

**Thesis for the Degree of Master**

**Feasibility study of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \pi^0$  and  
 $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \eta$  branching fraction  
measurement based on Belle II  
Monte Carlo simulation samples**

**Belle II 몬테 카를로 데이터를 이용한  
 $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \pi^0$  그리고  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \eta$ 의  
붕괴 갈래비 측정 방식에 대한 탐색**

**June 2025**

**Department of Physics**

**Graduate School of Soongsil University**

**Jihun An**



**Thesis for the Degree of Master**

**Feasibility study of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \pi^0$  and  
 $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \eta$  branching fraction  
measurement based on Belle II  
Monte Carlo simulation samples**

**Belle II 몬테 카를로 데이터를 이용한  
 $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \pi^0$  그리고  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \eta$ 의  
붕괴 갈래비 측정 방식에 대한 탐색**

**June 2025**

**Department of Physics**

**Graduate School of Soongsil University**

**Jihun An**

**Thesis for the Degree of Master**

**Feasibility study of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \pi^0$  and  
 $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \eta$  branching fraction  
measurement based on Belle II Monte  
Carlo simulation samples**

A thesis supervisor : Doris Y Kim

**Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the Degree of Master**

**June 2025**

**Department of Physics**

**Graduate School of Soongsil University**

**Jihun An**

**To approve the submitted thesis for the**  
**Degree of Master by Jihun An**

**Thesis Committee**

**Chair**    천        명        기    (signature)

---

**Member**   김        진        민    (signature)

---

**Member**   Doris Y KIM  
              ( 김        양        수 )    (signature)

---

**June 2025**

**Graduate School of Soongsil University**

**To approve the submitted thesis for the**  
**Degree of Doctor by Jihun An**

**Thesis Committee**

**Chair**      천      명      기      (signature)

---

**Member**      김      진      민      (signature)

---

**Member**      Doris Y KIM  
( 김      양      수 )      (signature)

---

**June 2025**

**Graduate School of Soongsil University**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

먼저, 저의 석사 과정을 지도해 주신 김양수 교수님께 감사드립니다. 학부 연구생부터 석사과정까지 Belle II 연구 그룹에서 소프트웨어, 하드웨어, 데이터 분석 그리고 여러 콘퍼런스까지 제가 관심을 가지고 하고 싶어 하는 것에 항상 기회와 도움을 주셔서 이제 막 석사를 졸업하는 학생으로서는 얻기 힘든 귀중한 경험과 공부를 할 수 있었습니다. 많이 부족하게 석사과정을 시작했음에도, 클러스터 매니지먼트, Belle II DAQ 업무 등 여러 일들을 맡겨주셔서 계속 배우고 나아갈 수 있었습니다. 교수님께 배웠던 모든 것들 덕분에 제가 물리학자로서, 또는 사회 구성원으로서 저만의 역할을 해내는 사람이 되기 위해 더 발전하고 있다고 진심으로 생각하고 있습니다. 저에게 부족한 점과 배울 것이 많다는 것을 잘 이해하고 있습니다. 학부 연구생과 석사 과정으로부터 얻는 경험을 토대로 제가 받은 것들을 누군가에게 나누어 줄 수 있는, 그런 연구자가 되기 위해 더욱 정진하겠습니다.

저의 논문 심사를 맡아주신 교수님들께도 감사 인사를 드립니다. 먼저 김진민 교수님, 학부 과정부터 교수님이 설명해 주셨던 아름다운 자연 원리들은, 해주셨던 비유들까지 아직도 잘 기억하고 있습니다. 물리학 강의부터 저의 논문 심사까지 교수님에게 받을 수 있게 되어서 정말

감사드립니다. 그리고 천명기 교수님, 학부 현대 물리 수업부터 물리학의 꽃이라고 생각하는 핵물리학 수업까지 교수님의 강의를 들을 수 있어서 행운이었다고 생각합니다. 이 분야를 이해하는 데에 여전히 교수님의 설명들로부터 도움을 받고 있습니다. 제가 존경하는 교수님들께 심사를 받을 수 있어서 저에게는 과분한 기쁨이 되었습니다.

또한 방대한 우주에 대해 알려주신 이태훈 교수님, 항상 따뜻하고 열정적으로 지도해 주신 이항모 교수님, 학부 때부터 지도와 조언을 주신 정진석 교수님, 그리고 실험 조교 동안 항상 배려와 격려를 보내주신 최현희 교수님께도 많은 감사 인사를 드립니다. 숭실대학교에서 학부와 석사 과정을 보내는 동안 교수님들을 만나 배울 수 있어 너무 기뻐합니다.

바쁘신 와중에도 항상 도움을 주신 Belle II Charm Group의 skim liason 분과 다양한 일의 기회를 주신 Belle II DAQ Group의 Mikihiro Nakao-san께도 감사를 드립니다. 또한 항상 힘이 되어준 저의 물리학부 15학번 동기들과 아낌없이 도움을 주신 나이정 선배 연구원과 이경민 연구원에게도 특별하게 감사드립니다.

마지막으로 무한한 지지와 응원을 보내주신, 저에게 너무 소중한 사랑하는 가족들과 붉은 딱따구리 친구들 그리고 코타츠 친구들에게도 감사드립니다.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                      |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| ABSTRACT IN ENGLISH .....                                            | v  |
| ABSTRACT IN KOREAN .....                                             | vi |
| <b>CHAPTER 1 Introduction</b> .....                                  | 1  |
| 1.1 Belle II experiment environment .....                            | 2  |
| 1.1.1 SuperKEKB accelerator .....                                    | 2  |
| 1.1.2 Belle II detector .....                                        | 4  |
| 1.2 Singly Cabibbo-suppressed (SCS) processes in D meson decay ..... | 5  |
| <b>CHAPTER 2 Motivation</b> .....                                    | 7  |
| 2.1 Importance of measuring multi body neutral decays .....          | 7  |
| 2.2 Previous research .....                                          | 7  |
| <b>CHAPTER 3 Analysis framework</b> .....                            | 9  |
| 3.1 Monte-Carlo (MC) data sets .....                                 | 1  |
| 3.2 Software setup .....                                             | 10 |
| <b>CHAPTER 4 Event selection</b> .....                               | 10 |
| 4.1 Reconstruction .....                                             | 10 |
| 4.1.1 Reconstruction method .....                                    | 10 |
| 4.1.2 Reconstructed signal data sample .....                         | 11 |
| 4.2 Selection criteria .....                                         | 19 |

|                                                                |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 4.2.1 Pre-selection .....                                      | 19        |
| 4.2.2 Loose selection criteria and optimization strategy ..... | 19        |
| 4.3 Fitting result .....                                       | 22        |
| <b>CHAPTER 5 Conclusion .....</b>                              | <b>25</b> |
| REFERENCES .....                                               | 26        |

