

# PKMu-HFRS/HIRIBL: Probing and Knocking with a GeV Muon beam at the HIAF HFRS facility



Qiang Li,  
for the working group  
2025/05/17



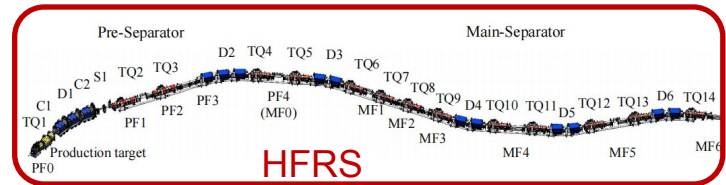
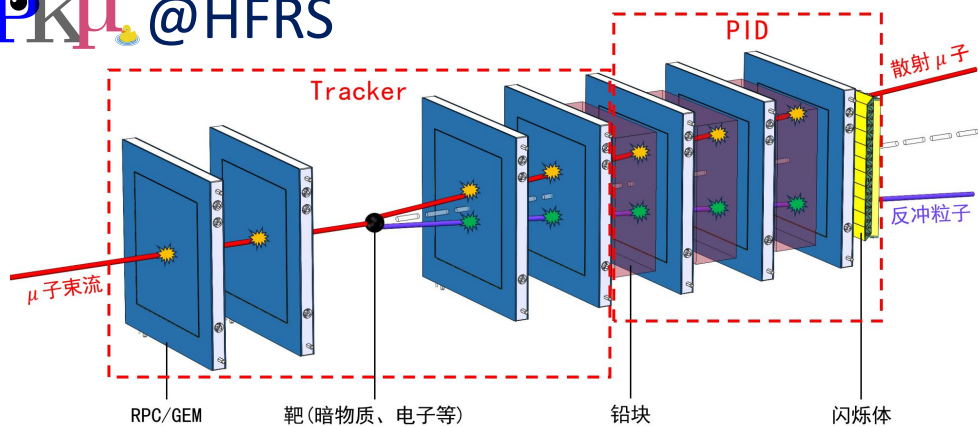
International Workshop on Muon Physics at the Intensity and Precision Frontiers (MIP2025)

# Muon Scattering Experiment at HIAF-HFRS



PKMu(Probing and Knocking with Muons) Proposed by Peking University together with HIAF-HFRS from Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China: **using 1-10 GeV Muon to probe new physics beyond the Standard Model**

PK $\mu$ @HFRS

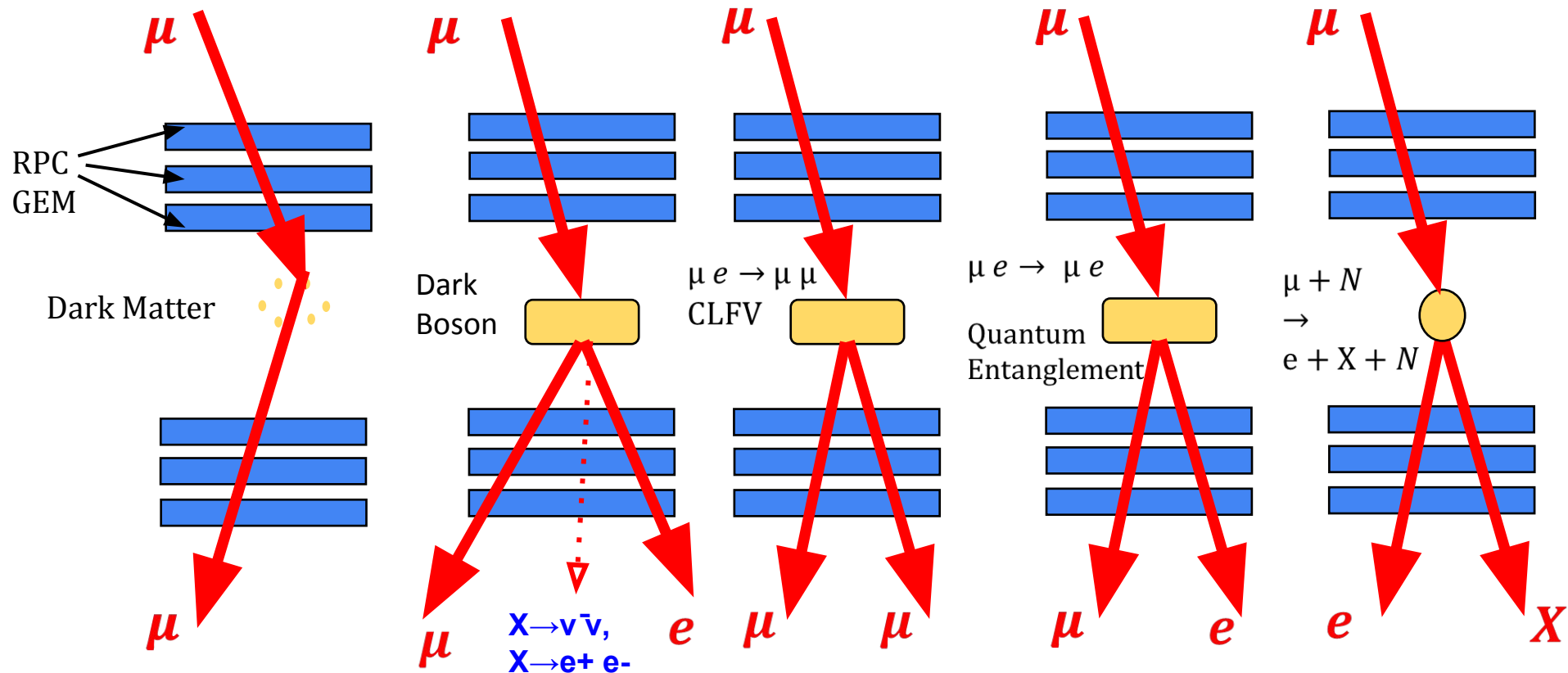


参考文献:[1] Phys. Rev. D 110, 016017 [2] arxiv:2410.20323 [3] arXiv:2411.12518 [4] Nucl. Instrum. Methods. Phys. Res. A 663 (2012) 22-25

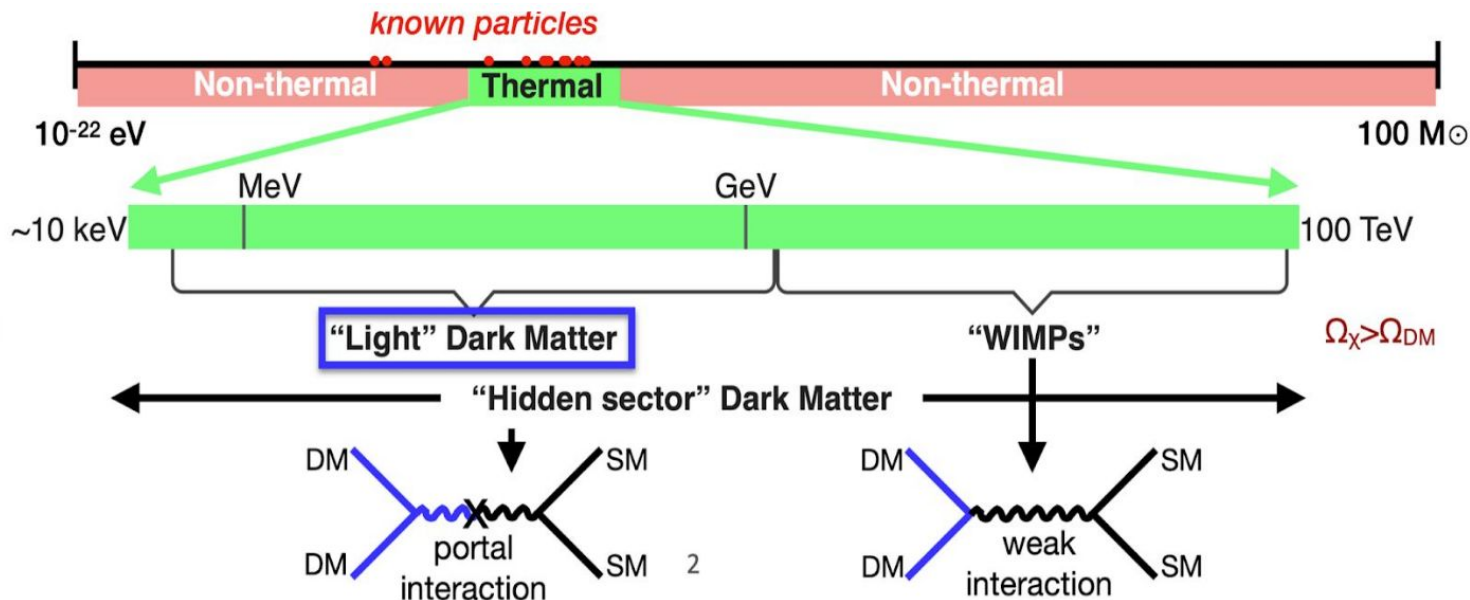
# Microscope: multi-purpose platform

→ Cosmic  $\mu$  or  $\mu$  beam

[arXiv:2503.22956](https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.22956) to appear in MPLA



