

# Current status of hypertriton lifetime measurement with J-PARC E73 experiment

Yue Ma from RIKEN for J-PARC E73 collaboration

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2022/06/27

# Outline

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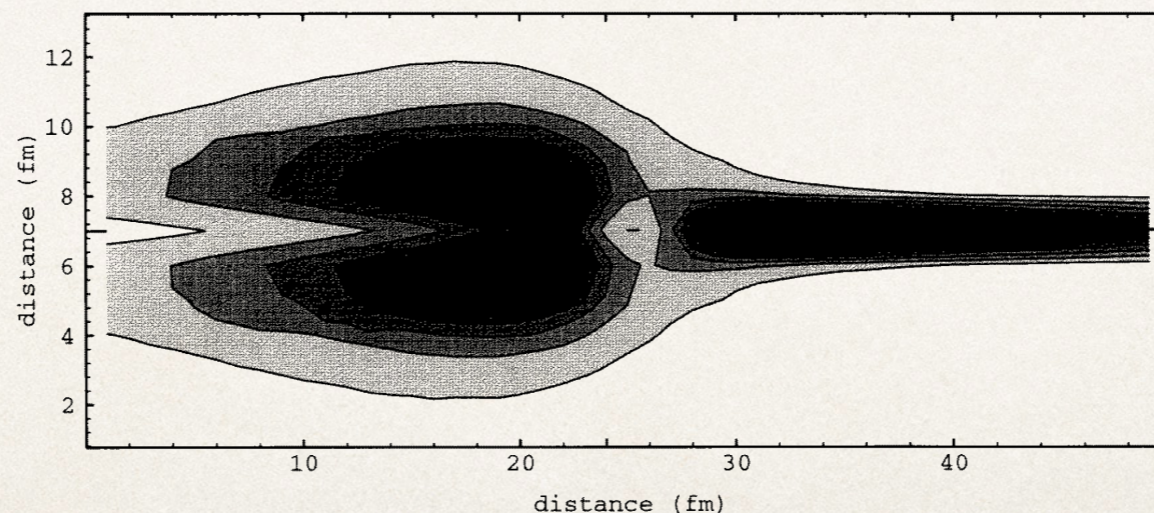
- ❖ Introduction & motivation
- ❖ J-PARC E73:
  - ❖ Experimental method
  - ❖ Current status
- ❖ Summary

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# Introduction & motivation

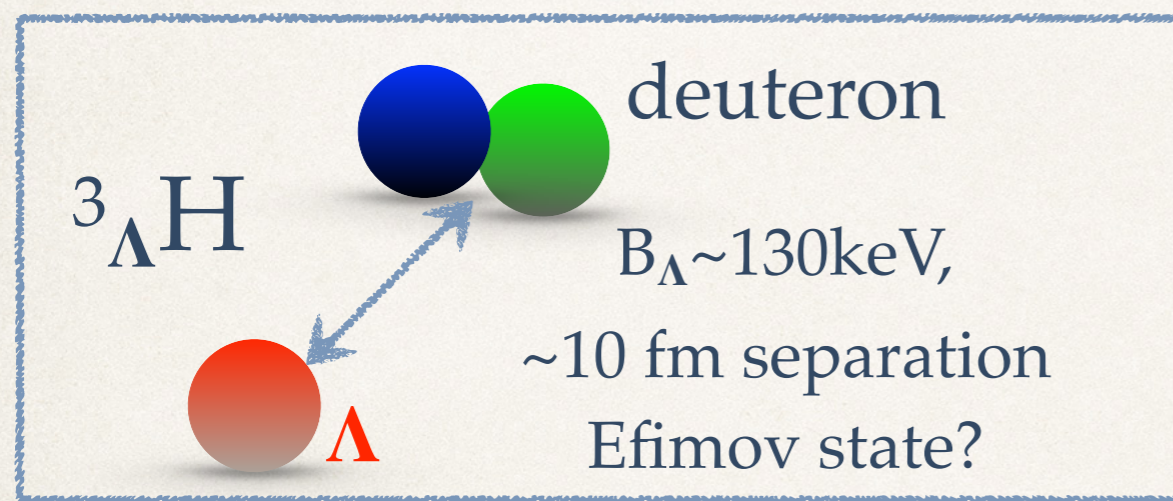
# Quiz: ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$ vs ${}^{208}\text{Pb}$ which one is "*bigger*"?

- ❖ A good homework for your students
- ❖ Hint: a harmonic oscillator toy model, or,  $r \sim \sqrt{\hbar^2 / 4uB_{\Lambda}}$
- ❖ Hypertriton:  $\Lambda(T=0) + d(T=0)$  @  $\sim 130\text{keV}$
- ❖ Answer: Hypertriton  $\sim 10\text{fm}$  is "*bigger*" than  ${}^{208}\text{Pb} \sim 7\text{fm}$  assuming liquid drop model



# Motivation for J-PARC E73 experiment

As the lightest hypernucleus,  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  should tell us some important fact of YN interactions just as deuteron for nuclear physics.



Up to a few years ago, we believe:  
 $\tau \approx 263 \text{ ps}$  ( $B_{\Lambda} = 130 \pm 50 \text{ keV}$ ).

${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + \pi^-$  decay probability:  
kinematics  $\times$  | transition matrix |<sup>2</sup>  
 $\sim$  phase space  $\times$  wave function overlap

*a small term*  $\nearrow$   
*(separation of  $\sim 10 \text{ fm}$ )*

A well separated wave function between  $\Lambda$  and deuteron implies small modification of  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  lifetime from deuteron and, thus, its lifetime should be presumably determined by free  $\Lambda$  decay.

# Motivation for J-PARC E73 experiment

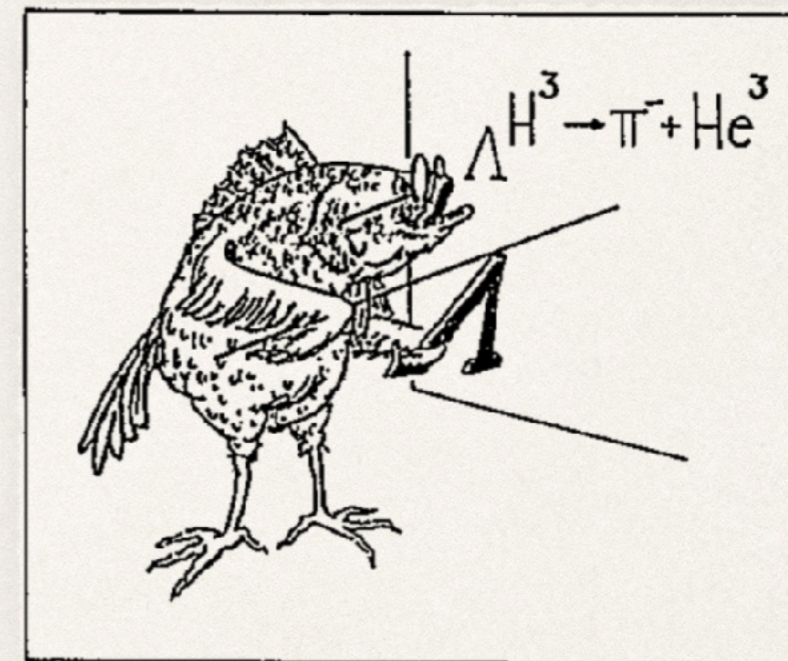
As the lightest hypernucleus,  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  should tell us some important fact of YN interactions just as deuteron for nuclear physics.

Up to a few years ago, we believe:  
 $\tau \approx 263 \text{ ps}$  ( $B_{\Lambda} = 130 \pm 50 \text{ keV}$ );  
 However, heavy ion experiments suggest  $\tau \approx 180 \text{ ps}$ ...

Hypertriton lifetime puzzle challenges the very foundation of our knowledge for hypernucleus.

Collaboration	Experimental method	${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$ lifetime [ps]	Release
HypHI	fixed target	$183^{+42}_{-32}(\text{stat.}) \pm 37(\text{syst.})$	2013 [4]
STAR	Au collider	$142^{+24}_{-21}(\text{stat.}) \pm 29(\text{syst.})$	2018 [2]
		$221 \pm 15(\text{stat.}) \pm 19(\text{syst.})$	2021 [6]
ALICE	Pb collider	$181^{+54}_{-39}(\text{stat.}) \pm 33(\text{syst.})$	2016 [3]
		$242^{+34}_{-38}(\text{stat.}) \pm 17(\text{syst.})$	2019 [5]

TABLE I. Summary of recent measurements on  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  lifetime.



Neither fish nor fowl?

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# J-PARC E73 experimental method

