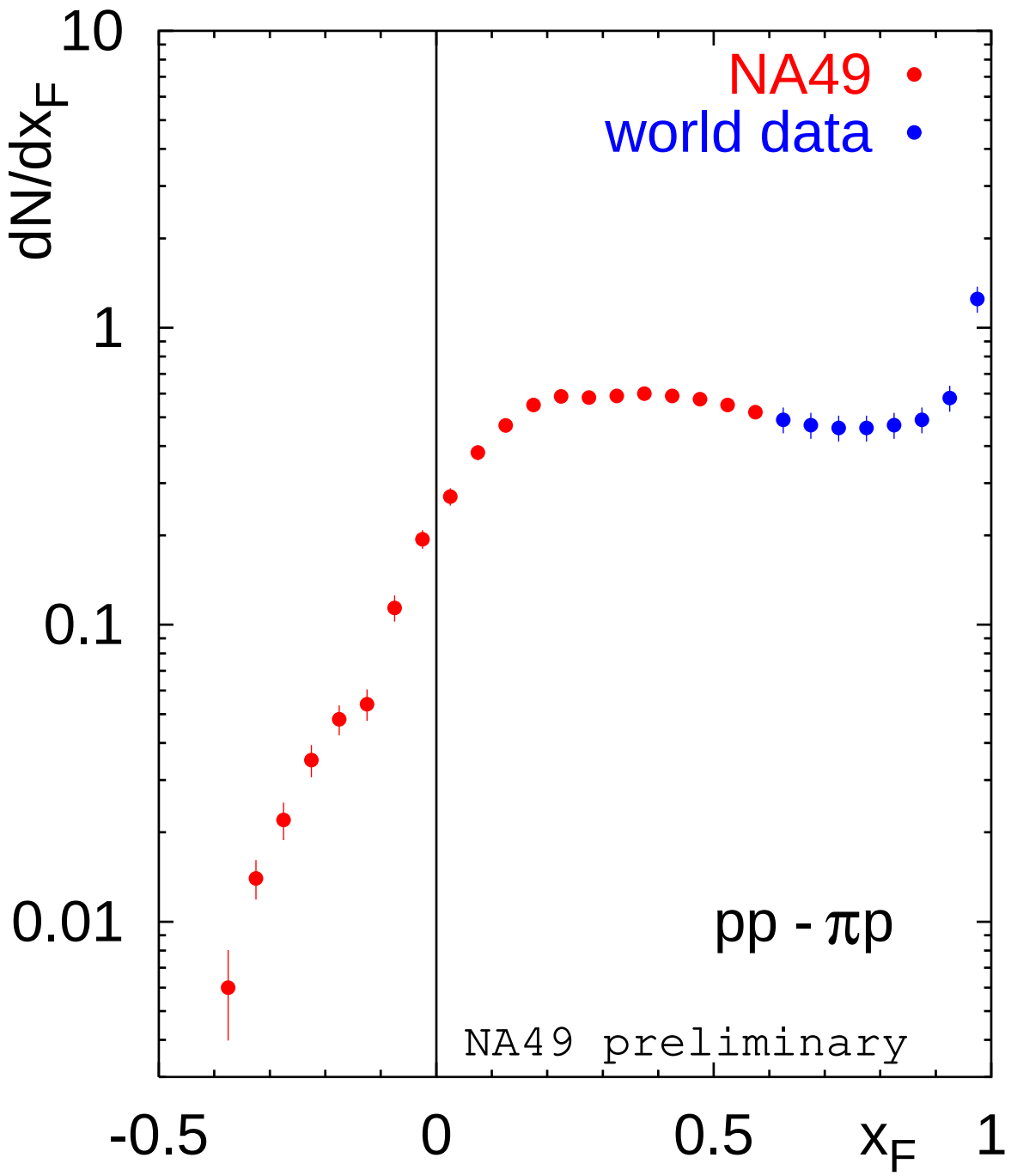
...by subtraction (proton beam - pion beam) and using the symmetry around $x_F = 0$, we get the net projectile proton distribution!

Spectrum of net protons from the projectile