

# ROCK STAR: Towards a ROADmap of the Crucial measurements of Key observables in Strangeness reactions for neutron sTARs equation of state



The kaonic helium-4 measurement with SIDDHARTA-2 experiment  
at DAΦNE accelerator



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*on behalf of SIDDHARTA-2 collaboration*

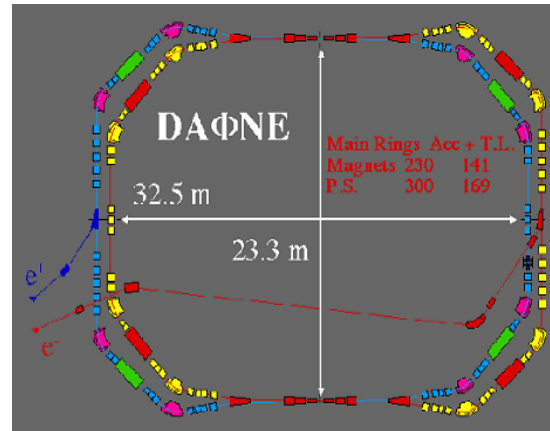
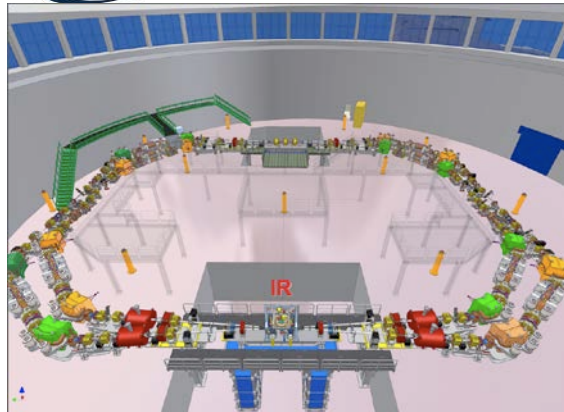
*9-13 October 2023*

*Trento*

# DAΦNE: low-momentum kaon beam



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
LABORATORI NAZIONALI DI FRASCATI



- $e^+ e^-$  at 510 MeV
- $\Phi$  ( $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \Phi) \sim 5 \mu\text{b}$ ) resonance decays at 49.2 % in  $K^+ K^-$  back-to-back pair
- Very low momentum ( $\approx 127 \text{ MeV}$ )  $K^-$  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:

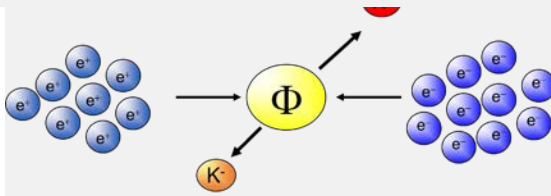
→ Kaonic atoms (DEAR/SIDDHARTA/SIDDHARTA-2)

operates at the centre-of-mass energy of the  $\Phi$  meson

mass  $m = 1019.413 \pm .008$

MeV

width  $\Gamma = 4.43 \pm 0.06 \text{ MeV}$



# The scientific aim

SIDDHARTA-2 measures the **X-ray transitions** occurring in the cascade processes **of kaonic atoms**



Fundamental study of strong interaction between anti-K & nucleus at low energy limit

# 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/ $c^2$ )	$\mu$ (MeV/ $c^2$ )	$B_{1s}$ (keV)	$r_B$ (fm)	Accessible interaction
$ep$	0.511	0.511	$13.6 \times 10^{-3}$	53 000	Electroweak
$\mu p$	105.7	95.0	2.53	279	Electroweak
$\pi p$	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**

# 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

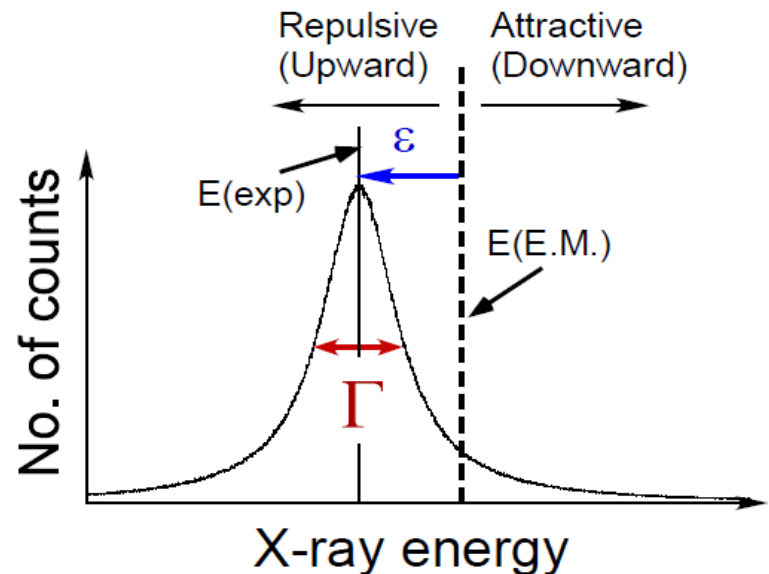
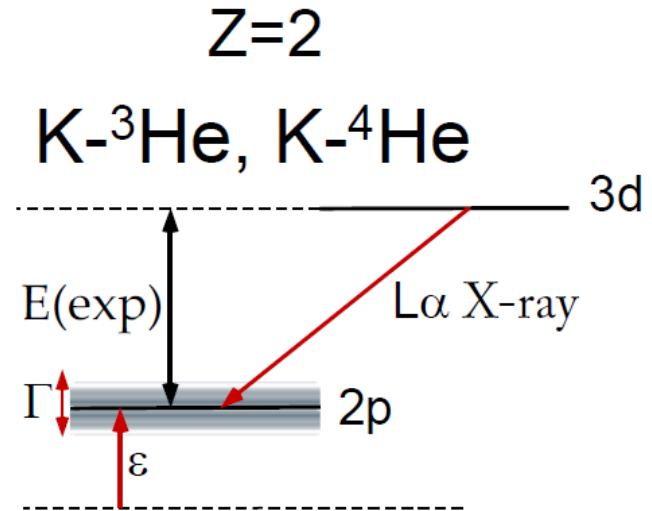
Most kaons are absorbed without radiative transition to  $1s$  state.

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

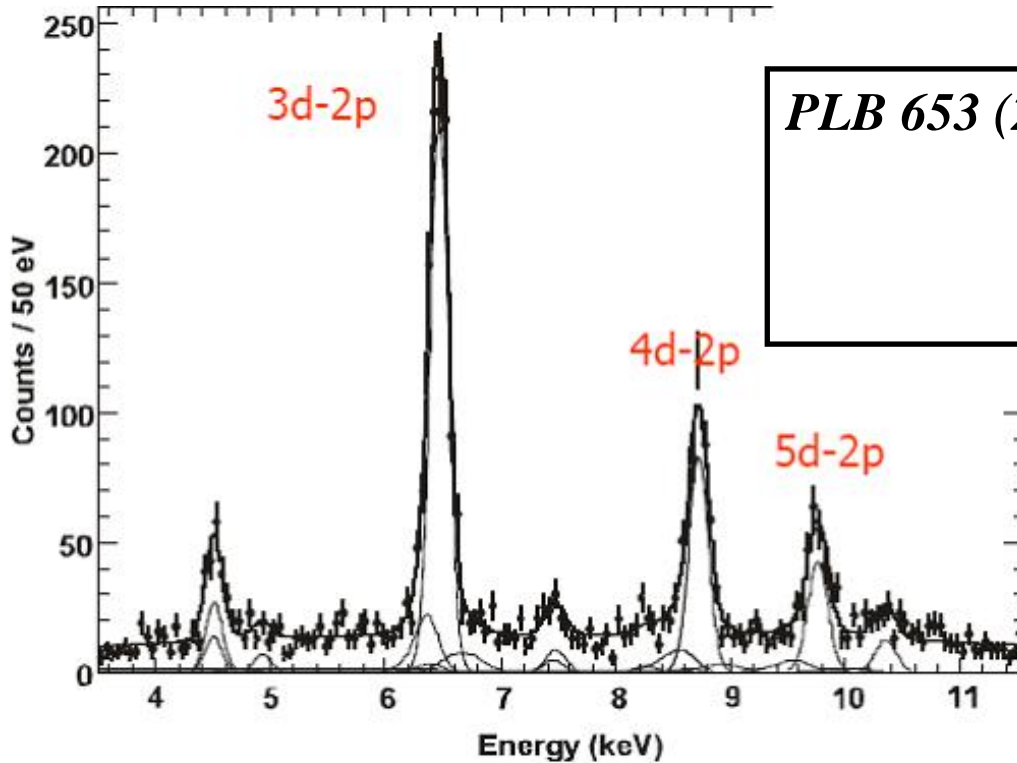
$$\varepsilon = E(\text{exp}) - E(\text{e.m.})$$

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

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

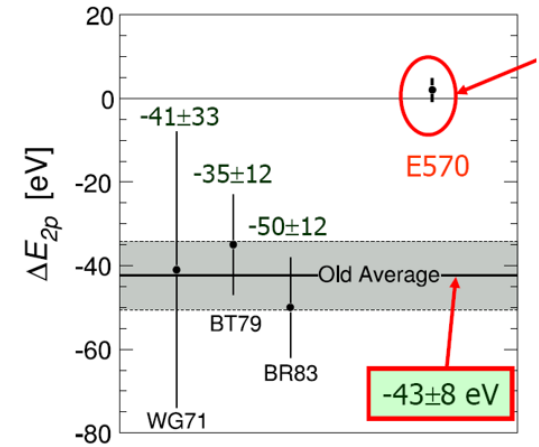


# K<sup>4</sup>He results by KEK PS E570



*PLB 653 (2007) 387*

	$3d \rightarrow 2p$	$4d \rightarrow 2p$	$5d \rightarrow 2p$
)	$6466.7 \pm 2.5$	$8723.3 \pm 4.6$	$9760.1 \pm 7.7$
15]	6463.5	8721.7	9766.8



**K<sup>4</sup>He 3d→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 <sup>4</sup>He**

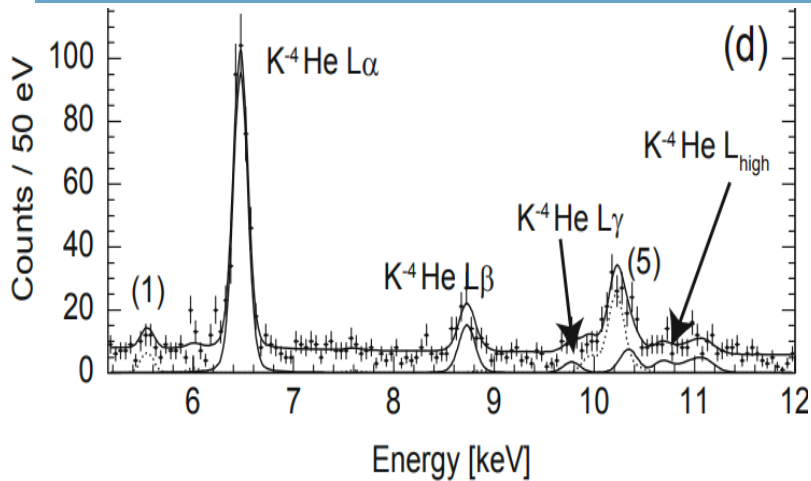


# K<sup>4</sup>He results by SIDDHARTA

## Kaonic 4-Helium

K-<sup>4</sup>He (3d-2p)

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



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

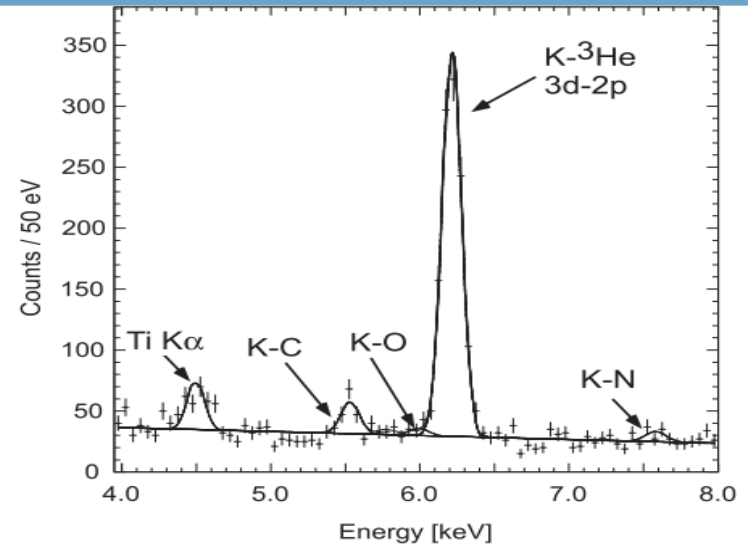
Phys. Lett. B 681 (2009) 310

**for first time in a  
gaseous target for  
<sup>4</sup>He**

## Kaonic 3-Helium

K-<sup>3</sup>He (3d-2p)

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



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

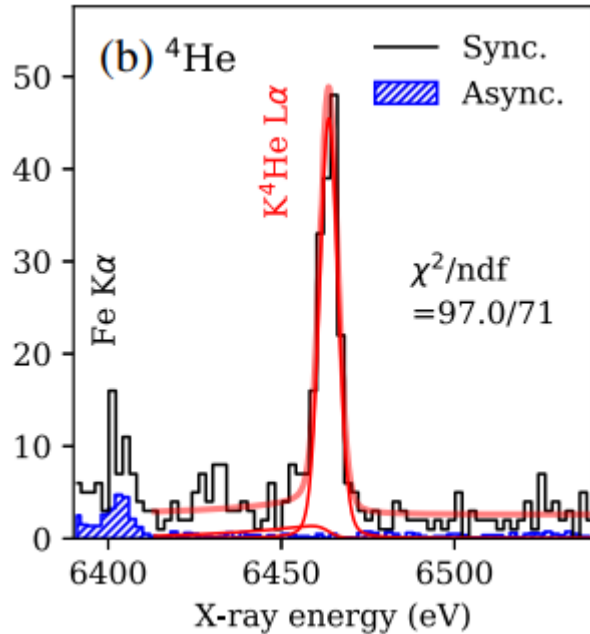
Phys. Lett. B 697 (2011) 199

**for first time  
for <sup>3</sup>He**

# K<sup>4</sup>He results by E62 J-PARC

## Kaonic 4-Helium

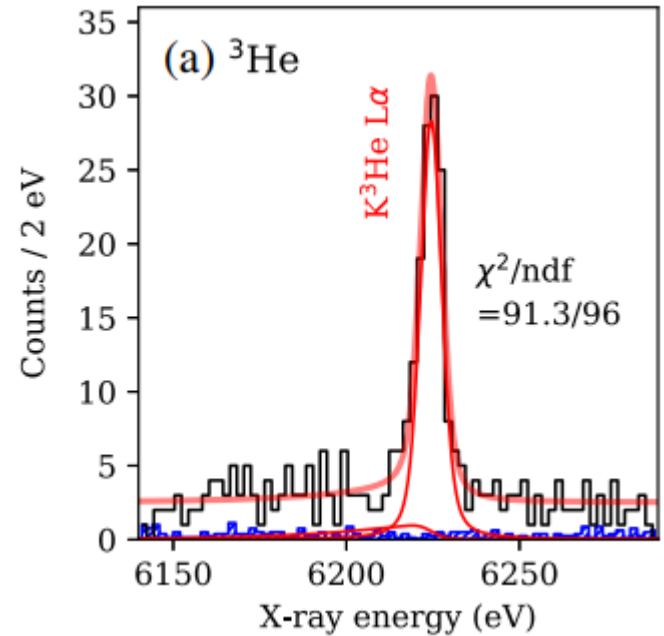
$$E_{3d \rightarrow 2p}^{K^{-4}\text{He}} = 6463.7 \pm 0.3(\text{stat}) \pm 0.1(\text{syst}) \text{ eV,}$$



$$\Delta E_{2p}^{K^{-4}\text{He}} = 0.2 \pm 0.3(\text{stat}) \pm 0.2(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

