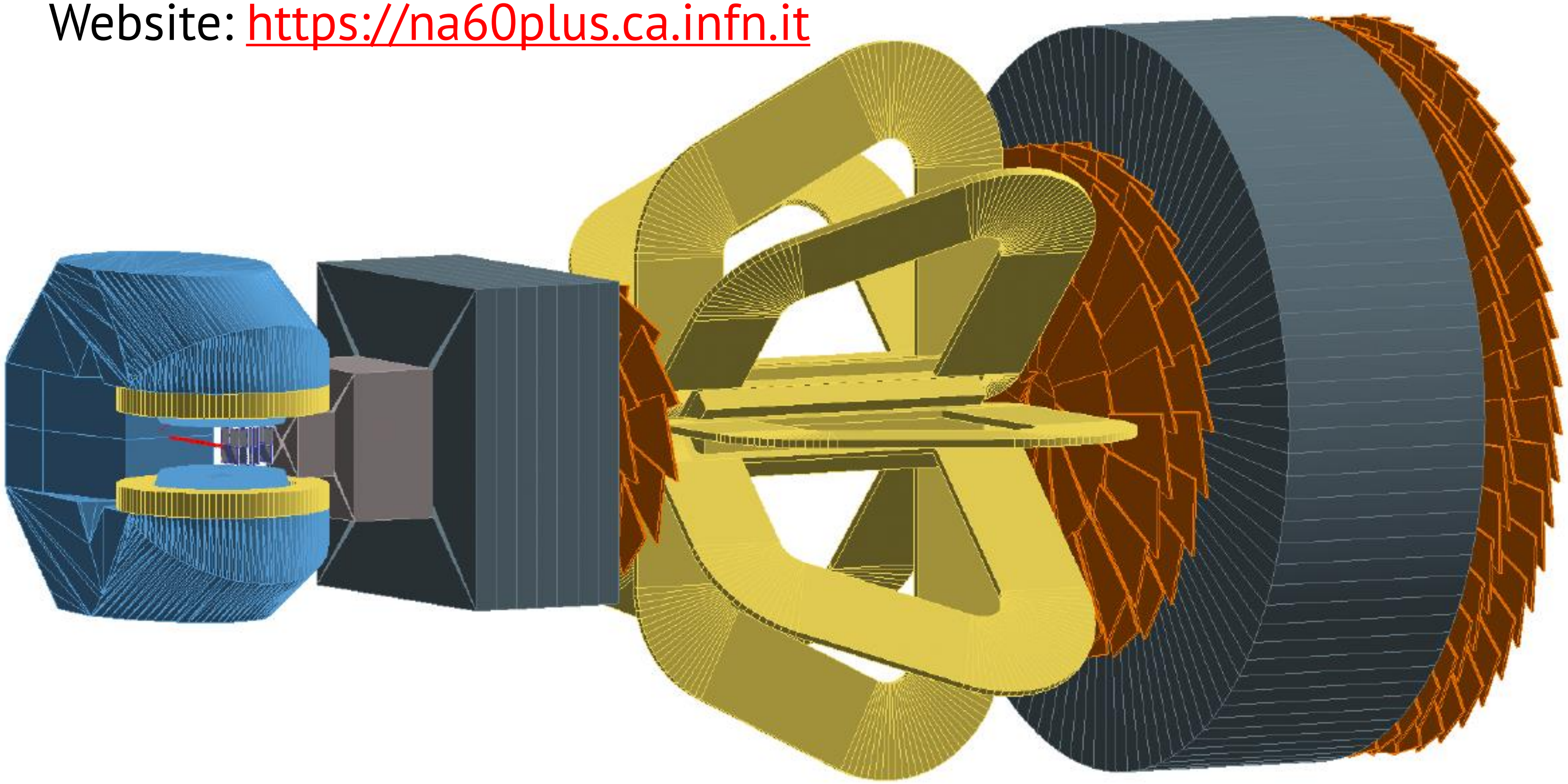
The NA60+ experiment at the CERN SPS: status and prospects

Letter of Intent: CERN-SPSC-2022-036 ; SPSC-I-259
(also arXiv:2212.14452)

Website: https://na60plus.ca.infn.it



E. Scomparin (INFN Torino, Italy)

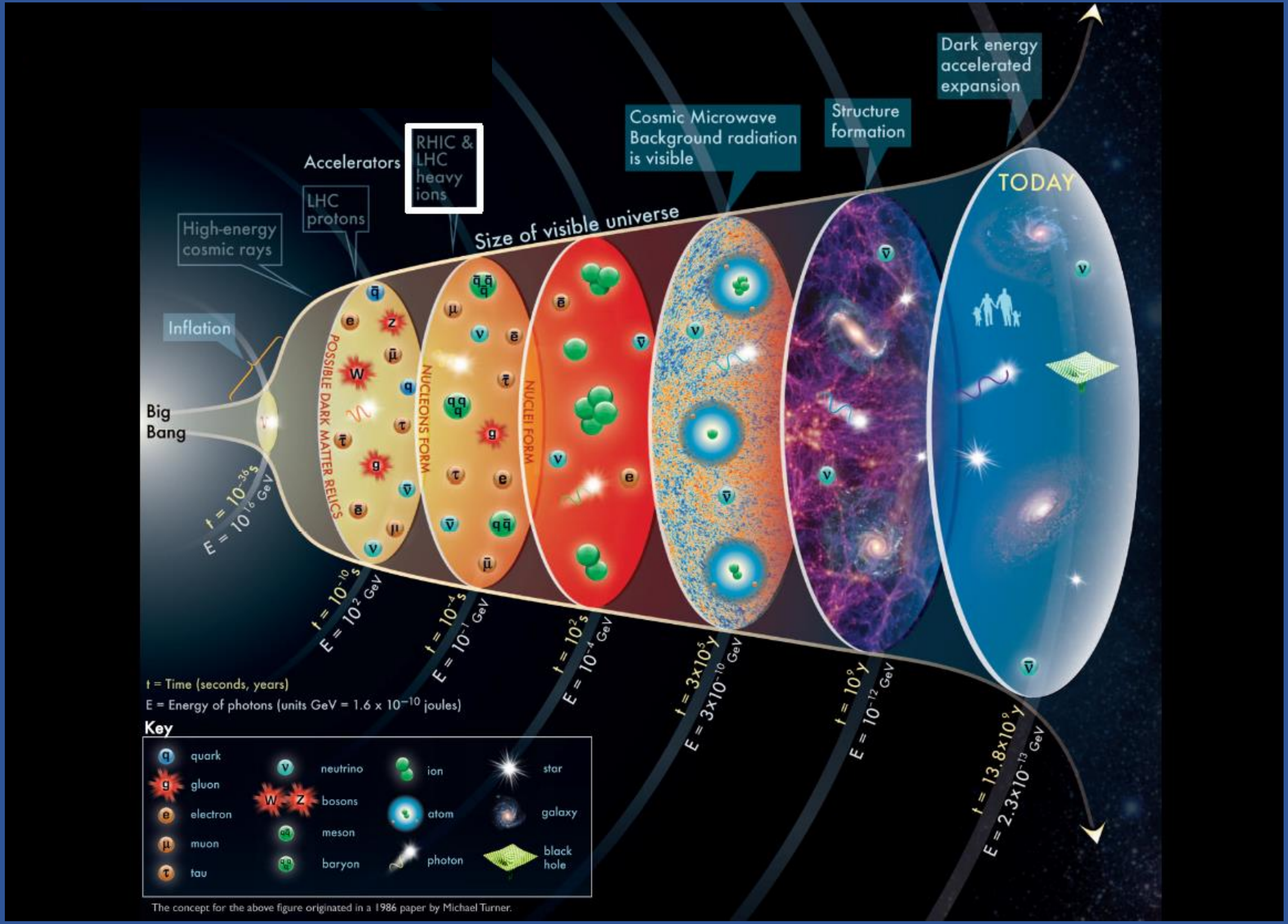
HADRON 2023

The Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)

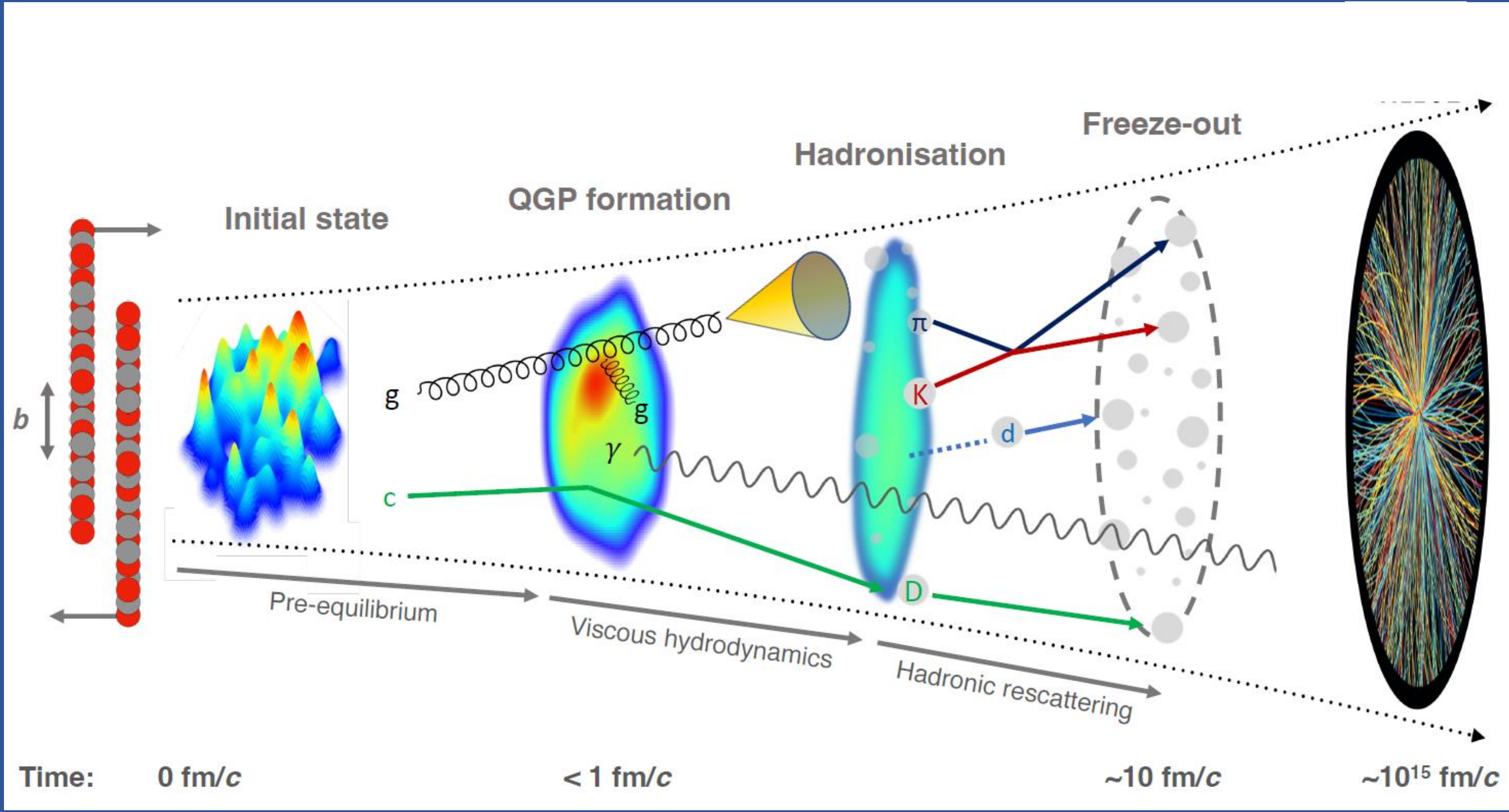
A **state of matter** where quarks and gluons are NOT confined into hadrons

The QGP filled the Universe ~10^{-6} s after the Big Bang

Critical temperature
T_c ~ 155 MeV
(= 1.8 x 10^{12} K !)



Studying the QGP with heavy ions



The phase diagram of strongly interacting matter

The transition between the two phases
QGP ↔ Hadrons
may happen in various regions of the phase diagram, with very different features

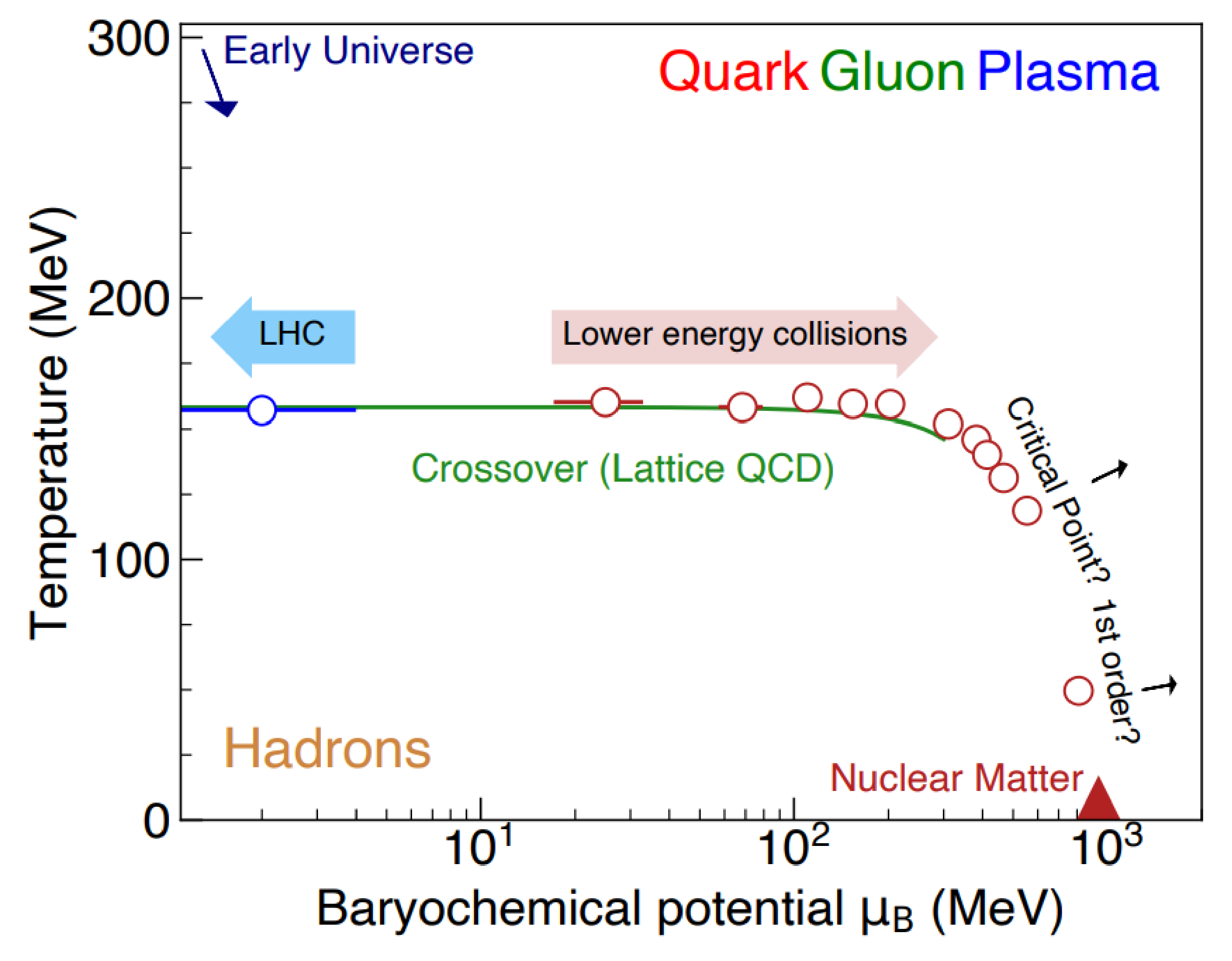
These regions can be investigated by colliding ions at different c.m. energy

High energy (collider):

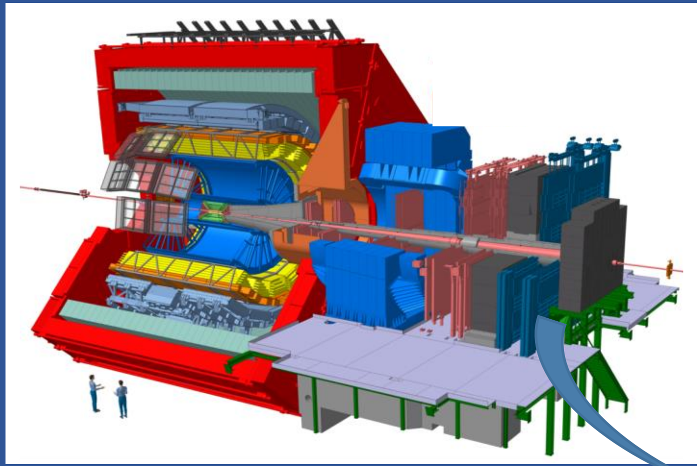
high T, low μ_B

Intermediate energy (fixed target)

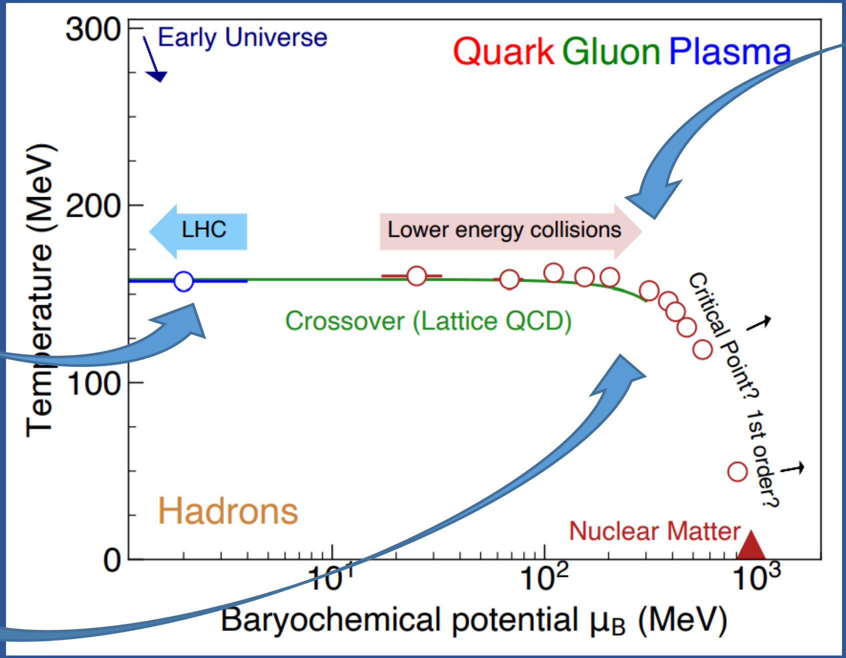
Medium T, high μ_B

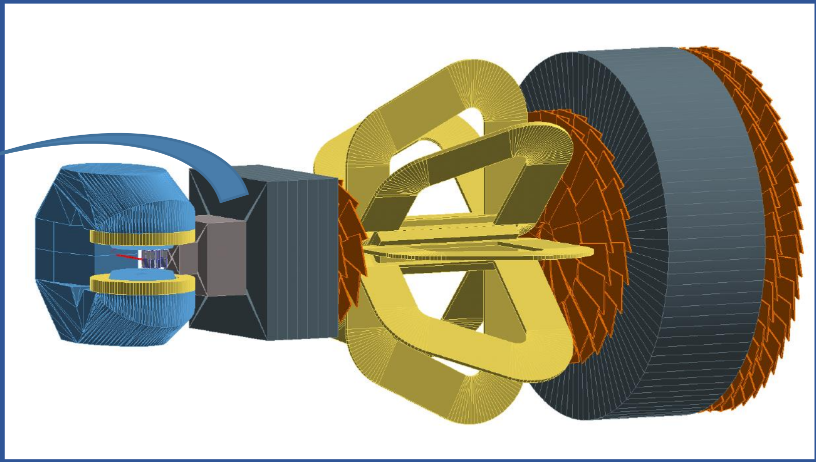


Heavy-ion experiments at CERN (present and future)

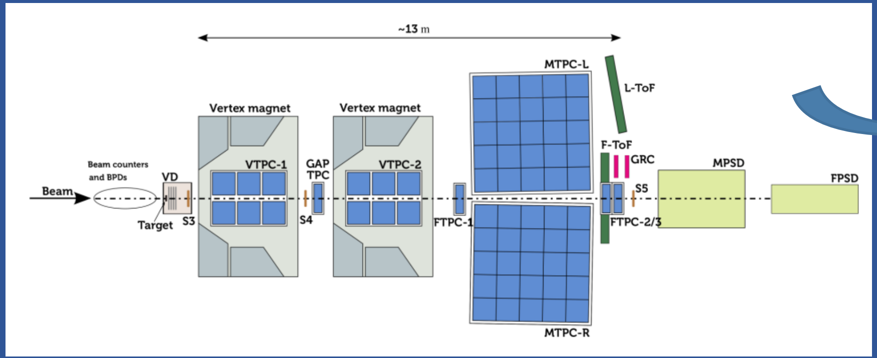


ALICE: general purpose HI detector at LHC: study high T, zero μ_B region (+ **ATLAS**, **CMS**, LHCb)





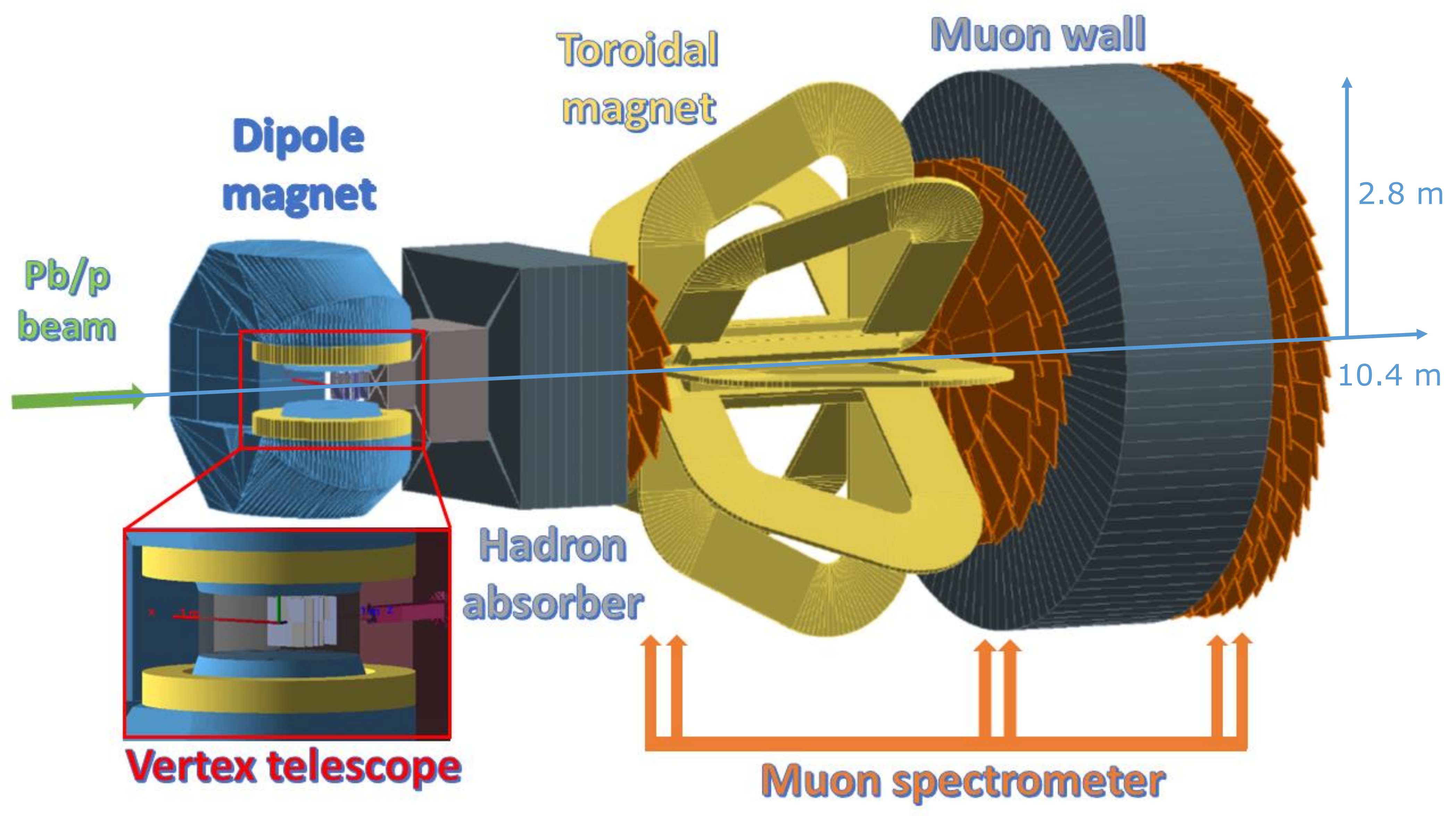
NA60+: high-μ_B studies of hard and electromagnetic probes of the Quark-Gluon Plasma at SPS energies



NA61/SHINE: (only) hadron detector at SPS: study intermediate T, finite μ_B region

Complete access to QGP-related observables in a wide range of T and μ_B

The NA60+ detector



Inspired by the **former NA60** detector (2002-2004)

Measurement of **(di)muon** production and hadronic decays of **strange** and **charm** hadrons

SPS **energy scan**: vary z-position of the muon spectrometer and thickness of hadron absorber

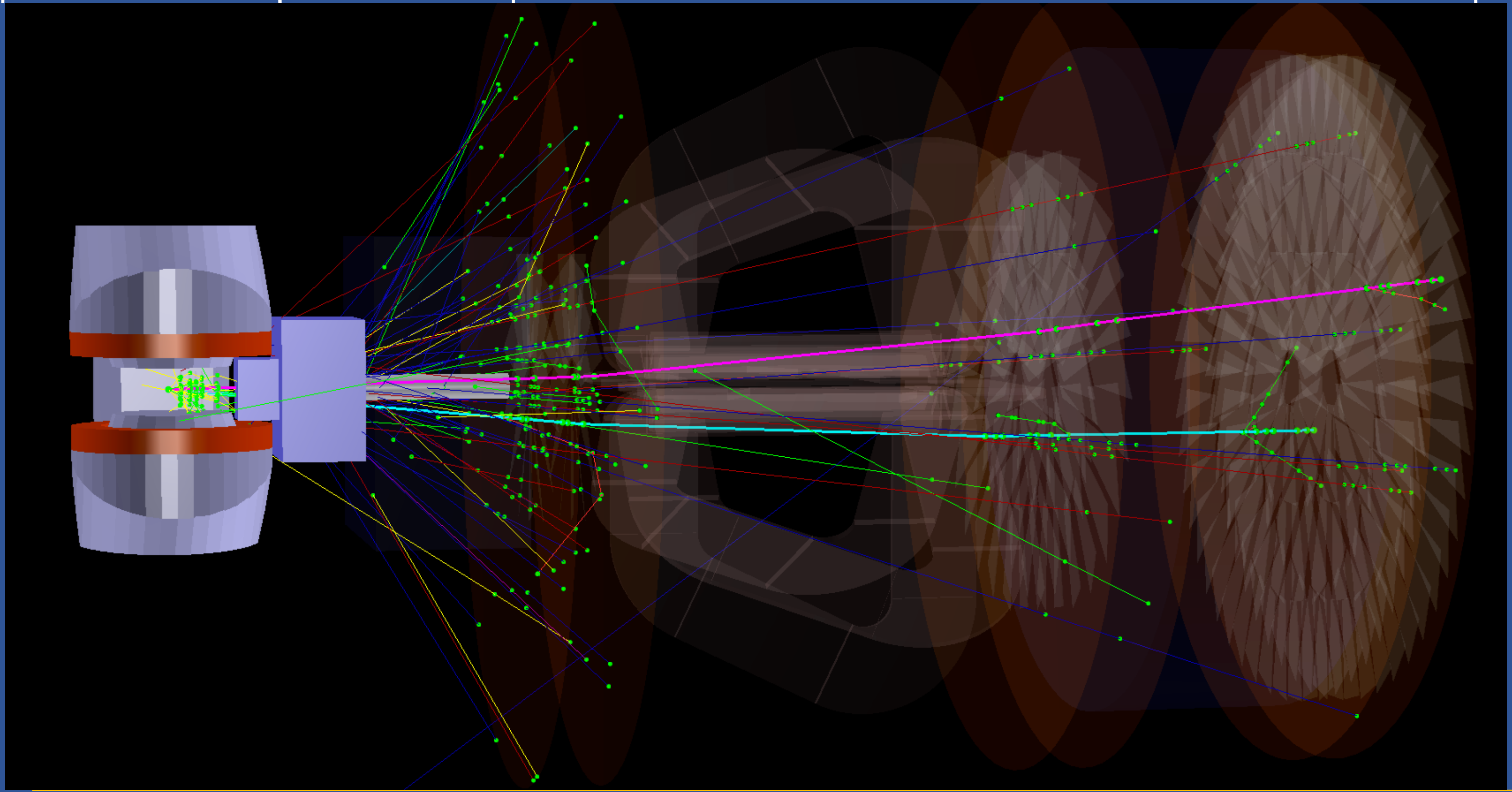
Measuring dimuons

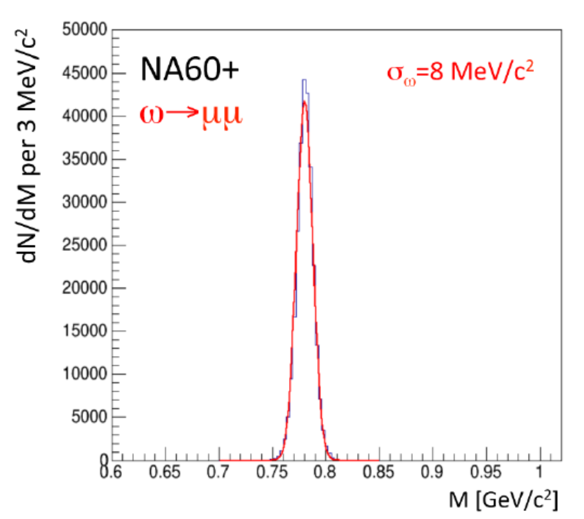
Track matching: measure muon kinematics before multiple scattering and energy loss

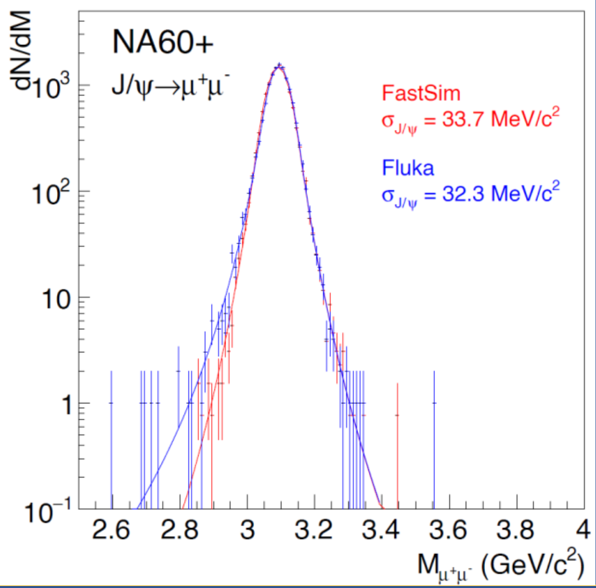
Track matching

Vertex tracking (dipole field)

Muon identification in the spectrometer (toroidal field)



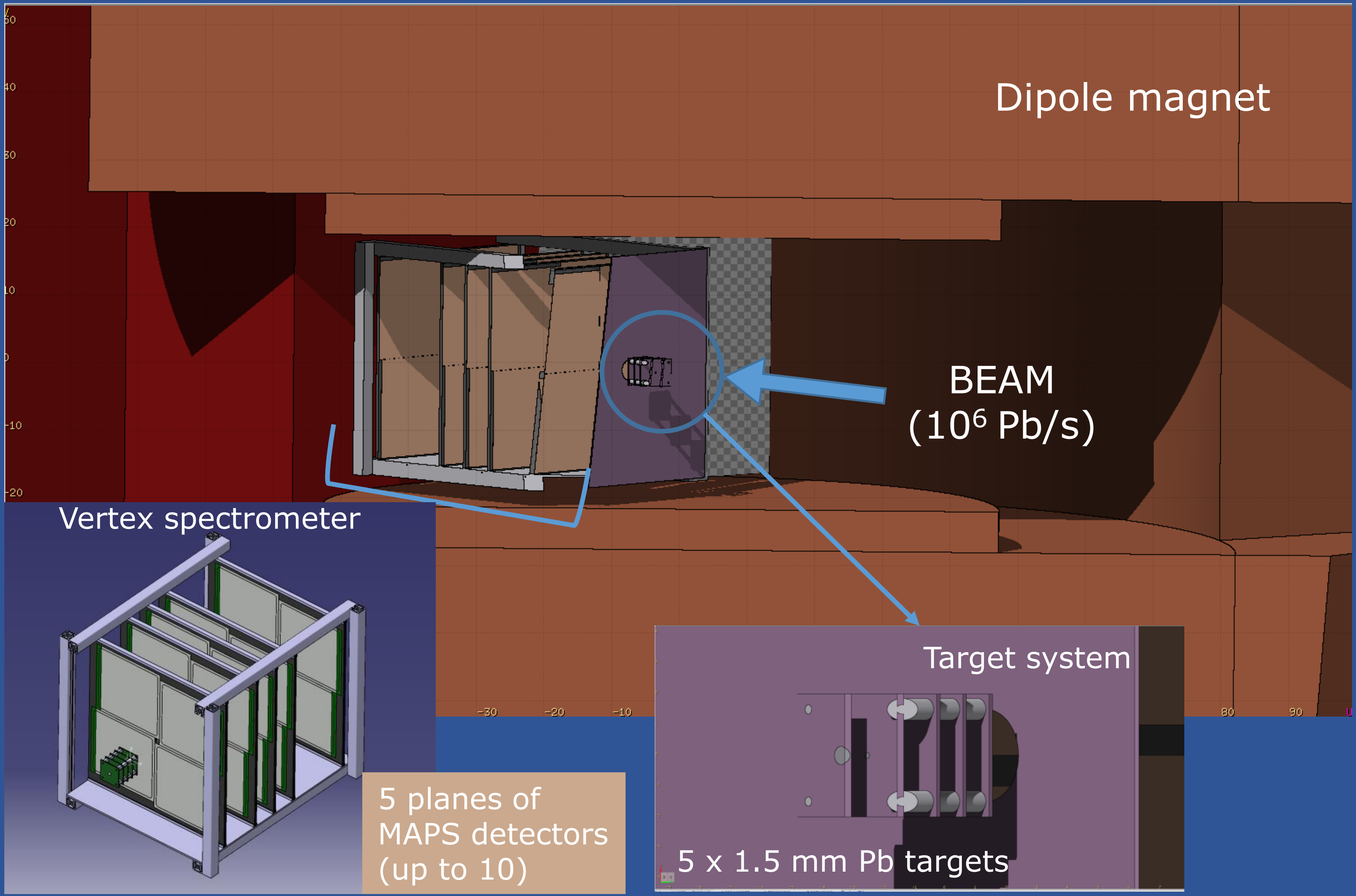




The NA60+ vertex region

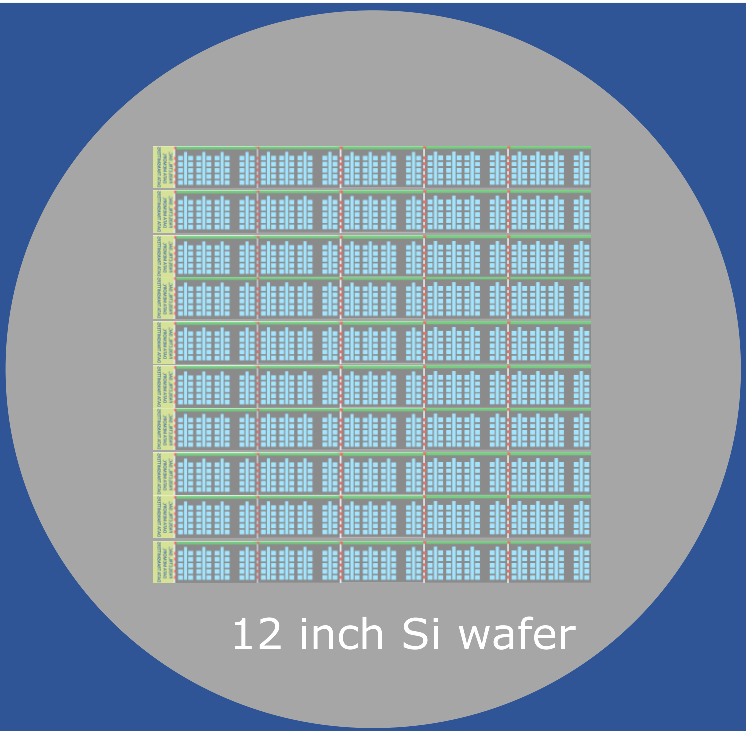
MEP48 dipole magnet
Field 1.5 T over a 400mm gap

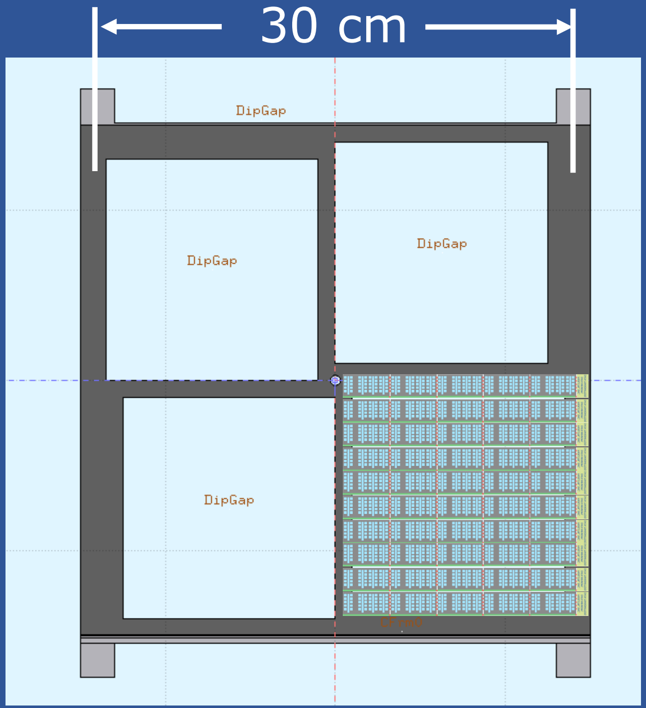
Stored at **CERN**



The NA60+ vertex telescope R&D

Sensor based on 25 mm long units, replicated several times through stitching
→ up to 15cm length for NA60+





R&D in progress
Common development
ALICE ←→ NA60+
(same timeline!)

