

# Exploring Flavor Physics with Pions and Kaons

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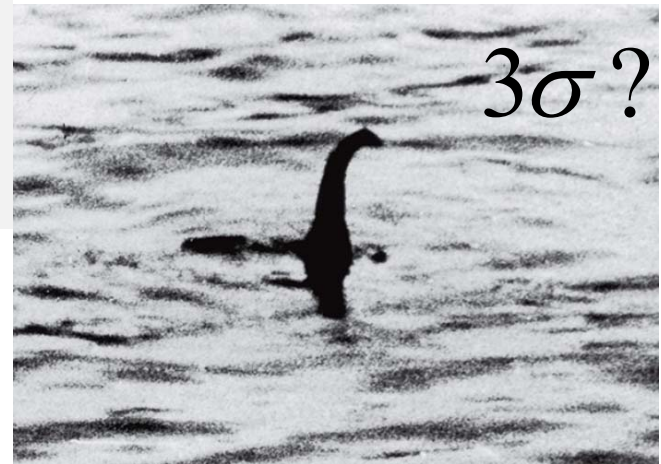


The Standard Model is great but doesn't explain many observations: dark matter; dark energy; baryon asymmetry; flavor; hierarchy...

So far, revealing the origins of the BSM physics has resulted in no conclusive evidence...

***Unconfirmed flavor-related anomalies :***

- Muon  $g-2$  ( $3+ \sigma$ )
- B decays – LFU violation (CC, NC) ( $2.5-3 \sigma$ )
- Unitarity of CKM matrix 1<sup>st</sup> row ( $2-3 + \sigma$ )



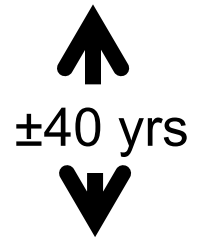
General principle: leave no lach unexplored.

# Leptons, Flavor Universality & Violation

**Electron**      *Thompson, Townsend, Wilson 1896*

**Muon**      *Nedermeyer, Anderson 1937*

**Tau**      *Perl et al. 1974*



**Conserved Lepton Number**      *Konopinski, Mahmoud 1953*

**Separate lepton “numbers (flavors)”**      *Pontecorvo 1959*

**Lepton Flavor Universality**      *Pontecorvo 1946*



## Neutrino oscillations:

*Pontecorvo 1957 → Davis, Kamioka, SNO, OPERA, MINOS... 1960-2001*

Lepton flavor is not conserved

Neutrinos have (small) mass and mix

# Rare Pion and Kaon Decays

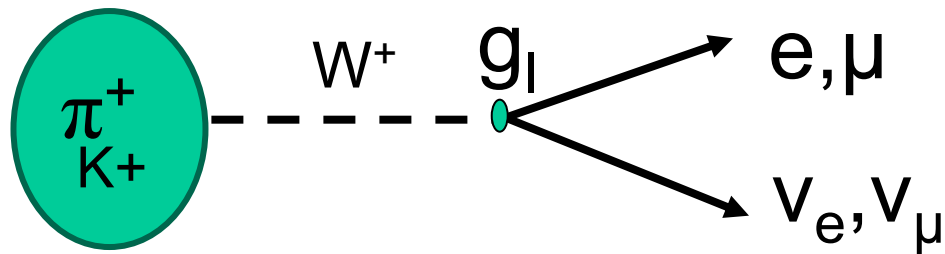
These special rare processes have strong connections to flavor physics, precise SM predictions, and are high sensitivity to BSM physics at high mass scales.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu(\gamma) \sim 10^{-4} & K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu} \sim 10^{-10} \\ \pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu(\gamma) \sim 10^{-8} & K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu} \sim 10^{-11} \end{array}$$

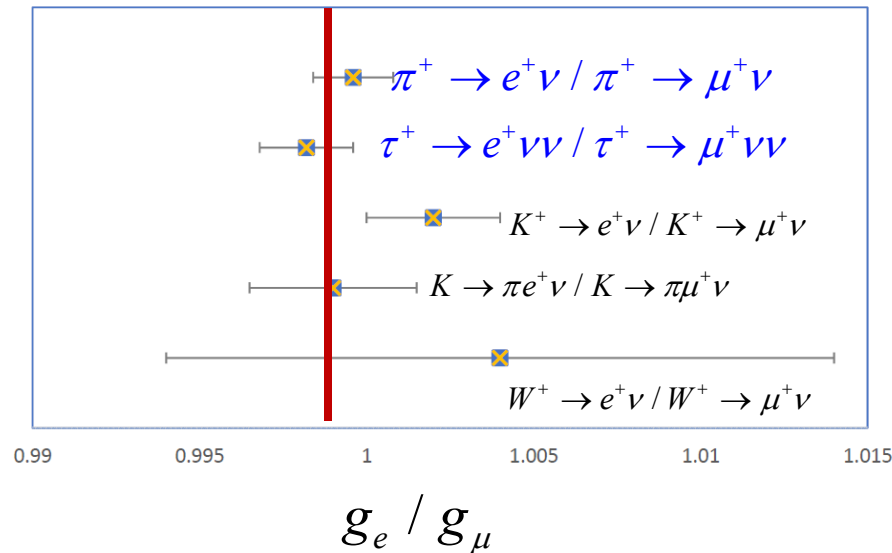
Deviations from SM predictions means new physics.

# Charged Current e/ $\mu$ Universality

Experiments compare expectations assuming  $g_e = g_\mu$



$\pi / \tau$   
Precision:  
 $O(10^{-3})$



# Charged Lepton Flavor Universality in $\pi$ Decay

$$R_{e/\mu}^{theory} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow e\nu(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu(\gamma))} = (1.2352 \pm 0.0002) \times 10^{-4} \quad (\pm 0.016\%)$$

Marciano/Sirlin  $\rightarrow$  Cirigliano

**Possibly the most accurately calculated decay process involving hadrons.**

Current Result (PDG):  $R_{e/\mu}^{exp} = 1.2327 \pm 0.0023 \times 10^{-4} \quad (\pm 0.19\%)$

$$\frac{g_e}{g_\mu} = 0.9989 \pm 0.0009 \quad (\pm 0.09\%)$$

PEN, PIENU goals ( $R_{e/\mu}^{exp} \leq \pm 0.1\%$ )

Experiments are an order of magnitude less precise than theory.

# $\tau$ Decay Universality Tests

<O(0.2%) effects

$\frac{\tau \rightarrow e\nu\nu}{\mu \rightarrow e\nu\nu}$  for  $\tau$ - $\mu$  Universality and  $\frac{\tau \rightarrow \mu\nu\nu}{\mu \rightarrow e\nu\nu}$  for  $\tau$ -e Universality

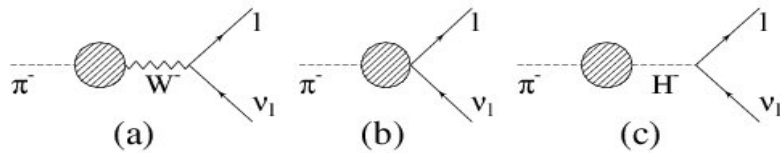
$\frac{\tau \rightarrow \pi\nu}{\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu}$  for  $\tau$ - $\mu$  Universality and  $\frac{\tau \rightarrow \pi\nu}{\pi \rightarrow e\nu}$  for  $\tau$ -e Universality

	$\Gamma_{\tau \rightarrow e} / \Gamma_{\mu \rightarrow e}$	$\Gamma_{\tau \rightarrow \pi} / \Gamma_{\pi \rightarrow \mu}$	$\Gamma_{\tau \rightarrow K} / \Gamma_{K \rightarrow \mu}$	$\Gamma_{W \rightarrow \tau} / \Gamma_{W \rightarrow \mu}$
$ g_{\tau} / g_{\mu} $	1.0011 (15)	0.9962 (27)	0.9858 (70)	1.034 (13)
	$\Gamma_{\tau \rightarrow \mu} / \Gamma_{\mu \rightarrow e}$	$\Gamma_{W \rightarrow \tau} / \Gamma_{W \rightarrow e}$	$\Gamma_{\tau \rightarrow \pi} / \Gamma_{\pi \rightarrow e}$	
$ g_{\tau} / g_e $	1.0030 (15)	1.031 (13)	1.0044 (60)	

Pich 2013, [DB 1992](#)

# $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$ LFU Tests: Sensitivity to High Mass Scales

## Pseudoscalar interactions



**Charged Higgs (non-SM coupling)**

$$1 - \frac{R_{e/\mu}^{New}}{R_{e/\mu}^{SM}} \sim \mp \frac{\sqrt{2}\pi}{G_\mu} \frac{1}{\Lambda_{eP}^2} \frac{m_\pi^2}{m_e(m_d + m_u)} \sim \left(\frac{1\text{TeV}}{\Lambda_{eP}}\right)^2 \times 10^3$$

Marciano...

0.1 % measurement  $\rightarrow \Lambda \sim 1000$  TeV

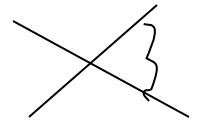
Many others:

- Leptoquarks
- Excited gauge bosons
- Compositeness
- SU(2)xSU(2)xSU(2)xU(1)
- Hidden sector ....

**Induced Scalar Currents**

Campbell and Maybury (2005), Marciano

$$R_{e/\mu} : \quad \Lambda_S > 60\text{TeV} (!)$$





# Lepton Flavor Universality Violation e.g. $\pi^+ \rightarrow l^+ \nu_{e4}$

## Massive Sterile Neutrinos can be responsible for leptogenesis\*

$$\nu_\ell = \sum_{i=1}^{3+n_s} U_{\ell i} \nu_i,$$

- Extra peak in 2-body spectrum
- Effect on branching ratio

$$R_{e/\mu}^\pi = \Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e) / \Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_e)$$

$$\bar{R}_{e/\mu}^\pi = \frac{R_{e/\mu}^{\pi \text{ exp}}}{R_{e/\mu}^{\text{SM}}} = \frac{(1 - |U_{e4}|^2) + |U_{e4}|^2 \bar{\rho}(m_e, m_{\nu_4})}{(1 - |U_{\mu 4}|^2) + |U_{\mu 4}|^2 \bar{\rho}(m_\mu, m_{\nu_4})} \sim (1 - |U_{e4}|^2) + |U_{e4}|^2 \bar{\rho}(m_e, m_{\nu_4})$$

$$|U_{e4}|^2 < \frac{\bar{R}_{e/\mu}^{(M)} - 1}{\bar{\rho}(\delta_\ell^{(M)}, \delta_{\nu_4}^{(M)}) - 1}$$

- Ratio of kinematic factors

$$\bar{\rho}(x, y) = \frac{\rho(x, y)}{\rho(x, 0)} = \frac{\rho(x, y)}{x(1-x)^2}$$

Decay	$(m_{\nu_4})_{\bar{\rho}_{max}}$	$\bar{\rho}_{max}$
$\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_4$	80.6	$1.105 \times 10^4$
$K^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_4$	285	$1.38 \times 10^5$
$D^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_4$	$1.08 \times 10^3$	$1.98 \times 10^6$
$D_s^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_4$	$1.14 \times 10^3$	$2.20 \times 10^6$
$B^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_4$	$3.05 \times 10^3$	$1.58 \times 10^7$
$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_4$	3.46	1.00
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_4$	263	4.13
$D^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_4$	$1.07 \times 10^3$	47.3
$D_s^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_4$	$1.13 \times 10^3$	52.4
$B^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_4$	$3.05 \times 10^3$	371

