

# Measurement of Antiproton-Production Cross Sections at AMBER

Thomas Pöschl (CERN) for the AMBER collaboration

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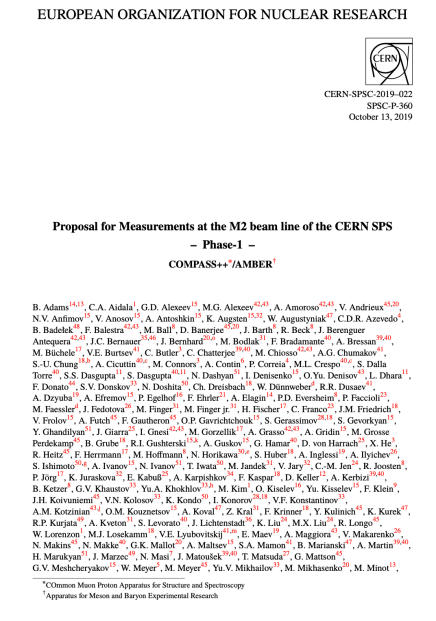
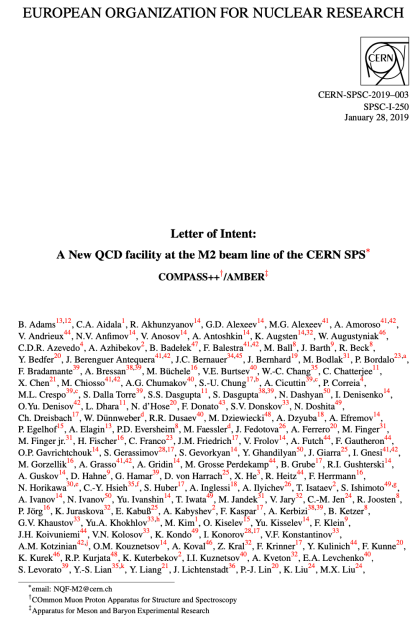
Apparatus for Meson and Baryon  
Experimental Research

***Who is AMBER?***

# The AMBER collaboration

- ~200 members from ~34 institutes
- descended from the COMPASS collaboration
- currently 10 new groups (still growing)
- Memorandum-of-Understanding between CERN and groups signed in 2023

arXiv:1808.00848v6 [hep-ex] 25 Jan 2019

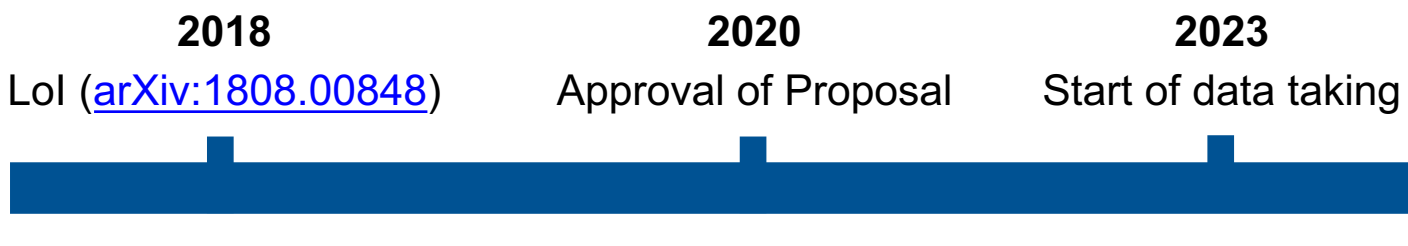


SPSC 139, Oct. 2020

The Committee **recommends** approval of the proposal SPSC-P-360 by the AMBER Collaboration to use the M2 beam-line before LS3 to perform measurements related to:

- (i) Drell-Yan and J/Psi production using the conventional M2 hadron beam;
- (ii) proton-induced antiproton production cross sections for dark matter searches;
- (iii) the proton charge radius using muon-proton elastic scattering.

The proton-radius program is contingent on a successful pilot run previously approved for the first year of SPS operation after the Long Shutdown LS2.

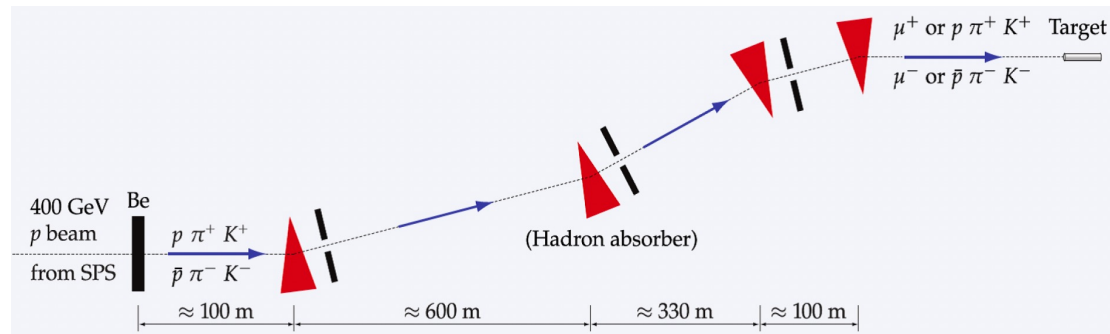


# AMBER: A new QCD facility at the M2 beam line at CERN's SPS

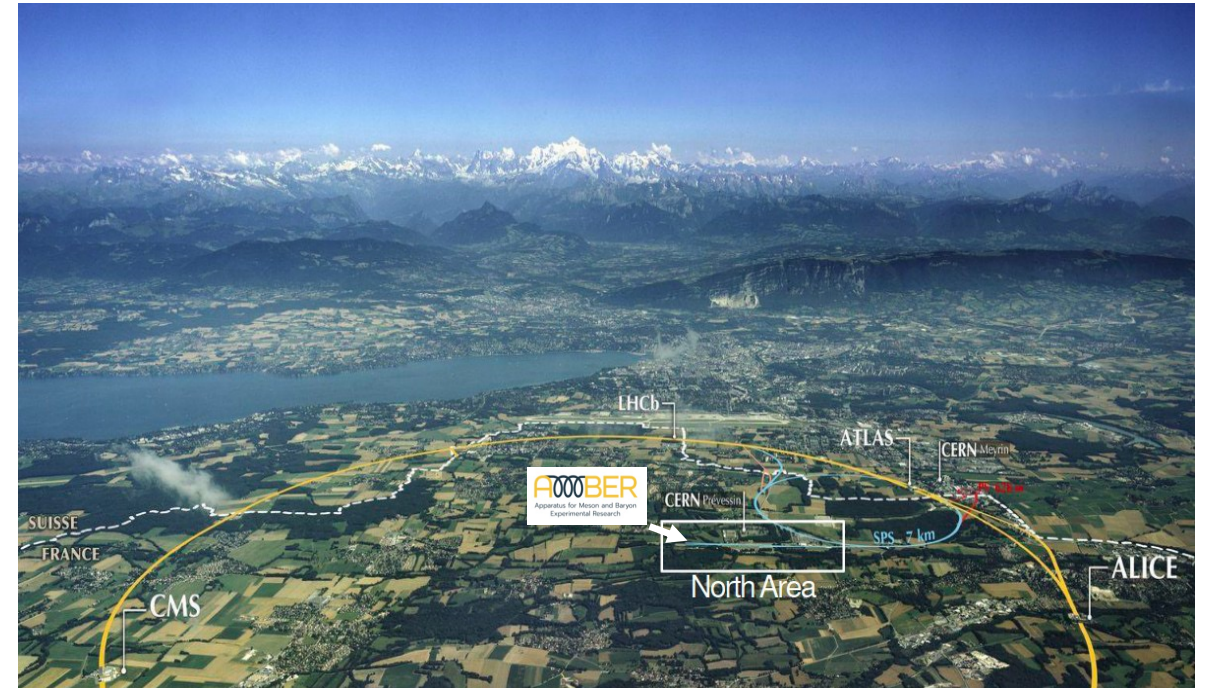
*To further exploit the M2 beam line at CERN and the former COMPASS spectrometer for further exploration of hadron structure and QCD physics*

## M2 secondary beam-line of CERN's SPS

- High intensity beams of  $\mu^\pm$  and hadrons ( $\pi^\pm, K^\pm, p^\pm$ )
- Adaptable beam momentum between  $\sim 60 \text{ GeV}/c - 250 \text{ GeV}/c$



