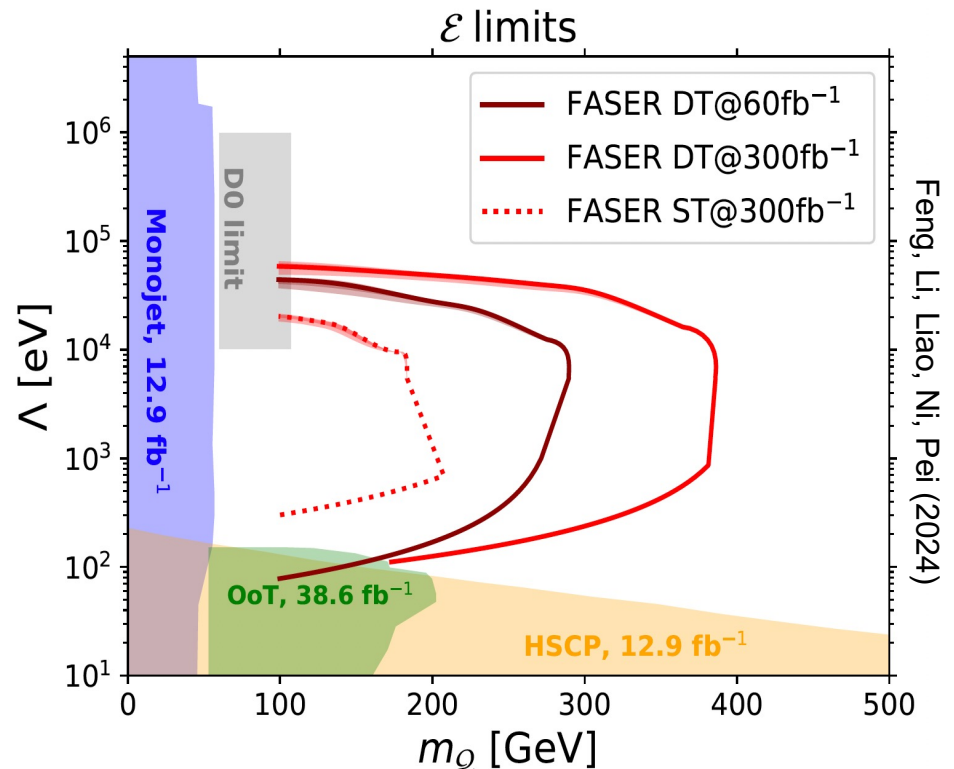
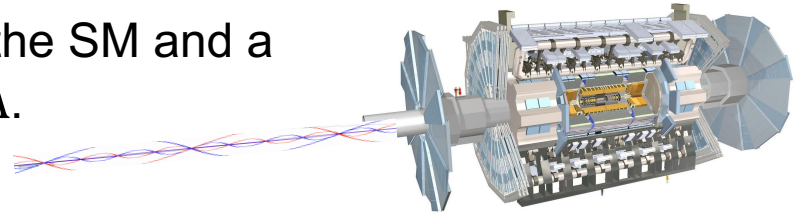
Bhattacharya et al.  
(1502.01076)

- This can be measured in the controlled environment of a particle collider if
  - $\sqrt{s} \sim \sqrt{2E_\nu m_p} \sim 10 \text{ TeV}$  for  $E_\nu \sim 10^7 \text{ GeV}$ : Requires the energy of the LHC
  - $x_{1,2} \sim \frac{m_c}{\sqrt{s}} e^{\pm\eta} \Rightarrow \eta \sim 7 \text{ to } 9$ : Requires the far forward angular coverage of the FPF



# QUIRKS: STRONGLY-INTERACTING DARK SECTORS

- Quirks are particles charged under both the SM and a strong-interacting dark force, with  $m \gg \Lambda$ .
- Quirks can be pair-produced at the LHC, but the quirk-anti-quirk pair is bound together and has  $p_T \approx 0$ . They therefore preferentially travel down the beampipe, and may pass through FPF detectors.
- By looking for 2 coincident slow or delayed tracks (out of time with the bunch crossing), FASER and FASER2 can discover quirks with masses up to  $\sim$  hundreds of GeV to TeV, as motivated by neutral naturalness solutions to the gauge hierarchy problem.
- Only possible at the EF, not at fixed target experiments.



