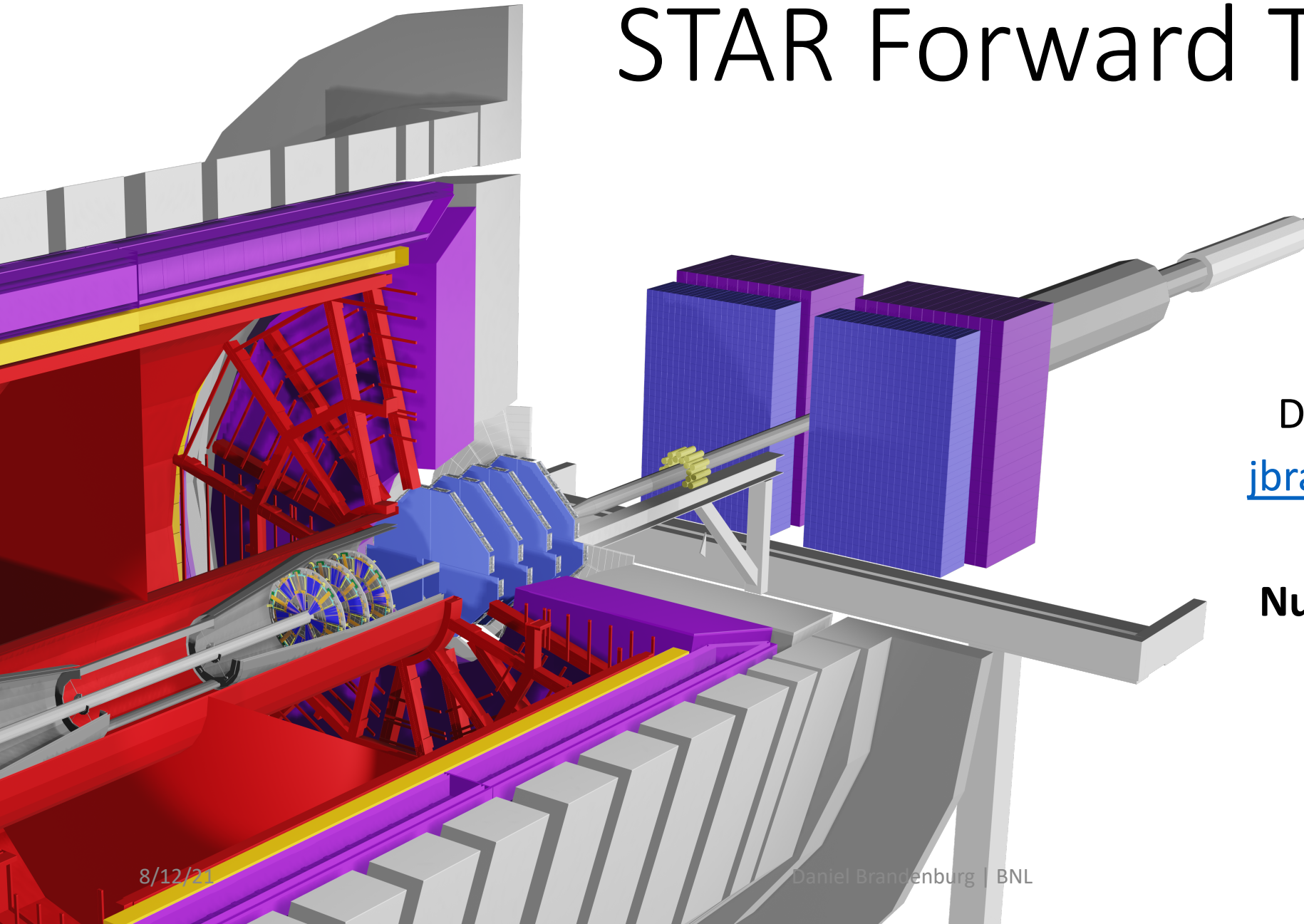


STAR Forward Tracking

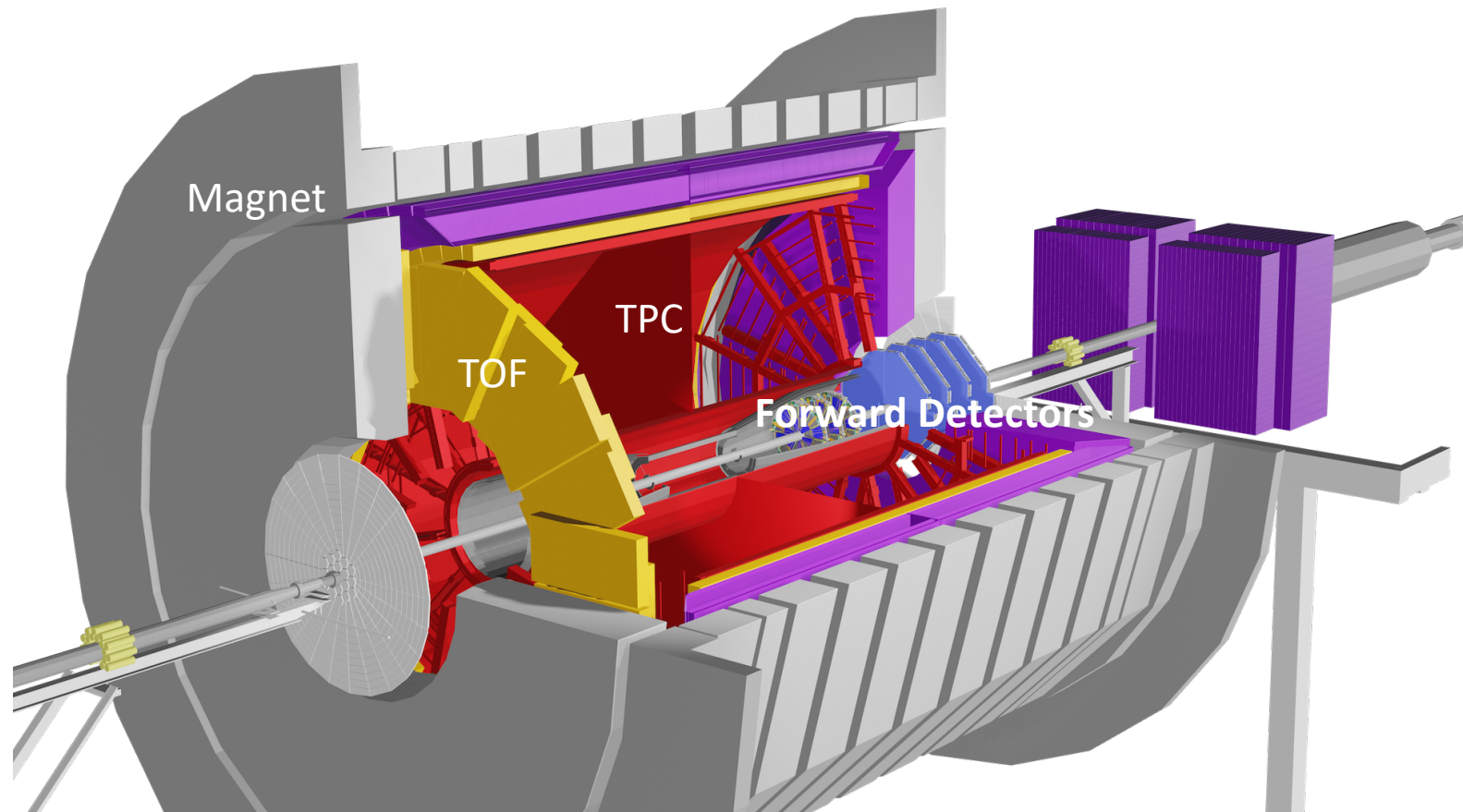


Daniel Brandenburg
jbrandenburg@bnl.gov

NuSTEAM@BNL 2021

Outline

- Introduction & History
- STAR Forward Detectors
- Tracking Concepts
- Track Finding and Fitting
- Performance
- Conclusions
- HW Questions



Detector Technology through the years

1906: Geiger Counter, H. Geiger, E. Rutherford

1910: Cloud Chamber, C.T.R. Wilson

1912: Tip Counter, H. Geiger

1928: Geiger-Müller Counter, W. Müller

1929: Coincidence Method, W. Bothe

1930: Emulsion, M. Blau

1940-1950: Scintillator, Photomultiplier

1952: Bubble Chamber, D. Glaser

1962: Spark Chamber

1968: Multi Wire Proportional Chamber, C. Charpak

1970es: Silicon era

[\[lecture notes Erika Garutti\]](#)



