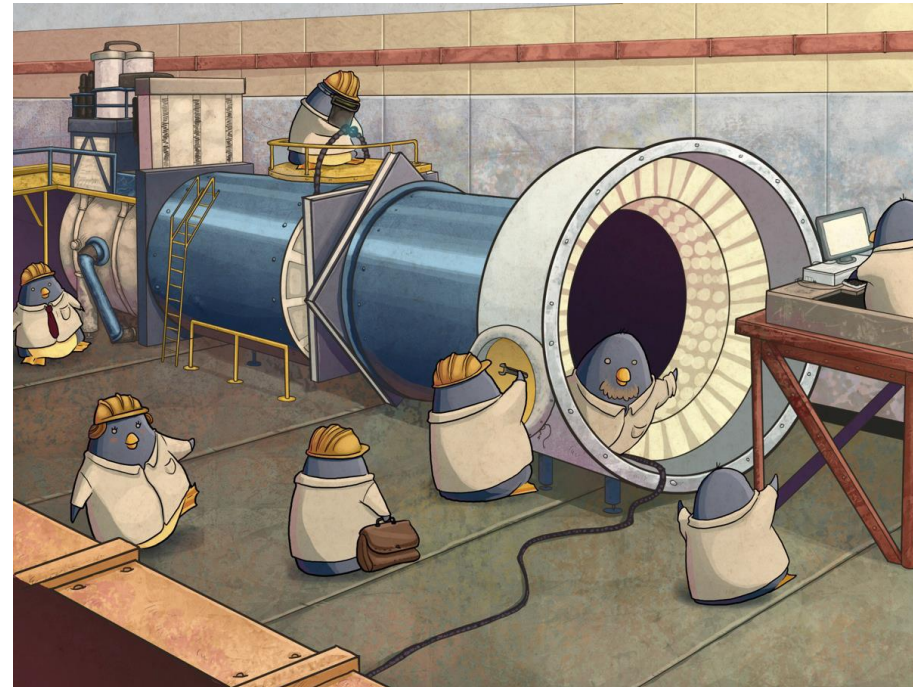




Status and results from the NA62 experiment at CERN



Jacopo Pinzino



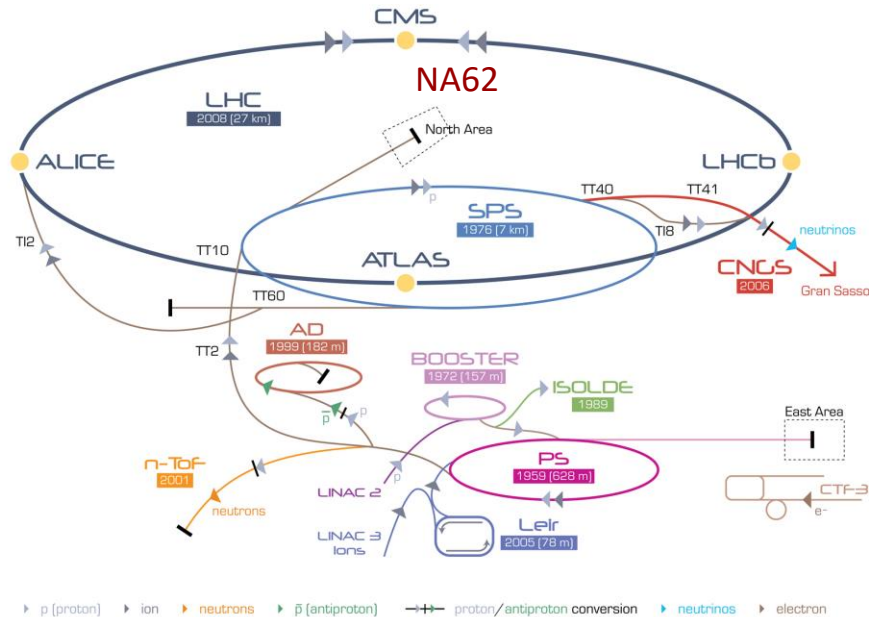
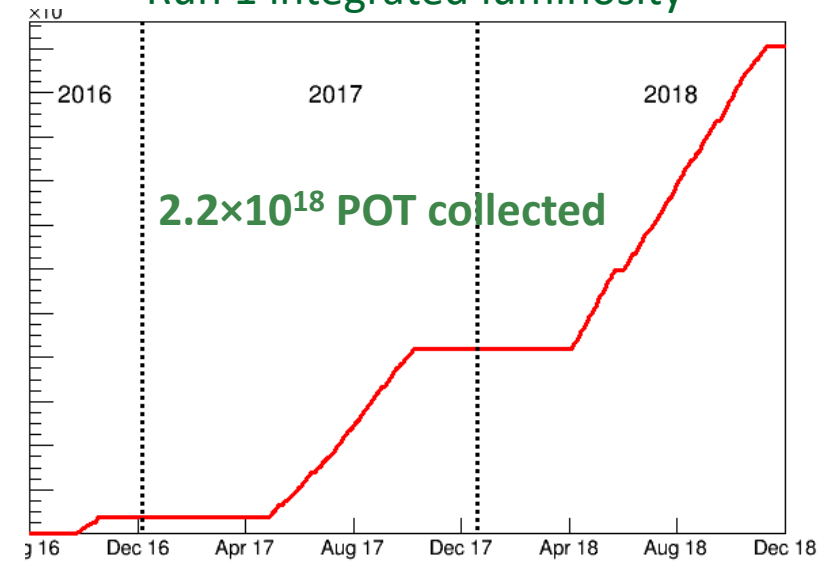
H2020 MSCA COFUND
G.A. 754496

Vietnam Flavour Physics 2022
16/08/22

The NA62 Experiment

- NA62: High precision fixed-target Kaon experiment at CERN SPS
- Main goal: measurement of $BR(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$
- Broader physics program: LFV / LNV in K^+ decays, hidden sector particles searches.

Run 1 integrated luminosity

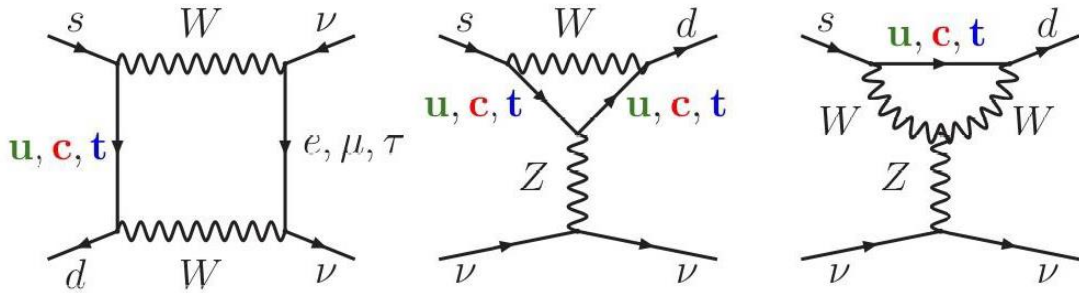


NA62 Timeline

- 2008: NA62 Approval
- 2014: NA62 Pilot Run (partial layout)
- 2015: Commissioning run
- Full detector installation completed in September 2016
- 2016 -2018 : First NA62-RUN
- data-taking was resumed in 2021 with improvements
- Continuous data-taking until LS3

~ 200 participants from: Birmingham, Bratislava, Bristol, Bucharest, CERN, Dubna, GMU-Fairfax, Ferrara, Firenze, Frascati, Glasgow, Lancaster, Liverpool, Louvain, Mainz, Moscow, Napoli, Perugia, Pisa, Prague, Protvino, Roma I, Roma II, San Luis Potosi, Torino, TRIUMF, Vancouver UBC

The $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay



- High sensitivity to **New Physics**
- **FCNC** process forbidden at tree level
- Highly **CKM suppressed** ($\text{BR} \sim |V_{ts} x V_{td}|^2$)

- **Very clean theoretically**: Short distance contribution
- hadronic matrix element extracted from precisely measured $\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu)$
- **Precise SM predictions**: [Buras et al. JHEP 1511 (2015) 33]

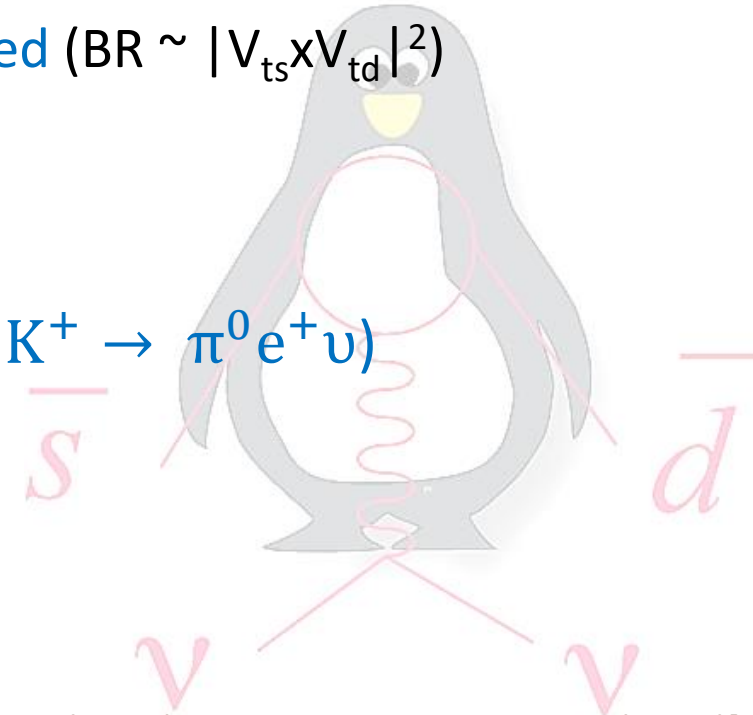
$$\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11}$$

$$\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) = (3.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-11}$$

- **Previous Experimental Result**:

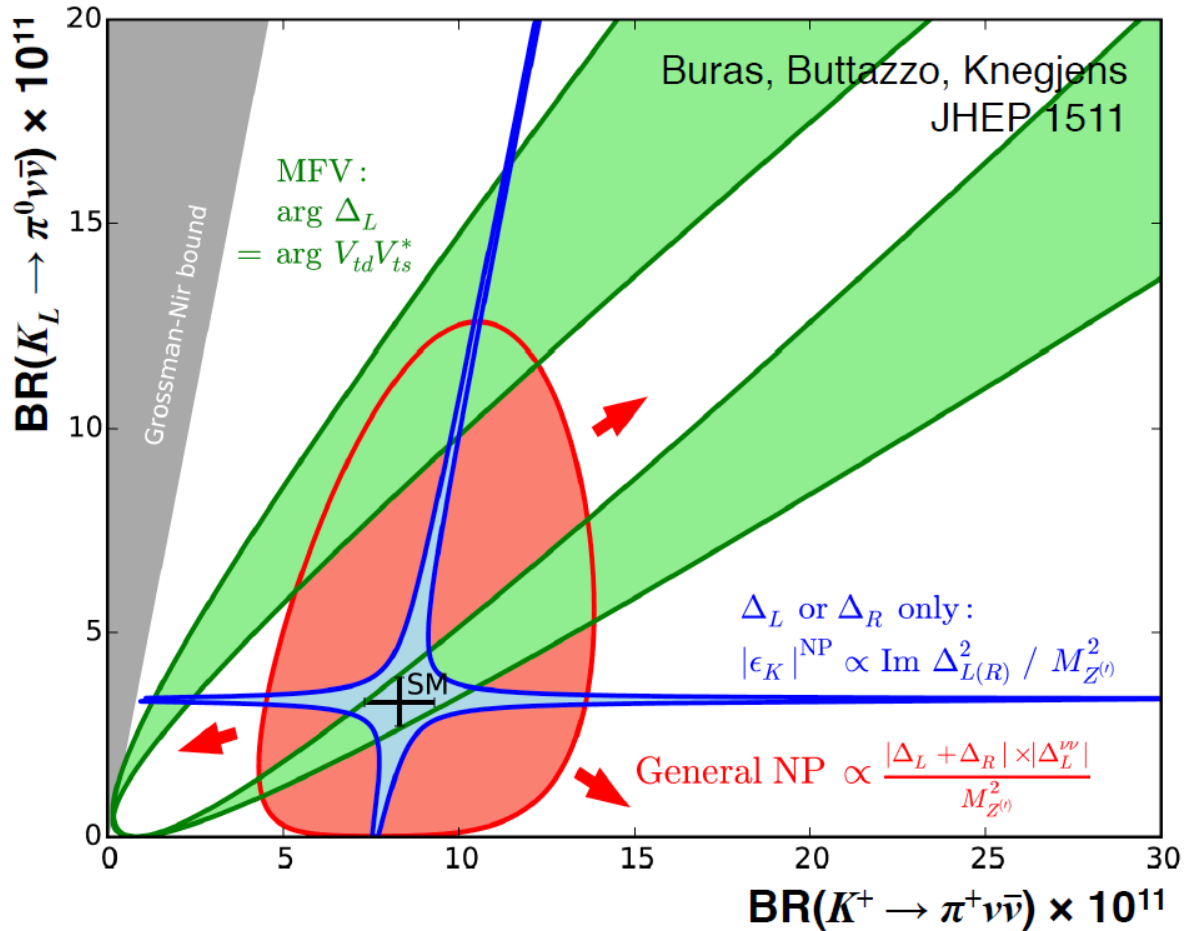
$$\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})(\text{E787/E949}) = (17.3_{-10.5}^{+11.5}) \times 10^{-11} \text{ [Phys. Rev. D 77, 052003 (2008), Phys. Rev. D 79, 092004 (2009)]}$$

$$\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})(\text{E391a}) < 2.6 \times 10^{-8} \text{ (90\% C.L) [Phys. Rev. D 81, 072004 (2010)]}$$



K → πνū and New Physics

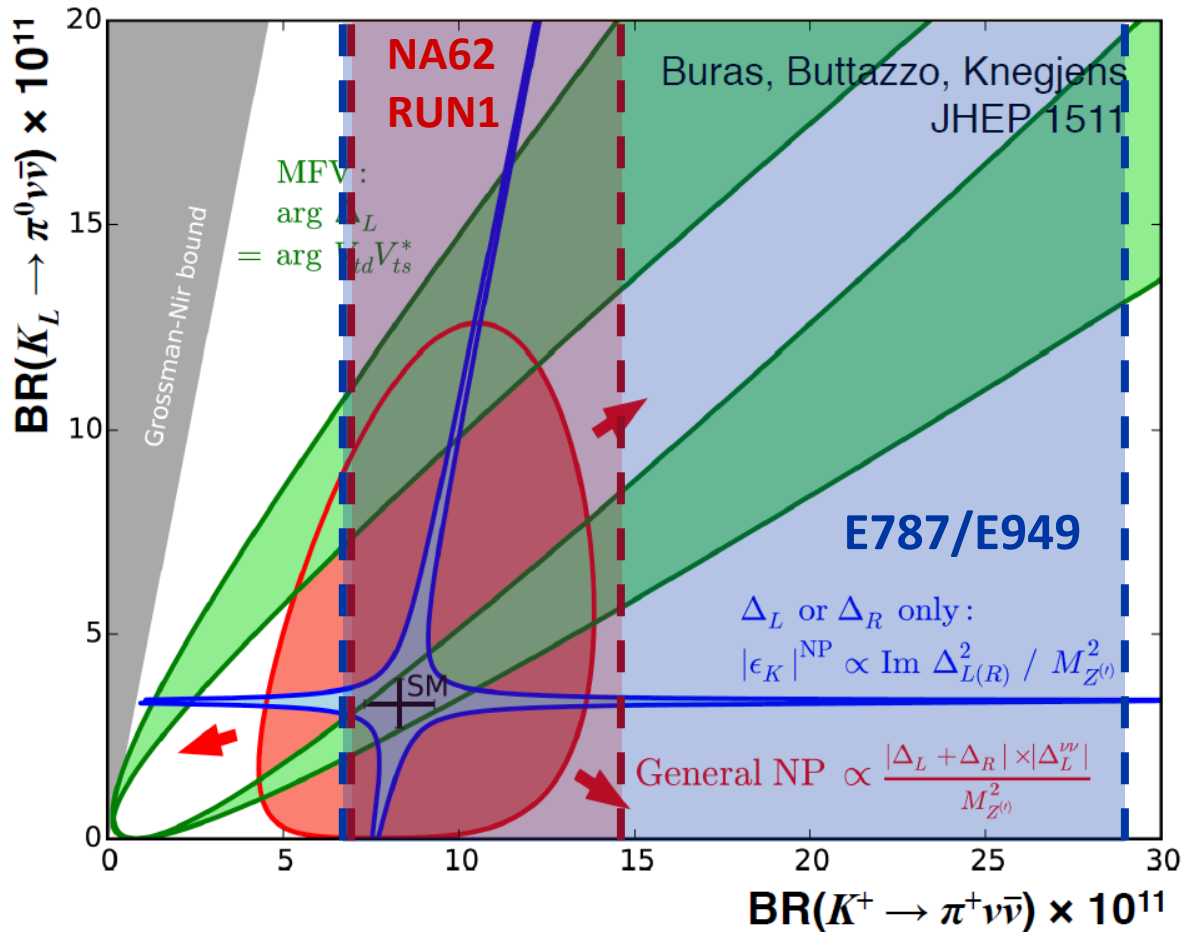
Measurement of charged ($K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$) and neutral ($K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$) modes can discriminate among different NP scenarios