*The M2 secondary beam line at CERN's SPS*

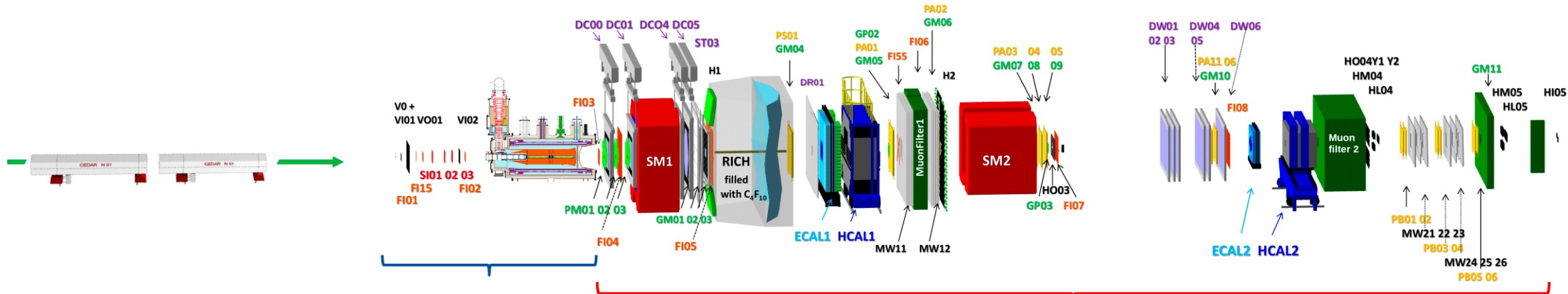
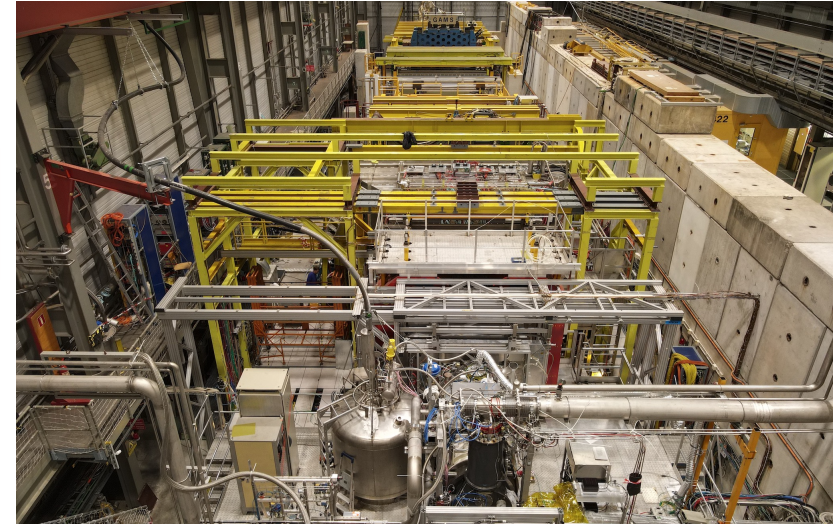


*location of the AMBER experiment at CERN's North Area*

# The AMBER Spectrometer

- 2-stage magnetic spectrometer
- Precise particle tracking
- RICH and Calorimeters for PID
- Muon filter
- CEDAR detectors for beam PID
- Upgrade of DAQ for trigger-less data taking in future

Talks by J. Paschek HK29.1,  
P. Henkel HK29.2,  
K. Eichhorn HK70.4



**Beam:**  $p, \mu, \pi, K, (e)$

**Target region:** program-specific

**Spectrometer:** common for all measurements

# AMBER Physics Program

## Phase I (Approved)



Credit: Chris Gash

### Measurement of the Proton-Charge Radius

- Elastic muon-hydrogen scattering using an active-target Hydrogen TPC
- Extraction of the proton's electric form factor at very low  $Q^2$

Study of the pion PDF using the Drell-Yan process

Measurements of antiproton production  
(topic of today's talk)

## Phase II (planning stage, beyond ~2030)

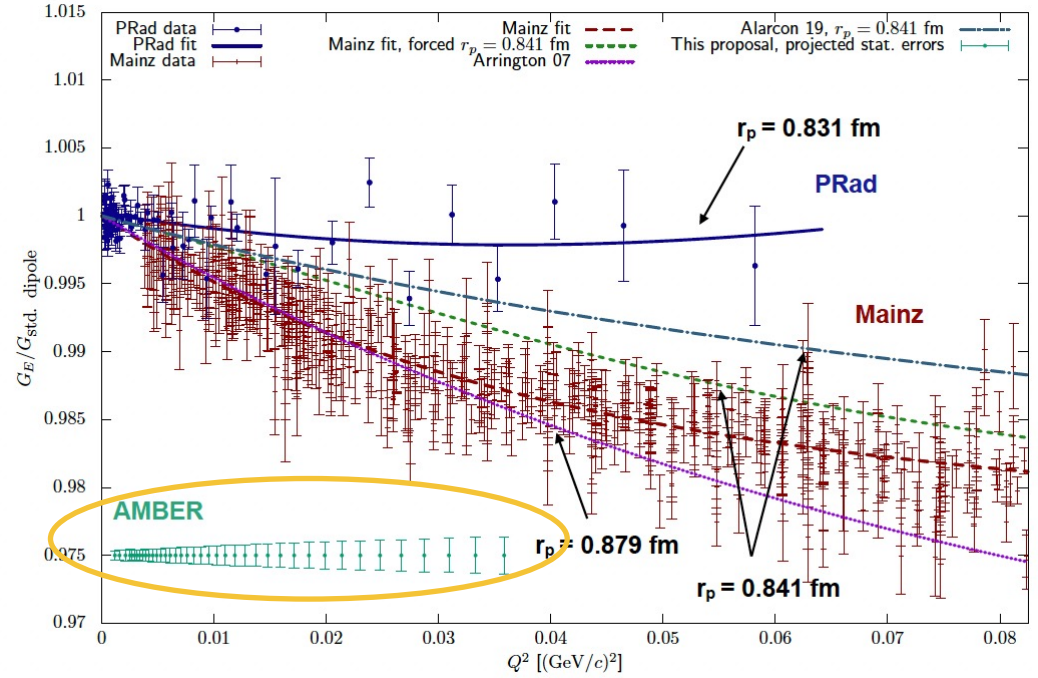


Figure taken from J. C. Bernauer EPJ Web Conf. 234 (2020)

Talk by M. Hoffmann  
Do 15:45; HK70.1

# AMBER Physics Program

## Phase I (Approved)

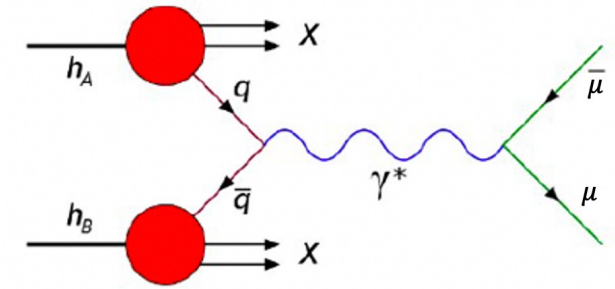
Measurement of the Proton-Charge Radius

### Study of the pion PDF using the Drell-Yan process

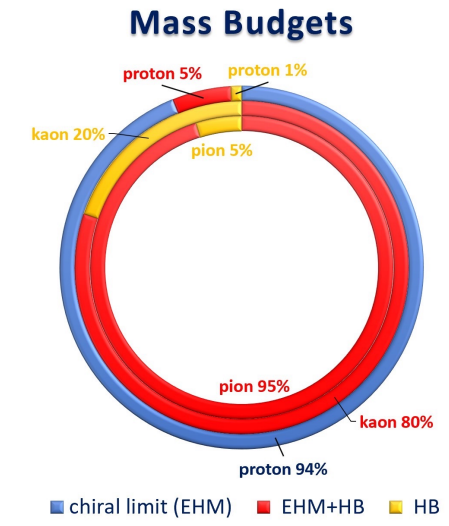
- High-intensity hadron beam to study rare DY process
- Measurements with different beam polarity to separate valence and sea quark contribution to the pion PDF

Measurements of antiproton production  
(topic of today's talk)

## Phase II (planning stage, beyond ~2030)



*Drell-Yan process in the muon channel*



*Figure taken from Craig Roberts "EHM via AMBER" at 5th AMBER EHM Workshop (2021)*