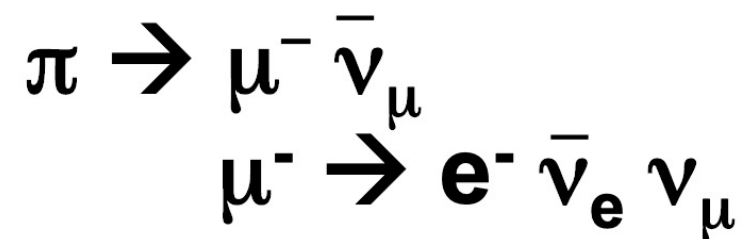
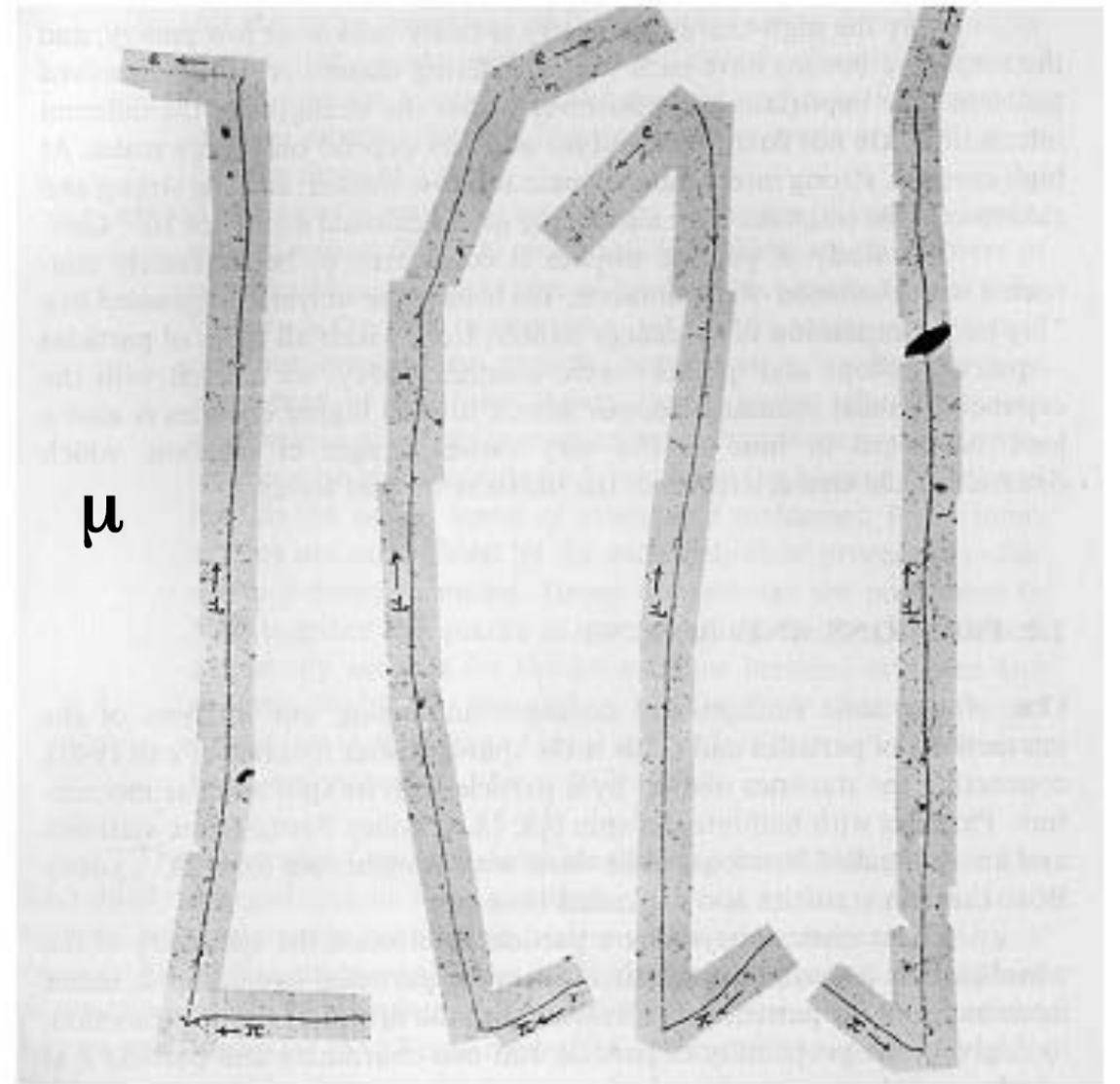
Discovery of the π

Discovery of the pion

Nuclear emulsion technique

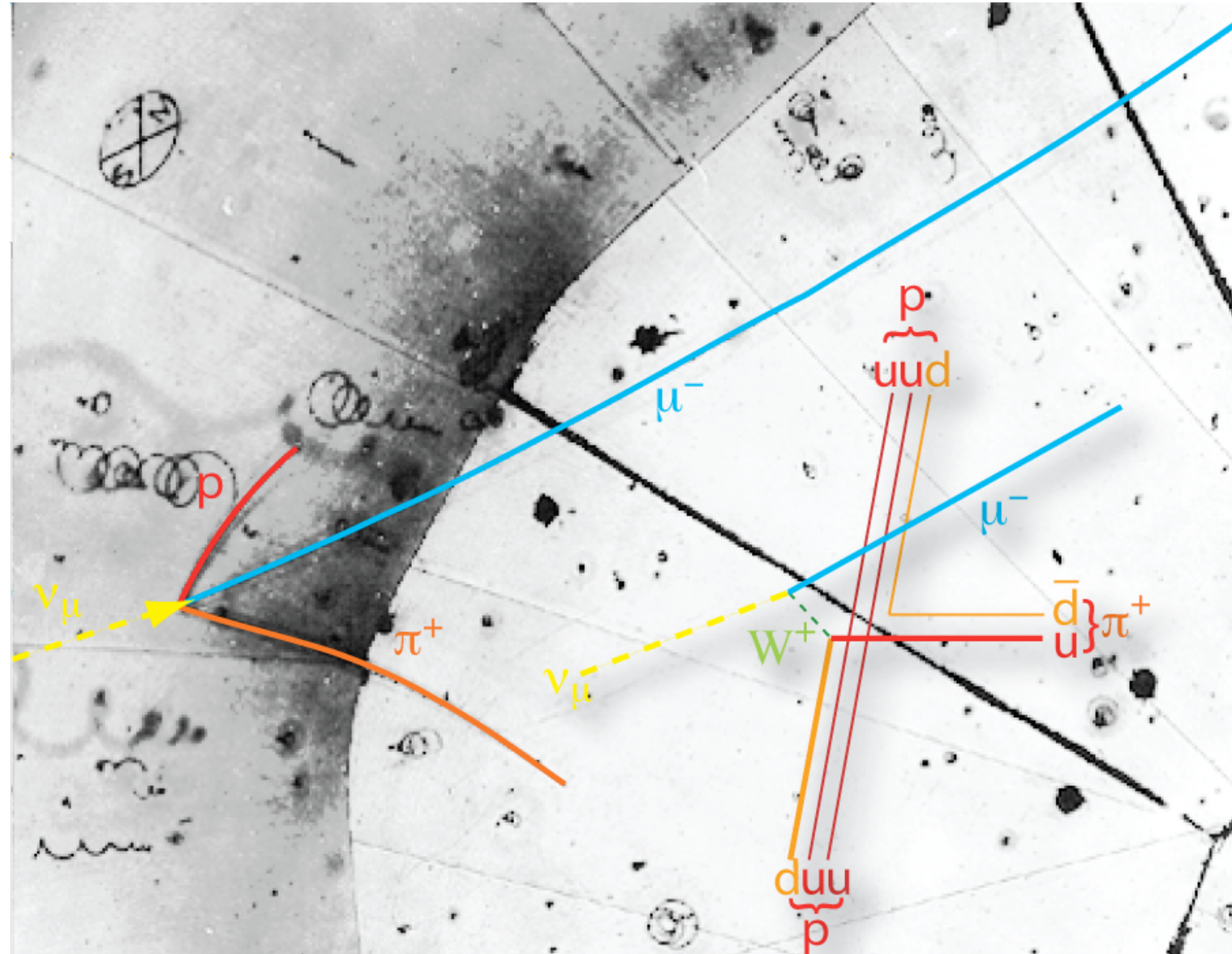
[Powell 1947; Nobel prize 1950]

- Pion decays to a muon and an unseen particle, hence the sharp bend to the track

