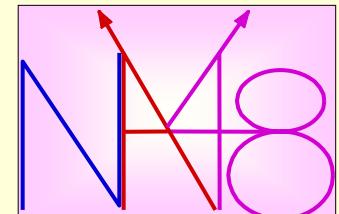


Results on direct CP Violation in $K^\pm \rightarrow 3\pi$ decays from the NA48/2 experiment at CERN

Giuseppina Anzivino
University of Perugia and INFN

On behalf of the NA48/2 collaboration:
*Cambridge, CERN, Chicago, Dubna, Edinburgh, Ferrara,
Firenze, Mainz, Northwestern, Perugia, Pisa, Saclay,
Siegen, Torino, Vienna*

New Trends in High Energy Physics
Yalta, 10-17 September 2005



Outline

- Direct CP violation in $K^\pm \rightarrow 3\pi$ decays
- NA48/2 experimental setup
- Measurement principle
- Systematic effects
- Preliminary result in $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$ decay
- Outlook for $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^0 \pi^0$ analysis
- Neutral mode "Cusp effect"
- Conclusions

Brief history of CP violation

1964 - CP violation in K^0 (Cronin, Christenson, Fitch, Turlay)

1993-99 - Direct CP violation in K^0 (NA31, NA48, KTeV)

2001 - CP violation in B^0 mixing (Babar, Belle)

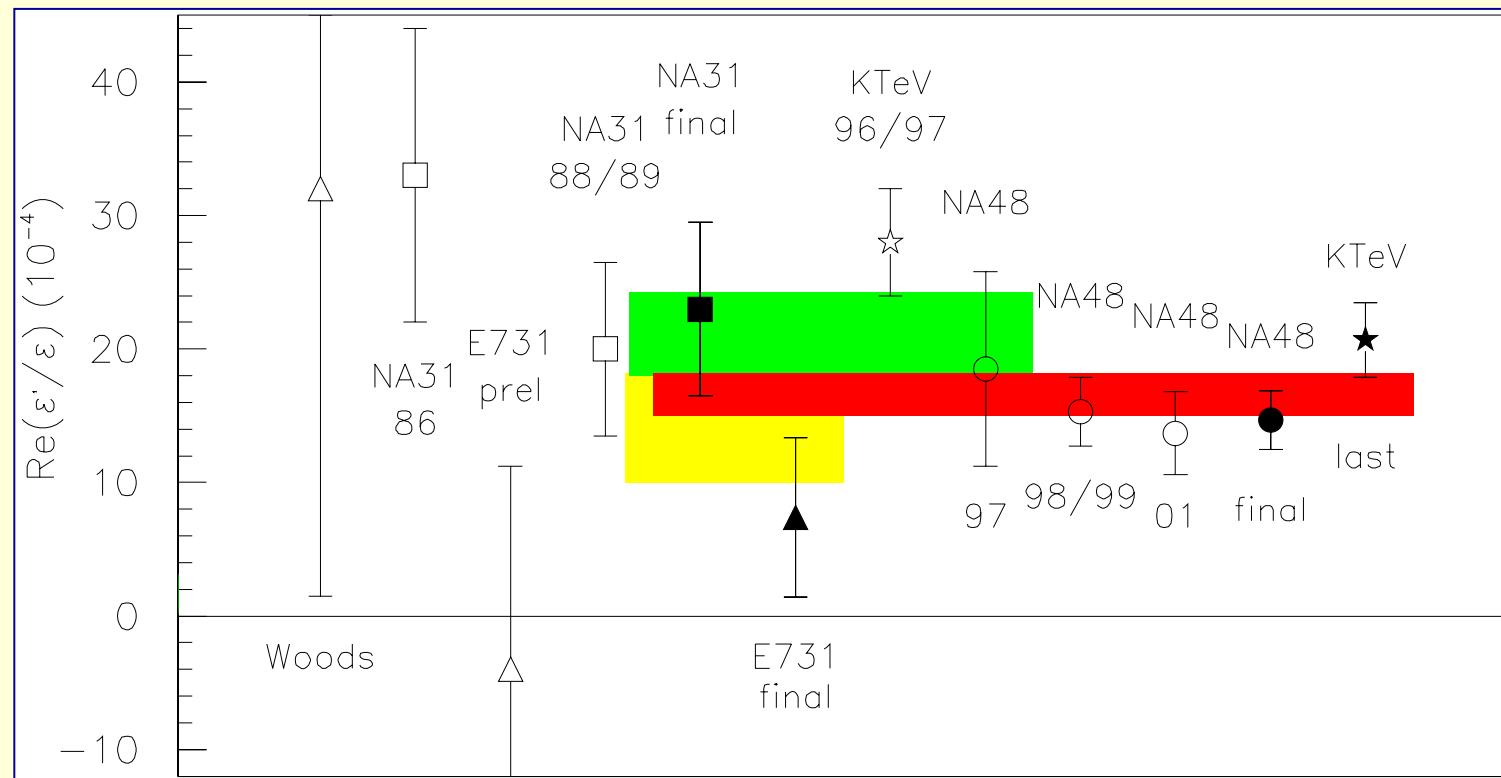
2004 - Direct CP violation in B^0 (Belle, Babar)

Direct CP Violation, also known as CPV in decay amplitudes, is the most “straightforward” CP effect

- Hard to detect experimentally
- Hard to connect to the parameters of the underlying fundamental theory (i.e. SM)

But it is a crucial window to physics beyond SM because possible non-SM enhancements to heavy quark loops are just at the core of DCPV processes

Direct CPV in $K^0 \rightarrow \pi \pi$ decays

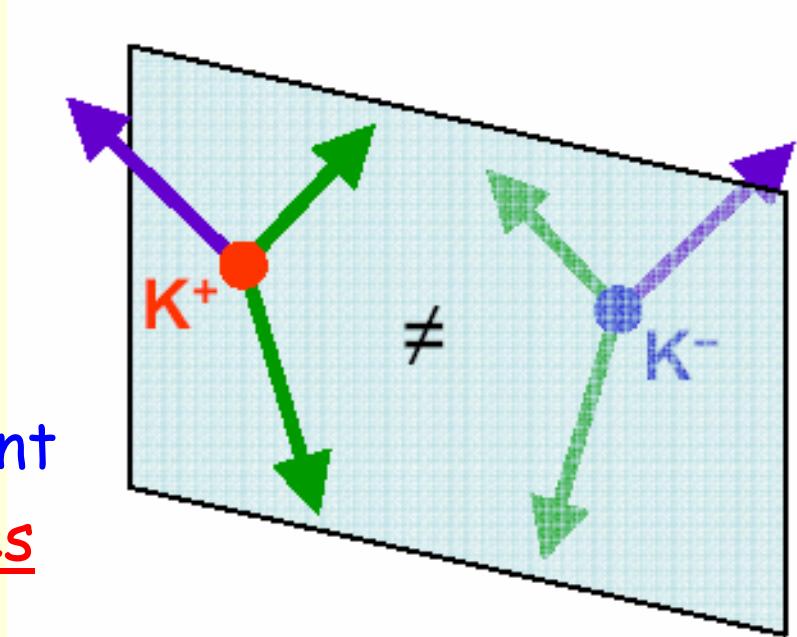


Final NA48 result
 $\varepsilon'/\varepsilon = (14.7 \pm 2.2) \times 10^{-4}$

CP violation in $K_{3\pi}^\pm$ decays

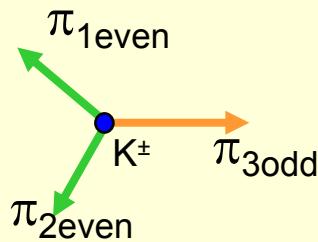
- Potentially large statistics
- Simple selection
- Low background

No absolute K flux measurement
Compare only Dalitz plot shapes



Complementary observables in Kaons: $\varepsilon'/\varepsilon \leftrightarrow A_g \leftrightarrow$ rare decays
Look for **direct** CP violation in K^\pm
(only direct CPV in K^\pm possible - no mixing)

Direct CP violation observable A_g



$$u = \frac{s_3 - s_0}{m_\pi^2}$$

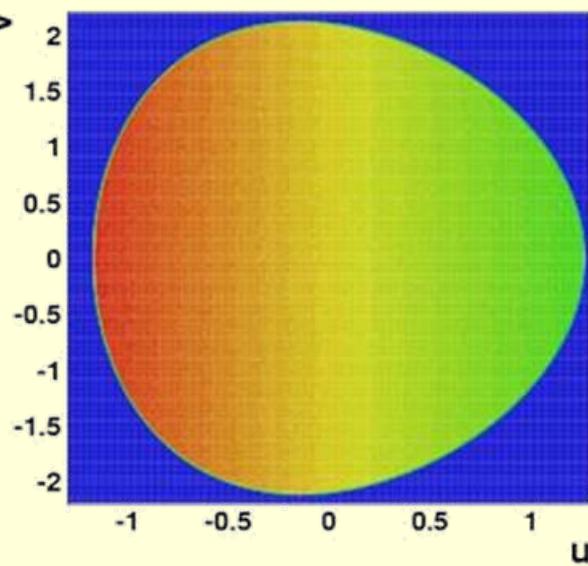
$$v = \frac{s_2 - s_1}{m_\pi^2}$$

$$s_i = (P_K - p_{\pi i})^2$$

$$s_0 = \frac{1}{3} \sum s_i$$

i=3 odd pion

$$|\mathcal{M}(u,v)|^2 \sim 1 + g u + h u^2 + k v^2$$



$$K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$$

BR = 5.57% ; $g = -0.2154 \pm 0.035$

$$K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^0 \pi^0$$

BR = 1.73% ; $g = 0.652 \pm 0.031$

$$|h|, |k| \ll |g|$$

$$A_g = \frac{g_+ - g_-}{g_+ + g_-} = \frac{\Delta g}{2g} = -\frac{\Delta g}{0.43}$$

$A_g < 5 \times 10^{-5}$ compatible with SM

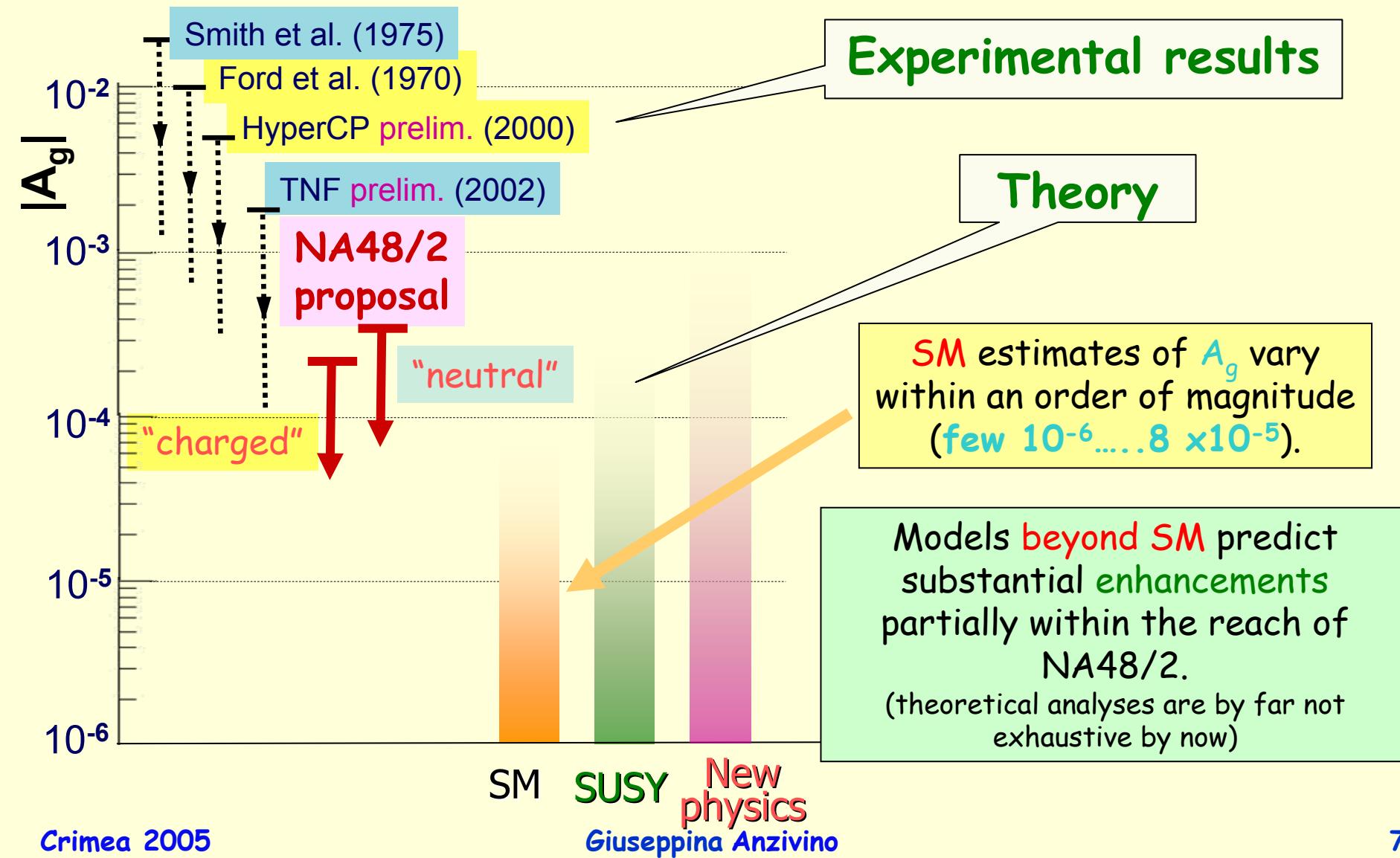
$A_g > 1 \times 10^{-4}$ SUSY/new physics

