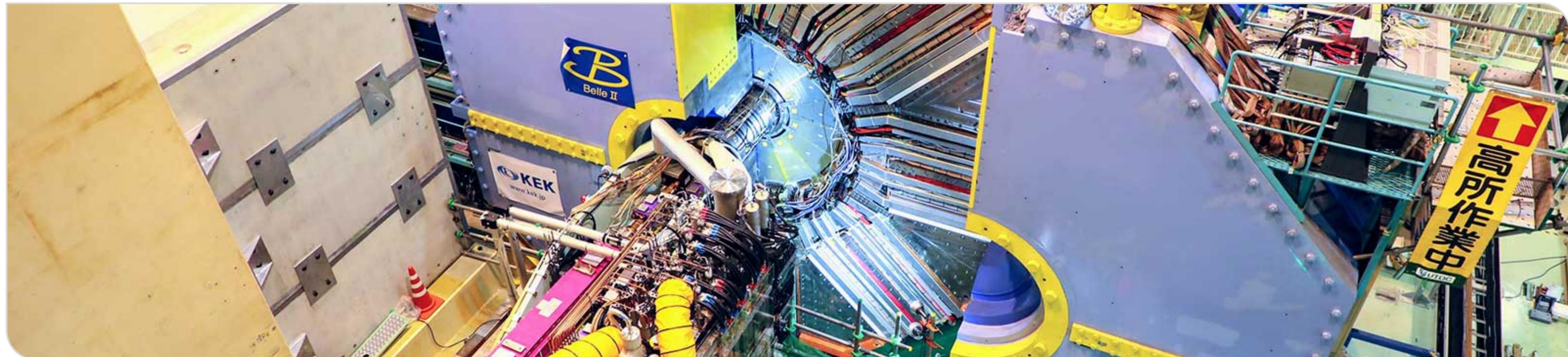


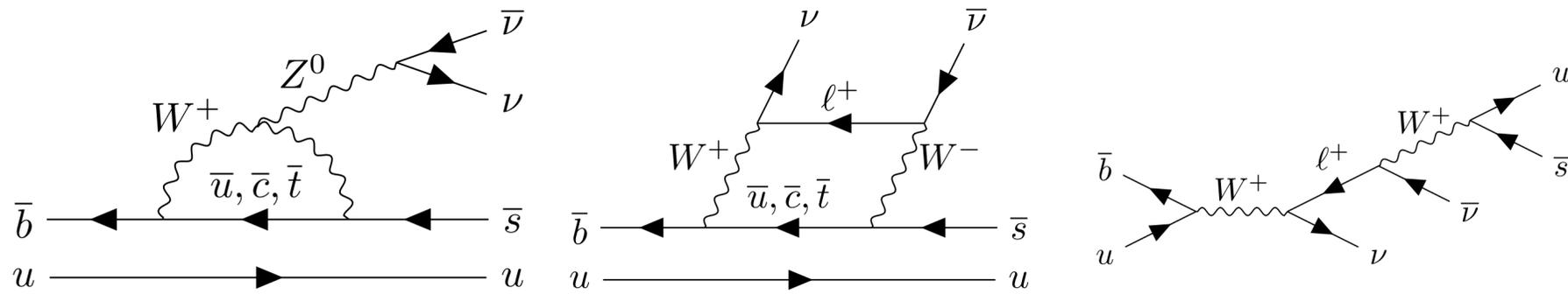
$B \rightarrow K + \text{invisible}$ at Belle II

Slavomira Stefkova on behalf of the Belle II collaboration
CKM conference 2023, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, September 21st 2023

slavomira.stefkova@kit.edu

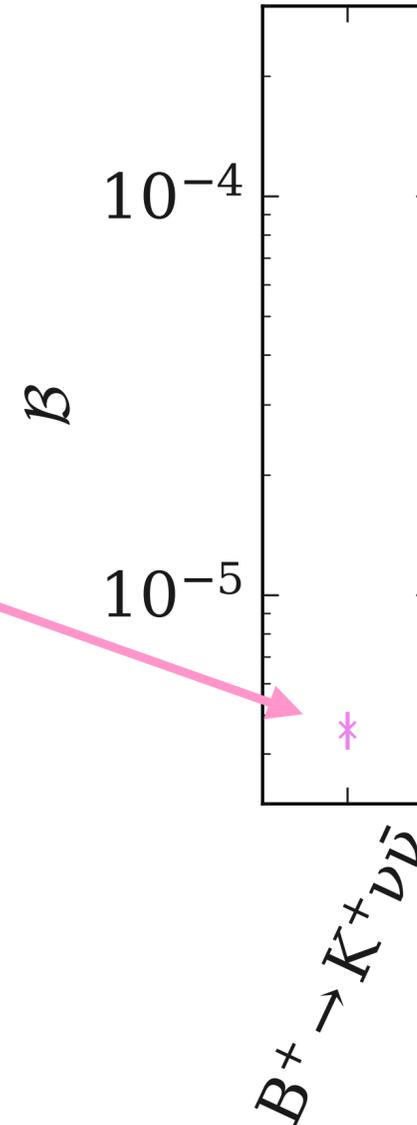


$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ Decays: SM

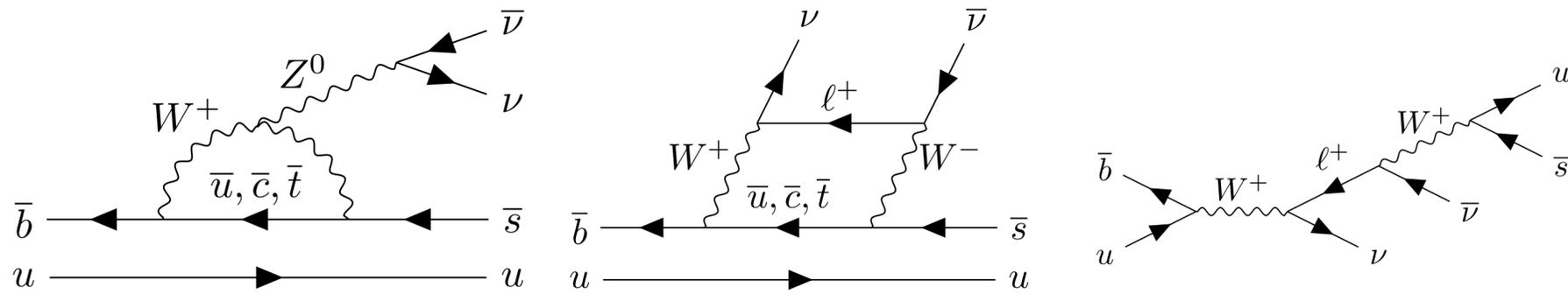


$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decays in SM:

- Flavour-changing neutral current ($b \rightarrow s$) transitions
- Precise SM prediction: $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (5.58 \pm 0.37) \times 10^{-6}$
[\[Phys. Rev. D 107, 1324 014511 \(2023\), Phys. Rev. D 107, 119903 \(2023\)\]](#)
- Leading theoretical uncertainty from hadronic form factors

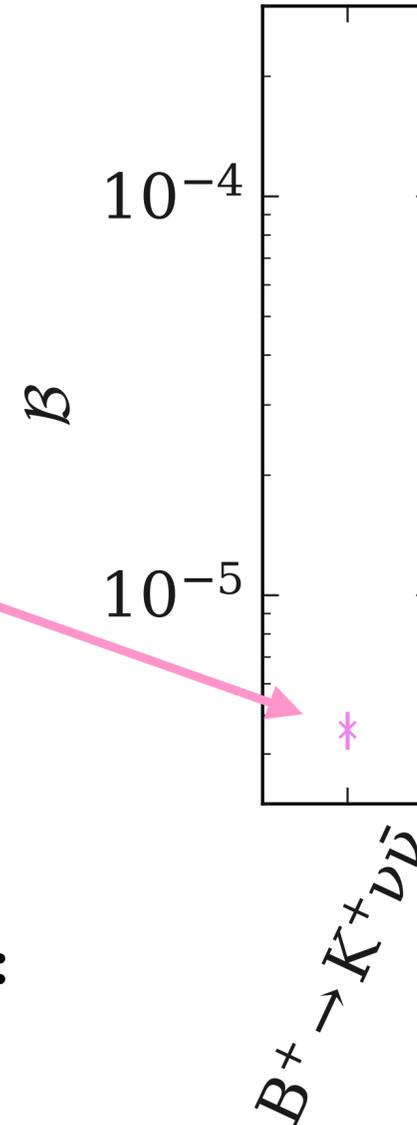


$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ Decays: SM



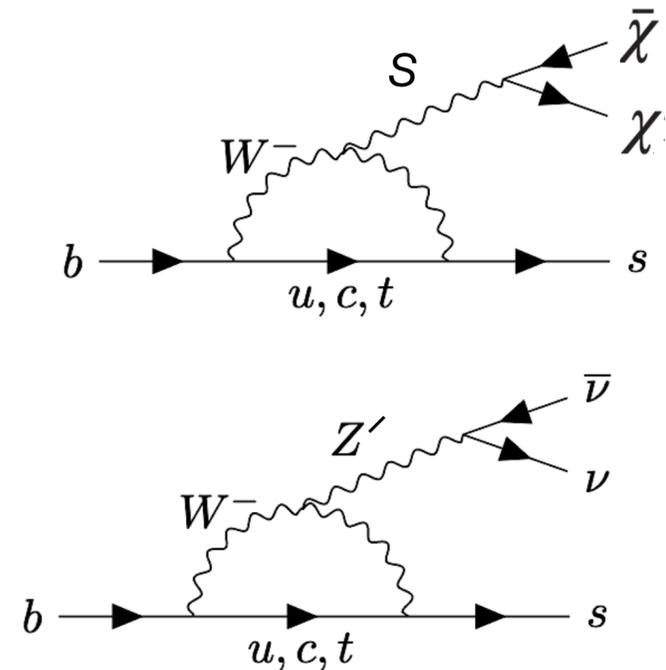
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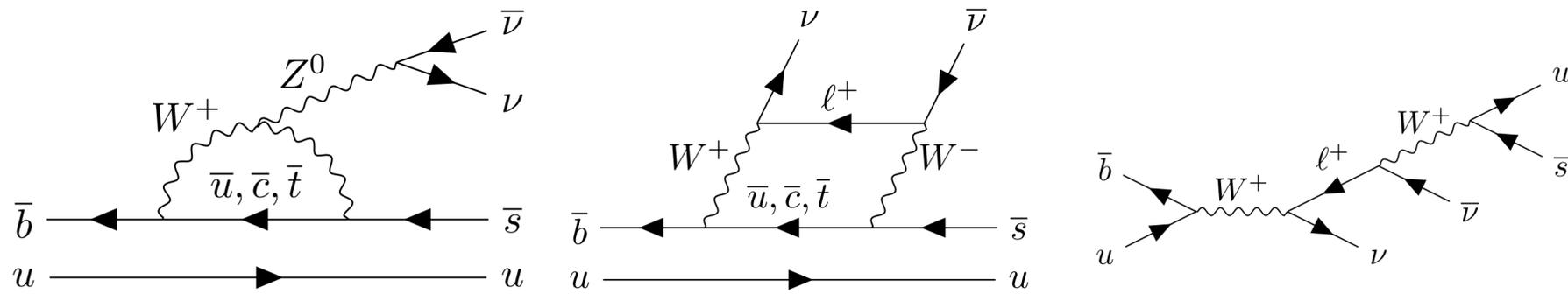


$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ observables are sensitive to many BSM scenarios:

- Axions [[PRD 102, 015023 \(2020\)](#)], dark scalars [[PRD 101, 095006 \(2020\)](#)], axion-like particles [[JHEP 04 \(2023\) 131](#)]
- Z' [[PL B 821 \(2021\) 136607](#)], leptoquarks [[PRD 98, 055003 \(2018\)](#)]

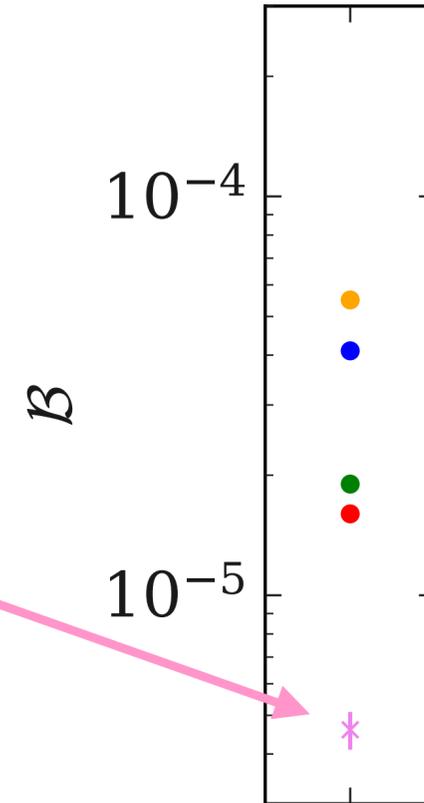


$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ Decays: SM and Experiment



$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decays in SM:

- Flavour-changing neutral current ($b \rightarrow s$) transitions
- Precise SM prediction: $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = (5.58 \pm 0.37) \times 10^{-6}$
[[Phys. Rev. D 107, 1324 014511 \(2023\)](#), [Phys. Rev. D 107, 119903 \(2023\)](#)]
- Leading theoretical uncertainty from hadronic form factors



Belle II (63 fb⁻¹, INC), PRL127, 181802
 Babar (429 fb⁻¹, HAD+SL), PRD87, 112005
 Belle (711 fb⁻¹, HAD), PRD87, 111103
 Belle (711 fb⁻¹, SL), PRD96, 091101

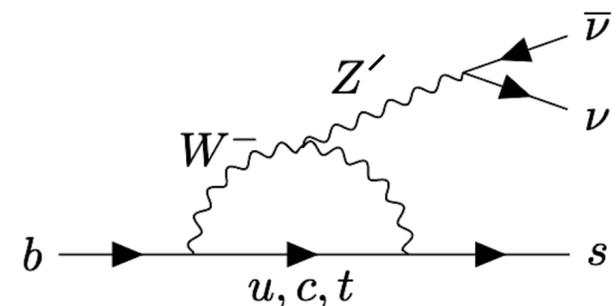
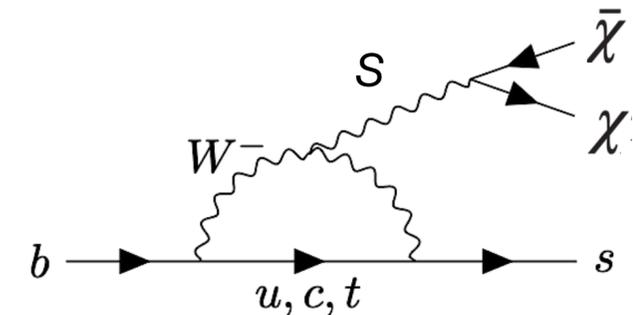
$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ observables are sensitive to many BSM scenarios:

- Axions [[PRD 102, 015023 \(2020\)](#)], dark scalars [[PRD 101, 095006 \(2020\)](#)], axion-like particles [[JHEP 04 \(2023\) 131](#)]
- Z' [[PL B 821 \(2021\) 136607](#)], leptoquarks [[PRD 98, 055003 \(2018\)](#)]

$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decays in experiment:

- Current limits order of magnitude above SM expectation

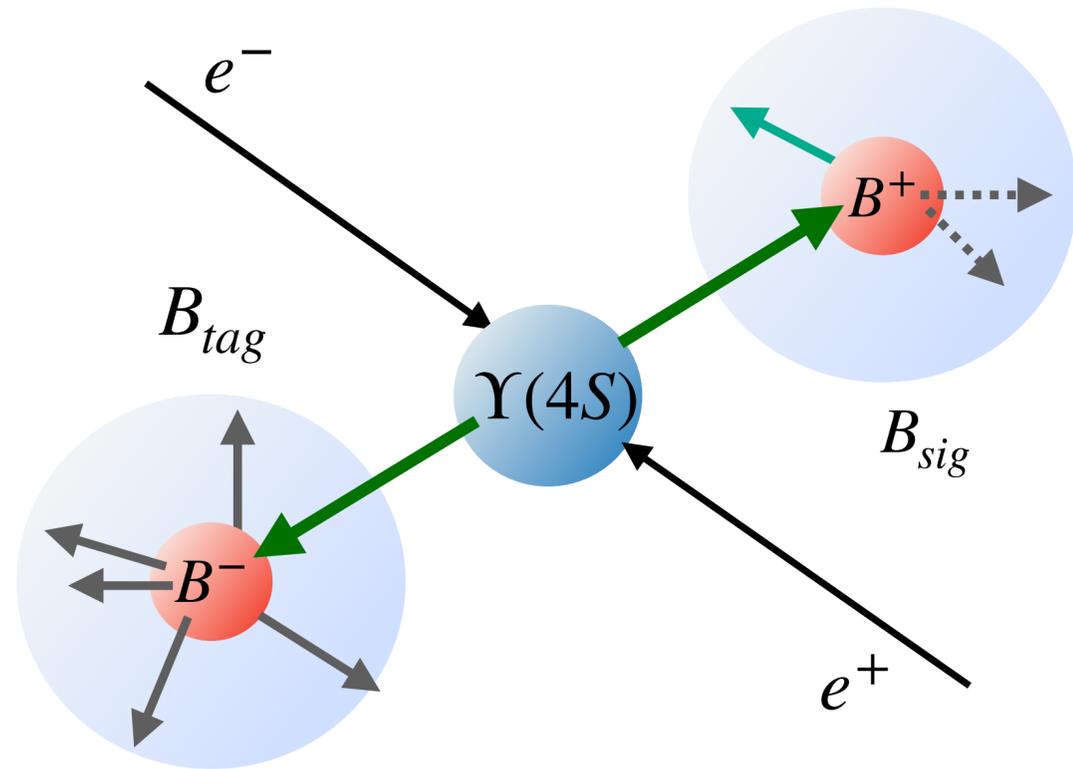
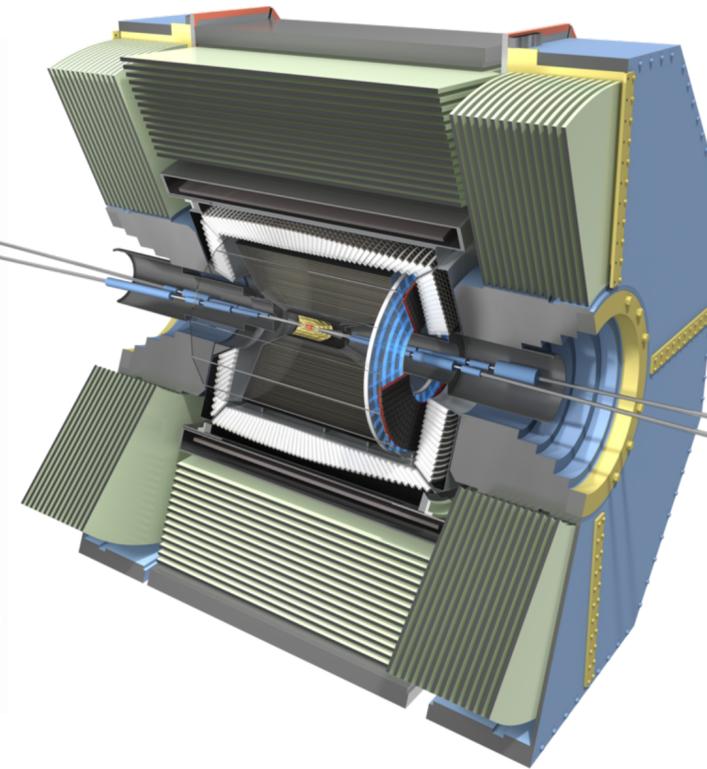
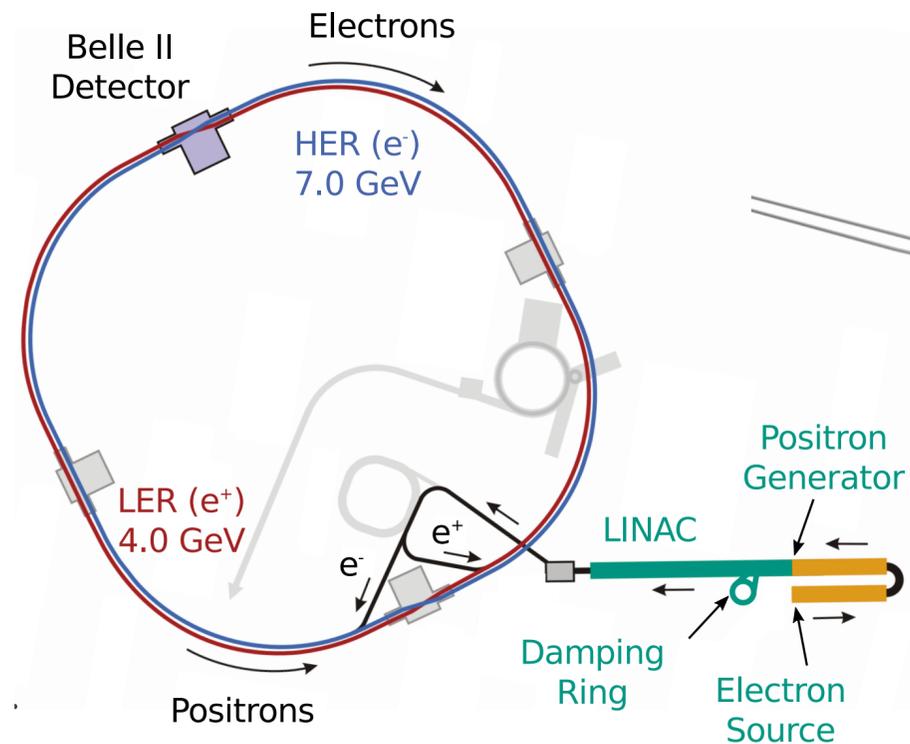
$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$



SuperKEKB and Belle II

SuperKEKB operates nominally at $\sqrt{s} = 10.58 \text{ GeV}$

- $\Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ in 96 %
- Currently $362 \text{ fb}^{-1} \sim 390 \text{ mil. } B\text{-meson pairs}$
- Record-breaking $\mathcal{L}_{inst} = 4.7 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- Types of backgrounds: B -backgrounds, $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau\bar{\tau}$, continuum backgrounds $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$, $q \in (s, c, d, u)$
- control sample taken at $\sqrt{s} = 10.52 \text{ GeV}$



Typical $B^+ \rightarrow K^+\nu\bar{\nu}$ event benefits from:



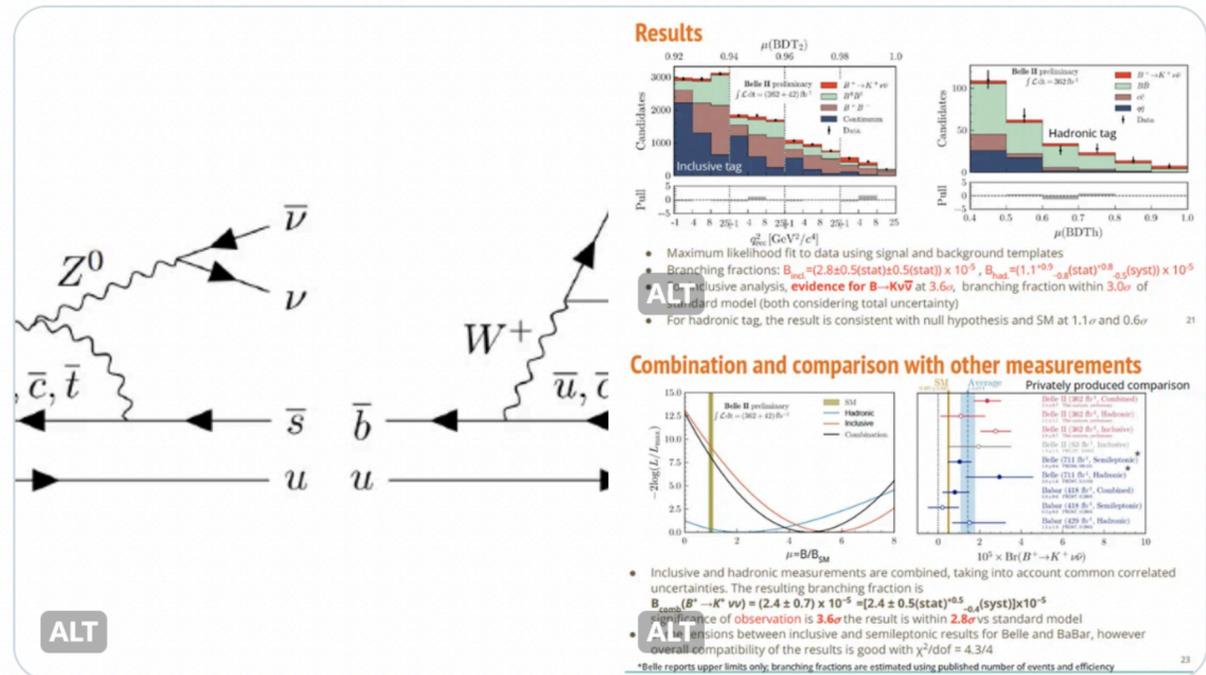
- Detector with nearly full 4π coverage with excellent sensitivity to low energy deposits
- Cleaner environment compared to LHCb
- Constraints from well-known initial state kinematics

New Belle II Measurement



Belle II Experiment
@belle2collab

Breaking news: Belle II reports the first evidence for the rare "missing energy" decay $B \rightarrow K \nu \bar{\nu}$ at the #EPSHEP2023 conference taking place in Hamburg, Germany this week. The #Belle2 result is about 3 standard deviations larger than the Standard Model expectation.



4:43 PM · Aug 24, 2023 · 40.7K Views

39 Reposts 16 Quotes 132 Likes 13 Bookmarks

Newest Belle II search for $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decays:

- with full Belle II 362 fb⁻¹ dataset
- with improved analysis (**inclusive tagging ITA**)
- first Belle II measurement with $\mathcal{L} = 63 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ set competitive limit of 4.1×10^{-5} @ 90% C.L.
- cross-checked with additional validation techniques
- analysis based heavily on simulation
- supported with a more conventional analysis (**hadronic tagging HTA**) on a nearly independent data sample

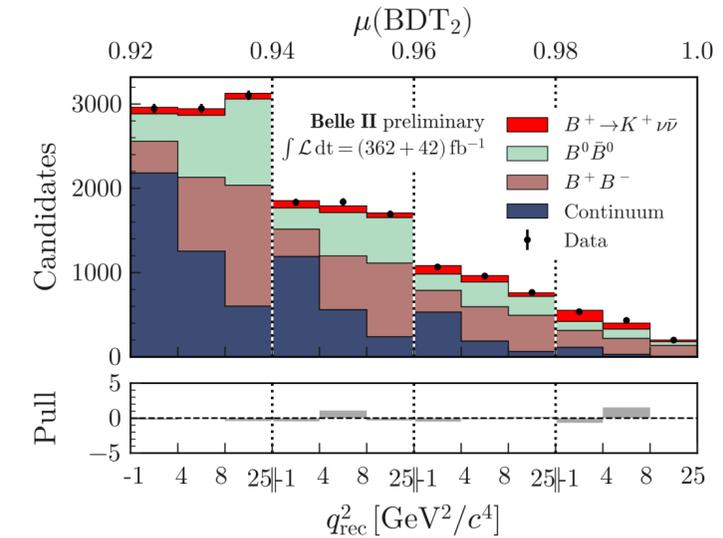
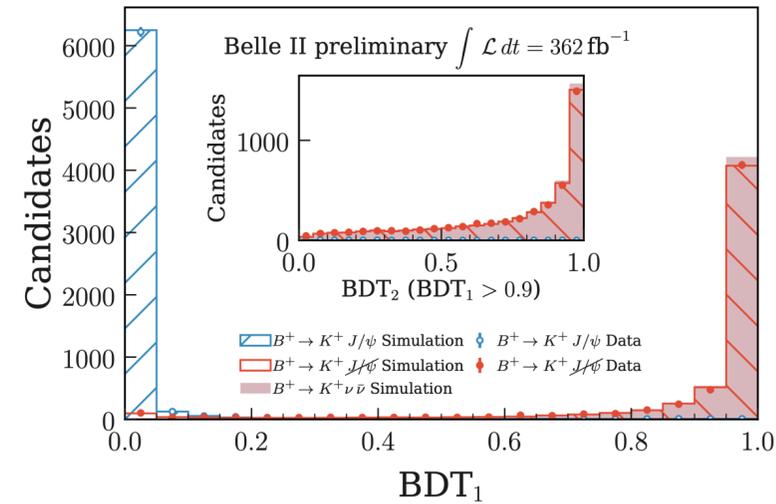
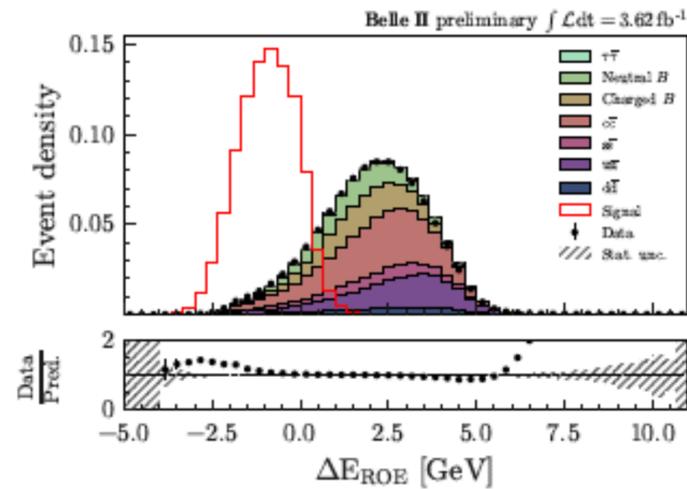
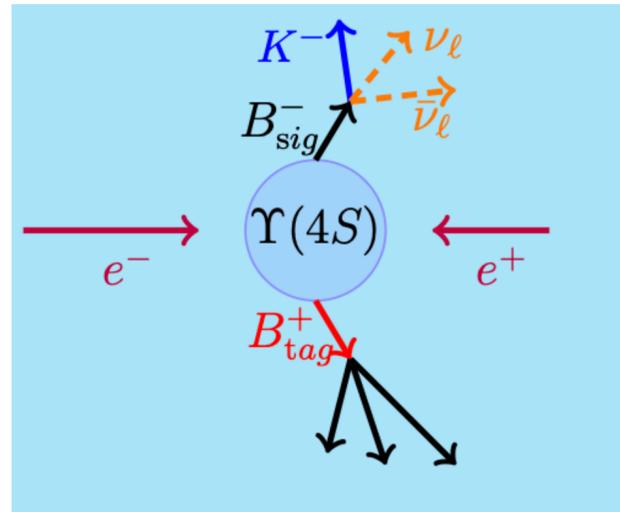
Challenges of searches for $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decays:

- high reconstruction efficiency for visible particles
- excellent simulation modelling
- excellent understanding of the neutral objects ($\pi^0, K_L^0, K_S^0, n, \gamma, \dots$)



Analysis strategy in a Nutshell

ITA



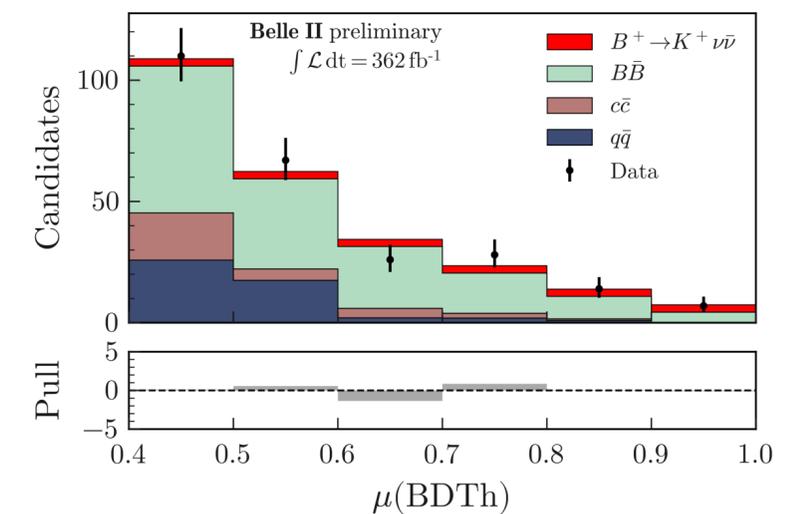
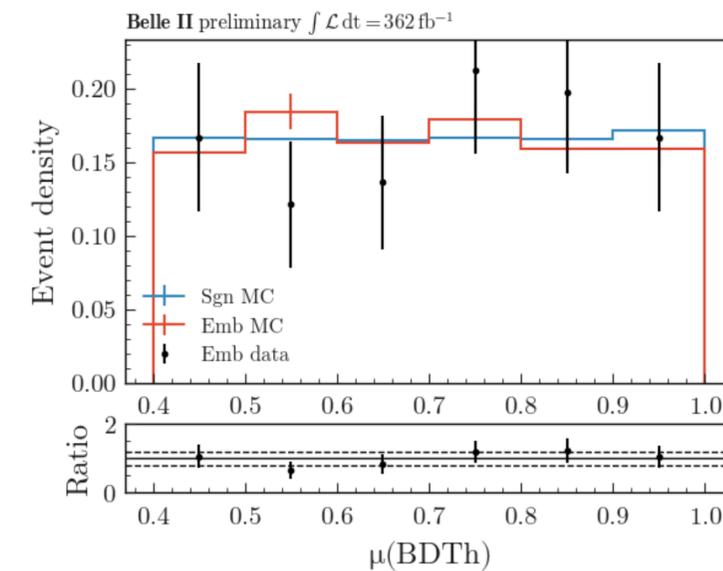
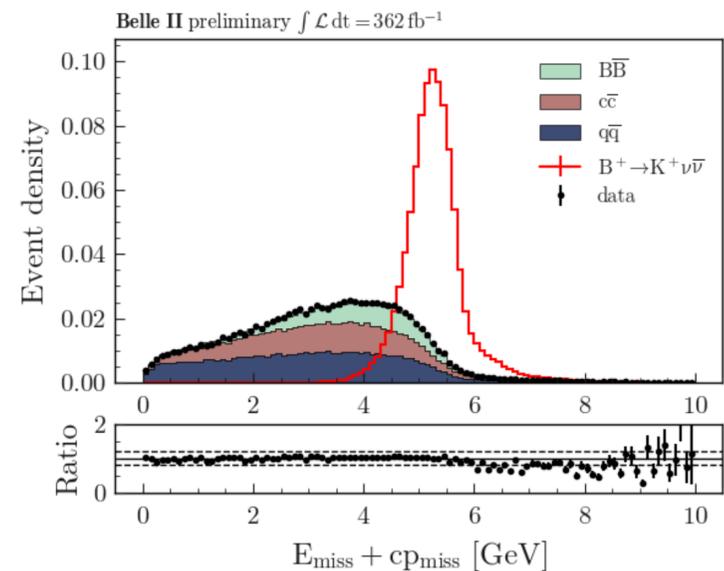
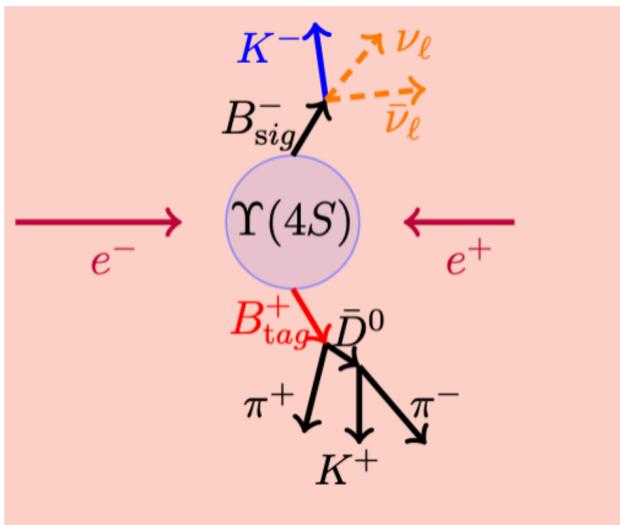
Basic selection and reconstruction

Background suppression

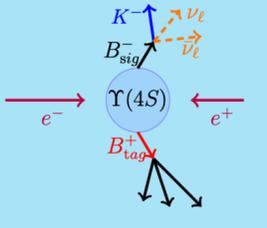
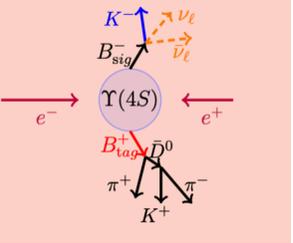
Validation

Statistical interpretation

HTA



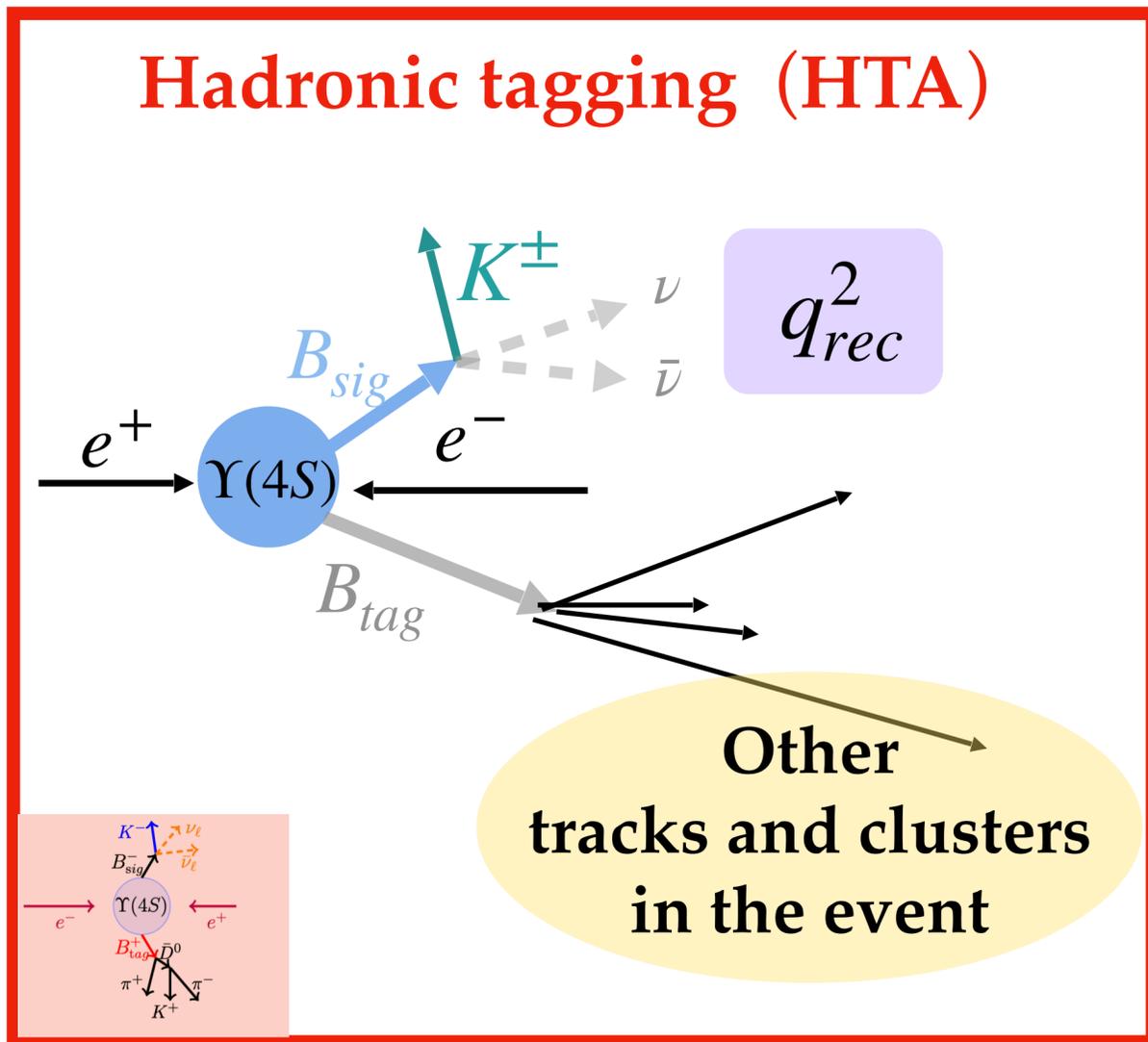
Reconstruction and Basic Selection



Basic reconstruction of tracks and clusters:

- Charged particles: $E > 100 \text{ MeV}/c$, close to collision point, in the central part of the detector
- Neutral particles: $E > 100 \text{ MeV}$ (ITA), $E > [60, \dots, 150] \text{ MeV}$, ϕ -dependent (HTA)
- Signal kaon track candidates required to have high probability to be kaon

Hadronic tagging (HTA)

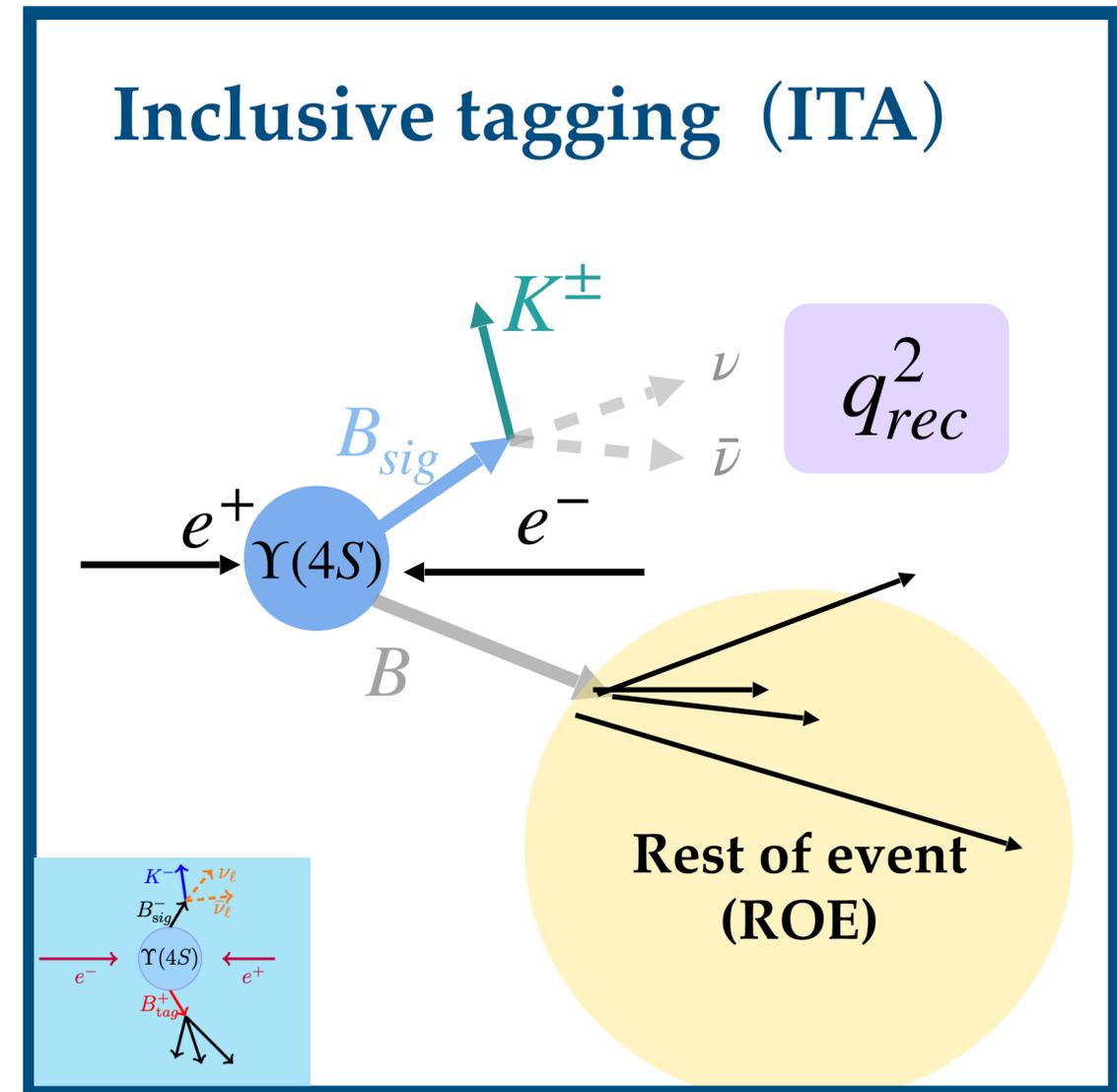


Efficiency

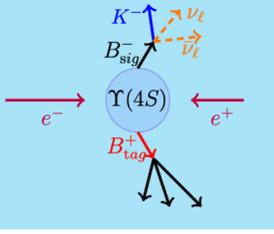
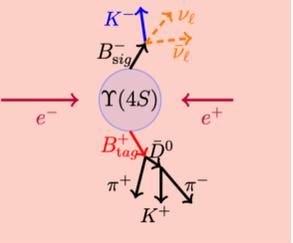
q_{rec}^2 : mass squared of the neutrino pair

Purity, Resolution

Inclusive tagging (ITA)