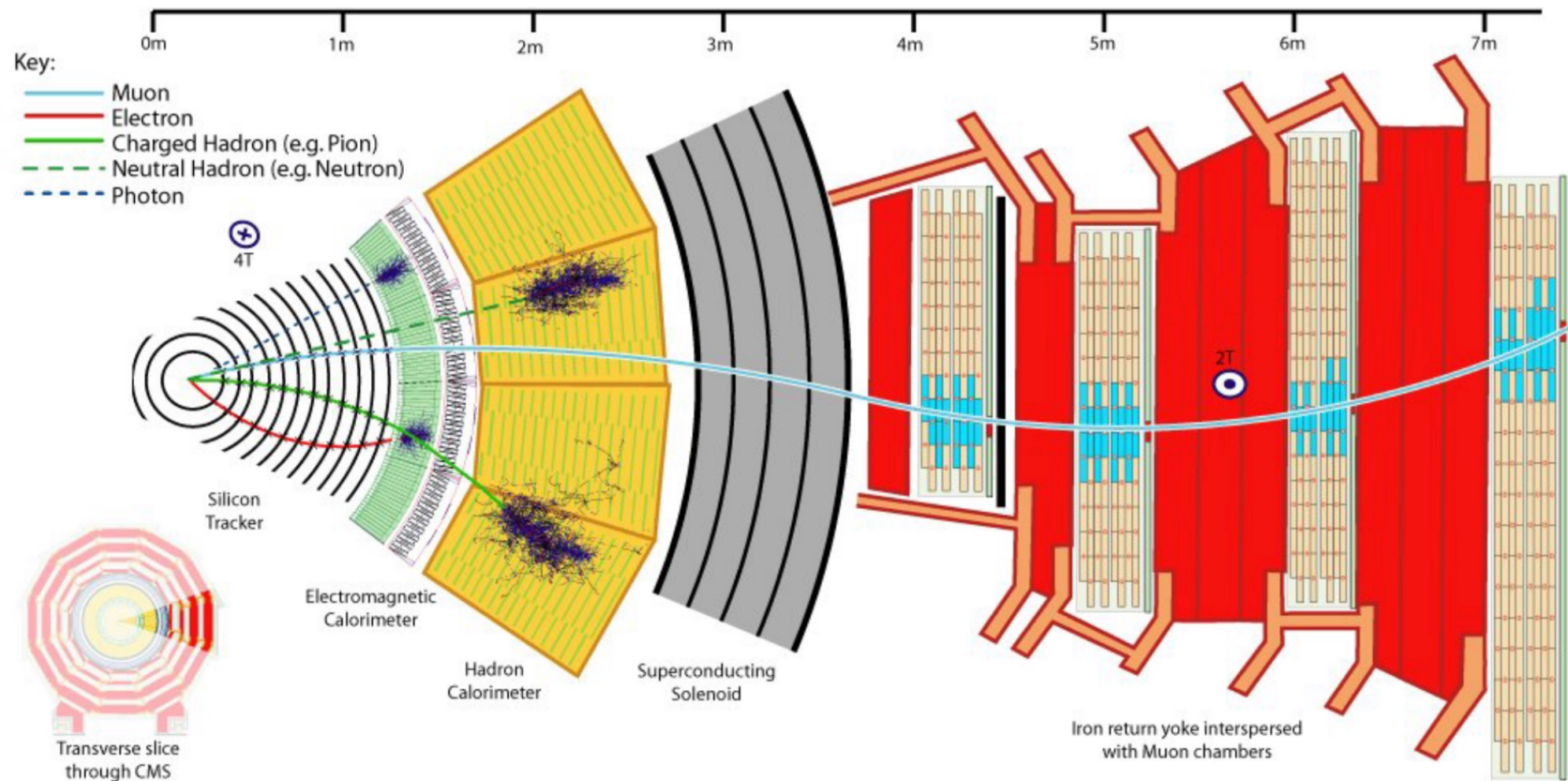


The Neutrino Event

- Observation of a neutrino in a hydrogen bubble chamber - 1970
- Neutrino strikes a proton, converts into a muon
- It looks like 3 particles coming from nothing!
- Tracks were drawn by hand on photos of every event



Particle Detectors have come a long way

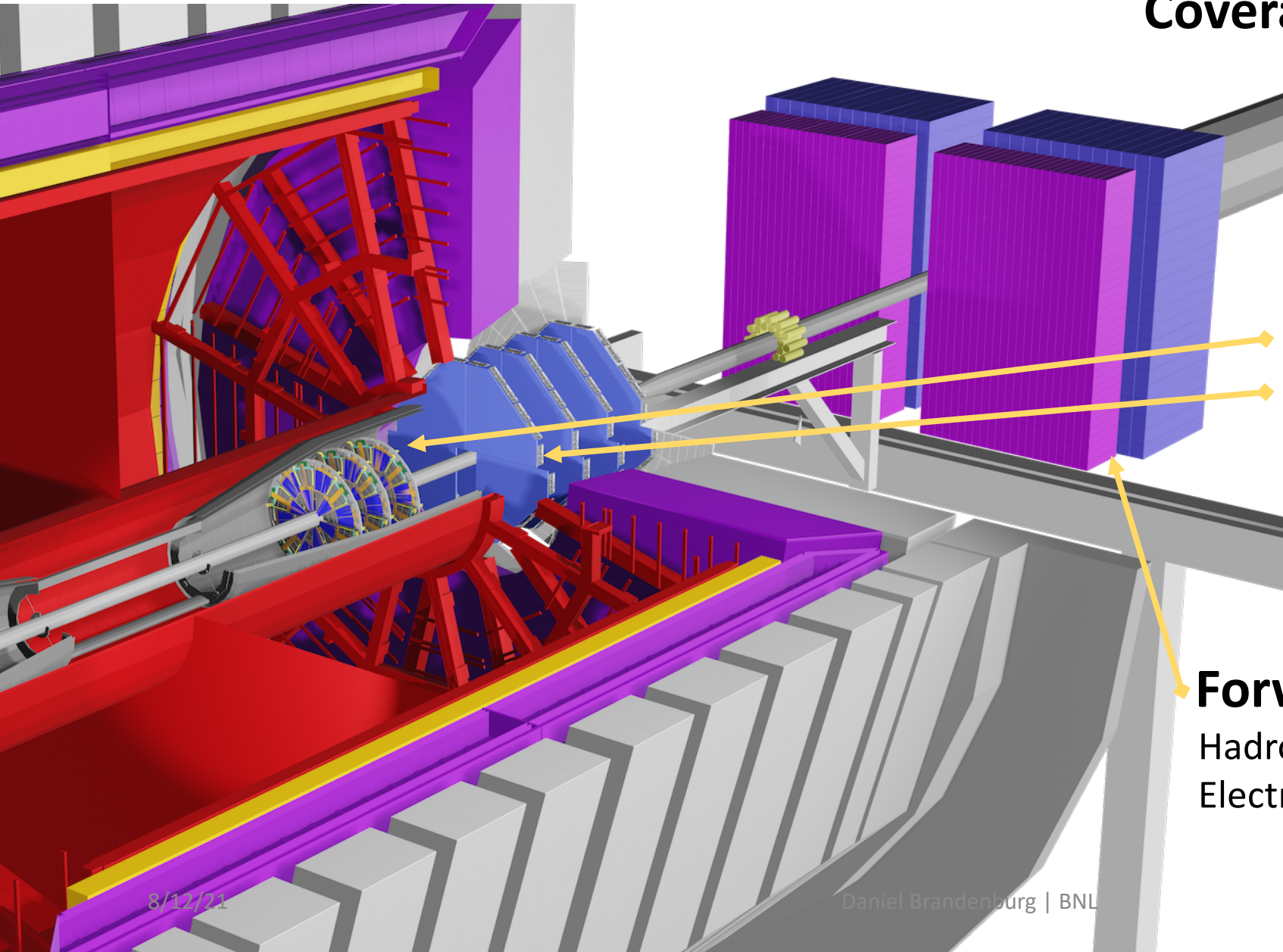


Slice of the CMS detector

Modern detectors are fully electronic with several special purpose sub-detectors

The STAR Forward Upgrade

Coverage: $2.5 < \eta < 4.0$



Forward Tracking System

- ▶ Silicon microstrip sensors
- ▶ small-Strip Thin Gap Chambers

Forward Calorimetry System

- ▶ Hadronic Calorimeter
- ▶ Electromagnetic Calorimeter

STAR Forward Rapidity Physics Program

Measurements planned for 2021+ with the STAR forward upgrade

→ Address important topics in **hot** & **cold** QCD

Forward-rapidity $2.5 < \eta < 4$

pp, pA

Beam:

500 GeV: p+p
200 GeV: p+p and p+A

Physics Topics:

- TMD measurements at high x transversity → tensor charge
- Improve statistical precision for Sivers through Drell-Yan
- $\Delta g(x, Q^2)$ at low x through Di-jets
- Gluon PDFs for nuclei
- R_{pA} for direct photons & DY
- Test of Saturation predictions through di-hadrons, g-Jets

Au+Au

Beam:

200 GeV: Au+Au

Physics Topics:

- Temperature dependence of viscosity through flow harmonics up to $h \sim 4$
- Longitudinal decorrelation up to $h \sim 4$
- Global Lambda polarization
→ Test for strong rapidity dependence

Forward Tracking System

	Requirement	Motivation
Momentum Resolution	< 30%	A+A goals
Tracking Efficiency	> 80% @ 100 tracks / event	A+A goals
Charge Separation	–	p+p / p+A goals

