

# Search for the $\bar{K}pp$ bound state via the infight-kaon reaction on helium-3

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ J-PARC E15 experiment
- ▶ **First result on semi-inclusive  ${}^3\text{He}(\bar{K}^-, n)$**
- ▶ Preliminary result on exclusive  ${}^3\text{He}(\bar{K}^-, \Lambda p)n$

Tadashi Hashimoto for the J-PARC E15 collaboration

Search for the deeply bound  $K^-pp$  state via the  ${}^3\text{He}(K^-, n)$  reaction at  $p_{K^-}=1$   
GeV/ $c$

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# Anti-kaon nucleon interaction at low energy

▶  $K^{\text{bar}}$ N interaction: **attractive** in isospin=0

- Kaonic hydrogen X-ray measurements
- Low-energy scattering experiments

→ talk by C. Curceanu

▶  $K^{\text{bar}}$ -nucleus interaction: **attractive**

- Systematic measurement of kaonic-atom X-rays

→ Tomorrow's talk by S. Okada (RIKEN)

**Open question: How strong attraction ??**

▶  $\Lambda(1405)$  below the  $K^-p$  threshold (1432 MeV)

→ talk by K. Lapidus

- Difficult to explain by an ordinary 3-quark state
- $K^-p$  quasi-bound state?  $Kp-\pi\Sigma$  two-pole structure?

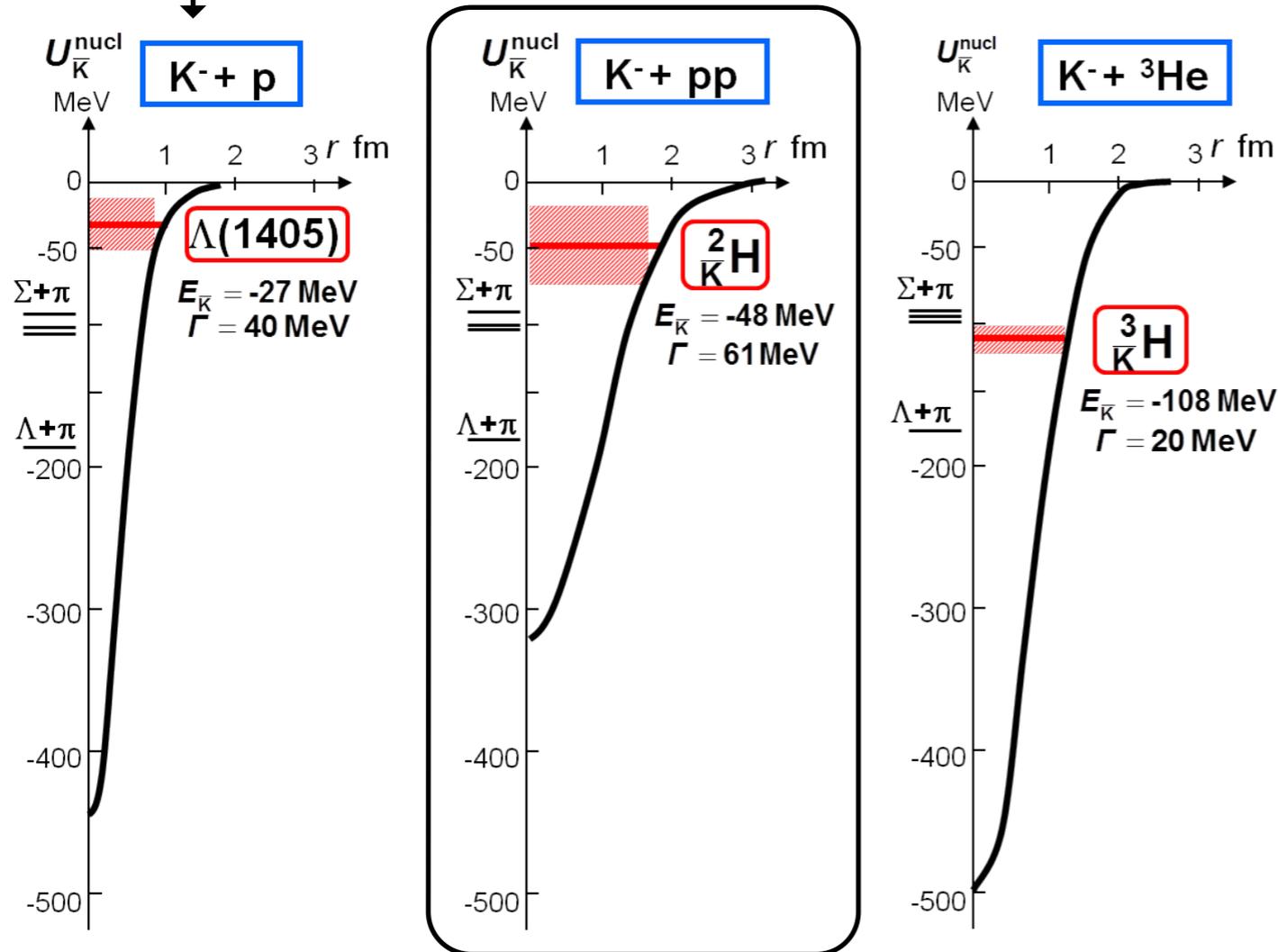
▶ What happens in heavier nuclear systems;  $K^-pp$ ,  $K^-ppn$ , etc...

# Kaonic nuclear bound state

What will happen when an anti-kaon is embedded in a nucleus?

## Assumption

1. Y. Akaishi and T. Yamazaki. *Phys. Rev. C* **65**, 044005 (2002).
2. T. Yamazaki and Y. Akaishi. *Physics Letters B* **535**, 70–76 (2002).



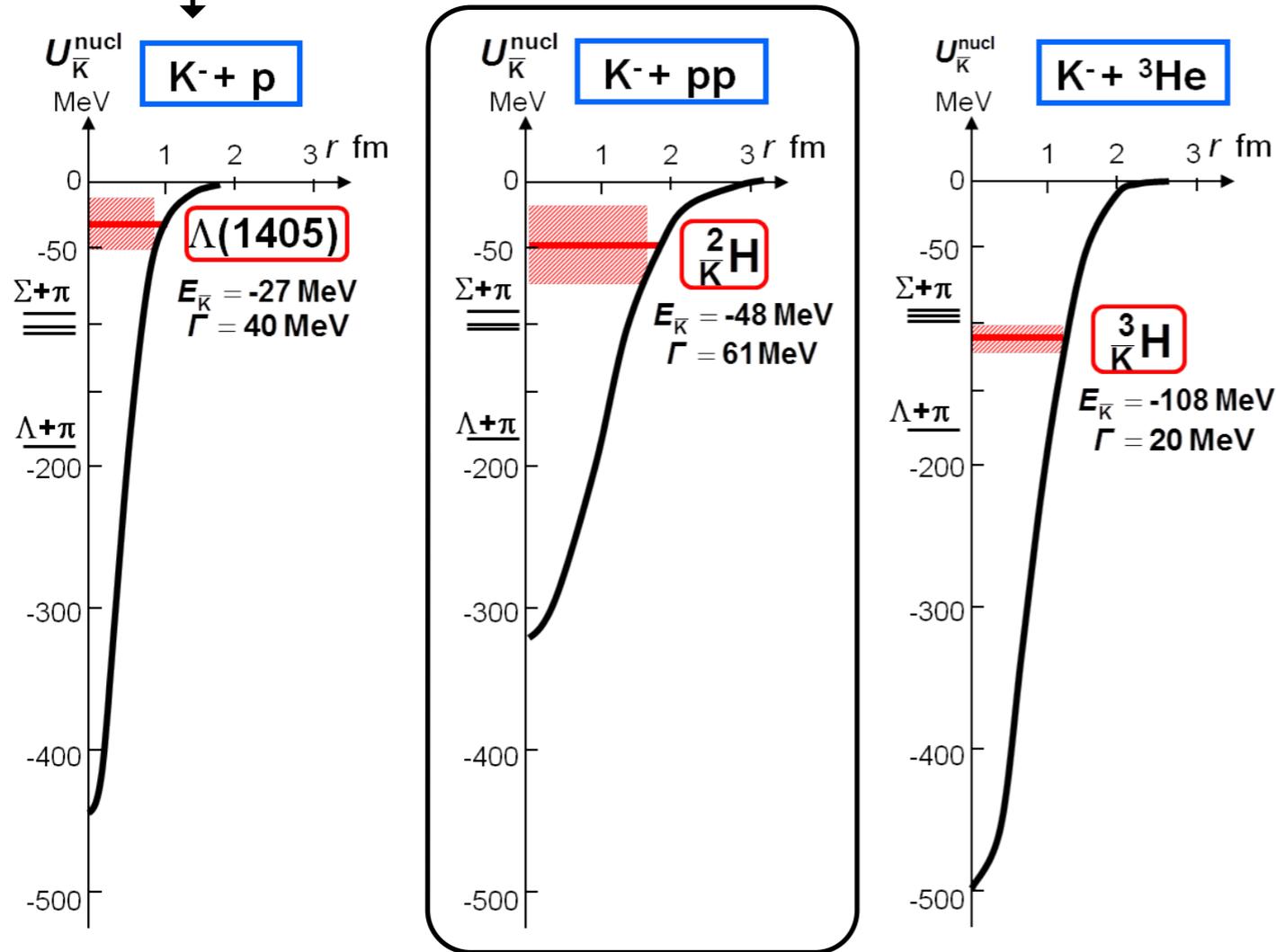
**$K^-pp$**  :  $[K^{\text{bar}}(NN)_{I=1}]_{I=1/2}$   
*the lightest kaonic nucleus*

# Kaonic nuclear bound state

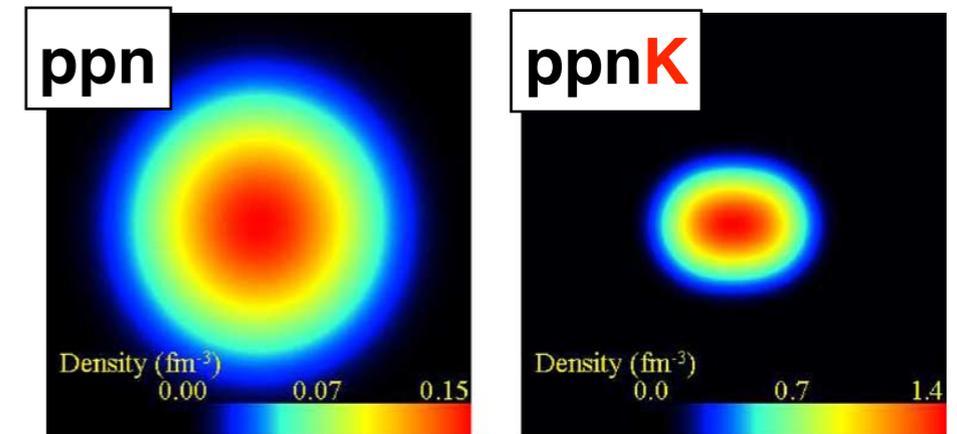
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*dense nuclei are predicted*

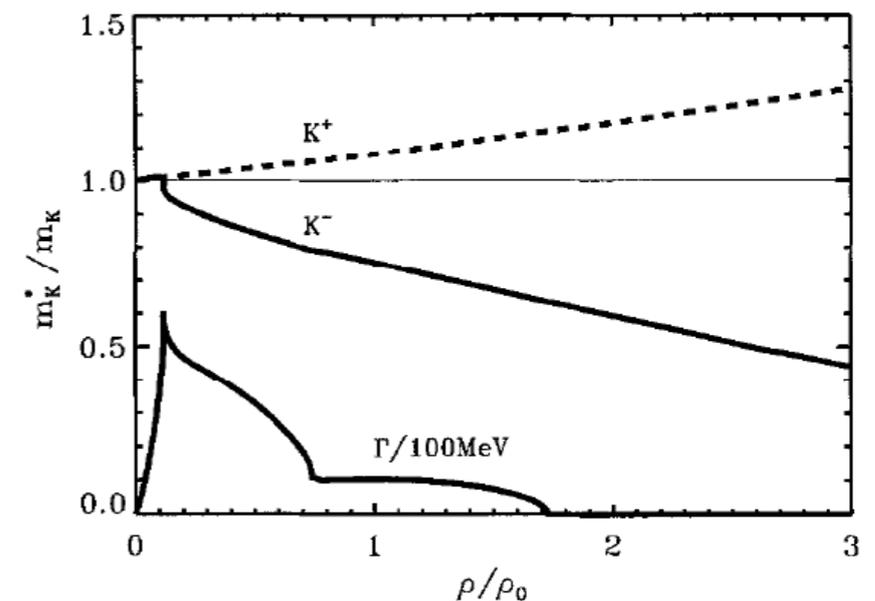


(a)  ${}^3\text{He}$

(b)  ${}^3\text{He}K^-$

A. Dote, H. Horiuchi, Y. Akaishi and T. Yamazaki, *Phys. Lett. B* **590** (2004) 51

*Kaon mass in nuclear medium?*



1. T. Waas et al. *Physics Letters B* **379**, 34–38 (1996).

**$K^-pp$**  :  $[K^{\text{bar}}(NN)_{I=1}]_{I=1/2}$   
*the lightest kaonic nucleus*

# *K-pp* few-body calculations

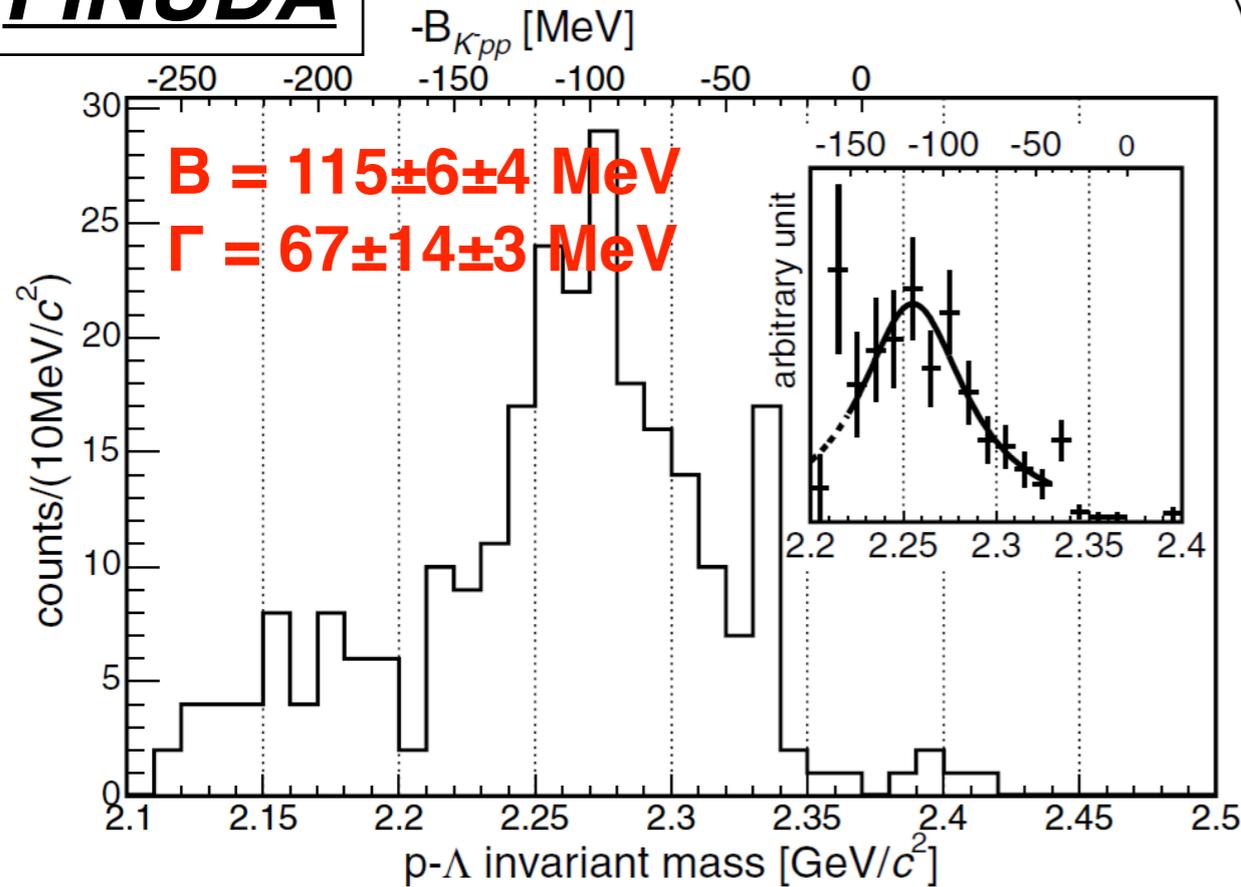
$\Lambda(1405)$ ansatz	Method	B.E.[MeV]	$\Gamma$ [MeV]
T. Yamazaki, Y. Akaishi(2002)	var.	48	61
N.V. Shevchenko, A. Gal, J. Mares(2007)	Fad.	50-70	90-110
Y. Ikeda, T. Sato (2007,2009)	Fad.	60-95	45-80
S. Wycech, A.M. Green (2009)	var.	40-80	40-85
S. Maeda, Y. Akaishi, T. Yamazaki (2013)	Fad.	51.5	61

chiral & energy dependent	Method	B.E.[MeV]	$\Gamma$ [MeV]
N. Barnea, A. Gal, E.Z. Liverts(2012)	var.	16	41
A. Dote, T. Hyodo, W. Weise(2008,09)	var.	17-23	40-70
Y. Ikeda, H. Kamano, T. Sato(2010)	Fad.	9-16	34-46

