# Searches for LF/LN violation and hidden sectors in Kaon decays at the NA62 experiment

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Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

### Outline

- The NA62 experiment at CERN;
  - Ultra rare  $K^+ \longrightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  decay.
- Lepton Flavour and Lepton Number violation searches at NA62;
  - Experimental search of  $K^+ \to \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+$ .
- Hidden sector particles searches at NA62;
  - Experimental search of  $K^+ \to \pi^+ X(\to e^+ e^-) X(\to e^+ e^-)$ .

Other talks on NA62:

- Latest results from precision measurements at the NA62 experiment 10/04/24, 14:20.
- Latest results for searches of exotic decays with NA62 in beam-dump mode 10/04/24, 14:40.



## The NA62 experiment at CERN

- Successor of NA48: •
- Data taking started in 2016;
- Continuation until beginning of LS3 (2025). ٠

#### Data collected in 2 run periods:

- Run 1 (2016-2018), total  $\mathcal{N}_{K^+} \sim 6 \times 10^{12}$ ;
- Run 2 (2021-ongoing).

#### Main configuration **Kaon beam mode**, also:

- **Beam dump** mode (see other NA62 talks); •
- Muon beam mode, for detector set-up. ٠

NA31

1986-1998

1987-2001

2002-2002





### The NA62 experiment at CERN

K<sup>+</sup> rich beam from target, NA62 is a fixed target experiment: [E] 2 -= 75 GeV/c: CHOD **STRAW Designed** for  $\pi \nu \overline{\nu}$  decay channel: 70% π LAV **MUV1.2** 24% p<sup>+</sup> **ANTIO** Iron 6% K+  $K^+ \longrightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}.$ **RICH** MUV3 Target KTAG SAC CHANTI Vacuum 0  $K^+$  decay in-flight; RICH -1 CŌI High kaon rate. Dump RC 75 m long **decay volume**; • LKr -2 **Reconstruction** of initial state  $K^+$ • Fiducial volume Upstream region Downstream region and **final** state particles; 0 100 150 200 250 High timing resolution O(100 ps); Z [m] • Tagging of K; Vetoing: PID: **Excellent PID** system  $(K, \pi, \mu, \gamma, e)$ ; • Tracking; Free decay region. Downstream tracking; Vetoing. Calorimetry. Hermetic  $\gamma$  and  $\mu$  veto; •

### The NA62 experiment at CERN



NA62 experimental hall from downstream. Green detector is the RICH. Arrow indicates the beam direction.





The upstream tagging Cherenkov detector (CEDAR)

 $\sigma_t\approx 70~{\rm ps.}$ 

Upstream tracker module (GTK)

 $\sigma_t \approx 100~\mathrm{ps}, \sigma_\theta \approx 16 \mu~\mathrm{rad}, \Delta p/p \approx 0.2\%$ 

Downstream trackerspectrometer (STRAW)

 $\sigma_x\approx 130\mu$  m,  $\Delta p/p\approx 0.3\%+0.005\%p$ 



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### JINST 12 (2017) P05025

# The $\pi\nu\nu$ decay at NA62

The  $\pi \nu \nu$  decay is a FCNC process:

Forbidden in SM at tree level (penguin/box). •

2018 Data

 $\pi^+$  momentum [GeV/c]

SM  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \overline{\nu}$ 

Result from Run1 data:

 $\mathcal{N}_{\pi u \bar{u}}^{\text{obs}} = 20$  (17 in 2018).

- **BR** measurement  $\rightarrow$  **CKM** matrix structure;
- Very clean SM prediction.

Box (top) and penguin diagram processes.

**Orange box** highlights sensitivity to CKM structure.







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15

m<sup>2</sup><sub>miss</sub> [GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>4</sup>]

0.12

0.1

0.08 0.06 0.04

0.02

-0.02

-0.04

Milita Despision in State

25

#### [JHEP 06 (2021) 093]

### LF and LN violation searches at NA62

Lepton Flavor and Lepton Number are conserved quantities within the SM  $\rightarrow$  Beyond SM physics via violation. In  $K^+$  decays, it is possible to probe several BSM theories up to <u>O(100 TeV)</u> energy scale.



#### NA62 is a leading experiment in Kaon physics:

- Full **kinematic characterization** of the products;
- Easy choice on normalization channels; (very rich SM phenomenology with similar final states)
- Data driven models for evaluating MC-data discrepancies;
- Hermetic photon veto;
- Dedicated multi-track lepton trigger lines:
  - Multi-track (100 downscale);
  - Electron multi-track (8 downscale);
  - Muon multi-track (8 downscale).