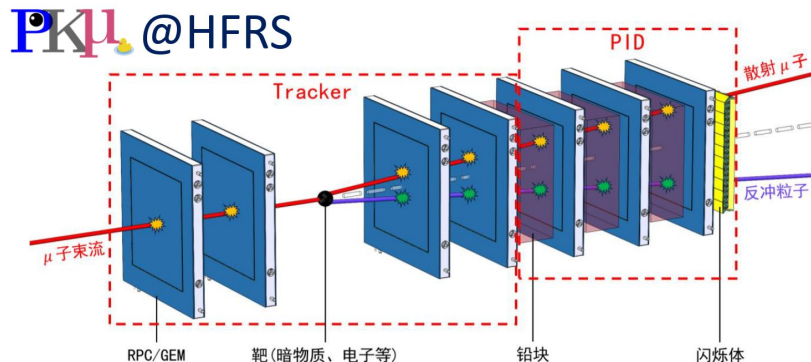
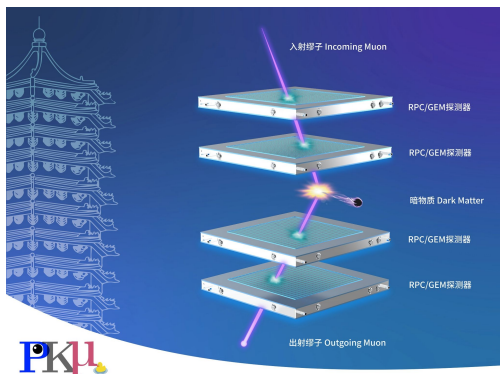
# Light Dark Matter $\rightarrow$ Dark Sector



Minimal scenarios with **light (sub-GeV) dark matter** whose relic density is obtained from thermal freeze-out **must include new light mediators**. In particular, a very well-motivated case is that of a new “dark” massive vector gauge boson mediator. [JHEP03\(2018\)084](#) [Granada19](#) [LDMX2024](#)  
(获得热遗留下来的轻(次GeV)暗物质的最低限度情景必须包含**新的轻媒介粒子**。特别是，一个非常有动机的情况是存在一种新的“暗”质量矢量规范玻色子作为媒介粒子。)

# Muon Philic Dark Sector

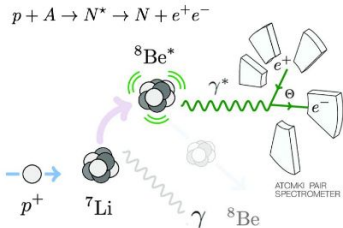
- Muon Philic Dark Matter may be possible or even necessary!
  - $L_\mu - L_\tau$  gauged model ( $Z'$ ,  $\chi$ ) quite popular recently
  - 1) Direct searches for DM
    - See the PKMu proposal: *Phys.Rev.D* 110 (2024) 1, 016017
  - 2) On target experiments for Dark Boson: (see also cosmology constraints)
    - LDMX, DarkShine;  $eN \rightarrow eNZ'$ ,  $Z' \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$  or  $Z' \rightarrow \chi\chi$  (dark matter)
    - NA64 $\mu$ , MMM  $\mu N \rightarrow \mu NZ'$ ,  $Z' \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$  or  $Z' \rightarrow \chi\chi$  (dark matter)
    - MuonE<sub>(pheno.)</sub>  $\mu e \rightarrow \mu e Z'$ ,  $Z' \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$  or  $Z' \rightarrow \chi\chi$  (dark matter)





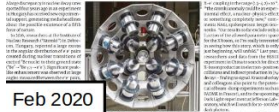
# More: X17 Anomaly

De-excitation of light nuclei via IPC, an anomaly in the decay of  $^8\text{Be}$  and  $^4\text{He}$



CERN COURIER

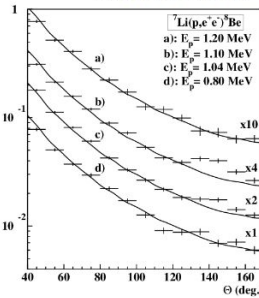
Rekindled Atomki anomaly merits closer scrutiny



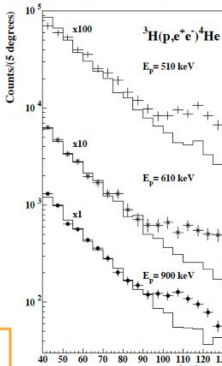
In  $^{12}\text{C}$  [PRC 106, L061601], GDR of  $^8\text{Be}$  [2308.06473], in  $^8\text{Be}/^{12}\text{C}$  at HUS (Vietnam)

Other efforts ongoing ( $e^-$ ,  $n$  beams, etc.)

PRL 116, 042501 (2016)



Phys. Rev. C 104, 044003 (2021)



$m_X = (16.98 \pm 0.16 \pm 0.20)$  MeV

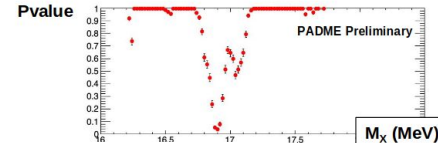
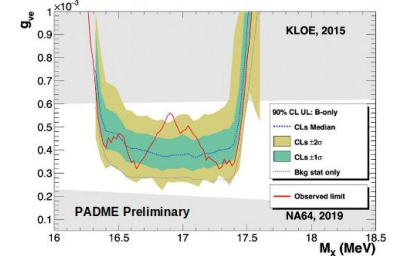
## Box opening

Some excess is observed beyond the  $2\sigma$  local coverage ( $2.5\sigma$  local)

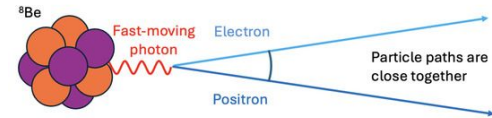
At  $M_X = 16.90(2)$  MeV,  $g_{ve} = 5.6 \times 10^{-4}$ , the global probability dip reaches  $3.9_{-1.1}^{+1.5}\%$ , corresponding to  $(1.77 \pm 0.15)\sigma$  one-sided (look-elsewhere calculated exactly from the toy pseudo-events)

A second excess is present at larger masses  $\sim 17.1$  MeV, but the absolute probability there is  $\sim 40\%$

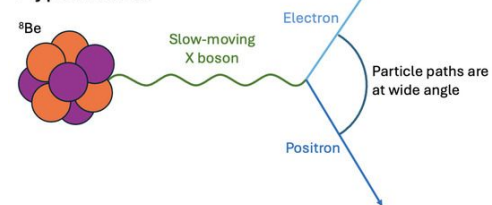
If a  $3\sigma$  interval is assumed for observation following the estimate  $M_X = 16.85(4)$  of PRD 108, 015009 (2023), the p-value dip deepens to  $2.2_{-0.8}^{+1.2}\%$  corresponding to  $(2.0 \pm 0.2)\sigma$  one-sided



