



Kaon Experiments at CERN Recent Results and Prospects

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Outline

- The Kaon Factory at CERN
- NA48/n & NA62: brief history
- Tests of SM and search for New Physics
 - Measurement of R_K
 - Lepton Flavour/Number Violation studies
 - Search for two-body resonances
 - Search for Heavy Neutrino production
- The $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay
 - Motivation and strategy of the measurement
 - Performance during the 2015 run
 - Status and future prospects
- Summary and Outlook

The Kaon Factory at CERN

- Precision measurements in the minimal flavour laboratory
- Many Kaon decays can proceed, or are enhanced, by contributions from new physics particles
 - ✓ study explicit Violations of SM, such as LFV/LNV
 - ✓ probe the flavour sector by means of FCNC
 - ✓ test of fundamental symmetries such as CP and CPT
 - ✓ study of strong interaction at low energy in exclusive processes
- Ideal environment to search for New Physics
- The CERN Kaon physics programme
 - The main goal of the NA62 experiment is the measurement of the Branching Ratio of the $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu\bar{\nu}$ decay
 - Many other physics opportunities

Kaons at CERN

NA48

Main goal: Search for direct CPV

Measurement of $\varepsilon' / \varepsilon$

Beams: K_L / K_S

NA48/1

Main goal: Rare K_S decays and hyperon decays, CPV tests

Beams: K_S

NA48/2

Main goal: Search for direct CPV

Charge asymmetry measurement

Beams: K^+ / K^-

NA48

1997



2001

2002

2003

2004

2007

2008

2014



2018

NA31 (1984-1990)

First evidence of direct CPV

Beams: K_L / K_S

NA62

NA62 - R_K

Main goal: Test of μ -e universality R_K measurement

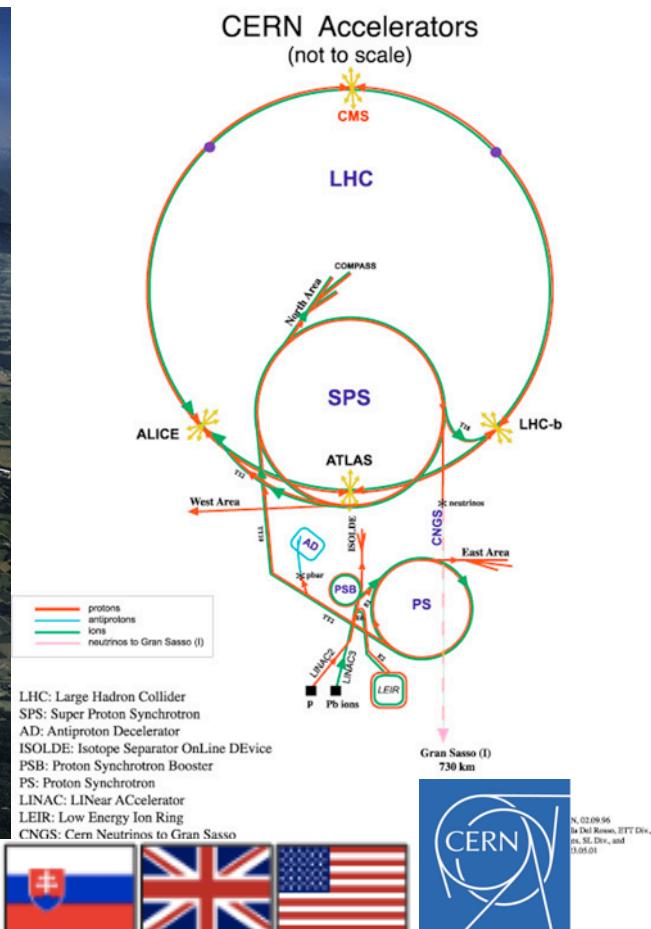
Beams: K^+ / K^-

NA62

Main goal: Rare kaon decays, measurement of $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$

Beam: K^+

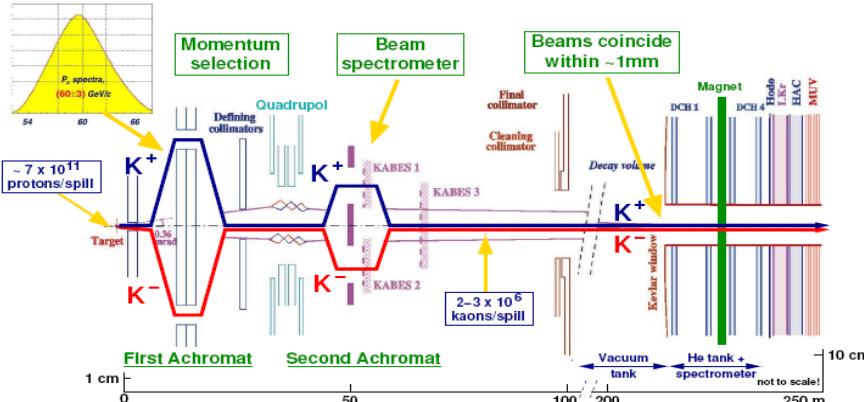
The NA48 and NA62 experiments



Birmingham, Bratislava, Bristol, Bucharest, CERN, Dubna (JINR), Fairfax, Ferrara, Florence, Frascati, Glasgow, Liverpool, Louvain-la-Neuve, Mainz, Merced, Moscow(INR), Naples, Perugia, Pisa, Prague, Protvino (IHEP), Rome I, Rome II, San Luis Potosi, SLAC, Sofia, TRIUMF, Turin, Vancouver(UBC) → ~ 200 participants

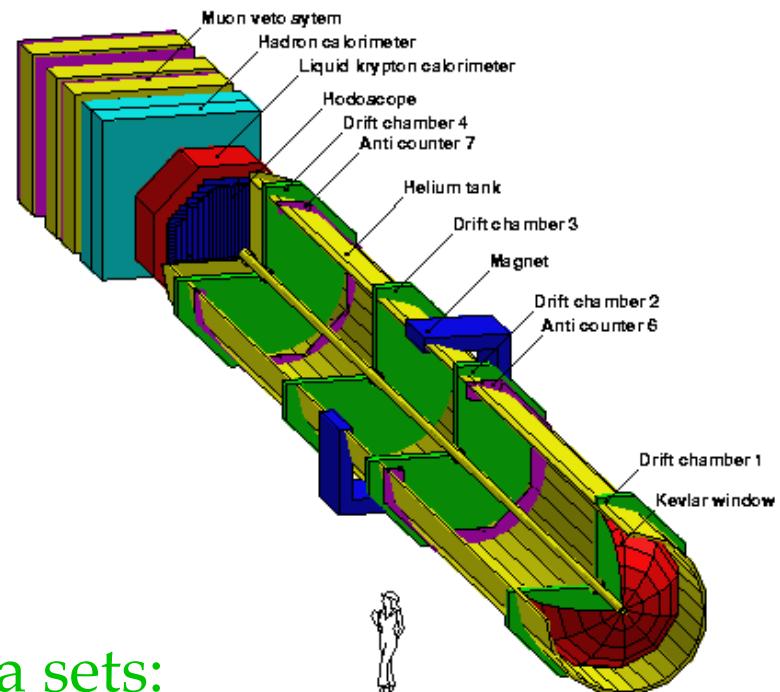
Test of μ -e universality
Measurement of
 $R_K = \Gamma(K_{e2}) / \Gamma(K_{\mu2})$

R_K - Detector and data taking



	2003-2004	2007
Kaon momentum	$60 \pm 3 \text{ GeV}/c$	$74 \pm 1 \text{ GeV}/c$
Momentum kick	120 MeV/c	265 MeV/c

Same detector for NA48/2 and NA62

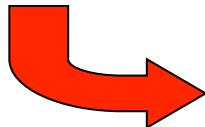


Data sets:

- NA48/2: six months in 2003–04
- NA62-R_K: four months in 2007

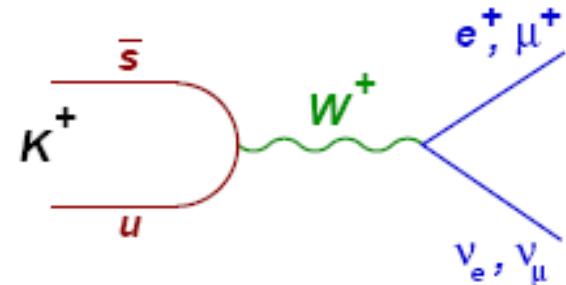
R_K in the SM

Leptonic decays of light pseudoscalar mesons
not directly usable due to hadronic uncertainties



measure the ratio

- hadronic uncertainties cancel
- R_K very well predicted within the SM, well below 10^{-3}
- K_{e2} strongly helicity suppressed (V-A coupling)
 - enhanced sensitivity to non-SM effects



[V. Cirigliano and I. Rosell, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2007) 231801]

$$R_K = \frac{\Gamma(K^\pm \rightarrow e^\pm \nu_e)}{\Gamma(K^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm \nu_\mu)} = \frac{m_e^2}{m_\mu^2} \left(\frac{m_K^2 - m_e^2}{m_K^2 - m_\mu^2} \right)^2 (1 + \delta R_{QED}) = (2.477 \pm 0.001) \cdot 10^{-5}$$

helicity suppression $\sim 10^{-5}$ radiative corrections

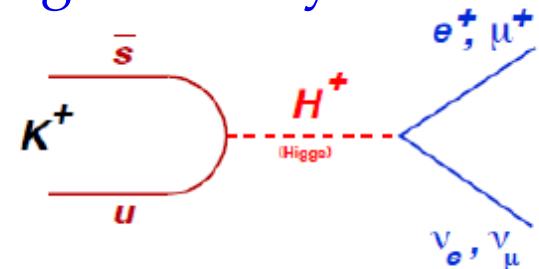
radiative corrections R_{QED} (few %) due to the IB part of the radiative decay
 $K^\pm \rightarrow e^\pm \nu \gamma$ are included in R_K definition and well computed in the SM

R_K beyond the SM

In several SM extensions, the presence of **LFV terms** introduces extra contribution to the SM amplitude, enhancing the decay rate

2HDM – tree level

$K^\pm \rightarrow l^\pm \nu$ can proceed via charged Higgs, H^\pm , exchange → does not affect R_K

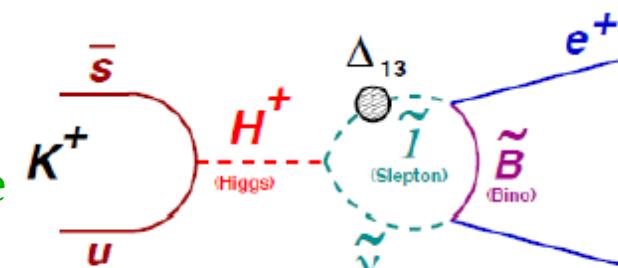


2HDM – one-loop level

Dominant contribution to R_K : H^\pm mediated

LFV with emission of ν_τ

→ R_K enhancement can be experimentally accessible



$$R_K^{LFV} = \frac{\Gamma_{SM}(K \rightarrow e\nu_e) + \Gamma_{LFV}(K \rightarrow e\nu_\tau)}{\Gamma_{SM}(K \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu)}$$

[Fonseca, Romao and Teixeira, EPJC (2012) 2228]

$$R_K^{LFV} \approx R_K^{SM} \left[1 + \left(\frac{m_K^4}{m_{H^\pm}^4} \right) \left(\frac{m_\tau^2}{m_e^2} \right) |\Delta_{13}|^2 \tan^6 \beta \right]$$