- Models with CKM-like flavor structure (Models with MFV) [Buras, Buttazzo, Kneijens, JHEP11(2015)166]
- Custodial Randall-Sundrum [Blanke, Buras, Duling, Gemmler, Gori, JHEP 0903 (2009) 108]
- Simplified Z, Z' models [Buras, Buttazzo, Kneijens, JHEP11(2015)166]
- Littlest Higgs with T-parity [Blanke, Buras, Recksiegel, Eur.Phys.J. C76 (2016) 182]
- LFU violation models [Isidori et al., Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77: 618]
- Leptoquarks [S. Fajfer, N. Košnik, L. Vale Silva, arXiv:1802.00786v1 (2018)]
- MSSM analyses [Blazek, Matak, Int.J.Mod.Phys. A29 (2014) no.27],[Isidori et al. JHEP 0608 (2006) 064]

K → πνū and New Physics

Measurement of charged ($K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$) and neutral ($K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$) modes can discriminate among different NP scenarios

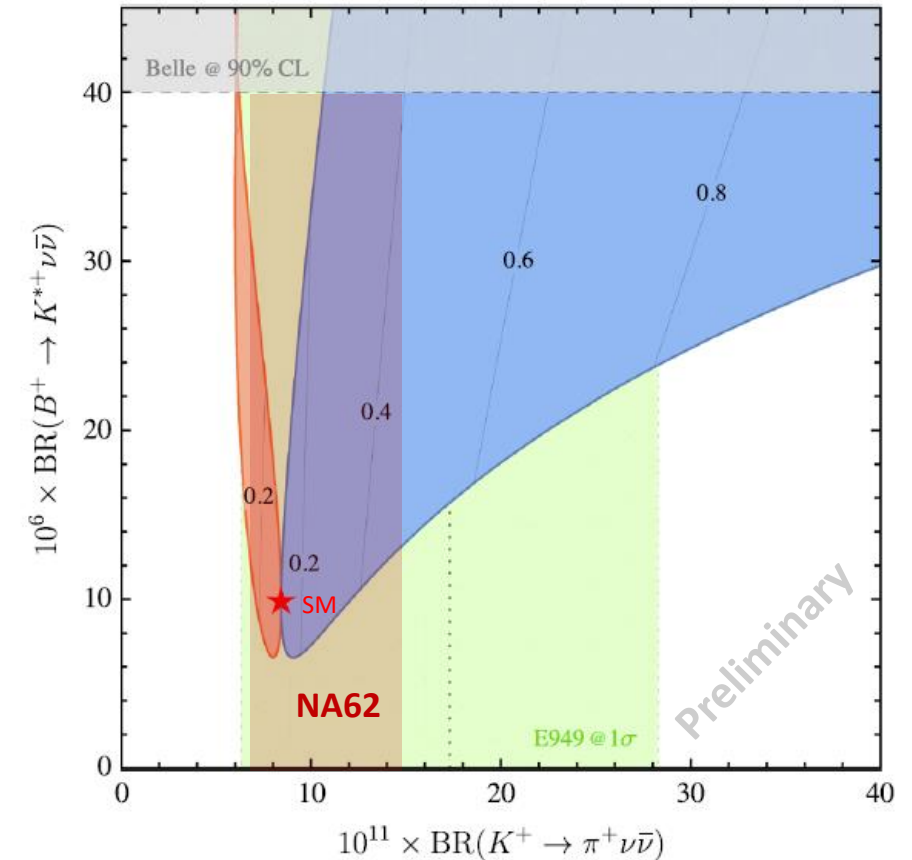


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$K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ and the LFU violation

The Measurement of $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ together with $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*+} \nu \bar{\nu}$ can probe the Lepton-Flavour Universality

- An interactions responsible for LFU violations can couple mainly to the third generation of left-handed fermions;
- $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ is the only kaon decays with third-generation leptons (the τ neutrinos) in the final state;
- A deviations from the Standard Model predictions in $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ branching ratios should be closely correlated to similar effects in $B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \nu \bar{\nu}$.



EPJ C (2017) 77: 618

NA62 Layout

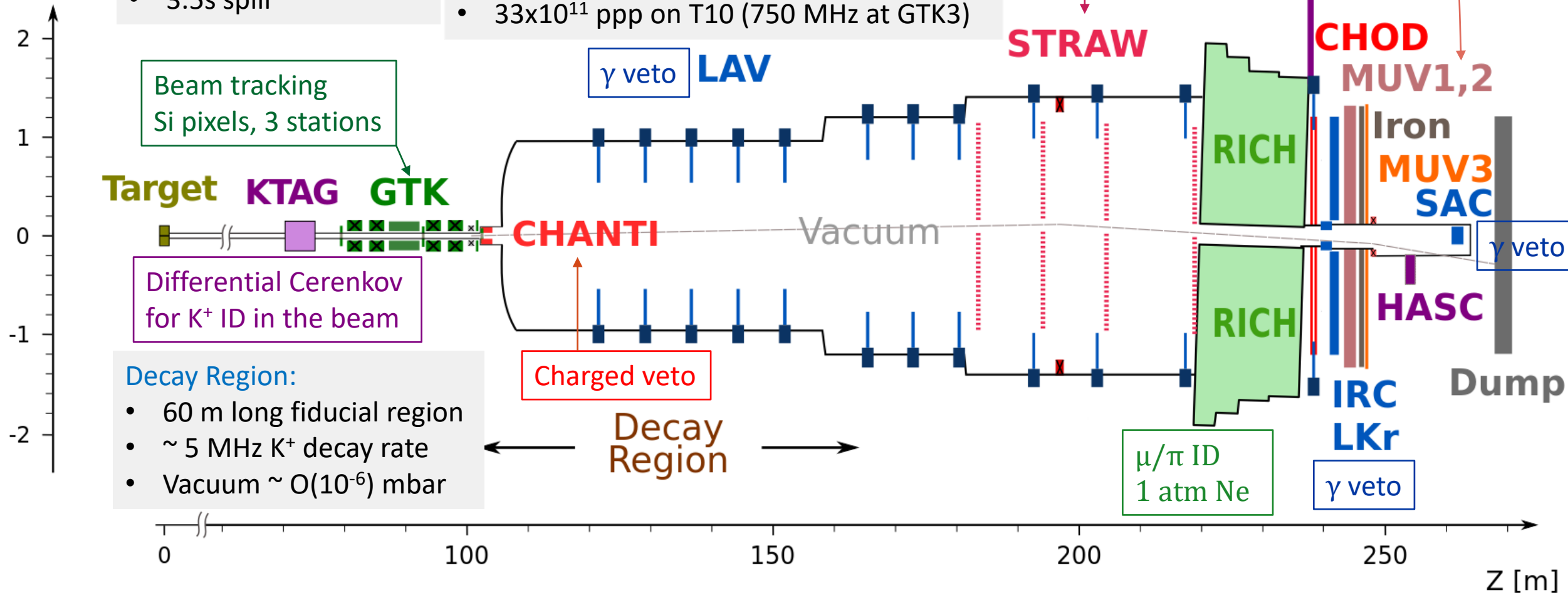
SPS Beam:

- 400 GeV/c protons
- $1,9 \cdot 10^{12}$ protons/spill
- 3.5s spill

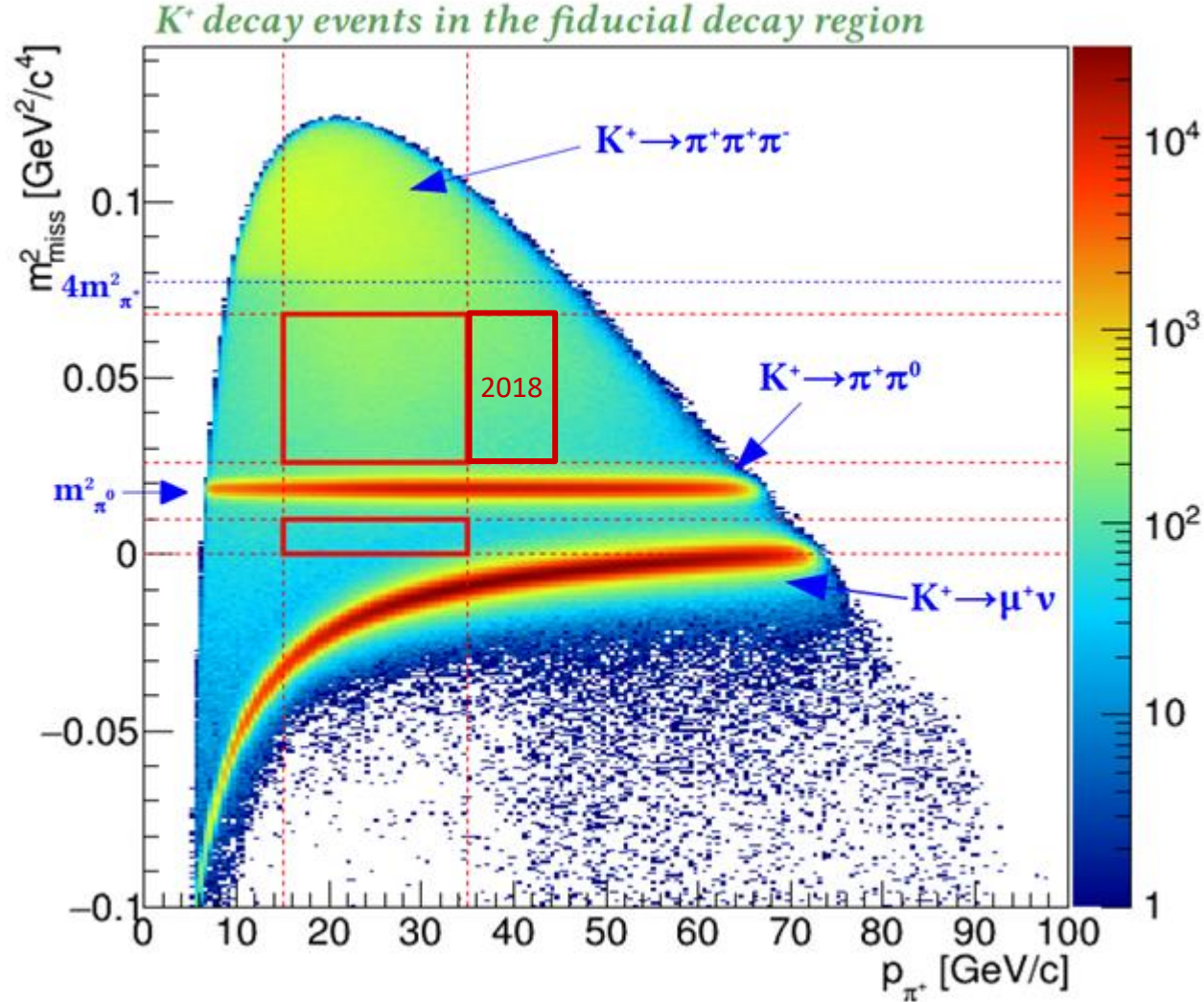
Secondary positive Beam:

- 75 GeV/c momentum
- 1 % bite 100 mrad divergence (RMS)
- 60x30 mm² transverse size
- K⁺ (6%)/ π^+ (70%)/p(24%)
- $33 \cdot 10^{11}$ ppp on T10 (750 MHz at GTK3)

X [m]



Signal region



Key analysis requirements:

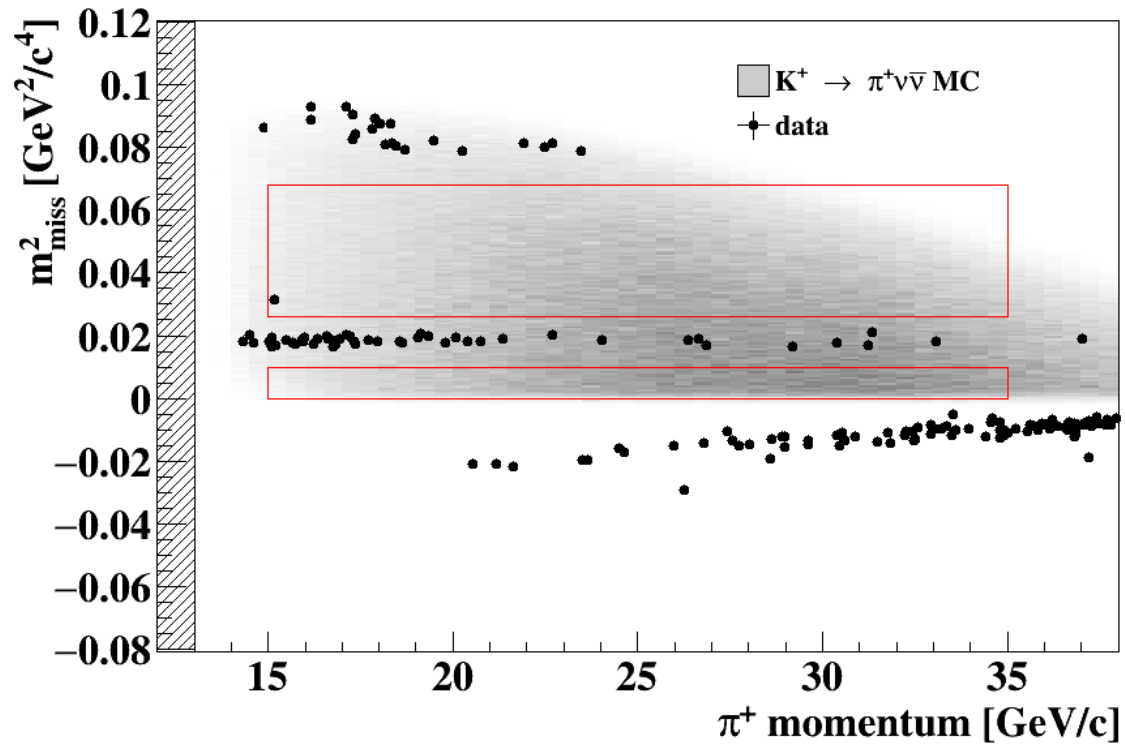
- 2 signal regions in m_{miss}^2
- $15 < P_{\pi^+} < 35$ (45 in 2018) GeV/c
- 60 m long decay region

Performance:

- 10^{-3} GeV²/c⁴ m_{miss}^2 resolution
- 1×10^{-3} $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ kinematic background suppression
- 3×10^{-4} $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$ kinematic background suppression
- 10^{-8} Muon suppression
- 1.4×10^{-8} π^0 (from $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$) suppression
- 64% π^+ efficiency
- $O(100 \text{ ps})$ timing between sub-detectors

Process	Branching ratio
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 (\gamma)$	0.2067
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu (\gamma)$	0.6356
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	0.0558
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu$	$4.25 \cdot 10^{-5}$

