

# A new measurement of $\mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$ by the NA62 experiment

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on behalf of the NA62 collaboration

## Contents:

- The golden modes  $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$  in the SM and beyond
- NA62 after LS2: detector upgrades & performance
- New measurement of  $\mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$

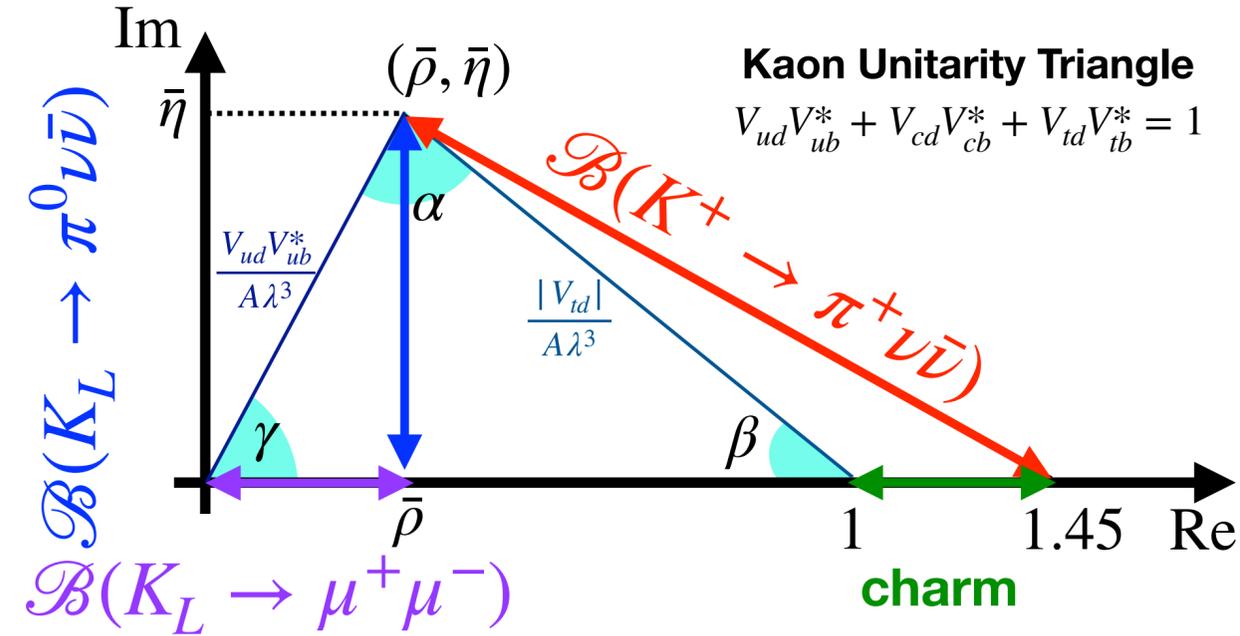
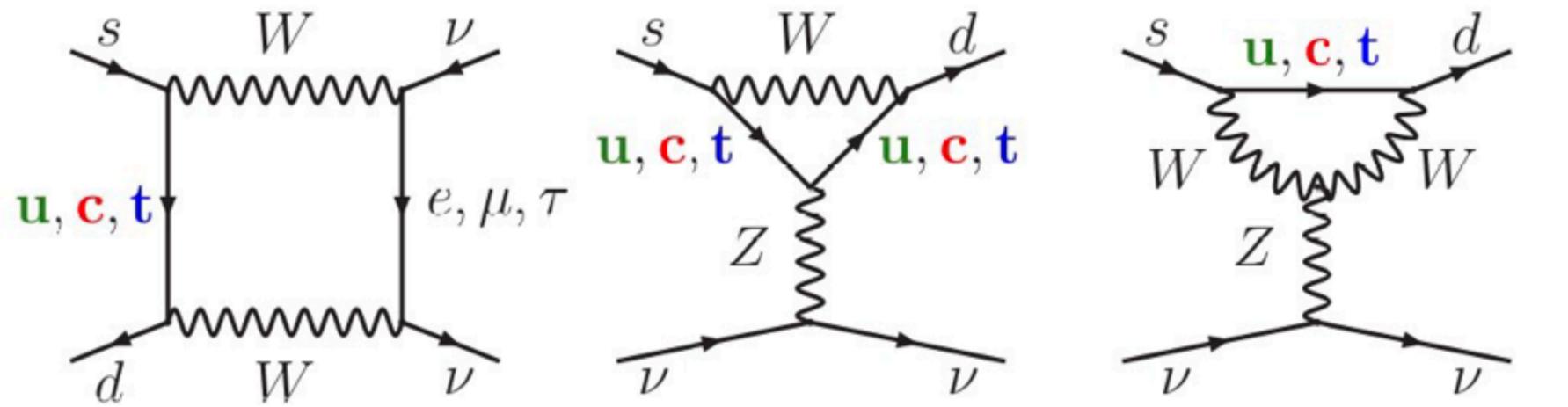
# Rare Kaon Decays: SM and Beyond

The golden modes  $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$

# $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ : Precision test of the Standard Model



## SM: Z-penguin & box diagrams



- $\mathcal{B}(K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu})$  highly suppressed in SM

- GIM mechanism & maximum CKM suppression  $s \rightarrow d$  transition:  $\sim \frac{m_t}{m_W} \left| V_{ts}^* V_{td} \right|$

- Theoretically clean  $\Rightarrow$  high precision SM predictions

- Dominated by short distance contributions.

- Hadronic matrix element extracted from  $\mathcal{B}(K \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \nu_\ell)$  decays via isospin rotation.

Mode	SM Branching Ratio [1]	SM Branching Ratio [2]	Experimental Status
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$	$(8.60 \pm 0.42) \times 10^{-11}$	$(7.86 \pm 0.61) \times 10^{-11}$	$(10.6 \pm 4.0) \times 10^{-11}$ NA62 16–18
$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$	$(2.94 \pm 0.15) \times 10^{-11}$	$(2.68 \pm 0.30) \times 10^{-11}$	$< 2 \times 10^{-9}$ KOTO (2021 data)

# $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ : Beyond the Standard Model



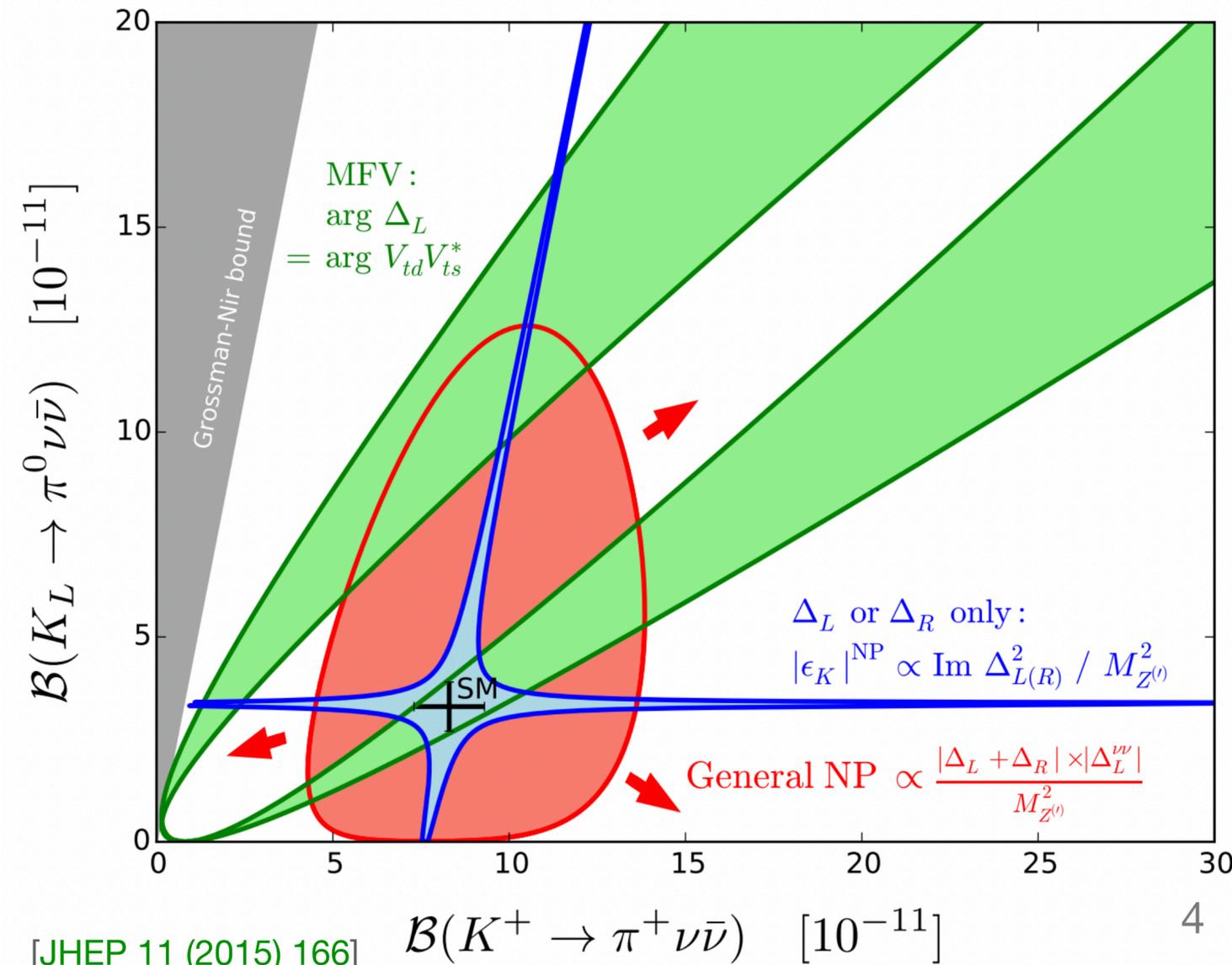
- Correlations between BSM contributions to BRs of  $K^+$  and  $K_L$  modes [[JHEP 11 \(2015\) 166](#)].
  - Must measure both to discriminate between BSM scenarios.
- Correlations with other observables ( $\epsilon'/\epsilon$ ,  $\Delta M_B$ , B-decays) [[JHEP 12 \(2020\) 097](#)][[PLB 809 \(2020\) 135769](#)].
- Leptoquarks [[EPJ.C 82 \(2022\) 4, 320](#)], Interplay between CC and FCNC [[JHEP 07 \(2023\) 029](#)], NP in neutrino sector [[EPJ.C 84 \(2024\) 7, 680](#)] and additional scalar/tensor contributions [[JHEP 12 \(2020\) 186](#)][[arXiv:2405.06742](#)] ...

- **Green:** CKM-like flavour structure
  - Models with Minimal Flavour Violation
- **Blue:** new flavour-violating interactions where LH or RH currents dominate
  - $Z'$  models with pure LH/RH couplings
- **Red:** general NP models without above constraints
- **Grossman-Nir Bound:** model-independent relation

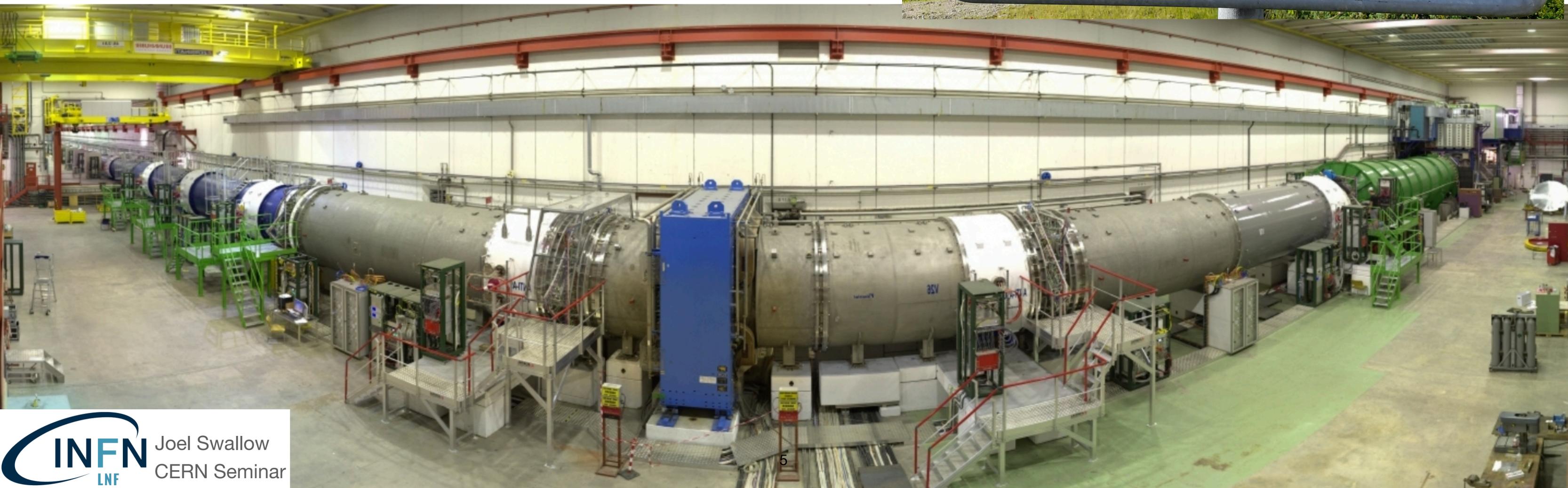
[[PLB 398 \(1997\) 163-168](#)]

$$\frac{\mathcal{B}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) \tau_{K^+}}{\mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) \tau_{K_L}} \lesssim 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{B}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) \lesssim 4.3 \mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$$



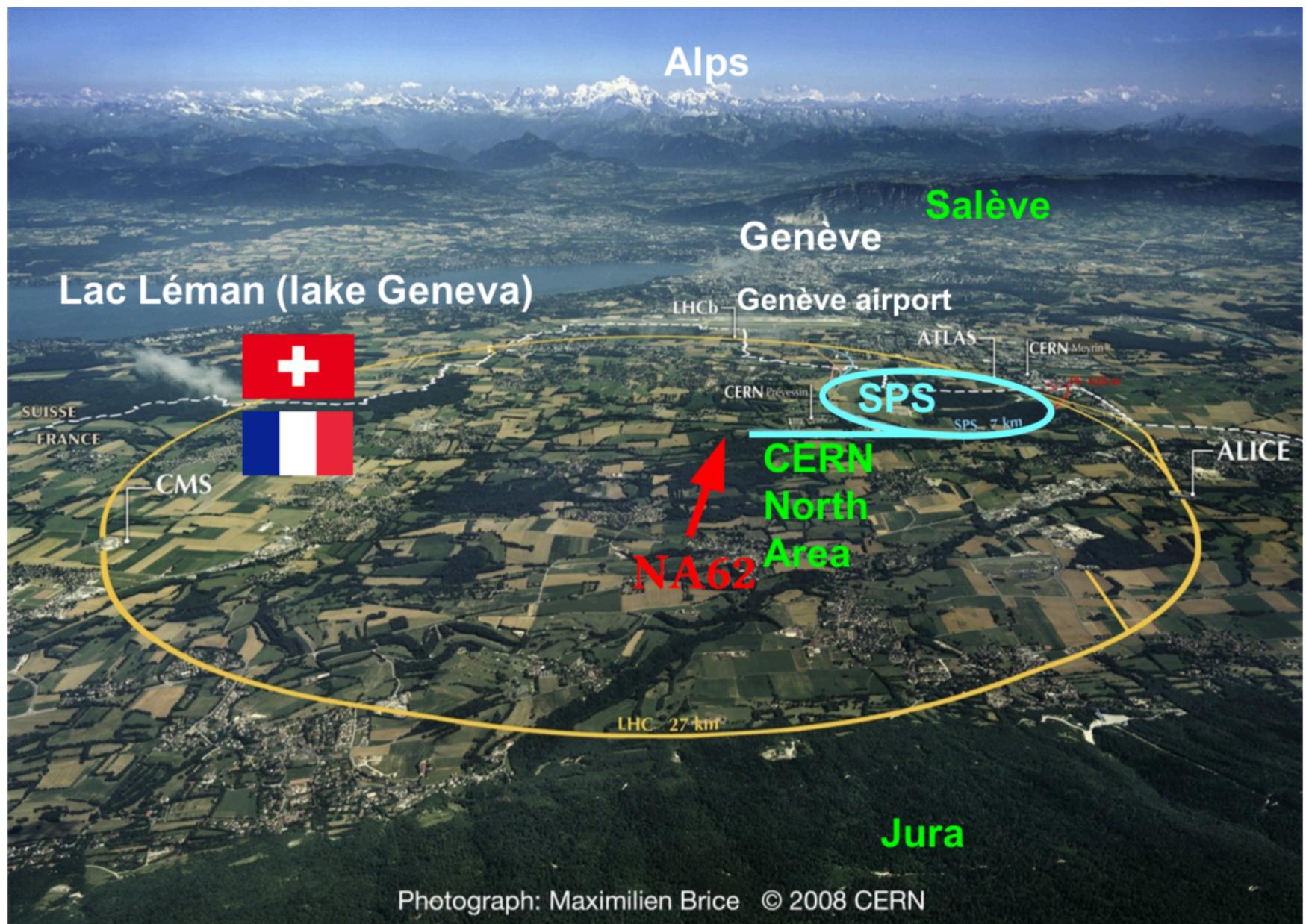
# NA62: The $K^+$ factory at the CERN north area



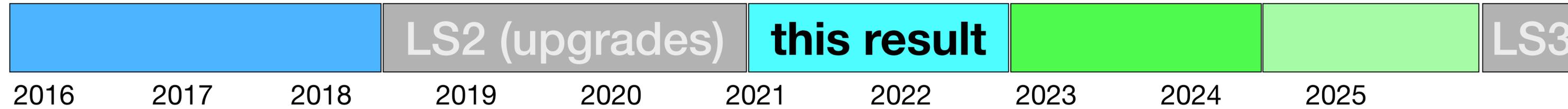
# The NA62 Experiment at CERN



~200 collaborators from ~30 institutions.



- Primary goal: measurement of  $\mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$
- New Technique:  $K^+$  decay-in-flight
- Results: [[PLB 791 \(2019\) 156](#)] [[JHEP 11 \(2020\) 042](#)] [[JHEP 06 \(2021\) 093](#)]
- Broader physics programme:
  - Rare  $K^+$  decays (e.g.  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma \gamma$  [[PLB 850 \(2024\) 138513](#)])
  - LNV/LFV decays (e.g.  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- (\pi^0) e^+ e^+$  [[PLB 830 \(2022\) 137172](#)])
  - Exotics (e.g. Dark photon [[PRL 133 \(2024\) 11, 111802](#)])
- Data taking
  - 2016 Commissioning + Physics run (45 days).
  - 2017 Physics run (160 days).
  - 2018 Physics run (217 days).
  - 2021 Physics run (85 days [10 beam dump]).
  - 2022 Physics run (215 days).
  - 2023 Physics run (150 days [10 beam dump]).
  - 2024 Physics run ongoing ...



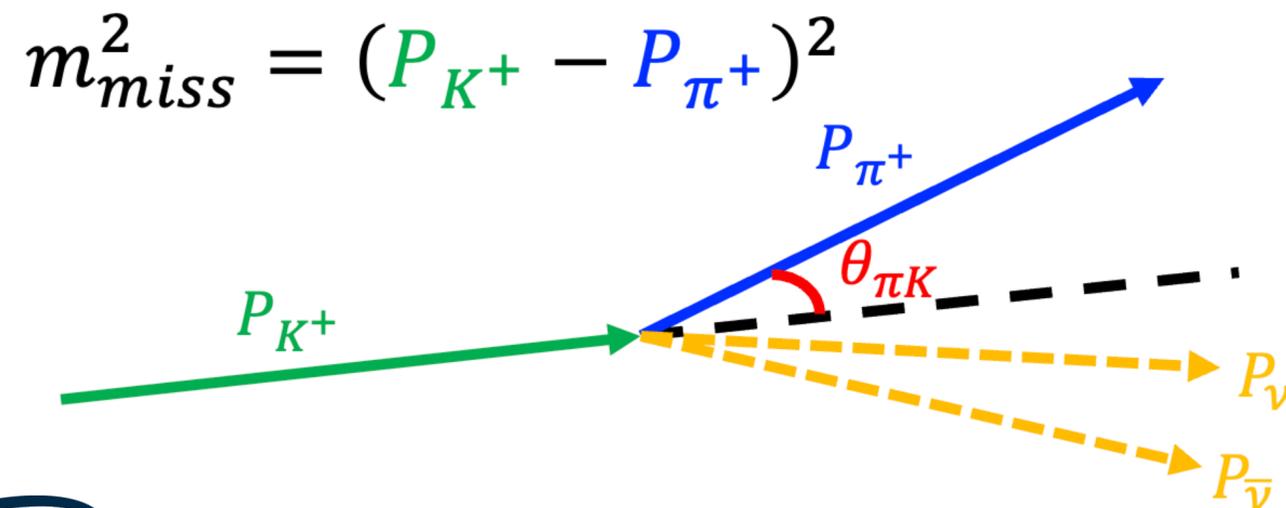
# $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ at NA62

## NA62 Strategy:

- Tag  $K^+$  and measure momentum.
- Identify  $\pi^+$  and measure momentum.
- Match  $K^+$  and  $\pi^+$  in time & form vertex.
  - Determine  $m_{miss}^2 = (P_K - P_\pi)^2$
- Reject any additional activity.

## NA62 Performance Keystones:

- $\mathcal{O}(100)$  ps timing between detectors
- $\mathcal{O}(10^4)$  background suppression from kinematics
- $> 10^7$  muon rejection
- $> 10^7$  rejection of  $\pi^0$  from  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$  decays



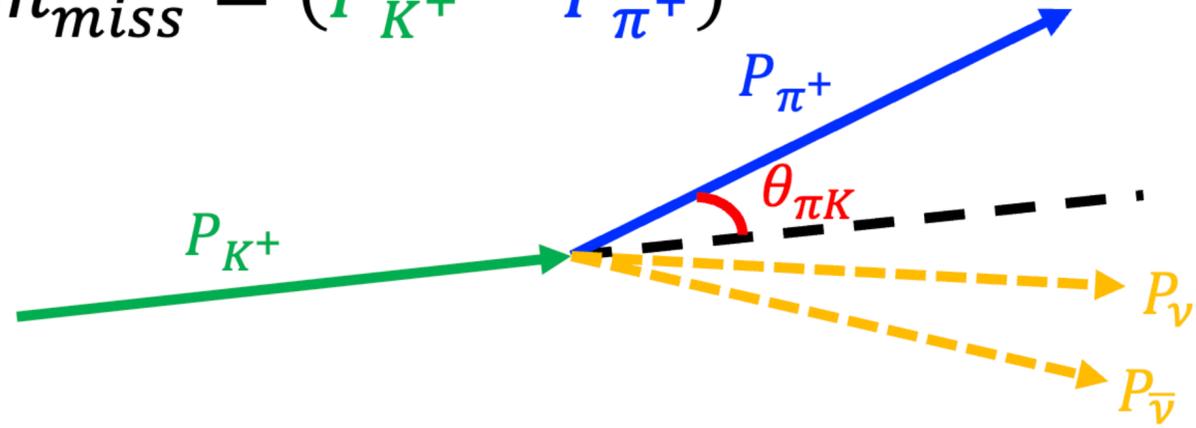
Decay mode	Branching Ratio [PDG]
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$(63.56 \pm 0.11) \%$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$	$(20.67 \pm 0.08) \%$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	$(5.583 \pm 0.024) \%$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$	$(4.247 \pm 0.024) \times 10^{-5}$

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$   $(8.60 \pm 0.42) \times 10^{-11}$  [SM]

[Buras et al. EPJC 82 \(2022\) 7, 615](#)

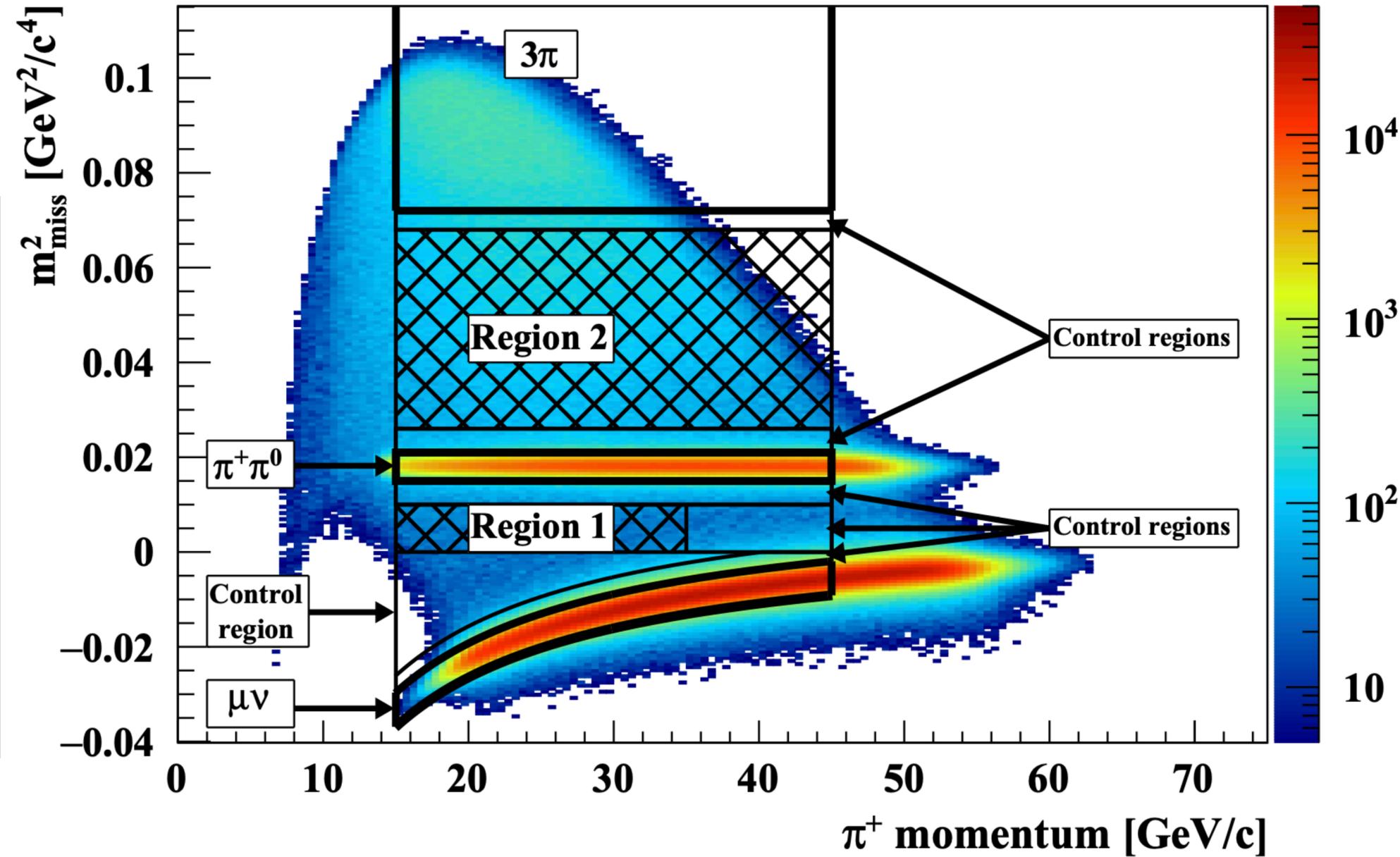
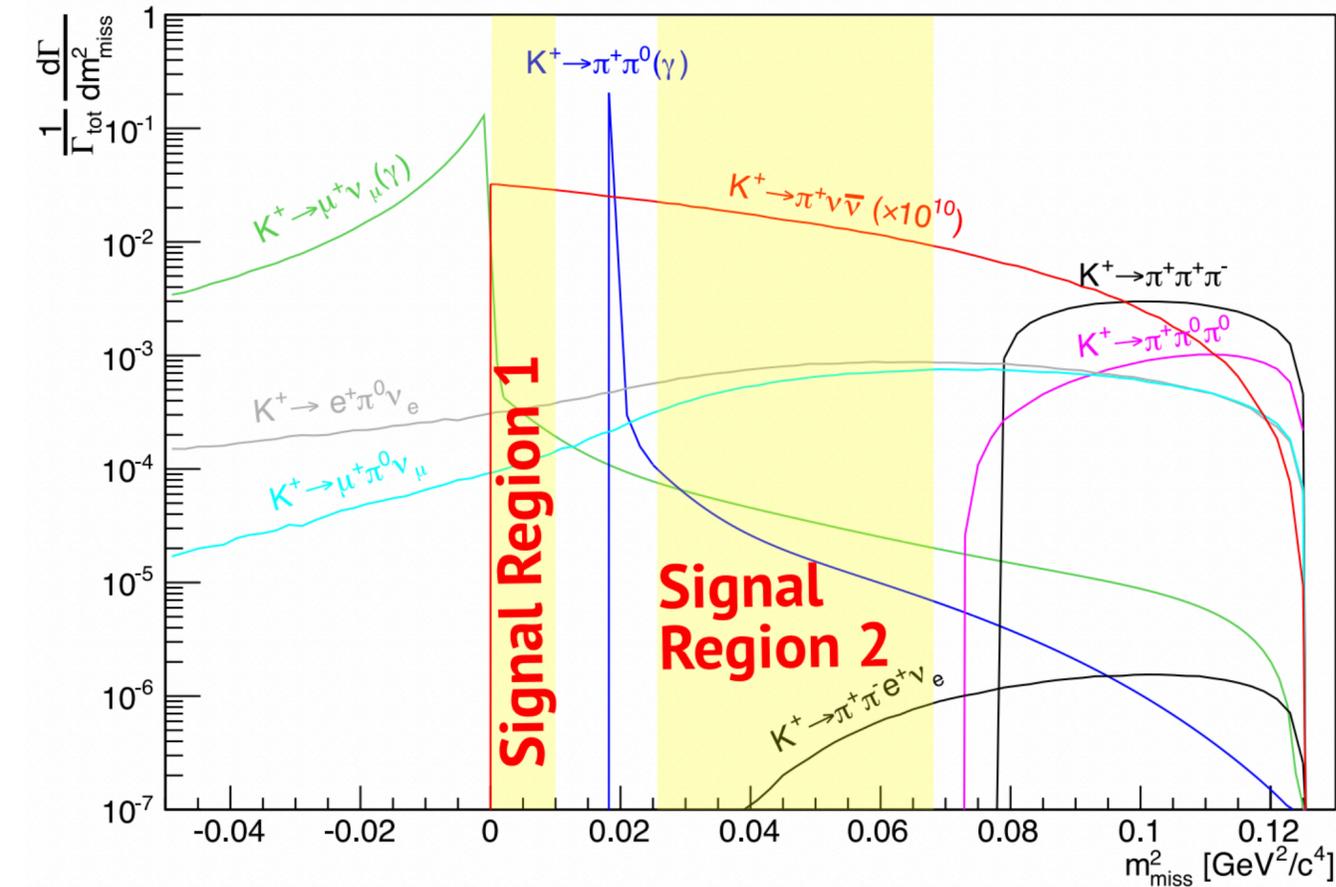
# Kinematic constraints & signal regions

$$m_{miss}^2 = (P_{K^+} - P_{\pi^+})^2$$



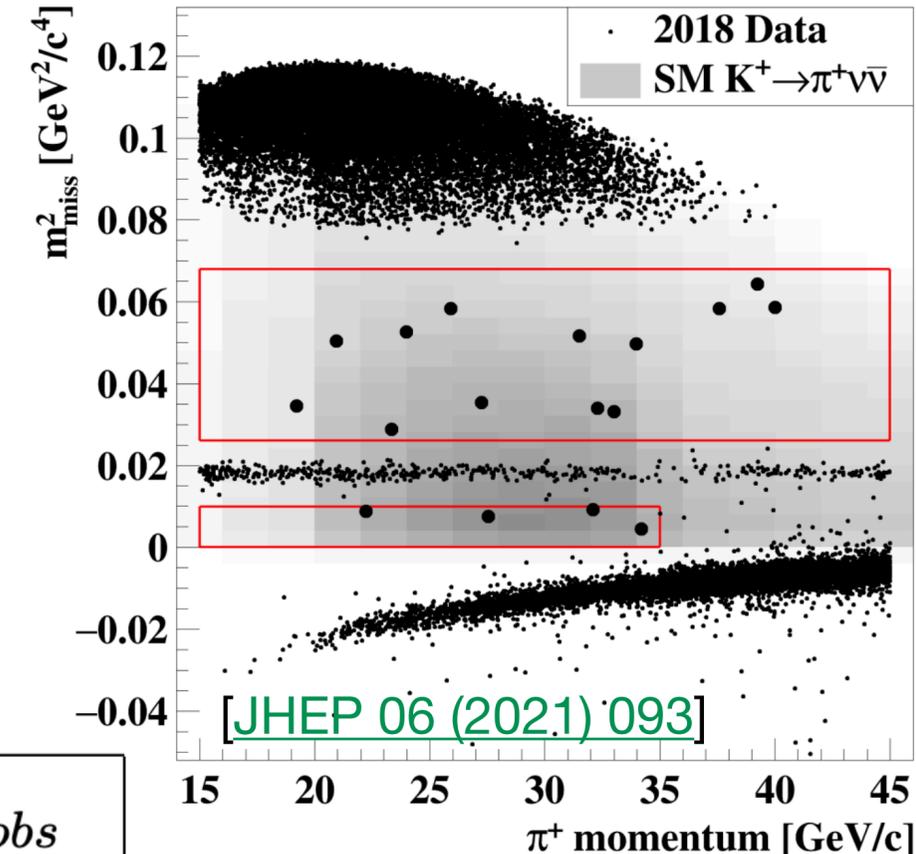
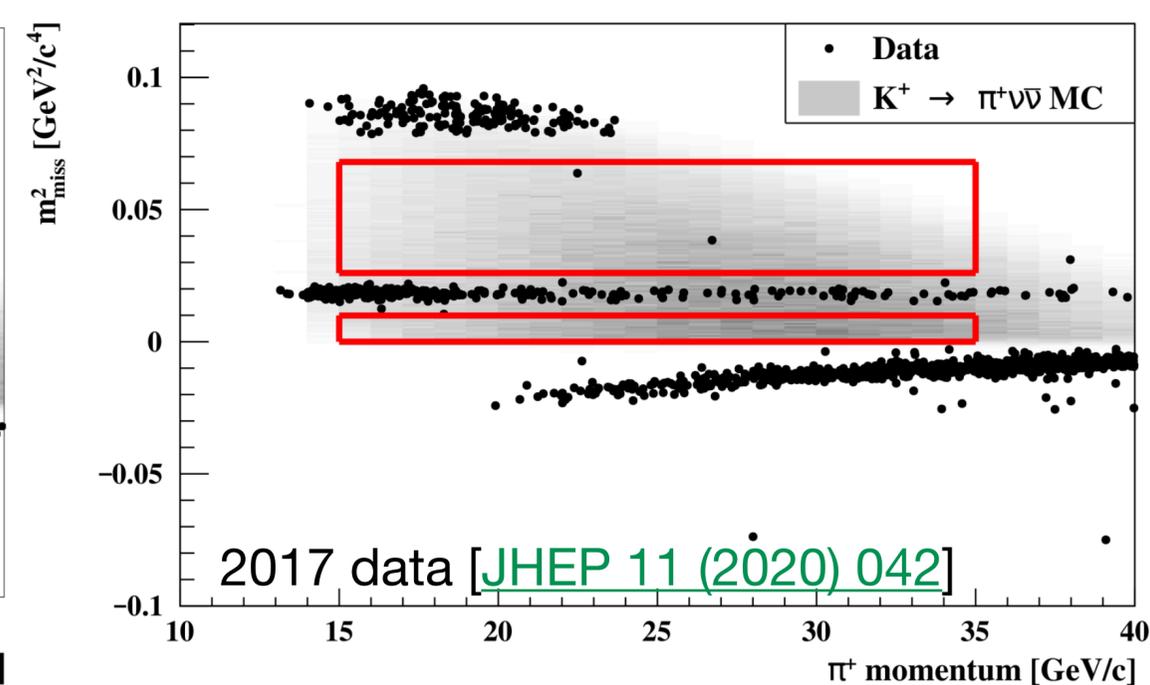
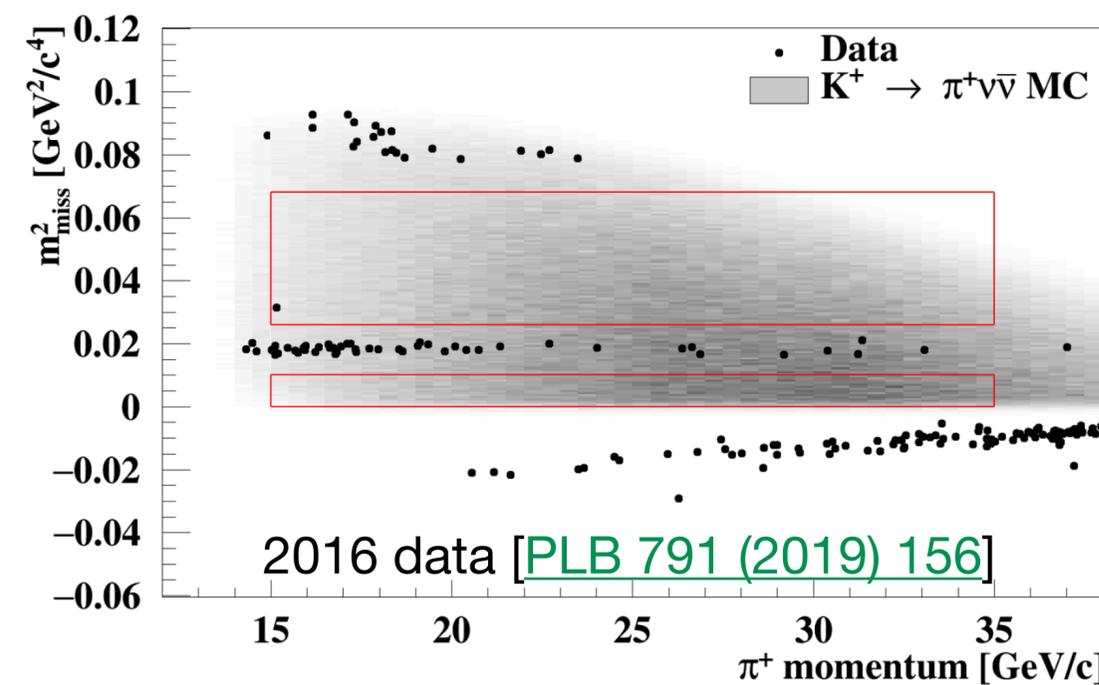
$\mathcal{O}(10^4)$  background suppression from kinematics

[JHEP 06 (2021) 093]



$\pi^+$  momentum range: 15–45 GeV/c

# The story so far: $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ with 2016–18 data



(\* $N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM,exp}$  assumes SM BR from [JHEP 11 (2015) 166])

Data-taking year	[Reference]	$N_{bg}$	$N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM,exp}$	$N_{obs}$
2016	[PLB 791 (2019) 156]	$0.152^{+0.093}_{-0.035}$	$0.267 \pm 0.020$	1
2017	[JHEP 11 (2020) 042]	$1.46 \pm 0.33$	$2.16 \pm 0.13$	2
2018	[JHEP 06 (2021) 093]	$5.42^{+0.99}_{-0.75}$	$7.58 \pm 0.40$	17
2016–18	[JHEP 06 (2021) 093]	$7.03^{+1.05}_{-0.82}$	$10.01 \pm 0.42$	20

Statistical combination:

$$\mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = \left( 10.6^{+4.0}_{-3.4} \Big|_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.9_{\text{syst}} \right) \times 10^{-11} \quad \text{at } 68\% \text{ CL}$$

In background-only hypothesis:  $p = 3.4 \times 10^{-4} \Rightarrow \text{significance} = 3.4\sigma$ .