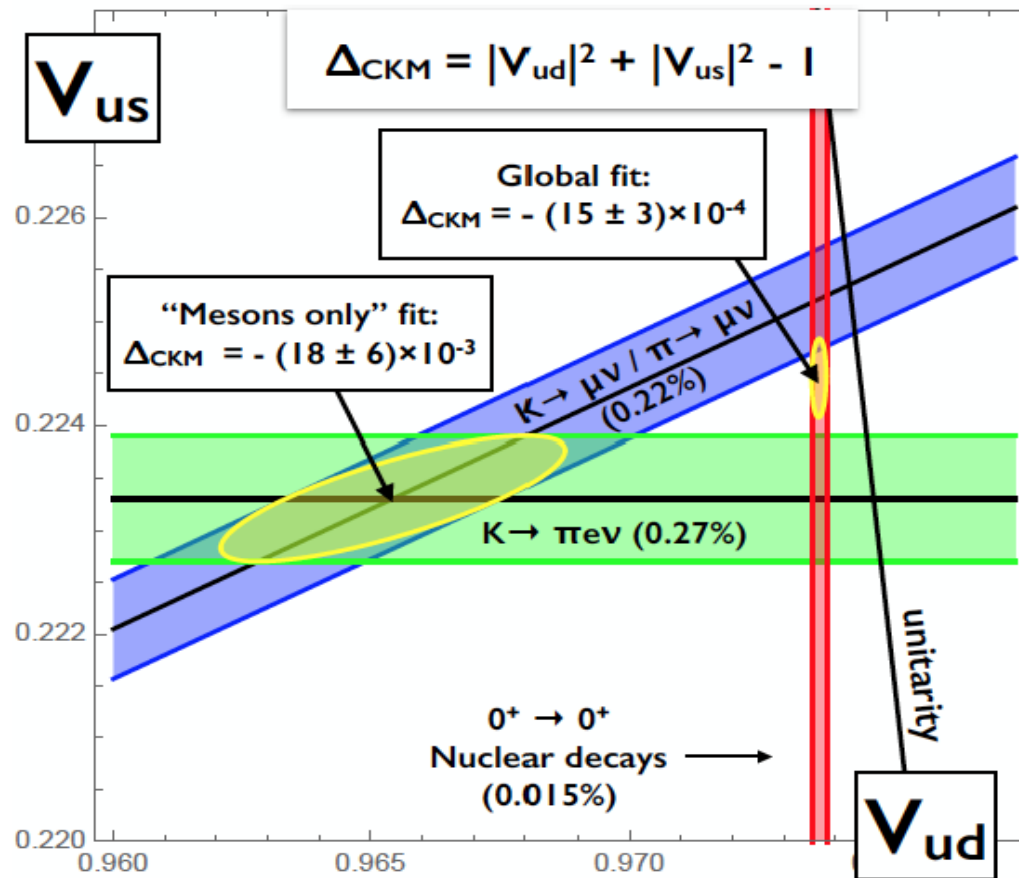
Large kinematic enhancements possible at larger mass due to absence of helicity suppression

R. Shrock and D.B. 2019

\*V. Domke et al., arXiv:2009.11678v1

D. Bryman DND2020

# Unitarity of CKM first row



Tensions in  $V_{ud}$  and  $V_{us}$

Possible connections between deviations of LFU and CKM unitarity. (See Martin Hoferichter's talk.)

Crivellin and Hoferichter 2020

# CKM Unitarity: $V_{ud}$ , $V_{us}/V_{ud}$

Tested in super-allowed  $\beta$  ( $V_{ud}$ ) and  $K$  decays ( $V_{us}/V_{ud}$ ) at precision  $O(10^{-4})$

$\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu$ : Theoretically cleanest method to obtain  $V_{ud}$

Present result: PIBETA Experiment (2004) ( $\pm 0.64\%$ )

$$V_{ud} = 0.9739(28)_{exp} (1)_{th}$$

$$B(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu) = (1.036 \pm 0.004_{stat} \pm 0.004_{syst} \pm 0.003_{\pi e2}) \times 10^{-8} (\pm 0.6\%)$$

Not presently competitive precision for  $V_{ud}$ . (Needs 10x precision.)

Czarnecki, Marciano, Sirlin (2020)

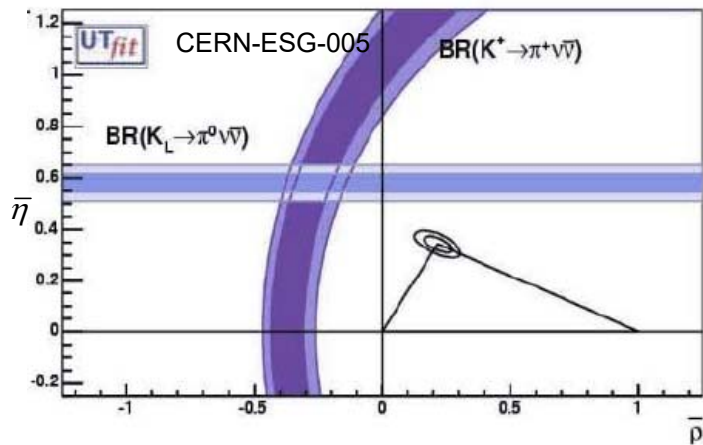
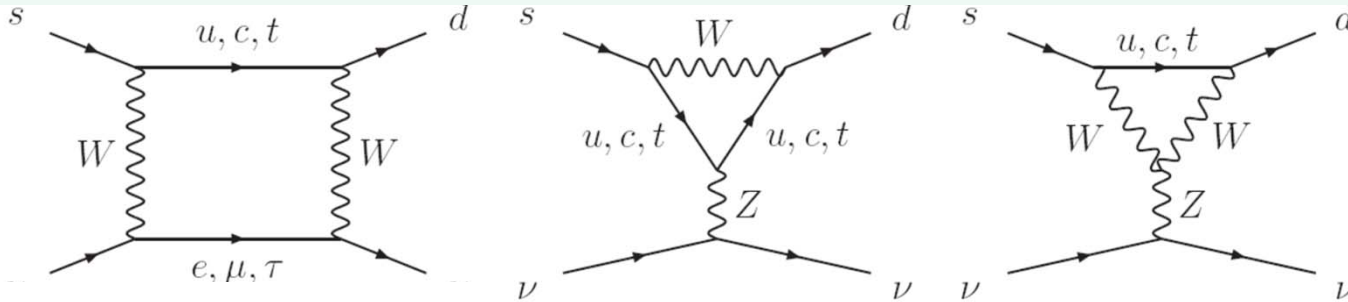
$\frac{B(K \rightarrow \pi l \nu)}{B(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu)}$ : Theoretically clean method to obtain  $\frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}}$

Improve  $B(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu)$  precision by  $>3x \rightarrow \frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}} < \pm 0.2\%$

Offers a new complementary constraint in the  $V_{us} - V_{ud}$  plane.

# $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ in the Standard Model

The  $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$  decays are the most precisely predicted FCNC decays.  
SM diagrams involve all 3 generations of quarks and leptons.



A single effective operator

$$(\bar{s}_L \gamma^\mu d_L)(\bar{\nu}_L \gamma_\mu \nu_L)$$

Dominated by top quark

(charm significant, but controlled)

Hadronic matrix element shared with  $K_{e3}$

Remains clean in most New Physics models

$$B_{\text{SM}}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11}$$

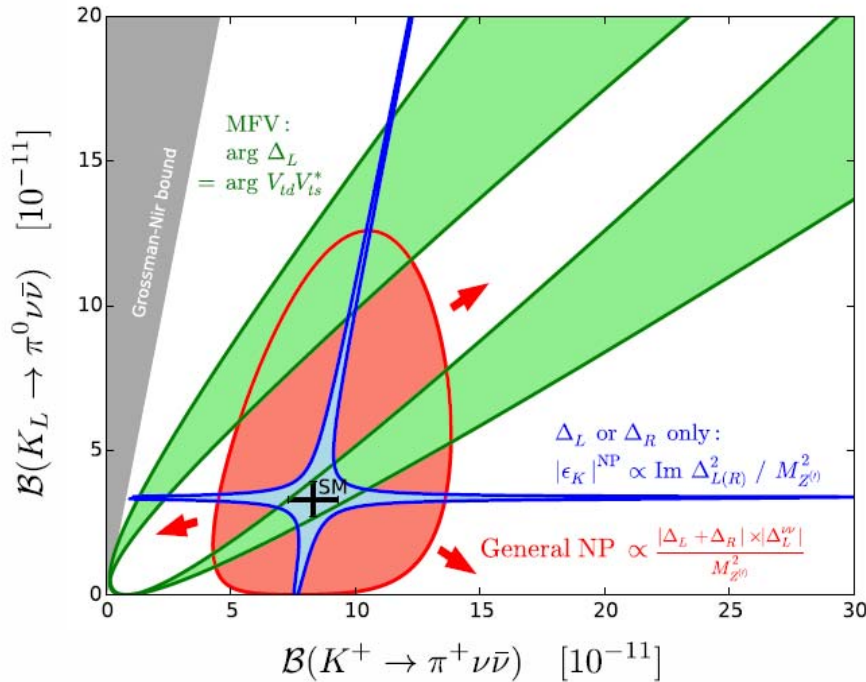
$$B_{\text{SM}}(K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) = (3.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-11}$$

Expect total SM theory error  $\leq 6\%$ .

**30% deviation from the SM  
would be a  $5\sigma$  signal of NP**

# New Physics Sensitivity of $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$

$B(K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})$  vs  $B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$



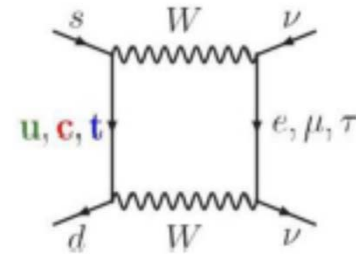
- Minimum flavor violation models
- Supersymmetric models
- Littlest Higgs (LH) model without/with T-parity
- Randall-Sundrum models -general LH, RH couplings
- Partial compositeness
- Models in which  $\epsilon_K$  constraint applies

Andrzej J. Buras, Dario Buttazzo  
and Robert Knegjens  
arXiv:1507.08672 (2015)

Other potential correlations of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  with

$$K_L^0 \rightarrow \mu\mu, \epsilon'/\epsilon, B \rightarrow K(K^*)\mu\mu$$

# Testing LFU with $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$



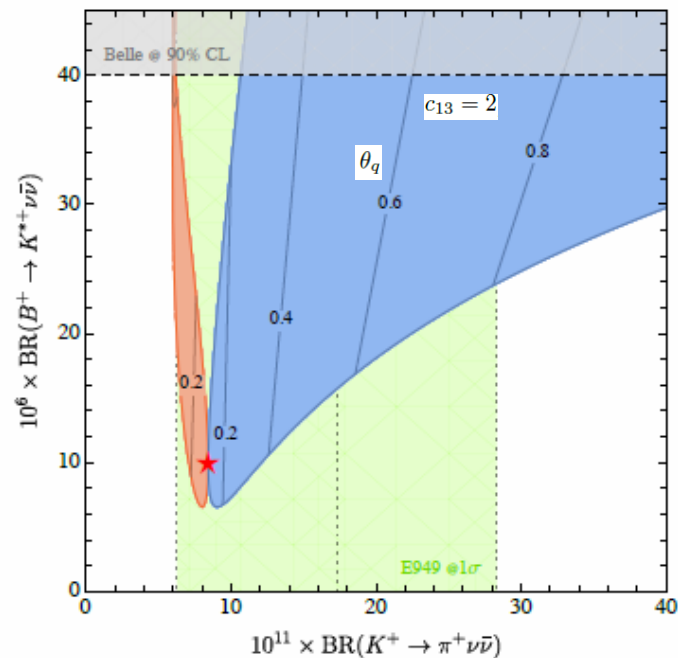
Involves third generation quarks (top) and leptons ( $\tau, \nu_\tau$ )

EFT approach to LFU violations new interactions with  $U(2)_q \times U(2)_l$  symmetry. NP coupled to left-handed lepton and quark singlets. Tuned to  $R(D^*)=1.25 \times \text{SM}$ .

$$\mathcal{L}_{s \rightarrow d \nu \bar{\nu}}^{\text{NP}} = \frac{1 - c_{13}}{\Lambda^2} \theta_q^2 V_{ts}^* V_{td} (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu d_L) (\bar{\nu}_\tau \gamma_\mu \nu_\tau).$$

Correlation of  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$   
with  $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*+} \nu \bar{\nu}$

$$B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) [-30\%, +100\%]$$



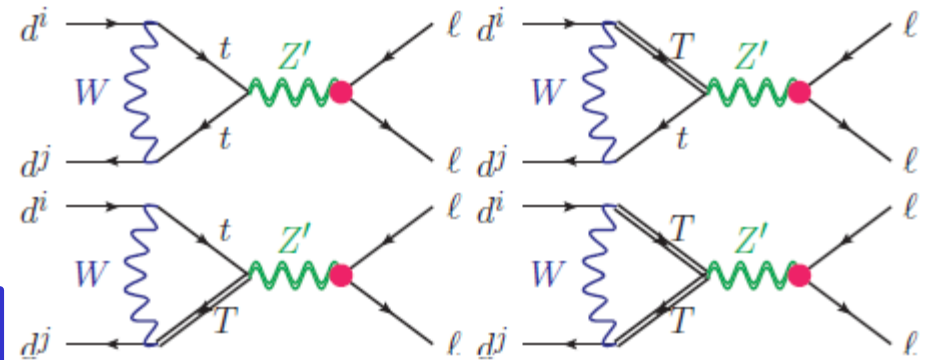
Example: Effects of LFU violation on  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$

