

# Prospects in Kaon Decay Physics

**H. Nanjo (Osaka University)**

**for the KOTO, LHCb, and NA62/KLEVER collaborations  
and the US Kaon Interest Group**

# Snowmass White Paper

- <https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.13394>

**Searches for new physics with high-intensity kaon beams**

**Contributed paper to Snowmass 2021**

The KOTO<sup>1</sup>, LHCb<sup>2</sup>, and NA62/KLEVER<sup>3</sup> Collaborations  
and the US Kaon Interest Group<sup>4</sup>

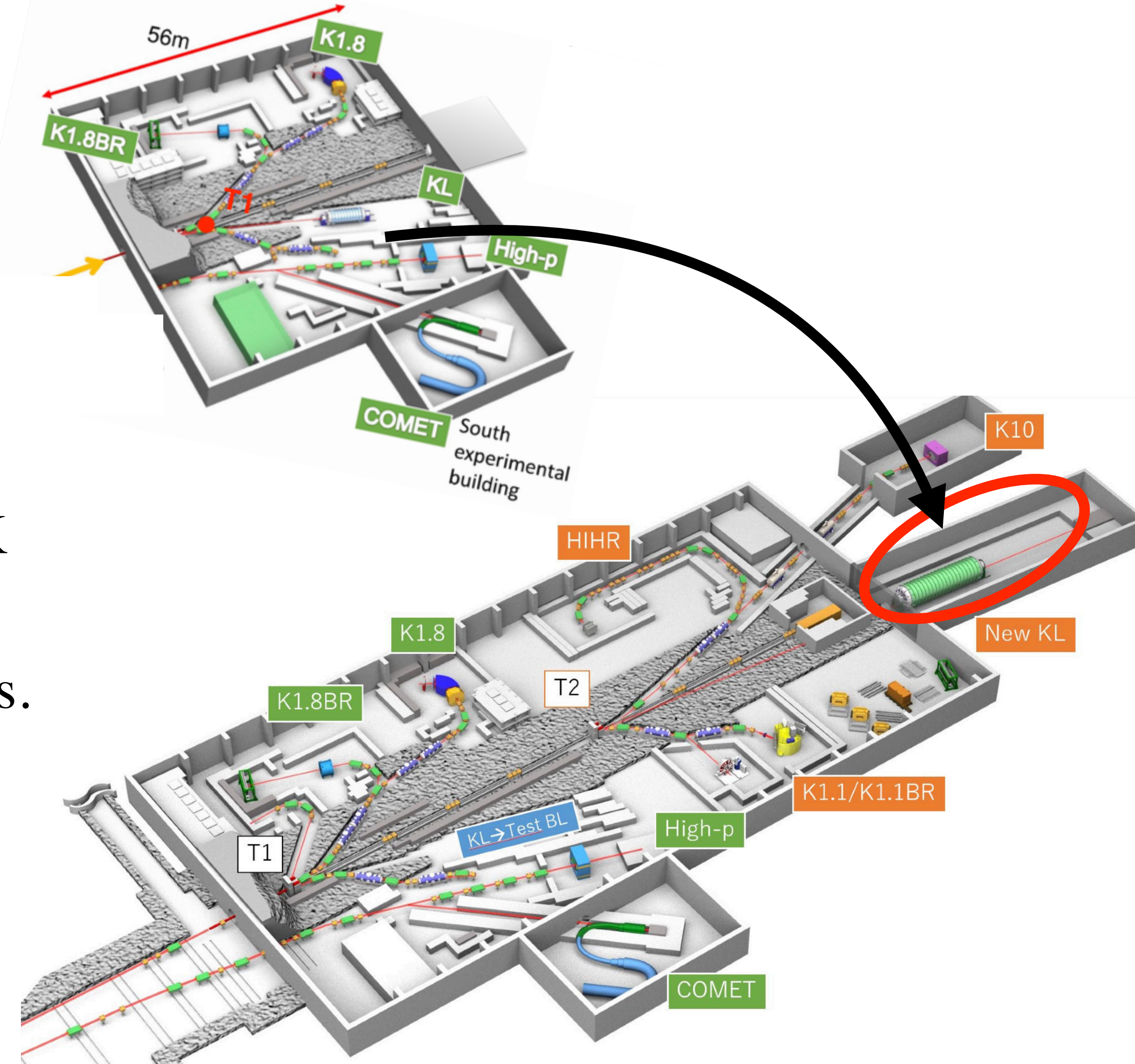
28 April 2022

<sup>4</sup>W. Altmannshofer, L. Bellantoni, E. Blucher, G.J. Bock, N.H. Christ, D. Denisov, Y. Grossman, S.H. Kettell, P. Laycock, J.D. Lewis, H. Nguyen, R. Ray, J.L. Ritchie, P. Rubin, R. Tschirhart, Y. Wah, E. Worcester, E.D. Zimmerman;



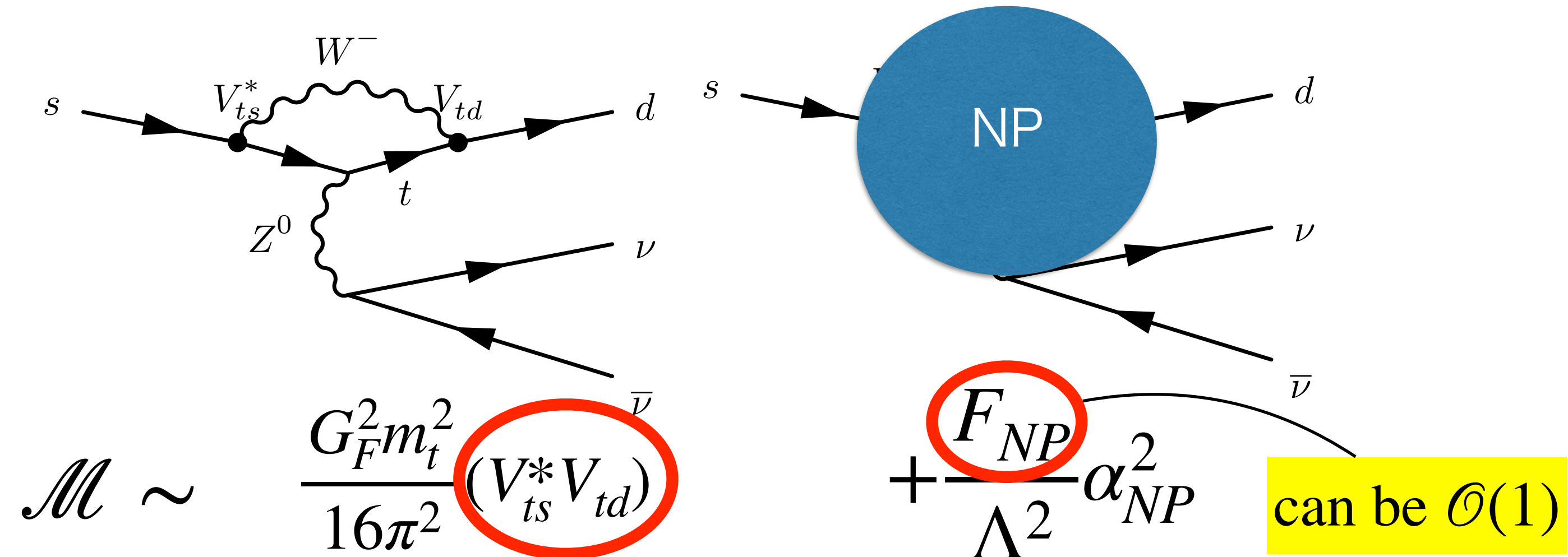
# News on KEK Project Implementation Plan 2022

- KEK : Largest laboratory in particle physics in Japan.
- Released the project implementation plan in JFY2022-2027 at June 24.
  - <https://www.kek.jp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/KEK-PIP2022.pdf>
- Extension of J-PARC hadron experimental facility has been selected as the 1st priority project for KEK to make new budget requests.
- This gives a large impact on the future Kaon physics.
  - KOTO step-2 is planned at the extend hadron experimental facility at J-PARC.
  - aiming at measurement of  $\mathcal{B}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \nu)$  with  $\sim 40$ -event observation.





# Kaon decay : $s \rightarrow d$



Characteristic structure !

	d	s	b
u	1	$\lambda$	$\lambda^3$
c	$-\lambda$	1	$\lambda^2$
t	$\lambda^3$	$-\lambda^2$	1

$\lambda \sim 0.23$

Dominant top contribution!

Most Suppressed!

$\times 1/100$

$$|V_{ts}^* V_{td}| \sim 5 \times 10^{-4} \ll |V_{tb}^* V_{td}| \sim 10^{-2} < |V_{tb}^* V_{ts}| \sim 4 \times 10^{-2}$$

$s \rightarrow d$                        $b \rightarrow d$                        $b \rightarrow s$

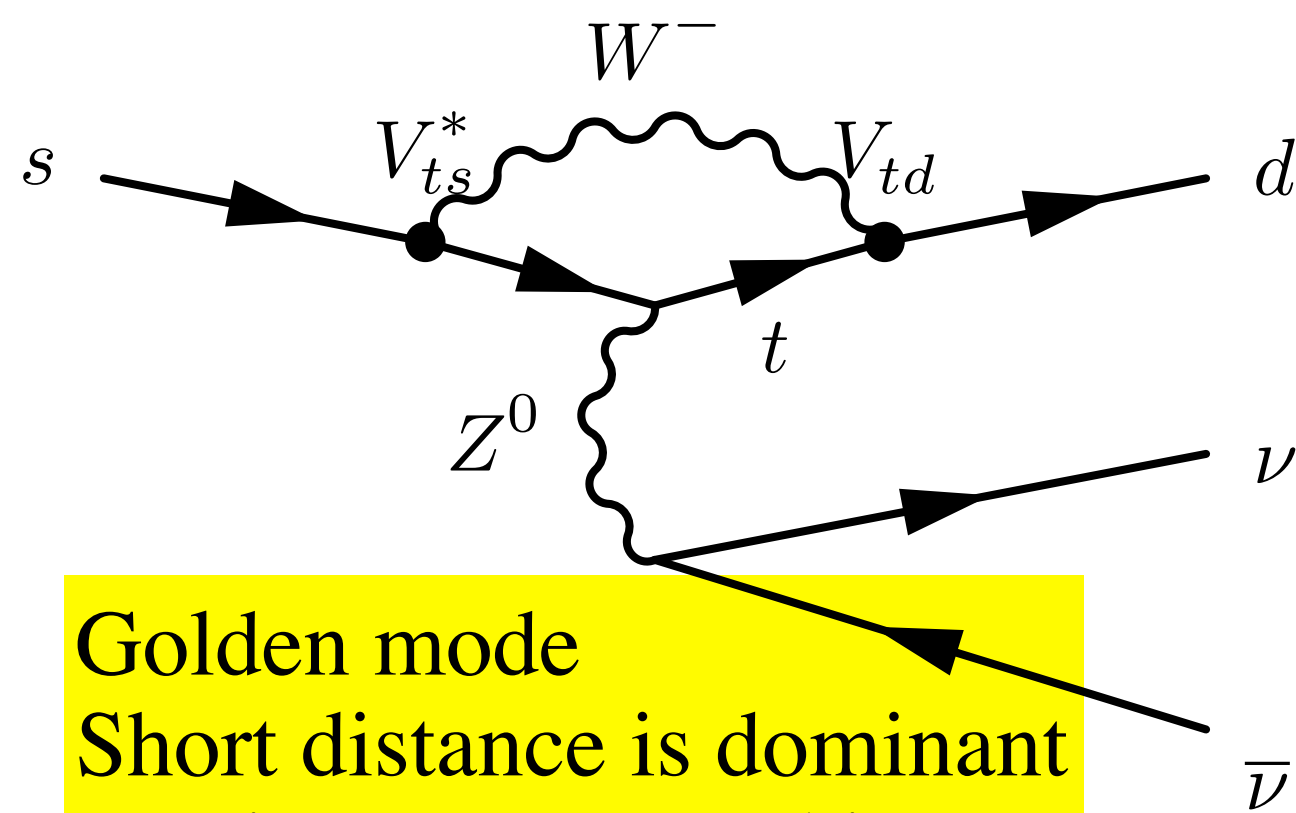
$s \rightarrow d$  : SM : Flavor transition : Most suppressed

NP : Flavor transition :  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ ?  $\rightarrow$  High energy scale  $\mathcal{O}(100\text{TeV})$



# Rare kaon decay observables

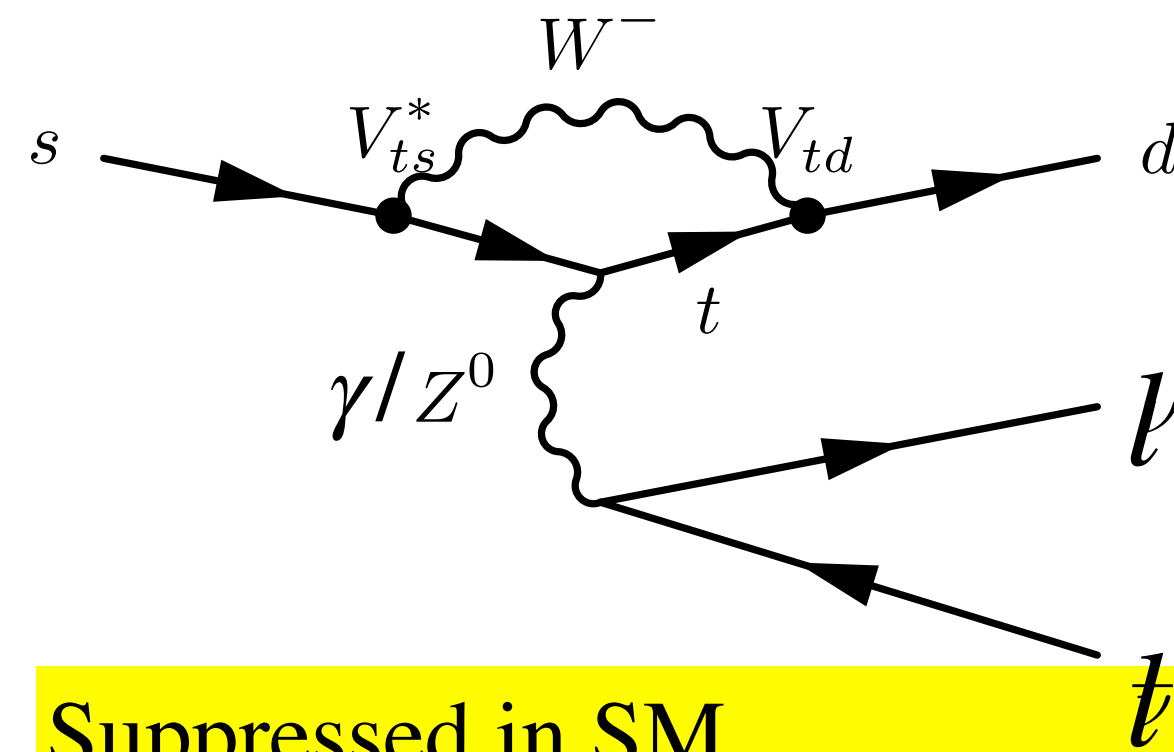
$$K \rightarrow \pi \nu \nu$$



Golden mode

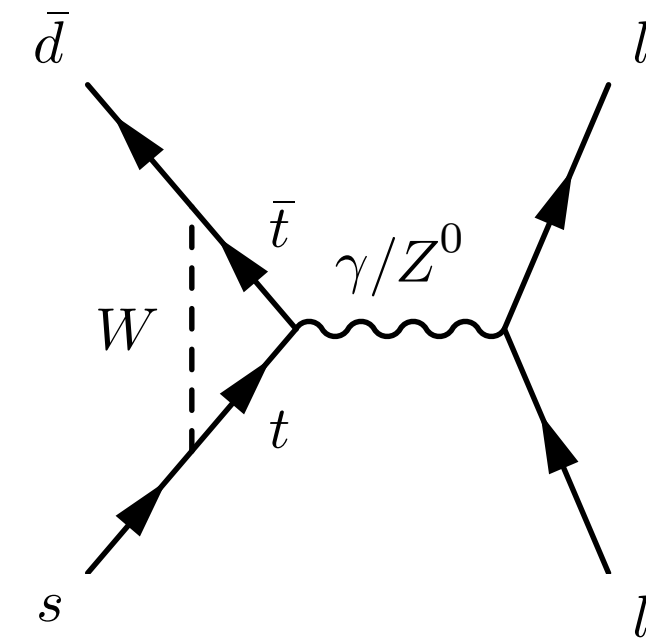
Short distance is dominant  
Precise, Suppressed in SM  
NP :  $\mathcal{O}(100)$  TeV

$$K \rightarrow \pi + [ee \text{ or } \mu\mu]$$

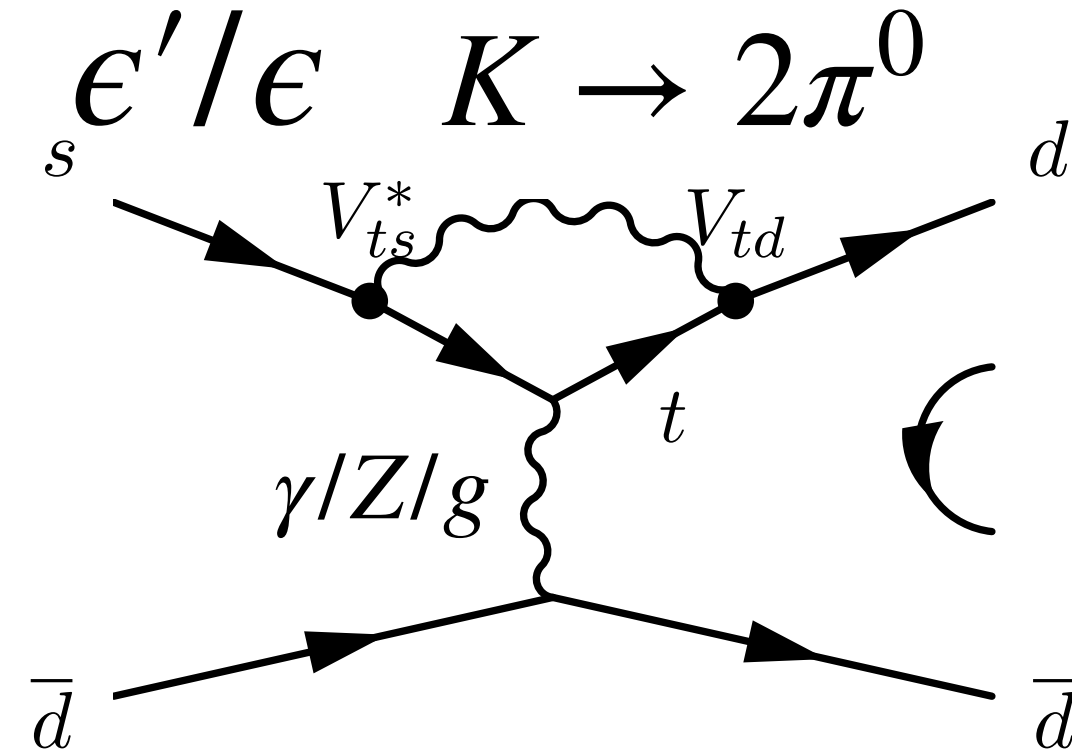


Suppressed in SM  
Larger uncertainty in SM  
Large room of search in  $K_L$  decay

$$K \rightarrow \mu\mu \text{ or } ee$$



Suppressed in SM  
Large room of search  
SD contribution can be extracted through interference



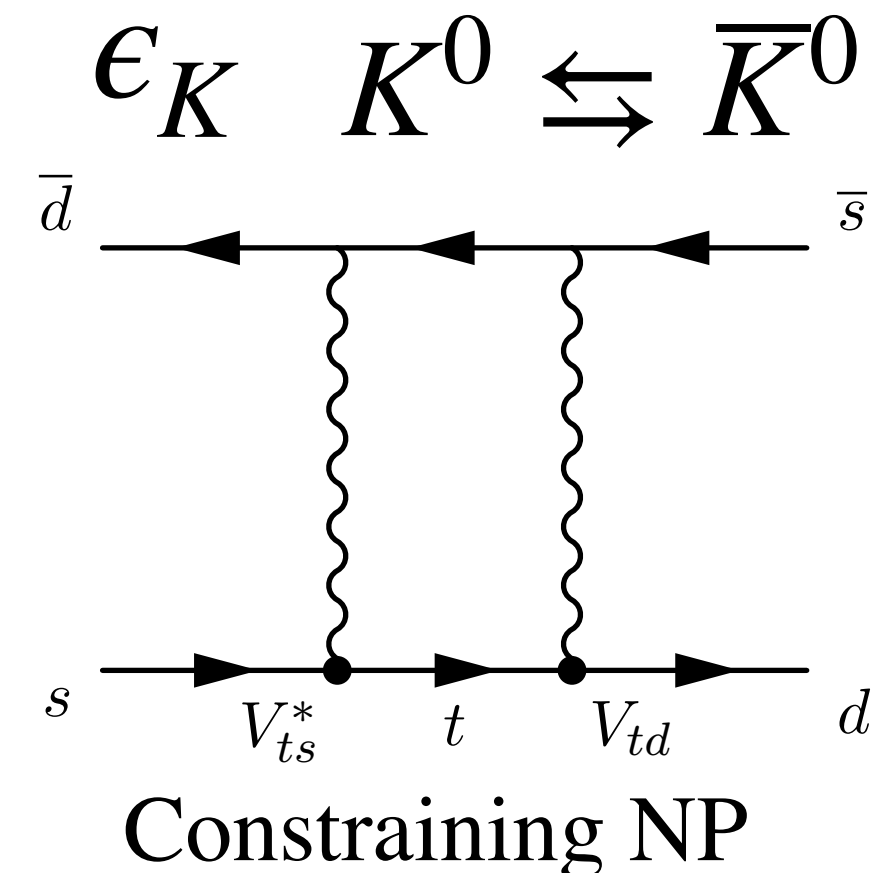
$\text{Re } \epsilon'/\epsilon =$   
 $(16.6 \pm 2.3) \times 10^{-4}$   
Consistent to SM  
:  $(15 \pm 5) \times 10^{-4}$

Mode	SM	Measurement	
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \nu$	$(8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11}$	$10.6^{+4.1}_{-3.5} \times 10^{-11}$	
$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \nu$	$(3.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-11}$	$< 3 \times 10^{-9}$	$\mathcal{CP}$
$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-$	$3.54^{+0.98}_{-0.85} (1.56^{+0.62}_{-0.49}) \times 10^{-11}$	$< 2.8 \times 10^{-10}$	$\mathcal{CP}$
$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu^+ \mu^-$	$1.41^{+0.28}_{-0.26} (0.95^{+0.22}_{-0.21}) \times 10^{-11}$	$< 3.8 \times 10^{-10}$	$\mathcal{CP}$ w/ LD
$K_S \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$	$(5.18 \pm 1.50_{\text{LD}} \pm 0.02_{\text{SD}}) \times 10^{-12}$	$< 2.1 \times 10^{-10}$	$\mathcal{CP}$ w/ LD

Dark sector :  $K \rightarrow \pi\phi, K \rightarrow lN, K \rightarrow \gamma A', \dots$

Lepton number/flavor violation :  $K \rightarrow \pi l^+ l^+, K \rightarrow \pi l_\alpha l_\beta, \dots$

Correlation to B-anomalies, g-2, ...



# Physics in $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \nu$

# $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \nu$ in SM

$$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$$

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

$$(3.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-11}$$

$$(8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11}$$

Calculated BR (SM)

Buras et al JHEP11(2015)33

Theoretical error

Mainly Parameter error from CKM matrix elements

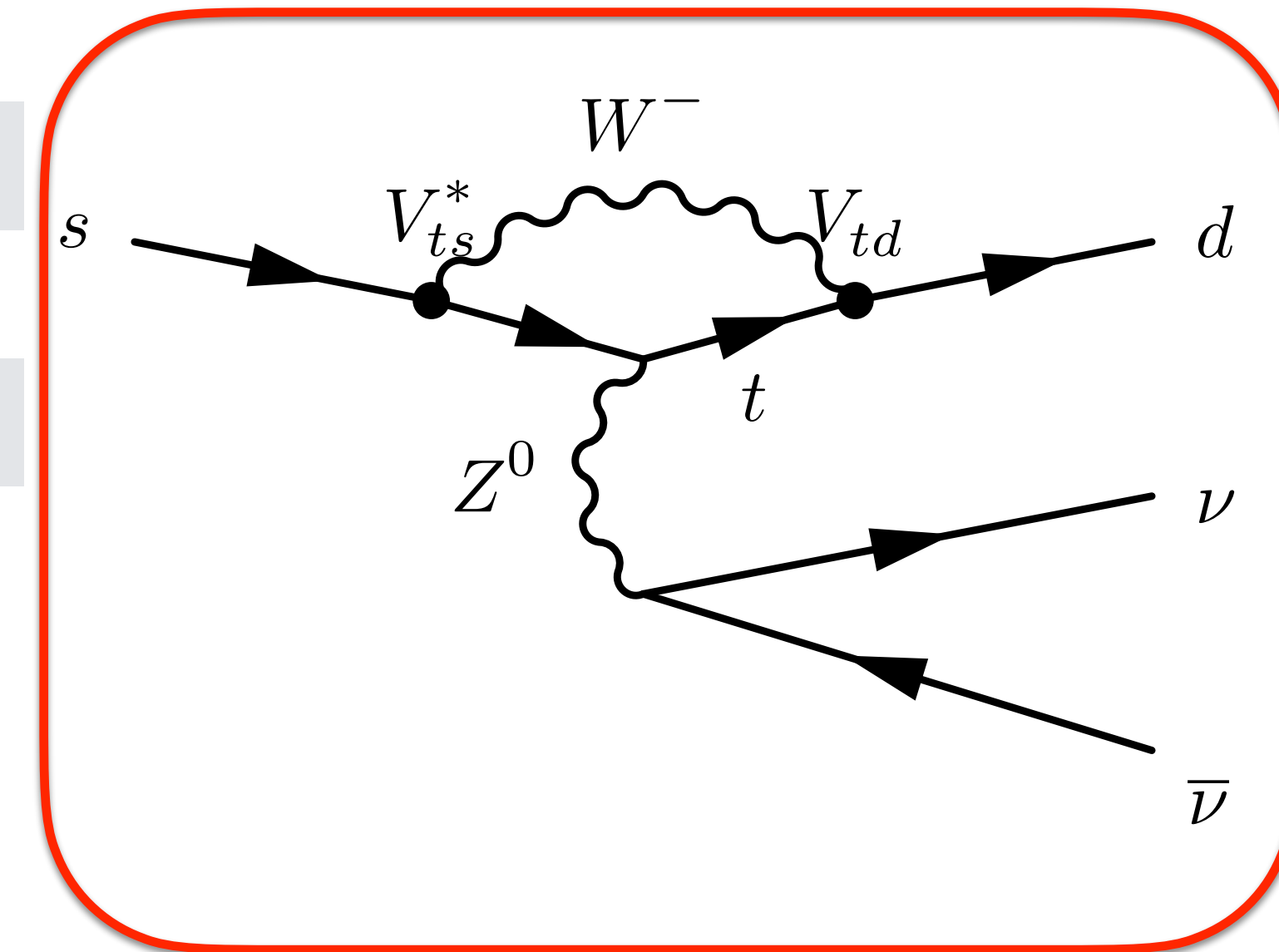
< 2 %

< 4 %

Quarks in loop

top

top, charm



Precise and Suppressed SM process(BG)  
 $\rightarrow$ BSM Physics search(Signal) 😊

High energy reach fro NP  
 $\mathcal{O}(100)$  TeV



# Correlation between $K_L$ and $K^+$ in $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$

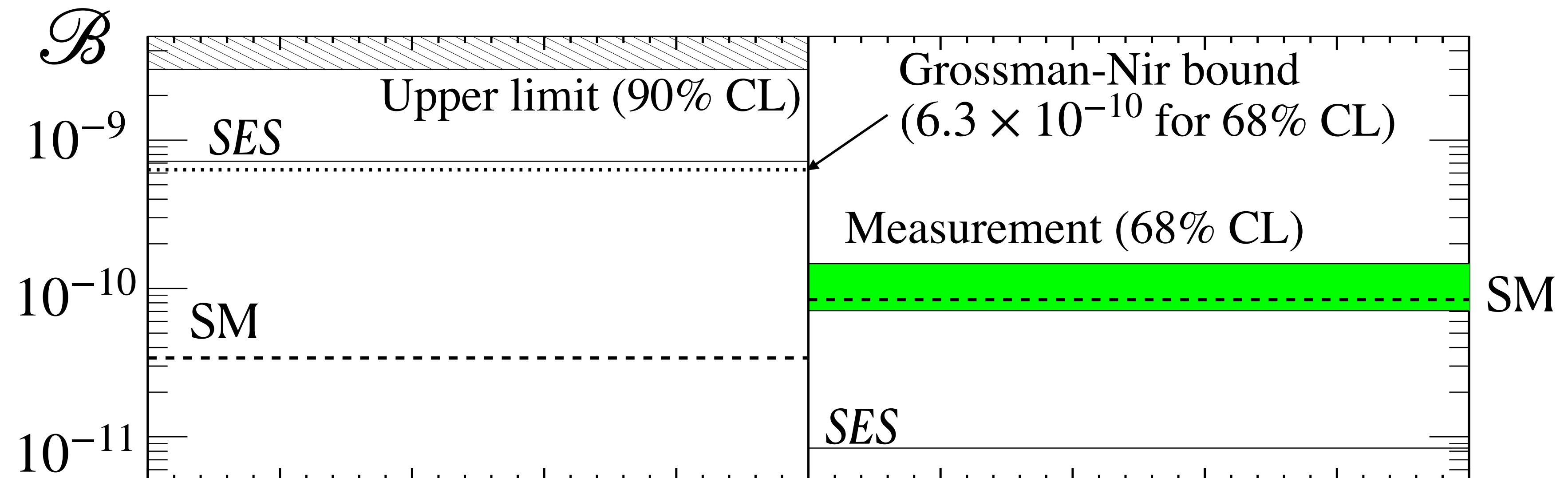
	$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$ $(K_L \sim (K^0 - \bar{K}^0)/\sqrt{2})$	$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$
Amplitude	$\propto \mathcal{A}_{s \rightarrow d} - (\mathcal{A}_{s \rightarrow d})^*$	$\propto \mathcal{A}_{s \rightarrow d}$
Width	$\propto (\text{Im} \mathcal{A}_{s \rightarrow d})^2$	$\propto  \mathcal{A}_{s \rightarrow d} ^2$
CP	CP violating	