- ▶ All calculations agree that the **bound state exists !**
- ▶ Model of the  $K^{\text{bar}}N$  interaction makes large difference
- ▶ Experimental information is important

# Experimental situation

## FINUDA



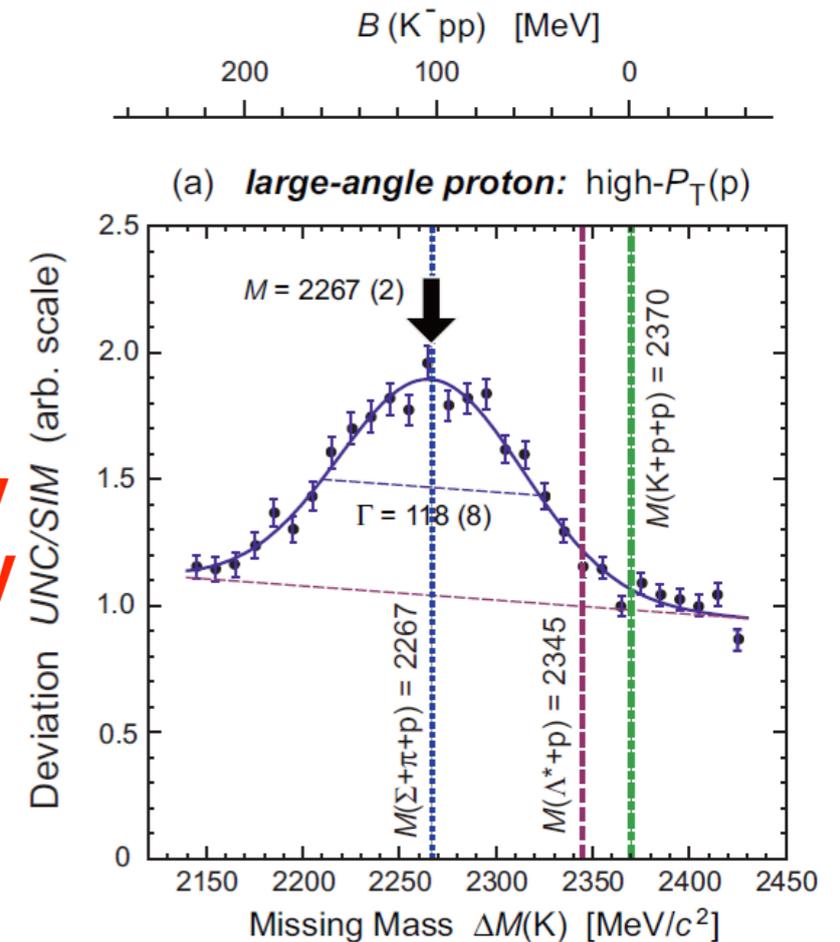
1.M. Agnello *et al.* *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **94**, 212303 (2005).

back-to-back  $\Lambda p$  pair  
from stopped  $K^-$  on  ${}^6\text{Li}$ ,  ${}^7\text{Li}$ ,  ${}^{12}\text{C}$

## DISTO

@ $T_p=2.85$  GeV

$B = 105 \pm 2 \pm 5$  MeV  
 $\Gamma = 118 \pm 8 \pm 10$  MeV



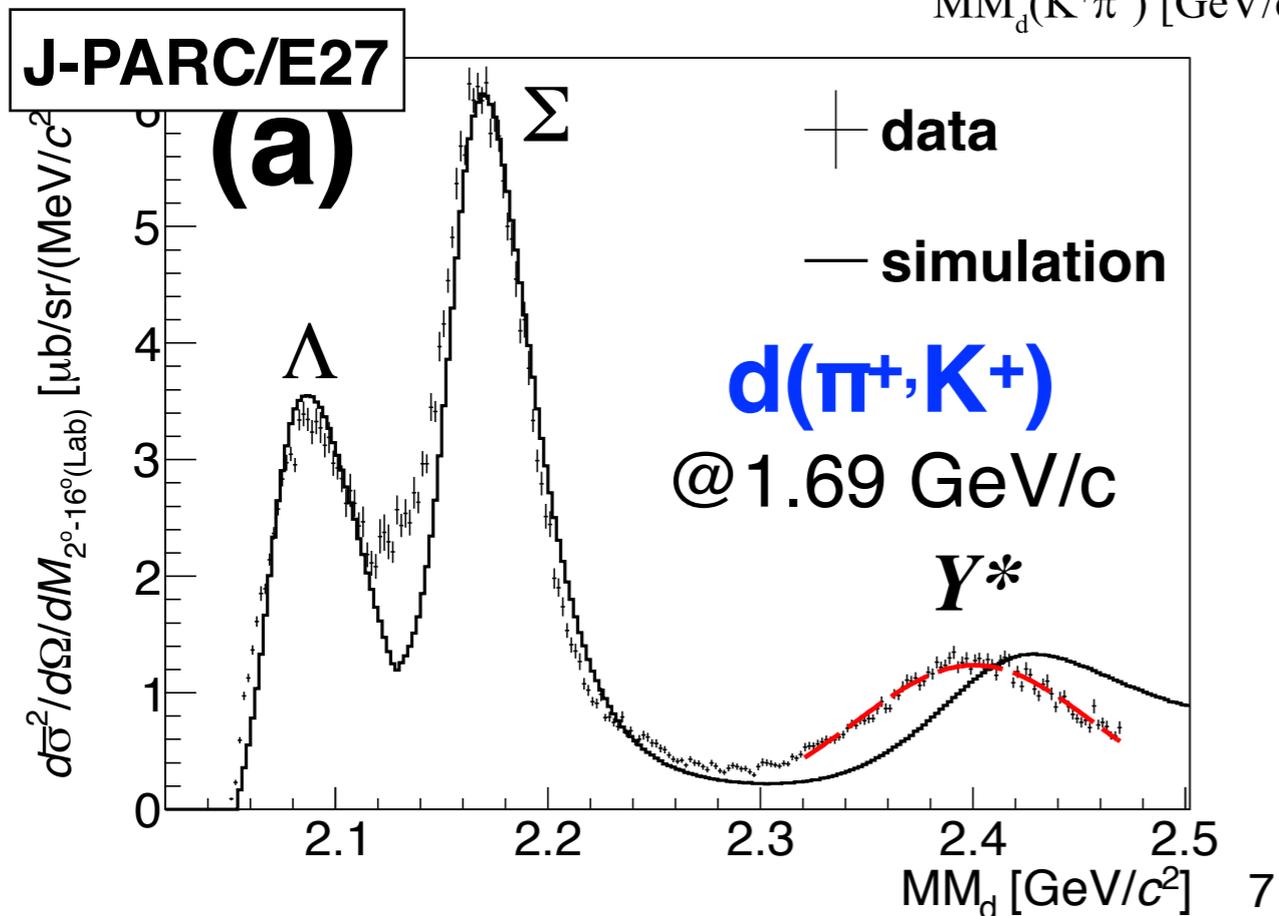
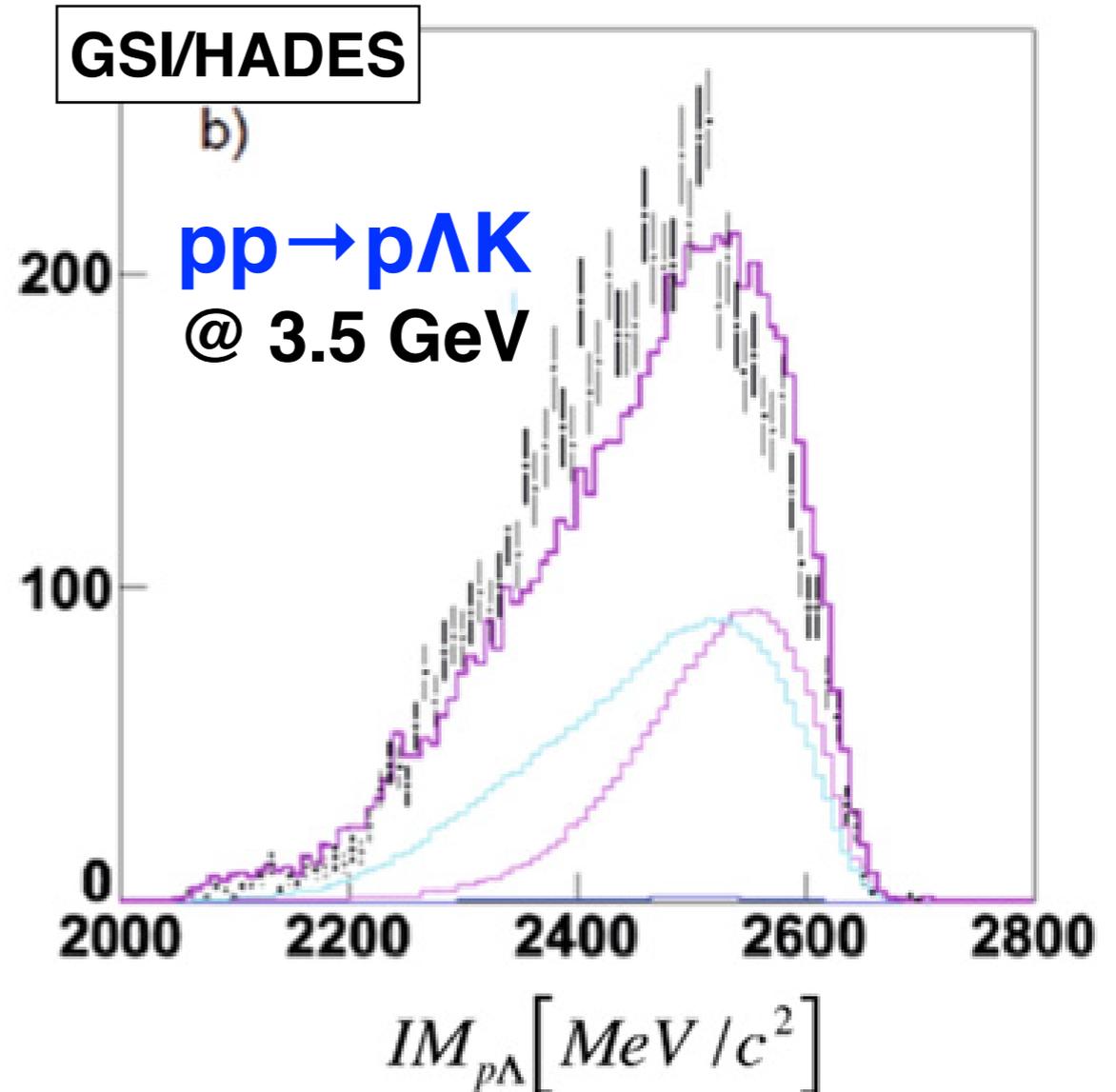
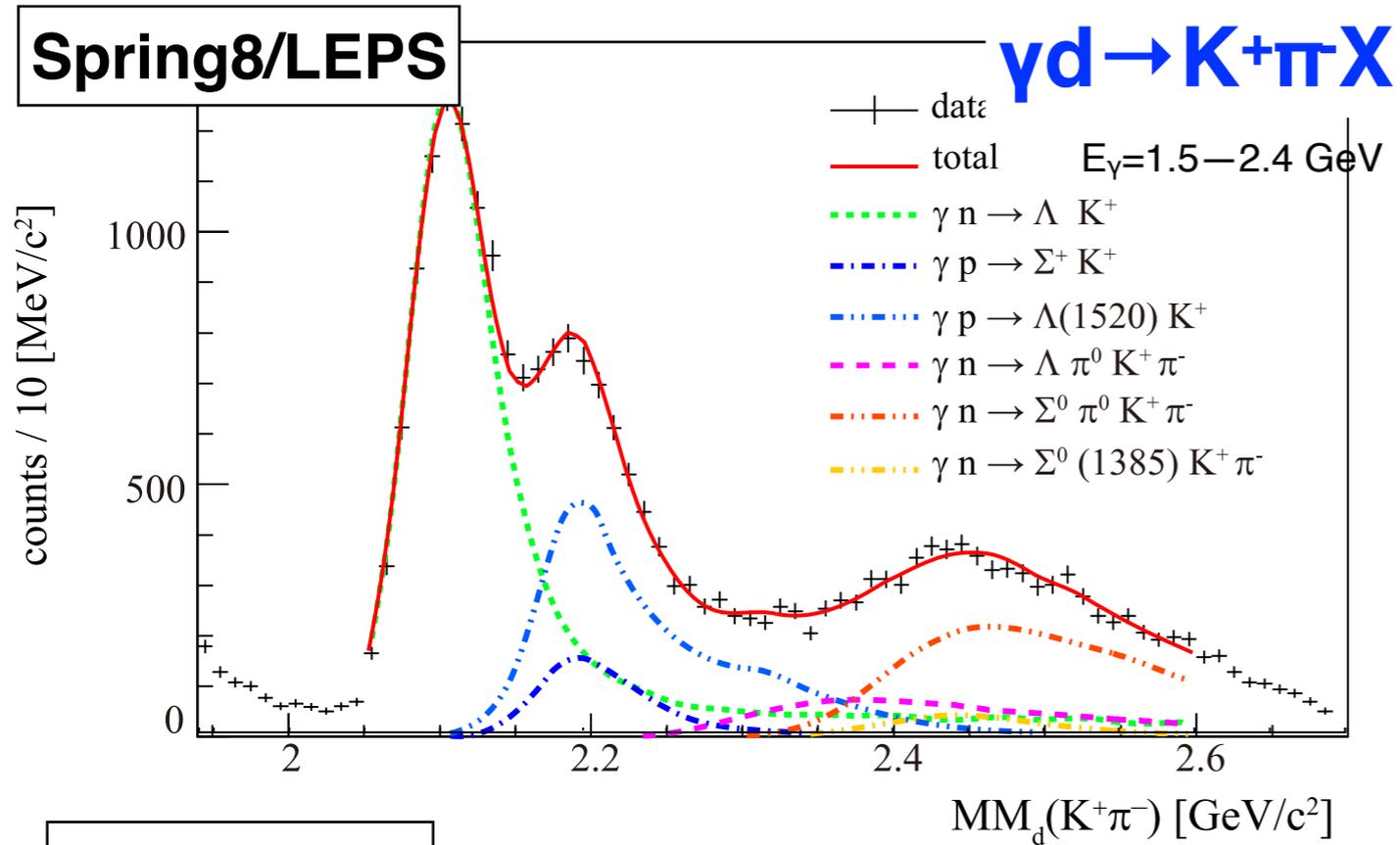
T. Yamazaki *et al.* *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **104**, 132502 (2010).

P. Kienle *et al.* *Eur. Phys. J. A* **48**, 183 (2012).

Exclusive  $pp \rightarrow (\text{"K-pp"} K^+) \rightarrow \Lambda p K^+$  channel

Deeper than any theories. Interpretations are still arguable...

