



HEPNP 2025

9th
International Conference
on High Energy Particle
and Nuclear Physics in
the LHC Era

6-10
JANUARY
VALPARAISO - CHILE



K_L -Beam Facility at Jefferson Lab

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Jefferson Lab

(for KLF Collaboration)



Overview

- Introduction
- Physics Motivation
- Hall D at Jefferson Lab
- KLF facility
 - Compact Photon Source (CPS)
 - Kaon Production Target (KPT)
 - Kaon Flux Monitor (KFM)
- Status of the project
- Conclusions and Outlook

KLF Experiment

- Use CEBAF electron beam to create a tertiary K_L beam *to study strange hadron spectroscopy*.
- Use existing GlueX experimental setup in Hall D that has been used to study meson spectroscopy in photoproduction.
 - Very good detector system for studying exclusive final states.
- Create intense K_L flux ($\sim 10^4$ kaons/s) on cryo-target.
- Experimental proposal approved by JLAB Program Advisory Committee in 2020.
 - 100 days on LH_2 target
 - 100 days on LD_2 target.
- Estimated cost to JLAB of $\sim \$2.3M$.
- Formal KLF collaboration is currently being formed to construct the equipment and to conduct the experiments.
 - New collaborators are welcome.

Strange Hadron Spectroscopy with Secondary K_L Beam in Hall D

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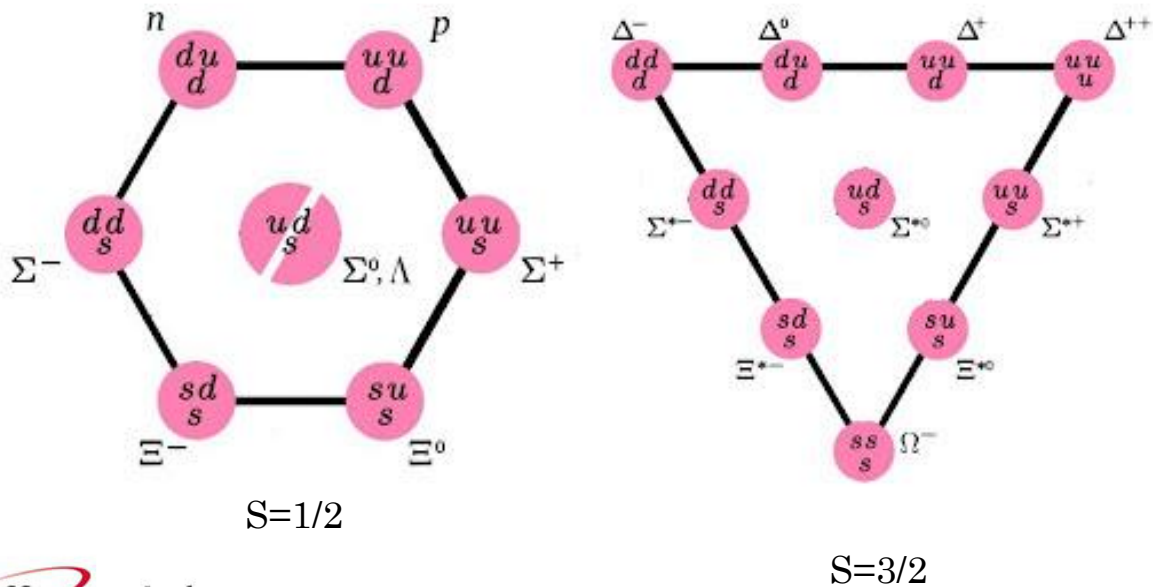
Collaboration Map



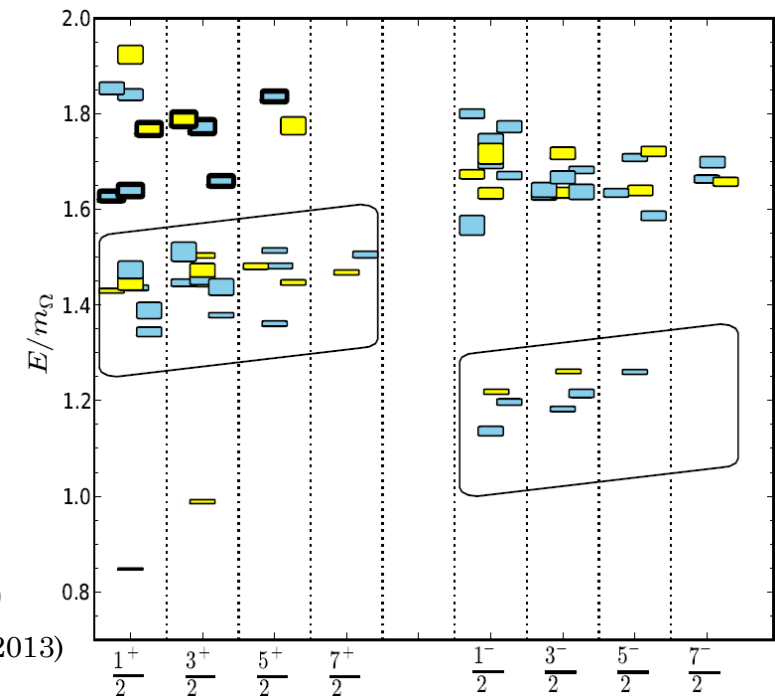
Strange Baryons

- CQM and LQCD expect more hyperon states than experimentally observed.
 - Mismatch in the number of states is significantly worse for hyperons than for N* sector.
- Study of the properties of the states with strange quarks gives insight into the underlying dynamics and into the relevant degrees of freedom.
- Important input to high-density/temperature hadron physics

	PDG 2004	PDG 2020	LQCD
N*	15	21	62
Δ	10	12	38
Λ	14	14	71
Σ	10	9	66
Ξ	6	6	73
Ω	2	2	36



[PDG 3* & 4* states]

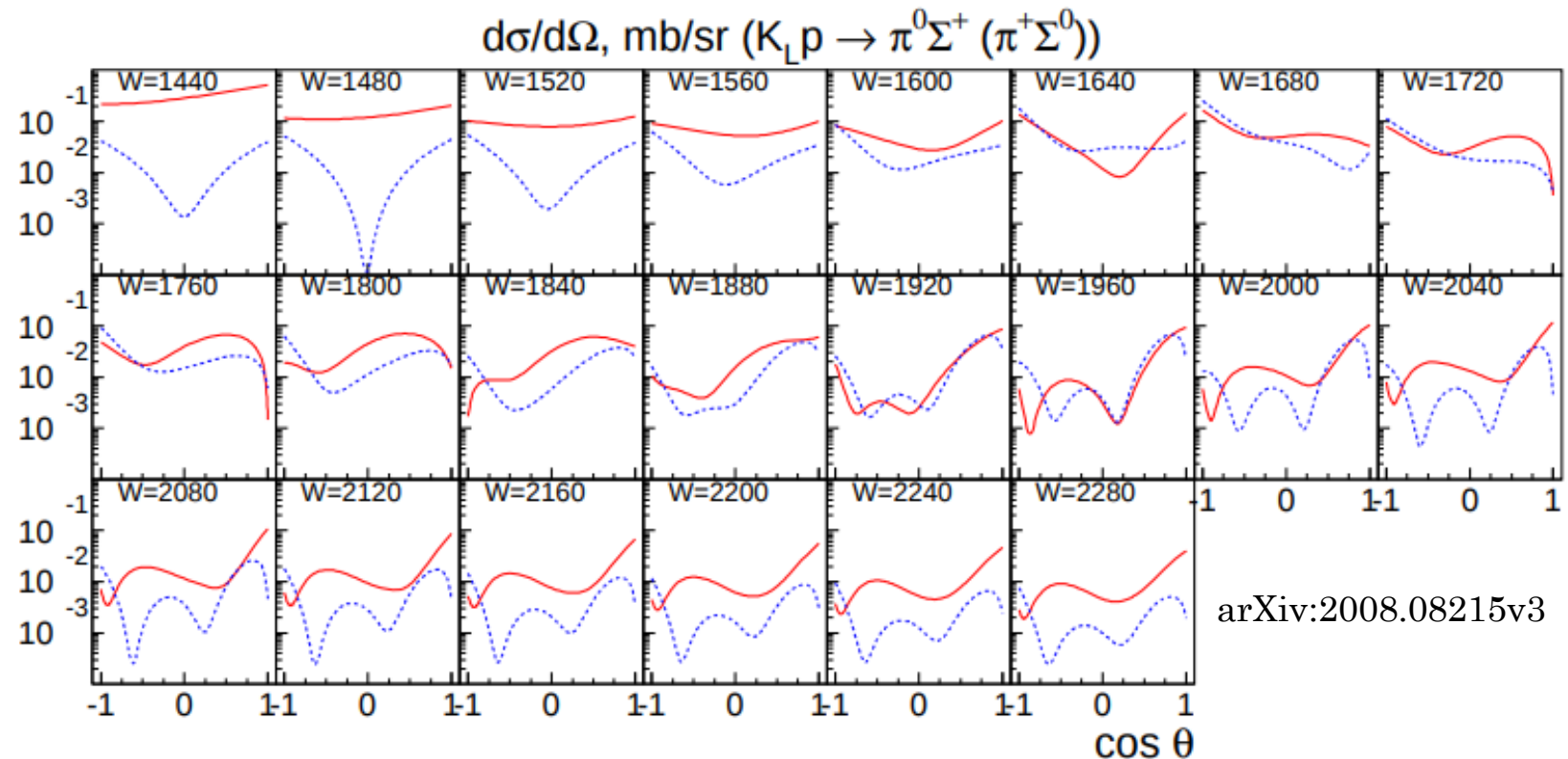
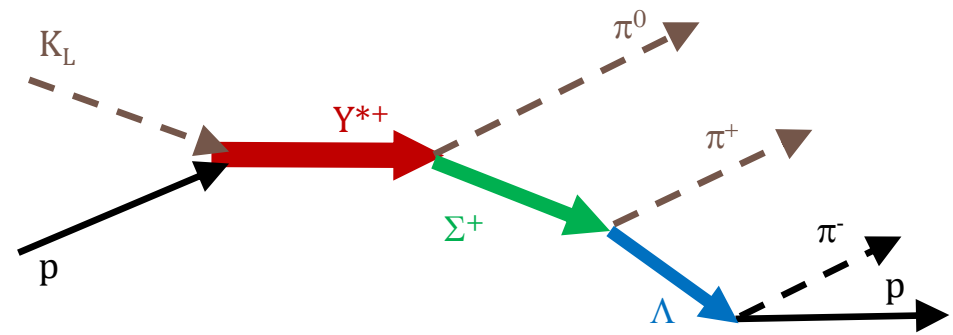


Ξ -s in LQCD

Phys. Rev. D 87, 054506 (2013)

$\pi\Sigma$ and $\pi\Lambda$ Channels

- Using $\pi\Sigma$ and $\pi\Lambda$ channels, we can access excited Σ^* and Λ^* state.
- Reactions using $(K_L \& p)$ in the initial state has different isospin contributions in the amplitudes from when using $(K_L \& n)$ or $(K^- \& p)$ in the initial state.



