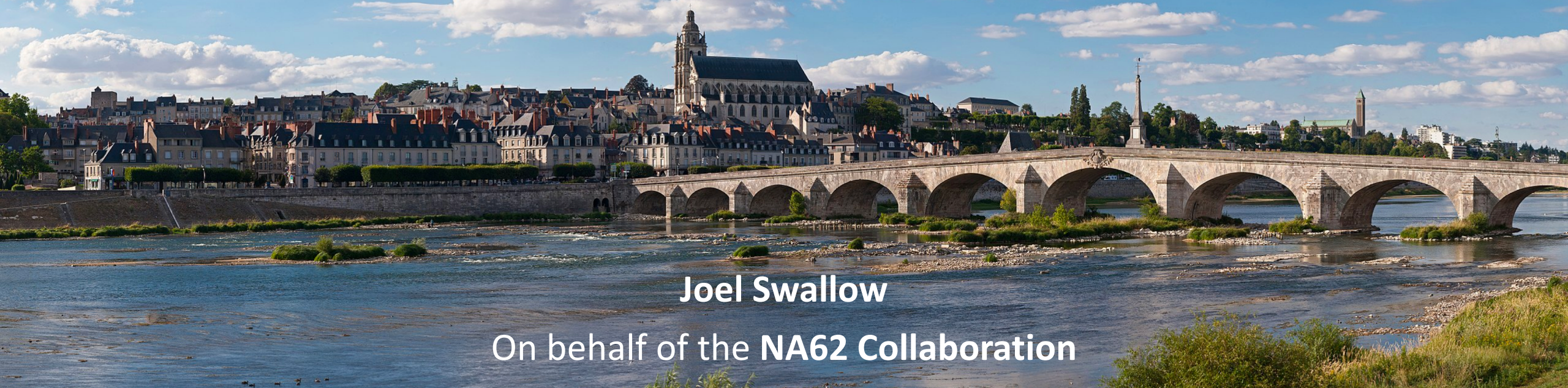


# NA62 Search for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ in 2016 Data



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On behalf of the NA62 Collaboration

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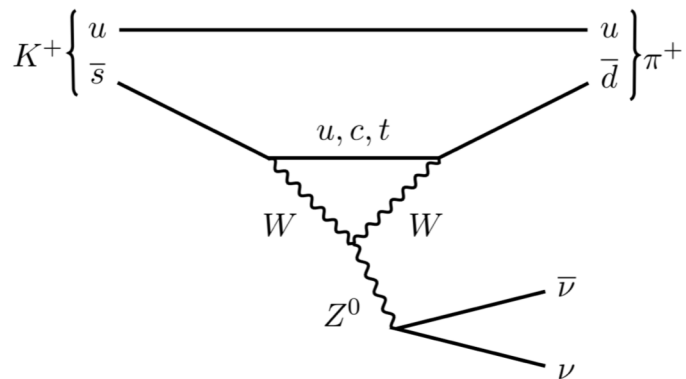
# Overview



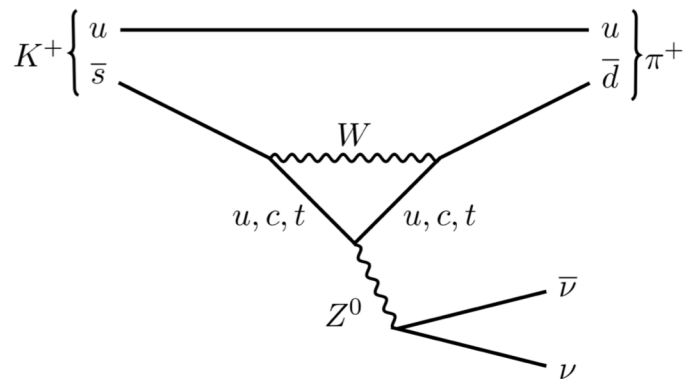
- The ultra-rare  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  decay.
- The NA62 experiment at CERN.
- Results of analysis of 2016 data :
  - Selection.
  - Background rejection.
  - Single Event Sensitivity (SES).
  - Background studies.
  - Result.
- Outlook for NA62.



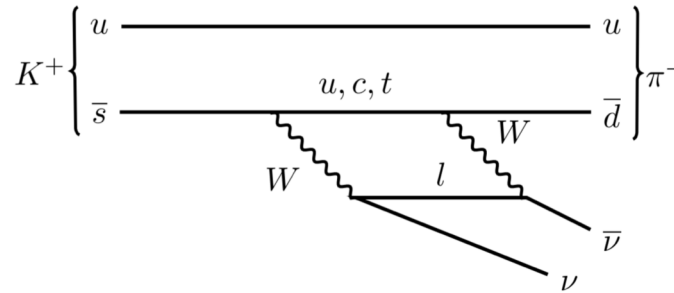
# The ultra-rare $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay



(a)  $Z^0$  penguin diagram.

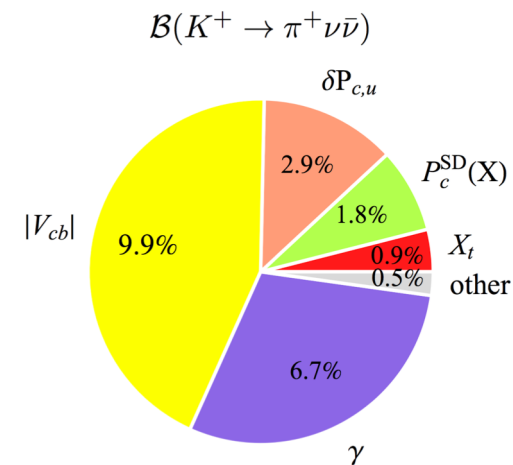


(b)  $Z^0$  penguin diagram.



(c)  $W$  box diagram.

- **FCNC loop process:**  $\bar{s} \rightarrow \bar{d}$  transition, dramatic CKM suppression.
- **Theoretically clean:**
  - Dominated by short distance effects.
  - Hadronic matrix elements precisely known from  $K_{l3}$  decays.
- **Precise theoretical prediction:** [\[Buras et al. : JHEP 1511 \(2015\) 033\]](#)



Uncertainty budget  
[Buras et al. : JHEP 1511 (2015) 033]

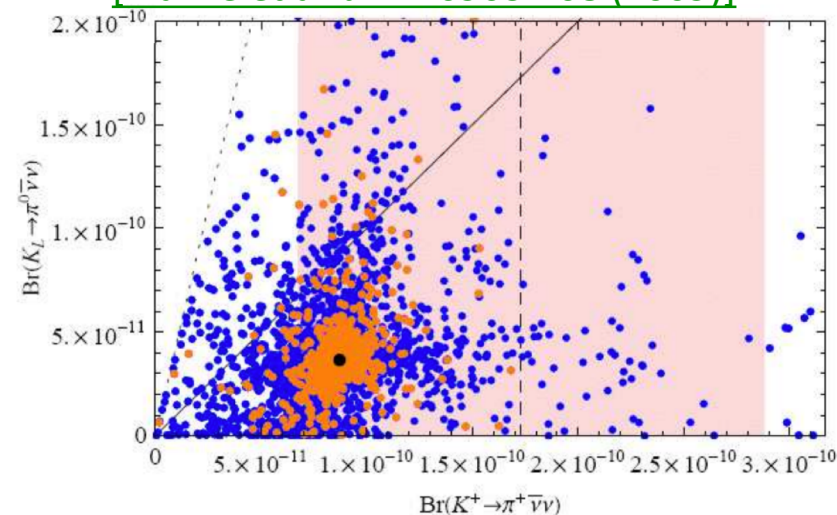
$$\therefore Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (8.38 \pm 0.30) \times 10^{-11} \left[ \frac{|V_{cb}|}{40.7 \times 10^{-3}} \right]^{2.8} \left[ \frac{\gamma}{73.2^\circ} \right]^{0.74} = (8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11}$$

- **Potential sensitivity to NP.**
- **NA62 primary goal:** Precise experimental measurement of  $Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$ .

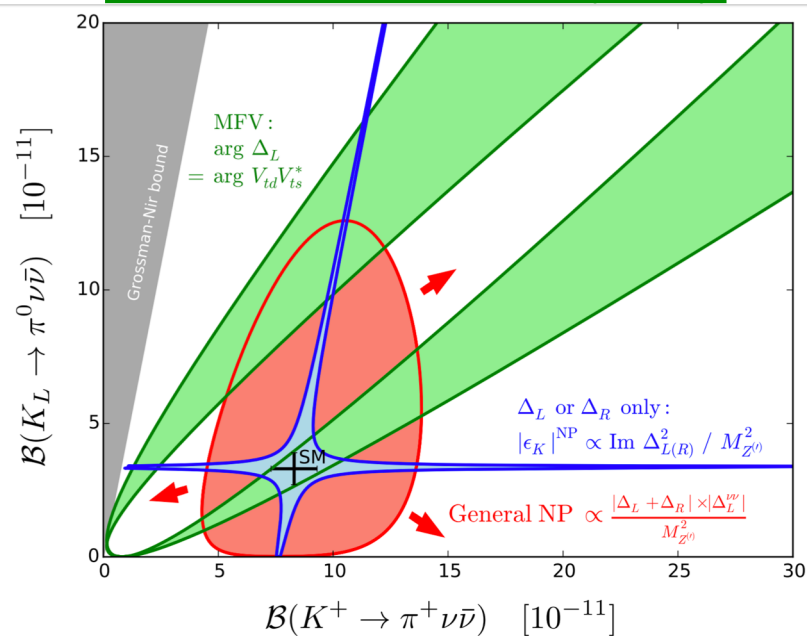
# NP Prospects for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay

- Randall-Sundrum (warped extra dimension) with Custodial protection [Blanke et al. JHEP 0903:108 (2009)]
- Supersymmetry (MSSM) [Blažek & Maták Int.J.Mod.Phys. A29 (2014)] [Isidori et al JHEP 0608:064 (2006)]
- Simplified Z, Z' models [Buras et al. JHEP11,166 (2015)]
- Littlest Higgs model with T-parity [Blanke et al. Eur.Phys.J. C76 (2016) no.4, 182]
- Lepton Flavour Universality Violation (LFUV) [Bordone et al. Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77:618]
- Previous constrains on the models from:  $K^0 - \bar{K}^0$  mixing, rare  $K$  and  $B$  decays, CKM matrix element measurements, LFUV anomalies, direct searches for NP.

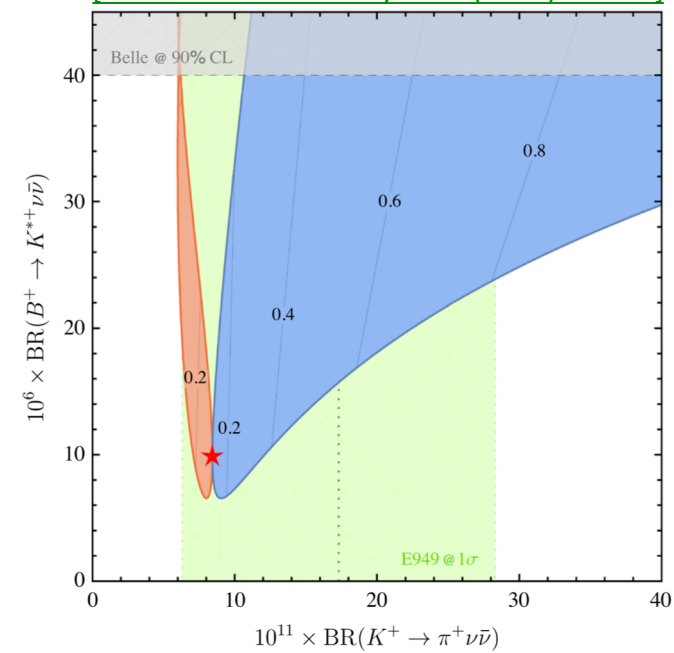
Randall-Sundrum + Custodial Protection  
[Blanke et al. JHEP 0903:108 (2009)]



[Buras et al. JHEP11,166 (2015)]