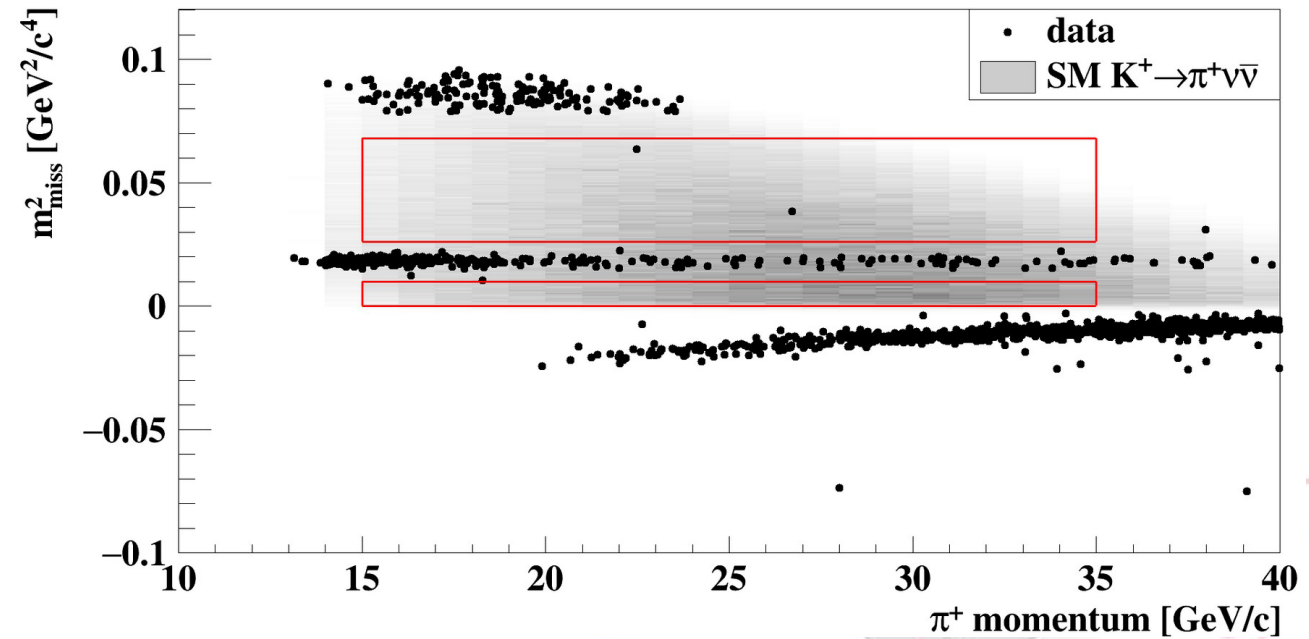
Result of 2016 and 2017 data taking



2016

- 1 events observed
- SES = 3.15×10^{-10}
- $\text{Br}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) < 14 \times 10^{-10}$ @ 90% CL

Phys. Lett. B 791 (2019) 156-166

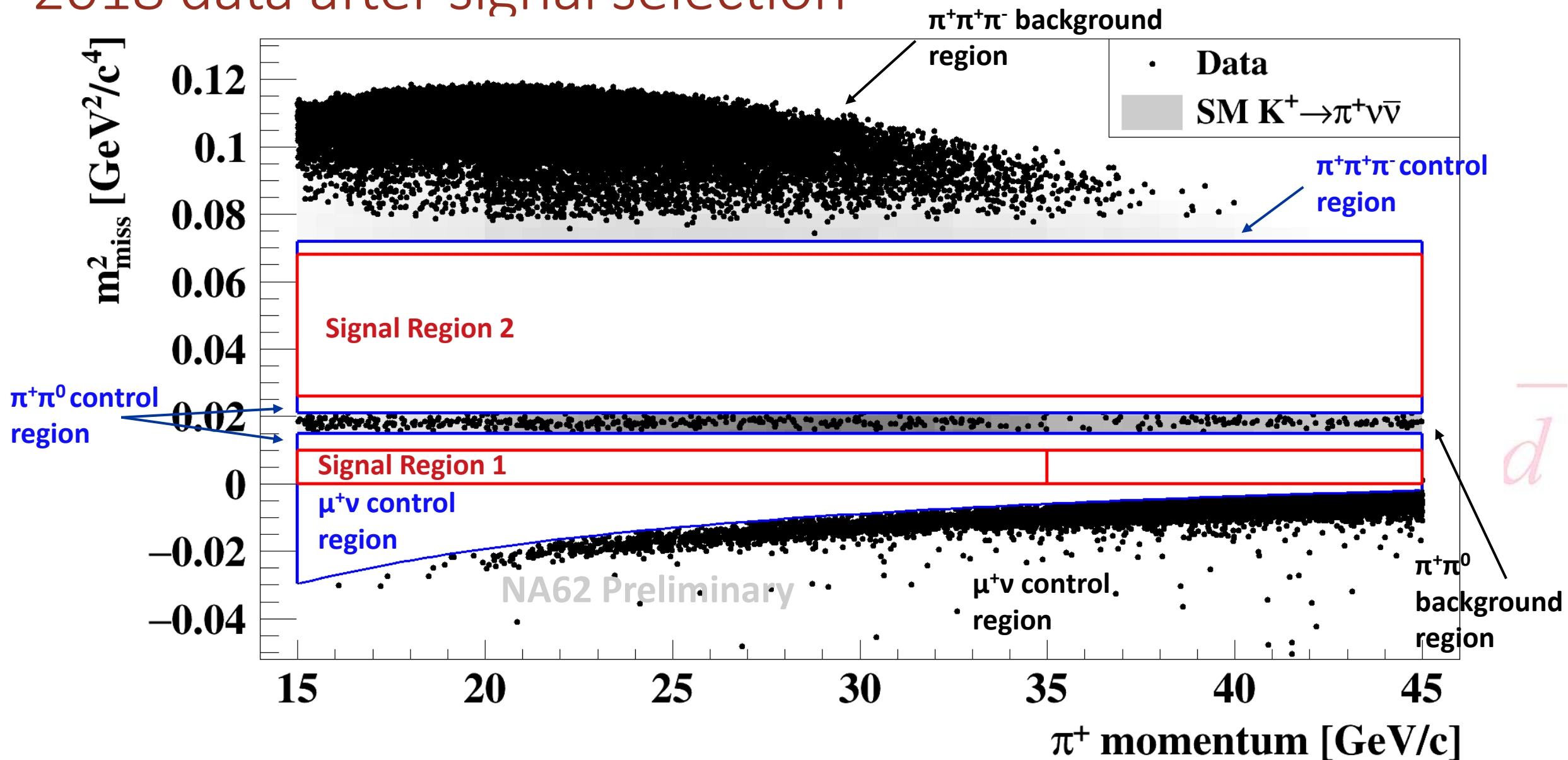


2017

- 2 events observed
- SES = 0.389×10^{-10}
- $\text{Br}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) < 1,7 \times 10^{-10}$ @ 90% CL

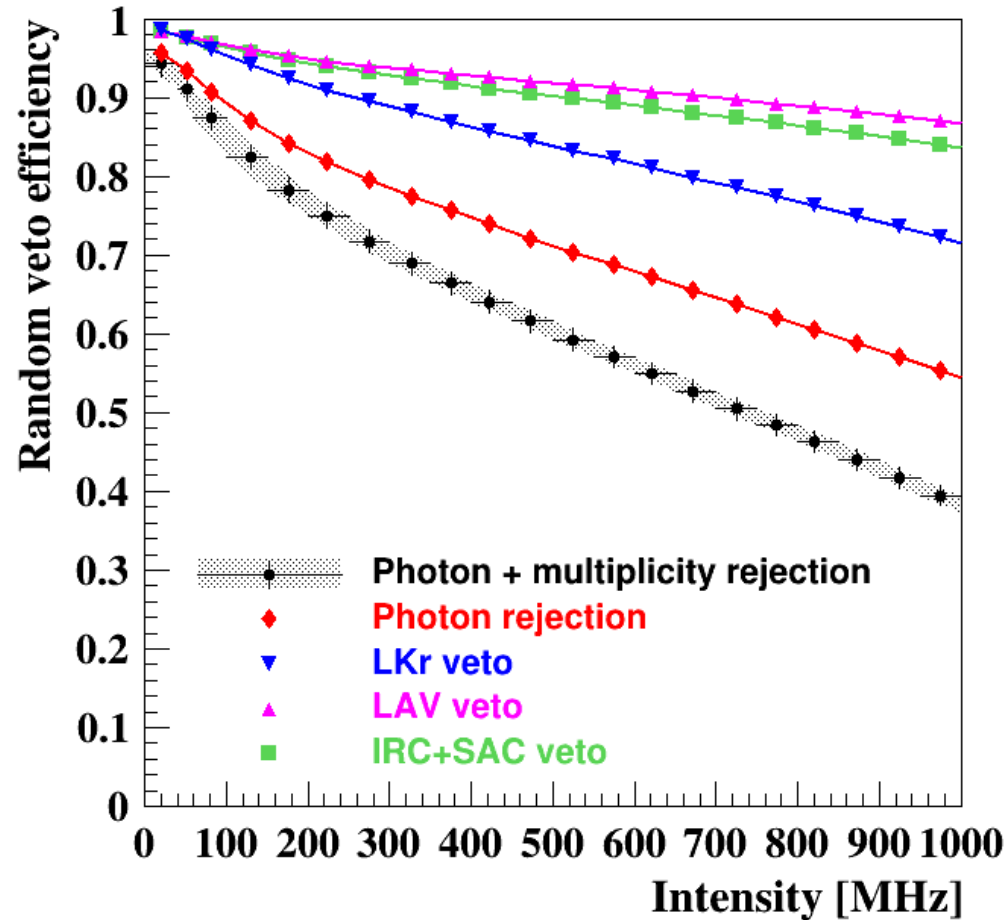
[J. High Energ. Phys. 2020, 42 (2020)]

2018 data after signal selection



Single Event Sensitivity (SES)

$$N_{\pi\nu\nu}^{exp} \approx N_{\pi\pi} \epsilon_{trigger} \epsilon_{RV} \frac{A_{\pi\nu\nu}}{A_{\pi\pi}} \frac{Br(\pi\nu\nu)}{Br(\pi\pi)} \implies \text{S.E.S.} = \frac{Br(\pi\nu\nu)}{N_{\pi\nu\nu}^{exp}}$$



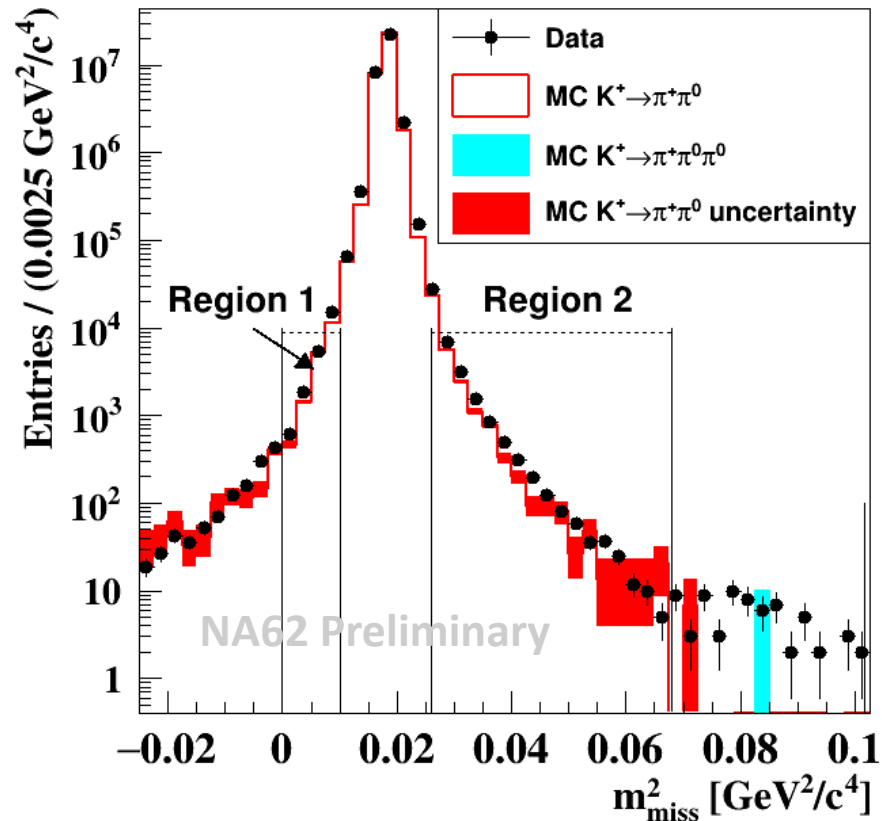
	Subset S1	Subset S2
$N_{\pi\pi} \times 10^{-7}$	3.14	11.6
$A_{\pi\pi} \times 10^2$	7.62 ± 0.77	11.77 ± 1.18
$A_{\pi\nu\nu} \times 10^2$	3.95 ± 0.40	6.37 ± 0.64
ϵ_{trig}^{PNN}	0.89 ± 0.05	0.89 ± 0.05
ϵ_{RV}	0.66 ± 0.01	0.66 ± 0.01
$SES \times 10^{10}$	0.54 ± 0.04	0.14 ± 0.01
$N_{\pi\nu\nu}^{exp}$	$1.56 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.19_{ext}$	$6.02 \pm 0.39 \pm 0.72_{ext}$

- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ decay used for normalization
- Cancellation of systematic effects (PID, Detector efficiencies, kaon ID and beam related acceptance loss)

$$SES_{Run1} = (0.839 \pm 0.054) \cdot 10^{-11}$$

Background from Kaon Decay Estimation

Control $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ data used to study the tails of the m^2_{miss} distribution



Data in $\pi^+ \pi^0$ region after $\pi \nu \nu$ selection (including π^0 rejection)

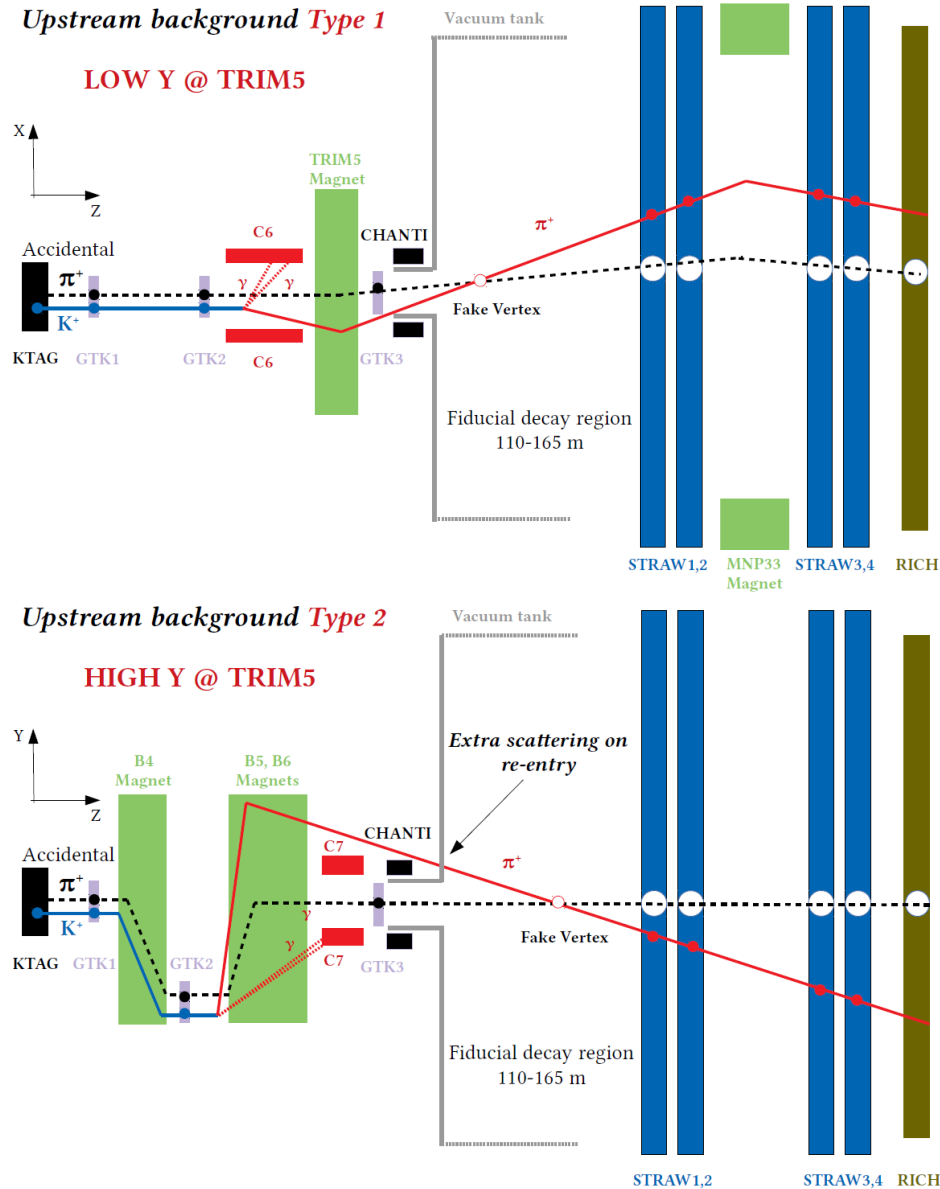
$$N_{\pi\pi}^{exp}(region) = N(\pi^+ \pi^0) \cdot f_{kin}(region)$$

Expected $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ in signal regions after the $\pi \nu \nu$ selection

Fraction of $\pi^+ \pi^0$ in signal region measured on control data

- The same procedure is used for $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$ and $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$
- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$ estimation entirely using MC simulations normalized to the S.E.S.