## Kaonic 3-Helium

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



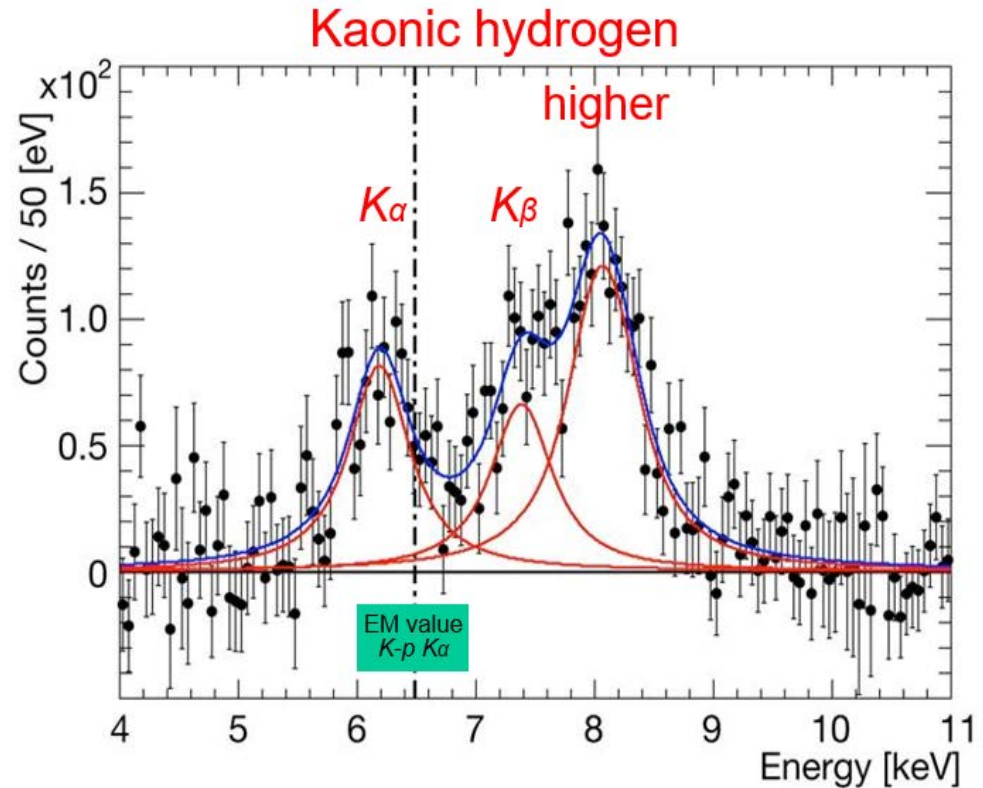
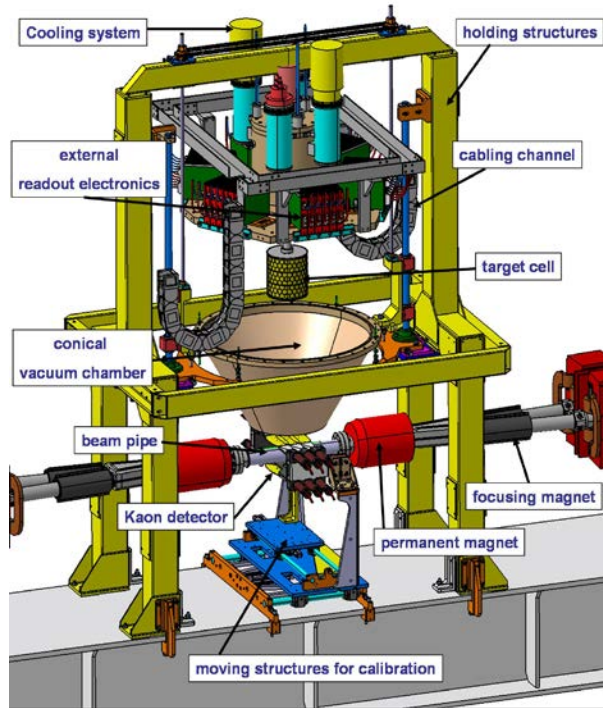
$$\Delta E_{2p}^{K^{-3}\text{He}} = -0.2 \pm 0.4(\text{stat}) \pm 0.3(\text{syst}) \text{ eV}$$

Phys. Rev. Lett. 128 (2022) 112503

Liquid target for <sup>3,4</sup>He



# KH results by SIDDHARTA



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

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

*most reliable and precise measurement ever*

# 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.



Analysis of the combined measurements of kaonic deuterium and kaonic hydrogen

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

( $\mu_c$  reduced mass of the  $K^-p$  system,  $\alpha$  fine-structure constant)

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

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

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



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

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

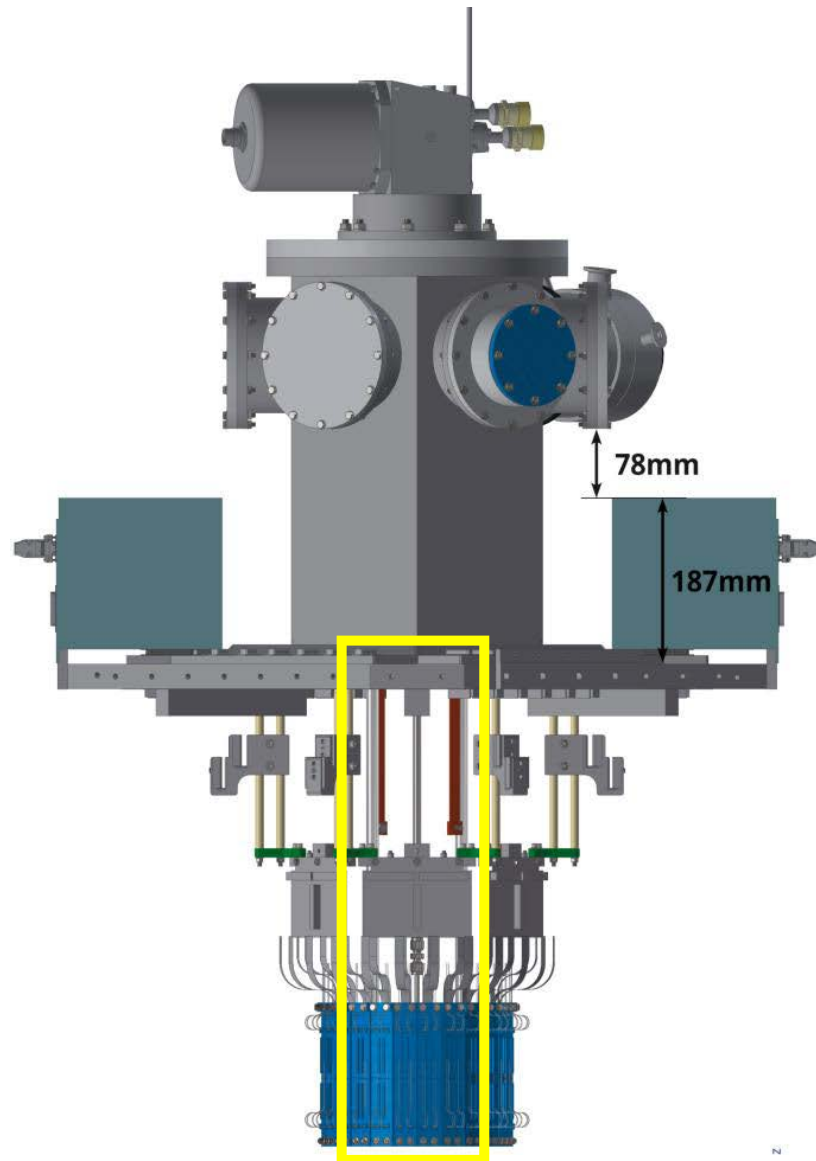
completely solve Isospin-dependent K-N scattering length

# SIDDHARTINO

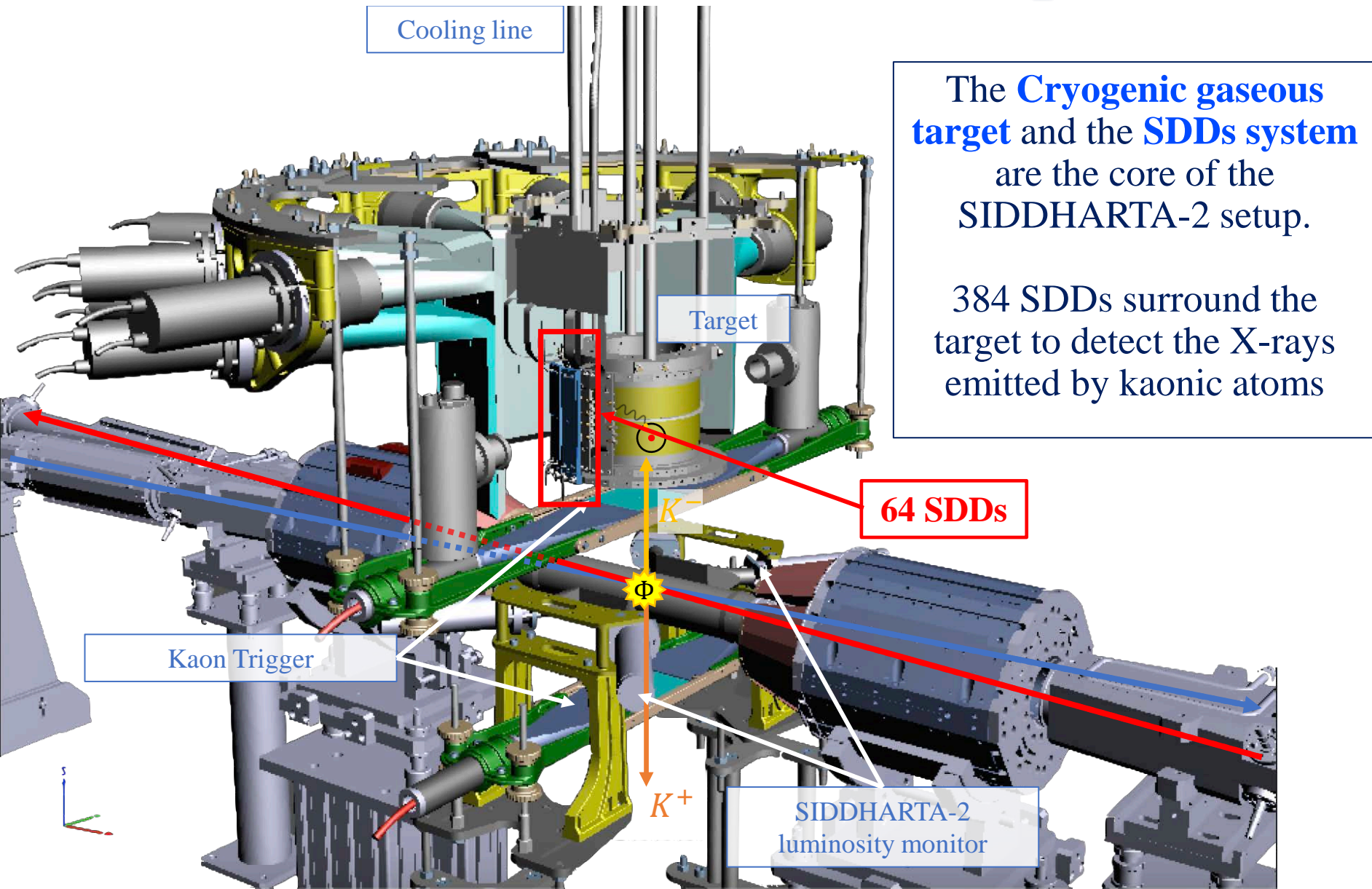
**SIDDHARTINO: pilot run of SIDDHARTA-2  
1/6 of SIDDHARTA-2 performed during  
accelerator commissioning**

**Optimization of the machine background during  
the DAΦNE beams commissioning phase in  
preparation for the K-d run through the  
measurement of  $K\text{-}^4\text{He } 3d \rightarrow 2p$  transition**

- **Detector tuning for SIDDHARTA-2:**
  - SDDs
  - Kaon Trigger
- **Degrader (optimization of the kaons  
stopped in the target)**
- **Concluded in 2021**

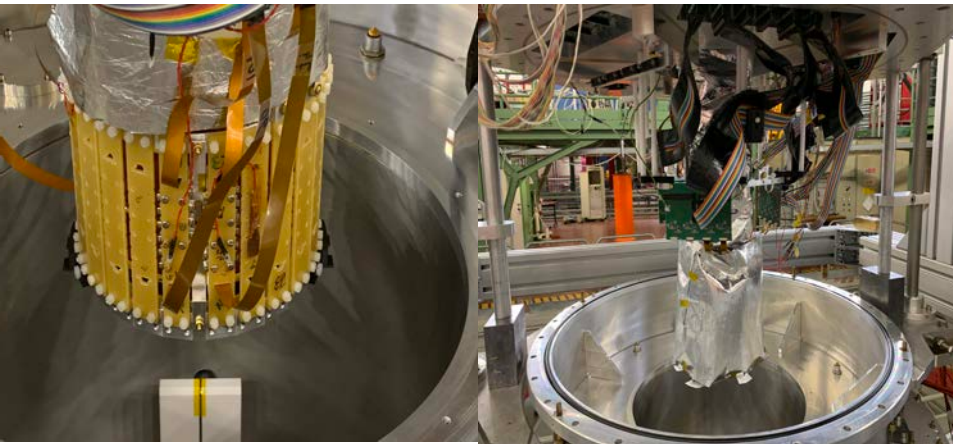
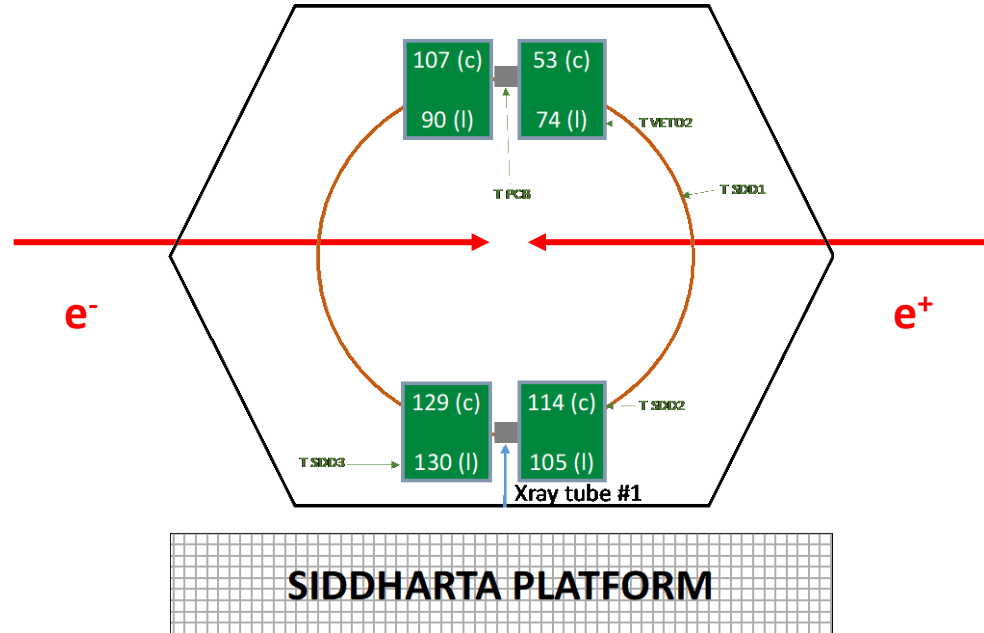
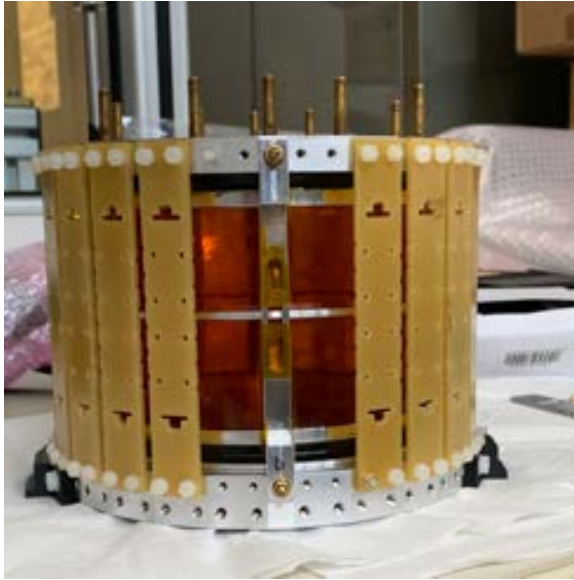


# SIDDHARTA-2 setup





# SIDDHARTINO setup – $^4\text{He}$ run



**SIDDHARTINO cryogenic target:**

Target :  $^4\text{He}$  gas

Working temperature : 25K

Working pressure: 1 bar

1.5% of liquid helium density (LHeD)