## Search for the $K^+ \to \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+$ decay

The decay channel  $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+$  is forbidden in SM by LN+LF (for  $\nu_{\rm e}$ ) or LF (for  $\nu_{\mu}$ ).

Observation of LN/LF decays such as this one may:

- Provide evidence of the neutrino being a Majorana particle (LN violation). [JHEP 02 (2018) 169] [Phy. Letters B 491 (2023) 285-290]
- Provide evidence for BSM models involving **Flavour violating ALPs**. [JHEP 01 (2020) 158] [Rep. Prog. Phys. 86 (2023) 016201]





Current best upper limit is:

[PLB 62 (1976) 485]

 $BR(K^+ \to \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+) < 2.1 \times 10^{-8}$ 

 ${
m L}=0,\,{
m L}_{
m e}=$  -1, ${
m L}_{\mu}=1.$ 

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Physics Letters B 838 (2023) 137679

@90% CL.

## Search for the $K^+ \to \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+$ decay

Trigger lines: multi-track ( $e/\mu$ )

SM decay  $K^+ \to \pi^+ e^+ e^-$  as normalization, undetectable final state  $\nu$ .

Whole NA62 Run 1 dataset used

 $\mathcal{N}_{\rm decays} \approx 2 \times 10^{12}$ 

Signature of final state:

- Exactly **3 well separated downstream track** events (STRAW);
- Correct **PID of the track candidates**.
- Tracks forming a vertex with  $\mathbf{Q} = +1$  in the fiducial volume.
- Photon veto downstream of the vertex
  - Mitigation of Dalitz decays:  $K^+ \to \pi^+ \pi^0_D, \ K^+ \to \pi^0_D e^+ \nu; \quad (\pi^0_D \to \gamma e^+ e^-)$



Downstream mass in normalisation channel.

Signal region blinded during selection.

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## Search for the $K^+ \to \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+$ decay

#### Kµvee selection (signal)

- Track identified as  $\mu, e^+, e^-$
- Momentum deficit of the vertex (K $3\pi$  suppression).
- Electromagnetic veto from calorimeter.

#### 0 events observed in signal region:

SES $(K^+ \to \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+) = (3.53 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-11}$ . BR $(K^+ \to \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+) < 8.1 \times 10^{-11}$  (@ 90% CL).

- Improvement of approx. 250 w.r.t [PLB 62 (1976) 485].
- Achieved sensitivity not sufficient for exclusion of LF/LN modes.



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## Summary of LN/LF violation analyses in NA62 Run 1

| Type                            | Process  | Prev. UL  | NA62 UL   | Improvement  | Reference   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| LNV/LFV<br>LNV/LFV              | $ \begin{array}{c} K^+ \rightarrow \mu^- \nu e^+ e^+ \\ K^+ \rightarrow e^- \nu \mu^+ \mu^+ \end{array} $  | $<2.1\times10^{-8}$   | $< 8.1 \times 10^{-11}$<br>$\sim 2 \times 10^{-11}$                           | ${\cal O}(10^2)$   | Phys. Lett. B 838 (2023) 137679   |
| LNV<br>LNV<br>LNV               | $K^+ \to \pi^- \mu^+ \mu^+$ $K^+ \to \pi^- e^+ e^+$ $K^+ \to \pi^- \pi^0 e^+ e^+$  | $ \begin{array}{l} < 8.6 \times 10^{-11} \\ < 6.4 \times 10^{-10} \end{array} $   | $< 4.2 \times 10^{-11}$<br>$< 5.3 \times 10^{-11}$<br>$< 8.5 \times 10^{-10}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 2 \ (\text{w}/30\% \ \text{Run1}) \\ \mathcal{O}(10) \\ \end{array}$ | Phys. Lett. B 797 (2019) 134794<br>Phys. Lett. B 830 (2022) 137172<br>Phys. Lett. B 830 (2022) 137172 |
| LNV<br>LNV<br>LNV               | $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^0 \mu^+ e^+$<br>$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \mu^+ e^+$   | -<br>< 5.0 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>  | $< 0.3 \times 10^{-11}$<br>$< 4.2 \times 10^{-11}$                            | $\mathcal{O}(10)$  | Phys. Rev. Lett. 127,131802(2021)   |
| LFV<br>LFV<br>LFV<br>LFV<br>LFV | $\begin{aligned} K^+ &\to \pi^+ \mu^- e^+ \\ \pi^0 &\to \mu^- e^+ \\ K^+ &\to \pi^+ \pi^0 \mu^- e^+ \\ K^+ &\to \pi^+ \mu^+ e^- \\ \pi^0 &\to e^- \mu^+ \end{aligned}$ | $ \begin{array}{c} < 5.2 \times 10^{-10} \\ < 3.4 \times 10^{-9} \\ - \\ < 1.3 \times 10^{-11} \\ < 3.8 \times 10^{-10} \end{array} $ | $< 6.6 \times 10^{-11}$<br>$< 3.2 \times 10^{-10}$                            | ${\cal O}(10) \ {\cal O}(10) \$  | Phys. Rev. Lett. 127,131802(2021)<br>Phys. Rev. Lett. 127,131802(2021)                                |