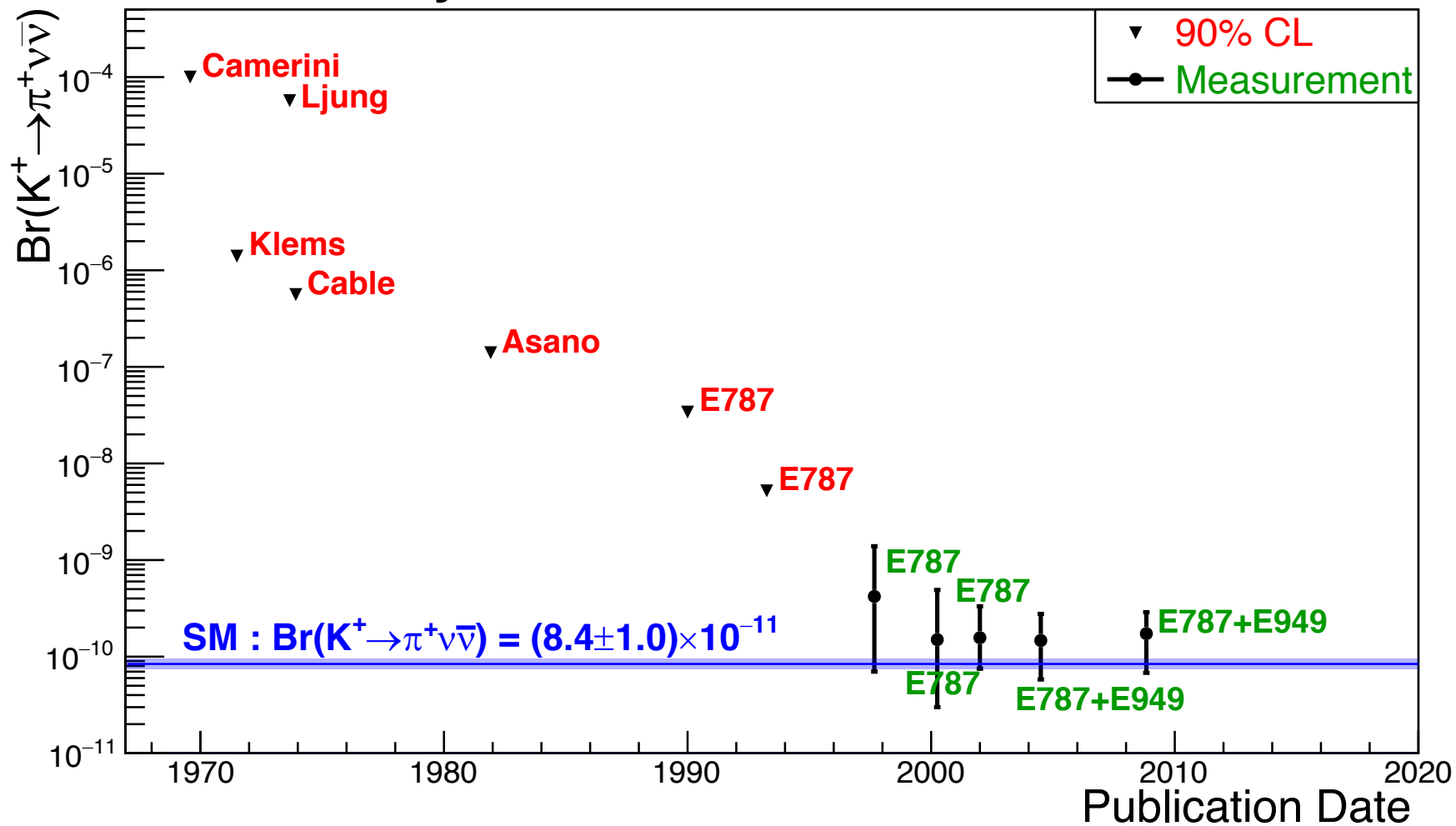


LFUV  
[Bordone et al. Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77:618]



# Experimental Context : $Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$ Measurement

## History of $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ Measurement



Final BNL E787+E949 result : [\[Artamonov et al. PhysRevLett.101.191802 \(2008\)\]](#)

$$Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (1.73^{+1.15}_{-1.05}) \times 10^{-10}$$

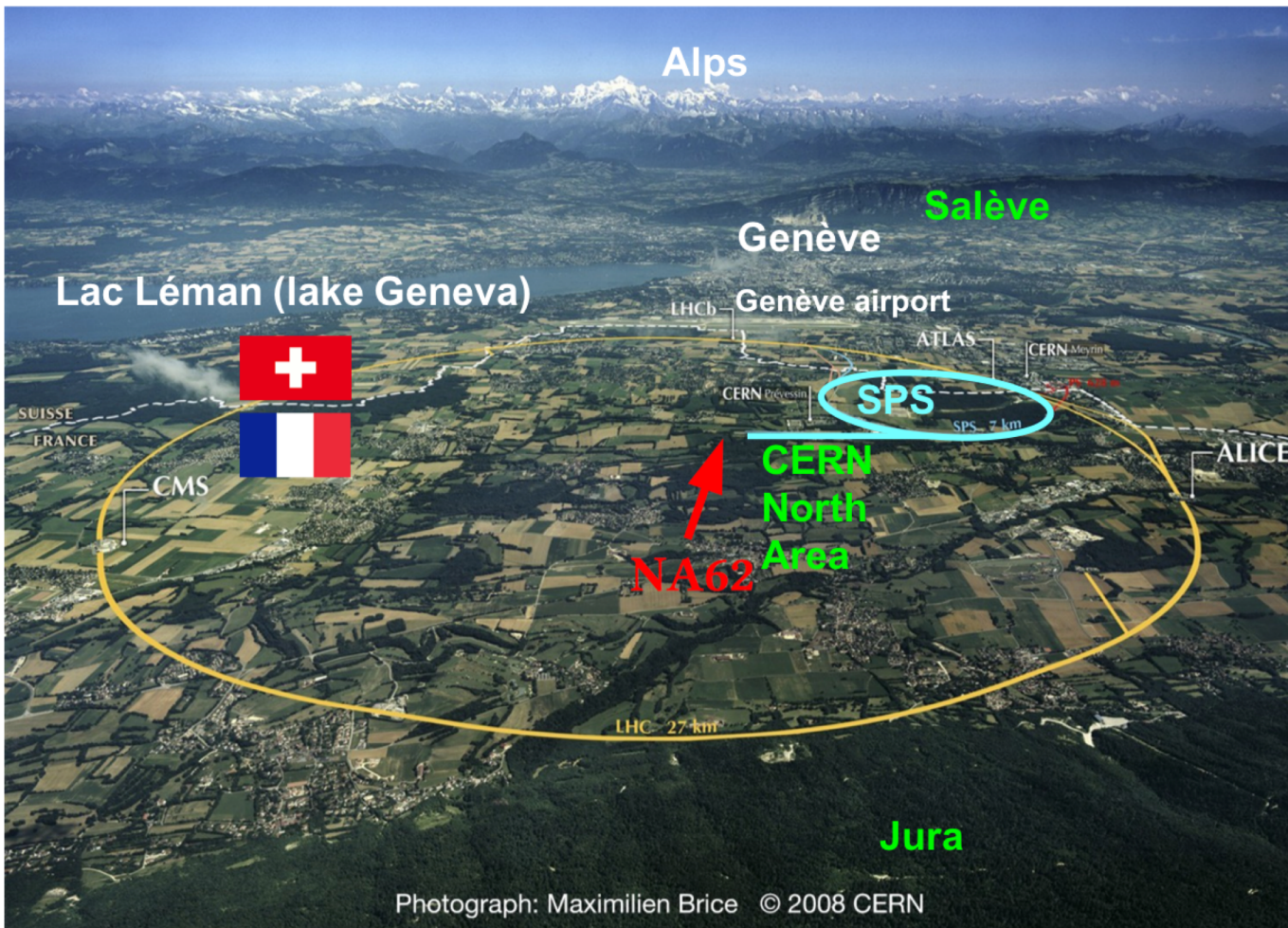
# The NA62 Experiment at CERN



~200 collaborators from ~30 institutions :



Birmingham, Bratislava, Bristol, Bucharest, CERN, Dubna (JINR), Fairfax, Ferrara, Florence, Frascati, Glasgow, Lancaster, Liverpool, Louvain-la-Neuve, Mainz, Moscow (INR), Naples, Perugia, Pisa, Prague, Protvino (IHEP), Rome I, Rome II, San Luis Potosi, Sofia, TRIUMF, Turin, Vancouver (UBC).



- **Primary goal:** Measurement of  $Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$ .
- **New Technique:**  $K$  decay-in-flight.
- **Requirements:**
  - $10^{13}$   $K^+$  decays
  - Signal acceptance  $\mathcal{O}(10\%)$
  - $\mathcal{O}(10^{12})$  Background rejection
- **Broader Physics programme :** [\[SPSC NA62 \(2018\)\]](#)
  - Rare  $K^+$  decays (e.g  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ ).
  - LNV/LFV  $K^+$  decays (e.g  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- l_2^+ l_1^+$ ).
  - Exotics (e.g HNL : [\[PhysLett.B,778 \(2018\)\]](#) ).
- **Data Taking :**
  - 2015 Commissioning run.
  - 2016 Commissioning + **Physics run (30 days)** [this talk].
  - 2017 Physics run (160 days).
  - 2018 Physics run in progress (217 days scheduled).



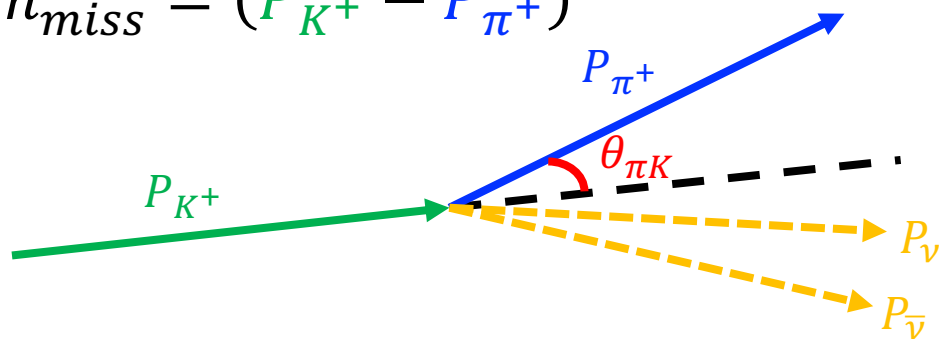
# The NA62 Strategy

## NA62 Keystones

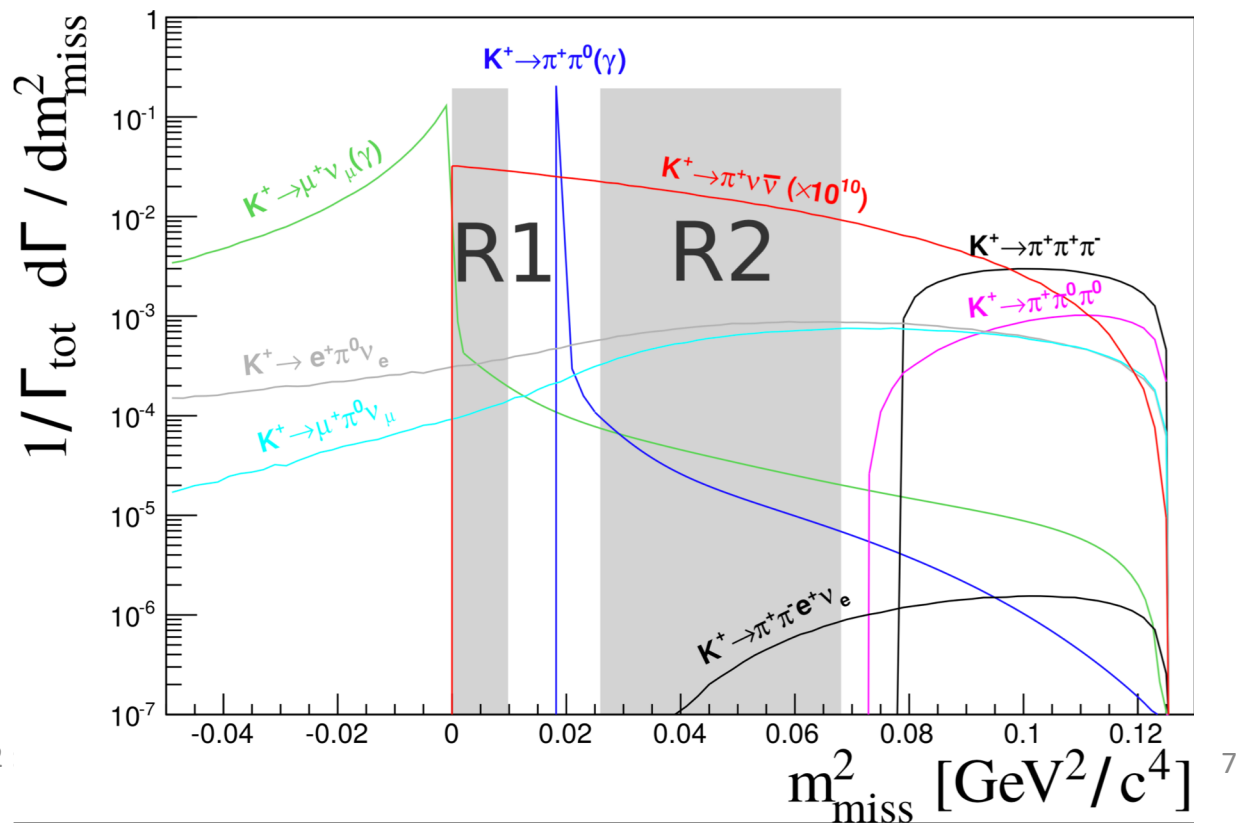
- $\mathcal{O}(100)$  ps timing between sub-detectors.
- $\mathcal{O}(10^4)$  background suppression from kinematics.
- $> 10^7$  muon rejection.
- $> 10^7$  rejection of  $\pi^0$  from  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$ .