$A_g \neq 0$



Direct CP violation

Experimental and theoretical status



Goals and method

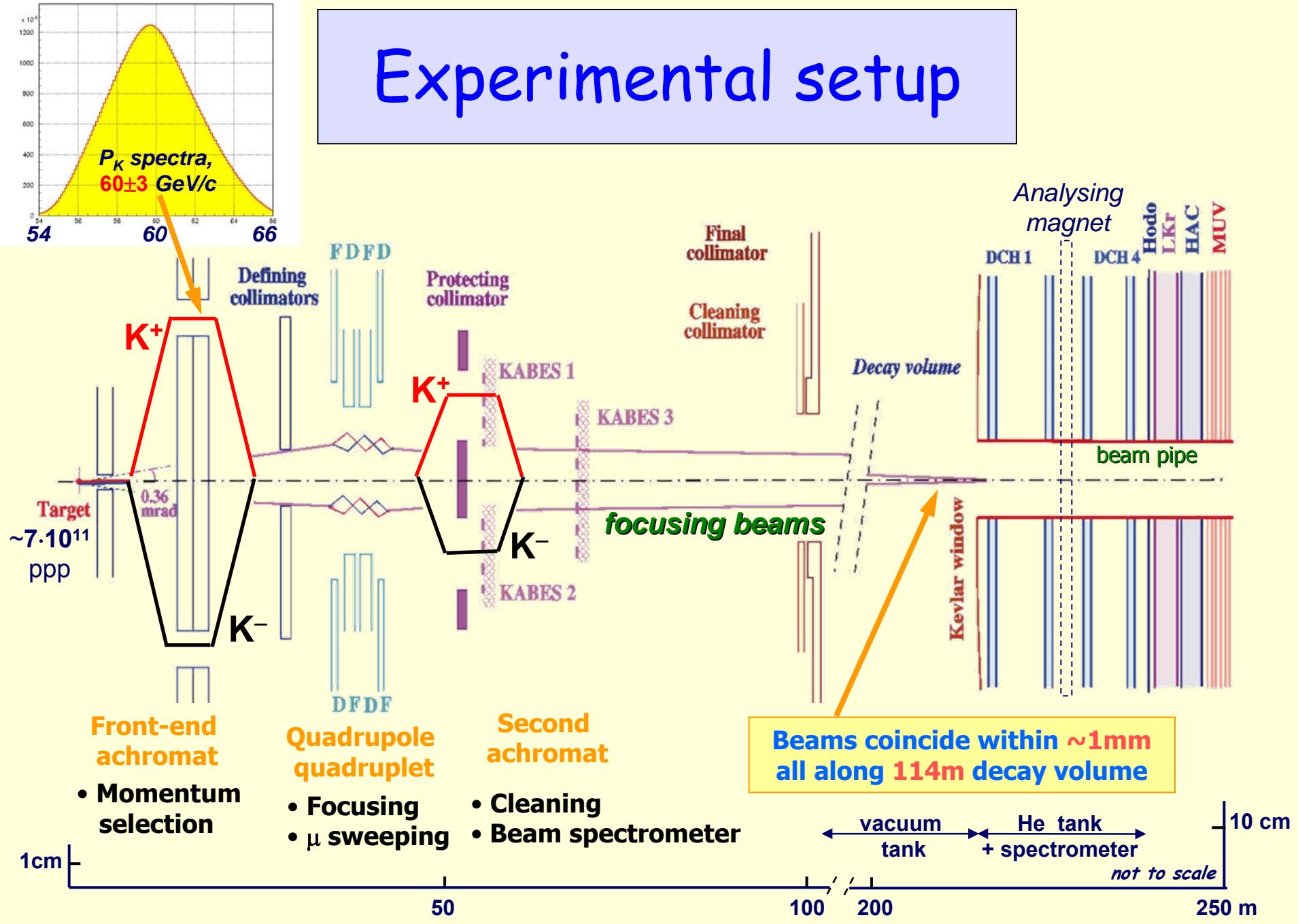
➤ Primary NA48/2 goals:

- Measure slope asymmetries in “charged” and “neutral” modes with precisions $\delta A_g < 2.2 \times 10^{-4}$, and $\delta A_g^0 < 3.5 \times 10^{-4}$, respectively.
- Statistics required for this measurement: $> 2 \times 10^9$ in “charged” mode and $> 10^8$ in “neutral” mode.

➤ NA48/2 method:

- Two simultaneous K^+ and K^- beams, superimposed in space, with narrow momentum spectra;
- Detect asymmetry exclusively considering slopes of ratios of normalized u distributions;
- Equalise averaged K^+ and K^- acceptances by frequently alternating the polarities of the relevant magnets.

Experimental setup



The NA48 detector

Main detector components:

- ❖ Magnetic spectrometer (4 DCHs):

- 4 views: redundancy \Rightarrow efficiency

- $\sigma(p)/p = 1.0\% + 0.044\% p \text{ [GeV}/c]$

- ❖ Hodoscope: fast trigger and precise time measurement (150ps)

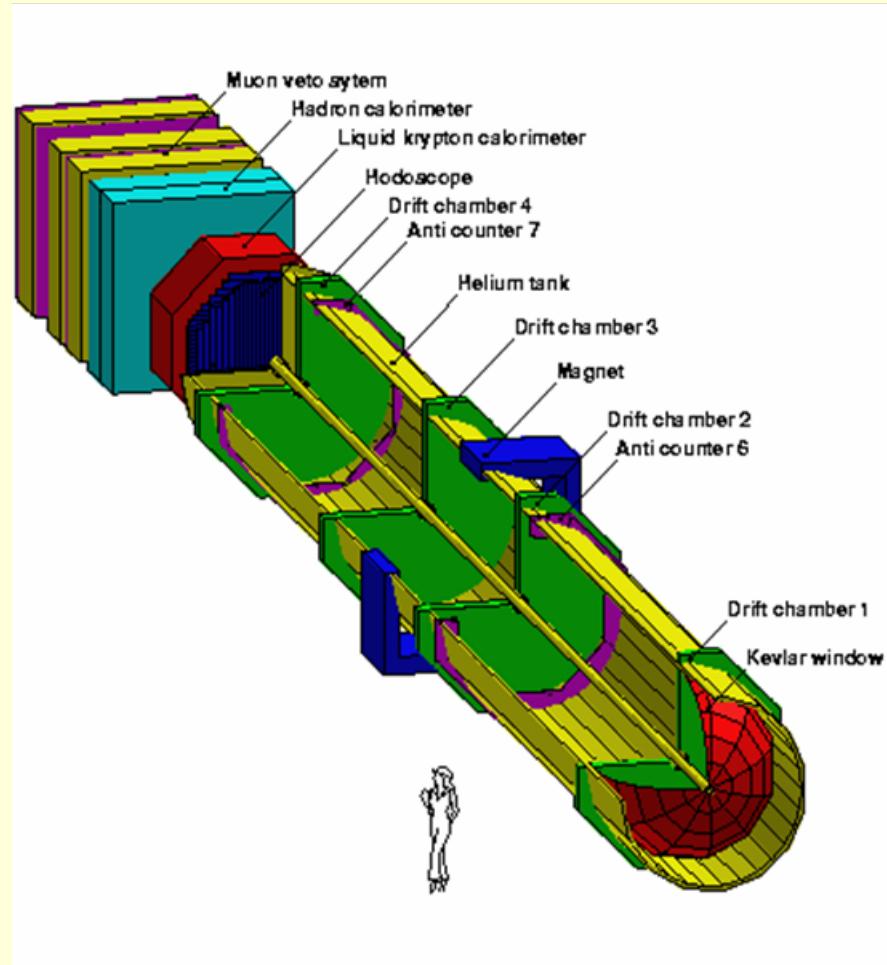
- ❖ Liquid Krypton e.m. calorimeter:

- High granularity, quasi-homogeneous

- $\sigma(E)/E = 3.2\%/\sqrt{E} + 9\%/E + 0.42\% \text{ [GeV]}$

- e/π discrimination

- ❖ Hadron calorimeter, photon vetos, muon veto counters





Crimea 2005



Giuseppina Anzivino

Data taking: completed

2003 run: ~ 50 days

2004 run: ~ 60 days

Total statistics in 2 years:

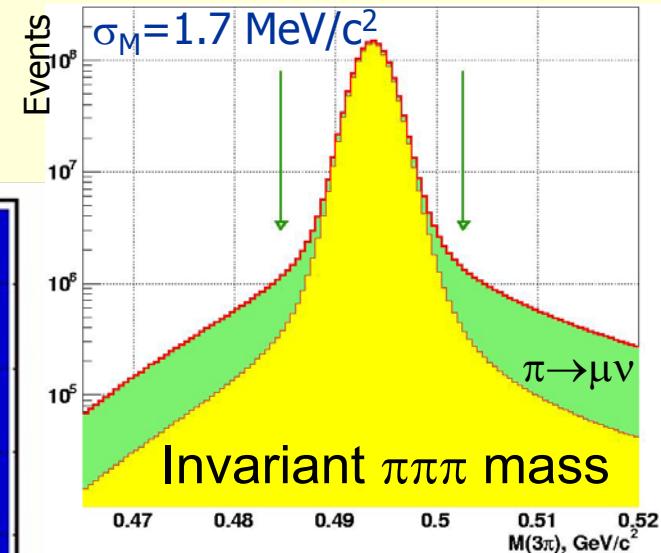
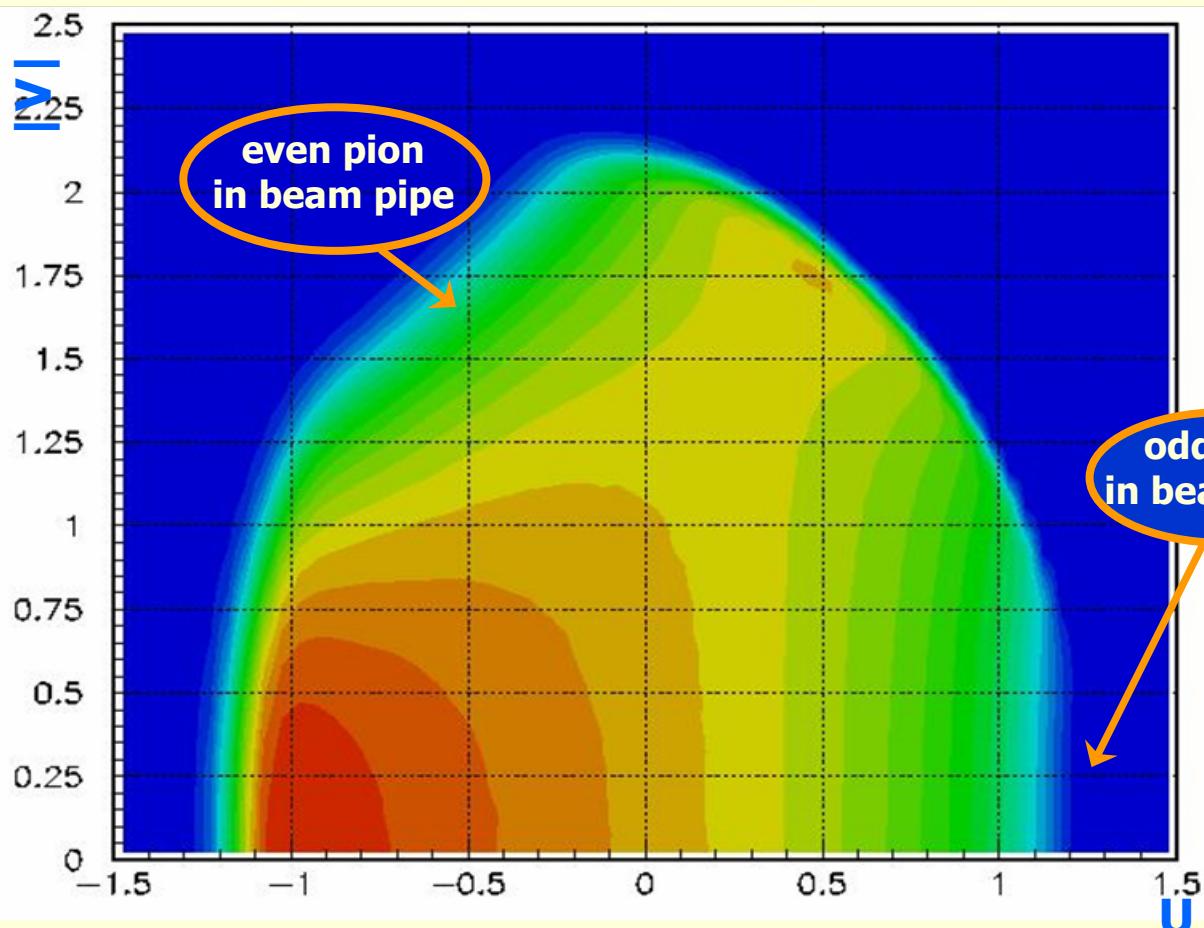
- $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^\pm$: $\sim 3.5 \cdot 10^9$
- $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \pi^\pm$: $\sim 2 \cdot 10^8$

