



Search for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ at the NA62 experiment at CERN

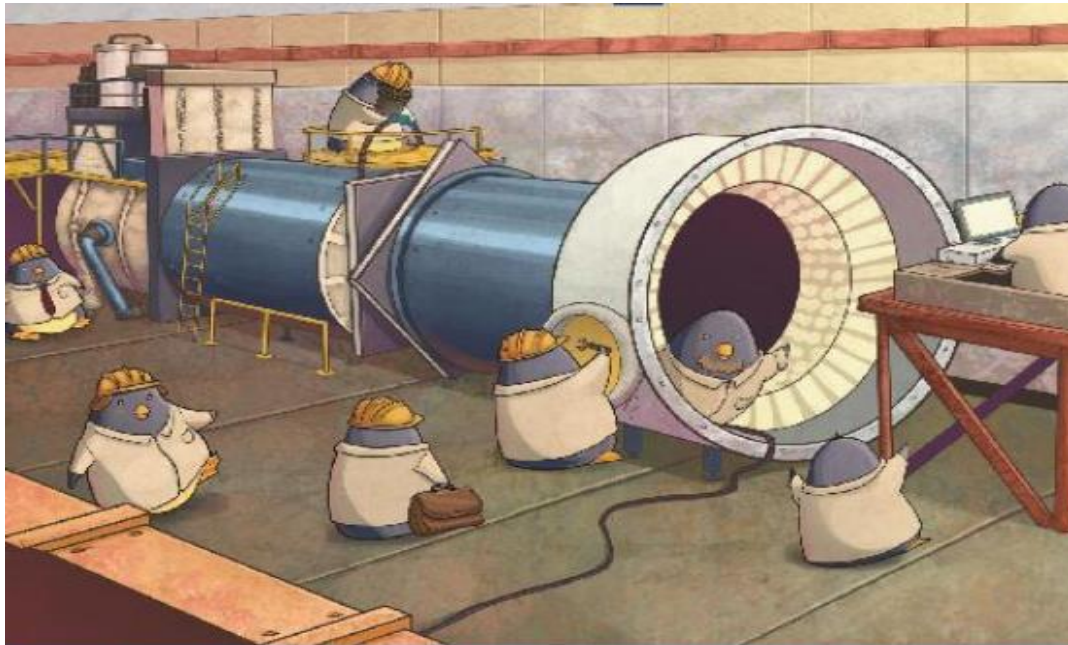
Marco Mirra - Università degli studi di Napoli Federico II and INFN Napoli
on behalf of the NA62 collaboration

XIIIth International Conference on Heavy Quarks and Leptons

May 24 2016, Blacksburg, Virginia

Outline

- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay
- NA62 experimental strategy and apparatus
- 2015 data quality



Kaons at CERN SPS

NA48 (1997 – 2001)

ε'/ε and direct CP violation
discovery

NA48/1 (2002)

K_s rare decay studies

NA48/2 (2003 – 2004)

$K^\pm$ precision measurements

NA62 (2007)

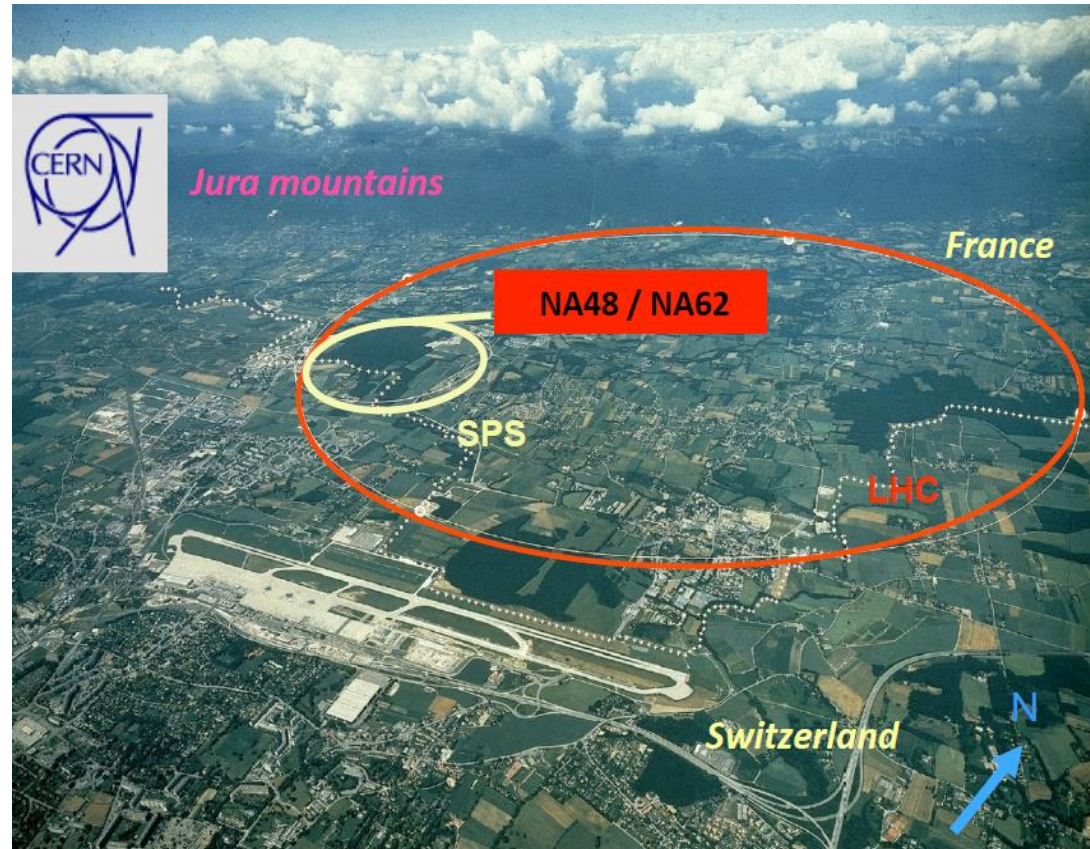
Lepton universality: $K_{e2}/K_{\mu2}$ (using
the NA48 apparatus)

NA62 (2015 –)

Main goal: $BR(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$

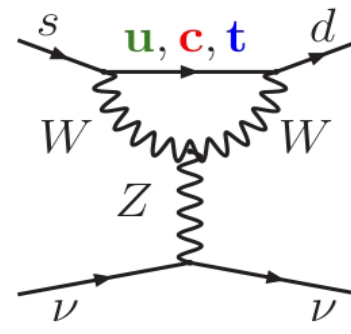
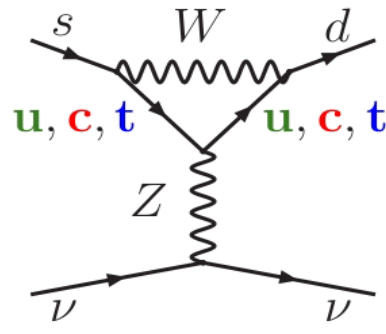
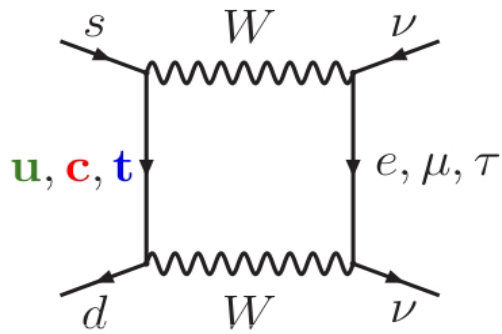
Rare decay studies: LFV, LNV
decays, search for heavy ν , axions, .

.



$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay in SM

FCNC loop processes: $s \rightarrow d$ coupling and highest CKM suppression



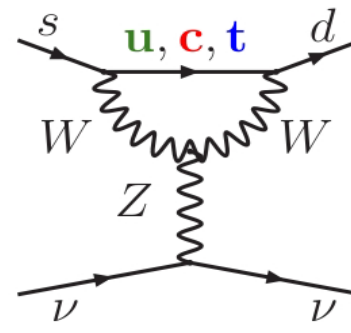
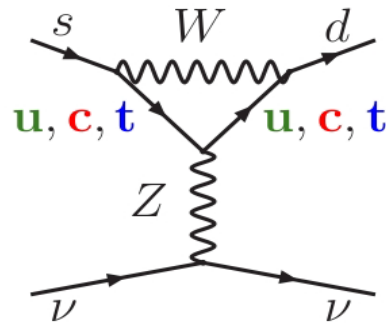
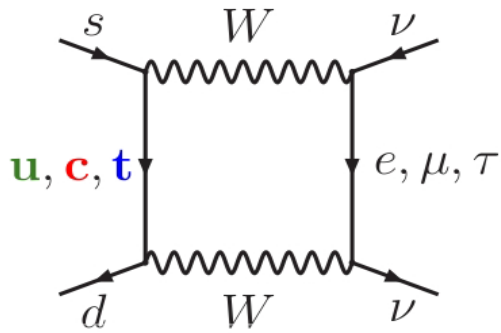
$$\begin{aligned}\lambda &= V_{us} \\ \lambda_c &= V_{cs}^* V_{cd} \\ \lambda_t &= V_{ts}^* V_{td} \\ x_q &\equiv m_q^2/m_W^2\end{aligned}$$

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

$$\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) = \kappa_L \left(\frac{\text{Im } \lambda_t}{\lambda^5} X(x_t) \right)^2$$

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay in SM

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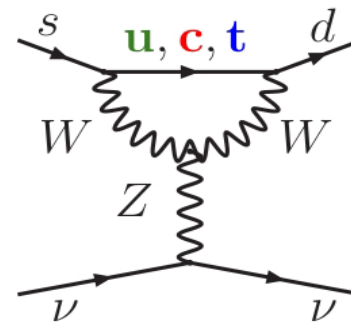
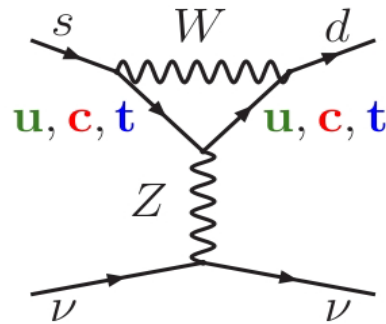
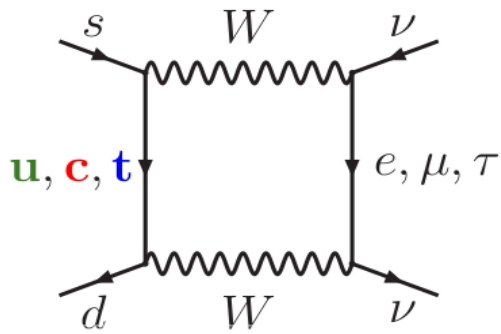
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Hadronic matrix element obtained from $\text{BR}(K_{l3})$ via isospin rotation