Light  $Z'$  in  $b \rightarrow s \mu \mu$  decays to explain  $R(K)$

Couples to rt. handed top and muons

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{tb} V_{ts}^* \frac{e^2}{16\pi^2} \sum (C_i^\ell O_i^\ell + C_i'^\ell O_i'^\ell) + \text{h.c.}$$

$$B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}(\gamma)) = (8.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-11} \times \frac{1}{3} \sum_\ell \left| 1 + \frac{s_W^2 (C_9^{\ell, \text{NP}} - C_{10}^{\ell, \text{NP}})}{X_{\text{SM}}} \right|^2,$$



$$R_K \rightarrow C_9^{\mu, \text{NP}} = -C_{10}^{\mu, \text{NP}} \simeq 0.60(15)$$

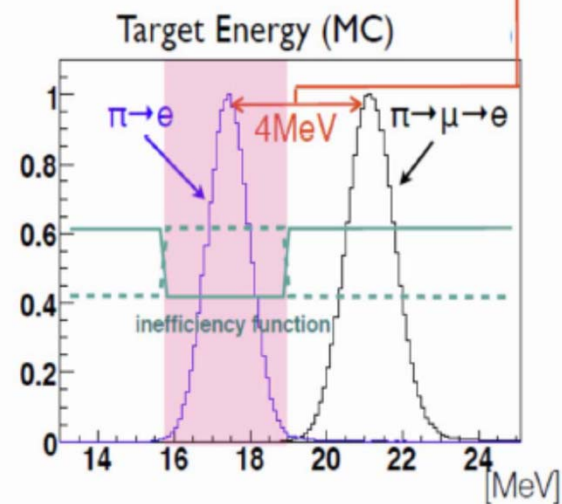
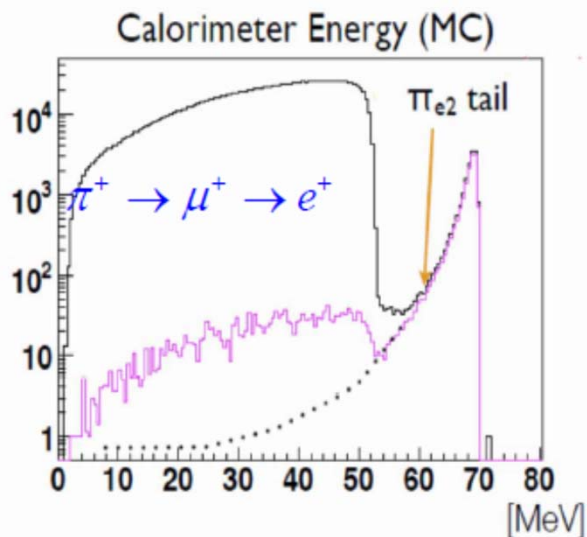
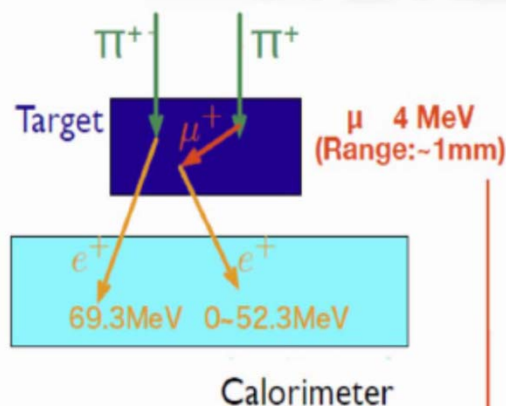
$$\frac{B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})}{B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})_{\text{SM}}} \sim 1.09 - 1.28 \text{ (Possibly within reach of NA62)}$$

# Current and Future Pion and Kaon Decay Experiments with Implications on Lepton Flavor Physics



# $\pi \rightarrow e\nu$ : Experimental Method

- Pions stopped in an active target
- Positrons tracked and energy measured in a calorimeter
- Decays tagged in target and by energy and timing
- Principal systematic uncertainty: Low energy "tail" of  $\pi \rightarrow e\nu$  events under  $\mu \rightarrow e\nu\nu$  "background".



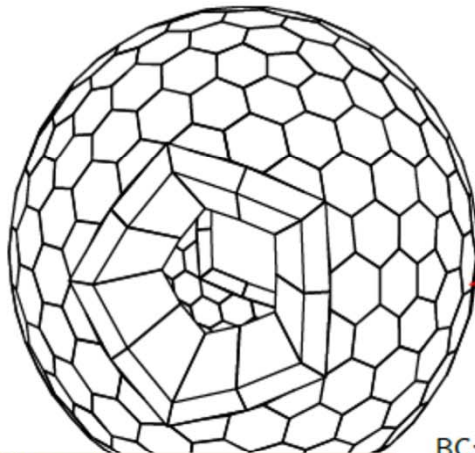
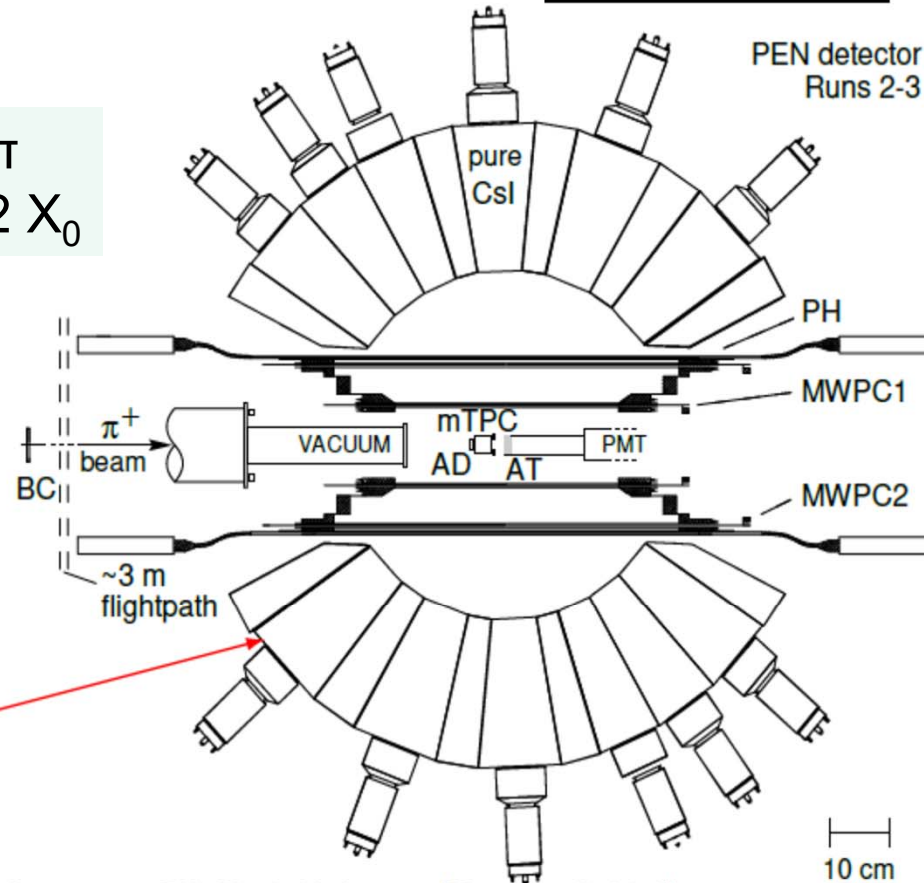
# The PEN/PIBETA apparatus

## Pion Beta Decay and $\pi \rightarrow e \nu \gamma_{SD}$

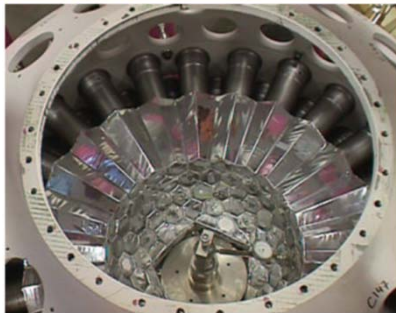
 D. Počanić (UVa)

- $\pi$ E1 beamline at PSI
- stopped  $\pi^+$  beam
- active target counter
- 240 module spherical pure CsI calorimeter
- central tracking
- beam tracking
- digitized waveforms

$3\pi$   
 $12 X_0$



PIBETA detector assembly



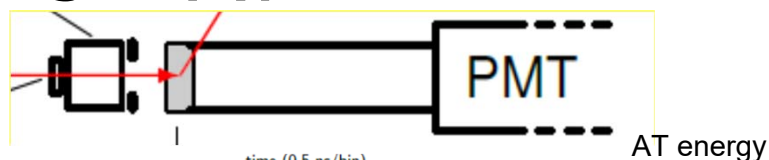
BC: Beam Counter  
AD: Active Degradator  
AT: Active Target

PH: Plastic Hodoscope (20 stave cylindrical)  
MWPC: Multi-Wire Proportional Chamber (cylindrical)  
mTPC: mini-Time Projection Chamber

See parallel session talk by Dinko Pocanic.

# PEN

# MTPC AT



2GHz Digitizing in AT

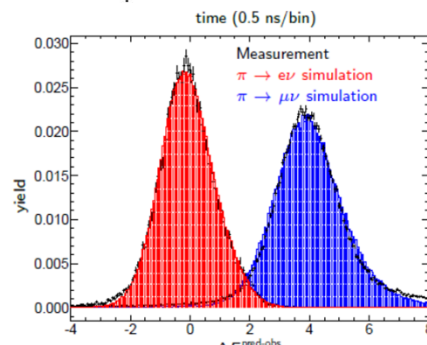
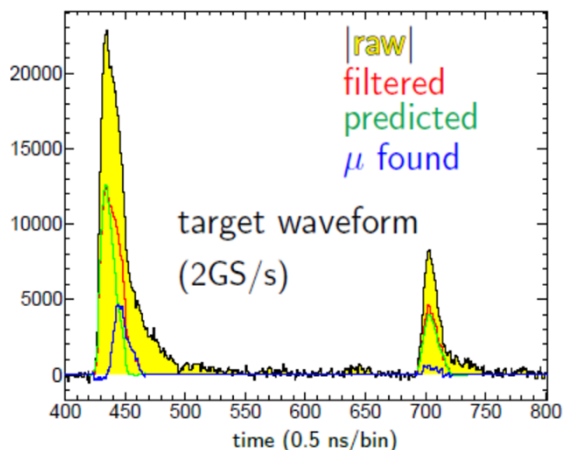


Table of uncertainties

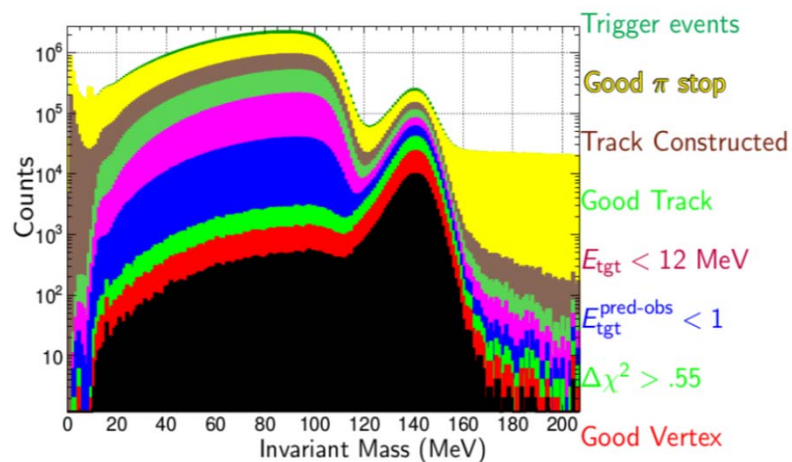
$$R_{e/\mu}^{\pi} = \frac{N_{\pi \rightarrow e\nu}^{\text{peak}}}{N_{\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu}} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{tail}}) \frac{A_{\pi-\mu-e}}{A_{\pi-\mu-e}} \frac{\epsilon(E_{\mu \rightarrow e\nu\bar{\nu}})_{\text{MWPC}}}{\epsilon(E_{\pi \rightarrow e\nu})_{\text{MWPC}}} \frac{f_{\pi-\mu-e}(T_e)}{f_{\pi-\mu-e}(T_e)}$$