~ 200 TB of data recorded

The result based on 2003 $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$ sample
will be presented here

Accepted statistics

Data-taking 2003:
 $1.61 \times 10^9 K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$ events

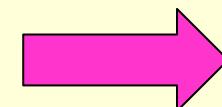


$K^+: 1.03 \times 10^9$ events
 $K^-: 0.58 \times 10^9$ events
 $K^+/K^- \approx 1.8$

Method to extract A_g

- Build u projections of the Dalitz plot for K^+ and K^- : $N^+(u), N^-(u)$
- Make the ratio of these two distributions: $R(u)$
- Fit a linear function to this ratio to extract $\Delta g = g^+ - g^-$

$$R(u) = \frac{N^+(u)}{N^-(u)} \propto \frac{1 + g^+ u}{1 + g^- u} \approx 1 + \Delta g u$$



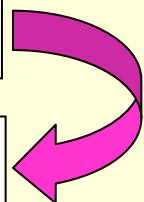
$$A_g = \frac{\Delta g}{2g}$$

This holds only if the acceptance for

K^+ and K^- is the same

$$\delta A_g < 2.2 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

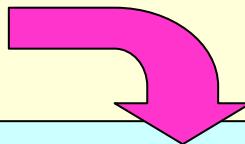
$$\delta \Delta g < 0.9 \cdot 10^{-4}$$



The **magnetic fields** (achromat and spectrometer) are *intrinsic sources of charge asymmetry* in the detector!!!

Instrumental asymmetries

In real life



- ✓ Detector acceptance asymmetries
- ✓ Time variation of detector response
- ✓ Charge-dependent beam optics
- ✓ Time variation of beams' properties
- ✓ Spurious magnetic fields
- ✓ Charge-asymmetric interactions

Strategy of data taking

Beam line (achromat) polarity (A) reversed on weekly basis
Spectrometer magnet polarity (B) reversed on daily basis

Example: August 6 to September 7, 2003

Week 1	Achromat –	B+	B-	B+	B-	B+	B-
Week 2	Achromat +	B+	B-	B+	B-	B+	B-
Week 3	Achromat –	B+	B-	B+	B-	B+	B-
Week 4	Achromat +	B+	B-	B+	B-	B+	B-
Week 5	Achromat –	B+	B-				
	Achromat +	B+	B-				

Supersample 1
12 subsamples

Supersample 2
12 subsamples

Supersample 3
4 subsamples

Acceptance cancellation

Detector left-right asymmetry cancels
in 4 ratios of K^+/K^- distributions:

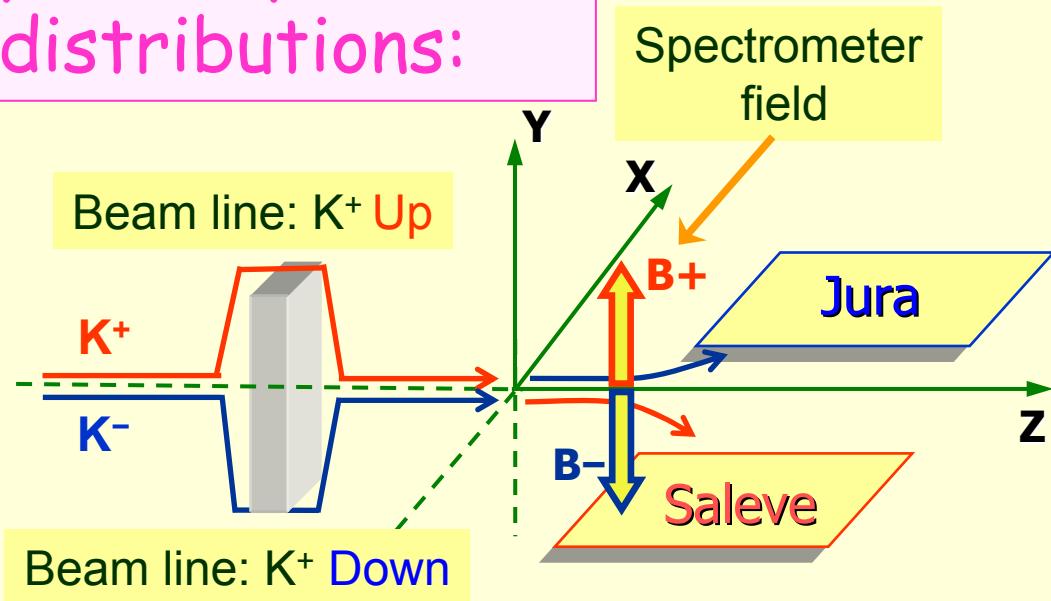
(same deviation by spectrometer
in numerator and denominator)

$$R_{US} = \frac{N(A+B+K^+)}{N(A+B-K^-)}$$

$$R_{UJ} = \frac{N(A+B-K^+)}{N(A+B+K^-)}$$

$$R_{DS} = \frac{N(A-B+K^+)}{N(A-B-K^-)}$$

$$R_{DJ} = \frac{N(A-B-K^+)}{N(A-B+K^-)}$$



Indexes correspond to

- beamline polarity (**U** / **D**)
- direction of kaon deviation
in spectrometer (**S** / **J**)

Quadruple ratio

$$R = R_{US} R_{UJ} R_{DS} R_{DJ} \sim 1 + 4\Delta g \cdot u$$

3-fold cancellation of systematic biases:

- 1) Global **time**-variable biases (K^+, K^- simultaneously recorded)
- 2) **Beam** line biases (K^+ beam up / K^- beam up etc.)
- 3) **Detector** asymmetries (K^+ toward Saleve / K^- toward Saleve etc.)
- 4) Effects of **permanent stray fields** (earth, vacuum tank magnetisation) cancel

The result is sensitive only to
time variation of asymmetries
in experimental conditions
with a characteristic time smaller than
corresponding field-alternation period (beam-
week, detector-day)

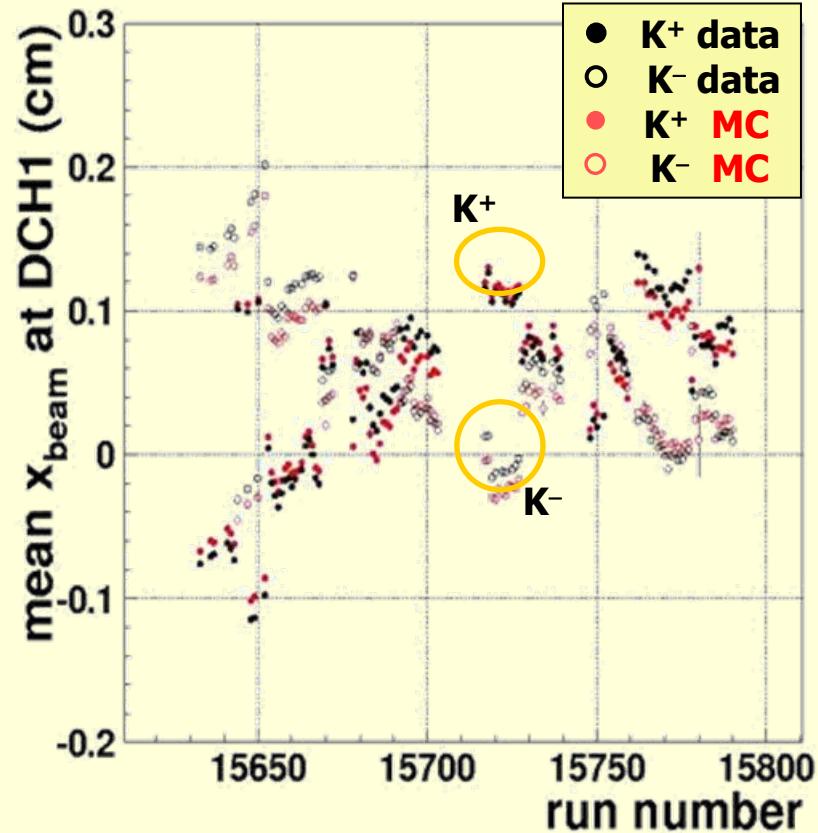
Monte Carlo simulation

Due to acceptance cancellations, the analysis does not rely on Monte-Carlo to calculate acceptance

Still MC is used to study systematics.
MC features:

- Based on GEANT
- Full detector geometry and material description
- Local DCH inefficiencies simulated
- Variations of beam geometry and DCH alignment are followed
- Simulated statistics similar to experimental one.

Example of data/MC agreement:
mean beam positions @DCH1



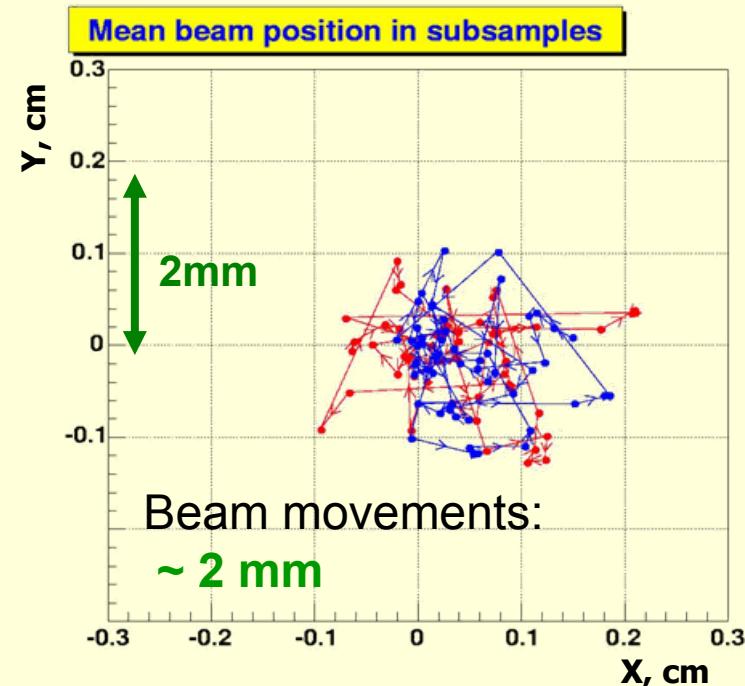
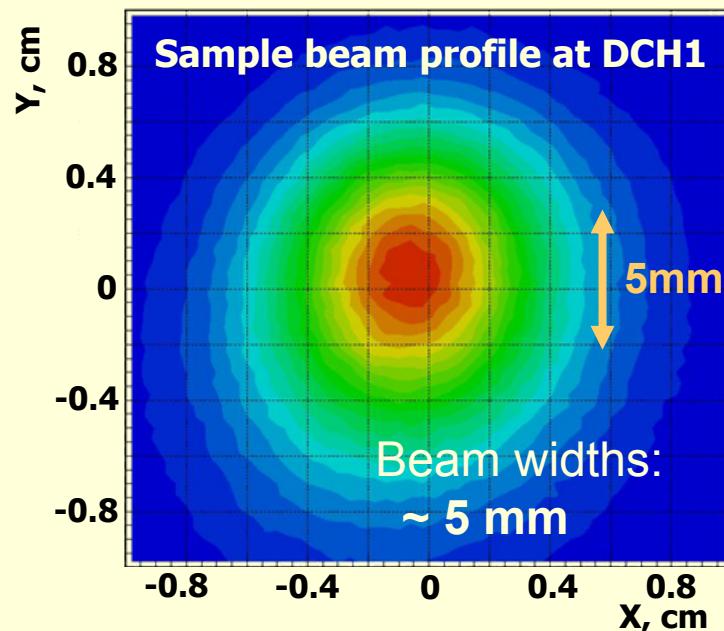
Beam systematics

Time variations of beam geometry

Acceptance largely defined by central beam hole edge.

