Probing for light new particle with the LUXE experiment

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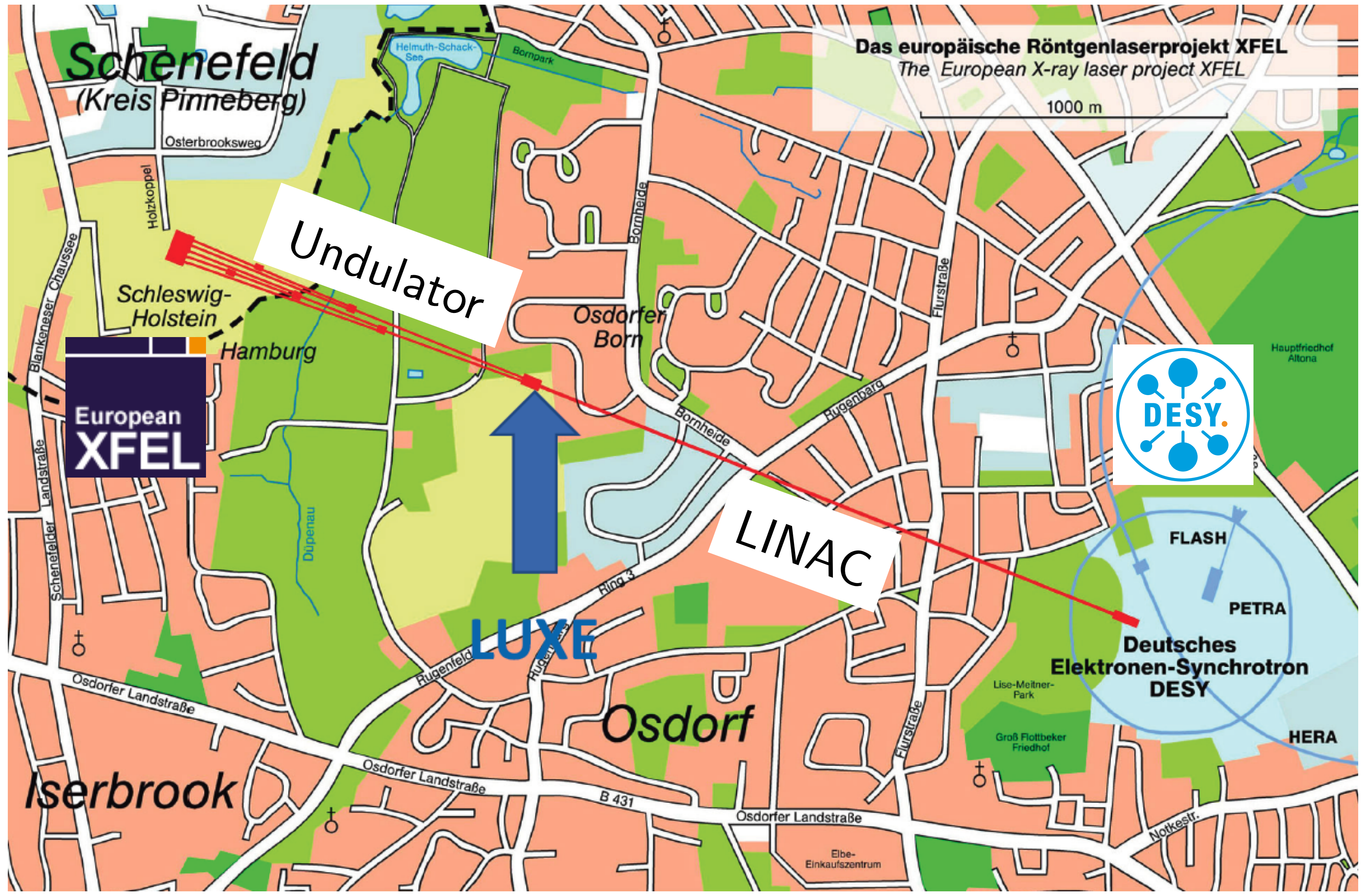
Laser und XFEL Experiment

LUXE is initially motivated by the strong-field QED

- Uncharted non-perturbativity in the presence of a strong electromagnetic field
- A high power laser (up to 350 TW)
- 16.5 GeV electron/photon beam (extracted from beamline at the European XFEL)
- Detection systems for e^-/e^+/gamma



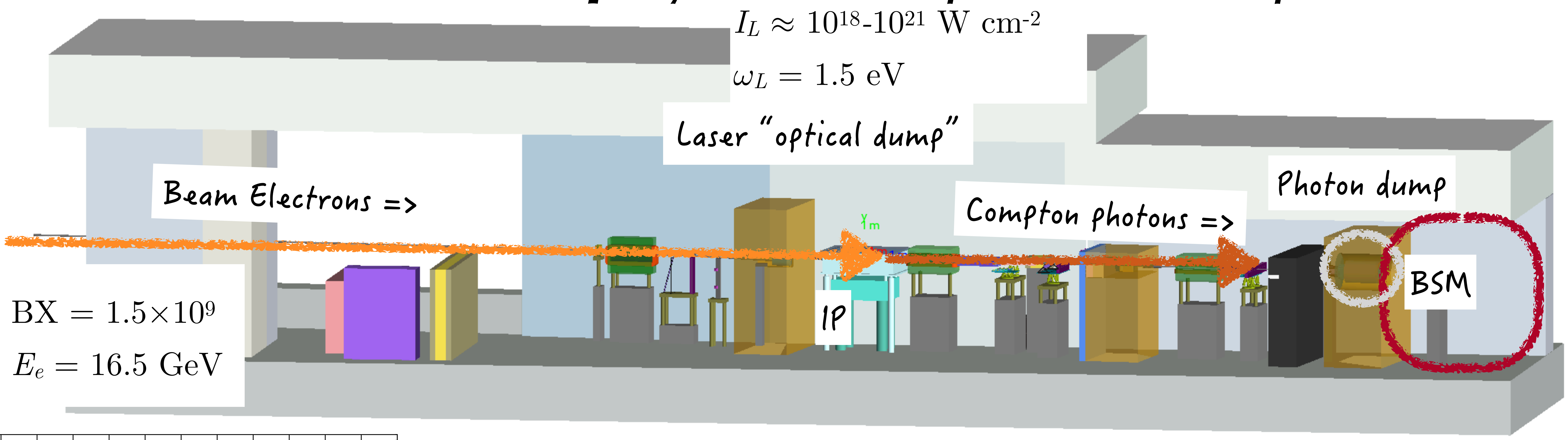
Two operation modes:

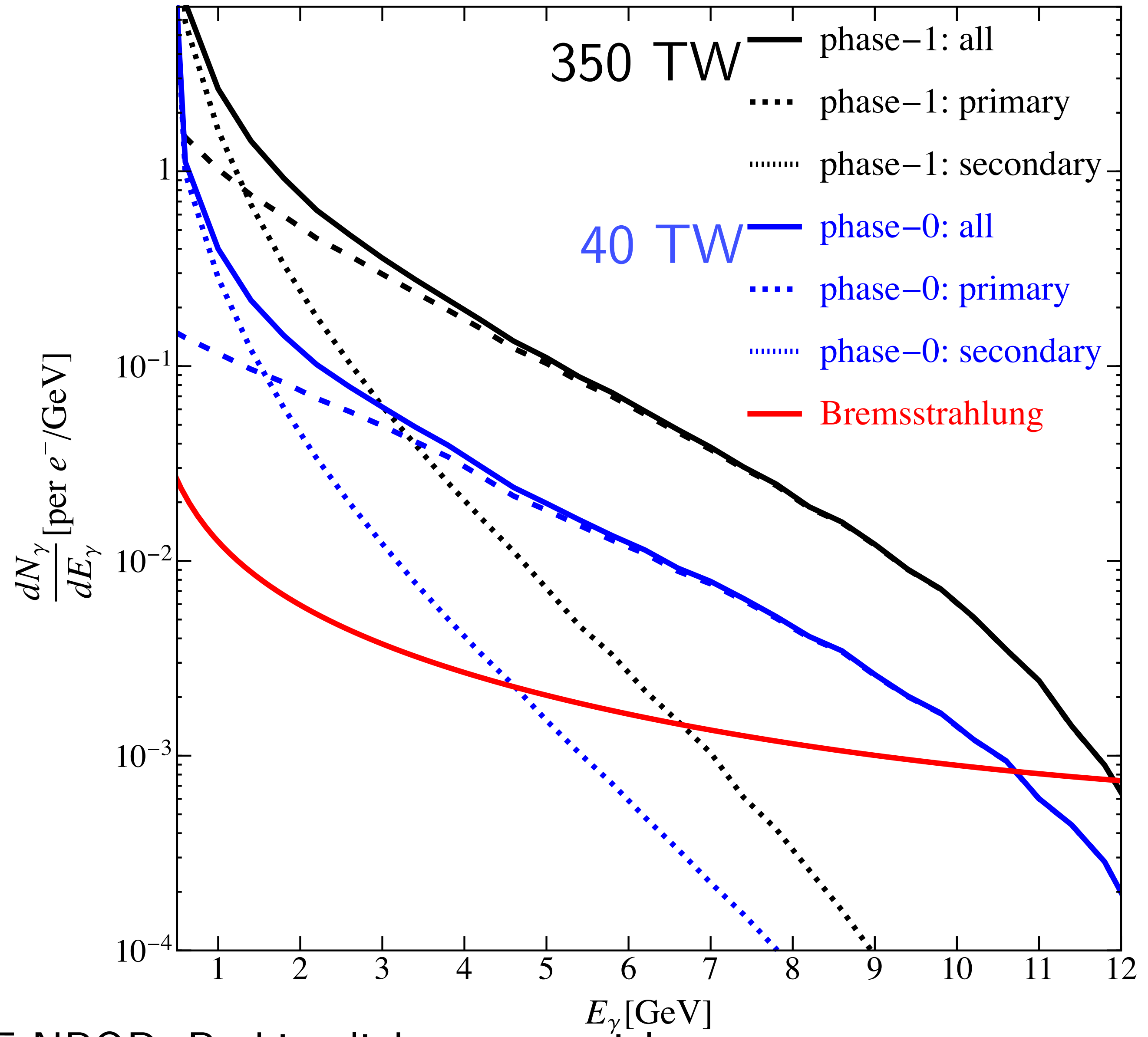
- electron-laser: **Compton scattering**; nonlinear BW pair production
- gamma-laser: light-by-light scattering; direct BW pair production

LUXE LoI: arXiv 1909.00860
LUXE CDR: EPJ ST 230 2445 (2021)
LUXE TDR: EPJ ST 233 1709 (2024)
LUXE Input ESPPU: arXiv 2504.00873

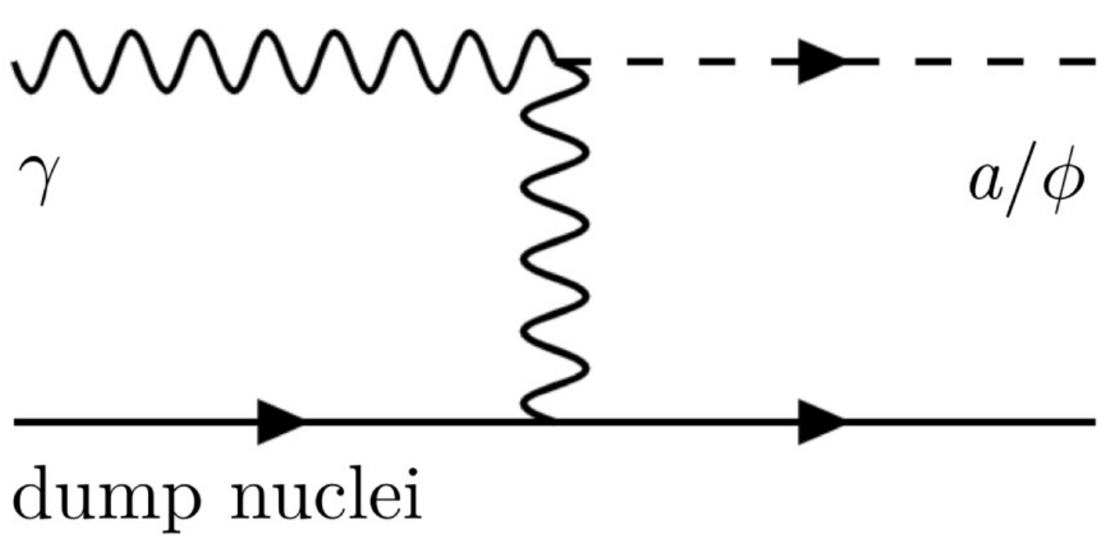
Other LUXE contributions at EPS HEP:
LUXE parallel talk (Tue) by Yan Benhammou
LUXE ECAL-P poster (Stand 18A-69) by Shan Huang

LUXE *New physics at optical dump*





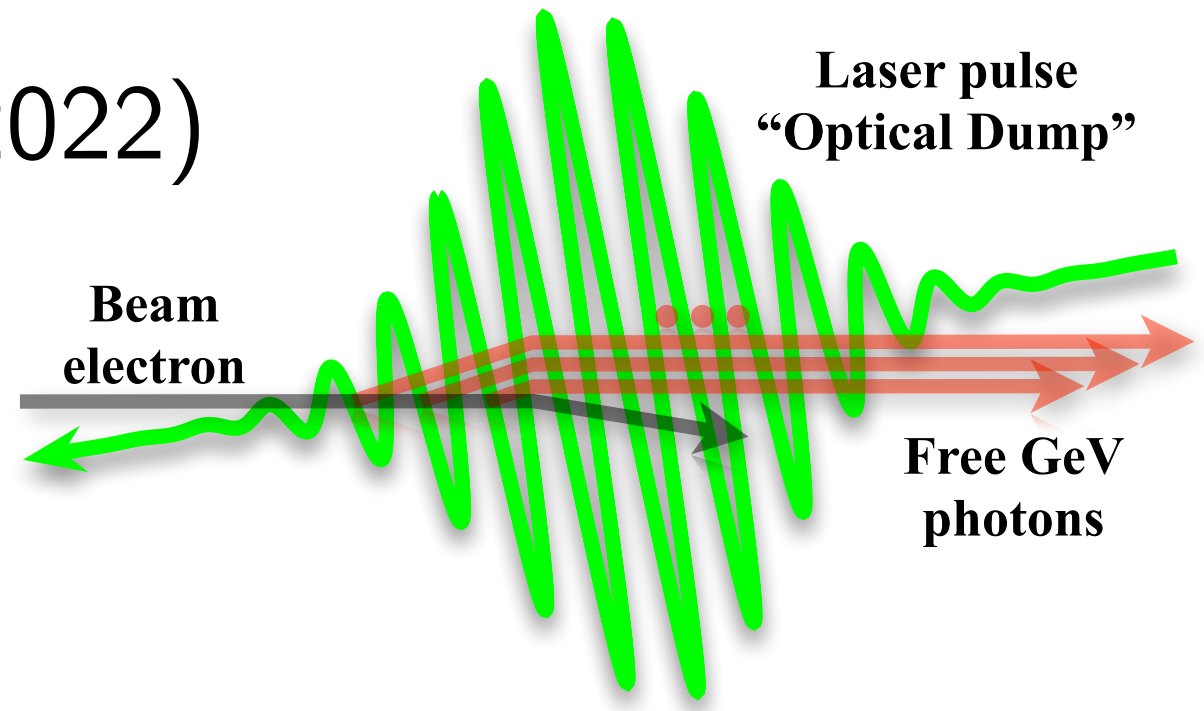
- Laser ("optical dump") converts electrons to photons via nonlinear Compton scattering
- The photons free stream through the laser field and go to a photon dump
- In average, one primary electron converts into **two to three** Compton photons (phase-1)



$$\mathcal{L}_{a,\phi} = \frac{a}{4\Lambda_a} F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{\phi}{4\Lambda_\phi} F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}$$

LUXE NPOD status

- We established the feasibility of LUXE NPOD in Phys Rev D **106** 115034 (2022)



For LUXE,

- A pilot 10-TW laser from Jena (phase-0.10) is being tested at DESY
- Part of the funds for beamline infrastructure secured
- Detector prototypes are being tested in simulations and in testbeam facilities

