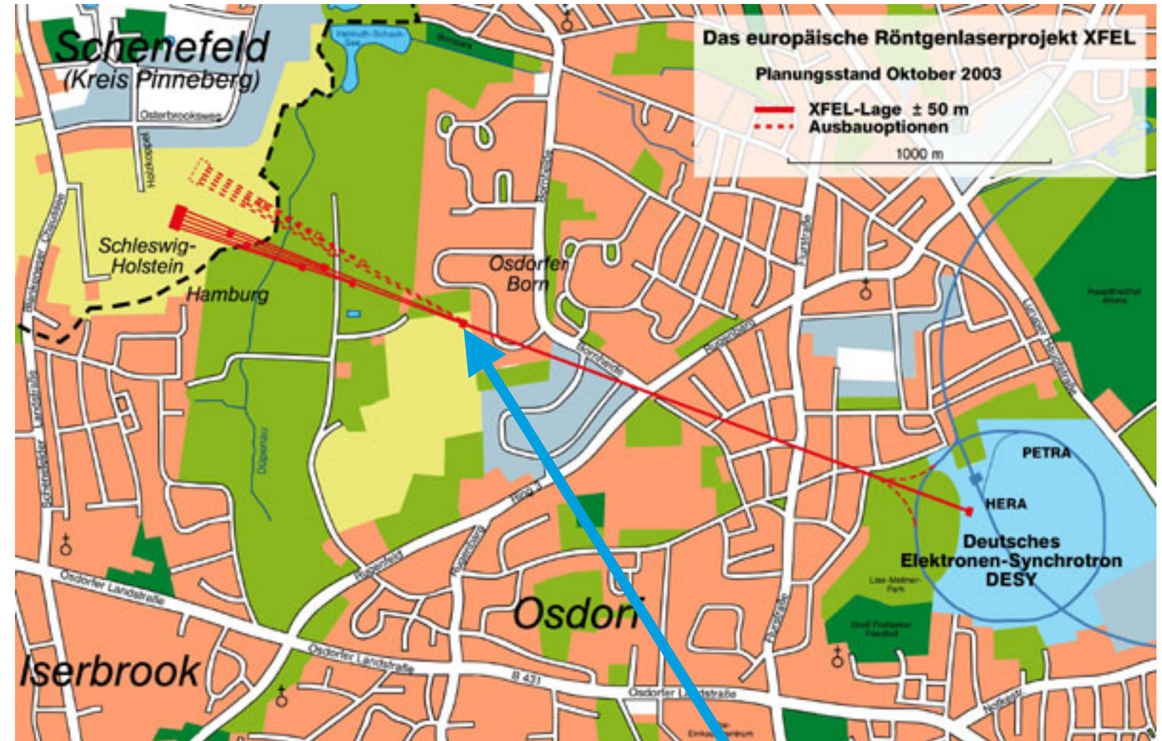
LUXE: A new experiment to study non-perturbative QED

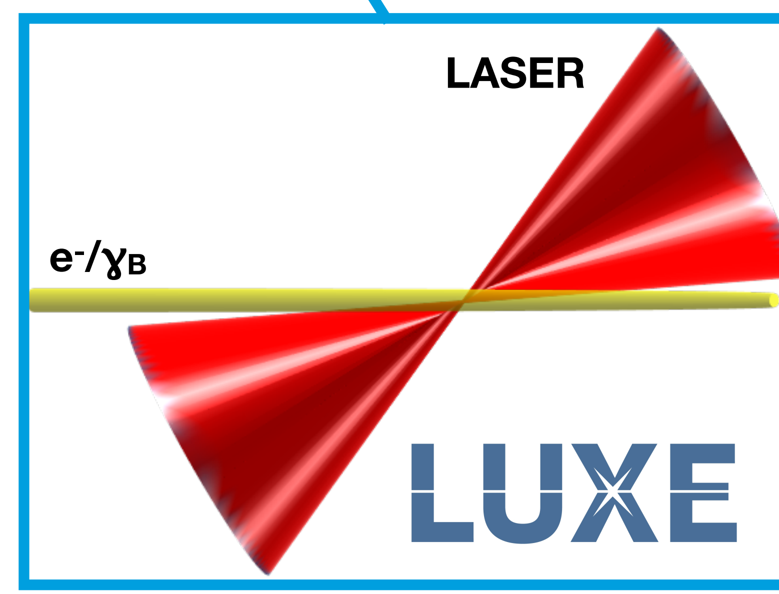
Ruth Jacobs, for the LUXE Collaboration

DPG Frühjahrstagung
15. März 2021

Overview

LUXE
LASER Und XFEL Experiment





What is the LUXE experiment?

- proposed new experiment at DESY Hamburg
- collisions of XFEL electron beam and high-power LASER
- synergy between particle physics and LASER physics

More documentation?

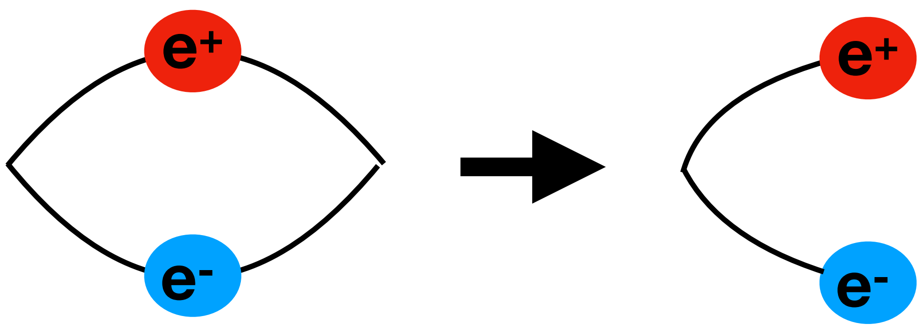
- LUXE CDR (newly released!): arXiv:2102.02032
- LUXE website: https://luxe.desy.de

Introduction: Strong-Field QED

Euler and Heisenberg
Z.Phys. 98 (1936) no.11-12, 714-732
(translation at arXiv:physics/0605038

Schwinger
Phys. Rev. 82 (1951), 664

- QED: most well-tested theory in physics
  → based on perturbative calculations
- LUXE will study QED in the strong-field regime
- strong external field: work by field over Compton wavelength > than two rest masses of virtual particle pair → Schwinger-Limit



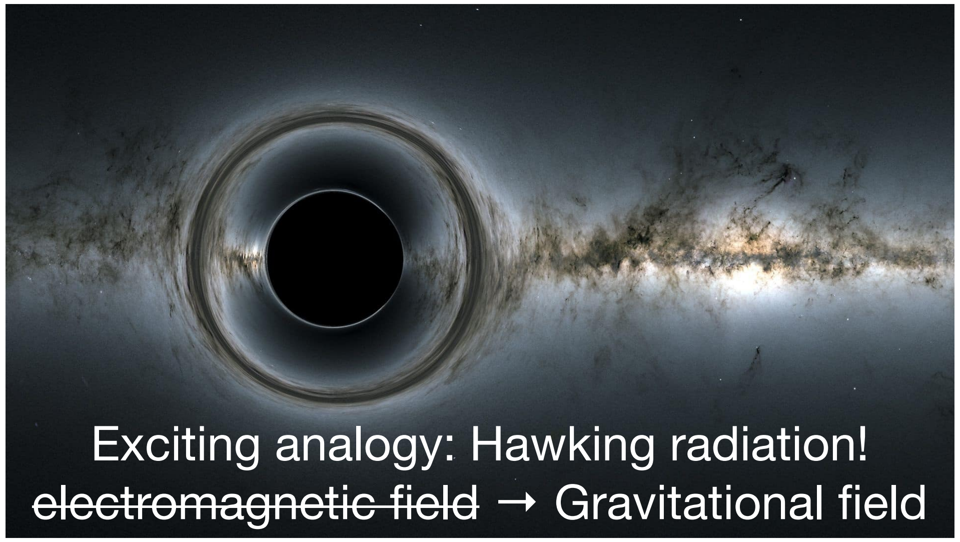
$E_{\text{field}} < 2m_e$ $E_{\text{field}} > 2m_e$

Schwinger Limit:

$$\mathscr{E}_{cr} = \frac{m_e^2 c^3}{e\hbar}$$

e.g. for electrical field:

$$\mathscr{E}_{cr} = 1.32 \cdot 10^{18}\,\text{V/m}$$



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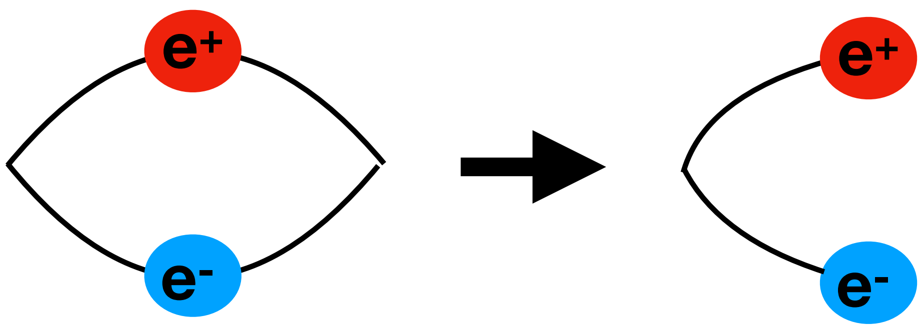

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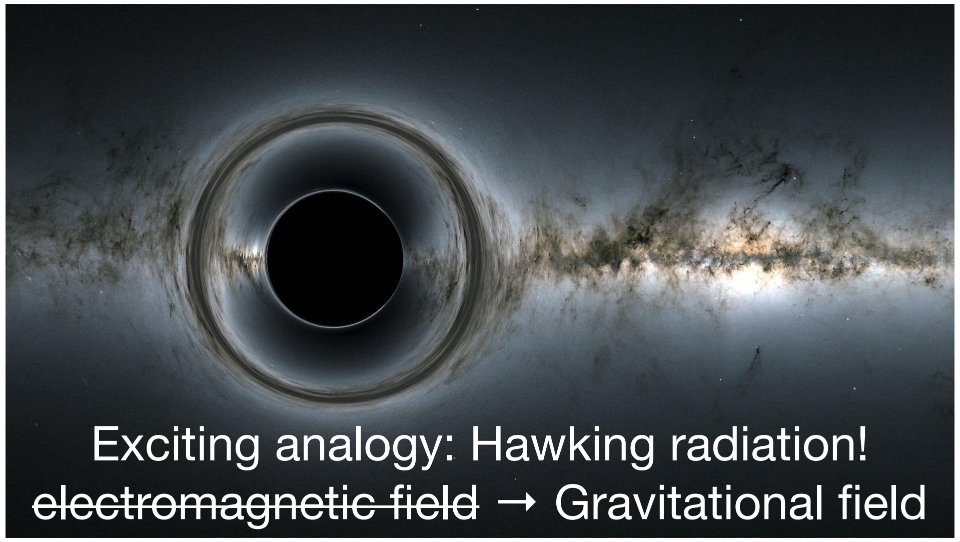
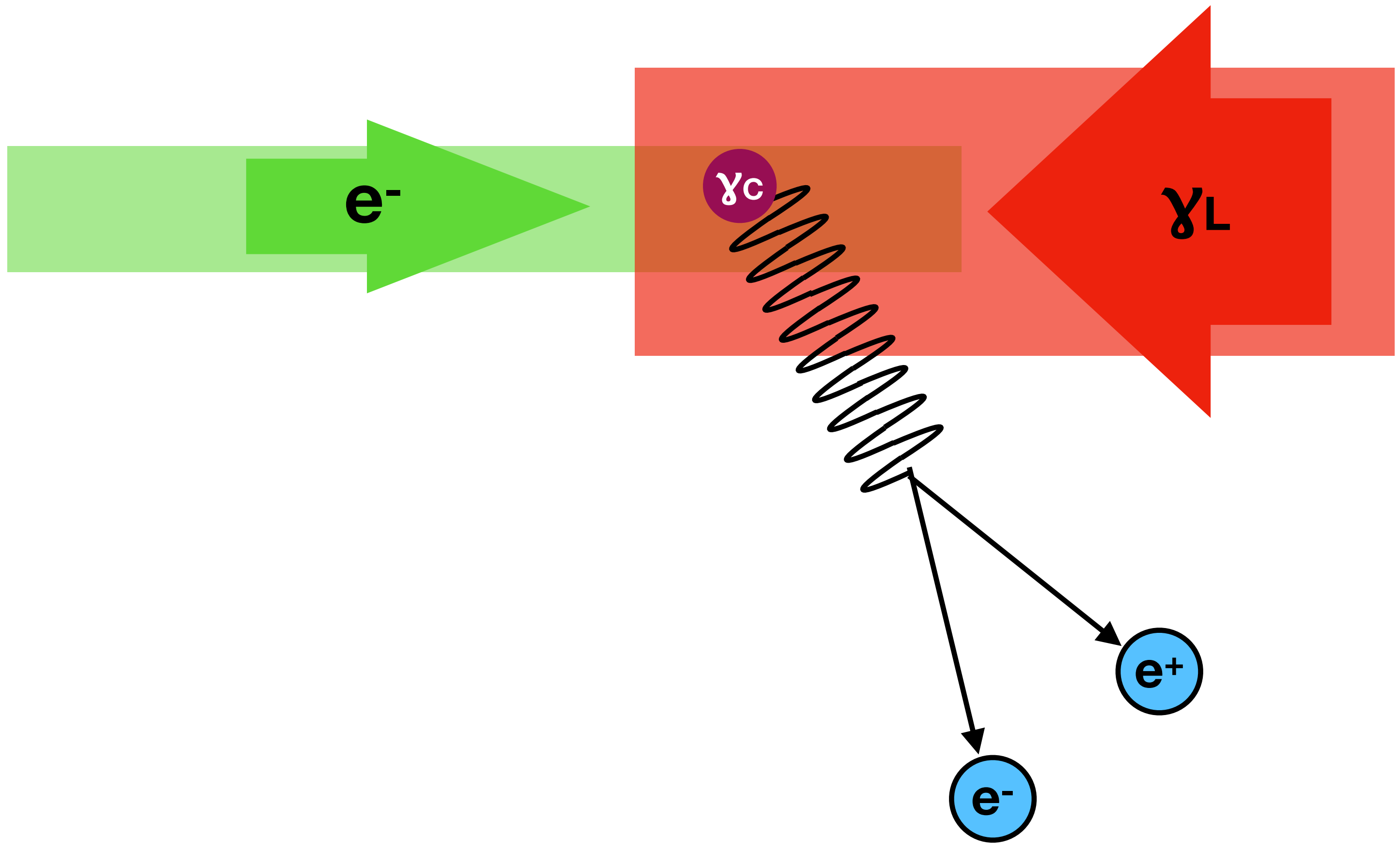
QED becomes non-perturbative above Schwinger-Limit!



LUXE: Electron + LASER collisions



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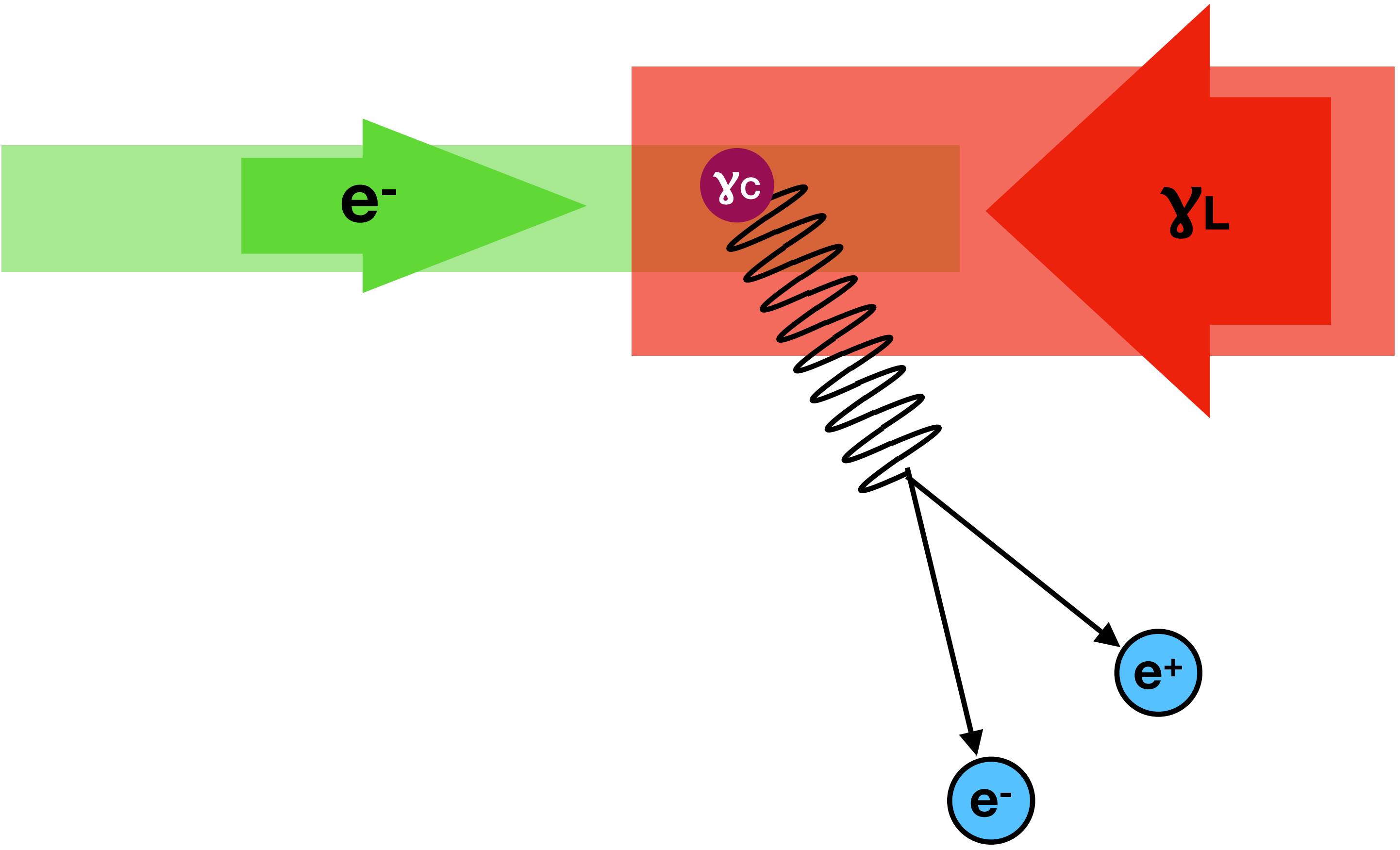
High-energy electrons
(16.5 GeV XFEL beam)



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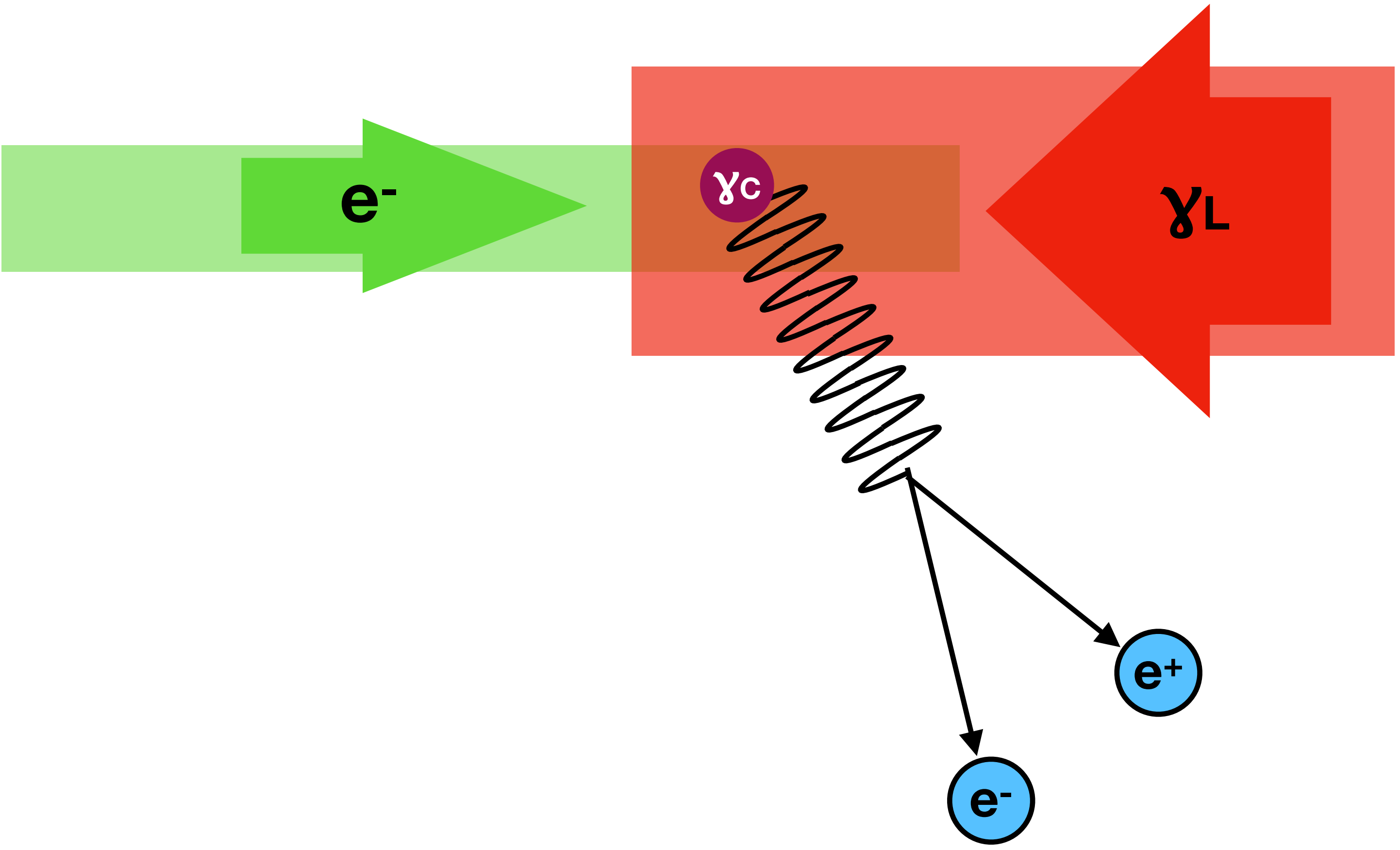