## LIST OF TABLES

|                                                                                                       |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| [Table 1-1] Sub-detectors in Belle II detector .....                                                  | 5  |
| [Table 1-2] Example of three body decay in D decay .....                                              | 6  |
| [Table 2-1] Previously obtained branching fractions of $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \pi^0/\eta$ ..... | 8  |
| [Table 3-1] Cascade decay branches of $D^0$ in the simulated event sample .....                       | 9  |
| [Table 4-1] Obtained mean value of invariant mass of $\pi^0/\eta$ and PDG value .....                 | 12 |
| [Table 4-2] Mean value of reconstructed mass of $D^0$ and PDG value .....                             | 15 |
| [Table 4-3] Pre-selection criteria .....                                                              | 19 |
| [Table 4-4] Selection criteria .....                                                                  | 21 |

## LIST OF FIGURES

|                                                                                                                                                                                                   |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| [Figure 1-1] Configuration of SuperKEKB .....                                                                                                                                                     | 2  |
| [Figure 1-2] Belle II online luminosity delivered by SuperKEKB .....                                                                                                                              | 3  |
| [Figure 1-3 ] The Belle II detector .....                                                                                                                                                         | 4  |
| [Figure 2-1]K-efficiencies and $\pi$ -mis-ID rates are calculated for different PID<br>criteria (Belle II note BELLE2-NOTE-PL-2020-024) .....                                                     | 8  |
| [Figure 4-1] Diagram of reconstruction structure .....                                                                                                                                            | 10 |
| [Figure 4-2] Reconstructed $\pi^0$ invariant mass before $D^0$ mass fit in $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \pi^0$<br>and charge conjugate mode (below) .....                                         | 13 |
| [Figure 4-3] Reconstructed $\eta$ invariant mass before D mass fit in $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$<br>and charge conjugate mode (below) .....                                               | 14 |
| [Figure 4-4] Reconstructed signal MC ( $D^0$ mass distribution) $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \pi^0$ and<br>$D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$ with their charge conjugate mode (right each) ..... | 16 |
| [Figure 4-5] Reconstructed signal MC (delta M (mass of [ $D^*$ - $D^0$ ]) of $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0$<br>$K_S^0 \pi^0$ and charge conjugate mode (below)) .....                                    | 17 |
| [Figure 4-6] Reconstructed signal MC (delta M (Mass of [ $D^*$ - $D^0$ ]) of $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0$<br>$K_S^0 \eta$ and charge conjugate mode (below)) .....                                     | 18 |
| [Figure 4-7] Double Crystal Ball fit on $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \pi^0$ and its charged conjugate<br>mode (below) .....                                                                       | 23 |
| [Figure 4-8] Double Crystal Ball fit on $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$ and its charged conjugate<br>mode (below) .....                                                                        | 24 |

## ABSTRACT

### **Feasibility study of $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \pi^0$ and $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \eta$ branching fraction measurement based on Belle II Monte Carlo simulation samples**

AN, JIHUN

Department of Physics

Graduate School of Soongsil University

On December 2024, SuperKEKB has achieved the world record luminosity  $5.1 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and accumulated 575.47/fb until January 2025. To analyze this dataset, this thesis generated Monte Carlo simulation samples using the Belle II analysis software framework and studied the method to measure the branching fraction of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \pi^0$  and  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \eta$ . During the project, the event selection criteria were optimized and the fitting procedure was studied, which in turn enhances the applicability of this study for future analyses. These decay modes have not been well measured yet. It is important to visit many research steps to improve precision. One example is to study background events created by other D meson decays and B meson decays.

## 국문초록

# Belle II 몬테 카를로 데이터를 이용한 $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \pi^0$ 그리고 $D^0 \rightarrow K_s K_s \eta$ 의 붕괴 갈래비 측정 방식에 대한 탐색

안지훈

물리학과

승실대학교 대학원

2024년 12월, SuperKEKB는 세계 기록인  $5.1 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ 의 광도를 달성하였고, 2025년 1월까지 총 575.47/fb의 데이터를 축적하였다. 이 데이터를 분석하기 위해 Belle II 분석 소프트웨어 프레임워크를 사용하여 몬테카를로 시뮬레이션 샘플을 생성하고, 생성된 시그널 샘플을 이용해  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \pi^0$  및  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \eta$ 의 붕괴율을 측정, 이벤트 선택 기준을 최적화하는 것을 목적으로 한다. 이는 향후 연구에 본 분석을 효과적으로 응용할 수 있도록 한다. 이 두 가지 붕괴 모드는 아직 정밀하게 측정되지 않았기 때문에, 다른 D 중간자 붕괴나 B 중간자 붕괴로 생성된 배경 데이터를 정확히 이해하는 것이 매우 중요하다.

