

Dalitz Plot Analysis of charmless B Meson Decays at the Belle II Experiment

Markus Reif

Annual Swedish Nuclear Physics and SFAIR Meeting 2025

30 October 2025



MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
FÜR PHYSIK



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

What do we have and what do we want?

What we have

Standard Model to describe microscopic world

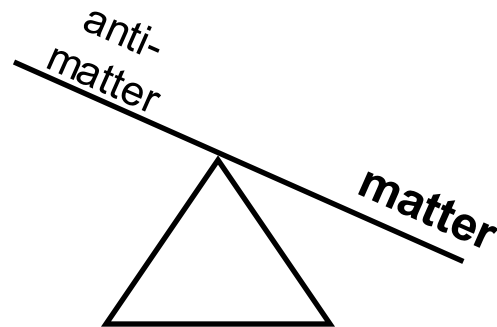
mass →	≈2.3 MeV/c ²	≈1.275 GeV/c ²	≈173.07 GeV/c ²	0	≈126 GeV/c ²
charge →	2/3	2/3	2/3	0	0
spin →	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	0
	u up	c charm	t top	g gluon	H Higgs boson
QUARKS					
	≈4.8 MeV/c ²	≈95 MeV/c ²	≈4.18 GeV/c ²	0	
	-1/3	-1/3	-1/3	0	
	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
	d down	s strange	b bottom	γ photon	
	0.511 MeV/c ²	105.7 MeV/c ²	1.777 GeV/c ²	91.2 GeV/c ²	
	-1	-1	-1	0	
	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
	e electron	μ muon	τ tau	Z Z boson	
LEPTONS					
	<2.2 eV/c ²	<0.17 MeV/c ²	<15.5 MeV/c ²	80.4 GeV/c ²	
	0	0	0	±1	
	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
	ν_e electron neutrino	ν_μ muon neutrino	ν_τ tau neutrino	W W boson	