# NA62 Detector, Upgrades & Performance

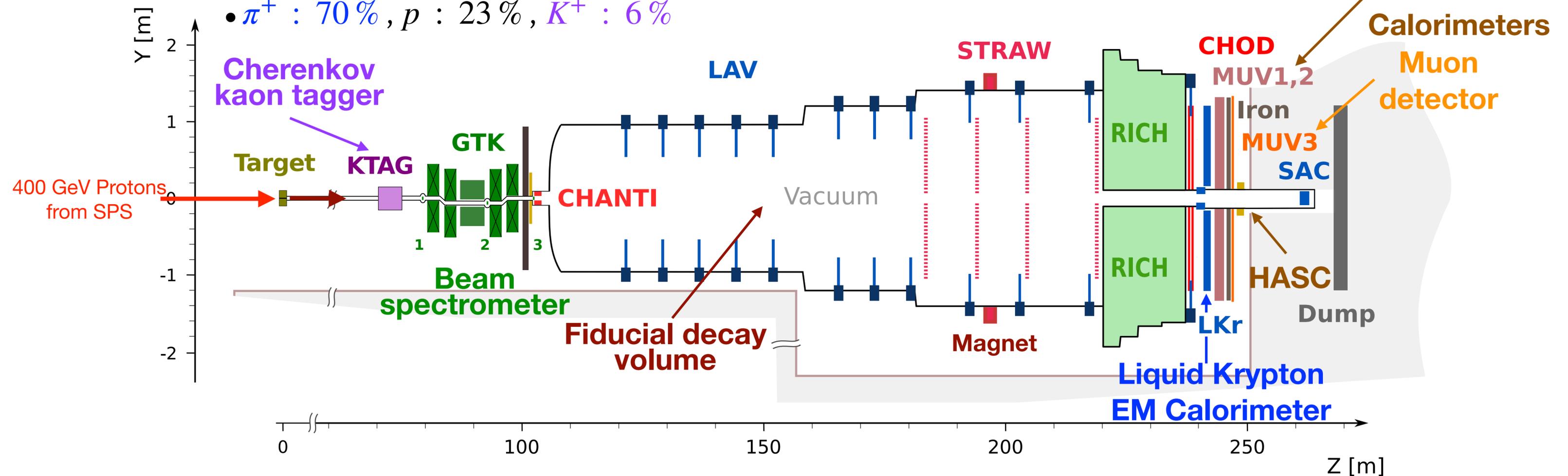
# NA62 beamline & detector

[JINST 12 (2017) 05, P05025]



Secondary 75 GeV/c beam:

- $\pi^+$  : 70% ,  $p$  : 23% ,  $K^+$  : 6%



- Designed & optimised for study of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  :
  - Particle tracking: beam particle (GTK) & downstream tracks (STRAW)
  - PID:  $K^+$  - KTAG,  $\pi^+$  - RICH, Calorimeters (LKr, MUV1,2), MUV3 ( $\mu$  detector)
  - Comprehensive veto systems: CHANTI (beam interactions), LAV, LKr, IRC, SAC ( $\gamma$ )

# Particle ID performance : 2021–22 data

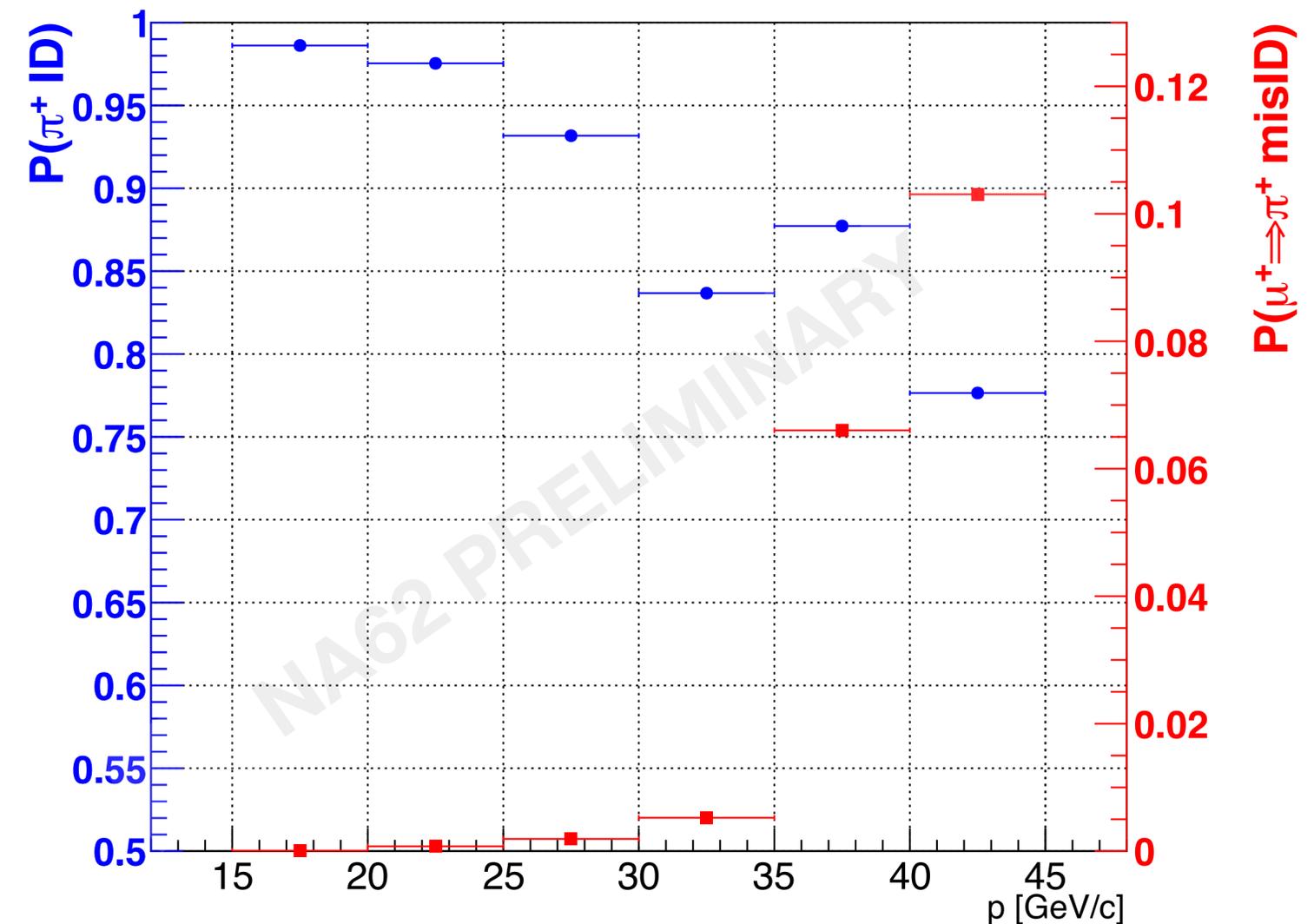
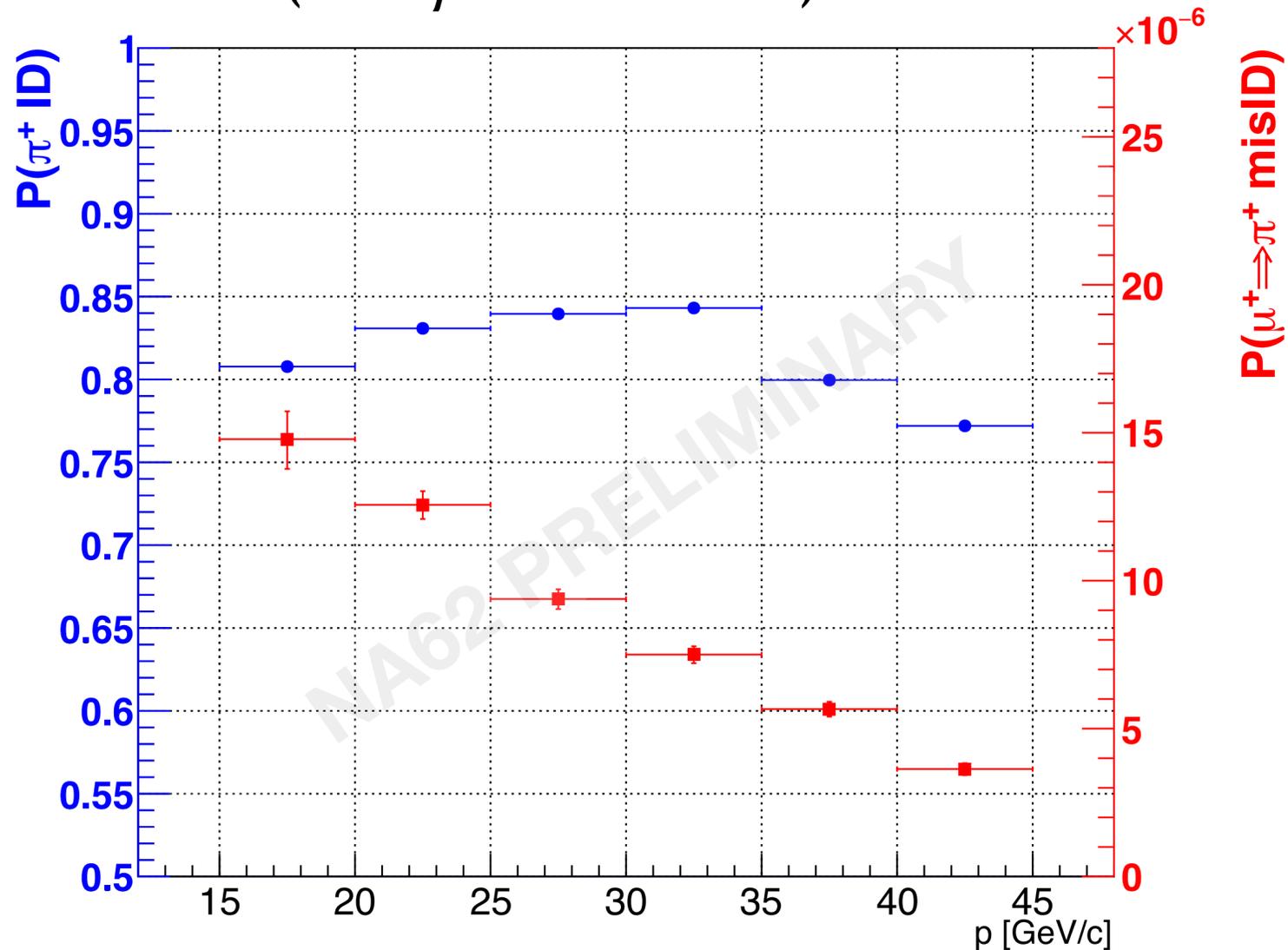


## Calorimeters

## RICH

- Use BDT classifier for LKr & MUV1,2
- + MUV3 (fast  $\mu^+$  detector)

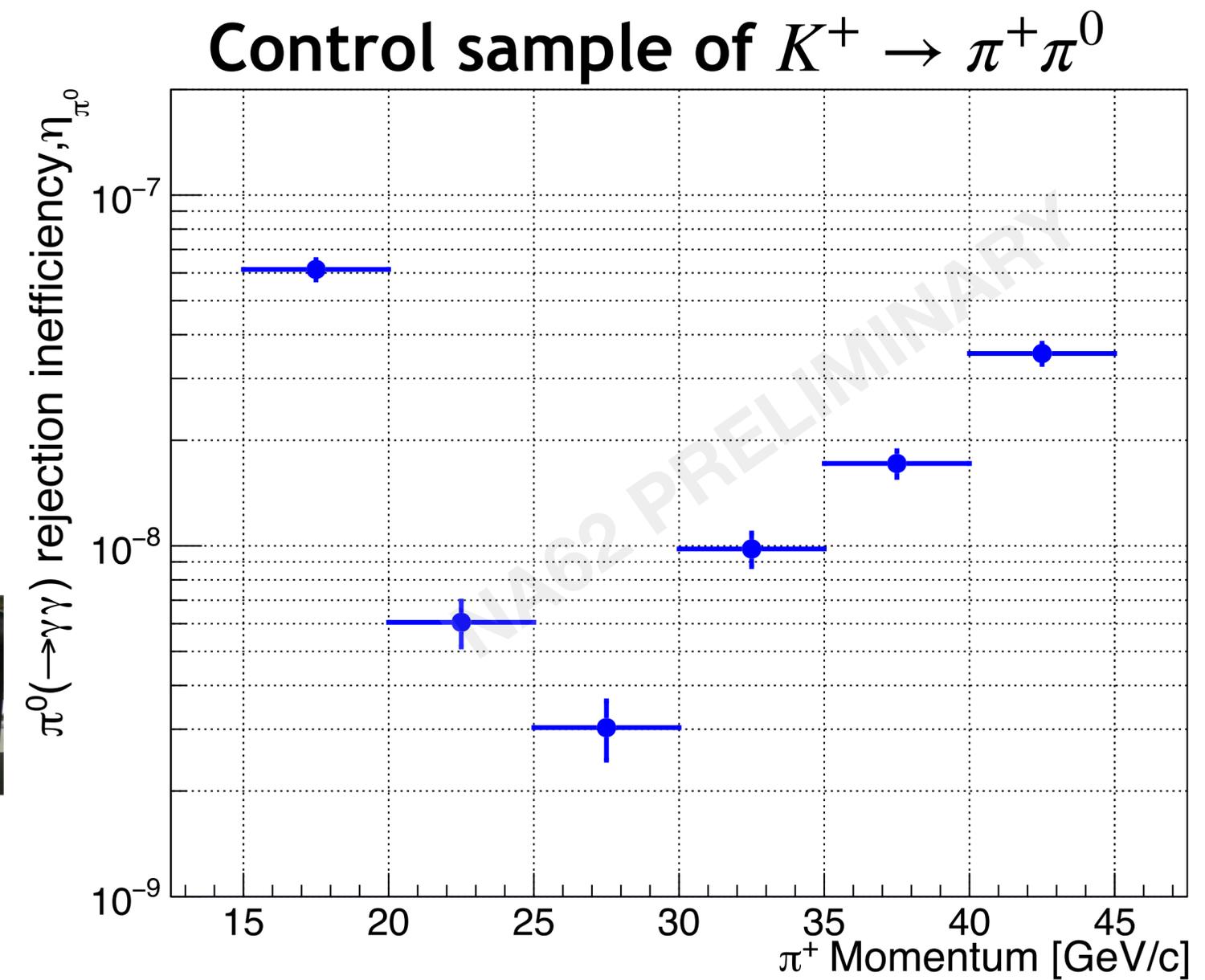
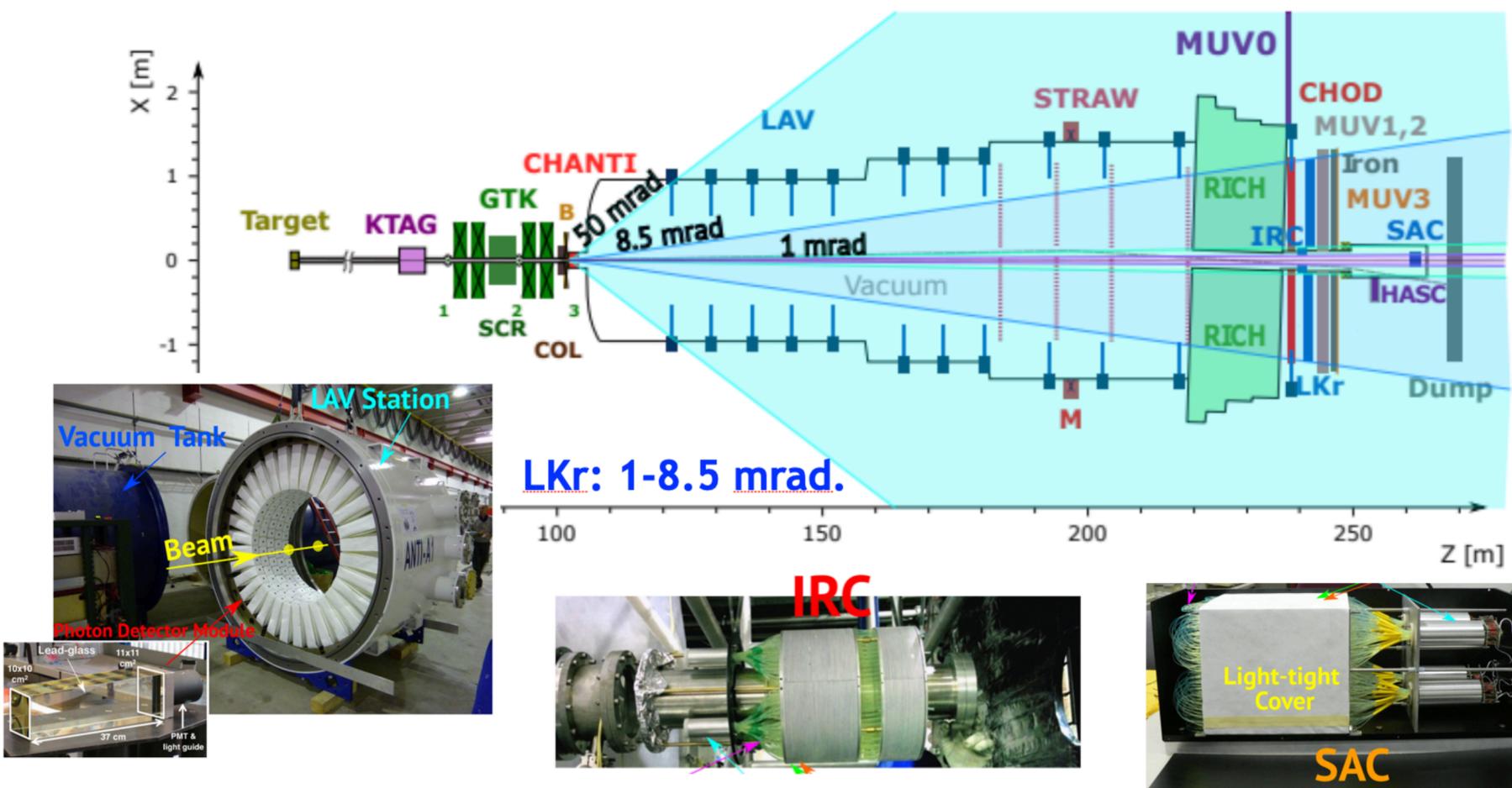
Designed to distinguish between  $\pi^+/\mu^+$  with 15 – 35 GeV/c.



$$\varepsilon(\pi \text{ ID}) = (73.00 \pm 0.01) \%$$

$$P(\mu^+ \text{ misID as } \pi^+) = (1.3 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-8}$$

# Comprehensive photon veto system: 2021–22



• Probability of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ ,  $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  events passing all photon veto conditions:  $\eta_{\pi^0} = (1.72 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{-8}$

• Meets target: combined  $\gamma/\pi^0$  rejection of  $\mathcal{O}(10^8)$ .

# Upgrading NA62



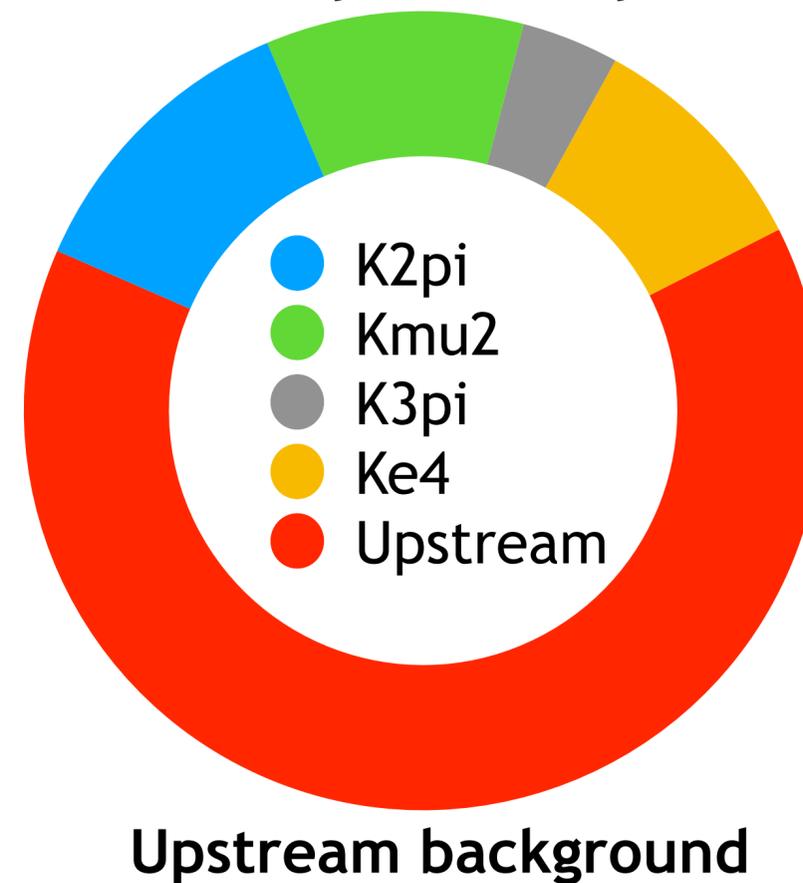
- 2016–18 analysis proved NA62 technique.
- Limitation: tight cuts to reject backgrounds  $\Rightarrow$  reduces signal efficiency.
- To improve: need new tools to control background.

# Upgrading NA62

- 2016–18 analysis proved NA62 technique.
- Limitation: tight cuts to reject backgrounds  $\Rightarrow$  reduces signal efficiency.
- To improve: need new tools to control background.

Background	N(exp) 2018 (S2)
Upstream	$2.76^{+0.90}_{-0.70}$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$	$0.52 \pm 0.05$
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$	$0.45 \pm 0.06$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu$	$0.41 \pm 0.10$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	$0.17 \pm 0.08$
<b>Total</b>	$4.31^{+0.91}_{-0.72}$

$K^+$  decays in decay tank



**Largest backgrounds:**

1. **Upstream**
2.  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$

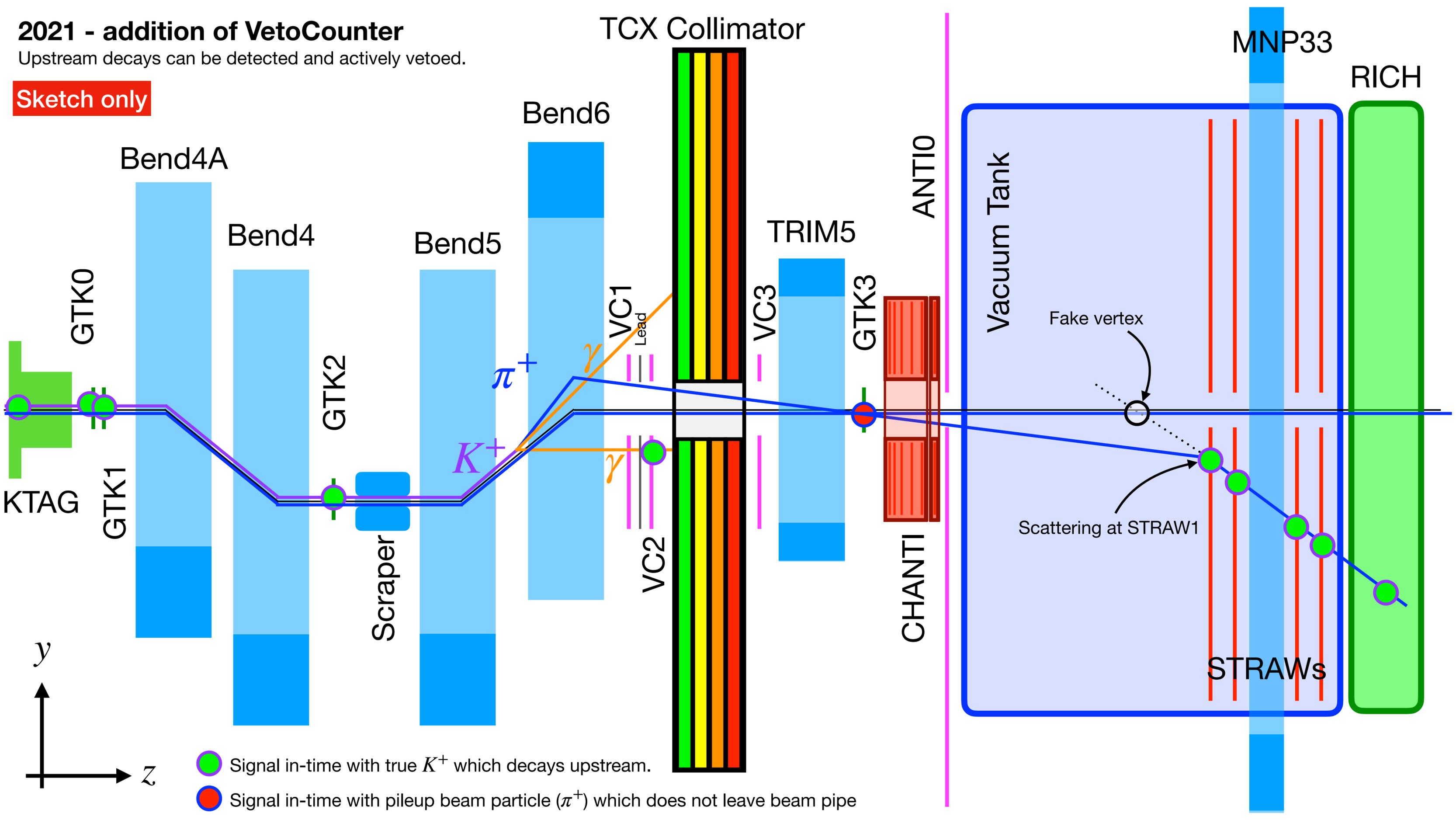
**Veto by detecting previously missed particles...**



# 2021 - addition of VetoCounter

Upstream decays can be detected and actively vetoed.

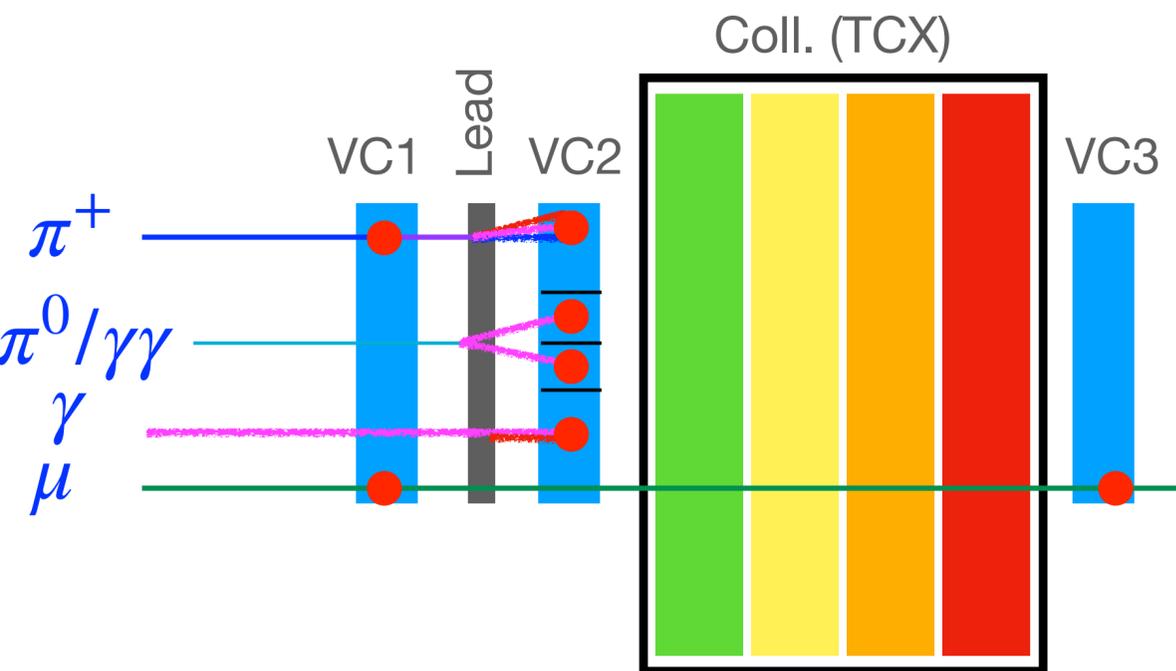
Sketch only



# New upstream vetos: VetoCounter & ANTI0



[FELIX readout: [Streaming Readout Workshop talk 2021](#)]



## VetoCounter

- Detect particles from decays upstream of final collimator.
- **Factor ~3 rejection** with ~2% accidental veto.

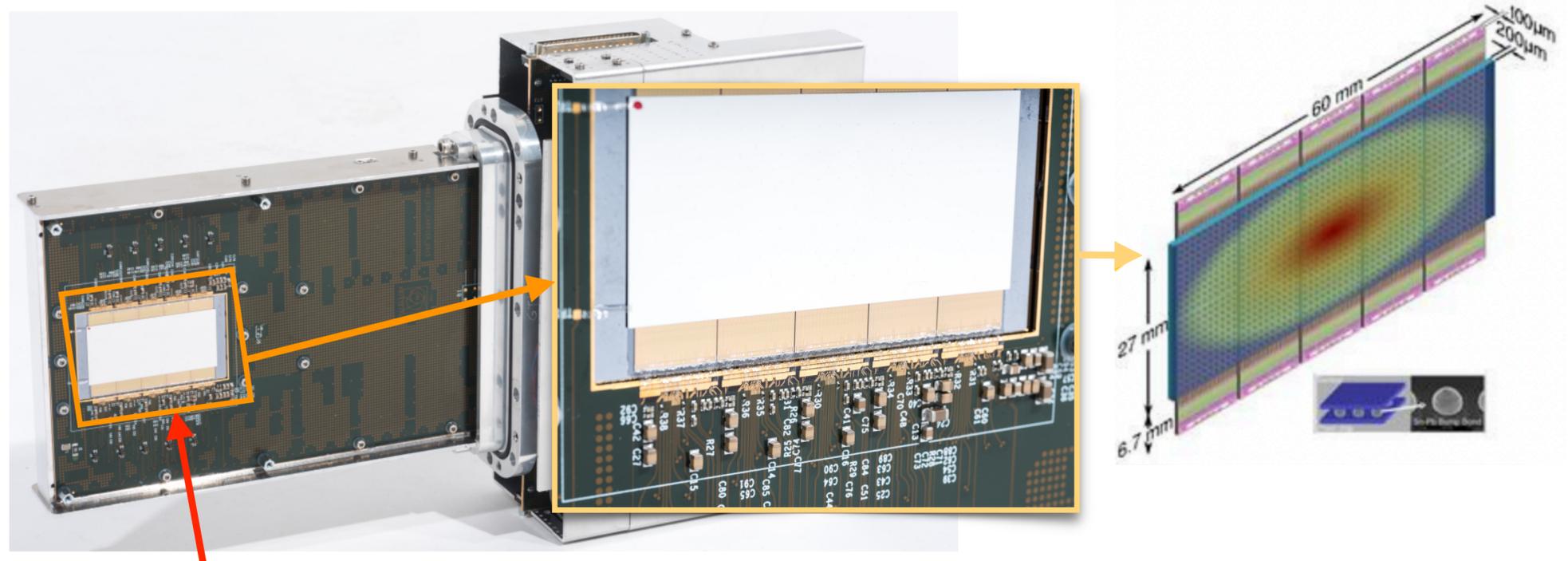
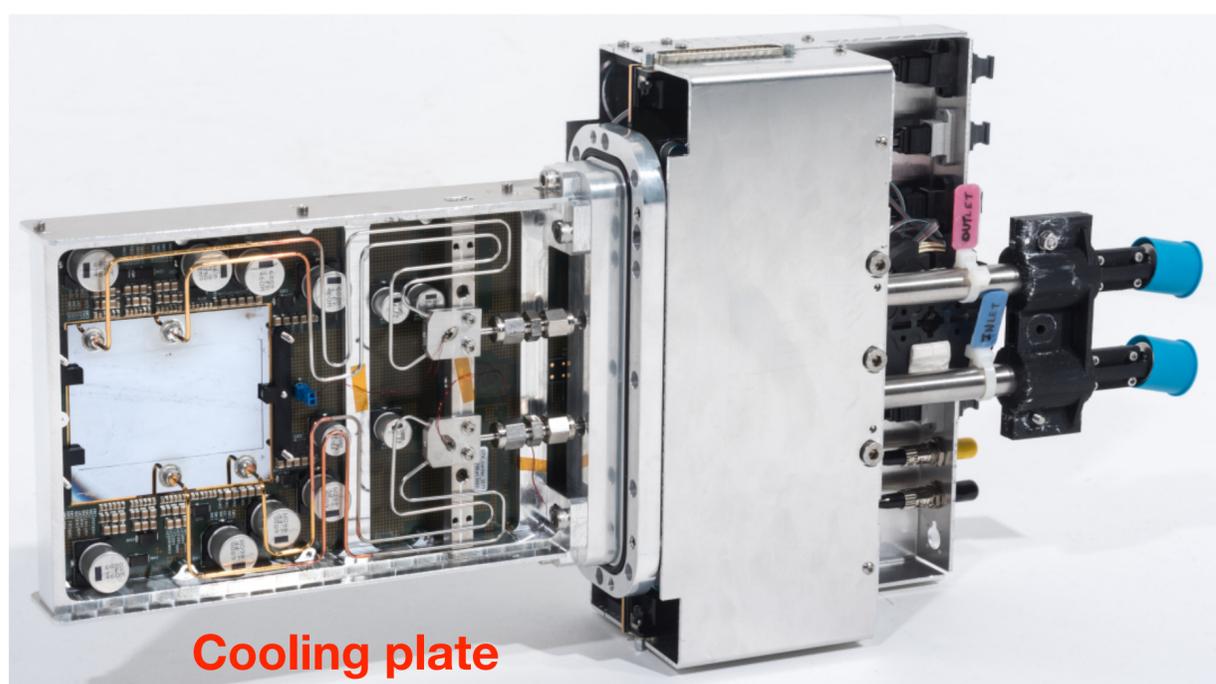
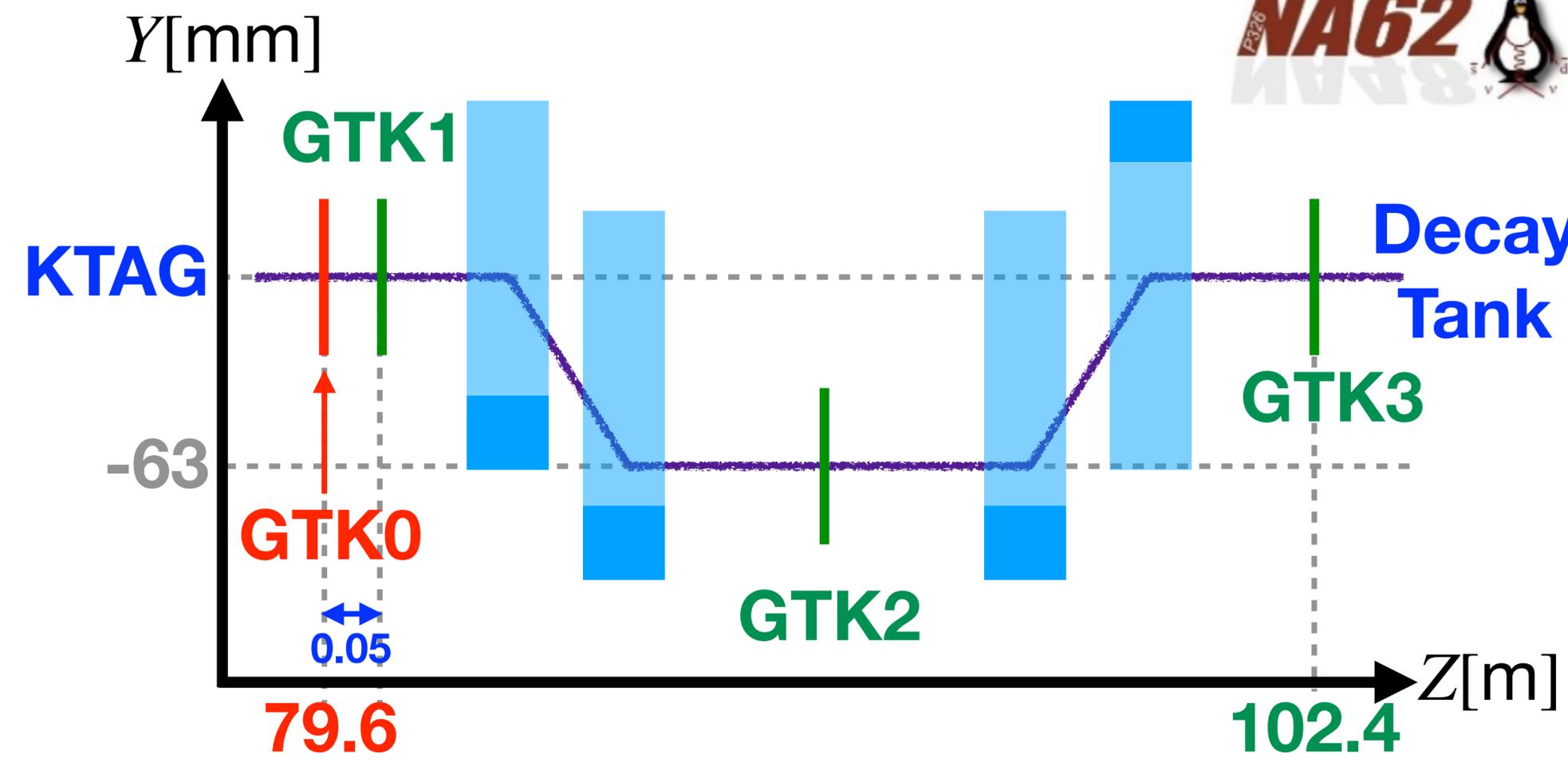
## ANTI0

- Detect particles up to ~1 m from beam line.
- **Reject ~20% of upstream background** with <1% signal loss.