Expected  $^8\text{Be}$  Transition



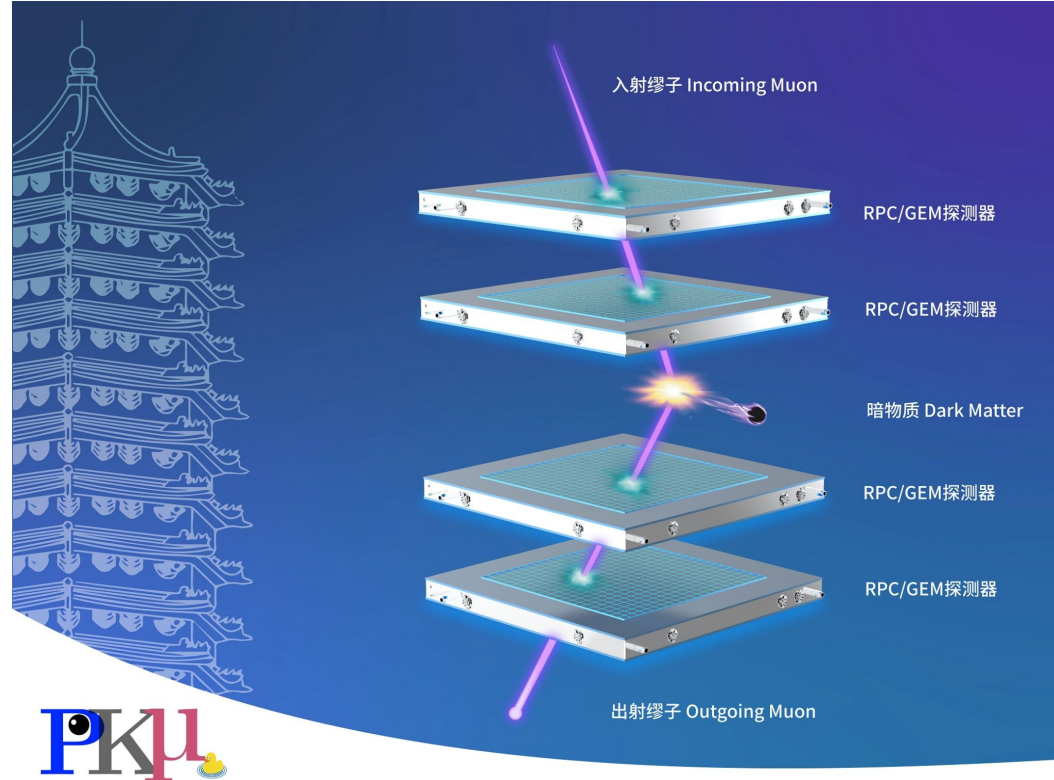
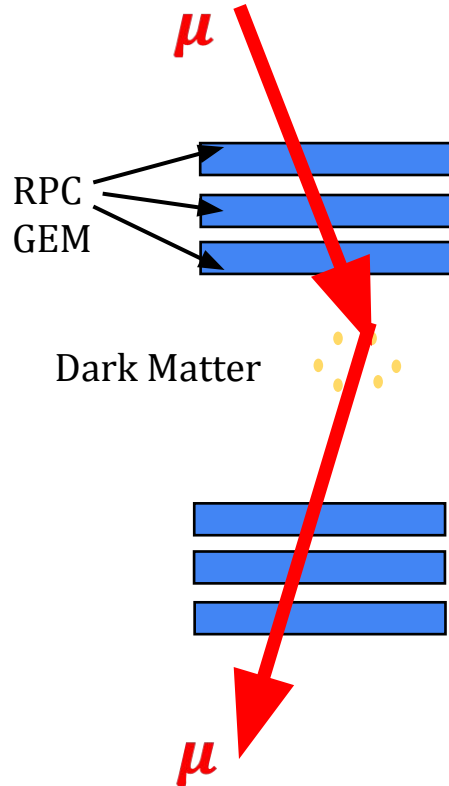
Hypothetical



For a 1-10 GeV muon/electron beam scatter off electrons in target, the C.O.M energy is  $\sim 10$  MeV!

[https://agenda.infn.it/event/46739/attachments/134359/201425/padme\\_RunIII\\_LNFseminar.pdf](https://agenda.infn.it/event/46739/attachments/134359/201425/padme_RunIII_LNFseminar.pdf)

# 1) Direct searches for DM



# Muon Tomography and Muon-DM scattering

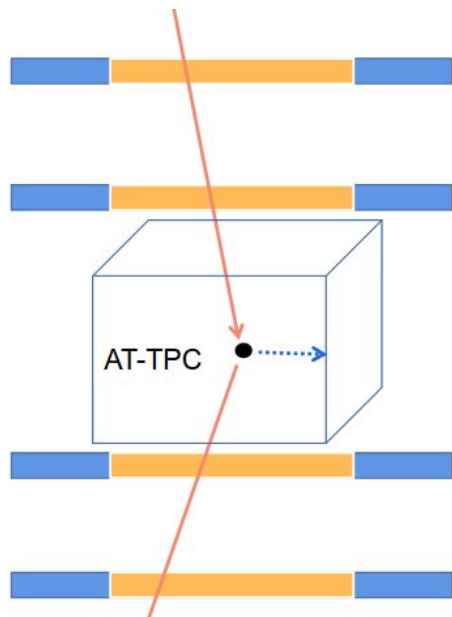
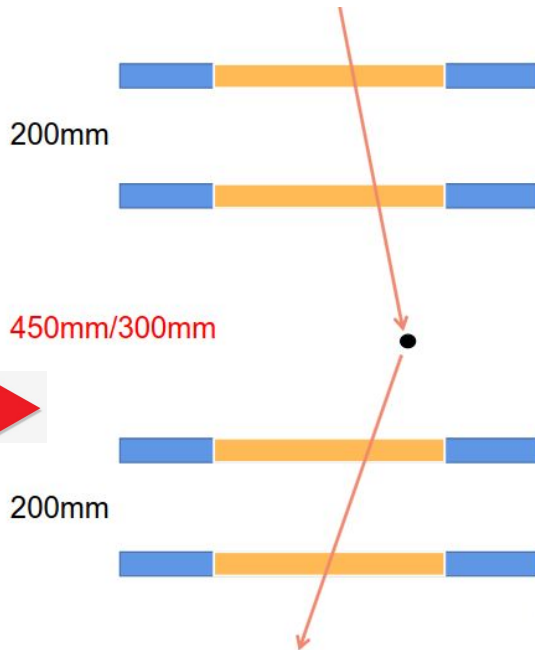
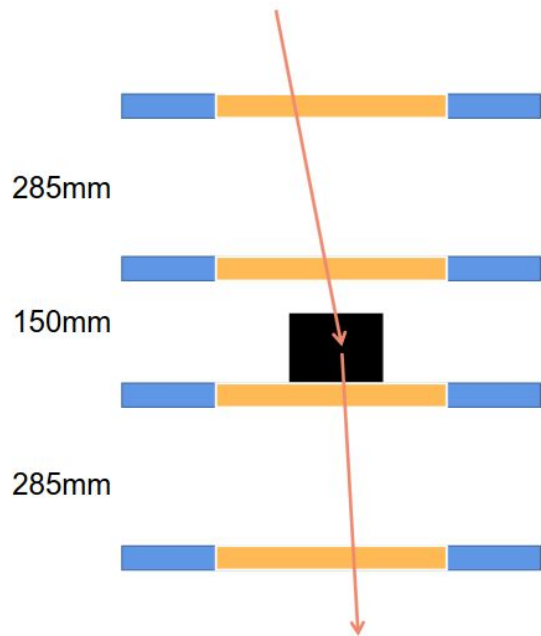
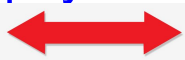
Muon Tomography

缪子成像

Dark Matter Search

暗物质寻找

[Phys.Rev.D 110 \(2024\) 1, 016017](#)





# Slow Dark matter

- **Earth bounded Dark Matter:** terrestrial density of strongly-coupled relics

PRL 131 (2023), 011005, PRD 109 (2024), 075027 PRD 103, 115031 (2021)

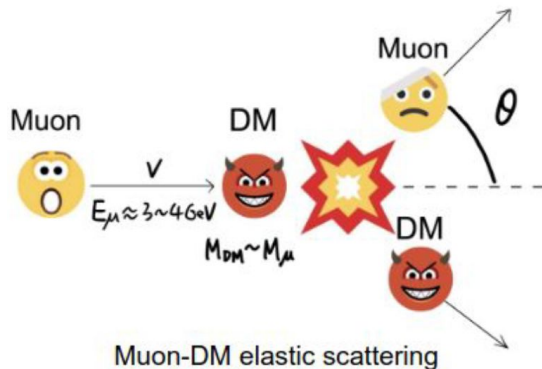
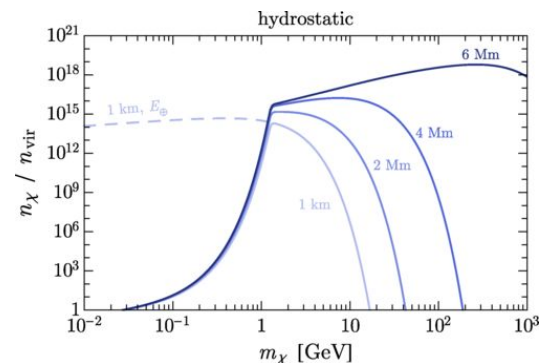
- A fraction ( $f_D$ ) of strongly interacting dark matter
- can be trapped in the Earth, and distributed more uniformly.
- The density ( $f_E$ ) can be large!  $f_E = f_D \times n_D \sim f_D \times 10^{15}/\text{cm}^3$

- **Alternative detection techniques needed**

- to detect such a large density of slowly moving DM
- Superconducting Cloud Chamber (for Milli-charged Particle though)

