

Mar. 9th, 2026
NuFlux Workshop
@University of Notre Dame

Efficient modeling of flux correlations for multi-point measurements at the J-PARC Neutrino Beamline

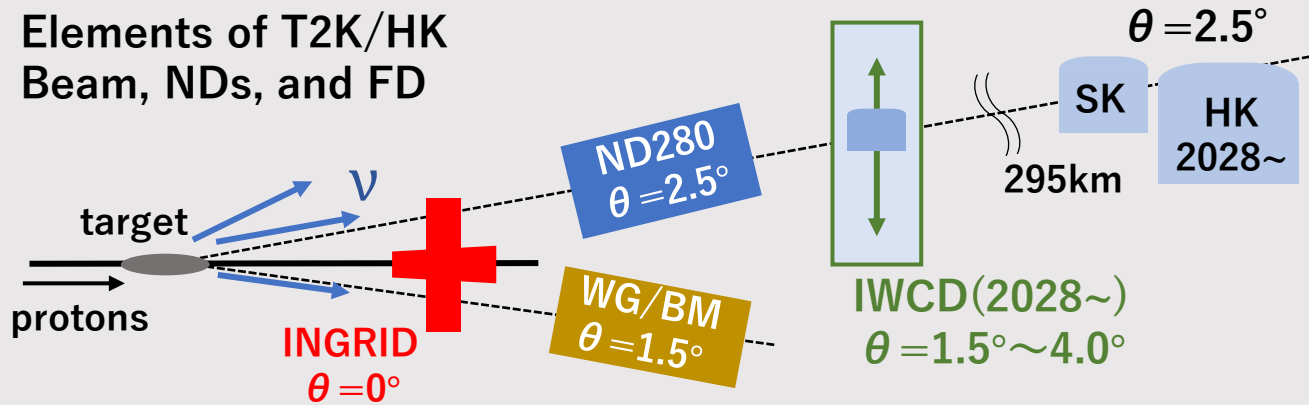
Takehiro H. Ishida

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Tohoku Univ.**

On behalf of T2K and Hyper-K Collaboration

T2K experiment and Hyper-Kamiokande experiment

Elements of T2K/HK
Beam, NDs, and FD



SK \rightarrow HK ($\times 8$ volume) + Beam enhance
 \rightarrow Huge enhance of statistics

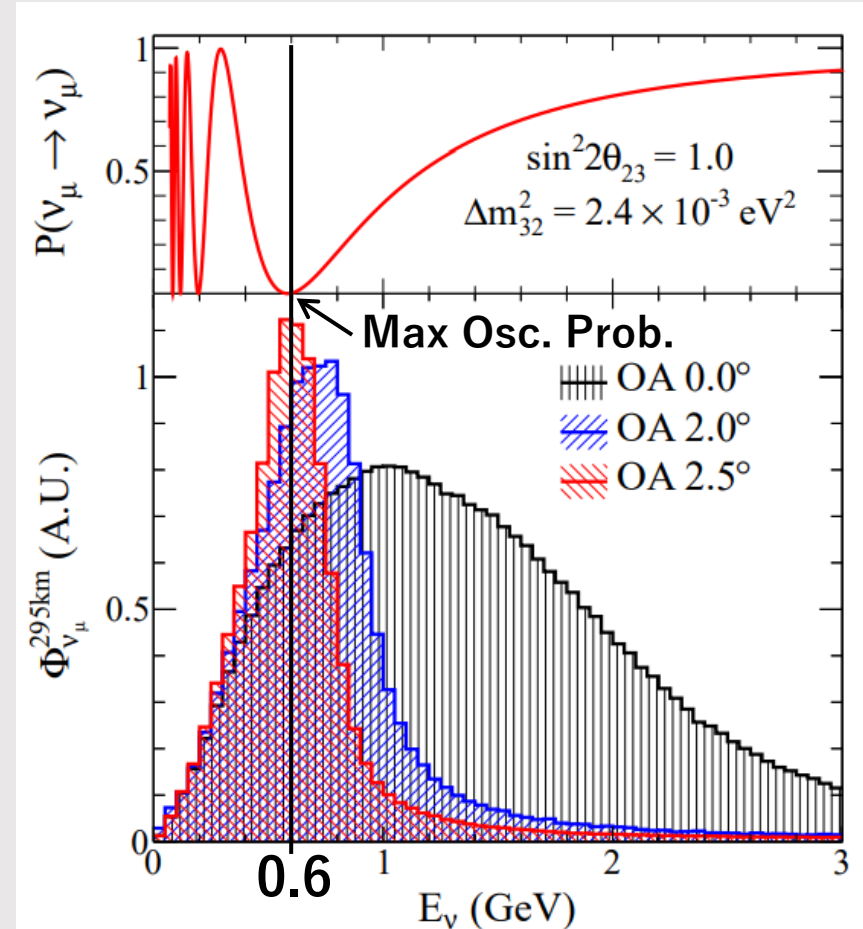
ν -nucleus X-sec will be crucial uncertainty

Need to know energy dependence of X-sec

\rightarrow use ND280, WAGASCI/BabyMIND (WG/BM)

Construct **IWCD** for HK experiment

Use **Off-Axis** neutrinos and
measure oscillation efficiently



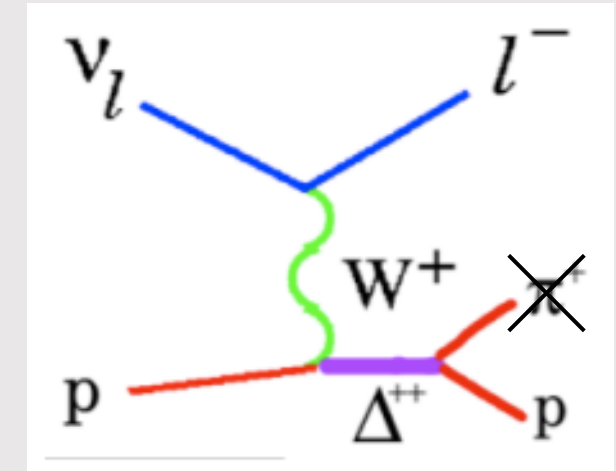
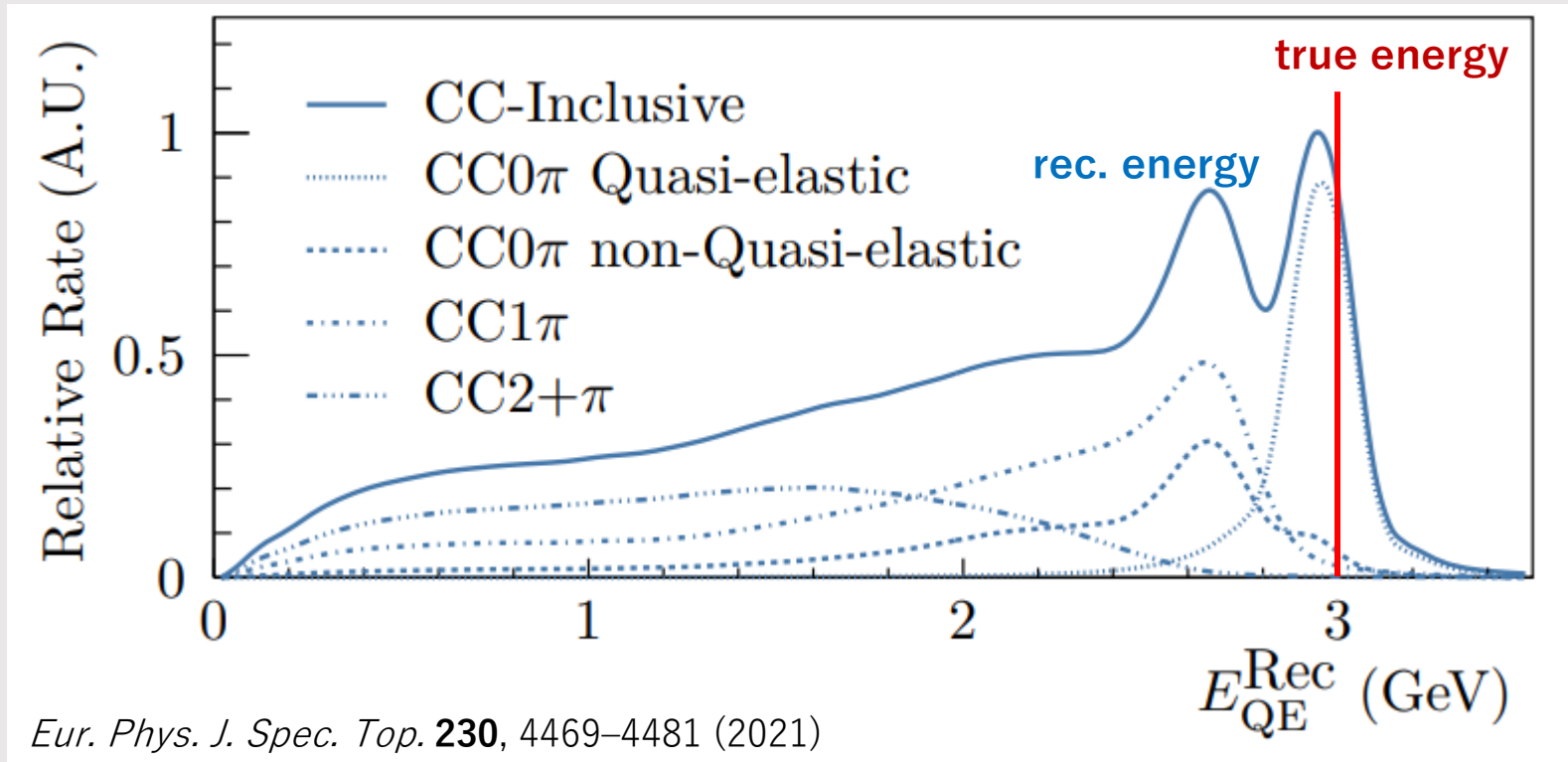
Phys. Rev. D 87, 012001

Energy Reconstruction and X-sec of Neutrinos

~~$P(E_\nu) \propto \Phi(E_\nu) \times \sigma(E_\nu)$~~ ← Not so easy in real measurement...

$$P(E_\nu^{\text{Rec}}) \propto \int \Phi(E_\nu^{\text{True}}) \times \sigma(E_\nu^{\text{True}} \rightarrow E_\nu^{\text{Rec}}) dE_\nu^{\text{True}}$$

Need to know **X-sec as 2D function of $E_\nu^{\text{True}}, E_\nu^{\text{Rec}}$**



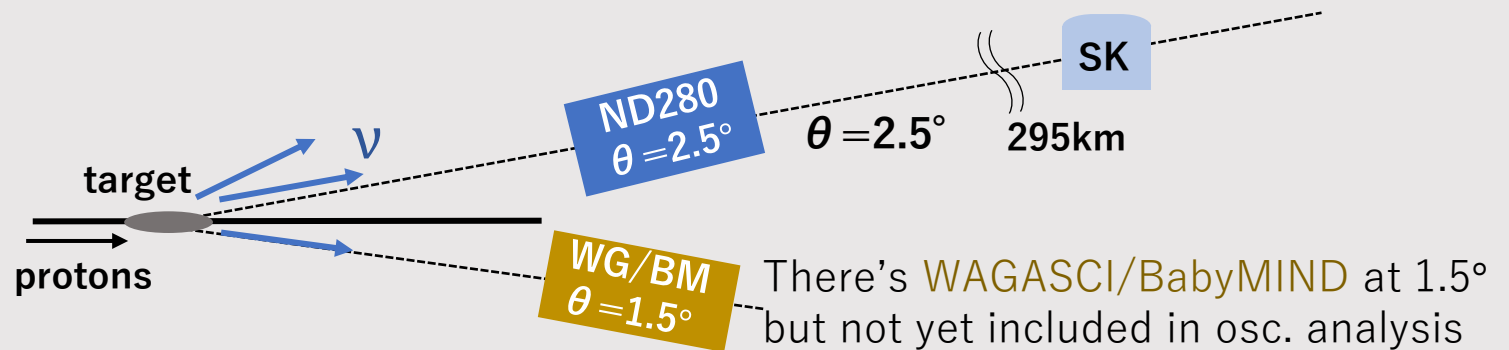
Cannot detect π in CC1 π ?
→ Reconstructed as CCQE

Cross-section measurement in T2K

Measured by ND280

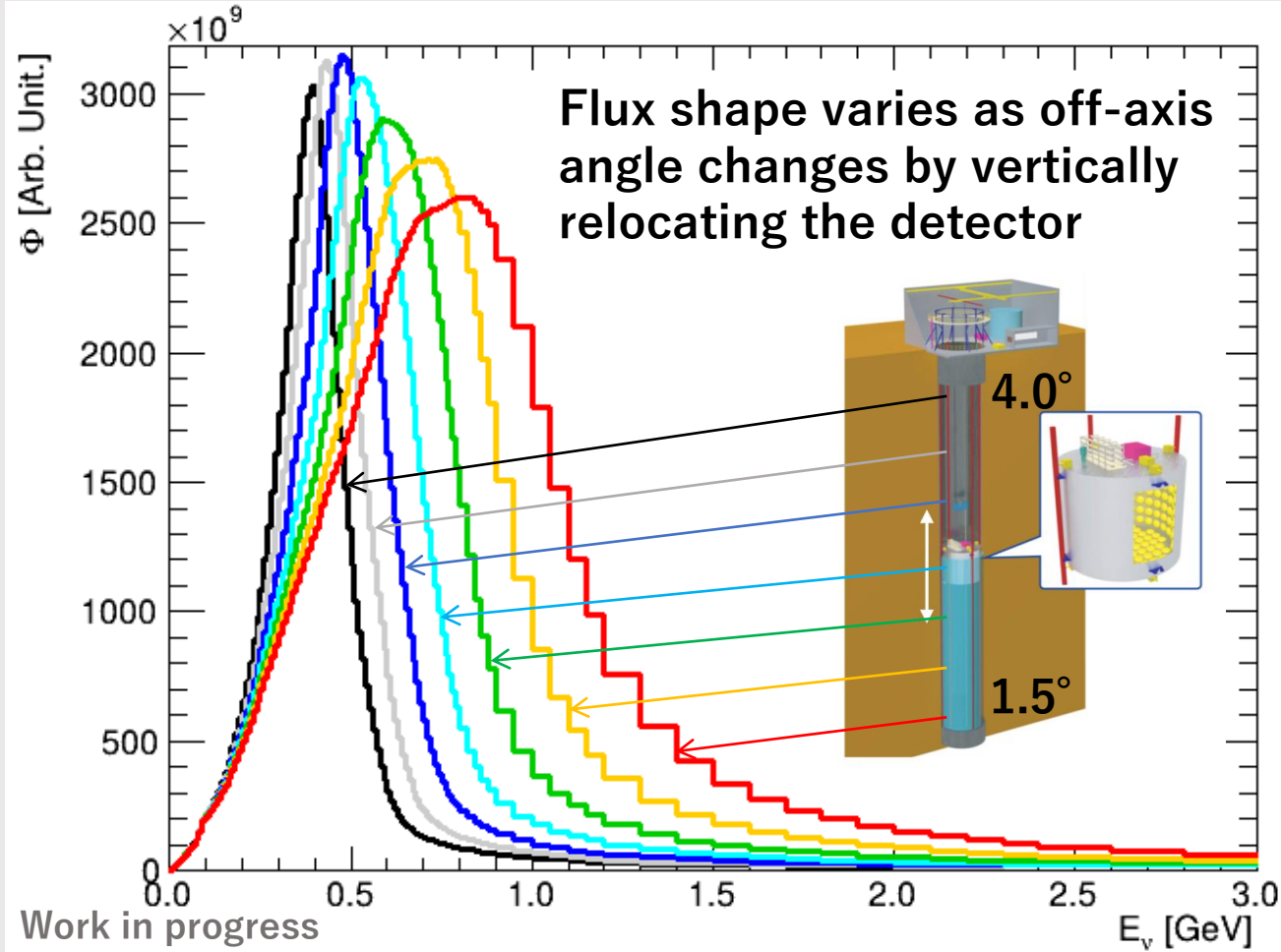
$$\text{Event Rate } (p_l, \theta_l) \propto \int \Phi_{\text{ND280}}(E_\nu^{\text{True}}) \times \sigma(E_\nu^{\text{True}} \rightarrow (p_l, \theta_l)) dE_\nu^{\text{True}}$$