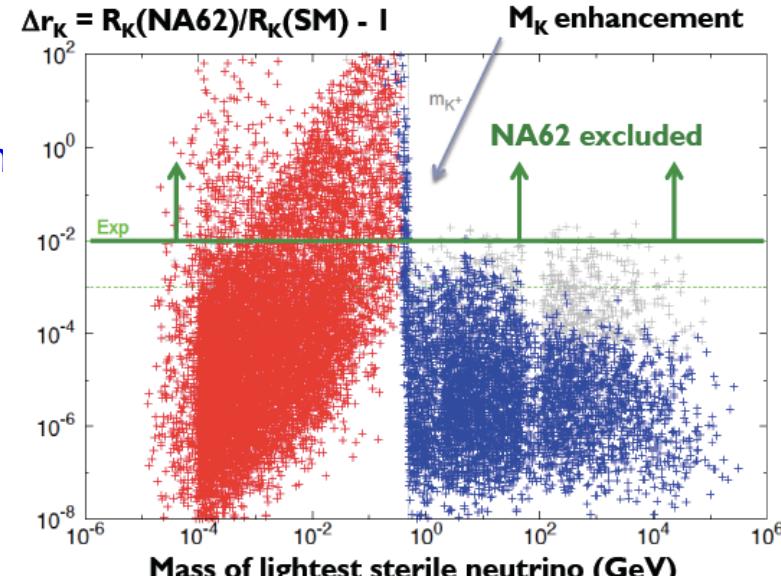
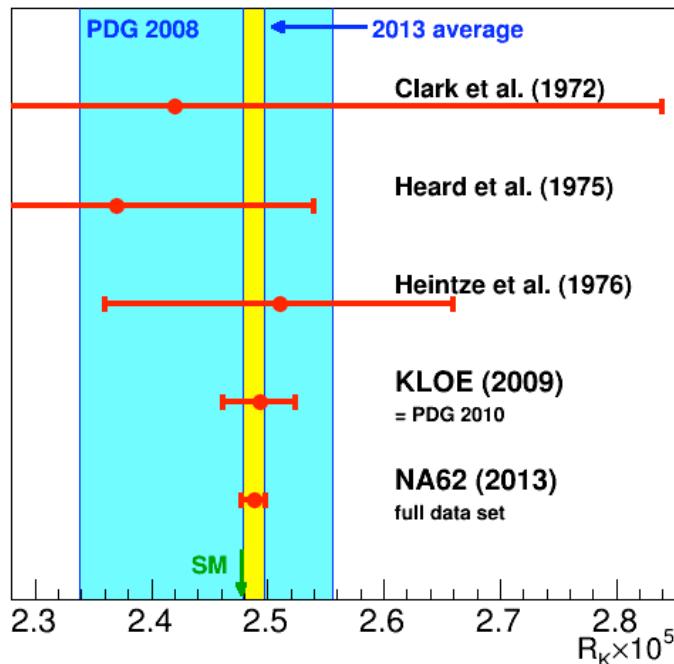
[Masiero, Paradisi, Petronzio, PRD 74, 2006]
 [Lacker and Menzel, JHEP (2010) 006]
 [Abada et al., JHEP 1302 (2013) 048]

R_K final result

$$R_K = (2.488 \pm 0.007_{stat} \pm 0.007_{syst}) \cdot 10^{-5}$$

Phys Lett B 719 (2013) 326

- World Ke2 statistics increased by a factor of 10
- In agreement with SM expectation, within 1.2 σ
- Motivation for improved precision R_K measurem



World average	R _K × 10 ⁵	precision
PDG 2008	2.447 ± 0.109	4.5%
2014	2.488 ± 0.009	0.4%

Prospects: NA62 → 1 M events (downscaled trigger) expected (2 years data taking), statistical uncertainty ~ 0.1% → Total uncertainty expected ~ 0.2%

The $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\mp \mu^\pm \mu^\pm$ decay
Search for LNV
and 2-body resonances

Interest and motivation

Asaka-Shaposhnikov model (vMSM) [PLB 620 (2005) 17]

- 3 sterile neutrinos, N_i , added in the SM to explain: dark matter and baryon asymmetry in the Universe
- The lightest (N_1 , mass $\mathcal{O}(\text{keV})$) is a dark matter candidate
- $N_{2,3}$, mass $\mathcal{O}(100 \text{ MeV} - \text{few GeV})$, responsible for neutrino mass and BAU
- Active - sterile neutrino mixing described by U matrix
- In K^\pm decays, for $m_{2,3} < m_K - m_\mu$

$$K^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm N; \quad N \rightarrow \pi^\pm \mu^\mp \quad BR(K^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm N) \times BR(N \rightarrow \pi^\pm \mu^\mp) \sim |U_{\mu 4}|^4$$

Shaposhnikov-Tkachev model [PLB 639 (2006) 414]

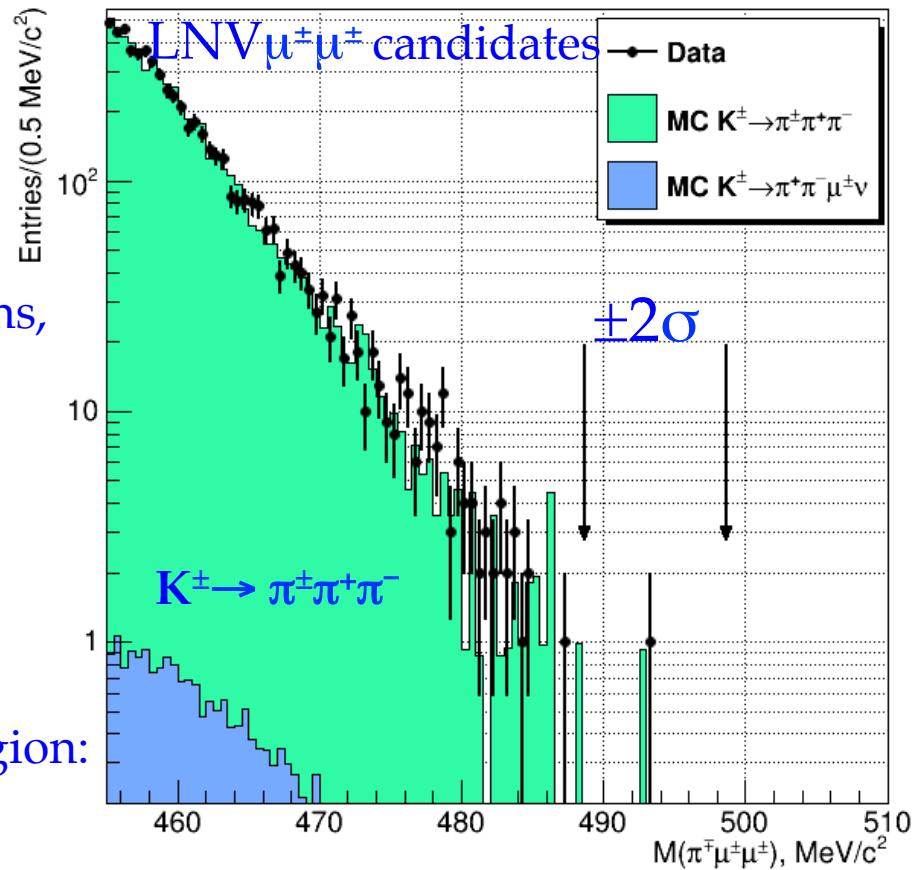
- vMSM + real scalar field (inflaton χ) with scale-invariant couplings to explain Universe homogeneity and isotropy
- χ - Higgs mixing (θ), χ unstable $\tau \sim 10^{-8} - 10^{-12} \text{ s}$
- Production in Kaon decays for $m_\chi < 354 \text{ MeV}/c^2$

$$BR(K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \chi) = 1.3 \times 10^{-3} \left(\frac{2 |\vec{p}_\chi|}{M_K} \right) \theta^2$$

LNV - Same Sign muon sample

Blind analysis

- Selection based on simulation of $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\mp \mu^\pm \mu^\pm$ and $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^\pm \pi^\mp$ (background, $\pi \rightarrow \mu$, similar topology)
- 3-track vertex topology, 2-same sign muons, 1 odd-sign pion, no missing momentum, muon ID
- Signal region: $|M_{\pi\mu\mu} - M_K| < 5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
- Control region: $M_{\pi\mu\mu} < 480 \text{ MeV}/c^2$



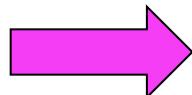
Result

Number of Kaon decays in fiducial decay region:

1.64×10^{11} (from reconstructed $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^\pm \pi^\mp$)

Events in signal region: $N_{\text{obs}} = 1$

Expected background (from MC): $N_{\text{exp}} = 1.16 \pm 0.87$



$\text{BR}(K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\mp \mu^\pm \mu^\pm) < 8.6 \times 10^{-11} @ 90\% \text{ CL}$

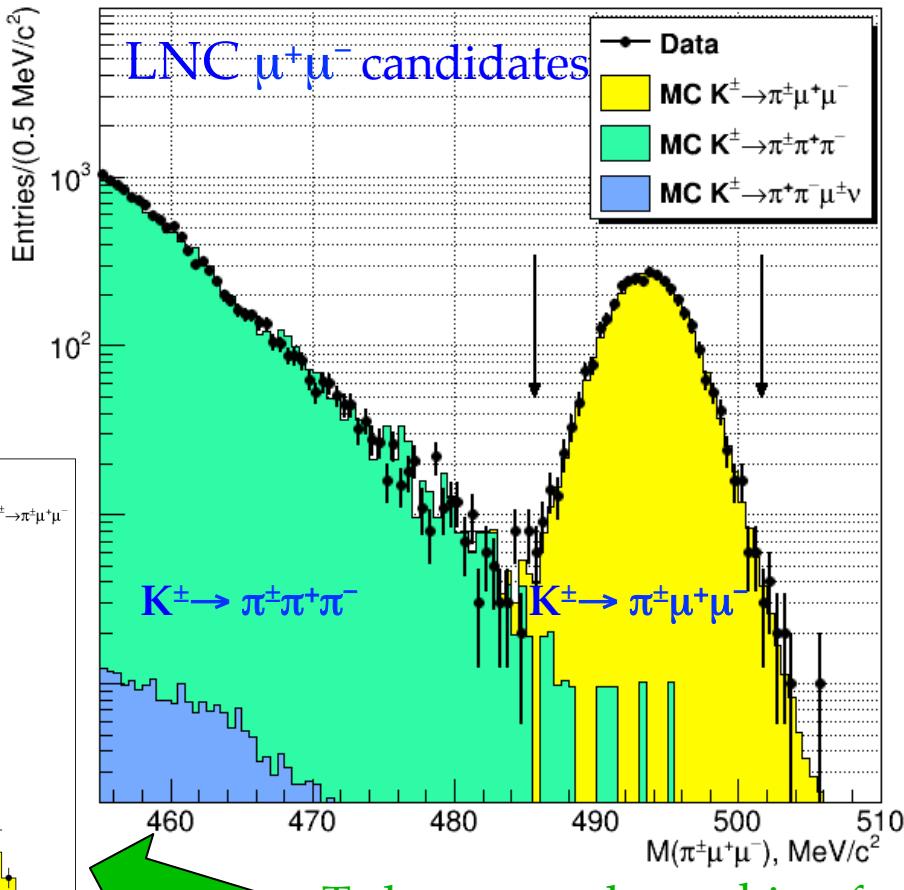
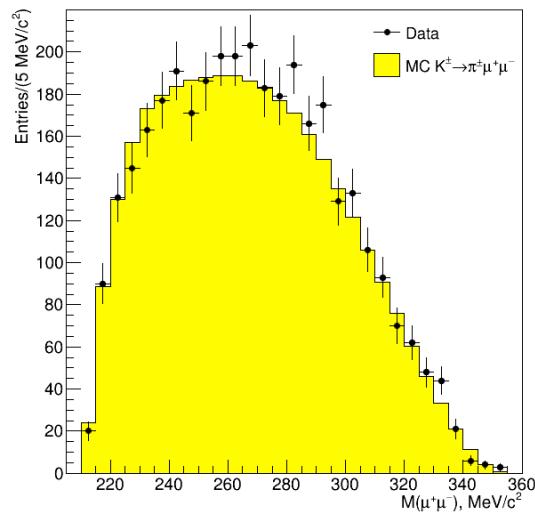
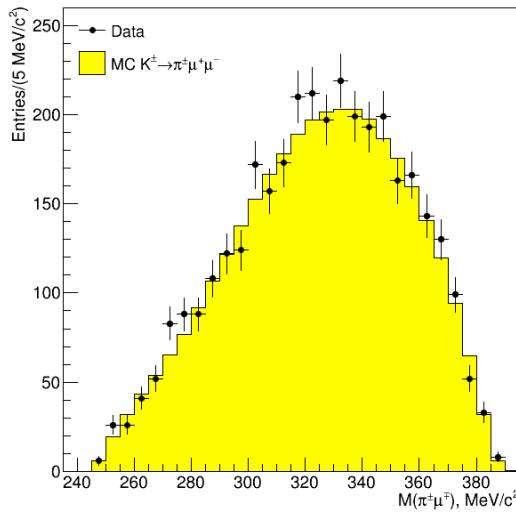
factor of ~ 13 improvement, paper in preparation

