Strangeness Production at RHIC

QM 2001

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The Ohio State University

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The STAR Collaboration

Brazil: Universidade de Sao Paolo

China: IHEP - Beijing, IPP - Wuhan

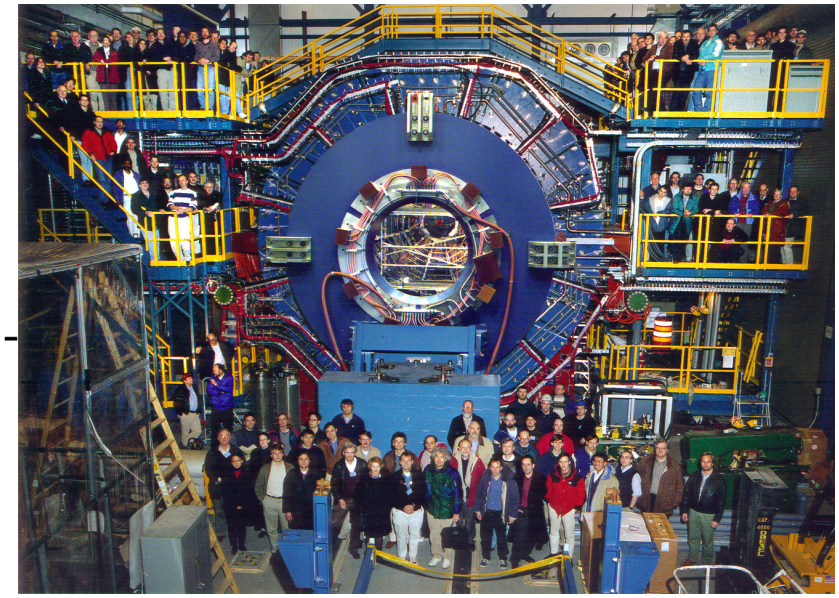
England: University of Birmingham

France: Institut de Recherches Subatomiques Strasbourg, SUBATECH - Nantes

Germany: Max Planck Institute – Munich
University of Frankfurt

Poland: Warsaw University, Warsaw University of Technology

Spokesperson: John Harris



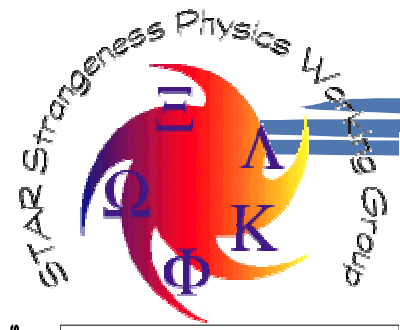
Institutions: 36
Collaborators: 415
Students: ~50

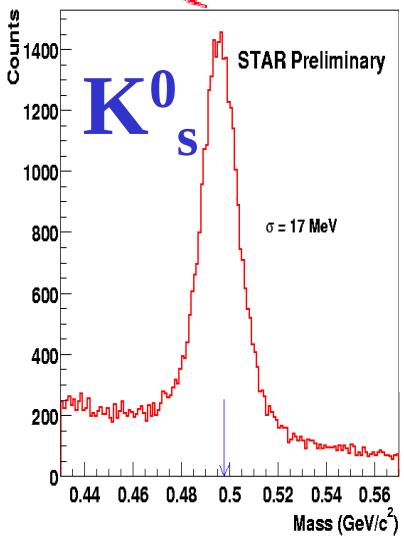
Russia: MEPHI – Moscow, LPP/LHE JINR–Dubna, IHEP-Protvino

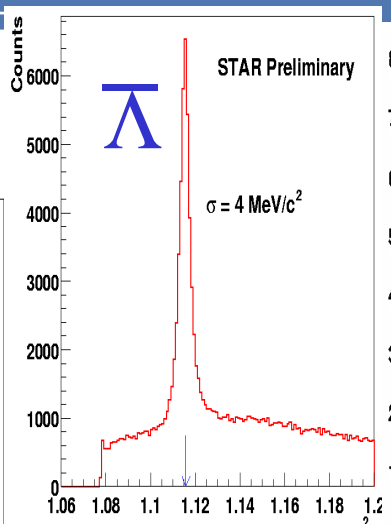
U.S. Labs: Argonne, Berkeley, Brookhaven National Labs

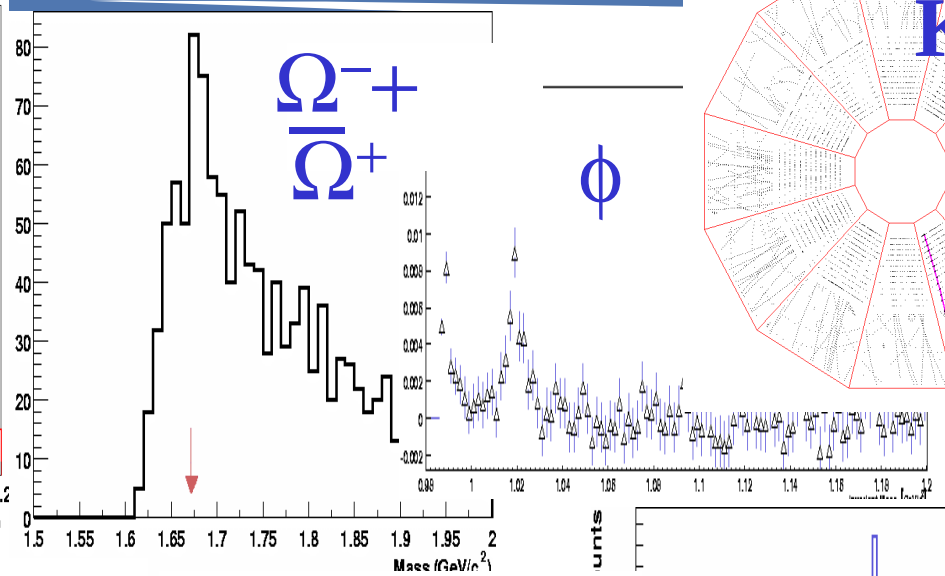
U.S. Universities:
Arkansas, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, Carnegie Mellon, Creighton, Indiana, Kent State, MSU, CCNY, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue,Rice, Texas A&M, UT Austin, Washington, Wayne State, Yale

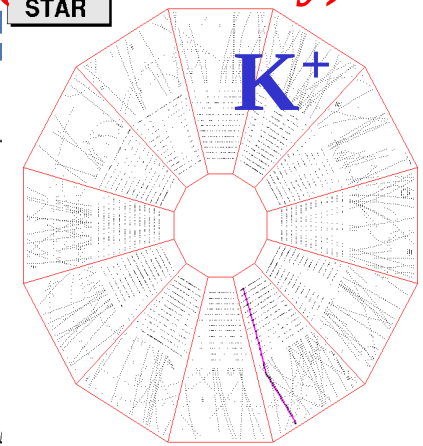
STAR STRANGENESS! (Preliminary)

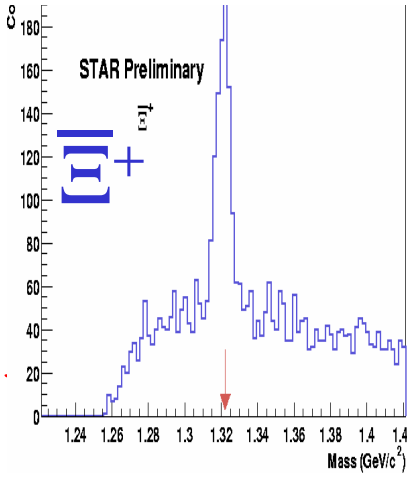


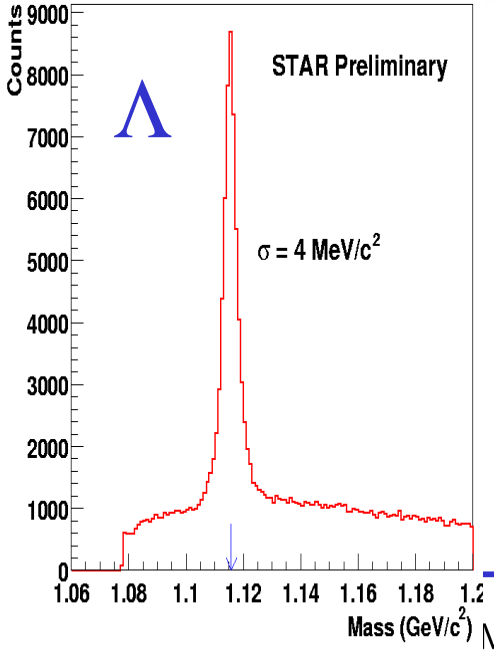


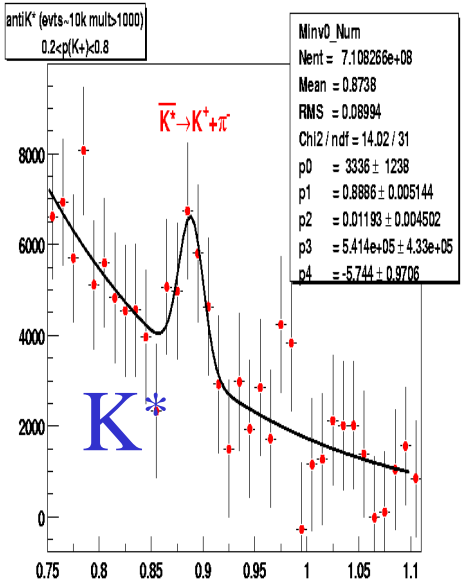


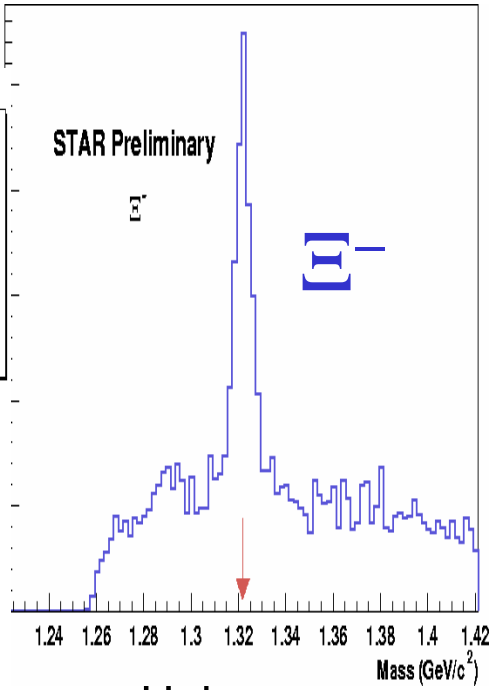












Helen Caines

Introduction

Chemical content

– Yields (K^+, K^-)

