

# Particle physics experiments based on the AWAKE acceleration scheme

Matthew Wing (UCL / DESY)

- Introduction and motivation
- Future electron beam based on AWAKE scheme
- Possible physics experiments
  - Strong-field QED at the Schwinger field
  - Search for dark photons, NA64-like
  - High energy electron-proton collisions, LHeC-like and VHEeP
- Summary and discussion

## Motivation: big questions in particle physics

- The Standard Model is amazingly successful, but some things remain unexplained :
- a detailed understanding of the Higgs Boson/mechanism
- neutrinos and their masses
- why is there so much matter (vs antimatter) ?
- why is there so little matter (5% of Universe) ?
- what is dark matter and dark energy ?
   Does supersymmetry occur at the *TeV* scale
- why are there three families ?
- hierarchy problem; can we unify the forces ?
- what is the fundamental structure of matter ?

Colliders and use of high energy particle beams will be key to solving some of these questions

Leptons

Quarks

Forces

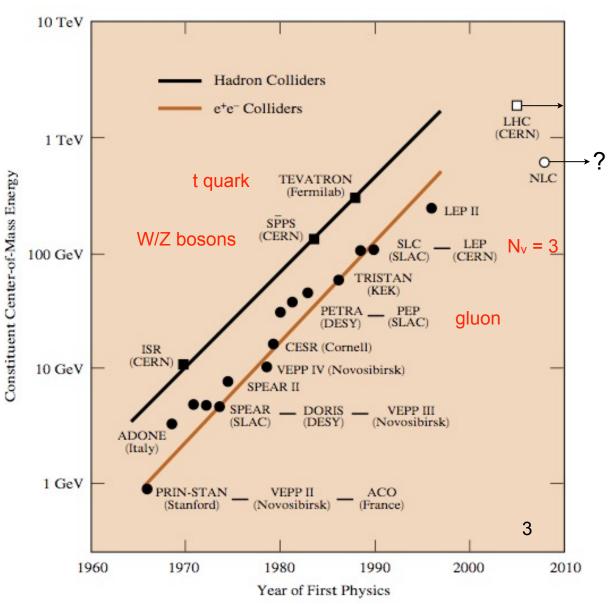
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Higgs



## **Motivation: colliders**

- The use of (large) accelerators has been central to advances in particle physics.
- Culmination in 27-km long LHC (pp); e.g. a future e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider planned to be 30–50km long.
- The high energy frontier is (very) expensive; can we reduce costs ? Can we develop and use new technologies ?
- Accelerators using RF cavities limited to  $\sim 100 \text{ MV/m}$ ; high energies  $\rightarrow$  long accelerators.
- The Livingston plot shows a saturation ...





## Motivation: plasma wakefield acceleration as a solution

- Plasma wakefield acceleration is a promising scheme as a technique to realise shorter or higher energy accelerators in particle physics.
- Proton-driven plasma wakefield acceleration is well-suited to high energy physics applications.
- Accelerating gradients achieved in the wakefield of a plasma are very high (3 orders of magnitude more than RF acceleration and up to 100 GV/m), but need :
  - High repetition rate and high number of particles per bunch;
  - Efficient and highly reproducible beam production;
  - Small beams sizes (potentially down to *nm* scale).
- Ultimate goal : can we have *TeV* beams produced in an accelerator structure of a few *km* in length ?
- Here consider realistic and first applications:
  - Based on AWAKE scheme of proton-driven plasma wakefield acceleration;
  - Strong use of CERN infrastructure;
  - Need to have novel and exciting physics programme.
- A challenge for accelerator, plasma and particle physics.



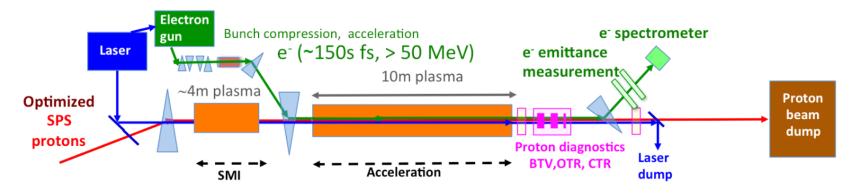
# An AWAKE-like beam for particle physics





## AWAKE Run 2

- Preparing AWAKE Run 2, after CERN LS2 and before LS3, 2021–4.
  - Accelerate electron bunch to higher energies.
  - Demonstrate beam quality preservation.
  - Demonstrate scalability of plasma sources.



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Parameter	Value
Acc. gradient	>0.5 GV/m
Energy gain	10 GeV
Injection energy	$\gtrsim 50 \text{ MeV}$
Bunch length, rms	40–60 µm (120–180 fs)
Peak current	200–400 A
Bunch charge	67–200 pC
Final energy spread, rms	few %
Final emittance	$\lesssim 10 \ \mu m$

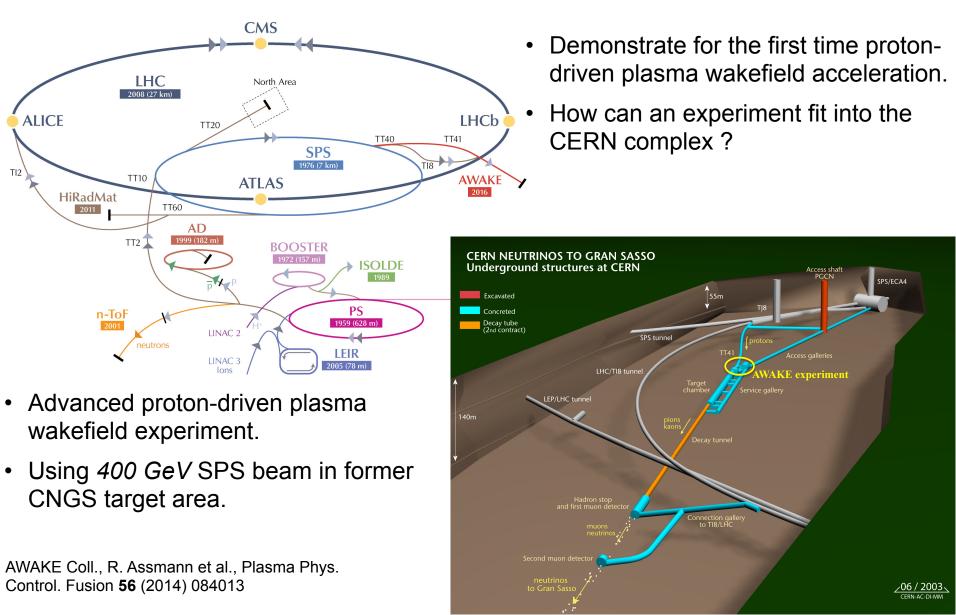
- Are there physics experiments that require an electron beam of up to *O(50 GeV)* ?
- Use bunches from SPS with 3.5 × 10<sup>11</sup> protons every ~ 5 s.
- Using the LHC beam as a driver, *TeV* electron beams are possible.

E. Adli (AWAKE Collaboration), IPAC 2016 proceedings, p.2557 (WEPMY008).





## **AWAKE experiment at CERN**





## **Possible particle physics experiments I**

- Use of electron beam for test-beam campaigns.
  - Test-beam infrastructure for detector characterisation often over-subscribed.
  - Also accelerator test facility. Also not many world-wide.
  - Characteristics:
    - Variation of energy.
    - Provide pure electron beam.
    - Short bunches.
- Fixed-target experiments using electron beams, e.g. deep inelastic electron-proton scattering.
  - Measurements at high *x*, momentum fraction of struck parton in the proton, with higher statistics than previous experiments. Valuable for LHC physics.
  - Polarised beams and spin structure of the nucleon. The "proton spin crisis/puzzle" is still a big unresolved issue.
- Investigation of strong-field QED at the Schwinger limit in electron-laser interactions.