## Hidden sector searches in $K^+ \to \pi^+ e^- e^+ e^- e^+$ .

Searches for Dark Sector particles from K focused on single particle production... (NA62 is involved in  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ X$ )

**Proposed** channel with **pair production** of dark mediators:  $K^+ \to \pi^+ X(\to e^+e^-) X(\to e^+e^-);$ 

There are SM channels with the same signature  $\rightarrow$  Normalization.



• Double Dalitz decay in a K2 $\pi$  event:  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0_{\text{DD}}(\rightarrow e^+e^-e^+e^-)$ ; BR =  $(6.9 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-6}$ . [Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys. 2022 (2022) 083C01] • Single and double  $\gamma$  exchange:  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma^*$ ,  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma^* \gamma^*$ ; BR =  $(7.2 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-11}$ . [Phys. Rev. D106 (2022) L071301]





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## First experimental result for $K^+ \to \pi^+ e^- e^+ e^- e^+$ .

Trigger lines: multi-track ( $e/\mu$ ).

Signal region blinded during selection.

Whole NA62 Run 1 dataset used

 $\mathcal{N}_{\rm decays} \approx 8.6 \times 10^{11}$ 

#### Signature of final state:

- **5** downstream tracks;
  - **STRAW** is used exclusively, no acceptance check;
  - Tracks forming a vertex with Q = +1, consistent with the beam momentum and direction;



•  $K\pi^0DD$  decay channel as normalisation.



 $m_{4e}$  for data and MC after the K $\pi^0$ DD selection. Normalisation region highlighted.



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## First experimental result for $K^+ \to \pi^+ e^- e^+ e^- e^+$ .

#### **Result:**

- 0 events observed in signal region;
  - Expected background from MC in signal region:

 $\mathcal{N}_{\rm BG} = (0.18 \pm 0.14).$ 

• Branching ratio for non resonant case:

BR
$$(K^+ \to \pi^+ 4e) < 1.4 \times 10^{-8}$$
 (@ 90% CL).

(200 times greater than SM prediction)



5 tracks and 7 tracks backgrounds. (only shown  $BR > 10^{-8}$ )

3 tracks backgrounds with K3 $\pi$ coincidence. (only shown BR > 10<sup>6</sup>)

 $m_{\pi 4e}$  after K $\pi$ 4e selection, with signal region highlighted. Most relevant backgrounds for 3 track and 5+ track included.

Signal region blinded during selection.

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### First experimental result for $K^+ \to \pi^+ e^- e^+ e^- e^+$ .

Signal-like events are subset of  $K\pi 4e$ ; discrimination is based on:

1) Parent particle (X = ALP or A') of each  $e^+e^-$  couple is pair produced, so masses of couples should be consistent!

*Discriminant*: compatibility of couple masses, normalised over expected couple mass resolution (from MC).

$$\mathcal{D} = \frac{(m_{ee1} - m_{ee2})^2}{(4.9 \times 10^{-3} m_{ee})^2}.$$

2) The mass hypothesis for the parent particle should not be "too far" from the one of the couple.

$$|m_{ee} - m_X| < 0.02m_X.$$

Expected SM background in signal region:

$$\mathcal{N}_{BG} = (4 \pm 4) \times 10^{-4}$$
$$\mathcal{N}_{obs} = 0.$$



Exclusion of the light QCD ALP as source of "17MeV" anomaly!  $BR_{exp}(K^+ \to \pi^+ aa)BR_{exp}(a \to e^+e^-)^2 < 2.1 \times 10^{-9} @ m_a = 17 MeV/c^2.$  $BR_{theo}(K^+ \to \pi^+ aa)BR_{theo}(a \to e^+e^-)^2 > 2 \times 10^{-8} @ m_a = 17 MeV/c^2.$ 