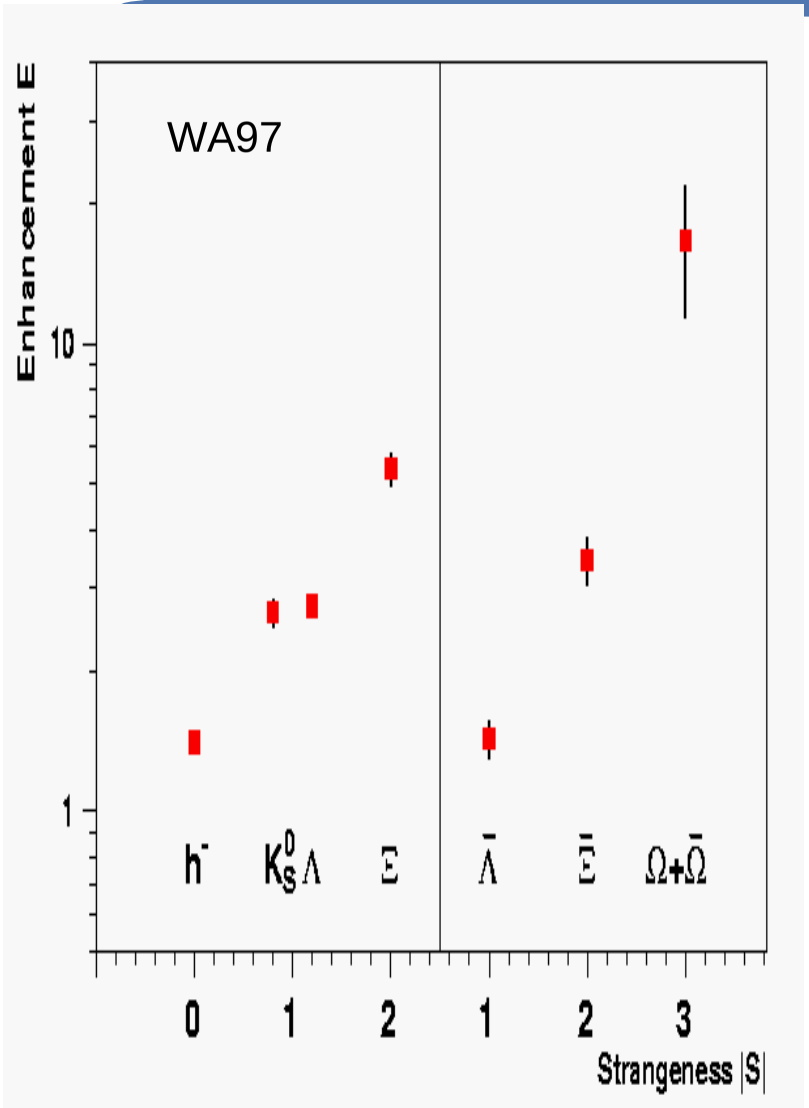
Flow – How much and when does it start?

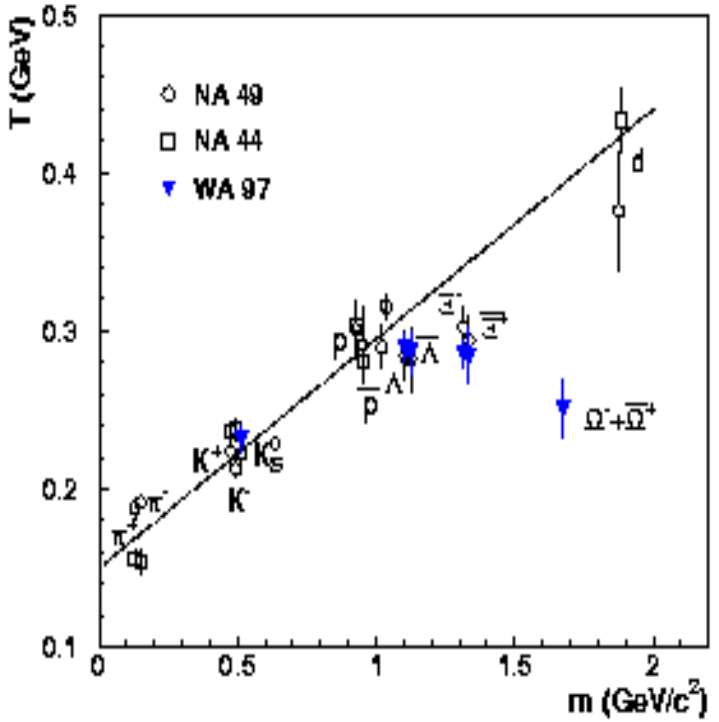
When is Strangeness Produced – Resonances

Chemical Freeze-out - Ratios ($\bar{\Lambda}/\Lambda$, $\bar{\Xi}^+/\Xi^-$, K^+/K^-, K/π)

Thermal Freeze-out – Radii and Inverse slopes (K^+,K^-)

Previous Strangeness Highlights





Multi- Strange Particles appear to

freeze out at a cooler temperature/ earlier or have less flow

STAR Pertinent Facts

Field:

0.25 T (Half Nominal value)

(slightly worse resolution at higher p, lower pt acceptance)

TPC:

Inner Radius – 50cm

(p_t>75 MeV/c)

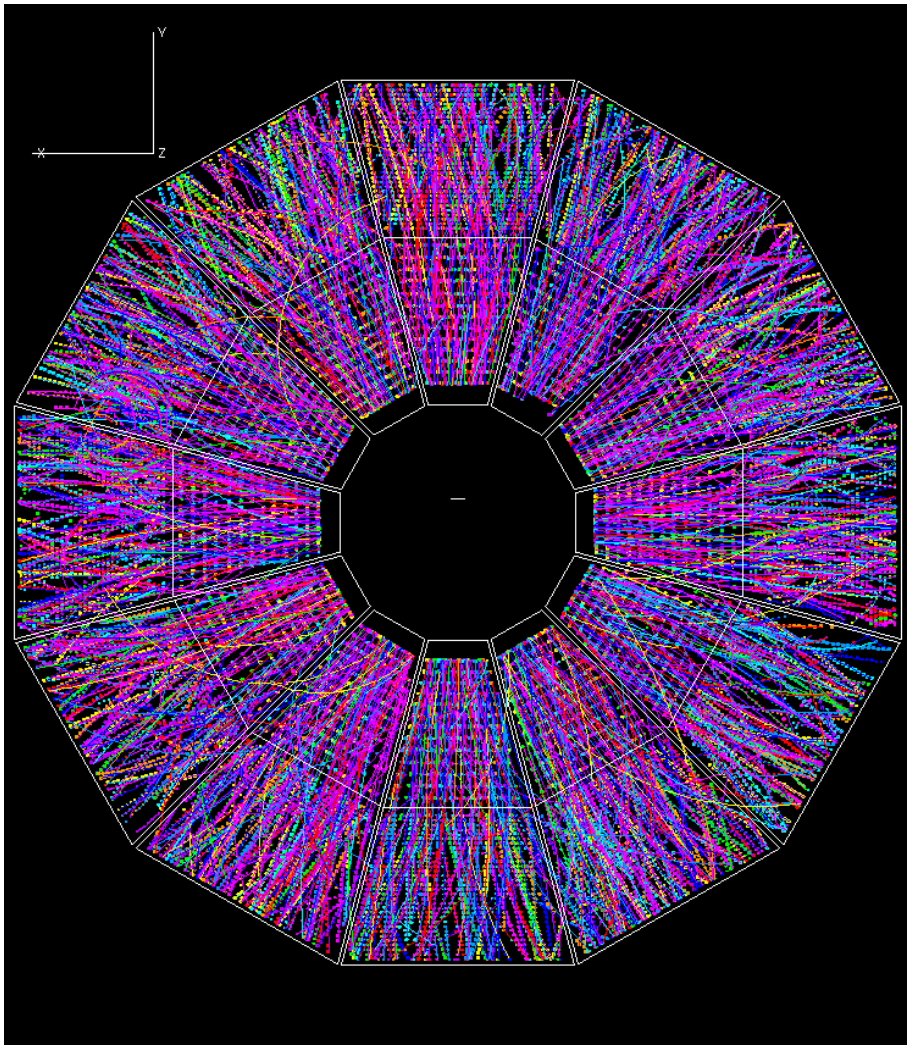
Length – ± 200cm

(-1.5< η < 1.5)

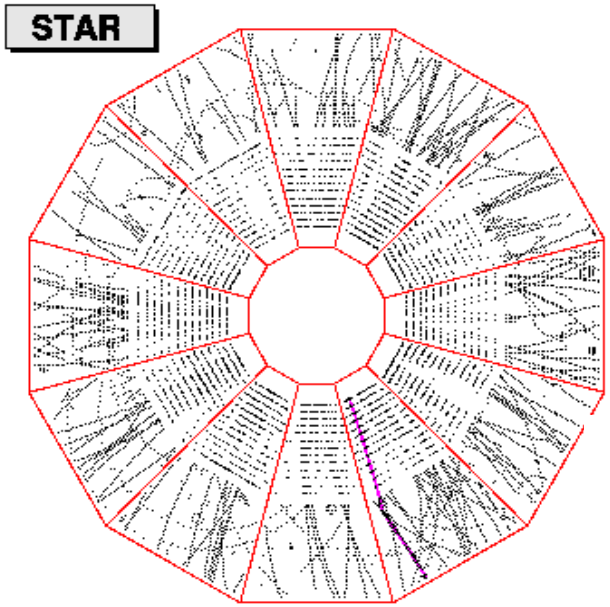
Events:

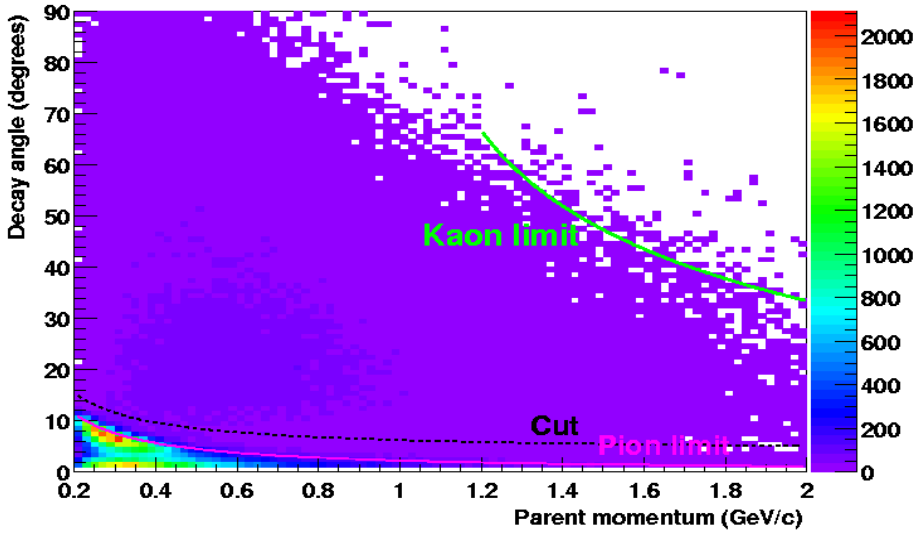
~300,000 "Central" Events –top 8% multiplicity