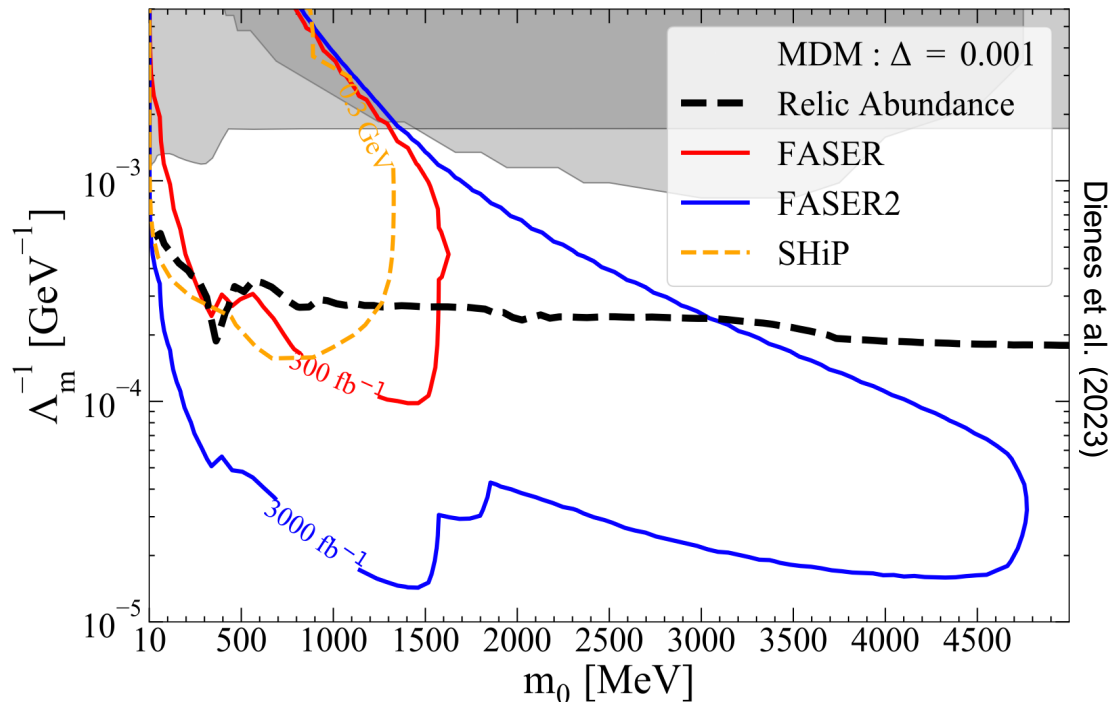
# LLPS FROM COMPRESSED SPECTRA

- LLPs can result from weak couplings.
- But they can also arise generically from compressed spectra (e.g., inelastic DM), where decays are phase-space suppressed by degeneracies.
- In this case, decays  $\chi_1 \rightarrow \chi_0 \gamma$  lead to very soft photons that can be difficult to detect.
- But these are boosted at the LHC by  $\gamma \sim 1000$ , FASER2 can detect GeV particles with even  $\sim \text{MeV}$  mass splittings, thermal relic target.
- Difficult at SHiP (sensitivity contour assumes  $E_\gamma$  threshold of 300 MeV,  $2 \cdot 10^{20}$  POT).

$$\begin{array}{c} m_1 \\ m_0 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} \chi_1 \rightarrow \chi_0 \gamma$$

$$\Delta \equiv \frac{\Delta m}{m_0} \equiv \frac{m_1 - m_0}{m_0}$$

$$0 \text{ ---} \quad \mathcal{O}_m = \frac{1}{\Lambda_m} \bar{\chi}_1 \sigma^{\mu\nu} \chi_0 F_{\mu\nu}$$