graphic from Wikimedia Commons

make predictions
→ so far confirmed in experiments

Problems

- gravity not included
- dark matter?
- matter – anti-matter asymmetry

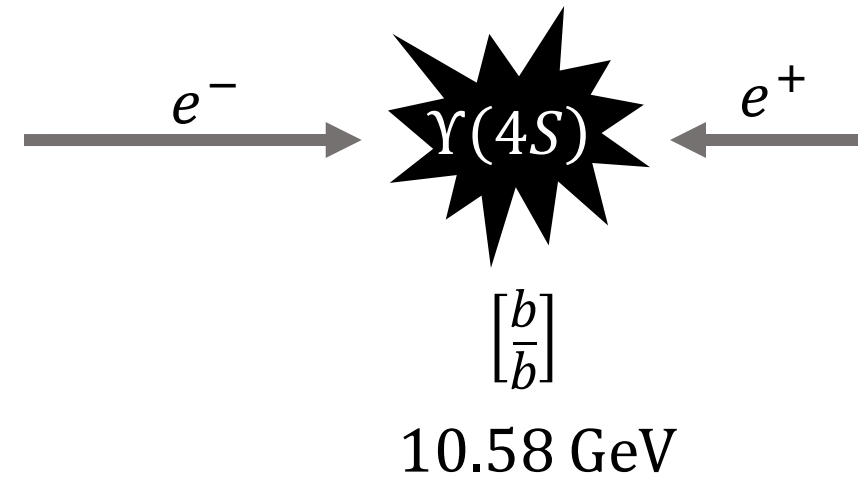


What we want

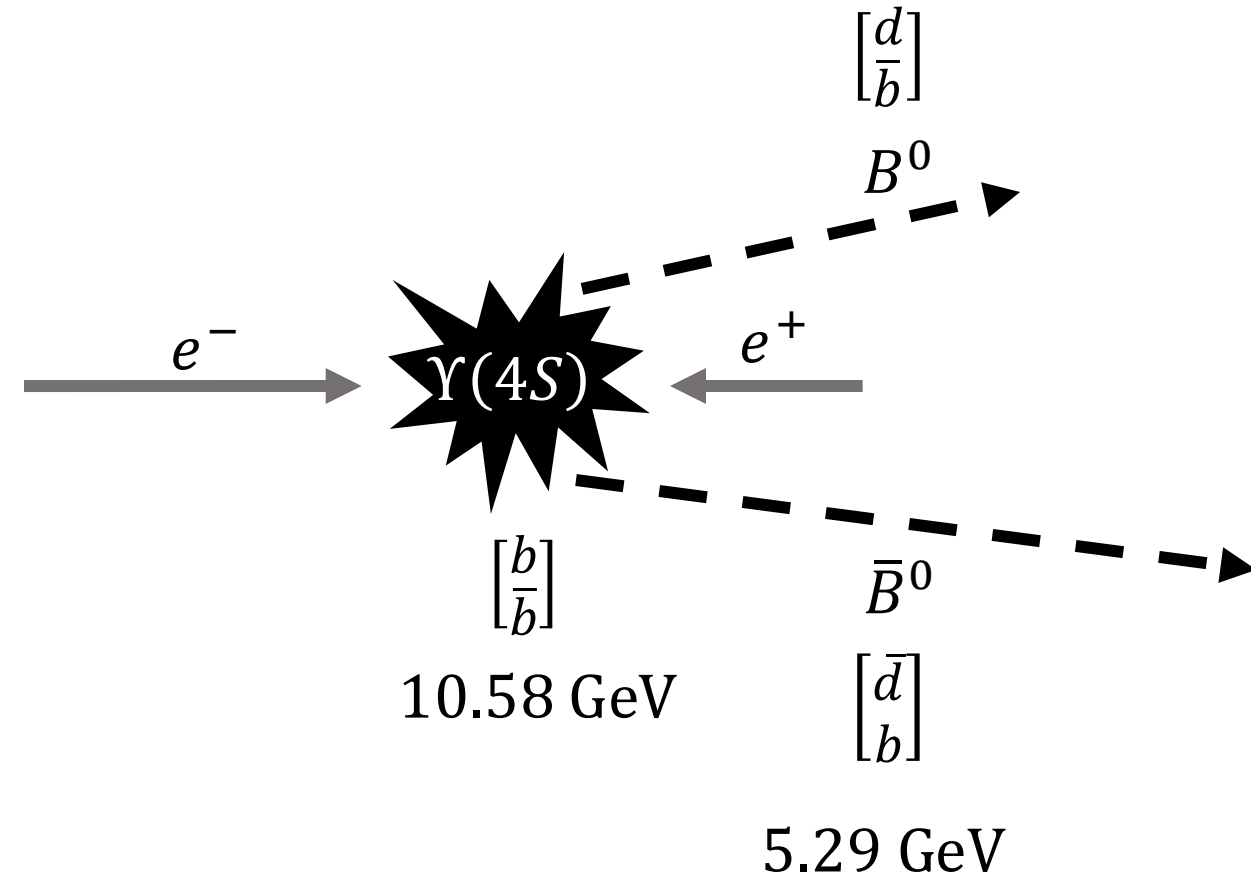


New Physics beyond Standard Model

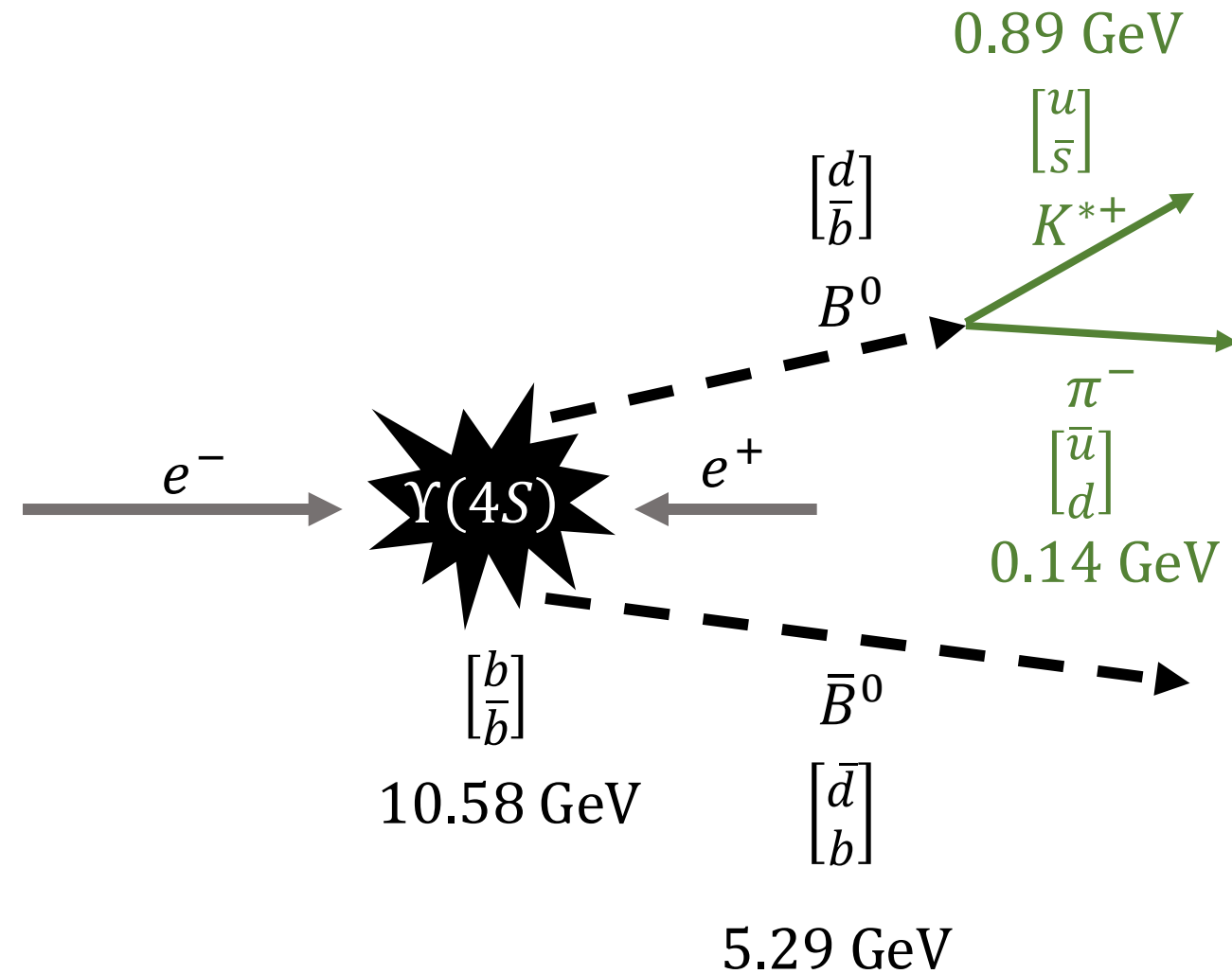
SuperKEKB and the Belle II Experiment



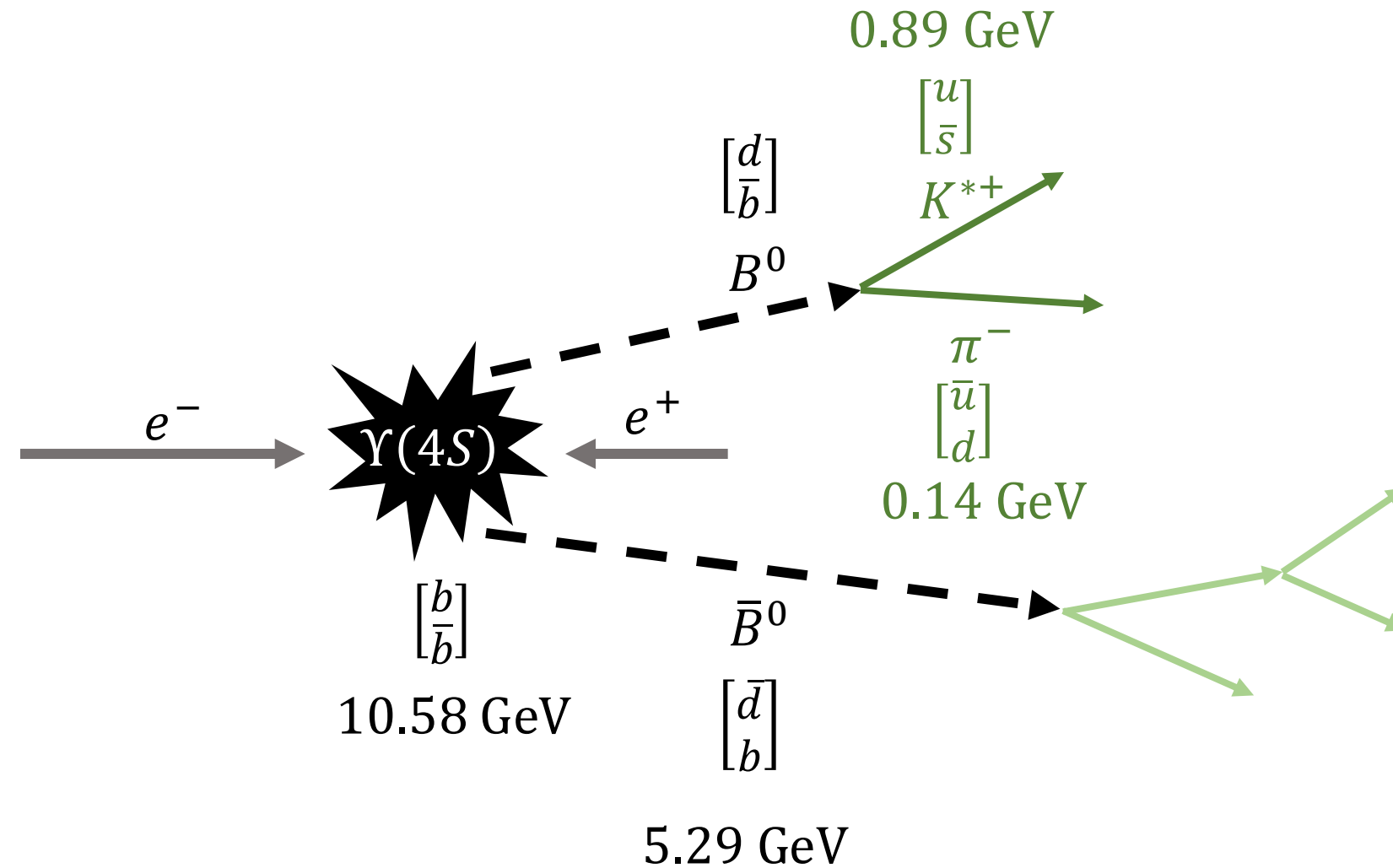
SuperKEKB and the Belle II Experiment



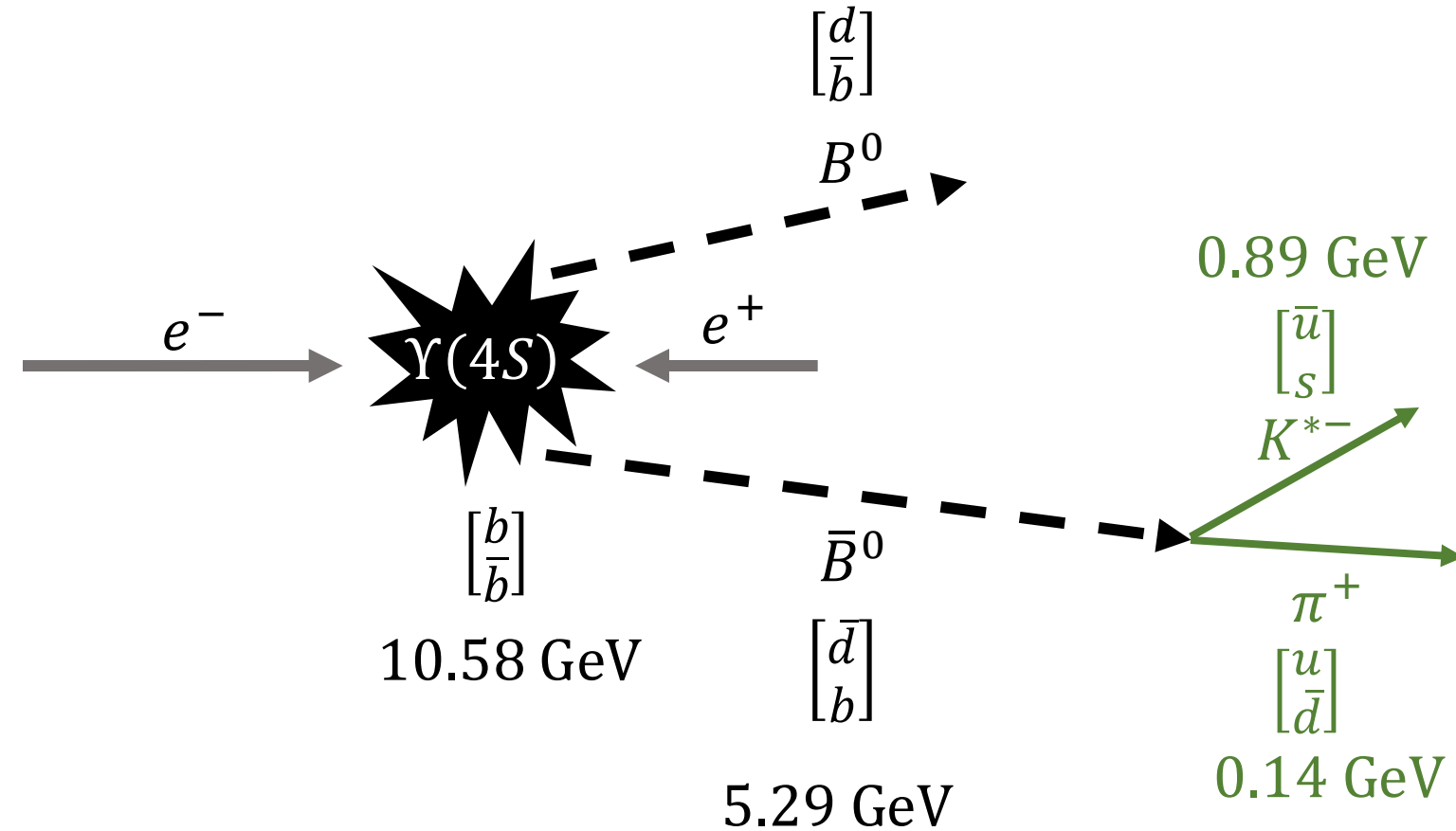
SuperKEKB and the Belle II Experiment



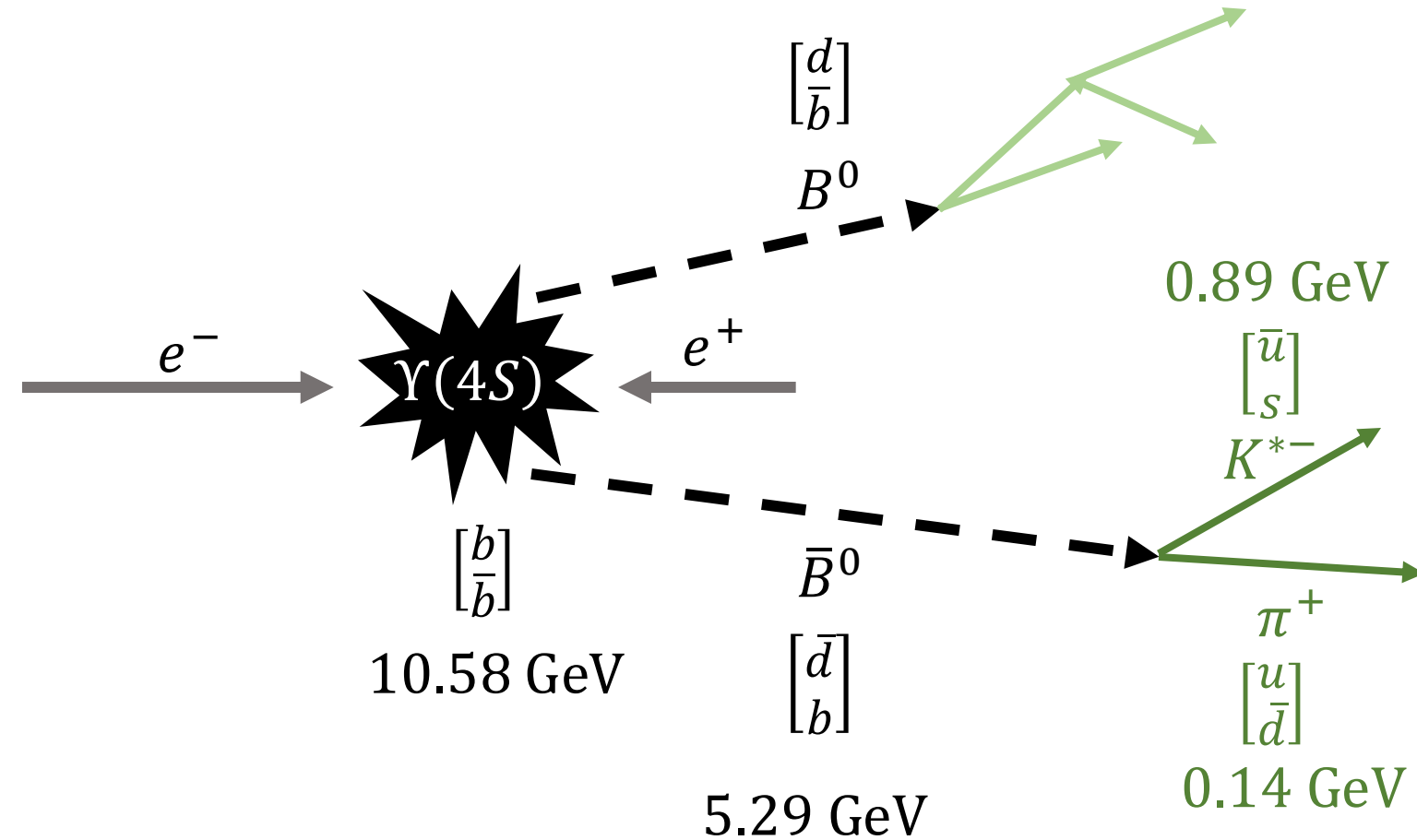
SuperKEKB and the Belle II Experiment



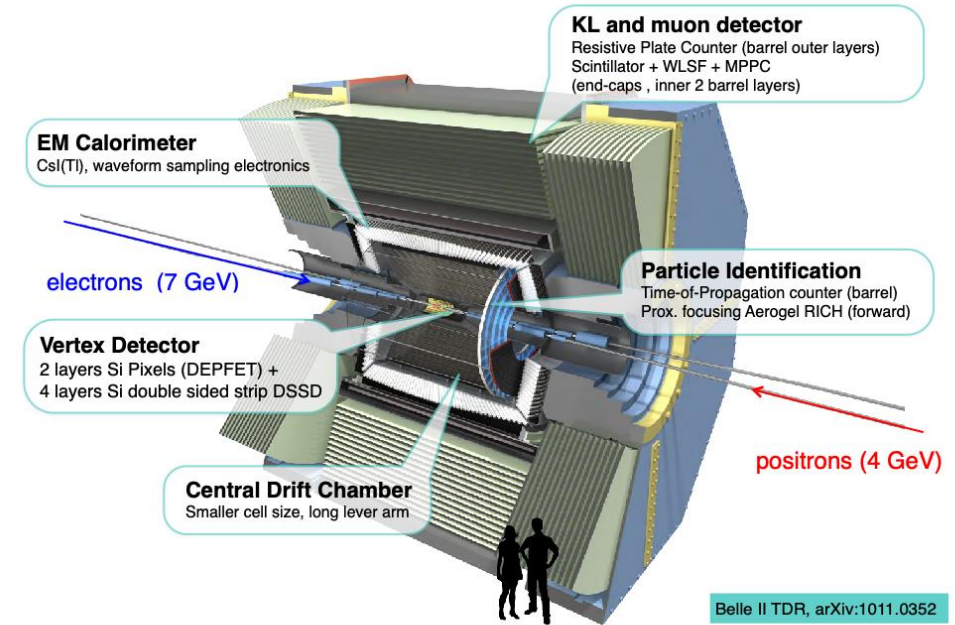
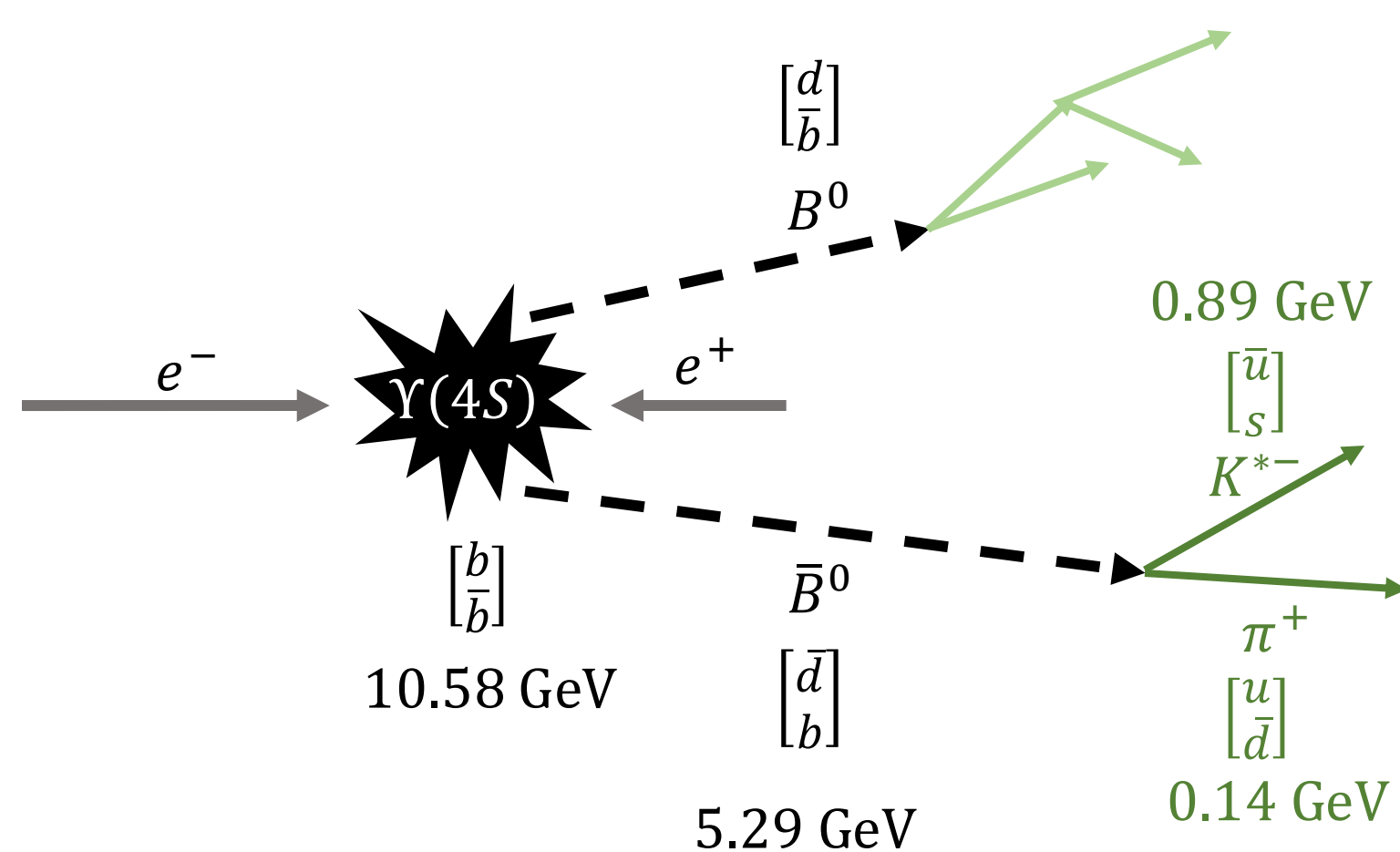
SuperKEKB and the Belle II Experiment



SuperKEKB and the Belle II Experiment



SuperKEKB and the Belle II Experiment



Belle II detector measures properties of final state particles

Experiment vs Standard Model

- want to compare experimentally measured parameter with theory prediction

Experiment vs Standard Model

- want to compare experimentally measured parameter with theory prediction

Experiment:

branching fraction: $\mathcal{B} = \frac{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) + N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}{N(\text{total } \bar{B}^0) + N(\text{total } B^0)}$

direct CP-violation: $\mathcal{A}^{CP} = \frac{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) - N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) + N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}$

Experiment vs Standard Model

- want to compare experimentally measured parameter with theory prediction

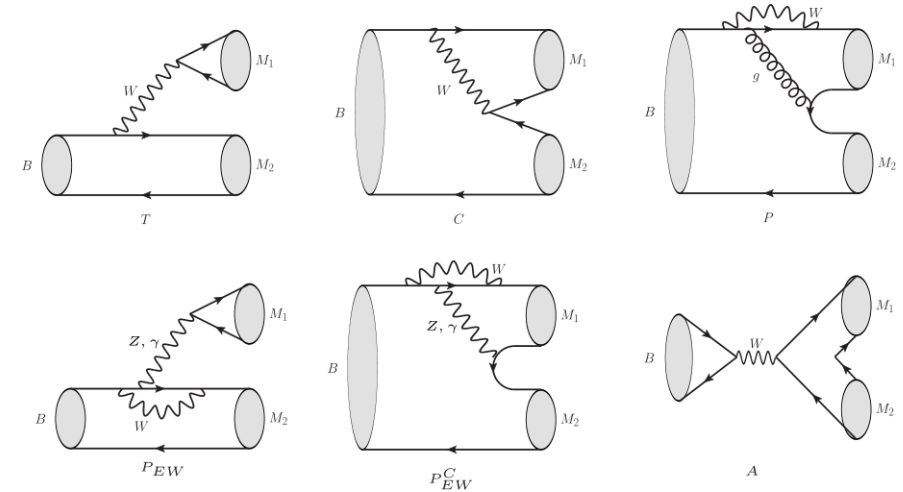
Experiment:

branching fraction: $\mathcal{B} = \frac{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) + N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}{N(\text{total } \bar{B}^0) + N(\text{total } B^0)}$

direct CP-violation: $\mathcal{A}^{CP} = \frac{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) - N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) + N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}$

Theory:

limited precision on prediction of $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{A}^{CP}$ for single decay modes, as many Feynman diagrams contribute



adapted from Belle II Physics Book: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1808.10567>