Rolke-Lopez
statistical
treatment

LNC - Opposite Sign muon sample

Selection

- ▶ Similar to same sign sample
- ▶ 3-track vertex topology, 2-opposite sign muons, 1 pion, no missing momentum, muon ID
- ▶ Signal region: $|M_{\pi\mu\mu} - M_K| < 8 \text{ MeV}/c^2$



Result

Events in signal region: $N_{\text{obs}} = 3489$, Background: $(0.36 \pm 0.10)\%$

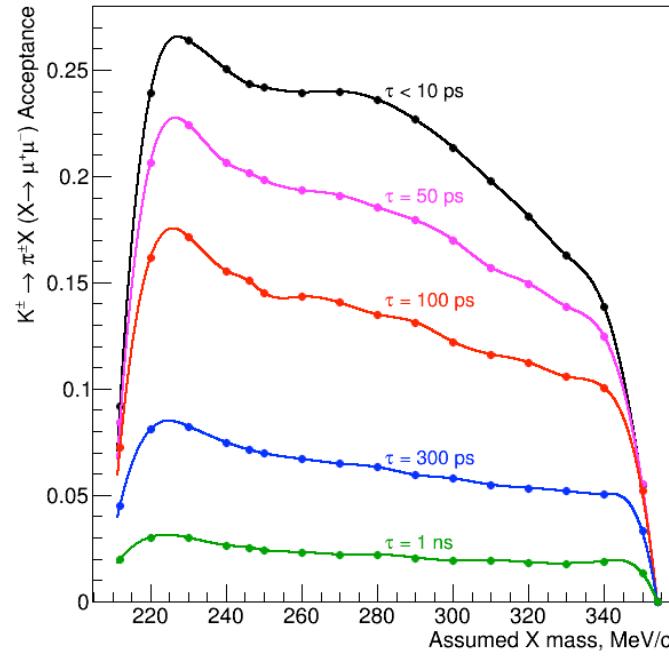
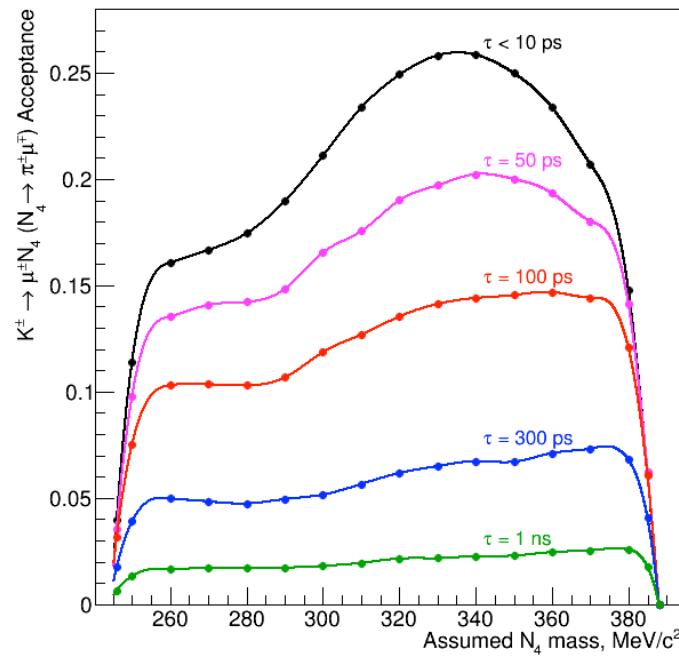
Improved selection wrt published NA48/2 measurement of BR and FF [PLB 697 (2011)107]

LN_V and LN_C resonance search

- Peak search on $\pi\mu\mu$ candidates performed assuming different mass hypotheses
- For each mass hypothesis (M_{res}), observed events in data (N_{obs}) vs expected events from MC (N_{exp}) gives UL (signal) (Rolle-Lopez statistical treatment)

LN_V - Majorana neutrinos in $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\mp \mu^\pm \mu^\pm$

- 284 M_{res} tested, two possibility, closest invariant mass to M_{res} considered
- Search for resonances in $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \mu^+ \mu^-$
- Both invariant mass $M(\pi^\pm \mu^\mp)$ and $M(\mu^+ \mu^-)$ are probed with 267, 280 hypotheses resp.

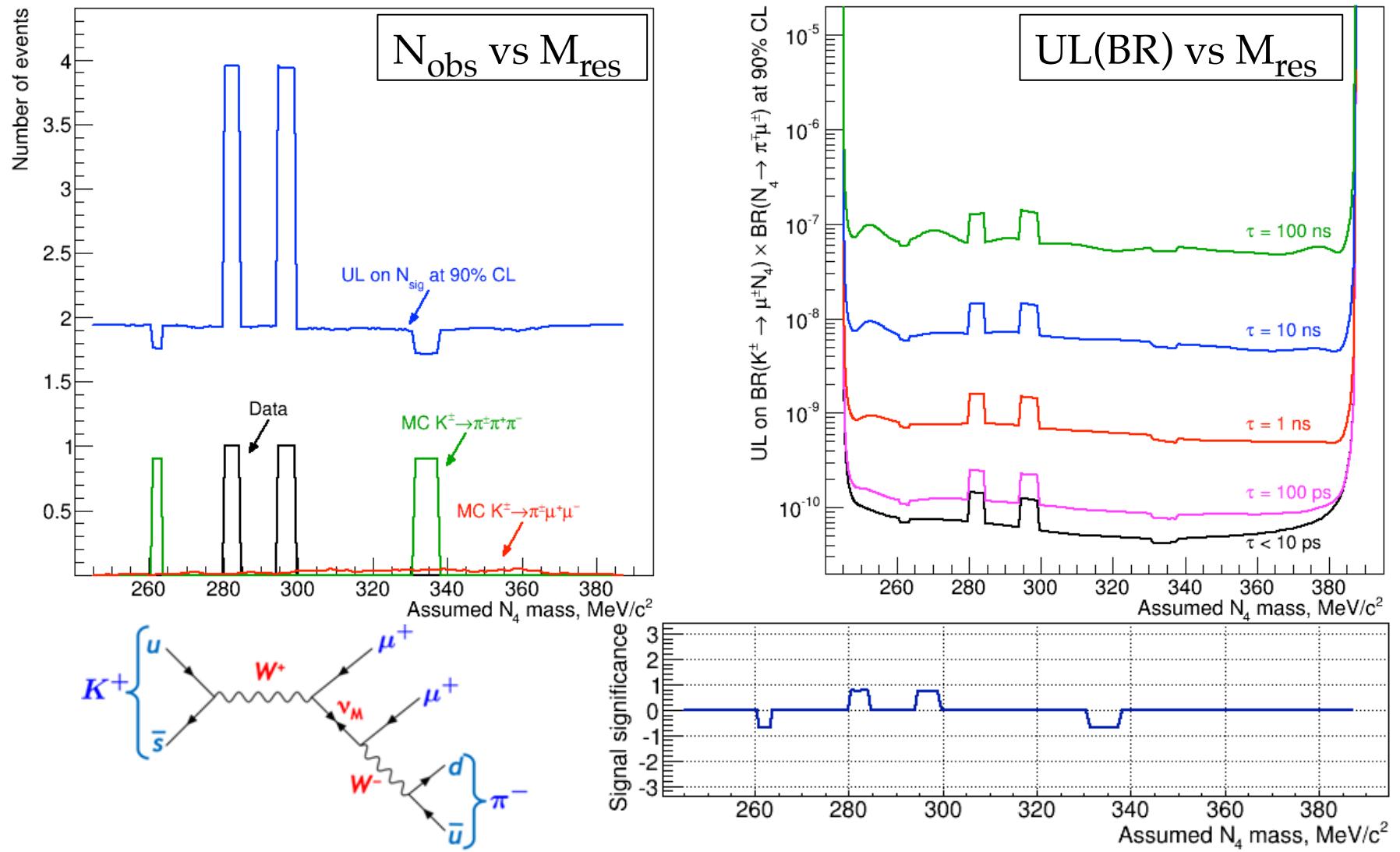


$$UL(BR) = \frac{UL(N_{\text{sig}})}{N_K * \text{Acceptance}}$$

statistical
significance

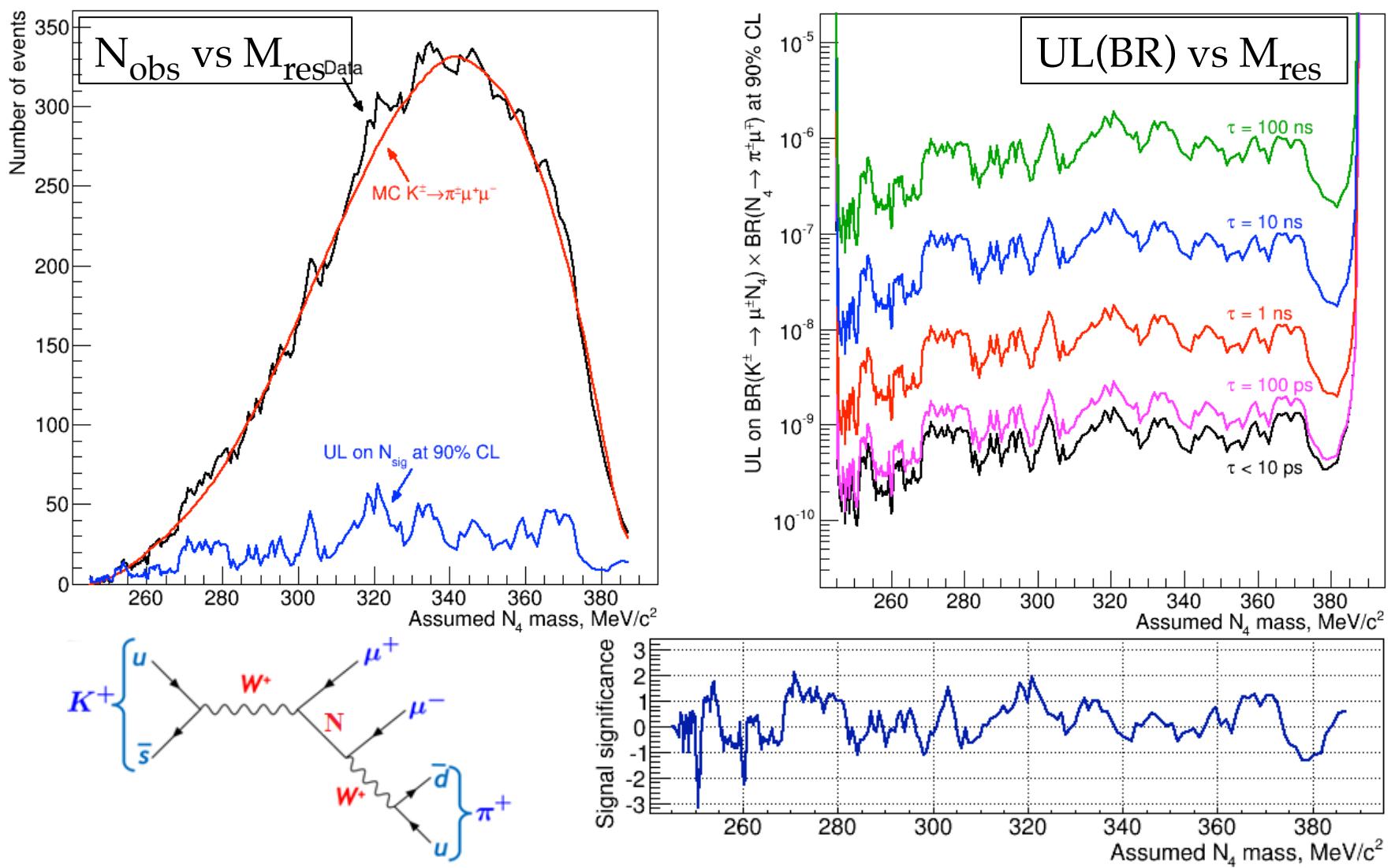
$$\zeta = \frac{N_{\text{obs}} - N_{\text{exp}}}{\sqrt{\delta N_{\text{obs}}^2 + \delta N_{\text{exp}}^2}}$$

$K^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm N_4$ with $N_4 \rightarrow \pi^\mp \mu^\pm$