# AMBER Physics Program

## Phase I (Approved)

Measurement of the Proton-Charge Radius

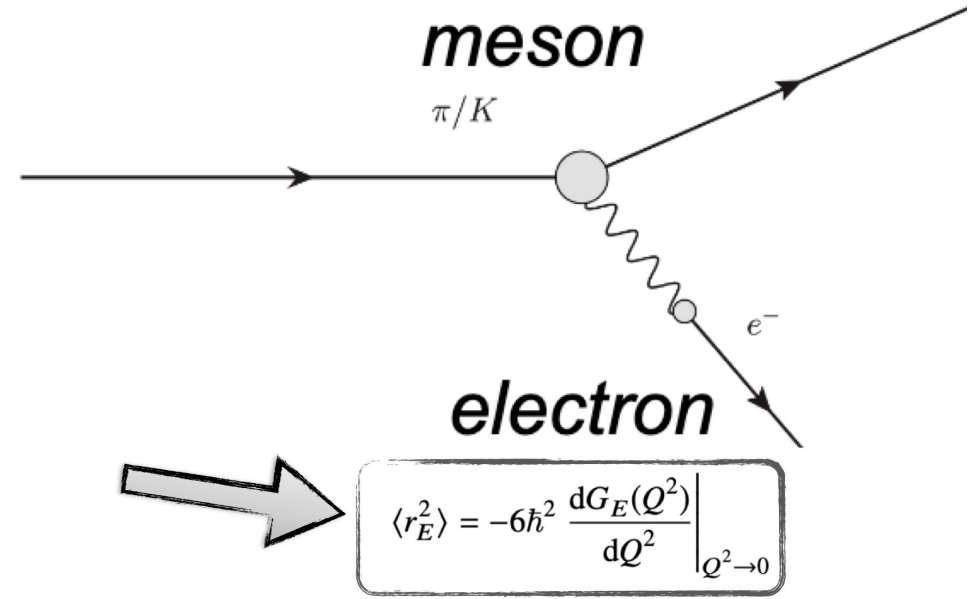
Study of the pion PDF using the Drell-Yan process

Measurements of antiproton production  
(topic of today's talk)

## Phase II (planning stage, beyond ~2030)

- Kaon-induced hadron spectroscopy
- Measurements of the Kaon PDF
- Meson charge radii,
- ...

Talk by H. Pekeler  
Do 15:45; HK70.1



*measurement principle of charge radii of mesons*



# AMBER Physics Program

## Phase I (Approved)

Measurement of the Proton-Charge Radius

Study of the pion PDF using the Drell-Yan process

**Measurements of antiproton production  
(topic of today's talk)**

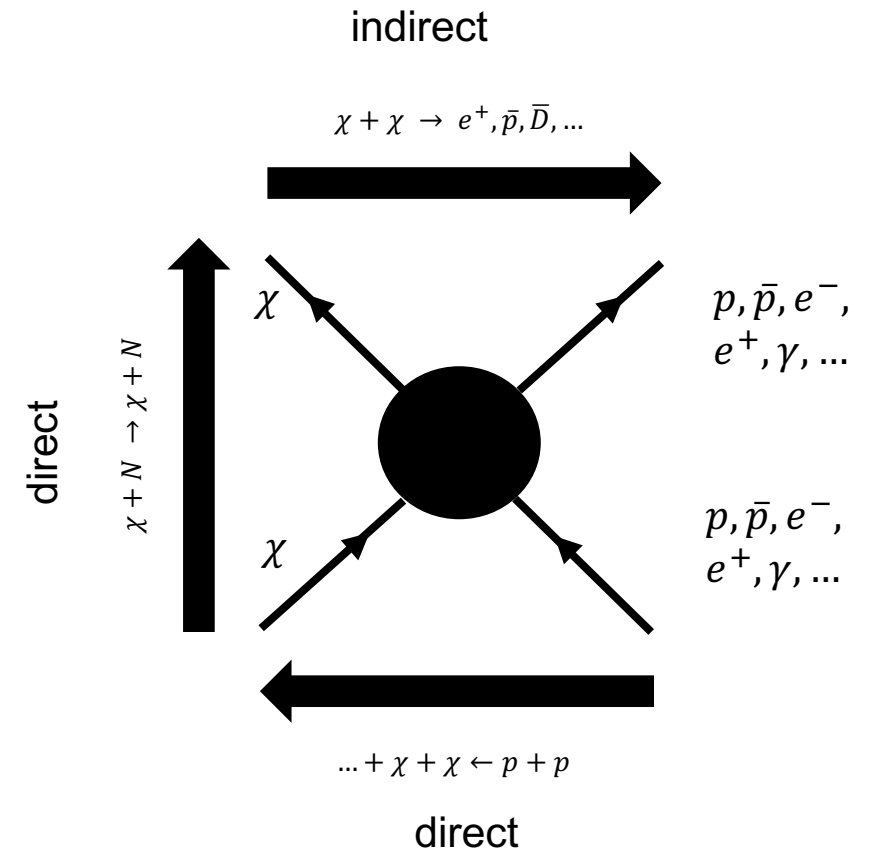
## Phase II (planning stage, beyond ~2030)

# ***Motivation: Galactic Cosmic-Ray Antiprotons***



# Antiprotons for Indirect Dark-Matter Search

- Antinuclei (antiprotons, antideuterons, ....) identified as promising channels for indirect dark-matter search
  - Of them, only antiprotons identified so far in cosmic rays
  - But they are also abundantly produced in ordinary cosmic-ray collisions
- ***Interpretation of the antiproton flux requires accurate determination of the contribution from cosmic ray collisions***

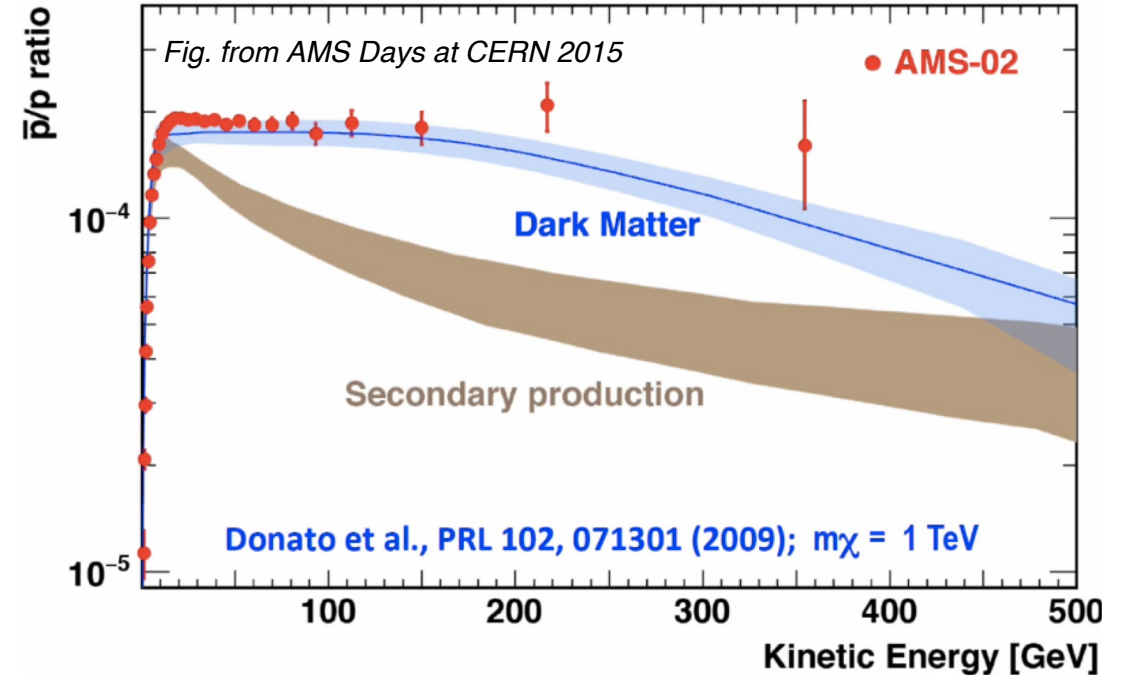


# Antiprotons for Indirect Dark-Matter Search

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→ ***Interpretation of the antiproton flux requires accurate determination of the contribution from cosmic ray collisions***