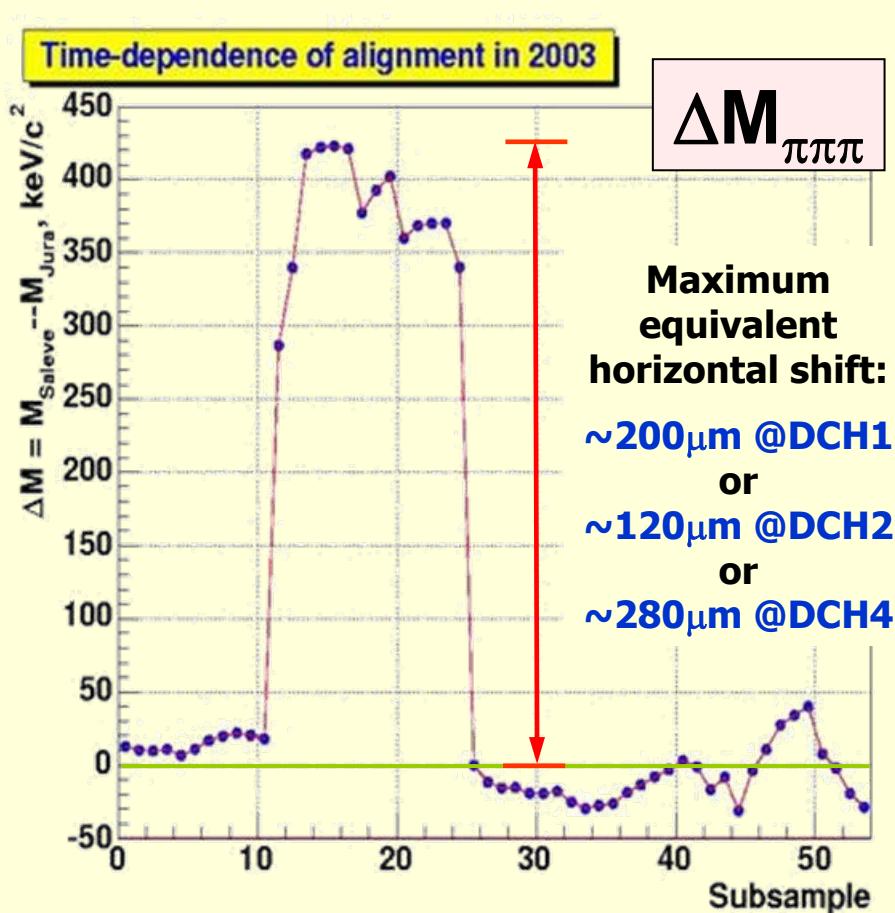
Acceptance cut defined by (larger) “virtual pipe” centered on averaged beam positions as a function of charge, time and K momentum

Effects due to beam movements and not perfect overlap corrected



Spectrometer systematics

Time variations of spectrometer geometry - Alignment is fine tuned by forcing mean reconstructed invariant $\pi\pi\pi$ masses to be equal for K^+ and K^-



E.g. sensitivity to DCH4 horizontal shift: $\Delta M / \Delta x \approx 1.5 \text{ keV}/\mu\text{m}$

Momentum scale

variation due to limited control of spectrometer magnet current (10^{-3}) cancels due to simultaneous beams

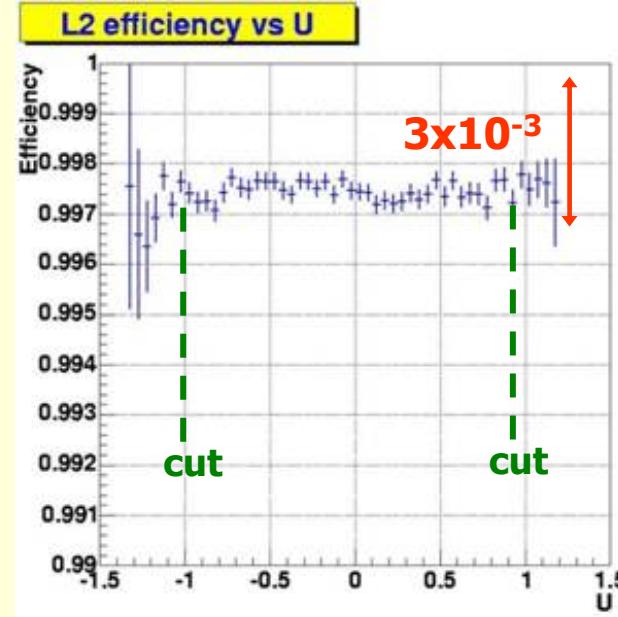
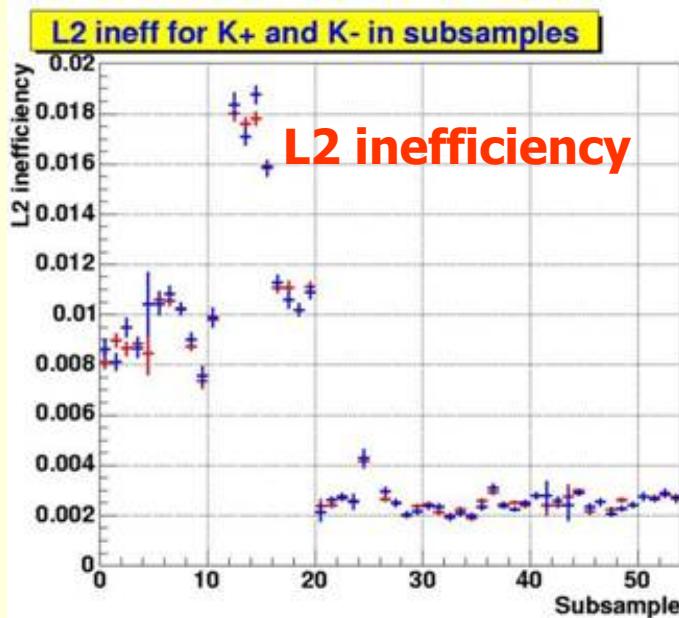
In addition, it is adjusted by forcing mean reconstructed invariant $\pi\pi\pi$ masses to PDG value of M_{K^+}

Trigger systematics

L1 trigger_(2 hodoscope hits): stable and small inefficiency: $1-e \approx 0.7 \cdot 10^{-3}$, charge-symmetric, flat in u **NO CORRECTION NEEDED**

L2 trigger (online vertex reconstruction on DCH data):

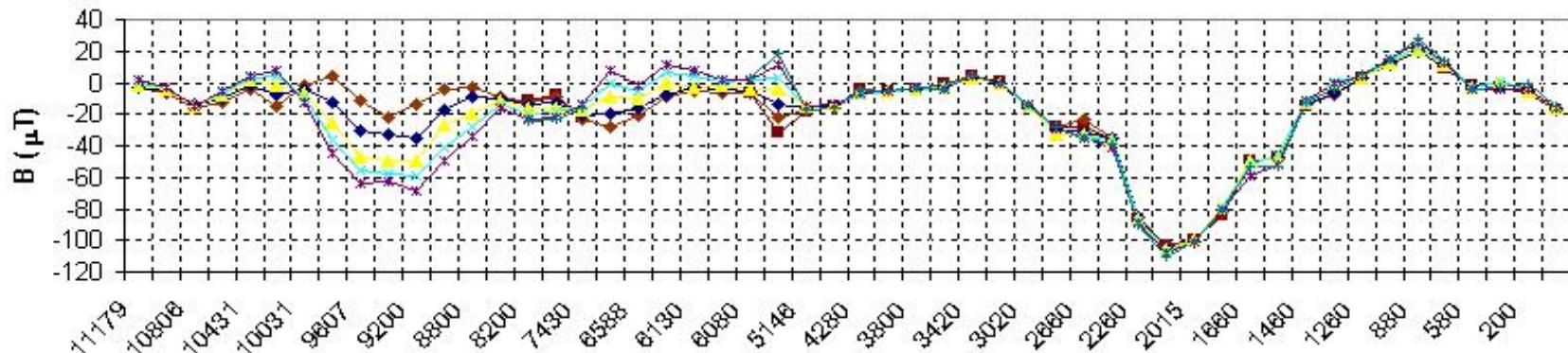
time-varying inefficiency (local DCH inefficiencies) $1-e \approx 0.2\%$ to 1.8% , flat in u within measurement precision u-dependent **CORRECTION APPLIED**



	L2 correction $\delta \Delta g \times 10^4$
SS0	0.5 ± 1.8
SS1	1.4 ± 1.0
SS2	-0.2 ± 1.2
SS3	-4.5 ± 1.9

statistical uncertainty from control sample

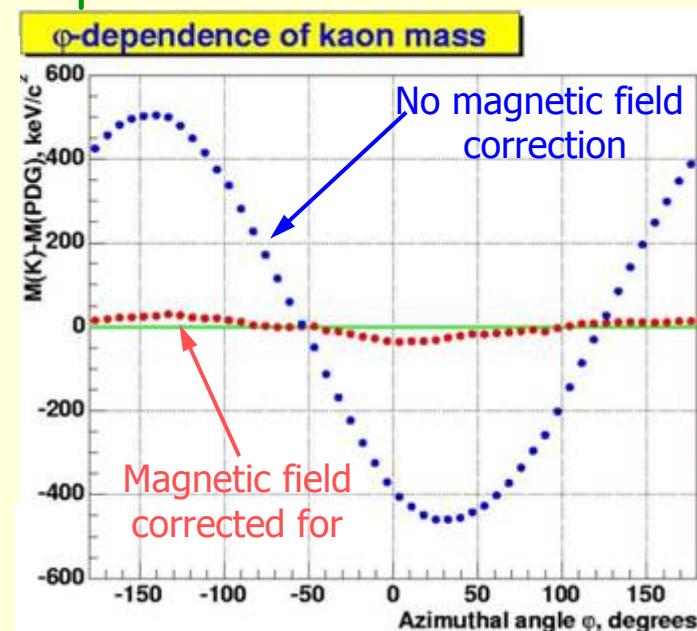
Other systematics



Residual effects of **stray magnetic fields** (magnetised vacuum tank, earth field) minimised by explicit field map correction

Further systematic effects studied

- Bias due to **resolution** in u calculation
- Sensitivity to **fitting interval** and method
- Effects connected to $\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu$ decay
- Effects due to event pile-up
- π^+/π^- interactions in material
- Track charge misidentification