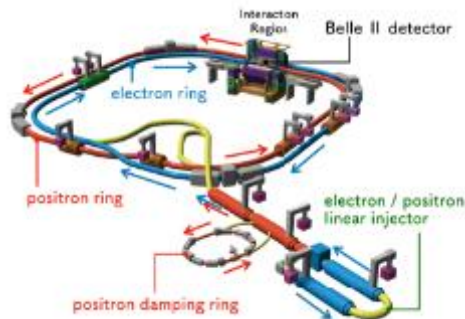
## CHAPTER 1 Introduction

Many decay modes of the  $D^0$  meson have been precisely measured. However, three-body decays involving neutral particles remain relatively unexplored. In particular, the branching fractions of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \pi^0$  and  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \eta$ , so-called 3-body neutral singly Cabibbo-suppressed mode, were measured as  $1.45 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $(1.3 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-4}$ , respectively [1]. Due to this limitation, such D meson decay modes cannot be used as reference modes or background components in various studies of B physics and other D meson decay modes conducted by experiments such as Belle II, BaBar, BESIII, and LHCb. Therefore, precise measurements of their branching fractions are important. Moreover, for the study of CP asymmetries in singly Cabibbo-suppressed (SCS) decay modes, accurate determination of the branching fraction is a necessary first step.

## 1.1 Belle II experiment environment

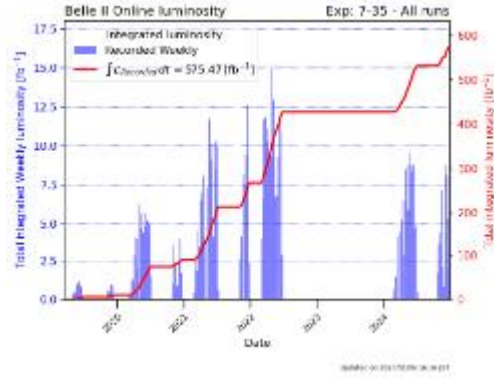
### 1.1.1 SuperKEKB accelerator

[Figure 1-1] Configuration of SuperKEKB



SuperKEKB is an asymmetric-energy electron-positron collider located at KEK in Tsukuba, Japan with 7.0 GeV electron and 4.0 GeV positron beams. SuperKEKB is the upgrade from KEKB, using the nanobeam scheme with the aim of vertical beam sizes down to 50 nm [2]. SuperKEKB targets a peak luminosity of  $8 \times 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  and total integrated luminosity of  $50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$ . The aim of the upgrade project is to explore new physics in the flavour sector at the luminosity frontier [3].

[Figure 1-2] Belle II online luminosity delivered by SuperKEKB



Following the 2022–2023 long shutdown, Run 2 began in January 2024. On 27 December 2024 SuperKEKB set a new world record instantaneous luminosity of  $5.1 \times 10^{34}$  and accumulated  $575.47 \text{ ab}^{-1}$  until January 2025 [3].

The luminosity is expressed as,

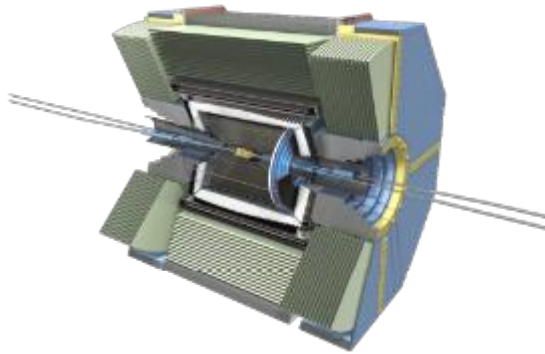
$$L = \frac{1}{4\pi} \cdot \frac{N_p N_e}{\sigma_x^{\text{effective}} \sigma_y^*} \cdot f_{\text{col}} R_L$$

and is also expressed by well-known formula:

$$L = \frac{\gamma_{\pm}}{2e r_e} \left( \frac{l_{\pm} \xi_{y\pm}}{\beta_{y\pm}^*} \right) \left( \frac{R_L}{R_{\xi_r}} \right)$$

### 1.1.2 Belle II detector

[Figure 1-3] The Belle II detector



Starting from the beam interaction point, Belle II detector in [Figure 1-3] consists of PXD (Pixel Detector), SVD (Silicon Vertex Detector), CDC (Central Drift Chamber), TOP (Time-Of-Propagation Counter), ARICH (Aerogel Ring Imaging Cherenkov Detector), ECL (Electromagnetic Calorimeter) and KLM (K<sub>L</sub> and Muon Detector). The detector can identify and precisely measure a wide range of particles, including charged particles, photons, neutral hadrons, muons, and kaon mesons, over nearly the full solid angle. More details of components are in [Table 1-1].

[Table 1-1] Sub-detectors in Belle II detector

| Radius(cm)    | Type  | Role in $\pi/K$ ID                       |
|---------------|-------|------------------------------------------|
| 1.4 - 1.6     | PXD   | precise decay-point reconstruction       |
| 1.6 - 11      | SVD   | dE/dx for low-p $\pi/K$ separation       |
| 16 -113       | CDC   | dE/dx for various charged particles      |
| 120 (barrel)  | TOP   | $\pi/K$ separation                       |
| 120 (forward) | ARICH | $\pi/K$ separation                       |
| 125           | ECL   | photon / $\pi^0$ / $\eta$ reconstruction |
| 170           | KLM   | $\mu/K_L$ tagging                        |

## 1.2 Singly Cabibbo-suppressed (SCS) processes in D meson decay

The Cabibbo–Kobayashi–Maskawa matrix categorizes decays of charm hadrons into Cabibbo-favored (CF), doubly suppressed (DCS) and singly Cabibbo-suppressed (SCS) amplitudes. Because SCS amplitudes receive comparable tree and loop (penguin) contributions, they are uniquely sensitive to CP-violating phases beyond the Standard Model. More specifically, examples of SCS processes in D meson decays to three bodys including CF and DCS are in the [Table 1-2].

[Table 1-2] Example of three body decay in D decay

| Decay | examples                                                           |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CF    | $D^0 \rightarrow K^0 \pi^0 \pi^0, D^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$ |
| SCS   | $D^0 \rightarrow K^0 K^0 \pi^0, D^+ \rightarrow K^+ K^- \pi^+$     |
| DCS   | $D^0 \rightarrow K^0 K^0 K^0, D^+ \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^+$     |

For SCS modes the tree and penguin topologies have comparable magnitudes. Interference between them permits direct CP violation if the strong and weak phase differences are non-zero. The main subjects of this thesis,  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \pi^0$  and  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \eta$ , are also SCS modes. Time-integrated CP asymmetry is defined as

$$A_{CP} = \frac{\Gamma(D^0 \rightarrow f) - \Gamma(\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow f)}{\Gamma(D^0 \rightarrow f) + \Gamma(\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow f)}$$

And this is a useful measure to search for penguin-induced new physics.

