

EMPHATIC

Hadron production experiment



University of Texas at Arlington

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(on behalf of the **EMPHATIC Collaboration**)

University of Texas at Arlington

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April 14-20, 2024

Neutrino flux uncertainties

Flux uncertainties in accelerator neutrino experiments are still large:

- *Impacts baseline predictions for near and far detectors, single-detector measurements and neutrino background in BSM searches*
- *Dominant uncertainties come from interactions in materials (target, horn, etc) or energies or phase spaces that have never been measured.*

We need more data to improve our knowledge of the hadron production and improve the flux prediction



Neutrino flux uncertainties

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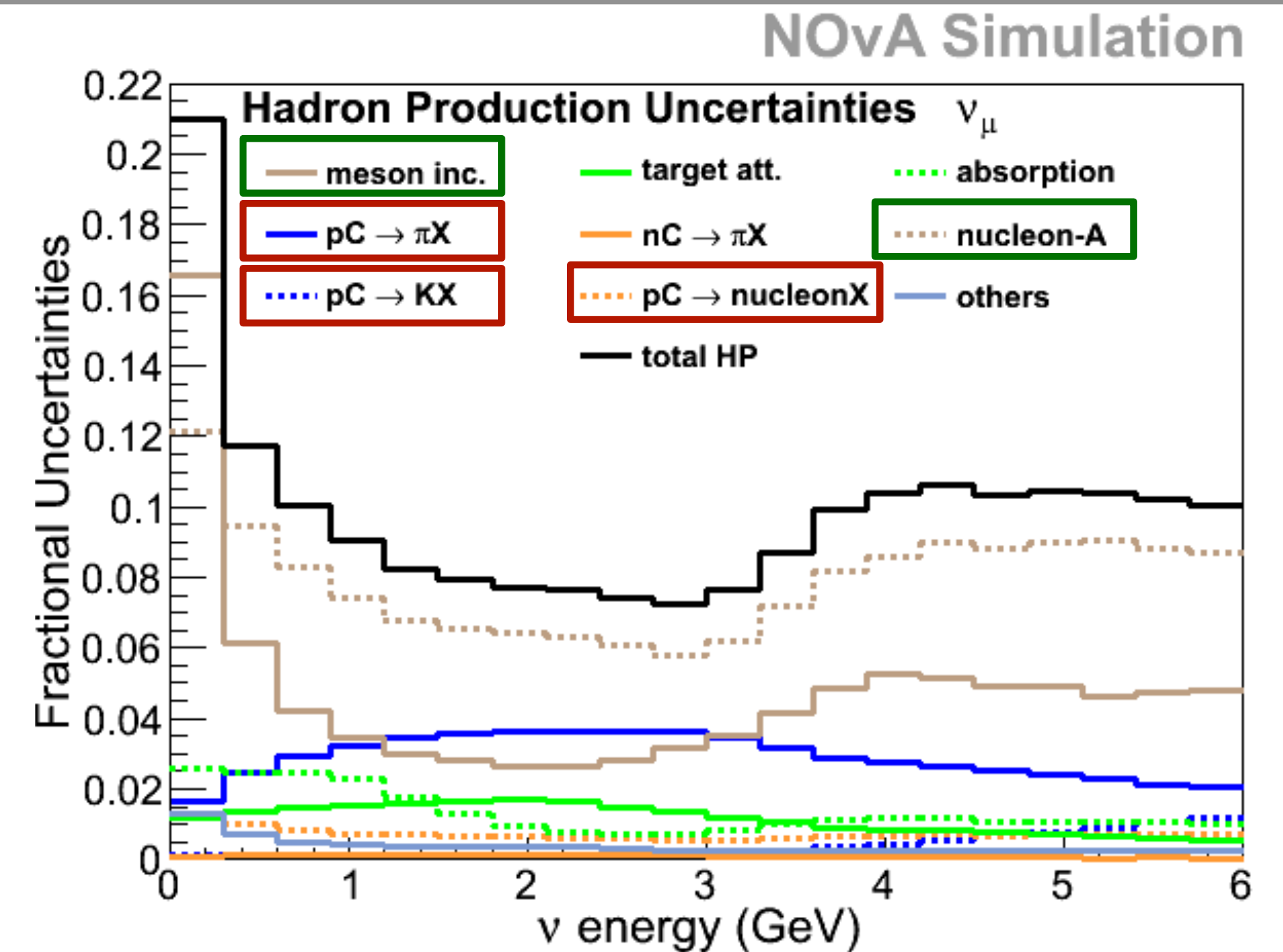
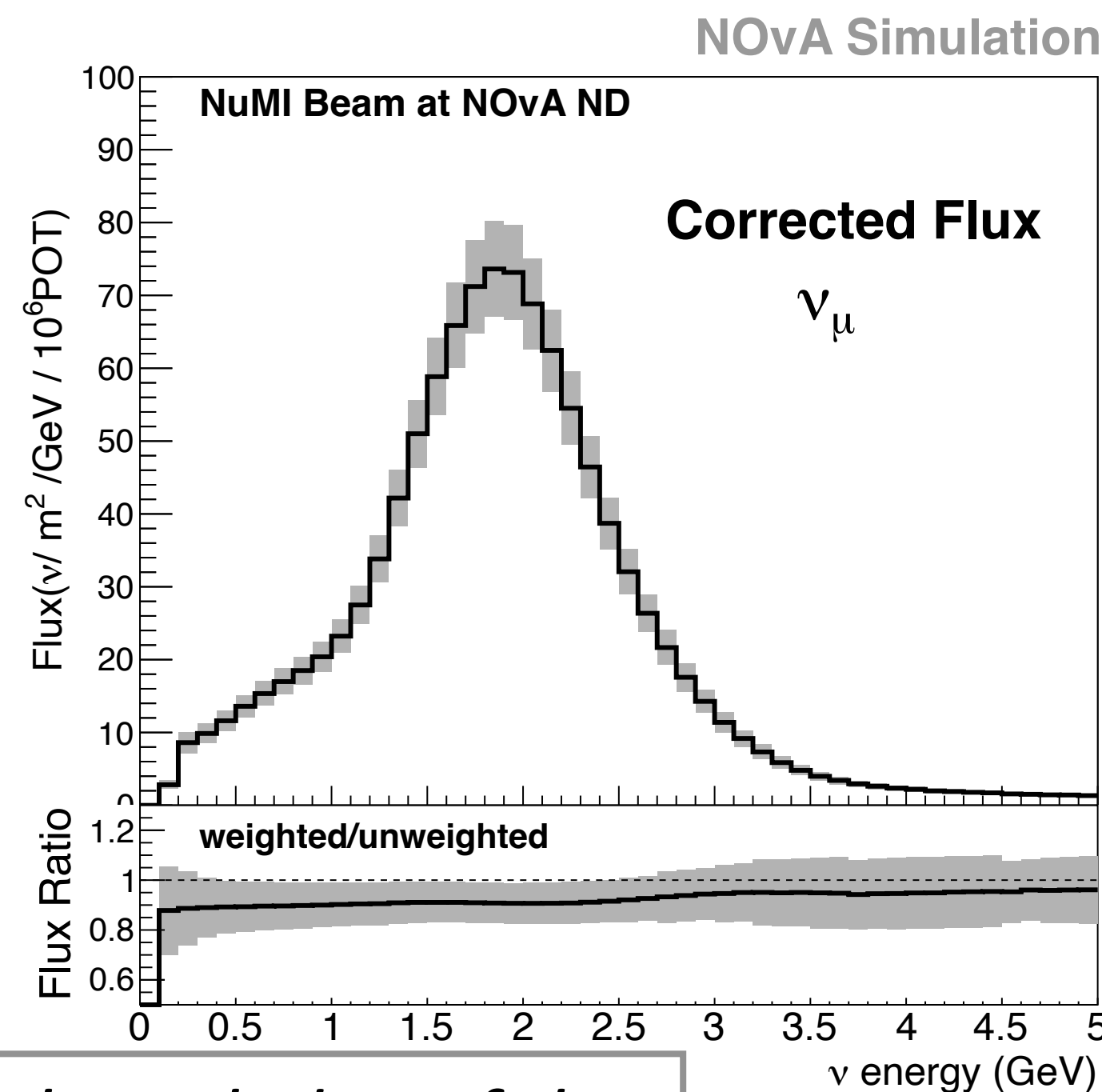
- Impacts baseline predictions for near and far detectors, single-detector measurements and neutrino background in BSM searches
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Flux prediction for NuMI (or LBNF) is based on:

- NA49 p-C at 158 GeV/c using xF-scaling to 12-120 GeV/c
- A-depending scaling uncertainty to extend carbon data
- A large 40% when there is not direct or indirect data.

Phys. Rev. D 94, 092005 (2016)

We need more data to improve our knowledge of the hadron production and improve the flux prediction



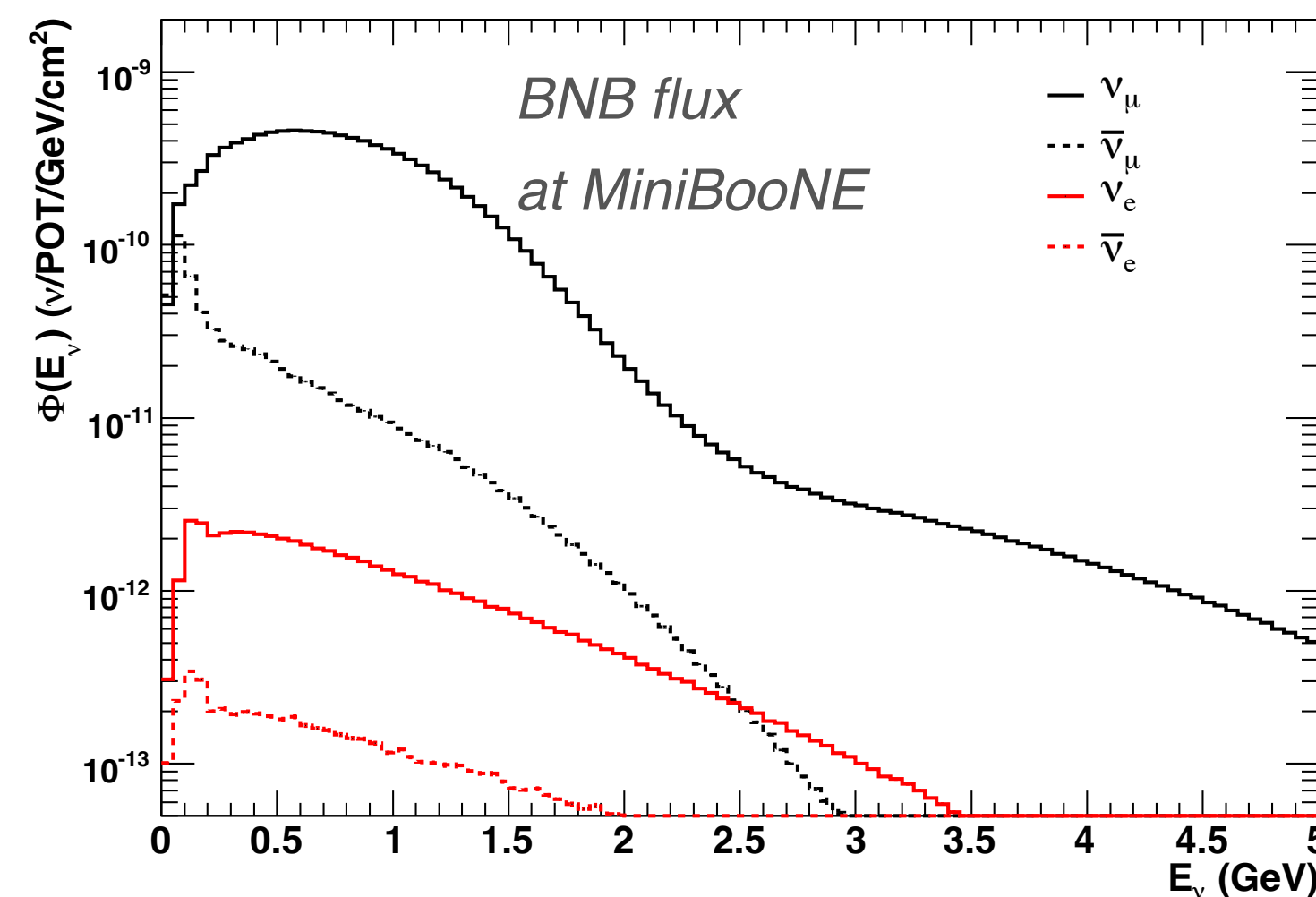
Neutrino flux uncertainties

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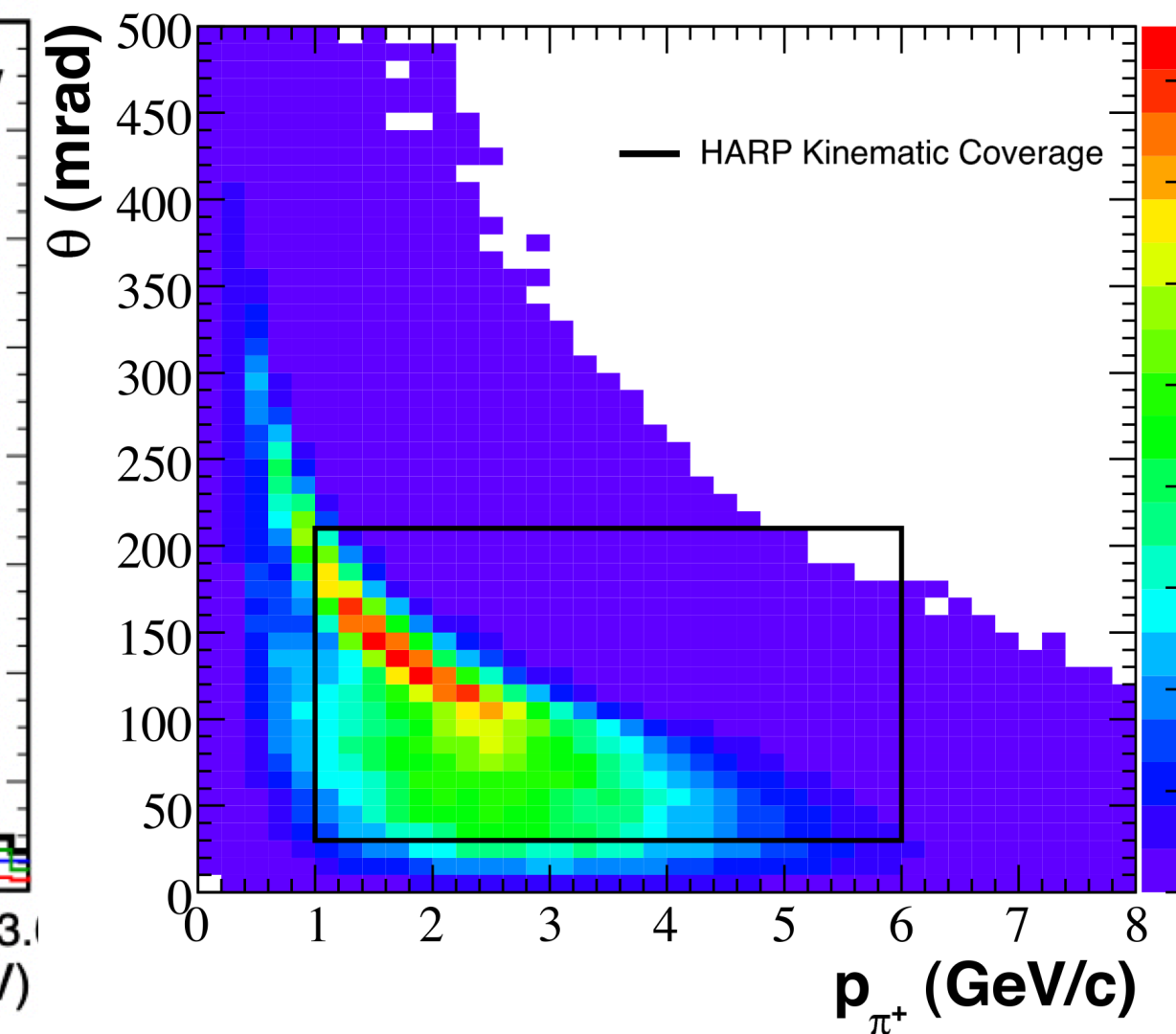
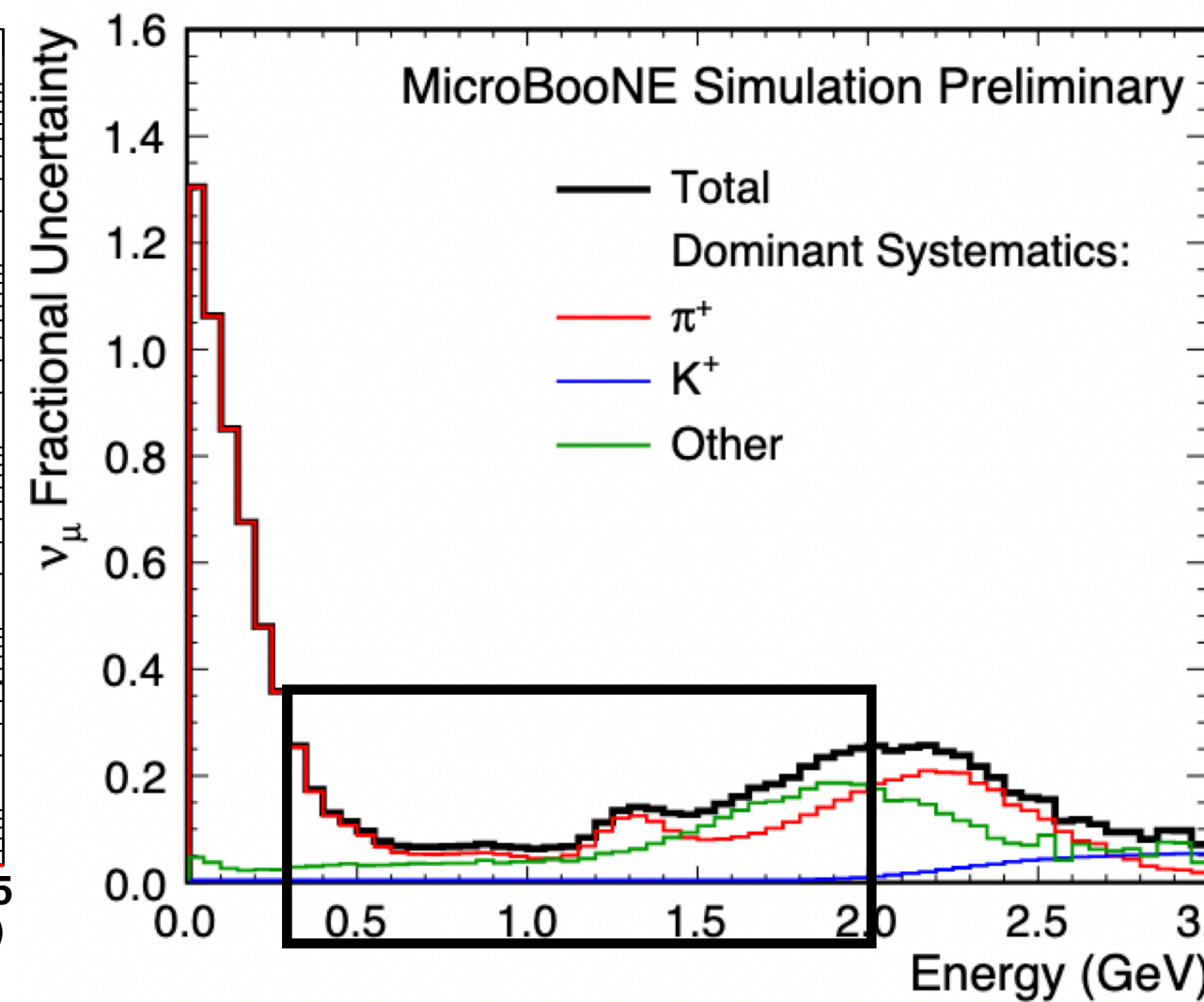
- Impacts baseline predictions for near and far detectors, single-detector measurements and neutrino background in BSM searches
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The flux prediction for BNB is based on:

- HARP and E910 p-Be data for pions
- xF-scaling based on fit world for pBe for kaons



Phys. Rev. D 79, 072002



Large uncertainties in the BNB come from regions not covered by HARP

We need more data to improve our knowledge of the hadron production and improve the flux prediction

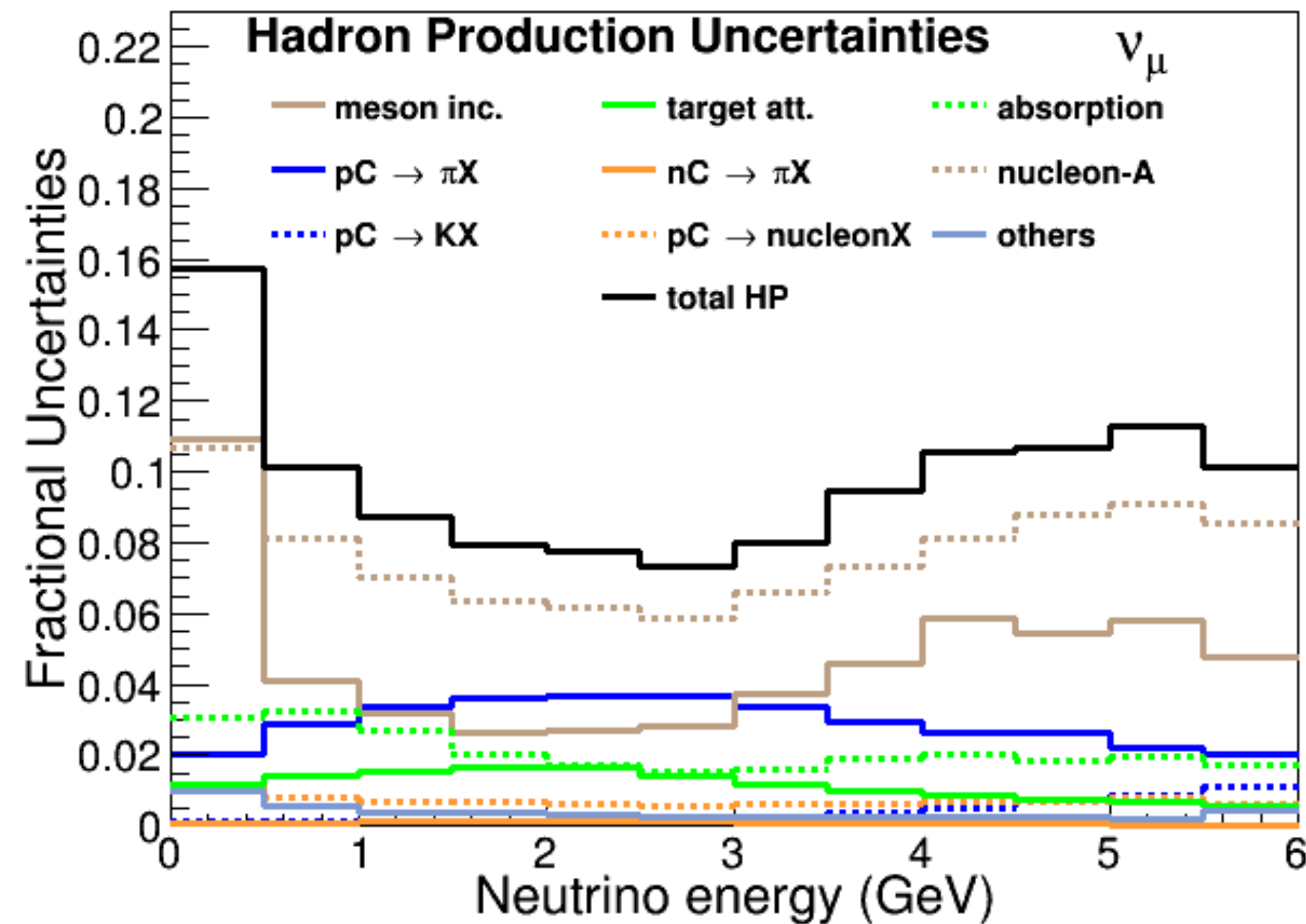


Reasonably achievable gain from new data

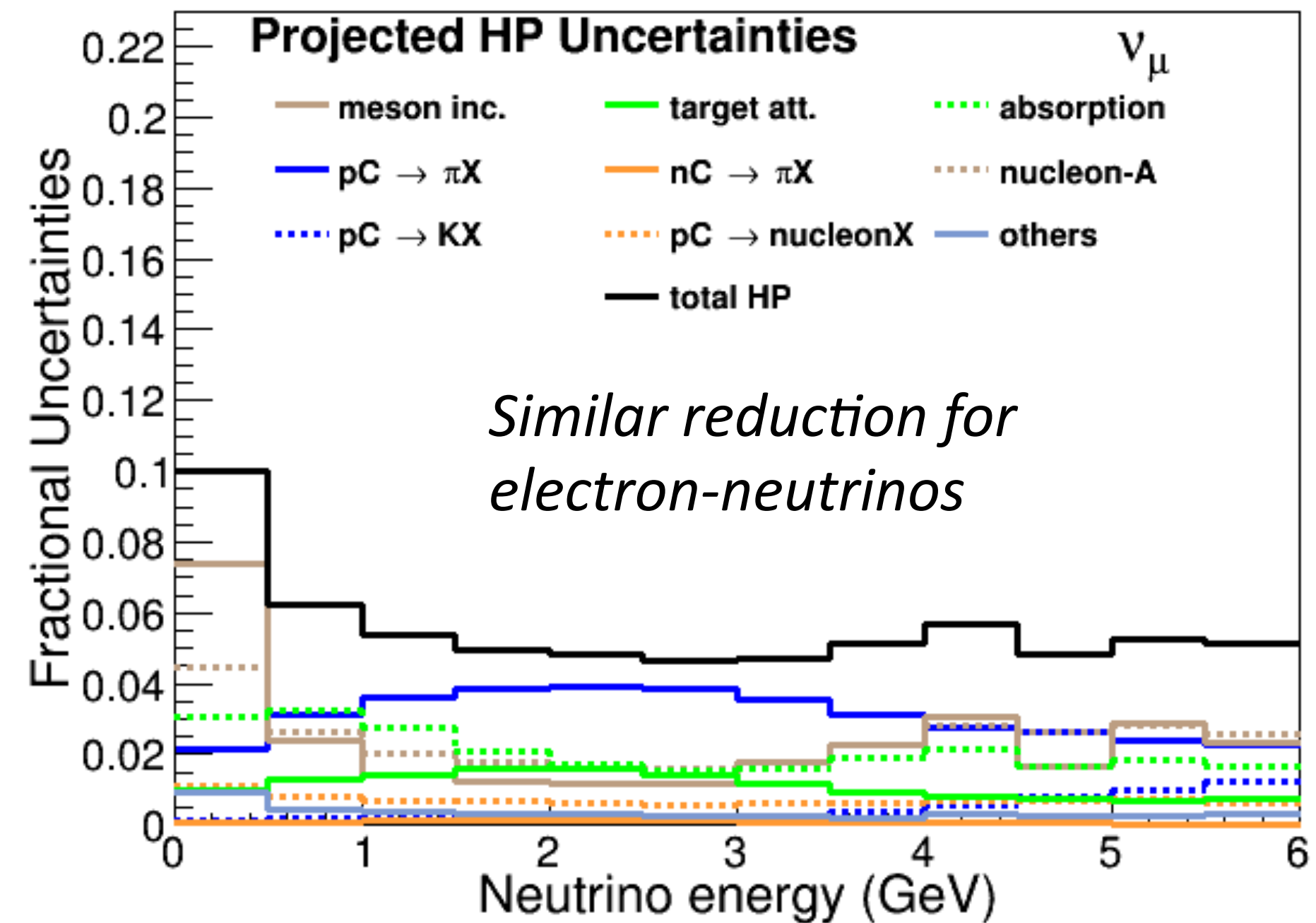
With some conservative assumptions, we can expect a significant reduction in the uncertainty

- *K absorption*: 60-90% \rightarrow 10%
- *QE interactions*: 40 \rightarrow 10%
- *p, π , K + C[Fe, Al] \rightarrow p X*: 40 \rightarrow 10%
- *p, π , K + C[Fe, Al] \rightarrow K[±] X*: 40 \rightarrow 20%

NOvA Simulation



NOvA Simulation



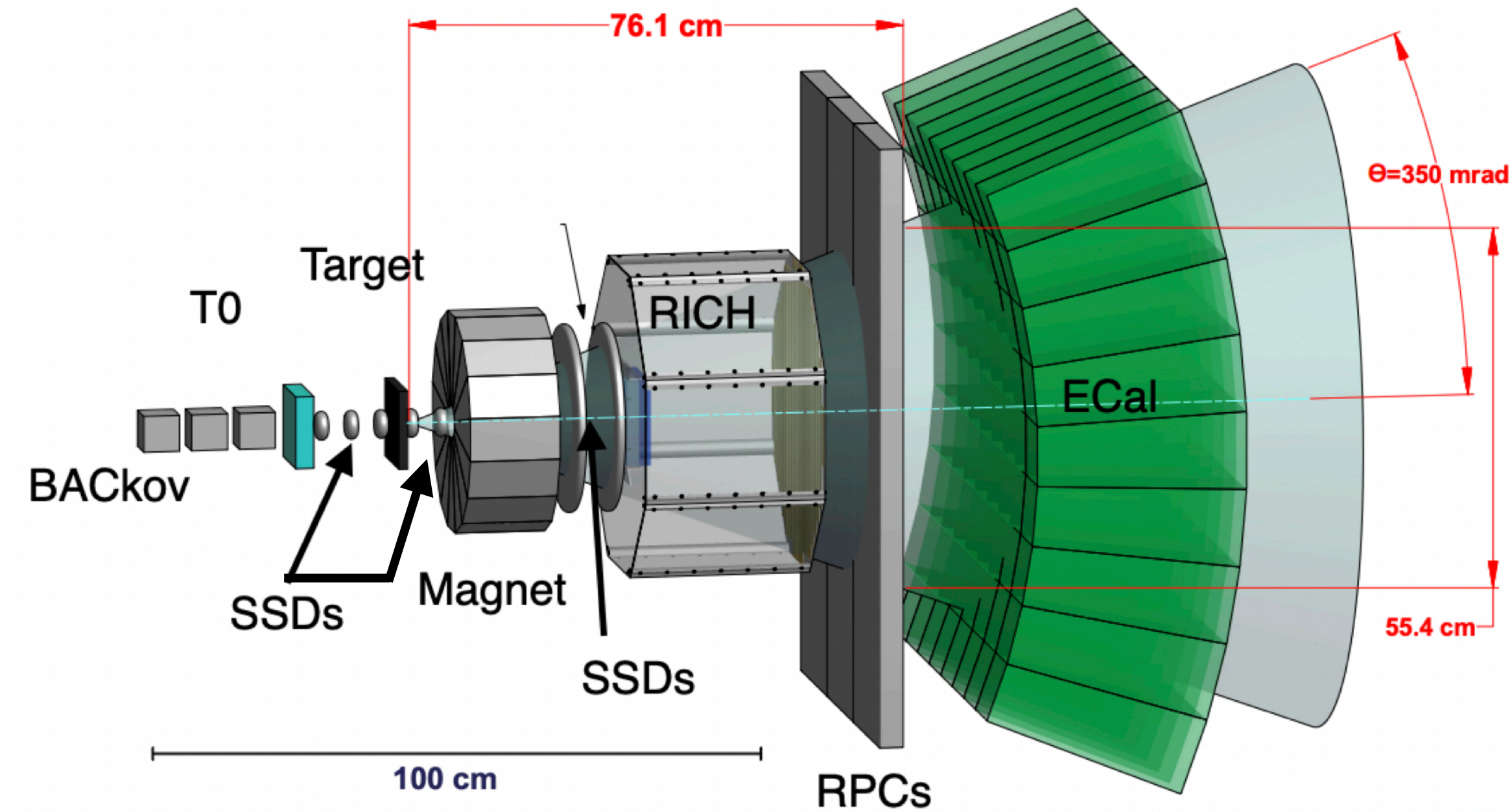
New data not only will reduce the uncertainty but will also enhance the robustness of our flux prediction



EMPHATIC

Experiment to Measure the Production of Hadrons At a Testbeam In Chicagoland

Trigger detector
Top-view



- *Fill in the gaps of missing hadron-scattering and hadron-production cross sections with measurements of better than 10%*


Goals:

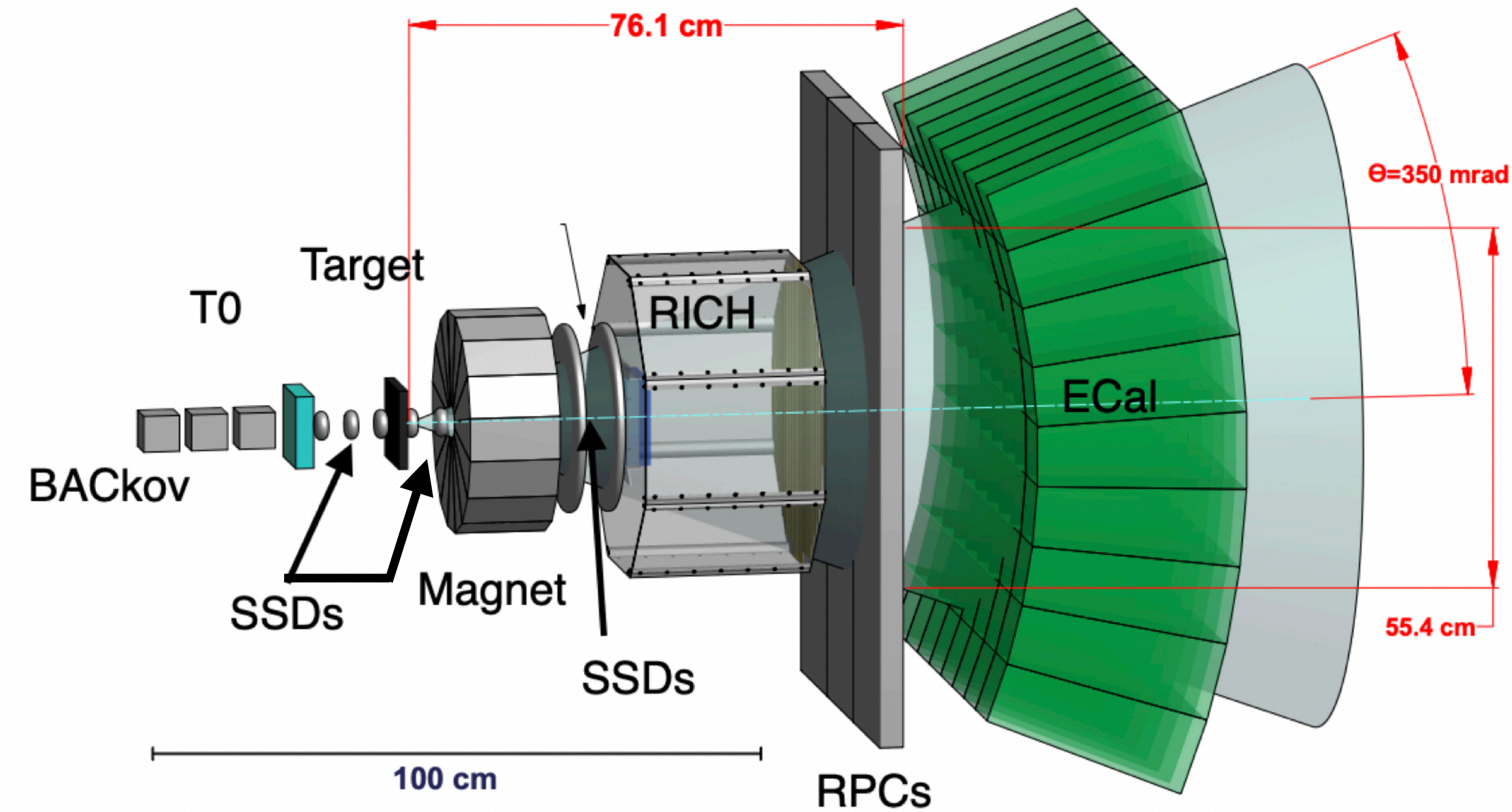
- *Make the first-ever measurement of the hadron spectrum downstream of a target and horn*

Our collaborators are actively updating NuMI and LBNF flux predictions with our measurements as additional constraints.

EMPHATIC

Small-scale experiment (detectors fit within 4 meters) at the M(eson)Test beamline in the Fermilab Test Beam Facility.

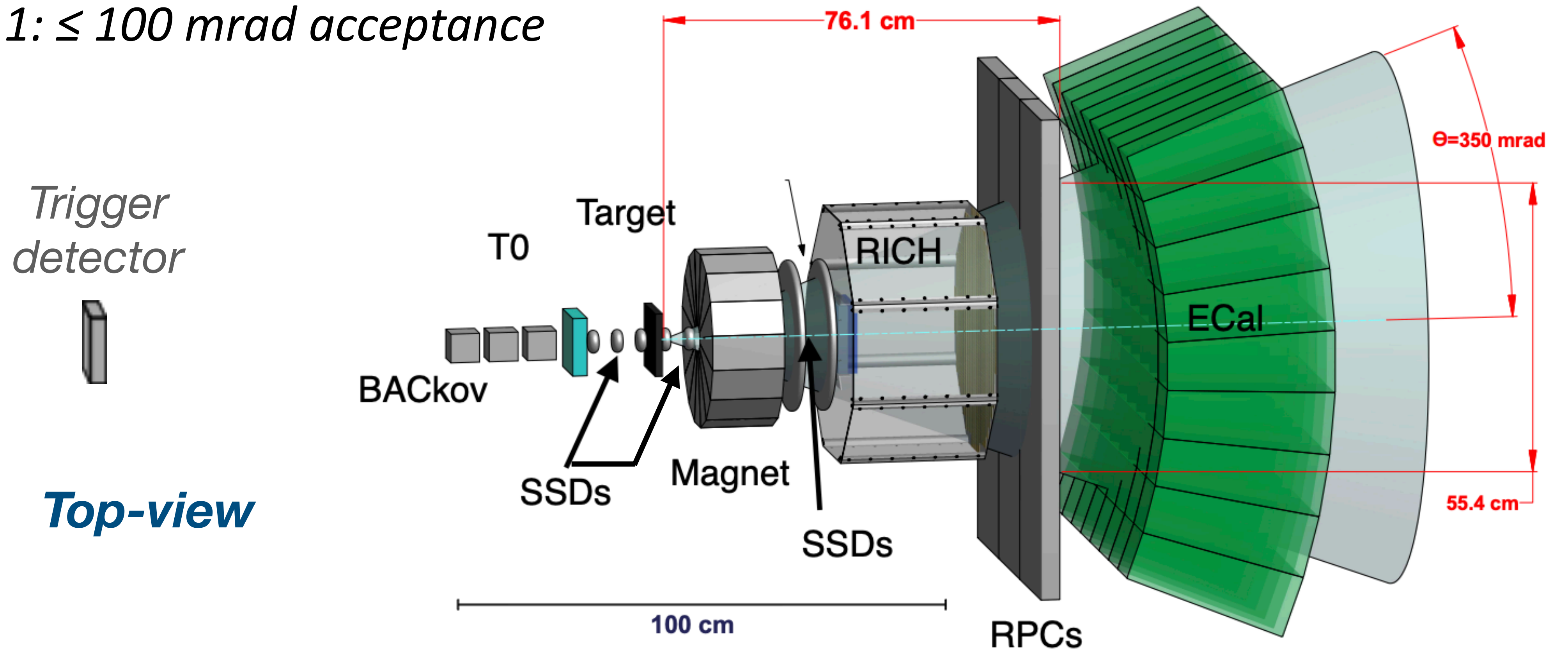
Trigger detector

Top-view



- Focus on low-momentum beam: $p_{\text{beam}} < 15$ GeV/c, but will also make measurements with beam from 20-120 GeV/c. **Ultimate design: 350 mrad acceptance**
- Collection of small detectors to track particles with high precision before and after a target, perform particle identification, and measure calorimetric energy.

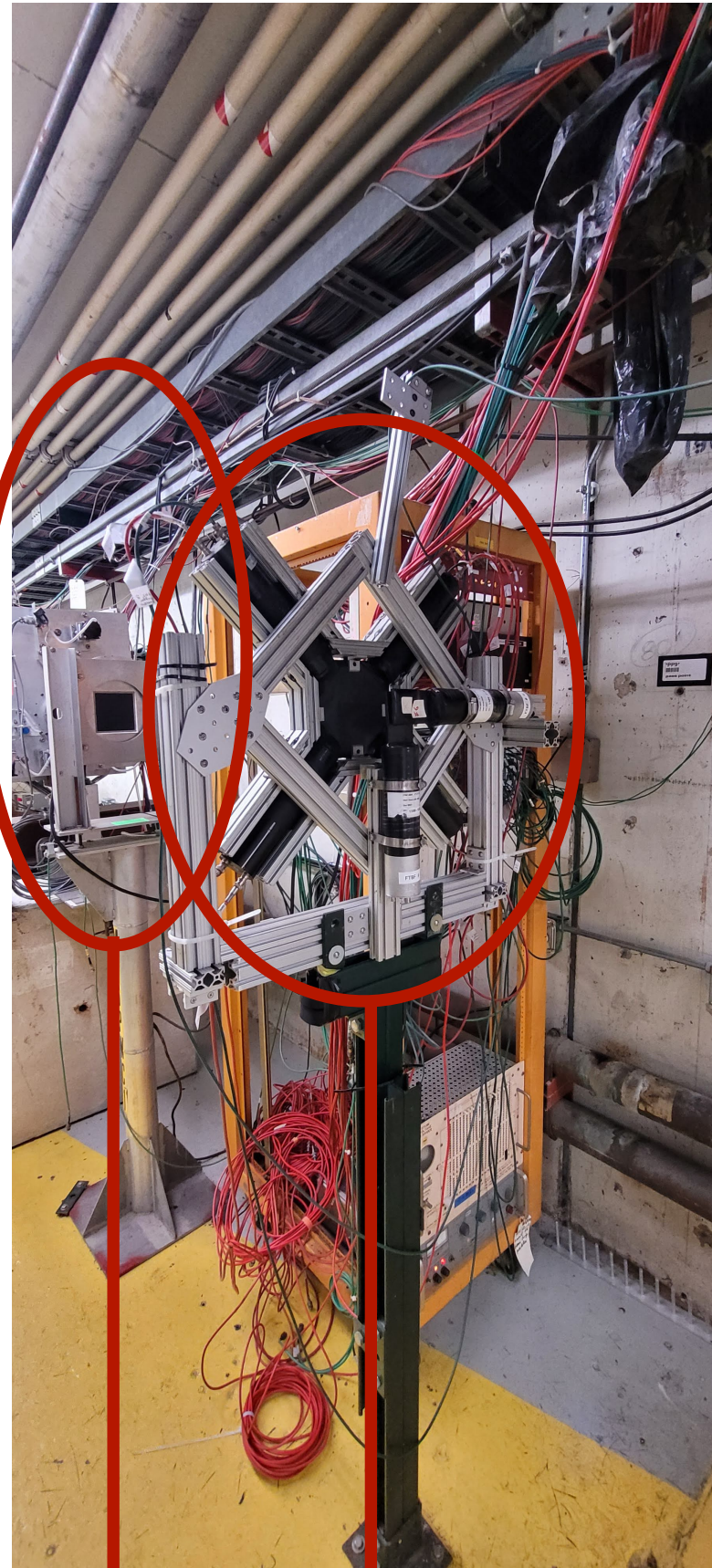
Detector layout

Smaller versions of the Magnet, RICH and ECal used in Phase 1: ≤ 100 mrad acceptance



Top-view

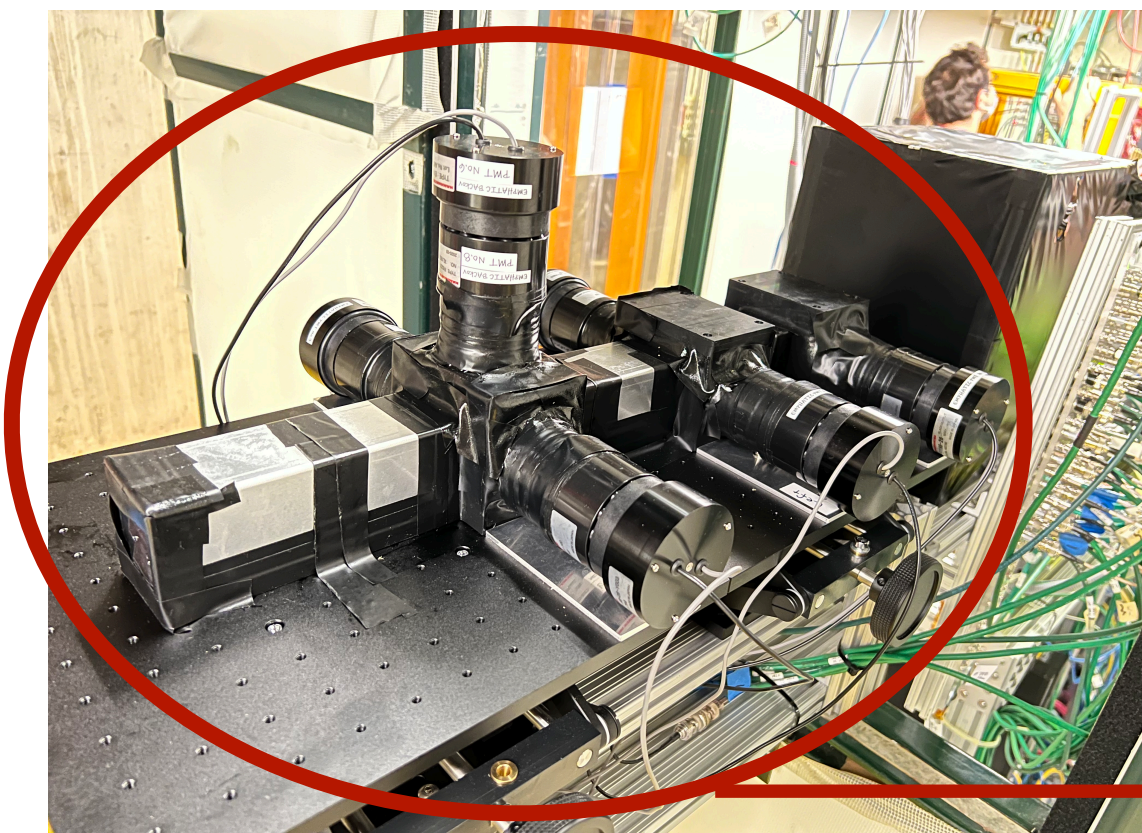
EMPHATIC Phase 1: ≤ 100 mrad acceptance



Gas Ckov
Trigger



TO SSDs Magnet ARICH RPC Lead-glass Calorimeter



Beam aerogel Ckov

During the 6-week data collection period, we collected over 250 million triggers.

All installations completed within 2-3 days as part of our Phase 1 operations.

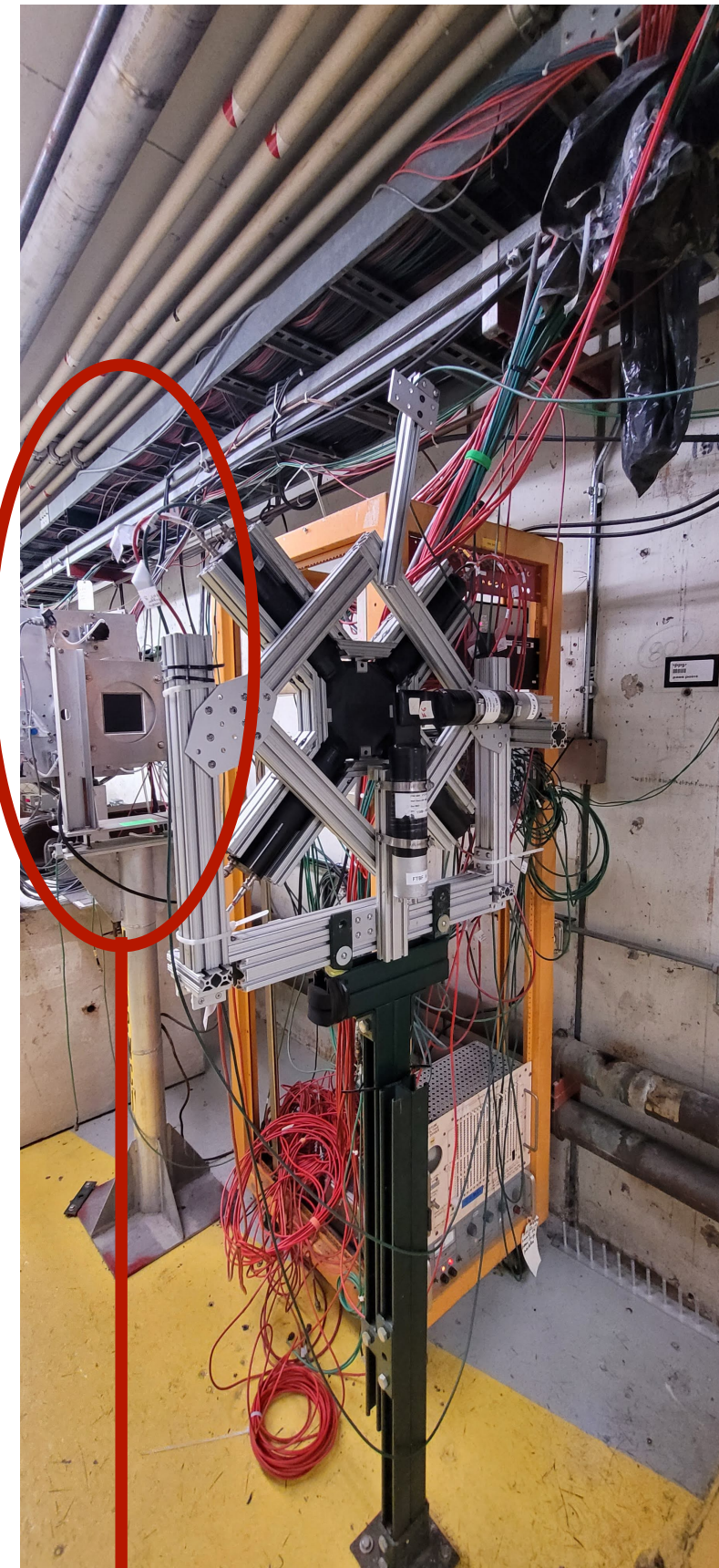
Beam characterization

Gas Cherenkov:

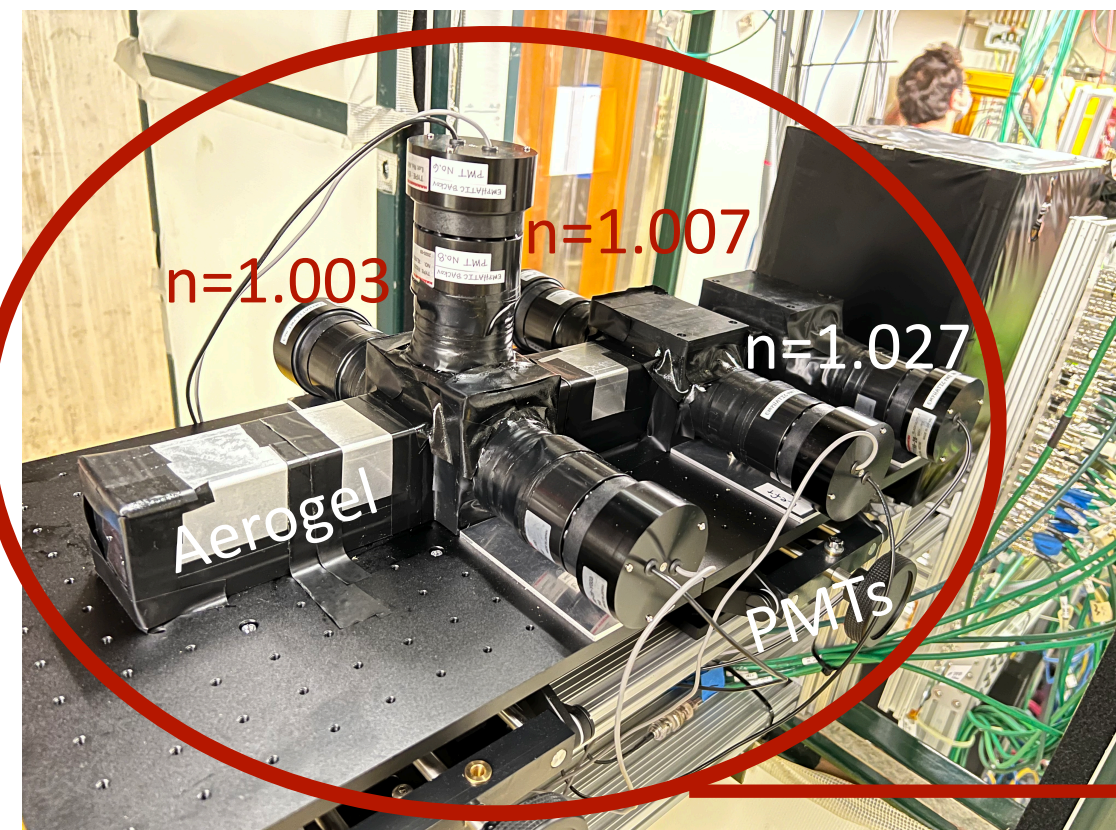
- Facility Cherenkov detector with inner and outer mirrors
- Filled with CO₂, pressure varied depending on the beam momentum.

Beam Aerogel Cherenkov (BACkov):

- Used for beam particle identification



Gas Ckov



BACkov performance

Beam aerogel Ckov

• Detect (✓) or no detect (–) diagram

Beam	Particle	High-index n=1.027	Middle-index n=1.007	Low-index n=1.003
4 GeV/c	π	✓	✓	✓
	K	✓	–	–
	p	–	–	–
8 GeV/c	π or K	✓	✓	✓
	p	✓	–	–
12 GeV/c	π or K	✓	✓	✓
	p	✓	✓	–
120 GeV/c	(p)	✓	✓	✓

π/K separation

K/p separation

K/p separation

K/p separation

Calibration

Beam characterization

Gas Cherenkov:

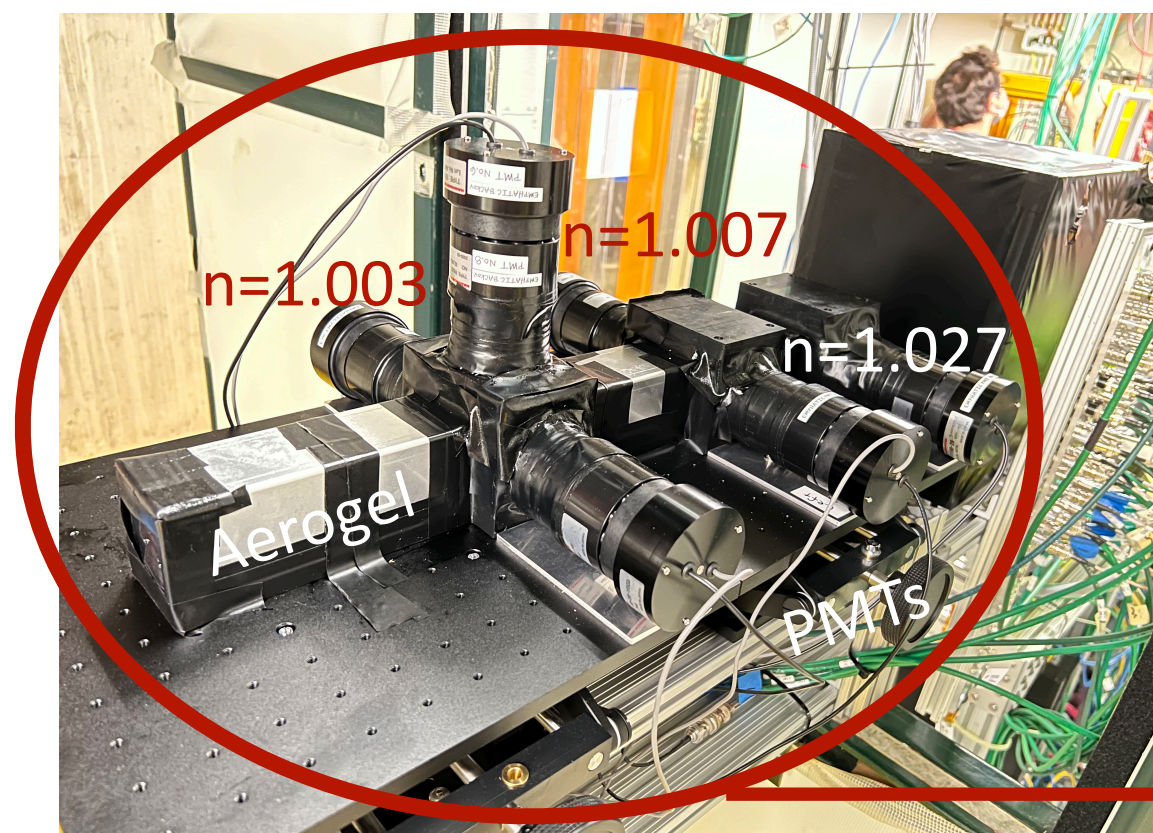
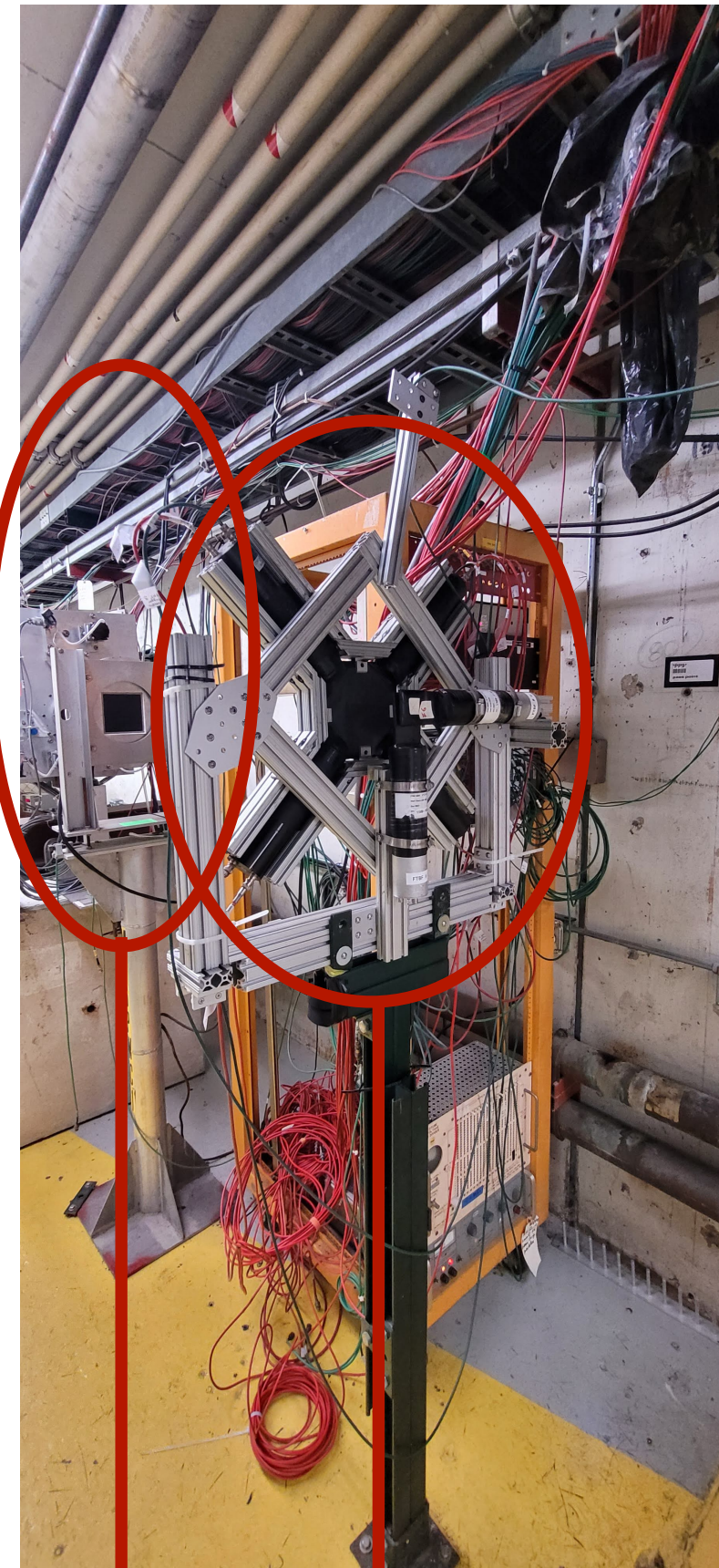
- Facility Cherenkov detector with inner and outer mirrors
- Filled with CO₂, pressure varied depending on the beam momentum.

Trigger detector:

- Scintillator paddle with 4 PMTs, required 3-of-4 coincidence

Beam Aerogel Cherenkov (BACkov):

- Used for beam particle identification



• Detect (✓) or no detect (–) diagram

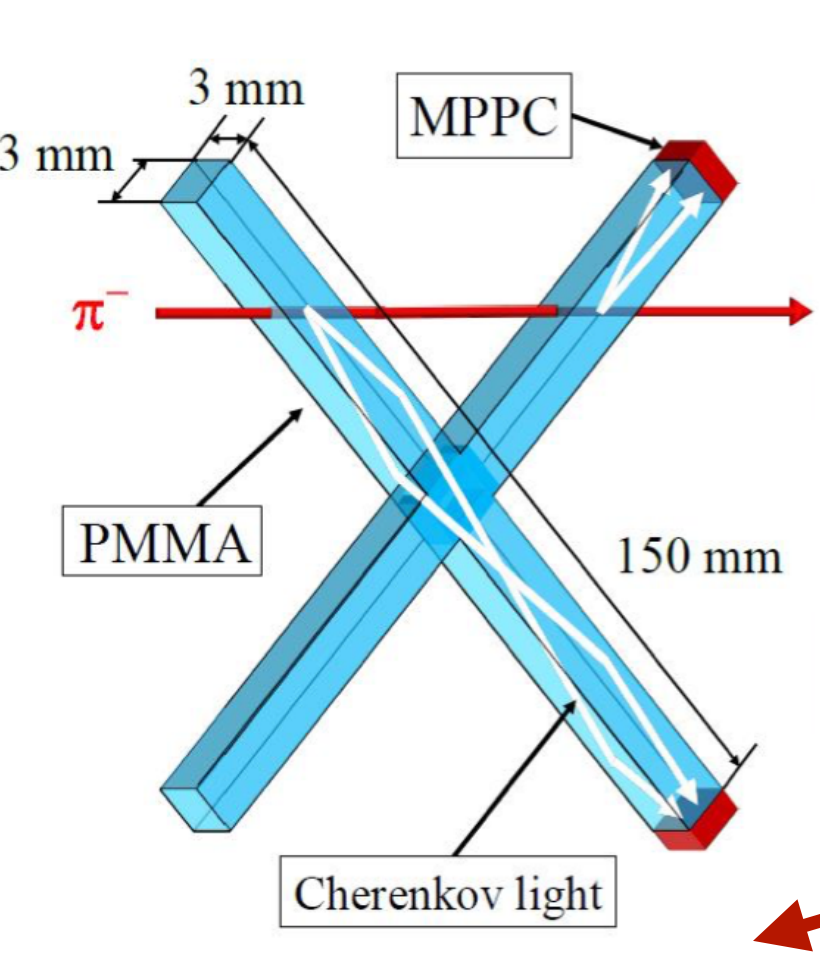
Beam	Particle	High-index n=1.027	Middle-index n=1.007	Low-index n=1.003
4 GeV/c	π	✓	✓	✓
	K	✓	–	–
	p	–	–	–
8 GeV/c	π or K	✓	✓	✓
	p	✓	–	–
12 GeV/c	π or K	✓	✓	✓
	p	✓	✓	–
120 GeV/c	(p)	✓	✓	✓