High-intensity LASER
(Tera-Watt, 800nm)
→ **large E-field**

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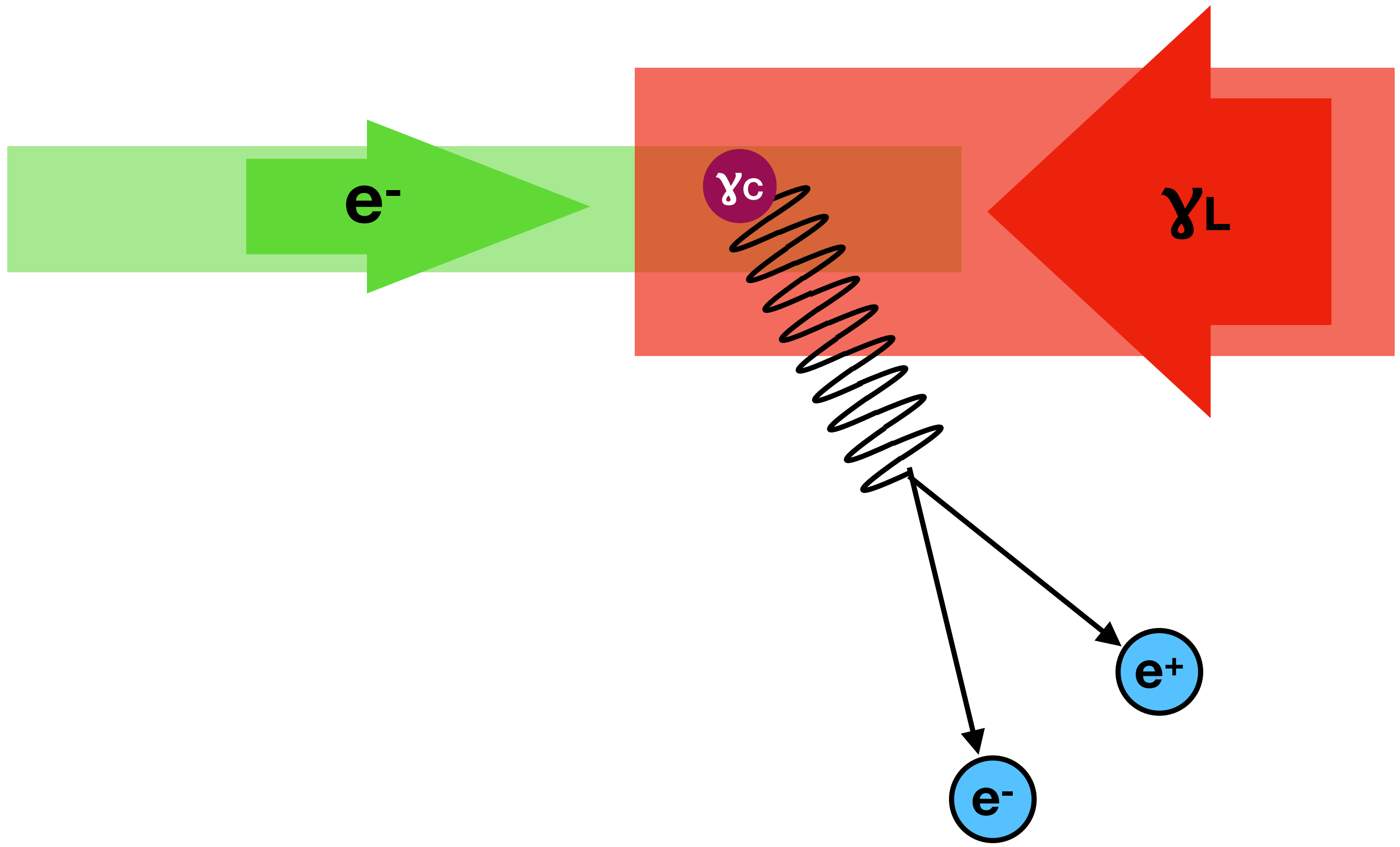

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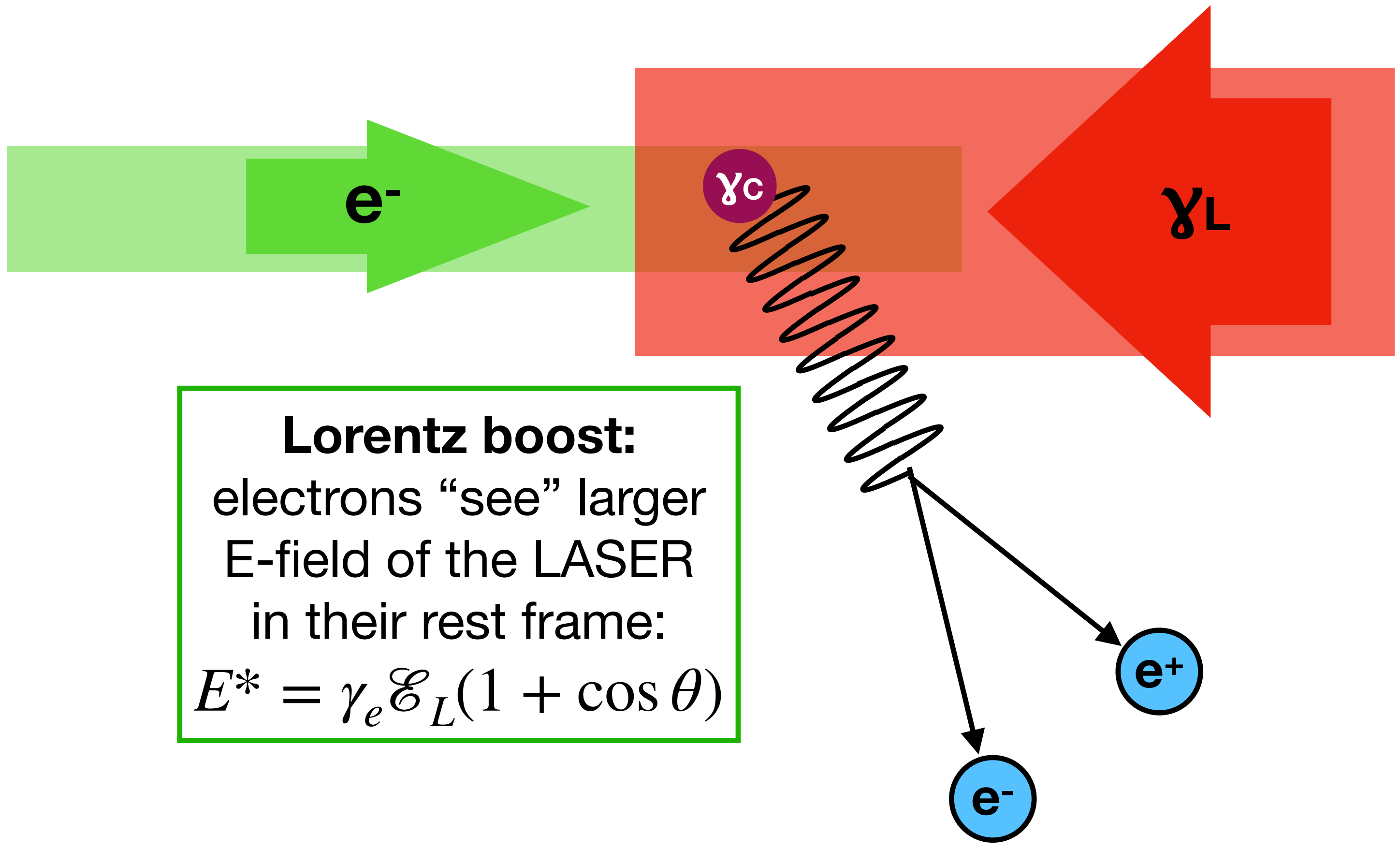

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electrons "see" larger E-field of the LASER in their rest frame:

$$E^* = \gamma_e \mathcal{E}_L (1 + \cos\theta)$$

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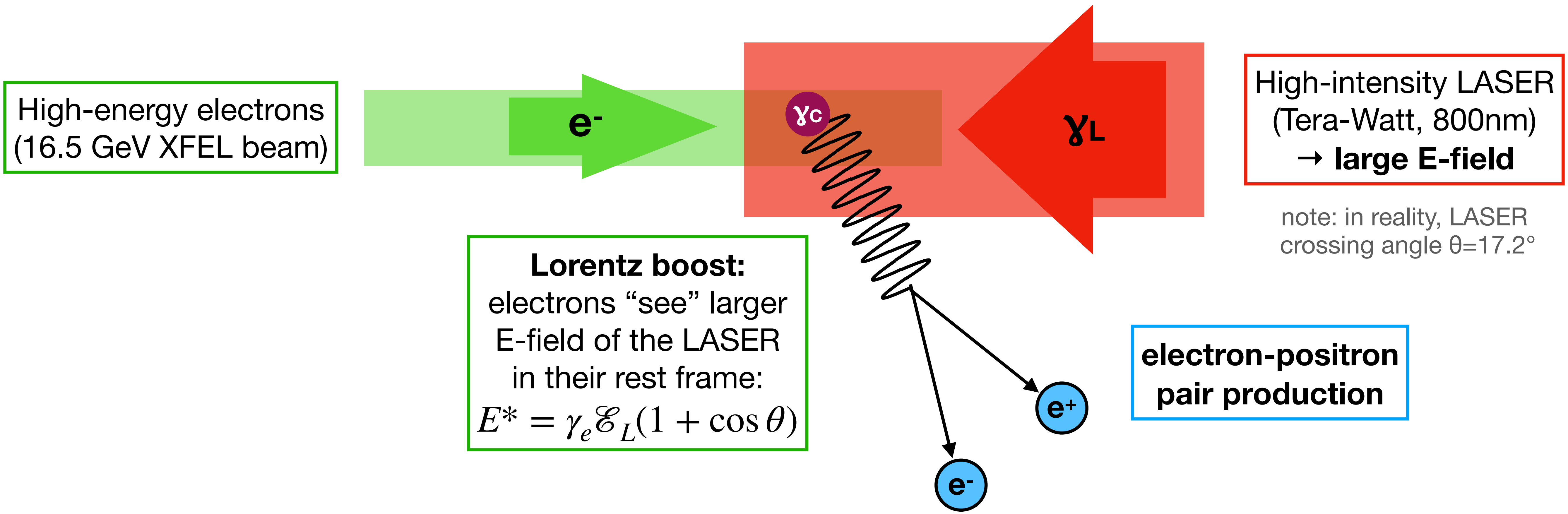

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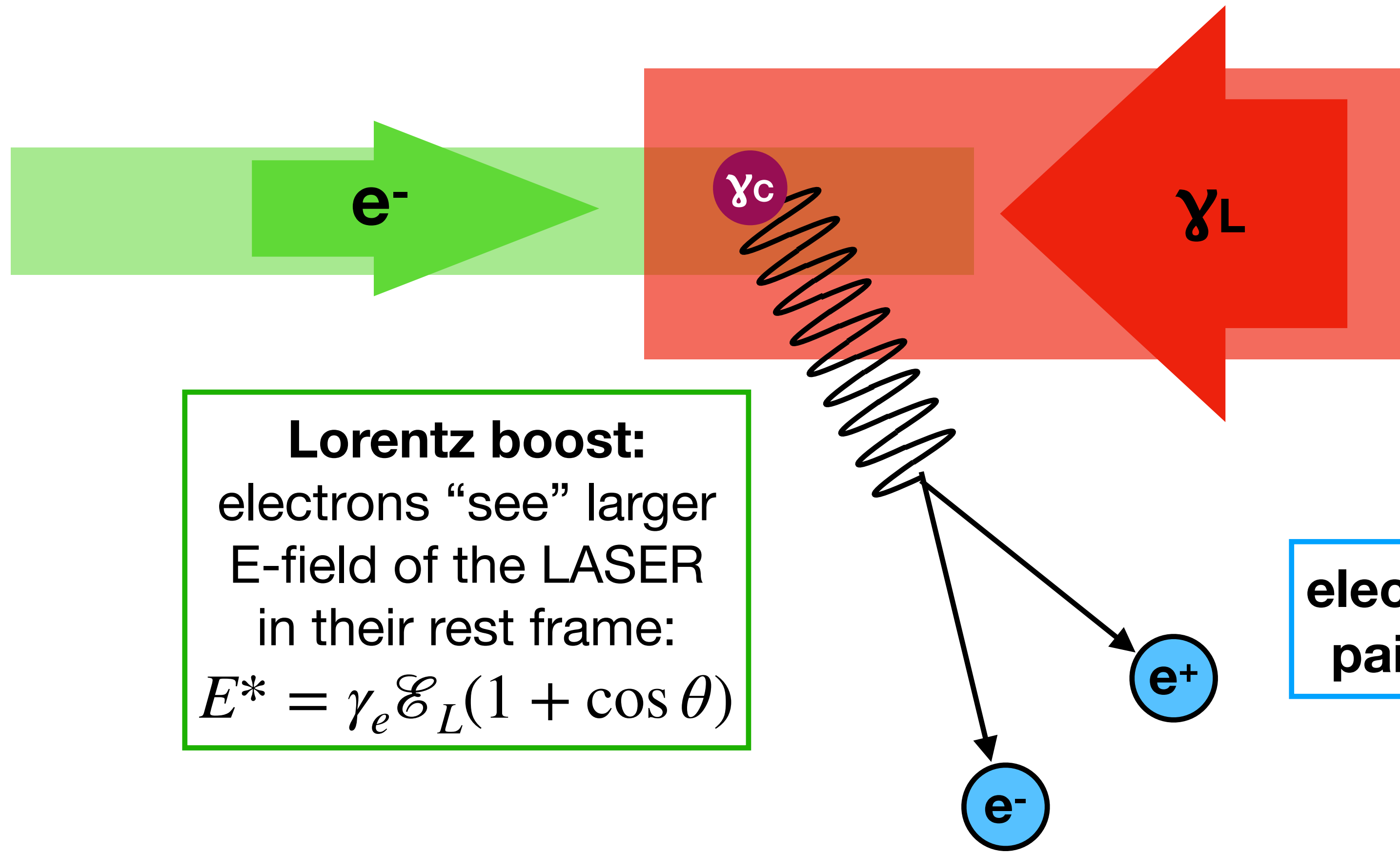

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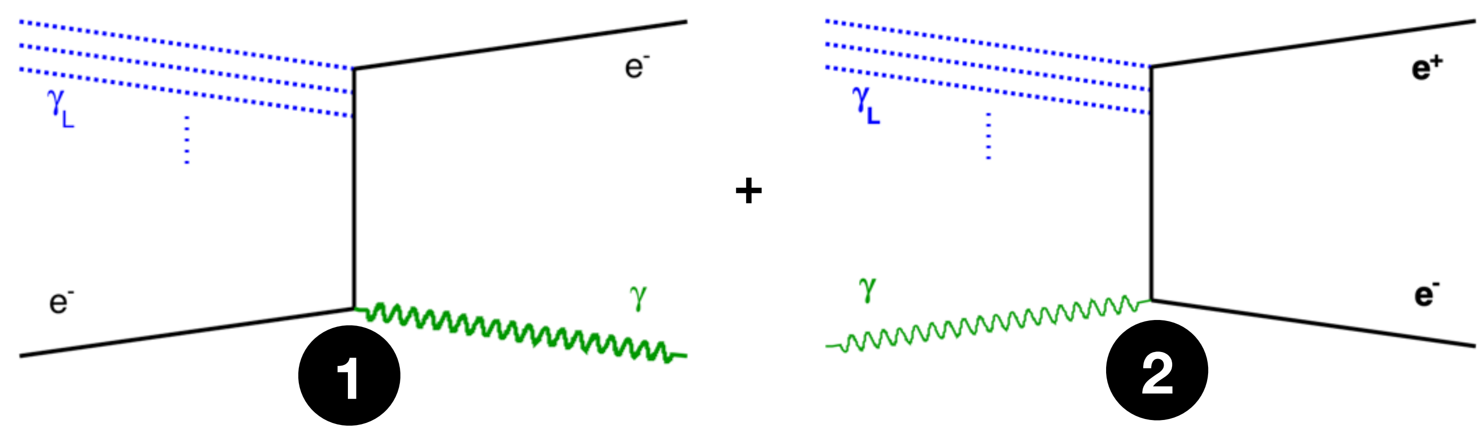
electron-positron pair production

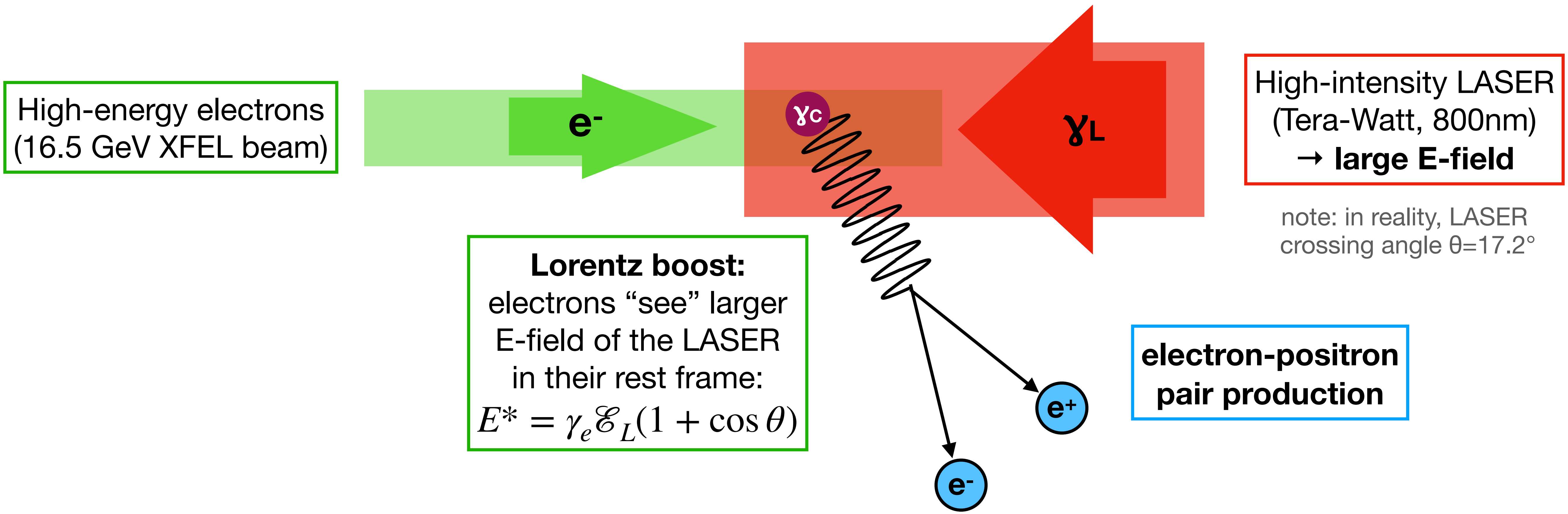


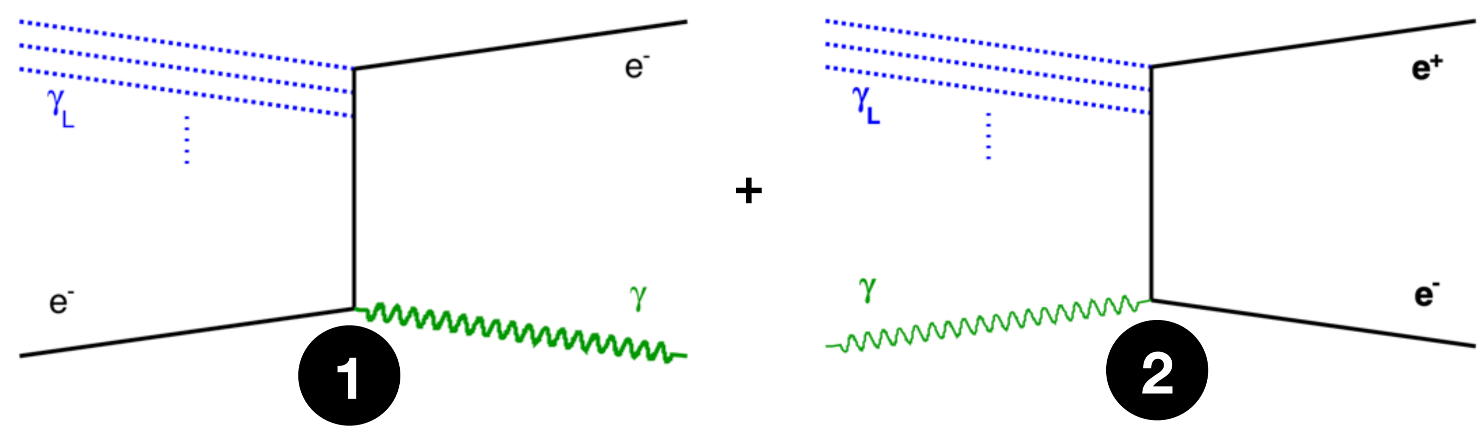
Physics processes:

1 **Non-linear Compton Scattering:** $e^- + n\gamma_L \rightarrow e^- + \gamma_C$

2 **Non-linear Breit-Wheeler pair production :** $\gamma_C + n\gamma_L \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$

LUXE: Electron + LASER collisions





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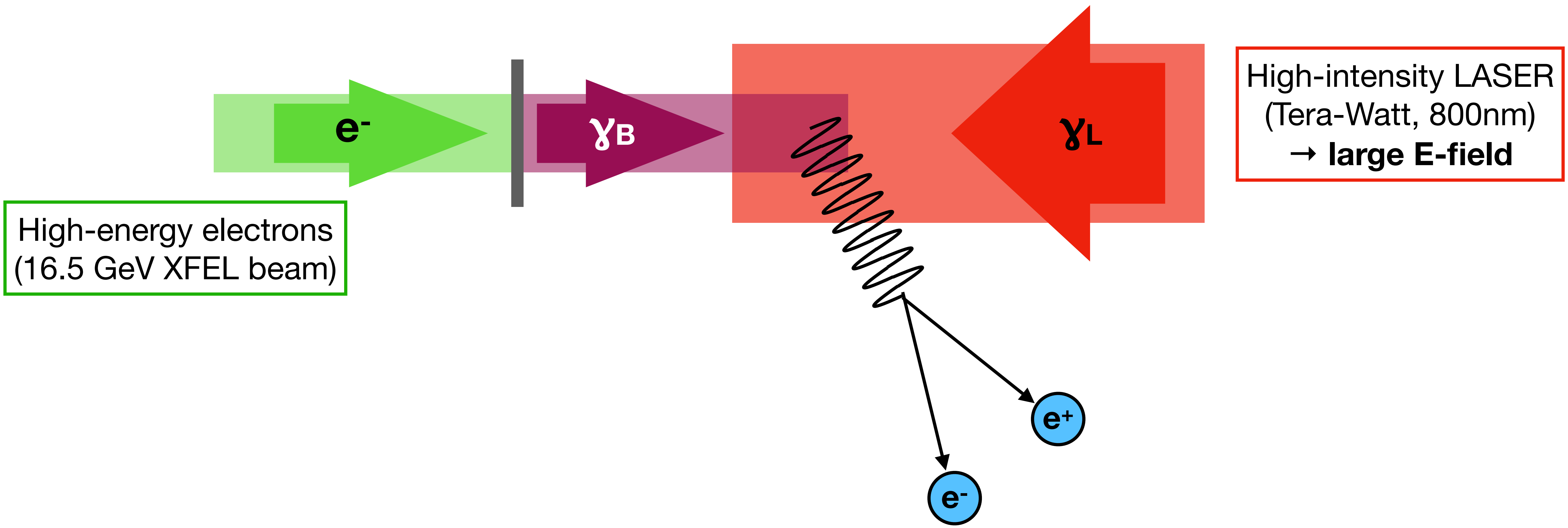
LUXE main goal: Measure positron rate as function of LASER intensity