Sensitivity Maximisation



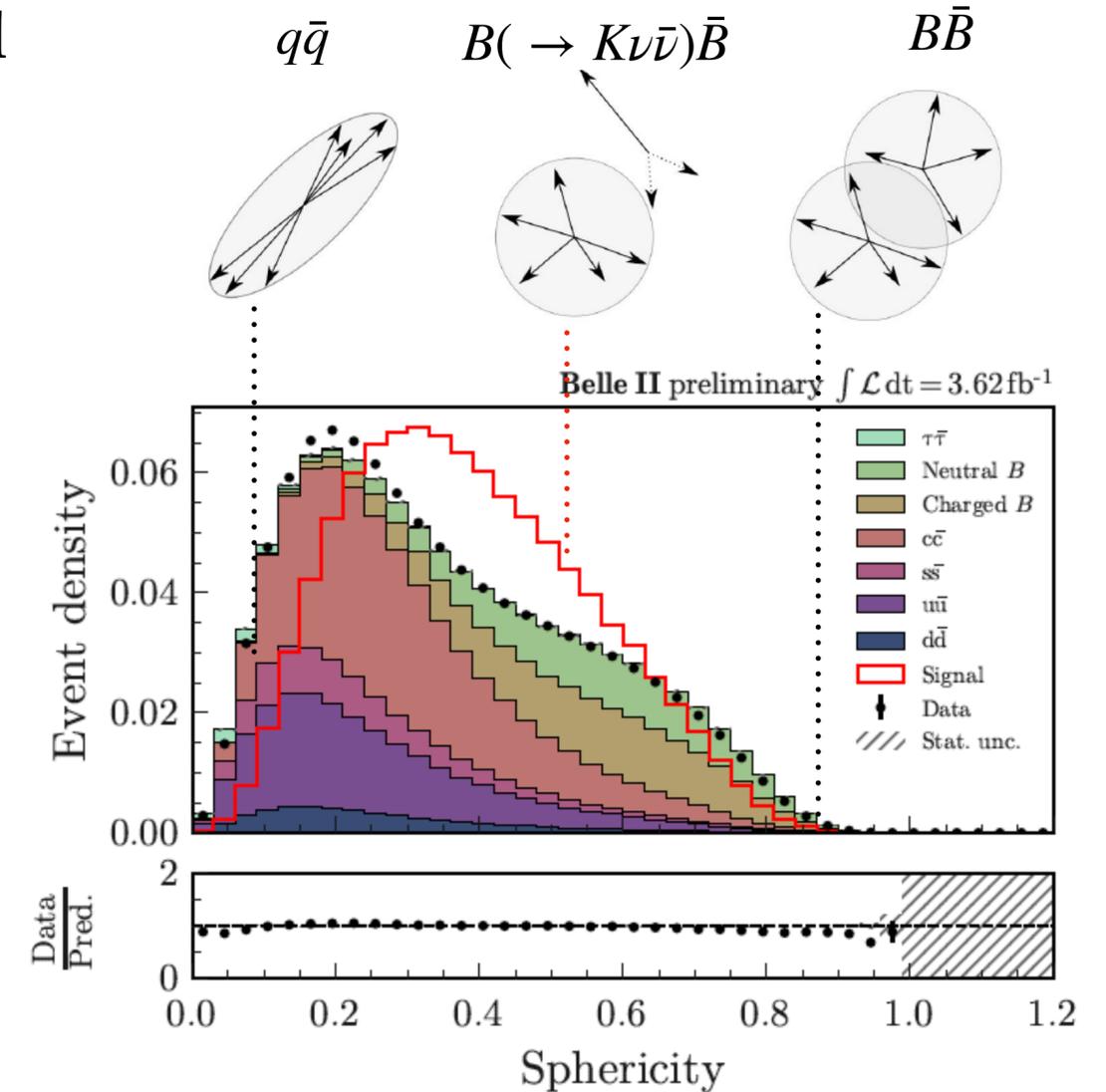
1. **ITA** uses two consecutive multivariate binary classifiers based on boosted decision trees ($\text{BDT}_1, \text{BDT}_2$)

used for background suppression:

- Discriminating variables: general event topology, signal kinematics, ROE kinematics, track vertices
- A first-level filter BDT_1 uses 12 input variables
- Key discrimination achieved by 35 inputs fed to BDT_2
 - $\mu(\text{BDT}_2)$ variable = BDT_2 w/ flat signal efficiency

2. **ITA** signal region (SR) is defined:

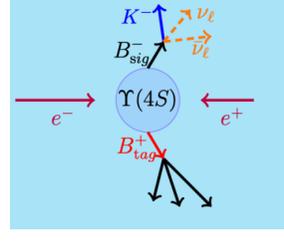
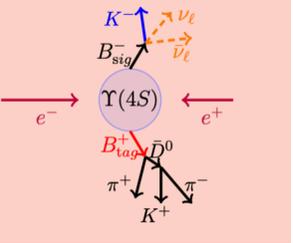
- $\text{BDT}_1 > 0.9$
- $\mu(\text{BDT}_2) > 0.92$



1. **HTA** uses a single multivariate binary classifier **BDTh**: 12 discriminating variables based on signal kaon, B_{tag} , other track and cluster information

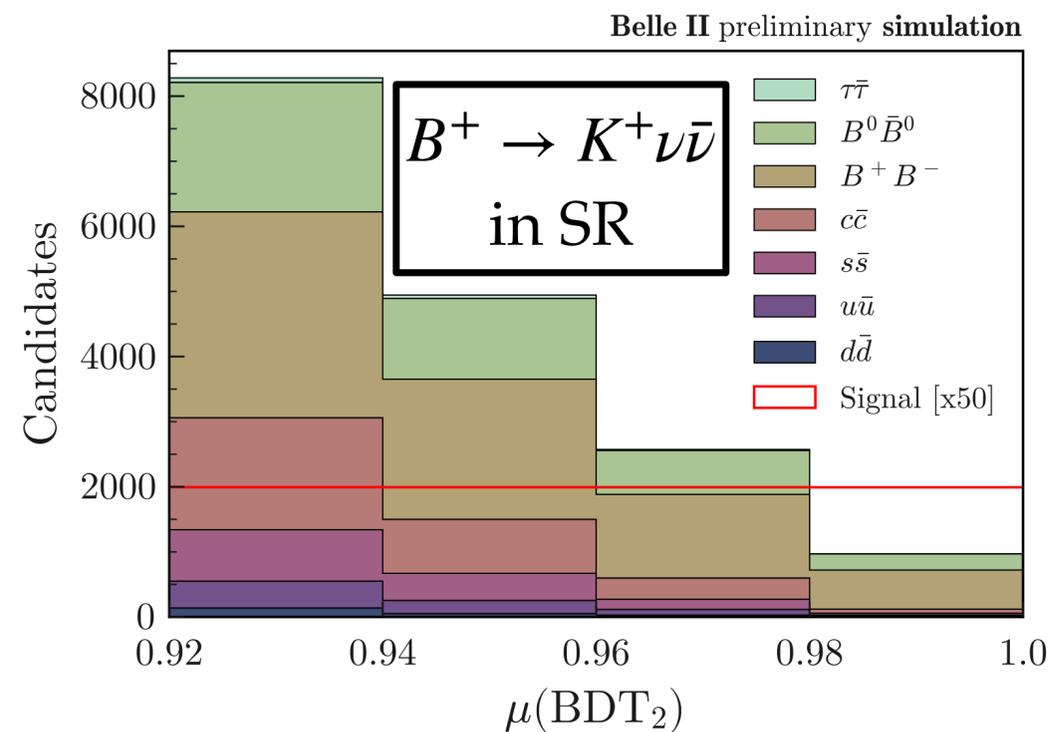
2. **HTA** signal region defined with $\mu(\text{BDTh}) > 0.4$

Signal Region Statistics



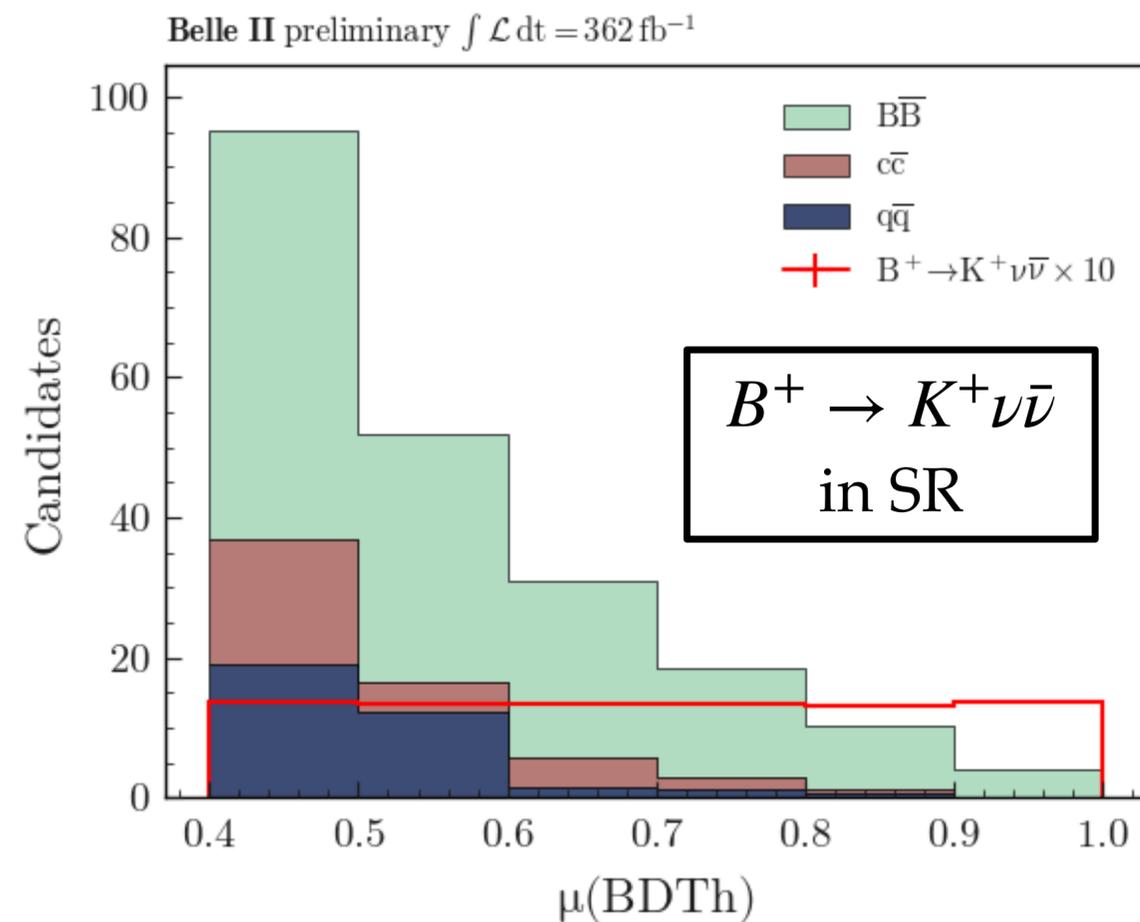
ITA

- Signal efficiency: 8%
- N_{sig}/N_{bkg} : 159 / 17529
- Background composition in the SR:
 - 40% continuum events ($q\bar{q}$)
 - 60% B-meson decay events:
 - 52% from hadronic decays involving K and D
 - 47% from semileptonic with $D \rightarrow K_L^0$
 - 1% from leptonic decays



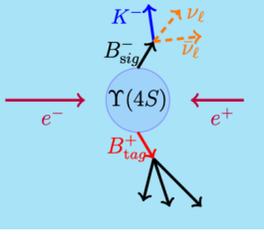
HTA

- Signal efficiency: 0.4%
- N_{sig}/N_{bkg} : 8 / 211
- Composition in the SR:



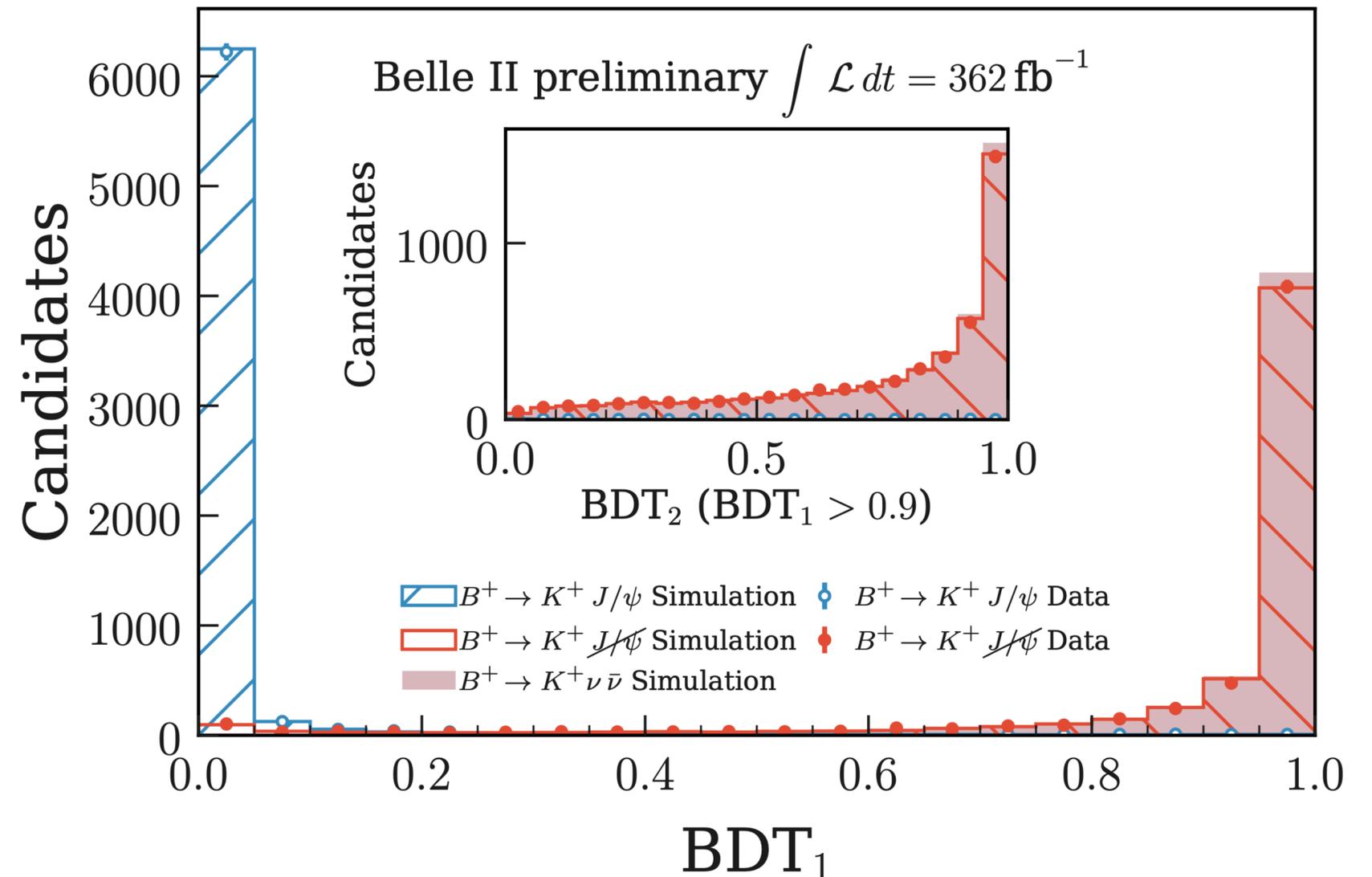
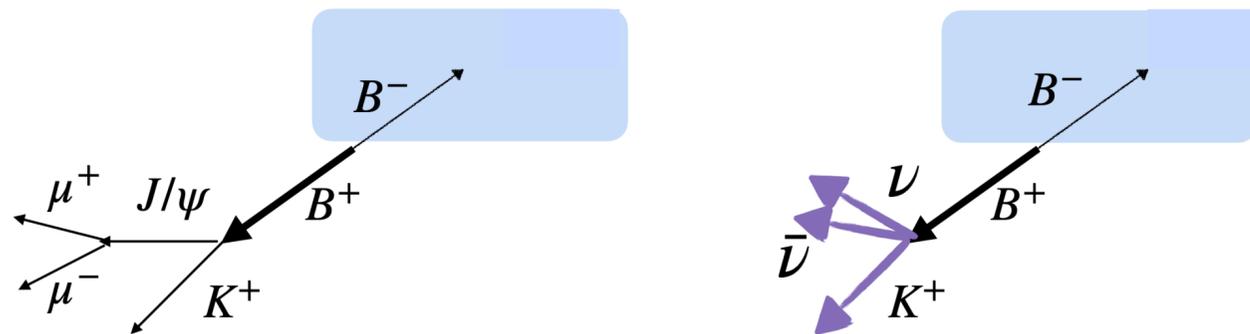
Next slides: validation shown for ITA, applicable to HTA

Validation: Signal Efficiency (ITA)



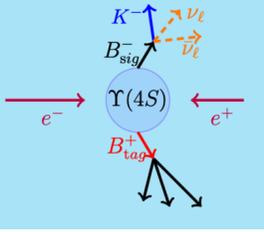
Signal efficiency checked with signal embedding procedure using $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)$ events:

1. Use $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)$ events
2. Remove muons from J/ψ
3. Replace K^+ kinematics by K^+ kinematics from simulated $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ signal
4. Apply to data and simulation
5. Compare selection efficiency (except for PID efficiency)



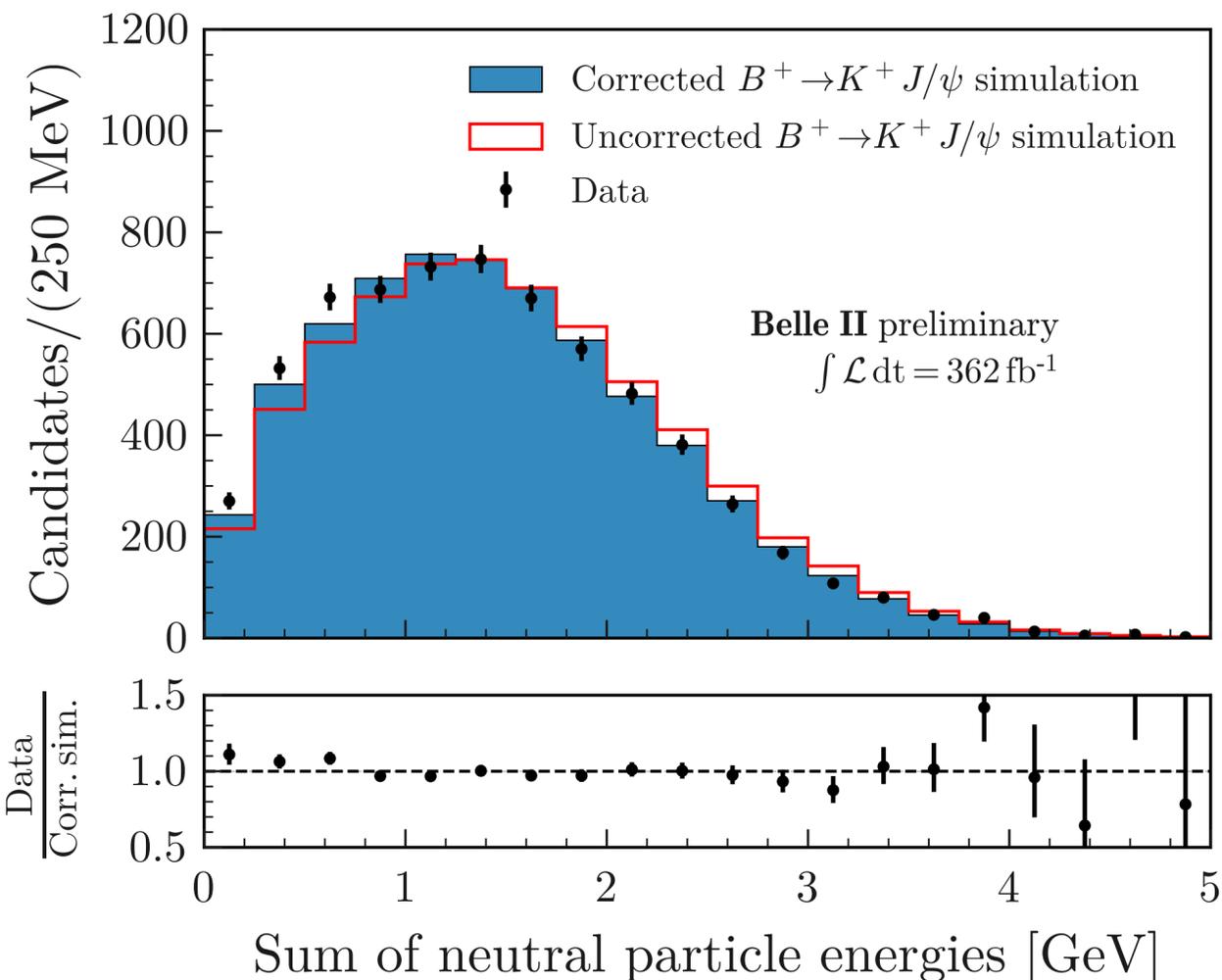
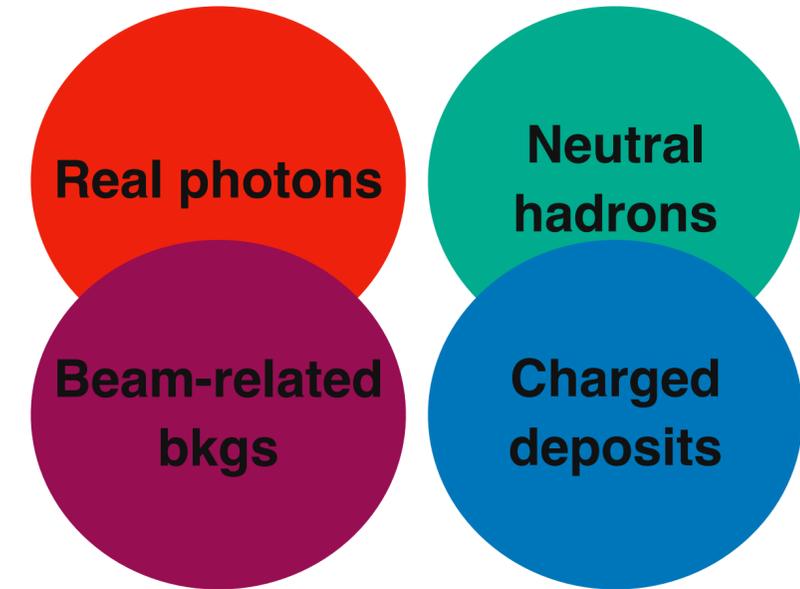
Data/MC efficiency ratio: $1.00 \pm 0.03 \rightarrow$ good agreement
3% is included as signal shape systematic uncertainty

Validation: Neutral Energy (ITA)



Calorimeter clusters are reconstructed as photon candidates and include:

- **Real photons**
- **Deposits from beam-backgrounds**
- **Charged particle deposits away from trajectory**
- **Neutral hadrons, e.g: K_L^0**

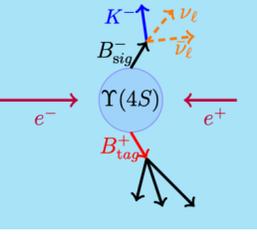


The energy of other **hadronic** clusters is biased:

- Summed neutral energy in $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)$ events in data and MC in agreement after 10% shift
- Validated also with continuum simulation and off-resonance data

Use 10 % as correction for energy of **hadronic** clusters and a systematic uncertainty of 100% on the correction

Validation: Physics Background I (ITA)



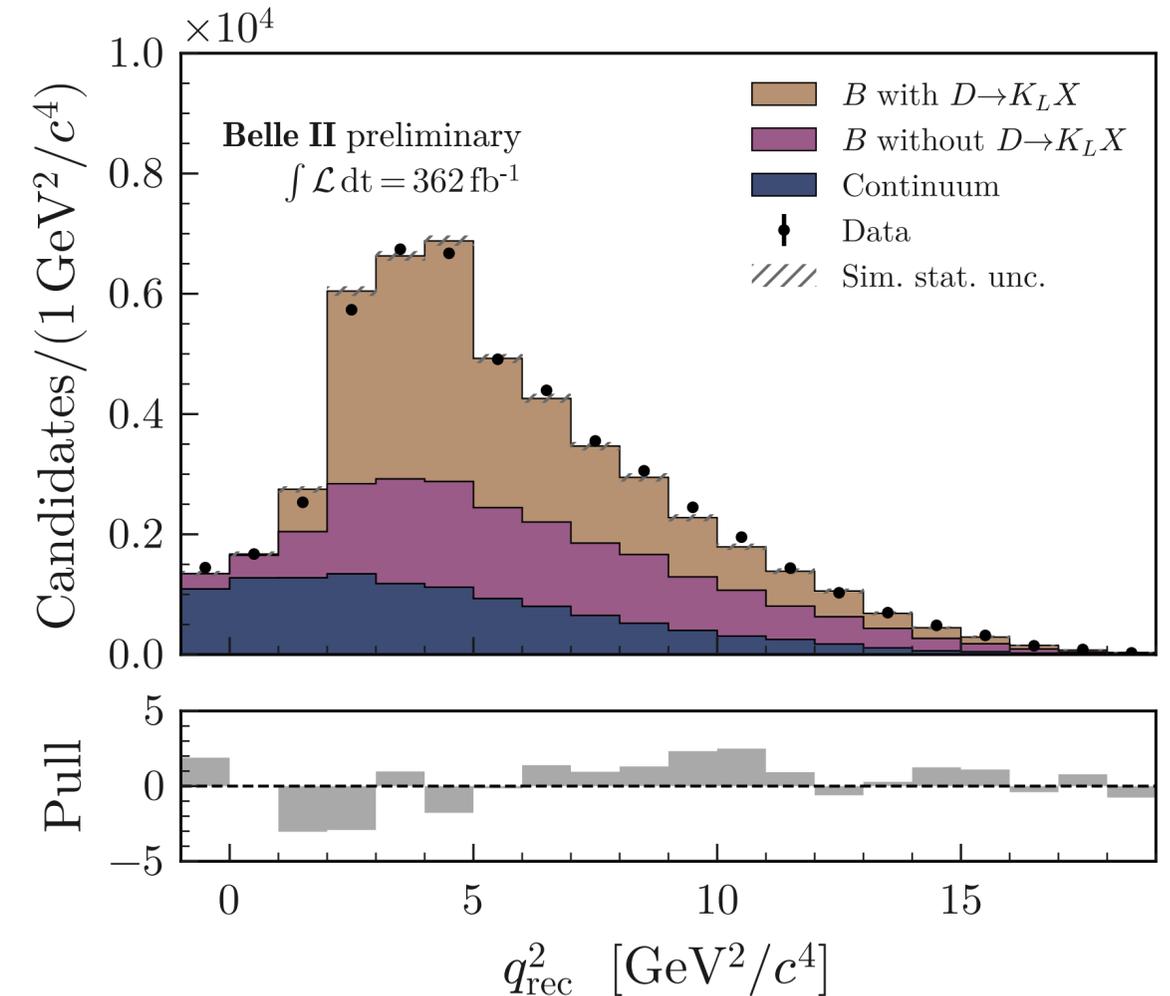
1. $q\bar{q}$ background physics modelling validation with off-resonance data and continuum simulation:

- Use found 40% normalisation factor as an uncertainty
- Shape corrected by event weights derived following [\[J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 368 012028\]](#)

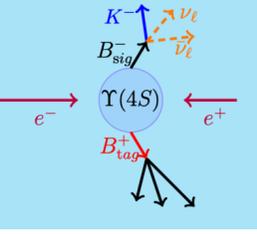
2. $B \rightarrow X_c(\rightarrow K_L^0)$ physics modelling validation with fit in pion/lepton ID sidebands:

- Scale up the normalisation of all $B \rightarrow X_c(\rightarrow K_L^0)$ simulated decays by 30%
- Assign 33% of the correction as systematics uncertainty

$B \rightarrow \pi X$ with $\mu(\text{BDT}_2) > 0.92$
after fit

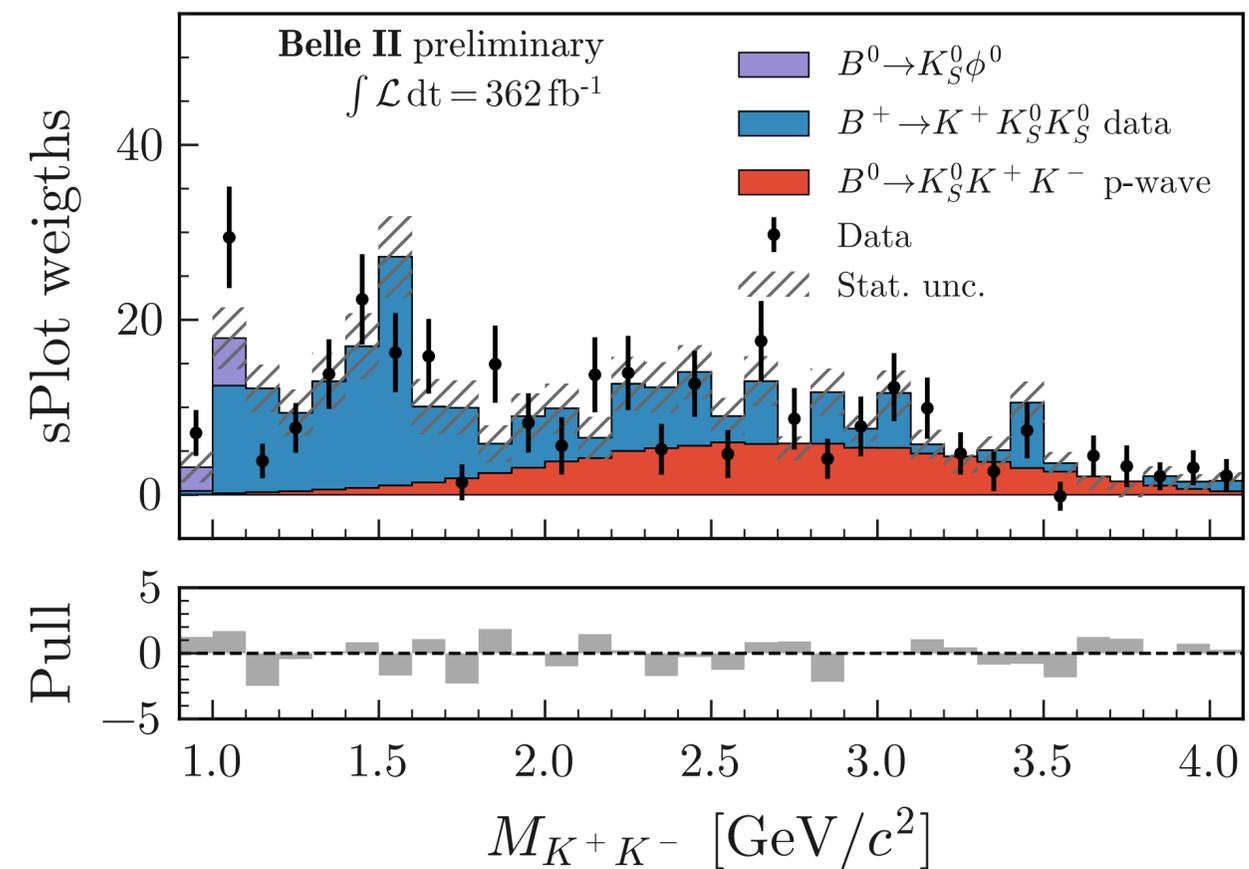
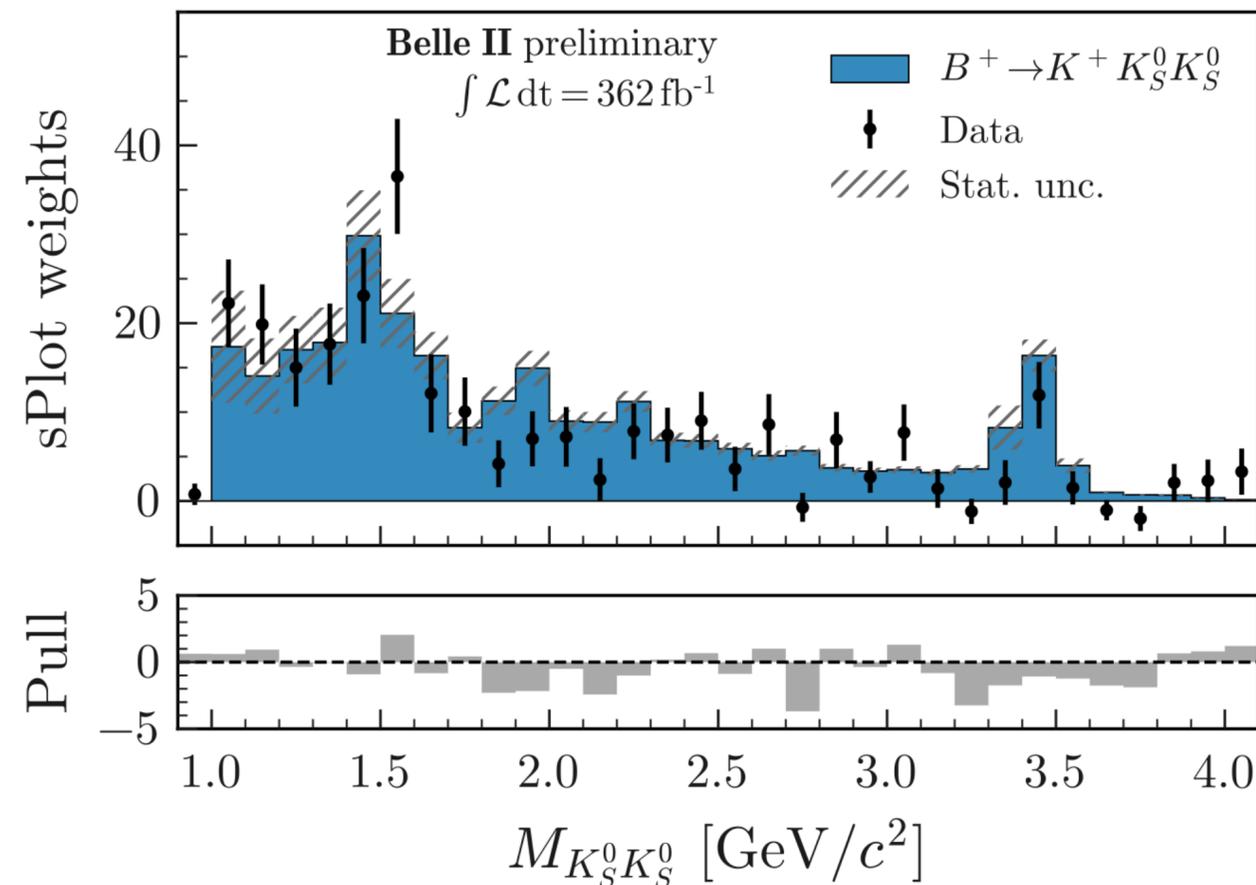


Validation: Physics Background II (ITA)



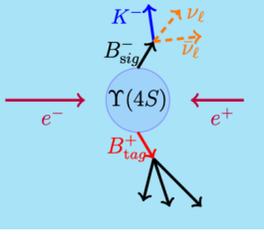
3. Physics modeling of rare most signal-like backgrounds; $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ K^0 \bar{K}^0$ decays:
- BaBar study [[PhysRevD.85.112010](#)] on $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ K_S^0 K_S^0$ used to model $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ K_L^0 K_L^0$
 - $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ K_S^0 K_S^0$ and $B^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K^+ K^-$ used to model $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ K_S^0 K_L^0$

Good data/MC agreement → systematic uncertainties assigned due to used assumptions



4. Similar treatment for another rare signal-like background: $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ n \bar{n}$

Closure test: $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ K^0)$ (ITA)



Measure a branching fraction for a known rare decay mode $B^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ K^0$ to validate the background estimation using nominal analysis, but with:

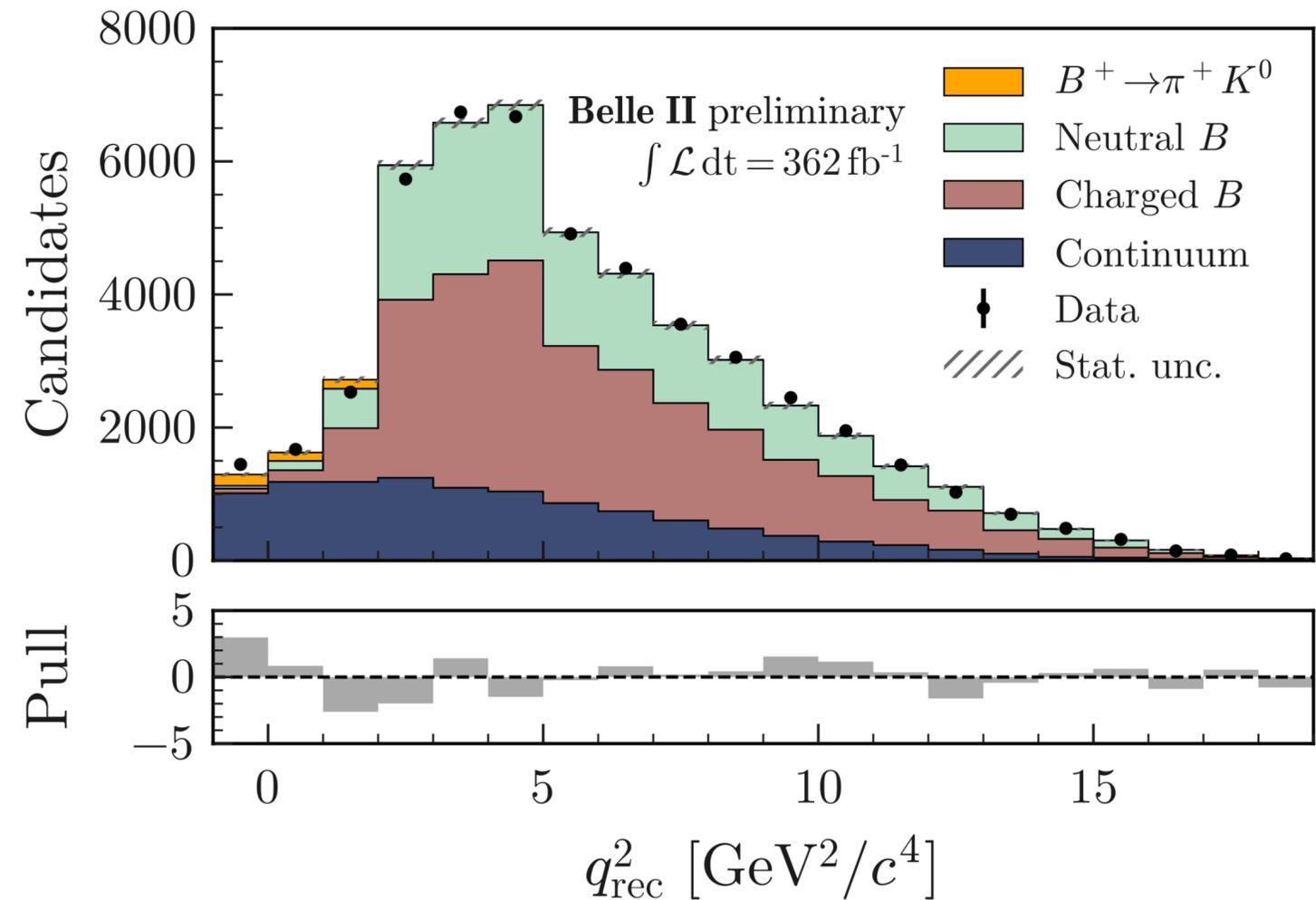
- Pion ID instead of kaon ID
- Different q_{rec}^2 bin boundaries
- Only on-resonance data used for fit
- Only normalization systematics included

Result:

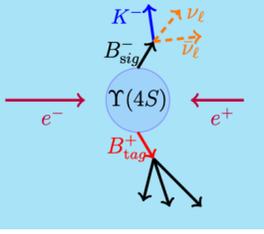
- $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ K^0) = (2.5 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-5}$

Measured values consistent with PDG value

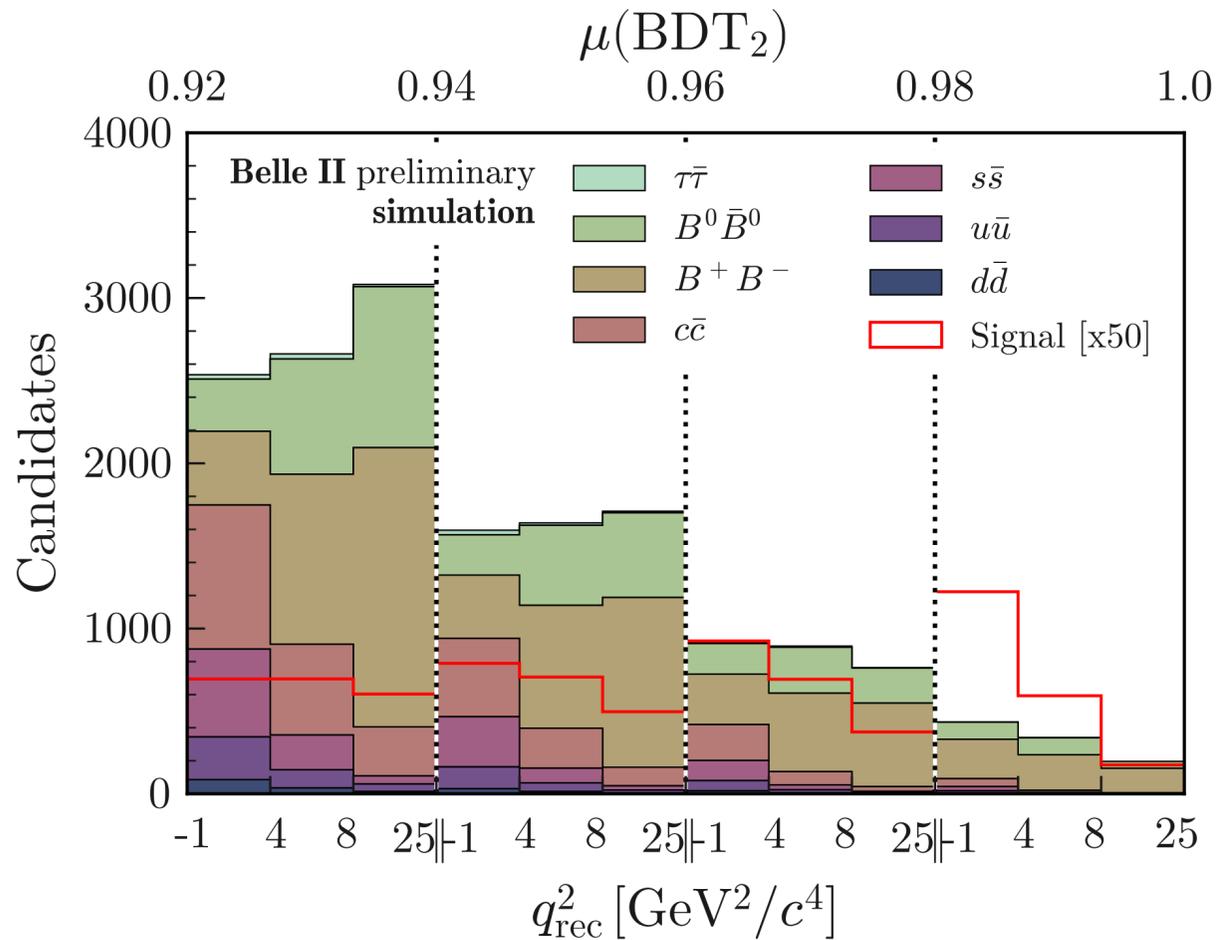
$$\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ K^0) = (2.3 \pm 0.08) \times 10^{-5}$$



Statistical model (ITA)



$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ in SR: pre-fit distributions for on-resonance data



In total 24 signal region bins:

- Simultaneous fit to on-resonance and off-resonance data sample
- Each sample has 4 bins of $\mu(\text{BDT}_2)$ and 3 bins of q_{rec}^2

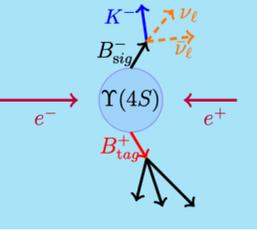
Statistical model based on binned likelihood for signal and 7 background categories:

- Poisson uncertainties for data counts
- Systematic and MC statistical uncertainties included in the fit as nuisance parameters

The resulting likelihood has

- 192 nuisance parameters
- one parameter of interest: **signal strength** $\mu = \mathcal{B}/\mathcal{B}_{SM}$, where $\mathcal{B}_{SM} = 4.97 \times 10^{-6}$, ($B \rightarrow \tau(\rightarrow K \bar{\nu})\nu$ removed, treated as background)

Systematic uncertainties (ITA)



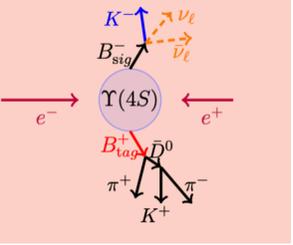
| Source | Uncertainty size | Impact on σ_μ |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| Normalization of $B\bar{B}$ background | 50% | 0.88 |
| Normalization of continuum background | 50% | 0.10 |
| Leading B -decays branching fractions | $O(1\%)$ | 0.22 |
| Branching fraction for $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ K_L^0 K_L^0$ | 20% | 0.49 |
| p -wave component for $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ K_S^0 K_L^0$ | 30% | 0.02 |
| Branching fraction for $B \rightarrow D^{(**)}$ | 50% | 0.42 |
| Branching fraction for $B^+ \rightarrow n\bar{n}K^+$ | 100% | 0.20 |
| Branching fraction for $D \rightarrow K_L X$ | 10% | 0.14 |
| Continuum background modeling, BDT_c | 100% of correction | 0.01 |
| Integrated luminosity | 1% | < 0.01 |
| Number of $B\bar{B}$ | 1.5% | 0.02 |
| Off-resonance sample normalization | 5% | 0.05 |
| Track finding efficiency | 0.3% | 0.20 |
| Signal kaon PID | $O(1\%)$ | 0.07 |
| Photon energy scale | 0.5% | 0.08 |
| Hadronic energy scale | 10% | 0.36 |
| K_L^0 efficiency in ECL | 8% | 0.21 |
| Signal SM form factors | $O(1\%)$ | 0.02 |
| Global signal efficiency | 3% | 0.03 |
| MC statistics | $O(1\%)$ | 0.52 |

1.

3.

**statistical uncertainty
on $\mu = 1.1$**

2.



