



JOINT INSTITUTE  
FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH



Apparatus for Meson and Baryon  
Experimental Research

# Study of the kaon partonic structure with high- $p_T$ prompt photon production process at the AMBER experiment at CERN

Gridin Andrei (JINR)  
On behalf of the AMBER collaboration

22-nd Lomonosov conference on elementary particle physics  
23.08.2025

# Hadron mass

1) Proton is built of 3 valence quarks ( $|uud\rangle$ ),  $m_p = 0.938$  GeV

2)  $\rho$ -meson contains a valence quark and a valence anti-quark ( $|u\bar{d}\rangle$ ):

$$m_\rho = 0.770 \text{ GeV} \approx \frac{2}{3}m_p$$

3)  $\pi^\pm$ -meson contains a valence quark and a valence anti-quark ( $|u\bar{d}\rangle$ ,  $|\bar{u}d\rangle$ ):

$$m_\pi = 0.140 \text{ GeV} \approx \frac{1}{7}m_p \neq \frac{2}{3}m_p - \text{mass problem: we can not predict hadron mass basing on masses of their constituent quarks.}$$

**What the QCD can propose?**

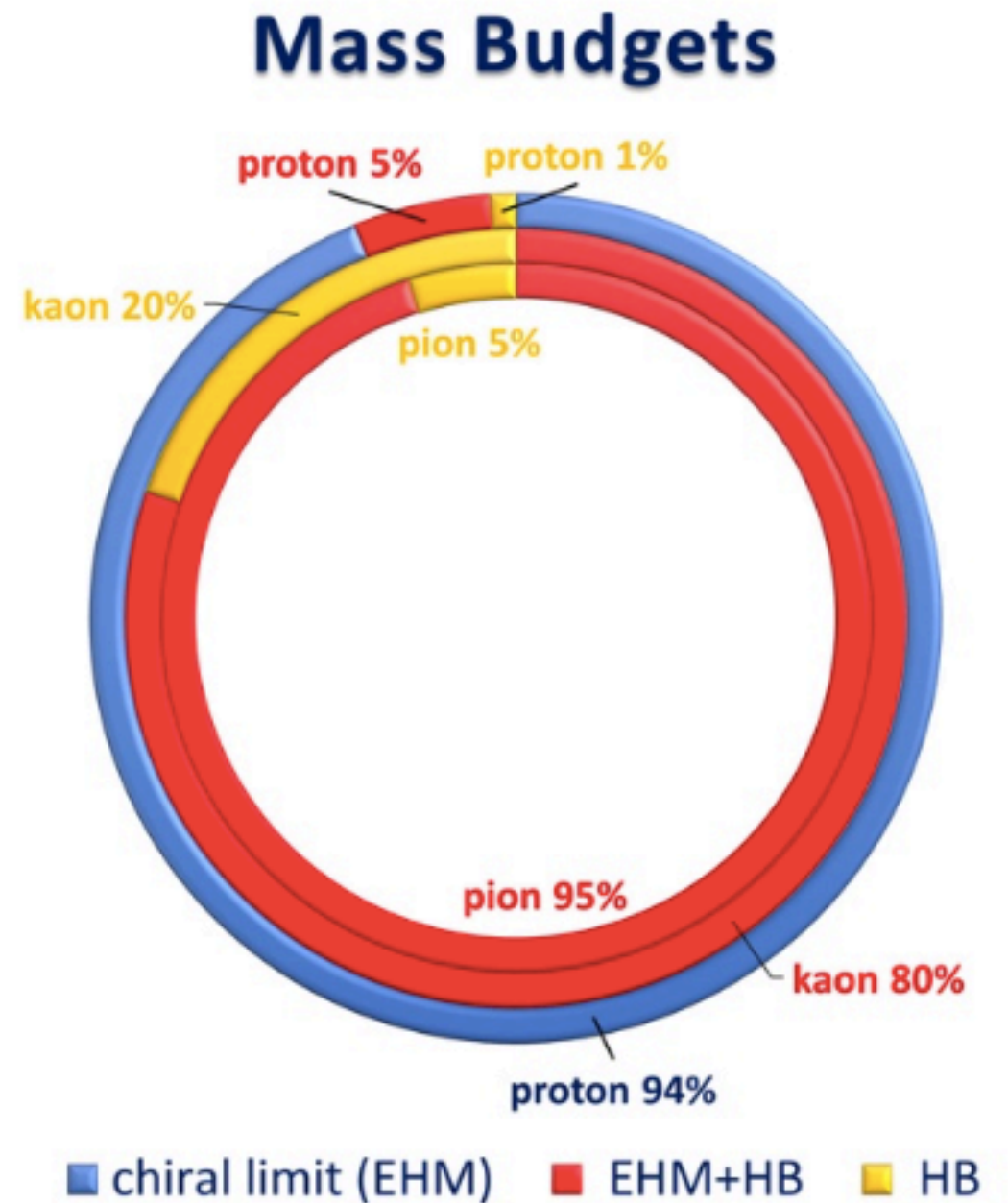
# Hadron mass

Higgs mechanism:

- generates quark mass
- responsible for  $\sim 1\%$  of  $p$  mass and for 5-20% of  $\pi$  and  $K$  mass.

In chiral limit:

- $\pi$  and  $K$  are Goldstone bosons —  $m_{\pi, K} = 0$ ;
- most of  $p$  mass is generated by gluons.



# Hadron mass

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \sum_{f=u,d,s,\dots} \bar{q}_f [\gamma \cdot \partial + ig \frac{1}{2} \lambda^a \gamma \cdot A^a + m_f] q_f + \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a,$$

In chiral limit of QCD, the hadron mass in the Lagrangian arises through the energy-momentum tensor trace anomaly:

$$\langle p(P) | T_{\mu\nu} | p(P) \rangle = -P_\mu P_\nu \Rightarrow \langle p(P) | T_{\mu\mu} | p(P) \rangle = -P_\mu P_\mu = m_{\text{proton}}^2 = \langle p(P) | \Theta_0 | p(P) \rangle.$$

$\Theta_0$  — gluon self-interactions in proton.

For the pion (the Goldstone boson), the binding energy and masses of the "dressed" quarks cancel each other:

$$\langle \pi(q) | T_{\mu\nu} | \pi(q) \rangle = -q_\mu q_\nu \Rightarrow \langle \pi(q) | T_{\mu\mu} | \pi(q) \rangle = -q_\mu q_\mu = m_\pi^2 = 0 = \langle \pi(q) | \Theta_0 | \pi(q) \rangle.$$

The explanation of the origin of the proton mass is possible only if the origin of the pion mass is explained at the same time.

# Mass generation in QCD

Gluons acquire running mass: self-interacting gluons become gluon quasi-particles described by a mass function that is large in infrared momenta:

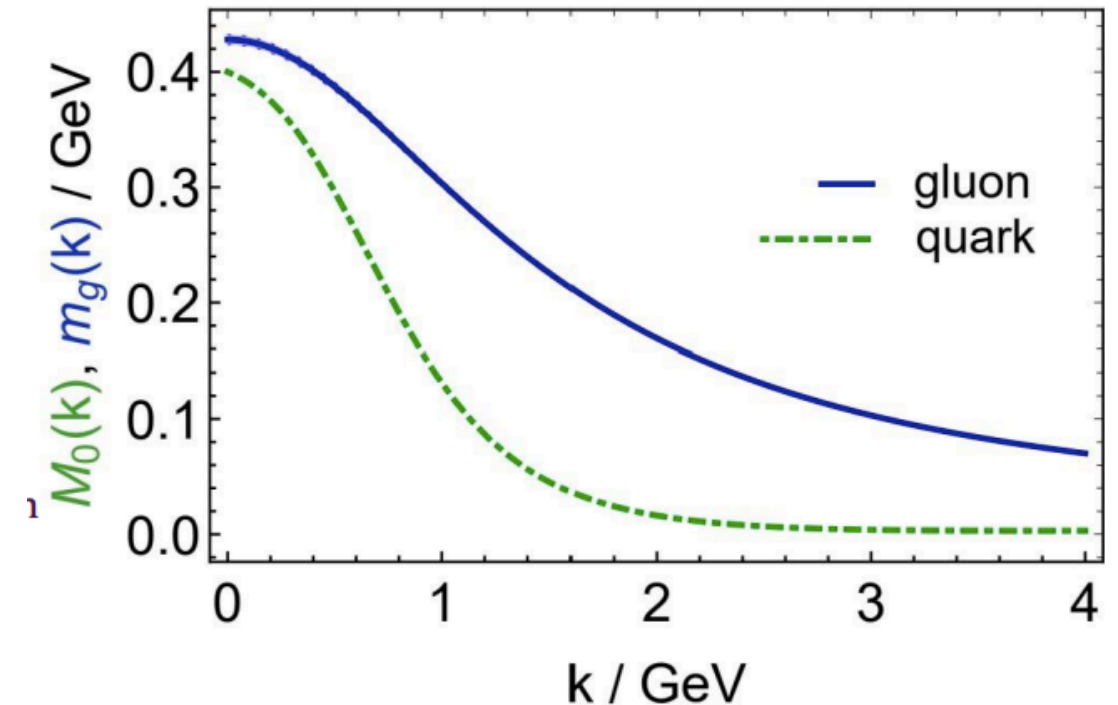
$$m_0 = 0.43(1) \text{ GeV} \approx \frac{m_{\text{proton}}}{2}$$

Quarks obtain mass due to dynamic chiral symmetry breaking, through interaction with their own gluon field.

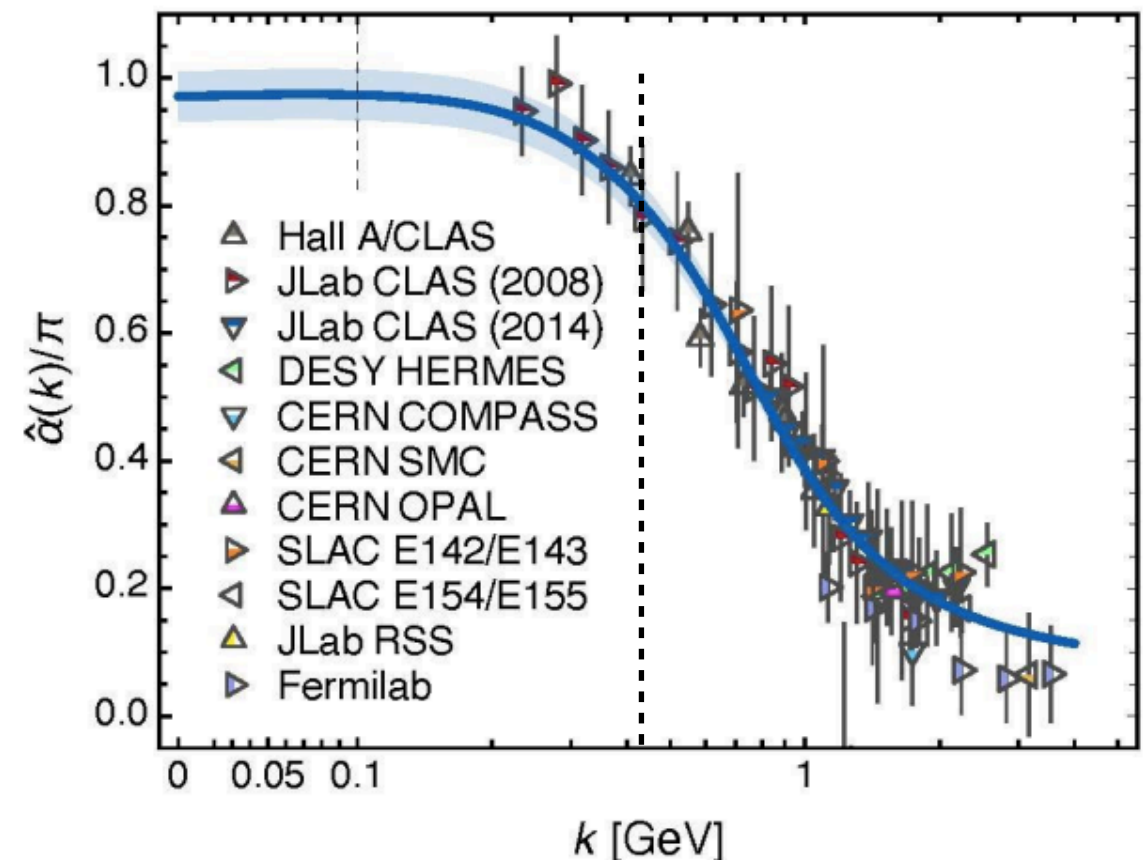
Process independent effective charge

$$\alpha(k^2) = \frac{\gamma_m \pi}{\ln k^2 / \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2} : \text{at } k \leq \frac{m_{\text{proton}}}{2}$$

interactions are independent of scale.