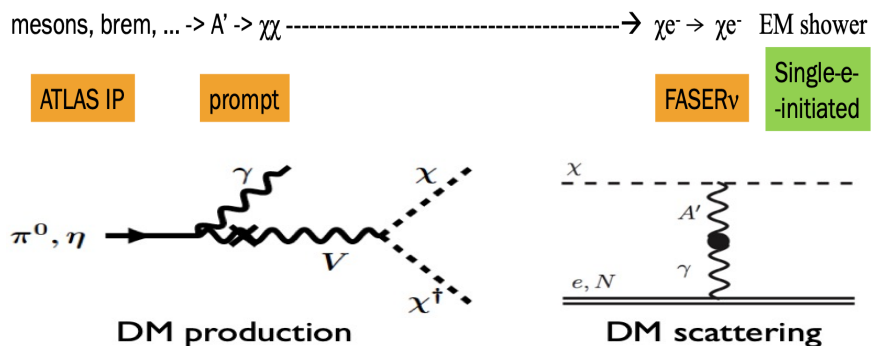


# DARK MATTER DIRECT DETECTION AT THE FPF

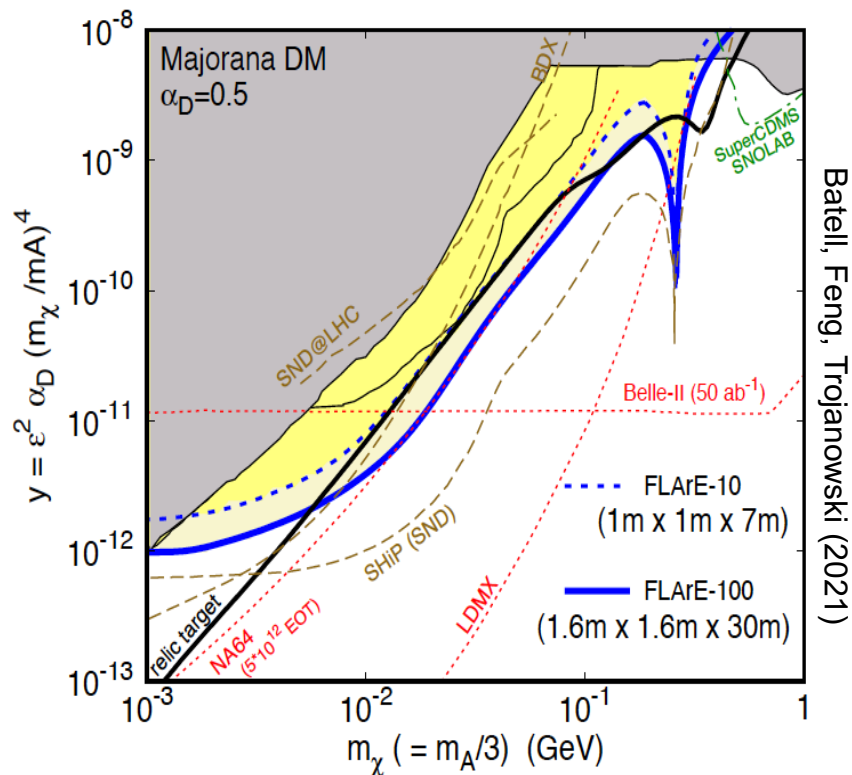
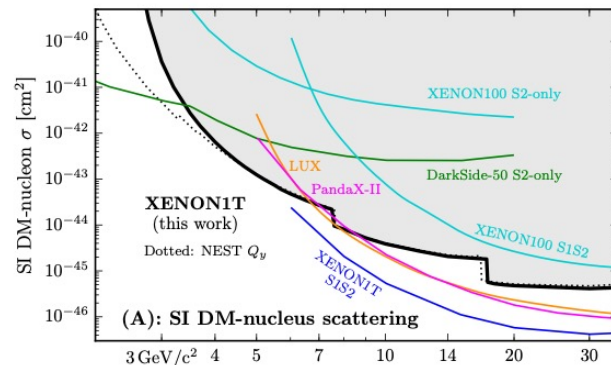
- Light DM with masses at the GeV scale and below is famously hard to detect.

- Galactic halo velocity  $\sim 10^{-3} c$ , so kinetic energy  $\sim \text{keV}$  or below.

- At the LHC, we can produce DM at high energies, look for the resulting DM to scatter in FLArE, Forward Liquid Argon Experiment, a proposed 10 to 100 tonne LArTPC.