## **Possible particle physics experiments II**

- Search for dark photons à la NA64
  - Consider beam-dump and counting experiments.
- High energy electron-proton collider
  - A low-luminosity LHeC-type experiment:  $E_e \sim 50 \text{ GeV}$ , beam within 50-100 m of plasma driven by SPS protons; low luminosity, but much more compact.
  - A very high energy electron-proton (VHEeP) collider with  $\sqrt{s} = 9$  TeV, ×30 higher than HERA. Developing physics programme.

These experiments probe exciting areas of physics and will really profit from an AWAKElike electron beam.

• Demonstrate an accelerator technology also doing cutting-edge particle physics

Using a new technology Fixed-target High 
$$E ep$$
 Ligh  $E ep$  Ligh  $E$ , high lumi  $e^+e^-$  collider collider



# Strong-field QED at the Schwinger field



## Strong-field QED

- Quantum mechanics and QED has been investigated and measured with amazing precision in many experiments and high-precision predictions describe this well.
  - However the strong-field regime, where QED becomes non-perturbative, has still not been measured.
- The strong field regime was already considered by Heisenberg, Euler et al. in 1930s.
- Characterised by the Schwinger critical field (1951):

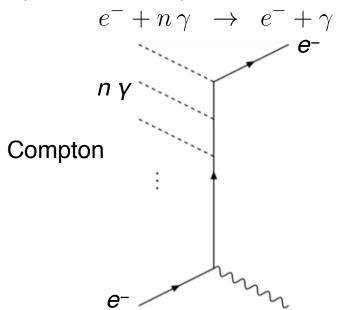
$$E_{\rm crit} = \frac{mc^2}{e\chi_C} = \frac{m^2c^3}{e\hbar} = 1.3 \times 10^{16} \, \text{V/cm}$$

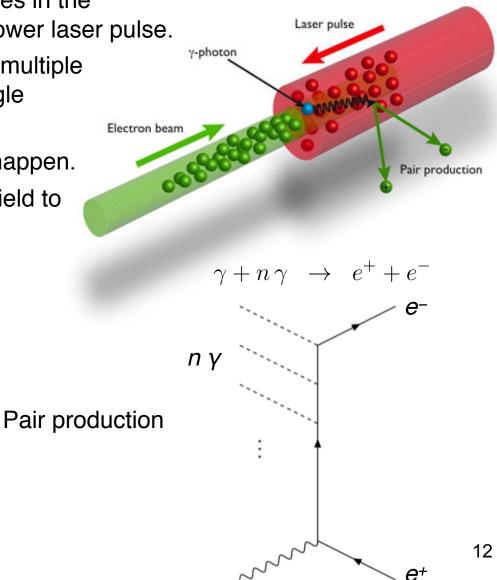
- This has not been reached experimentally, although they are expected to exist:
  - On the surface of neutron stars.
  - In bunches of future linear  $e^+e^-$  colliders.
- Can be reached by colliding photons with a high-energy electron beam
  - Pioneering experiment E144 @ SLAC in 1990s.
- Given increase in laser power, investigate QED in an unexplored region. 11



## **Non-linear QED processes**

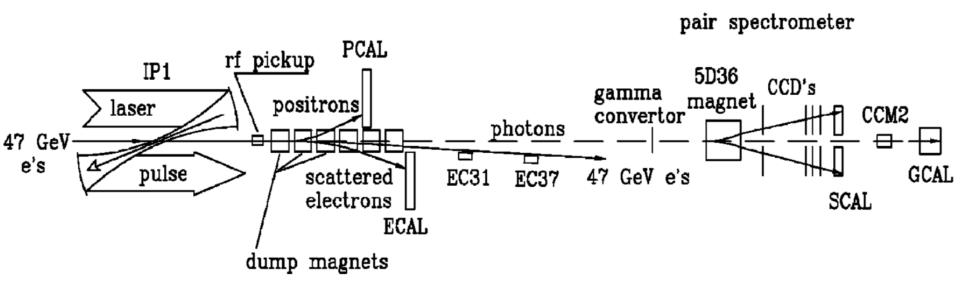
- Initial interest in two strong-field processes in the interaction of electron beam with high-power laser pulse.
  - Non-linear Compton scattering where multiple laser photons are absorbed and a single photon radiated.
  - One or more such Compton scatters happen.
  - Produced photon interacts with laser field to produce electron–positron pair (Breit–Wheeler)







## E144 experiment at SLAC



- Used 46.6 GeV electron beam (Final Focus Test Beam) with 5 × 10<sup>9</sup> electrons per bunch up to 30 Hz.
- Terawatt laser pulses with intensities of ~0.5 × 10<sup>18</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup> and frequency of 0.5 Hz for wavelengths 1053 nm and 527 nm.
- Electron bunch and laser collided with 17° crossing angle.

E144 Coll., C. Bamber et al., Phys. Rev. D 60 (1999) 092004;

T. Koffas, "Positron production in multiphoton light-by-light scattering", PhD thesis, University of Rochester (1998), SLAC-R-626.



## **New strong-field QED experiments**

- New experiments being performed/considered
  - In LWFA with few-GeV electrons and laser.
  - Using FACET and EU.XFEL 10-20 GeV electrons and laser.
  - Using higher-power lasers compared to E144@SLAC.
- Could also be an application of an AWAKE-like bunch
  - Unique feature would be the higher electron energies and hence higher  $\sqrt{s}$ .
  - Sensitive to different processes.
  - Can constrain more exotic physics (e.g. dark photons).



# Experiments to search for the dark sector



## The hidden / dark sector

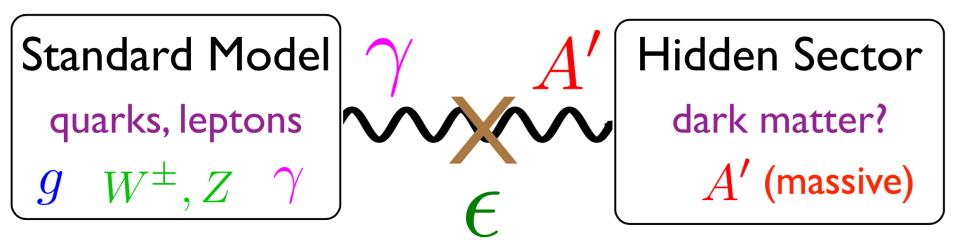
- Baryonic (ordinary) matter constitutes ~5% of known matter.
  - What is the nature of dark matter? Why can we not see the dominant constituent of the Universe?
- LHC Run 1 (and previous high energy colliders) have found no dark matter candidates so far.
- LHC Run 2 to continue that search looking for heavy new particles such as those within supersymmetry.
- Also direct detection experiments looking for recoil from WIMPs
- There are models which postulate light (*GeV* and below) new particles which could be candidates for dark matter.
- There could be a dark sector which couples to ordinary matter via gravity and possibly other very weak forces.
- Could e.g. explain g-2 anomaly between measurement and the Standard Model.



## **Dark photons**

A light vector boson, the "dark photon", A', results from a spontaneously broken new gauge symmetry,  $U(1)_D$ .