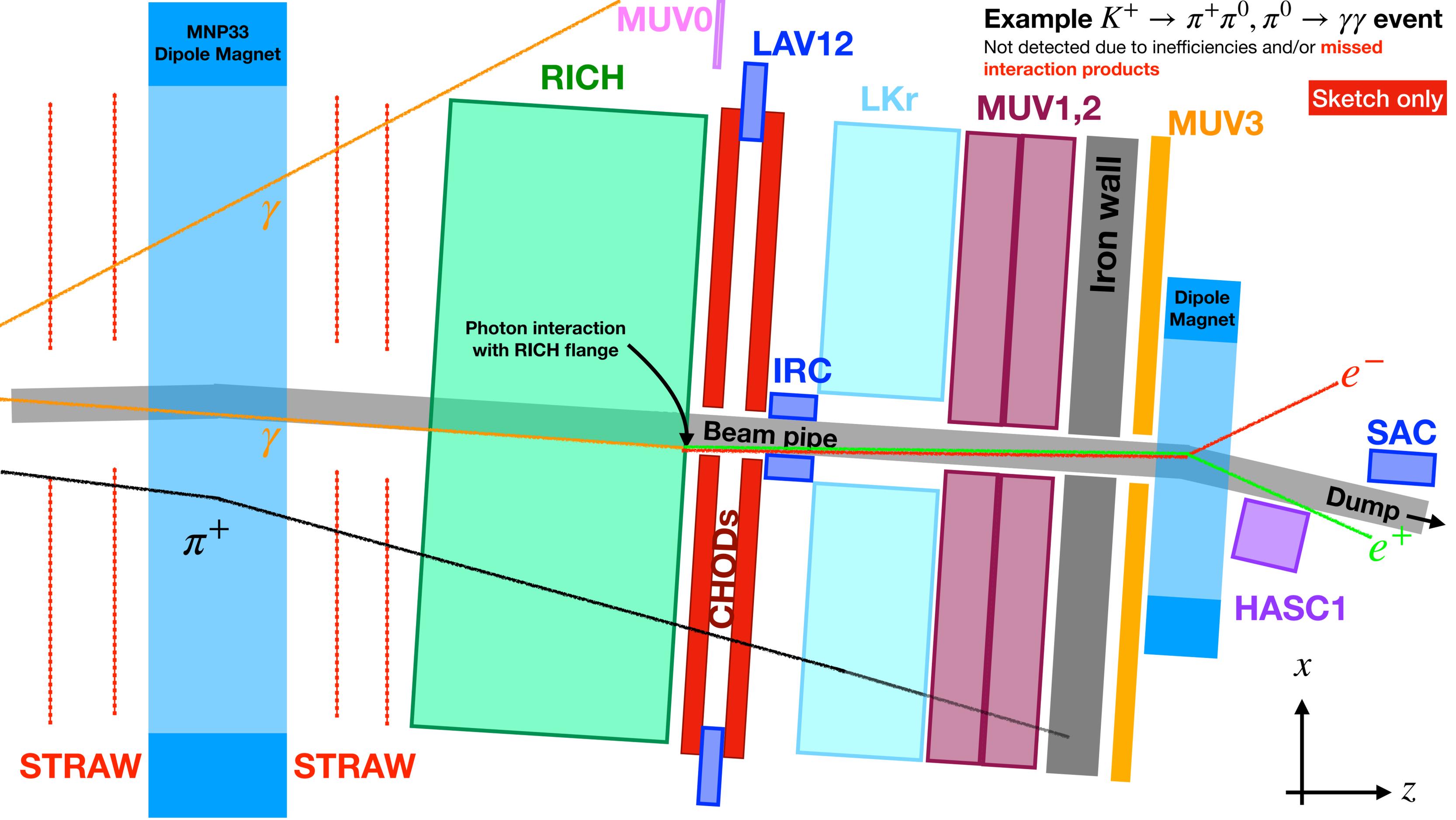


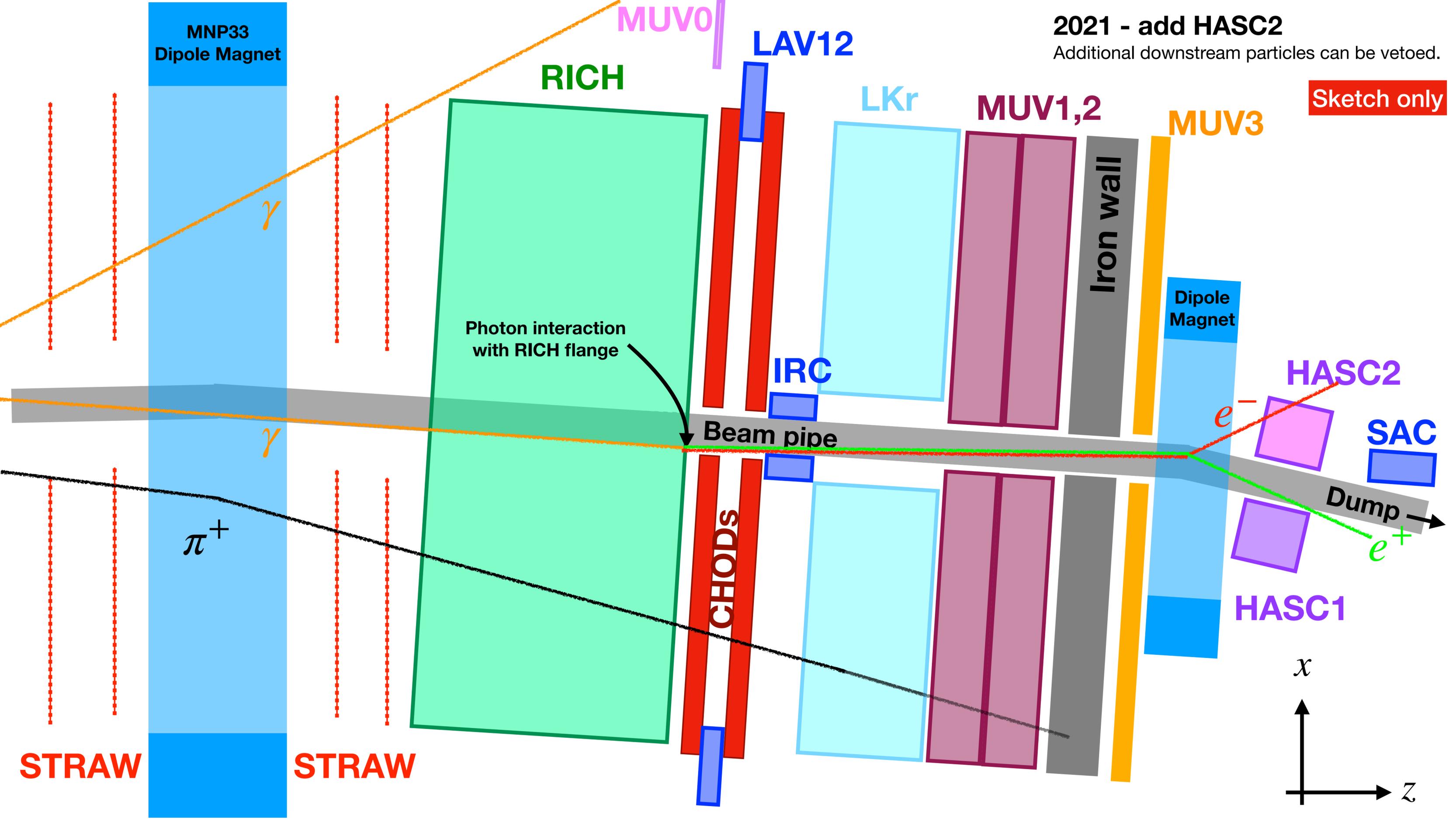
# 4th GTK station

- Si Pixel detector exposed to ~1GHz beam.
- Essential for  $K^+ - \pi^+$  matching.
  - Measures  $K^+$  3-mom. & time
- 4th GTK station improves efficiency & pileup resilience.



Si Pixels ~(30x60 mm active area)





# HASC2 veto

- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$  was 2<sup>nd</sup> largest background for 2018 analysis.

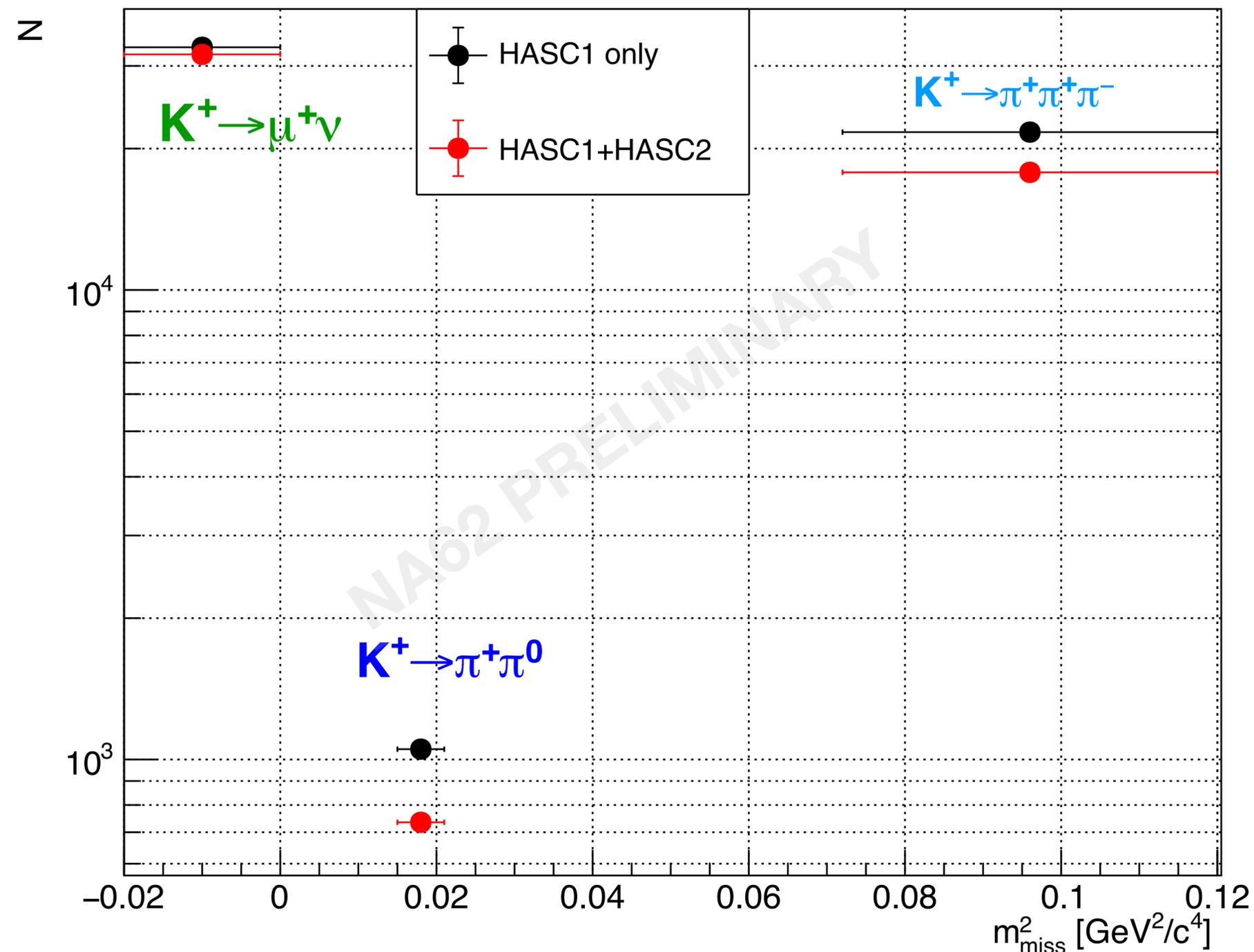
- Addition of HASC2:

- 30% less  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$
- 18% less  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$
- 3.5% less  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$

- with only 1.5% signal loss.

## Events passing $\pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ selection

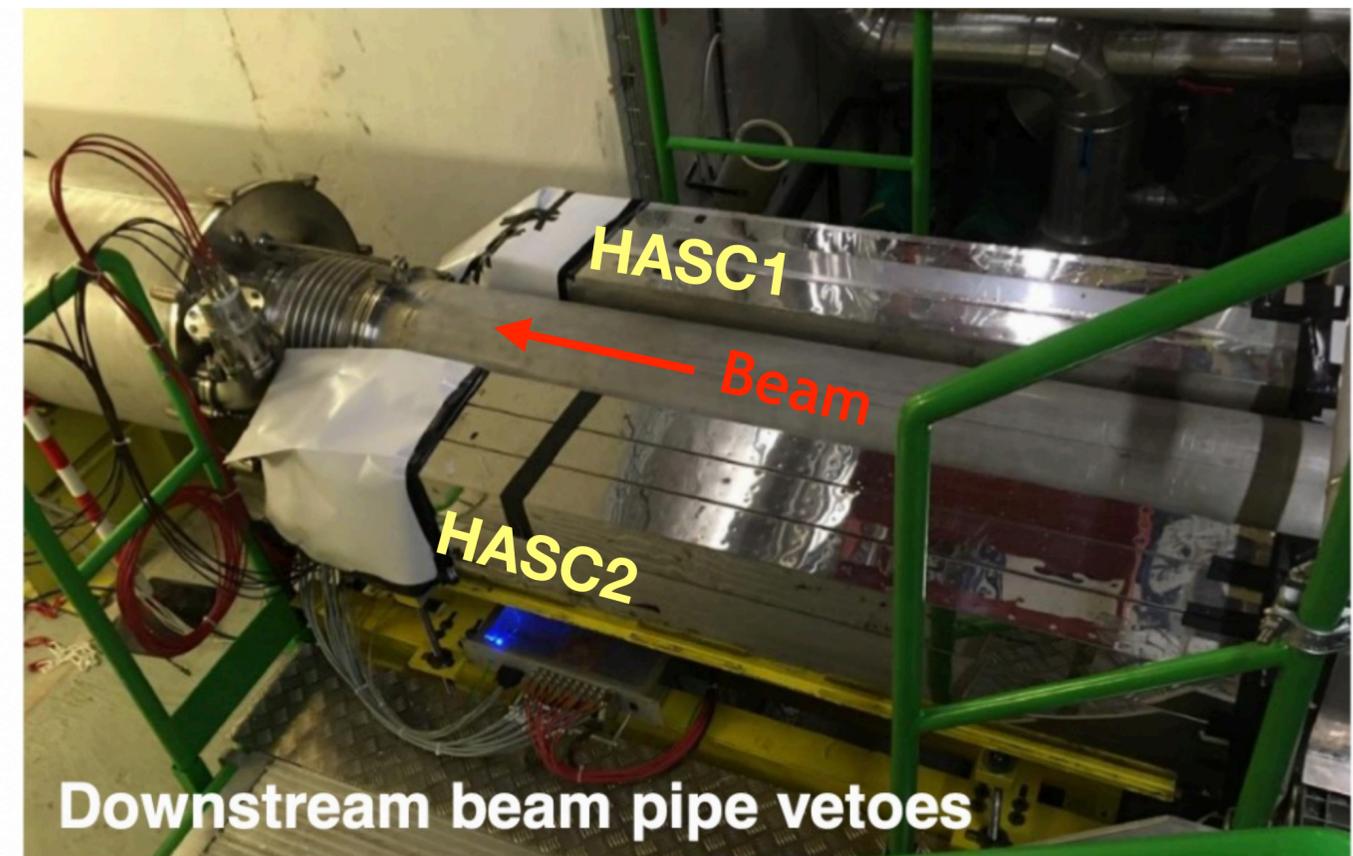
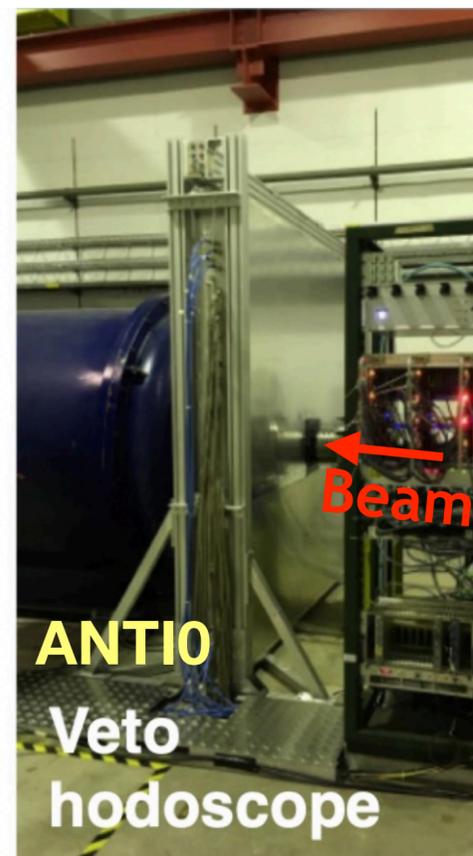
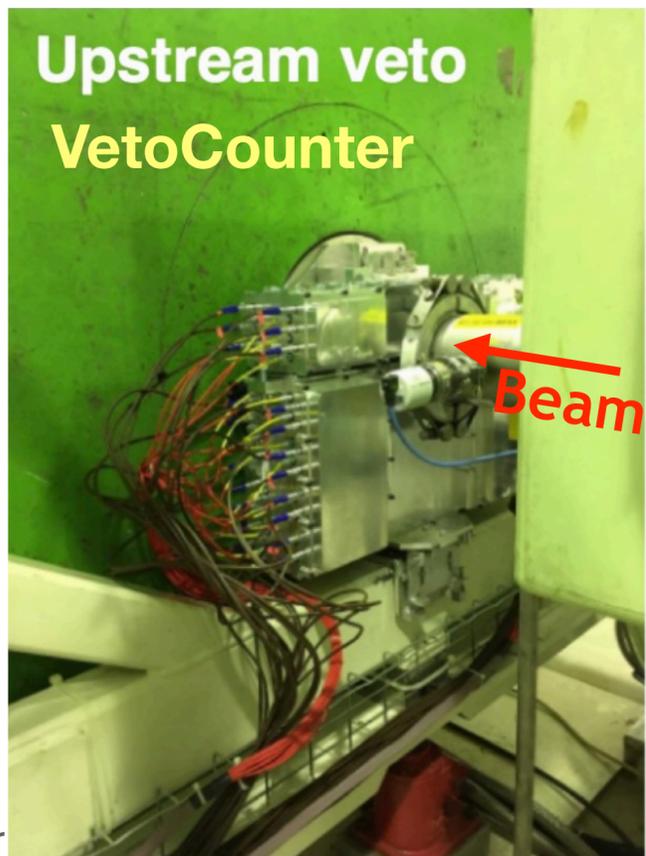
(modifying HASC veto: study integral of background regions)



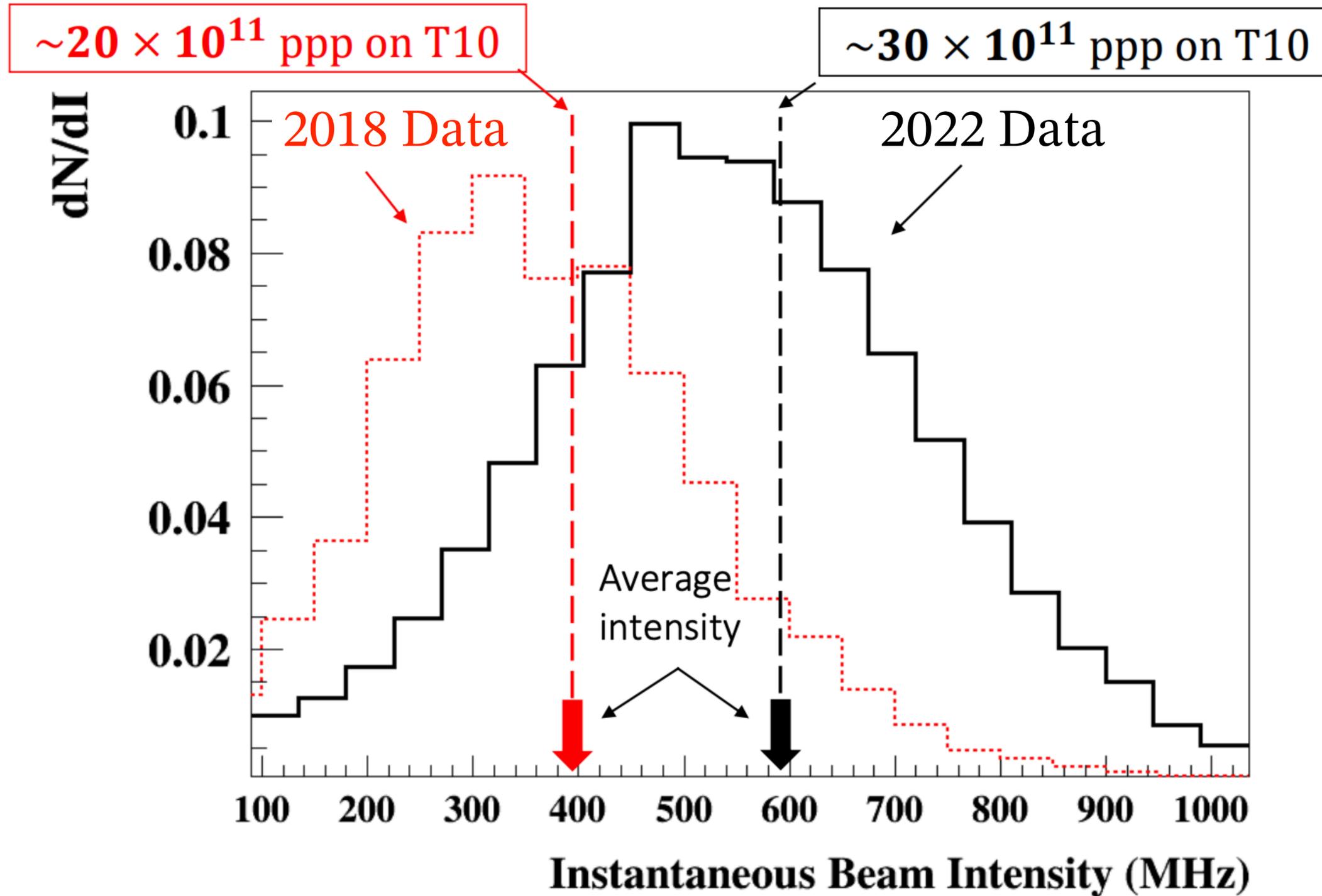
# Summary of NA62 upgrades

- New detectors, installed during LS2:
  - 4th GTK (Kaon beam tracker) & rearrange GTK achromat (GTK2 upstream of scraper).
  - New upstream veto (**VetoCounter**) & veto hodoscope (**ANTI0**) upstream of decay volume.
  - Additional veto detector (**HASC2**) at end of beam-line.
- Intensity increased by  $\sim 35\%$  with respect to 2018 [450  $\rightarrow$  600 MHz].
- Improvements to the trigger configuration.

New detectors  
installed in 2021:



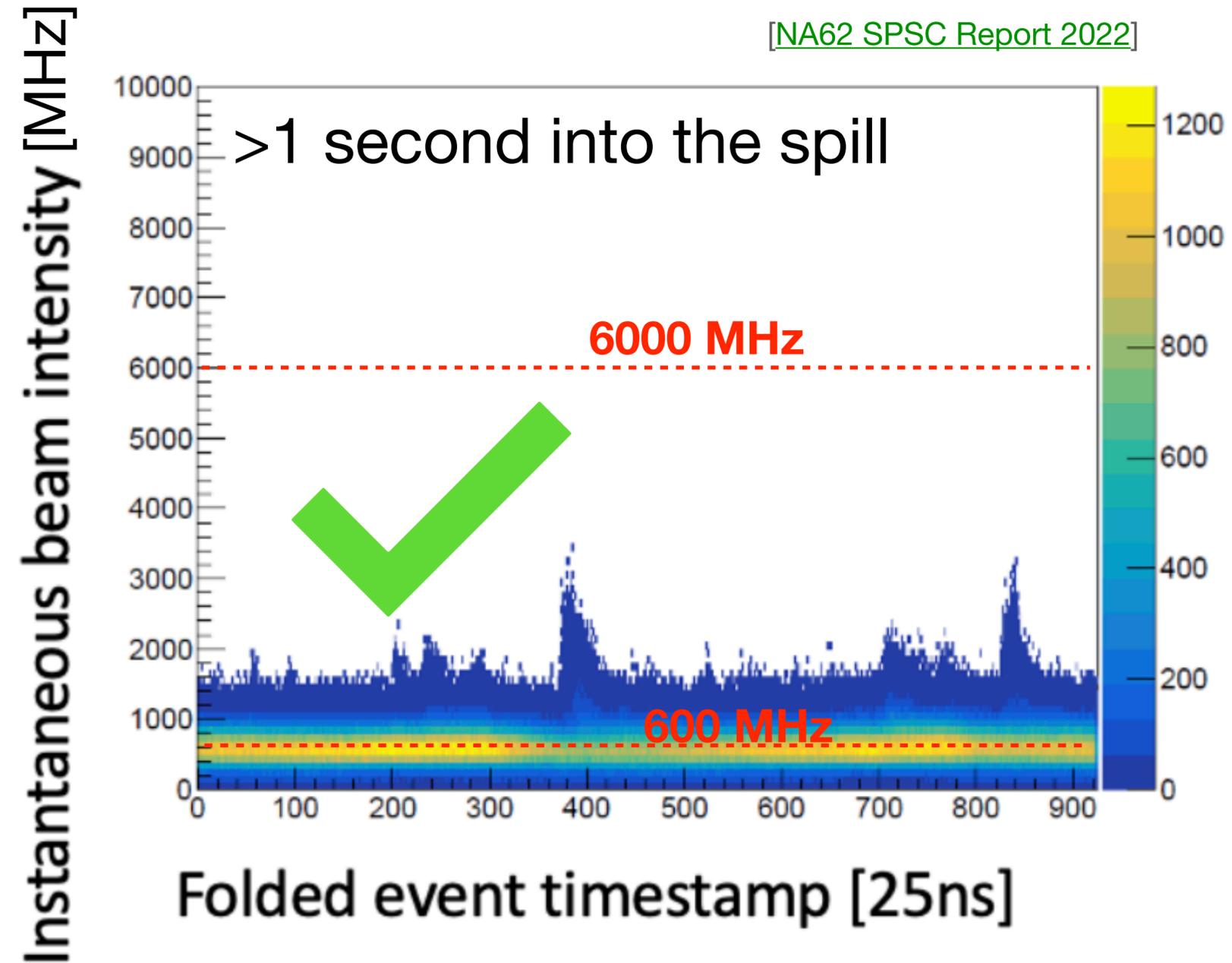
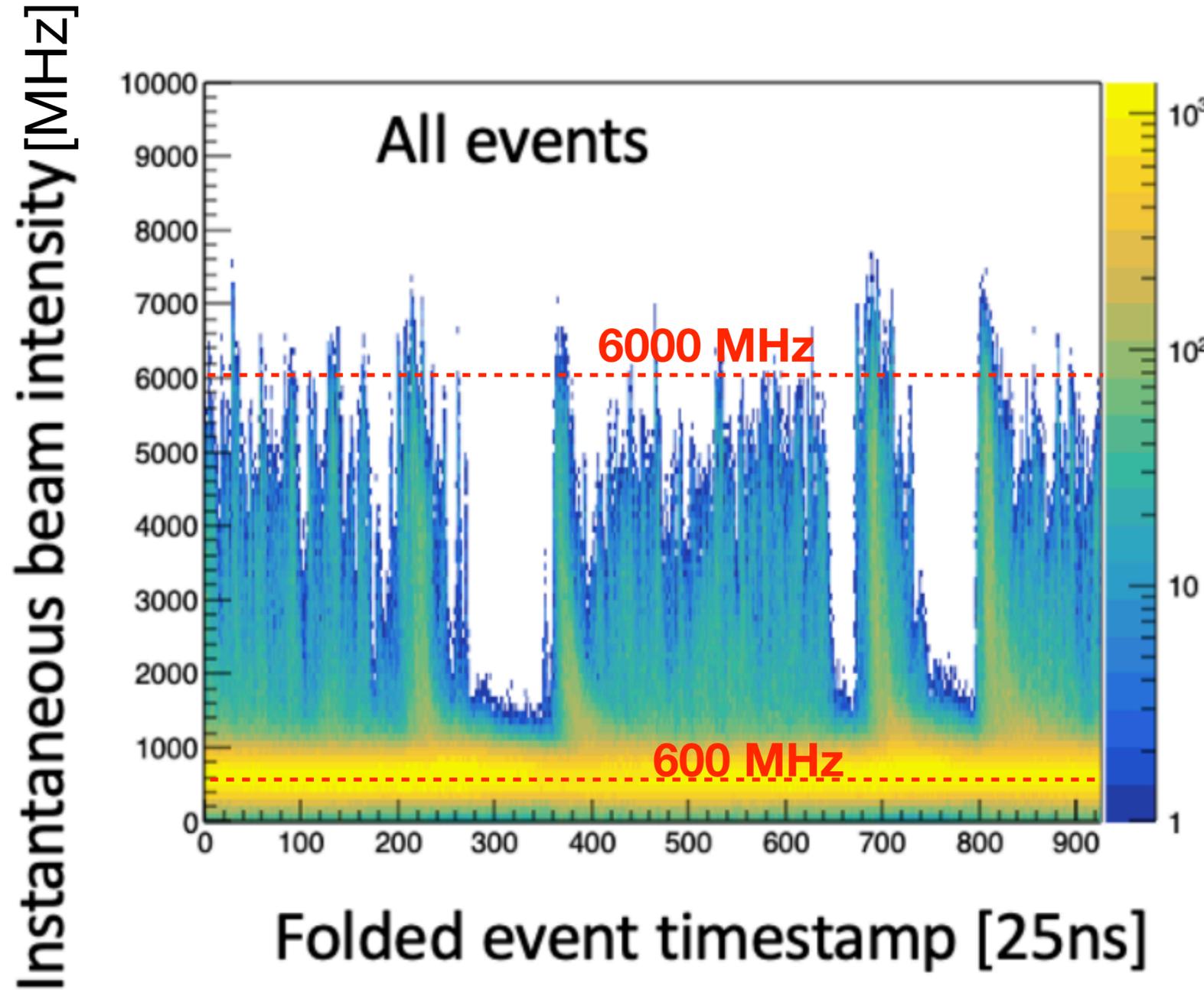
# Beam intensity: 2018 vs 2022



- Average beam intensity increased.
- NA62 “Full intensity” with 4.8s spill = 600 MHz

# 2021 instantaneous beam intensity

[NA62 SPSC Report 2022]



- Remove events in first 1s of 4.8s spill for 2021 data only.
- DAQ overwhelmed by instantaneous rates up to 10x higher than design.

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  : Analysis of new data

2021–2022 data : Signal Sensitivity

## Triggers:

- **Minimum Bias:**  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$
- **Normalisation:**  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$
- **Signal:**  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  candidates

- RICH multiplicity (reference time)
- Signal in CHODs
- No signal in MUV3 ( $\mu$  veto)
- Tag  $K^+$  ( $\geq 5$  KTAG sectors)
- $<40$  GeV in LKr ( $\pi^0/\gamma/e$  veto)
- LAV veto (downstream of vertex).

Common conditions

+ add more conditions

## Selection:

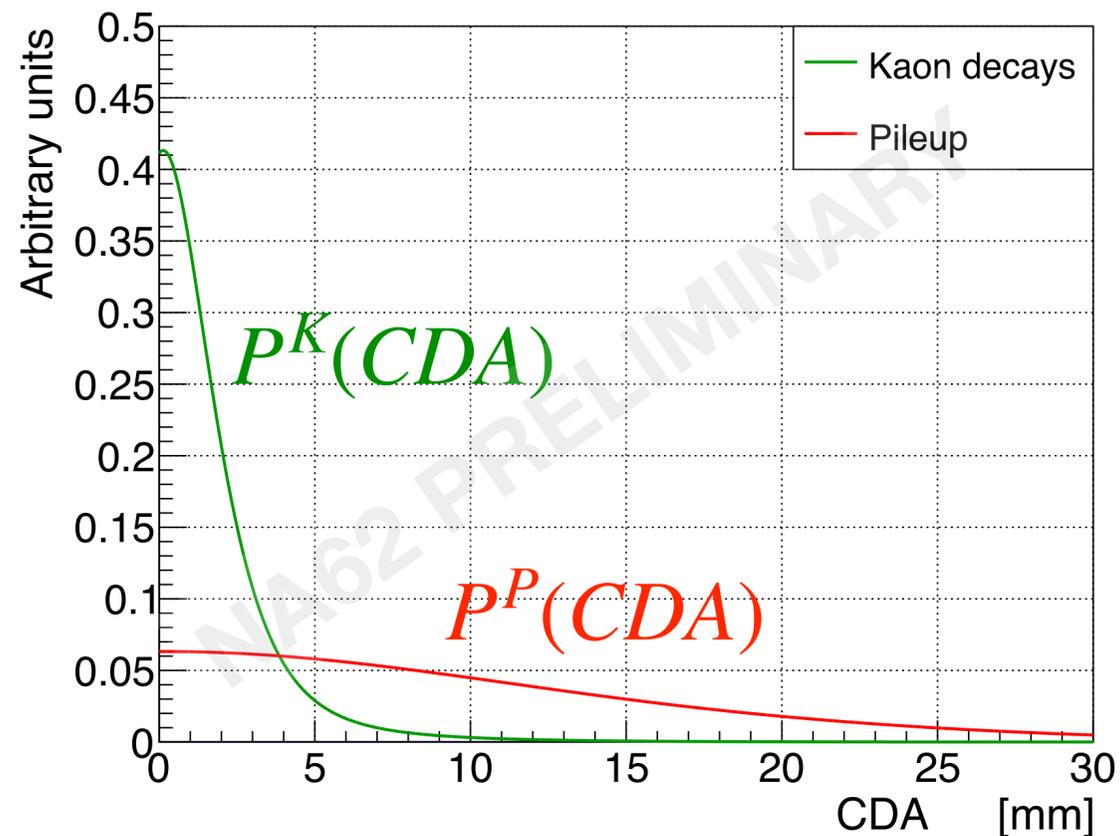
- **Normalisation**  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ : 1 downstream track (only); identified as  $\pi^+$ ;  $K^+ - \pi^+$  matching (space & time); upstream vetos.
- **Signal**  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  candidates: same as normalisation selection + full photon and detector multiplicity cuts (reject all extra activity).

# Bayesian classifier for $K^+ - \pi^+$ matching

Example of selection update

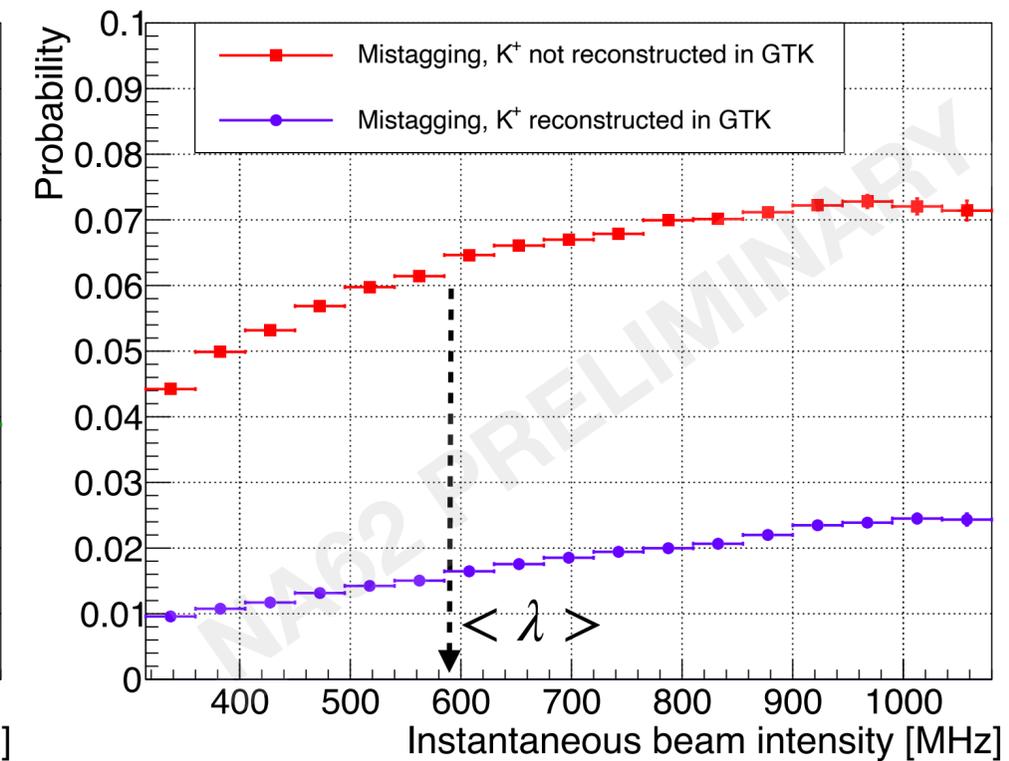
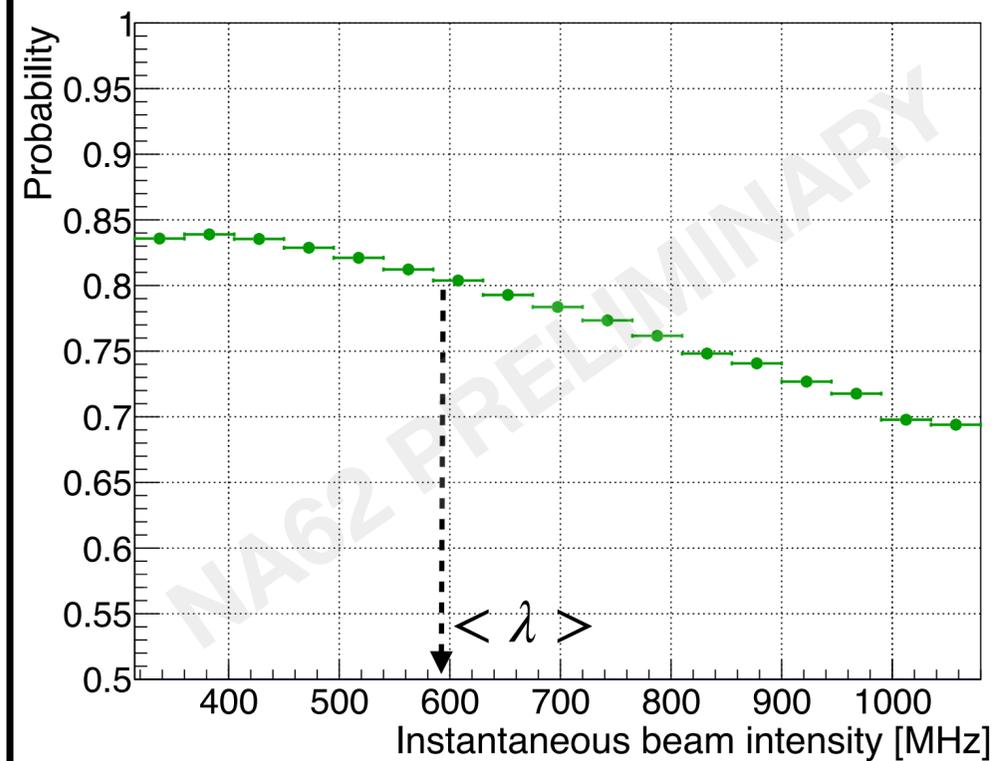


- **Inputs:** spatial (CDA) & time ( $\Delta T_+$ ) matching, intensity/pileup ( $N_{GTK}$ ) [prior]
- Models for PDFs/Prior from  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$  data.