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay in SM

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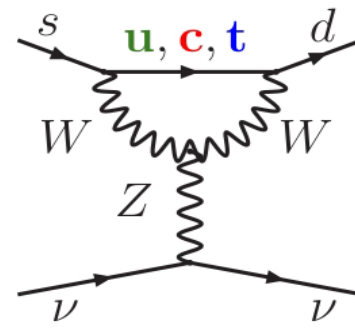
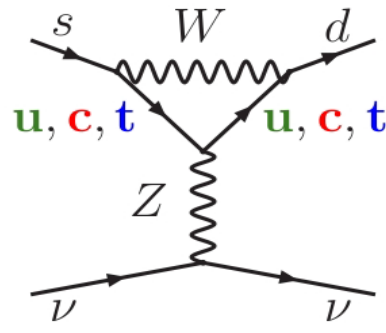
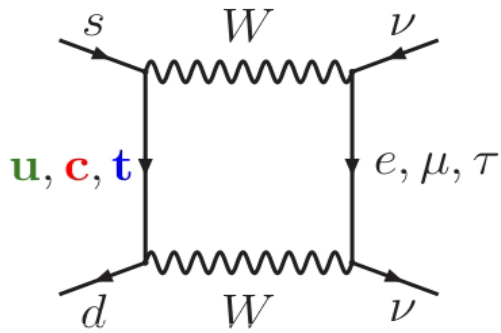
Loop functions favor top contribution

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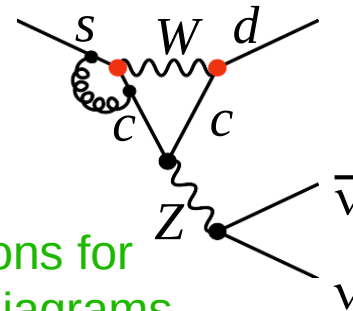
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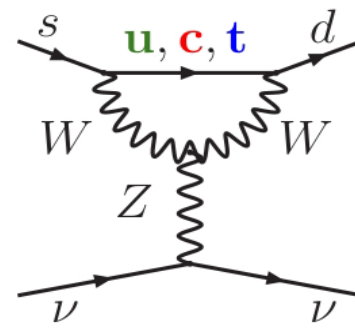
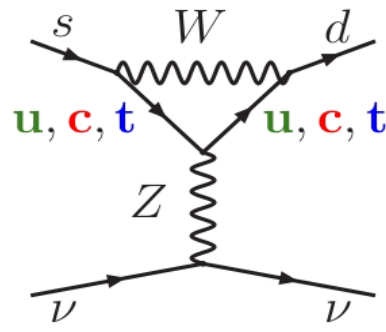
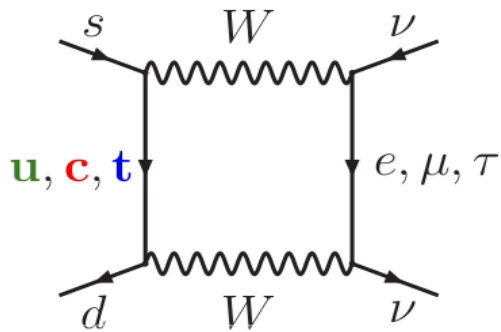
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QCD corrections for charm diagrams



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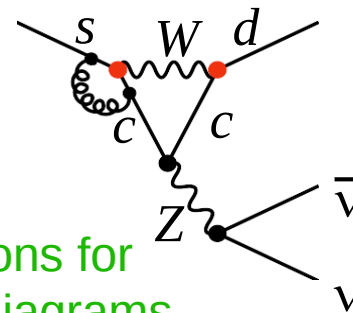
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EM radiative correction

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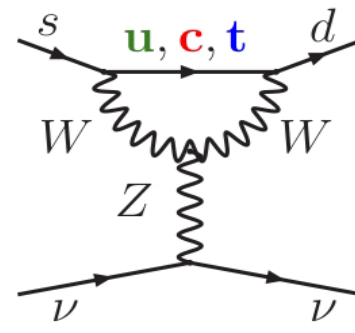
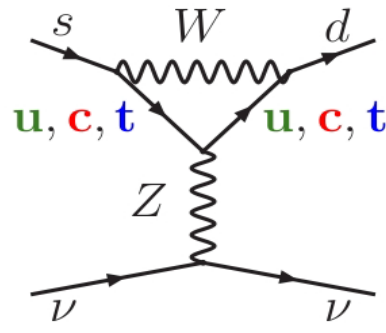
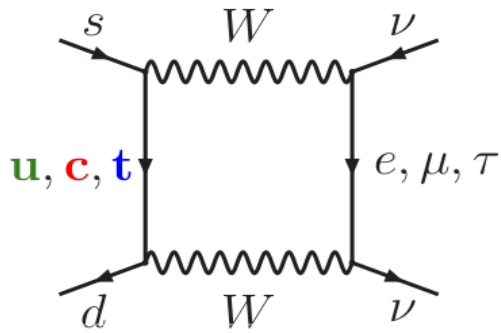
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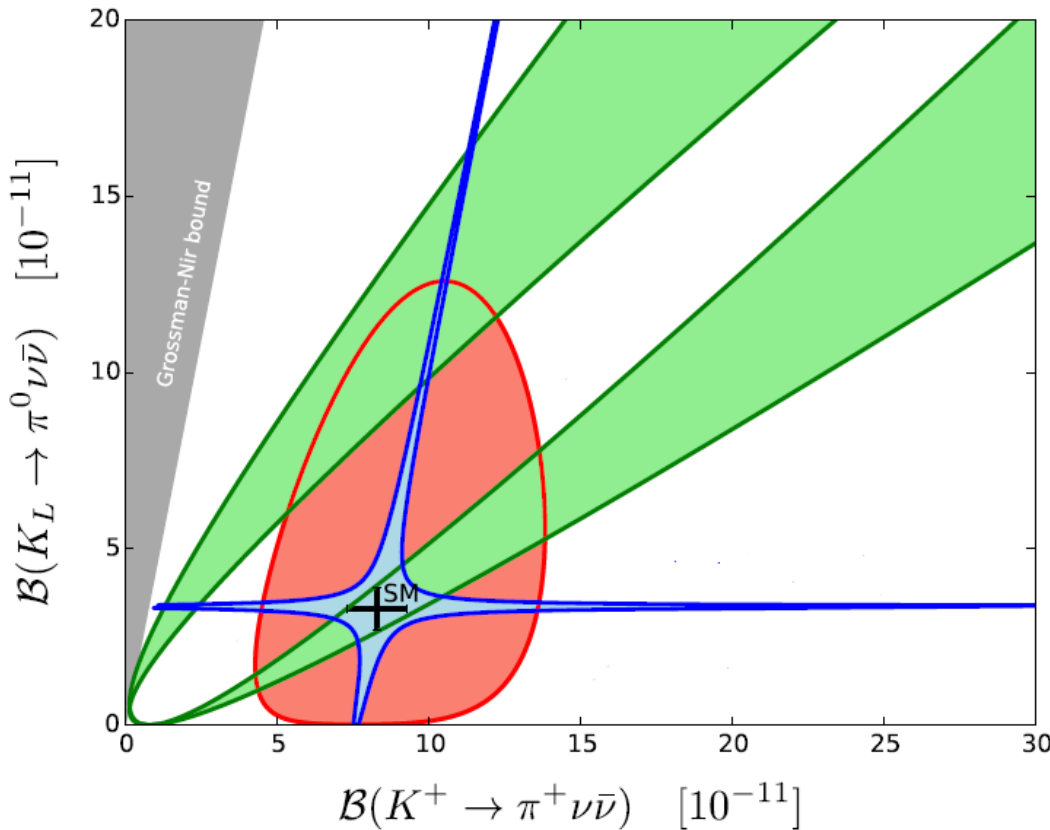
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QCD corrections for charm diagrams

SM prediction (10⁻¹¹ units)
A.J. Buras et al, 2015, arXiv: 1503.02693

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

Possibility to distinguish among different models



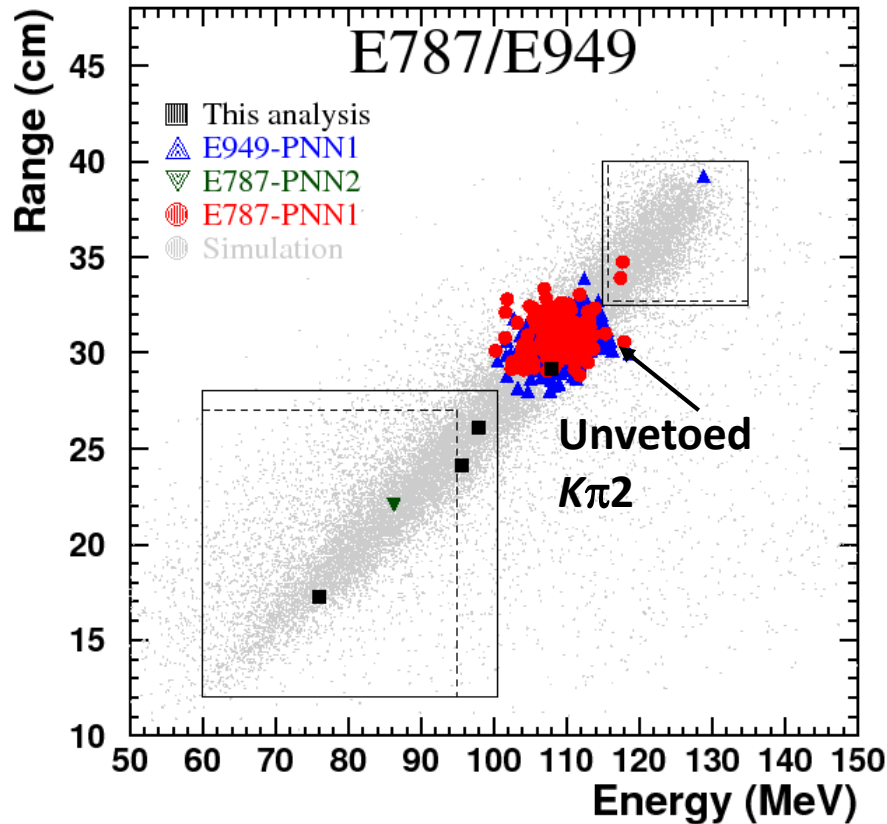
- Models with a CKM-like structure of flavour interactions (e.g. MFV)
- Models with new flavour and CP-violating interactions in which either left or right handed currents fully dominate (e.g. Z or Z' FCNC scenarios)
- More specifics NP models like Randall-Sundrum

[A. J. Buras, D. Buttazzo, and R. Knegjens, arXiv:1507.08672, Nov 2015]