Upstream background



- Pions produced upstream the fiducial volume
 - Early K^+ decay
 - Interaction of beam particles with the beam spectrometer material
- Pions can be associated to an accidental particle of the beam line
- Dangerous if coupled with pion scattering in the first spectrometer chamber
- Kaon-pion association and geometrical cuts effective
- The geometrical origin of those events allow to define samples for backgrounds validation
- Data driven background estimation

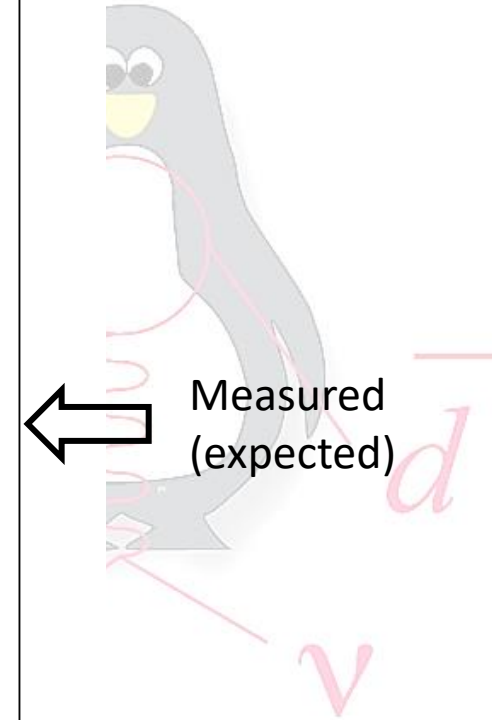
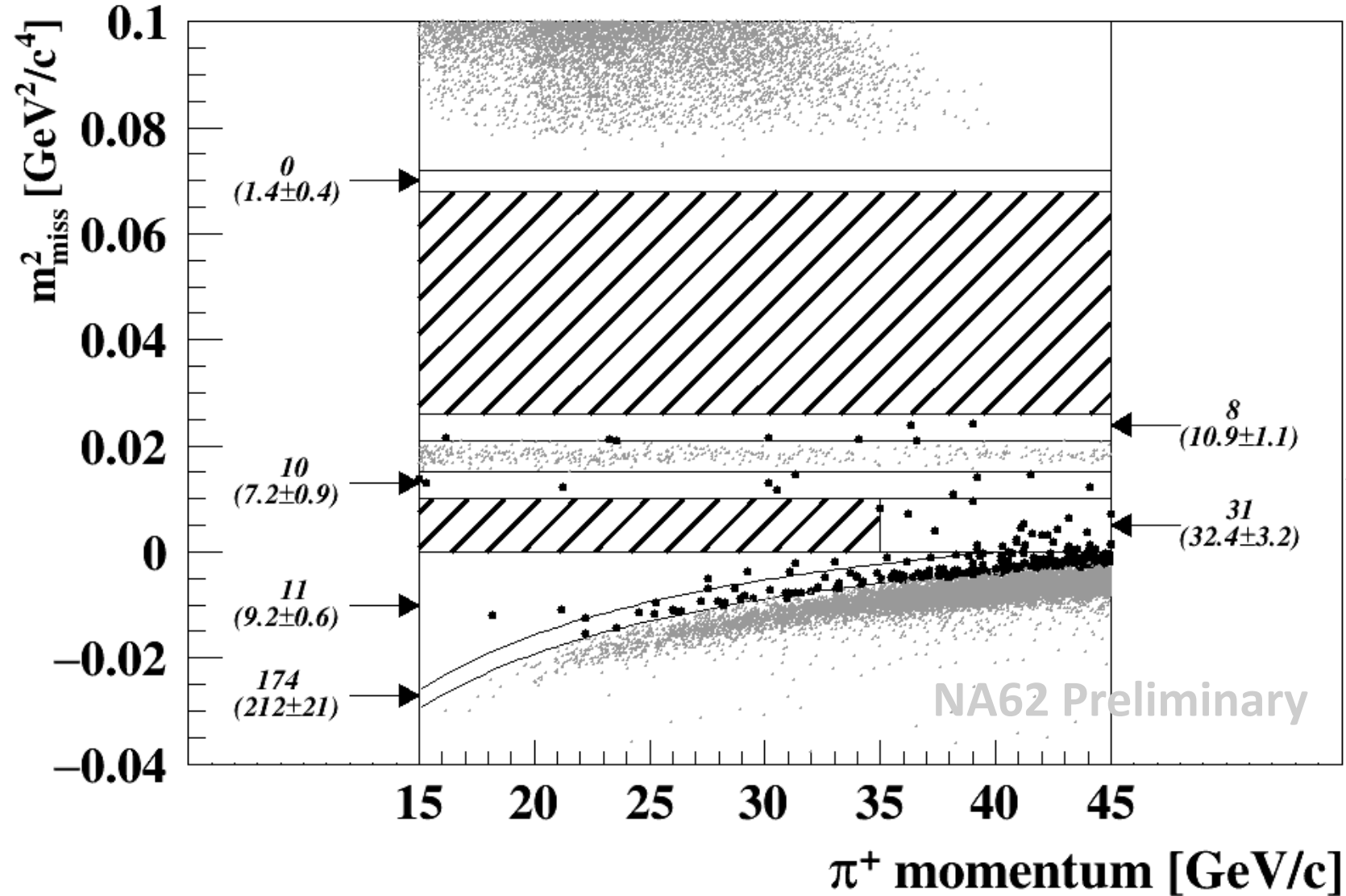
Background summary

- In 2018 **collimator** was replaced to reduce the **upstream background**
- data are split in 2 subsets: **S1/S2** (20%/80% of 2018 data).
- It allows to relax some cuts for S2 to **improve signal acceptance** while keeping the S/B ratio same as for S1.

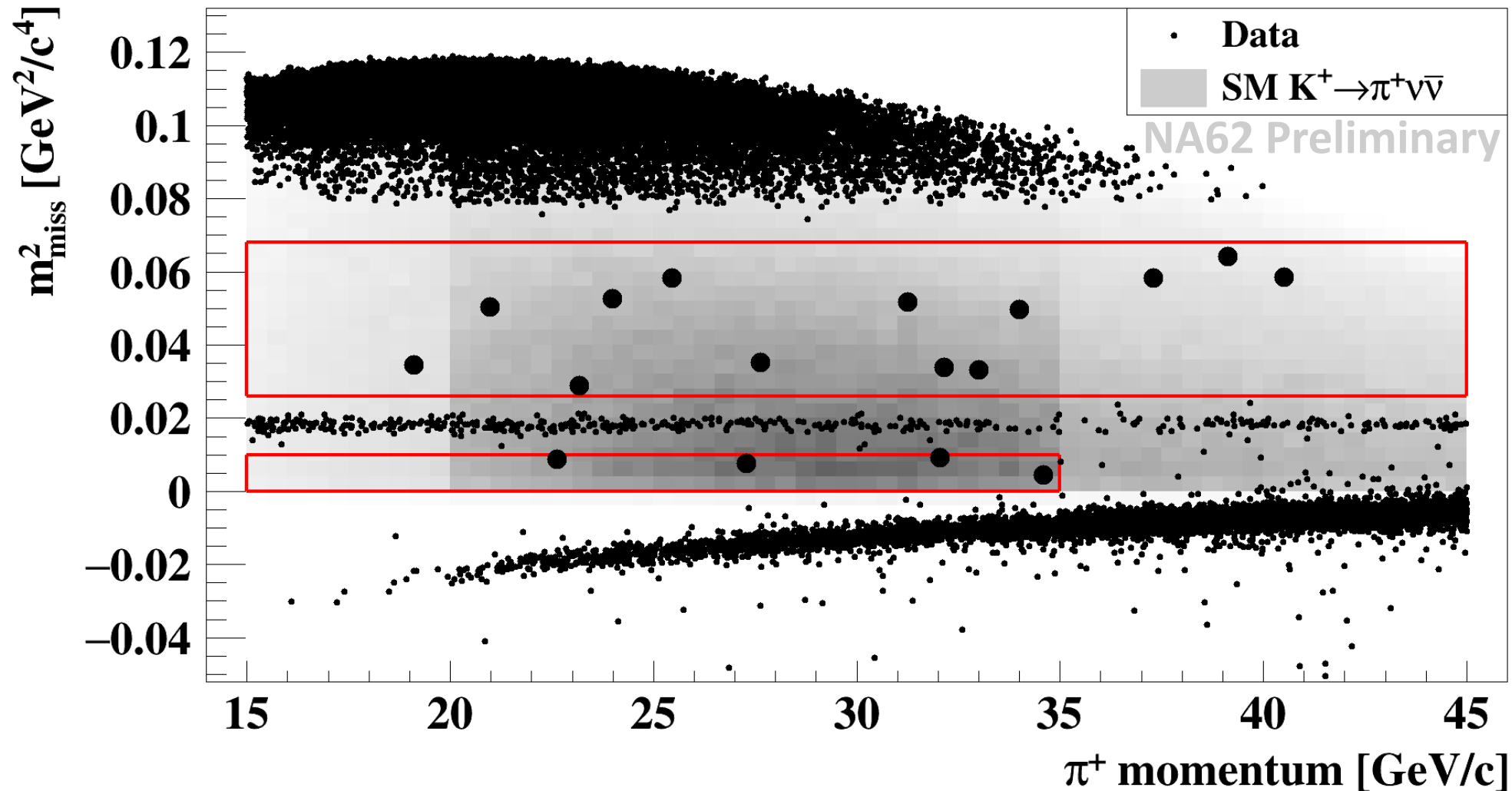
Background	Subset S1	Subset S2
$\mu^+ \nu$	0.23 ± 0.02	0.52 ± 0.05
$\pi^+ \pi^0$	0.19 ± 0.06	0.45 ± 0.06
$\pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu$	0.10 ± 0.03	0.41 ± 0.10
$\pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	0.05 ± 0.02	0.17 ± 0.08
$\pi^+ \gamma\gamma$	< 0.01	< 0.01
$\pi^0 \ell^+ \nu$	< 0.001	< 0.001
Upstream	$0.54^{+0.39}_{-0.21}$	$2.76^{+0.90}_{-0.70}$
Total	$1.11^{+0.40}_{-0.22}$	$4.31^{+0.91}_{-0.72}$

Background expectations validated in control regions using a blind procedure

Control regions: main decays



Result 2018

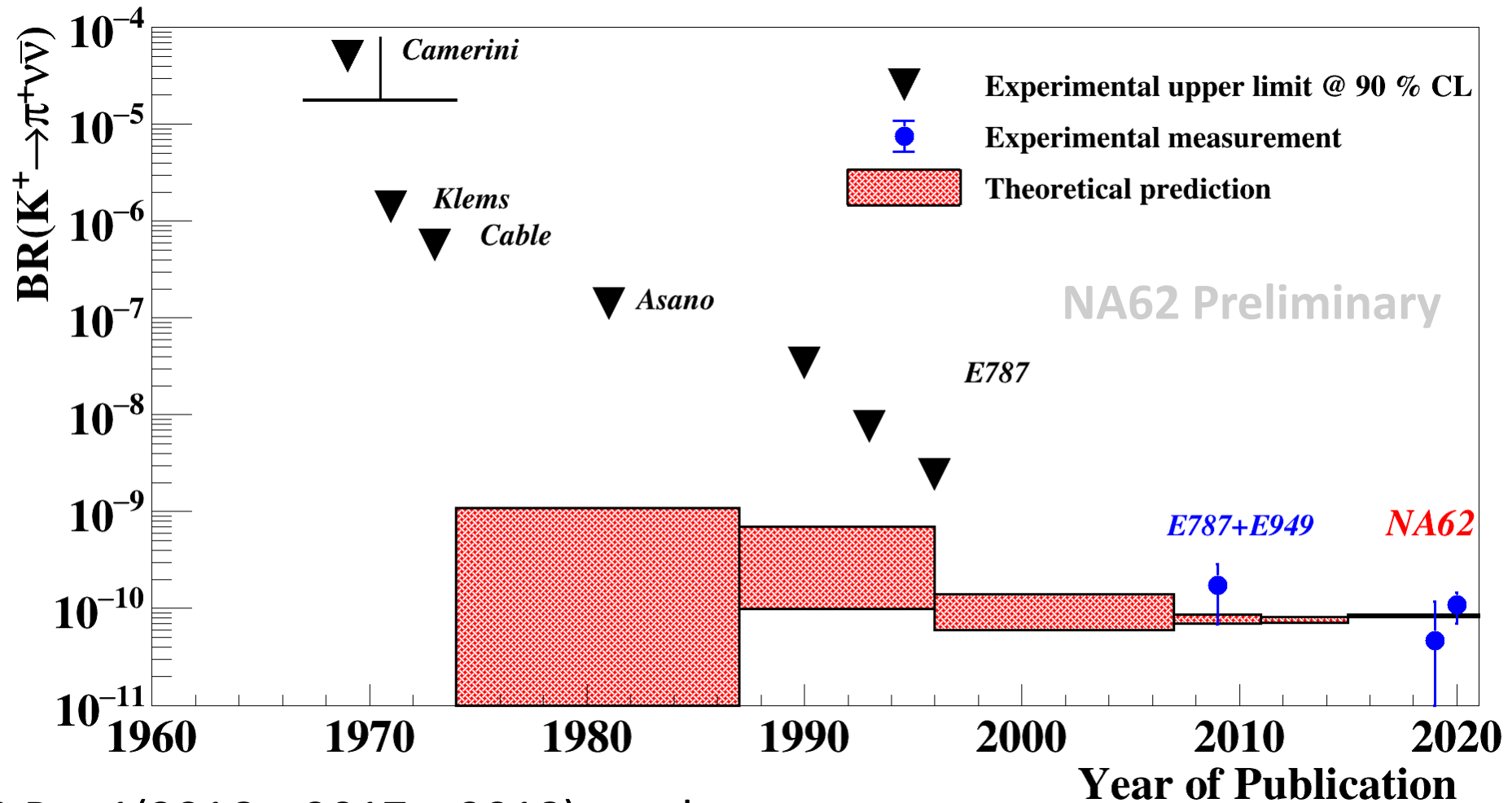


5.3 background + 7.6 SM signal events expected, 17 events observed

RUN1 resume

	2016 data	2017 data	2018 S1 data	2018 S2 data
$SES \times 10^{10}$	3.15 ± 0.24	0.39 ± 0.02	0.54 ± 0.04	0.14 ± 0.01
$A_{\pi\nu\nu} \times 10^2$	4 ± 0.4	3 ± 0.3	4 ± 0.4	6.4 ± 0.6
Expected SM signal	0.27 ± 0.04	2.16 ± 0.13	1.56 ± 0.10	6.02 ± 0.39
Expected background	0.15 ± 0.090	1.46 ± 0.30	$1.11^{+0.40}_{-0.22}$	$4.31^{+0.91}_{-0.72}$
Observed events	1	2	2	15
	<i>[PLB 791 (2019) 156-166]</i>	<i>[JHEP 11 (2020) 042]</i>	<i>[JHEP 06 (2021) 093]</i>	