- **Output:** posterior probability of GTK track = true  $K^+$ 
  - Use likelihoods of kaons (K) and pileup (P)
  - Likelihood ratio used to select true match when  $N_{GTK} > 1$

$\epsilon = 80\%$       $P^P_{\text{mistag}} = 6\%$       $P^K_{\text{mistag}} = 2\%$



- Efficiency improved (+10%) and mistagging probability maintained.

# Signal sensitivity

- Normalisation channel:  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$ , momentum range  $p \in [15,45] \text{ GeV}/c$ .

Effective number of  $K^+$  decays,  $N_K$ :

$$N_K = \frac{N_{\pi\pi} D_0}{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\pi} A_{\pi\pi}}$$

Number of normalisation events  $\rightarrow N_{\pi\pi} D_0$   
 Downscaling factor of normalisation trigger (generally 400)  $\rightarrow D_0$   
 Branching ratio of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$  decay  $\rightarrow \mathcal{B}_{\pi\pi}$   
 Acceptance of normalisation selection  $\rightarrow A_{\pi\pi}$

Single event sensitivity:

(Branching ratio corresponding to expectation of 1 event)

$$\mathcal{B}_{SES} = \frac{1}{N_K \epsilon_{RV} \epsilon_{trig} A_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}}$$

Random veto efficiency  $\rightarrow \epsilon_{RV}$

Trigger efficiency (ratio)  $\rightarrow \epsilon_{trig}$

Signal selection acceptance  $\rightarrow A_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}$

Number of expected SM events:

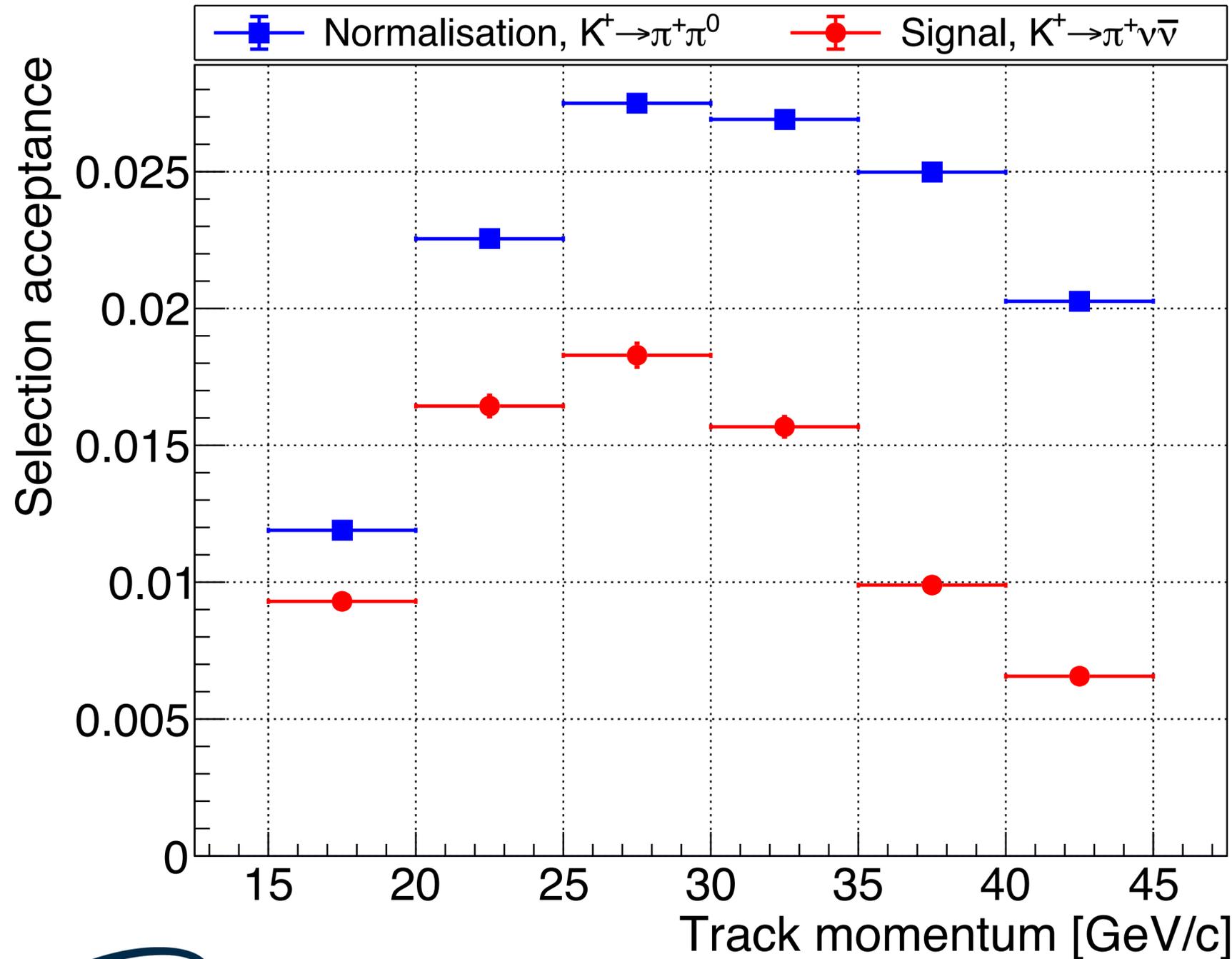
(For comparison to previous results use  $\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM} = 8.4 \times 10^{-11}$  [[JHEP 11 \(2015\) 166](#)], but results are independent of this choice)

$$N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM} = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}}{\mathcal{B}_{SES}}$$

# Acceptances

Analysis is performed in (5 GeV/c) bins of momentum:

$$N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{exp}(p_i) = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}}{\mathcal{B}_{SES}(p_i)} = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}}{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\pi}} \frac{A_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}(p_i)}{A_{\pi\pi}(p_i)} D_0 N_{\pi\pi}(p_i) \varepsilon_{trig}(p_i) \varepsilon_{RV}$$



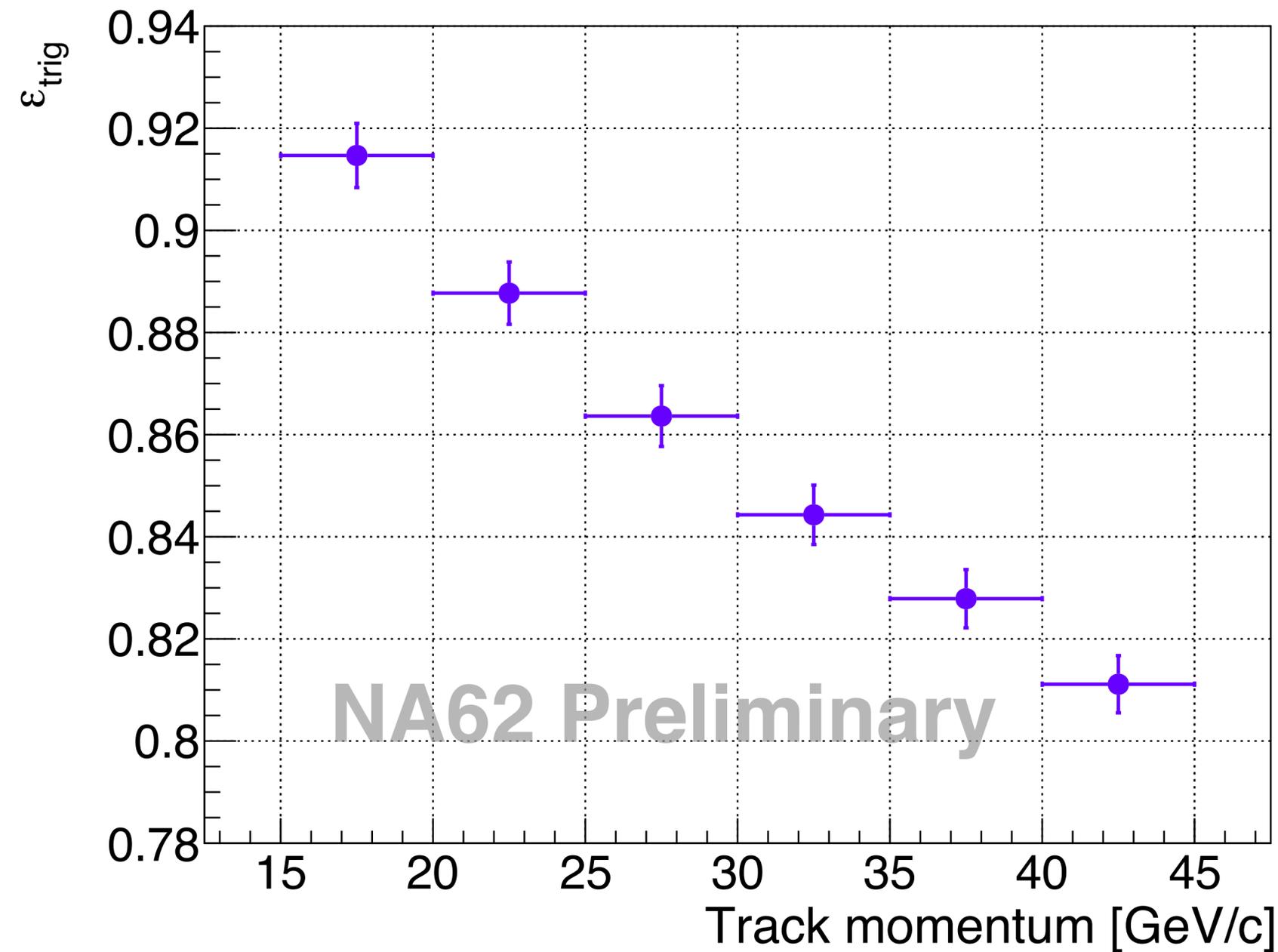
Case	OLD 2018 (S2)	NEW 2021–22	
Norm.	11.8%	13.4%	+15%
Signal	$(6.37 \pm 0.64)\%$	$(7.61 \pm 0.18)\%$	+20%

- Increased selection efficiencies.
  - New K-pi matching technique.
  - Re-tuned vertex conditions.
  - Relaxation of some vetos.
- Improved precision (plus improved systematic uncertainty evaluation).

# Trigger efficiencies

Analysis is performed in (5 GeV/c) bins of momentum:

$$N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{exp}(p_i) = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}}{\mathcal{B}_{SES}(p_i)} = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}}{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\pi}} \frac{A_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}(p_i)}{A_{\pi\pi}(p_i)} D_0 N_{\pi\pi}(p_i) \epsilon_{trig}(p_i) \epsilon_{RV}$$



$$\epsilon_{trig} = \frac{\epsilon_{sig}}{\epsilon_{norm}}$$

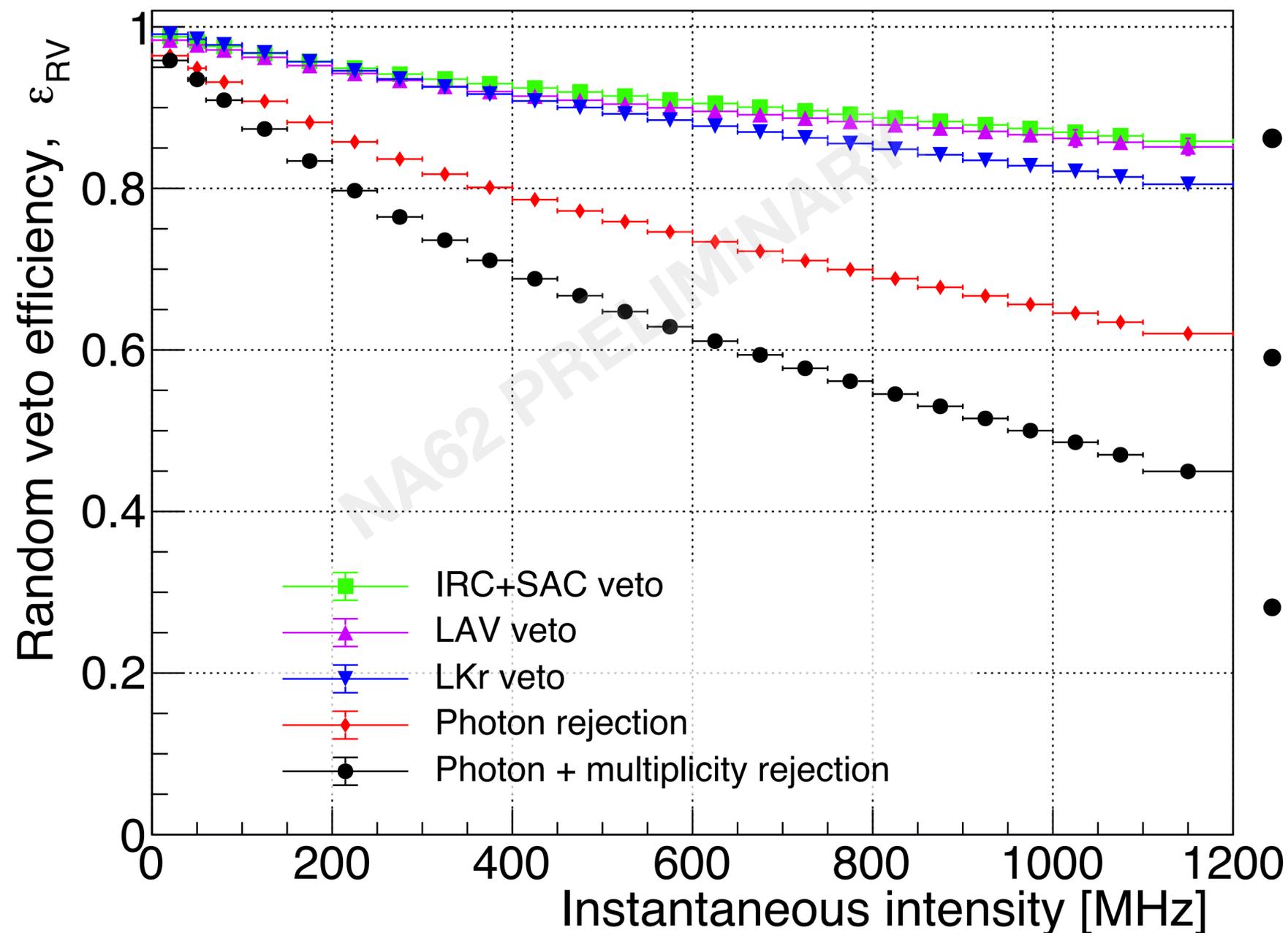
$\epsilon_{trig}(new) = (85.9 \pm 1.4) \%$   
 $\epsilon_{trig}(2018) = (89 \pm 5) \%$

- Trigger efficiency ratio:
  - **New:** several components in both normalisation & signal triggers: **partial cancellation.**
  - **Old:** in 2016–18 data normalise with fully independent min bias trigger (**no cancellation**).
- Improved precision by factor 3 with reduced systematic uncertainty.

# Random veto

$\epsilon_{RV}$  is independent of track momentum (related to additional activity only)

$$N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{exp}(p_i) = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}}{\mathcal{B}_{SES}(p_i)} = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}}{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\pi}} \frac{A_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}(p_i)}{A_{\pi\pi}(p_i)} D_0 N_{\pi\pi}(p_i) \epsilon_{trig}(p_i) \epsilon_{RV}$$



- $\epsilon_{RV}$  = Random Veto Efficiency:
  - $1 - \epsilon_{RV}$  = Probability of rejecting a signal event due to additional activity.
- Balance:
  - Strict vetos  $\Rightarrow$  lower efficiency
  - Loose vetos  $\Rightarrow$  higher background
- Operational intensity higher but re-tuning vetos means  $\epsilon_{RV}$  is comparable:

$$\epsilon_{RV}(\text{new}, \overline{\lambda}_{21-22} \approx 600 \text{ MHz}) = (63.6 \pm 0.6) \%$$

$$\epsilon_{RV}(\text{old}, \overline{\lambda}_{2018} \approx 400 \text{ MHz}) = (66 \pm 1) \%$$

# Signal sensitivity results

$$N_K = \frac{N_{\pi\pi} D_0}{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\pi} A_{\pi\pi}} \quad \mathcal{B}_{SES} = \frac{1}{N_K \epsilon_{RV} \epsilon_{trig} A_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}}$$

- Display integrals (15–45 GeV/c, 2021+22) for summary tables.
- \* Acceptances evaluated at 0 intensity.

$N_{\pi\pi}$	Normalisation $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$	$2.0 \times 10^8$
$A_{\pi\pi}$	Normalisation acceptance	$(13.410 \pm 0.005)\%$
$N_K$	Effective $K^+$ decays	$2.9 \times 10^{12}$
$A_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}$	Signal acceptance	$(7.6 \pm 0.2)\%$
$\epsilon_{trig}$	Trigger efficiency	$(85.9 \pm 1.4)\%$
$\epsilon_{RV}$	Random veto efficiency	$(63.6 \pm 0.6)\%$
$\mathcal{B}_{SES}$	Single event sensitivity	$(0.84 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-11}$

$$N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{exp} = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}}{\mathcal{B}_{SES}}$$

Assuming  $\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM} = 8.4 \times 10^{-11}$  :

2021–22:  $N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}} = 10.00 \pm 0.34$

c.f. 2016–18 :  $N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}} = 10.01 \pm 0.42$

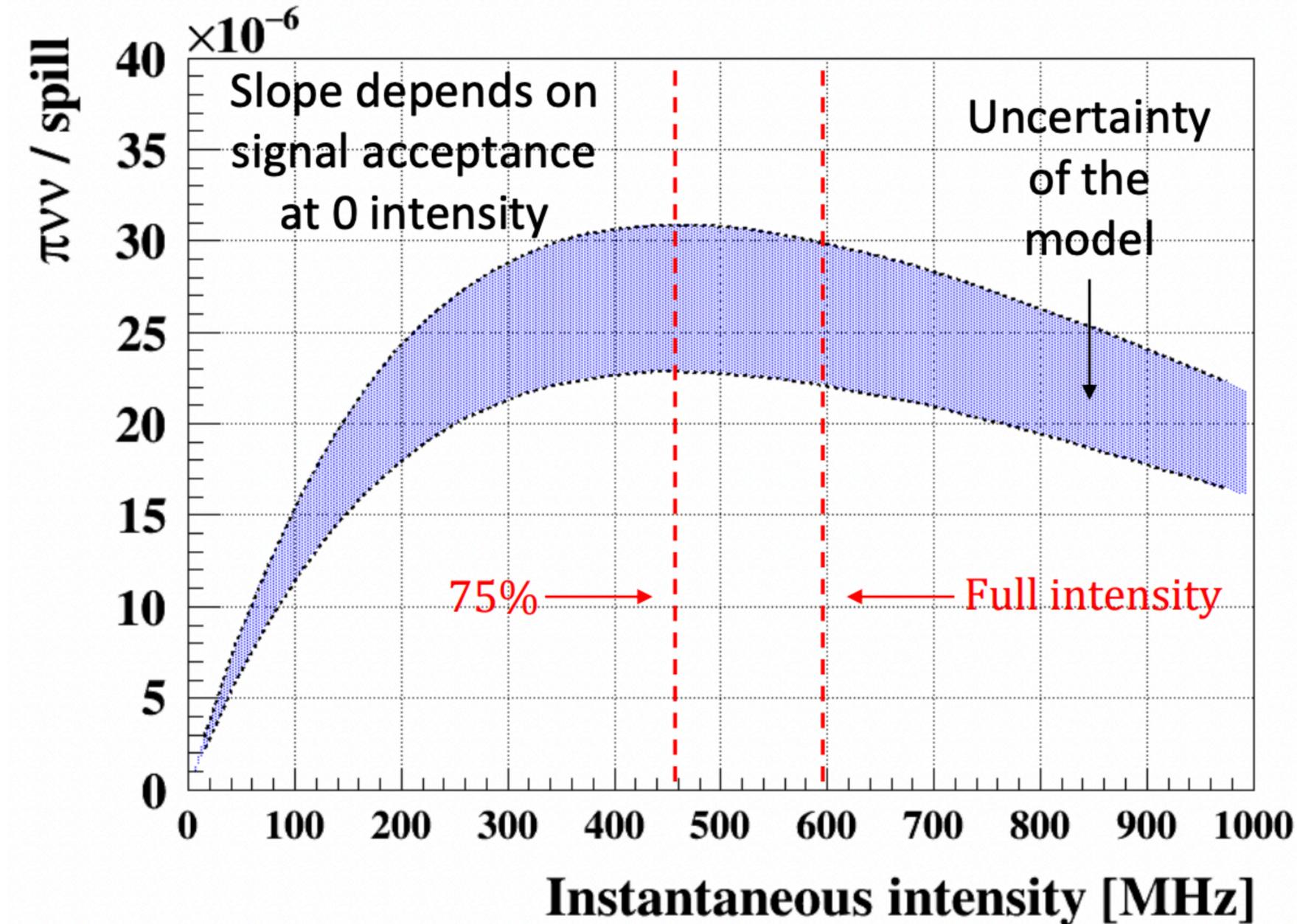


Double expected signal  
by including 21–22 data.

- Significant improvement in SES uncertainty:
  - old: 6.3% → new: 3.5%. Due to:
    - trigger efficiency cancellations
    - improved procedures for evaluation of acceptances and  $\epsilon_{RV}$

# Optimum NA62 intensity

## Selected signal yield vs intensity



- Saturation of expected signal yield with intensity. Mainly due to:
  - Paralyzable effects from TDAQ dead time and trigger veto windows.
  - Offline selection, due to veto conditions.
- Main sources of uncertainty for model:
  - Online time-dependent mis-calibrations.
  - Fit uncertainty.
- **From August 2023 operate at optimal intensity (~75% of full) to maximise  $\pi V V$  sensitivity**
  - Maximise signal yield
  - lower expected background
  - Higher DAQ efficiency
- **Studies of 2021–22 data at high intensity were crucial to establish optimal intensity.**

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  : Analysis of new data

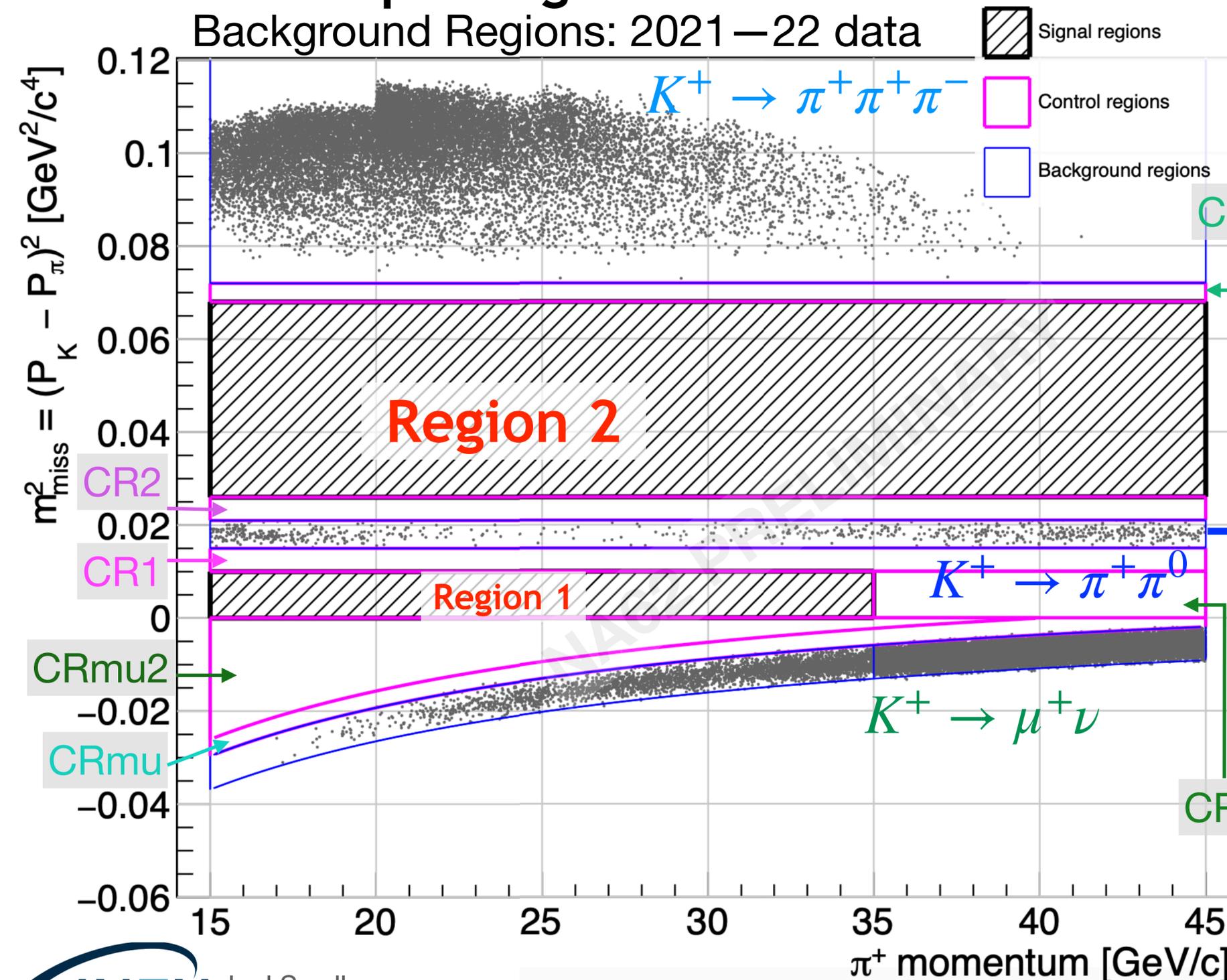
2021 – 2022 data : Background Evaluation

# Background regions & background estimations



## Events passing $\pi\nu\nu$ selection

Background Regions: 2021 – 22 data



- Backgrounds from kinematic misconstruction tails in  $m_{miss}^2$

Number of events passing signal selection in background region

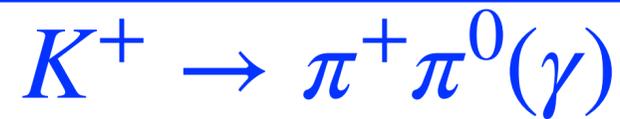
$$N_{bg} = N_{bkgR} \cdot f_{tail} = N_{bkgR} \cdot \frac{N_{SR}^{CS}}{N_{bkgR}^{CS}}$$

Kinematic tail fraction: measured in control sample

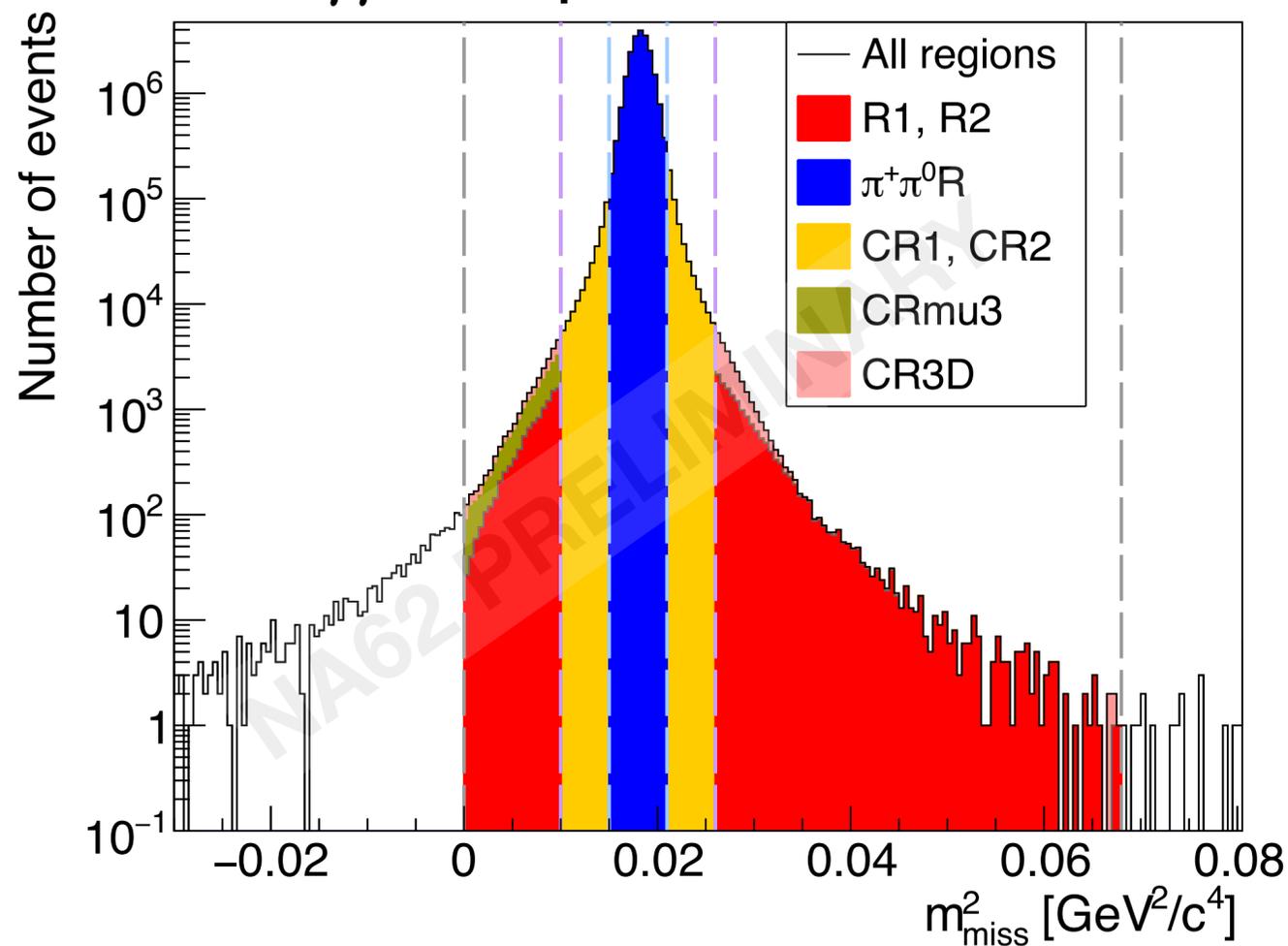
Control sample events in Signal Regions

Control sample events in Background Region

# Backgrounds from kinematic tails



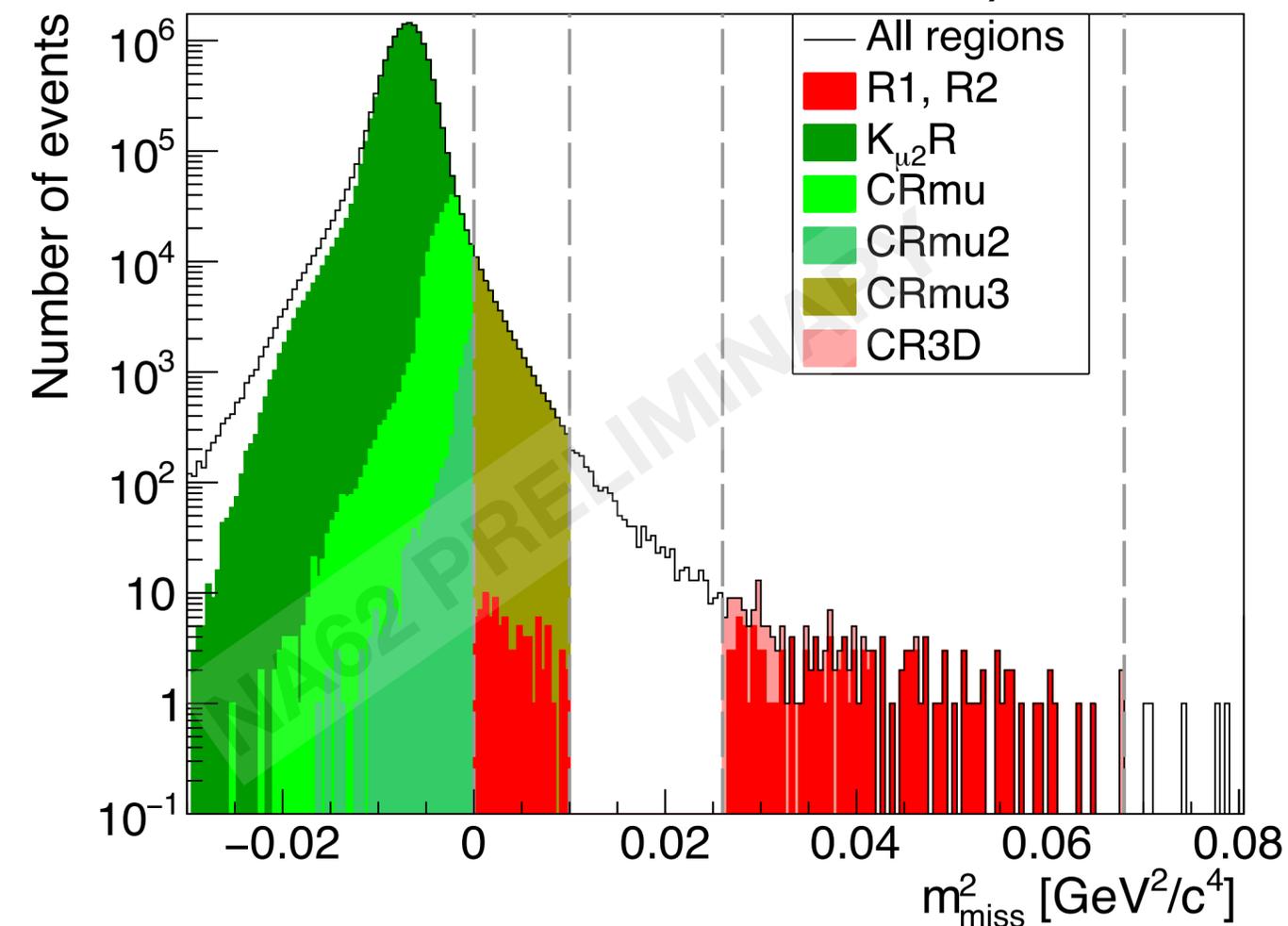
control sample of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$  events with  $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  and 2 photons detected in LKr:



$$N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0(\gamma)) = 0.83 \pm 0.05$$



control sample of  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$  events with RICH PID= $\pi^+$  and Calo PID= $\mu^+$ :



- <1% contribution from  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$  followed by  $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu \nu$ .

$$N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu) = 0.9 \pm 0.2$$



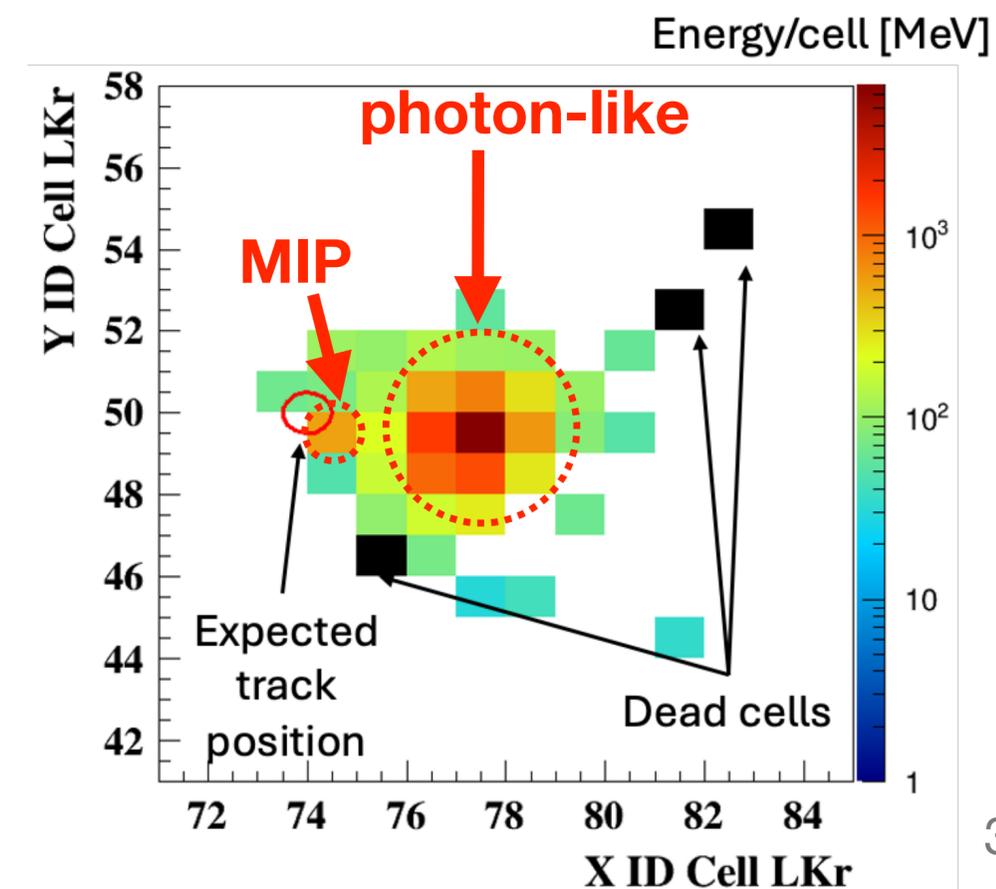
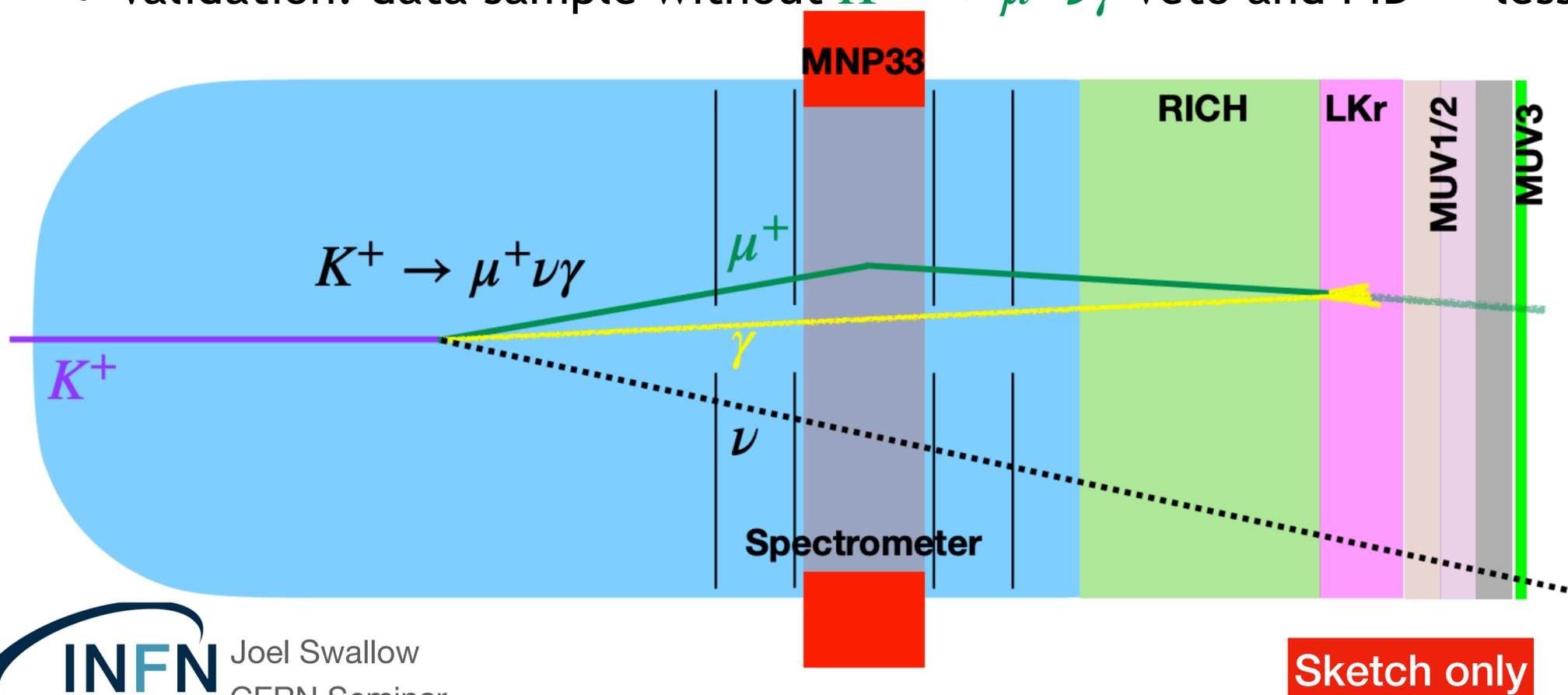
- Use MC to measure  $f_{tail}$ :

$$N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-) = 0.11 \pm 0.03$$

# Radiative decays: $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma$ & $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$



- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma$ : included with “kinematic tails” estimation.
  - Suppression: photon vetos, rejection with additional  $\gamma$  is 30x stronger.
  - Estimation: MC + measured single photon rejection efficiency :  $N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma) = 0.07 \pm 0.01$
  - Validation:  $m_{miss}^2$  control regions (CR1,2 - see later)
- $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$ : not included in “kinematic tails” estimation if  $\gamma$  overlaps  $\mu^+$  at LKr (leading to misID as  $\pi^+$ )
  - Suppression: based on  $(P_K - P_\mu - P_\gamma)^2$  and  $E_\gamma$  with  $\gamma =$  LKr cluster (mis)associated to muon.
    - Necessary for 2021–22 data, since Calorimetric PID degraded at higher intensities.
  - Estimation: min. Bias data control sample with signal in MUV3 :  $N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma) = 0.8 \pm 0.4$
  - Validation: data sample without  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$  veto and PID = “less pion-like” (Calo BDT bins below  $\pi^+$  bin).