Statistical model (HTA)

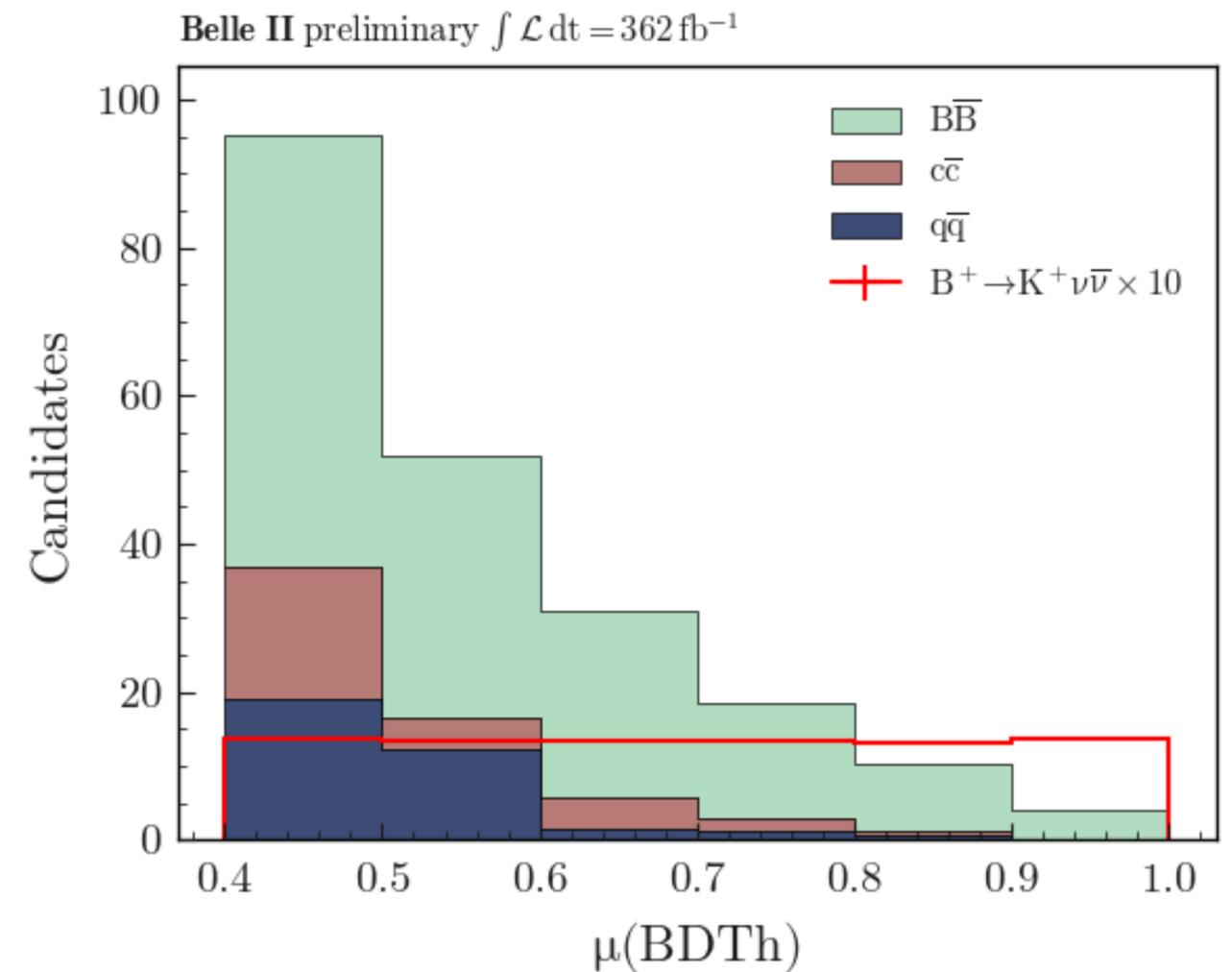
Statistical model based on binned likelihood for signal and 3 background categories: $B\bar{B}$, $c\bar{c}$, $q\bar{q}$ ($q = u, d, s$)

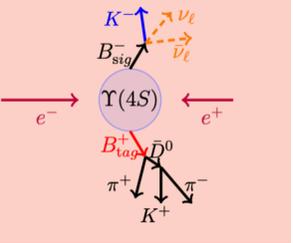
- Signal region bins: 6 bins in $\mu(\text{BDTh})$
- One-dimensional binned fit in $\mu(\text{BDTh})$ for the on-resonance data

The resulting likelihood has

- 45 nuisance parameters
- one parameter of interest: **signal strength** $\mu = \mathcal{B}/\mathcal{B}_{SM}$, where $\mathcal{B}_{SM} = 4.97 \times 10^{-6}$, [$B \rightarrow \tau(\rightarrow K\bar{\nu})\nu$ removed, treated as background]

$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ in SR: pre-fit distributions for on-resonance data





Systematic Uncertainties (HTA)

| Source | Uncertainty size | Impact on σ_μ |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Normalization $B\bar{B}$ background | 30% | 0.91 |
| Normalization continuum background | 50% | 0.58 |
| Leading B -decays branching fractions | $O(1\%)$ | 0.10 |
| Branching fraction for $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ K_L^0 K_L^0$ | 20% | 0.20 |
| Branching fraction for $B \rightarrow D^{(**)}$ | 50% | < 0.01 |
| Branching fraction for $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ n\bar{n}$ | 100% | 0.05 |
| Branching fraction for $D \rightarrow K_L X$ | 10% | 0.03 |
| Continuum background modeling, BDT_c | 100% of correction | 0.29 |
| Number of $B\bar{B}$ | 1.5% | 0.07 |
| Track finding efficiency | 0.3% | 0.01 |
| Signal kaon PID | $O(1\%)$ | < 0.01 |
| Extra photon multiplicity | $O(20\%)$ | 0.61 |
| K_L^0 efficiency | 17% | 0.31 |
| Signal SM form factors | $O(1\%)$ | 0.06 |
| Signal efficiency | 16% | 0.42 |
| Simulated sample size | $O(1\%)$ | 0.60 |

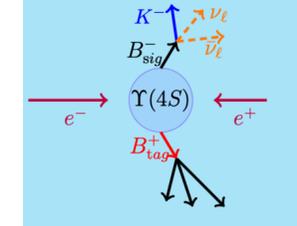
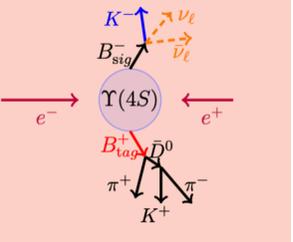
1.

2.

3.

statistical uncertainty
on $\mu = 2.3$

Results: signal strength μ



ITA fit results:

$$\mu = 5.6 \pm 1.1(\text{stat})_{-0.9}^{+1.1}(\text{syst})$$

$$\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = 2.8 \pm 0.5(\text{stat}) \pm 0.5(\text{syst}) \times 10^{-5}$$

- Significance of the excess with respect to the background-only hypothesis ($\mu = 0$): **3.6 σ**
- Significance of the excess with respect to the SM signal hypothesis ($\mu = 1$): **3.0 σ**

First evidence of the $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ process

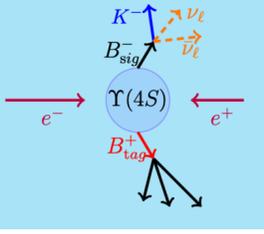
HTA fit results:

$$\mu = 2.2 \pm 2.3(\text{stat})_{-0.7}^{+1.6}(\text{syst})$$

$$\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = [1.1_{-0.8}^{+0.9}(\text{stat})_{-0.5}^{+0.8}(\text{syst})] \times 10^{-5}$$

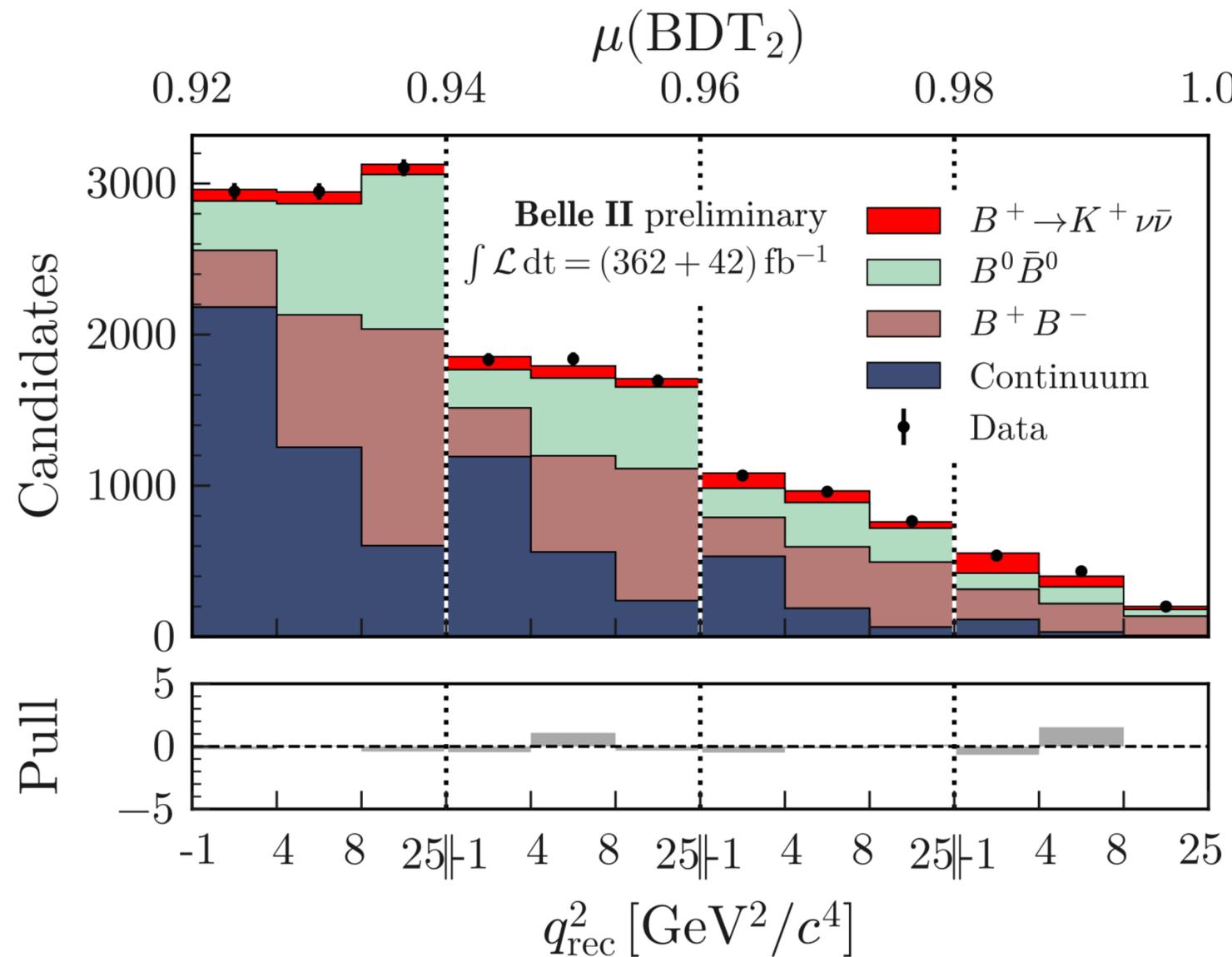
- Significance with respect to the background-only hypothesis ($\mu = 0$): **1.1 σ**
- Significance with respect to the SM signal hypothesis ($\mu = 1$): **0.6 σ**

Post-fit distributions (ITA)

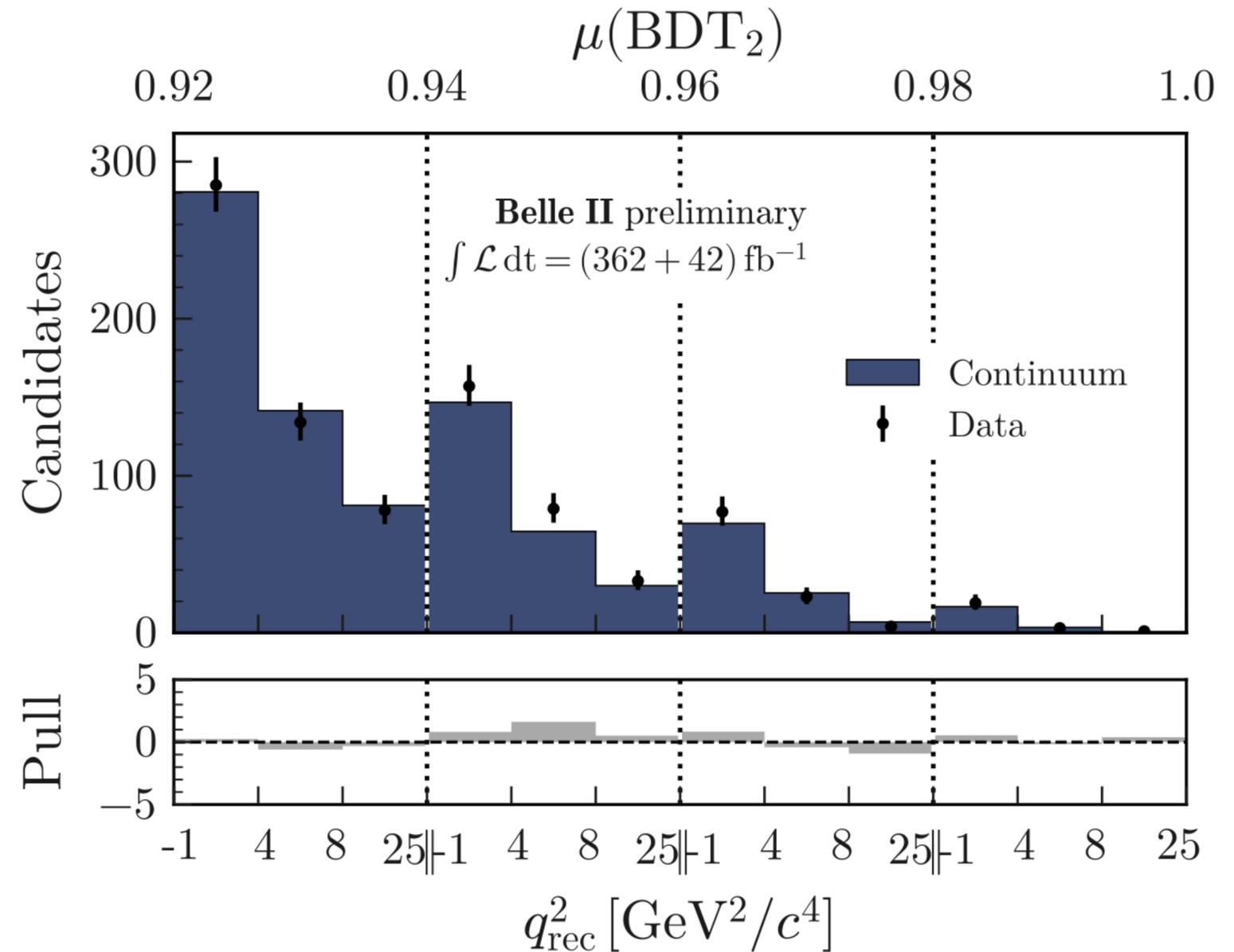


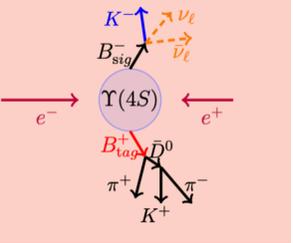
Post-fit distributions for **signal** and background

On-resonance data



Off-resonance data

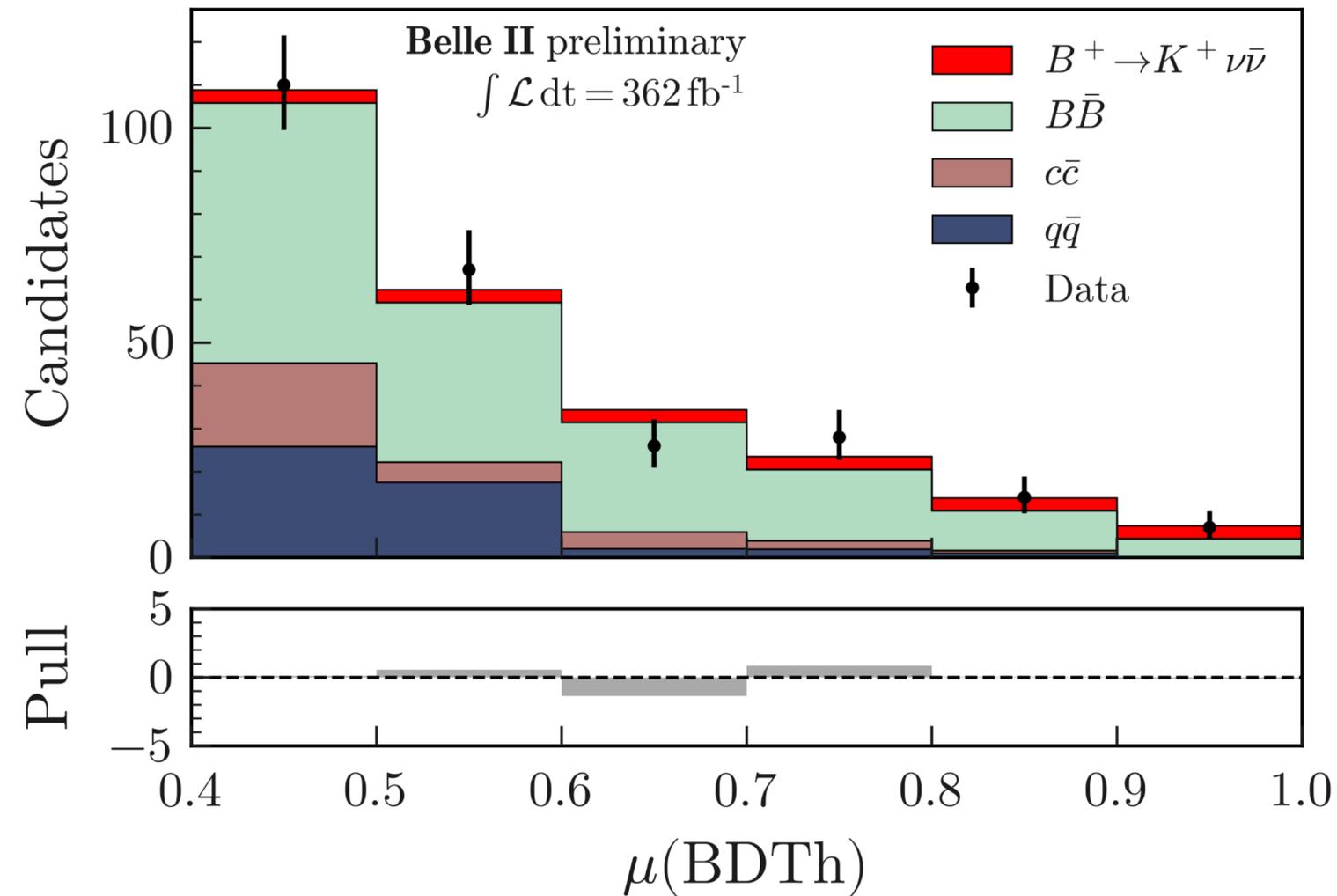




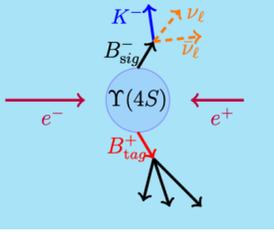
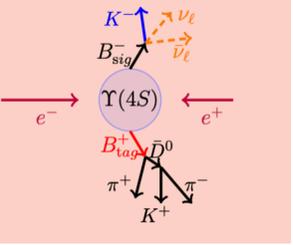
Post-fit distribution (HTA)

Post-fit distributions for **signal** and background

On-resonance data



Combination

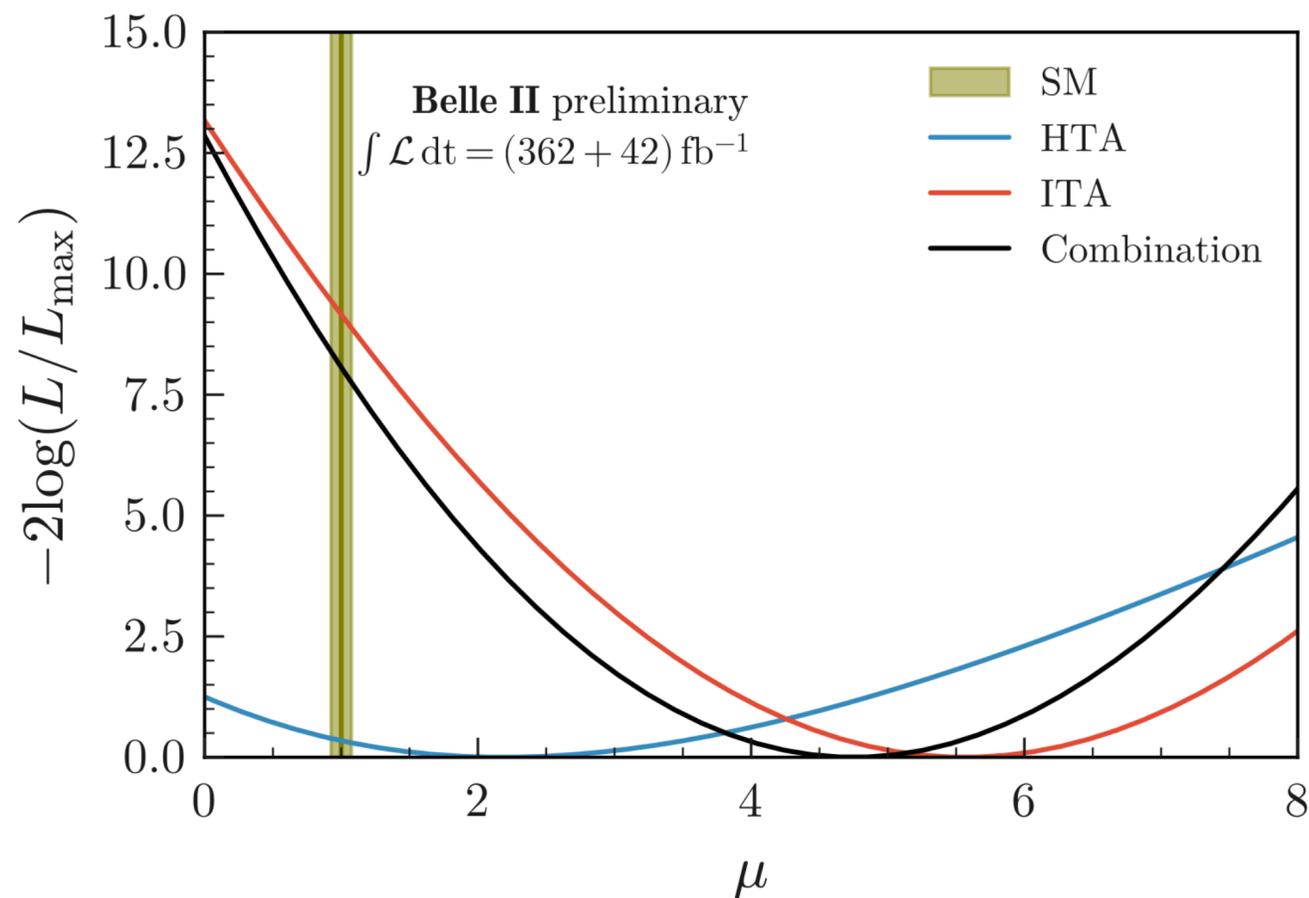


Compatibility between **ITA** and **HTA** results at 1.2σ :

- Events from the HTA signal region represent only 2% of the signal region ITA

Perform combination at likelihood level:

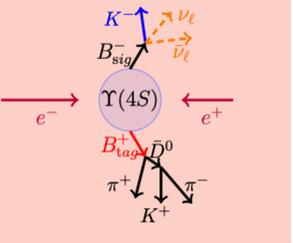
- Correlations among common systematic uncertainties included
- Common data events excluded from **ITA** sample



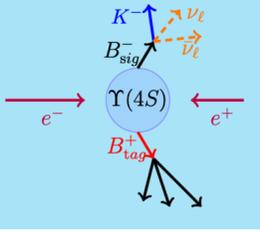
$$\mu = 4.7 \pm 1.0(\text{stat}) \pm 0.9(\text{syst})$$

$$\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = [2.4 \pm 0.5(\text{stat})_{-0.4}^{+0.5}(\text{syst})] \times 10^{-5}$$

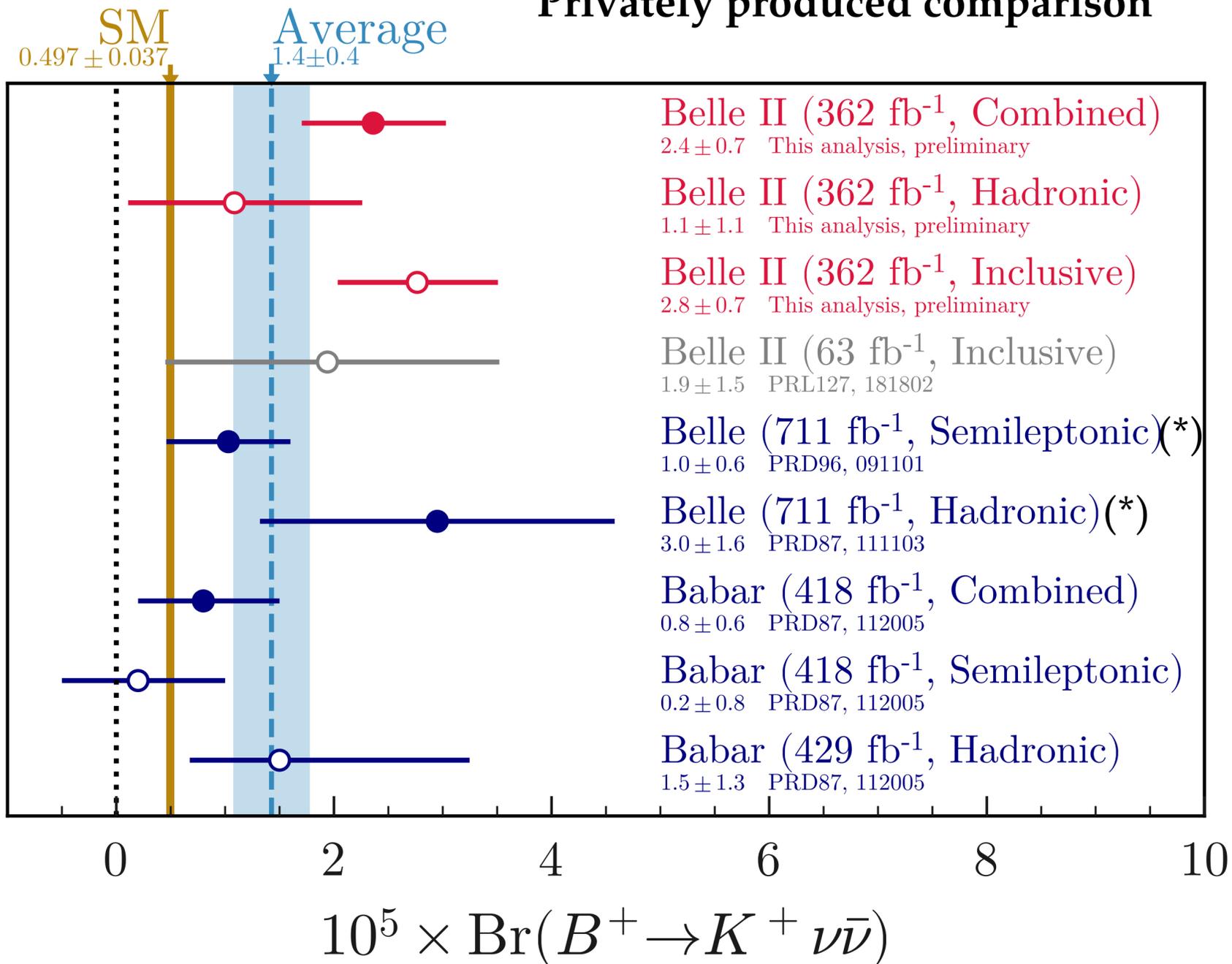
- Combination improves the ITA-only precision by 10%
- **3.6 σ significance w.r.t background-only hypothesis**
- **2.8 σ significance w.r.t SM signal hypothesis**
- **first evidence of the $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ process**



$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$: global picture



Privately produced comparison



ITA result has some tension with previous semileptonic tag measurements:

- a 2.4 σ tension with BaBar
- a 1.9 σ tension with Belle

HTA result in agreement with all the previous measurements

Overall compatibility is good: $\chi^2/ndf = 4.3/4$

(*) Belle reports upper limits only; branching fractions are estimated using published number of events and efficiency

Conclusion

In summary:

- A search for the rare decay $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ was performed with first 362 fb⁻¹
- The analysis strategy exploited an innovative technique with high sensitivity which allowed to obtain a good precision with a limited dataset
- Furthermore a B -factory conventional approach was used as support analysis
- The combination of the two analyses results in the

evidence for the $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay,

with

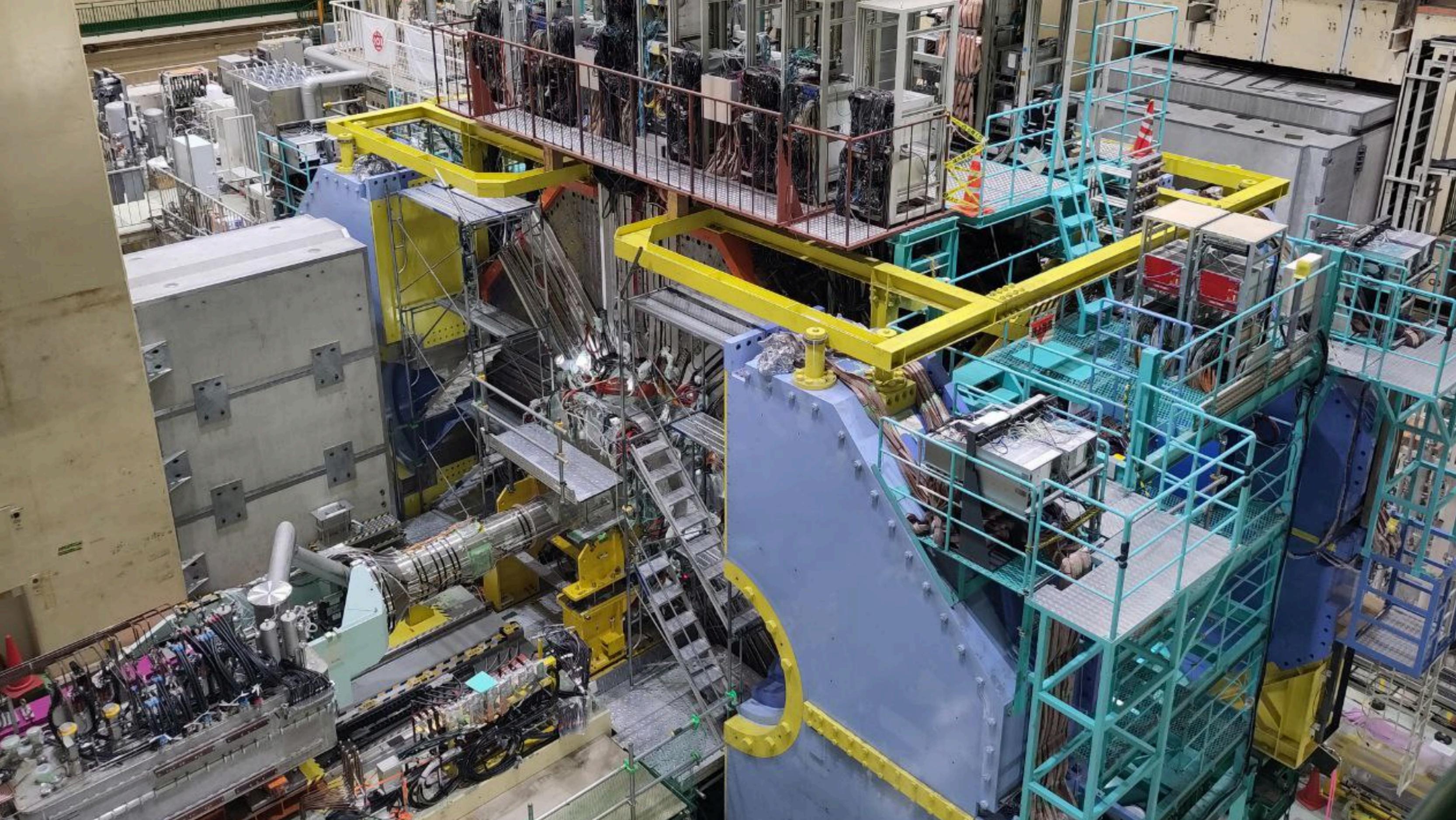
$$\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = [2.4 \pm 0.5(\text{stat})_{-0.4}^{+0.5}(\text{syst})] \times 10^{-5}$$

Future Belle II prospects:

- Measurement of other SM decay channels: $B^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$, $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*+} \nu \bar{\nu}$, $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0} \nu \bar{\nu}$
- Search for two-body $B \rightarrow KS(\rightarrow \chi \bar{\chi})$

Thank you!

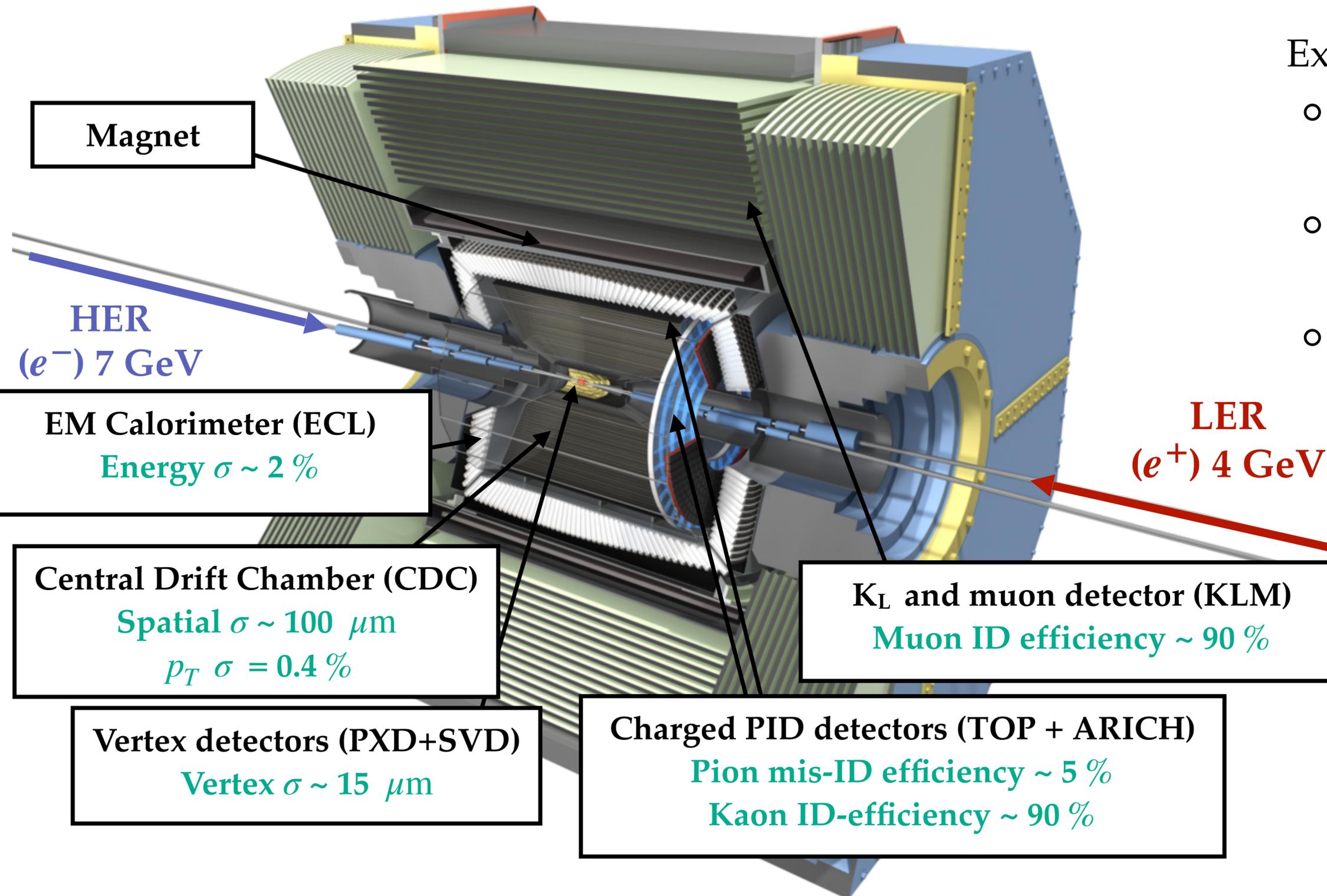
Backup



Belle II Detector

Excellent performance:

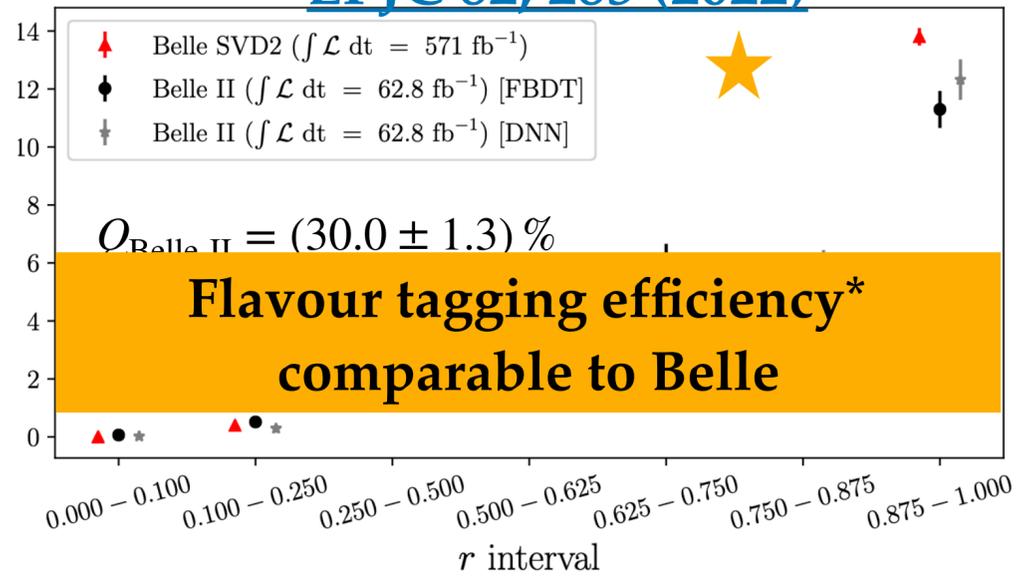
- High tracking efficiency and resolution
- Sensitivity to low energy deposits
- Very good PID



Belle II Performance

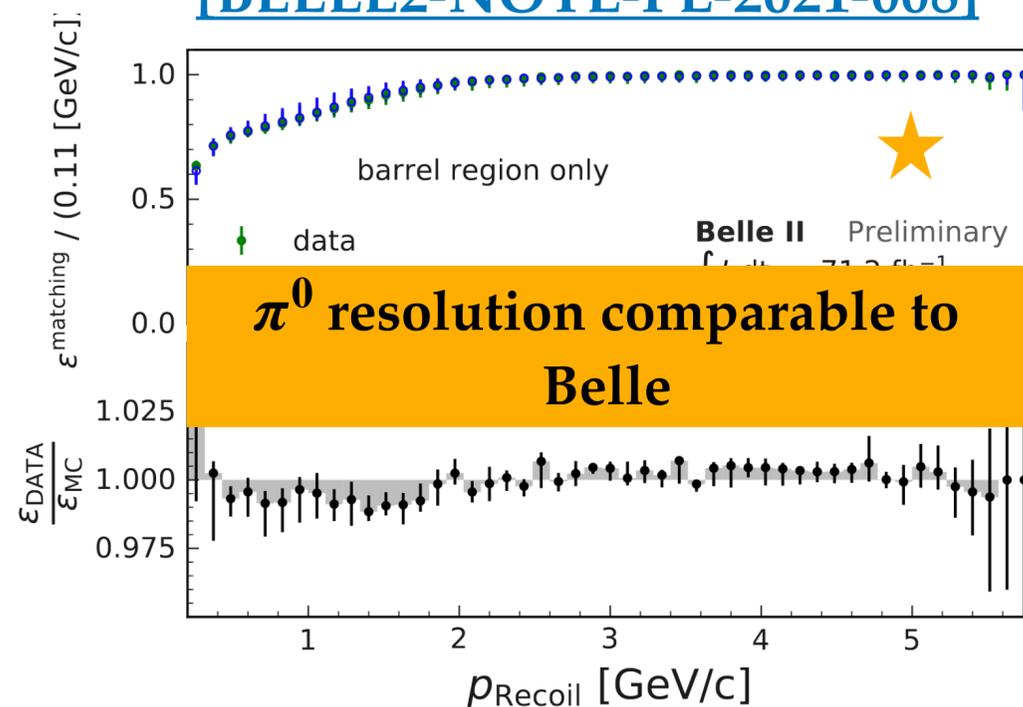
Good flavour tagger performance

[EPJC 82, 283 \(2022\)](#)



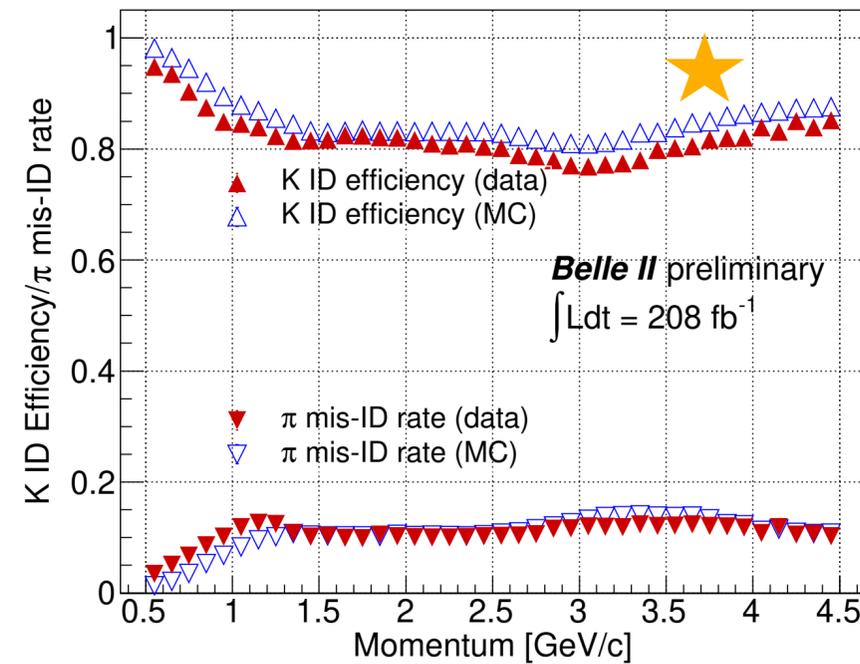
High photon matching efficiency

[\[BELLE2-NOTE-PL-2021-008\]](#)

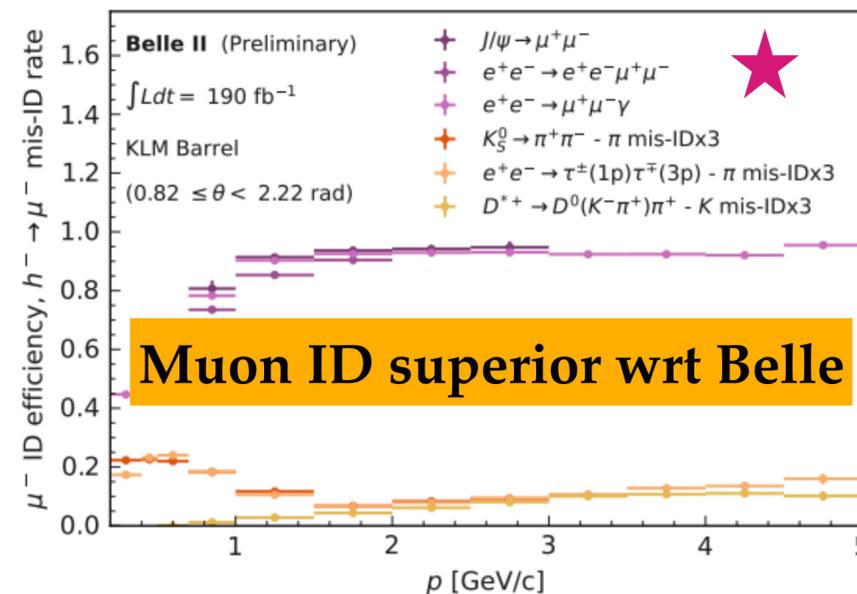


Good particle identification

[\[BELLE2-NOTE-PL-2020-024\]](#)