The A' kinetically mixes with the photon and couples primarily to the electromagnetic current with strength,  $\epsilon e$ 



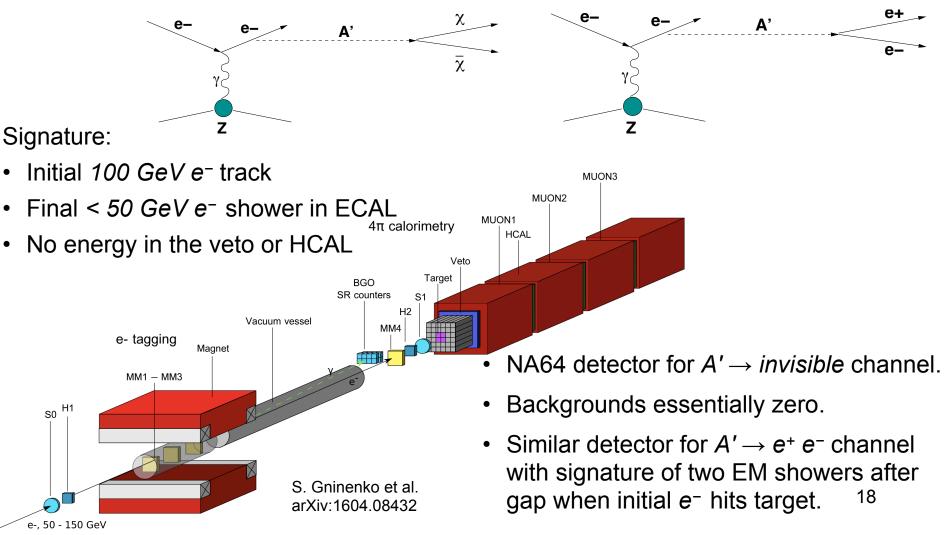
$$\Delta \mathcal{L} = \frac{\epsilon}{2} F^{Y,\mu\nu} F'_{\mu\nu}$$

Growing field of experiments with many running or starting or proposed at JLab, SLAC, INFN, Mainz, etc.



## **NA64 experimental programme**

- Initial run in SPS beam focusing on  $A' \rightarrow invisible$  channel.
- Future programme measuring  $A' \rightarrow e^+ e^-$  channel.





## **Electrons on target**

NA64 will receive about 10<sup>6</sup> e<sup>-</sup>/spill or  $2 \times 10^5$  e<sup>-</sup>/s from SPS secondary beam

- →  $N_e \sim 10^{12} e^-$  for 3 months running.
- AWAKE-like beam with bunches of  $10^9 e^-$  every (SPS cycle time of) ~ 5 s or 2 × 10<sup>8</sup> e<sup>-</sup>/s (1000 × higher than NA64/SPS secondary beam)
- →  $N_e \sim 10^{15} e^-$  for 3 months running.
- Will assume that an AWAKE-like beam could provide an **effective upgrade** to the NA64 experiment, increasing the intensity by a factor of *1000*.
- Different beam energies or higher intensities (e.g. bunch charge, SPS cycle time) may be possible, but are not considered in this talk.



## Sensitivity with increased electrons on target

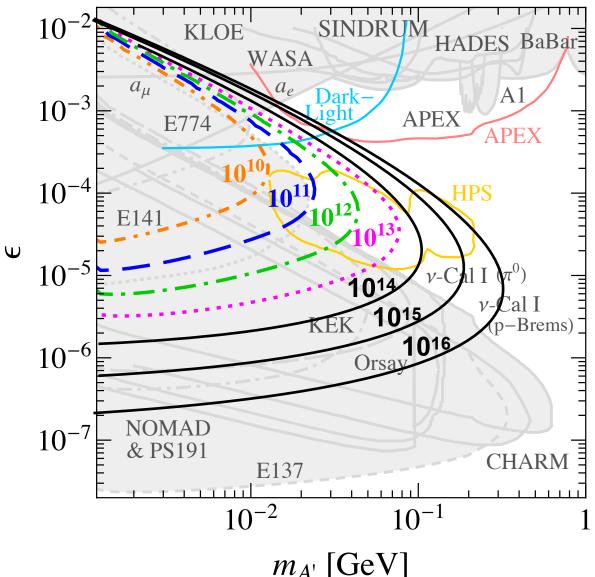
Have taken plots of mixing strength,  $\varepsilon$ , versus mass,  $m_{A'}$ , from NA64 studies/proposals and added curves "by hand" to show increased sensitivity.

- Considered  $A' \rightarrow e^+ e^-$  and  $A' \rightarrow invisible$  channels.
- In general, but certainly at high m<sub>A'</sub> (> 1 GeV) need more detailed calculations (developed in S.N. Gninenko et al., arXiv:1604.08432).
- More careful study of optimal beam energy needed.
- Evaluation of backgrounds needed; currently assume background-free for AWAKE-like beam.
- More careful study of possible detector configurations.
- Could consider other channels, e.g.  $A' \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ .
- Note that this idea uses bunches, rather than single electrons.

Results shown here should be considered as indicative.



### Limits on dark photons, $A' \rightarrow e^+e^-$ channel



For  $10^{10} - 10^{13}$  electrons on target with NA64.

For  $10^{14} - 10^{16}$  electrons on target with AWAKE-like beam.

As proposed by NA64 group:

- extend into region not covered by current limits.
- similar to and complement other future experiments.

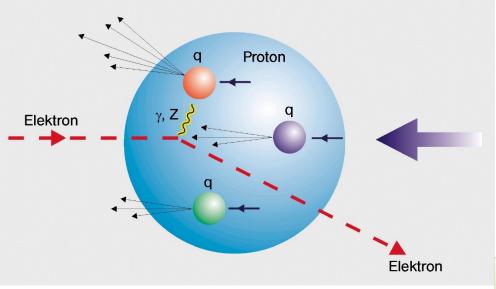
Using an AWAKE-like beam would extend sensitivity further around  $\varepsilon \sim 10^{-5}$  beyond any current experiment.



## **Electron-proton colliders**

## <sup>±</sup>UCL

## High energy electron-proton collisions



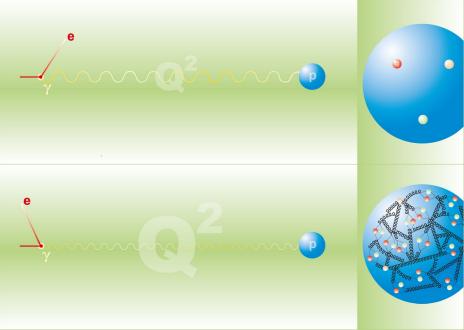
Energy scale or resolution,  $Q^2 = -(k-k')^2$ 

Parton momentum fraction, x

Understand hadronic cross sections as a function of these variables.

Deep inelastic scattering is the way to study the structure of matter.

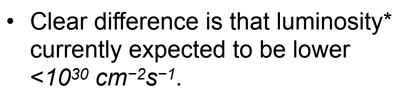
- When does the complex structure "level out" or "saturate" ?
- Tells us a lot about the strong force: parton interactions,  $\alpha_s$ , etc.
- Is there further partonic substructure ?



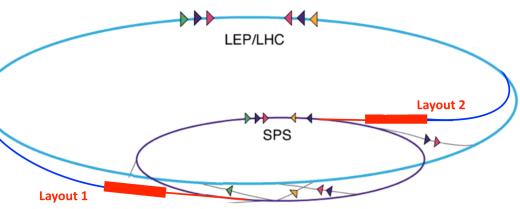
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## High energy electron-proton collisions

- Consider high energy *ep* collider with  $E_e$  up to O(50 GeV), colliding with LHC proton *TeV* bunch, e.g.  $E_e = 50 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $E_p = 7 \text{ TeV}$ ,  $\sqrt{s} = 1.2 \text{ TeV}$ .
- Can "easily" exceed HERA energies ( $\sqrt{s} = 300 \text{ GeV}$ ); can consider different detector and probe different physics.
- Create ~50 GeV beam within 50-100 m of plasma driven by SPS protons and have an LHeC-type experiment.