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### Outlook and future

- The NA62 experiment provided the best available estimation for the ultra-rare  $\pi v \bar{v}$  decay.
  - NA62 Run 1 data published;
  - NA62 Run 2 data being analysed.
- Rich Rare and Exotics decay physics program  $\leftarrow$  powerful probe for BSM Physics;
- Improvement up to  $O(10^2)$  on several LF/LN-violating decay channels involving  $K^+$ .
- First result for  $K^+ \to \pi^+ X(\to e^+ e^-) X(\to e^+ e^-)$ .
- All the measurements, including the  $\pi \nu \overline{\nu}$ , will provide better upper limits with Run 2 data.

# END Backup slides



# Introduction to the $K^+ \longrightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay

The PNN decay is a FCNC process:

- Forbidden in SM at tree level (penguin/box).
- **BR** directly related to **CKM matrix structure**.
  - Quadratic GIM Mechanism  $\rightarrow$  experimentally measurable short range operators.
- Very clean SM prediction through Ke3 decay channel.

Testing ground for BSM flavour physics, such as:

- Direct evidence of CP violation (together with  $K_{\rm L}\pi^0\nu\nu$ );
- Lepton flavour (non)universality;
- Provide constraint to Leptoquark models;
- Deviations from SM.

#### Strong SM branching ratio predictions:

 $BR = (7.86 \pm 0.61) \times 10^{-11} \text{ JHEP 09 (2022) 148}$   $BR = (8.60 \pm 0.42) \times 10^{-11} \text{ arXiv:} 2109.11032$  $BR = (7.73 \pm 0.61) \times 10^{-11} \text{ arXiv:} 2105.02868$ 



Penguin (top) and Box diagram processes involved in the PNN decay.

Orange box highlights sensitivity to CKM structure.

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## The PNN decay at NA62



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## Backup

#### Main K decay channels

| Decay channel  |                | $BR\left[\% ight]$       |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| $\overline{K^+ \longrightarrow \mu^+ \nu}$           | $[K_{\mu 2}]$  | 63.55                    |
| $K^+ \longrightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$                    | $[K_{2\pi}]$   | 20.66                    |
| $K^+ \longrightarrow 2\pi^+ \pi^-$                   | $[K_{3\pi}]$   | 5.59                     |
| $K^+ \longrightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu$                  | $[K_{e3}]$     | 5.07                     |
| $K^+ \longrightarrow \pi^0 \mu^+ \nu$                | $[K_{\mu 3}]$  | 3.353                    |
| $K^+ \longrightarrow \pi^+ 2\pi^0$                   | $[K_{3\pi 0}]$ | 1.761                    |
| $\mathbf{K}^+ \longrightarrow \pi^+  \nu  \bar{\nu}$ | [PNN]          | $\sim 7.8 	imes 10^{-9}$ |

Kπ4e selection

Rejection of  $\pi^0$ , done with:

- Cut on  $m_{4e}$ ;
- Cut on  $m_{\text{miss}}^2 = (P_{K^+} P_{\pi^+})^2$ .  $m_{4\text{e}}$  incompatible with  $m_{\pi 0}$ Missing mass does not hint  $\pi^0$

#### $K\pi^0DD$ selection

selection of events with  $m^{2}_{miss}$  and  $m_{4e}$  compatible with  $\pi^{0}$  in final state.

Decay BG of pieeee

| Source   | Branching ratio<br>(or their product) |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 5 track, 7 track decays:                             |                                       |
| $K_{2\pi\mathrm{DD}}$                                | $6.9	imes10^{-6}$                     |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0_{ m D} \pi^0_{ m D}$    | $2.4	imes10^{-6}$                     |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0_{\rm DD} e^+ \nu$             | $1.7 	imes 10^{-6}$                   |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \pi^0_{\rm DD}$         | $1.2 	imes 10^{-6}$                   |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0_{\rm DD} \mu^+ \nu^0$         | $1.1 	imes 10^{-6}$                   |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0_{\rm D} \pi^0_{\rm DD}$ | $1.4 	imes 10^{-8}$                   |
| 3 track decays with $K3\pi$                          | coincidence:                          |

| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi_{\rm D}^0 e^+ v$       | $3.3	imes10^{-5}$   |
|---|---------------------|
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \pi_{\rm D}^0$ | $2.3	imes10^{-5}$   |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi_D^0 \mu^+ \nu^2$       | $2.2 	imes 10^{-5}$ |