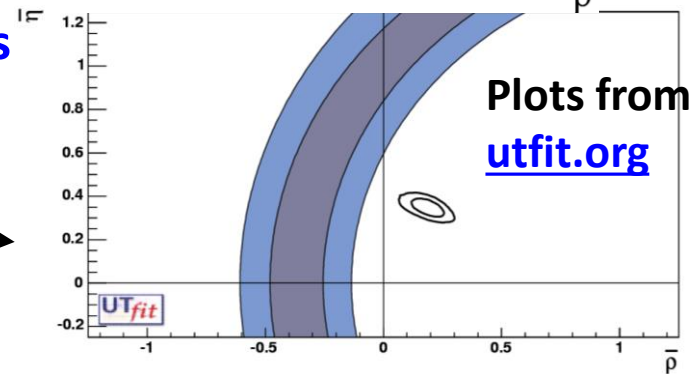
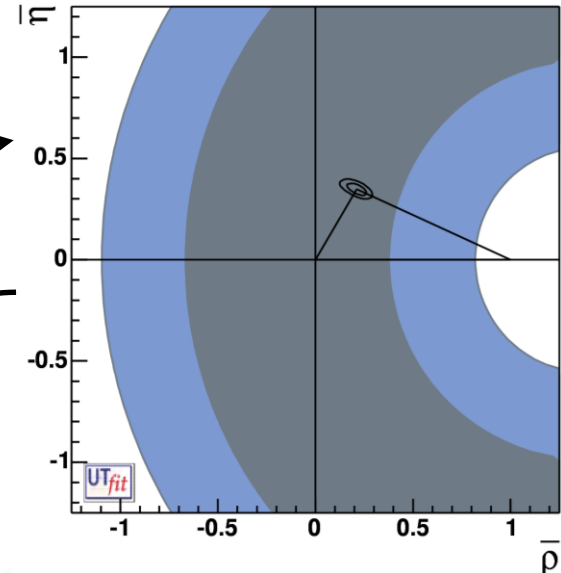
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay: experimental status

In 2008, combine E787 (1995-8 runs) & E949 (12-weeks run in 2001) results

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



Same central value, 100 evts

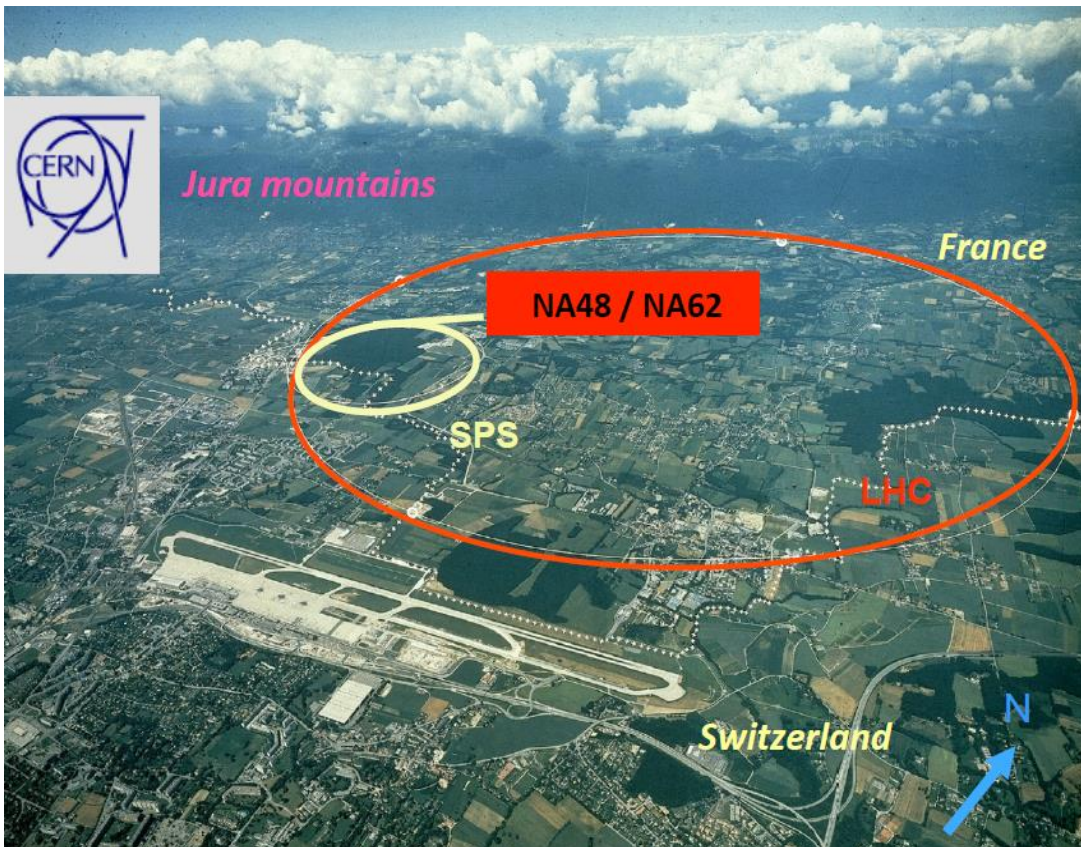


Expected bkg 2.6 events, prob. all 7 obs. evts are bkg is $\sim 10^{-3}$

NA62 experiment at CERN

NA62 is located in the North Area at CERN, It uses the SPS accelerator complex:

- ✓ Circumference : 6.9 km
- ✓ Injector of protons for LHC at 450 GeV/c
- ✓ Protons for fixed target physics at 400 GeV/c



~200 participants from 29 institutions



- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| ✓ 2006 | Proposal |
| ✓ 2009 | Approved |
| ✓ 2010 | Technical Design |
| ✓ 2012 | Technical Run |
| ✓ 2014 | Pilot run |
| ✓ 2015-2018 | Physics run |

NA62 beam



Primary SPS proton beam:

- $p = 400$ GeV protons
- Proton on target 1.1×10^{12} /s

High-intensity, unseparated secondary beam

- Momentum selection chosen to optimize K decays
- $p = 75$ GeV/c ($1.4\times$ more K^+ than NA48/2)
- $\Delta p/p \sim 1\%$ ($3\times$ smaller than NA48/2)

Total rate
750 MHz

- 525 MHz π
- 170 MHz p
- 45 MHz K

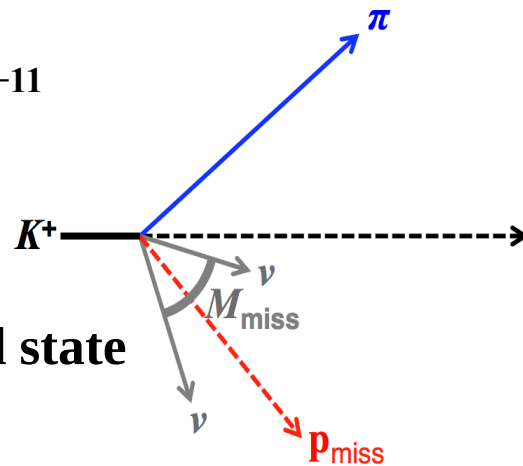
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay: signal and background

NA62 Main Goal:
10% precision $\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$ measurement

Technique:
K decay in flight

Signal:
 $\text{BR}_{\text{SM}} \sim (9.11 \pm 0.72) \times 10^{-11}$

K^+ track in
 π^+ track out
No other particles in final state



Requirements:

- ~100 SM events
- 10^{13} K^+ decays (signal acceptance ~10%)
- background rejection $\sim 10^{12}$
- background known to ~10%

Decay backgrounds

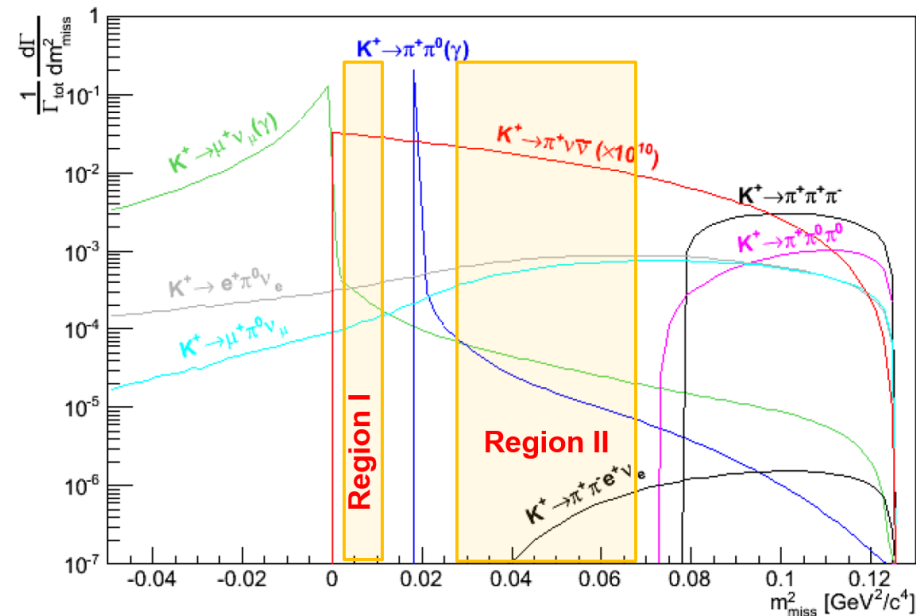
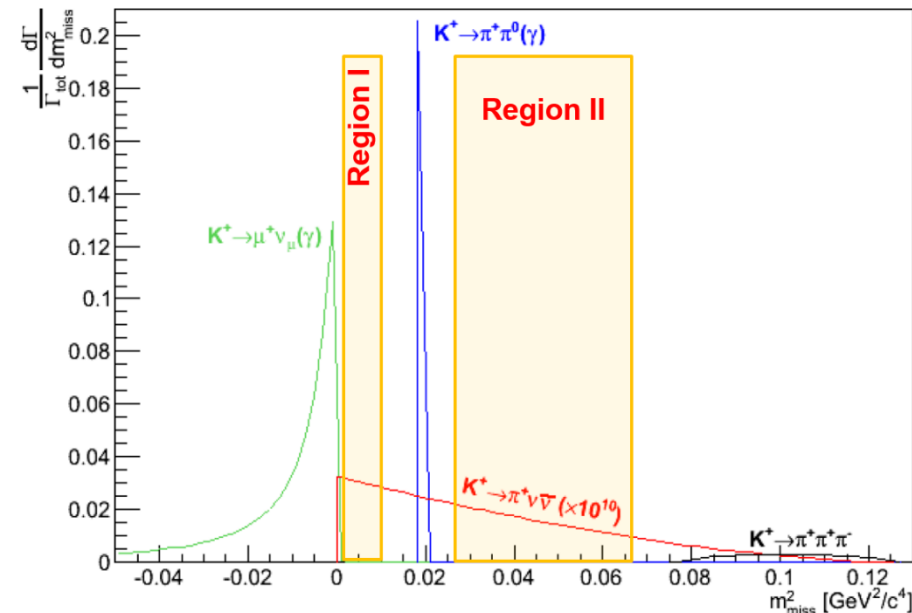
Mode		BR
$\mu^+ \nu(\gamma)$	$K_{\mu 2}$	63.5%
$\pi^+ \pi^0(\gamma)$	$K_{2\pi}$	20.7%
$\pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	$K_{3\pi}$	5.6%
$\pi^0 e^+ \nu$	K_{e3}	5.1%
$\pi^0 \mu^+ \nu$	$K_{\mu 3}$	3.3%
$\pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu$	$K_{e4}(+-)$	4.1×10^{-5}
$\pi^0 \pi^0 e^+ \nu$	$K_{e4}(00)$	2.2×10^{-5}
$\pi^+ \pi^- \mu^+ \nu$	$K_{\mu 4}$	1.4×10^{-5}
$e^+ \nu(\gamma)$	K_{e2}	1.5×10^{-5}