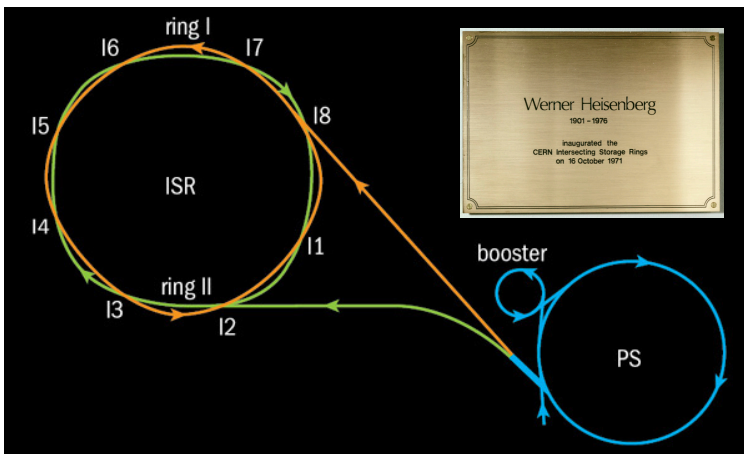
- FLArE is powerful in the region favored/allowed by thermal freezeout.





# A CAUTIONARY TALE

- Sometimes to look forward, it pays to first look back.
- 2021 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of hadron colliders.
- In 1971, CERN's Intersecting Storage Rings (ISR), with a circumference of  $\sim 1$  km, collided protons with protons at center-of-mass energy 30 GeV.



# ISR'S LEGACY

- During ISR's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there were many fascinating articles and talks by eminent physicists looking back on the ISR's legacy.
  - “Enormous impact on accelerator physics, but sadly little effect on particle physics.” – Steve Myers, talk at “The 50th Anniversary of Hadron Colliders at CERN,” October 2021.
  - “There was initially a broad belief that physics action would be in the forward directions at a hadron collider.... It is easy to say after the fact, still with regrets, that with an earlier availability of more complete... experiments at the ISR, CERN would not have been left as a spectator during the famous November revolution of 1974 with the  $J/\psi$  discoveries at Brookhaven and SLAC.” – Lyn Evans and Peter Jenni, “Discovery Machines,” CERN Courier (2021).
- Bottom line: The collider was creating new forms of matter (charm quarks), but the detectors focused on the forward region (along the beamline) and so missed them. Let's not follow this precedent!



# SUMMARY

---

- The forward region, previously thought of as uninteresting, is in fact a treasure trove of interesting physics.
  - Collider neutrinos at TeV energies, with implications for neutrino properties, QCD, astroparticle physics, and high  $p_T$  physics.
  - Possibly also light (and also heavy), weakly-interacting BSM particles, including many motivated by dark matter.
- **FASER** has shown that this dataset can be mined by small, fast, inexpensive detectors, on budget and on time, producing background-free results providing new eyes at the energy frontier.
- In the future, all collider plans will include neutrino detectors, just like they include trackers and calorimeters. The **Forward Physics Facility** is now being considered to fully exploit this new capability for the HL-LHC era from 2028-2042.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



国家自然科学基金委员会  
National Natural Science Foundation of China

We also thank

- The LHC for excellent performance in 2022
- ATLAS for luminosity information
- ATLAS for use of ATHENA s/w framework
- ATLAS SCT for spare tracker modules
- LHCb for spare ECLA modules
- CERN FLUKA team for bkgrd simulations
- CERN PBC and technical infrastructure groups for excellent support during FASER's design, construction, installation