***New precise experimental data of cosmic-ray antiprotons by AMS-02 (uncertainties ~%)***



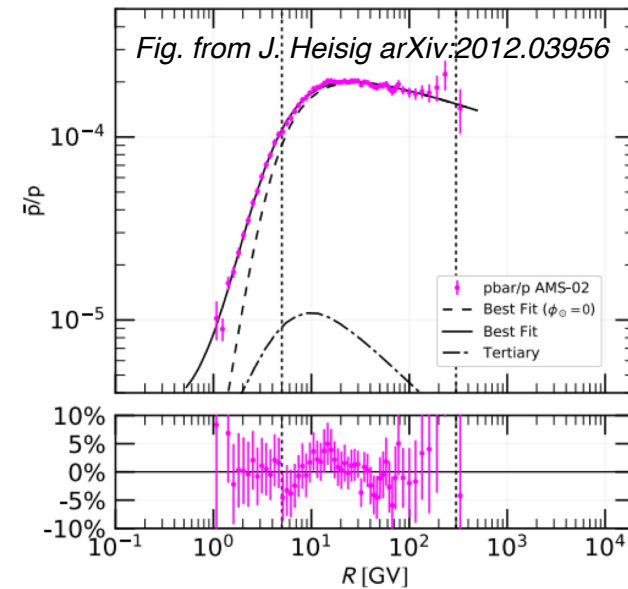
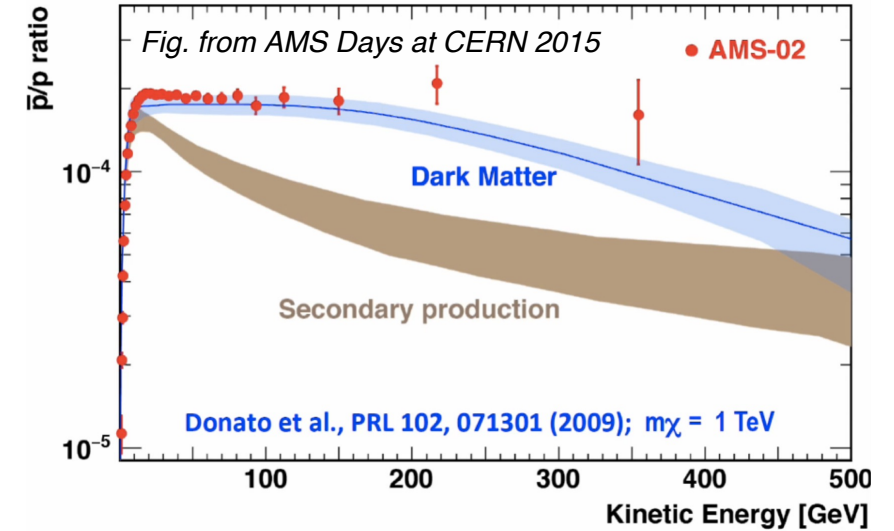
# Antiprotons for Indirect Dark-Matter Search

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→ *Interpretation of the antiproton flux requires accurate determination of the contribution from cosmic ray collisions*

*New precise experimental data of cosmic-ray antiprotons by AMS-02 (uncertainties ~%)*

→ *modeling of antiproton production needs to be on the same level*



# Antiproton-Production Mechanisms

## Production Reactions

$$p + p \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$$

$$p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda} + X \quad p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Sigma}^- + X$$

$$p + \text{He}, \text{He} + p, \text{He} + \text{He}, \dots$$

$$p + p \rightarrow \bar{n} + X$$

decreasing  
availability  
of data

- Prompt Production
- Antihyperon decays
- Antineutron Decay

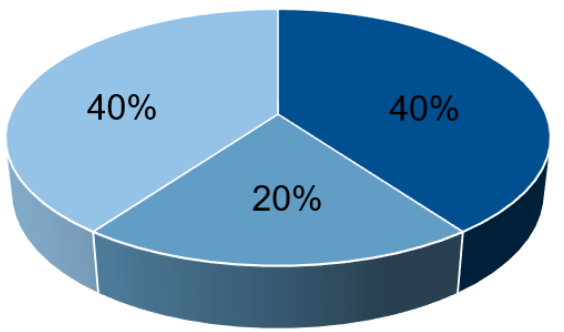
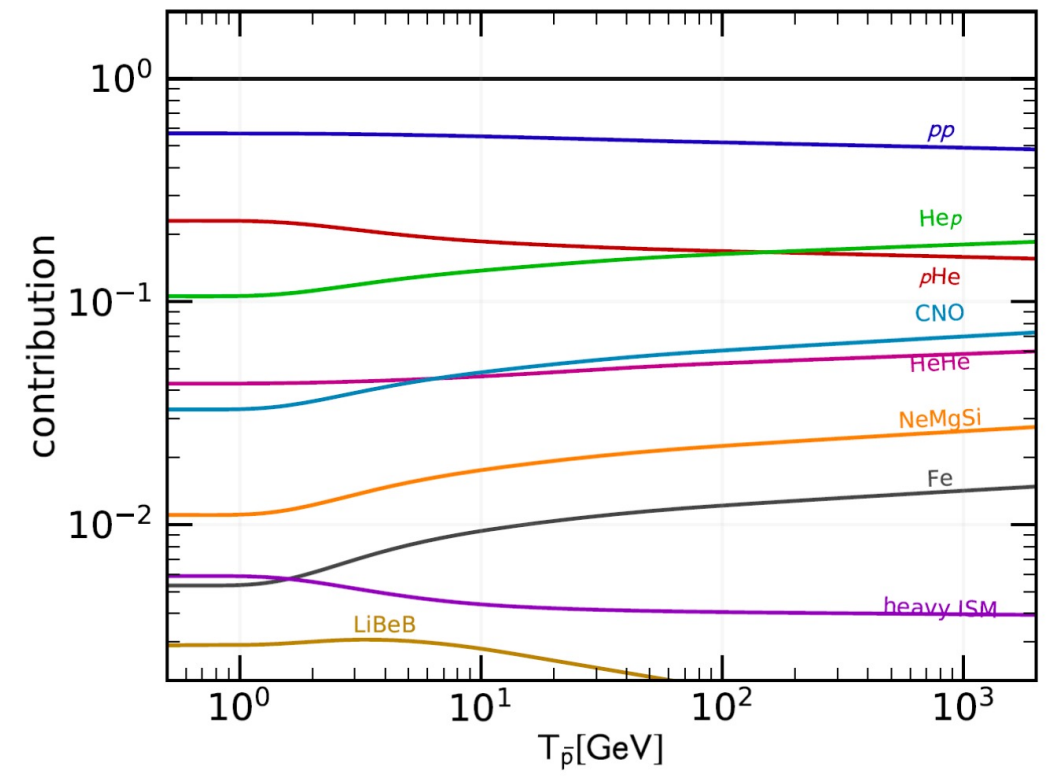
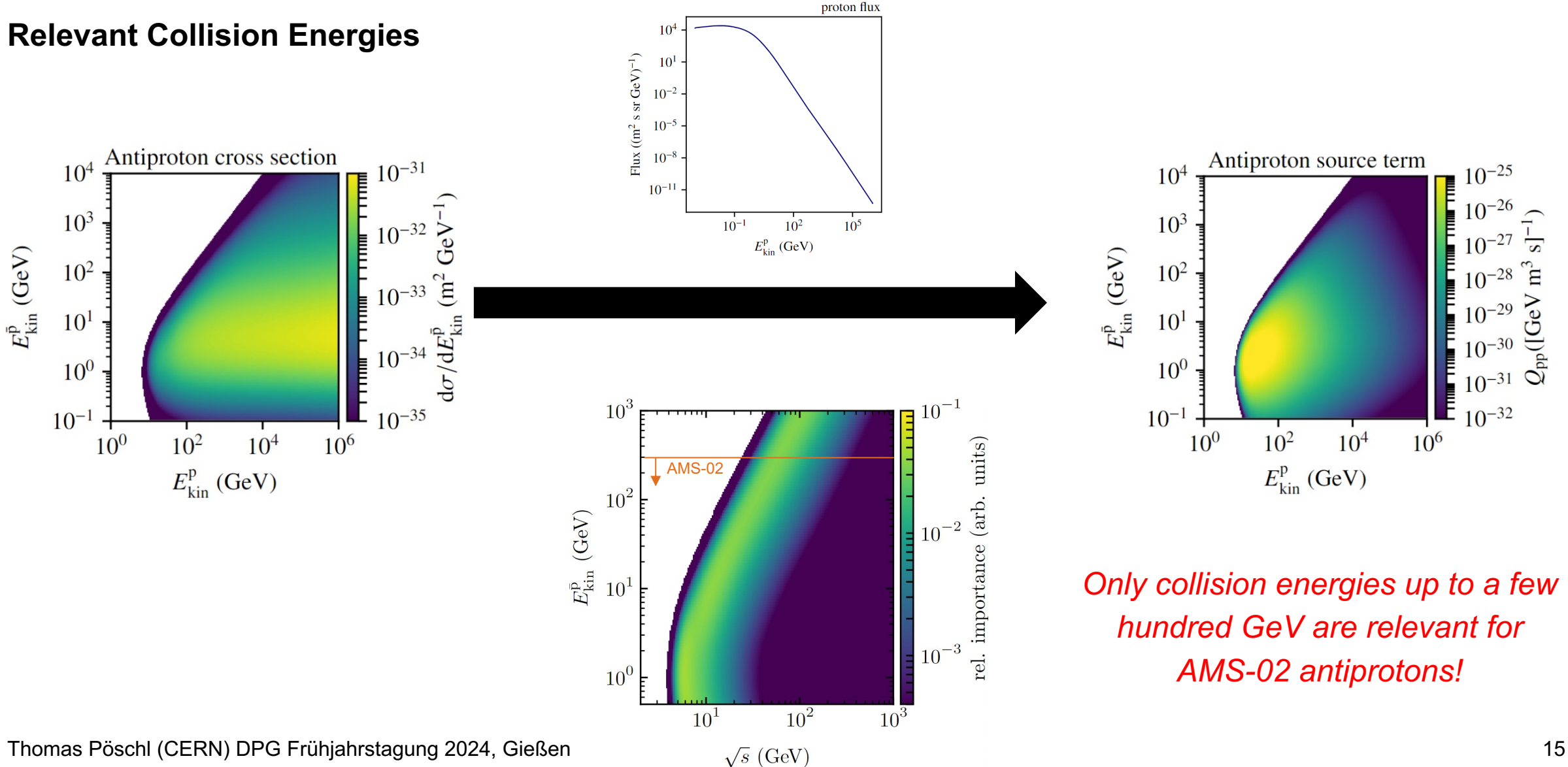