Process	Branching Ratio [PDG]
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+\nu_\mu$	$0.6356 \pm 0.0011$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$	$0.2067 \pm 0.0008$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$	$0.05583 \pm 0.00024$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-e^+\nu_e$	$(4.247 \pm 0.024) \times 10^{-5}$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\nu\bar{\nu}$	[SM] $(8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11}$

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

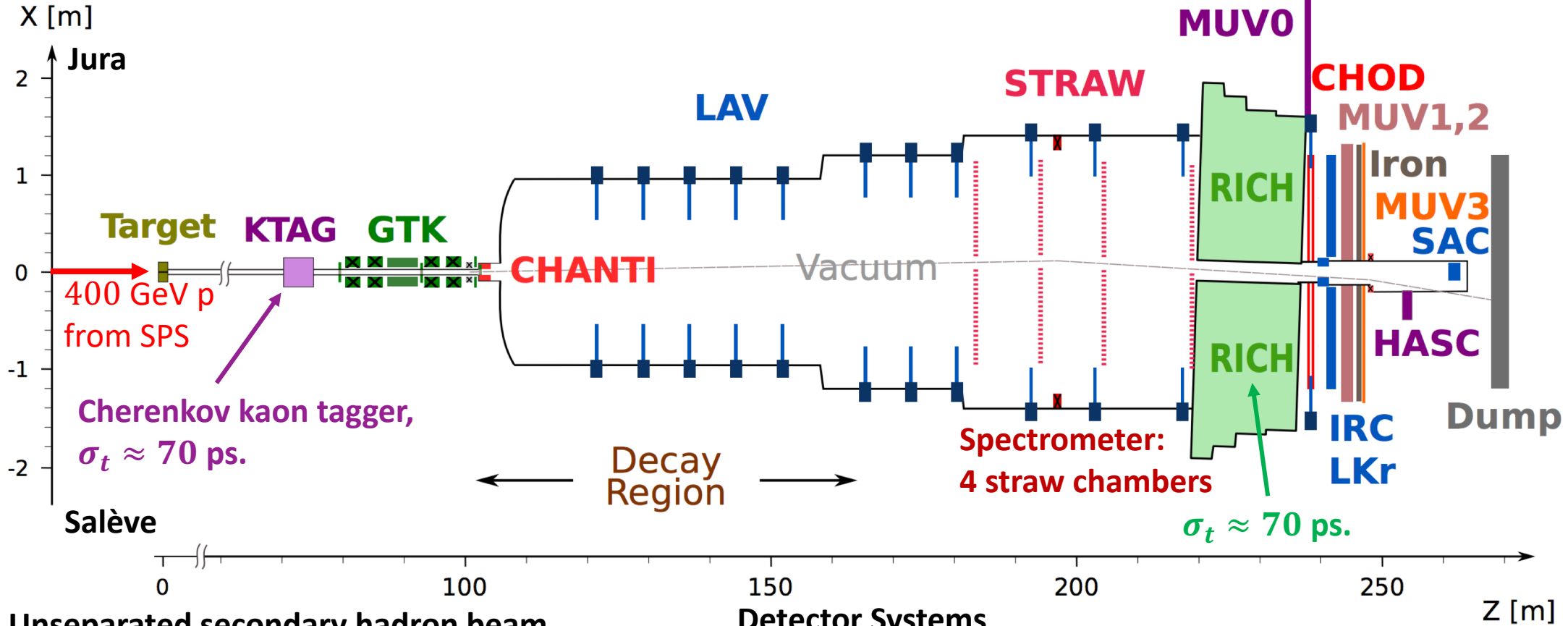


- **Kinematic suppression:** restrict to R1 & R2 with  $15 < p_{\pi^+} < 35$  GeV.
- **Muon rejection:** PID (Cherenkov detectors + Calorimeters)
- **$\pi^0$  rejection:** photon vetos.



# The NA62 Detector

[NA62 Detector Paper, 2017 JINST 12 P05025]



## Unseparated secondary hadron beam

- Composition : 70%  $\pi^+$ , 24%  $p$ , 6%  $K^+$
- $p_{K^+} = 75$  GeV.
- Nominal intensity :  $33 \times 10^{11}$  protons/SPS spill.  
( $\sim 750$  MHz rate at GTK3)
- $\sim 5$  MHz  $K^+$  decays in  $\sim 60$  m decay region.

## Detector Systems

- **Spectrometers:** GTK (upstream) and STRAWs (downstream).
- **PID (1):** Cherenkov detectors: KTAG ( $K^+$ ), RICH ( $\pi/\mu$  separation).
- **PID (2):** Calorimeters (ECAL = LKr, HCALs = MUV1&2).
- **Photon vetos:** (hermetic for 0 – 50 mrad) 12LAVs, 2SAVs (IRC&SAC), LKr.
- **Muon veto:** MUV3.
- **Additional detectors:** NA48-CHOD, CHOD, CHANTI, MUV0, HASC.





## Data Sample

- ~4 weeks of 2016 data,  $(1.21 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{11}$   $K^+$  decays in fiducial volume.
- Dedicated  $\pi\nu\bar{\nu}$  trigger stream + minimum bias Control trigger (downscaled).

## Analysis

### 1. Selection

- **Blind analysis procedure:** signal and control regions blinded for whole analysis.

### 2. Determination of the Single Event Sensitivity (SES)

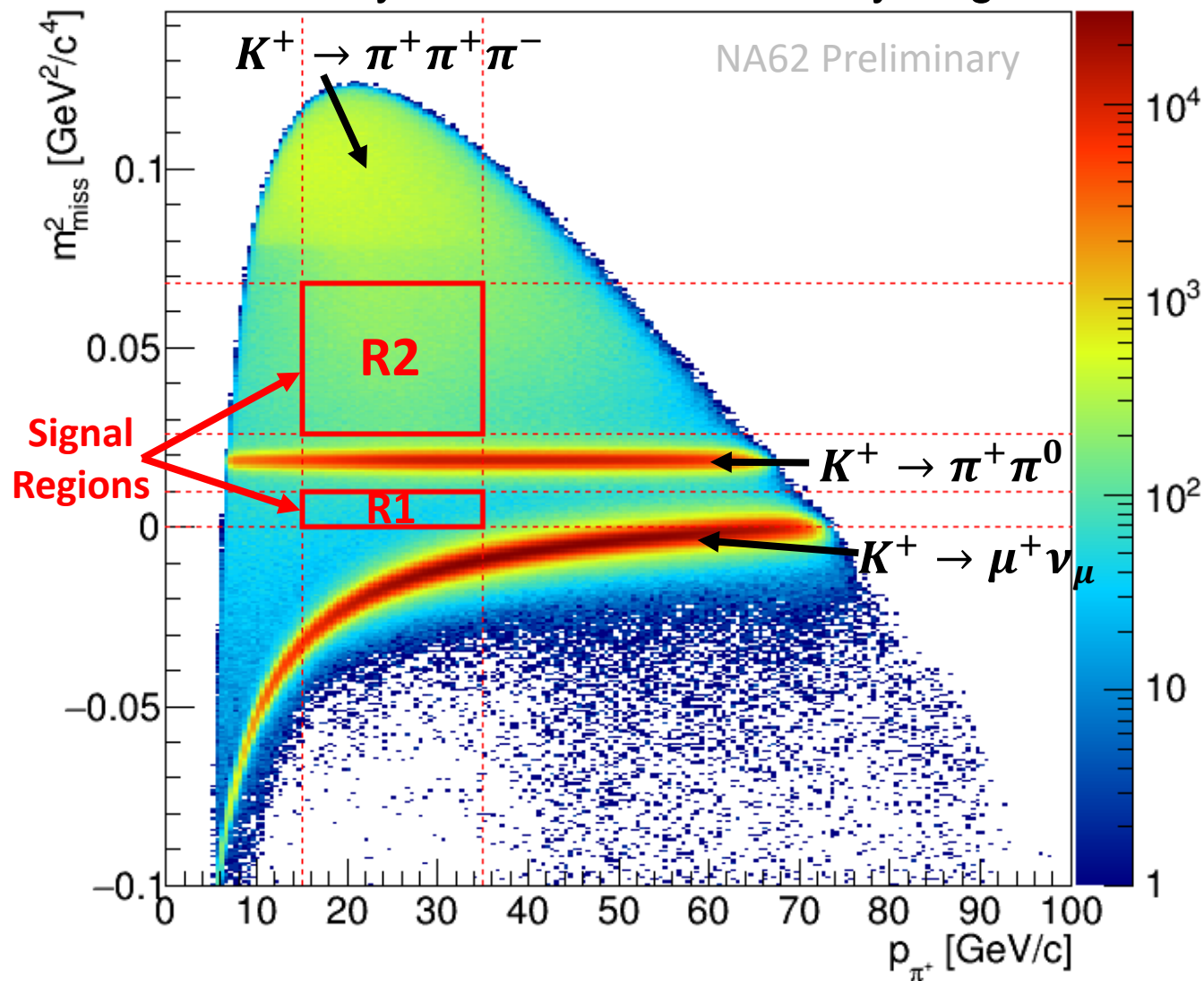
### 3. Estimation and validation of expected background

- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0(\gamma)$ ,  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+\nu_\mu(\gamma)$ ,  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$ ,  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-e^+\nu_e$ , upstream.

### 4. Un-blinding control and signal regions and results.

# Signal Selection

$K^+$  Decays in The Fiducial Decay Region



## Selection Sketch (cut-based analysis)

- Single downstream track.
- Match downstream track to a  $K^+$  upstream.
- ID downstream track as a  $\pi^+$ .
- Photon rejection.
- Reject additional activity.

## Signal Region Definition

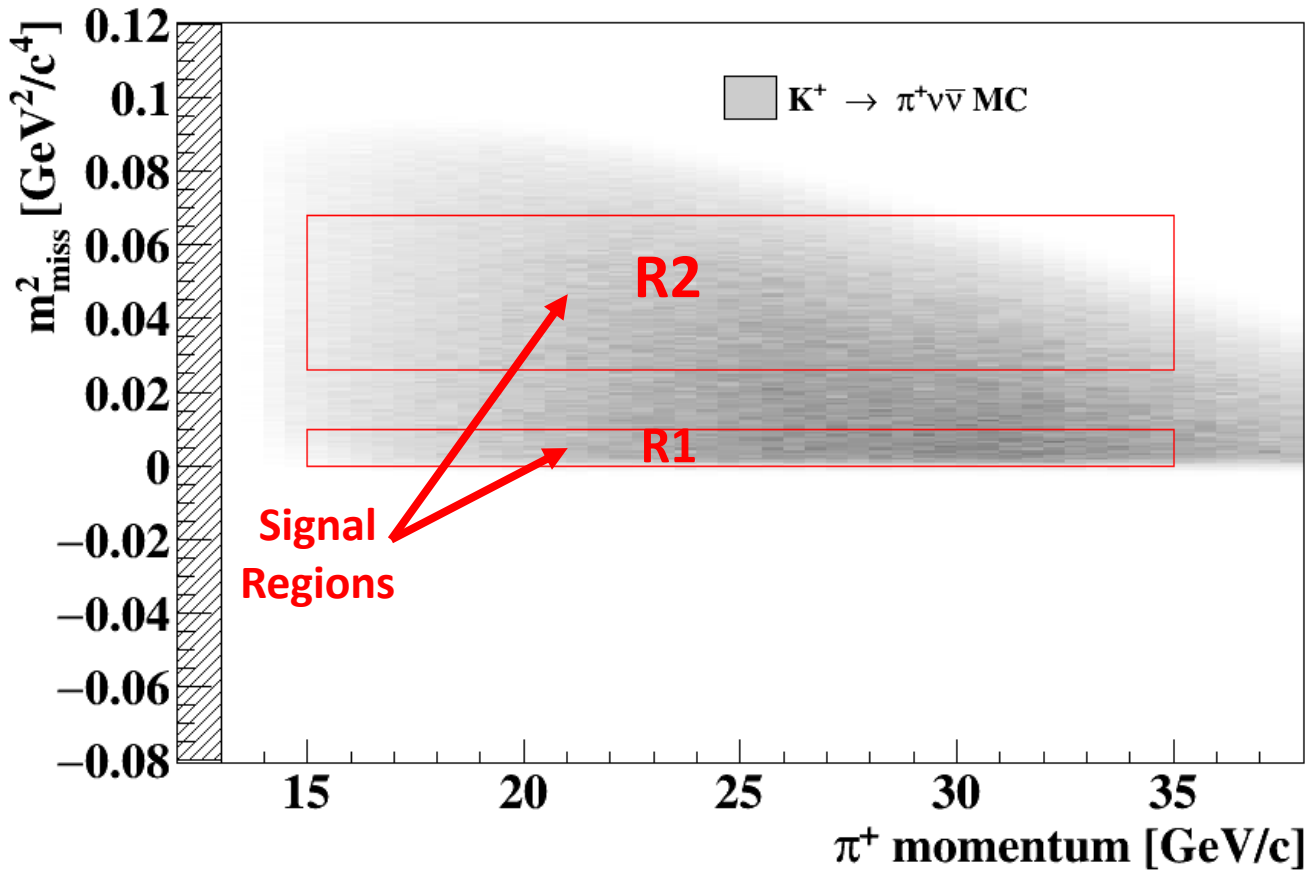
- $15 < p_{\pi^+} < 35$  GeV
- R1 & R2 in  $m_{miss}^2 = (P_K - P_\pi)^2$ 
  - 3 definitions (Protects against mis-reconstruction):
    - $m_{miss}^2(STRAW, GTK)$
    - $m_{miss}^2(RICH, GTK)$
    - $m_{miss}^2(STRAW, Beam)$

## Performance (2016 data)

- PID :  $\varepsilon_{\pi^+} = 64\%$  ,  $\varepsilon_{\mu^+} = 1 \times 10^{-8}$
- $\pi^0$  rejection :  $\varepsilon_{\pi^0} = 3 \times 10^{-8}$
- $\sigma(m_{miss}^2) = 1 \times 10^{-3}$  GeV<sup>2</sup>
- $\sigma(t) = \mathcal{O}(100$  ps)