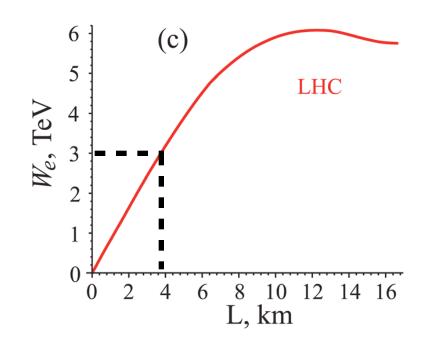


- Any such experiment would have a different focus to LHeC.
  - Investigate physics of the strong force.
  - Little sensitivity to Higgs physics.
- Consider design further, e.g. luminosity, understanding how to build a plasma accelerator, etc. Can site at CERN with minimal new infrastructure ?





## Very high energy electron–proton collisions, VHEeP



A. Caldwell & K. Lotov, Phys. Plasmas 18 (2011) 103101

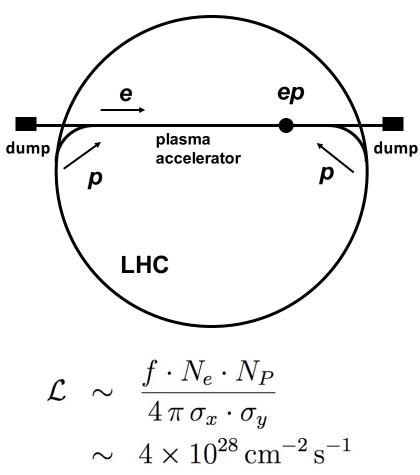
- What about very high energies in a completely new kinematic regime ?
- Choose  $E_e = 3$  TeV as a baseline for a new collider with  $E_p = 7$  TeV  $\Rightarrow \sqrt{s} = 9$  TeV.
- Acceleration of electrons in under 4 km.
- Can vary the energy.
- Centre-of-mass energy ×30 higher than HERA.
- Reach in (high)  $Q^2$  and (low) Bjorken x extended by ×1000 compared to HERA.

Idea presented at various workshops and published\*. Also had a workshop to expand particle physics case:

https://indico.mpp.mpg.de/event/5222/overview



### **Plasma wakefield accelerator**



- For few ×  $10^7$  s, have  $1 pb^{-1}$  / year of running.
- Other schemes to increase this value ?

- Emphasis on using current infrastructure, i.e. LHC beam with minimum modifications.
- Overall layout works in powerpoint.

• Need high gradient magnets to bend protons into the LHC ring.

- One proton beam used for electron acceleration to then collider with other proton beam.
- High energies achievable and can vary electron beam energy.
- What about luminosity ?
- Assume
  - ~3000 bunches every 30 mins  $\Rightarrow$  f ~ 2 Hz.

• 
$$N_p \sim 4 \times 10^{11}$$
,  $N_e \sim 1 \times 10^{11}$ 

• 
$$\sigma \sim 4 \ \mu m$$

Physics case for very high energy, but moderate  $(10-100 \text{ pb}^{-1})$  luminosities.



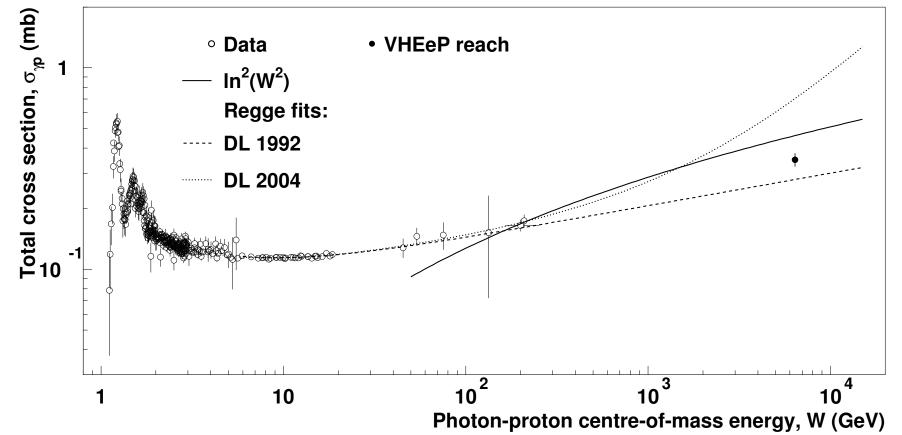
## **Physics at VHEeP**

- Cross sections at very low *x* and observation/evidence for saturation. Completely different kind of proton structure.
- Measure total  $\gamma P$  cross section at high energies and also at many different energies; relation to cosmic-ray physics.
- Vector meson production and its relation to the above.
- Beyond the Standard Model physics; contact interactions, e.g. radius of quark and electron; search for leptoquarks.
- Proton and photon structure, in particular e.g.  $F_L$  given change in beam energy, and eA scattering. Also related to saturation and low *x*.
- Tests of QCD, measurements of strong coupling, etc.. I.e. all usual QCD measurements can and should be done too in a new kinematic regime.

• ...



## **Total photon-proton cross section**



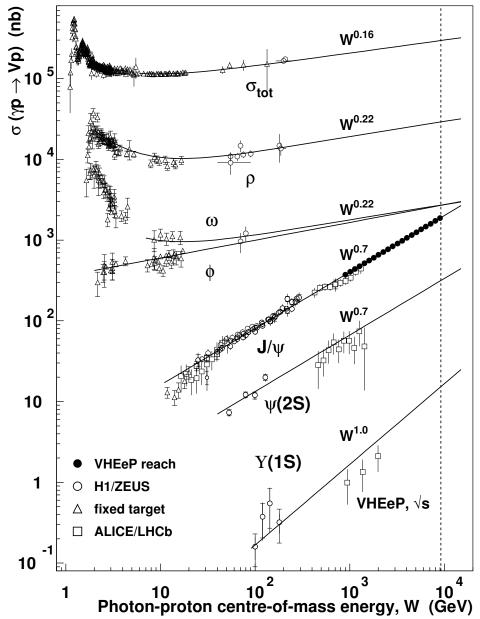
Energy dependence of hadronic cross sections poorly understood.

- Multiple measurements can be made with low luminosities.
- When does the cross section stop rising ?
- Relation to cosmic-ray physics.
- Great example of where you really gain with energy.

Equivalent to a 20 PeV photon on a fixed target.



### **Vector meson cross sections**



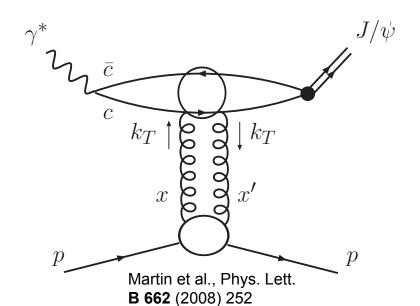
Strong rise with energy related to gluon density at low *x*.

Can measure all particles within the same experiment.

Comparison with fixed-target, HERA and LHCb data—large lever in energy.

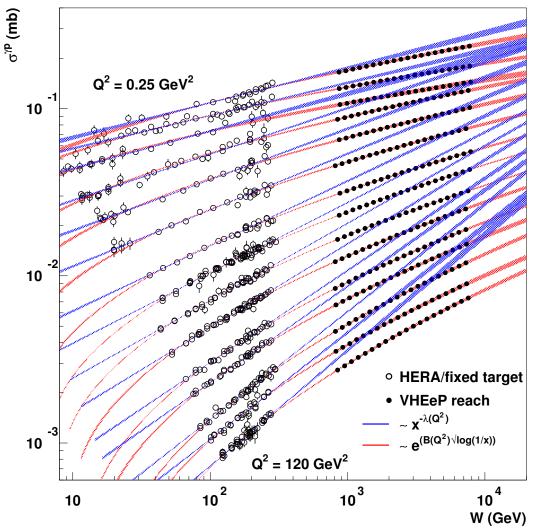
At VHEeP energies,  $\sigma(J/\psi) > \sigma(\phi)$  !

