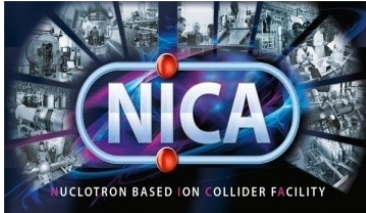
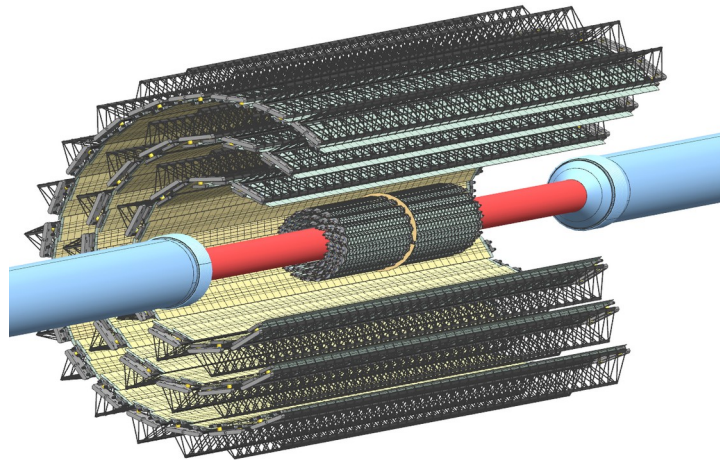


# COMPUTER SIMULATION OF THE IDENTIFICATION CAPABILITY OF A VERTEX DETECTOR FOR THE MPD EXPERIMENT AT THE NICA COLLIDER



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Грант Российского научного фонда № 23-12-00042

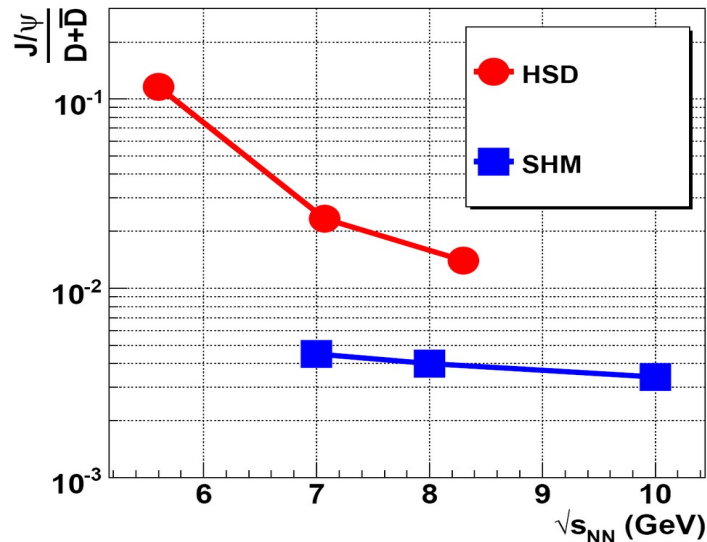
*LXXV NUCLEUS 2025, St.-Petersburg, 1-6 July 2025*

# Contents

- Introduction
- ✂ Physical motivation of using vertex detectors
- Modeling of the ITS of the MPD setup
- ✂ Geometric layout
- ✂ Pointing resolution
- ✂ Charmed particle reconstruction
- Conclusion

# Physical motivation of using ITS

MPD is being constructed to study the properties of extremely dense nuclear matter formed in nucleus-nucleus collisions at NICA energies. **The yields and spectra of charmed particles** are the important observables sensitive to critical phenomena in phase transitions of the QCD-matter.



$$R = \frac{Y(J/\Psi)}{Y(D + \bar{D})}$$

Hadron-Strings Dynamics (**HSD**) model

O. Linnyketal., Nucl.Phys.A786 (2007)183

Statistical Hadronization Model (**SHM**)

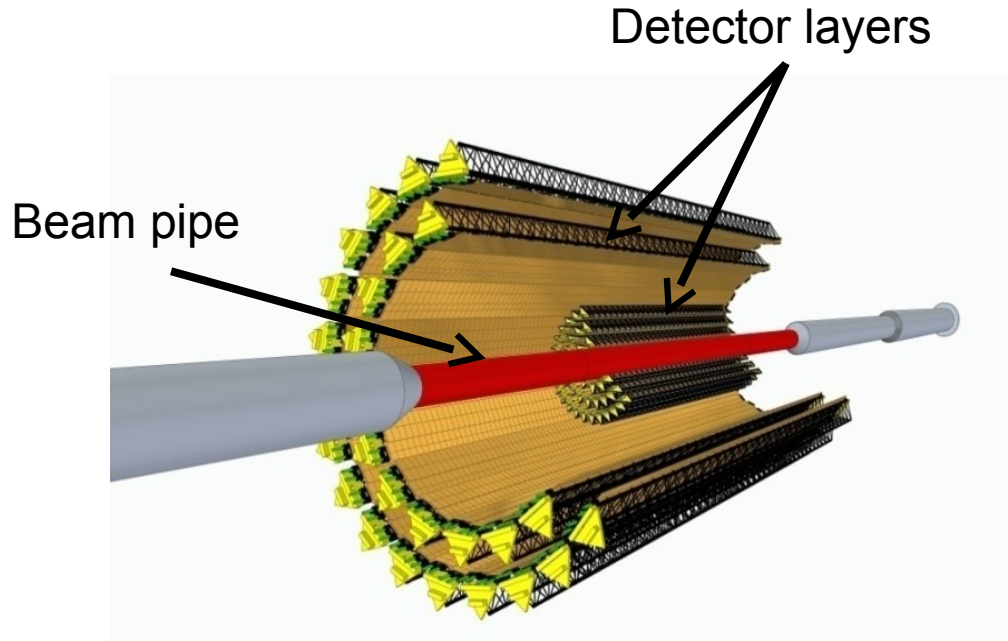
A. Andronicetal, Phys. Lett. B659 (2008) 149

$$R_{QGP} < R_{AG}$$

**Vertex detectors (Inner Tracking System - ITS)** are used in HEP experimental setups for highly efficient detection of such **short-lived products** of nuclear interactions.

# Vertex detectors in HEP experiments

In modern collider experiments ITS is build of several layers of **silicon position-sensitive sensors**, surrounding a beam pipe. This kind of detectors are already used in ALICE , ATLAS, CMS and STAR experiments.



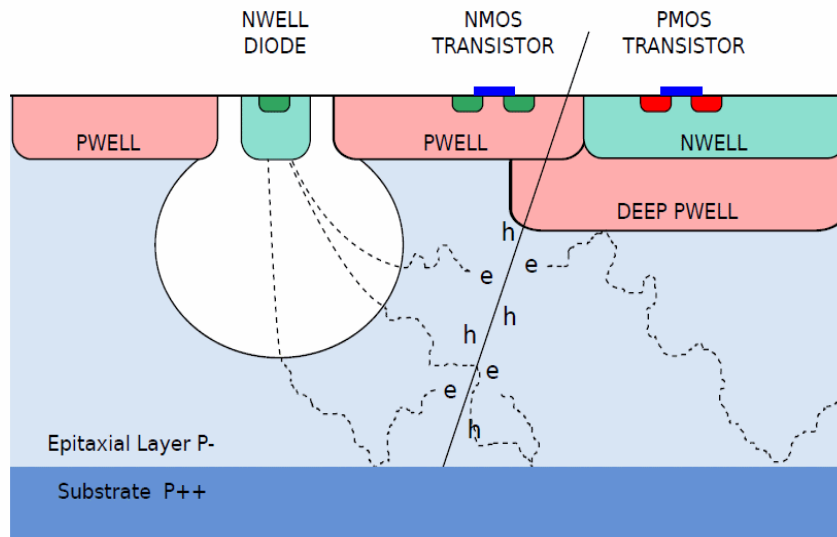
# Project ITS of MPD experiment

MPD ITS is planned to be construct of **Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors (MAPS)**

## Advantage:

- 1) the best spatial resolution
- 2) high counting rate
- 3) high level of segmentation per pixel.