LUXE: Photon + LASER collisions



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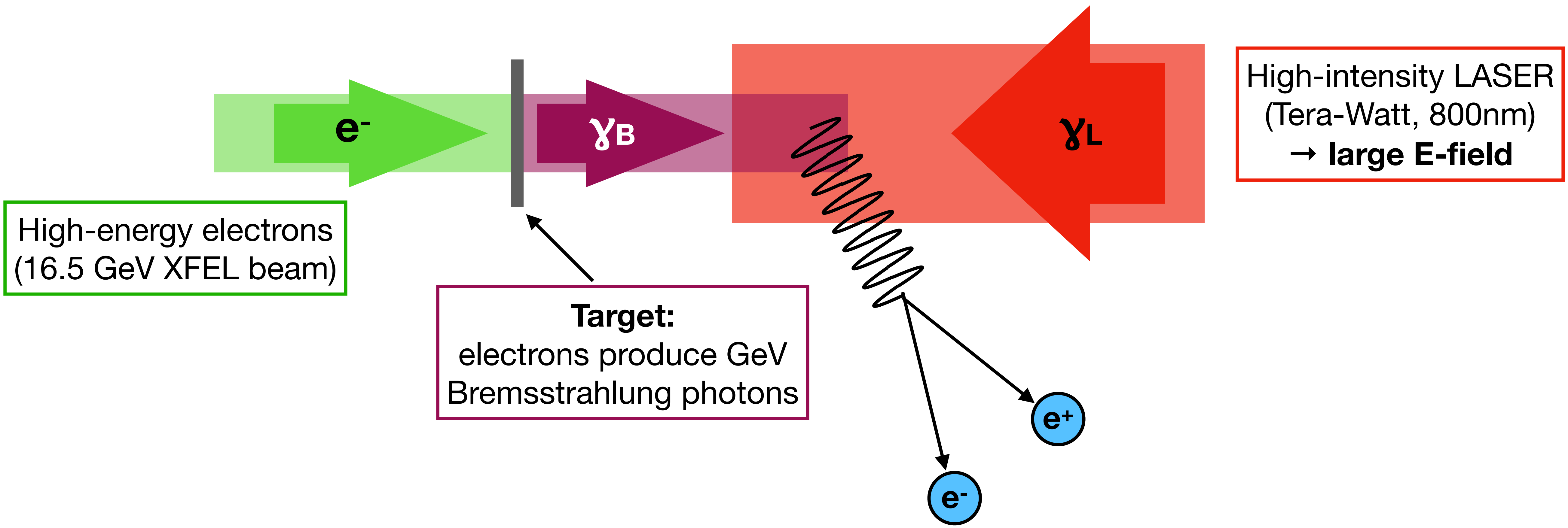

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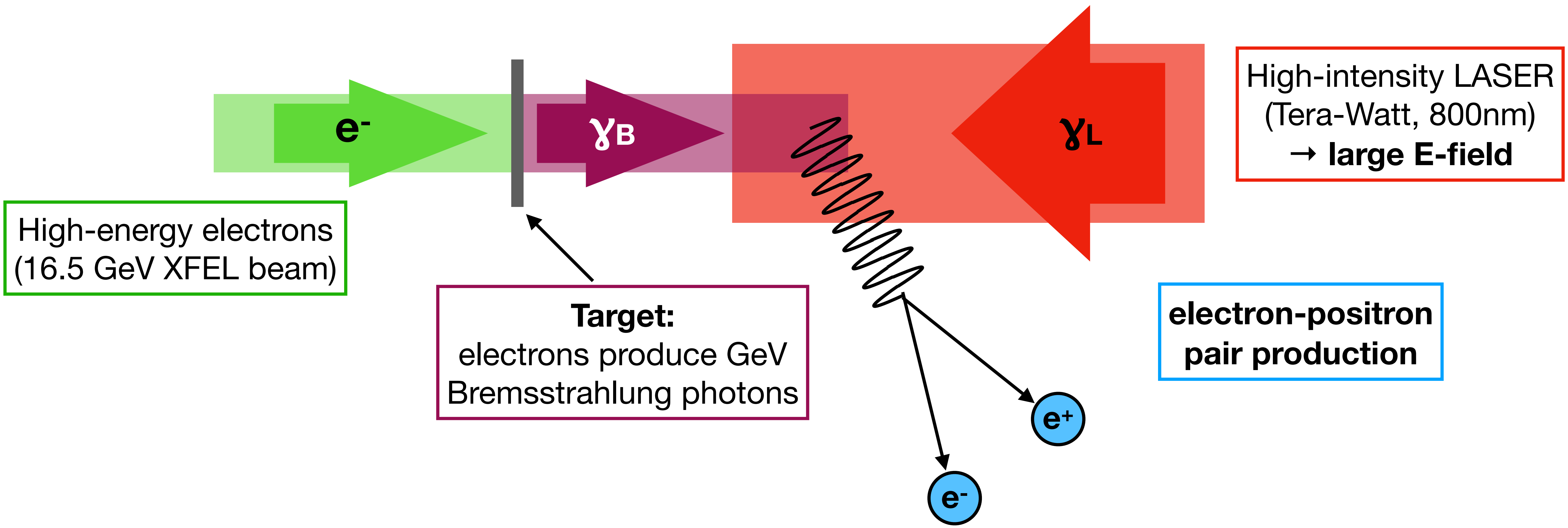

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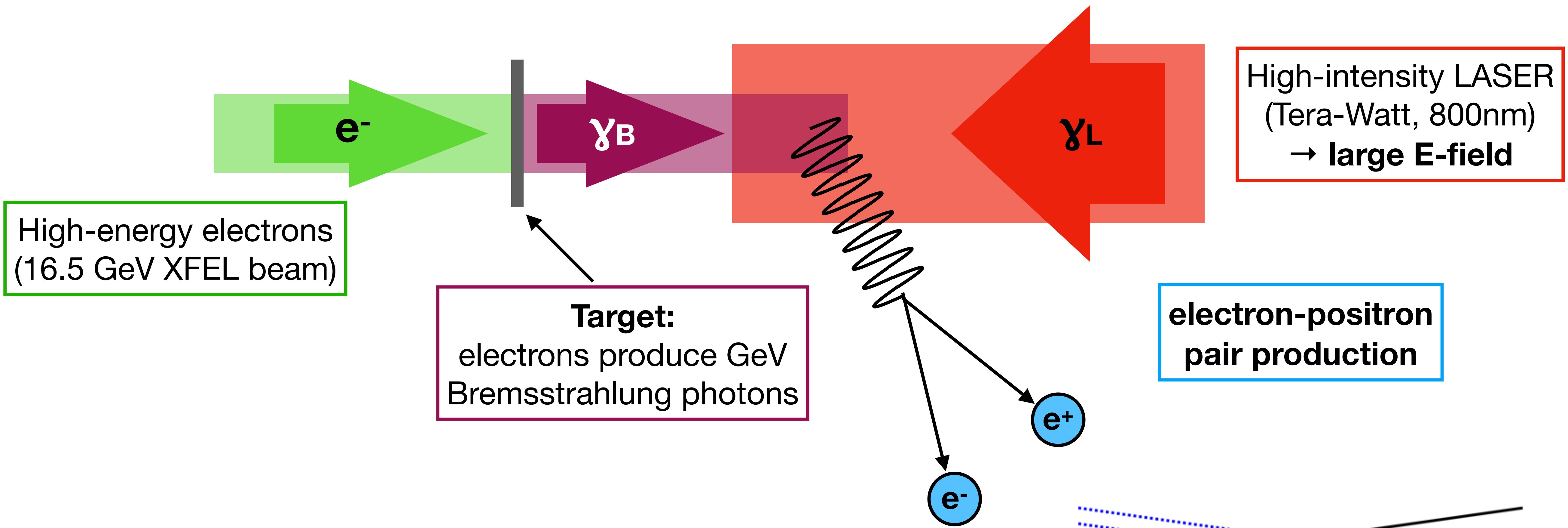

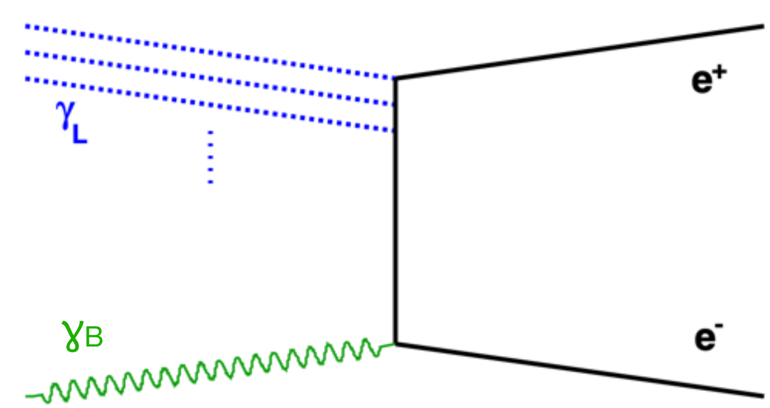

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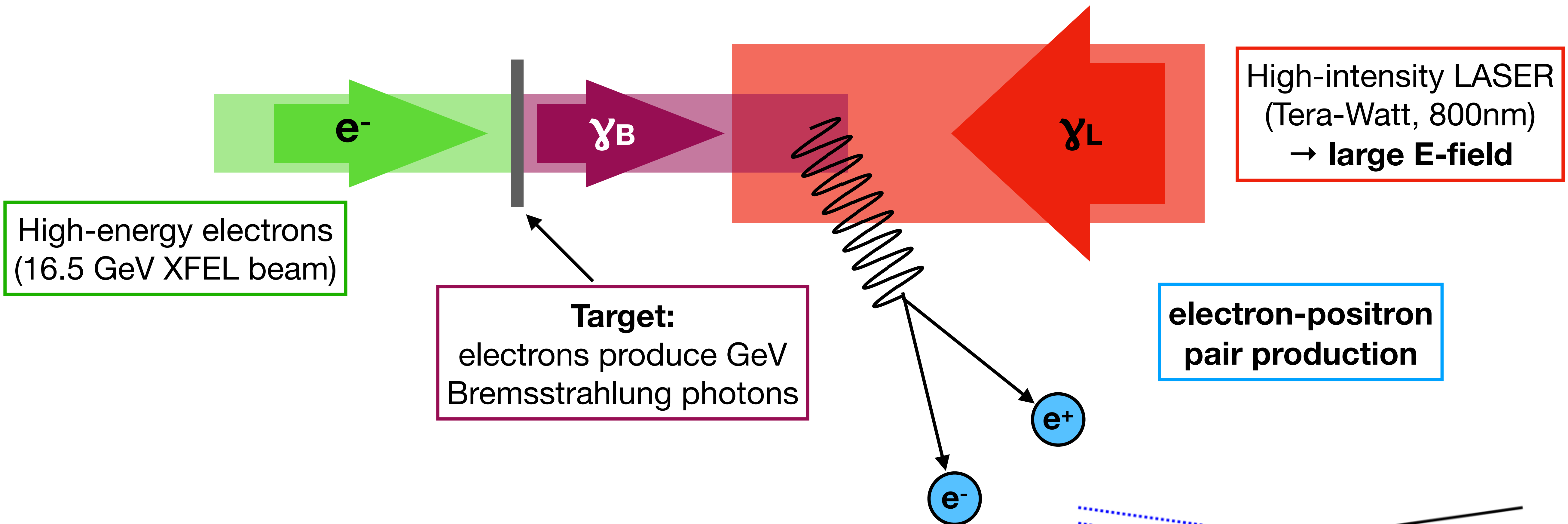

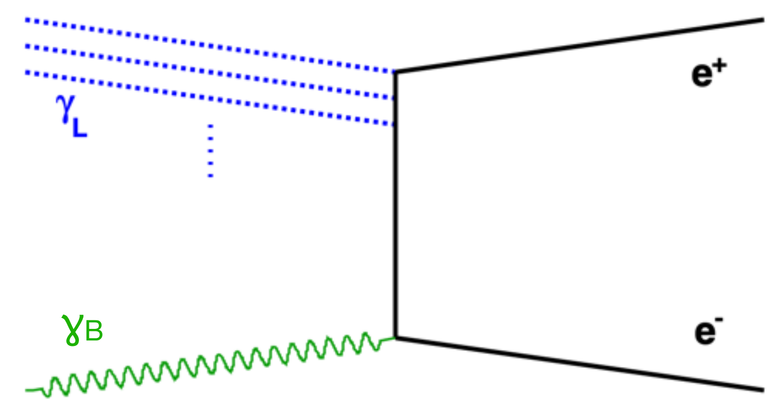

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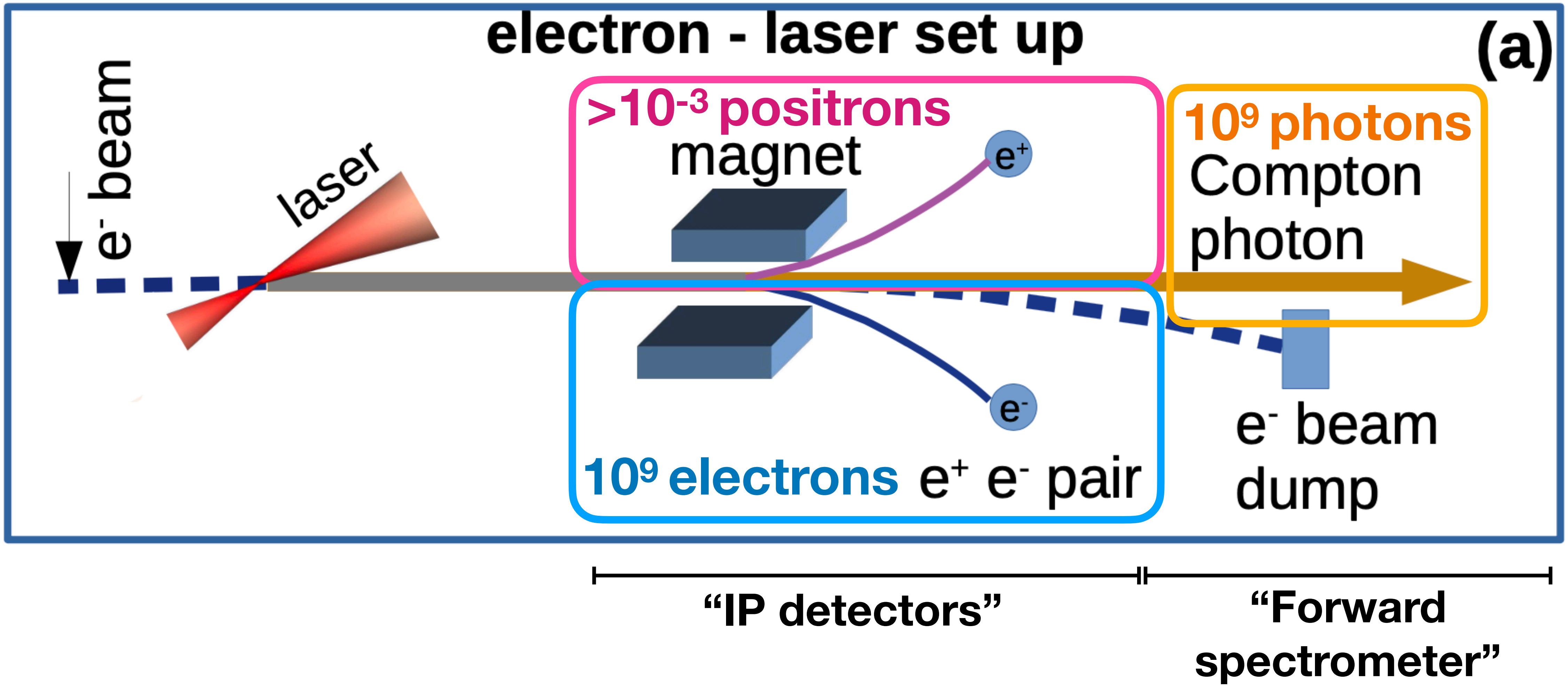
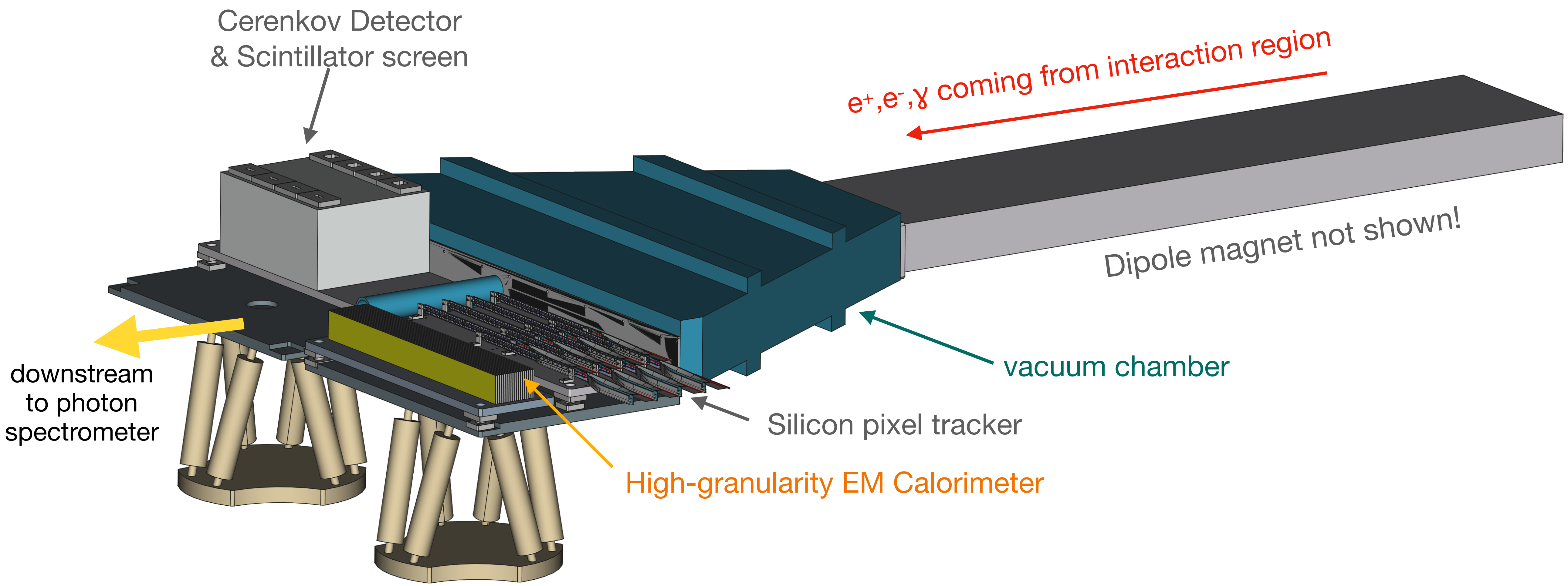
LUXE: first SF-QED experiment to probe directly photon-photon interaction

LUXE: Particle Detectors



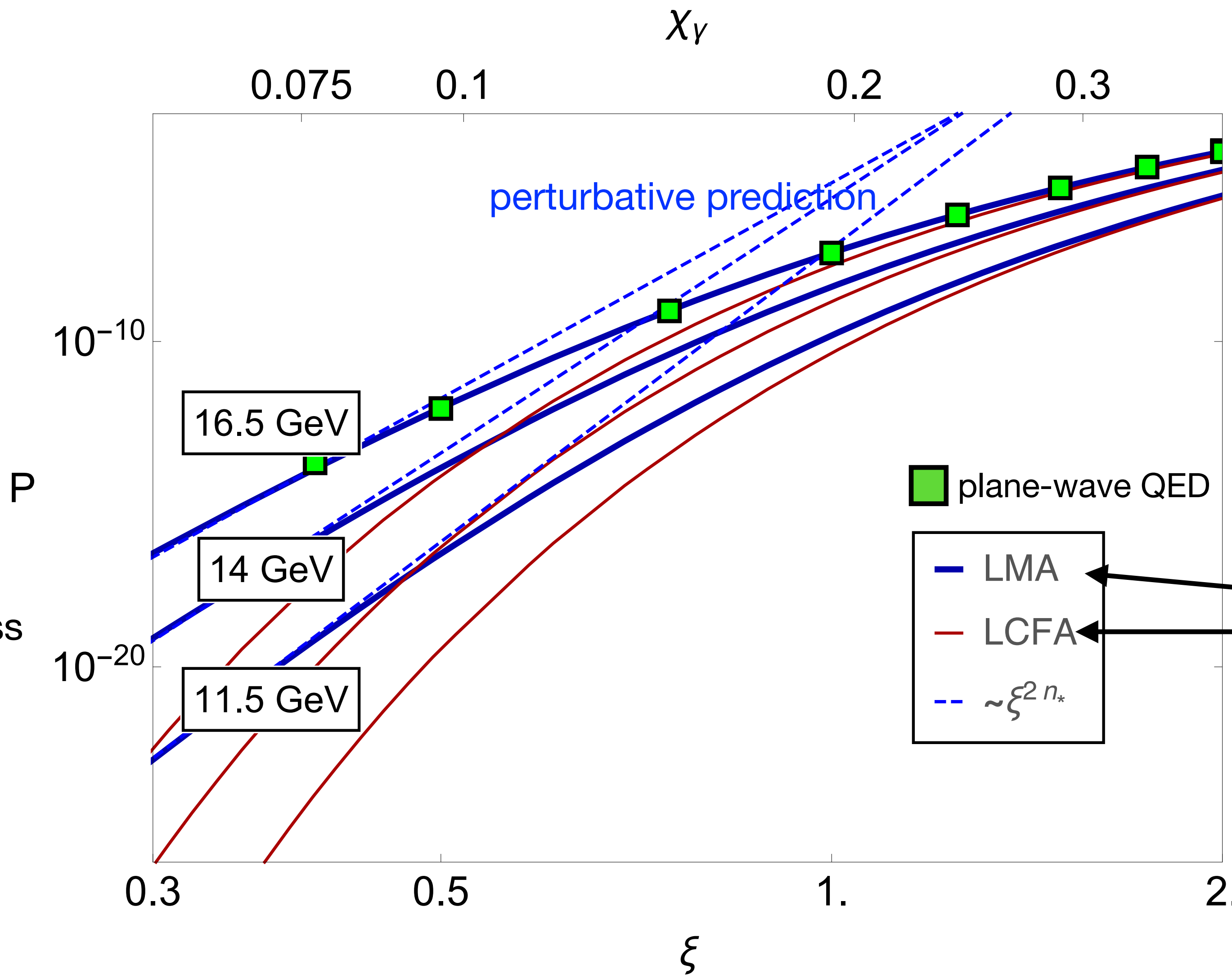
- Goal: Detection of electrons, positrons and photon fluxes and energy spectra
- Particle fluxes vary between ~0.01 e^+ and 10^9 (e^- and γ) per laser shot!
- Use technologies adapted to respective fluxes of signal and background