# Single Event Sensitivity (SES)

## Systematics Breakdown

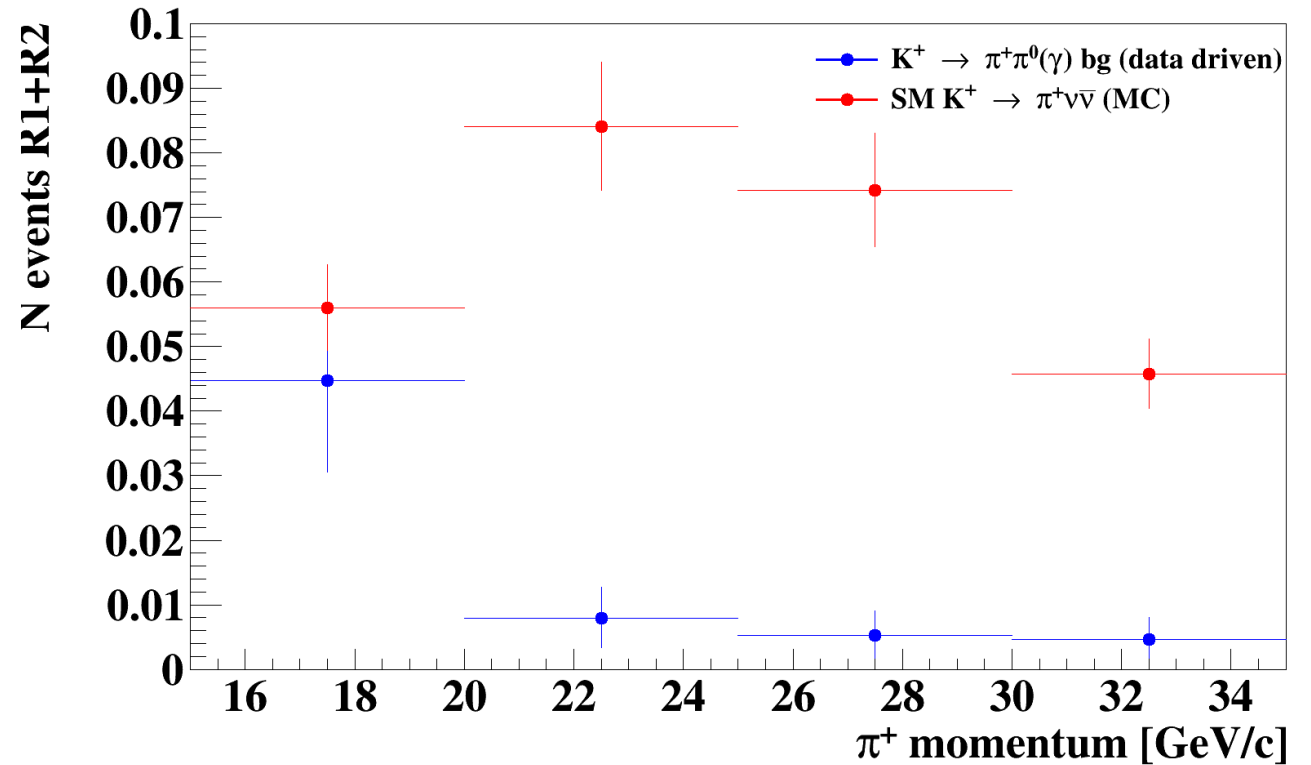
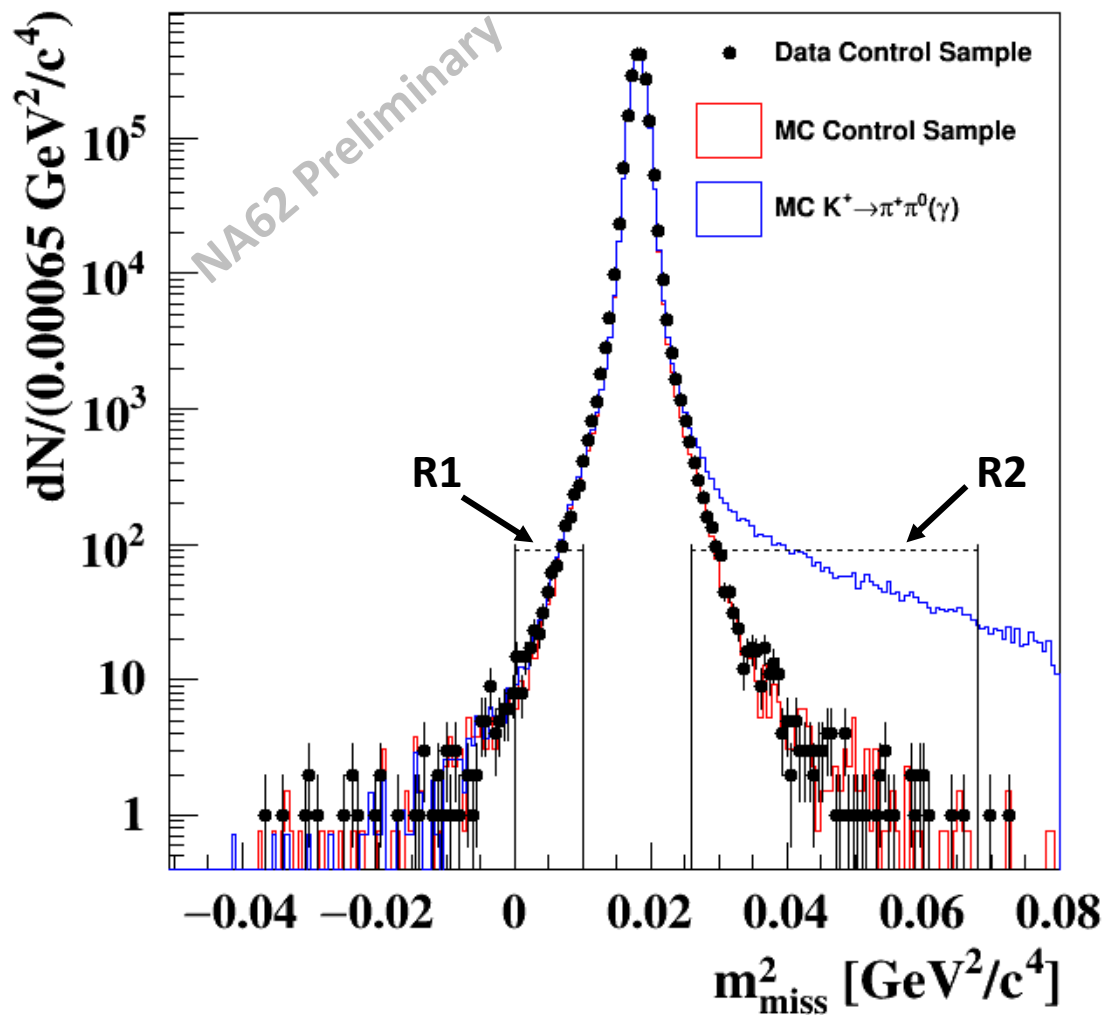


Source	$\delta SES$ ( $10^{-10}$ )
Random veto	$\pm 0.17$
Definition of $\pi^+ \pi^0$ region	$\pm 0.10$
$A_{\pi \nu \nu}$	$\pm 0.09$
$N_K$	$\pm 0.05$
Trigger efficiency	$\pm 0.04$
Extra activity	$\pm 0.02$
Pileup simulation	$\pm 0.02$
Momentum spectrum	$\pm 0.01$
<b>Total</b>	<b><math>\pm 0.24</math></b>

- **Signal Acceptance:** 4% (3% R2, 1% R1).
- **Normalisation:**  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$  from control trigger. Acceptance: 10%,  $N_K = (1.21 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{11}$ .

$$SES = (3.15 \pm 0.01(stat) \pm 0.24(syst)) \times 10^{-10}$$

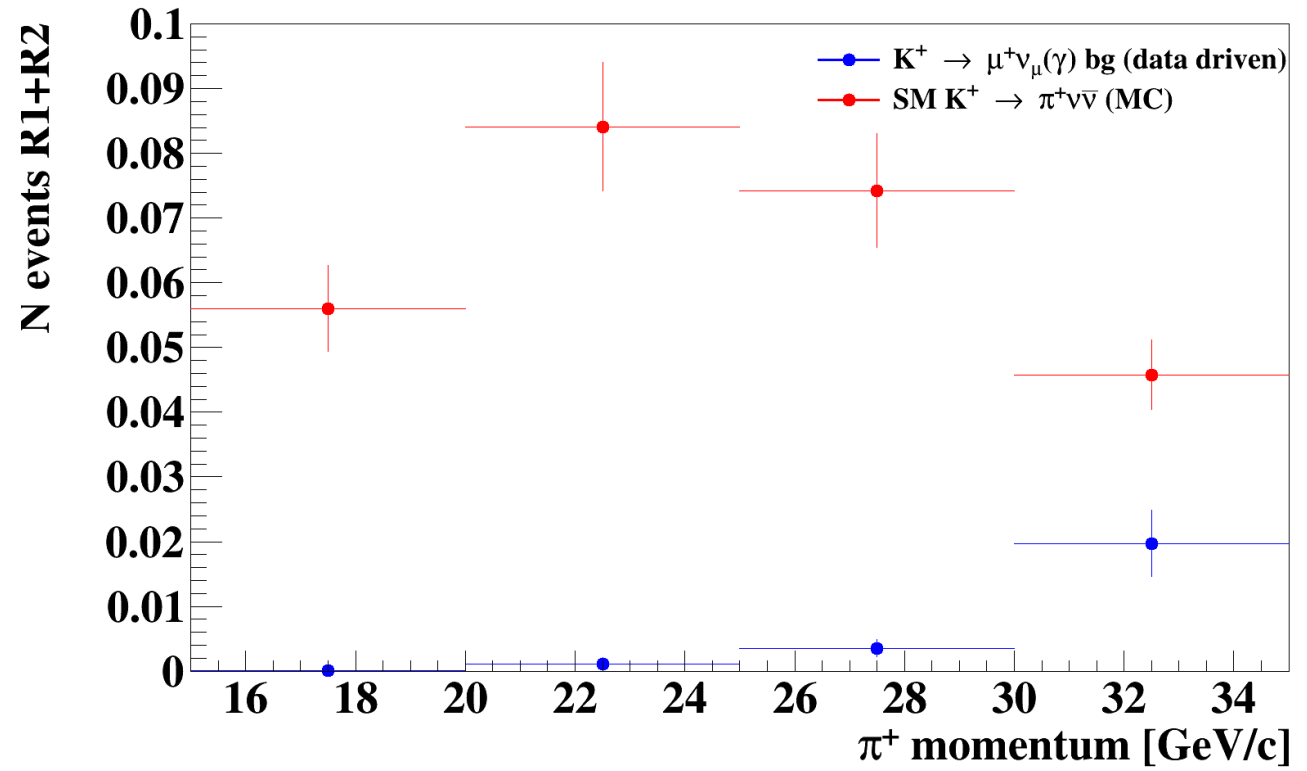
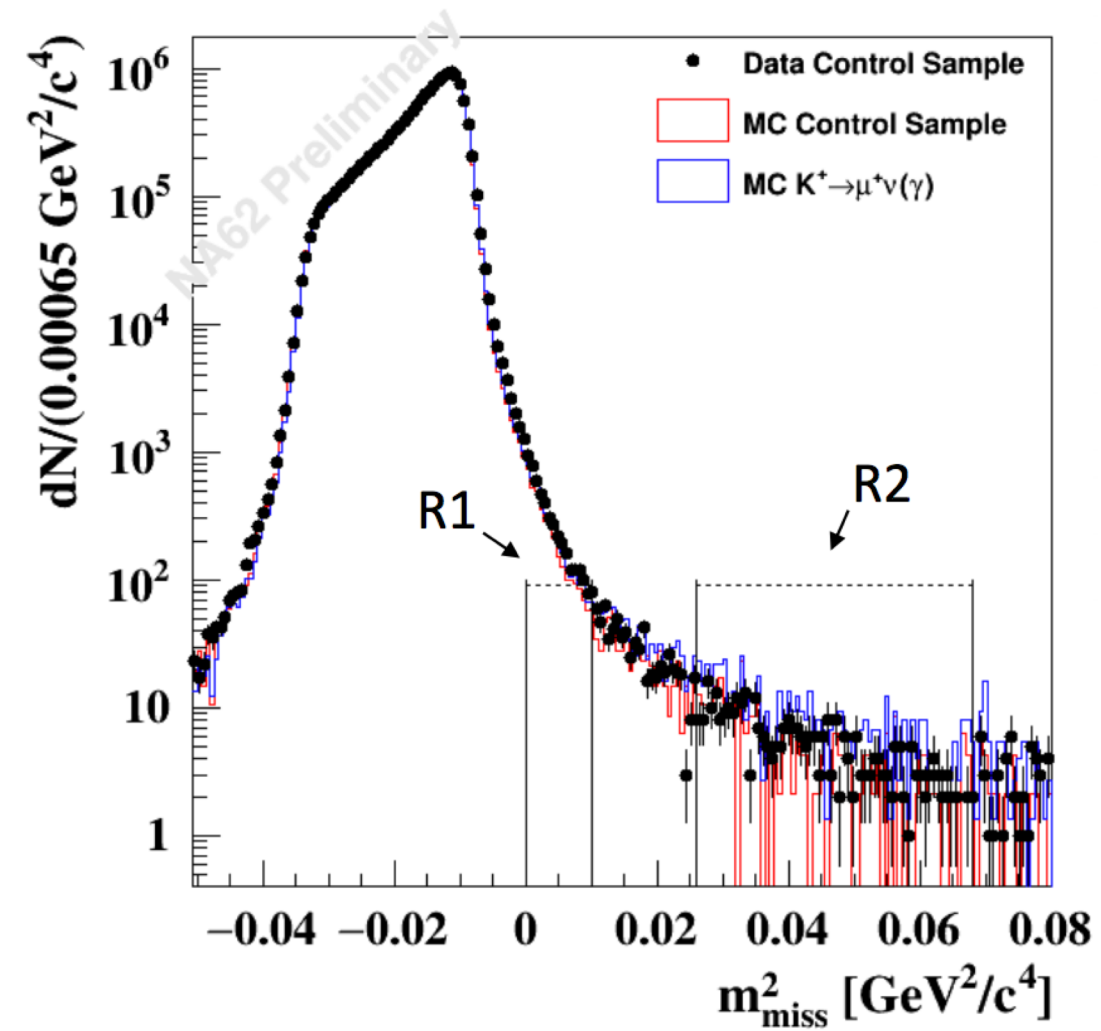
# Background Expectation (1) : $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 (\gamma)$



- Expected # of background events in signal regions, from data driven studies of the kinematic tails.
- From MC:  $\pi^0 \gamma$  rejection is 30x better than  $\pi^0$  rejection.