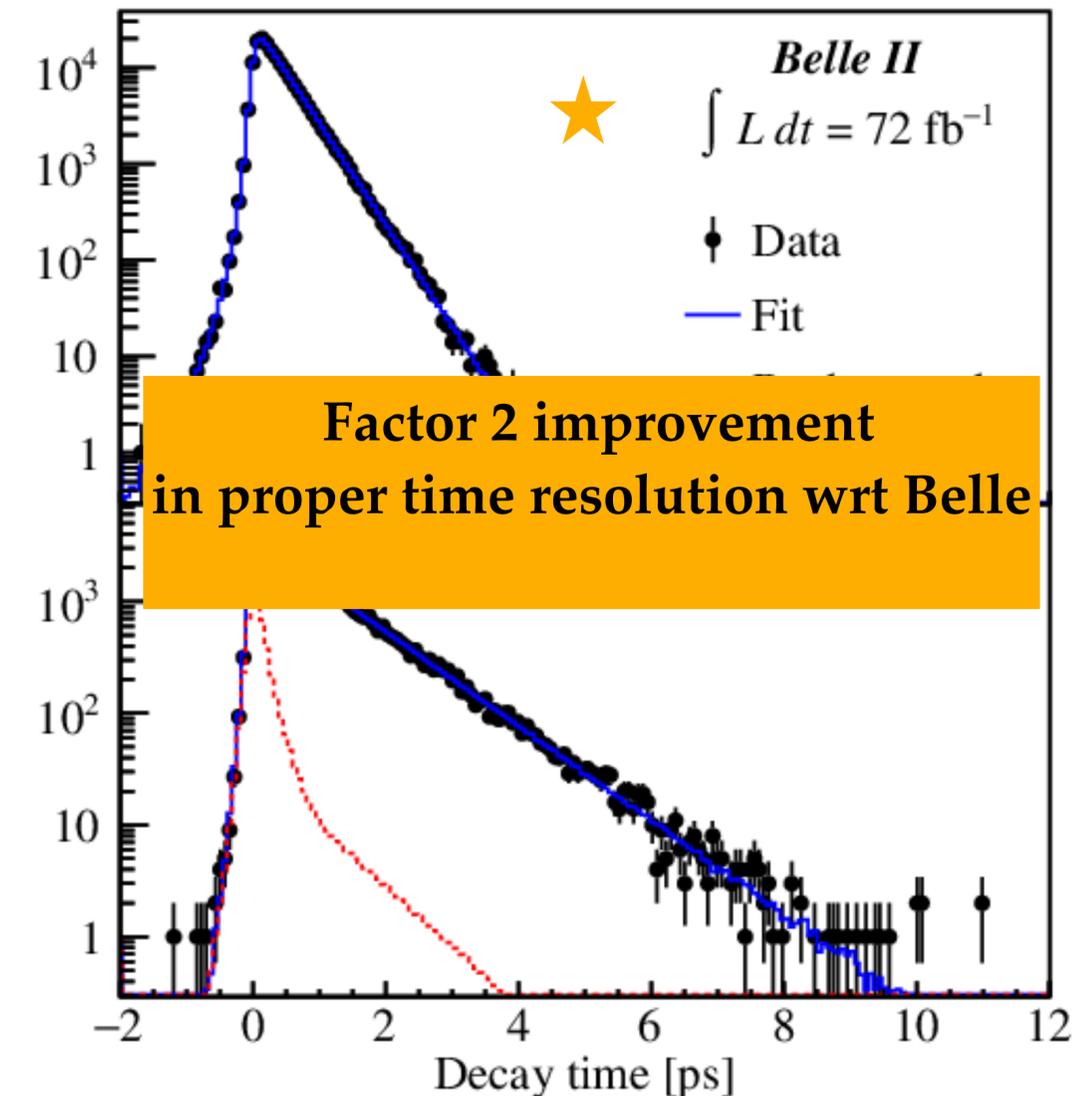
[\[BELLE2-NOTE-PL-2022-003\]](#)



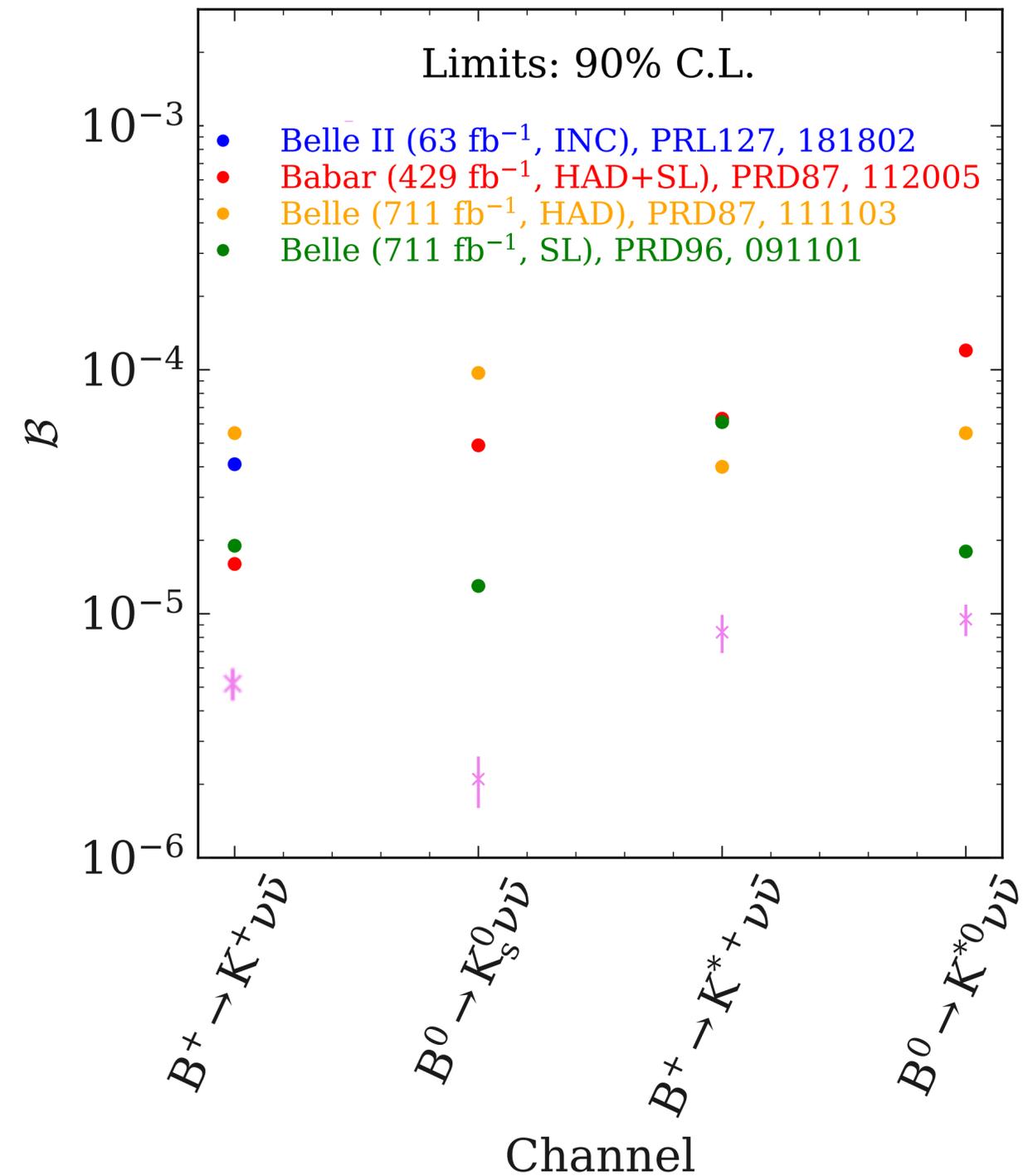
Most precise measurement of

D lifetimes

[PRL 127, 211801 \(2021\)](#)



Experimental Status



Recap of last Belle II measurement

[[Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 181802](#)]

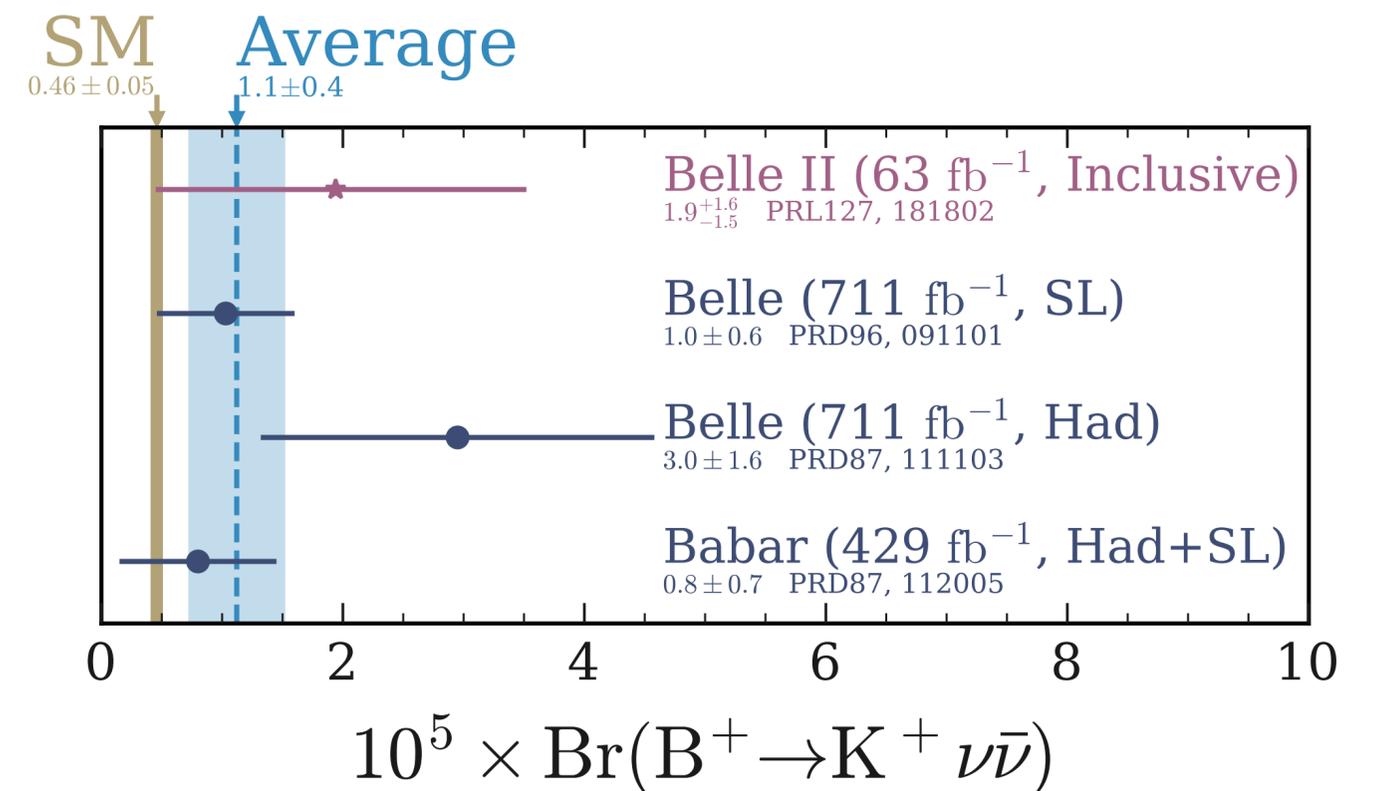
The first analysis on $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ performed by Belle II used first $\mathcal{L} = 63 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

- Based on innovative reconstruction approach (inclusive tagging)
- $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) = [1.9_{-1.3}^{+1.3} (\text{stat})_{-0.7}^{+0.8} (\text{syst})] \times 10^{-5} \rightarrow$ no significant signal was observed
- Set competitive upper limit of 4.1×10^{-5} @ 90% C.L.

Good sensitivity with rather small dataset thanks to innovative approach

Best upper limit

- Set by BaBar 1.6×10^{-5} @ 90 % C.L. [[PhysRevD.87.112005](#)]



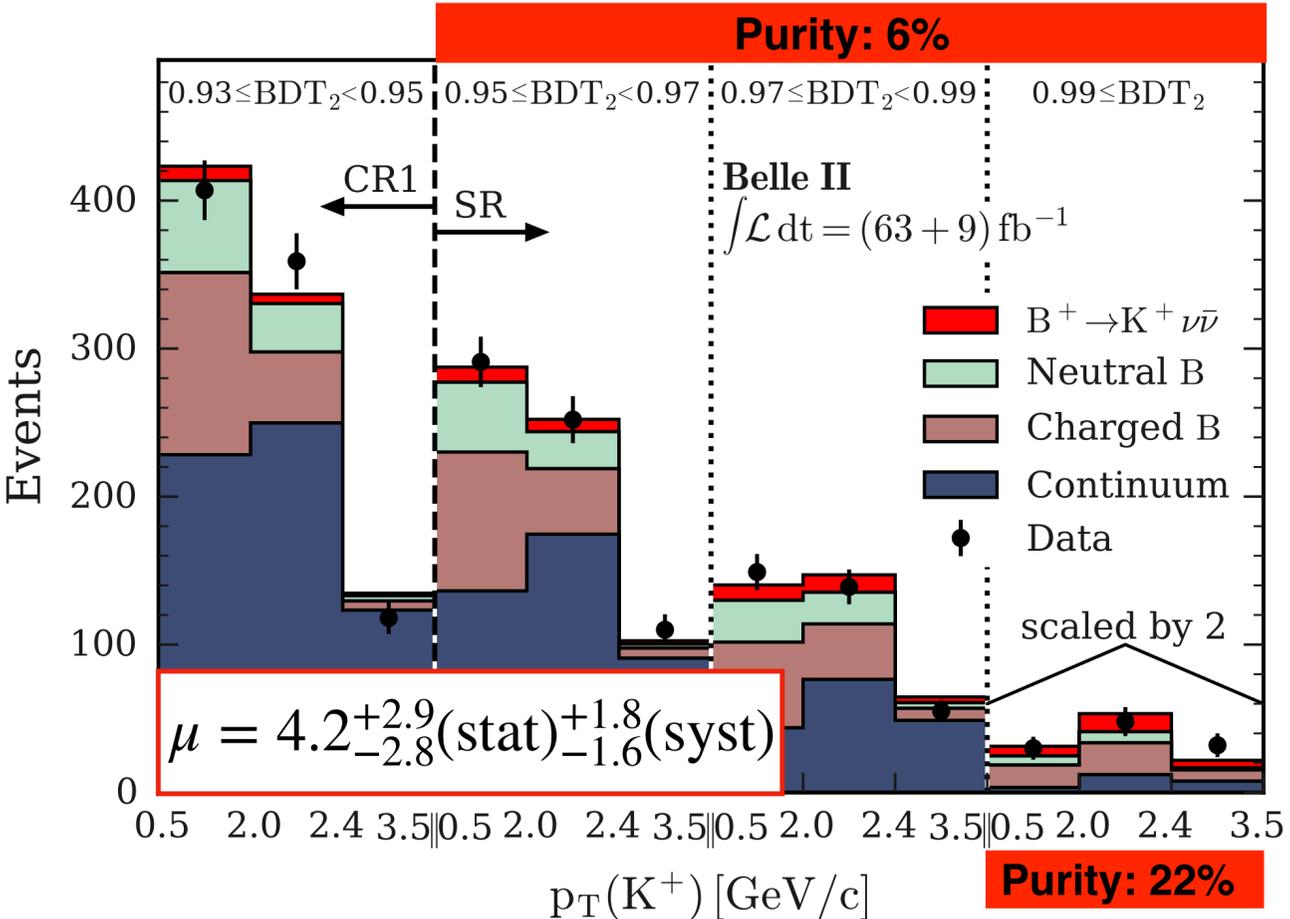
Measured central values*
*N.B. only limits were set

Fit Results (old)

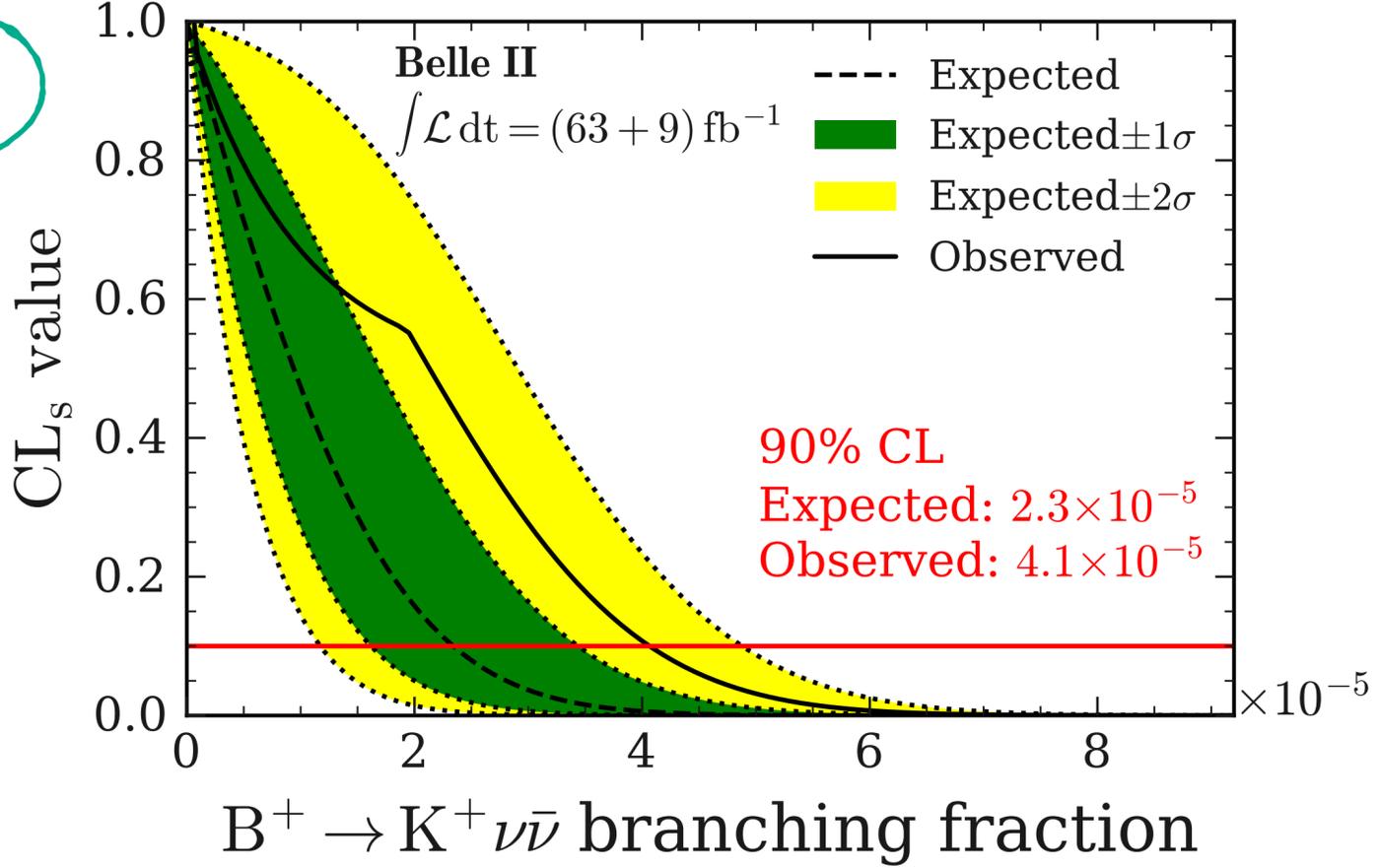
Step 4: Perform ML fit to binned $p_T(K^+) \times \mathbf{BDT}_2$ distribution to extract signal strength μ :

- $\mu = 4.2^{+2.9}_{-2.8}(\text{stat})^{+1.8}_{-1.6}(\text{syst}) = 4.2^{+3.4}_{-3.2} \rightarrow$ no significant signal is observed
- **Limit of 4.1×10^{-5} @ 90 % C.L.** \rightarrow competitive with *only* 63 fb^{-1}
- Leading systematic: background normalisation

$1\mu = \text{SM } \mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$



Step 4

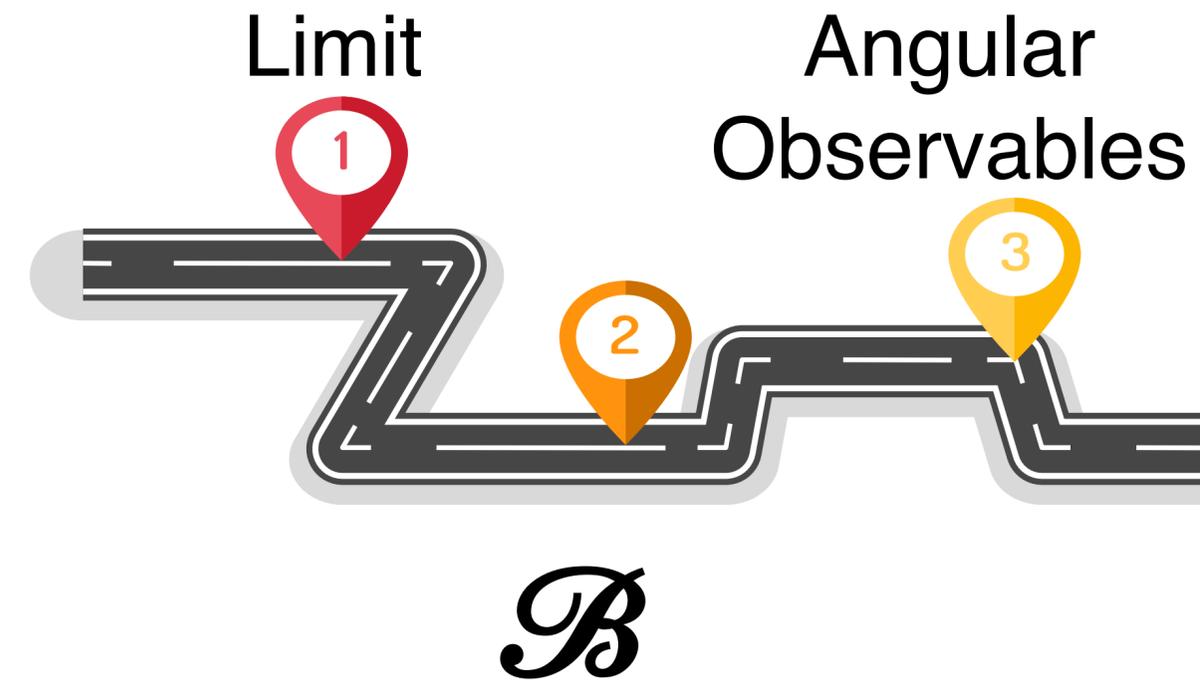
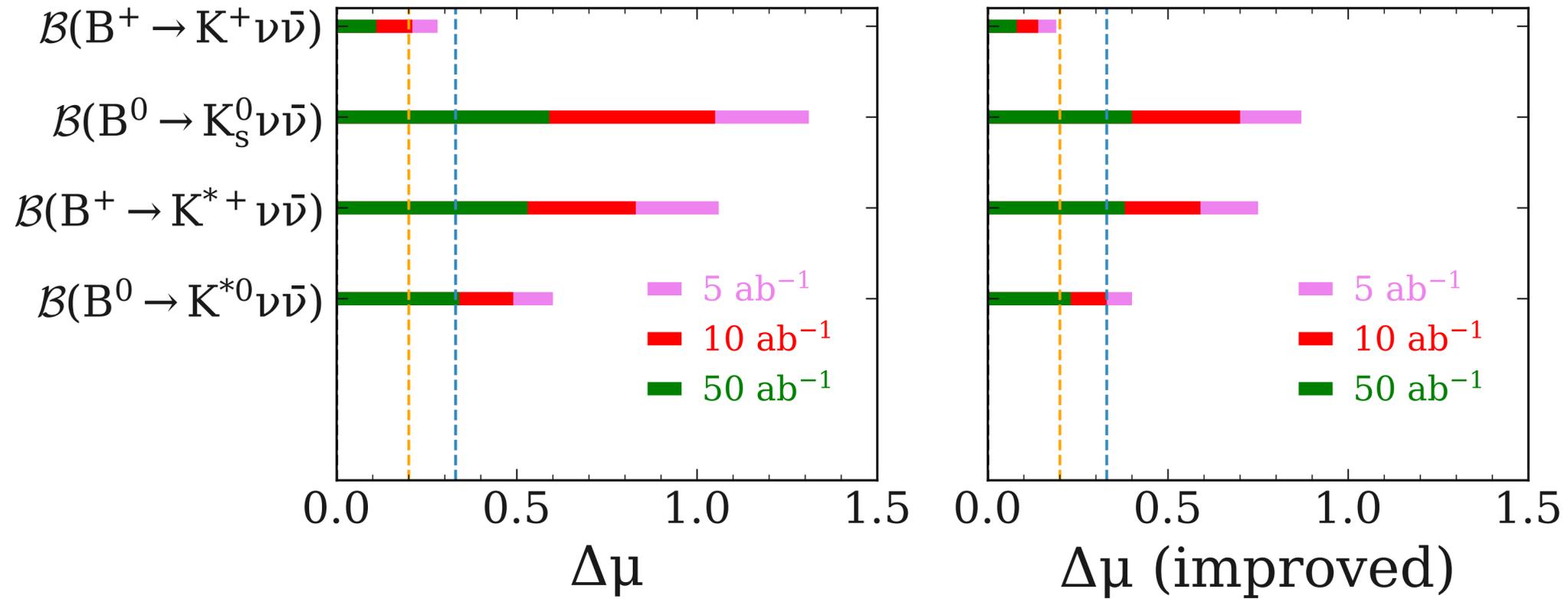


Uncertainty on the Signal Strength μ (old)

Belle II Snowmass paper : 2 scenarios baseline (improved*)

3σ (5σ) for SM $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decays with 5 ab^{-1}

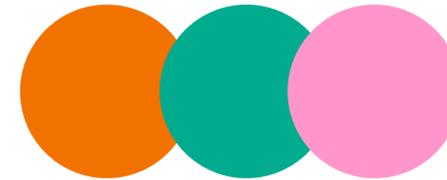
*The "improved" scenario assumes a 50% increase in signal efficiency for the same background level



Future Prospects @ Belle II

Prospects for $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$:

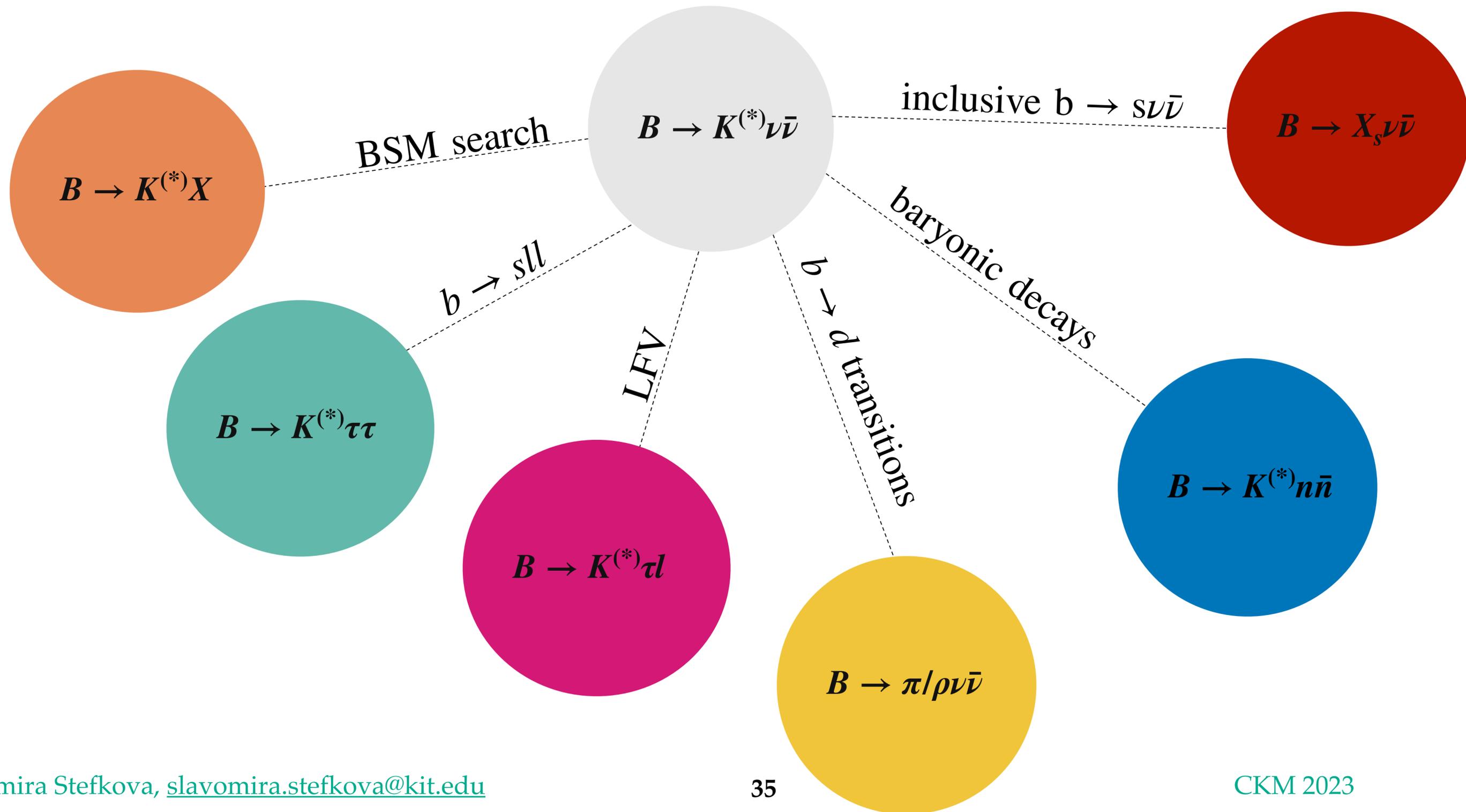
- Analyse bigger datasets
- Improve inclusive and hadronic analysis method (including reducing the largest systematics)
- Employ semileptonic tag reconstruction



Prospects for $B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \nu \bar{\nu}$:

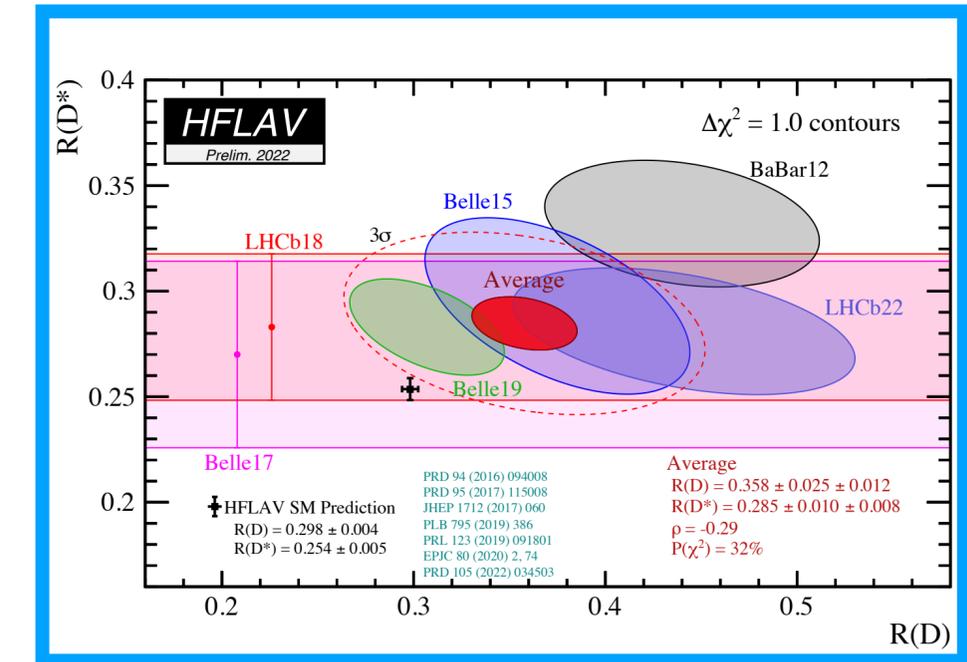
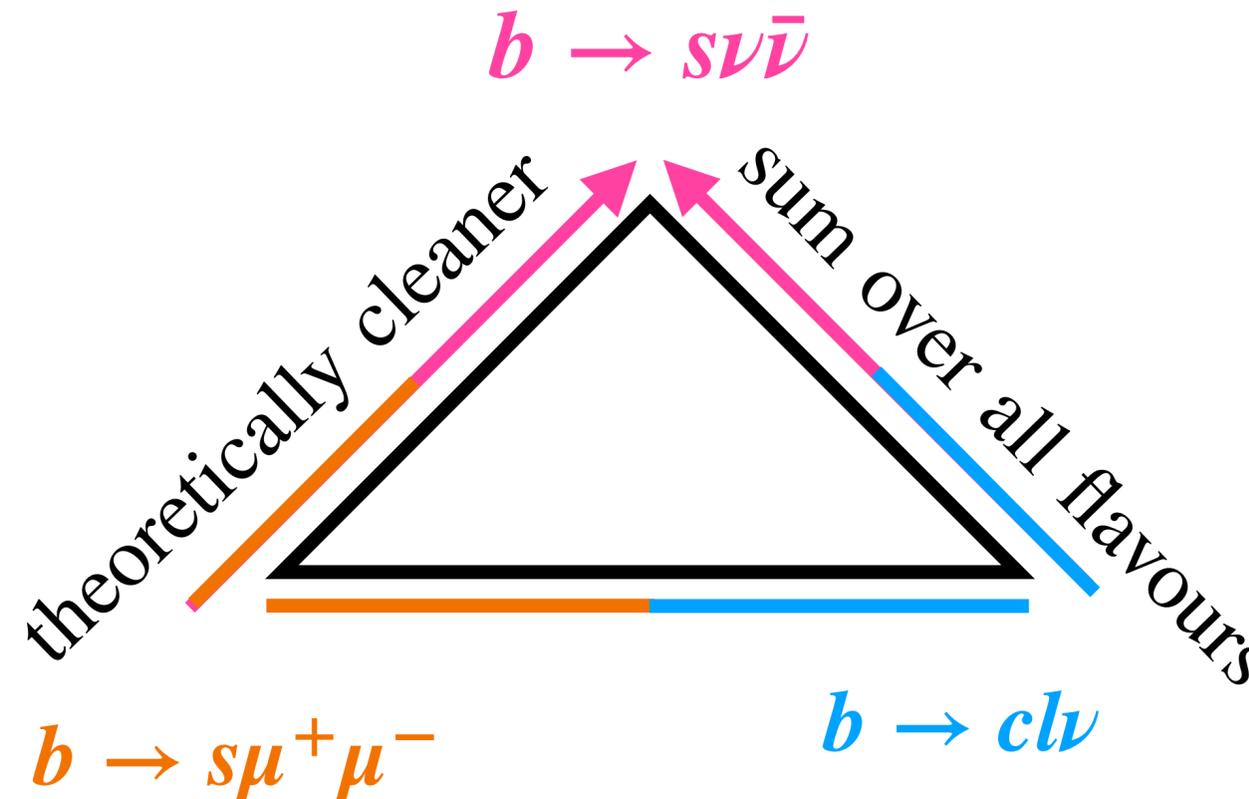
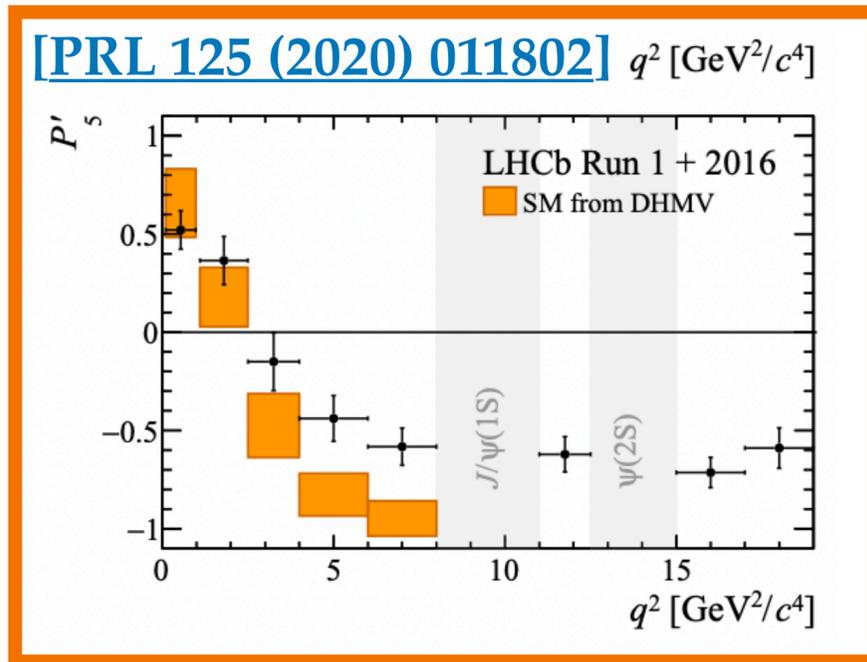
- Measure other decay channels
 - $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*+} \nu \bar{\nu} : K^{*+} \rightarrow K^+ \pi^0, K^{*+} \rightarrow K_s^0 \pi^+$
 - $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0} \nu \bar{\nu} : K^{*0} \rightarrow K_s^0 \pi^0, K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$
 - $B^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$

Other Avenues with Invisibles



Relation to Flavour Anomalies

Anomalies observed in exclusive $b \rightarrow s\mu^+\mu^-$ and $b \rightarrow cl\nu$ transitions



Transition

Observable

Significance

P'_5, \mathcal{B}

Above 2.5 σ

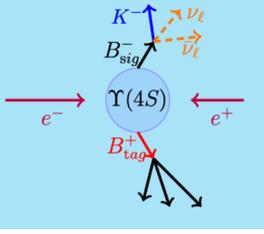
$$R(D^{(*)}) = \frac{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)}\tau\nu)}{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)}l\nu) \quad (l = e, \mu)}$$

Around 3.0 σ

$b \rightarrow s\nu\bar{\nu}$ transitions are correlated to flavour anomalies

Other post-fit distributions

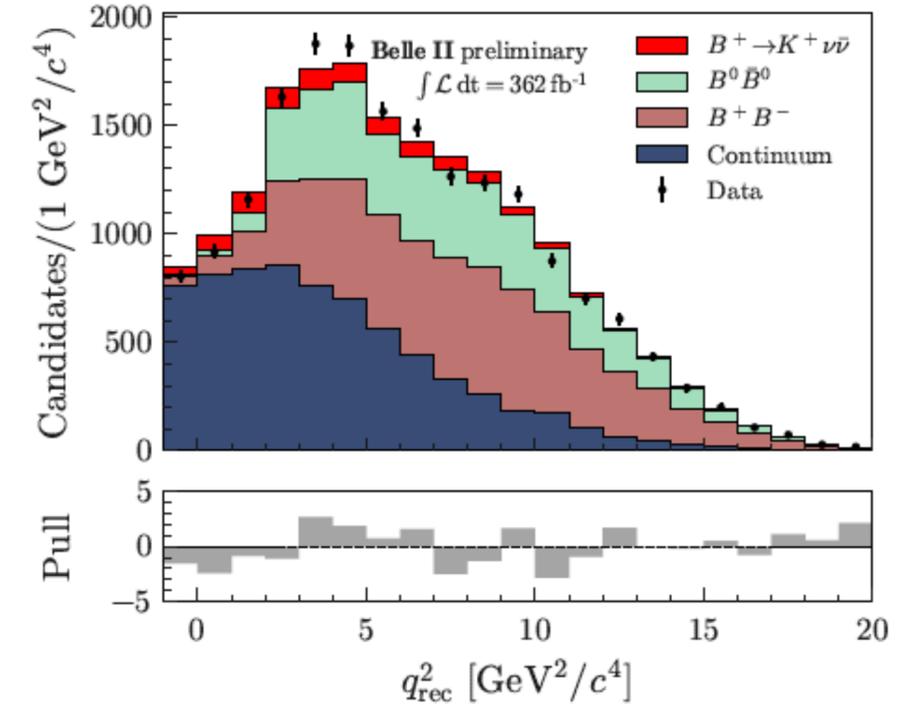
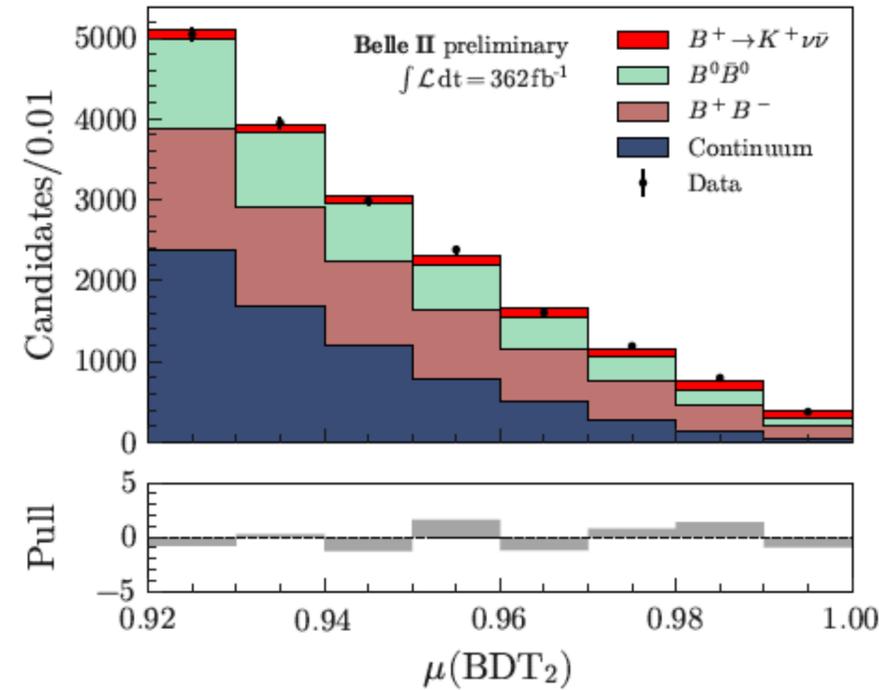
ITA Results: Post-fit distributions



Examples:

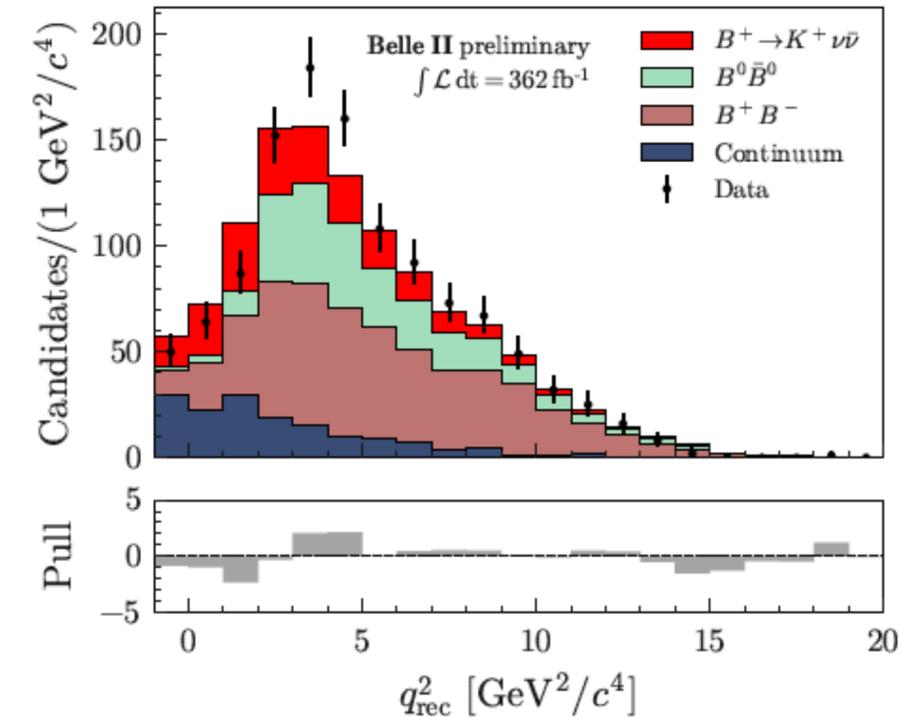
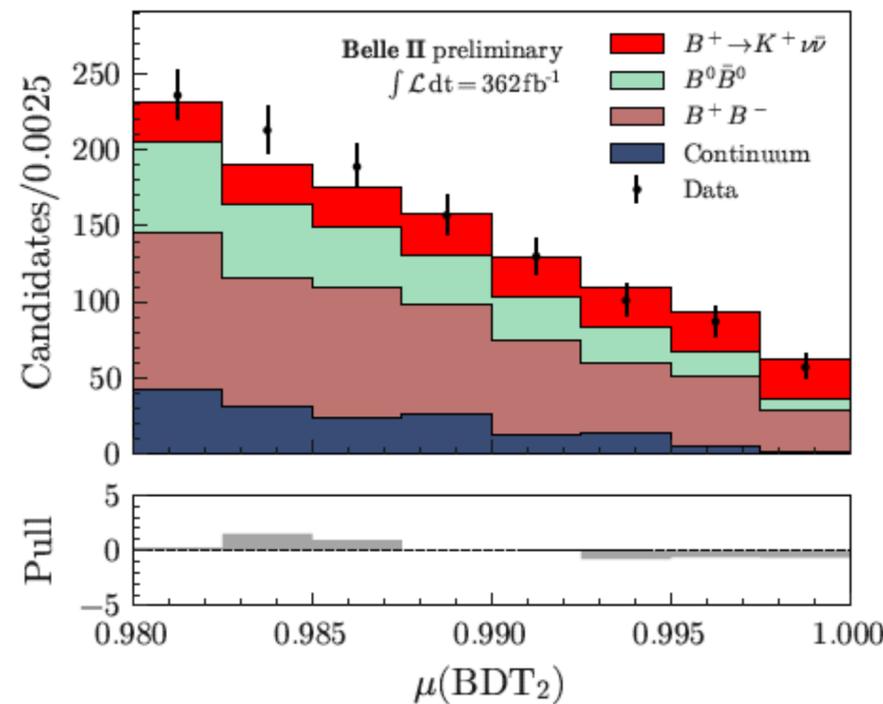
Signal region

$$\mu(BDT_2) > 0.92$$

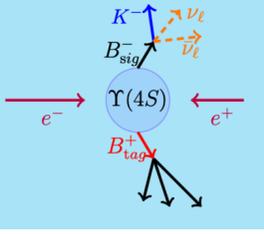


High sensitivity bins of the signal region

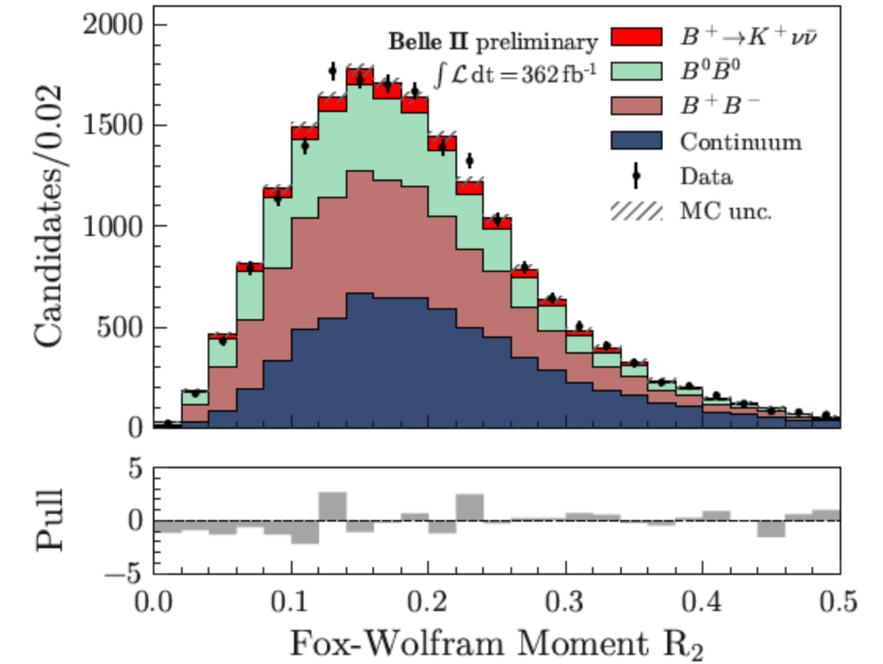
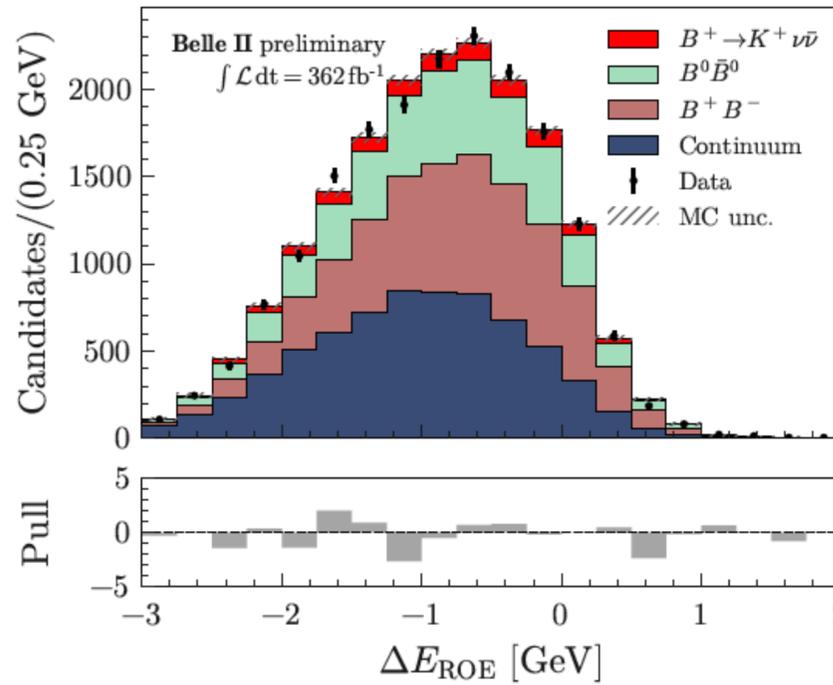
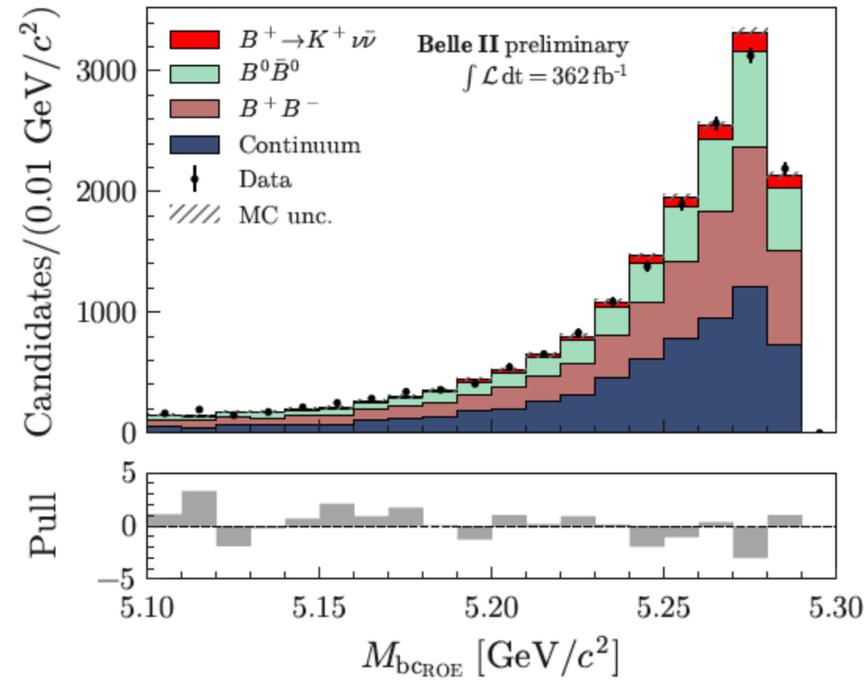
$$\mu(BDT_2) > 0.98$$



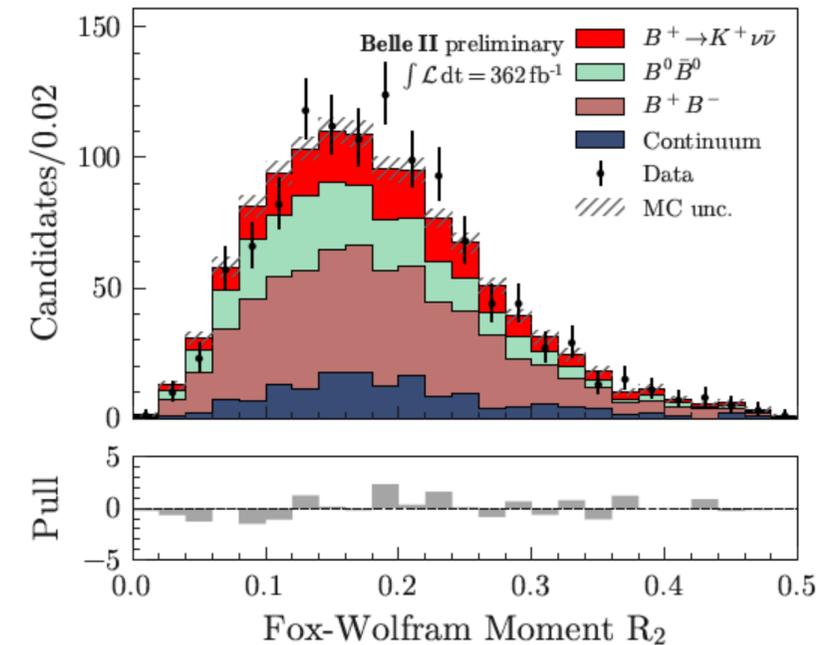
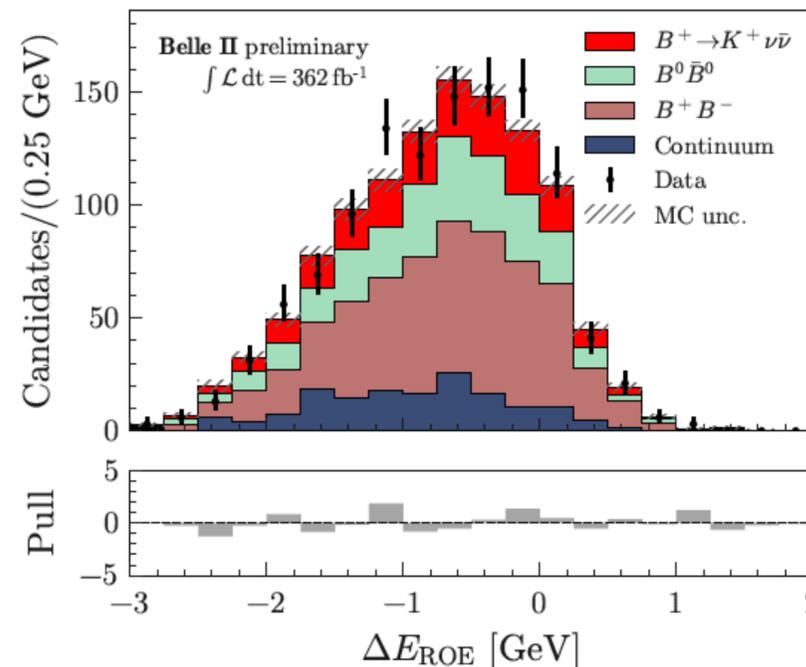
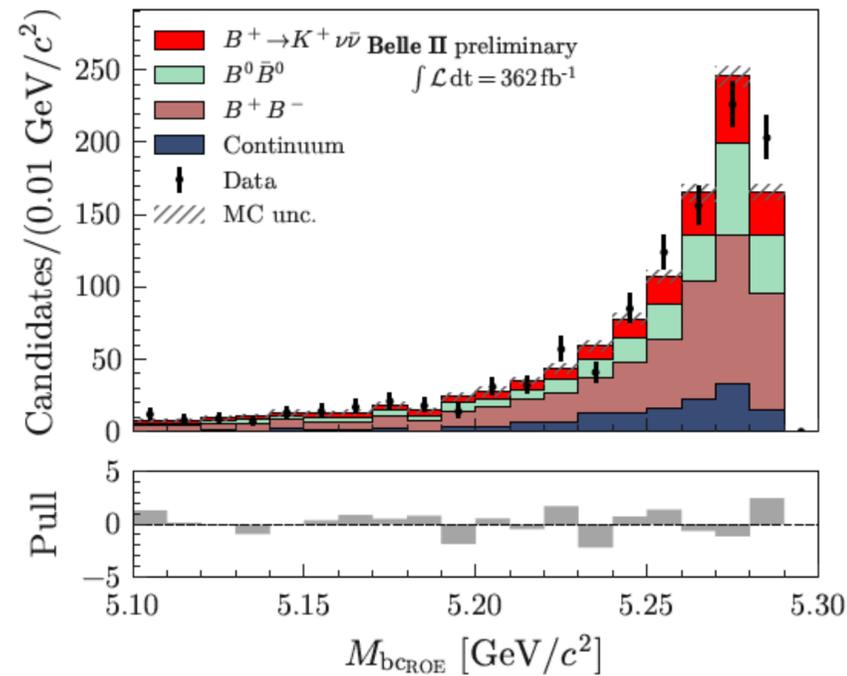
ITA Results: Post-fit distributions

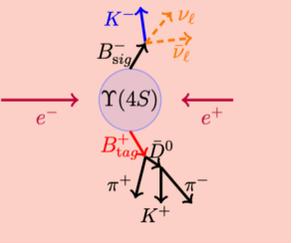


$\mu(BDT_2) > 0.92$



$\mu(BDT_2) > 0.98$

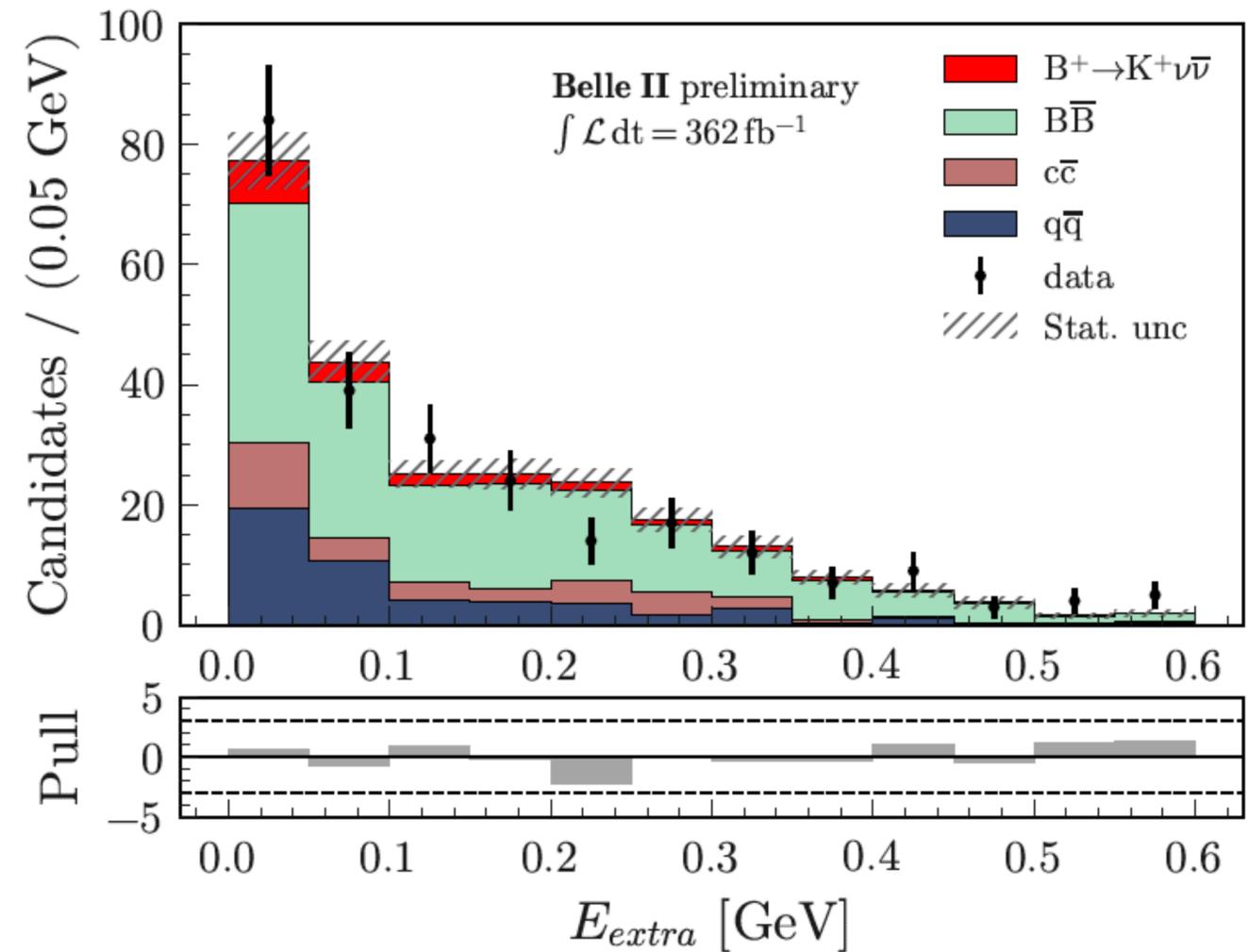
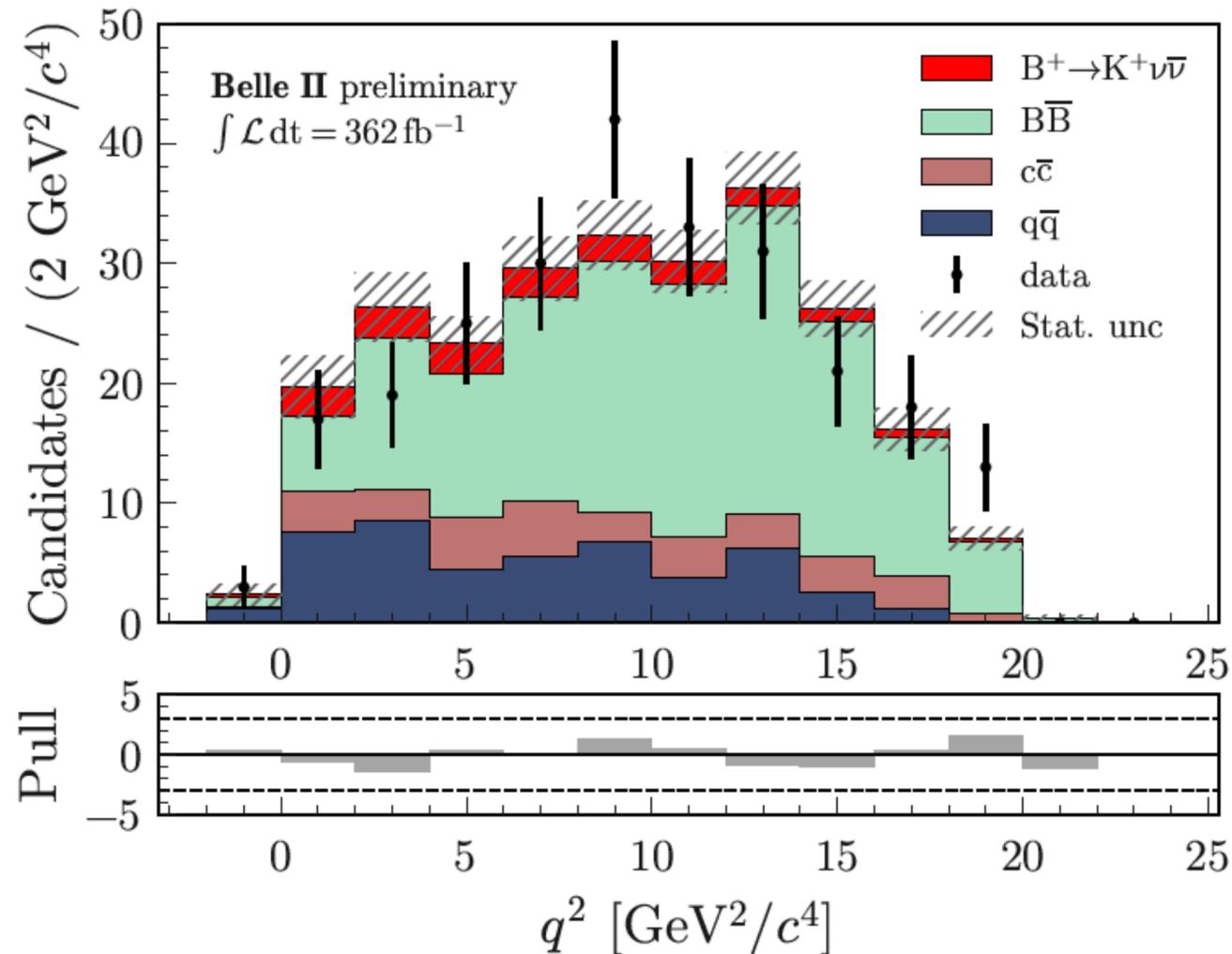


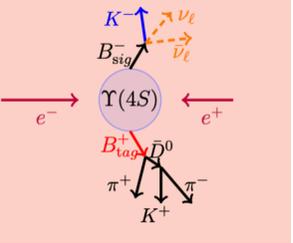


HTA Results: Post-fit distributions

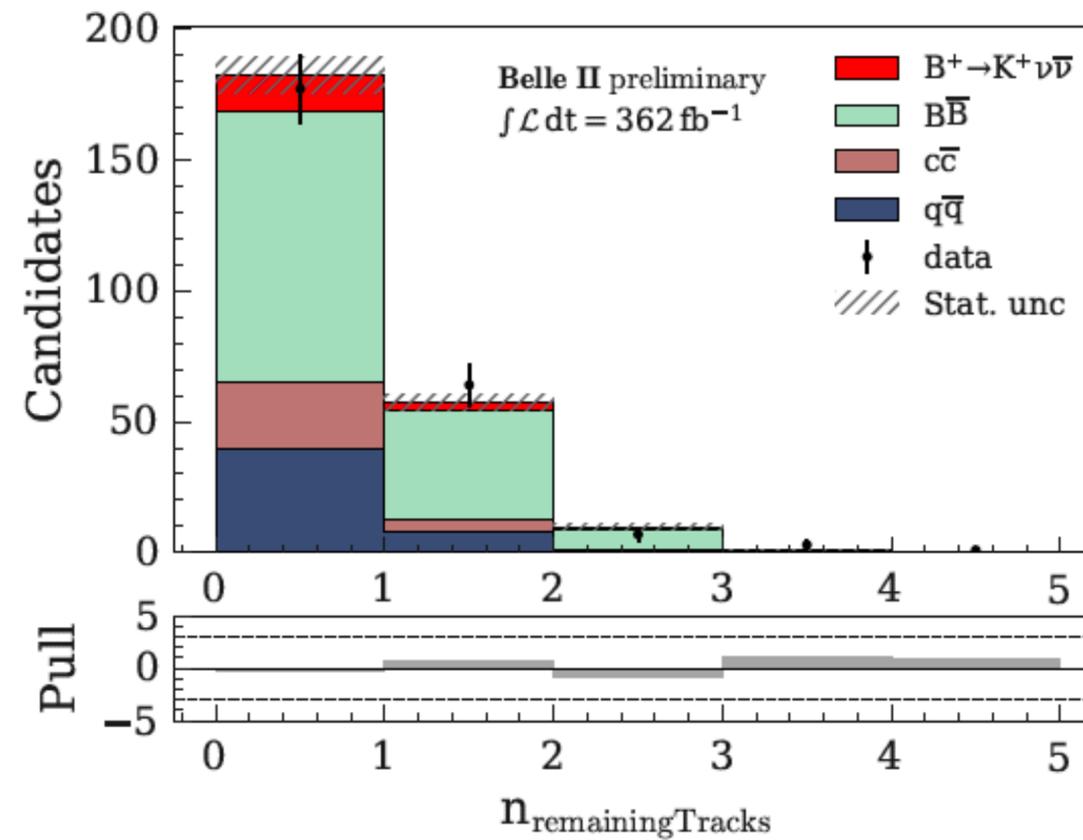
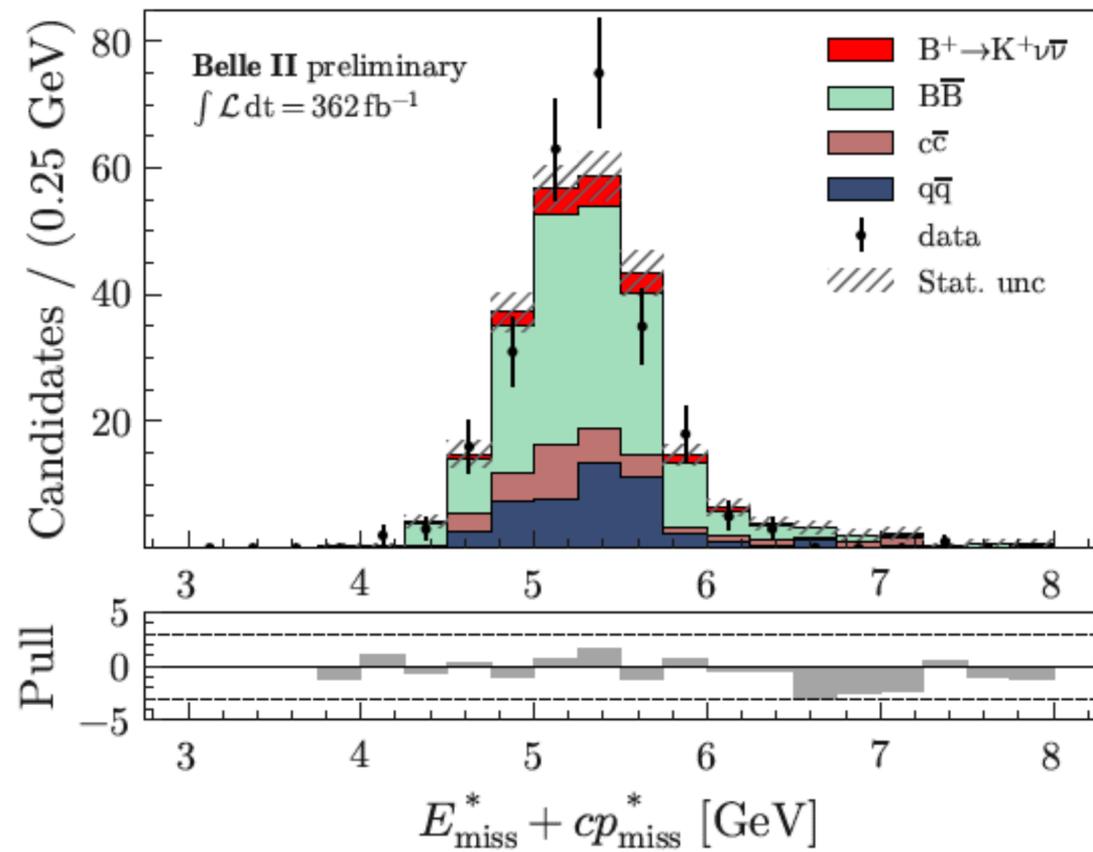
Examples:

HTA Signal region $\mu(BDT_h) > 0.4$



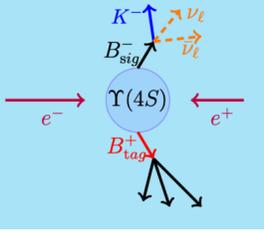


HTA Results: Post-fit distributions



Validation Details

Validation: Particle Identification (ITA)



Kaon candidate: a track with kaon PID hypothesis:

- $\epsilon(\text{KaonID}) \sim 68\%$
- Mis-ID rate ($\pi \rightarrow K$) $\sim 1.2\%$

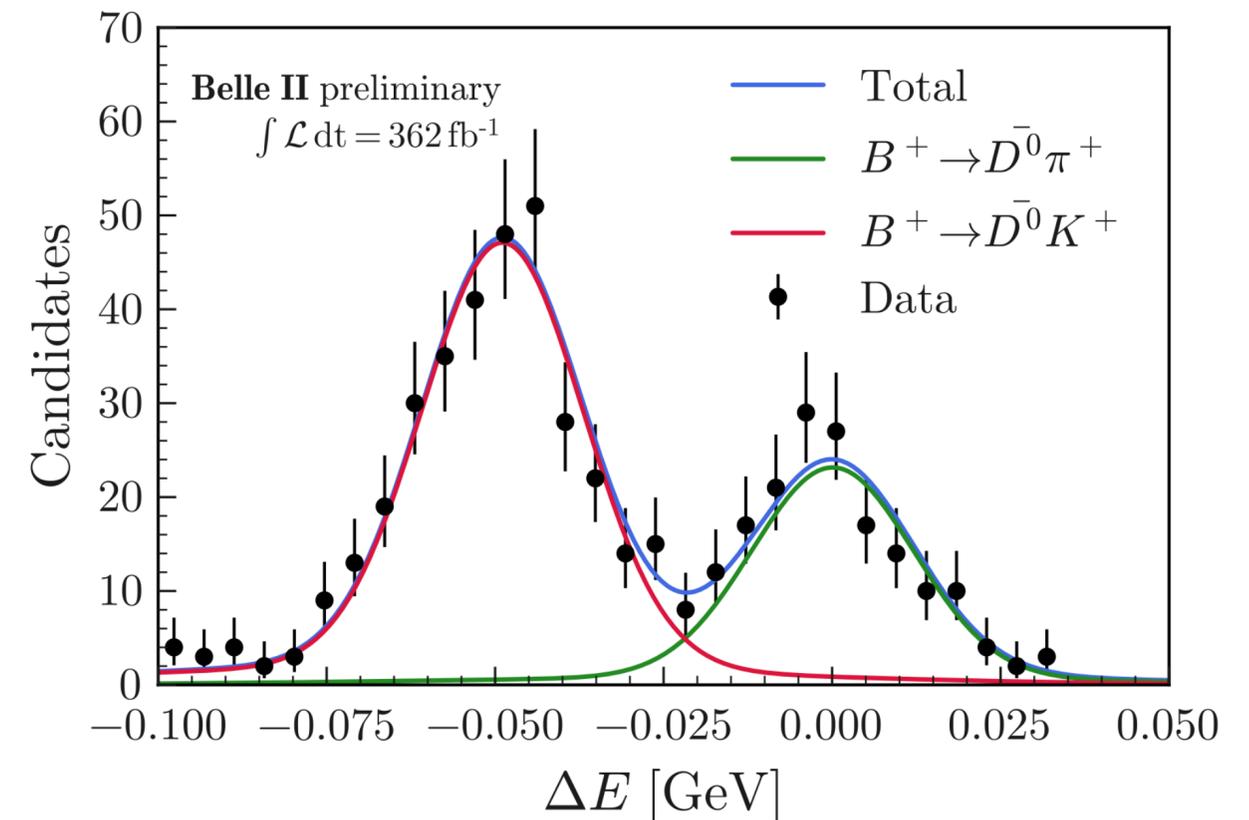
PID Data/MC correction factors:

- Obtained from $D^{*+} \rightarrow \pi^+ D^0 (\rightarrow K^- \pi^+)$ calibration channels
- Associated errors are propagated as systematic uncertainties

Validation with $B^+ \rightarrow \overline{D}^0 (\rightarrow K^+ \pi^-) h^+$ samples, where $h = (K, \pi)$:

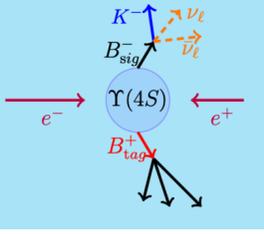
- Remove \overline{D}^0 daughters to mimic signal topology
- Apply $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ selection
- Fit ΔE to obtain yields and calculate fake rate

$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ signal region



Data consistent with MC within 9%: 1.03 ± 0.09
→ No further corrections applied

Particle Identification: Validation (ITA)

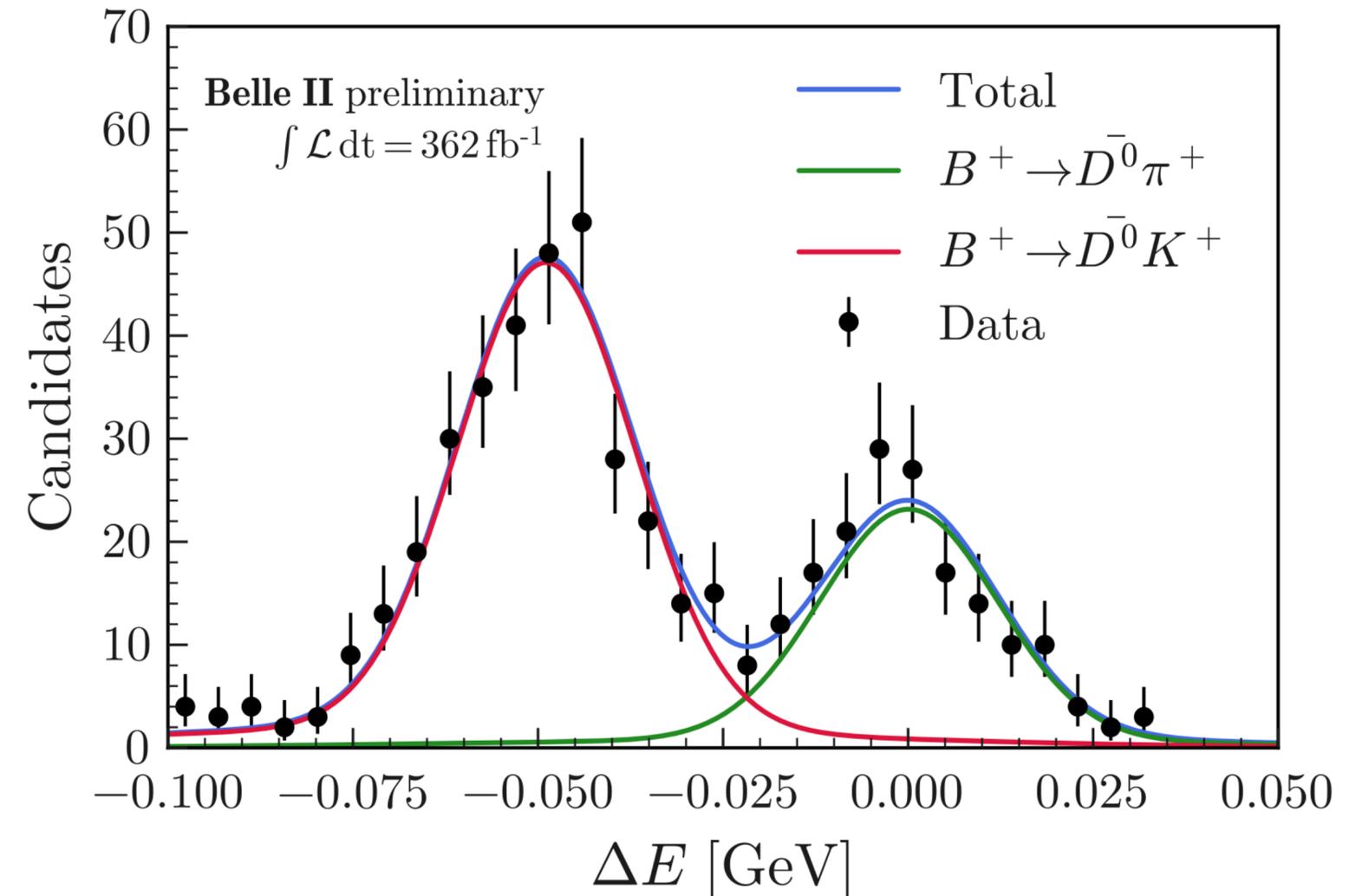


$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 (\rightarrow K^+ \pi^-) h^+$ data and MC events with $h = K, \pi$ to validate the fake rate:

- Remove \bar{D}^0 -decay tracks to mimic signal signature
- Use the full $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ selection
- Compute ΔE with π mass hypothesis and select h with nominal KaonID
- Estimate the number of $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \pi^+$ by fitting ΔE both for MC and data
- Obtain fake rate: $F = N_\pi / (N_\pi + N_K)$

Data consistent with MC within 9%: 1.03 ± 0.09
 → No further corrections applied

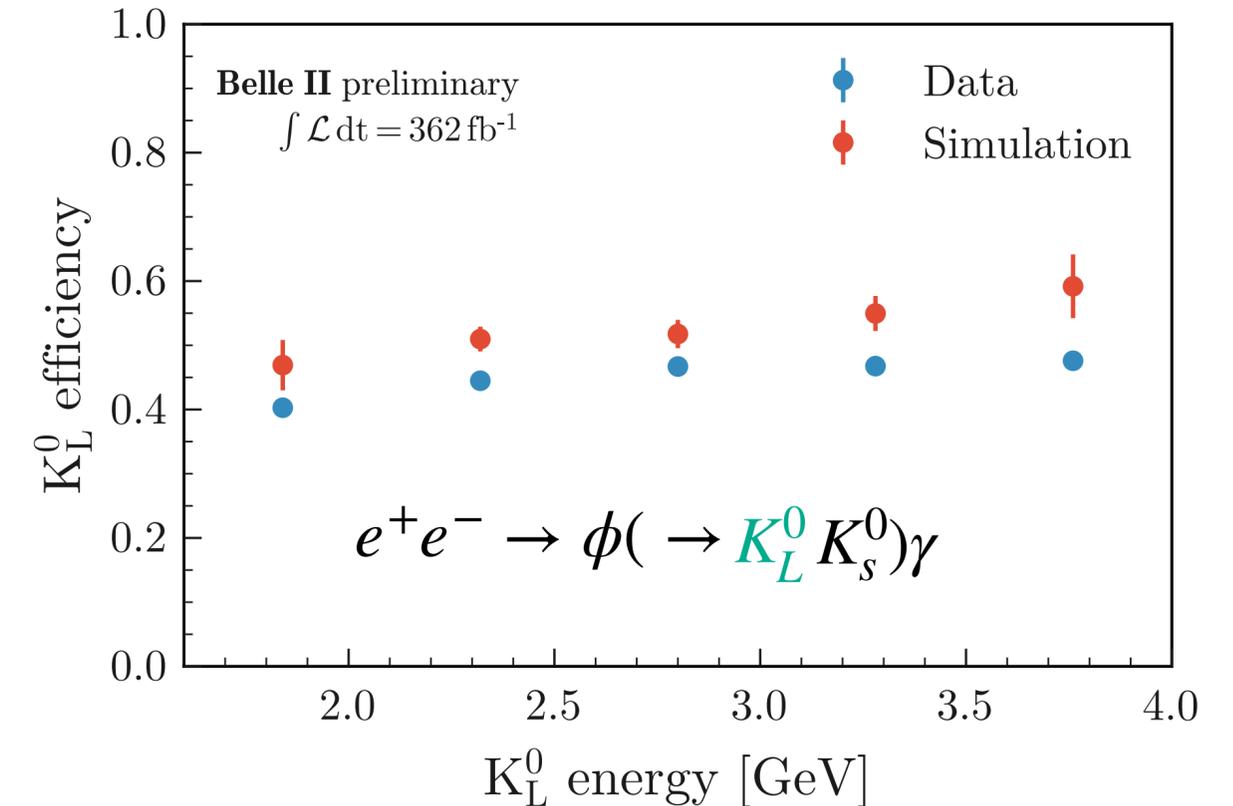
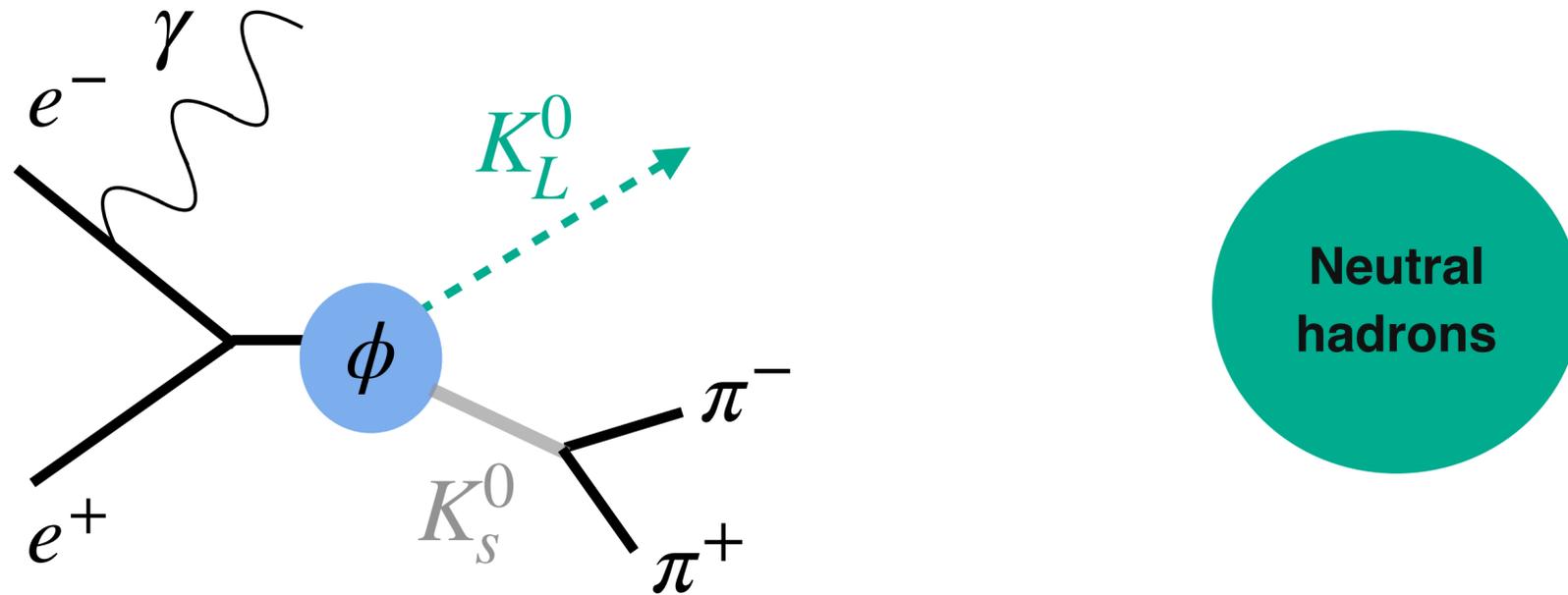
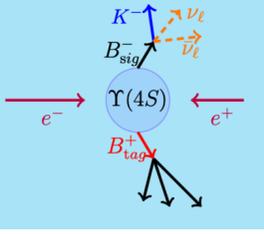
$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ signal region



$$\Delta E = E_B^* - \sqrt{s}/2$$

Observed minus expected B energy

Validation: K_L^0 Efficiency (ITA)

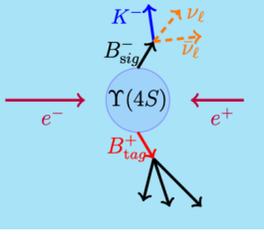


Check K_L^0 reconstruction efficiency with $e^+e^- \rightarrow \phi(\rightarrow K_L^0 K_S^0)\gamma$:

- Look for a photon with $E_\gamma^* > 4.7$ GeV, K_S^0 and no extra tracks
- Extrapolate K_L^0 trajectory to the calorimeter
- Calculate efficiency from checking energy deposit distance-matched to the K_L^0 trajectory
→ Efficiency in data lower than MC of 17%

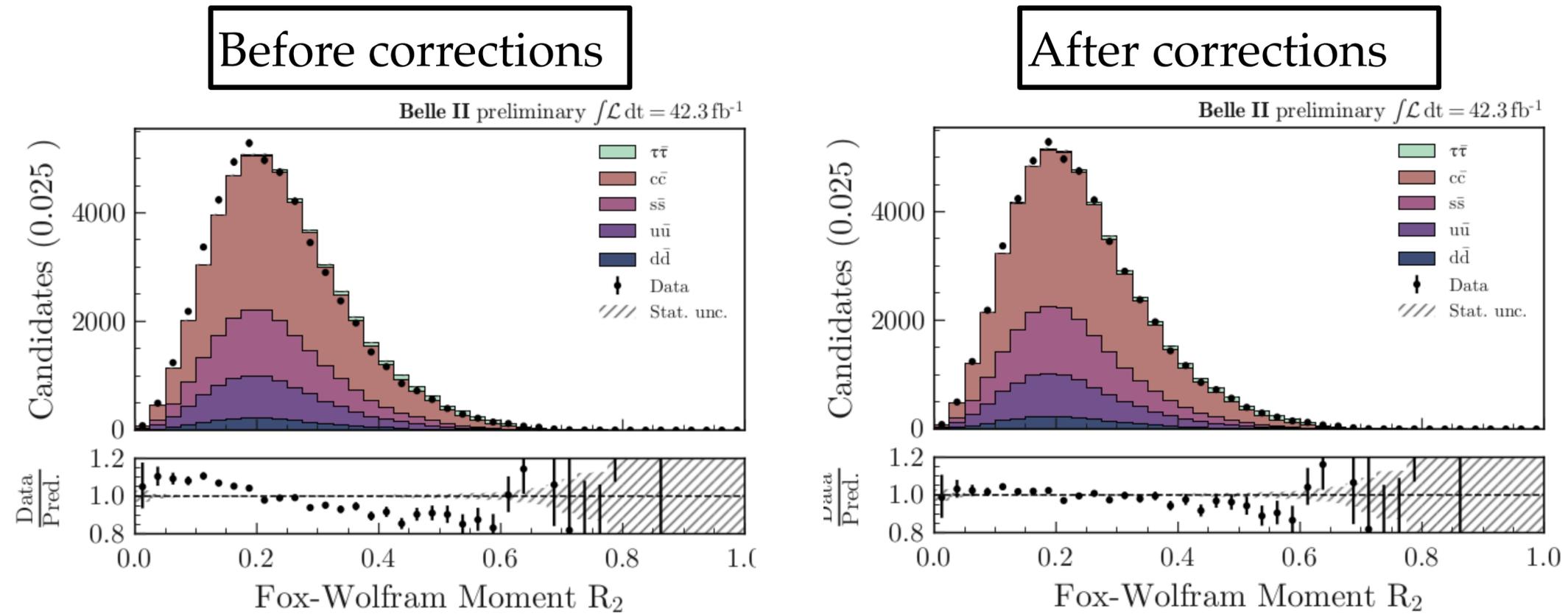
Use difference (17%) as a correction and a systematic uncertainty of 100% on the correction

$q\bar{q}$ Backgrounds



To check $q\bar{q}$ background modeling compare data and MC in pure continuum off-resonance data

Signal region for off-resonance data and $q\bar{q}$ simulation

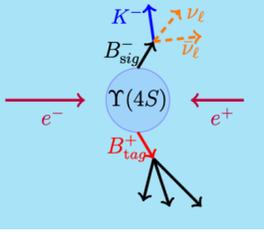


Discrepancies in:

- Normalization (data 40% larger) → propagated as systematic uncertainty
- Shape: event weights derived following [J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 368 012028] → 100% of this correction is considered as systematic uncertainty