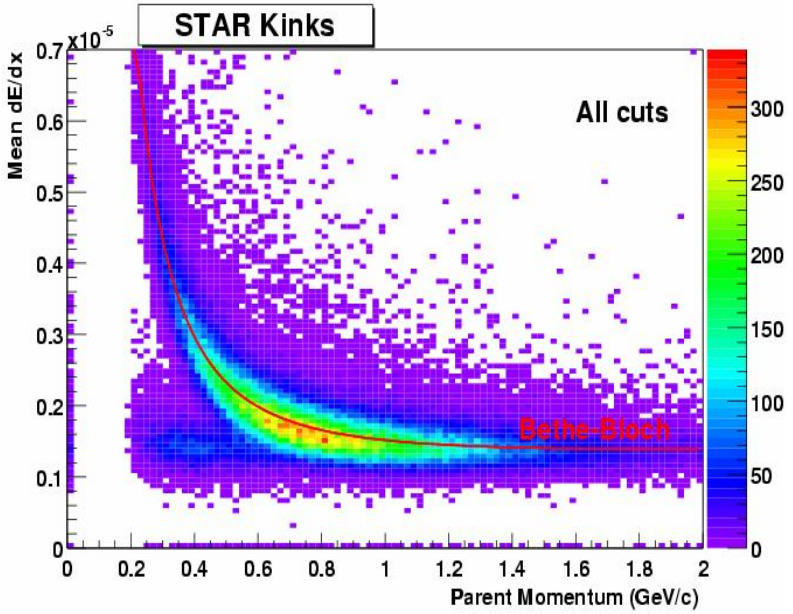
~160,000 "Min-bias" Events

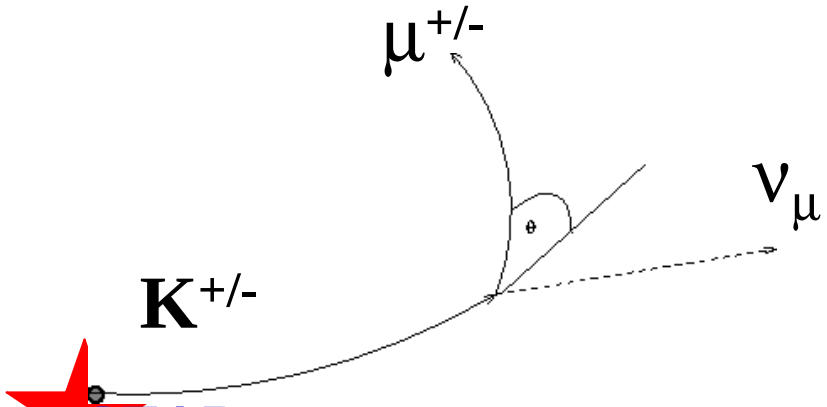


High P_t K^+ & K^- Identification Via "Kinks"









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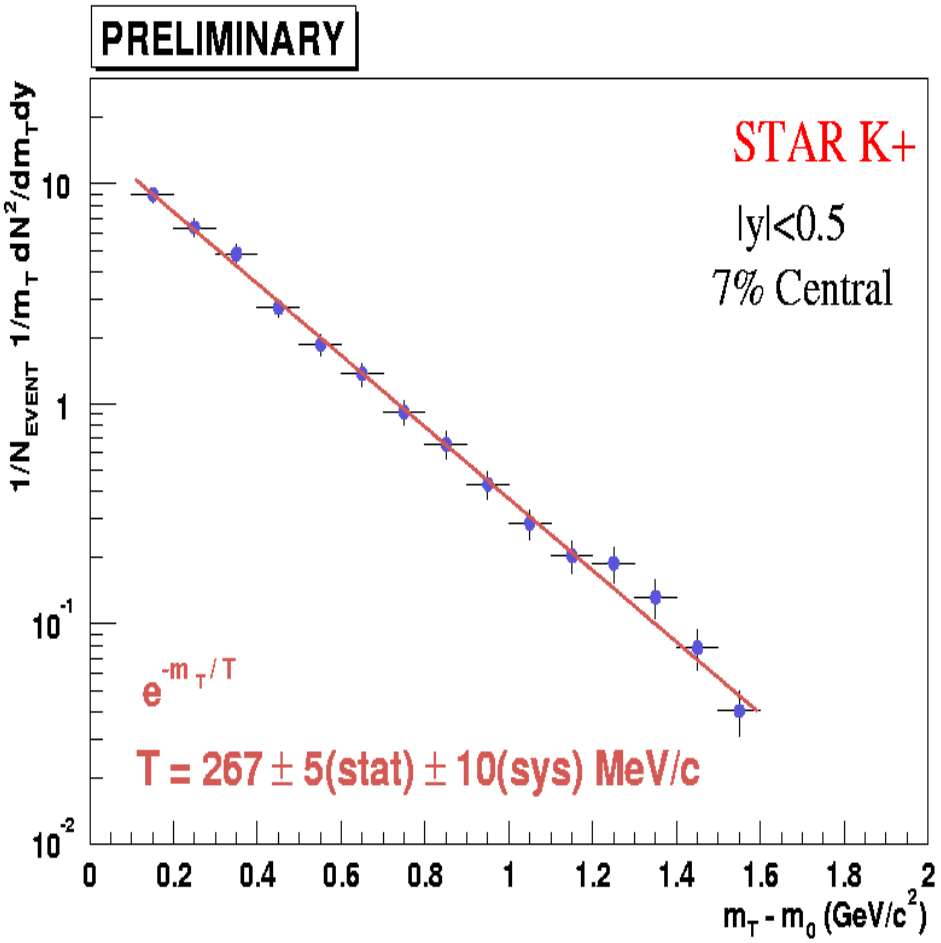
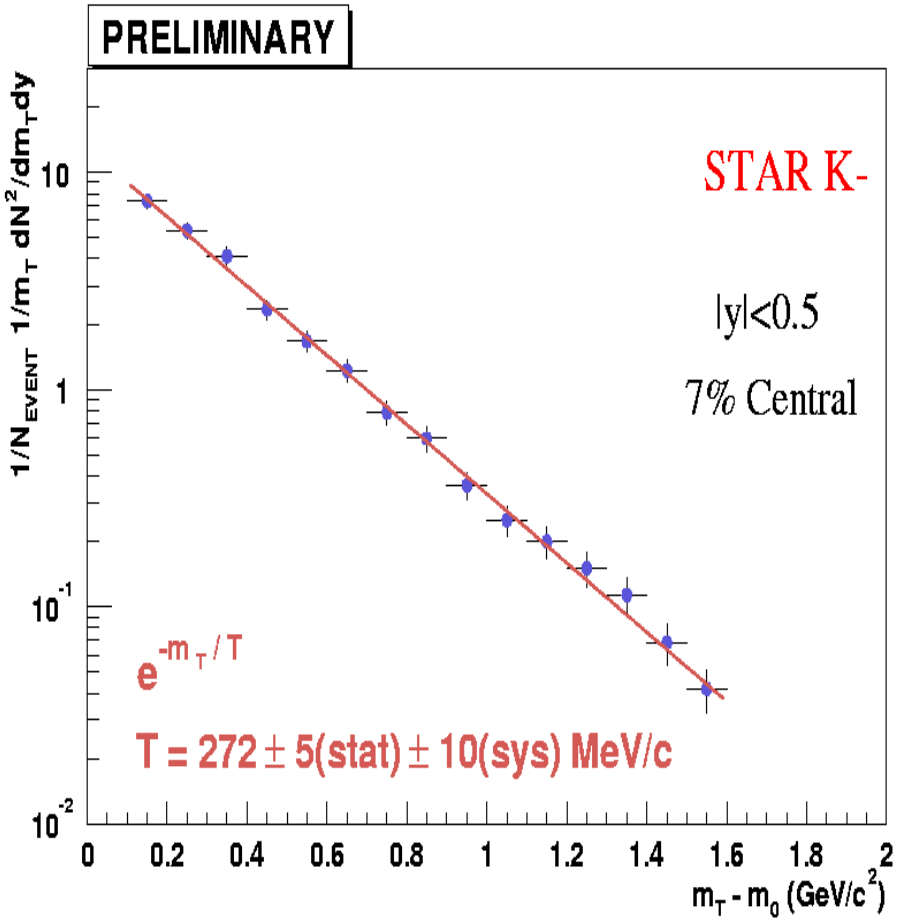
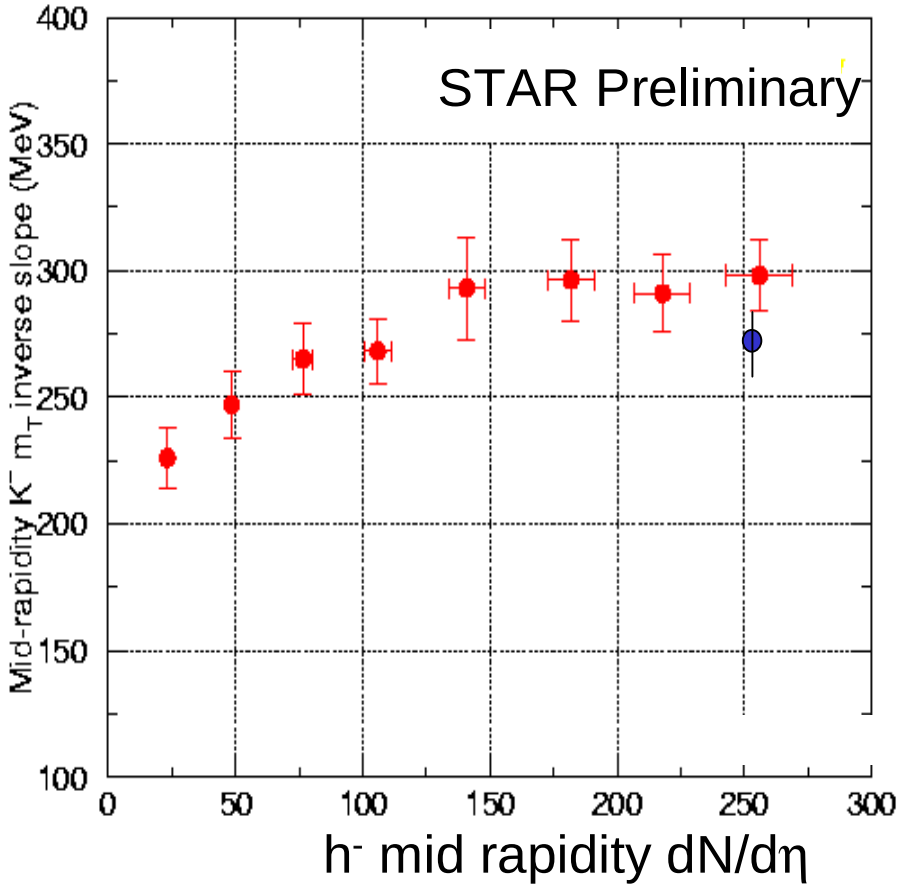
"Kink" m_t Distributions