Experiment vs Standard Model

- want to compare experimentally measured parameter with theory prediction

Experiment:

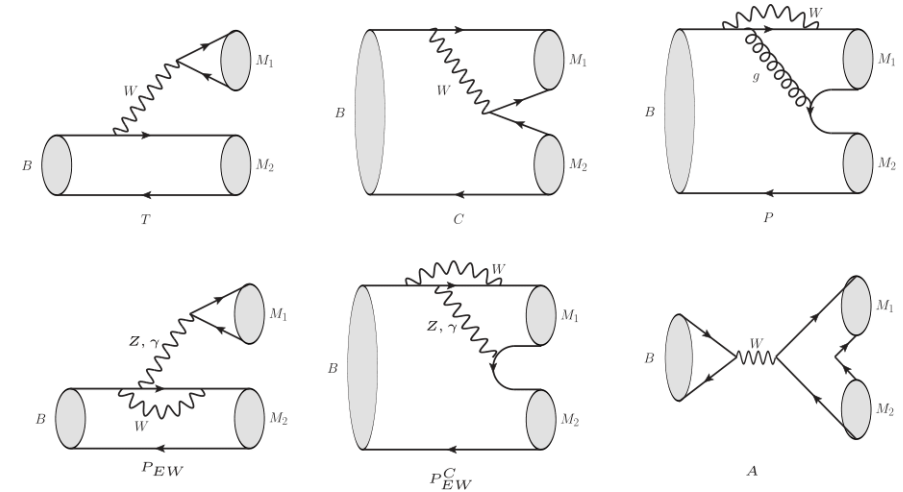
branching fraction: $\mathcal{B} = \frac{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) + N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}{N(\text{total } \bar{B}^0) + N(\text{total } B^0)}$

direct CP-violation: $\mathcal{A}^{CP} = \frac{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) - N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) + N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}$

Theory:

limited precision on prediction of $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{A}^{CP}$ for single decay modes, as many Feynman diagrams contribute

- combine multiple decay modes related by symmetry (isospin) to “cancel” Feynman diagrams,
e.g.: $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-$, $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0} \pi^0$, $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^0$, $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*0} \pi^+$



adapted from Belle II Physics Book: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1808.10567>

Experiment vs Standard Model

- want to compare experimentally measured parameter with theory prediction

Experiment:

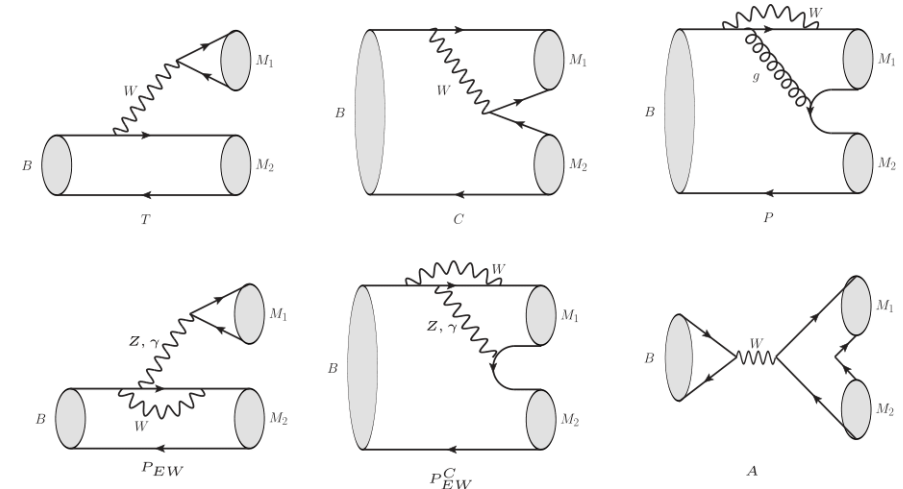
branching fraction: $\mathcal{B} = \frac{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) + N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}{N(\text{total } \bar{B}^0) + N(\text{total } B^0)}$

direct CP-violation: $\mathcal{A}^{CP} = \frac{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) - N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}{N(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^{*-} \pi^+) + N(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-)}$

Theory:

limited precision on prediction of $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{A}^{CP}$ for single decay modes, as many Feynman diagrams contribute

- combine multiple decay modes related by symmetry (isospin) to “cancel” Feynman diagrams,
e.g.: $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^-$, $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0} \pi^0$, $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*+} \pi^0$, $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*0} \pi^+$