Onset of saturation ?



## <sup>•</sup>UCL

## Virtual-photon-proton cross section

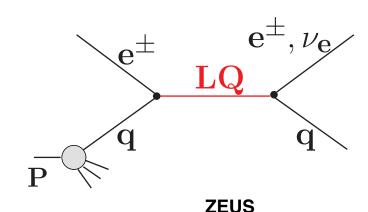


- Cross sections for all Q<sup>2</sup> are rising; again luminosity not an issue, will have huge number of events.
- Depending on the form, fits cross; physics does not make sense.
- Different forms deviate significantly from each other.
- VHEeP has reach to investigate this region and different behaviour of the cross sections.
- Can measure lower Q<sup>2</sup>, i.e. lower *x* and higher *W*.
- Unique information on form of hadronic cross sections at high energy.

VHEeP will explore a region of QCD where we have no idea what is happening.



## **Leptoquark production**

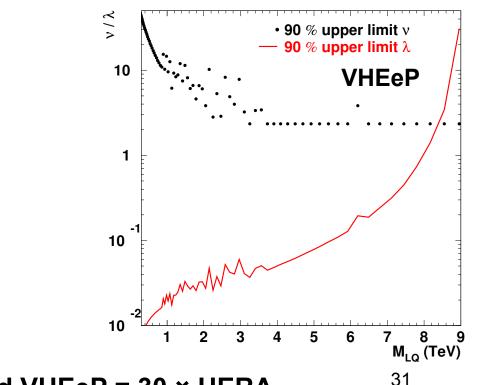


 $\boldsymbol{\prec}$ **S**<sup>L</sup><sub>1/2</sub> 10<sup>-1</sup> ZEUS e<sup>±</sup>p (498 pb<sup>-1</sup>) H1 e⁺p ATLAS pair prod. 10<sup>-2</sup> L3 indirect limit 0.3 0.8 0.9 0.2 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 M<sub>IO</sub> (TeV) ZEUS Coll., Phys. Rev. D 86 (2012) 012005

Electron–proton colliders are the ideal machine to look for leptoquarks.

s-channel resonance production possible up to  $\sqrt{s}$ .

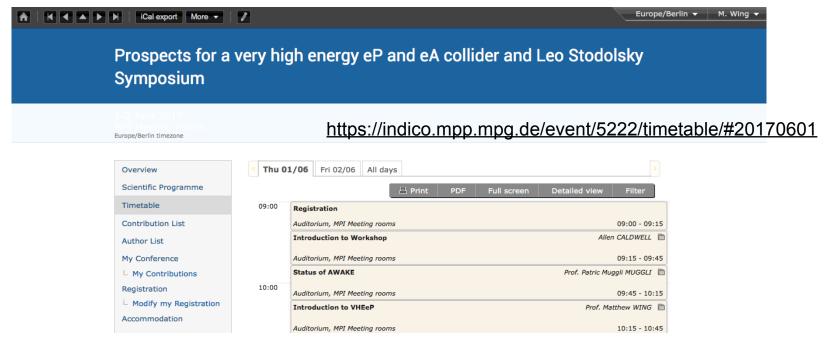
Reach of LHC currently about 1 TeV, to increase to 2 - 3 TeV.



Sensitivity depends mostly on  $\sqrt{s}$  and VHEeP = 30 × HERA



## **VHEeP Workshop**



#### Some highlights:

- Observe saturation; theory of hadronic interactions (Bartels, Mueller, Stodolsky, etc.)
- Relation of low-x physics to cosmic rays (Stasto); to black holes and gravity (Erdmenger); and to new physics descriptions (Dvali, Kowalski)
- Status of simulations (Plätzer)
- Challenge of the detector (Keeble)
- What understood from HERA data (Myronenko)



## **Summary and discussion**

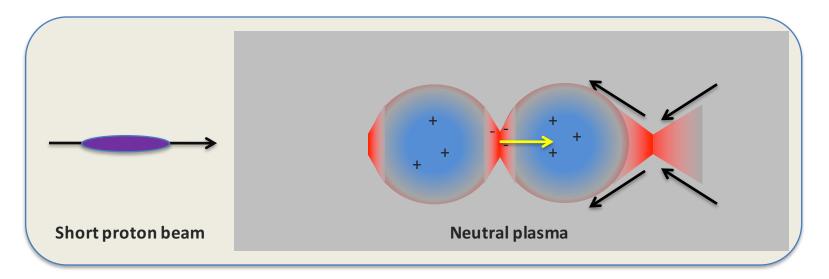
- The AWAKE collaboration has an exciting programme of R&D aiming to develop a **useable accelerator technology**.
- [Consider combination of conventional and novel schemes in designs such as upgrade of conventional e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> accelerator with plasma wakefield acceleration.]
- Emphasis what can be done with proton-driven scheme using CERN infrastructure.
- Have started to consider **realistic** applications to novel and interesting particle physics experiments:
  - Investigation of strong-field QED.
  - Fixed-target/beam-dump experiments in particular those sensitive to dark photons.
  - Electron-proton collider up to very high energies.
- Work ongoing studying boundary conditions / possibilities from physics, technical and integration side, e.g. de-phasing limit, repetition rate, tunnel space, etc..
- If we want to have cutting-edge accelerators based on new technology for high energy physics at the energy and intensity frontier, we will not get there in one go and this presents a path to try and do it for proton-driven plasma wakefield acceleration.



## **Back-up**



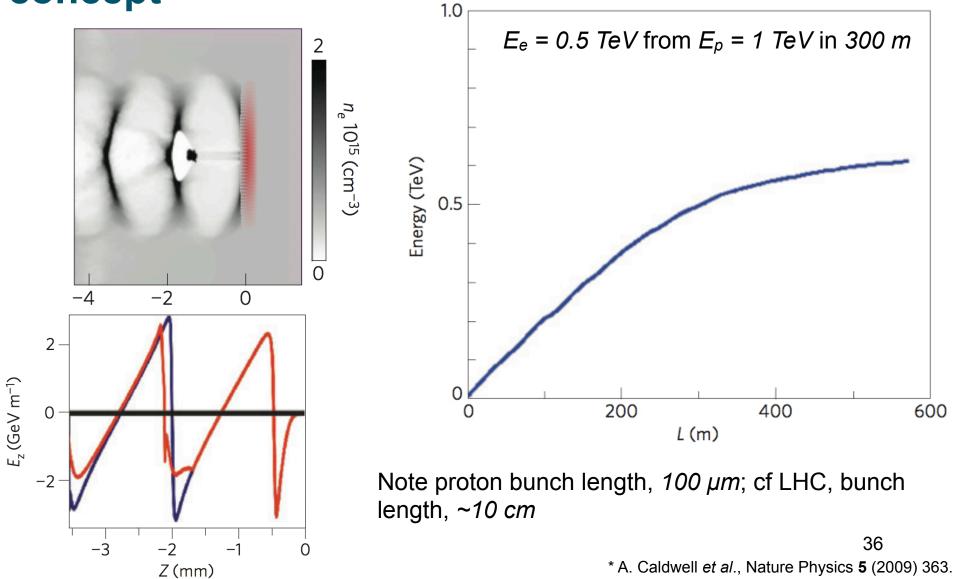
## **Plasma wakefield acceleration**



- Electrons 'sucked in' by proton bunch
- Continue across axis creating depletion region
- Oscillation of plasma electrons creates strong electric fields
- Longitudinal electric fields can accelerate particles in direction of proton bunch
- Transverse electric fields can focus particles