Not enough to solve degeneracy of $(E_\nu^{\text{True}}, E_\nu^{\text{Rec}})$ 2D function
→ Rely on model to solve it



Cross-section measurement in Hyper-K

Addition of Intermediate Water Cherenkov Detector (IWCD)



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \int \Phi_{1.5^\circ}(E_\nu^{\text{True}}) \times \sigma(E_\nu^{\text{True}} \rightarrow E_\nu^{\text{Rec}}) dE_\nu^{\text{True}} \\ \int \Phi_{2.0^\circ}(E_\nu^{\text{True}}) \times \sigma(E_\nu^{\text{True}} \rightarrow E_\nu^{\text{Rec}}) dE_\nu^{\text{True}} \\ \vdots \end{array} \right.$$

→ Measurements with various flux conditions enables model-independent understanding of X-sec

Covariance Matrix for evaluation of systematic uncertainties

$$\sigma(f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}))^2 \approx \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2 \sigma_x^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)^2 \sigma_y^2 + 2 \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \times \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right) \underline{\sigma_{xy}} \downarrow$$

Expressed as **Covariance Matrix** or **Correlation Matrix**

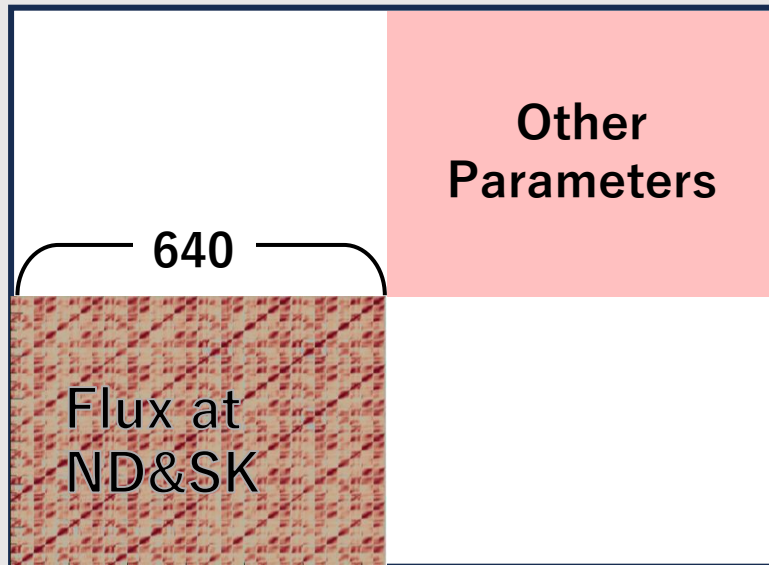
Syst. error in T2K:

Flux intensity, Cross-section, Detector systematics

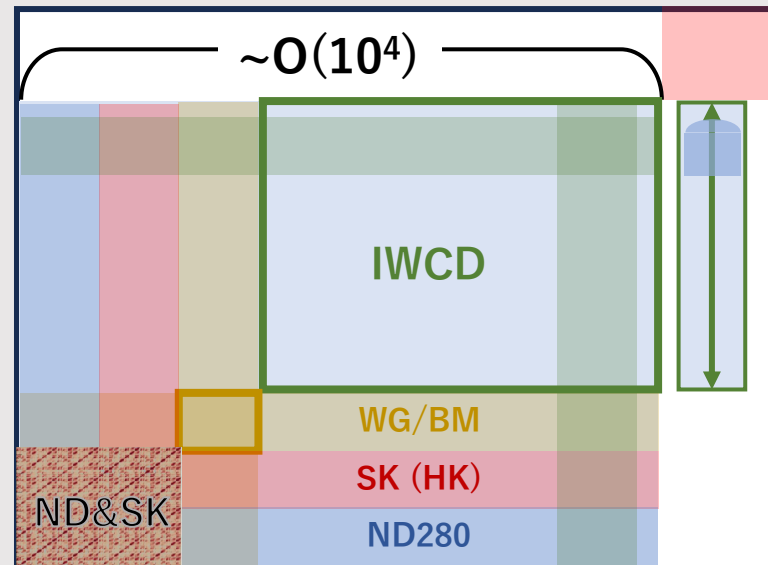
→ **Correlation of flux intensity, especially among different positions, is most important in this work**

Severe Computational Cost in Hyper-K Experiment

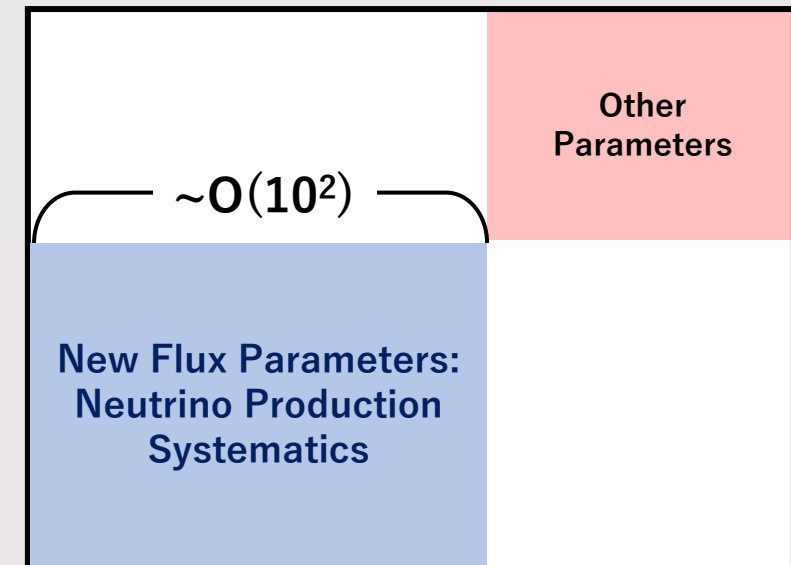
Number of fit parameters will significantly increase due to **IWCD**
Reduce the number of parameters by **using systematic source parameters of neutrino production system**, instead of using neutrino flux intensity at each detection point



Current Matrix



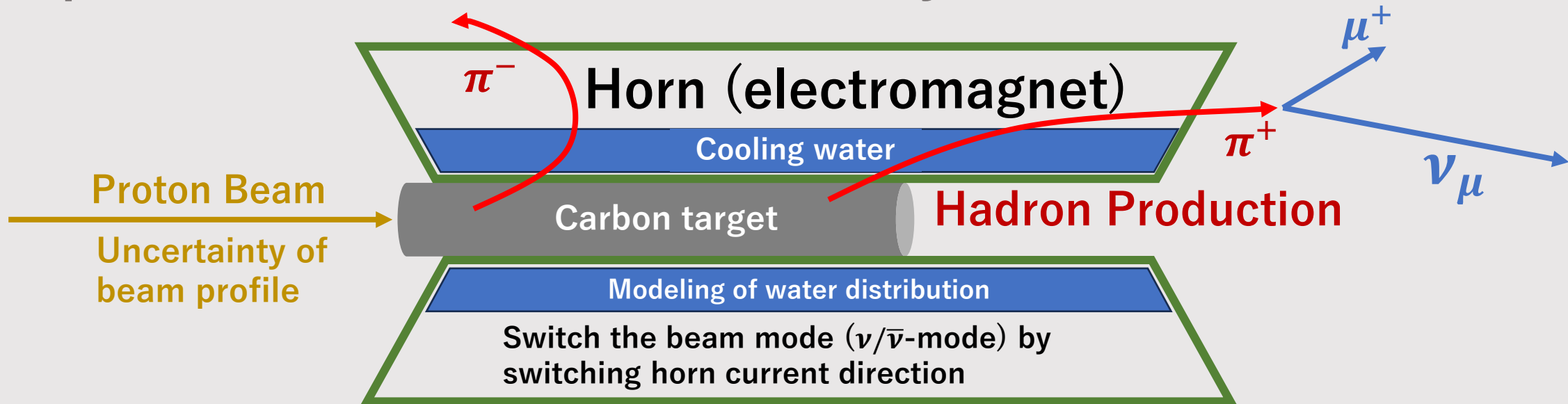
Matrix in HK era
but too large...



This work

Systematic Uncertainties of Neutrino Production System

30GeV protons strike a carbon target, which results in production of hadrons which decay into neutrinos

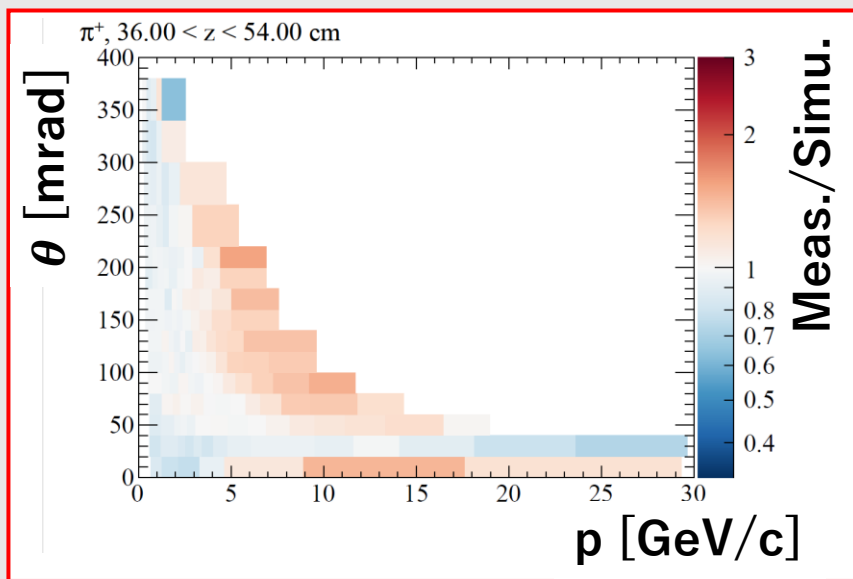


These parameters are independent from detection points

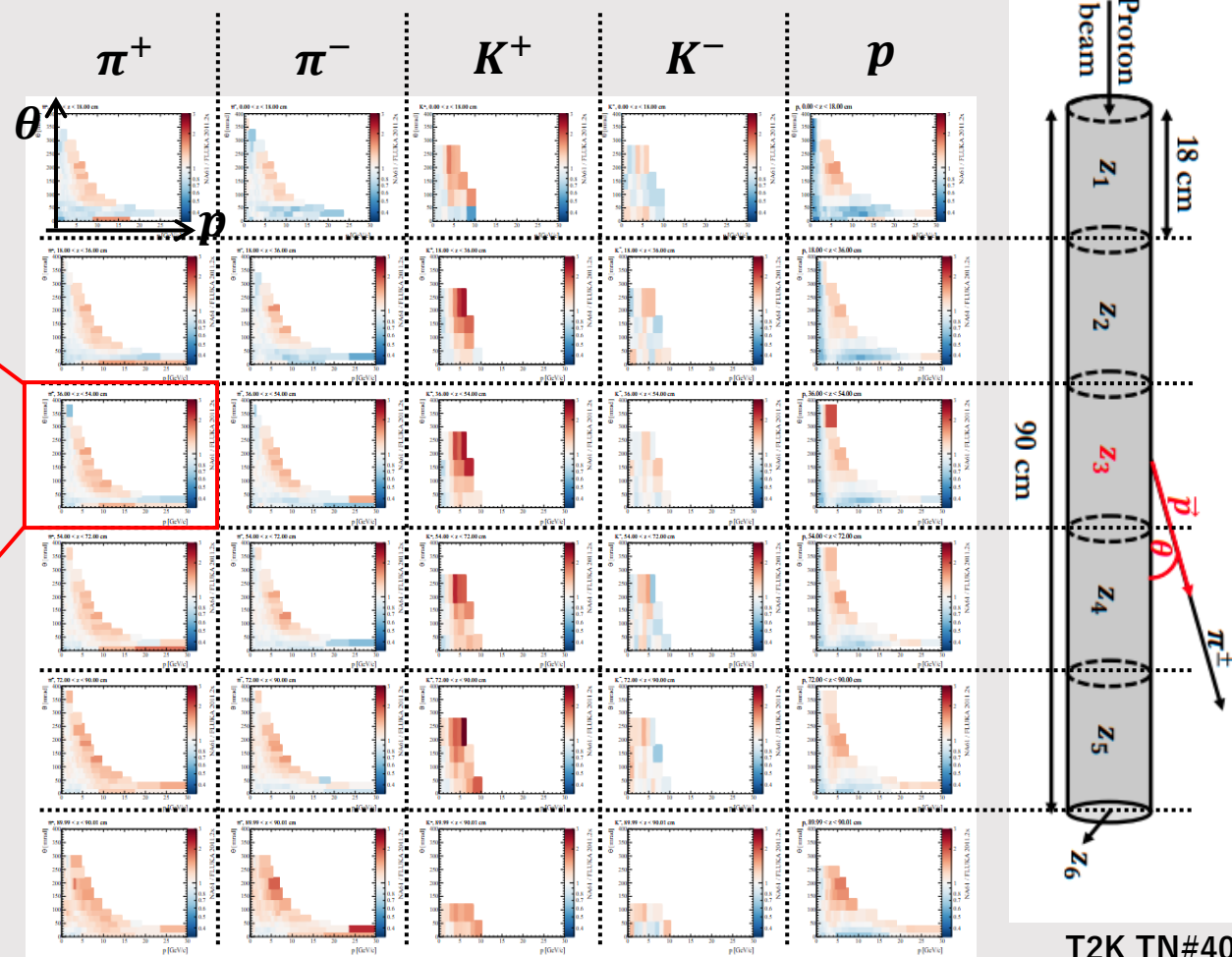
However, **hadron interactions** are described based on experimental data, which requires many parameters