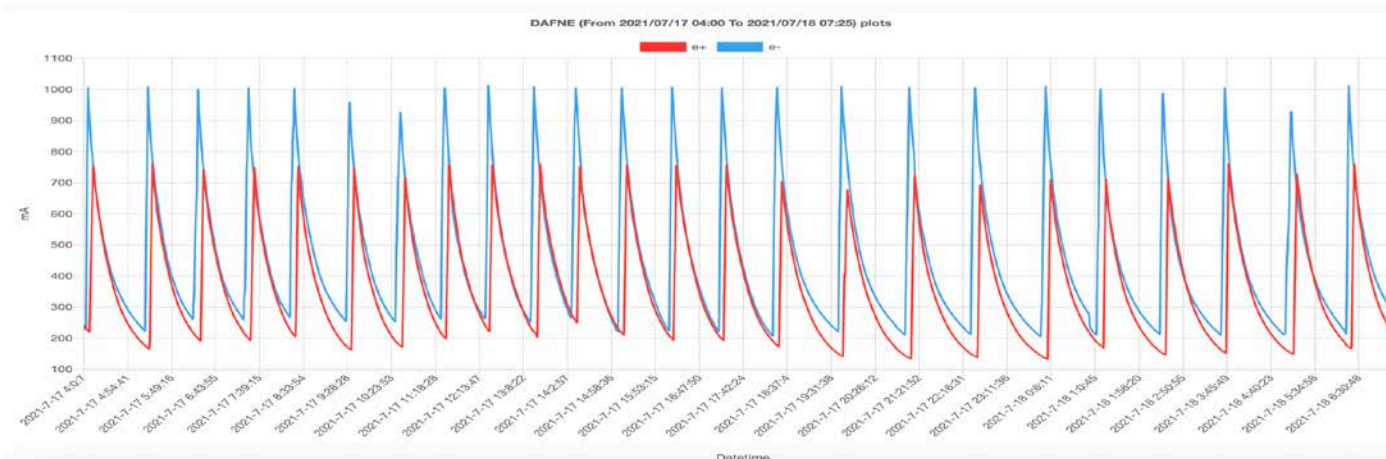
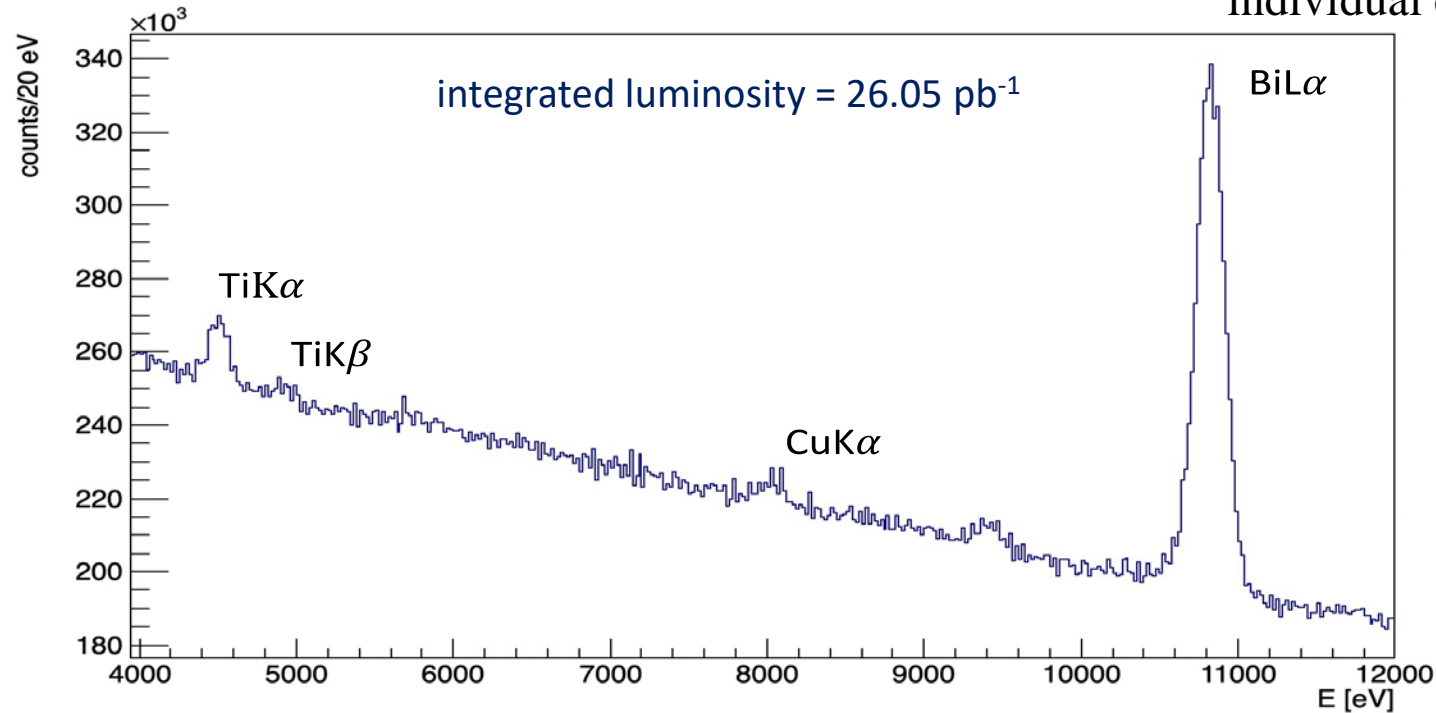
0.66% of liquid helium density (LHeD)



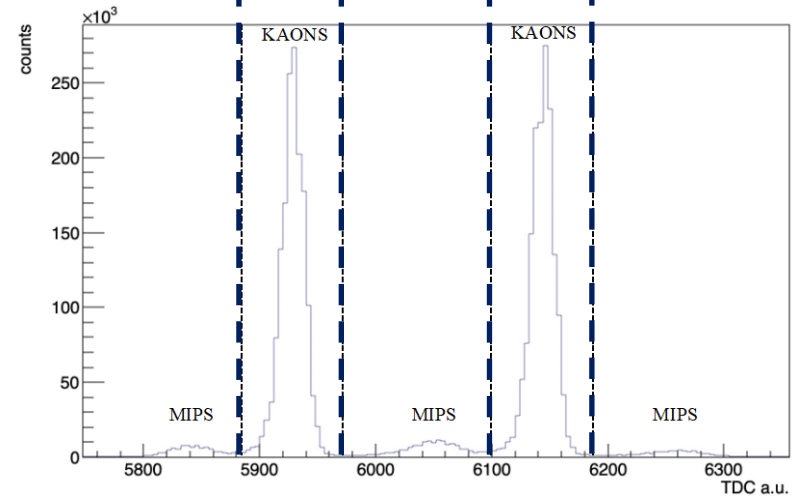
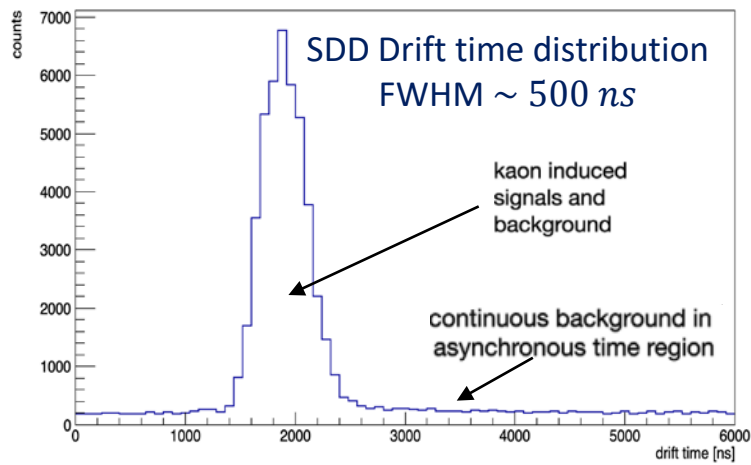
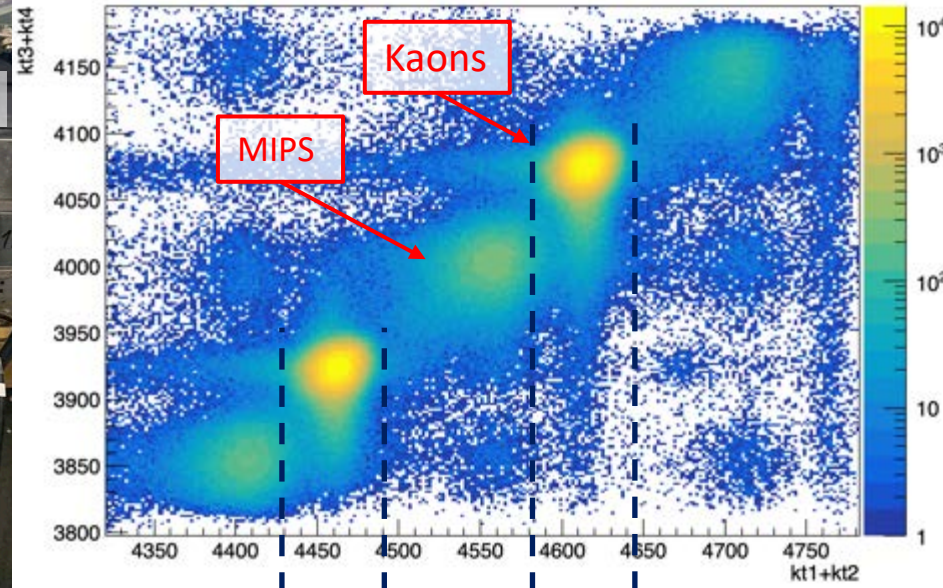
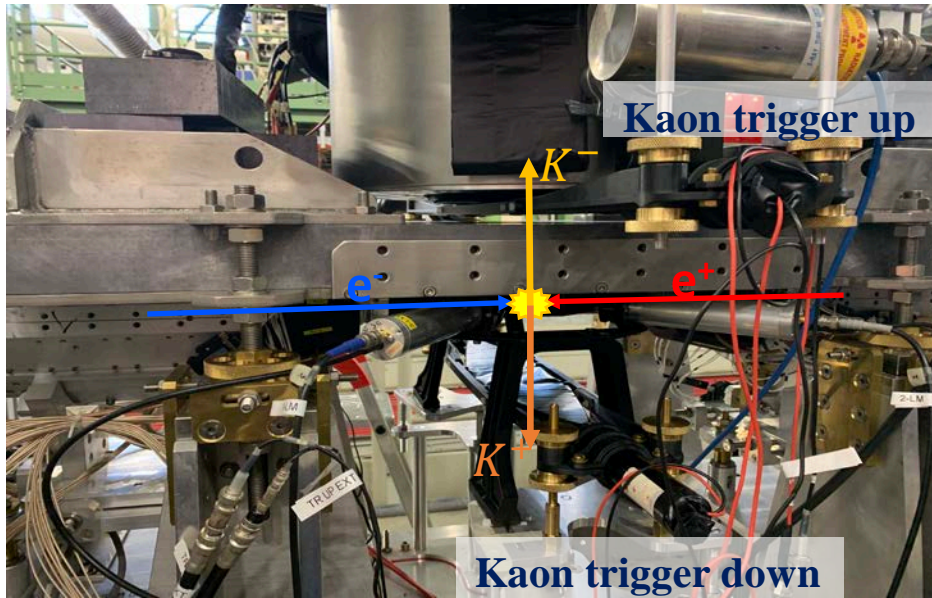


# Kaonic ${}^4\text{He}$ $3d \rightarrow 2p$ measurement

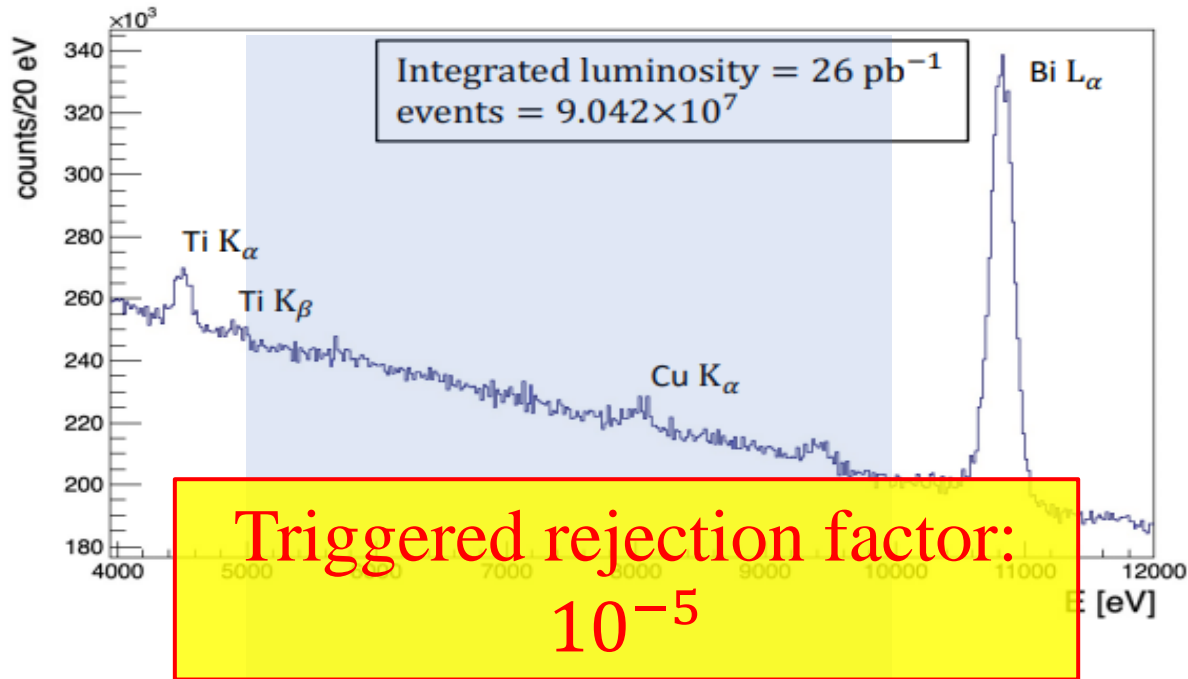
Sum of all SDDs after individual calibration



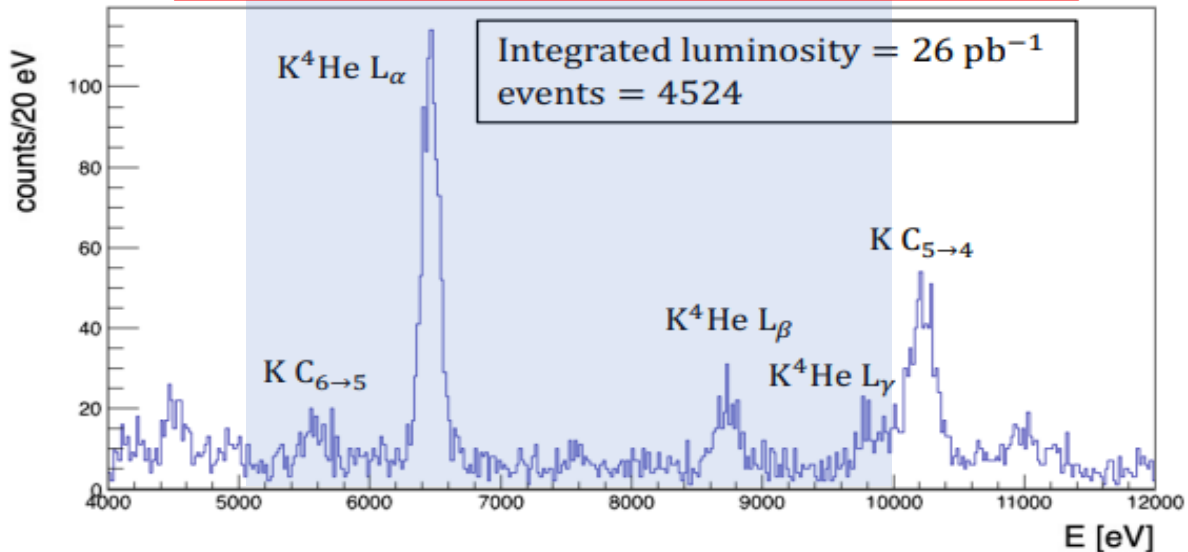
# Kaon Trigger



# Trigger rejection factor



Sum of all SDDs after individual calibration



Sum of all SDDs after individual calibration and trigger cut

# Degrader optimization

- to compensate assymetry in the kaon<sup>-</sup> momentum distribution (50 mrad crossing angle of the beams)
- to optimize the numbers of the stopped kaons inside the target