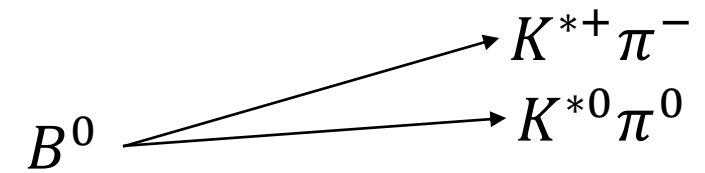


adapted from Belle II Physics Book: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1808.10567>

$$I_{K^* \pi} = \mathcal{A}_{K^{*+} \pi^-}^{CP} + \mathcal{A}_{K^{*0} \pi^+}^{CP} \frac{\mathcal{B}(K^{*0} \pi^+) \tau_{B^0}}{\mathcal{B}(K^{*+} \pi^-) \tau_{B^+}} - 2\mathcal{B}_{K^{*+} \pi^0}^{CP} \frac{\mathcal{B}(K^{*+} \pi^0) \tau_{B^0}}{\mathcal{B}(K^{*+} \pi^-) \tau_{B^+}} - 2\mathcal{A}_{K^{*0} \pi^0}^{CP} \frac{\mathcal{B}(K^{*0} \pi^0)}{\mathcal{B}(K^{*+} \pi^-)} \approx 0 \pm O(\text{few } \%)$$

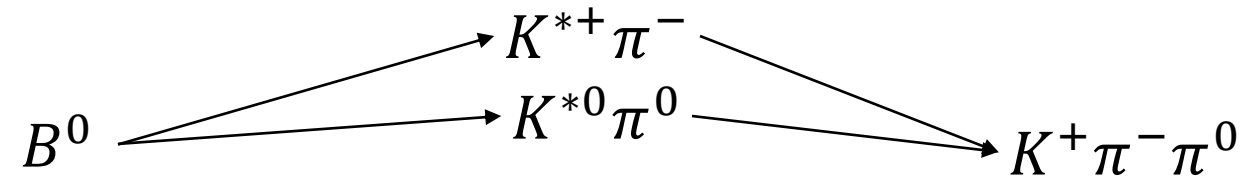
$$B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$$

- K^* resonances are not stable particles, but they decay further to kaons and pions



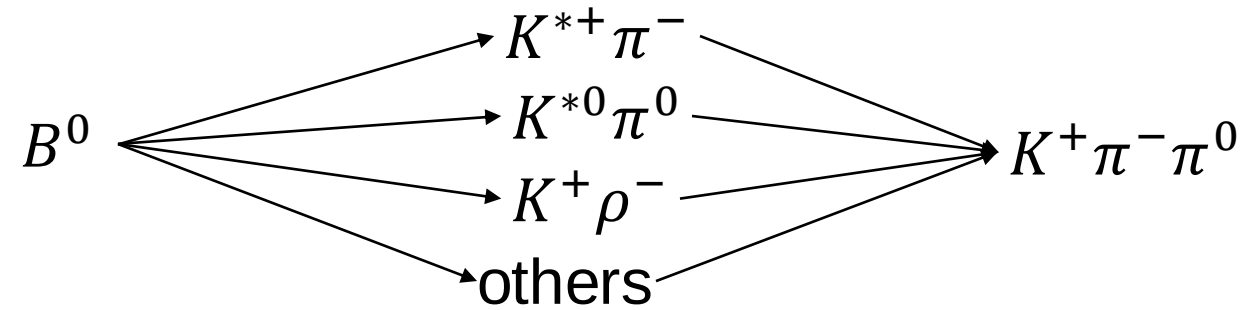
$$B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$$

- K^* resonances are not stable particles, but they decay further to kaons and pions



$$B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$$

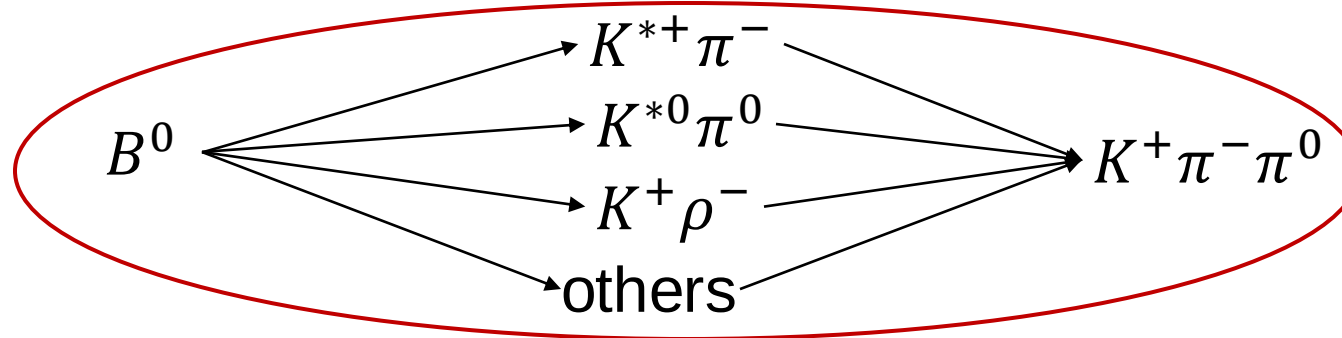
- K^* resonances are not stable particles, but they decay further to kaons and pions



- overall decay proceeds coherently via many “intermediate” states

$$B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$$

- K^* resonances are not stable particles, but they decay further to kaons and pions

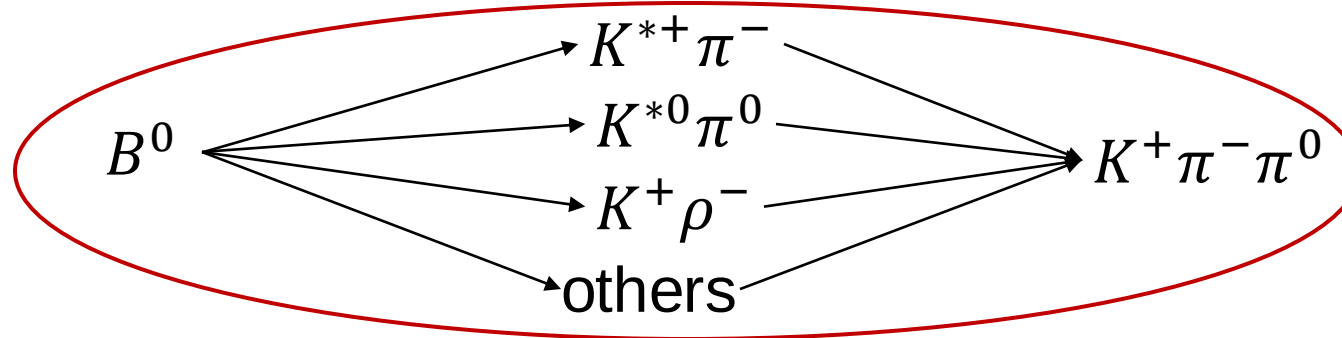


- overall decay proceeds coherently via many “intermediate” states
- total decay amplitude** is coherent sum of individual contributions

$$A = \sum_a A_a$$

$$B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$$

- K^* resonances are not stable particles, but they decay further to kaons and pions



- overall decay proceeds coherently via many “intermediate” states
- total decay amplitude** is coherent sum of individual contributions

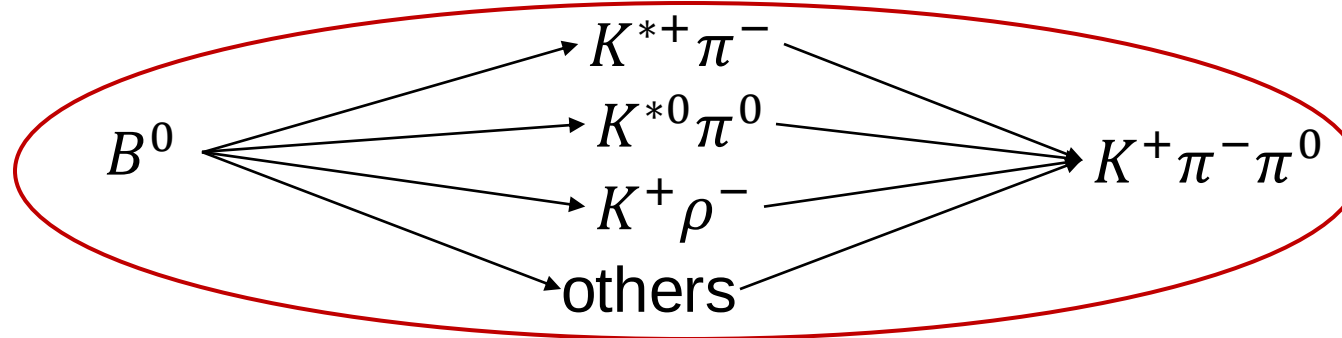
$$A = \sum_a A_a = \sum_a r_a \cdot e^{i\varphi_a} \cdot \psi_a$$

magnitude and phase

!This is what we want to measure!

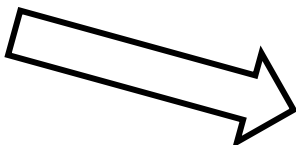
$$B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$$

- K^* resonances are not stable particles, but they decay further to kaons and pions



- overall decay proceeds coherently via many “intermediate” states
- total decay amplitude** is coherent sum of individual contributions

$$A = \sum_a A_a = \sum_a r_a \cdot e^{i\varphi_a} \cdot \psi_a$$



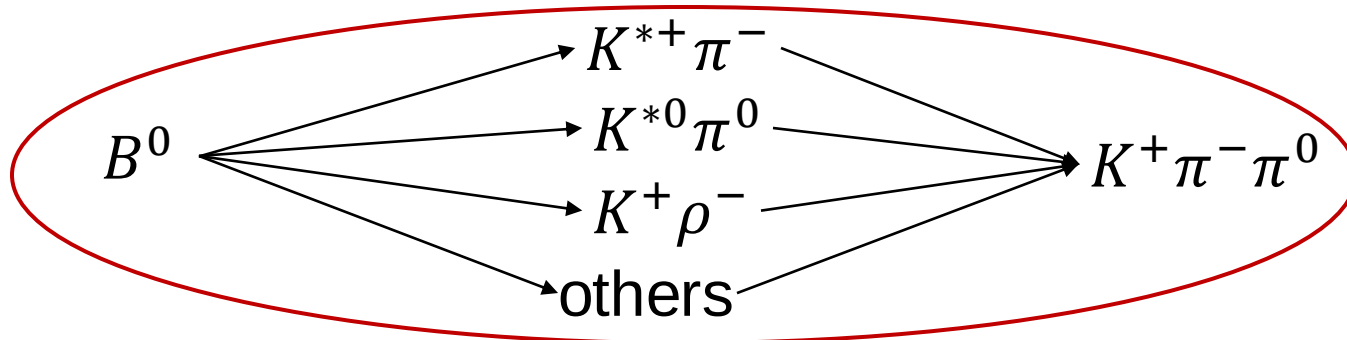
magnitude and phase

!This is what we want to measure!

$\mathcal{B}_a(r_a, \varphi_a)$
 $\mathcal{A}_a^{CP}(r_a, \varphi_a)$

$$B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$$

- K^* resonances are not stable particles, but they decay further to kaons and pions



- overall decay proceeds coherently via many “intermediate” states
- total decay amplitude** is coherent sum of individual contributions

$$A = \sum_a A_a = \sum_a r_a \cdot e^{i\varphi_a} \cdot \psi_a \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{matrix} \mathcal{B}_a(r_a, \varphi_a) \\ \mathcal{A}_a^{CP}(r_a, \varphi_a) \end{matrix} \quad \longrightarrow \quad I_{K^*\pi}$$

↗ ↗
 magnitude and phase
!This is what we want to measure!