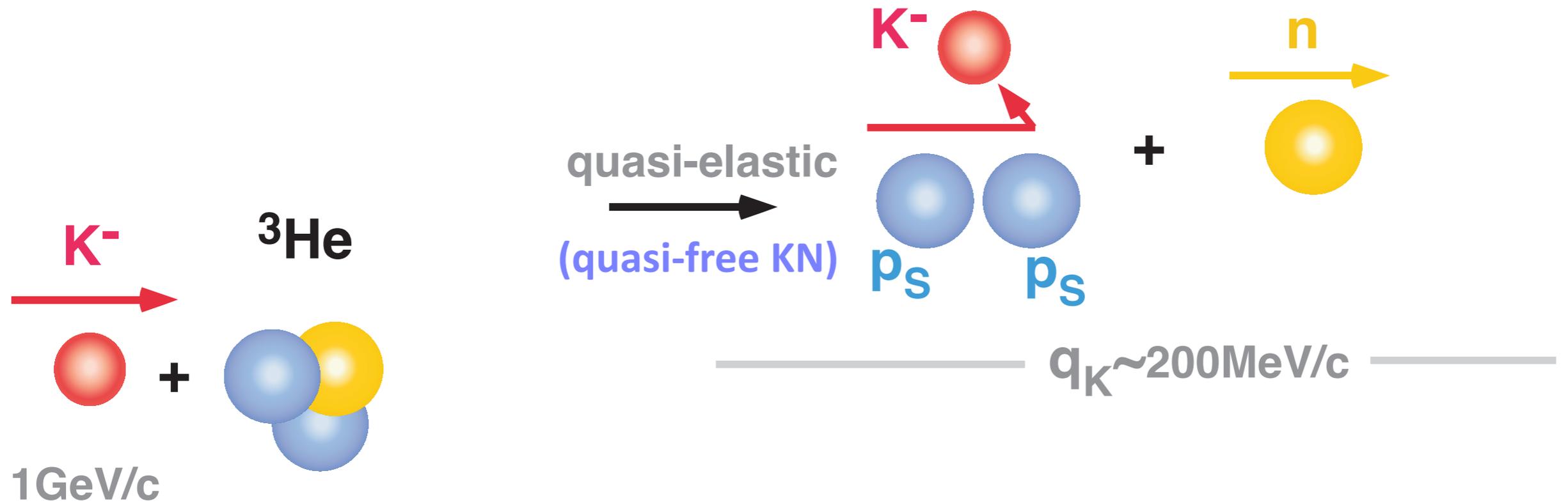
# Experimental situation



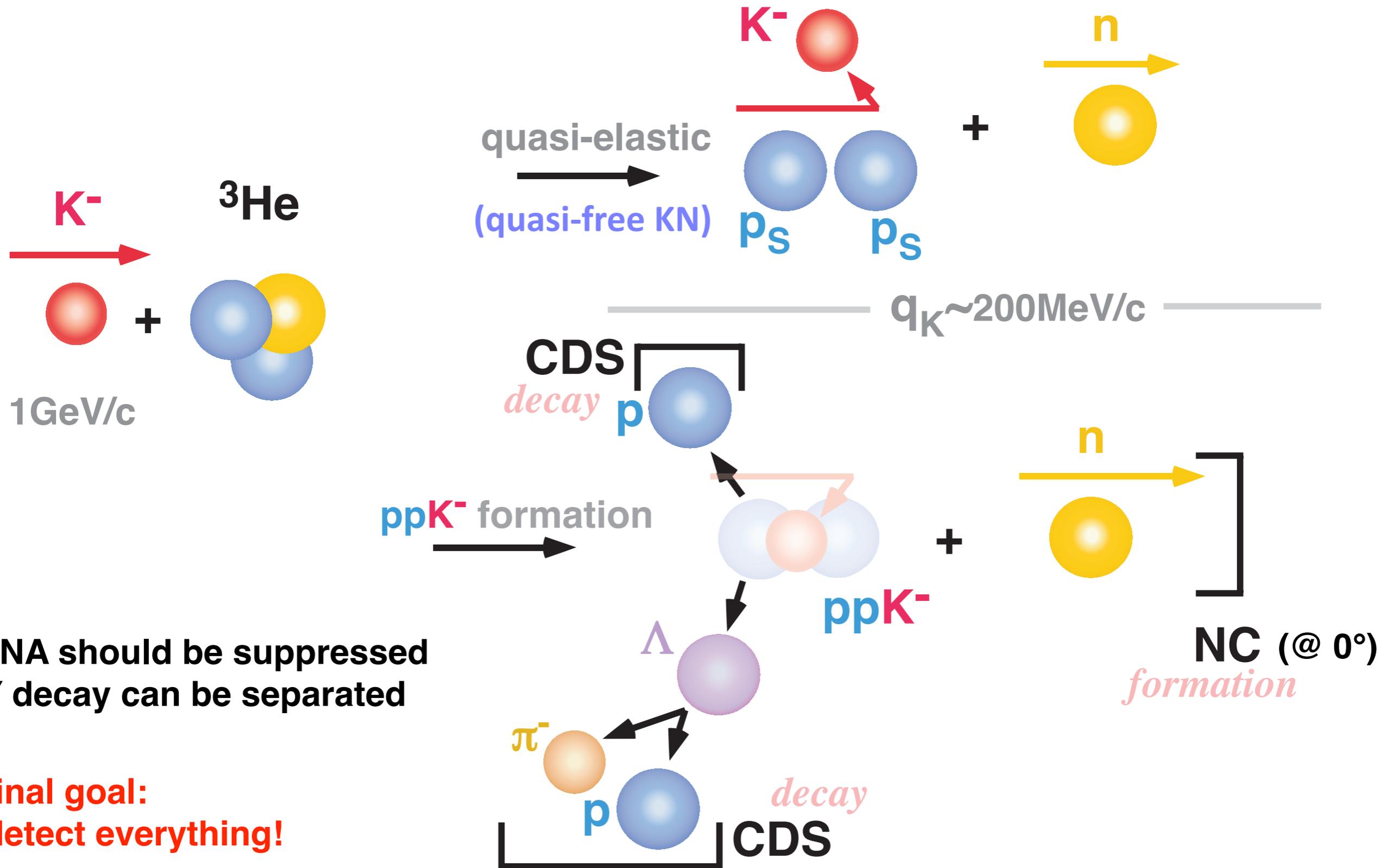
*talk by K. Lapidus*

- [1] A. O. Tokiyasu, et al., Phys. Lett. B 728, 616 (2014).
- [2] Y. Ichikawa, T. Nagae, et al., arXiv nucl-ex, (2014).
- [3] L. Fabbietti, et al., Nucl. Phys. A 914, 60 (2013).

# Inflight kaon reaction on $^3\text{He}$



# Inflight kaon reaction on $^3\text{He}$



2NA should be suppressed  
Y decay can be separated

final goal:  
detect everything!

# J-PARC E15 1<sup>st</sup> stage physics run

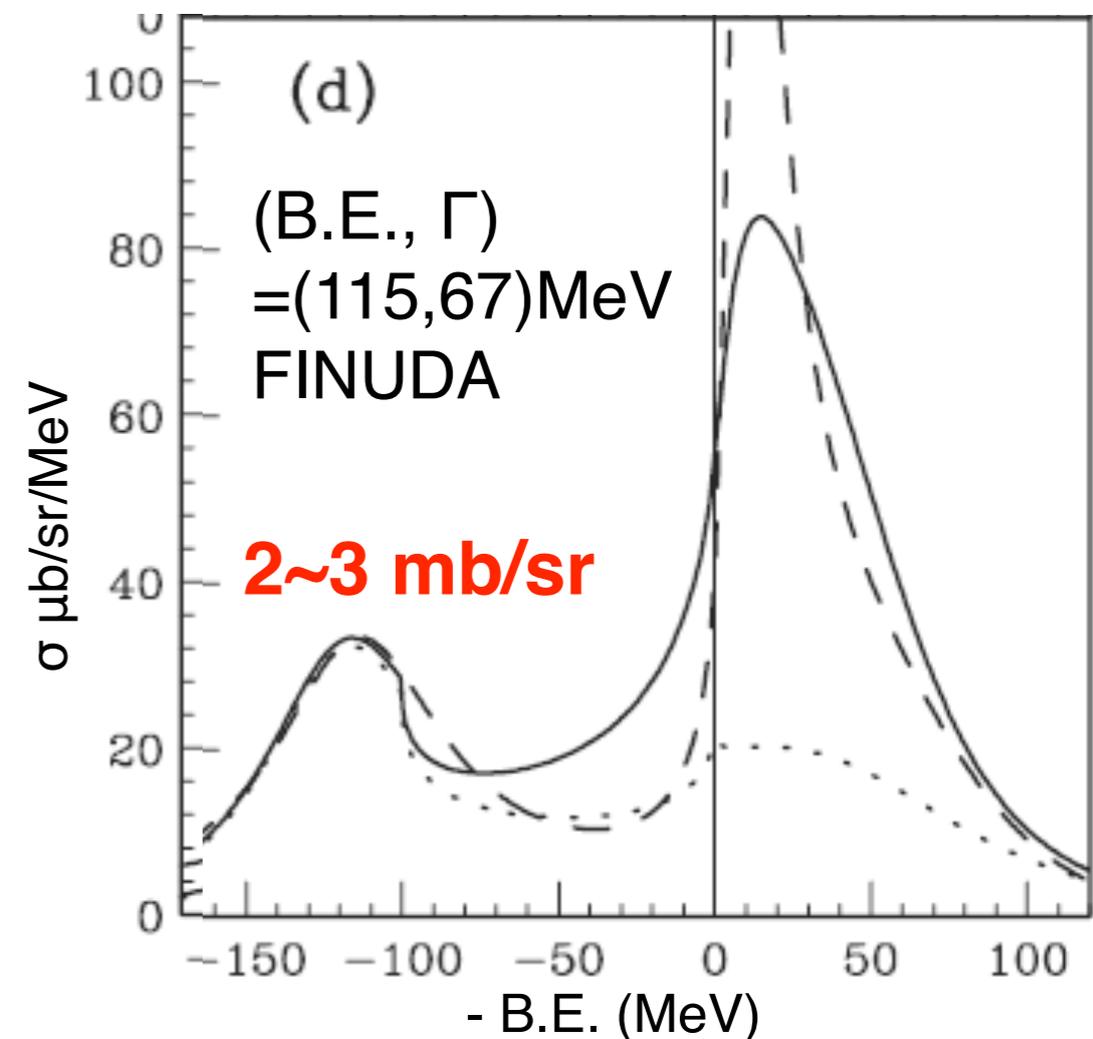
## ► First physics-data taking in May, 2013

- 24 kW x 4 days
- $\sim 5 \times 10^9$  kaons on  $^3\text{He}$
- **< 1%** of full proposal  
( 270 kW x 40 days )

## ► Focus on the formation channel

- $^3\text{He}(\text{K}^-, \text{n})\text{X}$  semi-inclusive analysis
  - a large production cross section predicted
- $^3\text{He}(\text{K}^-, \text{p})\text{X}$  semi-inclusive analysis
- Hint of exclusive  $^3\text{He}(\text{K}^-, \Lambda \text{p})\text{n}_{\text{miss.}}$  events

Koike&Harada calculation  
@  $P_{\text{K}}=1 \text{ GeV}/c$ ,  $\theta_{\text{lab}}=0^\circ$



T. Koike and T. Harada. *Physics Letters B* **652**, 262–268 (2007).  
T. Koike and T. Harada. *Phys. Rev. C* **80**, 055208 (2009).

# J-PARC E15 1<sup>st</sup> stage physics run

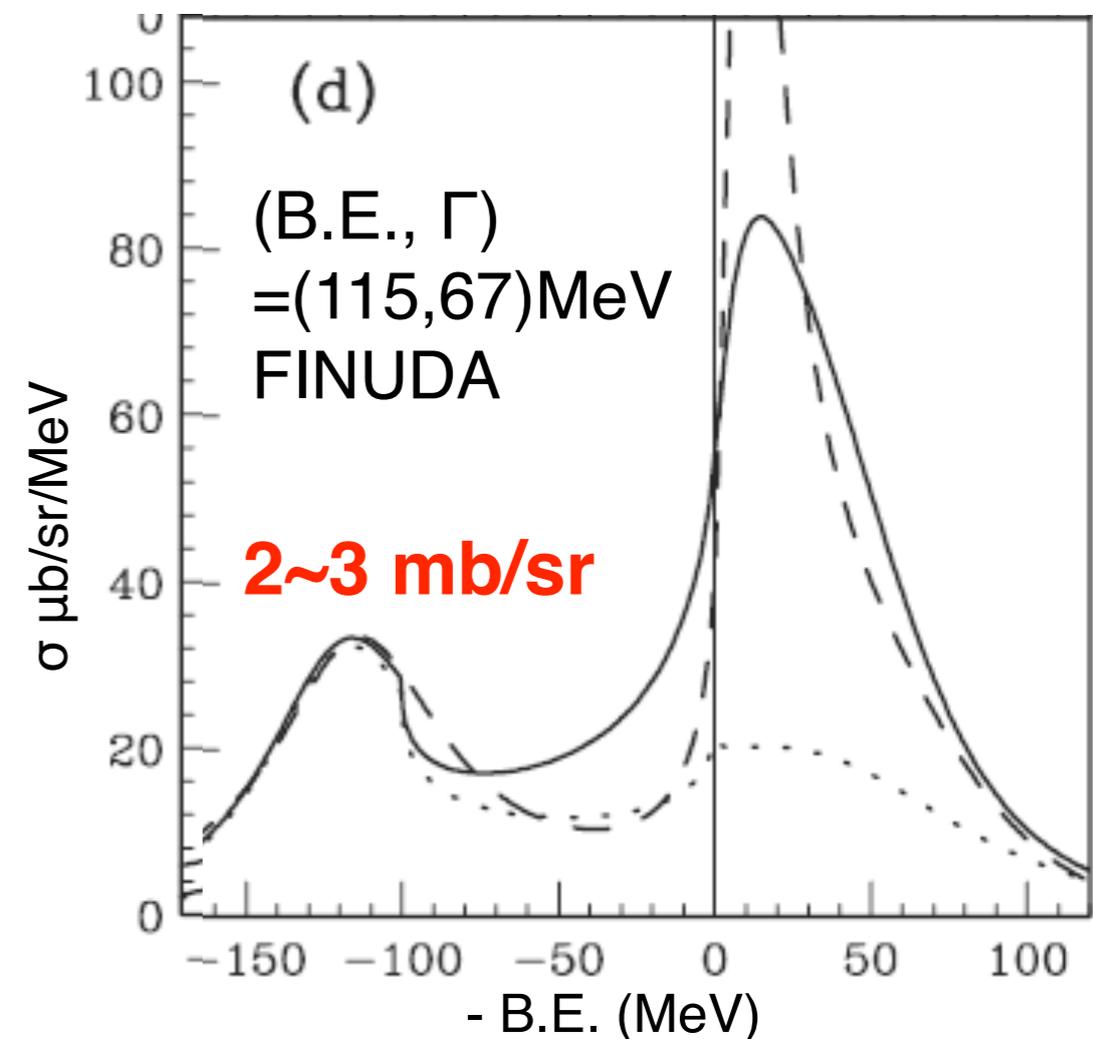
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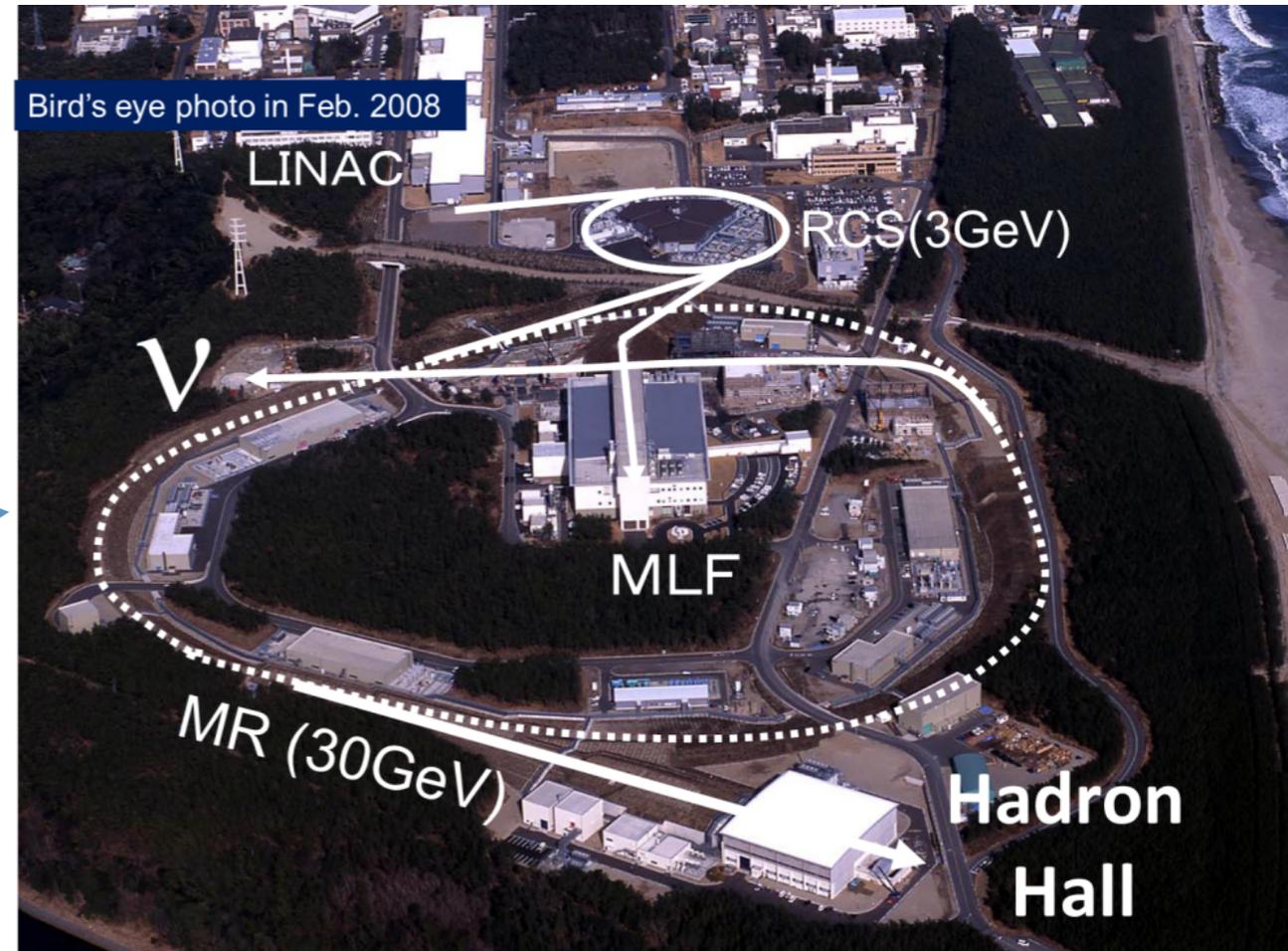
- **${}^3\text{He}(K^-,n)X$  semi-inclusive analysis**
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- ${}^3\text{He}(K^-,p)X$  semi-inclusive analysis
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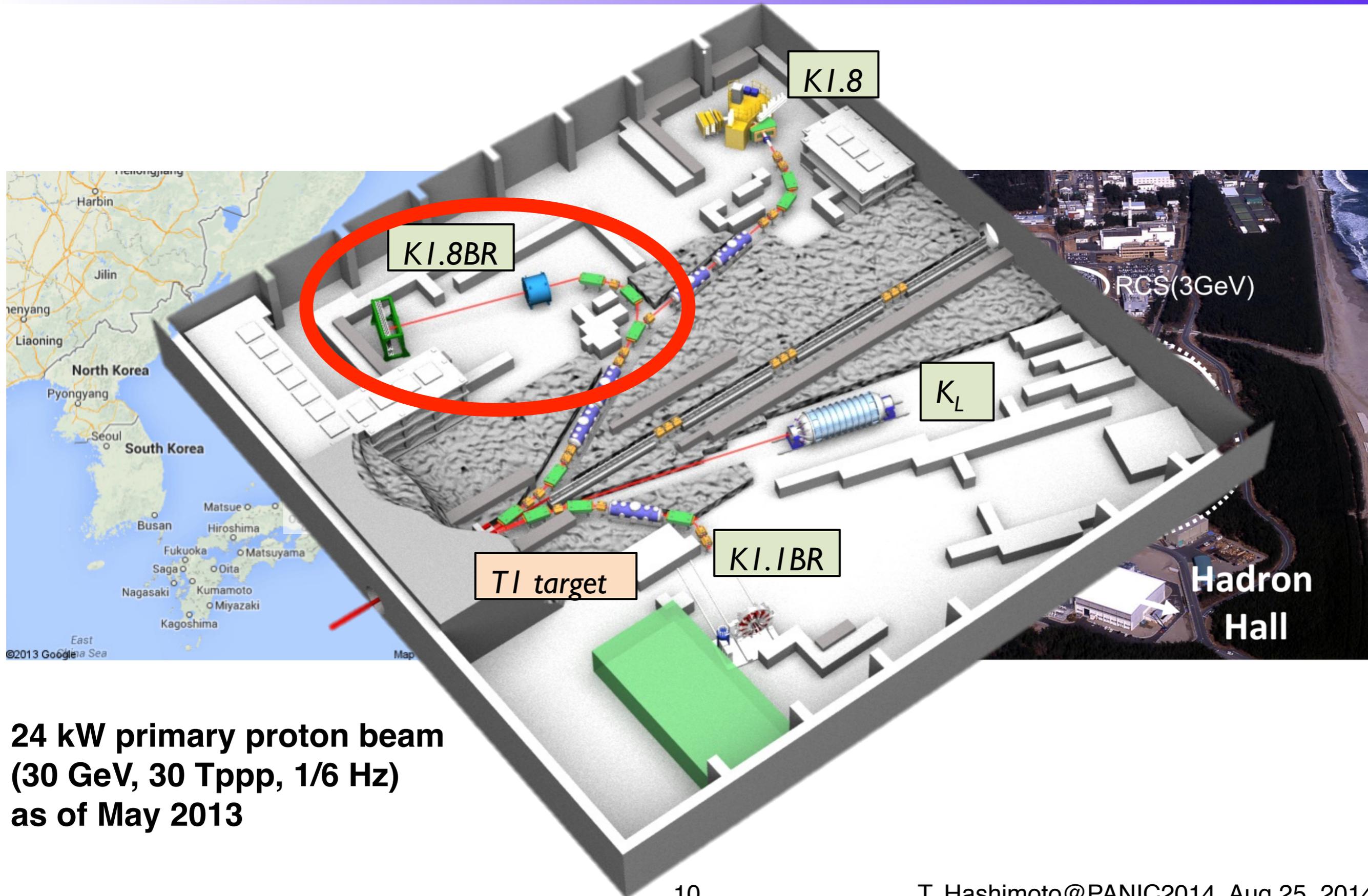


