



The physics of kaonic atoms in the last 25 years

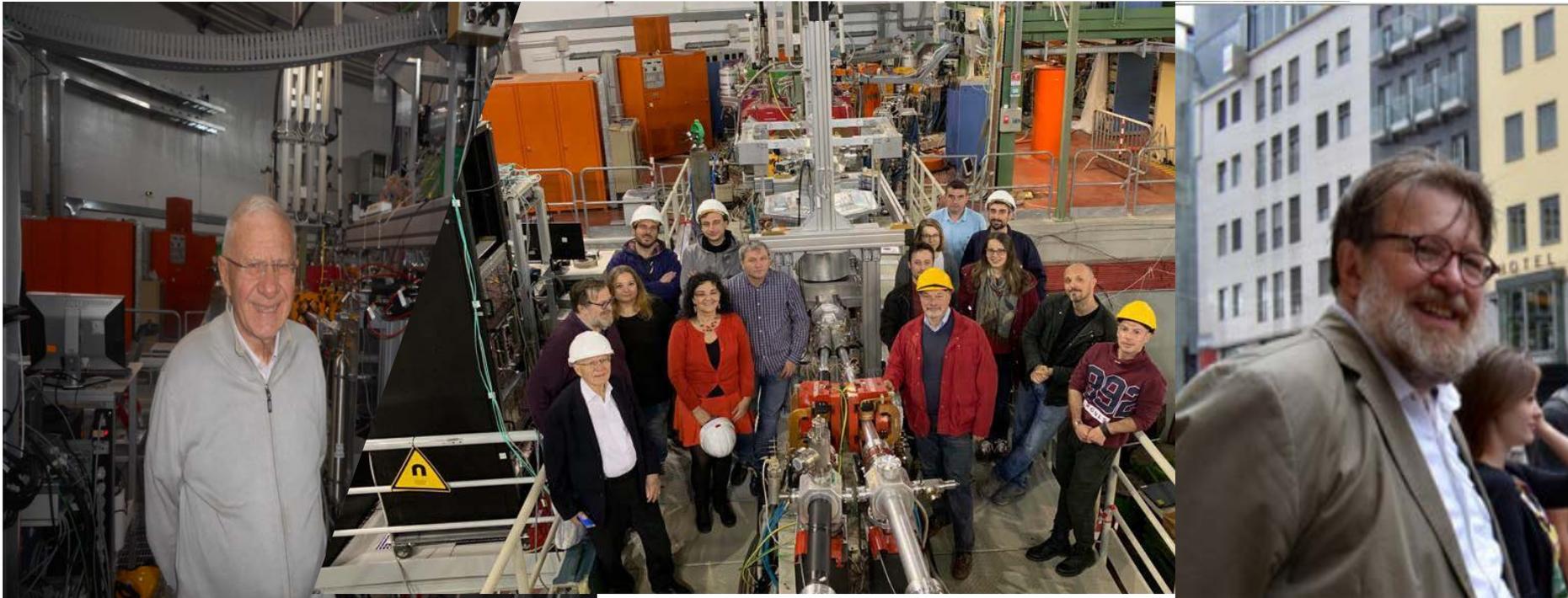
Diana Laura Sirghi

INFN-LNF

on behalf of SIDDHARTA-2 collaboration

*23-25 June 2025
LNF-INFN, Frascati, Italy*

We dedicate these results to
Prof. Carlo Guaraldo and **Dr. Johann Zmeskal**
whose contributions and passion for exotic atom research
continue to inspire us.



The modern era of light kaonic atoms experiments, the precision era, covers the last twenty-five years.

Breakthroughs in technological developments
which allowed performing
a series of long-awaited precision measurement



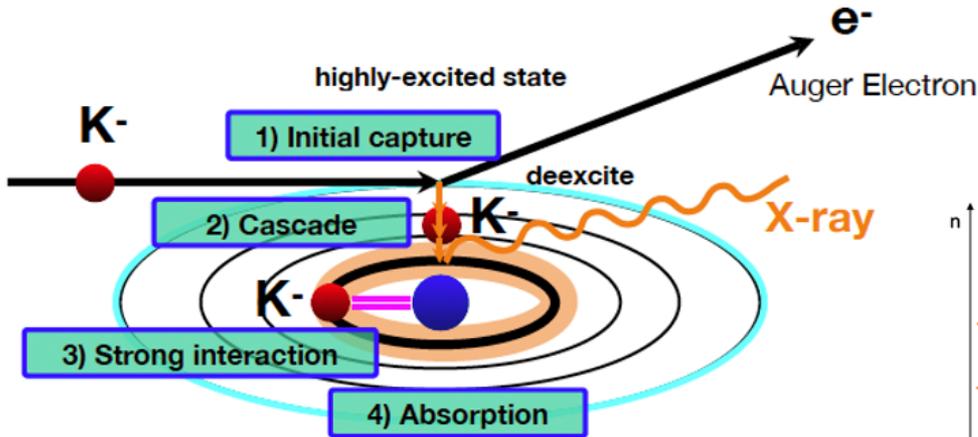
Better understanding of the strong interaction
between anti-K & nucleus at low energy limit



Motivation for kaonic atoms experiments

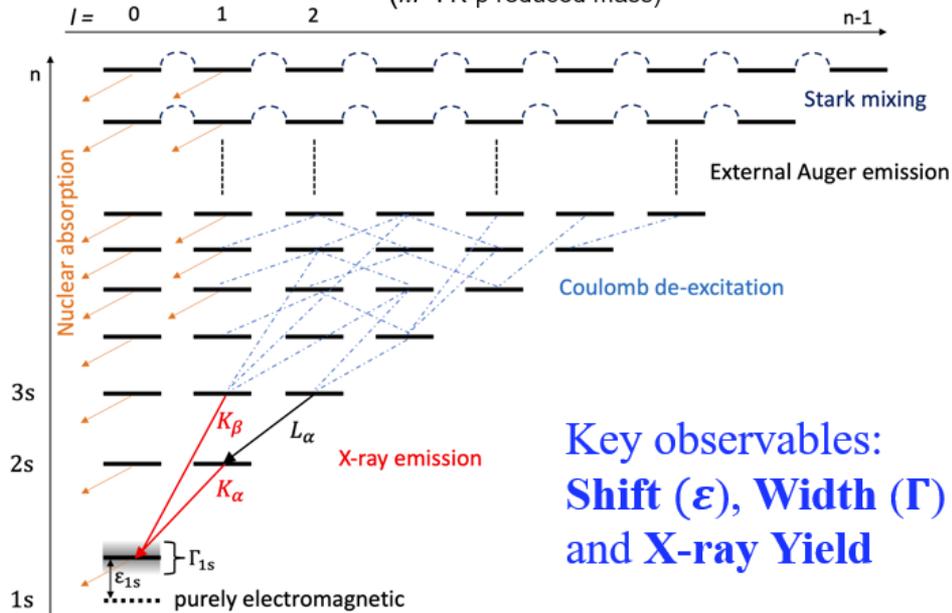
Kaonic Atoms X-ray Spectroscopy

Kaonic atom formation



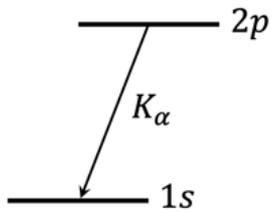
$$n \sim \sqrt{M^*/m_e} \quad n' \sim 25 \text{ (for K-p)}$$

(M^* : K-p reduced mass)



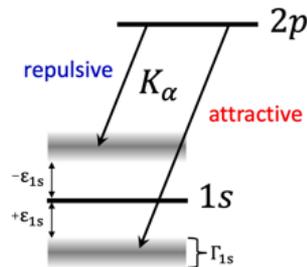
Key observables:
Shift (ϵ), Width (Γ)
and X-ray Yield

Purely electromagnetic



$$\epsilon_{1s} = E_{\text{meas}}^{2p-1s} - E_{e.m.}^{2p-1s}$$

Electromagnetic + strong interaction



Importance of kaonic atoms studies

Atomic binding energies of light systems the keV range → tens of MeV in the low-energy scattering experiments

	m (MeV/ c^2)	μ (MeV/ c^2)	B_{1s} (keV)	r_B (fm)	Accessible interaction
ep	0.511	0.511	13.6×10^{-3}	53 000	Electroweak
μp	105.7	95.0	2.53	279	Electroweak
πp	139.6	121.5	3.24	216	Electroweak + strong
$K p$	493.7	323.9	8.61	81	Electroweak + strong
$\bar{p} p$	938.3	469.1	12.5	58	Electroweak + strong

Kaonic atoms: the unique opportunity to perform experiments equivalent to scattering at vanishing relative energies

Special role played by **lightest Kaonic atoms**

determination of the antikaon-nucleon/nucleus interaction at “threshold”, without the need of extrapolation to zero relative energy.

Determined isospin dependent KN scattering lengths are key ingredients for all models and theories dealing with low-energy QCD in systems with strangeness

- **Explicit and spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking (mass of nucleons)**
- **Dense baryonic matter structure**
- **Neutron (strange?) stars EOS**

Light kaonic atoms

- Kaonic hydrogen isotopes → basic low energy parameters:
antikaon –nucleon scattering lengths
- Kaonic deuterium → **antikaon –neutron system**
- Other light kaonic atoms → how to construct the antikaon-nucleus interaction from the elementary reactions

Light exotic atoms are formed almost “electron-free”
high-precision measurements,
due to the absence of electron screening effect

Breakthrough in the technologies for kaonic atoms studies:

1. Antikaons sources

Availability of the **new kaon beams with excellent characteristics**

for the studies of kaonic atoms:

first necessary ingredient towards the progress in kaonic atoms

studies in the modern era.

New technological developments in the accelerators delivering

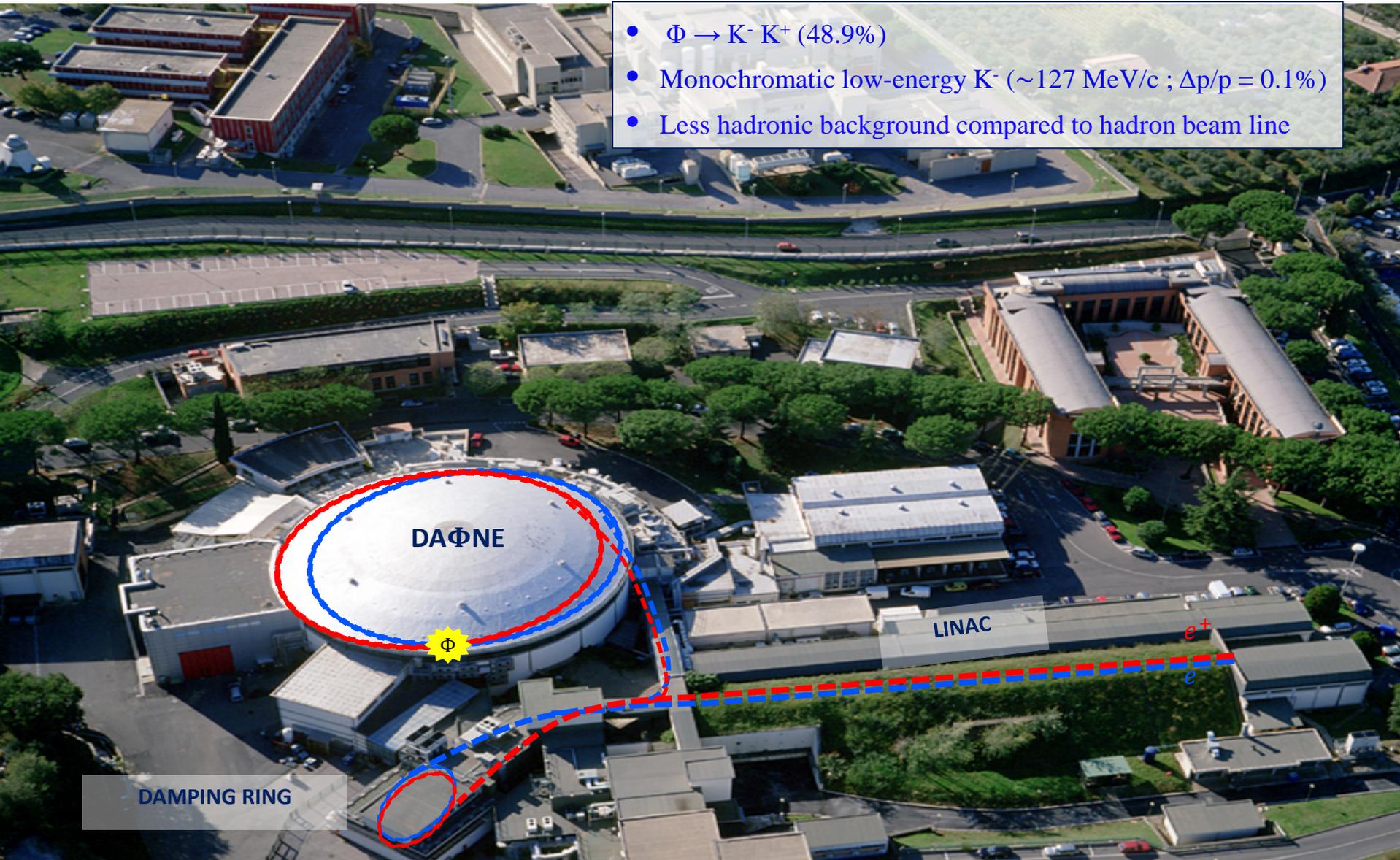
kaon beams:

1. **DAΦNE** collider at LNF-INFN

2. kaon extracted beams in Japan, firstly at **KEK** and then at **J-PARC**

The DAΦNE collider of INFN-LNF, since 1998

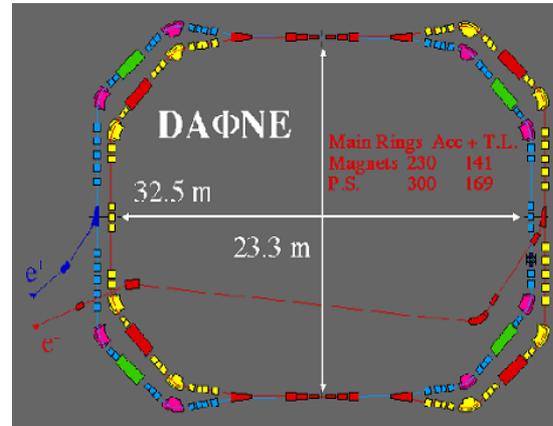
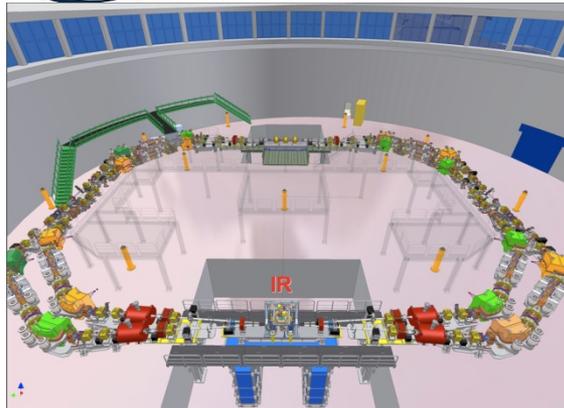
- $\Phi \rightarrow K^- K^+$ (48.9%)
- Monochromatic low-energy K^- ($\sim 127 \text{ MeV}/c$; $\Delta p/p = 0.1\%$)
- Less hadronic background compared to hadron beam line



DAΦNE: low-momentum kaon beam



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare
LABORATORI NAZIONALI DI FRASCATI



- $e^+ e^-$ at 510 MeV
- Φ ($\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \Phi) \sim 5 \mu\text{b}$) resonance decays at 49.2 % in $K^+ K^-$ **back-to-back pair**
- **Very low momentum (≈ 127 MeV) K^- beam**
- Flux of produced kaons: about 1000/second

Best low momentum K^- factory in the world

Ideal beam to be stopped in the gaseous target and form, with high efficiency, kaonic atoms

Suitable for low-energy kaon physics:

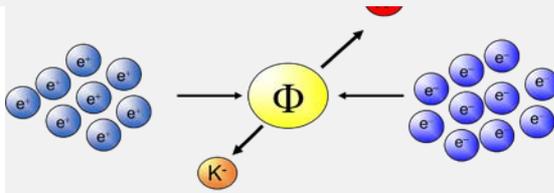
→ **Kaonic atoms** (DEAR/SIDDHARTA/SIDDHARTA-2)

operates at the centre-of-mass energy of the Φ meson

mass $m = 1019.413 \pm .008$

MeV

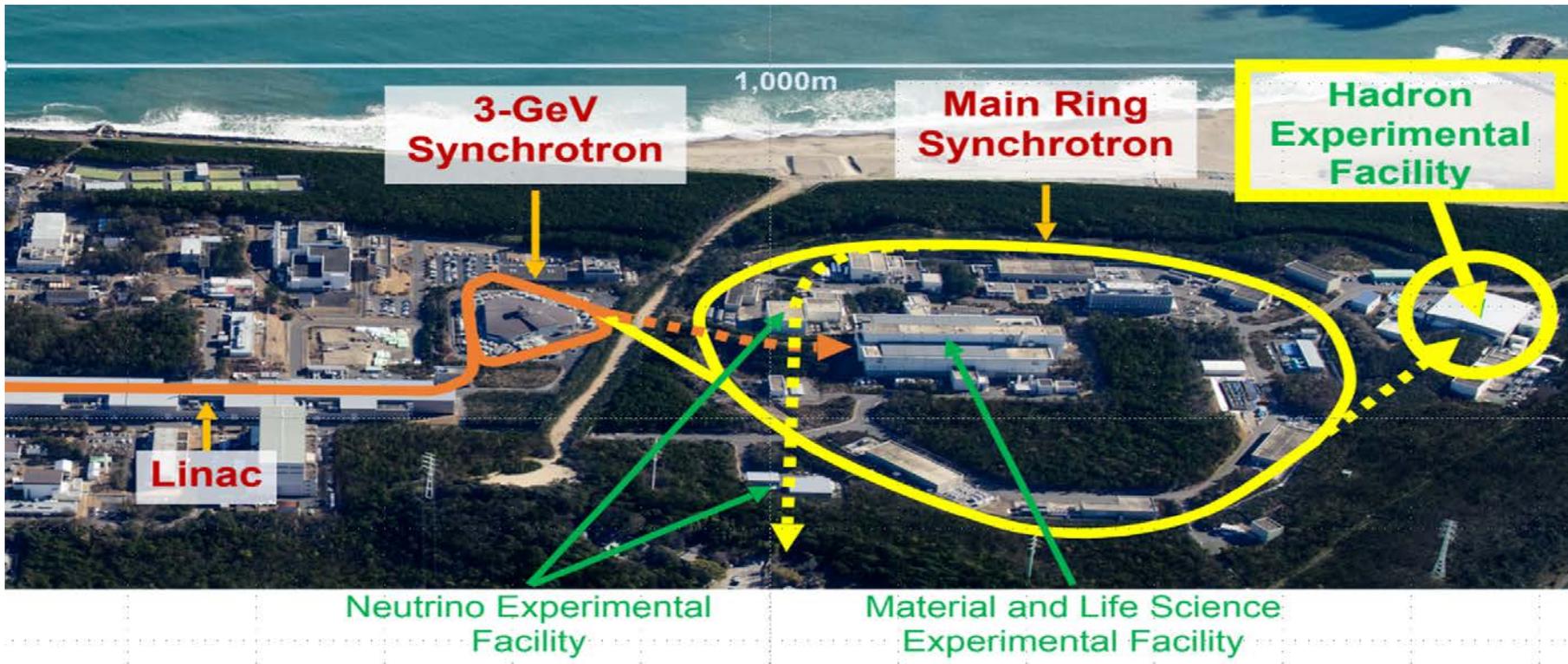
width $\Gamma = 4.43 \pm 0.06$ MeV



DAΦNE represents an **(THE) EXCELLENT FACILITY**

in the sector of low-energy interaction studies of kaons with nuclear matter.

J-PARC: high-momentum kaon beam



J-PARC consists of a series of world-class proton accelerators and experimental facilities using **high-intensity proton beams**.