After these corrections data/MC agreement is improved

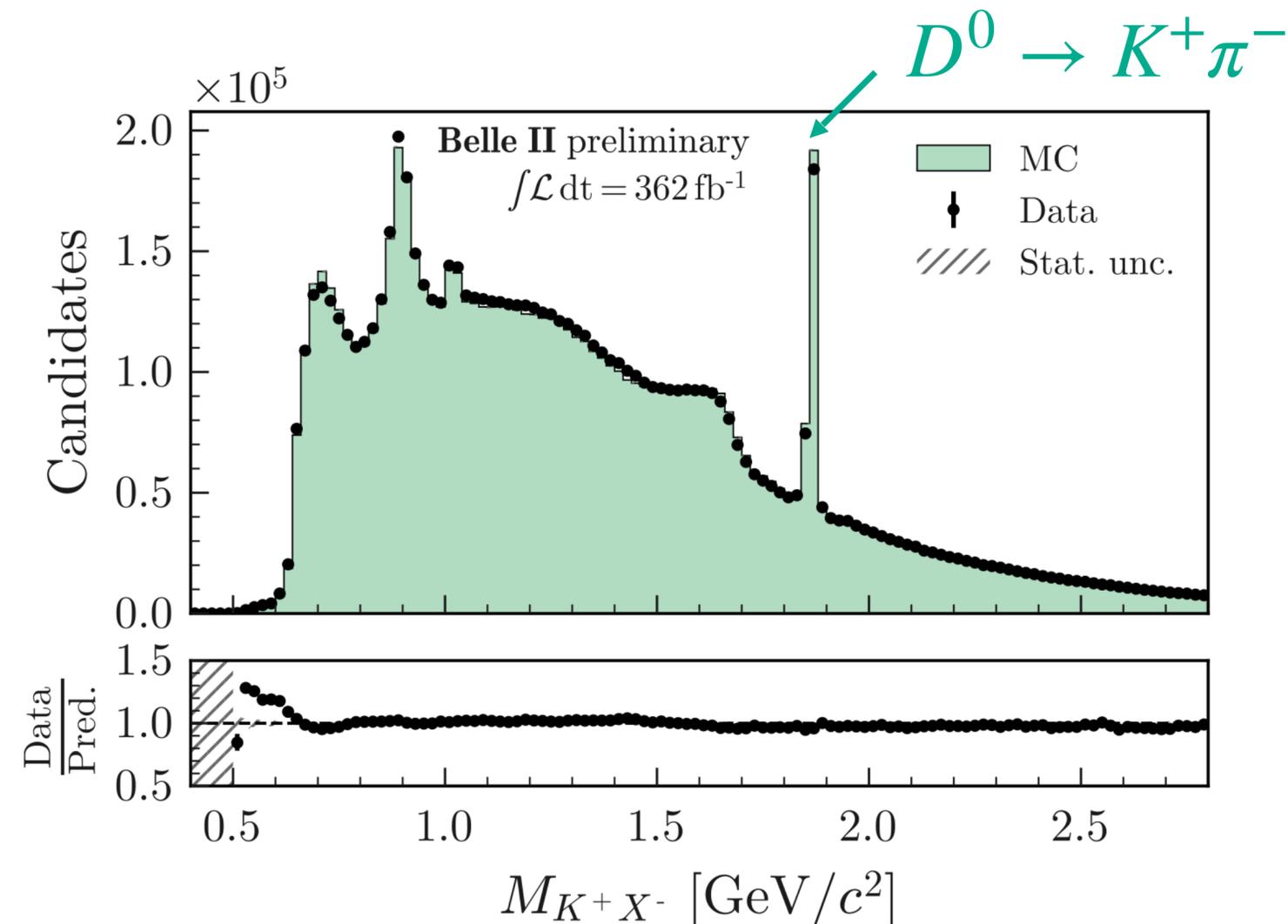
$B\bar{B}$ Backgrounds



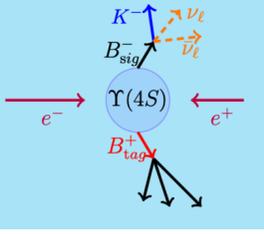
Semileptonic B^+ decays with K coming from a D decay are checked in:

- Invariant mass of the signal kaon and a ROE charged particle (most probable mass hypothesis from PID info $X = \pi, K, p$)
- Resonances well reproduced

$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ after BDT_1 selection



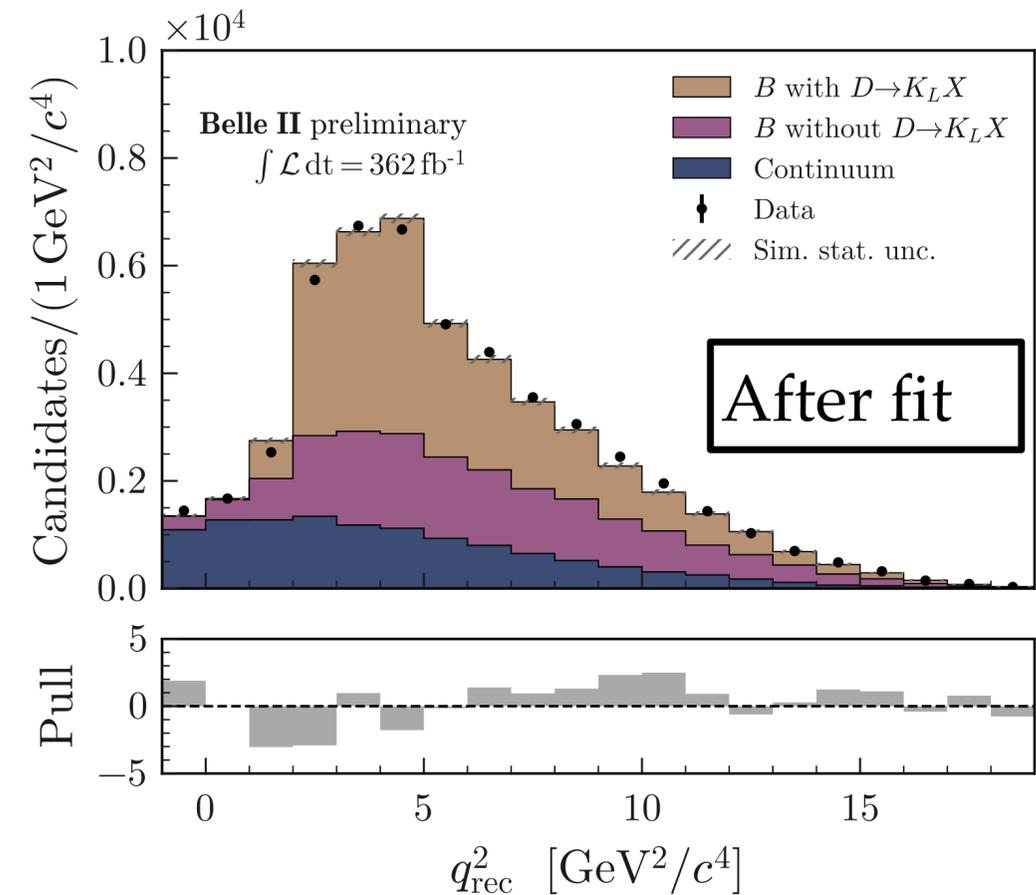
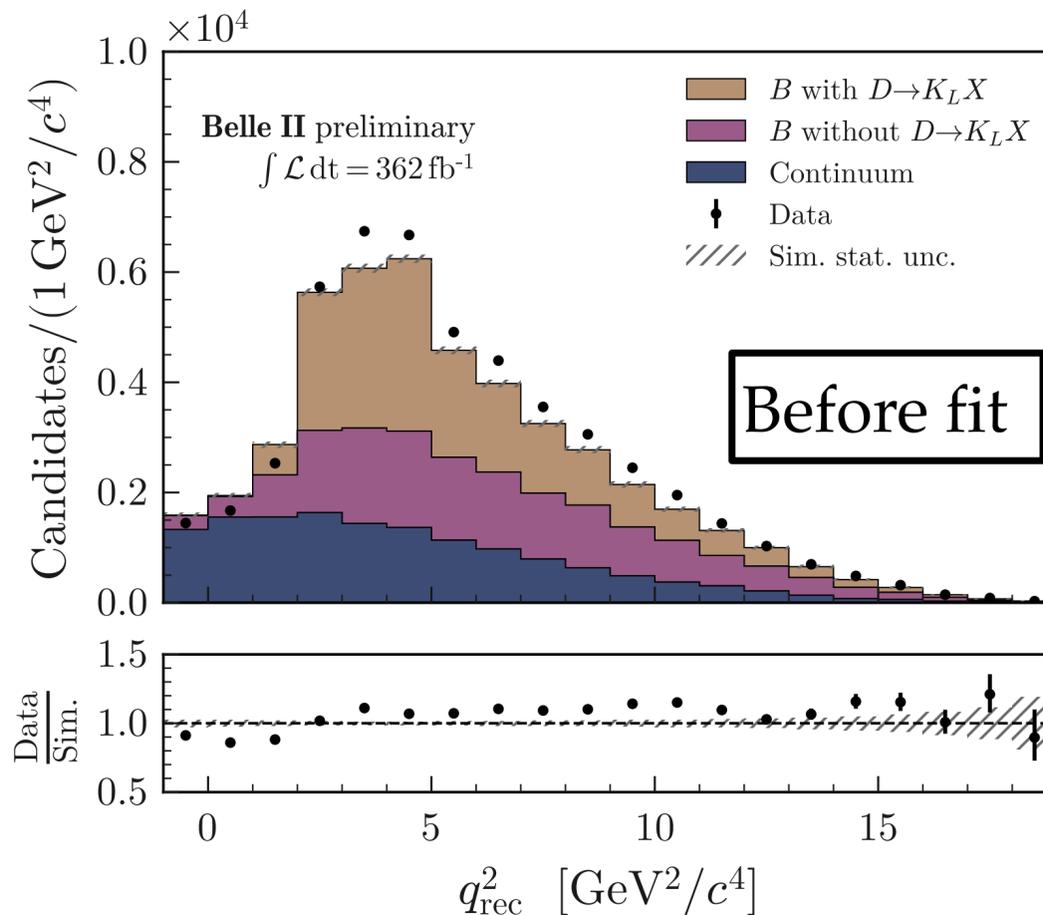
$B\bar{B}$ Backgrounds



Hadronic decays involving K and D mesons $B^0 \rightarrow K^+ D^{*-}$ and $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \bar{D}^{*0}$ are critical because D decays to K_L^0 are poorly known:

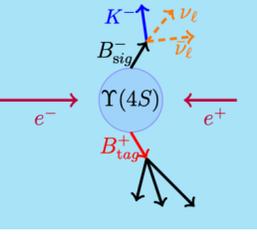
- Modelling checked with pion enriched sample (pion ID instead of kaon ID: $B \rightarrow \pi X$)
- 3-components fit to q_{rec}^2 yields the scale for the contributions with $D \rightarrow K_L X$ of 1.3

$B \rightarrow \pi X$ with $\mu(\text{BDT}_2) > 0.92$



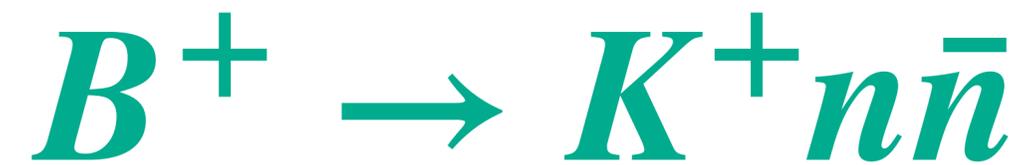
1.3 normalization to $B^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ D$ and $D \rightarrow K_L^0 X$ corresponds to good agreement
 \rightarrow Use as 30% as a correction + 10% systematic uncertainty

ROE Reconstruction: Charged tracks



Rest of the Event (ROE)

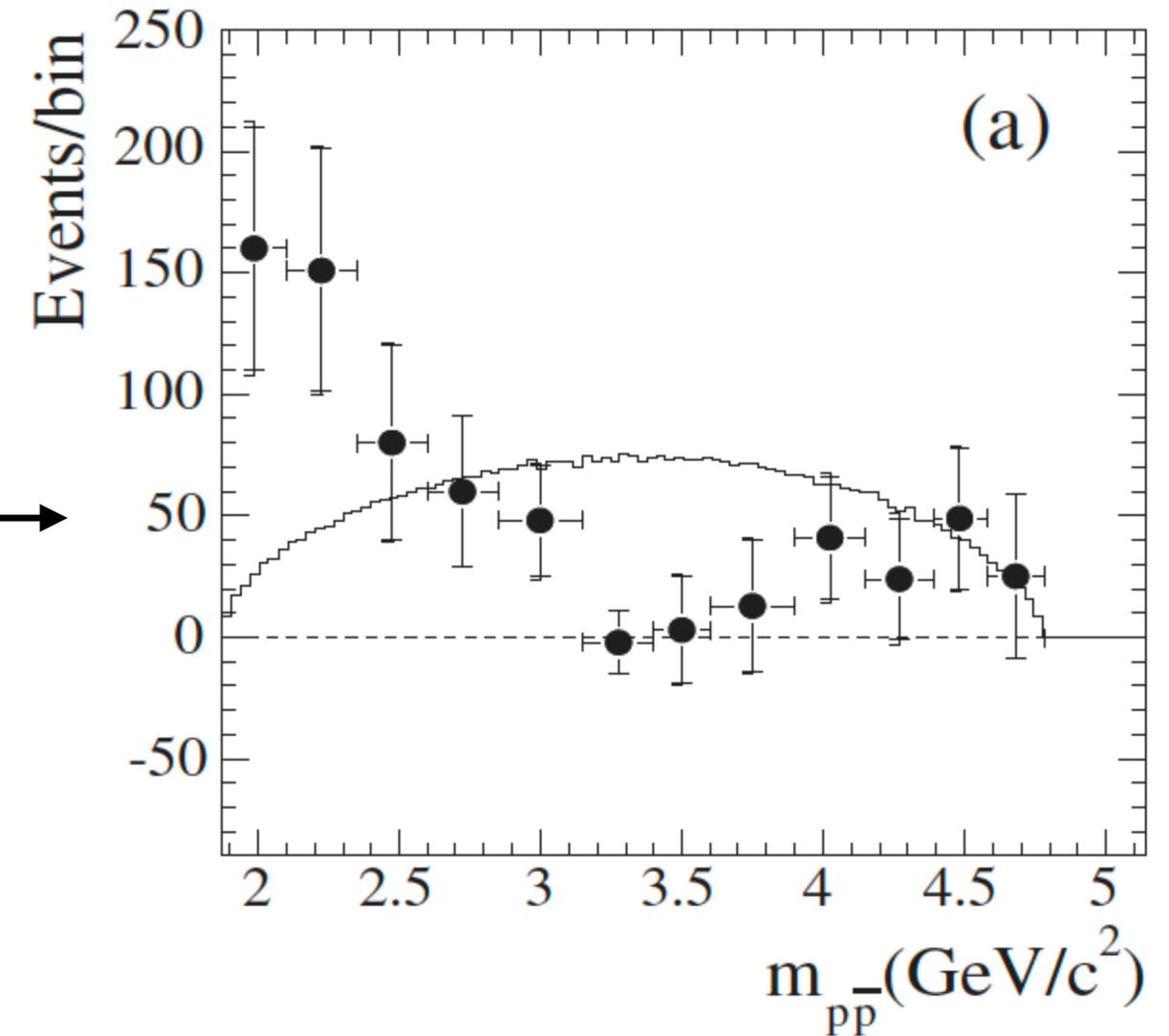
- Other charged tracks
- The efficiency of reconstruction of charged particles is checked with $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ ($\tau \rightarrow 1$ charged track/ $\tau \rightarrow 3$ charged tracks)
 - systematic uncertainty of 0.3% assigned for track detection efficiency
- Kinematics is checked by comparing the reconstructed masses of resonances with simulation
 - very good agreement
- Other ECL clusters
- K_S^0



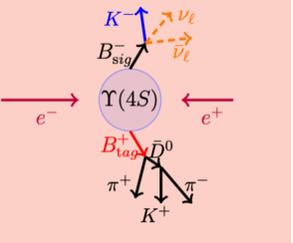
Treatment of the background source: $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ n \bar{n}$

[PhysRevD.76.092004](#)

- Neutrons can escape the ECL detector
- $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ n \bar{n}$ is not measured, use the isospin partner process: $B^0 \rightarrow K^0 p \bar{p}$
- BaBar data show a threshold enhancement not modeled in the three-body phase-space MC



shape and rate modeled according to BaBar data and assigned a 100% uncertainty

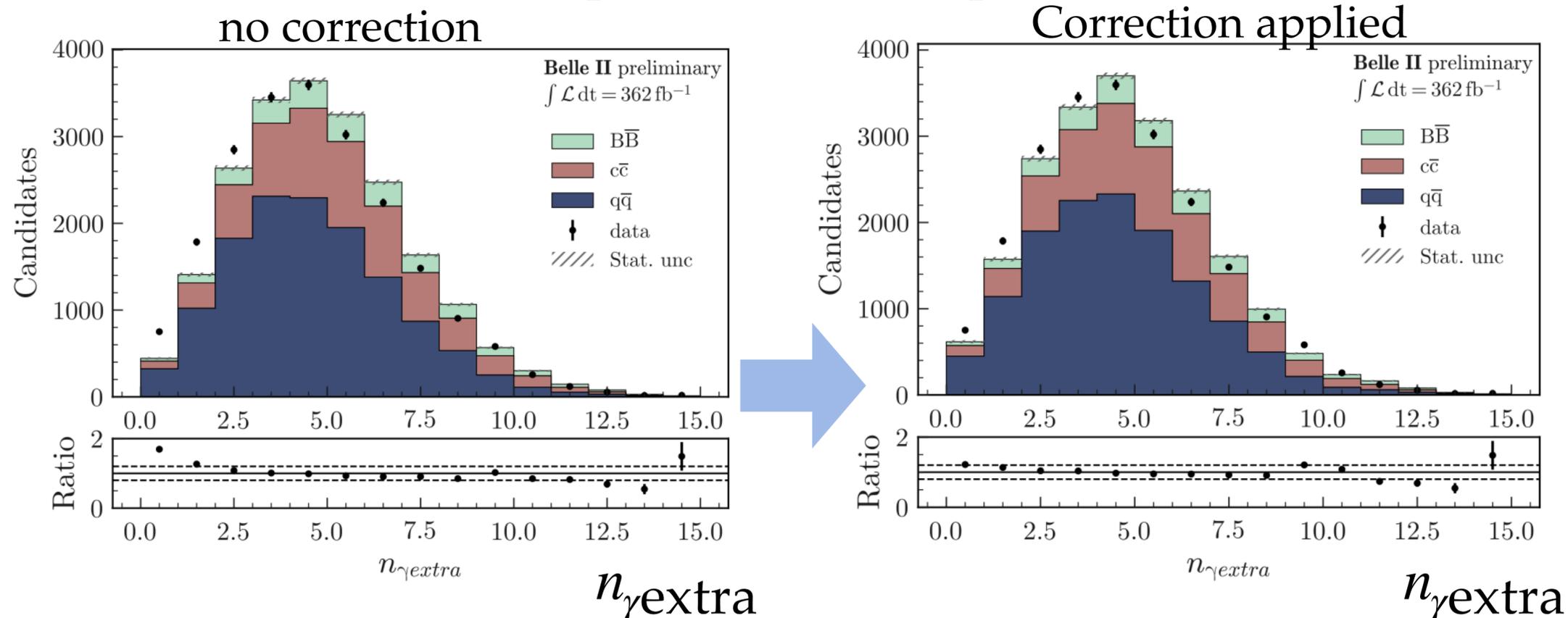


Neutral Extra Energy HTA

Corrections and the validation of the signal efficiency and background estimation follow similar methods as in **ITA**

One of the differences is the photon selection, which leads to specific needs for E_{ECL}^{extra} (*the most discriminant variable*) derived with control samples (same charge K and B_{tag})

γ multiplicity distribution shows some data/MC disagreement
 pion enriched sample



Method validated with pion enriched samples

The residual difference is considered as uncertainty

Reconstruction details

Reconstruction Techniques

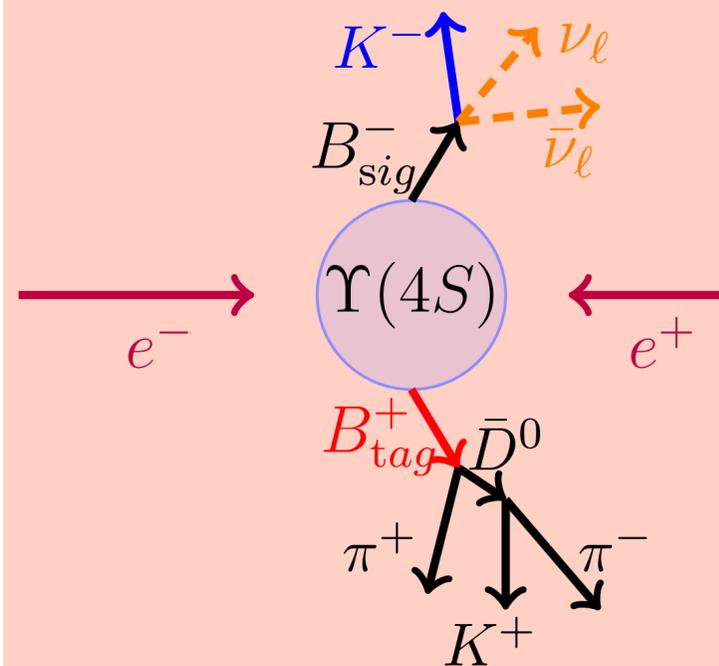
Efficiency

$\epsilon \sim 0.1 - 1\%$

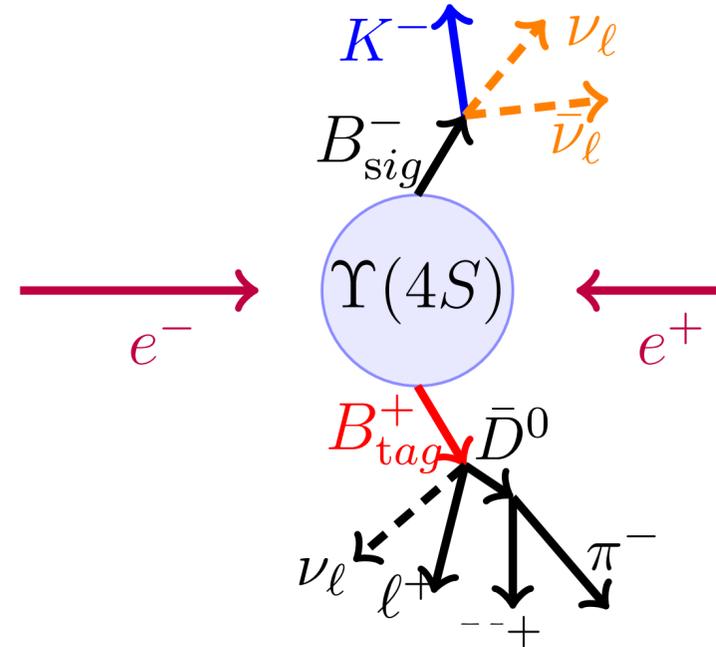
$\epsilon \sim 1 - 3\%$

$\epsilon \sim 1 - 100\%$

Exclusive hadronic (HAD)

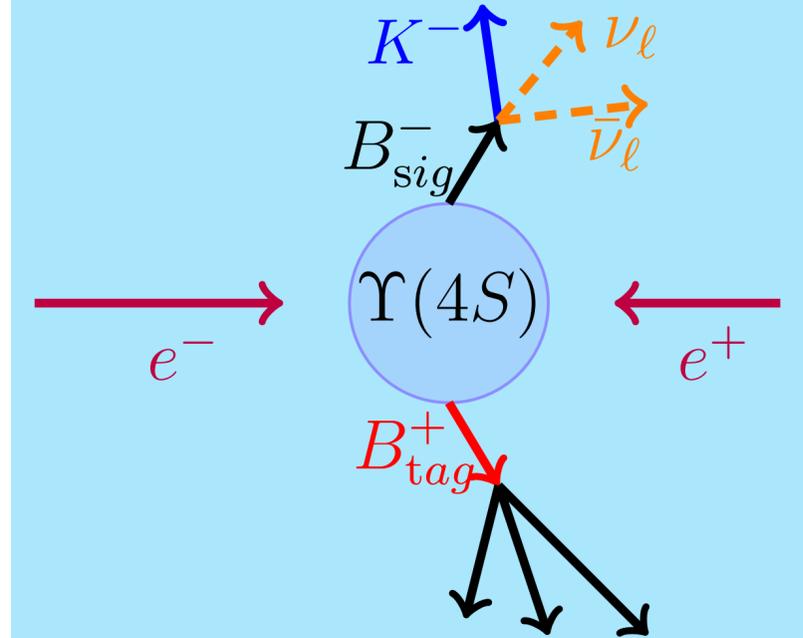


Exclusive semileptonic

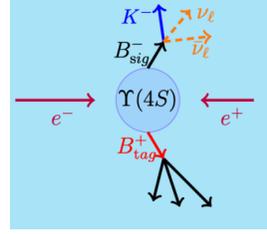


Purity, Resolution

Inclusive (ITA)



Different reconstruction techniques lead to nearly orthogonal data samples



Reconstruction and Basic Selection

Perform basic reconstruction (tracks and clusters)

Kaon candidate:

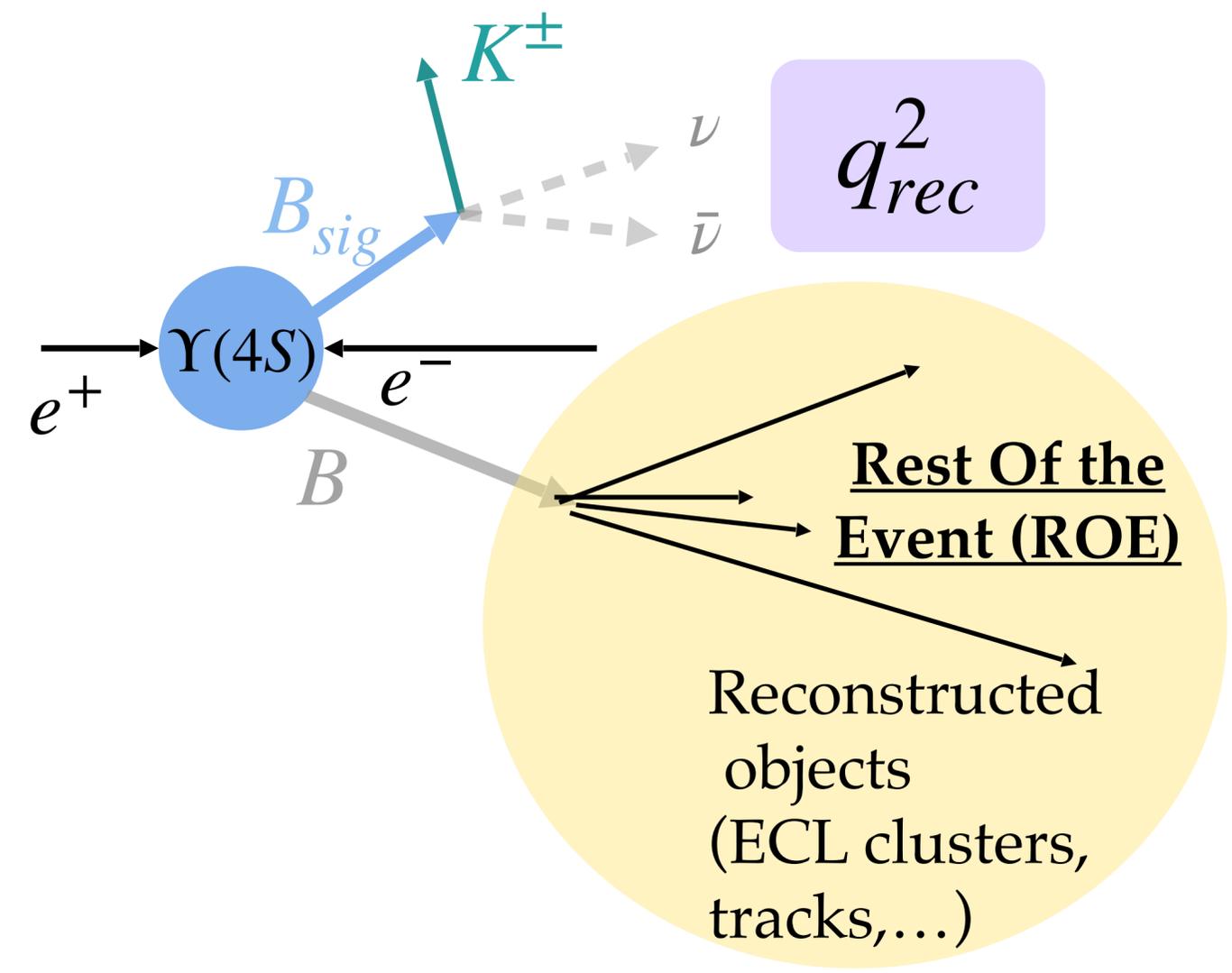
- Reconstruct a track with at least one pixel hit and use PID to identify it as kaon

Rest of the Event (ROE)

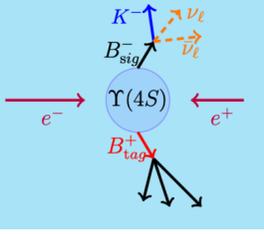
- Other charged tracks
- Other ECL clusters
- K_S^0

q_{rec}^2 : mass squared of the neutrino pair

- If multiple signal candidates are reco'd, pick lowest q_{rec}^2 one
- $q_{rec}^2 = \frac{s}{4} + M_K^2 - \sqrt{s}E_K^*$



Discriminating variables I



Signal and background discriminating variables are related to:

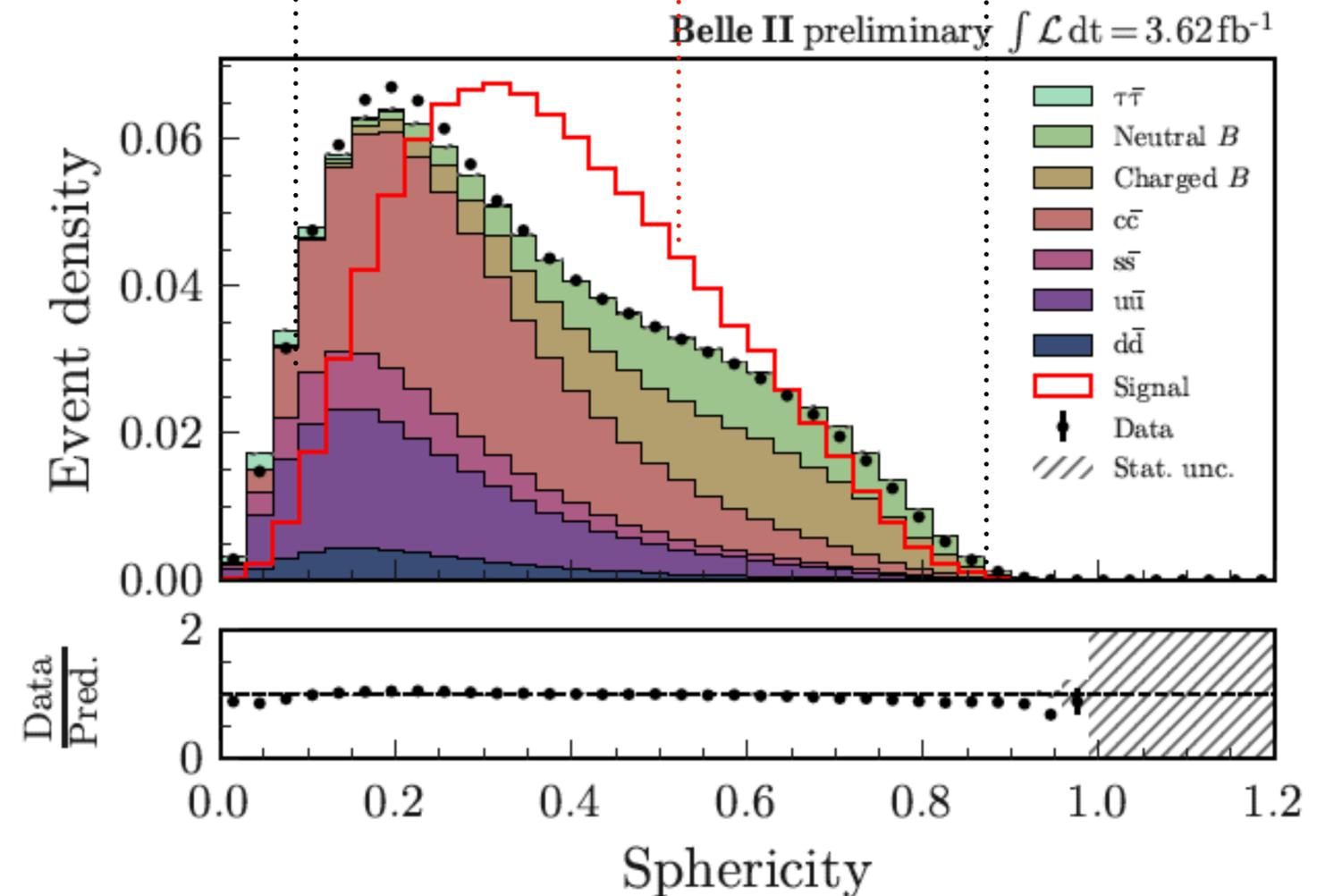
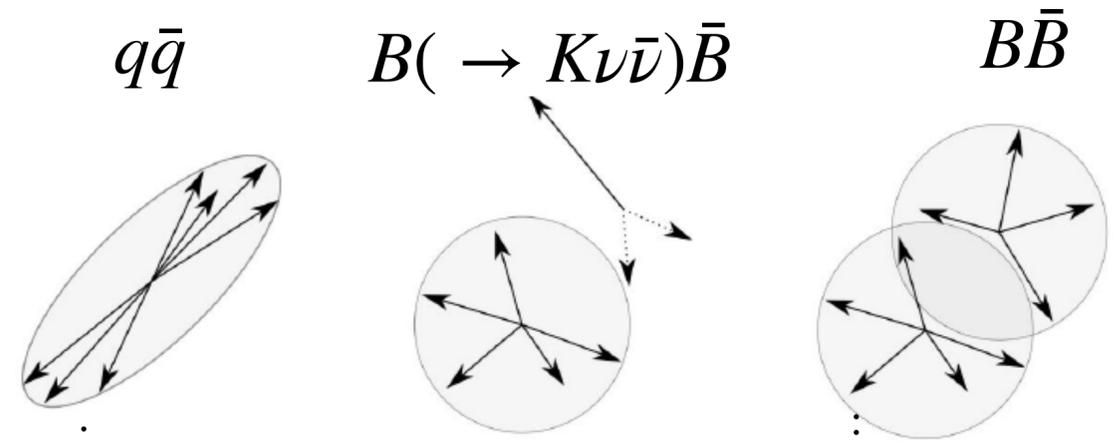
- General event topology
- Signal kinematics
- ROE kinematics
- Two-three track vertices (help to identify D -meson)

7 background categories:

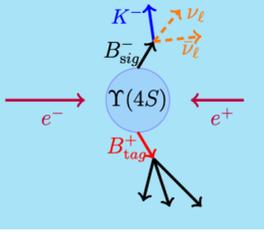
- B^+B^- decays
- $B^0\bar{B}^0$ decays
- $\tau^+\tau^-$

- $c\bar{c}$
- $s\bar{s}$
- $u\bar{u}$
- $d\bar{d}$

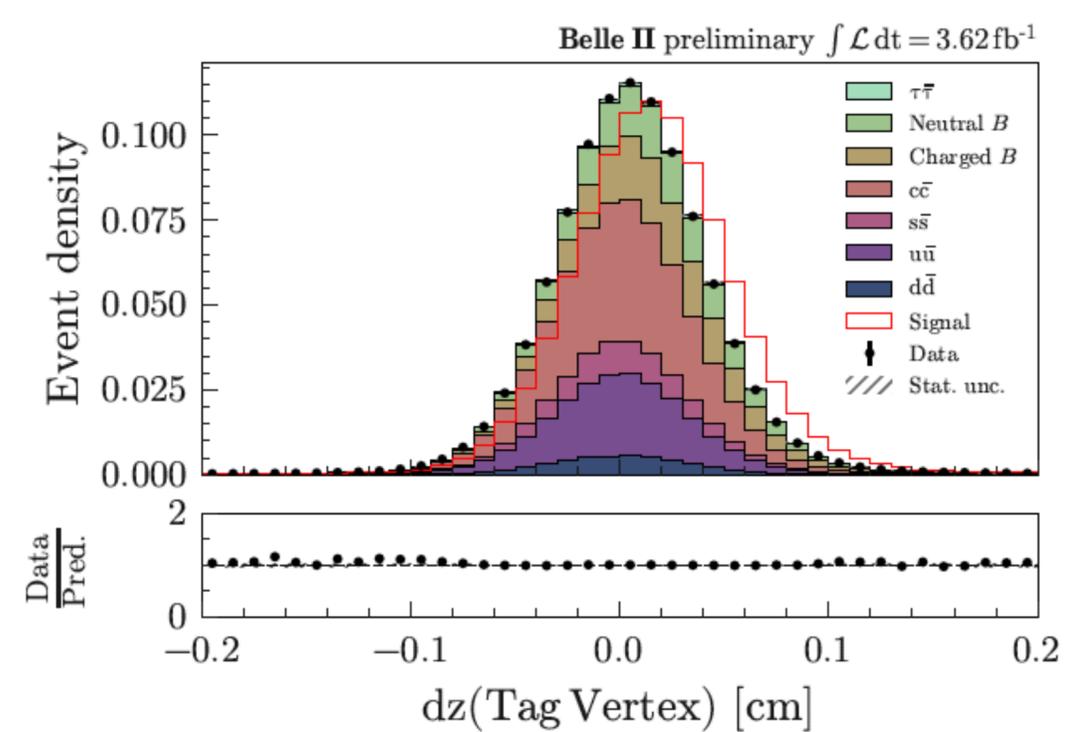
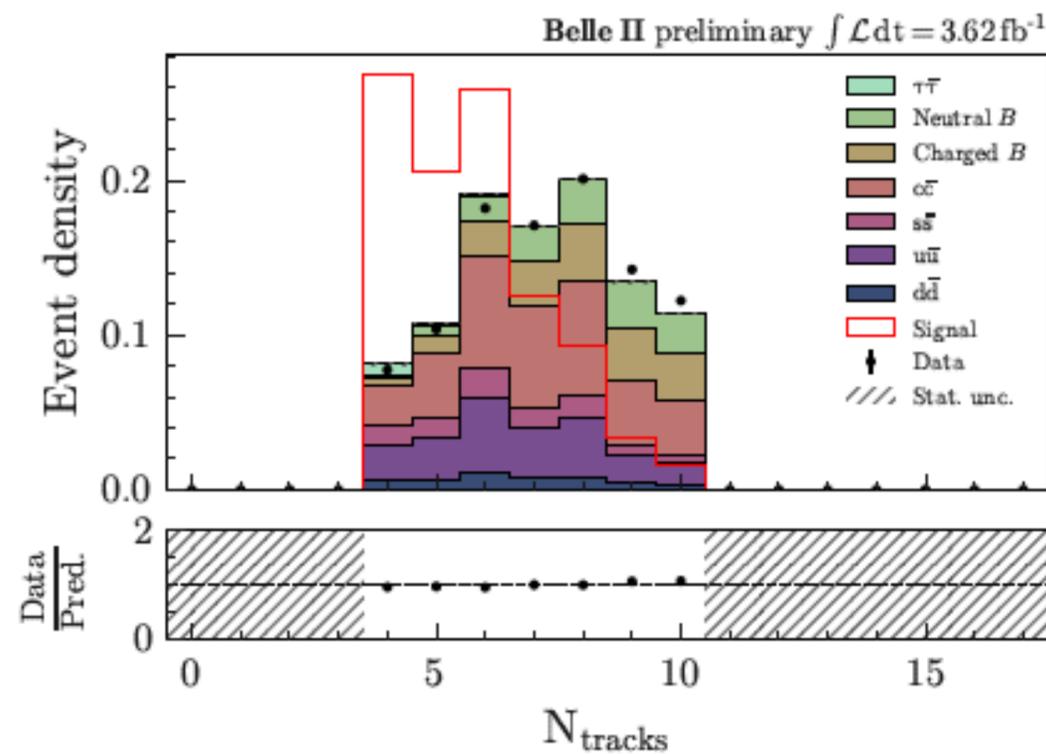
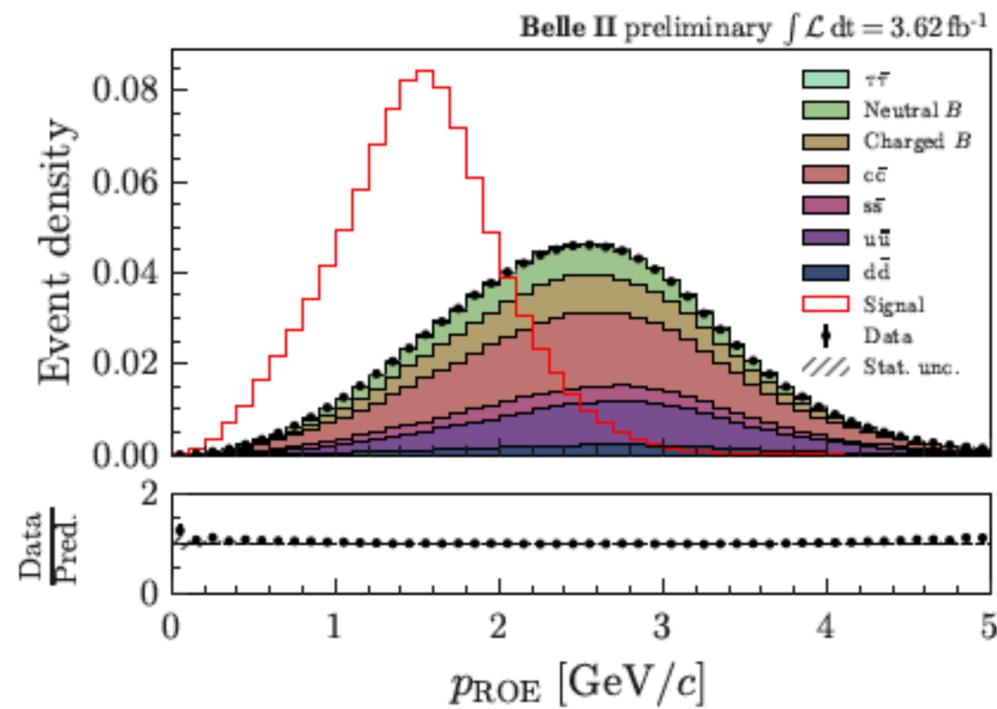
$q\bar{q}$ continuum



Discriminating variables II

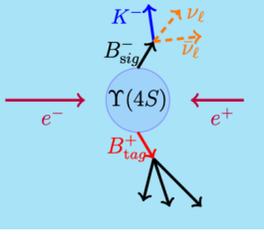


Many variables are defined, some examples:



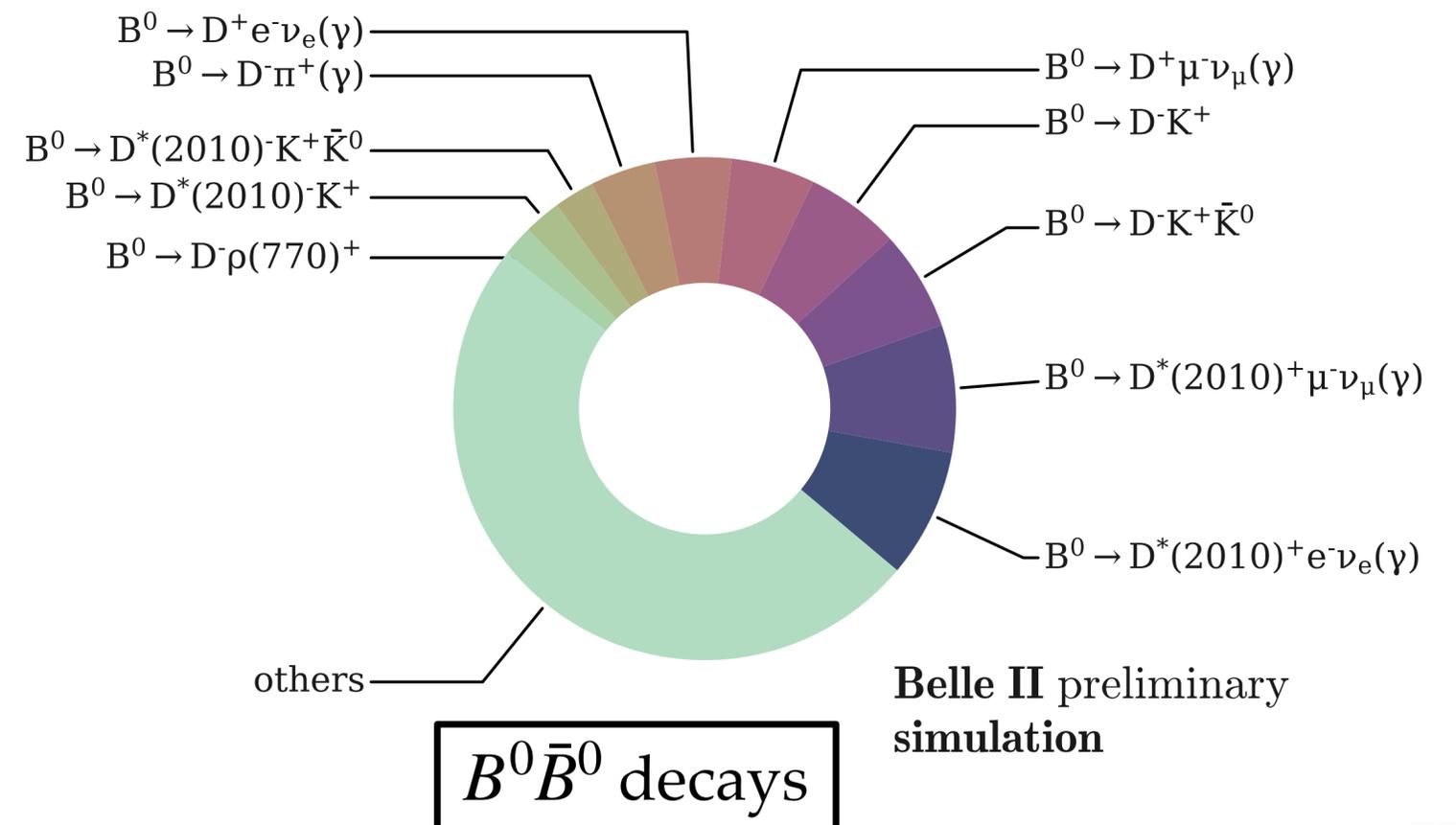
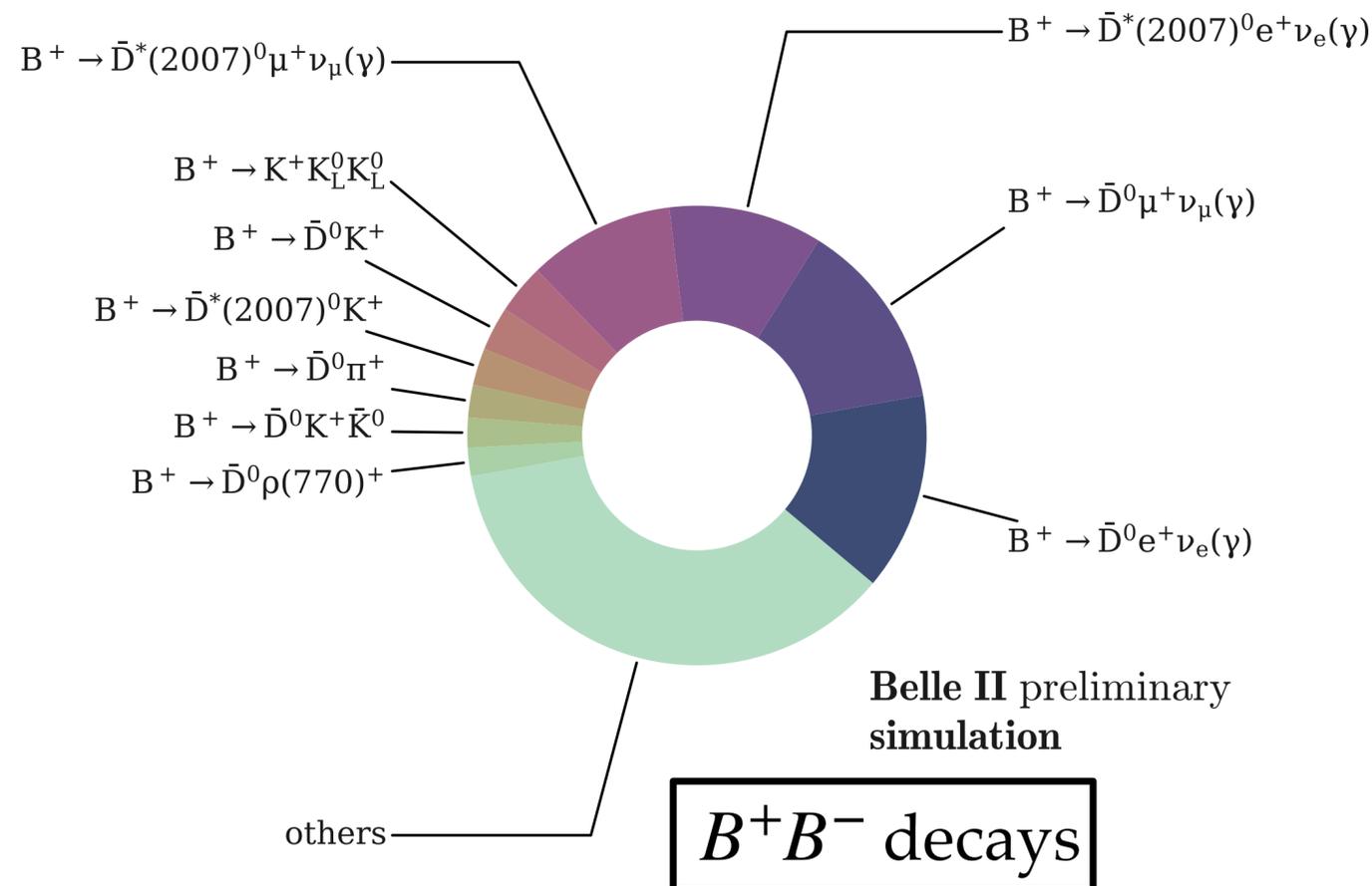
- Pre-selection level, 1% of data, with detector-level corrections applied but no physics modeling corrections
- Each variable is examined to have reasonable description by simulation and significant separation power

Background composition in SR

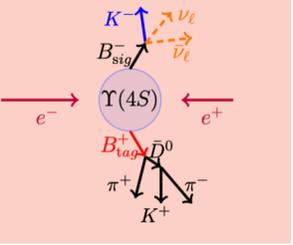


Background composition in the SR:

- Continuum events ($q\bar{q}$) represent 40%
- B -meson decays represent 60%:
 - 52% from hadronic decays involving K and D ,
 - 47% from semileptonic with $D \rightarrow KX$
 - 1% from leptonic decays,...