*A. Deur, S. J. Brodsky and G. F. de Teramond, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 90 (2016) 1-74*



**Hadron mass calculation still is a complex task for QCD.**

# Observables

- Hadron charge radius;
- Parton density functions (PDF): almost unknown for pion and kaon;
- Hadron spectroscopy: precise mass measurement, new hadron states;
- Baryon spectroscopy: excited proton states could contain pseudo scalar and vector diquark correlations;
- Electromagnetic form-factors of pion and kaon.

AMBER experiment at CERN plans to perform measurements of these observables to understand hadron mass generation mechanisms.



# Apparatus for Meson and Baryon Experimental Research AMBER (NA66) experiment at CERN



- Successor of the COMPASS experiment (1999—...).
- ~150 members from ~30 institutes.
- Data taking has started in 2023.

Run 3

Run 4

Phase-1

Proton charge radius  
Antiproton production cross-section  
Pion structure

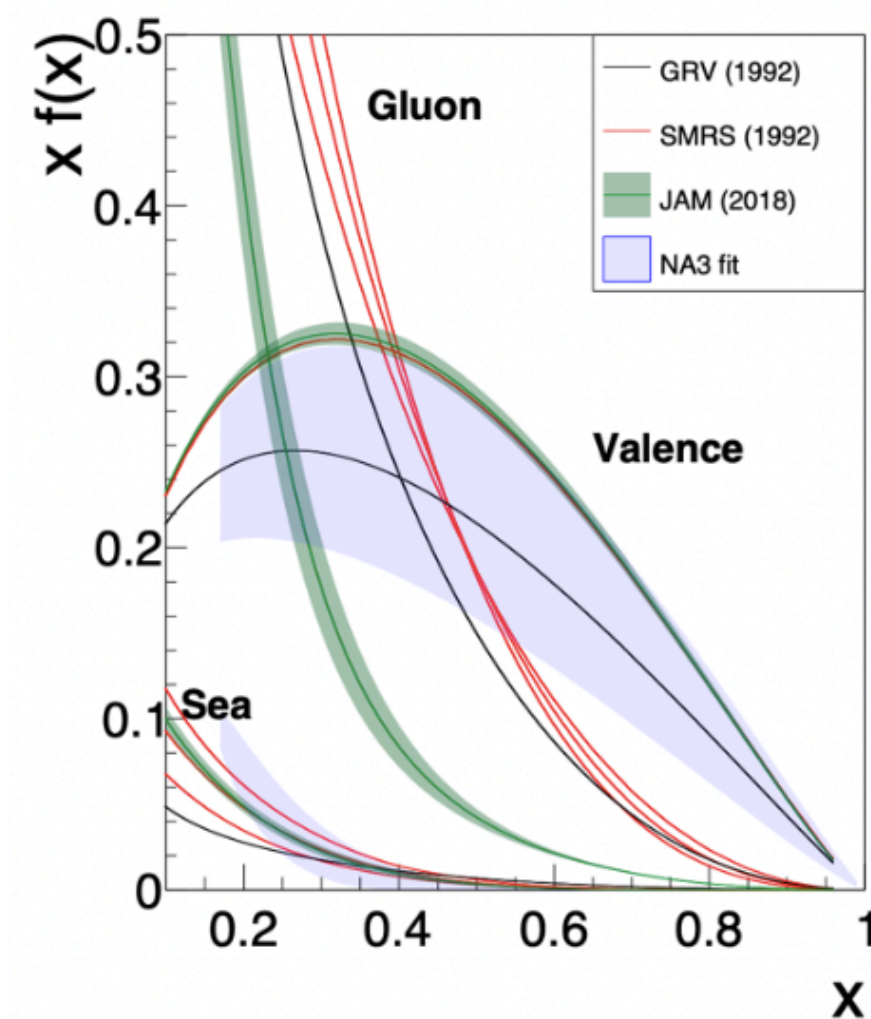
Nucleon GPD E  
Heavy quark exotics

Phase-2

Kaon structure  
Nucleon TMDs  
High precision strange-meson spectrum  
Spin density matrix elements

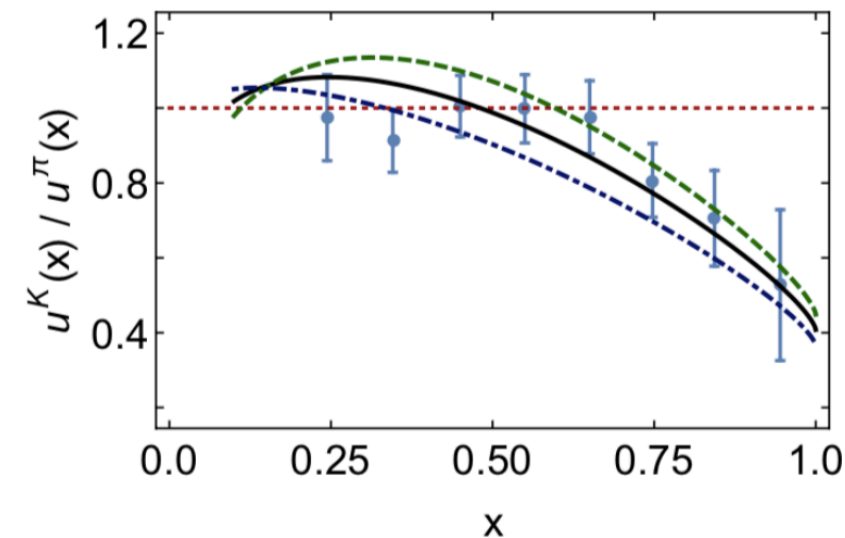
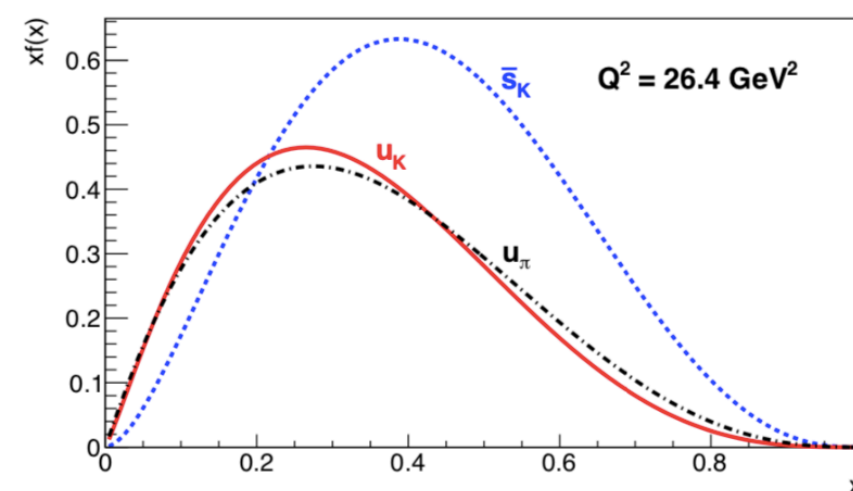


# Available global fits to PDF data-sets

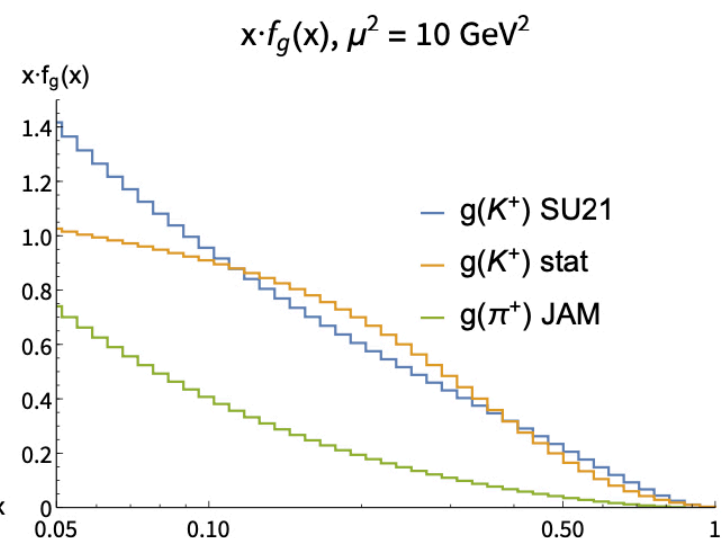
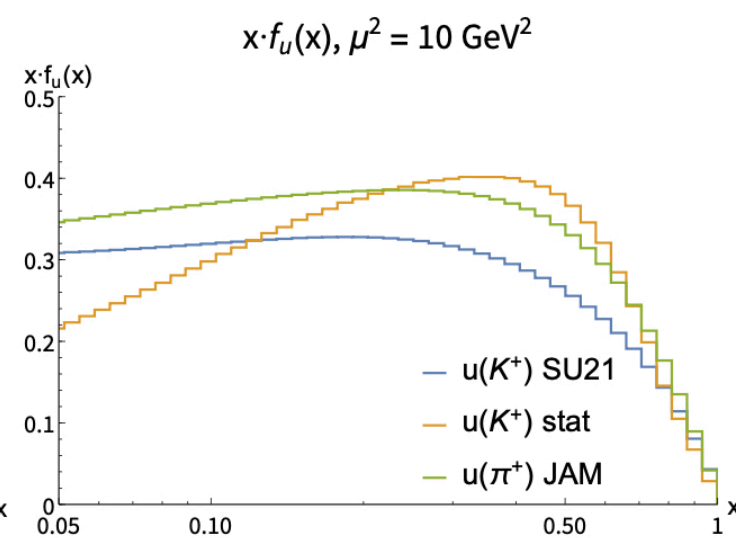
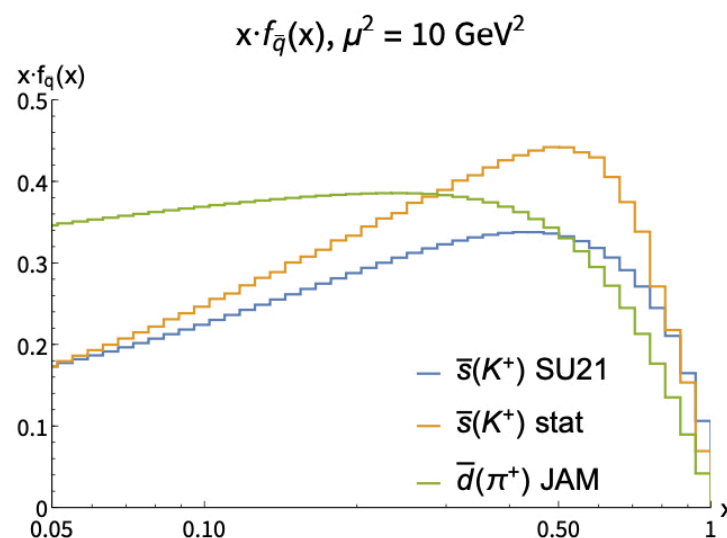


Available PDF sets:

**SMRS (1992), GRV (1992)**: Drell-Yan, charmonia and prompt photon production (**E615, NA10, WA70, NA24**).  
**JAM (2018)**: + results on production of leading neutrons at HERA (**ZEUS, H1**).