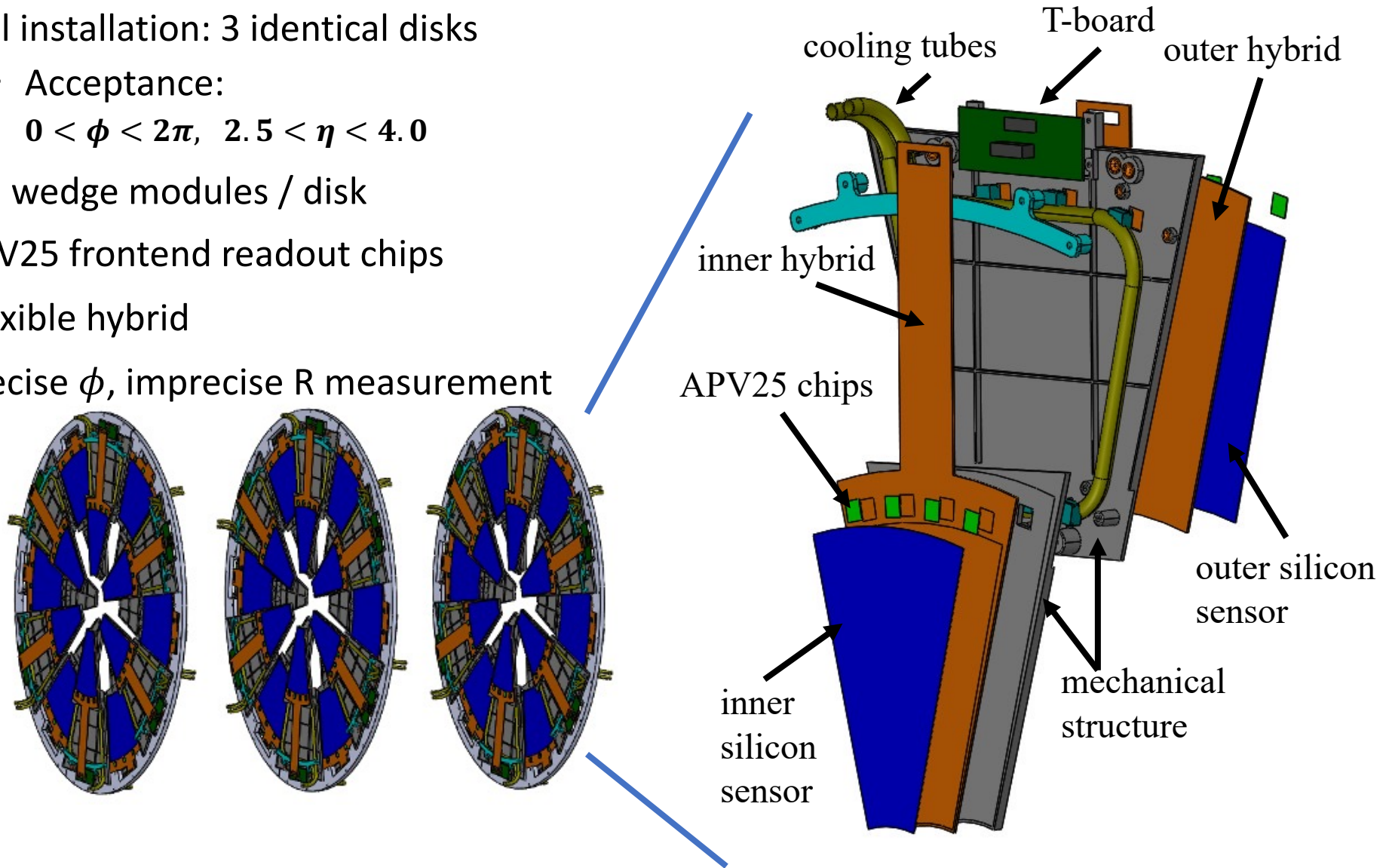
Forward Calorimeter System

Detector	Resolution p+p and p+A	Resolution A+A
ECal	$\sim 10\% / \sqrt{E}$	$\sim 20\% / \sqrt{E}$
HCal	$\sim 50\% / \sqrt{E} + 10\%$	–

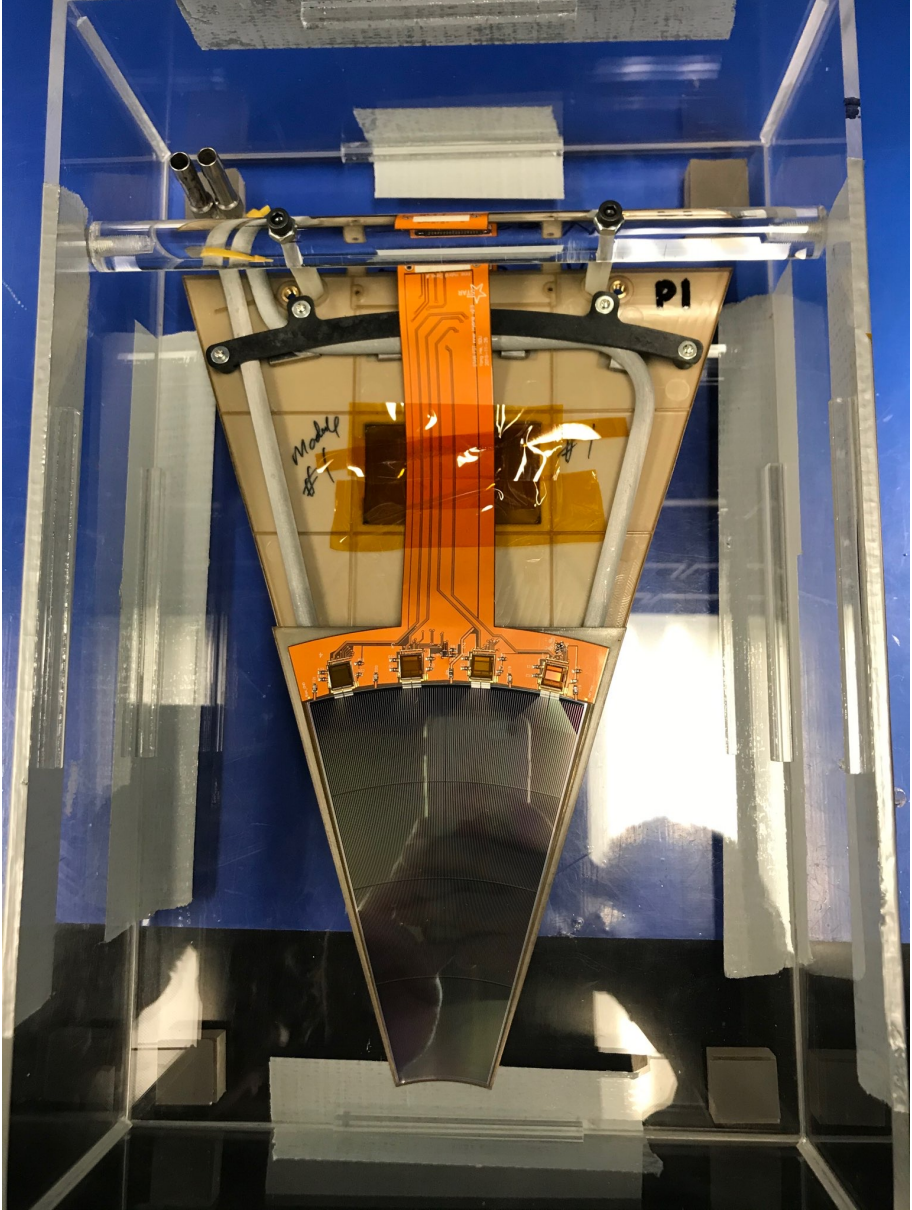
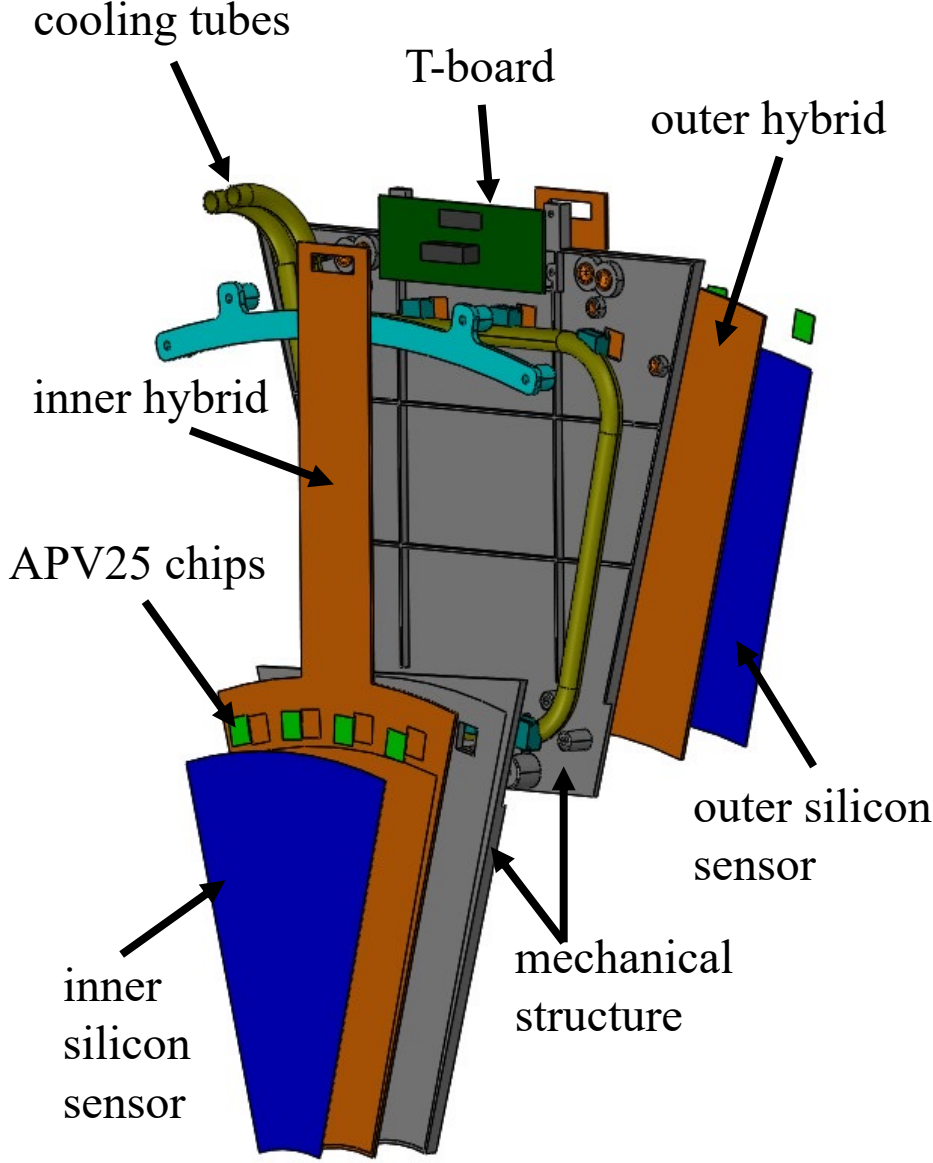
Lets review the technology used for the tracking detectors

STAR Forward Silicon Tracker

- Full installation: 3 identical disks
 - Acceptance:
 - $0 < \phi < 2\pi$, $2.5 < \eta < 4.0$
- 12 wedge modules / disk
- APV25 frontend readout chips
- Flexible hybrid
- Precise ϕ , imprecise R measurement