Intensity (of $B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$)

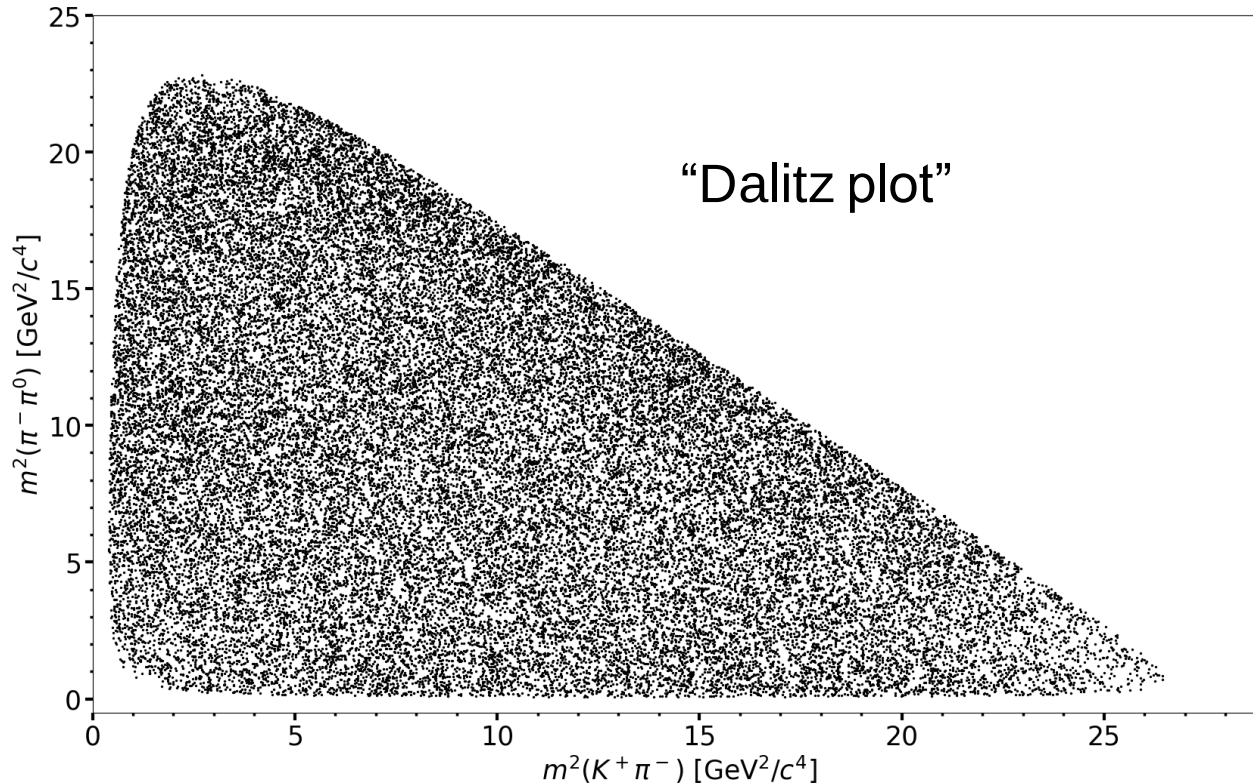
What we “see” is the intensity

$$\mathcal{I} = |A|^2 = \left| \sum_a A_a \right|^2 = \left| \sum_a r_a \cdot e^{i \cdot \varphi_a} \cdot \psi_a \right|^2$$

Intensity (of $B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$)

What we “see” is the intensity

$$\mathcal{I} = |A|^2 = \left| \sum_a A_a \right|^2 = \left| \sum_a r_a \cdot e^{i \cdot \varphi_a} \cdot \psi_a \right|^2$$

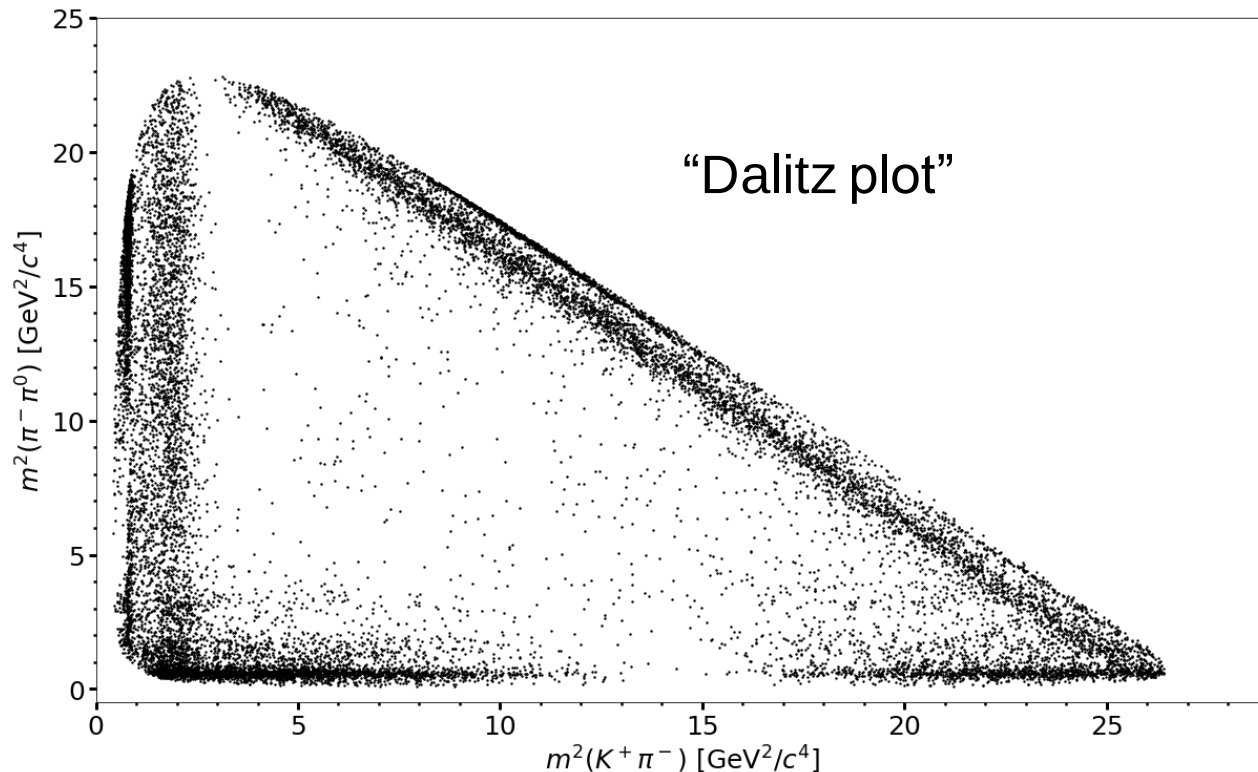


- $\mathcal{I} / A / \psi_a$ is only a function of two variables
- $m^2(K^+ \pi^-)$ vs. $m^2(\pi^- \pi^0)$: Dalitz plot

Intensity (of $B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$)

What we “see” is the intensity

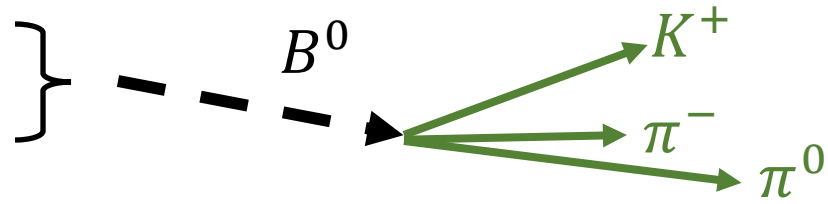
$$\mathcal{I} = |A|^2 = \left| \sum_a A_a \right|^2 = \left| \sum_a r_a \cdot e^{i\varphi_a} \cdot \psi_a \right|^2$$



- $\mathcal{I} / A / \psi_a$ is only a function of two variables
- $m^2(K^+ \pi^-)$ vs. $m^2(\pi^- \pi^0)$: Dalitz plot
- “real” Dalitz plot mostly empty
- resonances appear as “bands”

What we actually observe

- pure physics: $|A|^2$



What we actually observe

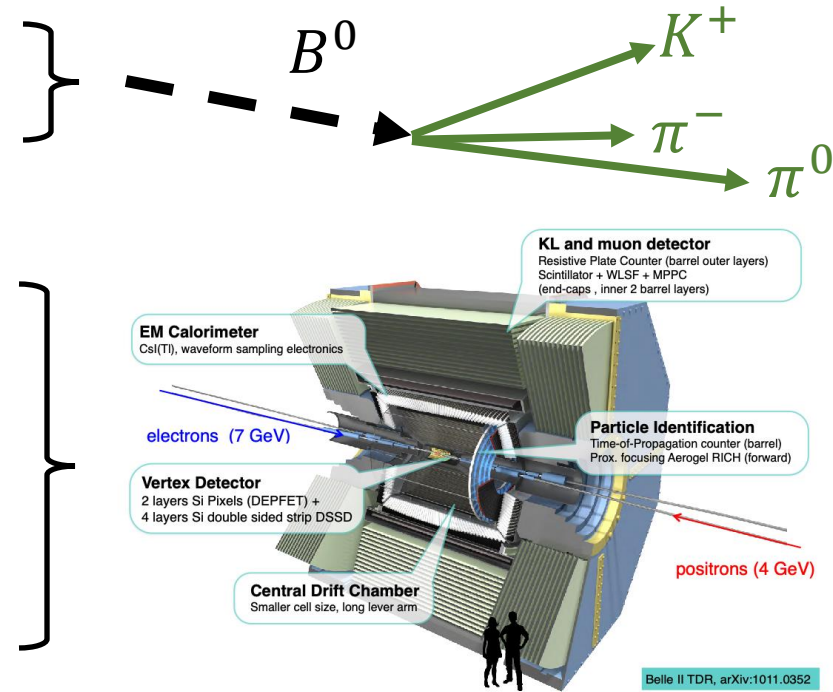
- pure physics: $|A|^2$

+

•

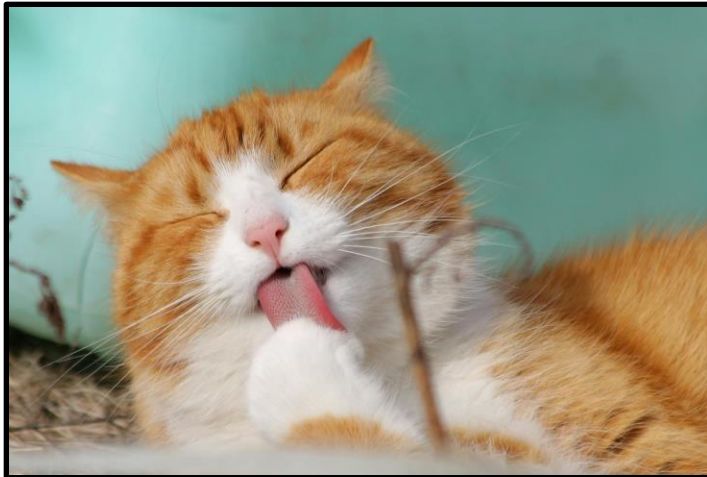
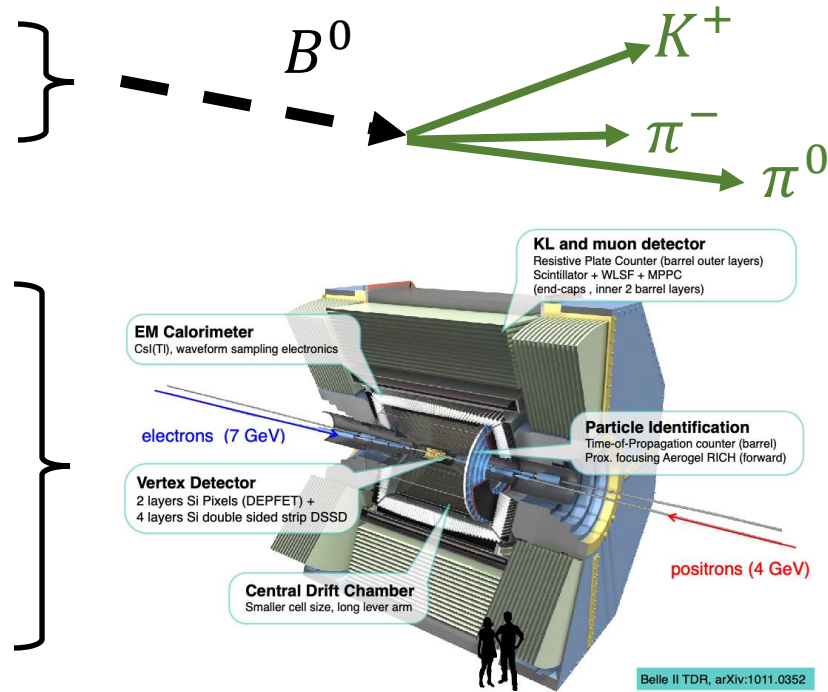
+

