



Improved sensitivities of low-energy $U(1)_{B-L}$ model @ DUNE & FASER

Yongchao Zhang
(张永超)

Southeast University

Sep 20, 2025

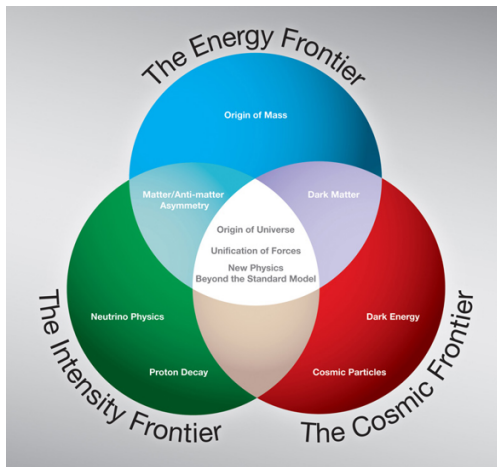
第四届高能物理理论与实验融合发展研讨会

based on

Dev, Dutta, Kelly, Mohapatra & YCZ, 2104.07681 [JHEP]

Zihao Guo, ~~Kevin Kelly~~ & YCZ, 25xy.abcde

Frontiers of particle physics & cosmology



High-Energy frontier
High-Intensity frontier
Cosmic frontier

Interdisciplinary:

- particle physics
- nuclear physics
- astronomy
- astrophysics & cosmology
- engineering & industry
- applications
- economy
- ...

High-Intensity frontier experiments

- High-luminosity meson factories:
BES III, BaBar, Belle II...
- DM direct detection experiments:
PandaX, CDEX, XENON1T, LZ...
- Long-lived particle experiments:
FASER(ν), CODEX-b, MATHUSLA, SND, FPF, DUNE...
- Parity-violating electron scattering (PVES) experiments:
MOLLER, P2, APV ($^{225}\text{Ra}^+$), SoLID, Qweak...
- Muon precision measurements:
FNAL $g - 2$, MUonE, EMuS, COMET, MEG, Mu2e, Mu3e...
- $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay experiments:
PandaX-III, CDEX-300 ν , N ν DEX, CUPID-CJPL, JUNO-bb...
- Coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (CE ν NS) experiments:
COHERENT, CO ν US...
- Neutrino experiments:
T2K, NO ν A, JUNO, DUNE, Hyper-Kamiokande, IceCube...
- Observations of supernovae, neutron stars, Sun etc
 $\Rightarrow \nu$'s in JUNO...; GWs in TianQin, Taiji...
- ...

$U(1)_{B-L}$ model

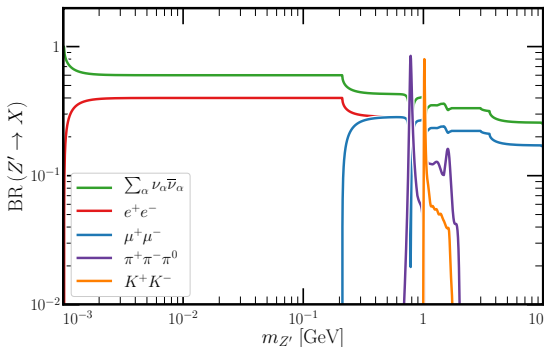
$U(1)_{B-L}$ models

- Global $U(1)_{B-L}$ model
 - ▶ Majoron (pseudo-Nambu-Goldstone boson) [Chikashige, Mohapatra & Peccei '80 PRL; '81 PLB; Aulakh & Mohapatra '82 PLB; Gelmini & Roncadelli '81 PLB; Schechter & Valle '82 PRD]
- Local: $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_{I_{3R}} \times U(1)_{B-L}$ [Marshak & Mohapatra '80 PLB; '80 PRL; Deshpande & Iskandar '80 NPB; Galison & Manohar '84 PLB]
 - ▶ Symmetry breaking $U(1)_{I_{3R}} \times U(1)_{B-L} \rightarrow U(1)_Y$
- Local: $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \times U(1)_{B-L}$ [Buchmuller, Greub & Minkowski '91 PLB; Basso '11]
 - ▶ Neutrino portal (N): type-I seesaw
 - ▶ Vector portal (Z'): DM, collider pheno...
 - ▶ Scalar portal (S breaking $U(1)_{B-L}$): DM, collider pheno...