**Combination of the TPC and the MAPS based ITS makes it possible to detect short-lived products of AA interactions with maximum efficiency.**



## Standard MAPS parameters for the project MPD ITS:

Sensitive area: **15×30 mm<sup>2</sup>**

Thickness: **50 μm**

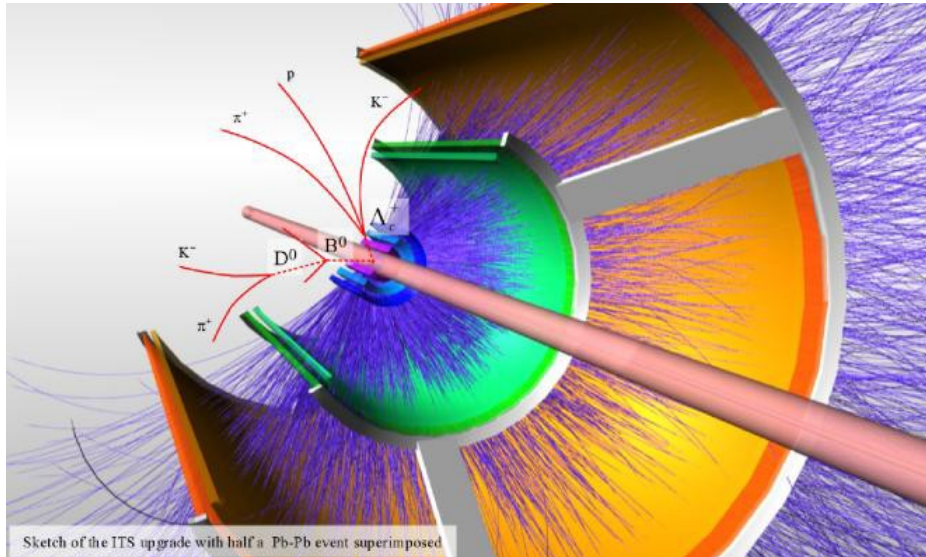
Number of pixels: **512×1024**

Pixel size: **28×28 μm<sup>2</sup>**

Space resolution:

$$\sigma_{r\phi} = 5 \mu\text{m} , \sigma_z = 5 \mu\text{m}$$

# Registration of charmed particles by the vertex detector



//International Journal of Modern Physics A. 2014

$$D^+ \rightarrow K^- + \pi^+ + \pi^+$$

$$\tau_c = 312 \mu\text{m}$$

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

$$\tau_c = 123 \mu\text{m}$$

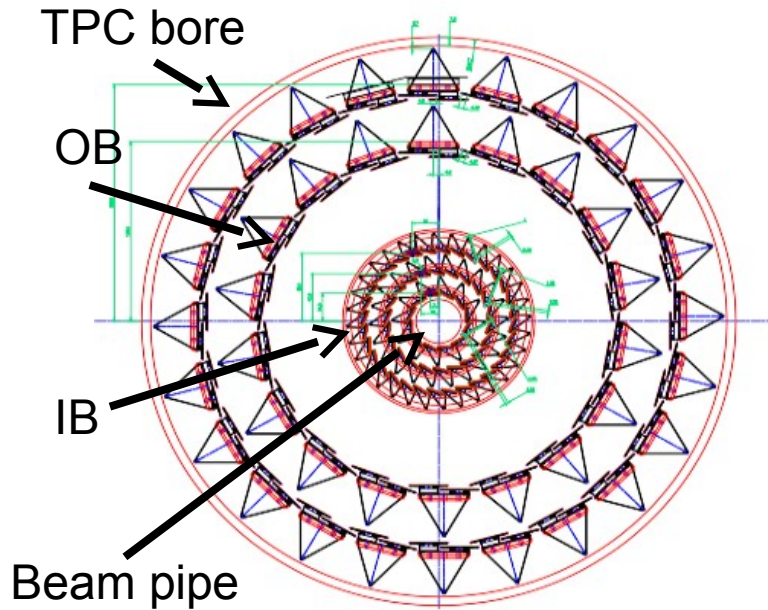
$$D_s^+ \rightarrow K^- + K^+ + \pi^+$$

$$\tau_c = 150 \mu\text{m}$$

$$M_{\text{inv}} = \sqrt{\left( \sum_a E_a \right)^2 - \left( \sum_a \vec{p}_a \right)^2}$$

Reliable identification of short-lived **charmed mesons** can be performed by determining the invariant mass of their decay products. So, for high-efficient reconstruction of decay vertices near the interaction point the vertex detectors with **high pointing resolution** are needed.

# First project ITS model



**Model ITS-5-40** (basic configuration)

5-layer ITS for a beam pipe with the smallest possible diameter of **40 mm** with a staggered arrangement of ladders in Outer Barrel (OB) and a fan-like arrangement of ladders in Inner Barrel (IB)

Each layer consists of ladders containing **24 MAPS** in IB and **98 MAPS** in OB

Layer	No of MAPS	$R_{min}$ , mm	$R_{max}$ , mm	Length, mm
1	24 *12	22.4	26.7	750
2	24*22	40.7	45.9	750
3	24*32	59.8	65.1	750
4	98*36	144.5	147.9	1526
5	98*48	194.4	197.6	1526

Inner Barrel

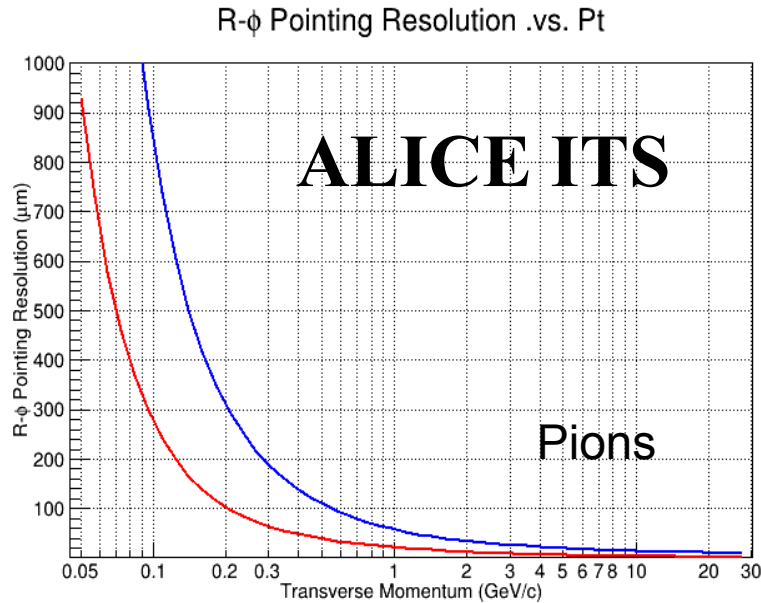
Outer Barrel

(2020) Murin Yu., Kondratiev V. *et al.* Physics of Particles and Nuclei, 17 (6), pp. 856-870.

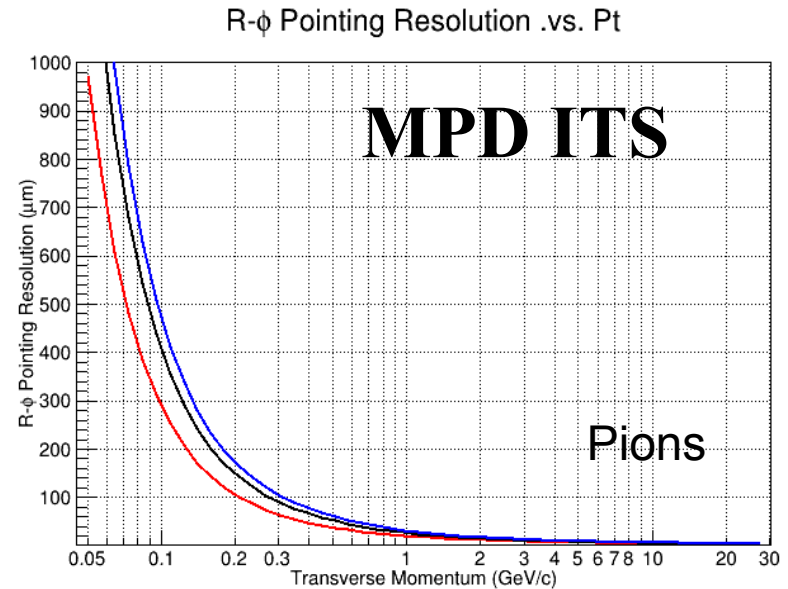
Nucleus-2025 Kondratiev V.