NA61/SHINE experiment

Measurement of hadron production from T2K “Replica” target

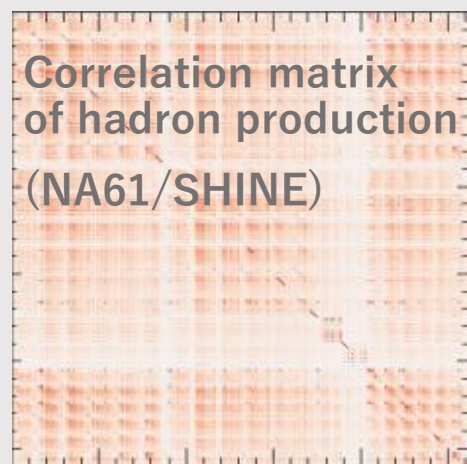


Ratio of production rate of model and real
→ “Tune” MC samples by this

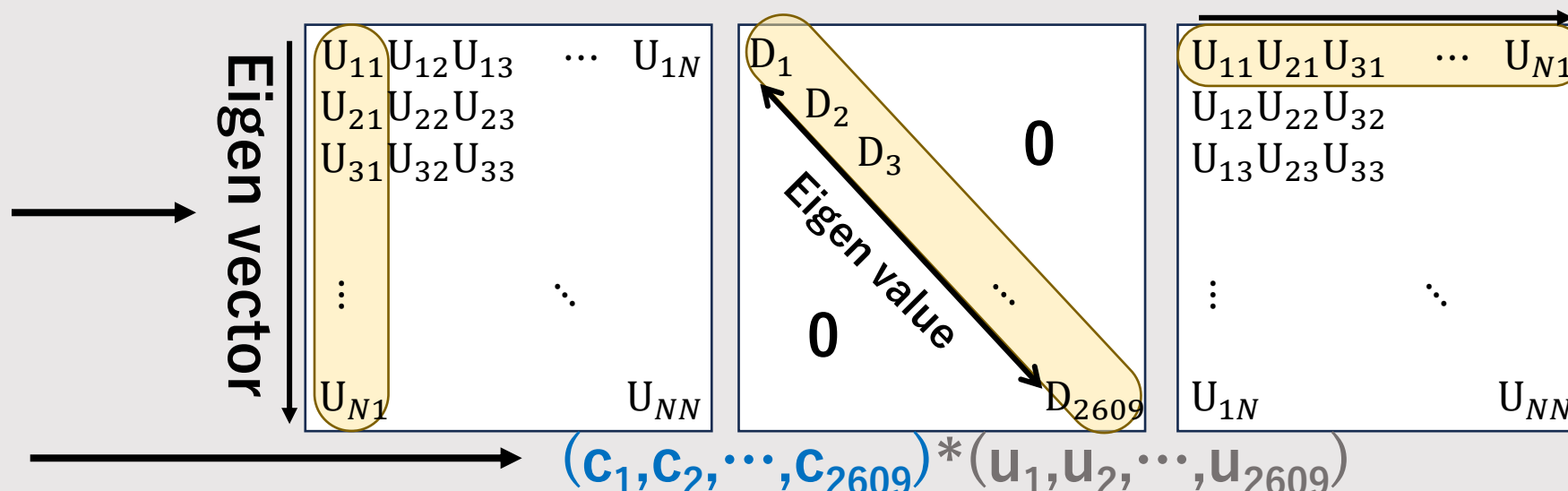


↑ All of 2609 data points will be new parameters → Too many parameters

How to reduce number of NA61 replica parameters?



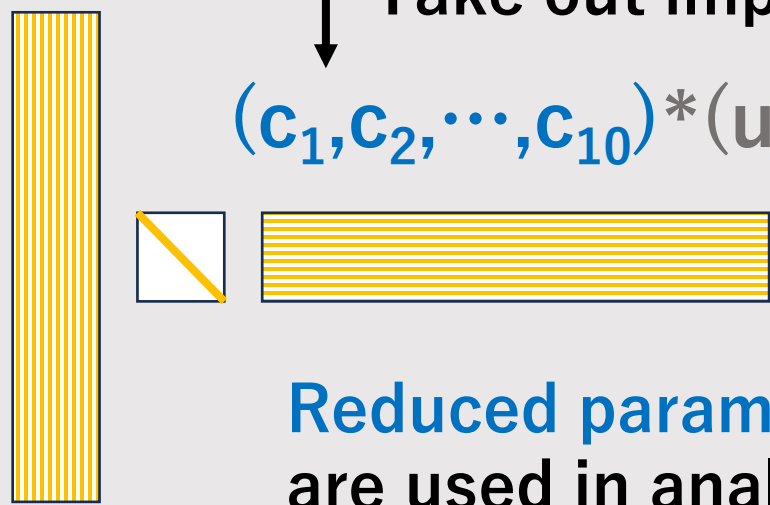
$(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{2609})$



Create new **uncorrelated variables** by eigen decomposition and take out important vectors

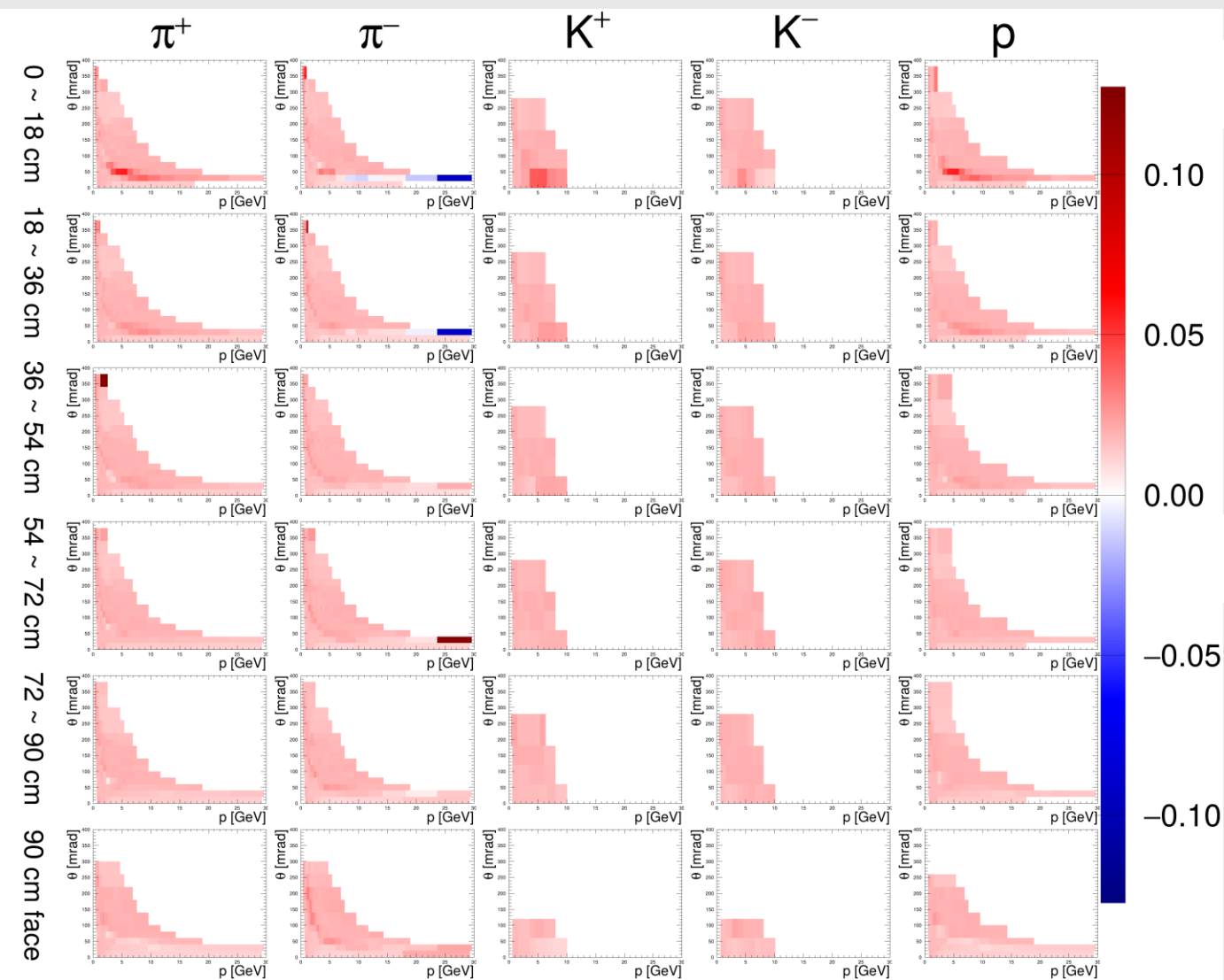
Take out important vectors

$$(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{10}) * (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{10})$$



Reduced parameters and eig vecs are used in analyses

Response of hadron phase space of eig vec #0



Hadron yields shift almost uniformly ($\sim 2\%$ in 1σ)

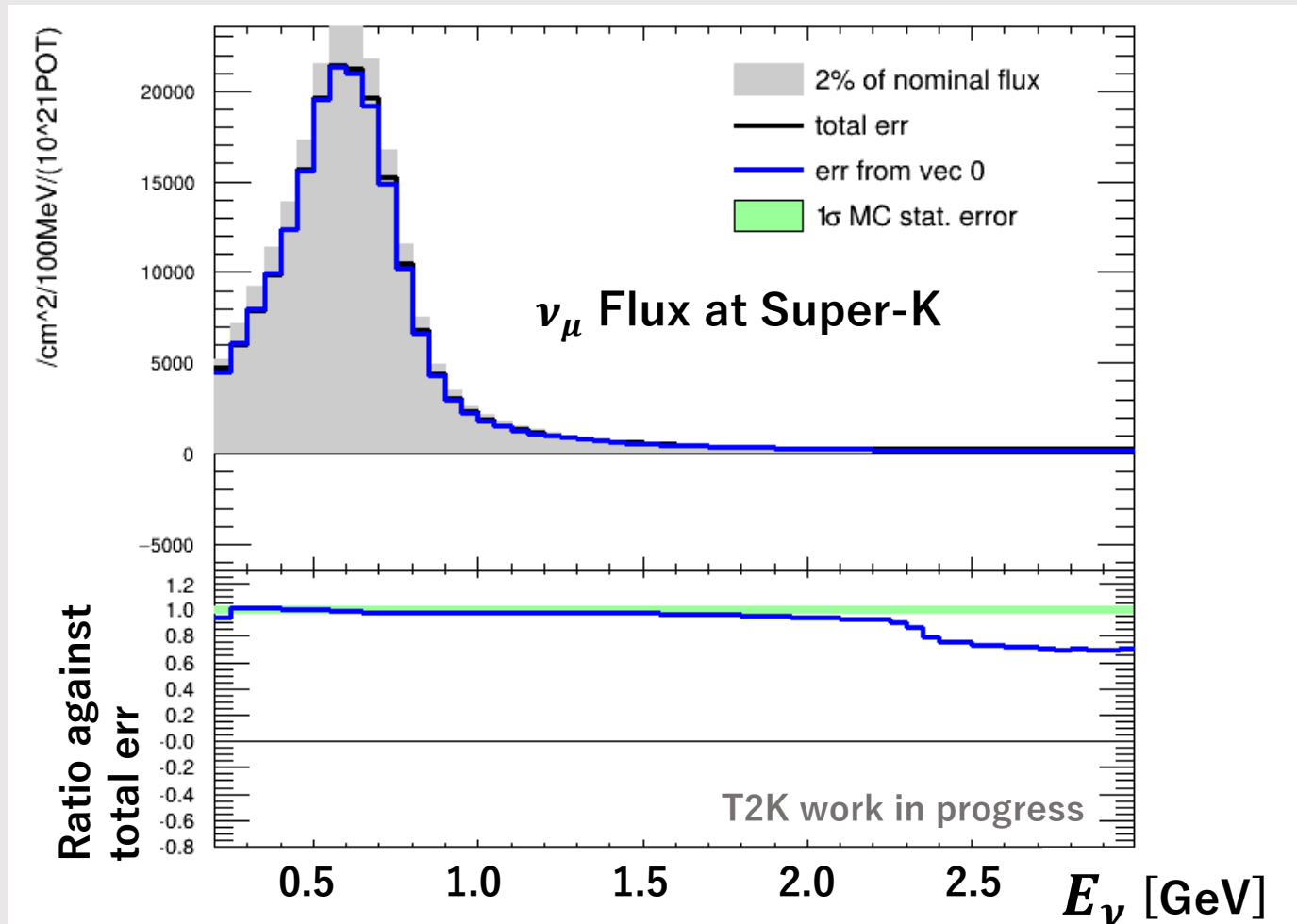
Corresponds to reconstruction bias in NA61/SHINE (2% over all the phase space)

Can expect that neutrino flux intensity also shift uniformly

T2K work in progress

Response of neutrino flux on new parameter: eig vec #0

Change in neutrino flux intensity when eig. vec. shifted 1σ
Dominant error source for peak region



Gray: Flux intensity (scaled to 2%)
To show the scale of uncertainty

Black: Total Error from NA61 Replica
Evaluated by MC simulation

Blue: Response of flux (top)
Ratio against total error (bottom)