$r_A \quad r_\epsilon \quad r_f$

Systematics	Value	$\Delta R_{e/\mu}^{\pi} / R_{e/\mu}^{\pi}$
$\epsilon_{\text{tail}}$	0.032	$3.5 \times 10^{-4}$
$r_f$	0.04292034	$5 \times 10^{-6}$
* $r_A r_\epsilon$	$\simeq 0.98$	$\sim 3 \times 10^{-4}$
Statistical:		
$\Delta N_{\pi \rightarrow e\nu} / N_{\pi \rightarrow e\nu}$		$5.15 \times 10^{-4}$ (Runs 2 <sup>†</sup> & 3)
Goal		$5 \times 10^{-4}$

\* Blinded † incomplete

## Tail Trigger

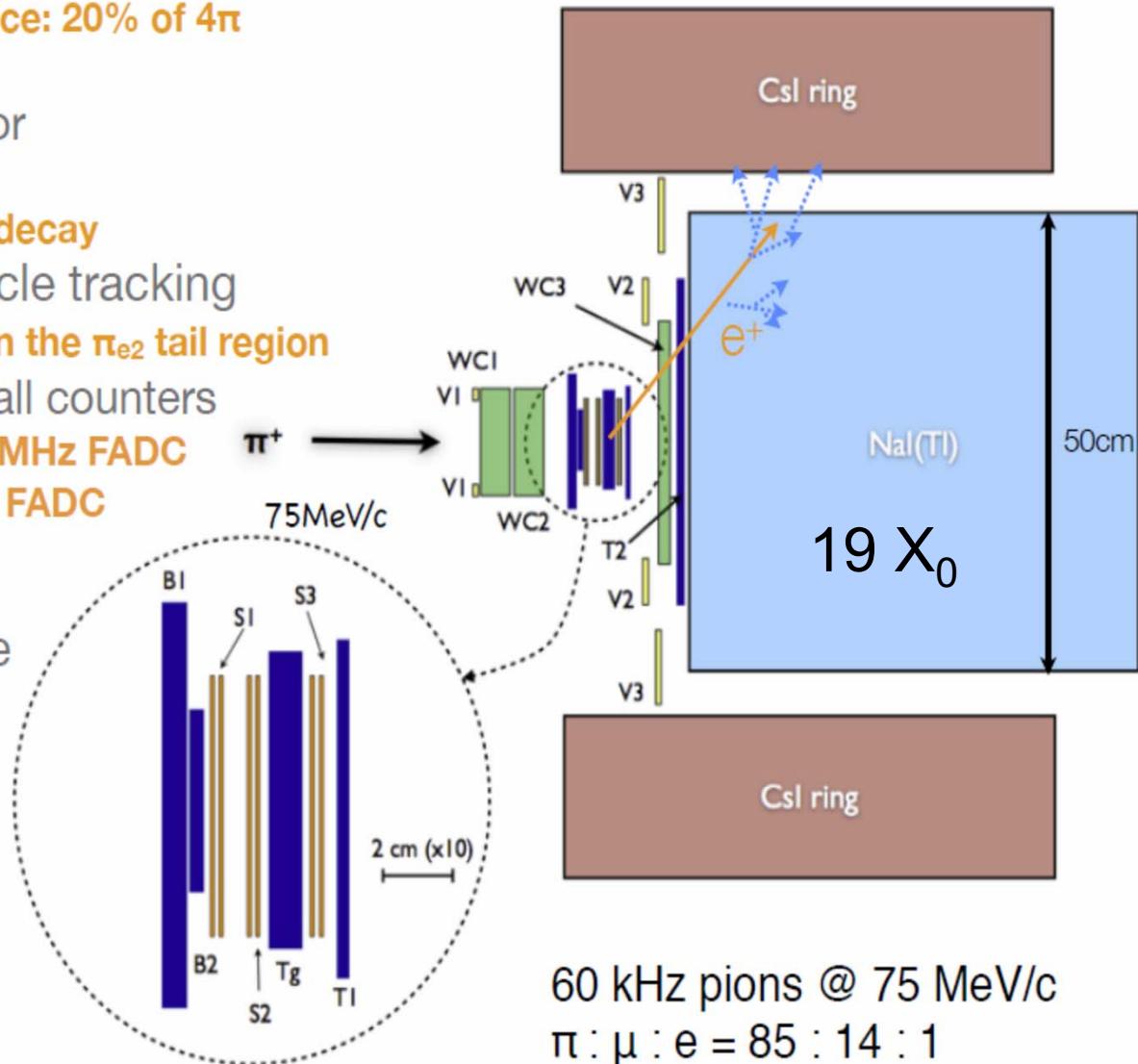
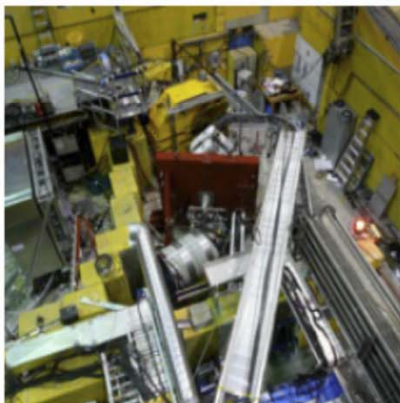


Tgt dEdx

# PIENU Detector

- Single crystal NaI(Tl) right behind the target
  - ▶ **Geometrical Acceptance: 20% of  $4\pi$**
  - ▶  **$\Delta E = 2.2\%$ (FWHM)**
- CsI ring shower collector
  - ▶  **$\pi_{e2}$  tail suppression**
  - ▶ **gamma from radiative decay**
- SSD and WC for particle tracking
  - ▶ **Identify  $\pi$ -DIF events in the  $\pi_{e2}$  tail region**
- Flash-ADC readout for all counters
  - ▶ **Plastic Scintillator: 500MHz FADC**
  - ▶ **NaI(Tl) and CsI: 60MHz FADC**
  - ▶ **Pile-up tagging**

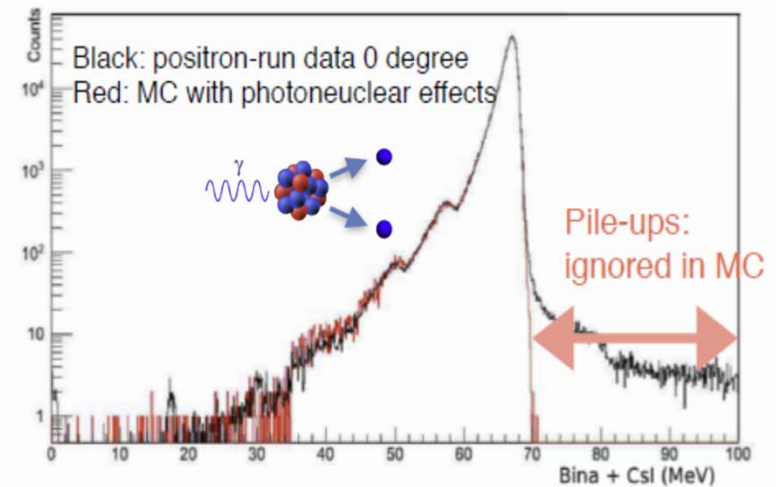
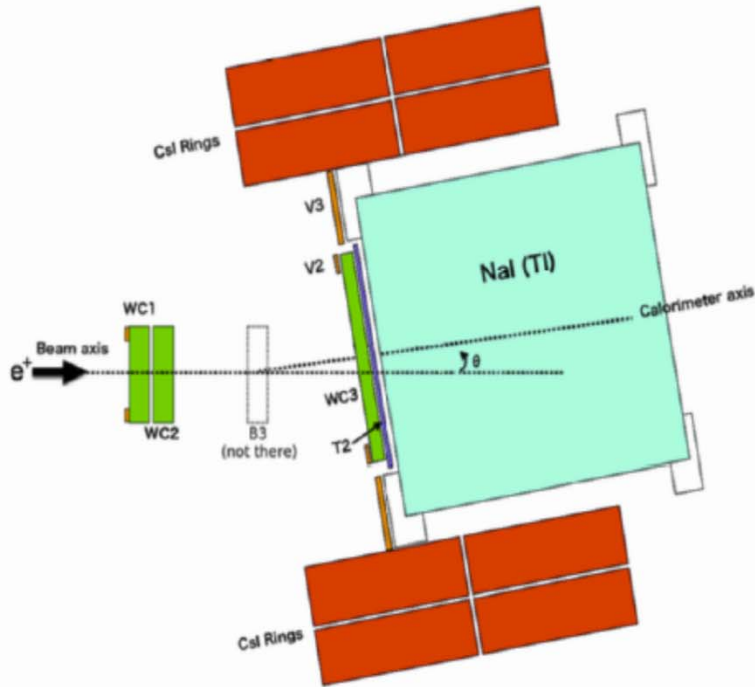
● TRIUMF M13 beamline





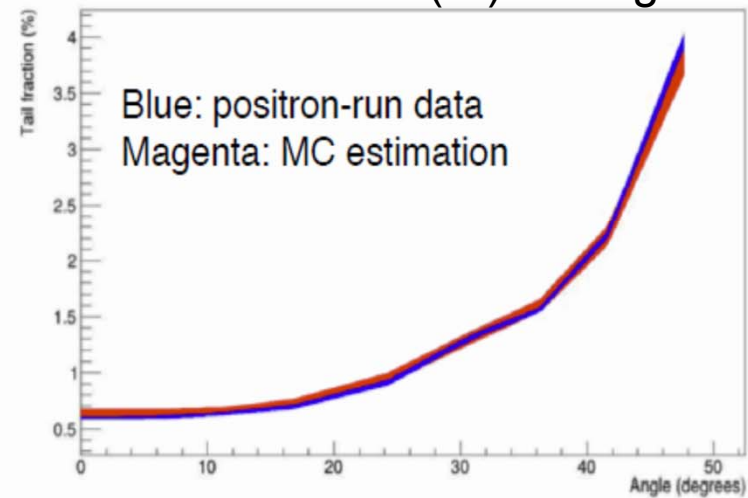
# Tail Correction

Important photo-nuclear effects observed.



- Special positron runs to understand the behavior of low-energy tail.
- Typical Tail-Correction factor is:  
 $1.0261 \pm 0.0002(stat) \pm 0.0005(syst)$

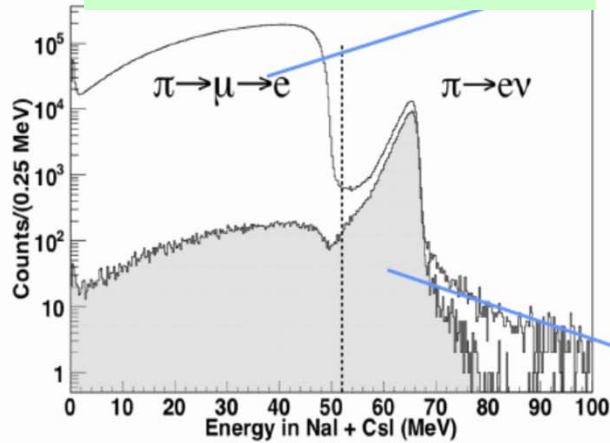
Tail Correction(%) vs Angle



# Energy and time selections

2015 publication  
 2010-data: 0.4 M  $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$