BACkov performance

Beam aerogel Ckov

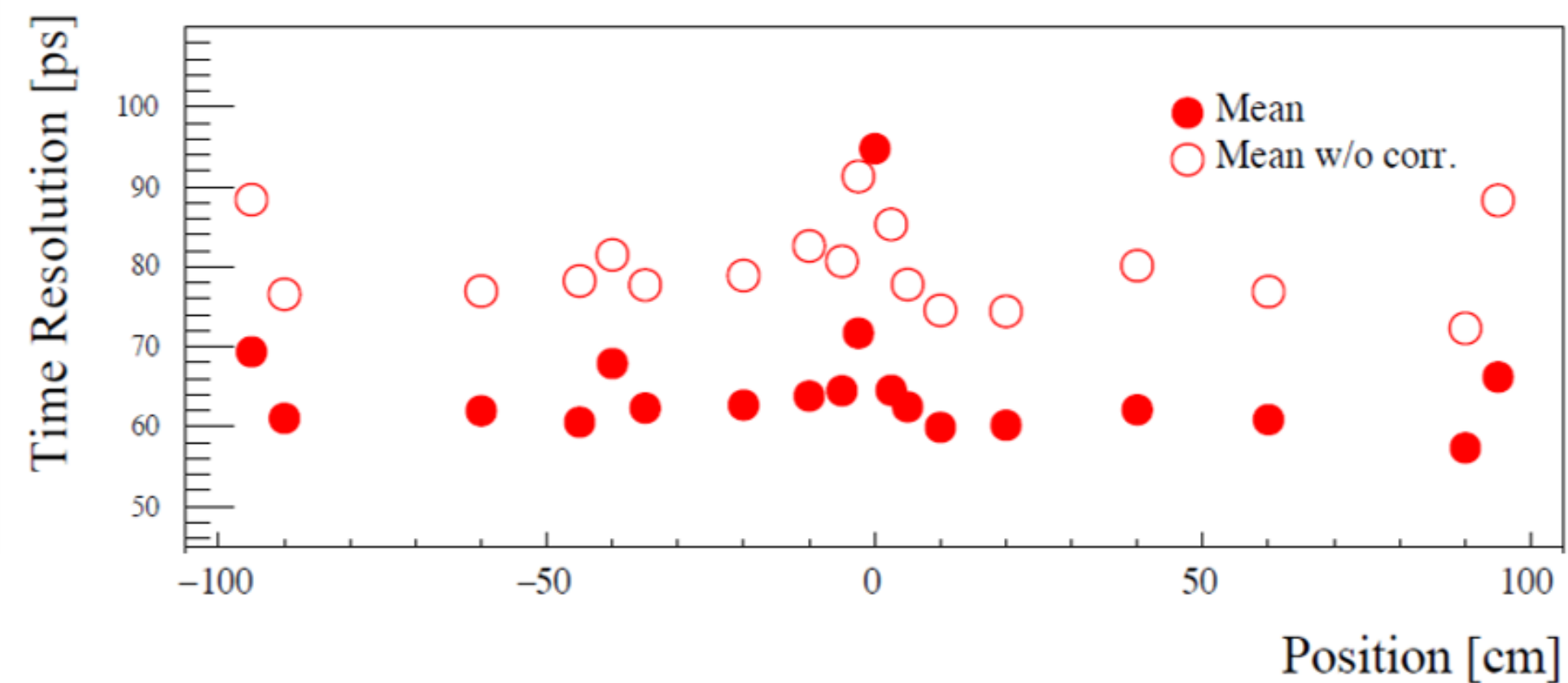
Gas Ckov
Trigger

Time of flight system



T0 ◦ *x-shaped acrylic Cherenkov layered detector*

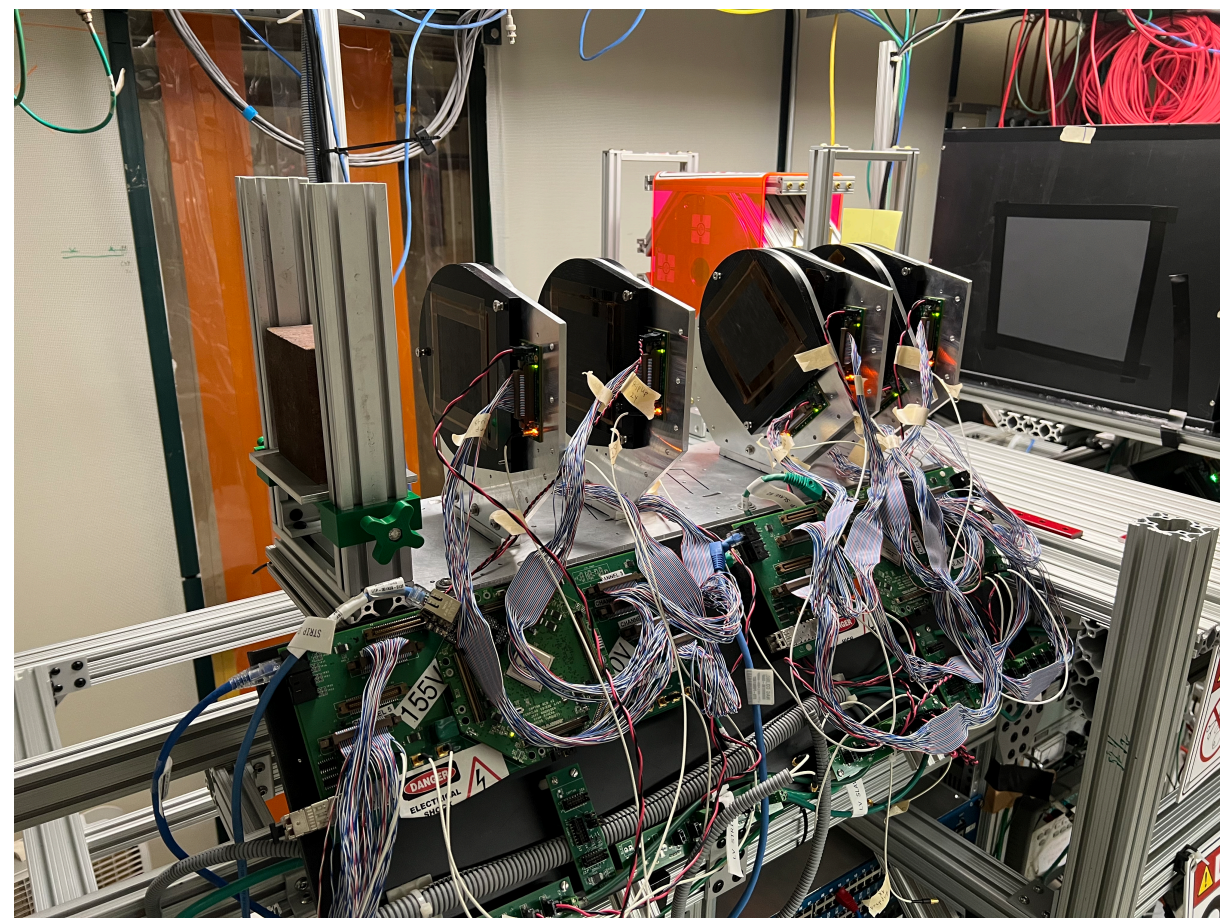
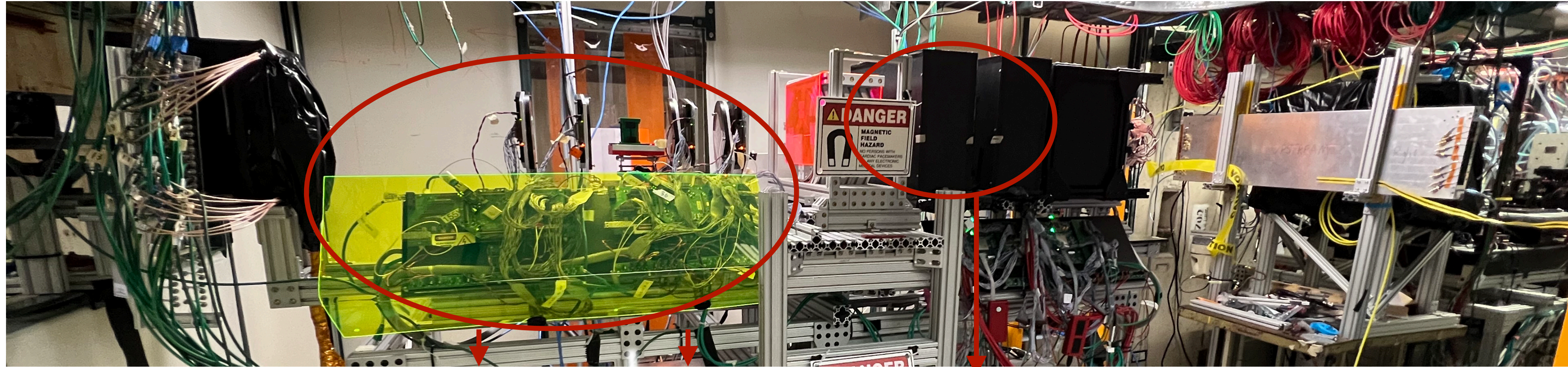
Expect combined timing resolution of ~ 70 ps, particle separation up to ~ 1.5 GeV/c



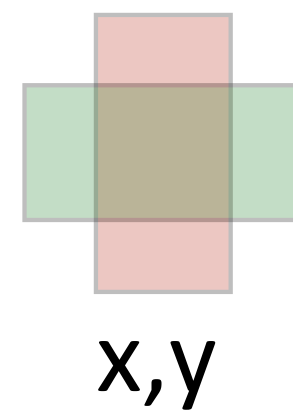
RPC
◦ *Glass plates in acrylic boxes filled with gas*



Silicon Strip Detectors (SSDs)



SSDs



x,y



Target

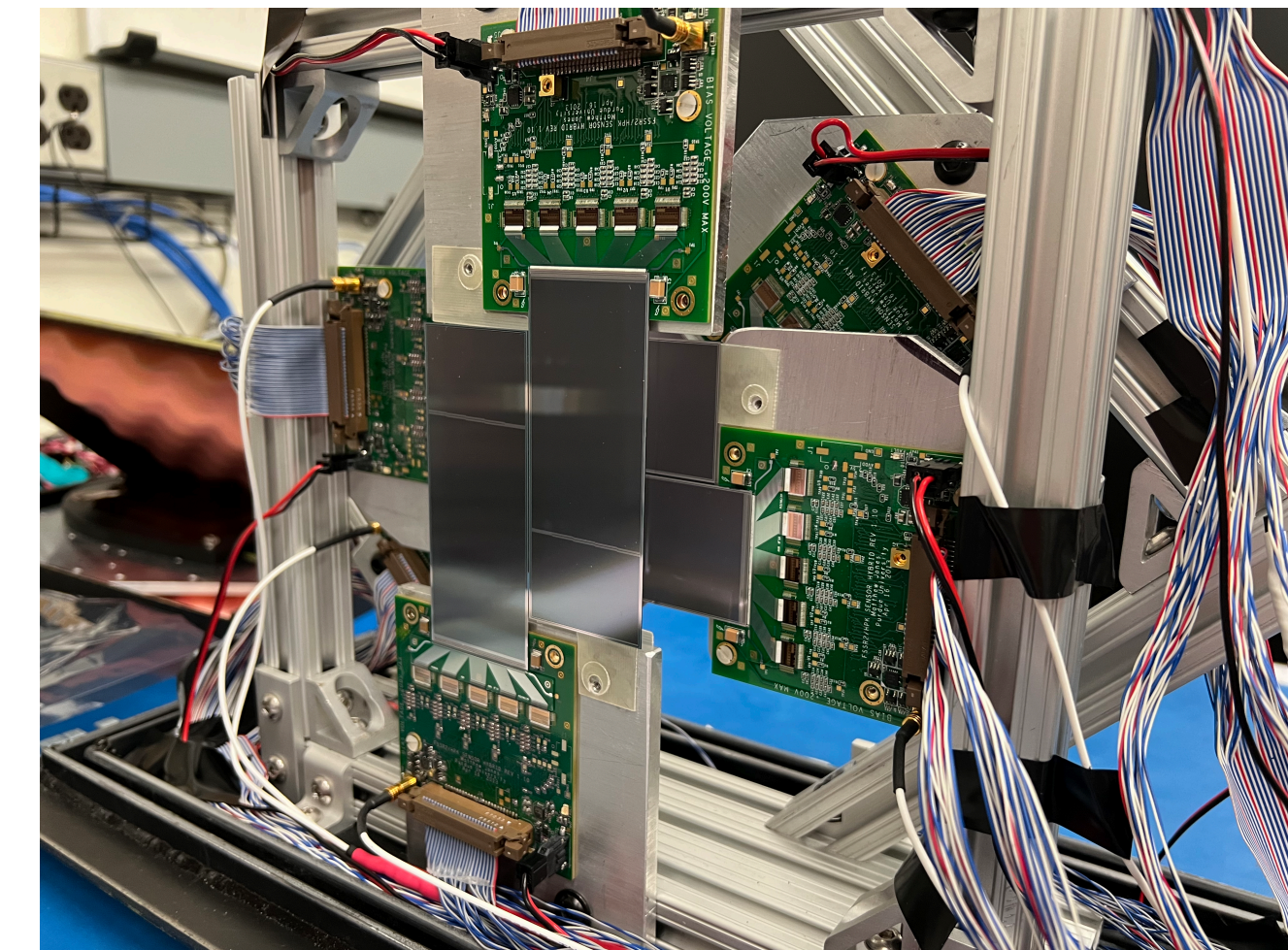


u,x,y



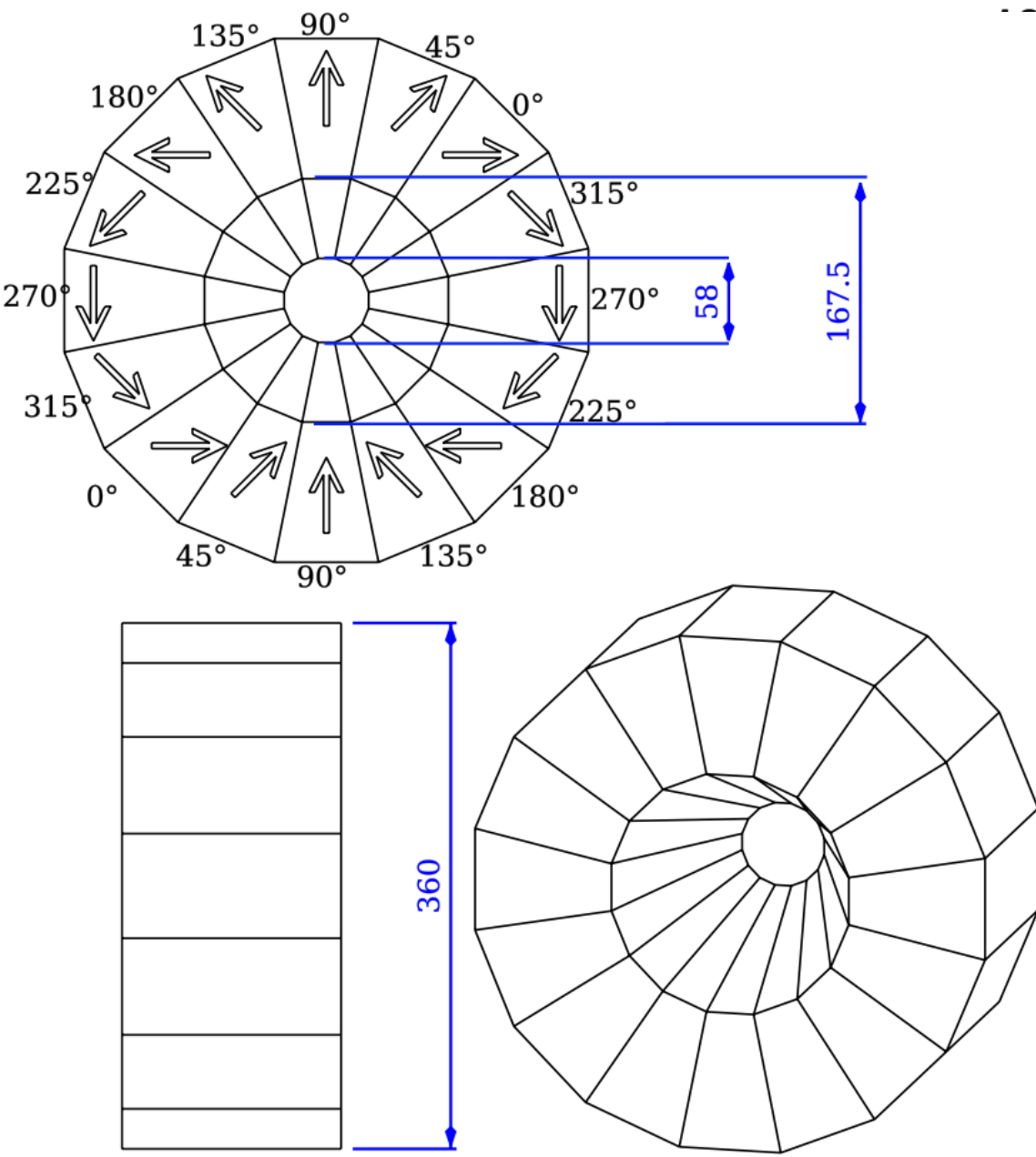
y,x,w

- *60 μm pitch and $\sim 17.3 \mu\text{m}$ spatial resolution*
- *Used in the Phase1 runs for a $\sim 100 \text{ mrad}$ acceptance spectrometer*