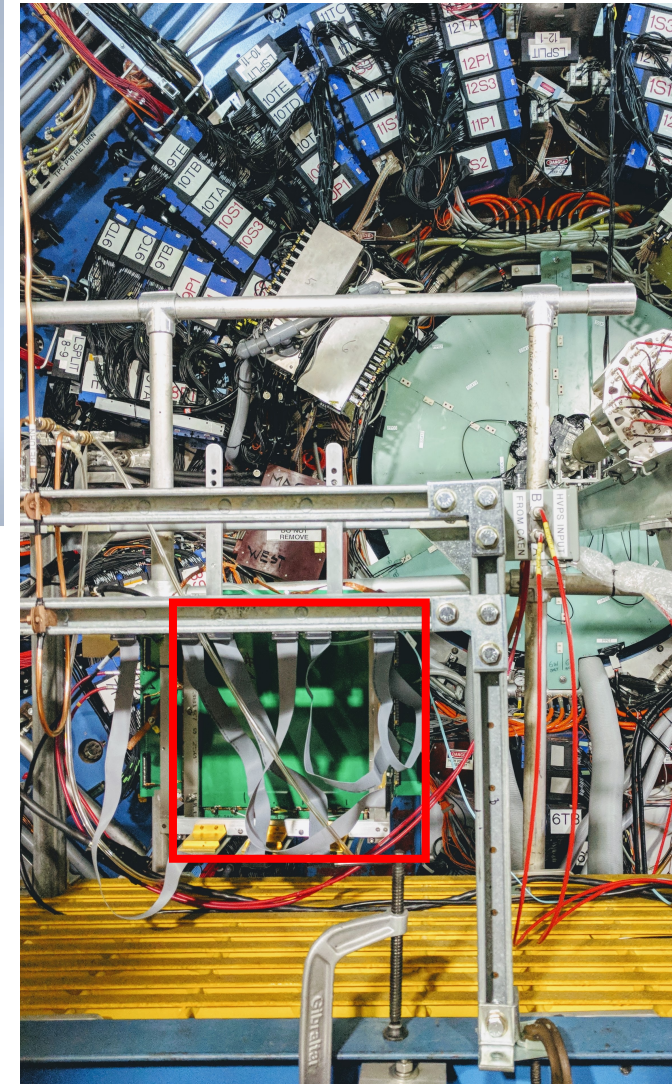
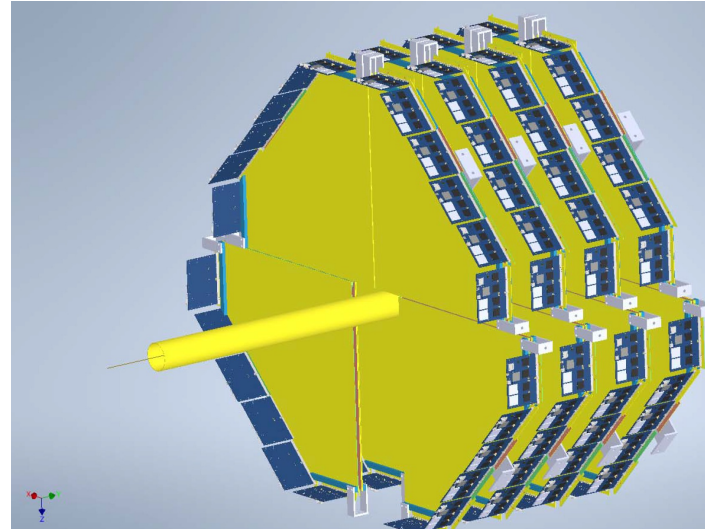
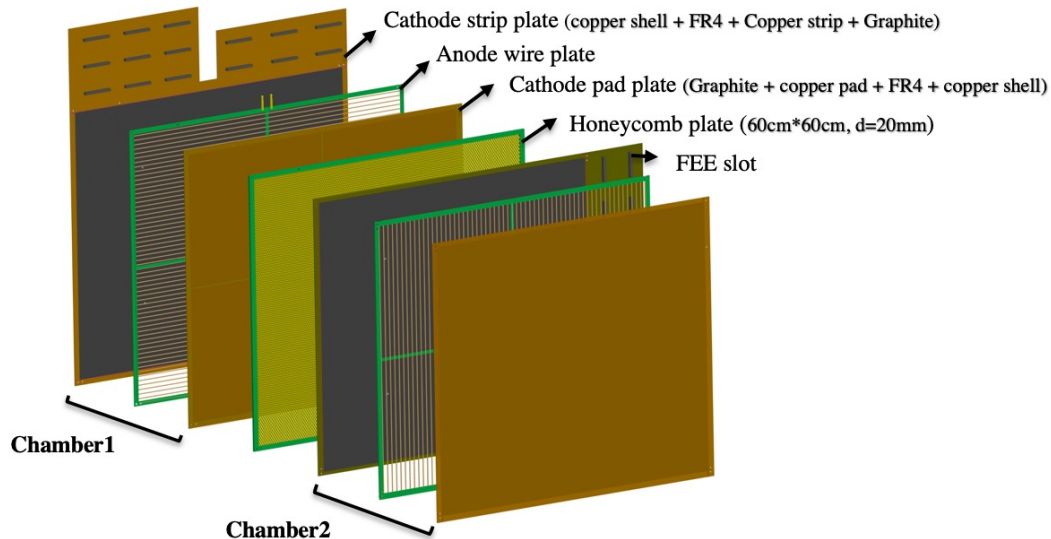
STAR Forward Silicon Tracker - Prototype Module



Small-Strip Thin Gap Chambers (sTGC)

Detector:

- Based on ATLAS sTGC design
- 4 layers in total
 - 4 modules/layer
 - 2 chambers/module
- Pentagon shape formed from identical modules
- Shandong University : sTGC R&D and production
- **Position resolution: $\sim 100 \mu\text{m}$**



Wire: Au-plated tungsten wire
 $\varnothing 50\mu\text{m}$, 1.8mm pitch

Copper strip: 3.2mm pitch

Height of one layer: 5.8mm

Gas: 55% n-pentane+45%CO₂

HV: 2900V

Requires dedicated gas system

Forward Tracking System

	Requirement	Motivation
Momentum Resolution	< 30%	A+A goals
Tracking Efficiency	> 80% @ 100 tracks / event	A+A goals
Charge Separation	—	p+p / p+A goals

Silicon mini-strip disks ×3

- Location : z = 90, 140, 187 cm from interaction point
- **Build on and utilize STAR experience of successful Intermediate Silicon Tracker (IST) detector**
- minimal material ($\leq 1\%$ X₀/layer) in the acceptance

Small-Strip Thin Gap Chamber (sTGC) ×4

- Location : z = 270, 300, 330, 360 cm from interaction point
- **Significant reduction in cost (compared to all silicon)**
- Prototype at BNL, testing in STAR during 2019 run

<https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/public/sn0648>

Basics of Tracking

1. Find track candidates

- Input: unsorted hits from detectors
- Output: Possible tracks and their associated hits

2. Resolve ambiguities / conflicts

- Input: Possible tracks (maybe with shared hits)
- Output: Set of "BEST" tracks
- Considerations :
 - Can one hit be used by several tracks?
 - If so, how many shared hits are allowed?
 - If conflicts exists, what metric defines the "BEST" track?

3. Fit track model

- Input: Set of tracks and their associated hits
- Output: Momentum and charge information
- Procedure : Fit points (+ Primary Vertex?) to track model
 - Track Model in uniform \vec{B} = Ideal helix
 - Track Model in non-uniform \vec{B} = helix modified by magnetic field variations (including zero field)