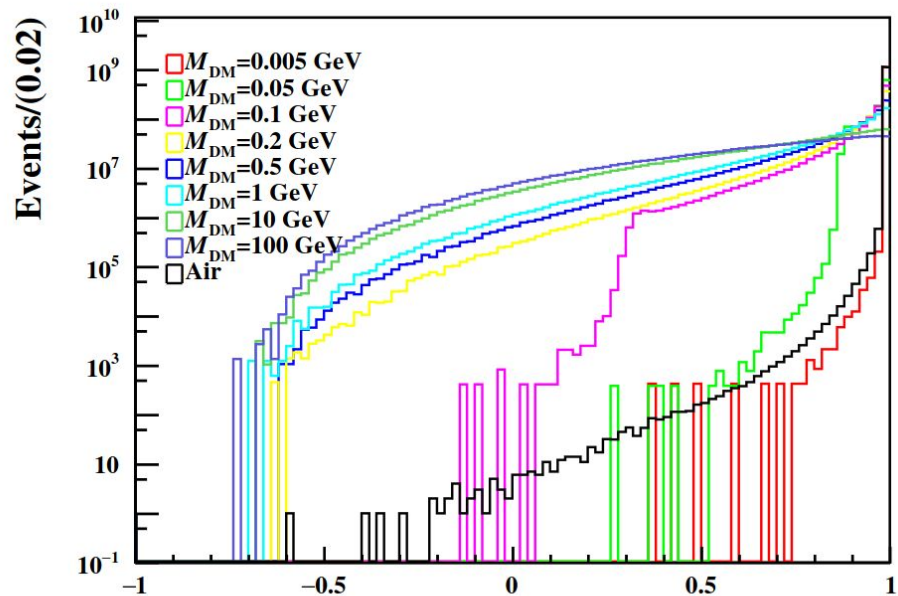
- **For slow or frozen DM, no proposal yet!**

- → limits on both cross section and  $f_E = f_D \times n_D$

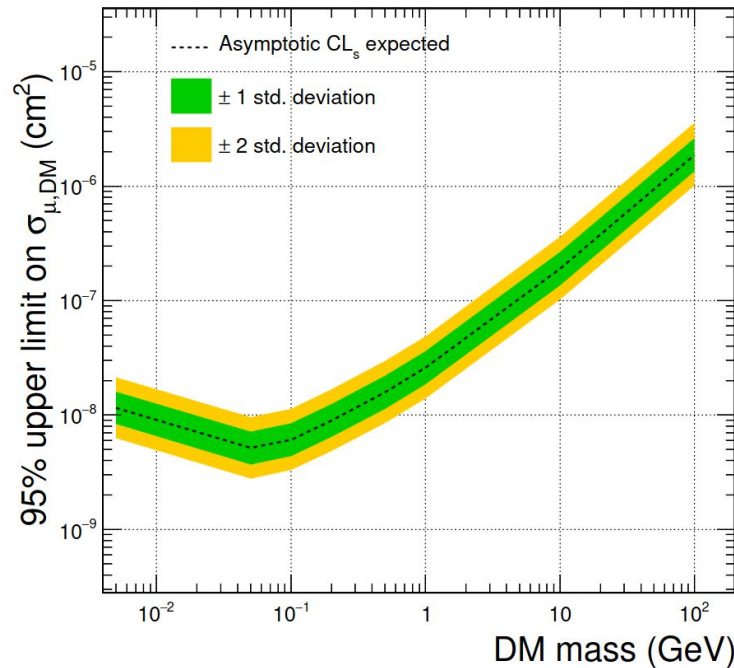


Different from XENON/PandaX:  
Relativistic muon hit quasi-static DM

# Muon DM Box experiment: expected results



- “Asimov” data is used
- Binned maximum likelihood fits
- UL determined by CLs method
- Only take statistical uncertainty into consideration



**In the exotic DM scenario as mentioned previously, the limit can approach  $\mu\text{b}$**

# Current Software and Simulation Status



## PKMuon Collaboration

PKMuon Collaboration

3 followers   China   <https://lyazj.github.io/pkmuon-site/>   [seeson@pku.edu.cn](mailto:seeson@pku.edu.cn)

[Overview](#)   [Repositories](#) 10   [Projects](#)   [Packages](#)   [People](#) 2

### Pinned

[PKMUON\\_G4sim](#) Public

Forked from yuxdPKU/PKMUN\_G4sim

Geant4-based simulation of PKMUON

C++

[geomu](#) Public

Forked from lyazj/geomu

Geographic Muon Simulation

C++

[pkmuon-site-src](#) Public

Forked from lyazj/pkmuon-site-src

source code of PKMUON site

Stylus

[root-easy-debug](#) Public

Forked from lyazj/root-easy-debug

Debug CERN ROOT macros in an extremely easy way

C

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **110**, 016017 (2024)

### Proposed Peking University muon experiment for muon tomography and dark matter search

Xudong Yu,<sup>\*</sup> Zijian Wang, Cheng-en Liu, Yiqing Feng<sup>✉</sup>, Jinning Li, Xinyue Geng, Yimeng Zhang, Leyun Gao, Ruobing Jiang, Youpeng Wu, Chen Zhou<sup>✉,†</sup>, Qite Li<sup>✉,‡</sup>, Siguang Wang, Yong Ban<sup>✉</sup>, Yajun Mao, and Qiang Li<sup>✉,§</sup>

*State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, School of Physics, Peking University, Beijing, 100871, China*

 (Received 23 March 2024; accepted 24 June 2024; published 19 July 2024)

A set of new methods are proposed here to directly detect light mass dark matter through its scattering with abundant atmospheric muons or accelerator beams. A first plan is to use the free cosmic-ray muons interacting with dark matter in a volume surrounded by tracking detectors, to trace the possible interaction between dark matter and muons. Secondly, the same device can be interfaced with domestic or international muon beams. Due to the much larger muon intensity and focused beam, it is anticipated that the detector can be made further compact, and the resulting sensitivity on dark matter searches will be improved. Furthermore, it may also be possible to measure precisely directional distributions of cosmic-ray muons, either at mountain or sea level, and the differences may reveal possible information about dark matter distributed near the Earth. Specifically, methods described here can have advantages over “exotic” dark matters that are either muonphilic or slowed down due to some mechanism, and the sensitivity on dark matter and muon scattering cross section can reach as low as microbarn level.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.110.016017

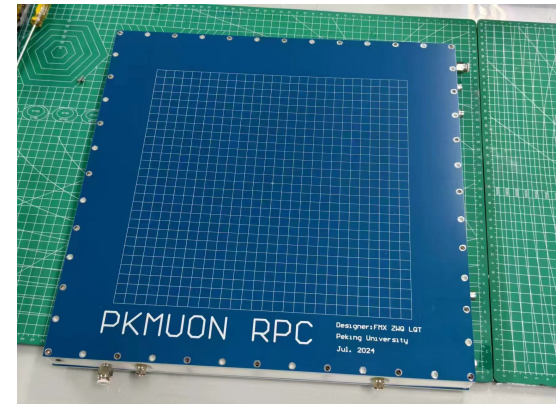
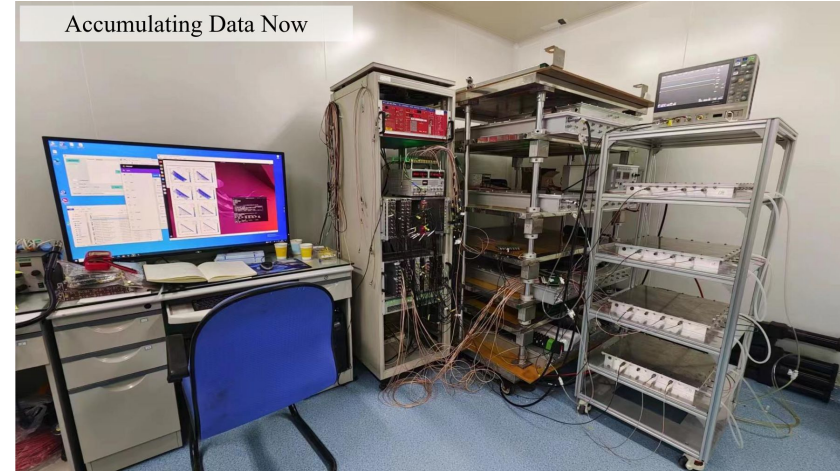
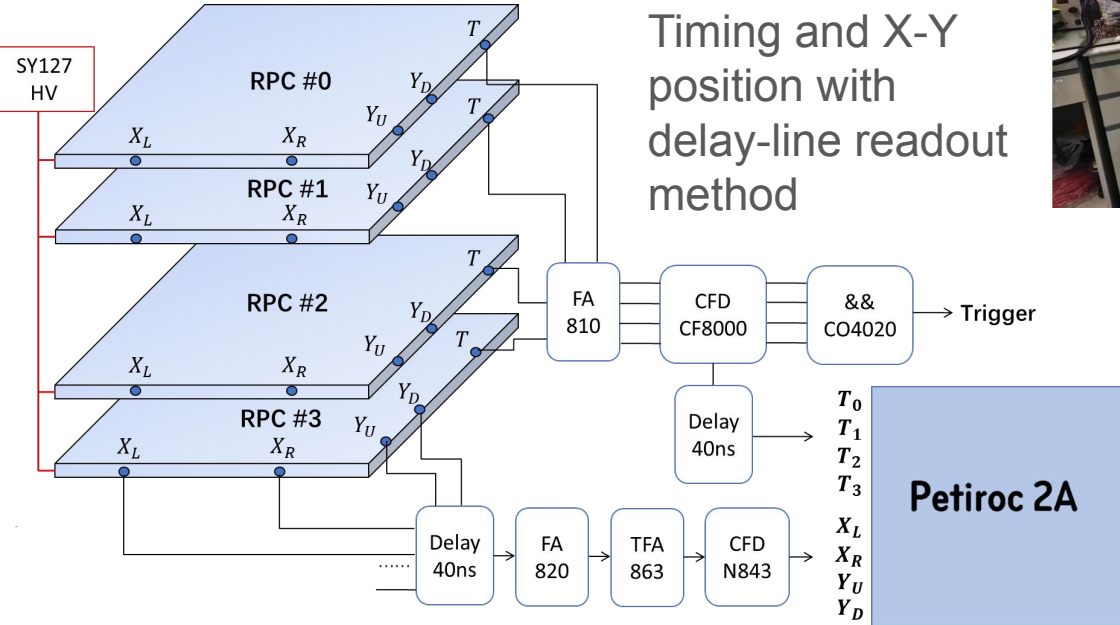
# Current Box Exp. Status