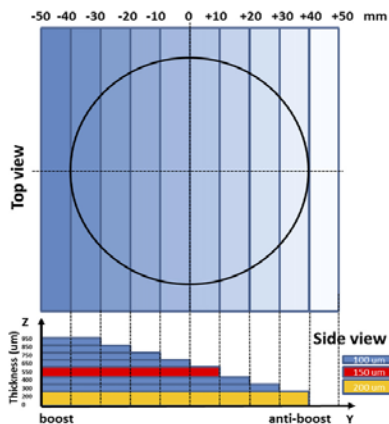
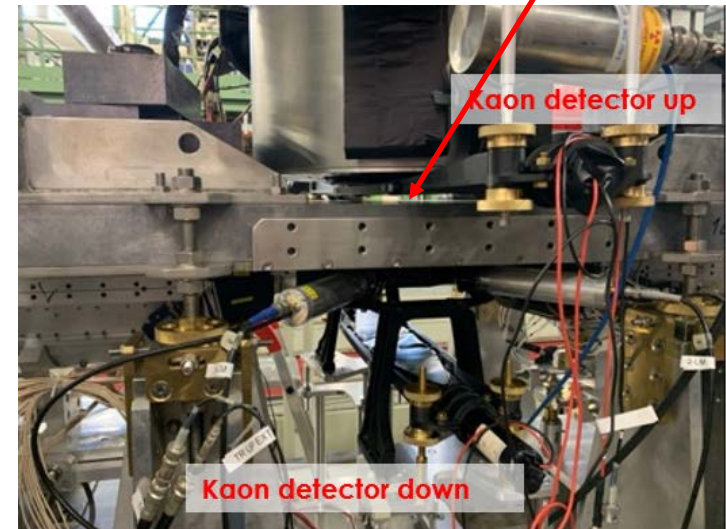
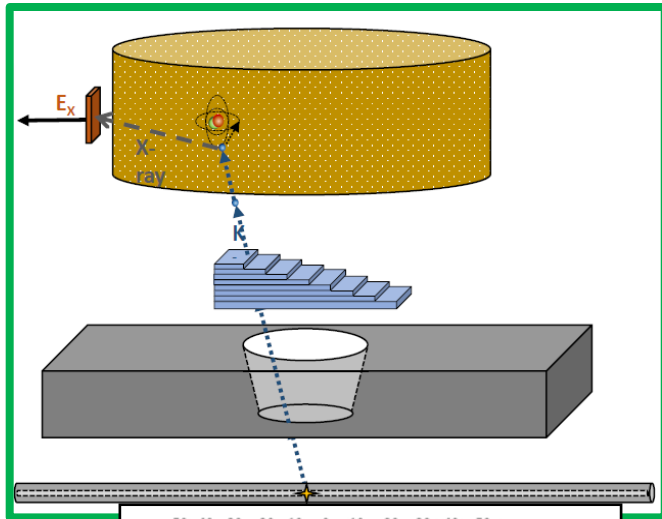
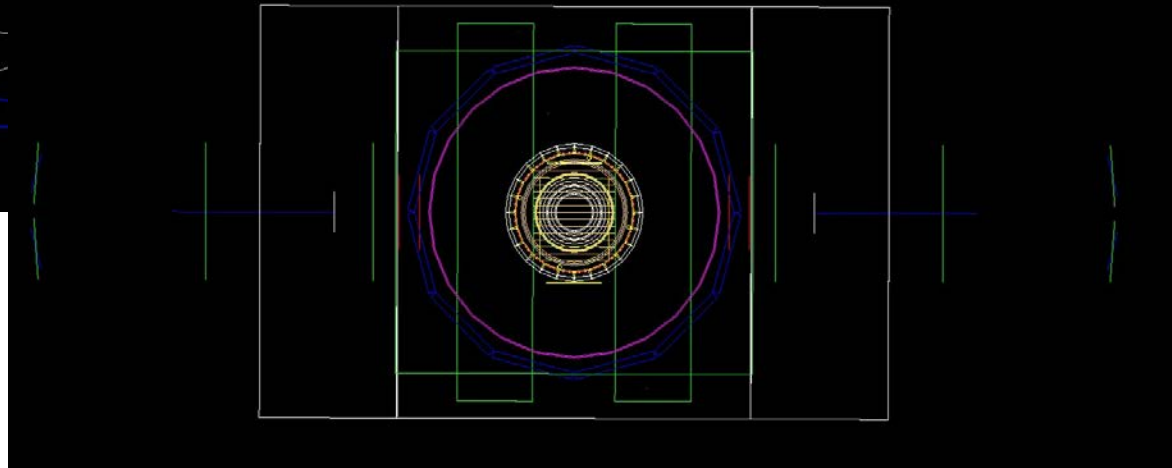
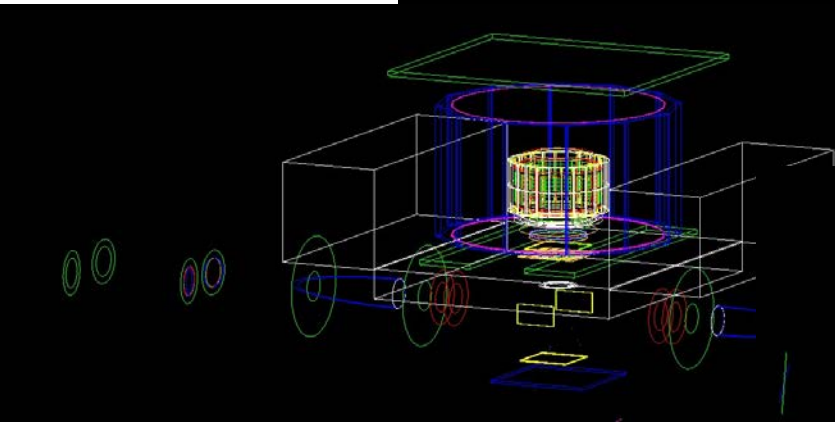
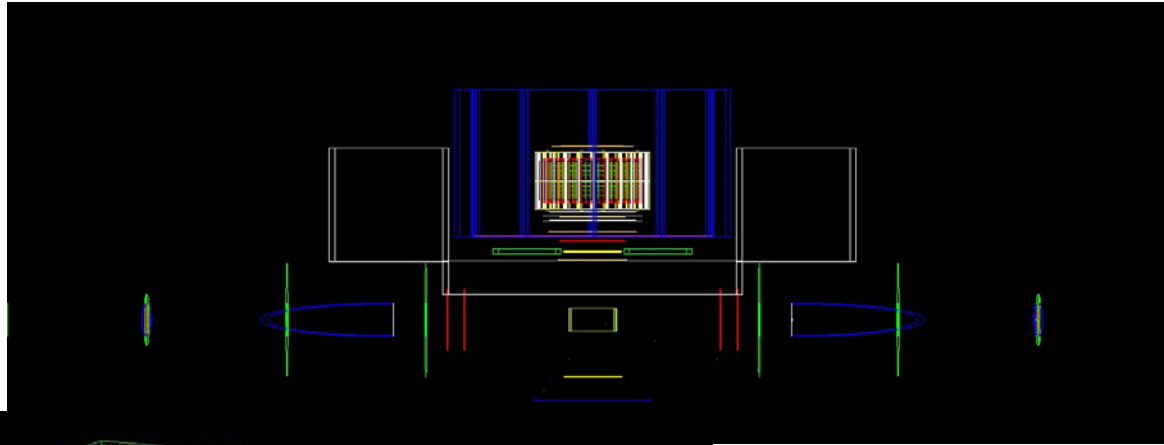


Figure 6. Nearest to optimal configuration of the Mylar degrader: the circle represents the size of the entrance window of the vacuum chamber; direction 'Y' points to the outer side of the DAΦNE ring, corresponding to the anti-boost side for kaons. The degrader has eight steps to compensate for the boost effect, with thicknesses shown in the lower part of the figure.

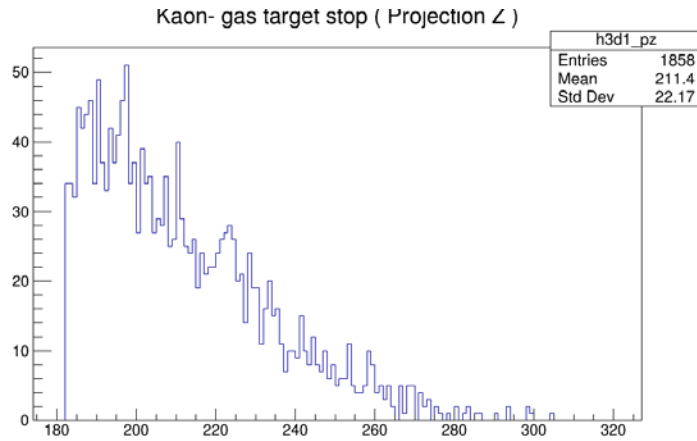


# SIDDHARTA-2 Monte Carlo simulation

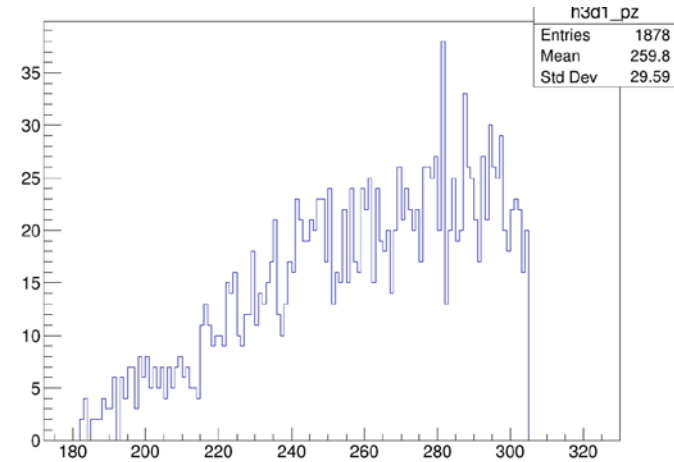


# SIDDHARTA-2 Monte Carlo simulation

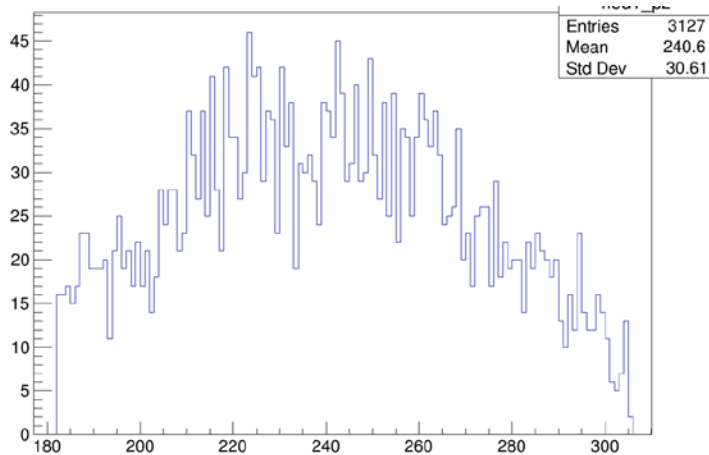
**KHe 1.5% LHeD**



Degrader : 600 um



Degrader : 350 um



Best Degrader : 500 um

**Efficiency of kaon stopped in the target**

No of kaons (stopped in the target)

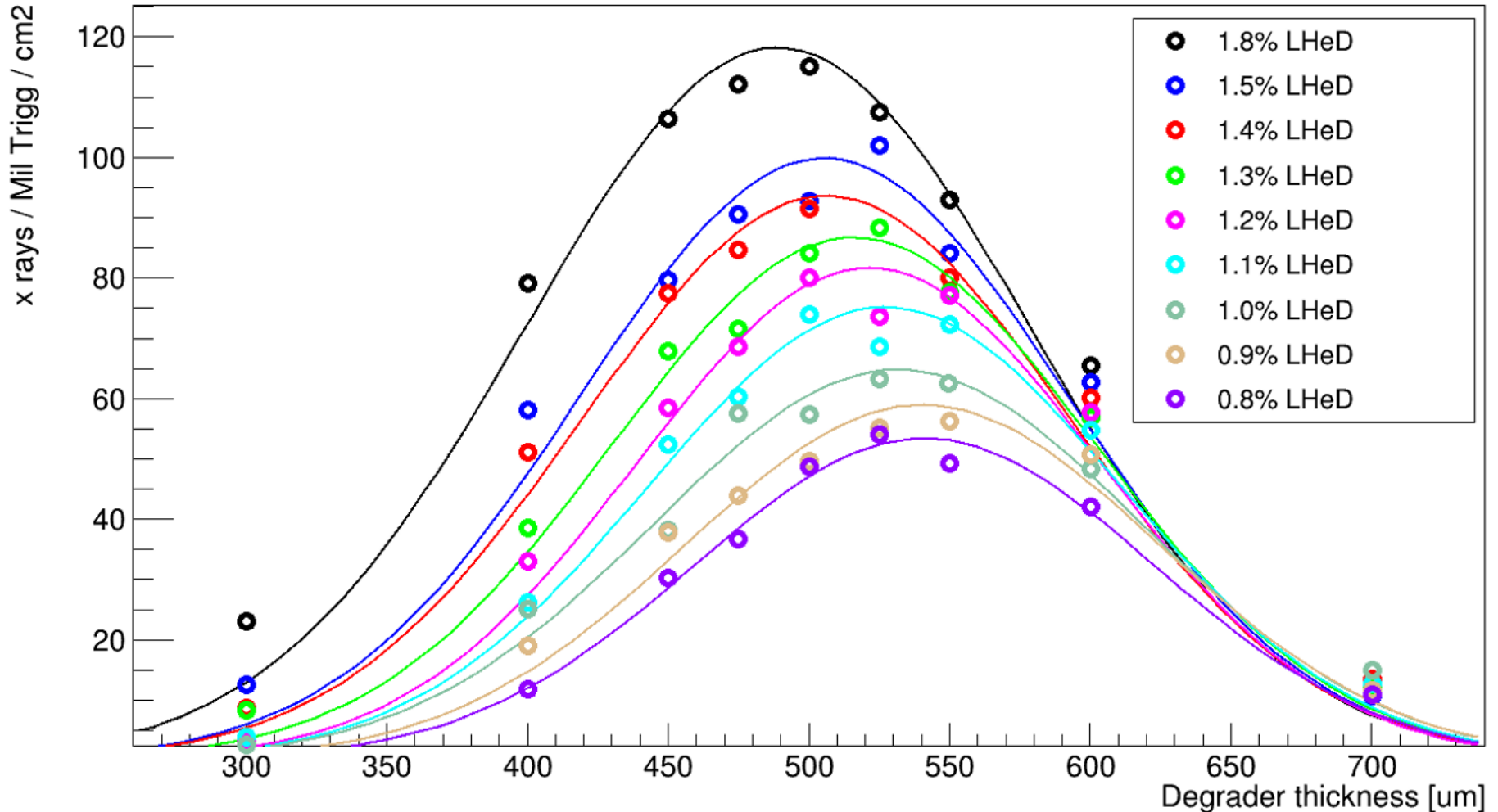
No of triggered kaons

**16,64%**



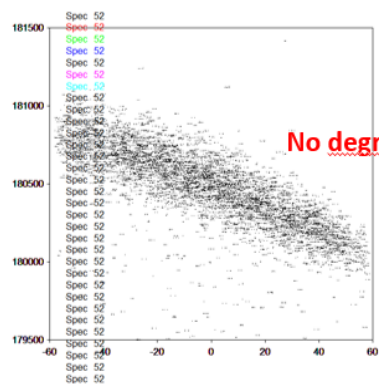
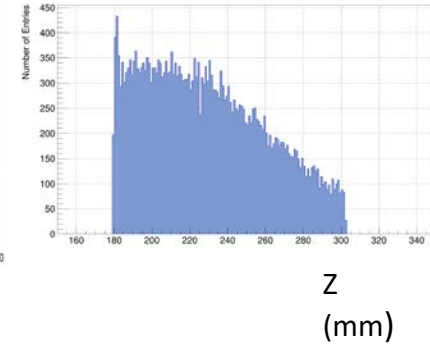
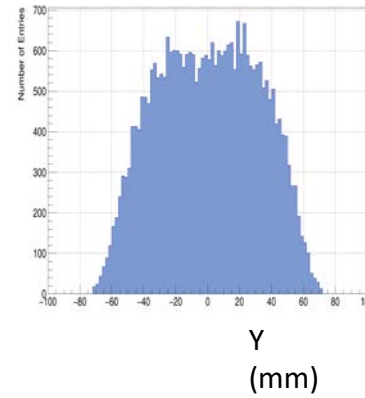
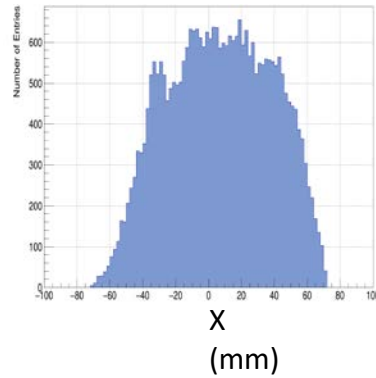
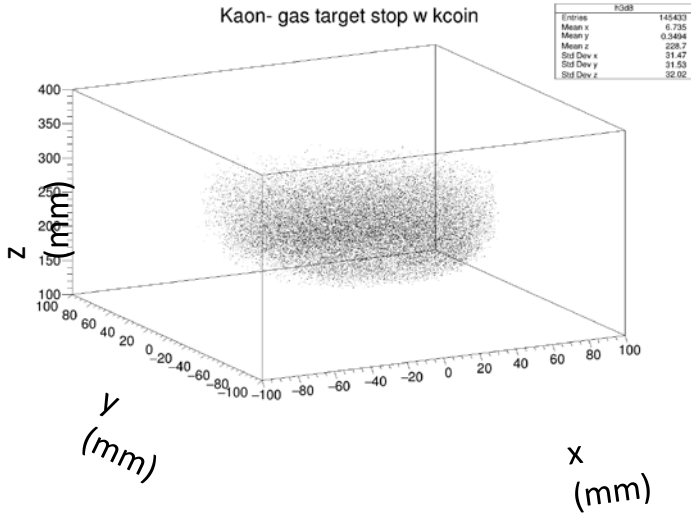
# Monte Carlo simulation degrader curve for different degrader configurations