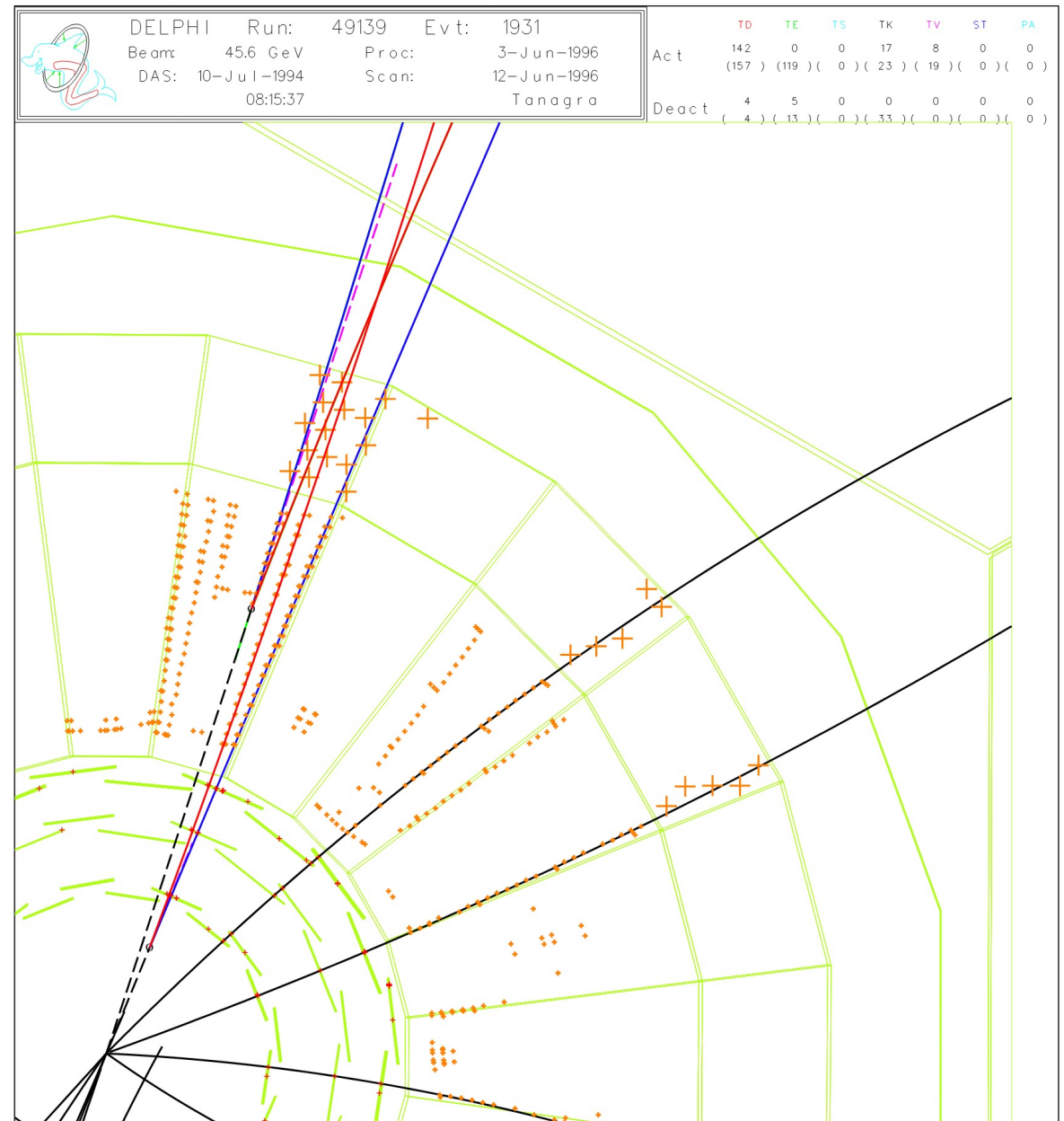
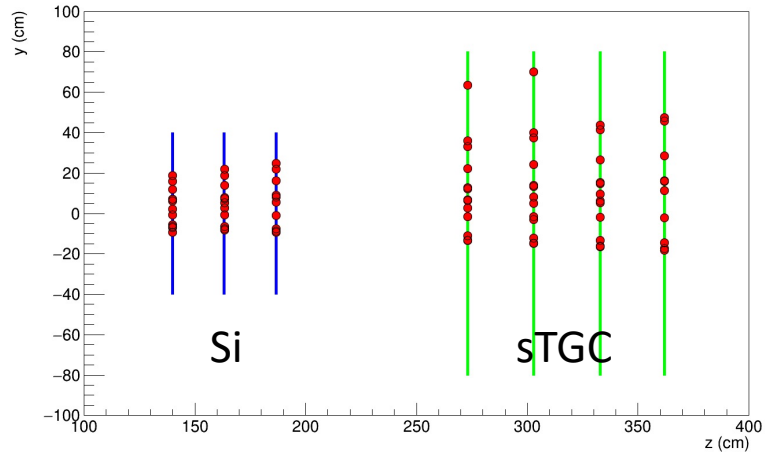


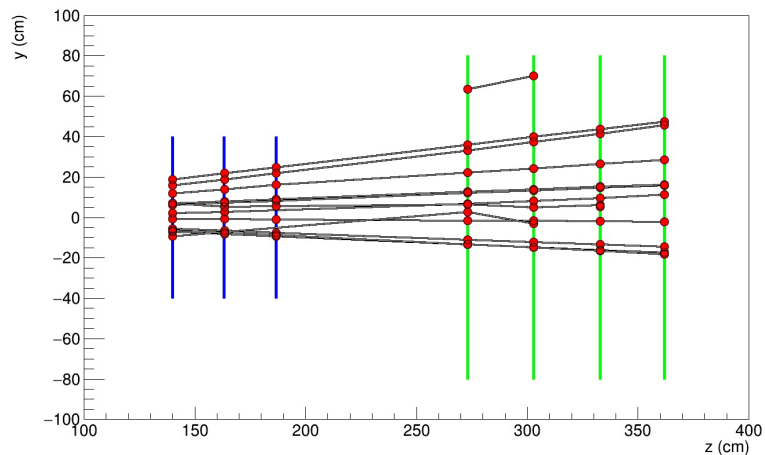
Figure 28: $e^-e^+ \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$

Track Finding Procedure

- How do we go from this:



- To this:



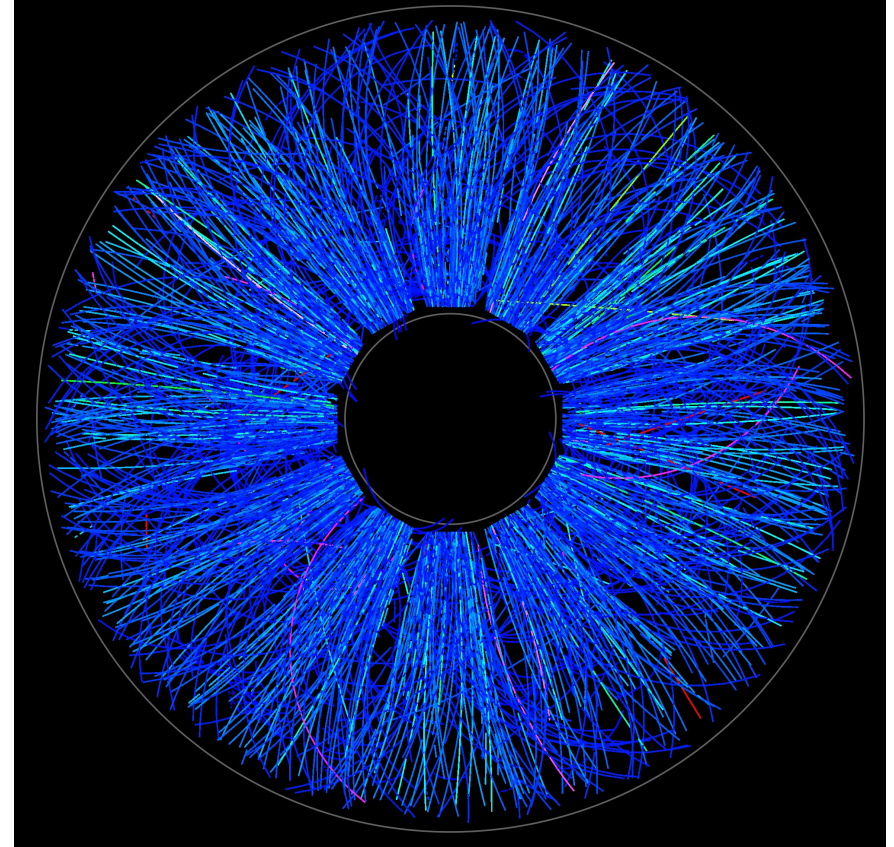
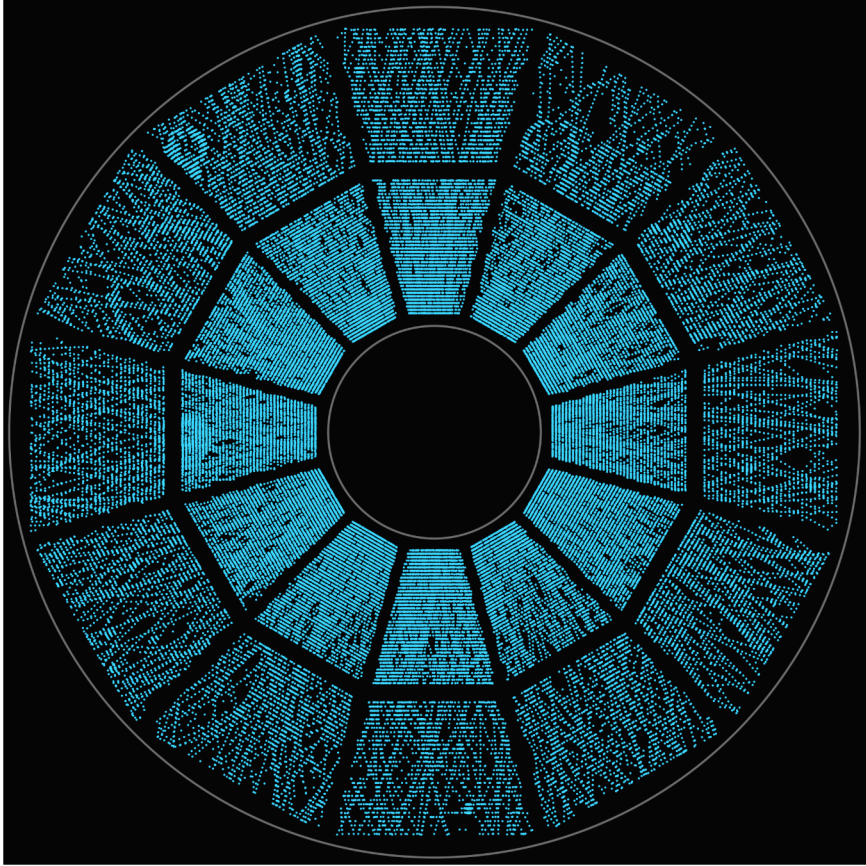
Naïve approach : make all possible connections

- Very slow due to combinatorial blow up
- Still need to distinguish real track segments from combinatorial

Cellular Automaton

- Use simple “criteria” to build up longer segments of hits
- Build small segments, then grow them according to additional criteria
- Very performant & easily parallelized

Tracking in the STAR TPC (with iTPC upgrade)



- Thousands of tracks per event (central collisions)