State-of-the-art imaging technology
TowerJazz 65 nm

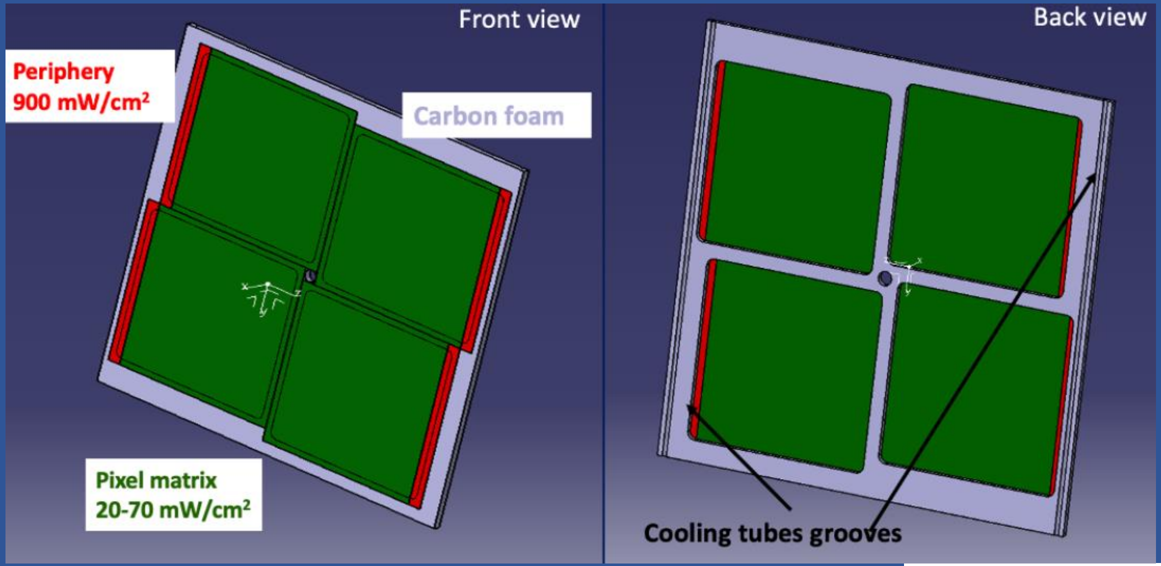
Sensor thickness:
few tens of microns of silicon
→ material budget **<0.1% X_0**

Spatial resolution **≤ 5 μm**

Cooling studies (NA60+ geometry)
→ **airflow+water**

- ❑ Engineering run for a fully functional prototype
- ❑ Possibility of a second run if optimizations needed

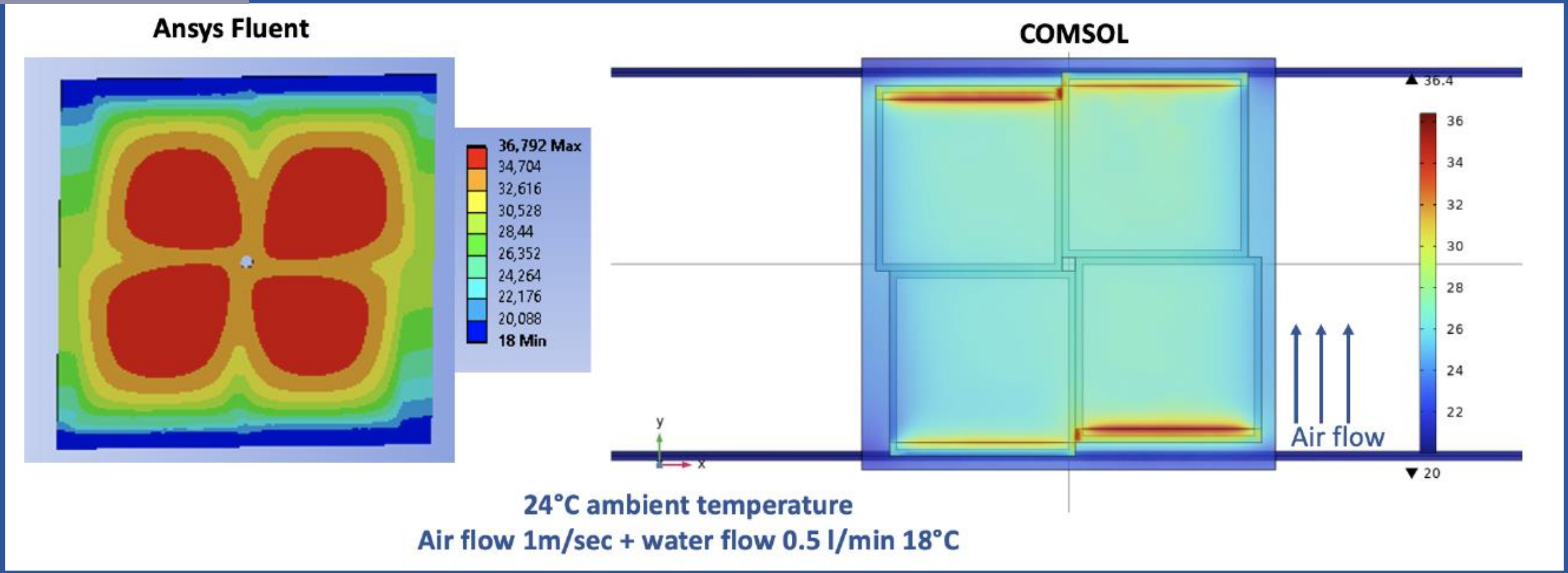
Cooling studies for NA60+ vertex spectrometer



- ❑ Frame of carbon foam on which 4 silicon sensors are placed
  - ❑ Pixel matrix 130×135 mm^2
  - ❑ Periphery, 10×135 mm^2
- ❑ Back-side of the carbon frame hosts the space for the cooling tubes

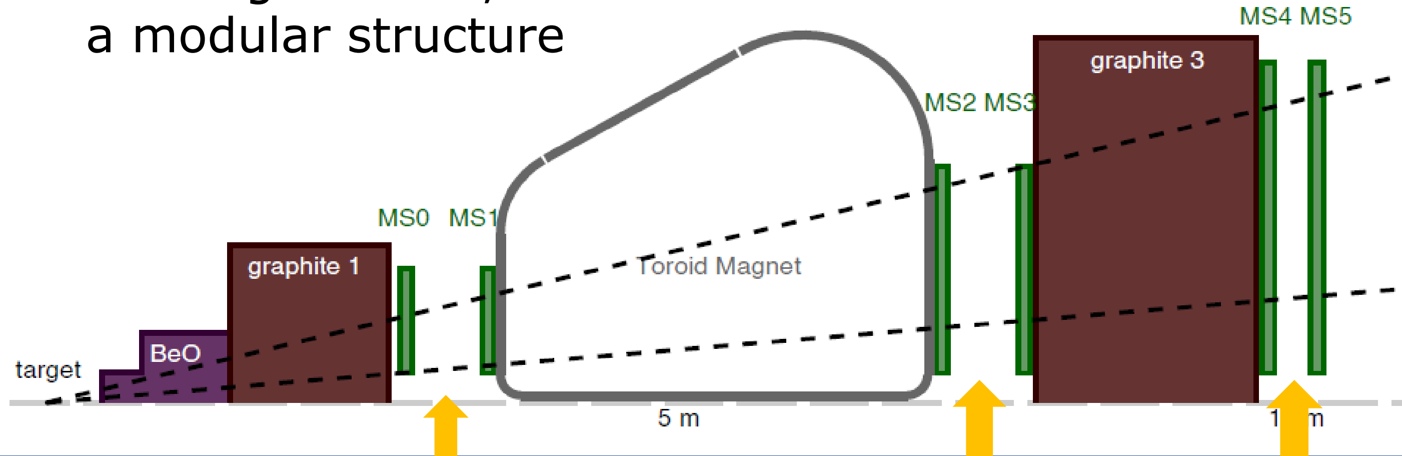
- ❑ Water flows inside copper tubes (3mm outer diameter) at T= 18°C , 0.5 l/min

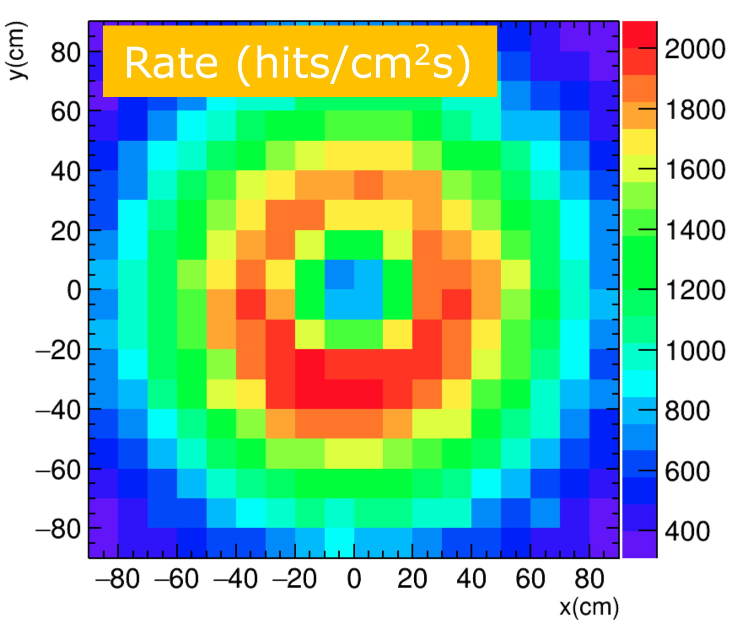
- ❑ Air flow between 1m/s at 24 °C and 3m/s at 17°C, depending in the dissipated power



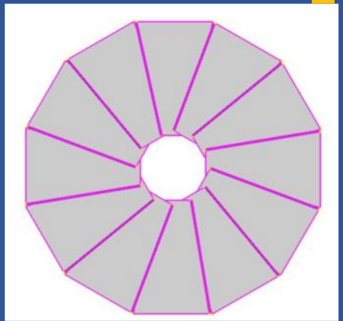
The NA60+ muon spectrometer

6 tracking stations, with a modular structure



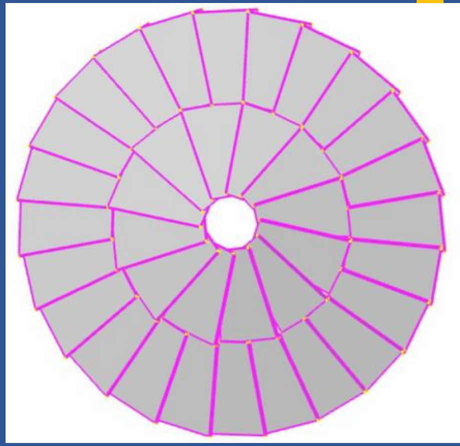


110 cm



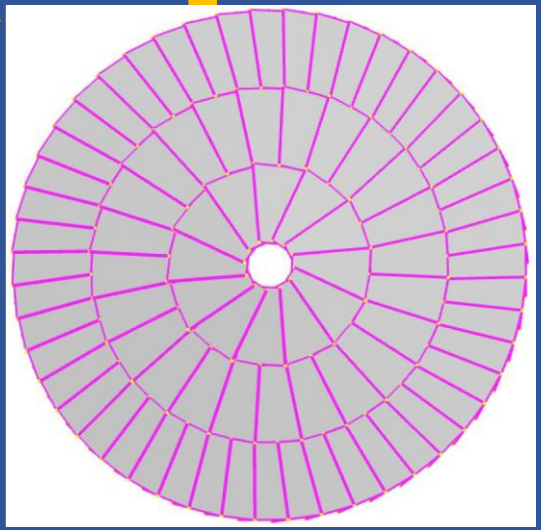
12x2 modules

195 cm



36x2 modules

280 cm



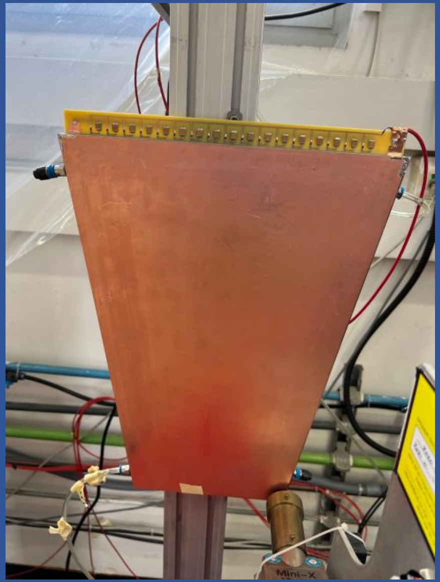
84x2 modules

- ❑ Modest rates (FLUKA) already in the upstream stations, thanks to the thick absorber (235 cm BeO +C)
- ❑ For a 10^6 s^{-1} beam
  → charged particle rate ~2kHz/cm^2

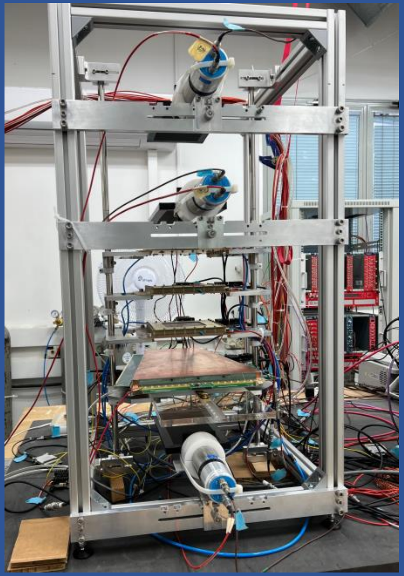
Can be matched by **GEM or MWPC** detectors

The NA60+ muon spectrometer R&D

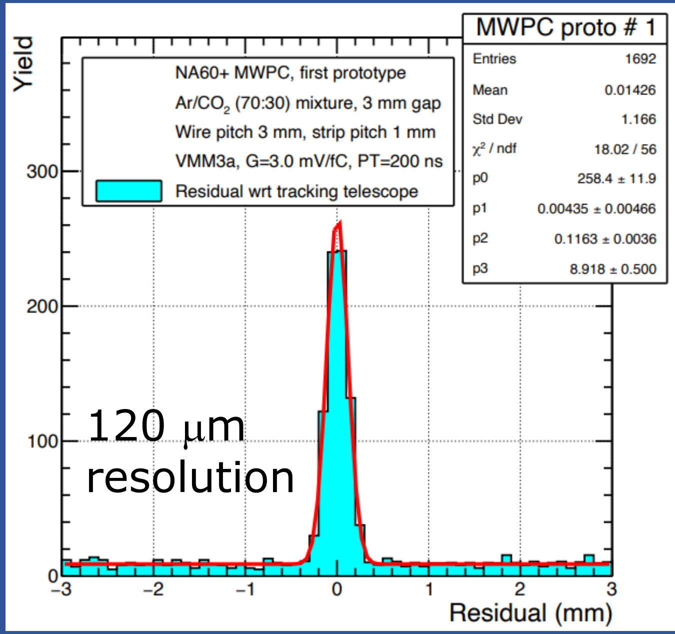
- First prototype of a **MWPC module built and tested** at Weizmann institute



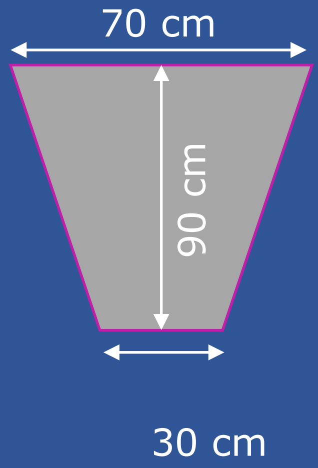
Prototype



Cosmic testbench

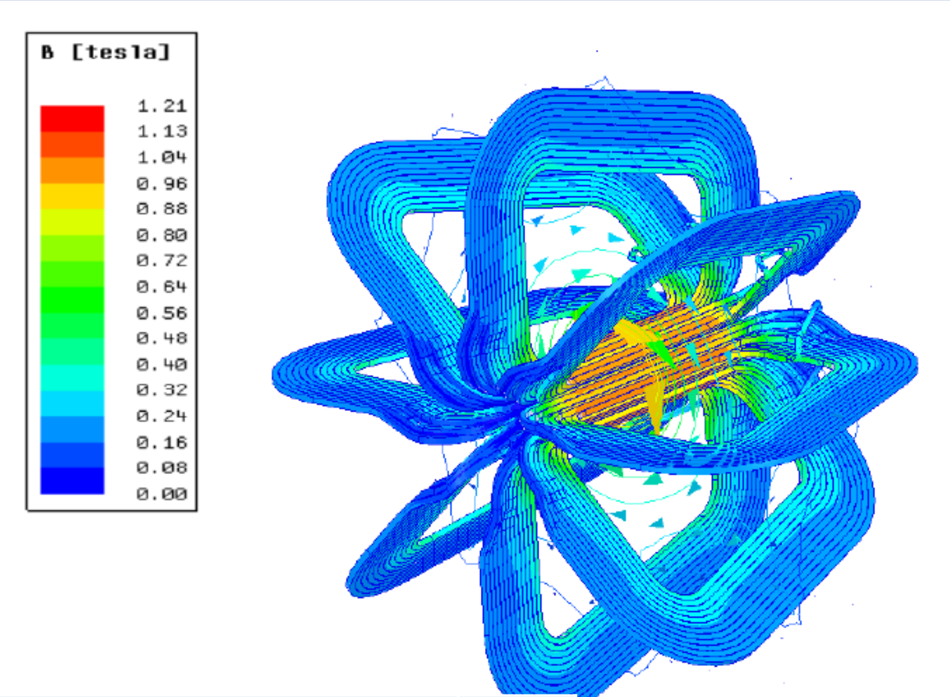


Weizmann (MWPC) and SBU (GEM) facilities have the technical possibility of **managing the full production** of the detector modules for the NA60+ muon spectrometer



- Ongoing discussions on the final set-up of the spectrometer, various possible solutions, as
  - GEM technology for upstream stations (MS0-MS1)
  - MWPC technology for downstream stations (MS2-MS5)

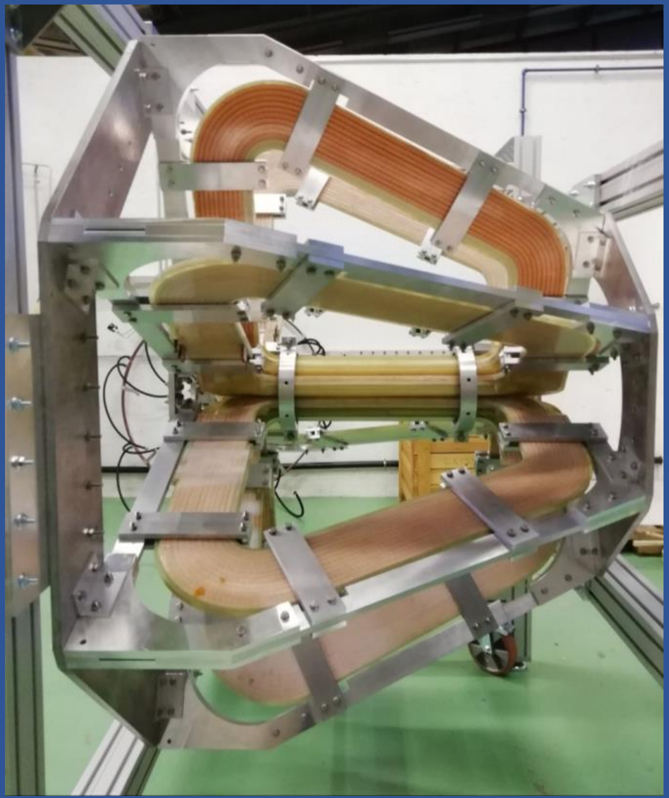
The NA60+ toroid



Warm magnet

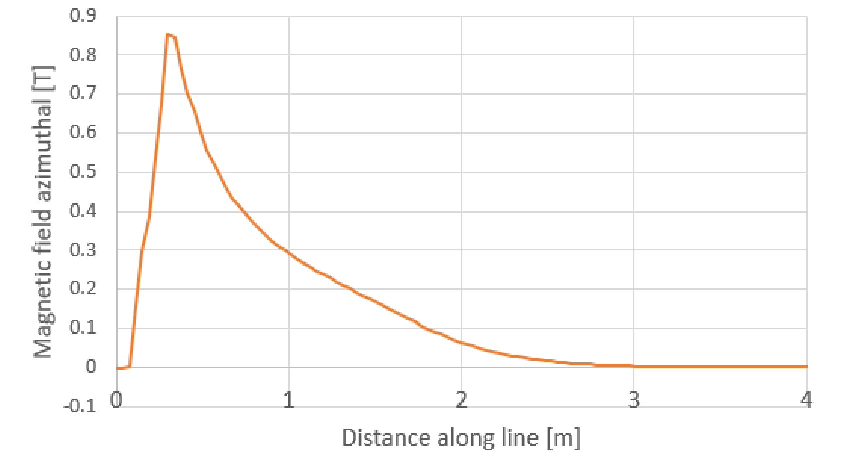
Eight sectors,
12 turns per coil

Conductor has a square copper section with a circular cooling channel in the centre



Prototype (1:5 scale)

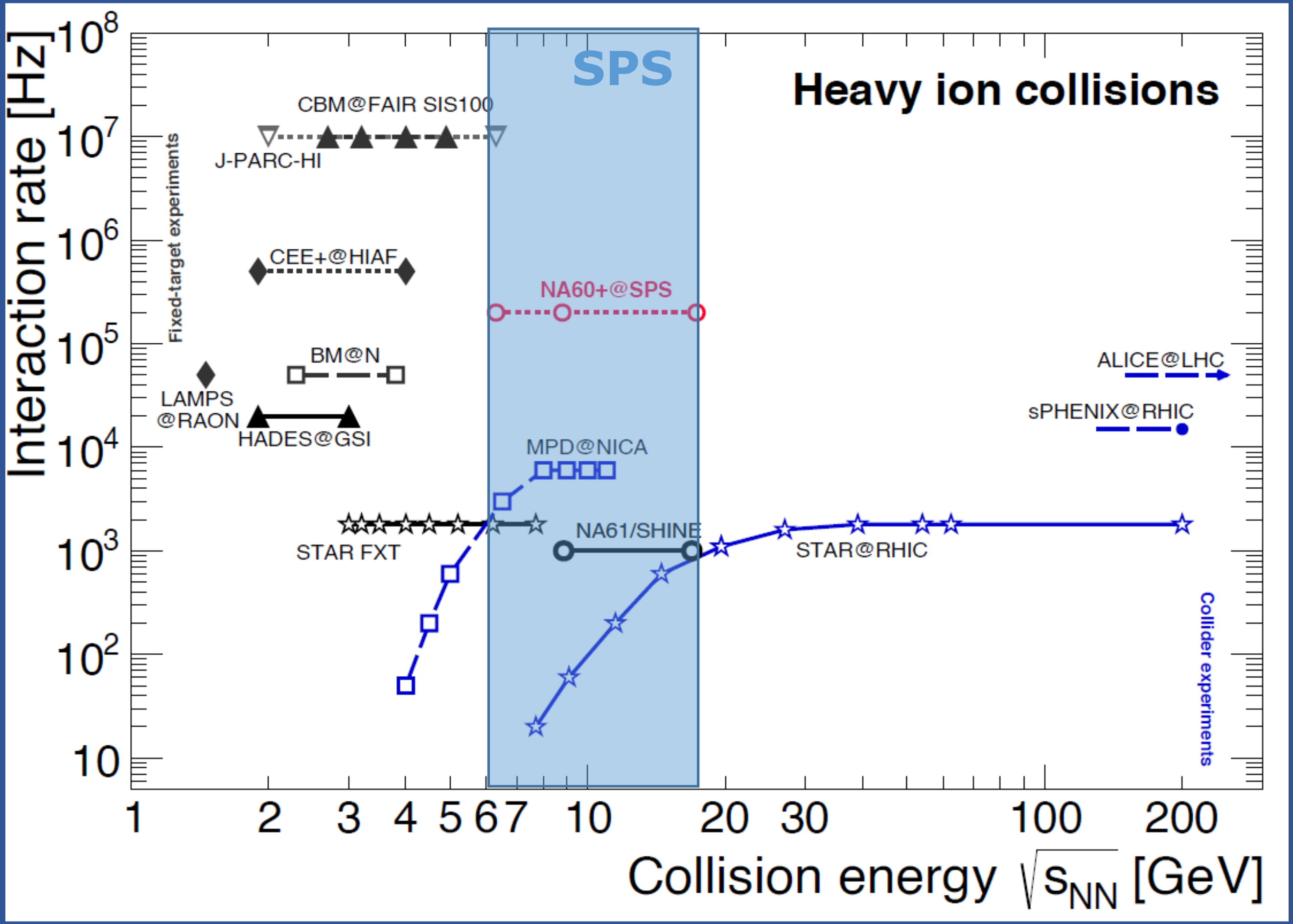
Operating Current [kA]	16.6
Amp-turns [kA]	199
Combined inductance [mH]	9.5
Resistivity Al 1100 @RT [μΩ.cm]	2.67
Length Conductor [m]	800
Total resistance [mΩ]	10.4
Dissipated power [MW]	2.8



- ❑ Measurements of resistance, inductance, cooling performance and magnetic field were carried out
- ❑ B measurement
  → agreement with simulations by 3%

Next step: technical design of the full-scale magnet

Uniqueness of NA60+ program



- The NA60+ physics program needs a large integrated luminosity → Measurement of **rare QGP probes**
- Such a luminosity can be obtained with **Pb-Pb interaction rates >10^5 Hz**, reachable with a ~10^6 s^{-1} beam intensity in a fixed-target environment
- In the SPS energy range, there **are no other existing/foreseen facilities/experiments** that can approach this kind of performance

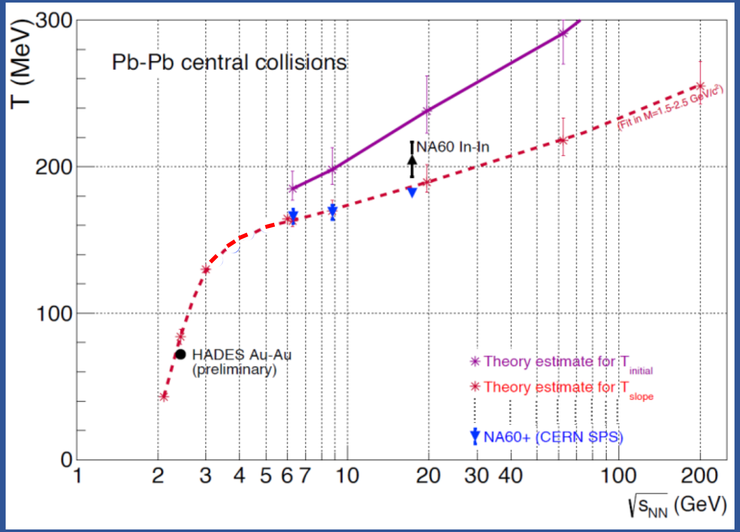
- **Complementarity** with experiments accessing
  - different (hadronic) observables in the same energy range (STAR BES, NICA, NA61)
  - similar observables in a lower energy range (CBM at FAIR)

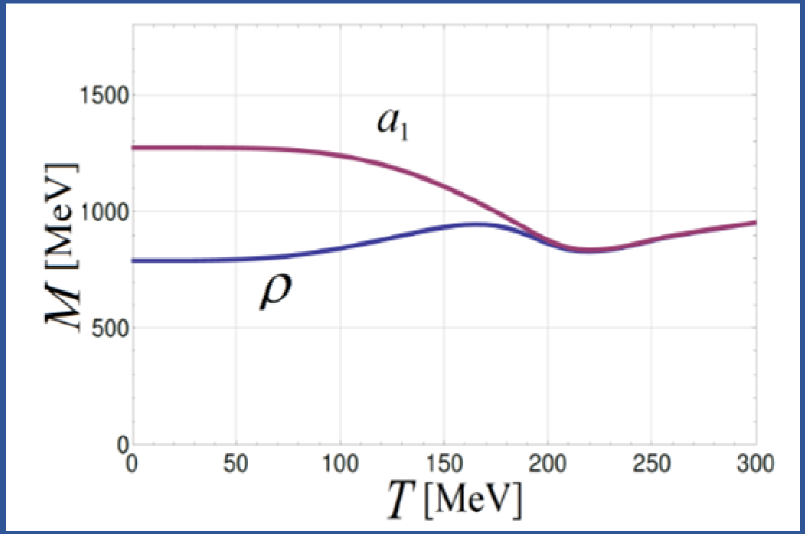
The NA60+ physics program

Several **new and unique measurements** in the region $6<\sqrt{s_{NN}}<17$ GeV ($20<E_{lab}<160$ AGeV)

1 Caloric curve of QGP

Measurement of temperature of thermal dimuons vs $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$



