Probing dark sectors with long-lived particles at BELLE II

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We propose a new search for light scalar singlets in rare meson decays. For tiny interactions, the scalar is long-lived at detector scales and decays into displaced pairs of leptons or light mesons. We show that Belle II has a remarkable potential to probe scalars in the GeV range with couplings as small as $10^{-5}$. The predicted sensitivity is higher than at the long-baseline experiments FASER and NA62. We also investigate signatures of invisibly decaying scalars in rare meson decays with missing energy.

I. INTRODUCTION

It could well be that the Higgs boson is not the only scalar in nature. A second scalar that mixes with the Higgs boson can be realized in minimal renormalizable extensions of the standard model \[1, 2\]. Such scalars could naturally be light \[3\], which offers attractive solutions to big open questions in particle physics and cosmology. For instance, light scalars are thermal dark matter candidates \[4\] or mediators to a dark sector \[5\], could generate the electroweak hierarchy through cosmological relaxation \[6\], facilitate baryogenesis \[7–9\], or play the role of an instanton during inflation \[10\].

Extensive searches for new scalars at particle colliders and fixed-target experiments have probed couplings of $1 - 10^{-3}$ over a wide mass range up to the electroweak scale. Ref. \[11\] gives a comprehensive overview. Complementary to collider searches, astrophysical and cosmological observations are sensitive to very weak couplings below $10^{-7}$ for scalars around the GeV scale and set strong bounds on sub-GeV scalars \[12, 13\].

In this work we focus on scalars in the GeV range, which can be resonantly produced in $B$ and $K$ meson decays through loop-induced flavor-changing neutral currents \[14–16\]. The phenomenology of light scalars in meson decays like $B \to K \mu \bar{\mu}$, $B_s \to \mu \bar{\mu}$, or $K \to \pi \mu \bar{\mu}$ has been explored for instance in Refs. \[17–20\]. We show that Belle II can search for displaced meson decays and thus penetrate an unexplored territory of scalar couplings in the range $10^{-3} - 10^{-5}$. The key to this new search is that scalars with such tiny couplings are long-lived at detector scales, leaving traces of displaced vertices from their decay products \[16, 21\]. We predict that Belle II has a larger reach than the long-baseline experiments FASER and NA62 and competes with searches for long-lived particles at the proposed dedicated experiments FASER 2, CODEX-b, SHiP or MATHUSLA \[22\].

Complementary to displaced decays, we investigate invisible decays of scalars in rare meson decays. Invisible decays are particularly relevant in the context of dark matter, where the scalar is the mediator of a new force between standard-model particles and a dark sector \[19, 23–26\]. We predict that Belle II can improve the current sensitivity to invisibly decaying scalars with a dedicated search for two-body decays $B \to K E$ with missing energy in the final state.

After reviewing the phenomenology of light scalars in meson decays in Sec. II, we discuss signatures with missing energy in Sec. III. In Sec. IV we make predictions for displaced meson decays at Belle II and finally summarize our main results in Sec. V.

II. DARK SCALARS IN MESON DECAYS

We extend the standard model by a real scalar field $\phi$ and a Dirac fermion $\chi$, both being singlets under the strong and electroweak forces. The fermion is charged under a discrete $Z_2$ symmetry, so that it does not mix with neutrinos and is a stable dark matter candidate. The new interactions and mass terms are described by the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}m_\phi^2 \phi^2 - \mu |H|^2 \phi - y_\chi \bar{\chi} \chi \phi - \frac{1}{2}m_\chi \bar{\chi} \chi. \quad (1)$$

The scalar mediates a new force between the Higgs field $H$ and the dark fermion, which represents here a potentially more complex dark sector. We neglect a possible quartic interaction $|H|^2 \phi^2$. After electroweak symmetry breaking the scalar $\phi$ mixes with the neutral component of the Higgs field into a dark scalar $S$ and the observed 125-GeV Higgs boson $h$.

The fermion couplings of the physical scalars are now
given by
\[ \mathcal{L}_y = y_\chi (s_\theta \bar{\chi} \chi h - c_\theta \bar{\chi} \chi S) \]
\[ - \sum_f \frac{m_f}{v} (c_\theta \bar{f} fh + s_\theta \bar{f} f S), \]
where \( s_\theta \) and \( c_\theta \) denote the sine and cosine of the mixing angle \( \theta \). The dark scalar inherits the flavor-hierarchical Yukawa couplings of the Higgs boson to standard-model fermions \( f \). This flavor hierarchy is characteristic for scalar mediators and distinguishes them from mediators with flavor-universal couplings, for example dark photons coupling through kinetic mixing [27].