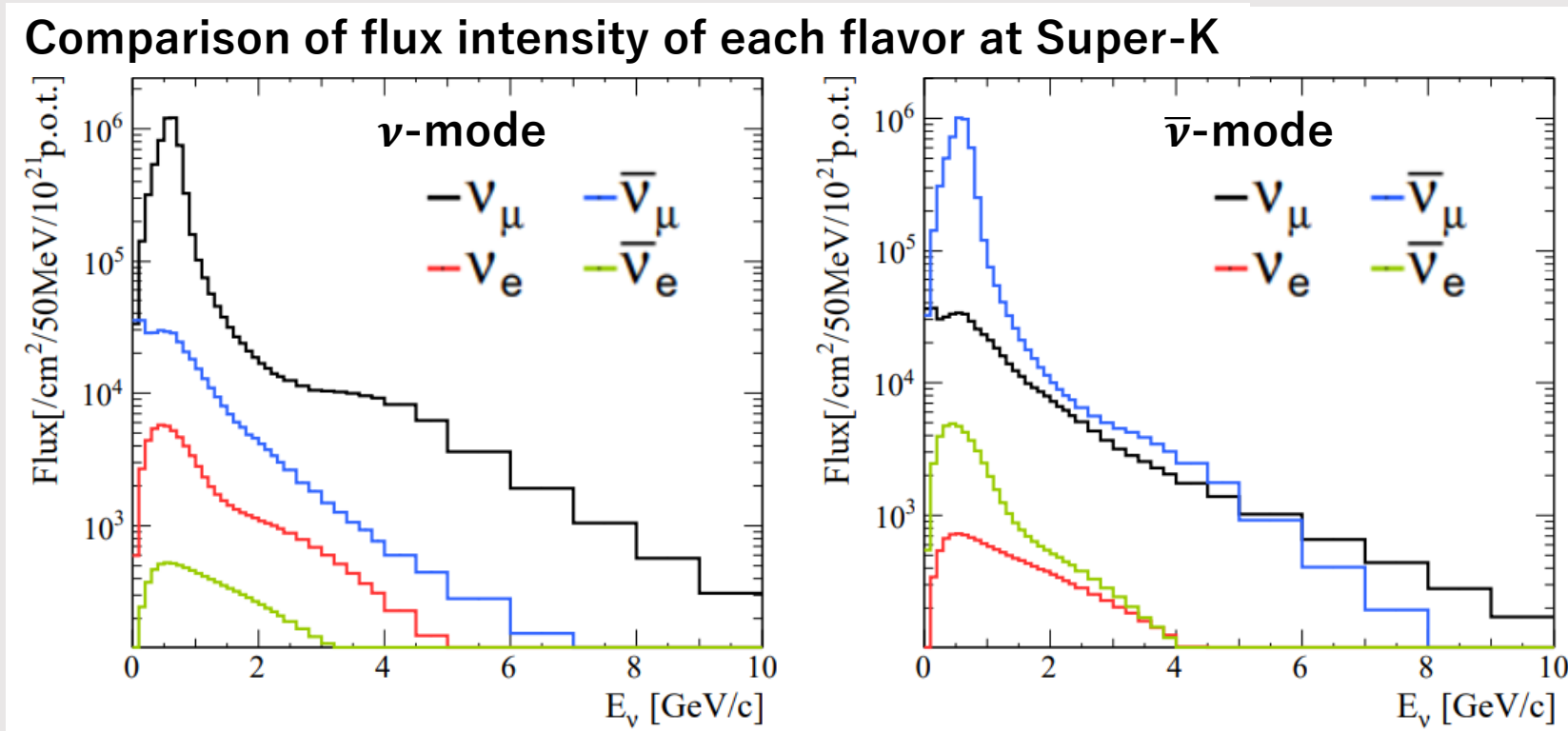
Green: Range to reach
 1σ range of total error due to MC
statistical error

Flux intensity of each neutrino flavor

ν_μ is the largest intensity at ν -mode, but the other flavors are produced from high momentum π^- , etc.

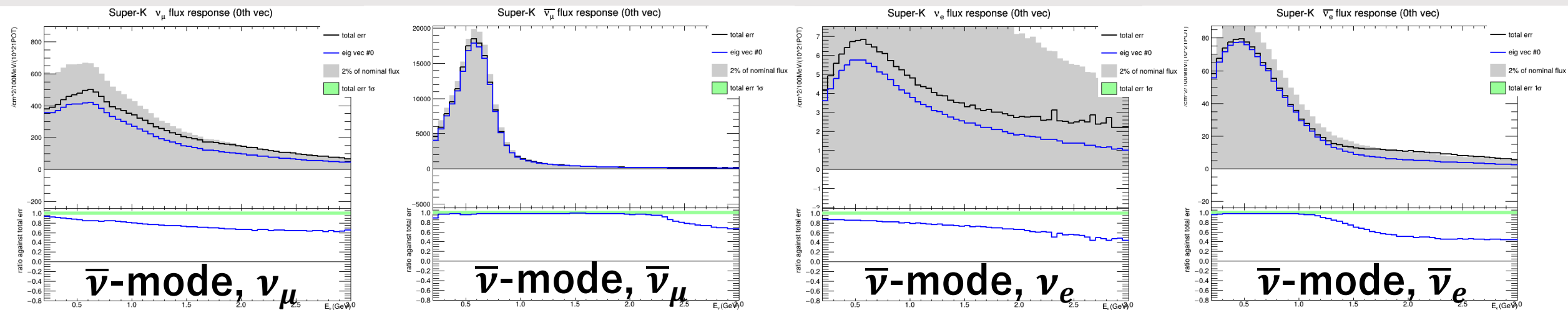
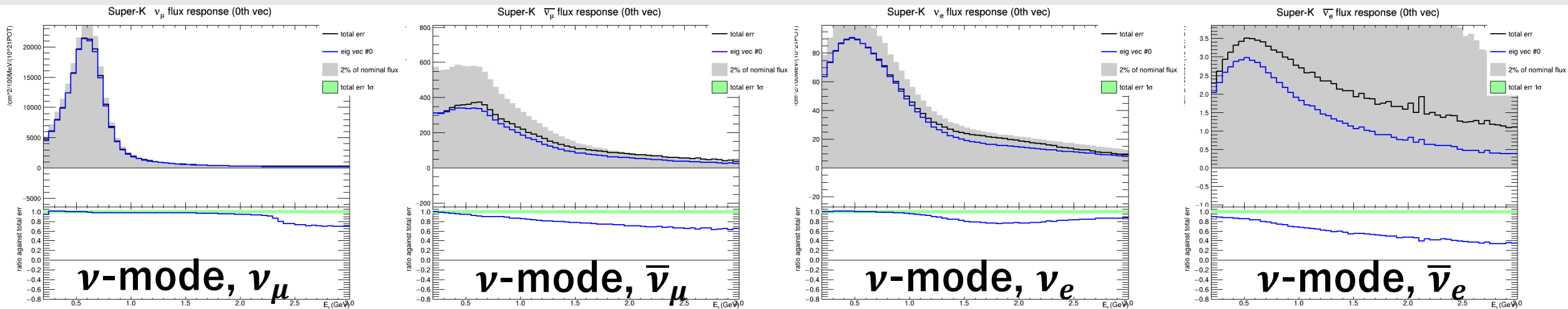
The orders of intensity are different against each flavor

Same for $\bar{\nu}$ -mode, thus need to consider 8 patterns of flux

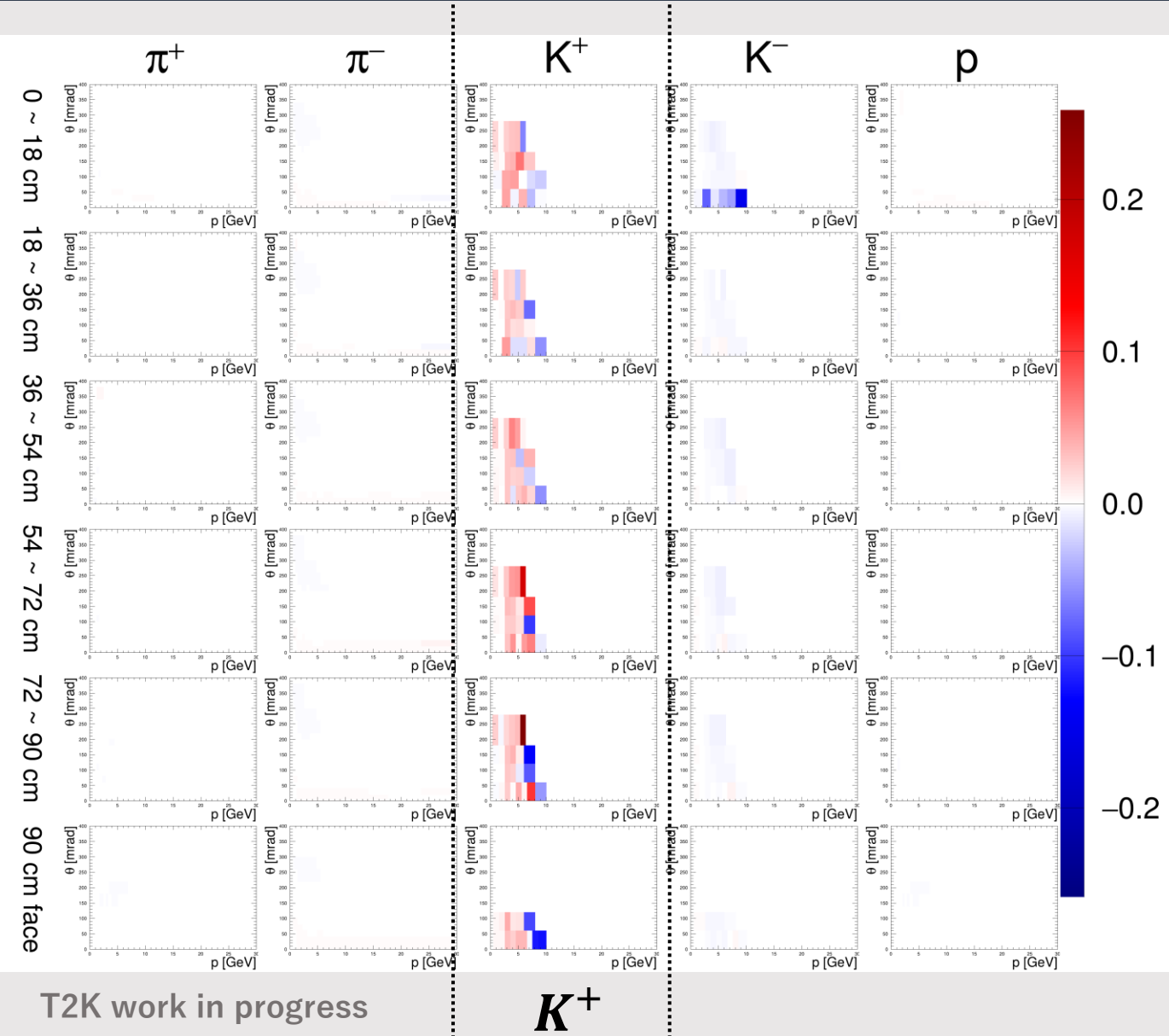


Response of neutrino flux on new parameter: eig vec #0

Response on large part of flux



Response of hadron phase space of eig vec #6



Error source that mainly shifts K^+ yields

Positive Kaons are one of main parent particles of ν_e , and high energy ν_μ

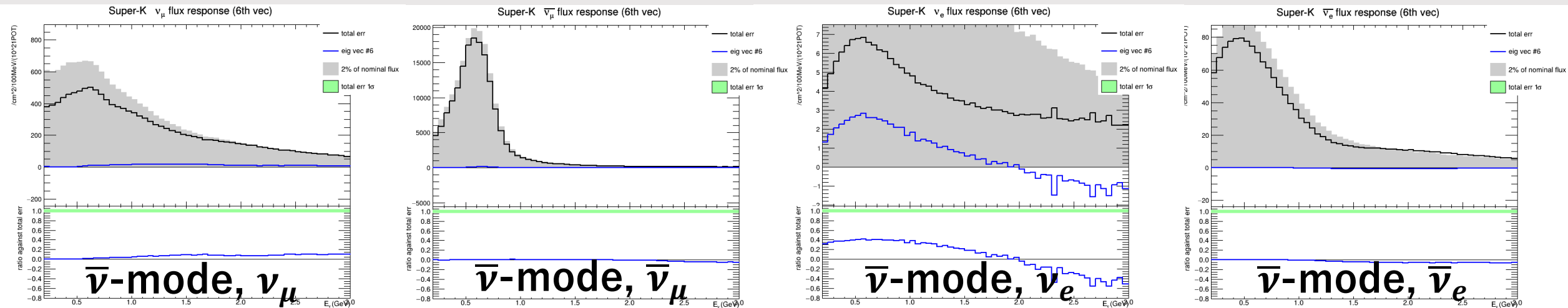
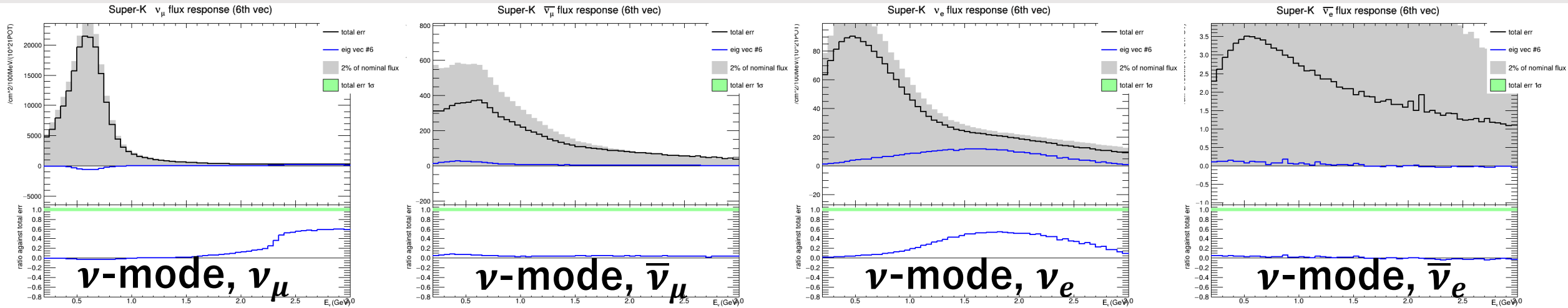
$$K^+ \rightarrow \begin{cases} \mu^+ \nu_\mu & 63.55\% \\ \pi^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu & 3.353\% \\ \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e & 5.07\% \end{cases}$$