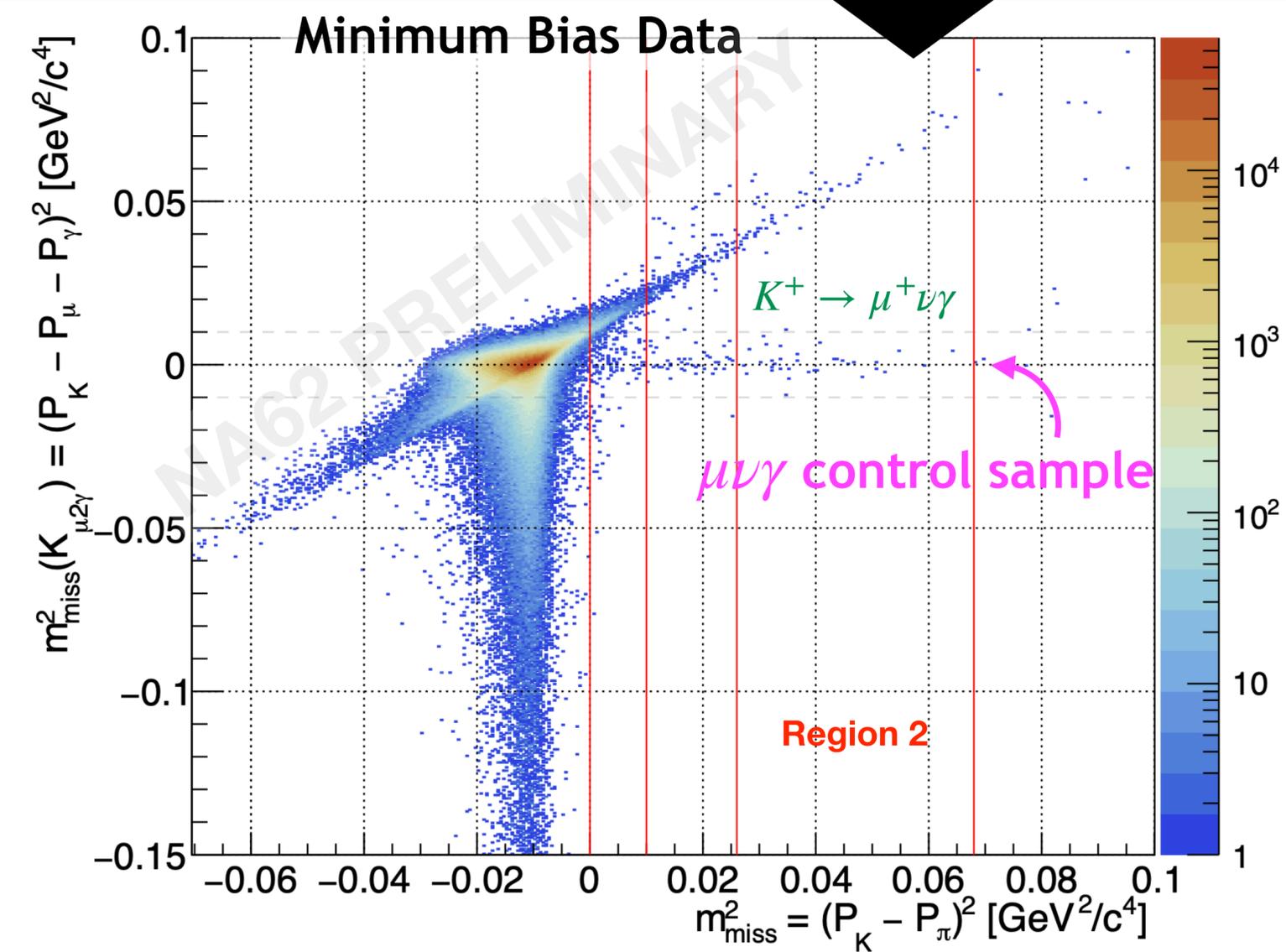


# $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$ Background

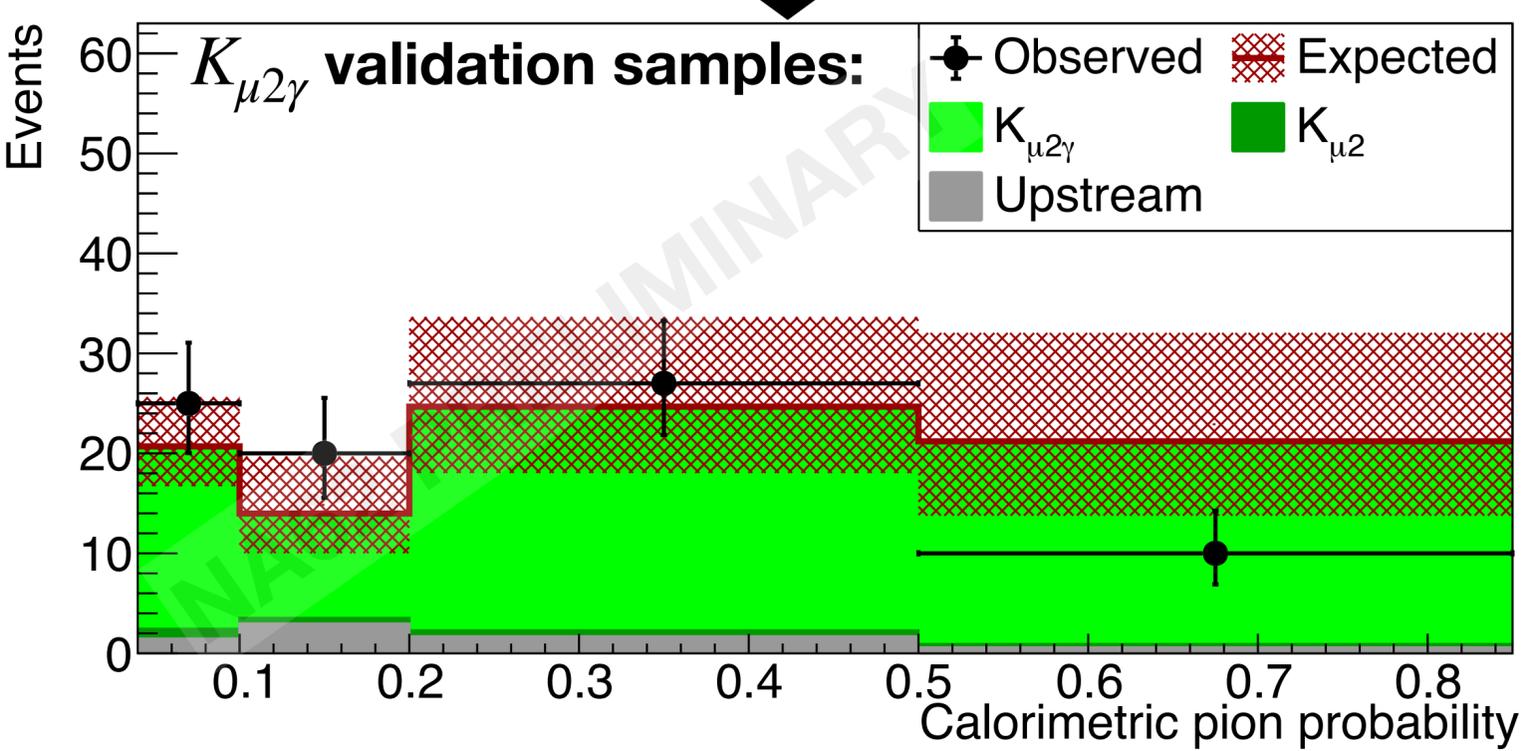
- Kinematically select  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$  events:  

$$m_{miss}^2(K_{\mu 2\gamma}) = (P_K - P_\mu - P_\gamma)^2$$
  - $P_K$ : 4-momentum of  $K^+$  from GTK (as normal)
  - $P_\mu$ : 4-momentum of track with  $\mu^+$  mass hypothesis.
  - $P_\gamma$ : reconstructed from energy and position of LKr cluster (and position of  $K^+ - \mu^+$  vertex).

Evaluate background expectation using  $\mu \nu \gamma$  control sample from MinimumBias trigger, not applying Calorimetric BDT classifier and MUV3 signal:

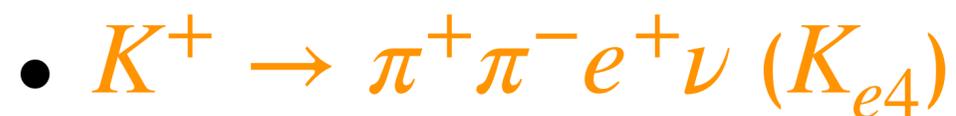


**Validation:** data sample with PID = “less pion-like” (Calo BDT bins below  $\pi^+$  bin).



- Before  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$  veto: found excess of events at  $p > 35$  GeV/c in Region 2 relative to 2016–18 data.
- Additional background identified and studied in data control samples & MC.
- $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$  veto added to selection criteria for final analysis.

# Other backgrounds



- No clean control samples for  $K_{e4}$  in data: use  $2 \times 10^9$  simulated decays.

Effective # of  $K^+$       Random veto & trigger efficiencies      Acceptance :  $A_{K_{e4}} = \frac{N_{MC}^{sel}}{N_{MC}^{gen}} = (1.3 \pm 0.3_{stat}) \times 10^{-8}$

$$N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu) = N_K \epsilon_{RV} \epsilon_{trig} \mathcal{B}_{K_{e4}} A_{K_{e4}}$$

Branching ratio of  $K_{e4}$  (from PDG)

$$N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu) = 0.89^{+0.34}_{-0.28}$$



- Evaluated with simulations.
- Negligible contributions to total background.

$$N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \nu) < 1 \times 10^{-3}$$

$$N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma \gamma) = 0.01 \pm 0.01$$

# Upstream background evaluation

$$N_{bg} = \sum_i N_i f_{cda} P_i^{match}$$

$N$  Upstream Reference Sample:  
 signal selection but invert CDA cut (CDA > 4mm)

$f_{cda}$  Scaling factor : bad cda  $\rightarrow$  good cda

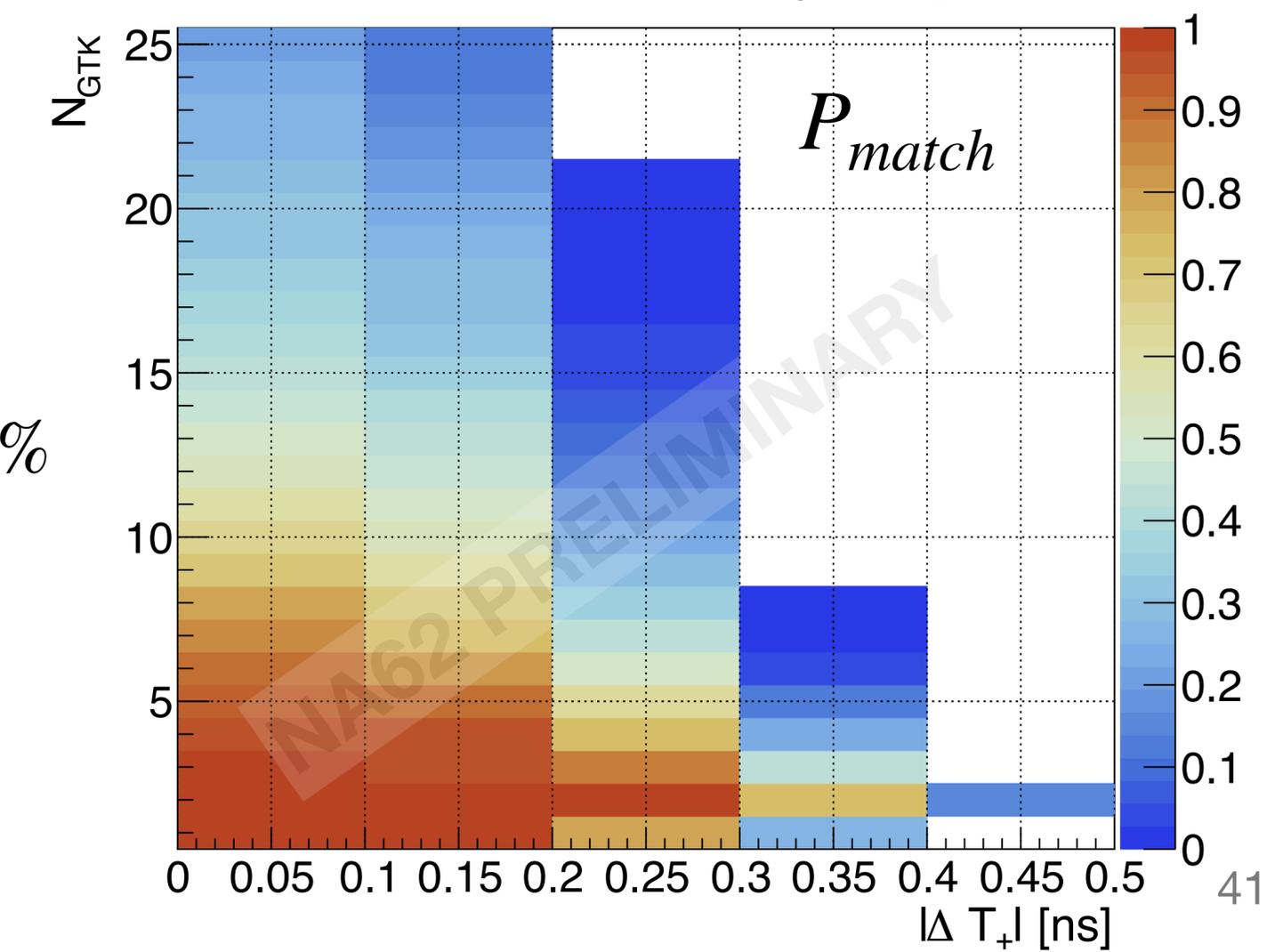
$P_{match}$  Probability to pass  $K^+ - \pi^+$  matching

Calculate using bins (i) of  $(\Delta T_+, N_{GTK})$   
 [Updated to fully data-driven procedure]

$N = 51$       $f_{CDA} = 0.20 \pm 0.03$       $\langle P_{match} \rangle = 73 \%$

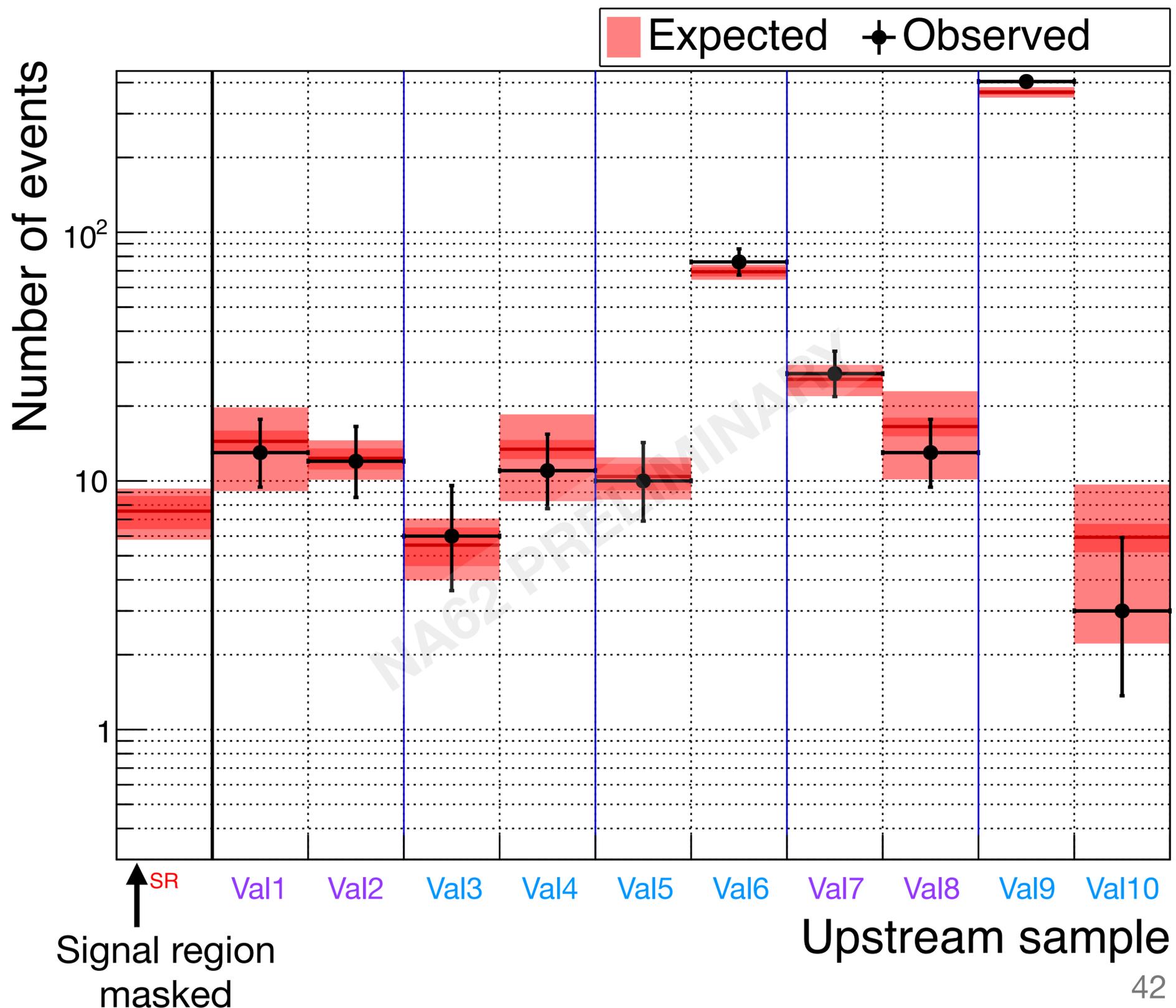
$$N_{bg}(\text{Upstream}) = 7.4^{+2.1}_{-1.8}$$

- Upstream reference sample contains all known upstream mechanisms.
  - $N$  provides normalisation.
- $f_{CDA}$  depends only on geometry.
- $P_{match}$  depends on  $(\Delta T_+, N_{GTK})$ .



# Upstream background validation

- Invert & loosen upstream vetos to enrich with different mechanisms:
  - Interaction-enriched: Val1,2,7,8
  - Accidental-enriched: Val3,4,5,6,9,10.
- All independent.
- Expectations and observations are in good agreement.
- Number of events rejected by VetoCounter:
  - (i.e. events in signal region with associated VC signal)
  - $N_{exp}^{VC rej.} = 6.9 \pm 1.4$  ,  $N_{obs}^{VC rej.} = 9$
- VetoCounter is essential to control upstream background.



# Summary of expectations

## Backgrounds

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0(\gamma)$	$0.83 \pm 0.05$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$	$0.76 \pm 0.04$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma$	$0.07 \pm 0.01$
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu(\gamma)$	$1.70 \pm 0.47$
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$	$0.87 \pm 0.19$
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$	$0.82 \pm 0.43$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	$0.11 \pm 0.03$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu$	$0.89^{+0.34}_{-0.28}$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \nu$	$< 0.001$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma \gamma$	$0.01 \pm 0.01$
Upstream	$7.4^{+2.1}_{-1.8}$
Total	$11.0^{+2.1}_{-1.9}$

## Signal Sensitivity

$$\mathcal{B}_{SES} = (0.84 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-11}$$

$$N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM,exp} = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}}{\mathcal{B}_{SES}}$$

Assuming  $\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM} = 8.4 \times 10^{-11}$  :

2021–22:  $N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}} = 10.00 \pm 0.34$

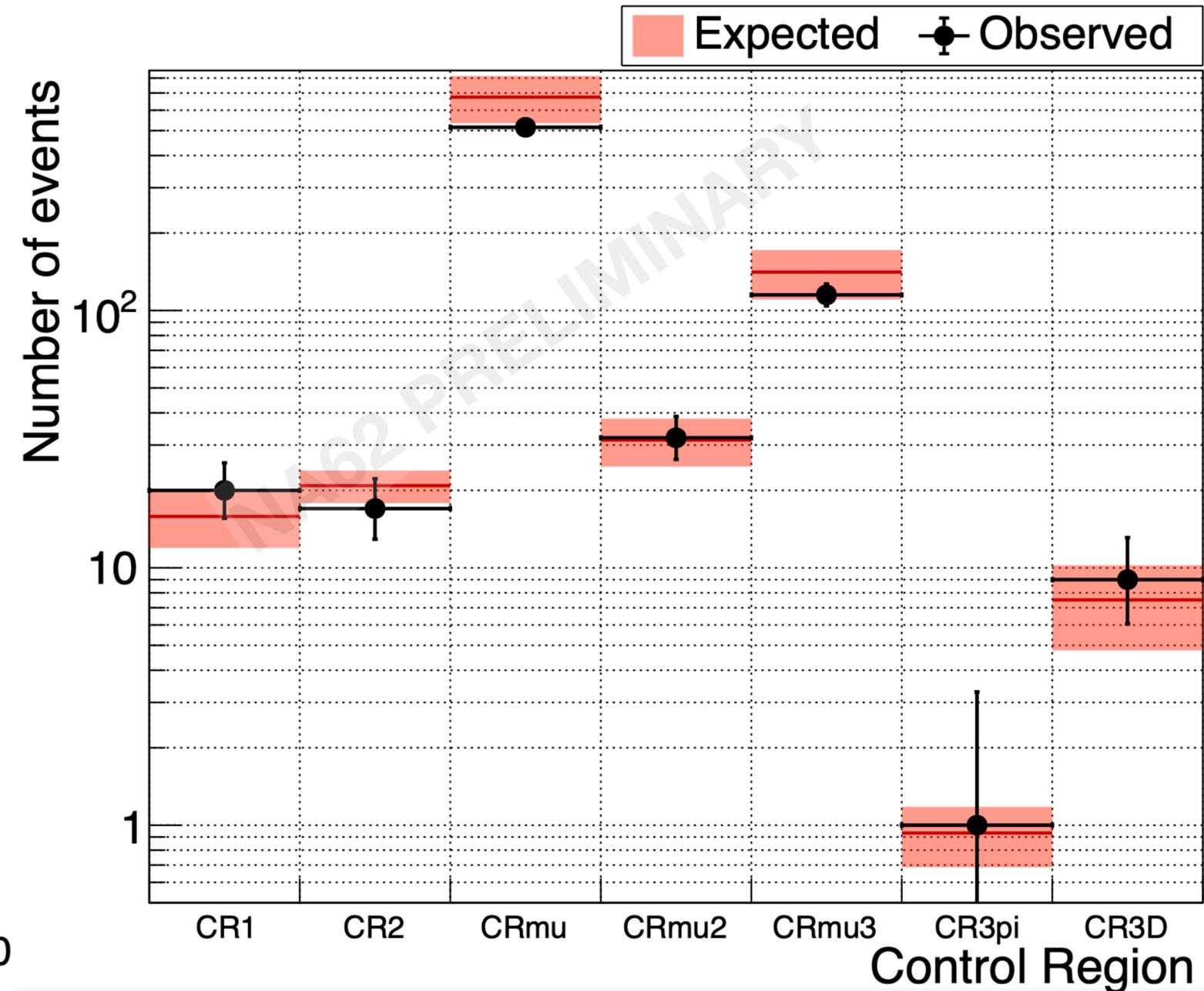
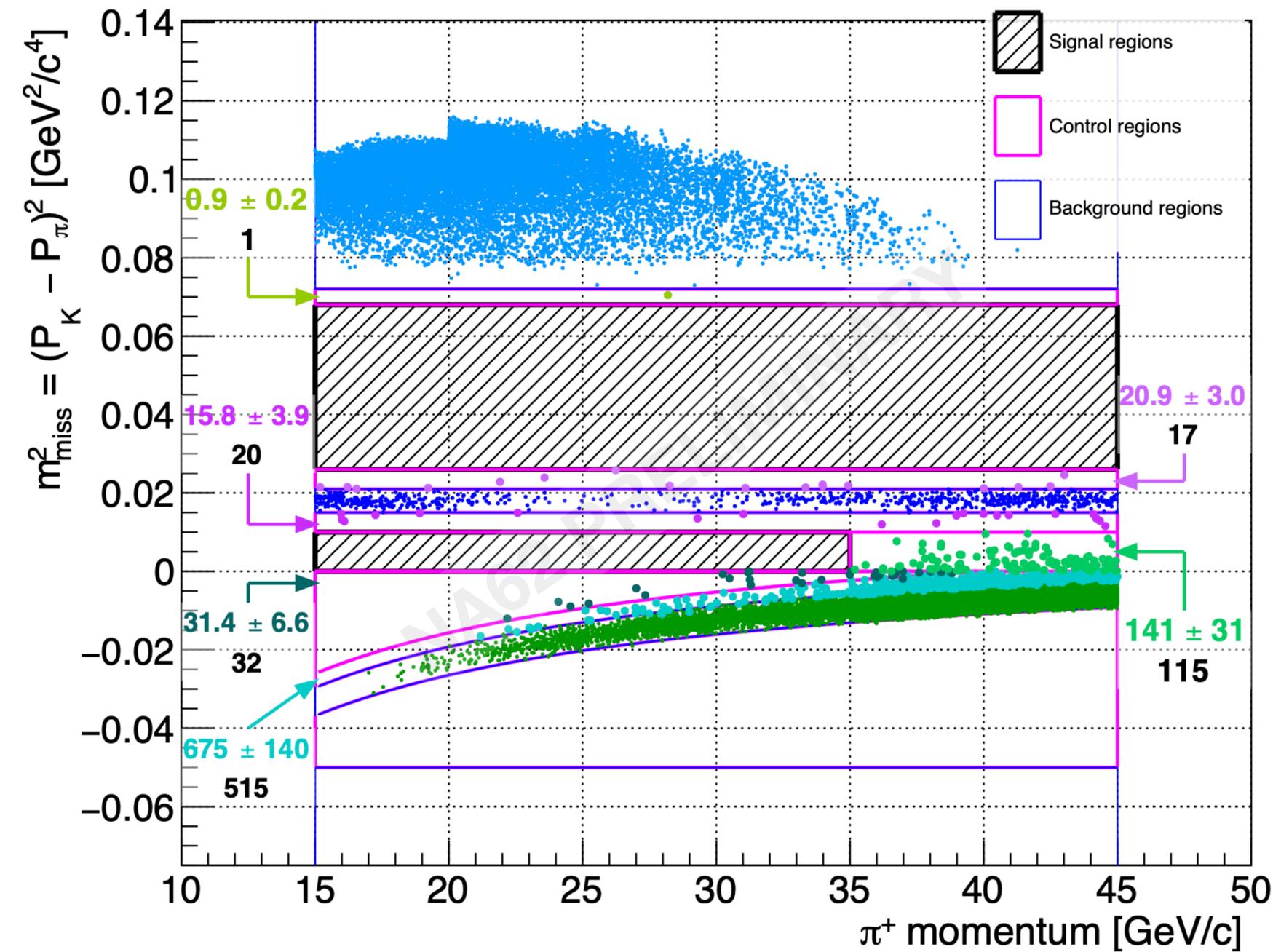
c.f. 2016–18 :  $N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}} = 10.01 \pm 0.42$

Expected signal doubled by including 2021–22 data

- $N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM}$  per SPS spill:  $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  in 2022
  - c.f.  $1.7 \times 10^{-5}$  in 2018.  $\Rightarrow$  signal yield increased by 50%.
- Sensitivity for BR  $\sim \sqrt{S + B}/S = 0.5$ 
  - Similar but improved with respect to 2018 analysis for same amount of data.

# Control regions

2021 – 22 data



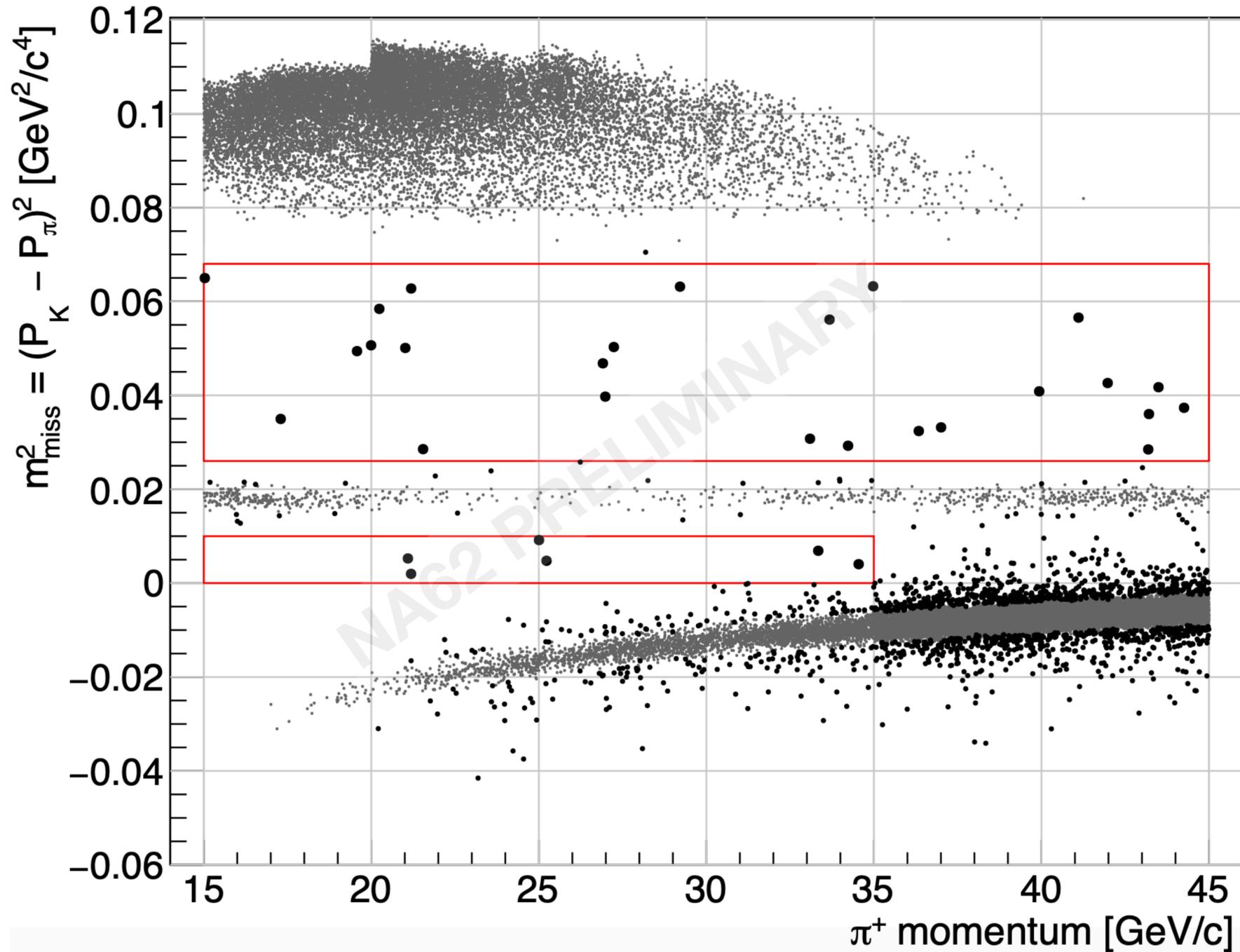
- Good agreement in control regions validates background expectations.