Figure taken from Di Mauro et al., Phys. Rev. D, Vol. 97, 103019 (2018)



# Antiproton-Production Mechanisms

## Relevant Collision Energies



# Overview of Experimental Data

## $p + p \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$ (prompt production)

- Many datasets at low and high energies
- Nearly full phase-space coverage at collision energies below 20 GeV (fixed target)
- Only limited phase-space coverage at higher energies

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda} + X$        $p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Sigma}^- + X$   
(non-prompt production)

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{n} + X$   
(non-prompt production)

$p + \text{He}, \text{He} + p, \text{He} + \text{He}, \dots$

experiment	$\sqrt{s}$ GeV	contribution from antihyperons	phase-space coverage (%)
Dekkers et al.	6.1 6.7	included	9.0 6.3
NA61	7.7 8.8 12.3 17.3	excluded	99.6 99.3 98.8 98.0
NA49	17.3	excluded	98.7
PHENIX	62.4 200.0	included <sup>†</sup>	12.3 13.5
BRAHMS	200.0	included	0.2
ALICE	900.0	excluded	11.3

*Selection of antiproton measurements in  
proton-proton collisions*



# Overview of Experimental Data

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$  (prompt production)

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda} + X$        $p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Sigma}^- + X$   
(non-prompt production)

- Largest contribution from antihyperons from  $\bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\bar{\Sigma}^-$  decays

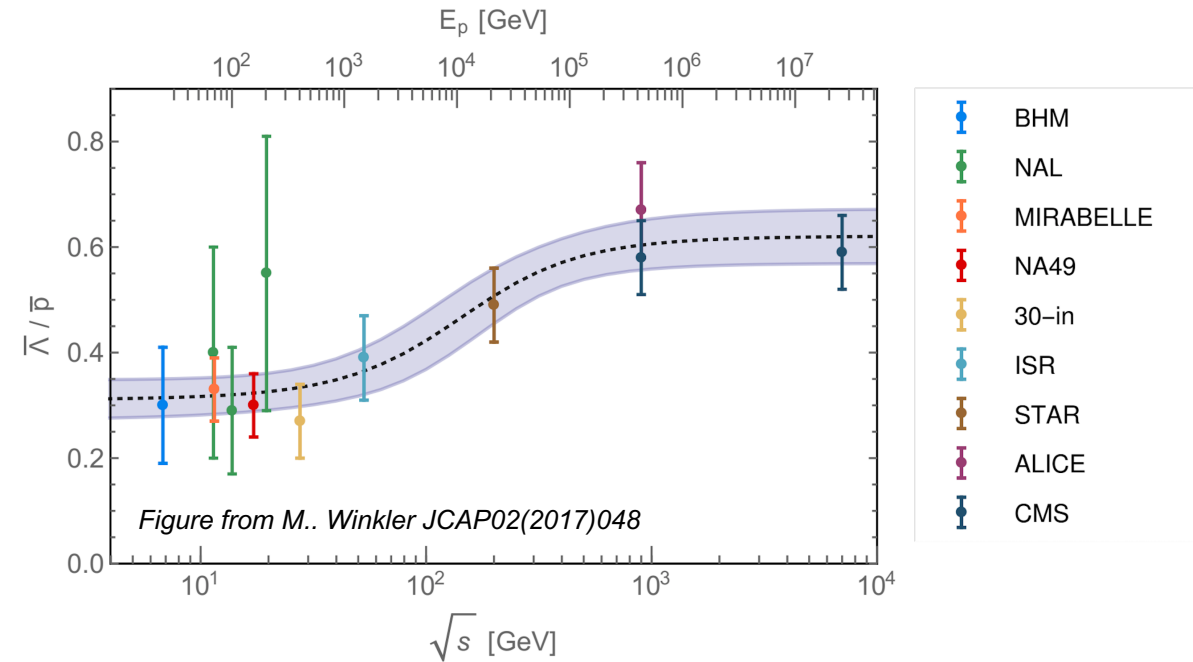
$$\bar{\Lambda} \rightarrow \bar{p} + \pi^+ \quad (63.9 \pm 0.5)\%$$

$$\bar{\Sigma}^- \rightarrow \bar{p} + \pi^0 \quad (51.57 \pm 0.30)\%$$

- Similar experimental data then for prompt antiprotons

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{n} + X$   
(non-prompt production)

$p + \text{He}, \text{He} + p, \text{He} + \text{He}, \dots$



# Overview of Experimental Data

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$  (prompt production)

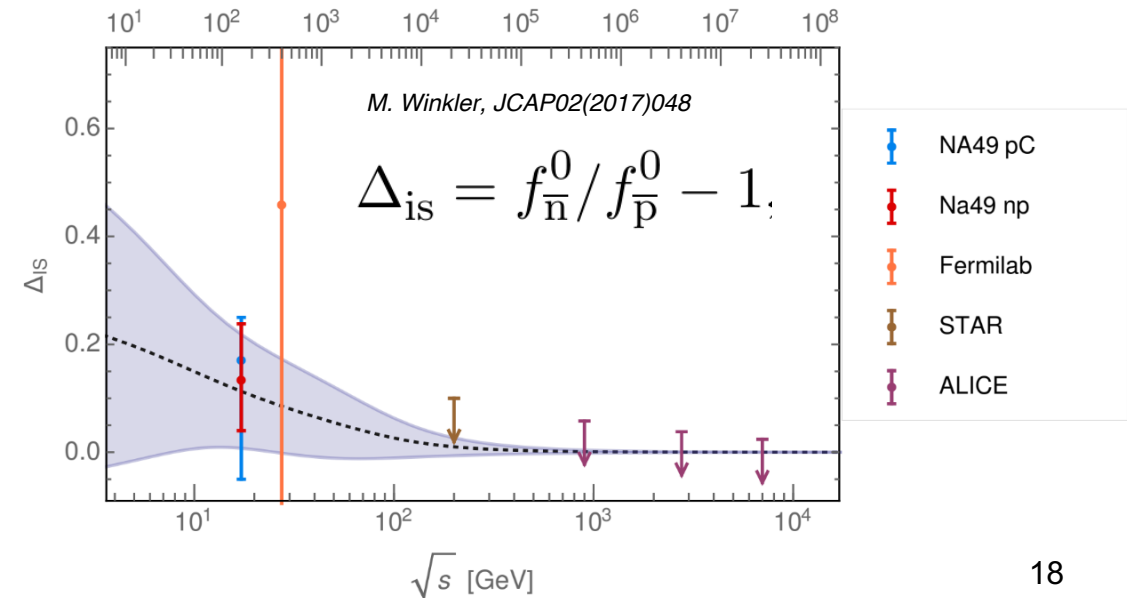
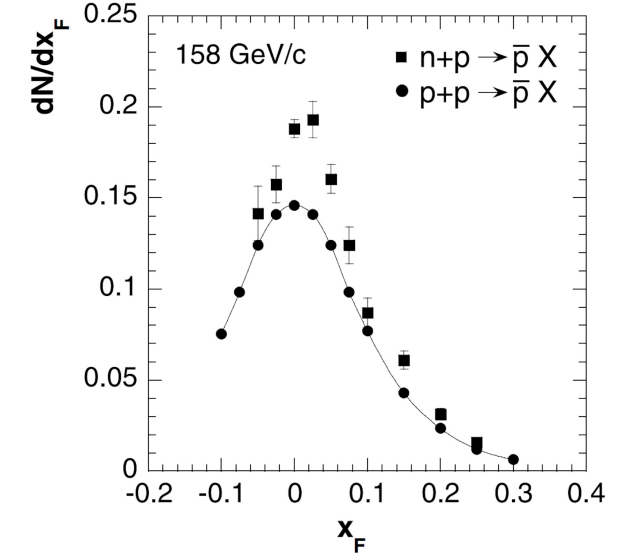
$p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda} + X$       $p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Sigma}^- + X$   
(non-prompt production)

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{n} + X$   
(non-prompt production)