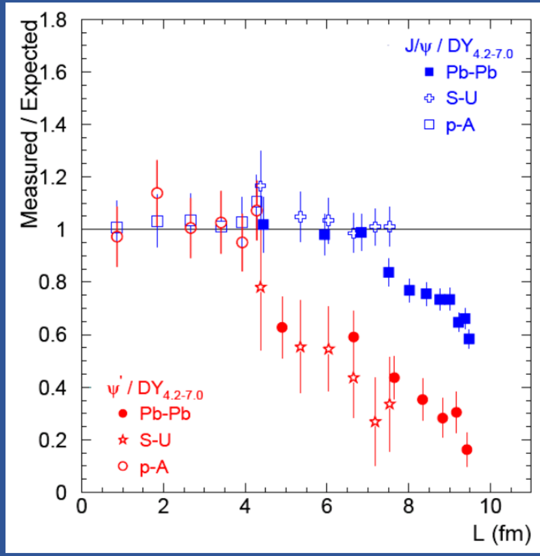


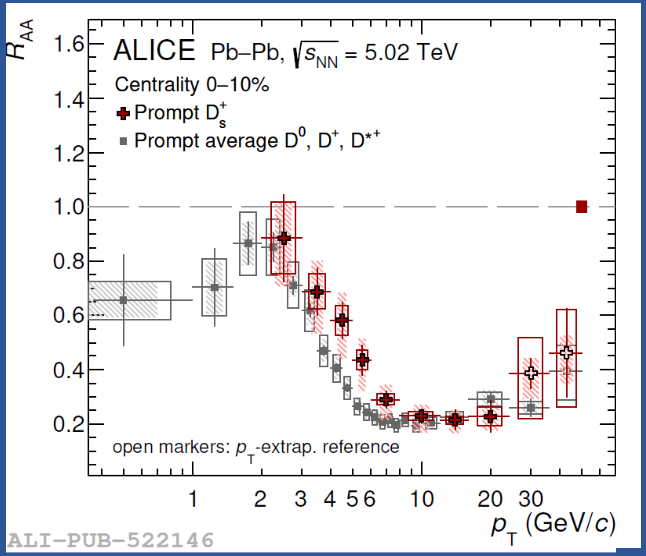
2 Chiral symmetry restoration

ρ-a_1 mixing in the dimuon channel

3 Charmonium melting in the QGP

Charmonium suppression vs $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (dimuon decay channel)



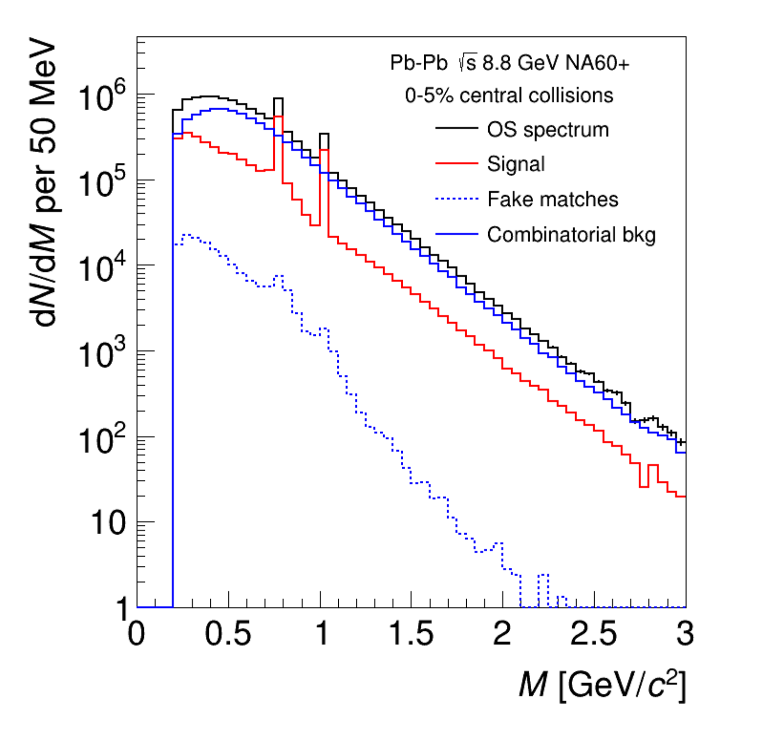


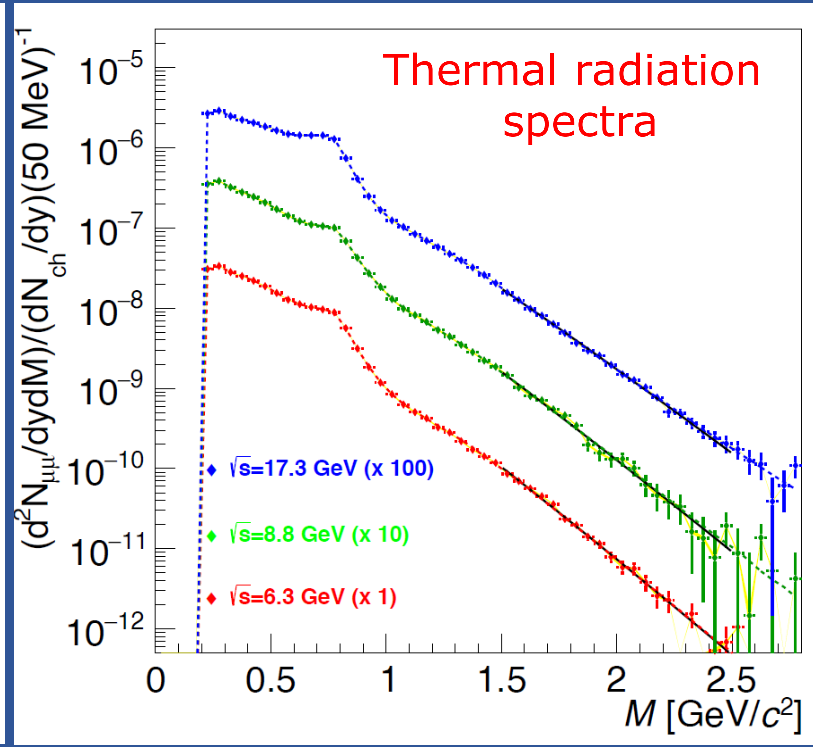
4 QGP transport coefficients and charm hadronization

Hadronic decays of open HF mesons/baryons

Physics performance: thermal radiation

1





- Thermal radiation yield
  - Dominated by ρ contribution at low mass
  - Accessible up to M=2.5-3 GeV/c^2
- Drell-Yan contribution
  → to be also estimated via p-A measurements
- Open charm
  Negligible dimuon source

~1-3% uncertainty on the evaluation of T_{slope}

2 months → 6.3

1 month → 8.8, 17.3

Energy (GeV)	Thermal pairs	T_{slope}
6.3	$3.52 \cdot 10^6$	$166 \pm 4.7 \pm 1$
8.8	$3.56 \cdot 10^6$	$169 \pm 4.4 \pm 1$
17.3	$9.70 \cdot 10^6$	$182 \pm 1.8 \pm 1$

(0-5% central Pb-Pb collisions)

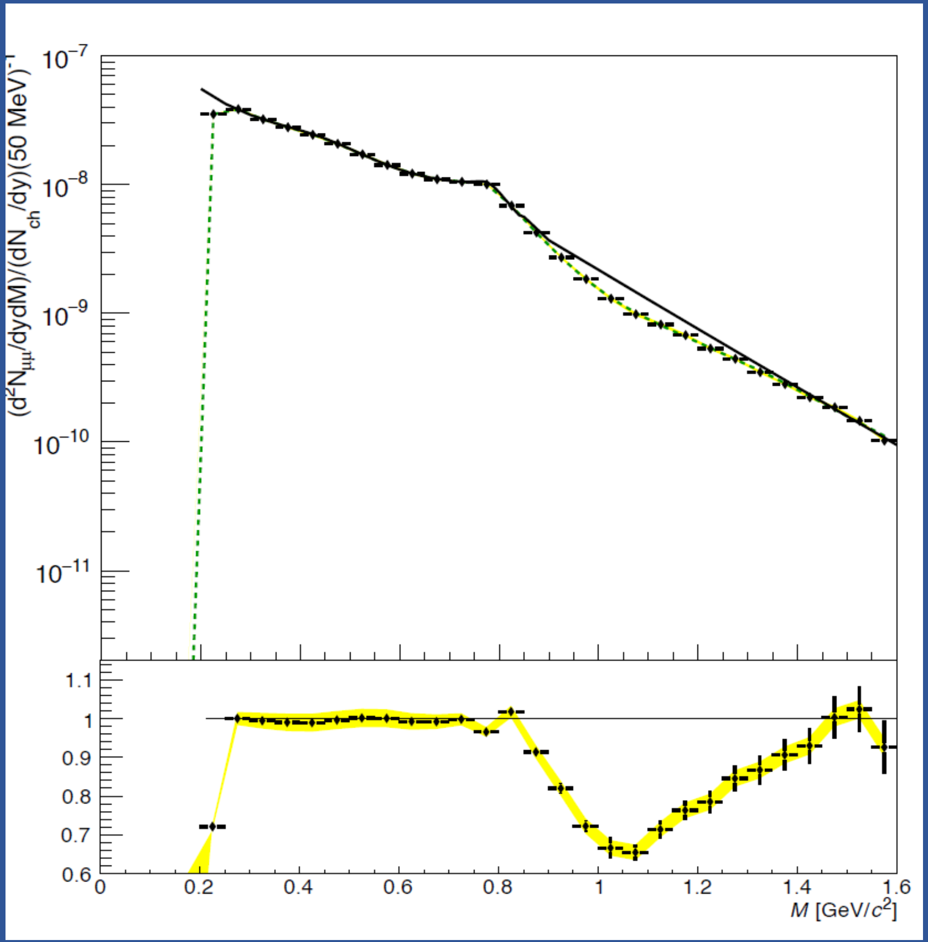
Accurate mapping of the region where T_{pc} is reached
→ Strong **sensitivity** to possible flattening due to 1st order transition

- **Elliptic flow** measurement also feasible

Physics performance: chiral symmetry

2

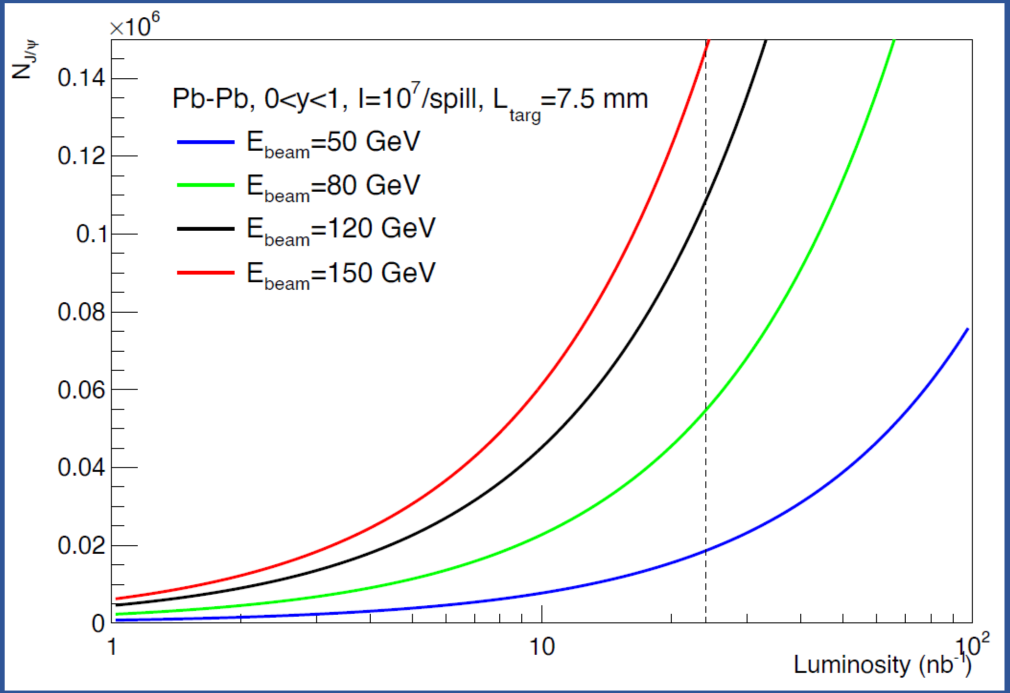
- ❑ Detect **modification of continuum** in $1<m_{\mu\mu}<1.4$ GeV, related to chiral symmetry restoration

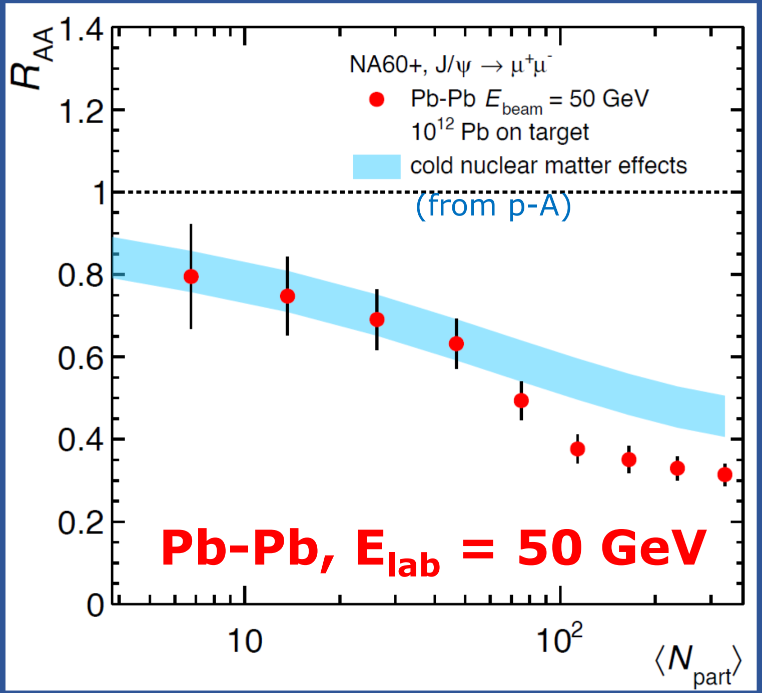


- ❑ Comparison of spectra ($\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 8.8 GeV), based on the assumption of no chiral mixing, with expectation of full chiral mixing
- ❑ Statistical and systematic uncertainty provide a very good sensitivity to an **increase of the yield due to chiral mixing of ~20–30%**

Physics performance: charmonium

3





- 7.5mm Pb target and 1 month data taking
  → $L_{int} \sim 24\ nb^{-1}$
  Can aim at
  - **~O(10^4) J/ψ at 50 GeV**
  - **~O(10^5) J/ψ at 158 GeV**

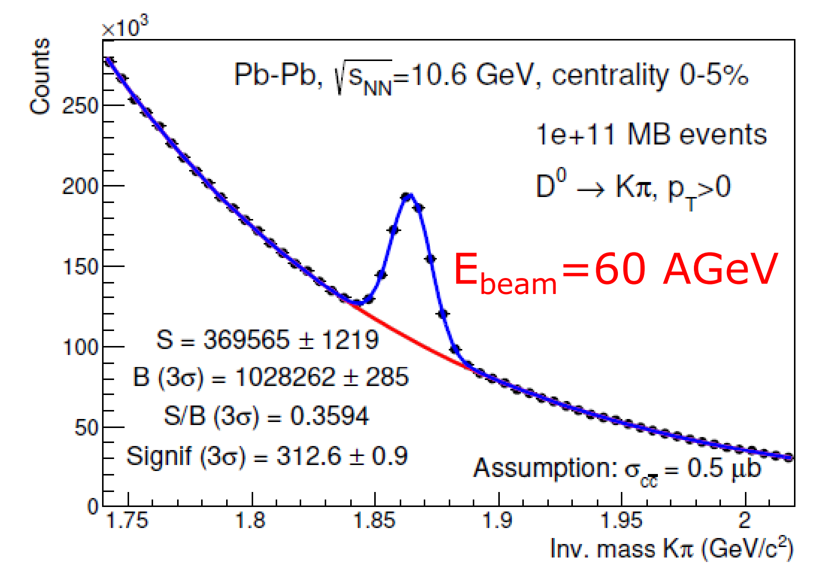
- Detection of **onset of anomalous suppression** effects down to low SPS energy
- **p-A data taking mandatory** (few weeks/year), to calibrate CNM effects
- **ψ(2S)** also within reach, down to E=100-120 A GeV

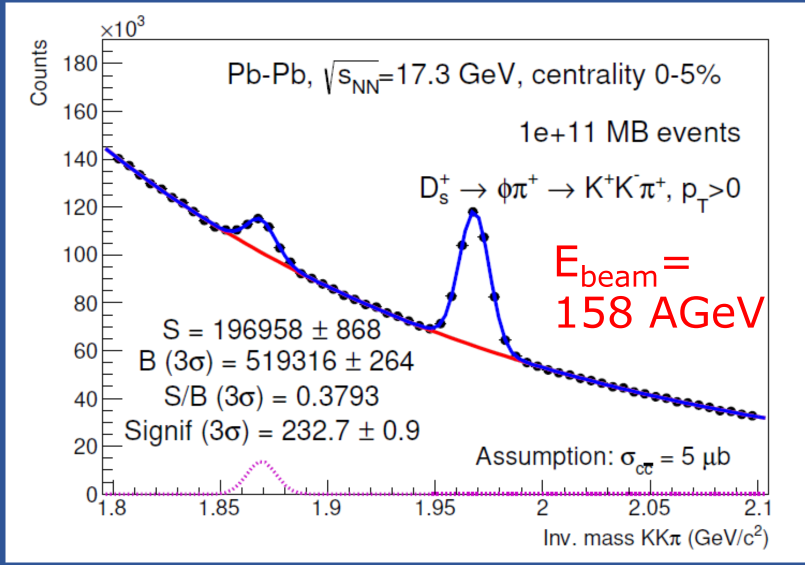
- NA60+ is also ideally placed to look for signals of **intrinsic charm** in p-A collisions, which are pushed much closer to midrapidity wrt collider energies

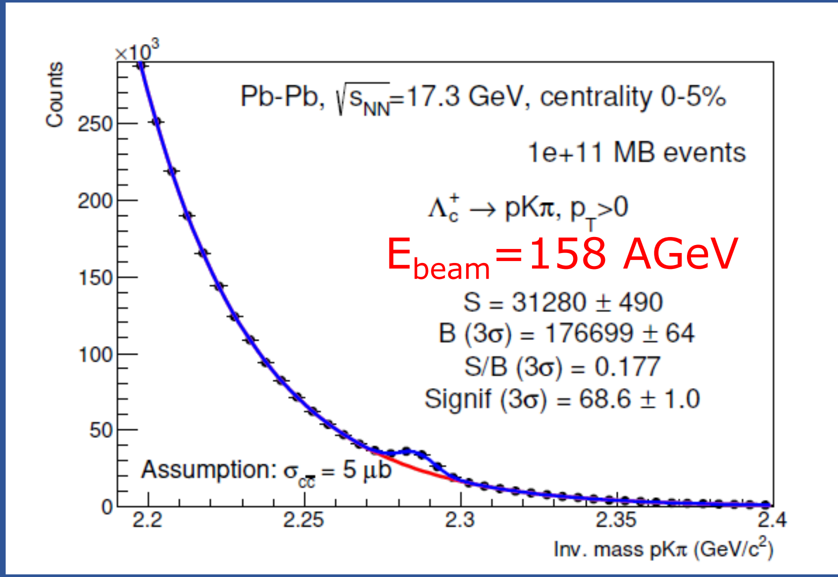
Physics performance: open charm

4

- Combine tracks in the vertex spectrometer only, apply topological cuts
- 10^{11} minimum bias Pb-Pb collisions: $>3\cdot10^{6}$ reconstructed D^0 in central Pb-Pb at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$=17.3 GeV
  - 2-3 orders of magnitude larger than forthcoming **NA61 results**
  - **D^0** accessible also at lower collision energies with statistical precision at the percent level
  - Measurement of **D_s and Λ_c yield feasible** with statistical precision of few percent





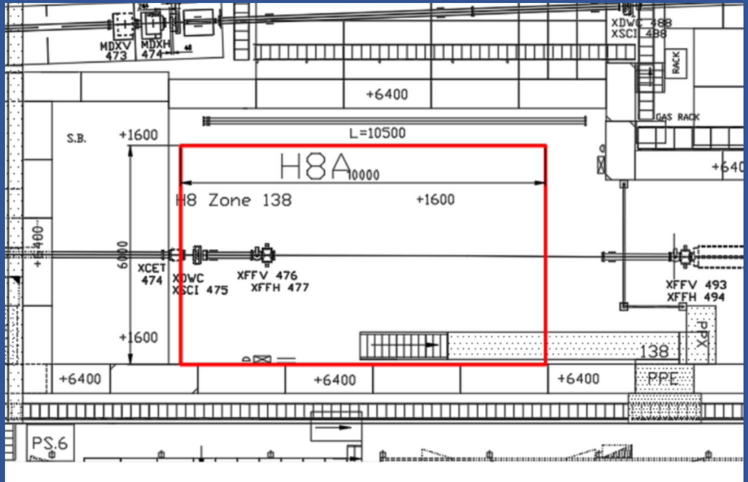


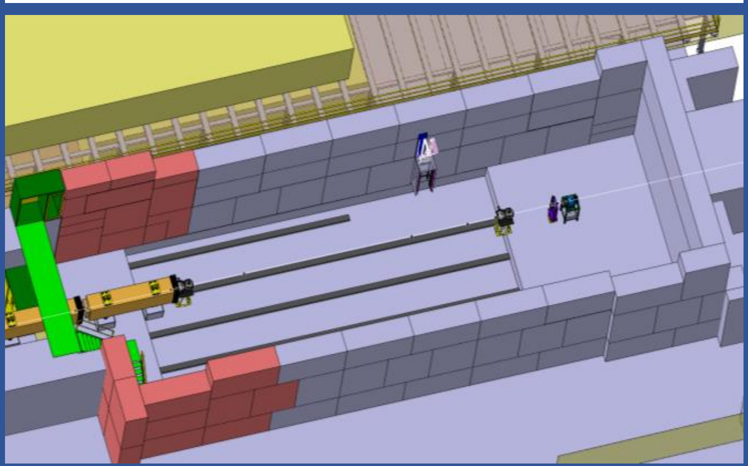
$D^0 \to K\pi$ **$D_s^+ \to \Phi\pi \to KK\pi$** **$\Lambda_c^+ \to pK\pi$**

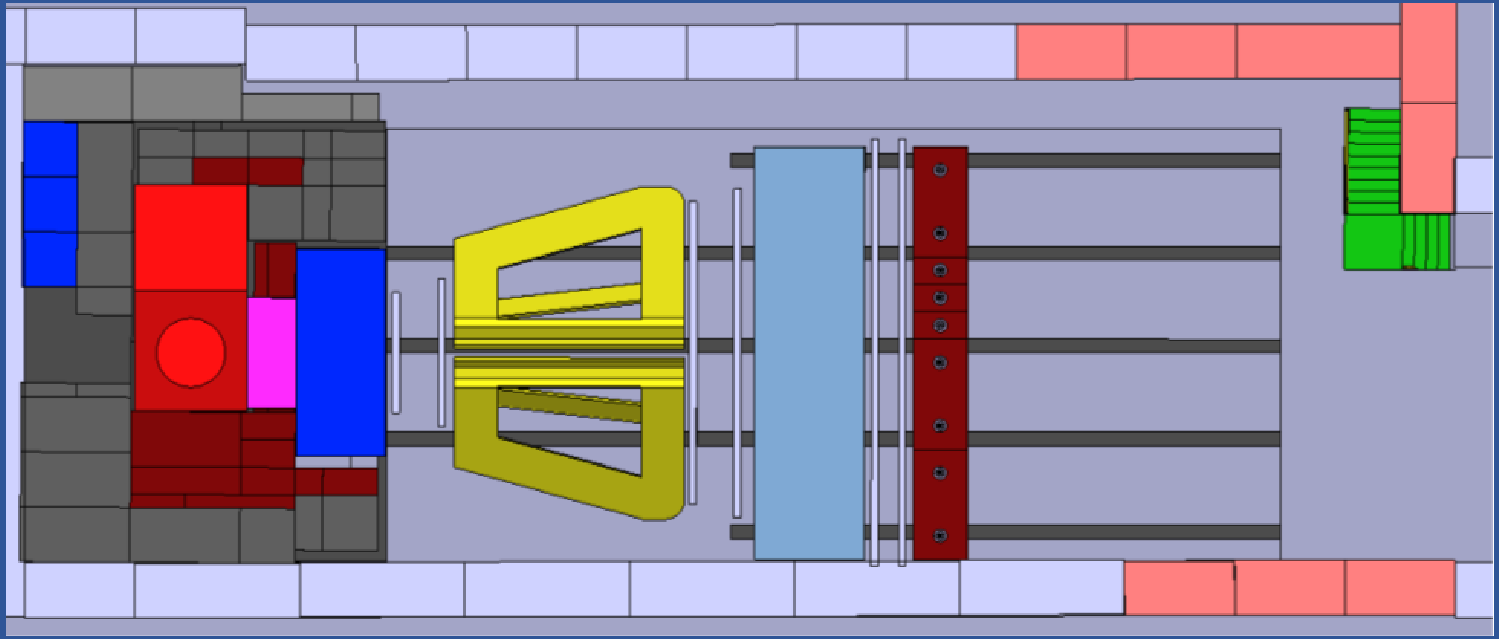
Similar technique allows measurements of **hyperons and hypernuclei**

NA60+: where

- Thorough studies carried out in 2020/2021 thanks to **PBC support**, with the decisive help of the **CERN-BE-EA group**
  → integration feasible in the PPE138 area on the H8 beam







Need rail installation (muon spectrometer shifting) and a possible floor excavation due to the current vertical position of the beam line

NA60+, NIM A1047 (2023) 167887

Collaboration institutes

Appendix: NA60+ Collaboration

C. Ahdida[1] , G. Alocco[2,3] , F. Antinori[4] , M. Arba[3] , M. Aresti[2,3] , R. Arnaldi[5] , A. Baratto Roldan[1] , S. Beolè[6,5] , A. Beraudo[5] , J. Bernhard[1] , L. Bianchi[6,5] , M. Borysova[7,8] , S. Bressler[7] , S. Bufalino[9,5] , E. Casula[2,3] , C. Cicalò[3] , S. Coli[5] , P. Cortese[10,5] , A. Dainese[4] , H. Danielsson[1] , A. De Falco[2,3] , K. Dehmelt[11] , A. Drees[11] , A. Ferretti[6,5] , F. Fionda[2,3] , M. Gagliardi[6,5] , A. Gerbershagen[12] , F. Geurts[13] , V. Greco[14,15] , W. Li[13] , M.P. Lombardo[16] , D. Marras[3] , M. Masera[6,5] , A. Masoni[3] , L. Micheletti[1] , L. Mirasola[2,3] , F. Mazzaschi[1,6] , M. Mentink[1] , P. Mereu[5] , A. Milov[7] , A. Mulliri[2,3] , L. Musa[1] , C. Oppedisano[5] , B. Paul[2,3] , M. Pennisi[6,5] , S. Plumari[14] , F. Prino[5] , M. Puccio[1] , C. Puggioni[3] , R. Rapp[17] , I. Ravinovich[7] , A. Rossi[4] , V. Sarritzu[2,3] , B. Schmidt[1] , E. Scomparin[5] , S. Siddhanta[3] , R. Shahoyan[1] , M. Tuveri[3] , A. Uras[18] , G. Usai[2,3] , H. Vincke[1] , I. Vorobyev[1]

- The LoI was signed by 62 physicists/engineers/technicians representing institutions in
  - **Italy** (Cagliari, Padova, Torino)
  - **Israel** (Weizmann)
  - **USA** (StonyBrook, Rice)
  - **France** (Lyon)
  - and **CERN**
- Support also from prominent members of the QGP theory community
- **Funding for the R&D phase** since 2020 allowed us to complete the LoI preparation
- Contacts ongoing to **strengthen the Collaboration** on specific items and reach critical manpower level

LoI presented at **the CERN SPSC in February 2023** → Favorable feedback!

The SPSC **recognizes** the fundamental interest of the measurements proposed by the NA60+ collaboration, which are focused on electromagnetic and hard probes of the quark gluon plasma at high baryochemical potential. In order for the project to proceed with the suggested roadmap (starting construction in 2026 and data taking in 2029), the SPSC **would expect to start examining** a proposal by 2024.

Timeline

- Project followed by PBC since 2016
- EoI in 2019
- LoI in 2022

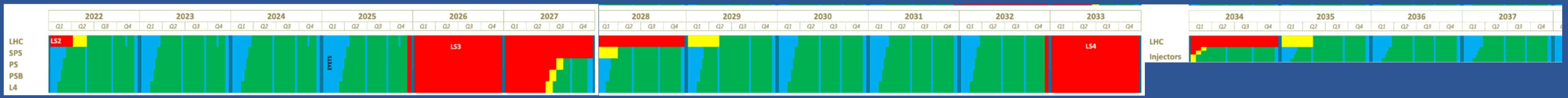
Our current plan is to have the experiment on the floor by the end of LS3 → **2029**

- Foreseen roadmap
  - Technical proposal: **2024**
  - Construction and installation: **2026-2028**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4-5	Year 6	Year 7
Beam energy (A GeV)	160	40	120	20 (30)	80	60
Momentum per charge (GeV/c/Z)	406	101	304	50.7 (76.1)	203	152
Pb ions on target	$\sim 10^{12}$ per energy ($\sim$ 30 days)					
protons on target	$5-6 \cdot 10^{13}$ per energy ($\sim$ 22 days)					

NA60+ data taking

yr1 yr2 yr3 yr4 yr5 yr6 yr7



2029 2030 2031 2032 2035 2036 2037

Summary and final considerations

- ❑ A new heavy-ion experiment at CERN can **address several important questions** that cannot be answered with other facilities/experiments

- ❑ We have submitted a **LoI** for a new experiment that couples state-of-the-art (MAPS) and well known (MWPC, GEM) detection techniques

- ❑ Once R&D studies and detector set-up are finalized, and the Collaboration is strengthened, it is our intention to **submit a proposal** to SPSC (by 2024)

- ❑ In our current timeline first data taking should occur in **2029**, after LS3

Backup

Cost estimates

- Final definition of the set-up details still in progress
- Estimate of costs related to data acquistion, storage and computing is still in progress
- Current evaluation subject to oscillation in the cost of raw materials, electronic, etc.
- Assume 1 Euro ~ 1 CHF ~ 1 US$

PRELIMINARY

Sub-system	Estimated cost (MCHF)
Vertex spectrometer	2.5 – 3.1
Muon spectrometer	2.7 – 4.0
Toroidal magnet	3.8
RP monitors, Shielding	1.5
Total	10.5 – 12.4

Table 17: Estimated costs of the various NA60+ subsystems.