IP Detectors CAD



- two complementary detector technologies per measurement
  → cross-calibration, reduction of systematic uncertainties

SFQED: Predictions & Expected results



probability
of Breit-Wheeler process

approximations used
in simulations

Intensity parameter:

$$\xi = \sqrt{4\pi\alpha}\left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_L}{\omega_L m_e}\right) = \frac{m_e \mathcal{E}_L}{\omega_L \mathcal{E}_{cr}}$$

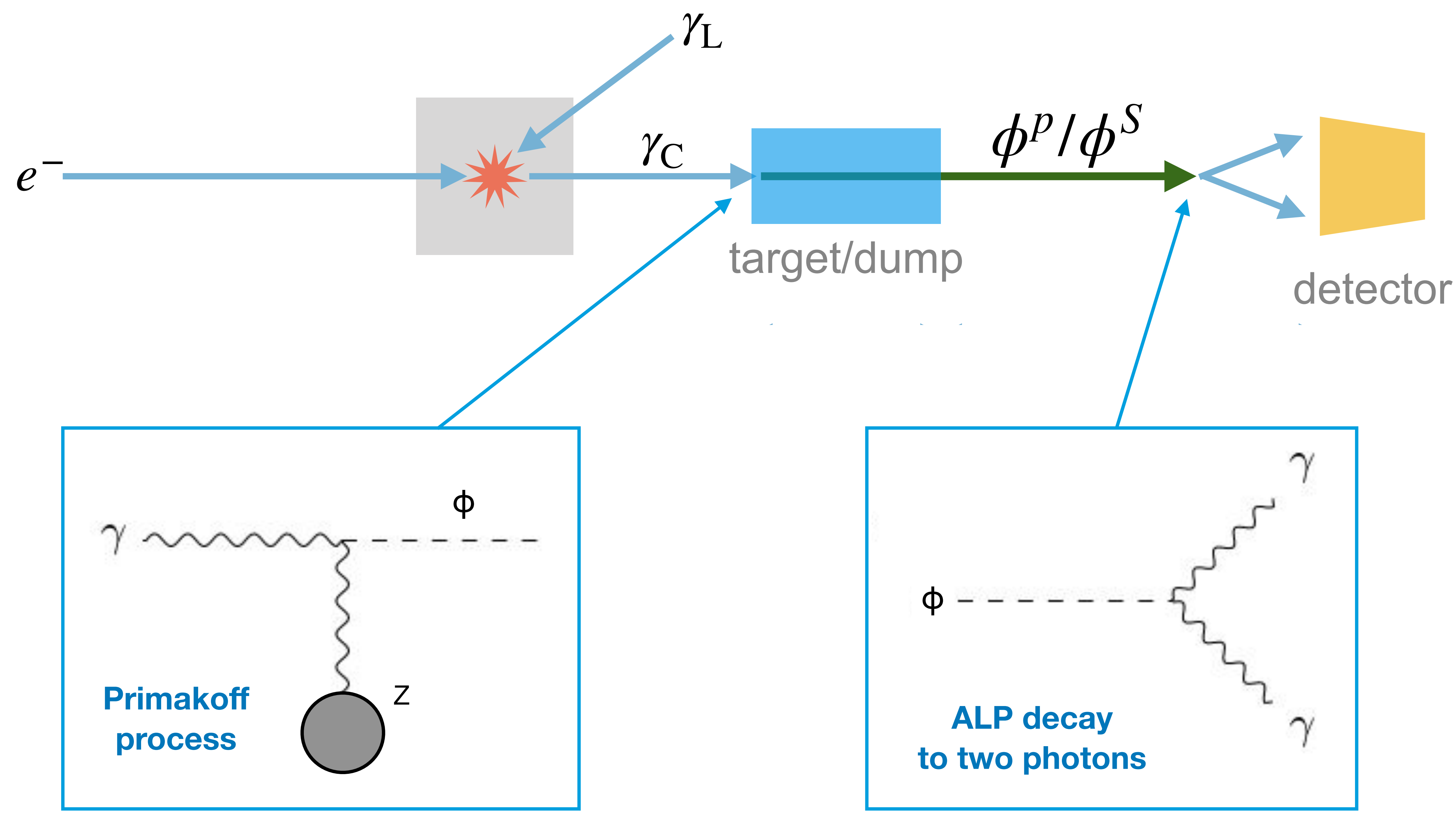
$\xi \ll 1$: $R_{e^+} \propto \xi^{2n} \propto I^n$ Perturbative regime, rate follows power law

$\xi \gg 1$: $R_{e^+} \propto \chi_\gamma \exp\left(-\frac{8}{3\chi_\gamma}\right)$ Non-perturbative regime, departure from power law

LUXE: first to enter non-perturbative regime; aim to extract coefficient!

Bonus: Searching for BSM Physics with LUXE

- **LUXE will produce a high-intensity photon beam**
  → produce ALPs or milli-charged particles (MCP) in photon beam-dump



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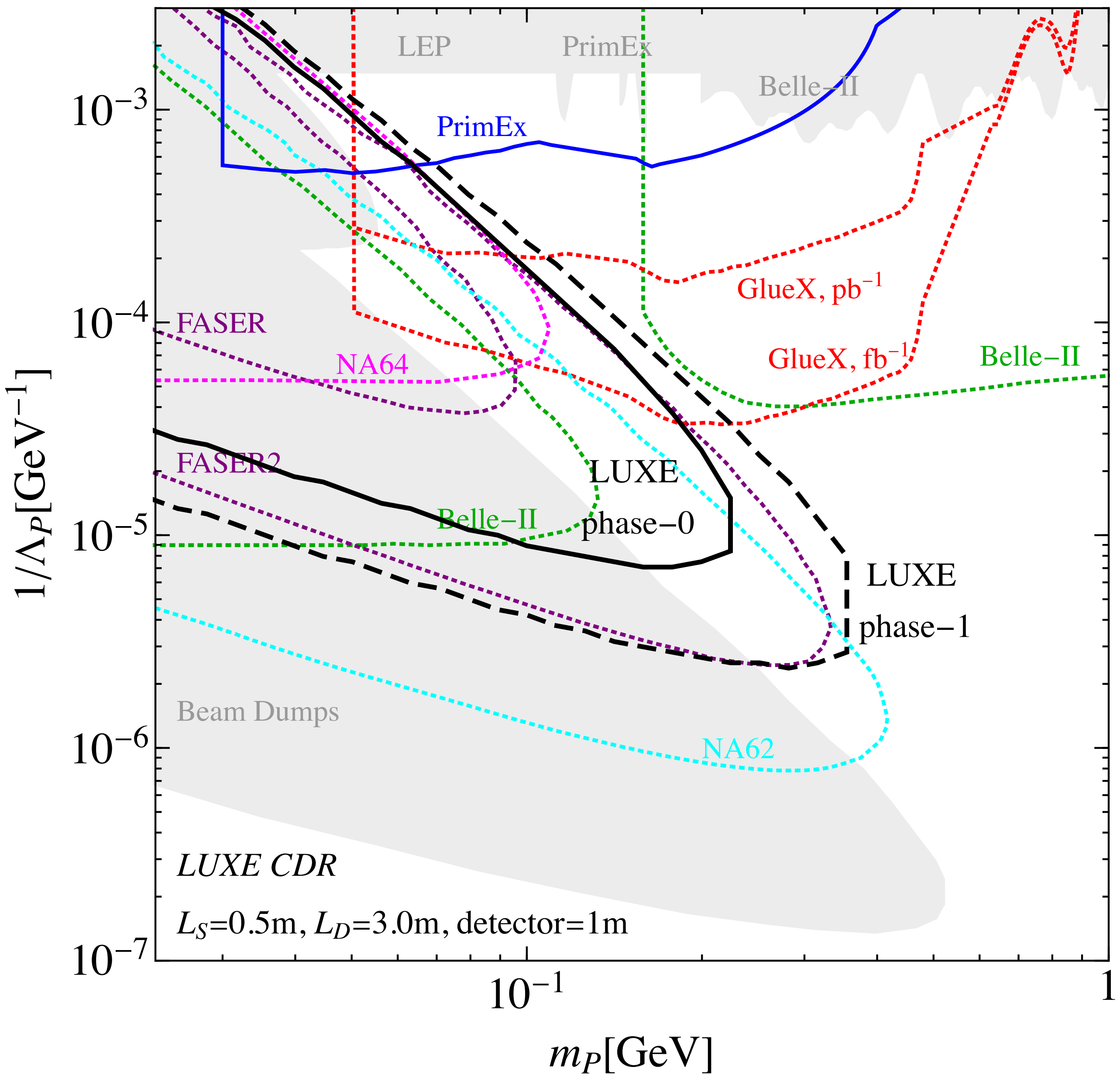
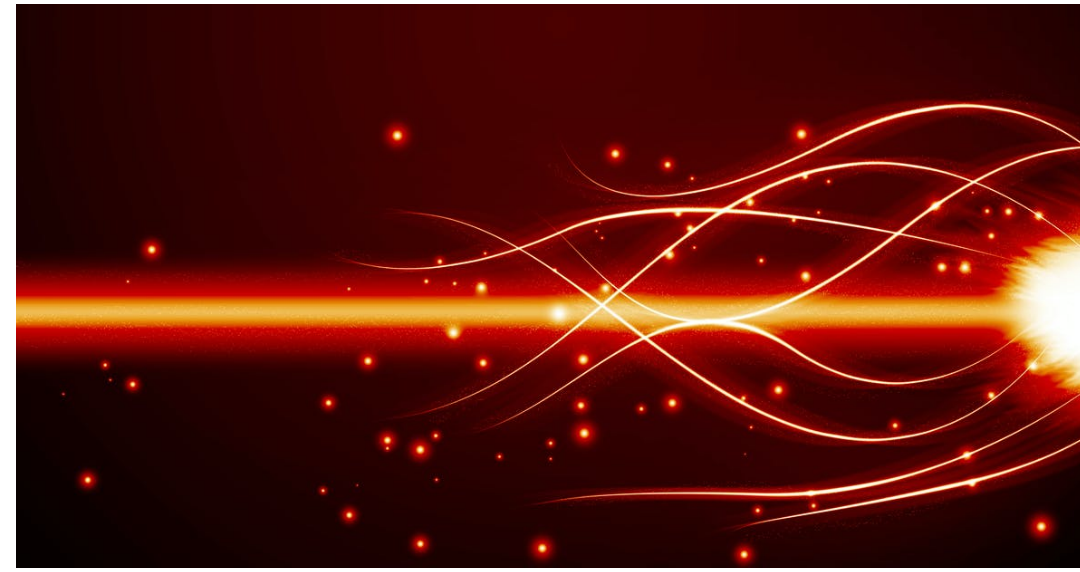


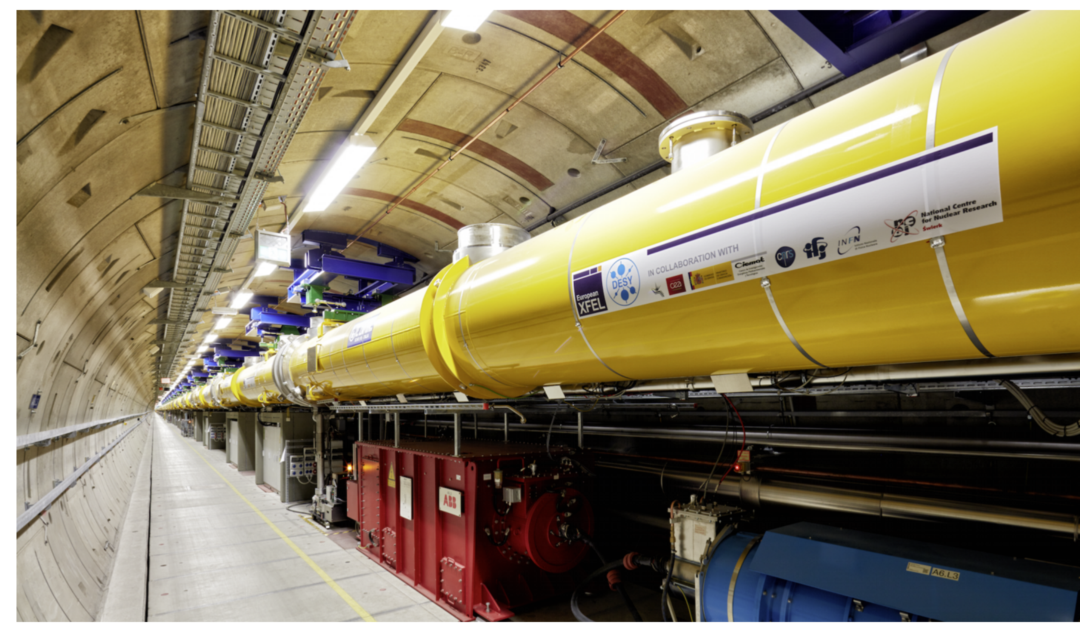
- sensitivity estimated for 1 yr data-takingassuming no background
  → still needs to be verified
- could be competitive with other experiments ongoing and in planning
  → similar to e.g. FASER-2

Conclusion & Outlook

- **LUXE will explore QED in unchartered regime**
  - Observe transition from perturbative to non-perturbative regime of QED
  - Directly observe pair production from real photons
  - Parasitically: search for BSM physics



- **Goal: installation in 2024 during extended shutdown planned for European XFEL**
  - Conceptual design report released (arXiv:2102.02032)
  - Very diverse detector technologies used, optimized for LUXE physics goals
  - Reviews starting



Exciting times for LUXE ahead - stay tuned!

BACKUP

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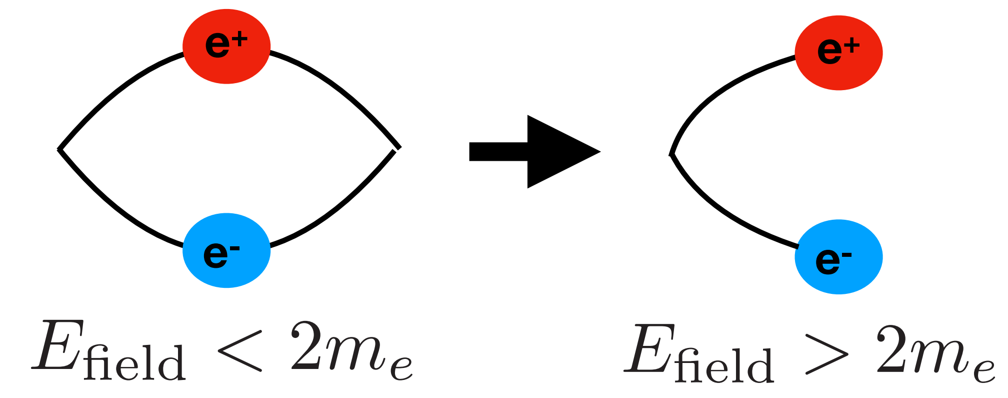
Consequences of non-perturbativity:

1) Field-Induced ("Breit-Wheeler") Pair Creation:

- physical particle-antiparticle pair production from vacuum



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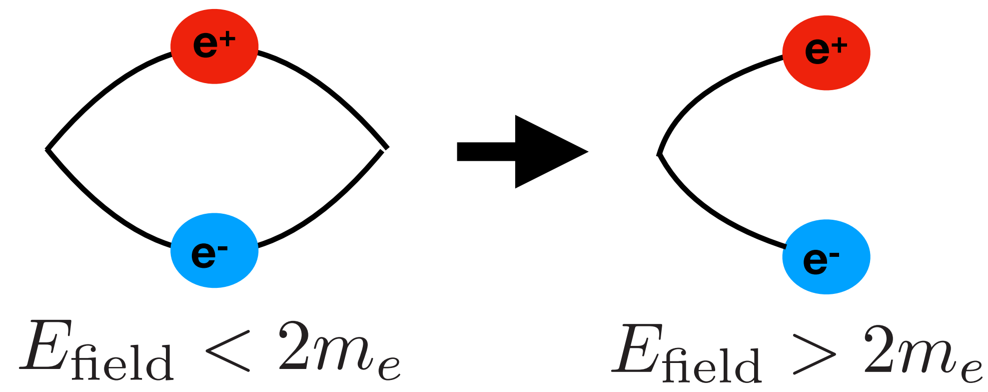

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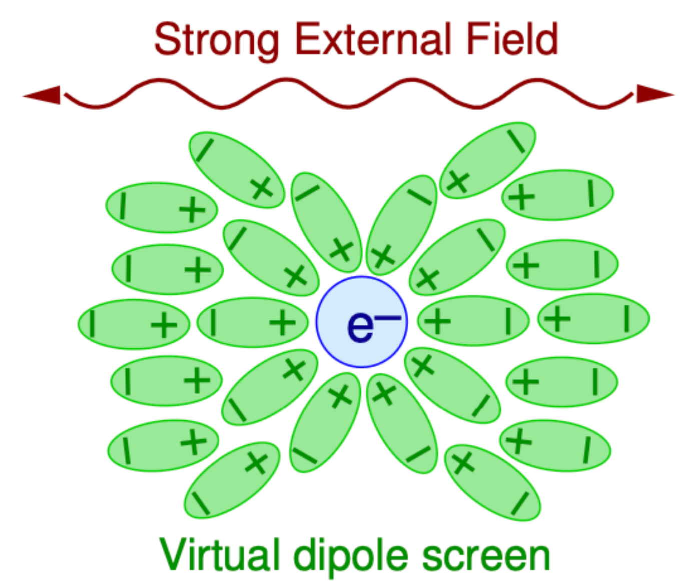
- electron obtains (significantly) larger effective rest mass → modified Compton spectrum



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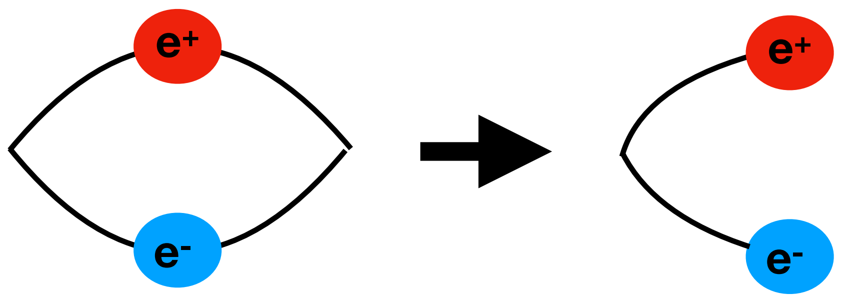