For NPOD,

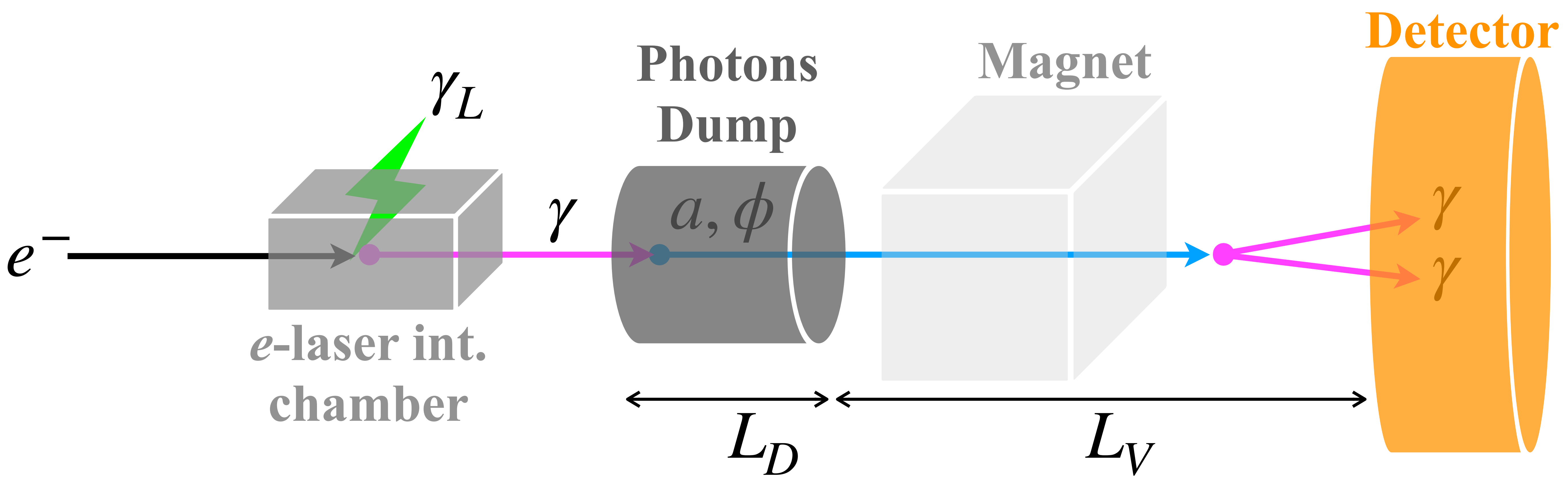
- More detailed simulative studies are carried out for sensitivity update and design optimization

Sensitivity simulation

- Compton scattering: Ptarmigan
  - Laser properties for LUXE phases of 10 TW, 40 TW, and **350 TW**
    (10 TW, 40 TW: phase-0; 350 TW: phase-1)
- ALP-photon interaction: MadGraph5 with a UFO model

Consider the effects on the sensitivity from

- Dump length
- Decay length
- Detector radius
- Detector resolution



Background simulation

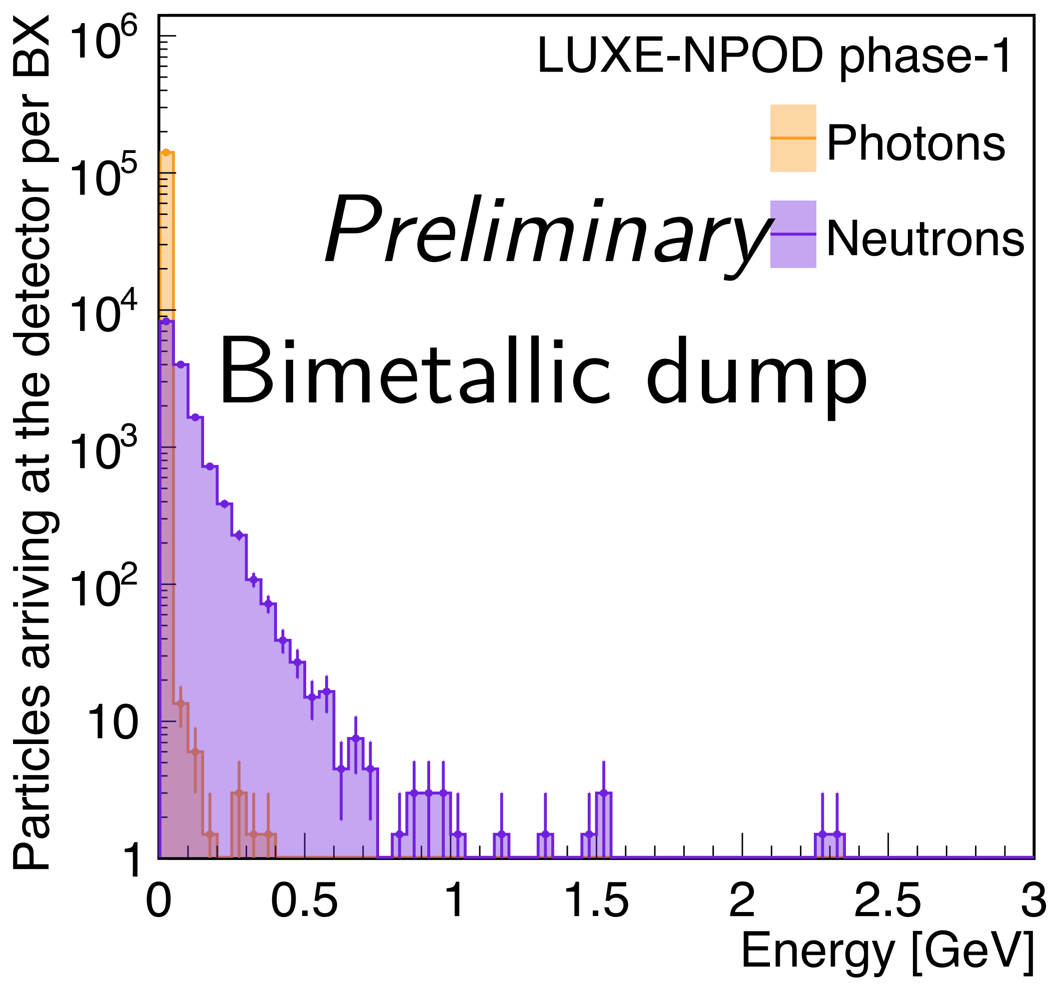
- We select above 0.5 GeV photons as signal candidate
- Detector radius is assumed to 1 m for benchmarking
  - Smaller detectors will reduce the background "acceptance"
- Neutrons are a concern because they easily mix with photon signals

- Geant4 v11 with `QGSP_BERT_HP`
  - Phase-0: no bkg above 0.5 GeV in 2 BXs
  - Phase-0 dump: W, $L_D = 25$ cm, $R_D = 10$ cm
  - Phase-1: photon flux is stronger and creates more background
  - Dump optimization:
    - Several options are tested, including a magnetised one
    - Eventually concluded with a bimetallic W+Pb design, which can suppress background leakage from the side, while being economic