# ITS pointing resolution



— ITS2  
— ITS1



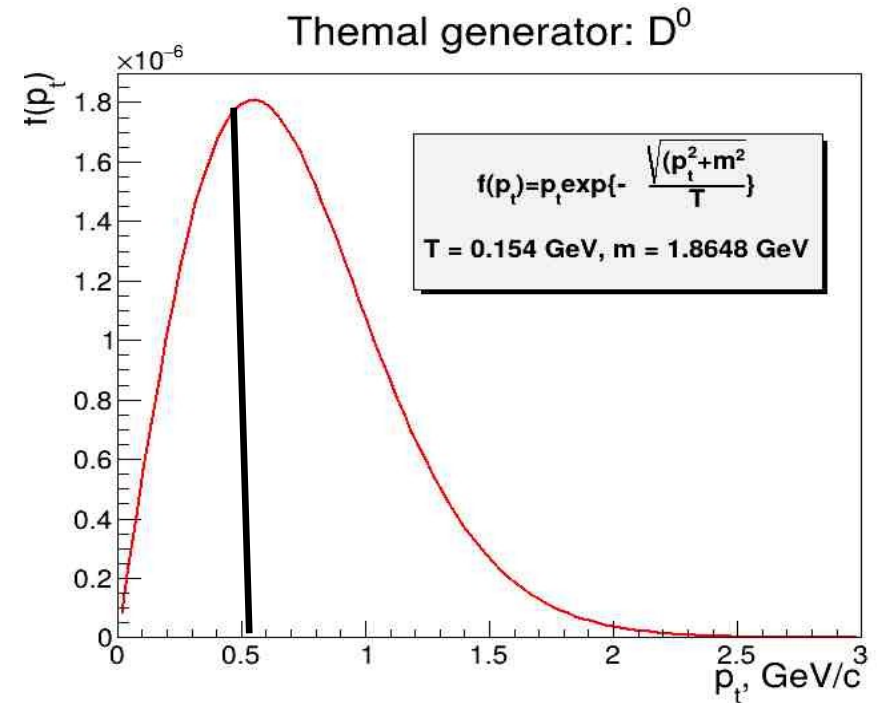
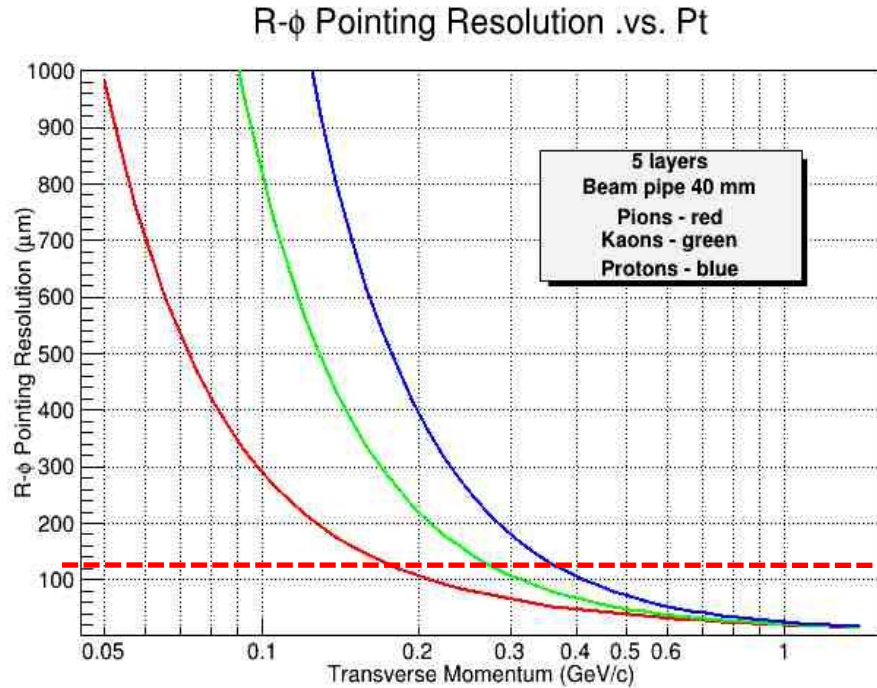
— Beam pipe  $\varnothing = 40$  mm  
— Beam pipe  $\varnothing = 50$  mm  
— Beam pipe  $\varnothing = 60$  mm

MPD ITS pointing resolution with beam pipe  $\varnothing = 40$  mm is comparable with ALICE ITS2.



# ITS pointing resolution and D mesons $p_t$ -spectra

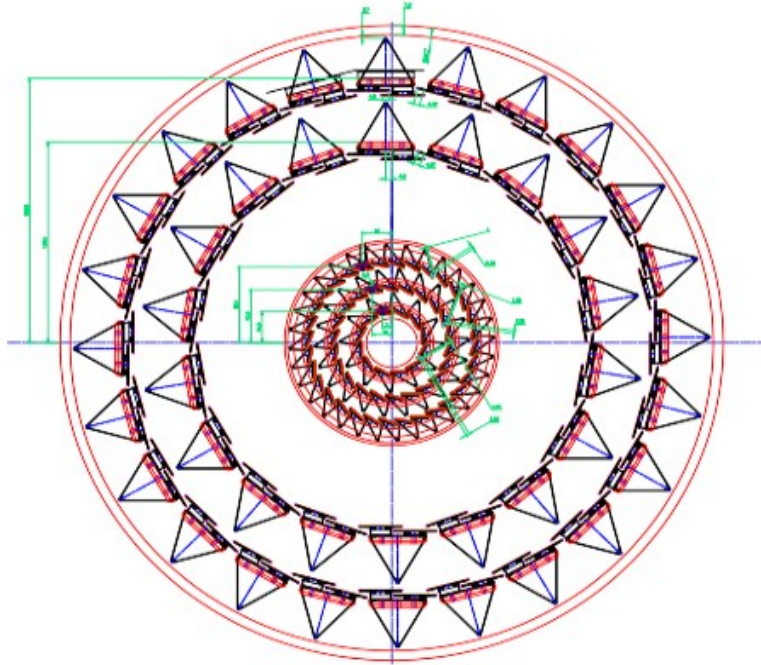
The ITS pointing resolution was evaluated for  $\pi$ ,  $K$  and  $p$  tracks as a function of  $P_t$



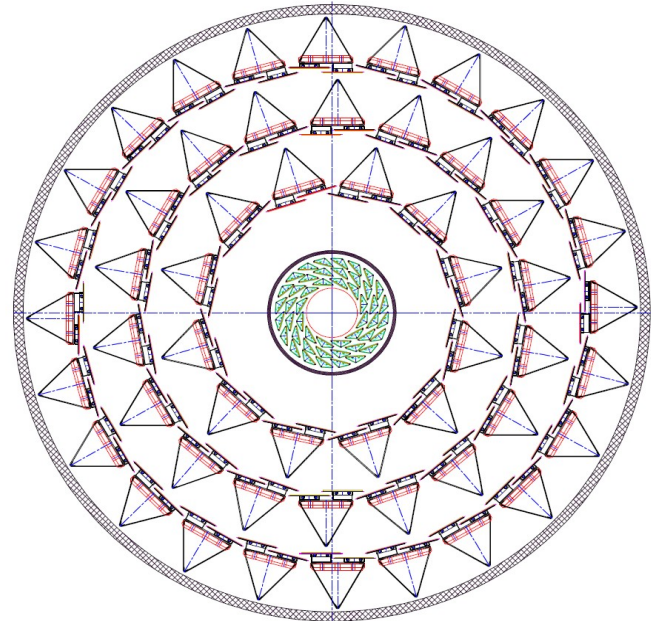
For example, ITS pointing resolution of at least **120  $\mu\text{m}$**  makes it possible a decay vertex reconstruction of  $D^0$  mesons in the channel  $D^0 \rightarrow K^- + \pi^+$  ( $c\tau = 123 \mu\text{m}$ ) with  $p_t$  above **500  $\text{MeV}/c$** .

# New model of the MPD ITS

5 layers



6 layers



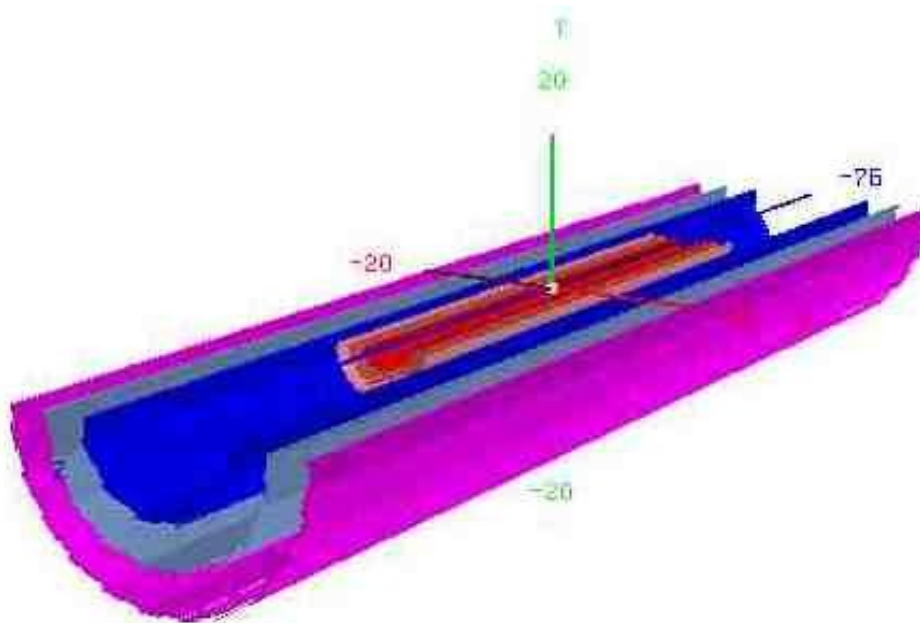
The next step was to add the third outer layer in order to improve the quality of track reconstruction in the whole ITS.

MPD ITS TDR (in preparation)

# Geometric model of 6 layer ITS used for simulation

OB - 3 layers of ALPDE-like MAPS (15\*30 mm<sup>2</sup>) with effective thickness of 700  $\mu\text{m}$

IB - 3 layers of ALPIDE-like MAPS (15\*30 mm<sup>2</sup>) with effective thickness of 50  $\mu\text{m}$



Layer	$R_{\min}$ , mm	$R_{\max}$ , mm	Length, mm
1	22.4	26.7	750
2	40.7	45.9	750
3	59.8	65.1	750
4	93.2	96.7	1526
5	144.5	147.9	1526
6	194.4	197.6	1526

Beam pipe diameter – 40 mm

# ITS Monte-Carlo simulation scheme within MpdRoot

Event MC generator:  
DCMSMM, Thermal generator

Particle MC transport  
through ITS: GEANT4

Hit generation

Track finding: KF

Vertices  
reconstruction

The main simulation tasks include:

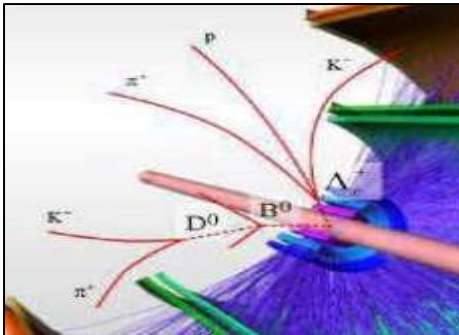
- generation of detector responses (Hit Producer);
- reconstruction of particle tracks using generated hits (Track Finder + Track Fitter) ;
- reconstruction of the primary and secondary interaction vertices (Track Analysis).