Kaonic Helium Degradation curve (Y=100%)

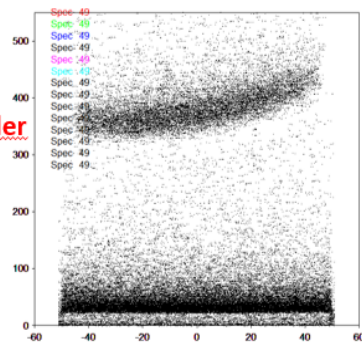


# Degrader thickness optimization is fundamental to maximize the number of stopped kaons in the target

## Results for Helium with density 1.5% LDD for the best degrader (500 um thickness)

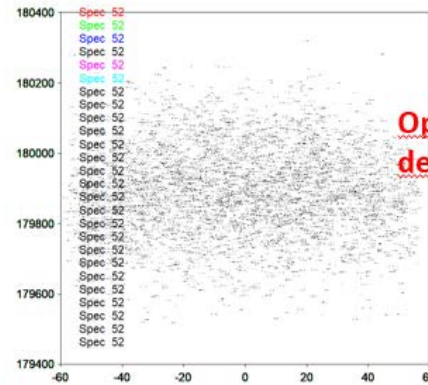


No degrader



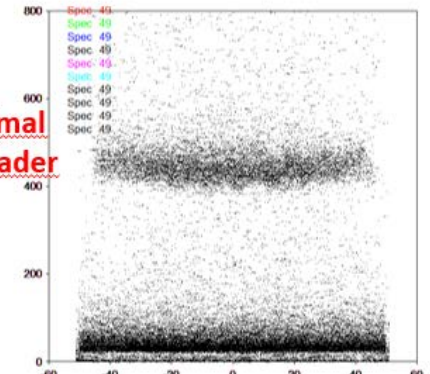
K stopped in the target:  
Z vs Y position (boost direction)

dE in Kaon Monitor Top vs Y  
(boost direction)



Optimal  
degrader

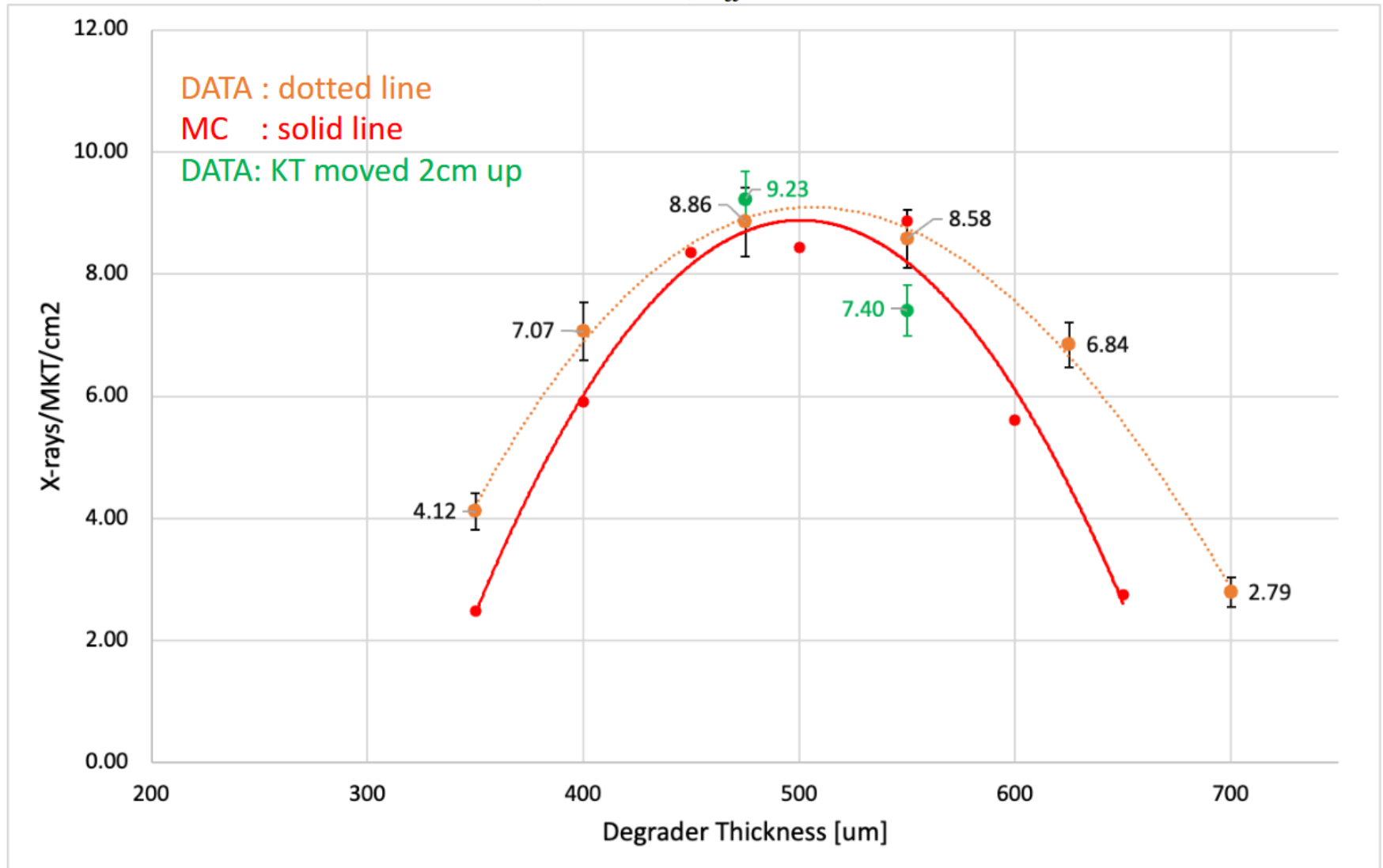
K stopped in the target:  
Z vs Y position (boost direction)



dE in Kaon Monitor Top vs Y  
(boost direction)

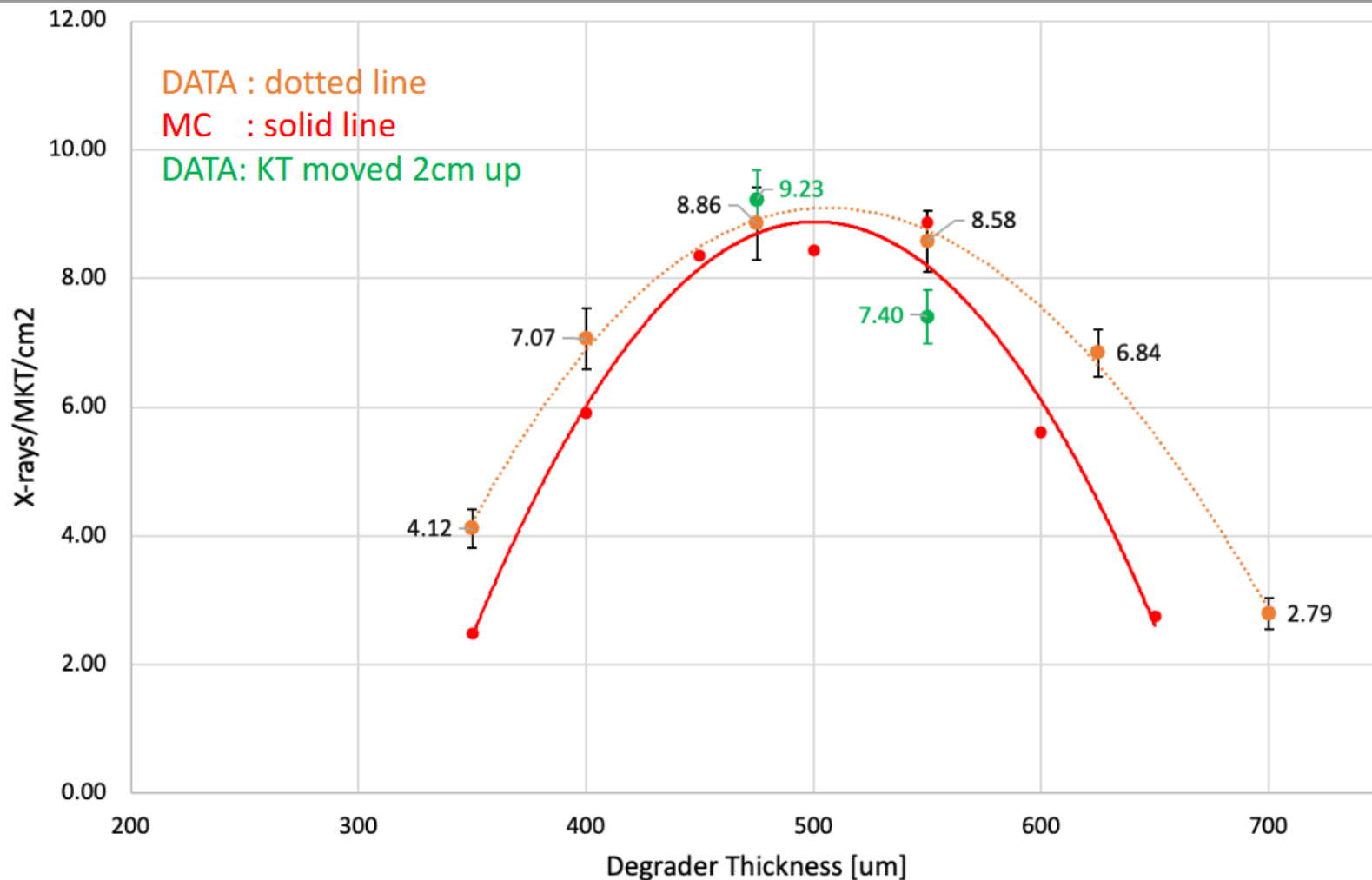
# SIDDHARTA-2 Kaonic Helium – degrader scan

1.5% LHeD; 275 SDDs;  $L_\alpha$  line 6.4 keV



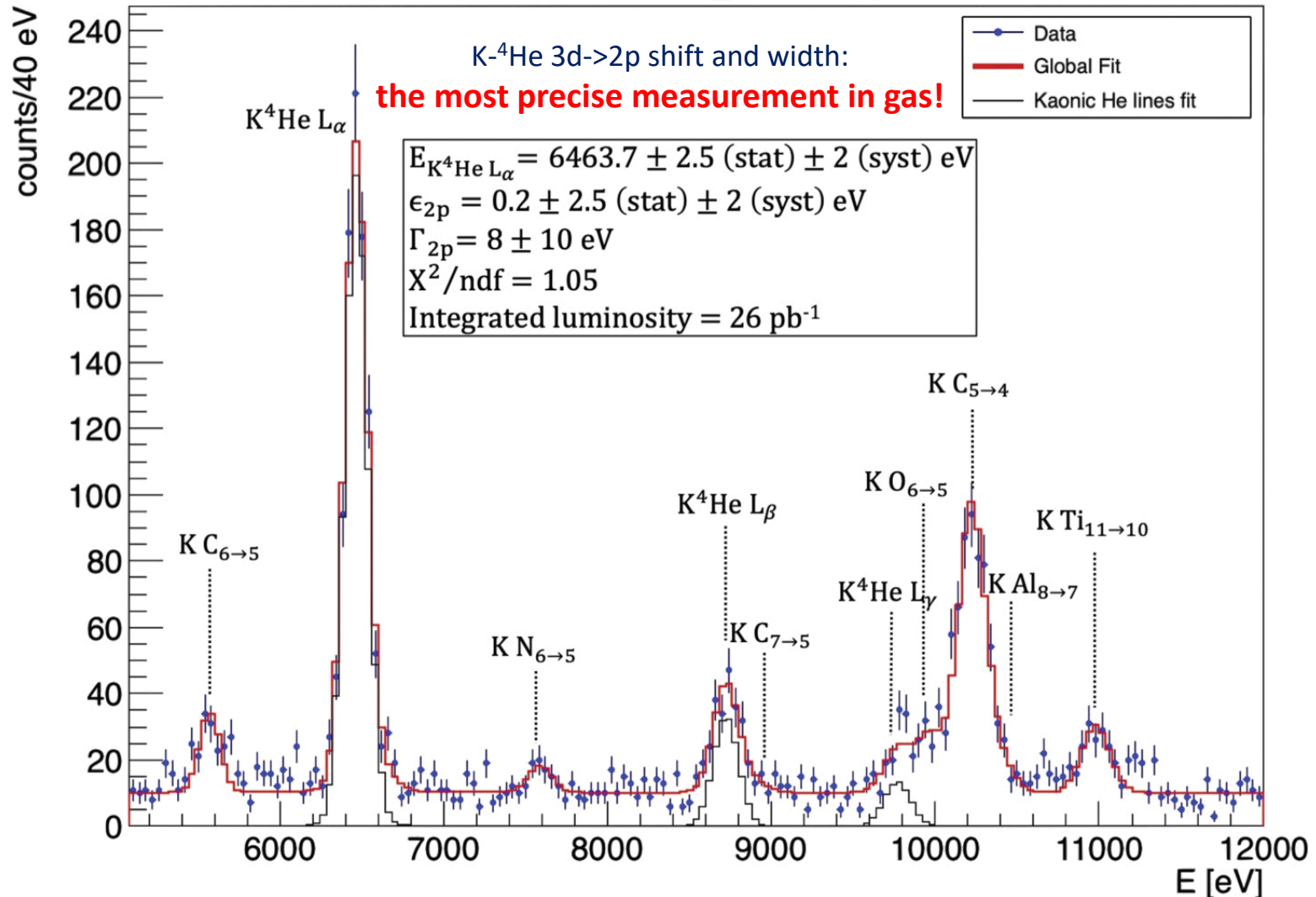
**The degrader curve was used to verify the compatibility of the simulation data with the experimental data.**

**Degrader optimization: sensitivity to 100 microns over all material budget (about 4 mm materials of various densities)!  
a very delicate and fundamental operation  
(knowledge of material budget at 2.5 % level)**