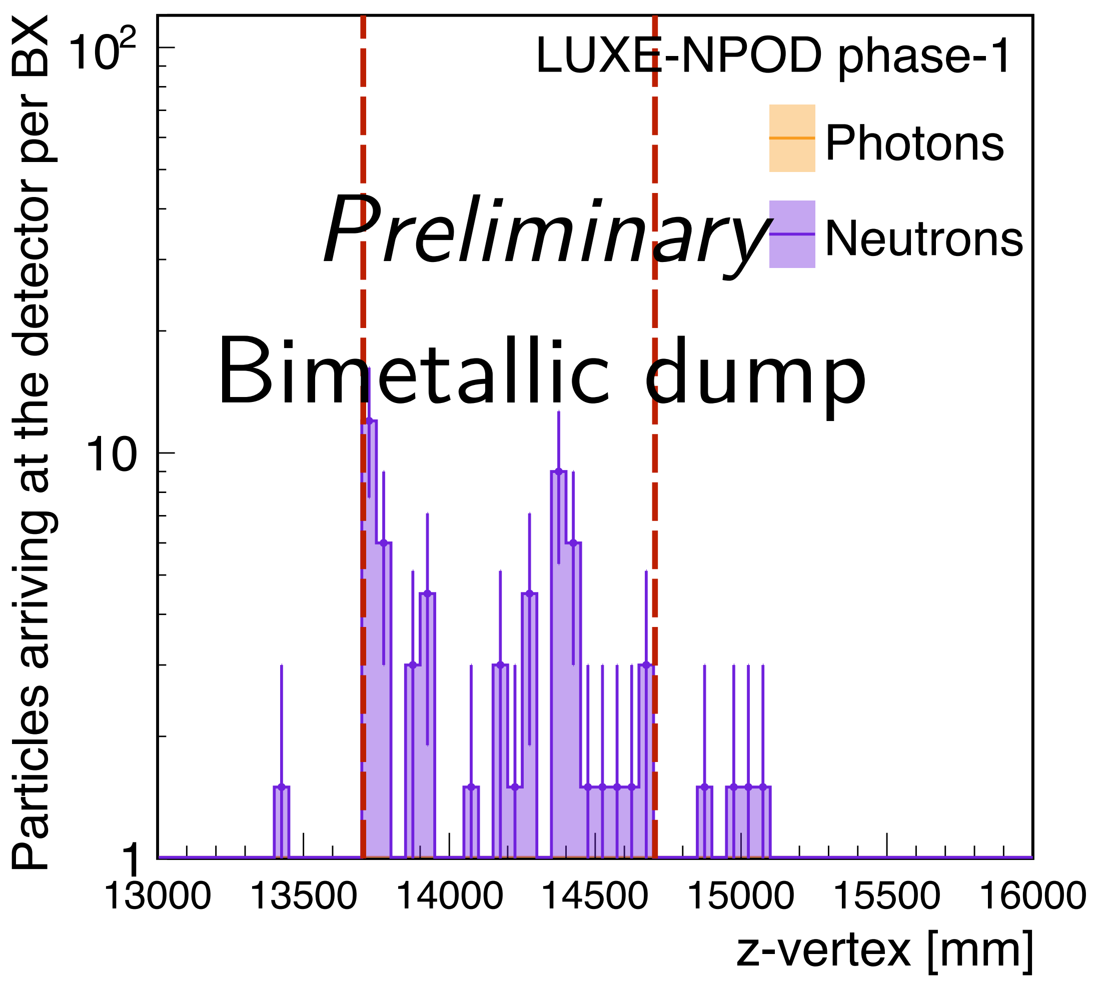
Dump optimization

We study the bimetallic dump with 10 BX background simulations

Dump of 1 m

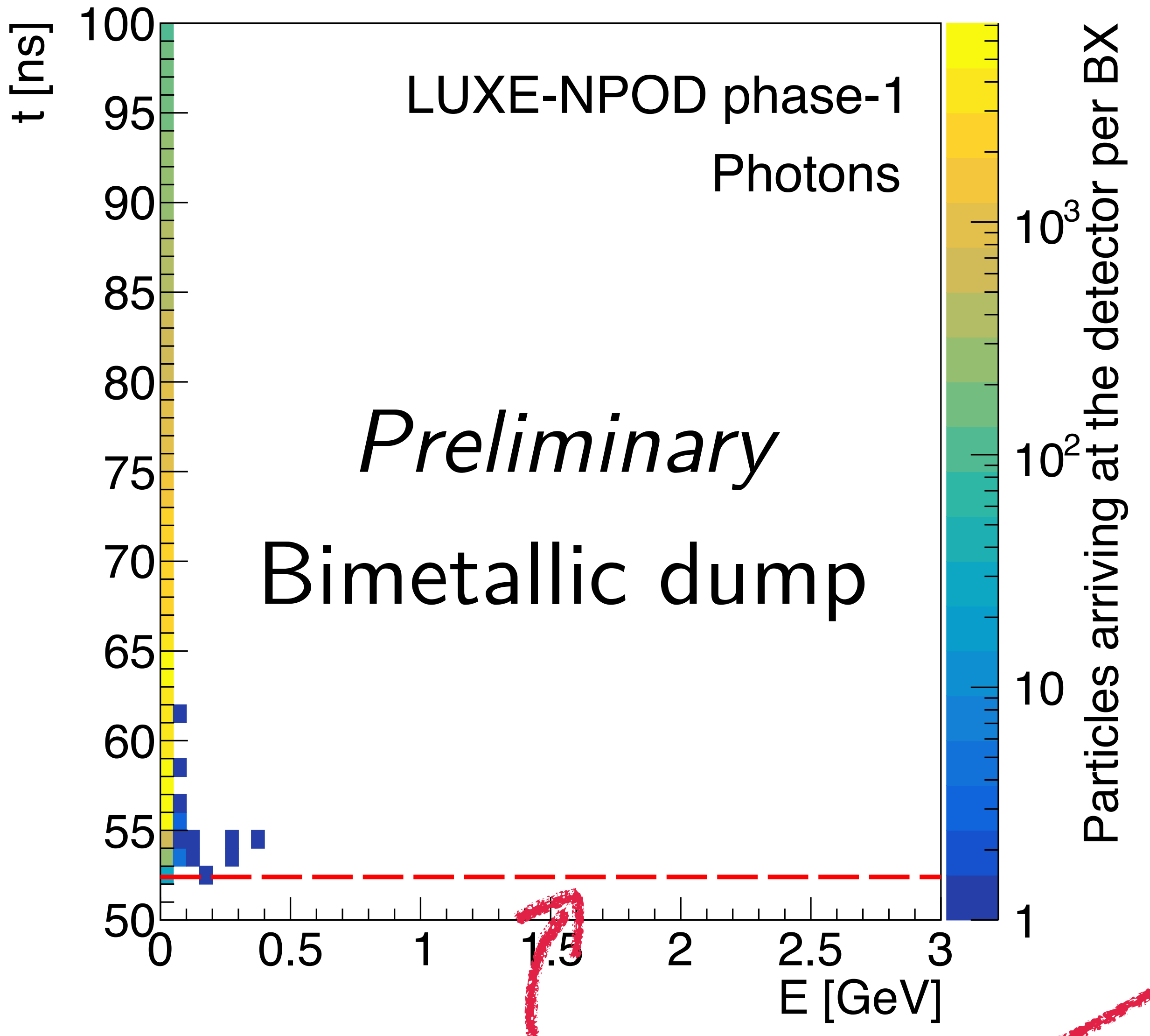


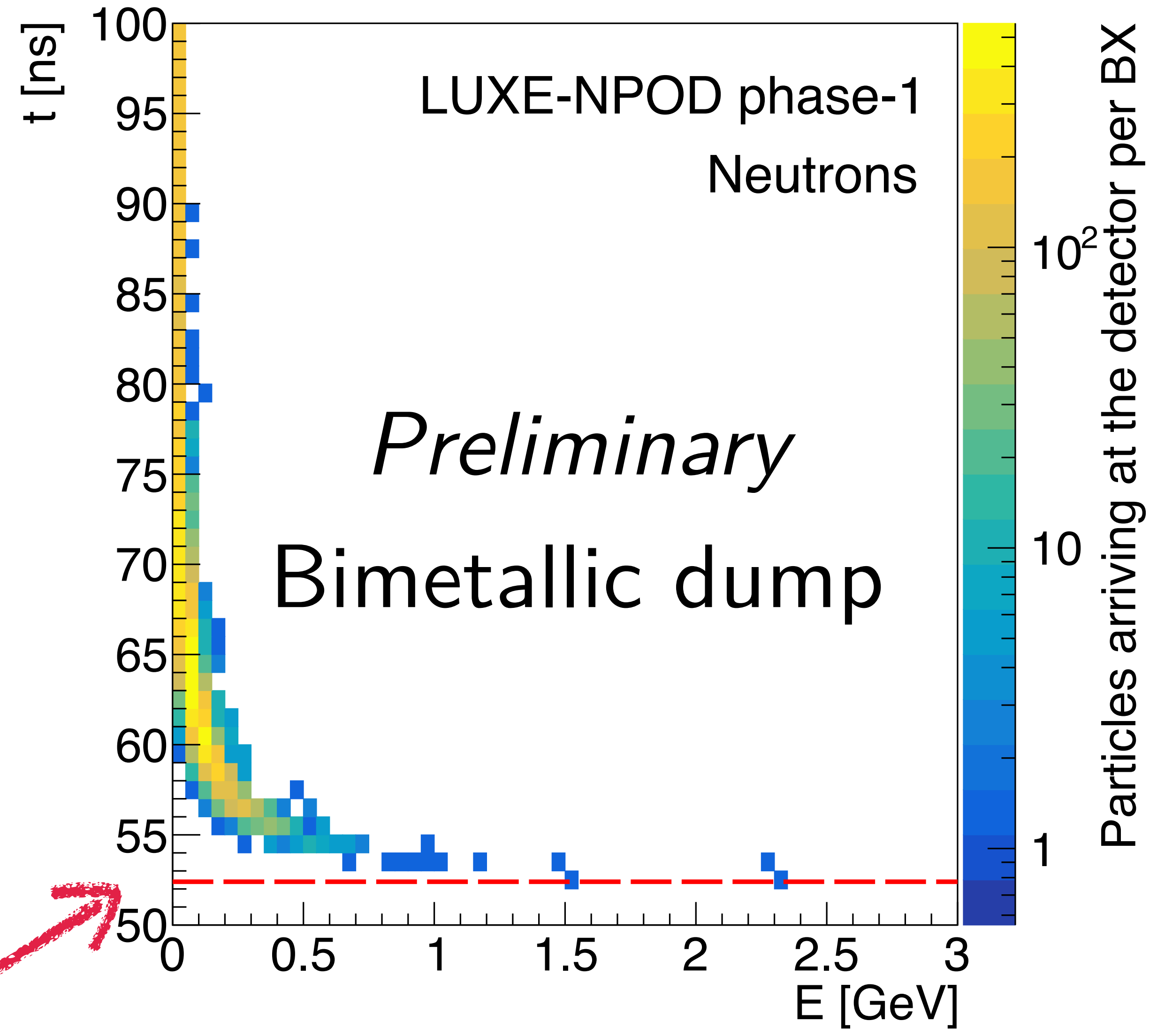
Background spectra



Vertex

($E > 0.5$ GeV)