# Detection of D mesons in central AA collisions with ITS-6-40

Particle	Mass [MeV/c <sup>2</sup> ]	Mean path $c\tau$ [mm]	Decay channel	BR	Multiplicity
D <sup>+</sup>	1869.6	0.312	$\pi^+ + \pi^+ + K^-$	9.13%	10 <sup>-2</sup>
D <sup>0</sup>	1864.8	0.123	$\pi^+ + K^-$	3.89%	10 <sup>-2</sup>
D <sub>s</sub> <sup>+</sup>	1968.5	0.150	$\pi^+ + K^+ + K^-$	5.50%	10 <sup>-2</sup>

## Simulation methods

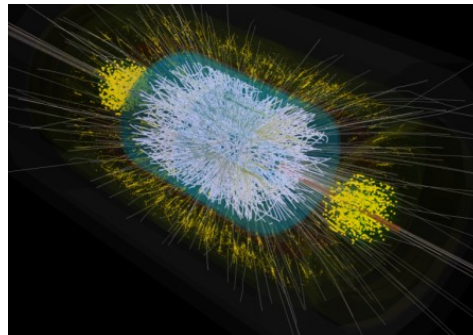
### Method of mixed events



Signal (D decay)

Generator: **TG**

Statistics: **1M** decays



Background (Bi+Bi)

Generator: **DCMSMM**

Statistics: **500K** mb events

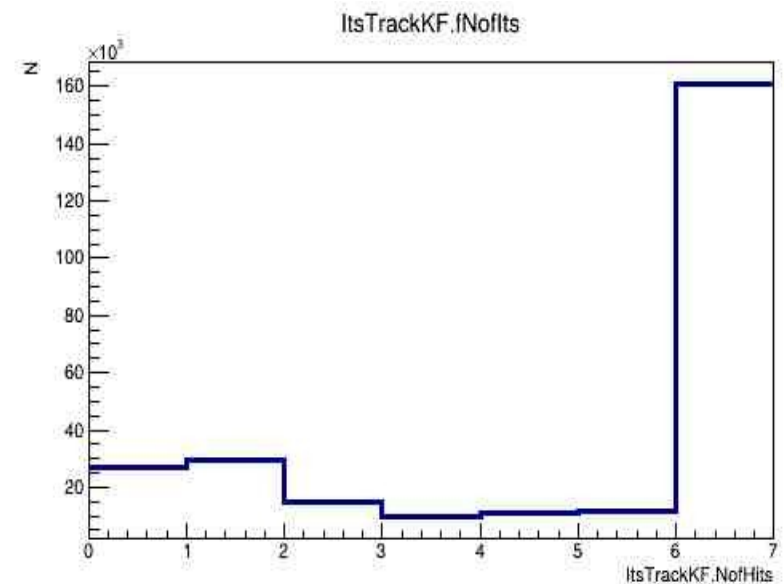
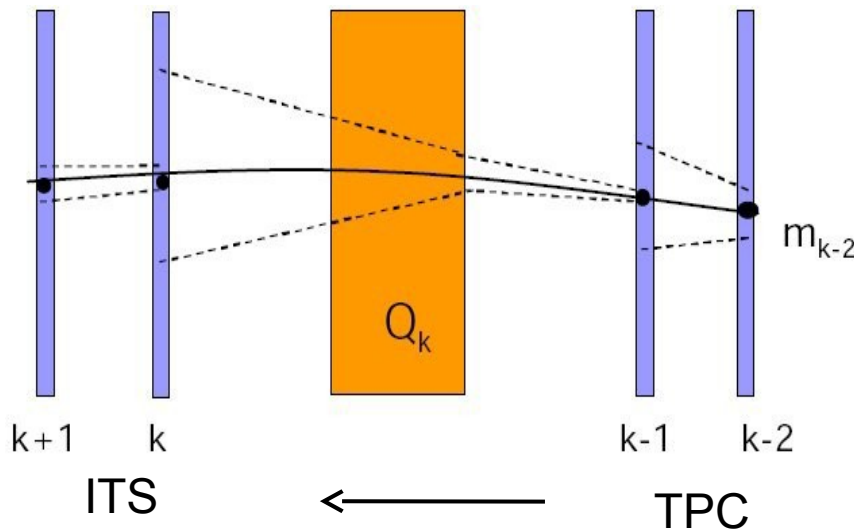
- 1) Track finder:  
**KF**
- 2) Particle identification:  
**TOF + dE/dx**
- 3) Track analysis:  
**ML (MVA)**

# Track reconstruction method

## Kalman Filter

Linear recursive method for track parameters estimation according to known hit measurements  $m_k$  that describes track candidate by its state vector and error matrix. The arbitrary noise caused by multiple scattering of the particle in the detector material is taken into account by adding a noise covariance matrix  $Q_k$

TPC seed tracks are extrapolated to ITS layer by layer

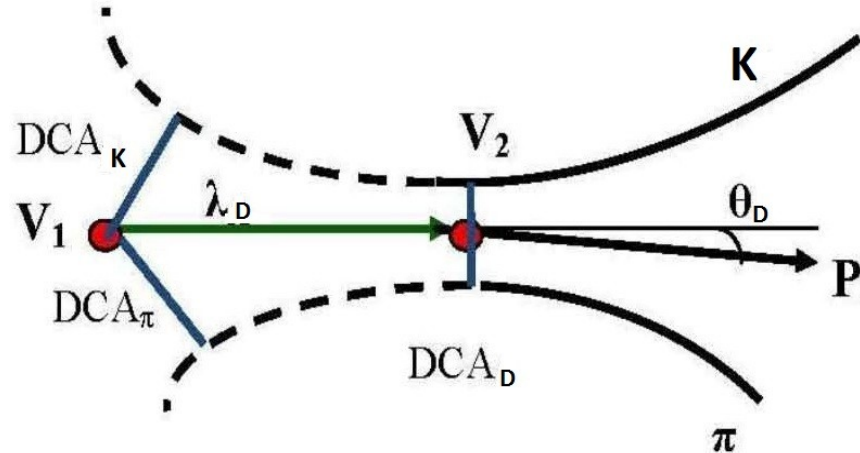




# D-meson selection method

Selection parameters are dictated by the decay topology:

- distances of closest approach to the collision vertex ( $DCA_{\pi, K}$ )
- two-track separation  $DCA_{\pi K}$
- decay path  $\lambda_D$
- pointing angle  $\theta_D$



## MVA method

The variables from the signal and background samples are trained according to the chosen classifier. During the classification the initial  $N$  input variables  $\mathbf{V}$  are transformed to one dimensional variable  $\mathbf{R}$  :  $\mathbf{V}^N \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$

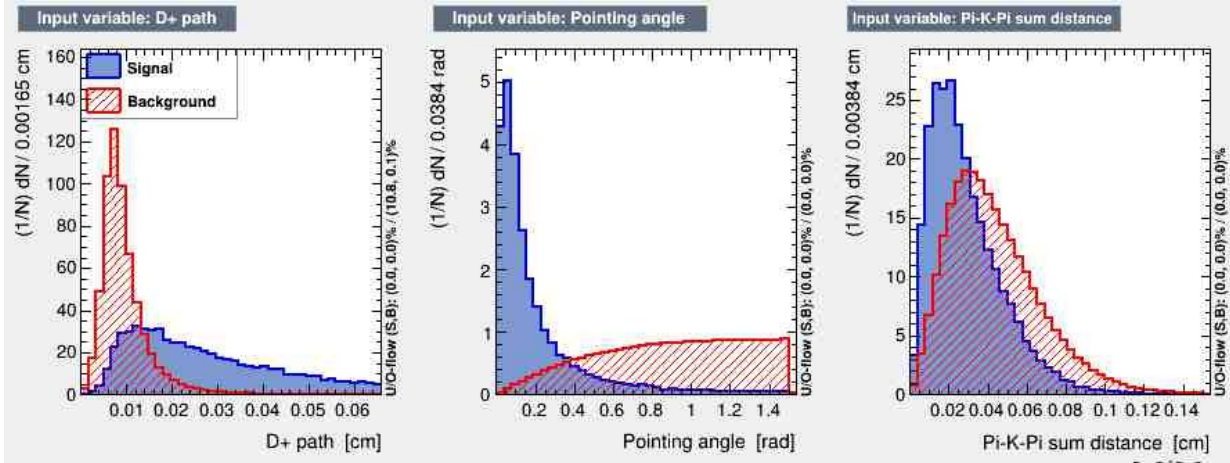
The resulting cut of the classifier response  $\mathbf{R}$  is applied to the data to be analyzed.