recent report from Cheng-en Liu and Qite Li

4-station 20cm\*20cm RPC for the moment

Petiroc 2A is a 32-channel front-end ASIC

Timing and X-Y  
position with  
delay-line readout  
method



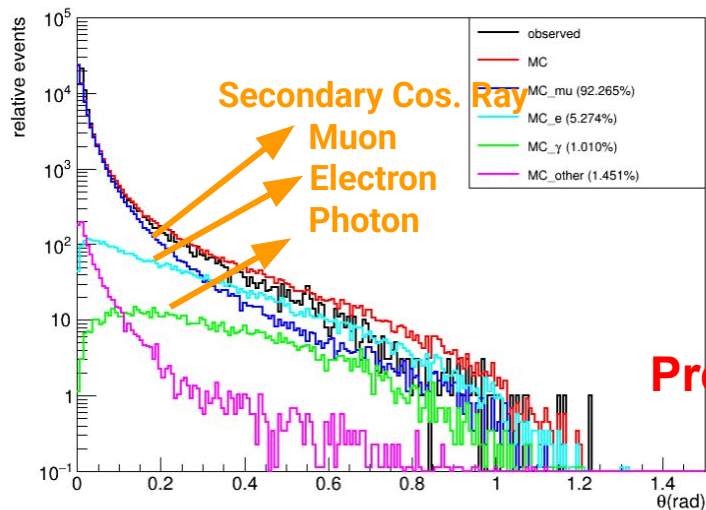
# Byproduct: cosmic ray measurements

缪子、电子、光子 在大散射角度区域 有很好的区分度

⇒ 地面宇宙次级射线新型测量手段

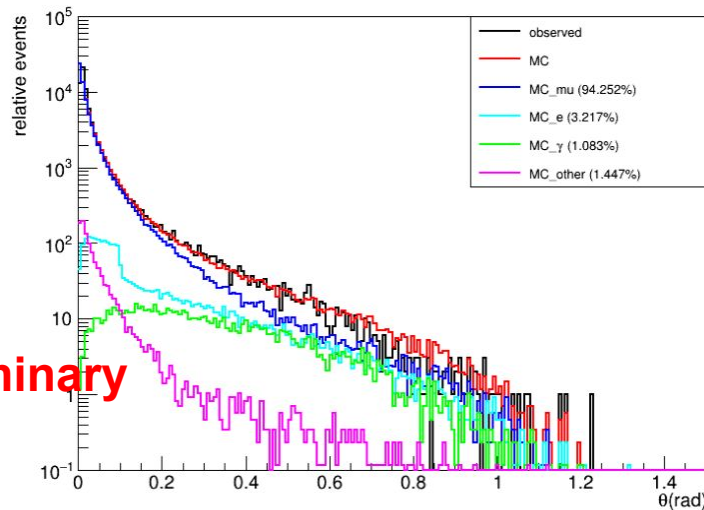
## 铅块数据对比

distribution of scattering angle  $\theta$

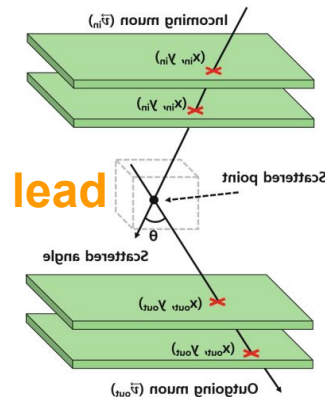


无调整

distribution of scattering angle  $\theta$



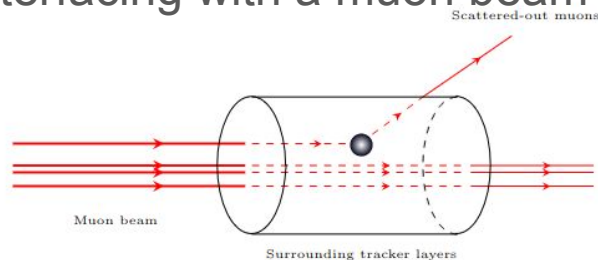
联合拟合后





# Current Beam Exp. Status

Interfacing with a muon beam at e.g. HIAF



Cylindrical GEM (CGEM) detector structure for BESIII inner tracker system upgrade

More detectors such as LGAD, Si Strip in plan to be integrated.

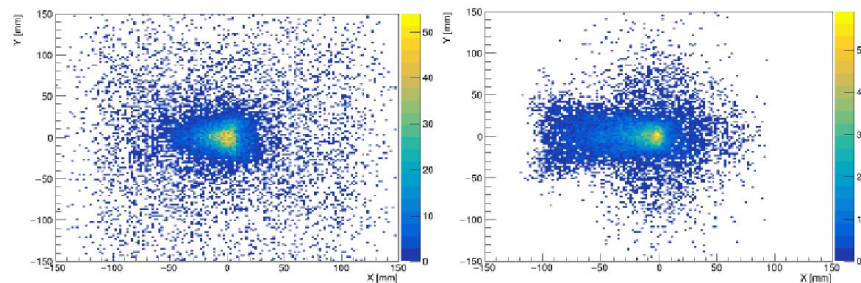
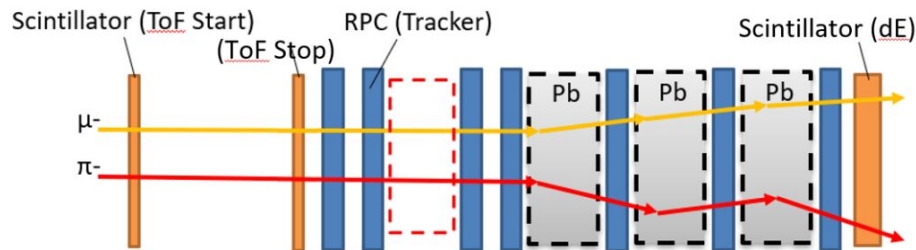