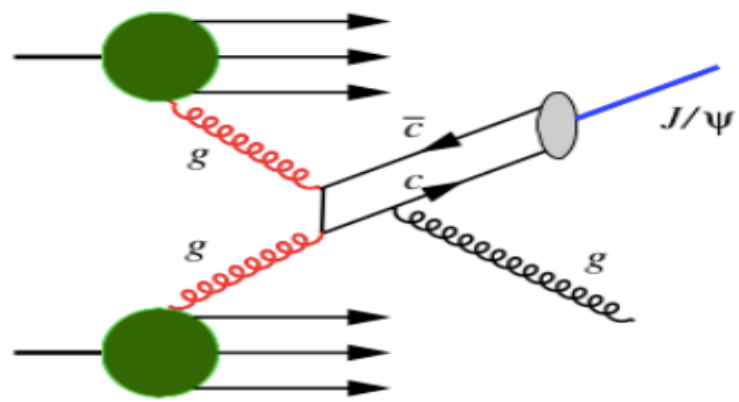
**SU21**: based on 700 kaon induced DY events at **NA3**





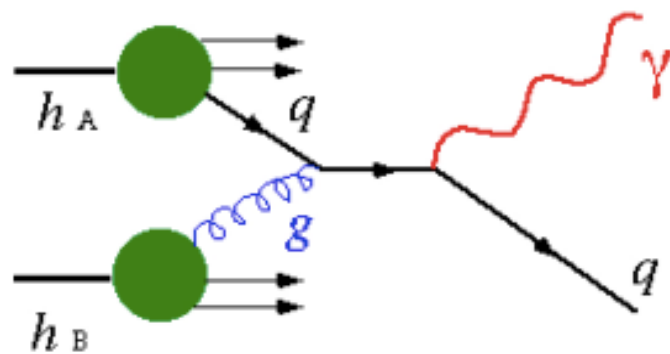
# Ways to access quark and gluon structure of hadron

- Charmonia production



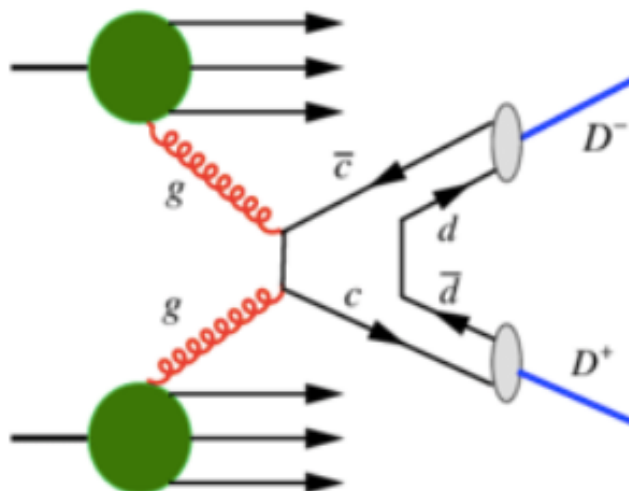
**Good signal**  
**Model dependence**

- Prompt photon production



**Direct access to gluons through  $gq \rightarrow q\gamma$**   
**Huge background from  $\pi^0$  and  $\eta$**

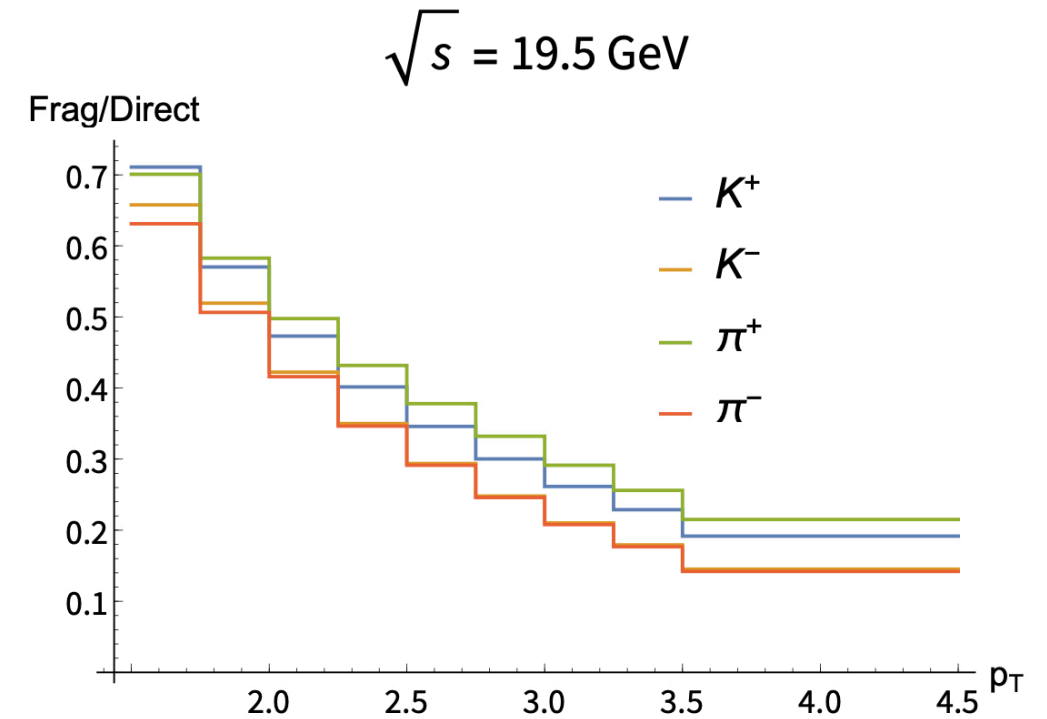
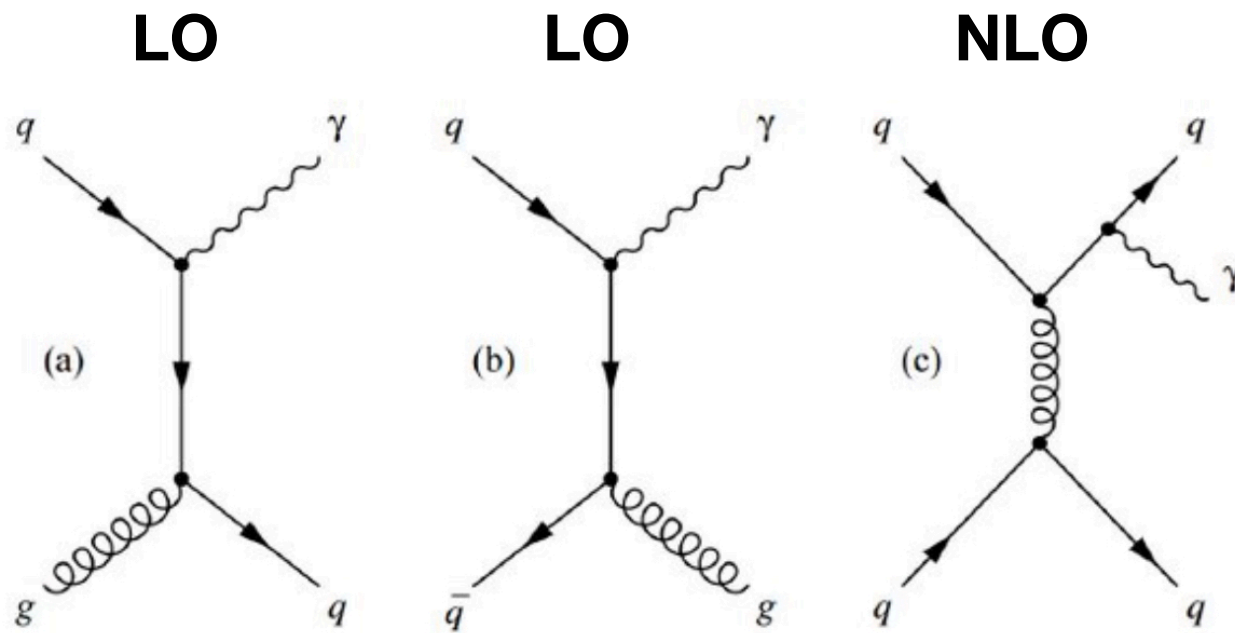
- Open charm production



**Problematic signal**

# Prompt photon production

$$d\sigma = d\sigma_{LO}^{dir} + d\sigma_{NLO}^{dir} + d\sigma_{NLO}^{frag} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha)$$



$$d\sigma_{LO}^{dir} = \sum_{a,b,c} \int dx_a f_a(x_a, \mu^2) \int dx_b f_b(x_b, \mu^2) d\hat{\sigma}(ab \rightarrow \gamma c) + \mathcal{O}(\Lambda_{QCD}^2/\mu^2)$$