T2K work in progress

K^+

Response of neutrino flux on new parameter: eig vec #6

ν_e in both modes and high energy ν_μ in ν -mode



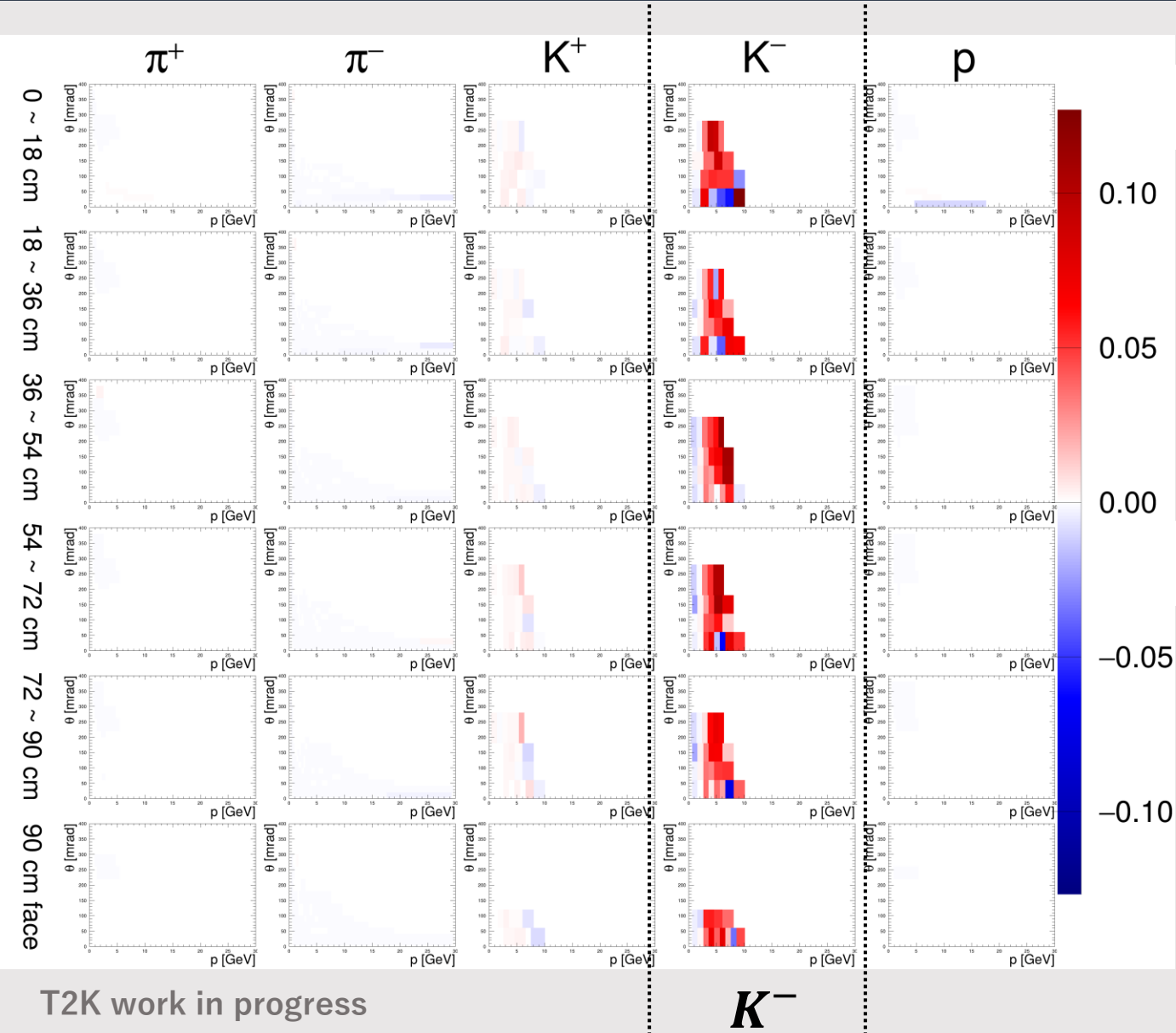
T2K work in progress

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16

Response of hadron phase space of eig vec #7



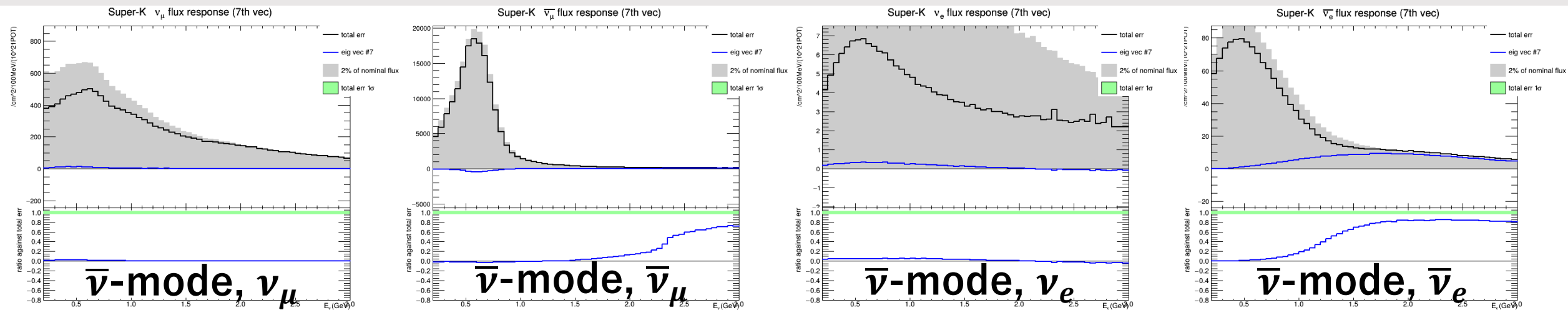
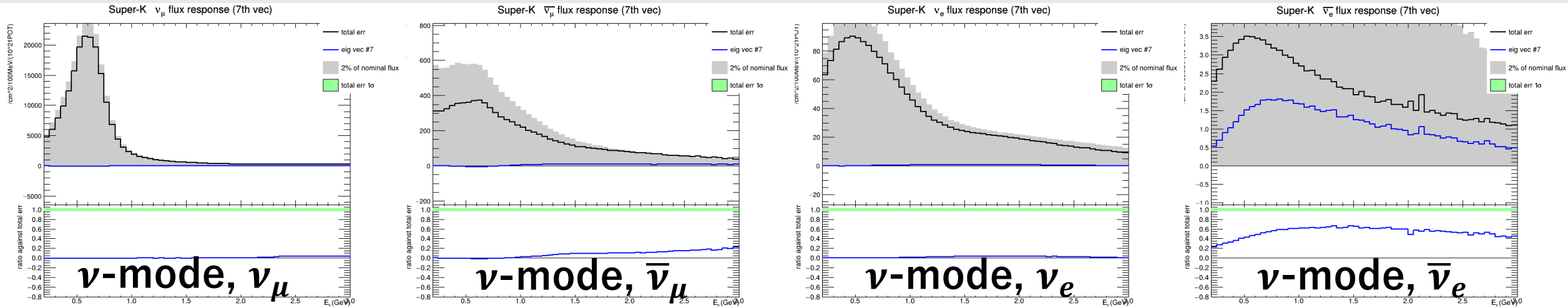
Error source that mainly shifts K^- yields

Negative Kaons are one of main parent particle of $\bar{\nu}_e$, and high energy $\bar{\nu}_\mu$

$$K^- \rightarrow \begin{cases} \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu & 63.55\% \\ \pi^0 \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu & 3.353\% \\ \pi^0 e^- \bar{\nu}_e & 5.07\% \end{cases}$$

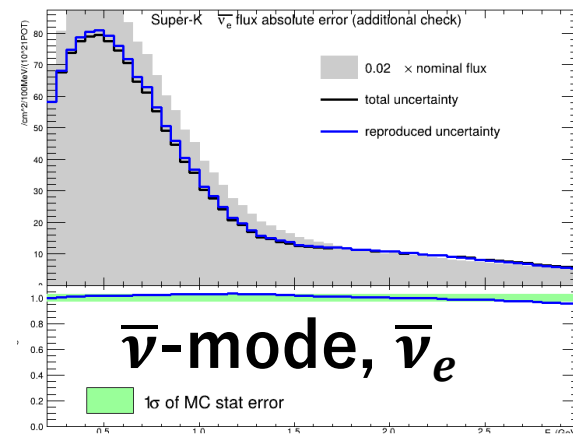
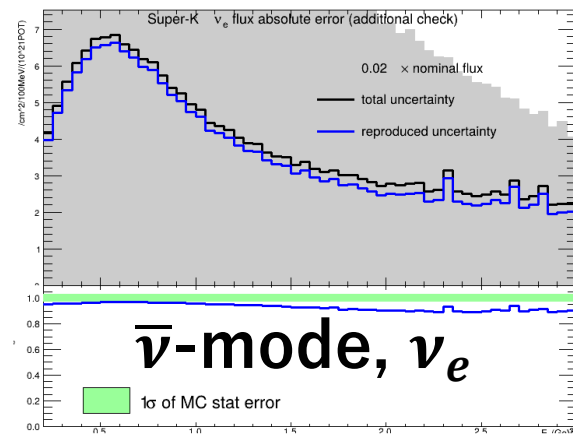
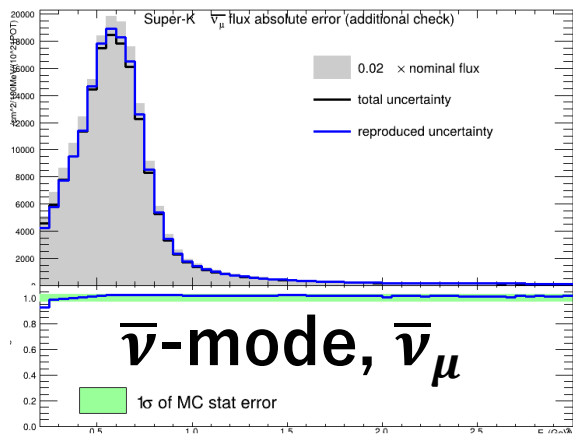
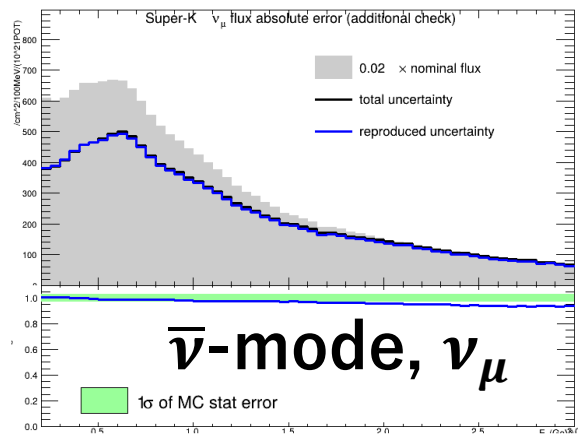
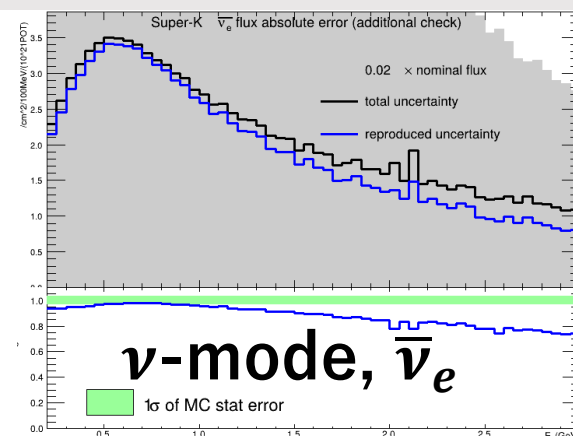
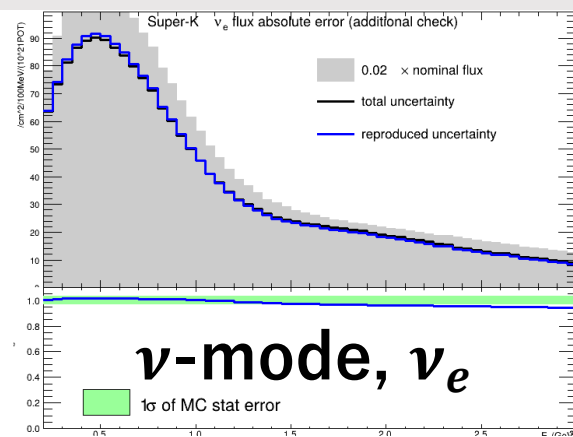
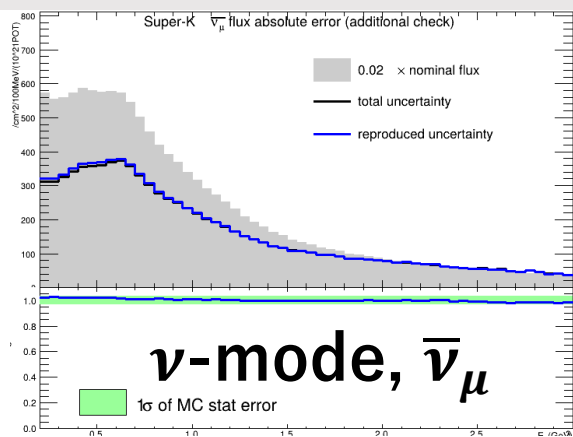
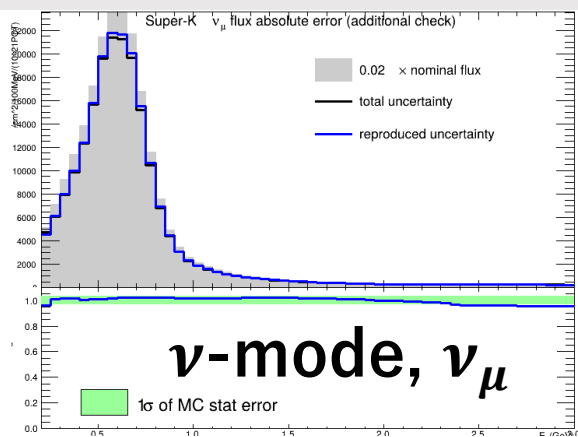
Response of neutrino flux on new parameter: eig vec #7

$\bar{\nu}_e$ in both modes and high energy $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ in $\bar{\nu}$ -mode