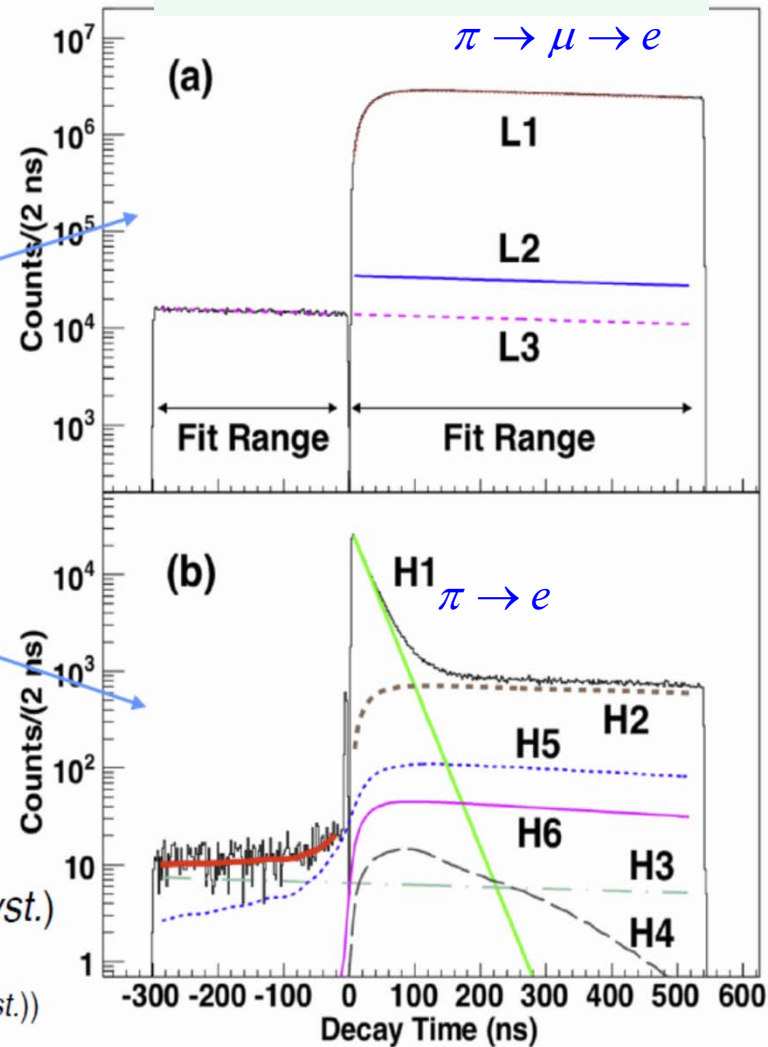
## Counts vs. Energy

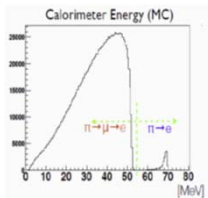


$$R = 1.2344 \pm 0.0023(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.0019(\text{syst.})$$

$$(R_{@1992} = 1.2265 \pm 0.0034(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.0045(\text{syst.}))$$

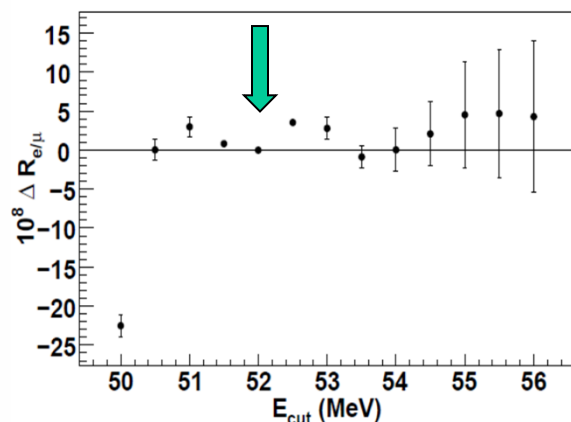
## Counts vs. Time





See Tristan Sullivan's talk in parallel sessions.

## $R_{e/\mu}^{\text{exp}\pi}$ dependence on $E_{\text{cut}}$



## PIENU Uncertainties

Error	PIENU 2010	PIENU goal
Statistical	0.19%	0.07%
Time Spectrum	0.04%	0.04%
Tail Correction	0.12%	0.06%
Others	0.07%	0.04%
Total	0.24%	< 0.1%

Current Result PIENU:  $R_{e/\mu}^{\text{exp}\pi} = 1.2344 \pm 0.0030 \times 10^{-4}$

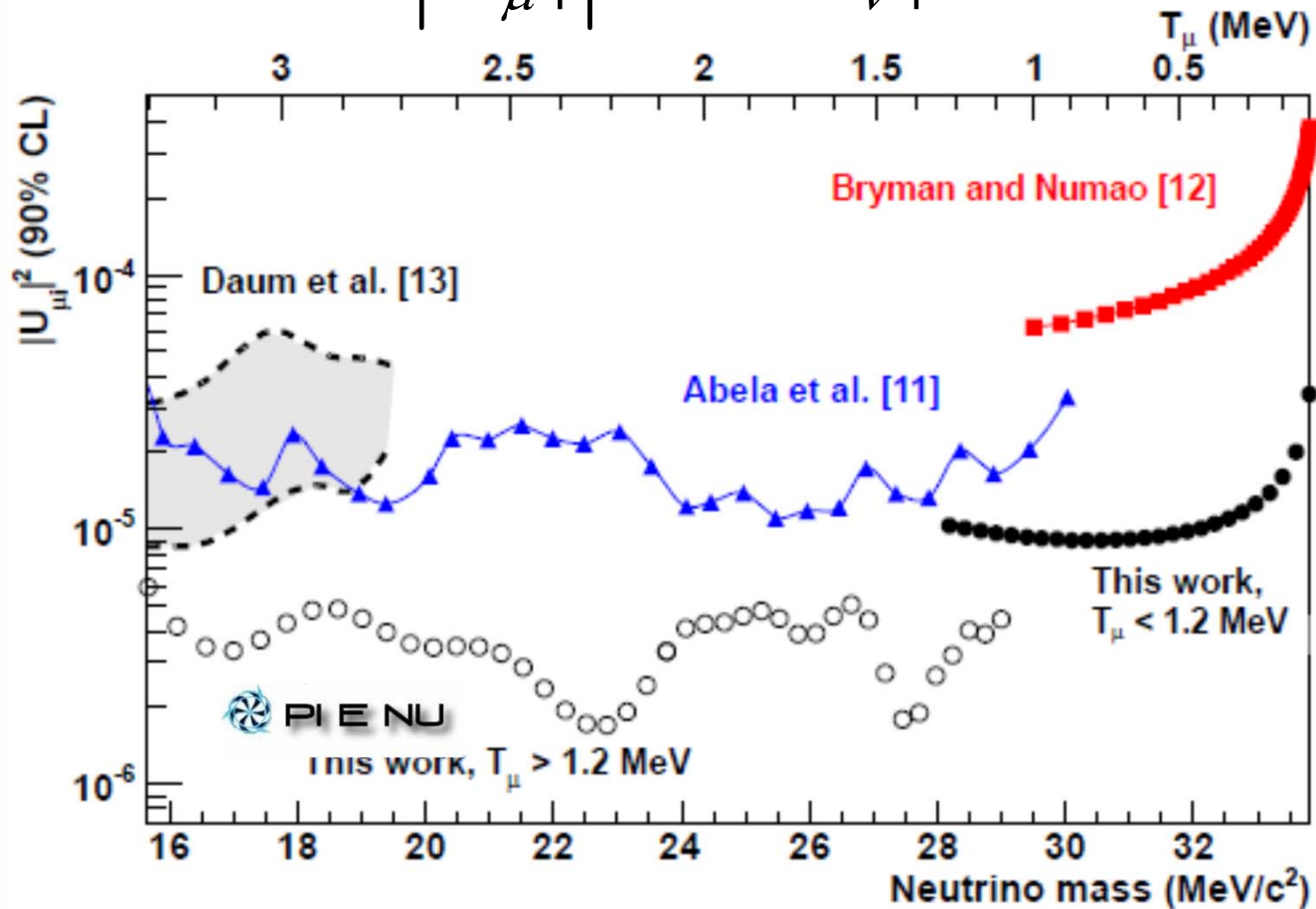
Full Data Sample:  $10^7 \pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$  Events

Precision Goal:  $\pm 0.1\%$

# Search for Heavy Neutrinos in $\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_H$ Decay

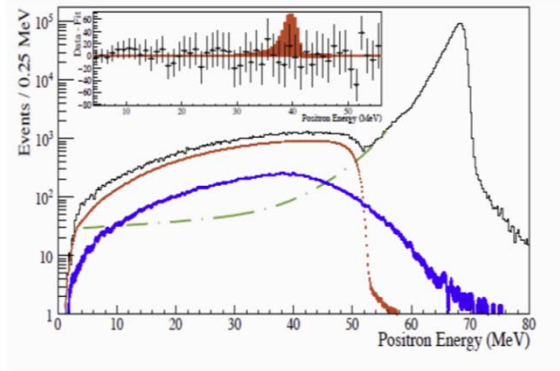
Order of magnitude improvement: 15-34 MeV