Toroid

Estimated cost (MCHF)	
Copper Conductor	0.6
Manufacturing of coils	1.7
Power converter (confirmation ~1/8)	0.8
Mechanical structure	0.4
Cooling system	0.3
TOTAL	**3.8**

MAPS

	kCHF
Engineering runs	600-1200
Wafer post-processing	300
FPC and wire bonding	200
Mechanical support	200
Cables, patch panels	300
Readout and power distribution	900
TOTAL	2500-3100

Muons

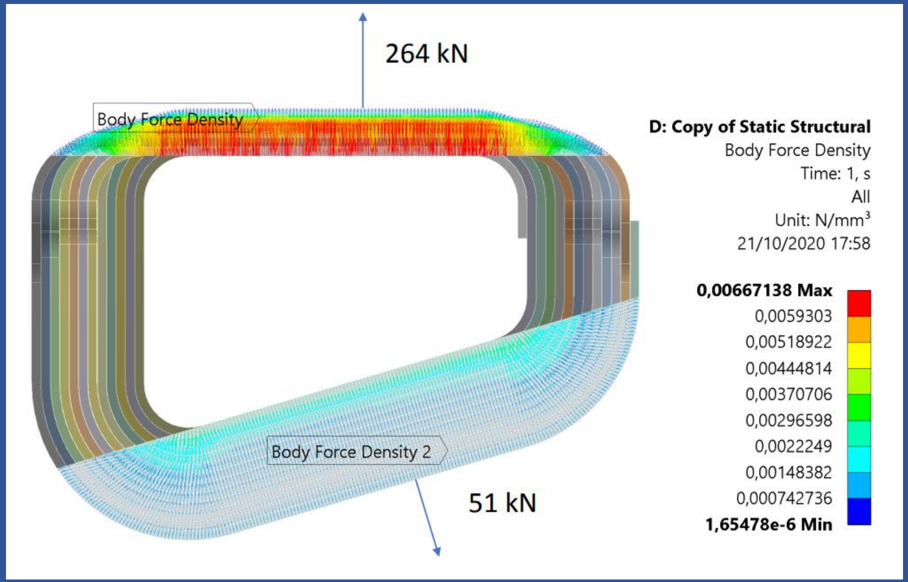
All MWPCs

	kCHF
Detectors	500
FEE	1000
HV system	150
Mechanical support	750
Gas system	300
TOTAL	2700

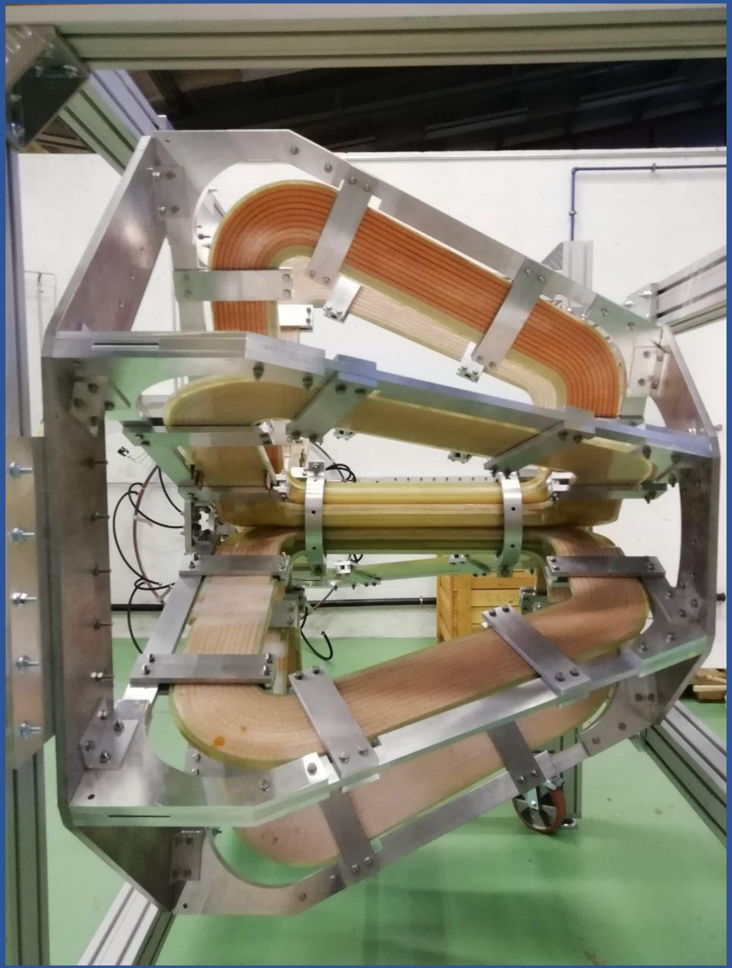
MS0/1 GEMs

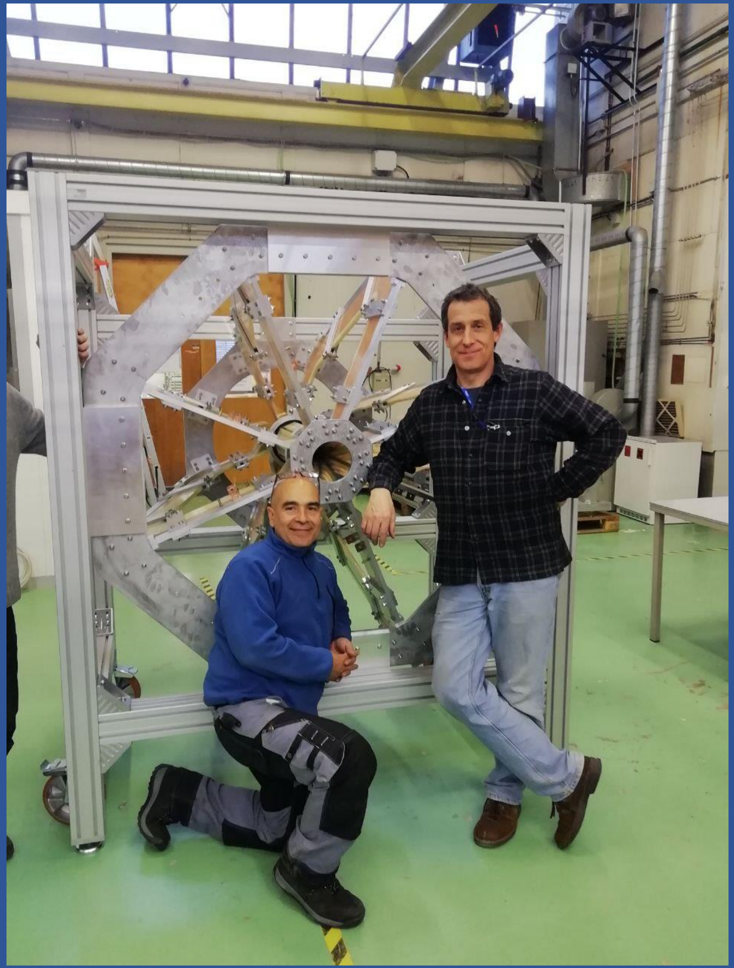
	GEM: kCHF
Detectors	530
Readout electronics	790
HV system	20
Mechanical support	50
Gas system	50
TOTAL	1,440

(New) mechanics of the toroid prototype



- Final-size toroid will experience **strong magnetic forces**
- Reach ~200 kN in the "central region" where the coils are grouped





- First design of a robust **support mechanics**
- Good basis for the next steps

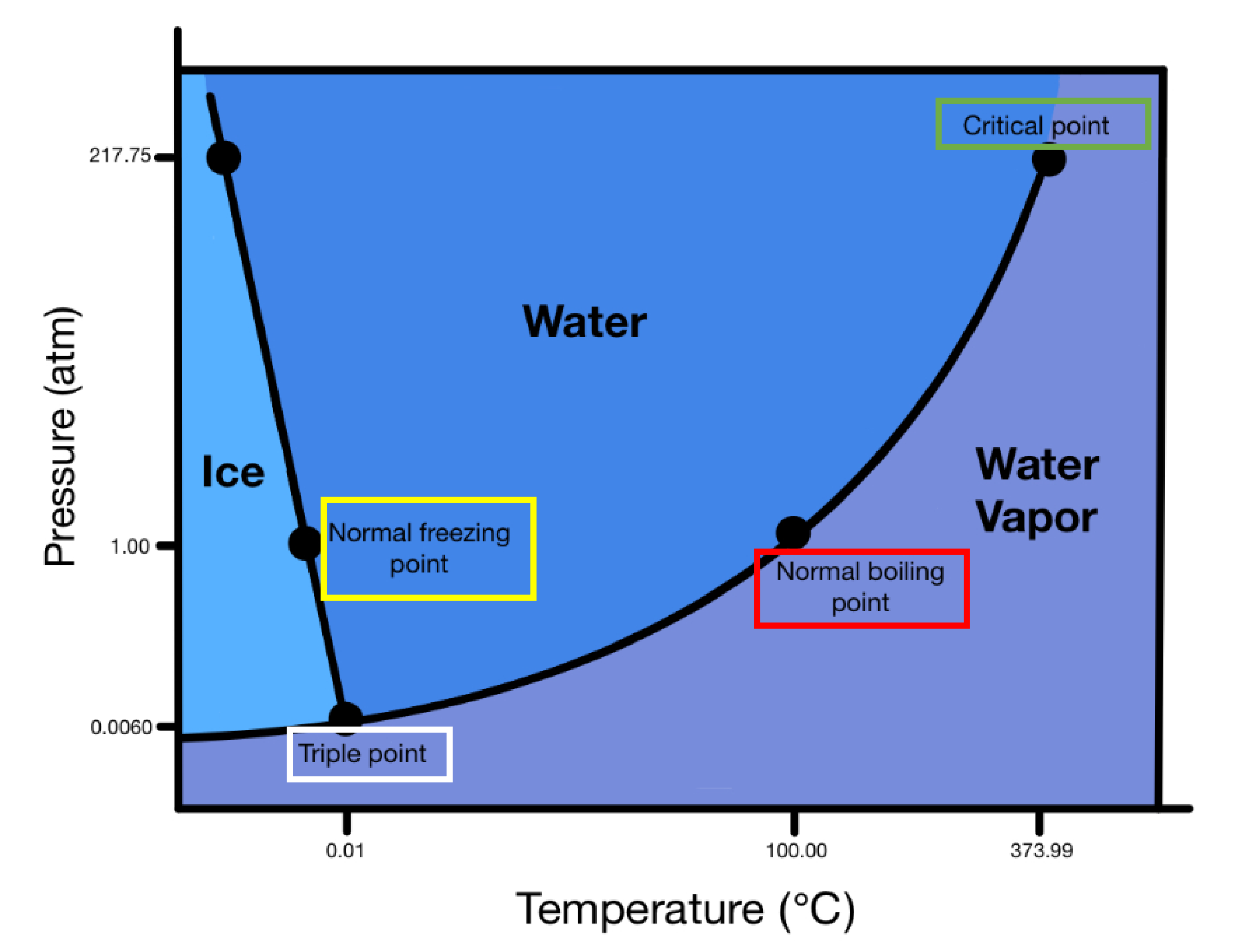
The phase diagram of water (e.m. interaction)

- **Freezing Point:** At a temperature of 0 °C and a pressure of 1.00 atm, this is the point at which water (liquid) freezes into ice (a solid)

- **Boiling Point:** At a temperature of 100.0 °C and a pressure of 1.00 atm, this is the point at which water (liquid) boils, turning it into a water vapor (gas)

- **Critical Point:** At a temperature of 364 °C and a pressure of 218 atm, this is the point where there is **equilibrium between the liquid and gas phases,** any point above the critical point is a point where liquids cease to exist

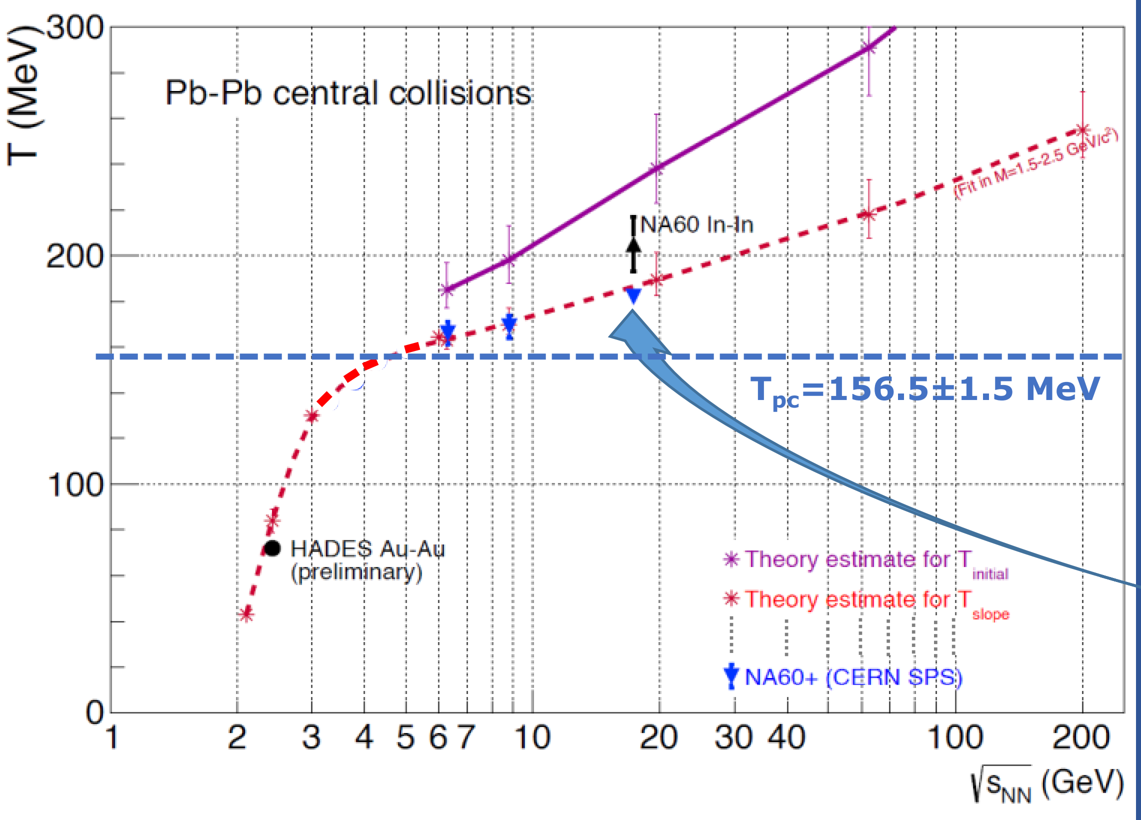
- **Triple Point:** At a temperature of 0.01 °C and a pressure of 0.0060 atm, this is the point where **liquid, gas, and solids exist in equilibrium**



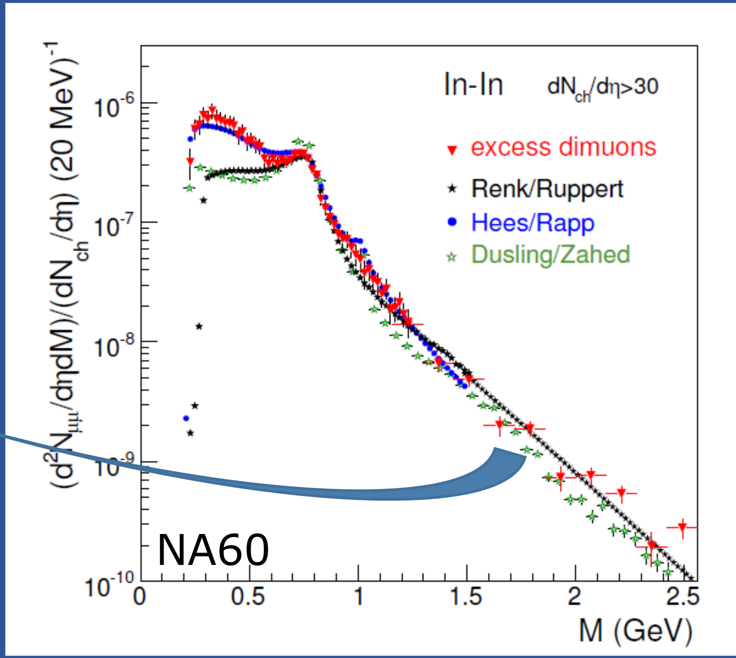
The NA60+ physics program

Several **new and unique measurements** in the region $6<\sqrt{s_{NN}}<17$ GeV ($20<E_{lab}<160$ AGeV)

1 **Caloric curve of QGP**



HADES, Nature Phys. 15(2019) 1040
NA60, EPJC 61(2009) 711



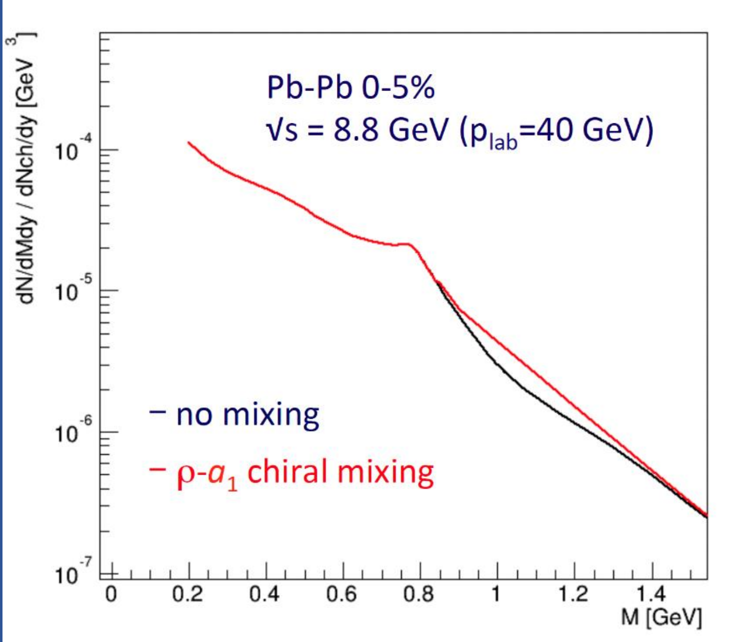
Measurements only at top SPS energy and at very low energy

- Dilepton T_{slope} measurements → (average) **temperature of the early stage of the system**
- SPS energy → accurate information on the region close to the deconfinement transition temperature → possible signal of a **1st order phase transition**

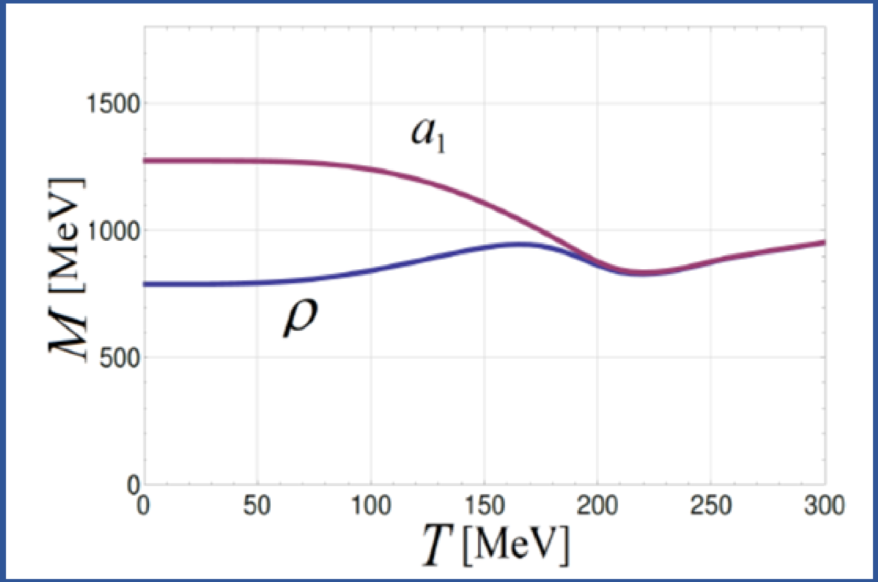
The NA60+ physics program

Several **new and unique measurements** in the region $6<\sqrt{s_{NN}}<17$ GeV ($20<E_{lab}<160$ AGeV)

- Mixing of vector (V) and axial-vector (A) correlators
  → **dilepton enhancement**
  for $m_{\mu\mu}$ ~ 1-1.4 GeV/c^2



R. Rapp and H. van Hees,PLB753 (2016) 586



Chiral symmetry restoration

2

C. Jung et al.,
PRD 95 (2017) 036020

- SPS vs LHC: low-energy measurement expected to be more sensitive to chiral restoration effects
  → (Exponential) thermal dimuon yield from QGP becomes smaller
  → Contribution from open charm becomes relatively negligible

No measurements available

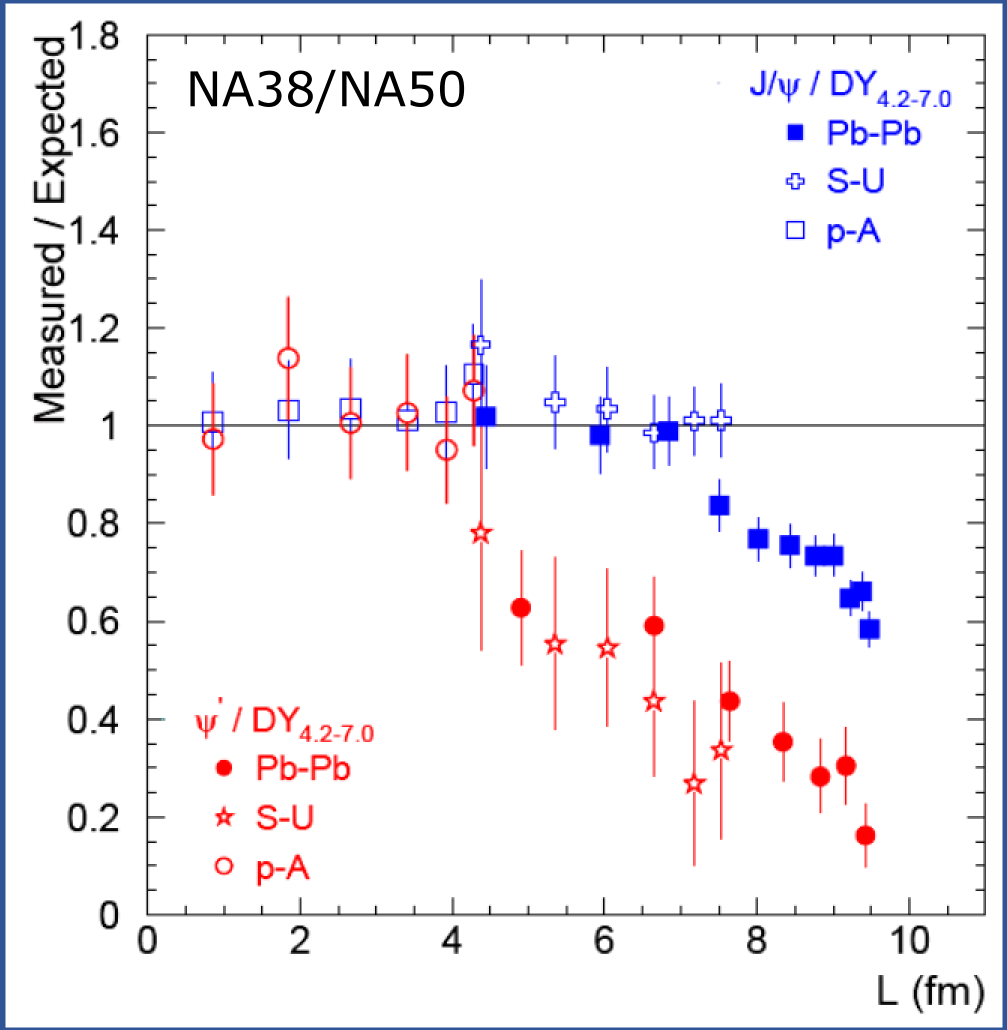
The NA60+ physics program

Several **new and unique measurements** in the region $6<\sqrt{s_{NN}}<17$ GeV ($20<E_{lab}<160$ AGeV)

No measurements below top SPS energy

Charmonium melting in the QGP

3



NA50, PLB 477 (2000) 28
NA50, EPJC49 (2007) 559

J/ψ

- ❑ 30% suppression for central Pb-Pb events at top SPS energy
  → Compatible with suppression of more weakly bound χ_c and ψ(2S) states decaying to J/ψ

ψ(2S)

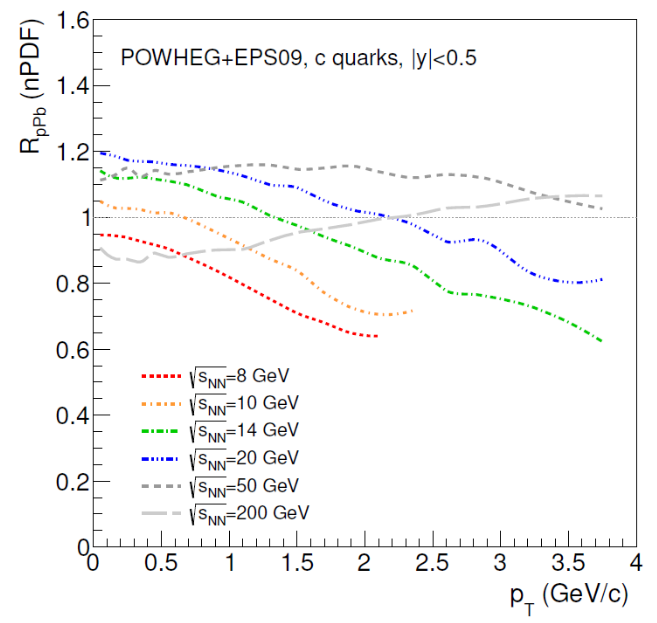
- ❑ Strong(er) suppression already in peripheral Pb-Pb collisions

- ❑ Energy scan towards low SPS energy
  → Detect **suppression threshold** and correlate with T via thermal dimuons

The NA60+ physics program

Several **new and unique measurements** in the region $6<\sqrt{s_{NN}}<17$ GeV ($20<E_{lab}<160$ AGeV)

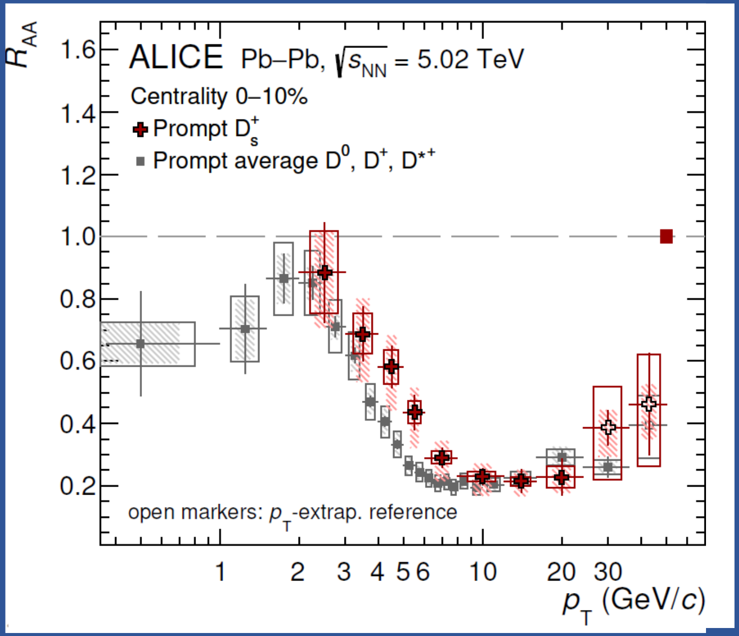
- Charm production in **proton-nucleus**
  - → Sensitive to **nPDFs**
  - → $Q^2 \sim 10\text{–}40$ GeV^2 and $0.1<x_{Bj}<0.3$ ($p_T<3$ GeV/c) (from anti-shadowing to EMC region)



No measurements at SPS energy

- D-meson p_T-dep. suppression and azimuthal anisotropy
  - → Time spent in QGP and hadronic phase varies with $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$: constrain the charm diffusion coefficient
  - → **Do charm quarks thermalize** in a short-lived QGP ?

- D_s^+, Λ_c
  - → Hadronization studies (quark recombination)



ALICE, PLB 827 (2022) 136986

QGP transport coefficients and charm hadronization

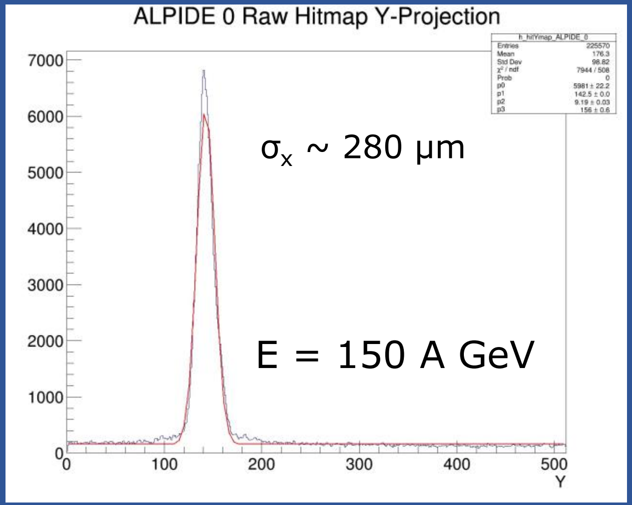
4

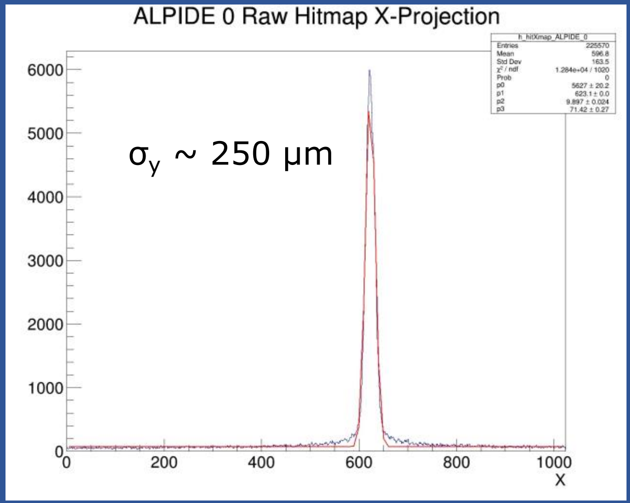
NA60+: beam studies R&D

- A **high-intensity Pb beam** (~10^6/s) is needed, from 20-30 A GeV to 160 A GeV
- Beam optics studies carried out to provide sub-mm beam all over the energy range

Goal

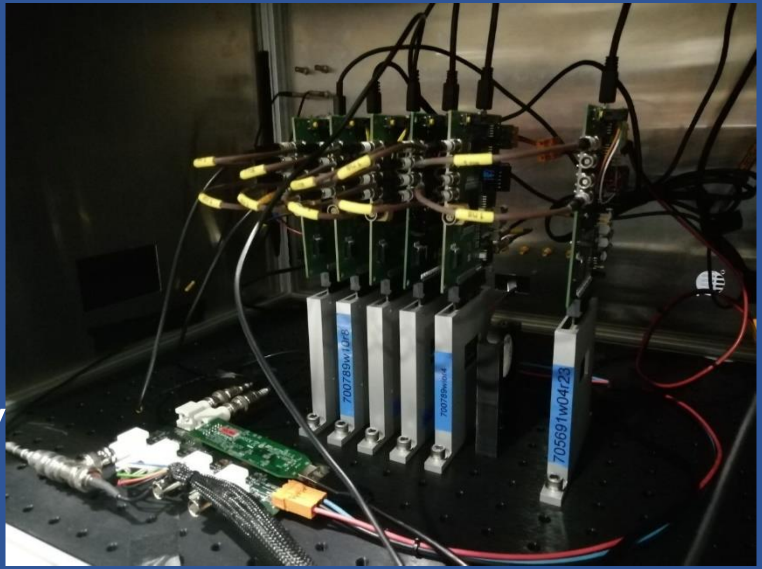
Parameter in zone 138	160 GeV/c	30 GeV/c
σ_x (mm)	0.19	0.33
σ_y (mm)	0.19	0.36
Transmission from T4 (%)	32.43	23.5





N.B.: Vertex spectrometer central hole, ∅ ~ 0.6 cm

A first **test beam in PPE138** was carried out in November 2022, using a telescope of pixel sensors for a precise measurement



Result already promising, further tests needed
→ Lower beam energy
→ Higher beam intensity (now ~10^4 s^{-1})

Pb beam request submitted for fall 2023

NA60+, NIM A1047 (2023) 167887

NA60+: beam requests

- Our plan is to run each **~ 1month/year with Pb ions** at a different energy, using a **~10^6 s^{-1} beam**
  - Start at top energy, to have a calibration point for observables already studied at that energy
  - At 20 A GeV two months of data taking can be necessary to fulfil the physics program
  - The order of the beam energies is tentative and could be adjusted following the results

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4-5	Year 6	Year 7
Beam energy (A GeV)	160	40	120	20 (30)	80	60
Momentum per charge (GeV/c/Z)	406	101	304	50.7 (76.1)	203	152
Pb ions on target	$\sim 10^{12}$ per energy ($\sim$ 30 days)					
protons on target	$5 - 6 \cdot 10^{13}$ per energy ($\sim$ 22 days)					

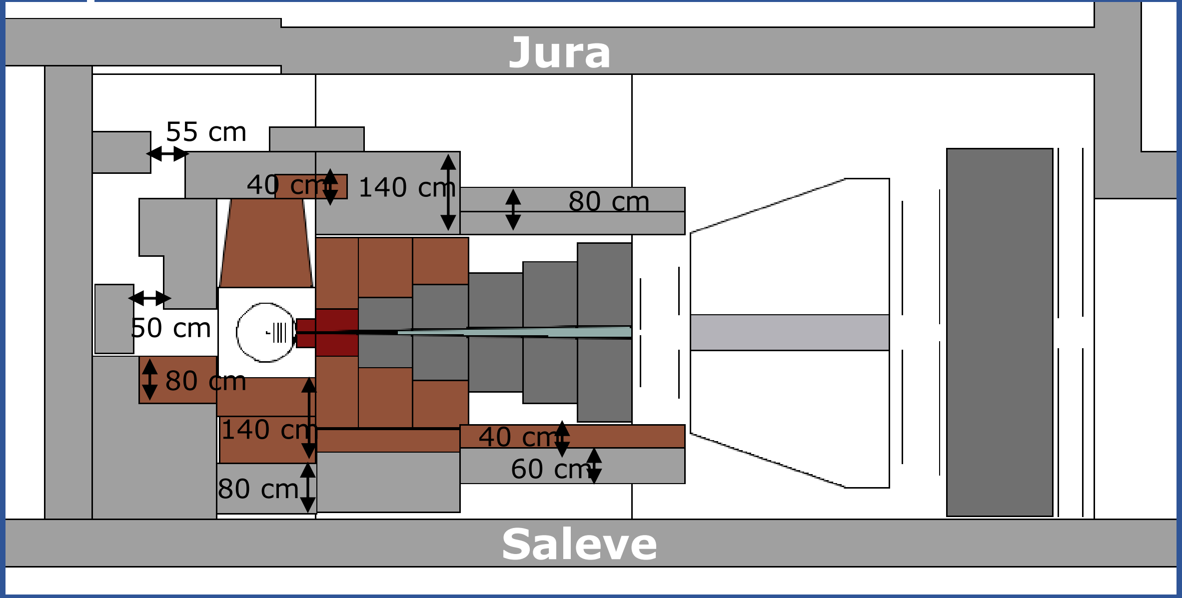
- Corresponding periods with **proton beams** at the same energy are also needed
  - Reference for Pb-Pb results
  - Specific studies with p-A collisions
- Integrated luminosity per N-N collision similar for p-A and Pb-Pb
- Beam intensity ~$8x10^8$/spill, 3000 spills/day (preliminary estimate)

RP studies

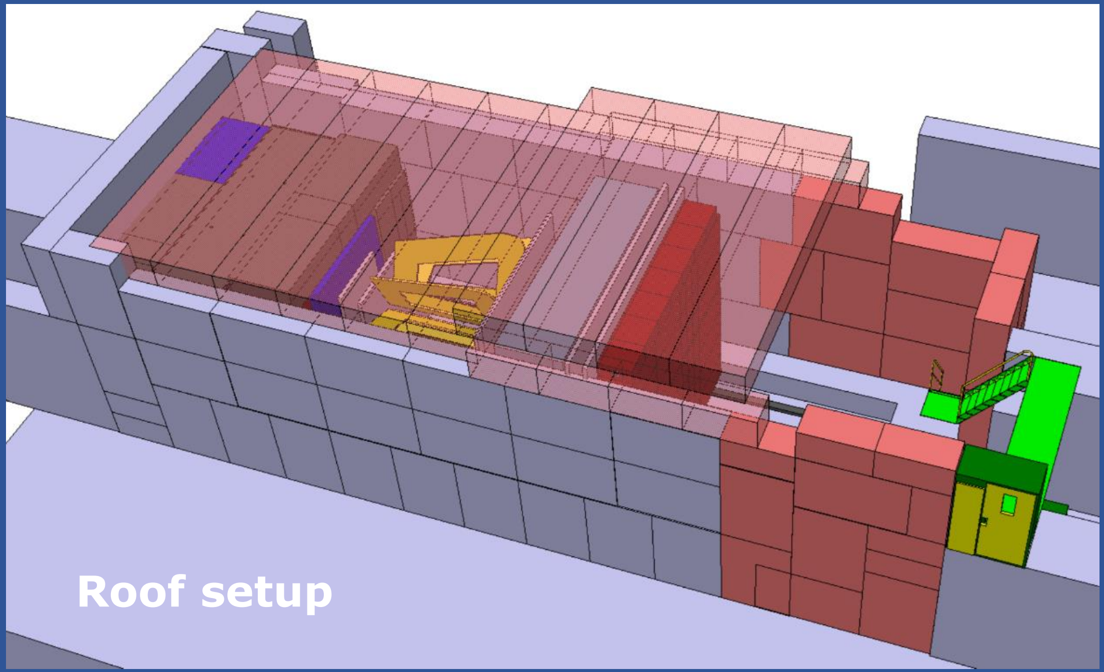
CERN HSE Occupational Health & Safety and Environmental Protection unit