Reproduction of flux uncertainty

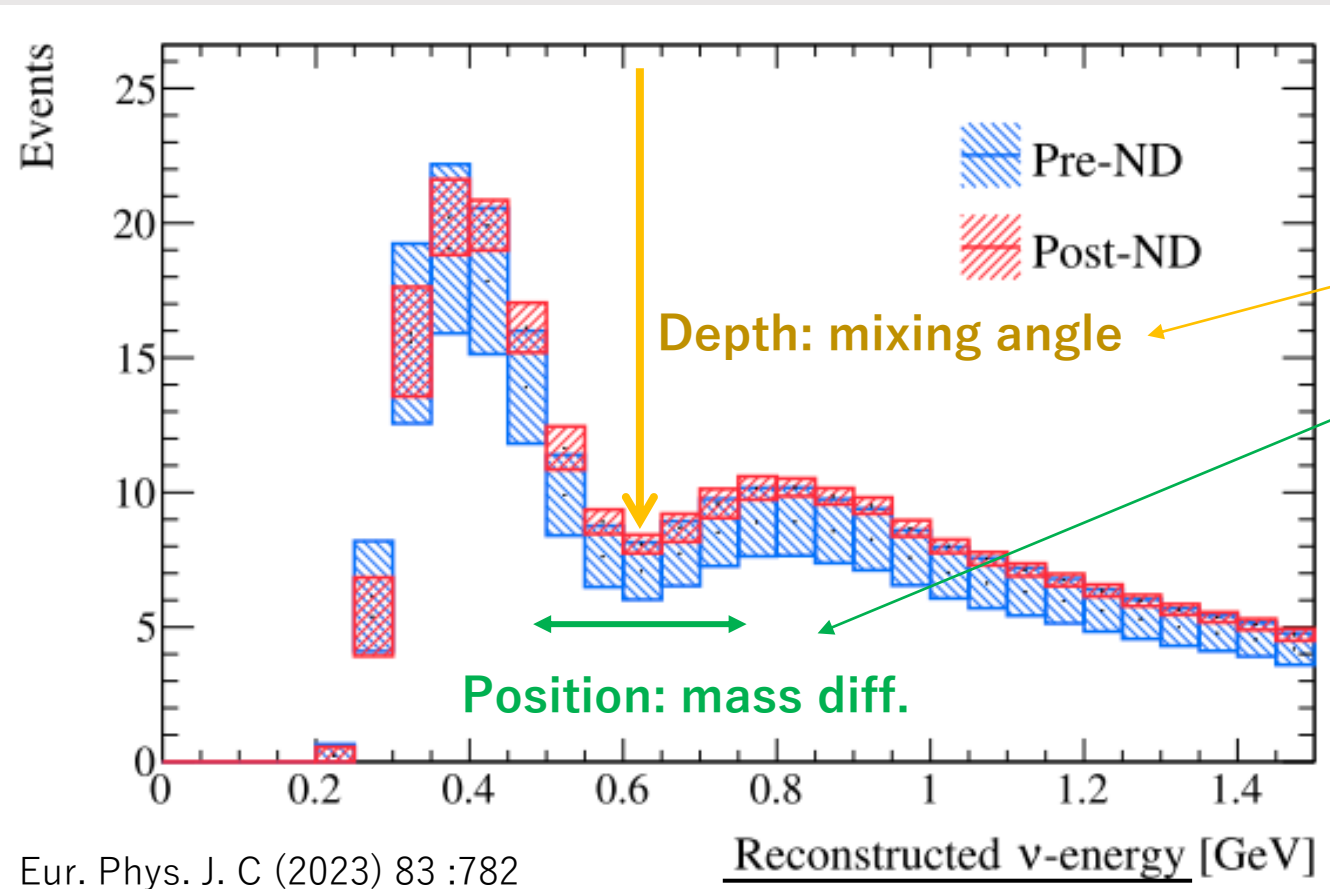
By using 11 parameters (corresponds to eig. vec. #0~#7, #200, #2501, #2539) instead of 2609, uncertainties are reproduced



T2K work in progress

Effect on neutrino oscillation analysis

Number of event at far detector \approx Flux \times X-sec \times Osc. Prob.

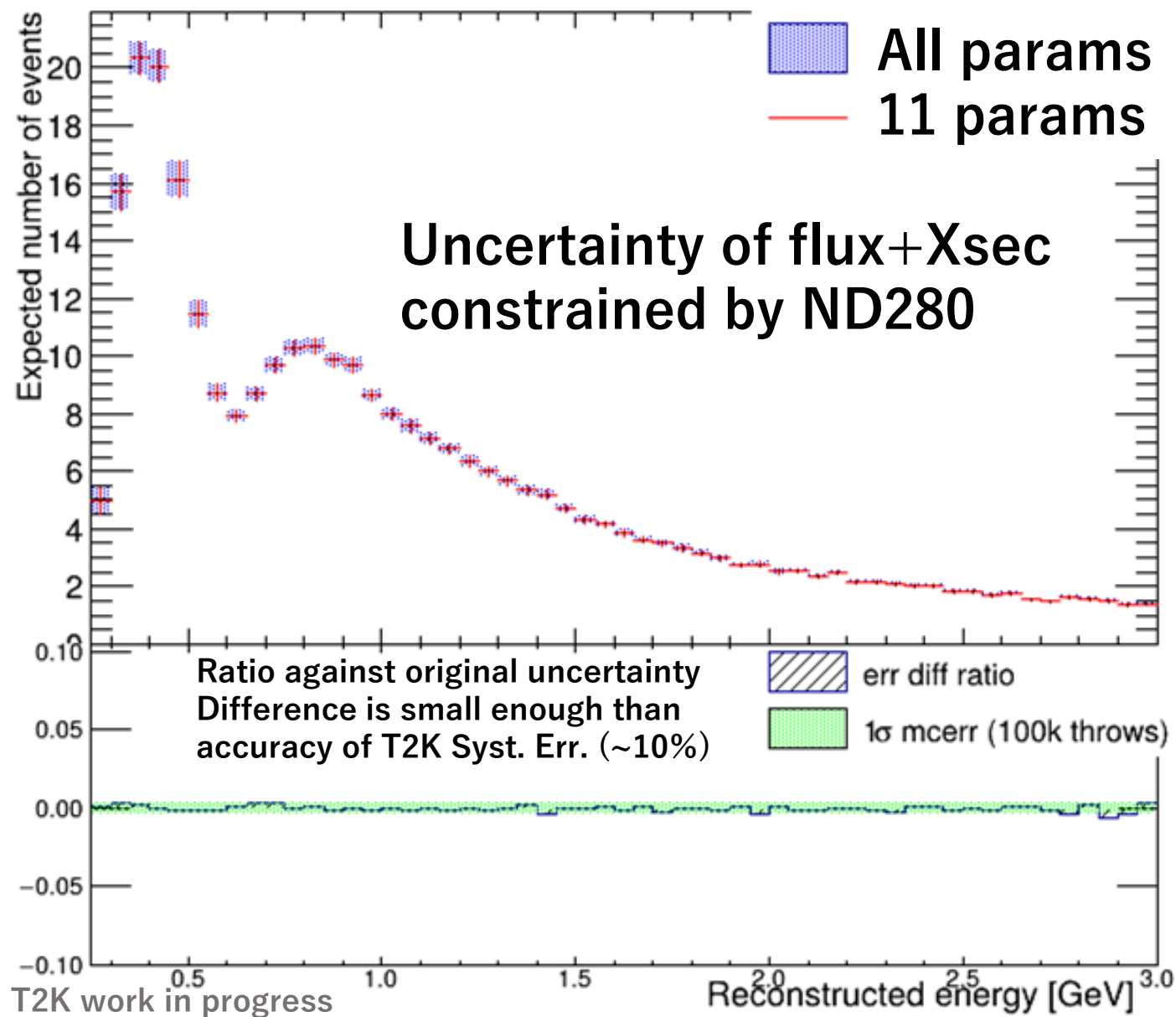


$$P_{\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\mu}} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{\nu} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{\nu}^2 L}{4E_{\nu}}$$

← Predict event distribution and total syst. uncertainty

ND measures Flux \times X-sec
→ Reduce syst. uncertainty
(Blue → Red)

Effect on constraint by ND280



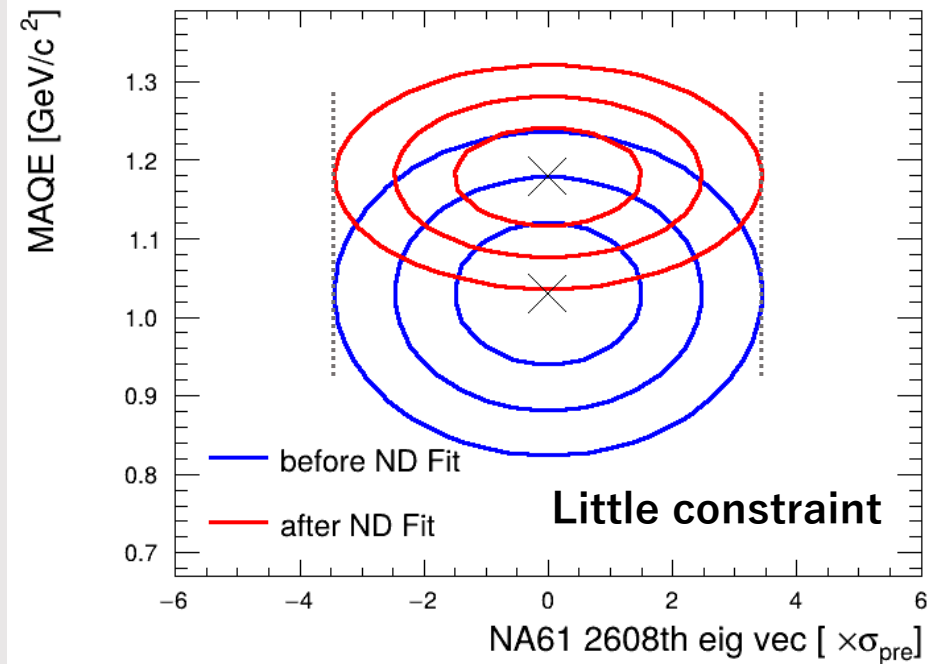
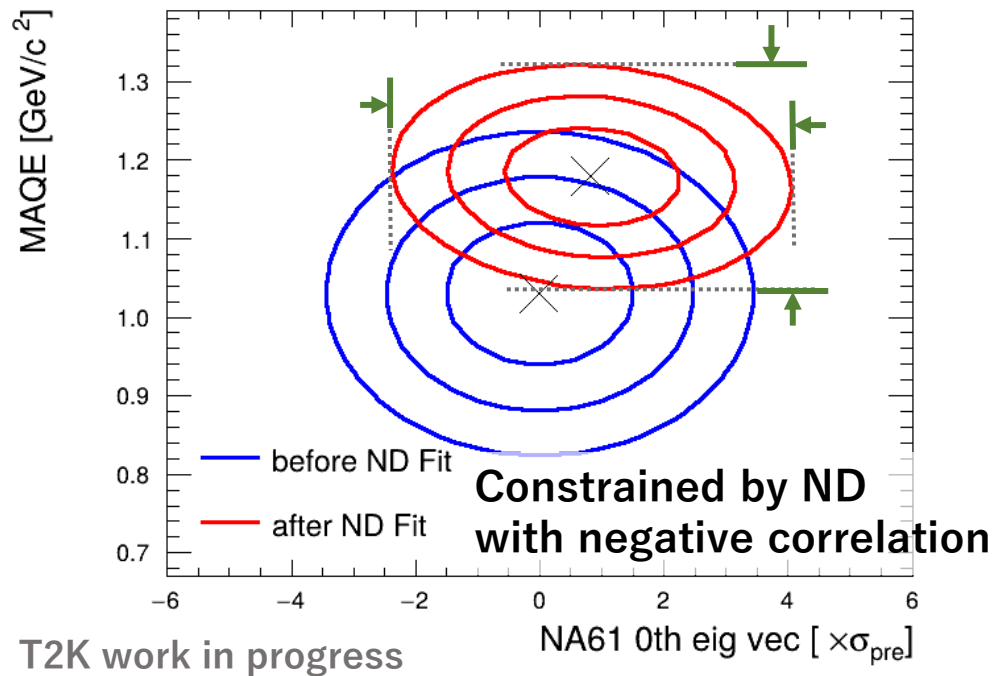
Comparison of systematic uncertainties calculated with **all** vs **11** NA61 Replica parameters

Uncertainty is reproduced **better than 1% accuracy**

ND constraint on new flux parameters

It allows analysis of ND constraint on underlying flux systematics
(It used to be a black box for flux parameters)

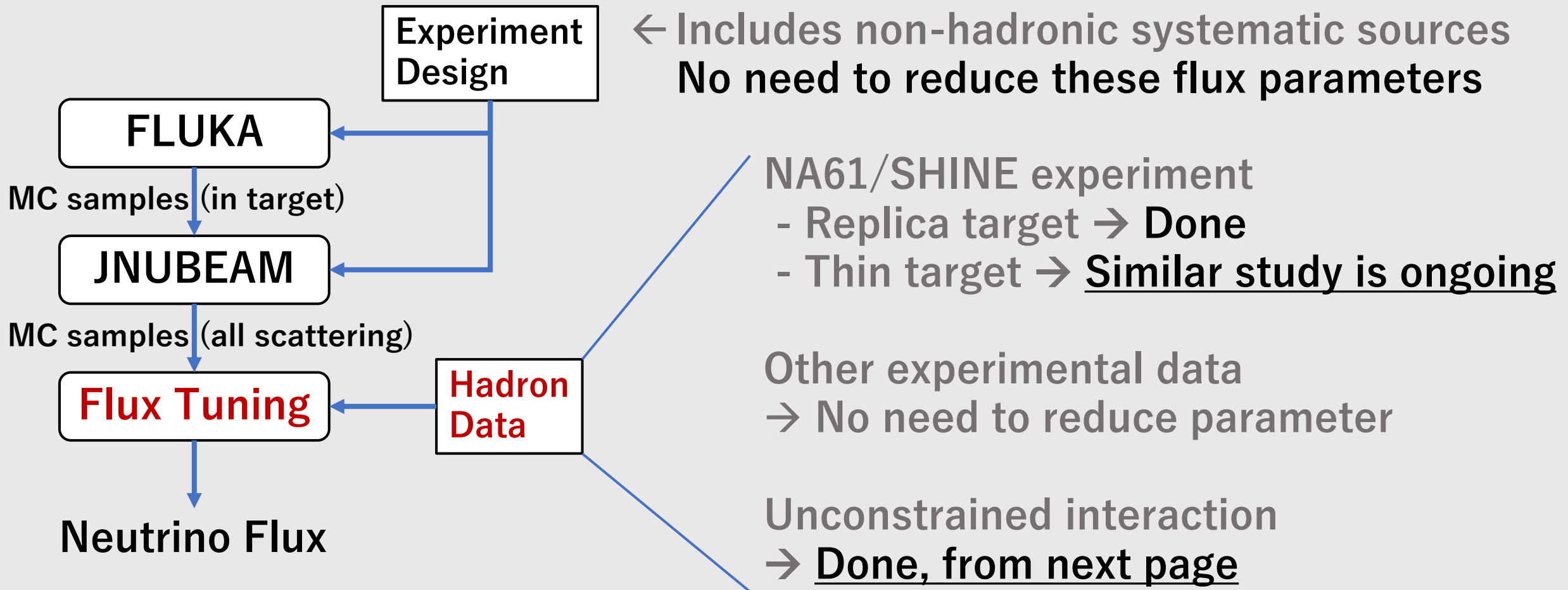
2D contour plots of $\Delta\chi^2$ distribution between a flux parameter and a X-sec parameter (proton axial mass)
Not a new fit of ND data, but a recasting of the fit result