$$\left| U_{\mu 4} \right|^2 \text{ vs } m_{\nu 4}$$

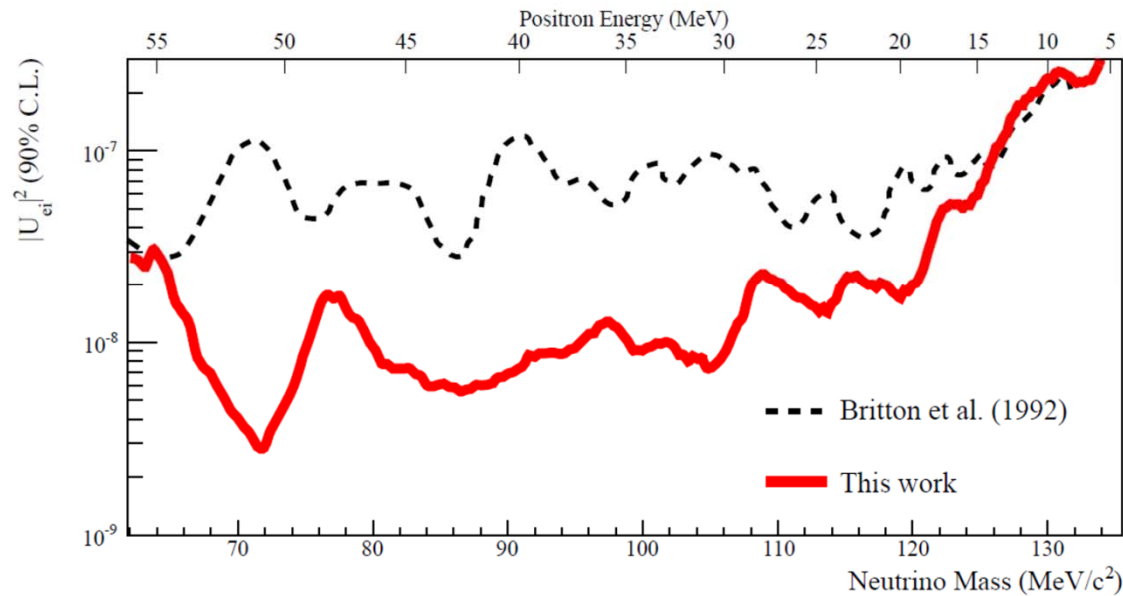




# Search for Heavy Neutrinos in $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_H$ Decay



$$|U_{e4}|^2 \text{ vs } m_{\nu 4}$$

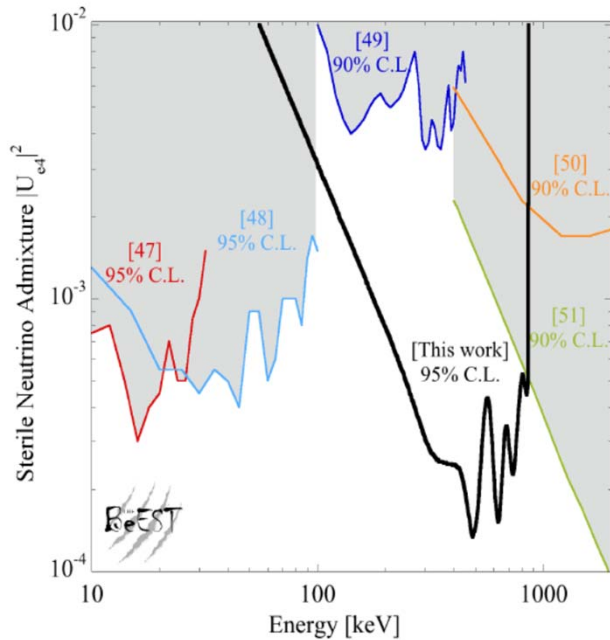


Substantial improvement: 60-120 MeV  $\rightarrow$  10<sup>-8</sup> level

# Massive Sterile Neutrinos

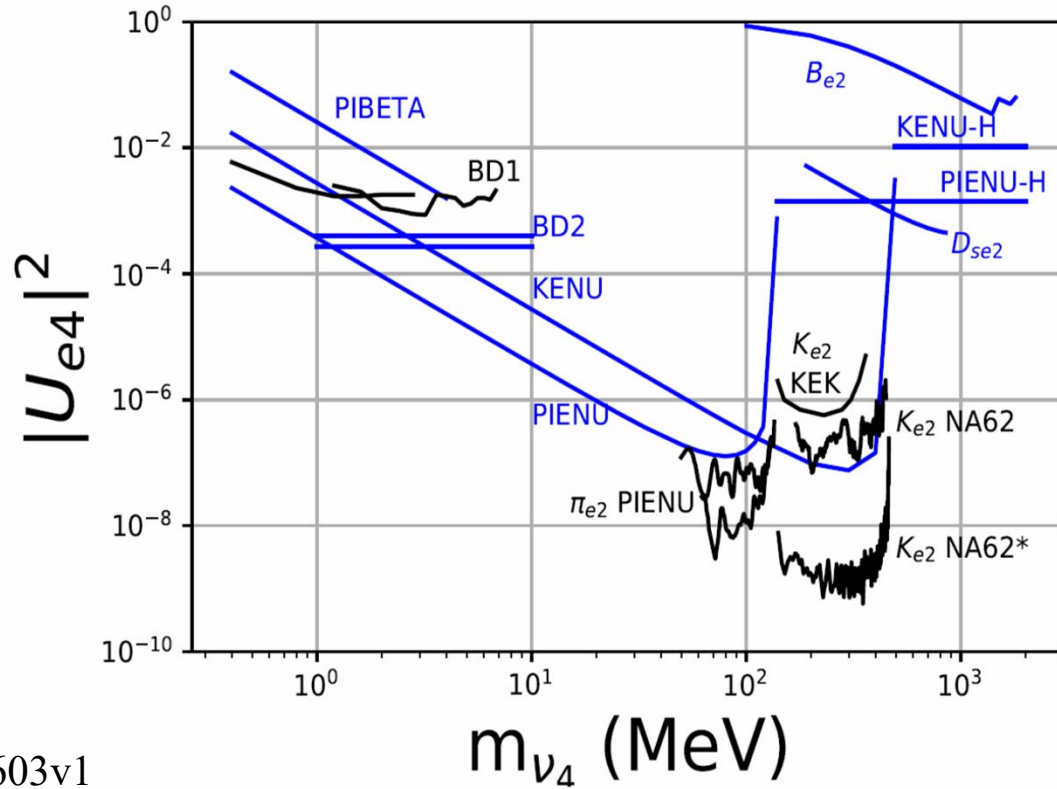
Could range in mass from eV to GUT scale; constraints from oscillations, cosmology, HEP....  
Possible correlations with LFV, LNV...

$|U_{e4}|^2$  vs  $m_{\nu 4}$  (<MeV)



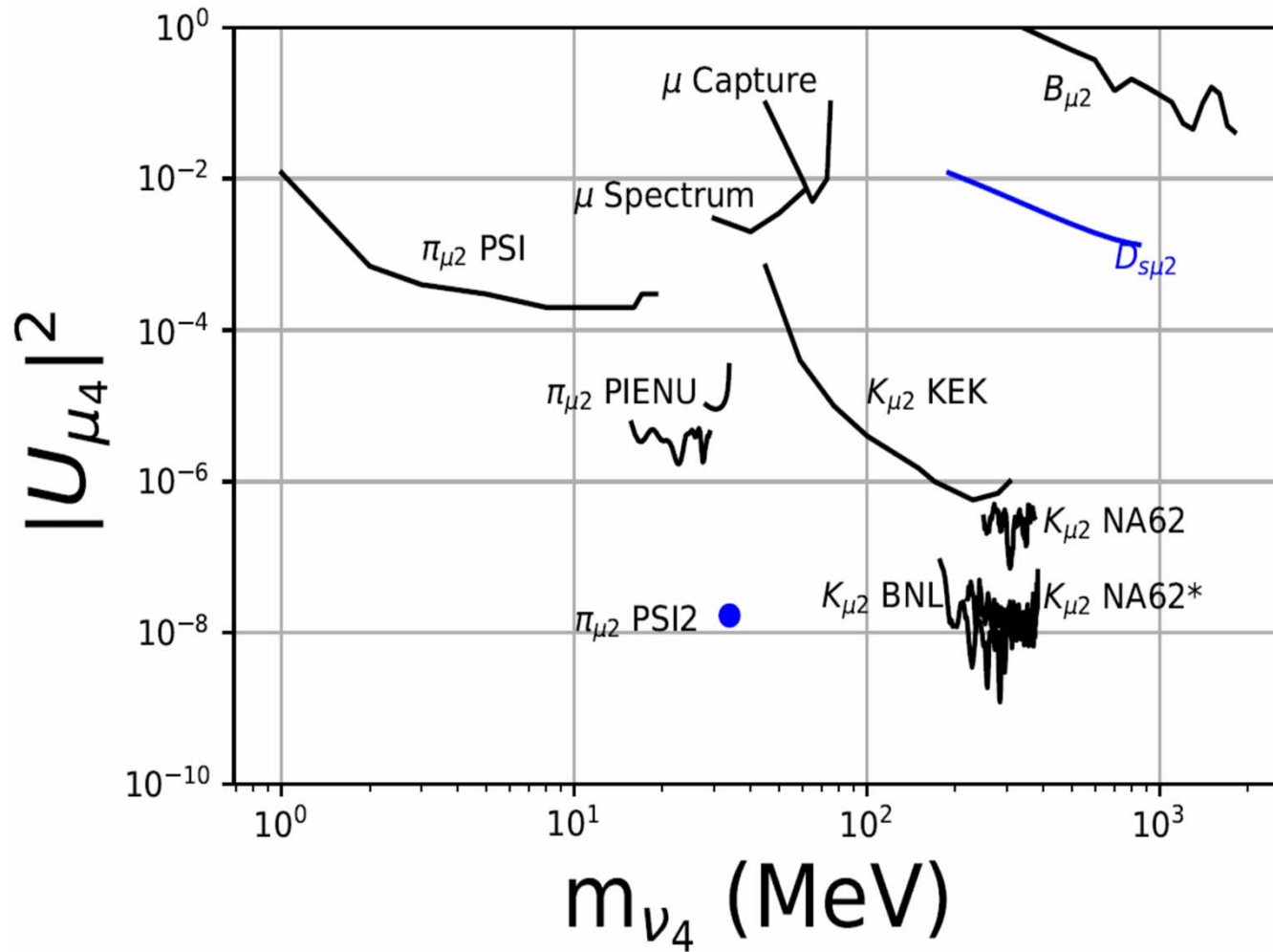
S. Friedrich et al., arXiv:2010.09603v1

$|U_{e4}|^2$  vs  $m_{\nu 4}$  (MeV - GeV)



R. Shrock and D.B. Phys. Rev. D 100 (2019) 073011

$|U_{\mu 4}|^2$  vs  $m_{\nu 4}$  (MeV - GeV)



R. Shrock and D.B. Phys. Rev. D 100 (2019) 073011

D. Bryman DND2020

27

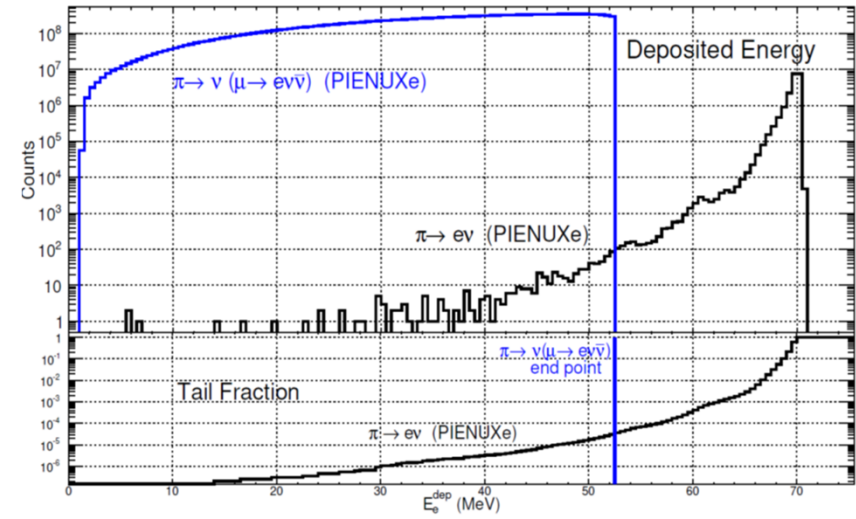
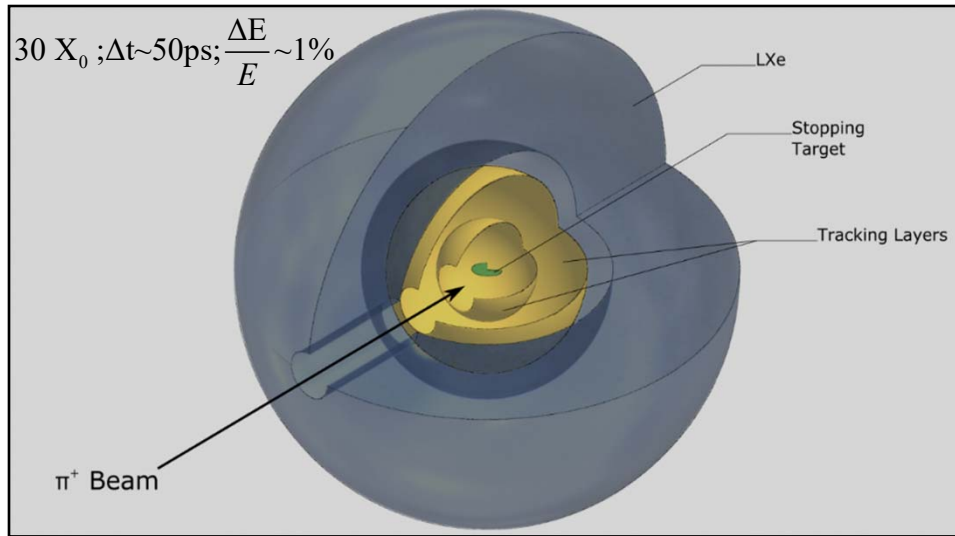
# Snowmass RF2 LOI

## ***PIENUXE*: Testing Lepton Flavor Universality and CKM Unitarity with Rare Pion Decays**

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A. Czarnecki<sup>10</sup>, L. Doria<sup>11</sup>, A. Garcia<sup>12</sup>, L. Gibbons<sup>13</sup>, C. Glaser<sup>14</sup>, M. Gorchtein<sup>11</sup>, T. Goringe<sup>15</sup>,  
D. Hertzog<sup>12</sup>, Z. Hodge<sup>12</sup>, M. Hoferichter<sup>16</sup>, T. Iwamoto<sup>17</sup>, P. Kammel<sup>12</sup>, J. Kaspar<sup>12</sup>, K. Labe<sup>13</sup>,  
J. Labounty<sup>12</sup>, S. Ito<sup>18</sup>, W. Marciano<sup>19</sup>, S. Mihara<sup>20</sup>, R. Mischke<sup>3</sup>, T. Mori<sup>17</sup>, T. Numao<sup>3</sup>, W. Ootani<sup>17</sup>, C.  
Ortega Hernandez<sup>1</sup>, D. Pocanic<sup>14</sup>, D. Salvat<sup>21</sup>, T. Sullivan<sup>22</sup>

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# PIENUXE: New Rare $\pi$ Decay Experiment with LXe



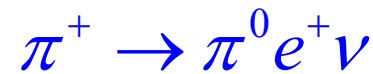
Faster calorimeter response time x10-100.

Low energy tail reduced x 10



- $\pi^+$  Beam: 75 MeV/c ;  $2 \times 10^5$  Hz
- Tracking – SciFi-SiPM, Si pixels
- LXe calorimeter
- Sensitivity, Precision:  $10^8$  events  $\pm 0.015\%$  in 1 yr

$$\frac{g_e}{g_\mu} \sim (\pm 0.0075\%)$$



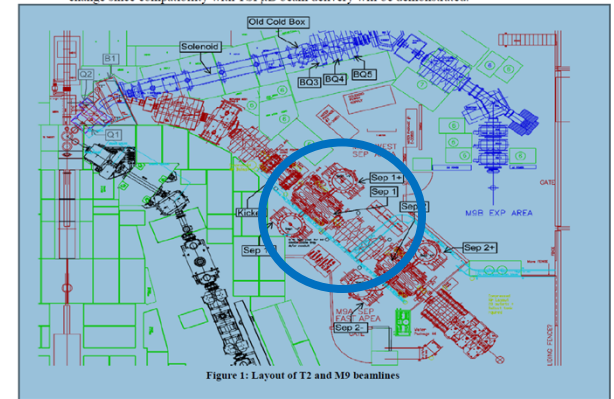
- $\pi^+$  Beam: 75 MeV/c ;  $3 \times 10^7$  Hz
- Sensitivity, Precision:  $10^6$  events  $\pm 0.1\%$  in 1 yr

$$V_{ud} \sim (\pm 0.03\%) \quad \frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}} \sim (\pm 0.1\%)$$

# Possible Sites for PIENUXE

## TRIUMF

- M9A – only existing possibility
- New channel at T2 M8 port
- New target station/beamline elsewhere?