## CHAPTER 2 Motivation

### 2.1 Importance of measuring multi body neutral decays

SCS charm decays are suppressed, therefore occur at the  $O(10^{-4})$  level or below. In these modes, the interference explained in the previous chapter can generate direct CP violation so measurement of their exact branching fractions is important as the first step of the overall analysis strategy. Neutral multi-body final states have amplified sensitivity to CP asymmetry.

Also, rich phase-space allows local CP tests in Dalitz sub-regions, boosting discovery potential [4]. The 2019 LHCb discovery of  $\Delta A_{CP} \neq 0$  in the two-body SCS decays  $D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-$ ,  $\pi^+ \pi^-$  with significance  $5.3 \sigma$  proves that CPV in SCS can be found by current detector technology[5].

### 2.2 Previous research

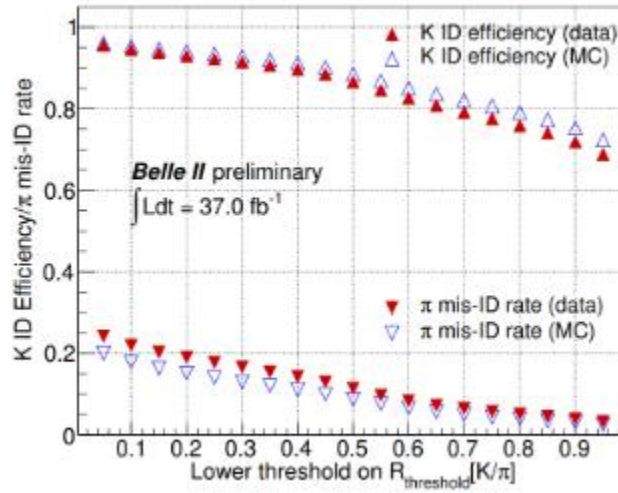
For the  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \pi^0$  and  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$  decay modes, currently only CLEO and BES III presented meaningful sensitivity to branching fractions as shown on [Table 2-1] [6][7][8].

[Table 2-1] Previously obtained branching fractions of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \pi^0/\eta$

| decay mode                          | experiment | branching fraction                                   |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \pi^0$ | CLEO       | $< 5.9 \times 10^{-4}$ (with $2.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ ) |
| $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \pi^0$ | BES III    | $< 1.57 \times 10^{-4}$                              |
| $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \eta$  | BES III    | $< (1.33 \pm 0.62) \times 10^{-4}$                   |

Belle II is designed for  $50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$  luminosity and has high efficiency of  $\pi/K$  PID. TOP and ARICH deectors give  $\geq 90\%$  K efficiency with  $\leq 5\%$   $\pi$ -fake for  $0.5\text{--}2 \text{ GeV}/c$  tracks [9]. And with good ECL resolution, Belle II data can increase efficiency of reconstruction of  $\pi^0/\eta$ .

[Figure 2-1] K-efficiencies and  $\pi$ -mis-ID rates are calculated for different PID criteria (Belle II note BELLE2-NOTE-PL-2020-024)



## CHAPTER 3 Analysis framework

### 3.1 Monte-Carlo (MC) data sets

A 1 million event Monte Carlo run-dependent signal sample adjusted by detector and running condition is used as signal data. Since the decay structures of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \pi^0$  and  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$  are not measured yet, simple phase-space decay was assumed to generate the simulated events. The topoAna software tool generates [Table 3-1] that shows the detailed decay paths of events included in the simulated sample of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \pi^0$ .

[Table 3-1] Cascade decay branches of  $D^0$  in the simulated event sample

| rowNo | cascade decay branch of $D^0$                                                                                                         | iCascDcyBrP | nCase  | nCCase |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|
| 1     | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$                                     | 0           | 811547 | 811547 |
| 2     | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F$                            | 1           | 152543 | 964090 |
| 3     | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$                                                                    | 5           | 18495  | 982585 |
| 4     | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F$                   | 3           | 7240   | 989825 |
| 5     | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F \gamma^F$                   | 2           | 7100   | 996925 |
| 6     | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F$                                                           | 4           | 1752   | 998677 |
| 7     | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F \gamma^F$          | 6           | 690    | 999367 |
| 8     | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F \gamma^F \gamma^F$          | 7           | 204    | 999571 |
| 9     | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0$                                                                                                   | 10          | 121    | 999692 |
| 10    | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F \gamma^F$                                                  | 9           | 68     | 999760 |
| 11    | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F \gamma^F, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F \gamma^F$ | 14          | 15     | 999775 |
| 12    | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_S^0 K_S^0, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F, K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^F \gamma^F \gamma^F$ | 8           | 14     | 999789 |
| 13    | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^+ K^-$                                                                                                     | 13          | 9      | 999798 |
| 14    | $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^+ K^- \gamma^F$                                                                                            | 21          | 3      | 999801 |
| 15    | $D^0 \rightarrow K^- a_1^+, a_1^+ \rightarrow \rho^0 \pi^+$                                                                           | 22          | 3      | 999804 |
| 16    | $D^0 \rightarrow K_L^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$                                                                                                   | 32          | 3      | 999807 |
| 17    | $D^0 \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e K^-$                                                                                                       | 34          | 3      | 999810 |

## 3.2 Software setup

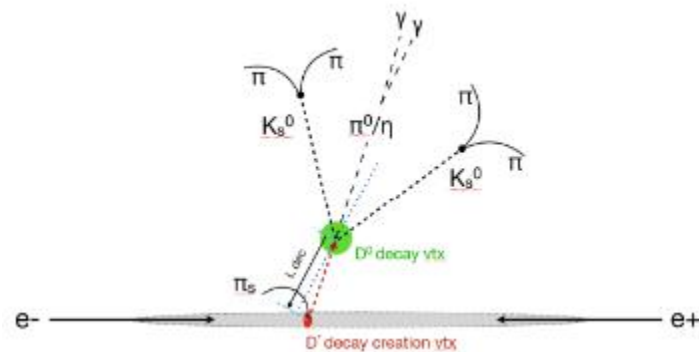
The basf2 (Belle II Analysis Software Framework) is the modular C++/Python framework that steers all Belle II workflows—generation, simulation, reconstruction (clustering, tracking, vertex-fitting, PID), and user analysis (vertex-fitting, applying selection cuts and deep learning). The core concepts are structured as modules and workflow paths are configured in a Python steering file [10].