# Methods for *J-PARC E73*

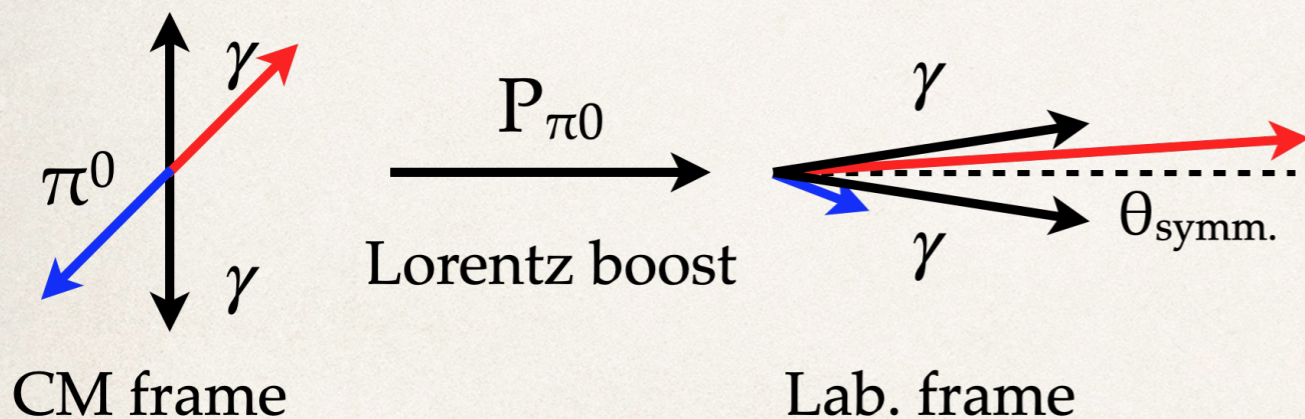
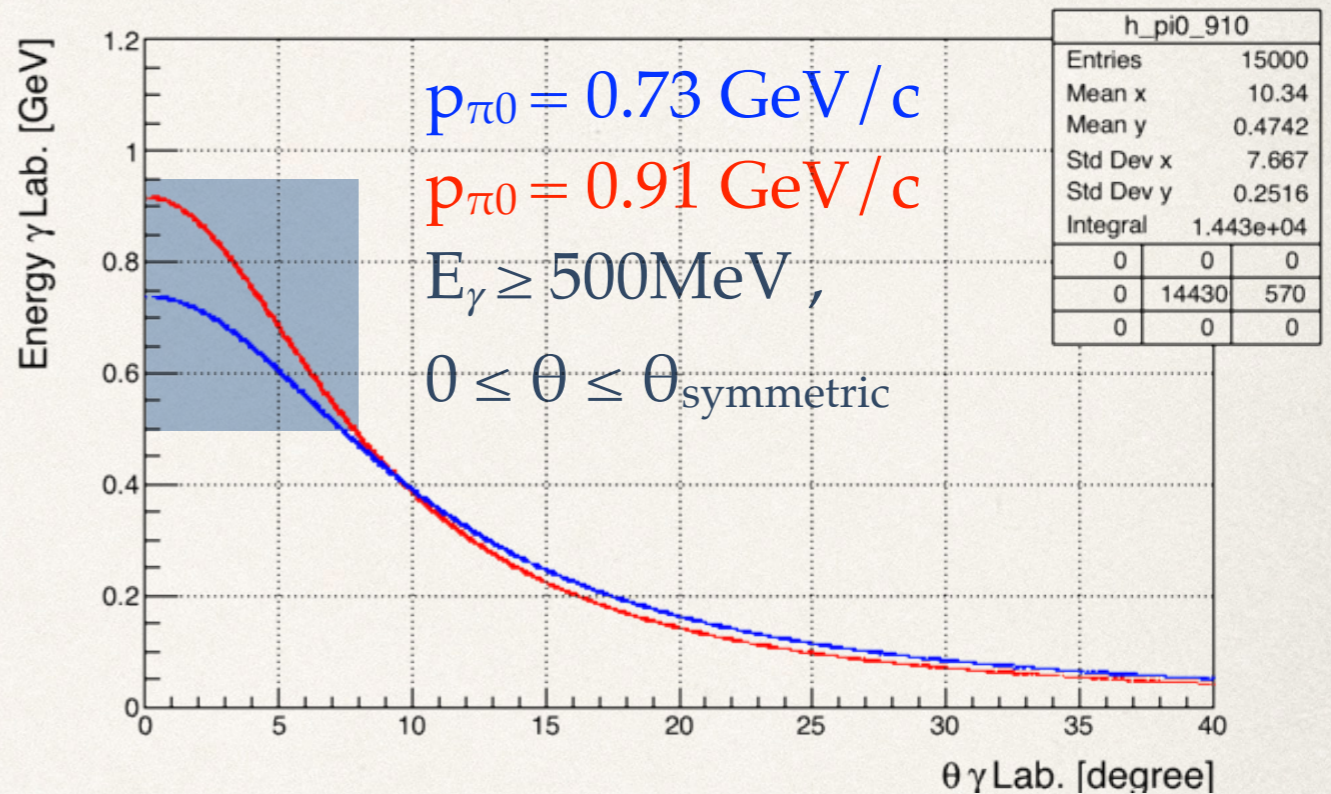
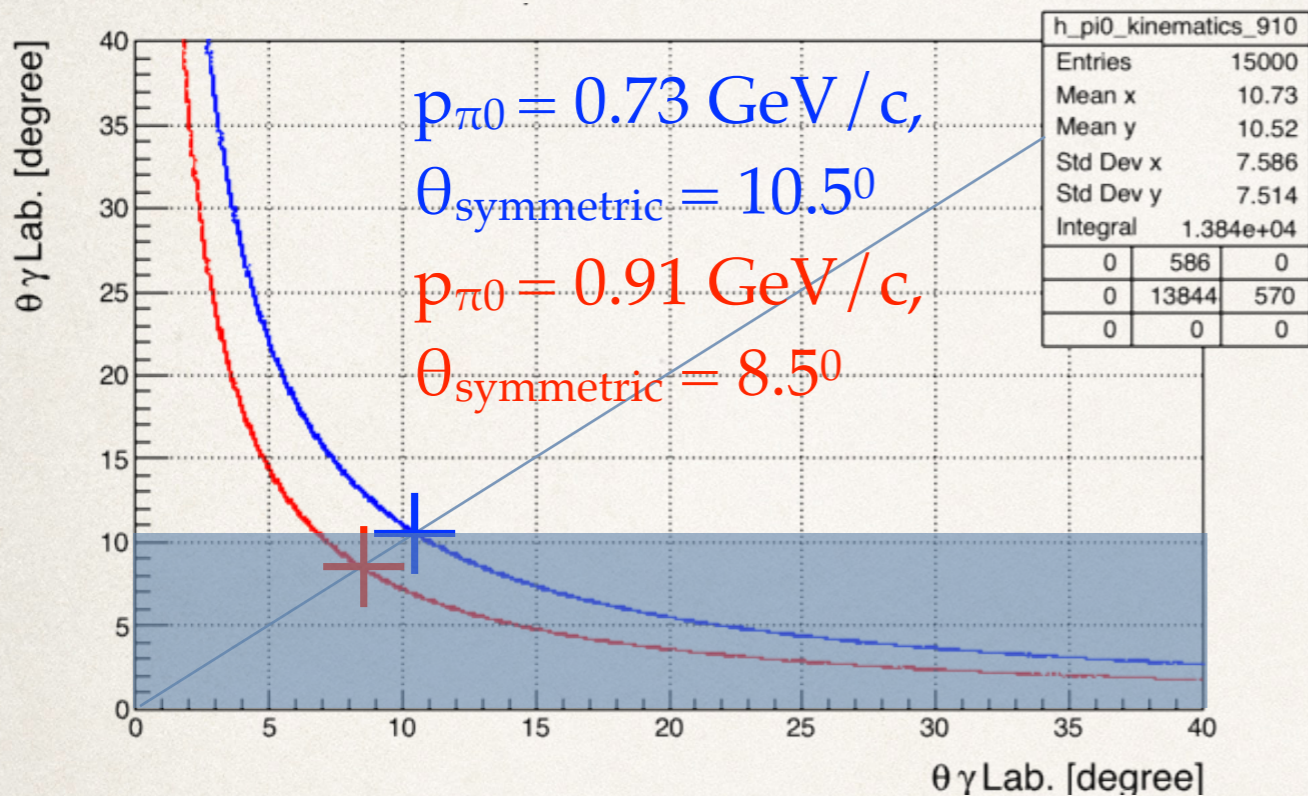
❖  $K^- + \text{He}^3 \rightarrow \pi^0 + \text{Hypertriton}$

❖ how to detect  $\pi^0 \rightarrow$  decays into 2 gammas almost immediately?

Experiment	J-PARC E73	BNL STAR
Production method	${}^3\text{He}(K^-, \pi^0){}^3_\Lambda\text{H}$	Au+Au
Microscopic process	Strangeness exchange	Thermal model; Coalescence model
PID	$\pi^-$ momentum	Invariant mass
Quantum number	spin=1/2 dominant	1/2 and 3/2 mixture?
Lifetime derivation	Time of flight	Decay length



# Revisit $\pi^0$ decay kinematics



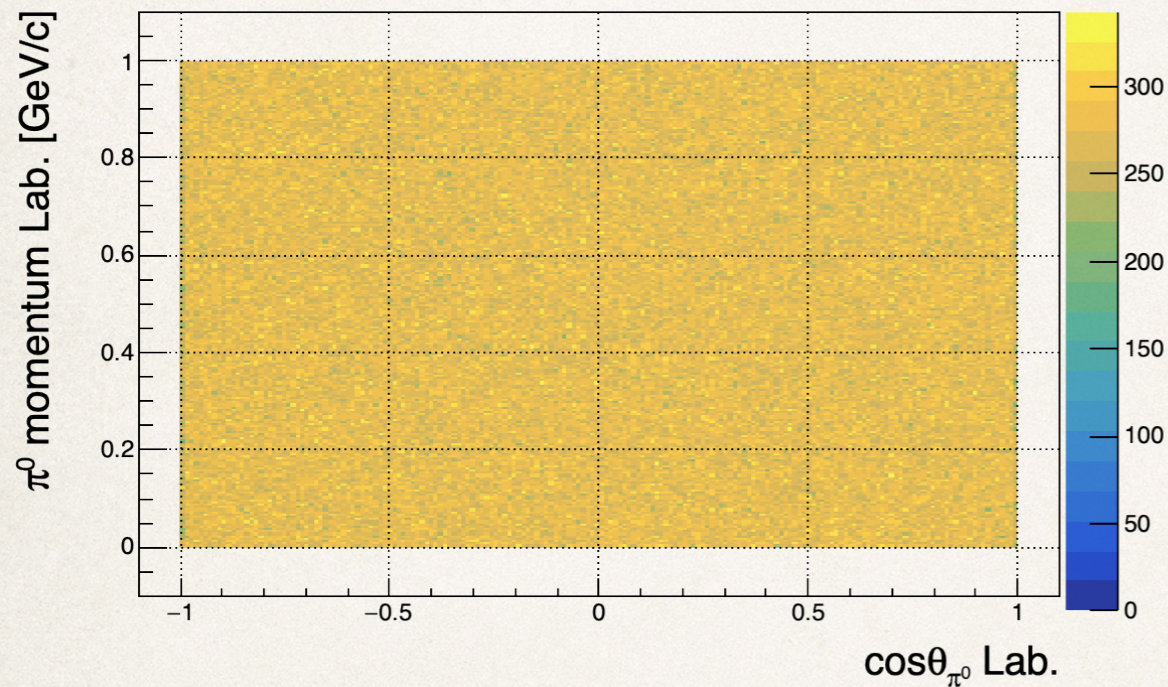
- ❖  $0.73 \sim 0.91 \text{ GeV}/c$   $\pi^0$  boosts  $\gamma$  forwardly;
- ❖ By covering  $0 \sim \theta_{\text{symmetric}}$ , tag the  $\gamma$  with higher energy ( $E_\gamma \geq 500 \text{ MeV}$ )