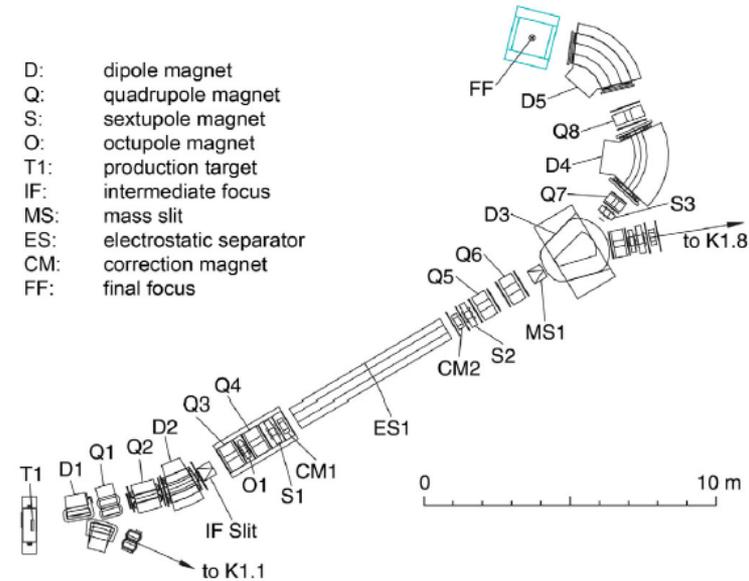
unique in the variety of secondary beams: neutron, pion (muon), kaon and neutrino beams produced via collisions between the proton beams and target materials.

J-PARC: high-momentum kaon beam

Main kaon beam lines K1.8 and K1.8BR were constructed at the Hadron Hall using primary protons from the J-PARC 50 GeV synchrotron (MR) (up to now, only 30 GeV primary proton beam are produced).

Primary beam	30 GeV/c proton
Repetition cycle	5.2 sec
Flat top	2.93 sec
Production target	Au
Production angle	6 degrees
Length (T1 - FF)	31.2 m
Momentum range	1.2 GeV/c (max.)
Acceptance	2.0 msr % ($\Delta\Omega \cdot \Delta p/p$)
Momentum bite	$\pm 3\%$

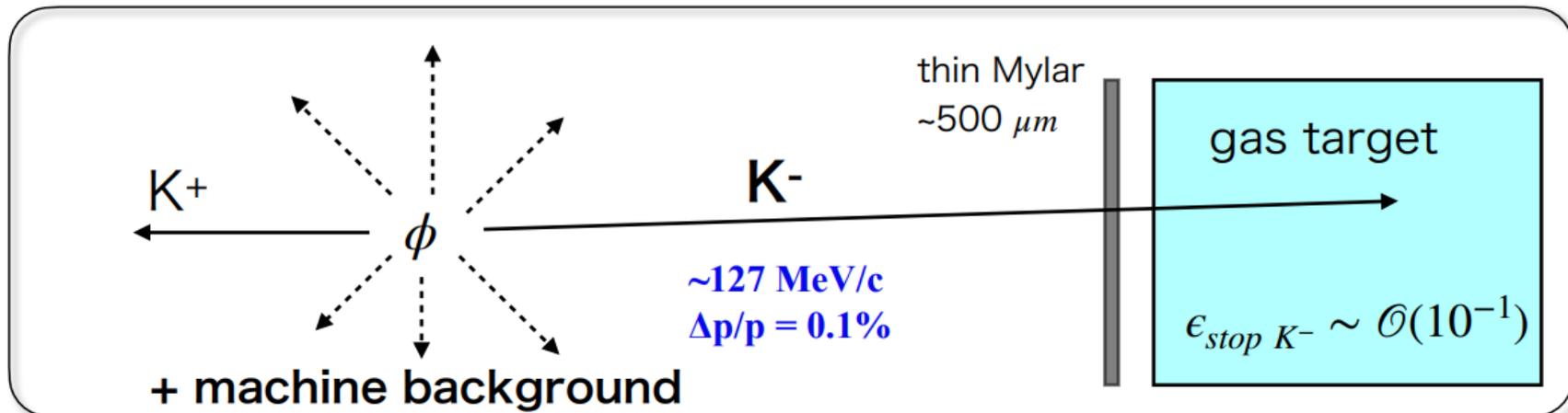
- D: dipole magnet
- Q: quadrupole magnet
- S: sextupole magnet
- O: octupole magnet
- T1: production target
- IF: intermediate focus
- MS: mass slit
- ES: electrostatic separator
- CM: correction magnet
- FF: final focus



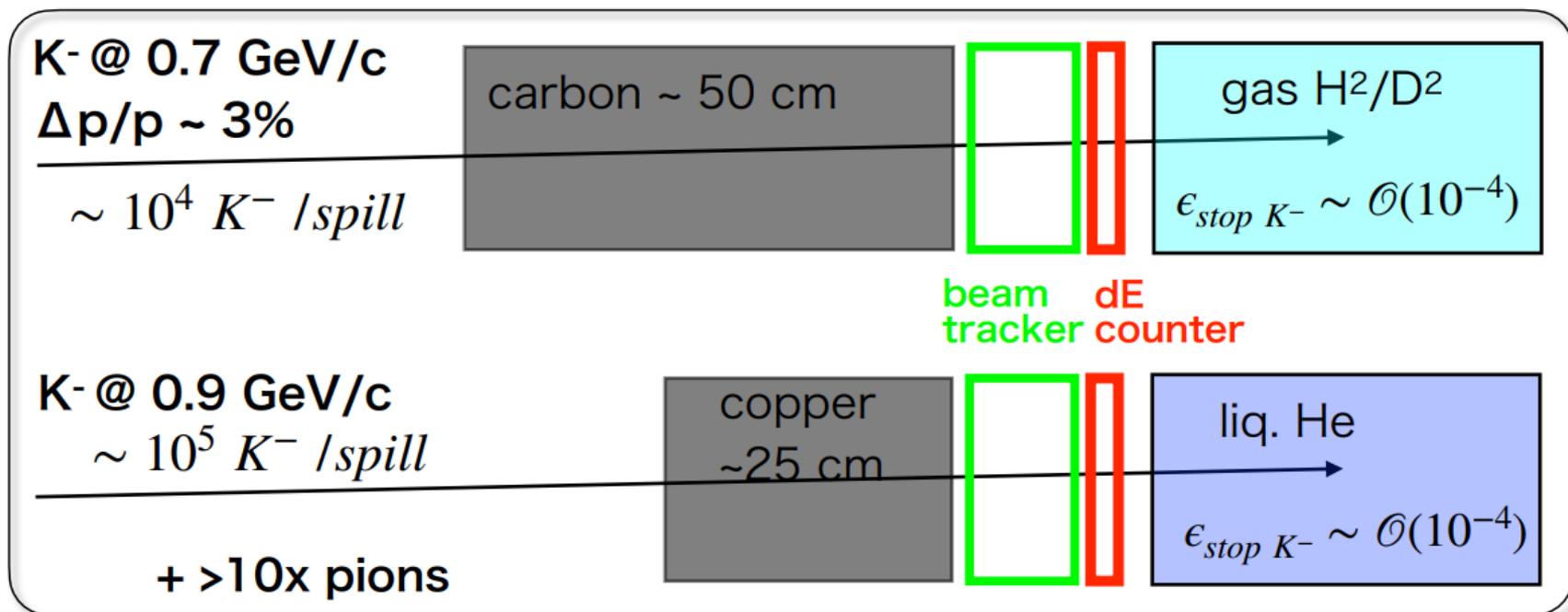
The kaon beam with momentum up to 1.2 GeV/c can be stopped in the target to form the kaonic atoms

DAΦNE vs. J-PARC

DAΦNE



J-PARC



Breakthrough in the technologies for kaonic atoms studies:

2. Target systems

Breakthrough in the intensity of the signals of light kaonic atoms:

- cryogenic pressurized hydrogen gas targets, instead of liquid hydrogen, avoiding the drastic reduction of the X-ray yields due to the Stark mixing effect.

General requirements for the target systems for research on kaonic light atoms

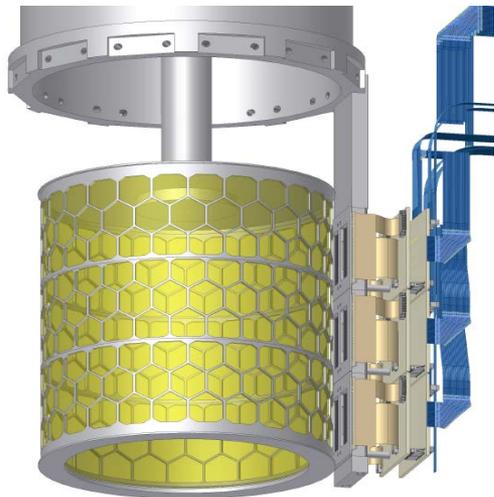
- high purity gas target systems, to avoid kaon losses due to the Stark effect
- cooled to cryogenic temperature.
- to be designed for optimum X-ray detection by reducing the material budget in front of the X-ray detector.
- according to the different kaon sources, the shapes of the target systems are quite different, but in common for all cells is the request for thin target walls, facing the X-ray detector.

	SIDDHARTA	SIDDHARTA-2	E57
Active target volume (cm ³)	2400	2100	540
Target diameter (cm)	13.7	14.5	6.0
Working temperature (K)	20–25	25–30	25–30
Working pressure (MPa)	0.10	0.25	0.5
Gas density	1.8% ^a	3% ^b	4% ^b
Burst pressure (MPa)	0.40	0.65	0.80
Kapton entrance window (μm)	125	125	125
Kapton side wall (μm)	75	140	140

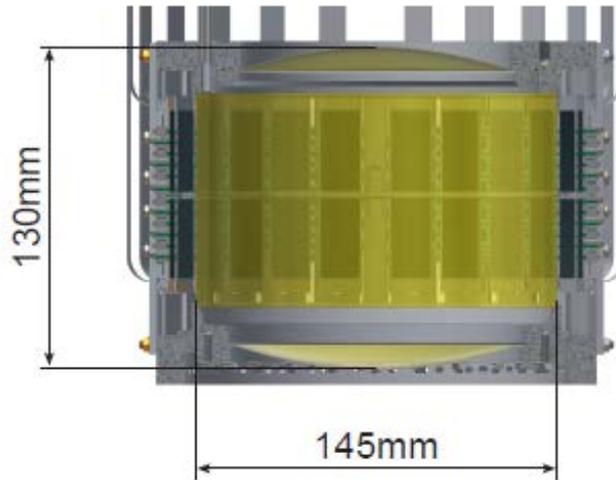
^aGas density as a fraction of the liquid hydrogen density (0.0708 g/cm³).

^bGas density as a fraction of the liquid deuterium density (0.164 g/cm³).

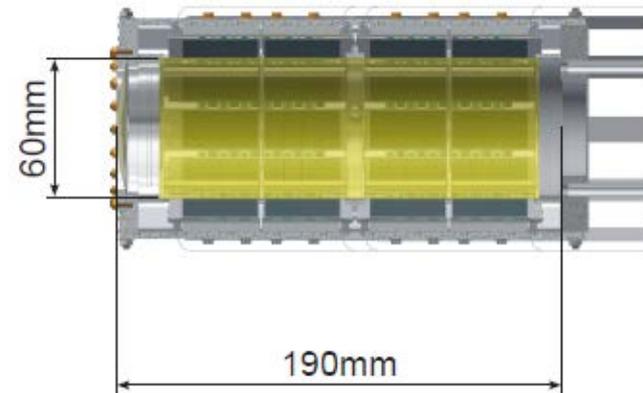
SIDDHARTA



SIDDHARTA-2



E57



Breakthrough in the technologies for kaonic atoms studies:

3. High performance X-ray Detectors

Experiment	KpX 1998	DEAR 2005	E570 2007	SIDDHARTA 2009	SIDDHARTA-2, E57	E62
Detector	Si(Li)	CCD	SDD- KETEK	SDD-JFET	SDD-CUBE	TES
Effective area (mm ²)	200	724	1 × 100	3 × 100	8 × 64	~ 23
Thickness (mm)	5	0,03	0,26	0,45	0,45	0,003
Energy resolution @ 6KeV	410	150	190	160	170	5
Drift time (ns)	200	-	375	800	800	-

Breakthrough in the technologies for kaonic atoms studies:

3. X-ray Detectors

Experiment	KpX 1998	DEAR 2005	E570 2007	SIDDHARTA	SIDDHARTA2, E57	E62
Detector	Si(Li)	CCD	SE	SE	SDD-CUBE	TES
Effective area (mm ²)	200			5 × 100	8 × 64	~ 23
Thickness (mm)			0,26	0,45	0,45	0,003
Energy resolution @ 6KeV	4	150	190	160	170	5
Drift time (ns)	200	-	375	800	800	-

**For more details:
see talk of F. Sirghi**

Kaonic atom data ($Z \geq 3$)

The shift and widths of kaonic atom X-ray energy have been measured using targets with atomic numbers from $Z=1$ to $Z=92$, which provide very important quantities for understanding the antiKN strong interaction.

Kaonic atom data ($Z \geq 3$)

Used for studies of $K^{\text{bar}}N$ interaction

Optical model

$$2\mu V_{\text{opt}}^{(2)}(r) = -4\pi \left(1 + \frac{\mu}{m}\right) b_0 \rho(r).$$

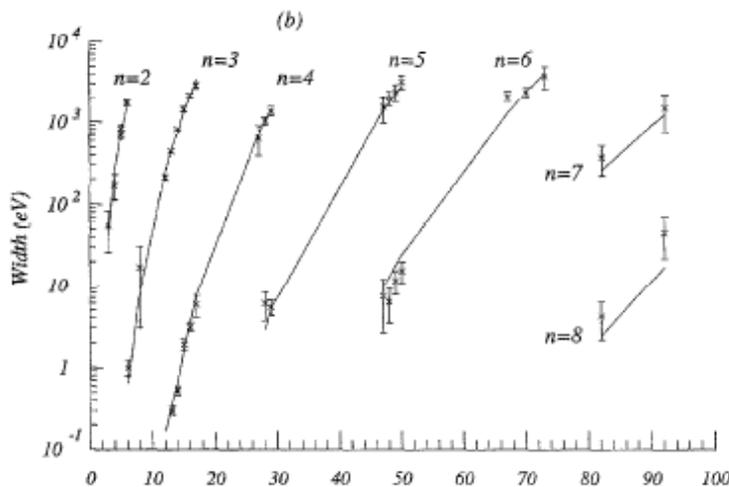
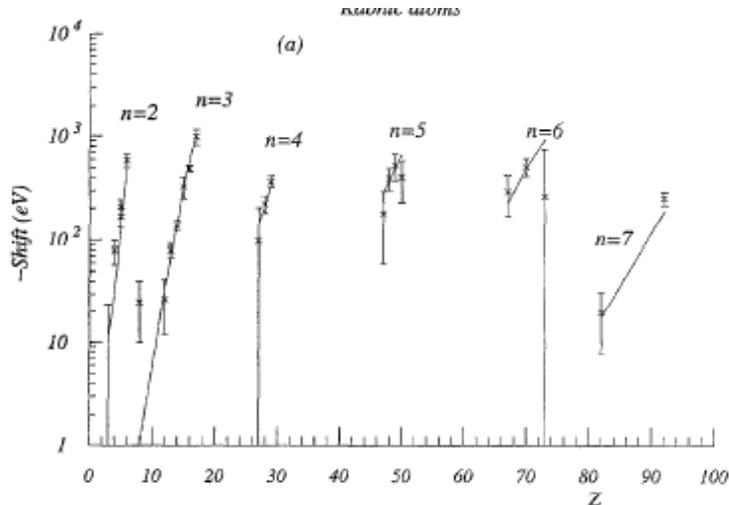
Experimental X-ray data of shift & width:
Well fitted with optical potentials

Expected shift of K-4He 2p state:
 $\Delta E \sim 0$ eV

There are discrepancies for:

Kaonic
Hydrogen
($Z=1$)

Kaonic
Helium
($Z=2$)

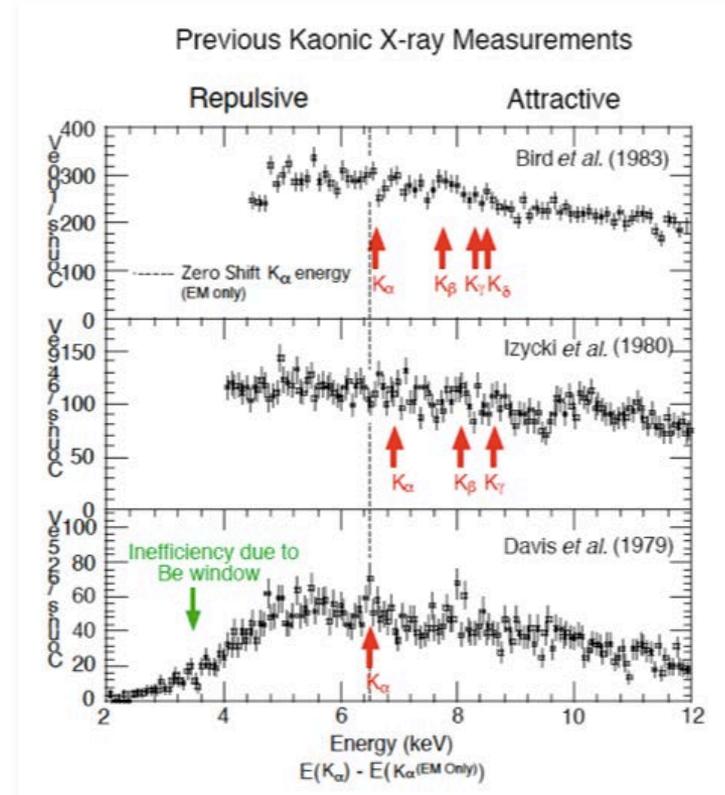
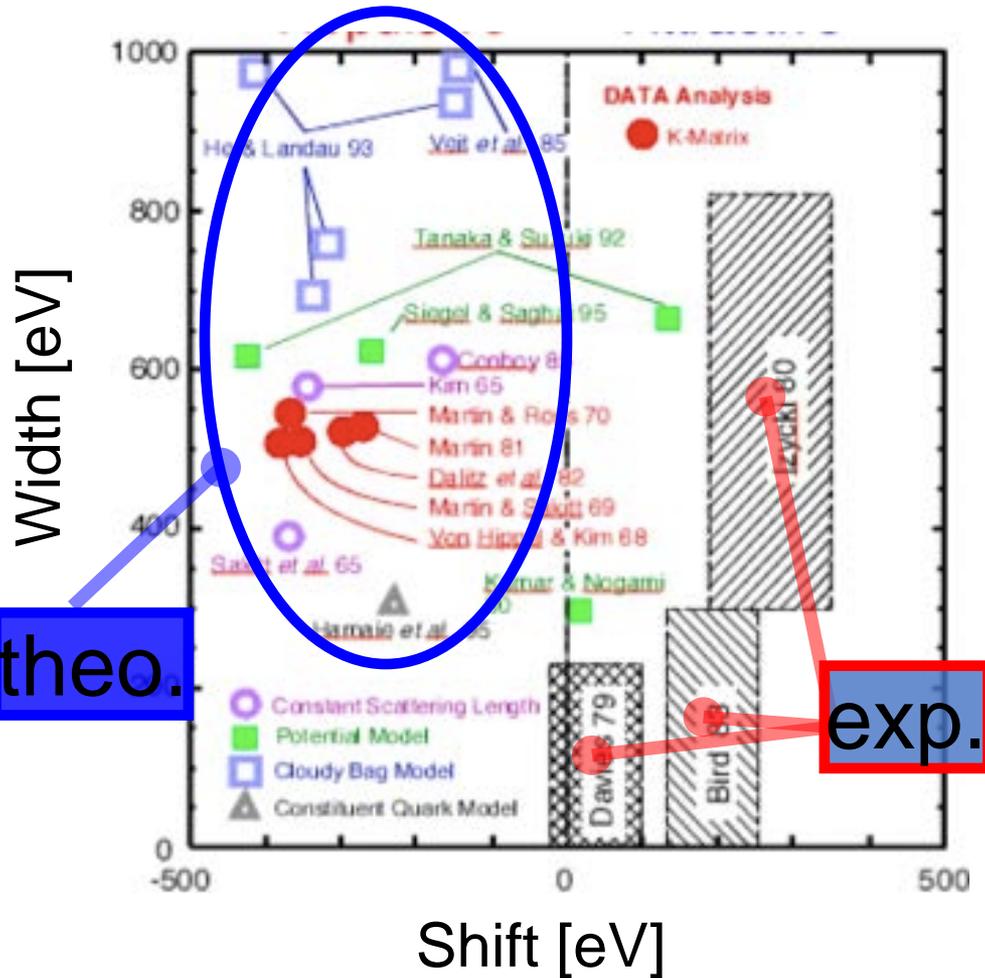


70-80's: Kaonic hydrogen puzzle

Repulsive

Attractive

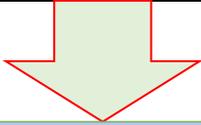
past 3 exp.