# CHAPTER 4 Event selection

## 4.1 Reconstruction

### 4.1.1 Reconstruction method

[Figure 4-1] Diagram of reconstruction structure



The steering script reconstruct  $\pi^0/\eta$  with two gamma with  $E > 50$  MeV (barrel),  $E > 100$  MeV (forward endcap) and  $E > 150$  MeV (backward endcap). These photons are represented as stdPhoton in the steering script.  $K_S^0$  are reconstructed with two charged pions, by KS0finder which is essentially a vertex fit to improve mass resolution. All these particles are used to reconstruct  $D^0$ . At the final reconstruction step, a slow pion is chosen with selection cuts:  $|dr| < 1.0$  cm,  $|dz| < 3.0$  cm, thetaInCDCAcceptance (17~150 degrees) and chiProb  $> 0.001$  (pvalue). Then the slow pion is merged into  $D^*$  with the reconstructed  $D^0$  in the previous step.

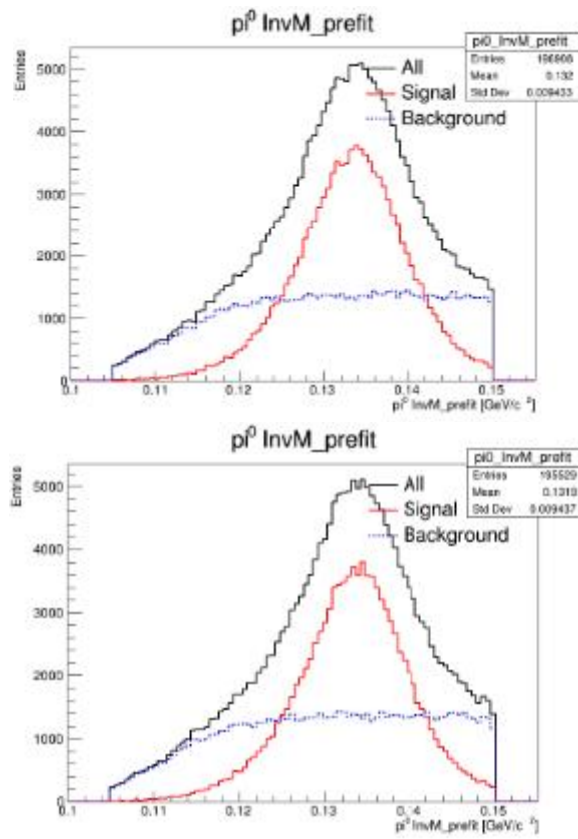
#### 4.1.2 Reconstructed signal data sample

[Figure 4-2] and [Figure 4-3] show that invariant mass of  $\pi^0/\eta$  before the final  $D^0$  mass reconstruction.  $\pi^0$  has  $0.105 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < \text{InvM} < 0.15 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  selection cut and  $0.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < \text{InvM} < 0.58 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  on  $\eta$ . Right side cut on  $\pi^0$  mass distribution is due to a preselection limitation. Each mean value and PDG value are summarized in [Table 4-1]. For  $D^0$  mass reconstruction fixed mass of  $\pi^0/\eta$  are used. (for example,  $0.135 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  for neutral pion)

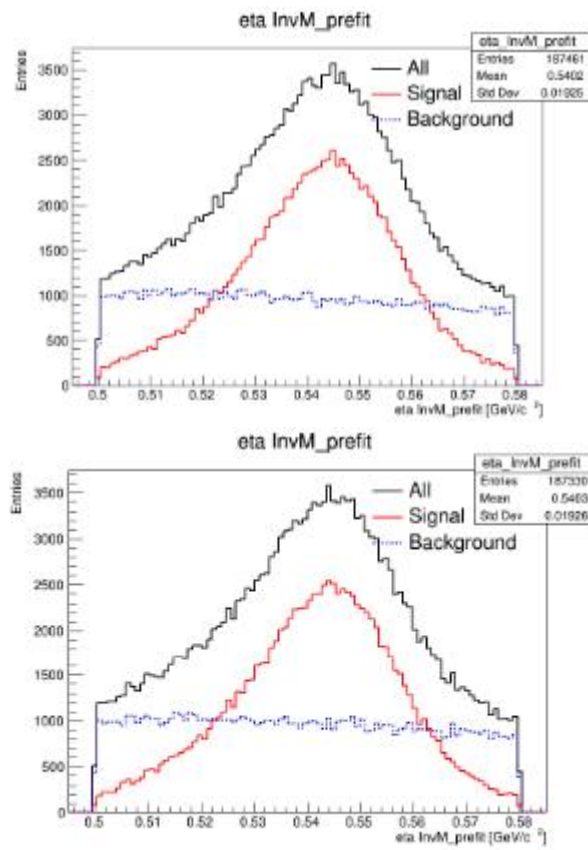
[Table 4-1] Obtained mean value of invariant mass of  $\pi^0/\eta$  and PDG value

| type    | obtained value            | PDG value                 |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| $\pi^0$ | 0.1320 GeV/c <sup>2</sup> | 0.1349 GeV/c <sup>2</sup> |
| $\eta$  | 0.5402 GeV/c <sup>2</sup> | 0.5478 GeV/c <sup>2</sup> |

[Figure 4-2] Reconstructed  $\pi^0$  invariant mass before  $D^0$  mass fit in  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \pi^0$   
and charge conjugate mode (below)