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T. Koike and T. Harada. *Phys. Rev. C* **80**, 055208 (2009).

# Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex

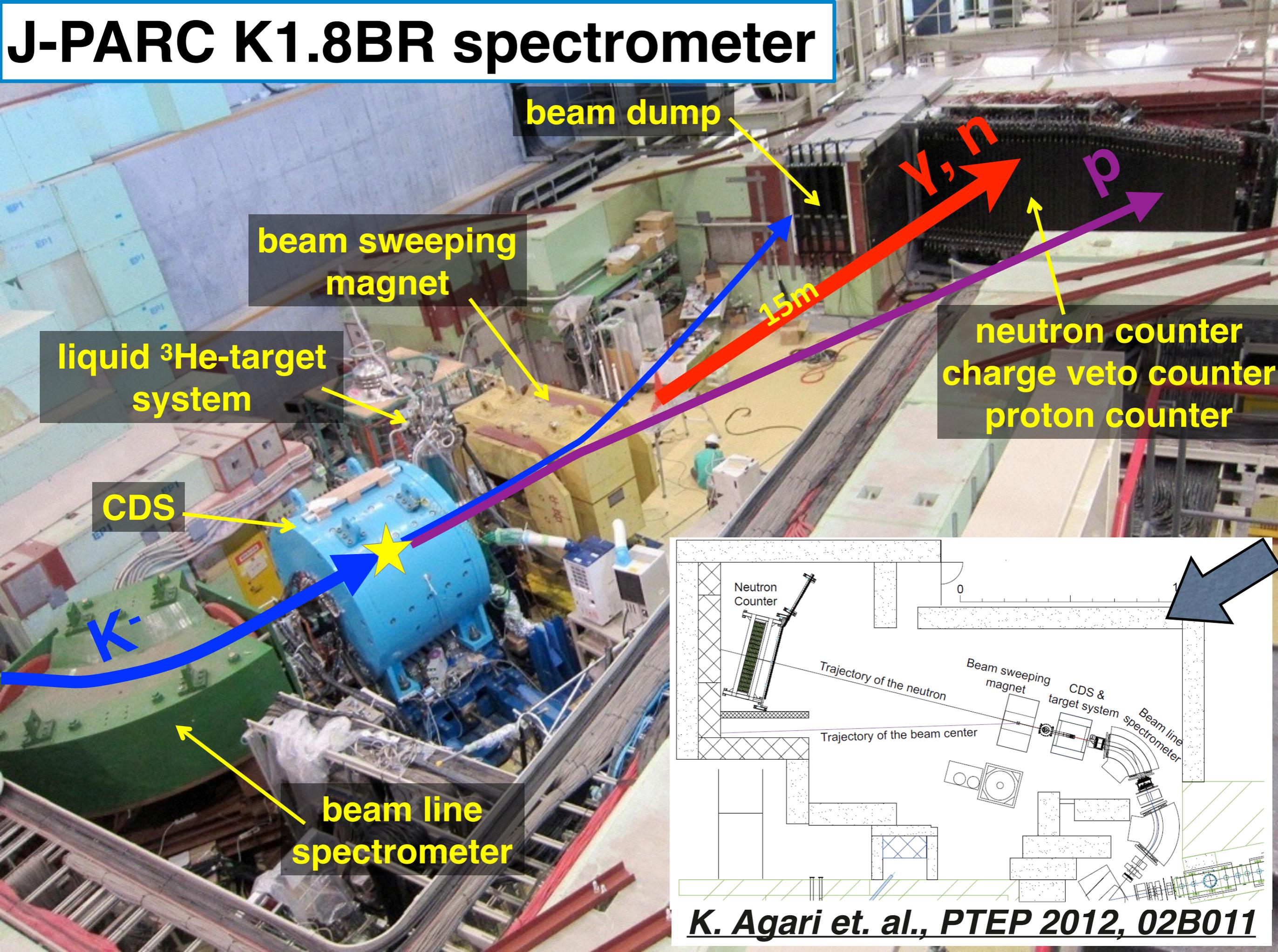


# Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex

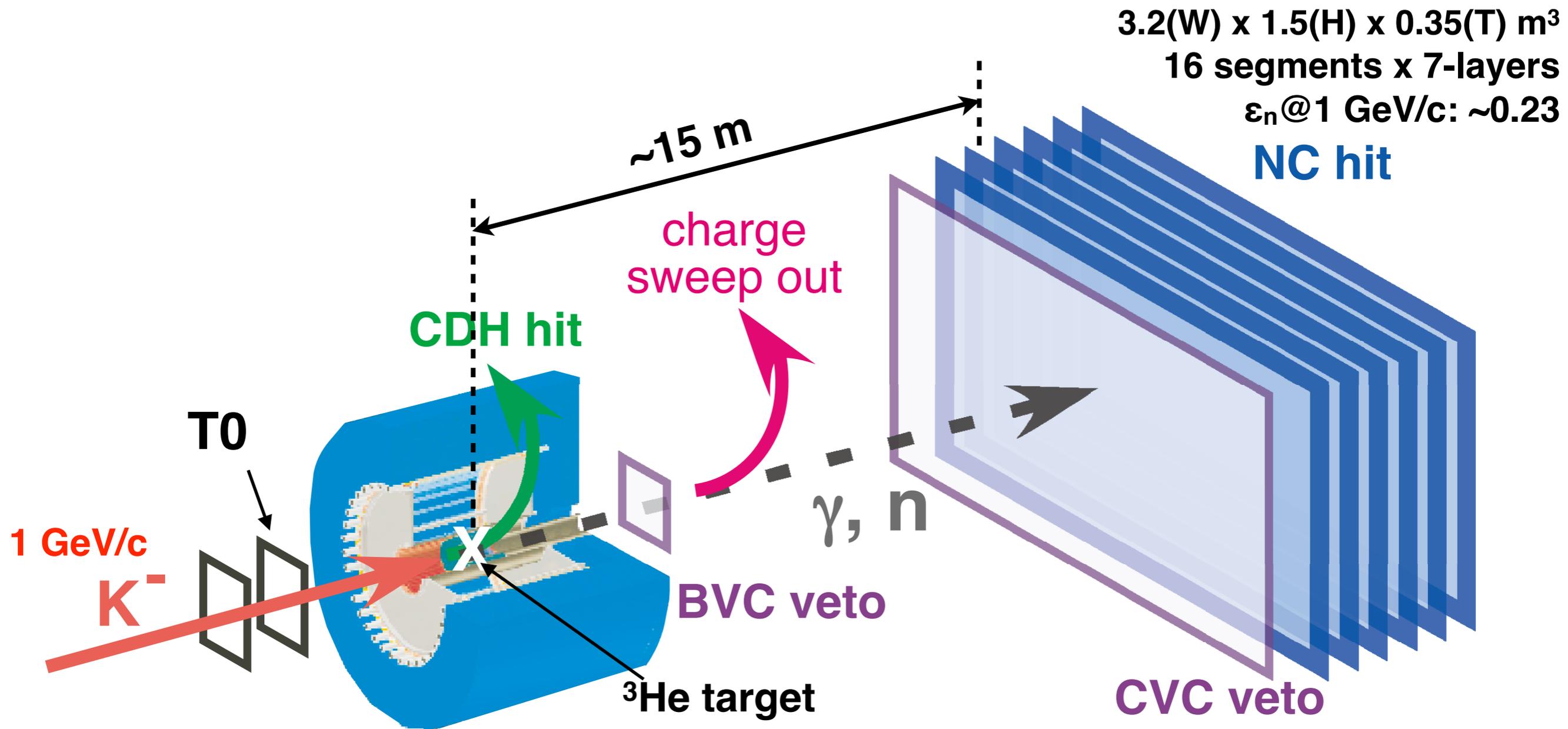


**24 kW primary proton beam  
(30 GeV, 30 Tppp, 1/6 Hz)  
as of May 2013**

# J-PARC K1.8BR spectrometer

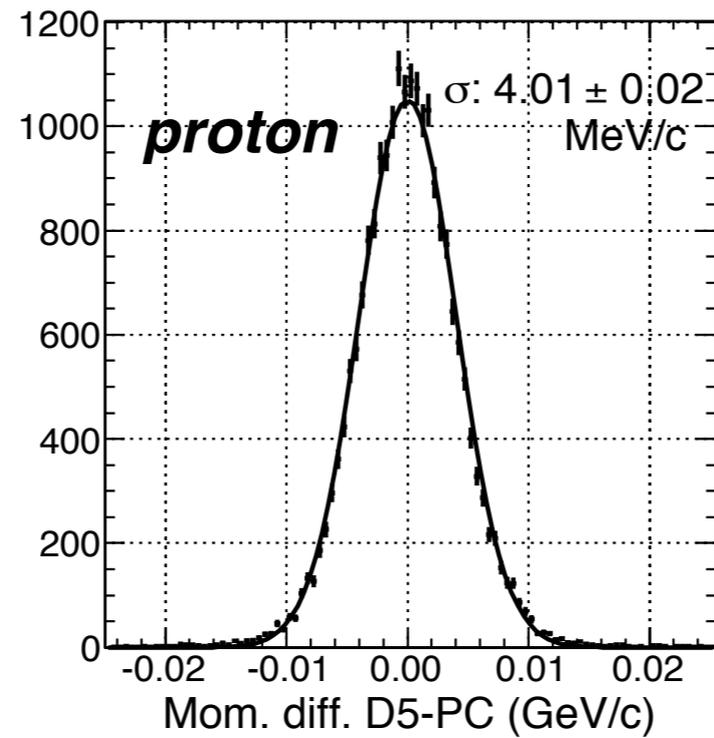
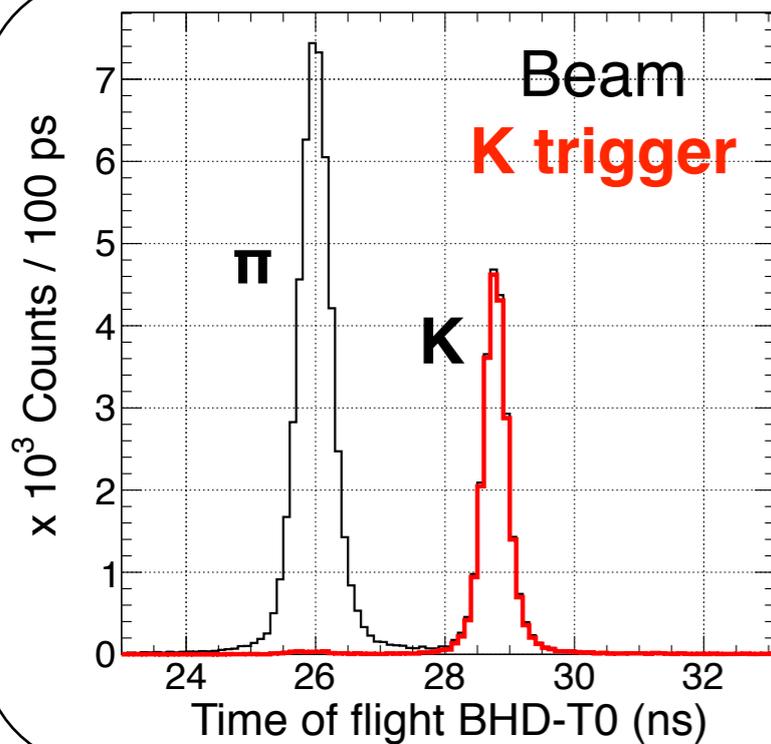


# Principle of the $^3\text{He}(K^-,n)$ analysis



- ▶ **Kaon-beam analysis :**  
select single-beam events & reconstruct beam momentum
- ▶ **Forward-neutron analysis:**  
T0-NC TOF with vertex information provided by the **CDS**