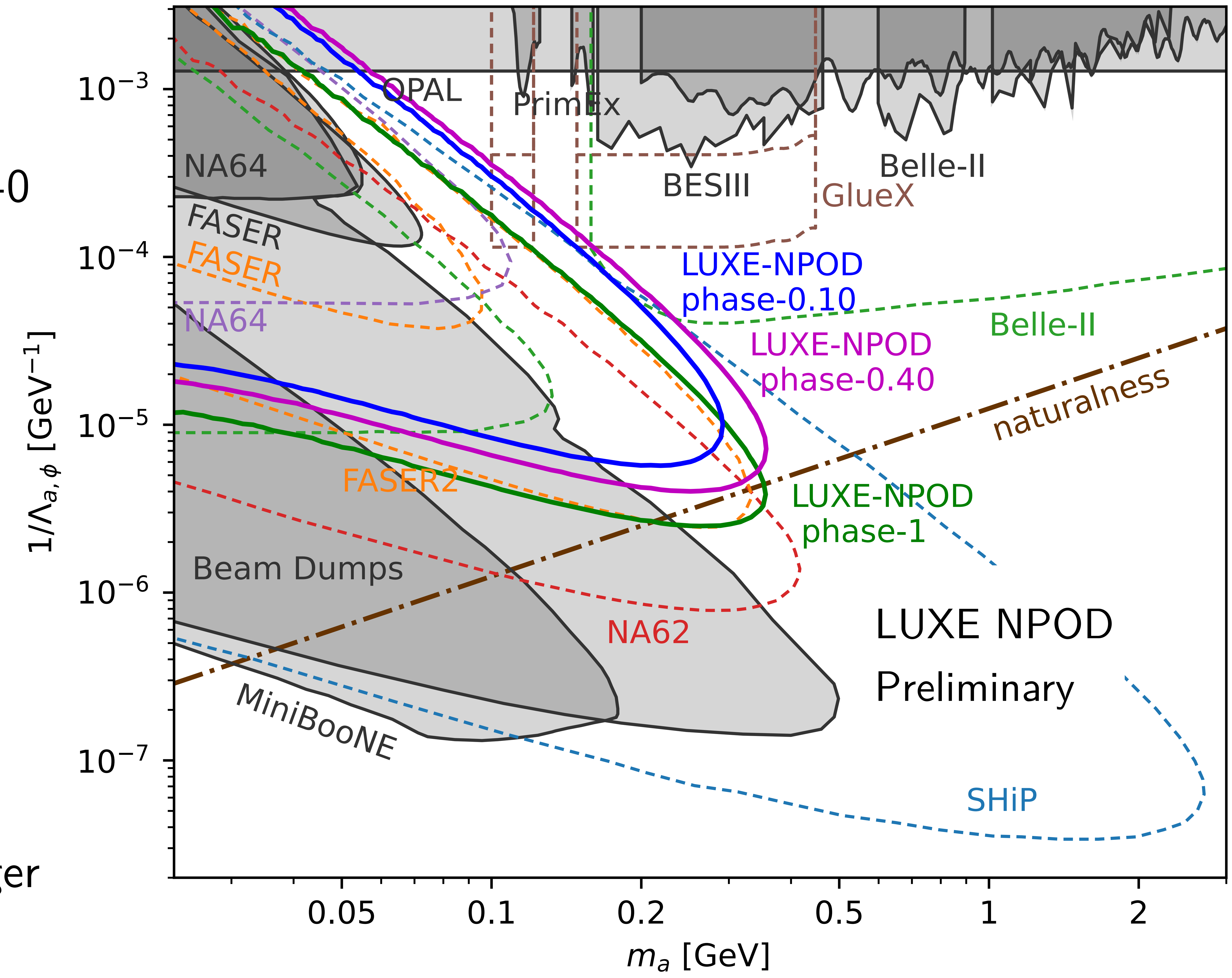
Timing

Signal arrives here

A detector with 0.5 to 1 ns timing resolution can reject most of the background

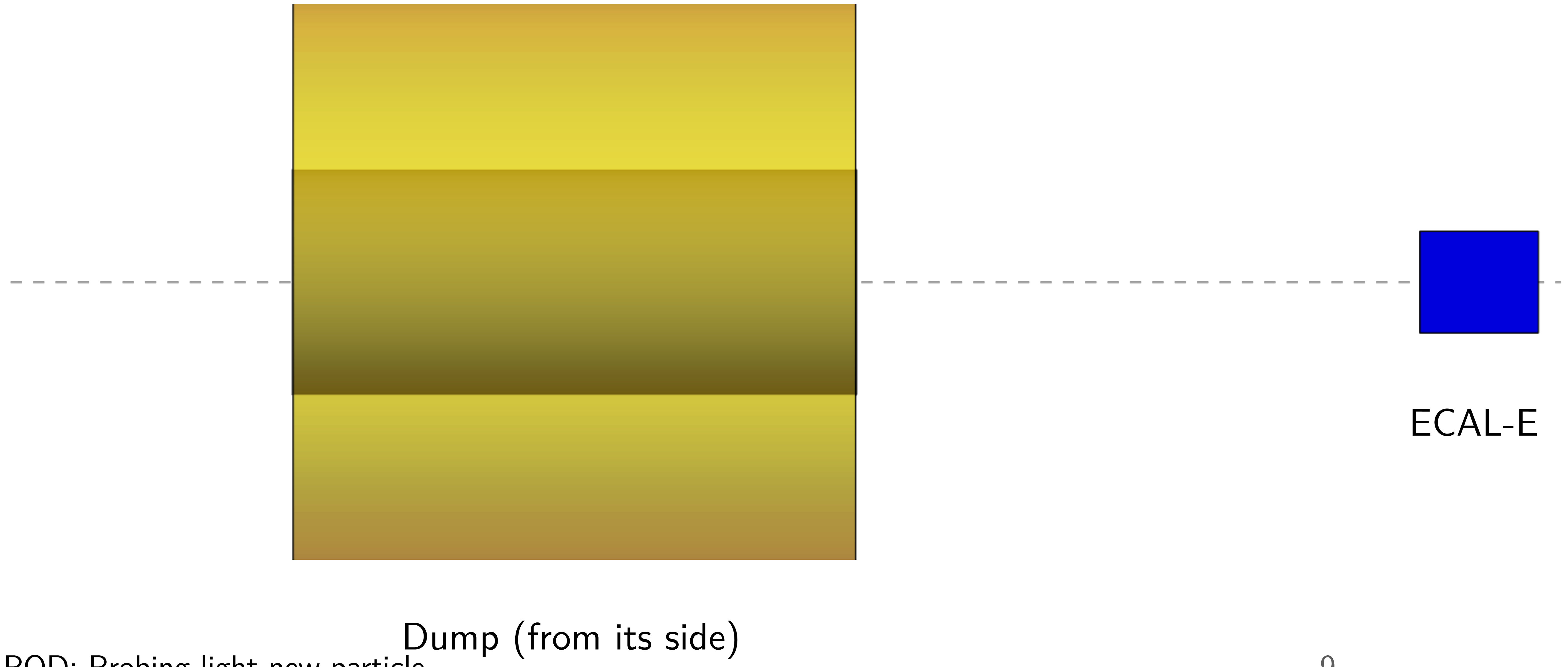
Sensitivity

- Assuming zero background
- For one-year (10^7 BX) data taking
- Easier background suppression in phase-0 allows a shorter dump, and benefits its sensitivities
- Dump length:
  - phase-0: 0.25 m
  - phase-1: 1.0 m
- Decay volume:
  - phase-0: 2.5 m
  - phase-1: 1.0 m
- Comparable to FASER2, NA62, and the SHiP experiment (who has a much longer data taking period)