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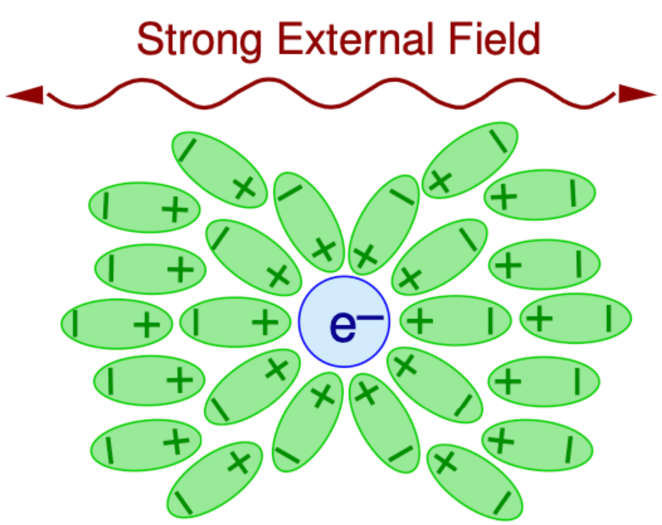
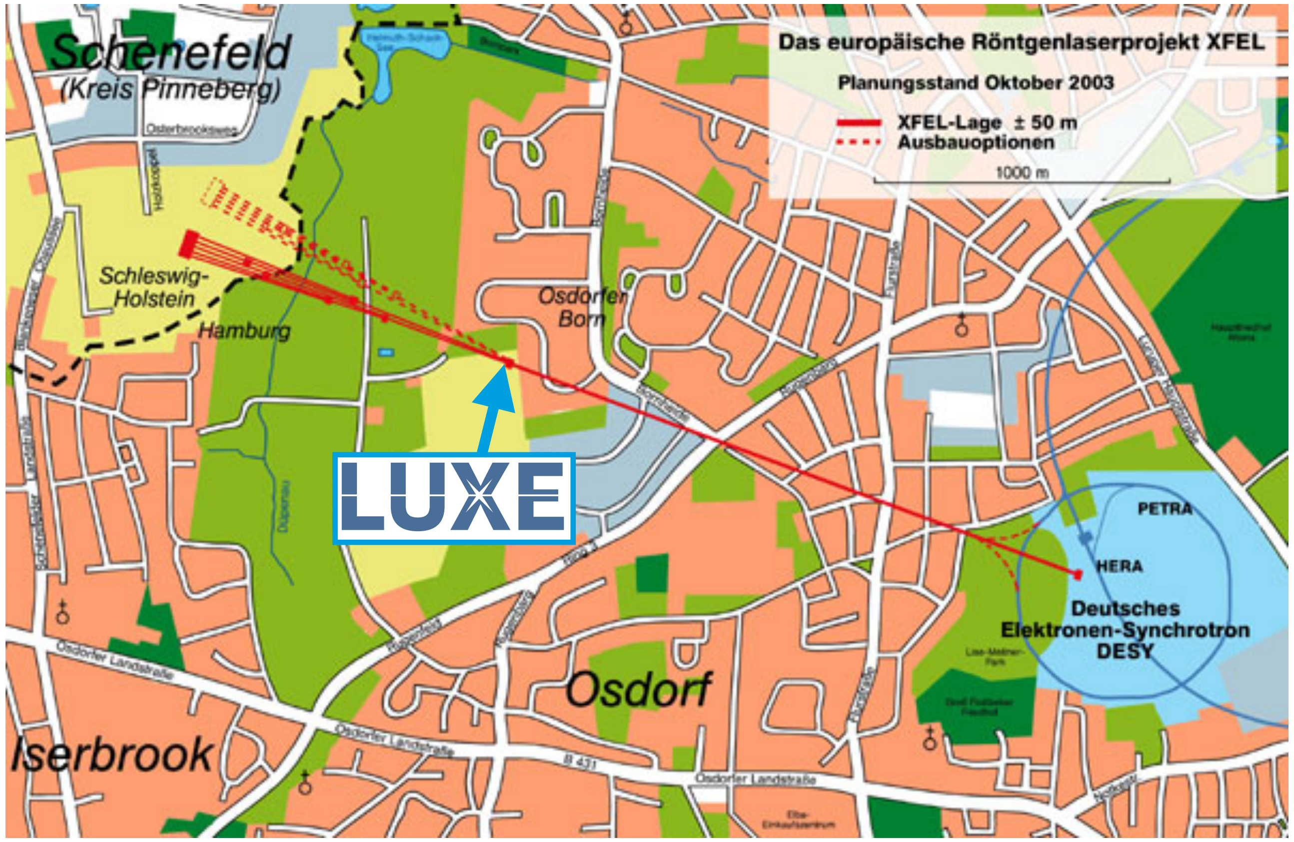
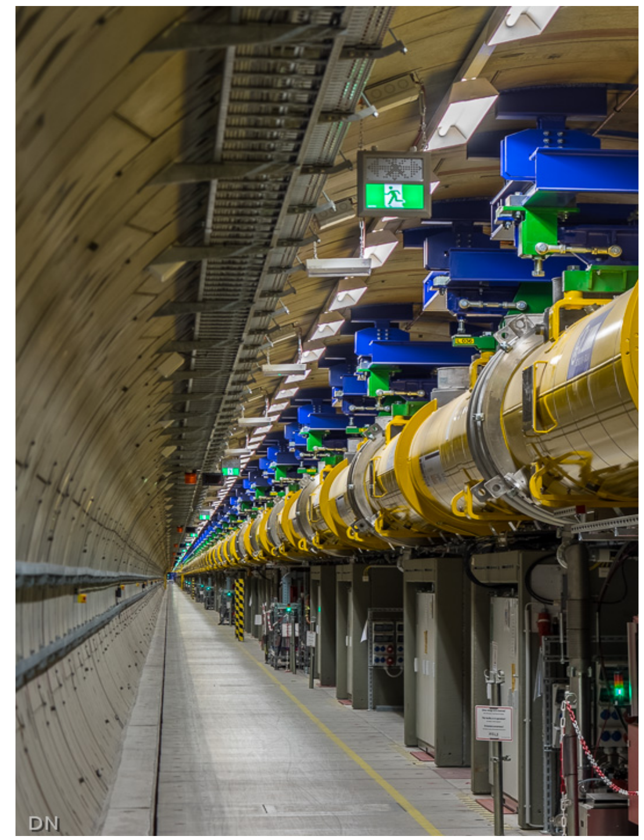
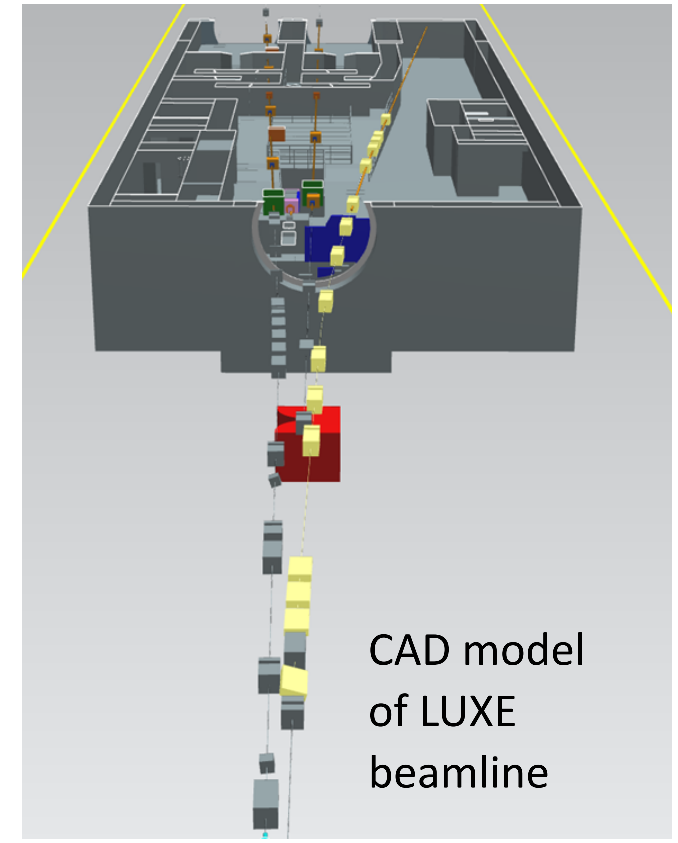


Schwinger-Regime has never been probed in clean lab conditions
LUXE will do so!

LUXE: Experimental setup at DESY







- LUXE uses XFEL electron beam before undulators
- Building at Osdorfer Born: future additional fan for XFEL (construction starts in 2030's)
  → Unique possibility to build and operate LUXE before that!
- LUXE uses 1 bunch (out of 2700 bunches) per XFEL train
  → design goal: transparent to XFEL photon science!

Some XFEL e^- Beam Properties important for LUXE	
Energy	16.5 GeV
#electrons/ bunch	$1.5 \cdot 10^9$
repetition rate	10 Hz

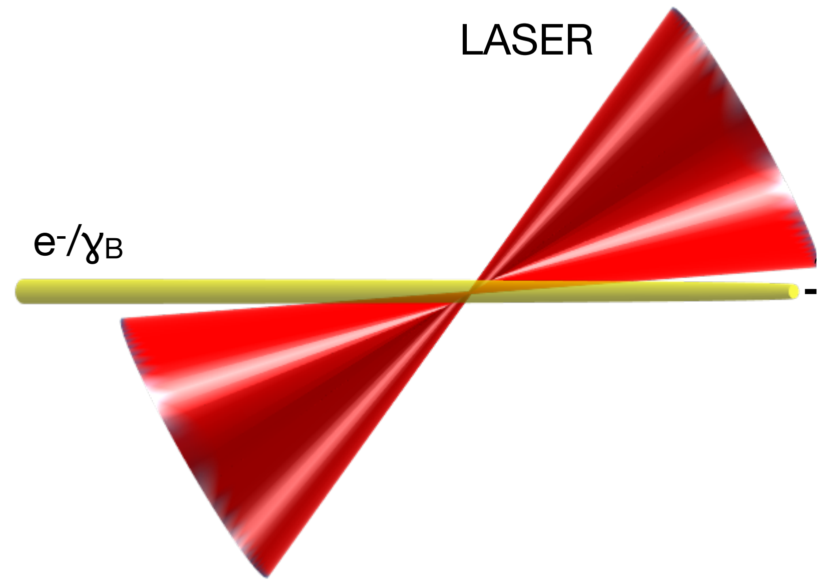
The LASER

LUXE basic LASER parameters	
active medium	Ti:Sa
wavelength (energy)	800nm (1.55eV)
crossing angle	17.2°
pulse length	30fs
spot size	≥3μm
power	40TW / 350TW
peak intensity [10^{19} W/cm²]	13.3 / 120
peak ξ	7.9 / 23.6
peak χ (16.5 GeV)	1.5 / 4.5

- for LUXE Phase-0: existing JETI40 (Jena) LASER will be used
- thanks to electron boost, don't need to push the current limits in terms of intensity
- BUT: need exceptional shot-to-shot stability!

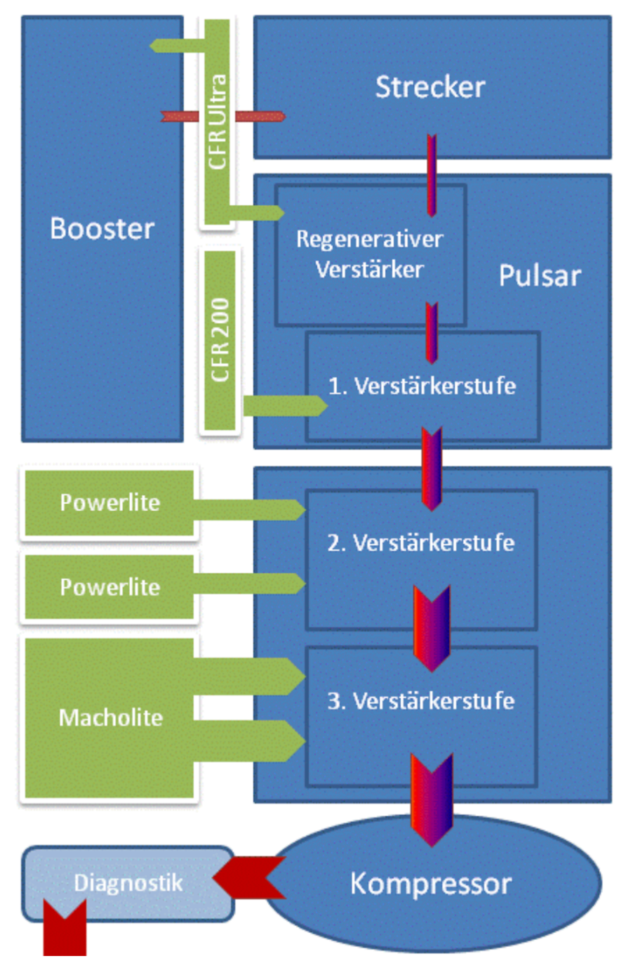
Laser intensity:

$$I = \frac{E_L}{\Delta t \pi d^2}$$

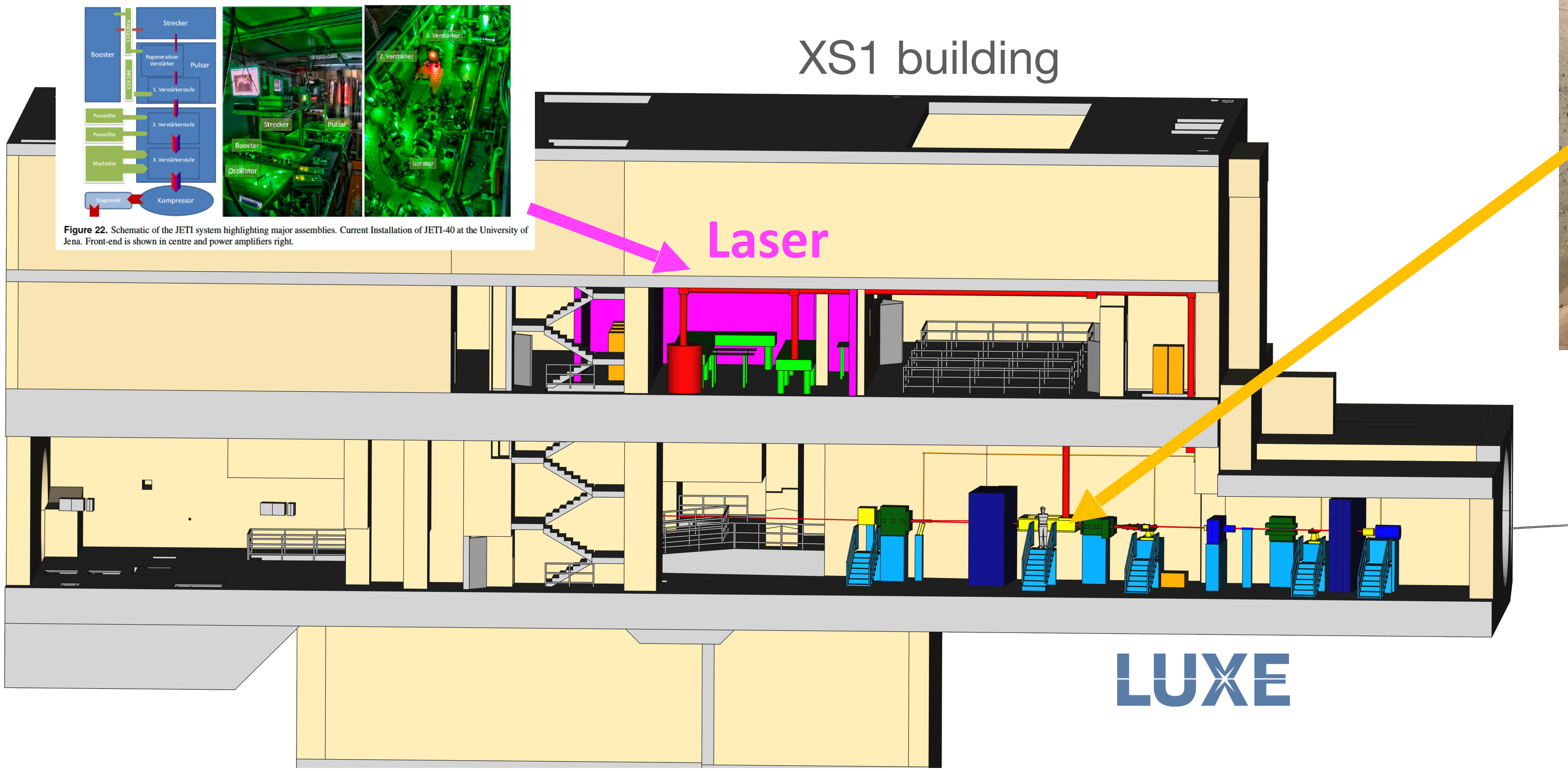


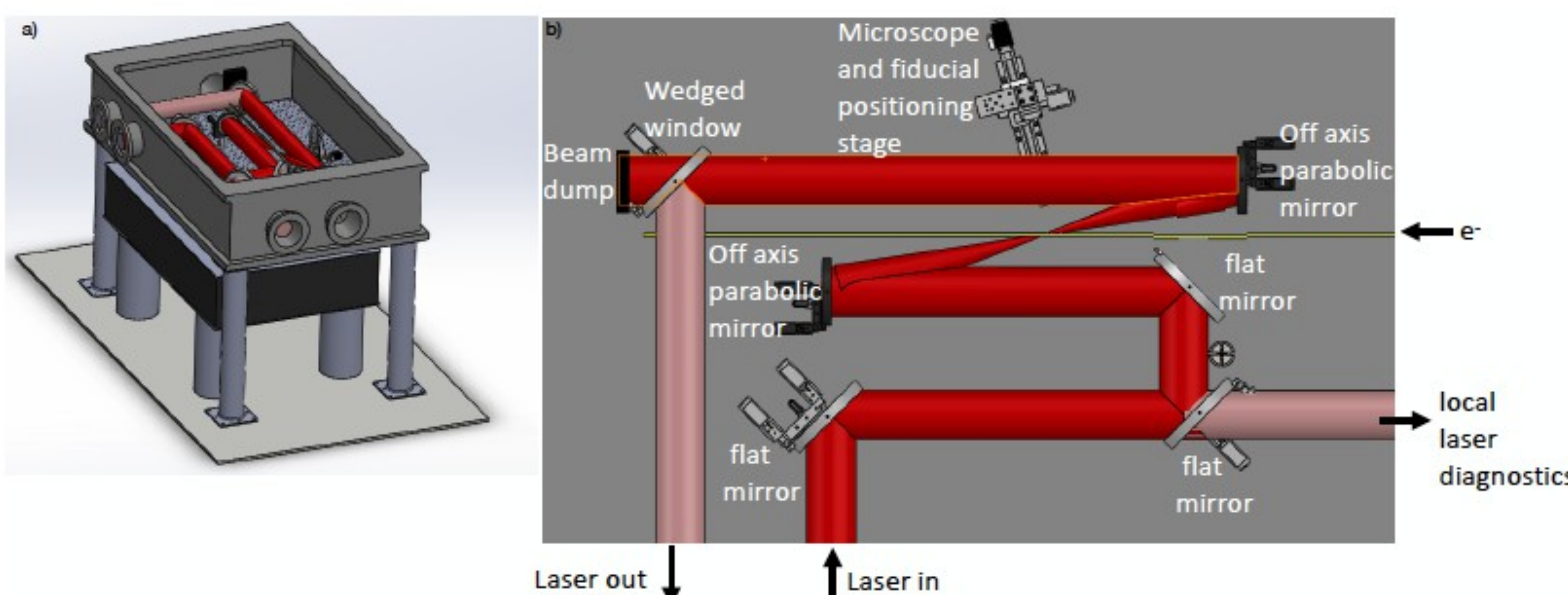
with

E_L: energy (J)
Δt: pulse length (s)
πd^2: focus area (m²)