Permanent Magnet

Halbach Array



all measurements are in mm

$$\oint B \cdot dl = 1.2 \text{ Tm}$$

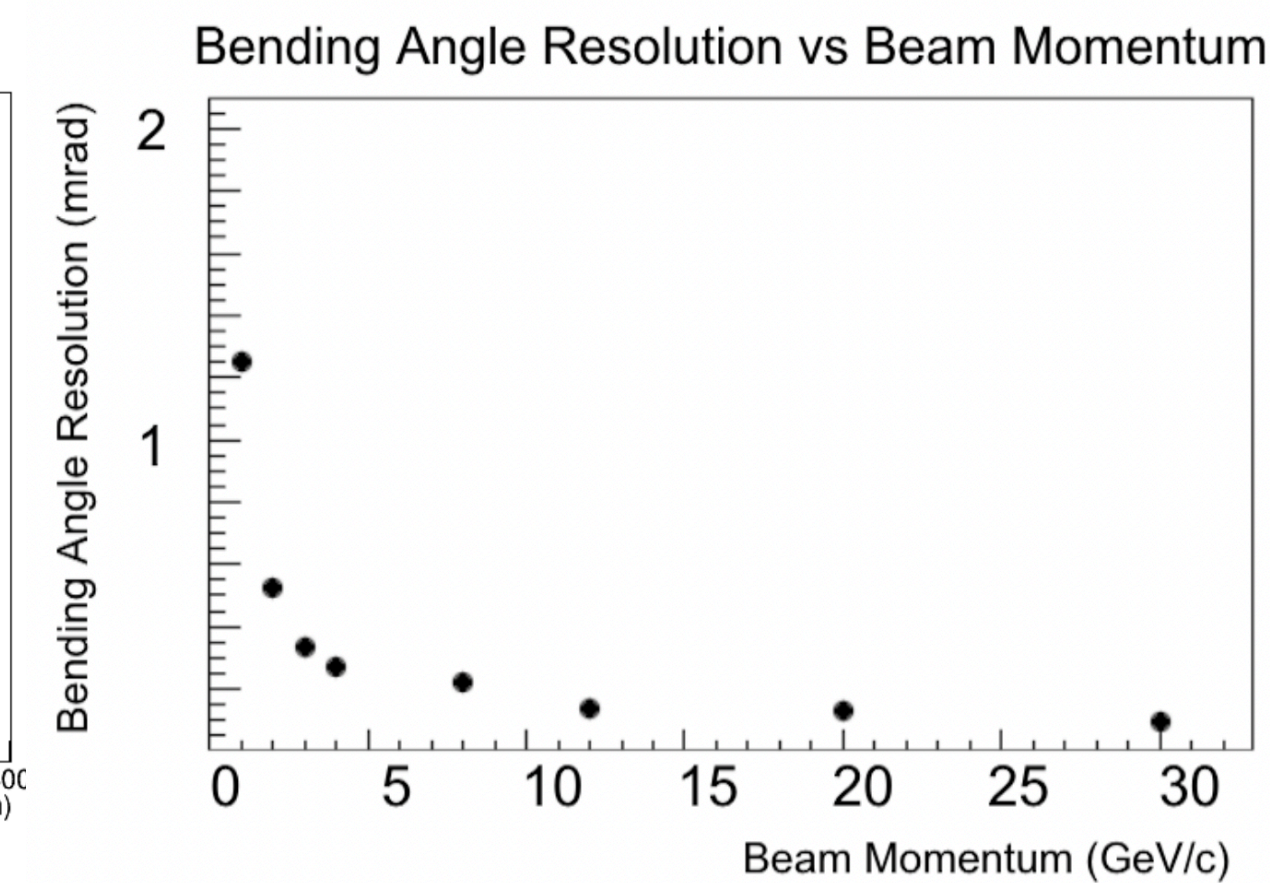
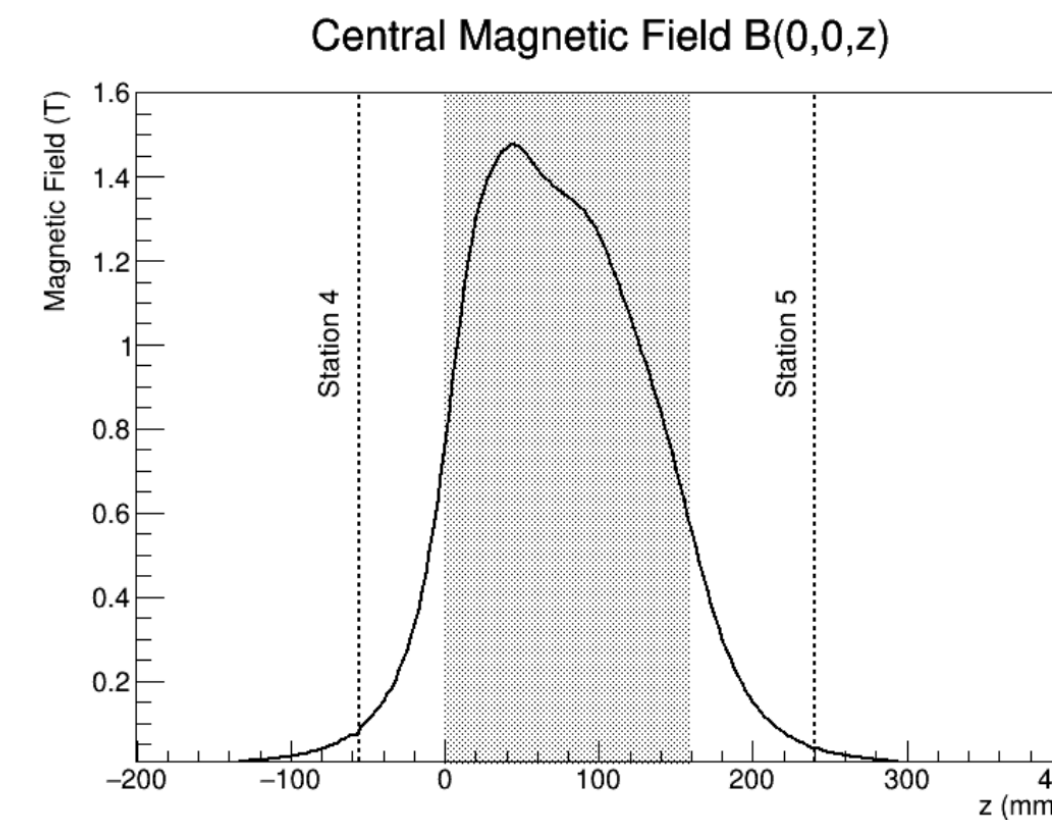


Segments made from large segments of Neodymium permanent magnets.

- *Prototype small-aperture magnet used in Phase-1*

Ongoing efforts on single-track and momentum reconstruction

- *Reconstruct:*
 - *scattering angle*
 - *bending angle*



Visit Robert Chirco's poster for more details



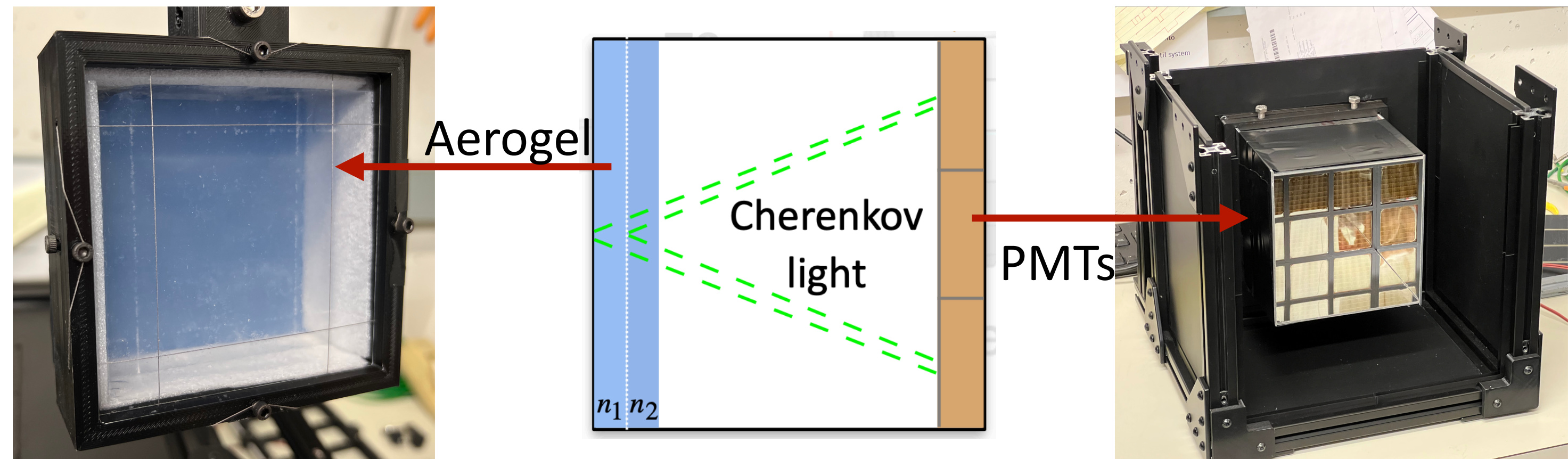
Aerogel Ring Imaging Cherenkov (ARICH)

Prototype ARICH
in Phase-1:

*150 mrad
acceptance*



- 2 layers of aerogel, developed for Belle II by Chiba
- Aerogels with lower indices of refraction ($n=1.02-1.03$) and good transmittance
- Expect to achieve 2σ π -K separation for $p < 8$ GeV/c.



Phase-1 data runs

Target	Beam Mom (GeV/c)	# Triggers	Target	Beam Mom (GeV/c)	# Triggers
Graphite	120	2.5M	Beryllium	-4	11M
	4	11M		4	11M
	-4	11M		8	13M
	-8	38M	CH2	-20	14M
	-12	18M		-8	8.5M
	20	12M		-4	3M
	-20	14M	H2O	-4	10M
	30	23M		4	10M
				-20	5.6M

An additional 20% of data was collected across all settings specifically targeting alignment and background studies

- configurations: both target-out and magnet-out.

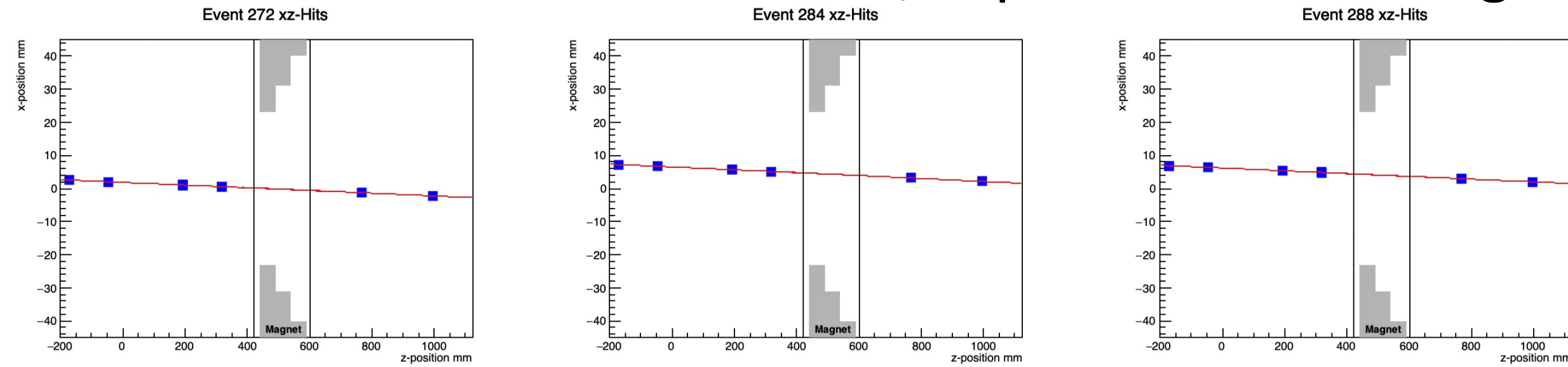
Collected over 2 runs (3 weeks each run). This includes installation and removal : ~20 days of data collection

Data rates at $p < 20\text{GeV}/c$ are very low, takes time to collect statistics

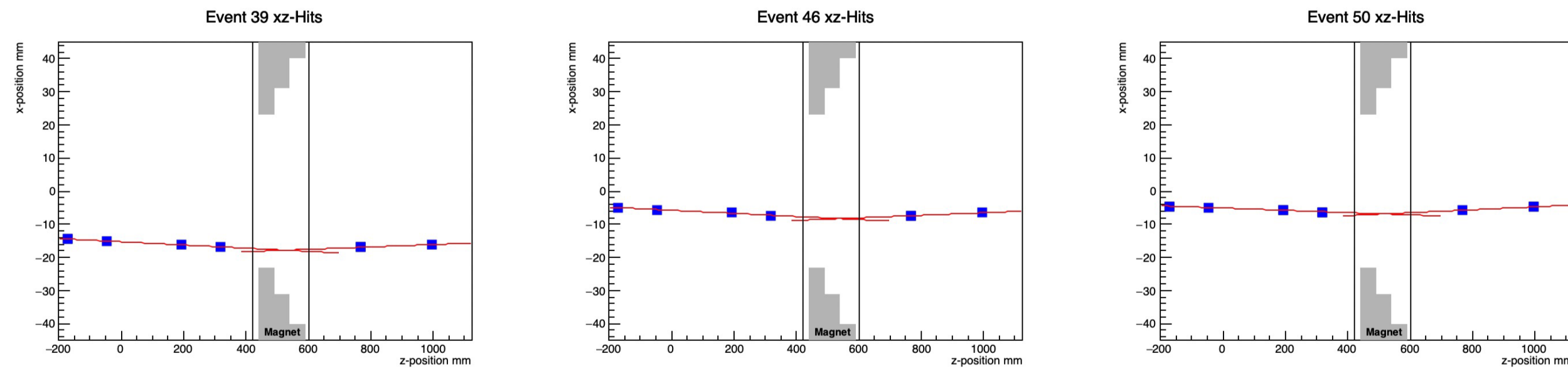


Phase-1: first look at the data

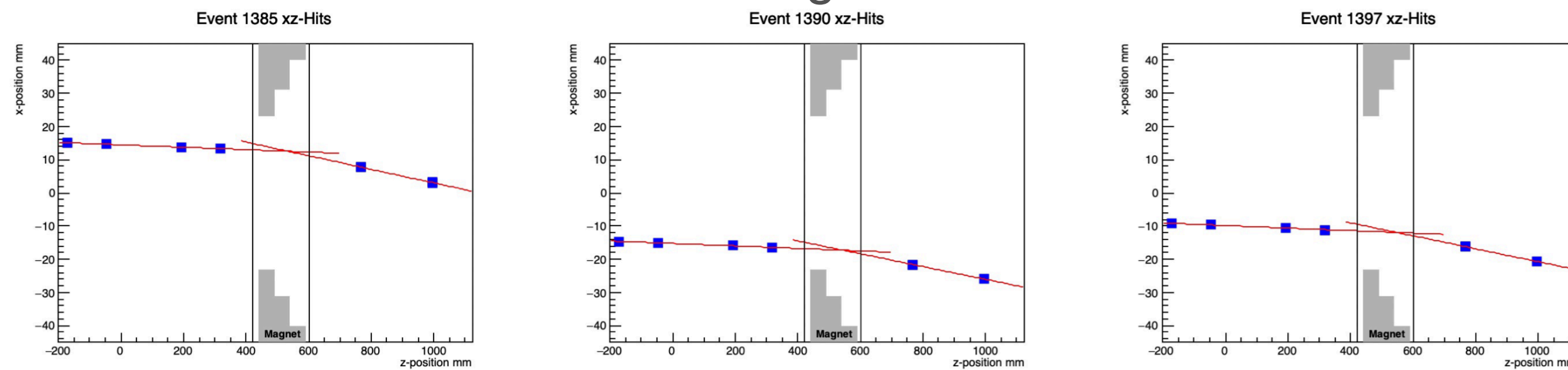
120 GeV/c Proton: XZ-Plane, Expected no Bending



-8 GeV/c Pion: XZ-Plane, Expected Bending



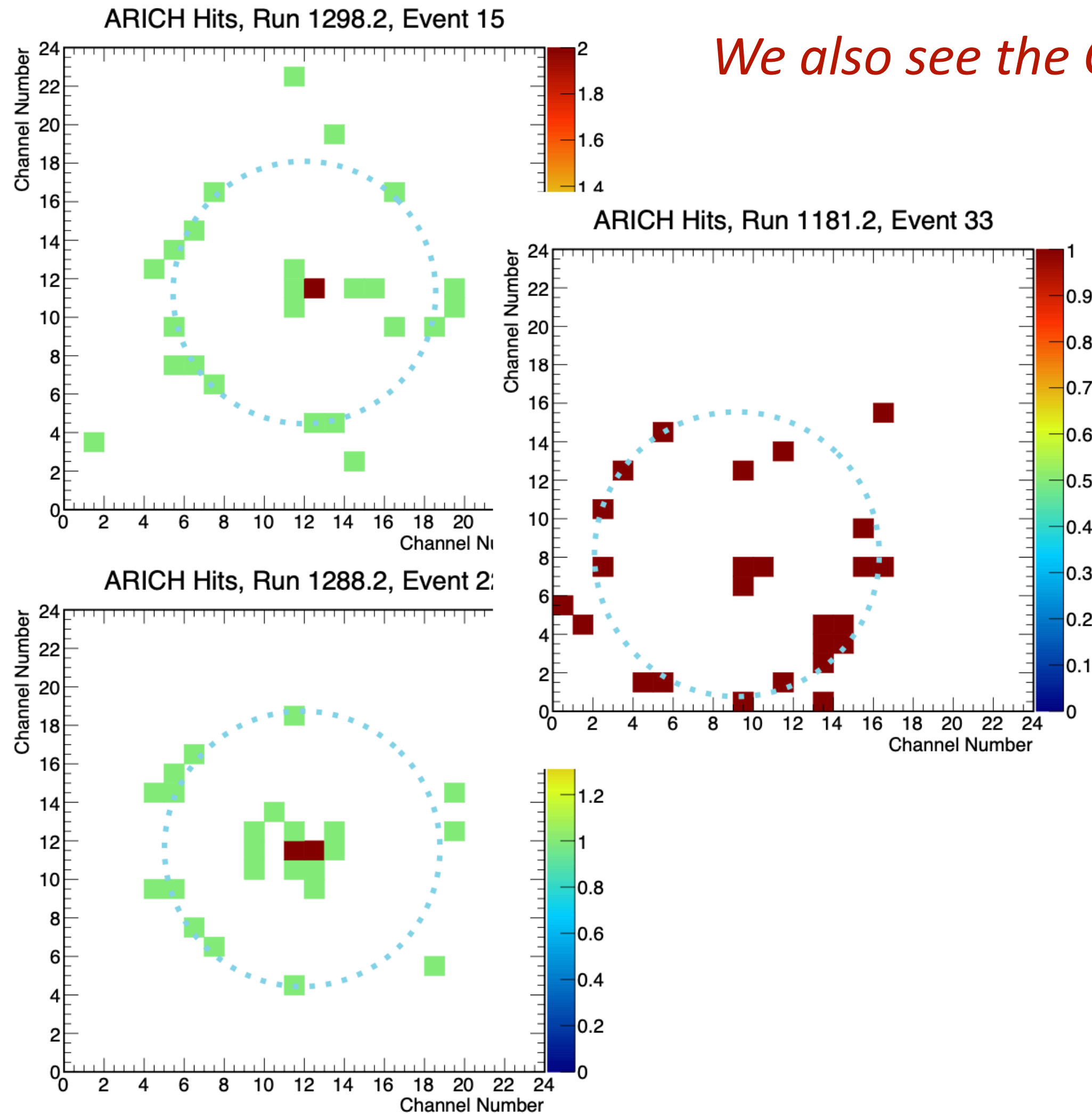
We see bending tracks.