The phenomenology of the dark scalar critically depends on its decay width
\[ \Gamma_S = s_\theta^2 \Gamma_{SM} + c_\theta^2 \Gamma_{\chi \chi}, \]
where \( \Gamma_{SM} \) and \( \Gamma_{\chi \chi} \) denote the partial widths into standard-model particles and dark fermions, and we have factored out the dependence on the mixing angle \( \theta \). The branching ratios into leptons \( \ell \) and dark fermions \( \chi \) are
\[ \mathcal{B}(S \to \ell \ell) = \frac{s_\theta^2 \Gamma_{\ell \ell}}{\Gamma_S} = \frac{m_\ell^2 s_\theta^2 m_S}{8 \pi v^2} \left( 1 - \frac{4 m_\ell^2}{m_S^2} \right)^{3/2}, \]
\[ \mathcal{B}(S \to \chi \chi) = \frac{c_\theta^2 \Gamma_{\chi \chi}}{\Gamma_S} = \frac{g_\chi^2 c_\theta^2 m_S}{8 \pi} \left( 1 - \frac{4 m_\chi^2}{m_S^2} \right)^{3/2}. \]

Scalars in the GeV range decay into “visible” final states with leptons or light mesons. For hadronic decays we adopt the predictions from Ref. [11], which are based on dispersion relations for \( m_S < 2 \text{ GeV} \) and on a perturbative spectator model for higher masses. Below the di-muon threshold the scalar decays into two photons [12].

Visible decays into standard-model particles dominate for \( m_S < 2 m_\chi \), where the decay to dark fermions is kinematically forbidden. Invisible decays dominate for \( m_S > 2 m_\chi \) and \( y_\chi c_\theta > m_\ell s_\theta / v \). Due to the small Yukawa coupling \( m_\ell / v \), this condition is fulfilled even for very weak dark fermion couplings \( y_\chi \). The production of dark scalars in \( B_q \) meson decays relies on effective flavor-changing currents \( (q = s, d) \)
\[ \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{C_{bq}}{v} (m_b \bar{q}_L b_R + m_q \bar{q}_R b_L) S. \]
Since the fundamental scalar couplings are flavor-diagonal and hierarchical, these interactions are loop-induced through the large top-quark coupling. The Wilson coefficient
\[ C_{bq} = \frac{3 \sqrt{2} G_F m_t^2}{16 \pi^2} V_{tb} V_{ts}^* s_\theta + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{m_2^2}{m_W^2} \right) \]
is identical to the Higgs penguin [28, 29], multiplied by the scalar mixing \( s_\theta \). This interaction induces two-body decays \( B \to MS \), where \( M = K, K^*, \pi, \rho, \ldots \), or \( K \to \pi S \) provided that the final state can be produced resonantly. The branching ratio for \( B^+ \to K^+ S \) decays is given by
\[ \mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+ S) = \frac{\sqrt{2} G_F |C_{bq}|^2 (m_b + m_s)^2}{64 \pi^3 m_B^2 (m_b - m_s)^2} f_0^2(m_S^2) \]
\[ \times \left[ (m_B^2 - m_K^2)^2 [(m_B^2 - m_K^2 - m_S^2)^2 - 4 m_K^2 m_S^2]^{1/2}, \right] \]
where \( \Gamma_{B^+} \) is the total decay width of the \( B^+ \) meson and \( f_0(m_S^2) \) is the scalar hadronic form factor at momentum transfer \( q^2 \). With \( \mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+ S) \approx 0.5 s_\theta^2 \) the scalar production rate is large for sizeable mixing. Observable branching ratios for \( B \to K \ell \ell \) and \( B \to K \chi \chi \) decays through a narrow scalar resonance are finally given by
\[ \mathcal{B}(B \to KS) \mathcal{B}(S \to \ell \ell) \propto s_\theta^2 \frac{C_{bq}^2 \Gamma_{\ell \ell}}{\Gamma_S}, \]
\[ \mathcal{B}(B \to KS) \mathcal{B}(S \to \chi \chi) \propto s_\theta^2 \frac{C_{bq}^2 \Gamma_{\chi \chi}}{\Gamma_S}. \]
For \( \mathcal{B}(S \to \chi \chi) = 0 \) the scalar always decays into visible final states. If the mixing is small the scalar becomes long-lived at detector scales and leaves signatures with displaced vertices, for instance displaced muon pairs from \( B \to KS(\to \mu \mu) \) decays. For \( \mathcal{B}(S \to \chi \chi) \approx 1 \) the scalar decays invisibly and creates signatures with missing energy.