The classifier **BDT** (Boosted Decision Trees) has been chosen for the analysis phase when reconstructing D mesons



# Reconstruction of $D^+$ with ITS-6-40 model

$$D^+ \rightarrow K^- + \pi^+ + \pi^+$$

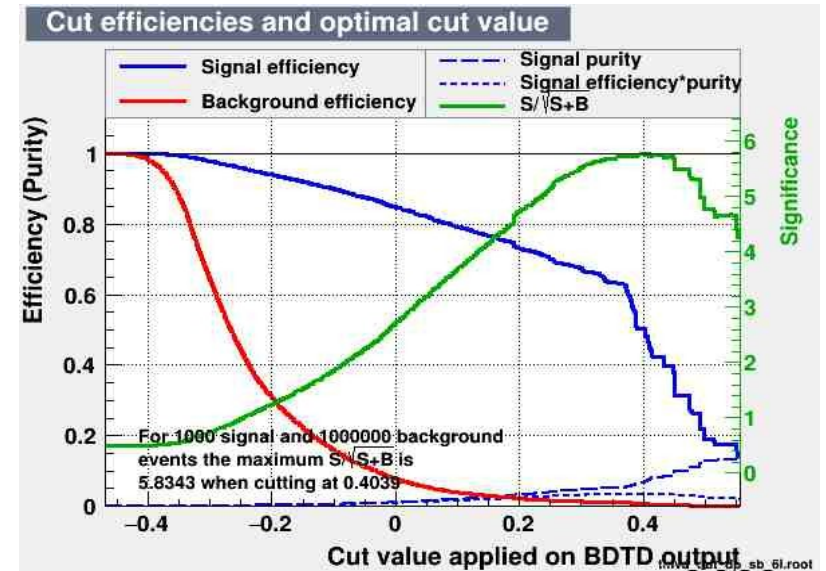
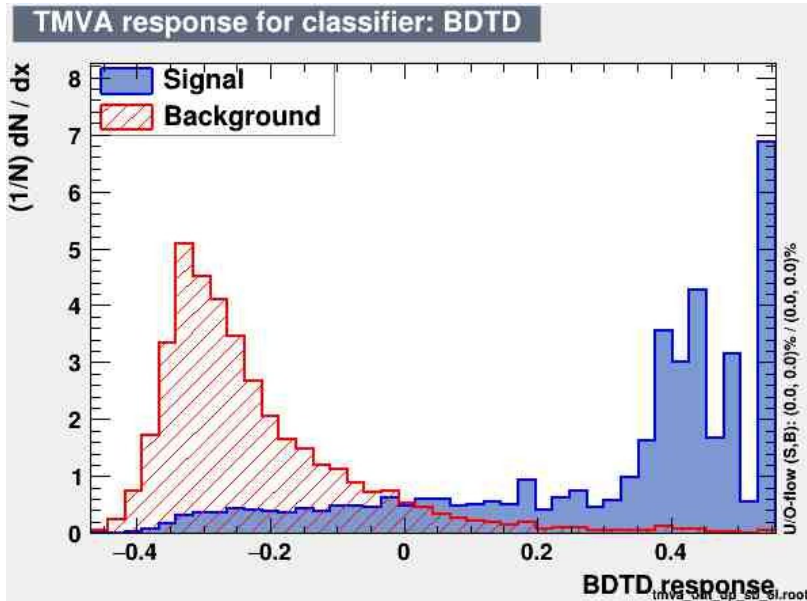


**MVA input:**

$\lambda_D$  ( $D^+$  path),  
 $\theta_D$  (pointing angle),  
 $DCA_D$  ( $\pi$ -K- $\pi$  sum distance)

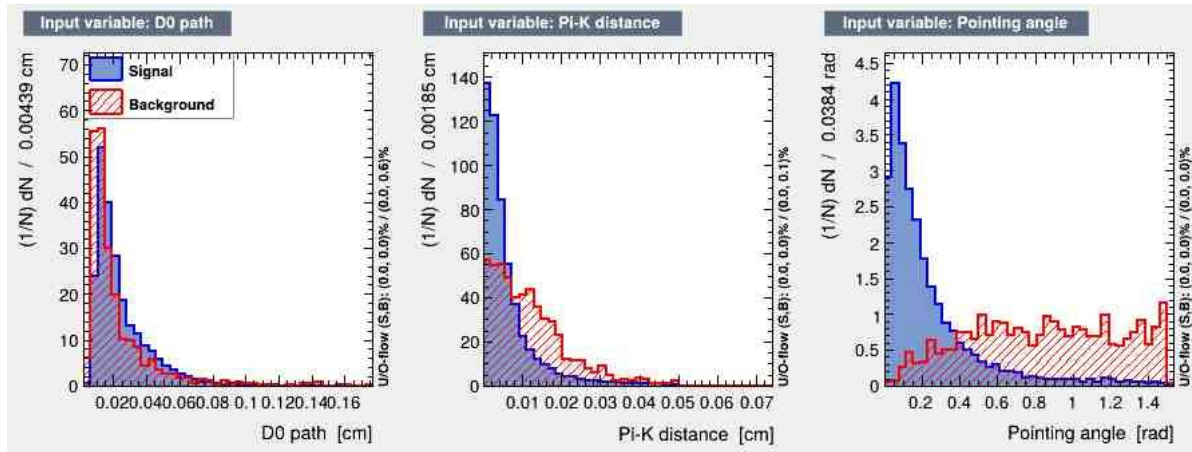
**MVA cuts:**

$DCA(\pi, K) > 0.015 \text{ cm}$ ,  
 $BDT\_response > 0.35$



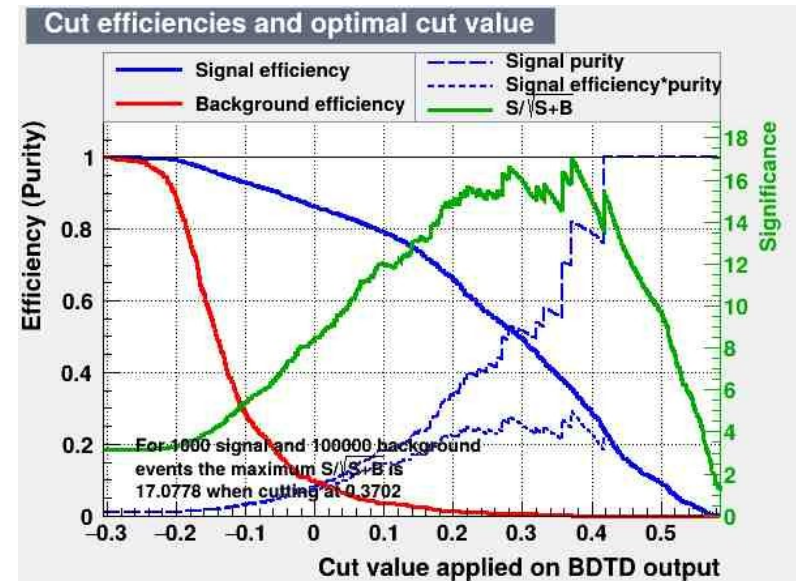
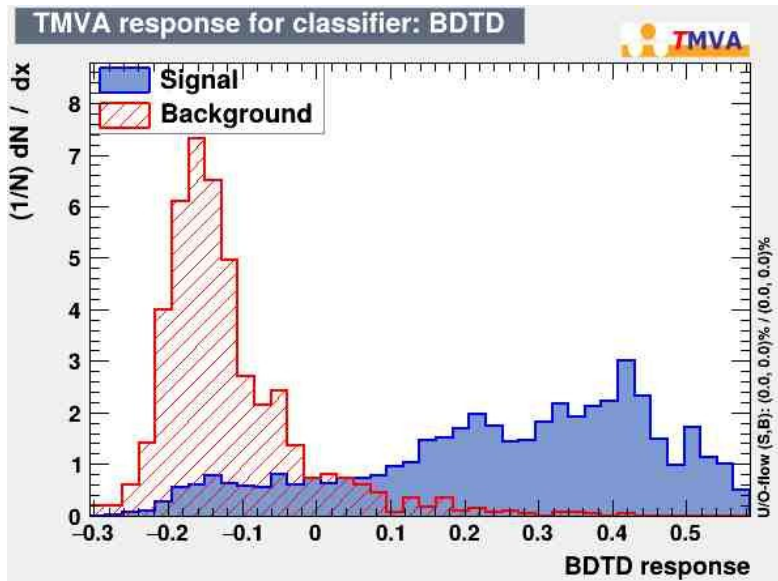
# Reconstruction of $D^0$ with ITS-6-40 model

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



**MVA input:**  
 $\lambda_D$  ( $D^0$  path),  
 $\theta_D$  (pointing angle),  
 $DCA_D$  ( $\pi$ -K distance)

**MVA cuts:**  
 $DCA(\pi, K) > 0.007$  cm,  
 $BDT\_response > 0.40$



# $D_s^+$ reconstruction in central Bi+Bi at NICA energy

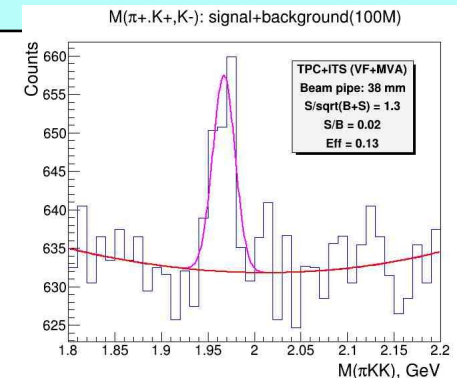
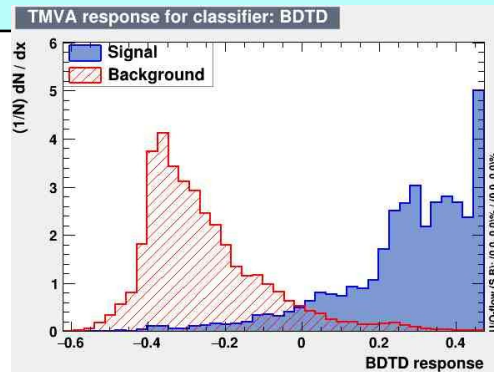
Particle	Mass [MeV/c <sup>2</sup> ]	Mean path $c\tau$ [mm]	Decay channel	BR	Multiplicity
$D^+$	1869.6	0.312	$\pi^+ + \pi^+ + K^-$	9.13%	$10^{-2}$
$D_s^+$	1968.5	0.150	$\pi^+ + K^+ + K^-$	5.50%	$10^{-2}$

Reconstruction of  $D_s^+$  is more complicated task compared to  $D^+$  for three reasons:

- 1) due to the decay length is 2 times shorter,
- 2) due to the BR is 2 times less,
- 3) due to the decay channel, since the reconstruction efficiency of K tracks is lower than that of  $\pi$  tracks.