- Expect equal production of  $\bar{p}$  and  $\bar{n}$
- At low collision energies: Potential Isospin asymmetry in CR collisions due to proton-enhanced initial state
- Suggested by measurements of NA49 comparing the “flipped reactions”  $p + p \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$  and  $p + n \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$
- Dominant uncertainty for cosmic antiproton-production at low energies  $\rightarrow$  ~20% flux uncertainty

$p + \text{He}, \text{He} + p, \text{He} + \text{He}, \dots$

Figure from NA49, Acta Phys. Hun. Ser. A 17(2003) 369-386



# Overview of Experimental Data

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$  (prompt production)

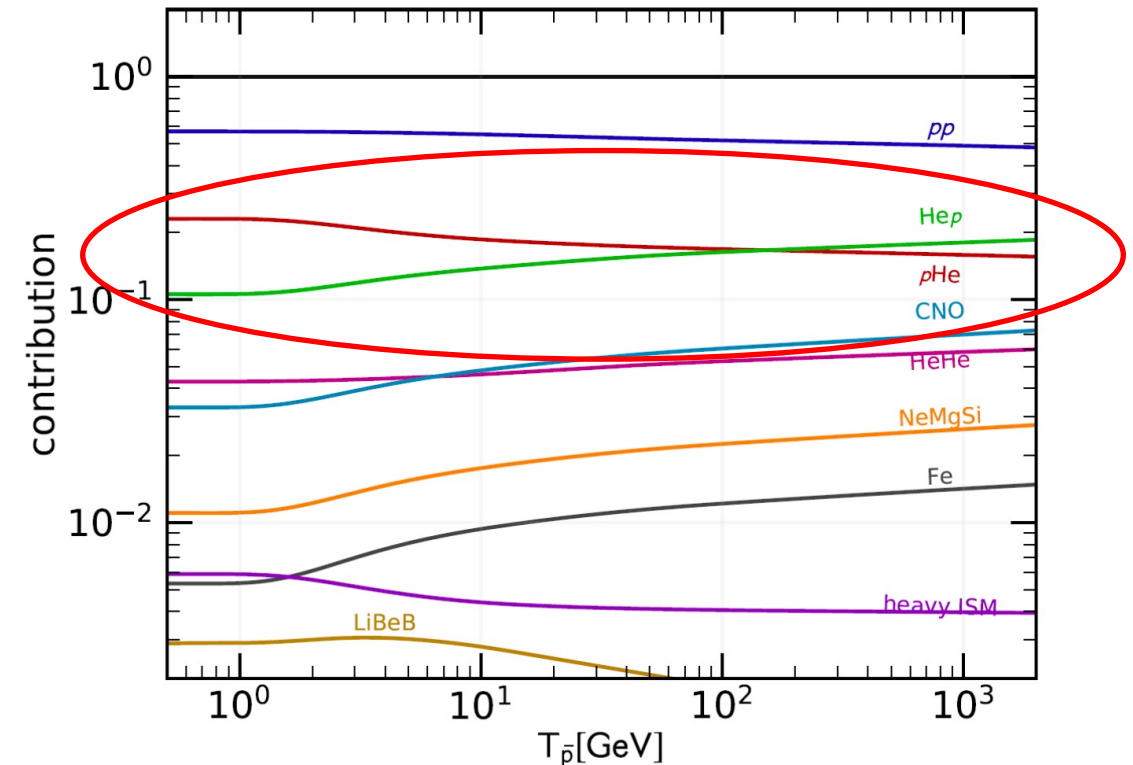
$p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda} + X$      $p + p \rightarrow \bar{\Sigma}^- + X$   
(non-prompt production)

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{n} + X$   
(non-prompt production)

**$p + \text{He}, \text{He} + p, \text{He} + \text{He}, \dots$**

- Significant contribution from light-ion collisions
  - Collisions including Helium especially relevant
  - Sparse experimental data for relevant collisions:
    - LHCb  $p + \text{He}$  @  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 110 \text{ GeV}$
- $\rightarrow$  *no experimental data for low collision energies*

Figure taken from Di Mauro et al., Phys. Rev. D, Vol. 97, 103019 (2018)



# Overview of Experimental Data

$p + p \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$  (prompt production)

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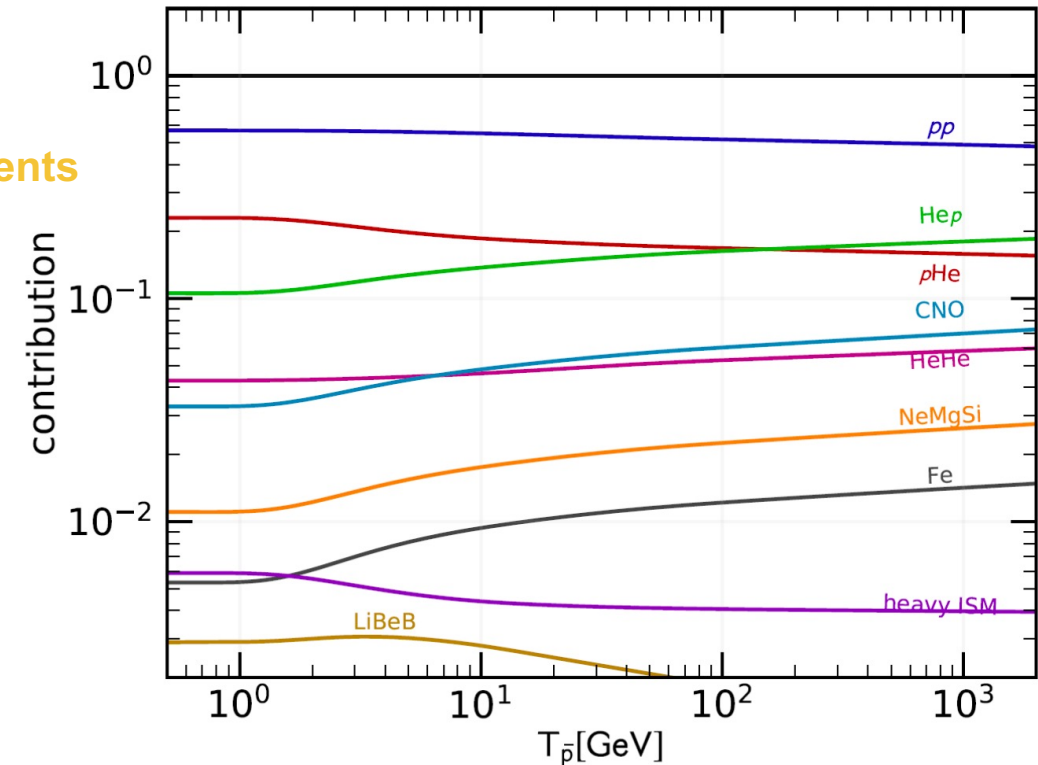
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focus of AMBER measurements

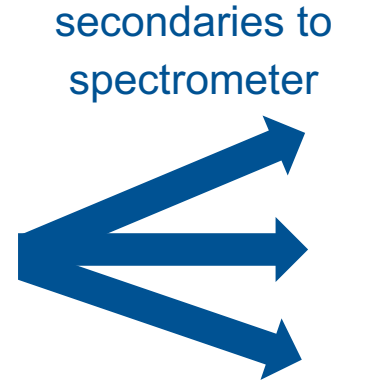
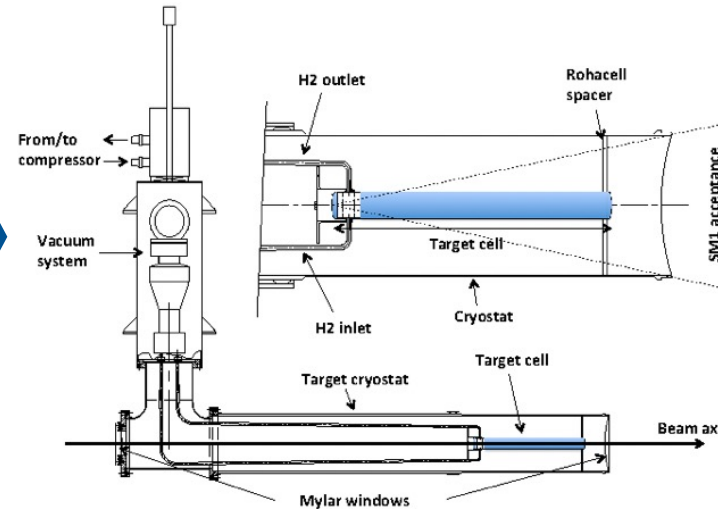
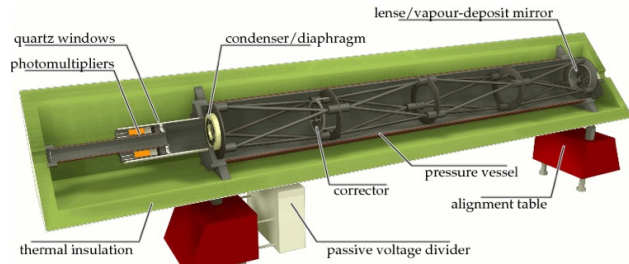
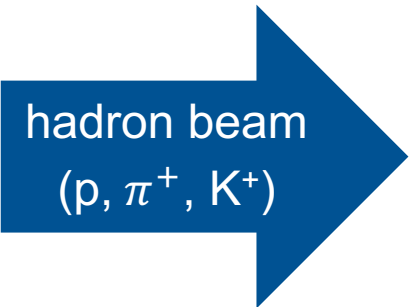
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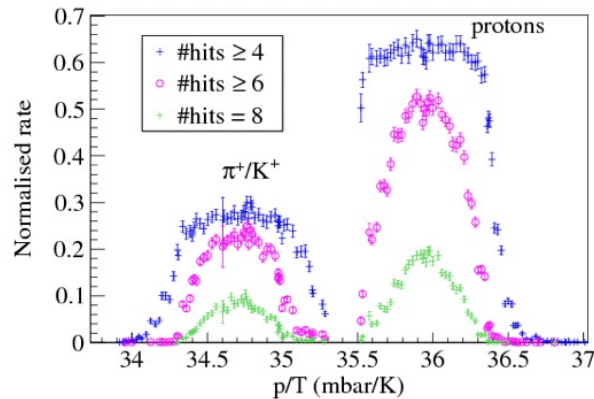
# ***Measurement of the Antiproton-Production Cross Sections at AMBER***