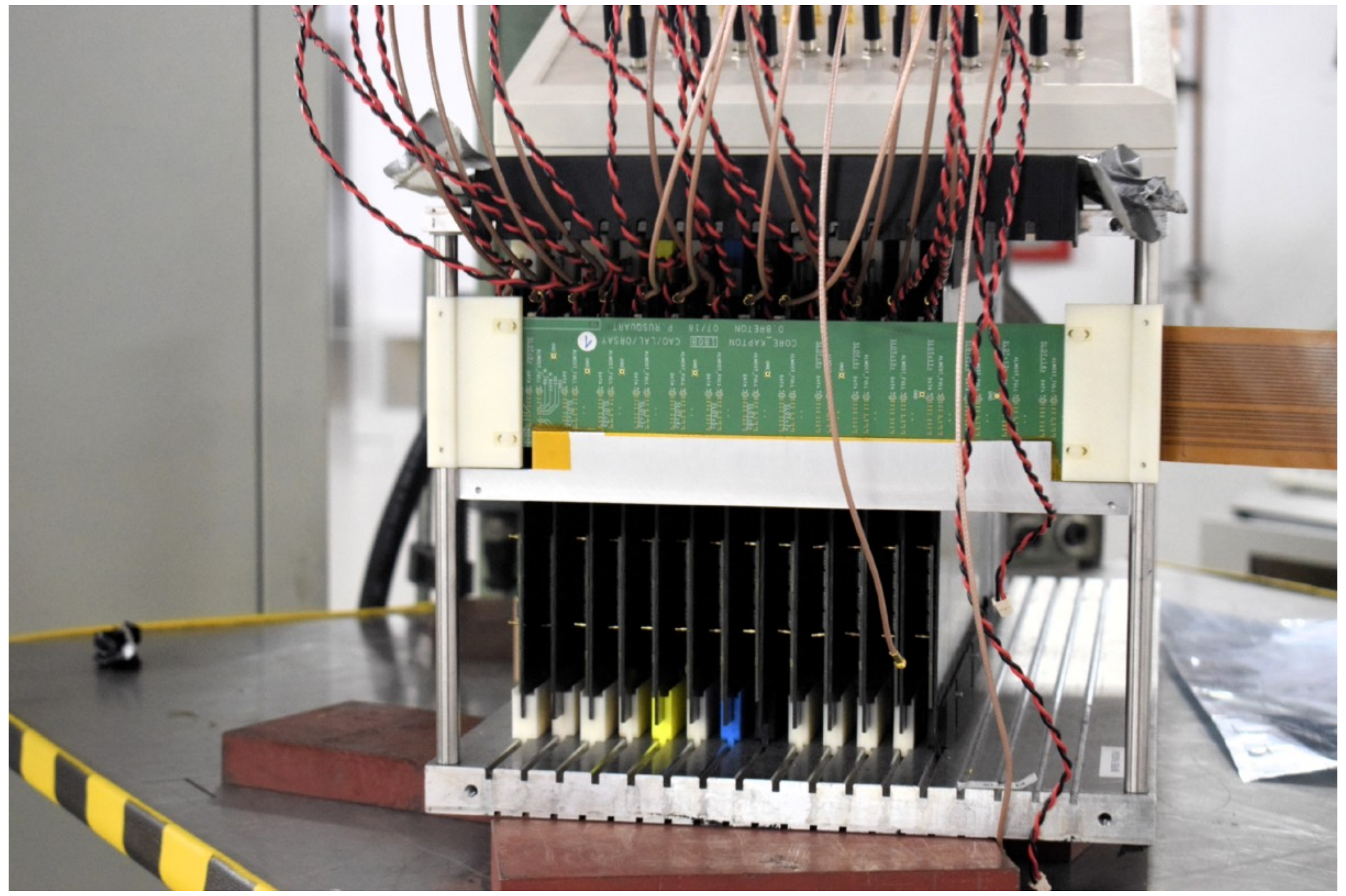
LUXE ECAL-E

- DRD6/CALICE SiW ECAL prototype
- Granularity of 5.5 mm
- Compactness: effec. Moliére radius ~10 mm
- Transverse size of 36 x 18 cm^2
- Longitudinal 22.5 cm with 18X_0 tungsten
- Readout time resolution: 1 ns
- Energy resolution $\frac{\sigma_E}{E} = \frac{(19.8 \pm 0.4)\%}{\sqrt{E_0/\text{ GeV}}} \oplus (4.9 \pm 0.3)\%$



A natural candidate for NPOD detector in LUXE

- NPOD will run in LUXE e-laser mode
- ECAL-E will only be used in LUXE g-laser mode