Liquid Hydrogen target
Si(Li) as X-ray detector

Kaonic Helium atoms

$$\varepsilon = E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}(\text{exp}) - E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}(\text{e.m.})$$



The most suitable transition to observe the strong interaction effects

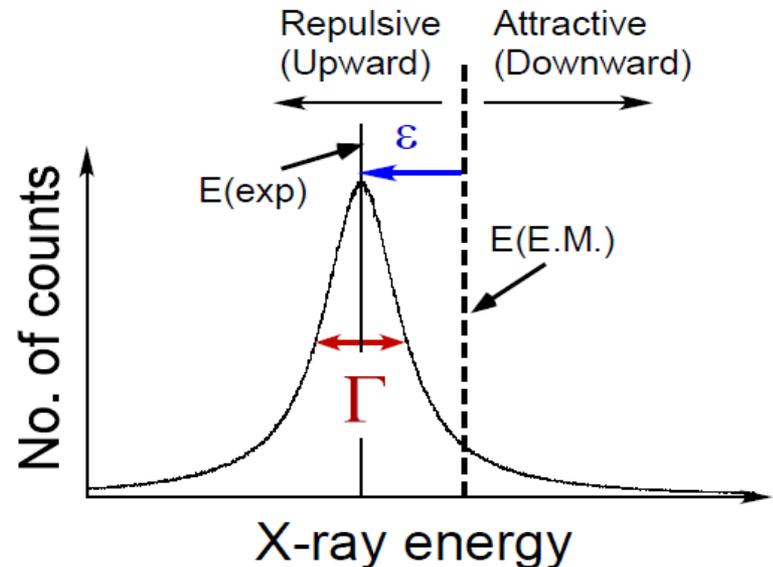
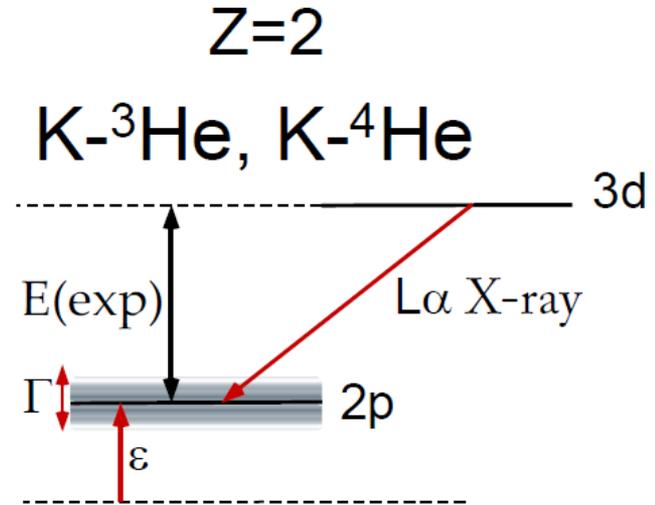
Most kaons are absorbed without radiative transition to $1s$ state.

$$E(\text{e.m.}) \approx -\frac{1}{2} \mu c^2 (Z\alpha)^2 \cdot \left[\frac{1}{n_i^2} - \frac{1}{n_f^2} \right]$$

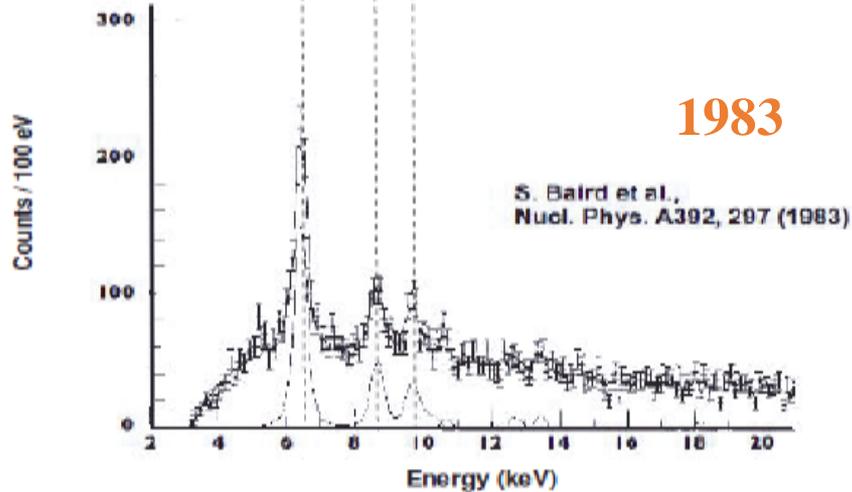
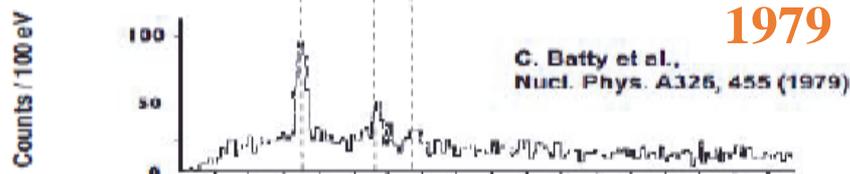
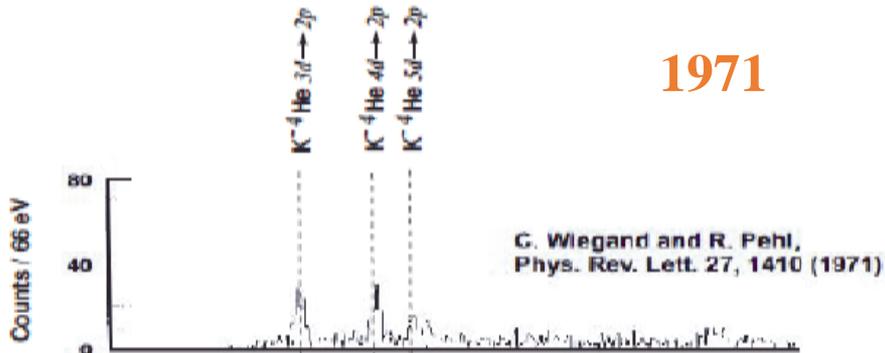
$$\varepsilon = E(\text{exp}) - E(\text{e.m.})$$

$$\varepsilon < 0 \text{ (repulsive)}$$

$$\varepsilon > 0 \text{ (attractive)}$$

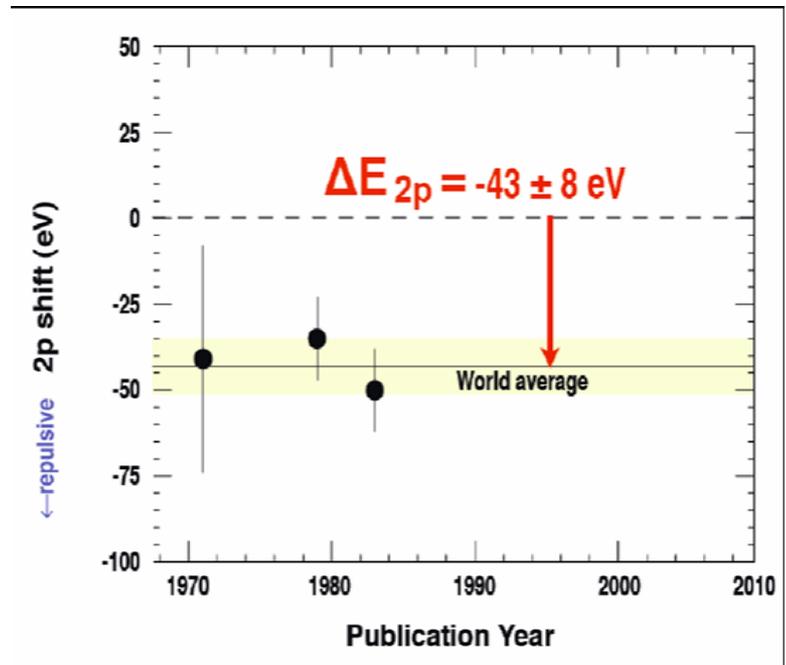


Kaonic helium atom data (Z=2)



Average
of above

ΔE_{2p} (eV)	Γ_{2p} (eV)
-41 ± 33	-
-35 ± 12	30 ± 30
-50 ± 12	100 ± 40
-43 ± 8	55 ± 34



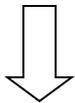
Kaonic helium atoms theoretical values

There are two types of theories compared to the experimental results:

Optical-potential model:

(theoretical calculations based on kaonic atom data)

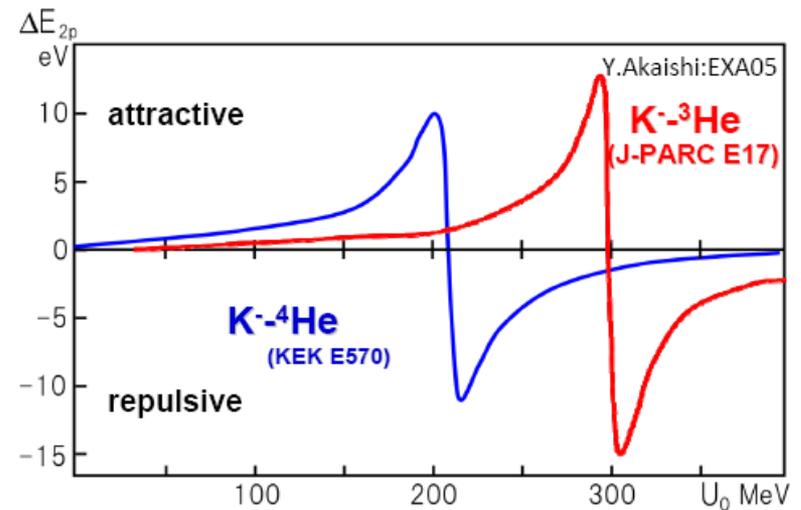
Shift (eV)	Ref.
-0.13 ± 0.02	Batty, NPA508 (1990) 89c
-0.14 ± 0.02	Batty, NPA508 (1990) 89c
-1.5	Akaishi, Porc. EXA05



Tiny shift
($\Delta E_{2p} \approx 0$ eV)

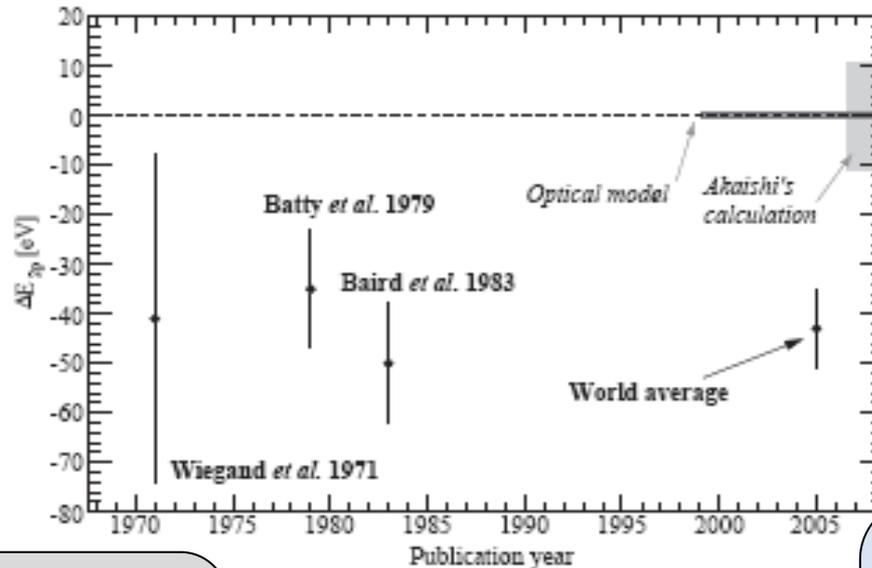
Recent theoretical calculations:

Akaishi-Yamazaki model of deeply-bound kaon-nucleus states



Predicts a possible maximum shift:
 ΔE_{2p} of ± 10 eV

What is Kaonic helium puzzle?



Experiment:
Large shift
($\Delta E_{2p} \approx 40$ eV)

Theory:
 $\Delta E_{2p} \approx 0$ eV
or
 $< \pm 10$ eV

**Need new precise measurements
using the advanced technologies!!**

98's: solving Kaonic hydrogen puzzle (KpX experiment)

Repulsive type

Attractive

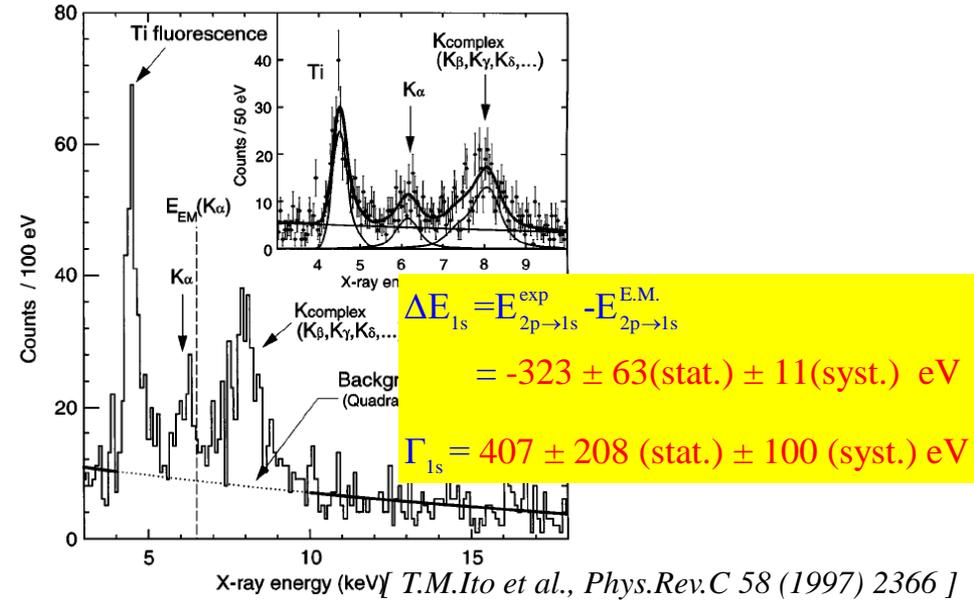
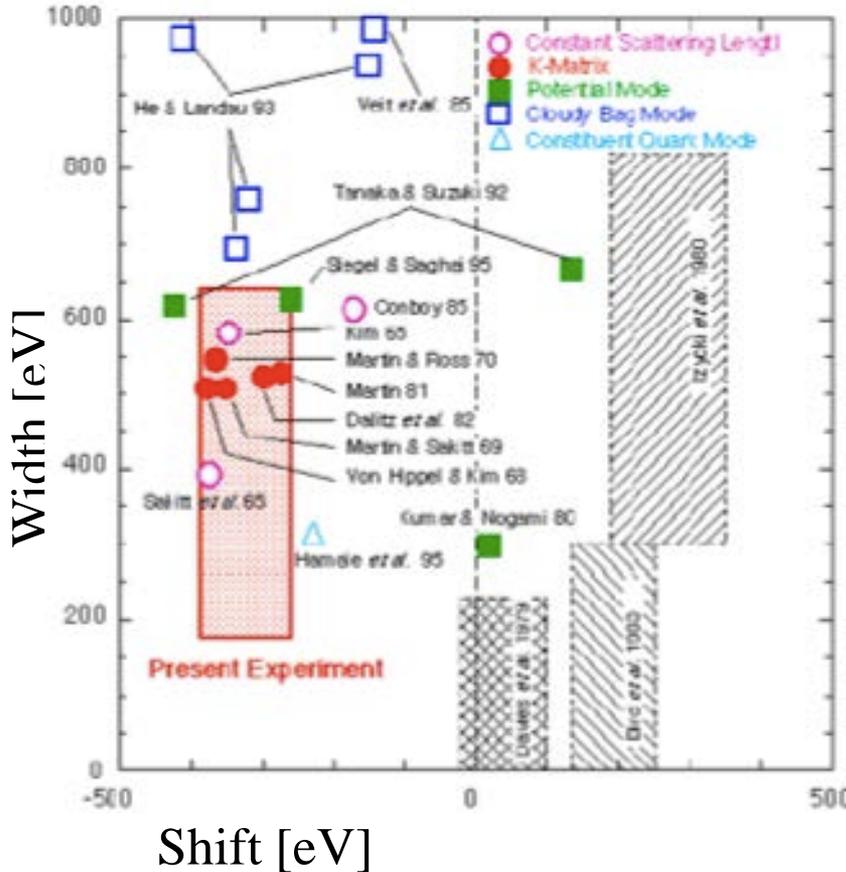
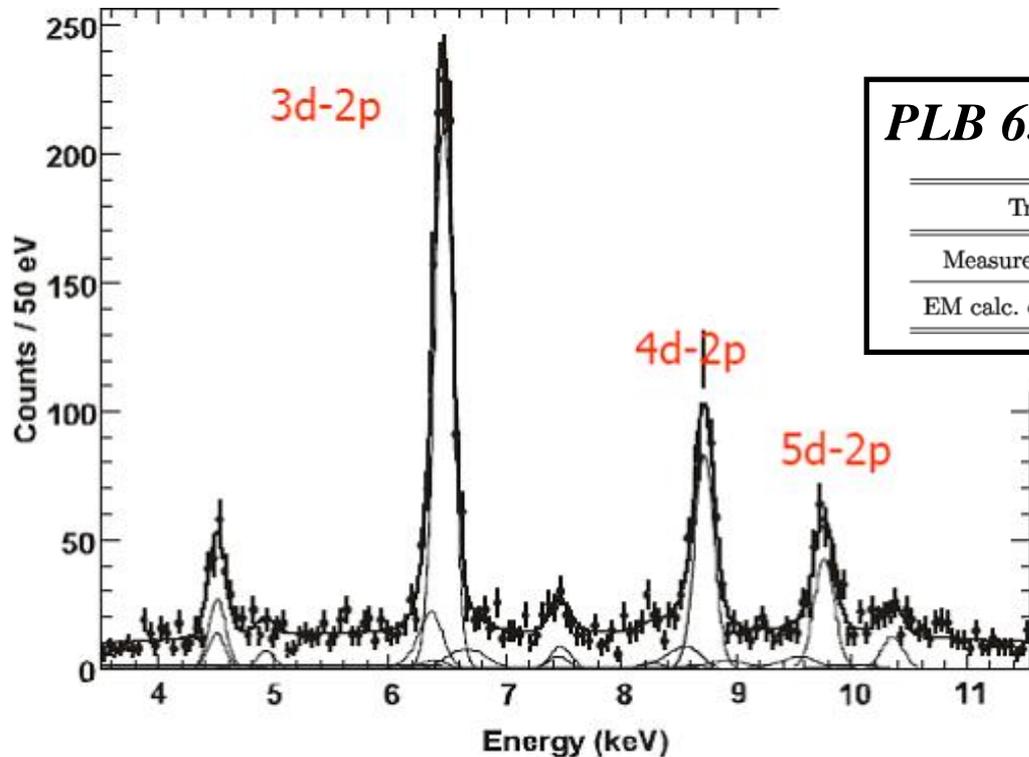


FIG. 3. Kaonic hydrogen x-ray spectrum. The inset shows the result of peak fitting and the components.