•

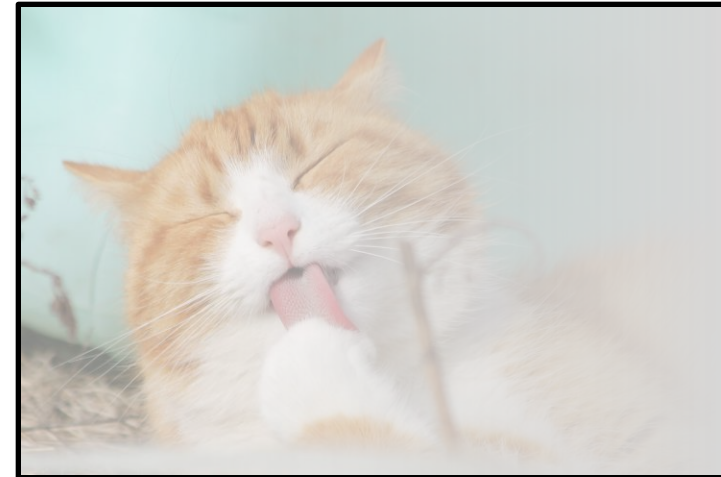


What we actually observe

- pure physics: $|A|^2$
- +
- acceptance/efficiency
- +
-

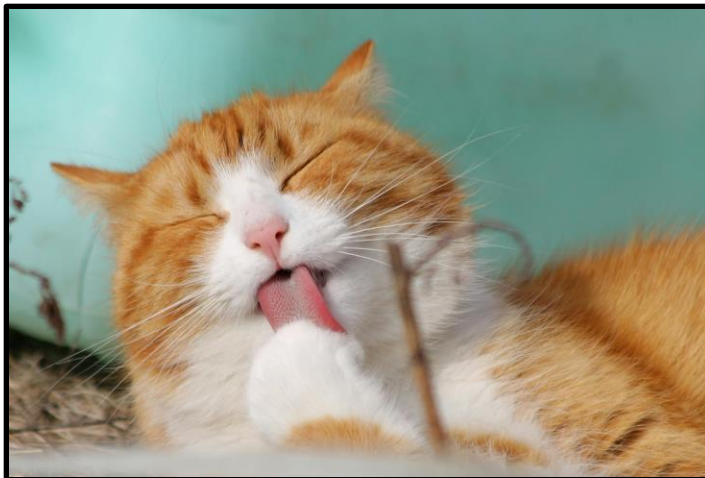
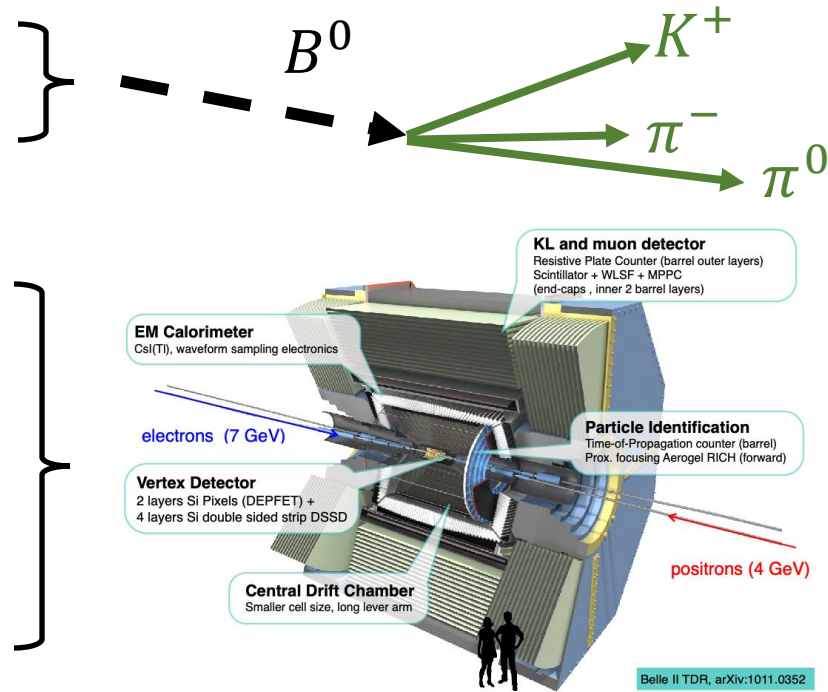


acceptance →



What we actually observe

- pure physics: $|A|^2$
- +
- acceptance/efficiency
- +
- resolution

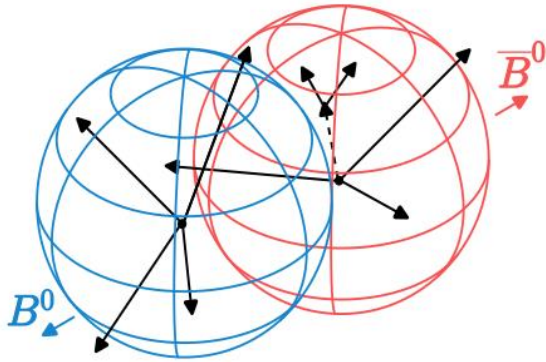


resolution →



Backgrounds of $B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$

- $B\bar{B}$: random combinations of $B\bar{B}$ decays, e.g. $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0[K^+\pi^-]\rho^+[\pi^0\pi^+]$

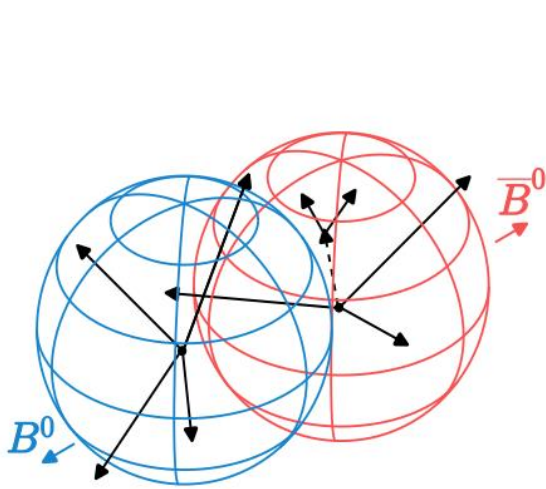


$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B^0\bar{B}^0$$

$$E_{e^+e^-} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ \bar{b} \end{bmatrix}$$

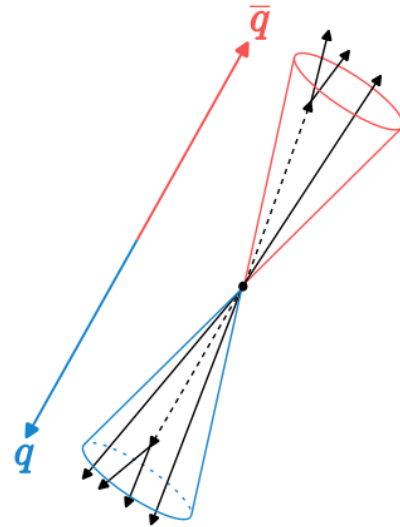
Backgrounds of $B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$

- $B\bar{B}$: random combinations of $B\bar{B}$ decays, e.g. $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0[K^+\pi^-]\rho^+[\pi^0\pi^+]$
- $q\bar{q}$: continuum $e^+e^- \rightarrow u\bar{u}, d\bar{d}, s\bar{s}, c\bar{c}$ about three times larger than $e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B\bar{B}$



$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B^0\bar{B}^0$$

$$E_{e^+e^-} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ \bar{b} \end{bmatrix}$$

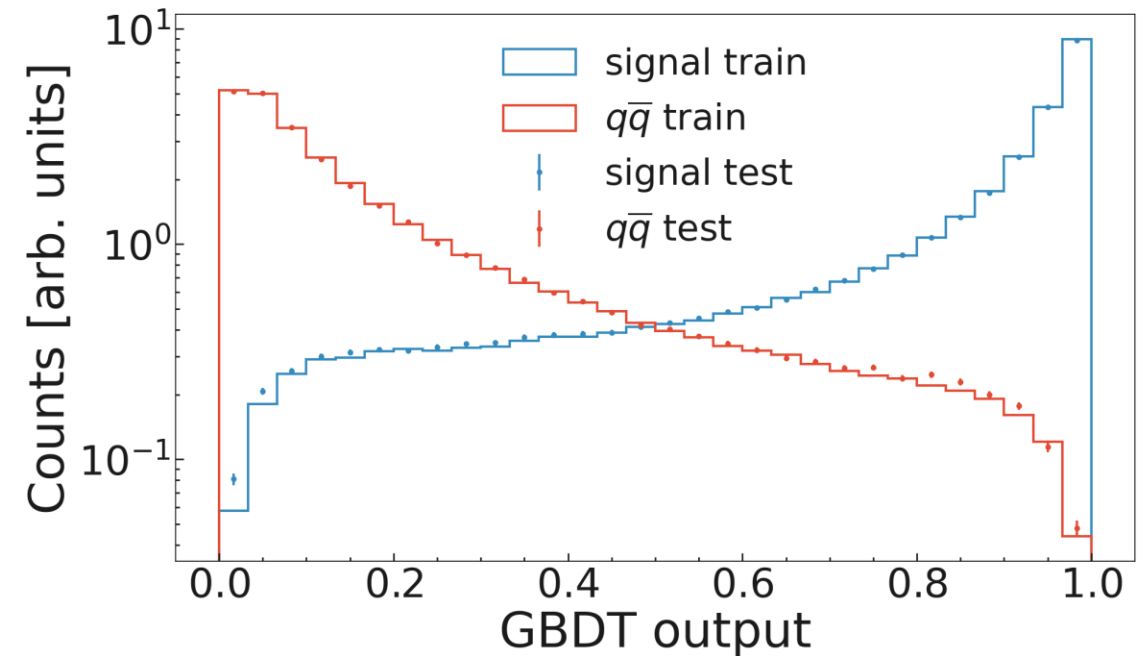
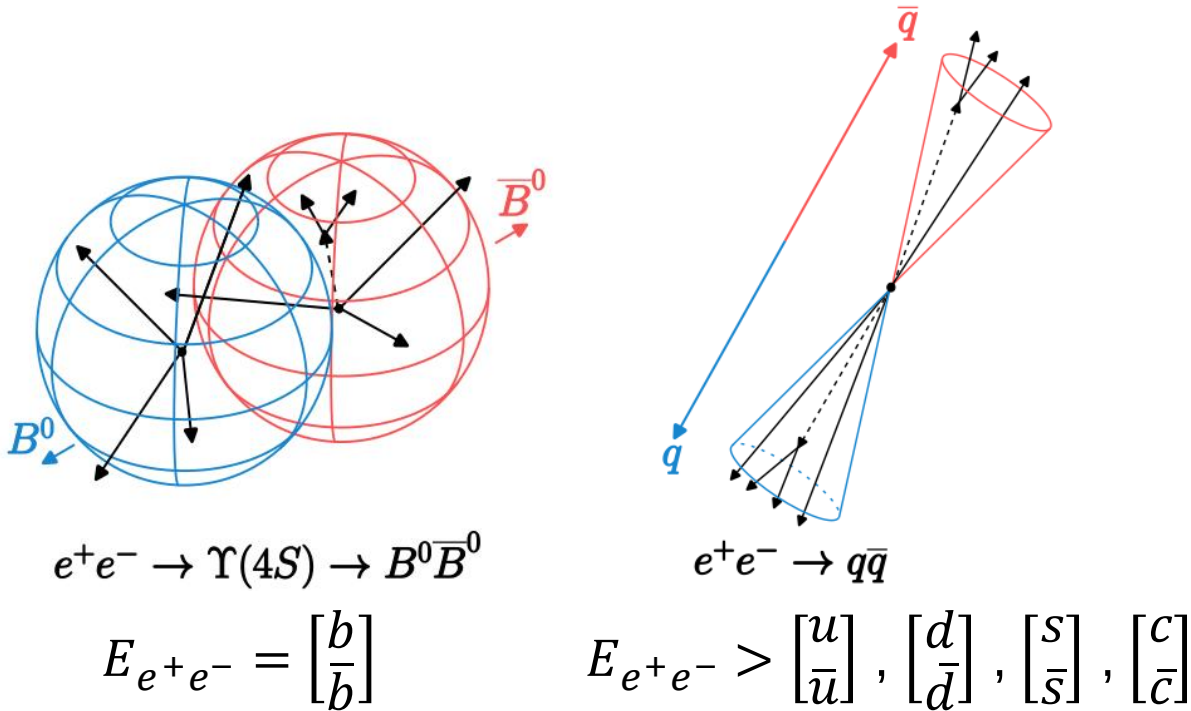


$$e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$$

$$E_{e^+e^-} > \begin{bmatrix} u \\ \bar{u} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \bar{d} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} s \\ \bar{s} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} c \\ \bar{c} \end{bmatrix}$$