# LESSONS FROM THE PAST

---

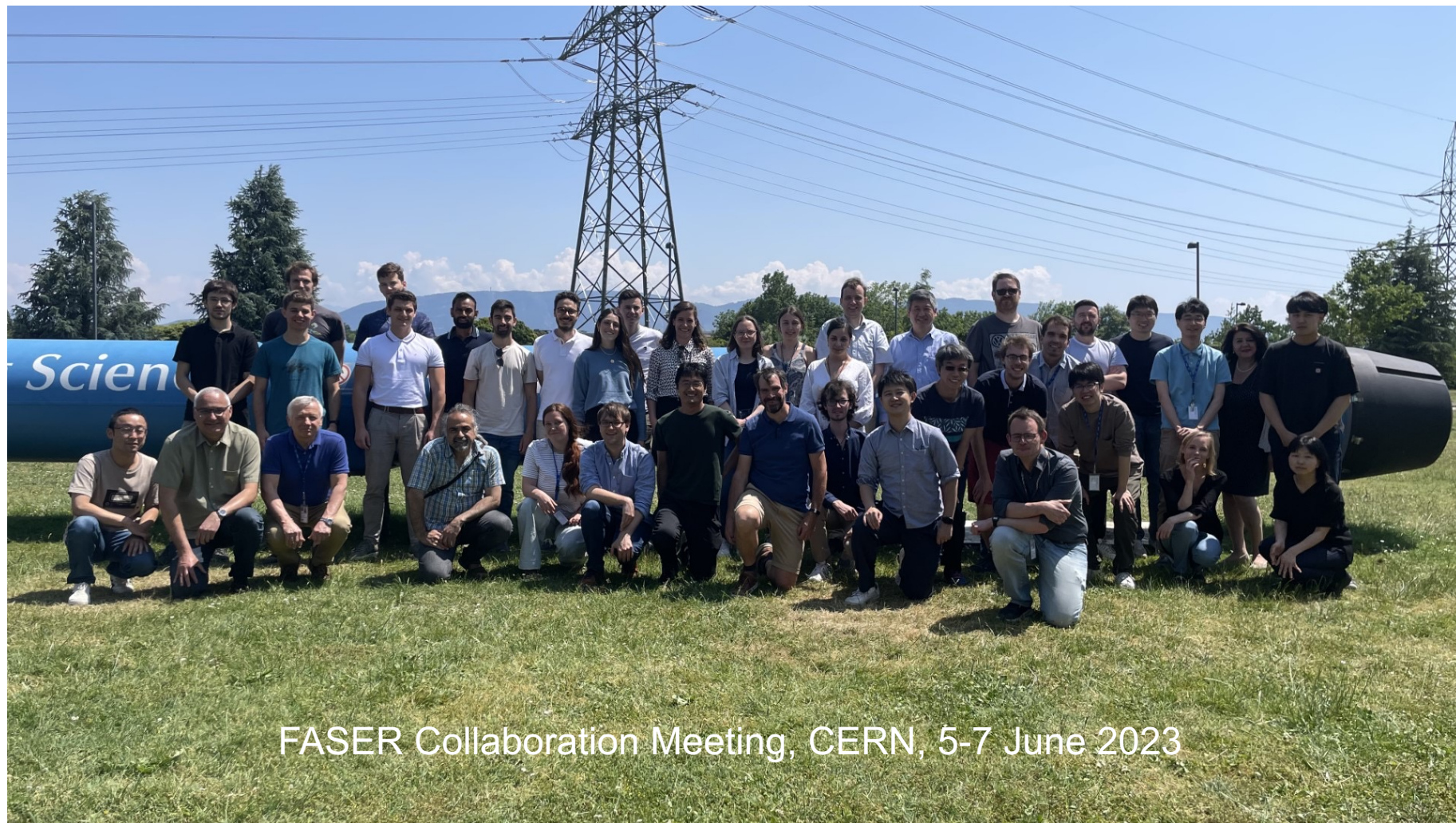
- We are not now in a golden age of particle physics.
- But particle physics is still fascinating, and the possibilities for deep connections to cosmology have never been stronger.
- The discovery of new particles is the gold standard for progress in particle physics. (Precision measurements are also very important.)
- Buoyed by past successes, we have been looking for strongly-interacting heavy particles, and this should continue.
- But typically, unless these are in a narrow window of masses (e.g.,  $\sim 2\text{-}4$  TeV for gluinos), we will not find them in the next two decades. And the most robust problems, neutrino masses and dark matter, naturally point toward very weakly-interacting particles.
- To bring us to a new golden age, we need to try new things now and diversify our searches for new particles without breaking the bank.