- * Gas target (100K, 4 atm)
- * 60 Si(Li) detector (each one of 200 mm²)
- * Hadron beamline

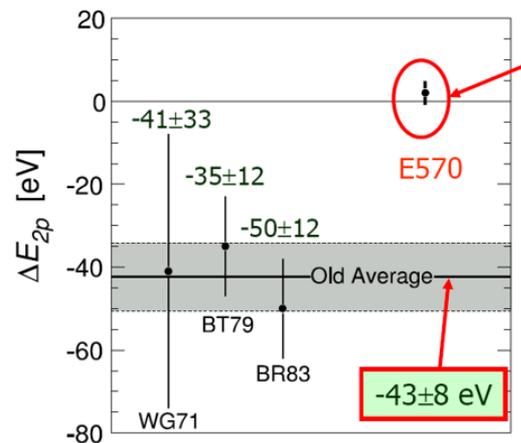
Kaonic hydrogen puzzle solved

2007: solving $K^4\text{He}$ puzzle (E570 (KEK) experiment)



PLB 653 (2007) 387

Transition	$3d \rightarrow 2p$	$4d \rightarrow 2p$	$5d \rightarrow 2p$
Measured energy (eV)	6466.7 ± 2.5	8723.3 ± 4.6	9760.1 ± 7.7
EM calc. energy (eV) [15]	6463.5	8721.7	9766.8



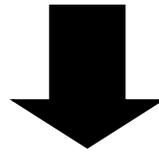
$K^4\text{He}$ 3d \rightarrow 2p: 1500 events

3x higher statistics
2x better Energy resolution
6x better S/N

$$\Delta E_{2p} = 2 \pm 2(\text{stat.}) \pm 2(\text{syst.}) \text{ eV}$$

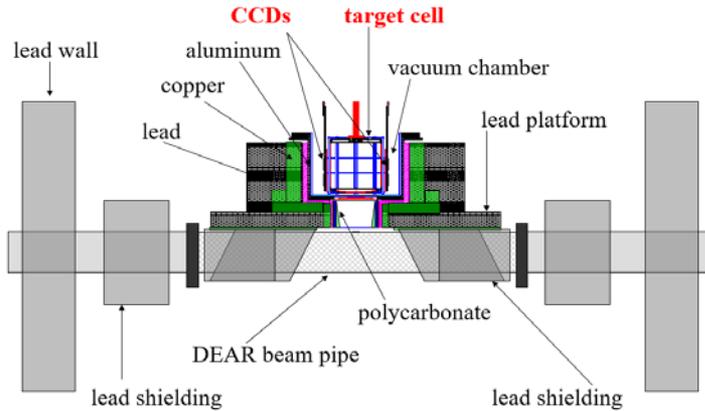
Liquid target for ^4He
SDD detectors

**Kaonic hydrogen puzzle
Kaonic helium puzzle
Solved!**



**Confirmation of the results of KpX and E570
to completely solve the hydrogen and helium puzzle!
Need precise measurements!**

DEAR (DAFNE Exotic Atom Research) (2002-2005)



Scientific aim:

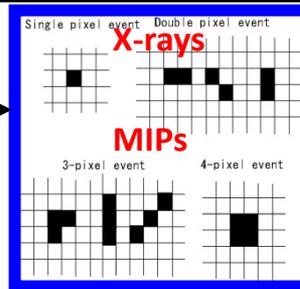
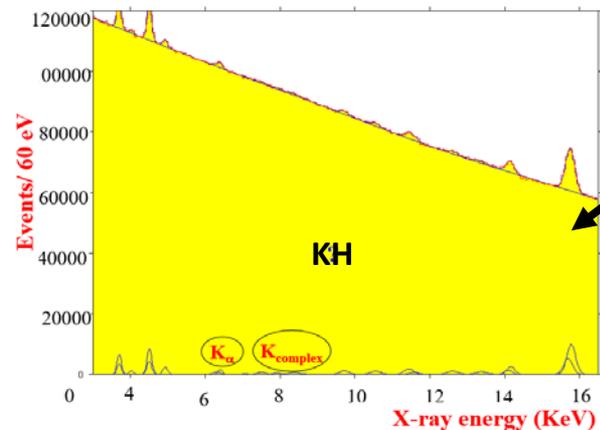
precision measurement of the shift and of the width of the K_{α} line of kaonic hydrogen and kaonic deuterium

Advantages:

- Monochromatic low-energy K^{-} ($\sim 127 \text{ MeV}/c$; $\Delta p/p = 0.1\%$) $\rightarrow \Phi \rightarrow K^{-} K^{+}$ (49.2%)
- Low density gas target (25 K, 2 bar) (higher yields of the atomic state in gaseous over the liquid one \rightarrow Stark effect)
- 16 Charge Coupled Device (CCD) as detector (FWHM@6 keV = 150 eV), large area 116 cm^2 , pixel analysis for background reduction

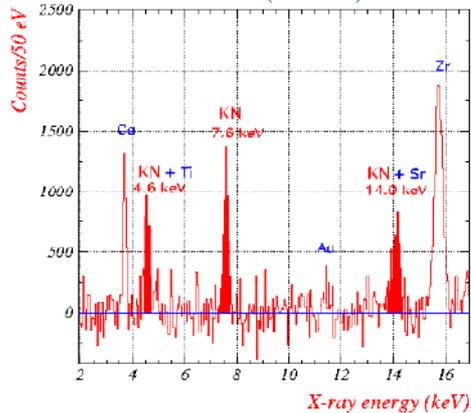
Disadvantages:

- identification of a signal ($\approx 6.4 \text{ keV}$) with very small yield (1% for KH) over a huge background



DEAR outcomes

PLB 593 (2004) 48-54



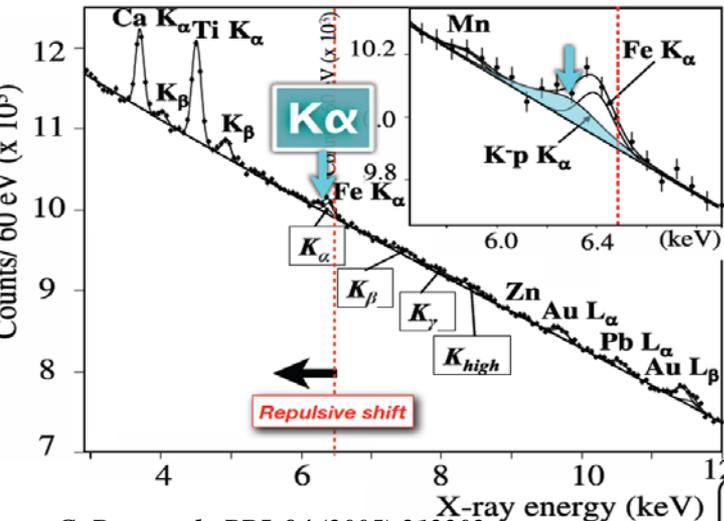
1. Kaonic Nitrogen: first kaonic atom at DAFNE

First determination of the yield of 3 Kaonic Nitrogen X-ray transitions

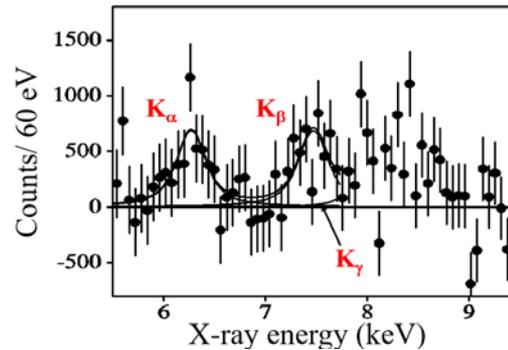
$\text{KN } 7 \rightarrow 6$ (4.6 keV): (41.5 +/- 8.7 +/- 4.1)%
 $\text{KN } 6 \rightarrow 5$ (7.6 keV): (55.0 +/- 3.9 +/- 5.5)%
 $\text{KN } 5 \rightarrow 4$ (14.0 keV): (57.4 +/- 15.2 +/- 5.7)%

inputs for the cascade calculations for exotic atoms

2. Kaonic Hydrogen



G. Beer et al., PRL 94 (2005) 212302

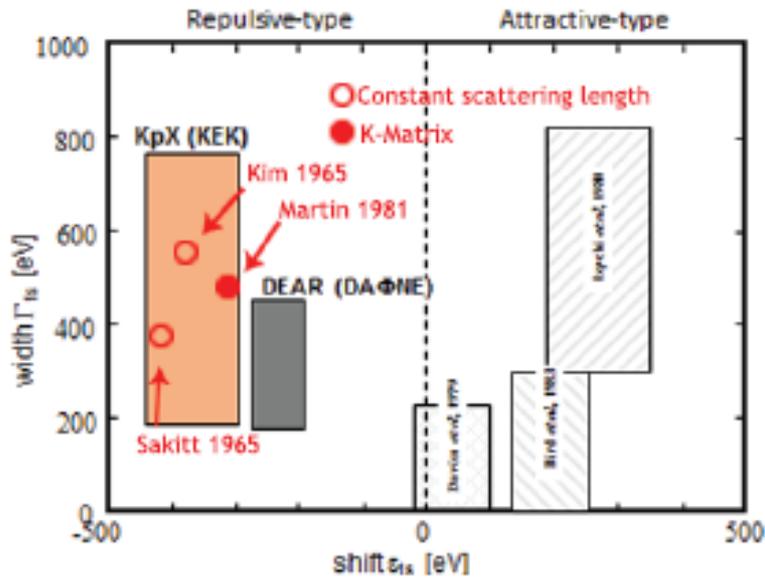


- represents the best measurement performed on Kaonic Hydrogen up to now
- confirms repulsive character of K- p interaction

$\epsilon = -193 \pm 37(stat.) \pm 6(syst.) eV$
 $\Gamma = 249 \pm 111(stat.) \pm 39(syst.) eV$

No deuterium measurements due to the too much high background: $S/B = 1/70$

Kaonic hydrogen results (DEAR)



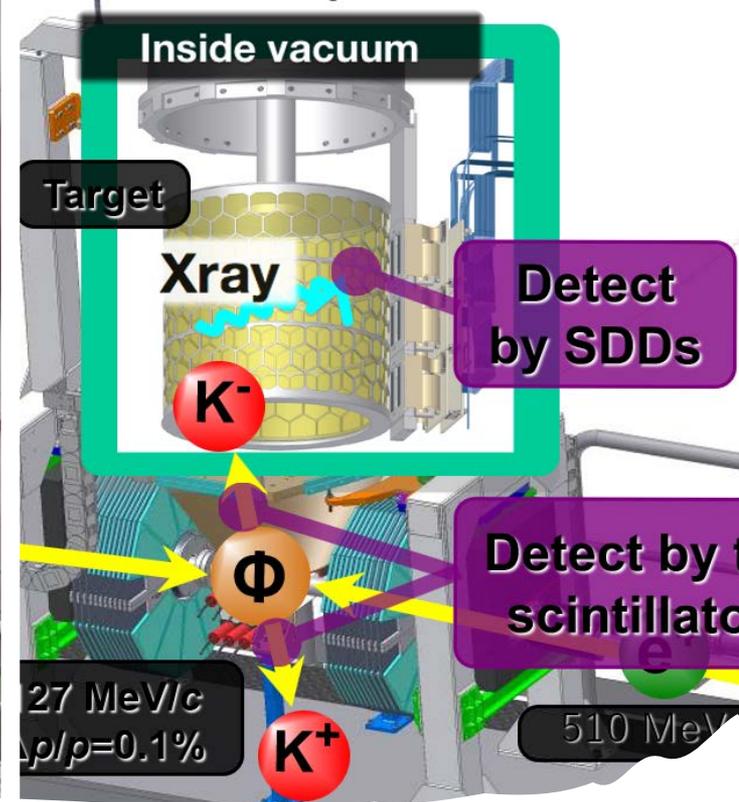
- The DEAR results were consistent with the KEK measurement within 1σ of their respective errors.
- The repulsive-type character of the K-p strong interaction was confirmed.
- the uncertainty of the DEAR results was about twice smaller than that KEK values.
- DEAR observed the full pattern of kaonic hydrogen K-lines, clearly identifying $K\alpha$, $K\beta$ and $K\gamma$ lines

BUT

what we are aiming for is:



**precision measurement of kaonic hydrogen 1s level shift;
first measurement of kaonic deuterium**



**SIDDHARTA
(2007-2009)**

KH results by SIDDHARTA (2009)

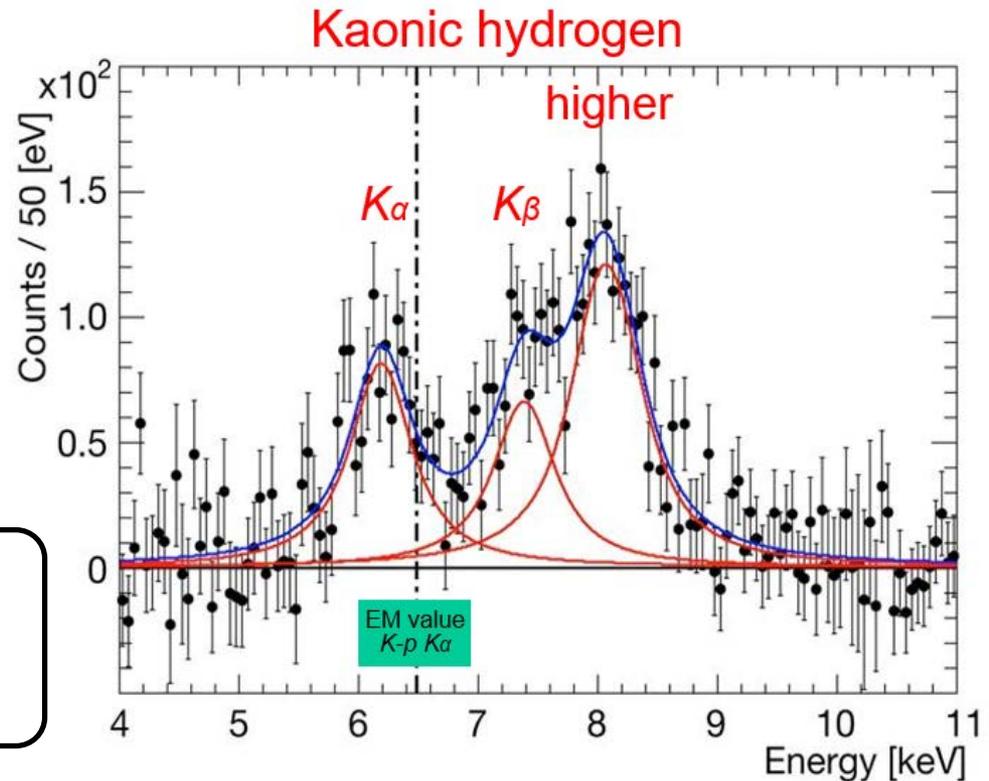


Gas target (22 K, 2.5 bar)

144 SDD used as X-ray detector

Good energy resolution (170eV @ 6 keV)

Timing capability (huge background)



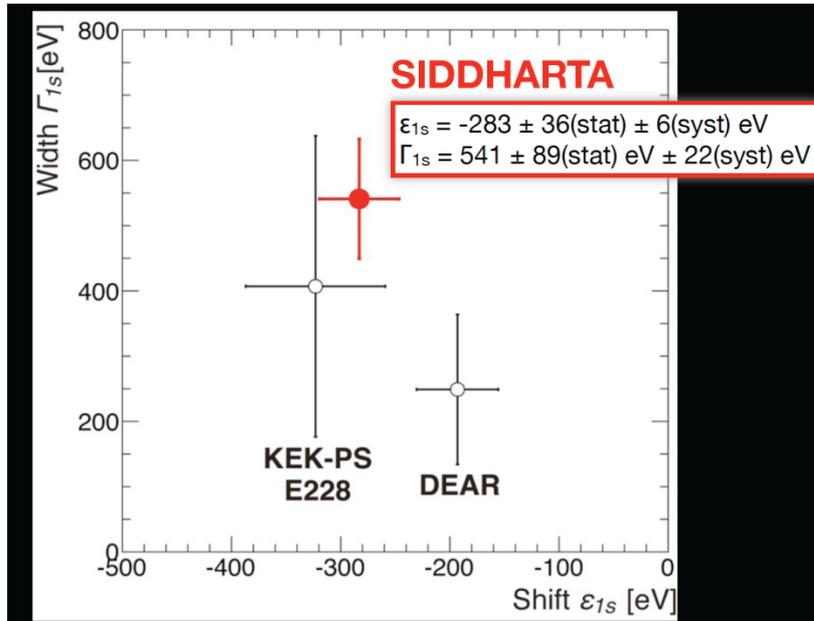
$$\epsilon_{1S} = -283 \pm 36(\text{stat}) \pm 6(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

$$\Gamma_{1S} = 541 \pm 89(\text{stat}) \pm 22(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

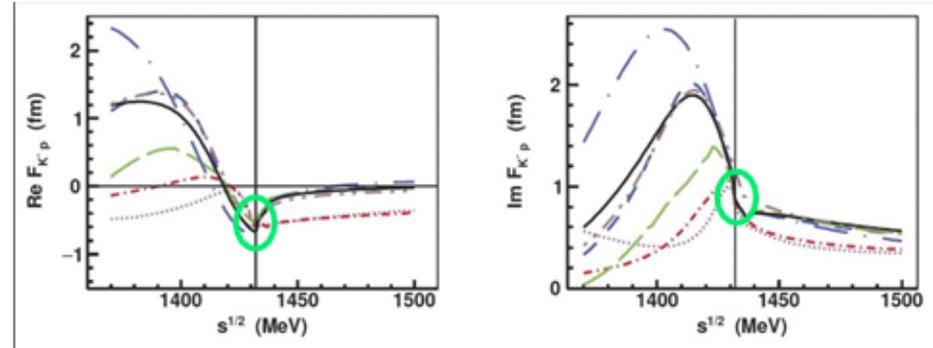
most reliable and precise measurement ever

Phys. Lett. B704 (2011), 113

KH results by SIDDHARTA (2009)



K-p scattering amplitudes generated by recent chirally motivated approaches. The vertical lines mark the threshold energy



Ciepl y, A. et al. From KN interactions to K-nuclear quasi-bound states. AIP Conf. Proc. 2249, 030014 (2020).