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

2021 – 2022 data

# Signal regions

2021 – 22 data

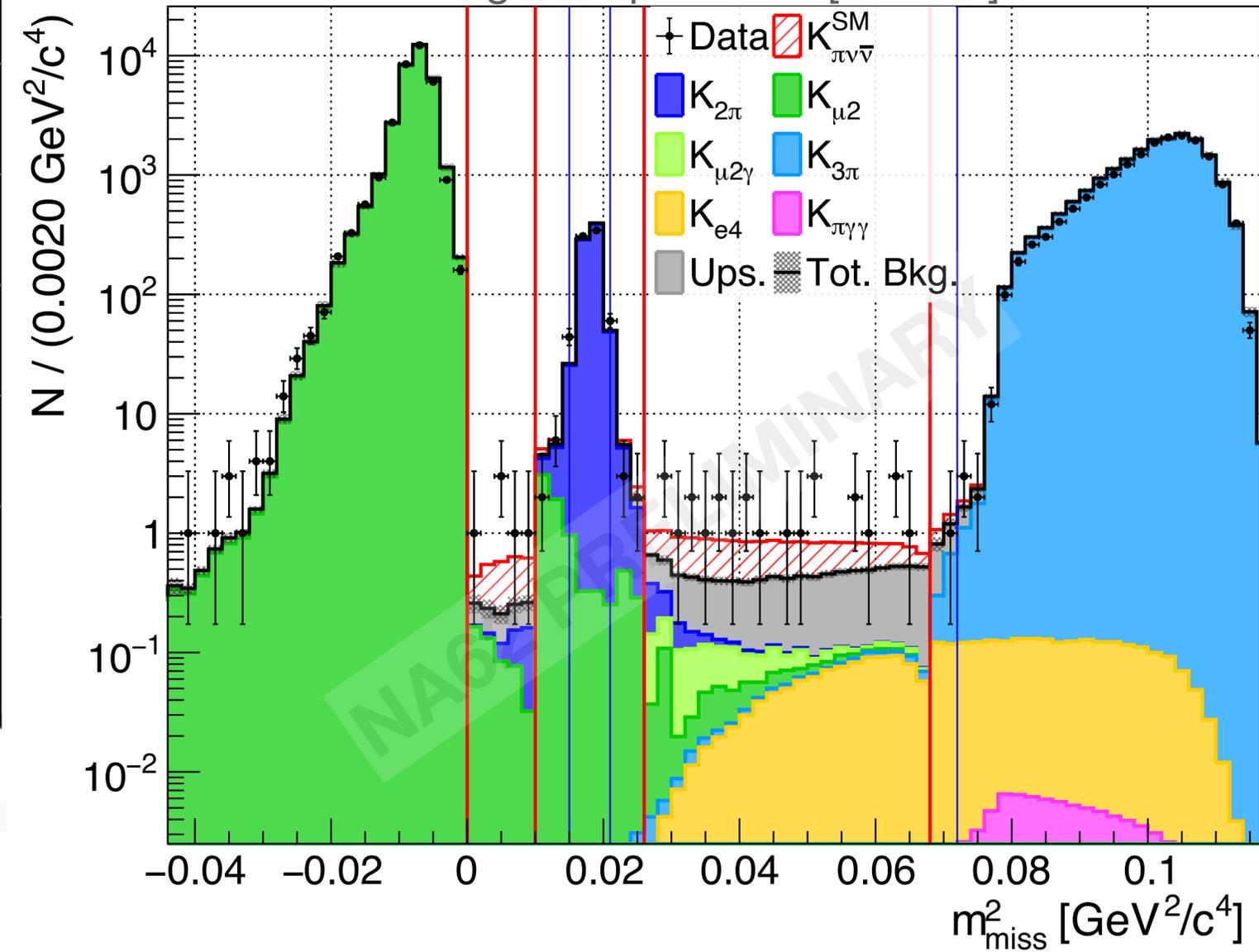


Expected SM signal,  $N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{SM} \approx 10$

Expected background,  $N_{bg} = 11.0^{+2.1}_{-1.9}$

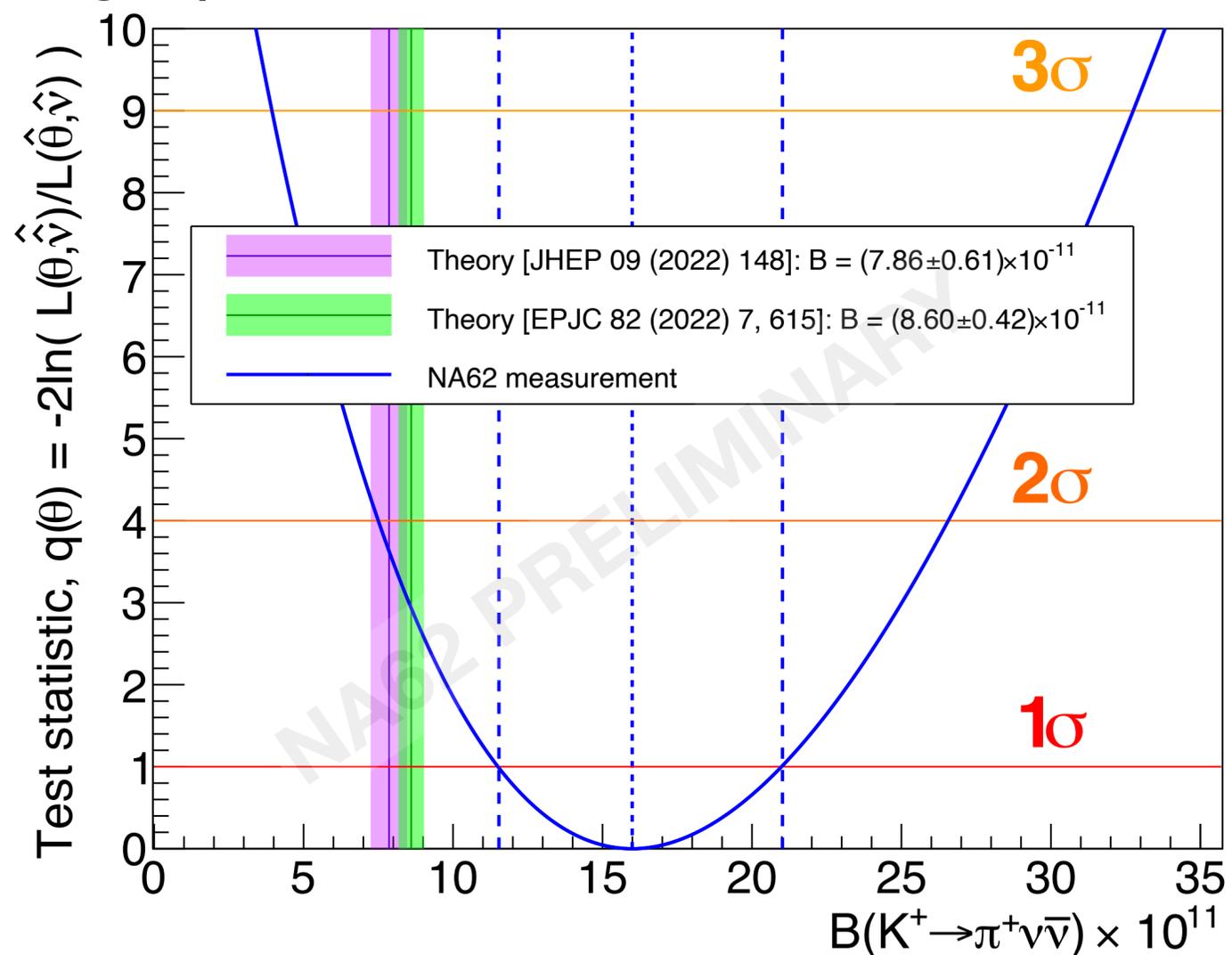
Observed,  $N_{obs} = 31$

1D projection with differential background predictions & SM signal expectation [not a fit]:

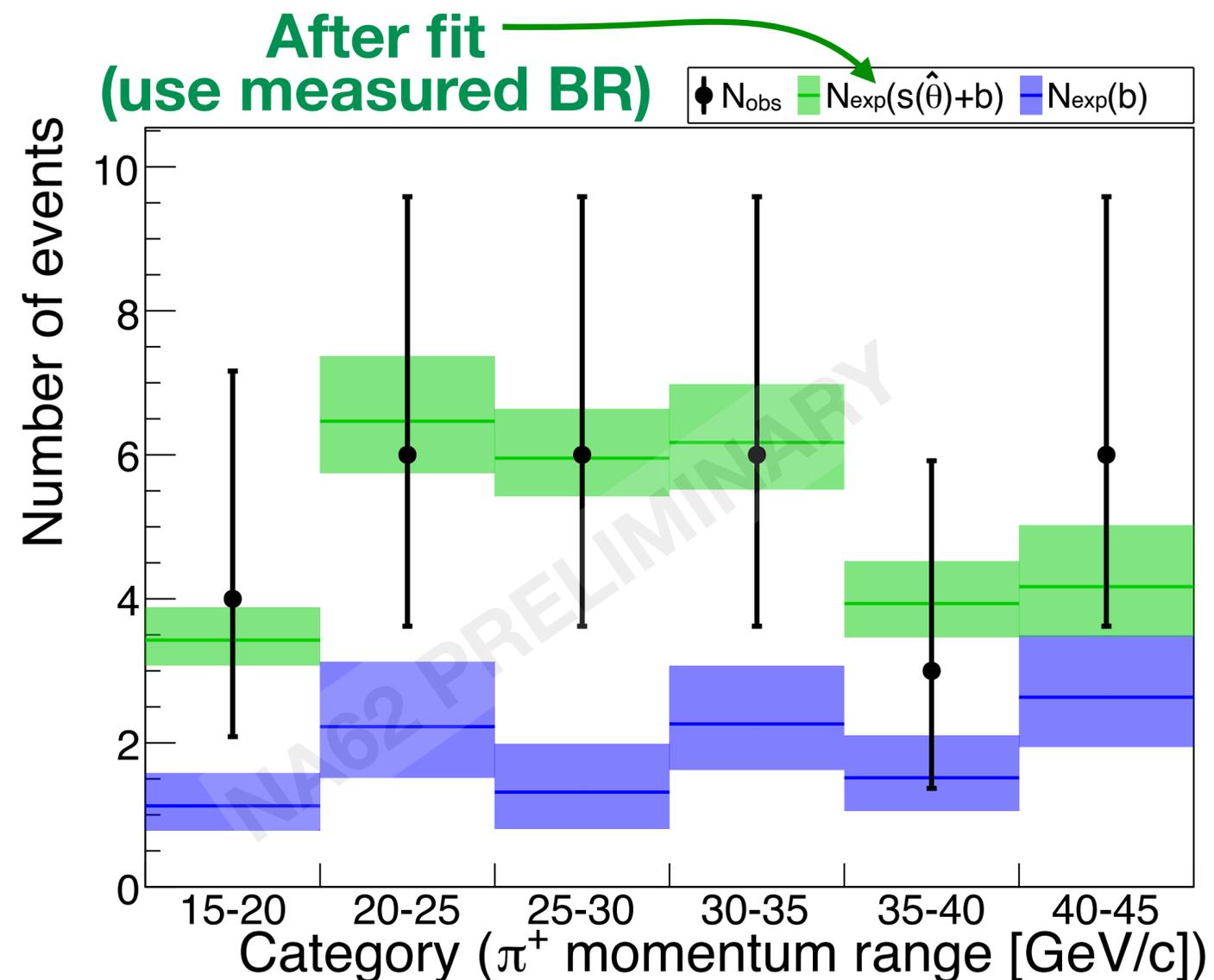


# Results: 2021–22 Data

- Measure  $\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}$  and 68% ( $1\sigma$ ) confidence interval using a profile likelihood ratio test statistic  $q(\theta)$ .



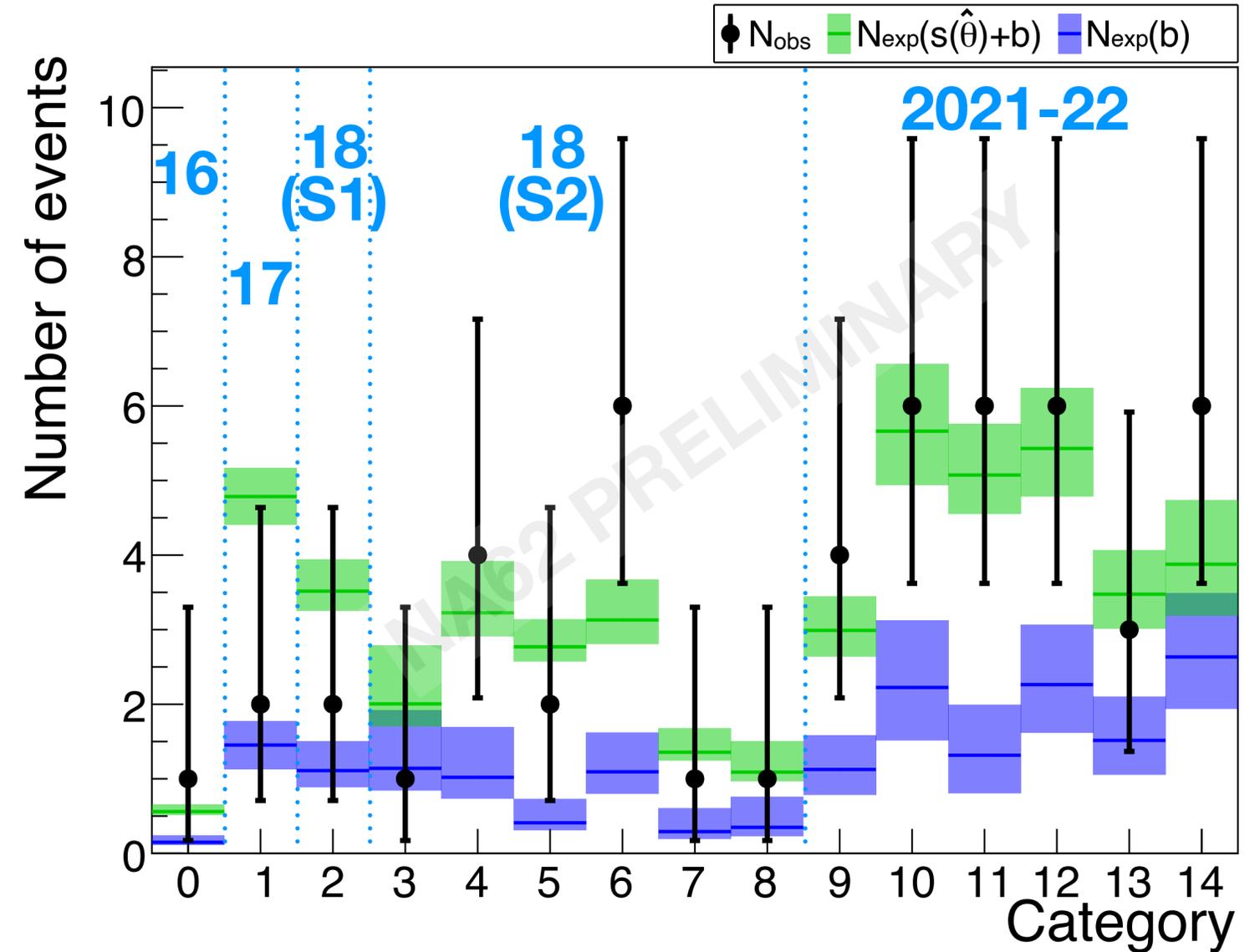
- Use 6 (momentum bin) categories



$$\mathcal{B}_{21-22}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (16.0^{+5.0}_{-4.5}) \times 10^{-11} = \left( 16.0 \begin{pmatrix} +4.8 \\ -4.2 \end{pmatrix} \text{stat} \begin{bmatrix} +1.4 \\ -1.3 \end{bmatrix} \text{syst} \right) \times 10^{-11}$$

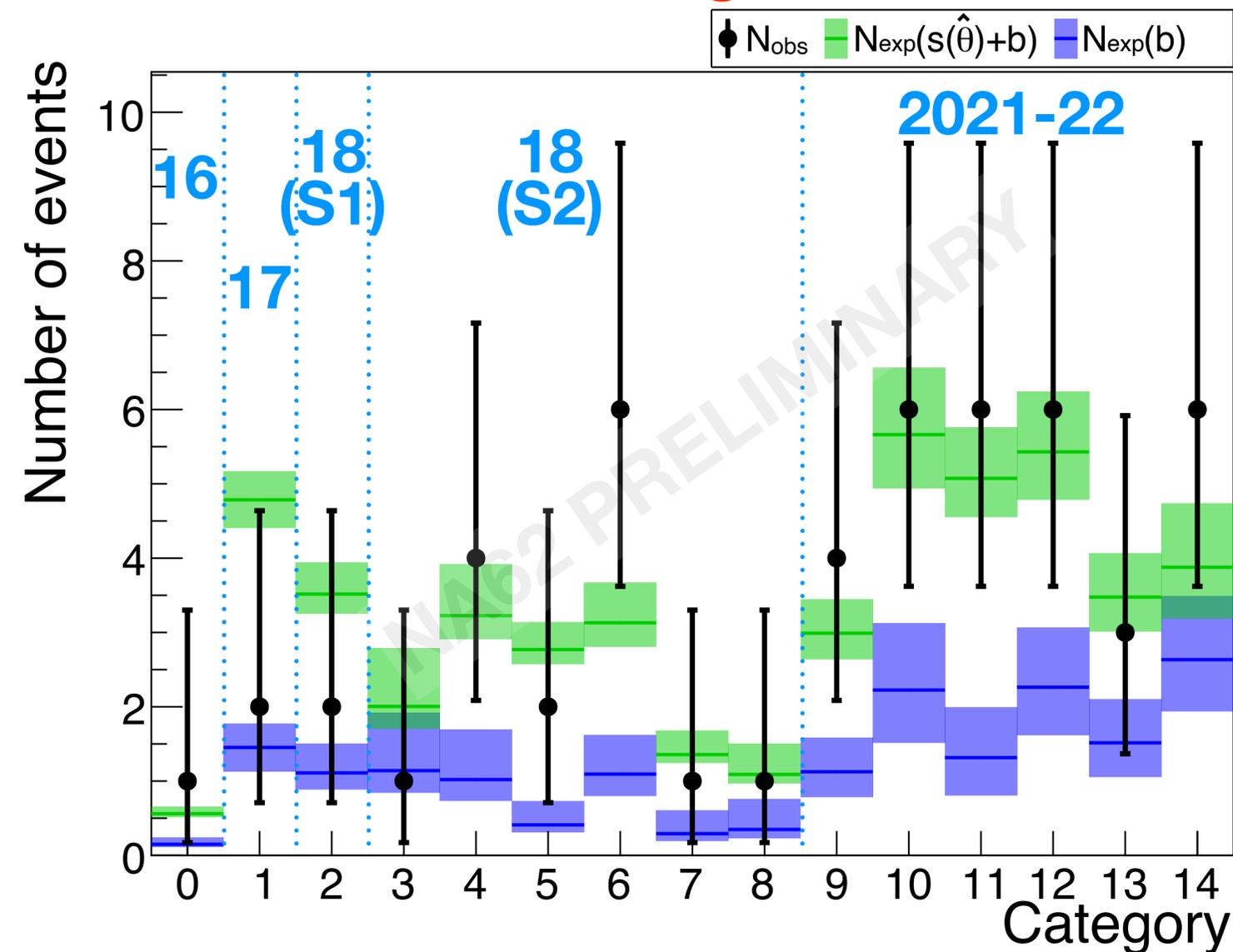
# Combining NA62 results: 2016–22

- Integrating 2016–22 data:  $N_{bg} = 18_{-2}^{+3}$ ,  $N_{obs} = 51$ .



# Combining NA62 results: 2016–22

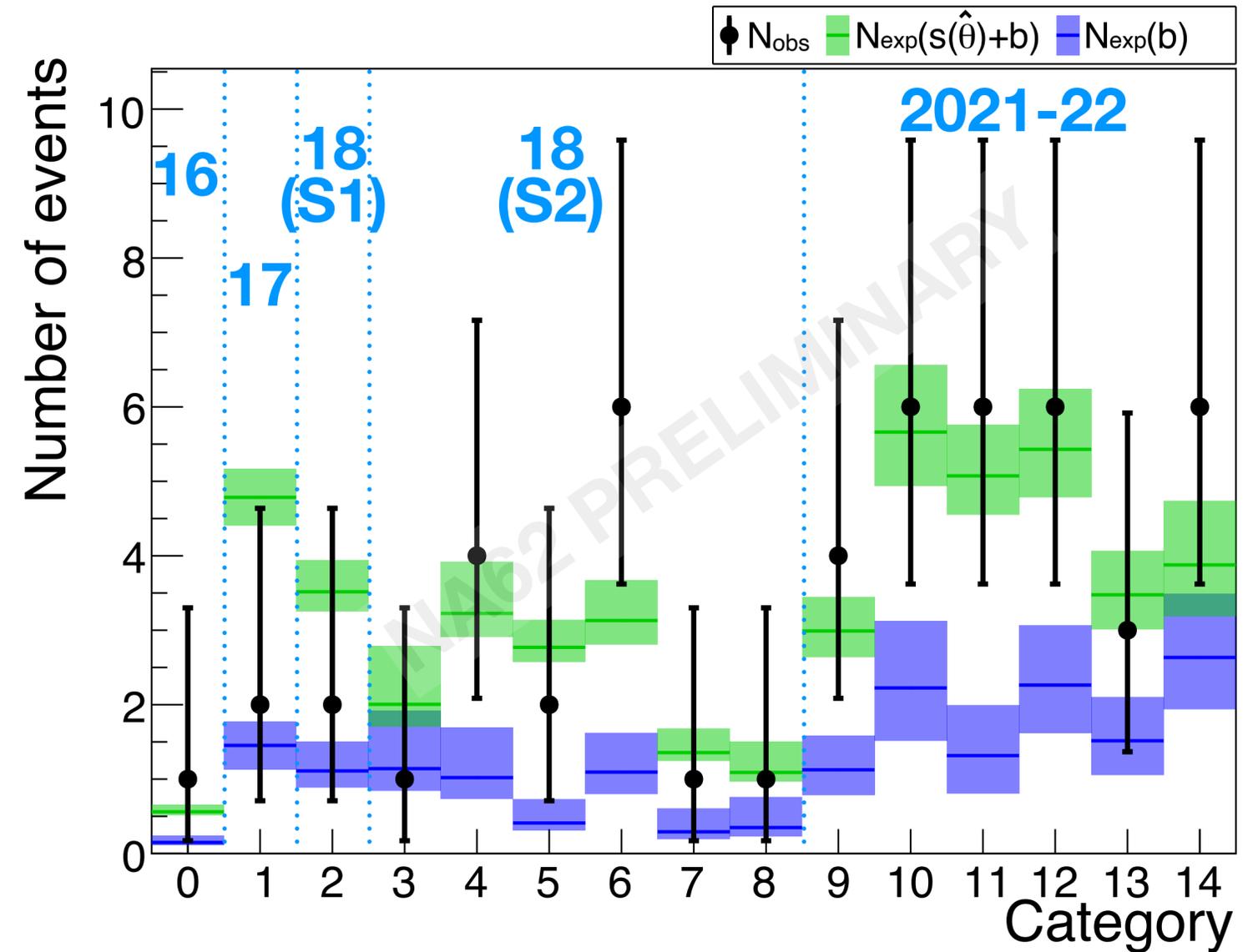
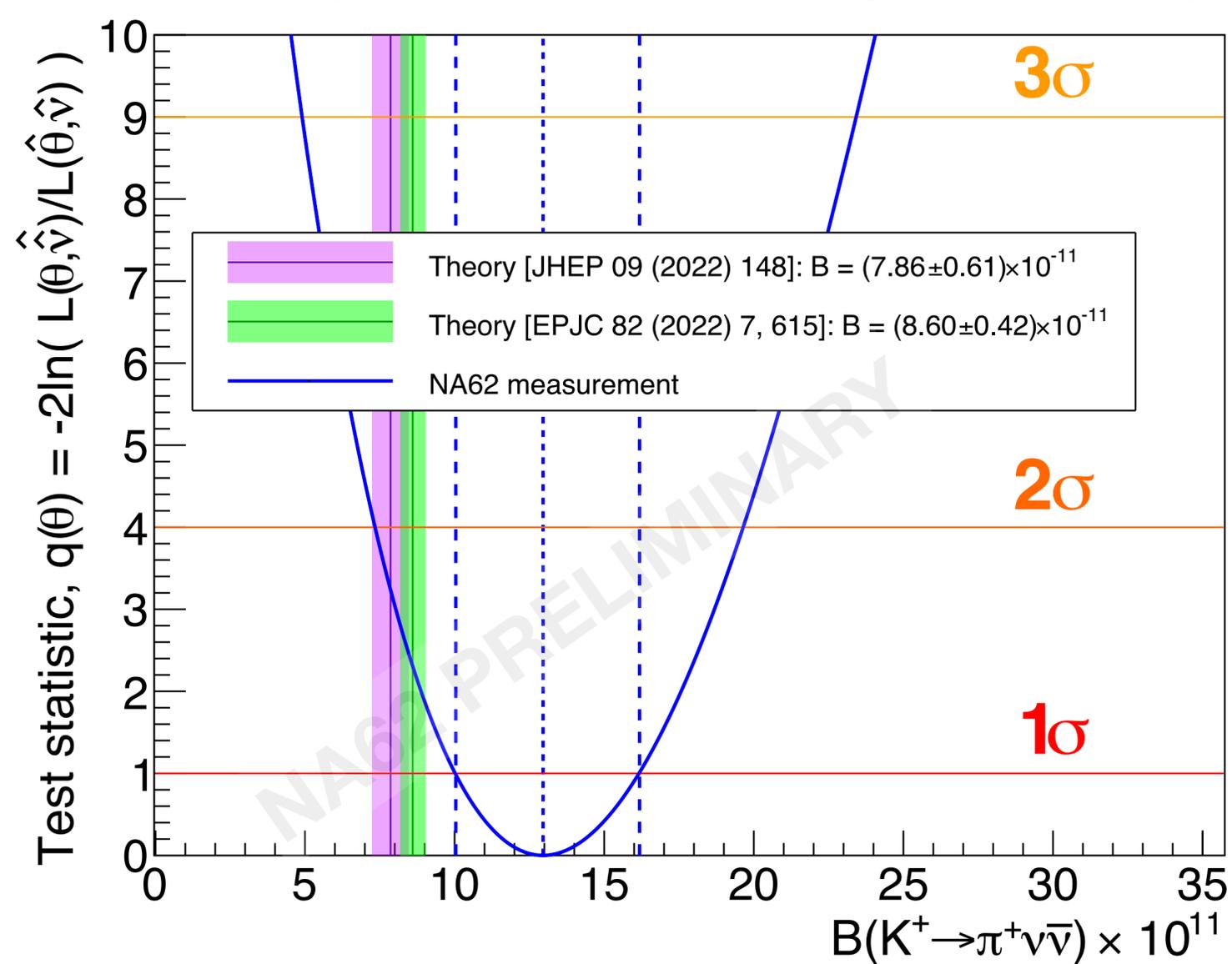
- Integrating 2016–22 data:  $N_{bg} = 18_{-2}^{+3}$ ,  $N_{obs} = 51$ .
- Background-only hypothesis **p-value** =  $2 \times 10^{-7} \Rightarrow$  **significance**  $Z > 5$



# Combining NA62 results: 2016–22

- Integrating 2016–22 data:  $N_{bg} = 18_{-2}^{+3}$ ,  $N_{obs} = 51$ .

- Background-only hypothesis p-value =  $2 \times 10^{-7} \Rightarrow$  significance  $Z > 5$**



$$\mathcal{B}_{16-22}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (13.0_{-2.9}^{+3.3}) \times 10^{-11} = \left( 13.0 \left( \begin{matrix} +3.0 \\ -2.7 \end{matrix} \right)_{stat} \left[ \begin{matrix} +1.3 \\ -1.2 \end{matrix} \right]_{syst} \right) \times 10^{-11}$$

# Results in context

BNL E787/E949 experiment  
 [Phys.Rev.D 79 (2009) 092004]

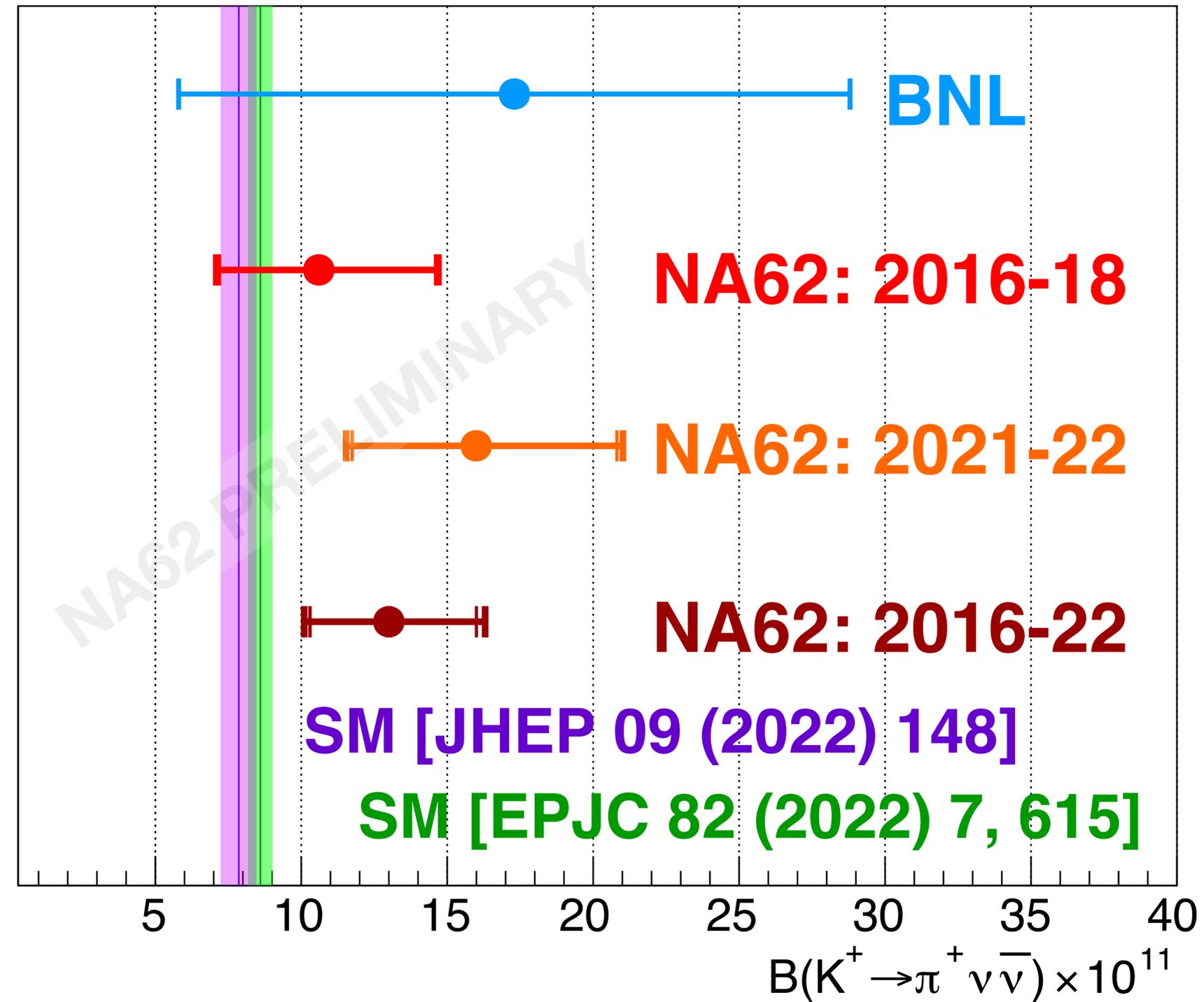
$$\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{16-18} = \left( 10.6^{+4.1}_{-3.5} \right) \times 10^{-11}$$

[JHEP 06 (2021) 093]

$$\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{21-22} = \left( 16.0^{+5.0}_{-4.5} \right) \times 10^{-11}$$

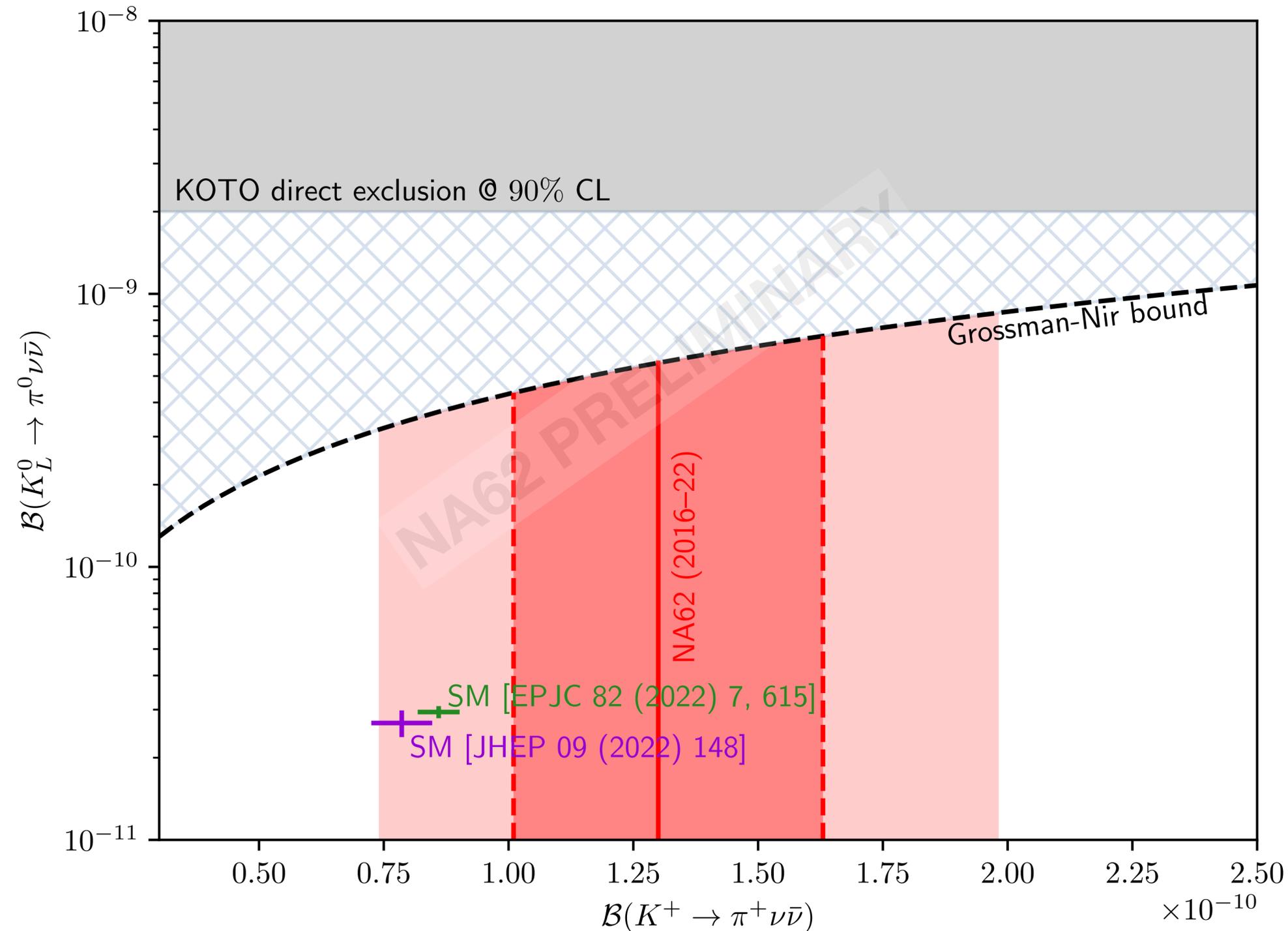
$$\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{16-22} = \left( 13.0^{+3.3}_{-2.9} \right) \times 10^{-11}$$

- NA62 results are consistent
- Central value moved up (now 1.5–1.7 $\sigma$  above SM)
- Fractional uncertainty decreased: 40% to 25%
- Bkg-only hypothesis rejected with significance  $Z > 5$



# Results in context

- Fractional uncertainty: 25%
- Bkg-only hypothesis rejected with significance  $Z > 5$
- **Observation of the  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  decay with BR consistent with SM prediction, within  $1.7\sigma$** 
  - Need full NA62 data-set to clarify SM agreement or tension



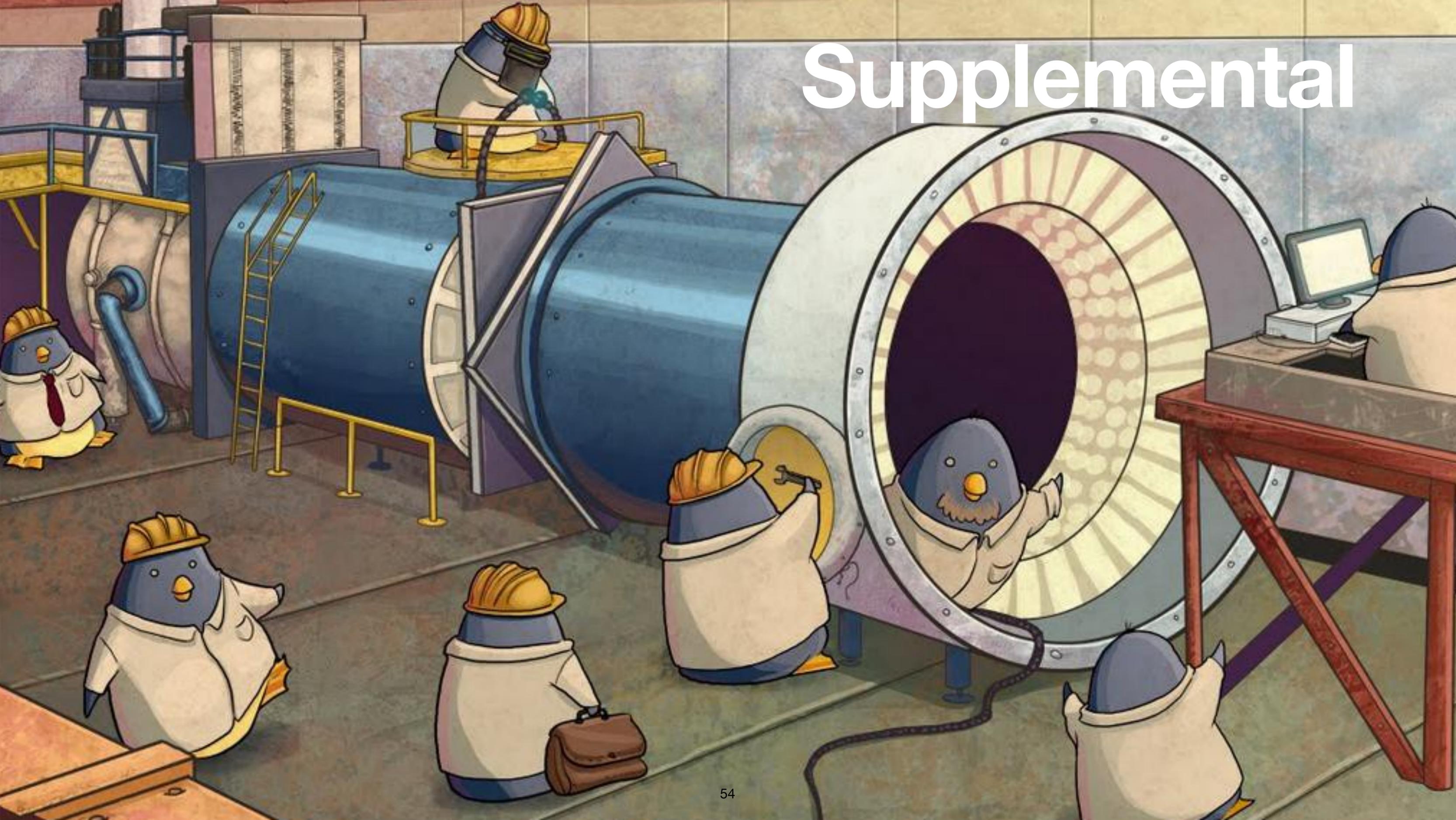
$$\mathcal{B}_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{16-22} = \left(13.0^{+3.3}_{-2.9}\right) \times 10^{-11}$$

$$2\sigma \text{ range : } [7.4 - 19.7] \times 10^{-11}$$

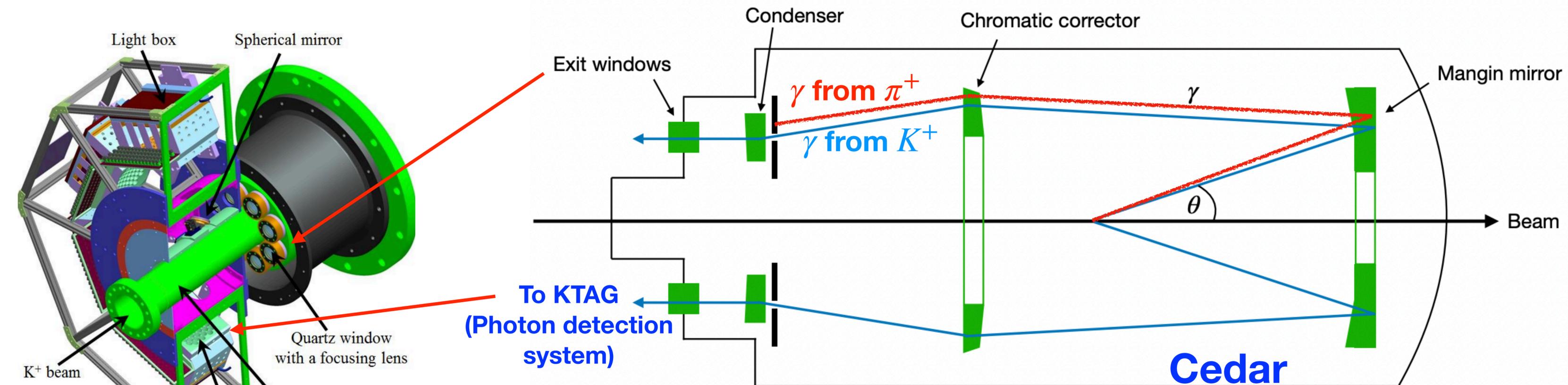
# Conclusions

- New study of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  decay using NA62 2021–22 dataset:
  - Improved signal yield per SPS spill by 50%.
  - $N_{bg} = 11.0^{+2.1}_{-1.9}$ ,  $N_{obs} = 31$
  - $\mathcal{B}_{21-22}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (16.0^{+5.0}_{-4.5}) \times 10^{-11} = \left( 16.0 \left( \begin{smallmatrix} +4.8 \\ -4.2 \end{smallmatrix} \right)_{\text{stat}} \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} +1.4 \\ -1.3 \end{smallmatrix} \right]_{\text{syst}} \right) \times 10^{-11}$
- Combining with 2016–18 data for full 2016–22 results:
  - $N_{bg} = 18^{+3}_{-2}$ ,  $N_{obs} = 51$  (using 9+6 categories for BR extraction)
  - $\mathcal{B}_{16-22}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (13.0^{+3.3}_{-2.9}) \times 10^{-11} = \left( 13.0 \left( \begin{smallmatrix} +3.0 \\ -2.7 \end{smallmatrix} \right)_{\text{stat}} \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} +1.3 \\ -1.2 \end{smallmatrix} \right]_{\text{syst}} \right) \times 10^{-11}$
  - Background-only hypothesis rejected with significance  $Z > 5$ .
- **First observation of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  decay: BR consistent with SM prediction within  $1.7\sigma$** 
  - Need full NA62 data-set to clarify SM agreement or tension.