We see bending tracks



Phase-1: first look at the data



We also see the Ckv rings

The collaboration is focused on

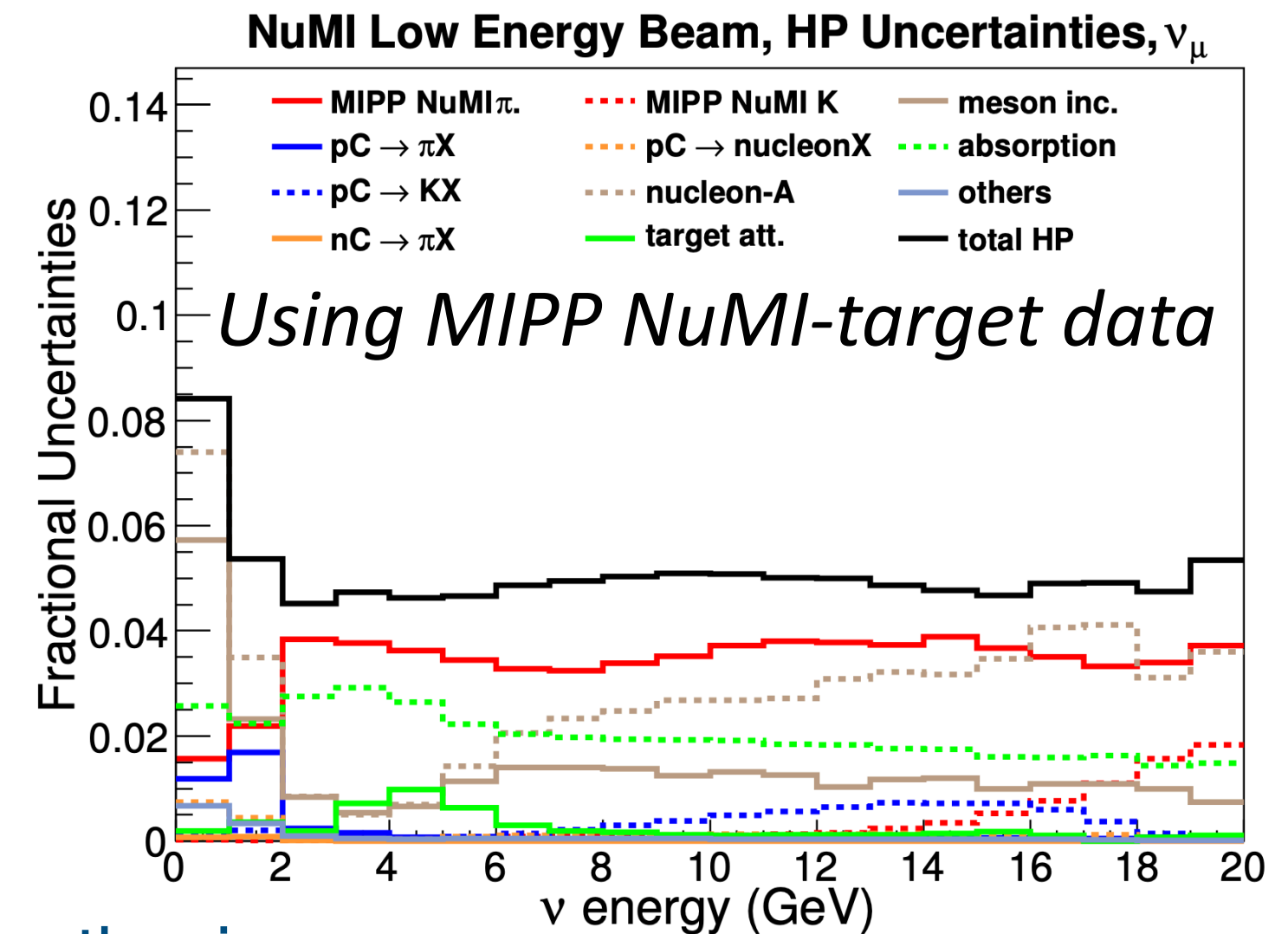
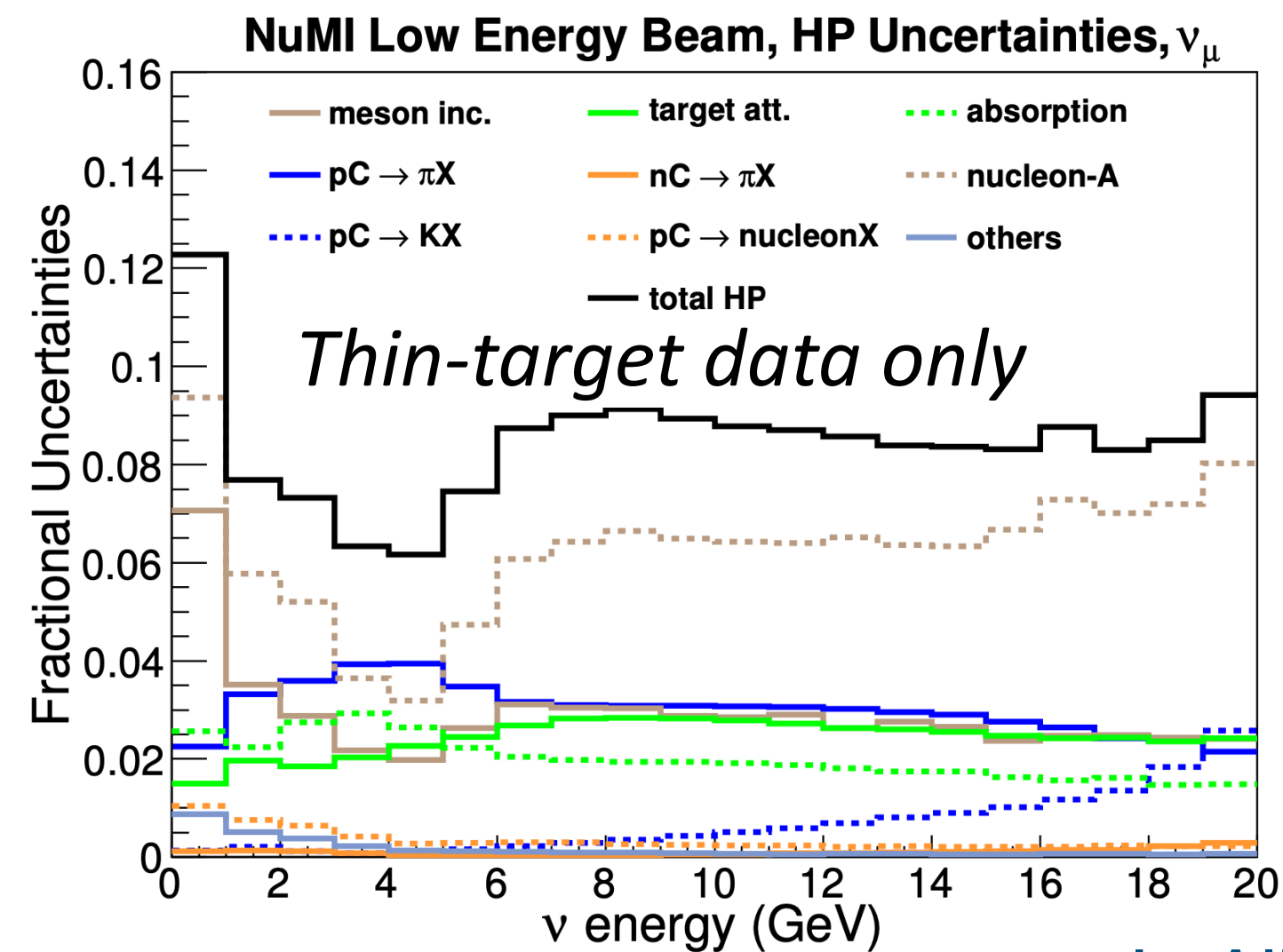
- alignment and calibration
- implementing more precise magnetic field
- improving track reconstruction and PID
- developing the analysis infrastructure (CAFs)



Phase 2: neutrino production target

Measurements by MIPP and NA61/SHINE of HP off real (or replica) targets significantly reduced the HP uncertainties when compared to thin target-based

MIPP: Phys. Rev. D 90, 032001 (2014)
 NA61: Phys. Rev. D 103, 012006 (2021)



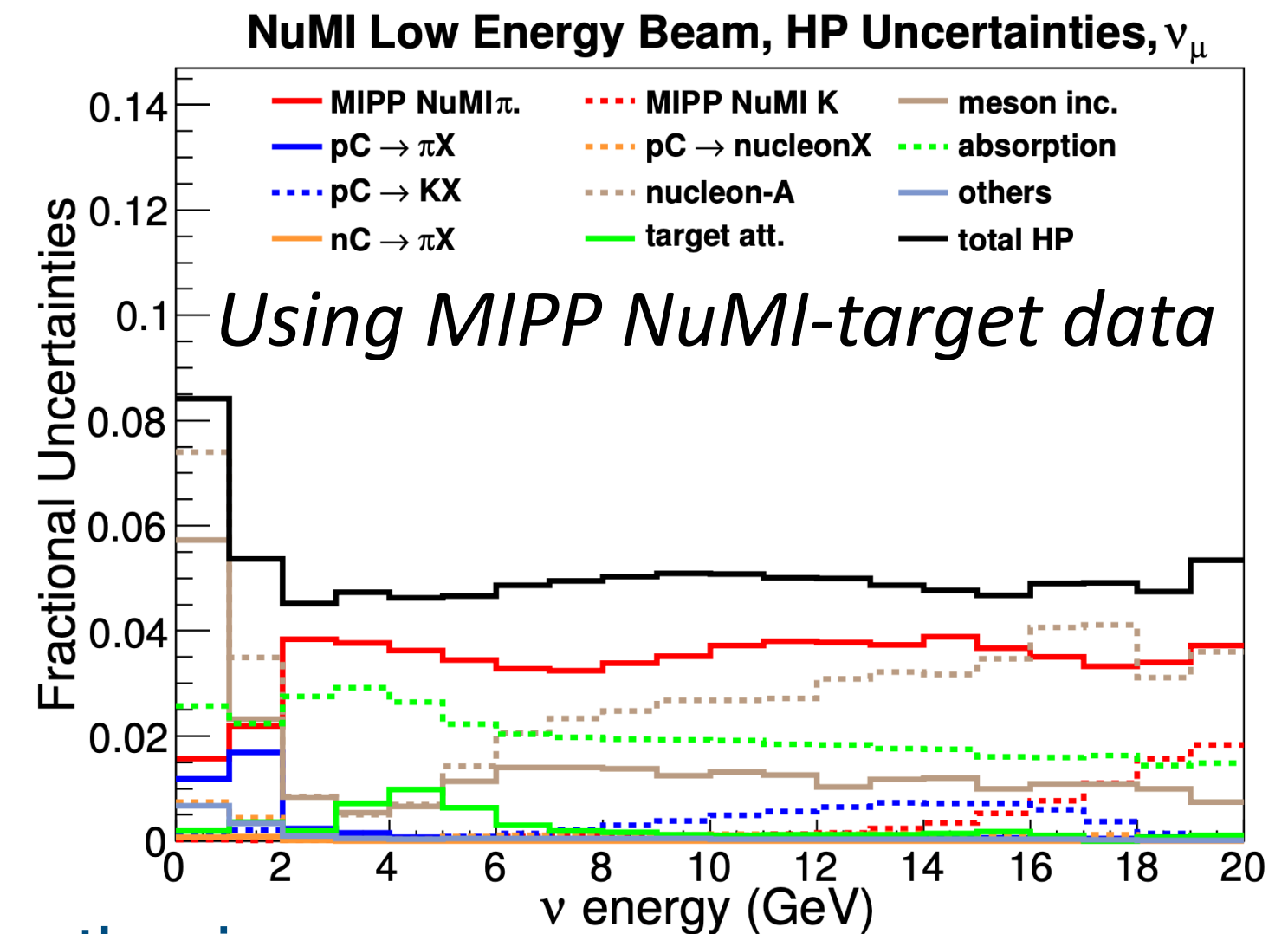
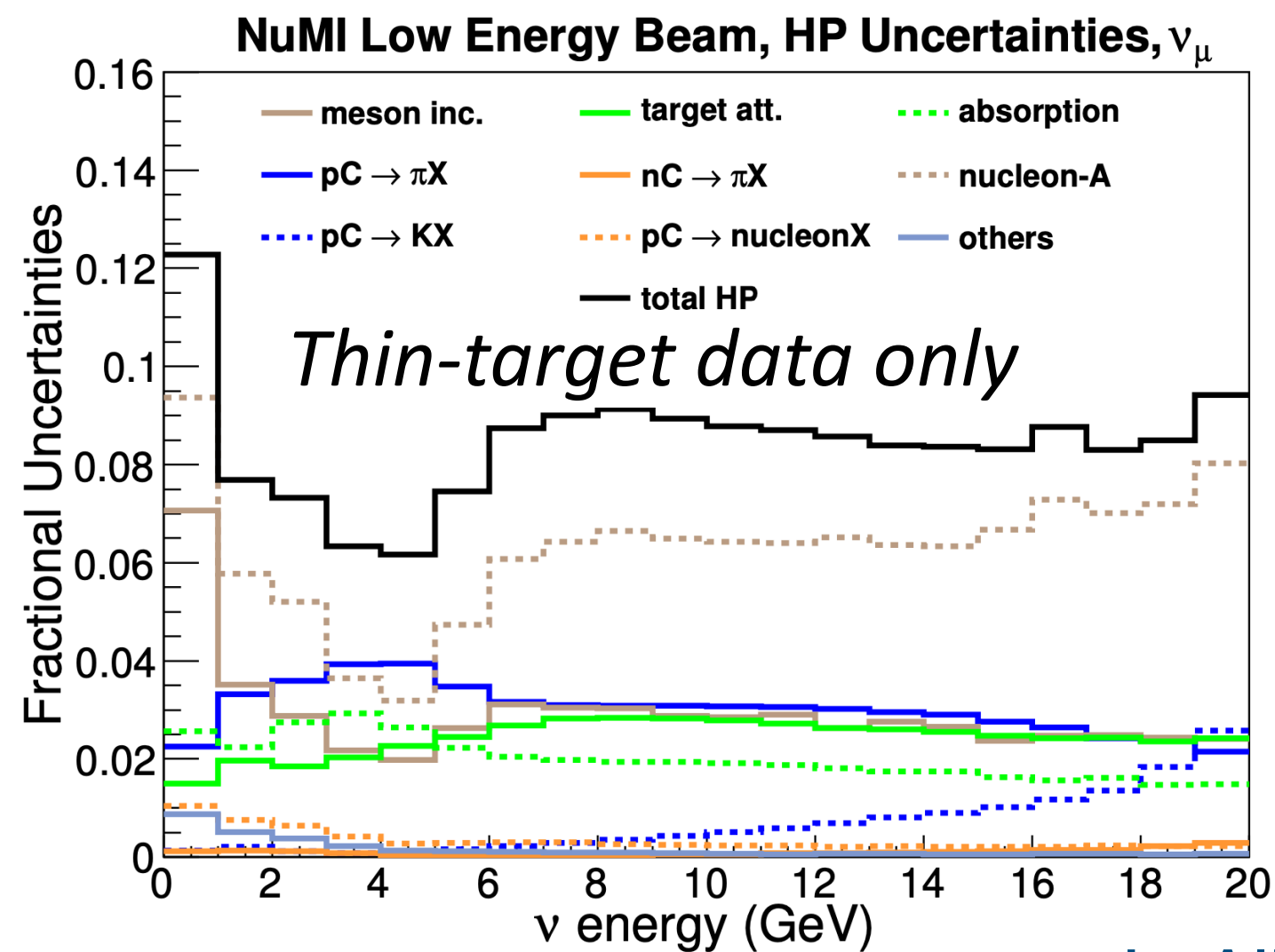
[L. Aliaga thesis](#)