Grossman-Nir bound :  
(Isospin symmetry in  $\Delta I=1/2$  process)

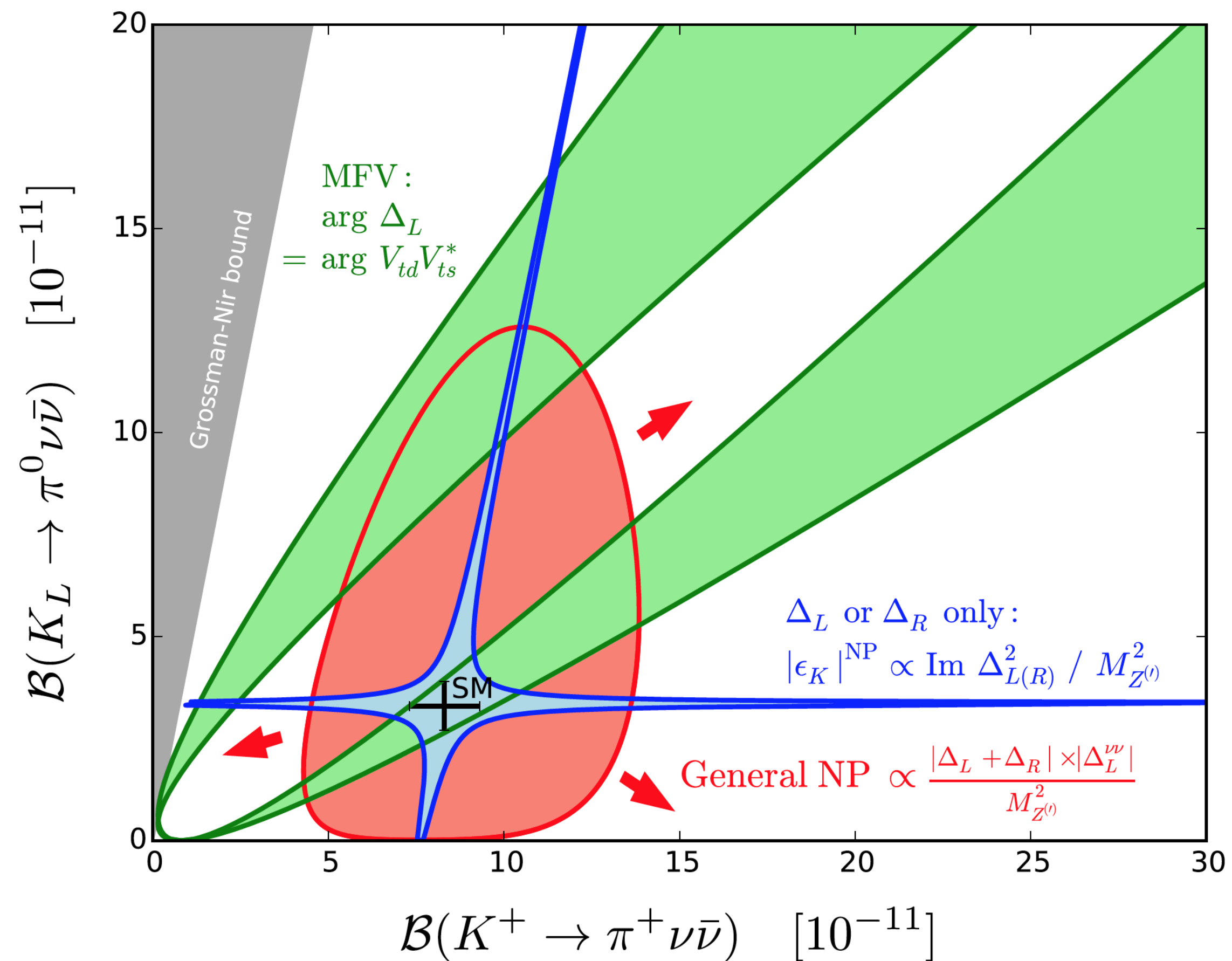
$$\mathcal{B}(K_L) < 4.3 \times \mathcal{B}(K^+)$$

# Experimental status on $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \nu$

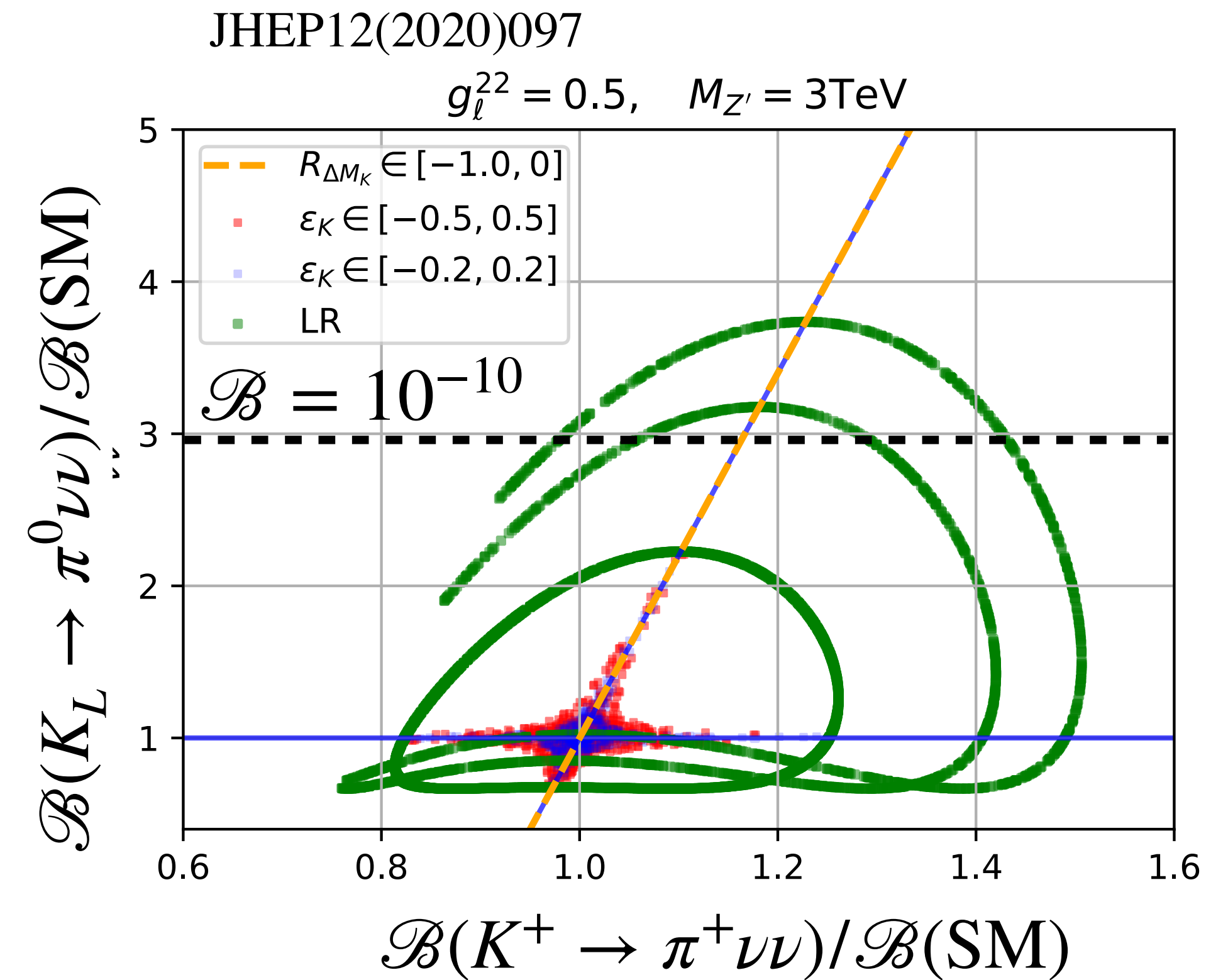
Experiments	$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$	$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$
	J-PARC KOTO	CERN NA62
Branching ratio	$< 3.0 \times 10^{-9}$ (90 % CL) <i>PRL</i> 122, 021802 (2019)	$(10.6^{+4.0}_{-3.4} \pm 0.9) \times 10^{-11}$ (68 % CL)
Single Event Sensitivity (SES)	$7.2 \times 10^{-10}$ <i>PRL</i> 126 (2021) 12, 121801	$0.84 \times 10^{-11}$ <i>JHEP</i> 06 (2021) 093



# New physics contributions



$Z'$ , leptoquark, SUSY, charged Higgs...



Flavor-violating  $Z'$  coupling





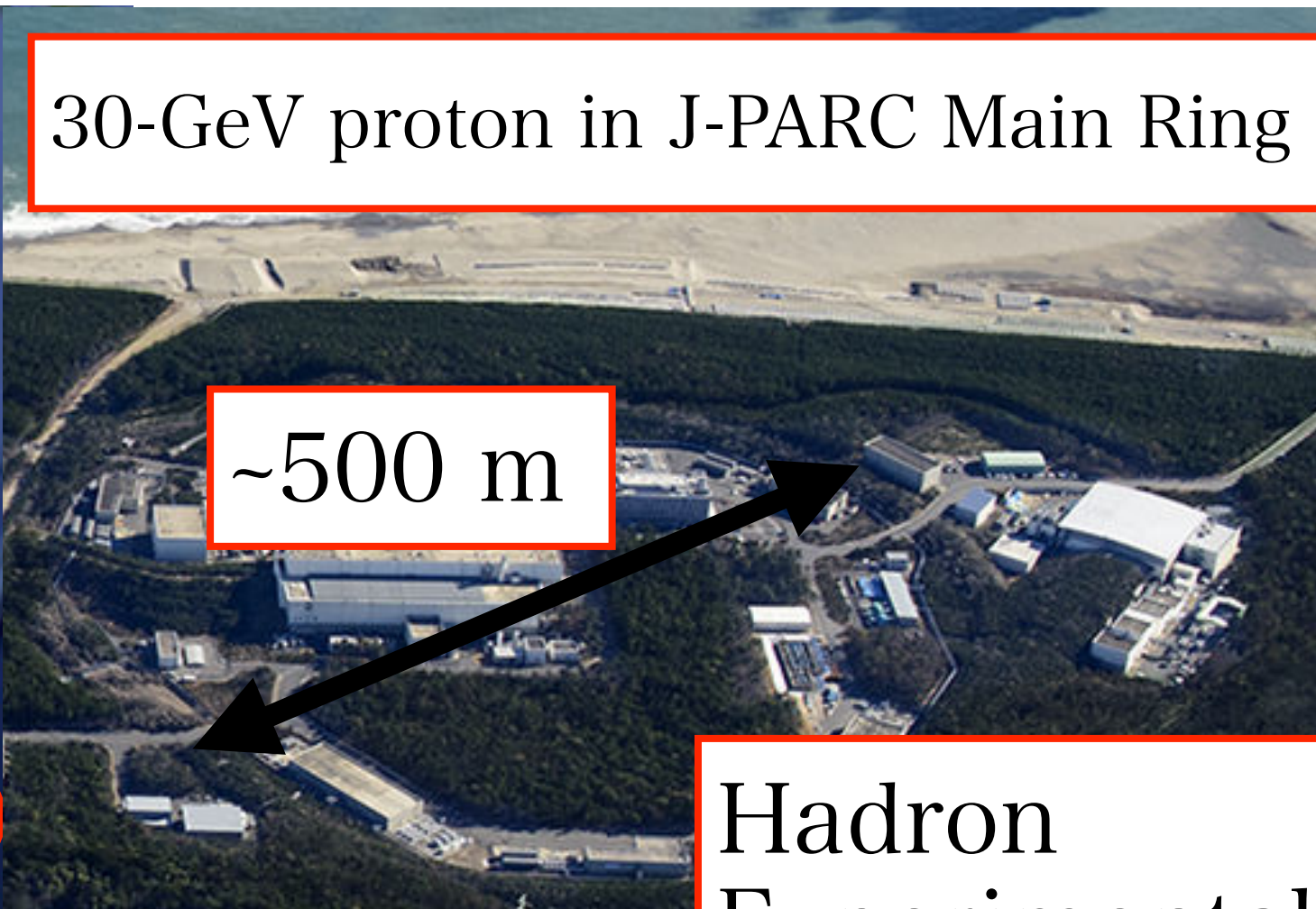
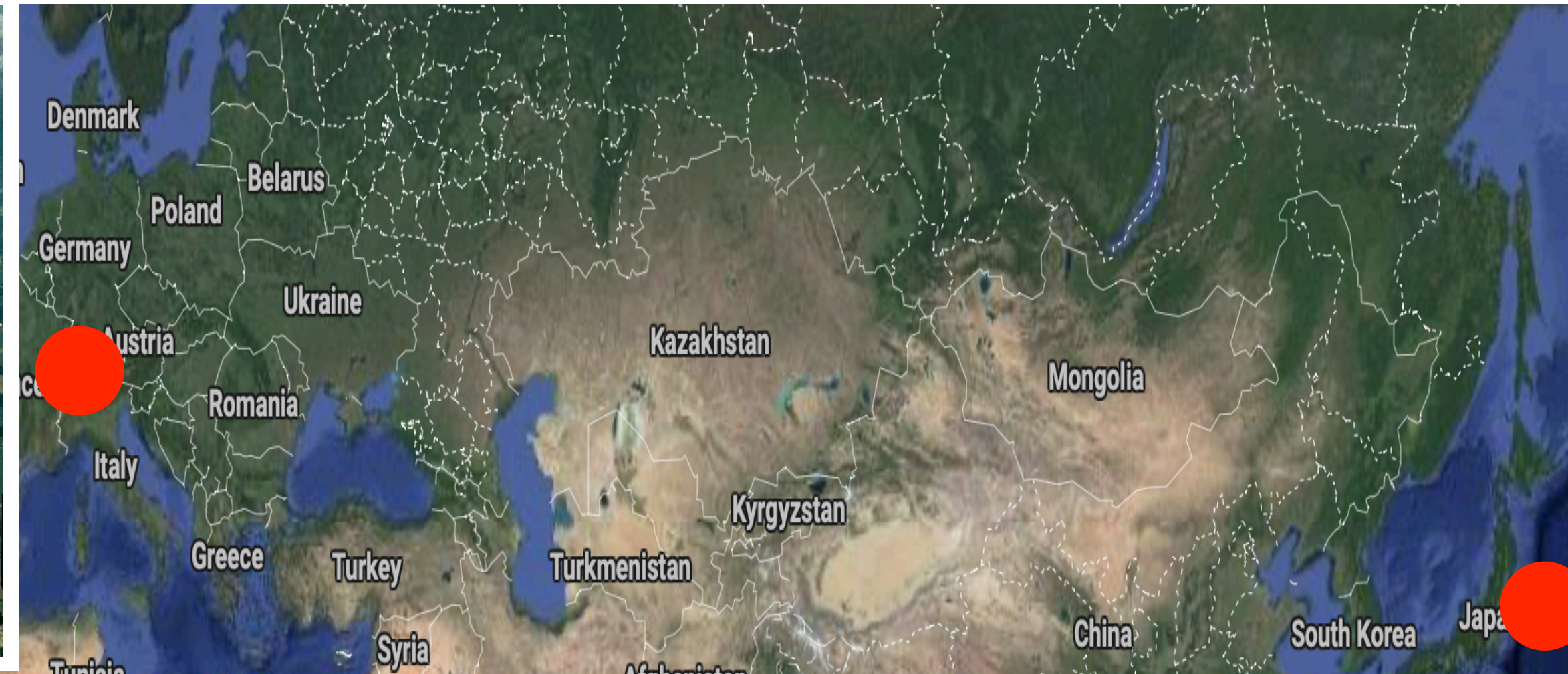
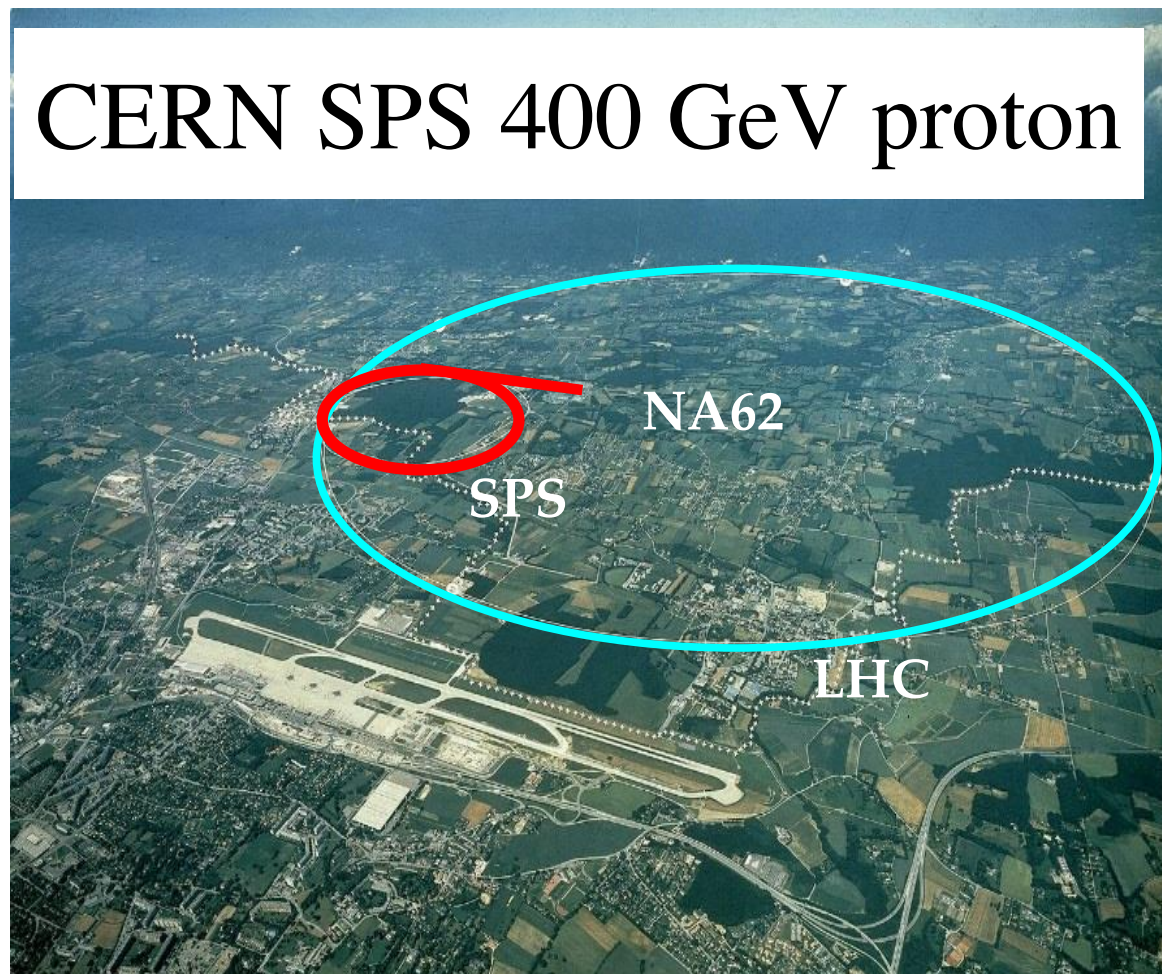
# On-going experiments for $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$



NA62 experiment :  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$

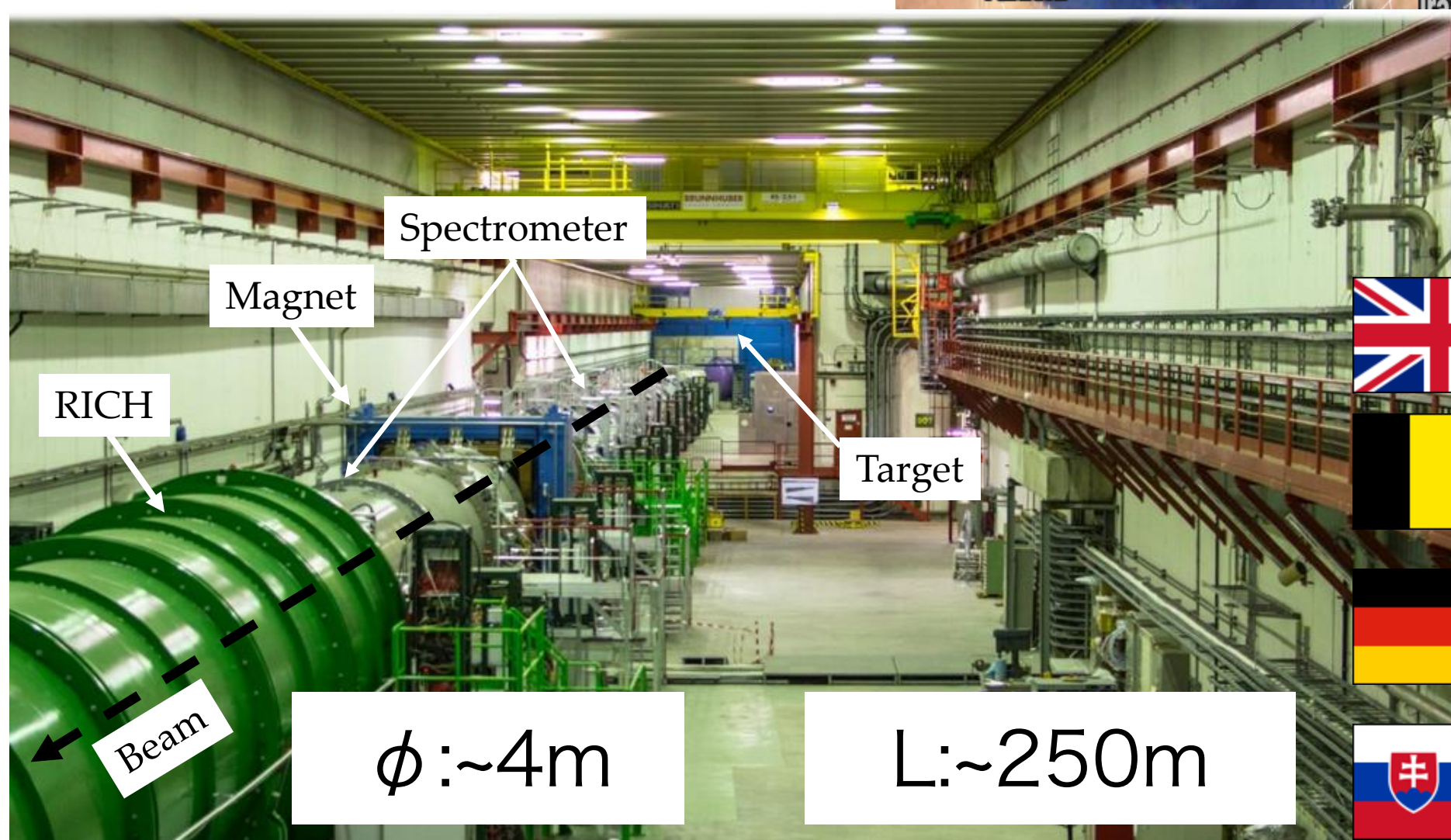
US is contributing both.

KOTO experiment :  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$



~500 m

Hadron Experimental Facility

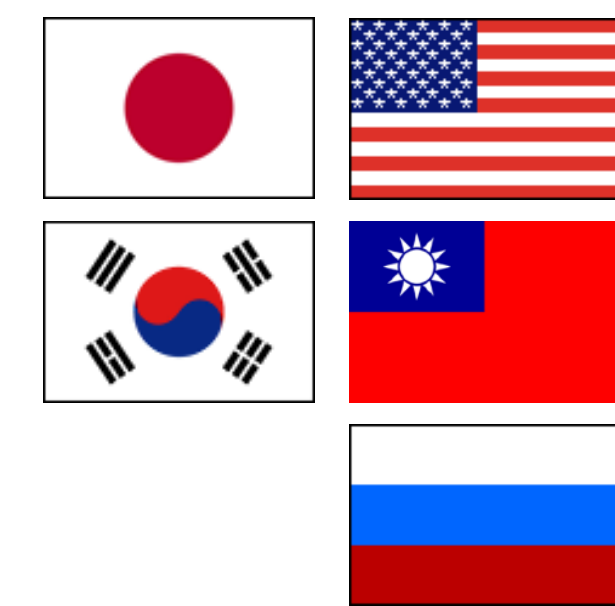


$\phi : \sim 4\text{m}$

L:  $\sim 250\text{m}$



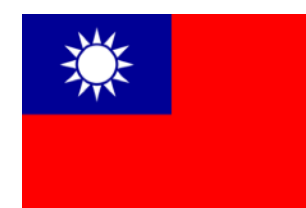
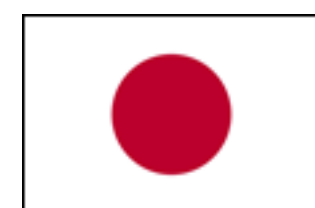
$\phi \sim 4\text{m}$ , 8.5m-long vacuum tank





# KOTO experiment at J-PARC

KOTO (K0 at Tokai)



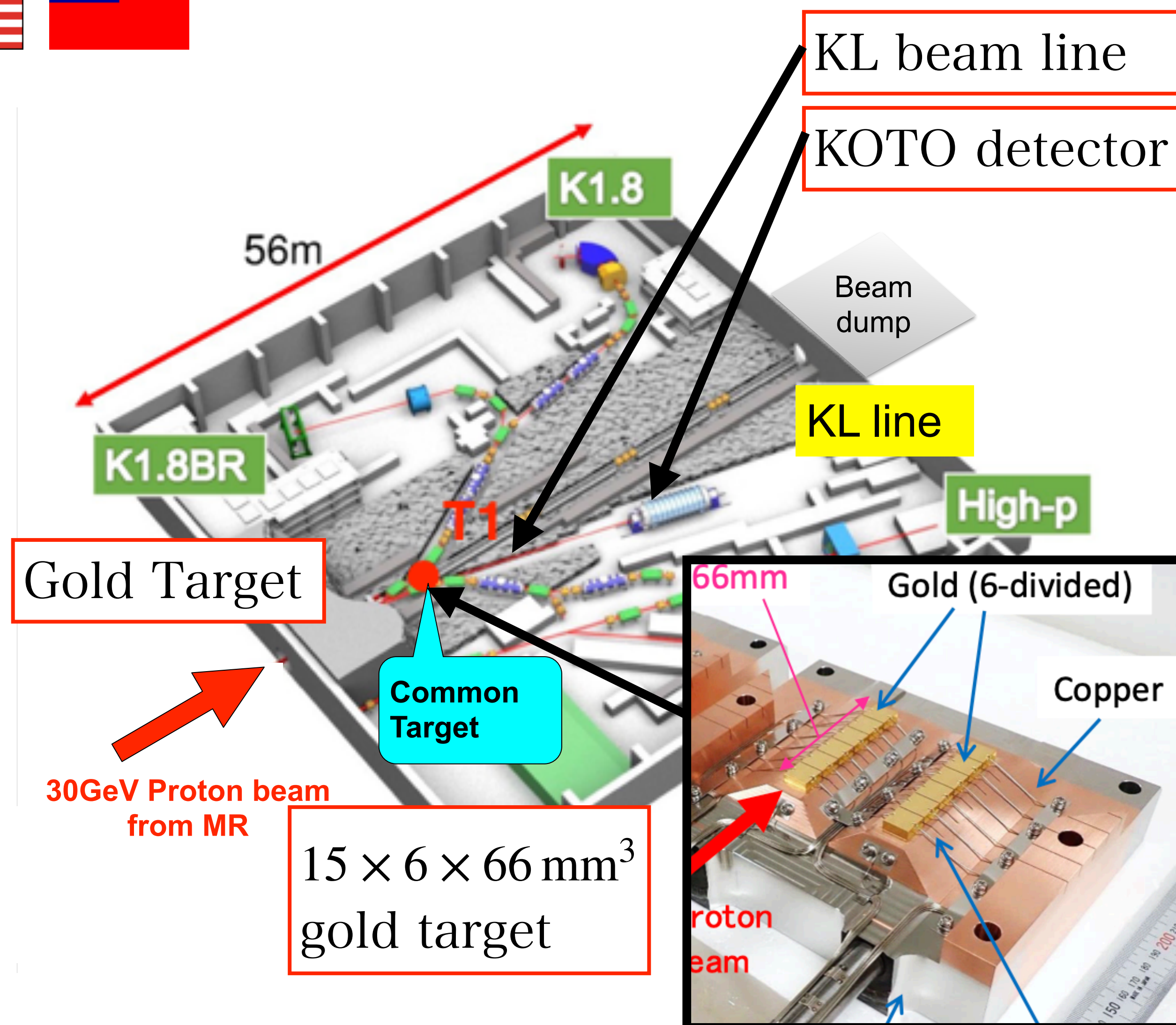
search for  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$