Decay of Z'

Partial widths [hadron channels using R -ratio [Buschmann, Kopp, Liu & Machado '15 [JHEP]; Ilten, Soreq, Williams & Xue '18 [JHEP]; Bauer, Foldenauer & Jaeckel '18 [JHEP]]]

$$\Gamma(Z' \rightarrow f\bar{f}) = \frac{m_{Z'} g_{BL}^2 N_f^C S_f}{12\pi} \left(1 + \frac{2m_f^2}{m_{Z'}^2}\right) \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_f^2}{m_{Z'}^2}}$$



Decay of Scalar S

- $h - S$ mixing induced decays [Donoghue, Gasser & Leutwyler '90 [NPB]; Djouadi '09 [Phys. Rept.]]

$$\Gamma(S \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-) = \frac{G_F m_S m_\ell^2 \sin^2 \vartheta}{4\sqrt{2}\pi} \left(1 - \frac{4m_\ell^2}{m_S^2}\right)^{3/2}$$

$$\Gamma(S \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-) = 2\Gamma(S \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0) = \frac{G_F m_S^3 \sin^2 \vartheta}{8\sqrt{2}\pi} \left(1 - \frac{4m_\pi^2}{m_S^2}\right)^{1/2} |G(m_S^2)|^2$$

$$\Gamma(S \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) = \frac{G_F \alpha^2 m_S^3 \sin^2 \vartheta}{128\sqrt{2}\pi^3} \left| \sum_f N_f^C Q_f^2 A_{1/2}(\tau_f) + A_1(\tau_W) \right|^2$$

- Gauge coupling induced decay

$$\Gamma(S \rightarrow Z' Z') = \frac{g_{BL}^2 Q_S^2 m_S^3}{32\pi m_{Z'}^2} \left(1 - \frac{4m_{Z'}^2}{m_S^2}\right)^{1/2} \left(1 - \frac{4m_{Z'}^2}{m_S^2} + \frac{12m_{Z'}^4}{m_S^4}\right)$$

Benchmark points of S decay

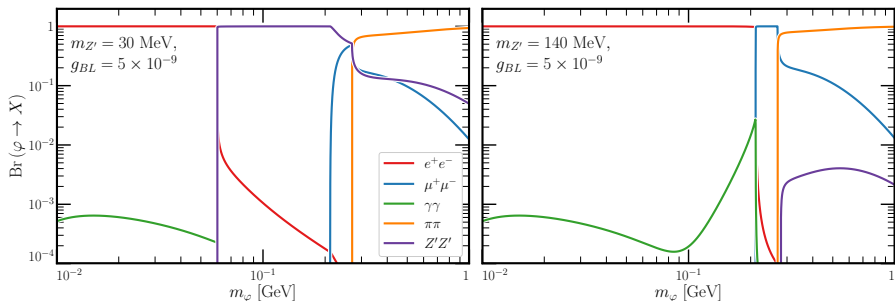


Figure: Decay BRs of S with $\sin \theta = 10^{-4}$.

Free parameters in the model

$$m_{Z'}, \quad m_S, \quad g_{BL}, \quad \sin \vartheta$$

Four different scenarios

- Pure Z' case
- Pure S case
- $S + Z'$ case (effects of $S \rightarrow Z' Z'$)
- Associate production of S & Z'

Z' @ DUNE

Bhupal Dev, Bhaskar Dutta, Kevin Kelly, Rabindra Mohapatra & YCZ,
2104.07681 [JHEP]

Light, Long-Lived $B - L$ Gauge and Higgs Bosons at the DUNE Near Detector

Z' Production channels

- Leading contributions: $\pi, \eta \rightarrow \gamma Z', pN \rightarrow pNZ'$

[Batell, Pospelov & Ritz '09 [PRD]]

$$\text{BR}(\mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \gamma Z') = 2\text{BR}(\mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \left(\frac{g_{BL}}{e}\right)^2 \left(1 - \frac{m_{Z'}^2}{m_{\mathfrak{m}}^2}\right)^3$$