# Spectrometer performances



**@ 24 kW**

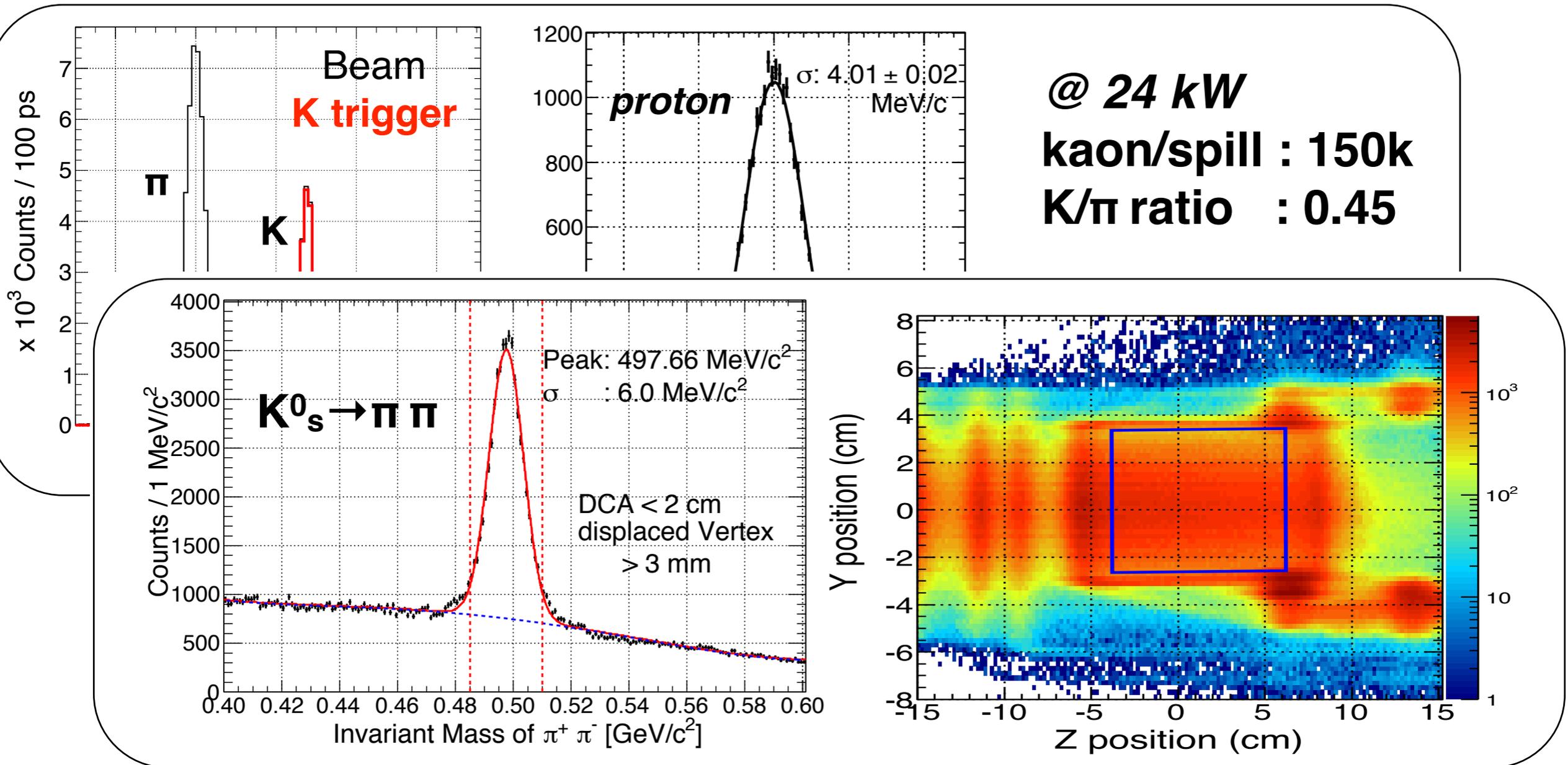
**kaon/spill : 150k**

**K/π ratio : 0.45**

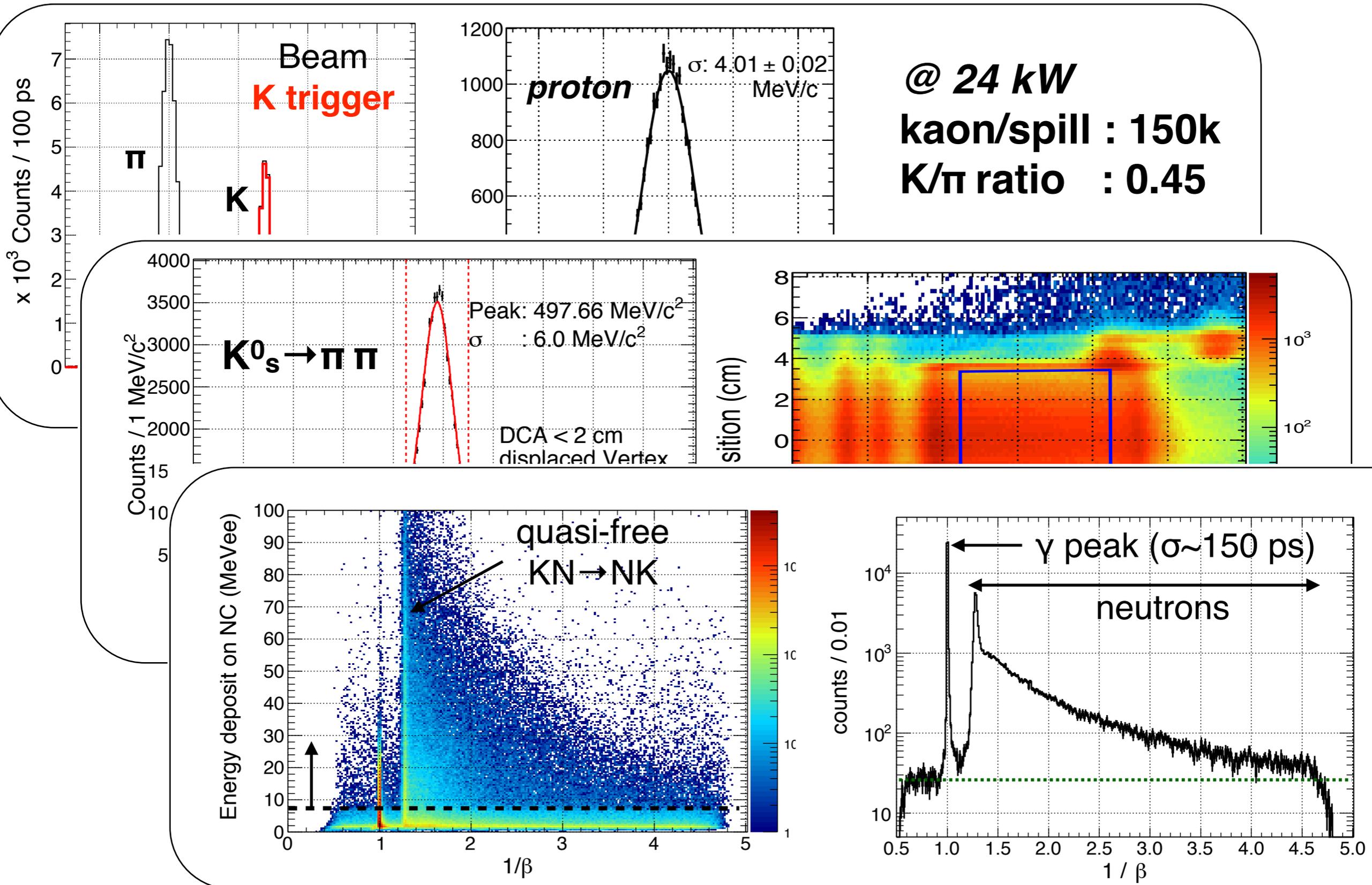
**$\sigma_{beam} \sim 2$  MeV/c**

**@ 1 GeV/c**

# Spectrometer performances



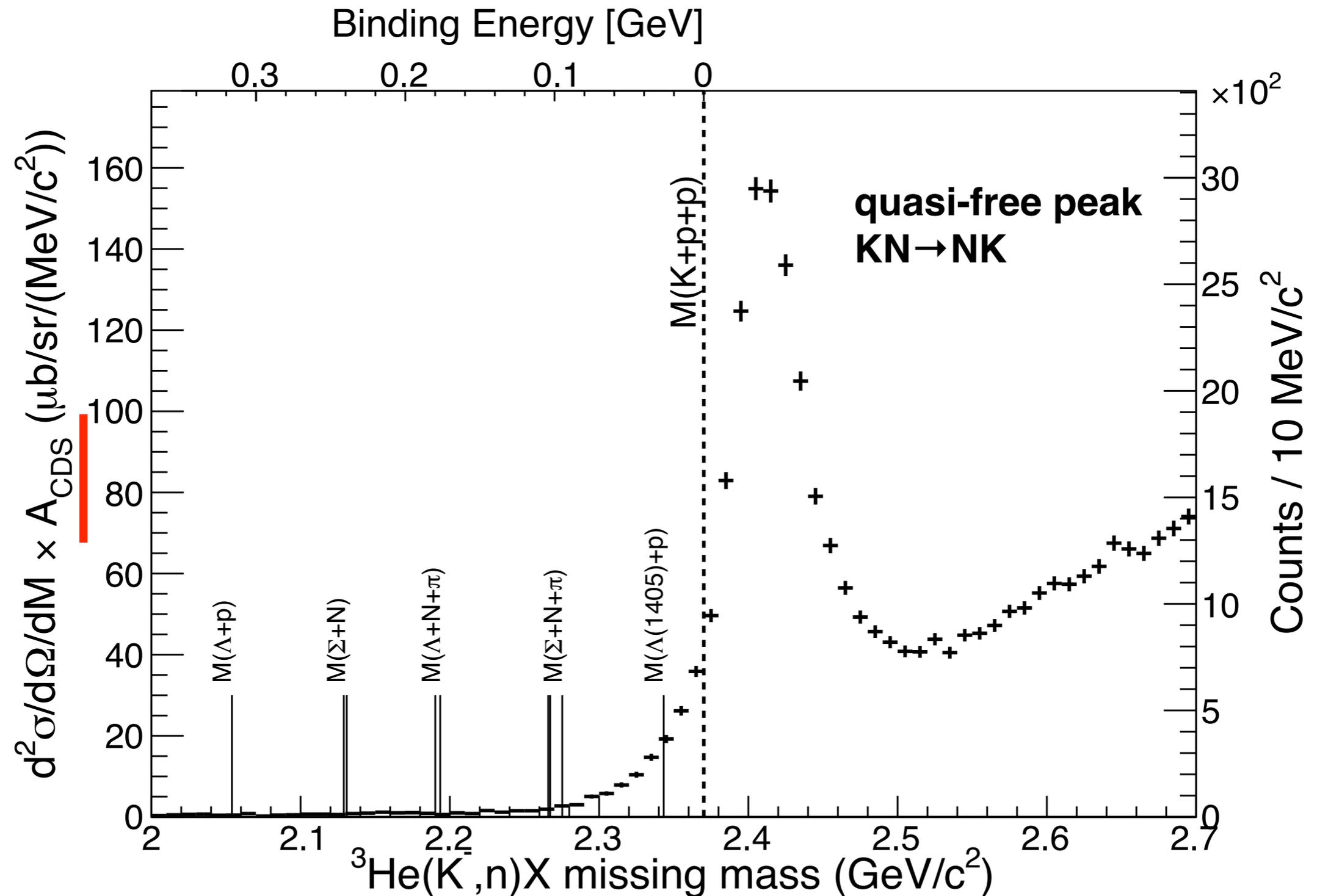
# Spectrometer performances



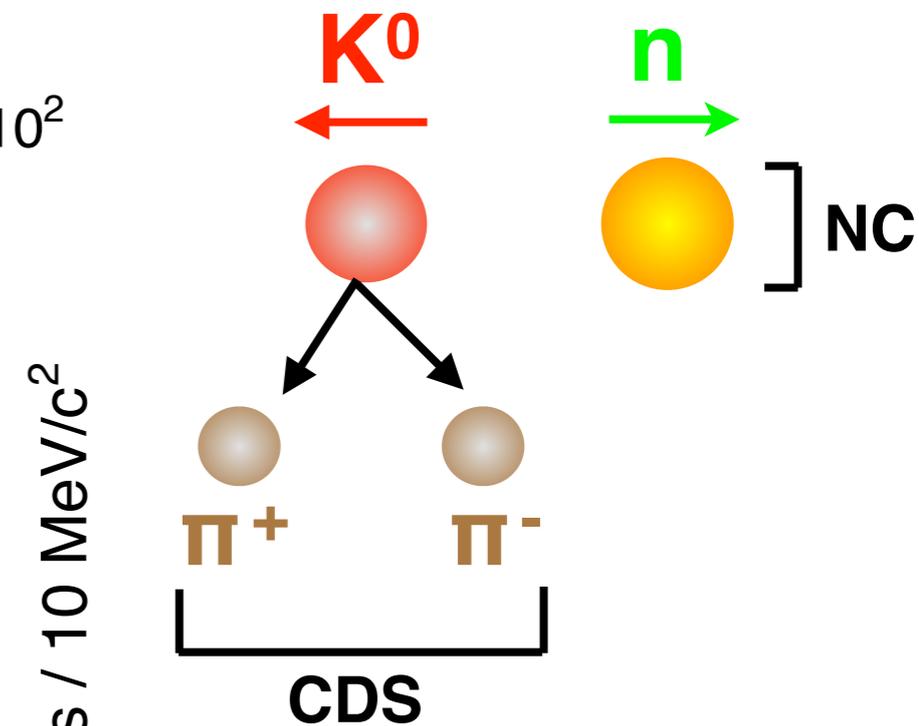
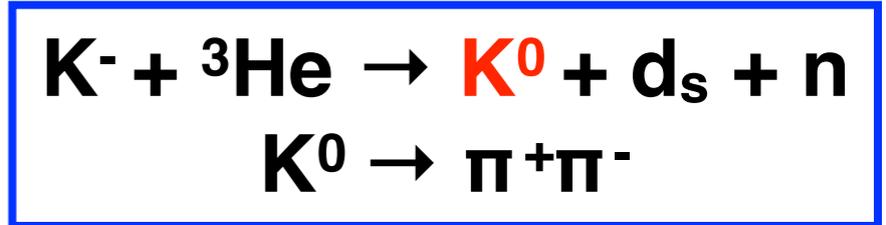
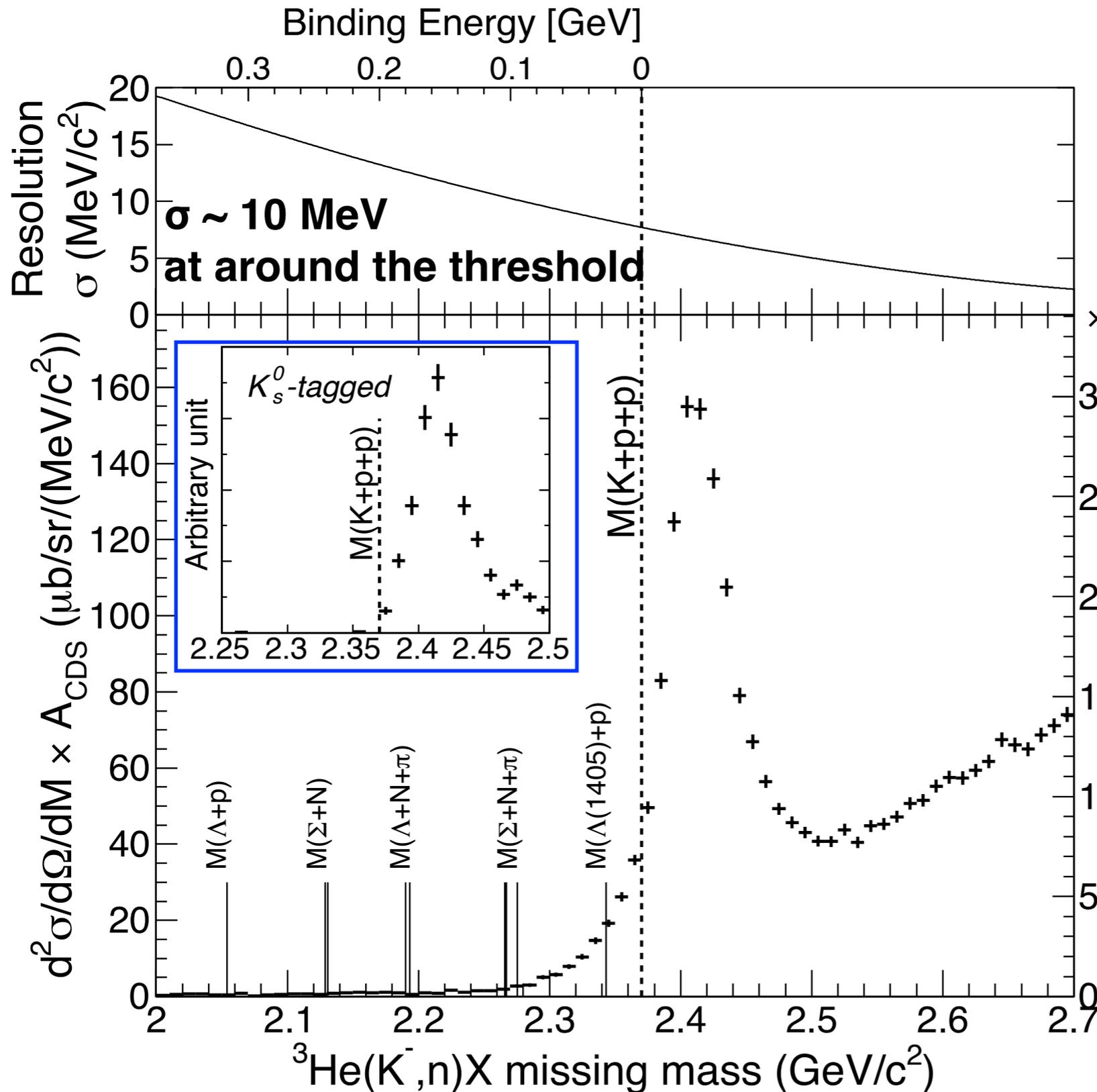
# Semi-inclusive spectrum