J-PARC at Tokai village

Hadron  
Experimental  
Facility

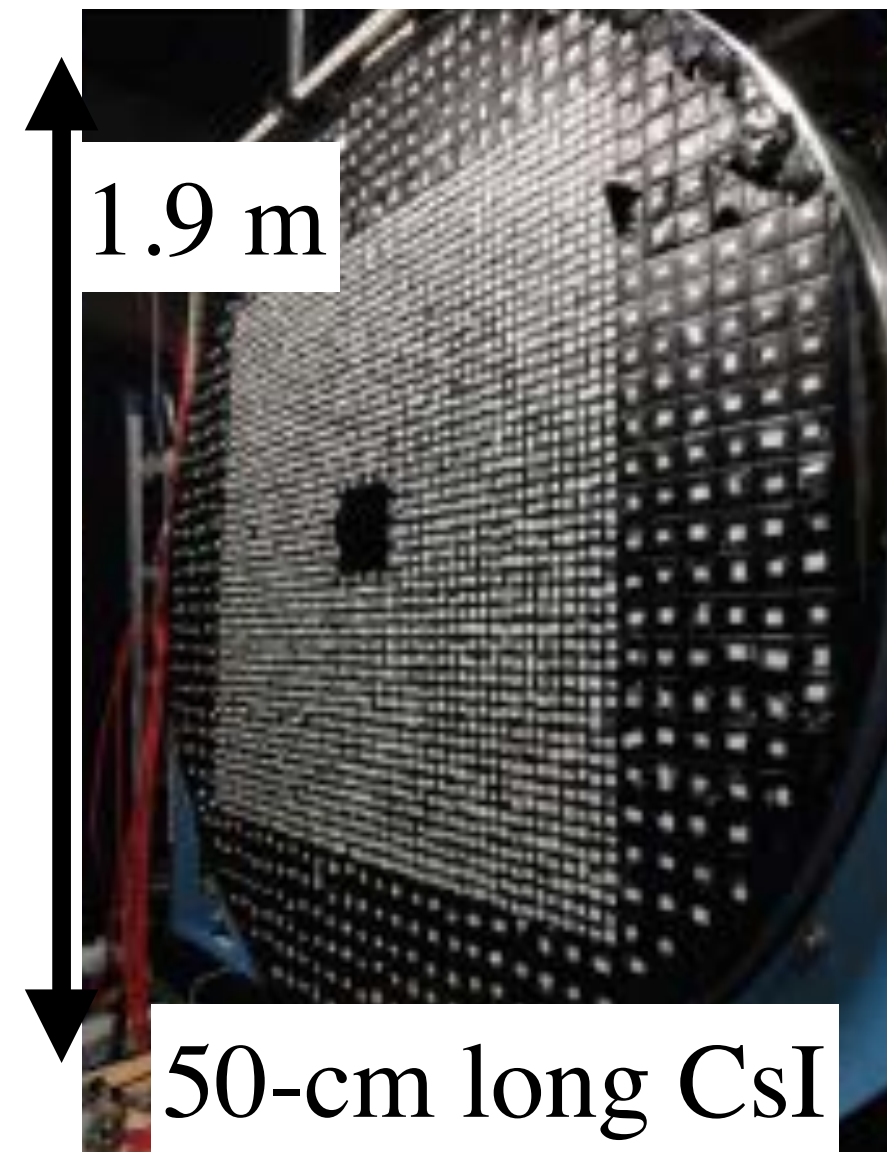
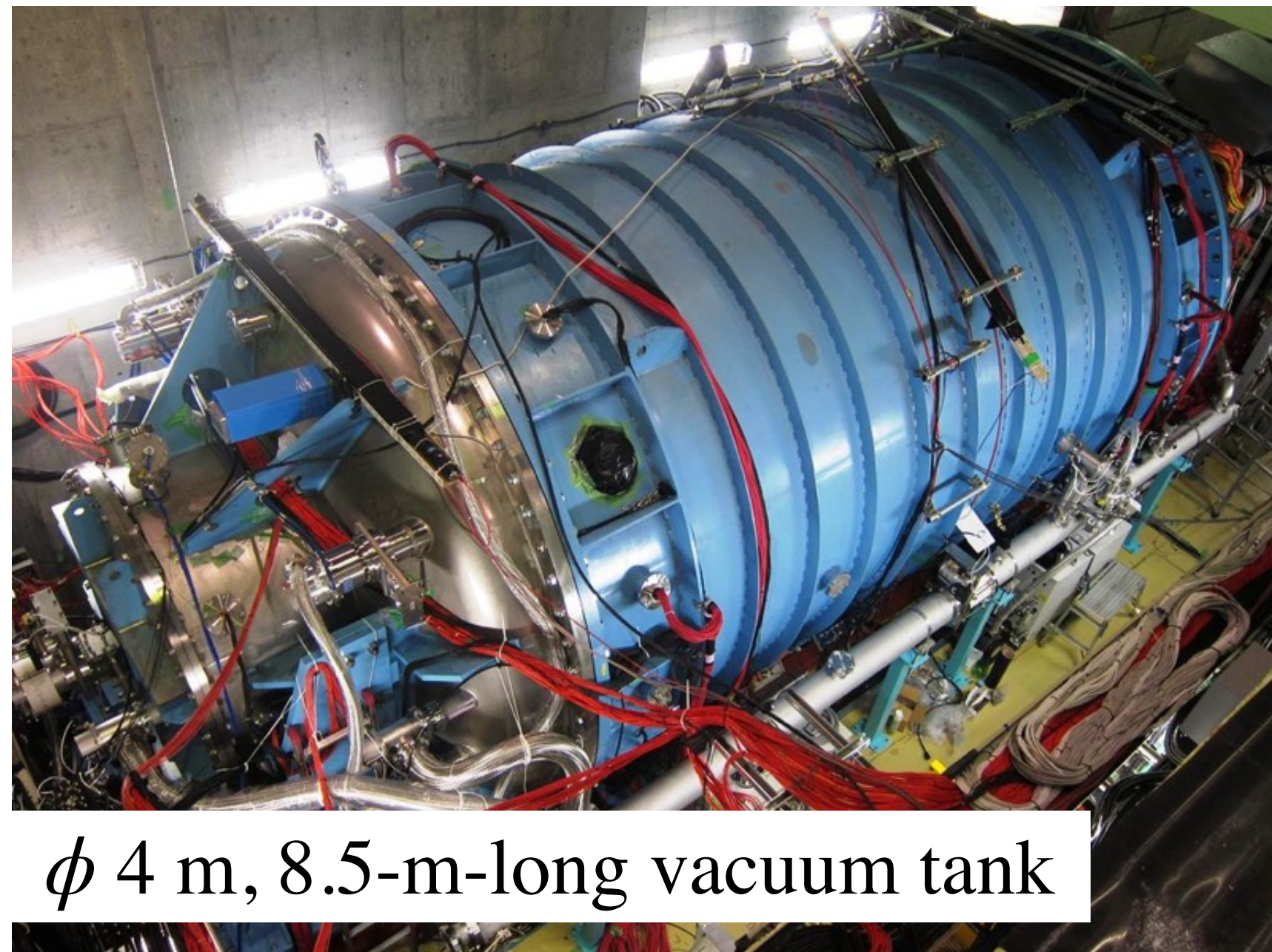
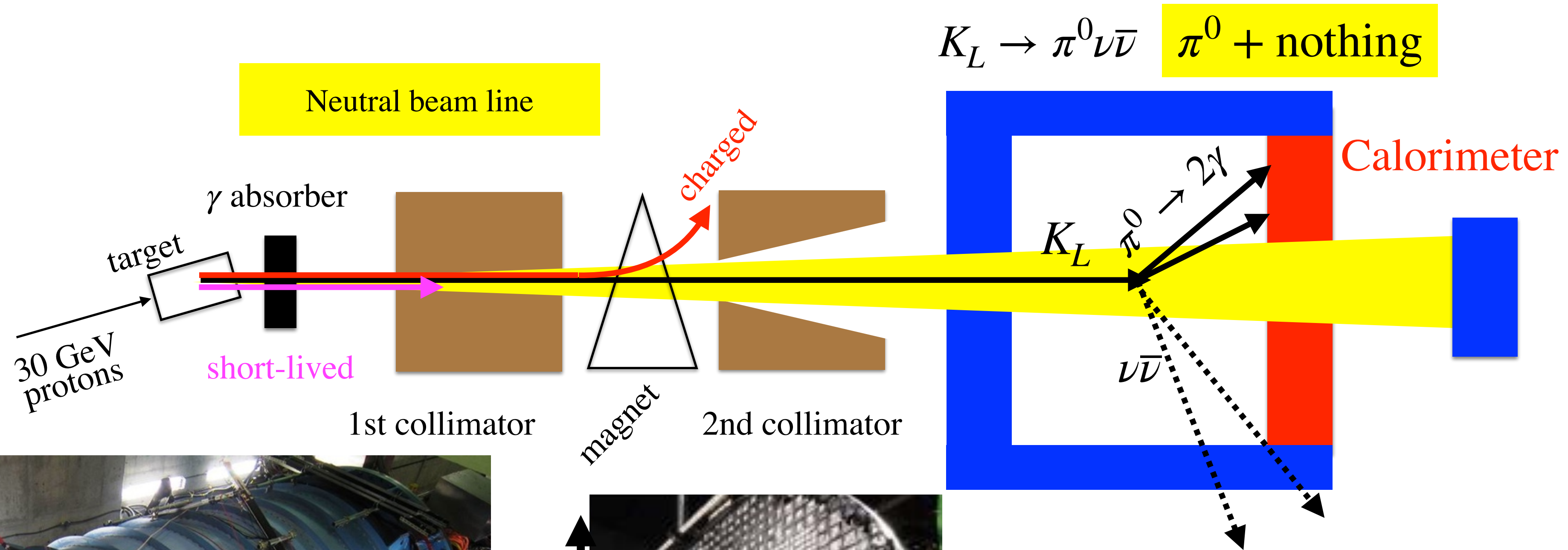
~500 m

30-GeV proton in J-PARC Main Ring





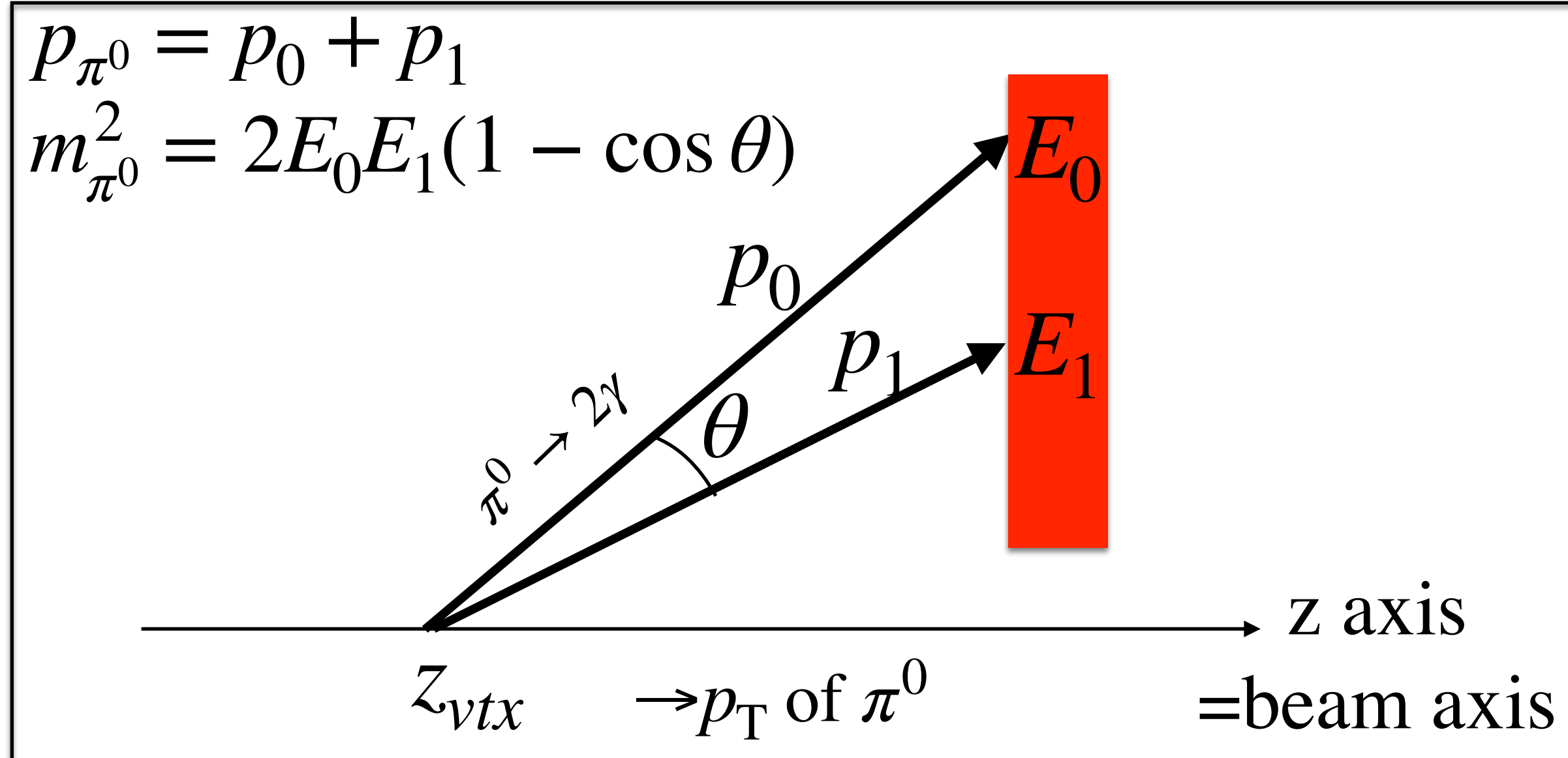
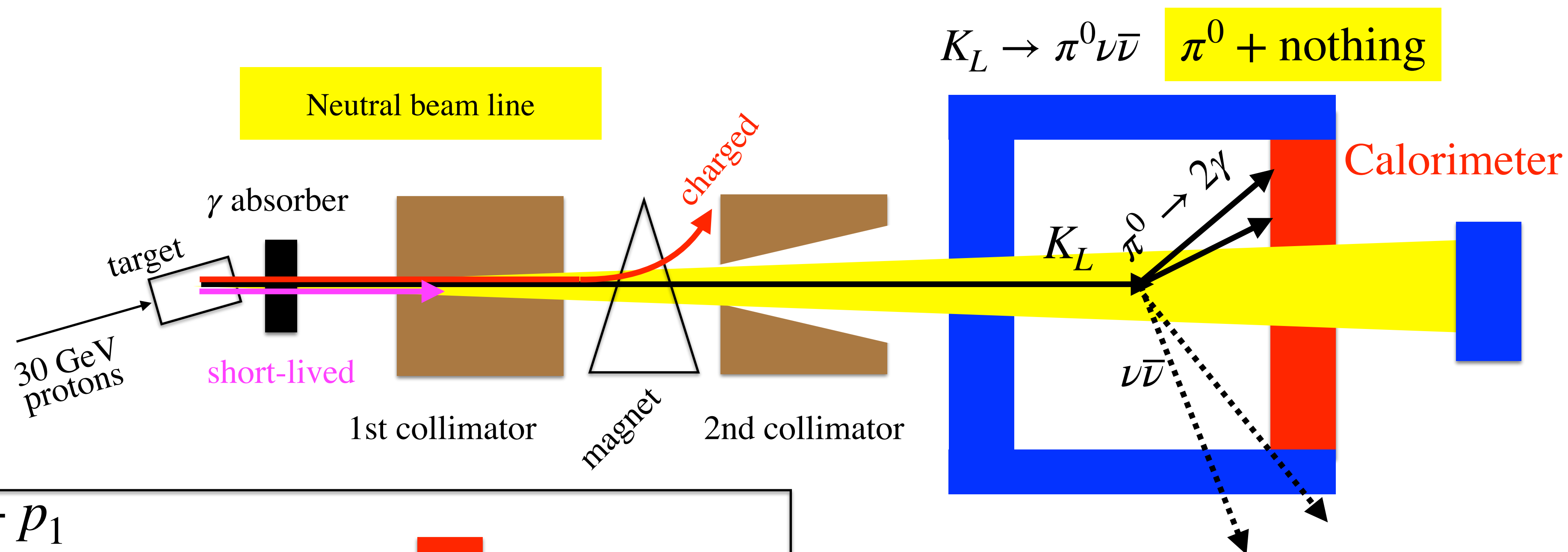
# Concept of the KOTO experiment



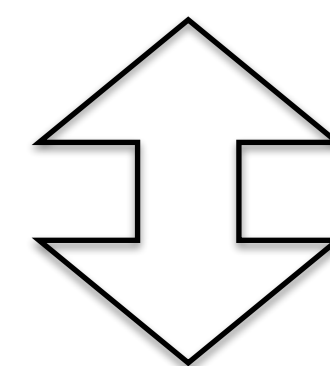
Diameter  $\sim 1.9$  m  
 50-cm long CsI crystals  
 Cross section  
 $2.5 \text{ cm} \times 2.5 \text{ cm}$   
 $5 \text{ cm} \times 5 \text{ cm}$



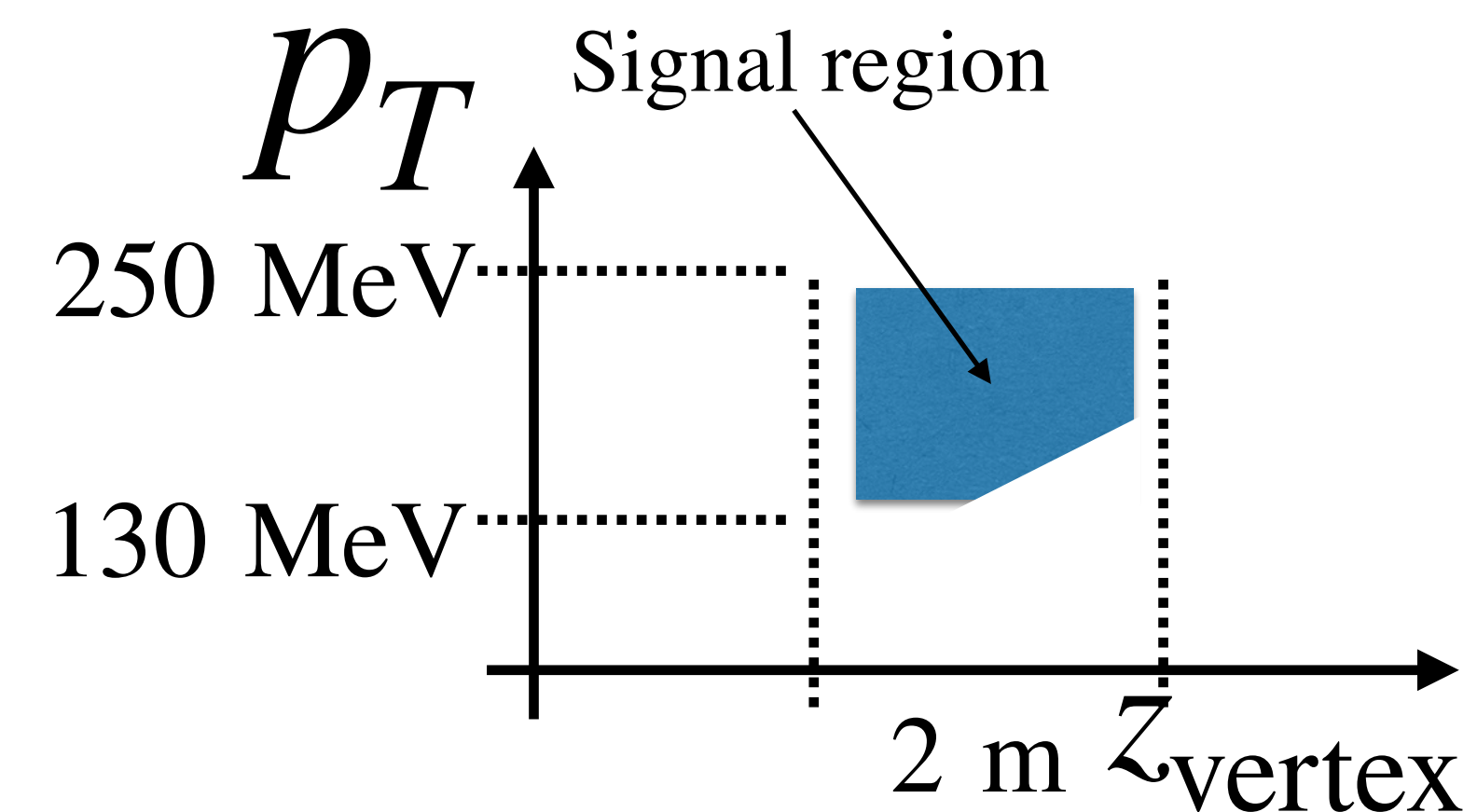
# Signal reconstruction



Assume the vertex  
on beam axis

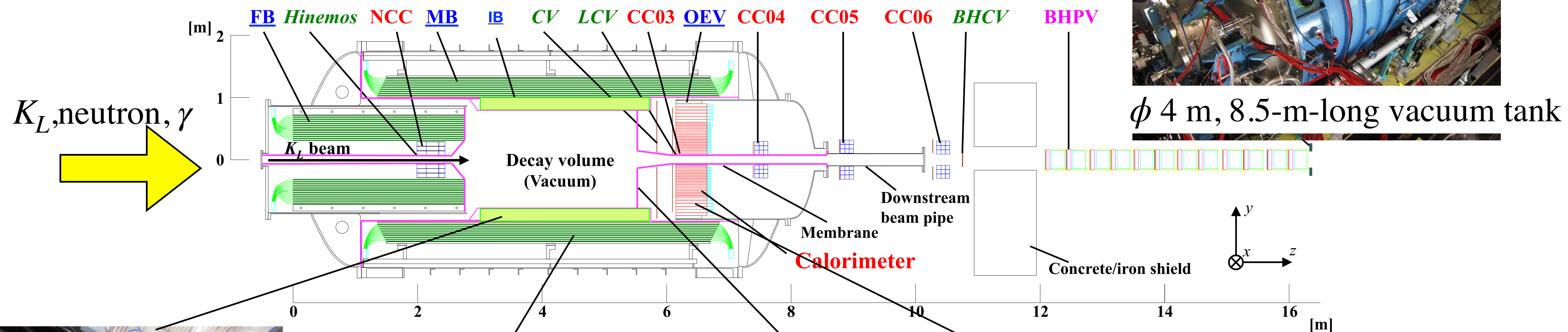


Narrow beam

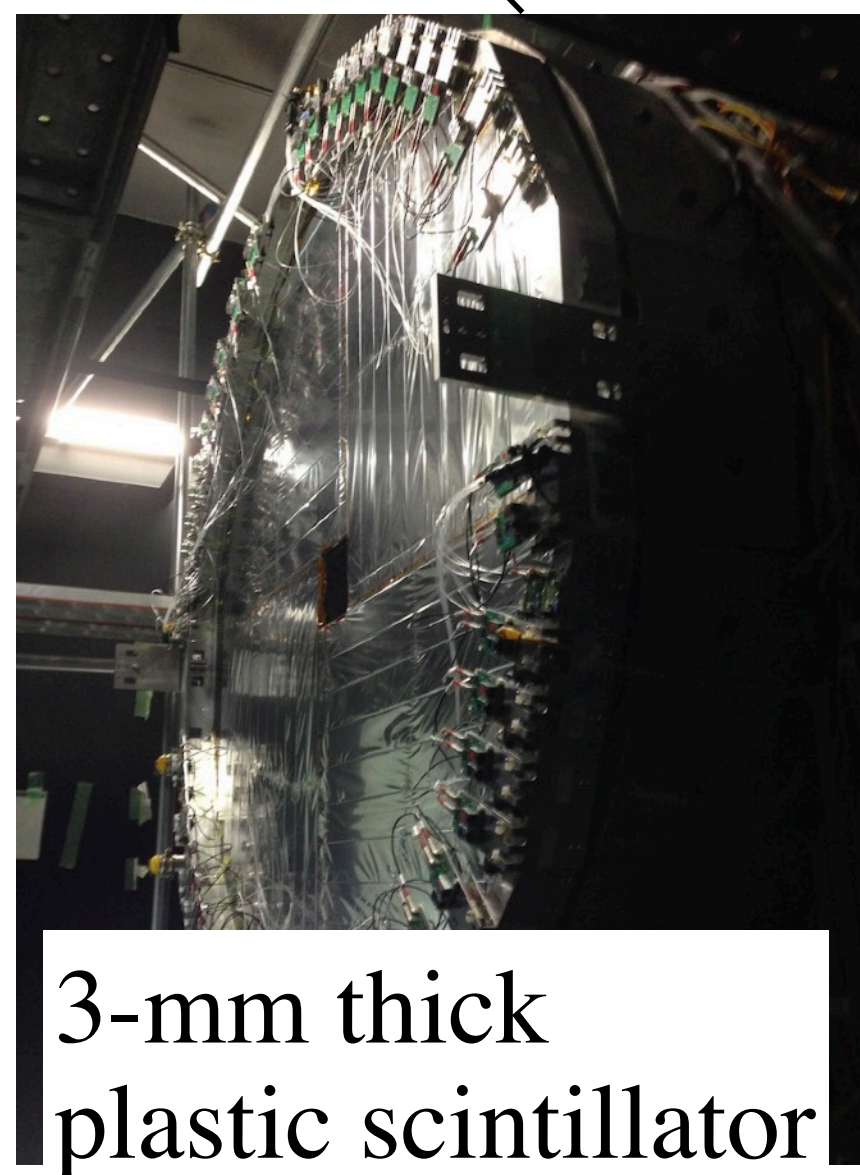
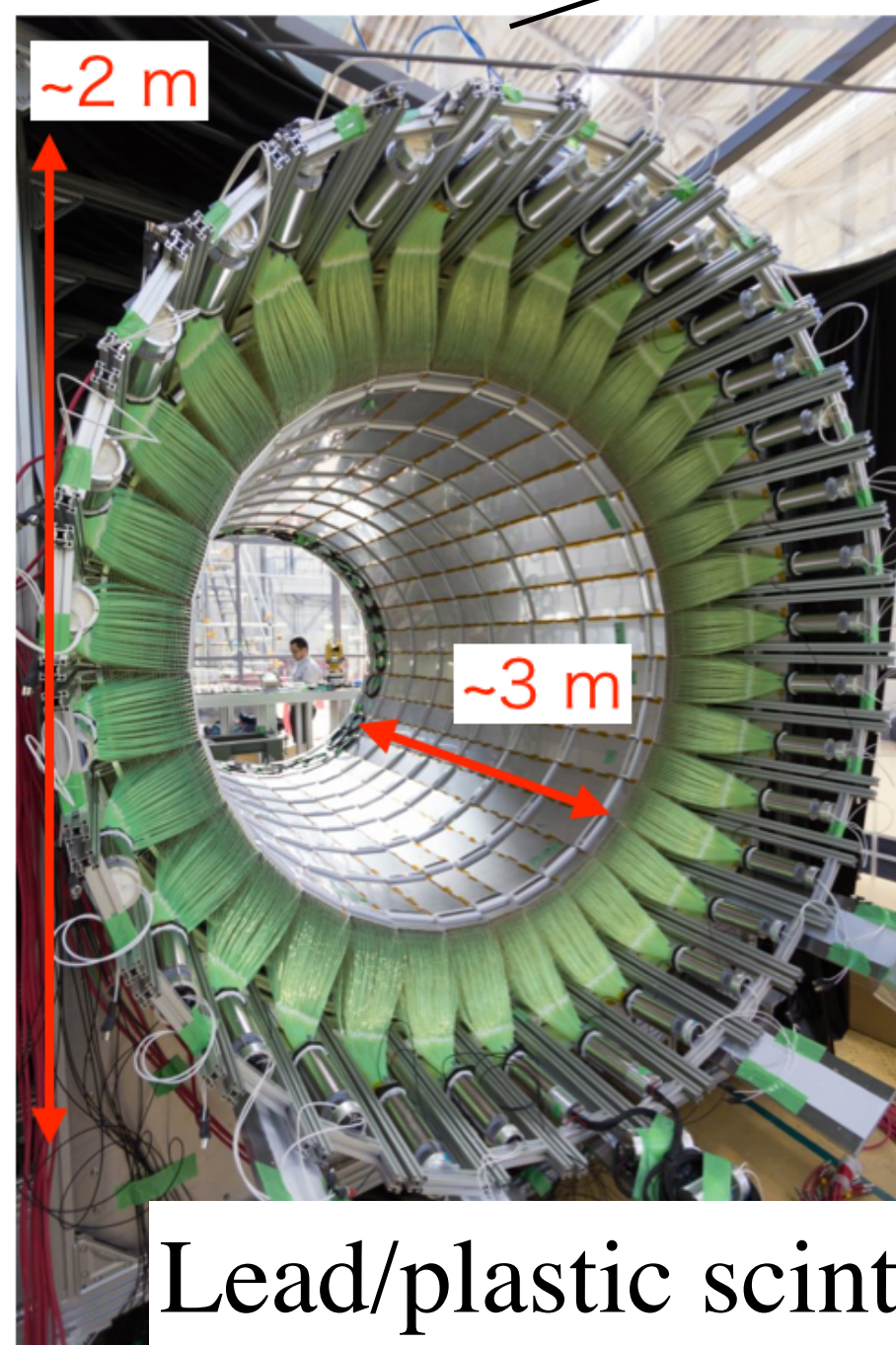