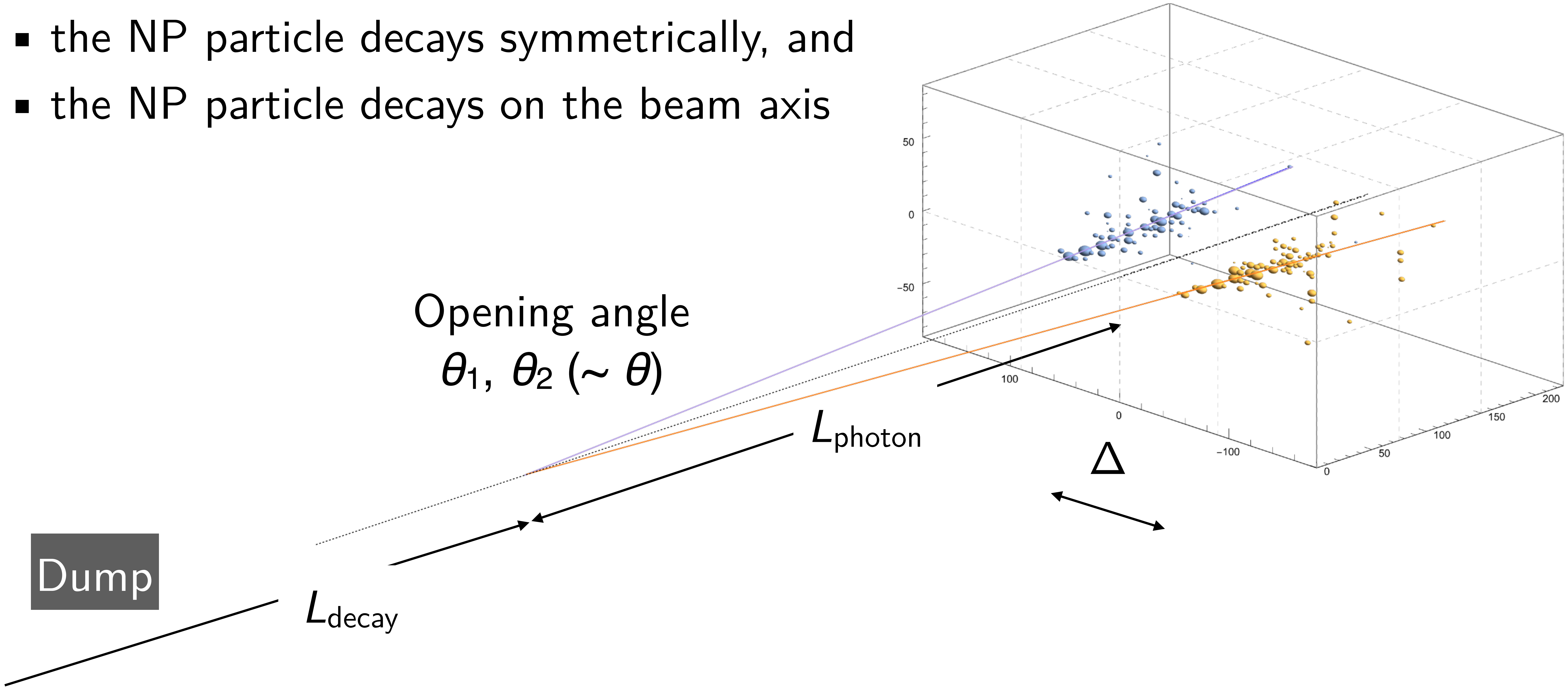


- Performance simulations with Geant4 v11 using DD4hep toolkit
- Analysis using Marlin framework

Repository: https://github.com/airqui/ECALe-lcio

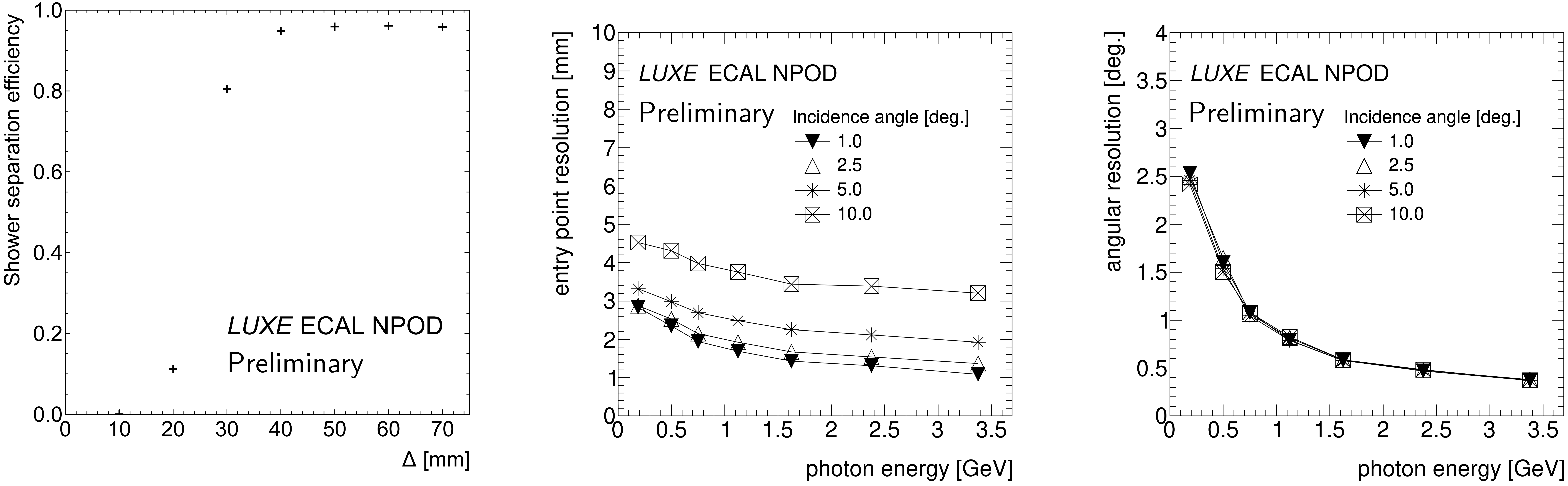
To simplify the simulation and have a baseline understanding of the detector performance, we assume

- zero background,
- the NP particle decays symmetrically, and
- the NP particle decays on the beam axis