 A 'witness' bunch of e.g. electrons placed appropriately can be accelerated by these strong fields

## Proton-driven plasma wakefield acceleration concept\*





### **Plasma considerations**

Based on linear fluid dynamics :

$$\omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{n_p e^2}{\epsilon_0 m_e}}$$
  

$$\lambda_p \approx 1 \,[\text{mm}] \sqrt{\frac{10^{15} \,[\text{cm}^{-3}]}{n_p}} \quad \text{or} \approx \sqrt{2} \pi \,\sigma_z$$
  

$$E \approx 2 \,[\text{GV}\,\text{m}^{-1}] \left(\frac{N}{10^{10}}\right) \left(\frac{100 \,[\mu\text{m}]}{\sigma_z}\right)^2$$

Relevant physical quantities :

- Oscillation frequency,  $\omega_p$
- Plasma wavelength,  $\lambda_{p}$
- Accelerating gradient, *E* where :
- $n_p$  is the plasma density
- e is the electron charge
- $\varepsilon_0$  is the permittivity of free space
- *m*<sub>e</sub> is the mass of electron
- *N* is the number of drive-beam particles
- $\sigma_z$  is the drive-beam length

High gradients with :

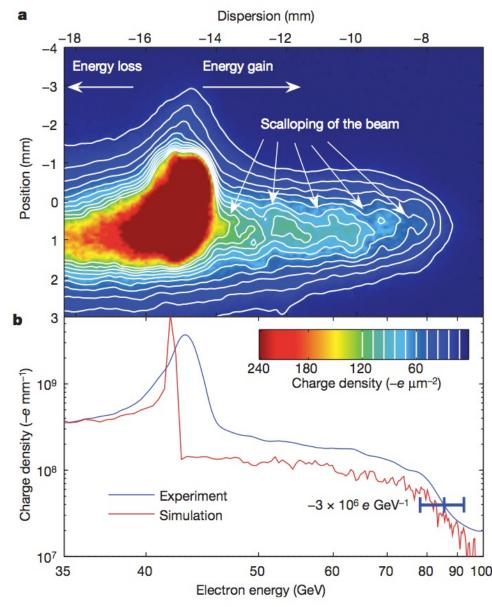
- Short drive beams (and short plasma wavelength)
- Pulses with large number of particles (and high plasma density)

Plasma wakefield acceleration first proposed by T. Tajima and J.W. Dawson, Phys. Rev. Lett. **43** (1979) 267; use of particle beams proposed by P. Chen et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **54** (1985) 693.

**UCL** 

### **Plasma wakefield experiments**

- Pioneering work using a LASER to induce wakefields up to *100 GV/m*.
- Experiments at SLAC§ have used a particle (electron) beam :
  - Initial energy  $E_e = 42 \text{ GeV}$
  - Gradients up to ~ 52 GV/m
  - Energy doubled over ~ 1 m
  - Next stage, FACET project (http://facet.slac.stanford.edu)
- Have proton beams of much higher energy :
  - CERN : 450 GeV and 6.5 (7) TeV
  - Can accelerate trailing electron bunch to high energy in one stage



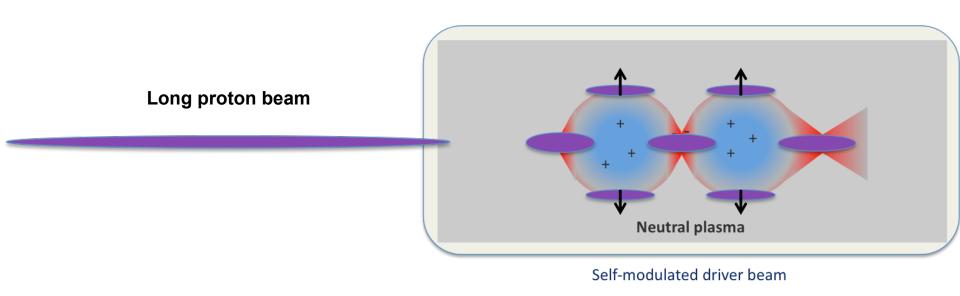




# Long proton bunches ?

Use self-modulation instability where micro-bunches are generated by a transverse modulation of the bunch density.

N. Kumar, A. Pukhov, K.V. Lotov, Phys. Rev. Lett. 104 (2010) 255003



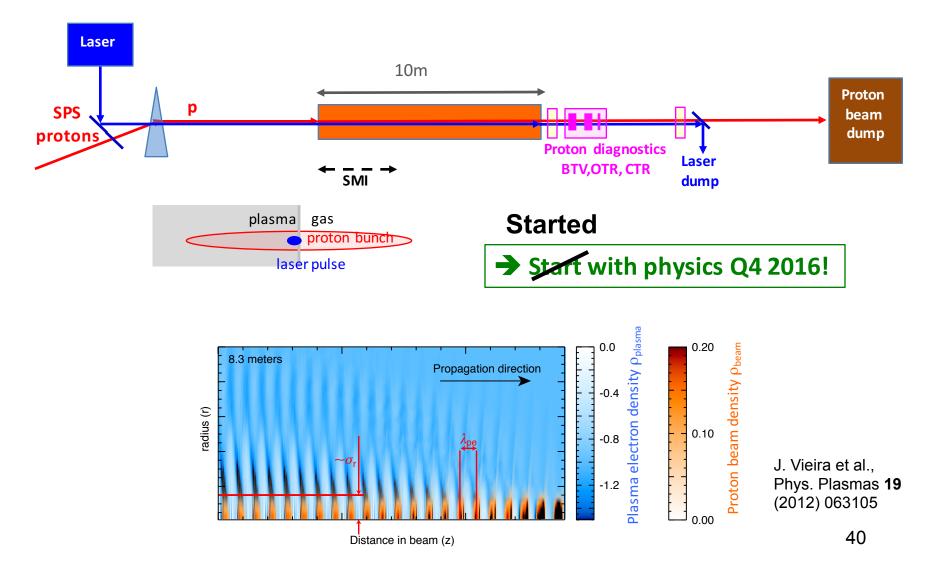
- Micro-bunches are spaced  $\lambda_p$  apart and have an increased charge density.
- Micro-bunches constructively reinforce to give large wakefields, *GV/m*.
- Self-modulation instability allows current beams to be used.





# **AWAKE experimental programme (Run I)**

Phase 1: understand the physics of self-modulation instability process in plasma

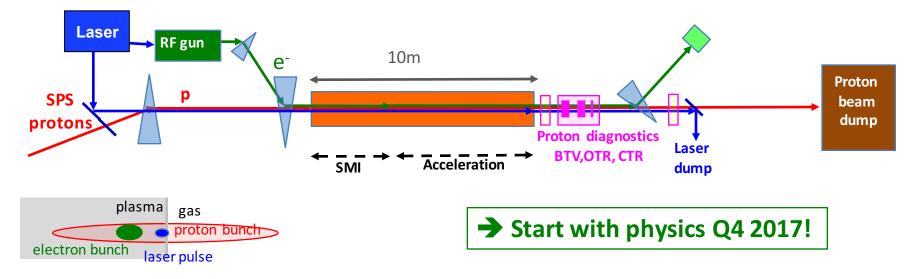


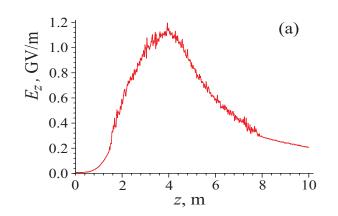




# **AWAKE experimental programme (Run I)**

Phase 2: probe the accelerating wakefields with externally injected electrons.