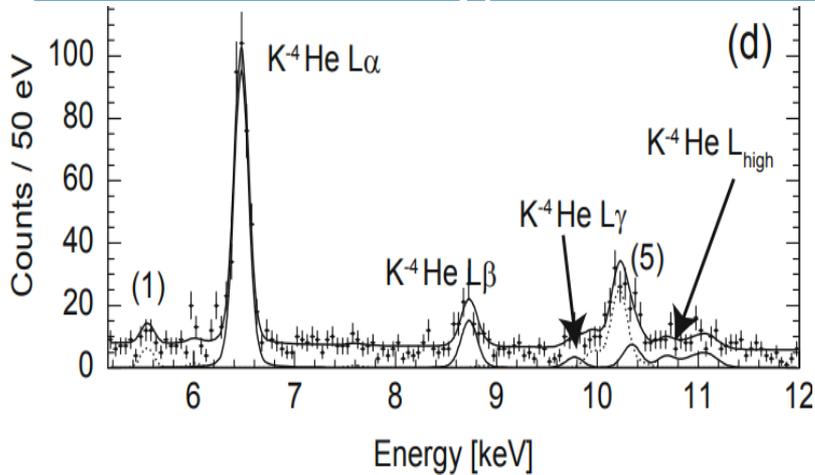
The most precise measurement of kaonic hydrogen 1s shift and width performed by SIDDHARTA was fundamental to constrain the description of the K-p interaction at threshold

K⁴He results by SIDDHARTA (2009)

Kaonic 4-Helium

K-⁴He (3d-2p)

$$E_{\text{exp}} = 6468.5 \pm 3 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 3.5 \text{ (syst.)}$$



$$\Delta E_{2p} = +5 \pm 3 \text{ (sta)} \pm 4 \text{ (sys)} \text{ eV}$$

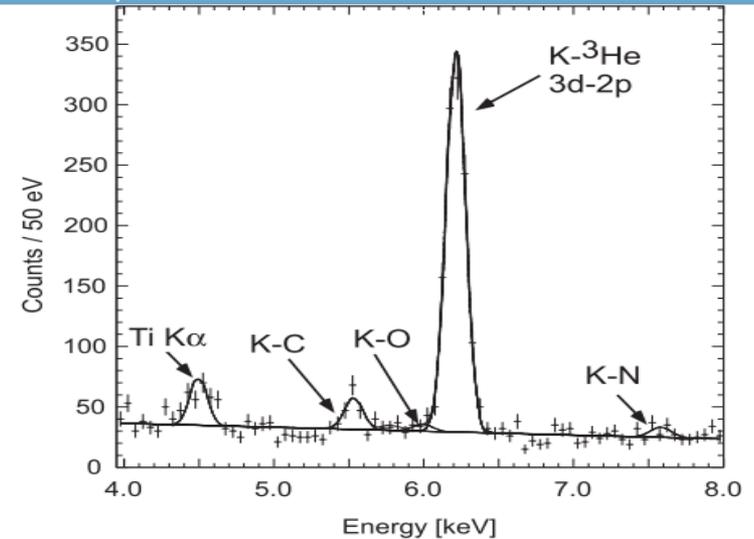
Phys. Lett. B 681 (2009) 310

first time in a gaseous target for ⁴He

Kaonic 3-Helium

K-³He (3d-2p)

$$E_{\text{exp}} = 6223.0 \pm 2.4 \text{ (stat)} \pm 3.5 \text{ (syst.)}$$

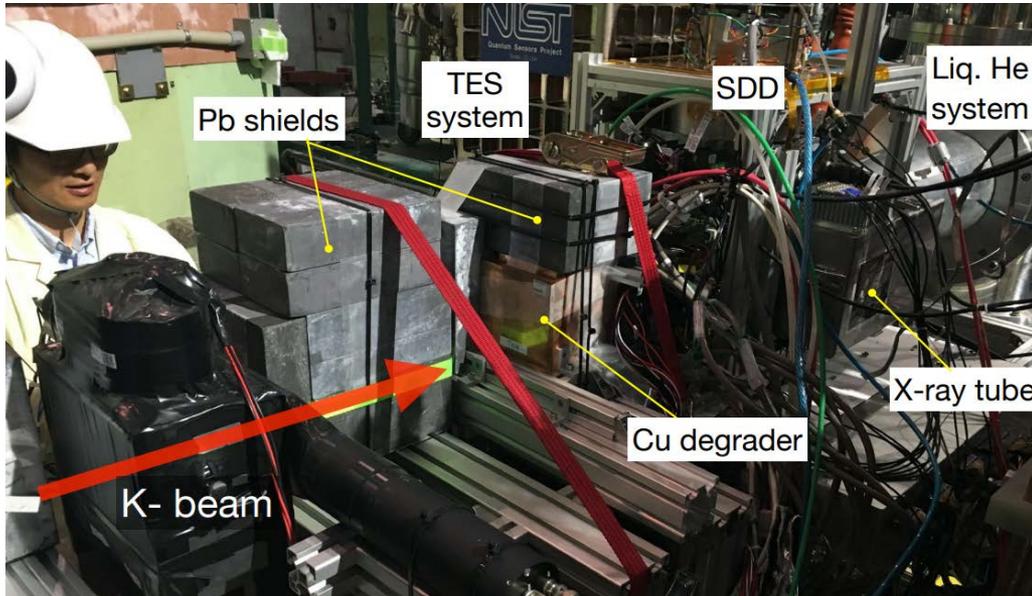


$$\Delta E_{2p} = -2 \pm 2 \text{ (sta)} \pm 4 \text{ (sys)} \text{ eV}$$

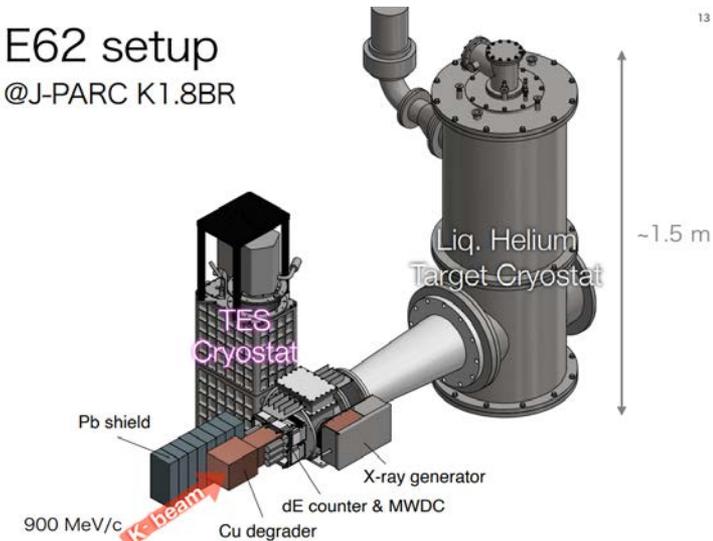
Phys. Lett. B 697 (2011) 199

first time for ³He

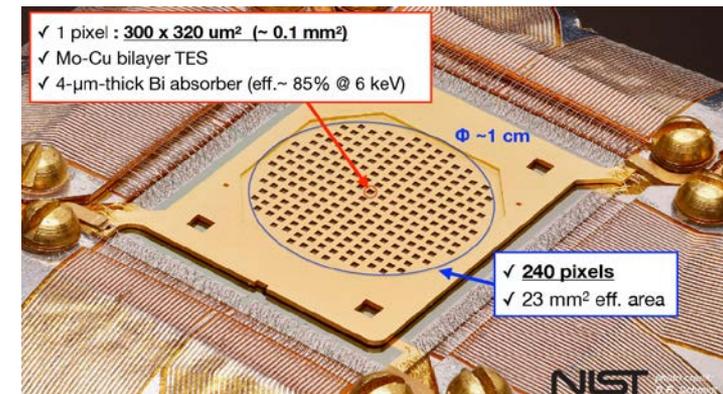
E62 experiment J-PARC (2018)



E62 setup
@J-PARC K1.8BR



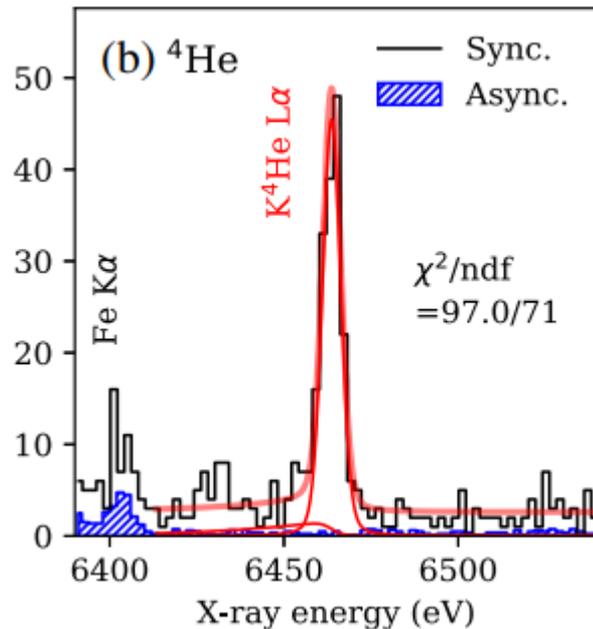
- **TES: transition edge sensors**, for extreme precision x-ray measurements.
- work on a calorimeter principle, based on a phase transition in a superconducting material, achieving **unprecedented energy resolution: 2 eV @ 6 keV**.



$K^{3,4}\text{He}$ results by E62 (2022)

Kaonic 4-Helium

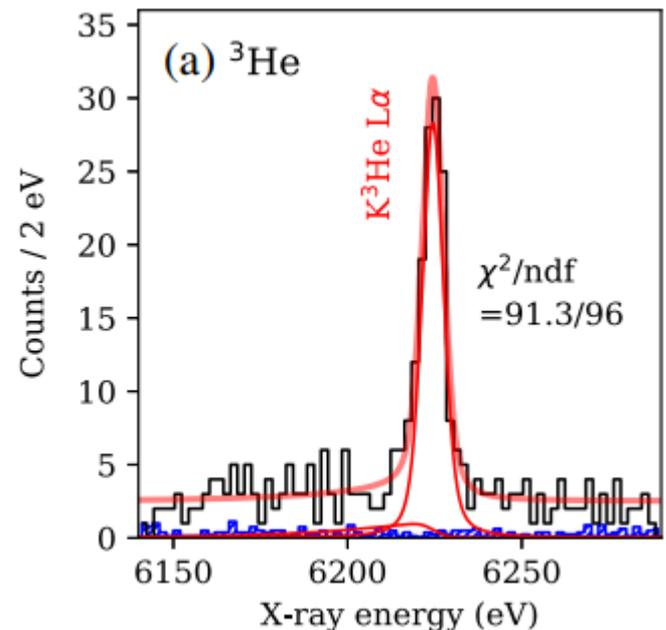
$$E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{K^{-4}\text{He}} = 6463.7 \pm 0.3(\text{stat}) \pm 0.1(\text{syst}) \text{ eV},$$



$$E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{K^{-4}\text{He}} = 6463.7 \pm 0.3(\text{stat}) \pm 0.1(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$
$$\Gamma_{2p}^{K^{-4}\text{He}} = 1.0 \pm 0.6(\text{stat}) \pm 0.3(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

Kaonic 3-Helium

$$E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{K^{-3}\text{He}} = 6224.5 \pm 0.4(\text{stat}) \pm 0.2(\text{syst}) \text{ eV},$$



$$E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{K^{-3}\text{He}} = 6224.5 \pm 0.4(\text{stat}) \pm 0.2(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$
$$\Gamma_{2p}^{K^{-3}\text{He}} = 2.5 \pm 1.0(\text{stat}) \pm 0.4(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

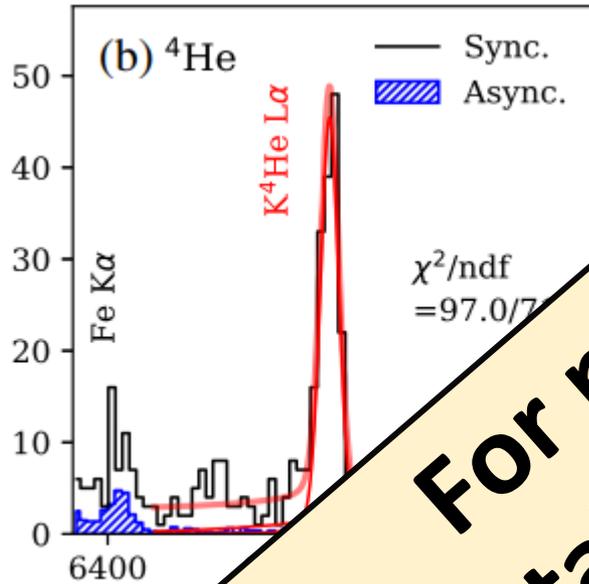
Phys. Rev. Lett. 128 (2022) 112503

Liquid target for $^3,4\text{He}$

K^{3,4}He results by E62 (2022)

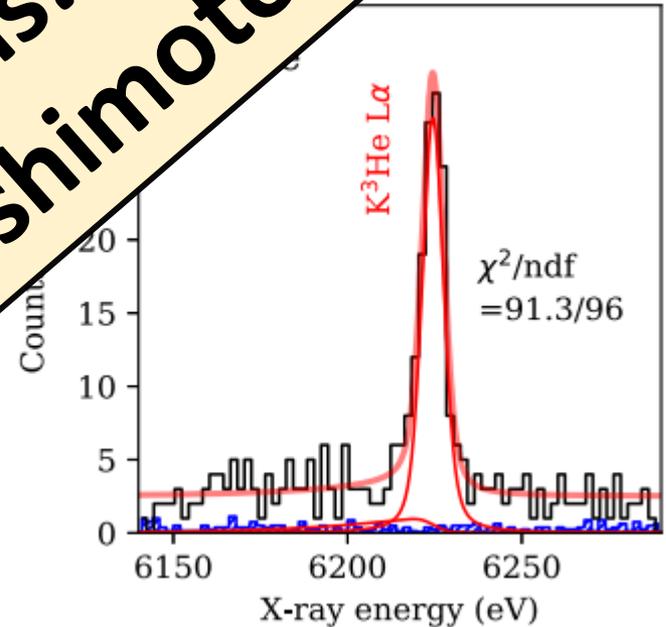
Kaonic 4-Helium

$$E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{K^{-4}\text{He}} = 6463.7 \pm 0.3(\text{stat}) \pm 0.1(\text{syst}) \text{ eV},$$



Kaonic 3-Helium

$$E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{K^{-3}\text{He}} = 6224.5 \pm 0.4(\text{stat}) \pm 0.2(\text{syst}) \text{ eV},$$



For more details:
see talk of T. Hashimoto

$$E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{K^{-4}\text{He}} = 6463.7 \pm 0.3(\text{stat}) \pm 0.1(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$
$$\Gamma_{2p}^{K^{-4}\text{He}} = 1.0 \pm 0.3(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

$$E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{K^{-3}\text{He}} = 6224.5 \pm 0.4(\text{stat}) \pm 0.2(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$
$$\Gamma_{2p}^{K^{-3}\text{He}} = 2.5 \pm 1.0(\text{stat}) \pm 0.4(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

Phys. Rev. Lett. 128 (2022) 112503

Liquid target for ^{3,4}He



SIDDHARTA-2 (2010-2024)



SIDDHARTA-2 Scientific Goal

To perform the first measurement ever of kaonic deuterium X-ray transition to the ground state (1s-level) such as to determine its shift and width induced by the presence of the strong interaction.

$$\varepsilon_{1s} - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma_{1s} = -2\alpha^3 \mu_c^2 a_{K^-p} (1 - 2\alpha\mu_c (\ln \alpha - 1) a_{K^-p})$$

(μ_c reduced mass of the K^-p system, α fine-structure constant)

U.-G. Meißner, U.Raha, A.Rusetsky, Eur. phys. J. C35 (2004) 349
next-to-leading order, including isospin breaking

$$a_{K^-p} = \frac{1}{2}[a_0 + a_1]$$

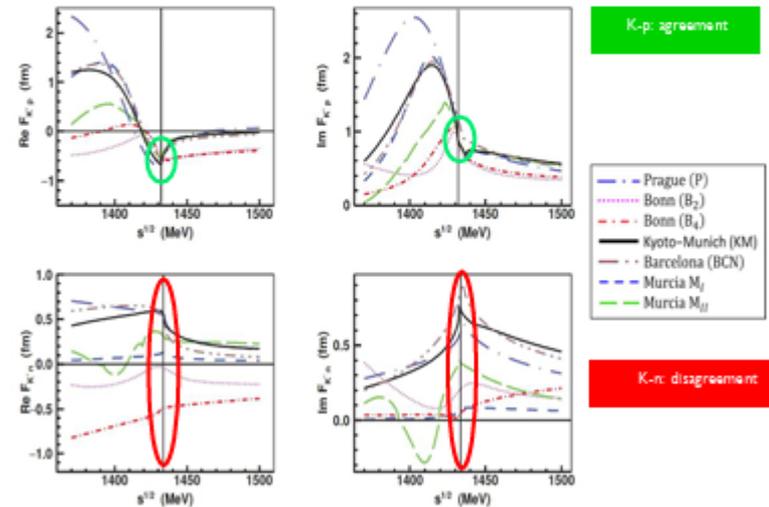
$$a_{K^-n} = a_1$$



$$a_{K^-d} = \frac{k}{2}[a_{K^-p} + a_{K^-n}] + C = \frac{k}{4}[a_0 + 3a_1] + C$$

$$k = \frac{4[m_n + m_K]}{2m_n + m_K}$$

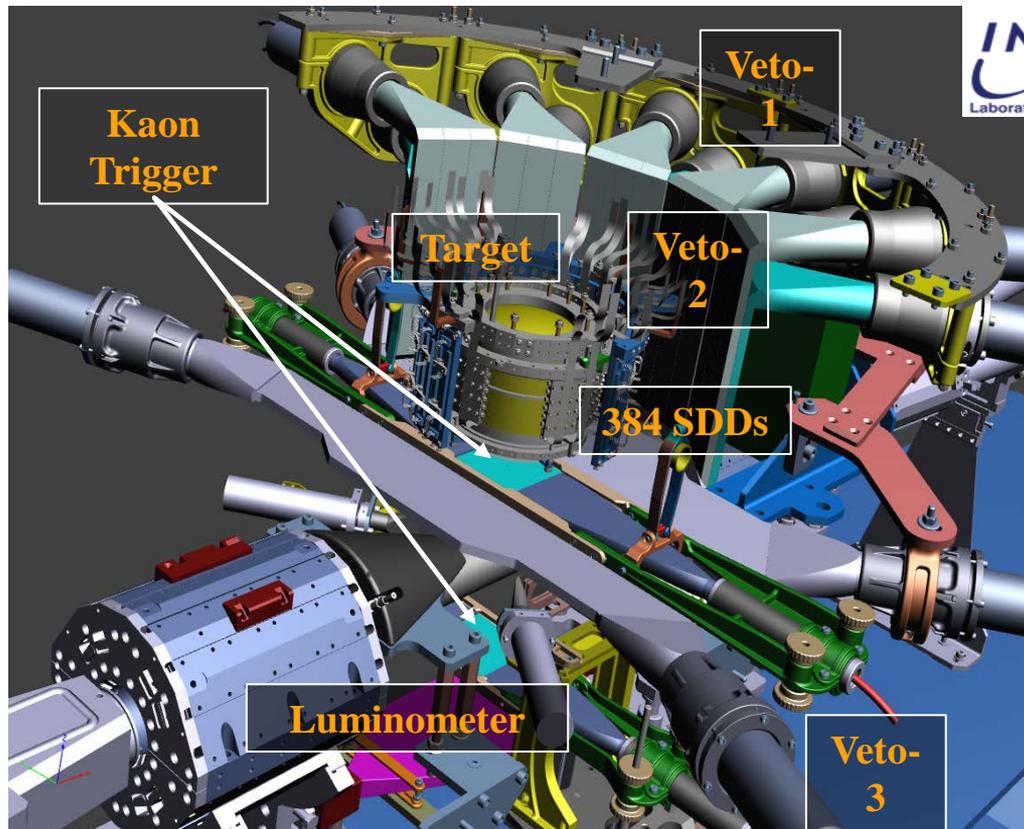
Combined analysis of the kaonic deuterium and kaonic hydrogen measurements to determine the isospin-dependent $\bar{K}N$ scattering lengths



Ciepl y, A. et al. From KN interactions to K -nuclear quasi-bound states. AIP Conf. Proc. 2249, 030014 (2020).

completely solve Isospin-dependent K-N scattering length

The SIDDHARTA-2 setup



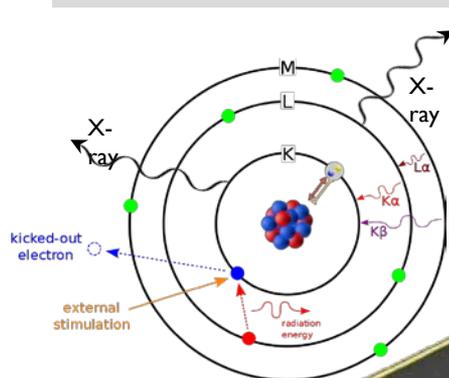
New generation of Silicon Drift Detectors and read-out electronics

- Active area 2 times larger
 - SDDs drift time 450 ns (instead of 800 ns as in SIDDHARTA) → e.m. background rejection improved by a factor of 2
- The thickness of 450 μm ensures a high collection efficiency for X-rays of energy between 5 keV and 12 keV
- 3 veto system for hadronic background suppression
 - New vacuum chamber and lead shield design for better background reduction