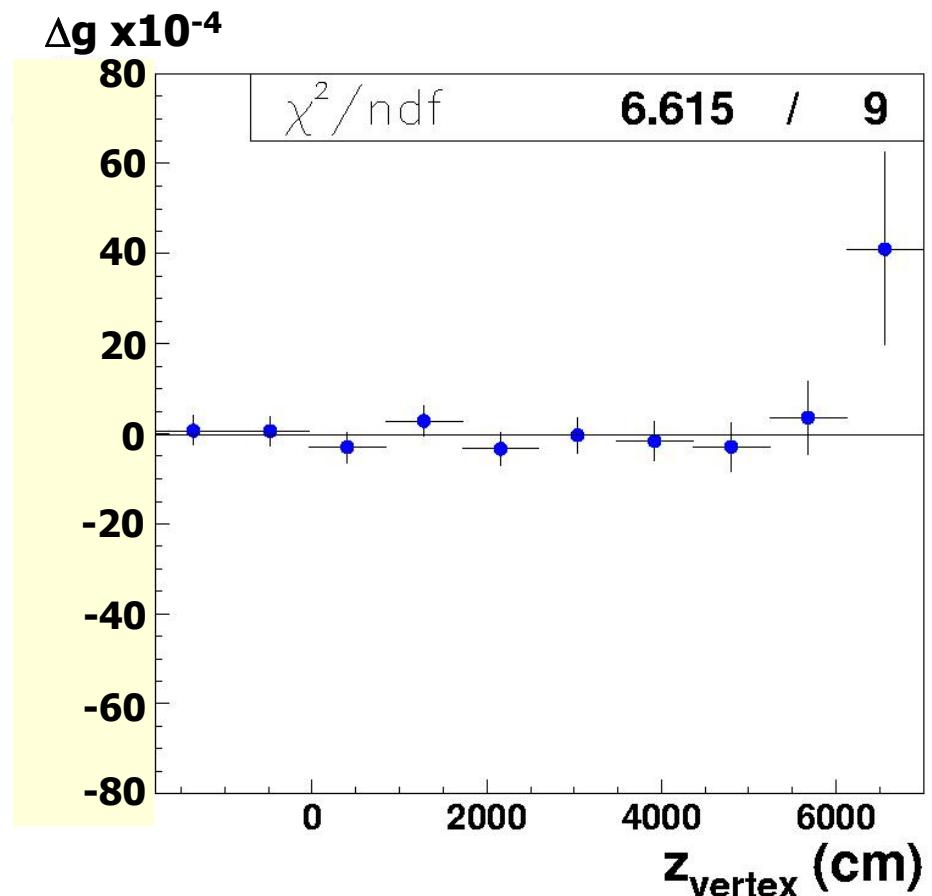
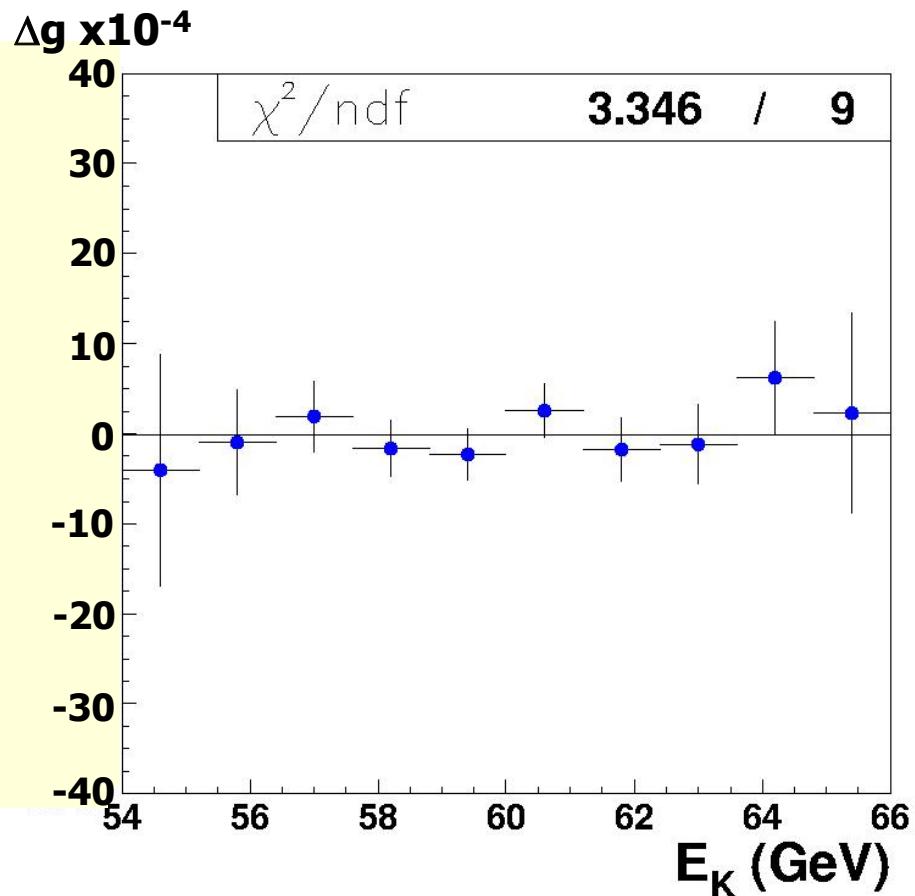
Systematics summary and result

Conservative estimations of systematic errors	Effect on $\Delta \times 10^4$
Acceptance and beam geometry	0.5
Spectrometer alignment	0.1
Analyzing magnet field	0.1
$\pi^\pm \rightarrow \mu\nu$ decay	0.4
U calculation and fitting	0.5
Pile-up	0.3
Syst. errors of statistical nature	
Trigger efficiency: L2	0.8
Trigger efficiency: L1	0.4
Total systematic error	1.3

Combined preliminary result:
in $\Delta g \times 10^4$ units
(3 independent analyses)
Including L2 trigger correction

	Raw	Corrected for L2 eff
SS0	0.0 ± 1.5	0.5 ± 2.4
SS1	0.9 ± 2.0	2.2 ± 2.2
SS2	-2.8 ± 2.2	-3.0 ± 2.5
SS3	2.0 ± 3.4	-2.6 ± 3.9
Total	-0.2 ± 1.0	-0.2 ± 1.3
χ^2	2.2/3	3.2/3

Result stability



Preliminary result (2003 data)

slope difference

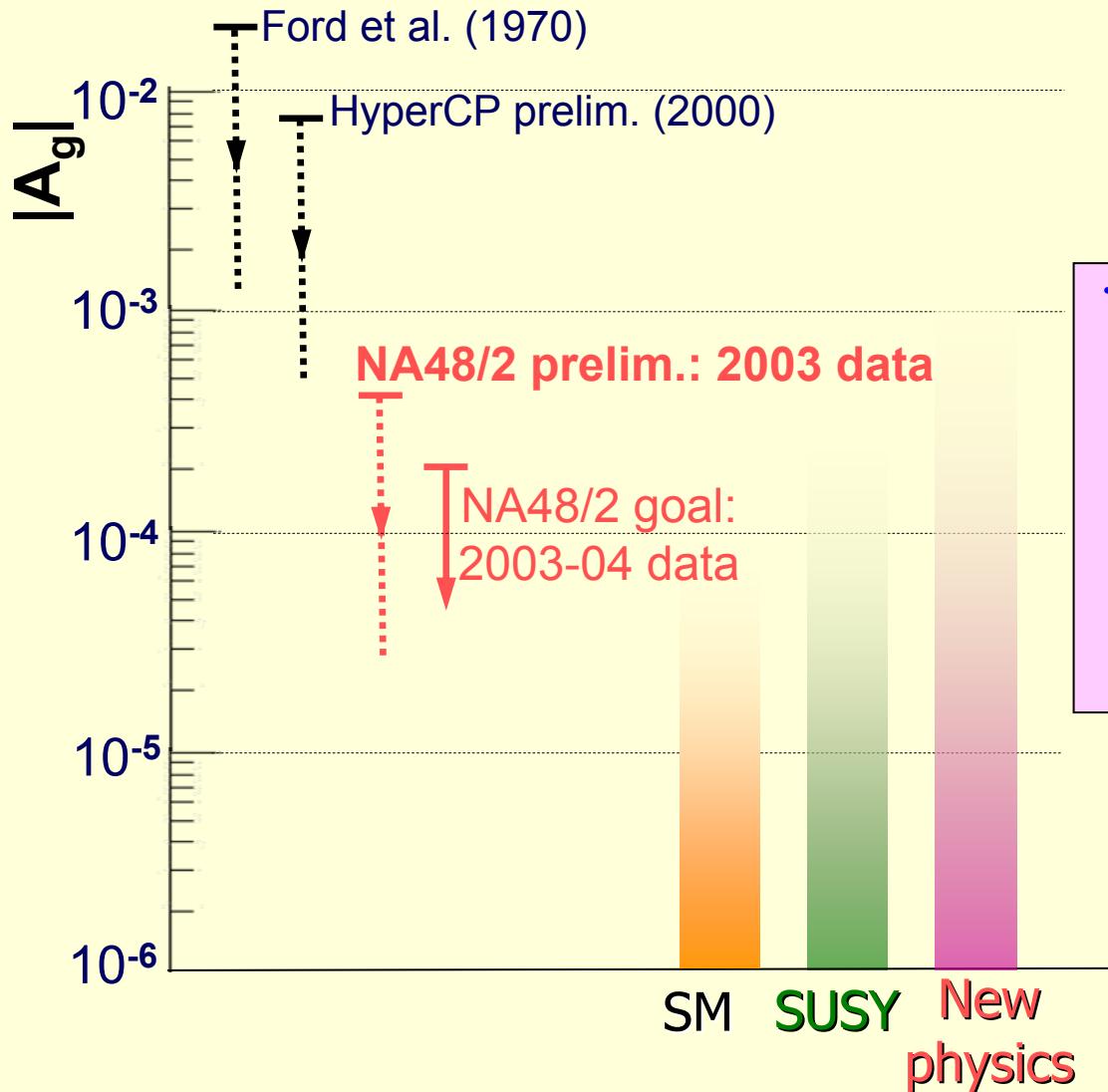
$$\Delta g = (-0.2 \pm 1.0_{\text{stat.}} \pm 0.9_{\text{stat.(trig.)}} \pm 0.9_{\text{syst.}}) \times 10^{-4}$$
$$\Delta g = (-0.2 \pm 1.7) \times 10^{-4}$$

charge asymmetry

$$A_g = (0.5 \pm 2.4_{\text{stat.}} \pm 2.1_{\text{stat.(trig.)}} \pm 2.1_{\text{syst.}}) \times 10^{-4}$$
$$A_g = (0.5 \pm 3.8) \times 10^{-4}$$

- This is a preliminary result with **conservative estimate** of systematic uncertainties
- Extrapolated statistical uncertainty 2003+2004: $\delta A_g = 1.6 \times 10^{-4}$
- Expect **smaller systematic effects** in 2004 data
(due to more frequent polarity alternation, better L2 performance).

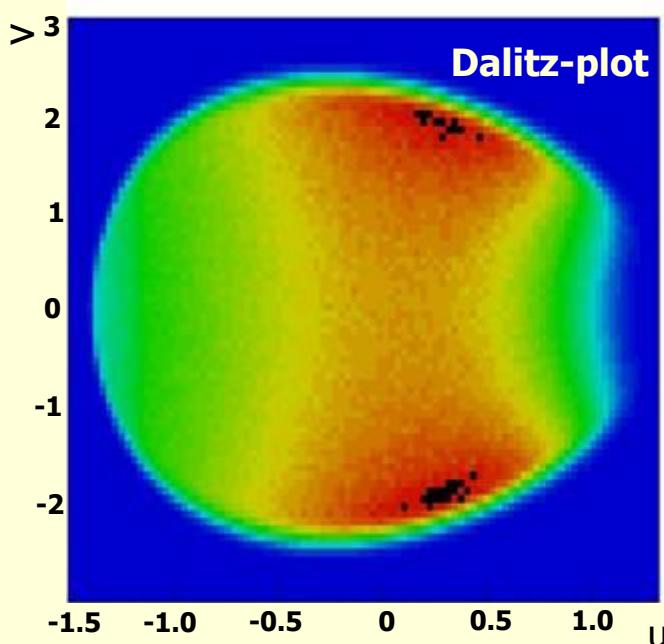
Comparison $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$



This preliminary result
is already an
order of magnitude
better than previous
experiments

$K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^0 \pi^0$ analysis

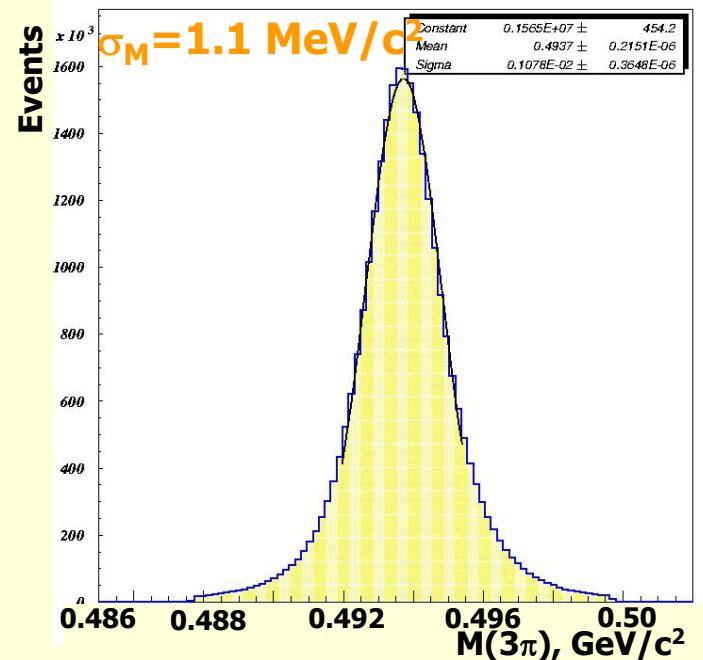
"neutral" mode wrt "charged"