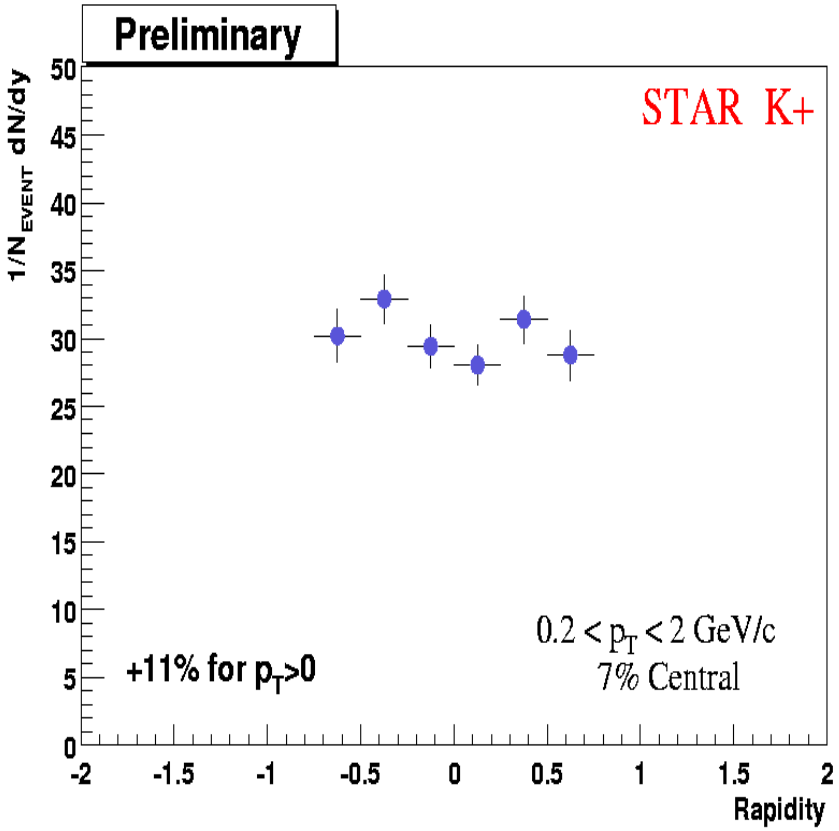


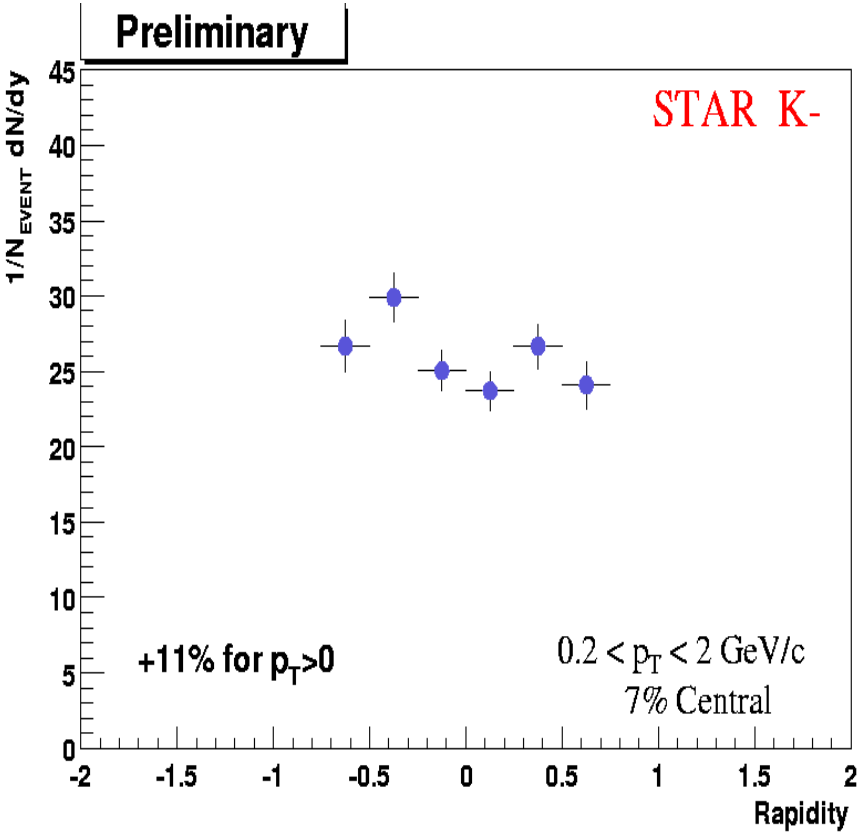
K^- Inverse Slope Results

- Kink
- dE/dx



“Kink” Rapidity Distribution

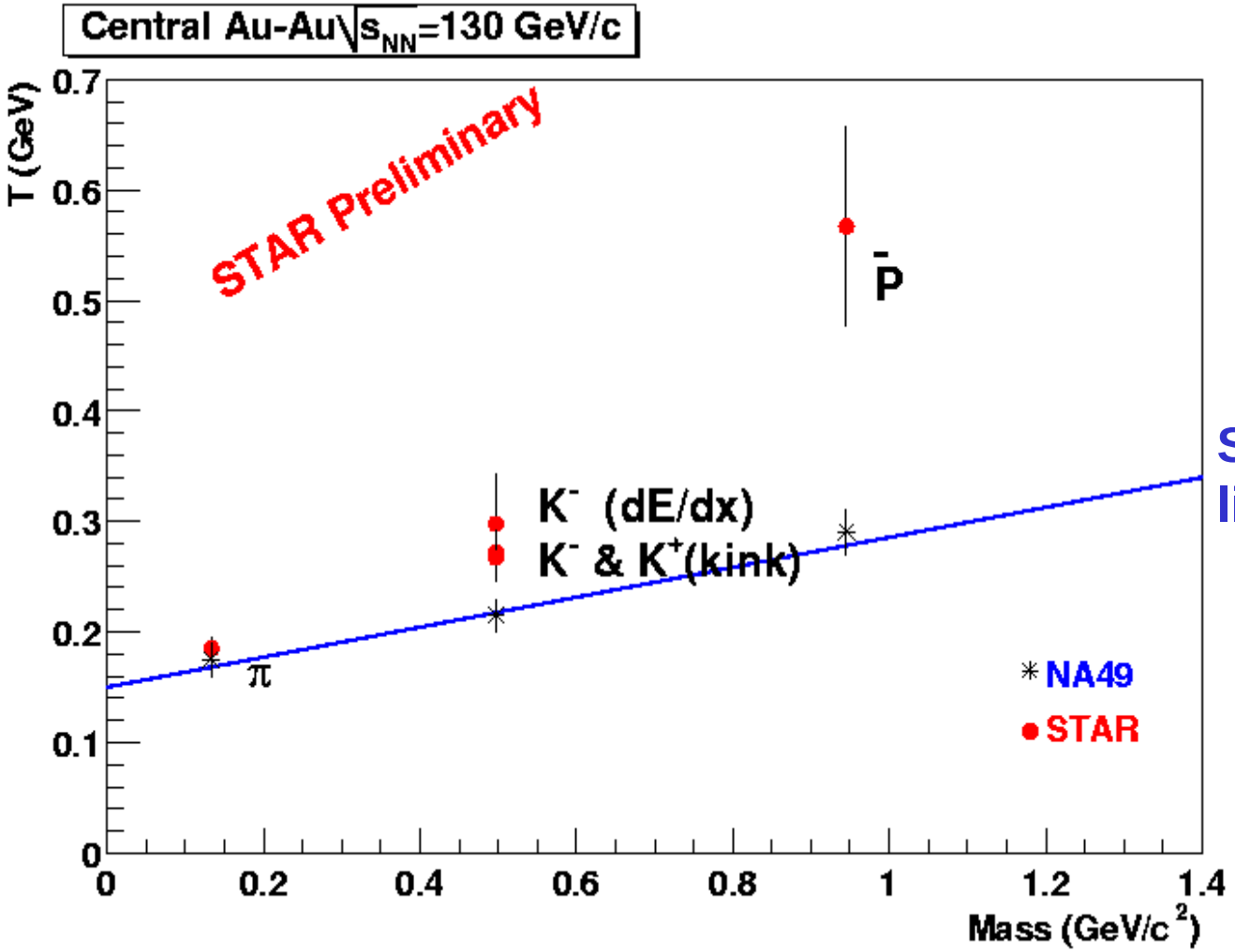




Mid-y K^+ dN/dy = 35 ±3(stat.)±5(sys.)

Mid-y K^- dN/dy = 30±3(stat.)±4(sys.)

STAR's T vs Mass

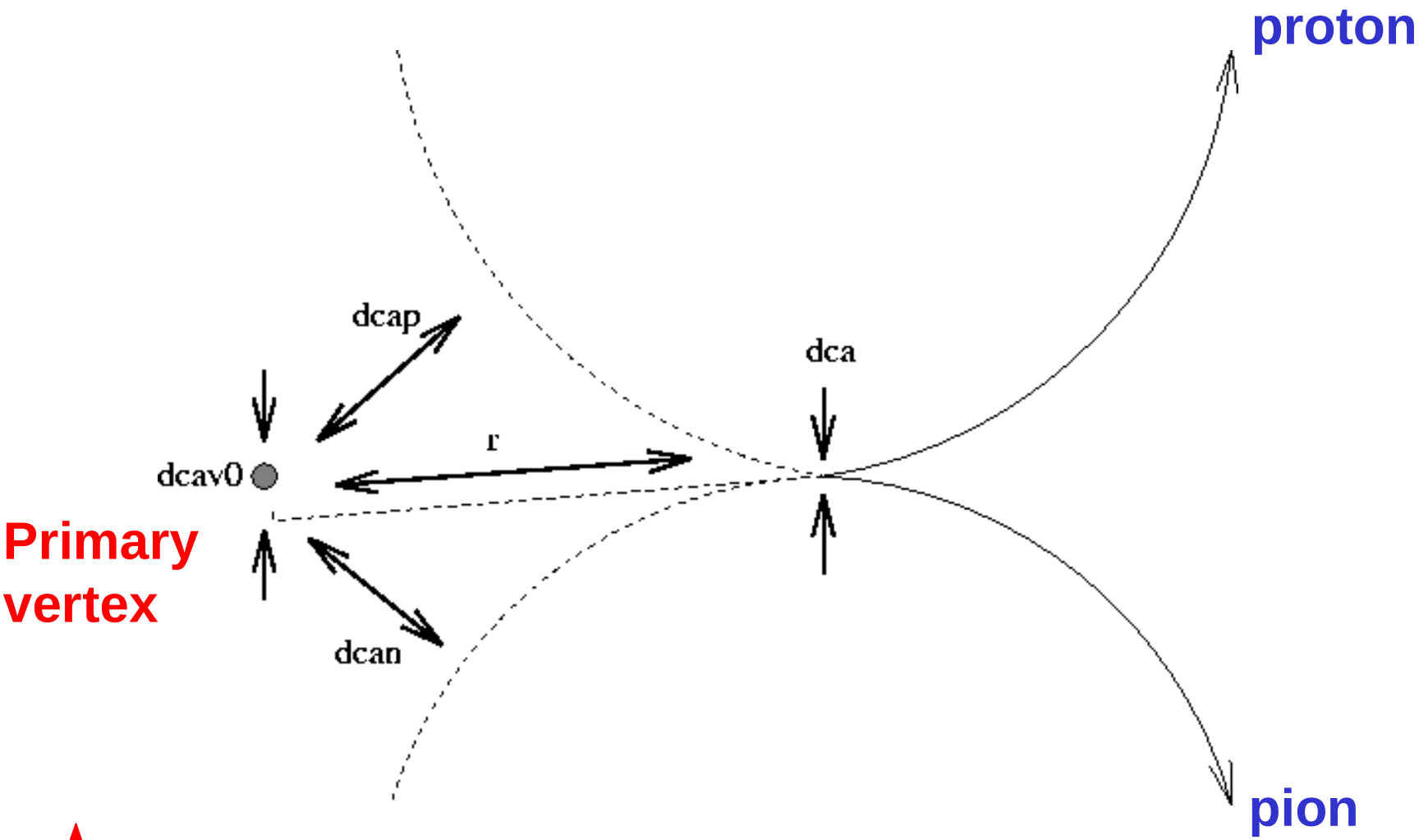


SPS line

Indication of larger transverse flow at RHIC.