图 6.9: 左: 1GeV 缪子束流束斑轮廓。右: 3GeV 的缪子束流的束斑轮廓

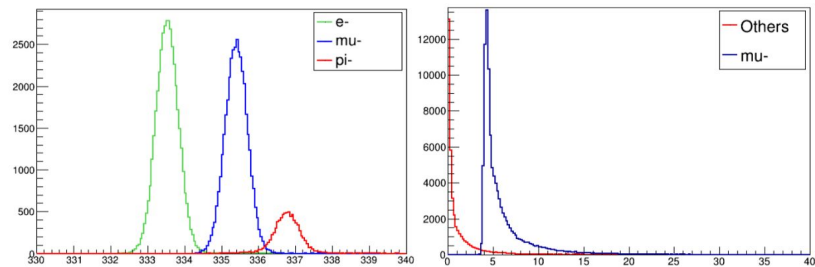
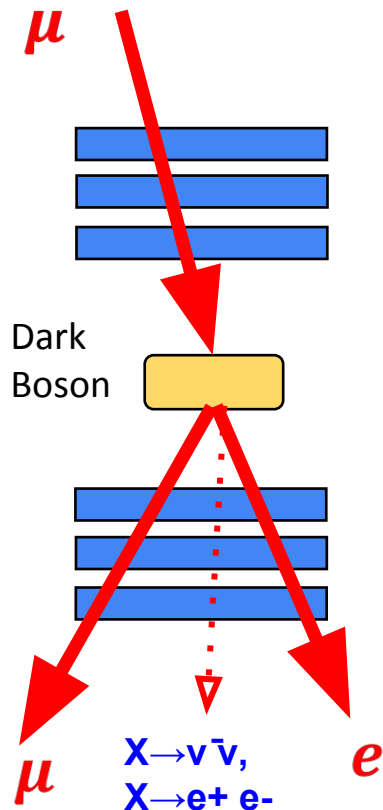
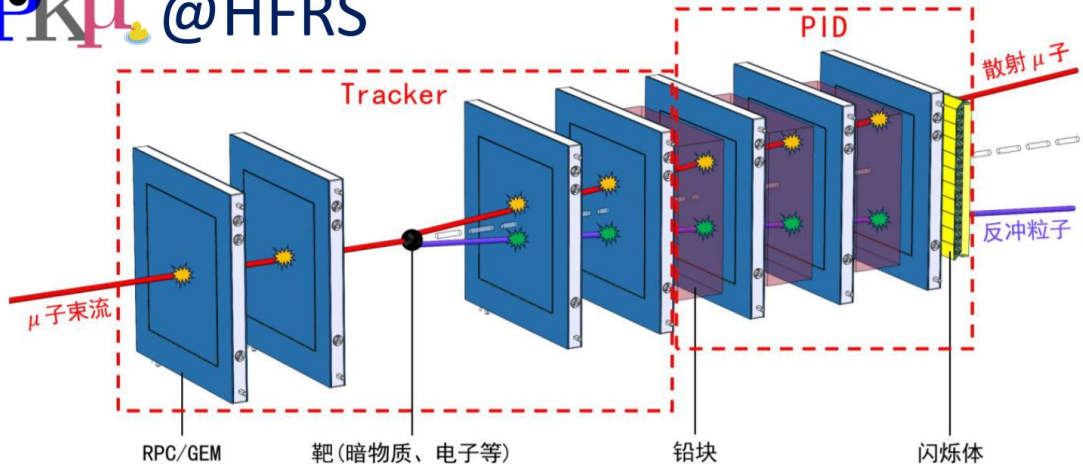


图 6.13: 缪子散射探测系统信号与背景响应模拟: 成像系统前飞行时间谱 (左); 末端闪烁体能量损失谱 (右)

## 2) On target experiments for Dark Boson



PK $\mu$ @HFRS

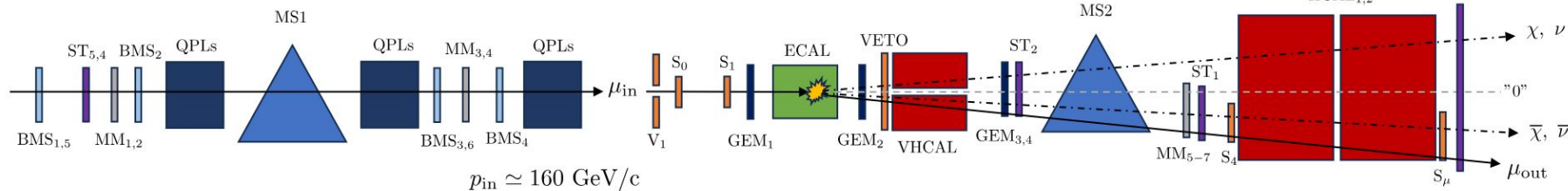
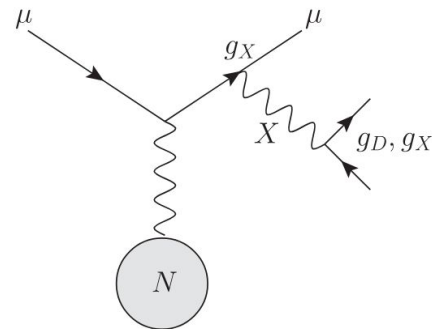
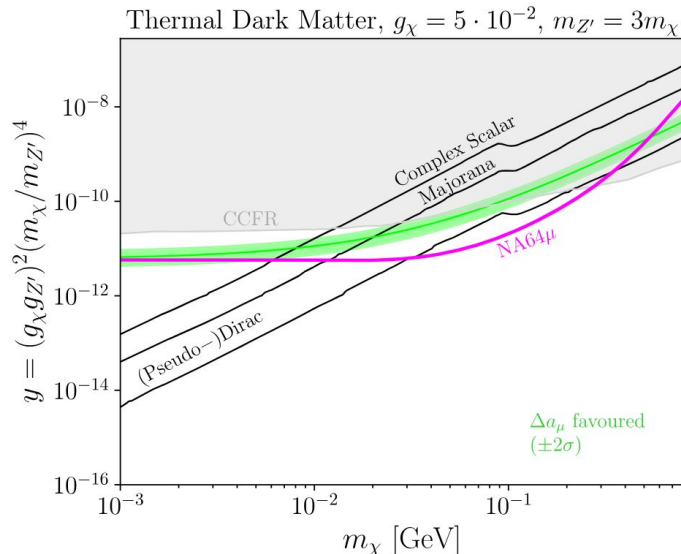
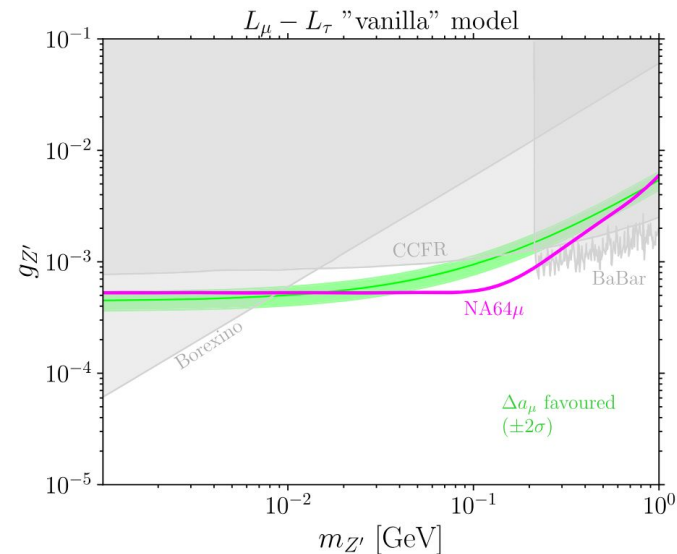
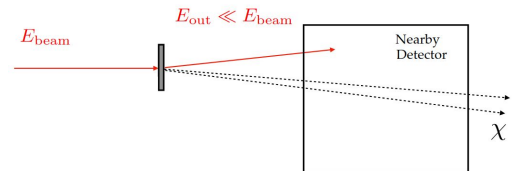


参考文献: [1] Phys. Rev. D 110, 016017 [2] arxiv:2410.20323 [3] arXiv:2411.12518 [4] Nucl. Instrum. Methods. Phys. Res. A 663 (2012) 22-25

# NA64μ recent results

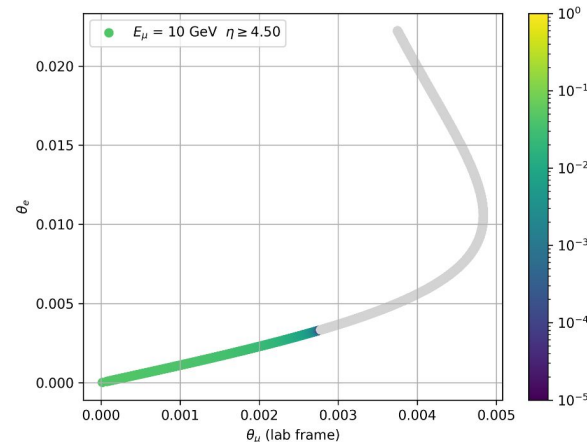
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4}F'_{\alpha\beta}F^{\alpha\beta} + \frac{m_{Z'}^2}{2}Z'_\alpha Z'^\alpha - g_{Z'}Z'_\alpha J_{\mu-\tau}^\alpha,$$

$$-g_\chi Z'_\alpha J_\chi^\alpha,$$



# Z' and X at PKMu@HFERS

- **1-10 GeV muon scattered on electrons in target:**
  - C.O.M energy is around 10 MeV!
  - Sensitive to  $L\mu - L\tau$  Z' boson at around 1-100 MeV:
    - $\mu e \rightarrow \mu e Z'$ ,  $Z' \rightarrow \nu \bar{\nu}$
  - Also matches the mass range for ATOMKI X17 MeV anomaly
    - $\mu e \rightarrow \mu e X$ ,  $X \rightarrow \nu \bar{\nu}$ ,  $e^+ e^-$ ;
    - Search for pseudoscalar bosons decaying into  $e^+ e^-$  pairs in the NA64 experiment at the CERN SPS: PRD 104 (2021) 11, L111102  $e-N \rightarrow e-N + a$ ,  $a \rightarrow e^+ e^-$
    - See also tensor and scalar options in arXiv:2501.05507
      - “the measurements from the two experiments (ATOMKI and MEGII) remain compatible within  $2\sigma$ ” and “A CP-even scalar could serve as potential solution to the anomalies observed in the Helium and Carbon data and that will become relevant in case the null result from the MEG-II search in Beryllium transitions will be confirmed.”