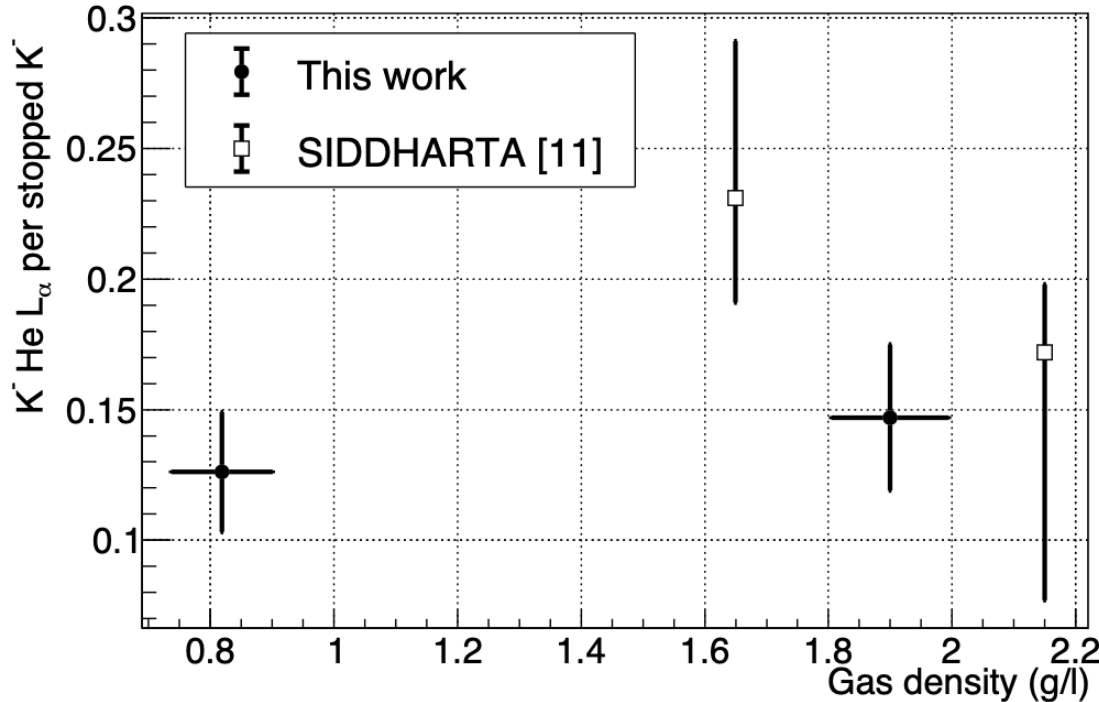
# SIDDHARTINO

## The kaonic ${}^4\text{He}$ $3d \rightarrow 2p$ ( $L_\alpha$ ) measurement



# SIDDHARTINO

## The kaonic $^4\text{He}$ yield measurement



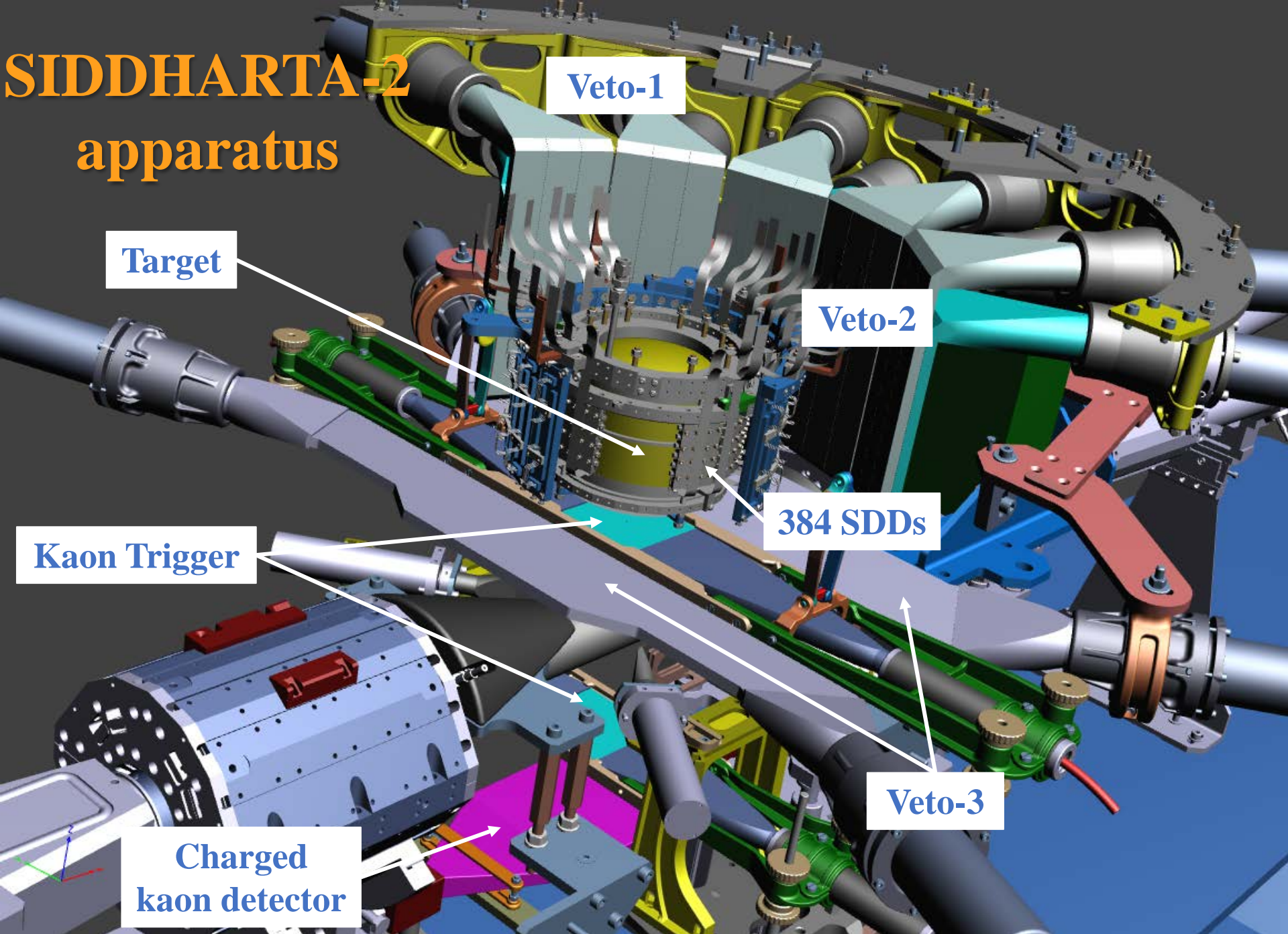
$K^-$ - $^4\text{He}$  low density run: 0.75% liquid helium density  $\rightarrow$  yields at lowest measured density

**Input of the cascade calculations for exotic atoms**

Density	1.90 g/l	0.82 g/l
$L_\alpha$ yield	$0.148 \pm 0.027$	$0.126 \pm 0.023$
$L_\beta/L_\alpha$	$0.193 \pm 0.042$	$0.133 \pm 0.037$
$L_\gamma/L_\alpha$	$0.035 \pm 0.015$	not detected



# SIDDHARTA-2 apparatus



# SIDDHARTA-2 apparatus

Target

Veto-1

commissioning of the SIDDHARTA-2 experiment: **helium**  
→ to crosscheck the performances of the experimental apparatus  
in its full version.

Kaon Trigger

384 SDDs

Veto-3

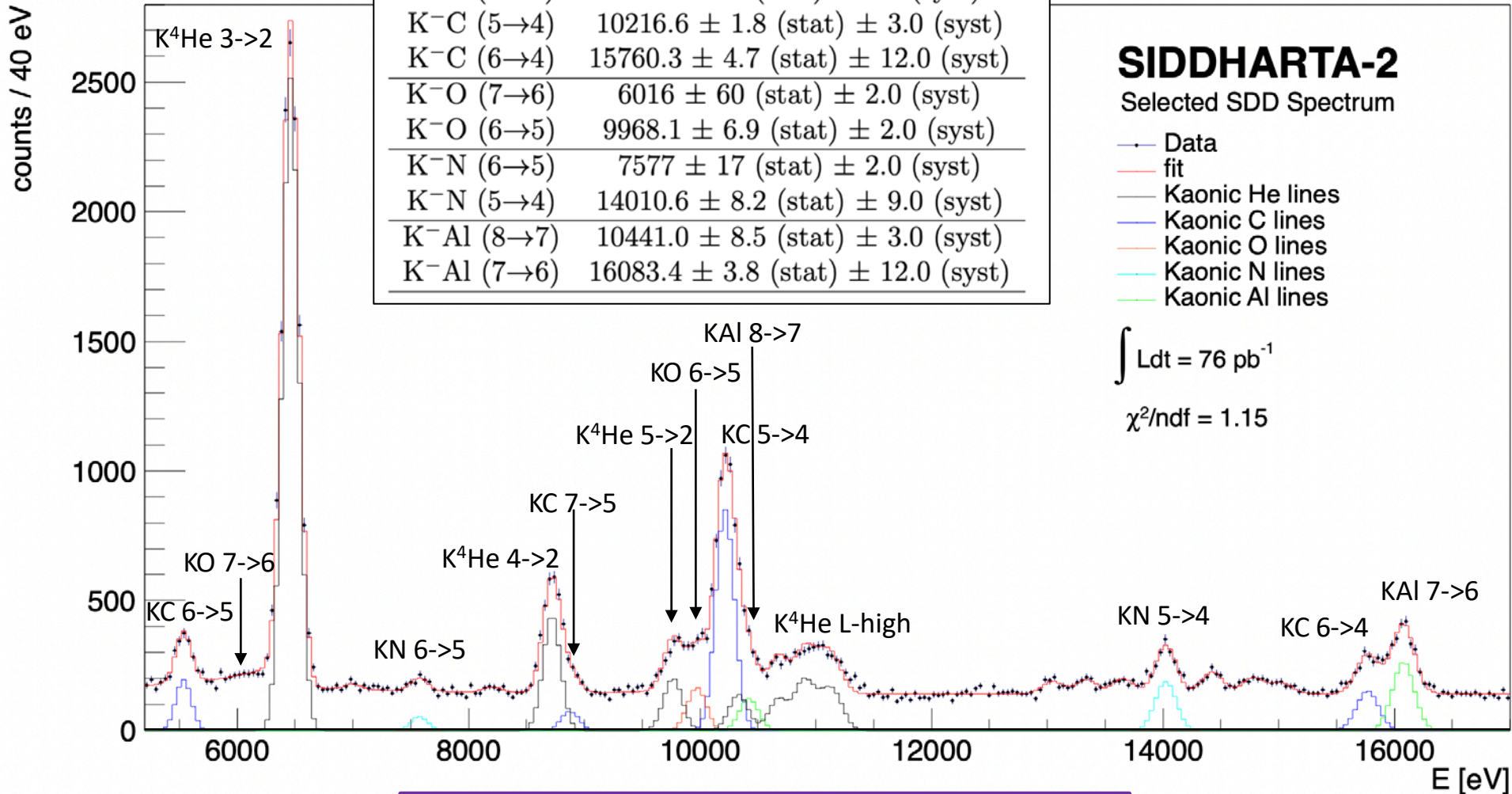
Charged  
kaon detector



# Measurements of high-n transitions in intermediate mass kaonic atoms

# SIDDHARTA-2 (2022)

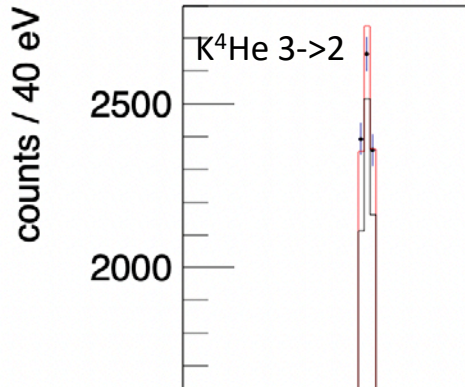
Transition	Energy (eV)
$K^4\text{He} (3 \rightarrow 2)$	$6461.4 \pm 0.8 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-C (6 \rightarrow 5)$	$5541.7 \pm 3.1 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-C (7 \rightarrow 5)$	$8890 \pm 13 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-C (5 \rightarrow 4)$	$10216.6 \pm 1.8 \text{ (stat)} \pm 3.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-C (6 \rightarrow 4)$	$15760.3 \pm 4.7 \text{ (stat)} \pm 12.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-O (7 \rightarrow 6)$	$6016 \pm 60 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-O (6 \rightarrow 5)$	$9968.1 \pm 6.9 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-N (6 \rightarrow 5)$	$7577 \pm 17 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-N (5 \rightarrow 4)$	$14010.6 \pm 8.2 \text{ (stat)} \pm 9.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-Al (8 \rightarrow 7)$	$10441.0 \pm 8.5 \text{ (stat)} \pm 3.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-Al (7 \rightarrow 6)$	$16083.4 \pm 3.8 \text{ (stat)} \pm 12.0 \text{ (syst)}$



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

# Measurements of high-n transitions in intermediate mass kaonic atoms

# SIDDHARTA-2 (2022)



Transition	Energy (eV)
$K^4\text{He} (3 \rightarrow 2)$	$6461.4 \pm 0.8 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-C (6 \rightarrow 5)$	$5541.7 \pm 3.1 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-C (7 \rightarrow 5)$	$8890 \pm 13 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-C (5 \rightarrow 4)$	$10216.6 \pm 1.8 \text{ (stat)} \pm 3.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-C (6 \rightarrow 4)$	$15760.3 \pm 4.7 \text{ (stat)} \pm 12.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-O (7 \rightarrow 6)$	$6016 \pm 60 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-O (6 \rightarrow 5)$	$9968.1 \pm 6.9 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-N (6 \rightarrow 5)$	$7577 \pm 17 \text{ (stat)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-N (5 \rightarrow 4)$	$14010.6 \pm 8.2 \text{ (stat)} \pm 9.0 \text{ (syst)}$
$K^-Al (8 \rightarrow 7)$	$10441.0 \pm 8.5 \text{ (stat)} \pm 3.0 \text{ (syst)}$
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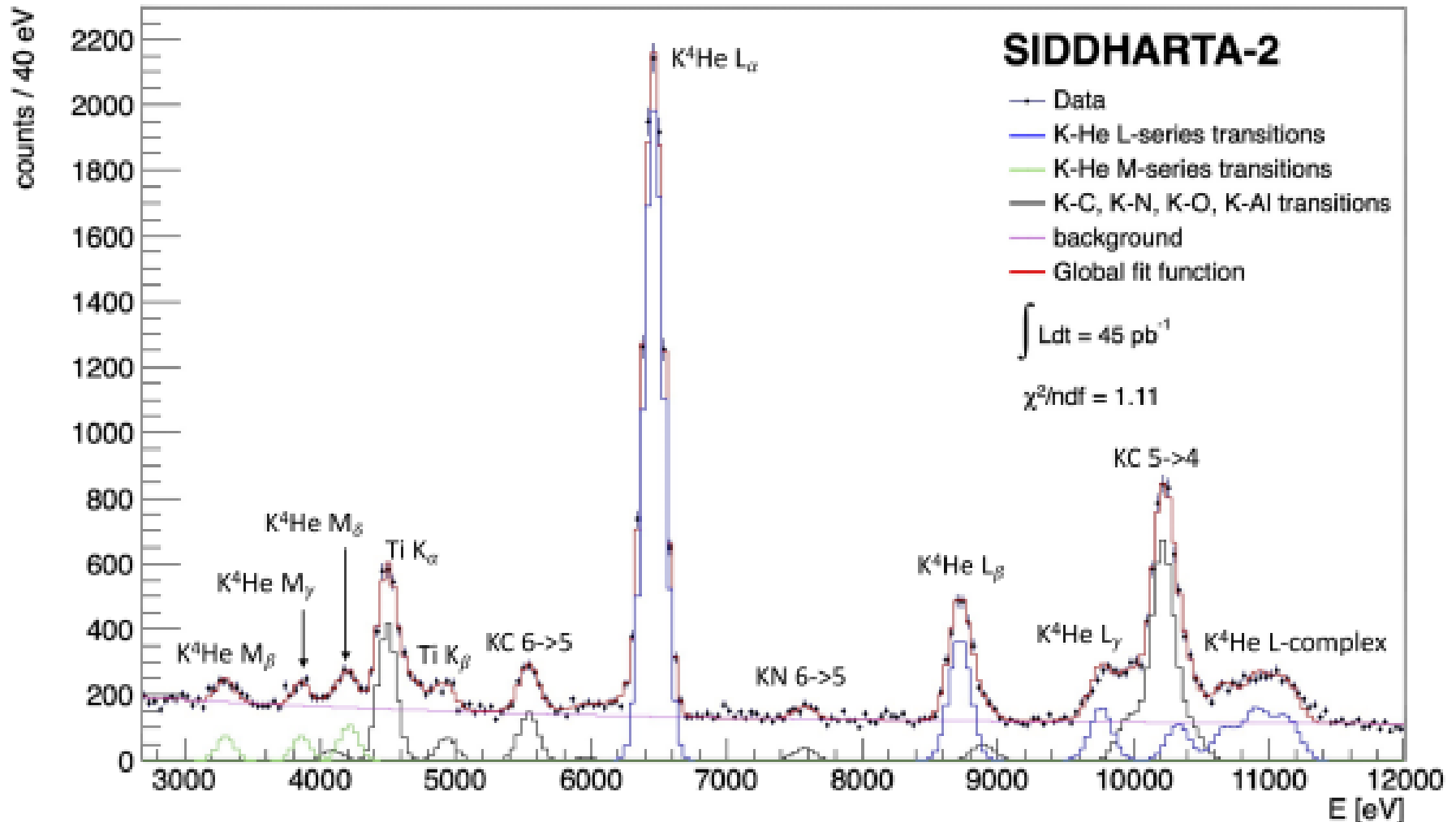
**SIDDHARTA-2**  
Selected SDD Spectrum

— Data  
— fit  
— Kaonic He lines  
— Kaonic C lines  
— Kaonic O lines  
— Kaonic N lines  
— Kaonic Al lines

The new kaonic atoms measurements:

- add valuable input to the kaonic atoms transitions data base, which is used as a reference for theories and models of the low-energy strong interaction between antikaon and nuclei
- pave the way for future dedicated kaonic atoms measurements through the whole periodic table and to a new era for the antikaon-nuclei studies at low energy

## Kaonic $^4\text{He}$ – M-type transitions



# SIDDHARTA-2

## Kaonic $^4\text{He}$ – M-type transitions

KHe 6->3  
( $M_\gamma$ )

KHe 7->3  
( $M_\eta$ )

KHe 8->3  
4435.4 eV

KHe 9->3  
4587.3 eV

KHe 11->3  
4696.6 eV

**SIDDHARTA-2**

Line	Energy [eV]
$\text{K-}^4\text{He } M_\beta$	$3300.8 \pm 13.2$ (stat) $\pm 2.0$ (sys)
$\text{K-}^4\text{He } M_\gamma$	$3860.4 \pm 13.6$ (stat) $\pm 2.2$ (sys)
$\text{K-}^4\text{He } M_\eta$	$4214.1 \pm 19.6$ (stat) $\pm 2.2$ (sys)