# KOTO detector



$\phi$  4 m, 8.5-m-long vacuum tank



1.9 m

Lead/plastic scintillator sandwich counter

3-mm thick plastic scintillator

50-cm long CsI



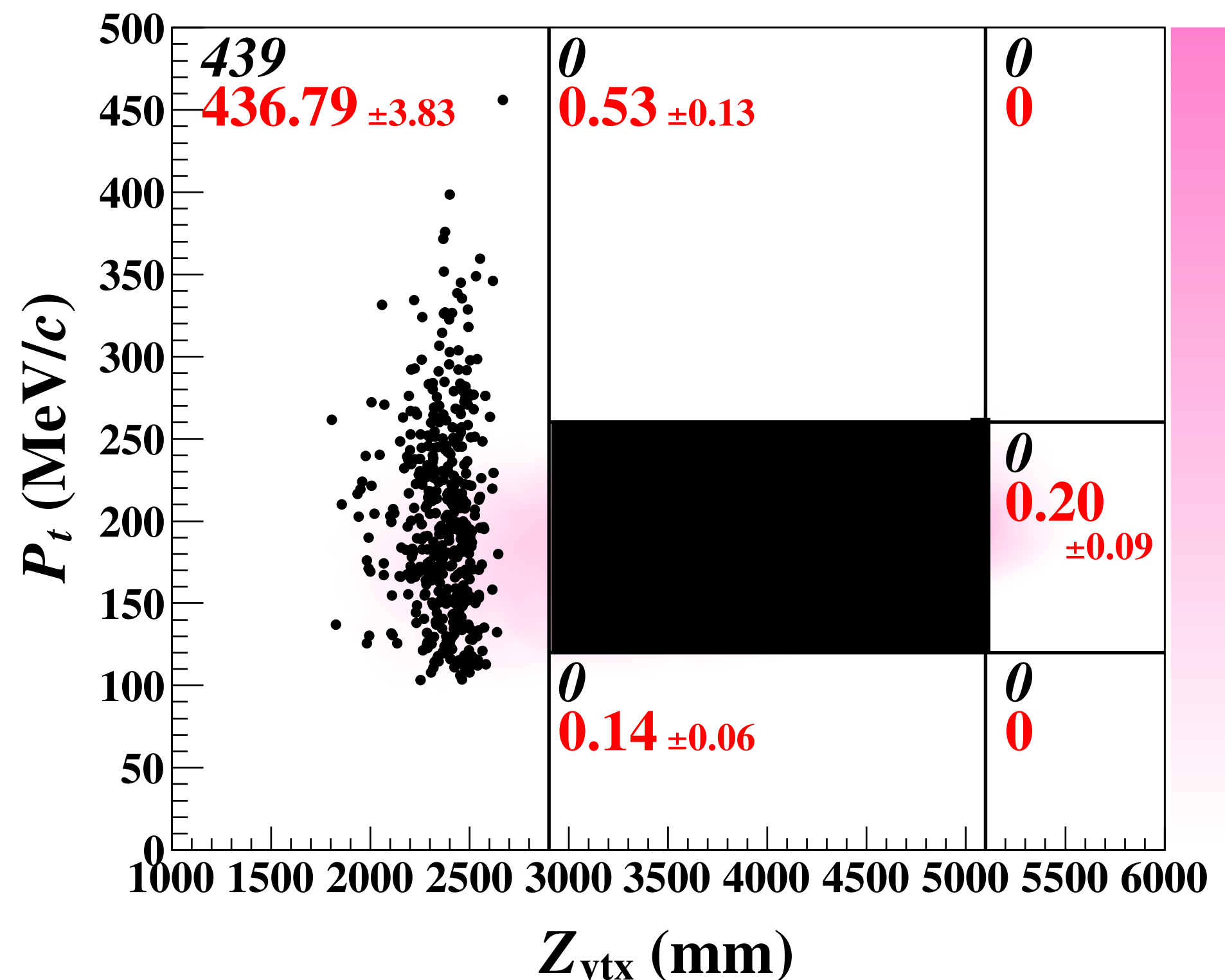
# Results of 2016-18 analysis

Phys.Rev.Lett.126(121801)(2021)

$$\text{SES}=(7.20 \pm 0.05_{stat.} \pm 0.66_{syst.}) \times 10^{-10}$$

3 events observed

$$\mathcal{B}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) < 4.9 \times 10^{-9} \text{ (90 \% CL)}$$

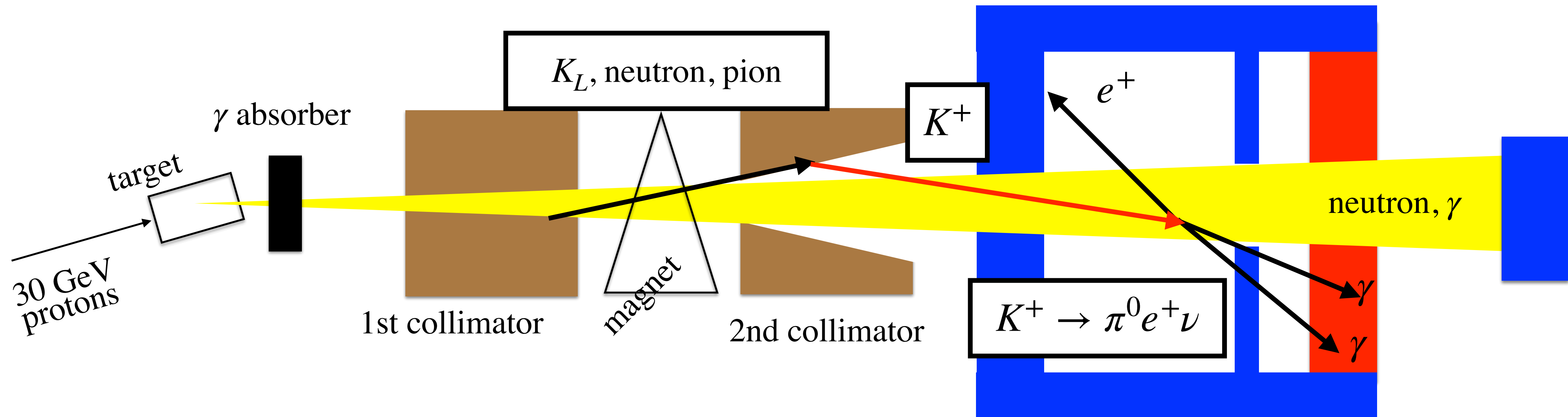


- No events in the surrounding regions except for the upstream region
- New background sources were found
  - # of observed events is consistent to # of backgrounds

Source		Number of events
$K_L$	$K_L \rightarrow 3\pi^0$	$0.01 \pm 0.01$
	$K_L \rightarrow 2\gamma$ (beam halo)	$0.26 \pm 0.07^a$
	Other $K_L$ decays	$0.005 \pm 0.005$
		$0.87 \pm 0.25^a$
$K^\pm$	Neutron	$0.017 \pm 0.002$
	Hadron cluster	$0.03 \pm 0.01$
	CV $\eta$	$0.03 \pm 0.03$
	Upstream $\pi^0$	$1.22 \pm 0.26$
Total		



# Charged kaon background



$K^\pm$  generated in the 2nd collimator due to hadronic interaction

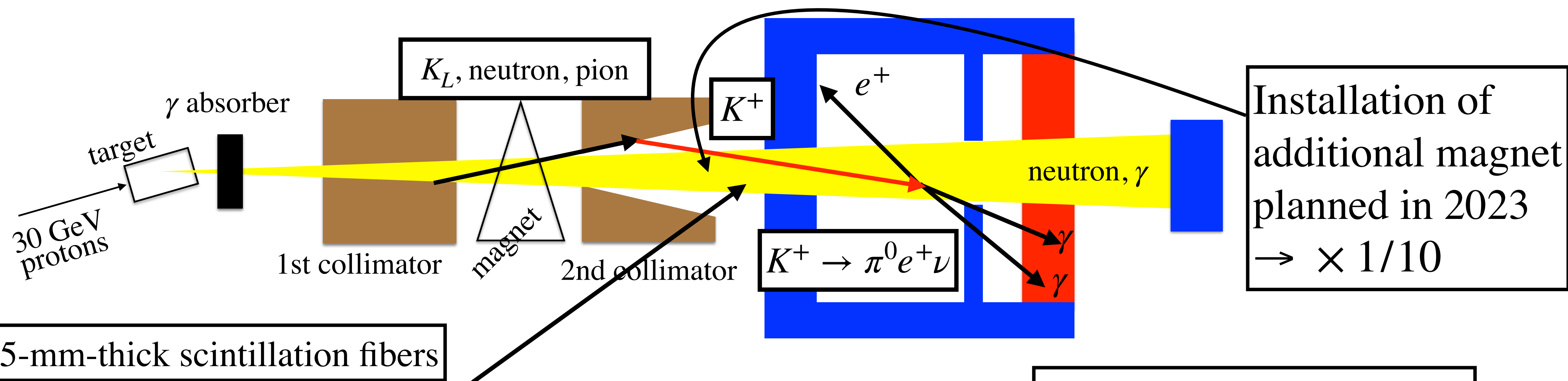
$$\text{Flux : } K^+/K_L \sim 10^{-5}$$

$$\mathcal{B}(K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^0 e^\pm \nu) = 5\%$$

Backward-going  $e^\pm \rightarrow$  low energy  $\rightarrow$  missed due to the detector inefficiency  
 $\pi^0$  kinematics is similar to the signal



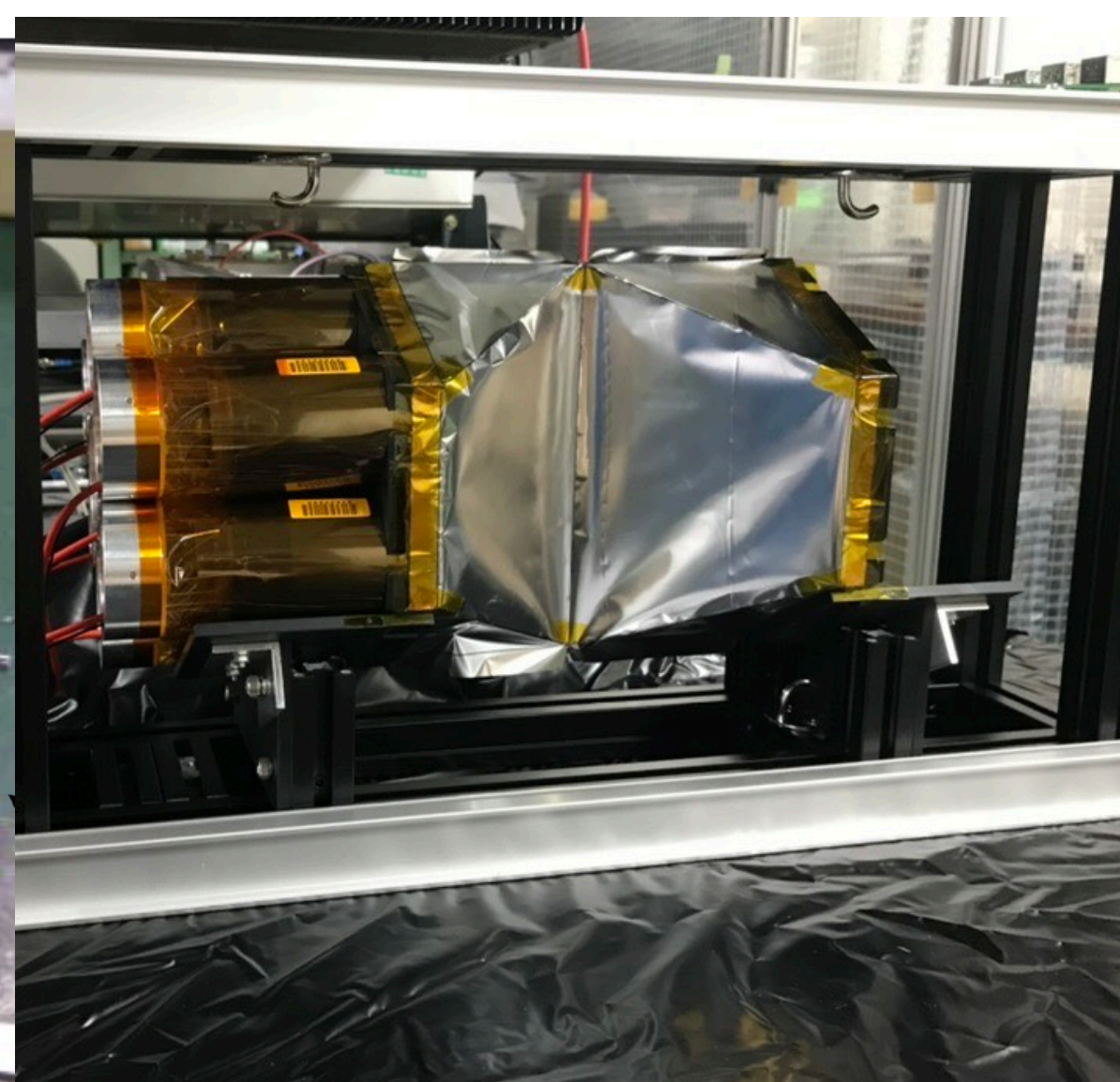
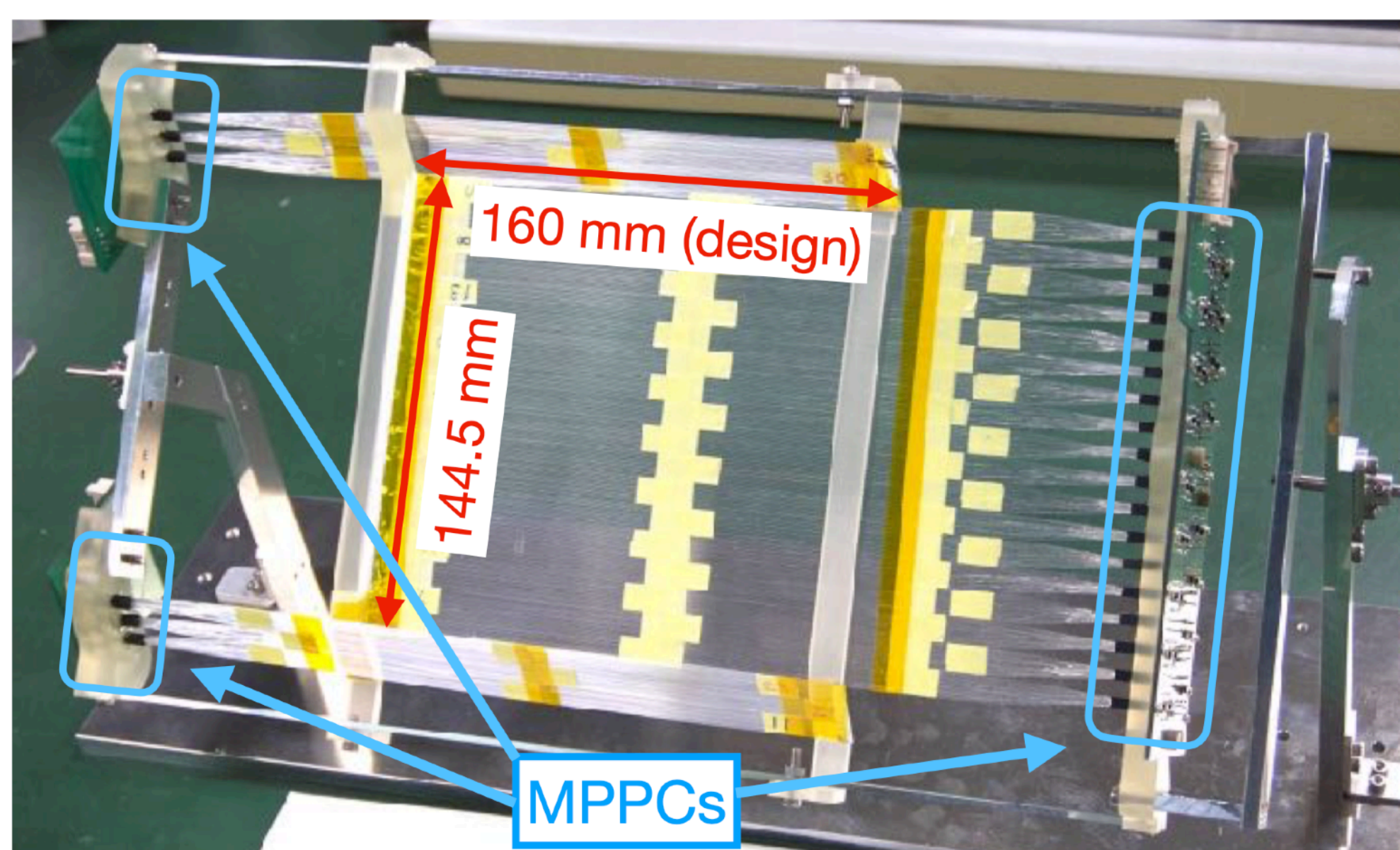
# Measure against charged kaon background



0.2-mm-thick scintillator  
 $\rightarrow \times 1/100$

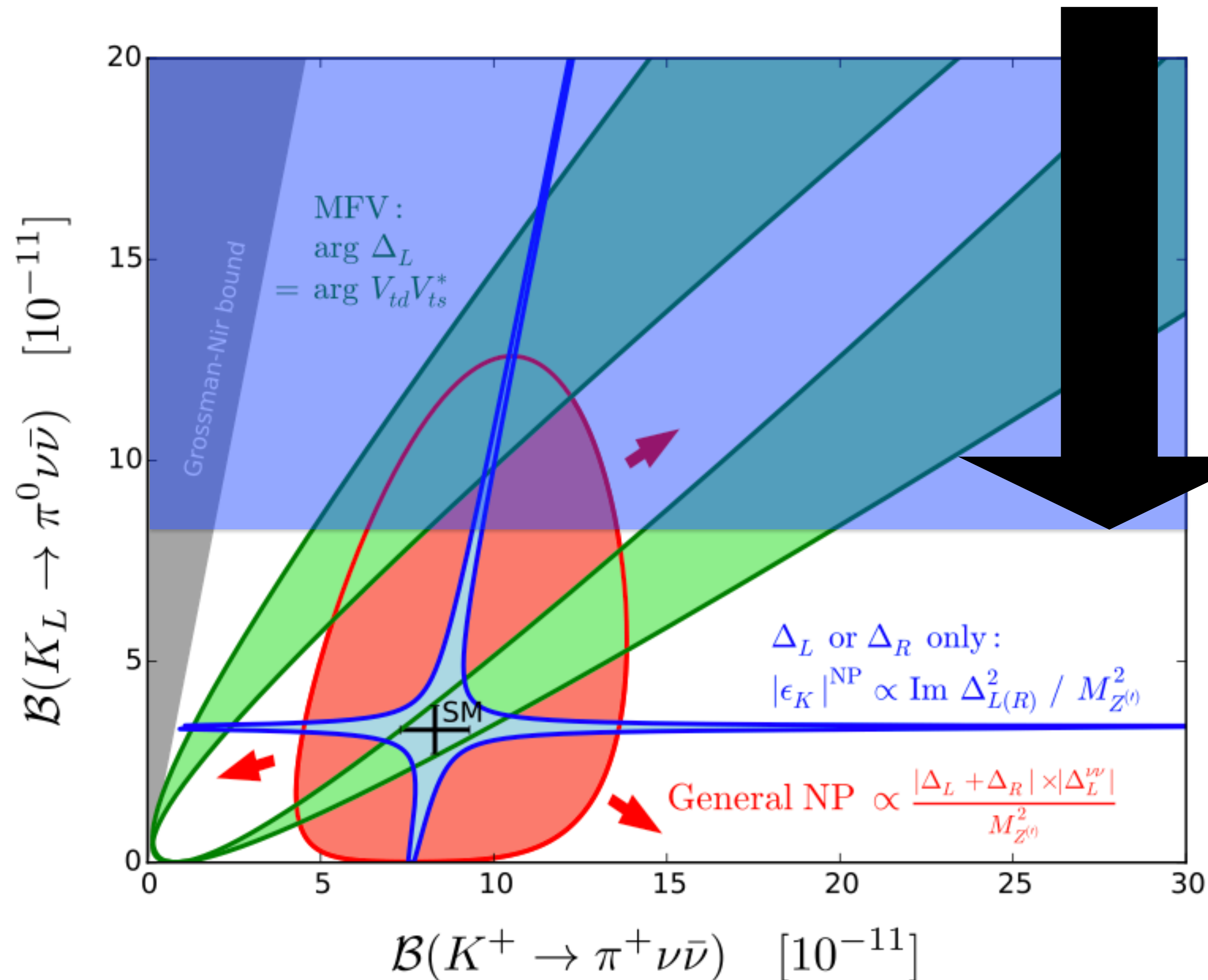
Expected reduction  
 $\times 1/1000$  in total

0.02 events in SM sensitivity





# Prospects for KOTO

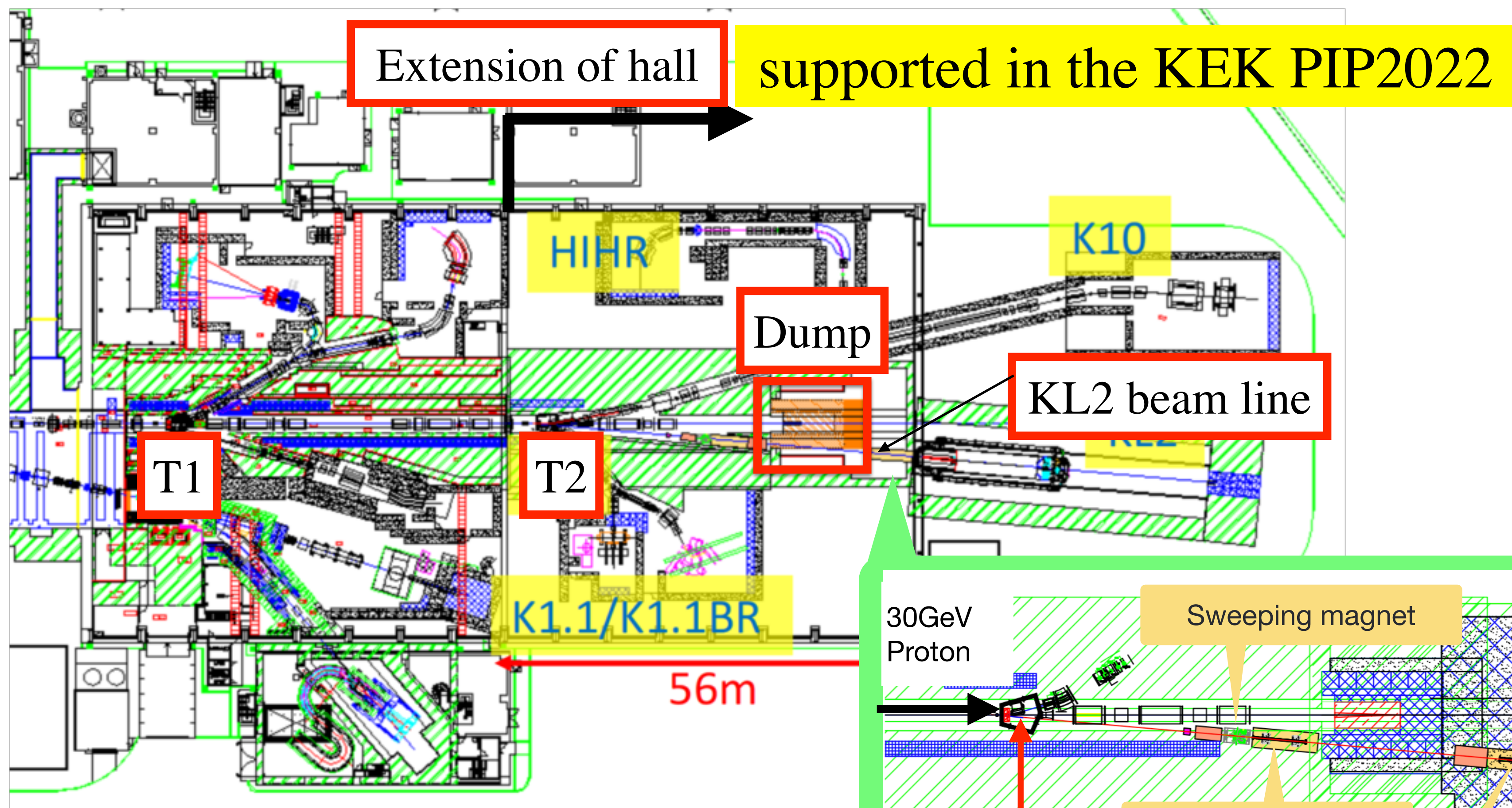


KOTO will reach  
 $O(10^{-11})$  sensitivity  
 in 3-4 years

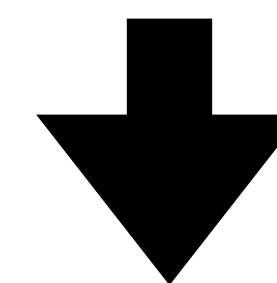
Upper limits or a few events  
 with # of backgrounds  $\sim 0$   
 Saturation of sensitivity



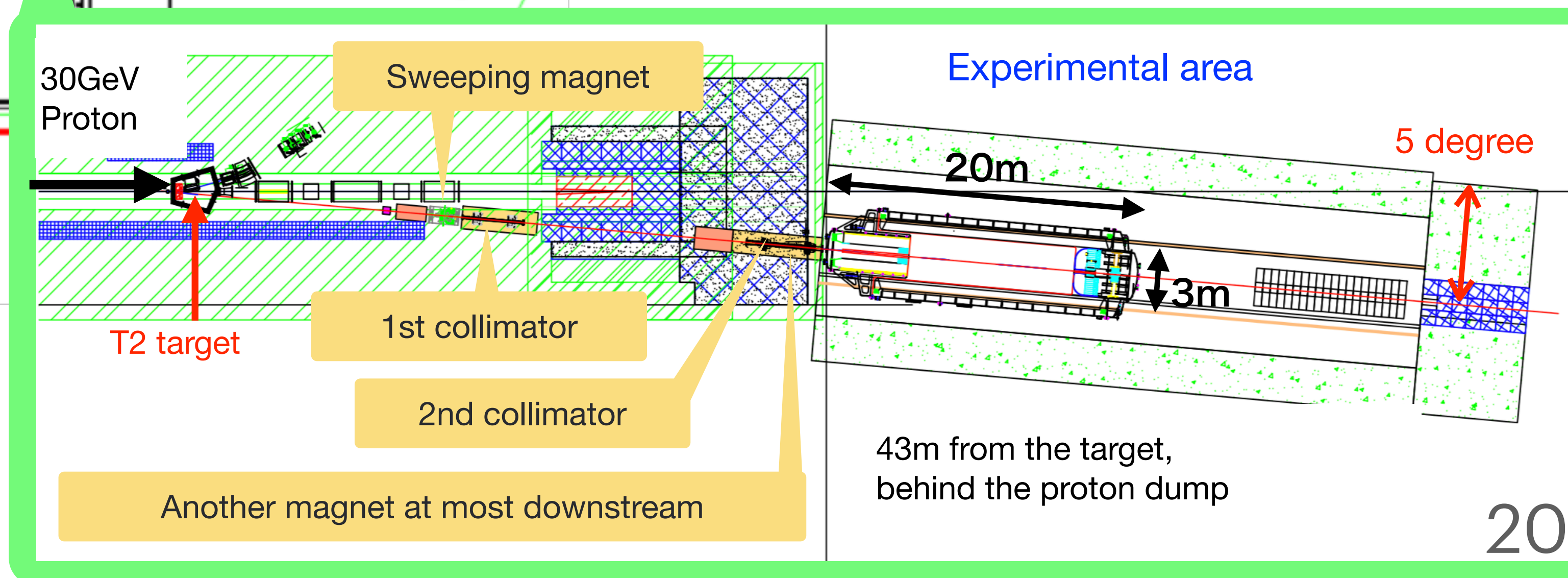
# KOTO step-2 with extension of hadron experimental facility