Using a high-intensity beam in the EHN1 surface zone poses non-negligible **radioprotection issues**
→ Thorough studies carried out by the **CERN-HSE** group

Top view



Prompt ambient dose, residual ambient dose, air activation and accidental beam loss scenarios were studied



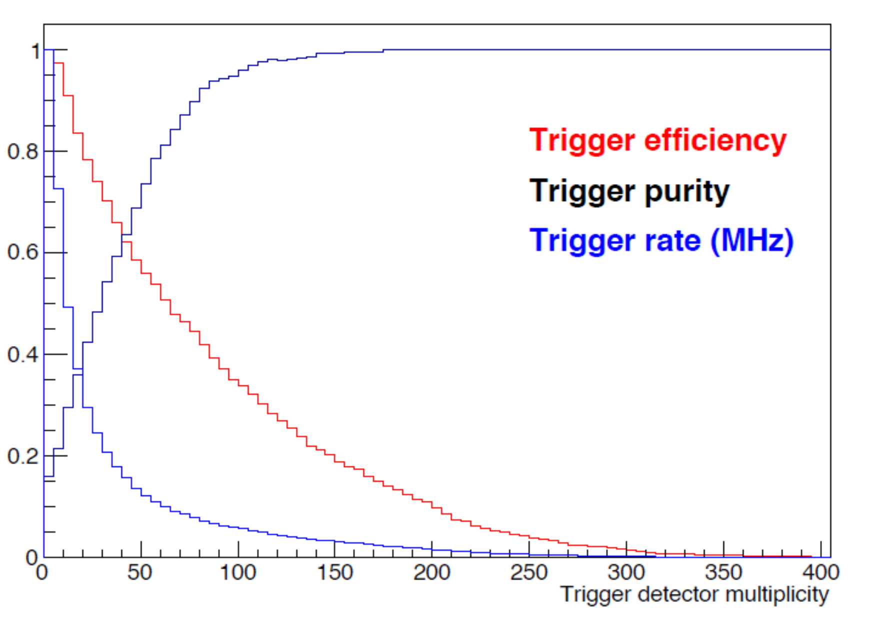
A **massive shielding** around the absorber region, where the beam will be dumped, has been designed

Trigger and DAQ

Data acquisition, processing, computing (1)

- **Data rate** dominated by the vertex telescope, for the assumed 10^6 ions/s Pb beam intensity,
  - → ~ **3.3 GB/s** data rate
  - → ~ 3.3 PB of data collected per year
- **δ-ray** production from non-interacting Pb ions (85% of the incident beam) significantly contribute to the data rate

- Consider to acquire data **triggered** by a fast scintillator close to the interaction region
  → increase purity at the price of discarding peripheral Pb-Pb events



selection,%	trigger rate, kHz	purity, %	hits readout per incoming ion	hits readout per trigger	readout rate, GB/s
50	100	80	300	2960	0.94
80	365	35	675	1541	2.1
100	1000	16	1030	1030	3.3

↑ Centrality selected

Data acquisition, processing, computing (2)

- ❑ **Offline data reconstruction**
  - ❑ → Use a modified version of the Cellular Automaton track finder developed for the ALICE ITS

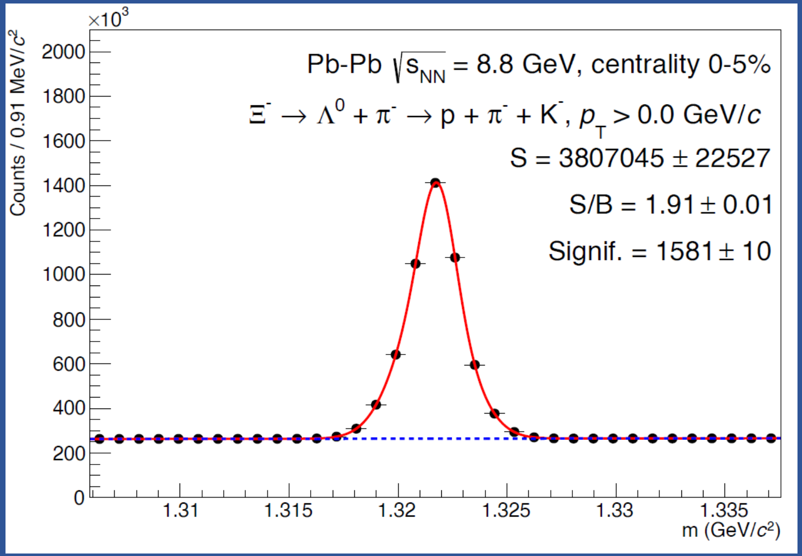
- ❑ **Data decoding and cluster-finding** require ~240 (~450) CPU seconds for 50% (80%) efficiency triggering scenarios, for 10^6 incoming ions ← preliminary!

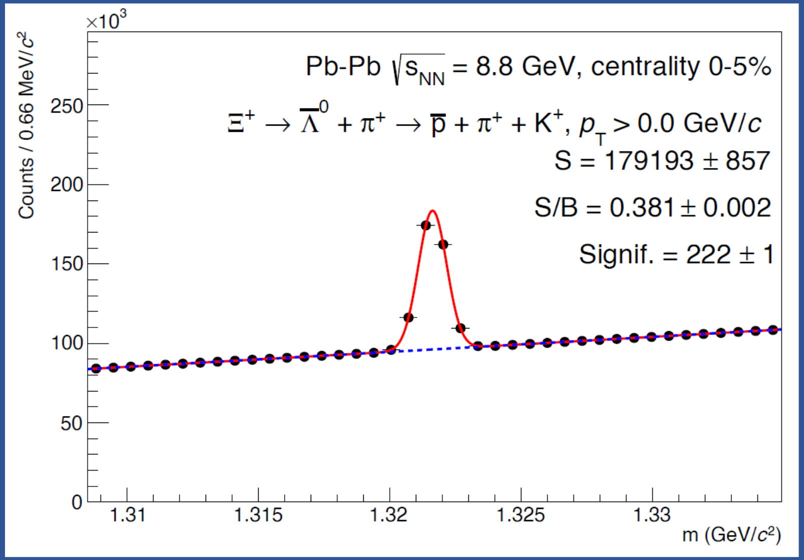
- ❑ Corresponding **track finding time** ~ 4200 CPU seconds (assume Intel i7-8700K @ 3.7 GHz processor)

- ❑ Data collected per heavy-ion run can be **fully processed in 2–3 months** by a farm of ~ 100 modern multicore processors or equivalent GRID jobs

Strangeness and hypernuclei

Strangeness measurements: hyperons





- Hyperon decays simulated with EVtGen, decay products propagated in the VT using the fast simulation of NA60+
- Background from hadron production → **NA49 results**

- Channels studied

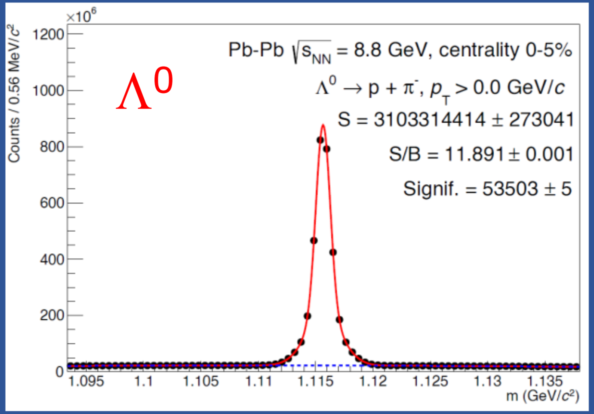
$\Lambda^0 \to p + \pi^-$ $\Xi^- \to \Lambda^0 + \pi^-$ $\Omega^- \to \Lambda^0 + K^-$

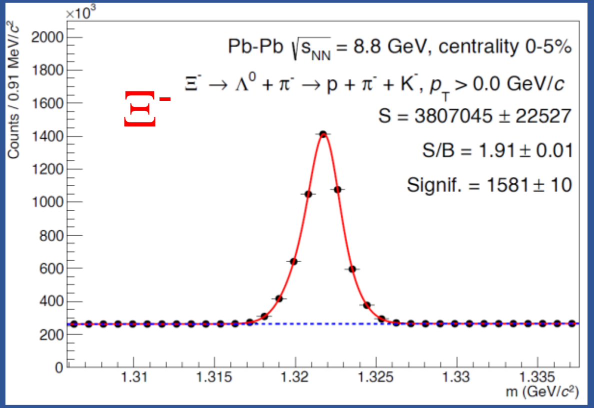
and charge conjugated

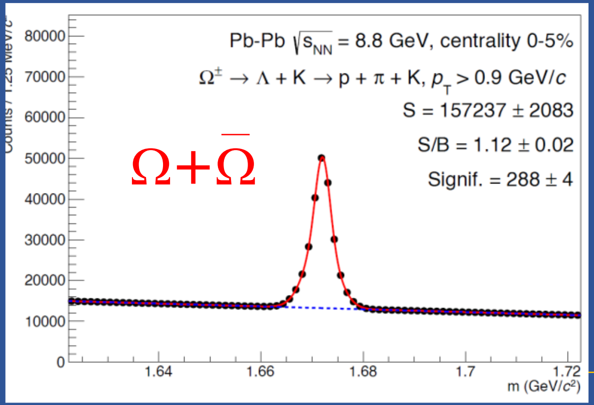
- **Topological selections** applied
- **BDT employed to enhance the significance of the signal**
- Among the variables:
  - Product of the impact parameter of decay tracks,
  - Distance of closest approac between the decay tracks
  - Decay length and the cosine of the pointing angle

- Also ϕ → KK and K_s → $\pi\pi$ were studied

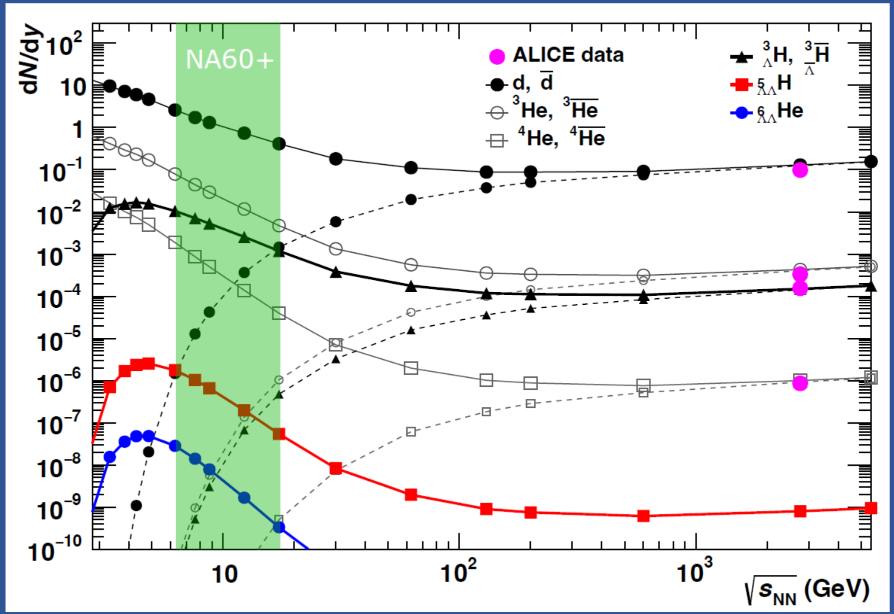
Physics performance: strangeness and hypernuclei



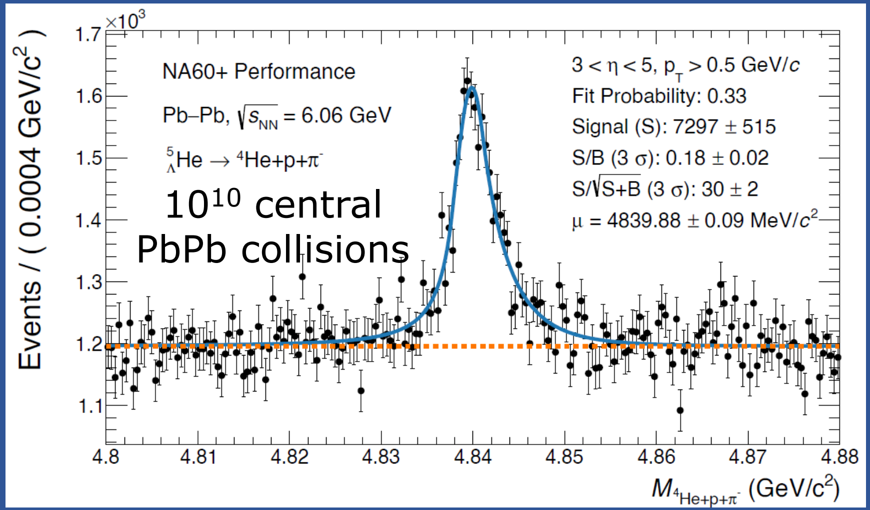




- **Topological selections with BDT** employed to **enhance the significance** of the signal
- Among the variables:
  - Product of the impact parameter of decay tracks
  - Distance of closest approach between the decay tracks
  - Decay length and the cosine of the pointing angle
- Also $\phi \to KK$ and $K_s \to \pi\pi$ have been studied



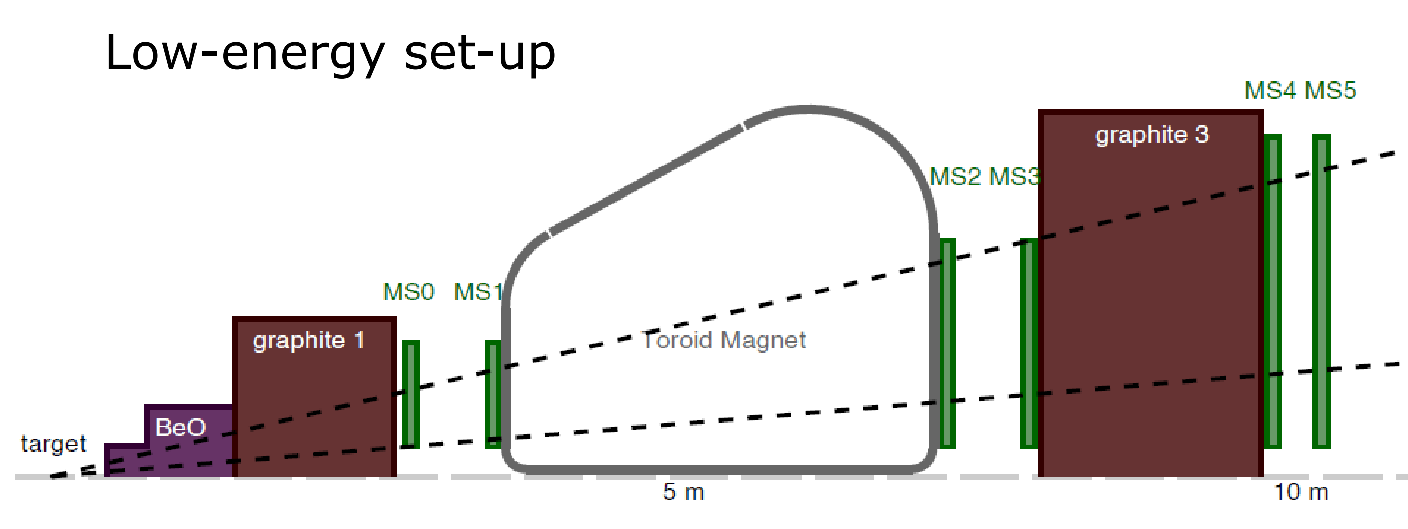
Low energy HI collisions
→ **high baryon density** favours the production of hypernuclear clusters

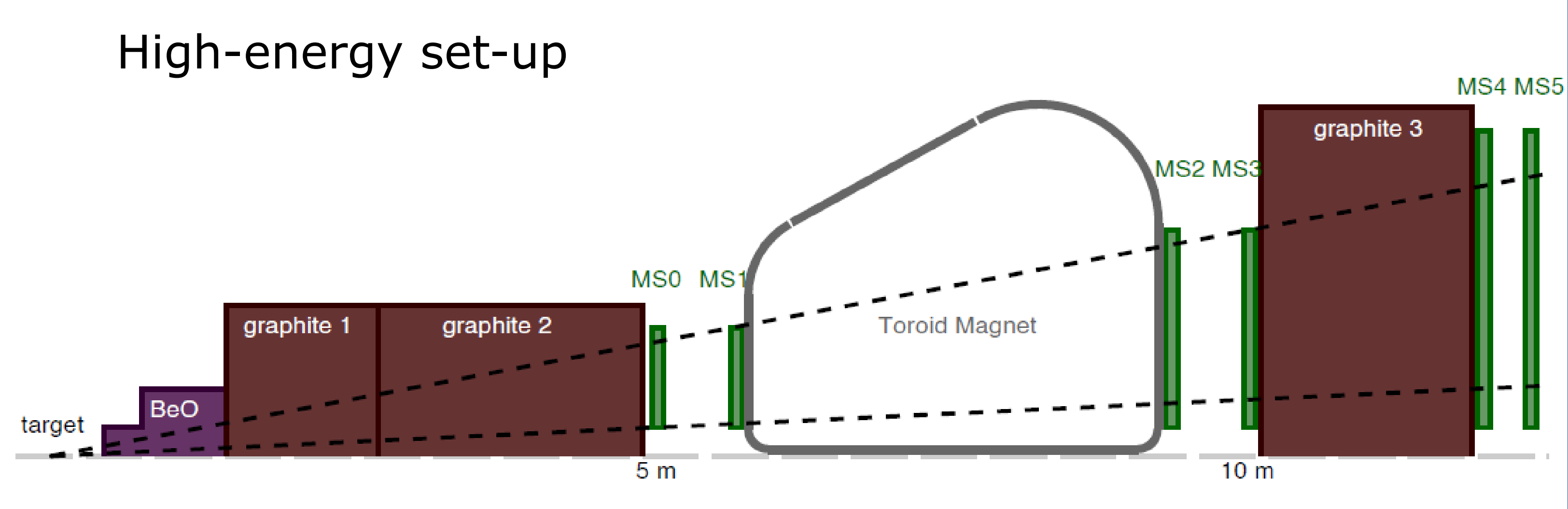


Separation of heavily ionising particles from ordinary hadrons
→ **size of the clusters** associated with the track

Muon spectrometer

The NA60+ muon spectrometer

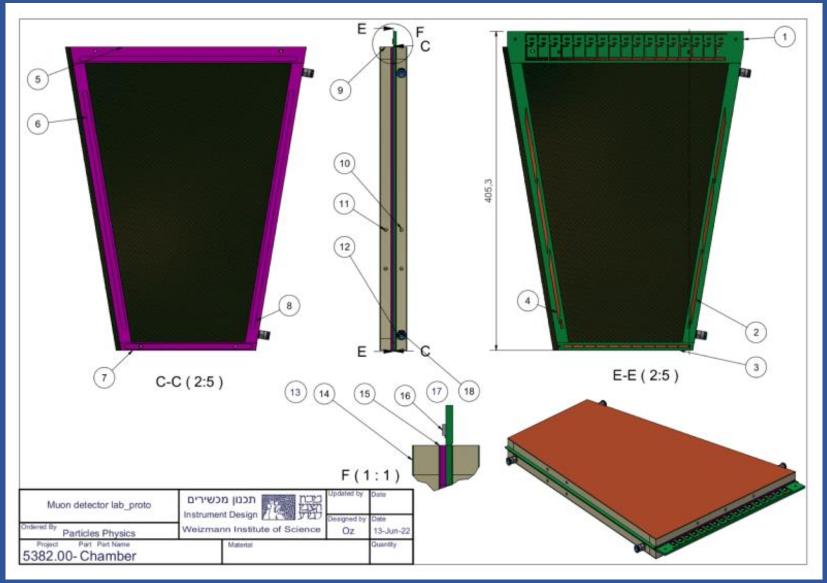




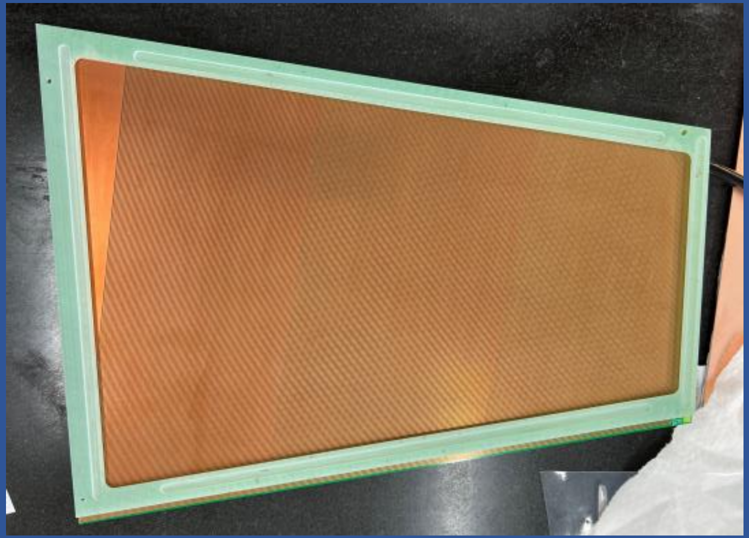
- ❑ (At least) two configurations of the muon spectrometer are foreseen
- ❑ **Low-energy set-up**
  →Thinner absorber
  →Smaller distance from target
- ❑ **High-energy set-up**
  →Thicker absorber
  →Larger distance from target

Keep maximum acceptance around $y \sim y_{CM}$

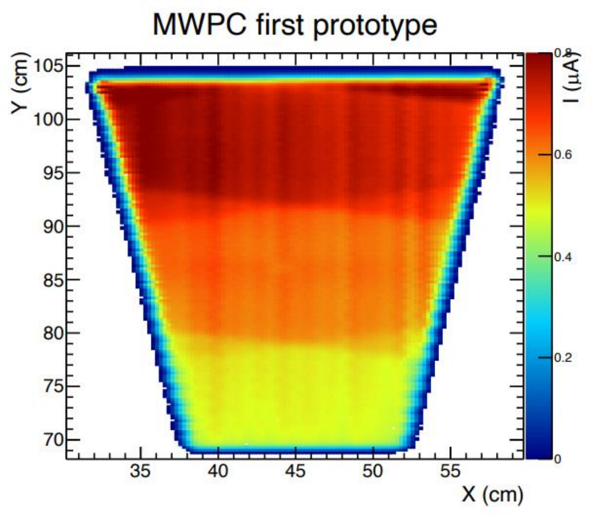
MWPC prototype tests

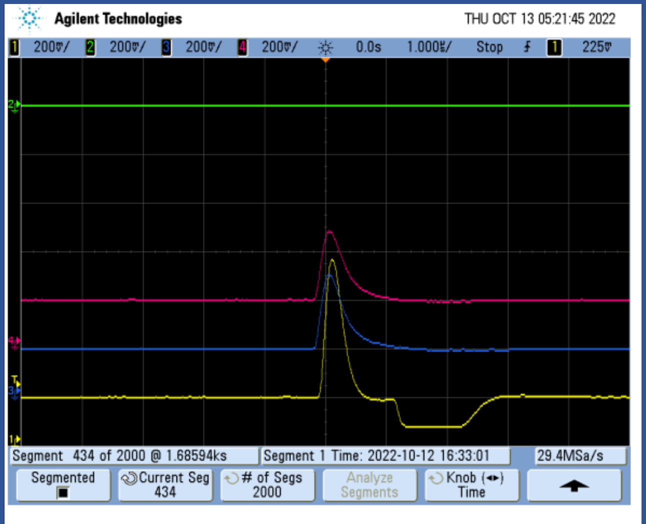


- Wire pitch: 3 mm
- Distance wire to cathode: 3 mm
- 1 mm strip pitch
- 2 cathodes with strips running in two different directions
  → Small angle stereo readout
- Readout electronics cards with VMM3a ASIC (128 ch each)

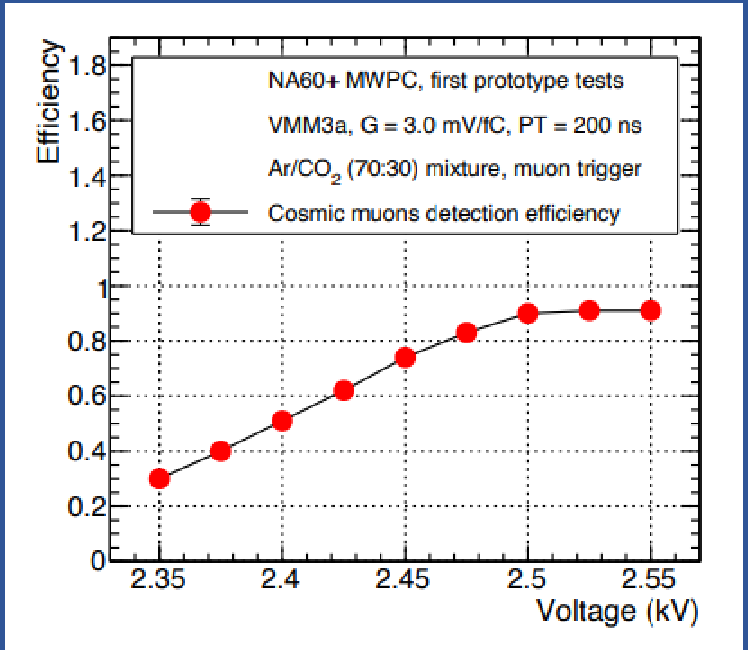


Detector tomography





Trigger and MWPC signals



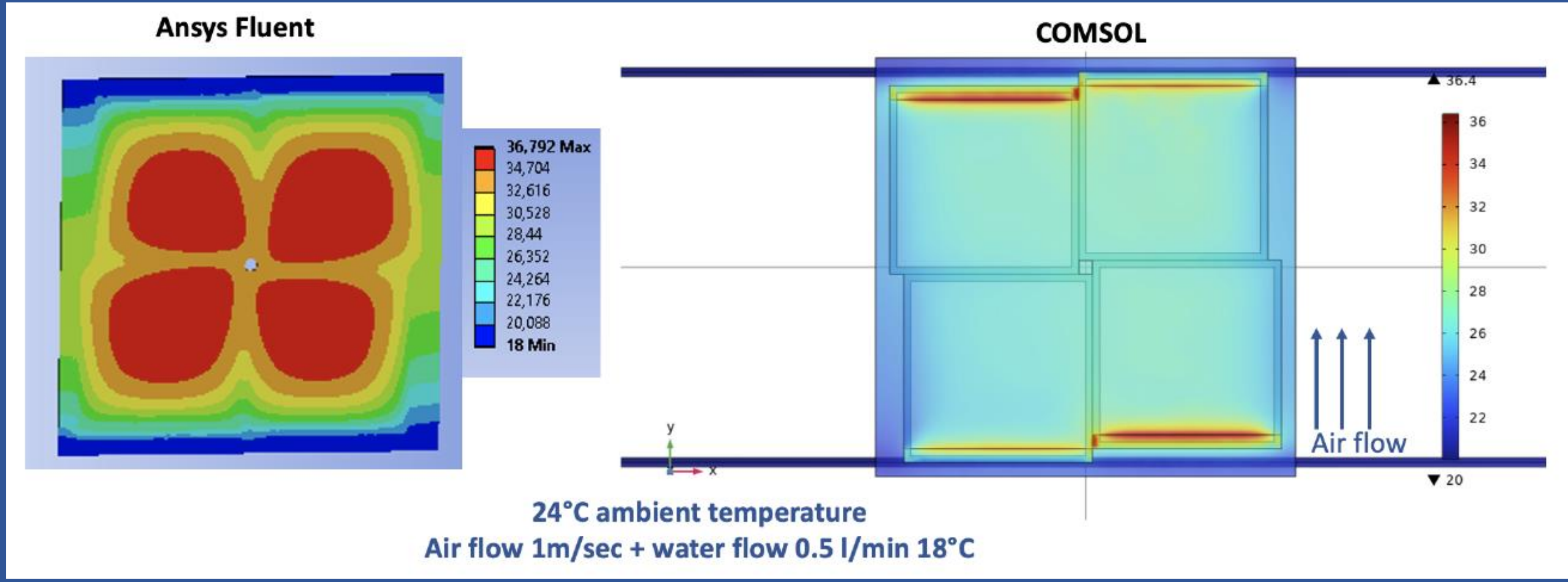
Vertex spectrometer

Ongoing R&D on vertex spectrometer

- Detector
  - Characterization of small-scale structures
  - Submission of first large area MAPS with the stitching technique (MOSS)
  - Development of test system for large area MAPS

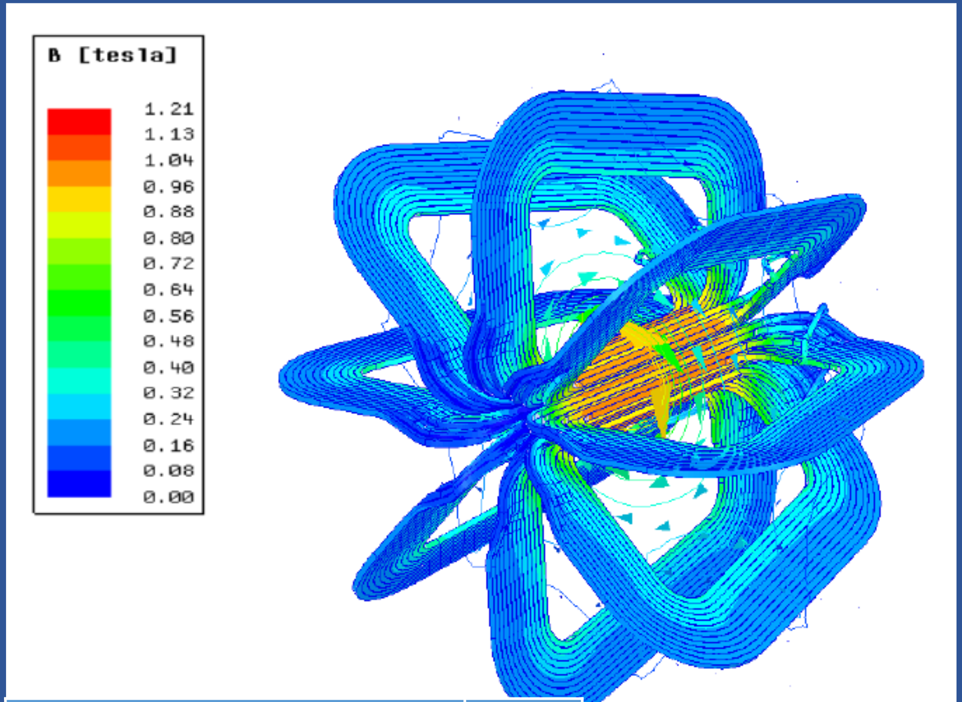
- Mechanics
  - Positioning and gluing tests of (dummy) sensors on carbon foam/fiber supports with optical bench

- Cooling calculations
  → Mix air flow + water flow



Toroid

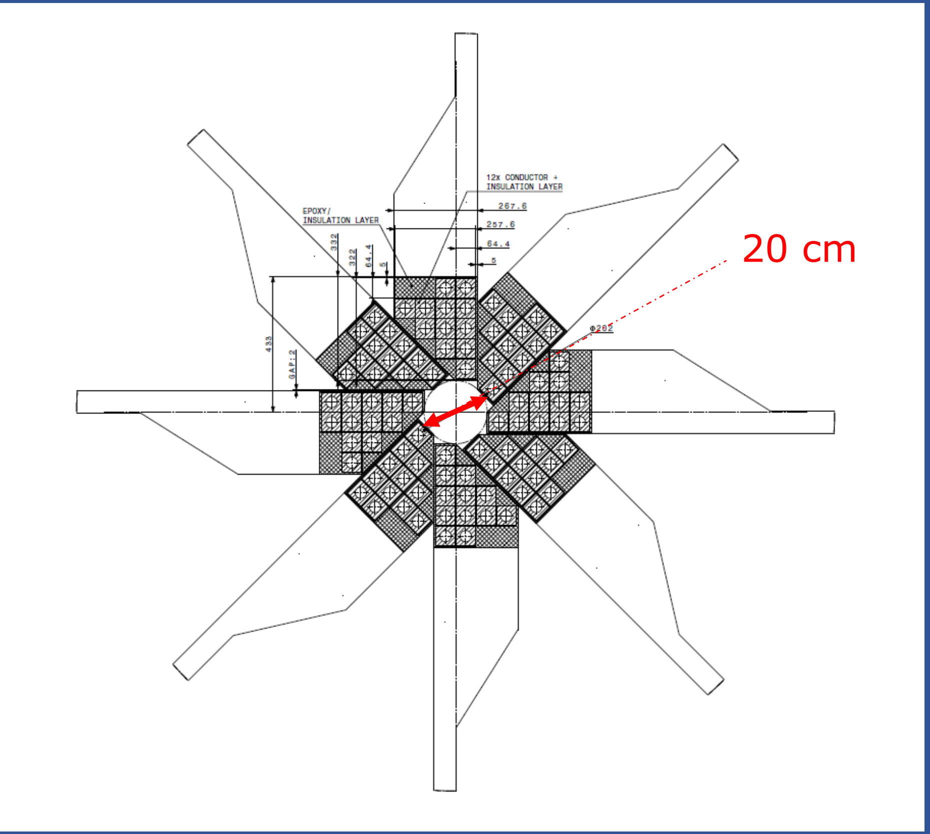
The NA60+ toroid



Warm magnet

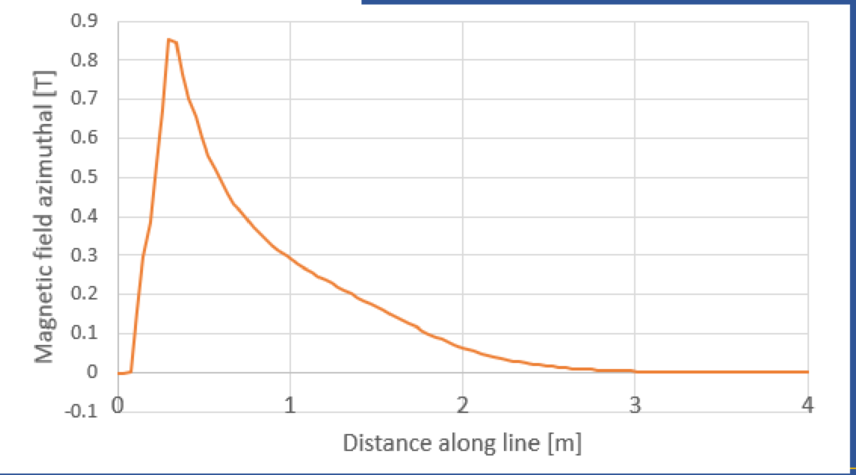
Eight sectors,
12 turns per coil

Conductor has a square copper section with a circular cooling channel in the centre