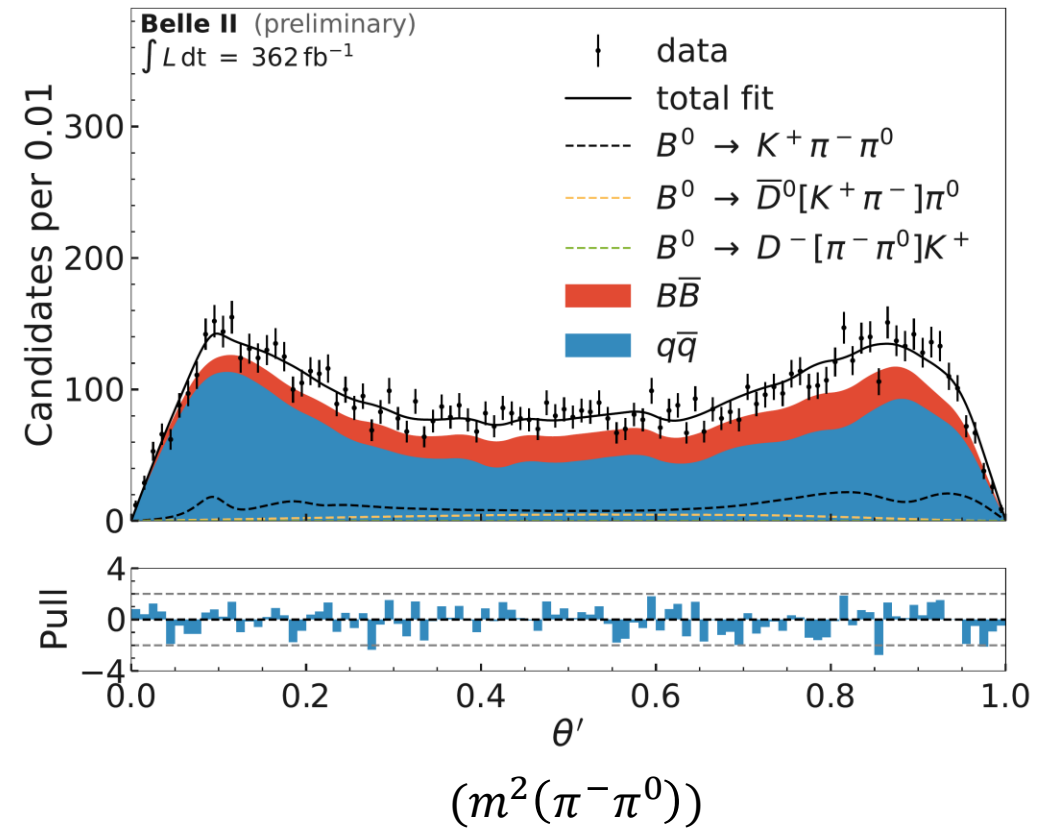
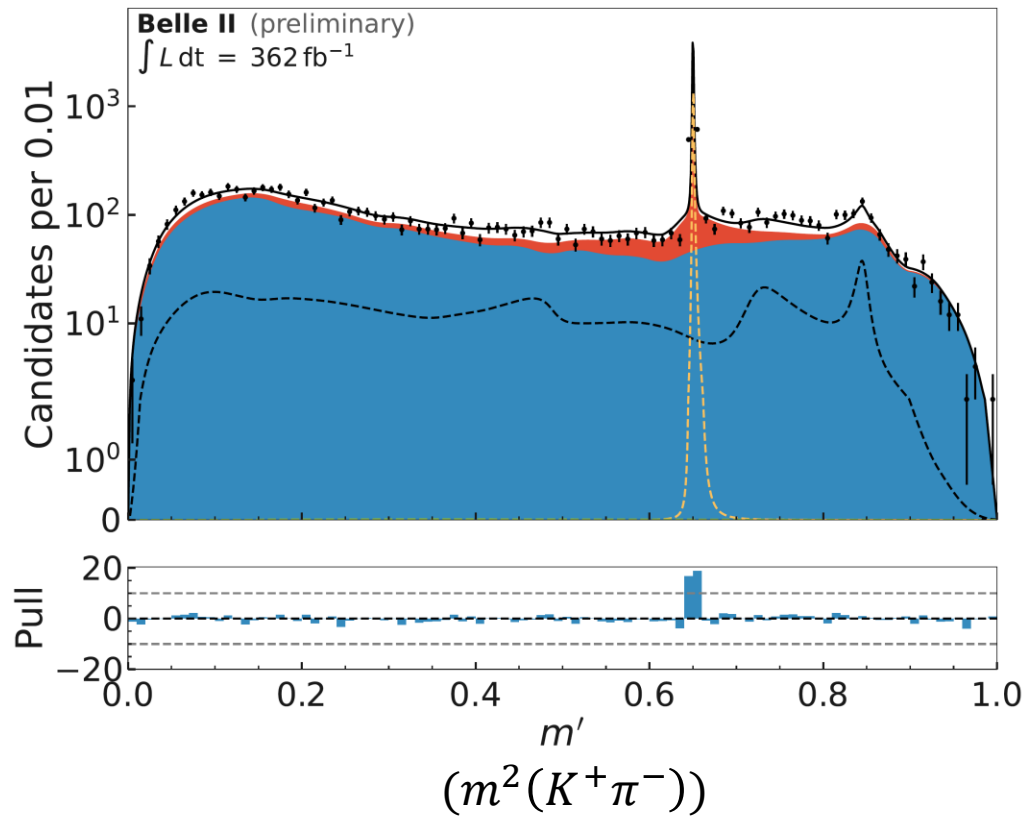
Backgrounds of $B^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$

- $B\bar{B}$: random combinations of $B\bar{B}$ decays, e.g. $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0[K^+\pi^-]\rho^+[\pi^0\pi^+]$
- $q\bar{q}$: continuum $e^+e^- \rightarrow u\bar{u}, d\bar{d}, s\bar{s}, c\bar{c}$ about three times larger than $e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B\bar{B}$



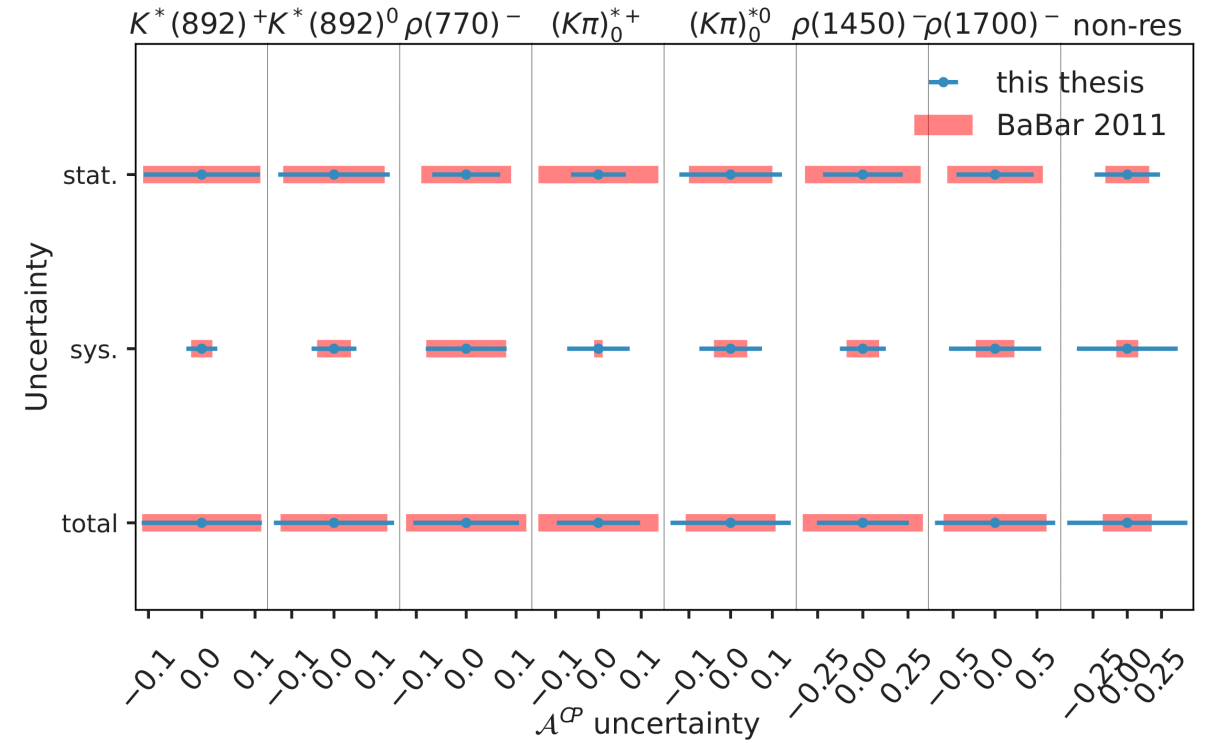
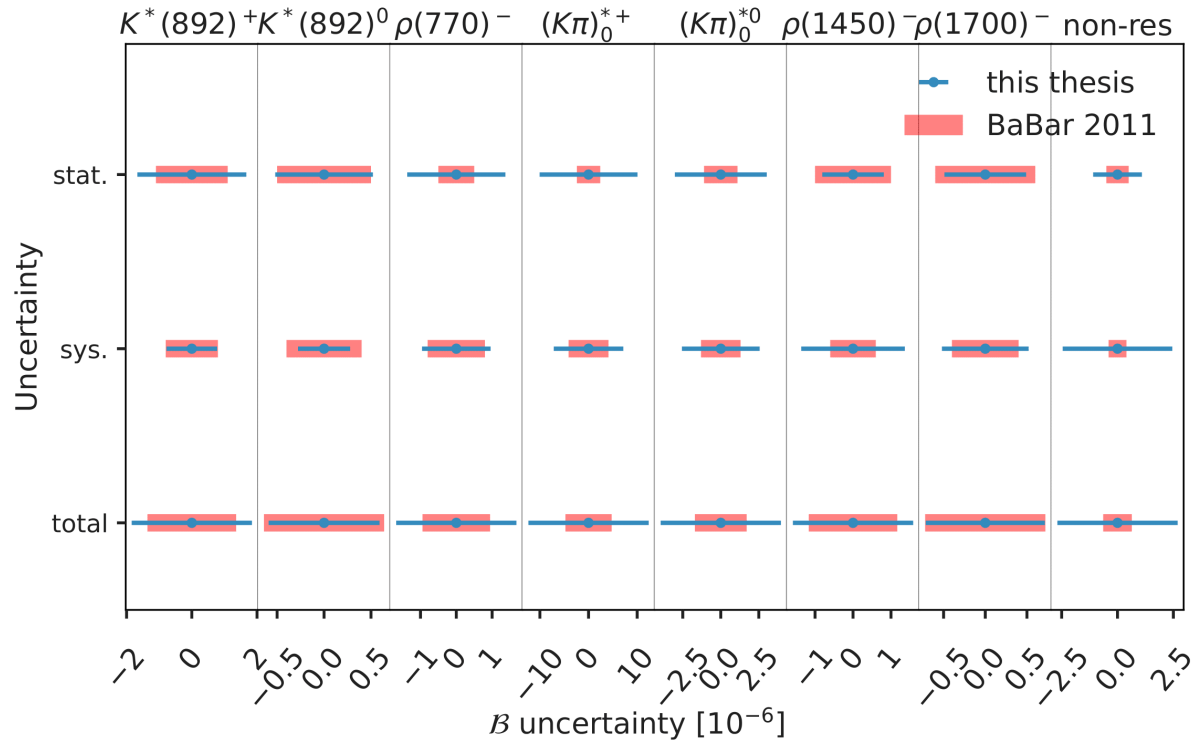
- exploit topological differences to train machine learning algorithm (GBDT)