# THE FASER COLLABORATION

---

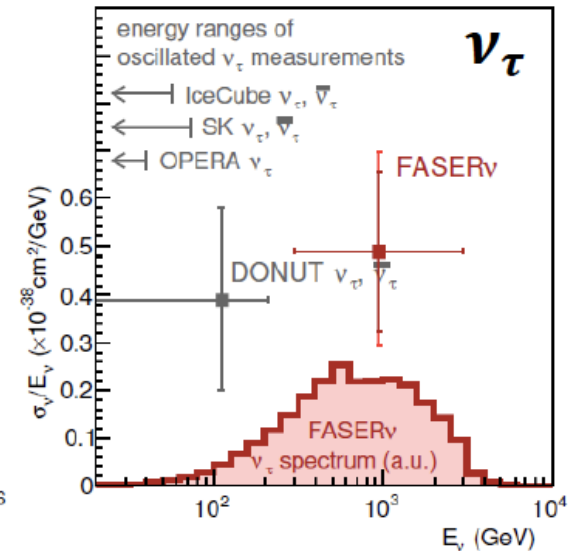
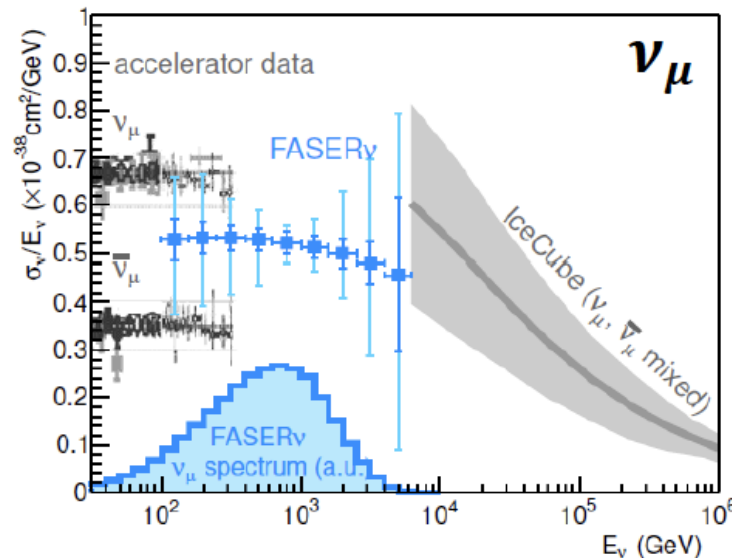
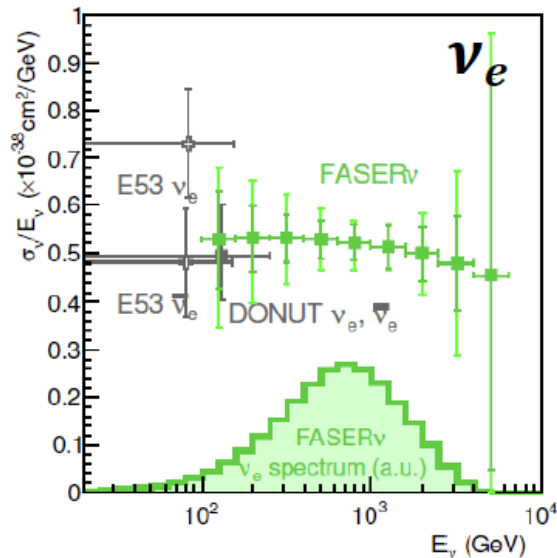
97 collaborators, 26 institutions, 10 countries



FASER Collaboration Meeting, CERN, 5-7 June 2023

# NEUTRINO PHYSICS

- In Run 3 (2022-25), FASER's goals are to
  - Record  $\sim 3000$   $\nu_e$ ,  $\sim 10,000$   $\nu_\mu$ , and  $\sim 70$   $\nu_\tau$  interactions at TeV energies, the first direct exploration of this energy range for all 3 flavors.
  - Distinguish muon neutrinos from anti-neutrinos by combining FASER and FASER $\nu$  data, and so measure their cross sections independently.
  - Add significantly to the number of  $\nu_\tau$  detected and detect the first anti- $\nu_\tau$ .



FASER Collaboration 1908.02310 (2019)