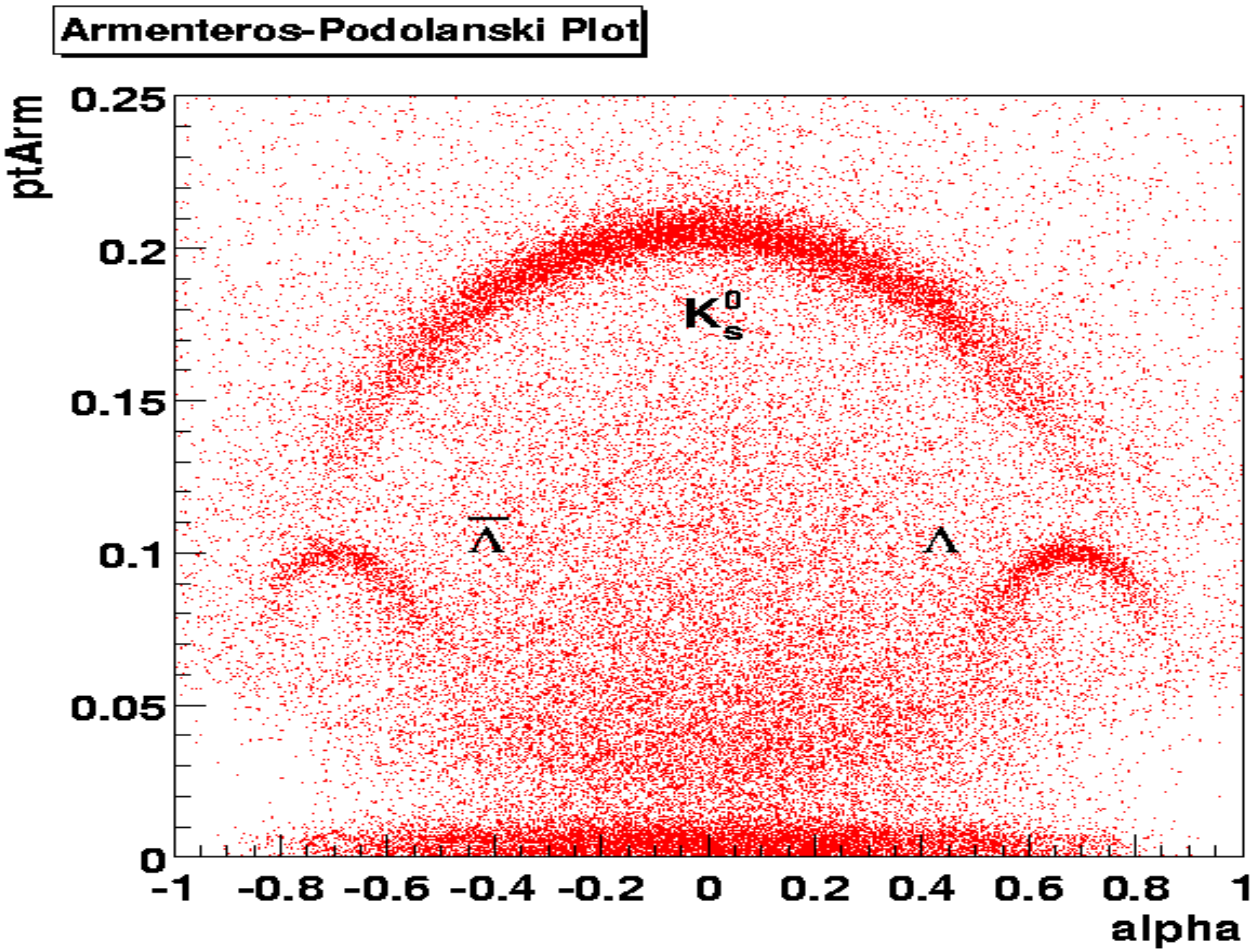
Light strange mesons seem to flow with non-strange particles

Finding V0s



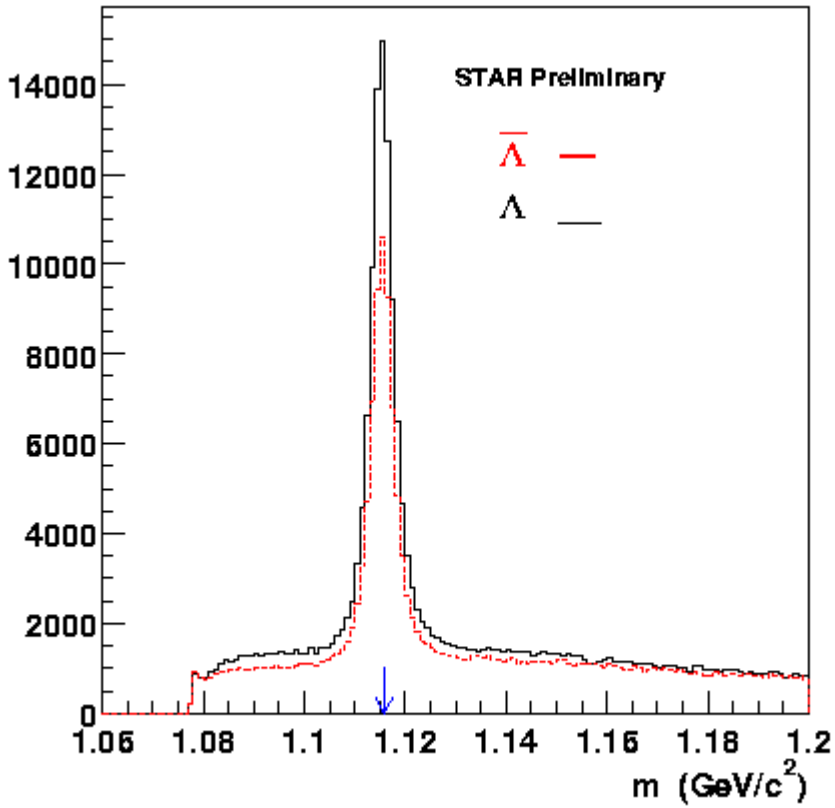
In case you thought it was easy…

After



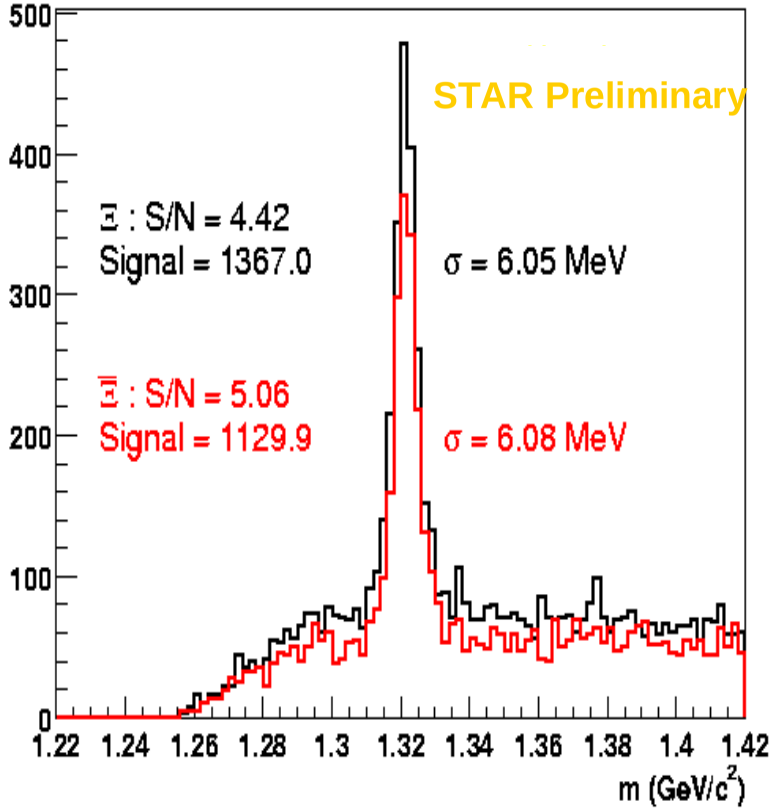
Strange Baryon Ratios

Reconstruct:
~0.84 Λ/ev, ~ 0.61 $\bar{\Lambda}$/ev



Ratio = 0.73 ± 0.03 (stat)

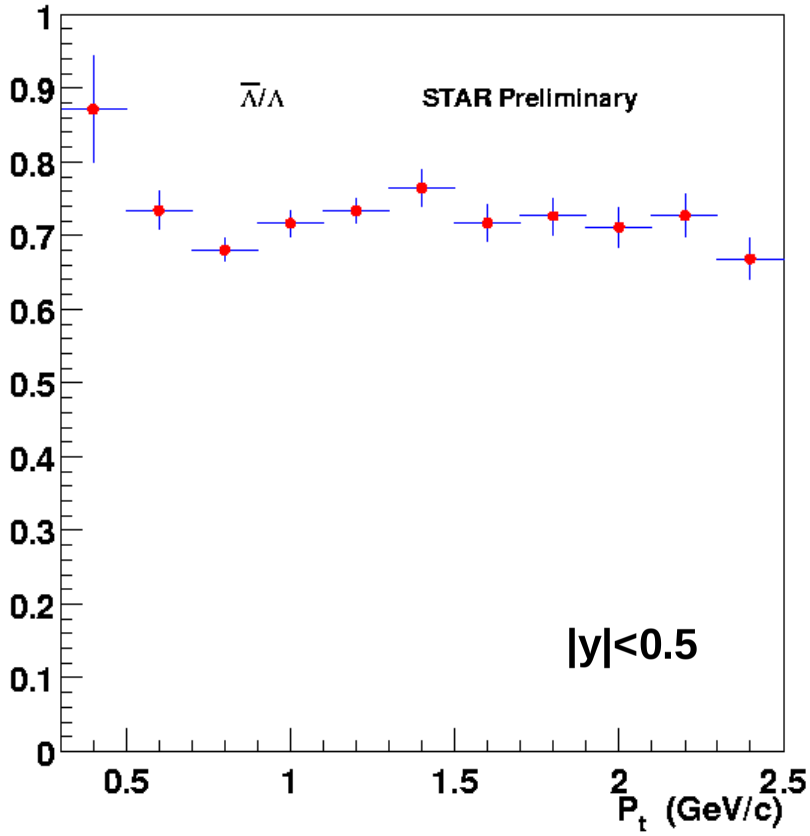
Reconstruct:
~0.006 Ξ^-/ev. ~0.005 $\bar{\Xi}^+$/ev