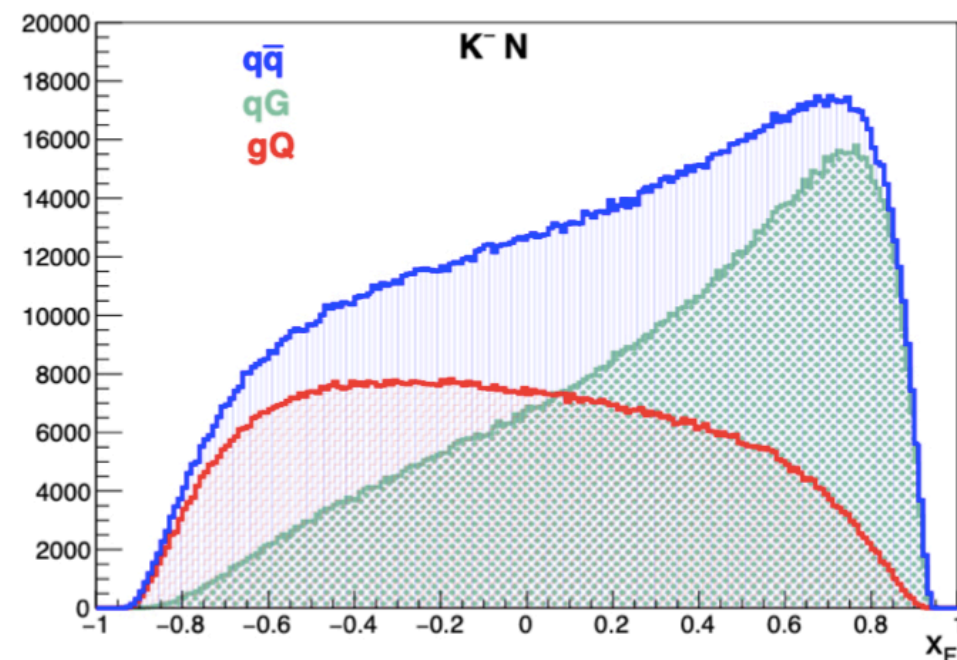
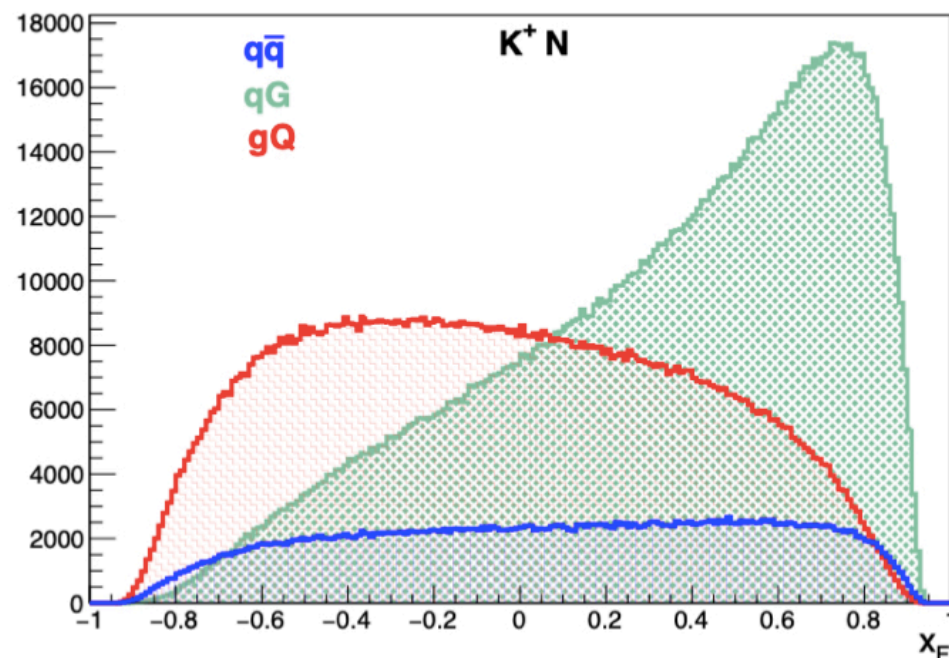
$$d\sigma_{NLO}^{frag} = \int dx_a f_a(x_a, \mu^2) \int dx_b f_b(x_b, \mu^2) \times \sum_{a,b,c,d} \int \frac{dz}{z^2} D_{c,d \rightarrow \gamma}(z, \mu^2) d\hat{\sigma}(ab \rightarrow cd)$$

Experiment	Year	$\sqrt{s}$ , GeV	Beam	Target	$x_T$ -range	$y$ or $x_F$ range
E7629 [18]	1983	19.4	$\pi^+$	C	$0.22 < x_T < 0.52$	$-0.75 < y < 0.2$
NA3 [19]	1986	19.4	$\pi^\pm$	C	$0.26 < x_T < 0.62$	$-0.4 < y < 1.2$
NA24 [20]	1997	23.75	$\pi^\pm$	p	$0.23 < x_T < 0.59$	$-0.65 < y < 0.52$
WA70 [21]	1988	22.96	$\pi^\pm$	p	$0.35 < x_T < 0.61$	$-0.35 < x_F < 0.55$
E706 [22]	1992	30.63	$\pi^-$	Be	$0.20 < x_T < 0.65$	$-0.7 < y < 0.7$

# Access to kaon PDF through prompt photon production

LO:  $\sigma_{\pi/KN \rightarrow \gamma X} = [\bar{q}Q + q\bar{Q}] + [gQ + qG]$

NLO: K=1.4 for  $p_T > 4$  GeV/c



$$g_K = g_\pi$$

$$p_T > 3 \text{ GeV/c}$$

$\sigma$ , nb	$K^+p$	$K^-p$	$K^+n$	$K^-n$	$K^+N$	$K^-N$
$\bar{q}Q$	0.5	5.3	0.3	2.4	0.4	3.8
$q\bar{Q}$	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
$gQ$	2.4	2.4	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0
$qG$	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Total	5.5	10.2	4.5	6.4	5.0	8.3

$$\sigma_{K^+N}|_{x_F < 0} \sim \dots + g_K$$

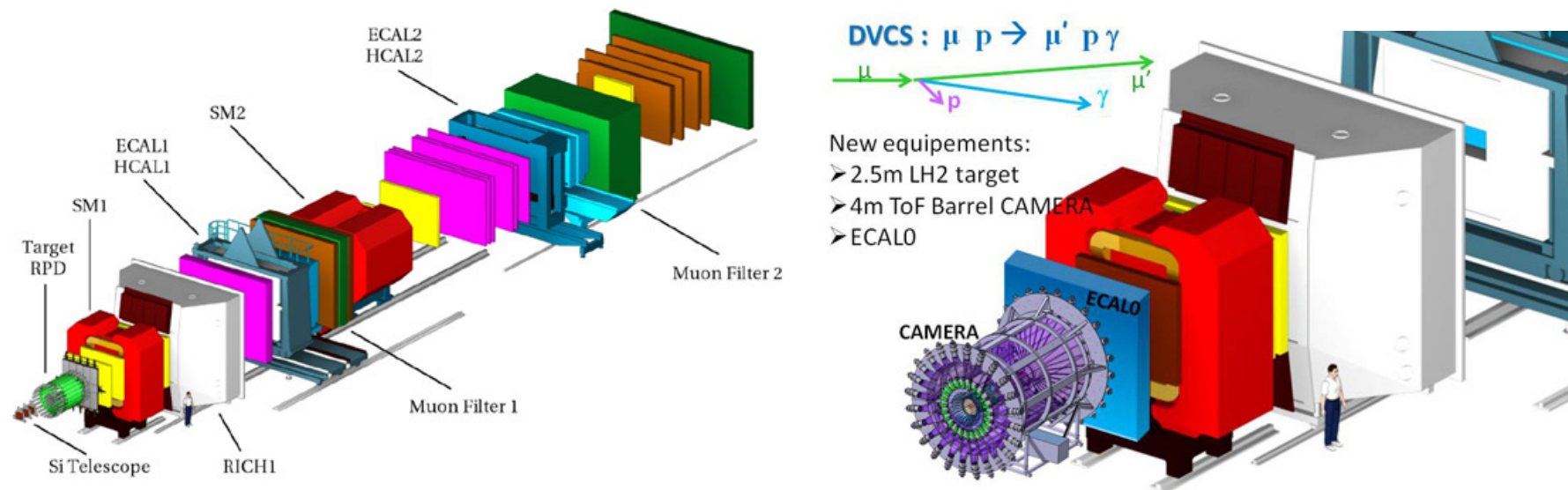
$$\sigma_{K^-N} - \sigma_{K^+N} \sim u_{val}$$



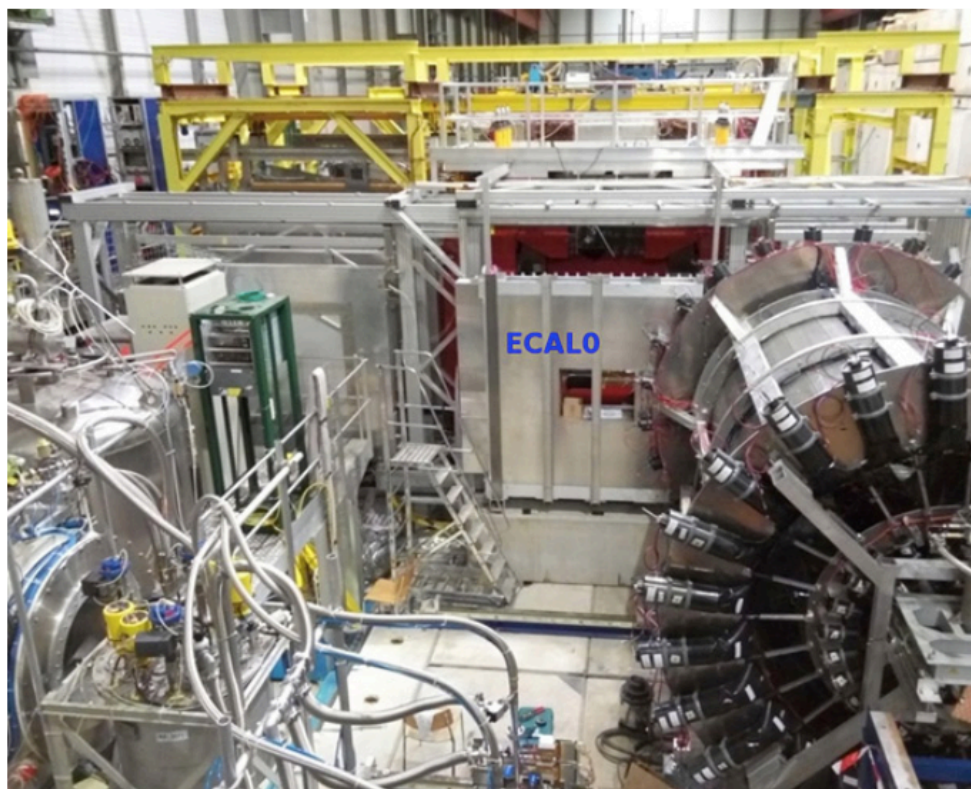
# COMPASS 2017

Particle fractions for a 190 GeV hadron beam

Particles	Positive	Negative
Pions	0.240	0.968
Kaons	0.014	0.024
Protons	0.746	0.008



- Possibility to use different meson and hadron beams of different energies;
- System of 3 electromagnetic calorimeters;
- > 300 detecting planes.





# Analysis procedure

Signal events (photons with  $p_T > 3 \text{ GeV}$ ):

- kaons from the hadron beam are identified by CEDAR detectors;
- ECAL clusters are not associated with charged tracks;
- primary vertex is reconstructed in the target.