Basic Reconstruction

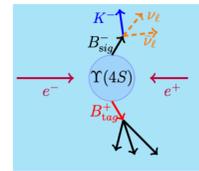


Reconstruct the B_{tag} in one of the 35 hadronic final states with the full-event interpretation algorithm [[arXiv:2008.06096](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.06096)]

Requirements a good B_{tag} :

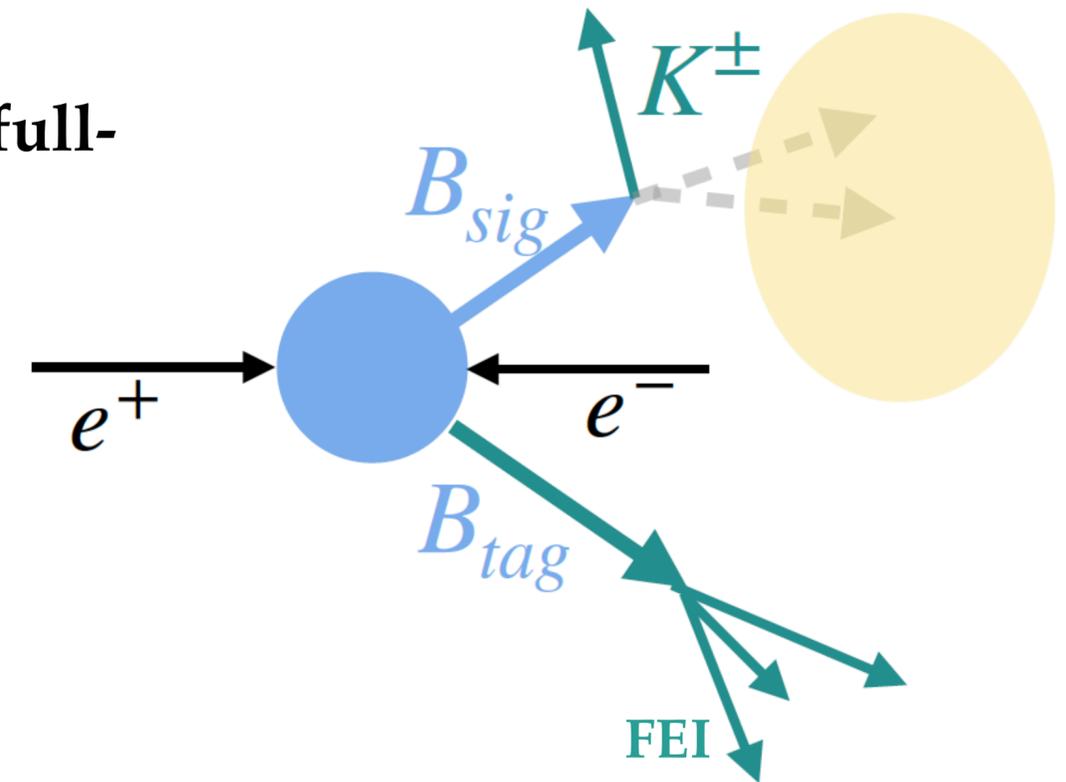
- Cut on quality of B_{tag} reconstruction

Same kaon selection and identification as ITA



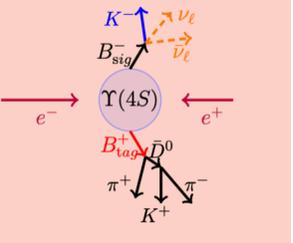
Event requirements:

- B_{tag} and K opposite charge
- $N_{tracks} \leq 12$
- N_{tracks} (in drift chamber not associated to B_{tag} or K) = 0
- $n(K_S), n(\pi^0), n(\Lambda) = 0$



Rest of the event:

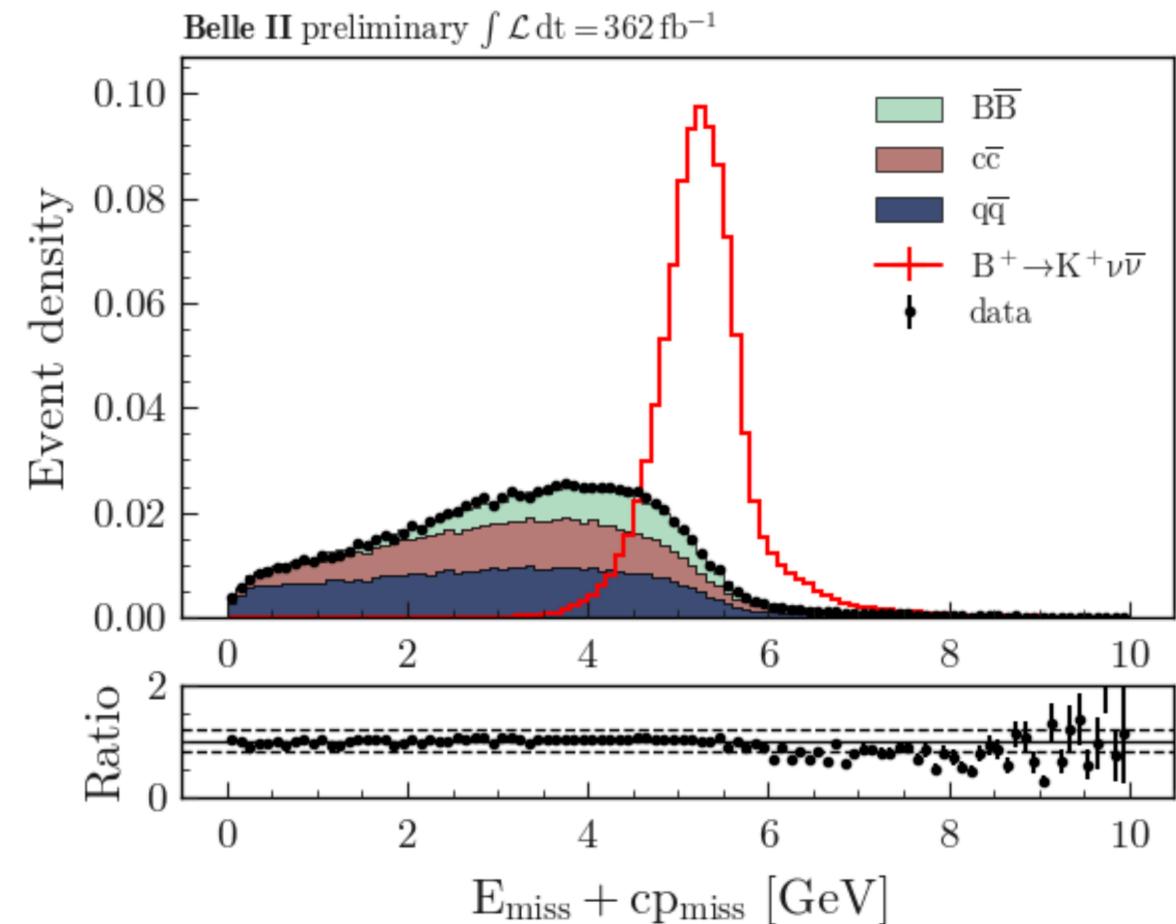
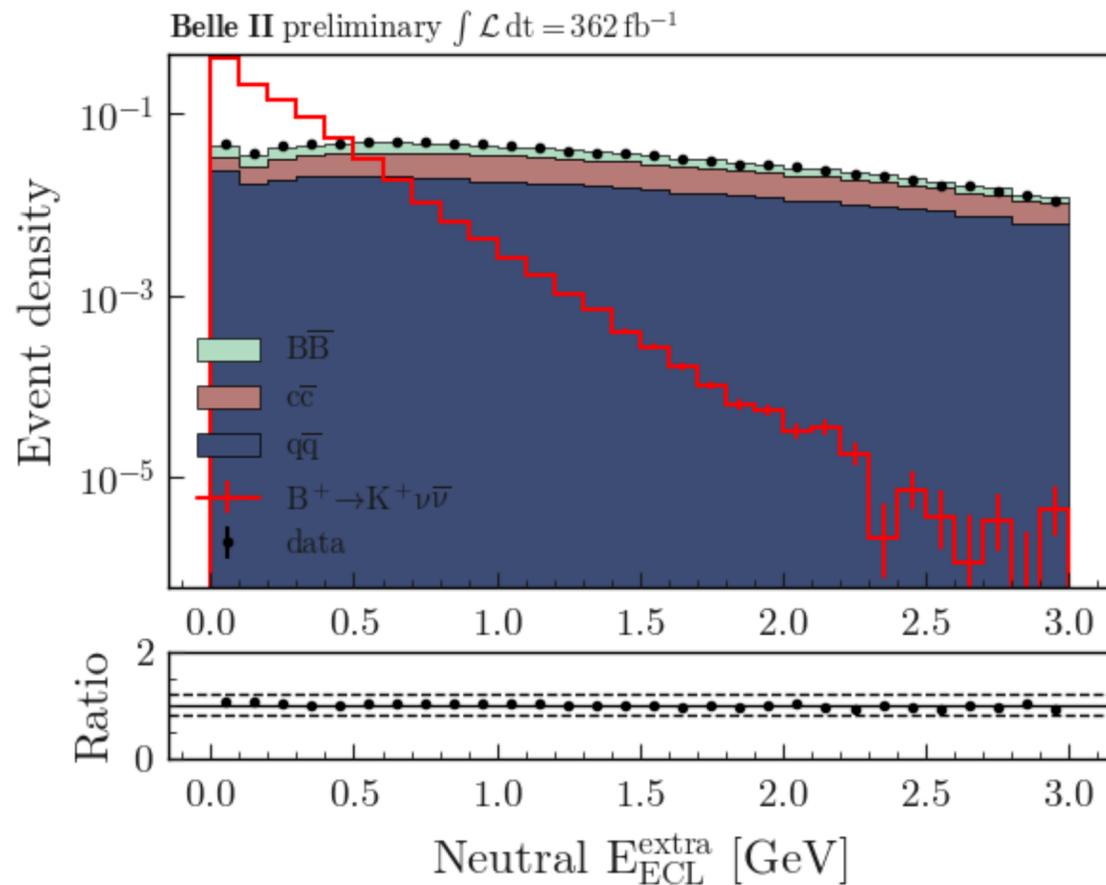
- Remaining tracks
- ECL deposits ($E > 60/150$ MeV) not associated to kaon or B_{tag}



Main discriminating variables

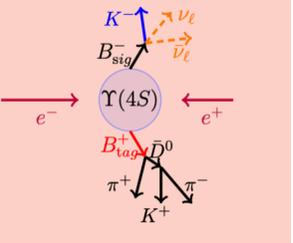
Neutral E_{ECL}^{extra} : calorimeter deposits not associated with tracks, with the B_{tag} nor the signal kaon and with energies > 60 - 150 MeV (depending on the polar angle)

$E_{miss} + p_{miss}$: sum of the missing energy and absolute missing three-momentum vector



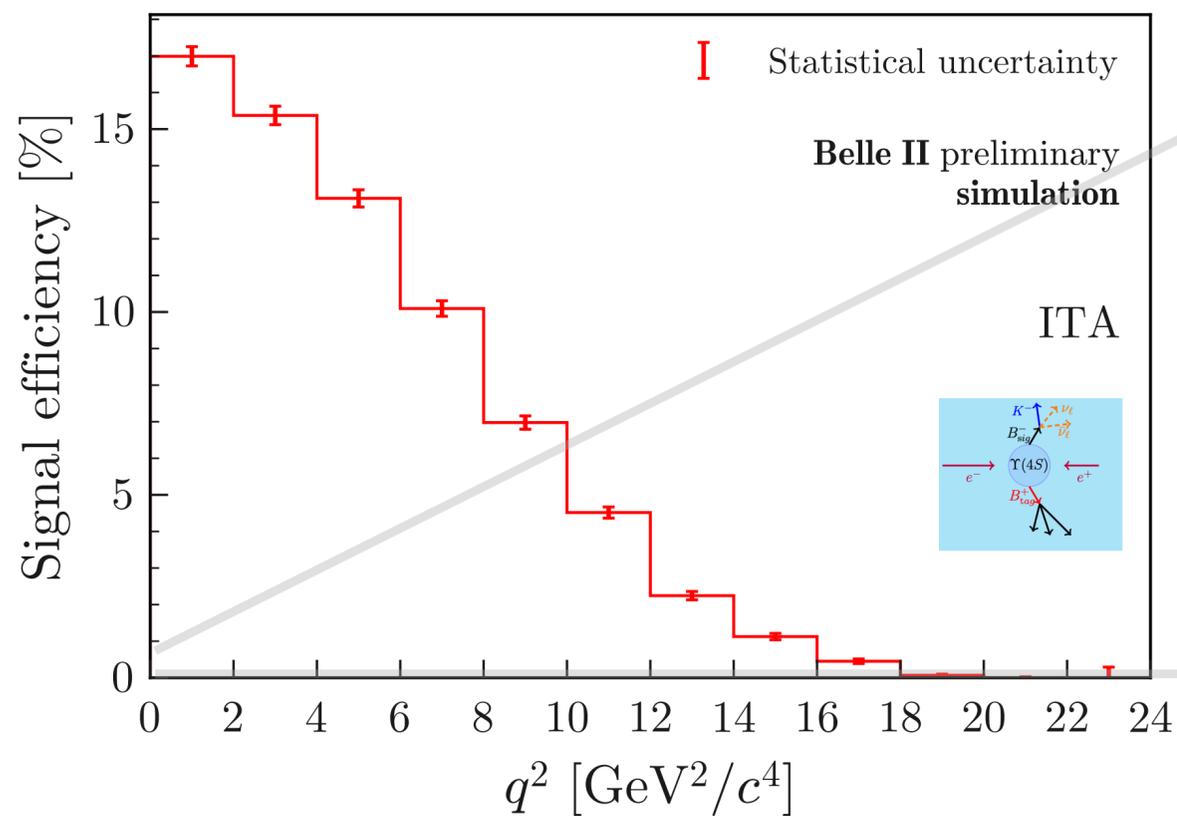
These, together with other variables are combined in a boosted decision tree classifier: BDTh

Further Selection and Efficiency

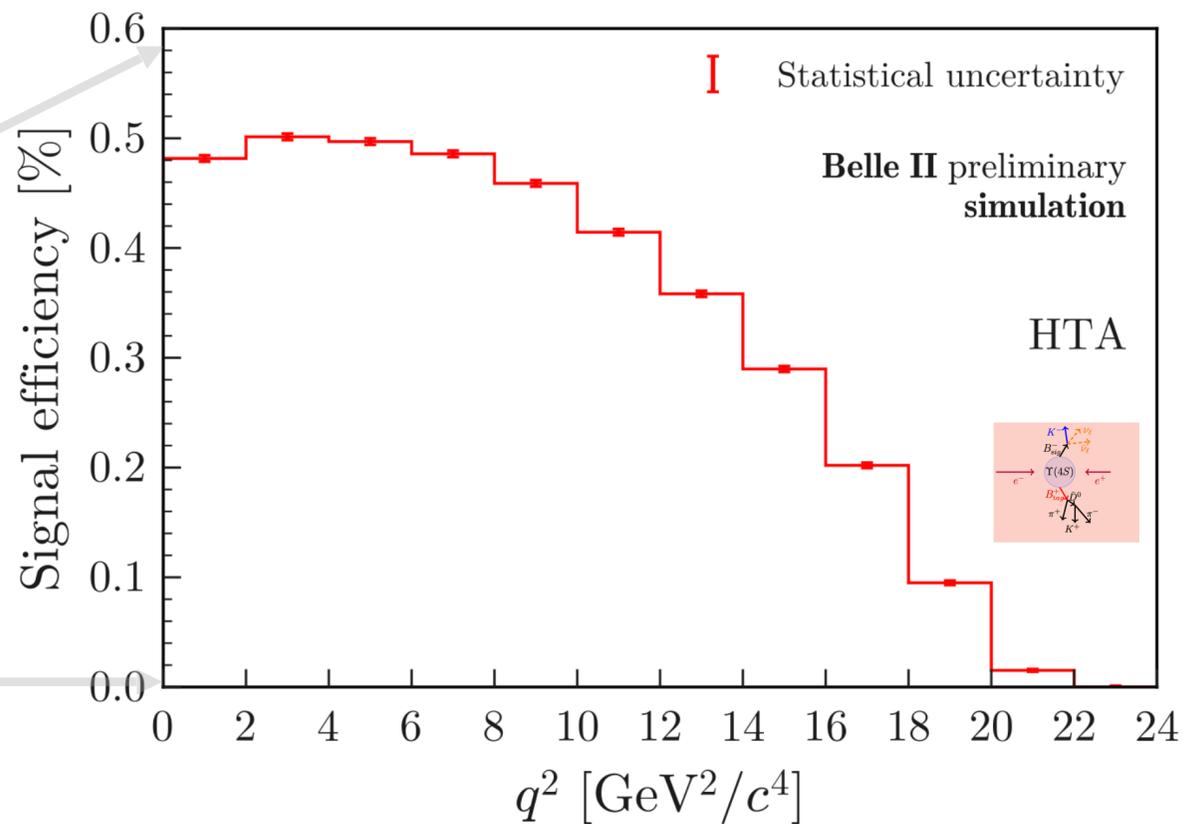


Further selection:

- BDTh: 12 discriminating variables based on signal kaon, B_{tag} , rest-of-event information
- Define $\mu(\text{BDTh})$ as for **ITA**, signal region selected as $\mu(\text{BDTh}) > 0.4$
- If an event has multiple K - B_{tag} candidates, the one with highest B_{tag} probability is chosen



ITA $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ signal region

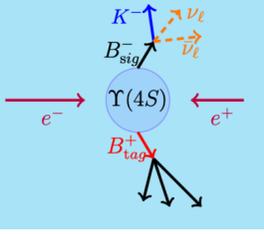


HTA $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ signal region

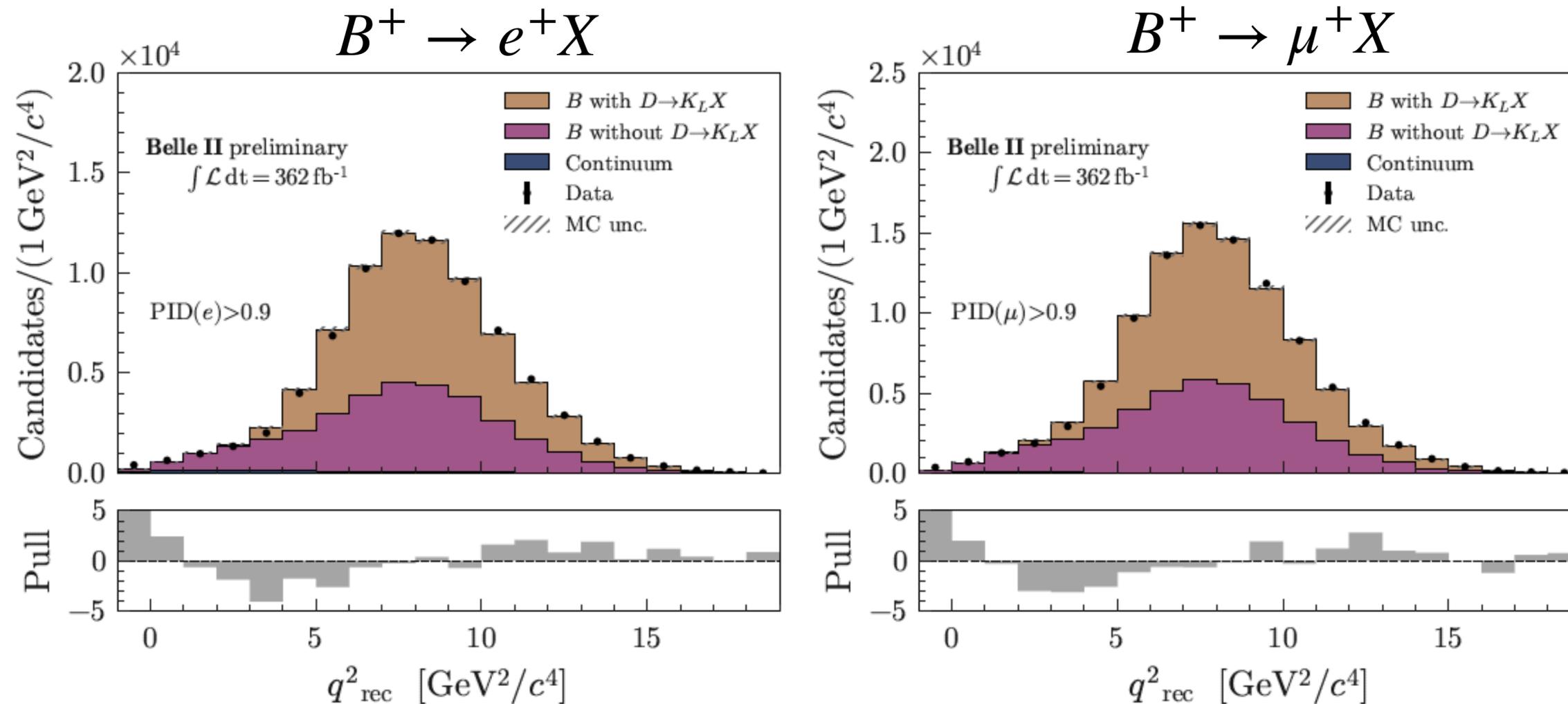
Much lower efficiency w.r.t. **ITA** analysis, but a smaller variation in q^2

Other checks

Lepton-ID sidebands

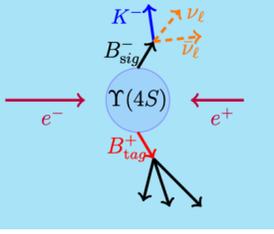
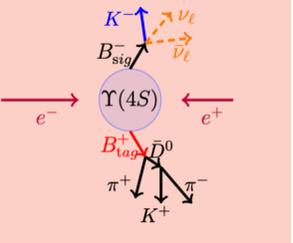


Also lepton-enriched samples are used to validate the method
 e/μ ID instead of K ID: $B^+ \rightarrow e^+X$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \mu^+X$



The correction factors found in the three sidebands
 are within 10% => considered a systematic uncertainty

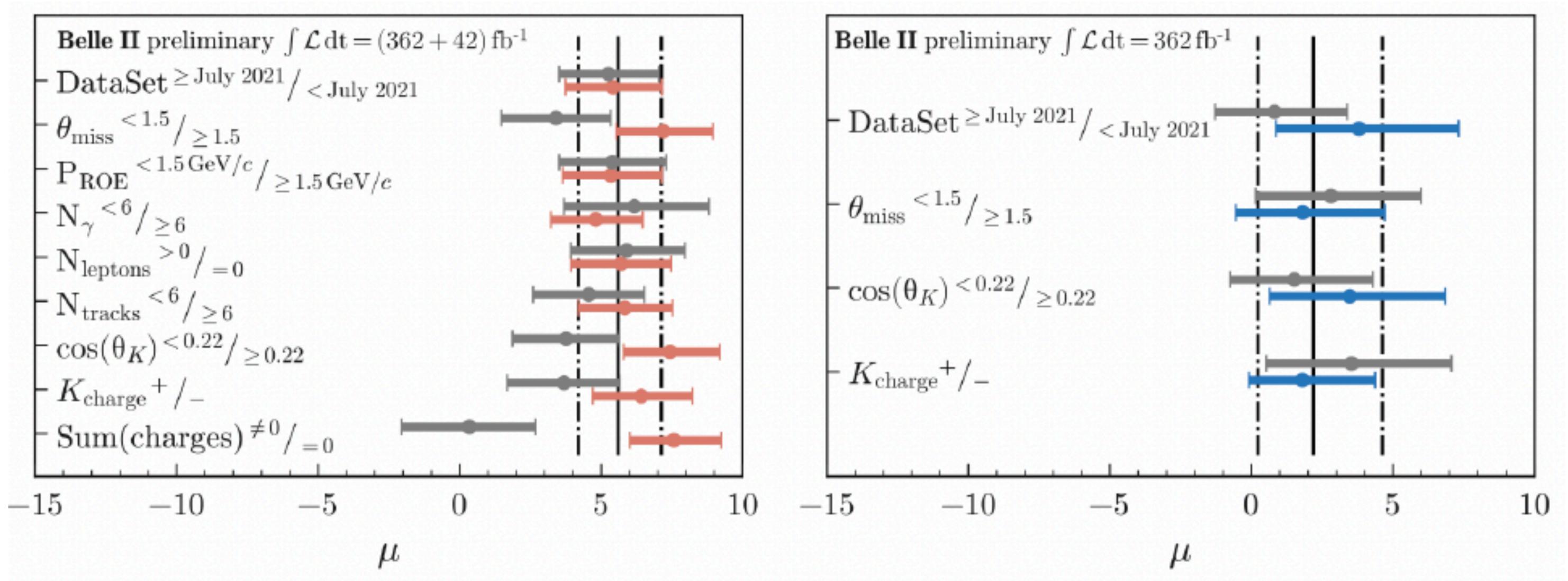
Half-split samples



Stability checks by splitting the sample into pairs of statistically independent datasets, according to various features

ITA

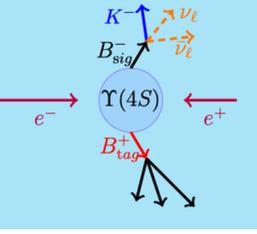
HTA



For all the ITA tests $\chi^2/\text{ndf} = 12.5/9$

More on reconstruction

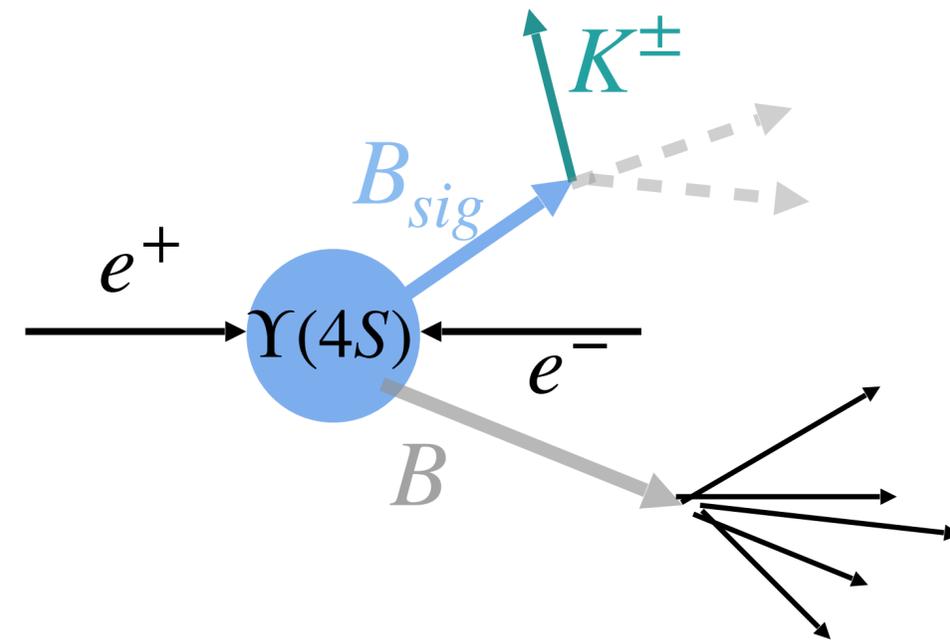
Reconstruction and basic selection I



Objects definition:

- **Charged particles:** *good quality* tracks with impact parameters close to the interaction point, with $p_T > 0.1 \text{ GeV}$ and within CDC acceptance
- **Photons:** ECL clusters not matched to tracks and with $E > 0.1 \text{ GeV}$
- **K_S** reconstruction with displaced vertex

- Each of the charged particles and photons is required to have an energy of less than 5.5 GeV to reject mis-reconstructed particles and cosmic muons
- Total energy $> 4 \text{ GeV}$



Reconstructed objects
(ECL clusters, tracks)

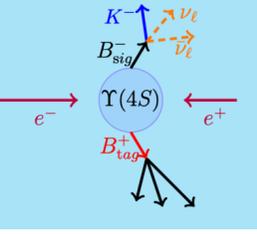
First event cleaning:

$$4 \leq N_{tracks} \leq 10$$

$$17^\circ \leq \theta_{miss}^* \leq 160^\circ$$

$N_{track} > 4$ to reject low-track-multiplicity background events ($\gamma\gamma, \dots$)

Reconstruction and basic selection II



K^+ Selection

Reconstruct a track with at least one deposit in the Pixel Detector and use particle identification tools to identify the kaon

Particle ID likelihood computed with information from

- PID detectors
- silicon strip detector, CDC, KLM

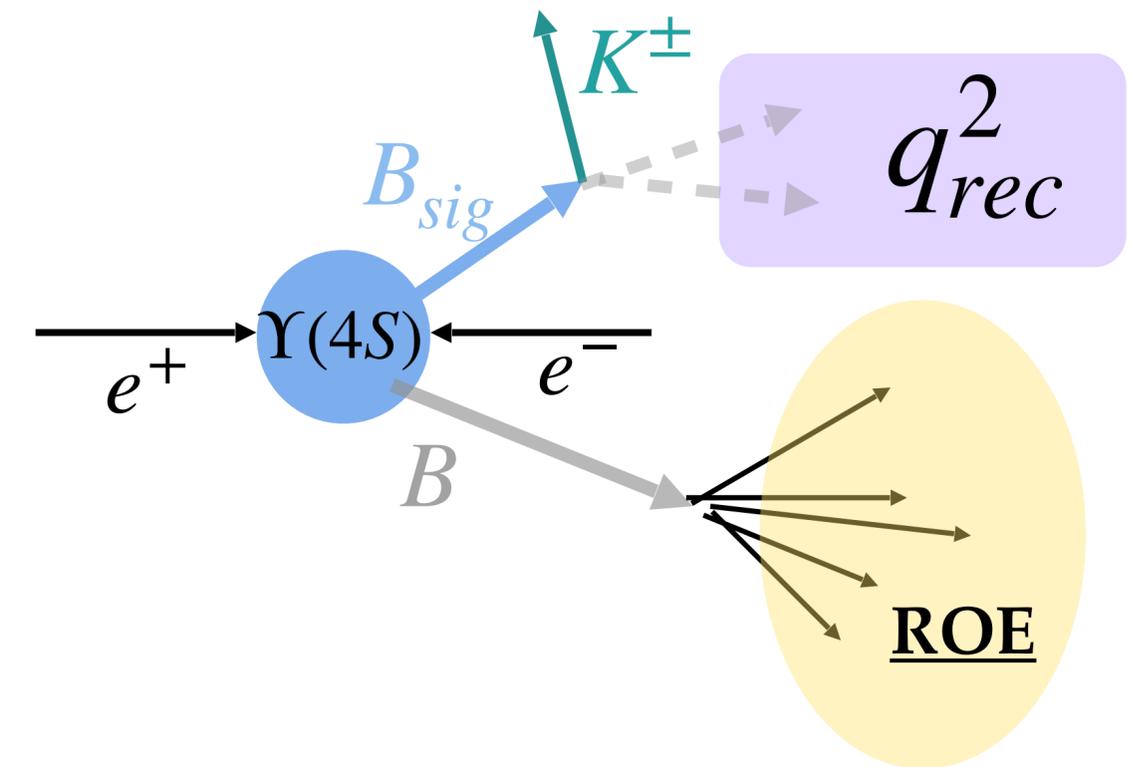
$$\epsilon(K) \sim 68\%$$

Probability to mis-id a pion for a Kaon: 1.2 %

q_{rec}^2 : mass squared of the neutrino pair

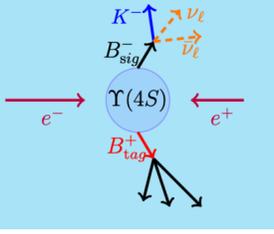
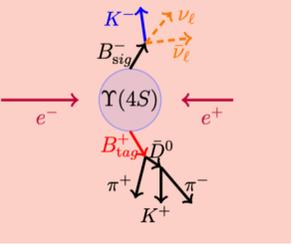
$$q_{rec}^2 = \frac{s}{4} + M_K^2 - \sqrt{s}E_K^* \quad (B_{sig} \text{ at rest})$$

If more than one candidate is selected, the choice is:
the candidate which corresponds to the lowest q_{rec}^2



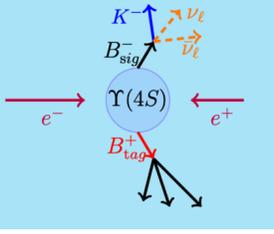
All the other objects
(tracks, photons, KS)
constitute the
Rest Of the Event (ROE)

Selection efficiency



| Selection stage | ϵ inclusive tag analysis | ϵ hadronic tag analysis ($\times 10^{-2}$) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Hadronic FEI skim | - | 2.482 ± 0.002 |
| Object selection (acceptance) | 0.89 | - |
| Signal candidate selection | 0.55 | - |
| First signal candidate selection | 0.53 | - |
| Basic event selection | 0.41 | 0.6598 ± 0.0011 |
| BDT ₁ filter | 0.34 | - |
| Signal search region | 0.08 | 0.3996 ± 0.0009 |
| Highest purity signal search region | 0.02 | - |

Input variables BDTs



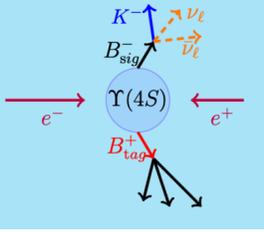
Variables related to the kaon candidate

- Radial distance between the POCA of the K^+ candidate track and the IP (BDT₂)
- Cosine of the angle between the momentum line of the signal kaon candidate and the z axis (BDT₂)

Variables related to the tracks and energy deposits of the rest of the event (ROE)

- Two variables corresponding to the x, z components of the vector from the average interaction point to the ROE vertex (BDT₂)
- p -value of the ROE vertex fit (BDT₂)
- Variance of the transverse momentum of the ROE tracks (BDT₂)
- Polar angle of the ROE momentum (BDT₁, BDT₂)
- Magnitude of the ROE momentum (BDT₁, BDT₂)
- ROE-ROE (oo) modified Fox-Wolfram moment calculated in the c.m. (BDT₁, BDT₂)
- Difference between the ROE energy in the c.m. and the energy of one beam of c.m. ($\sqrt{s}/2$) (BDT₁, BDT₂)

Input variables BDTs



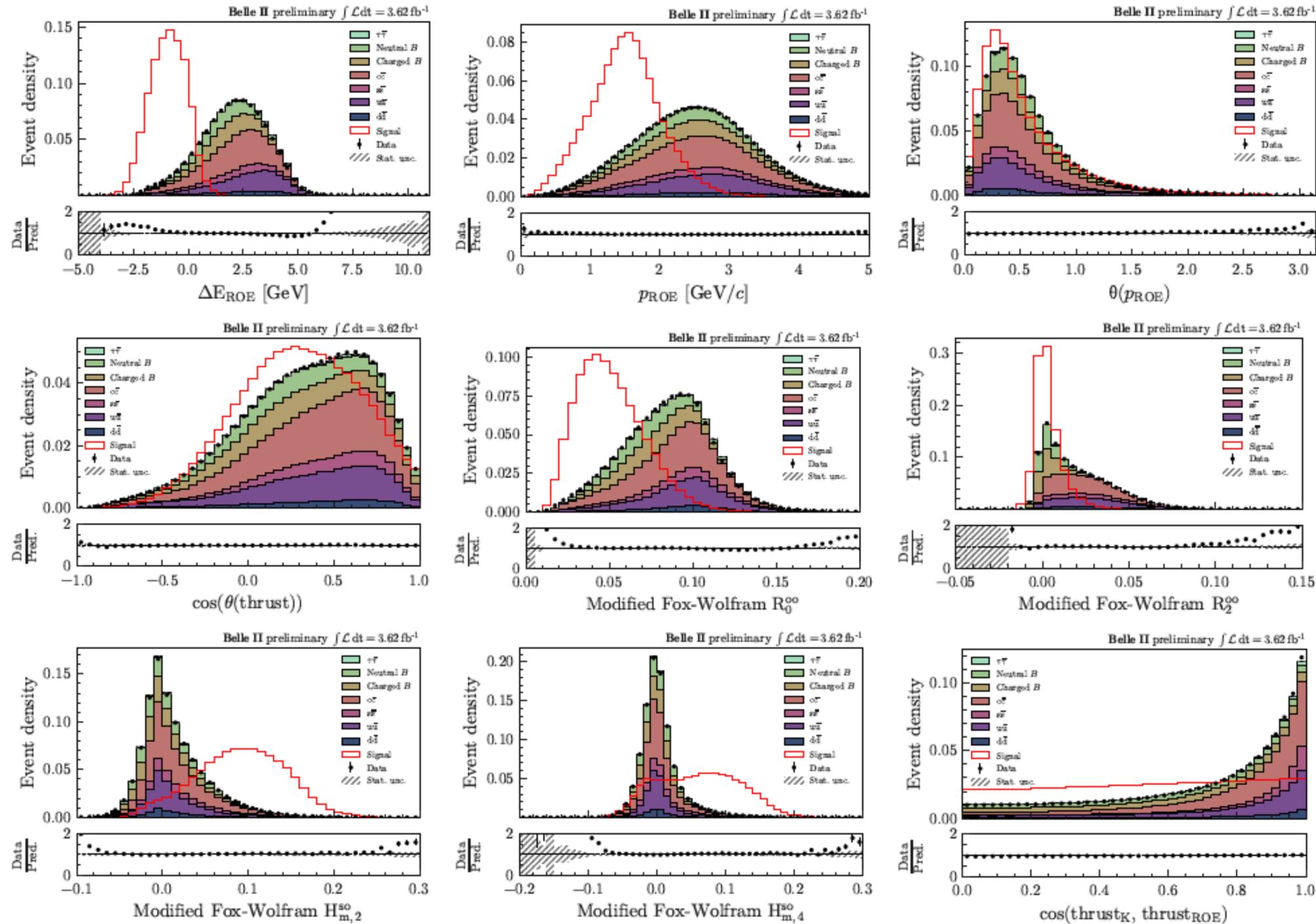
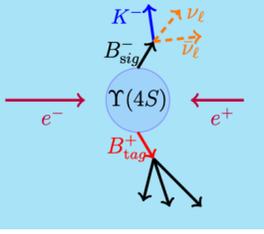
Variables related to the entire event

- Number of charged lepton candidates (e^\pm or μ^\pm) (BDT₂)
- Number of photon candidates, number of charged particle candidates (BDT₂)
- Square of the total charge of tracks in the event (BDT₂)
- Cosine of the polar angle of the thrust axis in the c.m. (BDT₁, BDT₂)
- Harmonic moments with respect to the thrust axis in the c.m. [41] (BDT₁, BDT₂)
- Modified Fox-Wolfram moments calculated in the c.m. [42] (BDT₁, BDT₂)
- Polar angle of the missing three-momentum in the c.m. (BDT₂)
- Square of the missing invariant mass (BDT₂)
- Event sphericity in the c.m. [40] (BDT₂)
- Normalized Fox-Wolfram moments in the c.m. [41] (BDT₁, BDT₂)
- Cosine of the angle between the momentum line of the signal kaon track and the ROE thrust axis in the c.m. (BDT₁, BDT₂)
- Radial and longitudinal distance between the POCA of the K^+ candidate track and the tag vertex (BDT₂)

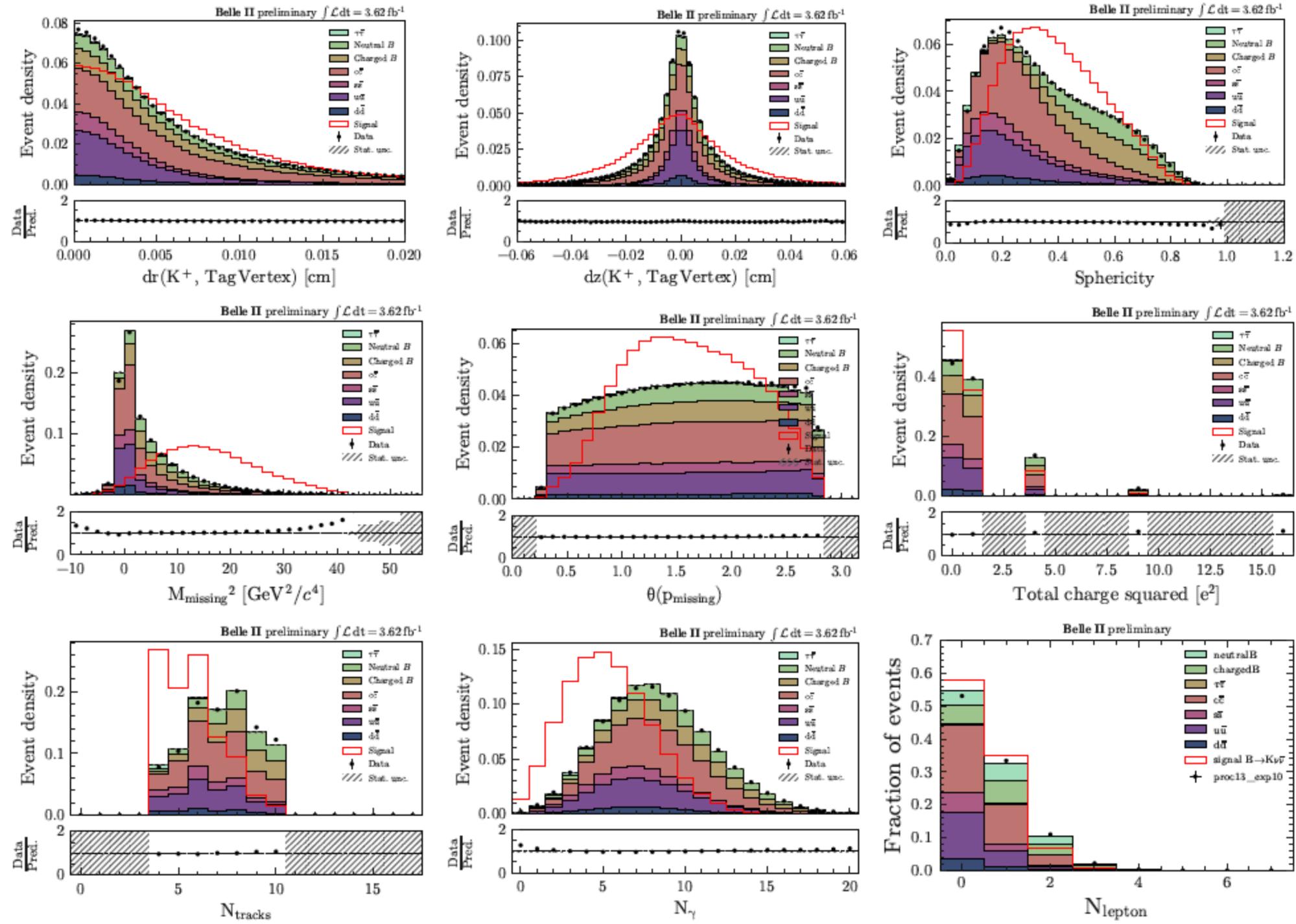
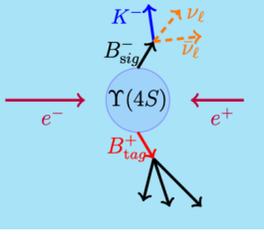
Variables related to the D^0/D^+ suppression