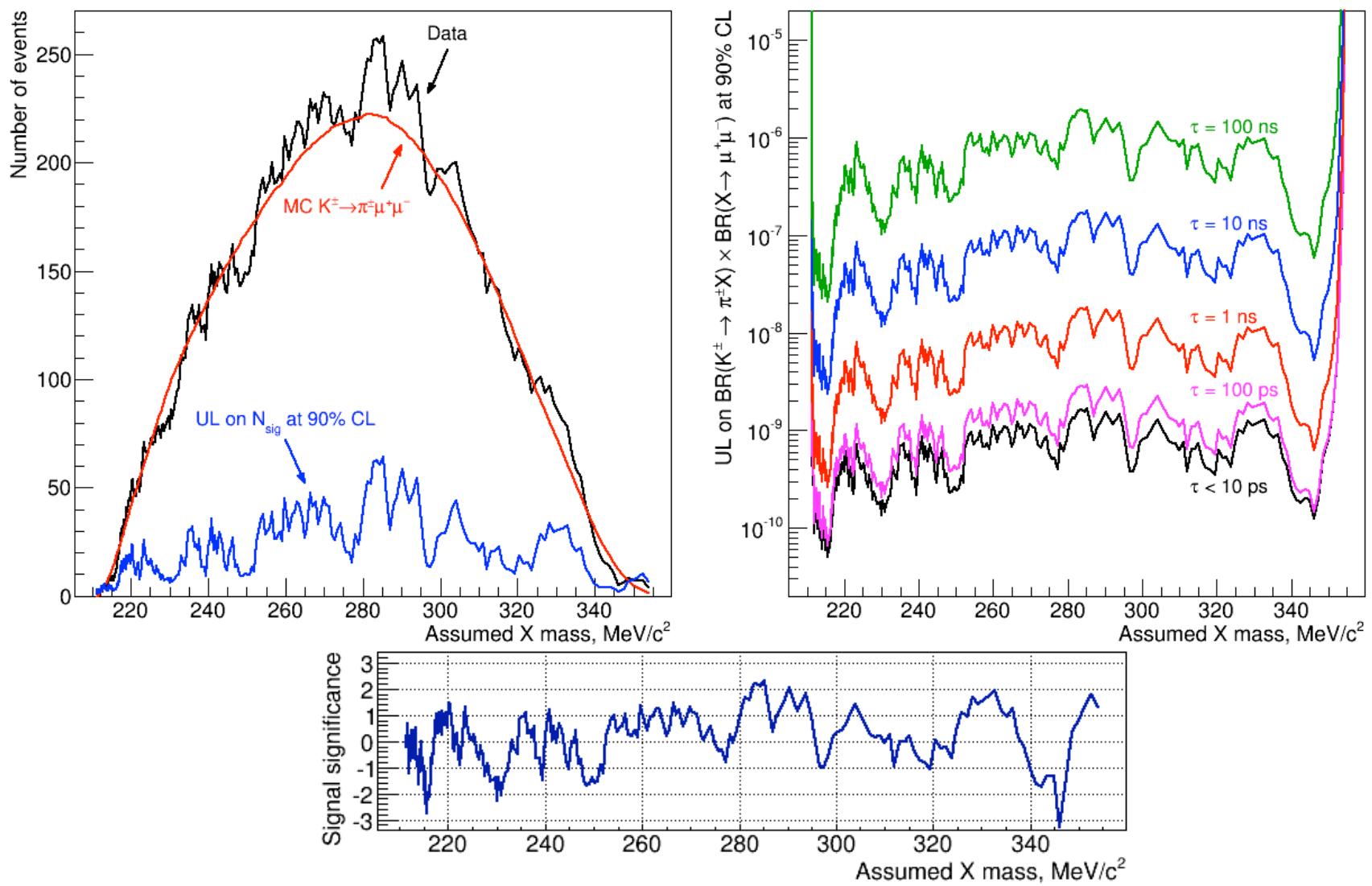
Never exceeds +3 σ : no signal observed UL(BR)~10⁻¹⁰ for $\tau < 100$ ps

$K^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm N_4$ with $N_4 \rightarrow \pi^\pm \mu^\mp$



Never exceeds $+3\sigma$: no signal observed \rightarrow UL(BR) $\sim 10^{-9}$ for $\tau < 100 \text{ ps}$

$K^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm X$ with $X \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$



Never exceeds $+3\sigma$: no signal observed

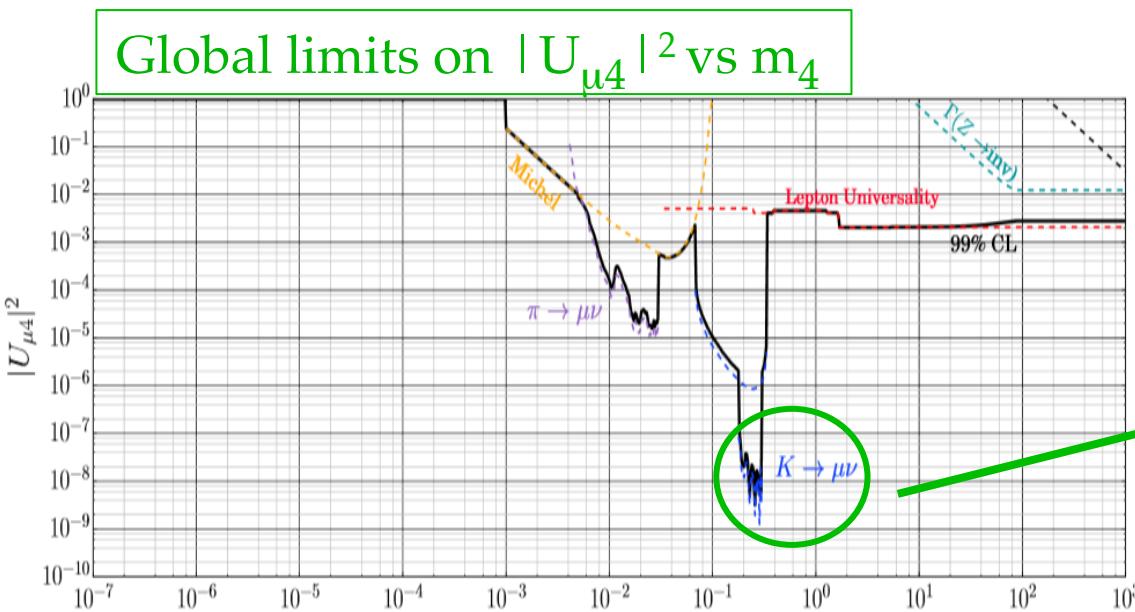


$\text{UL(BR)} \sim 10^{-9}$ for $\tau < 100 \text{ ps}$

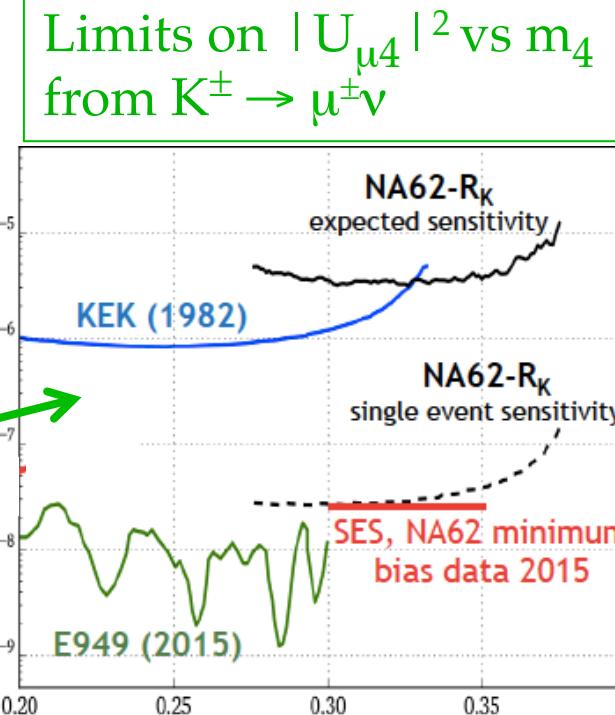
Search for Heavy Neutrino production

HNL global limits

- In contrast to decay searches, production searches are model independent
- Most stringent limits are set by Kaon experiments



[De Gouvea and Kobach, PRD93 (2016) 033005]



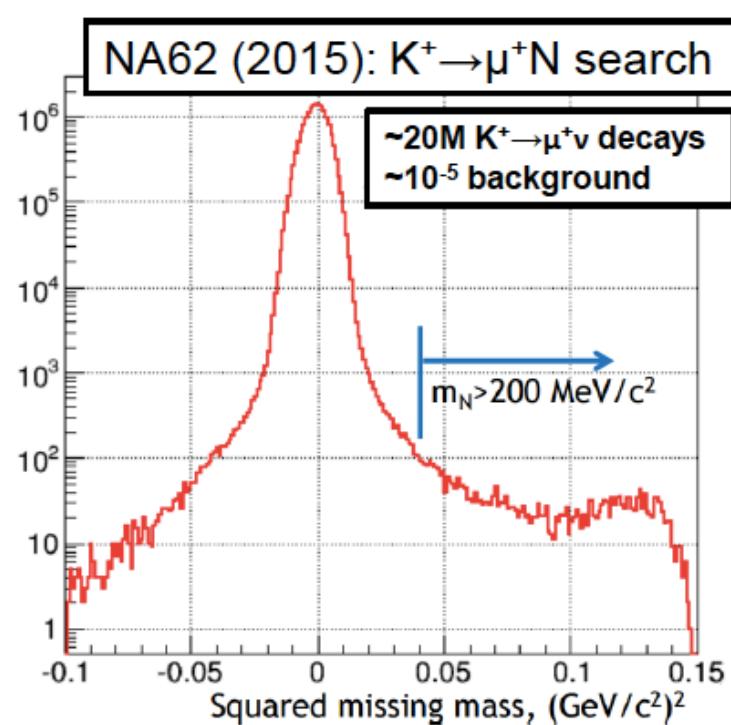
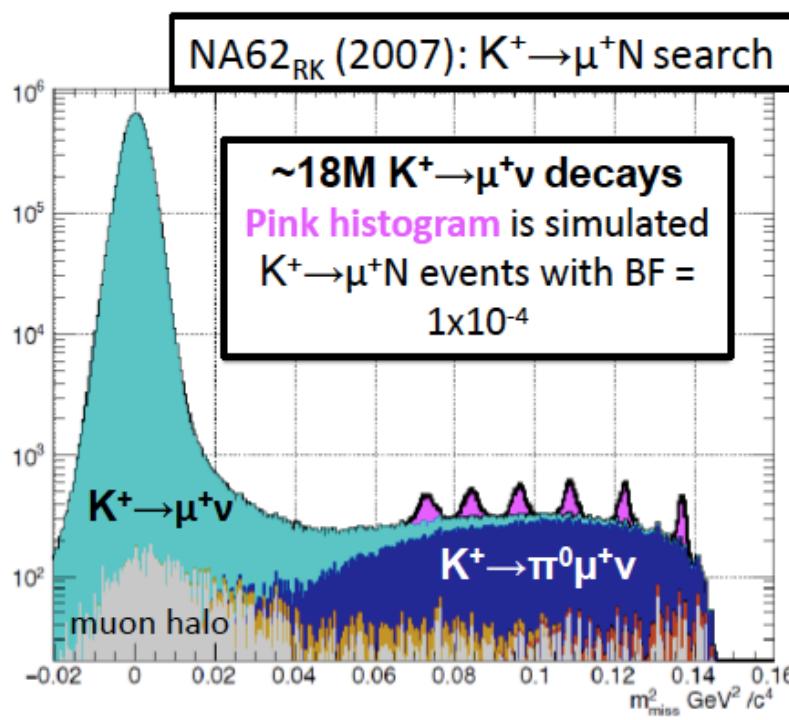
Search for HNL production

Peak search for $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ N$ at NA62-R_K (2007 data)

- 3 months of data taking, no downscaled trigger $\sim 10^8 K^+$ decay in fiducial volume

Peak search for $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ N$ at NA62 (2015 data)

- Integrated 2007 K^+ flux reached in 1 week of minimum bias data
- Low background (hermetic veto, K^+ tagger); search region extends into lower m_N
- $K^+ \rightarrow e^+ N$ ➔ background conditions allow to set a limits on this decay

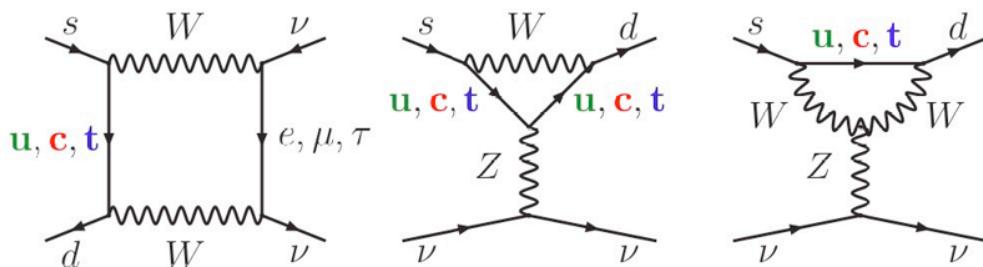


Measurement of the ultra-rare decay $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$



$K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ in the SM . . .