- ❖ Same strategy of analysis
- ❖ Only the Lkr used to define u
- ❖ Totally different systematics
- ❖ Statistical precision in A_g^0 similar
 - ✓ Ratio of "neutral" to "charged" statistics: $N^0/N^\pm \sim 1/20 (\sqrt{s}=1/4.5)$
 - ✓ Ratio of slopes: $|g^0/g^\pm| \approx 3$
 - ✓ More favourable Dalitz-plot distribution (gain factor $f \sim 1.5$)

Status of analysis

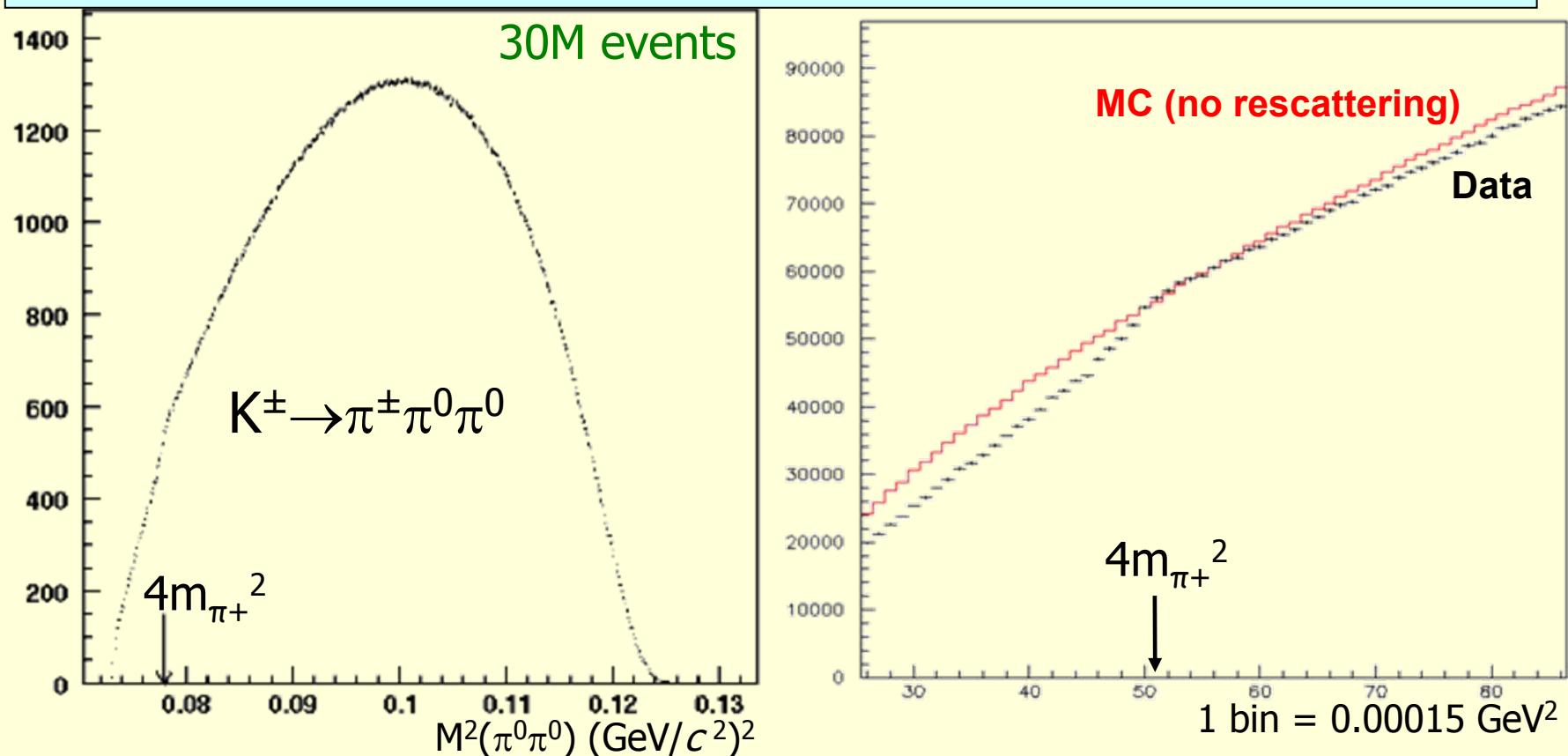
- Statistics analyzed:
 50×10^6 events
- Statistical error with analyzed data:
 $\delta A_g(\text{stat}) = 1.7 \times 10^{-4}$
- Extrapolation to 2003+2004 data (115×10^6)
 $\delta A_g(\text{stat}) = 1.1 \times 10^{-4}$



Preliminary results will be announced soon

Observation of $\pi\pi$ scattering effect in $K \rightarrow 3\pi$ decays

Thanks to the large statistics in the neutral mode we can see (for the first time) the contribution of the charge exchange process $\pi^+\pi^- \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0$ in the $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm\pi^0\pi^0$ decay. This effect stimulated some theoretical work

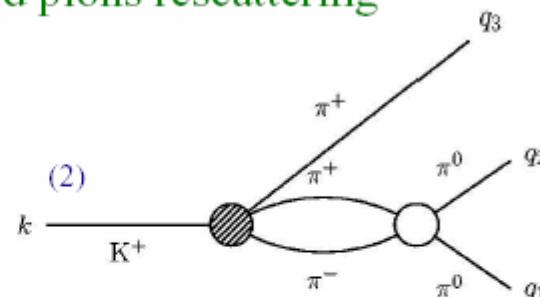
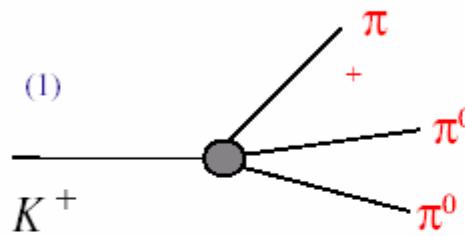


$(a_0 - a_2)$ determination in $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^0 \pi^0$

Two processes contribute to $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \pi^0$

1) Direct emission of $\pi^+ \pi^0 \pi^0$

2) $\pi^0 \pi^0$ produced in charged pions rescattering



$$\mathcal{M}_0 = 1 + gu/2$$

$$u = 2m_K(m_K/3 - E_{\text{odd}}^*)/m_\pi^2$$

$$g = 0.638 \pm 0.020$$

(present PDG value)

$$\mathcal{M}_1 \propto (a_0 - a_2)$$

- Small Pionium formation also expected

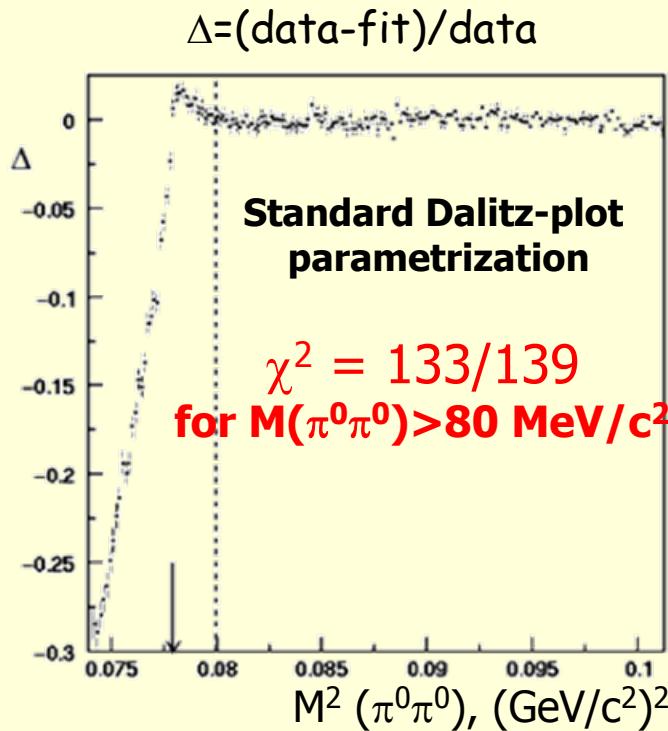
$$d\Gamma/dm_{\pi\pi} \propto |\mathcal{M}_0 + \mathcal{M}_1|^2$$

Interference is expected

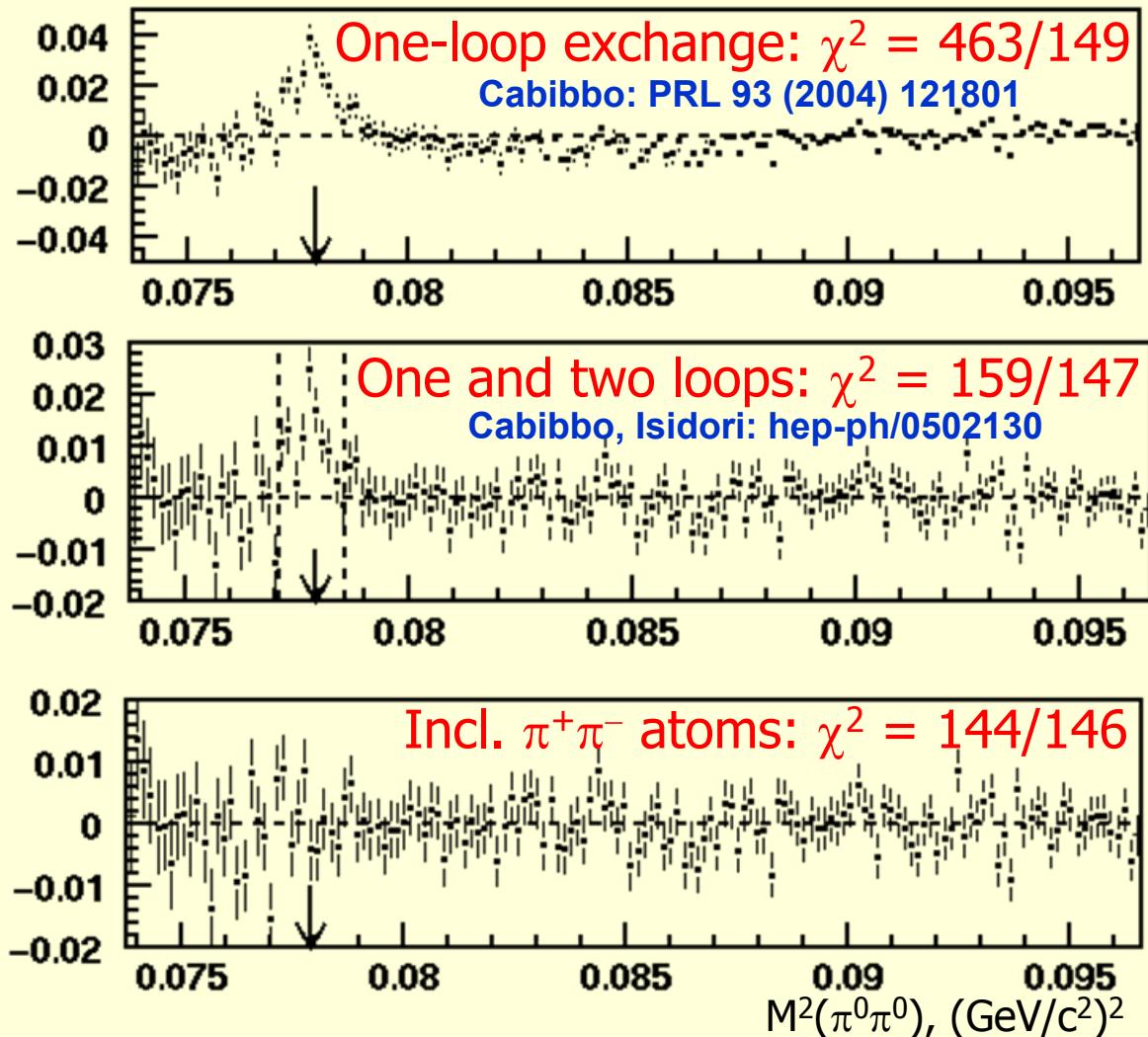
N. Cabibbo, hep-ph/0405001 Phys. Rev. Lett. **93**, 121801 (2004) one loop calculation