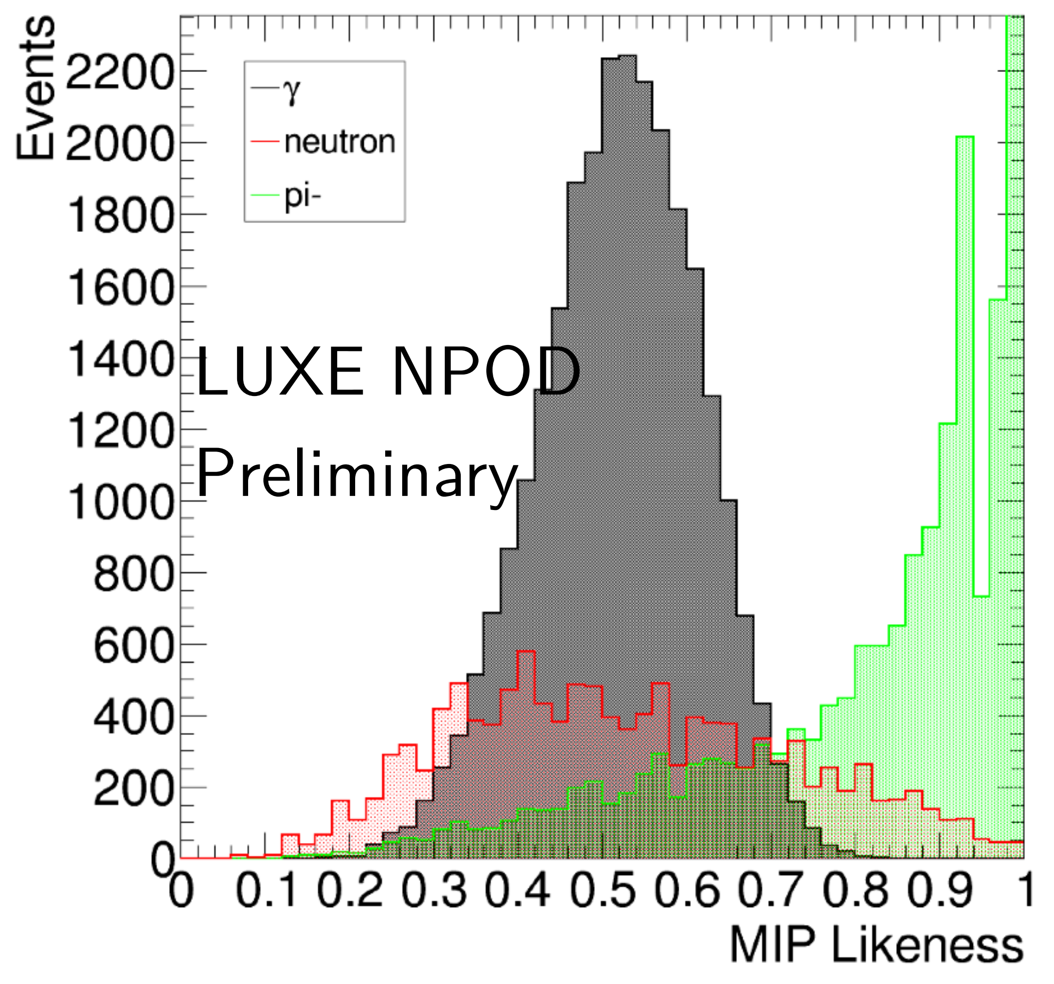
Signal reconstruction

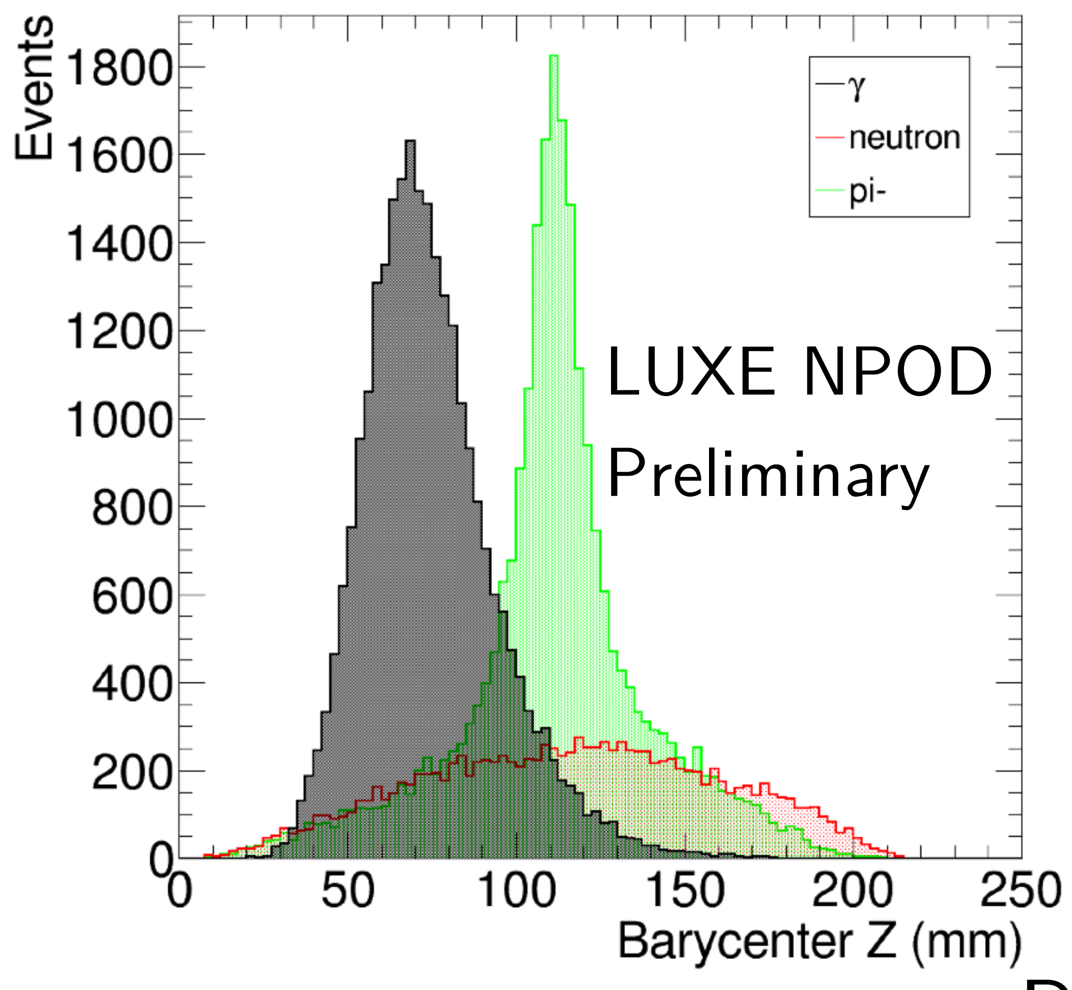
- A simple nearest-neighbour clustering separates over 95% events when $\Delta > 40$ mm
- A proof-of-concept tracking of the clusters gives
  - entry point position resolution < 5 mm
  - angular resolution better than 1 degree for > 1 GeV photons

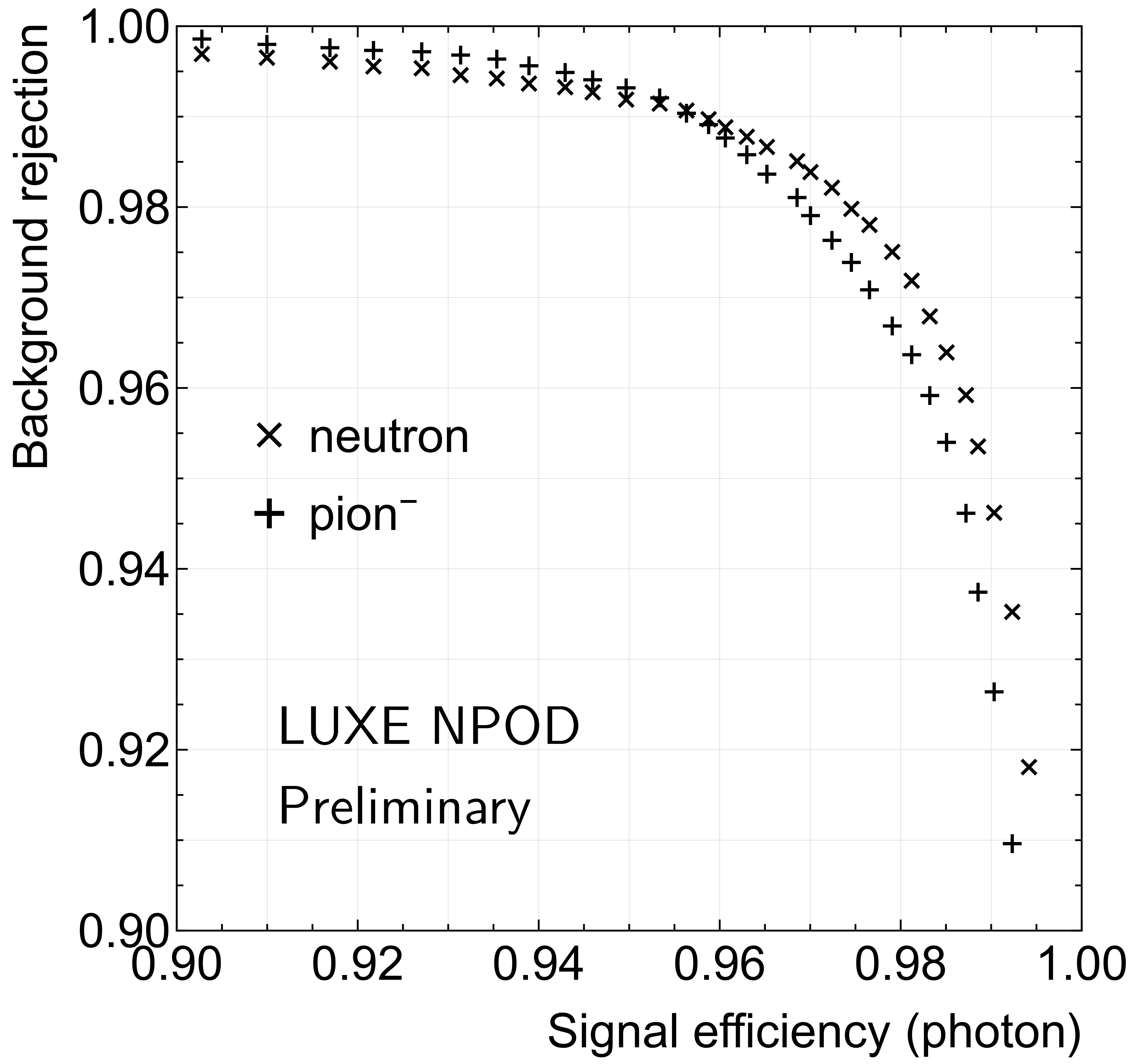


PID: further bkg rejection

- Particle identification using boosted decision tree (BDT), a widely-used machine learning tool
- We focus on background from neutron and pion
- BDT learns the signatures of incoming particles
- Successfully rejects nearly 99% background particles while maintaining over 95% of signal photons







Repository: https://github.com/marherje/Simplified_ECAL_PID

Summary

- LUXE NPOD is a beam-dump experiment probing ALPs with mass in 10 to 350 MeV, and coupling coefficient in 10^{-6} to 10^{-3} GeV^{-1}
- We validate our previous work with a more realistic experimental setup with a detector
- We further optimize the NPOD performance with much detailed dump design
- We test the updated scenarios with full-layout simulations
- LUXE secures a part of its funding and we are working towards the construction
- A paper is under preparation. Stay tuned for more updates!