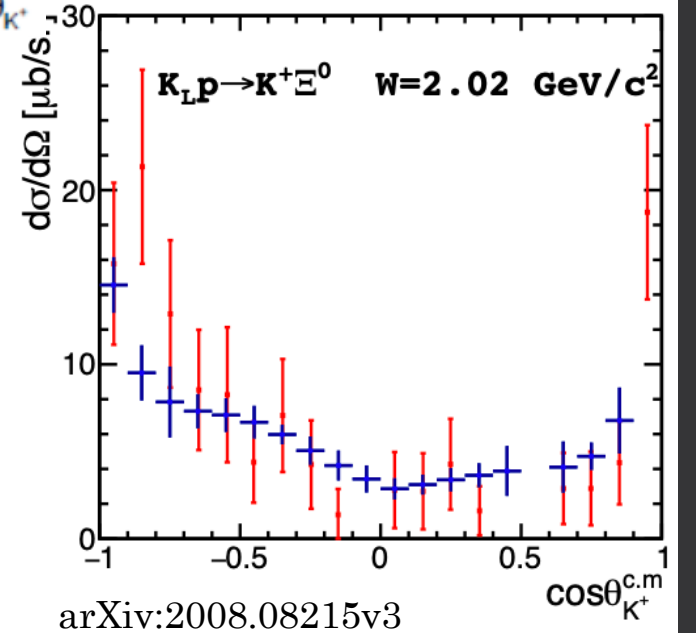
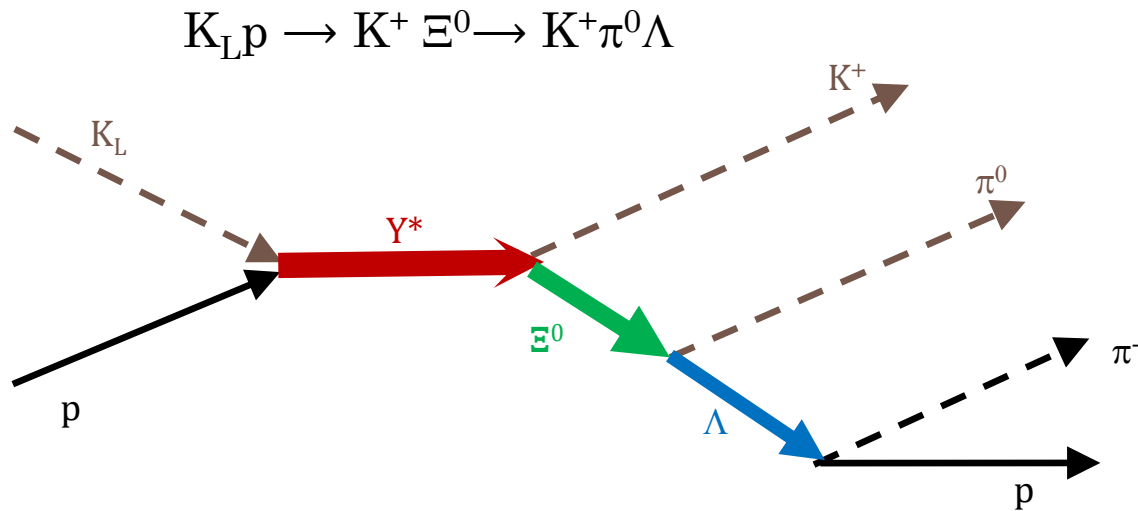
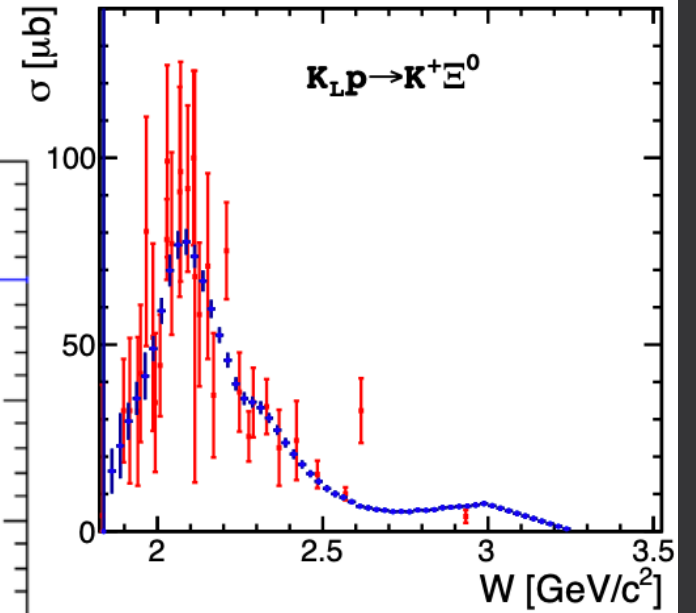
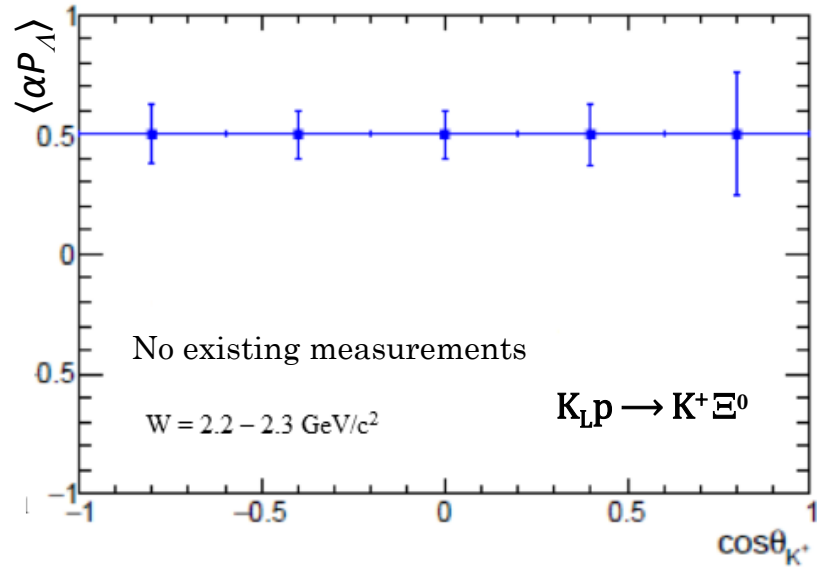
$$|A(K^- p)|^2 = \frac{1}{2}(|A_1|^2 + |A_0|^2 + 2\text{Re}(A_1 A_0^*))$$

$$|A(K^0 n)|^2 = \frac{1}{2}(|A_1|^2 + |A_0|^2 - 2\text{Re}(A_1 A_0^*))$$

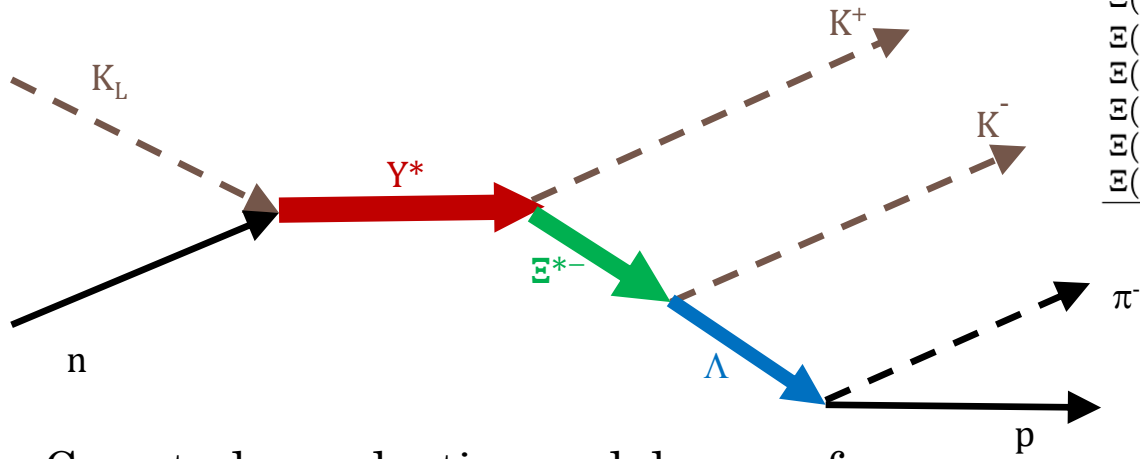
$$|A(K^0 p)|^2 = |A_1|^2$$

K Ξ Channel

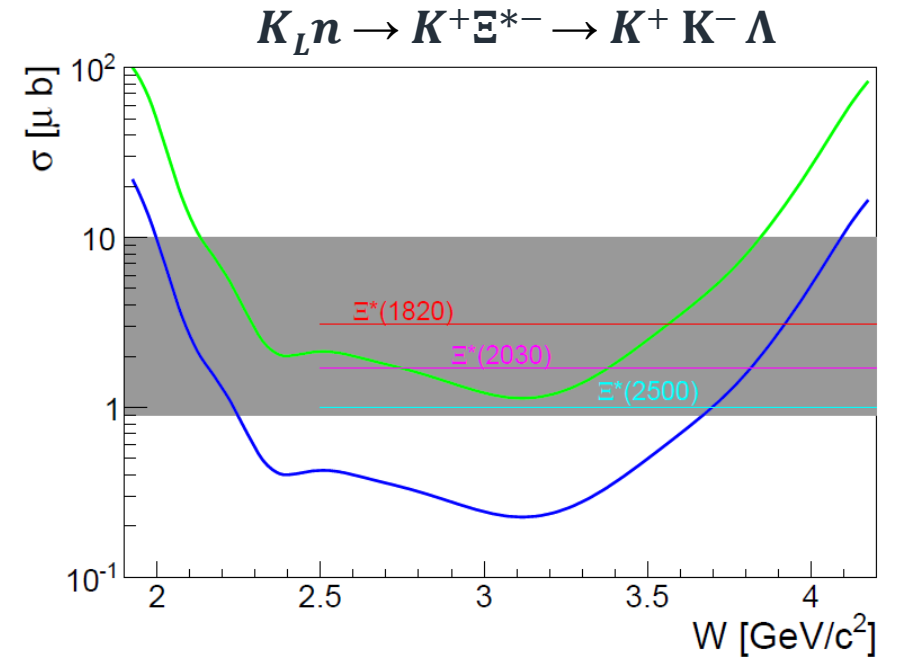
- Can access hyperon states that do not directly couple to $\pi\Lambda$ or $\pi\Sigma$ channels.
- Measure differential cross section and induced polarization using measured angular distribution of decay products.
 - Constrains underlying dynamics.
- To identify resonance contributions, we must perform a coupled-channelled PWA to extract spin-parity and pole positions.