N. Cabibbo and G. Isidori, hep-ph/0502130 Phys. Rev. Lett. **93**, 121801 (2005) two loops

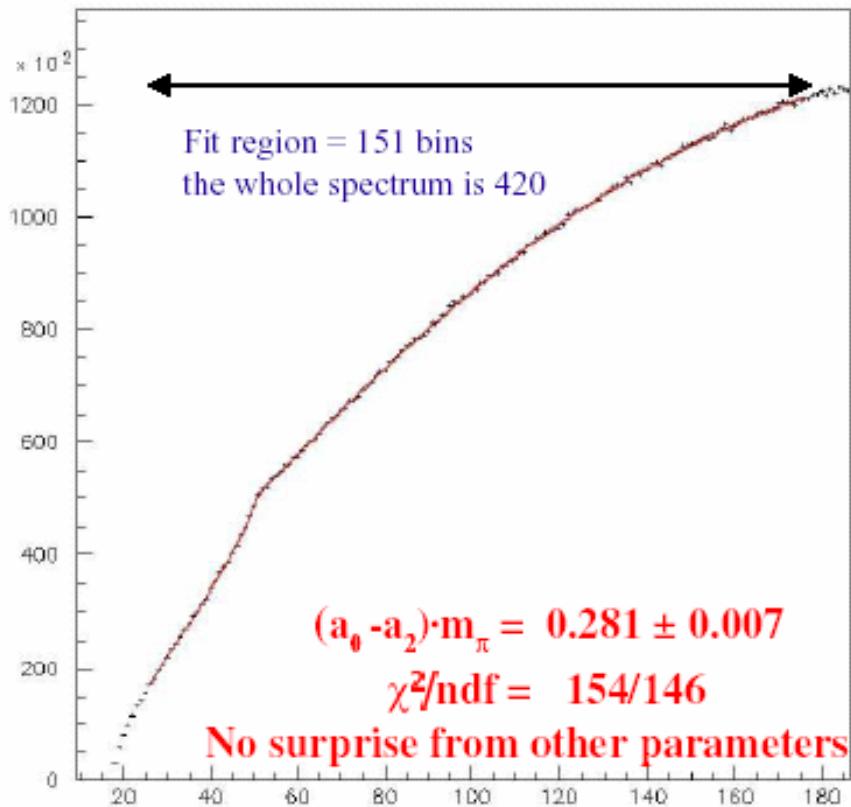
Fits to the "cusp" effect in $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^0 \pi^0$



The best fit obtained with two loops adding a small amount of pionium to improve the χ^2



Preliminary result



the pionium contribution has been fixed to the prediction:
Z.K. Silagadze, hep-ph/9411382

$$\frac{K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + \text{pionium}}{K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-} \approx 7.4 \times 10^{-6}$$

$(a_0 - a_2)m_+$ has low sensitivity to pionium

$$(a_0 - a_2)m_+ = 0.281 \pm 0.007(\text{stat}) \pm 0.014(\text{syst}) \pm 0.014(\text{theor})$$

In agreement with theory $(a_0 - a_2)m_+ = 0.265 \pm 0.004$ (Colangelo 2001)

Conclusions

- Preliminary NA48/2 result (only 2003 data) on direct CP-violating charge asymmetry in $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$ decays is
 $A_g = (0.5 \pm 2.4_{\text{stat.}} \pm 2.1_{\text{stat.(trig.)}} \pm 2.1_{\text{syst.}}) \times 10^{-4}$
- $\times 10$ times better precision than previous measurements
- Further room to decrease systematic error (trigger efficiency)
- 2004 data contains another 2×10^9 $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$ events, possibly with higher quality → Design goal within reach
- $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^0 \pi^0$ neutral asymmetry: complementary, comparable sensitivity
- “Cusp” effect: determination of the $\pi\pi$ scattering lengths
- A lot of other interesting results coming (other CP asymmetries, rare decays)

SPARE SLIDES

$K_{3\pi}^\pm$ decays

$BR(K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-) = 5.57\%$
"charged"

Kinematic variables

Lorentz-invariants

$$u = (s_3 - s_0)/m_\pi^2;$$

$$v = (s_2 - s_1)/m_\pi^2;$$

$$s_i = (P_K - P_{\pi i})^2, i=1,2,3 \text{ (3=odd } \pi);$$

$$s_0 = (s_1 + s_2 + s_3)/3.$$

Centre of mass frame

$$u = 2m_K \cdot (m_K/3 - E_{\text{odd}})/m_\pi^2;$$

$$v = 2m_K \cdot (E_1 - E_2)/m_\pi^2.$$

$BR(K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^0 \pi^0) = 1.73\%$
"neutral"

Matrix element
parameterized in terms of slopes

$$|M(u,v)|^2 \sim 1 + g_u + h u^2 + k v^2$$

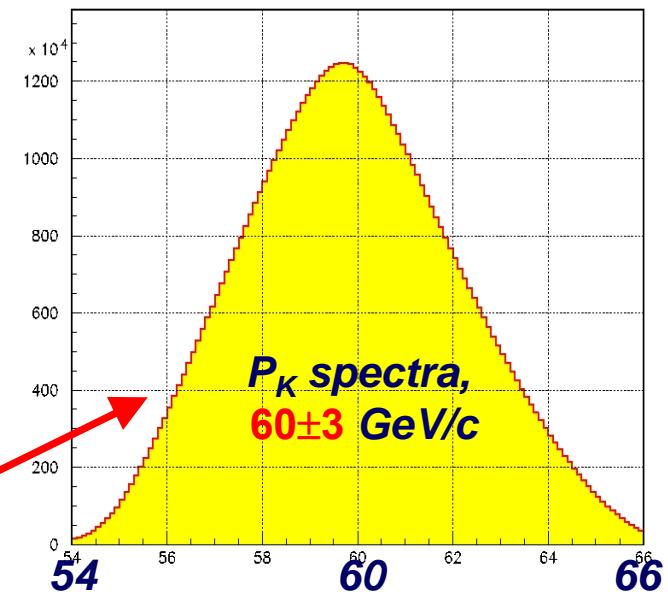
Measured quantity
sensitive to
direct CP violation:

Slope asymmetry:
 $A_g = (g_+ - g_-) / (g_+ + g_-)$

NA48/2 narrow-band beams

simultaneous, coaxial, focused

Beam	Positive	Negative
Primary proton momentum	400 GeV/c	
Duty cycle	5.2 s / 16.8 s	
Protons on target per	10^{12}	
Production angle	0	
Beam acceptance	± 0.36 mrad	
Beam momentum	(60 ± 3) GeV/c	
Beamline length	102 m	
p / \bar{p} per cycle (10^6)	8.6	0.9
π^+ / π^- per cycle (10^6)	33.2	24.6
K^+ / K^- per cycle (10^6)	3.1	1.8
Decay region	115 m	



→ Pion decay products stay
in beam pipe...

Theoretical predictions of A_g

Standard Model	L.Maiani, N.Paver '95	$(2.3 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-6}$
	A. Bel'kov '95	$< 4 \times 10^{-4}$
	G.D'Ambrosio, G.Isidori '98	$< 10^{-5}$
	E.Shabalin '01	$< 3 \times 10^{-5}$
	E.Gamiz, J.Prades, I.Scimemi '03	$(-2.4 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-5}$
	E.Shabalin '05 (La Thuile'05)	$< 8 \times 10^{-5}$
SUSY	G.D'Ambrosio, G.Isidori, G.Martinelli	$\sim 10^{-4}$
New physics	E.Shabalin '98 [Weinberg model of extended Higgs doublet]	$\sim 4 \times 10^{-4}$
	I.Scimemi '04	$> 3 \times 10^{-5}$

More cancellations

(1) **Double ratio** cancellation of **global time instabilities**
(rate effects, *simultaneous beams*):

$$R_U = R_{US} \times R_{UJ} \quad \rightarrow \quad R(u) = n \cdot (1 + 2 \Delta g_U u)$$

$$R_D = R_{DS} \times R_{DJ} \quad \rightarrow \quad R(u) = n \cdot (1 + 2 \Delta g_D u)$$

(2) **Double ratio** cancellation of **beam geometry difference** effects:

$$R_S = R_{US} \times R_{DS} \quad \rightarrow \quad R(u) = n \cdot (1 + 2 \Delta g_S u)$$

$$R_J = R_{UJ} \times R_{DJ} \quad \rightarrow \quad R(u) = n \cdot (1 + 2 \Delta g_J u)$$

(3) Fit with **quadruple ratio**:

$$R = R_{US} \times R_{UJ} \times R_{DS} \times R_{DJ} \quad \rightarrow \quad R(u) = n \cdot (1 + 4 \Delta g u)$$

↓ ↓
Normalization Slope difference

The fit result is sensitive only to **time variation** of **asymmetries**
in experimental conditions on a time-scale of ~ 1 subsample

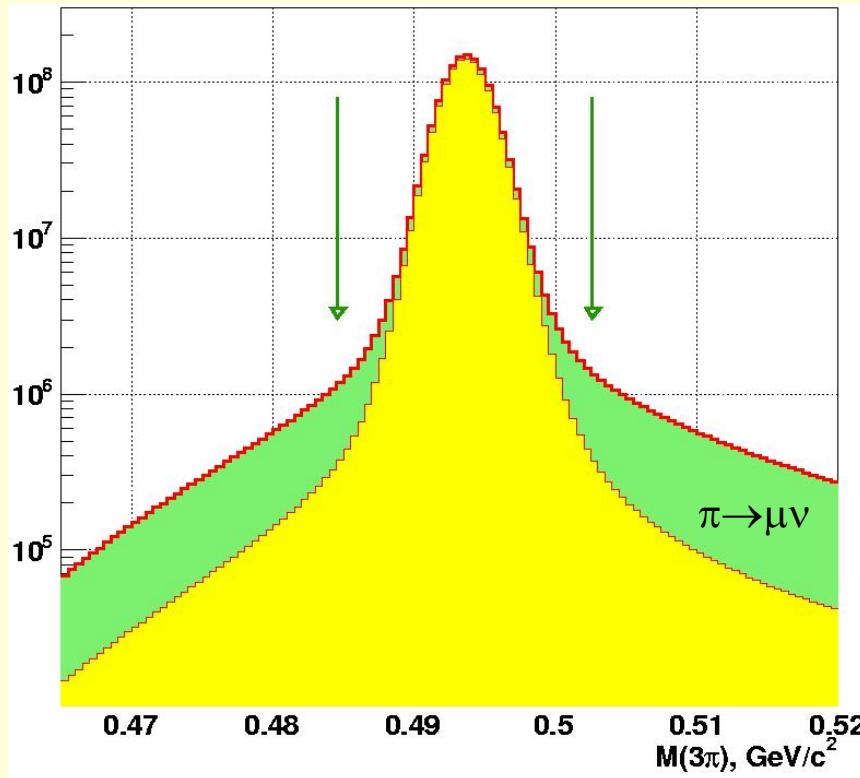
Break down of $K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^+ \pi^-$ statistics

Statistics selected for A_g measurement, events $\times 10^6$

	Dates	Sub-sample s	Achromat A+		Achromat A-	
			K^+	K^-	K^+	K^-
0	22.06-25.07	26	229.6	125.9	201.0	114.0
1	6.08-20.08	12	122.5	68.1	135.1	75.4
2	20.08-3.09	12	147.2	81.8	105.5	58.9
3	3.09-7.09	4	40.6	22.6	54.5	30.4
Total		54	Total events selected			1613.2