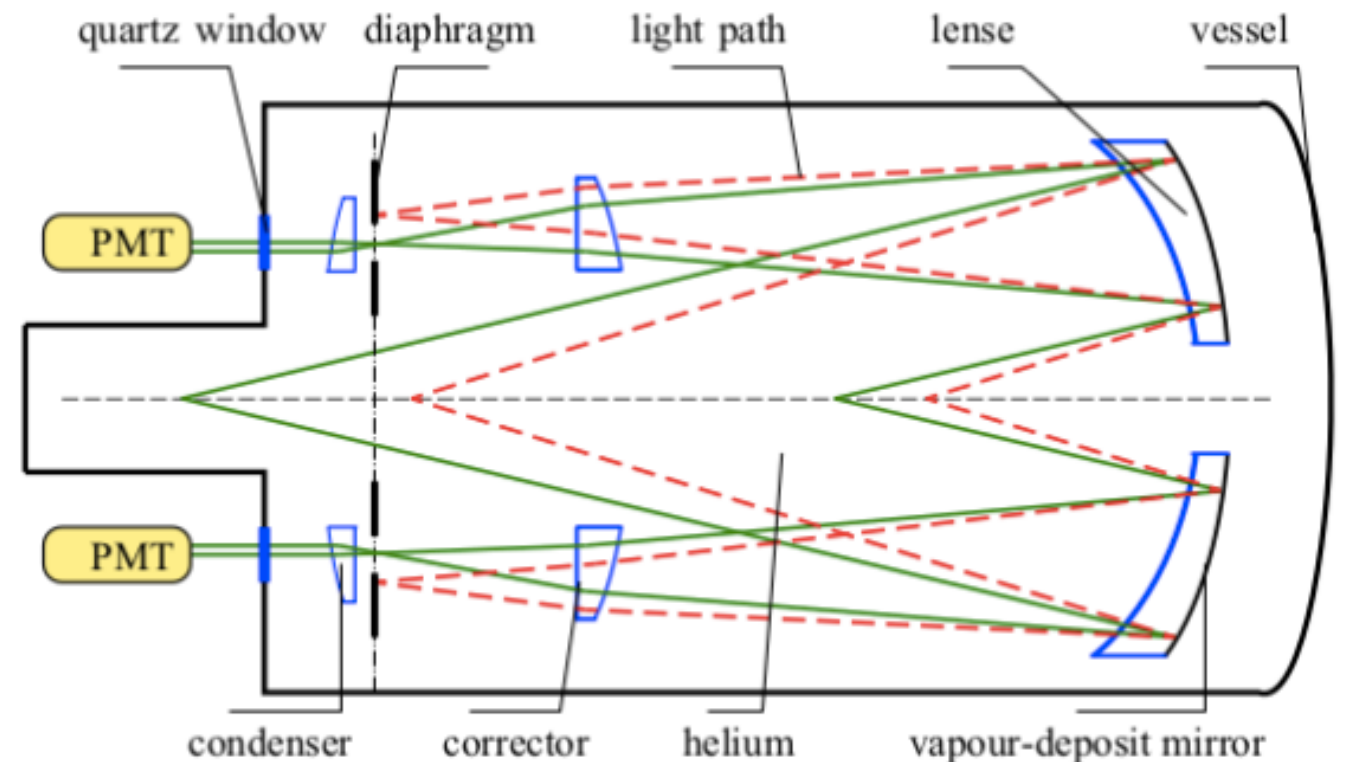
Background events:

- clusters from decays of  $\pi^0$  and  $\eta$  mesons;
- unseparated clusters from decays of  $\pi^0$  and  $\eta$  mesons;
- clusters from decays of other neutral particles ( $\omega \rightarrow \pi^0 \gamma$ ,  $BR = 8.35 \%$ );
- photons produced upstream the target;
- noise of ECAL electronics.

# Beams and target

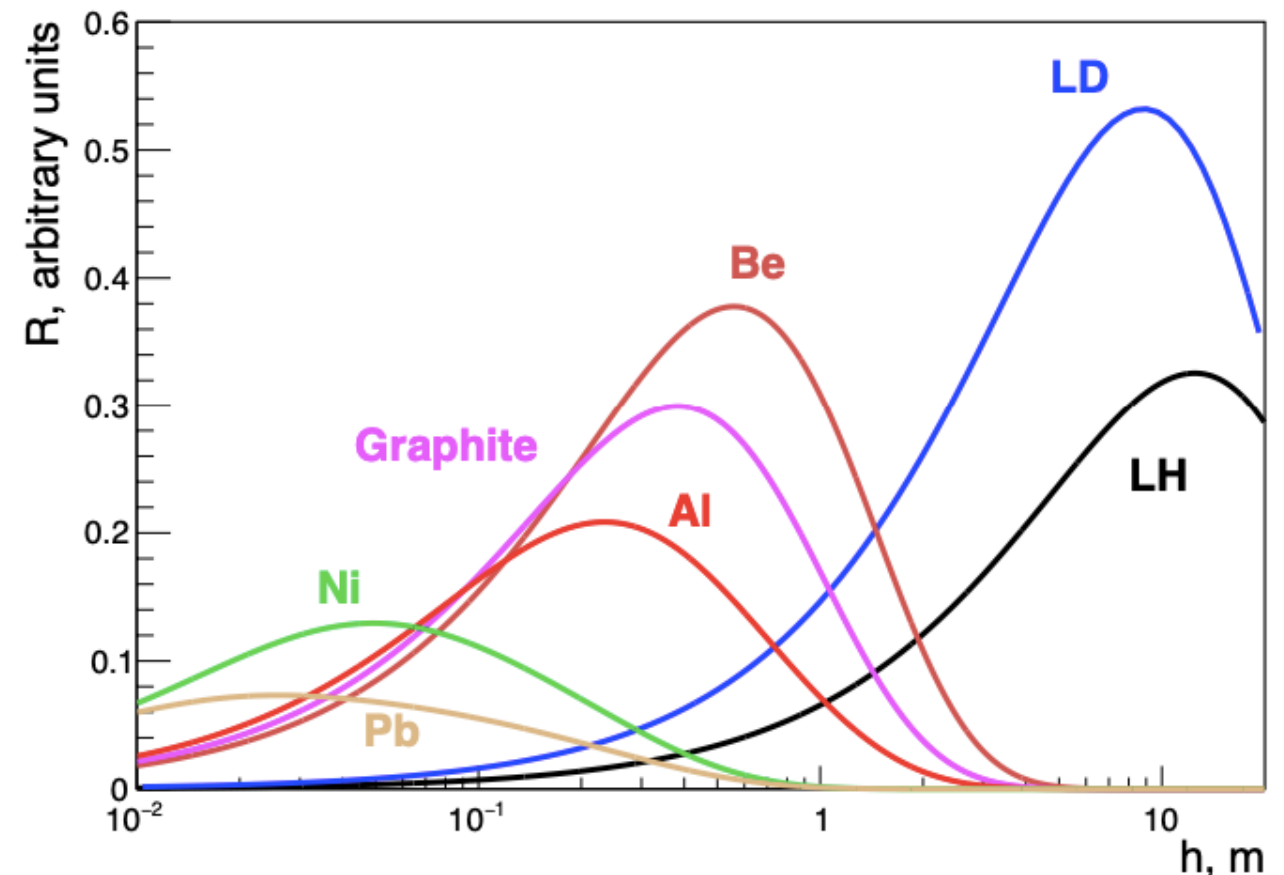
## Cherenkov Detector with Achromatic Ring focus (CEDAR):

- hadron beam 190 GeV/c with intensity of  $10^8$  /spill.
- pion and proton background suppression by 1000 times;
- kaon identification efficiency at level of 90%.

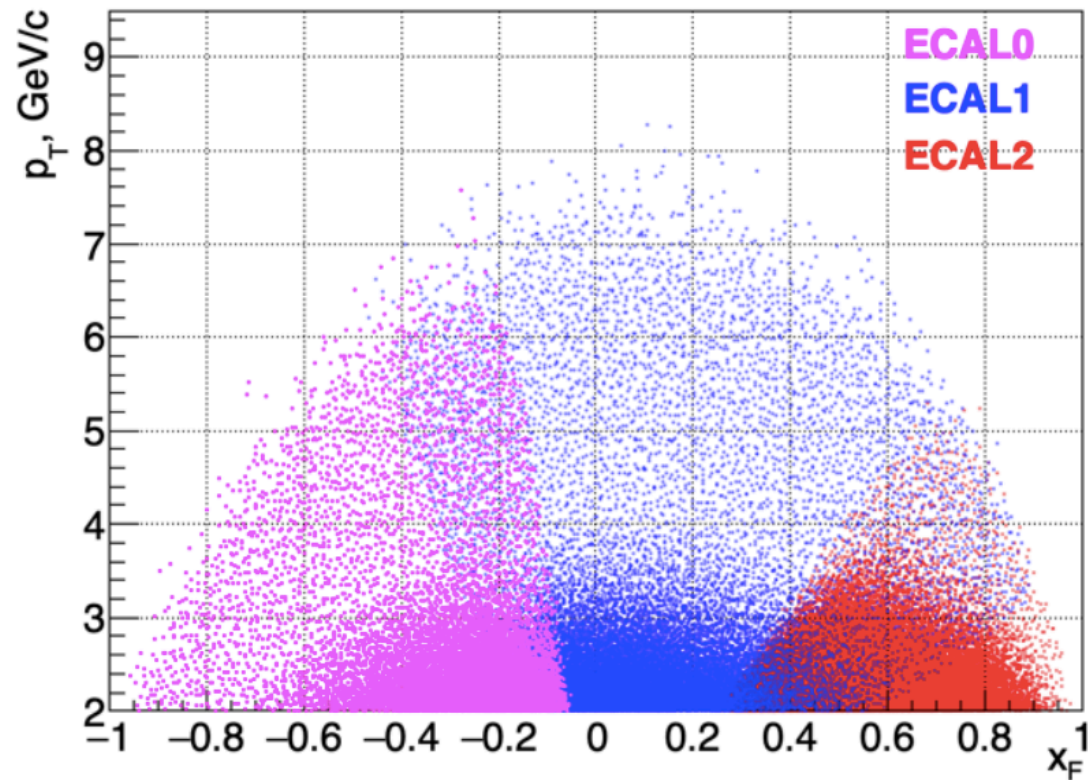


$$R \sim \frac{\lambda_K \lambda_\gamma}{\lambda_K - \lambda_\gamma} \times (e^{-h/\lambda_K} - e^{-h/\lambda_\gamma}) \times \frac{\rho \sigma(A)}{A}$$