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## Backup

#### Table 1

Backgrounds to the  $K_{\pi 4e}$  decay, their branching ratios (or products of branching ratios for coincidences of two decays), and estimated backgrounds with their statistical uncertainties in the control  $(\Delta p < -2 \text{ GeV}/c)$  and signal  $(|\Delta p| < 2 \text{ GeV}/c)$  momentum excess regions shown in Fig. 3 (left). Estimated backgrounds in the control region for a loose  $K_{\pi 4e}$  selection, with the  $p_{\pi} > 10 \text{ GeV}/c$  condition removed, are also shown. The  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi_D^- e^+ e^-$  decay, as well as the  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu$  decay in coincidence with a  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay, and coincidences of any of the two decays,  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$  and  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi_D^0$ , lead to negligible backgrounds in the control and signal regions, and are not listed.

| Source  | Branching ratio<br>(or their product) | Control region | Control region,<br>loose selection | Signal region |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Single five-track and seven-track decays  |                                       |                |                                    |               |
| $K_{2\pi DD}$   | $6.9	imes10^{-6}$                     | $0.06\pm0.06$  | $0.06\pm0.06$                      | -             |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0_{\rm D} \pi^0_{\rm D}$                                 | $2.4	imes10^{-6}$                     | $0.30\pm0.06$  | $2.47\pm0.16$                      | $0.04\pm0.02$ |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0_{\rm DD} e^+ \nu$  | $1.7	imes10^{-6}$                     | $0.10\pm0.05$  | $0.10\pm0.05$                      | -             |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \pi_{\rm DD}^0$  | $1.2 	imes 10^{-6}$                   | $0.03\pm0.03$  | $0.03\pm0.03$                      | -             |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0_{\rm DD} \mu^+ \nu^-$  | $1.1 	imes 10^{-6}$                   | $0.02\pm0.02$  | $0.03\pm0.02$                      | -             |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0_{\rm D} \pi^0_{\rm DD}$                                | $1.4 	imes 10^{-8}$                   | $0.05\pm0.02$  | $0.10\pm0.02$                      | $0.01\pm0.01$ |
| Coincidences of three-track decays with a $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$ decay |                                       |                |                                    |               |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi_{\rm D}^0 e^+ \nu$   | $3.3 	imes 10^{-5}$                   | $0.15\pm0.07$  | $0.15\pm0.07$                      | $0.08\pm0.05$ |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \pi_{\rm D}^0$   | $2.3 	imes 10^{-5}$                   | $0.03\pm0.03$  | $0.08\pm0.05$                      | -             |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0_{\rm D} \mu^+ \nu^2$   | $2.2\times10^{-5}$                    | $0.03\pm0.02$  | $0.04\pm0.02$                      | $0.05\pm0.02$ |
| Total   |                                       | $0.77\pm0.13$  | $3.06 \pm 0.21$                    | $0.18\pm0.06$ |
| Data  |                                       | 1              | 4                                  | 0             |

#### Table 1

Background estimates in the lower, signal and upper  $K_{\mu\nu ee}$  squared missing mass regions with their statistical uncertainties. The contributions from upstream  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$  and  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-e^+\nu$  decays are quoted separately. Upper limits at 90% CL are quoted when no simulated events satisfy the selection. The numbers of observed data events are also listed.

| Mode / Region                                    | Lower         | Signal        | Upper         |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$              | < 0.07        | < 0.07        | $1412\pm11$   |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu$            | $0.01\pm0.01$ | $0.16\pm0.02$ | $867 \pm 1$   |
| $K^+  ightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$ (upstream)    | < 0.03        | $0.06\pm0.03$ | $1.5 \pm 0.3$ |
| $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu$ (upstream) | $0.01\pm0.01$ | $0.01\pm0.01$ | $0.14\pm0.03$ |
| $K^+  ightarrow \pi_D^0 e^+ v$                   | $0.02\pm0.01$ | $0.01\pm0.01$ | $0.02\pm0.01$ |
| $K^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu \mu^+ \mu^-$            | < 0.01        | < 0.01        | $0.05\pm0.02$ |
| Total expected                                   | $0.04\pm0.02$ | $0.26\pm0.04$ | $2281\pm11$   |
| Data   | 0             | 0             | 2271          |