- ▶ Subleading: $K_L \rightarrow \gamma Z'$

- ▶ Subleading: $\pi^+, K^+ \rightarrow \ell^+ \nu Z'$

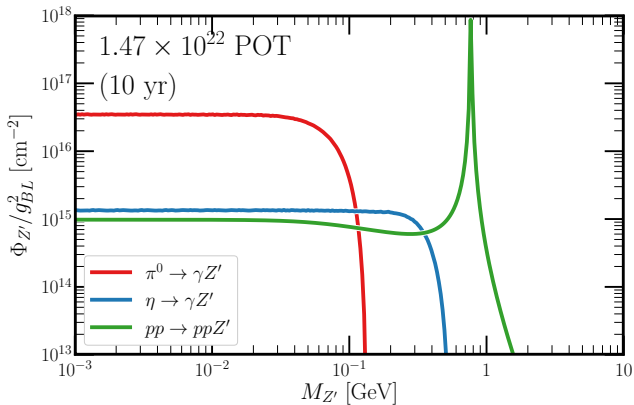
[Berryman, de Gouvea, Fox, Kayser, Kelly & Raaf '20 [JHEP]]

- ▶ Subleading: $K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 Z', K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ Z'$

[Pospelov '08 PRD; Davoudiasl, Lee & Marciano '14 PRD]

- ▶ Subleading: $\Delta(1232) \rightarrow NZ'$

Production of Z' @ DUNE (near detector complex)



Fluxes of Z' @ DUNE

- Meson decay [c_m the average number of mesons produced per POT; A_{det} the detector area; $\epsilon_{Z'}$ the geometrical acceptance factor]

$$\Phi_{mZ'} = \frac{c_m N_{\text{POT}}}{A_{\text{det}}} \epsilon(m_{Z'}) \text{BR}(m \rightarrow \gamma Z') .$$

- Bremsstrahlung process [σ_{pN} the total proton-target cross section; $F_{1,N}$ form factor; w_{ba} photon splitting function]

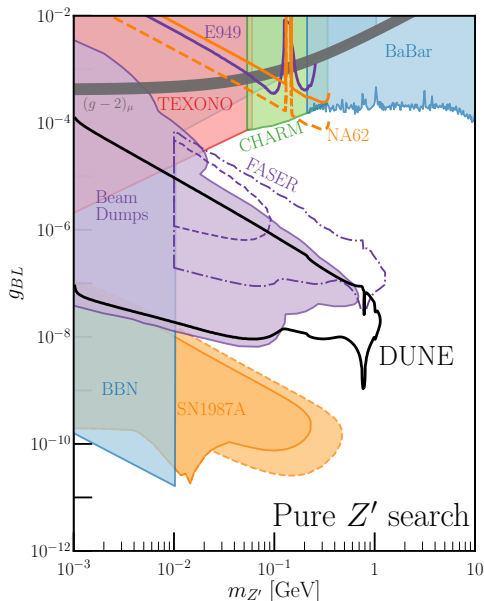
[Blumlein & Brunner '14 PLB; deNiverville, Chen, Pospelov & Ritz '17 PRD]

$$\Phi_{\text{brem}Z'} = \frac{N_{\text{POT}}}{A_{\text{det}} \sigma_{pN}(s)} |F_{1,N}(m_{Z'}^2)|^2 \int dz \int_{\text{det}} dp_T^2 \sigma_{pN} w_{ba}(z, p_T^2) .$$

- Number of signals

$$N_{\text{sig}} = \int_{E_{\text{min}}}^{E_{\text{max}}} dE_{Z'} \int_{A_{\text{det}}} dA \int_{D_{\text{det}}}^{D_{\text{det}}+L_{\text{det}}} dx \left[\frac{d\Phi_{Z'}}{dE_{Z'}} P_{\text{decay}}(E_{Z'}, x) \right] .$$

DUNE sensitivity: pure Z' case



Consider only visible decays of Z' .

Lab limits from [Bauer, Foldenauer & Jaeckel '18 [JHEP]]

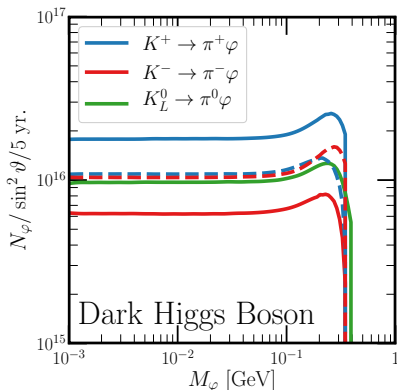
BBN & SN1987A limits from [Knapen, Lin & Zurek '17 [PRD]; Croon, Elor, Leane & McDermott '21 [JHEP]]

Comparing DUNE and FASER:
DUNE events' energy is lower,
thus probing smaller g_{BL} .