Other backgrounds

Upstream interactions

NA62 experimental strategy

Most discriminating variable: $m_{miss}^2 = (P_K - P_\pi)^2$

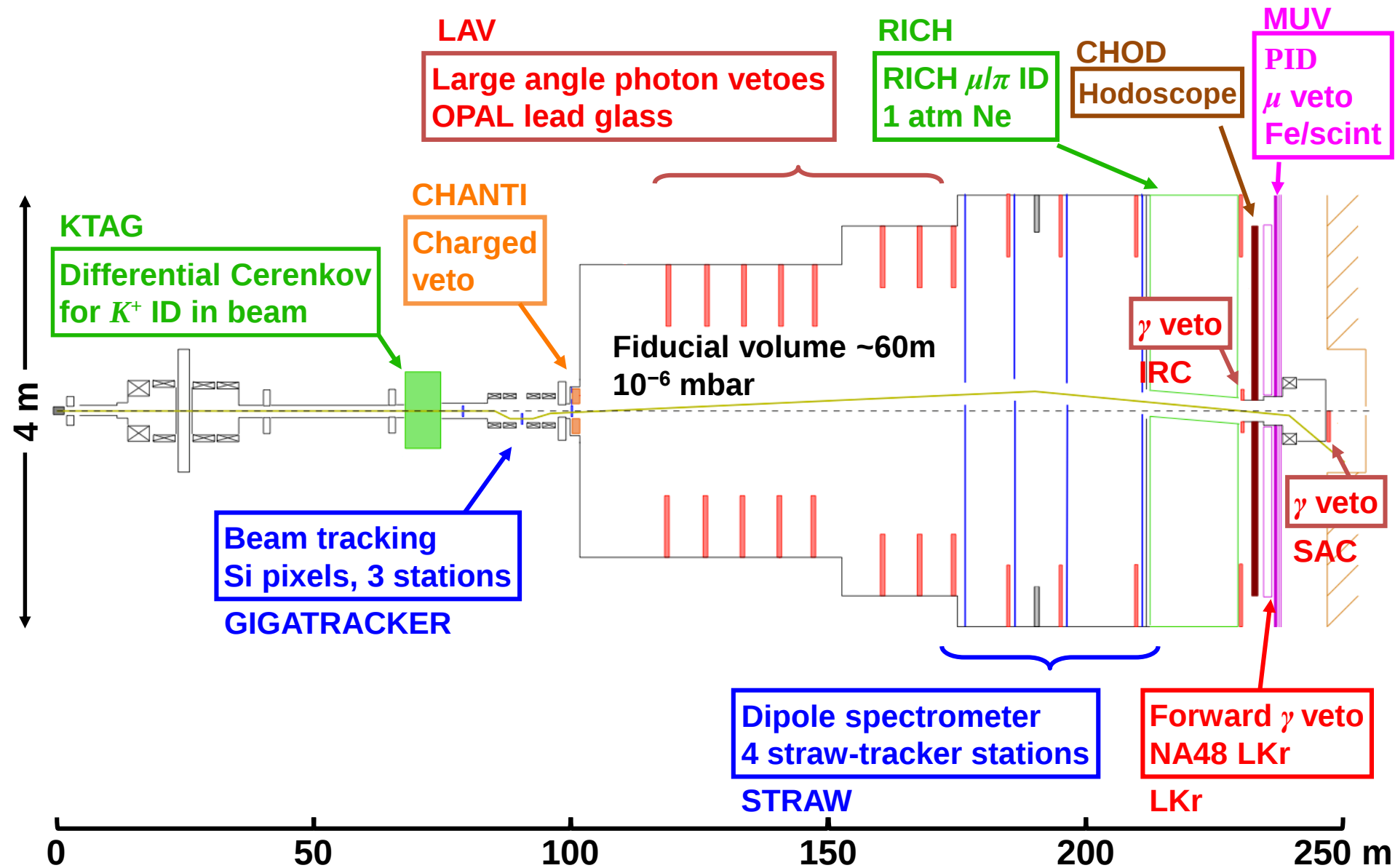


Experimental principles:

- ✓ Precise kinematic reconstruction: 2 signal regions in m_{miss}^2
- ✓ Low π momentum ($15 < p_\pi < 35$ GeV/c) to allow enough «missing» energy to be detected by hermetic γ veto detectors (mainly for $K_{2\pi}$ and semileptonic modes with π^0)
- ✓ PID: K upstream, $e/\mu/\pi$ downstream
- ✓ Beam inelastic event suppression
- ✓ Sub-ns timing

Expected 45 SM signal events / year with < 10 background

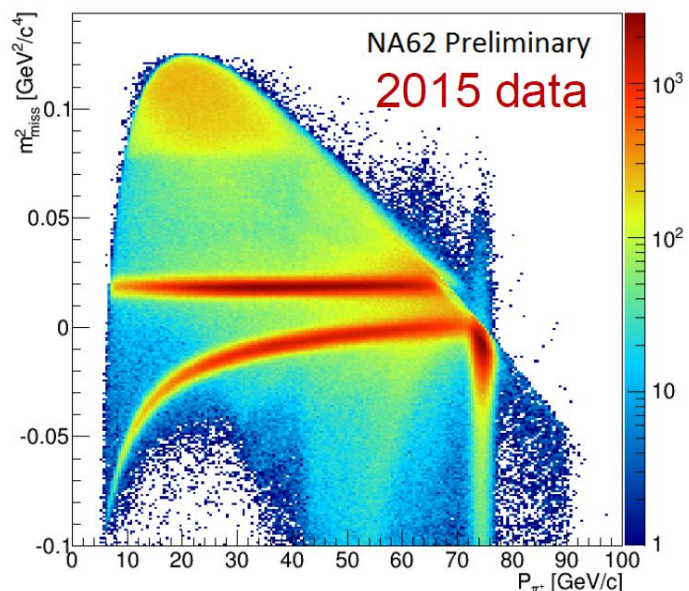
NA62 setup



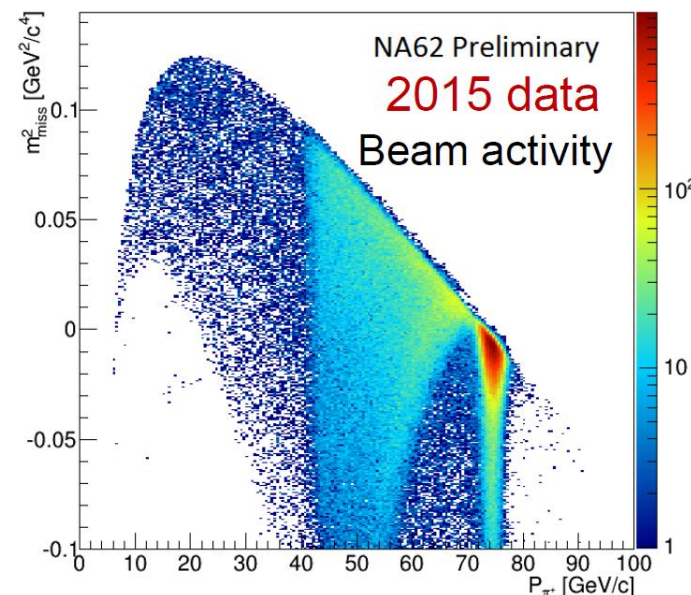
Experimental status

- **NA62 took data in 2014 and 2015**
- **Beam commissioned up to nominal intensity**
- **Tracker:**
 - Beam tracker (Gigatracker) partially commissioned
 - Straw spectrometer commissioned
- **Cherenkov detectors:**
 - Beam Kaon ID (KTAG) commissioned
 - RICH commissioned
- **All the other detectors commissioned**
- **Trigger:**
 - L0 commissioned; L1(2) partially commissioned.
- **Data samples for data quality study (mainly from 2015):**
 - Low intensity data taken with a minimum bias trigger (this talk)
 - Samples at half and full intensity taken with a calorimeter trigger

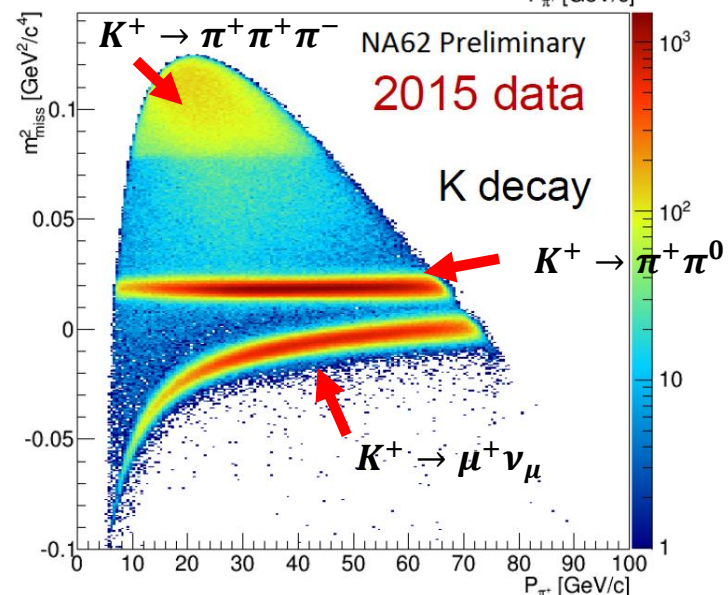
2015 data quality: signal topology and K^+ ID