- ❖  $\gamma$ -ray tagger needs to be *located along beam line*
- ❖ *Fast response, radiation hardness*

# Do we *really* need missing mass?

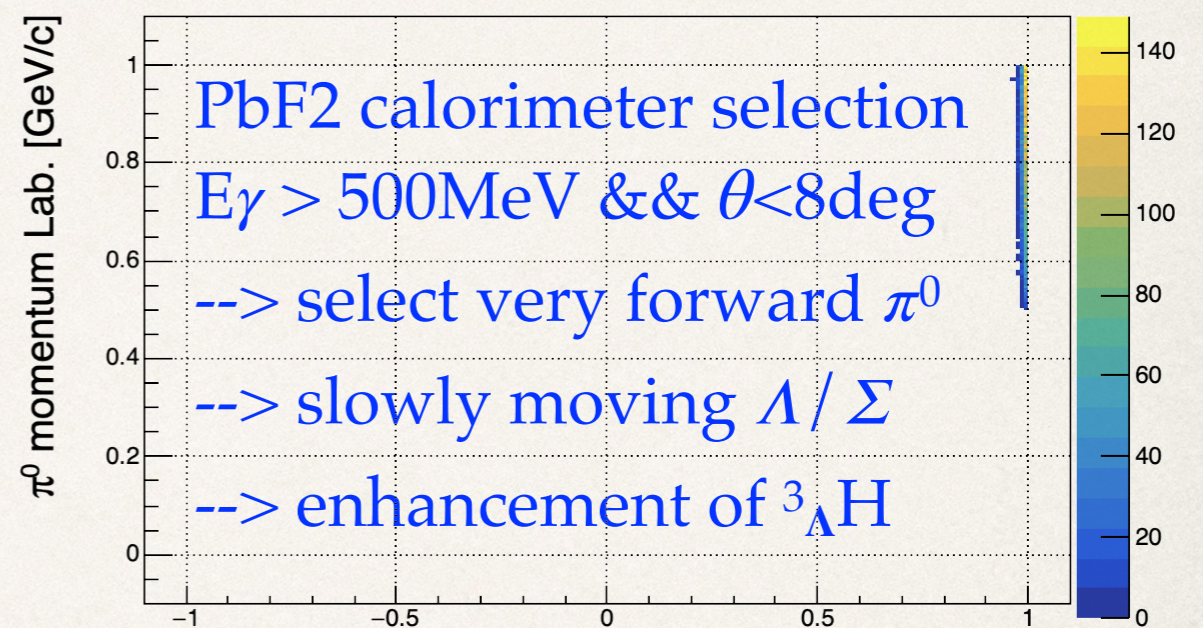
Input

$\pi^0$ : 0~1 GeV / c; 0~180deg

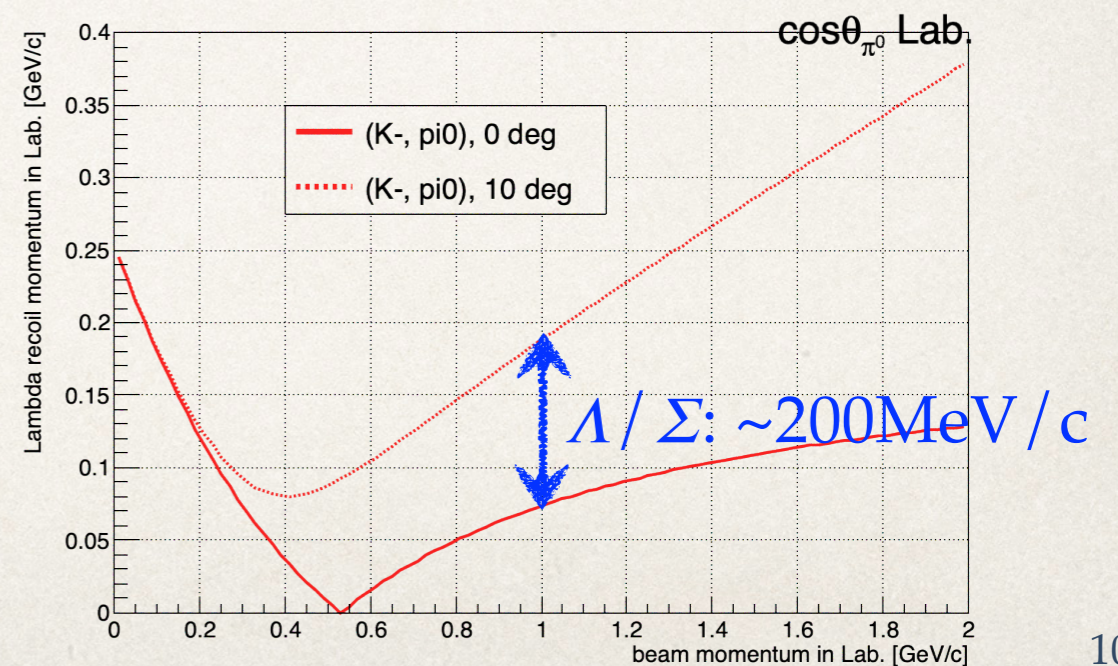


W / PbF2 calorimeter cut

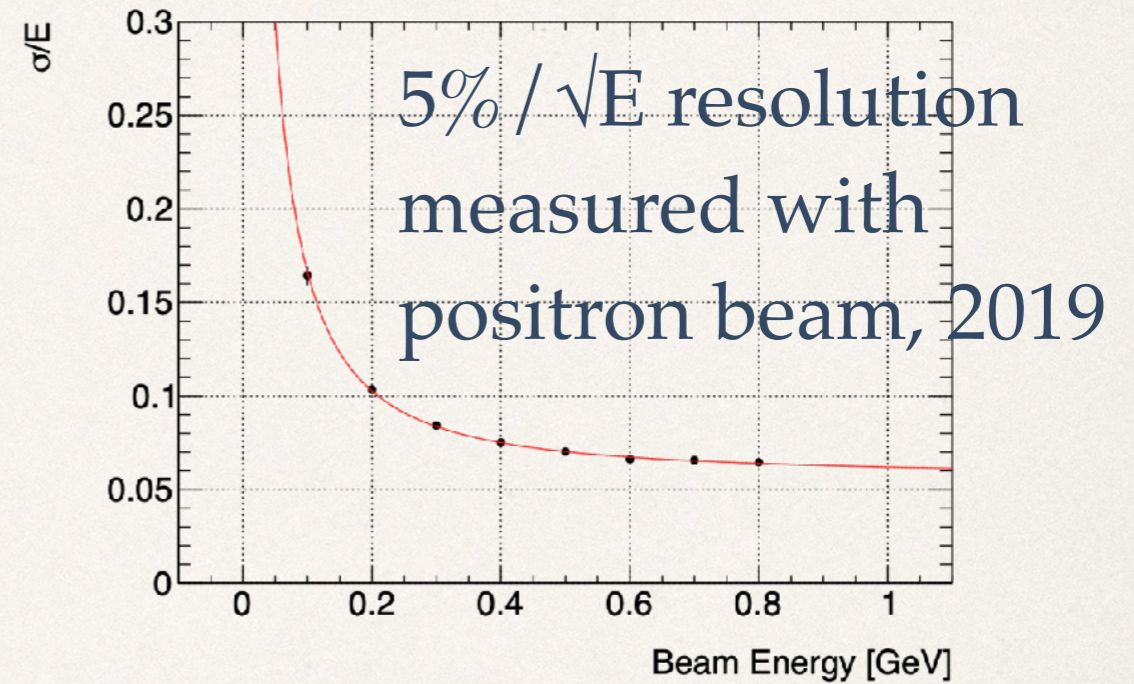
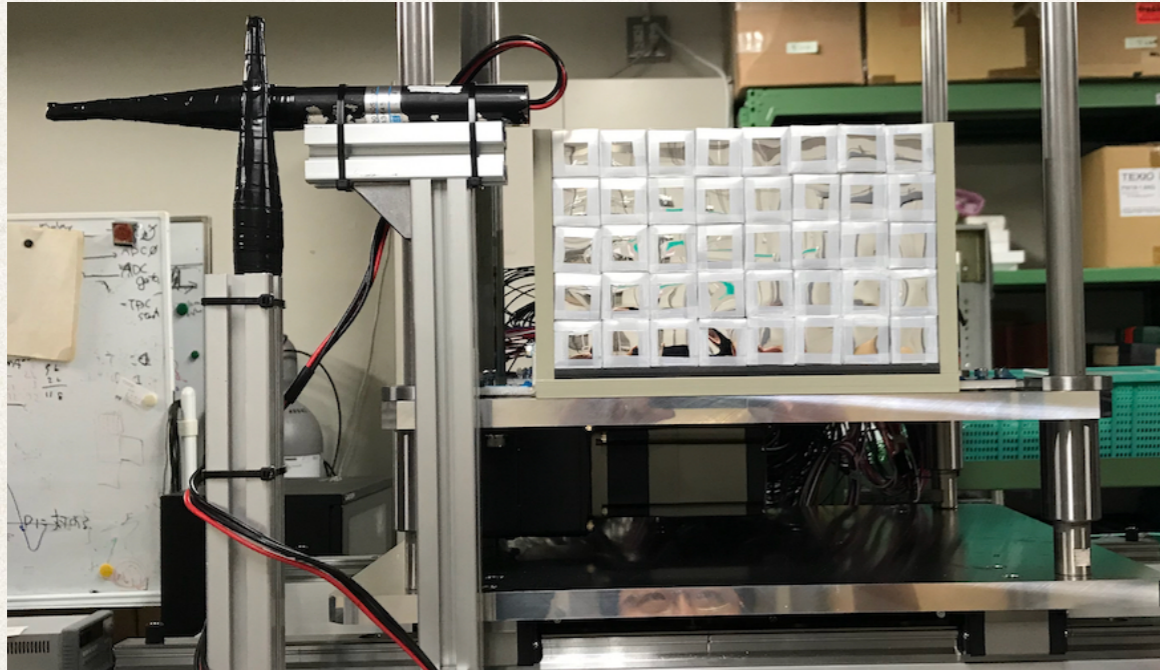
$\pi^0$ : 0.8~1 GeV / c; 0~10deg