S production @ DUNE

Berryman, de Gouvêa, Fox, Kayser, Kelly & Raaf '20 [JHEP];

Batell, Pospelov & Ritz '11 [PRD]



$$\Gamma(K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm S) \simeq \frac{m_{K^\pm} |y_{sd}|^2 \sin^2 \vartheta}{64\pi}$$

$$\times \frac{m_{K^\pm}^2}{m_S^2} \lambda(m_{K^\pm}, m_{\pi^\pm}, m_S),$$

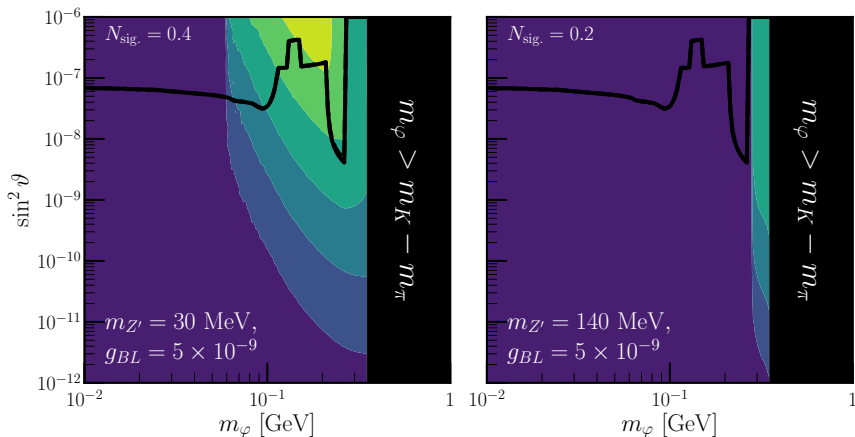
$$\Gamma(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 S) \simeq \frac{m_{K_L} (\text{Re } y_{sd})^2 \sin^2 \vartheta}{64\pi}$$

$$\times \frac{m_{K_L}^2}{m_S^2} \lambda(m_{K_L}, m_{\pi^0}, m_S),$$

$$y_{sd} = \frac{3\sqrt{2}G_F m_t^2 V_{ts}^* V_{td}}{16\pi^2} \frac{m_S}{\sqrt{2}v_{EW}}$$

$pp \rightarrow ppS$ process contribution is comparatively small. [Batell, Berger & Ismail '19 [PRD]]

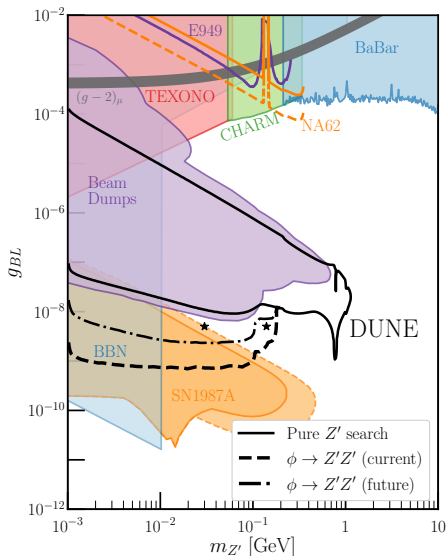
Numbers of Z' @ DUNE in presence of S



Much more Z' can be produced from $S \rightarrow Z'Z'$.

Color change: a factor of 10

Effects of $S \rightarrow Z'Z'$ on Z' prospects @ DUNE



Consider only visible decays of Z' .

Assuming zero backgrounds & 10 signal events [Berryman, de Gouvêa, Fox, Kayser, Kelly & Raaf '20 [JHEP]]

Lab limits from [Bauer, Foldenauer & Jaeckel '18 [JHEP]]