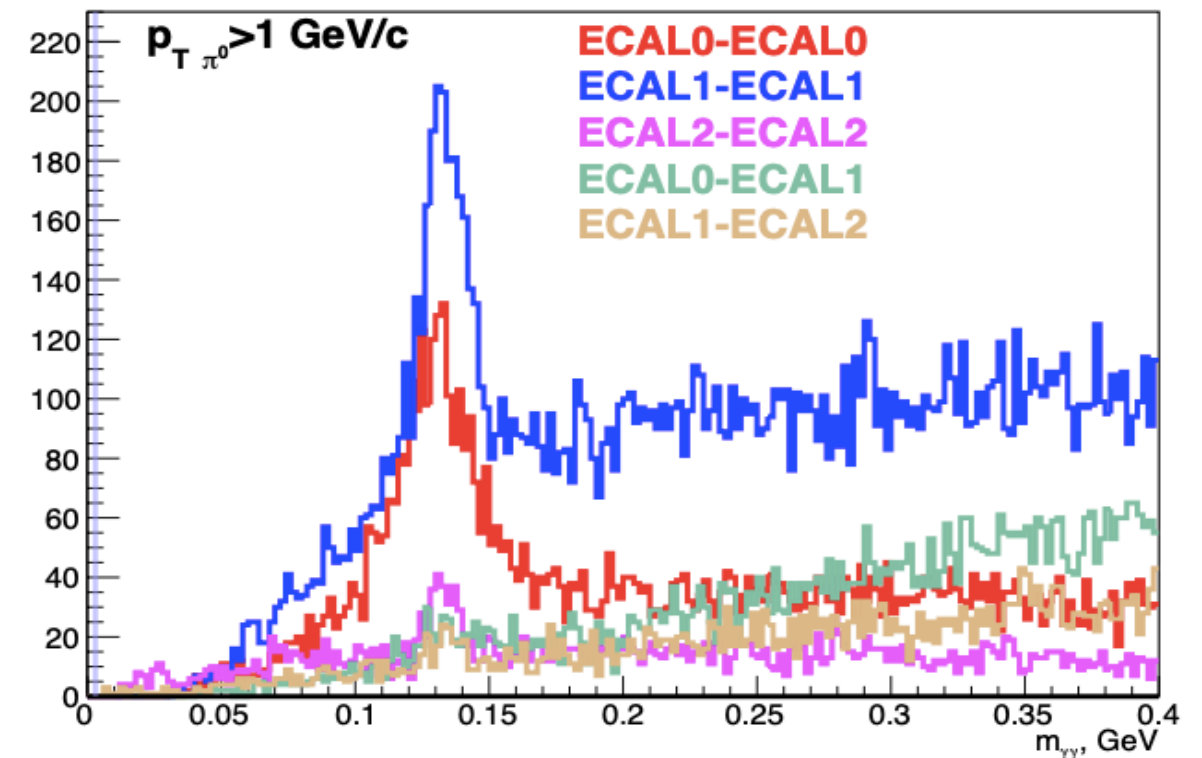
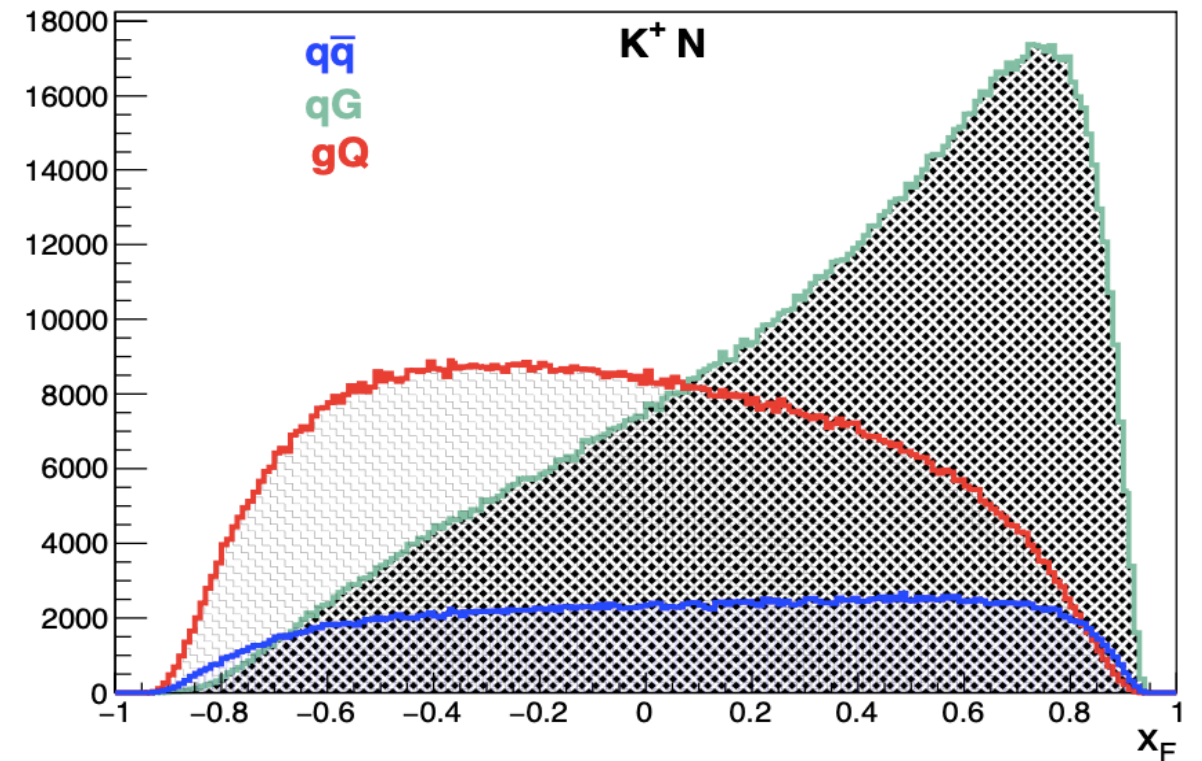
- 40 cm graphite target ( $\rho=1.8$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>), D=4 cm.
- Target could be replaced with a segmented target.



# ECALs



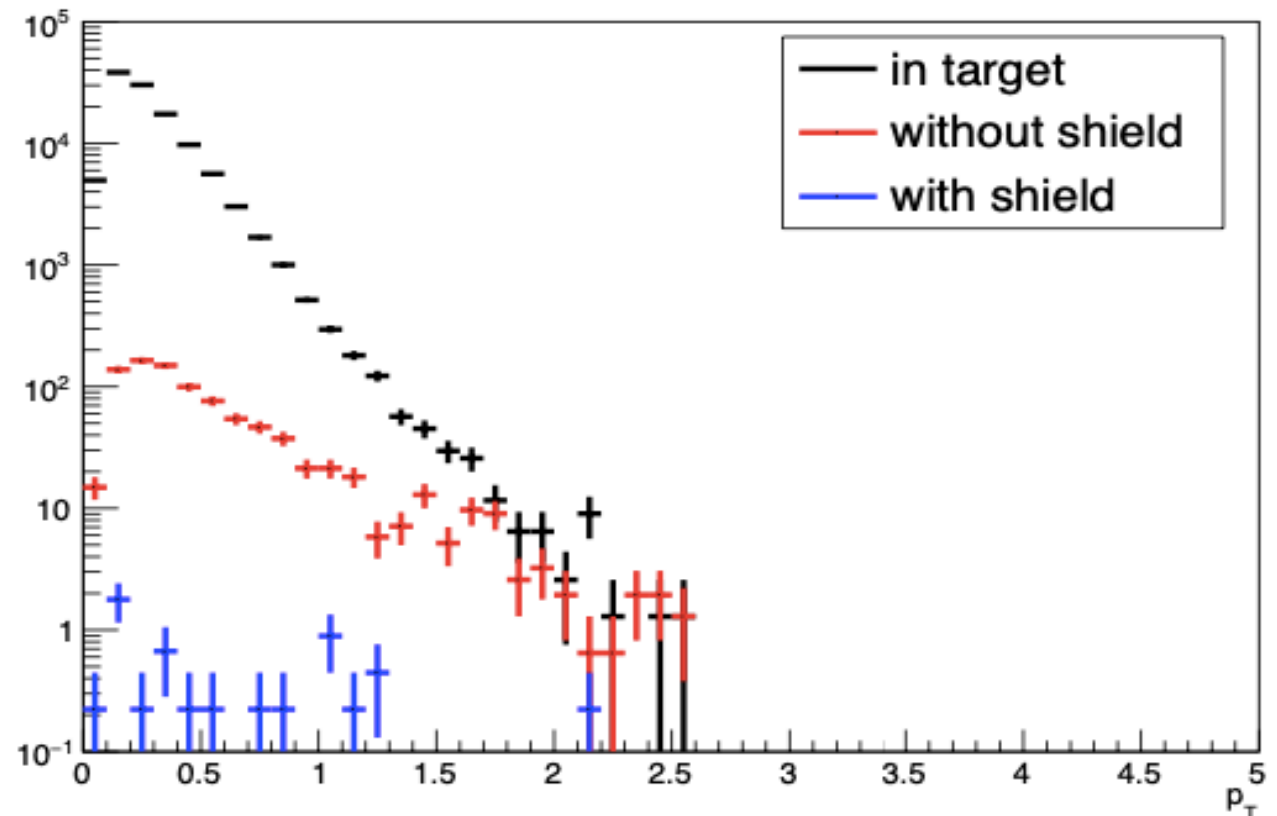
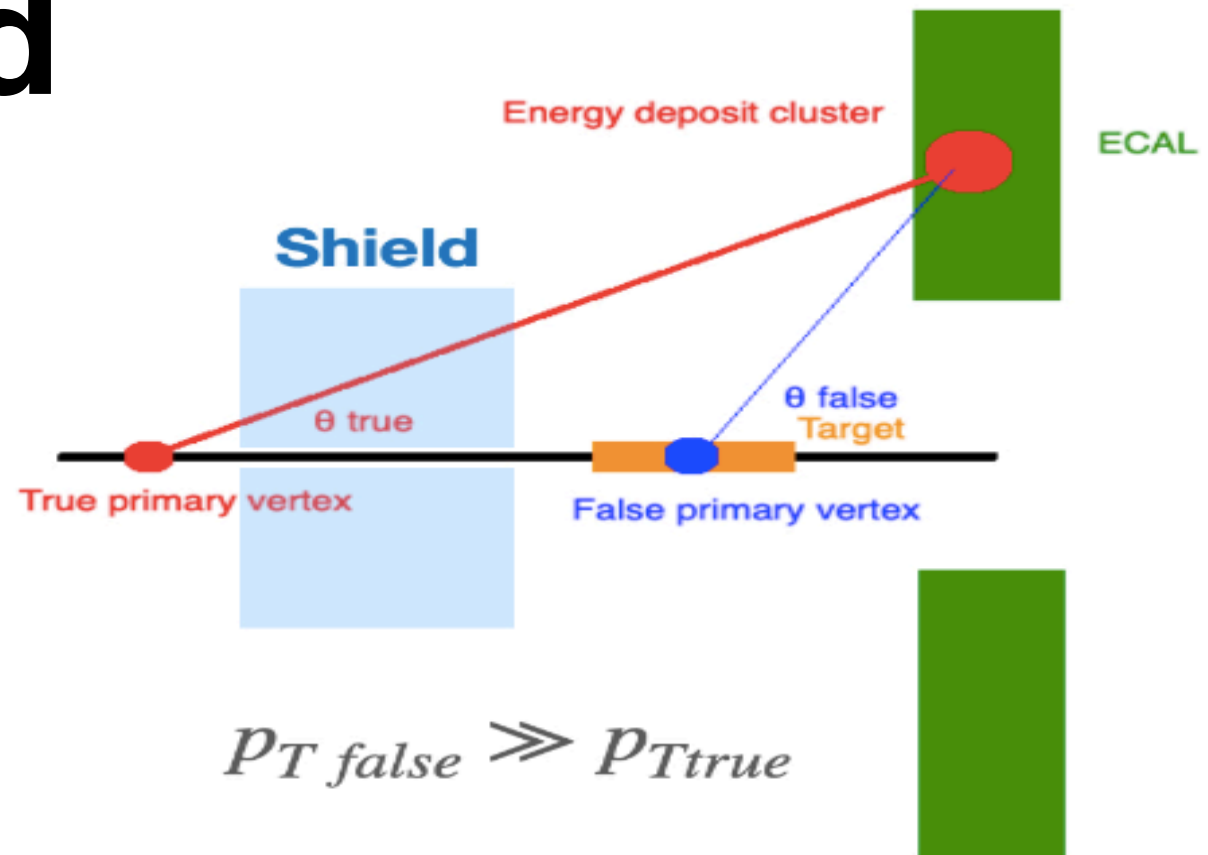
- ECAL0 and ECAL1 are main detectors in the setup.
- ECAL0 gives access to negative  $x_F$  region.