	$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$	$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma$
R1	$0.022 \pm 0.004(stat) \pm 0.002(syst)$	0
R2	$0.037 \pm 0.006(stat) \pm 0.003(syst)$	$0.005 \pm 0.005(syst)$

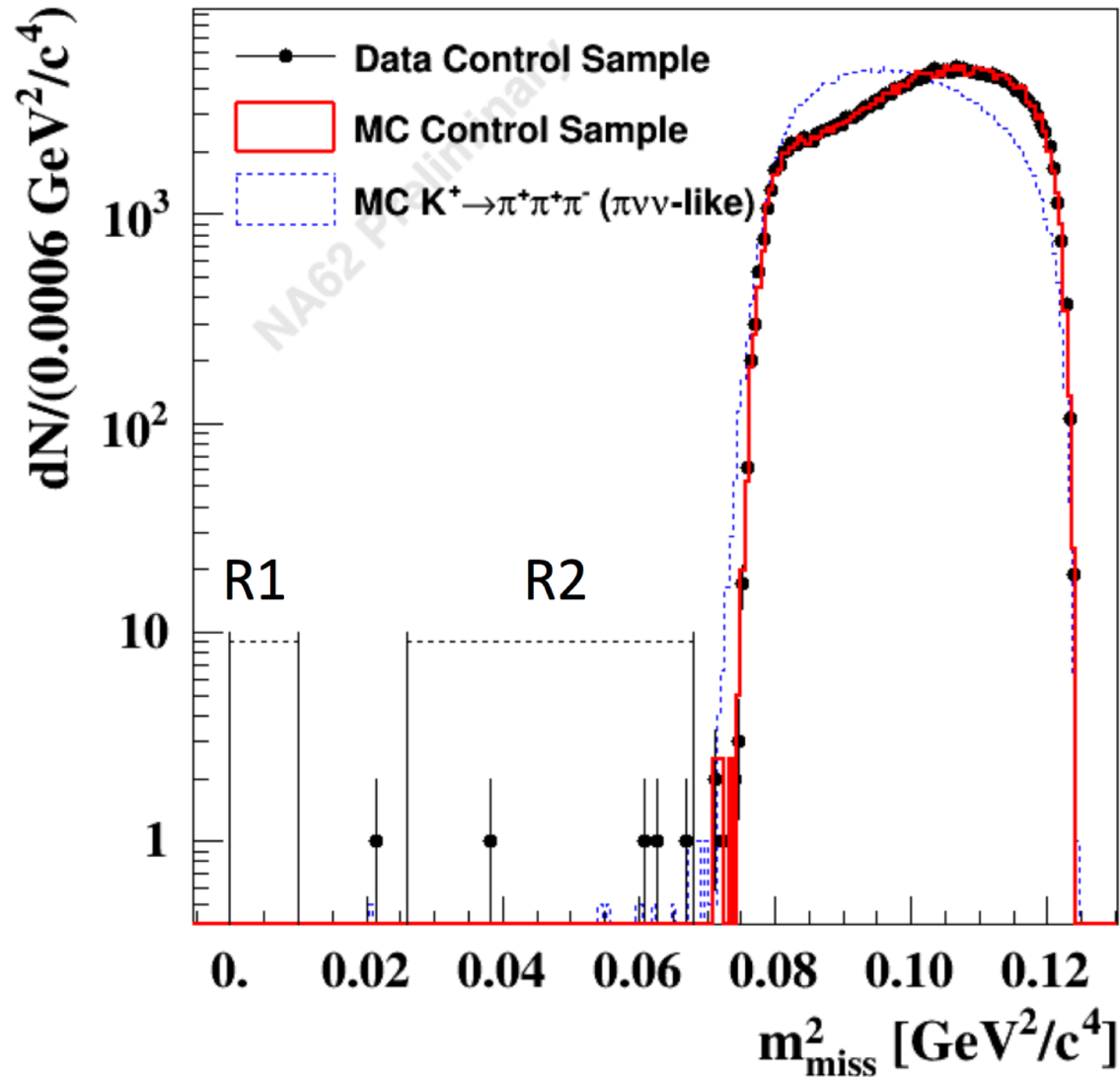
# Background Expectation (2) : $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu (\gamma)$



- Expected # of background events in signal regions, from data driven studies of the kinematic tails.

	$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu (\gamma)$
R1	$0.019 \pm 0.003(stat) \pm 0.003(syst)$
R2	$0.0012 \pm 0.0002(stat) \pm 0.0006(syst)$

# Background Expectation (3) : $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$

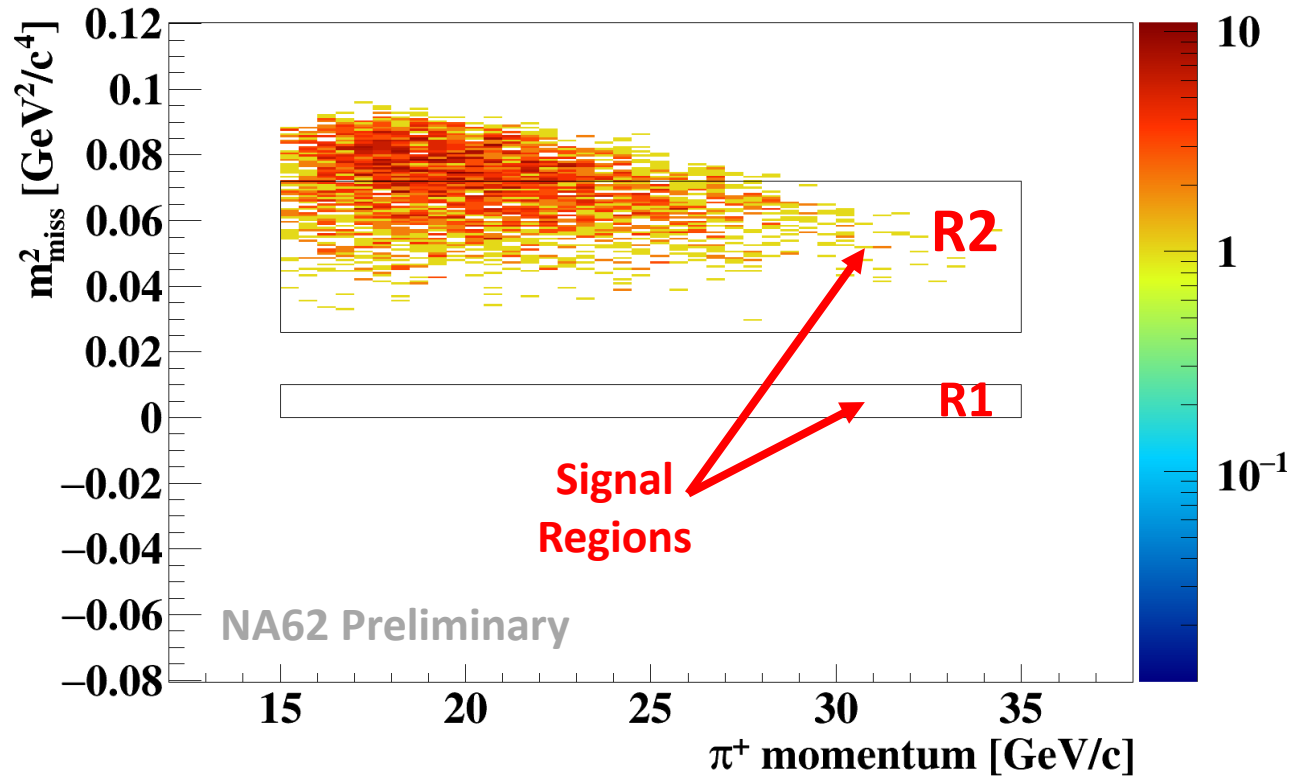


- Kinematic tail fraction determined from a control sample of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$  events selected by tagging a  $\pi^+ \pi^-$  pair.
- Corrected for biases induced by the control sample selection using MC studies.
- Expectation (R1+R2) :

$$N_{\pi\pi\pi}^{exp} = 0.002 \pm 0.001(stat) \pm 0.002(syst)$$

# Background Expectation (4) : $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$

MC simulation  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$  Validation sample 1



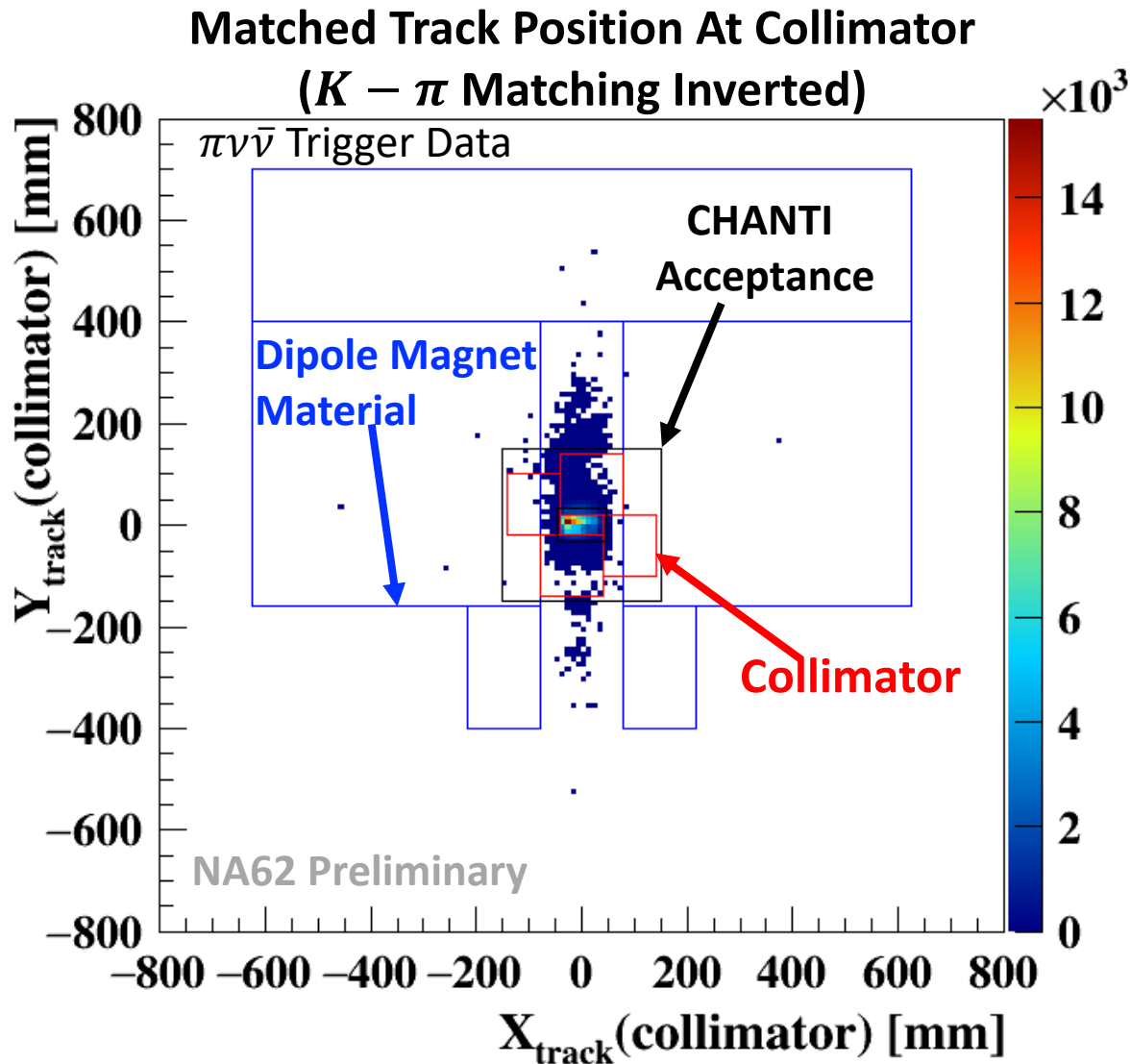
- Validated using 5 different control samples selected with five different selections.