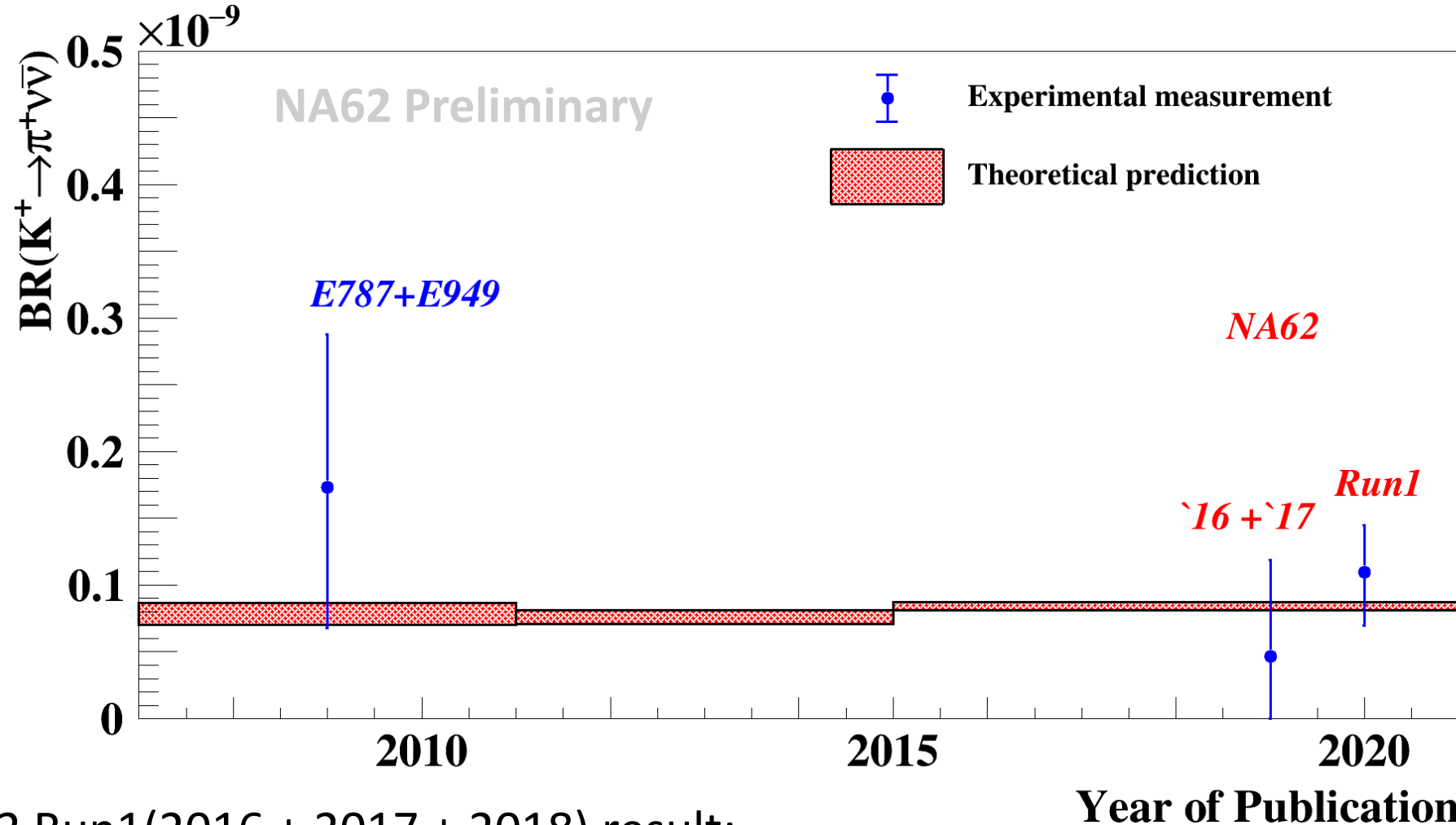
$K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ Result and historical context



NA62 Run1(2016 + 2017 + 2018) result:

$$\text{Br}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (10.6_{-3.5}^{+4.0} \text{stat} \pm 0.9 \text{syst}) \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ (3.4}\sigma \text{ significance)}$$

$K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ Result and historical context

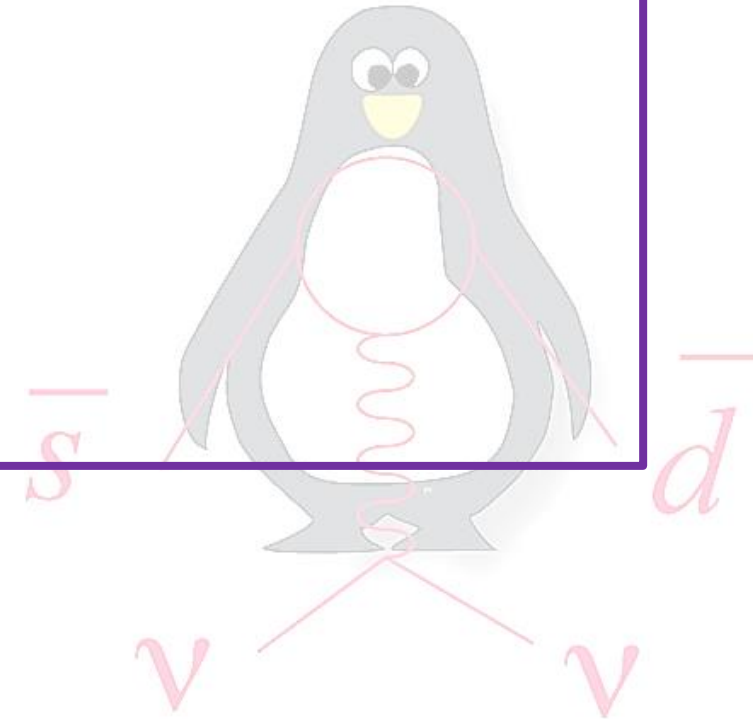


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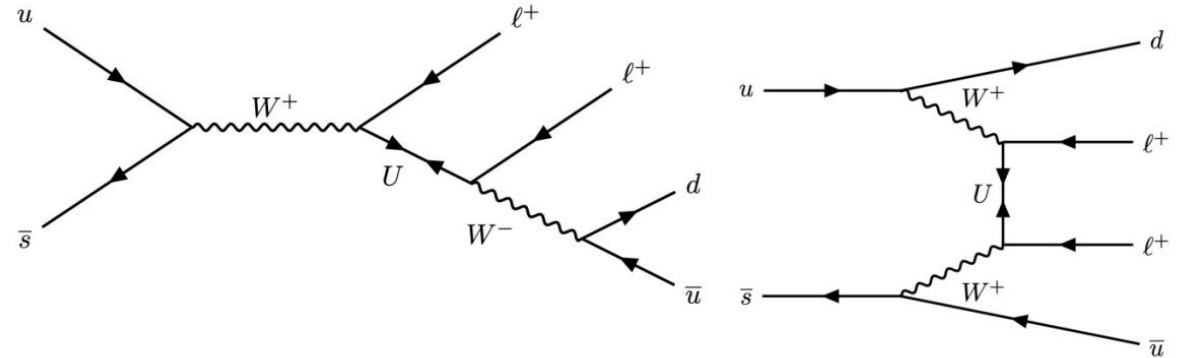
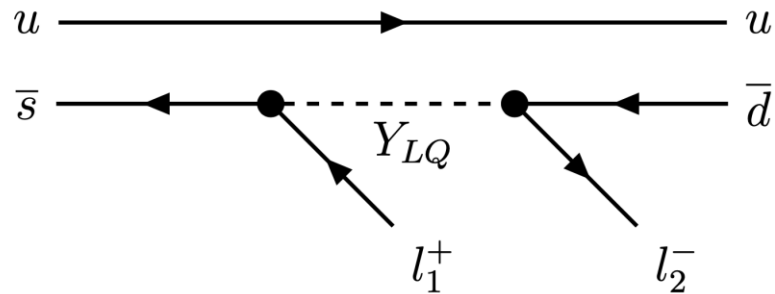
NA62: Broader physics program

- Rare kaon decays
- LNV/LFV in kaon decays
- Exotic searches:
 - HNL searches [[PLB 807 \(2020\) 135599](#)]
 - Dark Photon [[10.1007/JHEP05\(2019\)182](#)]
 - Axion-like particle



LFV & LNV in Kaon Decays

Violation of LN and LF conservation laws predicted in BSM models (for example via Majorana neutrinos or leptoquark)



Previous experimental results:

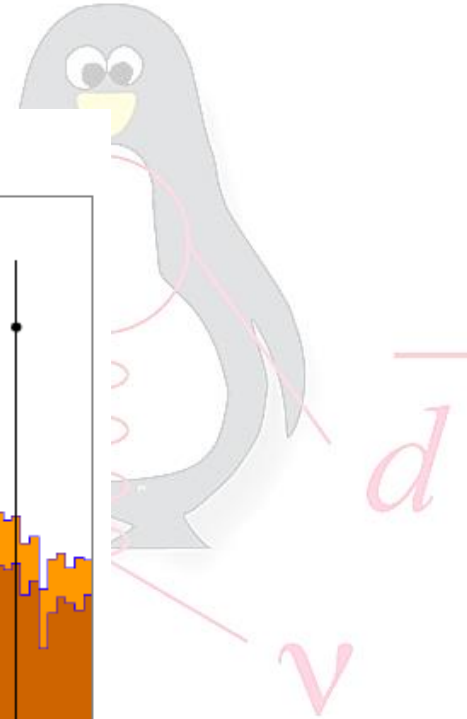
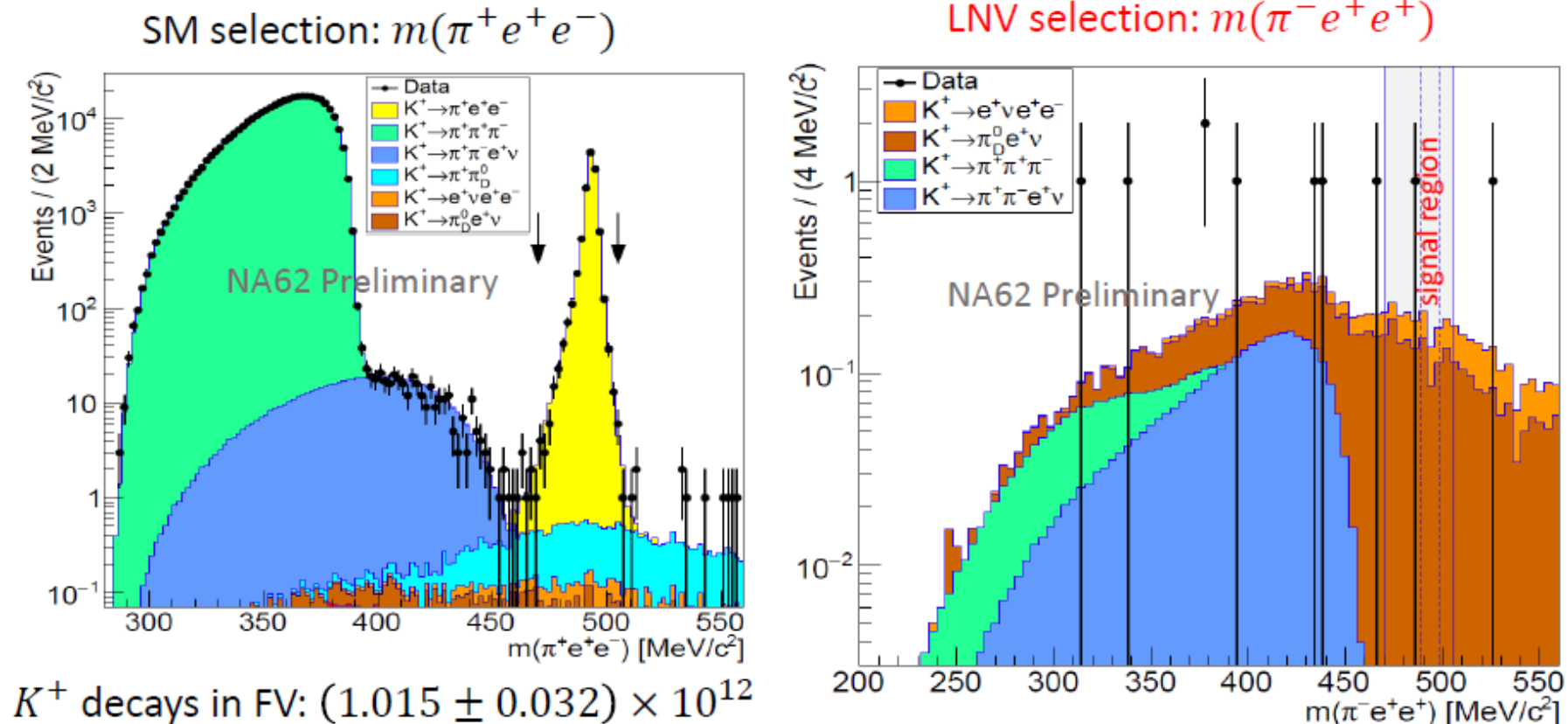
- $\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- e^+ e^+) < 6.4 \times 10^{-10}$ @ 90% CL
[BNL E865 : PRL 85 2877 (2000)]
- $\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ \mu^+) < 8.6 \times 10^{-11}$ @ 90% CL
[CERN NA48/2 : PL B769 67 (2017)]

LNV/LFV searches in NA62:

- 2017 + 2018 data
- Blind analysis
- Normalization to SM decays ($K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$ and $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$)
- Acceptance:
 - ~5% for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- e^+ e^+$ and $K^+ \rightarrow \pi e \mu$
 - 10% for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ \mu^+$
- Main background is due to pion mis-identification and pion decays in flight

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- e^+ e^+$

- Full RUN1 data set
- Expected background in the blinded region: 0.43 ± 0.09
- No candidate observed in the signal region
- $BR(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- e^+ e^+) < 5.3 \cdot 10^{-11} @ 90\% CL$

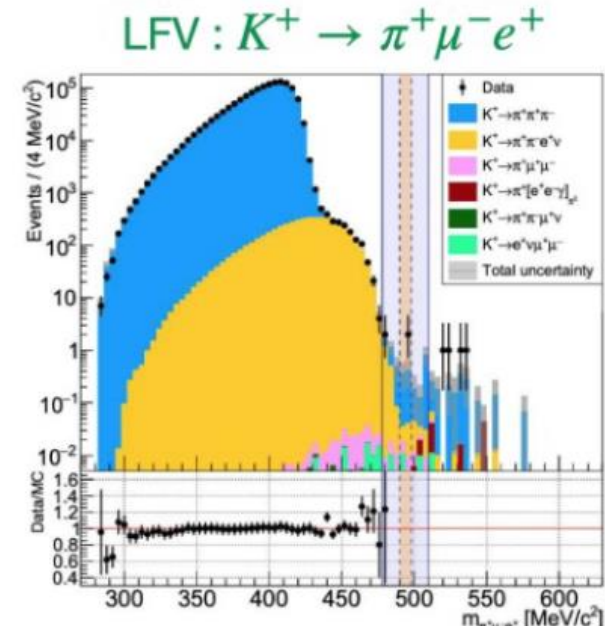
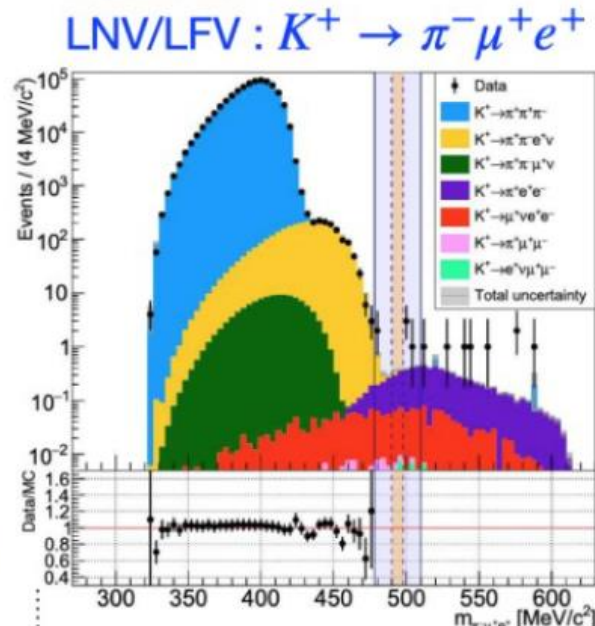
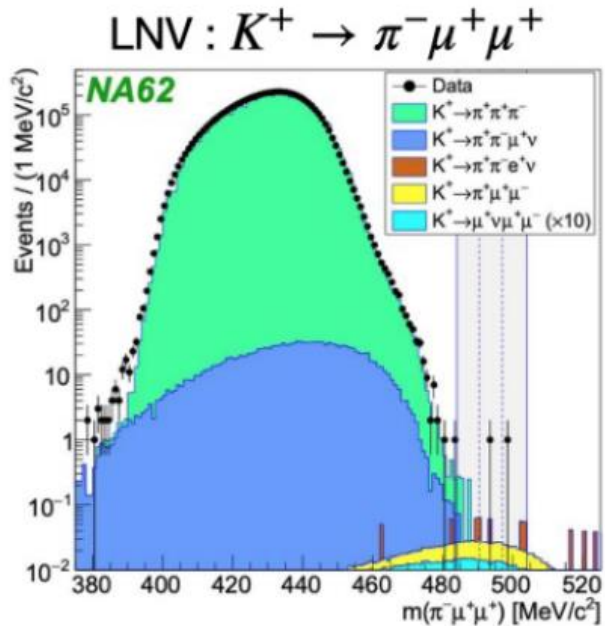