**PSI:**  $\pi E5$  –short low energy beamline;  $\pi E1$ ?

See talk by Andreas Knecht in parallel sessions

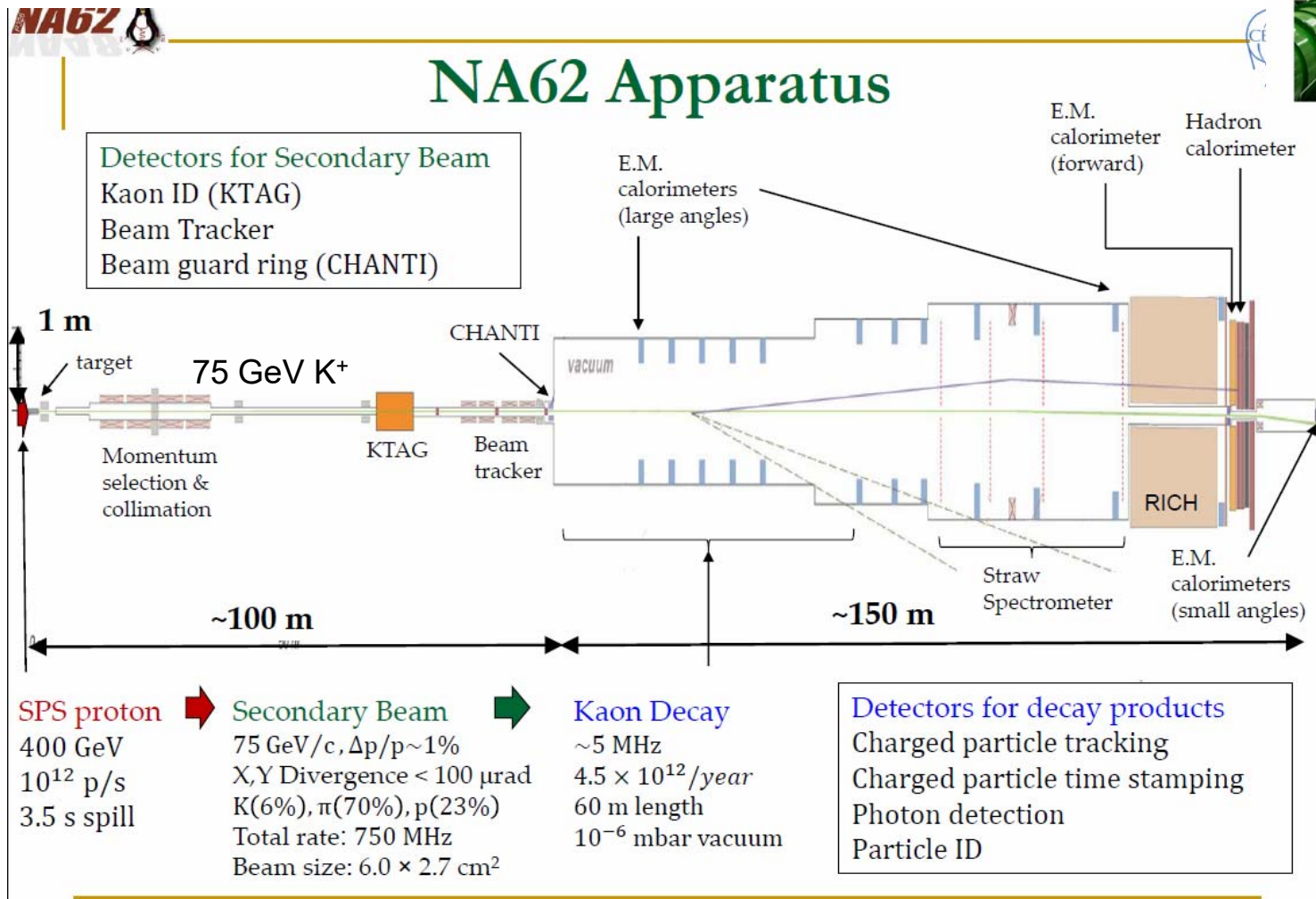
Aiming for 20% precision for SM  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$



NA62 physics data taking started in June 2015

Most efficient detector ever built.

CERN's longest experiment?



In operation 2015-2018 (2021-2023 planned+ beam dump mode)



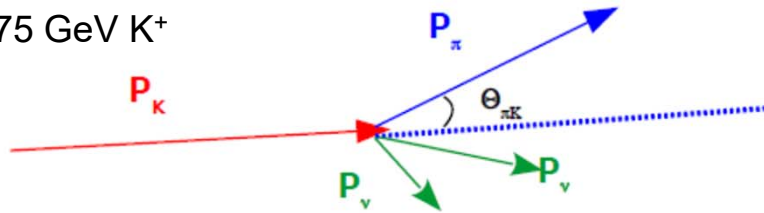
# Analysis strategy

Decay-in-flight  
technique

$$m_{\text{miss}}^2 = (\mathbf{P}_K - \mathbf{P}_{\pi^+})^2$$

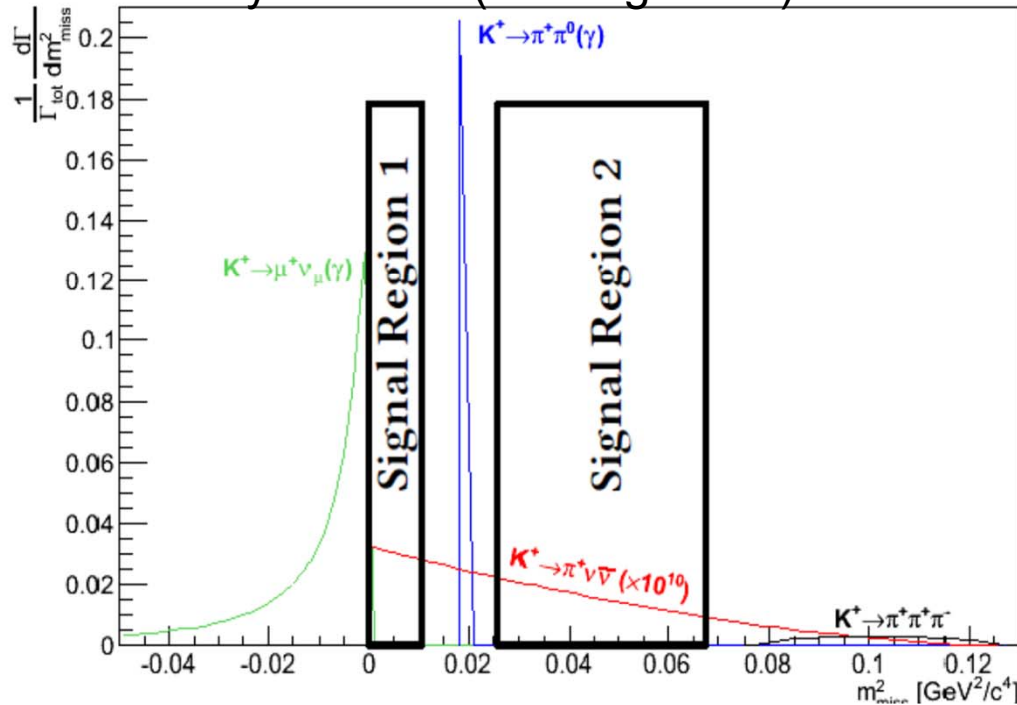
$\pi^+$  mass assumed for the track

75 GeV  $K^+$



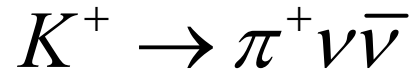
- Muon suppression:  $> 10^7$
- $\pi^0$  suppression (from  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ ):  $> 10^7$
- Excellent time resolution:  $O(100\text{ps})$
- Kinematic suppression:  $\sim O(10^4)$

Decay Rate vs. (Missing mass)<sup>2</sup>



Process	Branching ratio
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$	0.2066
$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	0.6356
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	0.0558
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e \nu_e$	$4.3 \times 10^{-5}$
<b><math>K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \nu</math> (SM)</b>	<b><math>8.4 \times 10^{-11}</math></b>

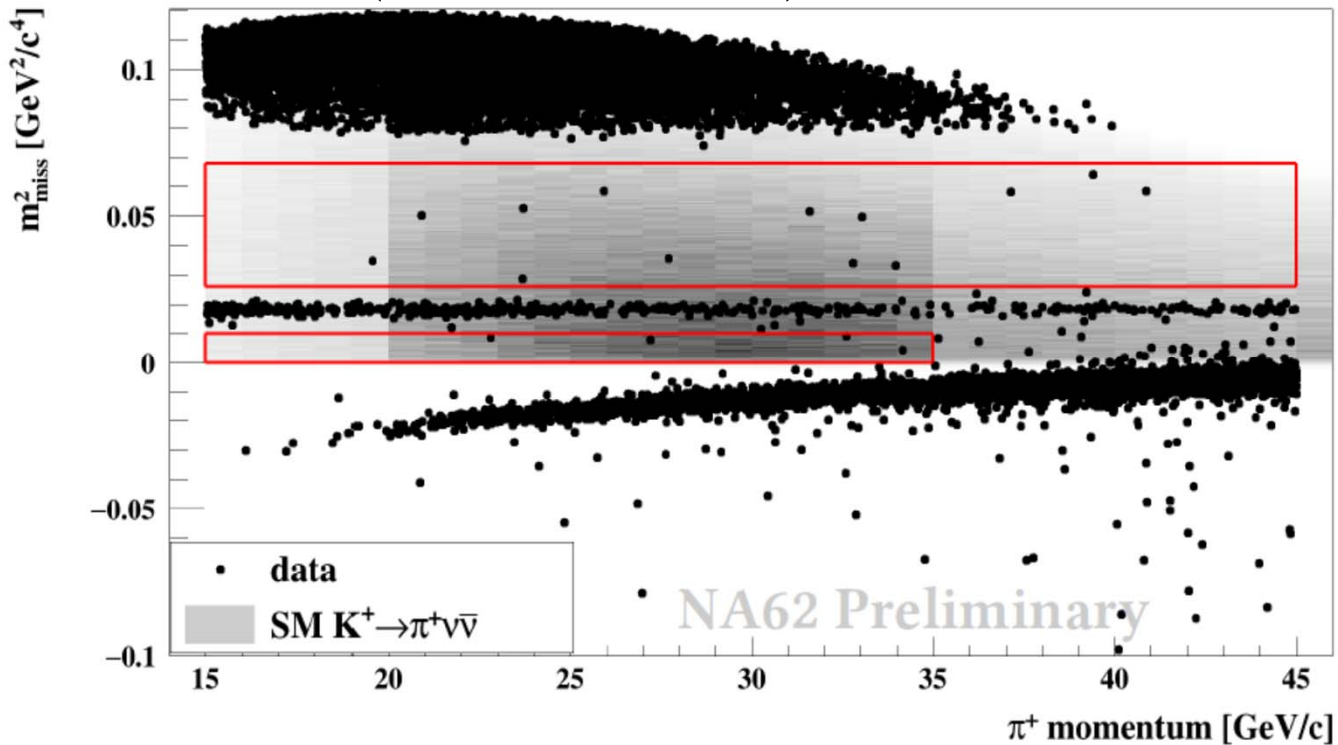




17 events observed

$5.28^{+0.99}_{-0.74}$  Background

(Missing Mass)<sup>2</sup> vs  $P_\pi$



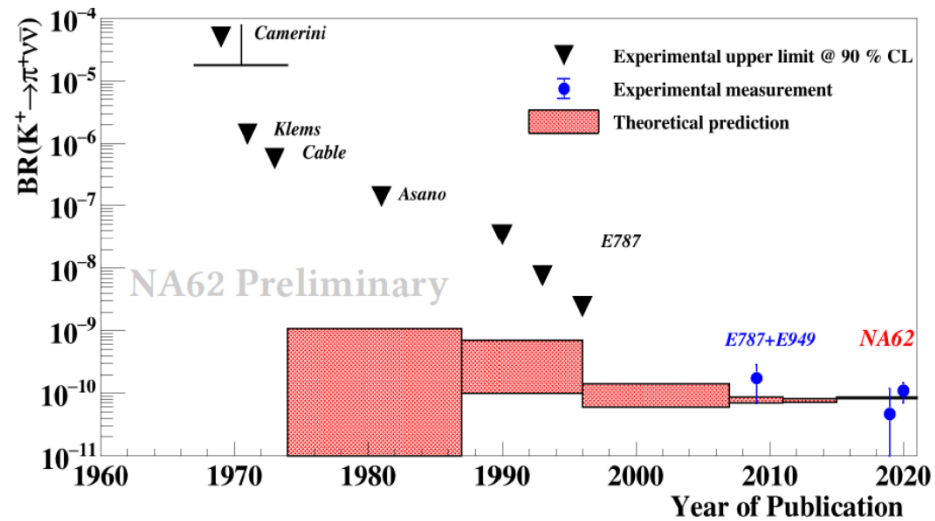
Background dominated by upstream random coincidences

Blinded control regions validated prior to opening box.