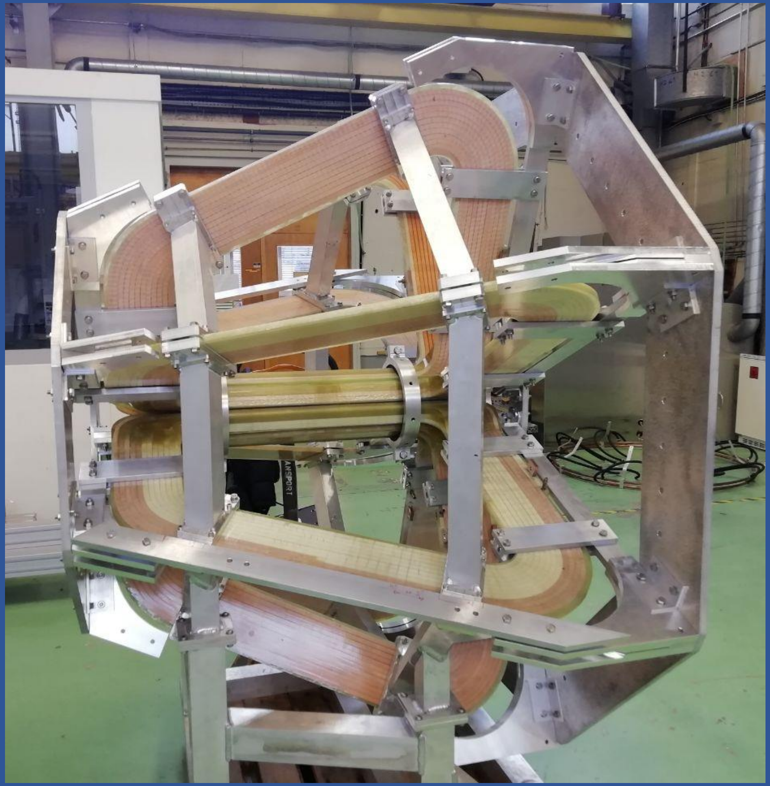
Complex arrangement of the coils close to the beam axis to reduce the 'dead zone' at forward y

Operating Current [kA]	16.6
Amp-turns [kA]	199
Combined inductance [mH]	9.5
Resistivity Al 1100 @RT [μΩ.cm]	2.67
Length Conductor [m]	800
Total resistance [mΩ]	10.4
Dissipated power [MW]	2.8

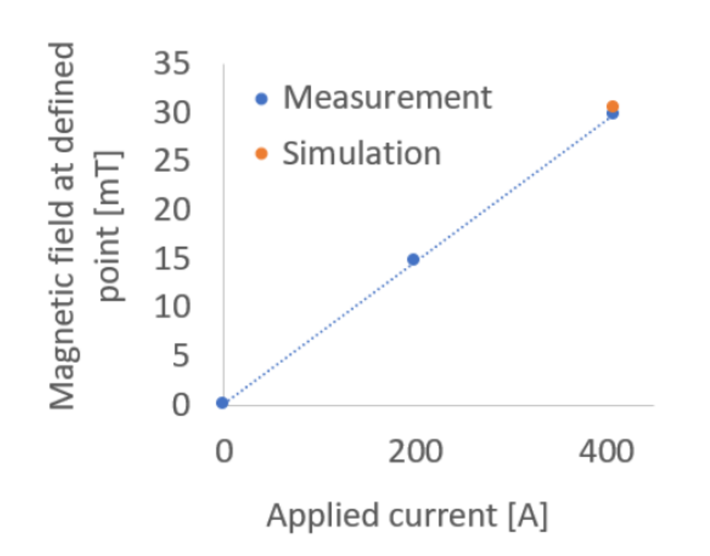


Ongoing discussions on strategy for **reducing the dissipated power** (<2 month/yr, pulsed operation,…)

The NA60+ toroid R&D



- ❑ Measurements of resistance, inductance, cooling performance and magnetic field were carried out



- ❑ B measurement
  → agreement with simulations by 3%

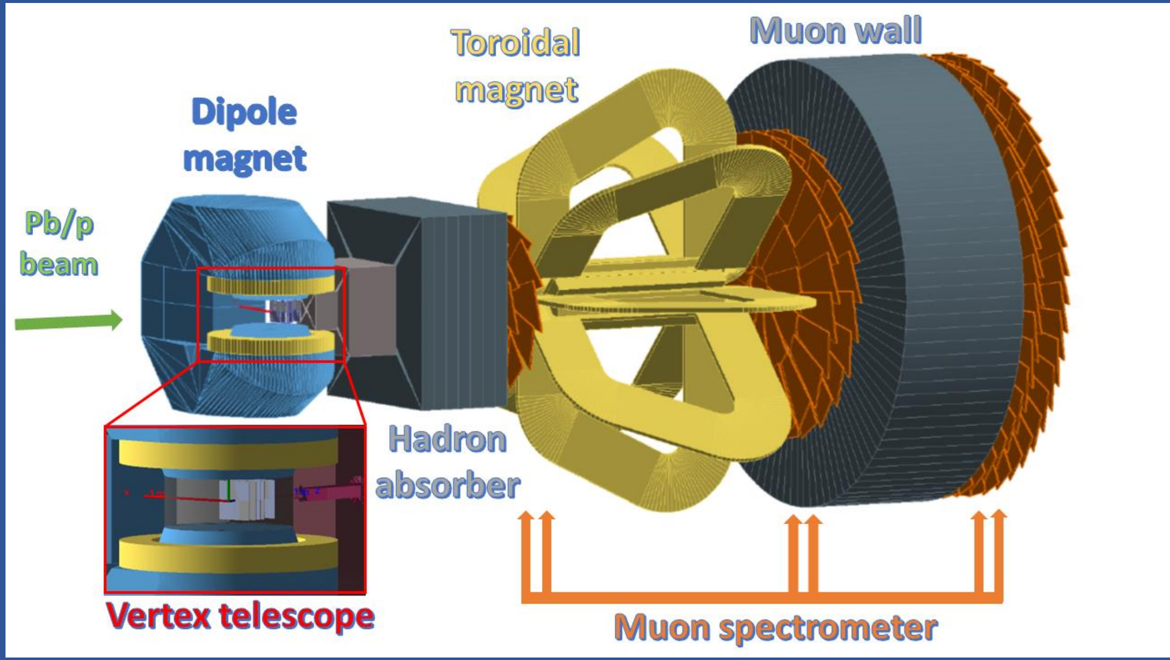
- ❑ A **prototype (1:5 scale)** was built and tested in 2020-2021 by the **CERN-EP-DT group**, to check calculations and investigate mechanical solutions, in view of the final object

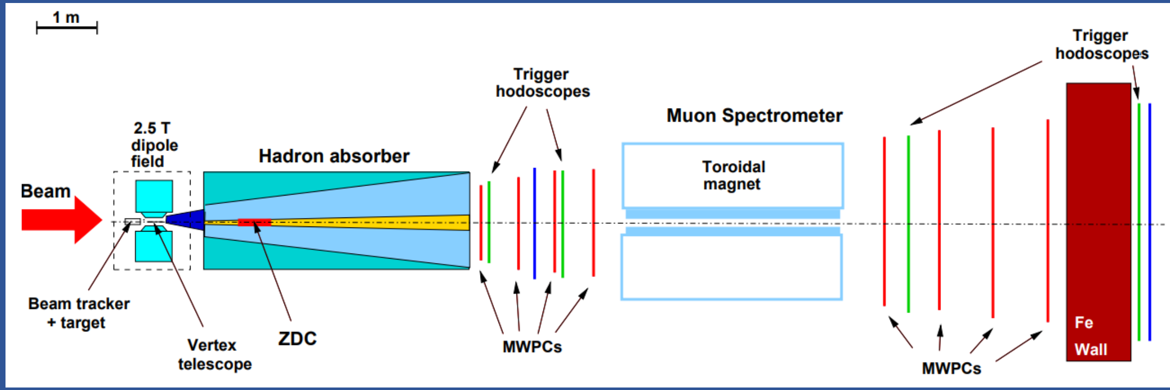
→ **works correctly and as expected**

Support and participation of CERN in the design of the final toroid is very important

NA60+ vs others

NA60+ vs NA60





Some important improvements:

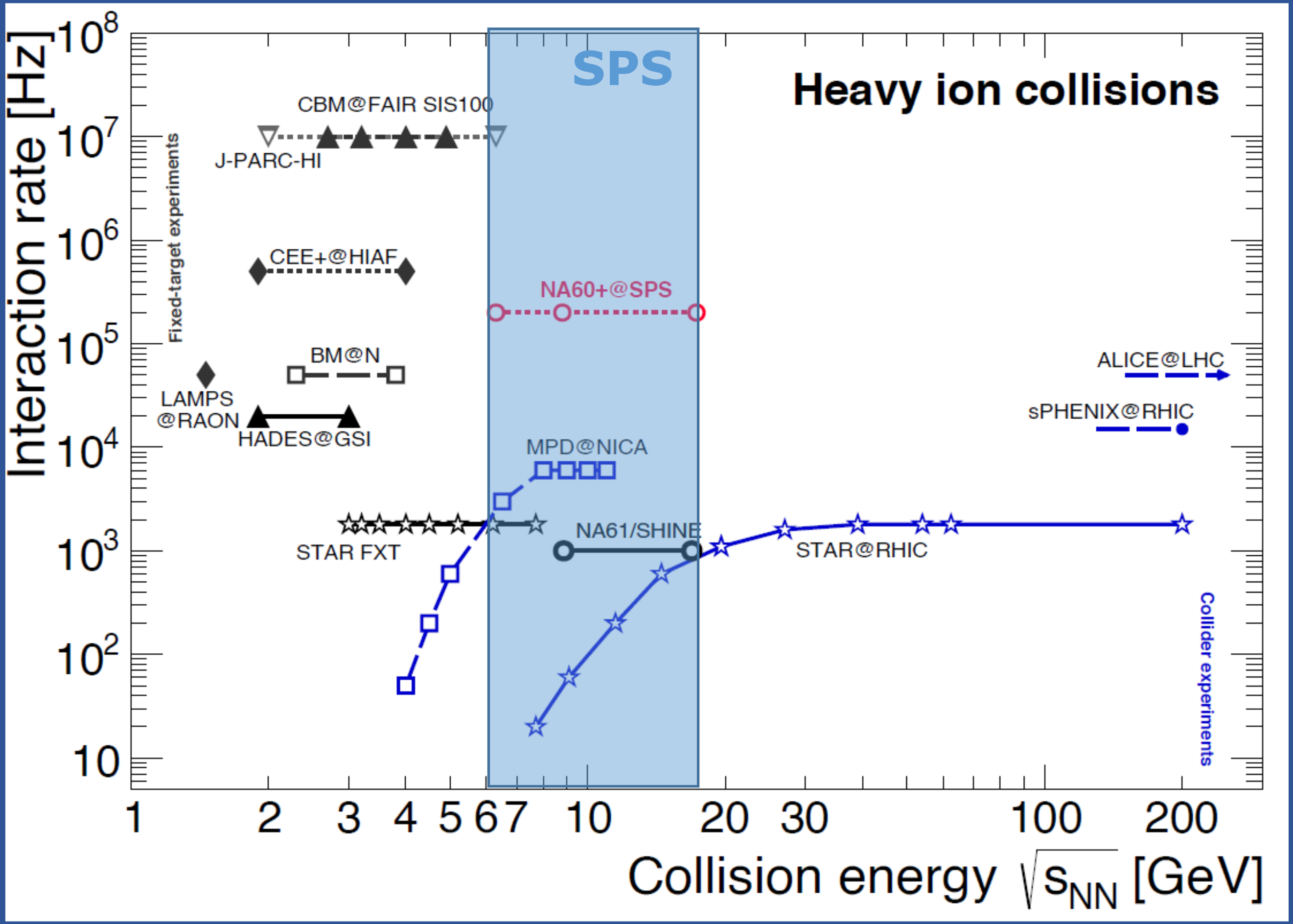
Physics program extended to lower energy
→ Fundamental to explore rare probes in the high-μ_B region

Larger angular acceptance
→ cope with lab rapidity shift when varying energy down to low SPS energy

Access new observables (open charm etc.)
NA60: (di)muon trigger ~ 5 kHz
NA60+: MB trigger (>100 kHz)

State-of-the art detectors
Pixel size: from 50x425 μm^2 (NA60) to 30x30 μm^2 (NA60+), thinner sensors (from 2% to 0.1% X_0)
→ Improved resolution and signal over background
from 21 to 8 MeV at the ω mass
from 70 to 30 MeV at the J/ψ mass

Uniqueness of NA60+ program



NA60+ vs NA61

NA61
Measurement of hadron production properties for
- Neutrino beams
- Cosmic ray experiments
- Strong interaction

NA60+
Measurement of rare probes in HI collisions
- Dileptons
- Quarkonium
- Open heavy flavour(*)
- Strangeness and hypernuclei

(*) Also part of the NA61 program, but with 2-3 orders of magnitude smaller statistics

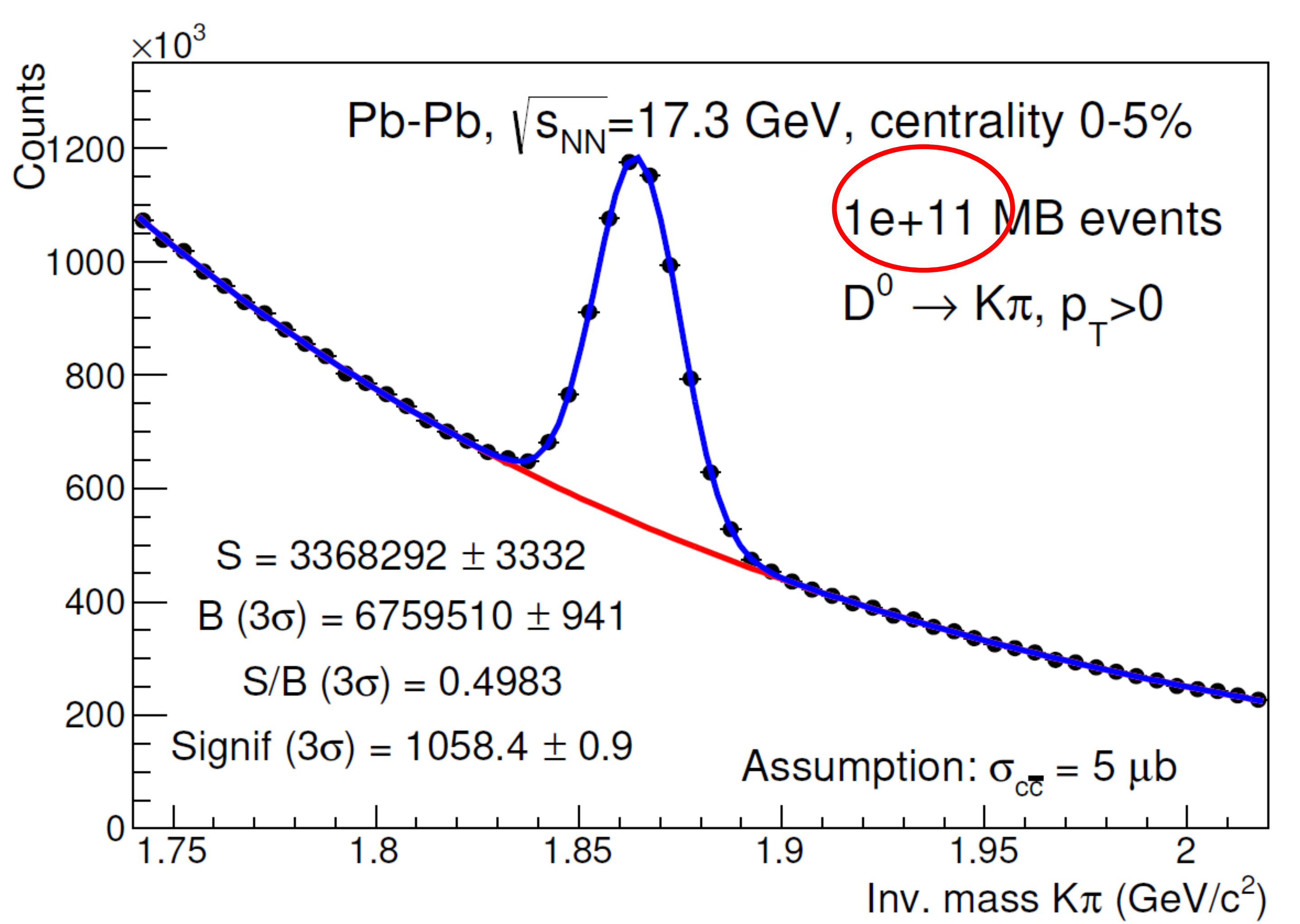
- **Complementarity** with experiments accessing
  - different (hadronic) observables in the same energy range (STAR BES, NICA, NA61)
  - similar observables in a lower energy range (CBM at FAIR)

Open charm NA60+ vs NA61

NA61

Year	Beam	#days	#events	$\#(D^0 + \overline{D^0})$	$\#(D^+ + D^-)$
2022	Pb at 150*A* GeV/*c*	42	250M	38k	23k
2023	Pb at 150*A* GeV/*c*	42	250M	38k	23k
2024	Pb at 40*A* GeV/*c*	42	250M	3.6k	2.1k

NA60+

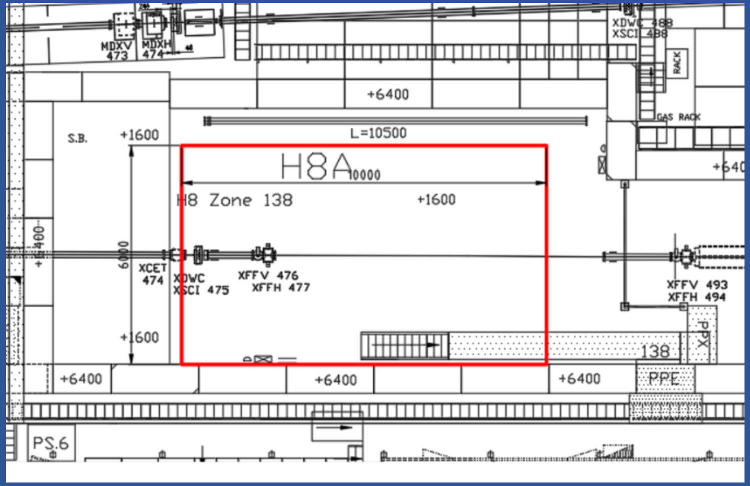


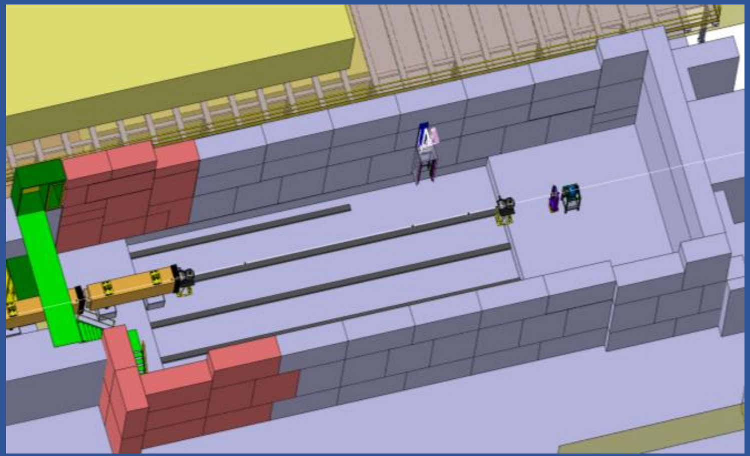
N.B.: different assumptions for open charm cross section

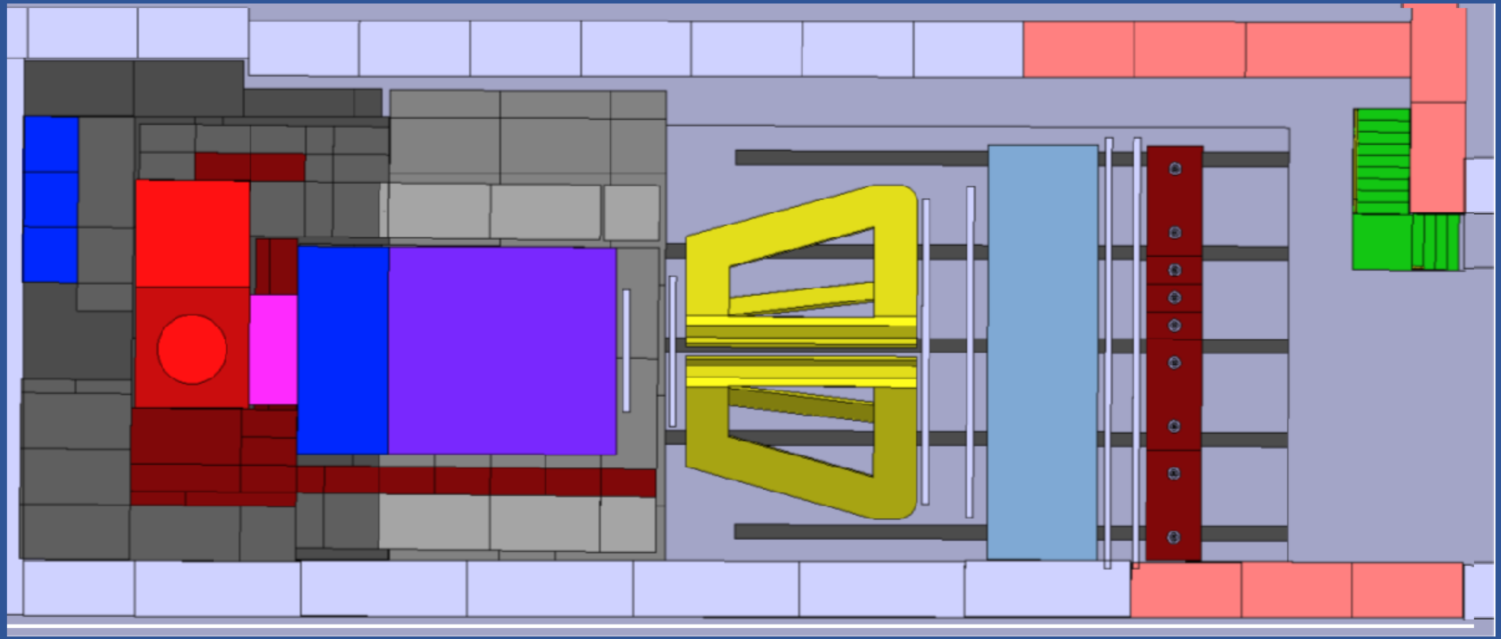
Integration, radioprotection, beam

NA60+: where

- Thorough studies carried out in 2020/2021 thanks to **PBC support**, with the decisive help of the **CERN-BE-EA group**
  → integration feasible in the PPE138 area on the H8 beam







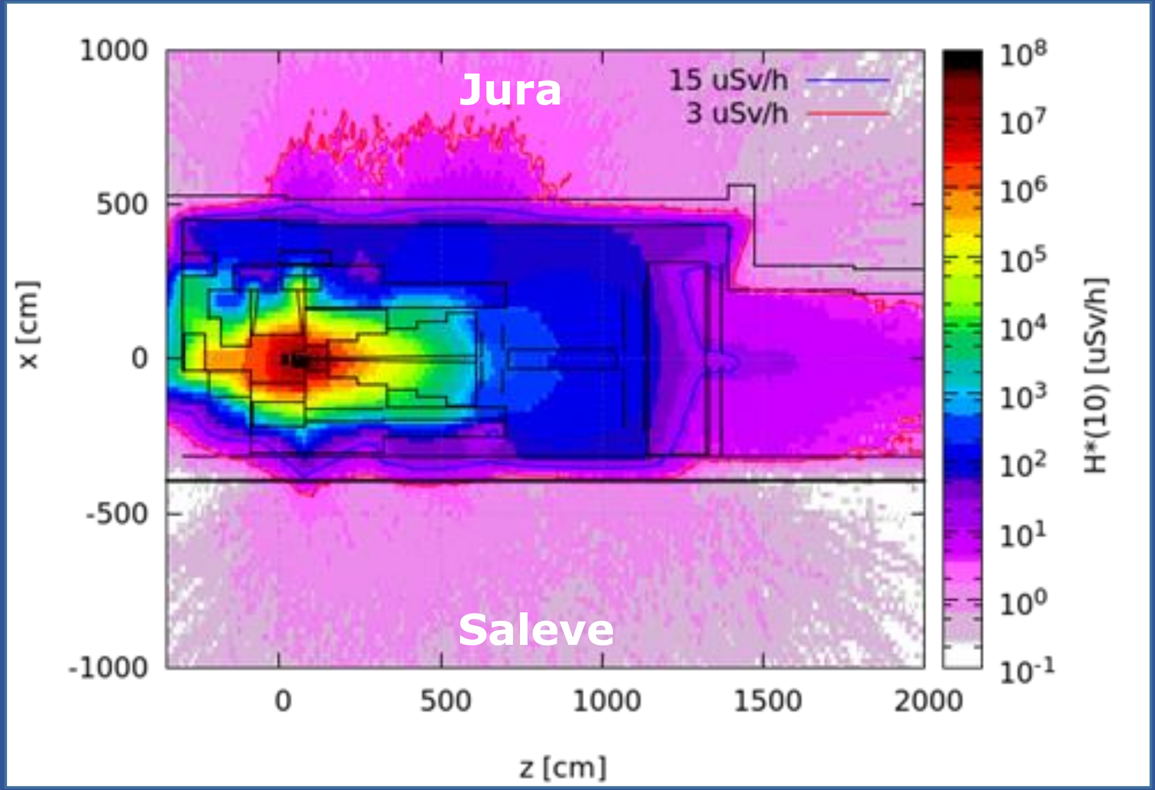
Need rail installation (muon spectrometer shifting) and a possible floor excavation due to the current vertical position of the beam line

High-energy setup

RP studies

HSE
Occupational Health & Safety and Environmental Protection unit

Using a high-intensity beam in the EHN1 surface zone poses non-negligible **radioprotection issues**
→ Thorough studies carried out by the **CERN-HSE** group



Prompt ambient dose, residual ambient dose, air activation and accidental beam loss scenarios were studied

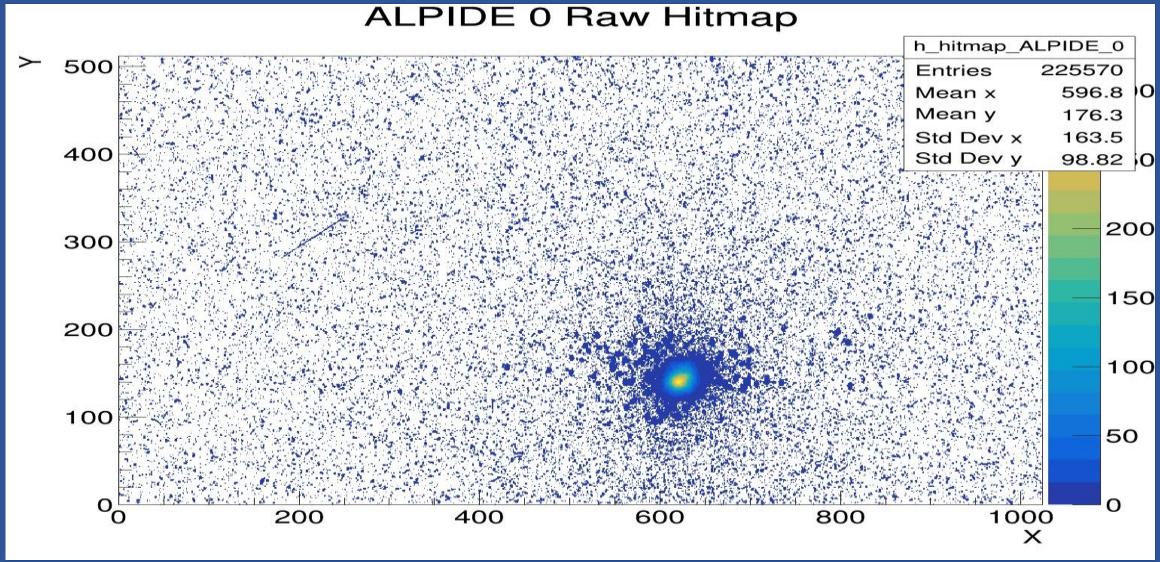
A **massive shielding** around the absorber region, where the beam will be dumped, has been designed

First test beam in the H8 experiment location

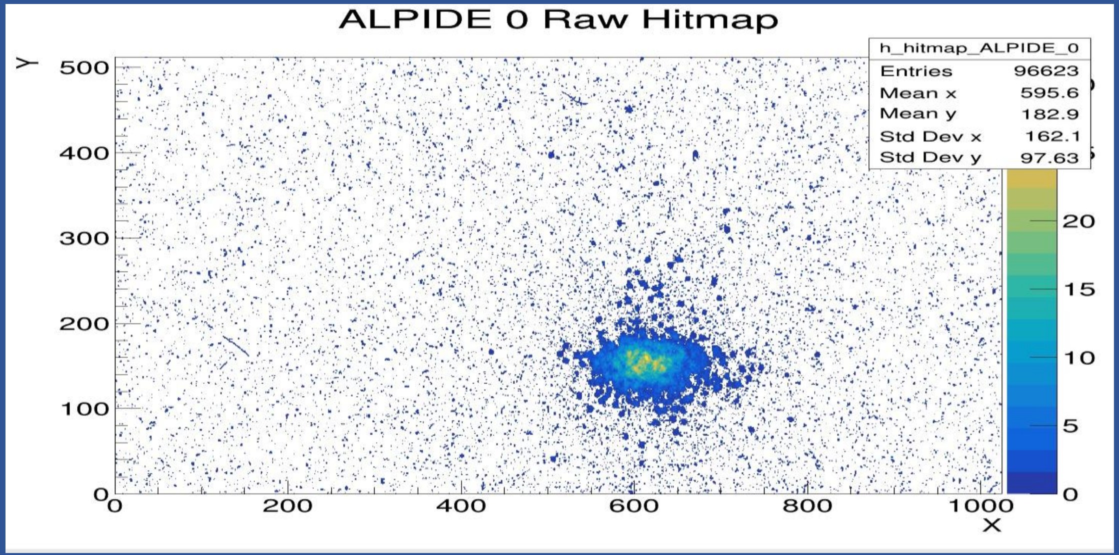
Focused optics

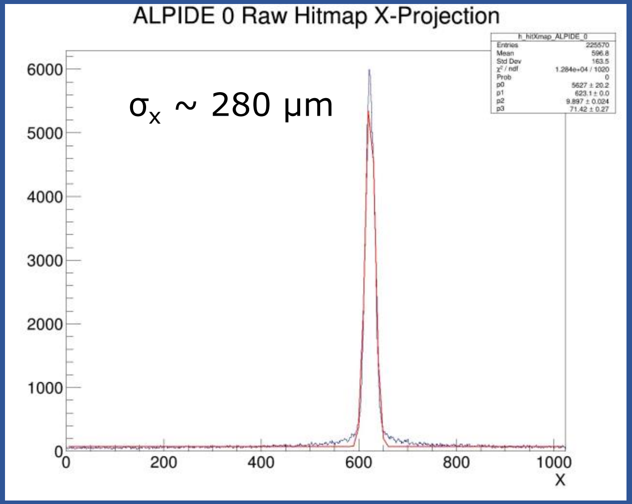
Max beam intensity
~ 2 10^5 /spill

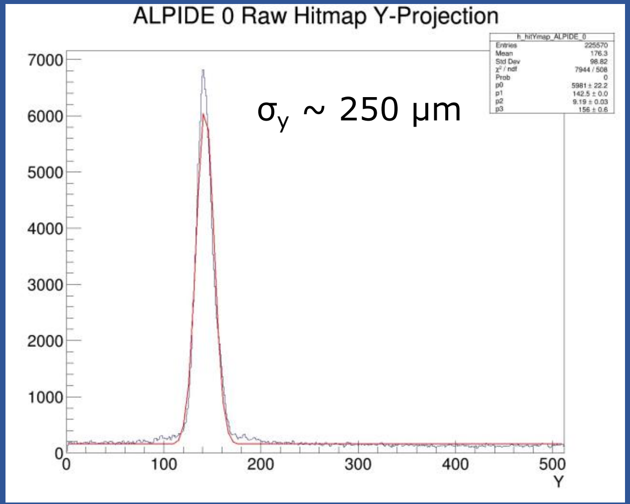
Microcollimator

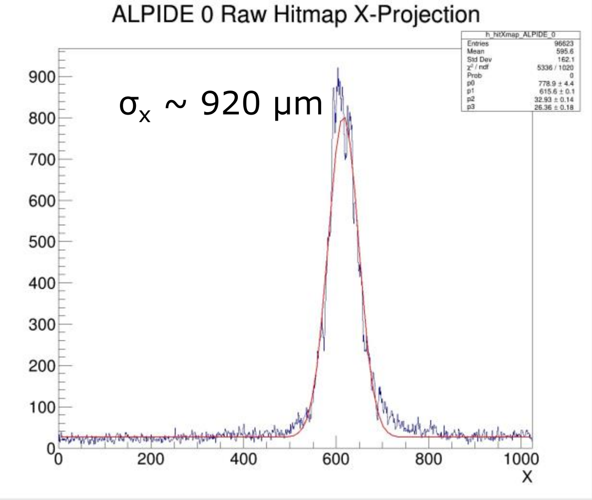


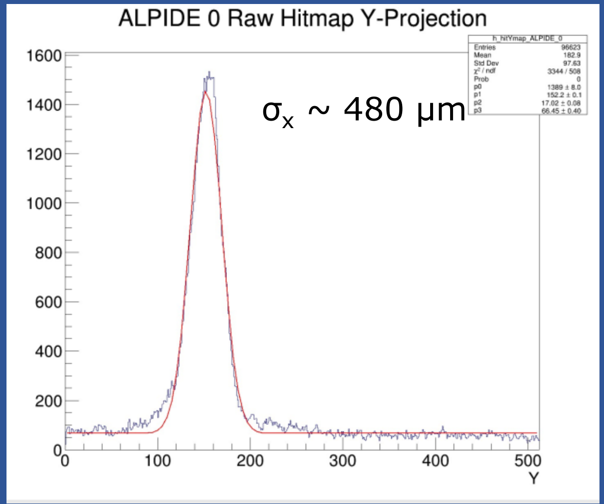
150
AGeV











Collaboration institute-wise

Collaboration members

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Stony Brook Univ.: A. Drees, K. Dehmelt