Fit on Belle II Data



- fit projections in data look good
- central values of analysis were not unblinded, as I haven't gone through review

“Results”



- achieve precision on par with BaBar analysis despite using $\sim 14\%$ smaller dataset
- developed first Dalitz plot analysis within Belle II

Summary & Outlook

$$I_{K^*\pi} = A_{K^{*+}\pi^-}^{CP} + A_{K^{*0}\pi^+}^{CP} \frac{B(K^{*0}\pi^+)}{B(K^{*+}\pi^-)} \frac{\tau_{B^0}}{\tau_{B^+}} - 2A_{K^{*+}\pi^0}^{CP} \frac{B(K^{*+}\pi^0)}{B(K^{*+}\pi^-)} \frac{\tau_{B^0}}{\tau_{B^+}} - 2A_{K^{*0}\pi^0}^{CP} \frac{B(K^{*0}\pi^0)}{B(K^{*+}\pi^-)} \approx 0 \pm O(\text{few \%})$$

- developed $B^0 \rightarrow K^+\pi^-\pi^0$ Dalitz plot analysis to provide **two inputs** for isospin sum rule
- other **two** channels in $B^+ \rightarrow K^0\pi^+\pi^0$ (fellow PhD student)
- we target the first measurement of the $K^*\pi$ isospin sum

Backup

Systematic Uncertainties 1

Source	$\mathcal{B}_{\text{inclusive}}$	$\mathcal{A}_{\text{inclusive}}^{CP}$
Fit bias	1.3%	< 0.001
Tracking efficiency	0.5%	-
$B\bar{B}$ pair counting	1.5%	-
f^{00}	2.5%	-
Continuum suppression efficiency	0.5%	-
PID efficiency	1.7%	0.001
π^0 efficiency	4.6%	0.001
Resonances lineshape parameters	1.0%	0.002
Amplitude model	4.2%	0.018
Continuum model	0.5%	0.001
$B\bar{B}$ model	0.4%	0.002
Total	7.3%	0.018

Resonance	Source	$\mathcal{B}$	$\mathcal{A}^{CP}$
$K^*(892)^+$	Fit bias	< 0.1%	0.009
	Tracking	0.5%	-
	$B\bar{B}$ pair counting	1.5%	-
	f^{00}	2.5%	-
	Continuum suppression efficiency	0.5%	-
	PID efficiency	1.5%	0.002
	π^0 efficiency	1.5%	0.003
	Resonances lineshape parameters	3.6%	0.007
	Amplitude model	8.0%	0.026
	Continuum model	1.5%	0.004
	$B\bar{B}$ model	1.5%	0.003
	Total	9.7%	0.029
$K^*(892)^0$	Fit bias	1.2%	0.021
	Tracking	0.5%	-
	$B\bar{B}$ pair counting	1.5%	-
	f^{00}	2.5%	-
	Continuum suppression efficiency	0.5%	-
	PID efficiency	1.7%	0.004
	π^0 efficiency	1.2%	0.002
	Resonances lineshape parameters	2.7%	0.007
	Amplitude model	6.6%	0.048
	Continuum model	1.6%	0.004
	$B\bar{B}$ model	1.6%	0.003
	Total	8.4%	0.053

Systematic Uncertainties 2

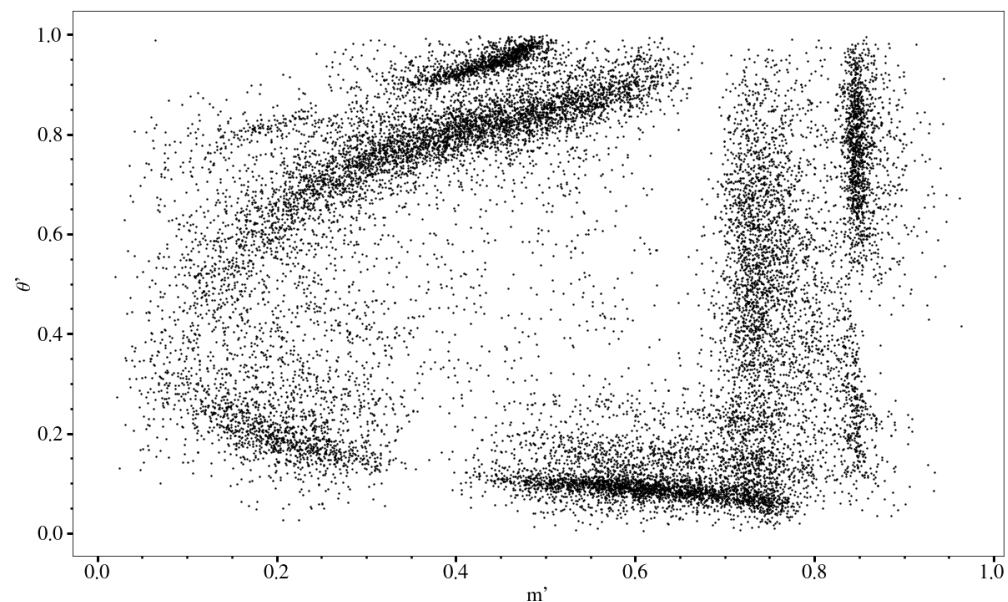
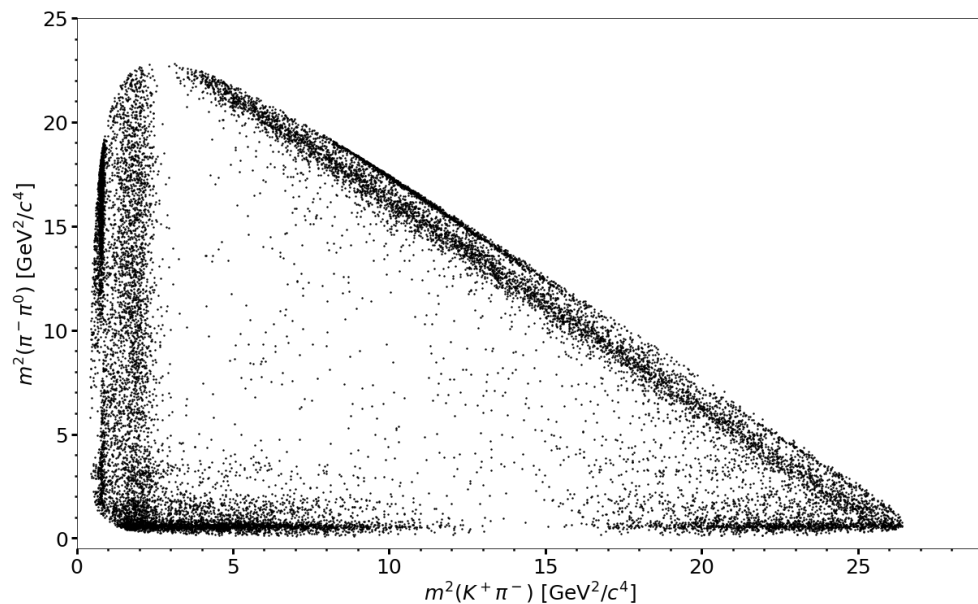
Resonance	Source	$\mathcal{B}$	$\mathcal{A}^{CP}$
$\rho(770)^-$	Fit bias	1.1%	0.016
	Tracking	0.5%	-
	$B\bar{B}$ pair counting	1.5%	-
	f^{00}	2.5%	-
	Continuum suppression efficiency	0.5%	-
	PID efficiency	1.0%	0.003
	π^0 efficiency	0.6%	0.005
	Resonances lineshape parameters	2.8%	0.012
	Amplitude model	13.8%	0.078
	Continuum model	0.7%	0.003
	$B\bar{B}$ model	0.6%	0.003
Total		14.5%	0.081
$(K\pi)_0^{*+}$	Fit bias	0.8%	< 0.001
	Tracking	0.5%	-
	$B\bar{B}$ pair counting	1.5%	-
	f^{00}	2.5%	-
	Continuum suppression efficiency	0.5%	-
	PID efficiency	1.1%	0.004
	π^0 efficiency	0.8%	0.006
	Resonances lineshape parameters	20.3%	0.018
	Amplitude model	3.2%	0.070
	Continuum model	0.9%	0.006
	$B\bar{B}$ model	1.1%	0.007
Total		20.9%	0.073

Resonance	Source	$\mathcal{B}$	$\mathcal{A}^{CP}$
$(K\pi)_0^{*0}$	Fit bias	< 0.1%	0.009
	Tracking	0.5%	-
	$B\bar{B}$ pair counting	1.5%	-
	f^{00}	2.5%	-
	Continuum suppression efficiency	0.5%	-
	PID efficiency	2.1%	-
	π^0 efficiency	1.0%	0.011
	Resonances lineshape parameters	22.4%	0.020
	Amplitude model	19.0%	0.070
	Continuum model	1.0%	0.009
	$B\bar{B}$ model	1.0%	0.009
Total		29.7%	0.075
$\rho(1450)^-$	Fit bias	6.0%	0.036
	Tracking	0.5%	-
	$B\bar{B}$ pair counting	1.5%	-
	f^{00}	2.5%	-
	Continuum suppression efficiency	0.5%	-
	PID efficiency	1.8%	0.007
	π^0 efficiency	2.3%	0.015
	Resonances lineshape parameters	19.0%	0.101
	Amplitude model	52.7%	0.063
	Continuum model	4.3%	0.015
	$B\bar{B}$ model	3.7%	0.014
Total		56.8%	0.127

Systematic Uncertainties 3

Resonance	Source	$\mathcal{B}$	$\mathcal{A}^{CP}$
$\rho(1700)^-$	Fit bias	13.2%	0.062
	Tracking	0.5%	-
	$B\bar{B}$ pair counting	1.5%	-
	f^{00}	2.5%	-
	Continuum suppression efficiency	0.5%	-
	PID efficiency	4.1%	0.021
	π^0 efficiency	4.1%	0.037
	Resonances lineshape parameters	84.5%	0.154
	Amplitude model	10.5%	0.521
	Continuum model	3.8%	0.033
	$B\bar{B}$ model	3.5%	0.017
	Total	86.6%	0.550
non-resonant	Fit bias	8.5%	0.026
	Tracking	0.5%	-
	$B\bar{B}$ pair counting	1.5%	-
	f^{00}	2.5%	-
	Continuum suppression efficiency	0.5%	-
	PID efficiency	2.8%	0.037
	π^0 efficiency	2.4%	0.046
	Resonances lineshape parameters	22.3%	0.129
	Amplitude model	83.9%	0.334
	Continuum model	5.2%	0.040
	$B\bar{B}$ model	4.3%	0.037
	Total	87.6%	0.368

The Square Dalitz Plot



Square Dalitz plot

- events are clustered at edges
- Dalitz plot has 'triangularish' shape

- events are spread out
- phase space occupies a square