Excited Cascades Ξ^*

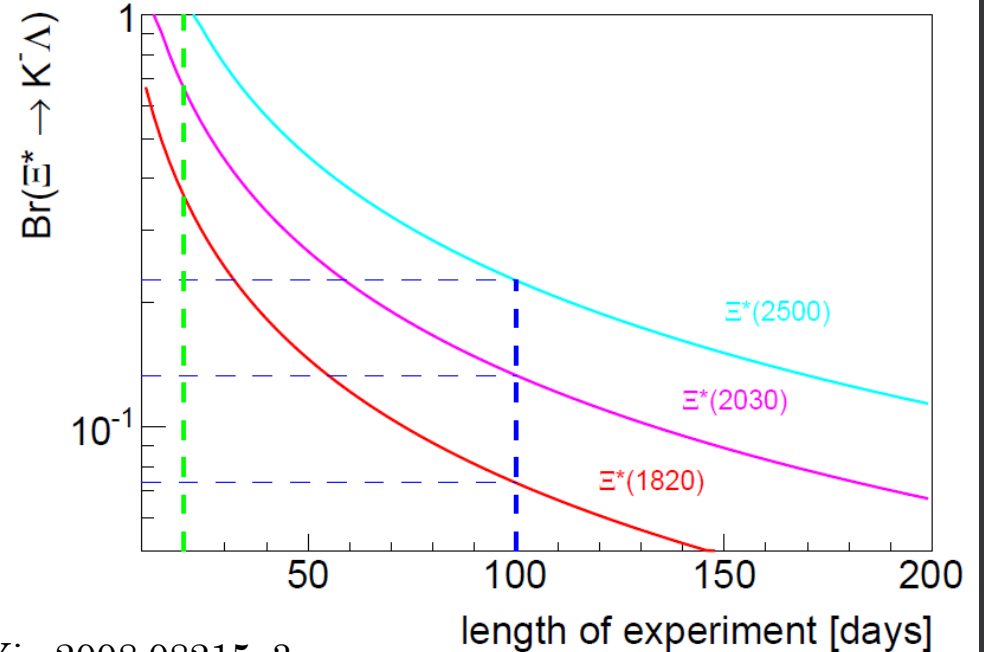
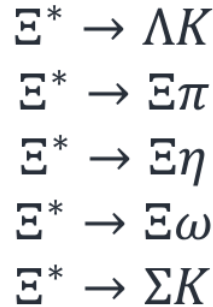


State	J^P	Overall Status
$\Xi(1318)$	$1/2^{+a}$	****
$\Xi(1530)$	$3/2^+$	****
$\Xi(1620)$		*
$\Xi(1690)$		***
$\Xi(1820)$	$3/2^-$	***
$\Xi(1950)$		***
$\Xi(2030)$	$5/2^?$	****
$\Xi(2120)$		*
$\Xi(2250)$		**
$\Xi(2370)$		**
$\Xi(2500)$		*



Ξ^* sensitivity

- Can study production and decays of excited cascades.
 - Most of our knowledge of cascade spectrum comes from beam experiments in the 60s–80s.
 - Quantum numbers for some of the excited cascades are not determined.
- We can measure branching ratios for $K^- \Lambda$ decays of Ξ^* down to $\sim 4\%$.

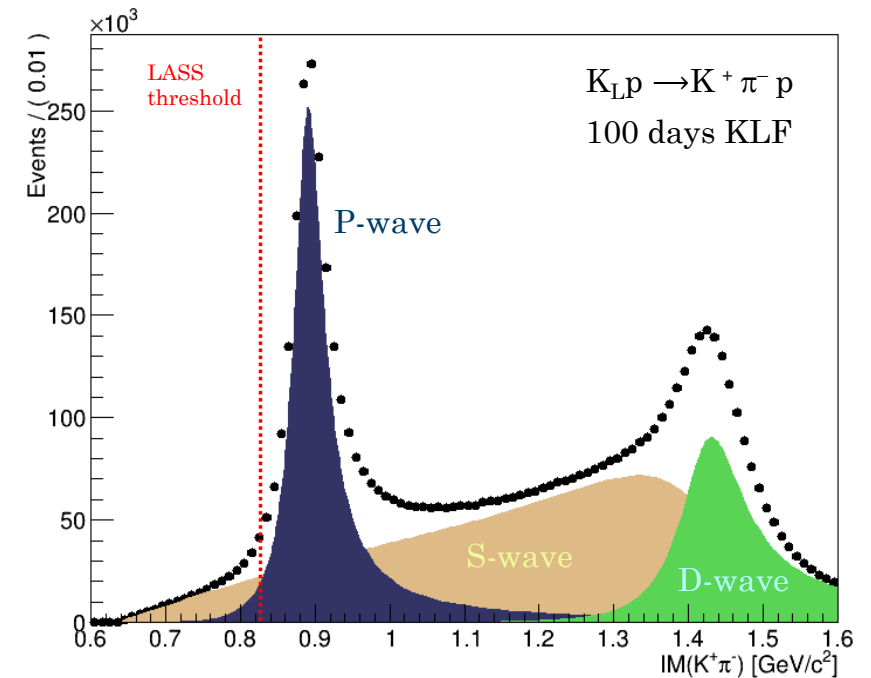
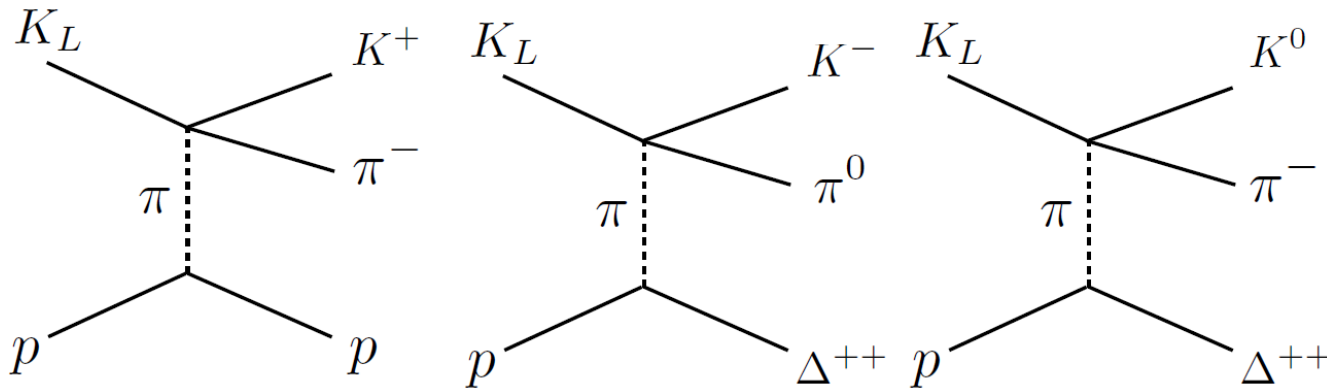
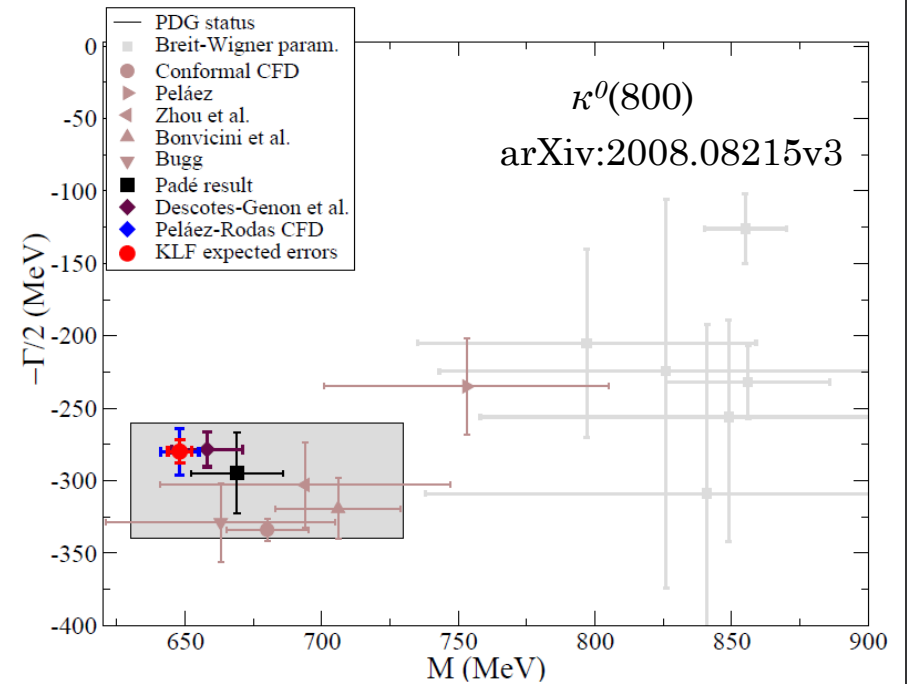


arXiv:2008.08215v3

K π Spectroscopy

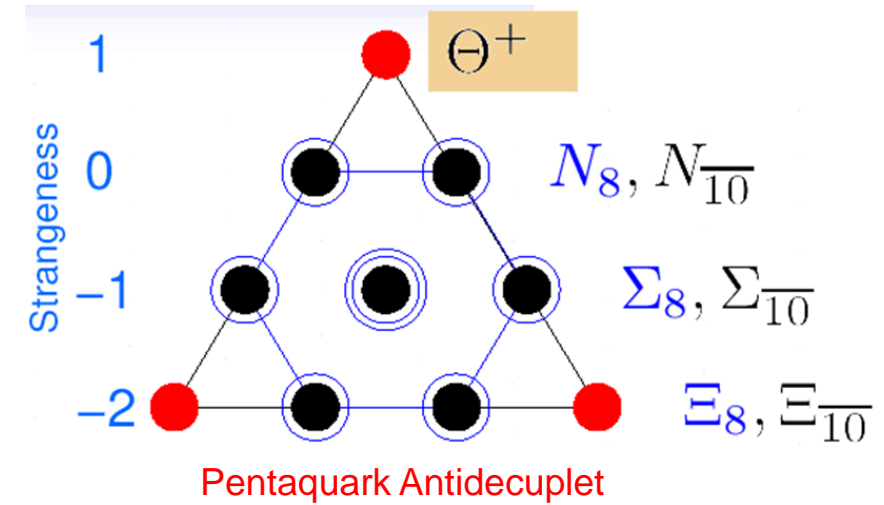
- The simplest hadronic reaction that involves s-quark
 - crucial for understanding non-pQCD.
- Locate pole positions in I=1/2 & I=3/2 channels
 - Existence of the exotic state $\kappa^0(800)$ (I=1/2, S-wave 0^{++}) is still unclear.
- Need data at invariant masses closer to ~ 650 MeV to reconcile ChPT models, data, and LQCD.