Validation Sample	N Expected	N Observed
Bifurcation (+)	$15.5 \pm 0.4$	8
Bifurcation (-)	$4.0 \pm 0.4$	2
BIF+RICH(-)	$3.2 \pm 0.2$	3
Full (-)	$0.7 \pm 0.1$	1
Full+RICH(-)	$1.2 \pm 0.1$	5

- Background estimated from study of  $\sim 4 \times 10^8$  MC  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$  events, (R1+R2):

$$N_{\pi\pi e\nu}^{exp} = 0.018_{-0.017}^{+0.024} (stat) \pm 0.009 (syst)$$

# Background Expectation (5) : Upstream Background



- Upstream background sources:
  - Decays along beamline.
  - Interactions with beam spectrometer material (GTK3) producing  $\pi^+$ .
  - Track mismatching.
- Effective  $K^+ - \pi^+$  matching procedure minimises effect.
- Data-driven estimation of remaining background (R1+R2).

$$N_{UpstreamBg}^{exp} = 0.050^{+0.090}_{-0.030}$$



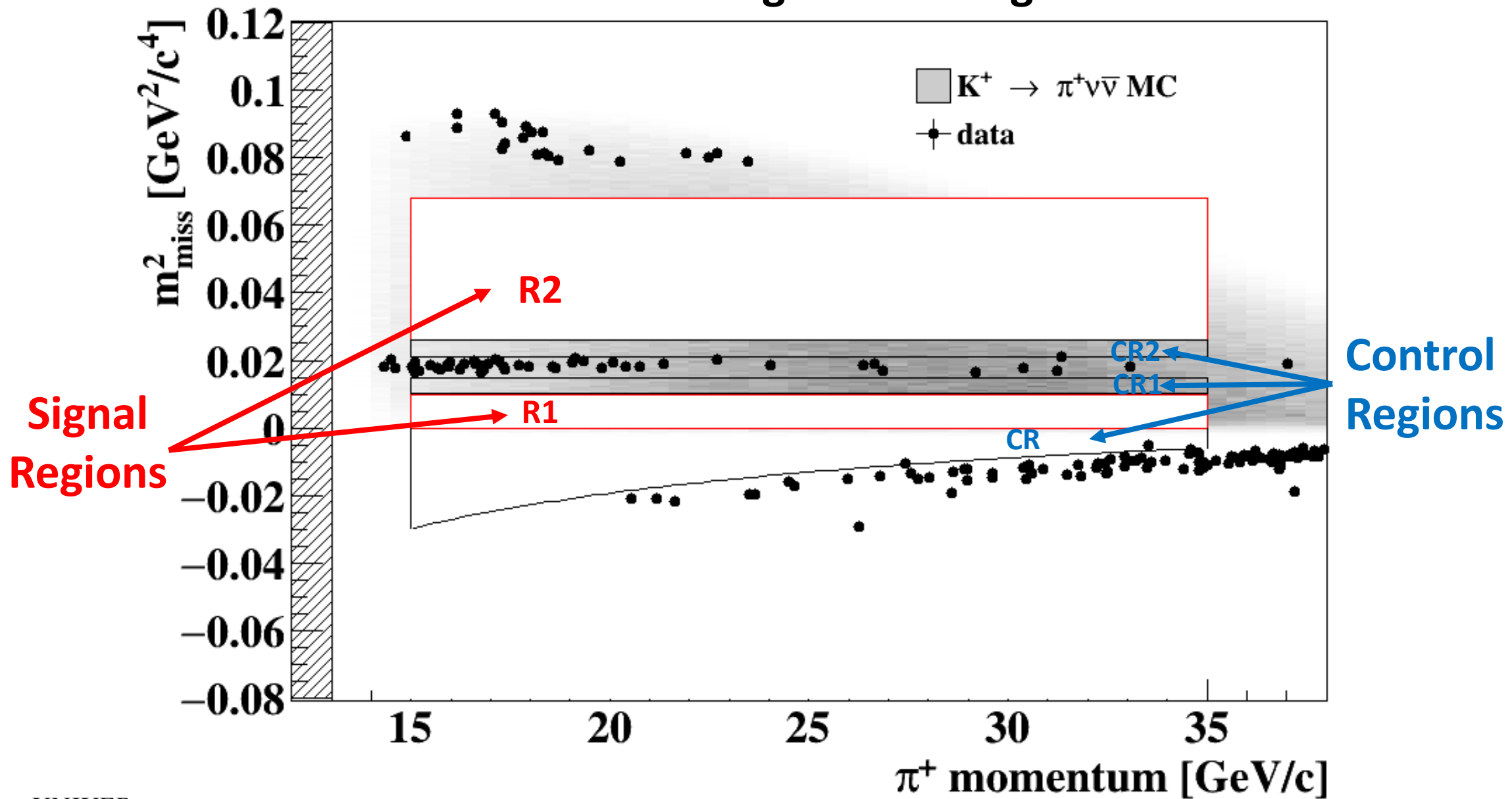
# Expectation Summary

	<b>Expected # of Events in Signal Regions (R1+R2)</b>
<b>Signal : <math>K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}</math> (SM)</b>	<b><math>0.267 \pm 0.001(\text{stat}) \pm 0.020(\text{syst}) \pm 0.032(\text{ext})</math></b>
<b>Total Background</b>	<b><math>0.15 \pm 0.09(\text{stat}) \pm 0.01(\text{syst})</math></b>

## Background breakdown:

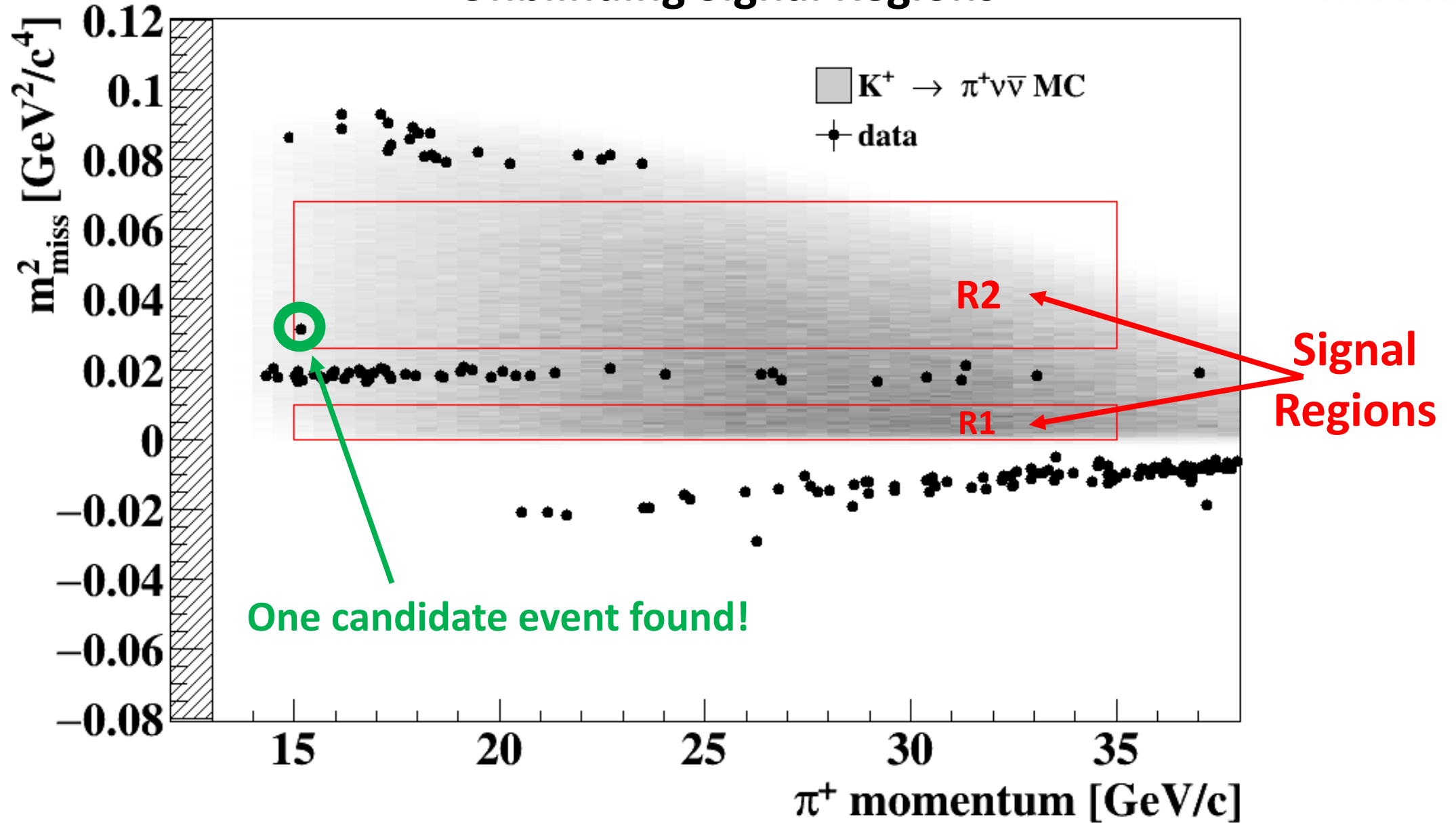
<b>Background Process</b>	<b>Expected # of Events in Signal Regions (R1+R2)</b>
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 (\gamma)$ IB	$0.064 \pm 0.007(\text{stat}) \pm 0.006(\text{syst})$
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu (\gamma)$ IB	$0.020 \pm 0.003(\text{stat}) \pm 0.003(\text{syst})$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	$0.002 \pm 0.001(\text{stat}) \pm 0.002(\text{syst})$
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$	$0.018^{+0.024}_{-0.017}(\text{stat}) \pm 0.009(\text{syst})$
Upstream	$0.050^{+0.090}_{-0.030}(\text{stat})$