THE ROAD TO THE FIRST KAONIC DEUTERIUM MEASUREMENT



First kaonic deuterium measurement (2023 -2024)



Kaonic Neon (2023)

Kaonic Helium-4 (2021-2022)

SIDDHARTA-2 apparatus

Target

Veto-1

Veto-2

commissioning of the SIDDHARTA-2 experiment: **helium, neon**
→ to crosscheck the performances of the experimental apparatus

Kaon Trigger

384 SDDs

Veto-3

Charged
kaon detector

The Kaonic ^4He measurement (2021-2022)

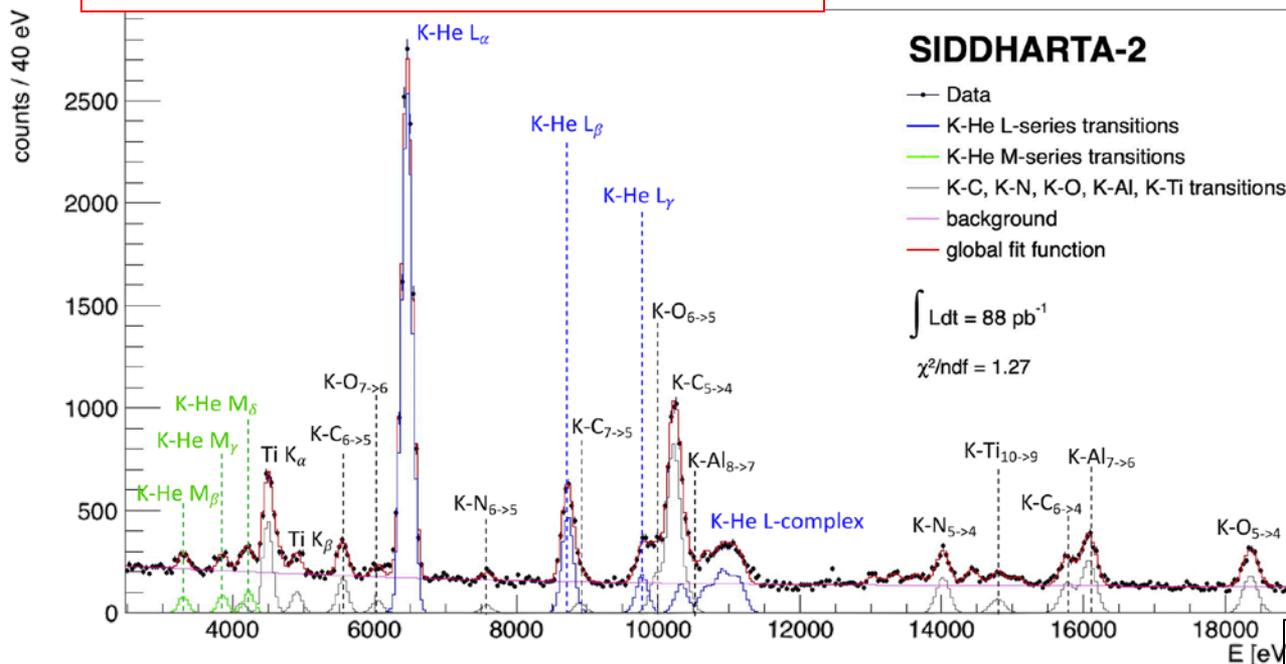
- Very precise measurement of kaonic helium-4 $L\alpha$ in gas: $2p$ level energy shift and width
- First observation of kaonic helium-4 M-series transition ($n \rightarrow 3d$)
- First Measurement of high- n transition in kaonic carbon – nitrogen – oxygen and aluminium

the most precise measurement in gas!

$$\varepsilon_{2p} = E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{\text{exp}} - E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{\text{e.m.}} = -1.9 \pm 0.8 (\text{stat}) \pm 2.0 (\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

$$\Gamma_{2p} = 0.01 \pm 1.60 (\text{stat}) \pm 0.36 (\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

\rightarrow no sharp effect of the strong interaction on the $2p$ level



new data to enrich the kaonic atoms transitions database

Transition	Energy [eV]
K ⁻ C (6→5)	5546.0 ± 5.4 (stat) ± 2.0 (syst)
K ⁻ C (7→5)	8890.0 ± 13.0 (stat) ± 2.0 (syst)
K ⁻ C (5→4)	10216.6 ± 1.8 (stat) ± 3.0 (syst)
K ⁻ C (6→4)	15760.3 ± 4.7 (stat) ± 12.0 (syst)
K ⁻ O (7→6)	6014.8 ± 8.4 (stat) ± 2.0 (syst)
K ⁻ O (6→5)	9965.1 ± 6.9 (stat) ± 2.0 (syst)
K ⁻ O (5→4)	18361.1 ± 5.4 (stat) ± 12.0 (syst)
K ⁻ N (6→5)	7581.1 ± 16.0 (stat) ± 2.0 (syst)
K ⁻ N (5→4)	14008.0 ± 6.0 (stat) ± 9.0 (syst)
K ⁻ Al (8→7)	10441.0 ± 8.5 (stat) ± 3.0 (syst)
K ⁻ Al (7→6)	16083.4 ± 3.8 (stat) ± 12.0 (syst)
K ⁻ Ti (10→9)	14790.3 ± 16.6 (stat) ± 9.0 (syst)

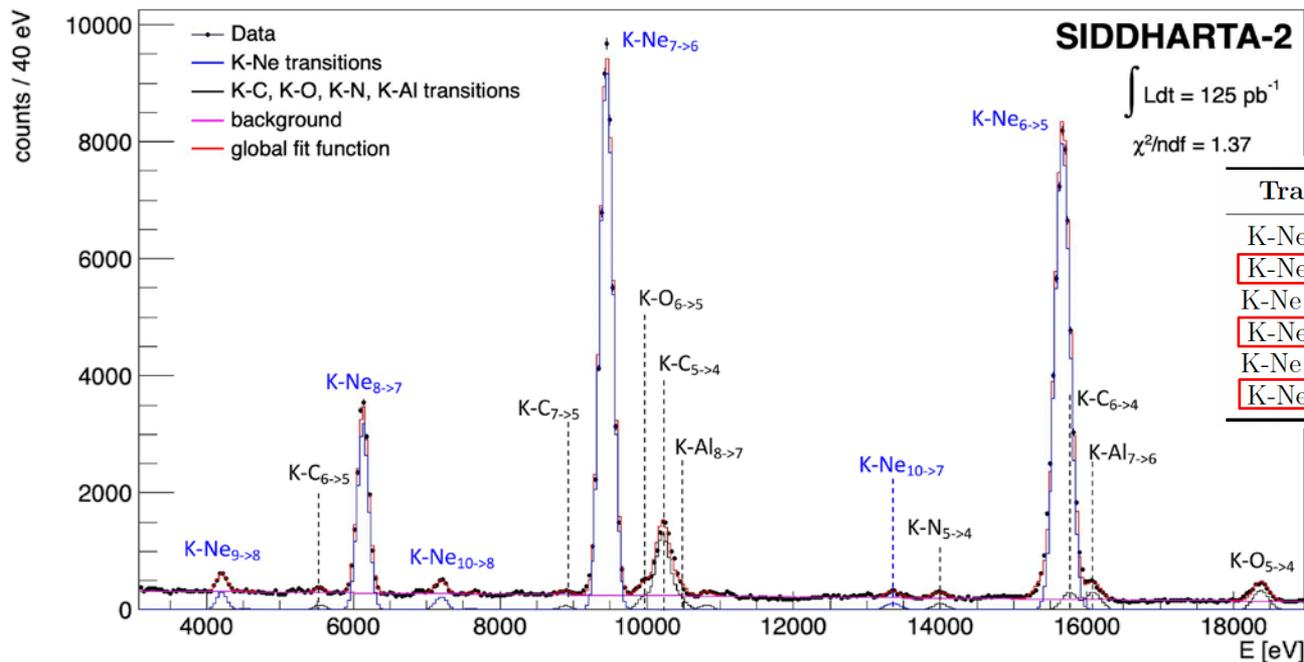
Sgaramella F., et al., 2023, Eur. Phys. J. A, 59 (3) 56

The new kaonic atoms measurements:

- *a new era for the antikaon-nuclei studies at low energy*
- establish a solid basis for future dedicated kaonic atoms measurements through the whole periodic table

The Kaonic Neon measurement (2023)

First measurement of high-n kaonic neon X-ray transitions
(sub eV statistical accuracy)



Transition	Energy [eV]
K-Ne (9 → 8)	4206.35 ± 3.75 (stat) ± 2.00 (syst) eV
K-Ne (8 → 7)	6130.86 ± 0.71 (stat) ± 1.50 (syst) eV
K-Ne (10 → 8)	7191.21 ± 4.91 (stat) ± 2.00 (syst) eV
K-Ne (7 → 6)	9450.08 ± 0.41 (stat) ± 1.50 (syst) eV
K-Ne (10 → 7)	13352.20 ± 10.07 (stat) ± 3.00 (syst) eV
K-Ne (6 → 5)	15673.30 ± 0.52 (stat) ± 9.00 (syst) eV

- precision measurements of high-n transitions in kaonic atoms using low-Z gaseous targets are feasible.
- The first kaonic neon measurement : a new refined measurement of the kaon mass and of precision tests of BSQED. → **see talk of S.Manti**

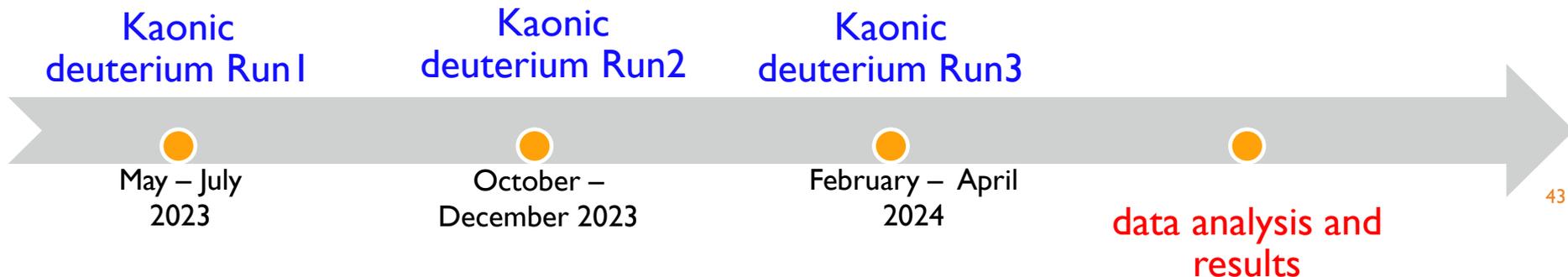
Transition	Yield
K-Ne (10 → 8)	0.010 ± 0.001 (stat) ± 0.001 (sys)
K-Ne (9 → 8)	0.137 ± 0.012 (stat) ± 0.010 (sys)
K-Ne (8 → 7)	0.228 ± 0.004 (stat) ± 0.011 (sys)
K-Ne (7 → 6)	0.277 ± 0.002 (stat) ± 0.014 (sys)
K-Ne (6 → 5)	0.308 ± 0.003 (stat) ± 0.015 (sys)

The first kaonic deuterium measurement (2023-2024)

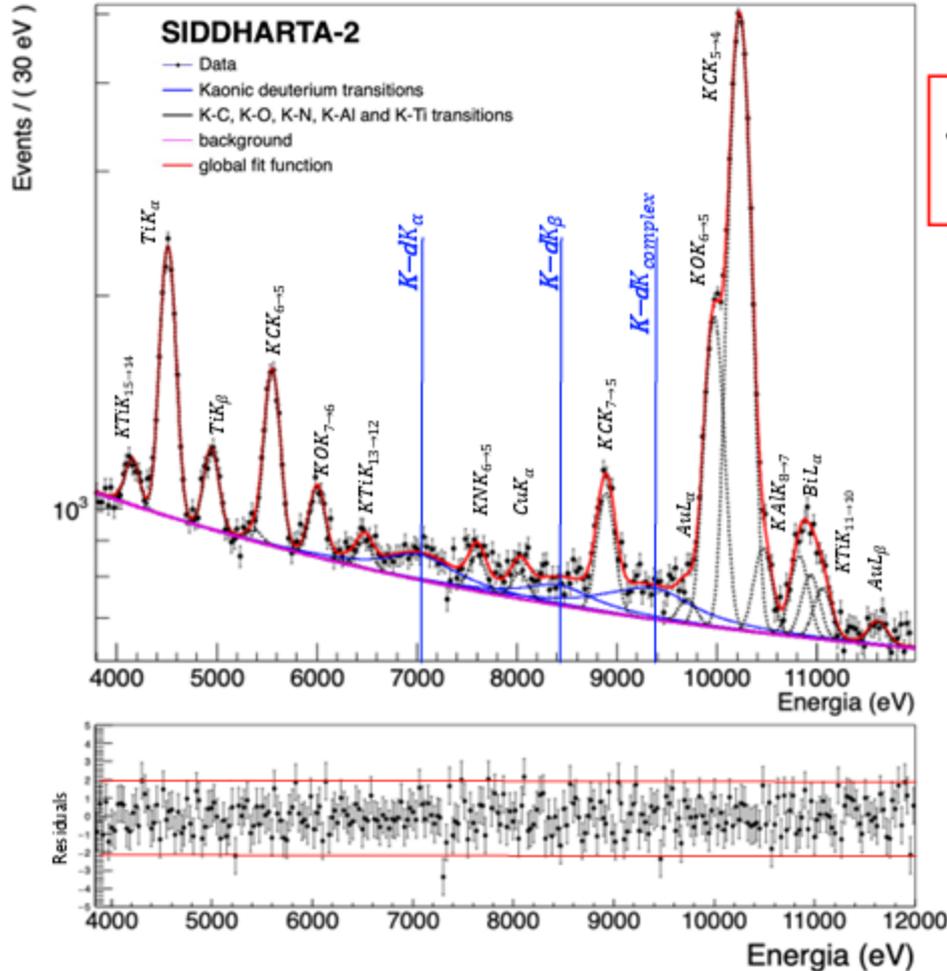
The SIDDHARTA-2 collaboration aims **to perform the first measurement of the strong interaction induced energy shift and width of the kaonic deuterium ground state with similar precision as K-p !**

- **First run with SIDDHARTA-2** optimized setup for **200 pb⁻¹** integrated luminosity: May – July 2023
- **Second run** - October – December 2023: **345 pb⁻¹**
- **Third run 2024** - February – April 2024: **435 pb⁻¹**

Total integrated luminosity of 980 pb⁻¹



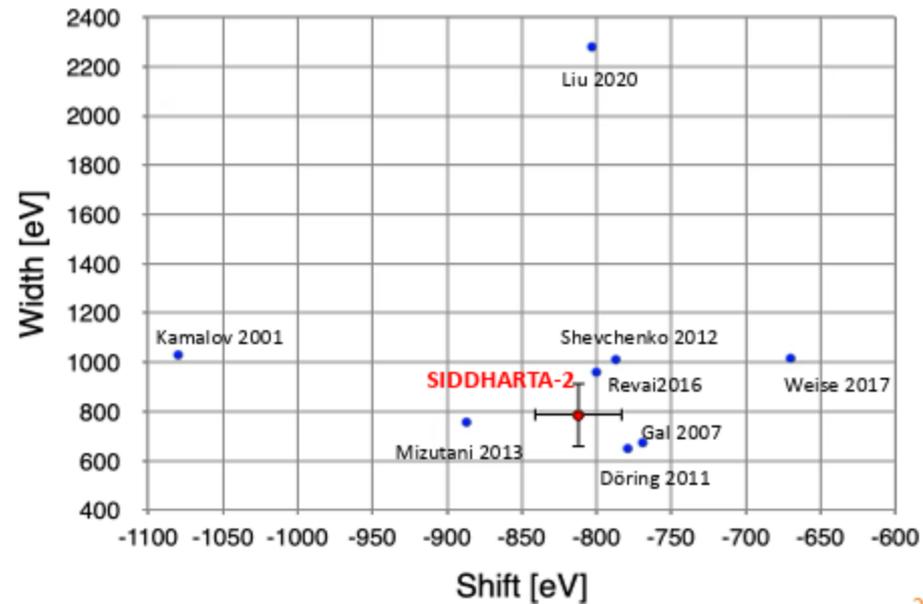
Kaonic Deuterium Results



$$\epsilon_{1s} = E_{2p \rightarrow 1s}^{exp} - E_{2p \rightarrow 1s}^{QED} = 7021.9 - 7834.0 = -812.1 \pm 29.8(stat) \pm 2.1(syst) \text{ eV}$$

$$\Gamma_{1s} = 787 \pm 126(stat) \pm 33(syst) \text{ eV}$$

Targeted precision achieved!

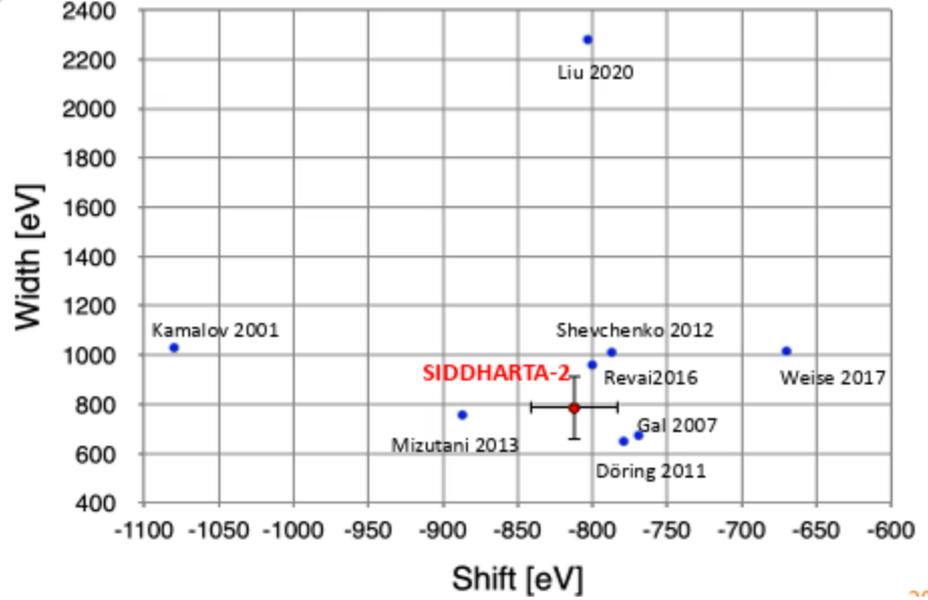


Kaonic Deuterium Results

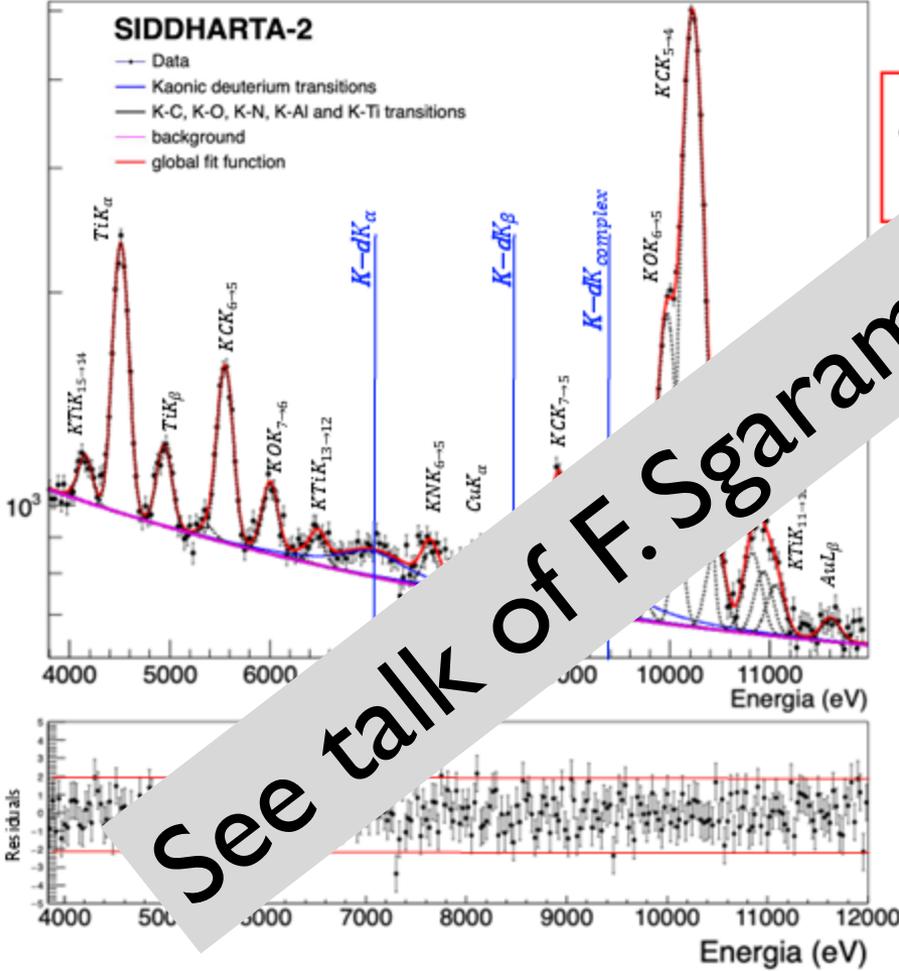
$$\epsilon_{1s} = E_{2\gamma}^{exp} - E_{2\gamma}^{MED} = 7021.9 - 7834.0 = -812.1 \pm 29.8(stat) \pm 2.1(syst) \text{ eV}$$

$$\Gamma_{1s} = 787 \pm 126(stat) \pm 33(syst) \text{ eV}$$

Targeted precision achieved!