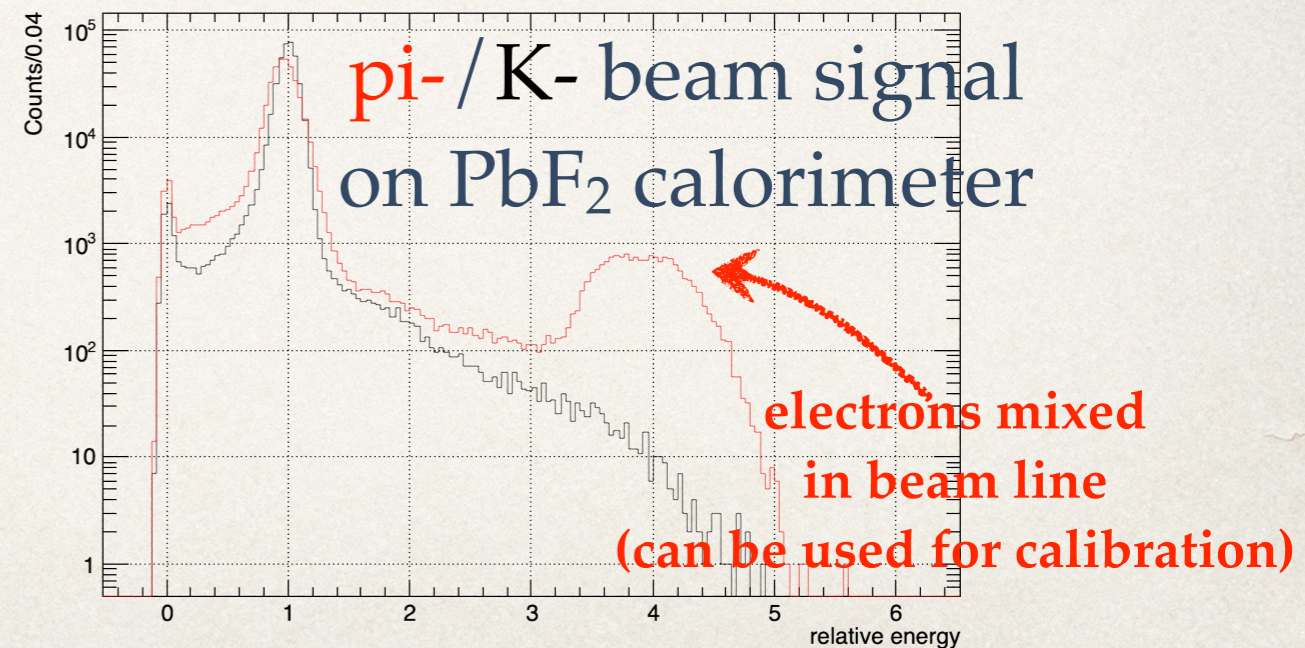
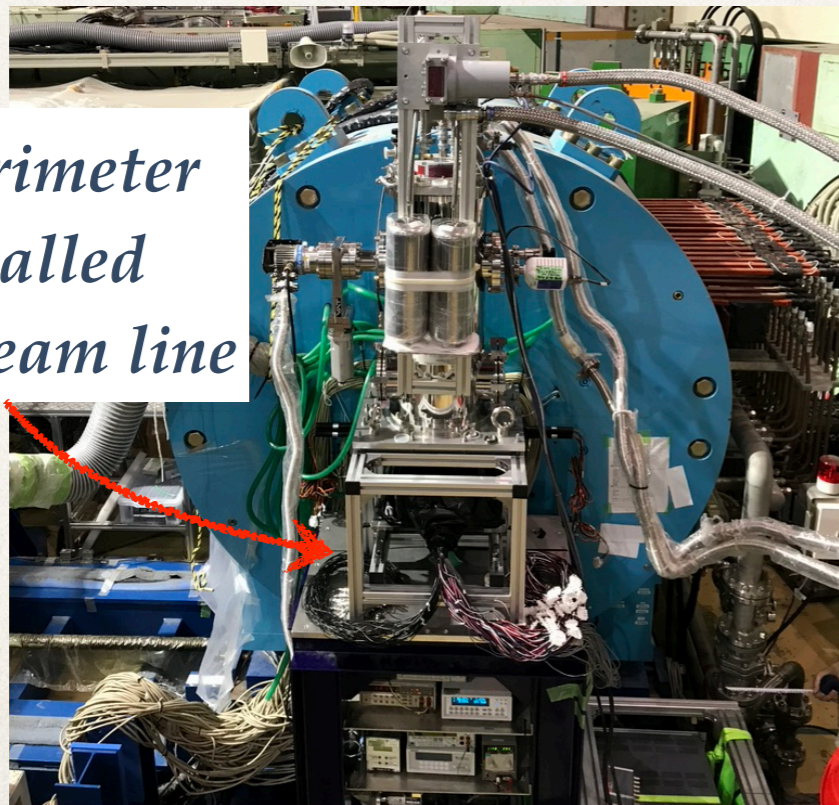
- ❖  $\gamma$ -ray tagger needs to be *located along beam line*
- ❖ *Fast response, radiation hardness*



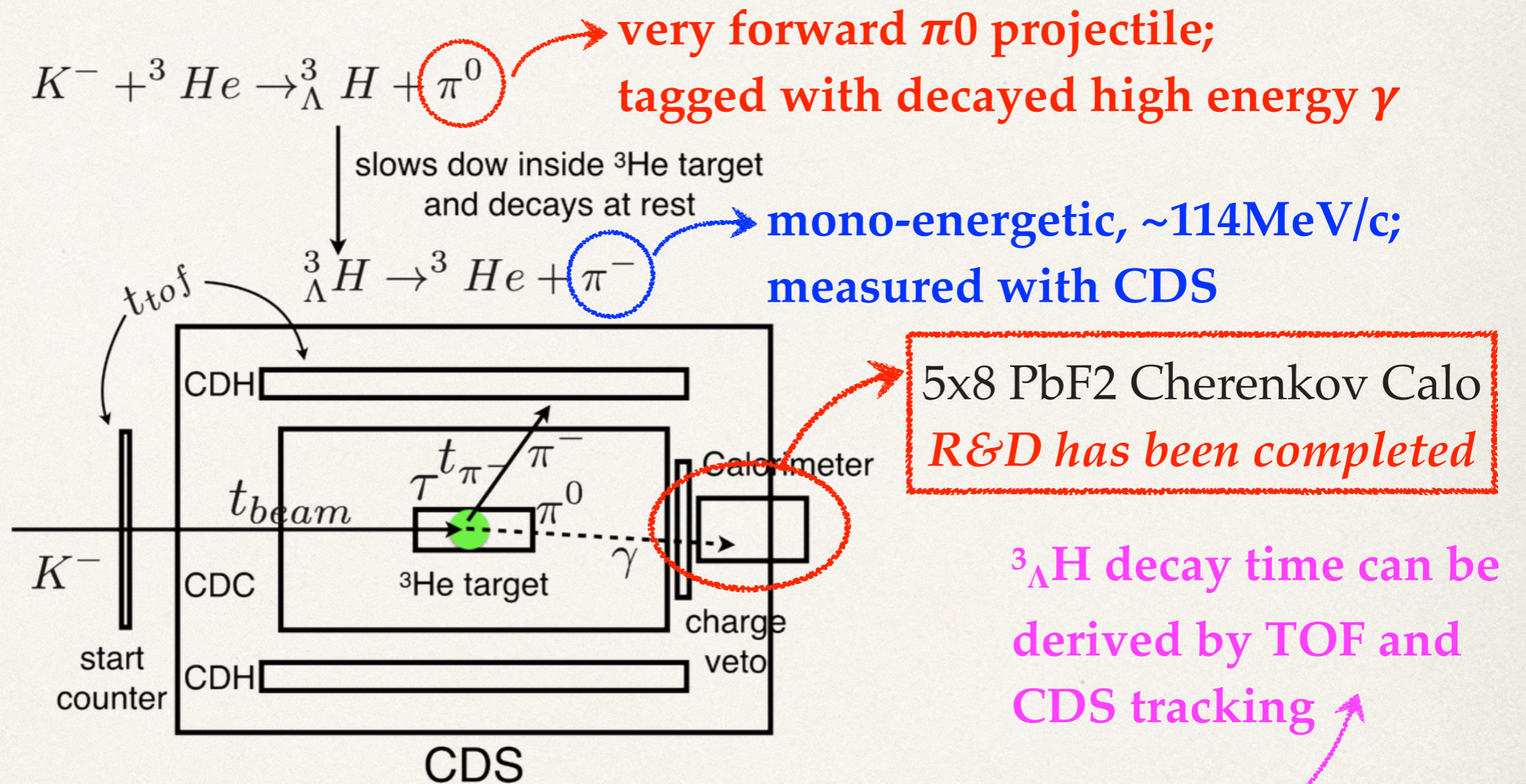
# PbF2 calorimeter performance @ELPH



*PbF2 calorimeter was installed INTO the beam line*



# E73 Experimental setup



The idea of *direct measurement*:  $T_{\text{CDH}} - T_0 = t_{\text{beam}} + t_{\pi^-} + \tau$