# Upstream shield

Steel shield  
40x40x40 cm,  
~500 kg,  
4 cm hole for the beam.

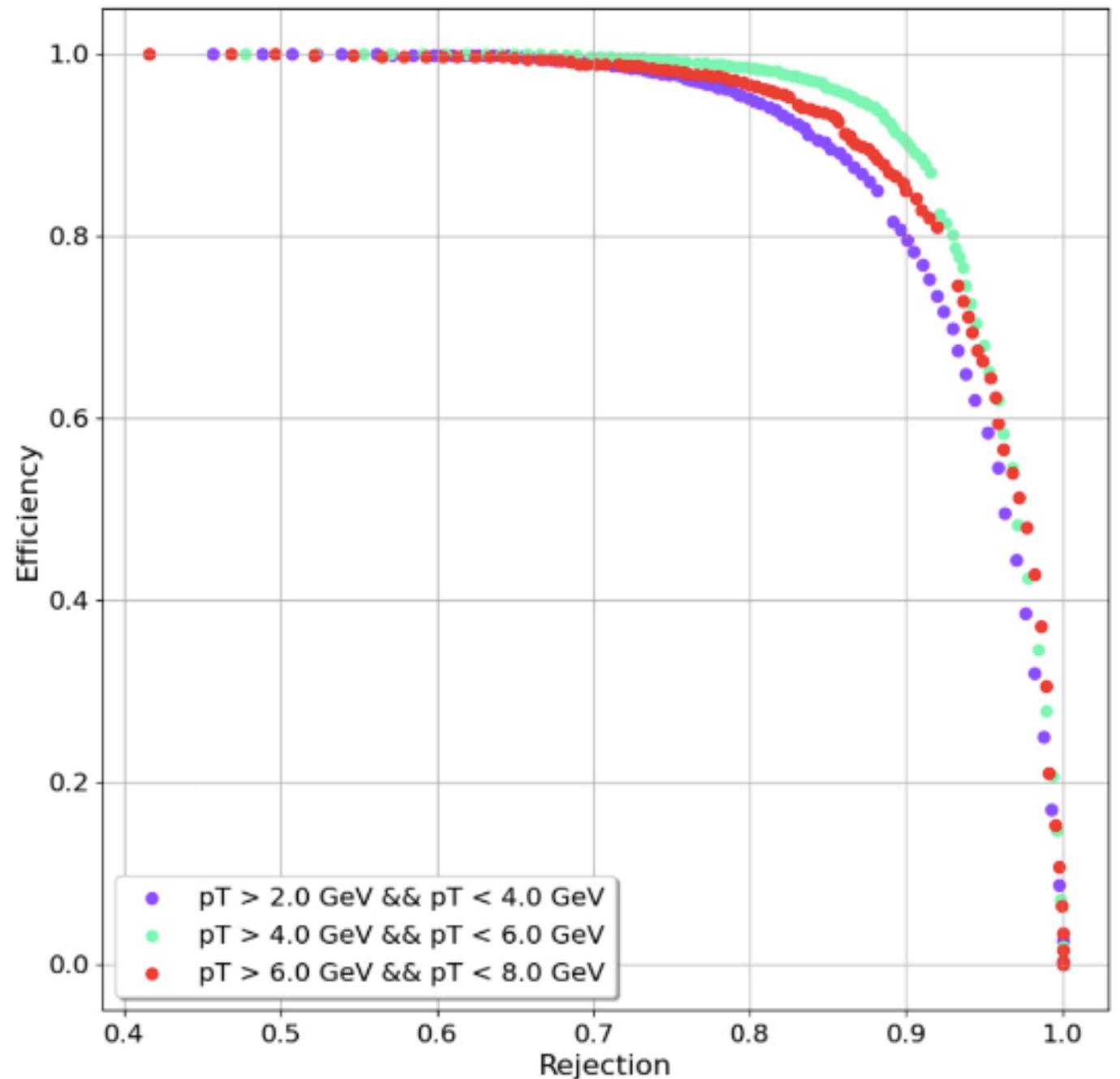
Other options for  
protection against  
photons generated in front  
of the target can be  
considered.



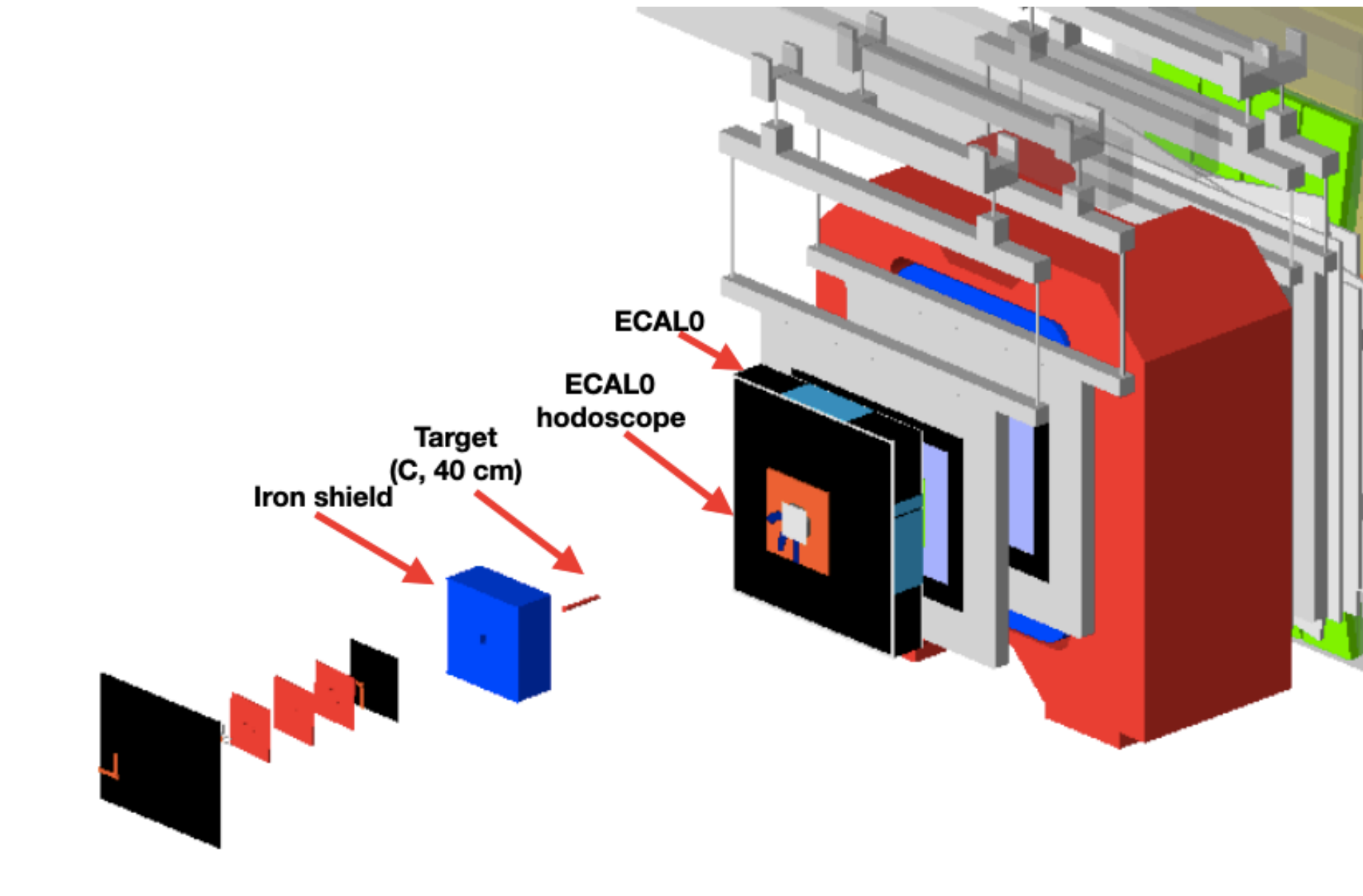


# $\pi^0 \rightarrow 2\gamma$ cluster suppression

- Two-layer neural network with 64 neurons in a layer.
- 13 parameters dealing with cluster geometry and energy dependence.
- NN separates  $1\gamma$  and  $2\gamma$  clusters with 85% efficiency.