[Figure 4-3] Reconstructed  $\eta$  invariant mass before D mass fit in  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$   
and charge conjugate mode (below)

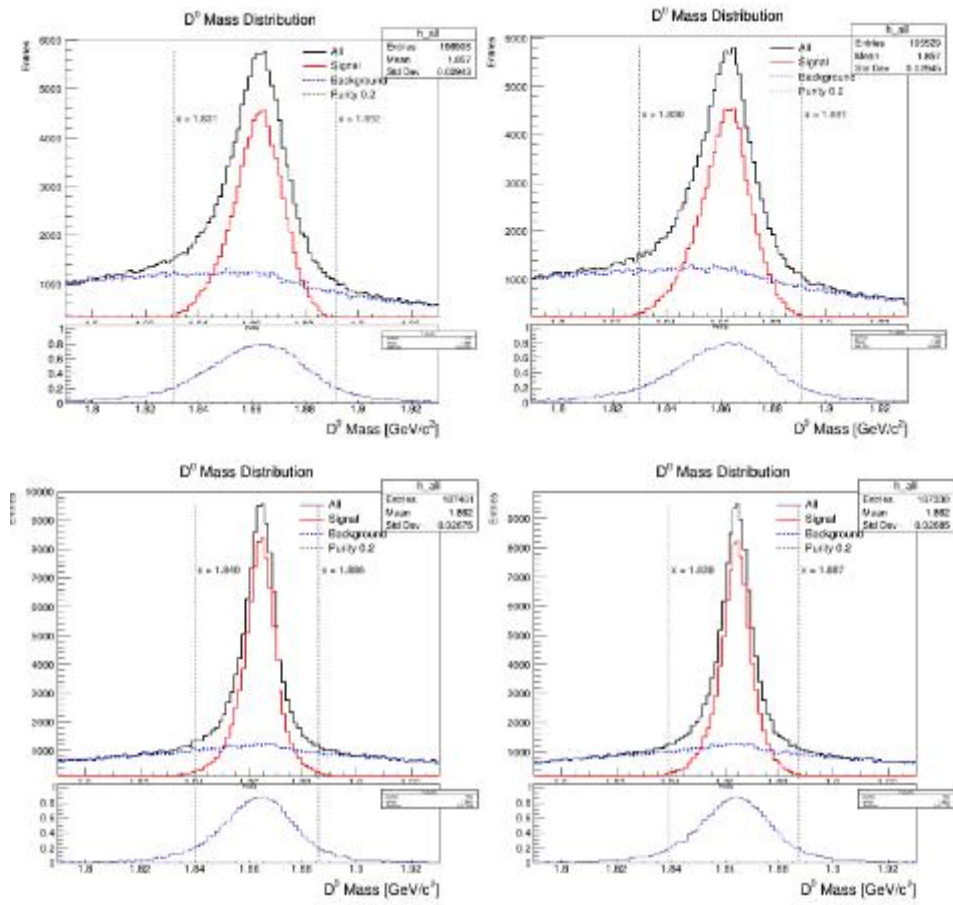


Mass distribution of reconstructed  $D^0$  is in [Figure 4-4] with vertical line at purity value 0.2 given by  $\text{Purity} = N_{\text{sig}}/(N_{\text{sig}} + N_{\text{bkg}})$ . Since the exact nature of the background events is not studied yet, the vertical lines are arbitrary. A small peak in background was observed which is expected to be  $D^+ \rightarrow K_s^0 \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$  and  $D^+ \rightarrow K_s^0 \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$ . The decay length significance of Ks will be useful and efficient to suppress this peaking background. Each mean value and PDG value of the reconstructed  $D^0$  mass summarized in [Table 4-2]. With topology analysis in [Table 3-1], one can find more candidate decay modes on the background peak. The distributions of delta M which can be obtained as difference between mass of  $D^*$  and  $D^0$  show on [Figure 4-5] and [Figure 4-6]. The delta M information will be used for selection cut and branching fraction fit. Their charge conjugate modes are also shown on those figures.

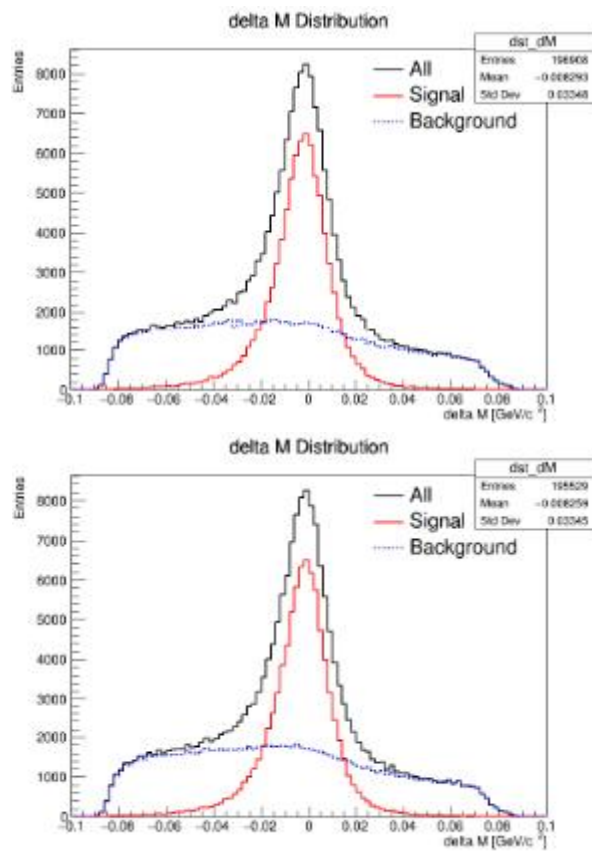
[Table 4-2] Mean value of reconstructed mass of  $D^0$  and PDG value

| decay mode                          | obtained value           | PDG value                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \pi^0$ | 1.857 GeV/c <sup>2</sup> | 1.864 GeV/c <sup>2</sup> |
| $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \eta$  | 1.862 GeV/c <sup>2</sup> | 1.864 GeV/c <sup>2</sup> |