### III. Missing Energy Signatures

We start by exploring observables with missing energy, assuming that the scalar decays dominantly into invisible final states. Rare meson decays like \( B \to K \bar{E} \) are very sensitive to scalar contributions \( B \to KS(\to \chi \chi) \). From Eq. [8] we see that for \( \Gamma_S \approx C_{bq}^2 \Gamma_{\chi \chi} \) the rate scales like \( s_\theta^2 \) and does not depend on the scalar’s decay. Searches for \( B \to K \bar{E} \) are therefore blind to the exact properties of the dark sector and applicable for a wider range of models.

Since the dark particles escape the detector, the final state is the same as in \( B \to K \bar{\nu} \bar{\nu} \) with neutrinos. Searches for \( B \to K \bar{\nu} \bar{\nu} \) have been performed by BaBar [32, 33] and Belle [34, 35] using both hadronic

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1 For general expressions for \( B \to MS \) and \( K \to MS \) decays see Refs. [20, 30].
and semi-leptonic $B$ tags. However, the derived bounds on the branching ratio $\mathcal{B}(B \to K \nu \bar{\nu})$ rely on the three-body kinematics of the standard-model process, so that we cannot reinterpret them for the two-body decays $B \to K S(\to \chi \bar{\chi})$.\footnote{A similar observation has been made by \cite{36} in search of stable axions in $B \to K \bar{E}$.} BaBar provides model-independent bounds on the $B \to K \bar{E}$ distribution in bins of the momentum transfer $q^2 = (p_B - p_K)^2$ \cite{33}. Since the momentum distribution in $B \to K \chi \bar{\chi}$ peaks sharply around the scalar resonance $q^2 = m_S^2$, we combine the three bins with the largest predicted rates and add uncertainties in quadrature. 

The resulting bounds on the parameter space $\{m_S, \theta\}$ are shown in Fig. 1, excluding mixing angles larger than $\theta \approx 0.006$ at the 95\% CL.

At Belle II, we expect a higher sensitivity to dark scalars due to the much larger data set. A dedicated simulation of $B \to K \nu \bar{\nu}$ predicts that with 50/ab of data Belle II can measure the branching ratio with about 10\% precision \cite{37}. Since the dependence of this prediction on three-body kinematics has been reduced by choosing different selection variables, we can use it to estimate the reach for dark scalars. In Fig. 1 we show that Belle II can probe scalars with mixing angles down to $\theta \approx 10^{-3}$ and masses $m_S > m_B - m_K$ beyond the resonance region. To optimize the sensitivity for light resonances in $B \to K \bar{E}$ and distinguish them from the standard-model background $B \to K \nu \bar{\nu}$, we suggest to perform a dedicated search for two-body contributions of $B \to K S(\to \chi \bar{\chi})$ in $B \to K \bar{E}$ decays.

Light scalars can also be probed in searches for $K \to \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ at fixed-target experiments. The currently strongest bound on $\mathcal{B}(K^+ \to \pi^+ \bar{E})$ by E949 \cite{38} excludes the blue region in Fig. 1 at 95\% CL. NA62 has the potential to improve the sensitivity by more than a factor of two \cite{39,40}.