Extraction angle:  $16^\circ \rightarrow 5^\circ$



Higher momentum & higher intensity  $K_L$



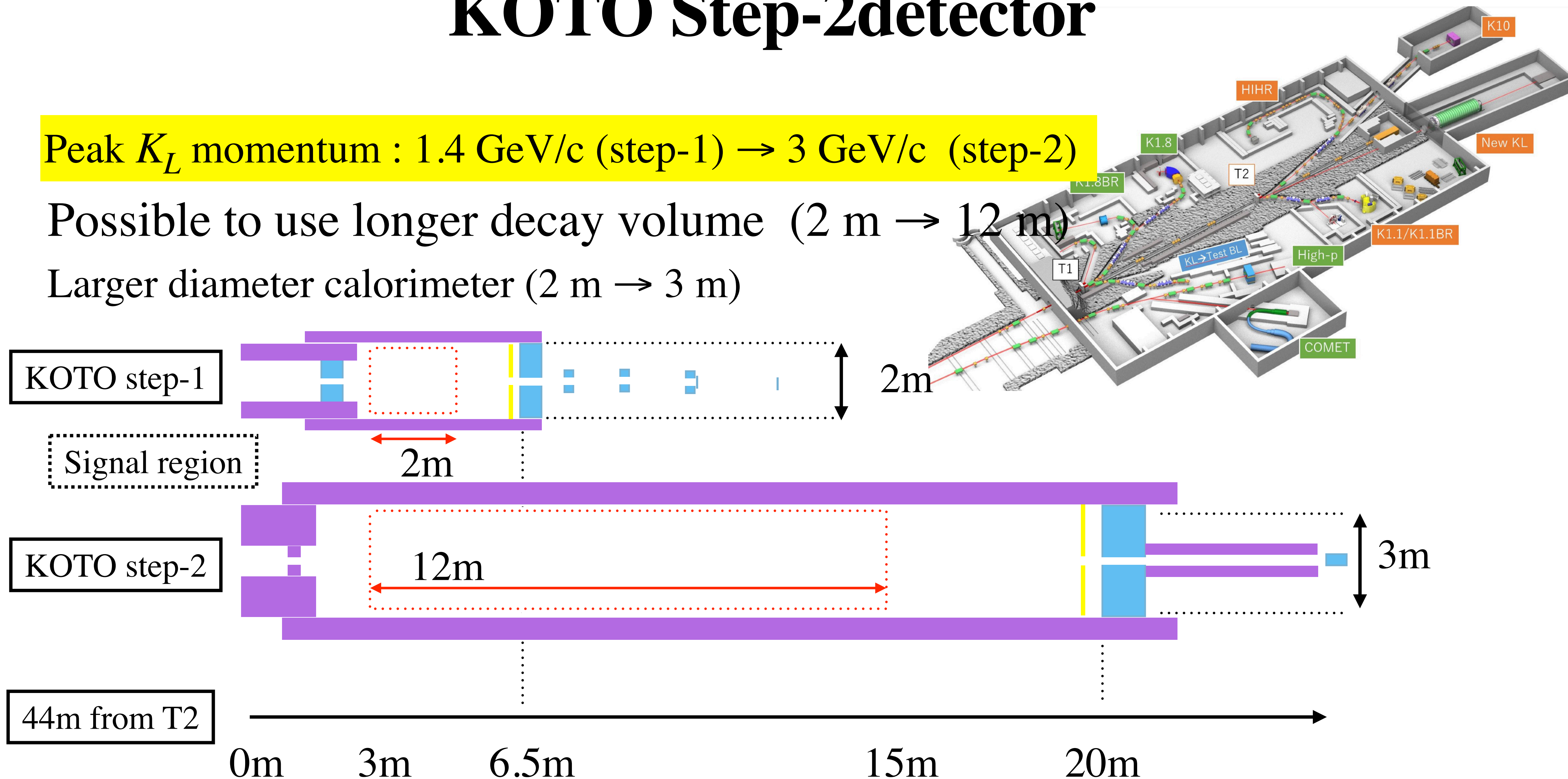


# KOTO Step-2 detector

Peak  $K_L$  momentum : 1.4 GeV/c (step-1)  $\rightarrow$  3 GeV/c (step-2)

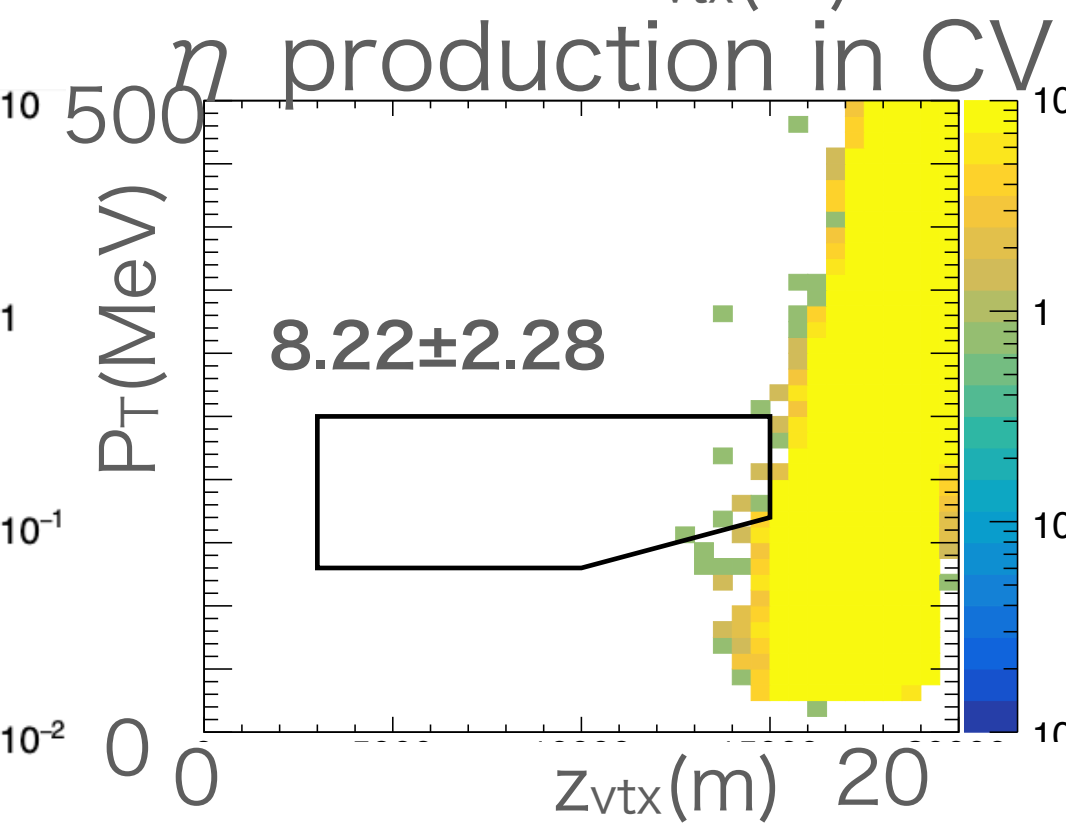
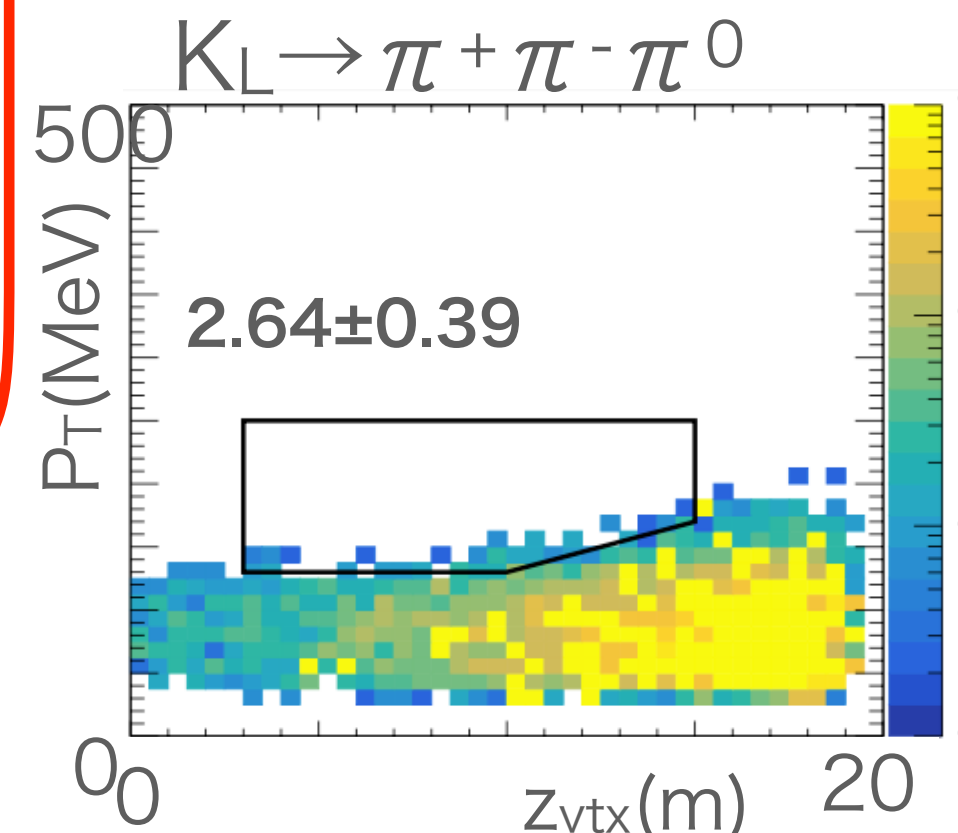
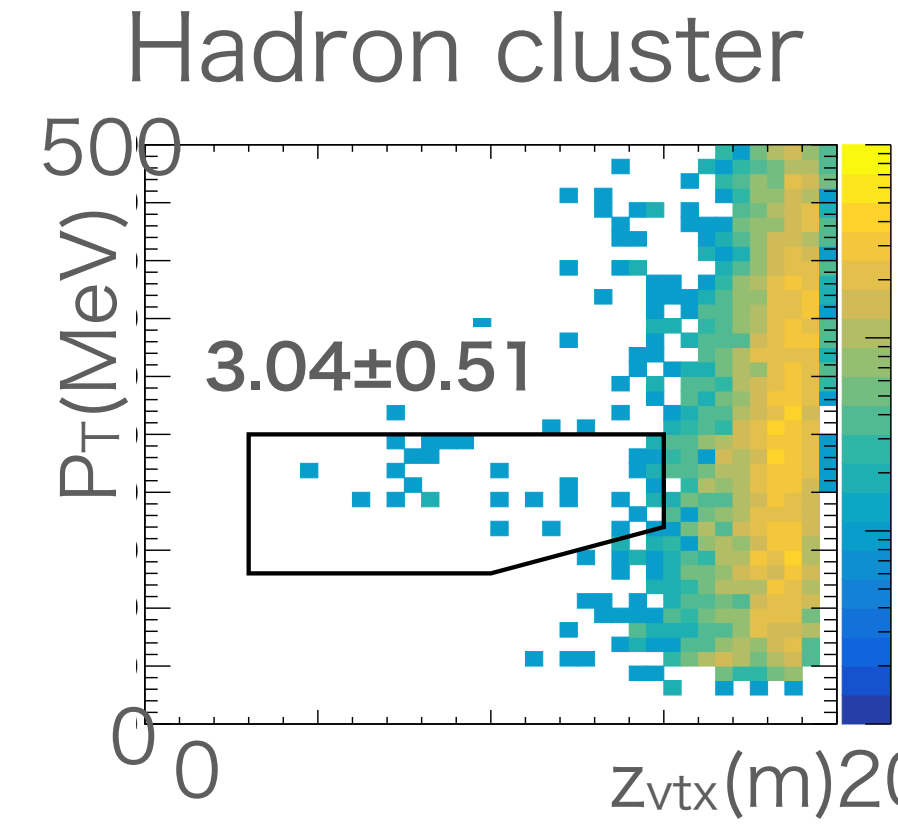
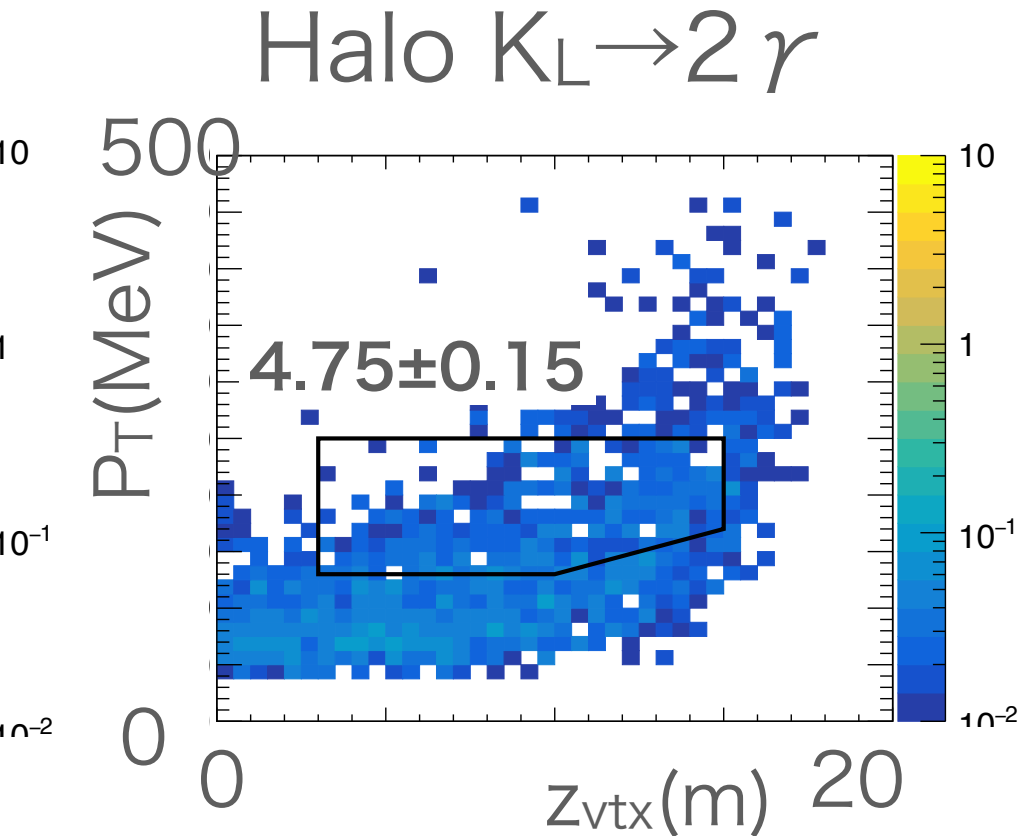
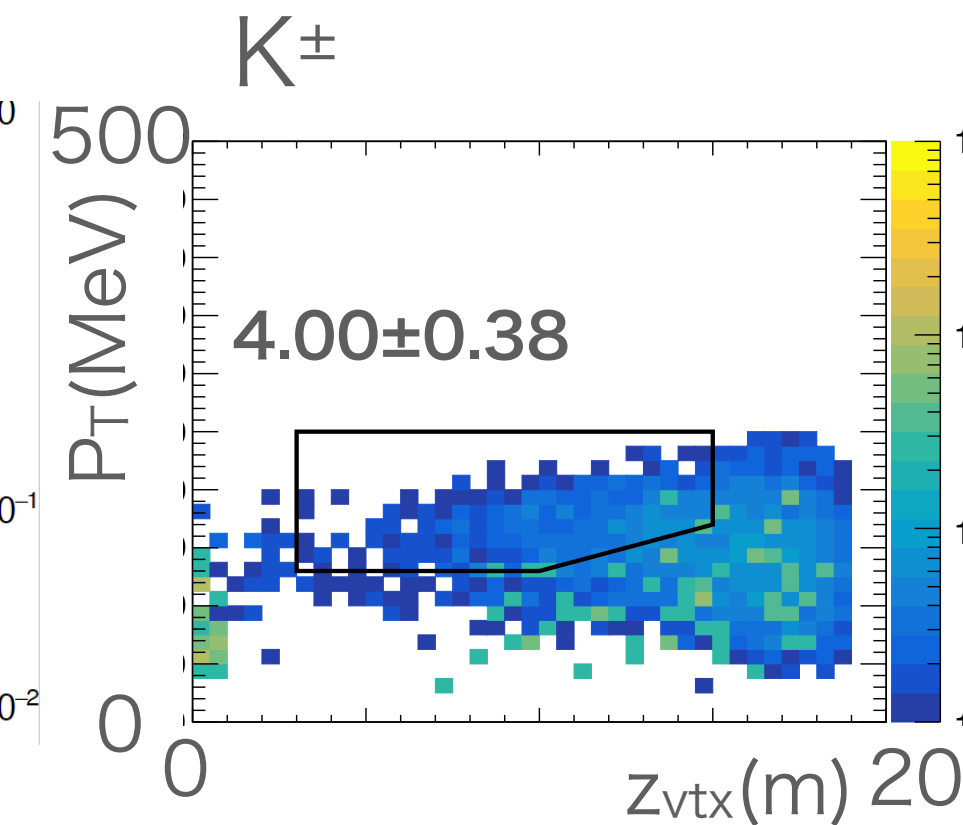
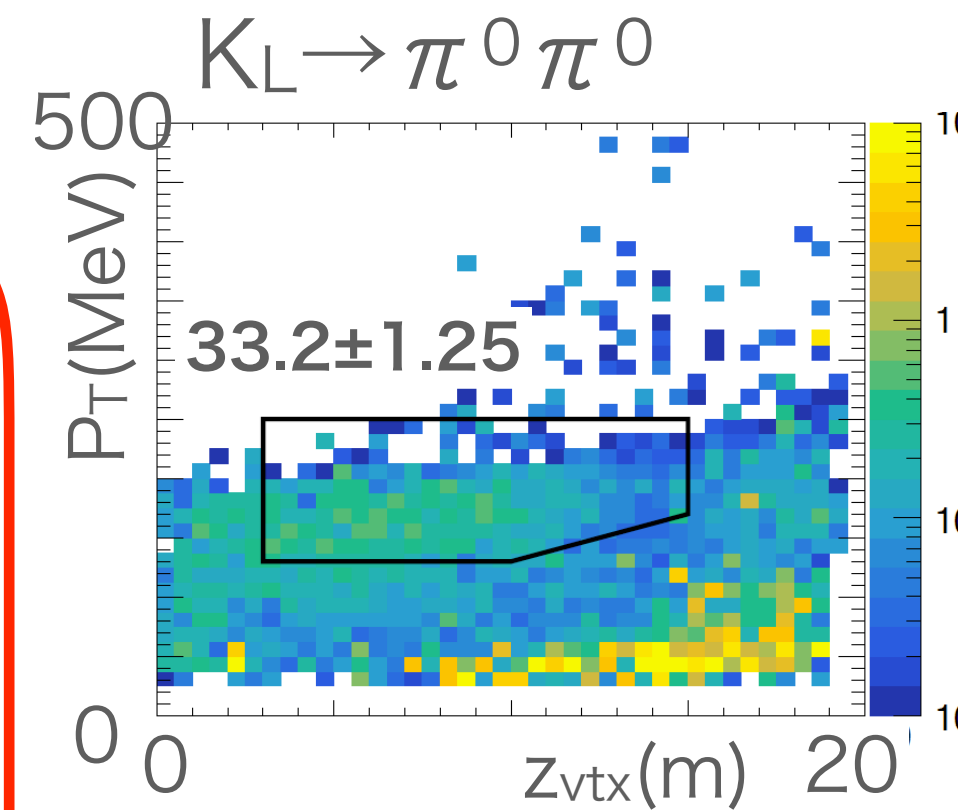
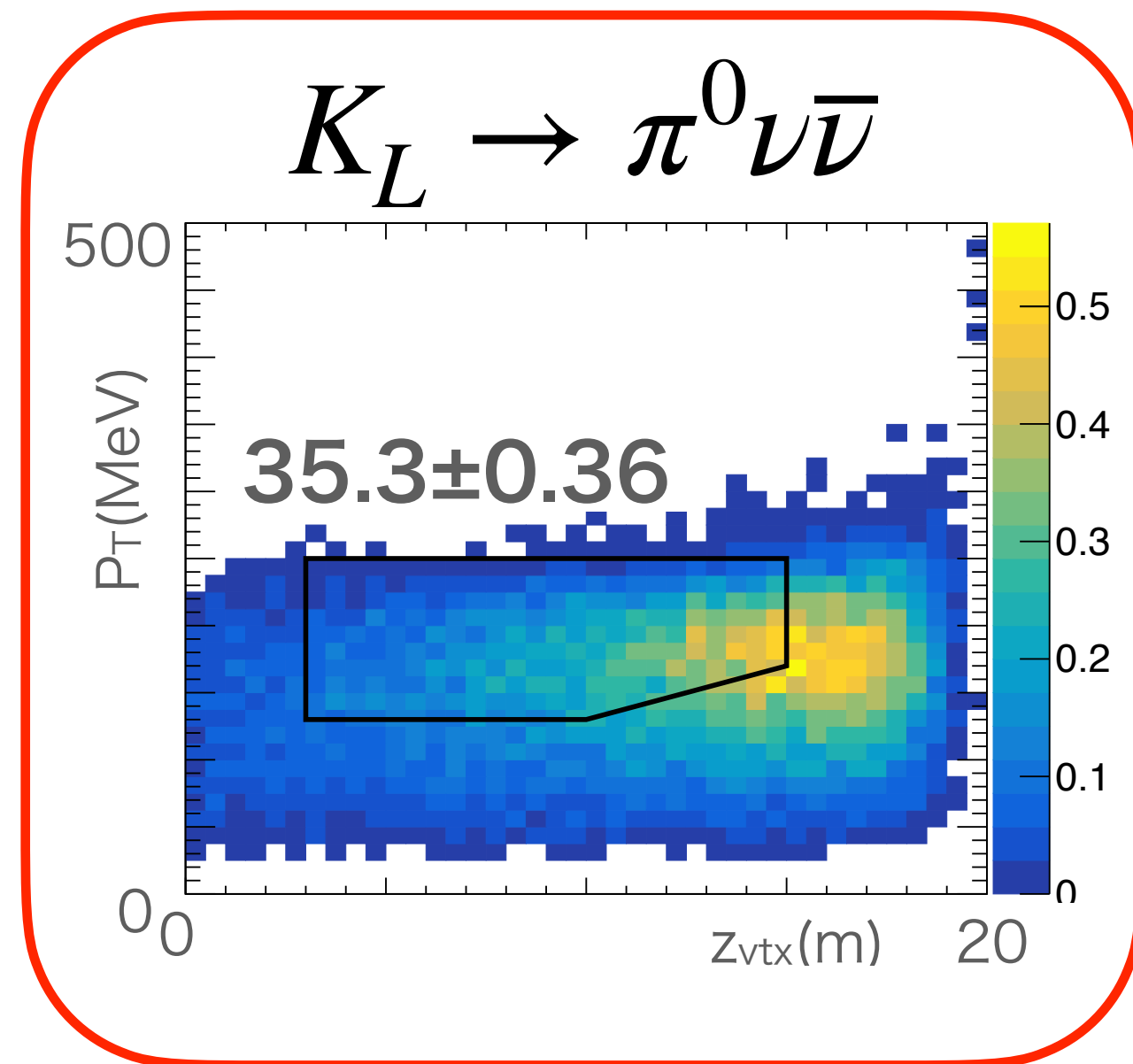
Possible to use longer decay volume (2 m  $\rightarrow$  12 m)

Larger diameter calorimeter (2 m  $\rightarrow$  3 m)



# Signal / Background / Sensitivity

arXiv : 2110.04462



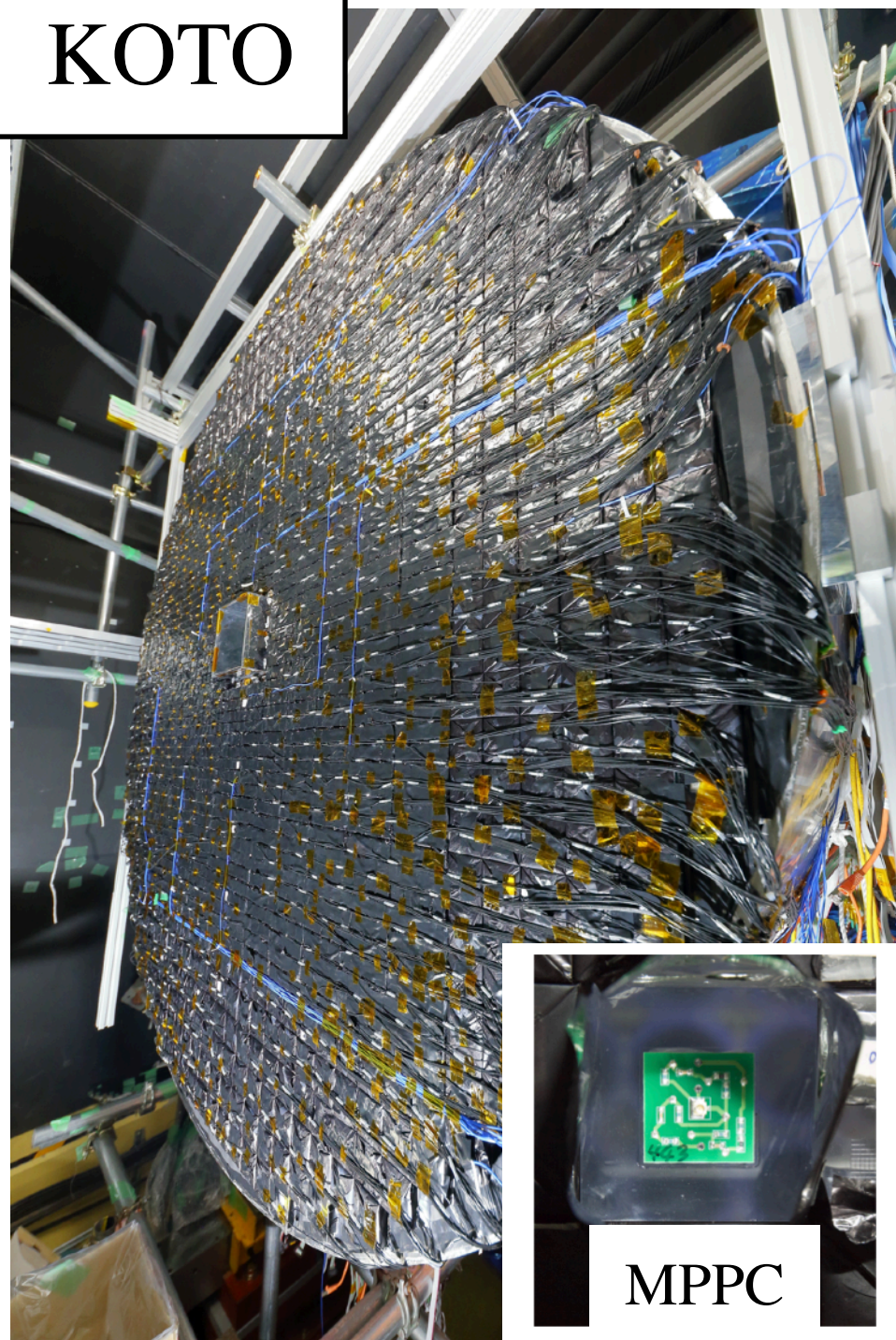
# of signal events : 35  
 # of background events : 56  
 S/N = 0.63  
 → 4.7σ observation

- $\Delta \mathcal{B} / \mathcal{B} = 27 \% \rightarrow$  CKM parameter :  $\Delta \eta / \eta = 14 \%$
- 44% deviation from SM → 90%-CL indication of NP