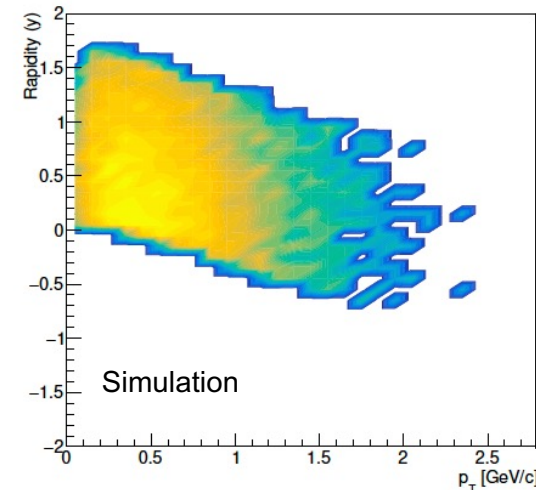
# Antiproton-Production Measurements at AMBER



## CEDAR detectors for beam-particle identification



**cryogenic target**  
**2023:** - liquid Helium  
**2024:** - liquid Hydrogen  
 - liquid Deuterium



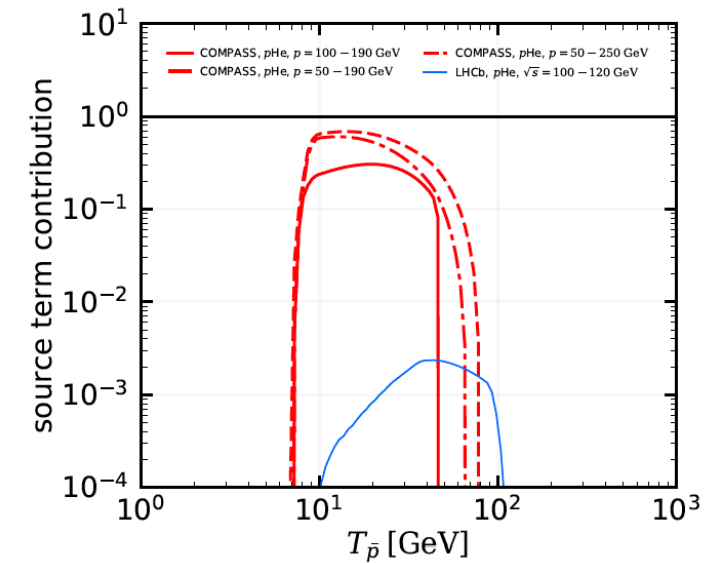
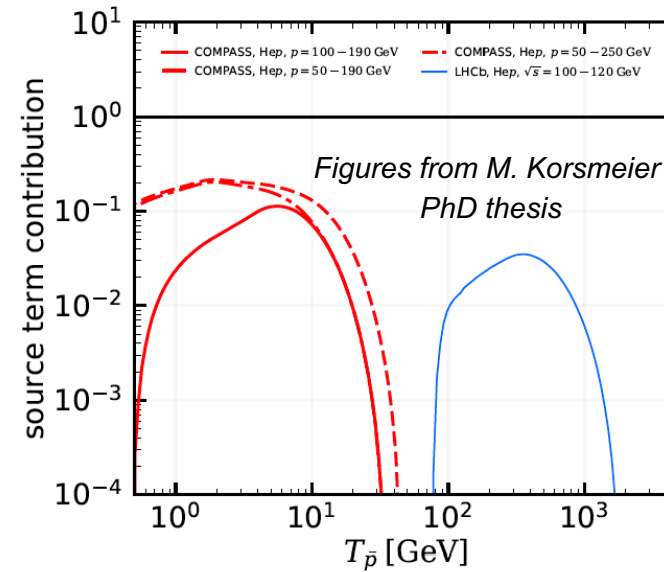
*phase-space coverage of AMBER for antiprotons in 190 GeV/c collisions*

# 2023 p + He Data Taking

## Measurements at different collision energies

Beam momentum (GeV/c)	Collision energy ( $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ ) (GeV)
60	10.7
80	12.3
100	13.8
160	17.3
190	18.9
250	21.7

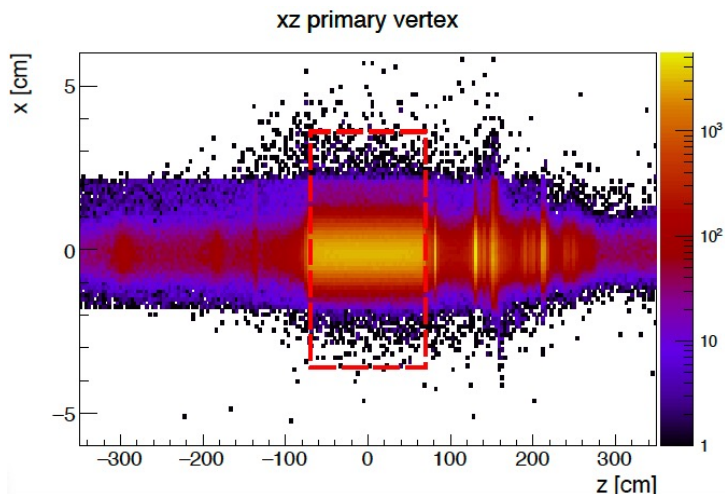
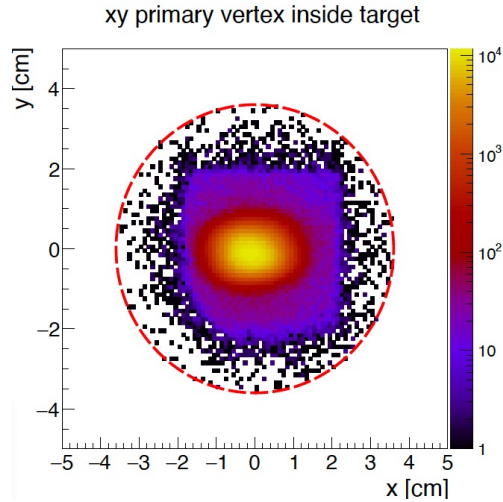
- Measurements between 60 GeV/c – 250 GeV/c
- Coverage of the low- $p_t$  regime
- High-statistics data sets: statistical uncertainties below 1% for most of covered phase space