$\theta^{lab} = 0^\circ$  @  $p_K = 1 \text{ GeV}/c$

biased by the request of charged track(s) in the CDS

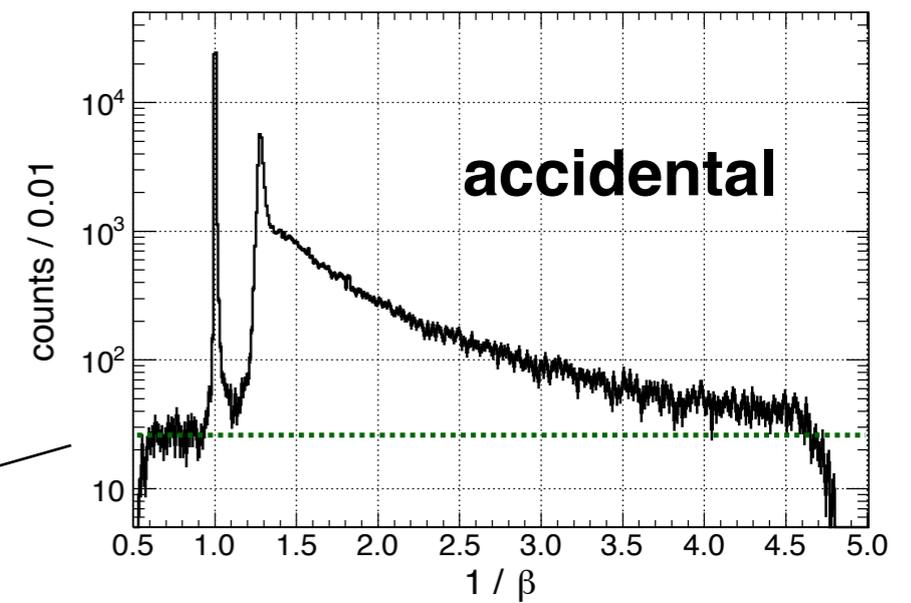
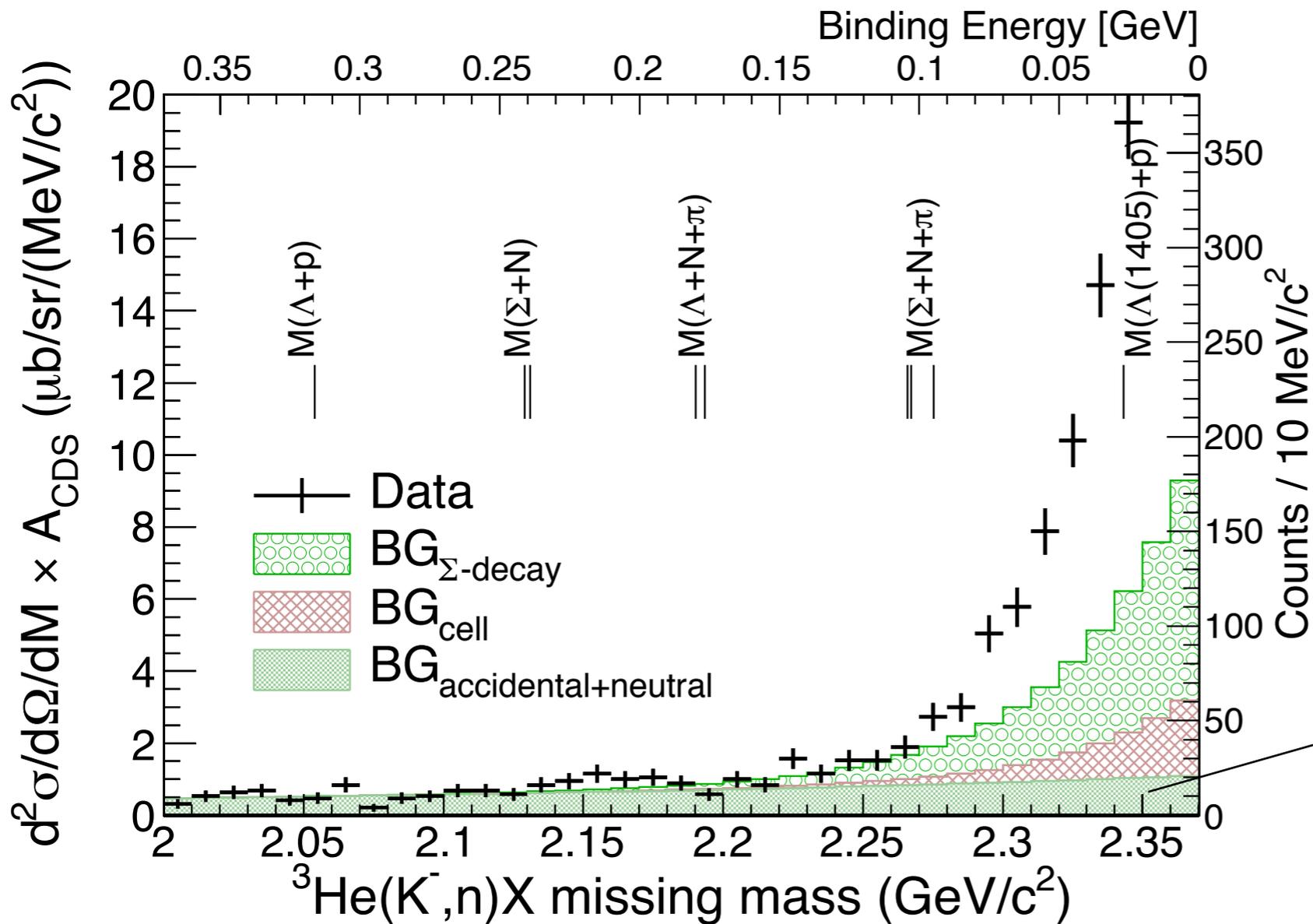


# Missing-mass resolution



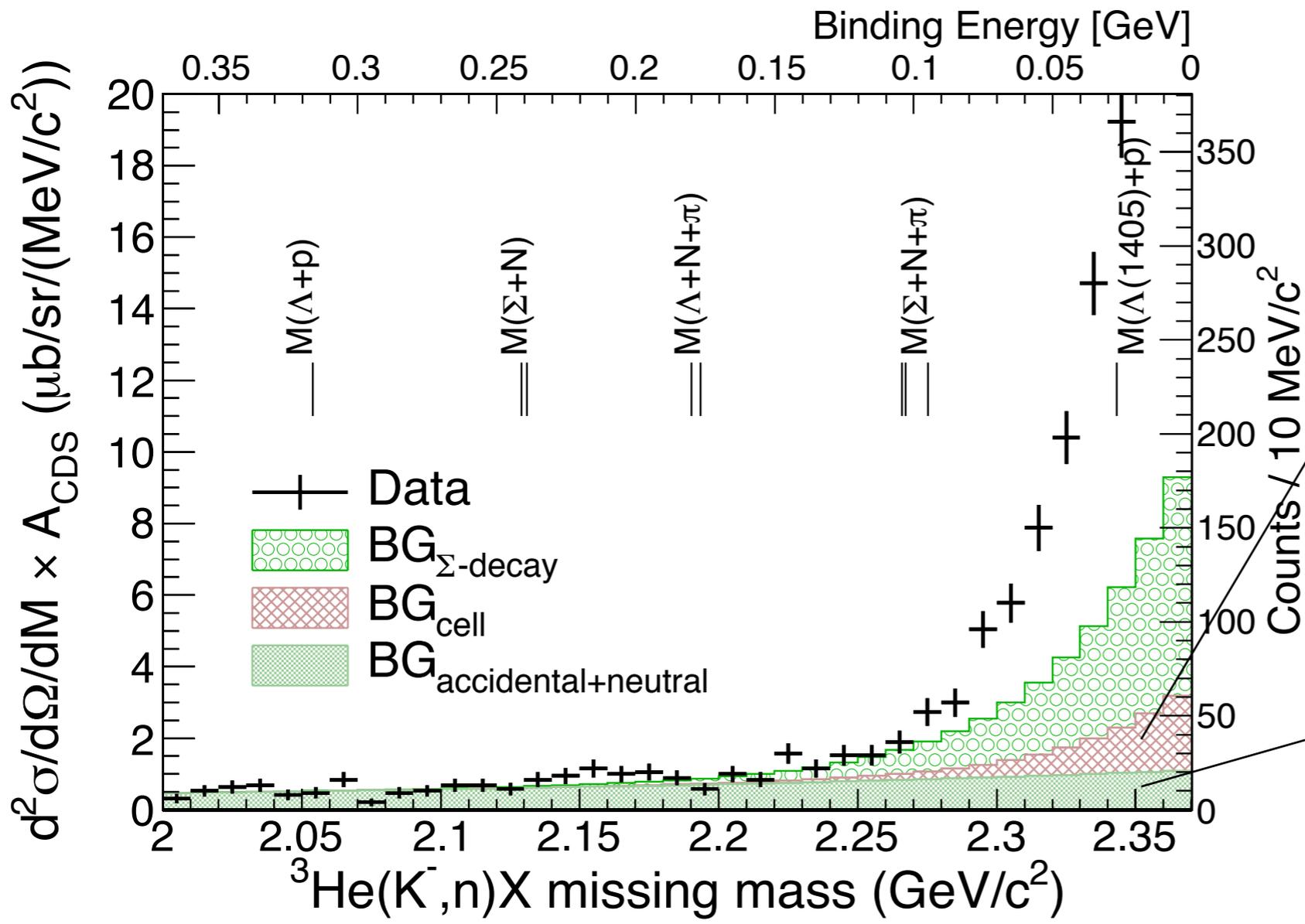
The tail is not due to the detector resolution

# Background evaluation

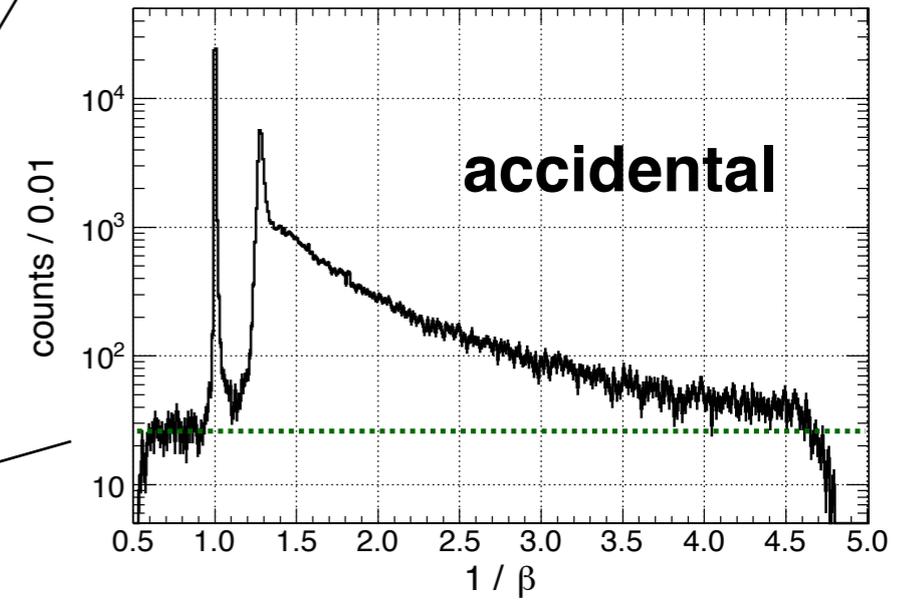


+  
 $\Upsilon \rightarrow N\pi^0, \pi^0 \rightarrow 2\gamma$   
 $K_L$  decay&reaction in the NC  
 (evaluated with MC)

# Background evaluation

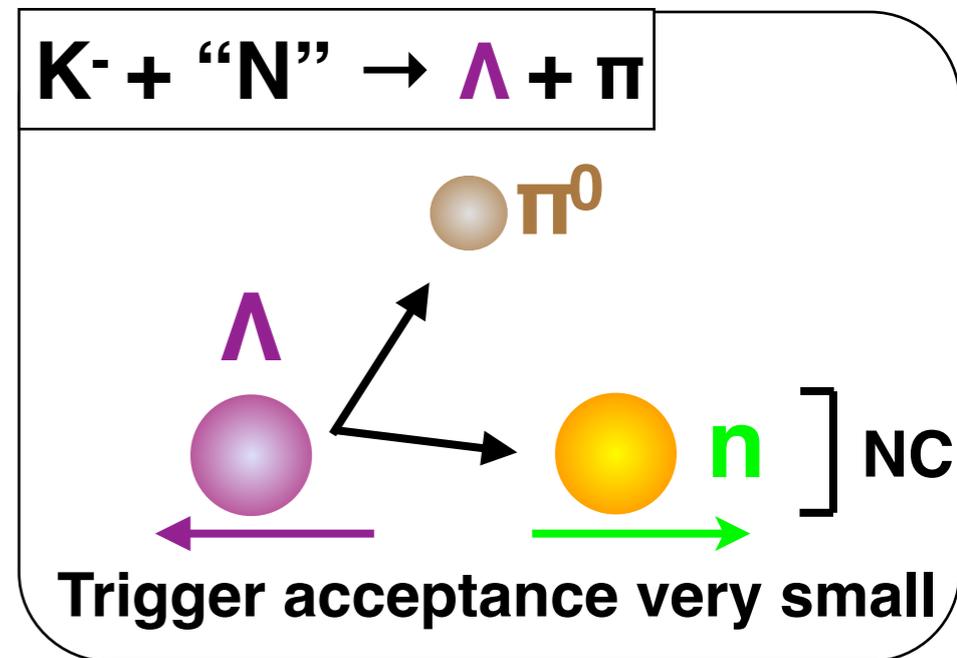
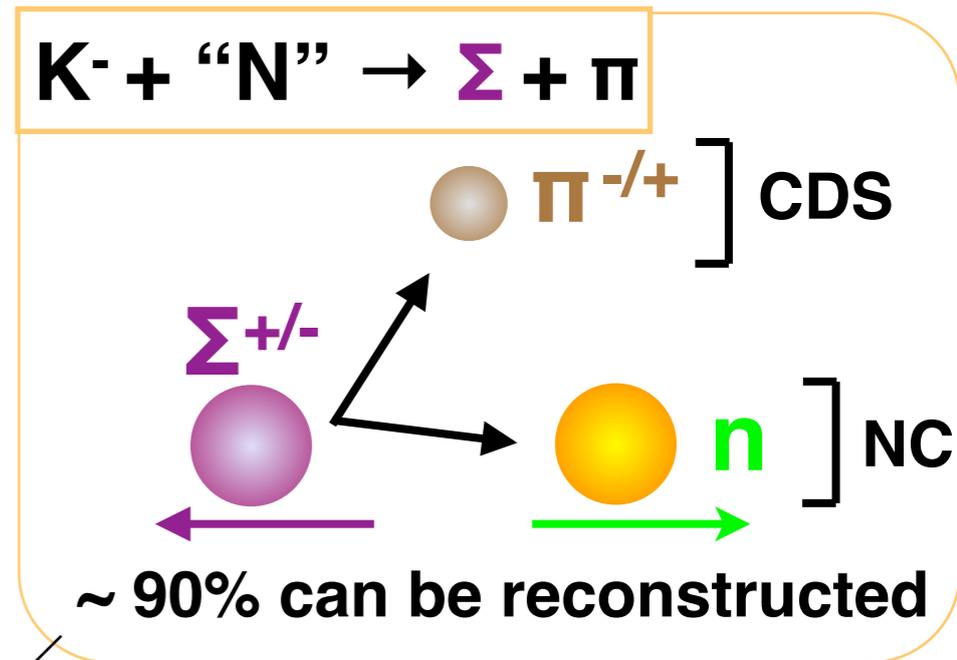
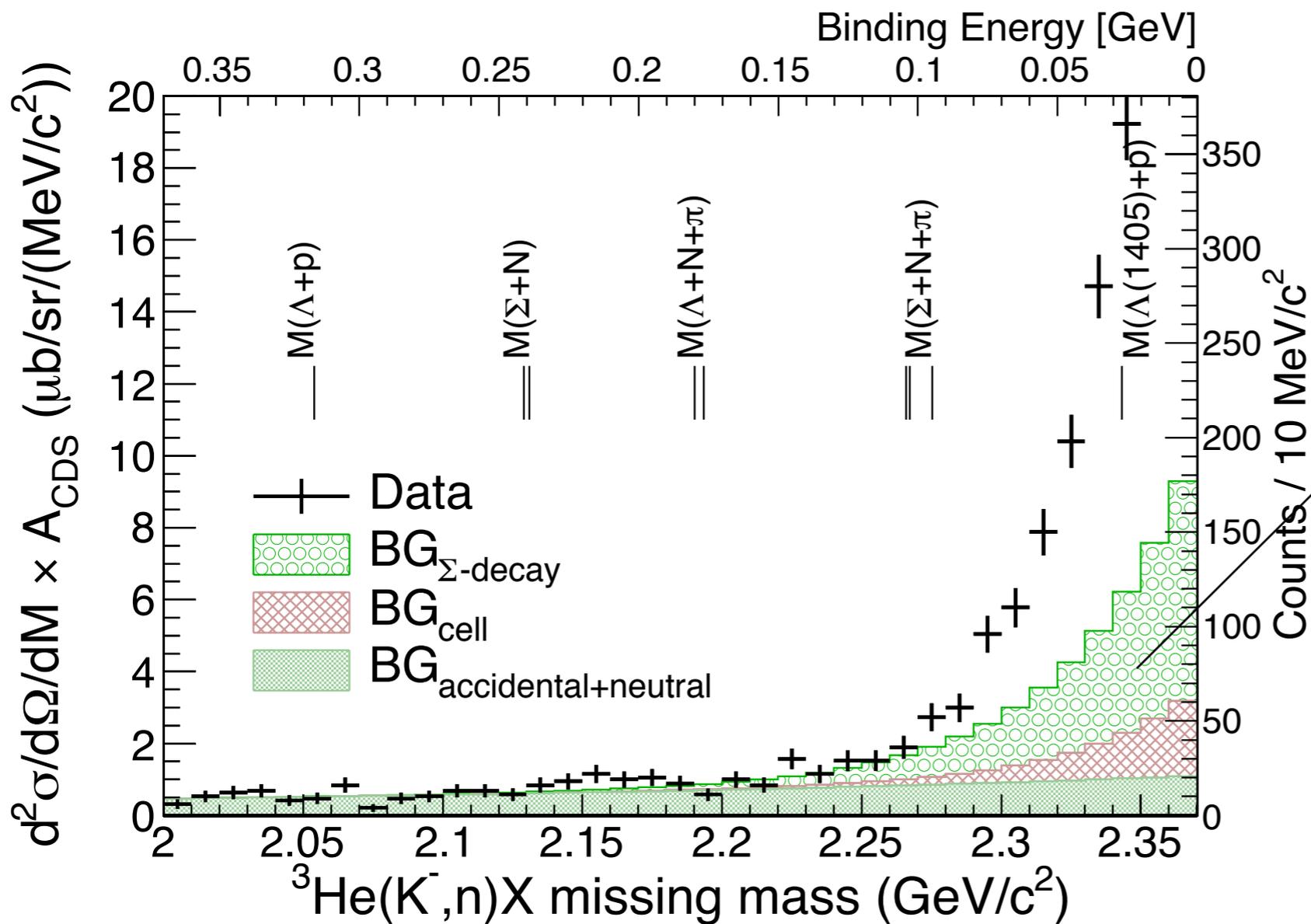