LFV & LNV results

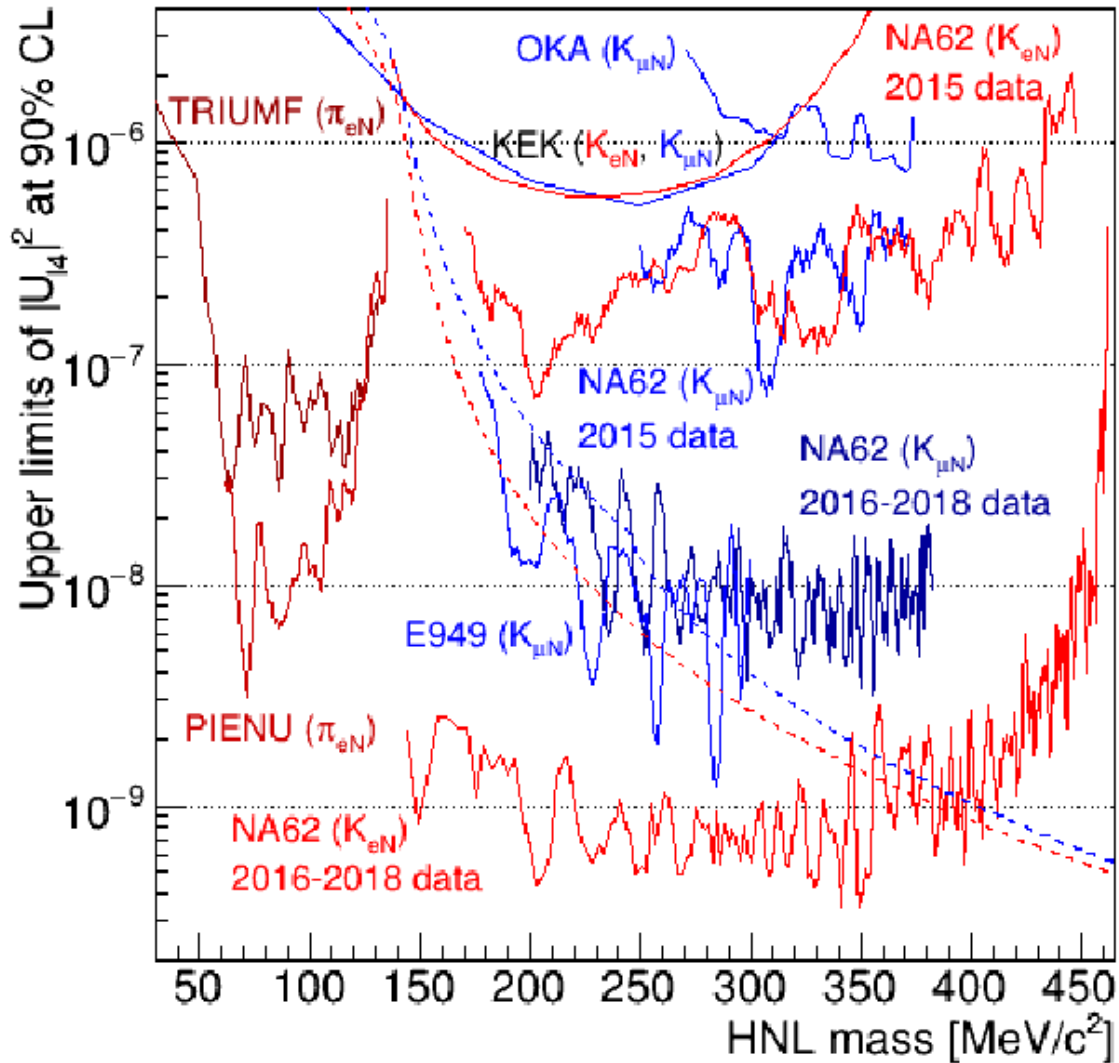
	Previous UL @90% CL	NA62 UL @90% CL		
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ \mu^+$	8.6×10^{-11}	4.2×10^{-11}	2017 data	PLB 797 (2019) 134794
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- e^+ e^+$	6.4×10^{-10}	5.3×10^{-11}	Run1 data	PLB 830 (2022) 137172
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^0 e^+ e^+$	no limit	8.5×10^{-10}	Run1 data	PLB 830 (2022) 137172
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ e^+$	5.0×10^{-10}	4.2×10^{-11}	2017+2018 data	PRL 127 (2021) 131802
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^- e^+$	5.2×10^{-10}	6.6×10^{-11}	2017+2018 data	PRL 127 (2021) 131802
$\pi^0 \rightarrow \mu^- e^+$	3.4×10^{-9}	3.2×10^{-10}	2017+2018 data	PRL 127 (2021) 131802

Factor 2 improvement
Factor 12 improvement

Factor 12 improvement
Factor 8 improvement
Factor 13 improvement



Search for Heavy Neutral Leptons



- Full RUN1 data set for $|U_{e4}|^2$ and $|U_{\mu4}|^2$.
- Improvement over earlier production searches by up to two orders of magnitude in terms of $|U_{e4}|^2$.
- For $|U_{e4}|^2$, the BBN-allowed range is excluded up to 340 MeV. [PLB 807 (2020) 135599]
- For $|U_{\mu4}|^2$, the sensitivity approaches the E949 one; the search extends to 383 MeV.

Rare Kaon Decay example: $(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^+ \mu^-)$

FCNC decay described in the scope of ChPT, mediated by one photon exchange $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma^*$

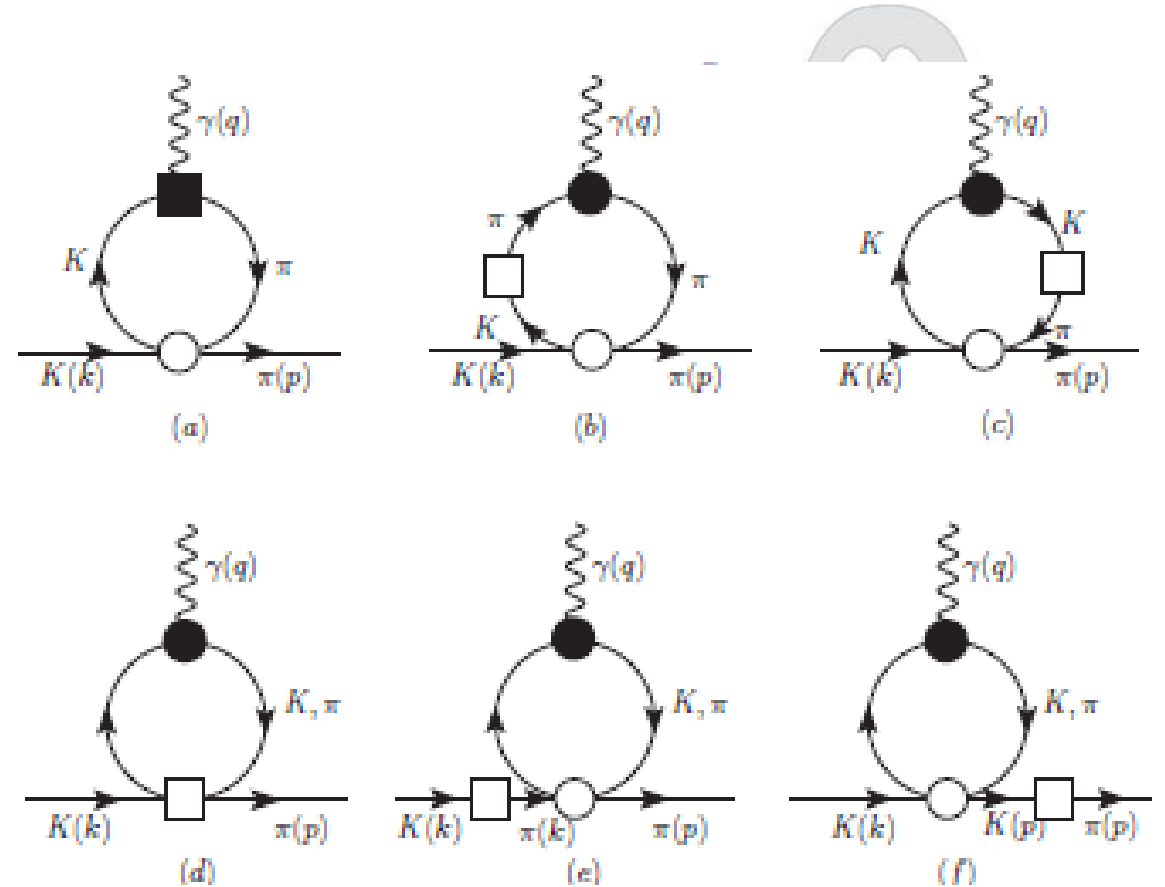
[Nucl. Phys. B291 (1987) 692–719], [Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett. 5 (2008) 76–84]

Together with $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ e^+ e^-$ allow to Test the **Lepton Flavour Universality**.

A precise measurement of these decays could provide an evidence complementary to the B anomaly seen by LHCb.

[Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 191801 (2019)]

[JHEP 02, 049 (2019)]



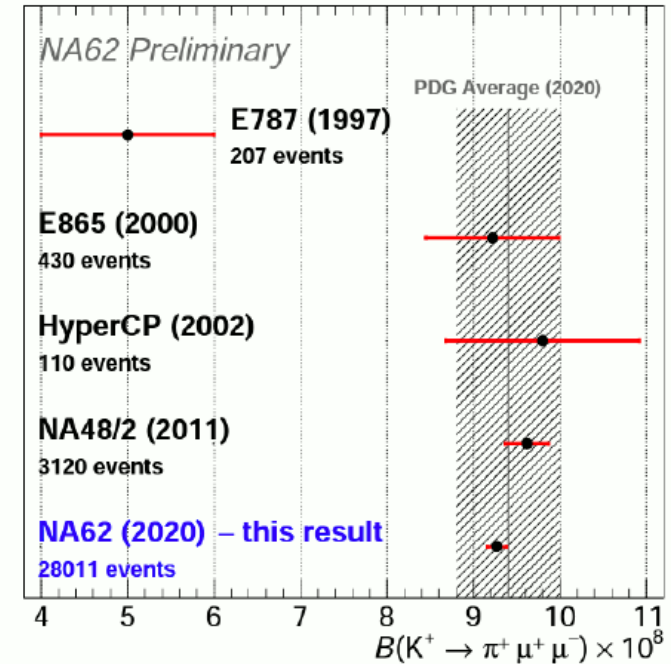
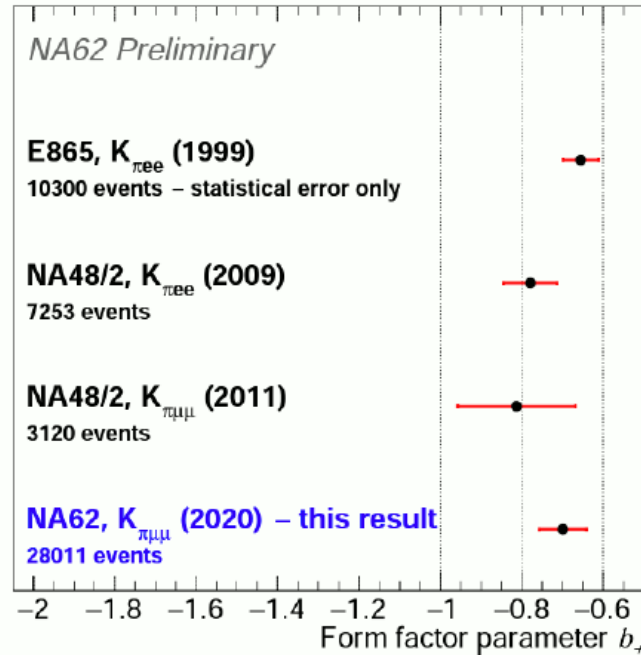
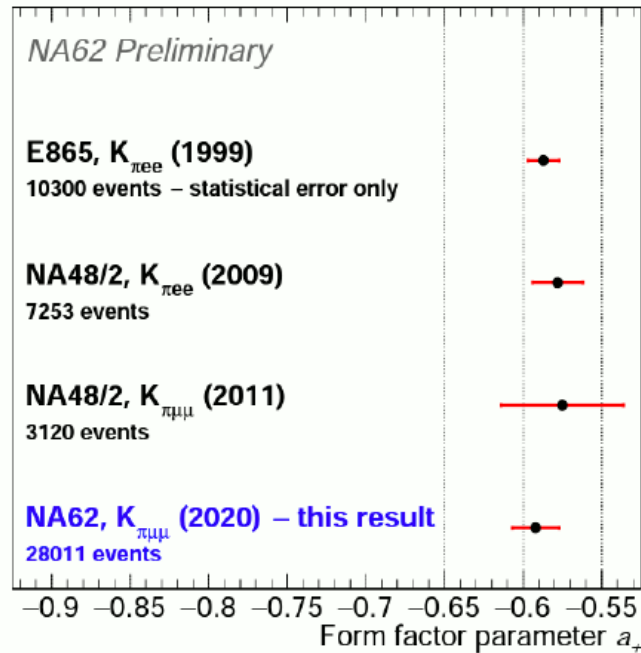
Preliminary result $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$

- $N_K \approx 6.76 \cdot 10^{12}$ using the 2017+2018 data sample
- Preliminary $K_{\pi\mu\mu}$ result consistent with $K_{\pi ee}$ FF parameters \rightarrow no tension in LFU observed
- Paper in prepatation

$$a = -0.592 \pm 0.015$$

$$b = -0.699 \pm 0.058$$

$$BR(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^+ \mu^-) = (9.27 \pm 0.11) \times 10^{-8}$$