Events / (30 eV)



See talk of F. Sgaramella

K-p

J. D. Davies 1979
M. Izycki 1980
P. M. Bird 1983

1970

1980

K-He

C. E. Wiegand 1971
C. J. Batty 1979
S. Baird 1983

Significant improvement!

KpX @ KEK 1997

DEAR @ DAFNE 2005

SIDDHARTA @ DAFNE 2011

2000

2010

2022

2024

E570 @ KEK 2007

SIDDHARTA ^4He @ DAFNE 2009

SIDDHARTA ^3He @ DAFNE 2011

E62 $^{3,4}\text{He}$ @ JPARC 2022

SIDDHARTA2 ^4He @ DAFNE 2022

SIDDHARTA2 KNe @ DAFNE 2023

Solved
K-p puzzle

confirmed
repulsive shift

Solved
K-He puzzle

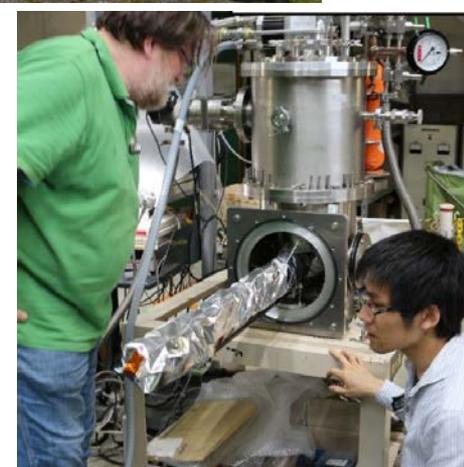
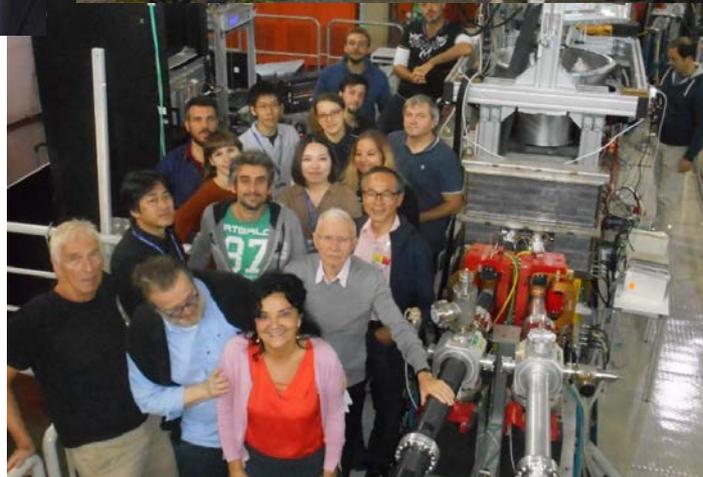
Liquid target
Gas target

SIDDHARTA2 K-d @ DAFNE 2024

CONCLUSION

- The last 25 years of kaonic atom precision measurements mark the modern era of kaonic atom experiments and **set new constraints on theories which deal with low-energy QCD in the strangeness sector.**
- The future of this sector will further enhance our understanding of “*strangeness physics*” in the non-perturbative regime of QCD, with implications ranging from particle and nuclear physics to astrophysics, contributing to a deeper knowledge of how nature works.

More than 25 years of friendship and work together



THANK YOU!



Beyond SIDDHARTA-2: EXKALIBUR

The measurement for the **first EXKALIBUR module** were selected based on two criteria:

Feasibility with minimal modifications/addings of the already existent SIDDHARTA-2 setup and within a reduced timescale

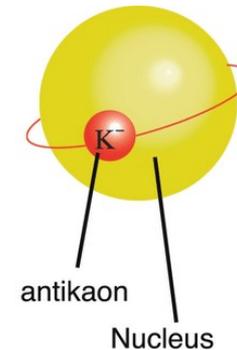
Impact: i.e. the maximal scientific outcome:

Kaonic Neon -> charge kaon mass (precision goal 5-7 keV)

Precision measurements along the periodic table at DAΦNE for:

- **Selected light kaonic atoms (LHKA)** – Li, Be, B
- **Selected intermediate and heavy kaonic atoms (IMKA)** – Al, C, O, S, Pb

Dedicated runs with different types of detectors: **CZT detectors, SDDs**



EXtensive
Kaonic
Atom research: from
LIthium and
Beryllium to
URanium

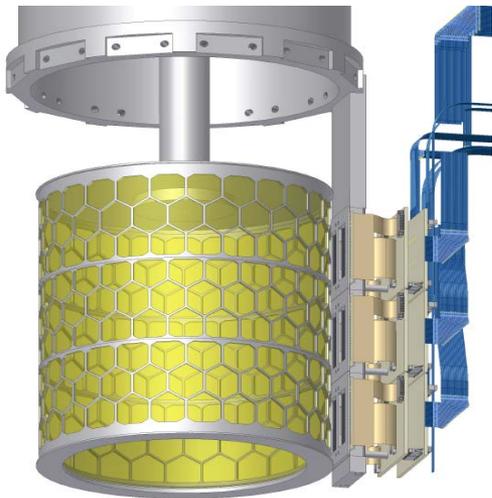
SIDDHARTA SIDDHARTA-2 E57

Active target volume (cm ³)	2400	2100	540
Target diameter (cm)	13.7	14.5	6.0
Working temperature (K)	20–25	25–30	25–30
Working pressure (MPa)	0.10	0.25	0.5
Gas density	1.8% ^a	3% ^b	4% ^b
Burst pressure (MPa)	0.40	0.65	0.80
Kapton entrance window (μm)	125	125	125
Kapton side wall (μm)	75	140	140

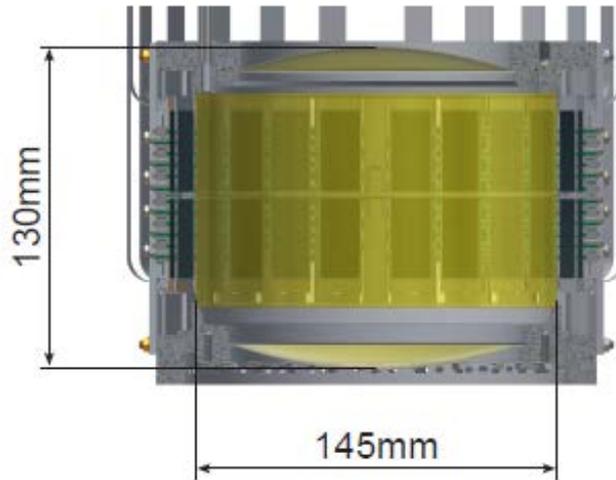
^aGas density as a fraction of the liquid hydrogen density (0.0708 g/cm³).

^bGas density as a fraction of the liquid deuterium density (0.164 g/cm³).

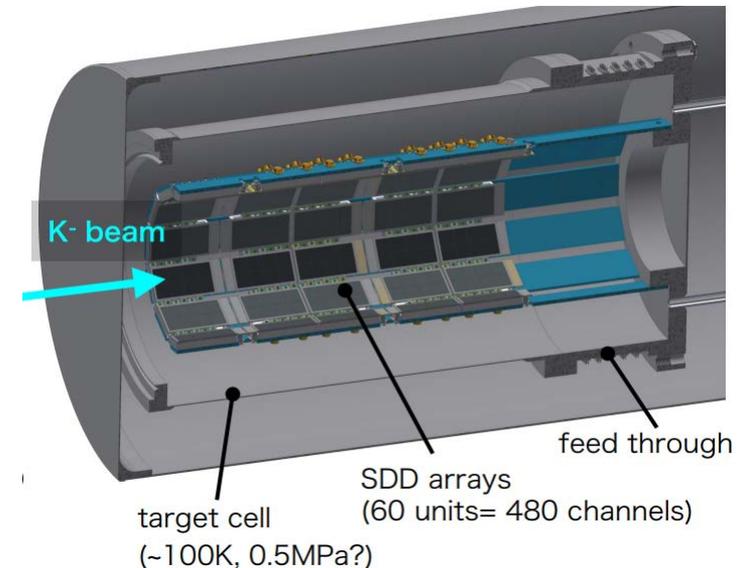
SIDDHARTA



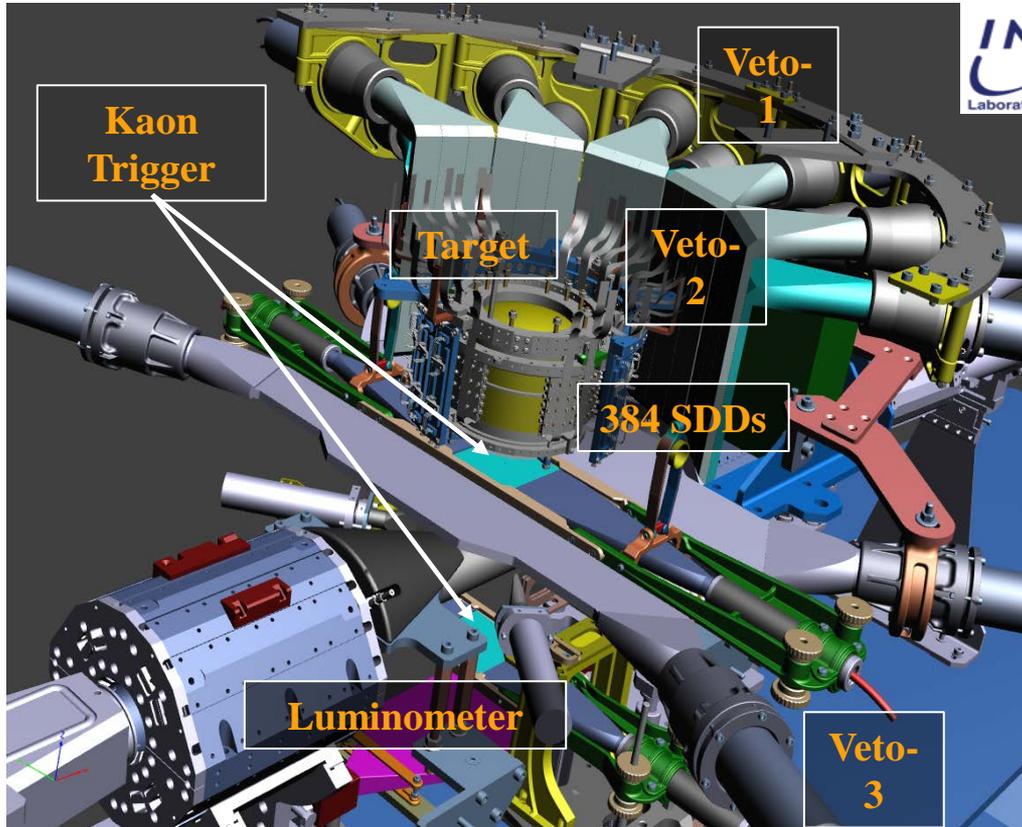
SIDDHARTA-2



E57 –updated strategy

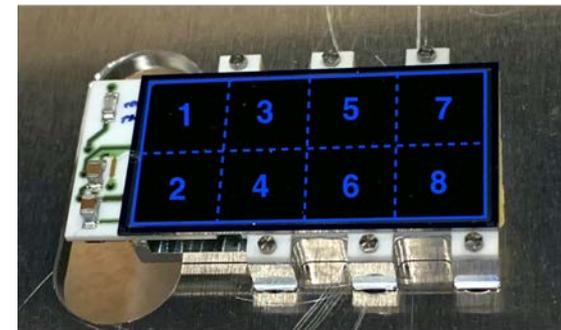


The SIDDHARTA-2 setup

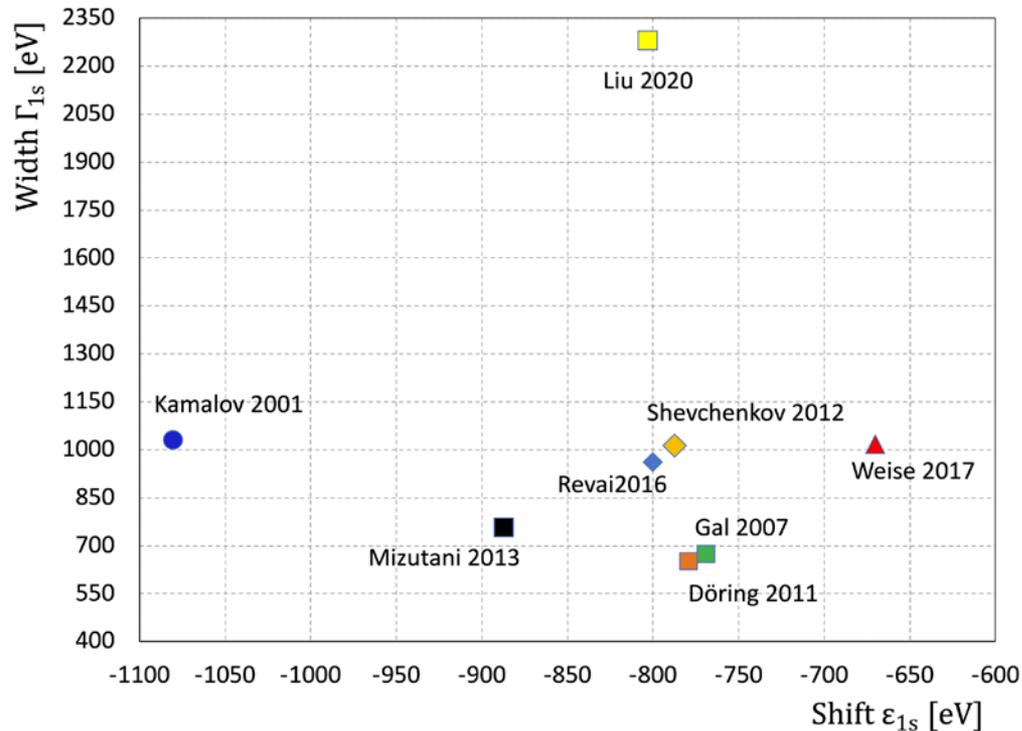


48 Silicon Drift Detector arrays with 8 SDD units (0.64 cm^2) for a total active area of 246 cm^2

The thickness of $450 \mu\text{m}$ ensures a high collection efficiency for X-rays of energy between 5 keV and 12 keV



SIDDHARTA-2: Kaonic deuterium measurement (2023-2024)



“The most important experiment to be carried out in low energy K-meson physics today is the **definitive determination of the energy level shifts in the K-p and K-d atoms**, because of their direct connection with the physics of $\bar{K}N$ interaction and their complete independence from all other kinds of measurements which bear on this interaction”.

R.H. Dalitz (1982)

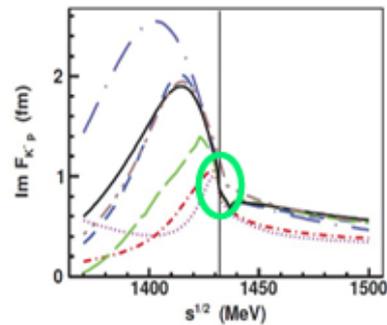
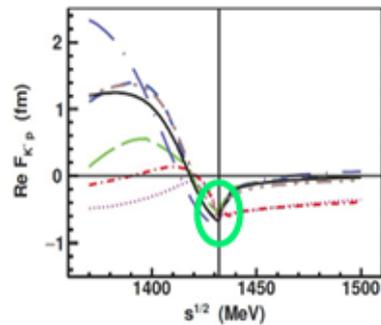
Theoretical predictions for the kaonic deuterium
1s level shift and width

Kaonic Deuterium analysis: next steps

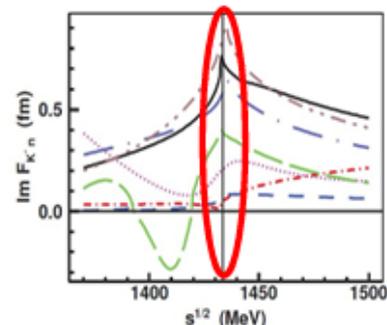
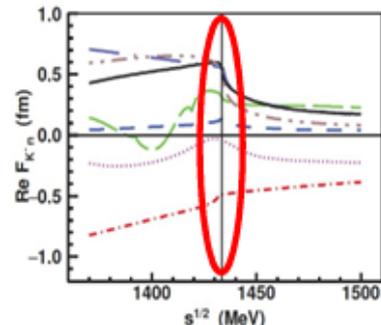
The combined analysis of kaonic deuterium and hydrogen will have implications in nuclear, particle and astrophysics, providing experimental inputs to solve the discrepancy between the theoretical prediction for K-n scattering amplitudes

K-p and K-n scattering amplitudes

K-p:
agreement



K-n:
disagreement



- Prague (P)
- Bonn (B₂)
- Bonn (B₄)
- Kyoto-Munich (KM)
- Barcelona (BCN)
- Murcia M_I
- Murcia M_{II}

Ciepl y, A. et al. From KN interactions to K-nuclear quasi-bound states. AIP Conf. Proc. 2249, 030014 (2020).