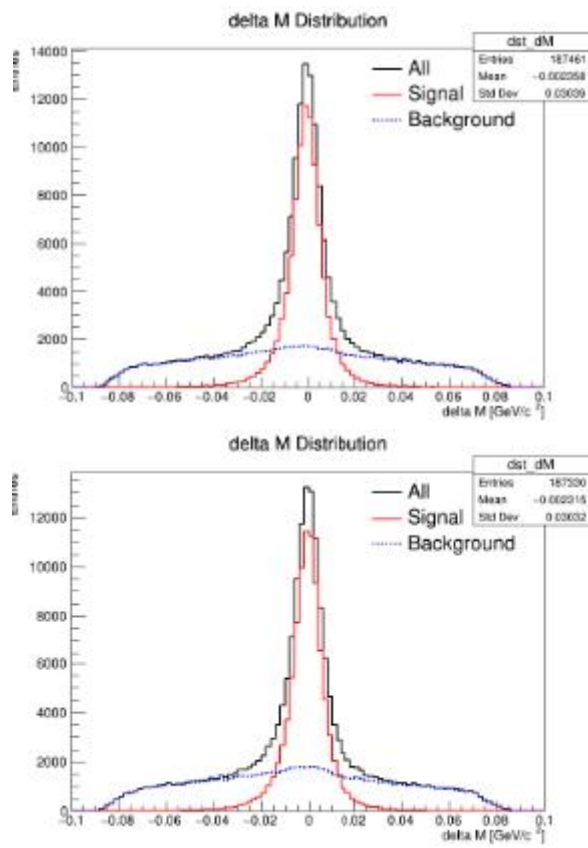
[Figure 4-4] Reconstructed signal MC ( $D^0$  mass distribution)  $D^0 \rightarrow Ks^0 Ks^0 \pi^0$  and  $D^0 \rightarrow Ks^0 Ks^0 \eta$  with their charge conjugate mode (right each)



[Figure 4-5] Reconstructed signal MC (delta M (mass of  $[D^* - D^0]$ ) of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0$   
 $K_S^0 \pi^0$  and charge conjugate mode (below))



[Figure 4-6] Reconstructed signal MC (delta M (Mass of  $[D^* - D^0]$ ) of  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0$   
 $K_S^0 \eta$  and charge conjugate mode (below))



## 4.2 Selection criteria

### 4.2.1 Pre-selection

[Table 4-3] Pre-selection criteria

| candidate | selection criteria                                                                                                     |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $\eta$    | $0.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < \text{InvM} < 0.58 \text{ GeV}/c^2, p > 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c, \cos\theta_{\text{betweenD}} < 1.0$  |
| $\pi^0$   | $0.105 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < \text{InvM} < 0.15 \text{ GeV}/c^2, p > 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$                                    |
| $\pi_s$   | $ \text{dr}  < 1.0 \text{ cm},  \text{dz}  < 3.0 \text{ cm}, \theta_{\text{InCDC}} \text{Acceptance (17~150 degrees)}$ |
| $D^0$     | $1.78 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M < 1.94 \text{ GeV}/c^2$                                                                      |
| $D^*$     | $0.14 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < \text{massDifference} < 0.16 \text{ GeV}/c^2$                                                  |

Selection criteria for reconstruction of signal monte calro sample are in [Table 4-3]. These loose pre-selection criteria are chosen for background study.

### 4.2.2 Loose selection criteria and optimization strategy

Pre-selection criteria were chosen with loose selection criteria, since a tighter selection may cause too much background suppression which can hinder background study for suitable optimization. The planned selection criteria are summarized in [Table 4-3]. Figure of merit ( $\text{FoM} = S/\sqrt{(S + B)}$ ) is used for optimization and to suppress background events. For multiple candidate events, the best candidate selection is performed by choosing smallest  $\sum \chi^2_{\text{mv}}(K_S^0) + \chi^2_{\text{m}}(\pi^0/\eta) +$

$\sum \chi^2_{\text{vtx}}(D)$ . About expected peaking background  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0/\eta$  f for signal modes, although their contamination probability is strongly suppressed by narrow mass window ( $m_{K_S^0} \pm 10 \text{ MeV}$ :  $\sim 3\sigma$ ), the branching fraction is large [ $B = (5.2 \pm 0.6)\%$ ] and [ $B = (2.80 \pm 0.19) \times 10^{-3}$ ] and [ $B = (1.49 \pm 0.06)\%$ ], which results to this significant background. It is expected that the decay length significance of KS will be useful to suppress these kinds of background events.