# Supplemental

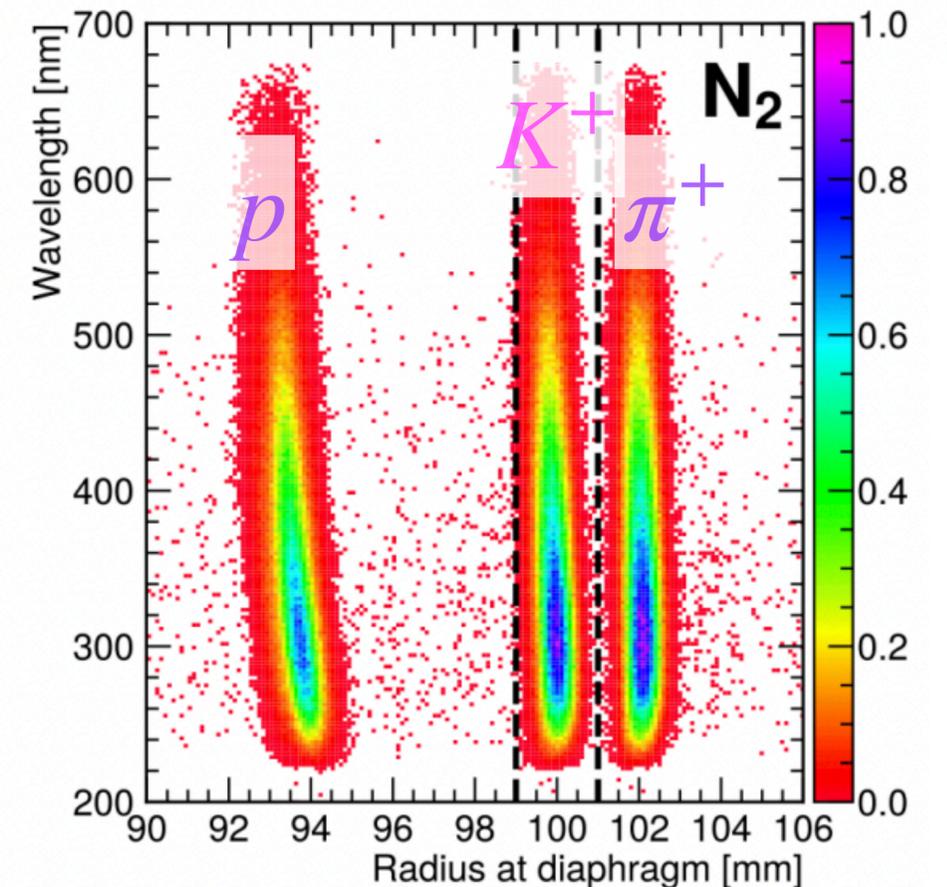


# Cedar & KTAG : $K^+$ tagging with threshold Cherenkov counter



- 75 GeV Unseparated hadron beam  
 $\pi^+$  : 70% ,  $p$  : 23% ,  $K^+$  : 6% .

- Use fixed diaphragm to select ONLY Cherenkov light from  $K^+$  (adjust diaphragm width and gas pressure in CEDAR to ensure powerful  $K^+/\pi^+$  discrimination).

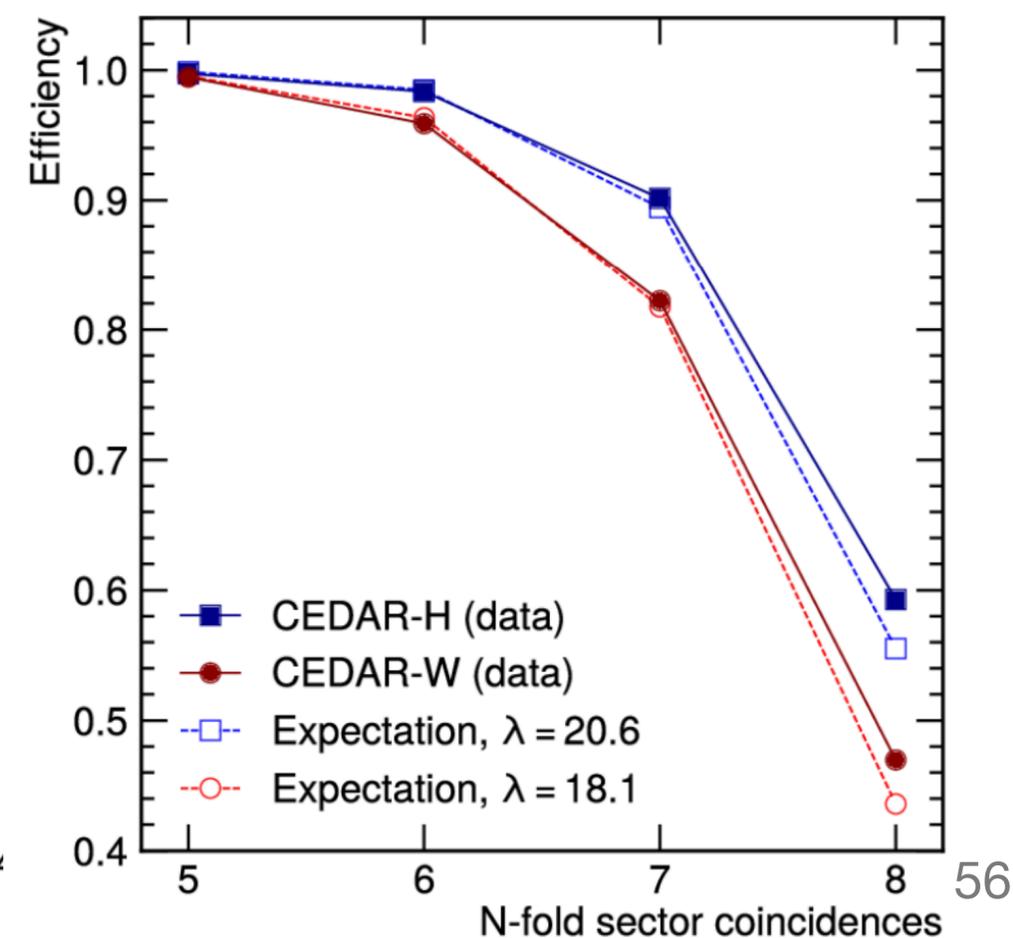
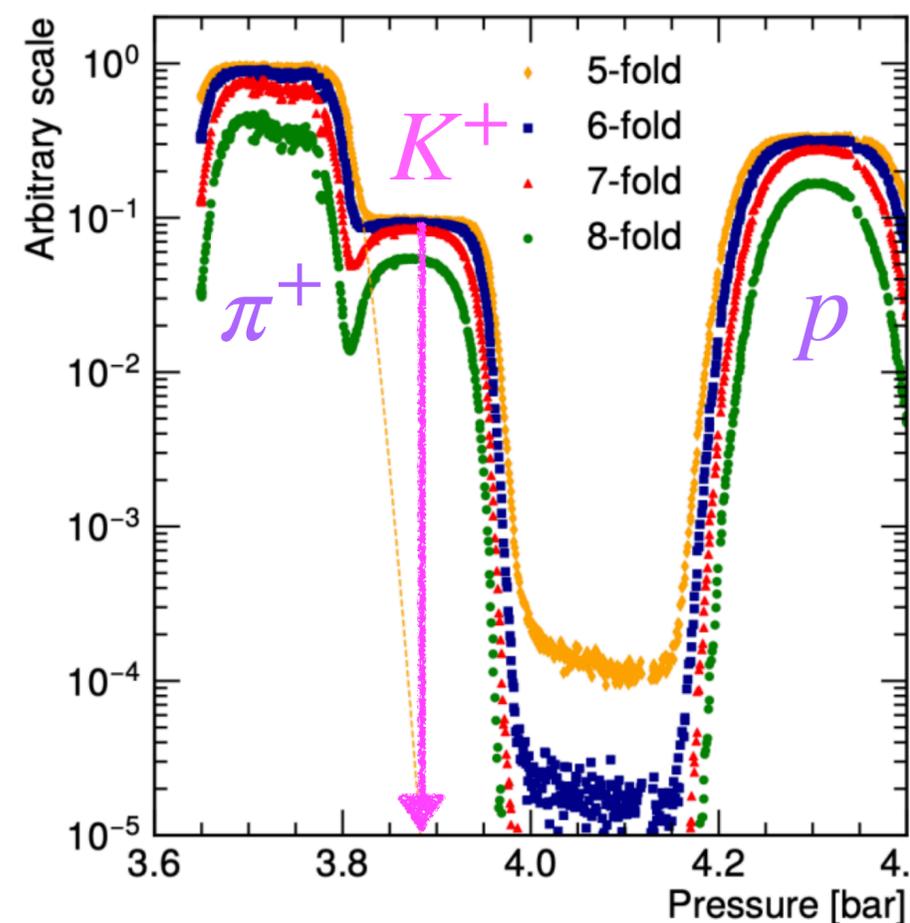


# New Cedar-H : installed in 2023

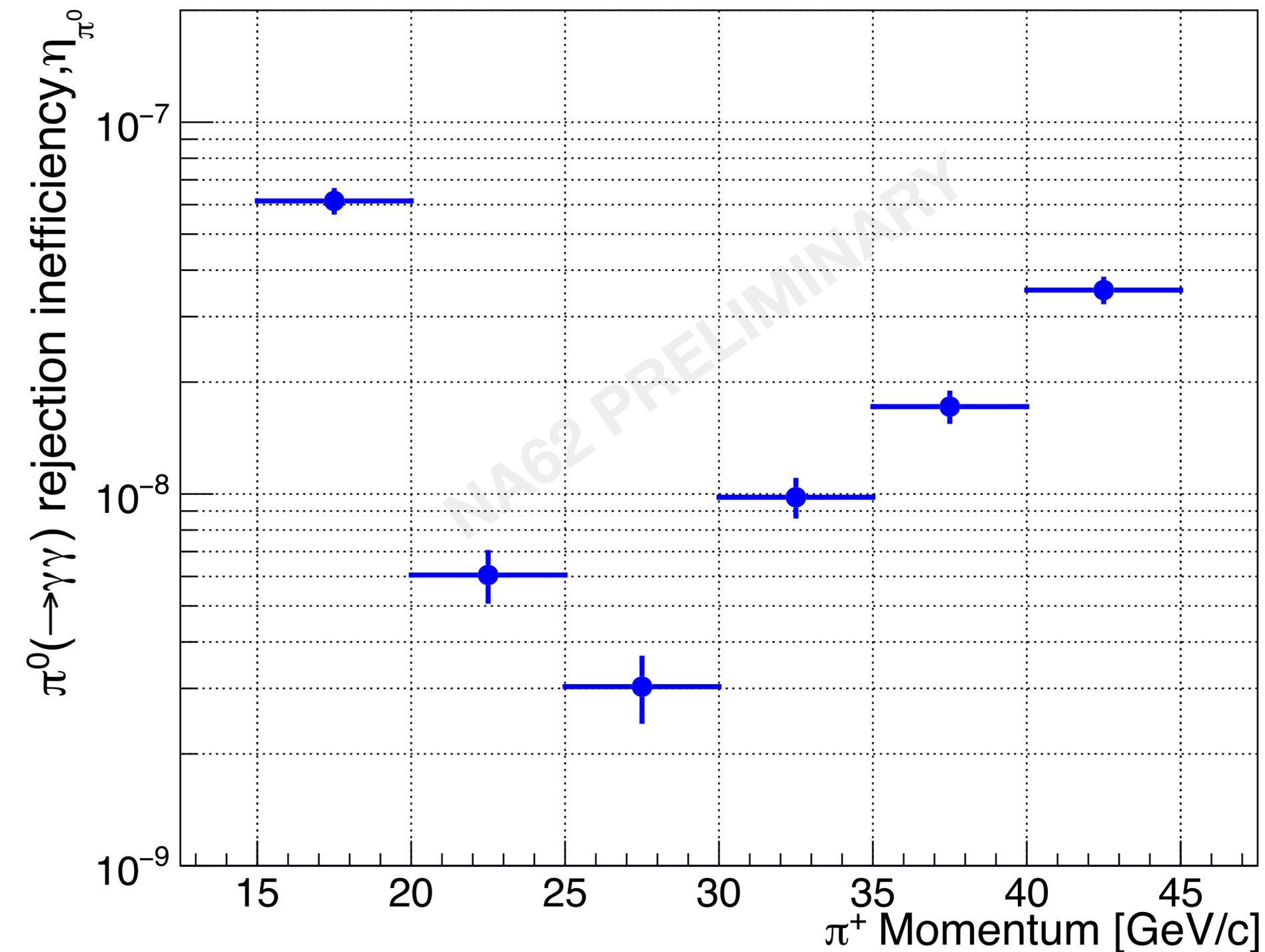
- CEDAR-W filled with  $N_2$  at 1.7 bar was biggest contributor to material in beam line ( $39 \times 10^{-3} X_0$ ).
- New CEDAR-H filled with  $H_2$  at 3.8 bar:
  - Reduces material to  $7.3 \times 10^{-3} X_0$  : reducing multiple scattering.
  - But new optics required to account for different optical properties of  $H_2$ .
- Successful test beam in 2022 (at CERN, H6) and installation in NA62 in **early 2023**.

## • Cedar-H Performance at NA62:

- **>99.5% efficiency** for 5-fold coincidence.
- $\pi^+$  mistag probability:  $10^{-4}$
- ~65ps time resolution
- **30% reduction** in elastically scattered beam particles.



# Photon veto performance



- Probability of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$  events with  $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  passing full photon vetos:

Number of events passing full  $\pi^+\nu\bar{\nu}$  selection in  $\pi^+\pi^0$  region

$$\eta_{\pi^0} = \frac{N_{sel}^{\pi^+\pi^0 R}}{N_{\pi\pi} D_0 \epsilon_{trig} \epsilon_{RV}}$$

Number of selected normalisation events

Random veto efficiency

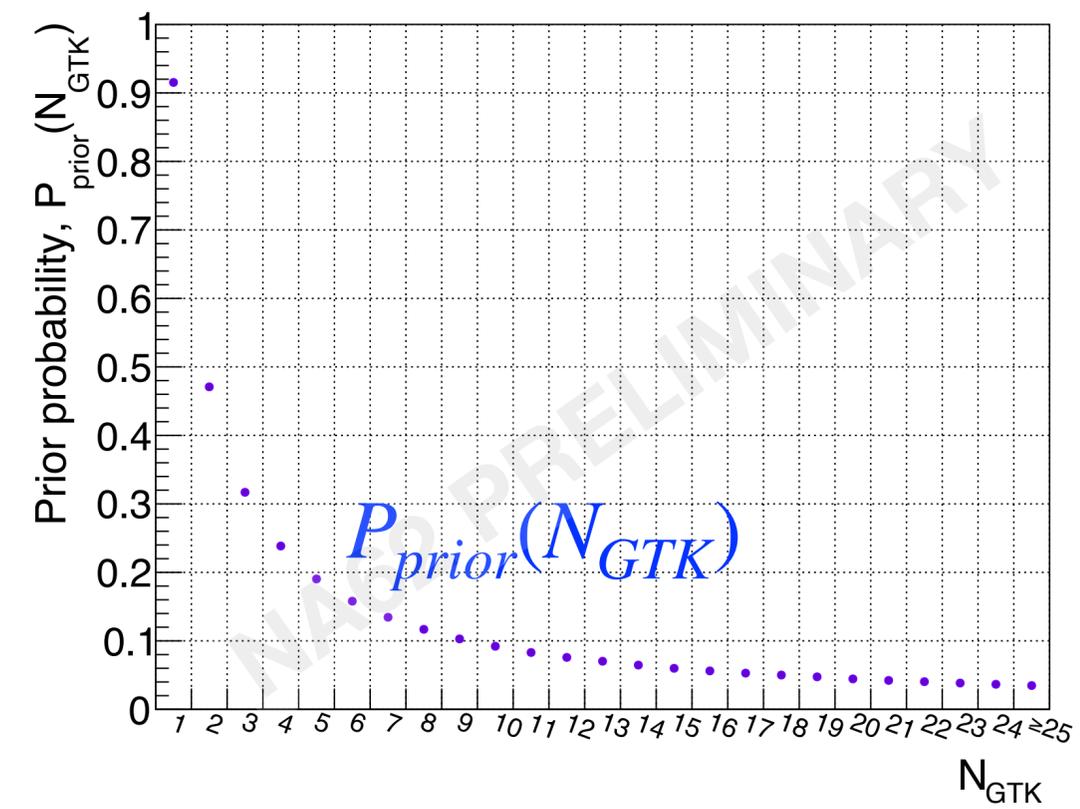
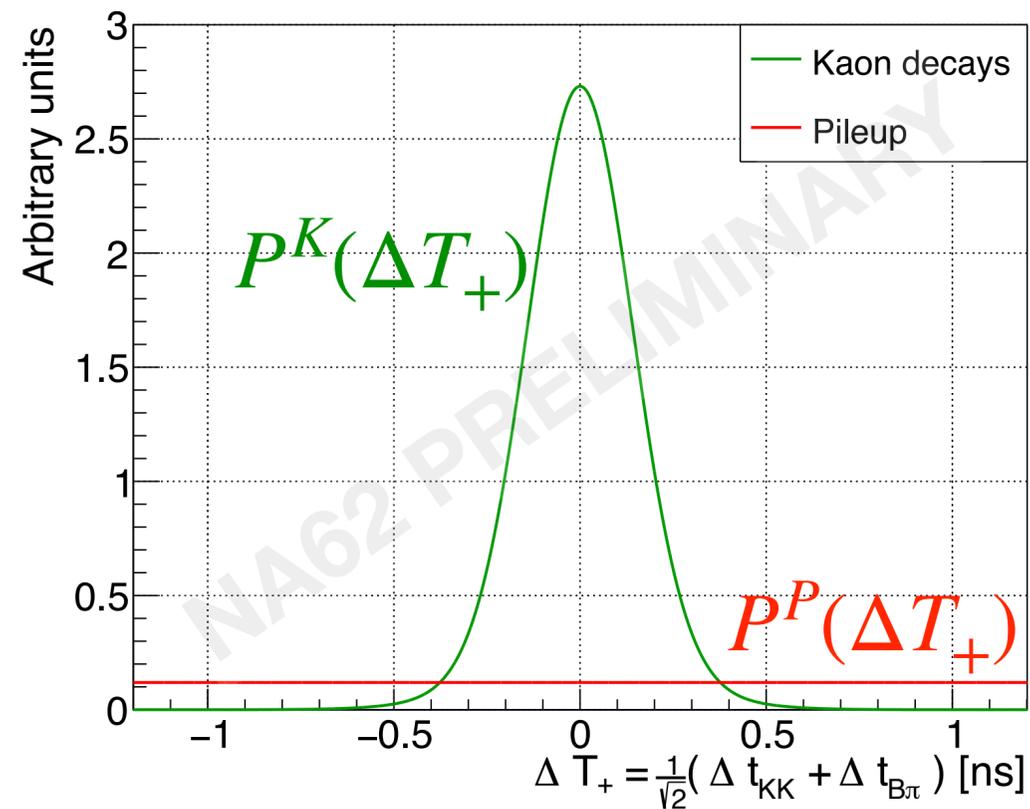
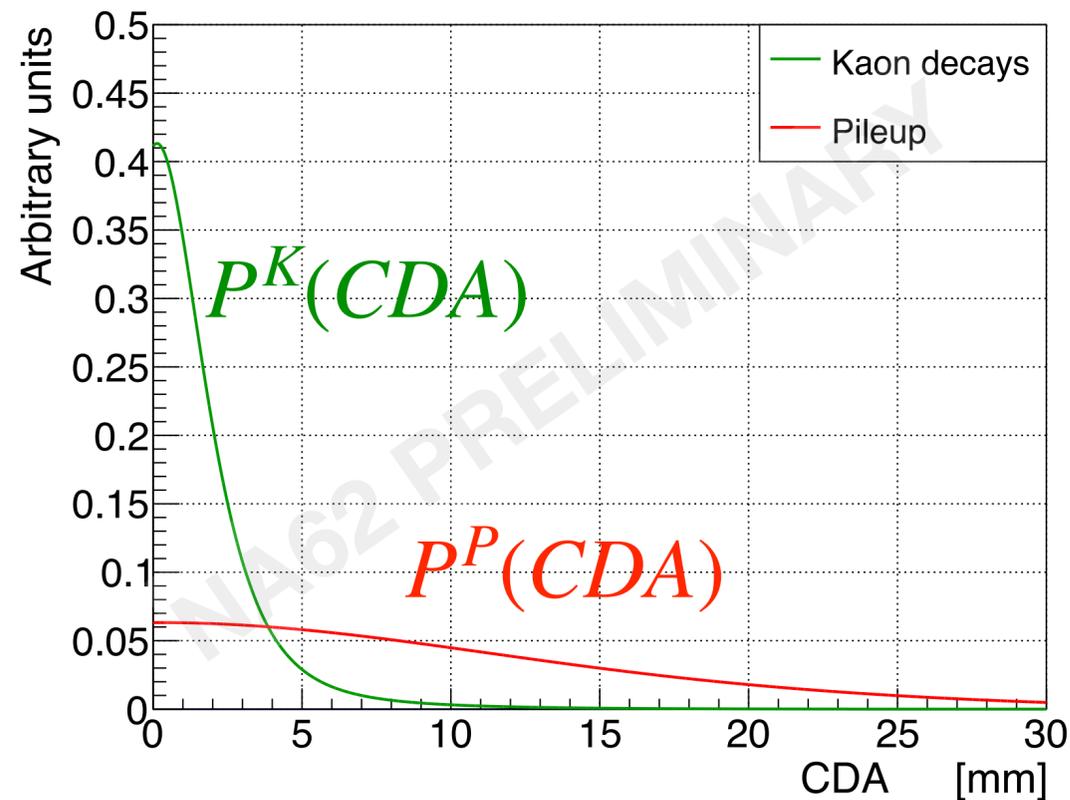
Normalisation trigger downscaling and efficiency

$$\eta_{\pi^0} = (1.72 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{-8}$$

- Combined  $\gamma/\pi^0$  rejection of  $\mathcal{O}(10^8)$ .

# Bayesian classifier for $K^+ - \pi^+$ matching

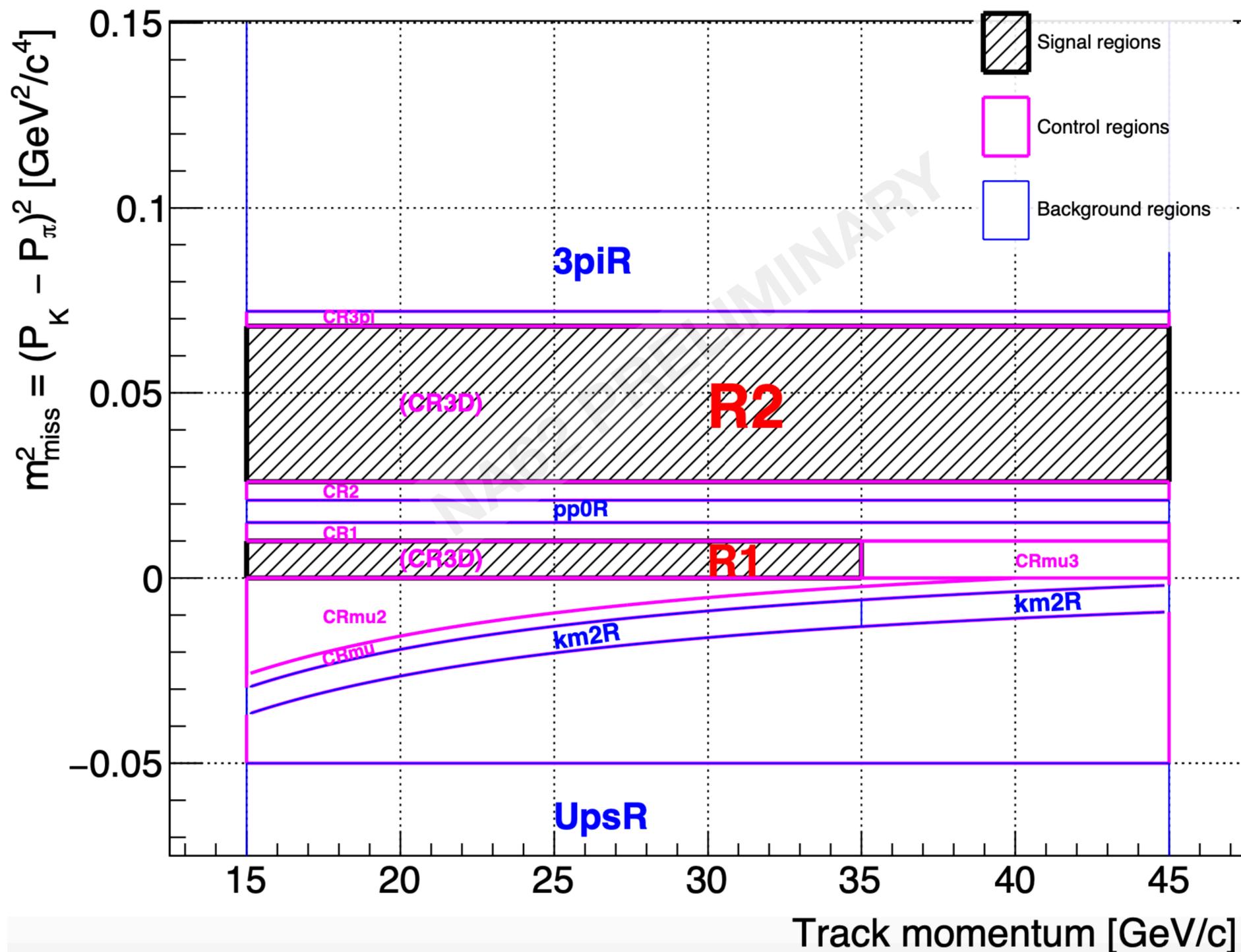
- **Inputs:** spatial (CDA) & time ( $\Delta T_+$ ) matching, intensity/pileup ( $N_{GTK}$ ) [prior]
  - Models for PDFs/Prior from  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$  data.



Example of selection update

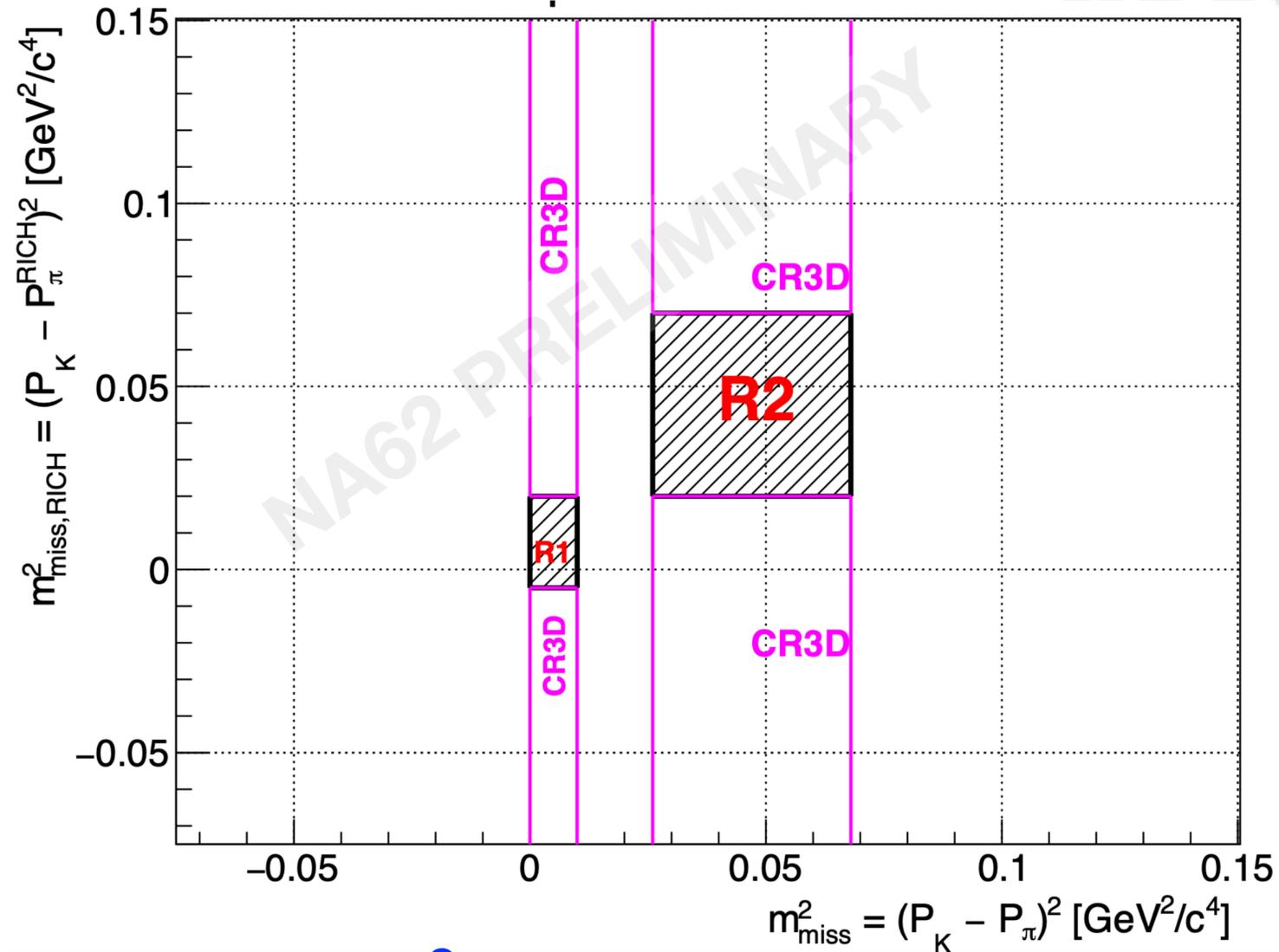
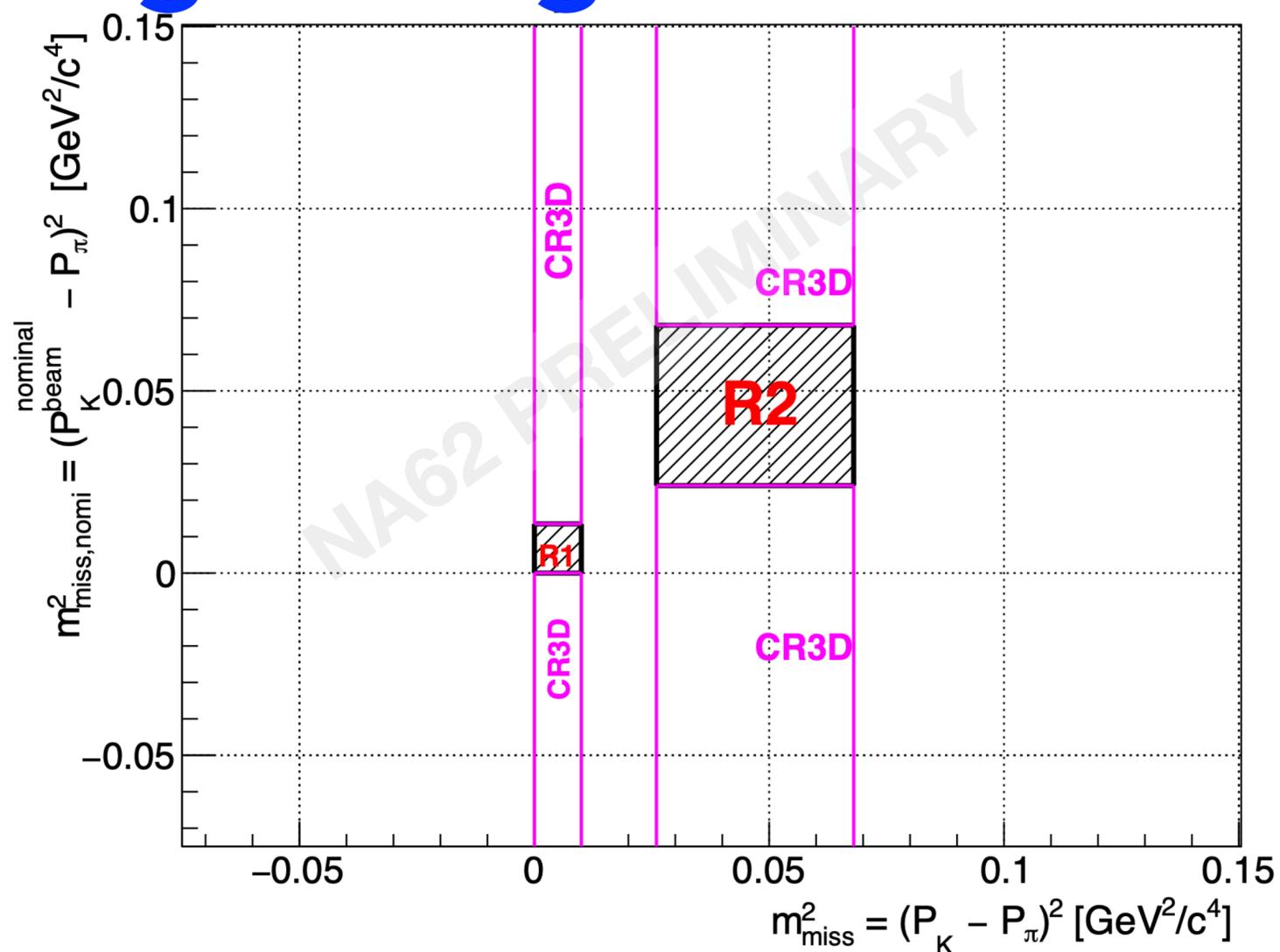
- **Output:** posterior probability of GTK track = true  $K^+$ 
  - Use likelihoods of kaons (K) and pileup (P)
  - Likelihood ratio used to select true match when  $N_{GTK} > 1$
- Efficiency improved (+10%) and mistagging probability maintained.

# Kinematic regions



- **Signal regions:**
- **Control regions:**
  - Used to validate background predictions.
- **Background regions:**
  - Used as “reference samples” for some background estimates.