The parameters not chosen got little constraint \rightarrow negligible

Next step: development for the other flux parameters

Recap of flux prediction in T2K experiment



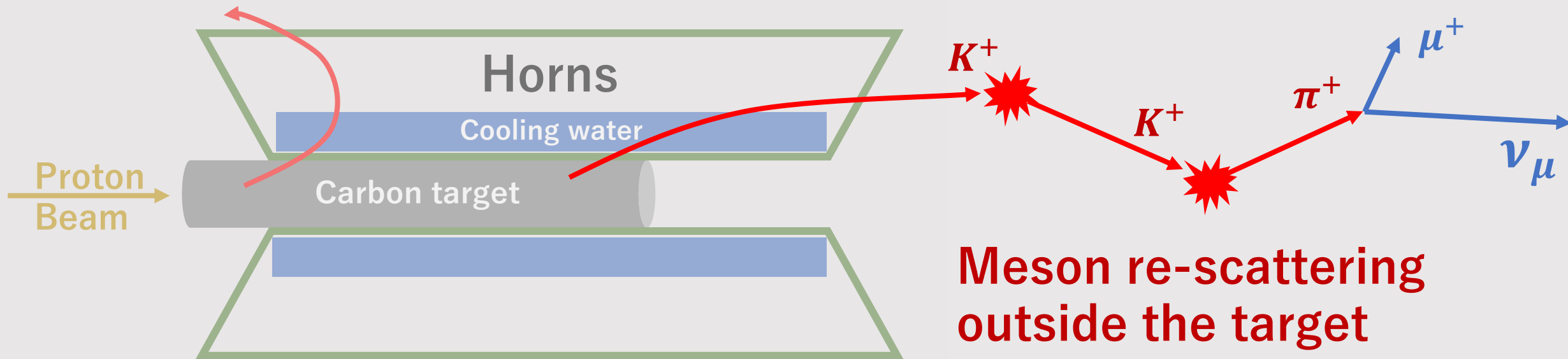
Unconstrained interactions

Unconstrained hadron interactions which are not measured by any experiments are also complicated

These effects are **not linear** (Categorized as meson rescatter)

35 modes for 7 initial and 5 final particles are considered

$(\pi^\pm, K^\pm, K_L^0, p, n) \rightarrow (\pi^\pm, K^\pm, K_L^0)$



Unconstrained interactions

Phase space of each mode is divided into 6 regions in (x_F, p_T) , thus there is 6×6 sized covariance matrix for each mode

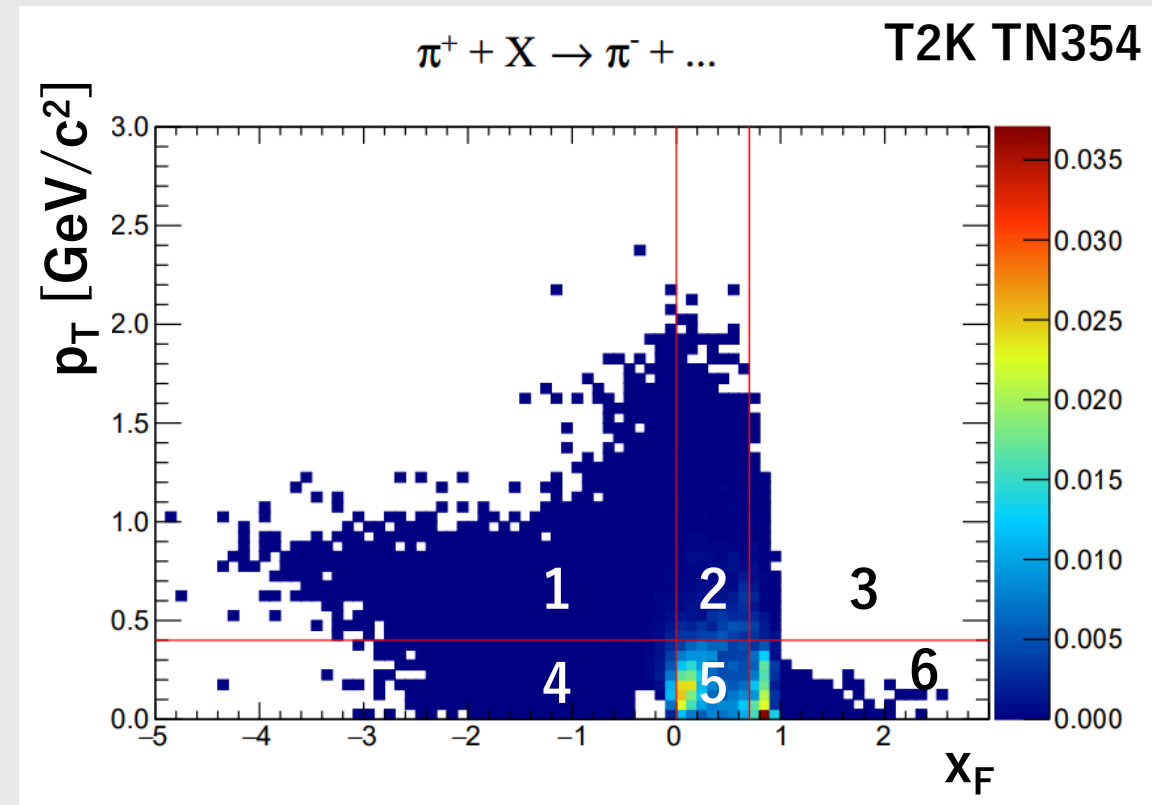
→ 50 % uncorrelated and 50 % correlated uncertainty is assigned based on MC physics list comparison

Error evaluation:

Calculate responses of flux on each eigen vector of the matrices

Both $\pm 1 \sigma$ shift for non-linearity

→ $35 \times 6 \times 2 = 420$ parameters

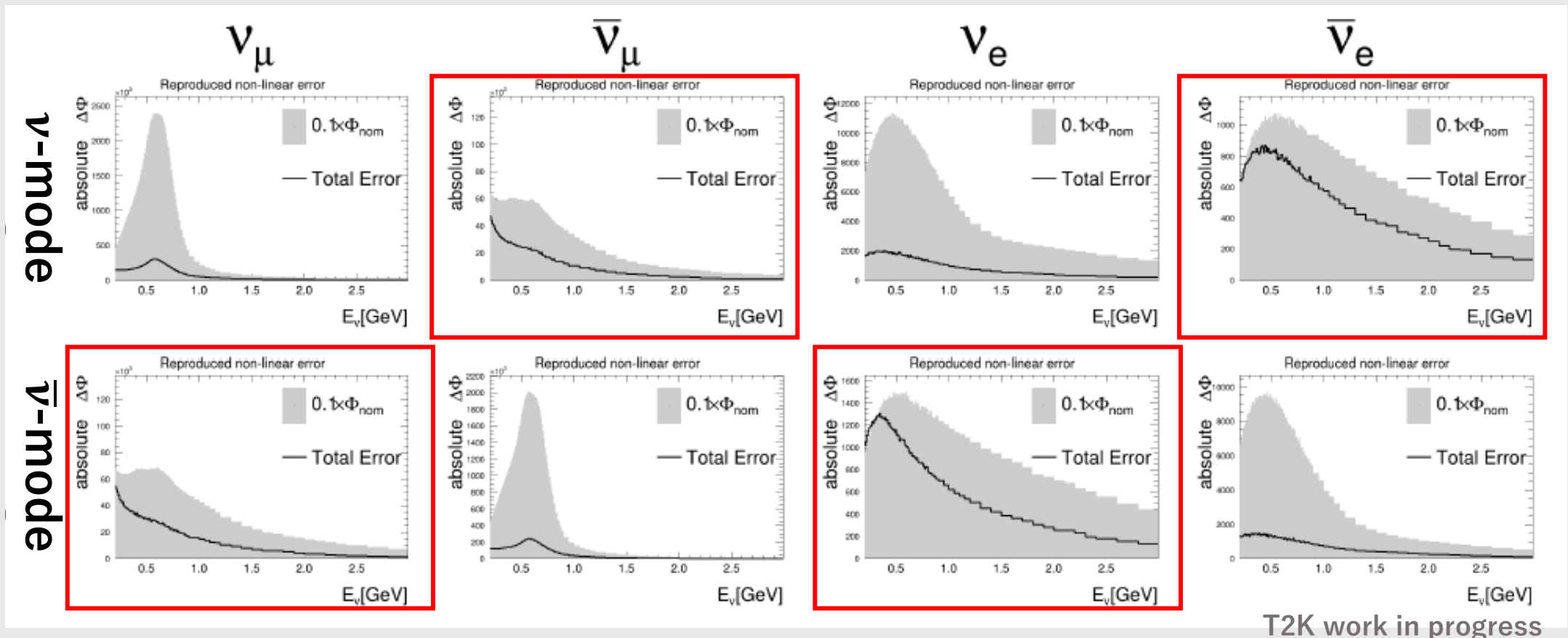


Total error from unconstrained interactions

Large error at wrong sign flux ($\sim 10\%$ of nominal flux at max)

Gray: Nominal flux $\times 0.1$

Black: Total uncertainty from unconstrained interactions



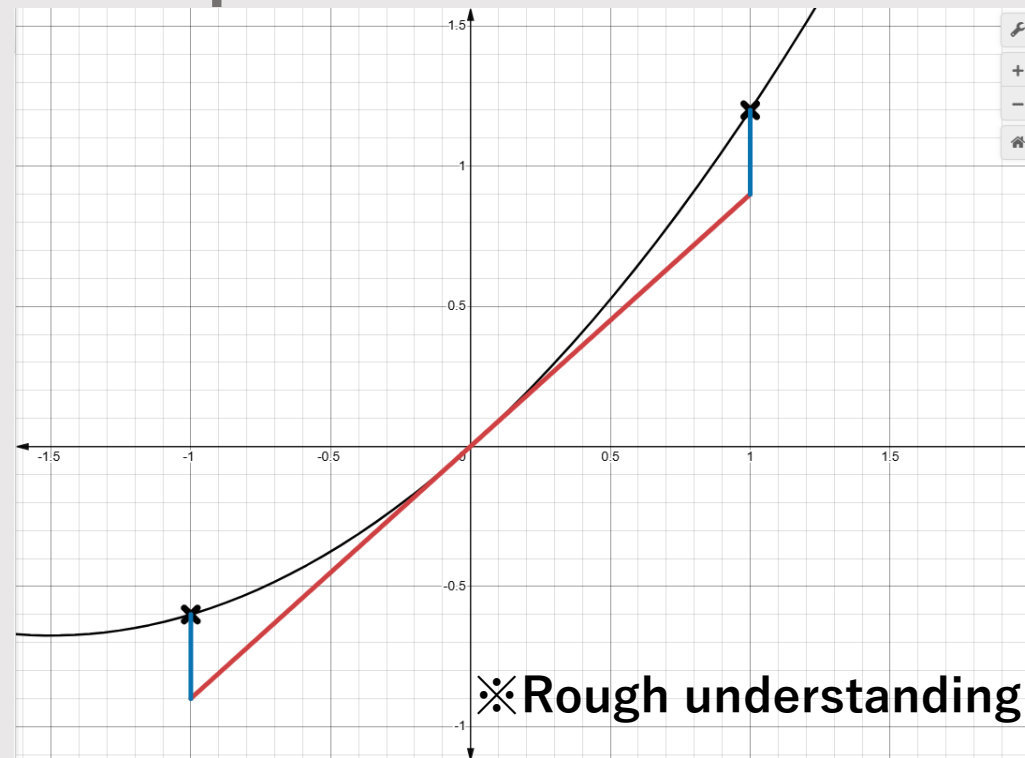
T2K work in progress

Linear / non-linear parameters

Separate $\pm 1 \sigma$ errors to **symmetric** and **asymmetric** elements

$$\Delta\Phi^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\Delta\Phi_+^2 + \Delta\Phi_-^2) = \left(\frac{1}{2} \Delta\Phi_+ - \frac{1}{2} \Delta\Phi_- \right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2} \Delta\Phi_+ + \frac{1}{2} \Delta\Phi_- \right)^2$$

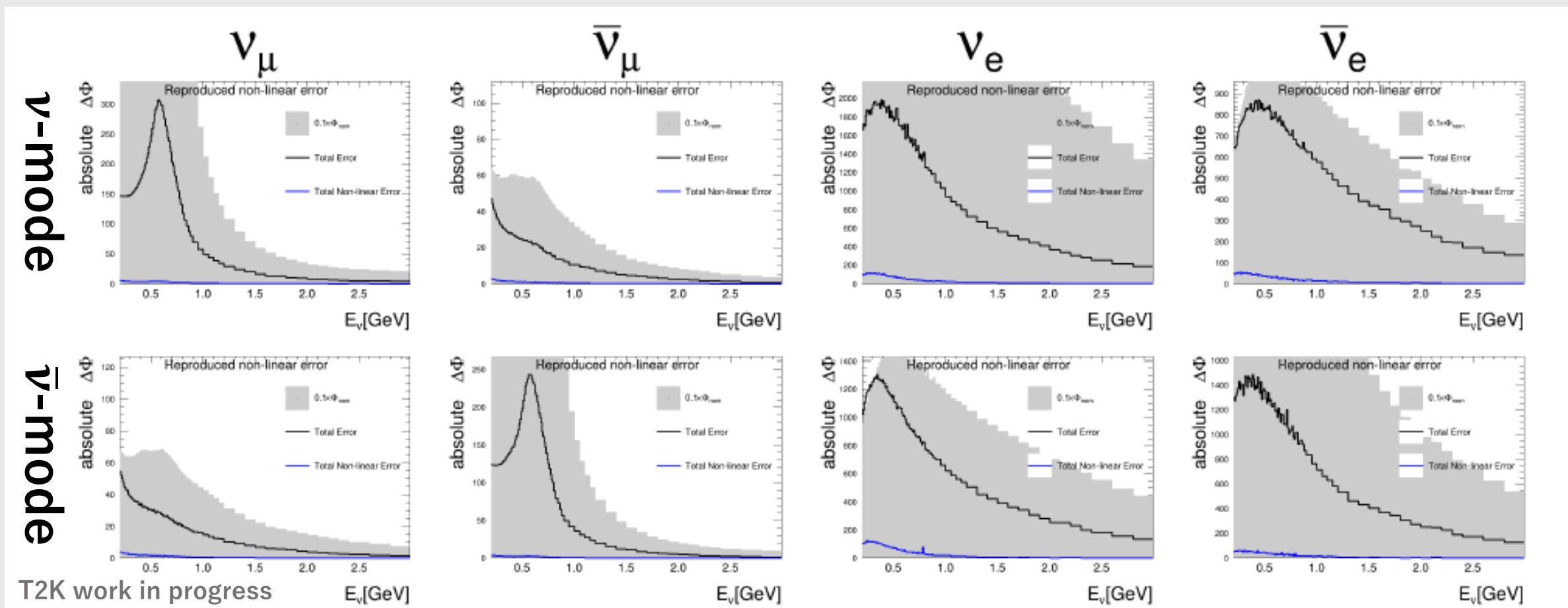
They roughly corresponds **linear** and **non-linear** elements