1. A complementary measurement for Heavy Ion results
2. Achievable precision:  $\sigma/\sqrt{N} \sim 30\text{ps}$

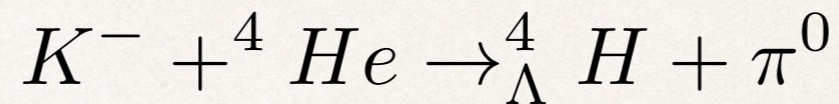
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# J-PARC E73 current status

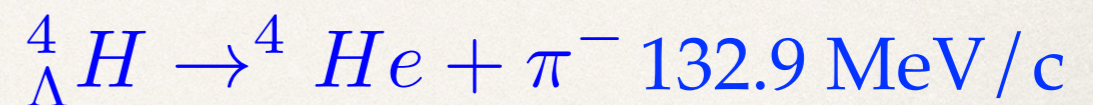
# Current status of J-PARC E73

Staging:	Stage-0	Stage-1	Stage-2
Task:	Background study with ${}^4\text{He}(\text{K}^-, \pi^0){}^4_\Lambda\text{H}$	First measurement for ${}^3\text{He}(\text{K}^-, \pi^0){}^3_\Lambda\text{H}$ reaction	Direct lifetime measurement for ${}^3_\Lambda\text{H}$
Output:	Established a new method as: $(\text{K}^-, \pi^0) +$ decay spectrum	Production cross section study for ${}^3_\Lambda\text{H}$ @ 1 GeV / c	Pin down Hypertriton lifetime puzzle
Status:	Accomplished in June, 2020	Accomplished in May, 2021	Ready for beam time in early 2023

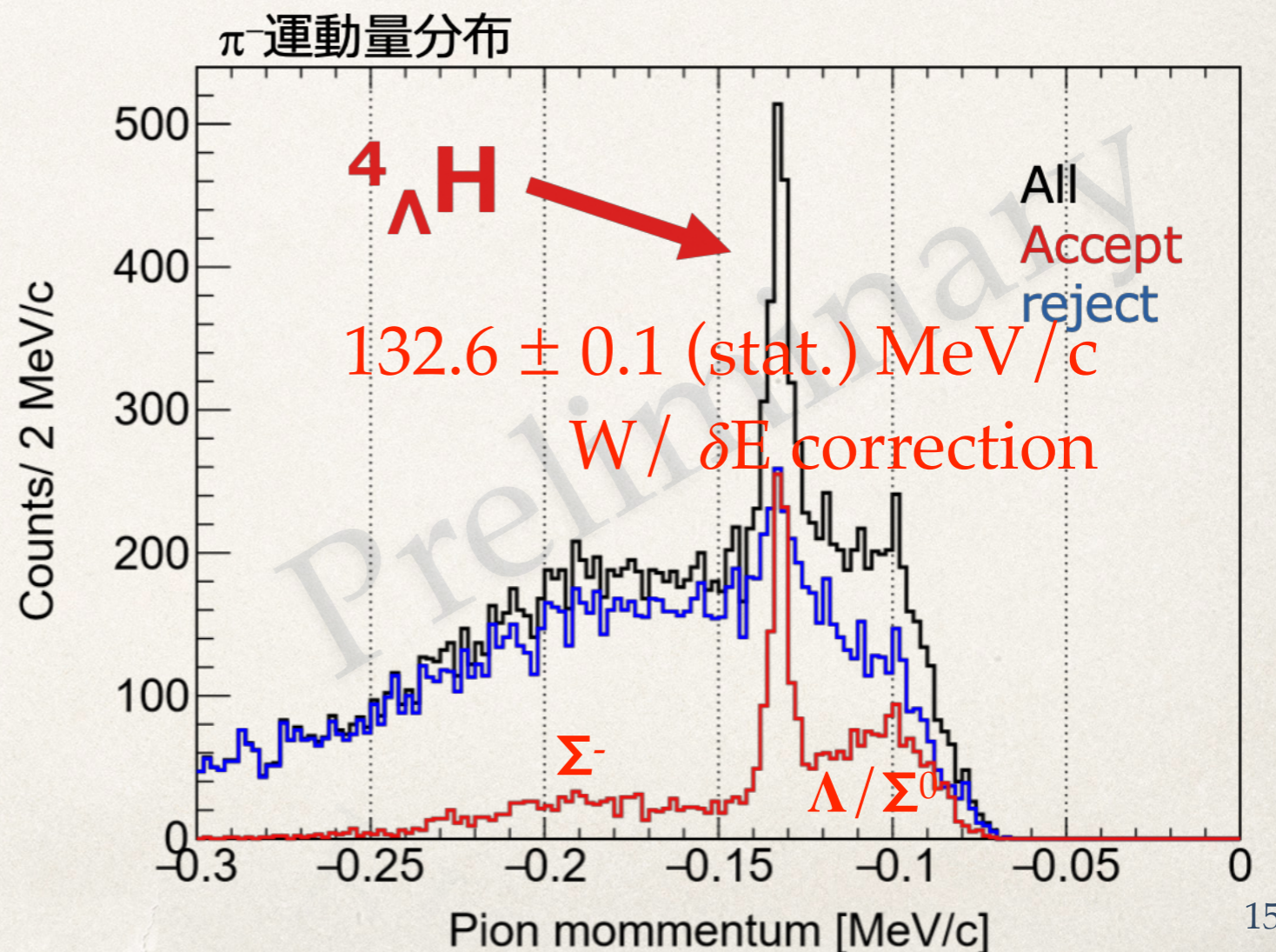
# Stage-0: feasibility study for E73



↓ slows down inside  ${}^4\text{He}$  target  
and decays at rest



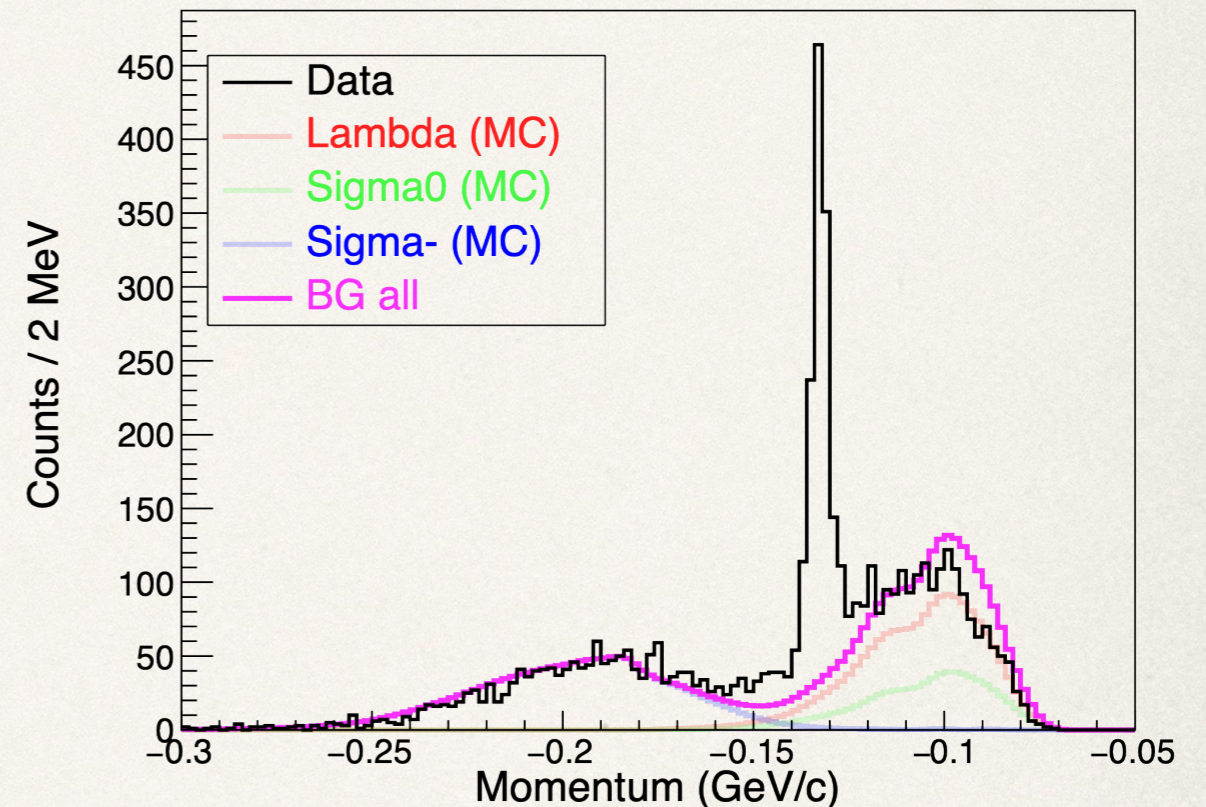
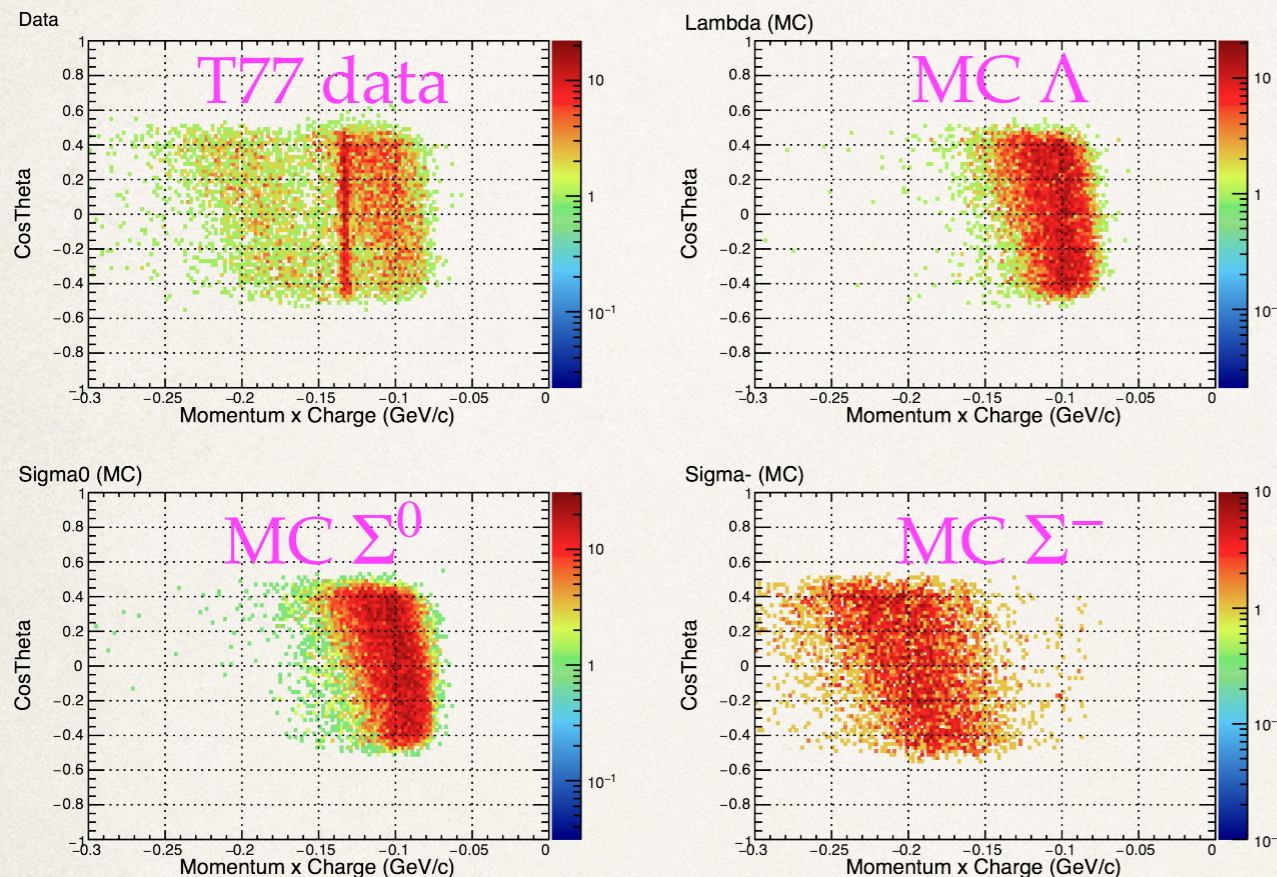
- ❖ T77 refreshes world record for  ${}^4_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  statistics by twice (*1.2k events*);
- ❖ New method improves S/N by  $\sim 10$  times;
- ❖ *All these happen within 3 days of beam time!*