Rice Univ.: F. Geurts, W. Li

IN2P3 Lyon: A. Uras

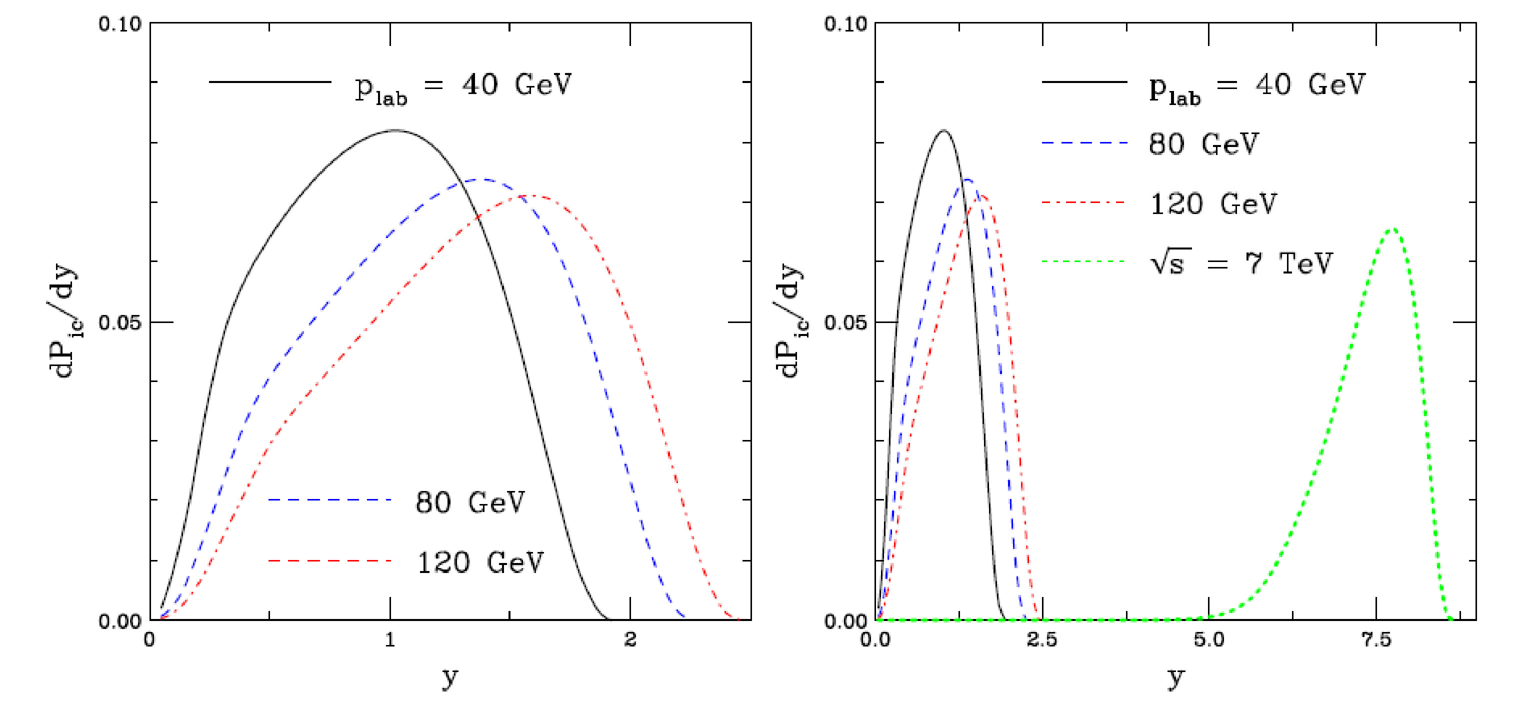
Theorists: A. Beraudo (Torino), V. Greco (Catania), M.P. Lombardo (Firenze), S. Plumari (Catania), R. Rapp (Texas A&M)

Charmonia

Low-√s J/ψ: studying intrinsic charm

- Intrinsic charm component of the hadron wavefunction **|uudc$\bar{c}$>**
- Leads to **enhanced charm production** in the forward region

- Hints from several experiments, but **no conclusive results**
- At colliders, forward x_F pushed to very high rapidity, difficult to measure
  → fixed-target configurations more appropriate

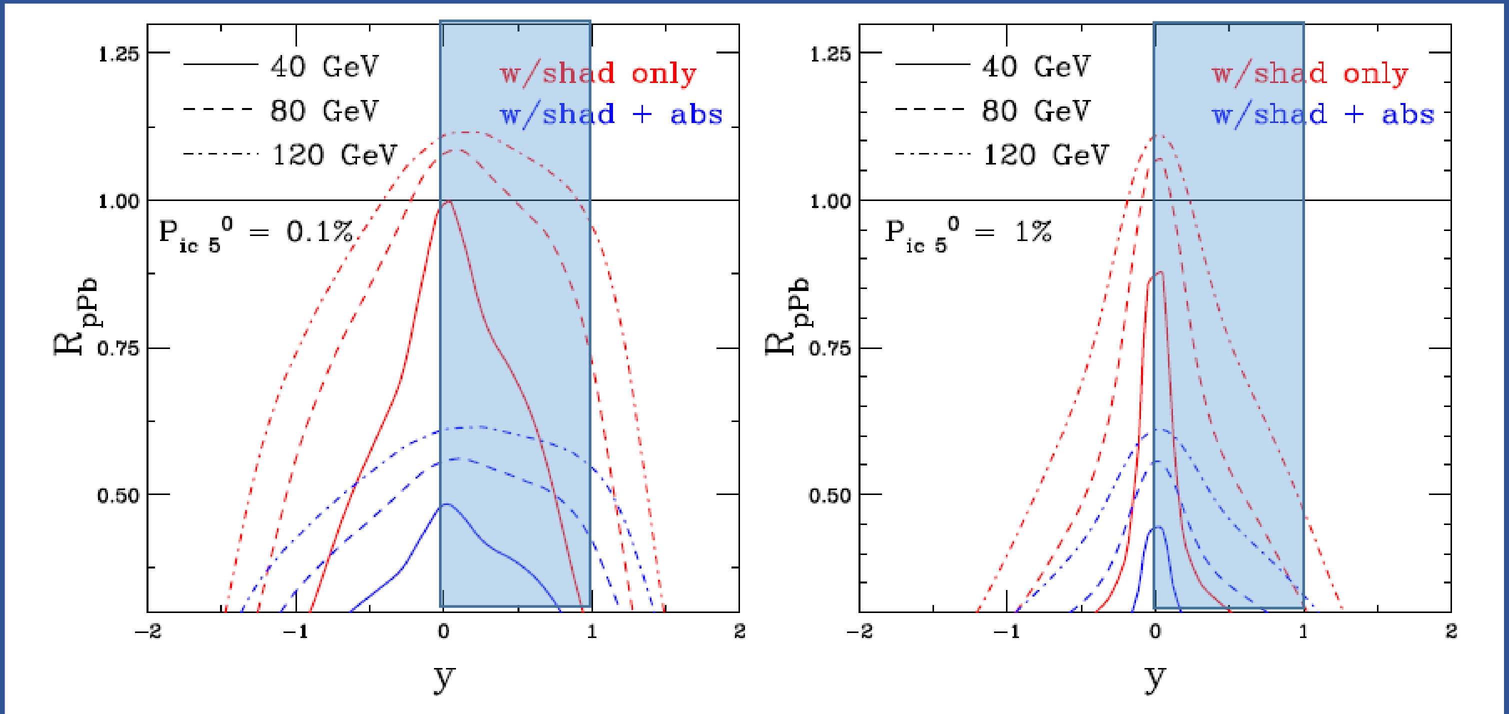


Assumed intrinsic charm content varied between 0.1% and 1%

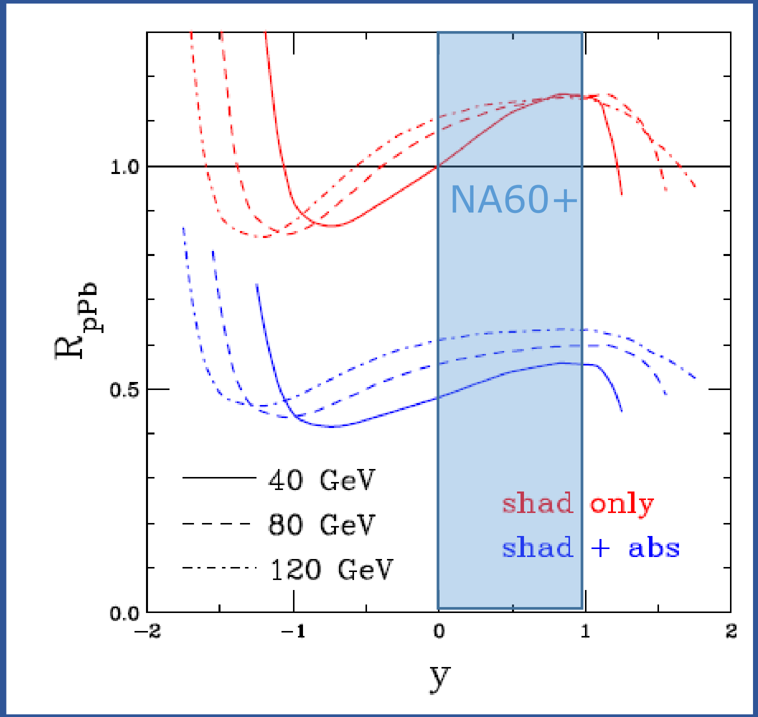
R. Vogt, PRC 103, 035204 (2021)
R. Vogt, arXiv:2207.04347

Low-√s J/ψ: studying intrinsic charm

p-Pb collisions
- EPPS16 shadowing
- σ_{abs} = 9,10,11 mb at E_{lab}=120, 80, 40 GeV
- P_{ic} varied between 0.1 and 1%



(w/o intrinsic charm)



- ❑ **R_{pPb} shape is dominated by intrinsic charm**, already with P_{ic}=0.1%

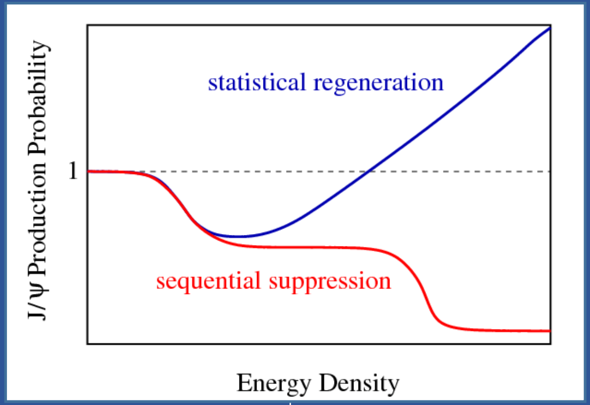
Charmonia: high vs low √s

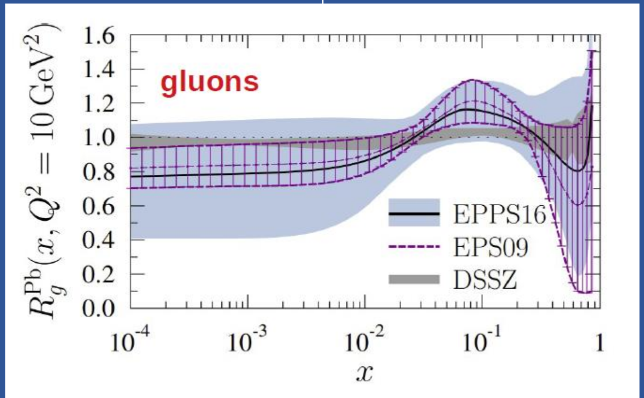
Collider (LHC)

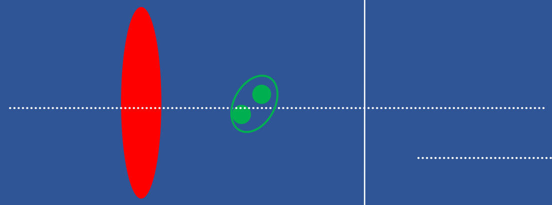
Hot matter effects: regeneration counterbalances (overcomes) suppression

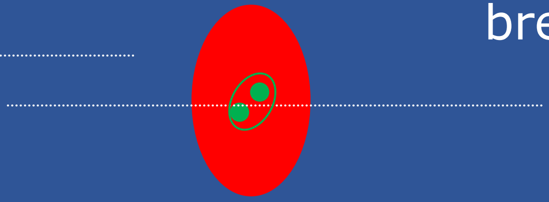
Initial state effects:
shadowing
$x \sim 10^{-5}$ ($y \sim 3$),
$x \sim 10^{-3}$ ($y = 0$),
$x \sim 10^{-2}$ ($y \sim -3$)

(Final state) CNM effects:
negligible, extremely short crossing time
$\tau = L/(\beta_z \gamma) \sim 7\ 10^{-5}$ fm/c ($y \sim 3$)
$\tau = L/(\beta_z \gamma) \sim 4\ 10^{-2}$ fm/c ($y \sim -3$)









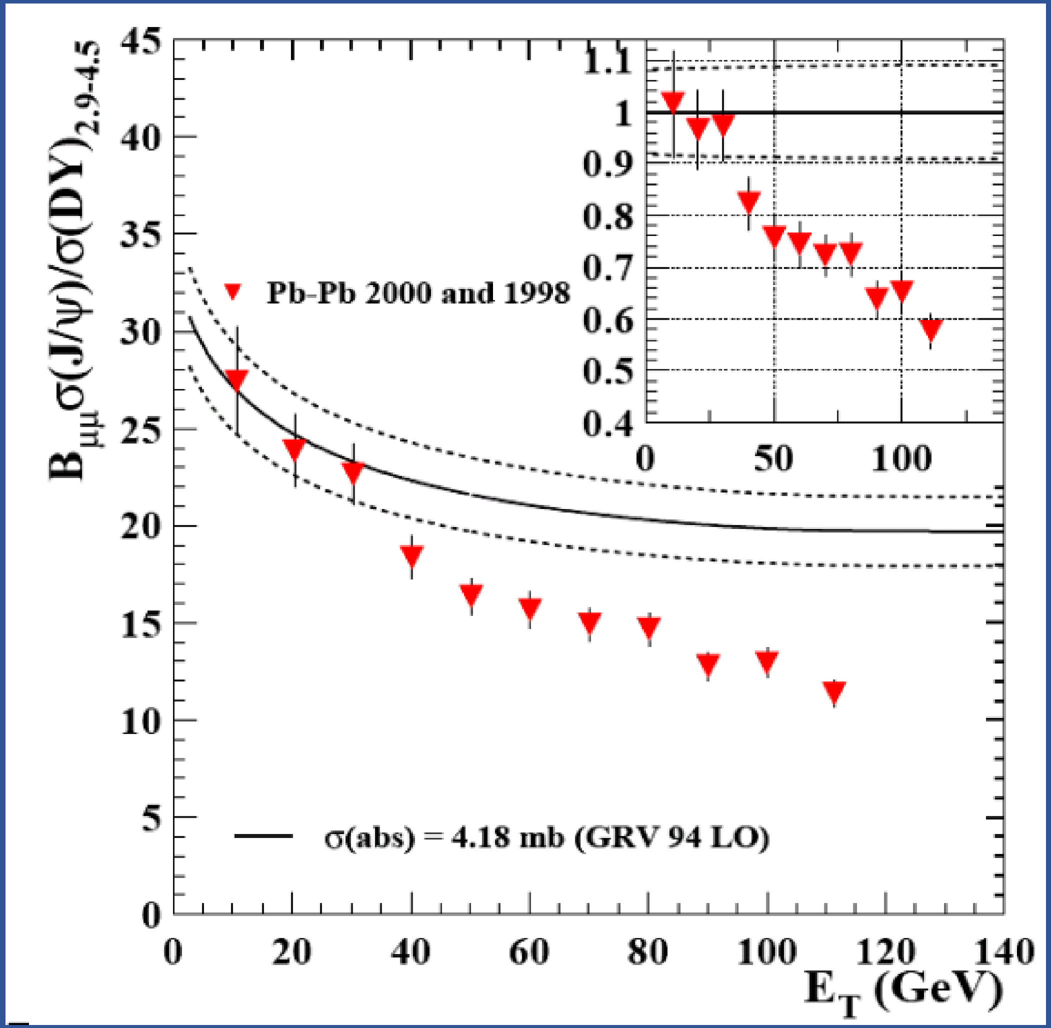
Fixed target (SPS)

Hot matter effects:
suppression effects (if existing) dominate

Initial state effects:
moderate anti-shadowing
$x \sim 10^{-1}$ ($y = 0$)

(Final state) CNM effects:
break-up in nuclear matter can be sizeable
$\tau = L/(\beta_z \gamma) \sim 0.5$ fm/c($y = 0$)

J/ψ suppression: Pb-Pb at top SPS energy

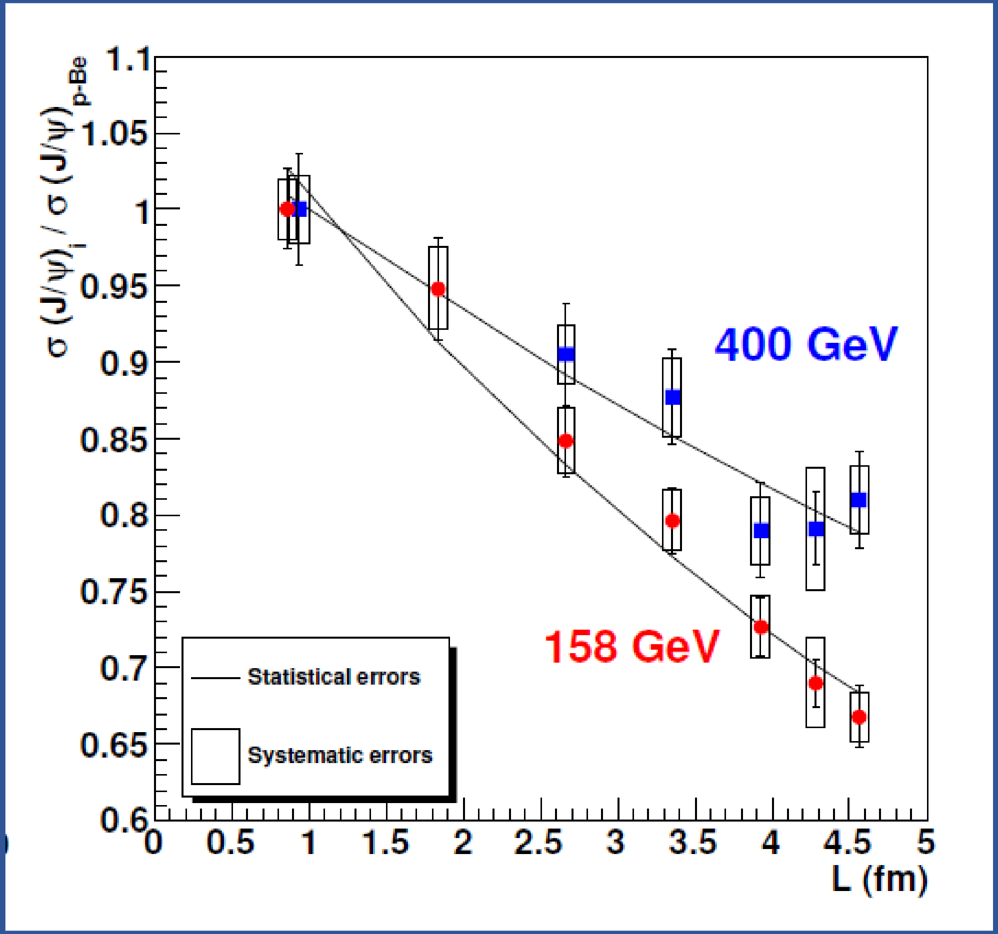


- Contrary to open charm, accurate studies were performed at $\sqrt{s}$=17.3 GeV (NA50, NA60)
- J/ψ yields normalized to Drell-Yan reference
- QGP-induced suppression evaluated with respect to a CNM reference obtained with systematic p-A studies
- **~30-40% anomalous suppression effect** possibly due to disappearance of feed-down from χ_c and ψ(2S)

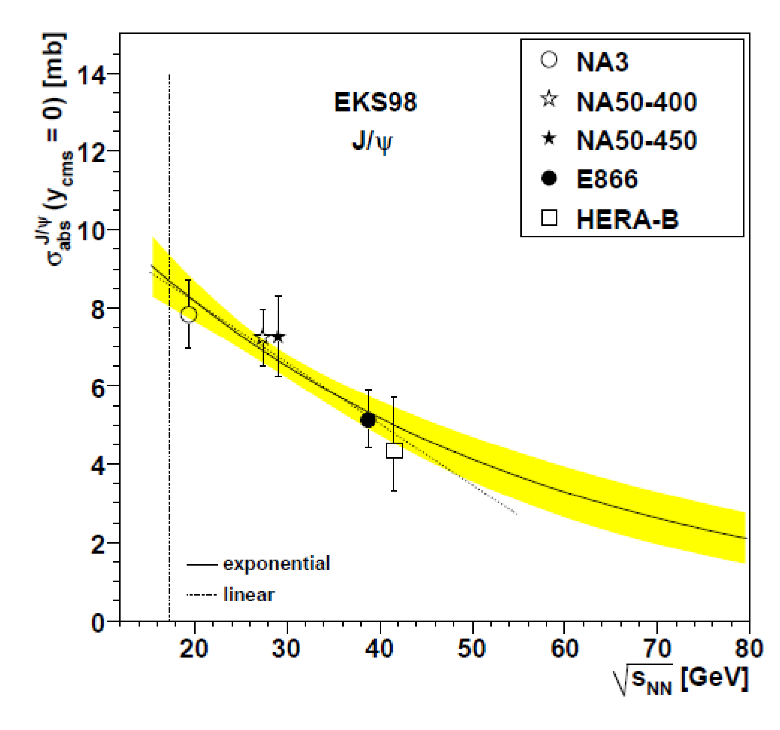
CNM effects are (very) large

- ❑ Shadowing effects are moderate
- ❑ Dominated by nuclear absorption
  → ~30% effect in p-Pb at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 17 GeV

NA60, PLB 706 (2012) 263



❑ Strong √s-dependence
→ CNM may become the dominant effect at low energy



Lourenco, Vogt, Woehri, JHEP 0902:014,2009

L: thickness of nuclear matter crossed by the cc pair (evaluated with Glauber model)

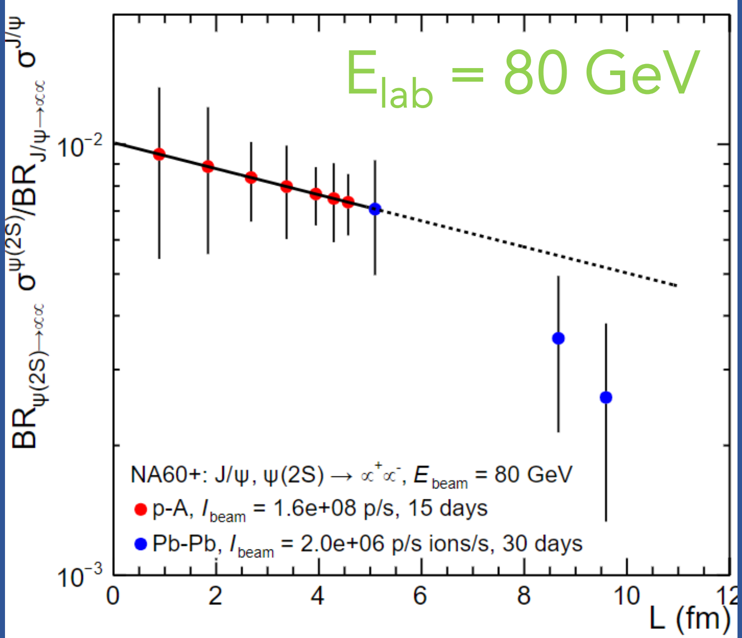
Prospects for ψ(2S) measurements at low √s

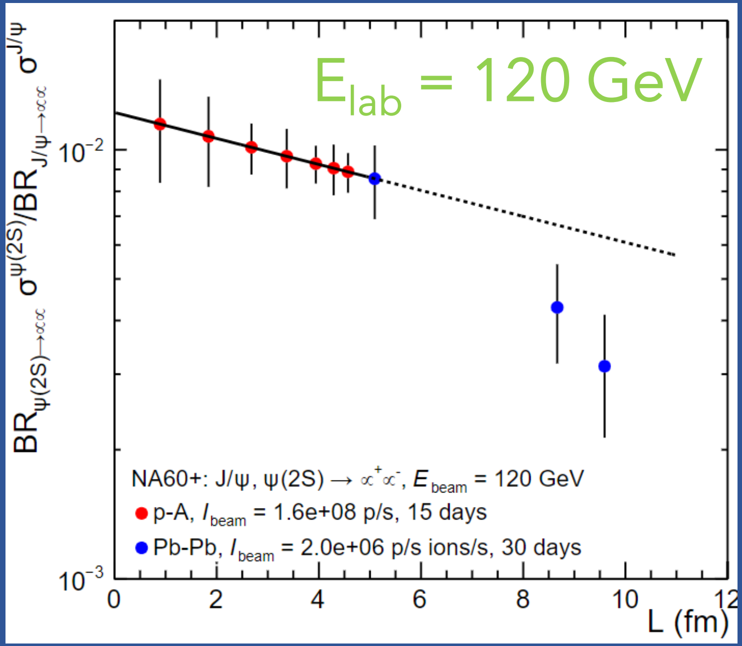
Good charmonium resolution (~30 MeV for the J/ψ) will help ψ(2S) measurements

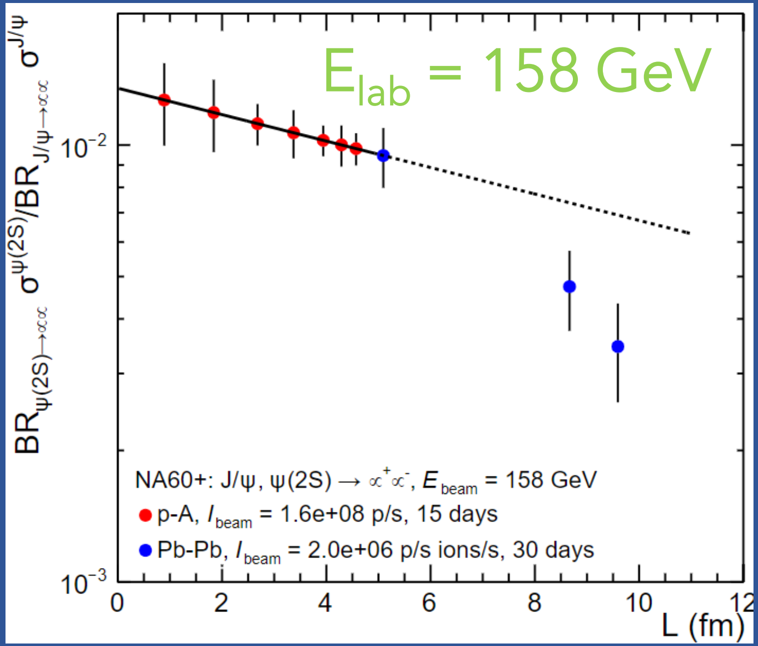
Expectations based on

- 30 days PbPb, I_{beam} = 1e7 ions/spill
- 15 days pA, I_{beam} = 8e8 p/spill

(assuming stronger suppression for ψ(2S) than J/ψ)

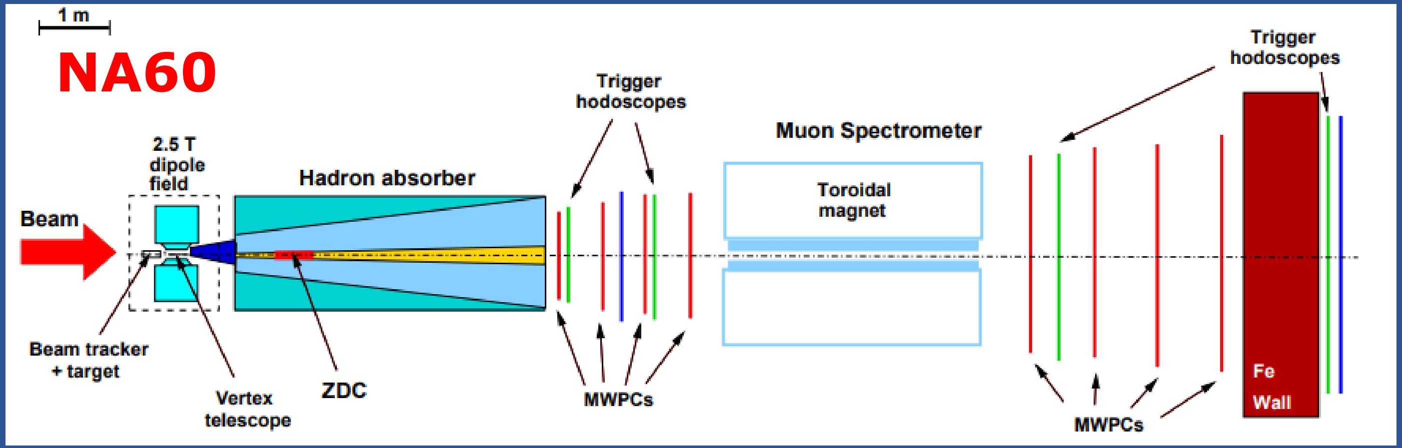




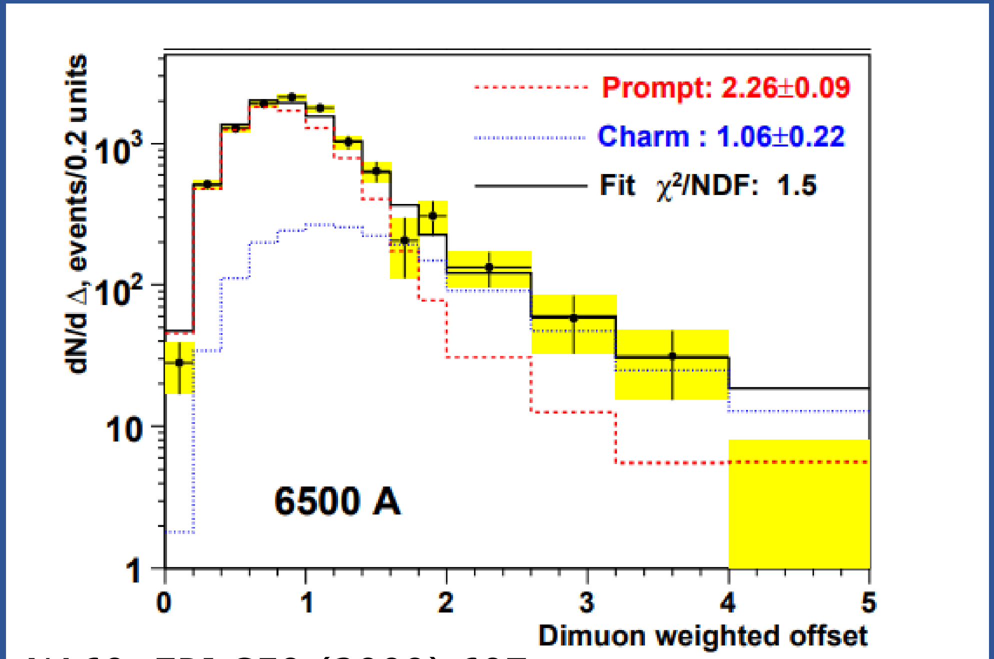


- ❑ **ψ(2S)/ψ measurement looks feasible down to E_{lab} = 120 GeV**
- ❑ Lower E_{lab} would require larger beam intensites/longer running times

Existing open charm results at SPS energy



- ❑ Match track(s) in a muon spectrometer to tracks in a vertex spectrometer
- → Excellent resolution on the muon kinematics
- → Separate prompt (DY+thermal) from nonprompt sources (open charm)



NA60, EPJ C59 (2009) 607

- ❑ Analysis of open charm contribution (semileptonic decays of charm hadron pairs) leads, for In-In collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$=17.3 GeV, to σ_{cc}= 9.5±1.3(stat.)±1.4(syst.) μb assuming kinematic distribution as in PYTHIA6