Not K^+ ID



K^+ ID
Downstream
track origin in
the fiducial
volume



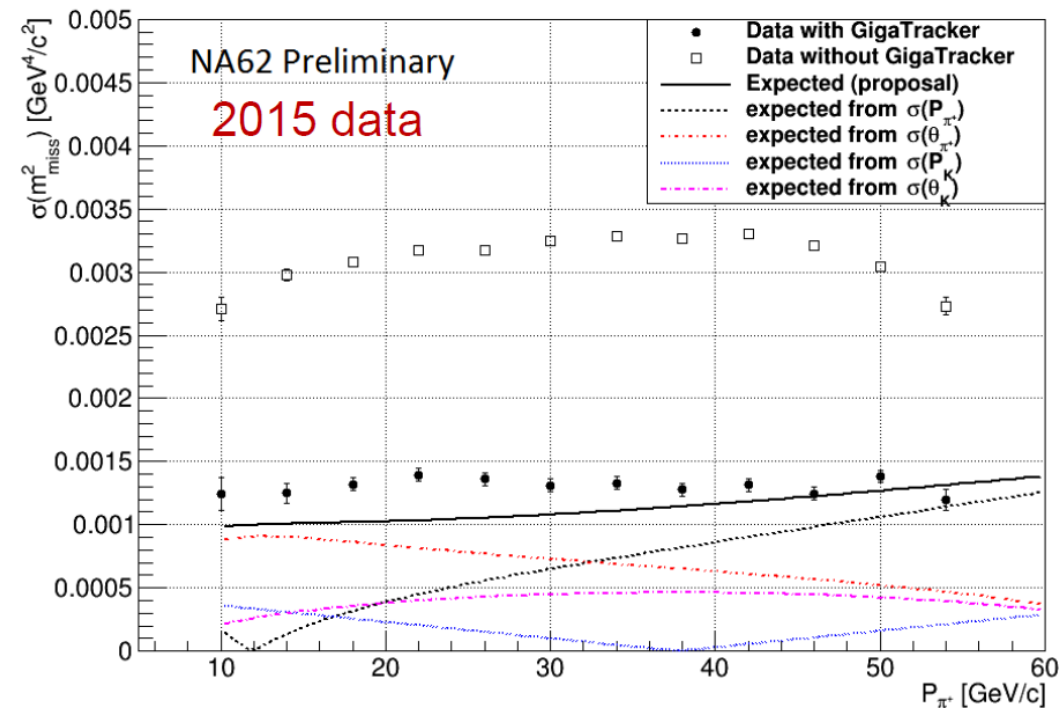
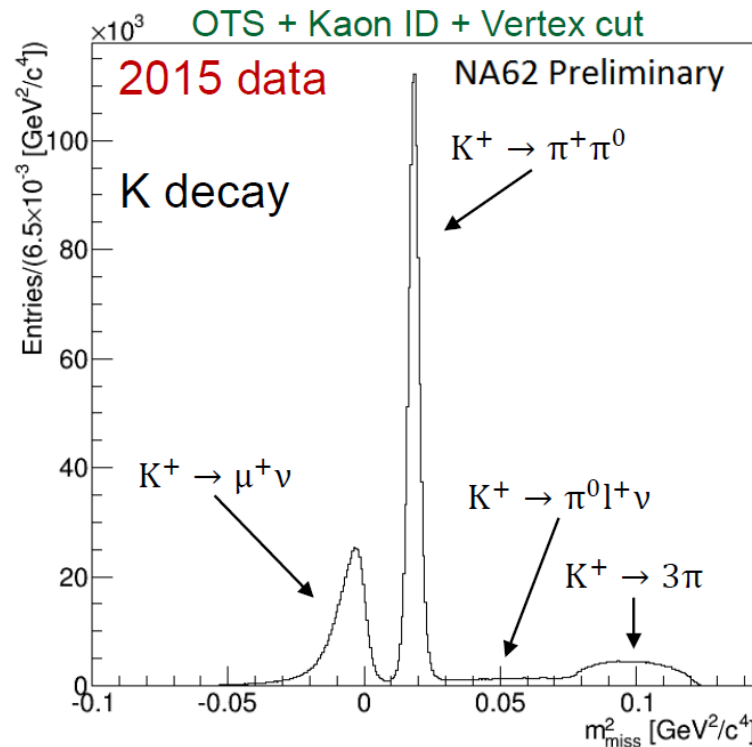
One track selection (OTS):

- Single downstream track topology
- Beam track matching the downstream track
- Downstream track matching energy in calorimeters

2015 data quality: kinematics

Technique: Si -pixel tracker and Straw tube tracker in vacuum

Goal: $O(10^4 \div 10^5)$ kinematic suppression factor required for main backgrounds



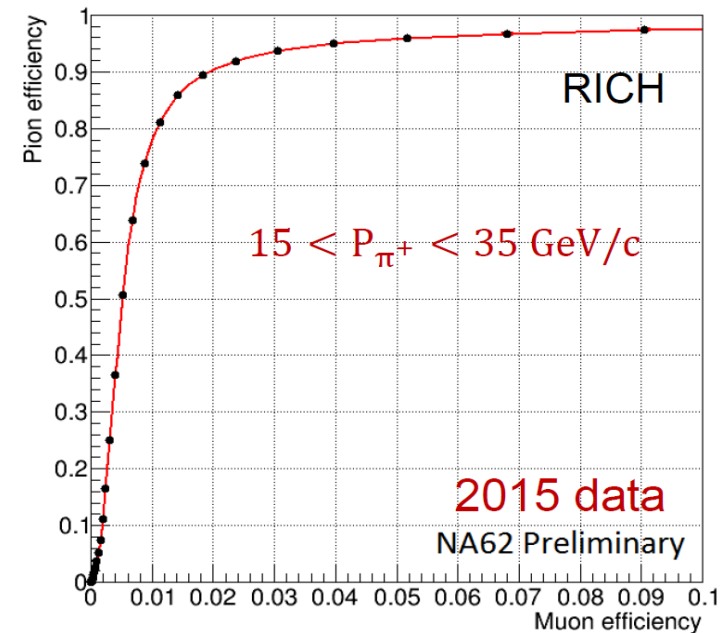
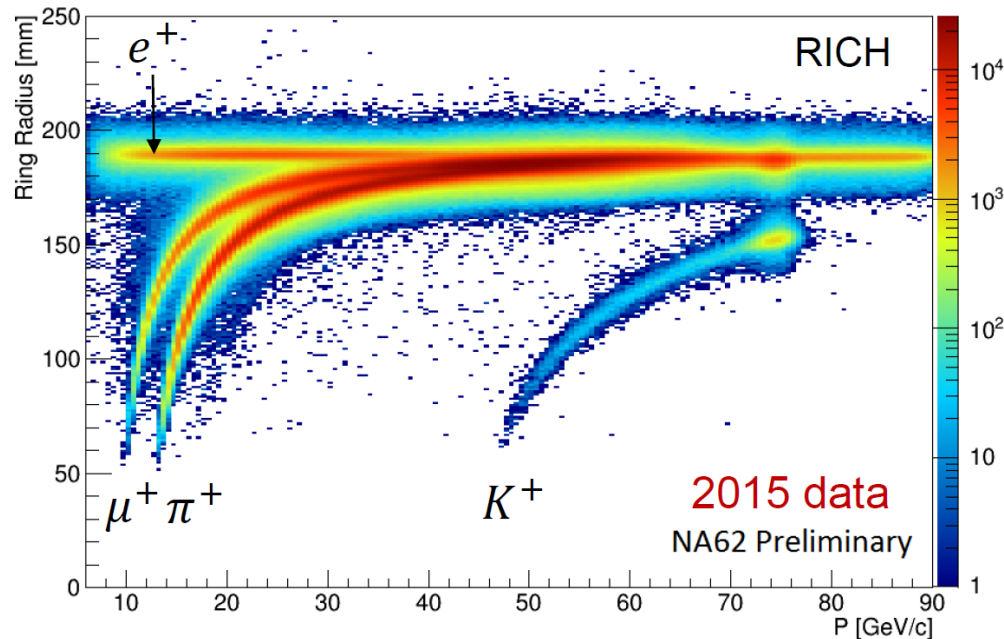
Resolution on m_{miss}^2 close to the design

$O(10^3)$ kinematic suppression factor in 2015

2015 data quality: downstream particle ID

Technique: RICH and calorimeters

Goal: $O(10^7)$ μ/π separation to suppress mainly $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$



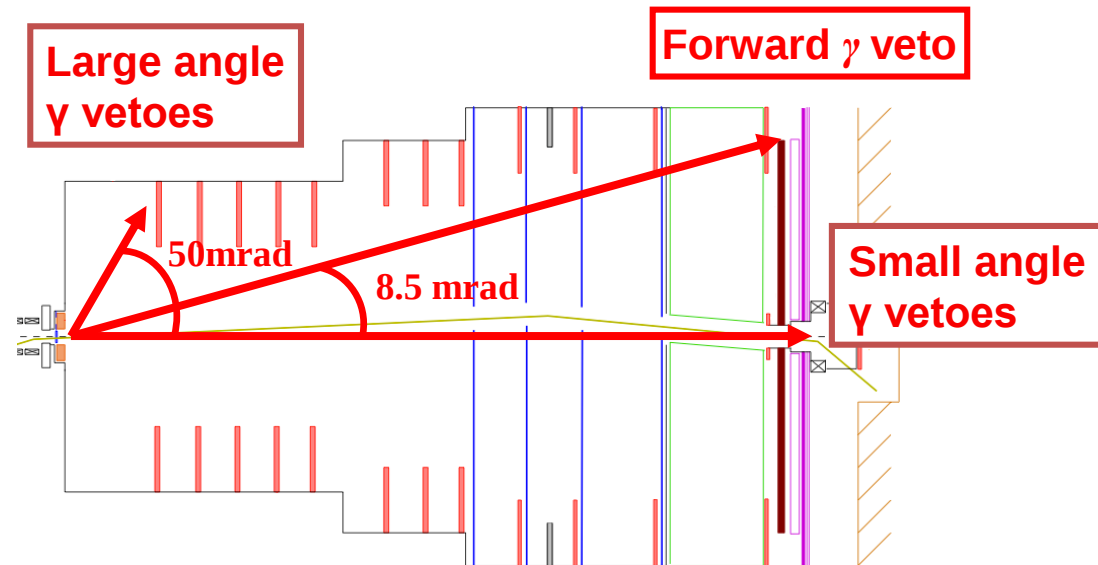
80% π^+ efficiency in RICH with $O(10^2)$ μ/π separation

Simple cut analysis on calorimeters provides $(10^4 \div 10^6)$ μ suppression, with $(90\% \div 40\%)$ π^+ efficiency. Room for improvements.

2015 data quality: photon rejection

Technique: EM calorimeters with different angles range

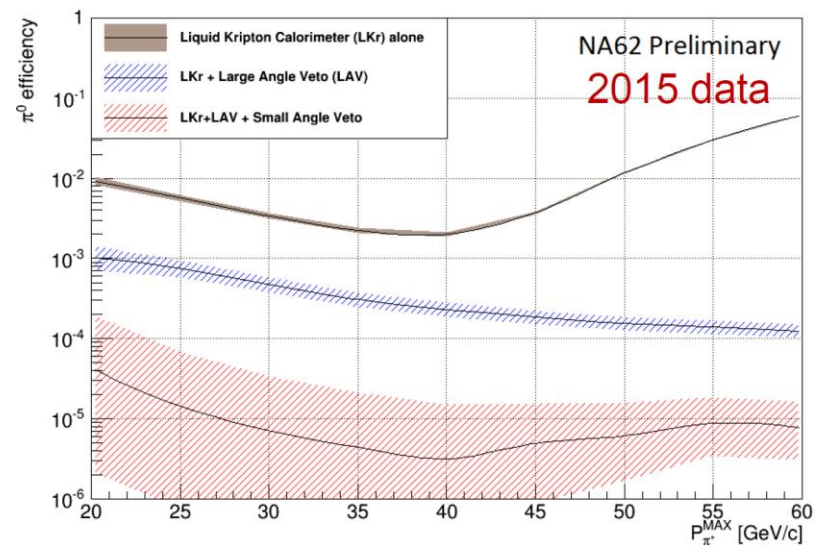
Goal: $O(10^8)$ rejection π^0 from $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$



Measured on data using $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ selected kinematically

$O(10^6)$ π^0 rejection already obtained

2015 rejection measurement statistically limited



Summary from 2015 data quality studies

➤ Time resolution:

Close to the design

➤ Kinematics:

Resolution close to the design.

Prospects to reach the designed signal –background separation.

➤ Pion –muon ID:

Separation with RICH close to expectations.