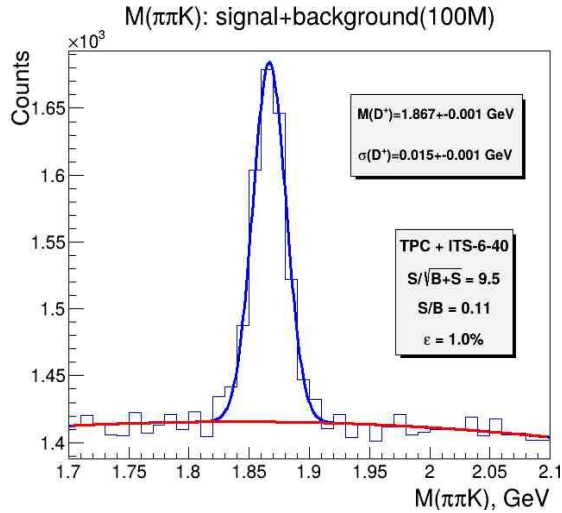
## TMVA:

$dca(\pi, K) > 0.02$  cm,  
BDT\_response  $> 0.25$

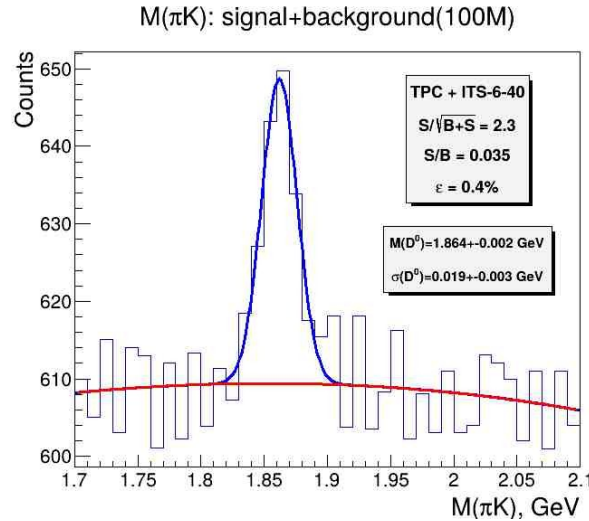


# D mesons reconstruction in Bi+Bi at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 11$ GeV

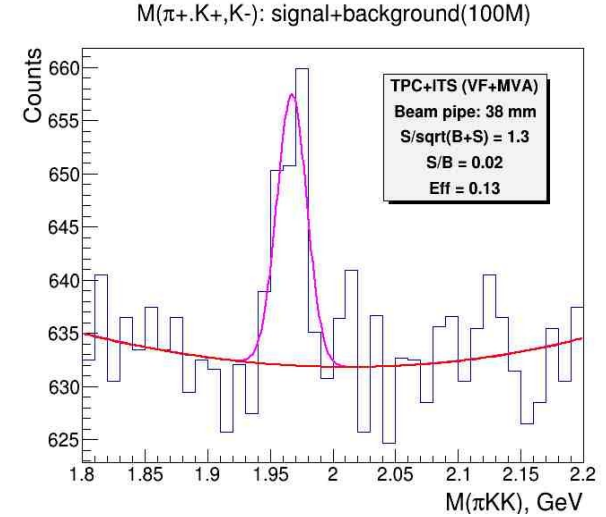
$$D^+ \rightarrow K^- + \pi^+ + \pi^+$$



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



$$D_s^+ \rightarrow K^- + K^+ + \pi^+$$



Using the optimal BDT cut allows to reconstruct  $D^+$ ,  $D^0$  and  $D_s^+$  with an efficiency of **1.0%**, **0.4%** and **0.1%** respectively.

$N_D = 19\,000$  mesons/month for  $D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ K^-$

$N_D = 3\,200$  mesons/month for  $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$

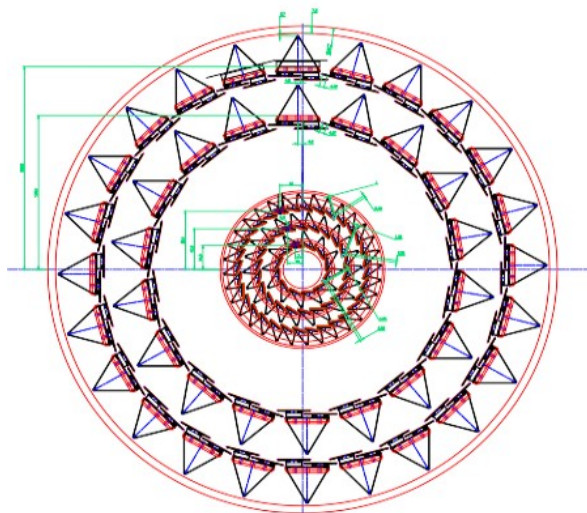
$N_D = 1\,100$  mesons/month for  $D_s^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ K^+ K^-$

Particle	$D^+$	$D^0$	$D_s^+$
Efficiency, %	1.0	0.4	0.1
Significance	9.5	2.3	1.3
S/B( $2\sigma$ ) ratio	0.11	0.04	0.02

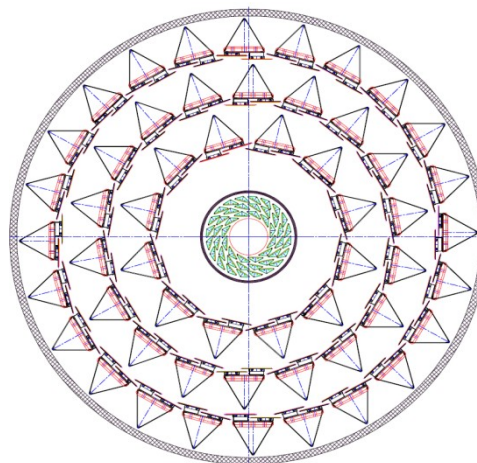


# New concept of 6 layers ITS on the base of MAPS with large area

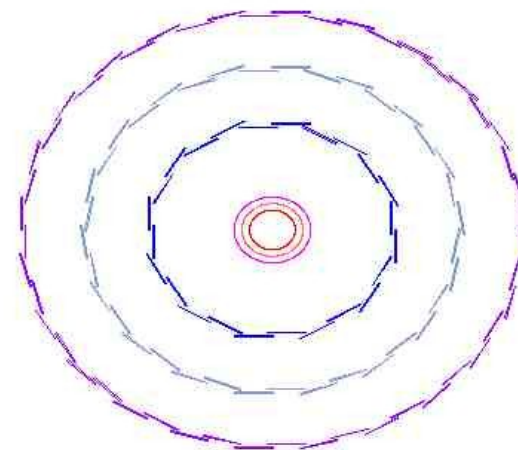
**5 layers of  
standard  
MAPS**



**6 layers of  
standard  
MAPS**



**6 layers of  
MAPS with  
large area**



Beam pipe diameter – **40 mm**

Beam pipe diameter – **35 mm**

1. V.I. Zherebchevsky, V.P. Kondratiev, N.A. Maltsev, Yu.A. Murin, V.V. Petrov

2. Eurasian Journal of Physics and Functional Materials, 2023, 7(3), 139-147  
2. Грант Российского Научного фонда № 23-12-00042

# MPD ITS-6-35 geometric model

**ITS-6-35 model** with **OB** consisting of 3 layers of standard MAPS:

Sensitive area: **15×30 mm<sup>2</sup>**

Thickness: **50 μm**

Number of pixels: **512×1024**

Pixel size: **28×28 μm<sup>2</sup>**.