Non-linearity

Black: total err

Blue: non-linear err (Small effect)



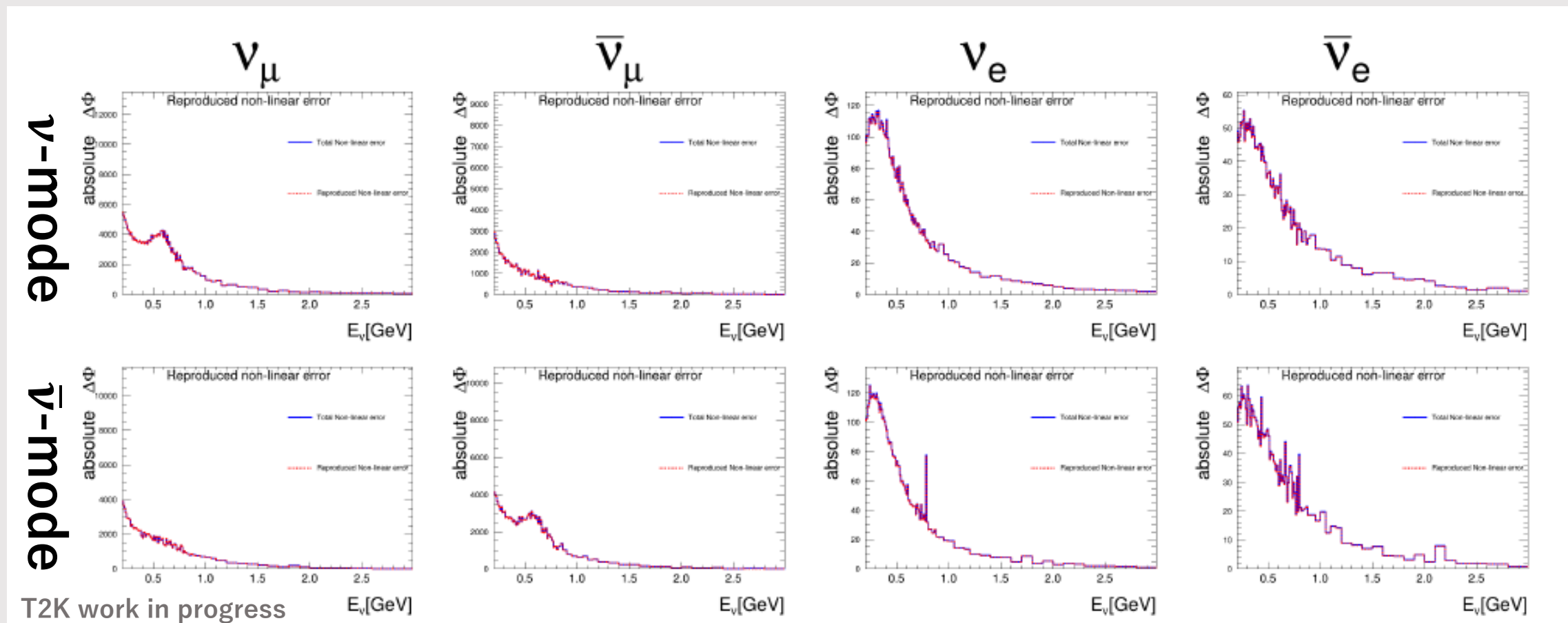
T2K work in progress

Optimize non-linearity

Non-linearity is reproduced with 5 parameters instead of 210

Blue: Total

Red: Reproduced



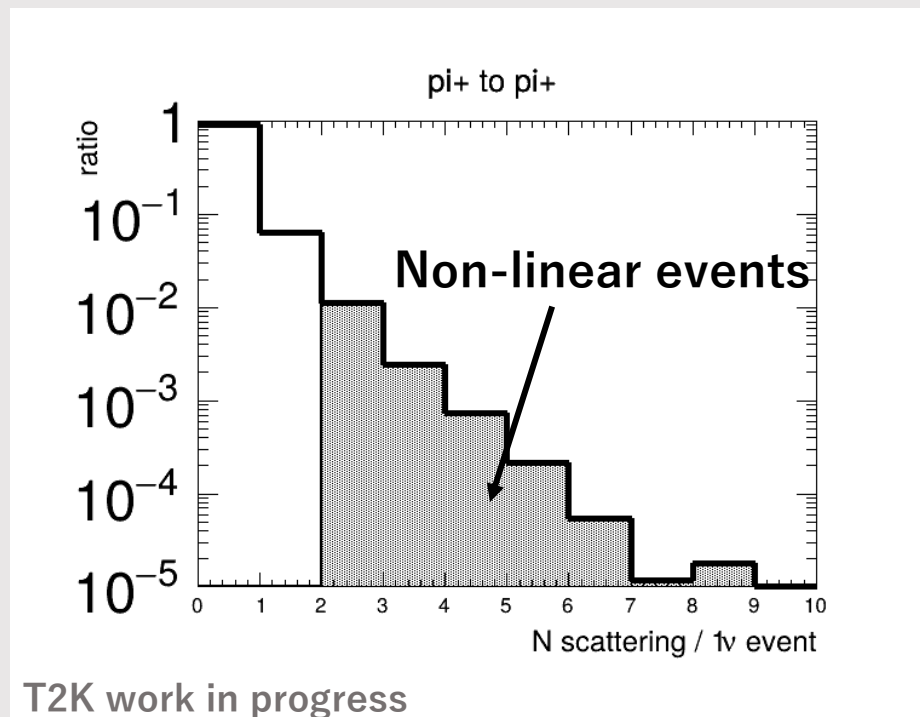
How many multi scattering occur?

Non-linear response occurs by ν events which experienced same scattering mode for multiple times in single ν event

Linear: $p \rightarrow K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^+$

Non-linear: $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^+$

Checked distribution of each scattering per single ν events



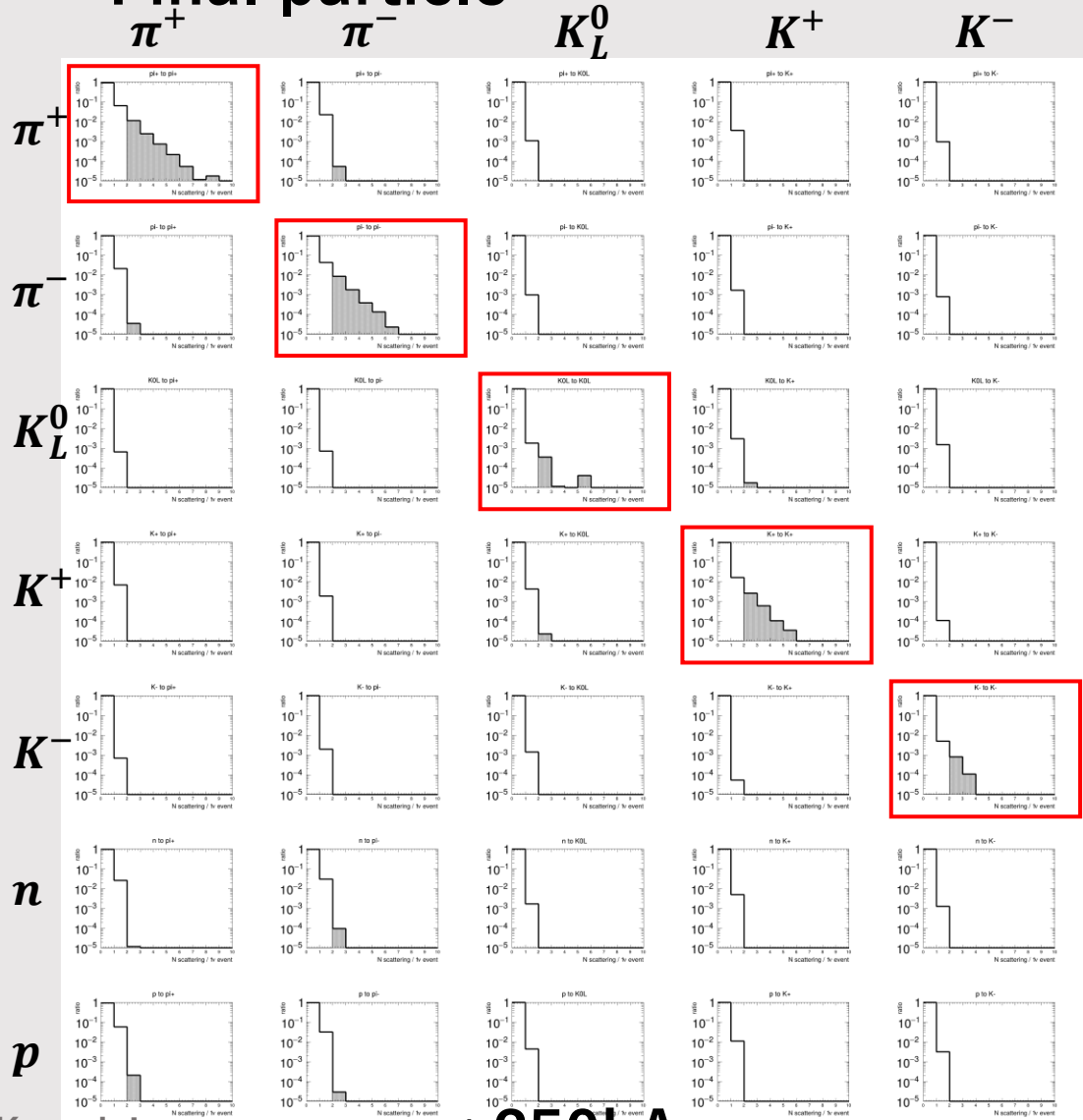
Event distribution which same scattering mode occurred N times in single ν event in JNUBEAM

Ratio of non-linear events was $\sim 1\%$ for $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^+$ mode

Investigation about multiple scattering from same mode

Initial particle

Final particle



T2K work in progress

+250kA

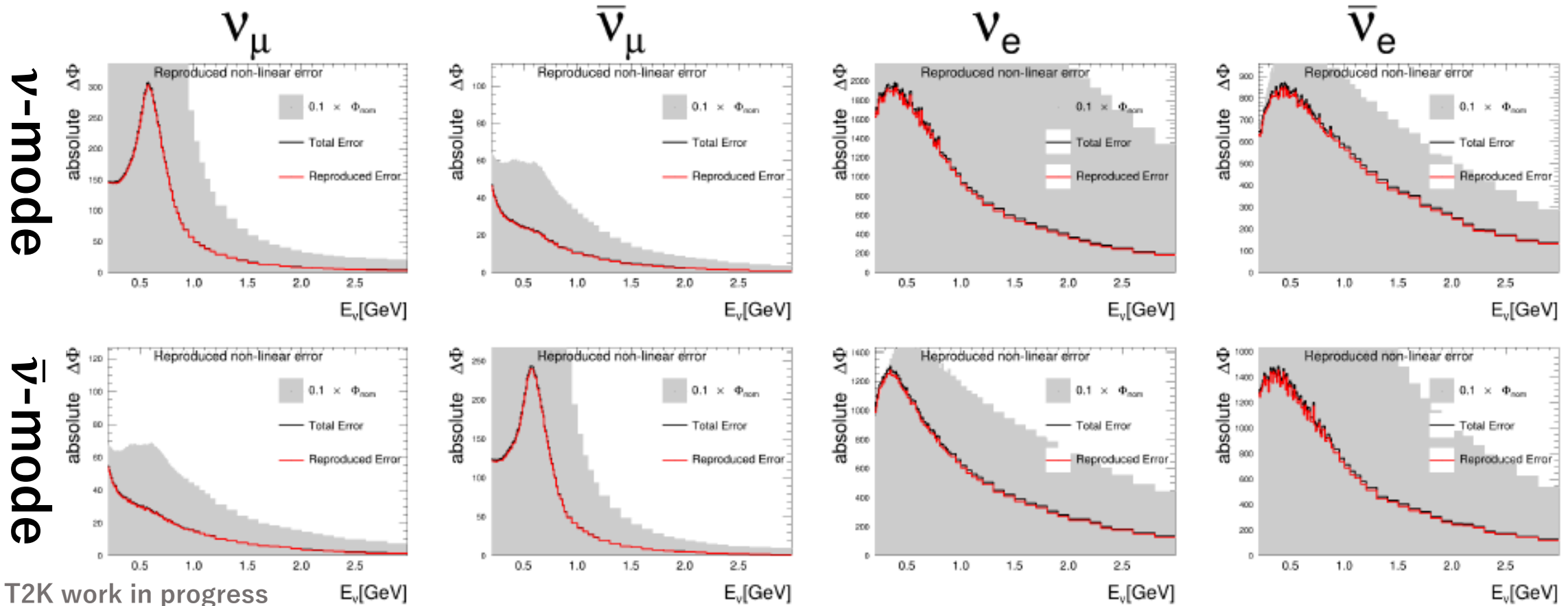
More non-linear samples in “X to X” scattering mode

The other modes change particle
 → Need 3rd scattering at least
 → Fewer non-linear samples

Reproduced with 5 parameters corresponding to the largest eigen vector of 5 “X to X” modes

Reproduced error with 44 linear + 5 non-linear parameters

Grey: Flux ($\times 0.1$), Black: Total error, Red: Reproduced



T2K work in progress

Modes not chosen:

$$\pi^\pm \rightarrow K^{\pm, \mp}, K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^\pm, K^+ \rightarrow \pi^-, K^-, K^- \rightarrow \pi^\pm, K^+, n \rightarrow K_L^0, K^-, p \rightarrow K^\pm$$

Summary and plans

- We need a new method to handle flux correlations between multiple detection points with reduced number of parameters
- Energy bin-based flux parameters → Original systematic parameters
But the number of parameters for hadron interaction is large
- Reduced NA61 Replica parameters (2609→11)
and Unconstrained Interactions (420→49)

Plans:

1. Complete works of new parameterization of flux covariance and reduction of parameters for hadron interaction
2. Development for Off-Axis Angles $\neq 2.5^\circ$ (including Off-Axis Angle interpolation)
3. Implementation to the oscillation analysis