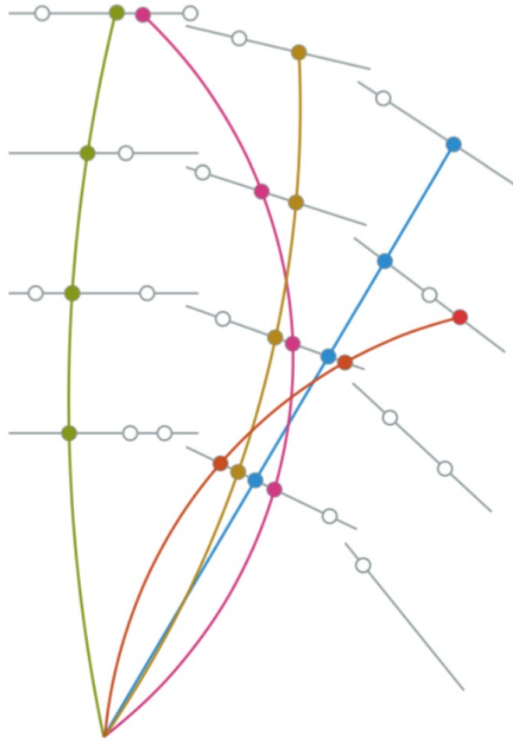
Conway's Game of Life



A "glider" gun (Wikipedia)

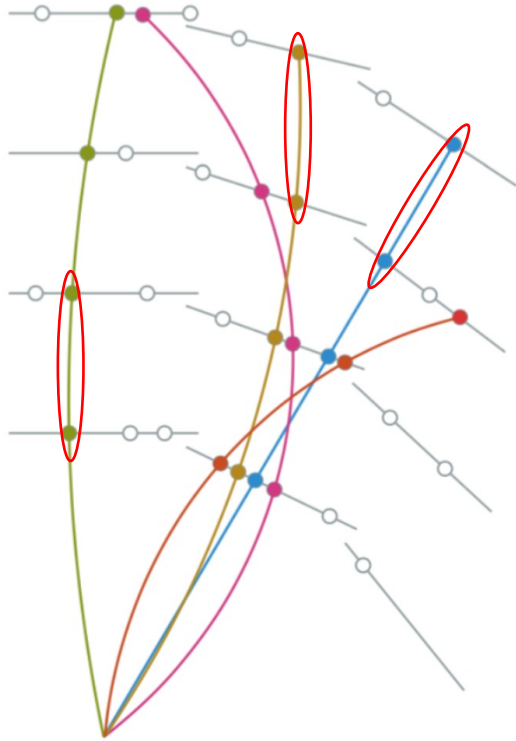
- Cellular Automation
 - System is in discrete states
 - "Update" state based on simple rules
 - Simple initial conditions and simple rules → complex emergent behavior
- But how can we use this for particle tracking?

Apply Cellular Automata to Tracking?



- How to apply Cellular Automation?
- How to express states of the system?
- How do we “update” to grow our tracks?

Apply Cellular Automata to Tracking?



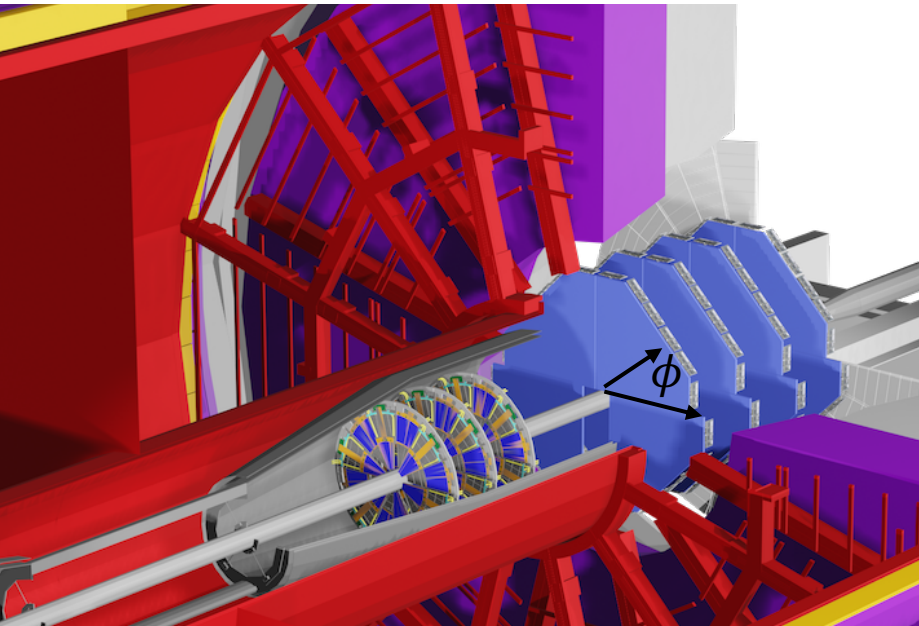
- First look at “hit pairs”
- Hits on neighboring detector planes
- How to distinguish “real” pairs (from a single particle track) from “fake” pairs?
- Can we apply simple criteria for this?

Criteria for Finding Track Segments

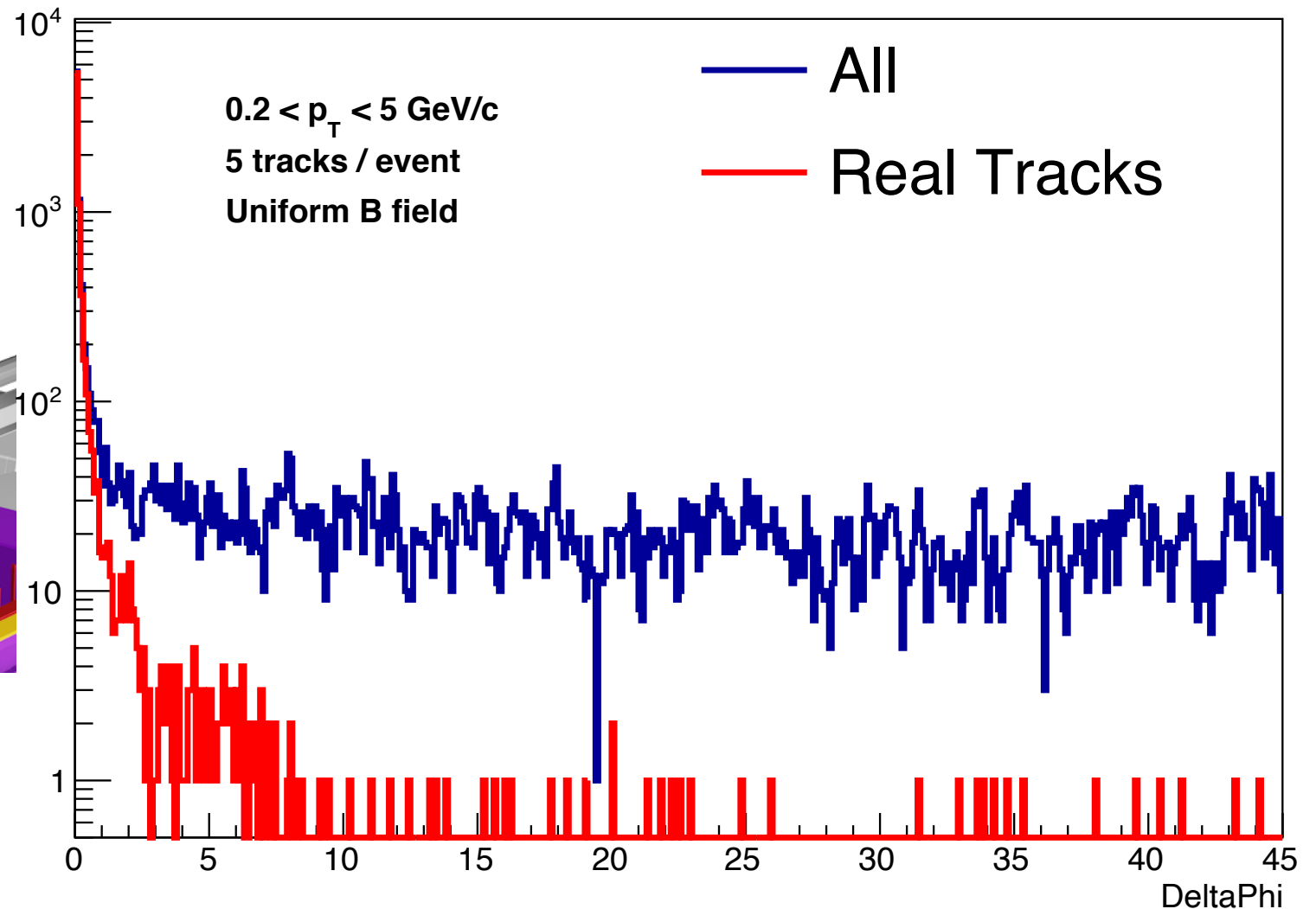
Two-Segment Criteria : DeltaPhi

Criteria DeltaPhi :

$$\Delta\phi = \phi_A - \phi_B$$



Hits at GEN level precision
($\sigma_x = \sigma_y = 0$)