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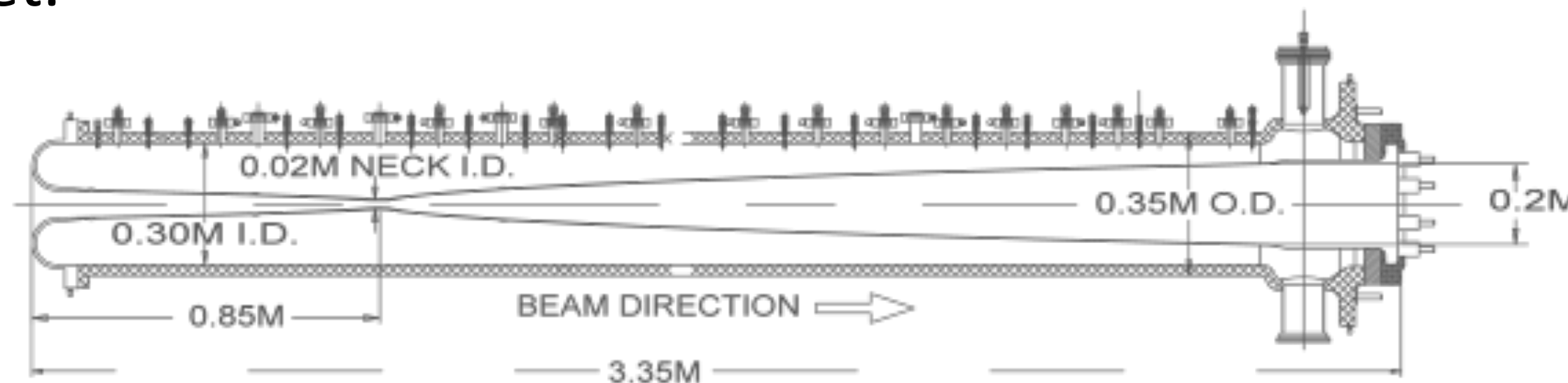
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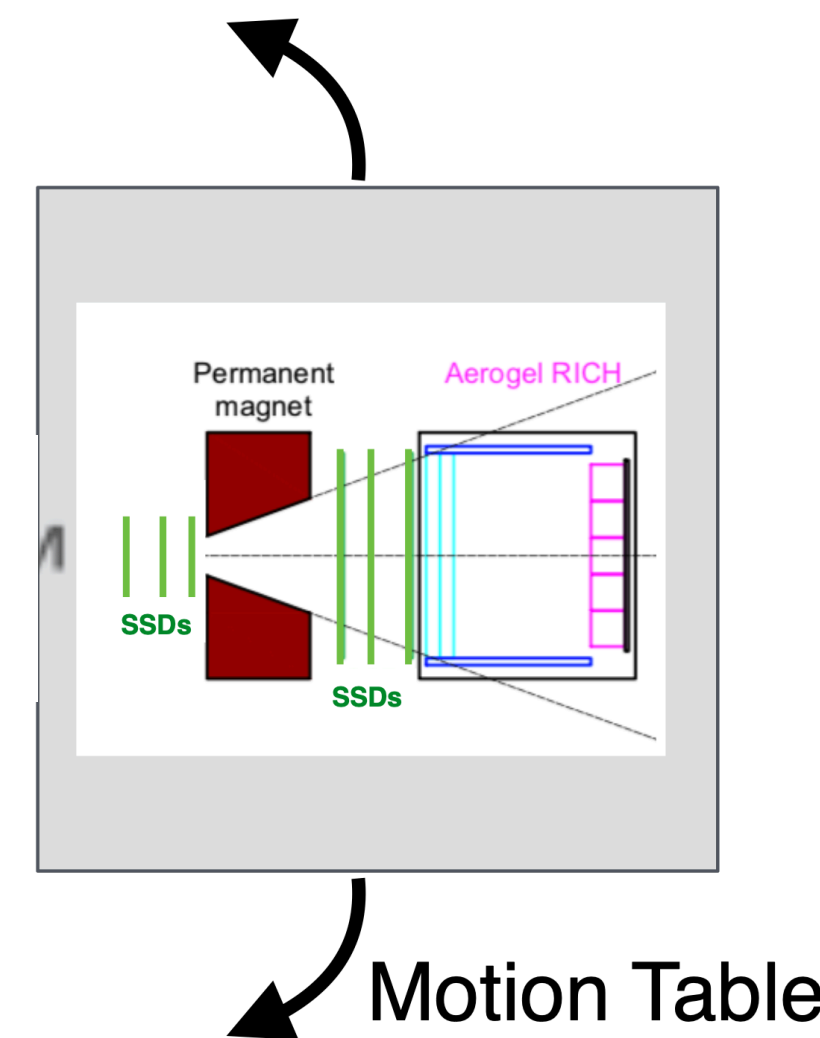
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We are going to put the EMPHATIC Phase1 spectrometer on a motion table downstream of spare NuMI horn and target.

- Minimal goal: to measure charged-particle spectrum downstream of target+horn.
- Power supply also available; hope to measure with pulsed horn in the future.



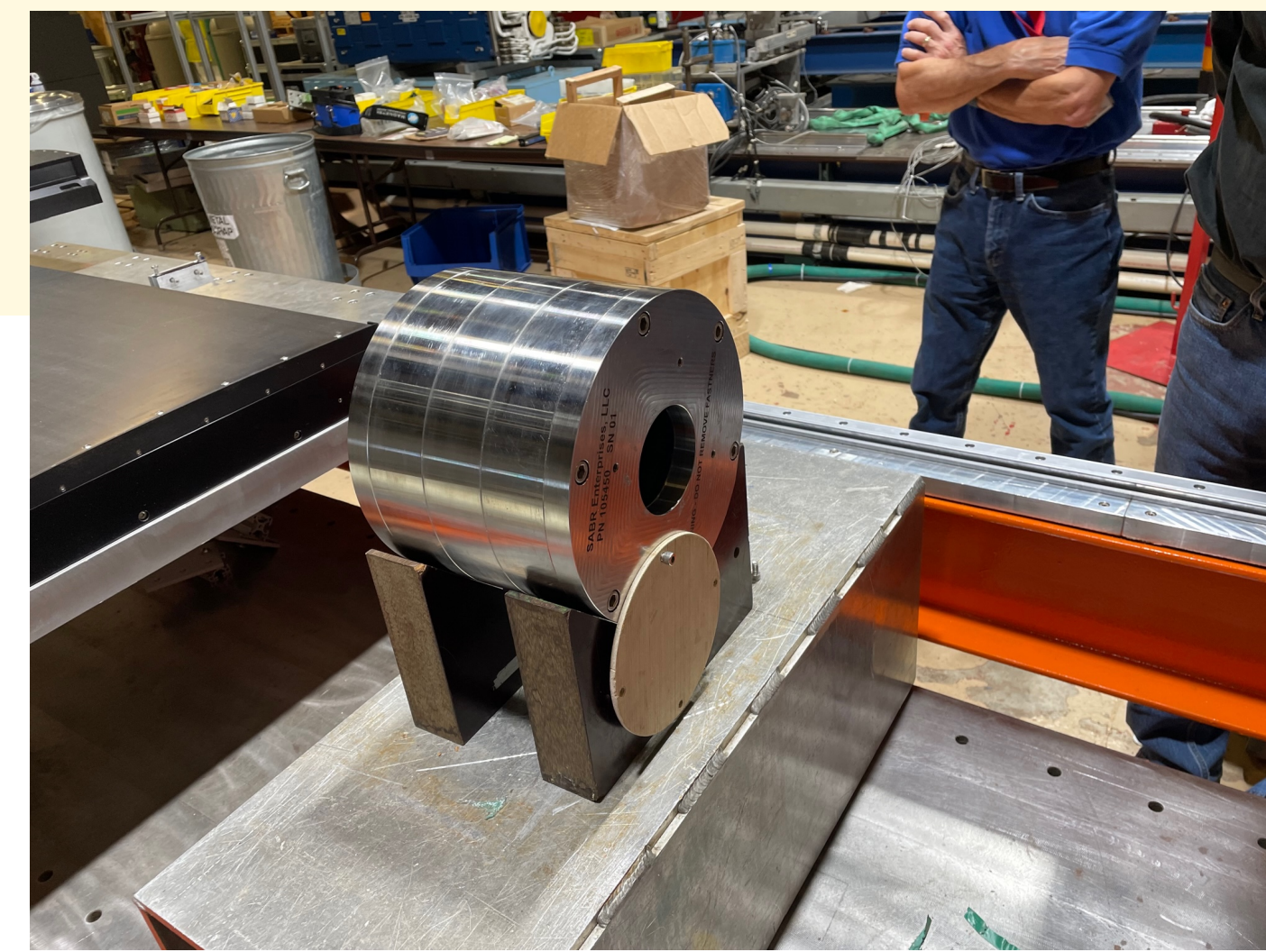
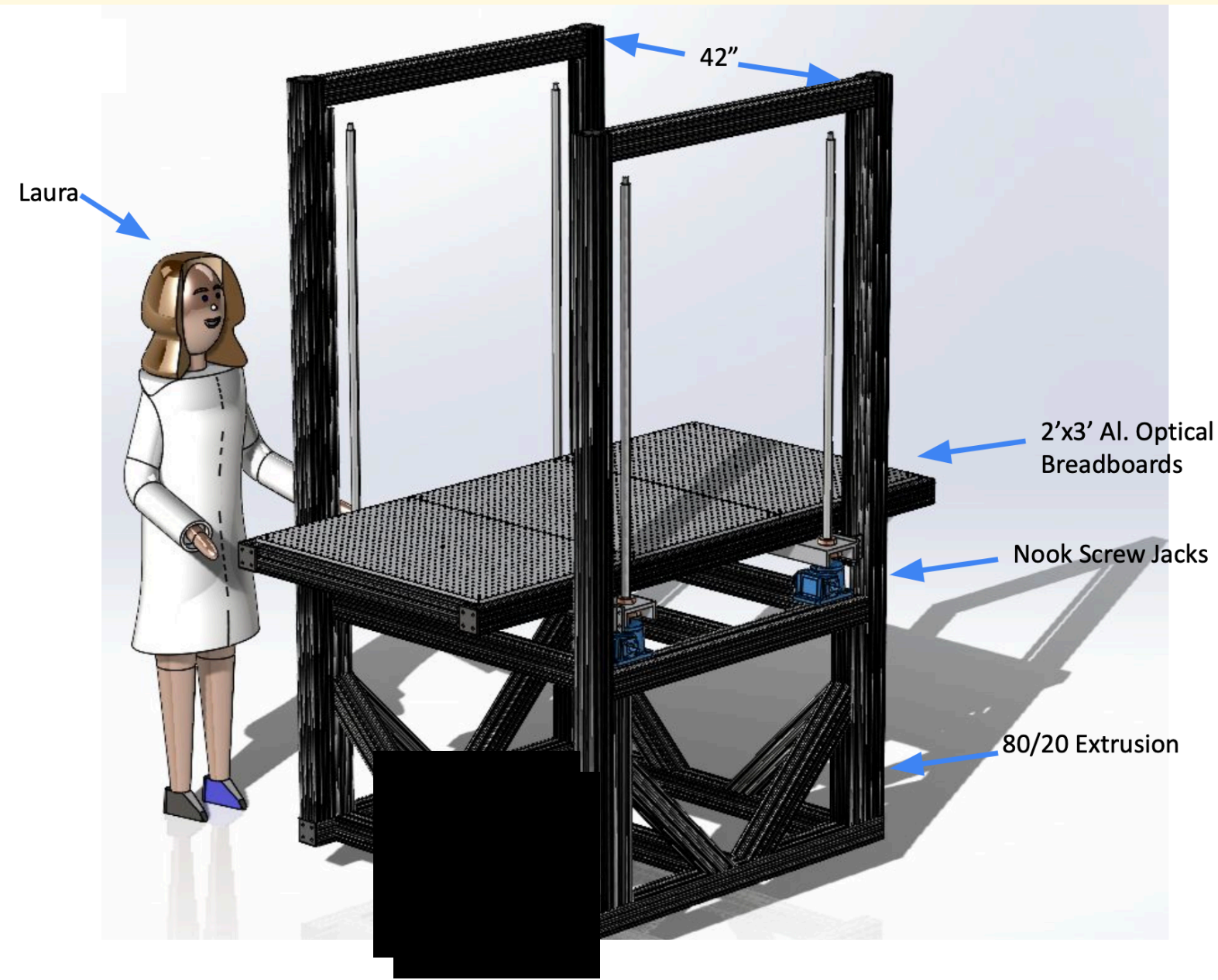
NuMI target + Horn 1



Motion Table

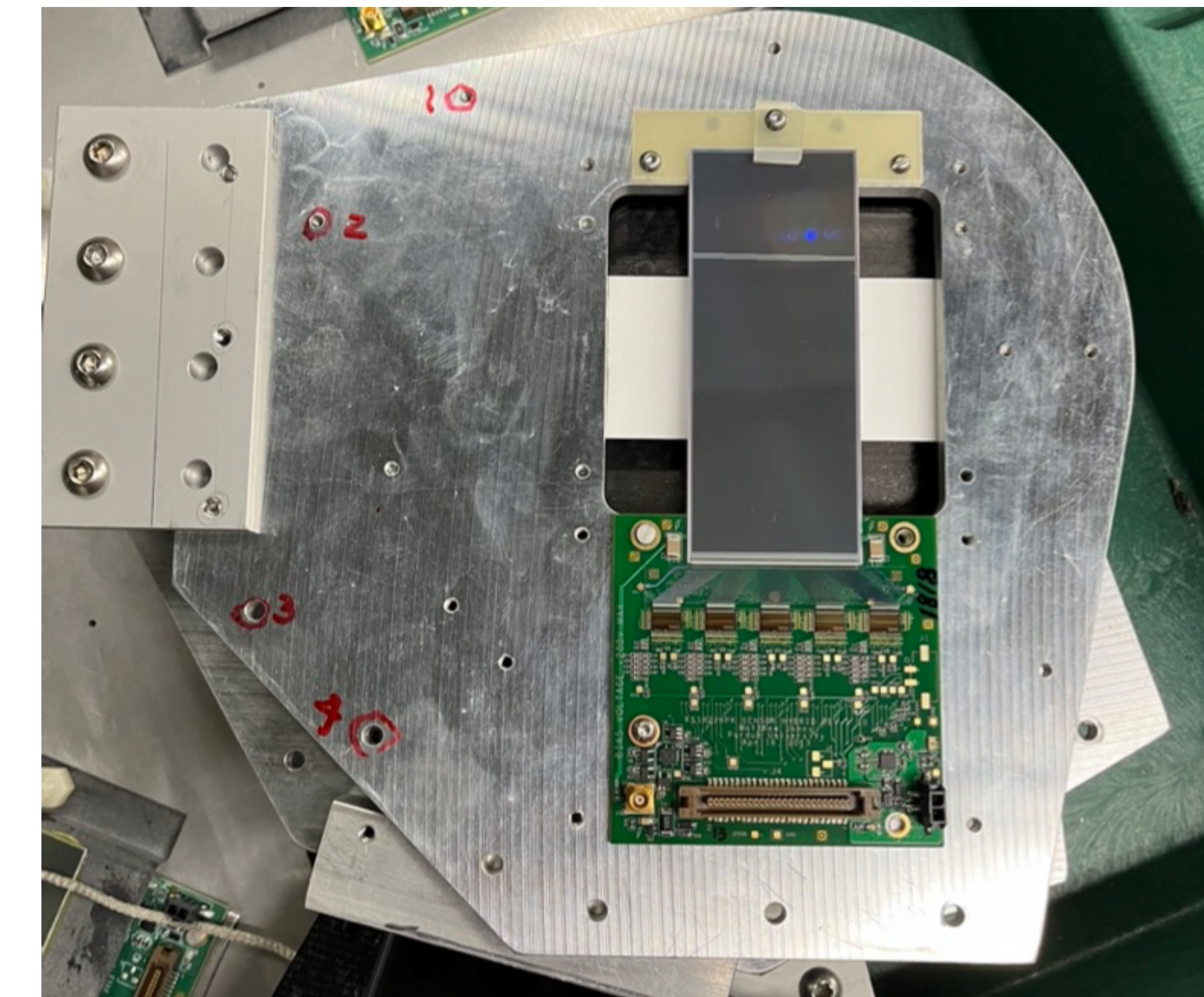
Phase 2: preparation

- New magnet purchased
- Motion table and SSD mounts
- NuMI Target and Horn + mounting
- New SSDs (more old-style, some w/ new front-end electronics)



*Move into MCenter this summer:
more space and collect data for a
long time*

*We will be ready for Phase-2 when
beam returns in late 2024.*



Summary

- Predicting the neutrino flux at both detectors in oscillation experiments, several single-detector measurements, and in the exploration of Beyond Standard Model (BSM) physics requires new HP data
- EMPHATIC is addressing this need for more data to improve our knowledge of hadron production, improve flux prediction, and reduce flux uncertainties.
- EMPHATIC initial results, obtained during a proof-of-principle run in 2018, have been published ([Phys. Rev. D 106, 112008](#)).
- We currently analyzing data from Phase-1 thin-target data.
- Our team is currently in preparations for Phase 2, which include additional thin-target data and measurements using the NuMI target and horn with a small-acceptance spectrometer, promising further advancements in the improvements of the flux prediction.



Thank you!