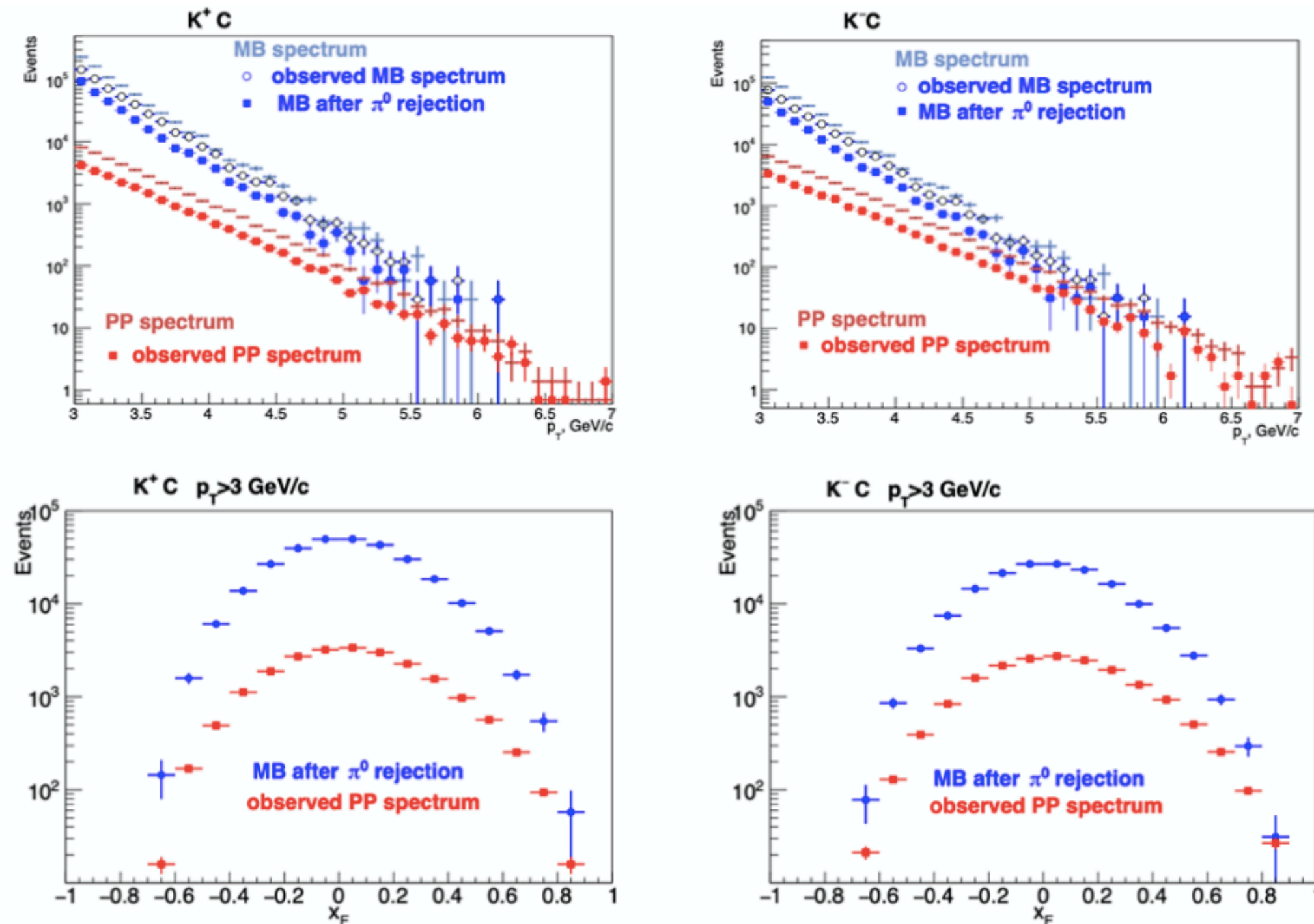
# Proposed setup



# Expected results

A data-driven MC-based background subtraction procedure:

$$N_{PP}(p_T, x_F) = N_\gamma(p_T, x_F) - N_{rem.bkg.}(p_T, x_F) = N_\gamma(p_T, x_F) - C_{MC}(p_T, x_F) \times N_{\gamma/\pi^0}(p_T, x_F).$$

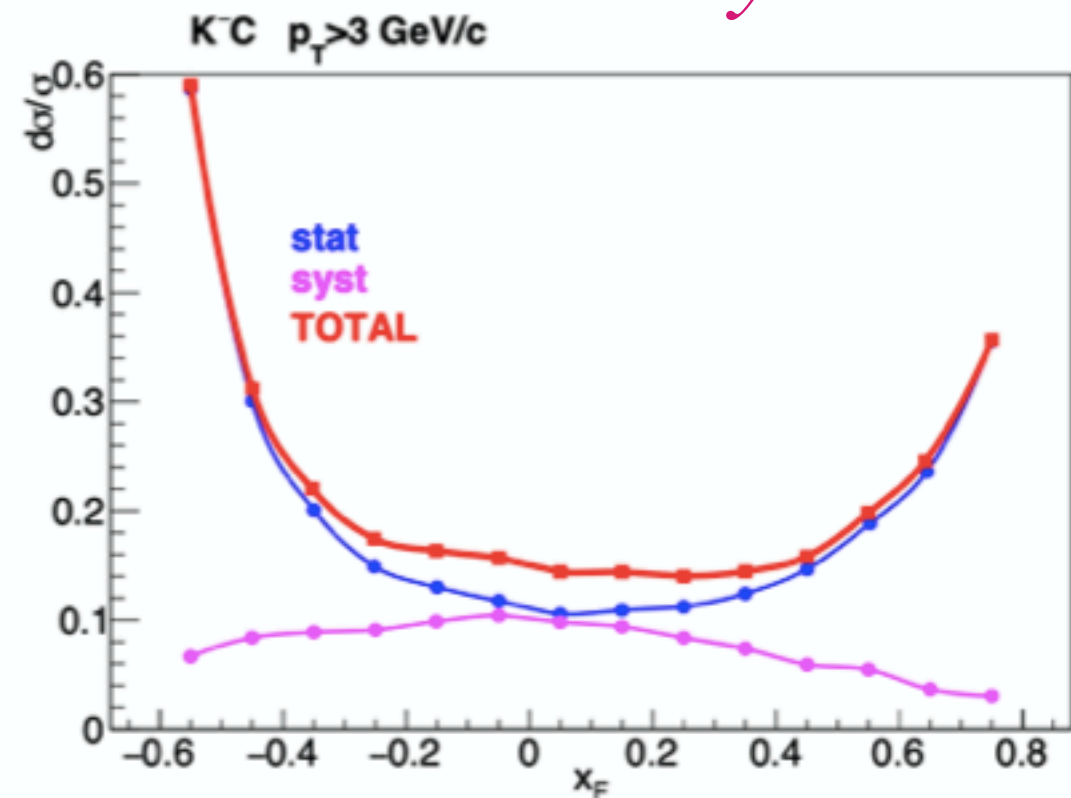
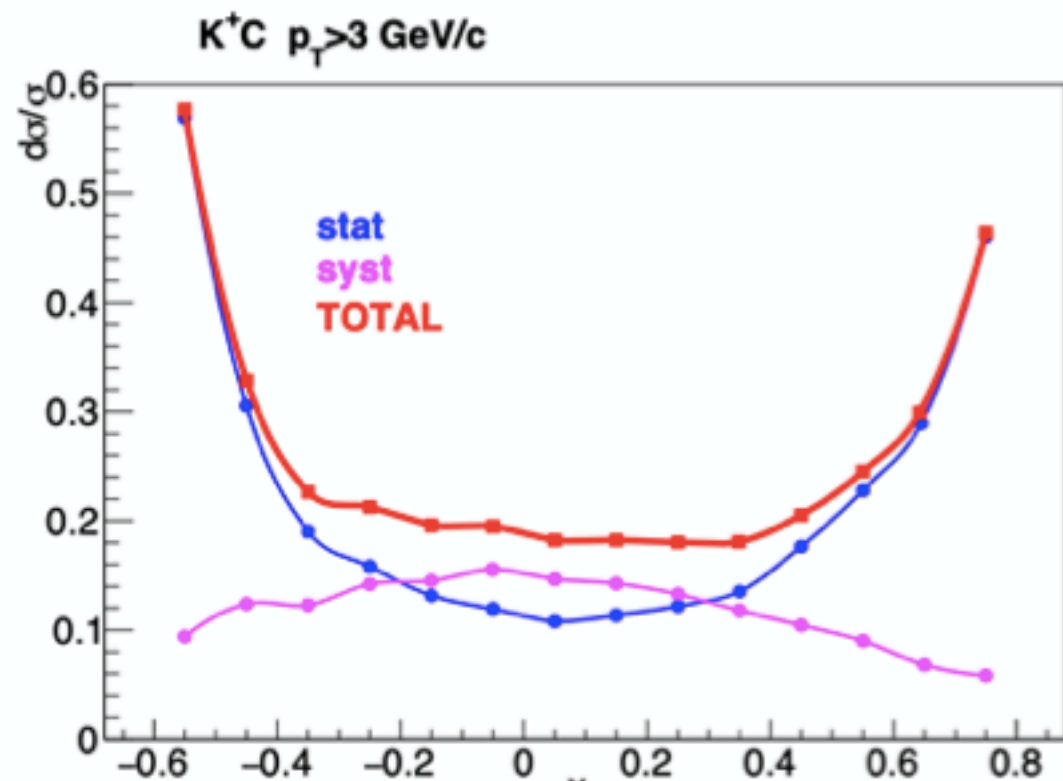


$$C_{MC}(p_T, x_F) \approx 3$$

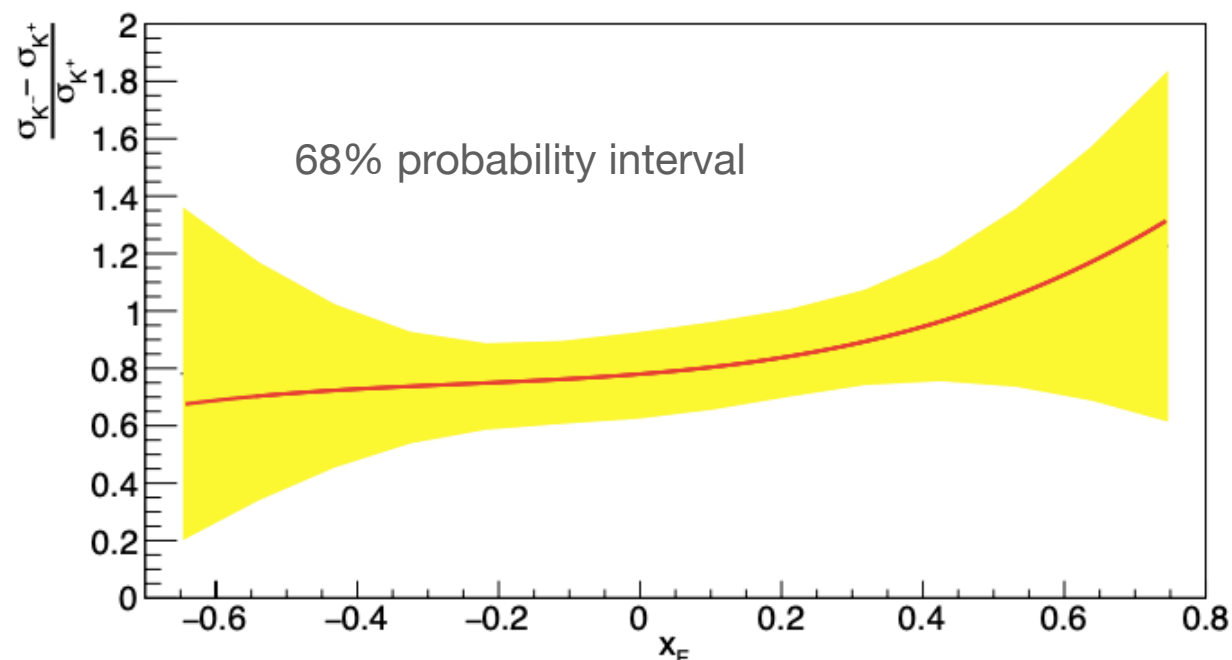
# Expected results

$$N_{PP}(p_T, x_F) = N_\gamma(p_T, x_F) - N_{rem.bkg.}(p_T, x_F) = N_\gamma(p_T, x_F) - C_{MC}(p_T, x_F) \times N_{\gamma/\pi^0}(p_T, x_F).$$

$\sigma_{stat}$   $\sigma_{syst}$   $\sigma_{stat}$



$+\sigma_{beam\ flux\ syst} \sim 5\%$



Uncertainty of cross section measurement:

$\sigma_{K^\pm N \rightarrow \gamma X}$  for  $p_T > 3$  GeV/c:

14.5% for  $K^+$

10% for  $K^-$



# Conclusions

- Prompt photon production is an instrument that allows to get an access to kaon parton structure.
- Prompt photon cross section could be measured with uncertainty of 10-15% after one year of data taking.
- Additional data on prompt photon production with proton, antiproton and pion beams will be collected.
- Proposed measurement could be performed together with other planned measurements (DY, Primakoff).

**Thank you for your attention**