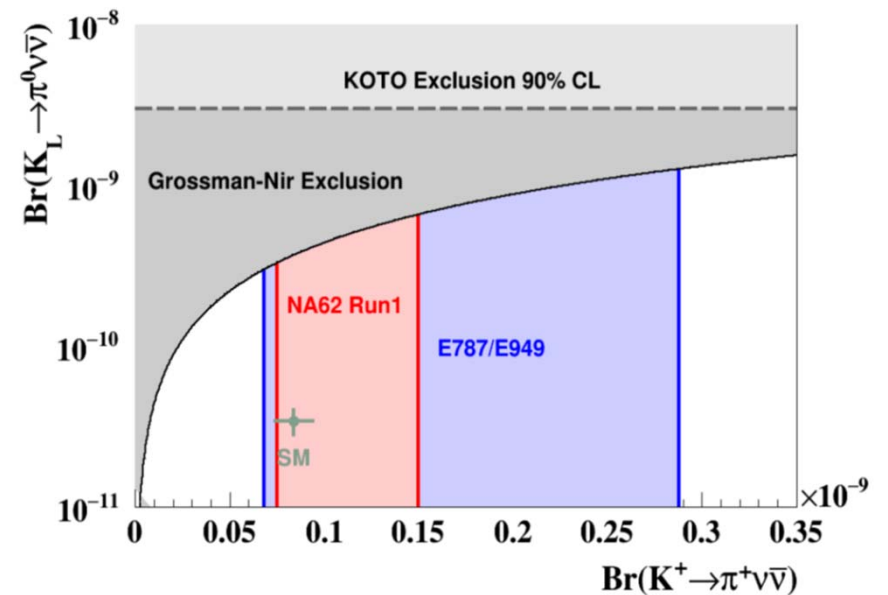
NA62 Results (2016-2018 data):

$$B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = \left(11^{+4.0}_{-3.5}\right) \times 10^{-11} \quad (3.5 \sigma \text{ significance})$$

$B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$  vs. Year



$B(K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})$  vs.  $B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$





Next: Measure  $B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) \pm 20\%$

## **NA62 Run 2 Plans 2021-2024**

**Increase beam rate x 1.3**

**Mods to reduce upstream backgrounds**

- Beamline rearrangement near GTK
- 4<sup>th</sup> GTK beam tracker station
- New upstream vetos; other veto counters

Possible Future: Measure  $B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) \pm 5\%$

**Increase beam rate x4**

**Improve time resolution to reduce randoms**

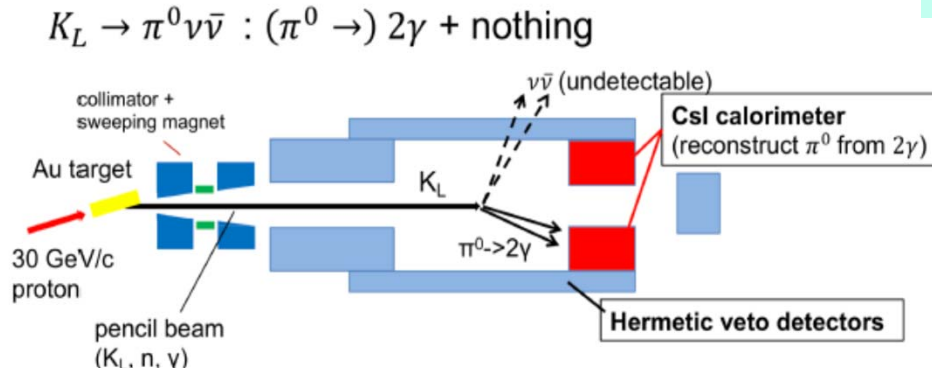
e.g. Beam Cerenkov detectors 100  $\rightarrow$  20 ps  
GTK tracker 125  $\rightarrow$  50 ps

# KOTO at JPARC $K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$

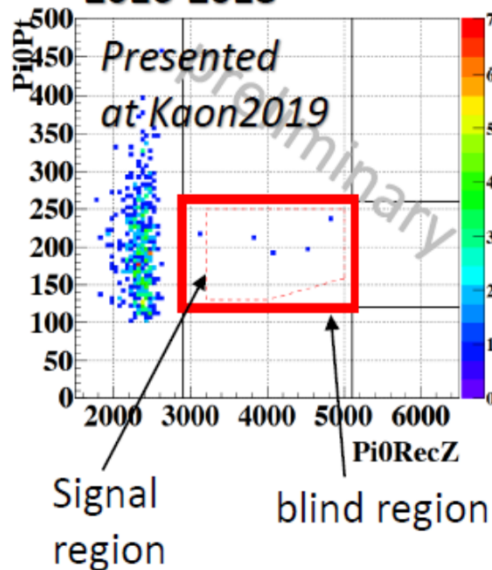
$$B_{\text{SM}}(K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) = (3.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-11}$$

$$B(K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) < 3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ (90\% c.l.)}$$

(2019) based on 2015 data



**Data taken during 2016-2018** SM expectation 0.04 events



ICHEP2020 (Kaon2019)

Observed : 3(4) events

Background:  $1.05 \pm 0.28$  ( $0.05 \pm 0.2$ )

New background source found after analysis:  $K^+$  decays

2019 run: analysis in progress

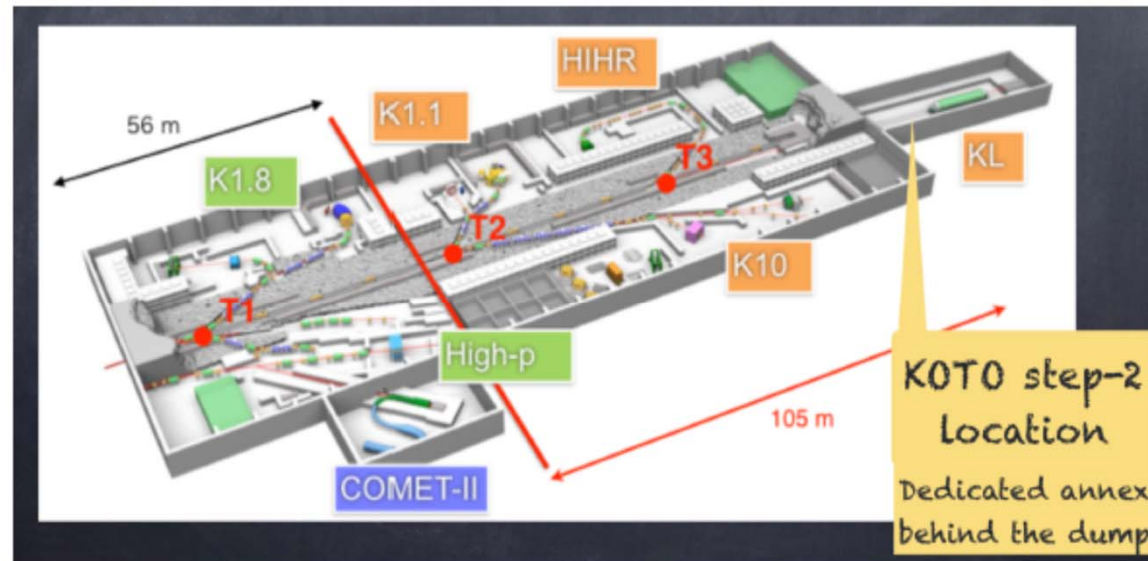
## KOTO: Future Plans

2020 beam tests → adding upstream charged particle vetos

(> 2025): Goal: 100  $K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$  events (S/N~1)

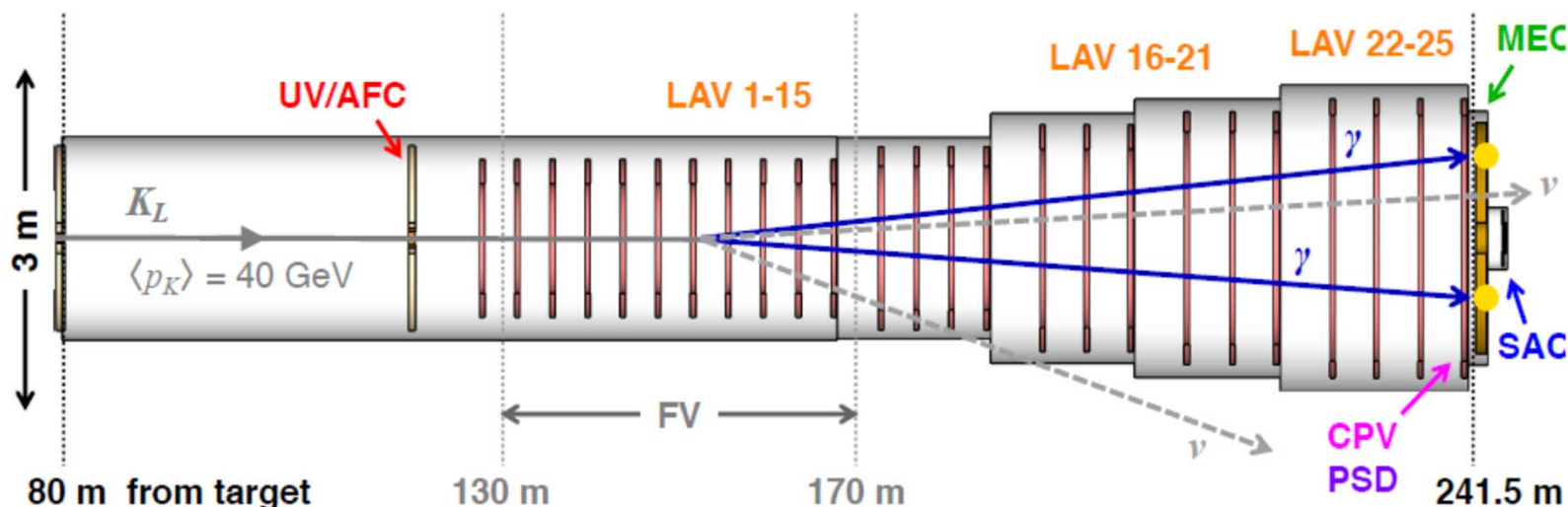
Higher flux (thicker target x1.4, smaller production angle  $16^\circ \rightarrow 5^\circ$ )

Increased detector acceptances: Calorimeter 2 → 3m dia., decay path 2 → 15m



# A $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$ experiment at the SPS? ***K<sub>L</sub>EVER***

400-GeV SPS proton beam on Be target at  $z = 0$  m



***K<sub>L</sub>EVER* target sensitivity:**  
 5 years starting Run 4  
 ~60 SM  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$   
 S/B ~ 1  
 $\delta \text{BR} / \text{BR}(\pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) \sim 20\%$

- High-energy experiment: Complementary to KOTO
- Photons from  $K_L$  decays boosted forward
  - Makes photon vetoing easier - veto coverage only out to 100 mrad
- Roughly same vacuum tank layout and fiducial volume as NA62



## ***Conclusions: Flavor Physics with Pions and Kaons***

- Rare  $\mu$ ,  $\pi$  and K decays have unique and important roles to play in the search for new physics involving exotic effects like *Flavor Universality*, *CKM Unitarity*, and *Lepton Flavor Violation* --- especially sensitivity to very high mass scales.
- New  $\pi$ /K/B results expected in the next few years from PIENU, PEN, NA62, and LHCb BESSIII, BELLE-II.
- New or extended projects under consideration for  $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$ ,  $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu$ ,  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ , and  $K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$ .
- Important connections with searches for sterile neutrinos, high mass scale physics and L(F/N)V tests ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ ,  $K \rightarrow \pi \mu^+ \mu^+$ ,  $K \rightarrow \pi e^+ e^+$ ,  $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$ ,  $\mu^- Z \rightarrow e^- Z$ ,  $\mu^- Z \rightarrow e^+ (Z-2)$ ,  $\mu \rightarrow 3e$ , muonium-antimuonium...).