$$\begin{aligned}
 K_L p &\rightarrow K_L \pi^0 p, \\
 K_L p &\rightarrow K^\pm \pi^\mp p, \\
 K_L p &\rightarrow K_{(L,S)} \pi^+ n, \\
 K_L p &\rightarrow K^+ \pi^0 n, \\
 K_L p &\rightarrow K^- \pi^0 \Delta^{++}, \\
 K_L p &\rightarrow K_{(L,S)} \pi^- \Delta^{++}
 \end{aligned}$$



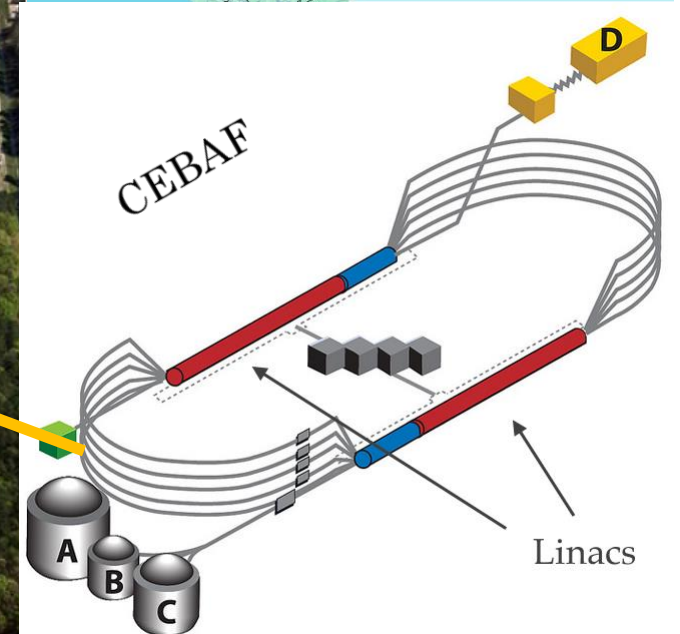
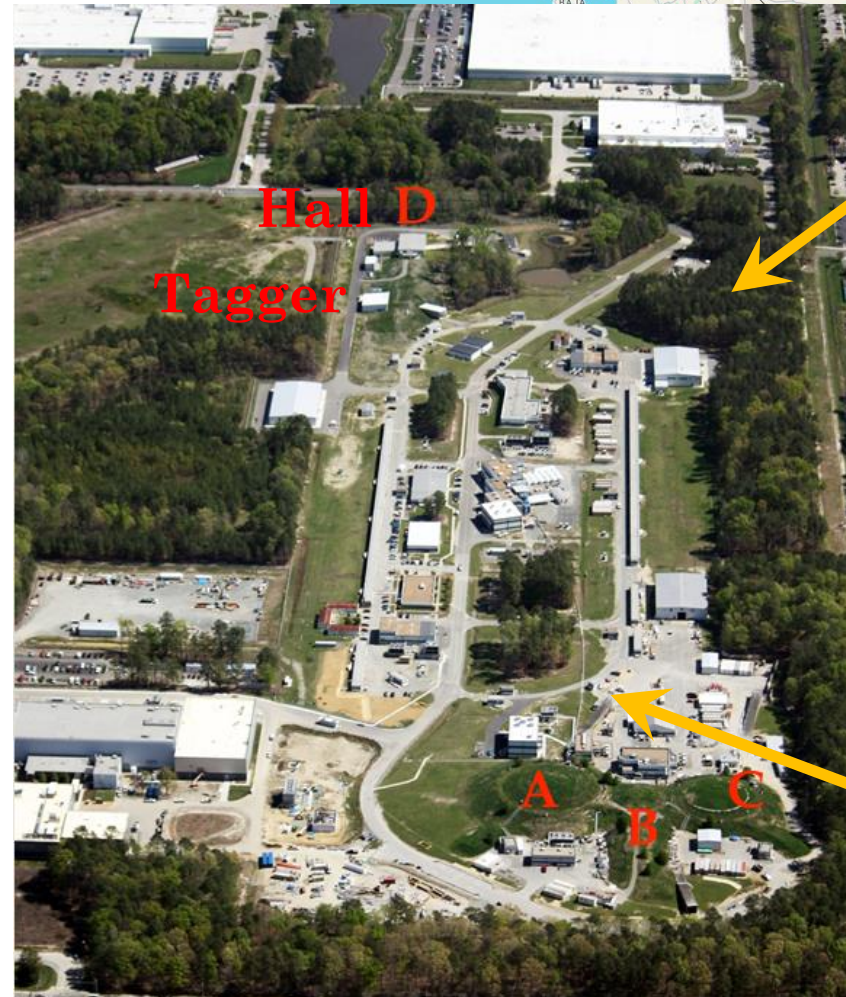
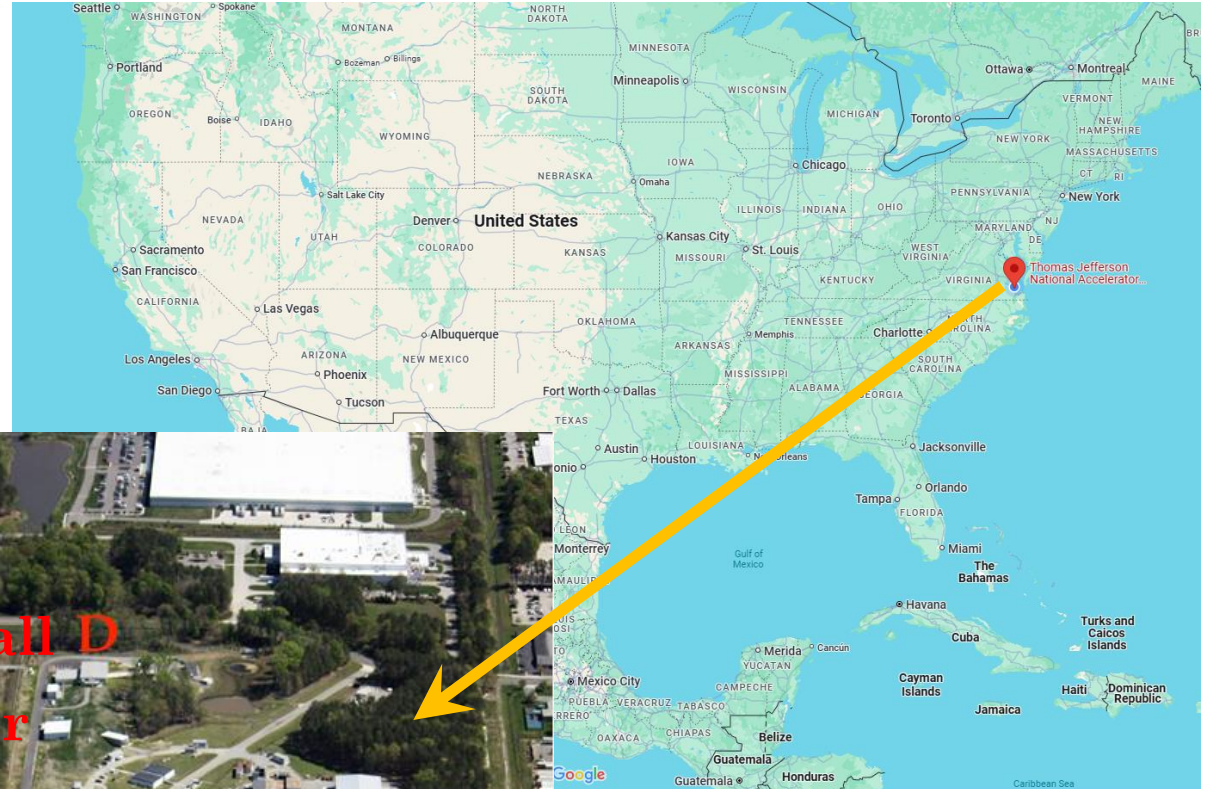
Other topics

- Study of Ω^* ($S=-3$) states.
- Neutron induced reactions.
- Hyperon-nucleon scattering.
- $K_L p \rightarrow K^+ n$ reaction to study non-resonant background to hyperon production
 - Resonant structure would mean an exotic state.
- “Parasitic” experimental setups to study hypernuclei.