Study of the separation with calorimeters on going. Results from simple cut analysis promising.

➤ Photon veto:

$O(10^6)$ π^0 rejection already obtained. More statistics needed to push the study at the design sensitivity.

➤ Standard Kaon Physics Precision:

- 10% precision $\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$ measurement
- χ PT studies: $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma \gamma$, $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 e^+ e^-$, $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^{0(+)} \pi^{0(-)} l^+ \nu$
- Precision measurement of $R_K = \Gamma(K^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e) / \Gamma(K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu)$

➤ LFV with kaons:

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

➤ Heavy neutrino searches

- $K^+ \rightarrow l^+ \nu_h$
- ν_h from K, D decays and $\nu_h \rightarrow \pi l$

➤ Pion decay:

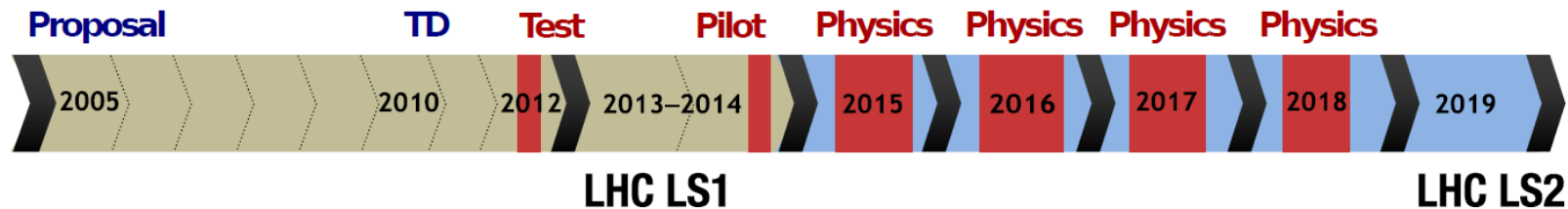
- $\pi^0 \rightarrow 3/4 \gamma$, $\pi^0 \rightarrow \text{invisible}$

➤ Dark sector:

- long living dark photon, produced by $\pi^0 / \eta / \eta' / \Phi / \rho / \omega$, decaying in $l^+ l^-$
- long living axion, produced in a beam-dump configuration, decaying in $\gamma \gamma$

Conclusion

- **Commissioning of the NA62 experiment for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ is almost completed.** Tested up to the nominal intensity.
- Preliminary study of the quality of the data taken at low intensity:
 - **Physics sensitivity for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ measurement in line with the design.**
 - A further compelling physics program is going to be addressed.
 - Analysis of data at higher intensity on going.
- NA62 started to collect new data at the **end of April (~200 days of data taking for 2016)**. The data taking will continue in 2017 and 2018



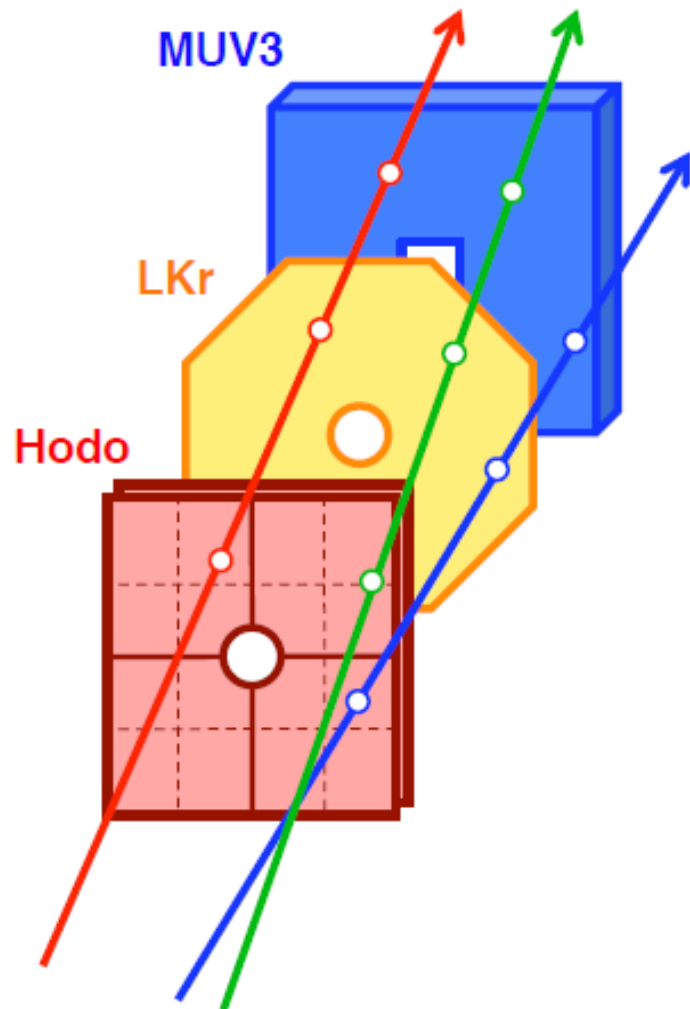
Backup Slide

Decay	Physics	Present limit (90% C.L.) / Result	NA62
$\pi^+\mu^+e^-$	LFV	1.3×10^{-11}	0.7×10^{-12}
$\pi^+\mu^-e^+$	LFV	5.2×10^{-10}	0.7×10^{-12}
$\pi^-\mu^+e^+$	LNV	5.0×10^{-10}	0.7×10^{-12}
$\pi^-e^+e^+$	LNV	6.4×10^{-10}	2×10^{-12}
$\pi^-\mu^+\mu^+$	LNV	1.1×10^{-9}	0.4×10^{-12}
$\mu^- \nu e^+ e^+$	LNV/LFV	2.0×10^{-8}	4×10^{-12}
$e^- \nu \mu^+ \mu^+$	LNV	No data	10^{-12}
$\pi^+ X^0$	New Particle	$5.9 \times 10^{-11} m_{X^0} = 0$	10^{-12}
$\pi^+ \chi \chi$	New Particle	—	10^{-12}
$\pi^+ \pi^+ e^- \nu$	$\Delta S \neq \Delta Q$	1.2×10^{-8}	10^{-11}
$\pi^+ \pi^+ \mu^- \nu$	$\Delta S \neq \Delta Q$	3.0×10^{-6}	10^{-11}
$\pi^+ \gamma$	Angular Mom.	2.3×10^{-9}	10^{-12}
$\mu^+ \nu_h, \nu_h \rightarrow \nu \gamma$	Heavy neutrino	Limits up to $m_{\nu_h} = 350 \text{ MeV}$	
R_K	LU	$(2.488 \pm 0.010) \times 10^{-5}$	$> \times 2$ better
$\pi^+ \gamma \gamma$	χ PT	< 500 events	10^5 events
$\pi^0 \pi^0 e^+ \nu$	χ PT	66000 events	$O(10^6)$
$\pi^0 \pi^0 \mu^+ \nu$	χ PT	-	$O(10^5)$

Trigger for LFN modes in NA62

640 kHz 3-track decays upstream
of trigger hodoscope

vs. **~ 1 MHz** design rate for L0 trigger



Definitions of level-0 trigger primitives:

Q_n Hits in at least n Hodo quadrants

$LKR_n(x)$ At least n LKr clusters with
energy $E > x$ GeV

MUV_n Hits in at least n MUV3 pads

Level-0 triggers for LFN searches:

ee pair $Q_2 \cdot LKR_2(15)$

$e\mu$ pair $Q_2 \cdot LKR_1(15) \cdot MUV_1$

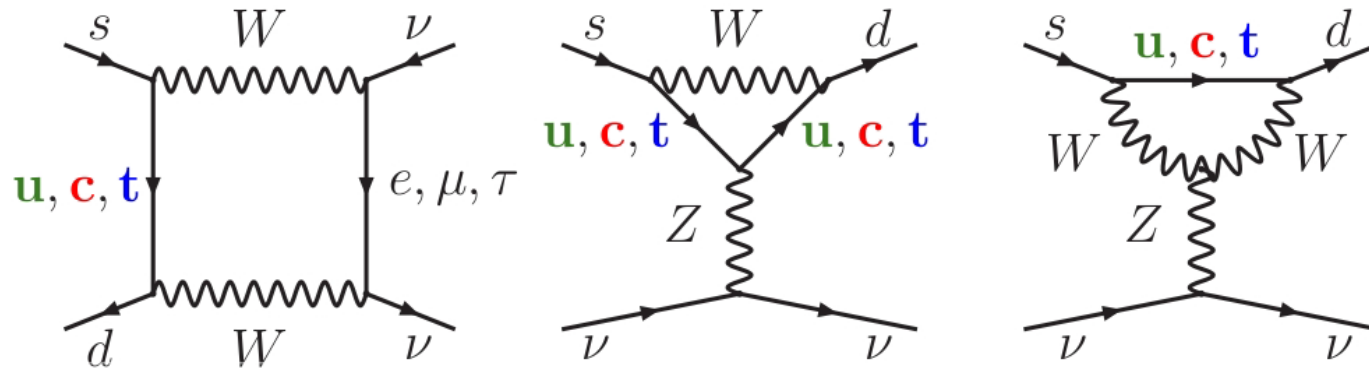
$\mu\mu$ pair $Q_2 \cdot MUV_2$

Total rate $\sim \text{few} \times 10$ kHz

Dominantly from $K_{\pi 3}$, $K \rightarrow \pi\pi^0_D$

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay in SM

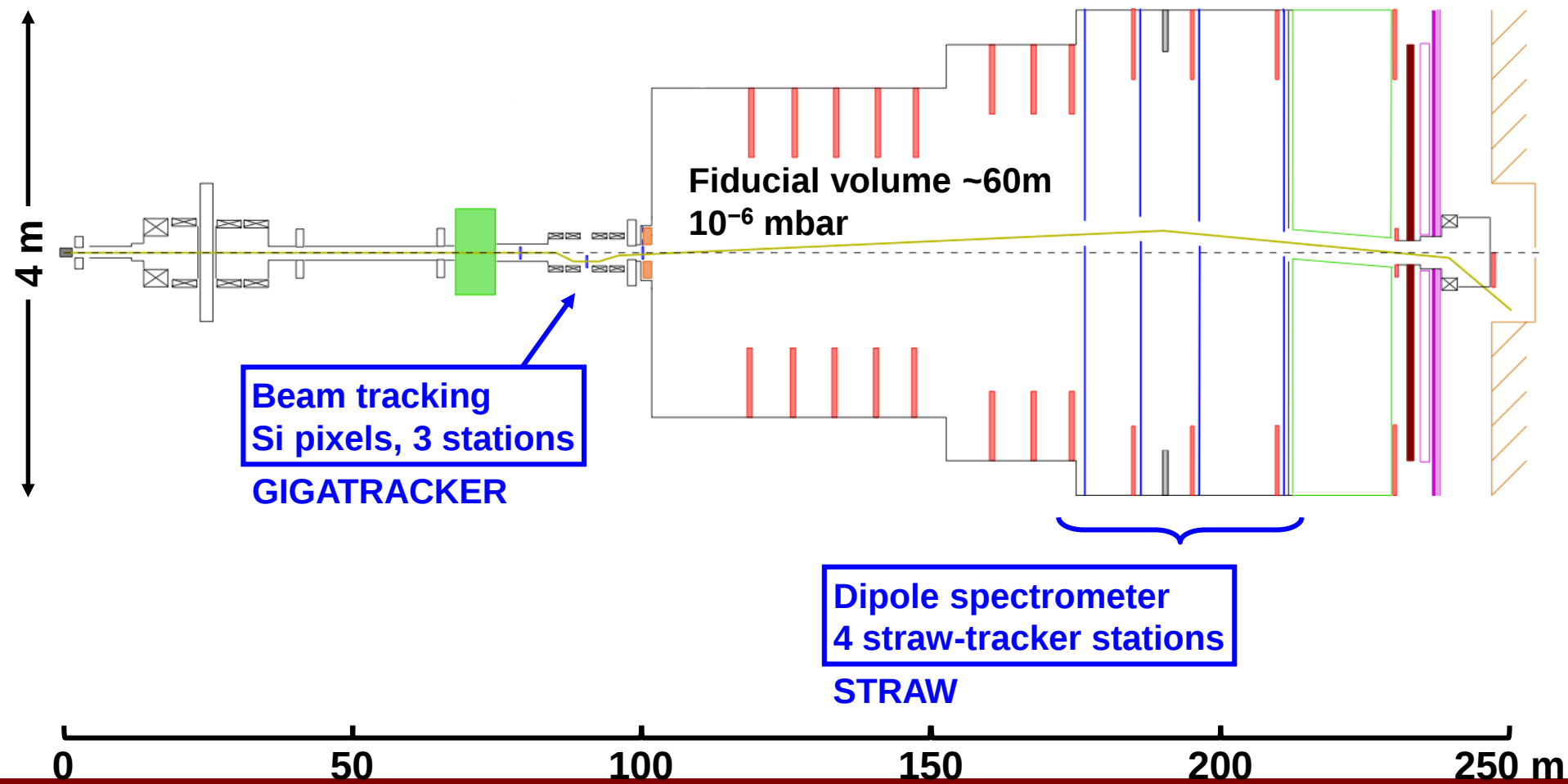
- FCNC loop processes: $s \rightarrow d$ coupling and highest CKM suppression



- Very clean theoretically:
 - SD contribution dominate $A_q \sim \frac{M_q^2}{M_W^2} V_{qs}^* V_{qd}$
 - Hadronic matrix element related to the precisely measured BR ($K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$)
- BR proportional to $|V_{ts}^* V_{td}|^2$
- SM prediction [A.J. Buras et al, 2015 , arXiv:1503.02693]

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

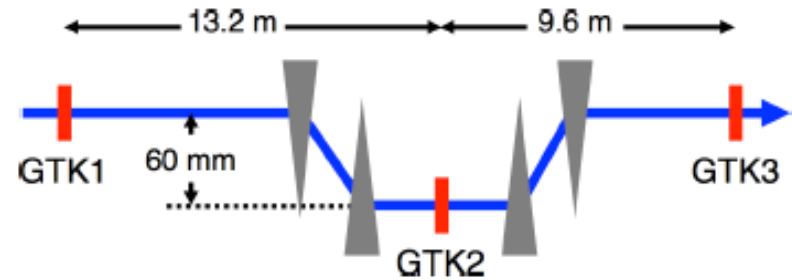
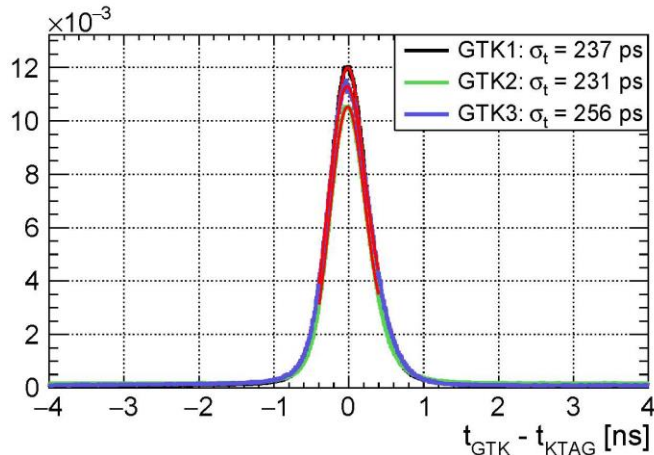
NA62 setup: Gigatracker and Straw tracker



NA62 setup: Gigatracker and Straw tracker

Giga-tracker

3 stations of Si pixels matching the beam dimensions placed in vacuum (5400 pixels, 10 read out chips)



In 2015 the detector was partially commissioned with $\sigma_t \sim 250 \text{ ps}$, $\sigma_\theta \sim 16 \mu\text{rad}$

Straw-tracker

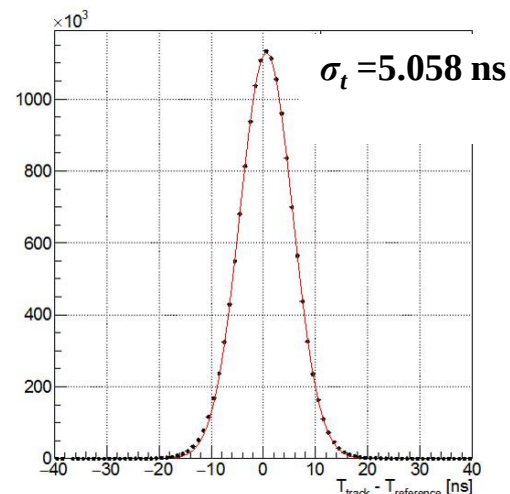
4 chambers, 2.1 m in diameter

16 layers (4 views) of straws per chamber

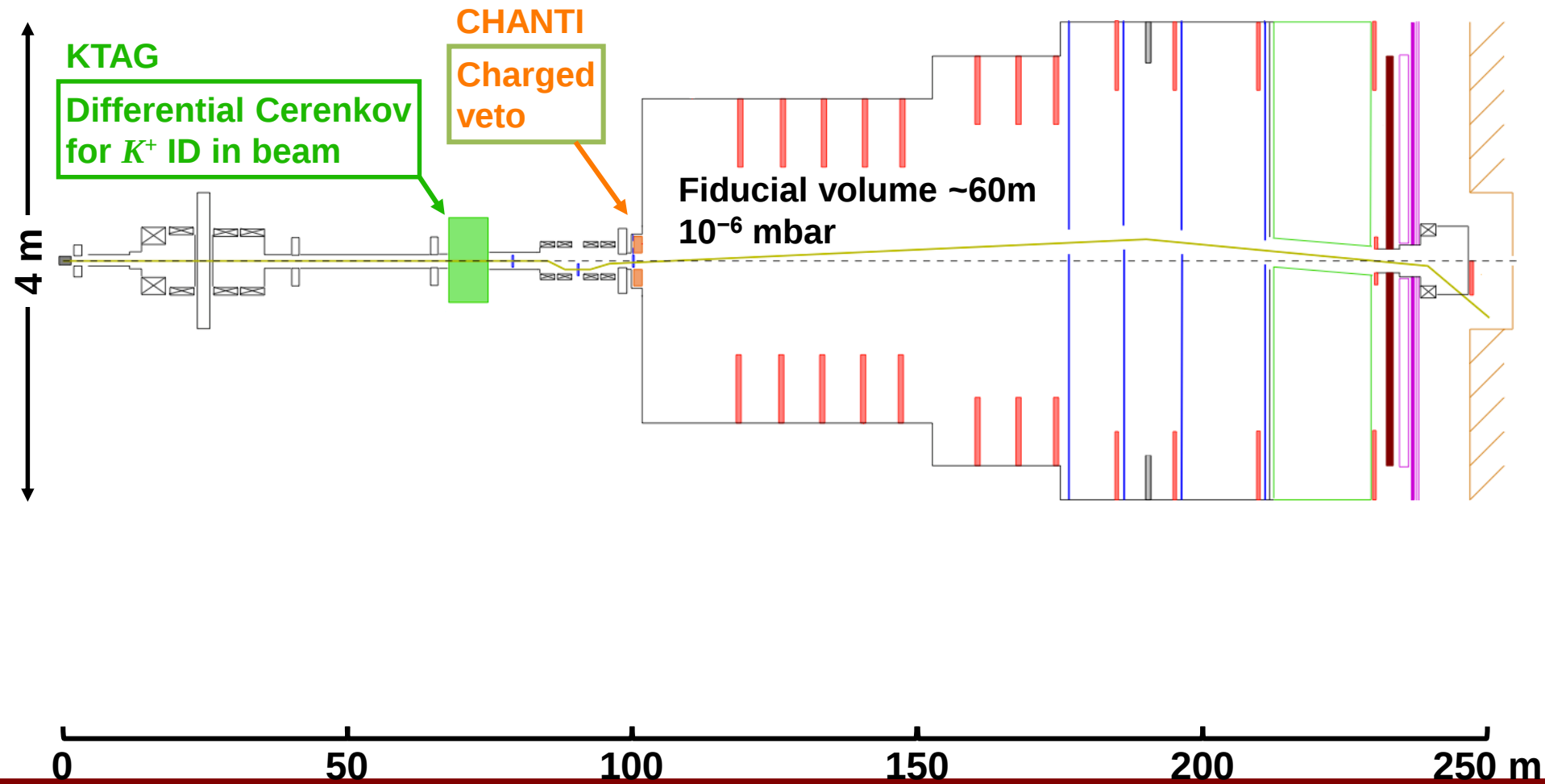
$\sigma \leq 130 \mu\text{m}$ (1 view) $\sigma_p/p < 1\%$

$0.45X_0$ per chamber $\sigma_{\theta(K\pi)} < 60 \mu\text{rad}$

Detector fully commissioned in 2014 run



NA62 setup: KTAG and CHANTI



NA62 setup: KTAG and CHANTI

KTAG

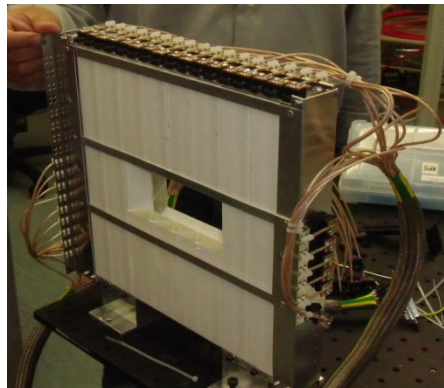
Identifies 45 MHz of K^+ in 750 MHz of unseparated beam
Running with N_2 at 1.74 bar

Detector commissioned with

- ✓ $\sigma_t < 70\text{ps}$
- ✓ K-ID efficiency $> 95\%$
- ✓ K mis-ID $< 10^{-3}$