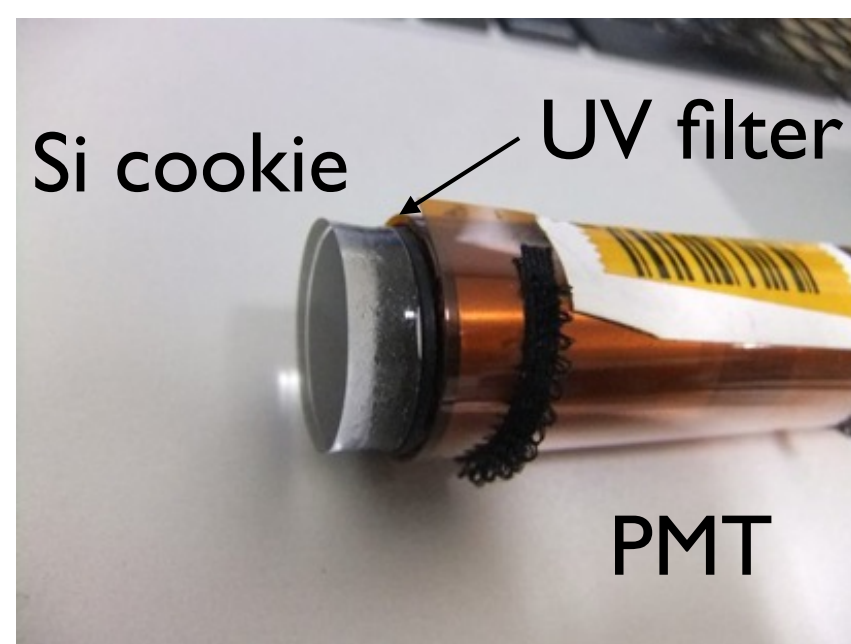


# Detector toward KOTO Step-2

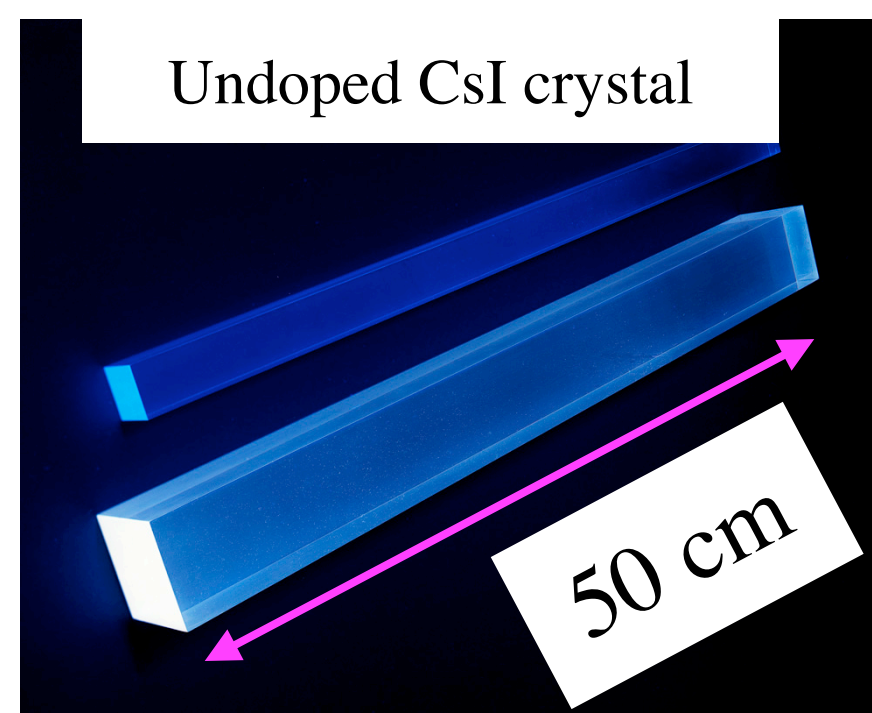
KOTO



MPPC

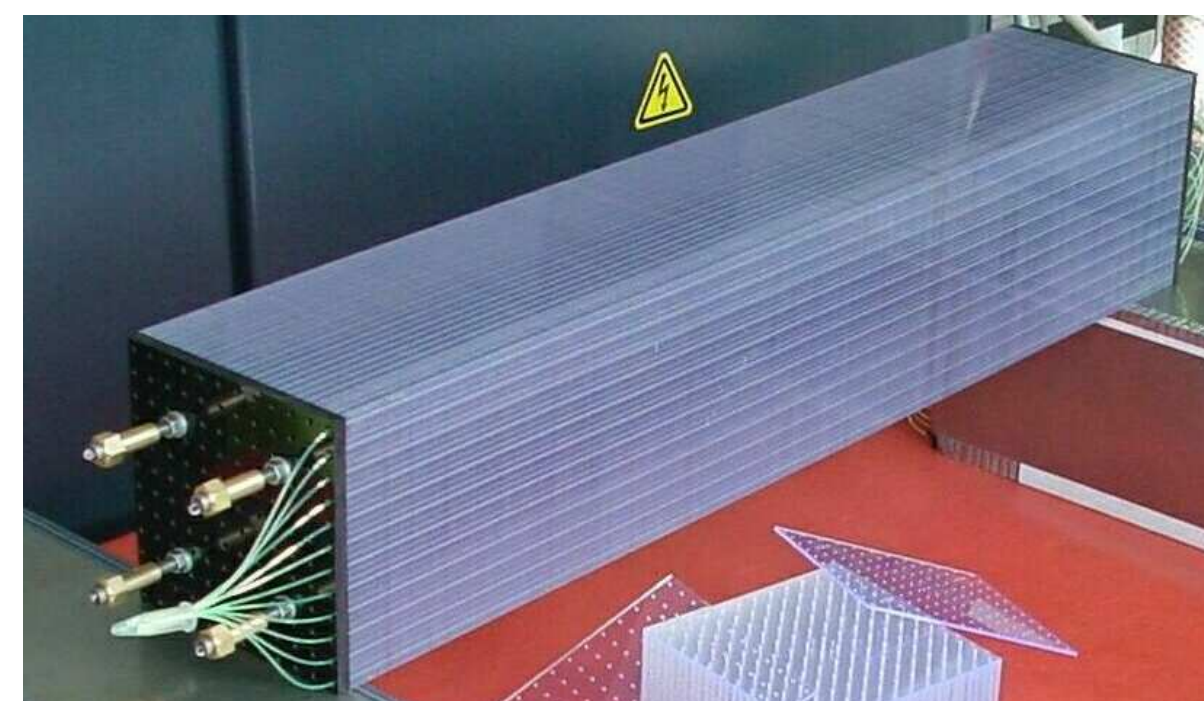
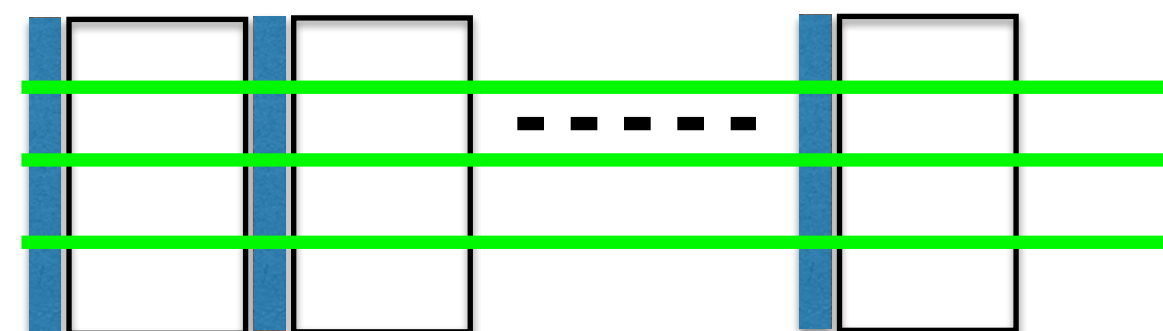


Undoped CsI crystal



KOPIO

Pb/Plastic scintillator  
0.275mm/1.5mm WLS fiber

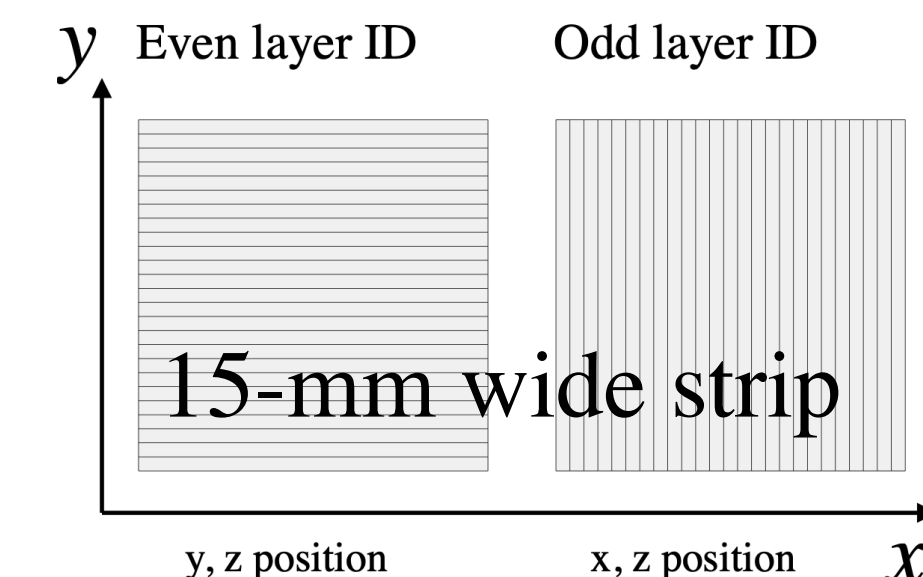
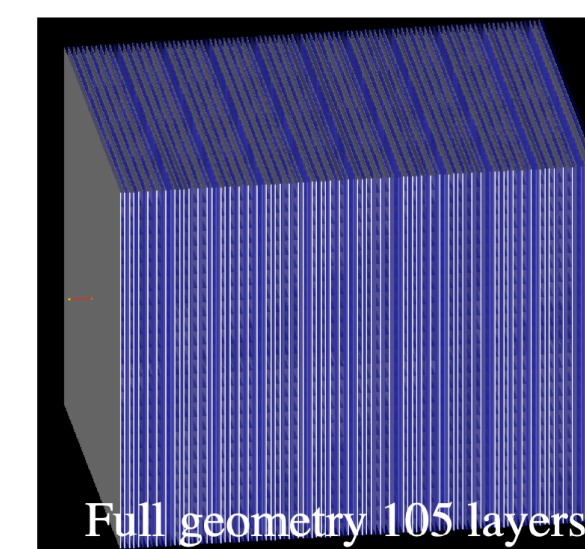


Low-mass fast charged particle veto

3 m in diameter  
Timing resolution < 300 ps

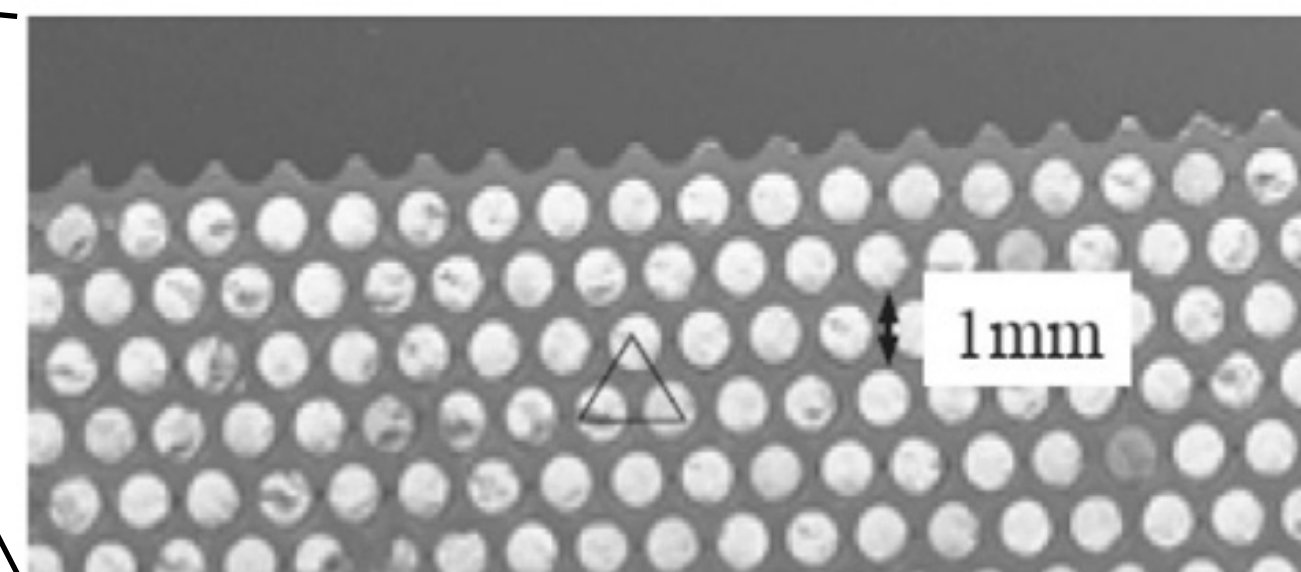
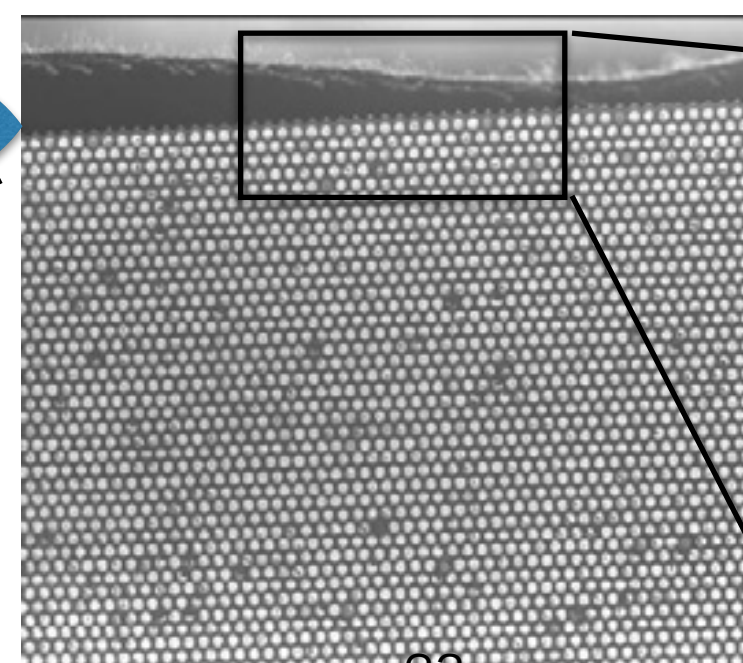
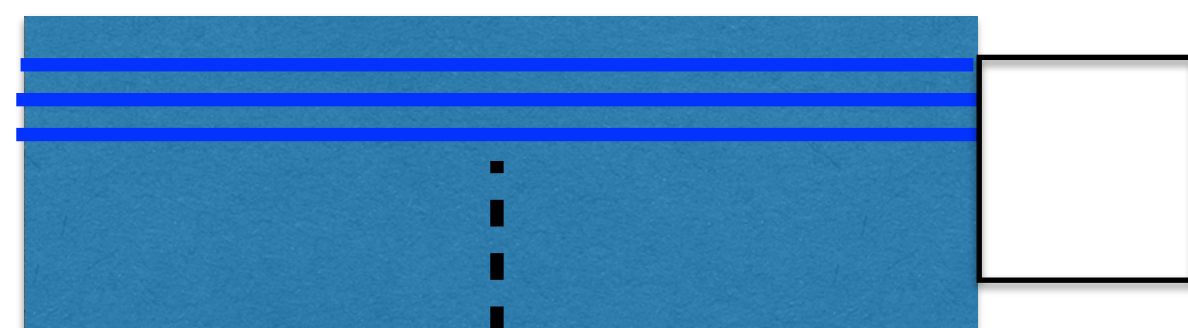
Angle measurement capability

1-mm lead / 5-mm plastic scinti.  
for upstream part of the calorimeter



KLOE

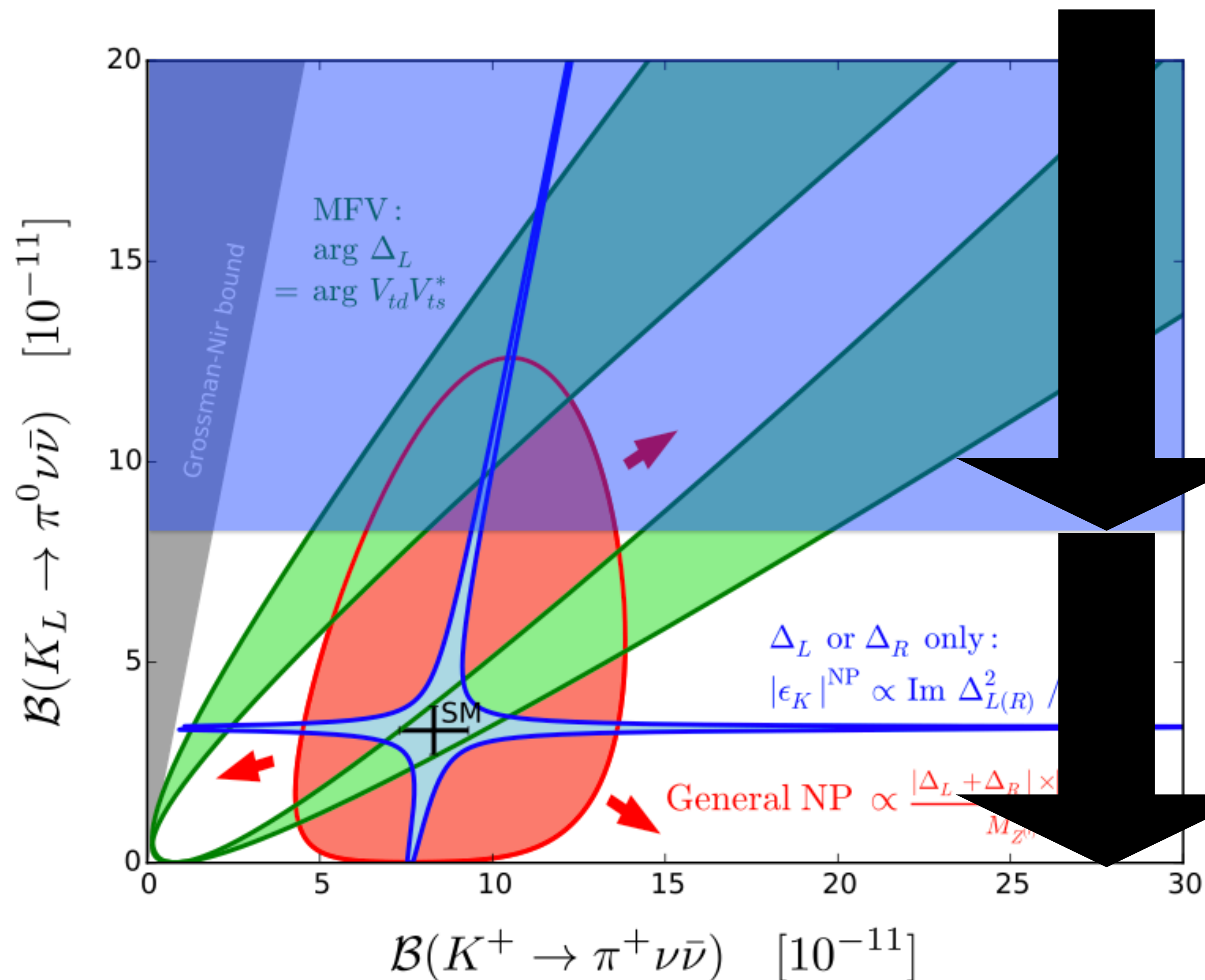
Pb/Scintillating fiber (1mm $\phi$ )



MC Study to obtain incident angle  
from shower development.  
1-2 degree resolution so far  
for 0.2-2 GeV photons



# Prospects for KOTO to KOTO step-2



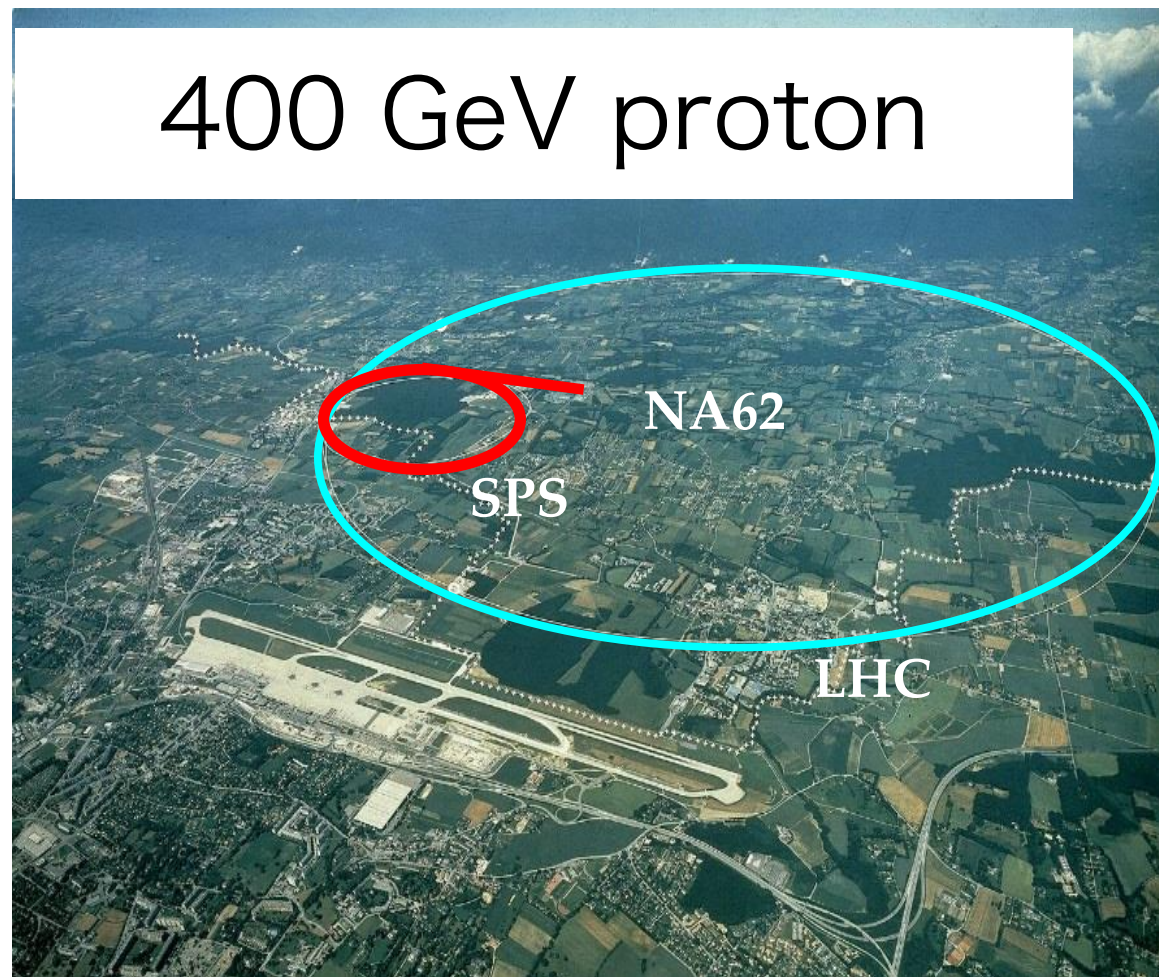
KOTO will reach  
 $O(10^{-11})$  sensitivity

Upper limits or a few events  
 with # of backgrounds  $\sim 0$   
 Saturation of sensitivity

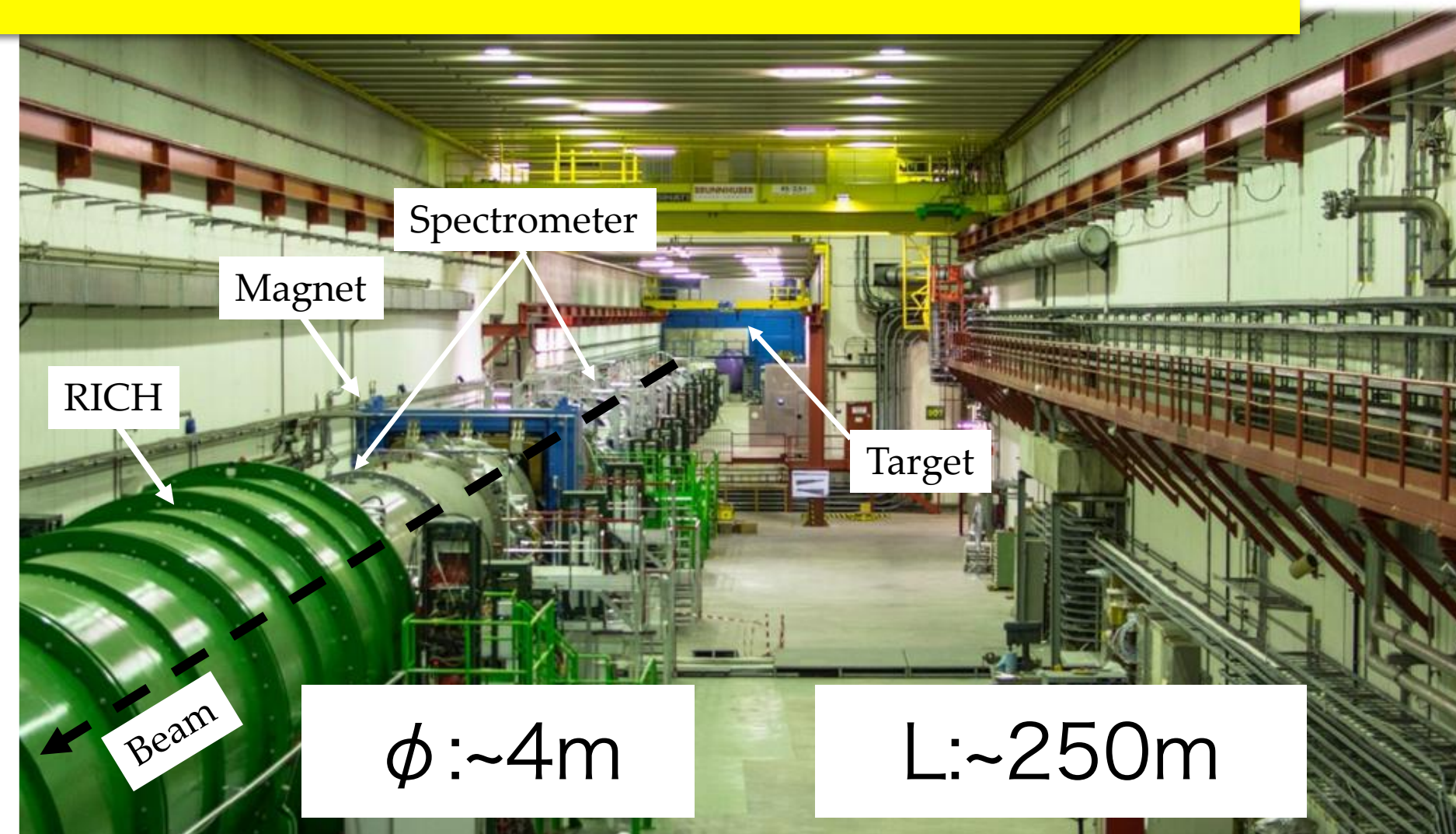
KOTO step-2 aims at measurements  
 of  $\mathcal{B}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})$   
 $\sim 40$  events in SM sensitivity  
 $O(10^{-13})$  sensitivity



# NA62 experiment at CERN



$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu} : K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + \text{nothing}$$





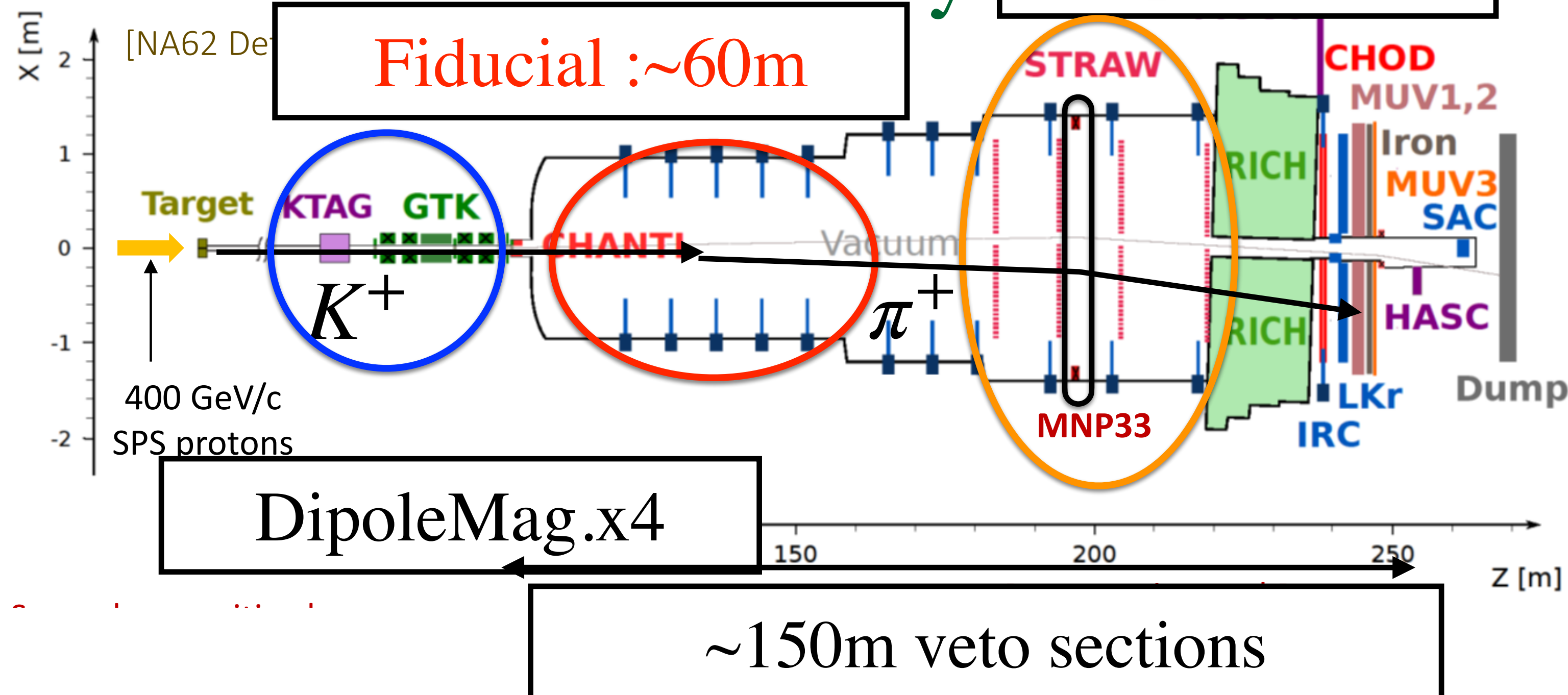
# $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ with NA62 experiment

400 GeV proton  $\rightarrow$  75 GeV/c  $K^+$

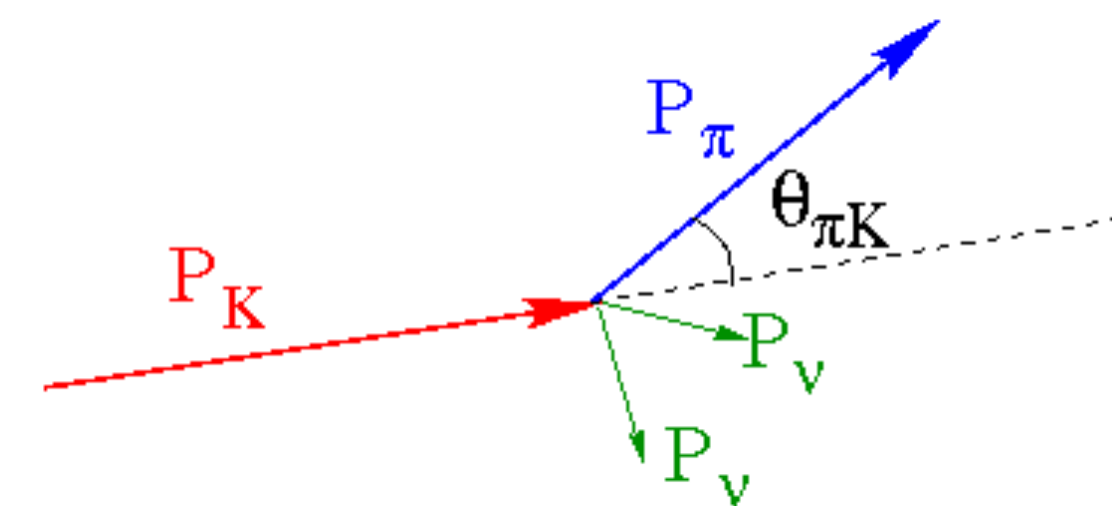
NA62 Layer

DipoleMag.