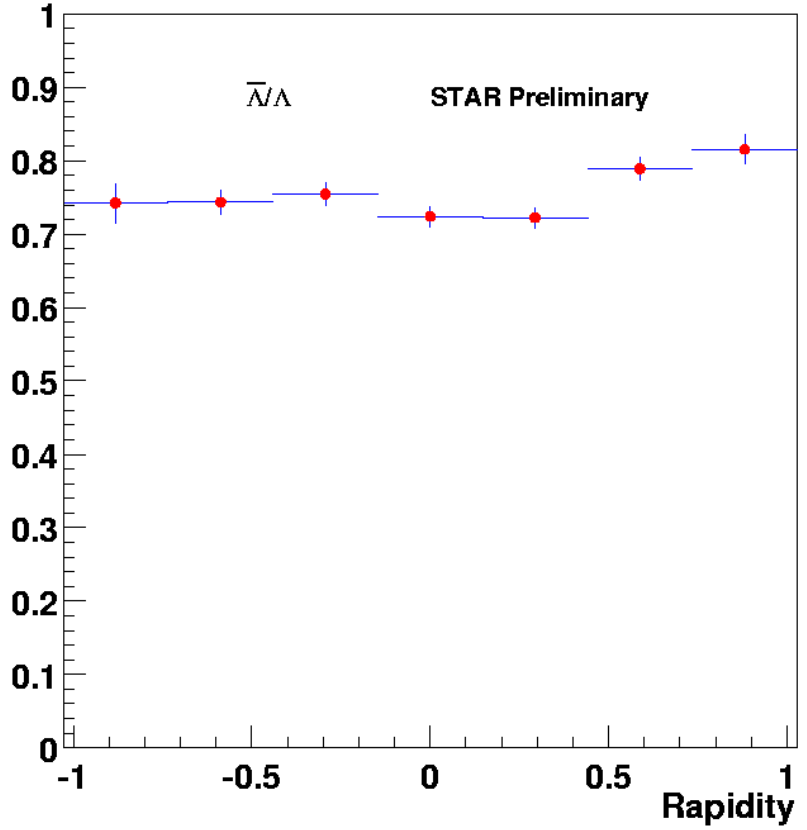


Ratio = 0.82 ± 0.08 (stat)

Preliminary $\bar{\Lambda}/\Lambda$ Ratio

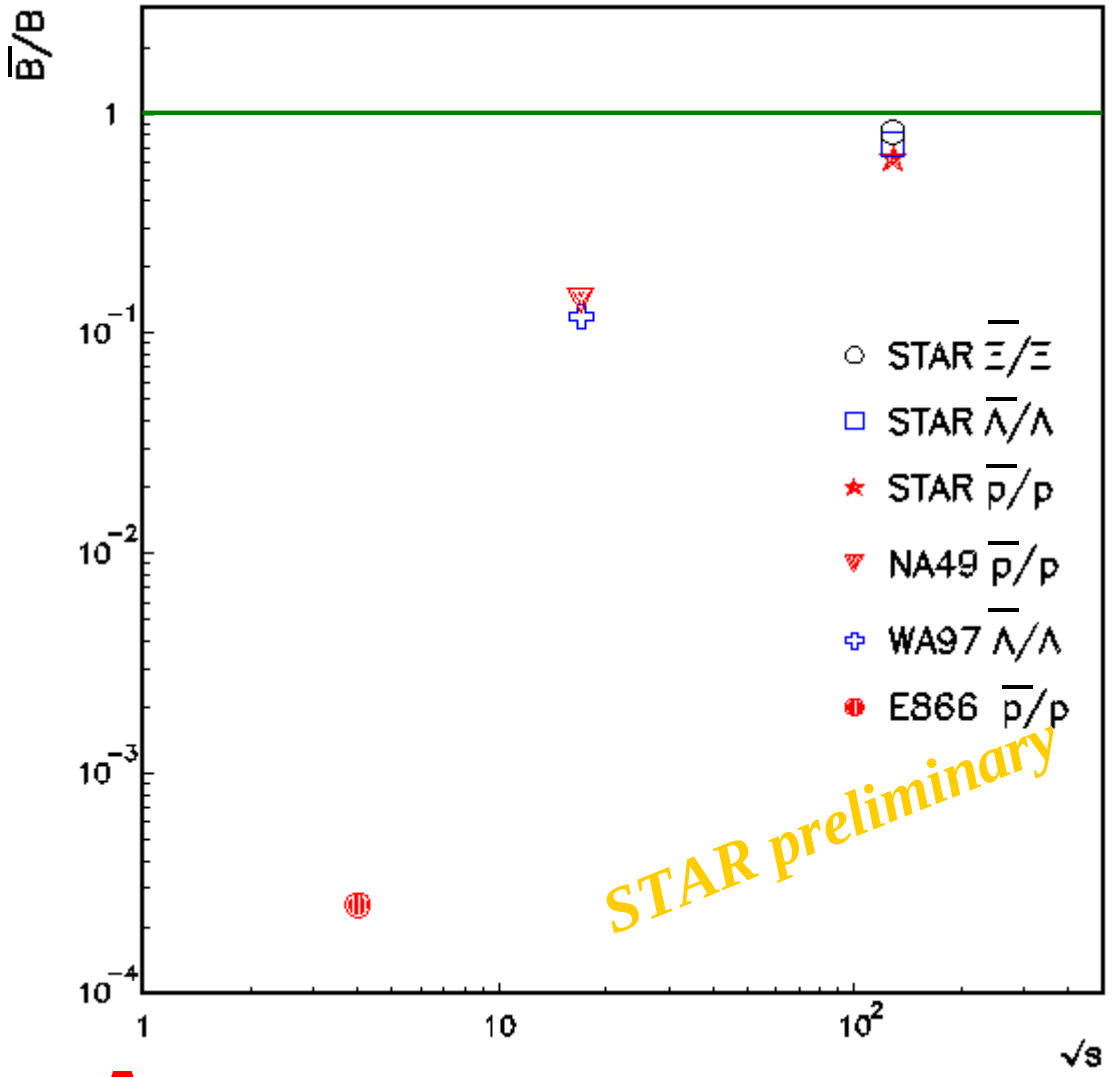
Central events





Ratio is flat as a function of p_t and y

Towards a Baryon-Free Region



Preliminary:

$\bar{p}/p$ = **0.6 ± 0.02 (stat.)**

± 0.06 (sys.)

$\bar{\Lambda}/\Lambda$ = **0.73 ± 0.03 (stat.)**

$\bar{\Xi}^{+}/\Xi^{-} = 0.82 \pm$ **0.08 (stat.)**

Λ and $\bar{\Lambda}$ from Mixed Event Studies

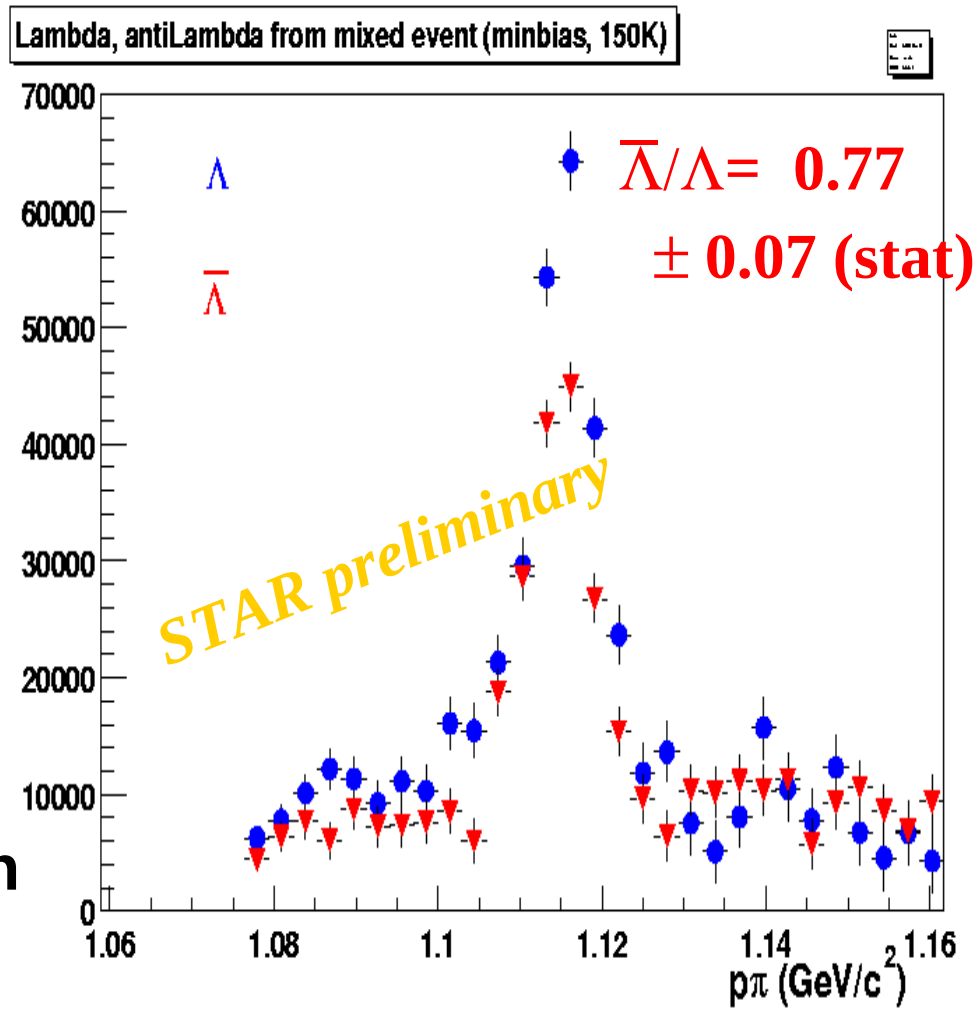
Good cross-check with standard V0 analysis.