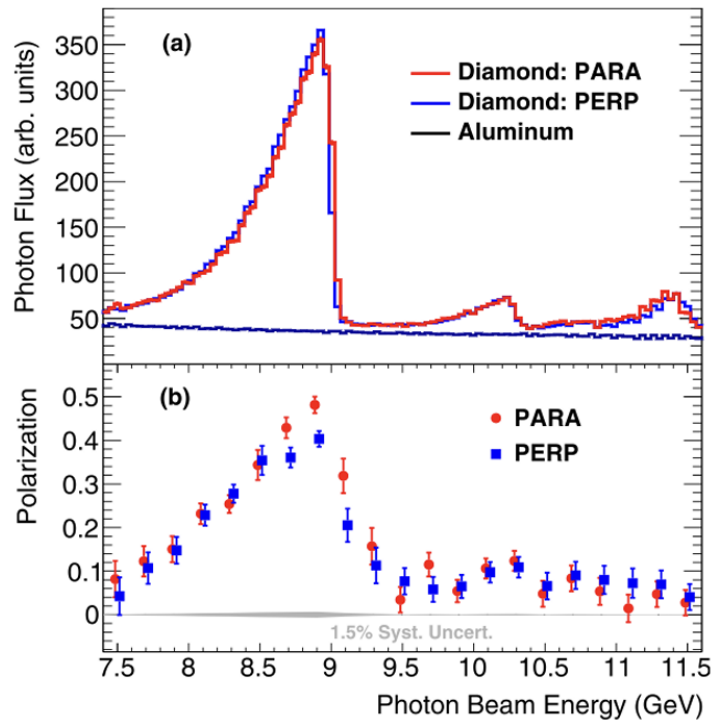
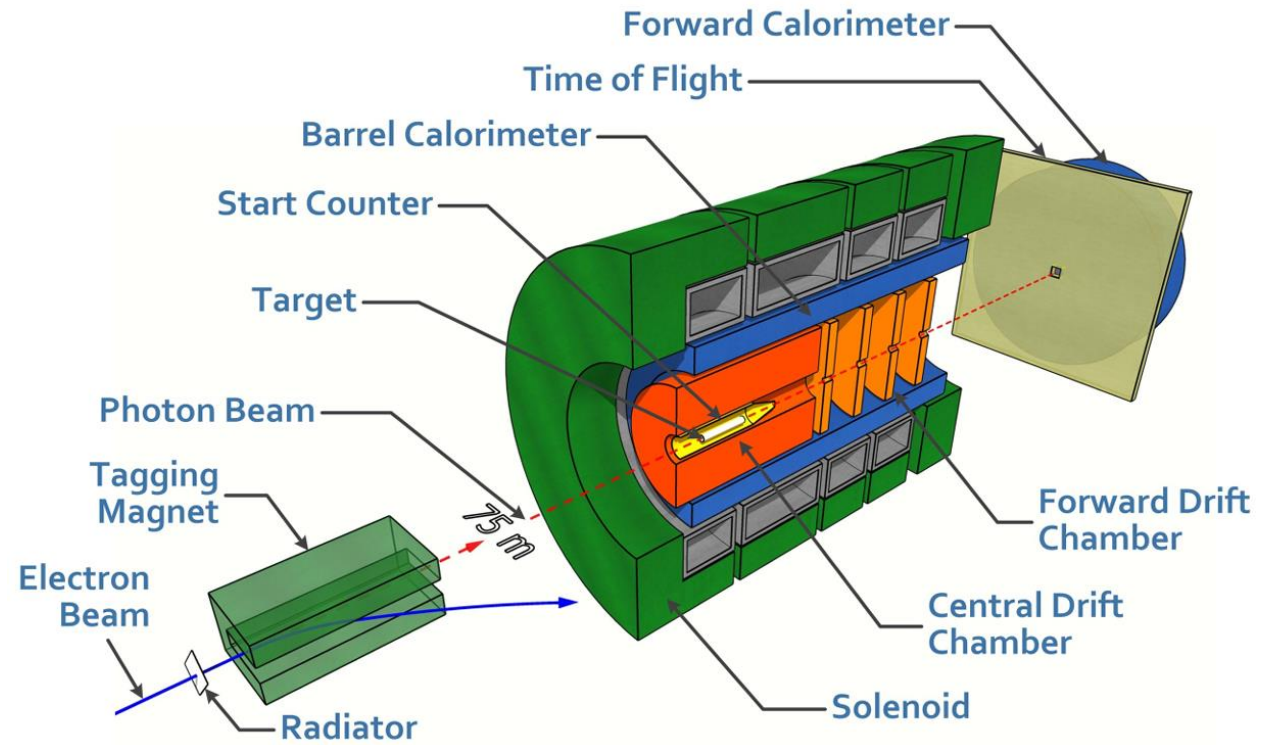
CEBAF @ JLAB

- Up to 12 GeV polarized continuous electron beam
 - ~1.5 GHz beam time structure
- Four experimental Halls: A, B, C, D
 - Each halls receives an electron beam bunch every ~4ns
- Experimental program mostly concentrates on hadronic physics.
 - Hall D :
 - Meson spectroscopy
 - J/ψ near-threshold photoproduction
 - Rare meson decays
 - Pion polarizabilities
 - Color transparency and short-range correlations in nuclei.



GlueX in Hall D

- 12 GeV electrons with 4ns beam bunch separation
- Linearly polarized photon beam produced via coherent bremsstrahlung of electrons on a thin ($5 \times 10^{-4} X_0$) diamond radiator.
- Photons are tagged by detecting the electrons in a scintillating detectors (photon tagger).

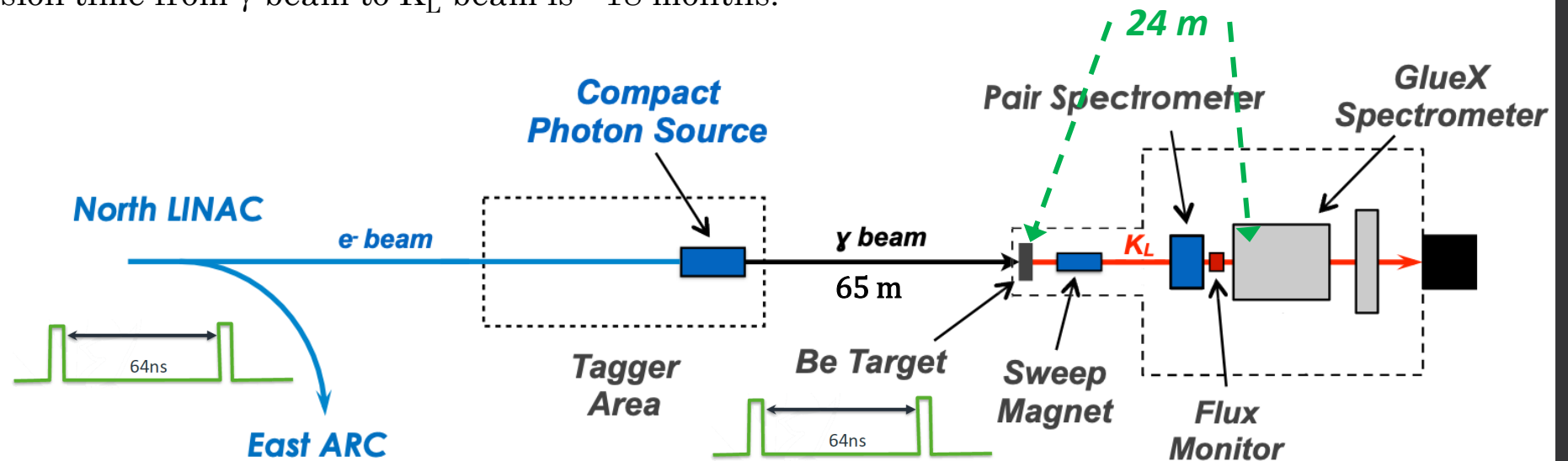


- Acceptance: $\theta_{\text{lab}} \approx 1^\circ - 120^\circ$
- Charged particles: $\sigma_p/p \approx 1\% - 3\%$
 - PID using TOF \oplus dE/dx \oplus DIRC
- Photons: $\sigma_E/E = 6\% / E \oplus 2\%$

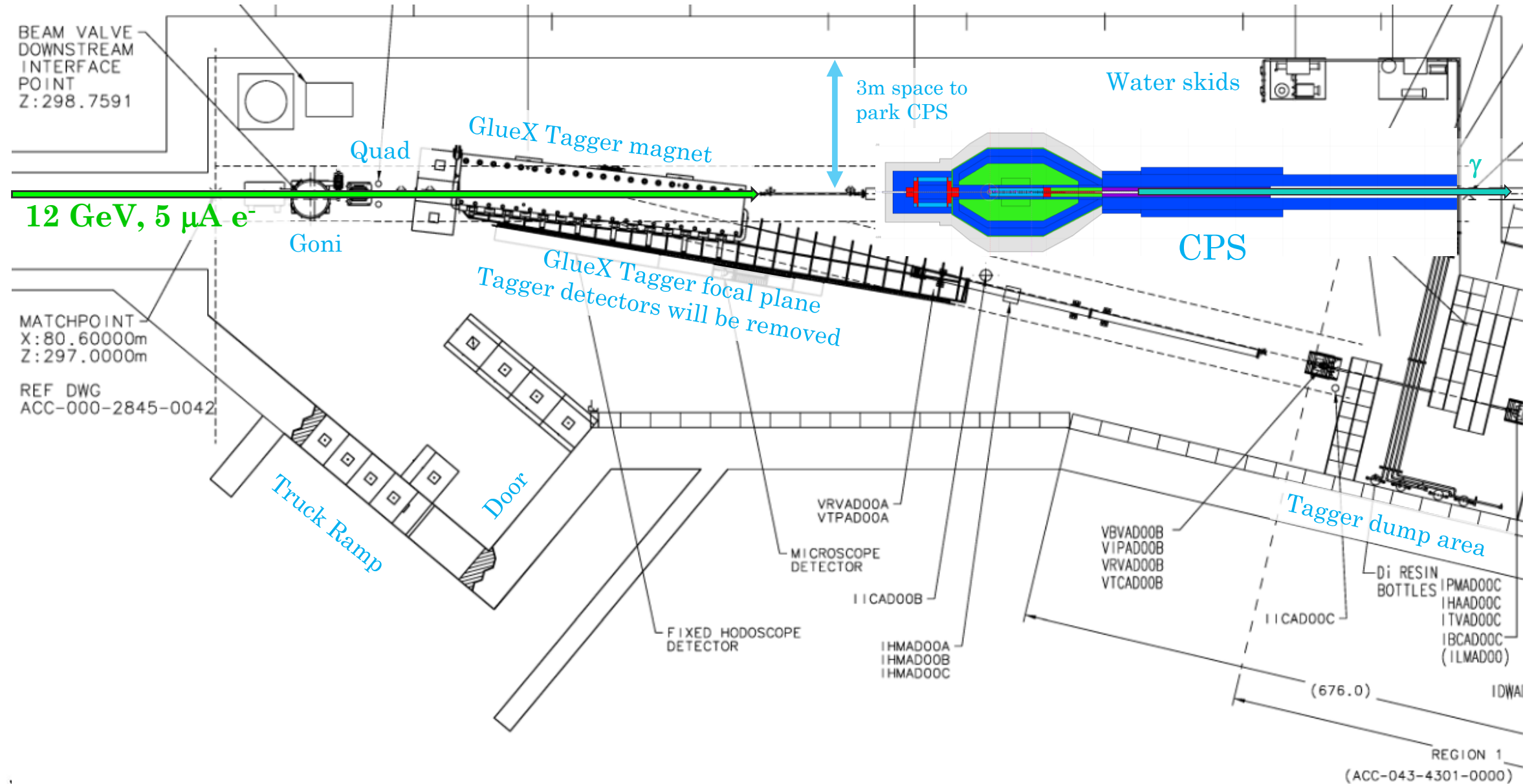
KLF in Hall D

- Use the electron beam delivered to Hall D to produce a high intensity untagged photon beam on $\sim 10^{-4} X_0$ amorphous radiator in the tagger building of Hall D.
- Use a Beryllium target in Hall D collimator cave to produce tertiary beam and absorb the rest of the beam.
- Use K_L in-flight decays to measure kaon flux in the beamline.
- Tertiary K_L -beam impacts a liquid hydrogen target to produce the final states of interest.
 - LH2 target will need some modifications.
- To determine the momentum of the beam that caused the event in GlueX, KLF will use 64-ns beam structure to allow the low energy kaons to travel the 24m distance between the kaon production point and the hydrogen target.
- Estimated conversion time from γ -beam to K_L -beam is ~ 18 months.