# 3D signal regions definition



**CR3D:** control region for events in SR in 2 out of 3 dimensions.

$$m_{miss}^2 = (P_K - P_\pi)^2$$

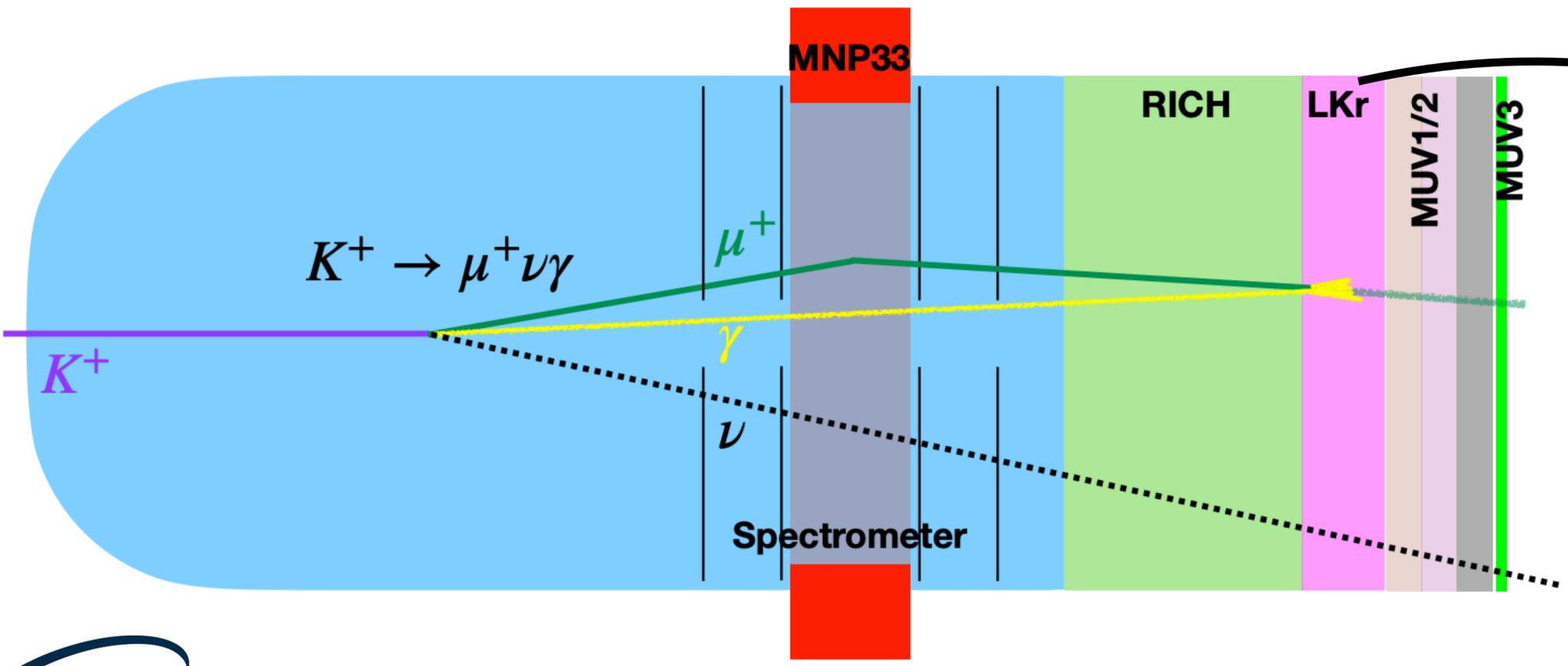
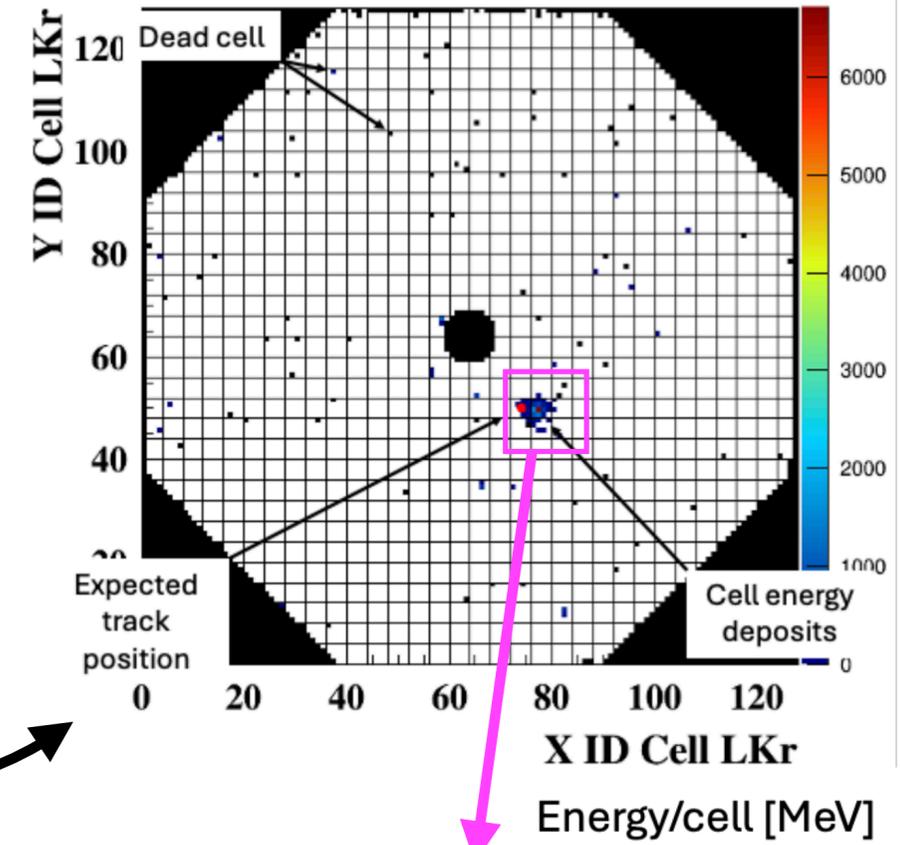
Default: GTK  
 Alternative: Nominal beam =  $m_{miss,nom}^2$

Default: STRAW  
 Alternative:  $|p|$  from RICH (use as a velocity spectrometer) =  $m_{miss,RICH}^2$

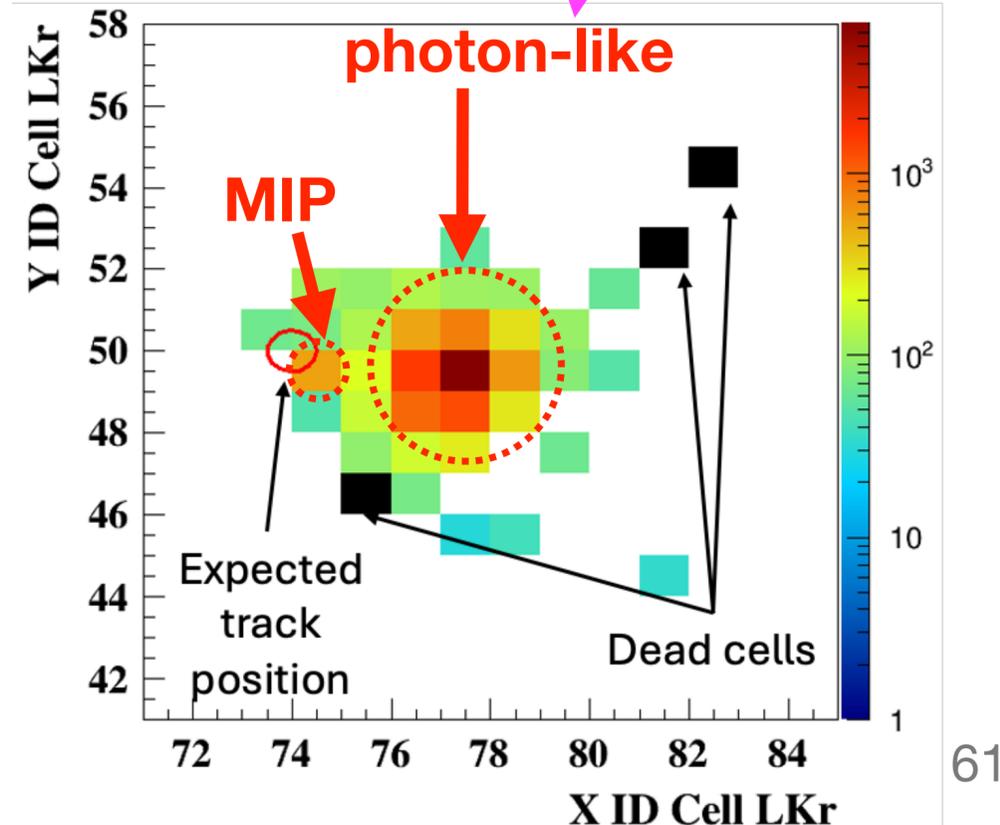
# Background mechanism: $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$

- $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$  decay with fairly energetic photon ( $E_\gamma > 5$  GeV) and high momentum  $\mu^+$  ( $p \gtrsim 35$  GeV/c).
- $\gamma$  and  $\mu^+$  hit LKr together and are misidentified as a  $\pi^+$ .
- No rejection power from photon vetos (LKr  $\gamma$  cluster associated to track).
- Additional  $\gamma$  naturally shifts  $m_{miss}^2 = (P_K - P_\pi)^2$  towards higher values (i.e. towards signal regions).

Example event (2022 data):



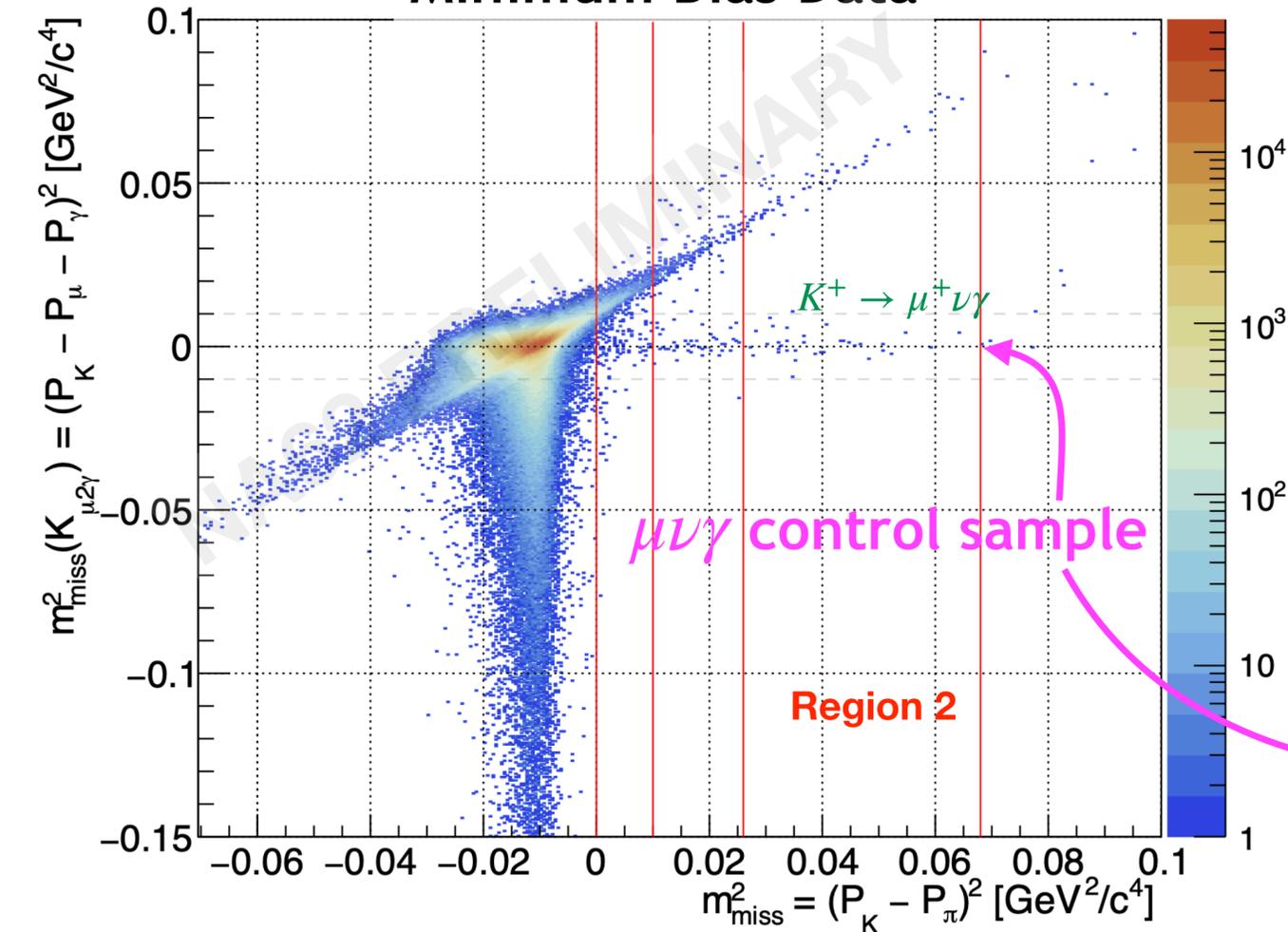
Sketch only



# Background evaluation: $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$

- Evaluate background expectation using  $\mu\nu\gamma$  control sample from MinimumBias (MB) trigger.
  - Not applying Calorimetric BDT classifier and a signal in MUV3.

Minimum Bias Data



- Kinematically select  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$  events:

$$m_{miss}^2(K_{\mu 2\gamma}) = (P_K - P_\mu - P_\gamma)^2$$

- $P_K$ : 4-momentum of  $K^+$  from GTK (as normal)
- $P_\mu$ : 4-momentum of track with  $\mu^+$  mass hypothesis.
- $P_\gamma$ : reconstructed from energy (subtracting MIP energy deposit) and position of LKr cluster (and position of  $K^+ - \mu^+$  vertex).

$$N_{bg}(K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma) = N_{\mu\nu\gamma}^{MB} D_{MB} \frac{\epsilon_{signal}}{\epsilon_{MB}} P_{misID}$$

Downscaling of MB trigger

Ratio of  $\pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  and MB trigger efficiencies

probability of  $\gamma + \mu^+$  being misidentified as a  $\pi^+$

Not included in kinematic tails calculation because the tails sample imposes Calorimetric PID= $\mu^+$ , while here there is misID of  $\mu^+ \gamma \Rightarrow \pi^+$ .

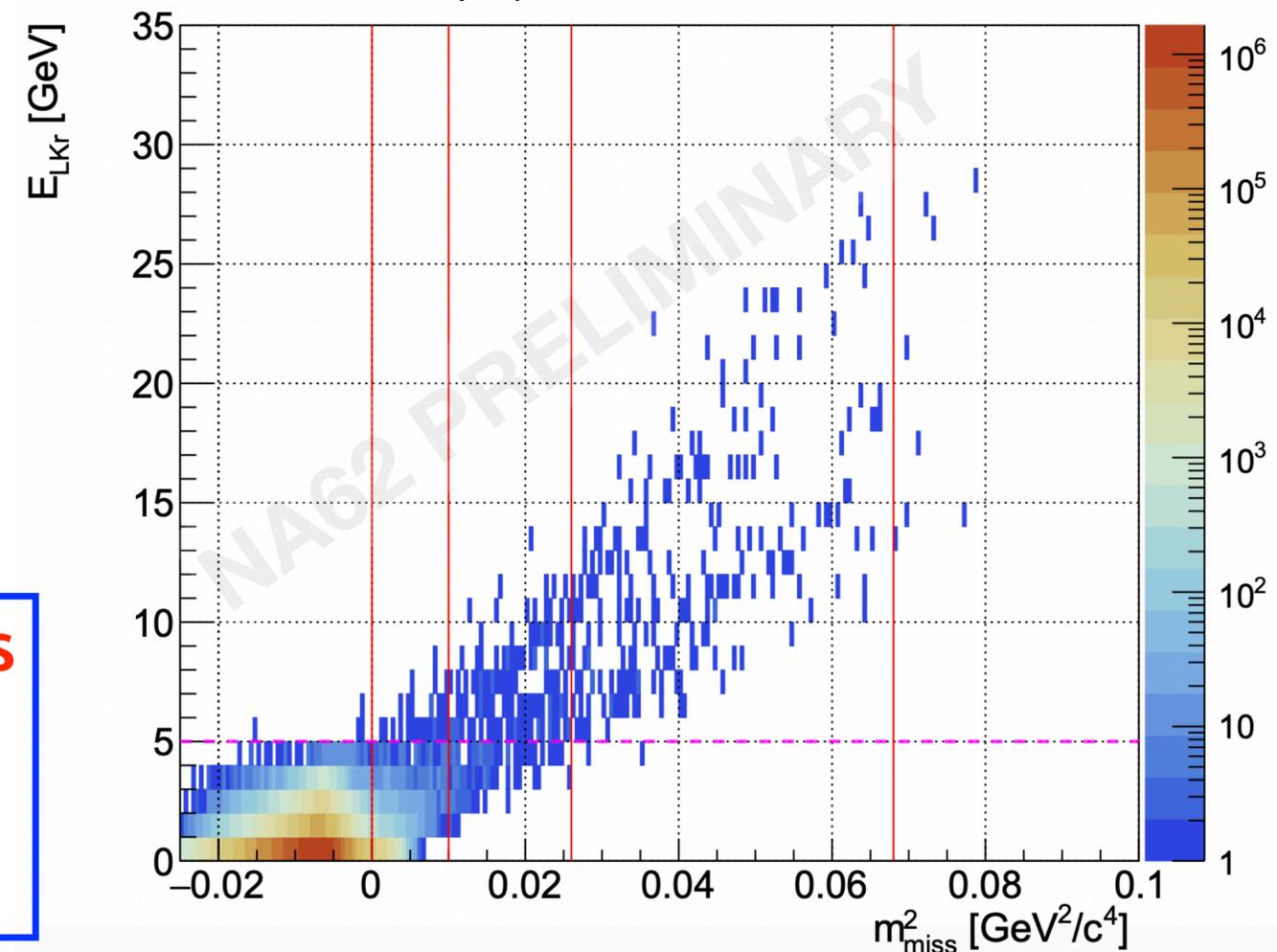
# Background rejection: $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$

Minimum Bias Data  
Events with MUV3 association and  
 $|m_{miss}^2(K_{\mu 2\gamma})|^2 < 0.01 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4$

veto  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$  events with:

- $|m_{miss}^2(K_{\mu 2\gamma})|^2 < 0.01 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4$
- $E_\gamma > 5 \text{ GeV}$
- $\mu^+$ -like RICH PID.

c.f. resolution  
 $\sim 0.0025 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4$



- Veto conditions established using data control samples and MC.
- $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$  Veto  $\Rightarrow$  20x background suppression with 0.4% signal loss.

- Why different to 2016–18 analysis?
  - Calorimetric PID degraded:
    - Higher intensity in 2021–22 data (in particular, affects MUV1,2).
    - Training of BDT classifier.

# Upstream background evaluation

$$N_{bg} = \sum_i N_i f_{cda} P_i^{match}$$

$N$   
 $f_{cda}$   
 $P_{match}$

Upstream Reference Sample:  
signal selection but invert CDA cut (CDA > 4mm)

Scaling factor : bad cda  $\rightarrow$  good cda

Probability to pass  $K^+ - \pi^+$  matching

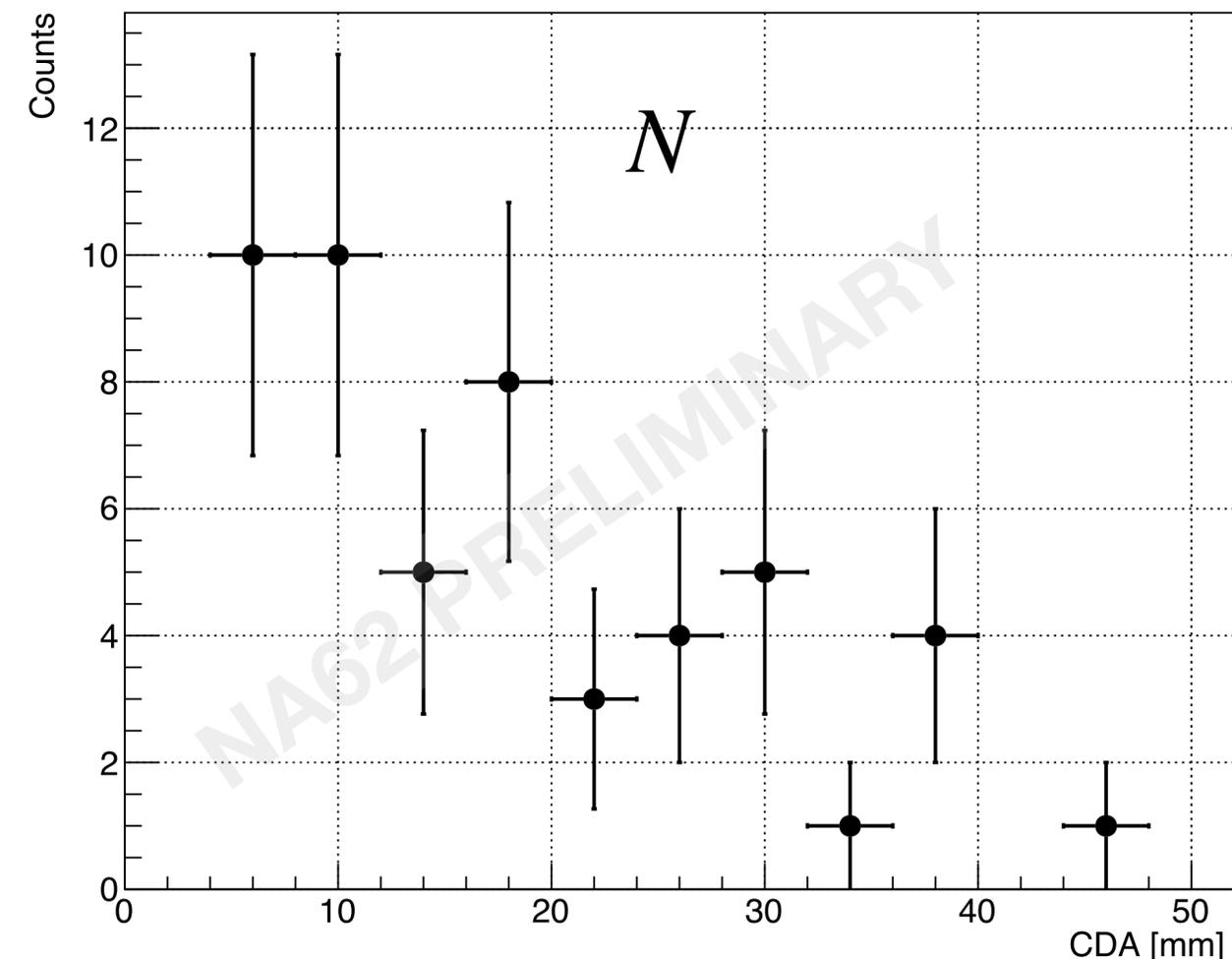
- Upstream reference sample contains all known upstream mechanisms.
  - $N$  provides normalisation.
- $f_{CDA}$  depends only on geometry.
- $P_{match}$  depends on  $(\Delta T_+, N_{GTK})$ .

Calculate using bins (i) of  $(\Delta T_+, N_{GTK})$   
[Updated to fully data-driven procedure]

$$N = 51 \quad f_{CDA} = 0.20 \pm 0.03 \quad \langle P_{match} \rangle = 73 \%$$

$$N_{bg}(\text{Upstream}) = 7.4^{+2.1}_{-1.8}$$

$N_{URS} = 51$



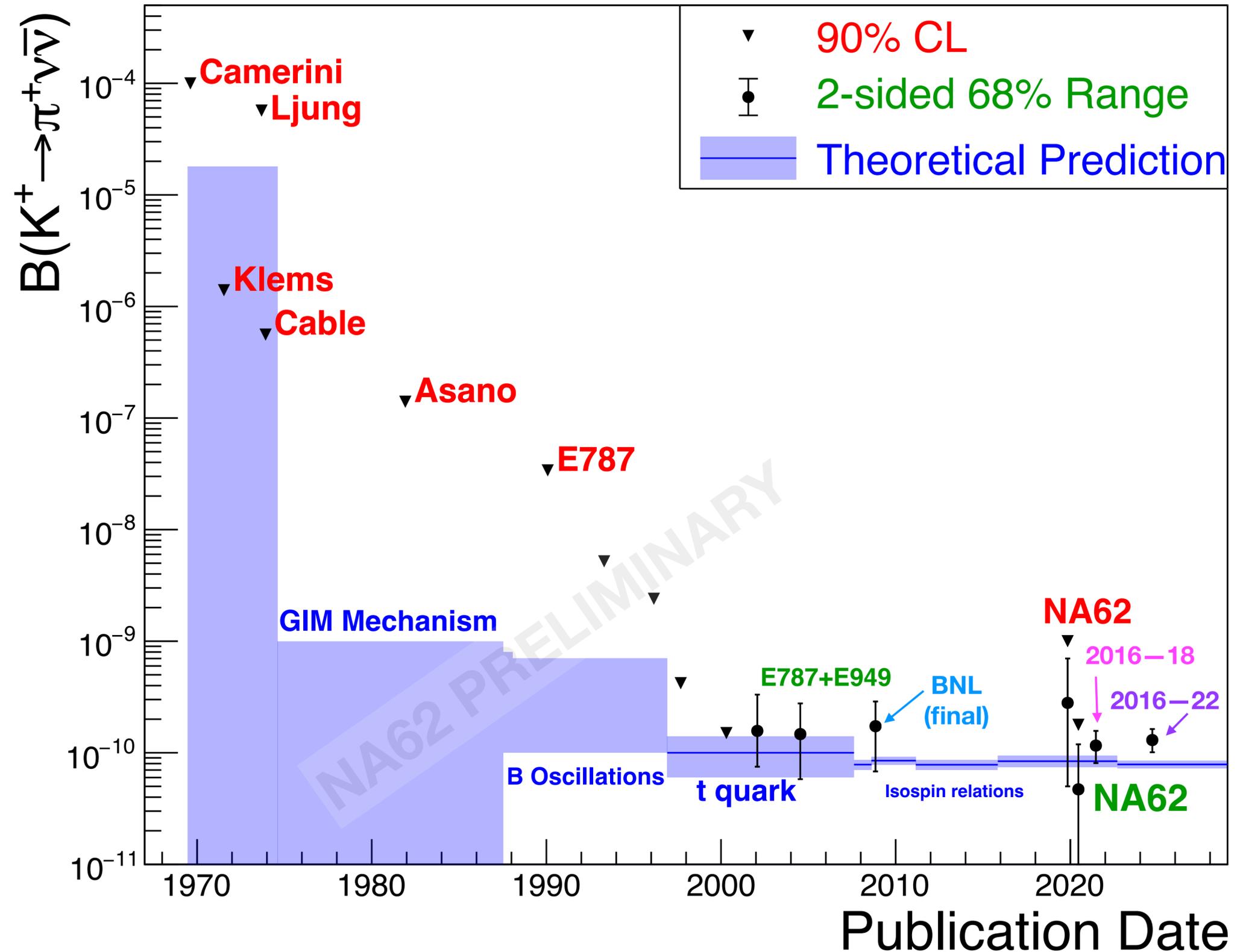
# Results in context: the long story of $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$

- Experimental measurements:

- Camerini et al. [[PRL 23 \(1969\) 326-329](#)]
- Klems et al. [[PRD 4 \(1971\) 66-80](#)]
- Ljung et al. [[PRD 8 \(1973\) 1307-1330](#)]
- Cable et al. [[PRD 8 \(1973\) 3807-3812](#)]
- Asano et al. [[PLB 107 \(1981\) 159](#)]
- E787 :
  - [[PRL 64 \(1990\) 21-24](#)]
  - [[PRL 70 \(1993\) 2521-2524](#)]
  - [[PRL 76 \(1996\) 1421-1424](#)]
  - [[PRL 79 \(1997\) 2204-2207](#)]
  - [[PRL 84 \(2000\) 3768-3770](#)]
  - [[PRL 88 \(2002\) 041803](#)]
- E949 (+E787)
  - [[PRL 93 \(2004\) 031801](#)]
  - [[PRL 101 \(2008\) 191802](#)]
- NA62:
  - 2016 data: [[PLB 791 \(2019\) 156](#)]
  - 2016+17 data: [[JHEP 11 \(2020\) 042](#)]
  - 2016–18 data: [[JHEP 06 \(2021\) 093](#)]
  - 2016–22 data : this result.

- Theory:

- [[Phys.Rev. 163 \(1967\) 1430-1440](#)]
- [[PRD 10 \(1974\) 897](#)]
- [[Prog.Theor.Phys. 65 \(1981\)](#)]
- [[PLB 133 \(1983\) 443-448](#)]
- [[PLB 192 \(1987\) 201-206](#)]
- [[Nucl.Phys.B 304 \(1988\) 205-235](#)]
- [[PRD 54 \(1996\) 6782-6789](#)]
- [[PRD 76 \(2007\) 034017](#)]
- [[PRD 78 \(2008\) 034006](#)]
- [[PRD 83 \(2011\) 034030](#)]
- [[JHEP 11 \(2015\) 033](#)]
- [[JHEP 09 \(2022\) 148](#)]



# $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$ at KOTO

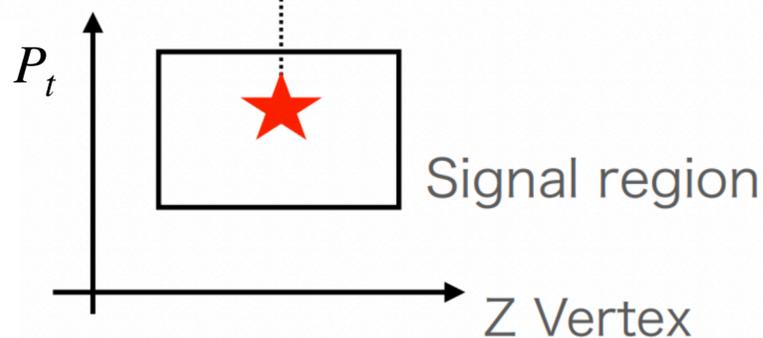
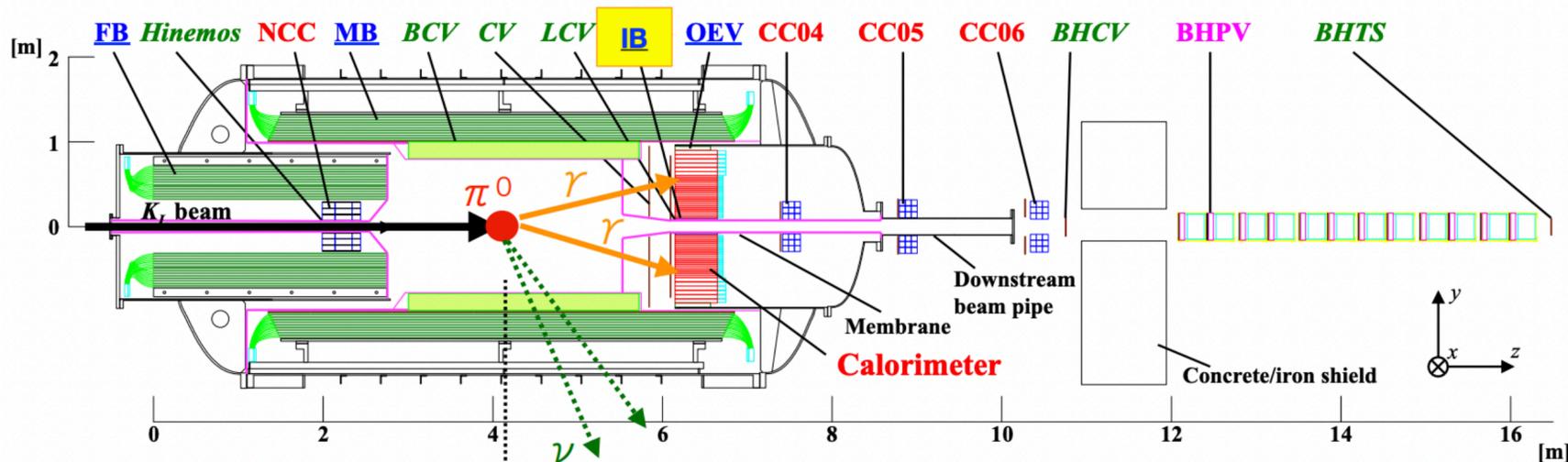
[K. shiomi : Kaons @ CERN 2023]

[T. Nomura : Kaons @ J-PARC 2024]

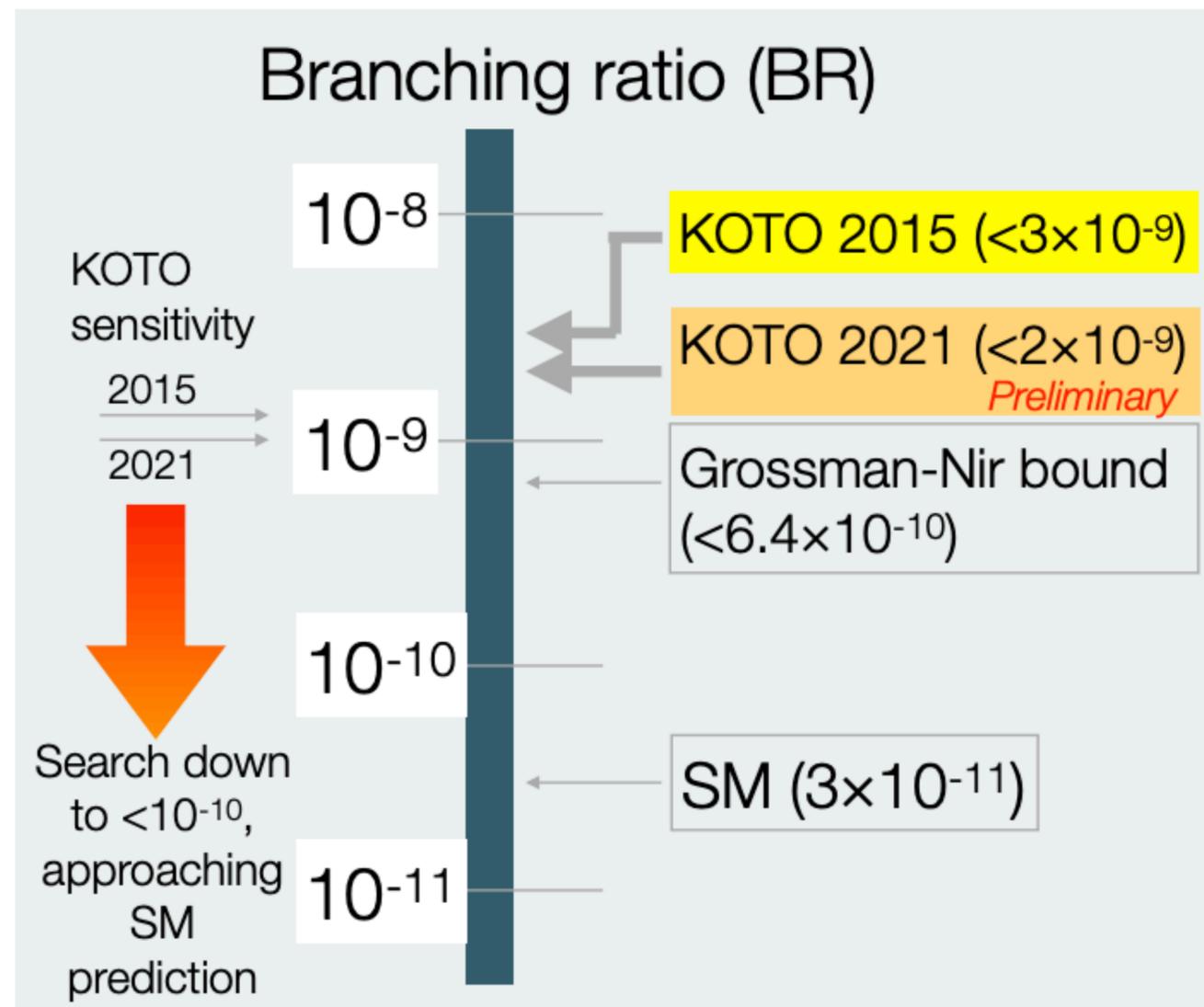


- Located at J-Park 30 GeV main ring.
- KOTO continues data-taking to reach sensitivity  $< 10^{-10}$
- Planned future program (KOTO-2) key part of high priority hadron hall extension plans at J-PARC.

Signature of  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu} = "2 \gamma + \text{Nothing} + P_t"$



Assuming  $2 \gamma$  from  $\pi^0$ ,  
 Calculate z vertex on the beam axis  
 $M^2(\pi^0) = 2E_1 E_2 (1 - \cos \theta)$   
 Calculate  $\pi^0$  transverse momentum



Grossman-Nir bound:  
 indirect limit from relation to  $BR(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$ ;  
 Calc'd from NA62 results (2021) with  $1\sigma$  region

Latest results:

# Results of the 2021 data analysis

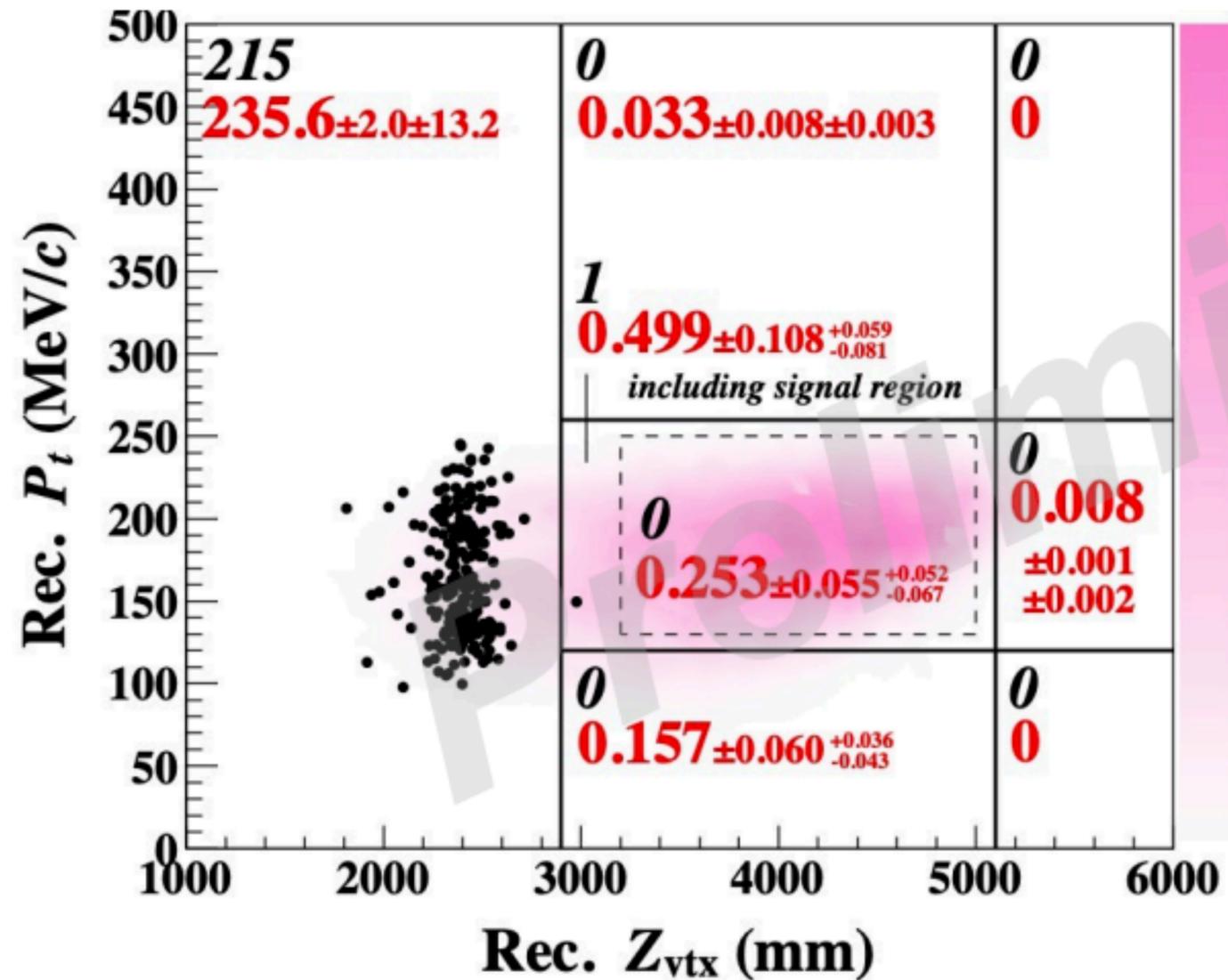


T. Nomura : Kaons @ J-PARC 2024

Final PT vs Z plot

Black: observed  
Red: expected BG  
Contour: signal MC

Single Event Sensitivity =  
 $(9.26 \pm 0.03_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.75_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-10}$



$N_{\text{observed}} = 0$

$\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \nu) < 2.1 \times 10^{-9}$  (90% C.L.)

Obtained the world best limit.

We will submit the paper on this result soon.



# physics programme

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

Rare Decays

Forbidden Decays

Exotics

- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  : [PLB 791 (2019) 156] [JHEP 11 (2020) 042] [JHEP 06 (2021) 093][this talk]
- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ X$  : [JHEP 03 (2021) 058] [JHEP 06 (2021) 093]
- $(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0, ) \pi^0 \rightarrow$  invisible [JHEP 02 (2021) 201]

- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0, \pi^0 \rightarrow e^+ e^-$  [prelim. Spring 2024]
- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma \gamma$  [PLB 850 (2024) 138513]
- Tagged neutrino [prelim. 2023]

- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi \mu e$  [prelim. Spring 2024]
- $K^+ \rightarrow (\pi^0) \pi^- e^+ e^+$  [PLB 830 (2022) 137172]
- $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+$  [PLB838 (2023) 137679]
- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi \mu e, \pi^0 \rightarrow \mu^- e^+$  [PRL 127 (2021) 13, 131802]

- Beam dump dark photon searches:
  - $A' \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$  [PRL 133 (2024) 11, 111802] [JHEP 09 (2023) 035]
  - $A' \rightarrow$  hadrons [prelim. Spring 2024]