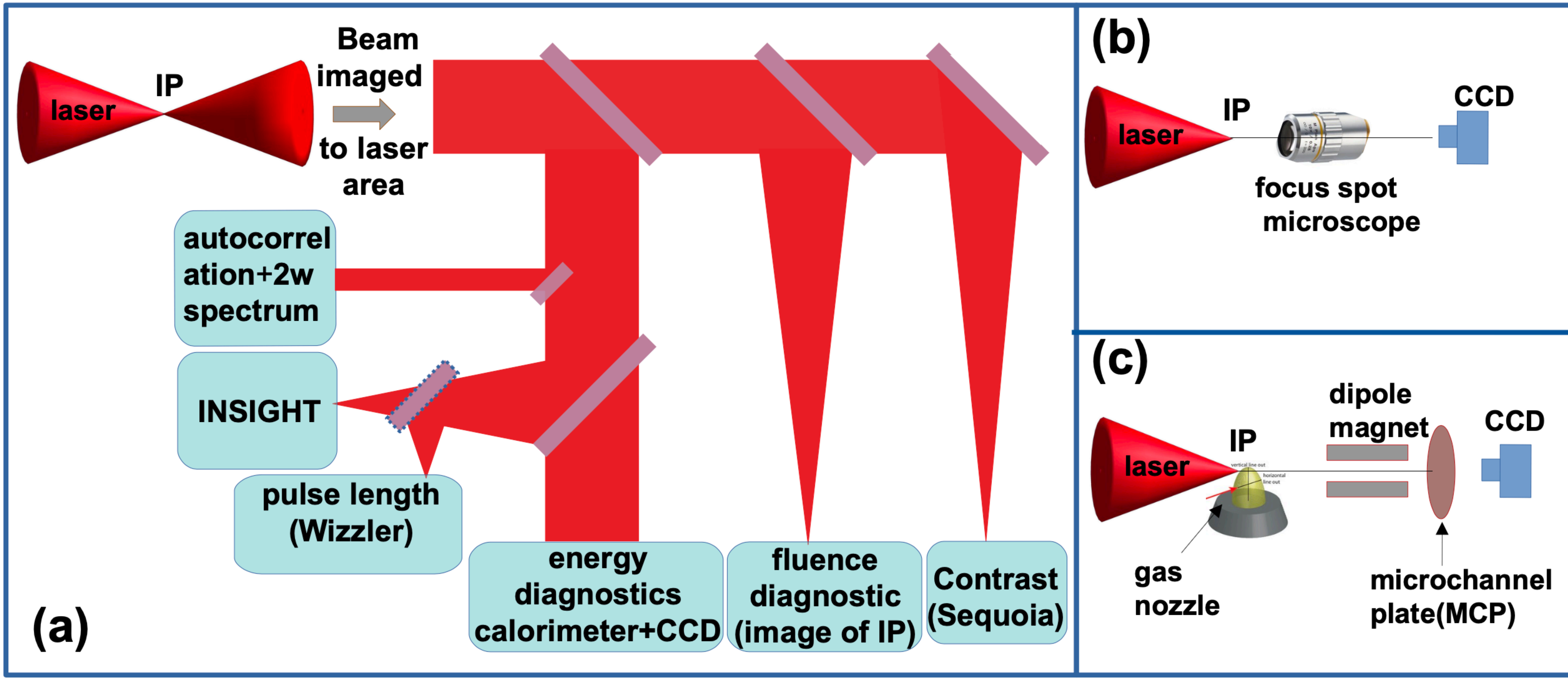


LASER beamline & Interaction Chamber



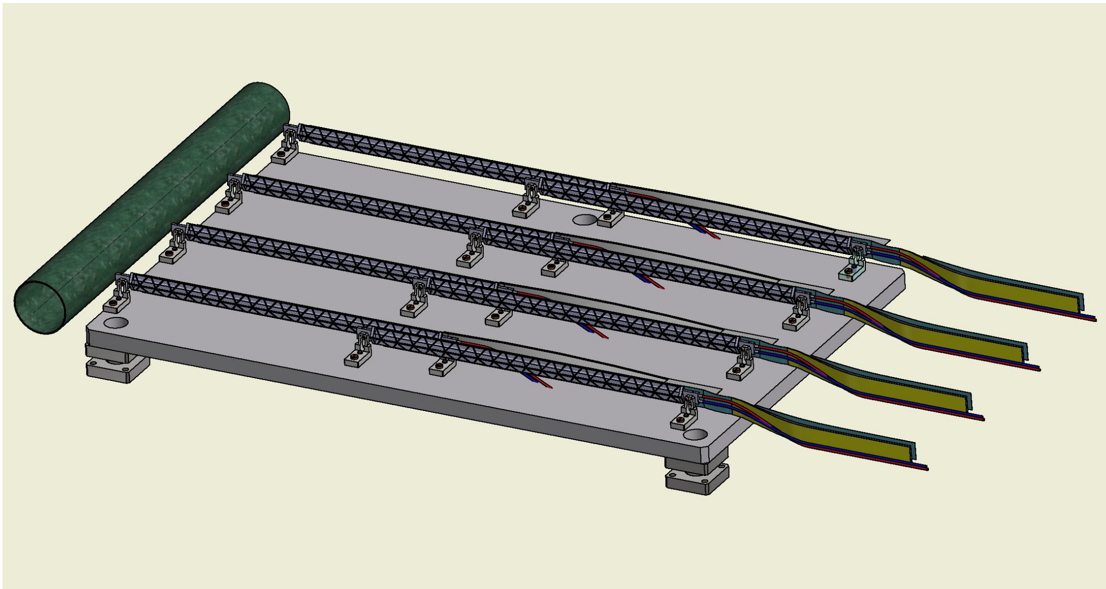


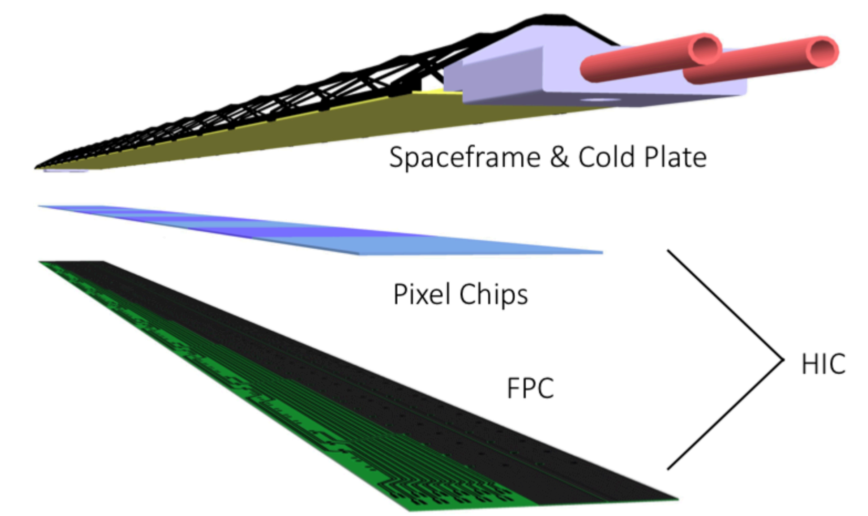
LASER Diagnostics

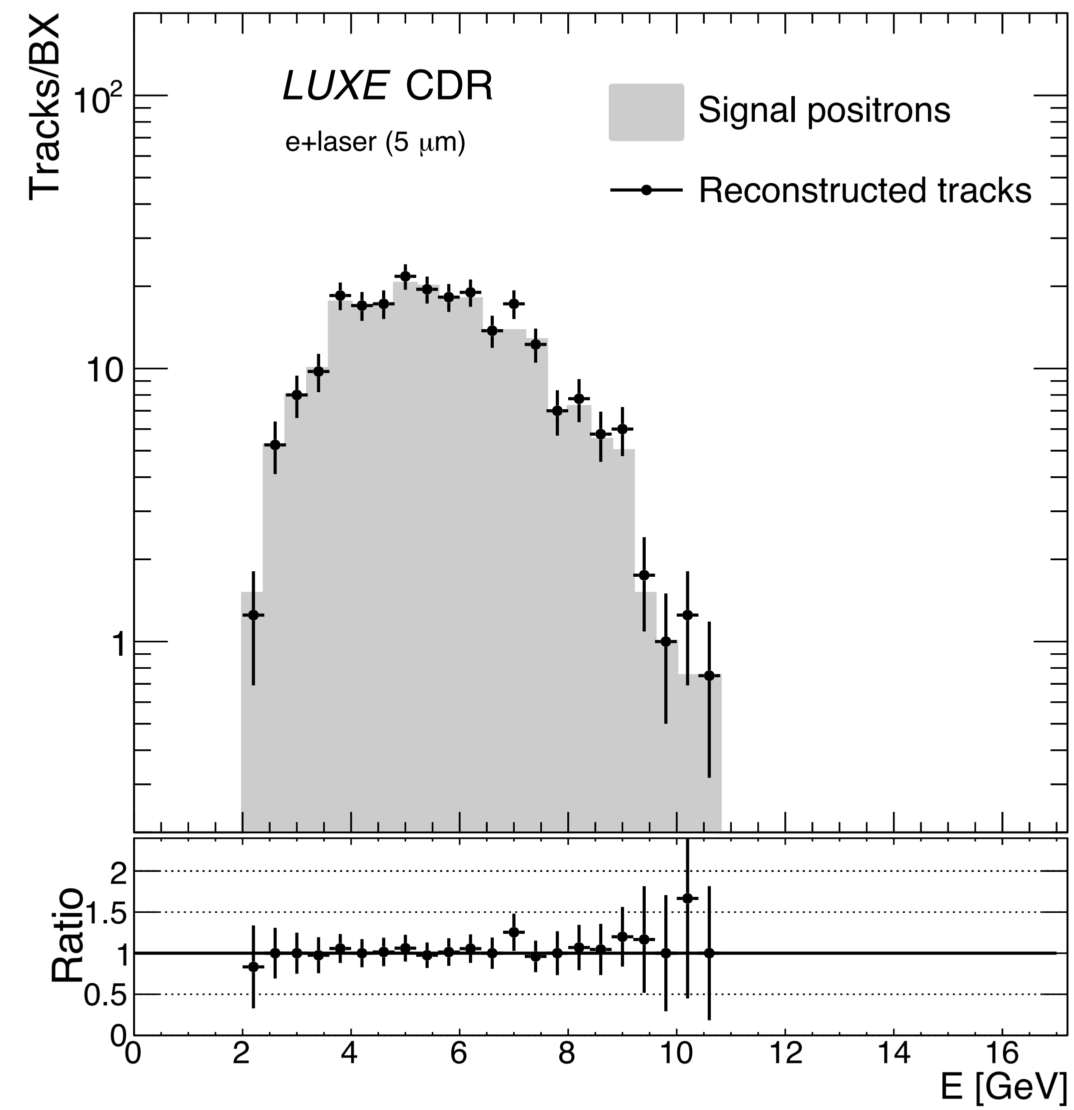


- LASER characterization quantities: energy, pulse length, spot size
- many (partially redundant) measurements planned
- LASER intensity uncertainty has a large impact on sensitivity
- goal: ≤ 5% uncertainty on LASER intensity, 1% shot-to-shot uncertainty

Silicon Pixel Tracker

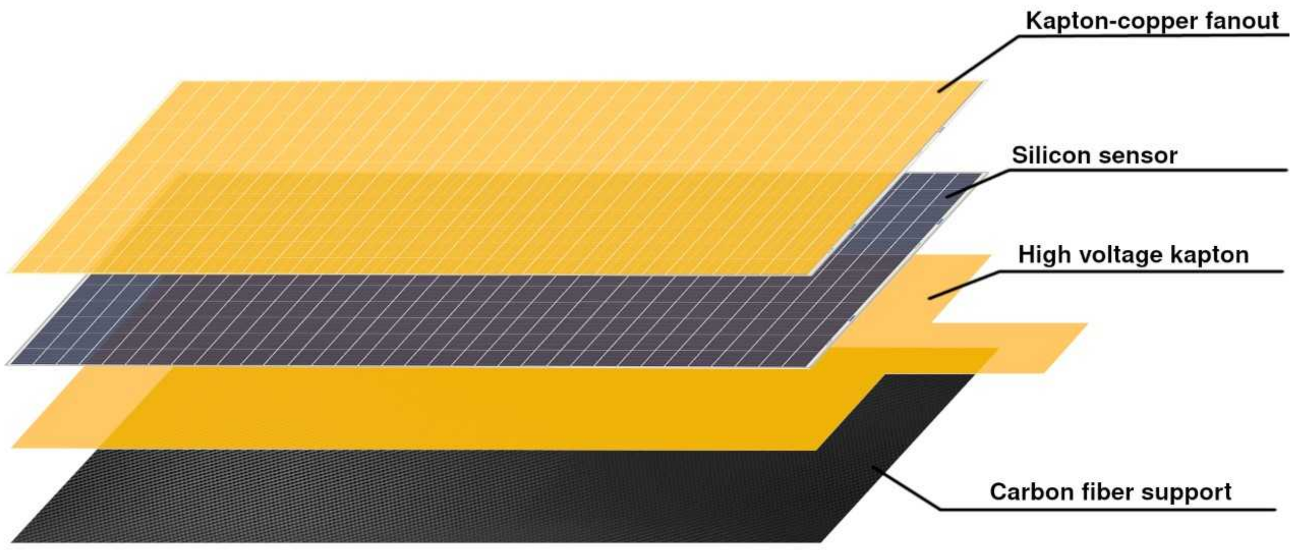


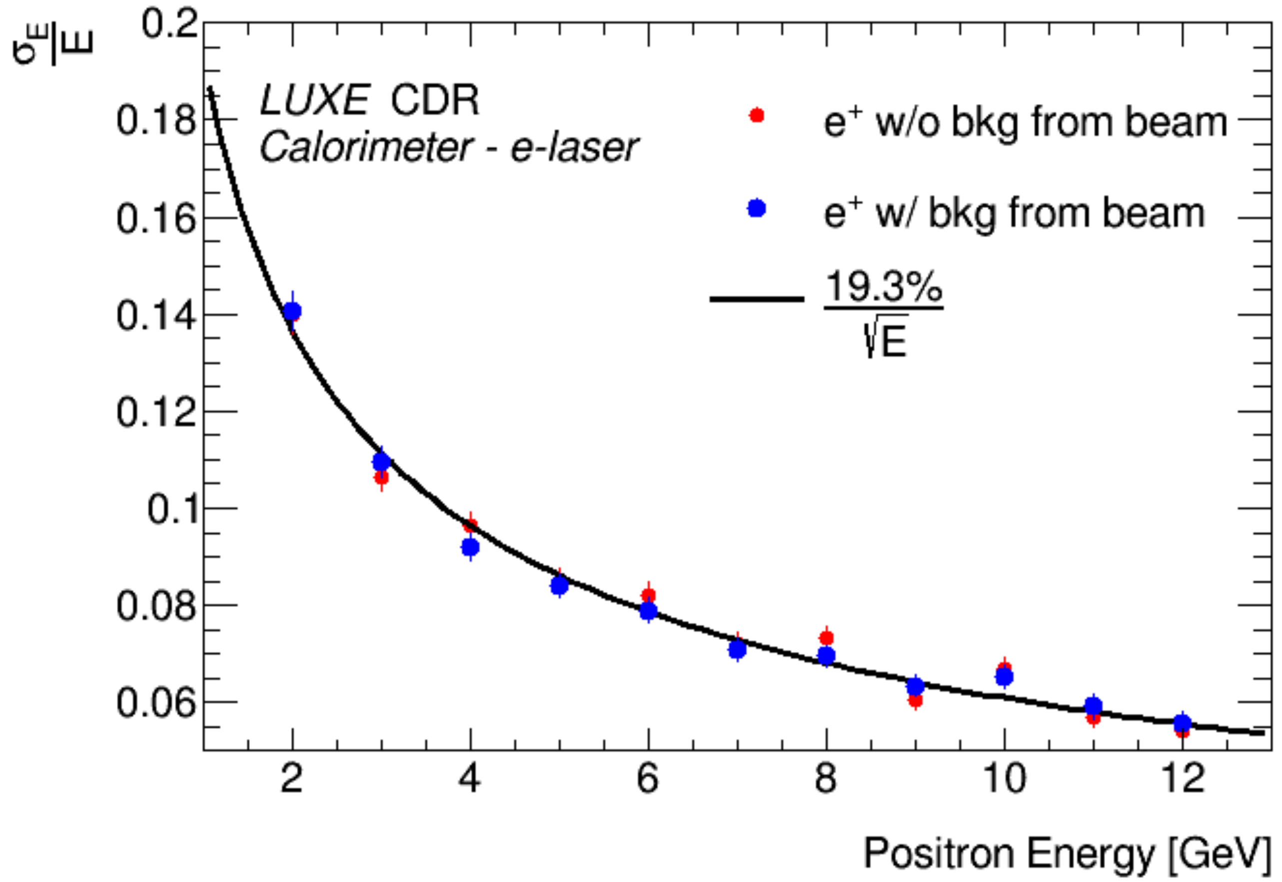




- four layers of ALPIDE silicon pixel sensors
  → developed for ALICE pixel tracker upgrade
- pitch size (27 x 29 μm), 5 μm resolution
- tracking: $\varepsilon > 98\%, \quad \frac{\delta p}{p} \approx 0.3\%$
- very small background (<0.1 event / bunch crossing)

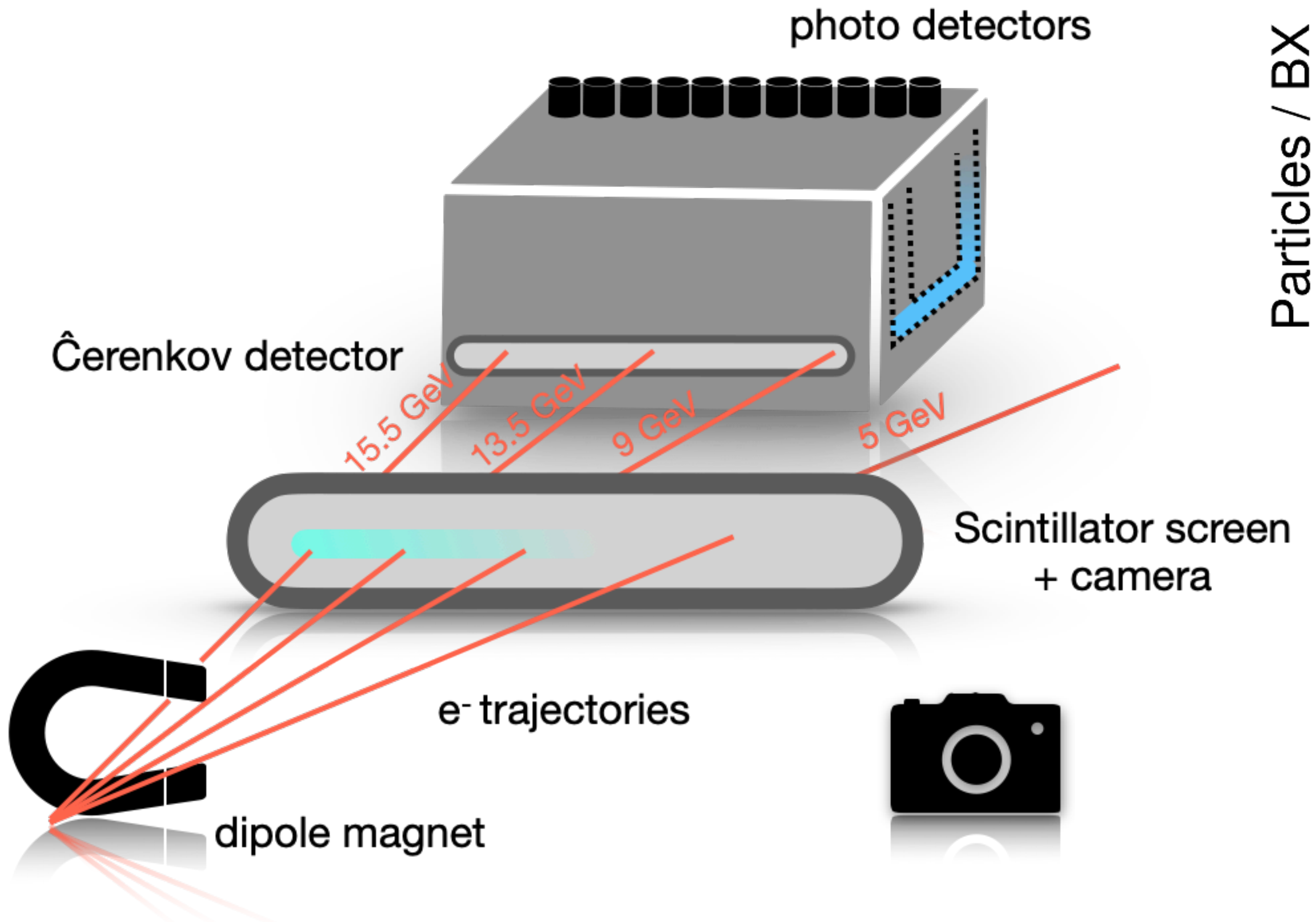
High-Granularity Calorimeter

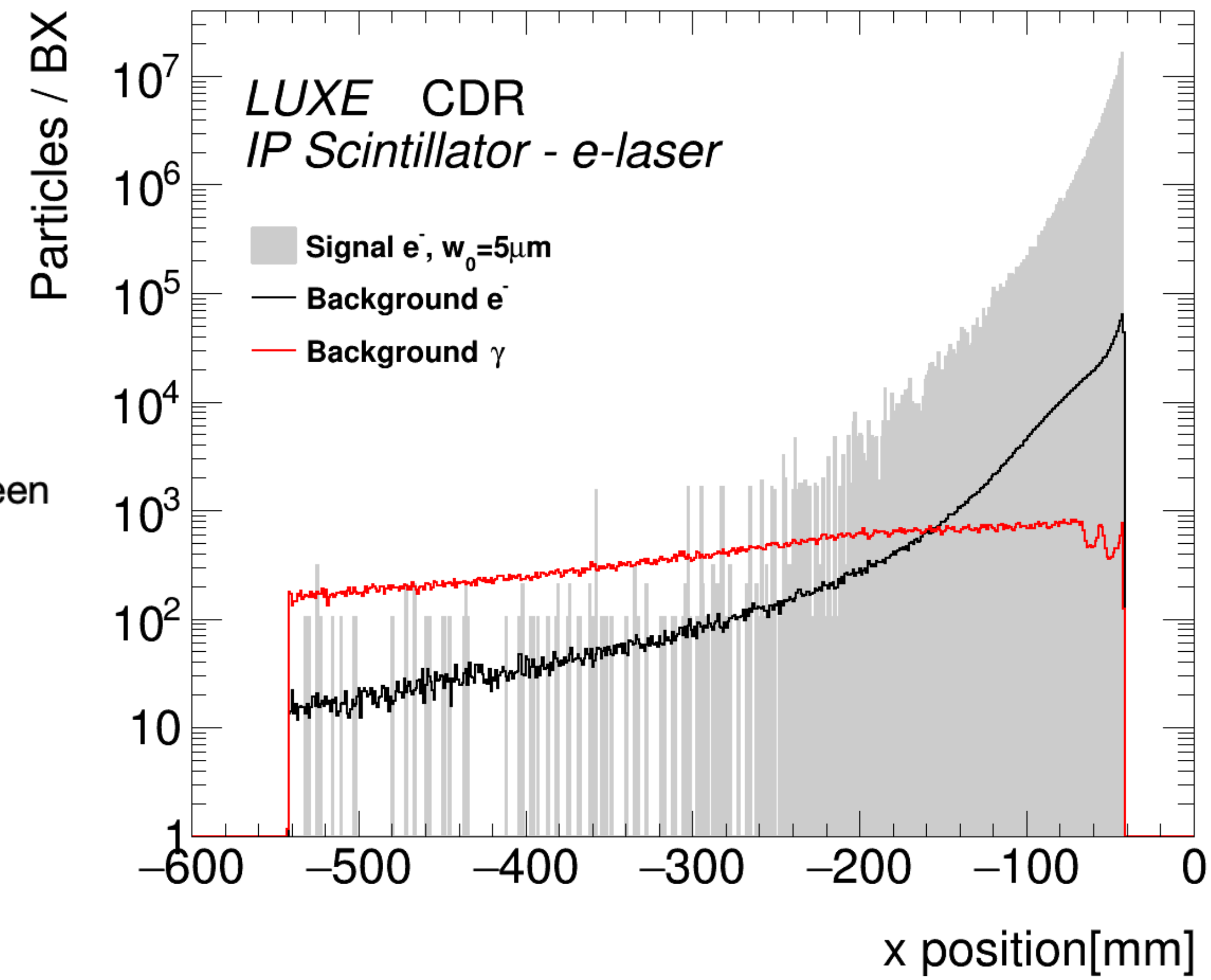




- high granularity: independent energy measurement from position and shower reconstruction
- 20-layer sampling calorimeter
- shower medium: 3.5mm Tungsten plates ($1X_0$)
- active medium: Silicon or GaAs sensors ($5x5cm^2$, 320µm thick)
- read out by FLAME ASIC (developed for FCAL)

Electron side: Scintillator & Cerenkov





- challenge of electron side (in e+LASER): enormous electron rate from Compton scattering (Signal/Background ~100)
- goal: Measure non-linear Compton spectrum (more later)
  → N_e as function of the position after dipole magnet (→ Energy)
- combined system: Scintillator screen and segmented gaseous Cerenkov detector