Tertiary beam:
 $e^- \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow K_L$



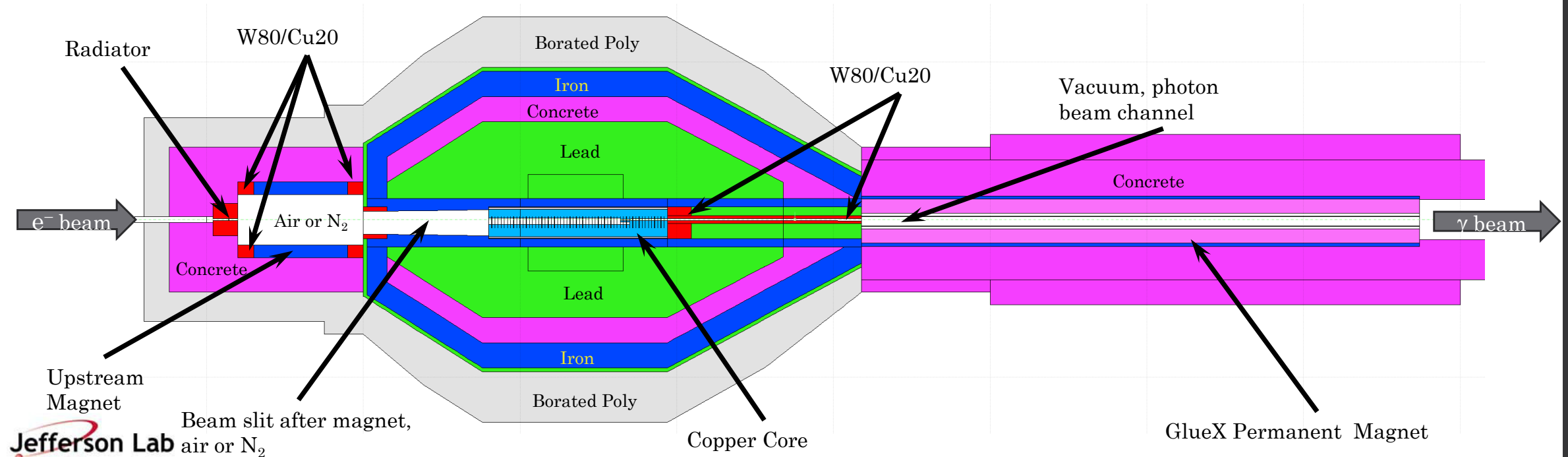
CPS in Tagger Hall



Compact Photon Source

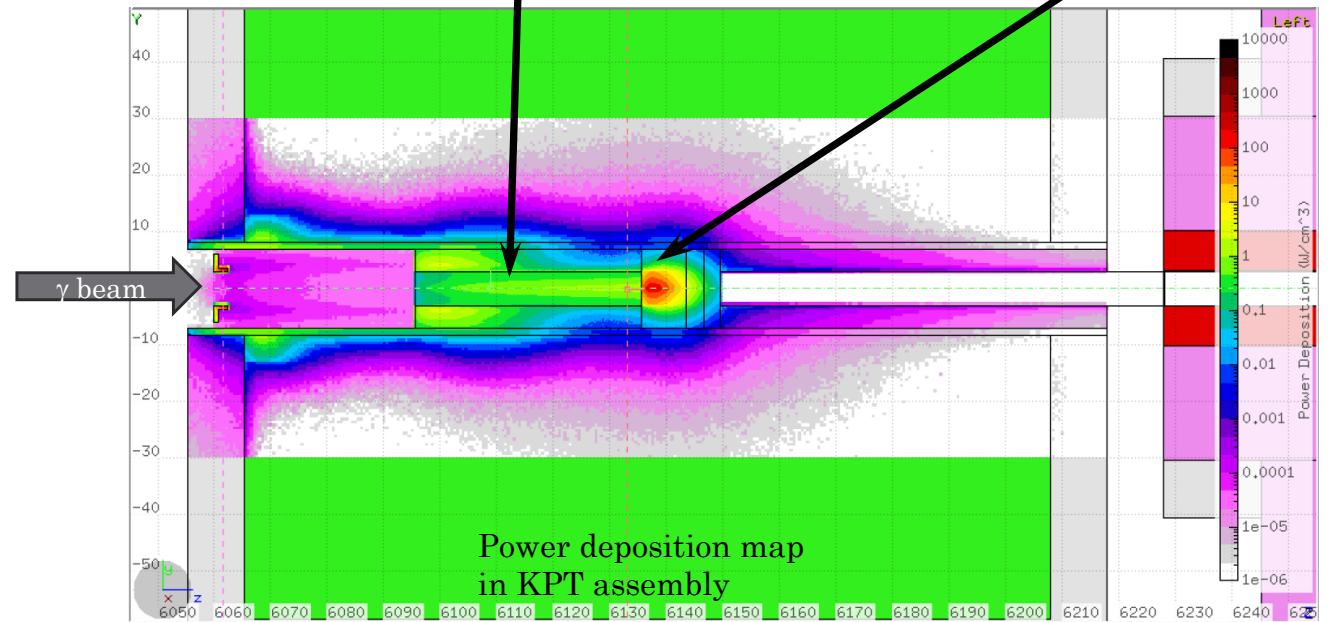
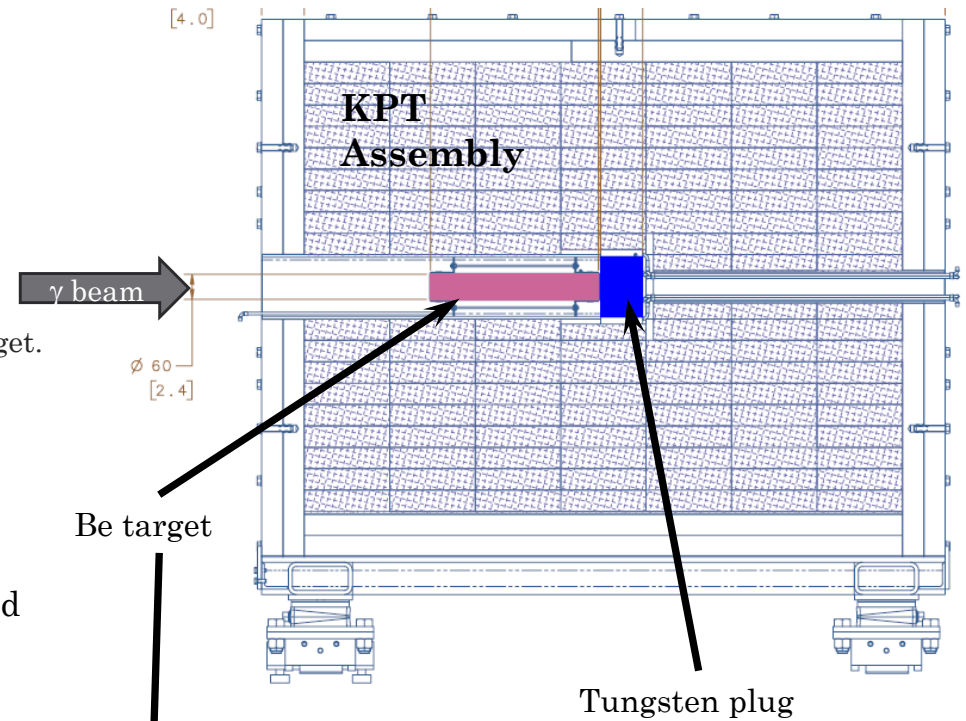
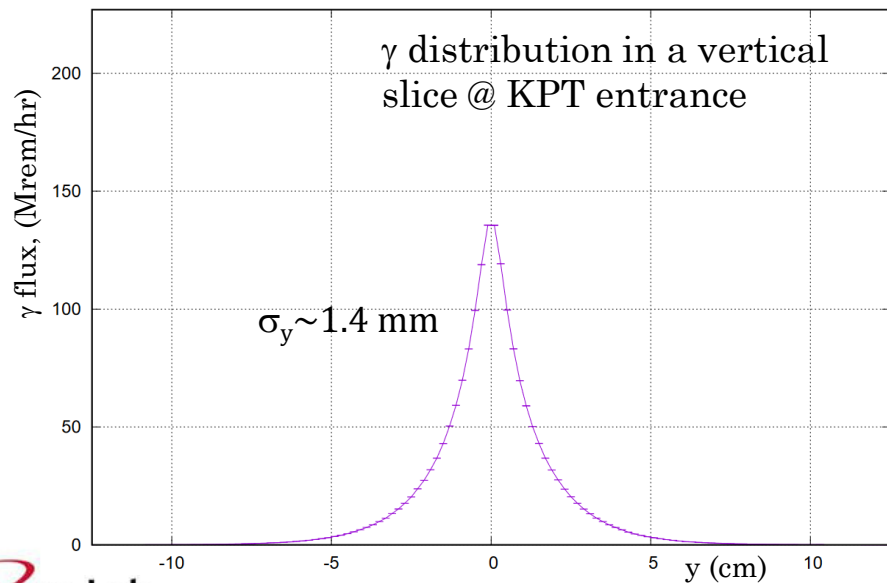
- CPS creates intense photon beam for KLF and absorbs the primary electron beam in a cooled copper core.
- Radiator in the upstream section of CPS followed by a horizontally bending magnet.
- Permanent magnet at the exit of CPS to clean up charged particles.
- CPS can be pushed aside for photon beamline restoration.

- CPS shielding is designed to provide radiation environment in the tagger hall with dose rates comparable to nominal GlueX photoproduction experiments.
 - Detail simulations have been done using FLUKA software package to estimate dose rates and power deposition.
- Total estimated weight of CPS is approximately 75 metric tons.
- Estimated cost of the current design is ~\$1.2M for CPS.