evaluated using empty-target data

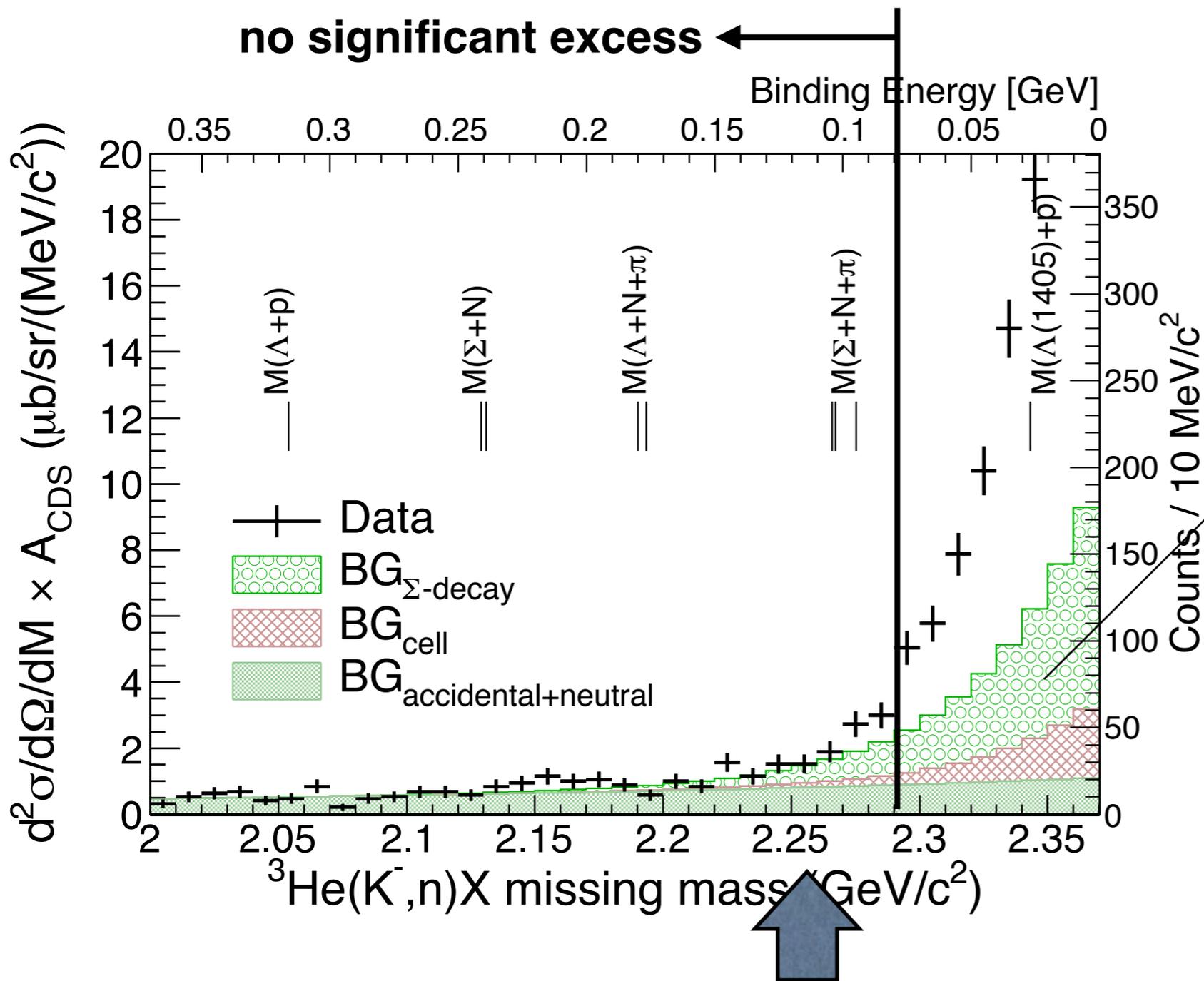


+  
 $Y \rightarrow N\pi^0, \pi^0 \rightarrow 2\gamma$   
 $K_L$  decay & reaction in the NC  
 (evaluated with MC)

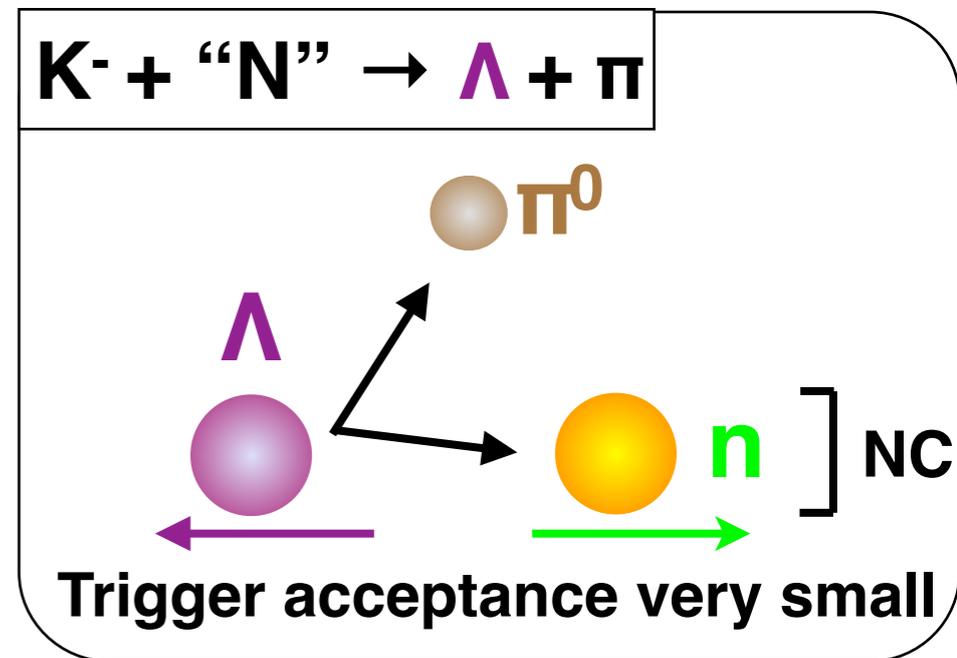
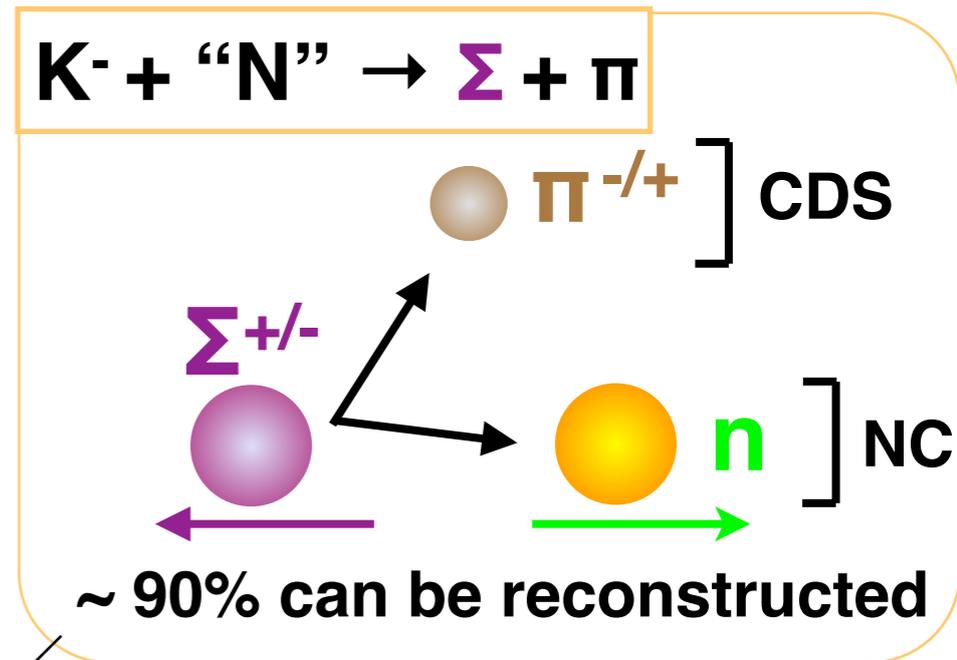
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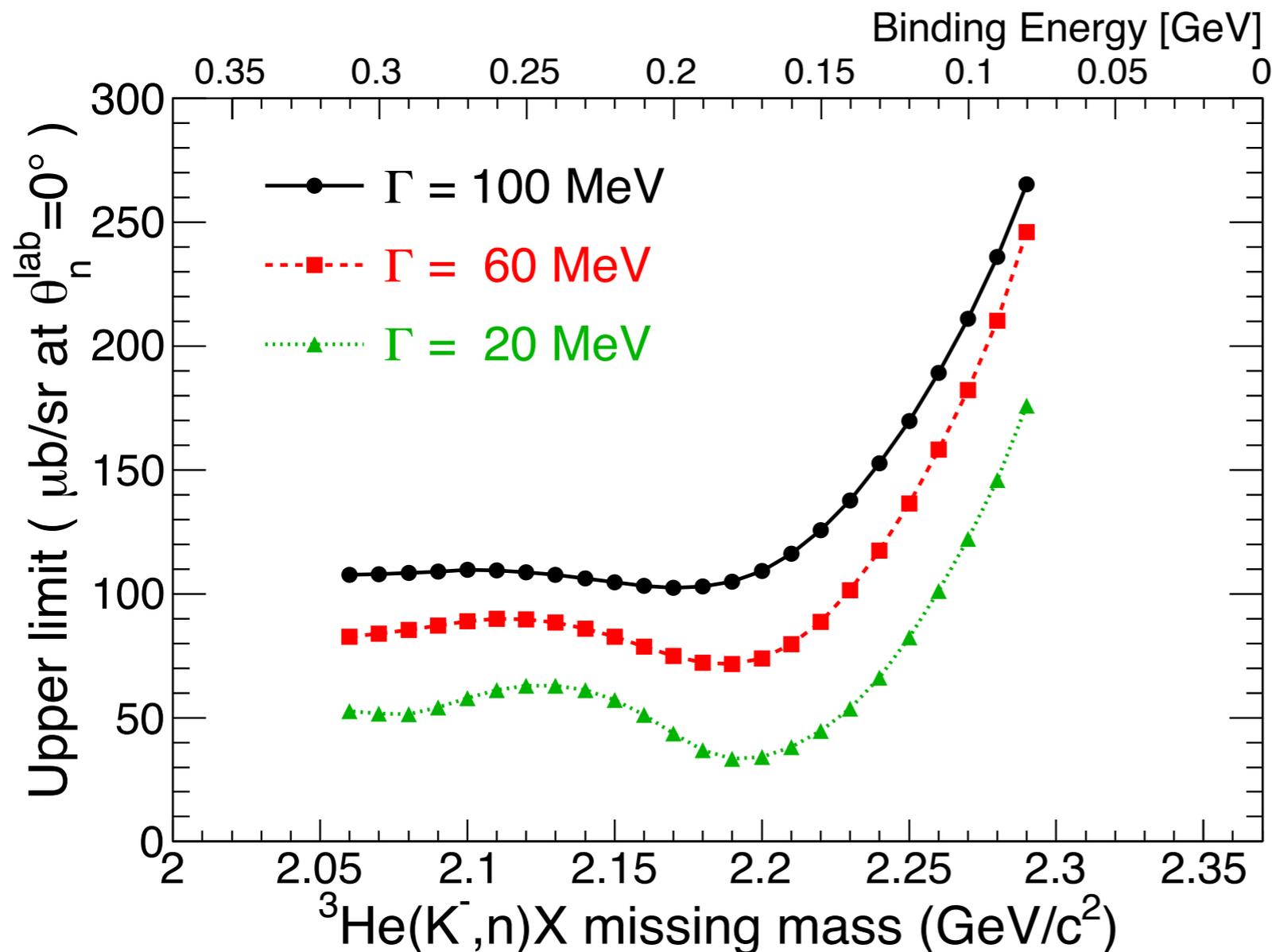
# Background evaluation



FINUDA/DISTO



# Upper limits of the deeply bound $K^-pp$ production



Likelihood method  
using estimated backgrounds

95% confidence level

## Assumptions

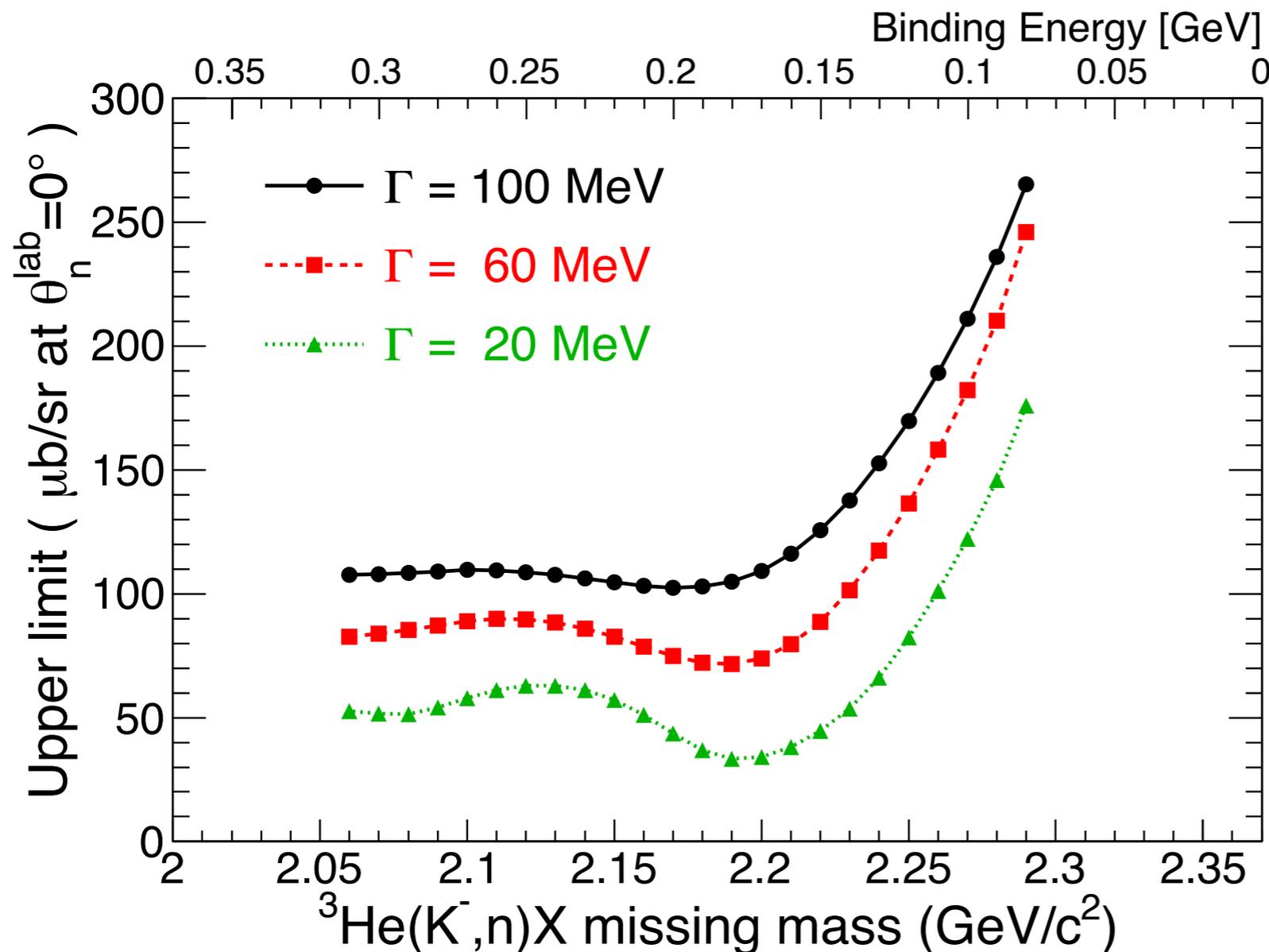
Intrinsic peak shape:  
Breit-Wigner

CDS tagging acceptance:

$K^-pp \rightarrow \Lambda p$  100%

uniform angular distribution

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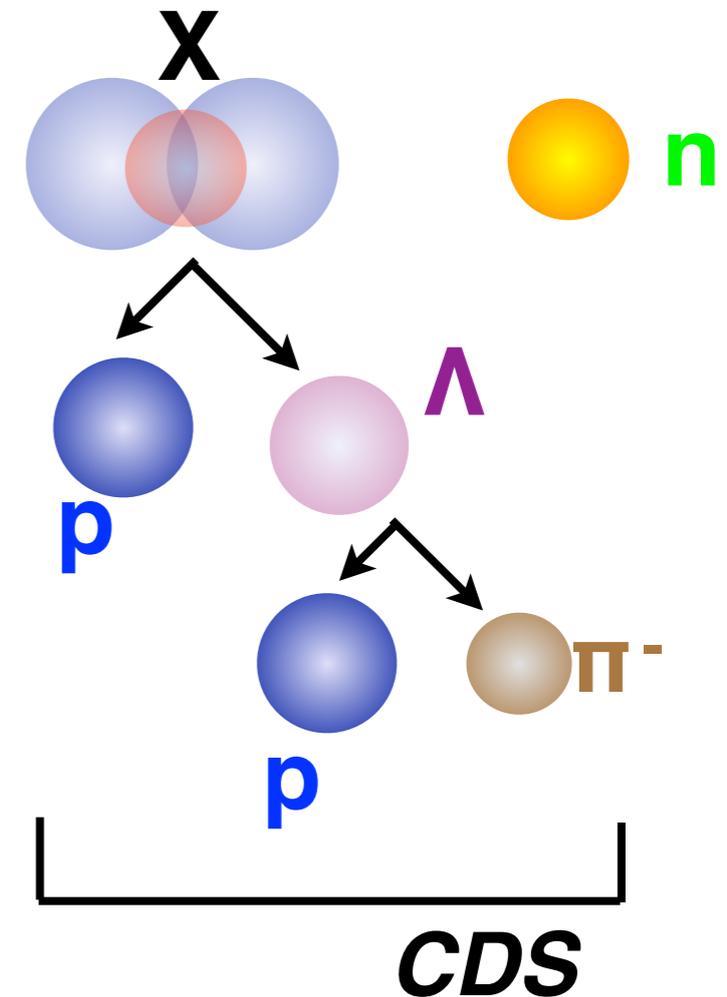
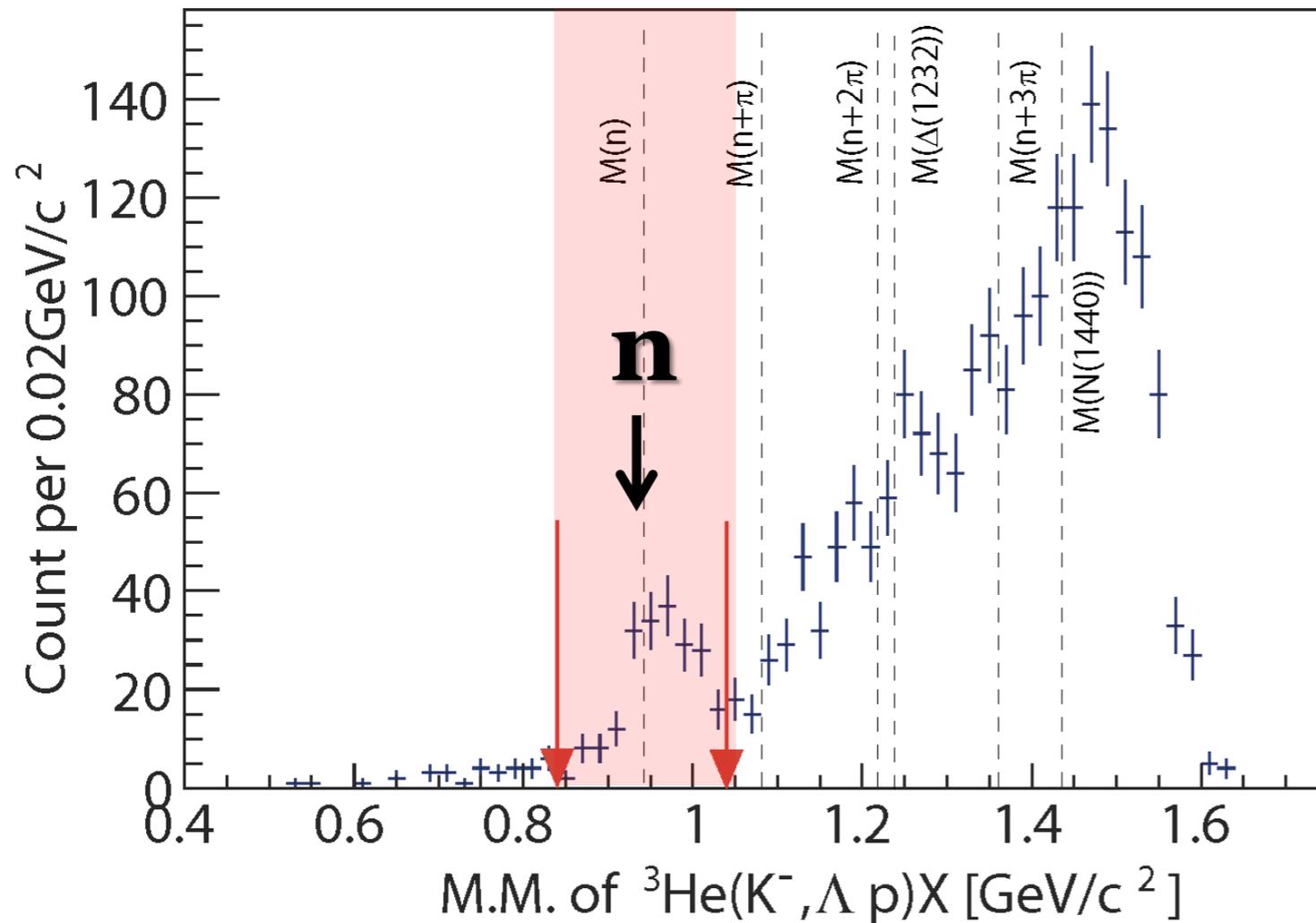
uniform angular distribution

The obtained upper limits are

0.5–5% cross section of quasi-free K scattering

one order of magnitude smaller than Koike&Harada prediction

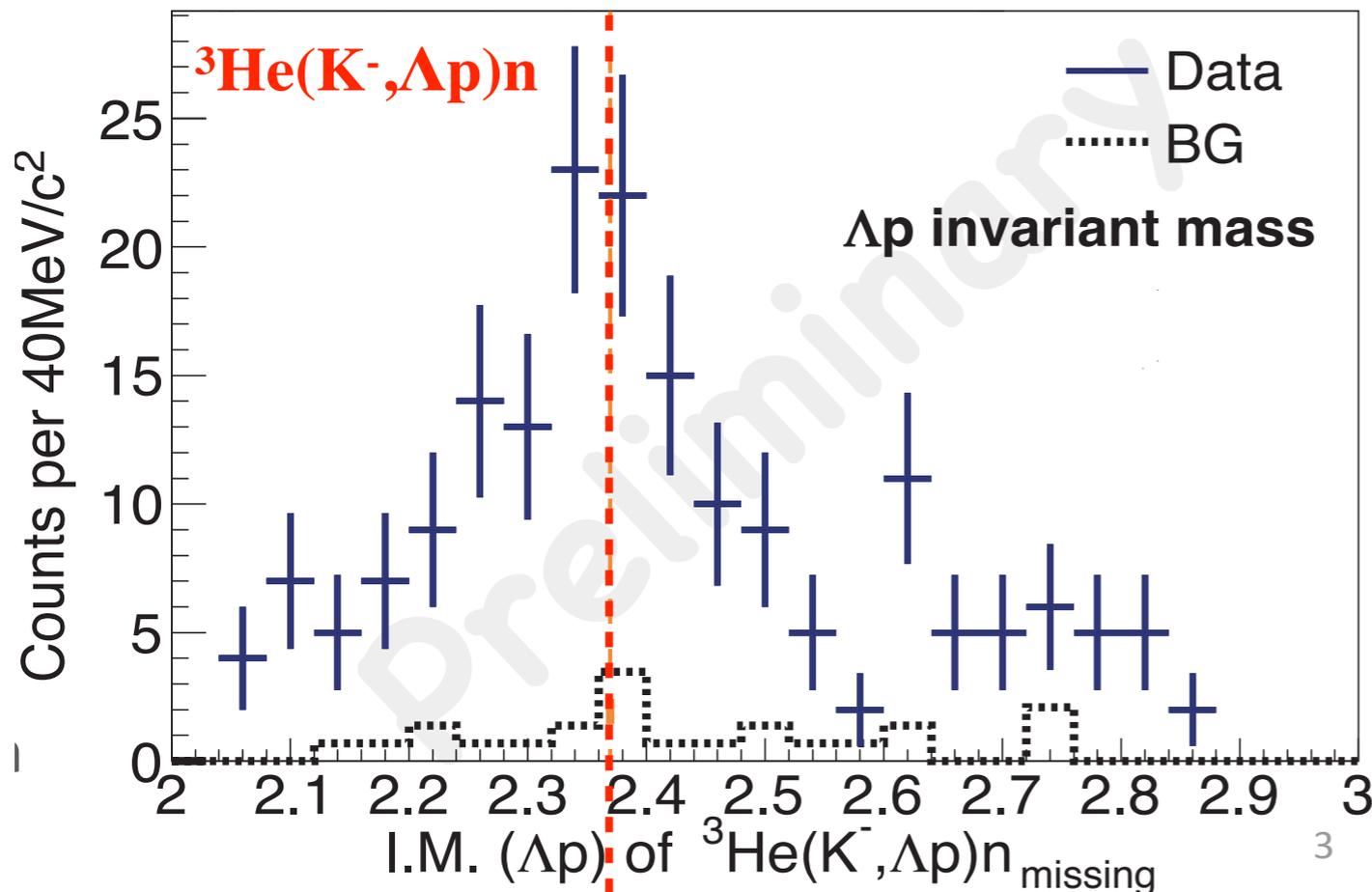
# Exclusive analysis (preliminary)



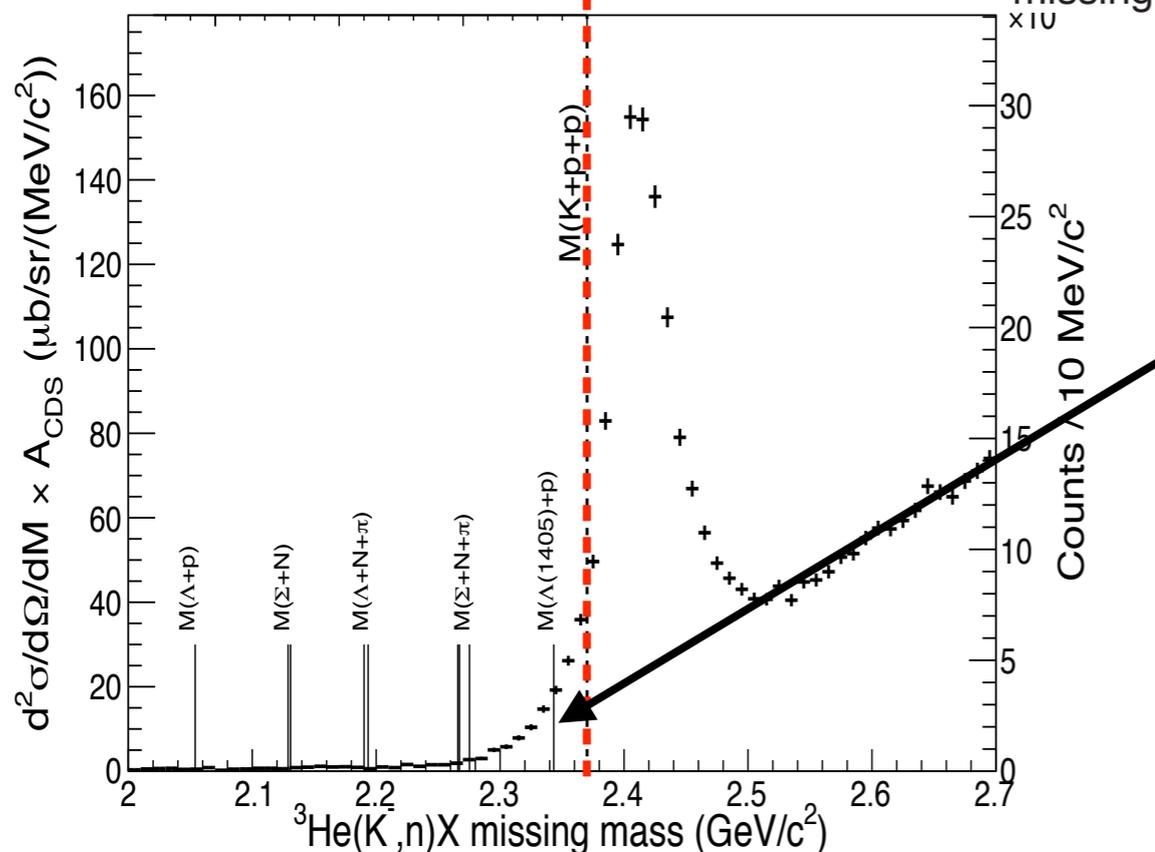
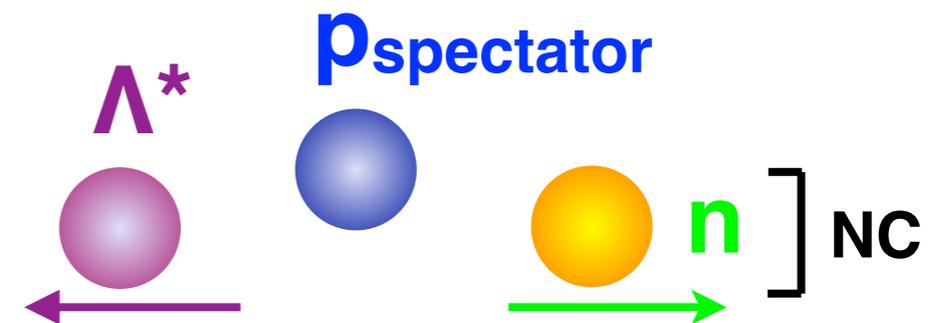
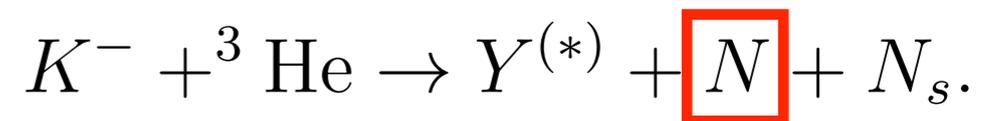
- ▶  ${}^3\text{He}(K^-, \Lambda p)n_{\text{missing}} \sim 200$  events
  - $\sim 20\%$   $\Sigma^0(\rightarrow \Lambda\gamma)$  contamination
- ▶  ${}^3\text{He}(K^-, \Lambda pn) \sim 10$  events

*we definitely need more data...*

# Structure just below the threshold



- ▶ **Exclusive  $\Lambda p+n_{\text{missing}}$** 
  - cannot be explained by phase-space distribution
- ▶ **Semi-inclusive ( $K^-, n$ )**
  - multi-nucleon processes might contribute



**we need further analysis including a comparison with the ( $K^-, p$ ) channel**

# Conclusion

- ▶ **J-PARC E15 searches for the “ $K^-pp$ ” bound state via the in-flight kaon reaction.**
  - 1st physics data with 24 kW\*4 day running (< 1% of full proposal)
- ▶ **Semi-inclusive  $^3\text{He}(K^-,n)X$  spectrum was finalized**
  - Deeply bound state, like the FINUDA and DISTO observations, was not seen as a distinct peak in this reaction.
    - 30–270  $\mu\text{b}/\text{sr}$  upper limits (0.5–5% of  $Kn \rightarrow nK$  cross section)
- ▶ **More physics outputs will come**
  - Some hints of the “tail-like structure” by a combined analysis with forward proton and exclusive ( $K^-, \Lambda p$ ) channels
  - New data takings planned next year
    - **H2**(calibration) , **D2**( $\Lambda(1405)$ ) and  **$^3\text{He}$** -targets(10 times statistics)