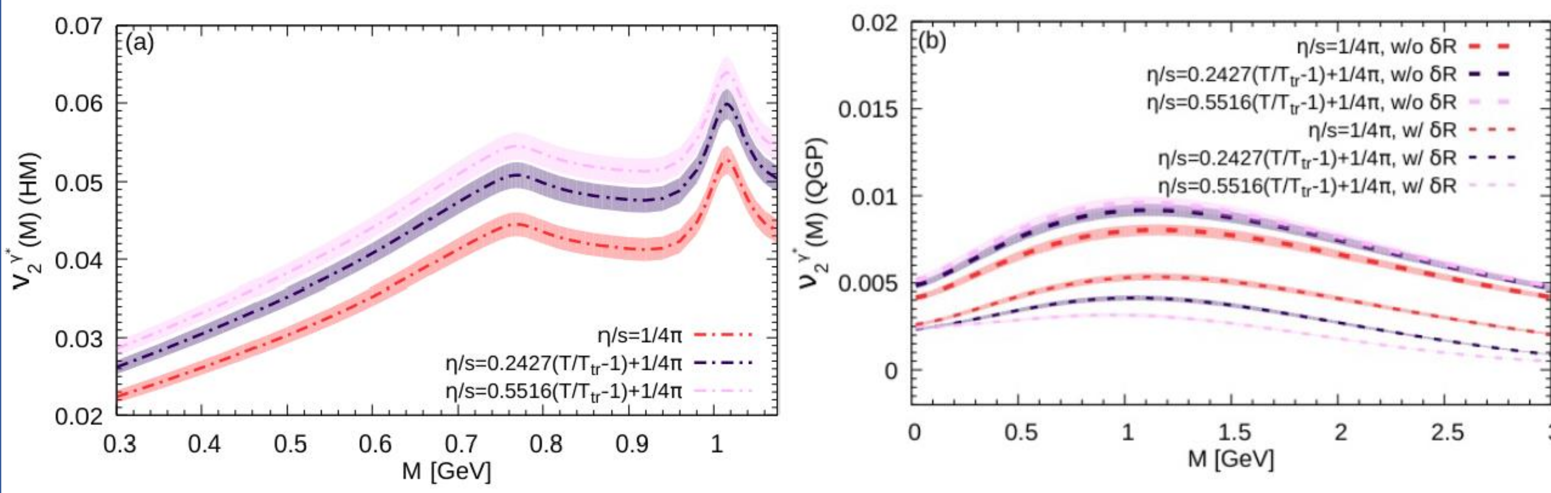
→ Compatible with corresponding p-A measurements by NA50 and supporting the hypothesis of N_{coll} scaling

No other results available below top SPS energy

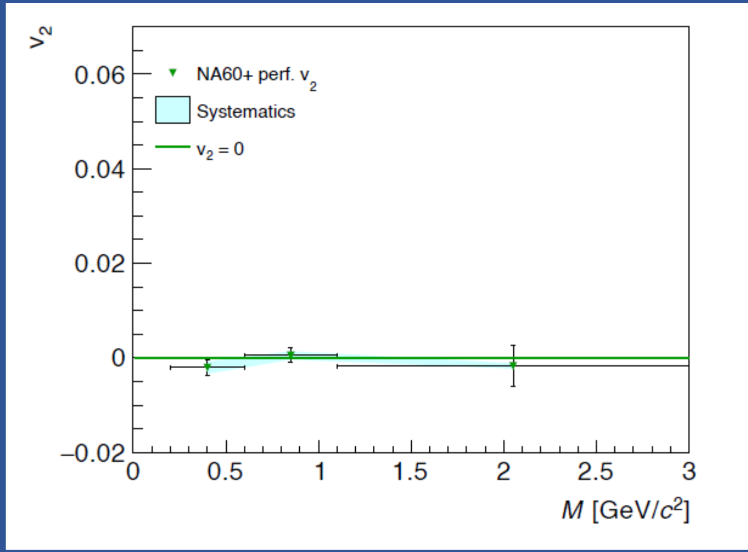
Thermal dileptons and chiral symmetry

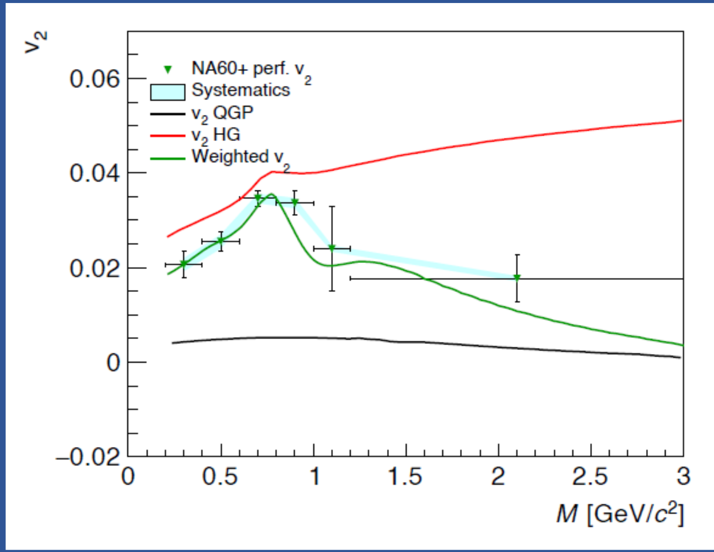
Elliptic flow of thermal dileptons

- ❑ **No measurements at present**
- ❑ Predictions at RHIC energies
  - ❑ LMR dominated by hadron gas: almost linear increase of v_2 vs mass
  - ❑ IMR dominated by QGP: small v_2



Vujanovic et al, Phys. Rev. C 98, 014902 (2018)



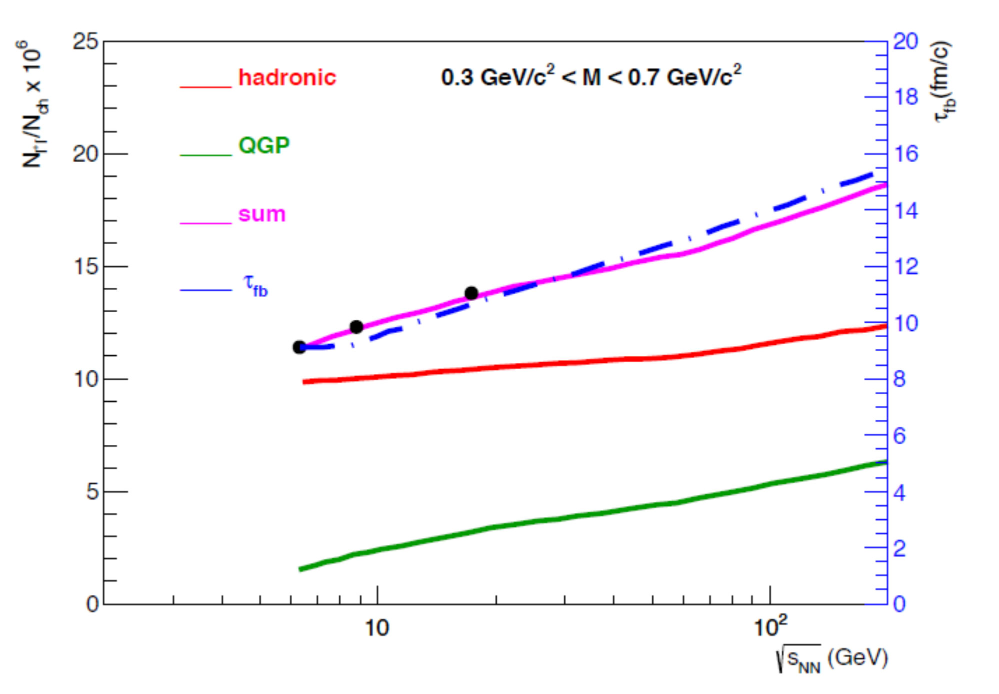


- ❑ No prediction at SPS energies
- ❑ Two possible scenarios: v_2=0
  - ❑ **Measurement with uncertainty between 0.003 and 0.008**
- ❑ $v_2=v_2^{RHIC}$
  - → increase of v_2 versus mass (HG) and a drop in the IMR (QGP)

Fireball lifetime

- Thermal "excess" radiation in the mass region 0.3 < M < 0.7 GeV/c^2
  → sensitive to all emission stages
  → tracks the **total fireball lifetime** within an accuracy of ~10%

  → NA60 measurement, In-In at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$=17.3 GeV : τ_{FB} **= 8 ± 1 fm/c**



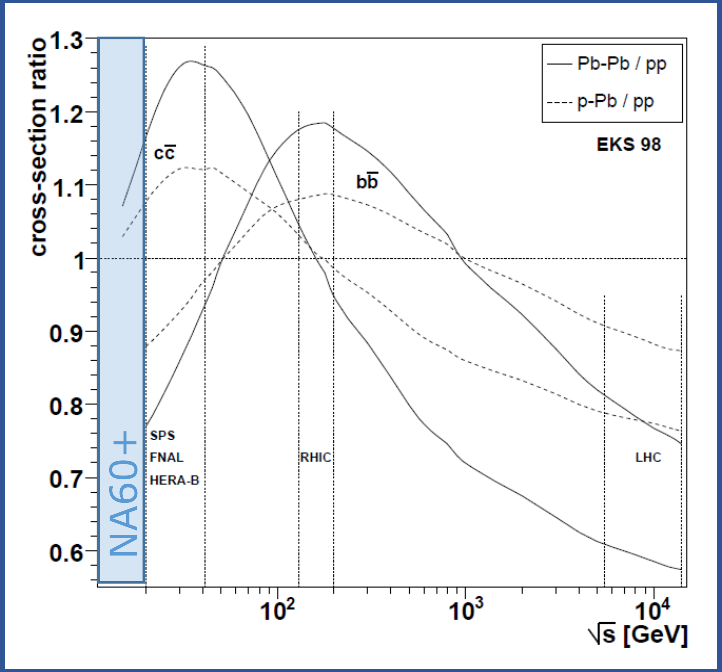
Black points → NA60+ projections
Excellent accuracy

Soft mixed phase in a **first-order transition**
→ pressure gradients in the system are small and thus stall the fireball expansion
→ increased lifetime in the collision-energy regime where the mixed phase forms

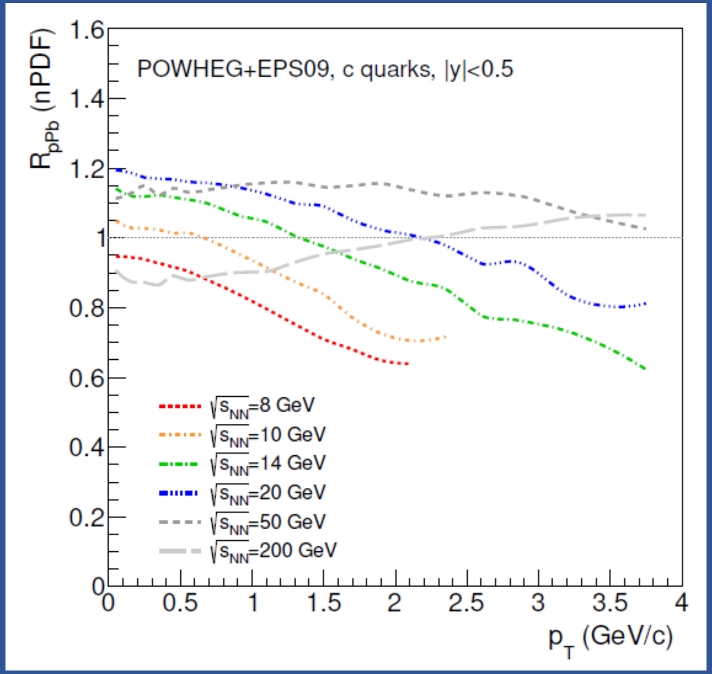
Open charm

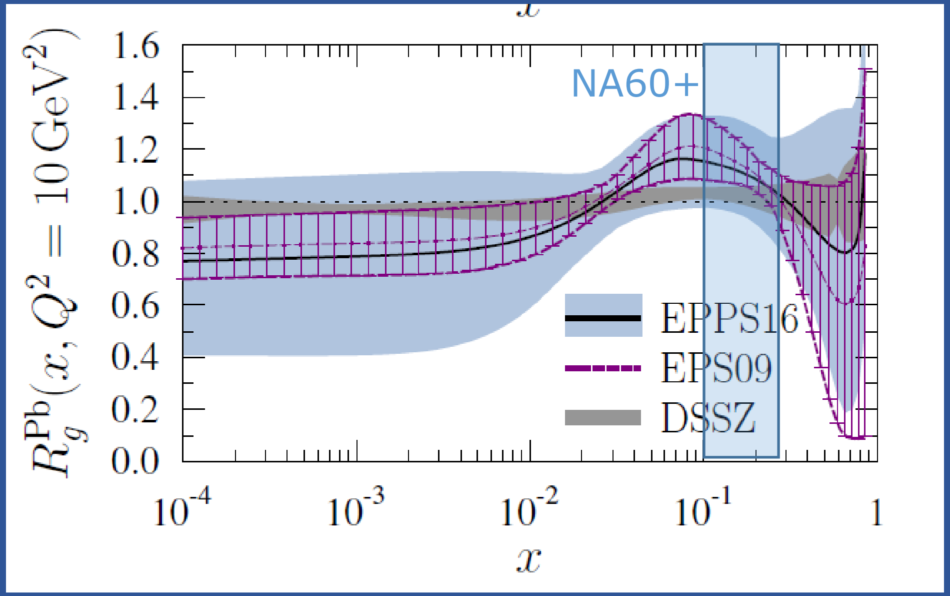
Open charm at low √s in pA: nuclear PDFs

- Sensitivity to **nuclear PDFs in p-A** collisions
  - Probe EMC and anti-shadowing for $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ ~ 10-20 GeV
  - Perform measurements with various nuclear targets to access the A-dependence of nPDF
- NA60+ offers a unique opportunity to investigate the **large x_{Bj} region** (study ratio to pA/pBe)
  - $0.1<x_{Bj}<0.3$ at Q^2~10-40 GeV^2



Lourenco, Wohri,
Phys.Rept.433 (2006) 127

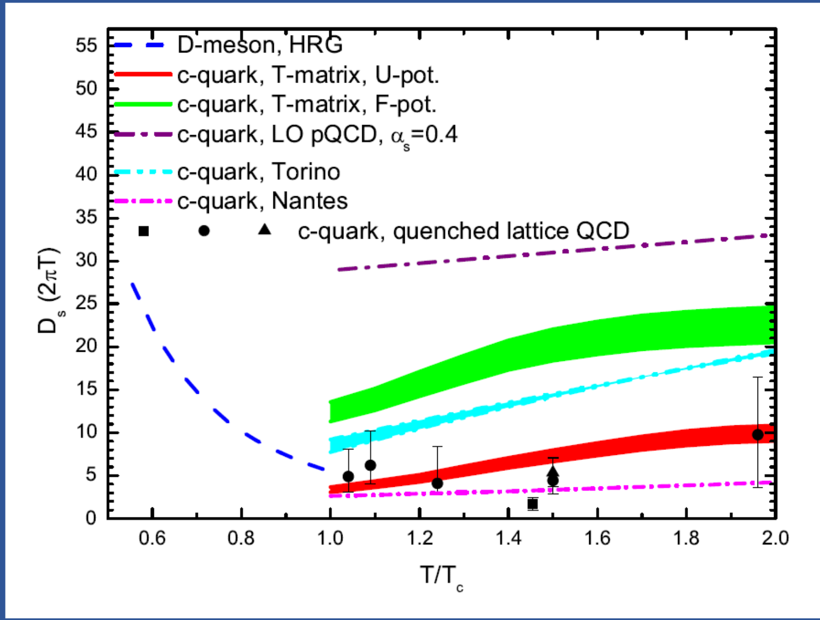




Eskola et al. , EPJ C77 (2017) 13

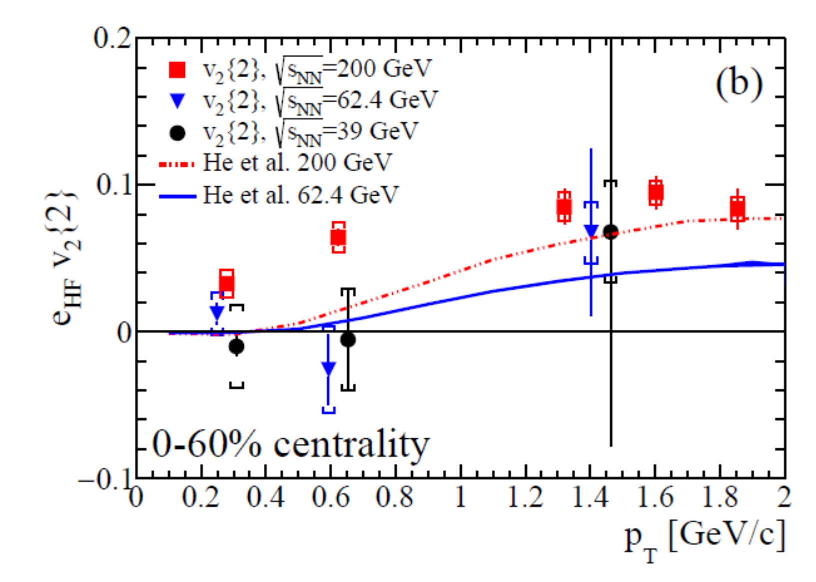
Open charm in Pb-Pb: R_{AA} and v_2

- Insight into **QGP transport properties**
  - Charm diffusion coefficient larger in the hadronic phase than in the QGP around T_c
  - Hadronic phase represents a large part of the collision evolution at SPS energies
    - Sensitivity to hadronic interactions
    - Test models which predict strongest in-medium interactions in the vicinity of the quark-hadron transition
  - Measurement also important for precision estimates of diffusion coefficients at the LHC



Prino, Rapp, JPG43 (2016) 093002

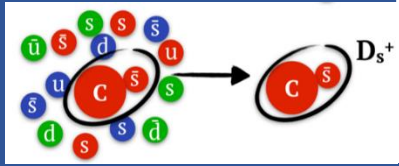
- Study **charm thermalization at low √s**
  - Current measurements of HF-decay electron v_2 at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$=39 and 62 GeV/c from RHIC
    - → Smaller v_2 than at √s=200 GeV
    - → Not conclusive on v_2>0

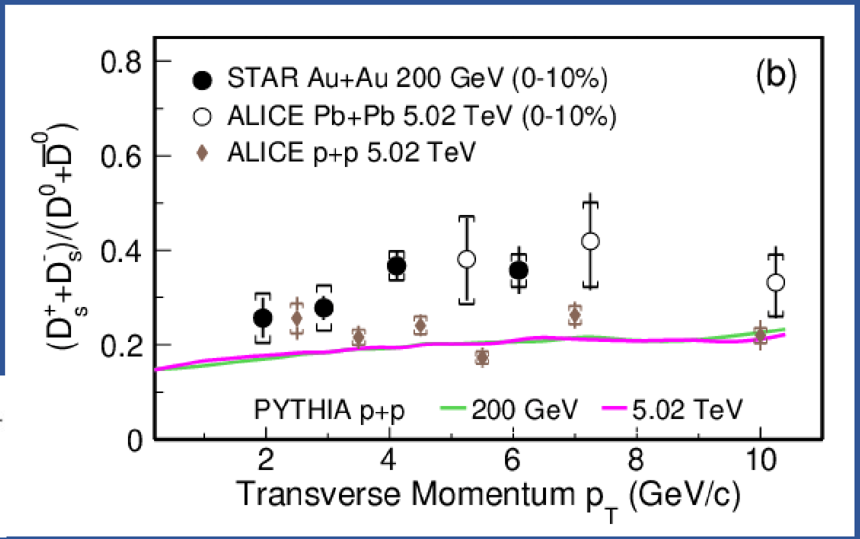


STAR, PRC 95 (2017) 034907

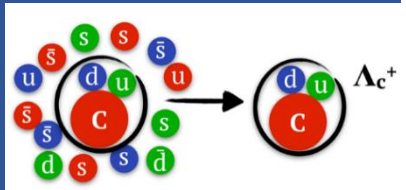
Open charm hadrochemistry

- Reconstruct different charm hadron species to get insight into **hadronization mechanism**
- **Strange/non-strange** meson ratio (D_s/D):
  - D_s/D enhancement expected in A-A collisions due to hadronisation via **recombination** in the strangeness rich QGP
- **Baryon/meson** ratios (Λ_c/D):
  - Expected to be enhanced in A-A in case of hadronisation via coalescence
  - Interesting also in p-A since Λ_c/D^0 in pp (p-Pb) at LHC is higher than in e^+e^-

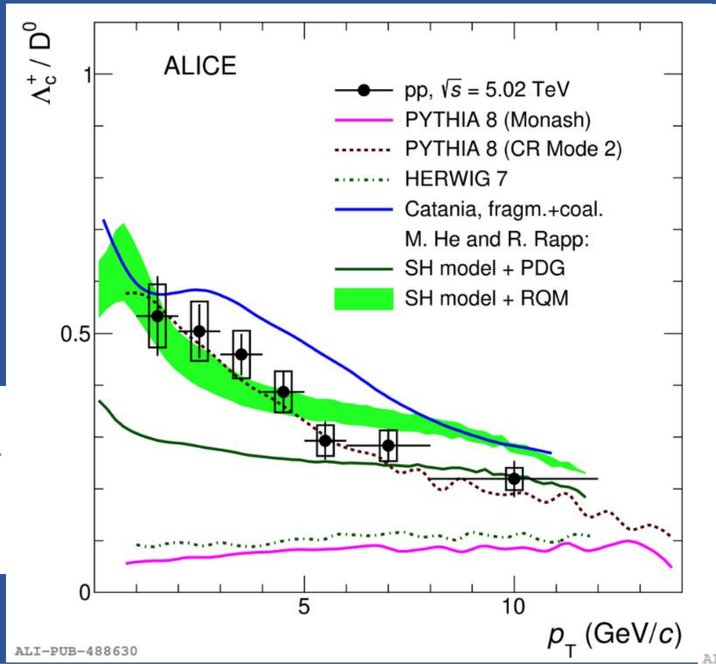


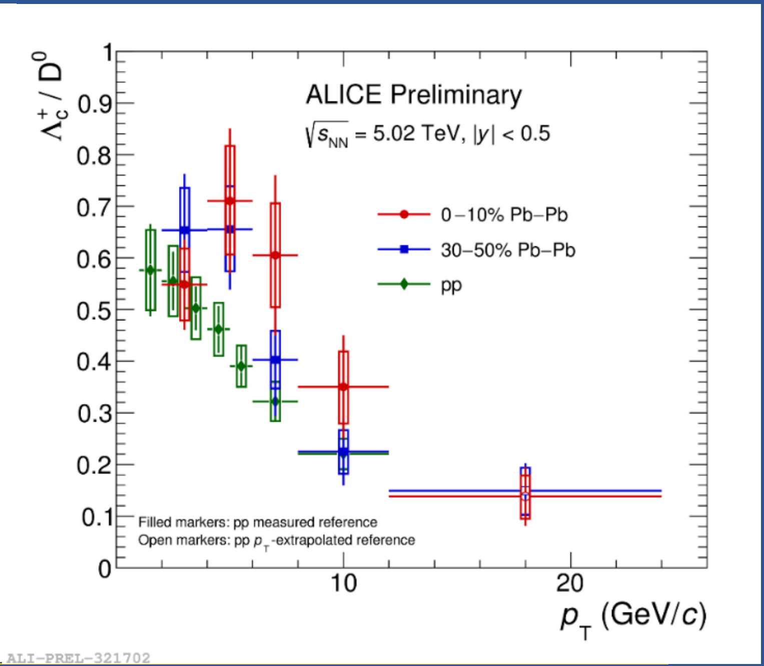


STAR, PRL 127 (2021) 092301
ALICE, PLB827 (2022) 136986



ALICE, PRL127 (2021) 202301





Total charm cross section

- Total charm cross section in A-A collisions
  - Measured so far by NA60 in In-In collisions from intermediate-mass dimuons with 20% precision
  - Upper limit from NA49 measurements of D^0 mesons

NA60, EPJ C59 (2009) 607

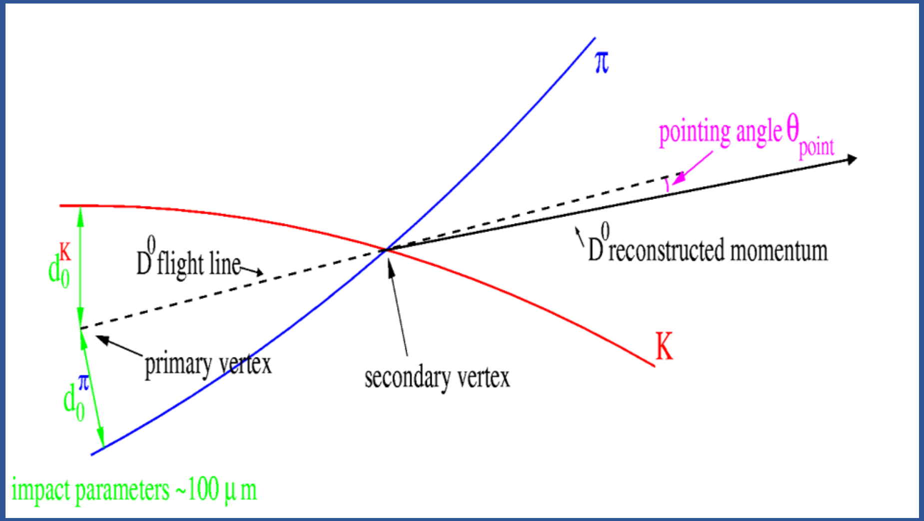
NA49, PRC73 (2006) 034910

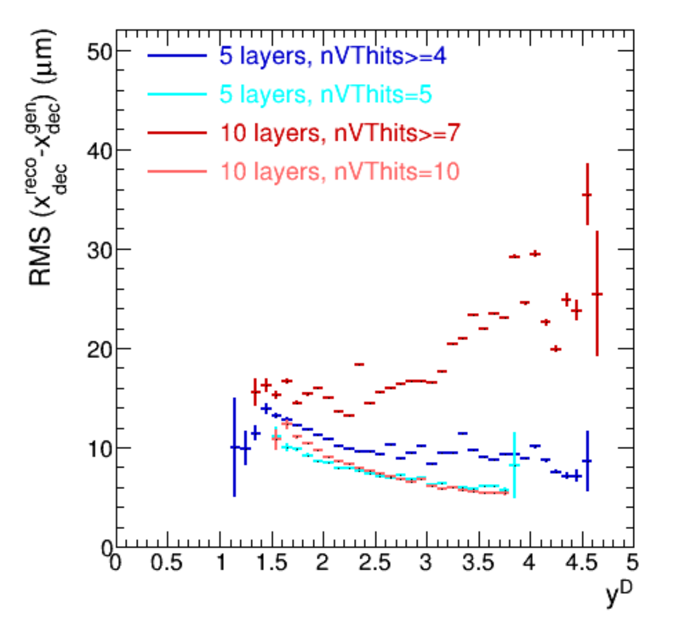
- Precise measurement requires to reconstruct all meson and baryon ground states (D^0, D^+, D_s^+ and Λ_c^+ and their antiparticles)

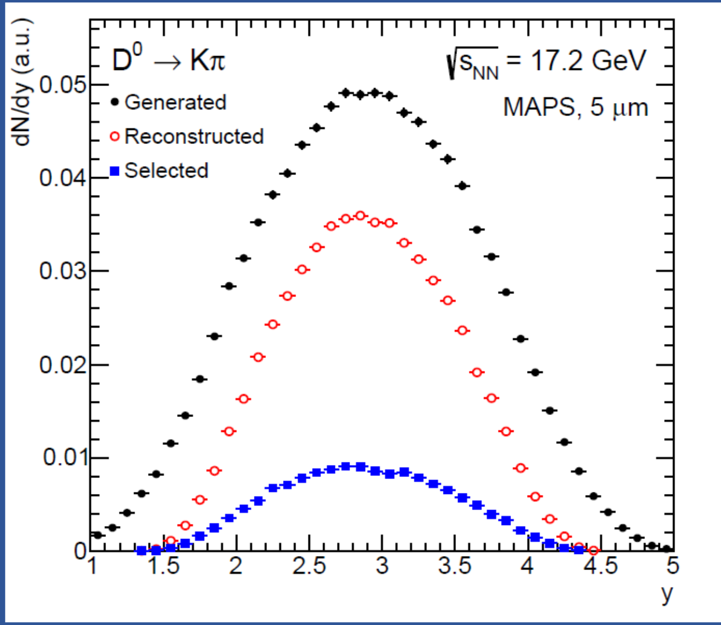
- Charm cross section **ideal reference for charmonia**

D-meson performance studies

- **Fast simulations** for central Pb-Pb collisions:
  - D-meson signal simulation: p_T and y distributions from POWHEG-BOX+PYTHIA
  - Combinatorial background: dN/dp_T and dN/dy of p, K and p from NA49
  - Parametrized simulation of VT detector resolution + track reconstruction with Kalman filter
  - Reconstruct D-meson decay vertex from decay tracks
  - Geometrical selections based on displaced decay vertex topology
    - For D^0 in central Pb-Pb:
      - initial S/B ~10^{-7}
      - → after selections S/B ~0.5



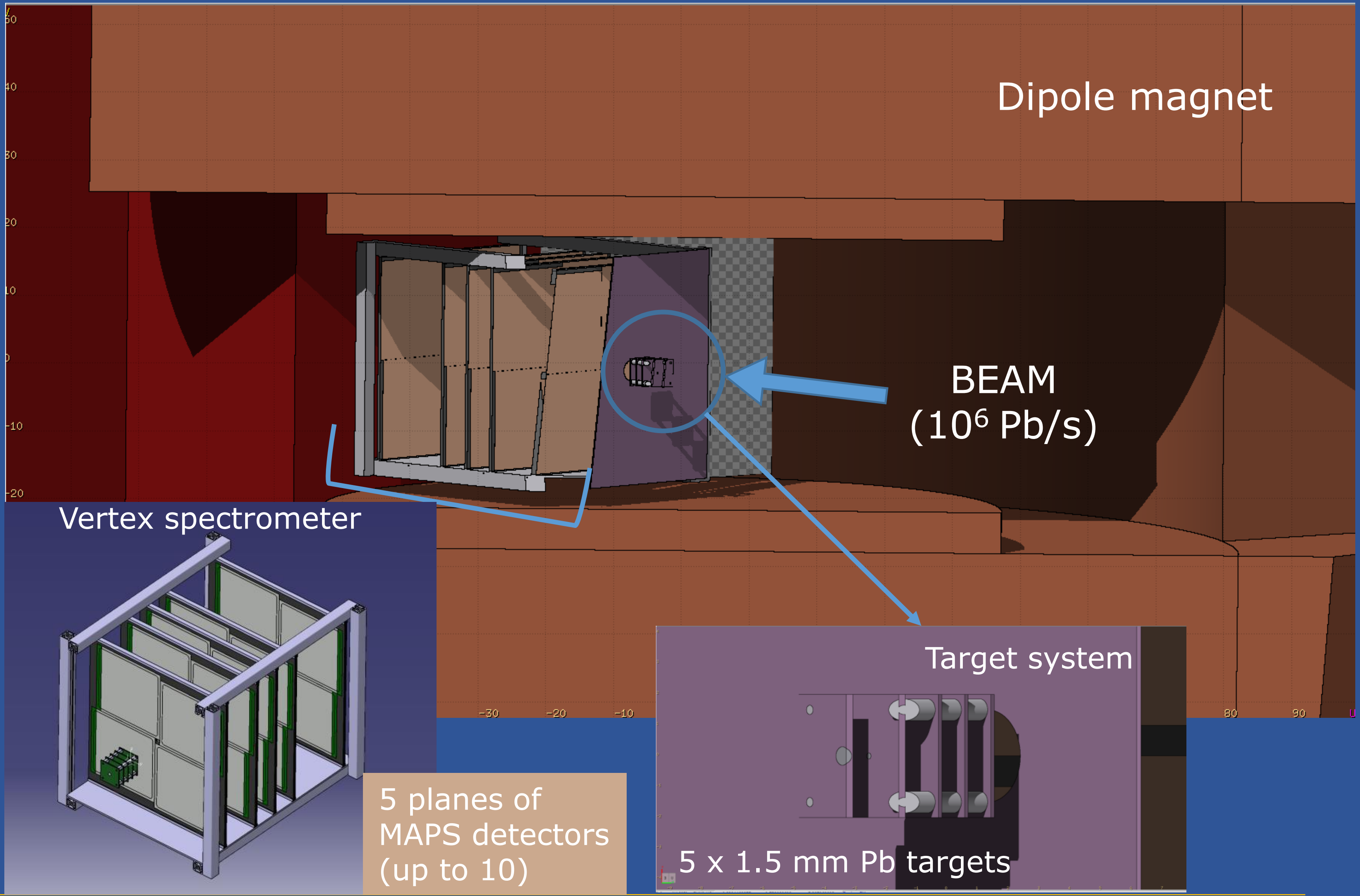




Towards a precise measurement of open charm at SPS energy

A measurement of **hadronic decays** is required

	Mass MeV)	cτ (μm)	Decay	BR
D^0	**1865**	**123**	**$K^-\pi^+$**	**3.95%**
D^+	1869	312	$K^-\pi^+\pi^+$	9.38%
D_s^+	**1968**	**147**	**$\phi\pi^+$**	**2.24%**
Λ_c^+	2285	60	$pK^-\pi^+$ pK^0_s $\Lambda\pi^+$	6.28% 1.59% 1.30%



Next future

Status & next future

- ❑ First prototype of a **MWPC module built and tested** at Weizmann institute
  → to be tested on a hadron beam at CERN in spring 2023

- ❑ R&D on **stitched MAPS** ongoing in the frame of a collaboration between ALICE and NA60+

- ❑ Toroidal **magnet prototype** built and tested
  →Mechanical and magnetic parameters under control

- ❑ Studies for LoI carried out with
  - ❑ **Fast simulation and reconstruction** tool
  - ❑ **FLUKA** calculations for background rates

- ❑ Finalize set-up
  location of MWPC and GEM detectors
  Define resolution for each station

- ❑ Build test mechanics with dummy sensors to investigate various aspects (cooling, alignment,…), continue R&D

- ❑ Extrapolate to full-scale magnet and start engineering design

- ❑ Define final sim/reco/analysis framework and investigate/develop related tools
  → GEANT4, ACTS, Aliroot framework,…