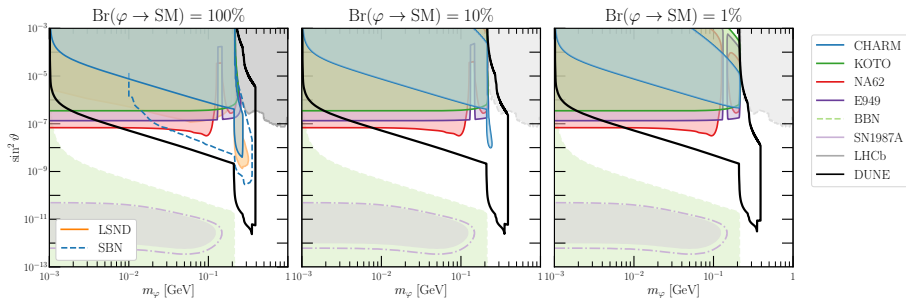
BBN & SN1987A limits from [Knapen, Lin & Zurek '17 [PRD]; Croon, Elor, Leane & McDermott '21 [JHEP]]

Improving the pure Z' case by up to **a factor of 45**.

dashed line: current S limits;
dot-dashed line: future S limits.

Effects of $S \rightarrow Z'Z'$ on S prospects @ DUNE

Dev, Mohapatra & YCZ '20 [PRD]; Egana-Ugrinovic, Homiller & Meade '20 [PRL]



Effects of $S \rightarrow Z'Z'$:

- Modifying its branching fraction into visible particles;
- Shortening its lifetime.

SN1987A limits from [Dev, Mohapatra & YCZ '20 [JCAP]; Dev, Fortin, Harris, Sinha & YCZ '21 [JCAP]]

Associate production of S and Z'

- Channels:

$$\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma + Z' + S, \quad K \rightarrow \pi + Z' + S, \quad \rho \rightarrow Z' + S$$

- If S is produced from gauge coupling to Z'

$$\text{flux} \propto g_{BL}^4 \quad \text{too small!}$$

- If S is produced from Yukawa coupling to mesons

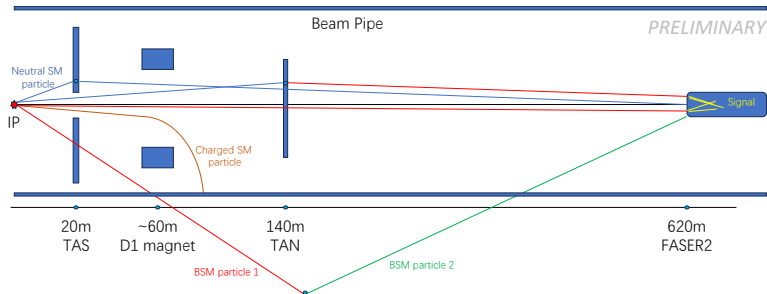
$$\text{flux} \propto \sin^2 \vartheta g_{BL}^2 \quad \text{too small!}$$

Z' @ FASER(2)

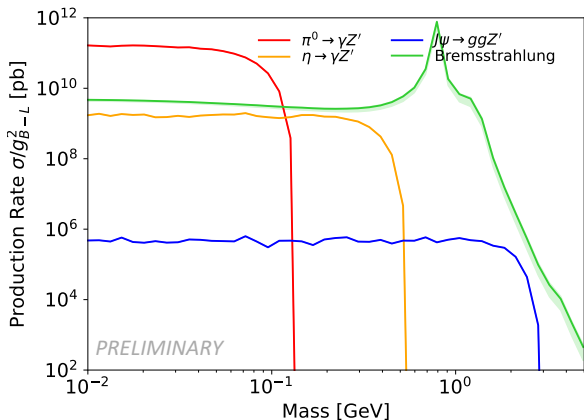
Zihao Guo, ~~Kevin Kelly~~ & YCZ, 25xy.abcde

Long-lived particles at FASER(2)

FASER collaboration, 1901.04468



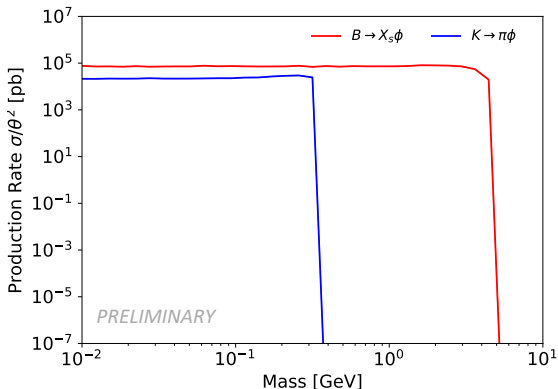
Production of Z' @ LHC (ATLAS)



- Dominant channels: $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma Z'$, $pp \rightarrow pp Z'$.
- Subdominant channels: $\eta \rightarrow \gamma Z'$, $J/\psi \rightarrow gg Z'$.
- See [Kling, Reimitz & Ritz 2509.09437] for form factors for the bremsstrahlung process.