# Stage-0: simulation validation

*decay  $\pi^-$  momentum vs angle*

*MC yield tuned to match data*



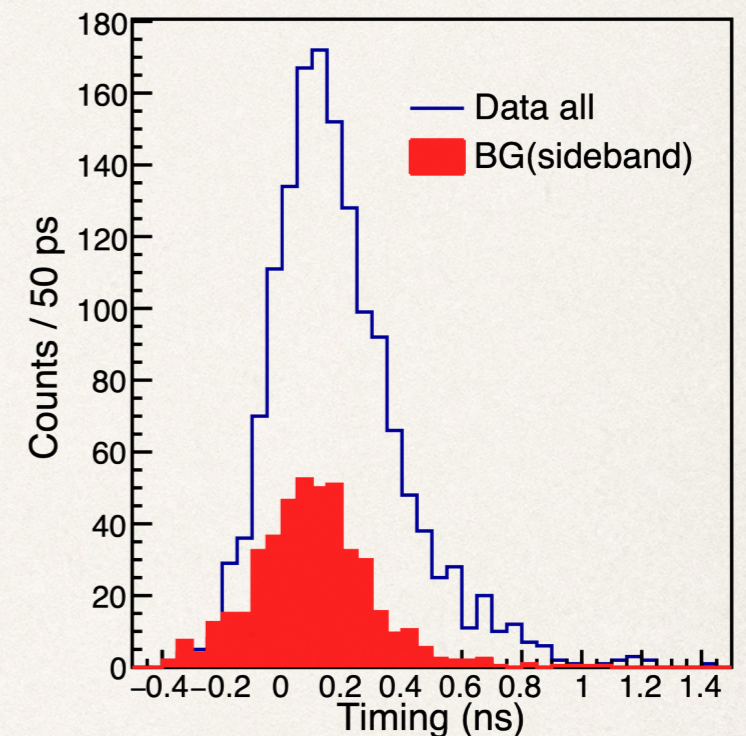
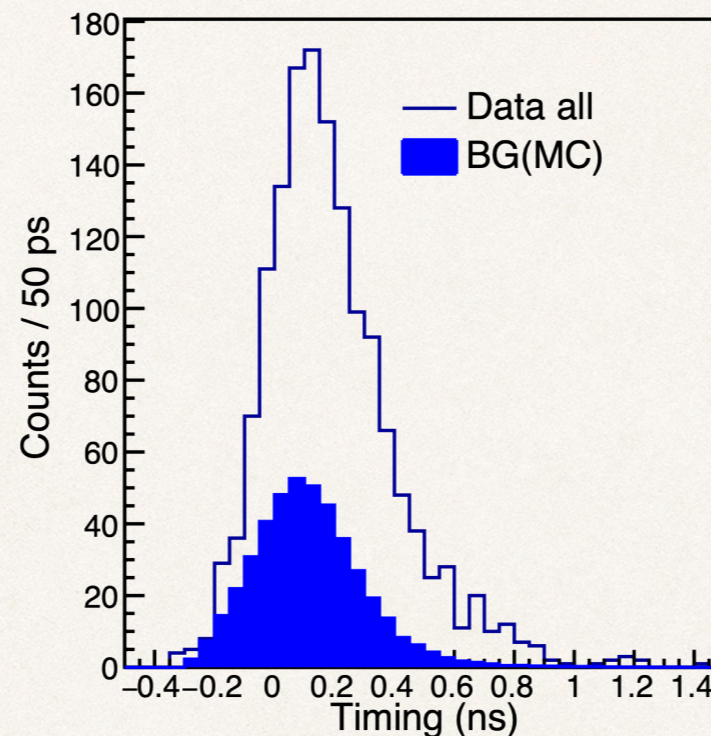
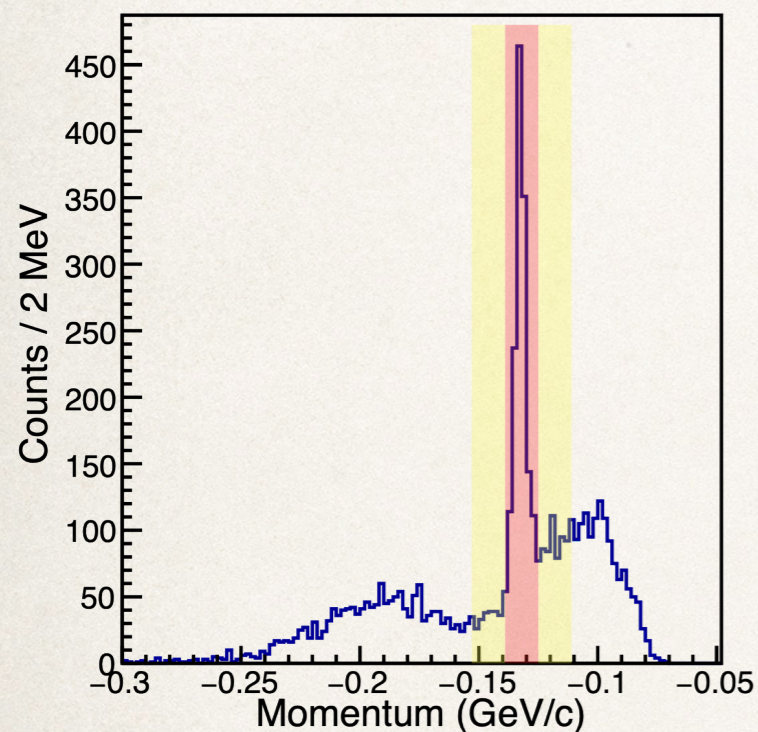
GEANT4 based simulation for quasi-free  $\Lambda/\Sigma$  in-flight decay;  
 $N(K^-, \pi^0)\Upsilon$  elementary reaction with published data +  
convoluted with Argonne AV18+UX Fermi motion



# Stage-0: ${}^4_{\Lambda}\text{H}$ lifetime analysis

Good agreement between MC and data.