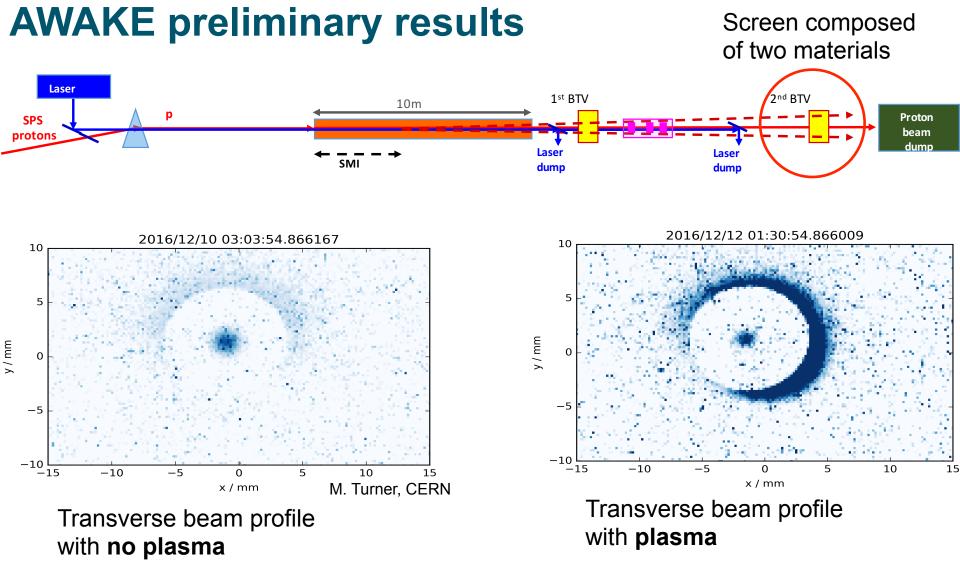




Demonstrate *GeV* acceleration of electrons with proton-driven wakefields of *GV/m* 







Transverse blow-up of proton beam indicative of strong electric fields.





### **AWAKE preliminary results**

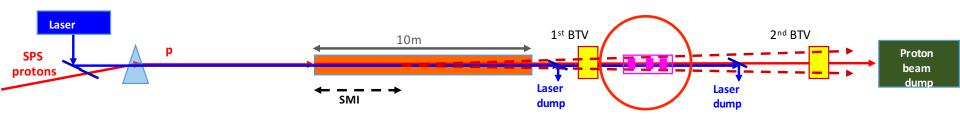
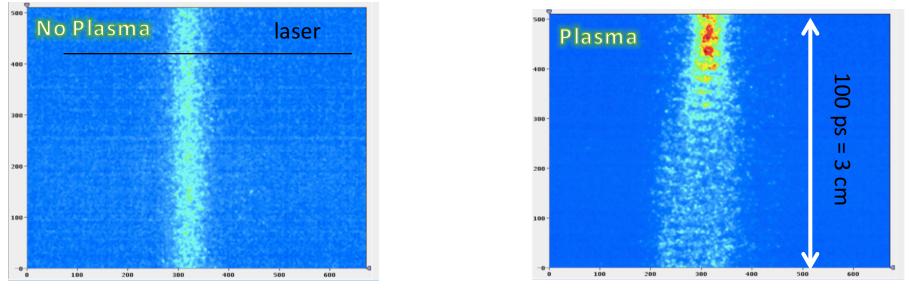


Image of OTR from the proton beam measured with a streak camera



K. Rieger, MPP

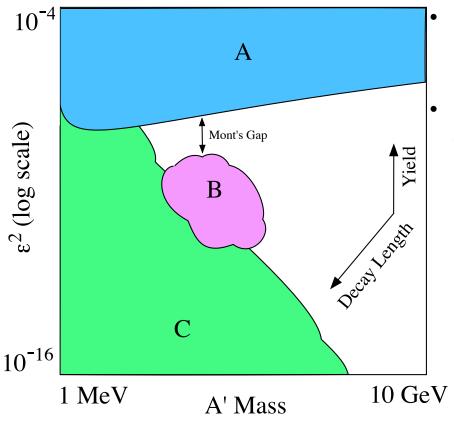
Clear modulation of proton beam, with microbunching on few-mm scale expected.

Taking more data right now ...



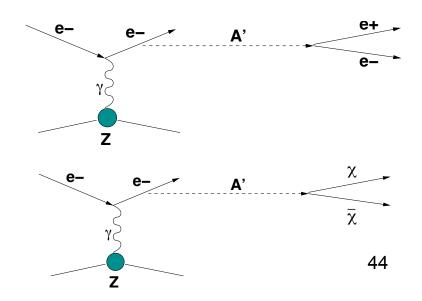
### **Search for dark photons**

- Several ways to look for dark photons:
  - A: bump-hunting, e.g.  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma A'$
  - B: displaced vertices, short decay lengths
  - C: displaced vertices, long decay lengths



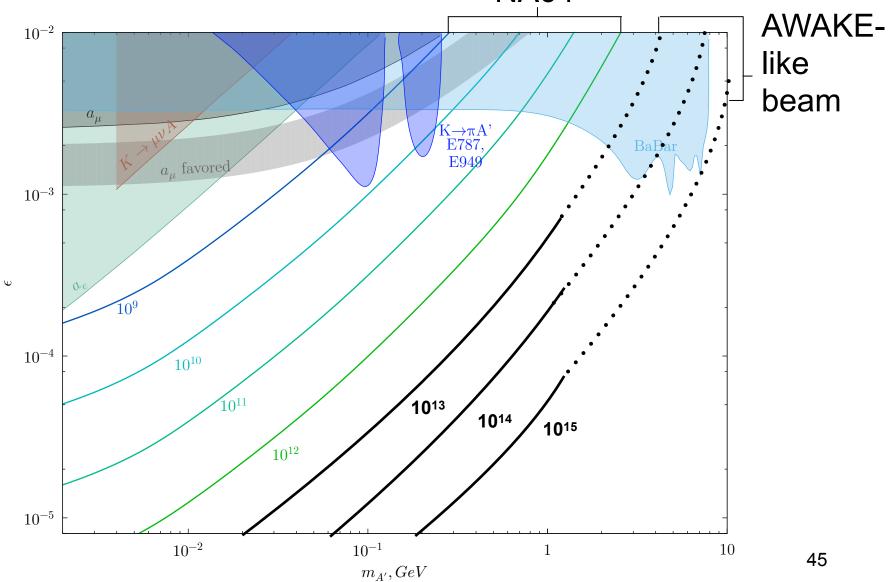
J. Alexander et al., arXiv:1608.08632

- Search for dark photons, *A*', up to (and beyond) *GeV* mass scale via their production in a light-shining-through-a-wall type experiment.
- Use high energy electrons for beam-dump and/ or fixed-target experiments.



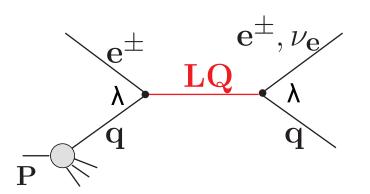
# Limits on dark photons, A' → *invisible* channel NA64

**UCL** 



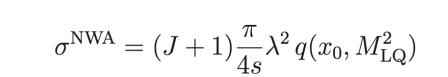


#### **Leptoquark production**

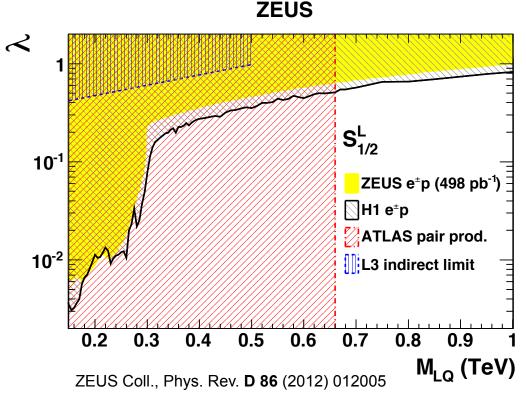


Electron-proton colliders are the ideal machine to look for leptoquarks.

s-channel resonance production possible up to  $\sqrt{s}$ .