Invariant $\pi\pi\pi$ mass

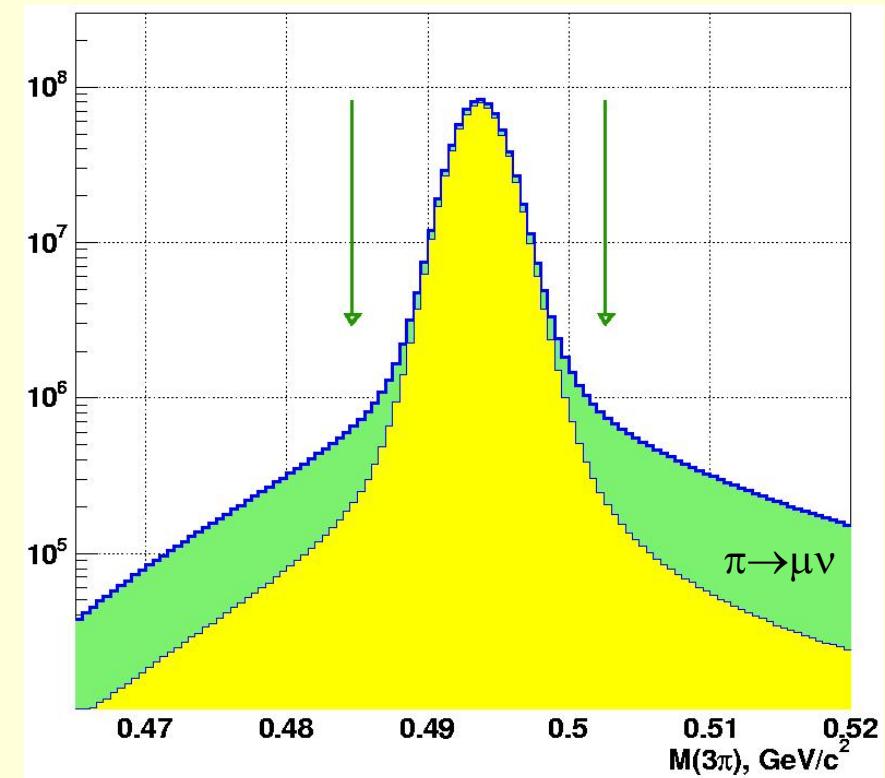
$$\sigma_M = 1.7 \text{ MeV}/c^2$$



$K^+ : 1.03 \times 10^9$ events

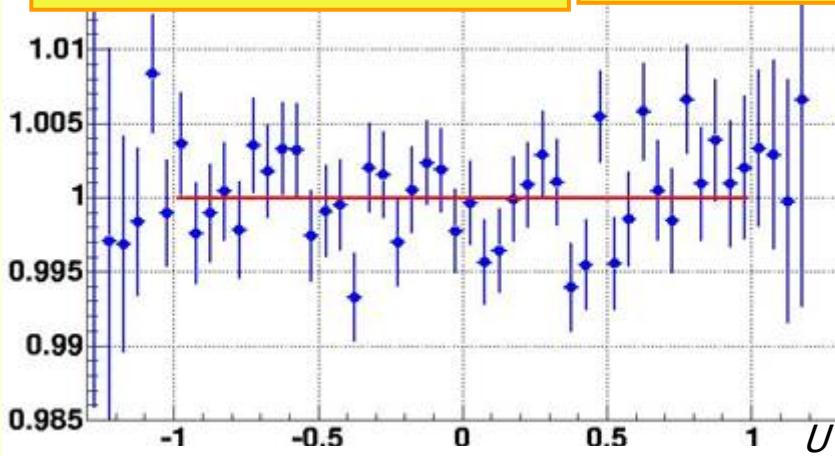
No significant background

$K^- : 0.58 \times 10^9$ events

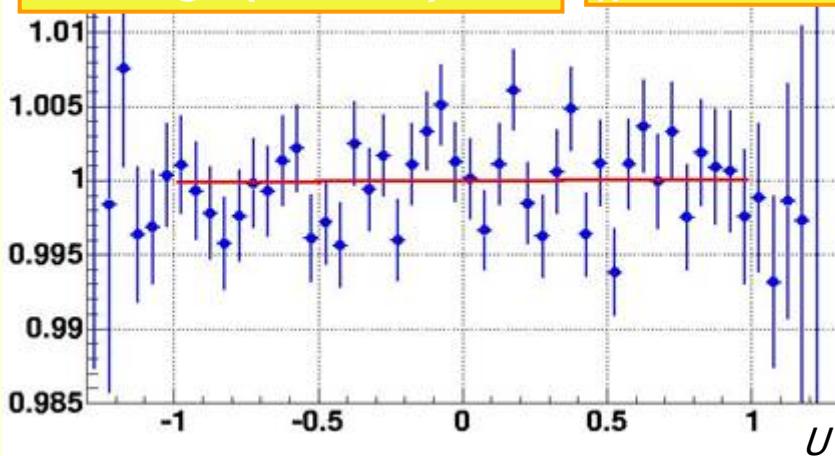


Fit linearity - four supersamples

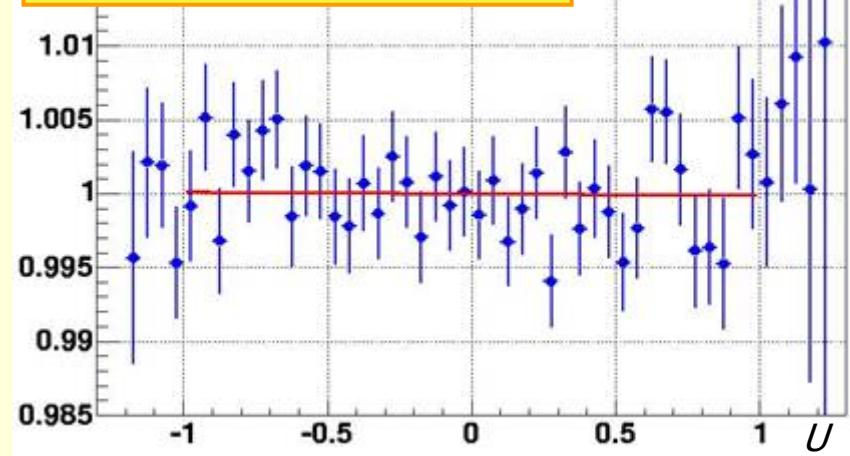
1. SS0: $\Delta g = (0.6 \pm 2.4) \times 10^{-4}$ $\chi^2 = 39.7/38$



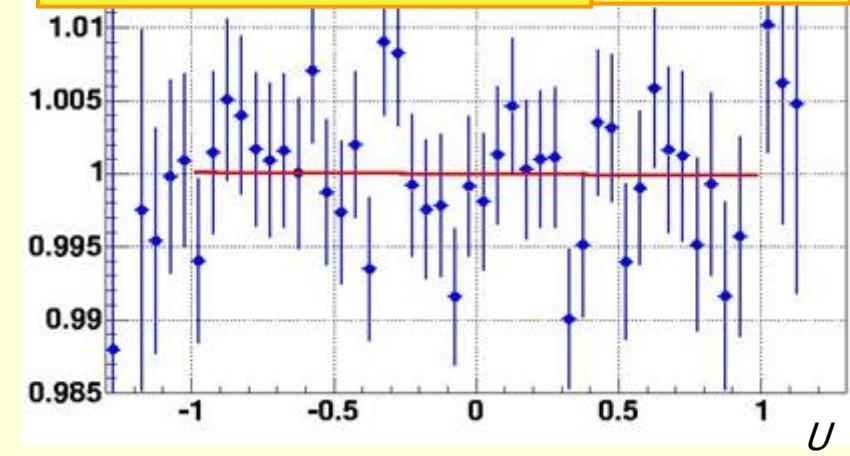
1. SS1: $\Delta g = (2.3 \pm 2.2) \times 10^{-4}$ $\chi^2 = 38.1/38$



SS2: $\Delta g = (-3.1 \pm 2.5) \times 10^{-4}$ $\chi^2 = 29.5/38$



SS3: $\Delta g = (-2.9 \pm 3.9) \times 10^{-4}$ $\chi^2 = 32.9/38$

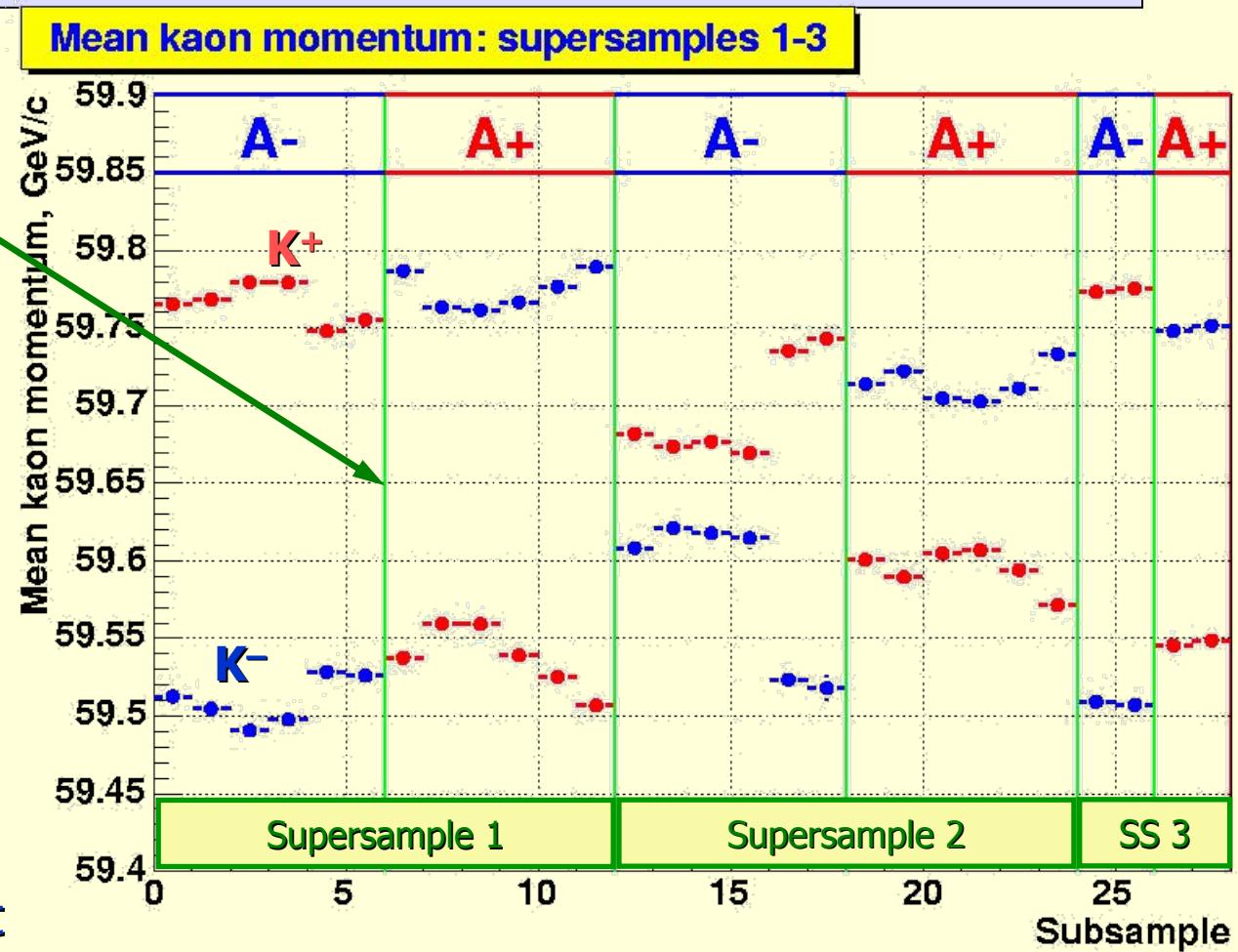


Cancellation of beam spectra

Achromat reversal
reverses K^+ and K^-
beam spectra

Systematic differences
of K^+ and K^- acceptance
due to beam spectra
mostly cancel in $R_U * R_D$

Systematic check:
Reweighting K^+ events
so as to equalise
momentum spectra
leads to negligible effect
 $\delta\Delta g = 0.03 \times 10^{-4}$



Theoretical predictions

Weinberg (1966)

Effective field theory for
strong interaction at low E

$$a_0 m_{\pi^+} = \frac{7m_{\pi^+}^2}{16\pi f_\pi^2} = 0.159$$

$$a_2 m_{\pi^+} = \frac{-m_{\pi^+}^2}{8\pi f_\pi^2} = -0.045$$

Most recently

Colangelo (2001)

χ pt -theory two loops

Ref: hep-ph/0103088

$$a_0 m_{\pi^+} = 0.220 \pm 0.005$$

$$a_2 m_{\pi^+} = -0.0444 \pm 0.0010$$

$$(a_0 - a_2) m_{\pi^+} = 0.265 \pm 0.004$$

- **2% level of accuracy:** quite unusual for hadronic physics experiments have not yet reached the same level

Experimental status

1977: measurement by Genève/Saclay experiment @ **20% accuracy**

2003: **BNL E865** extracts a_0 at **5% accuracy** by measuring the form factors of the decay $K \rightarrow \pi\pi e\nu$ with 400,000 events

$$a_0 m = 0.216 \pm 0.013 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.002 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.002 \text{ (theor.)}$$

Ref. Pisla \bar{k} et al. (2003) hep-ex/0301040

Present: Cern experiment **DIRAC**, with a sophisticated technique, aims to measure the pionium lifetime @ **10% accuracy**

$$\tau \sim 40 \cdot (a_0 - a_2)^2 \cdot 10^{-15} \text{ sec}$$