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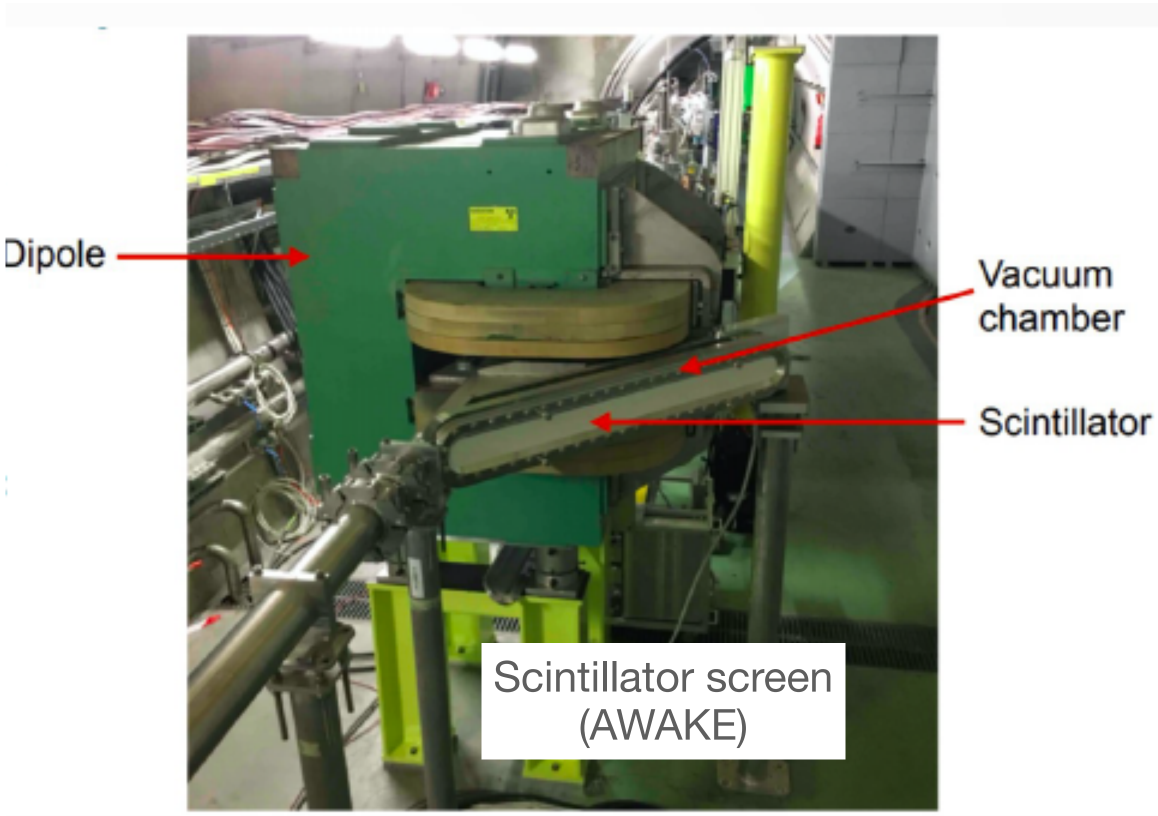
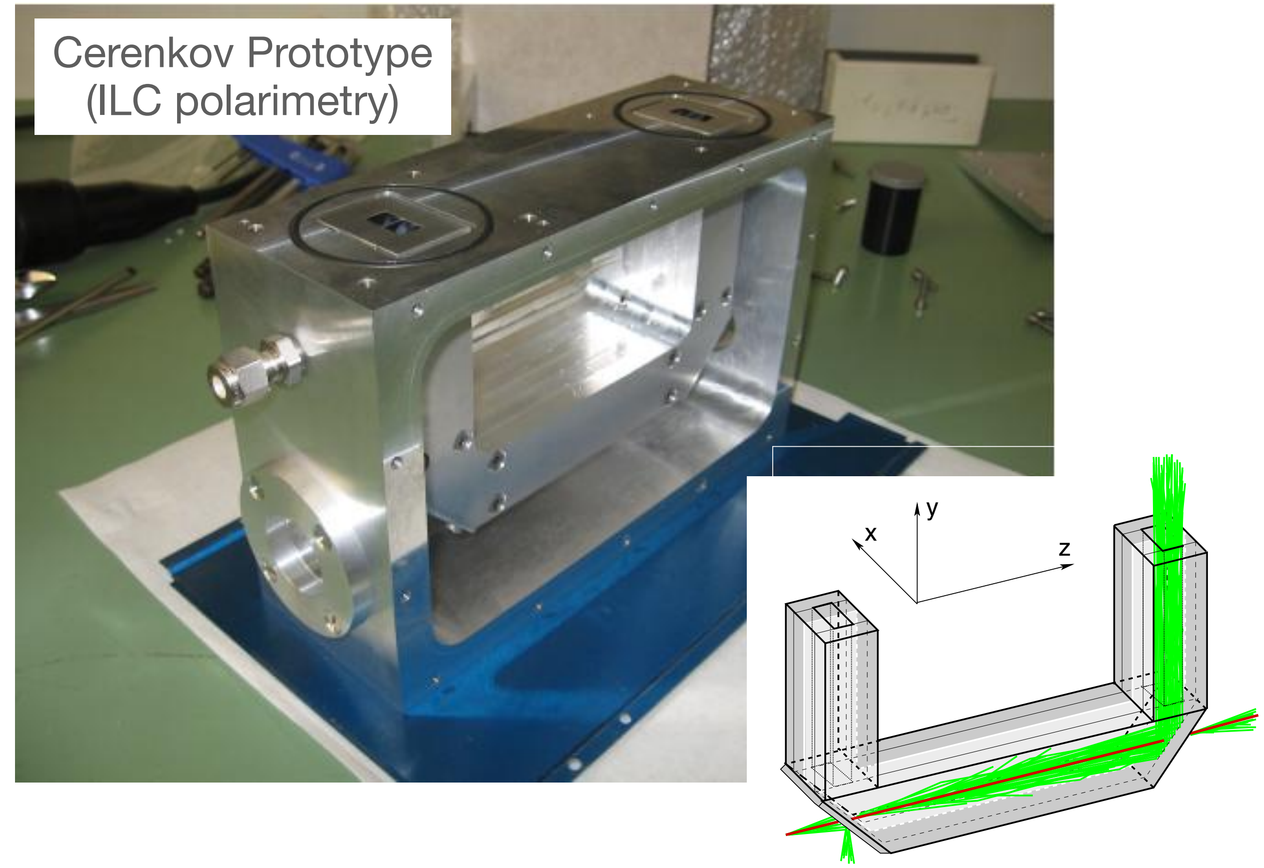
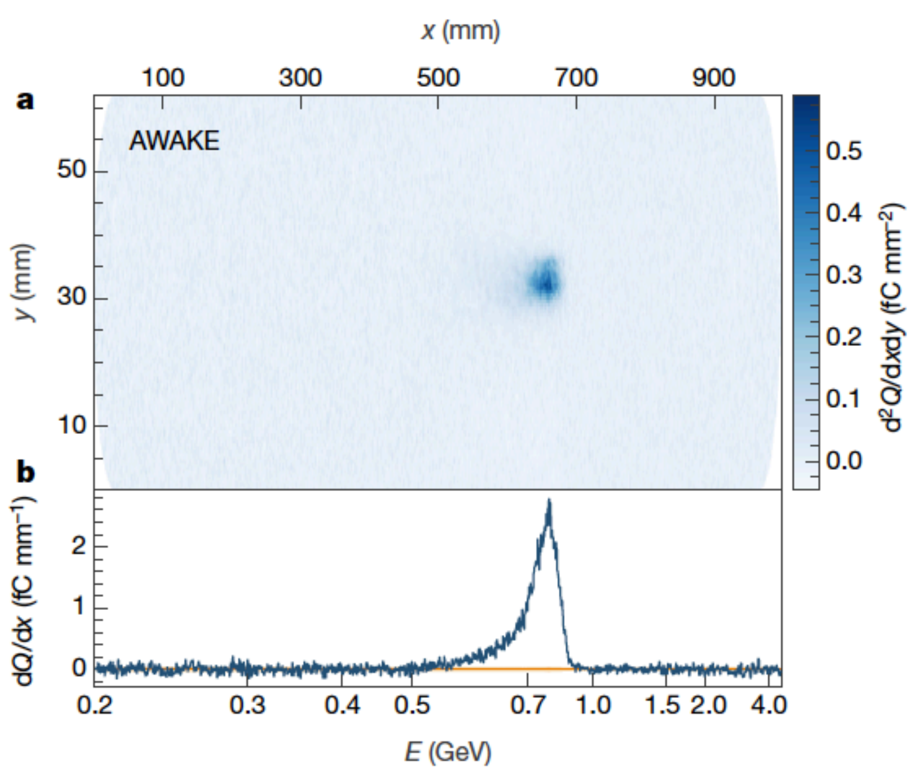






AWAKE Coll., *Nature* **561,** 363–367 (2018)
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0485-4

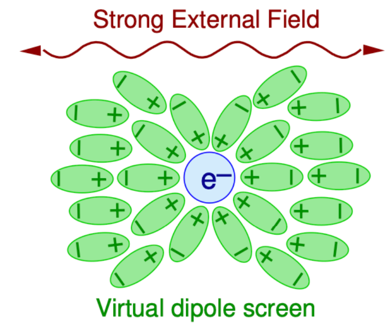
Scintillator screen (LANEX):

- camera takes pictures of scintillation light
- resolution of full system ~500µm

Cerenkov detector:

- finely segmented Argon-filled channels (1.5x1.5mm^2)
- Ar gas: low refractive index helps to reduce light yield (Cerenkov threshold 20 MeV)

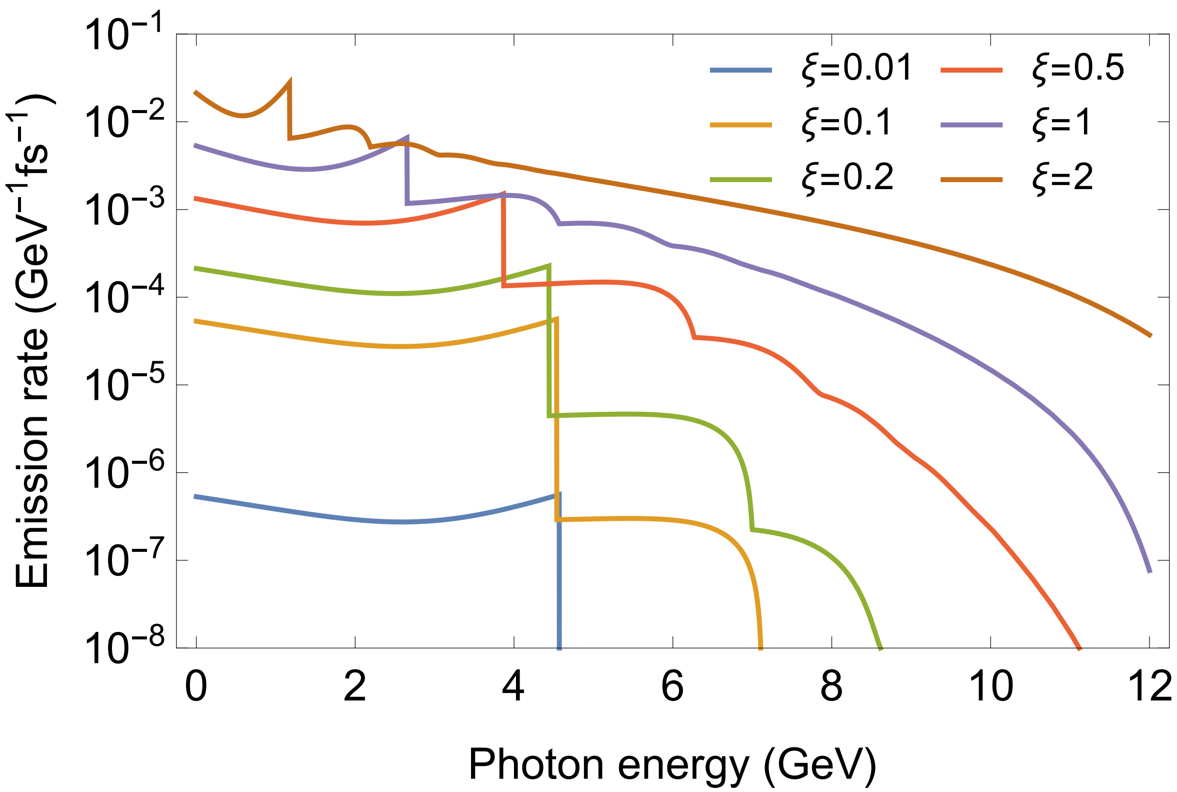
Compton Edge Measurement

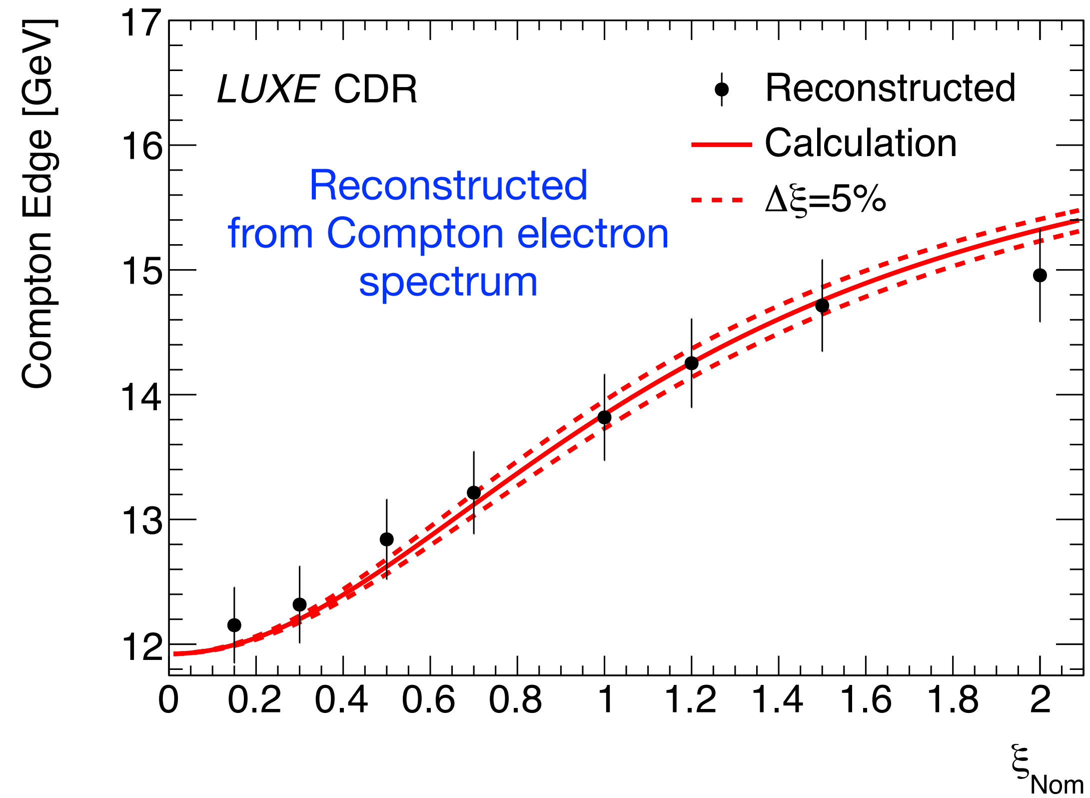


Compton Edge:

$$E_{edge} = E(1 - \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2E}{m_e c^2}})$$

16.5 GeV electron, 800 nm laser, 17.2° crossing angle





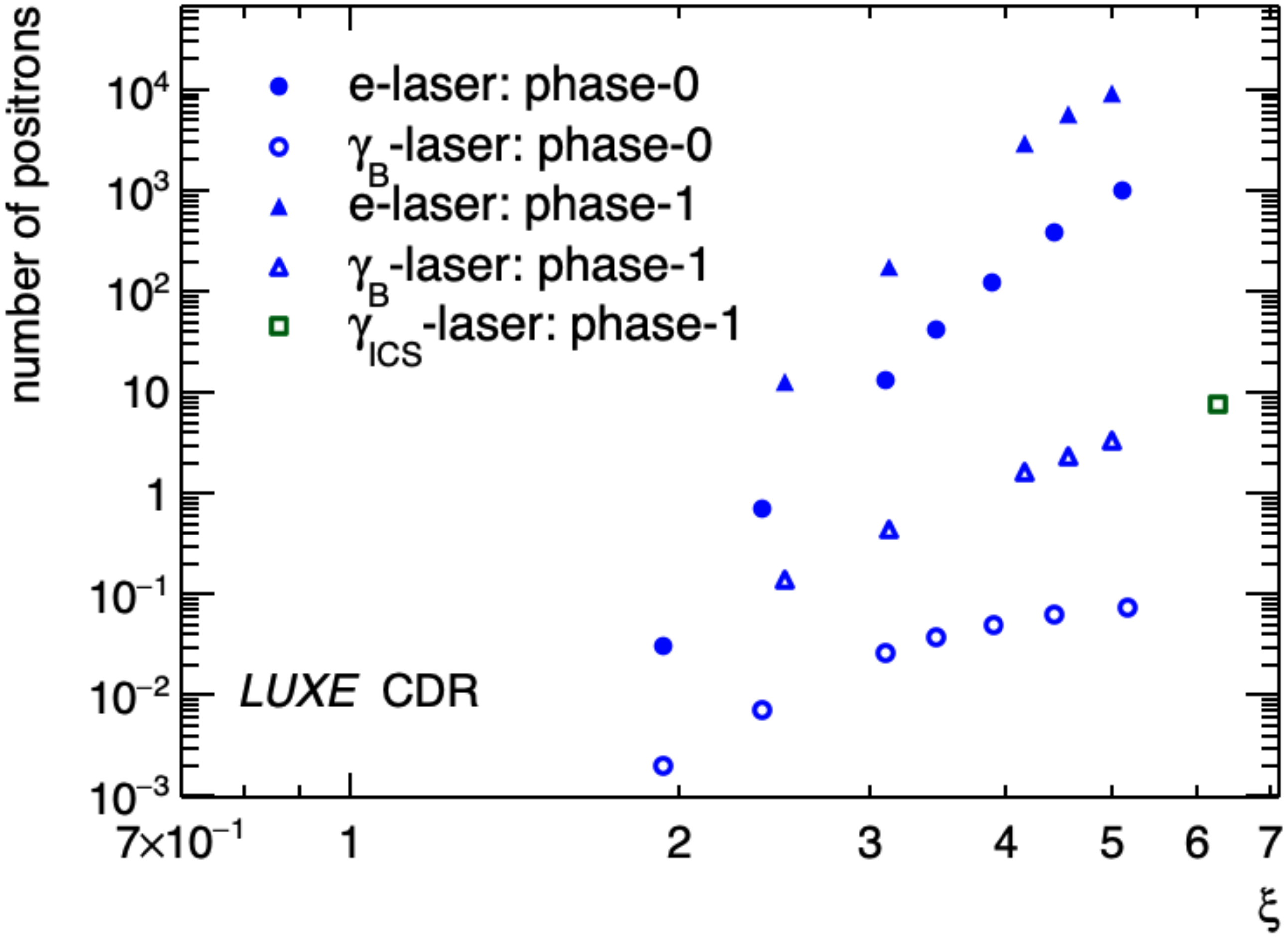
- reminder: in strong fields, electron obtains larger effective mass $m_* = m_e\sqrt{1+\xi^2}$

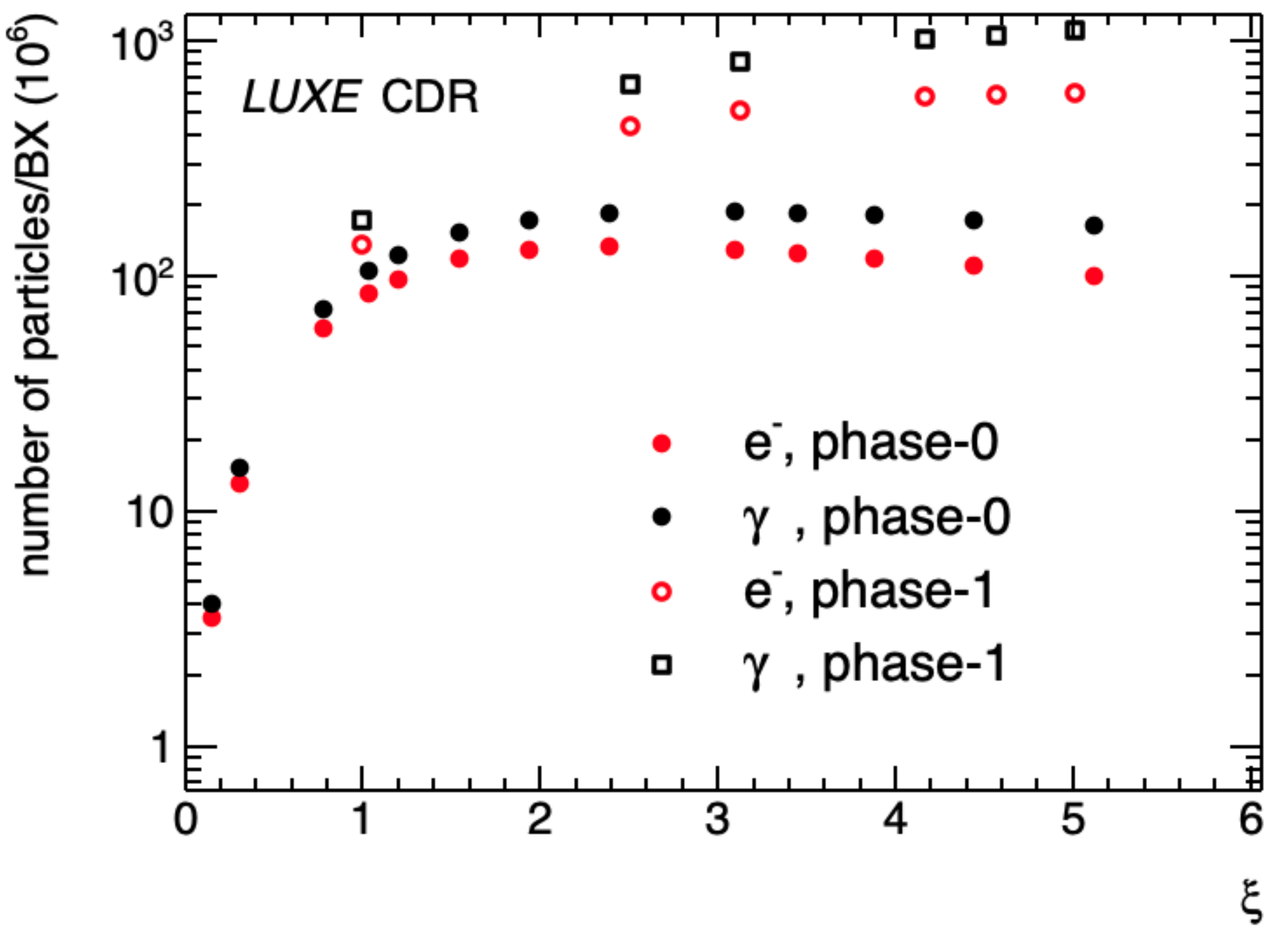
  → Compton edge shifts as function of ξ

- theoretical prediction: $E_{edge}(\xi) = E_e \frac{2n\eta}{2n\eta + 1 + \xi^2}$, with $\eta_{LUXE} = 0.192$

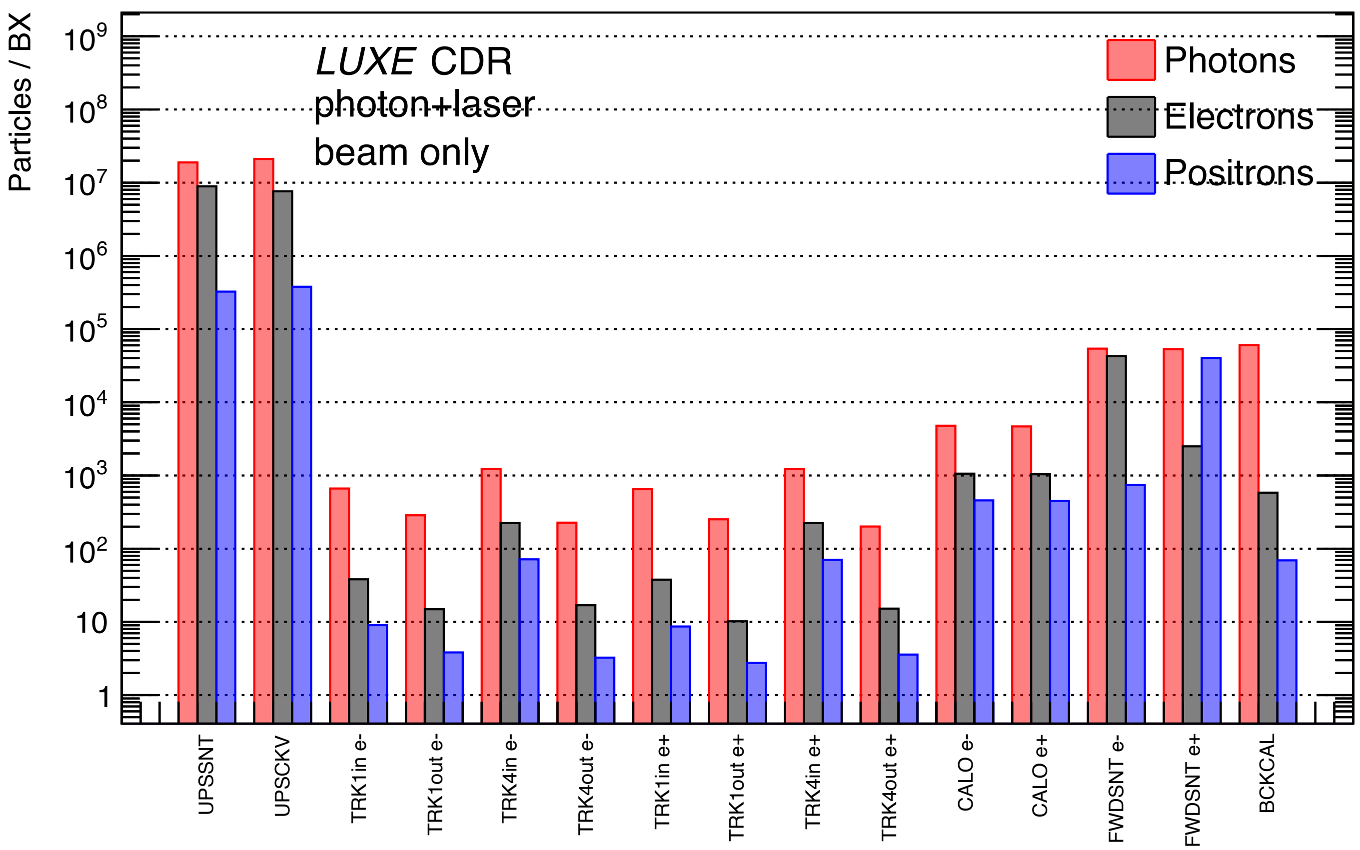
- reconstruct Compton edge in electron (Scintillator and Cerenkov detector) or photon spectrum (Photon spectrometer)