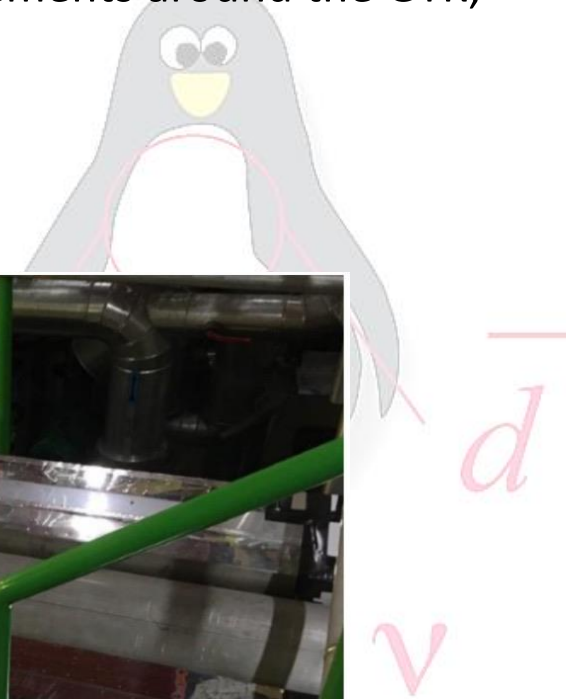
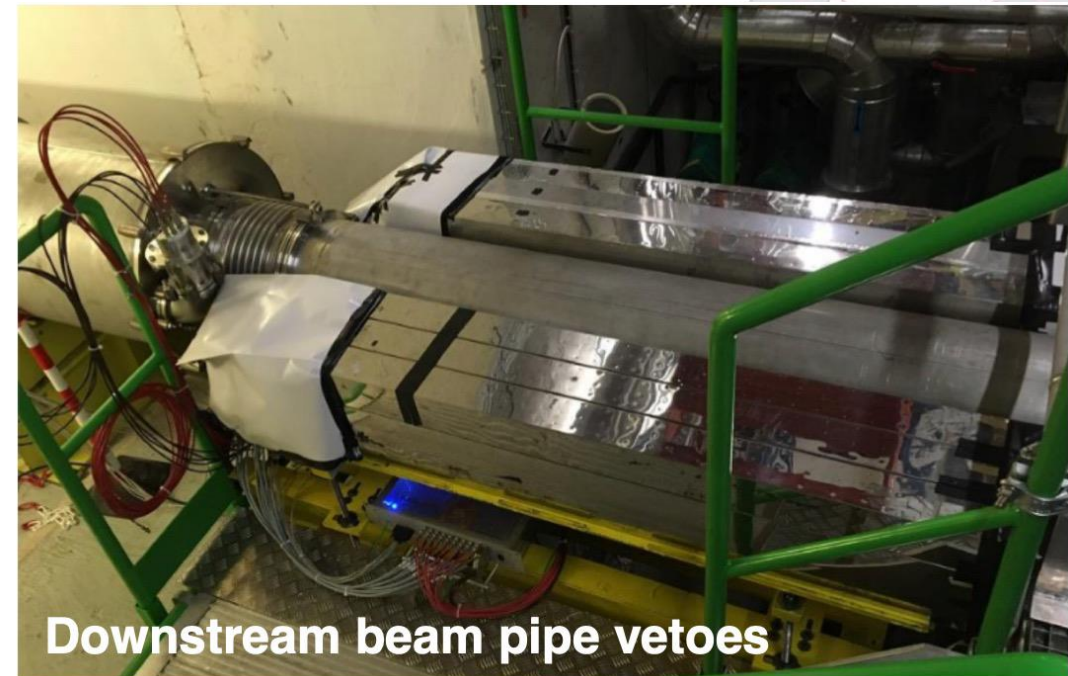
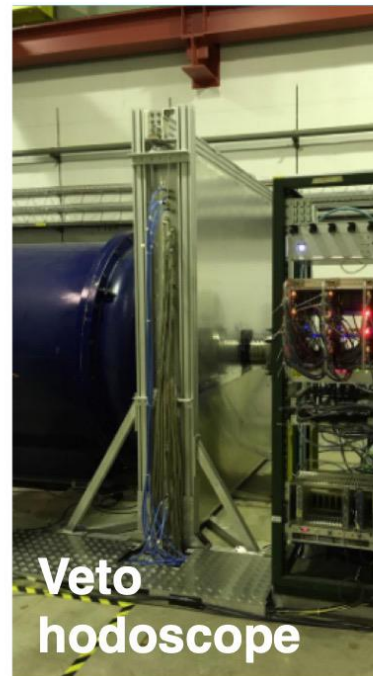
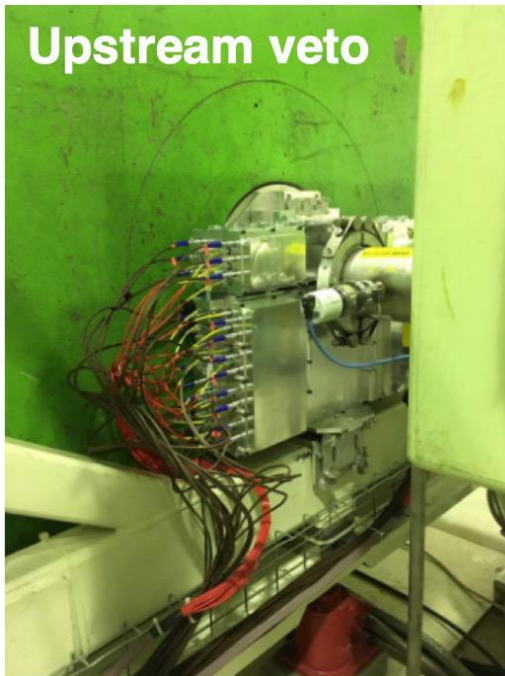


$$Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^+ \mu^-) = (9.27 \pm 0.11) \cdot 10^{-8}$$

E865, Kee: [Phys. Rev. Lett. 83 (1999) 4482-4485]
 NA48/2, Kee: [Phys. Lett. B 677 (2009) 246-254]
 NA48/2, K: [Phys. Lett. B 697 (2011) 107-115]

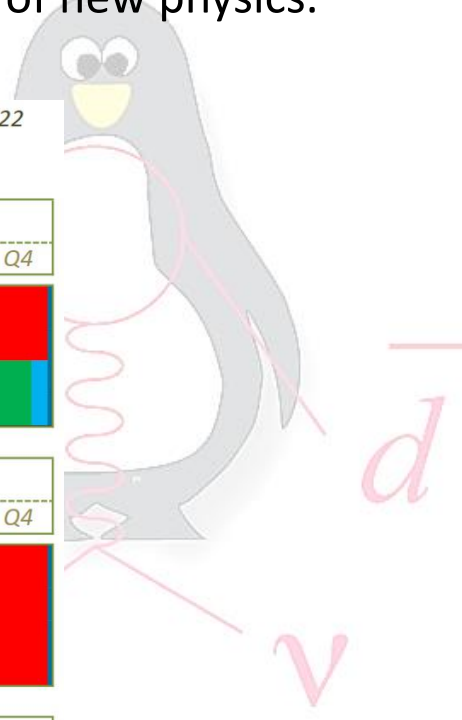
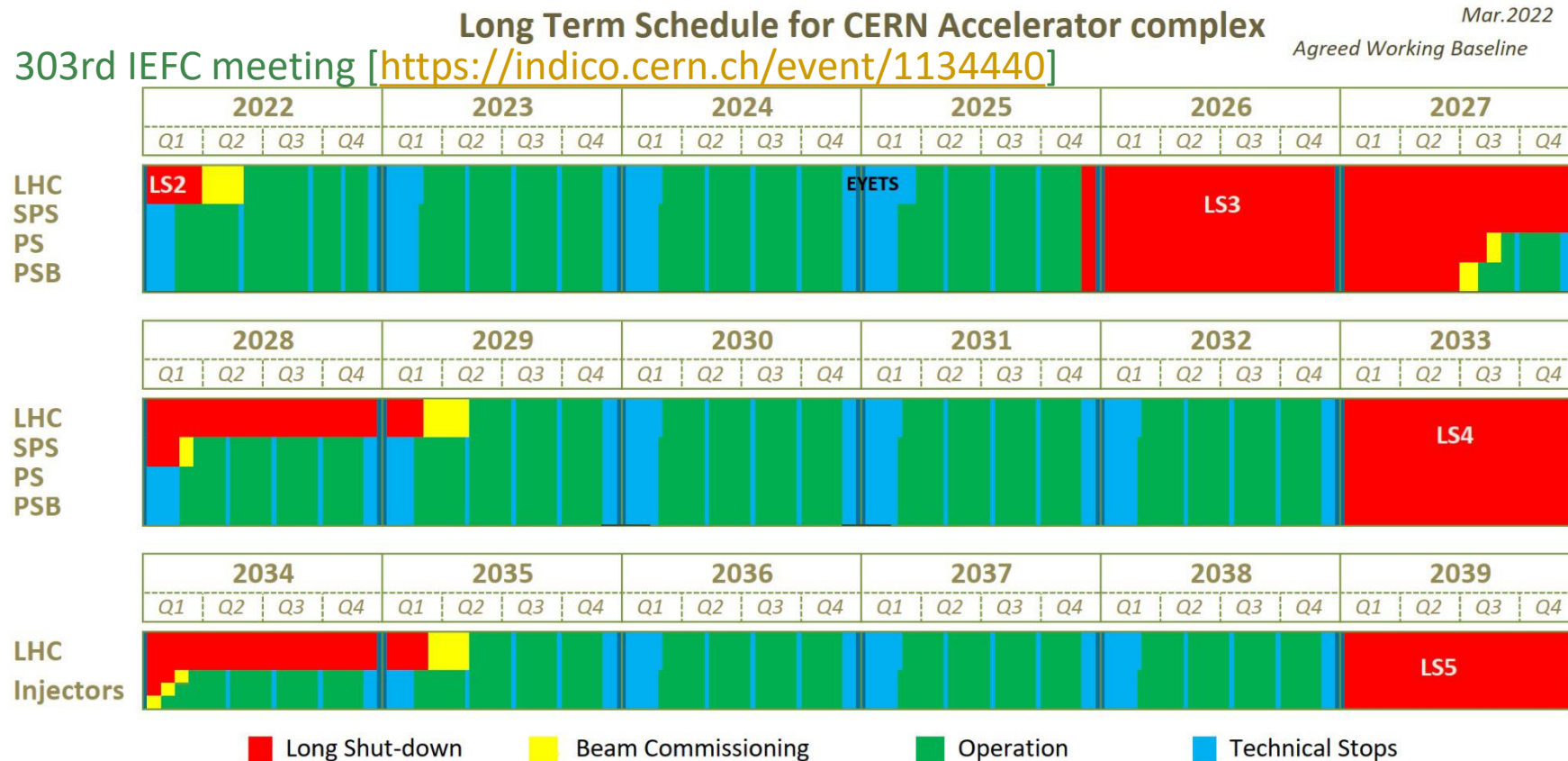
NA62 Run 2: 2021–LS3

- The technique was firmly established during RUN1.
- Run 2: $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ measurement in a low-background and high-acceptance regime (O(10%) precision).
- Modifications of the setup for background reduction:
 - **fourth kaon beam tracker (GTK)** station added and rearrangement of beamline elements around the GTK;
 - **new veto hodoscopes** upstream of the decay volume;
 - an **additional veto counter** around downstream beam pipe.
- Improved TDAQ: **beam intensity increased by ~30%** wrt Run 1.
- It is foreseen a **beam dump mode** to collect 10^{18} pot in up to 90 days.



Fixed target program at CERN SPS

- **SPS fixed target** operation foreseen until **at least 2038**.
- **HIKE** (“High-Intensity Kaon experiment”): a long-term programme at the SPS proposed to search for new physics in kaon decays.
- Measurements of rare K^+ and K_L kaon decay modes: a clear insight into the flavour structure of new physics.
- Details in a Snowmass white paper: [arXiv:2204.13394](https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.13394)



Conclusion

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$:

- Result from the complete Run 1(2016 + 2017 + 2018) compatible with the SM prediction within one standard deviation
- $\text{Br}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (10.6_{-3.5}^{+4.0}{}_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.9_{\text{syst}}) \cdot 10^{-11}$ (3.4σ significance)
- The most precise measurement of the BR obtained so far

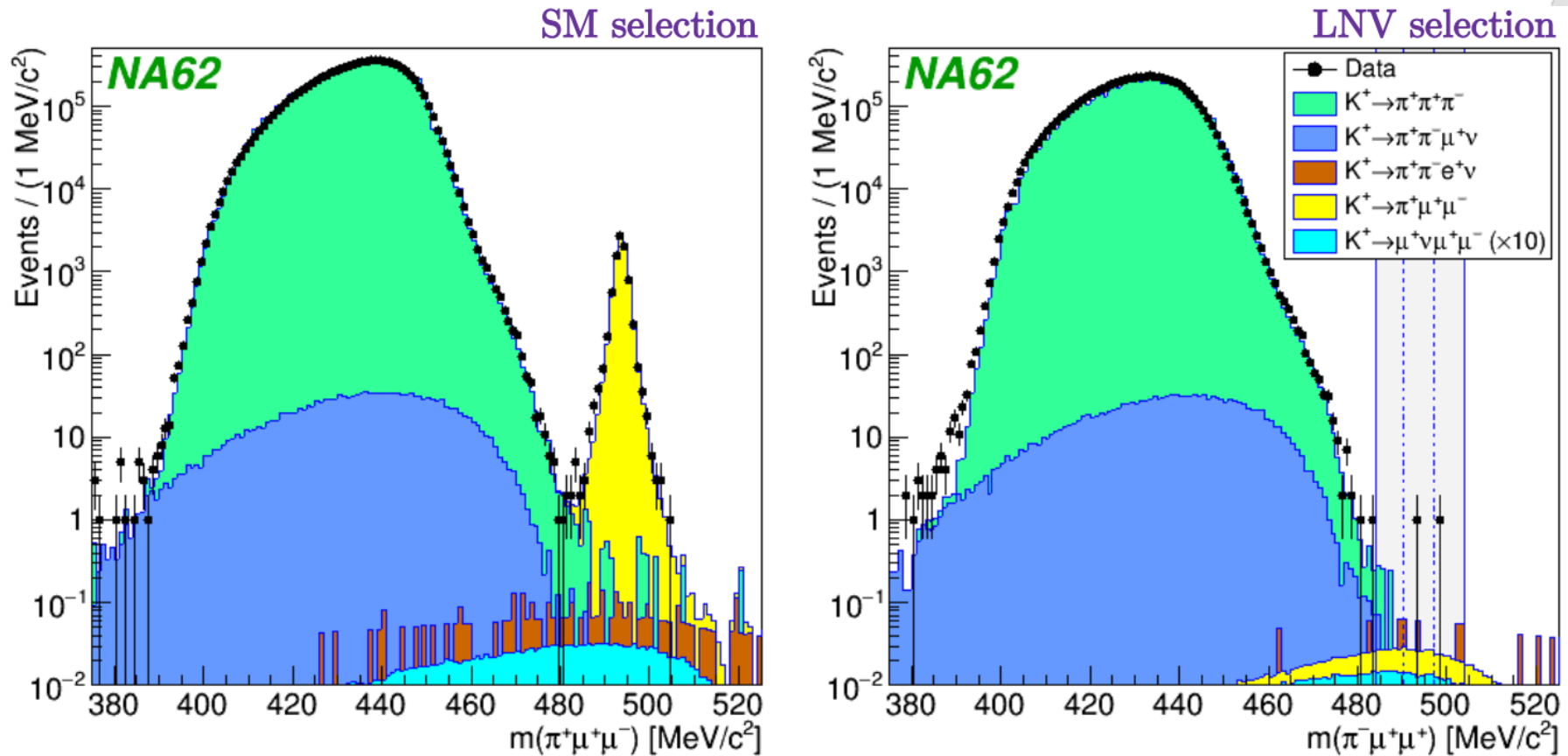
- Upper limit improved for LFV and LNV channels ($K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- l^+ l^+$, $K^+ \rightarrow \pi e \mu$, etc)
- $|U_{\mu 4}|^2$ and $|U_{e 4}|^2$ limit improved for the HNL
- Preliminary $K_{\pi\mu\mu}$ result consistent with $K_{\pi ee}$ FF parameters

A long-term K^+ and K_L programme (“HIKE”) is taking shape at CERN.