- FCNC process forbidden at tree level → room for NP up to 10xSM
- Short distance contribution dominated by Z penguin and W box diagrams
- “Super-clean” theoretically hadronic ME extracted from measured quantities (Ke3)
- Very small BR due to the CKM top coupling → $A \sim (m_t/m_W)^2 |V_{ts}^* V_{td}| \approx \lambda^5$
- Measurement of $|V_{td}|$ complementary to those from B-B mixing and $B \rightarrow \phi \gamma$
- $\delta \text{BR}/\text{BR}=10\%$ → $\delta |V_{td}| / |V_{td}| = 7\%$.

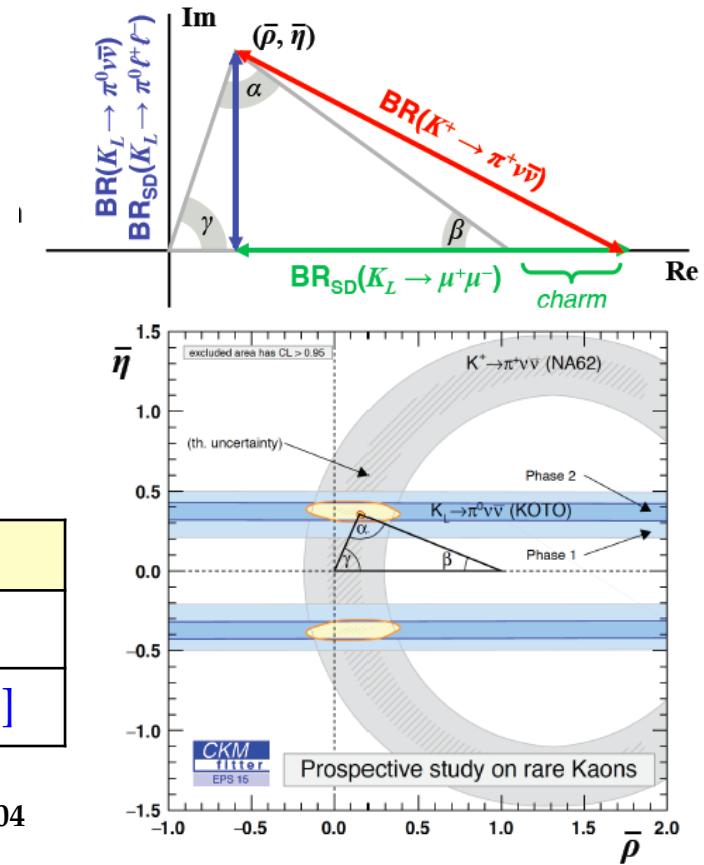


$\text{BR} \times 10^{11}$	SM Prediction	Experiments
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$	8.4 ± 1 [1]	$17.3^{+11.5}_{-10.5}$ [2]
$K^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$	3.4 ± 0.6 [1]	< 2600 (@90% CL) [3]

[1] Buras et al., JHEP 11 (2015) 033; Brod et al., Phys.Rev. D83 (2011) 034030

[2] BNL E787/E949: Phys.Rev. D77 (2008) 052003; Phys.Rev. D79 (2009) 092004

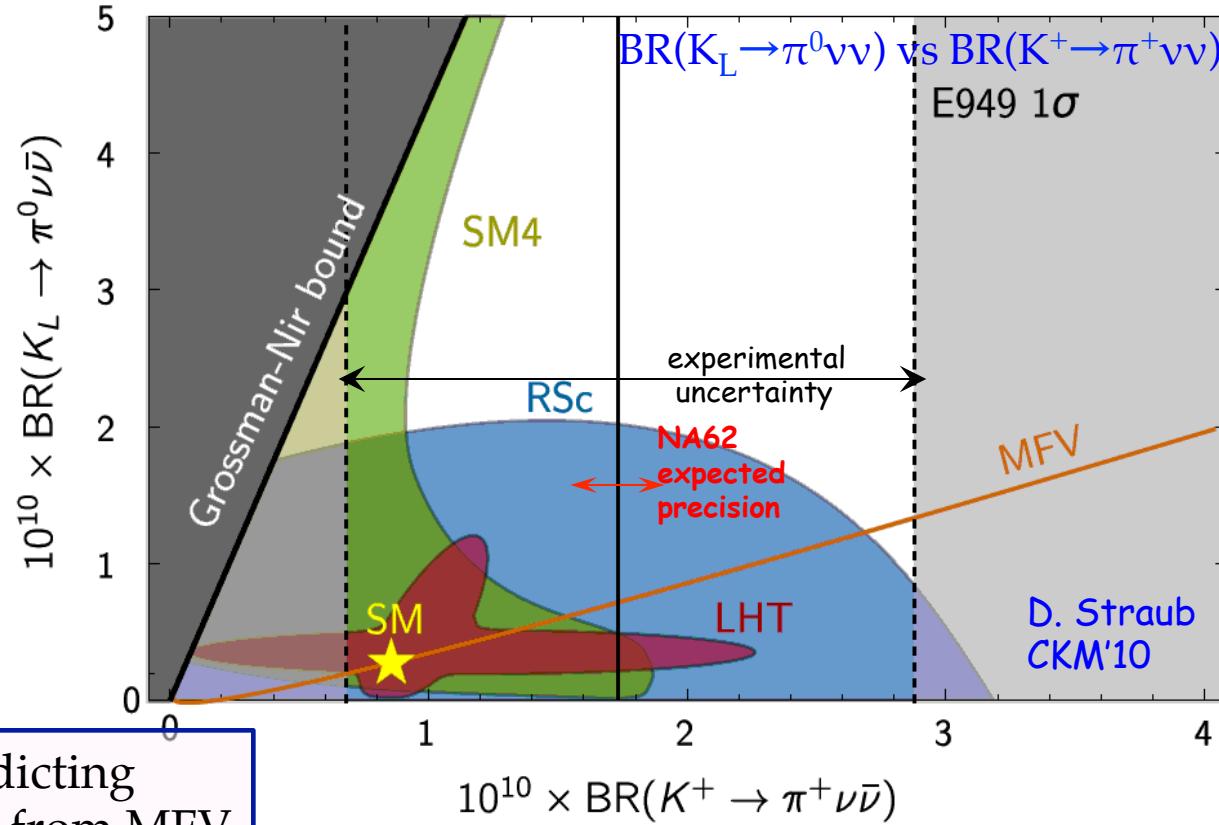
[3] KEK E391a: Phys.Rev. D81 (2010) 072004



. . . and beyond the SM

Several SM extensions predict sizable deviations for the BR

→ Possibility to distinguish among different models



NP models predicting high deviations from MFV

Randall-Sundrum

Littlest Higgs with T-parity

SM 4th generation

[Blanke, Buras, Duling, Gemmeler, Gori, JHEP 0903 (2009) 108]

[Blanke, Buras, Recksiegel, arXiv:1507.06316 (2015)]

[Buras, Buttazzo, Knegjens, arXiv:1507.08672 (2015)]

NA62 - Experimental principles

- ❖ Goal → 10% precision Branching Ratio measurement
- ❖ $O(100)$ $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\nu\bar{\nu}$ events in ~ two years of data taking

→ Statistics

- BR(SM) $\sim 8.4 \times 10^{-11}$
- Acceptance: 10%
- K decays: 10^{13}

→ Systematics

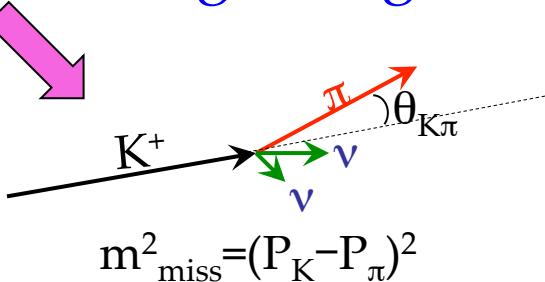
- $\geq 10^{12}$ background rejection
- $\leq 10\%$ precision on background measurement

Kaon intensity & signal efficiency

High momentum K^+ beam

Very challenging experiment

Weak signal signature



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

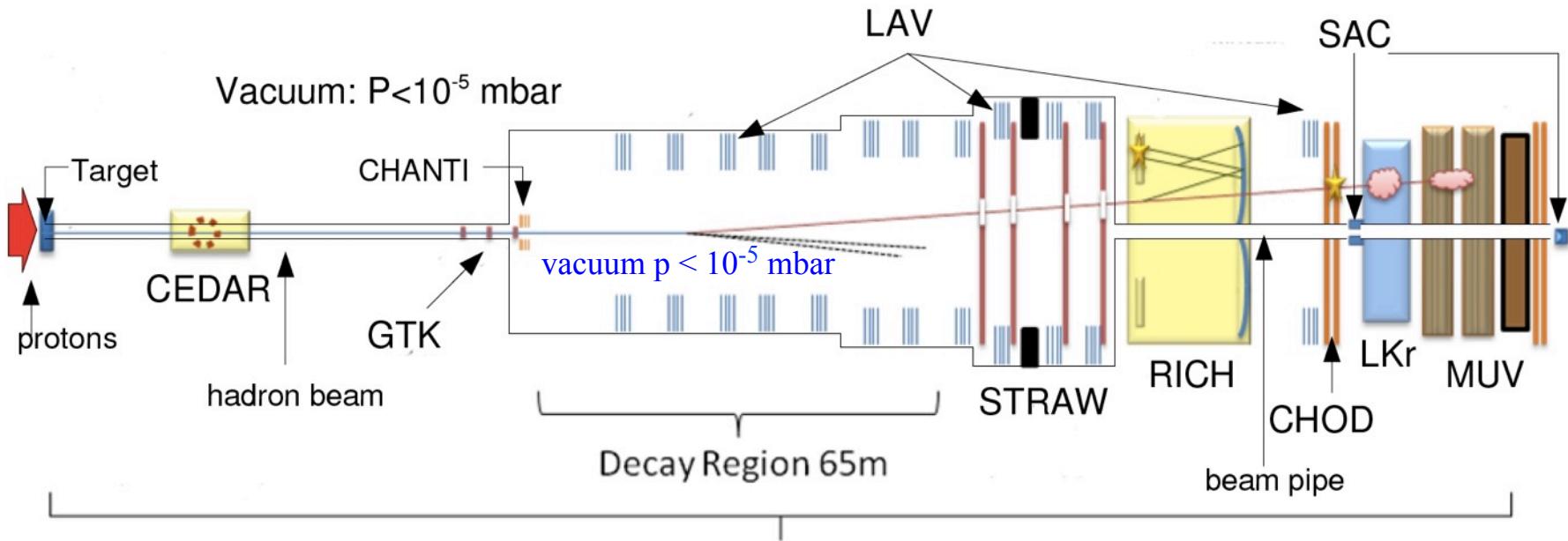
Huge background

Signal purity & detector redundancy

Decay in-flight technique

Decay	BR
$\mu^+\nu$ ($K_{\mu 2}$)	63.5%
$\pi^+\pi^0$ ($K_{\pi 2}$)	20.7%
$\pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$	5.6%
$\pi^0e^+\nu$ ($K_{e 3}$)	5.1%
$\pi^0\mu^+\nu$ ($K_{\mu 3}$)	3.3%