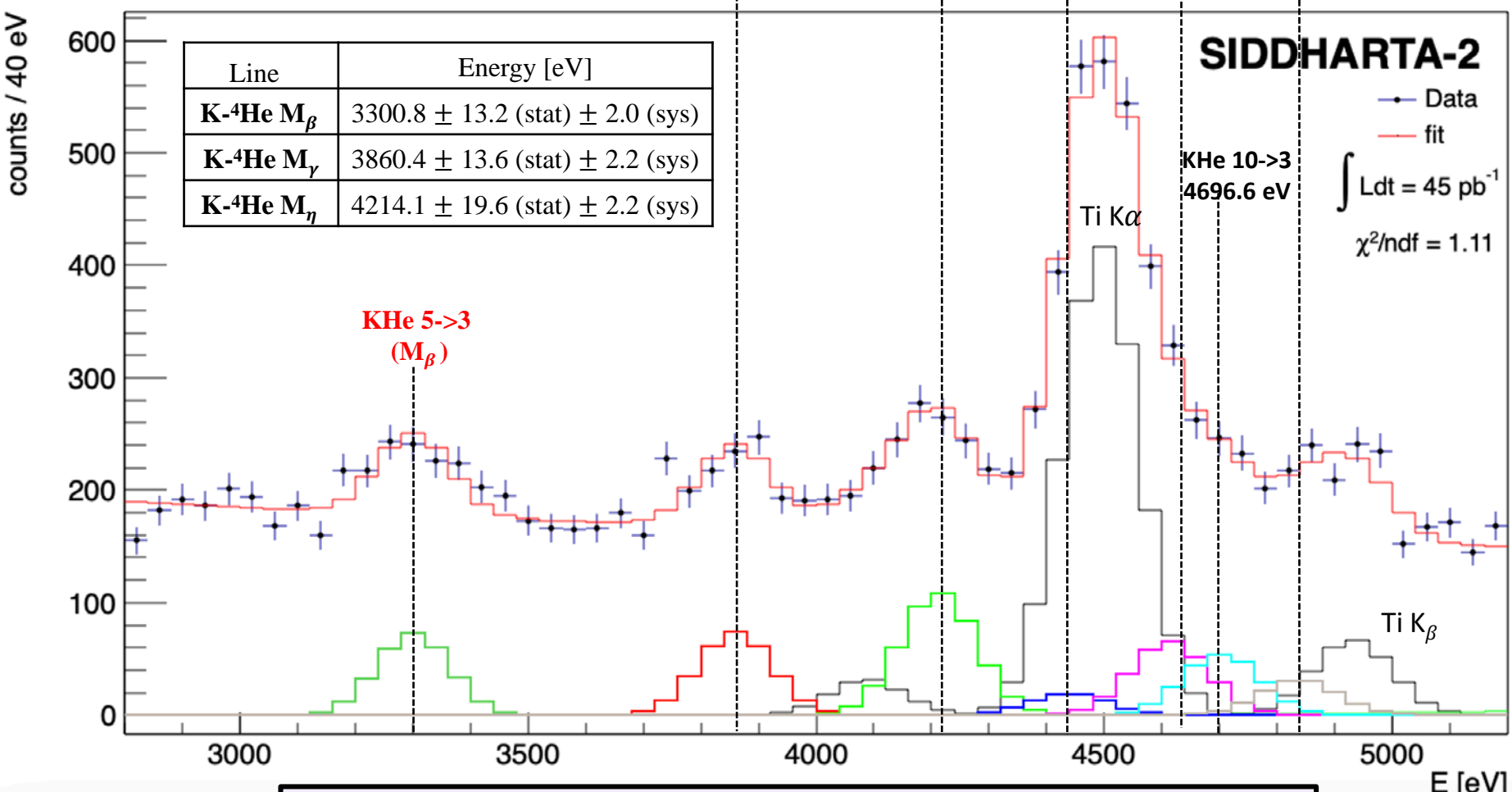
— Data  
— fit  
 $\int \text{Ldt} = 45 \text{ pb}^{-1}$   
 $\chi^2/\text{ndf} = 1.11$

KHe 5->3  
( $M_\beta$ )

KHe 10->3  
4696.6 eV

Ti  $K\alpha$

Ti  $K\beta$



Paper ready to be submitted to *J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys.*



# SIDDHARTA-2

## Kaonic $^4\text{He}$ yield

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Density	1.375 g/l
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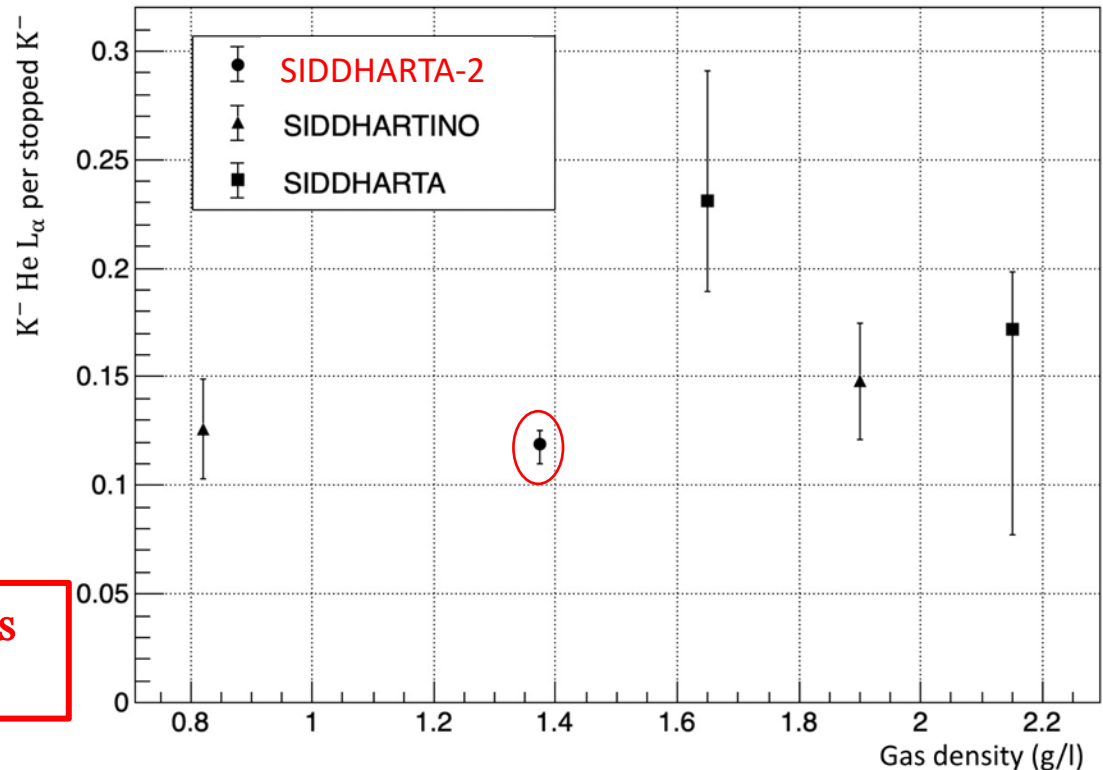
$L_\alpha$ yield	$0.119 \pm 0.002$ (stat) $^{+0.006}_{-0.009}$ (sys)
$M_\beta$ yield	$0.026 \pm 0.003$ (stat) $^{+0.010}_{-0.001}$ (sys)

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$L_\beta / L_\alpha$	$0.172 \pm 0.008$ (stat)
$L_\gamma / L_\alpha$	$0.012 \pm 0.001$ (stat)
$L_\beta / M_\beta$	$0.91 \pm 0.14$ (stat)
$M_\gamma / M_\beta$	$0.48 \pm 0.11$ (stat)
$M_\delta / M_\beta$	$0.43 \pm 0.12$ (stat)

---

first experimental measurement of the M-series transitions yields, providing new experimental data to optimize the cascade models for kaonic helium



develop cascade models across the density scale

# Outcomes

➤ **The SIDDHARTINO experiment has successfully been concluded during the commissioning phase of the collider in 2021.**

➤ **SIDDHARTA-2 at DAFNE**

- Installation of the full SIDDHARTA-2 setup
- Kaonic  $^4\text{He}$  test run concluded in July 2022

- ✓ Performed the most precise K- $^4\text{He}$  3d  $\rightarrow$  2p measurement in gas
- ✓ Several solid target high-n transition energies measured for the first time
- ✓ The first measurement of the M-series transitions energies and yields of the K- $^4\text{He}$

# Outcomes

The SIDDHARTINO experiment **sets the ground for the kaonic deuterium measurement with the SIDDHARTA-2** experiment, which starts the data acquisition campaign in 2022 and continuing in 2023 and 2024, for an overall integrated luminosity of  $800 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ .

**Other types of kaonic atom measurements with various radiation detectors are presently under consideration**, to be proposed and performed after the SIDDHARTA-2 run. (see talk of F. Sgaramella)

They could further contribute to a deeper understanding of the strong interaction in the low-energy regime in the strangeness sector, impacting particle and nuclear physics and also astrophysics.

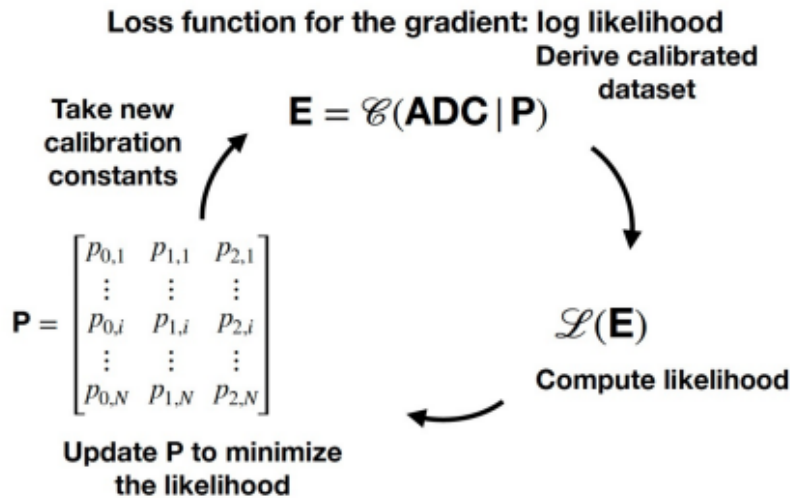
# THANK YOU



**SPARE**



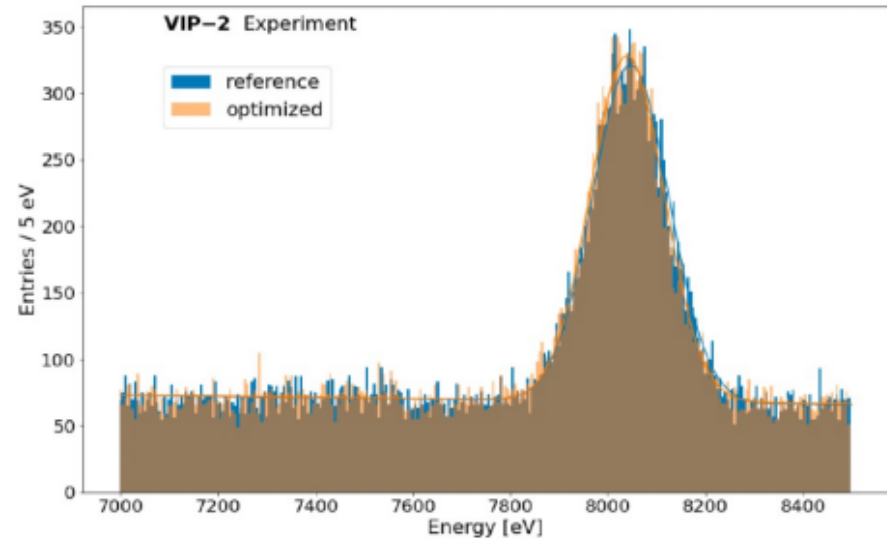
# SDD energy calibration with ML and Differential Programming



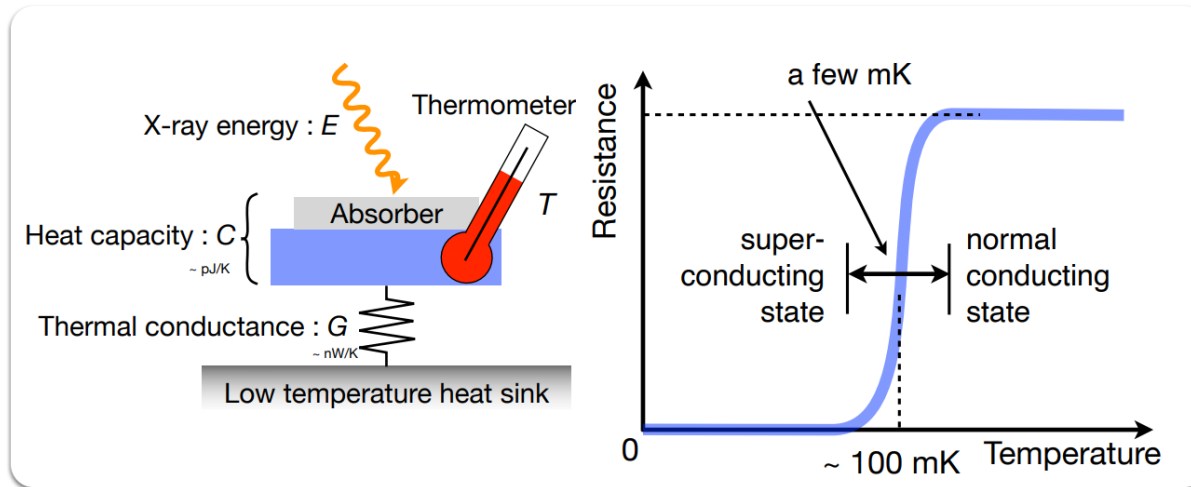
*The method can correct for miscalibration improving the systematic error*

	Position [eV]	FWHM [eV]	$\chi^2/ndf$
Reference	$8050 \pm 1$	$185 \pm 2$	1.64
Optimized	$8048 \pm 1$	$176 \pm 2$	1.25