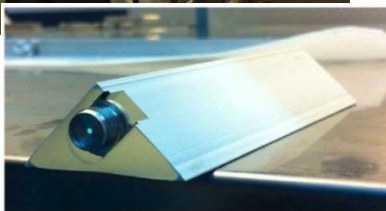
CHANTI



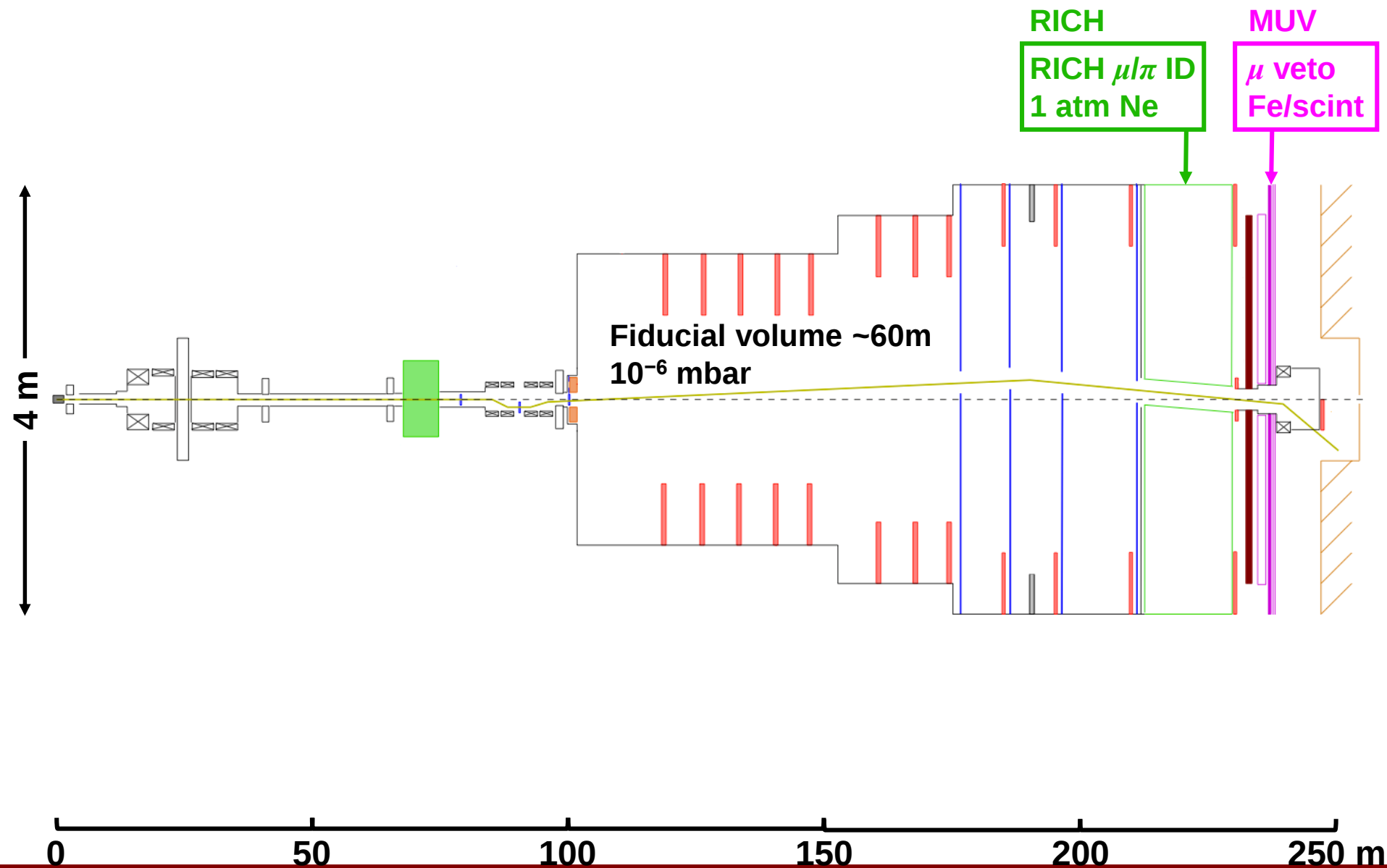
Detection of particles from inelastic interactions in GTK mimicking a pion in time with a kaon
6 stations hermetic to charged particles between 49 mrad and 1.31 rad
Each station is made of 24 scintillation bars in each view (X & Y), readout with WLS fibers and SiPMs

Detector commissioned with

- ✓ $\sigma_t \sim 900\text{ps}$
- ✓ Single layer efficiency > 0.99

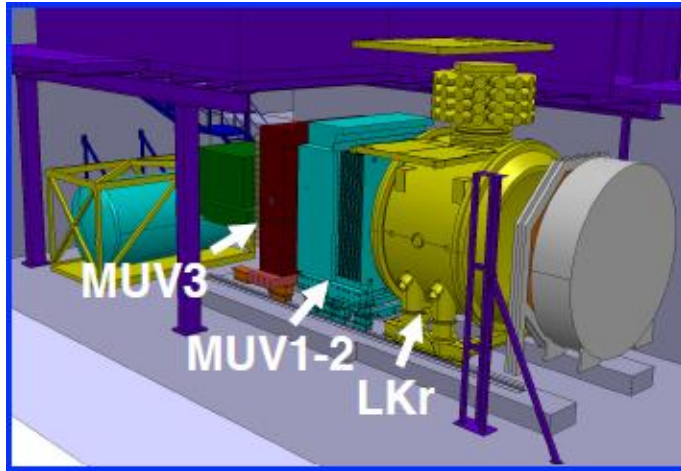


NA62 setup: downstream particle identification



NA62 setup: downstream particle identification

MUV system: π/μ identification & trigger



MUV1-2: Fe/scintillator hadron calorimeter

- Used offline to provide principal veto for $K \rightarrow \mu\nu$

MUV3: Fast μ identification for trigger

- Vetoes μ online at 10 MHz

Detector commissioned; MUV3 $\sigma_t \sim 420\text{ps}$

RICH provides additional 10^{-2} μ rejection to exclude $K \rightarrow \mu\nu$

μ/π separation $\sim 1\%$ for $15 < p < 35\text{GeV}$

Provides L0 trigger for charged particles

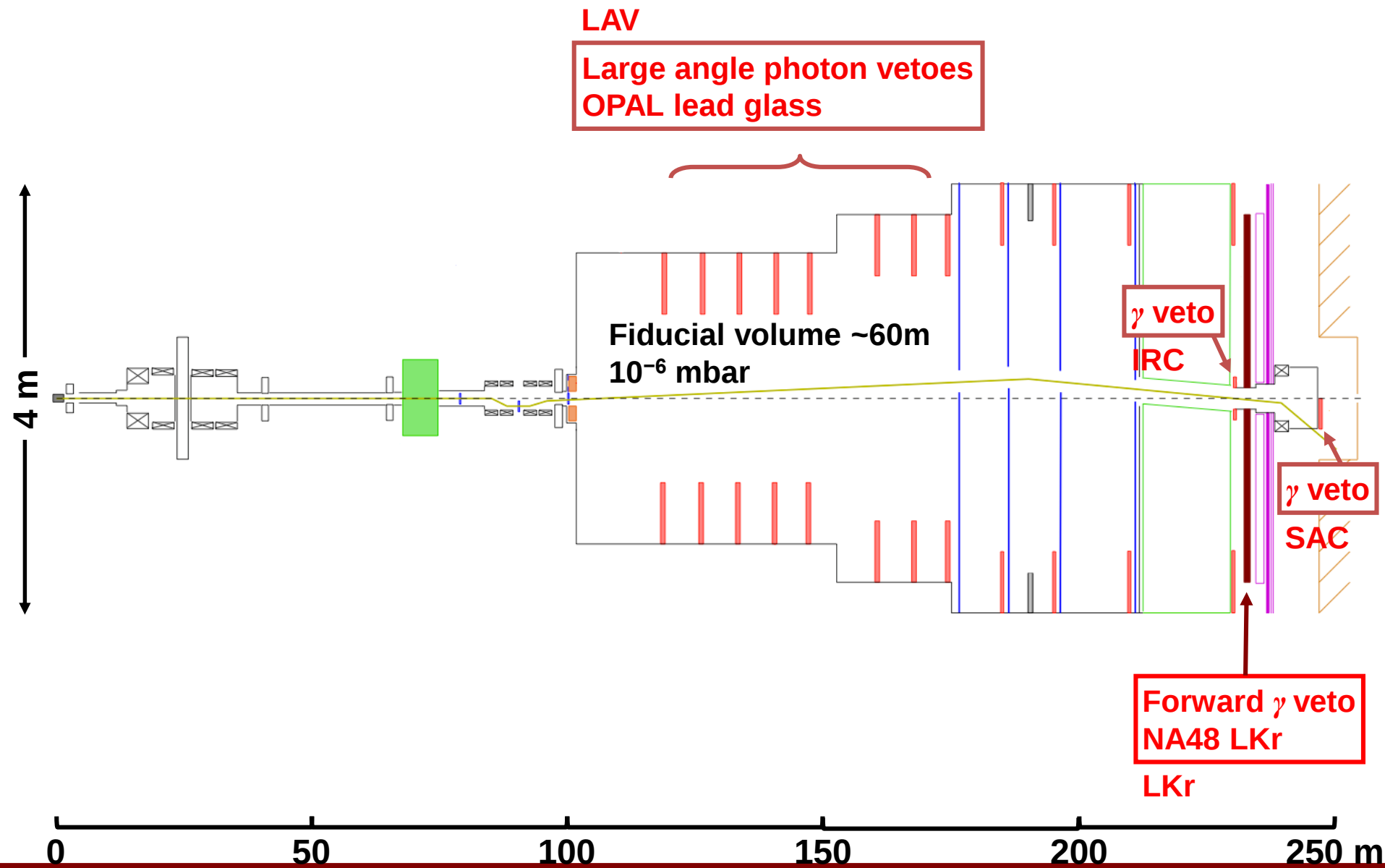
Ne gas at 1 atm

2000 8-mm PMTs on upstream flanges

RICH fully commissioned with $\sigma_t \sim 70\text{ps}$



NA62 photon veto detectors



NA62 photon veto detectors

Large angles vetoes (LAV) $8.5 < \theta < 50$ mrad

12 stations at intervals of ~ 10 m along decay volume
Each station has 4-5 rings/station of lead glass blocks
 $1-\varepsilon$ for e^- at 200 MeV: $\sim 10^{-4}$

LAV fully commissioned with $\sigma_t \sim 1$ ns



Liquid krypton calorimeter (LKr) $1 < \theta < 8.5$ mrad

Quasi-homogeneous ionization calorimeter
Readout towers 2×2 cm² - 13248 channels
Depth 127 cm = 27 X_0
 $1-\varepsilon$ for γ with $E > 10$ GeV: $< 10^{-5}$

LKr from NA48 setup.

Commissioned with:

- $\sigma_t \sim 500$ ps
- Space resolution 1 mm
- $1-\varepsilon < 10^{-5}$ for 10 GeV γ

SAC & IRC: very small angle veto Shashlik calorimeters

SAC: γ detection along the beamline (after beam deflection)
IRC: detection of photons at very low angle in front of the LKr
WLSs+PMTs used for both detectors

Both commissioned in
2015 with $\sigma_t \sim 1$ ns