Experimental challenges towards K⁻d

▪ X-ray yield: K⁻p ~ 1 %

 K⁻d ~ 0.1 %

▪ 1s state width: K⁻p ~ 540 eV

 K⁻d ~ 800 – 1000 eV

BG sources: asynchronous BG → timing

 synchronous BG → **spatial correlation**

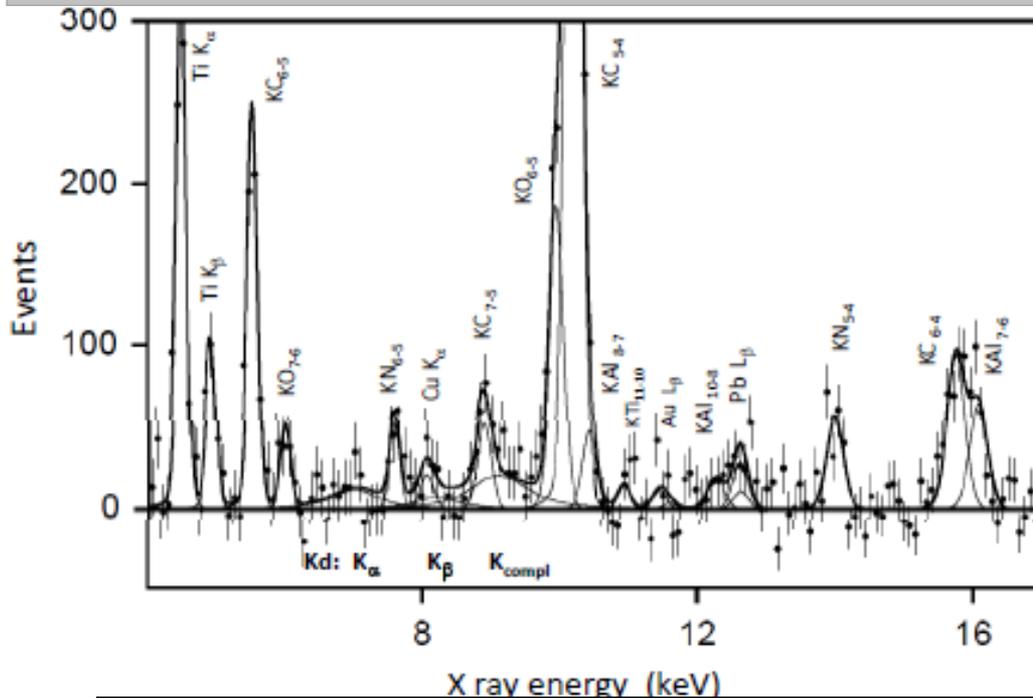


The kaonic deuterium measurements at DAΦNE and at J-PARC require:

- a large area x-ray detector, with good energy and timing resolution
- stable working conditions, even in the high accelerator
- dedicated veto detector system, to improve by at least 1 order of magnitude the signal-to-background ratio, as compared to the kaonic-hydrogen measurement performed by SIDDHARTA.
- dedicated cryogenic lightweight gaseous target system

SIDDHARTA Kd exploratory measurement

First exploratory measurement for Kd



$$Y(K_{\text{tot}}) = 0.0077 \pm 0.0051$$

$$\text{Kd } K_{\alpha} \text{ yield } Y(K_{\alpha}) = 0.0019 \pm 0.0012$$

Yield of a factor about 10 smaller than the KH yield,
estimated to be 1 to 2 % for K_{α} .

an enhancement by one order of magnitude of the signal-to-
background ratio is required for SIDDHARTA-2.

Experimental challenges towards K⁻d

▪ X-ray yield: K⁻p ~ 1 %

K⁻d ~ 0.1 %

▪ 1s state width: K⁻p ~ 540 eV

K⁻d ~ 800 – 1000 eV

BG sources: asynchronous BG → timing
 synchronous BG → **spatial correlation**



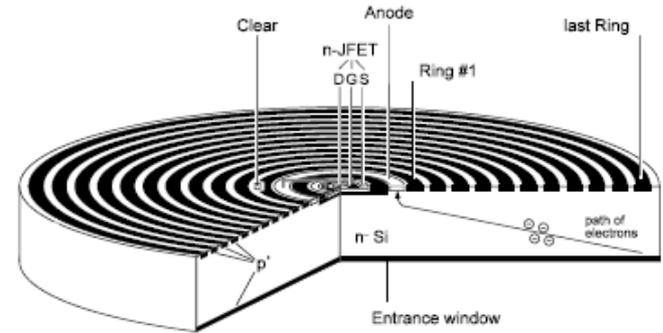
The kaonic deuterium measurements at DAΦNE and at J-PARC require:

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- dedicated veto detector system, to improve by at least 1 order of magnitude the signal-to-background ratio, as compared to the kaonic-hydrogen measurement performed by SIDDHARTA.
- dedicated cryogenic lightweight gaseous target system

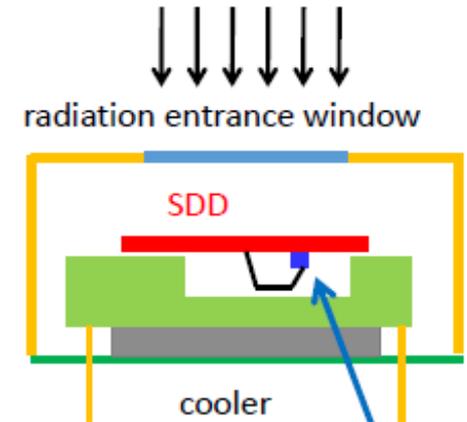
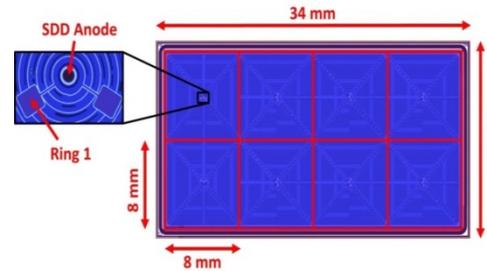
New SDD detectors for SIDDHARTA-2 and E57

difference with respect to the SDDs in SIDDHARTA:

- the change of the preamplifier system from the JFET structure on the SDD chip to a complementary metal-oxide semiconductor integrated charge sensing amplifier (CUBE), able to operate at very low temperatures (below 50 K) (standard SDD technology)
- reduction of the single element size (from 10×10 to 8×8 mm²)



Better drift time of 300 ns compared to the SDDs in SIDDHARTA (~800 ns)



CUBE:

Monolithic 4x2 SDD array - single unit



SDD characteristics:

- area/cell = 64 mm²
- total area = 512 mm²
- T = - 100°C
- drift time < 500 ns

Lightweight cryogenic target: SIDDHARTA-2 and E57

Main component of both cells :

- cylindrical wall, two layers of 50 μm thick Kapton foils glued together with a two component epoxy glue, with an overlap of 10 mm
- achieving a total thickness of the order of (140 ± 10) μm w
- an x-ray transmission of 85% at 7 keV.

The final dimensions of the target cells depend on the machine used.

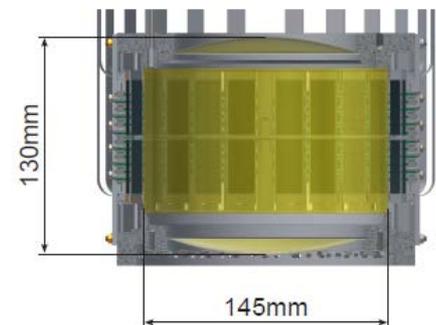
- **DAΦNE, SIDDHARTA-2:** low momentum monochromatic kaons (127 MeV/c) → **low thickness degrader**, few mm plastic for kaon **stopping efficiency of almost 100%**.
- **J-PARC, E57** : kaons momentum of 660 MeV/c → kaon carbon degrader with a thickness of ~ 400 mm to achieve a **kaon stop efficiency of $\sim 2\%$** .
- The gas density for SIDDHARTA-2 and E57 : 3% and 4% of the liquid deuterium density,

Therefore, the dimensions of the target cells are quite different

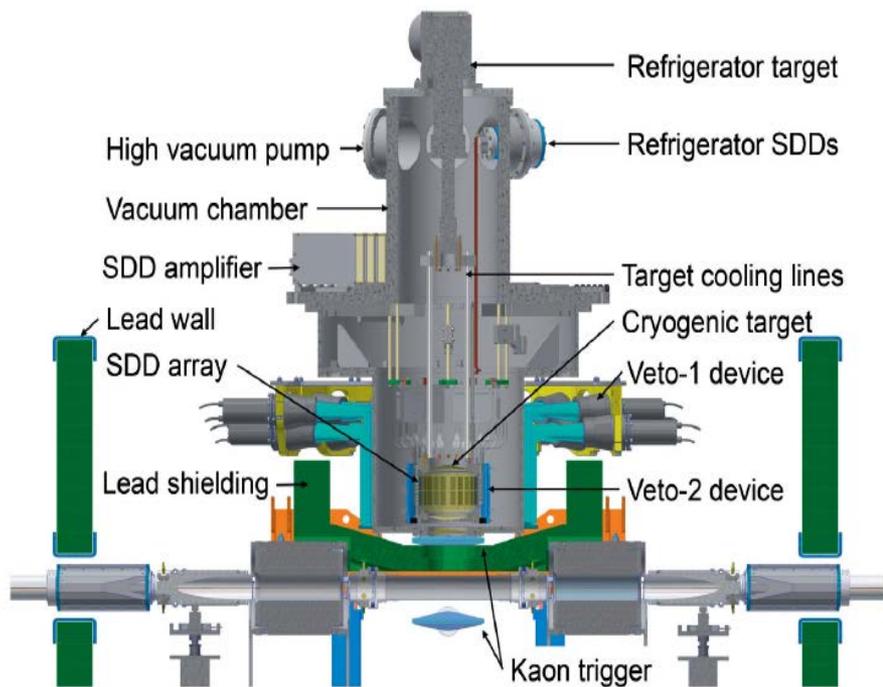
- for SIDDHARTA-2 the diameter 145 mm, height 130 mm,
- for E57 the diameter 60 mm, length 190 mm



SIDDHARTA-2

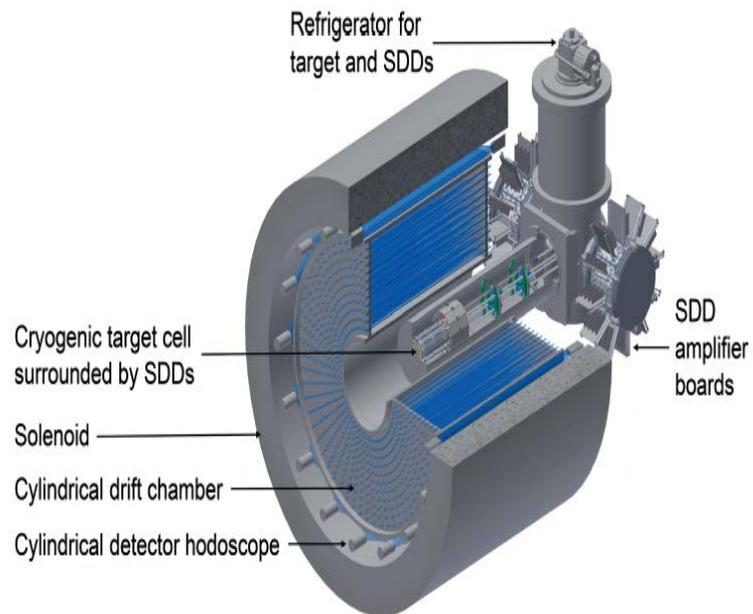


SIDDHARTA-2



SIDDHARTA – 2, installed in DAΦNE from April 2019, ready to start to take data for kaonic deuterium: 2020

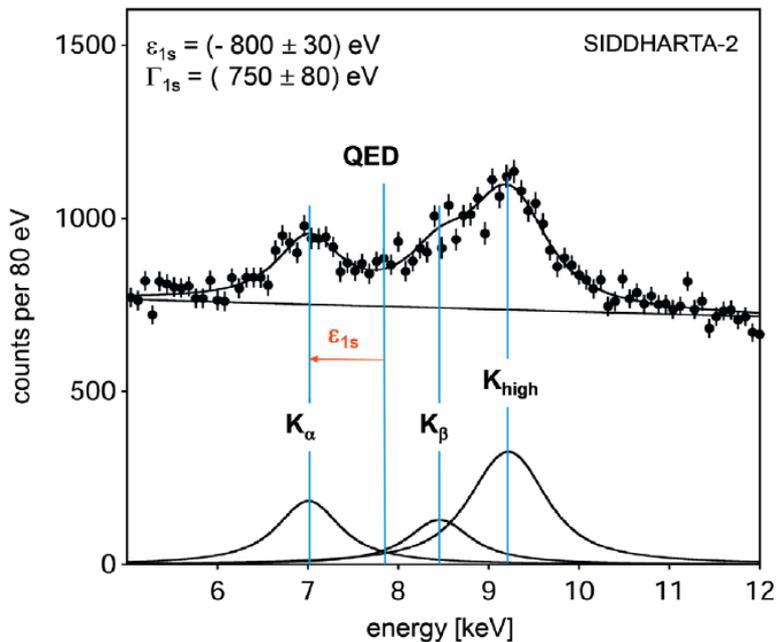
E57



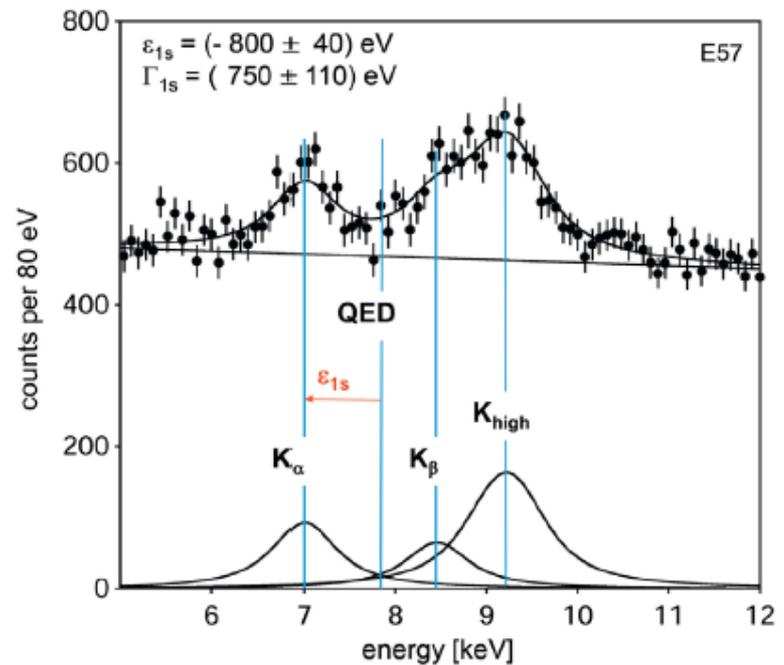
E57
data for kaonic deuterium:
2022 (?)

The Monte Carlo simulations for kaonic deuterium

SIDDHARTA-2



E57



KH results:

$$\epsilon_{1s} = -283 \pm 36(\text{stat}) \pm 6(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

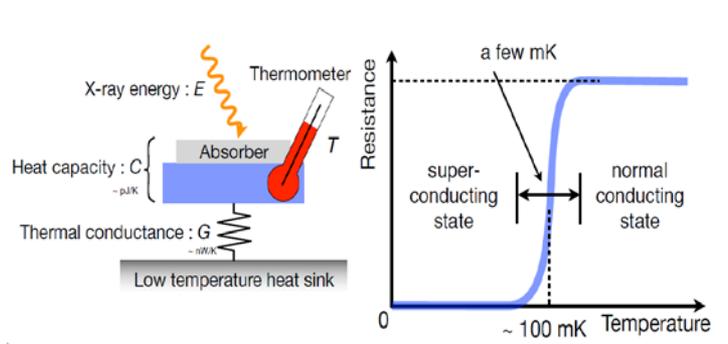
$$\Gamma_{1s} = 541 \pm 89(\text{stat}) \pm 22(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

Transition-Edge-Sensor microcalorimeters (E62) experiment

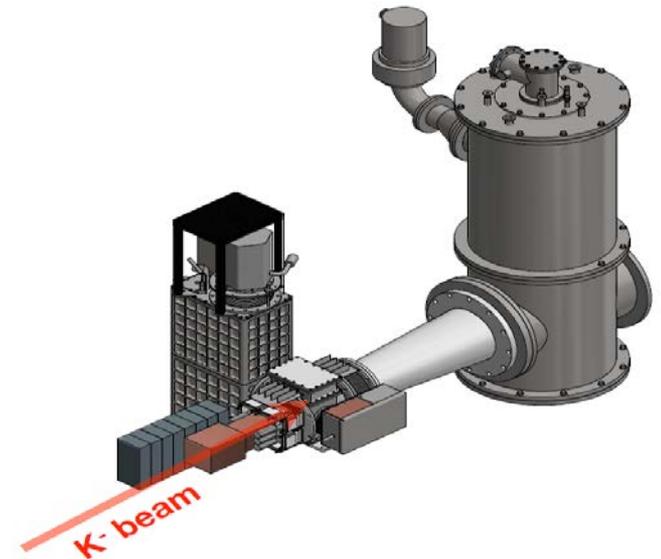
- A new type of detector technology has been developed: the **transition edge sensors**, for extreme precision x-ray measurements.
- work on a calorimeter principle, based on a phase transition in a superconducting material, achieving **unprecedented energy resolution: 2 eV @ 6 keV**.
- will be used to perform measurements of kaonic atom transitions with **sub-eV precision** (2 eV for SDD , for energy resolution 150 eV @6 keV) which are important to fully understand the strong interaction between kaons and nuclei.

E62: K-He 3d-2p

sub-eV precision (ΔE_{2p})
to distinguish “deep” or “shallow” potential



- ✓ Excellent energy resolution $\sim 2 \text{ eV FWHM@ } 6 \text{ keV}$
- ✓ Wide dynamic range possible

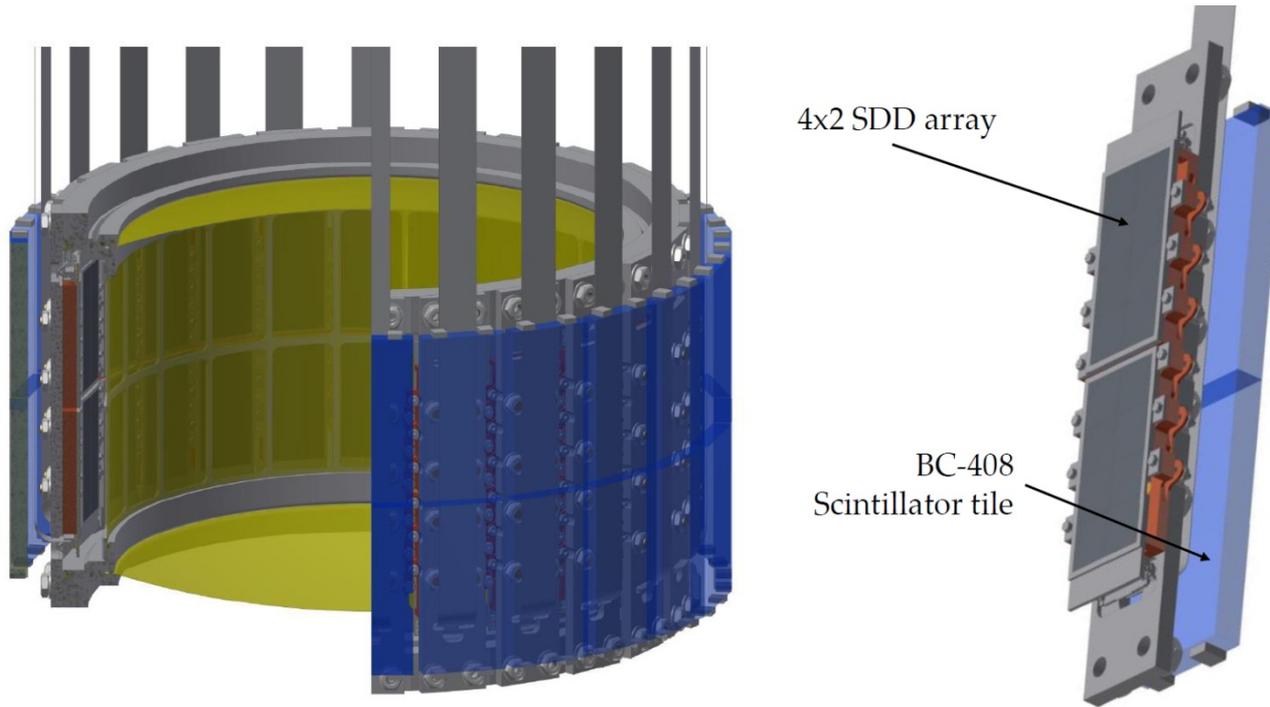


CONCLUSIONS

The last 20 years of kaonic atom precision measurements mark the modern era of kaonic atom experiments and set new constraints on theories which deal with low-energy QCD in the strangeness sector.

The future of this sector will further boost a deeper understanding of the “strangeness physics” in the nonperturbative regime of QCD, with implications from particle and nuclear physics to astrophysics, for better knowledge of the way in which nature works

The 4 x2 SDD array around the target cell



The new advance technology will allow to setup a cryogenic target detector system with an efficient detector packing density, **covering a solid angle for stopped kaons in the gaseous target of $\sim 2\pi$.**

48 monolithic SDD arrays will be around the target with a total area of about 246 cm²