In addition to $B \to K \chi \bar{\chi}$ and $K \to \pi \chi \bar{\chi}$, dark sectors can induce fully invisible meson decays \cite{24,30}. In our model the branching ratio is ($q = s, d$)

$$B(B_q \to \chi \bar{\chi}) = \frac{f_{B_q}^2 m_{B_q}^3}{32\pi \Gamma_{B_q}} \frac{\sqrt{2} G_F |C_{B_q}|^2}{(m_{B_q}^2 - m_S^2)^2 + m_S^4 \Gamma_S^2} \frac{y^2 c^2_\theta}{(m_b - m_q)^2 \left(1 - \frac{4 m_b^2 c^2_\theta}{m_{B_q}^2}\right)} \frac{1}{2!} ,$$

where $\Gamma_{B_q}$ and $f_{B_q}$ are the total decay rate and the hadronic decay constant of the $B_q$ meson and we have neglected $m_\chi$ in the last relation. Belle \cite{41} and BaBar \cite{42} have searched for invisible $B_d$ decays.

The currently strongest upper bound $\mathcal{B}(B_d \to E) < 1.4 \times 10^{-5}$ \cite{41} excludes dark scalars around the $B_d$ meson mass, as shown in Fig. 1. Unlike resonant $B \to K \chi \bar{\chi}$ decays, the sensitivity of $B_d \to \chi \bar{\chi}$ depends on the coupling and mass of the dark fermions, see Eq. (9). Using projections for Belle II \cite{37}, we show that searches for $B_d \to E$ and $B_s \to E$ can extend the reach for invisibly decaying scalars by about an order of magnitude.

Independent bounds on dark scalars can finally be derived from Higgs observables at the LHC \cite{41,45}. Scalar mixing induces invisible Higgs decays $h \to \chi \bar{\chi}$ with a branching ratio

$$\mathcal{B}(h \to \text{inv}) = \frac{\Gamma^h_{\chi \bar{\chi}}}{\Gamma^h_{\chi \bar{\chi}} + \Gamma^h_{\chi}} ,$$

where $\Gamma^h_{\chi \bar{\chi}}$ is the total Higgs width in the standard model and $\Gamma^h_{\chi}$ is the partial decay width to dark fermions, defined as in Eq. (4) with $m_\chi \to m_h$. The current upper bound on invisible Higgs decays, $\mathcal{B}(h \to \text{inv}) < 0.22$ \cite{42} excludes mixing angles larger than $\theta = 0.015$ at 95\% CL. Projections for the HL-LHC predict an extended reach to $\theta = 0.005$. 

![FIG. 1: Searches for invisibly decaying dark scalars. Shaded regions are excluded by searches for $B \to K \bar{E}$ \cite{33} (yellow) at BaBar and $B_d \to E$ \cite{41} (green) at Belle, $K \to \pi \bar{E}$ \cite{38} (blue) at E949, and invisible Higgs decays $h \to \text{inv}$ (grey) at the LHC \cite{45}. Dashed lines show projections for rare meson decays at Belle II (yellow, green, red) and NA62 (blue), and for $h \to \text{inv}$ (light grey) and the Higgs signal strength $\mu$ (dark grey) at the HL-LHC. The mass and coupling of dark fermions are set to $m_\chi = 0$ and $y_\chi = 1$.](image-url)
Scalar mixing also causes a universal reduction of all Higgs couplings to visible particles by $c_\theta$. This suppresses the Higgs signal strength defined by

$$\mu = \frac{\sigma_h \times B(h \to \text{vis})}{\sigma_h \times B(h \to \text{vis})_{SM}} = c_\theta^2 \frac{c_\theta^2 \Gamma_{SM}^0}{s_\theta^2 \Gamma_{SM}^0 + s_\theta^2 \Gamma_{SM}^h}, \quad (11)$$

where $\sigma_h$ is the Higgs production rate and $B(h \to \text{vis})$ the branching ratio to visible final states. Current global analyses constrain universal modifications of the Higgs couplings, but without allowing for invisible decays. For the HL-LHC, such an analysis has been performed assuming Run-2 systematics [46]. The expected reach for dark scalars depends on the invisible decay rate $\Gamma_{SM}^h$. For $y_\chi = 1$ we expect that mixing angles down to $\theta = 0.008$ will be probed. The sensitivity is comparable with the current BaBar bounds from $B \to K \bar{E}$, but less than predicted at Belle II.

IV. DISPLACED VERTEX SIGNATURES

If invisible decays are kinematically forbidden or absent, dark scalars leave signatures with visible decay products. Due to the flavor-hierarchical couplings, scalar decays to light leptons or mesons are suppressed, while scalar production through the top-quark coupling is sizeable even for small mixing $\theta$. The scalar has a nominal lifetime of roughly $c\tau_S = c/T_S \approx s_\theta^{-2}$ nm and becomes long-lived at detector scales for $\theta \lesssim 10^{-2}$. This leads to signatures with displaced vertices, which are perfect targets for flavor or beam dump experiments.