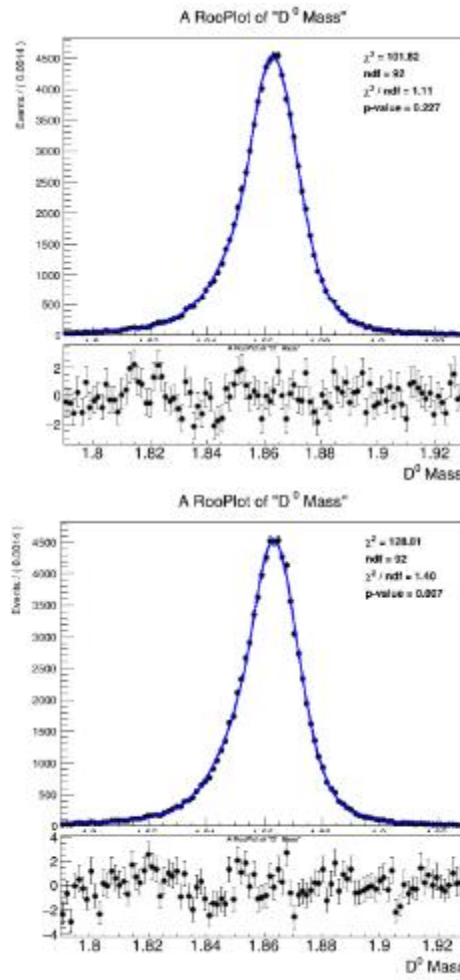
[Table 4-4] Selection criteria

| candidate | selection                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $\gamma$  | $E(\gamma) > 50$ (100) MeV at barrel (end-cap)                                                                                                                                  |
| $\eta$    | $500 < M(\gamma\gamma) < 580$ MeV/c <sup>2</sup> , $p(\eta) > 0.5$ GeV/c, $\chi^2_m < 50$ ,<br>$E_\gamma$ balance $< 0.8$ , pi0-veto                                            |
| $\pi^0$   | $115 < M(\gamma\gamma) < 150$ MeV/c <sup>2</sup> , $p(\pi^0) > 0.5$ GeV/c, $\chi^2_m < 50$                                                                                      |
| $\pi_s$   | $dr  < 1.0$ cm, $ dz  < 3.0$ cm, $\text{prob}(\pi:K) > 0.4$                                                                                                                     |
| $K_s$     | $\pi^+\pi^-$ : using nisKsFinder, within 10 MeV/c <sup>2</sup> around nominal mass;<br>mass-vertex fit with $\chi^2_m < 100$ ; decay length significance $L/\sigma > 10$        |
| $D^0$     | vertex fit with Ks track to obtain $D^0$ decay vertex (also as Ks product vertex). Add $\pi^0/\eta$ momentum to obtain right $D^0$ momentum for $\pi^0/\eta$ -involved channels |
| $D^*$     | apply IP constraint for $D^0$ candidates to obtain the product vertex, slow pion refit with such vertex to improve Q resolution                                                 |

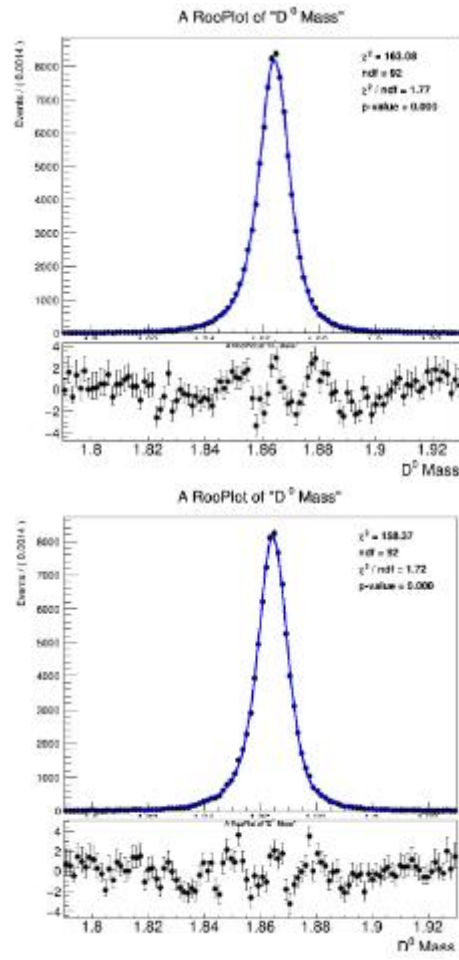
### **4.3 Fitting result**

The signal data was fitted using the double Crystal Ball function. The quality of the fit was evaluated using the chi-squared per degree of freedom, the p-value, and the pull distribution, all of which indicated satisfactory agreement between the model and the data show in [Figure 4-7] and [Figure 4-8].

[Figure 4-7] Double Crystal Ball fit on  $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 K_S^0 \pi^0$  and its charged conjugate  
mode (below)



[Figure 4-8] Double Crystal Ball fit on  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \eta$  and its charged conjugate mode (below)



## CHAPTER 5 Conclusion

In this study,  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \pi^0$  and  $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \eta$  channels are studied, since they are singly Cabibbo suppressed and rare D decay modes for which precise measurement is necessary. 1 million signal MC events have been generated and reconstructed. Fitting  $D^0$  mass distribution with double Crystal Ball functions show reconstruction of the signal events is done well. In future studies, fitting of the background events and the combined fitting of background and signal events are planned. With these results and with the expected size of the Belle II collision data, the feasibility of measuring the branching fractions of the two decay channels will be calculated. We showed the first result on selection of the signal events and fitting of  $D^0$  mass distribution. By optimizing the fitting procedure and background suppression, and by carefully evaluating both systematic and statistical uncertainties, the sensitivity of measuring branching fractions will be determined. If the precision is determined as very precise, this project may pave the way for a subsequent measurement of CP asymmetry.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Particle Data Group. “2025 Review of Particle Physics –  $D^0$  Listings”, page 23
- [2] Kazunori Akai, Kazuro Furukawa and Haruyo Koiso. “SuperKEKB Collider”.  
*arXiv:1809.01958* (2018)
- [3] Belle II Collaboration, “Belle II Online luminosity”.  
<https://www.belle2.org/research/luminosity/>
- [4] Zhen-Hua Zhang, “A novel observable for CP violation in multi-body decays  
and its application potential to charm and beauty meson decays”.  
*arXiv:2102.12263* (2021)
- [5] R. Aaij *et al.* “Observation of CP Violation in Charm Decays”.  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* *122*, 211803 (2019)
- [6] D. M. Asner *et al.* “Analysis of  $D^0 \rightarrow KK X$  decays”. *Phys. Rev. D* *54*, 4211  
(1996)
- [7] M. Ablikim, M. N. Achasov *et al.* “Measurements of the absolute branching  
fractions of hadronic - meson decays involving kaons and pions”.  
*Phys. Rev. D* *106*, 032002 (2022)
- [8] M. Ablikim, M. N. Achasov *et al.* “Measurements of Absolute Branching  
Fractions of Fourteen Exclusive Hadronic D Decays to  $\eta$ ”.  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* *124*, 241803 (2020)
- [9] Belle II Collaboration, “Kaon and Pion Identification Performance in Phase III  
data”. BELLE2-NOTE-PL-2020-024 (2020)

[10] Sam Cunliffe, Belle II Collaboration.

“Belle II Software Documentation, 3.4.1. The basics”.

[https://software.belle2.org/development/sphinx/online\\_book/basf2/introduction.ht](https://software.belle2.org/development/sphinx/online_book/basf2/introduction.ht)

ml