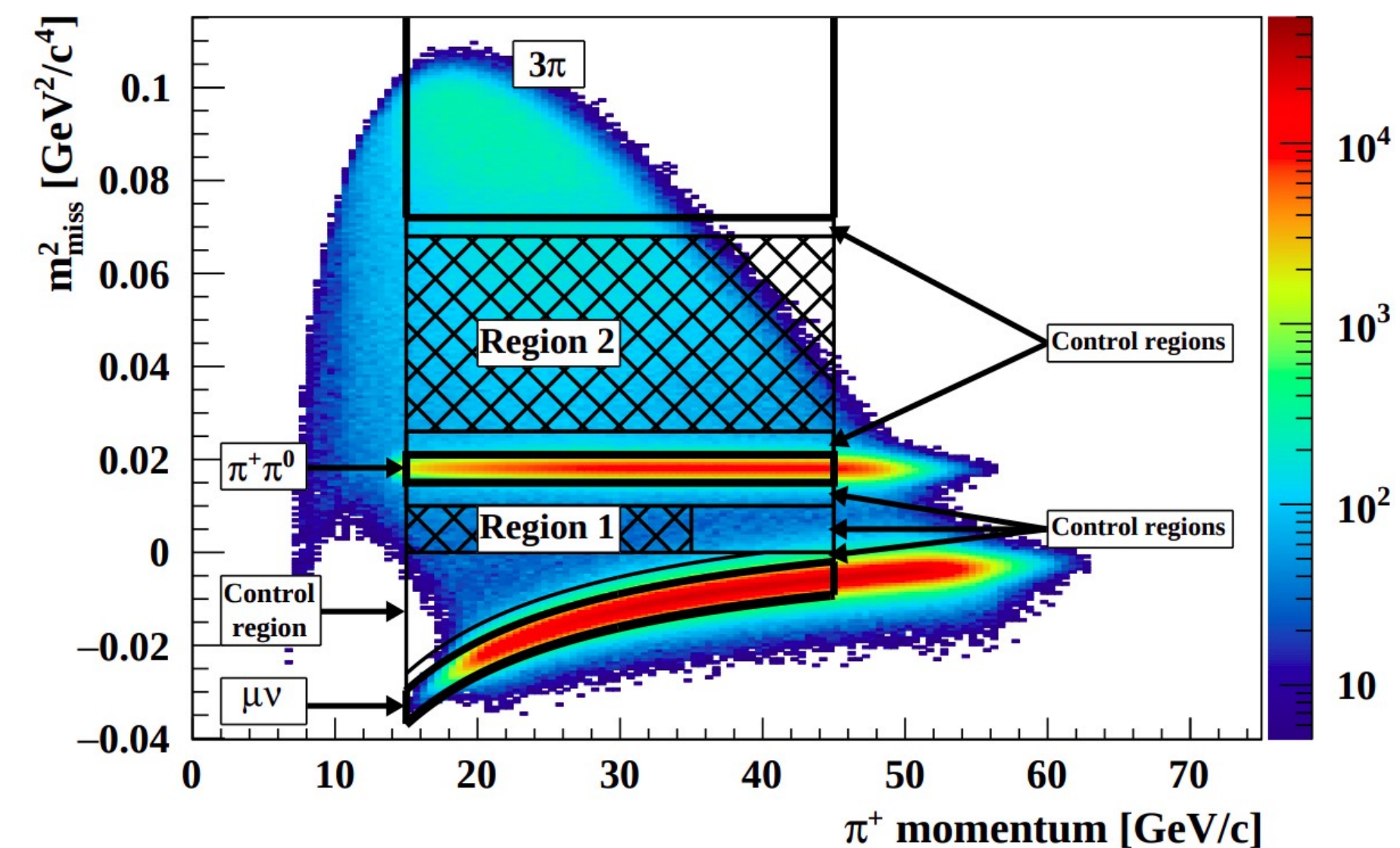
Fiducial :  $\sim 60\text{m}$



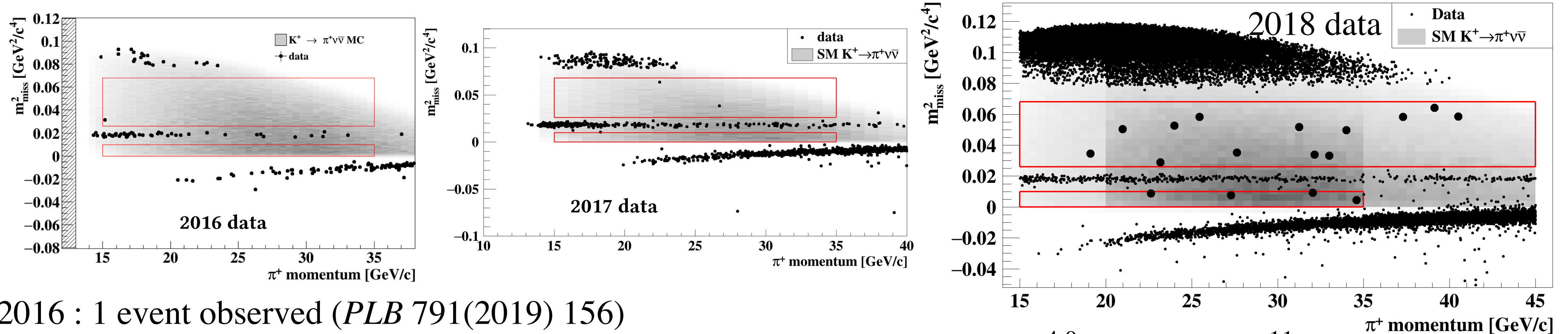
$$m_{\text{miss}}^2 = (P_{K^+} - P_{\pi^+})^2$$



- Decay in flight technique
- High momentum  $K^+$  (75 GeV/c)
- $K^+$  tracking w/ magnetic field  $\rightarrow p_K$
- $\pi^+$  tracking w/ magnetic field  $\rightarrow p_\pi$



# Results of NA62 run1 (2016-2018)



2016 : 1 event observed (*PLB* 791(2019) 156)

2017 : 2 events observed (*JHEP* 11(2020)042)

2018 : 17 events observed

In total 20 events observed

$$SES = (0.839 \pm 0.053_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-11},$$

$$N_{\pi\nu\bar{\nu}}^{\text{exp}} = 10.01 \pm 0.42_{\text{syst}} \pm 1.19_{\text{ext}},$$

$$N_{\text{background}}^{\text{exp}} = 7.03^{+1.05}_{-0.82}.$$

$$\mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (10.6^{+4.0}_{-3.4} \pm 0.9) \times 10^{-11} \text{ (68 \% CL)}$$

→ 40% measurement

Observation with  $3.4\sigma$  significance

Compatible with SM ( $8.4 \times 10^{-11}$ ) (*JHEP* 06 (2021) 093)

2018 : 17 events observed

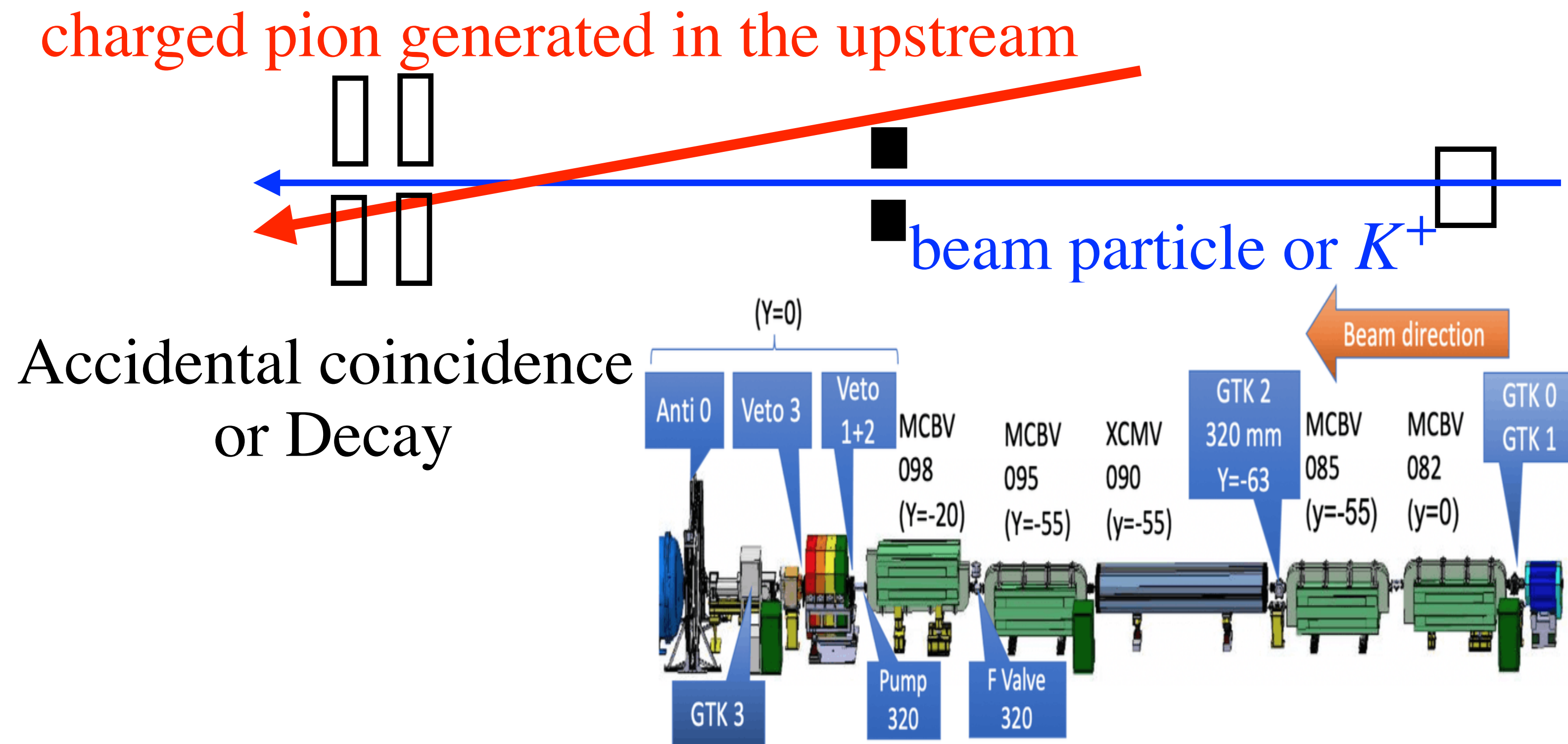
: # of SM signal expected : 7.6

: # of BG expected : 5.4

: => 3.3 from upstream background (dominant)



# Measure against background



Larger collimator from 2018 to stop such charged pions  
 NA62 run2 : additional tracker (GTK 0) + veto



# NA62 outlook

- Resumed data taking in July 2021 with the measure against the upstream background
- Running at higher beam intensity (70%→100%)
- NA62 was approved until LS3 (currently foreseen at the end of 2025)
- Expected order 10% measurement of  $\mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$



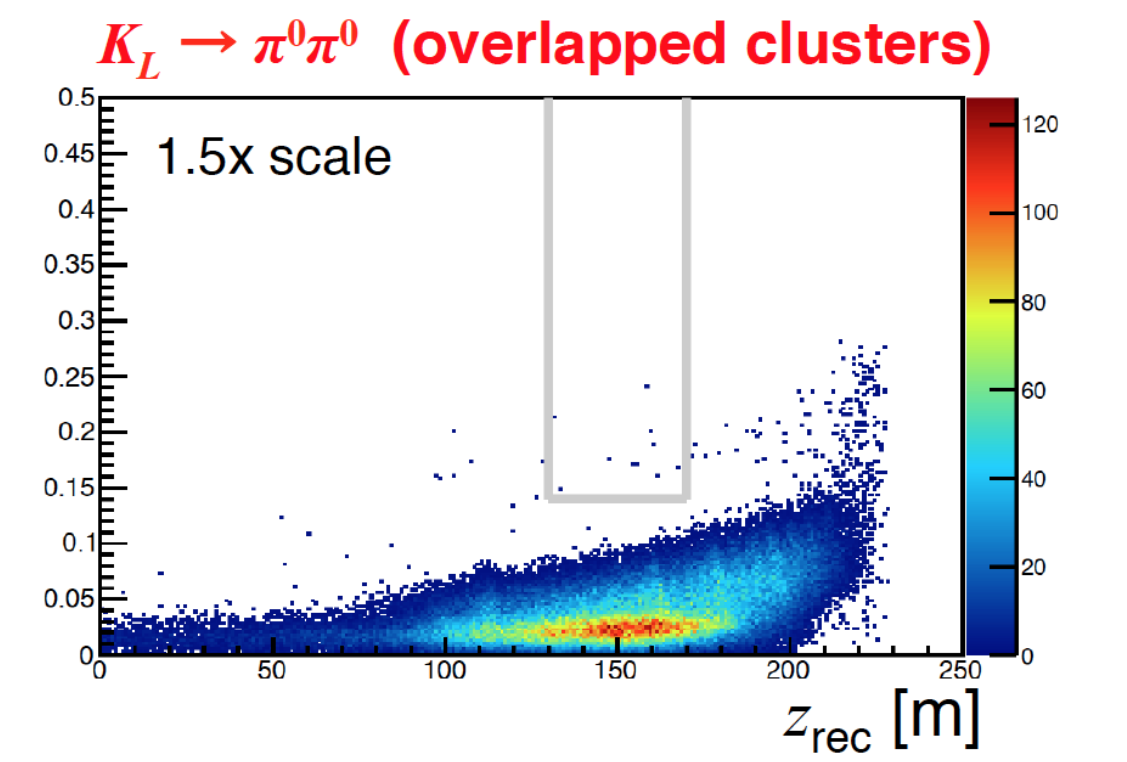
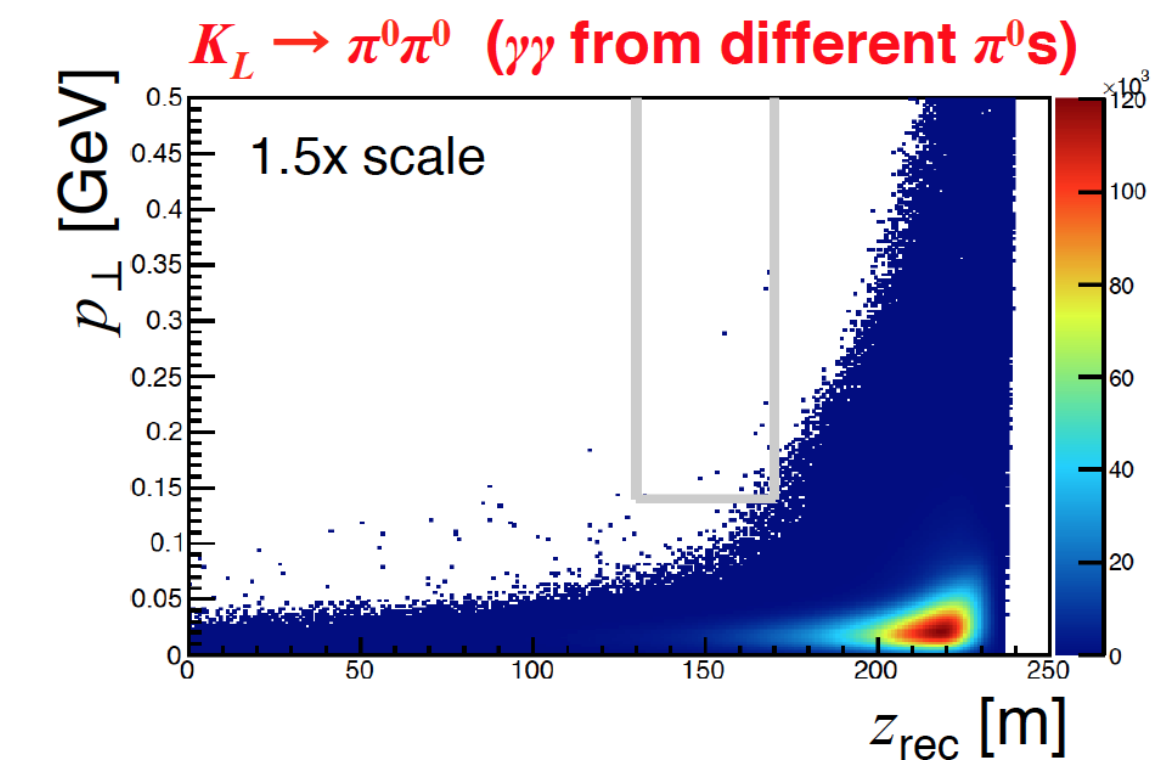
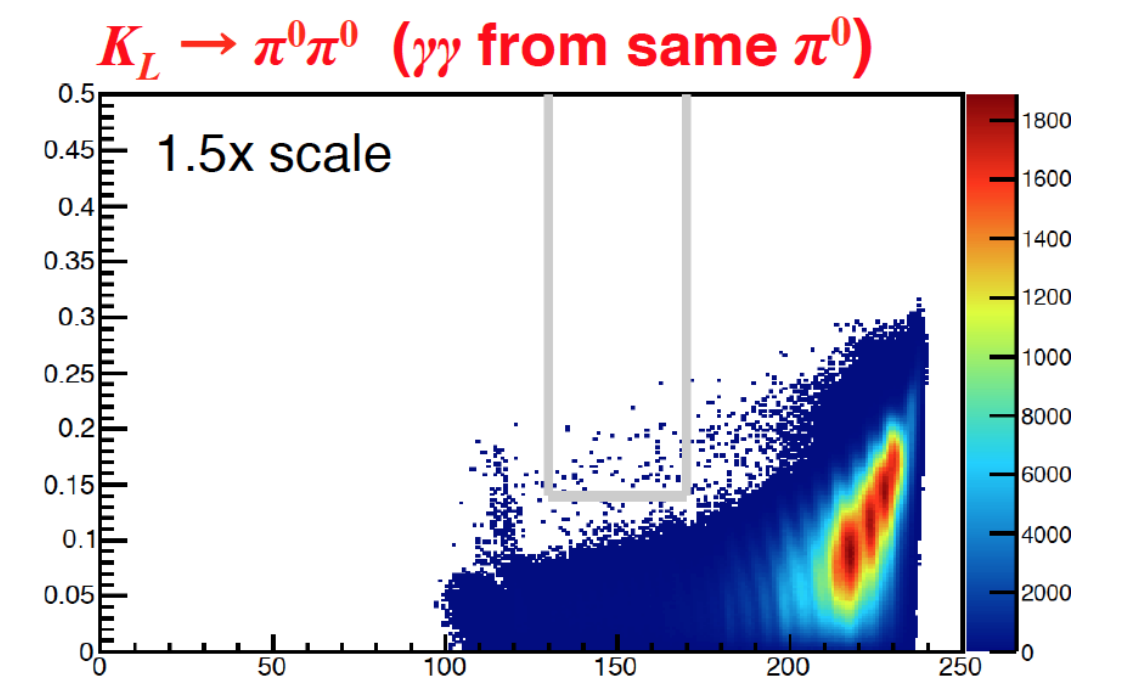
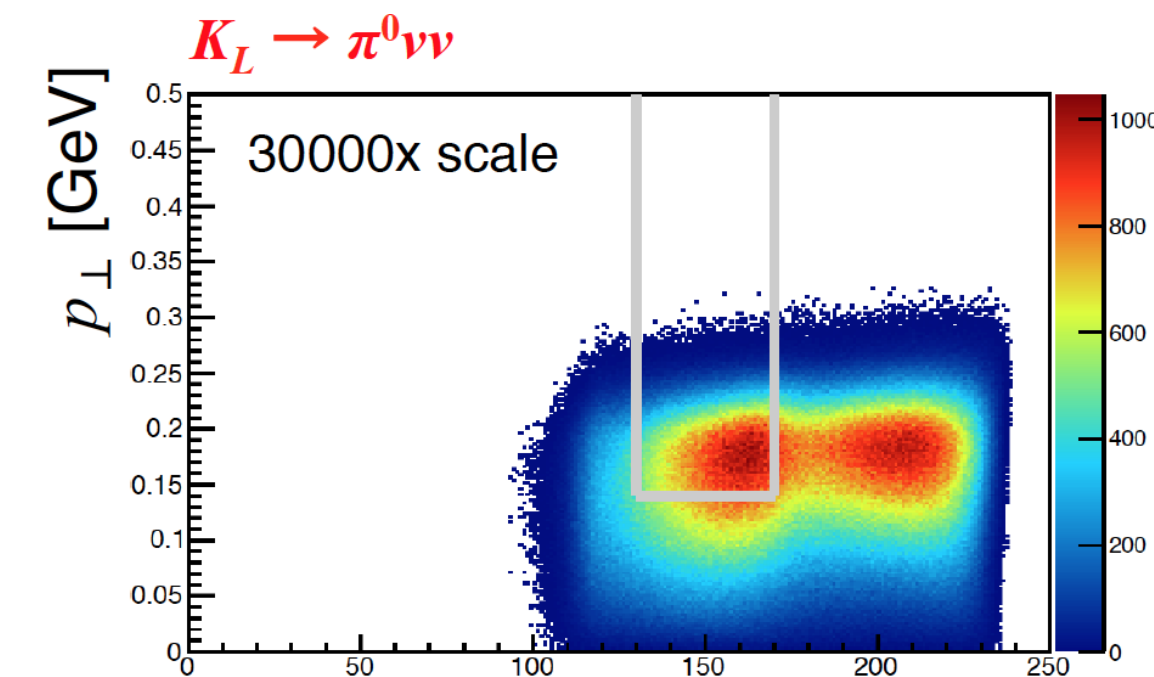
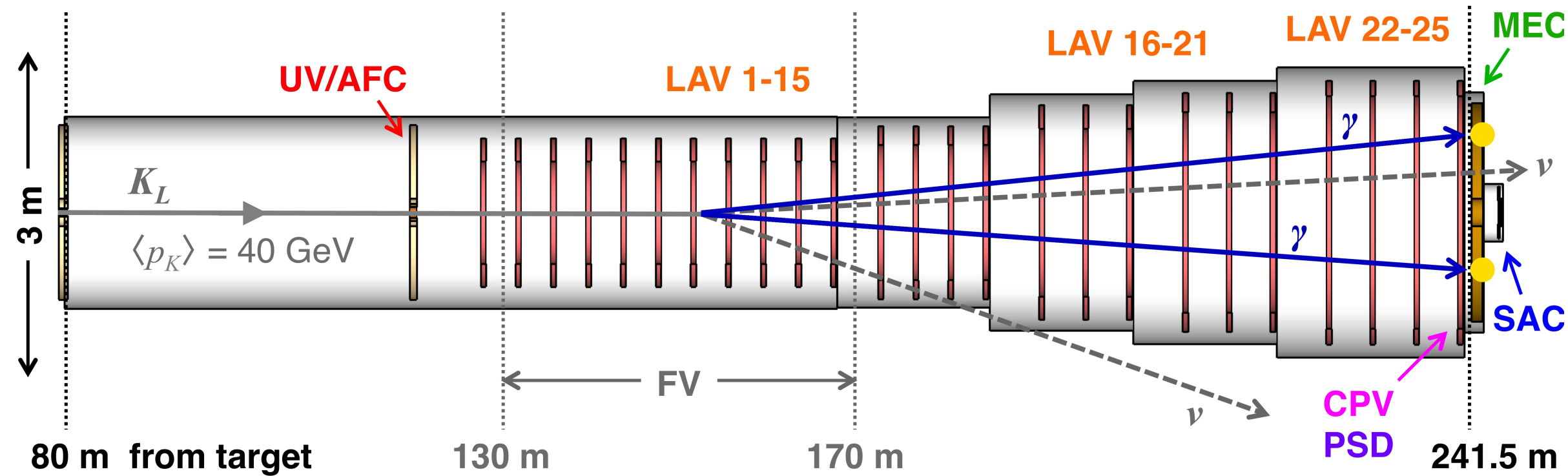
# High Intensity Kaon Experiments (HIKE)

- After LS3, higher beam intensity at SPS
  - Plan to support both  $K^+$  and  $K_L$  for long term plan until 2039.
  - $6 \times 10^{18}$  pot/year (  $\times 4$  increase) to measure  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  at 5%
  - $1 \times 10^{19}$  pot/year (  $\times 6$  increase) to measure  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$  at 20%
- Keys to handle the high rate
  - Accelerator : slow extraction with small beam loss, dump, target, radiation level
  - Improvements on the timing resolution is a key to handle high rate
  - Suppress  $\Lambda \rightarrow n \pi^0$  background with longer beamline



# $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$ with HIKE (KLEVER)

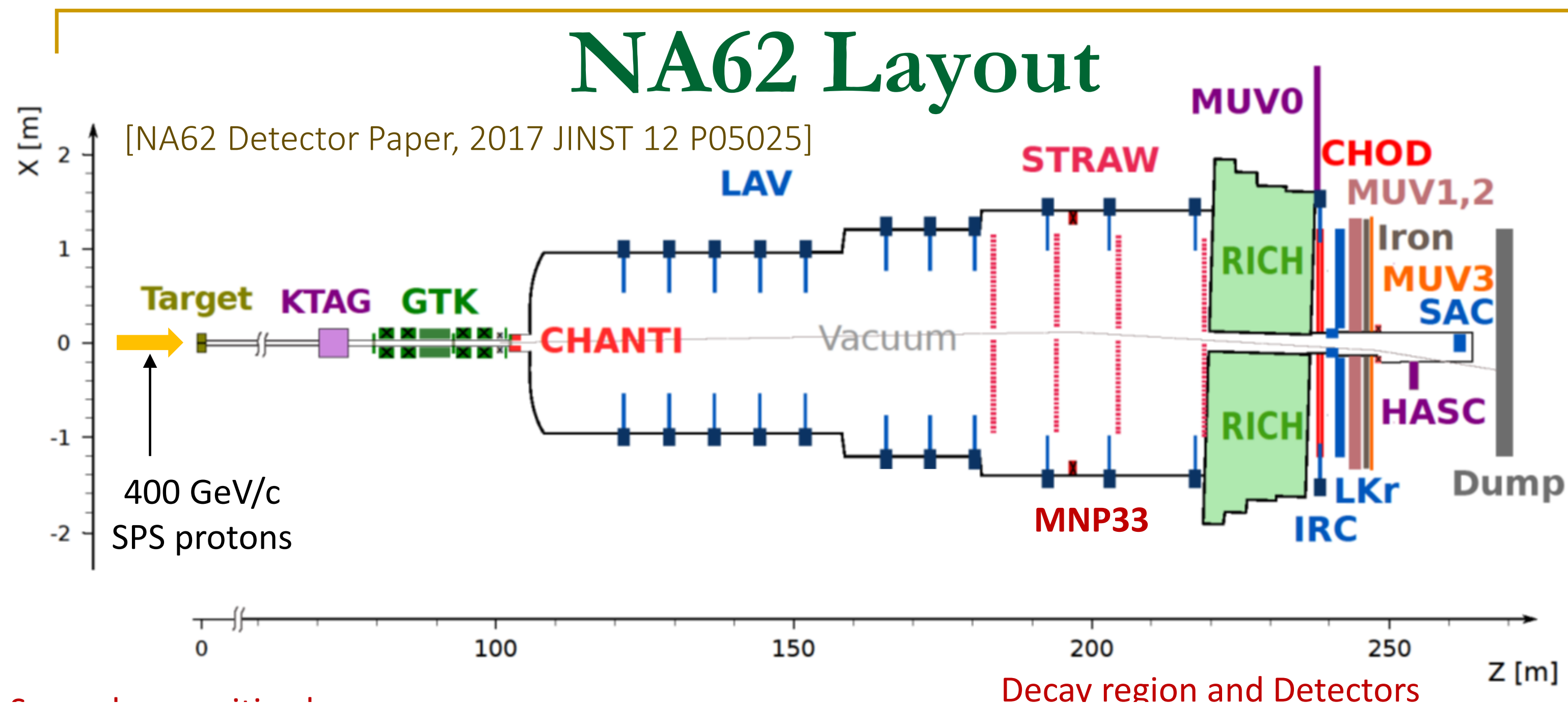
- $\langle p_{K_L} \rangle \sim 40 \text{ GeV}/c$
- 5 years running
- 60 SM events are expected with S/B=1.