At $e^+e^-$ colliders, light scalars can be abundantly produced from $BB$ pairs at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance with subsequent $B \to KS$ decays. Direct production via $e^+e^- \to S$ is strongly suppressed by the tiny electron coupling. Alternative searches for radiative Upsilon decays $\Upsilon(n) \to S\gamma$ through the $b$-quark coupling at BaBar exclude strong mixing $\theta \gtrsim 0.1$ [47,49].

Measurements of $B \to K^{(*)}\mu\bar{\mu}$ decays by BaBar, Belle and LHCb exclude scalar mixing down to $\theta \approx 10^{-3}$ [17]. The event selection is typically restricted to prompt decays. LHCb has performed dedicated searches for displaced muons from long-lived scalars [50,51]. By reinterpreting the search for $B^+ \to K^+ S(\to \mu\bar{\mu})$ [51] we exclude scalar mixing down to $\theta \approx 10^{-4}$, shown in blue in Fig. 2 [52].

To date, the only search for long-lived scalars at $e^+e^-$ colliders is an inclusive search for displaced vertices of charged leptons, pions or kaons by BaBar [52]. From this analysis BaBar has derived upper bounds on the branching ratio $B(B \to X_s)B(S \to f)$ for different final states $f$. In Fig. 2 we show our reinterpretation of these bounds for $f = \mu^+\mu^-$ (yellow) and $\pi^+\pi^-$ (orange). The sensitivity is limited by hadronic backgrounds from $K_S^0$, $\Lambda$, $K^\pm$ and $\pi^\pm$ decays and by the available data set, so that only a few small parameter regions can be excluded.

The fact that BaBar probes very small mixing without optimizing their analysis for dark scalars suggests that Belle II can reach a better sensitivity with a dedicated search. We suggest to search for displaced vertices from exclusive $B \to KS(\to f)$ decays at Belle II, where $K$ stands for either $K^0$, $K^+$, or $K^*$ excitations. Promising final states are $f = \mu^+\mu^-$ and $\pi^+\pi^-$, $K^+K^-$ for scalar masses $m_S \lesssim 2$ GeV, as well as $\tau^-\tau^+$, $D^+D^-$ or $4\pi$ for heavier scalars.

Let us first focus on displaced muon pairs, which probe a large range of scalar masses $2m_\mu < m_S < m_B - m_K$. The signal is defined by a displaced muon vertex and a kaon, which together reconstruct the $B$ momentum. The reconstruction of the full final state strongly suppresses background from displaced hadron decays, making this search largely...
In Fig. 2 we show the 3-event regions for the final enhancement to scalars with small mixing. The CDC covers the angular range between $\vartheta_{\text{min}} = 17^\circ$ and $\vartheta_{\text{max}} = 150^\circ$ [37]. The expected number of muon pairs produced within this detector region is

$$N_{\mu\bar{\mu}} = N_{\bar{B}B} \times 2\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow KS)\mathcal{B}(S \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$$

(12)

$$\times \int_{\vartheta_{\text{min}}}^{\vartheta_{\text{max}}} \frac{\sin \vartheta}{2} \left[ e^{-r_{\text{min}}/\sin \vartheta} - e^{-r_{\text{max}}/\sin \vartheta} \right] d\vartheta.$$ 

The expected number of $B\bar{B}$ pairs in $50/ab$ of data is $N_{\bar{B}B} = 5 \times 10^{11}$. Whether or not the scalar decays within the CDC crucially depends on its decay length $(\beta\gamma_S)c\tau_S$. Since the distribution of the scalar in $B \rightarrow KS$ is spherically symmetric, the average scalar boost is directly related to the average $B$ meson boost $(\langle \gamma_B \rangle) \approx 1.03$ via

$$\langle \beta\gamma_S \rangle^2 \approx (\langle \gamma_B \rangle)^2 \frac{(m_B^2 - m_K^2 + m_S^2)^2}{4m_B^2m_S^2} - 1.$$ 

(13)