## Unblinding Control Regions



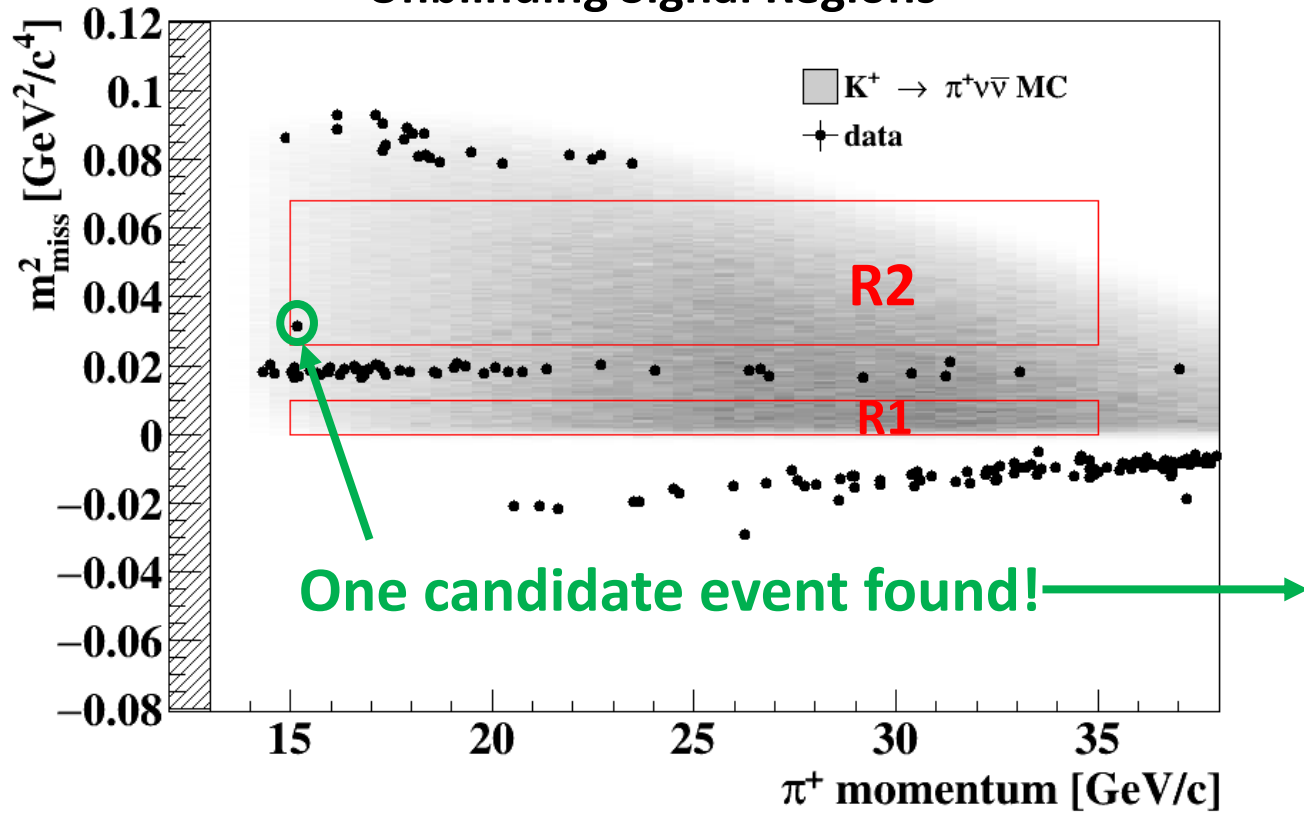
# Result

## Unblinding Signal Regions



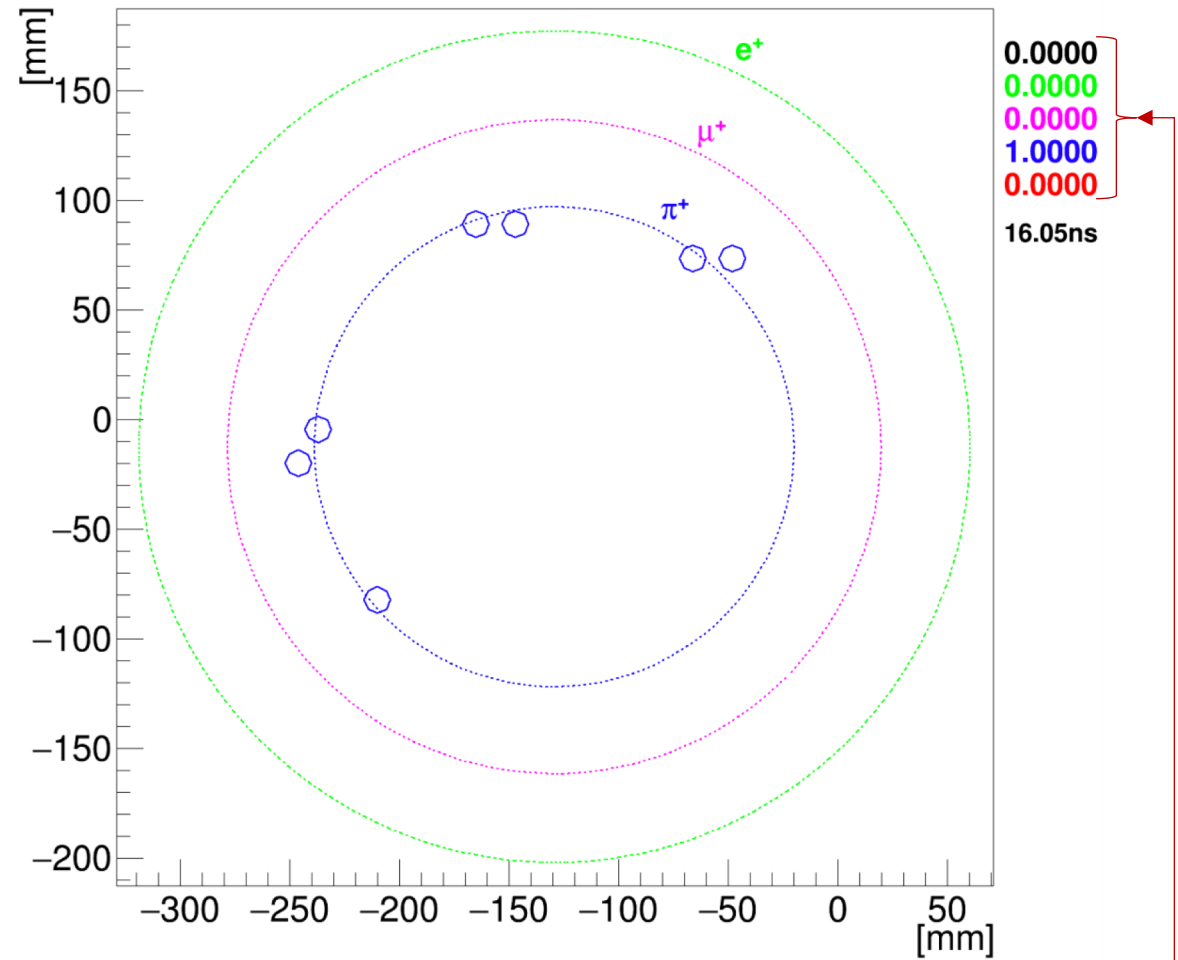
# Result

## Unblinding Signal Regions



## RICH Display For Candidate Event

Run 6646, Burst 953, Event 543854, Track 1



Mom 15.3, Mirror 24 ( 258.8), Frac M 1.000 0.000, PMT 1.000 0.000

Likelihood for different hypotheses

$$SES = (3.15 \pm 0.01(stat) \pm 0.24(syst)) \times 10^{-10}$$

	Expected # of Events in Signal Regions (R1+R2)
Signal : $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ (SM)	$0.267 \pm 0.001(stat) \pm 0.020(syst) \pm 0.032(ext)$
Total Background	$0.15 \pm 0.09(stat) \pm 0.01(syst)$

**Observed : 1 event in R2.**

Results using Rolke-Lopez method :

$$Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (28_{-23}^{+44}) \times 10^{-11} @ 68\% CL$$

$$Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) < 11 \times 10^{-10} @ 90\% CL$$

$$Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) < 14 \times 10^{-10} @ 95\% CL$$

Compatible with SM :  $Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11}$  [\[Buras et al. : JHEP 1511 \(2015\) 033\]](#)

And BNL experimental result :  $Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (17.3_{-10.5}^{+11.5}) \times 10^{-11}$  [\[Artamonov et al. PhysRevLett.101.191802 \(2008\)\]](#)

→  $K^+$  Decay at rest



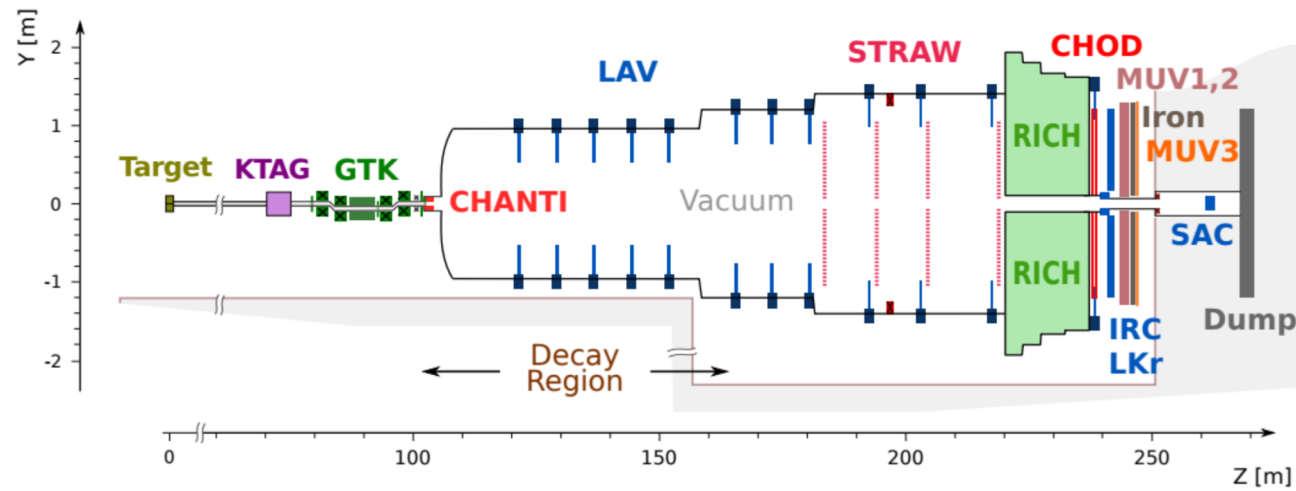
# Conclusions and Outlook for NA62



- Preliminary Results [Paper in preparation]
  - **1 candidate event in 2016 data** (~4 weeks of data taking).
  - Preliminary result :  $Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) < 11 \times 10^{-10}$  @ 90% CL compatible with SM and previous experiment.
- **The new NA62  $K^+$  decay-in-flight technique works.**
- Good quality data taken throughout 2017
  - **~20 times more data** than presented here.
  - Expected reduction of upstream background, improved reconstruction efficiency and studies to improve signal acceptance.
- 218 days of running in progress in 2018.
- Expect **~20** SM  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  events before LS2.



# Supplemental



# $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ Branching Ratio



Messica&Smith : Phys.Rev.D76:034017,2007

Isospin breaking effects :  $r_K = \frac{f_+^{K^+\pi^+}(0)}{f_+^{K^0\pi^+}(0)}$

$K^+$  Form Factors :  $f_+^{K^i\pi^j}(q^2) = f_+^{K^i\pi^j}(0) \left( 1 + \lambda_+^{ij'} \frac{q^2}{m_{\pi^\pm}^2} + \lambda_+^{ij''} \frac{q^4}{2m_{\pi^\pm}^4} \right)$   
 where  $i, j = +, L$  (precisely measured from  $K_{L3}$  decays).

$K^+$  lifetime

Phase space integral :  $\mathfrak{I}_\nu^+ = \int_0^{(1-r_\pi^2)} \lambda_\pi \left| \frac{f_+^{K^+\pi^+}(z)}{f_+^{K^+\pi^+}(0)} \right| dz$ ,  
 where  $z = \frac{q^2}{M_K^2}$  and  $\lambda_\pi = \lambda^2(1, z, r_\pi^2)$  and  $r_\pi = \frac{m_{\pi^\pm}}{m_{K^+}}$ .

$$\lambda = |V_{us}|,$$

$$x_t = \frac{m_t^2}{M_W^2},$$

$$\lambda_i = V_{is}^* V_{id}$$

( $i = u, c, t$  : dominated by  $t$  with small  $c$  contribution)

$$\kappa_+^\nu = \frac{G_F^2 m_K^5 \alpha(M_Z)^2}{256 \pi^5 \sin^4(\theta_W)} |V_{us}|^8 \tau_+ \left( r_K |V_{us}| f_+^{K^0\pi^+}(0) \right)_{exp}^2 \mathfrak{I}_\nu^{+2}$$

Sum over 3  $\nu$  generations

$$\kappa_+ = (5.173 \pm 0.025) \times 10^{-11} \left[ \frac{\lambda}{0.225} \right]^8$$

(Small) long-distance QED corrections :  $\Delta_{EM} = -0.003$

$$Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = \kappa_+ (1 + \Delta_{EM}) \left[ \left( \frac{\text{Im}(\lambda_t)}{\lambda^5} X(x_t) \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\text{Re}(\lambda_c)}{\lambda} P_c(X) + \frac{\text{Re}(\lambda_c)}{\lambda^5} X(x_t) \right)^2 \right]$$

$t$  loop function :

$$X(x_t) = X_0(x_t) + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} X_1(x_t) + \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} X_{EW}(x_t) = 1.481 \pm 0.005(th) \pm 0.008(exp)$$

Leading order result

NLO QCD correction

EW correction

$c$  loop function :  $P_c(X) = P_c^{SD}(X) + \delta P_{c,u}$

Short distance component :  $P_c^{SD}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda^4} \left[ \frac{2}{3} X_{NNL}^e + \frac{1}{2} X_{NNL}^\tau \right]$

Where  $X_{NNL}^l$  are from QCD NLO & NNLO calculations.

$l = e$  vs  $\tau$  : important for  $c$  since  $m_c < m_\tau$  but not for  $t$  ( $m_t \gg m_\tau$ )

Long distance contributions: [Isidori et. al : Nucl.Phys. B718 \(2005\) 319-338](#)

$$\delta P_{c,u} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{l=e,\mu,\tau} \langle P_Z(q^2) + P_{WW}^l(q^2) \rangle$$

<an average over the phase space> . It is then shown that :

$$\delta P_{c,u} \approx \frac{\pi^2 F^2}{\lambda^2 M_W^2} \left[ \frac{4|G_8|}{\sqrt{2}G_F} - \frac{4}{3} \right] = 0.04 \pm 0.02$$





# $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ Branching Ratio

Buras et al. : JHEP 1511 (2015) 033



$$Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = \kappa_+ (1 + \Delta_{EM}) \left[ \left( \frac{\text{Im}(\lambda_t)}{\lambda^5} X(x_t) \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\text{Re}(\lambda_c)}{\lambda} P_c(X) + \frac{\text{Re}(\lambda_c)}{\lambda^5} X(x_t) \right)^2 \right]$$

**Buras method A : using experimentally driven inputs from tree-level measurements of  $|V_{us}|$ ,  $|V_{cb}|$ ,  $|V_{ub}|$  and  $\gamma$  :**

$$Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (8.38 \pm 0.30) \times 10^{-11} \left[ \frac{|V_{cb}|}{40.7 \times 10^{-3}} \right]^{2.8} \left[ \frac{\gamma}{73.2^\circ} \right]^{0.74}$$

$$|V_{ub}|_{avg} = (3.88 \pm 0.29) \times 10^{-3}$$

$$|V_{cb}|_{avg} = (40.7 \pm 1.4) \times 10^{-3}$$

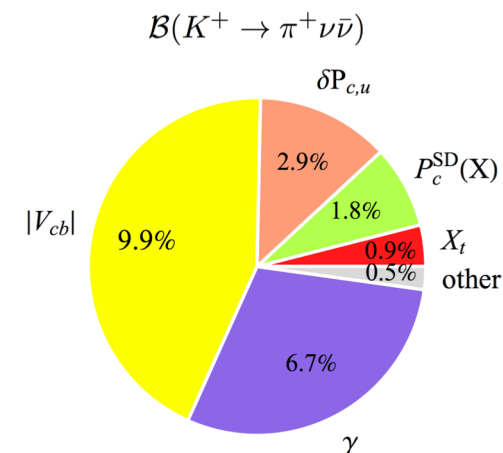
$$\lambda = |V_{us}| = 0.2252 \pm 0.0009$$

$$\gamma = (73.2_{-7.0}^{+6.3})^\circ$$

$$\text{Re}(\lambda_t) \approx |V_{ub}| |V_{cb}| \cos(\gamma(1 - 2\lambda^2)) + (|V_{ub}|^2 - |V_{cb}|^2) \lambda \left( 1 - \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \right)$$

$$\text{Im}(\lambda_t) \approx |V_{ub}| |V_{cb}| \sin(\gamma)$$

$$\text{Re}(\lambda_c) \approx -\lambda \left( 1 - \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \right)$$



Uncertainty budget

$$\therefore Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (8.38 \pm 0.30) \times 10^{-11} \left[ \frac{|V_{cb}|}{40.7 \times 10^{-3}} \right]^{2.8} \left[ \frac{\gamma}{73.2^\circ} \right]^{0.74} = (8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11}$$

**Buras method B : experimental measurements augmented with averaging – assume SM and use  $\epsilon_K$ ,  $\Delta M_s$ ,  $\Delta M_D$  and  $S_{\psi K_s}$**

$$Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (9.11 \pm 0.72) \times 10^{-11}$$

# Single Event Sensitivity Definition

- Signal :  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  from  $\pi \nu \bar{\nu}$  trigger.
- Normalisation :  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$  from control (Min. bias) trigger.
  - Use same  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  selection but multiplicity rejection is not applied and  $m_{miss}^2$  cuts are modified.

$$N_K = \frac{N_{\pi\pi} D}{A_{\pi\pi} Br_{\pi\pi}}$$

$N_K$  : Number of  $K^+$  decays (in fiducial volume).