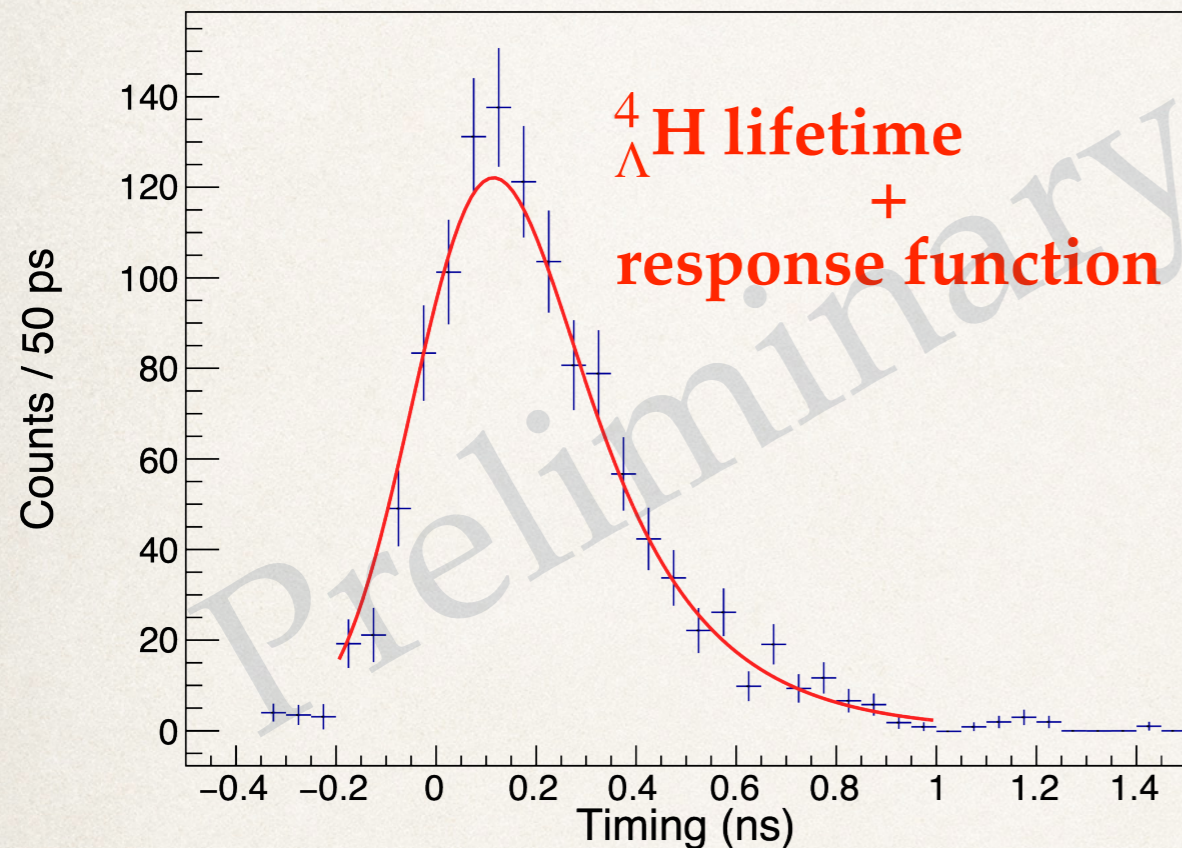
T77 Data



GEANT4 based simulation for quasi-free  $\Lambda/\Sigma$  in-flight decay;  
 $N(K^-, \pi^0)\Upsilon$  elementary reaction with published data +  
convoluted with Argonne AV18+UX Fermi motion

# Stage-0: ${}^4_{\Lambda}\text{H}$ lifetime analysis

$190 \pm 8(\text{stat.}) \pm ??(\text{sys.}) \text{ ps}$

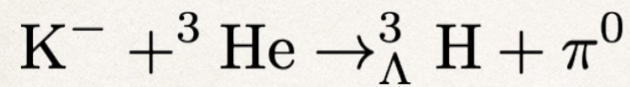


$194^{+24}_{-26} \text{ ps}$  @ KEK stop K-  
*H. Ota, et al., Nucl. Phys. A 547, (1992), 109c-114c*

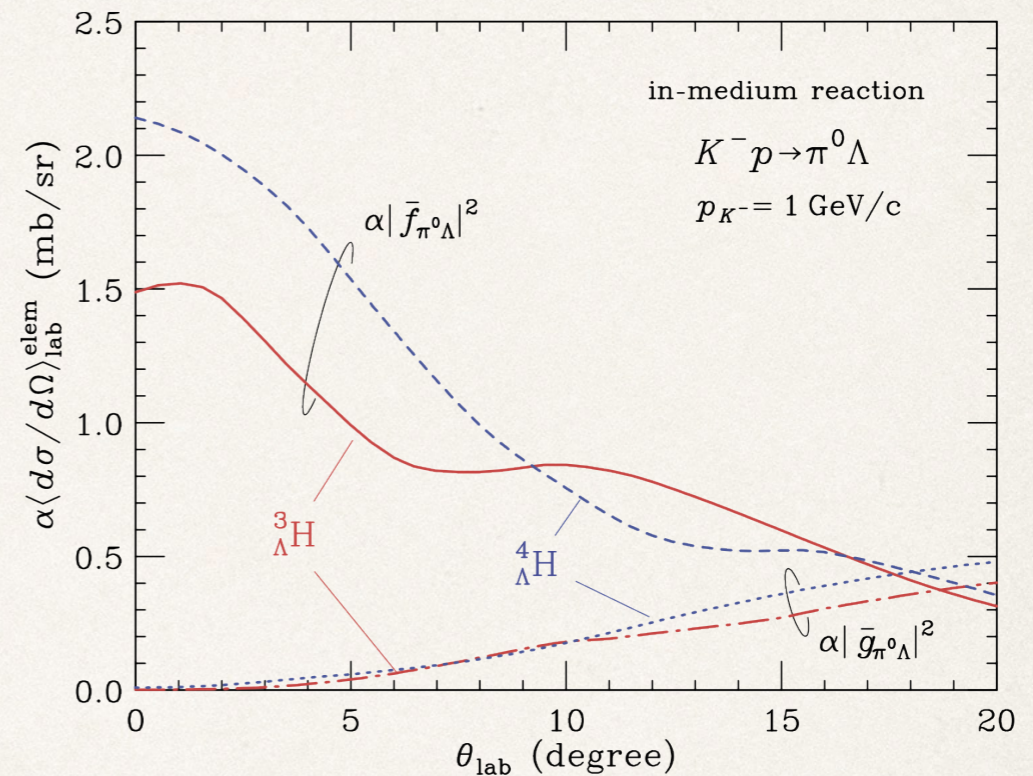
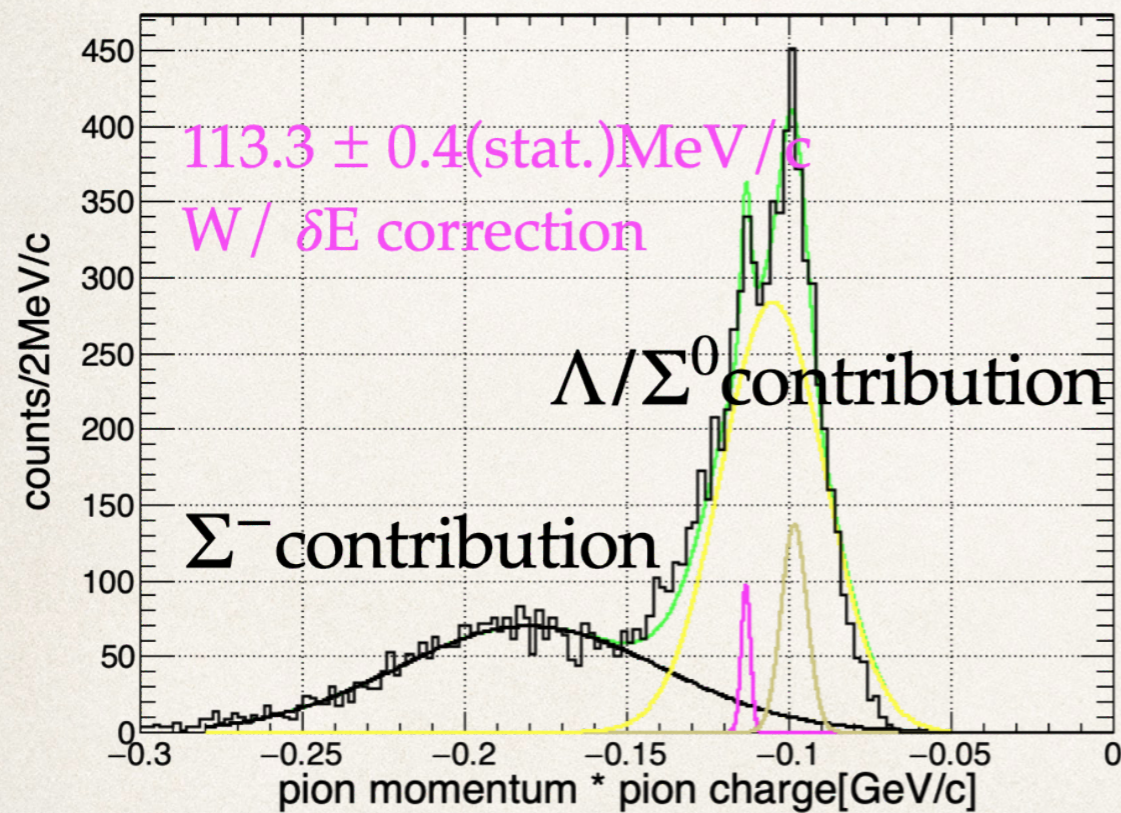
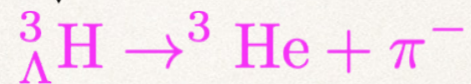
$218 \pm 6(\text{stat.}) \pm 13(\text{sys.}) \text{ ps}$   
@ STAR, Au-Au collision  
*arXiv:2110.09513*

Our result is amongst the most precise data;  
Finalizing the data analysis and preparing for publication.

# Stage-1: cross section & spin of ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$



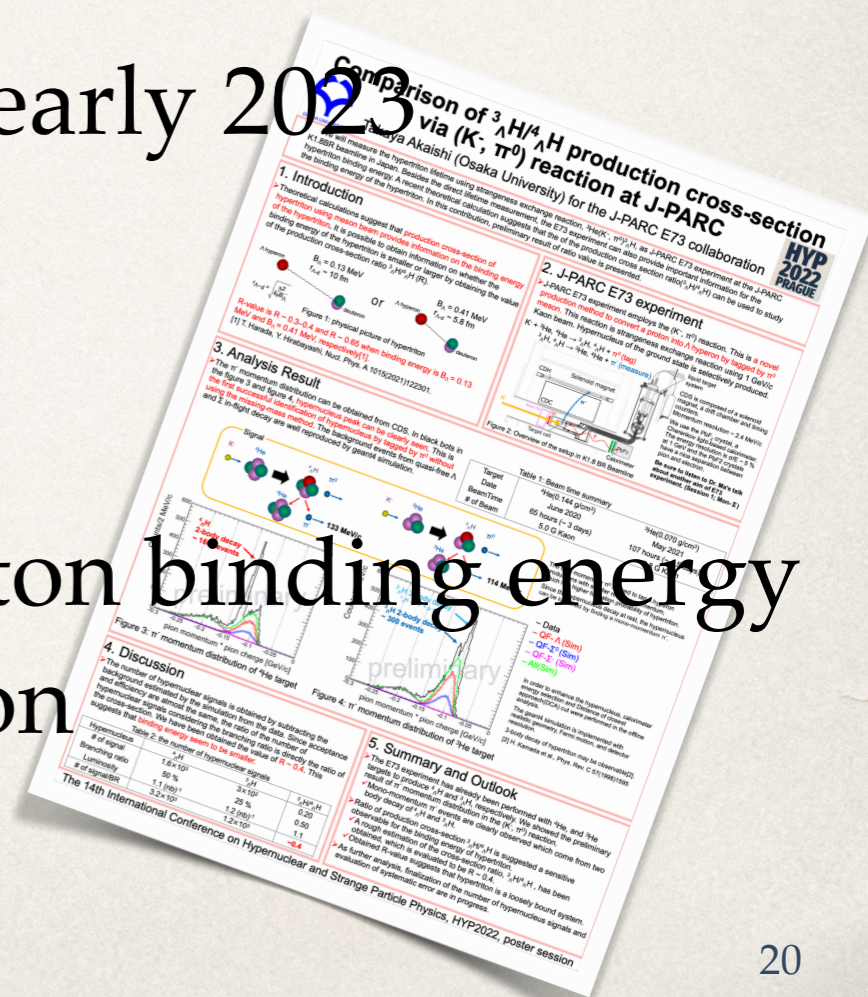
↓ slows down and  
decays at rest



- ❖ First direct proof of  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  g.s. spin=1/2
- ❖  ${}^4_{\Lambda}\text{H}/{}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  cross section is consistent with Prof. Harada's calculation
- ❖ Invitation for theorists: derive  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  binding with 3-body decay mode?