Kaon Production Target

- Based on our studies, a 40cm long and 6cm wide Beryllium rod would be the optimal choice for producing K_L beam.
- A tungsten plug to stop other particles is expected to be ~14cm.
 - Photons and charged particles are absorbed in a tungsten plug placed after the beryllium target.
 - Significant amount of K_L survive the tungsten plug and the path to the hydrogen target.
- Two magnets after KPT to sweep charged particles out of the beamline.
- Be-target and W-plug are heavily shielded to prevent excessive radiation levels.
- KPT assembly is designed to absorb and dissipate up to 10 KW of power delivered by the photon beam.
- KPT can be pushed aside for photon beamline restoration.



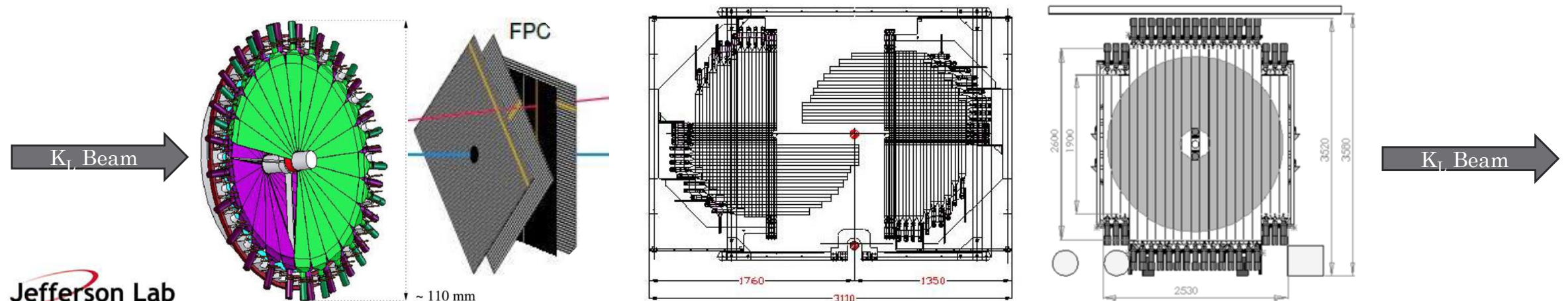
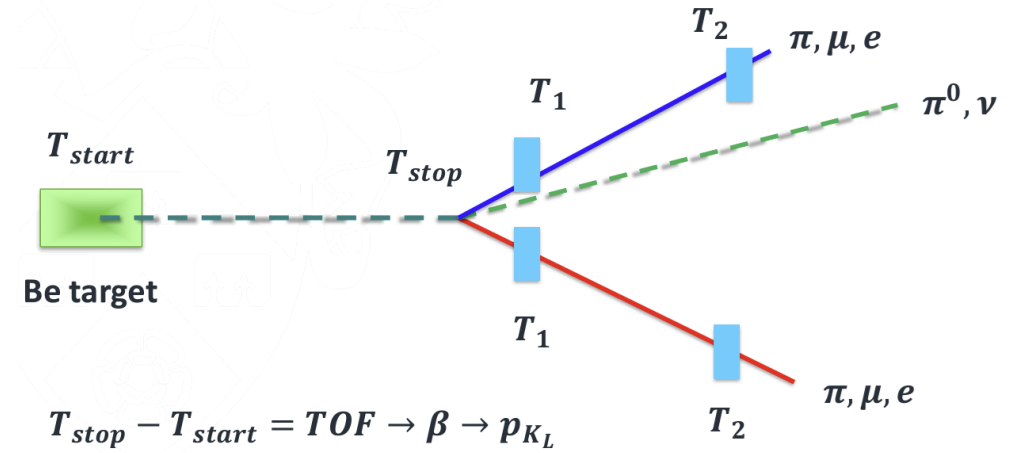
Kaon Flux Monitor

$$K_L \rightarrow \pi^\pm e^\mp \nu_\mu$$

$$K_L \rightarrow \pi^\pm \mu^\mp \nu_\mu$$

$$K_L \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$$

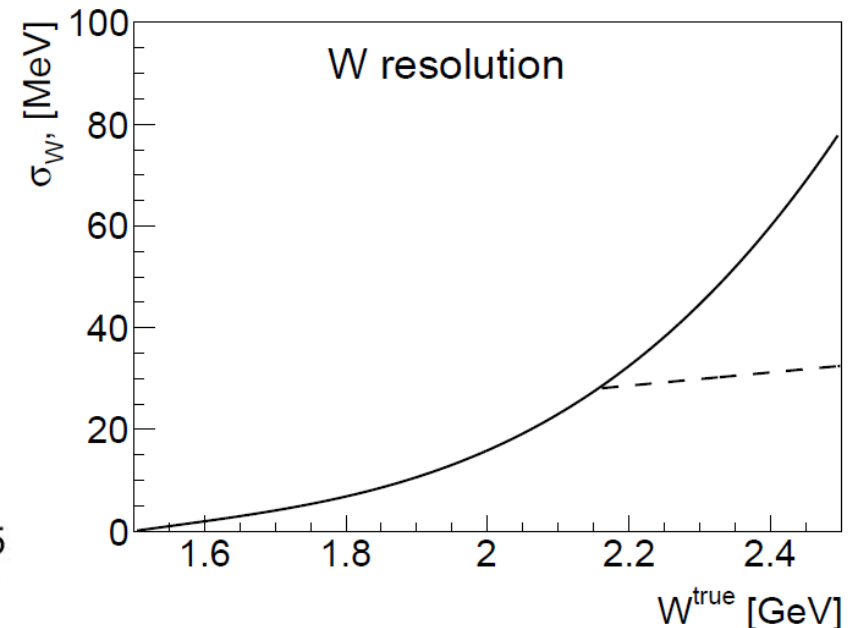
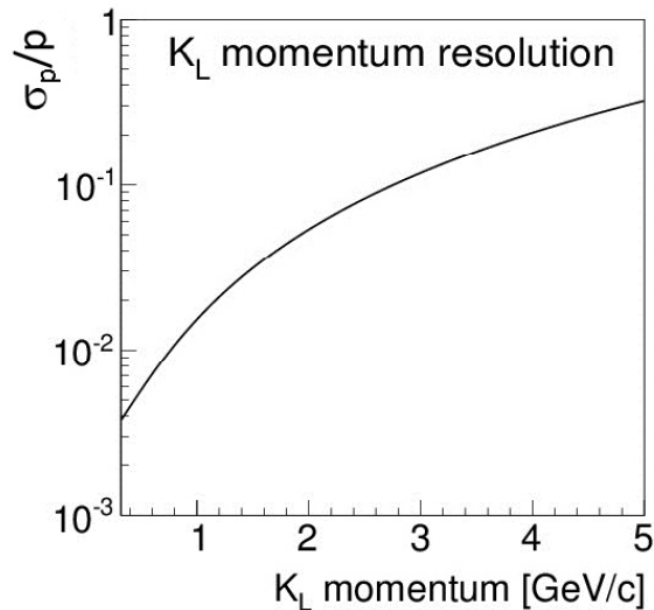
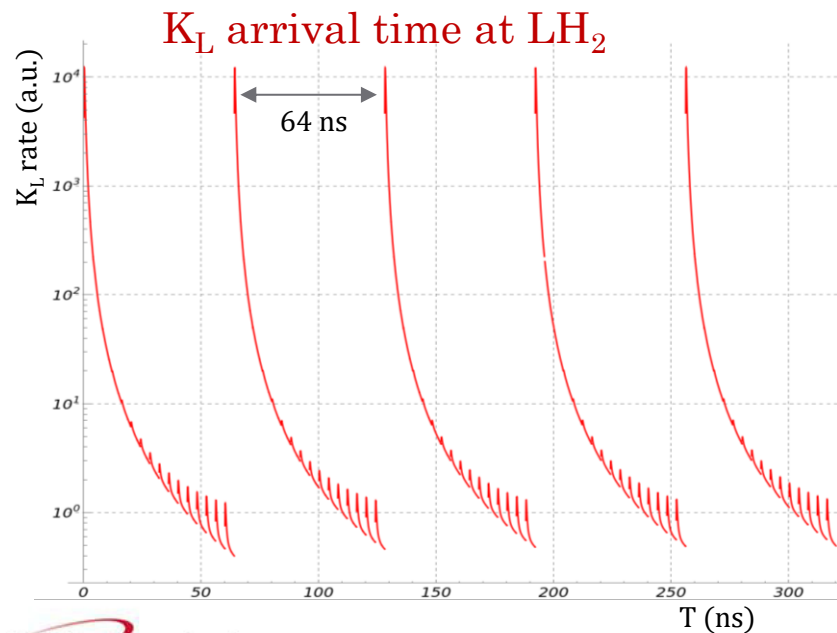
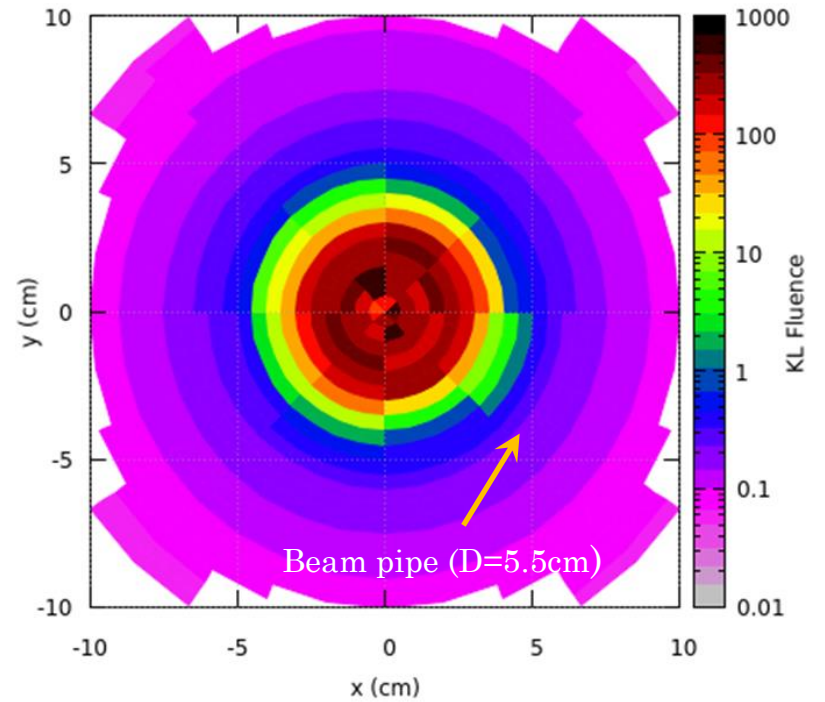
- We can use K_L in-flight decays to measure the K_L flux versus momentum and beam positions.
- Install Kaon Flux Monitor (KLF) in the location of GlueX Pair Spectrometer.
- We plan to use three separate packages of scintillator detectors, and a tracking system based on straw tubes.
 - All are excess equipment from WASA available free to KLF.