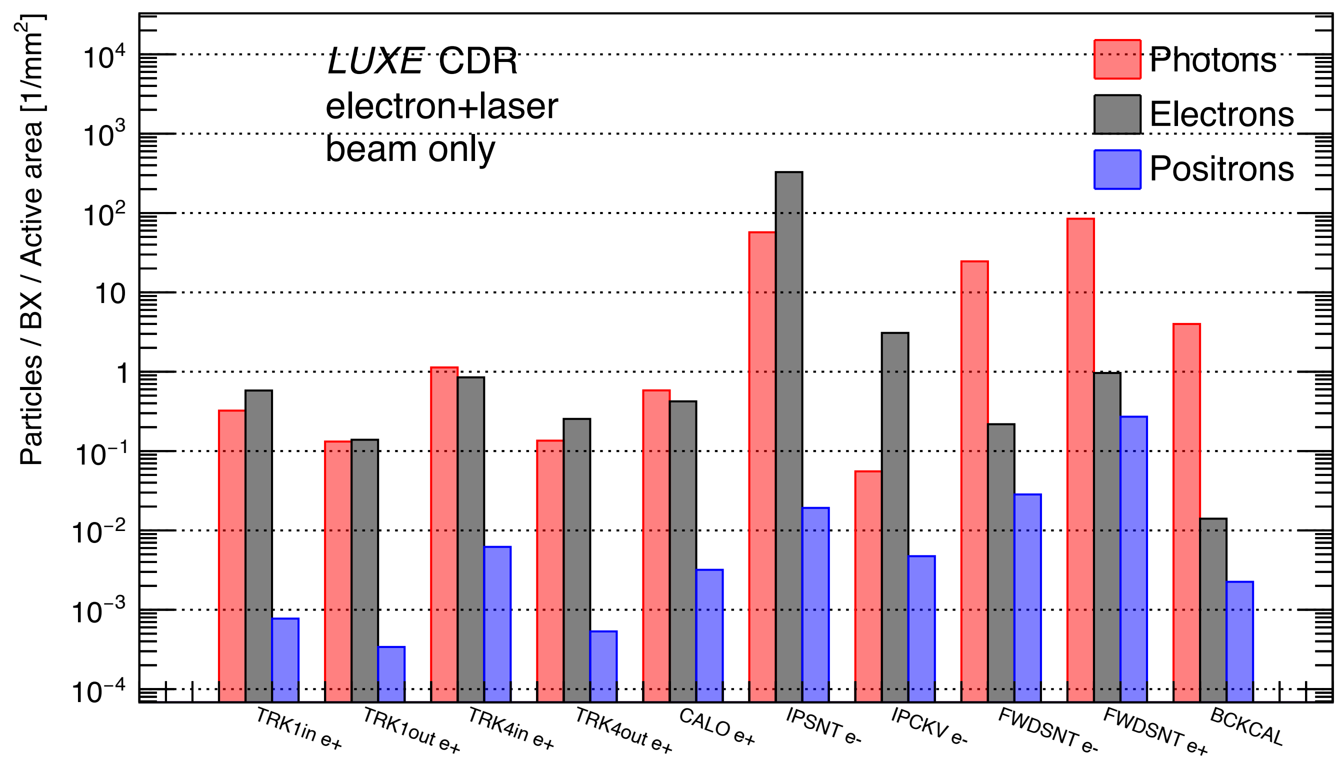
Particle rates



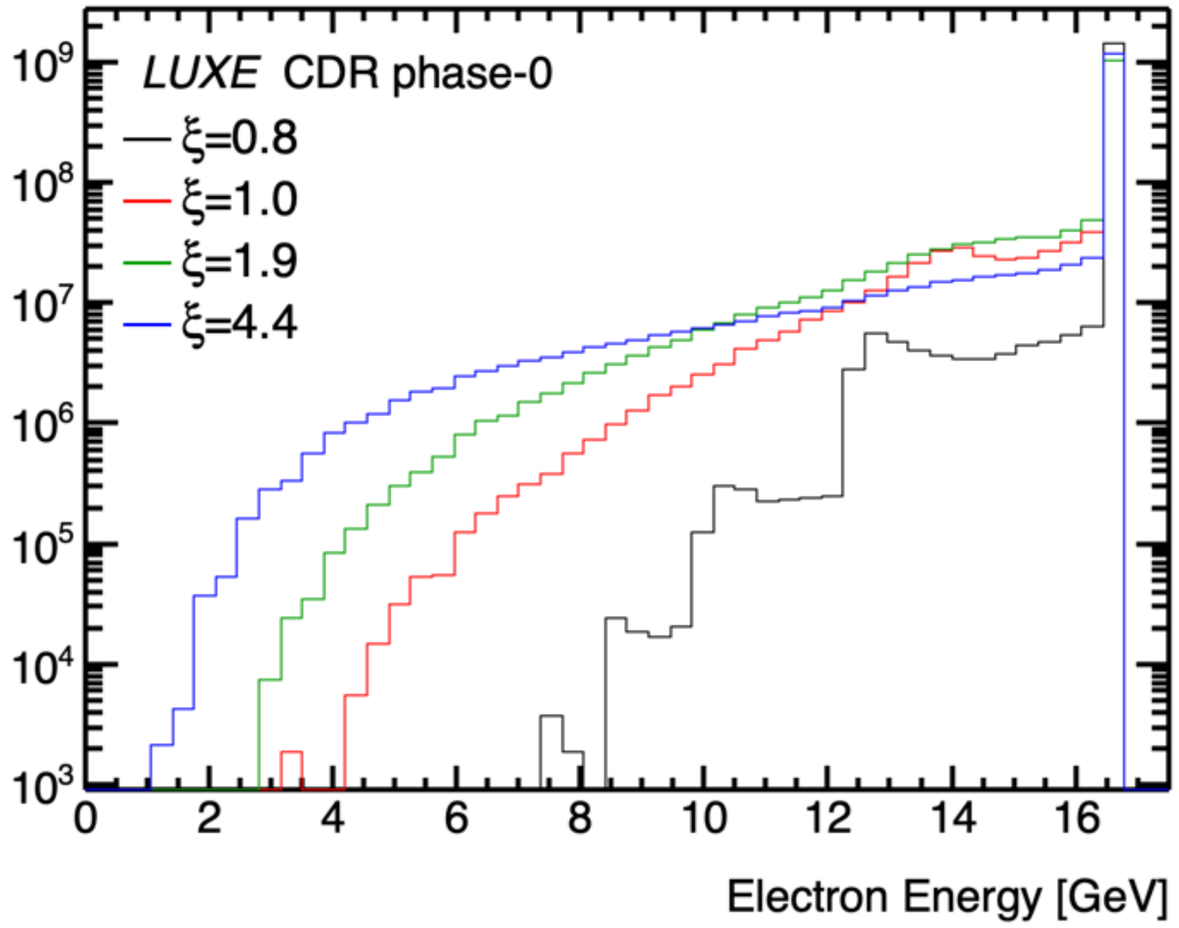


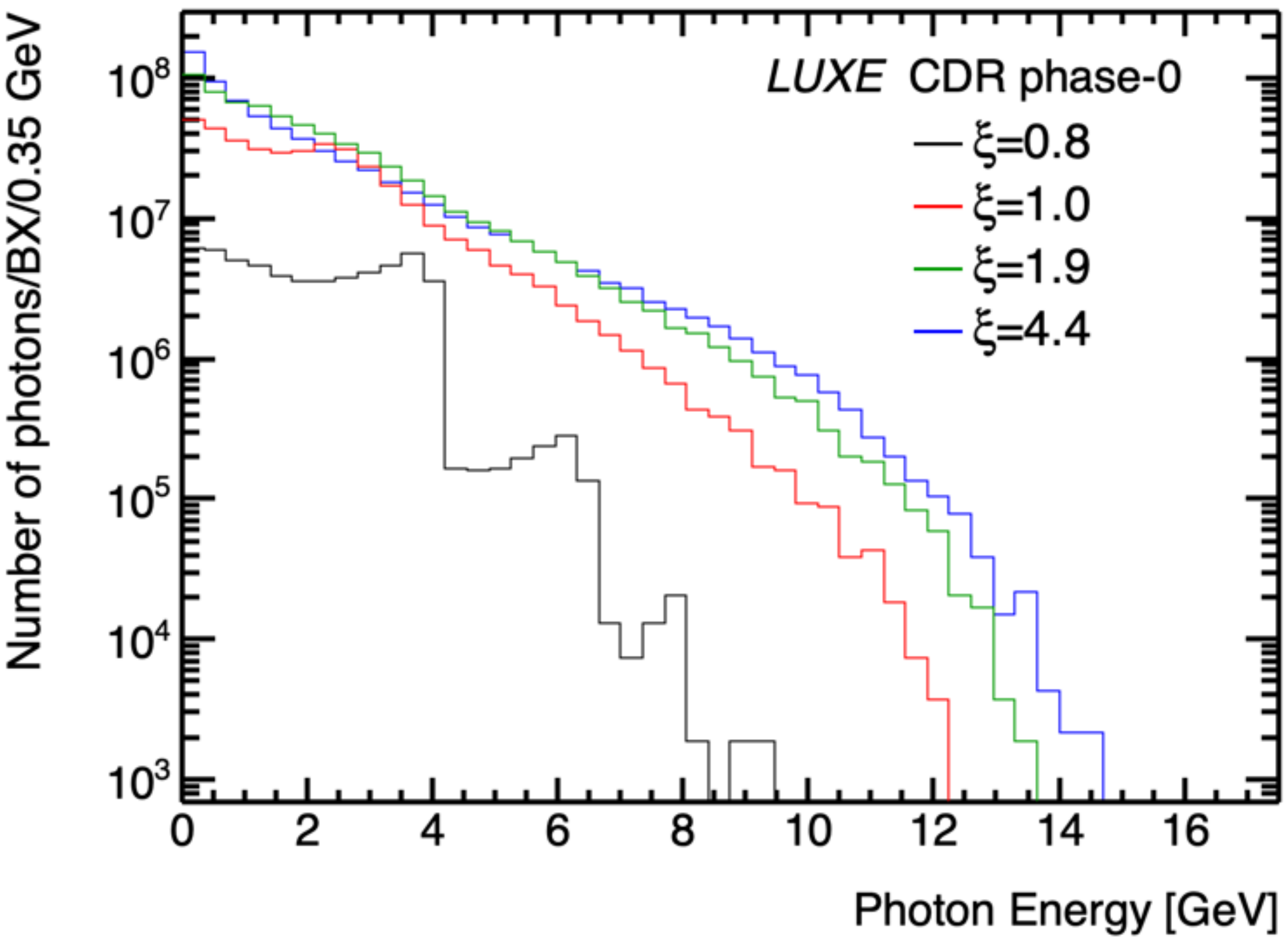
Beam Background rates



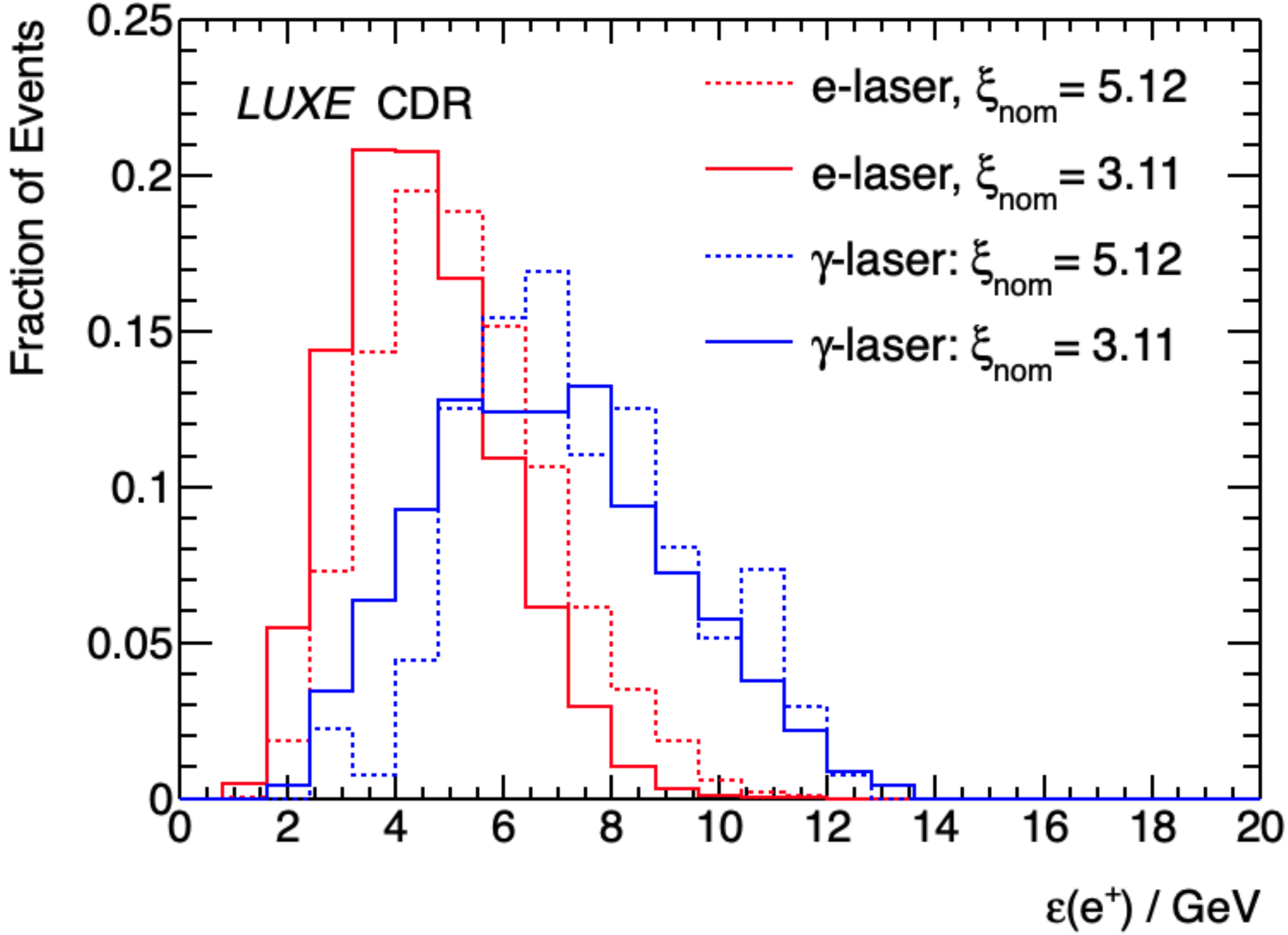


e+LASER Spectra

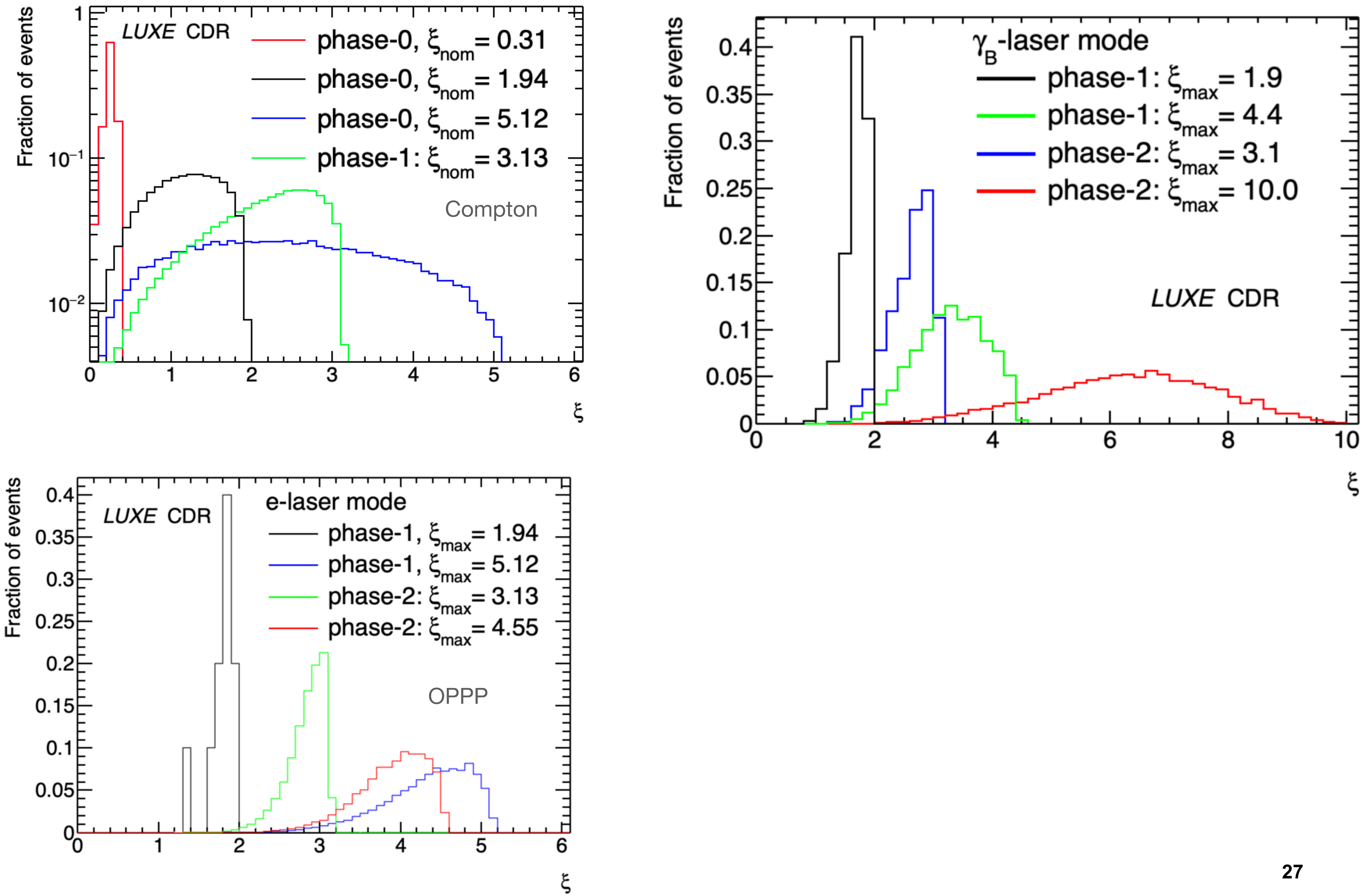




Positron Spectra

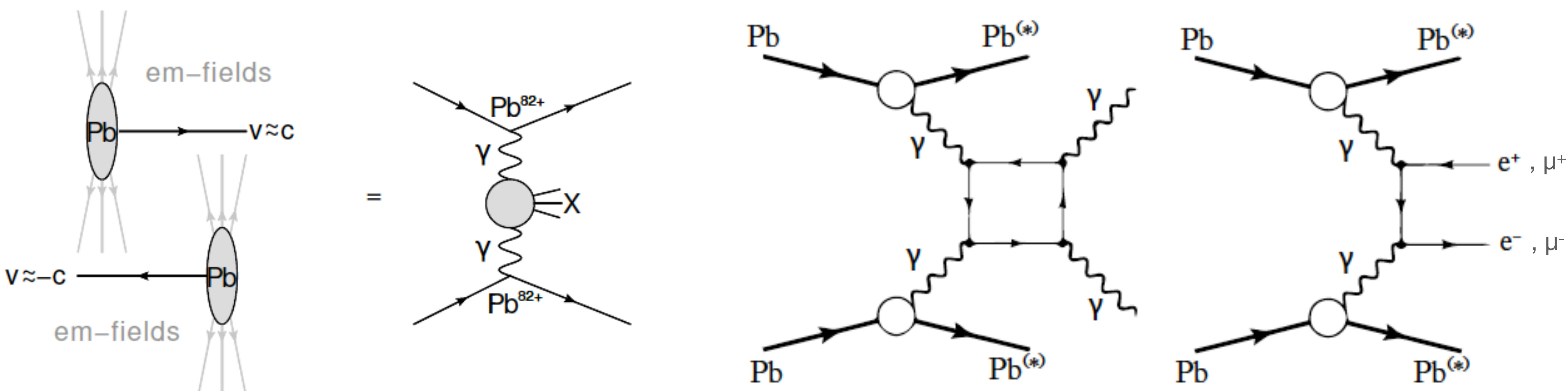


xi distributions



How does LUXE relate to LHC light-by-light scattering?

- LHC: photon-photon interaction in ultra-peripheral heavy-ion collisions (UPC) → e.g. $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \mu\mu$
- UPC: fields above the Schwinger limit can be reached in the lab
- main difference to LUXE: in UPC, EM field is extremely short-lived, cannot travel over macroscopic distances
- this regime is still covered by linear perturbative QED



Figures from: arXiv:2010.07855v3
(Also a nice review to read, if you want to know more!)