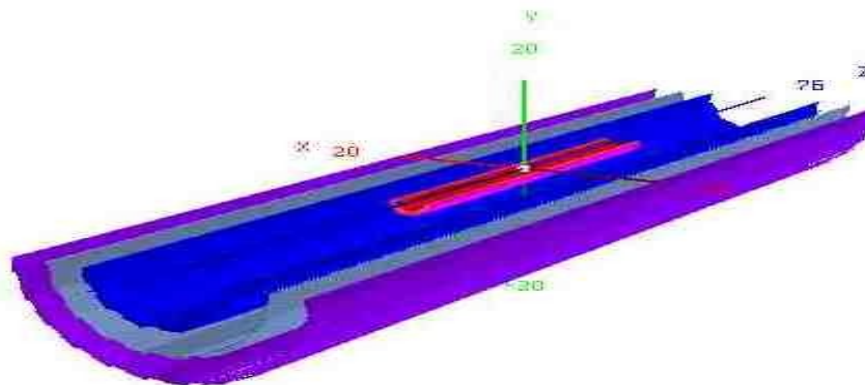
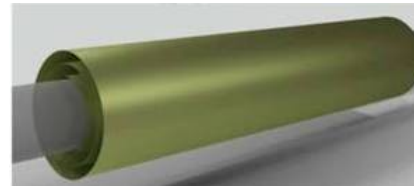
and **IB** consisting of 3 layers of bended staves of MAPS (**15 μm** pitch)  
with large area and thickness of **30 μm**

Size of bended MAPS:

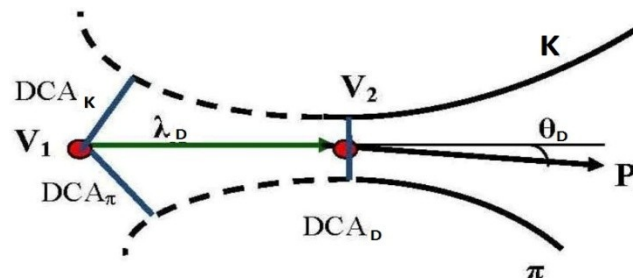
1 layer - **280\*56.5 mm<sup>2</sup>**

2 layer - **280\*75.5 mm<sup>2</sup>**

3 layer - **280\*94.0 mm<sup>2</sup>**



# Reconstruction of $D^+$ and $D^0$ with ITS-6-35 model in Au+Au central collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 9$ GeV



Used methods :

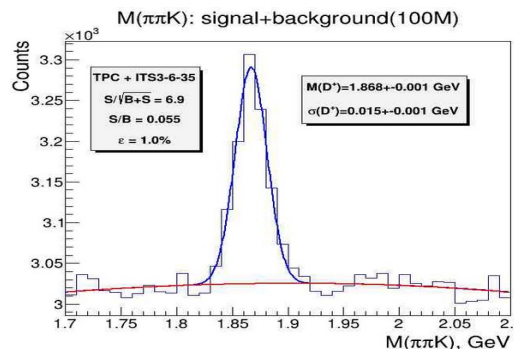
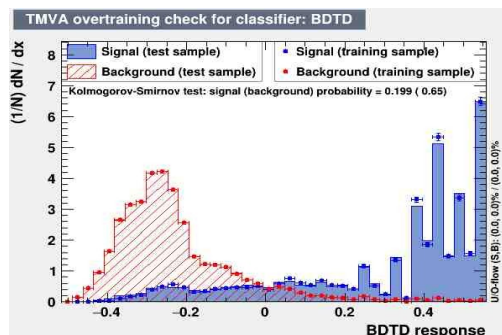
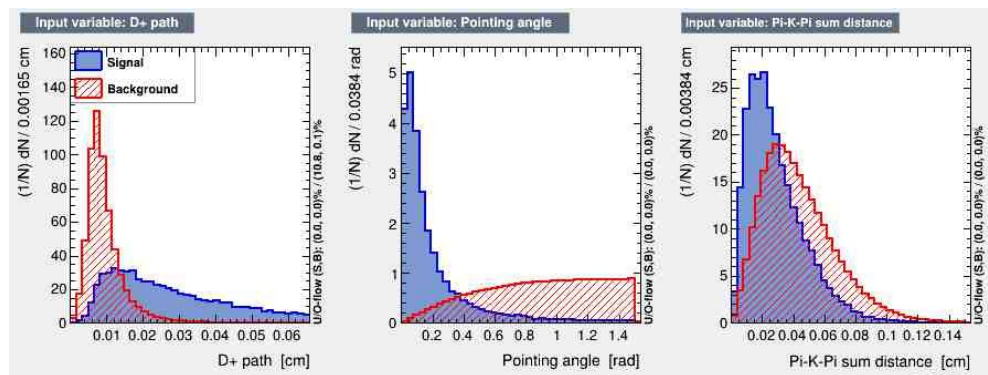
- 1) Track finder: **KF**
- 2) Particle identification: **TOF + dE/dx**
- 3) Track analysis: **ML (MVA)**

**MVA input:**

$\lambda_D$  (D path),  
 $\theta_D$  (pointing angle),  
 $DCA_D$  ( $\pi$ -K- $\pi$  sum  
distance)

**MVA cuts:**

$DCA(\pi, K) > 0.012$  cm,  
 $BDT\_response > 0.35$



Particle	$D^+$	$D^0$
Efficiency, %	1.2	0.5
Significance	6.9	1.7
S/B( $2\sigma$ ) ratio	0.06	0.02

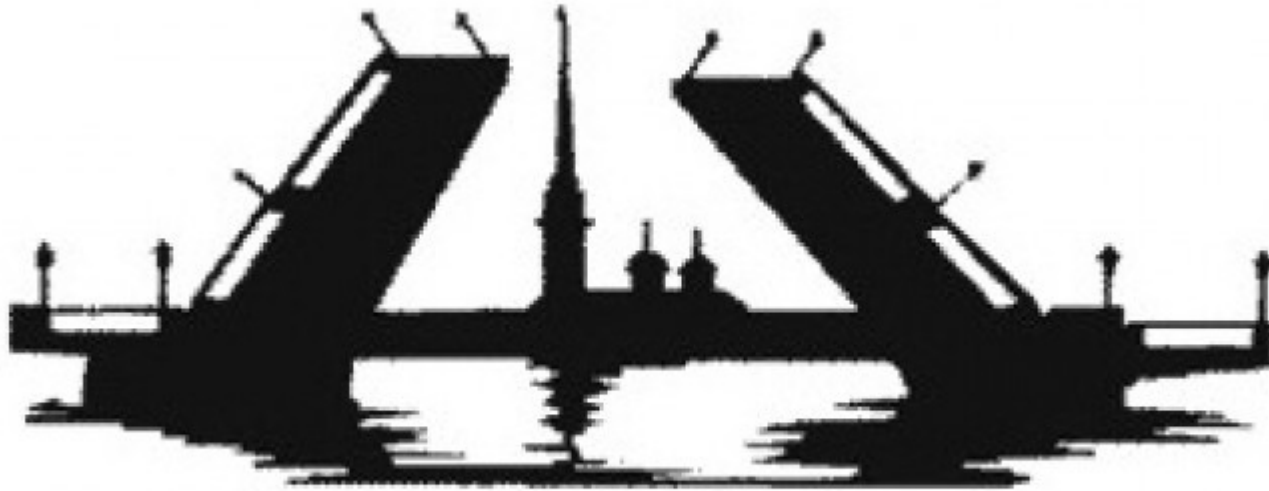


# Conclusion

**Quality assessment** of the MPD tracking system (**TPC + ITS-6-40**) has been investigated when reconstructing charmed particles formed in AA collisions at NICA energies.

Simulation shows:

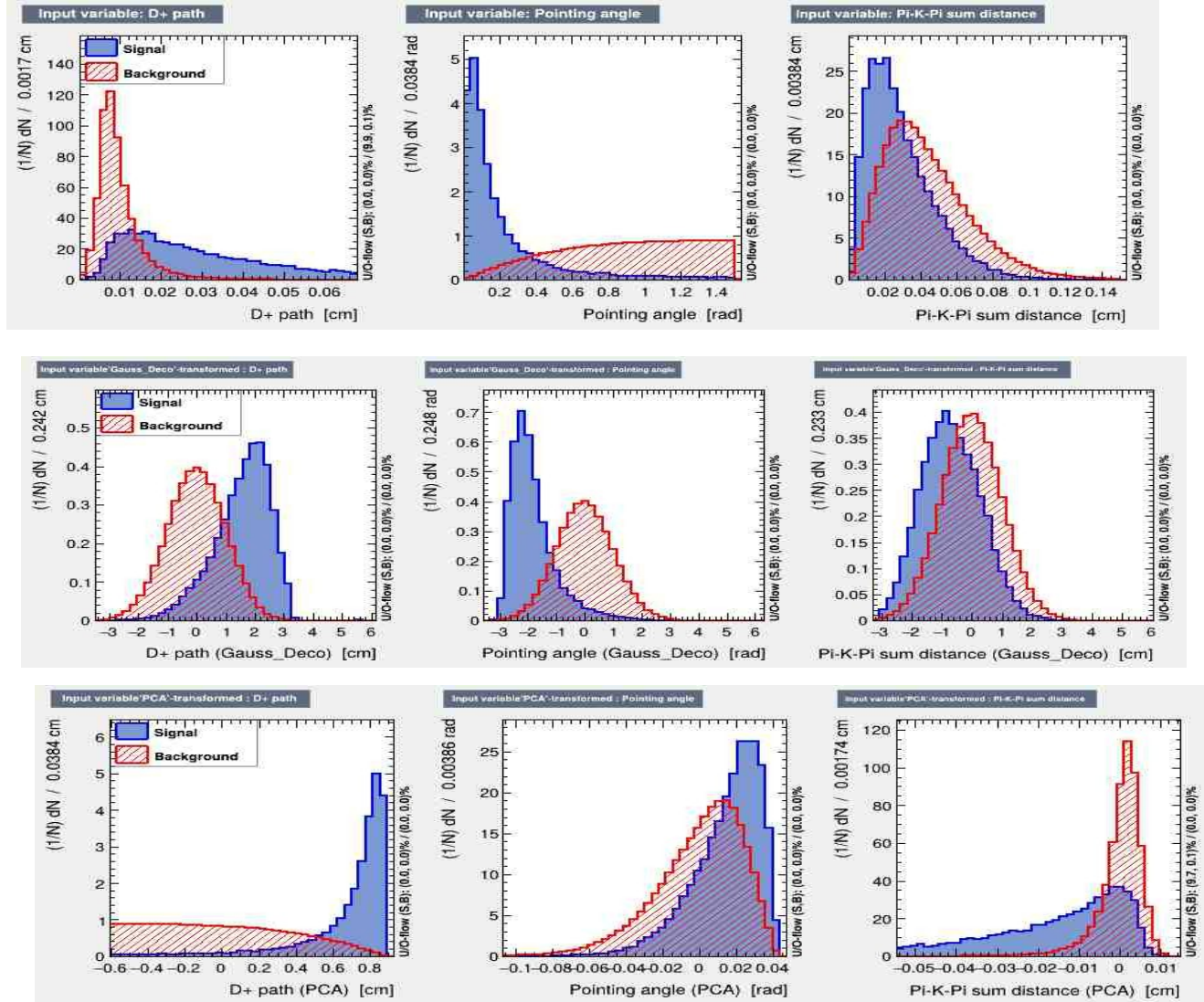
- feasibility of D mesons reconstruction in central Bi+Bi collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 11$  GeV
- estimated meson yields opens up prospects for studying the heavy flavors physics at the NICA-MPD facility.