K_L Beam

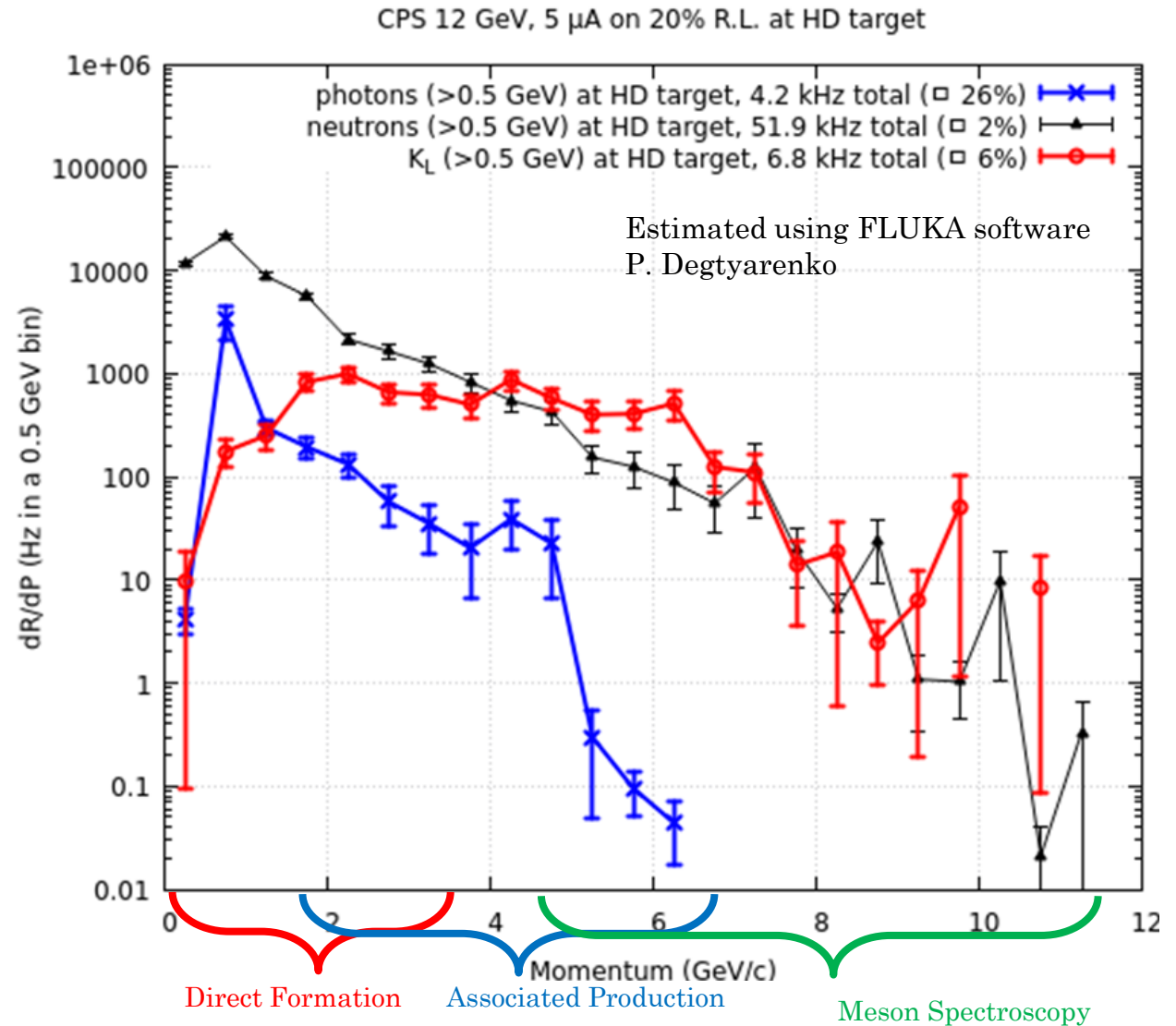
- Kaon beam is mostly constrained to the beam pipe due to the collimation.
- Kaons is created every 64ns – KLF electron beam bunching.
 - Small ~2% bleed-through bunches is expected.
- K_L momentum determined using TOF between KPT and LH₂.
 - Above $W > 2.1$ GeV/c², K_L momentum determined using e detected final state.
- We expect neutron background in the beam which should be rejected in the event reconstruction.

K_L fluence at the LH₂ target, P. Degtyarenko



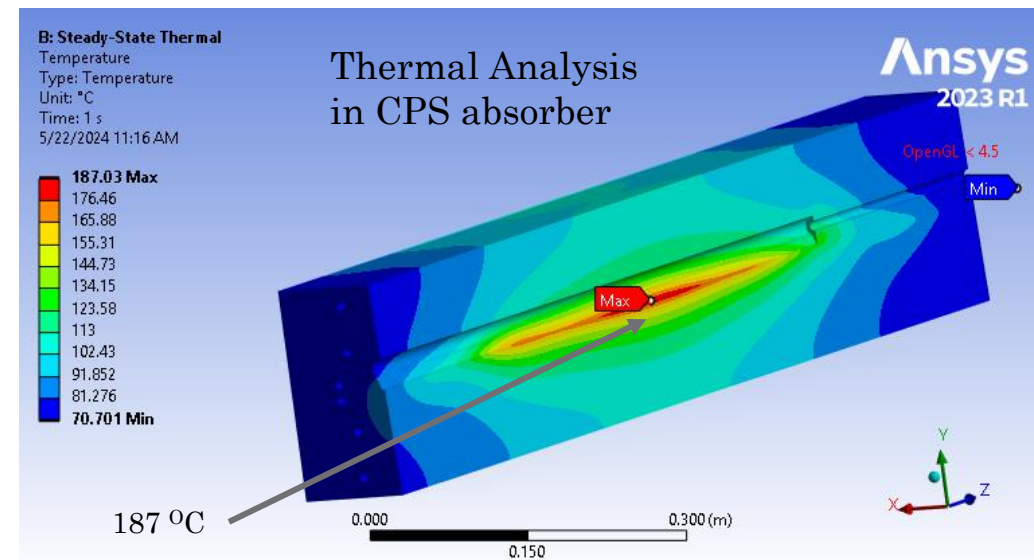
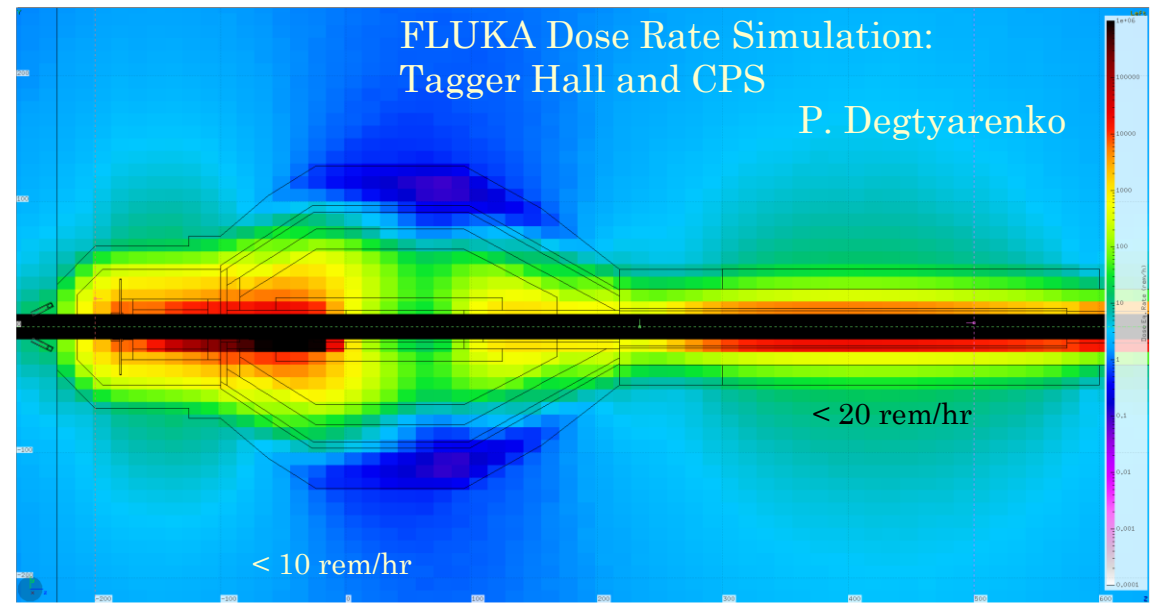
Beam Particle Spectra

- KLF beam at LH₂ target is expected to contain a mix of different kind of particles.
- At low momenta, most of the particles in the beam pipe will be neutrons.
- At high momenta, above 5 GeV/c, we expect mostly K_L-s in the beam line.
 - We expect approximately ~10 KHz K_L per second on the LH₂ target.
- There is also significant number of muons that originate in the KPT assembly but the are not constrained to the beam pipe.



Challenges

- Maintaining radiation environment safe for people and equipment.
 - We perform detailed simulations with FLUKA package to estimate the radiation levels at various beam conditions and adjust our design accordingly.
- Prevent excessive temperatures in CPS that could result in deformation of the photon beam exit channel.
 - Closely monitor beam positions, temperatures in CPS to shut down beam if needed.
- Maintain detector counting rates comparable to those during GlueX-II running.
 - We perform detailed GEANT4 simulations with KLF and GlueX conditions to adjust KLF design parameters.
 - We are considering building a new Start Counter around the target to match the 6cm KLF target diameter.
- Separating out-of-time beam buckets from Hall D laser and bleed-through from other Halls.
 - Simulate various final states with out-of-time beam bunches and physics background channels to evaluate the impact.
 - Initial indication that these should not be a significant problem for K^+n final state.



Conclusions and Outlook

- K-Long Facility will be the first hadronic beam experiment at Jefferson Lab.
 - Approved for running for 200 days.
- Data from KLF is expected to make major impact in strangeness physics:
 - identify excited hyperons with masses up to $2.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in formation and production reactions,
 - have a significant impact on our knowledge on $K\pi$ scattering amplitudes,
 - improve determination of K^* 's parameters, including those for $K^*(800)$.
- Significant progress has been made in the design of KLF equipment.
 - Some technical challenges are being addressed.
- KLF may start running as early as winter of 2028
 - Subject to funding availability and potential scheduling incompatibilities with other experiments.
- **New collaborators are welcome !!!**
 - **This is a good time to join KLF.**