# Summary

- ❖ E73 aims to shed light on the Hypertriton lifetime puzzle
  - ❖ We established a new method to investigate the isospin mirror hypernuclei by gamma-ray tagging
  - ❖ E73 is ready for final data taking in early 2023
- ❖ Mr. T. Akaishi's poster tomorrow:
  - ❖ His original idea to derive Hypertriton binding energy by comparing H3L / H4L cross section



# E73/T77 collaborator list

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T. Akaishi<sup>1</sup>, H. Asano<sup>2</sup>, X. Chen<sup>5</sup>, A. Clozza<sup>7</sup>, C. Curceanu<sup>7</sup>, R. Del Grande<sup>7</sup>, C. Guaraldo<sup>7</sup>, C. Han<sup>5</sup>,  
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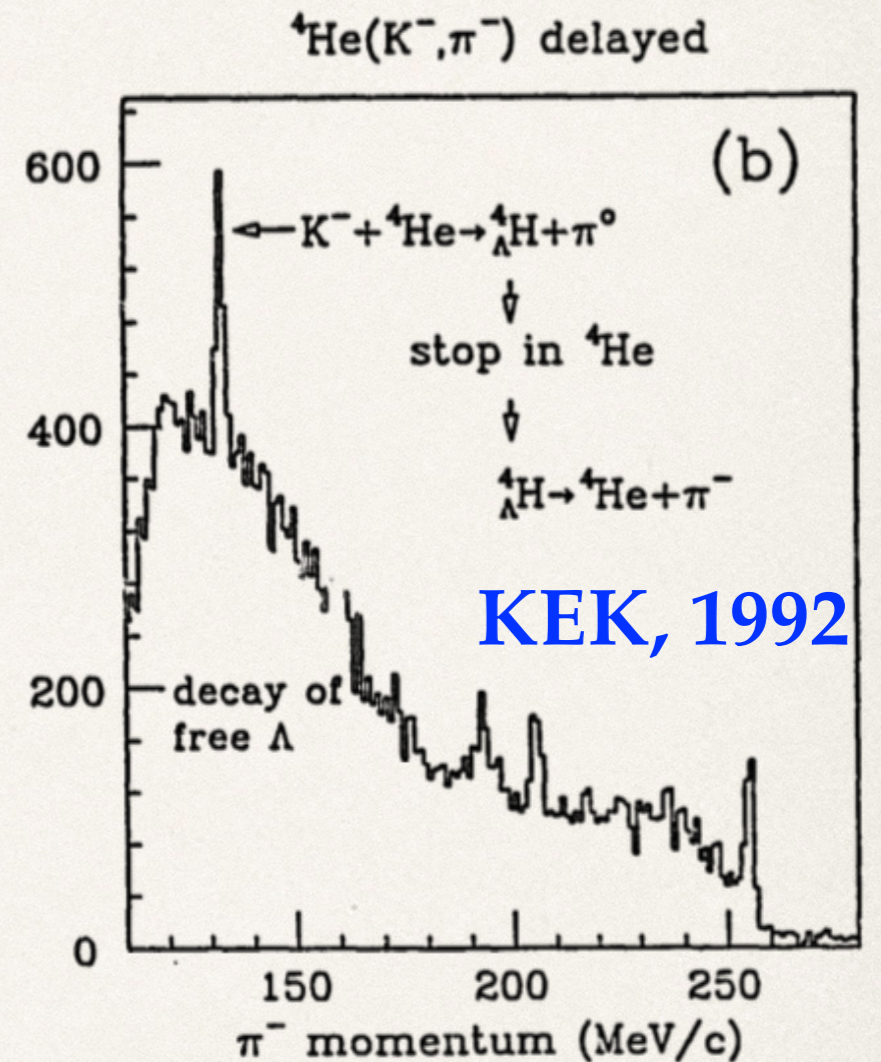
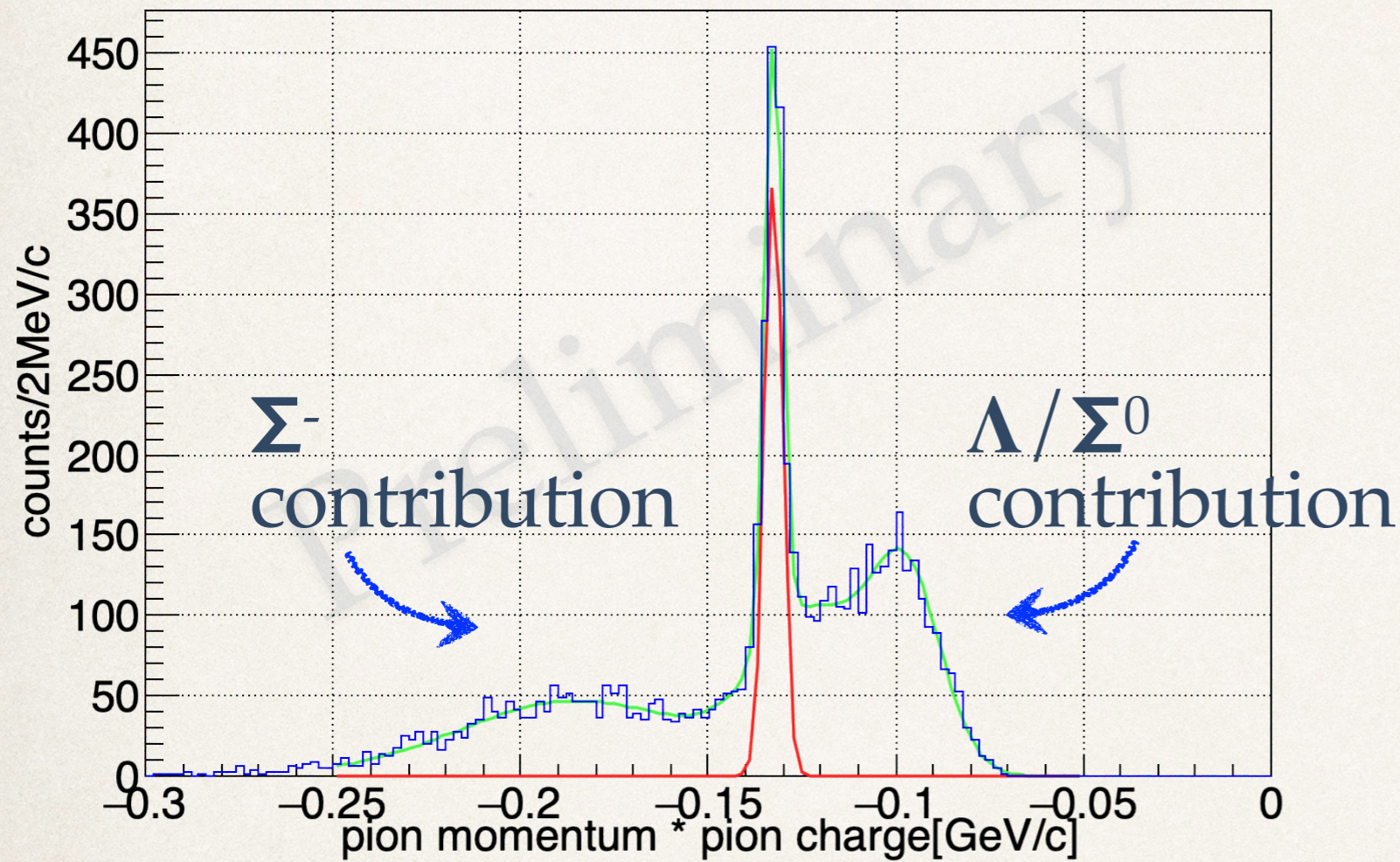
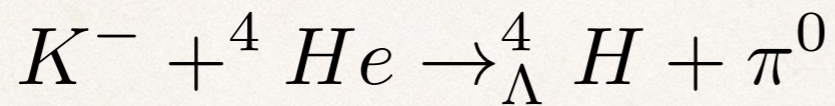
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❖ Backup

# Stage-0: pi- spectrum from ${}^4_{\Lambda}\text{H}$



- ❖ T77 refreshes world record for  ${}^4_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  statistics by twice;
- ❖ New method improves S/N by  $\sim 10$  times;
- ❖ *All these happen within 3 days of beam time!*

# Stage-1: cross section & spin of ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$

- ❖ Hypertriton isospin:
  - ❖  ${}^4\text{He}$ :  $T=0$  &  ${}^3\text{He}$ :  $T=1/2$
  - ❖  ${}^3\text{He}(\text{K}^-, \pi^0){}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$ :  $T=0$
- ❖ Hypertriton ground state spin is determined by two-body / three-body ratio and no direct determination so far...
- ❖ E73 stage-1 experiment can contribute on this issue.
  - ❖ Thanks to the spin non-flip dominant ( $\text{K}^-, \pi^0$ ) reaction