Low p_t measurement where there is no V0 analysis

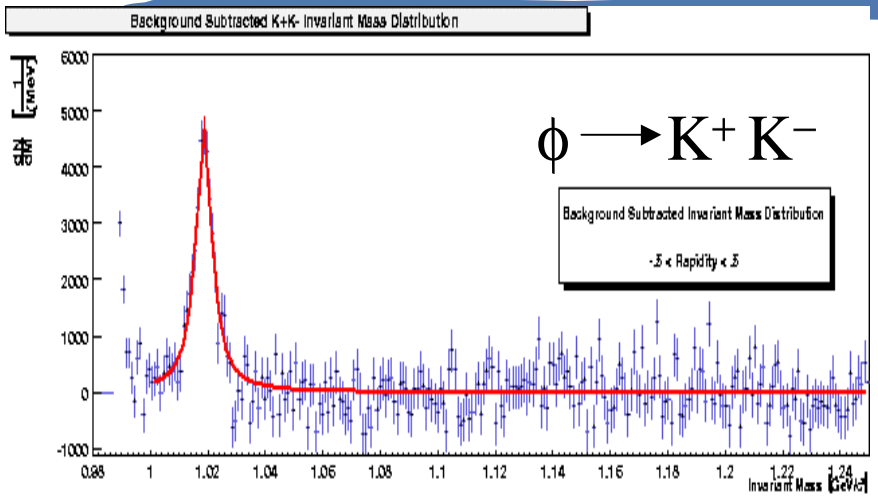
High efficiency (yields are ~10X V0 analysis yields)

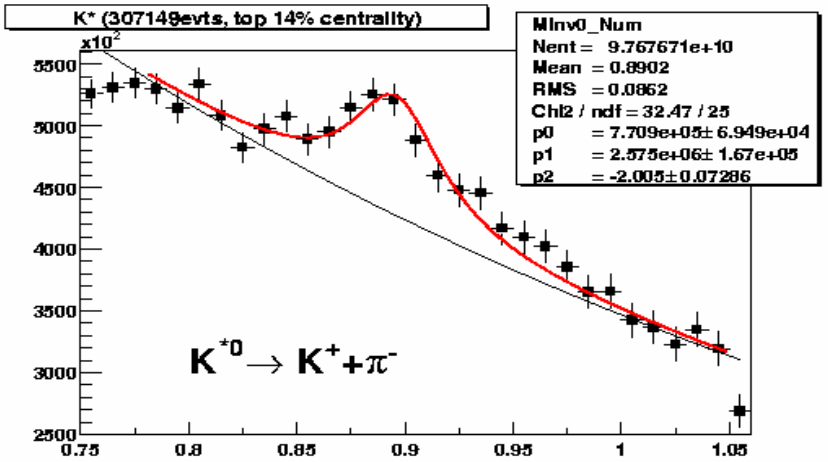
Background determined by mixed event

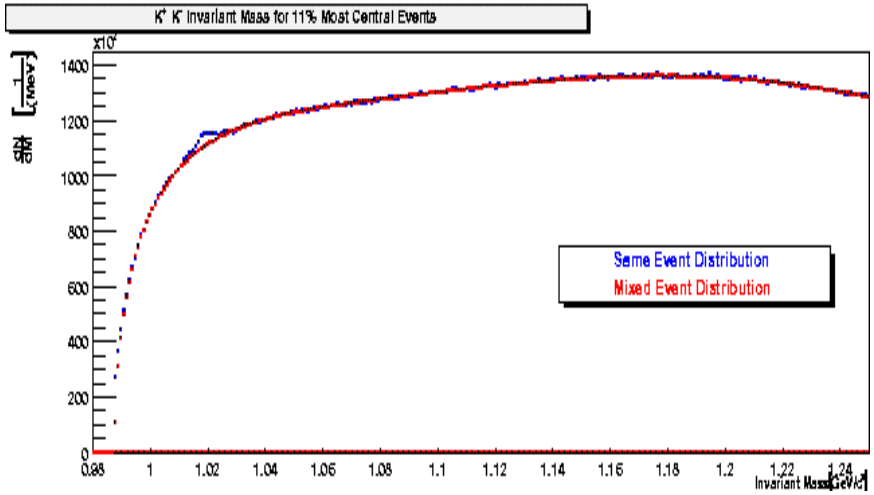
The ratio is in agreement with "standard" analysis