***Thank you for your attention!***

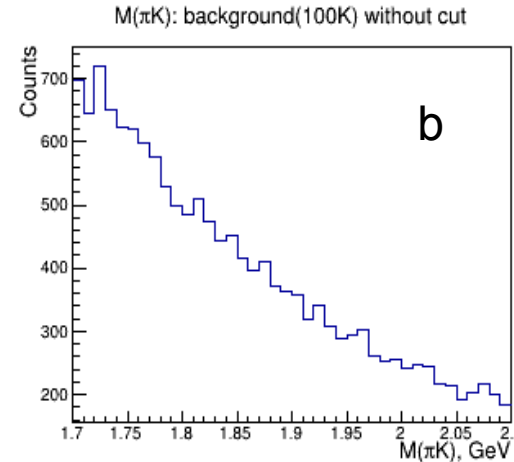
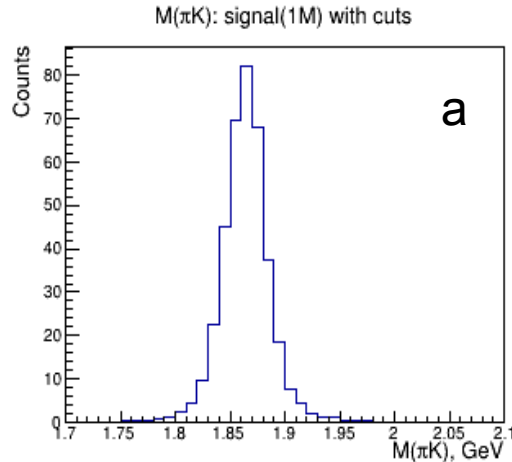
# Back up slides

# Input variables distributions for signal and background events after the gaussianisation and principal component decomposition ( $D^+$ )

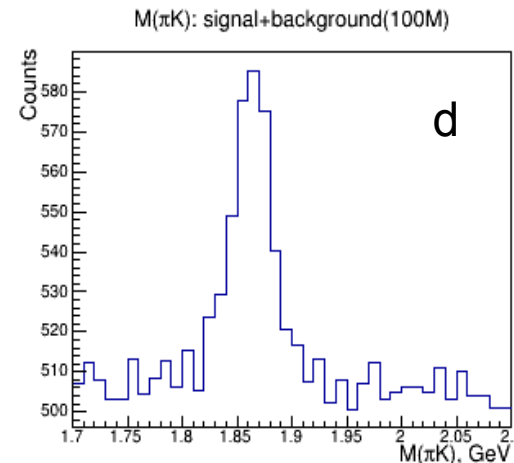
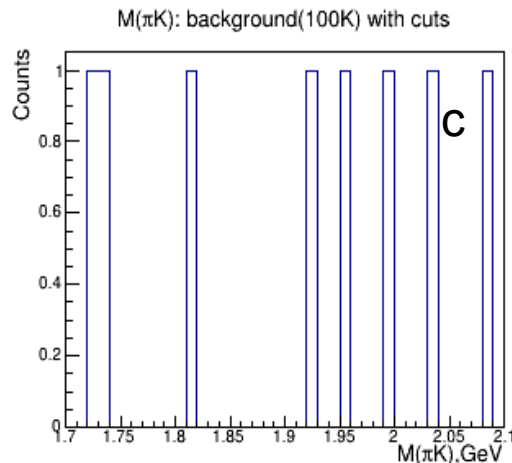


# Example of getting invariant mass spectra of $D^0$ mesons

$10^6$  signal events after applying cuts



$10^5$  background events before applying cuts



$10^8$  signal + background events after applying cuts

Background simulation - using **DCMSMM** generator (100K centralBi+Bi events)  
Signal simulation – using **thermal** generator (1M decay events)  
Resulting spectrum is normalizing to statistics of 100M central Bi+Bi events

# D yields at NICA

- 1) efficiency:  $\varepsilon = 1\%$  ( $D^+$ ),  $\varepsilon = 0.4\%$  ( $D^0$ )
- 2) interaction rate:  $R=8 \cdot 10^3$  events/sec
- 3) central collision fraction:  $\delta=0.1$ .
- 4) multiplicity of D in central AA collisions at NICA:  $M=10^{-2}$  meson/event.
- 5) branching ratio of the D meson decay:  $BR=9.2\%$  ( $D^+$ ),  $BR=3.9\%$  ( $D^0$ )
- 6) one month of continuous NICA operation:  $T=2.6 \cdot 10^6$  sec
- 7) yield:  $N_D = R \cdot \delta \cdot M \cdot T \cdot \varepsilon \cdot BR$

$$N_D = 19\,000 \text{ mesons/month for } D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ K^-$$

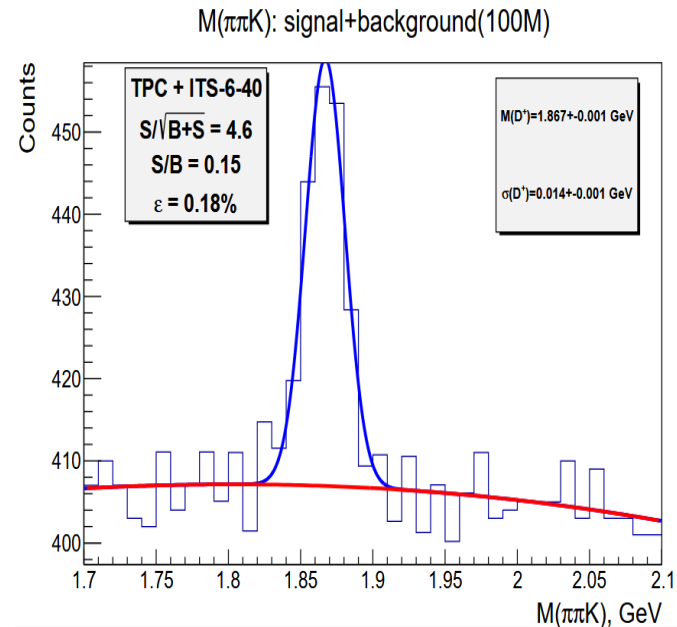
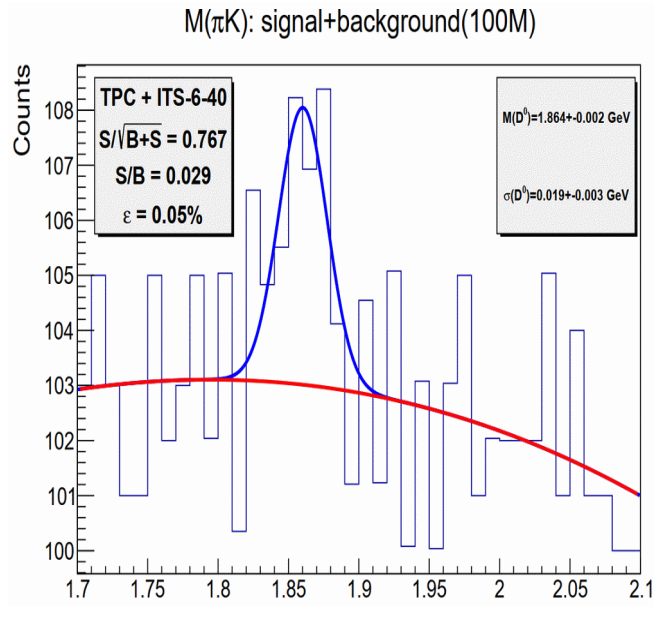
$$N_D = 3\,200 \text{ mesons/month for } D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ K^-$$

# D mesons reconstruction with new geometry of ITS

(gap between the two halves of the inner barrel)

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

$$D^+ \rightarrow K^- + \pi^+ + \pi^+$$



Preliminary results show that using the optimal BDT cut allows to reconstruct  $D^+$  and  $D^0$  with an efficiency of **0.18%** and **0.05%** respectively.