Experiment and beam



Total Length 270m

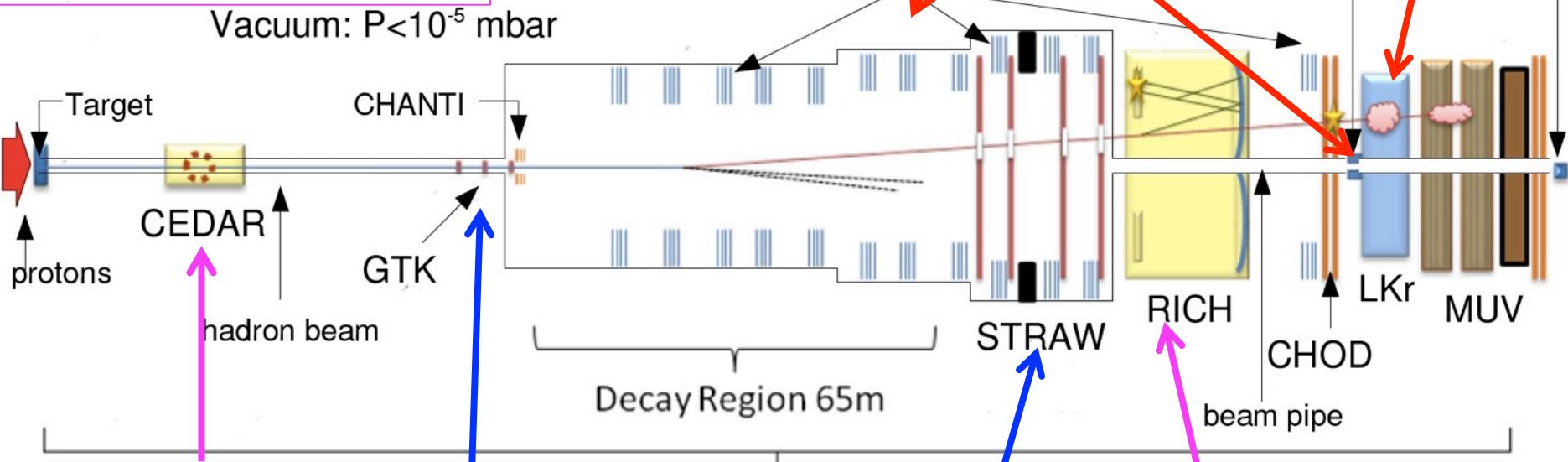
- 400 GeV/c SPS primary protons
- 3×10^{12} protons/pulse
- 75 GeV/c unseparated hadron beam ($\Delta p/p \pm 1\%$)
- Kaon component $\rightarrow 6\%$
- 800 MHz \rightarrow 50 MHz kaons \rightarrow 6 MHz decays
- $4.8 \times 10^{12} K^+$ decays/y \rightarrow SES $\sim 10^{-12}$

Detector layout

Beam and secondary particle tracking

Hermetic photon vetoes

Particle Identification



KTAG - CEDAR
K⁺ identification

GIGATRACKER
3 Si-pixel stations $\sigma_t < 200$ ps

LAV 8.5 - 50 mrad
LKr 1- 8.5 mrad
SAV < 1 mrad

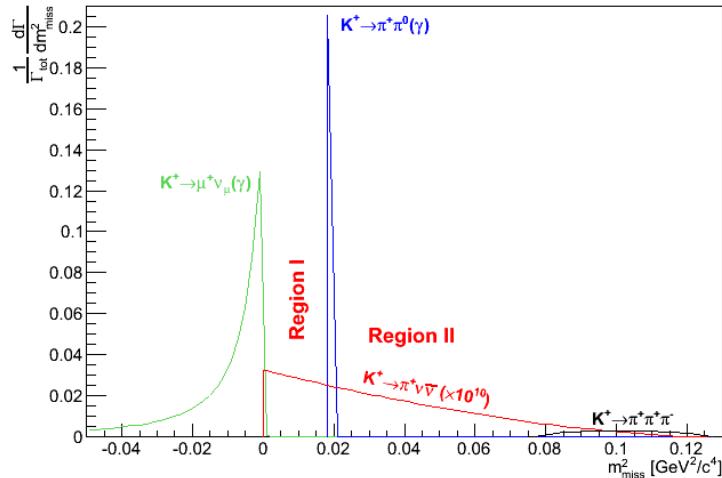
RICH π/μ identification

STRAW chambers in vacuum
4 stations + dipole magnet

Background and kinematics

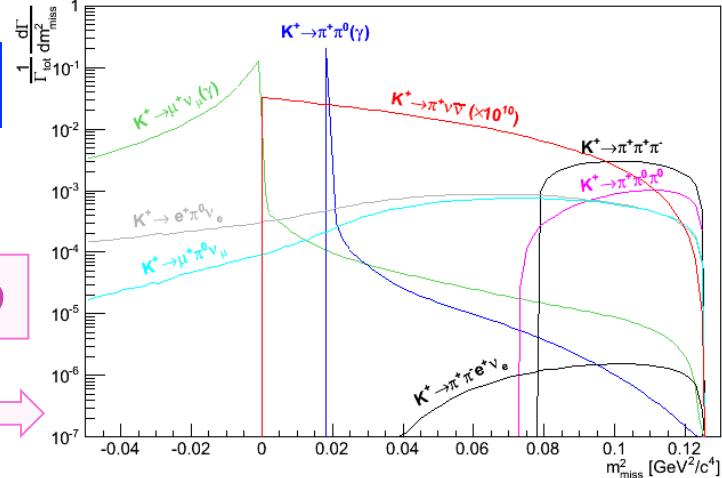
92% Bkg separated from signal by kinematic cuts

8% not separated



missing mass

Veto and PID



$m^2_{\text{miss}} = (P_K - P_\pi)^2$ defines low bkg signal regions separated by $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$

extend in the signal region, kinematics doesn't help

- ✓ high resolution m^2_{miss} reconstruction
- ✓ measure precisely kaon and pion momenta
- ✓ keep multiple scattering as low as possible



Gigatracker (kaon)
Straw chambers (pion)



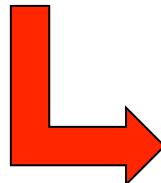
Photon veto system
Particle Identification

- ✓ Suppress $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$ background
- ✓ Reject offline decays with γ
- ✓ K^+ identification in the had beam
- ✓ 10^{-3} $\pi - \mu$ separation

Analysis strategy and background sources

Key analysis requirements

- ✓ 1 track $15 < P_{\pi^+} < 35 \text{ GeV}/c$ and PID in the RICH
- ✓ z_{vert} in the 65 m long decay region
- ✓ No γs in LAV, LKr, IRC, SAC
- ✓ No μs in MUVs
- ✓ 1 beam particle in Gigatracker with K PID by KTAG



Expected backgrounds

Decay	evt/year
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ [SM] (flux 4.5×10^{12})	45
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$	5
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$	1
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	< 1
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu + \text{other 3 tracks decays}$	< 1
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma$ (IB)	1.5
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \gamma$ (IB)	0.5
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+(\mu^+) \nu, \text{others}$	negligible
Total background	< 10

Experimental status

NA62 data taking

- ✓ First data from pilot run in fall 2014
- ✓ First physics run June-November 2015
- ✓ 2016 run in progress (April-November)
- ✓ Expect to take data through 2018 (until LS2)

Beamline commissioned up to full intensity

Detector status

- ✓ Gigatracker partially commissioned
- ✓ Spectrometer, PID detectors, photon vetoes all fully operational

Trigger and data acquisition status

- ✓ Level-0 trigger fully operational
- ✓ Level-1 and level-2 triggers partially commissioned

Data and reconstruction quality under study using 2015 data

- ✓ Minimum-bias data at 1% beam intensity

Physics runs 2016 - 2018

- ✓ Currently running at 20% (50%) intensity
- ✓ Expect to collect few SM $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ events by the end of 2016 run, on track

Signal selection

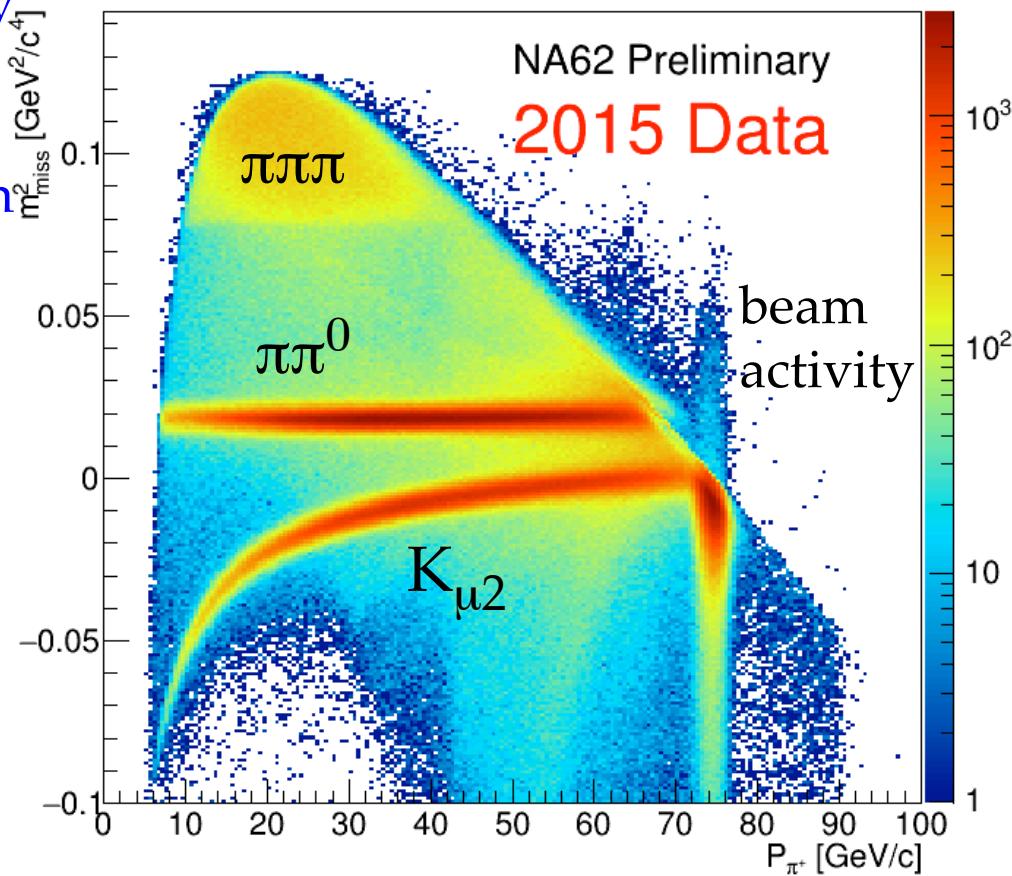
Minimum-bias data at 1% beam intensity

one - track selection

- ✓ single downstream track topology
- ✓ Beam track matching the downstream track
- ✓ Beam track matching a K signal in Kaon ID
- ✓ Downstream track matching energy in calorimeters

timing

- ✓ Match with hit in CHOD ($\sigma_t \sim 200$ ps)
- ✓ Match with hit in KTAG ($\sigma_t \sim 100$ ps)
- ✓ Association to hits in LKr, RICH, muon vetoes