$N_{\pi\pi} \sim 6 \times 10^6$  : number of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$  events selected.

$A_{\mu\mu} \sim 0.10$  : acceptance for  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$  normalisation channel.

$D = 400$  : control trigger downscaling factor.

$$N_K = (1.21 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{11}$$

$$SES = \frac{1}{N_K \sum_j \left( A_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^j \varepsilon_{RV}^j \varepsilon_{trig}^j \right)}$$

$A_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}} \sim 0.04$  : Signal acceptance.

$\varepsilon_{RV} \sim 0.76$  : Random veto efficiency.

$\varepsilon_{trig} \sim 0.87$  :  $\pi \nu \bar{\nu}$  Trigger efficiency.

All in 4 momentum bins,  $j$ , (5 GeV width, 15 – 35 GeV)

$$SES = (3.15 \pm 0.01(stat) \pm 0.24(syst)) \times 10^{-10}$$

# $\pi\nu\bar{\nu}$ Background Analysis (e.g. $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$ )

## $\pi\nu\bar{\nu}$ Analysis

- For the analysis the number of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$  ( $K_{2\pi}$ ) background events in a given region  $\mathcal{R}$  is estimated using :

$$N_{\pi\pi}^{exp}(\mathcal{R}) = \sum_j [N_{\pi\pi}(\pi^+\pi^0 R)_j \cdot f_j^{kin}(\mathcal{R})]$$

- $f_j^{kin}(\mathcal{R})$  is the kinematic tail fraction of  $K_{2\pi}$  events entering into region  $\mathcal{R}$  and momentum bin  $j$ .
- $f_j^{kin}(\mathcal{R})$  is measured from data by selecting a  $K_{2\pi}$  control sample by tagging the  $\pi^0$  from two photons in the LKr and from MC using a  $K_{2\pi}$  sample with 300 MHz pileup tracks in GTK.

## Results :

- $N_{\pi\pi}^{exp}(CR1) = 0.52 \pm 0.08(stat) \pm 0.03(syst)$
- $N_{\pi\pi}^{exp}(R1) = 0.022 \pm 0.004(stat) \pm 0.002(syst)$

# Background Expectation (4) : $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$

- Validated using 5 different control samples selected with five different selections.

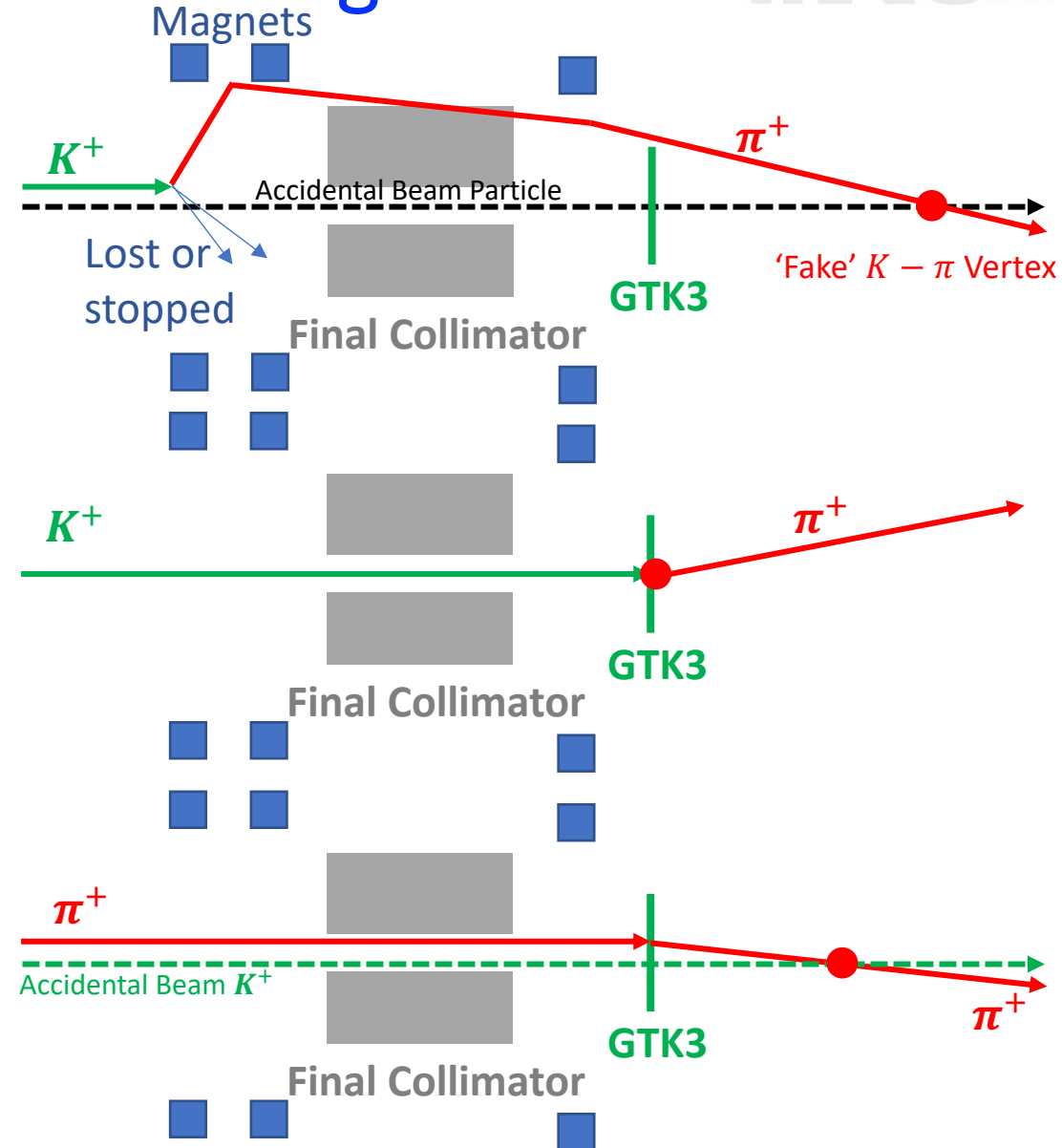
Validation Sample	Sample Selection	N Expected	N Observed
Bifurcation (+)	Bifurcated selection (invert photon and multiplicity (extra activity) veto cuts) applied to a positive track. (No RICH selection applied).	$15.5 \pm 0.4$	8
Bifurcation (-)	Bifurcated selection (invert photon and multiplicity (extra activity) veto cuts) applied to a negative track. (No RICH selection applied).	$4.0 \pm 0.4$	2
BIF+RICH(-)	As above but with RICH applied for -ve track.	$3.2 \pm 0.2$	3
Full (-)	Full $\pi^-$ + <i>nothing</i> selection (RICH not applied).	$0.7 \pm 0.1$	1
Full+RICH(-)	Full $\pi^-$ + <i>nothing</i> selection (RICH selection applied for -ve track).	$1.2 \pm 0.1$	5

- Background estimated from study of  $\sim 4 \times 10^8$  MC  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$  events, (R1+R2) :

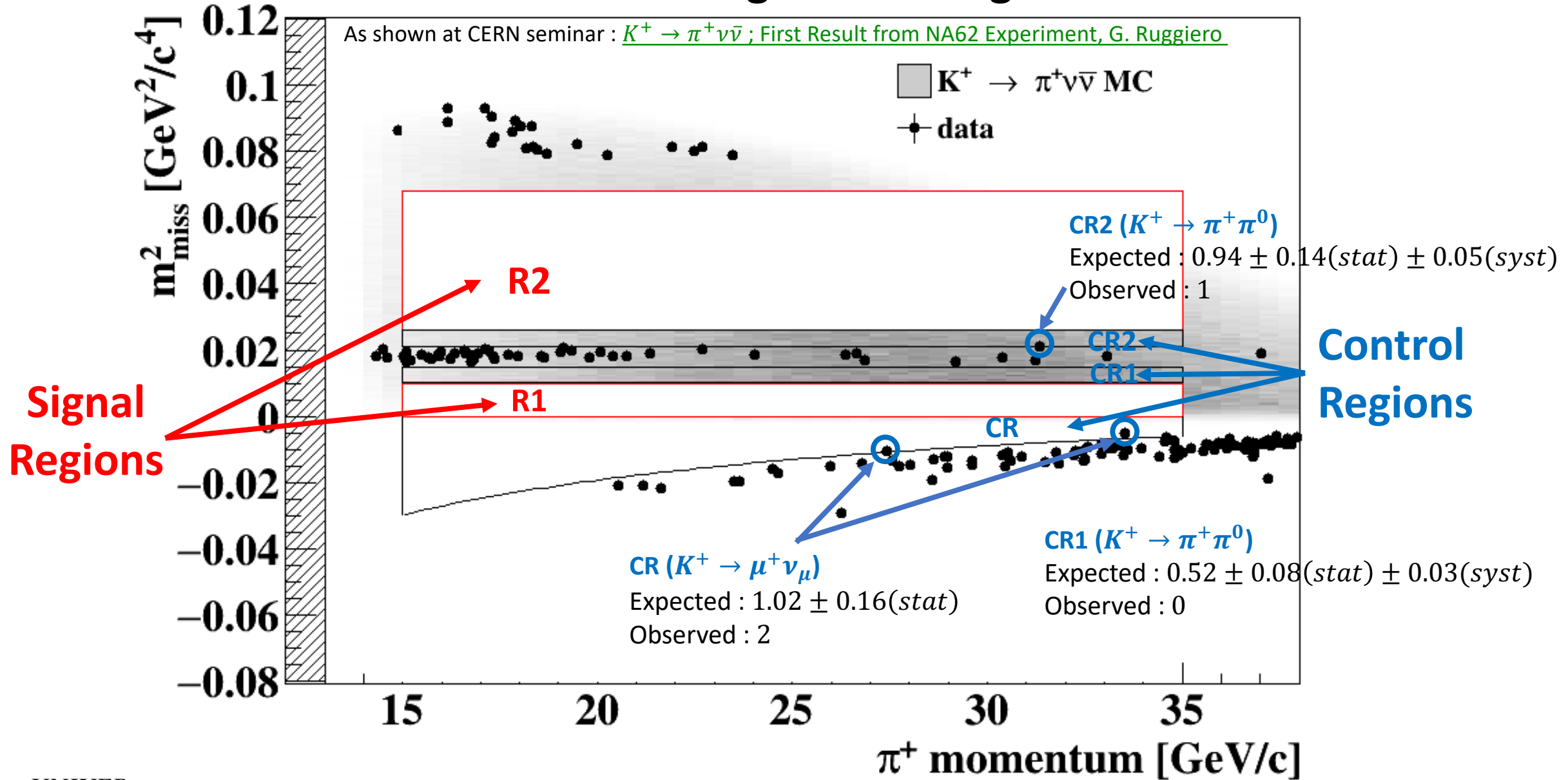
$$N_{\pi\pi e\nu}^{exp} = 0.018_{-0.017}^{+0.024}(stat) \pm 0.009(syst)$$

# Background Expectation (5) : Upstream Background

- Upstream background sources:
  - **$K^+$  Decays along beamline.**
    - Extra particles (e.g  $\pi^0$ ) stopped but  $\pi^+$  could reach decay region.
    - $\pi^+$  then matched to accidental beam particle.
  - **Beam  $K^+$  Interactions with GTK3**
    - $K^+$  interactions producing  $\pi^+$ .
    - Vertex misreconstructed.
  - **Beam  $\pi^+$  Interactions with GTK3**
    - $\pi^+$  interactions/scattering.
    - Match to accidental beam  $K^+$ .



## Unblinding Control Regions



- Primary goal: measurement of  $Br(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11}$
- However with a very large sample of  $K^+$  decays and a versatile detector and trigger system a broader physics program is being explored:

## 1. Rare kaon decays

- e.g.  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$

## 2. Forbidden kaon decays (LFV, LNV)

- e.g.  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- l_1^+ l_2^+$ ,  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l_1^+ l_2^-$  (for  $l_1 l_2 = ee, \mu\mu, e\mu$ )

## 3. Exotics

- e.g. Heavy Neutral Lepton (HNL) [[Phys.Lett.B 778 \(2018\)](#)]