# R&D for new detectors

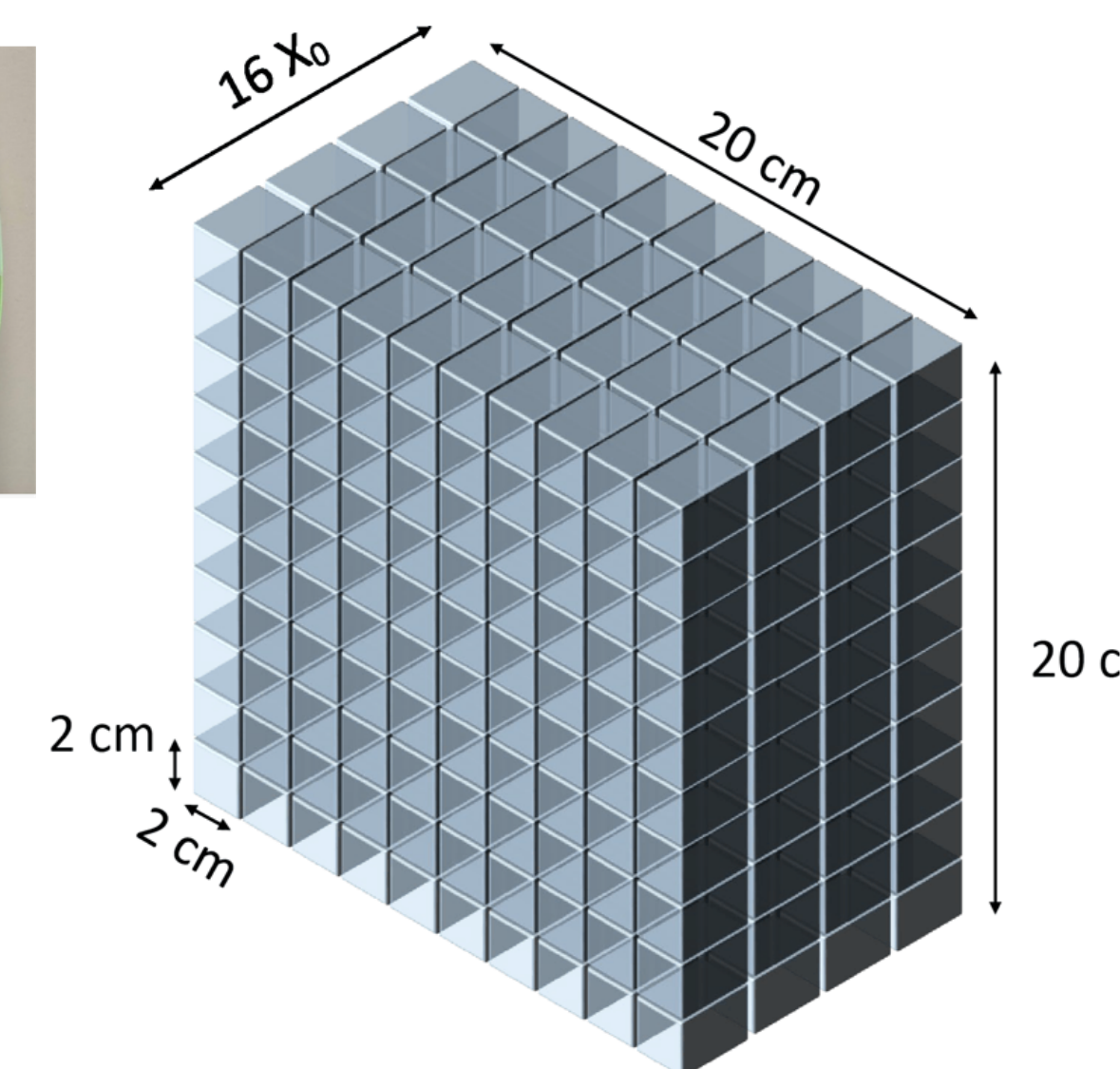
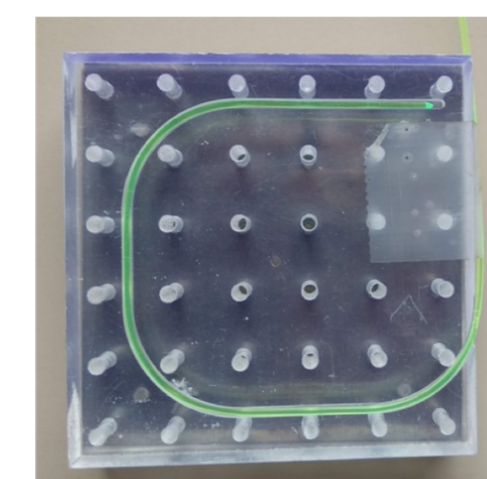
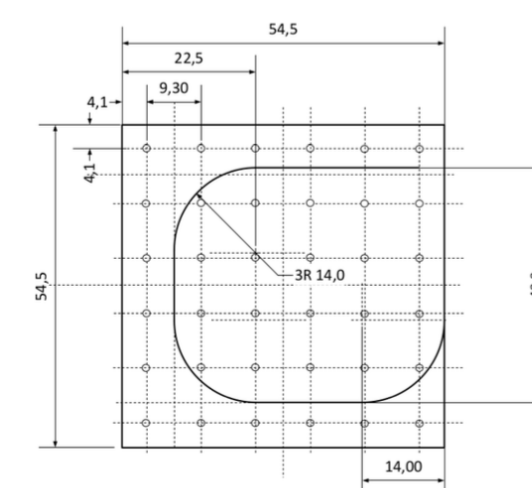
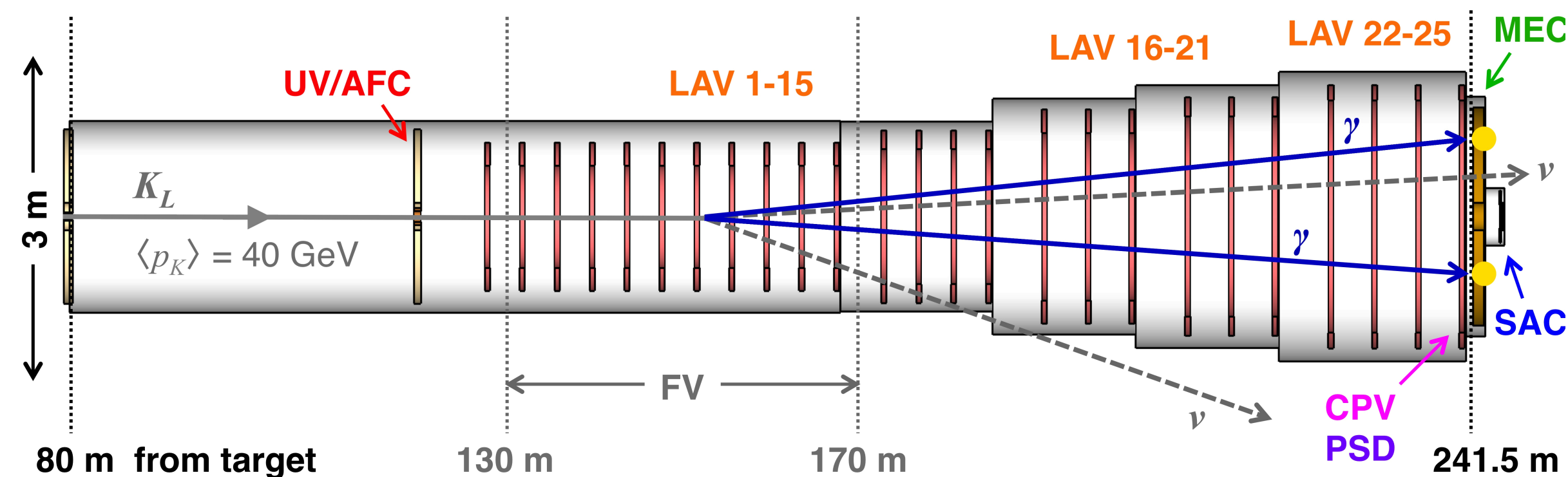
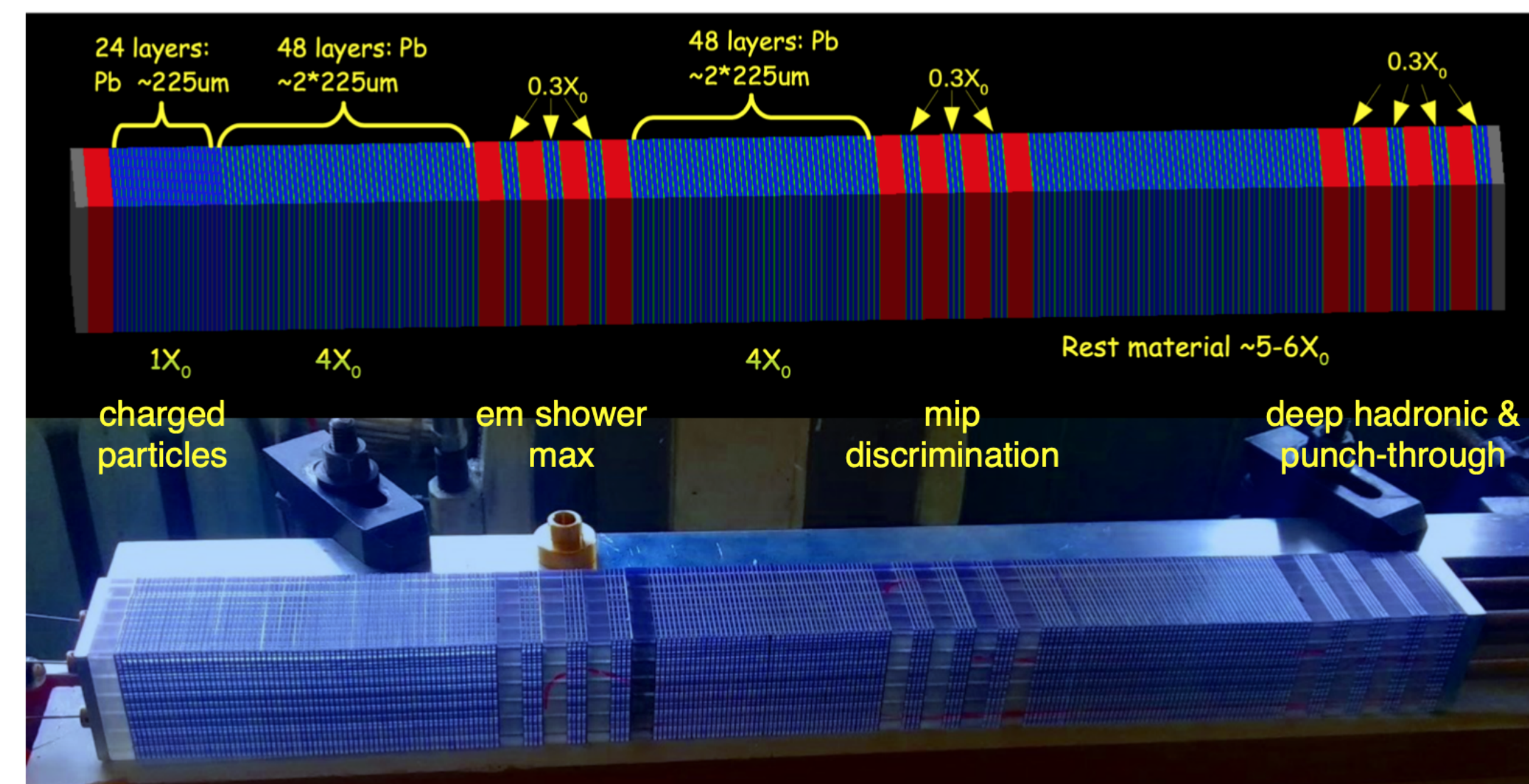
- New straw chamber with less diameter ( $\sim 5$  mm) and thinner wall ( $12\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ )
- Silicon pixel tracker (GTK) : planar, 3D, LGAD are being considered.
- Microchannel plate PMT for Cherenkov photon sensor





# R&D for new detectors

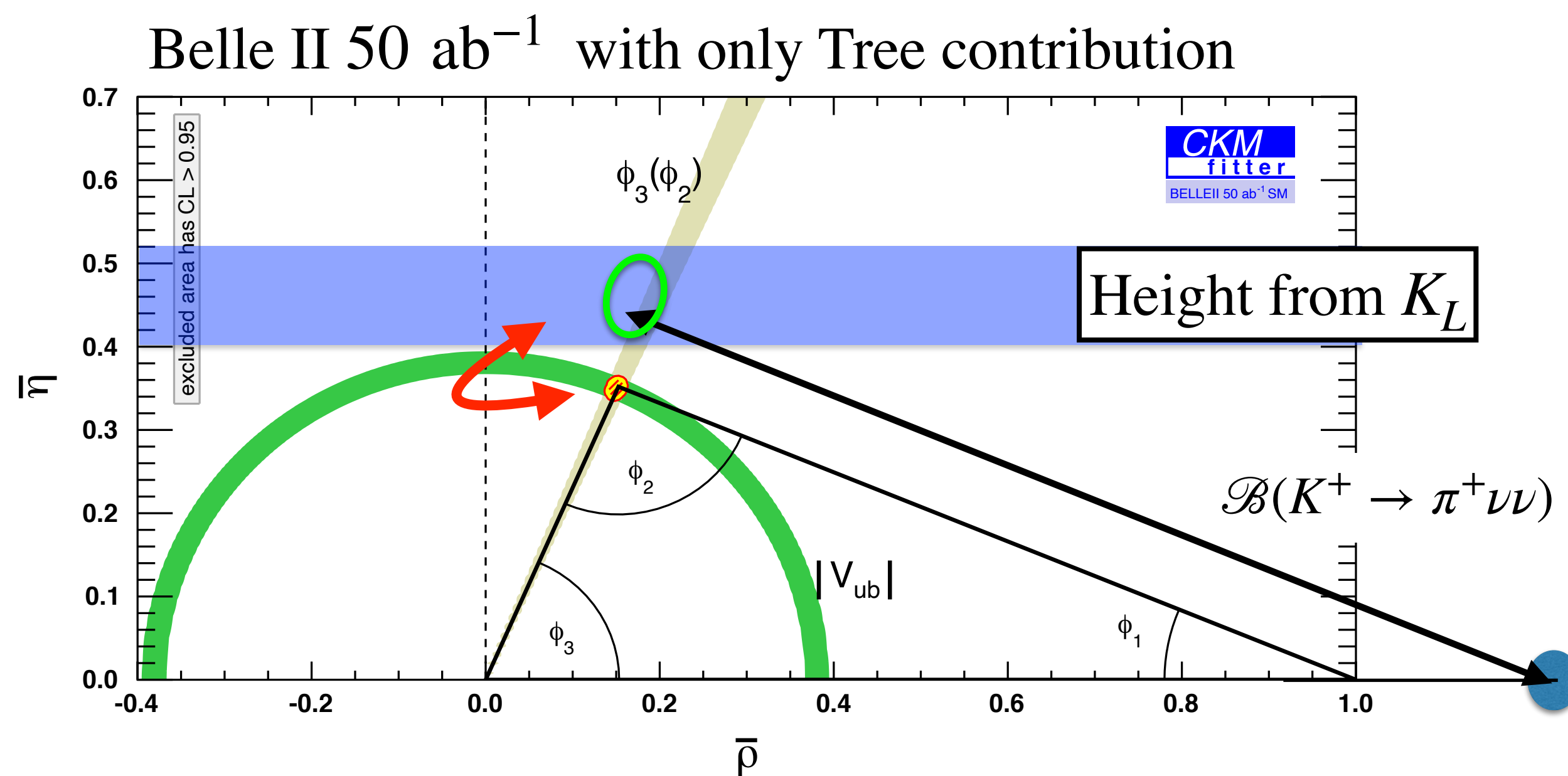
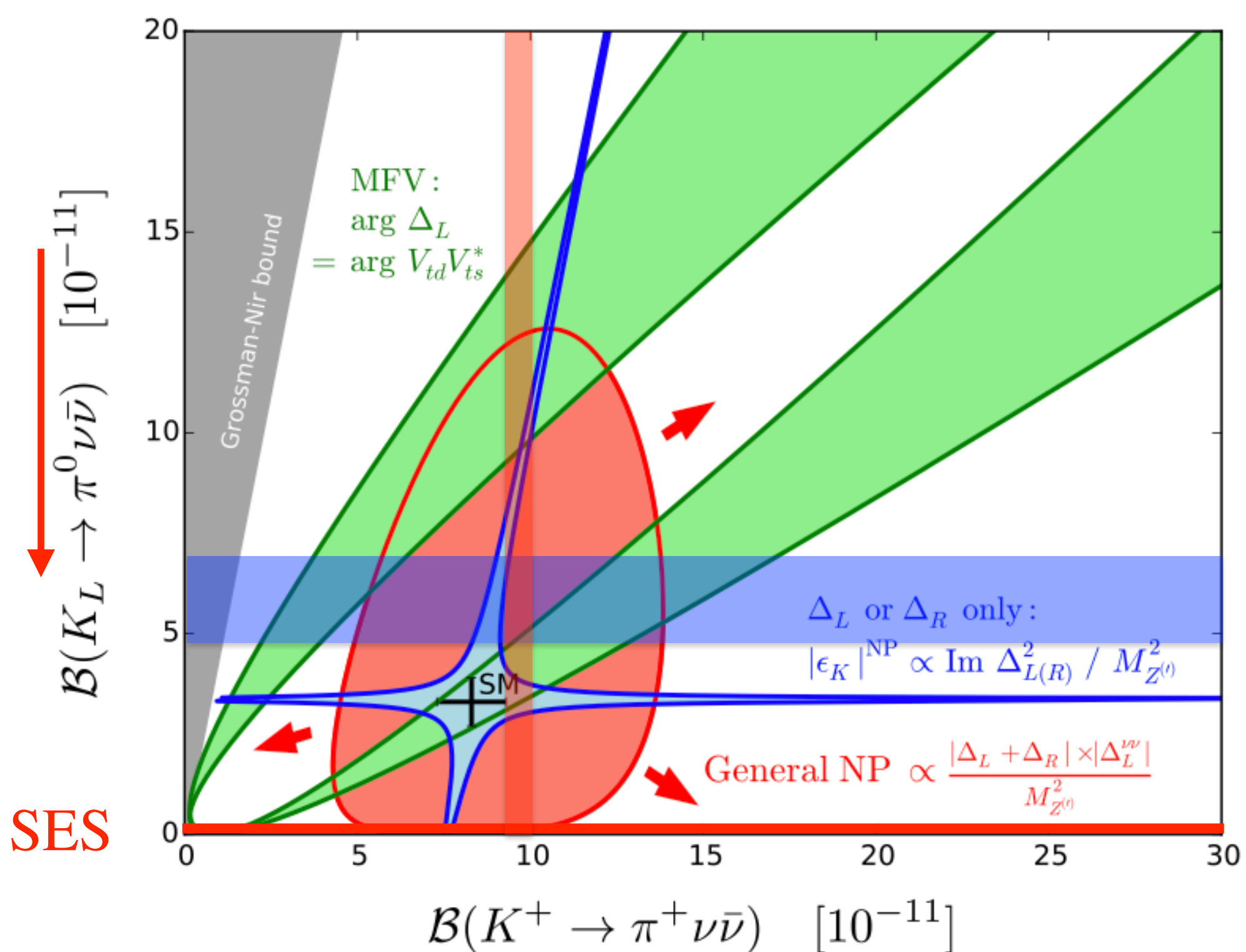
- MEC : Calorimeter with better timing resolution
  - Shashylic type
  - $\gamma$  / neutron discrimination
- SAC: Tungsten / Silicon-pad sampling / Compact Cerenkov detector with 3D segmentation.
  - Crystal orientation  $\rightarrow$  enhancement of photon conversion through coherent interaction





# Impact of HIKE and KOTO Step-2

Just a case study:



May find new physics effect





# $K_S$ decays at LHCb

**$10^{13} K_S/\text{fb}^{-1}$  produced in LHCb acceptance**

About 1 strange hadron per event!

Production rate compensates for low trigger efficiency and long lifetime

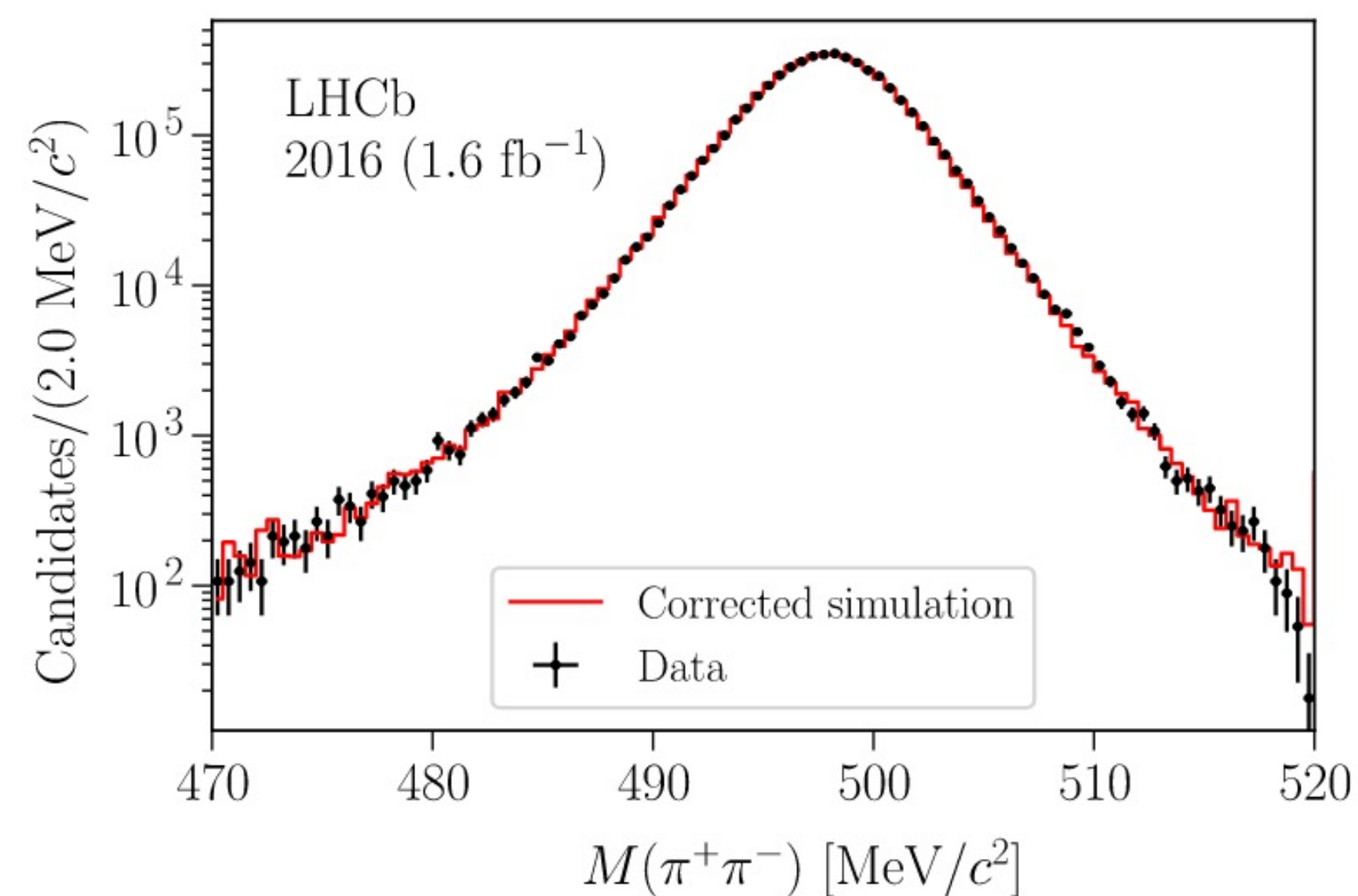
**Vast  $K$  program for Run 3:**

- $K_{S,L} \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$
- $K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu^+ \mu^-$
- $K_S \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$
- $K_S \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- \ell^+ \ell^-$
- $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \ell^+ \ell^-$
- + others

For example:

$$\text{BR}(K_S \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) < 2.1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ (90\%CL)}$$

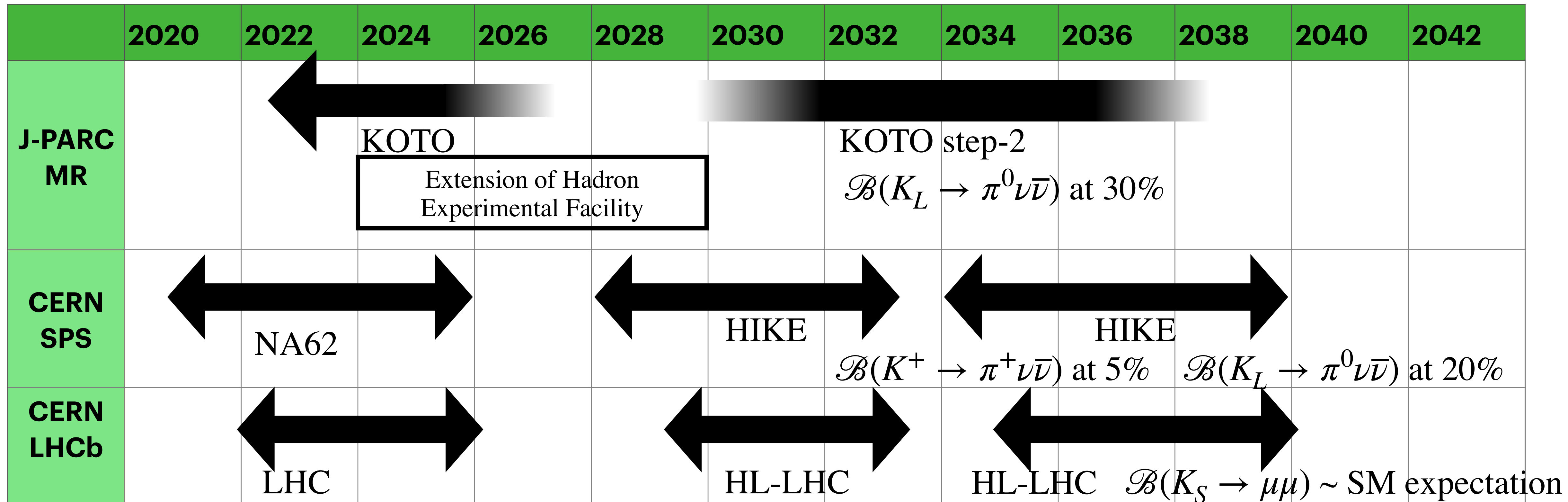
PRL125 (2020) 231801



Invariant mass distribution for normalization mode



# Long term timeline for a case study



- Current : Learning more with the on-going experiments. Develop high-performance detectors.
- ~2030s : Start new experiments.



# Messages

- US groups are already contributing significantly to the existing kaon experiments.
- In a 2018 DOE KOTO review, the committee's report concluded that moving towards KOTO step-2 is well justified and that effort to recruit new collaborators is encouraged.
- It is important US groups keep such leading roles in the field toward the future.
- Many opportunities get involved are there for the current and future experiments with various R&D items.
  - Large size calorimeter with  $\gamma$  / neutron separation, Photon incident angle measurement, Fast-timing straw tubes, Low-mass fast charged particle counter including planar, 3D, LGAD sensors, Fast-timing photon sensor including MCP-PMT, Photon detector in high intensity neutral beam, ...
- It is good timing to consider new experiments. We would like to have more brain storming with relaxed atmosphere. Is it assist these directions? Encouraging?
- Message at the spring meeting by Elizabeth Worcester
  - Participation in kaon experiments at JPARC and/or CERN is currently the only opportunity for US physicists to contribute to this vital area of research [...] the US HEP community is exploring possible expansions to our physics program that could be achieved with future upgrades to the Fermilab proton accelerator complex, envisioned to take place in the 2030s. This could include additional (next-next generation) experiments exploring the physics accessible with high-intensity kaon beams. The best way for the US HEP community to be well-positioned to take advantage of this opportunity would be to explore this physics and develop expertise in modern kaon experiments by participating in the international programs described in [the whitepaper].