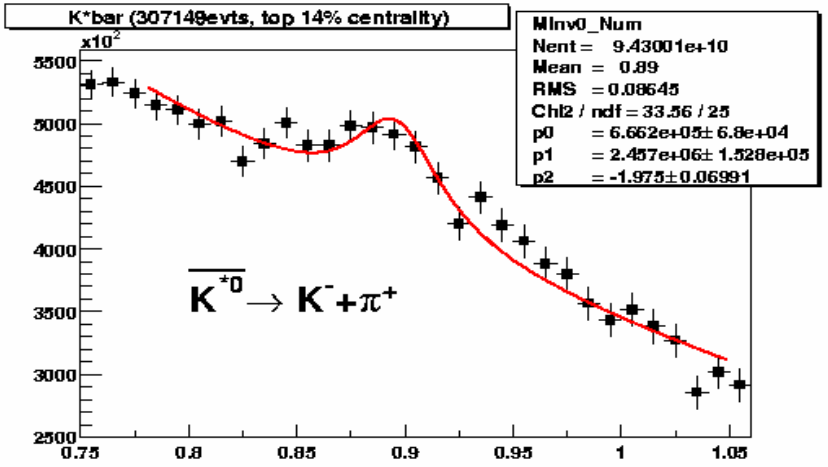


The Resonances



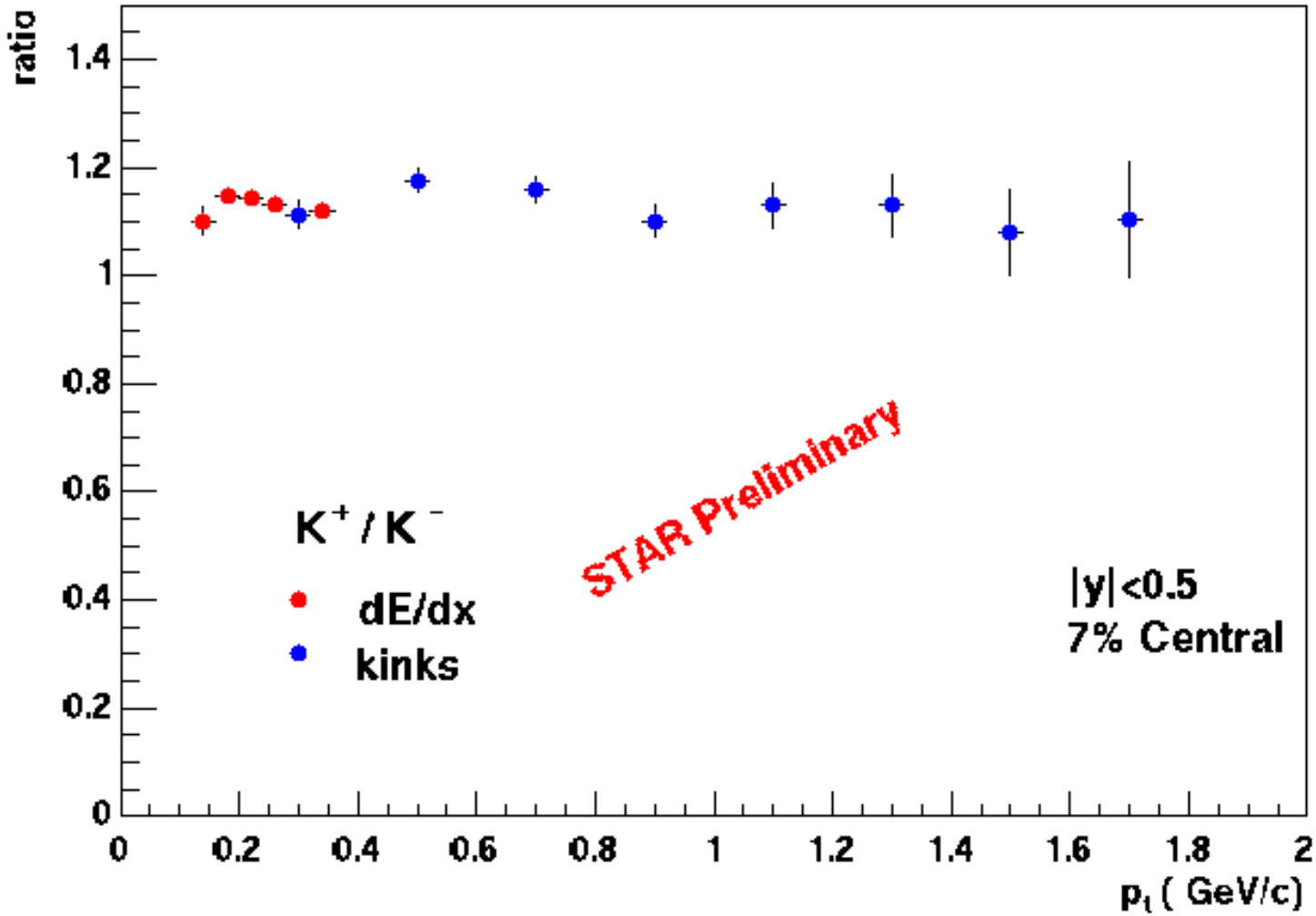




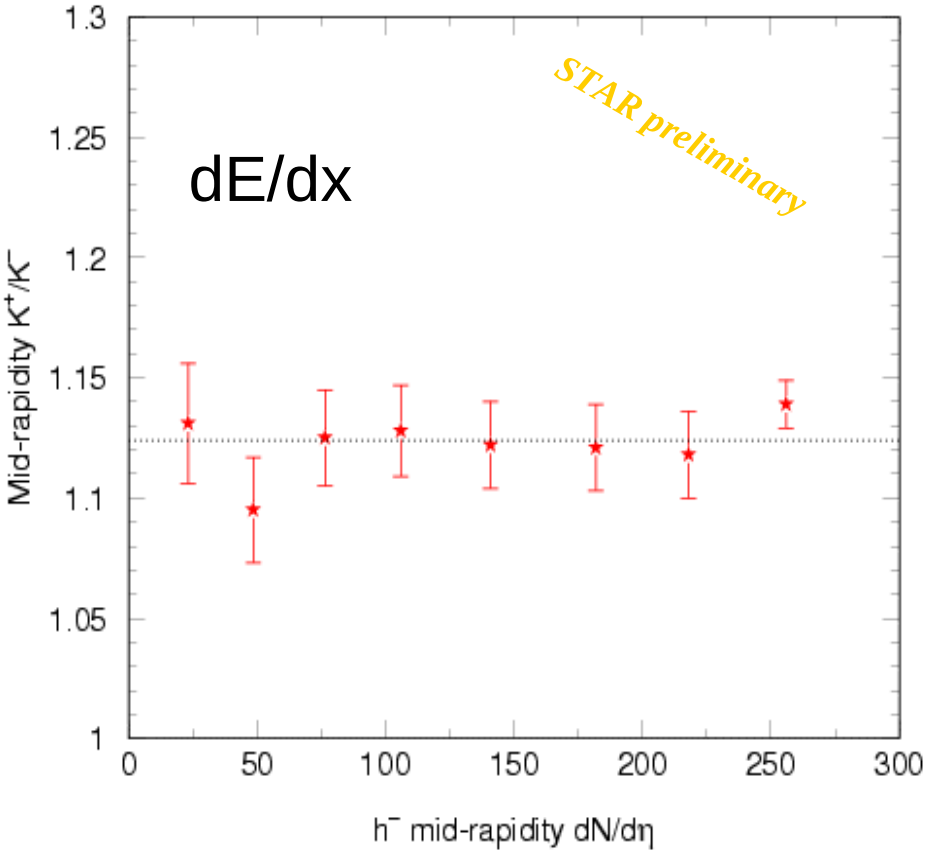


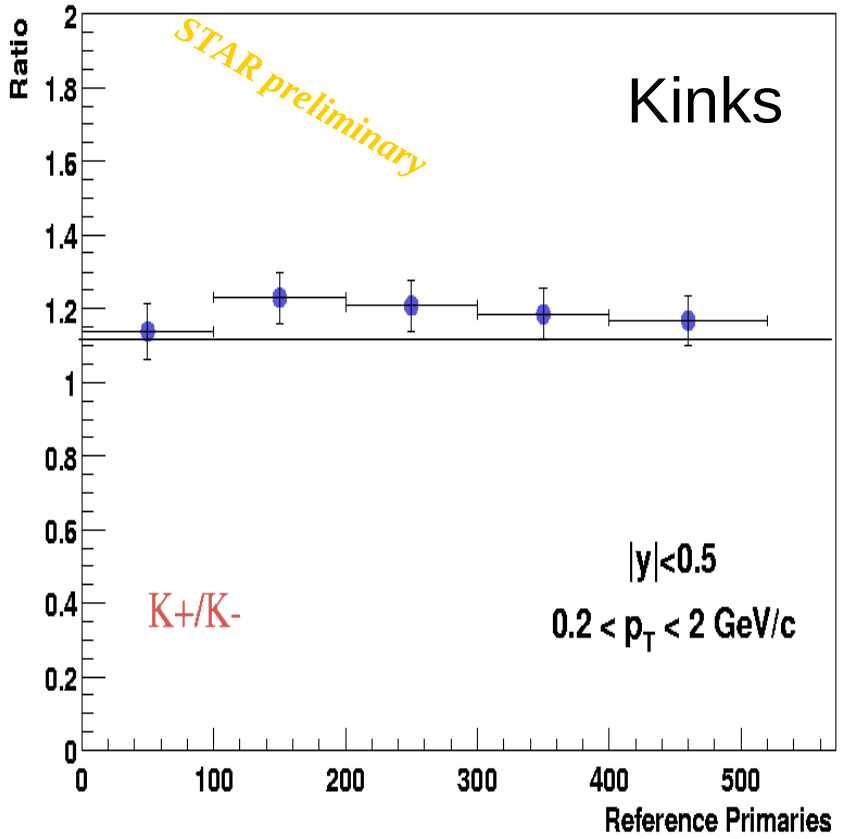
See talk by Z. Xu

K^+/K^- vs p_t


ratio
1.4
1.2
1
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
1.2
1.4
1.6
1.8
2
p_t (GeV/c)
K^+ / K^-
dE/dx
kinks
STAR Preliminary
|y|<0.5
7% Central

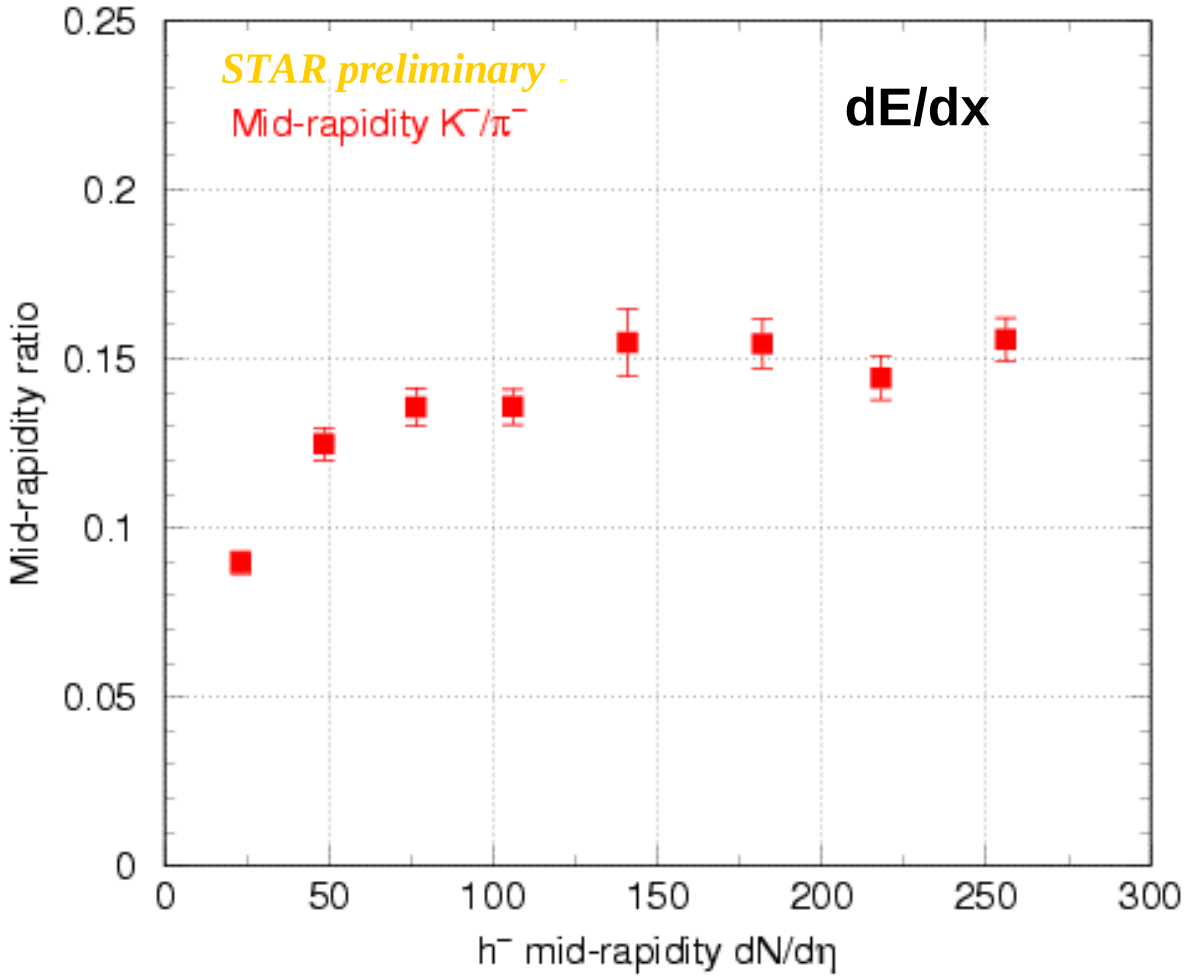
K^+/K^- Ratio - N_{ch}





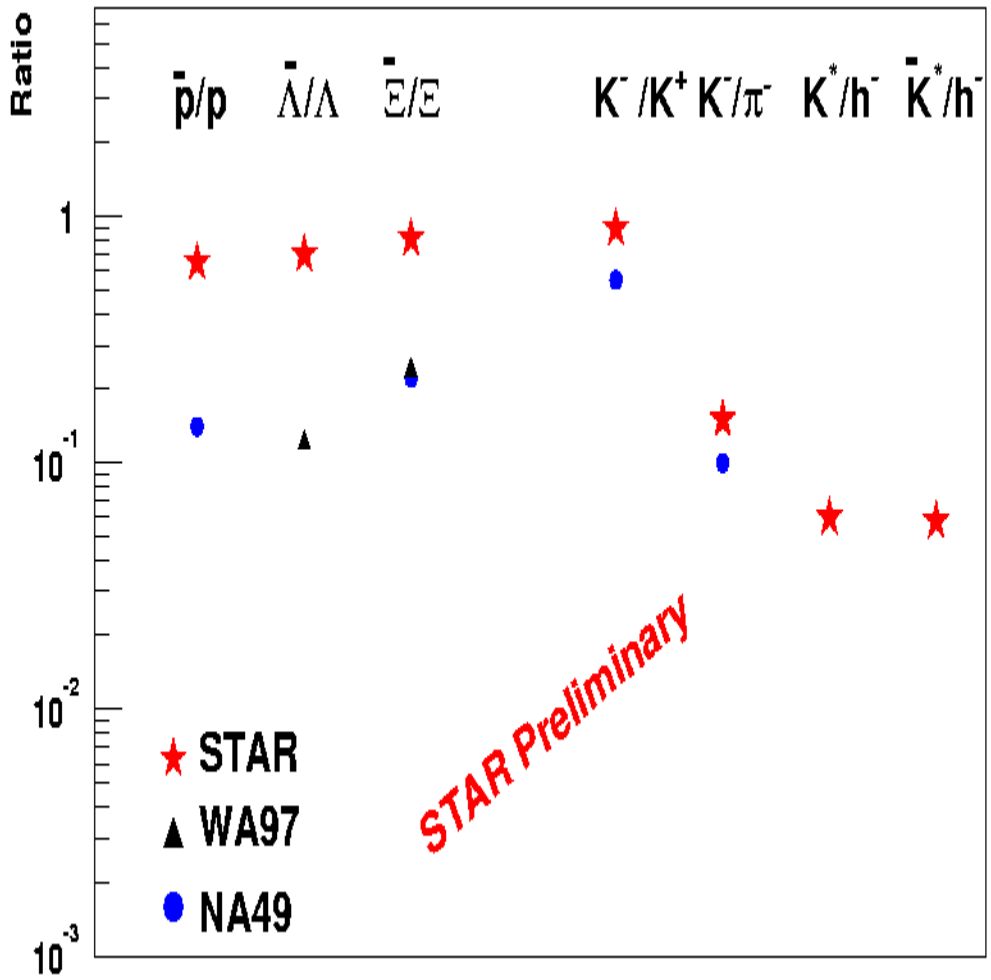
- **K^+/K^-= 1.12±0.01(stat.)± 0.06(sys.) (dE/dx). (The kink method is systematically higher.)**
- **K^+/K^- constant over measured centrality.**

K^-/π^- Ratio



K^-/π^- ratio is enhanced by almost a factor of 2 in central collisions compared to peripheral collisions

Comparing to SPS – Central Mid-y



$\bar{p}/p$ = 0.6 ± 0.02 (stat.) ± 0.06 (sys.)

$\bar{\Lambda}/\Lambda$ = 0.73 ± 0.03 (stat.)

$\bar{\Xi}^{+}/\Xi^{-}$ = 0.82 ± 0.08 (stat.)

K^{-}/K^{+}(kink) = 0.87 ± 0.02(stat.) ± 0.05(sys.)

K^{-}/K^{+}(dE/dx) = 0.89±0.008 (stat.)± 0.05 (sys.)

K^{-}/π^{-} = 0.15 ± 0.02 (stat.)

K^{*}/h^{-} = 0.06 ± 0.06 (stat.)± 0.01 (sys.)

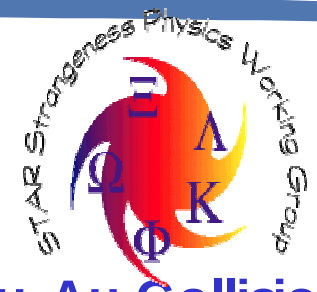
$\bar{K}^{*}/h^{-}$ = 0.058 ± 0.06 (stat.)± 0.01 (sys.)

Conclusion

- Kaon Inverse slope ~270MeV, Mid-rapidity dN/dy ~30
- The K mesons' thermal freeze-out along with the p and π appear to indicate more radial flow than at the SPS
- All shown ratios show no large trends as functions of y or p_t
- K^+/K^- is flat as function of centrality
- K^-/π^- ratio increases by ~ factor 2 from peripheral to central events
- Even at RHIC energies the mid-y region not baryon free

Future: Finish correcting K^0_s, Λ , Ξ, ϕ and K^* results

For More STAR Strangeness Information See



Talks:

- Particle Ratios from Au-Au Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$=130 GeV - H. Huang
- Resonance Studies at STAR - Z. Xu

Posters:

- Calculating the reconstruction efficiency of singly strange hadrons in the STAR TPC - M. Lamont
- Kaon reconstruction via one-prong decays in the STAR TPC - W. Deng
- Multiply strange baryon production in Au-Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$=130 GeV - C. Lansdell
- Strange Particle Correlation Studies with the STAR detector - T. Humanic