In Fig. 2 we show parameter regions with at least $N_{\mu\bar{\mu}} = 3$ displaced muon pairs from $B \rightarrow KS(\rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$ decays at Belle II. We have summed over all relevant exclusive decay channels with kaons [29]. The displayed region corresponds to a signal significance of $3\sigma$ in a background-free search with $100\%$ reconstruction efficiency $\epsilon$. The sensitivity extends between $10^{-2} > \theta > 10^{-5}$, where the upper bound on the mixing is determined by how many scalars decay at $r > r_{\text{min}}$ and the lower bound by how many scalars decay at $r < r_{\text{max}}$. For $\theta < 10^{-5}$ the scalars decay outside the CDC. Their decay products could still be detected by the electromagnetic calorimeter around the CDC, which however is not optimized for vertex reconstruction. The sensitivity to small mixing angles is higher for heavier scalars, which have a shorter decay length and are more likely to decay within the CDC.

Searches for other decay channels can further enhance the sensitivity to scalars with small mixing. In Fig. 2 we show the 3-event regions for the final states $\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\tau^+\tau^-$, obtained as for the muon channel. Pions increase the reach at low masses, especially around $m_S \approx 1 \text{ GeV}$. Here the decay width of the scalar is dominated by the resonance $f_0(980)$, yielding larger event rates in the outer region of the CDC. Scalars in the range $2 \text{ GeV} \lesssim m_S < 2m_{\tau}$ decay mostly into final states with multiple hadrons. Since calculations of the partial decay widths are very challenging and subject to large uncertainties [11], we do not show predictions for hadronic channels in this region. Above the production threshold $m_S > 2m_{\tau}$, scalar decays to tau lepton pairs dominate over muons due to the flavor-hierarchical coupling. Searches for $\tau^+\tau^-$ extend the sensitivity to heavy scalars significantly. We expect a similar reach for $D^+D^-$ pairs. If invisible decays are open, the lifetime of the scalar is reduced and the branching ratio to visible final states decreases. The impact on displaced signatures is mild, unless $S \rightarrow \chi\chi$ decays dominates the scalar width.

Compared with BaBar and Belle, the high search potential at Belle II is mostly due to the larger event rates. The total expected luminosity at Belle II is 50 times larger, which enhances the sensitivity in $\theta$ by about a factor of $\sqrt{50}$.

Compared with searches for $B \rightarrow KS(\rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$ at LHCb, Belle II can probe dark scalars with smaller mixing and larger lifetimes. The main reason is the large boost of $B$ mesons produced at LHCb, so that only scalars with a nominal decay length $c\tau_S \lesssim 30 \text{ cm}$ decay inside the vertex detector. With $300/\text{fb}$ of data during Run 3, LHCb can extend its reach in $\theta$ by about a factor of four (see Fig. 2) [13]. At Belle II the $B$ mesons are slow and scalars decay within the CDC for $c\tau_S \lesssim 10 ^6 \text{ m}$.

Searches for long-lived scalars in rare $B$ decays at Belle II are complementary to searches for similar processes at fixed-target experiments. In Fig. 2 we show the predicted sensitivity of future searches for displaced muons at NA62 [11, 53] and FASER 2 [54, 55]. Remarkably, Belle II has a similar sensitivity to scalar mixing with a much shorter baseline. Dedicated proposed experiments for long-lived particles like SHiP [54], CODEX-b [57] or MATHUSLA [58] could extend the reach to scalars with even smaller mixing.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have proposed a new search for dark scalars in displaced $B \rightarrow KS(\rightarrow f)$ decays at Belle II. We predict a high sensitivity to scalars in the GeV range with mixing angles in the range of $10^{-2} < \theta < 10^{-5}$, which is mostly due to the large data set and the low $B$ me-
son boost at Belle II. The results can be interpreted for a large class of models with a light scalar singlet, relying only on the scalar’s lifetime and mixing with the Higgs field. In particular, Belle II can search for thermal relics where the scalar acts as a mediator to a heavier dark matter candidate [13, 19]. Complementary searches for invisibly decaying scalars in $B \to K\ell\bar{\nu}$ and $B_q \to \ell\ell$ probe mixing angles of $\theta \approx 10^{-3}$, comparable to invisible Higgs decays at the LHC. We look forward to Belle II’s first results on light dark scalars.

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