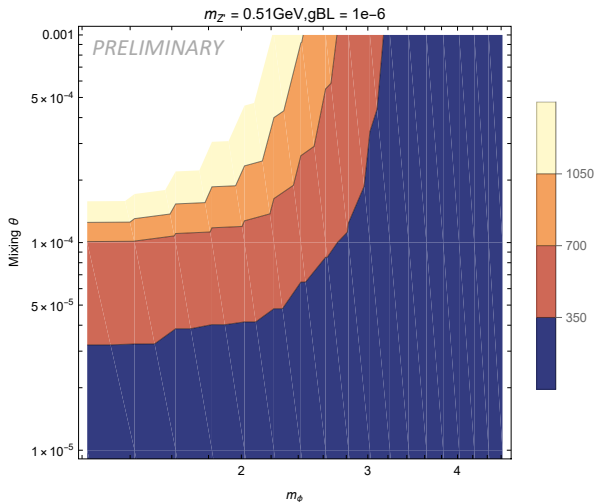
S production @ LHC

Feng, Galon, Kling & Trojanowski '17 [PRD]; Boiarska+ '19 [JHEP]

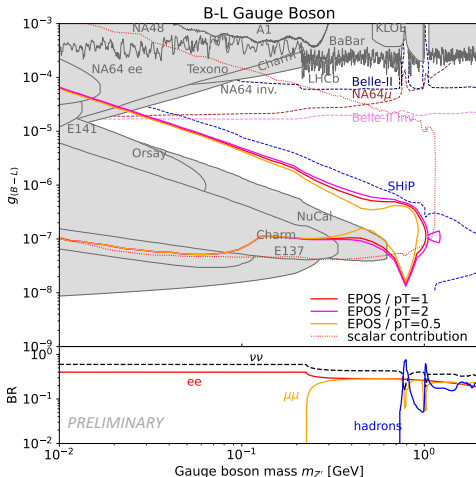


- Dominant channels $B \rightarrow X_s S$.
- Subdominant channels $K \rightarrow \pi S$, $pp \rightarrow ppS$.

Z' production @ FASER2 from S



Improved Z' prospects @ FASER2



$m_S = 2 \text{ GeV}$ & $\sin \theta = 10^{-4}$.

Consider only visible decays of Z' .

Assuming no SM backgrounds.

Assuming 3 signal events.

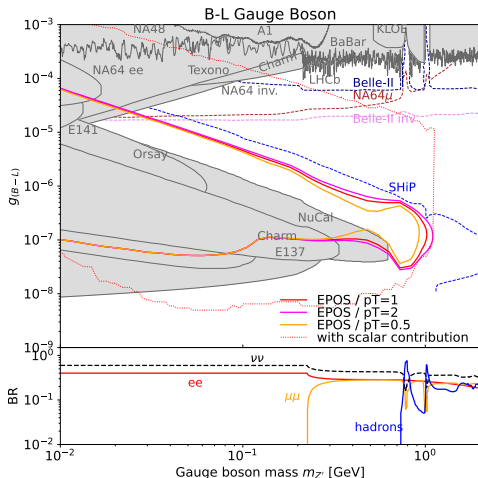
Z' sensitivities:

solid lines: pure Z' case;

dotted line: Z' from S decay.

The scalar S can improve significantly the FASER2 sensitivities of Z' .

Improved Z' prospects @ FASER2



$$m_S = 2 \text{ GeV} \ \& \ \sin \theta = 10^{-4}.$$

Consider only visible decays of Z' .

Assuming no SM backgrounds.

Assuming 3 signal events.

Z' sensitivities:

solid lines: pure Z' case;

dotted line: pure $Z' \oplus S$ decay.

The scalar S can improve significantly the FASER2 sensitivities of Z' .

Conclusion

- The light scalar and gauge bosons can have very rich phenomenologies at the high-intensity experiments such as DUNE & FASER(2).
- The gauge coupling $SZ'Z'$ can broaden the Z' prospects at DUNE & FASER2 by up to one order of magnitude.
- The decay $S \rightarrow Z'Z'$ reduces to some extent the sensitivity of S at DUNE & FASER(2).

Thank you very much!