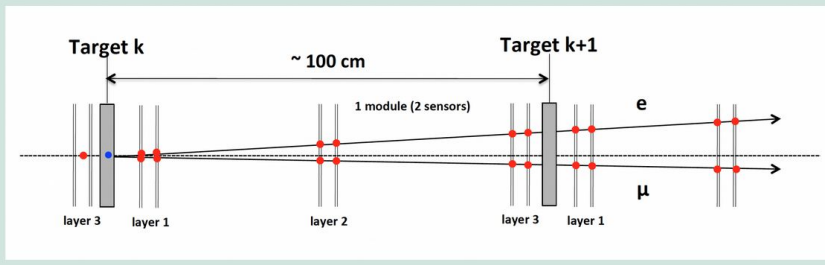
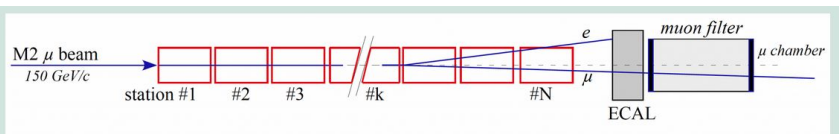


[arXiv:2411.12518](https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.12518)

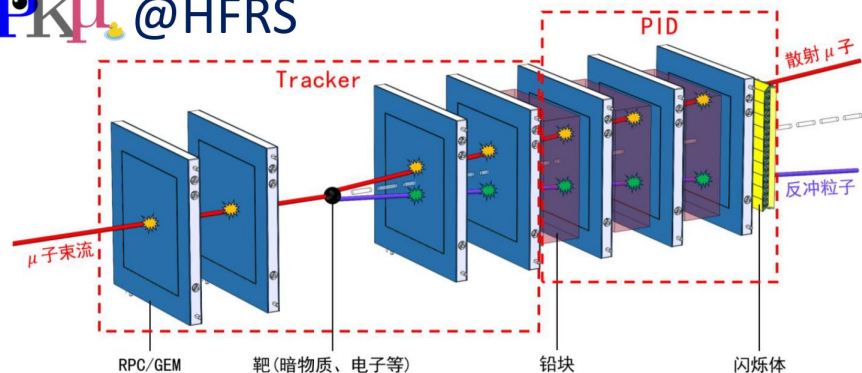
# PKMu@HFRS vs. MUonE

- Muon Beam energy: 150 GeV vs. 1-10 GeV
- C.O.M energy for PKMu@HFRS is around 10 MeV
  - suitable for low mass searches
- Detector Can be more compact

PKU joined MUonE recently,  
and will also perform BSM  
searches there



PKMu@HFRS

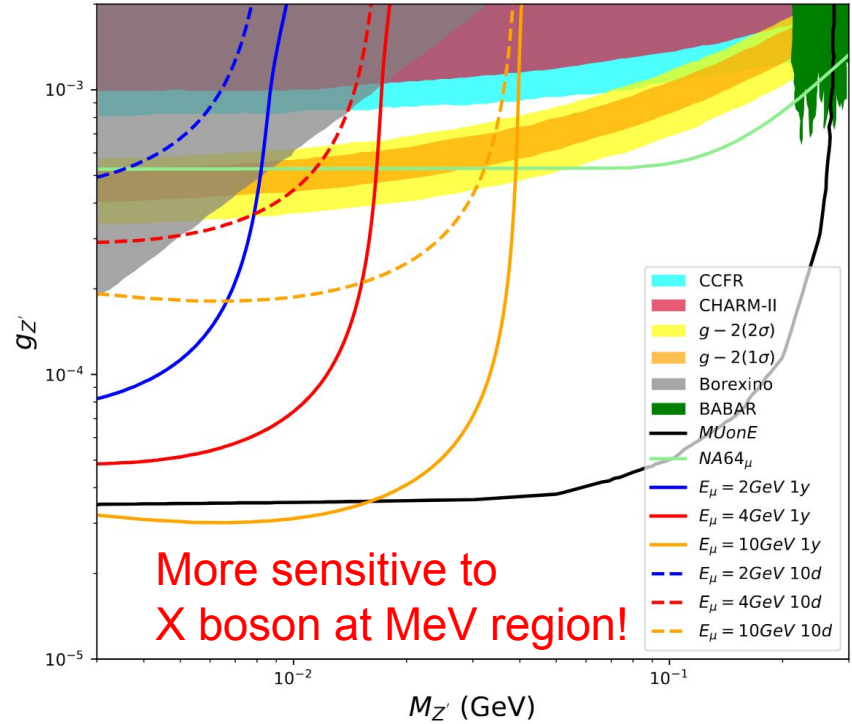
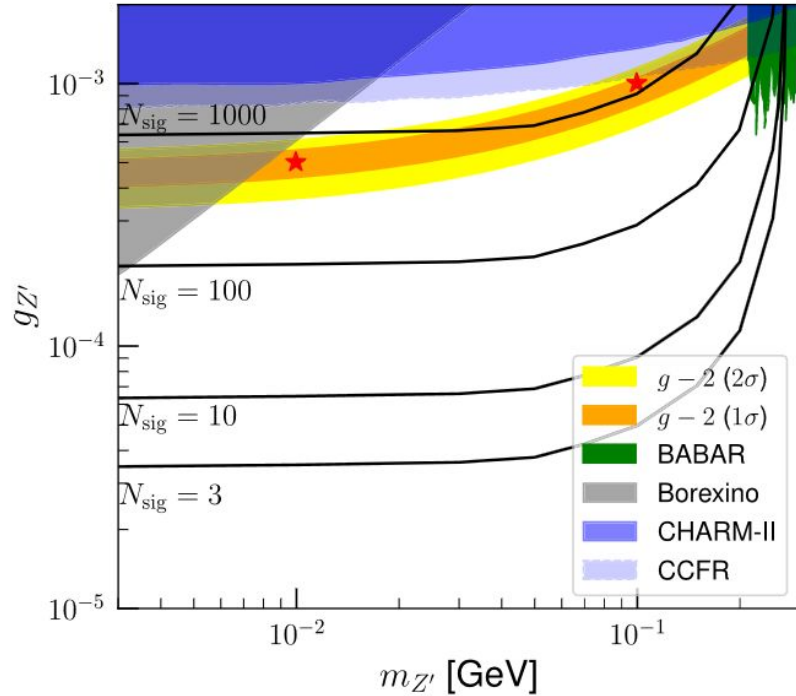


参考文献: [1] Phys. Rev. D 110, 016017 [2] arxiv:2410.20323 [3] arXiv:2411.12518 [4] Nucl. Instrum. Methods. Phys. Res. A 663 (2012) 22-25

NA64 has limited angle acceptance (the beam energy is high as 150 GeV), that may be the reason it is not sensitive to  $M_X > 16$  MeV



# PKMu@HFERS vs. MuonE



Phys.Rev.D 106 (2022) 5, L051702

Preliminary results

# Our roadmap to detect Dark Sector

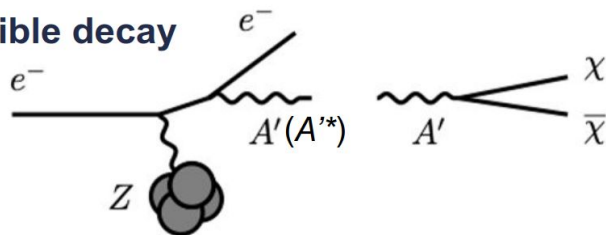
**A compact detector for muon scattering with target electrons or nuclei:**

**Using RPC+GEM to measure angular direction; Scintillator and absorber for PID**

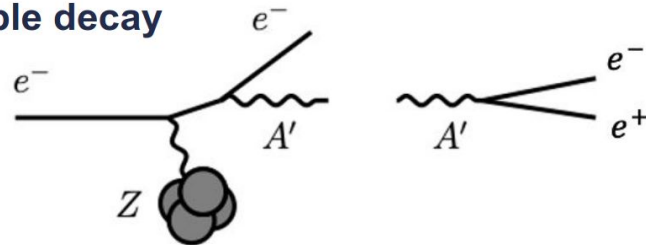
- $\mu e \rightarrow \mu e Z', Z' \rightarrow \nu \bar{\nu}$  final state leptons with wide scattered angle
- $\mu e \rightarrow \mu e X,$ 
  - $X \rightarrow \nu \bar{\nu}$  final state leptons with wide scattered angle
  - $X \rightarrow e^+ e^-$  **electron energy measurement**
- $ee \rightarrow ee X,$ 
  - $X \rightarrow \nu \bar{\nu}$  final state leptons with wide scattered angle
  - $X \rightarrow e^+ e^-$  **electron energy measurement**