- Radial distance between the best D^+ candidate vertex and the IP (BDT₂)
- χ^2 of the best D^0 candidate vertex fit and the best D^+ candidate vertex fit (BDT₂)
- Mass of the best D^0 candidate (BDT₂)
- Median p -value of the vertex fits of the D^0 candidates (BDT₂)

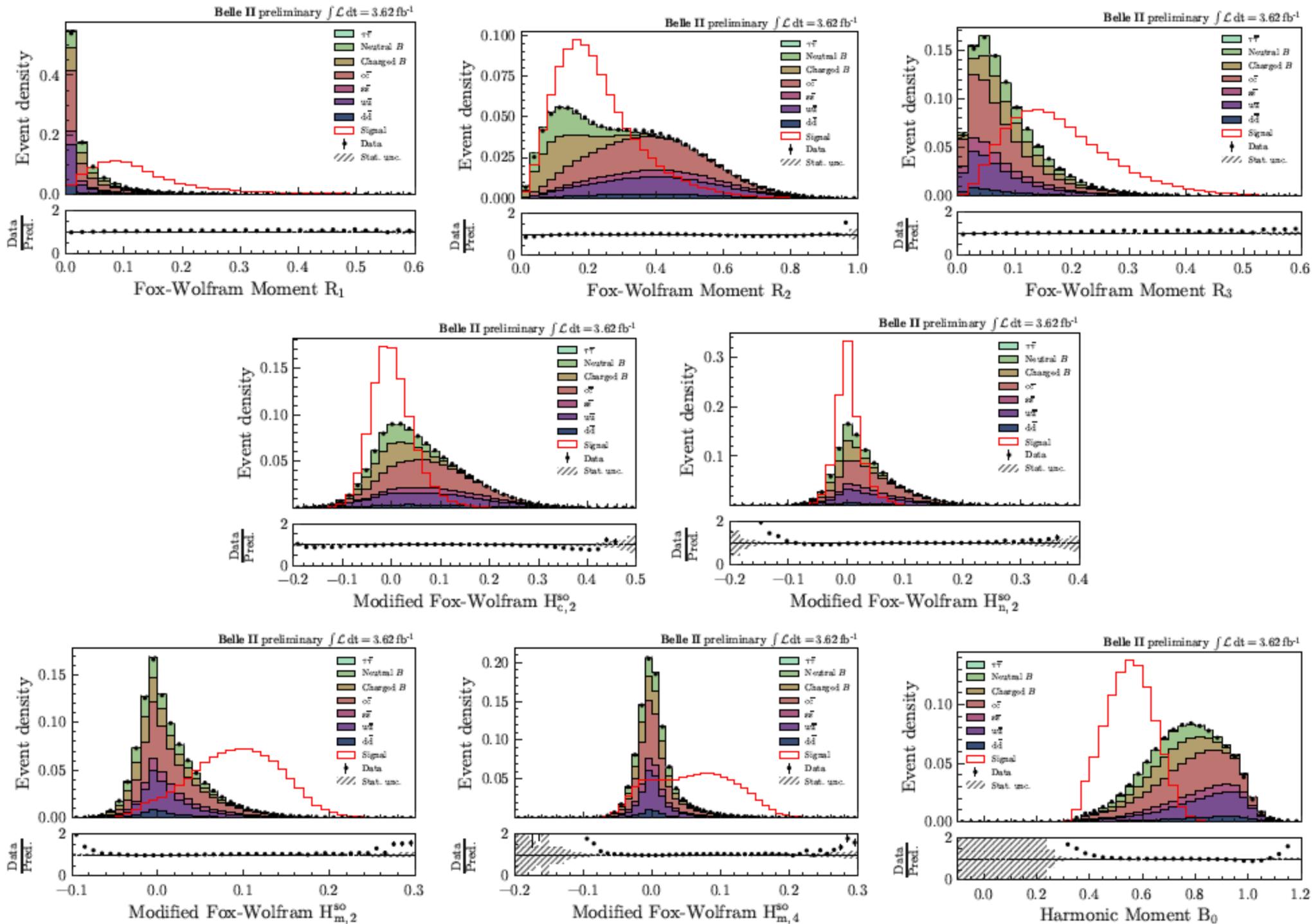
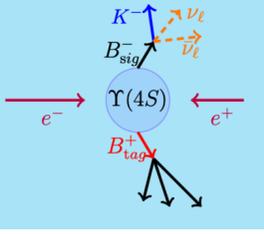
Input variables BDTs: ITA



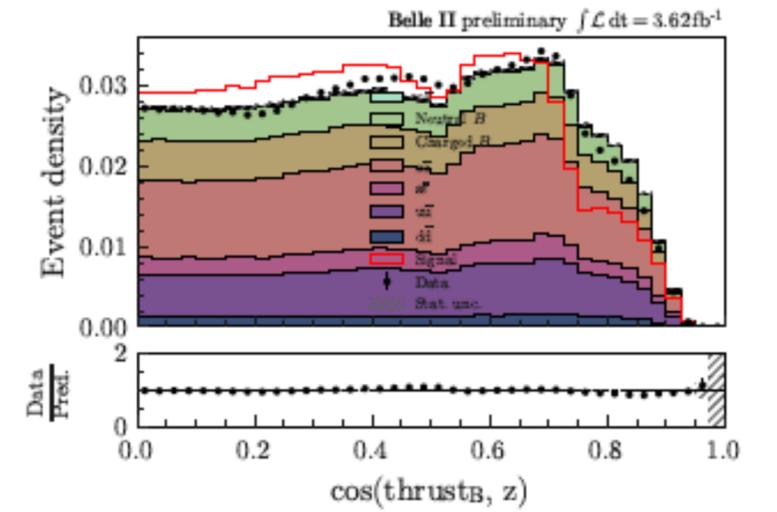
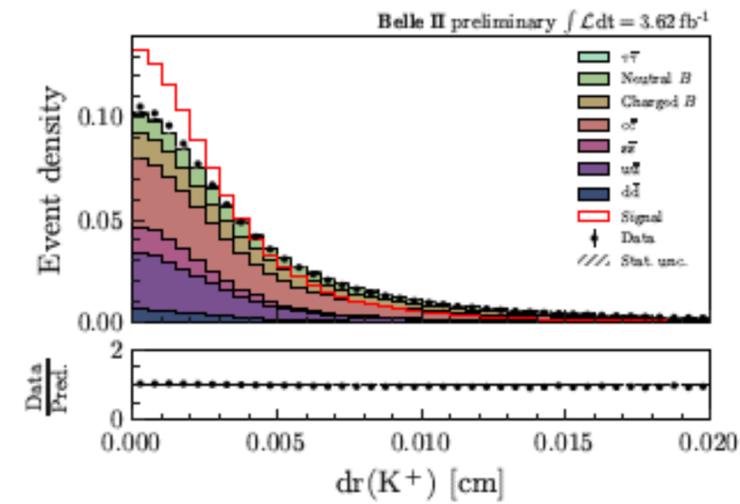
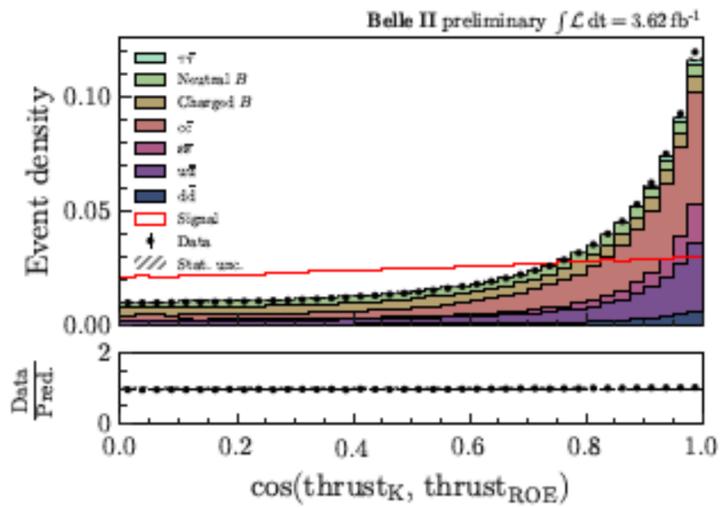
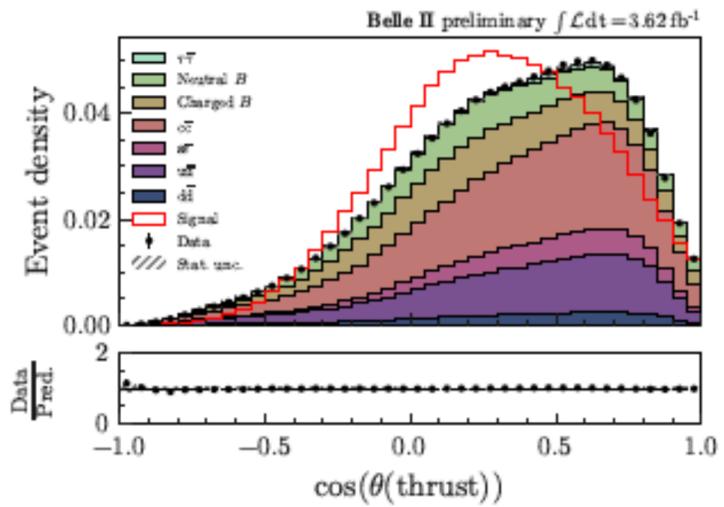
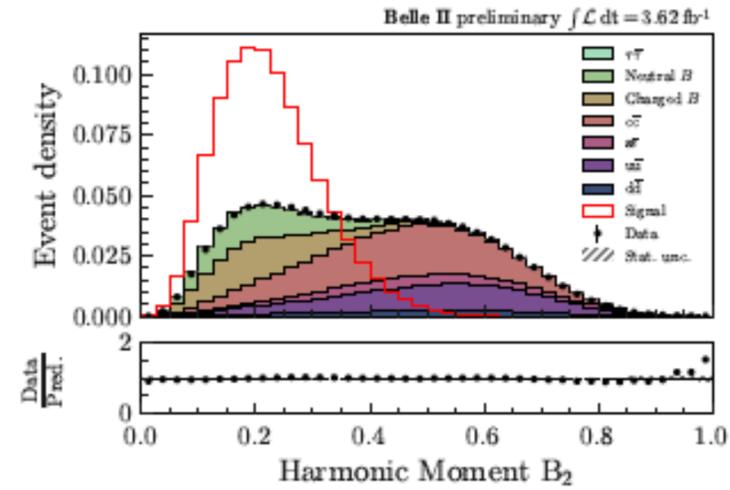
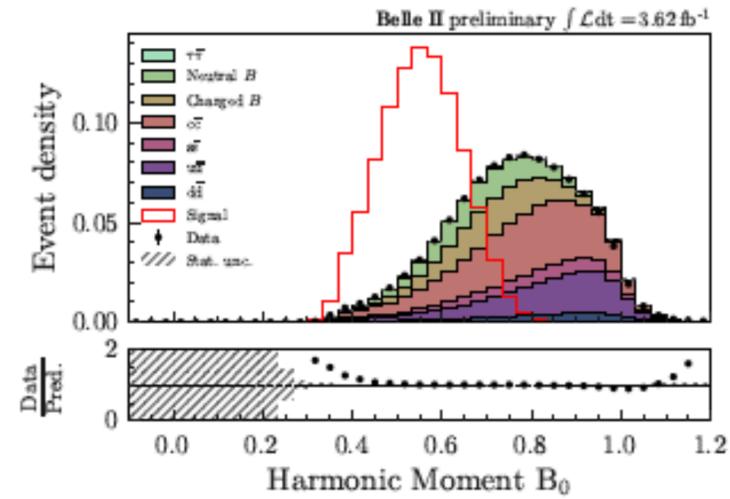
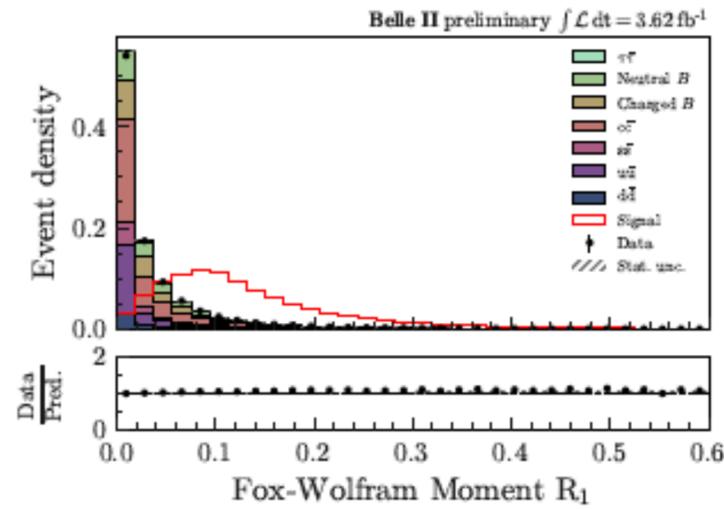
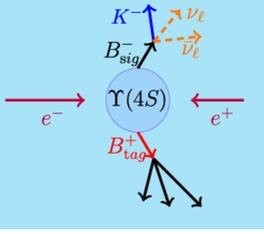
Input variables BDTs: ITA

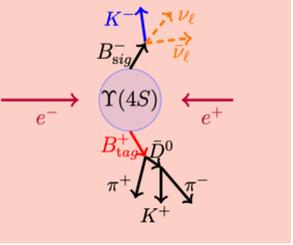


Input variables BDTs: ITA



Input variables BDTs: ITA

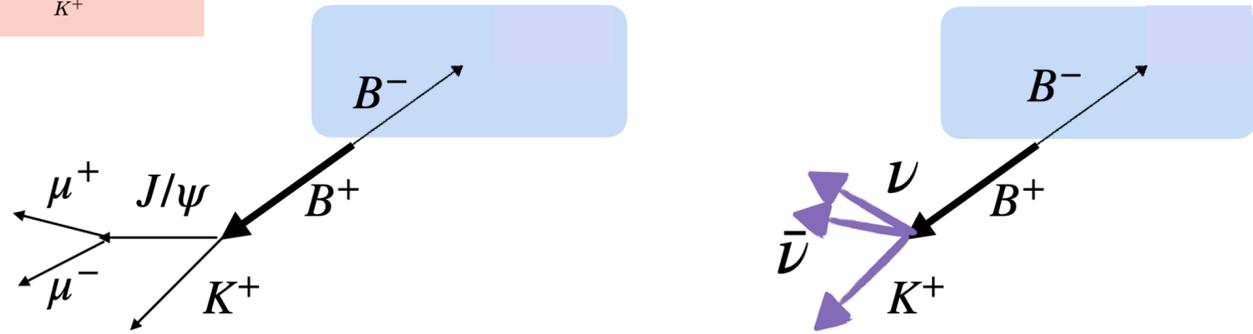
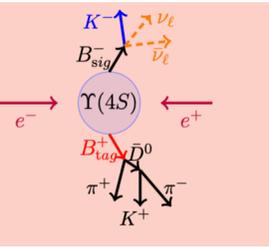




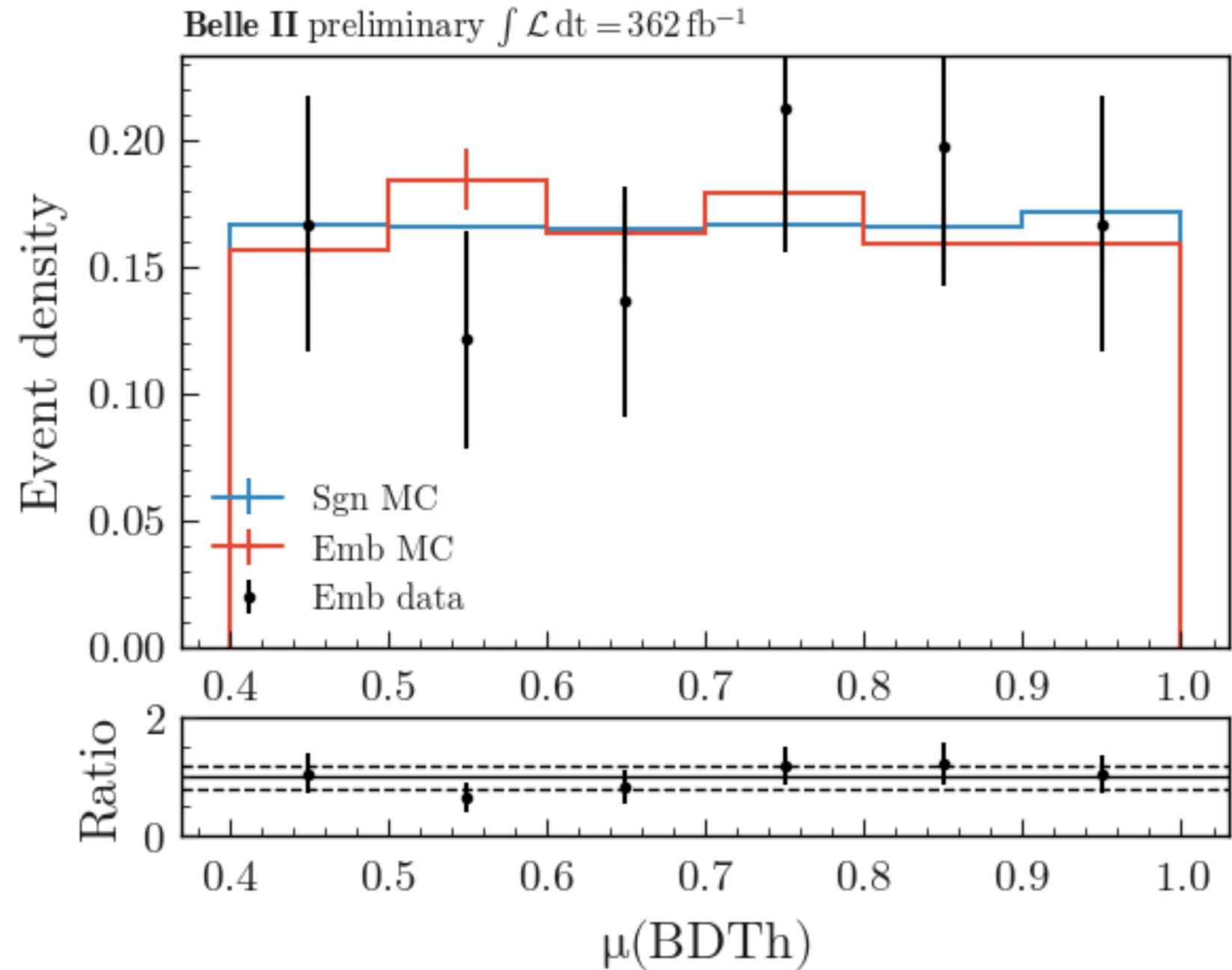
Input variables BDTh

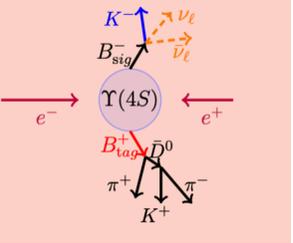
- Sum of photon energy deposits in ECL in ROEh
- Number of tracks in ROEh
- Sum of the missing energy and absolute missing three-momentum vector
- Azimuthal angle between the signal kaon and the missing momentum vector
- Cosine of the angle between the thrust axis of the signal kaon candidate and the thrust axis of the ROEh
- Kakuno-Super-Fox-Wolfram moments H_{22}^{so} , H_{02}^{so} , H_0^{oo}
- Invariant mass of the tracks and energy deposits in ECL in the recoil of the signal kaon
- p -value of B_{tag}
- p -value of the vertex fit of the signal kaon and one or two tracks in the event to reject fake kaons coming from D^0 or D^+ decays

Validation of the signal efficiency (HTA)



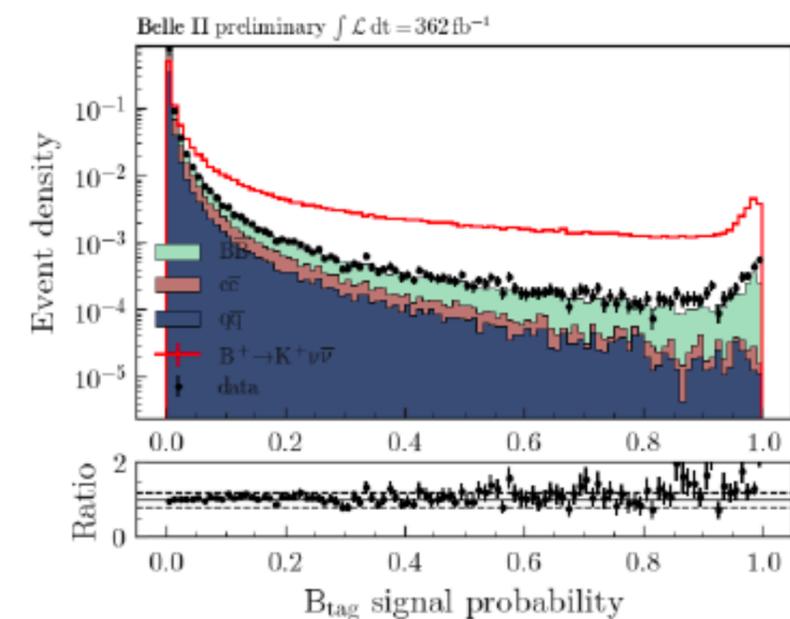
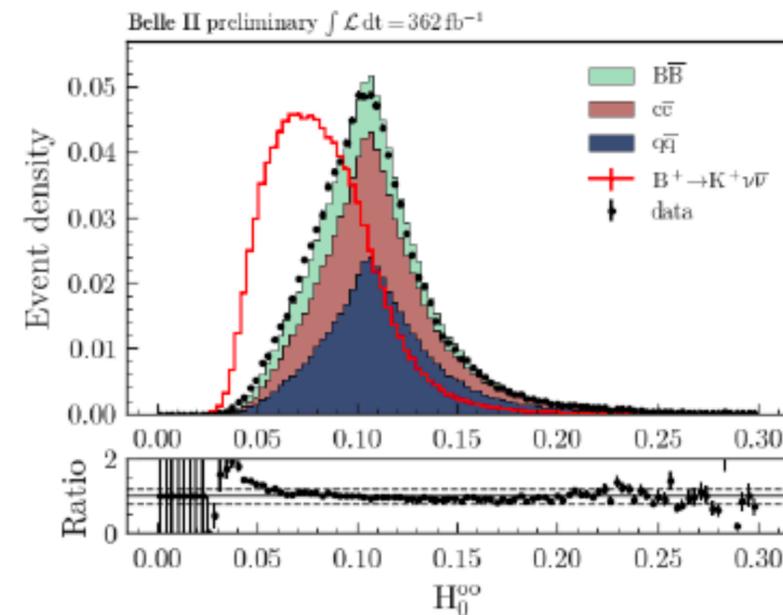
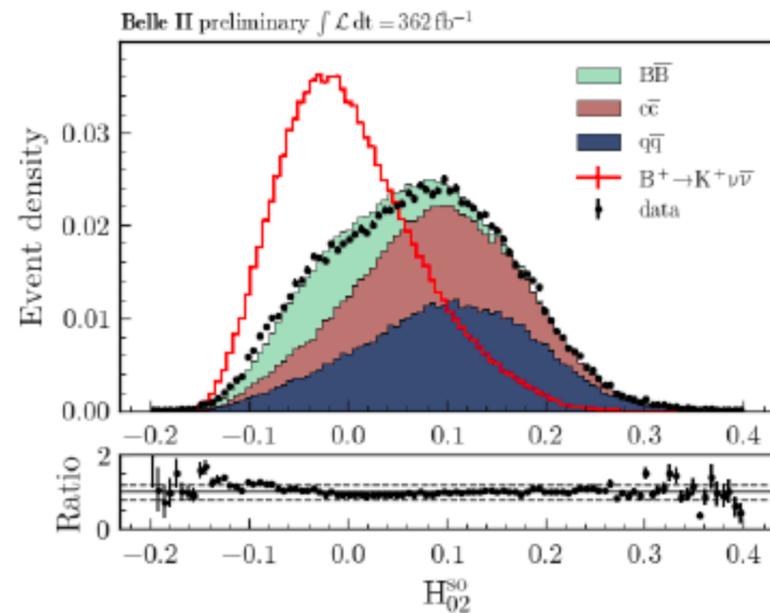
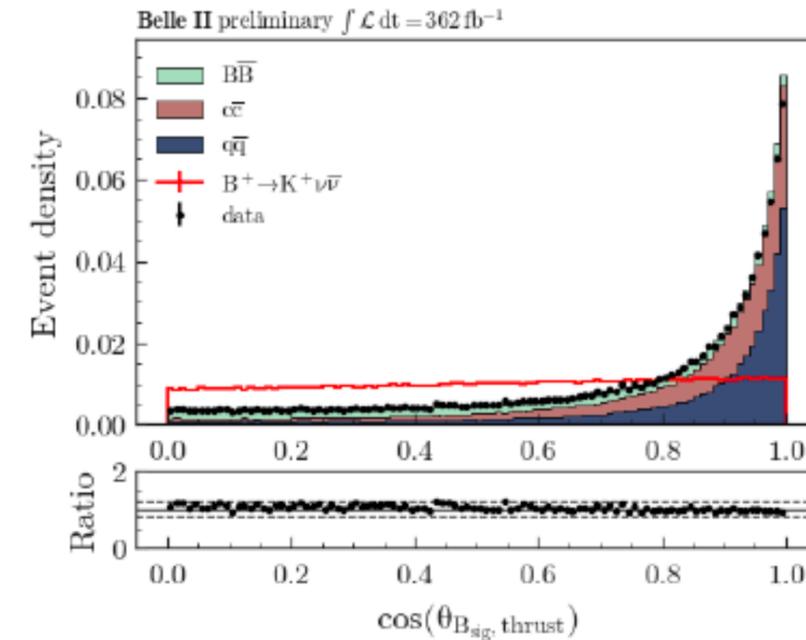
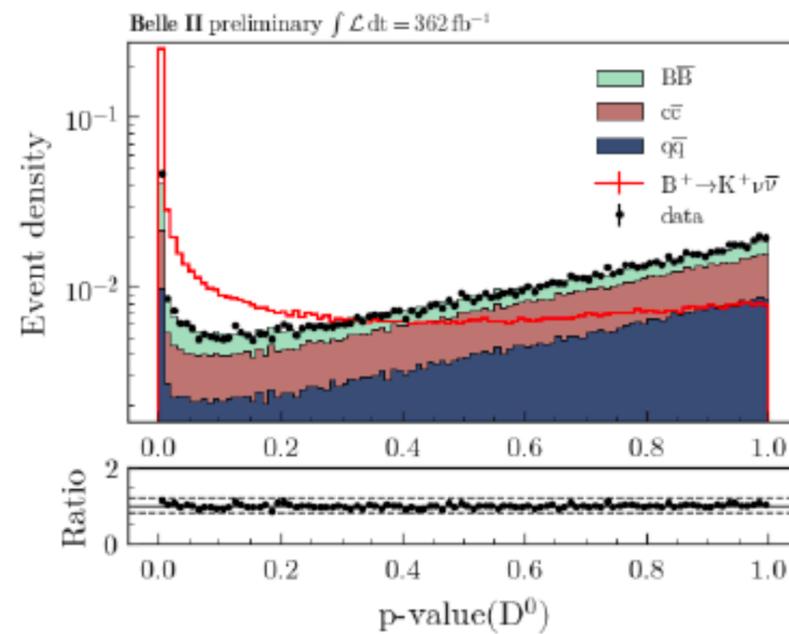
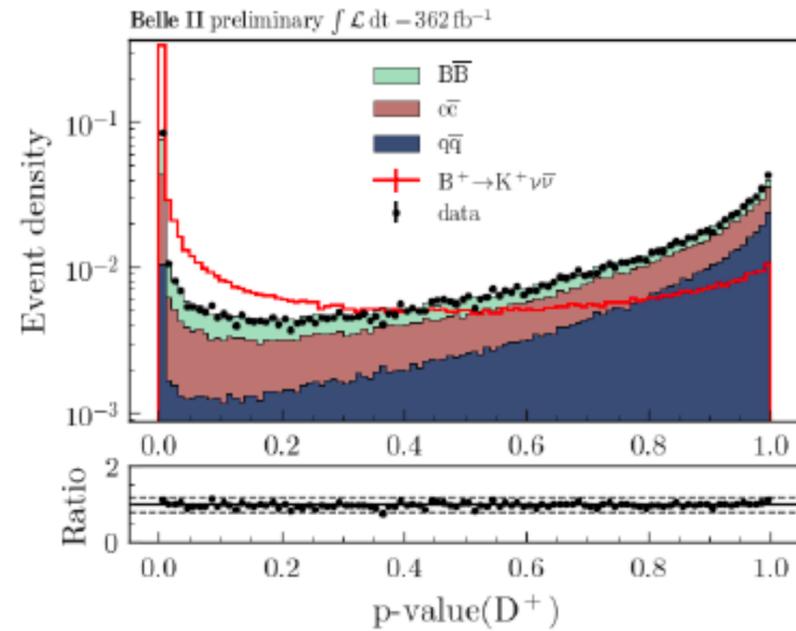
Same method as ITA





Input variables BDTh (HTA)

preselection level: no BDTh cut, no best candidate selection



Beam-backgrounds

Single-beam backgrounds:

- ▶ **Touschek scattering** → scattering of particles within a bunch →

$$\text{Touschek rate} \propto N_{\text{particles}} \times \rho \rightarrow I \times \frac{I}{\sigma_y n_b}$$

- ▶ **beam-gas scattering** → Coulomb scattering and Bremsstrahlung (scattering off gas molecules) → **Beam-gas rate** $\propto N_{\text{gas molecules}} \times$

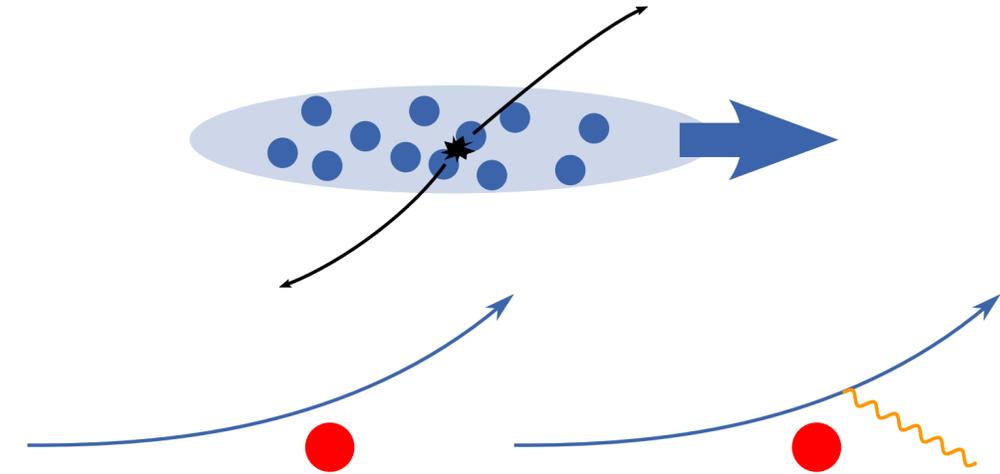
$$N_{\text{particles}} \rightarrow P \times I \times Z_{\text{eff}}^2$$

- ▶ **synchrotron radiation background** → consequence of a radial acceleration of the beam's particles achieved in bending magnets and quadrupoles
- ▶ **injection background** → continuous injection of charge into beam bunch modifying the beam bunch

Single-beam backgrounds can be mitigated with beam-steering, collimators, and vacuum-scrubbing

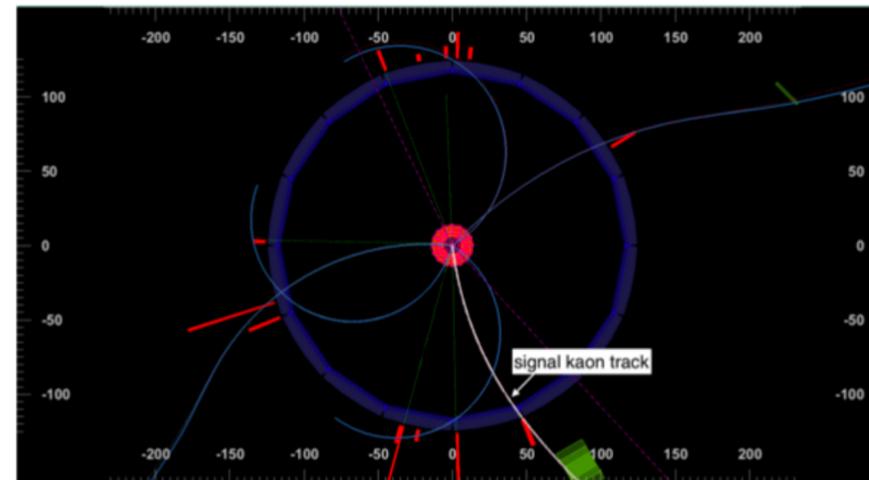
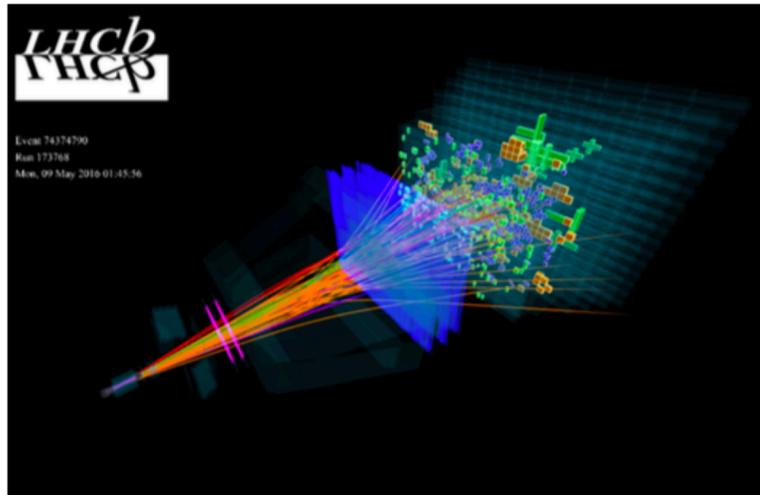
Luminosity backgrounds:

- ▶ **two-photon background** → leading luminosity background ($e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-e^+e^-$), unlike any of the backgrounds above cannot be reduced!



Belle II vs LHCb

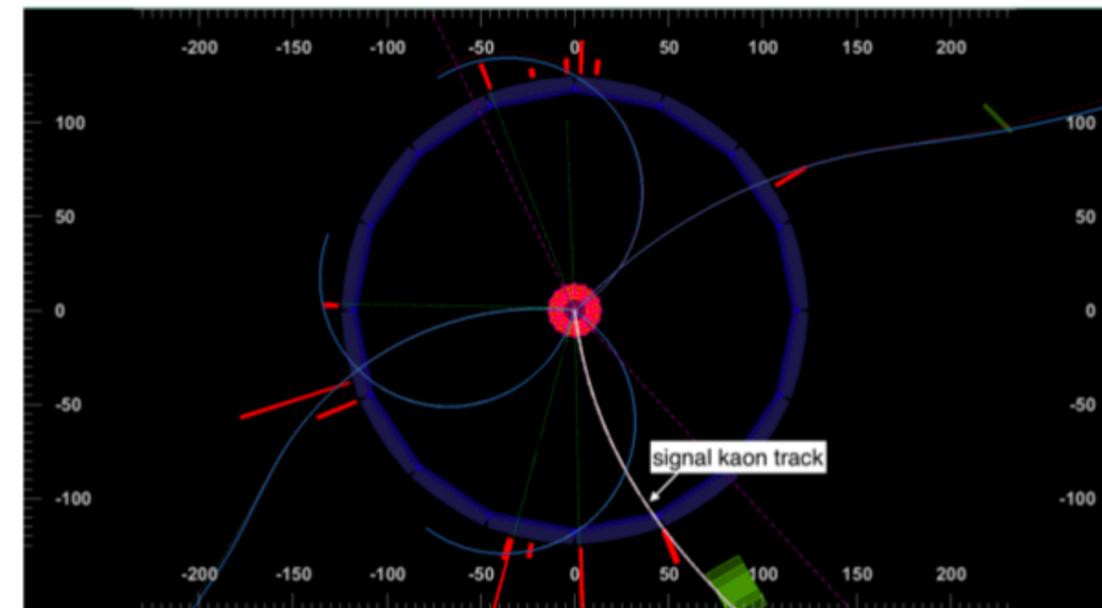
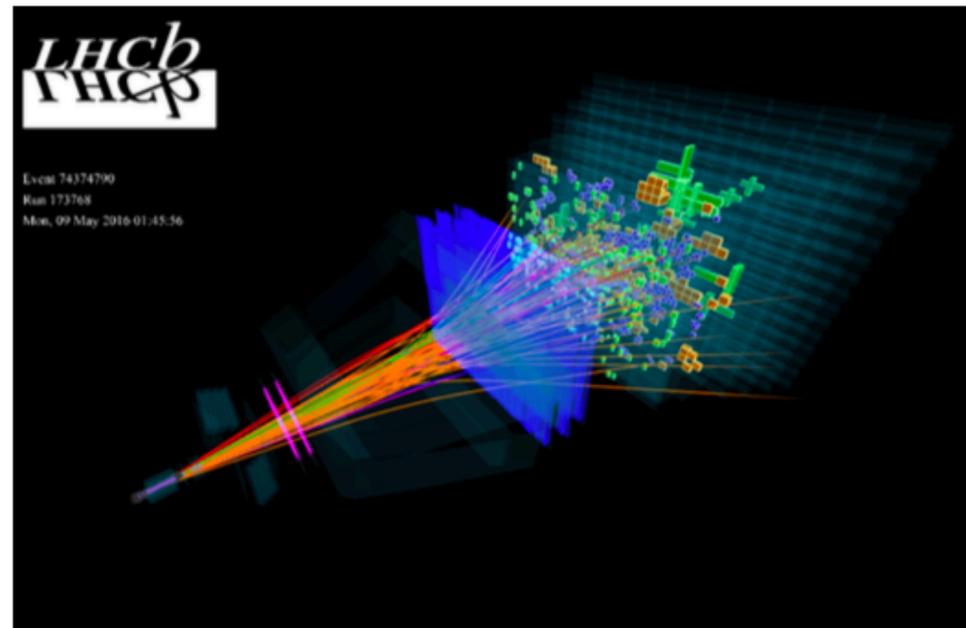
| LHCb | Belle II |
|---|---|
| single-arm detector longitudinal momentum of B not known | hermetic detector known initial state kinematics pro @ neutral object reconstruction (photon, K_L) |



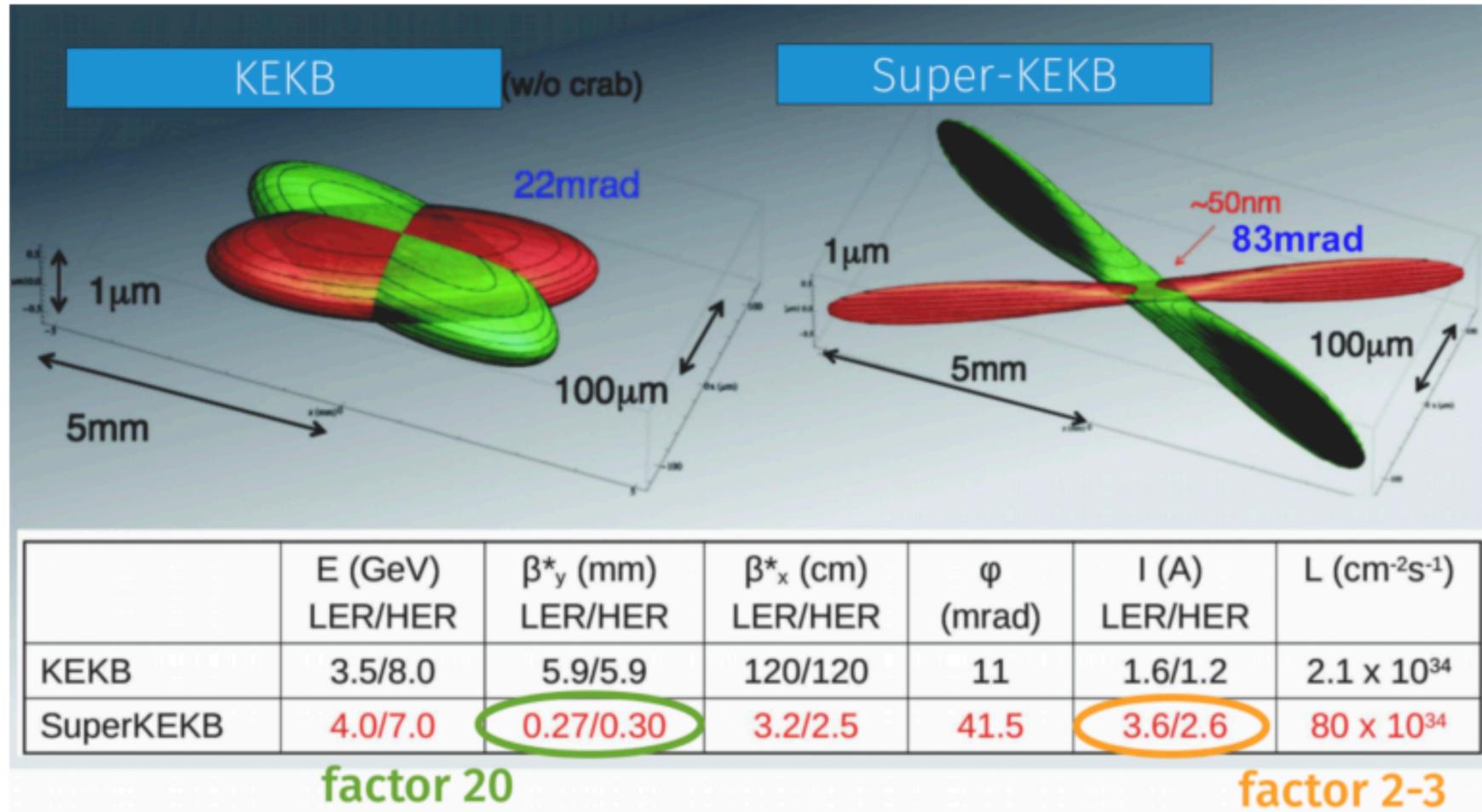
| LHC | SuperKEKB |
|---|--|
| pp -collisions b -quarks produced by gluon fusion all b -hadrons species (B_d , B_s , B_c , b -baryon) highly boosted topology $\sigma_{bb} = 100 \mu\text{b}$ different backgrounds (N/S = 1000) | e^+e^- energy asymmetric collisions $B\bar{B}$ produced from $Y(4S)$ exclusive $B\bar{B}$ production asymmetric beam energy \rightarrow boost $\sigma_{bb} = 1.1 \text{ nb}$ |
| 1 fb^{-1} | 1 ab^{-1} B-backgrounds, continuum backgrounds + QED (N/S=4) |

Belle II vs LHCb

| LHCb | Belle II |
|---|---|
| single-arm detector longitudinal momentum of B not known | hermetic detector known initial state kinematics pro @ neutral object reconstruction (photon, K_L) |



SuperKEKB vs KEKB



| | KEKB | | SuperKEKB (Juni 2022) | | SuperKEKB Ziel | |
|---|----------|----------|--------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | LER | HER | LER | HER | LER | HER |
| Energie [GeV] | 3.5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 |
| #Bunches | 1584 | | 2249 | | 1800 | |
| β^*_x/β^*_y [mm] | 1200/5.9 | 1200/5.9 | 80/1.0 | 60/1.0 | 32/0.27 | 25/0.3 |
| I [A] | 1.64 | 1.19 | 1.46 | 1.15 | 2.8 | 2.0 |
| Luminosität [$10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$] | 2.1 | | 4.65 (Rekord!) | | 60 | |
| Int. Luminosität [ab^{-1}] | 1 | | 0.43 | | 50 | |

Long Shutdown 1

Belle II stopped taking data in Summer 2022 for a long shutdown

- replacement of beam-pipe
- replacement of photomultipliers of the central PID detector (TOP)
- installation of 2-layered pixel vertex detector
- improved data-quality monitoring and alarm system
- completed transition to new DAQ boards (PCIe40)
- accelerator improvements: injection, non-linear collimators, monitoring
- replacement of aging components
- additional shielding and increased resilience against beam bckg

Currently working on pixel detector installation:

==> shipping to KEK in ~mid March

==> final tests at KEK scheduled in April

On track to resume data taking next winter with new pixel detector