Spare

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ \mu^+$

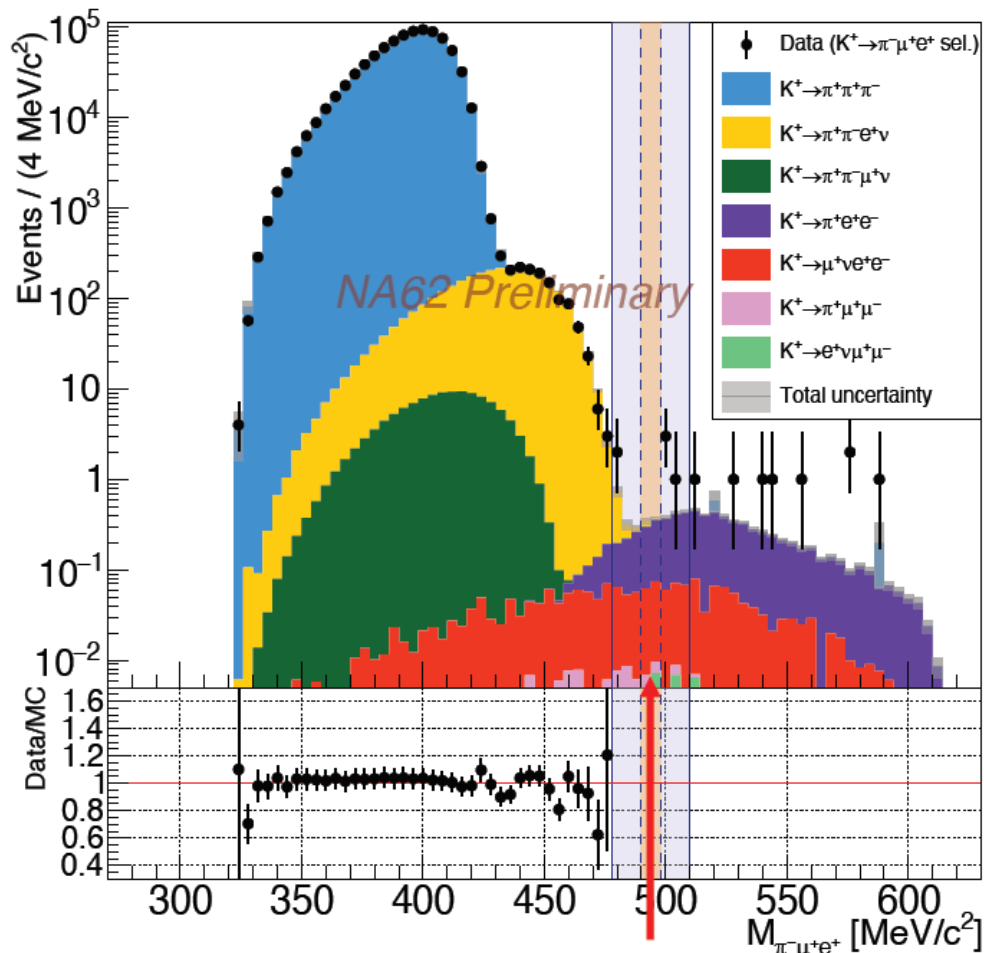
- Expected background in the blinded region: 0.91 ± 0.41
- One candidate observed in the signal region
- $BR(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ \mu^+) < 4.2 \cdot 10^{-11}$ @ 90% CL



$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ e^+$ and $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^- e^+$

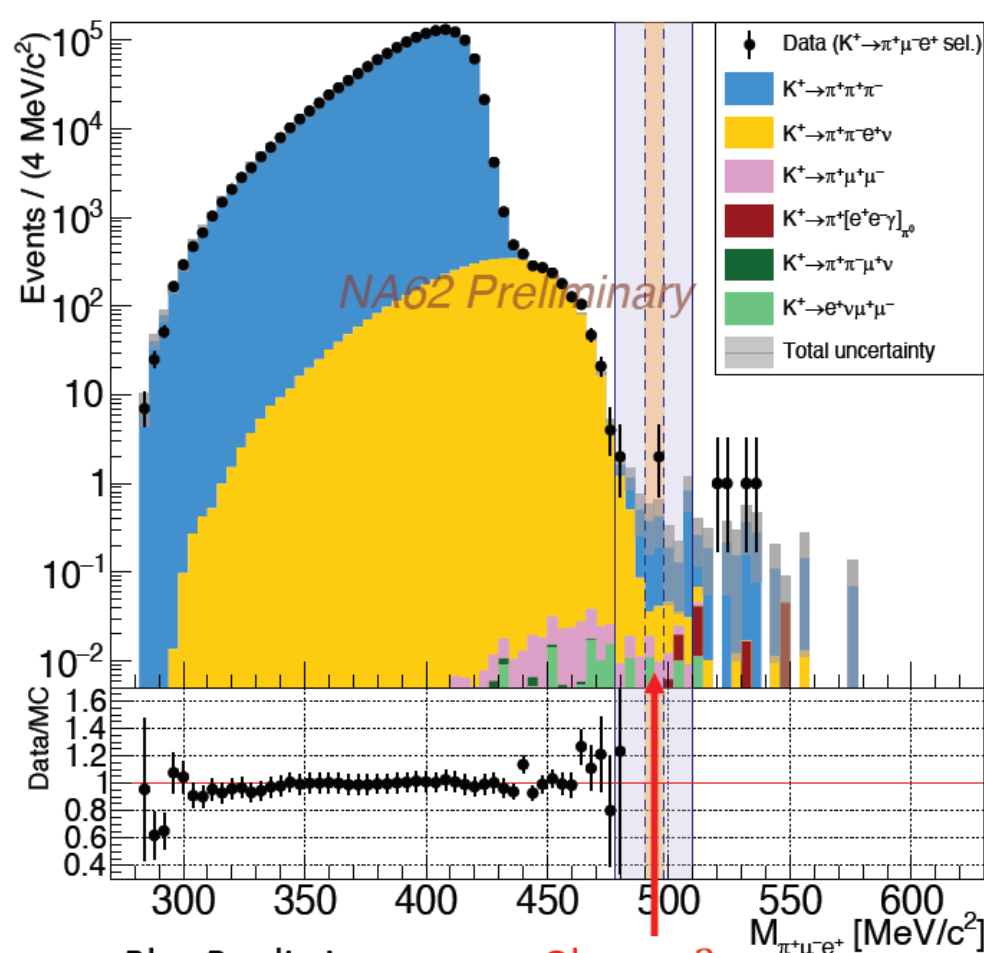
$BR(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ e^+) < 4.2 \times 10^{-11} @ 90\% CL$

$BR(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^- e^+) < 6.6 \times 10^{-11} @ 90\% CL$



Bkg. Prediction:
 $N_{SR}^{tot} = 1.06 \pm 0.20$

Observe 0
 events in SR



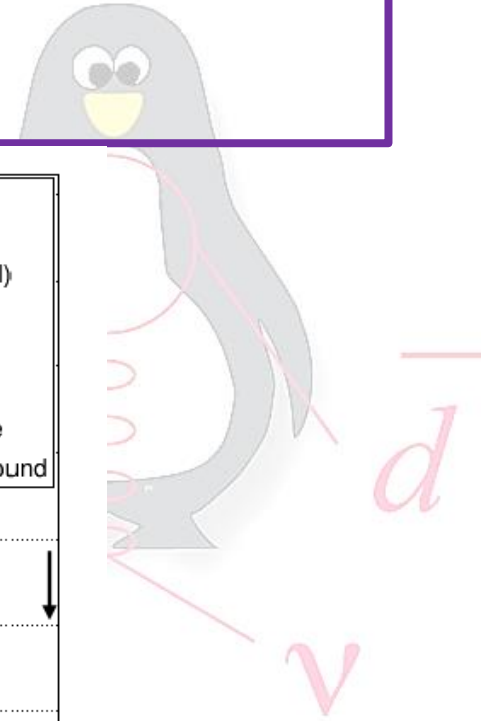
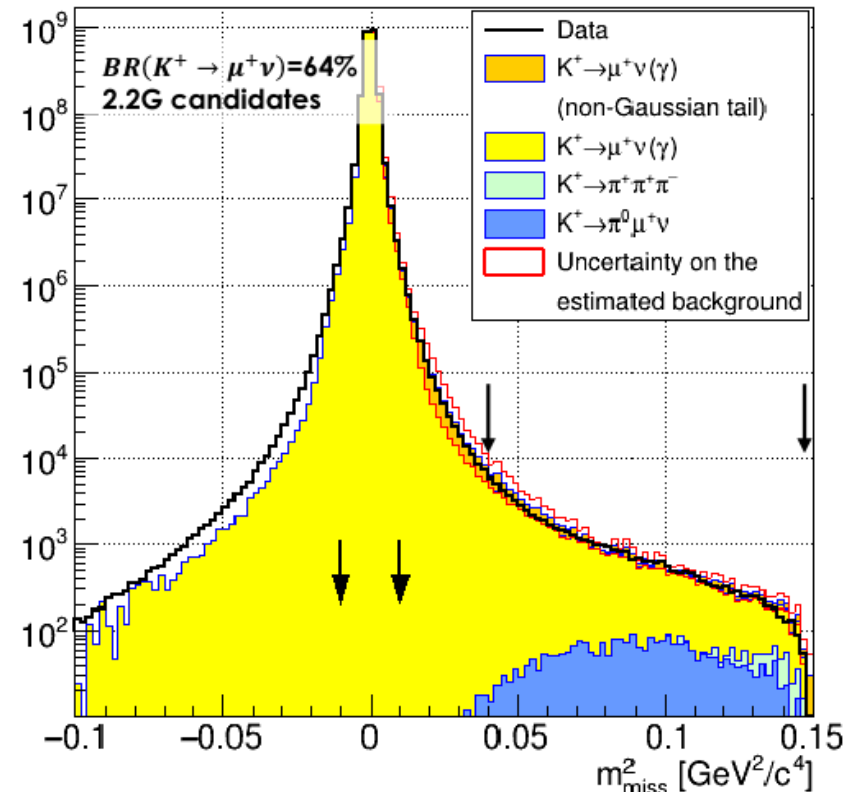
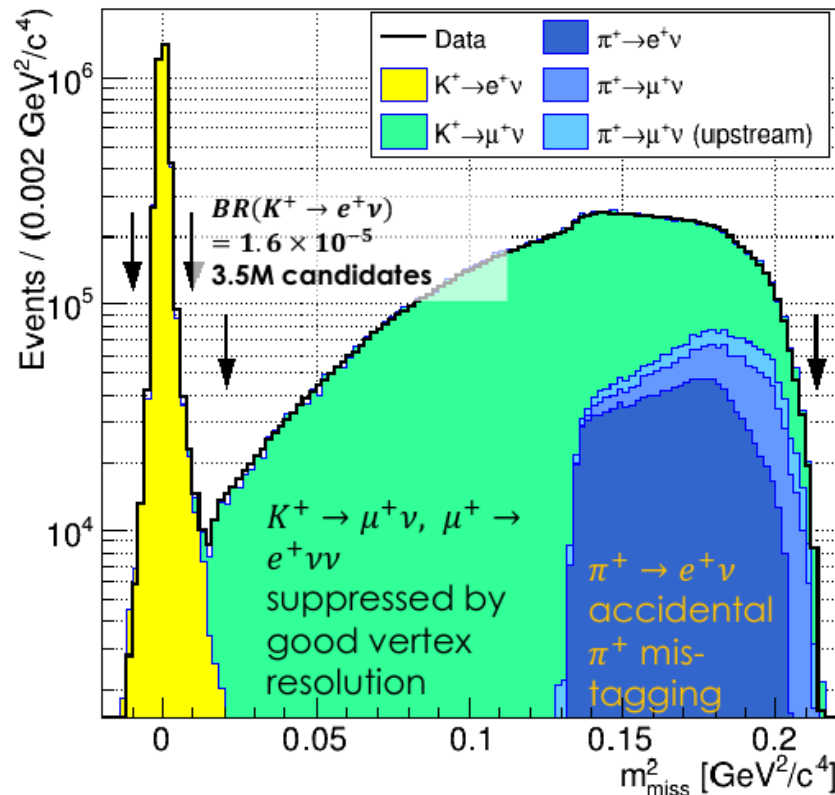
Bkg. Prediction:
 $N_{SR}^{tot} = 0.92 \pm 0.34$

Observe 2
 events in SR

\bar{d}
 \checkmark

Data Sample

- Number of K^+ in fiducial volume:
 - $(3.52 \pm 0.02) \cdot 10^{12}$ positron case
 - $(1.14 \pm 0.02) \cdot 10^{10}$ muon case
- A spike in the continuous m_{miss} spectrum is a HNL production signal

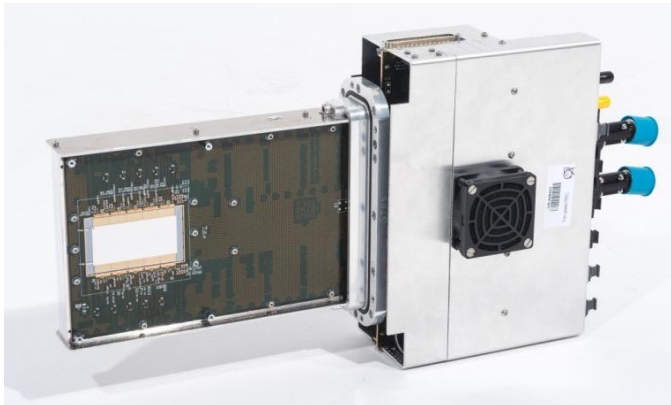


Long-term plan for the $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$

- An in-flight $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ experiment, up to $\times 6$ the NA62 beam intensity, aiming at $\sim 5\%$ precision.
- Challenge: **20 ps** time resolution for key detectors to keep random veto under control, while maintaining all other NA62 specifications.
- Challenges aligned with HL-LHC projects and future flavour/dark matter exp.

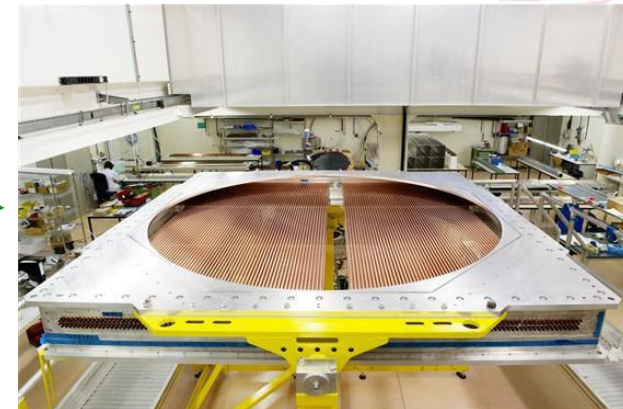
New pixel beam tracker (GTK):

- time resolution: **<50 ps** per plane;
- pixel size: **<300×300 μm^2** ;
- efficiency: **>99%** per plane (incl. fill factor);
- material budget : **0.3–0.5% X_0** ;
- beam intensity: **>3 GHz** on **30×60 mm^2** ;
- peak intensity: **>8.0 MHz/ mm^2** .



New STRAW spectrometer:

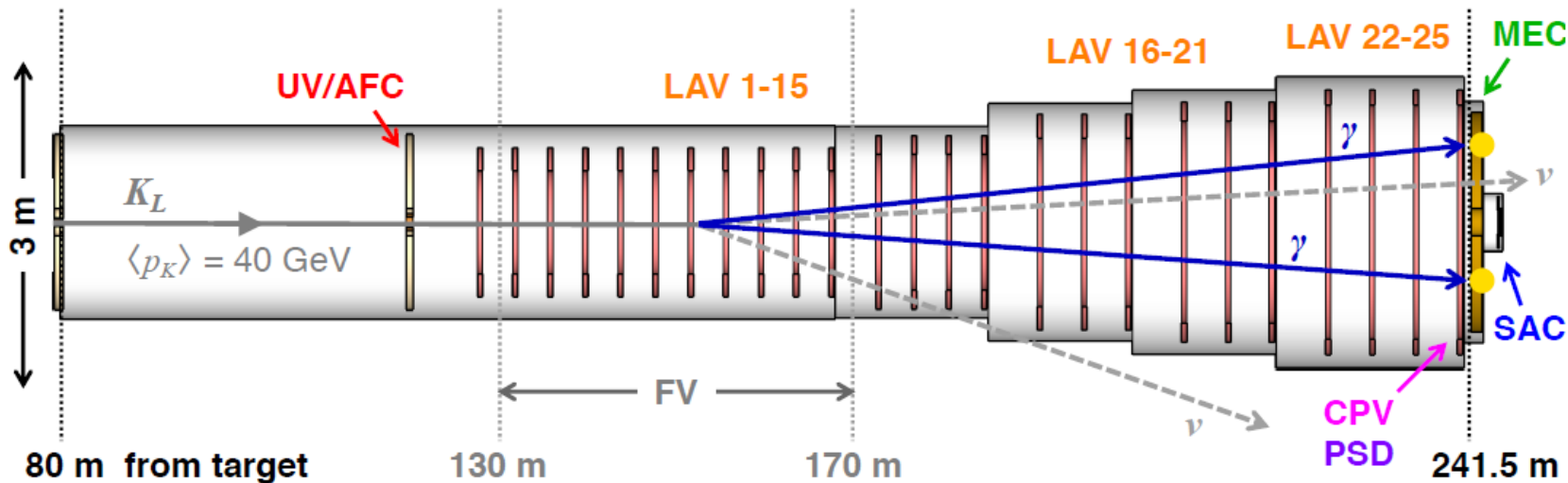
- operation in vacuum;
- straw diameter/length: **5 mm/2.2 m**;
- trailing time resolution: **~ 6 ns** per straw;
- maximum drift time: **~ 80 ns**;
- layout: **~ 21000** straws (4 chambers);
- total material budget: **1.4% X_0** .



← current NA62 design →

Long-term plan for the $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$

- **KLEVER**: a high-energy experiment (10^{19} pot/year) complementary to KOTO.
- Photons from K_L decays boosted forward: veto coverage only up to **100 mrad**.
- Vacuum tank layout and fiducial volume similar to NA62.
- A longer beamline is needed for $\Lambda \rightarrow n\pi^0$ background suppression
- **60 SM $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$** events with **S/B ~ 1** and **$\sim 20\%$** precision in **5** years of operation;



Main detector/veto systems:

- UV/AFC** Upstream veto/Active final collimator
- LAV1-25** Large-angle vetoes (25 stations)
- MEC** Main electromagnetic calorimeter
- SAC** Small-angle vetoes
- CPV** Charged particle veto
- PSD** Pre-shower detector