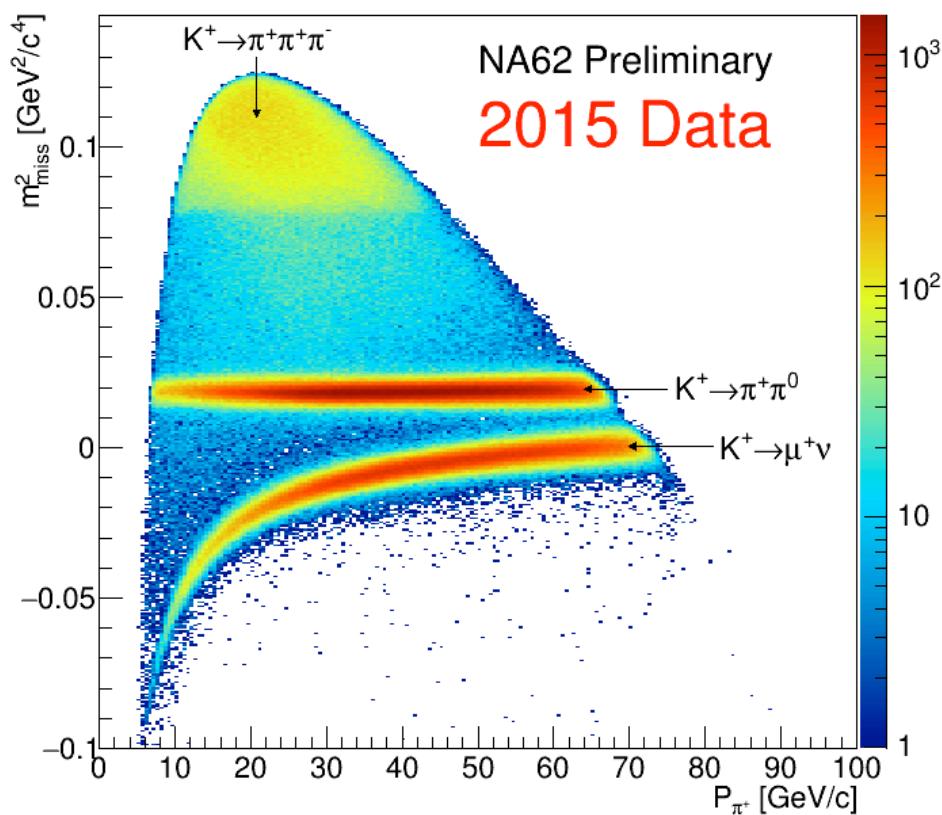


Signal selection and kaon ID

1-track selection

K^+ identification in KTAG

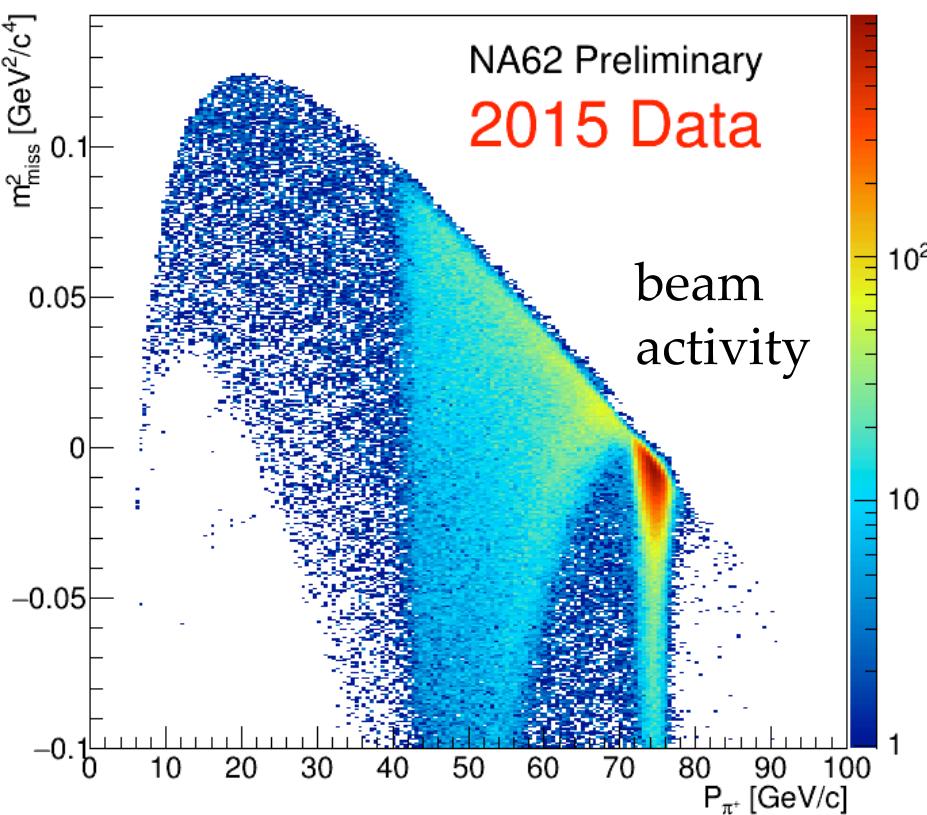
Track origin in the fiducial region



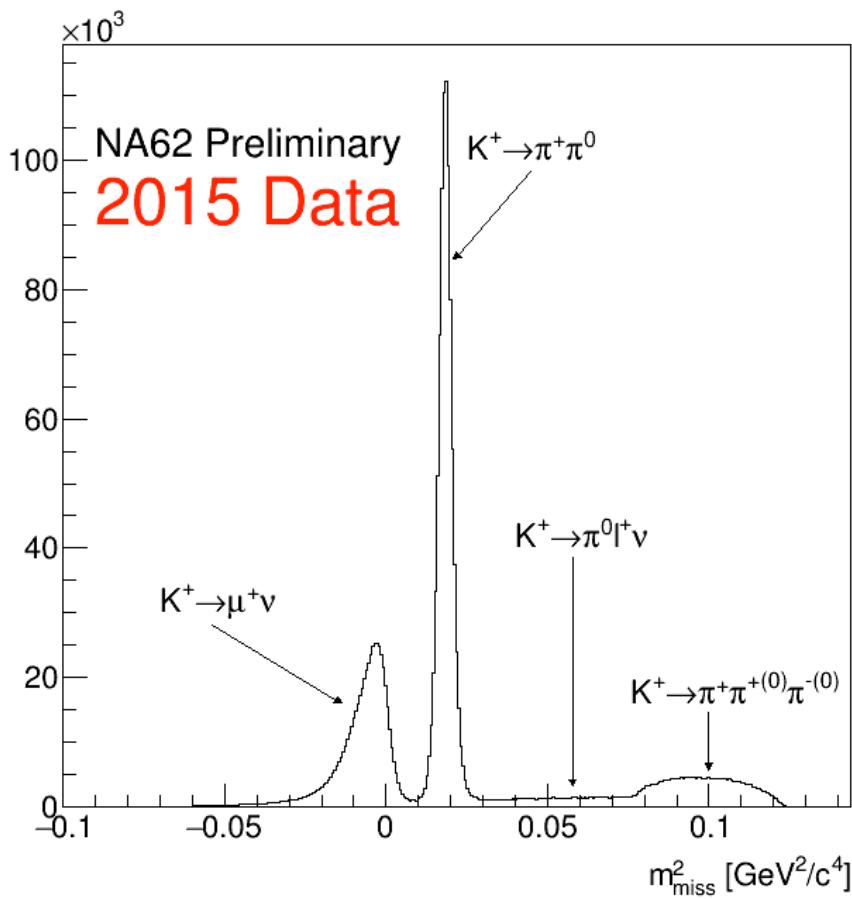
1-track selection

NO K^+ identification in KTAG

Beam activity



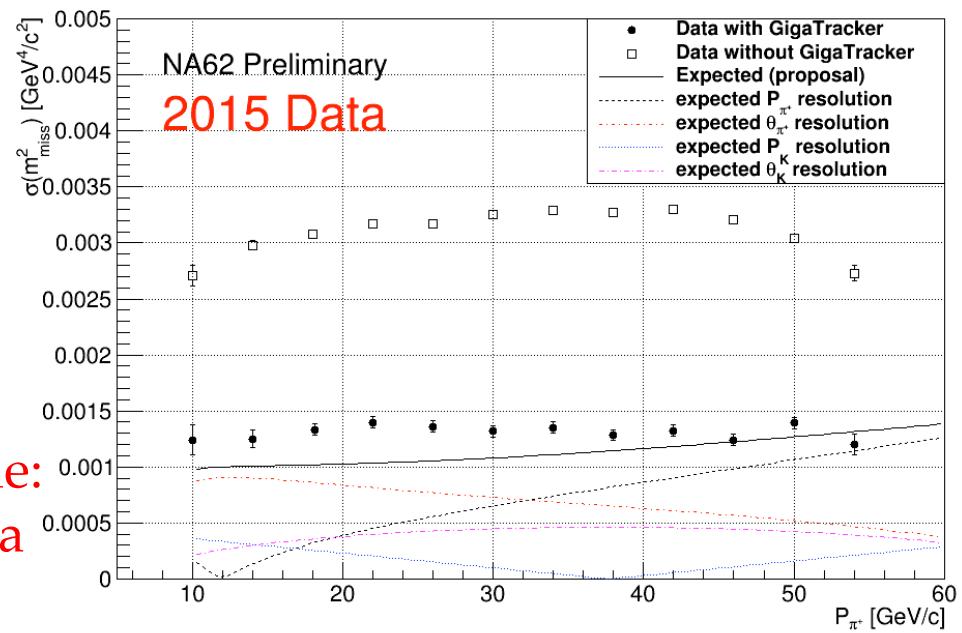
Kinematics



m_{miss} resolution close to design value:
 $O(10^3)$ rejection obtained in 2015 data

Goal: 10^4 - 10^5 rejection for 2-body decays

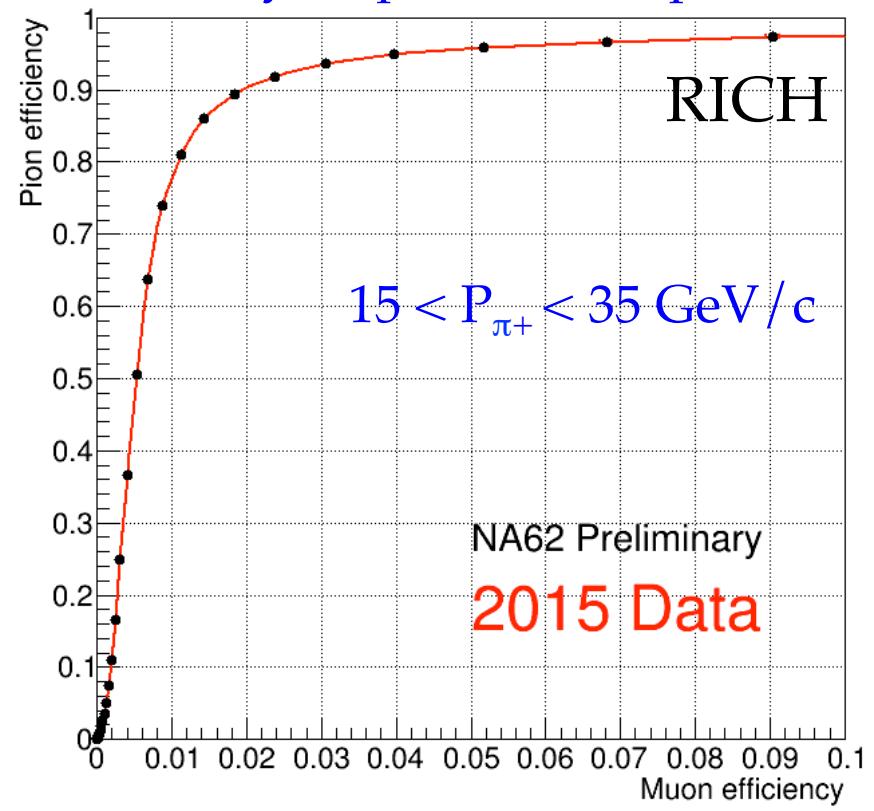
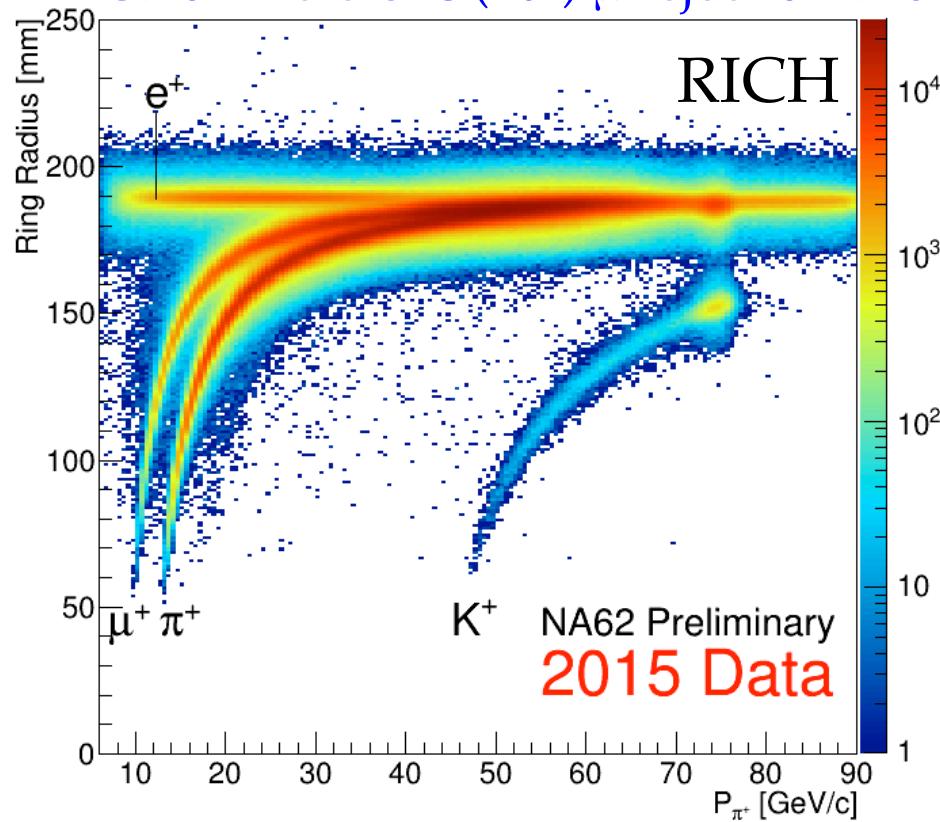
- ✓ Kinematics reconstructed with Gigatracker and Straw tracker
- ✓ LKr to obtain clean sample of $\pi\pi^0$ events to study m_{miss} resolution