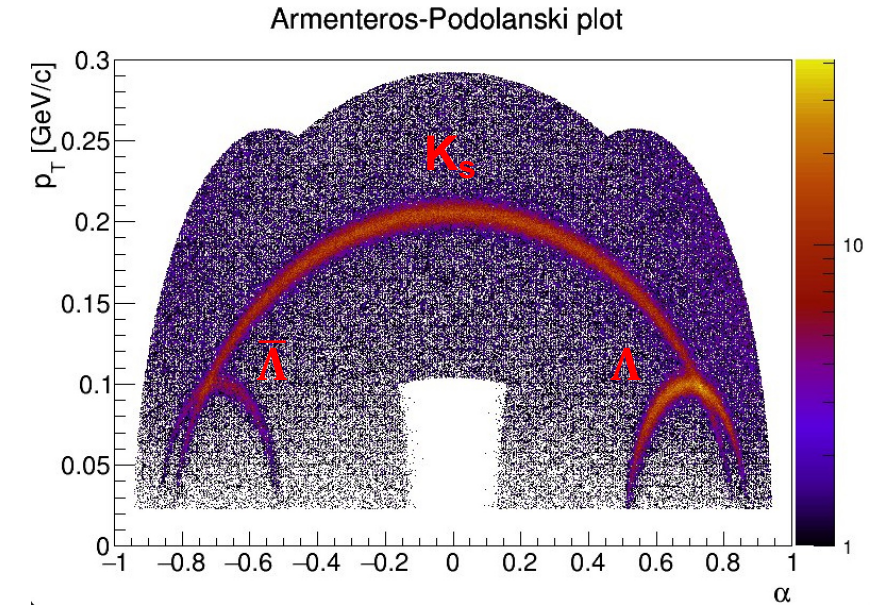
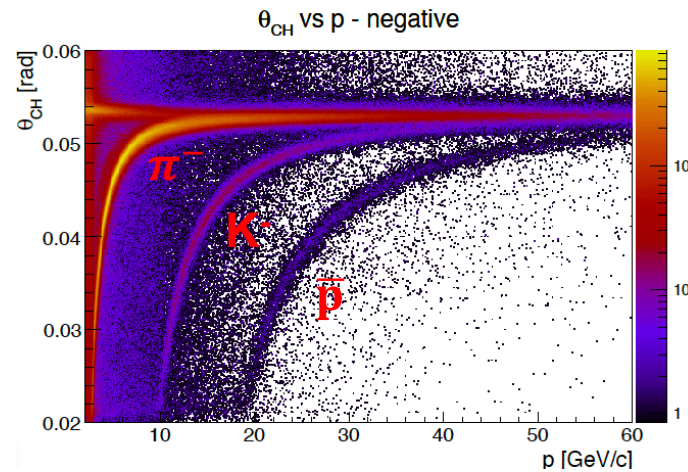
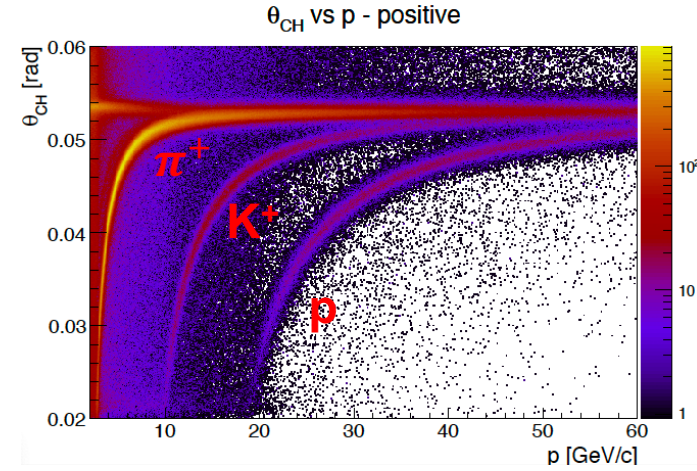
*fraction of galactic source term probed by AMBER measurement (projection, left p + He, right He + p)*

# A First Glimpse into the 2023 p + He Data (work in progress)

Vertex distributions near the target  
(1% of the 190 GeV/c data)



RICH PID  
(1% of the 190 GeV/c data)



Identification of weakly-decaying  
particles from secondary vertices  
(1% of the 190 GeV/c data)



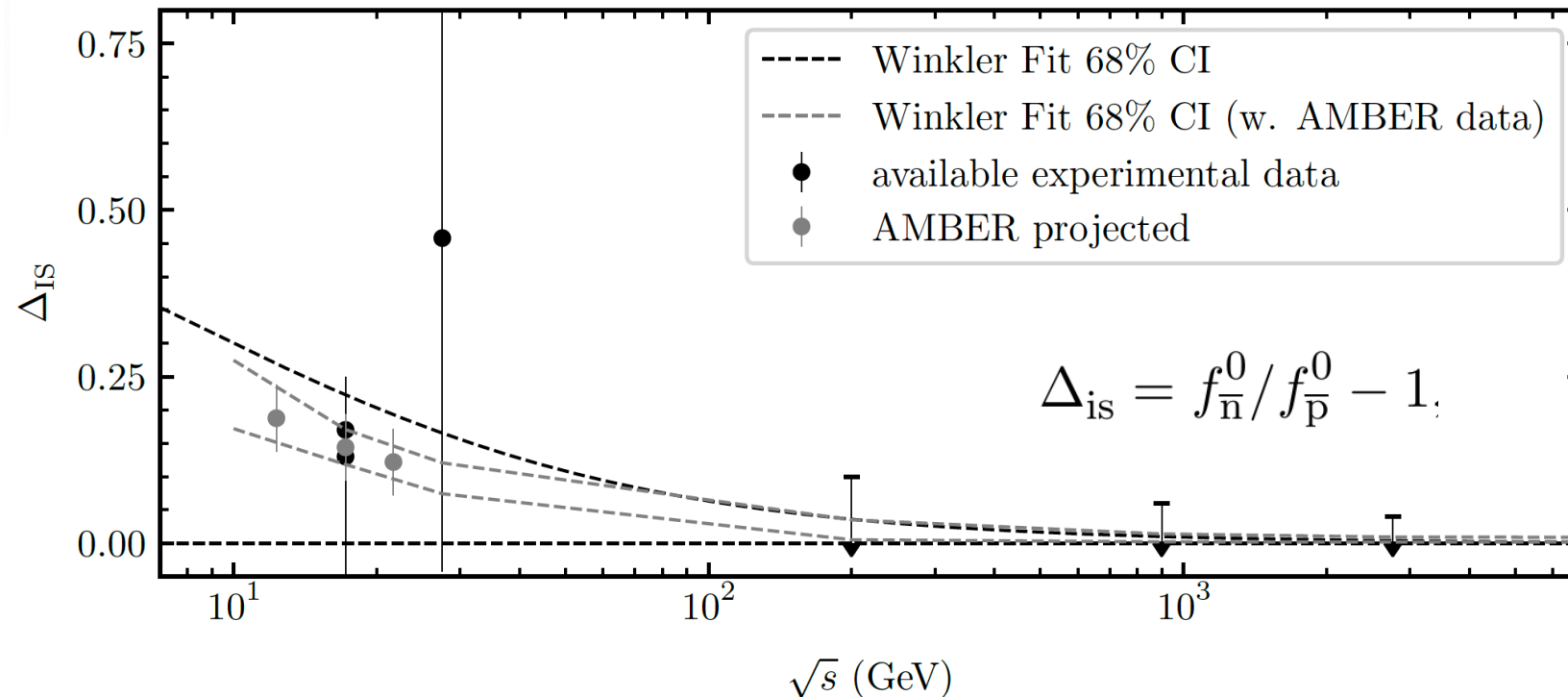
## Plans for the 2024 Data taking with Hydrogen and Deuterium Target

**Main Goal: Investigate a possible isospin asymmetry in the production of antiprotons**

*Refine and extend NA49 measurements using a more controllable setup:*

- Proton beam on Hydrogen and Deuterium target (exchange during data taking)
- Measurements at different collision energies to probe collision-energy dependence

**→ individual cross-section measurements on the 5% level to constrain asymmetry below the 10% level**



## Summary and Outlook

### **AMBER antiproton-production measurements for understanding galactic antiproton production:**

- p + He collisions in 2023:  
*first ligh-ion collision data at low energies*
- p + H and p + D collisions in 2024:  
*probe asymmetry in galactic antiproton and antineutron production*

### **Future analyses from recorded data**

- Production of antiprotons from antihyperons
- Measurements of  $\pi^0$  production as input for background estimates for searches of galactic gamma-ray sources

### **Far future plans (after LS3, ~2030)**

- Possible extension of AMBER measurements to antideuterons & antihelium

*Thank you for your attention!*

A000BER

Apparatus for Meson and Baryon  
Experimental Research

# Production of antinucleons in collisions

- naively, we expect equal production of antiprotons and antineutrons in high-energy collisions due to isospin symmetry  
→ *cosmic flux of prompt antiprotons would double*

Isospin $I = 1$					
Projectiles	n	p			
Produced particles	$\bar{p}n$	$p\bar{p}$ $n\bar{n}$	$p\bar{n}$		
$I_3$	-1	-1/2	0	1/2	+1

- production of antiparticles in pairs  
(Baryon-number conservation) ( $p\bar{p}, n\bar{p}, n\bar{n}, p\bar{n}$ )
- however, collisions in Galaxy have highly-asymmetric  $I_3$  component in initial state  
(far more  $pp$  than  $nn$  collisions)  
→ what happens in collisions at low energies with highly isospin-asymmetric initial states ( $I_3$  component)?