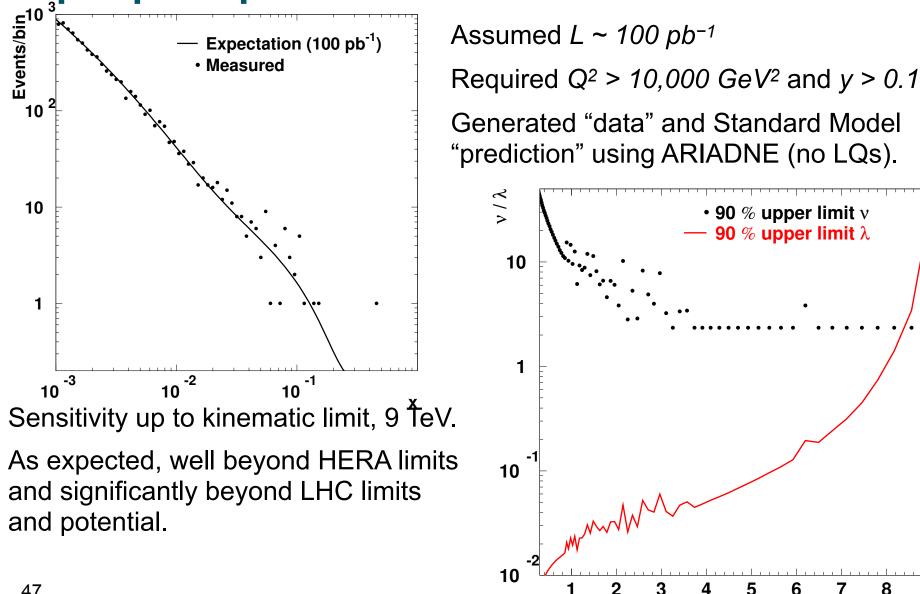
Sensitivity depends mostly on  $\sqrt{s}$  and VHEeP = 30 × HERA





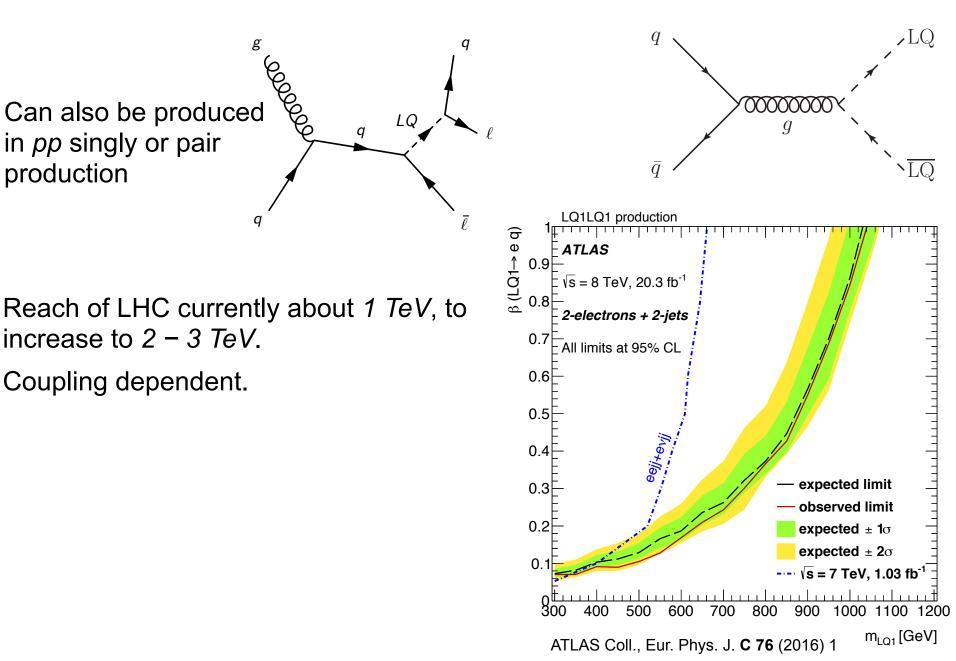
M<sub>LO</sub> (TeV)

### Leptoquark production at VHEeP



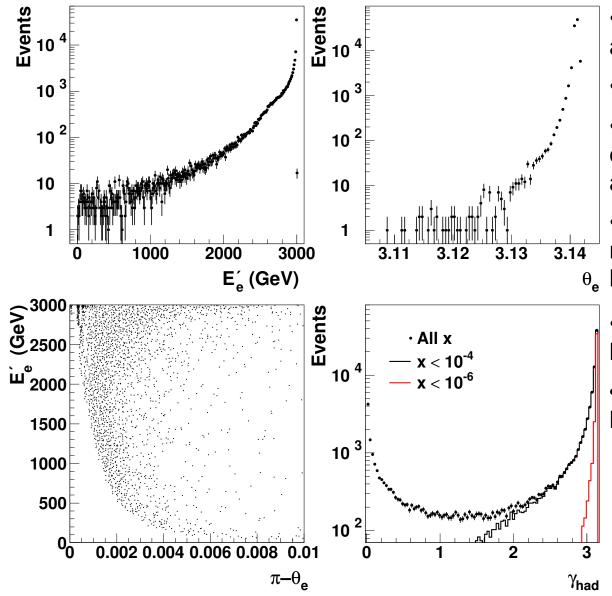
47

# Leptoquark production at the LHC



<sup>•</sup>UCL

### **Kinematics of the final state**



- Simulated events  $Q^2 > 1 \text{ GeV}^2$ and  $x > 10^{-7}$
- Test sample of  $L \sim 0.01 \ pb^{-1}$

• Kinematic peak at 3 *TeV*, with electrons scattered at low angles.

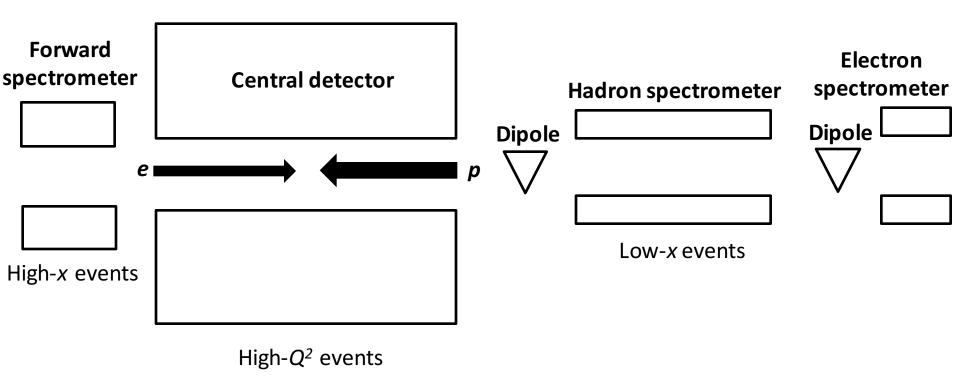
Hadronic activity in central
 region as well as forward and
 θ<sub>e</sub> backward.

• Hadronic activity at low backward angles for low *x*.

• Clear implications for the kind of detector needed.



### **Sketch of detector**



- Will need conventional central colliding-beam detector.
- Will also need long arm of spectrometer detectors which will need to measure scattered electrons and hadronic final state at low *x* and high *x*.