*F. Napolitano et al. paper accepted for publication on Meas. Sci. and Tech.*

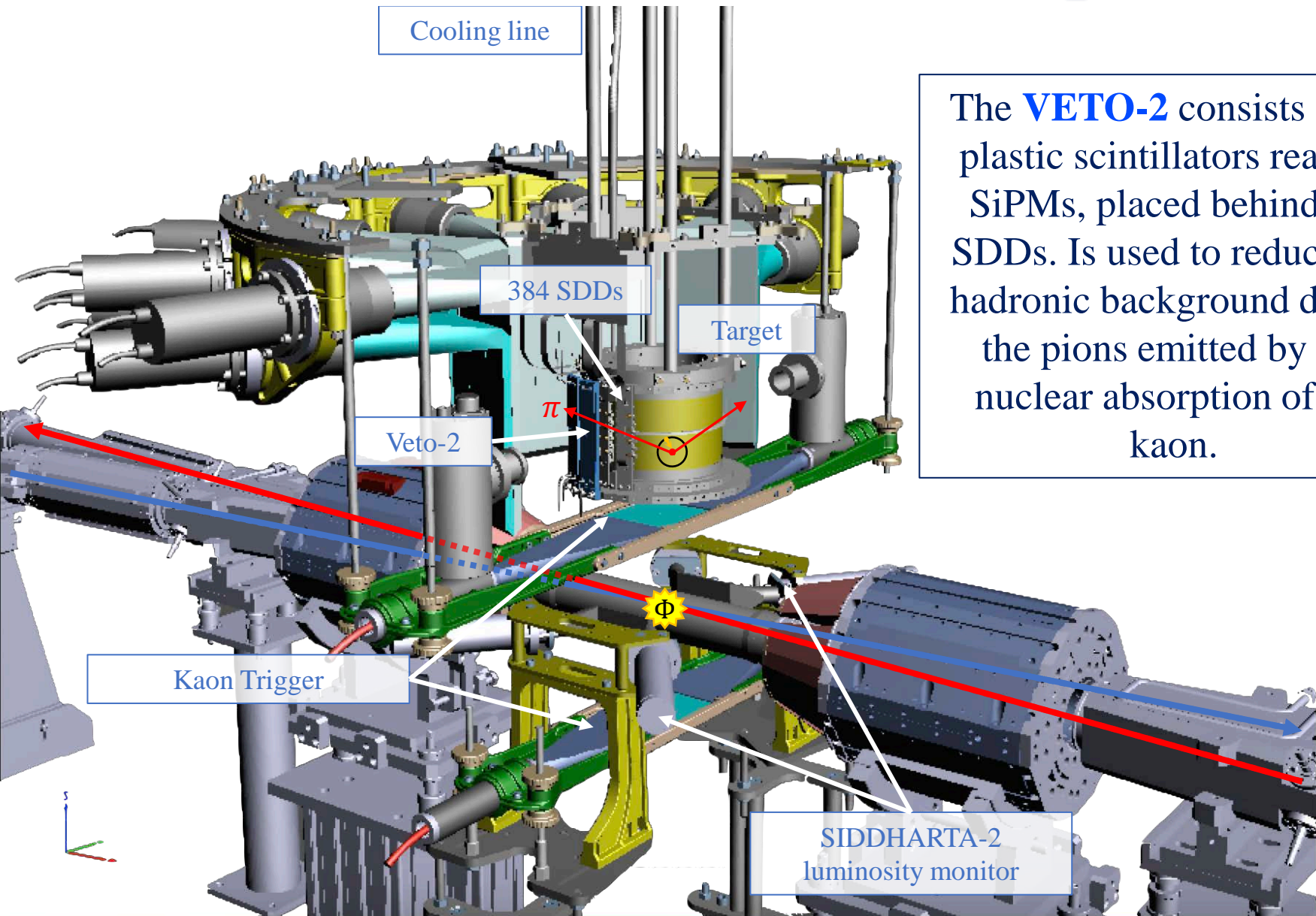


# Transition-Edge-Sensor microcalorimeters



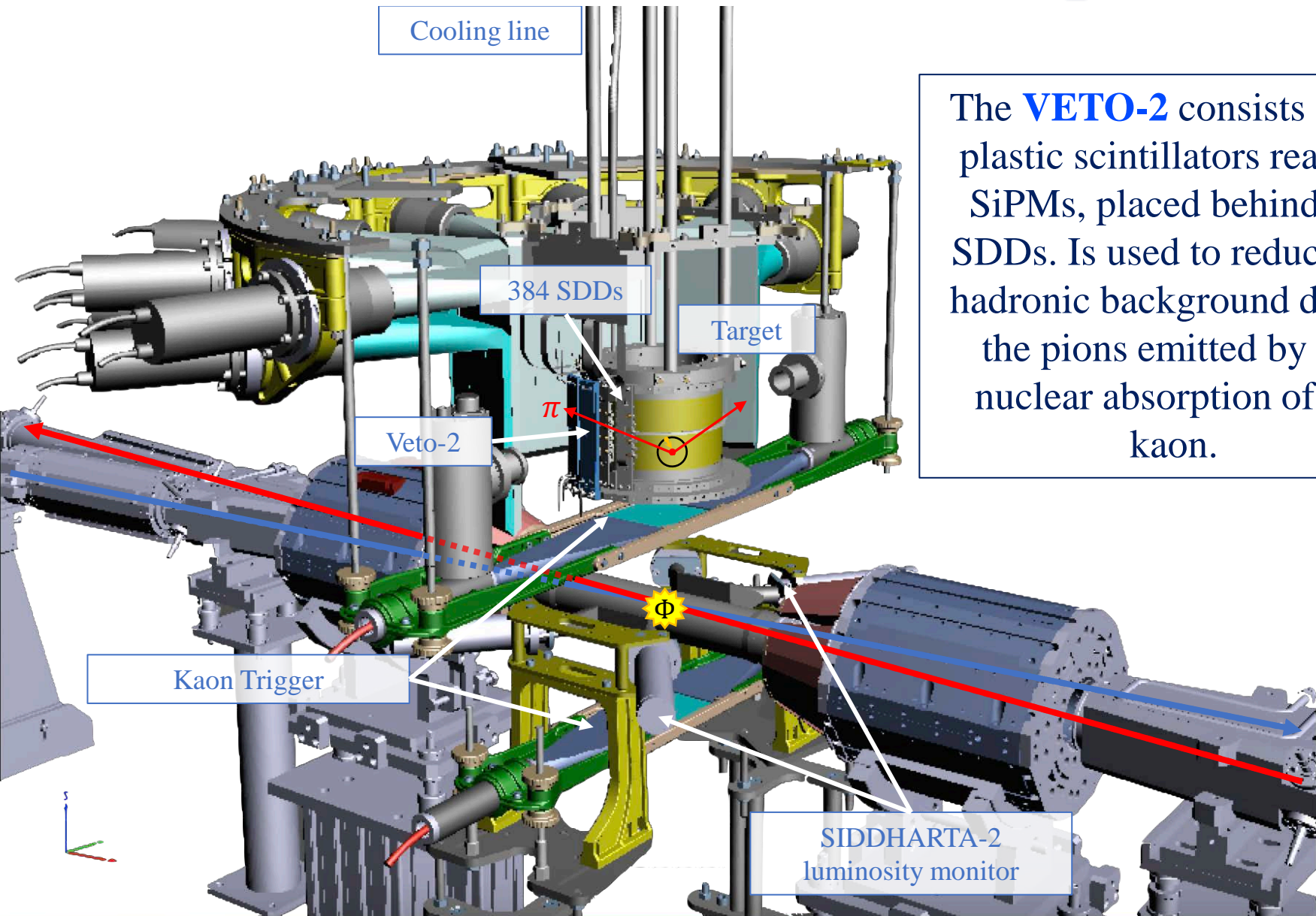
- ✓ Excellent energy resolution  **$\sim 5 \text{ eV FWHM}$**
- ✓ Reasonable dynamic range  **$4\text{-}15 \text{ keV}$**
- ✓ Multiplexing technique using SQUID  **$240 \text{ pixels}$**

# SIDDHARTA-2 setup



The **VETO-2** consists of 96 plastic scintillators read by SiPMs, placed behind the SDDs. It is used to reduce the hadronic background due to the pions emitted by the nuclear absorption of the kaon.

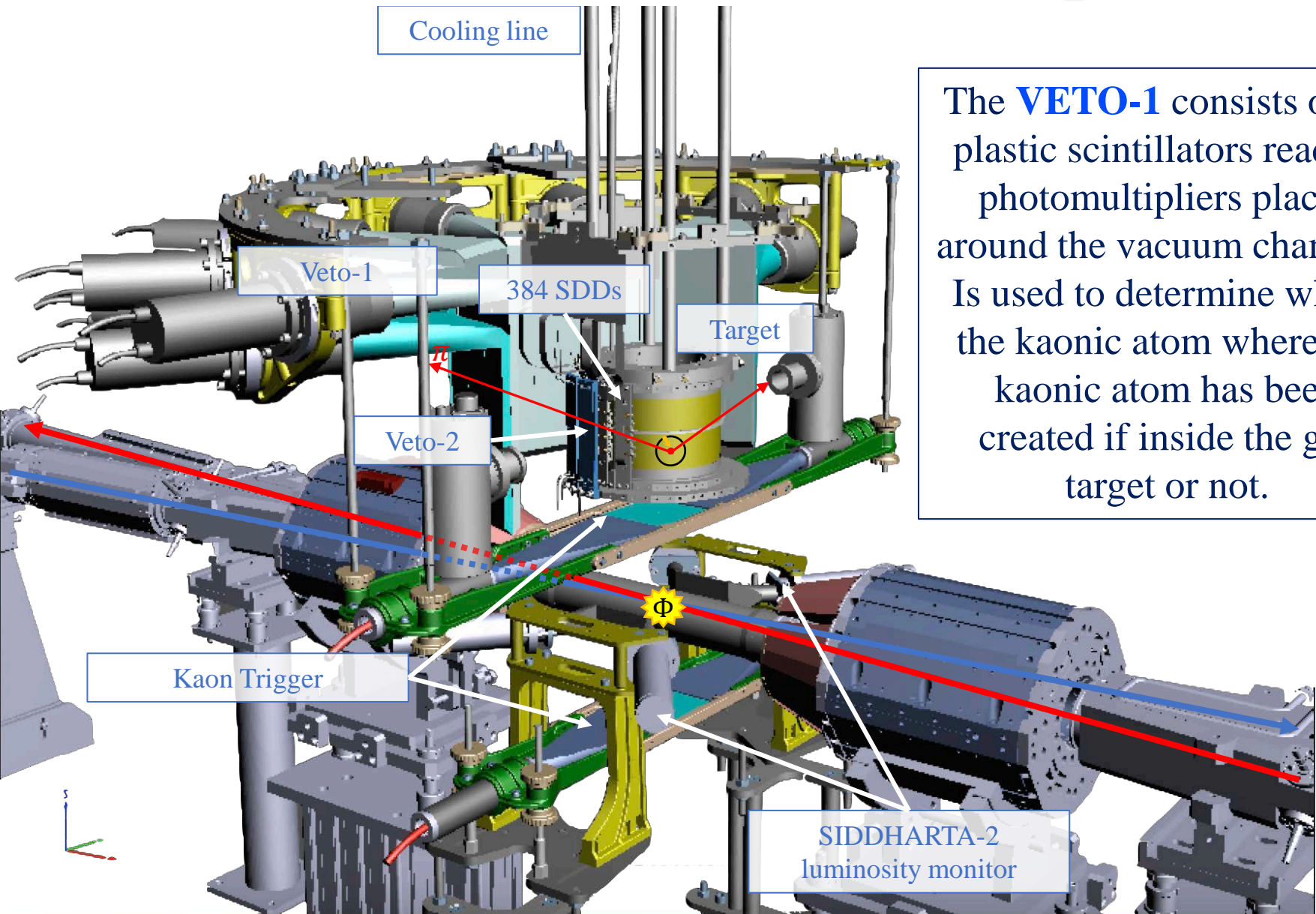
# SIDDHARTA-2 setup



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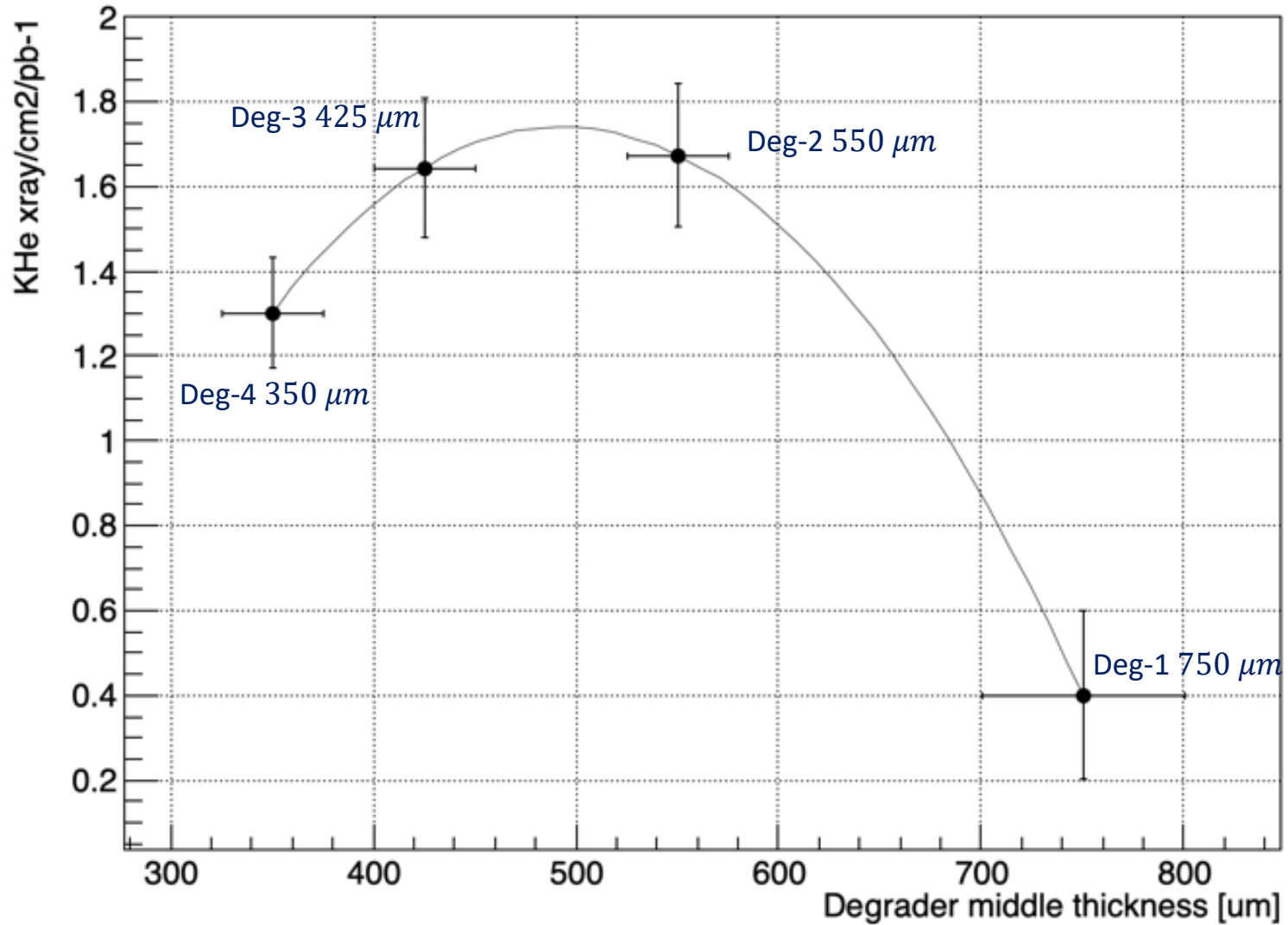
# SIDDHARTA-2 setup



The **VETO-1** consists of 12 plastic scintillators read by photomultipliers placed around the vacuum chamber. Is used to determine where the kaonic atom where the kaonic atom has been created if inside the gas target or not.

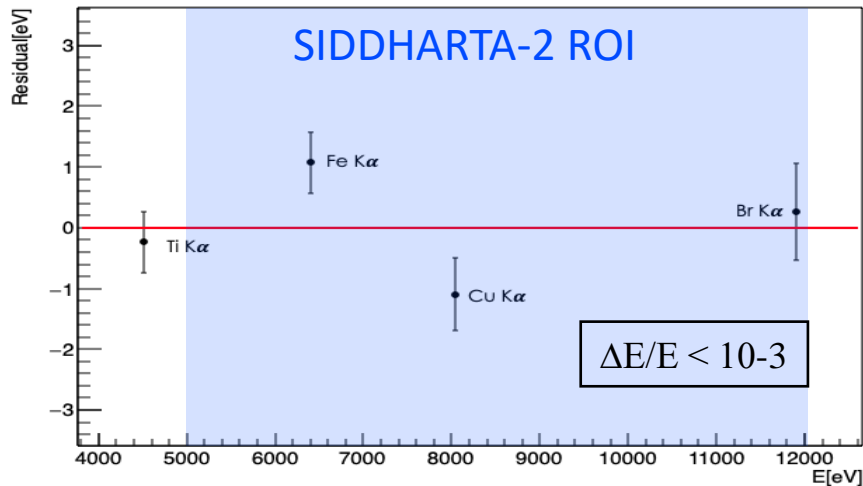


# Degrader Curve

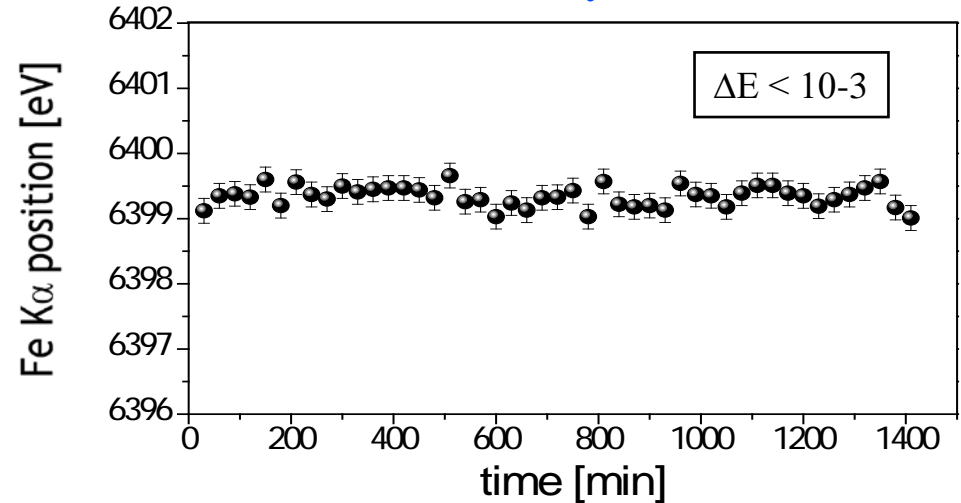


# Silicon Drift Detectors

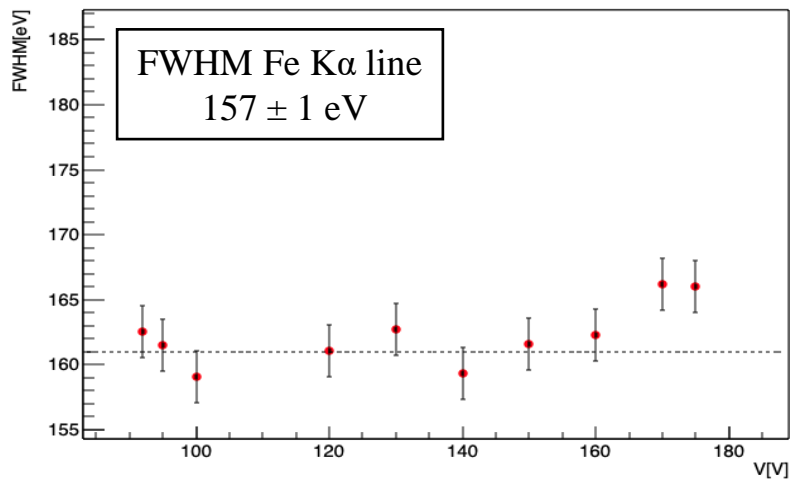
## Linearity



## Stability



## Energy Resolution



## Timing Resolution