先只通过角度测量来进行探测(very small coupling->very long flying distance, thus ~invisible), 进而再利用能量测量信息(量能器)

**Invisible decay**



**Visible decay**



# More: Muon Electron Scattering

- [MuonE](#) exploits 160 GeV Muon beam to measure muon electron scattering, and a precise determination of the leading hadronic contribution to the muon  $g-2$ .
- **Muon electron scattering at lower energy ( $\sim \text{GeV}$ )** may be interesting to SM test itself, and **Quantum entanglement probe** [PRD 107, 116007 \(2023\)](#):

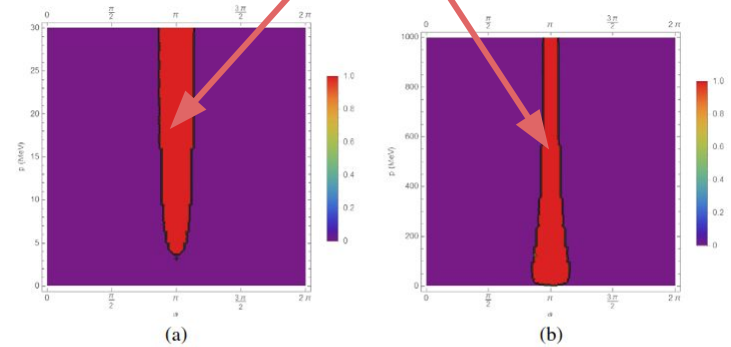
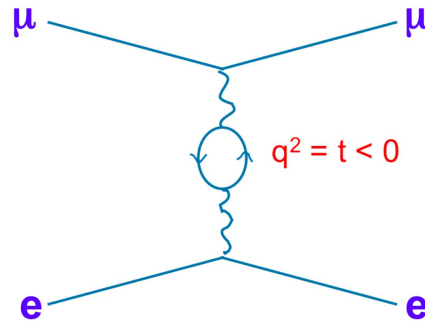
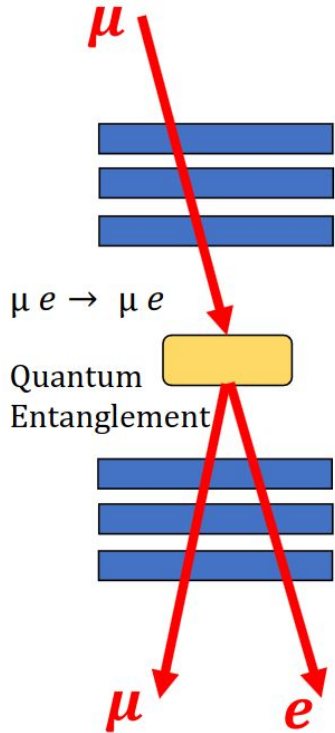
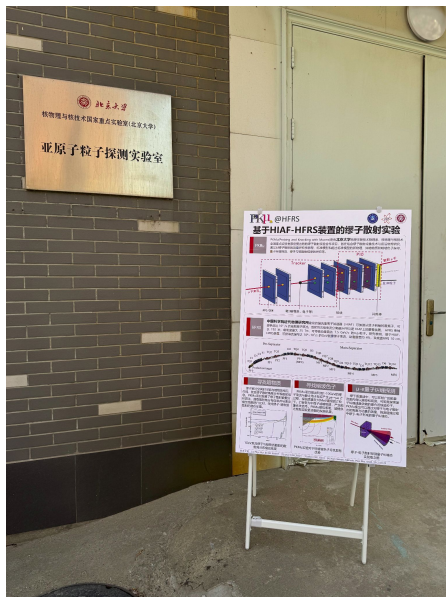
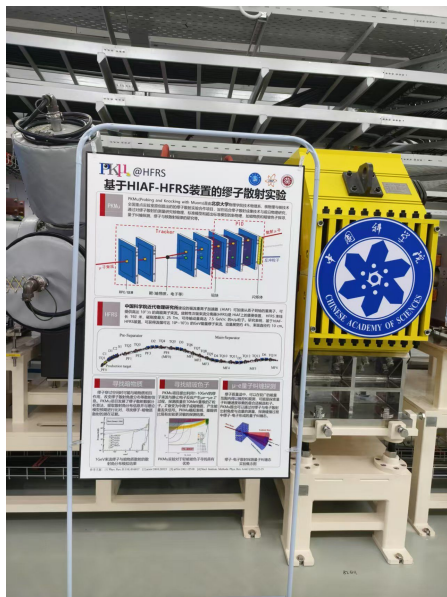


FIG. 15. The red regions correspond to the values of  $p$  and  $\theta$  for which the final state is entangled at low— $< 30$  MeV—(a) and high— $< 1$  GeV—(b) energies.

# PKMu@HFERS Lab/Collaboration





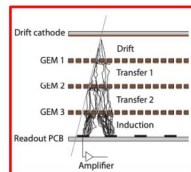
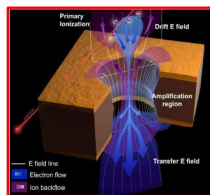
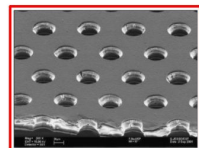
# PKU Muon Detector Development



- CMS Muon Trigger RPC: assembled and tested at PKU at around 2002
- RPC R&D for nuclear physics
- CMS GEM upgrade program



北大基地生产的第一个CMS GEM模块



CMS端盖缪子探测器 GEM升级

北京大学、清华大学、中山大学、北京航空航天大学

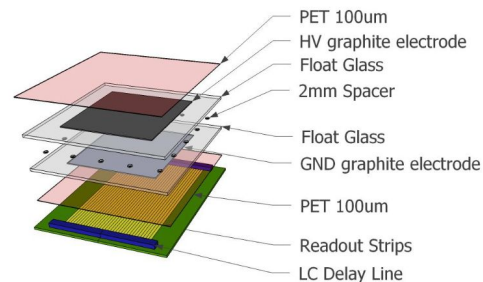
## Combination of glass RPC & Delay-line Readout



Study of spatial resolution properties of a glass RPC  
Qite Li, Yanlin Ye\*, Chao Wen, Wei Ji, Yushou Song, Rongrong Ma, Chen Zhou, Yucheng Ge, Hongtao Liu  
School of Physics and State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China

### Reference:

- 许金艳, 李奇特\*, 等, 物理实验, 41(2021)23
- Qi-Te, Li, et al. *Chinese Physics C* 37 (2013)016002.
- S. Chen, Q. Li\*, et al, *JINST*: 10 (2014)10022.



90% R134a+9% i-C4H10+1% SF6 50ml/Min



# Workshop on Muon Physics at the Intensity and Precision Frontiers (MIP 2024)



19 Apr 2024, 02:00 → 22 Apr 2024, 12:20 Asia/Shanghai

Peking University

Chen Zhou (Peking University (CN)), Qiang Li (Peking University (CN)), Qite Li (Peking University)



MIP2024

Several possible  
Chinese Muon beams  
in the near future:

Melody,  
CIADS, HIAF

## Input to the European Strategy for Particle Physics 2026

[Indico] Abstract Acceptance notification (#100)  

Indico <noreply-indico-team@cern.ch>  
to seeson, qiang.li, chen.zhou, liqt1985, espp2026.input ▾

Fri 4 Apr, 22:22 (20 hours ago) ☆ ☺ ↶ ⋮

 Translate to Chinese (Traditional) ✕

Dear Qiang Li,

We are pleased to announce that your abstract "Probing and Knocking with Muons" with ID #100 has been accepted as input to the 2026 update process of the European Strategy for Particle Physics.

Your submission will be made public and it will be further discussed by the Physics Preparatory Groups and the European Strategy Group. It also constitutes important input for the preparation of the Open Symposium in Venice at the end of June.

Kind regards,  
The Strategy Secretariat

--  
Indico :: Call for Abstracts  
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1439855/>

## More from our collaborators:

1. Leyun Gao
  - a. Software, CLFV, Quantum
2. Zijian Wang
  - a. Dark Z boson
3. Cheng-en Liu
  - a. Dark Matter
4. Jinning Li
  - a. Interfacing with beam

We look forward to one of the first GeV muon beam and muon scattering experiment in China!

<https://github.com/PKMMuon>