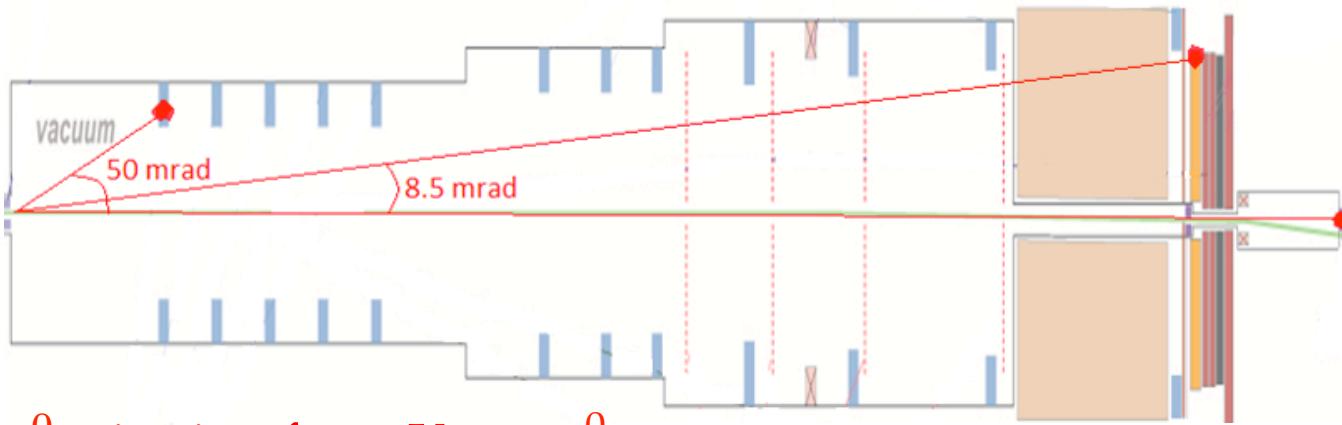
Downstream particle identification

Goal: $O(10^7)$ π/μ separation (suppress $K_{\mu 2}$)

- ✓ RICH, calorimeters and muon veto
- ✓ RICH: $O(10^2)$ π/μ separation, 80% π^+ efficiency in 2015 (momentum range $15 < P_{\pi^+} < 35 \text{ GeV/c}$)
- ✓ Calorimeters: $O(10^6)$ μ rejection at 50% π efficiency (expected to improve)

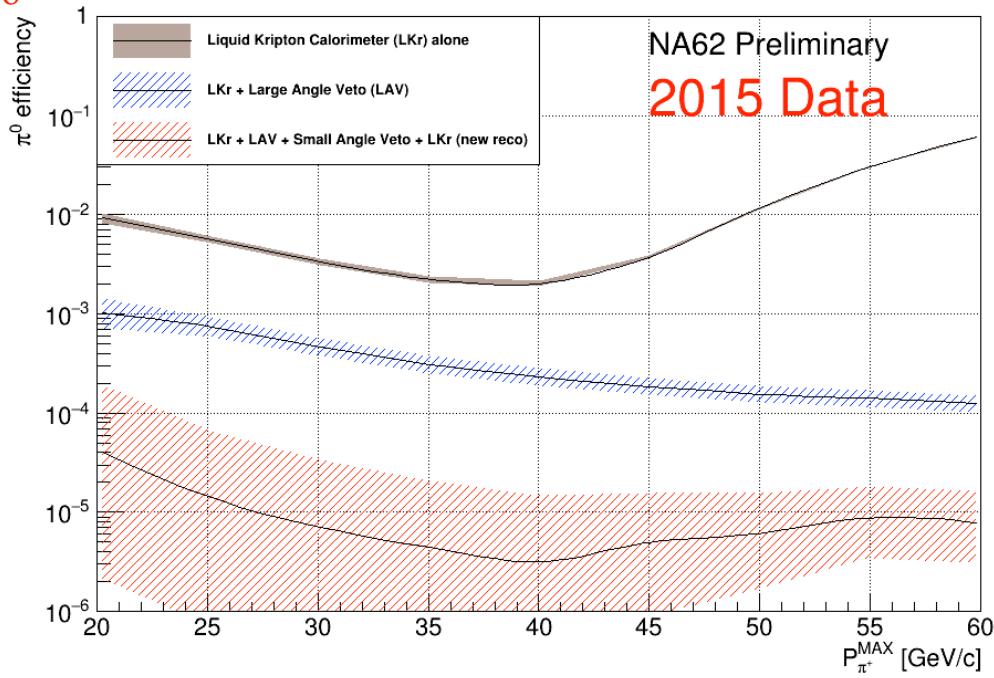


Photon rejection



Goal: $O(10^8)$ π^0 rejection from $K \rightarrow \pi\pi^0$

- ✓ EM calorimeters to exploit correlation between γ s from π^0
- ✓ $P_{\pi^+} < 35 \text{ GeV}/c \rightarrow E_{\pi^0} > 40 \text{ GeV}$
- ✓ $O(10^2)$ obtained in 2015
- ✓ Measurement with minimum-bias data limited by statistics



Further NA62 physics programme

➤ Standard Kaon physics

- χ PT studies: $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma\gamma$, $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 e^+ e^-$, $K^+ \rightarrow \pi \pi l^+ \nu$
- Lepton universality studies: $R_K = \Gamma(K^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu)/\Gamma(K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu)$

➤ LFV/LNV in Kaon decays

- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^\pm e^\mp$, $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ e^+$, $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- l^+ l^+$,

➤ Heavy neutrino searches

- $K^+ \rightarrow l^+ \nu_H$
- ν_H (from K, D decays) $\rightarrow \pi^\pm l^\mp$

➤ π^0 decays

- $\pi^0 \rightarrow$ invisible, $\pi^0 \rightarrow 3\gamma$ (4γ), $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma U$

➤ Dark sector searches

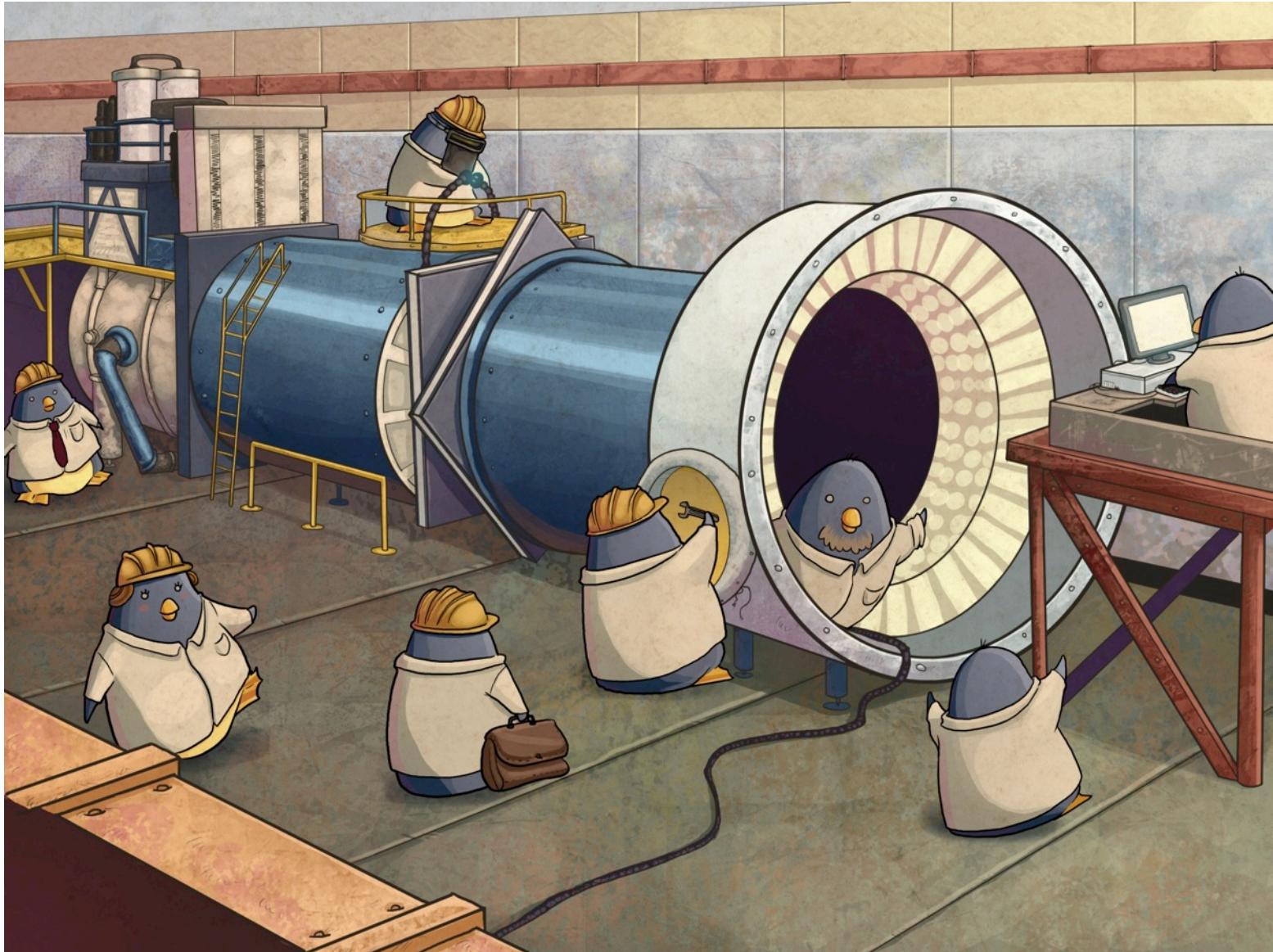
- Long living dark photon (from prompt mesons decays) $\rightarrow l^+ l^-$
- Long living axion-like (produced in beam-dump config.) $\rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

Summary and outlook

NA62 beamline and detector commissioned and tested up to nominal intensity

- ❖ Measurement of the R_K at NA62
 - result in agreement with SM expectation, within 1.2σ
 - motivation for further measurement
- ❖ LNV in $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\mp \mu^\pm \mu^\pm$ and search for two-body resonances (UL set)
- ❖ The $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay → very challenging experiment
 - Collect $0(100)$ events & provide a 10% BR measurement
 - First physics run in 2015
 - Minimum bias data collected at low intensity used for data quality studies → consistent with design expectations
 - Data taking foreseen 2016 - 2018, currently running at 50% intensity
 - Expect to collect a few SM $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ events by end of 2016 run
 - On schedule for the measurement
- ❖ Many other Kaon measurements at the frontier of precision physics

NA62 Penguins at work

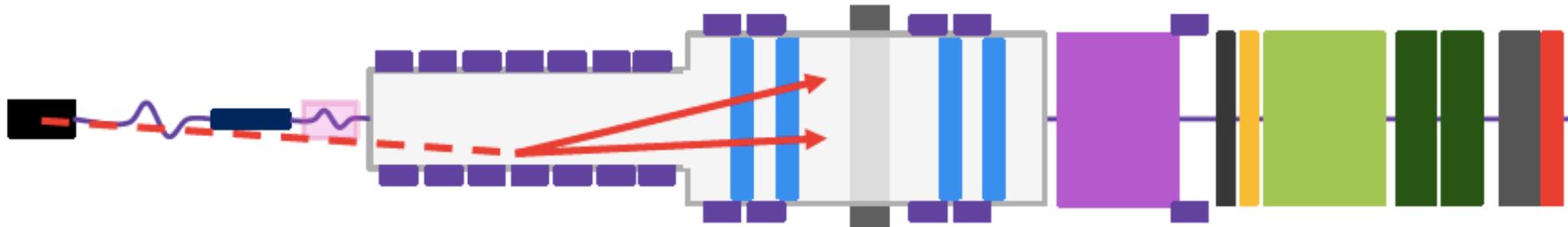




Additional information

Searches for HNL from the target

- HNL can be produced in meson decays at the T10 target
- These HNL can then decay inside the NA62 fiducial volume



- With zero background events, can probe beyond current limits
- Proof-of-principle from 2016 data: searches for dark photon and axion production at the target. Prospects for these searches are being evaluated