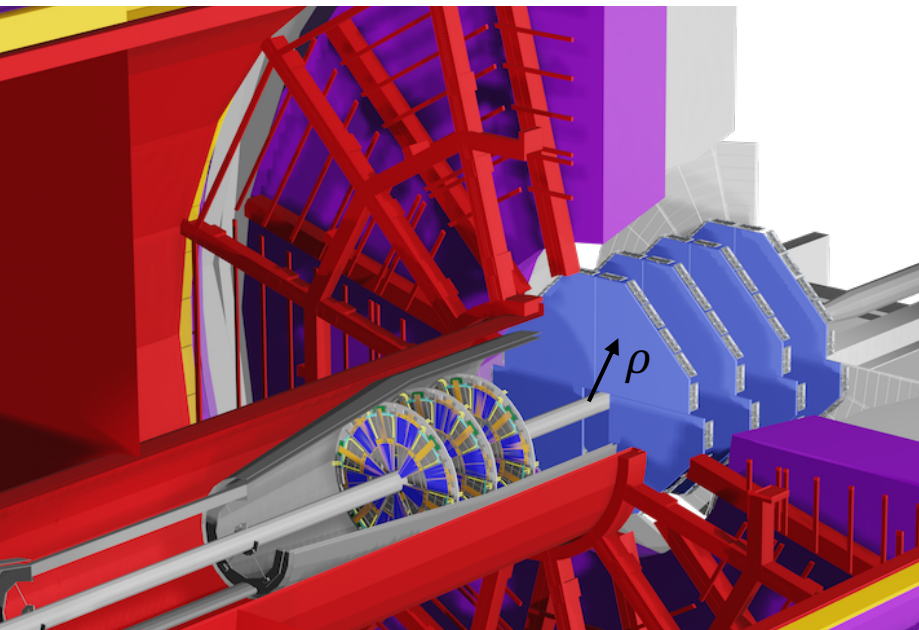
Criteria for Finding Track Segments

Two-Segment Criteria : DeltaRho

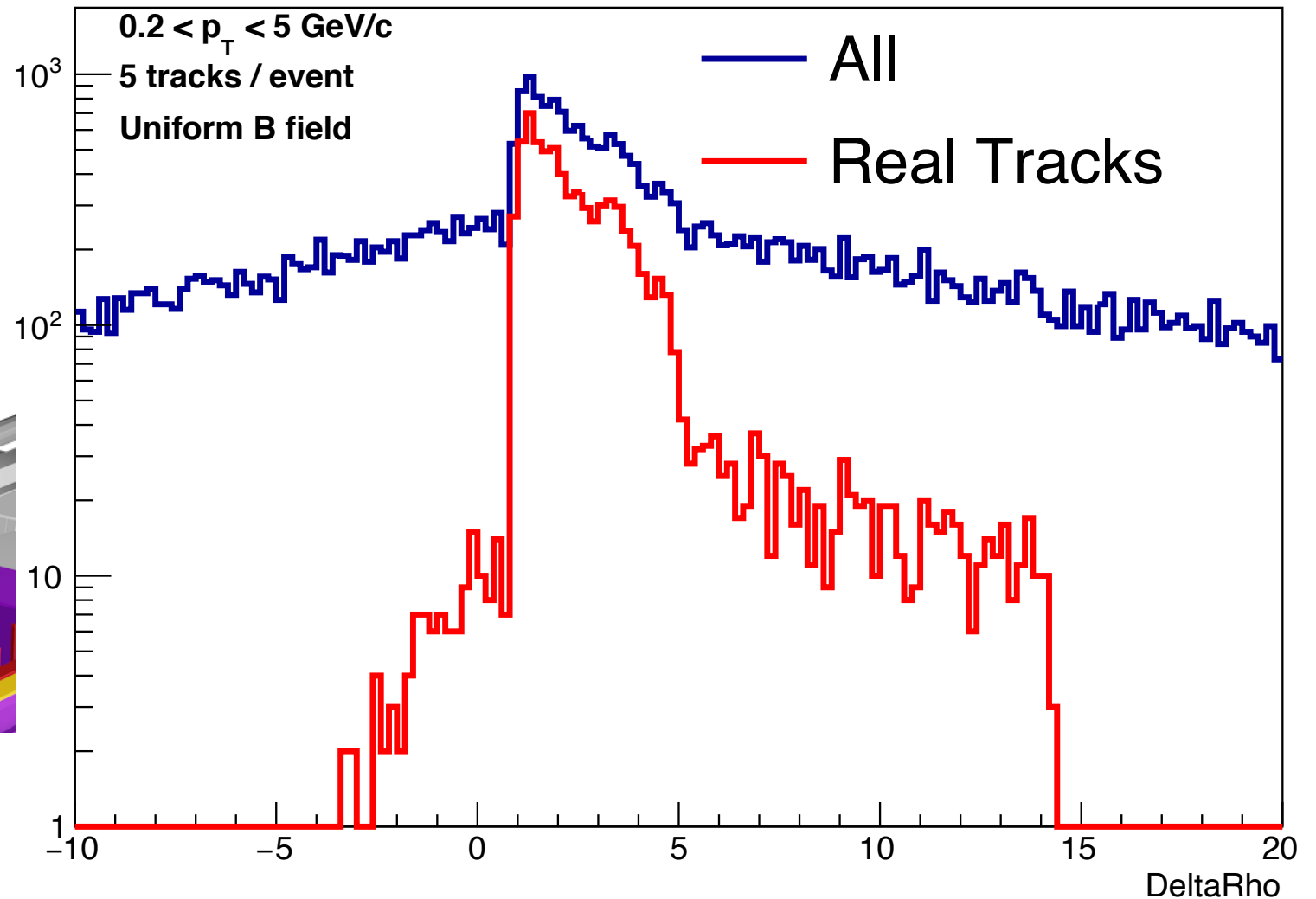
Criteria DeltaRho :

$$\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\Delta\rho = \rho_A - \rho_B$$



Hits at GEN level precision
($\sigma_x = \sigma_y = 0$)



Criteria for Finding Track Segments

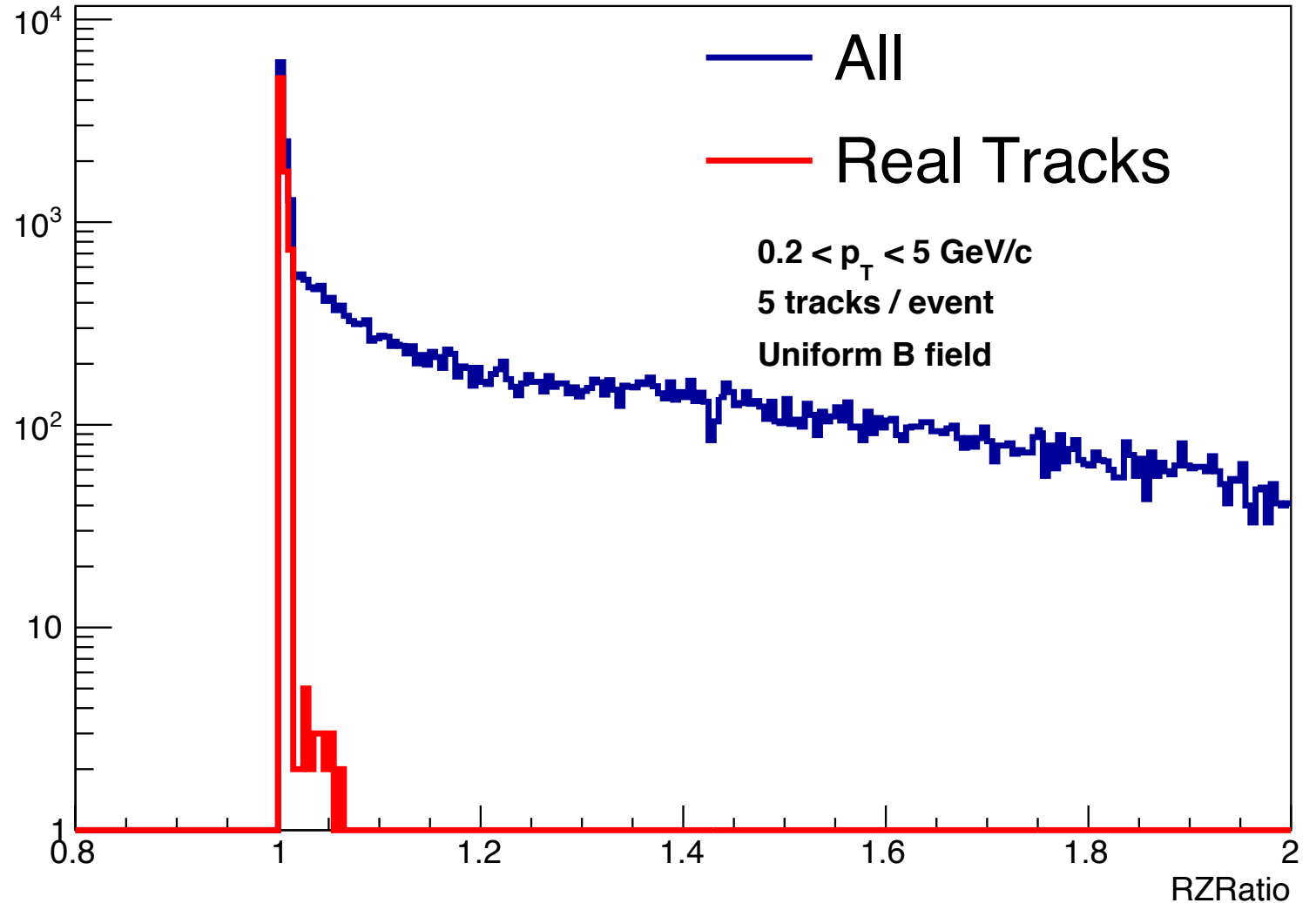
Two-Segment Criteria : RZRatio

Criteria RZRatio :

$$\left(\frac{\Delta R}{\Delta Z}\right)^2 = \frac{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2 + (\Delta z)^2}{(\Delta z)^2}$$

Strong discriminator
for forward tracks

Hits at GEN level precision
($\sigma_x = \sigma_y = 0$)



Criteria for Finding Track Segments

Two-Segment Criteria : StraightTrackRatio

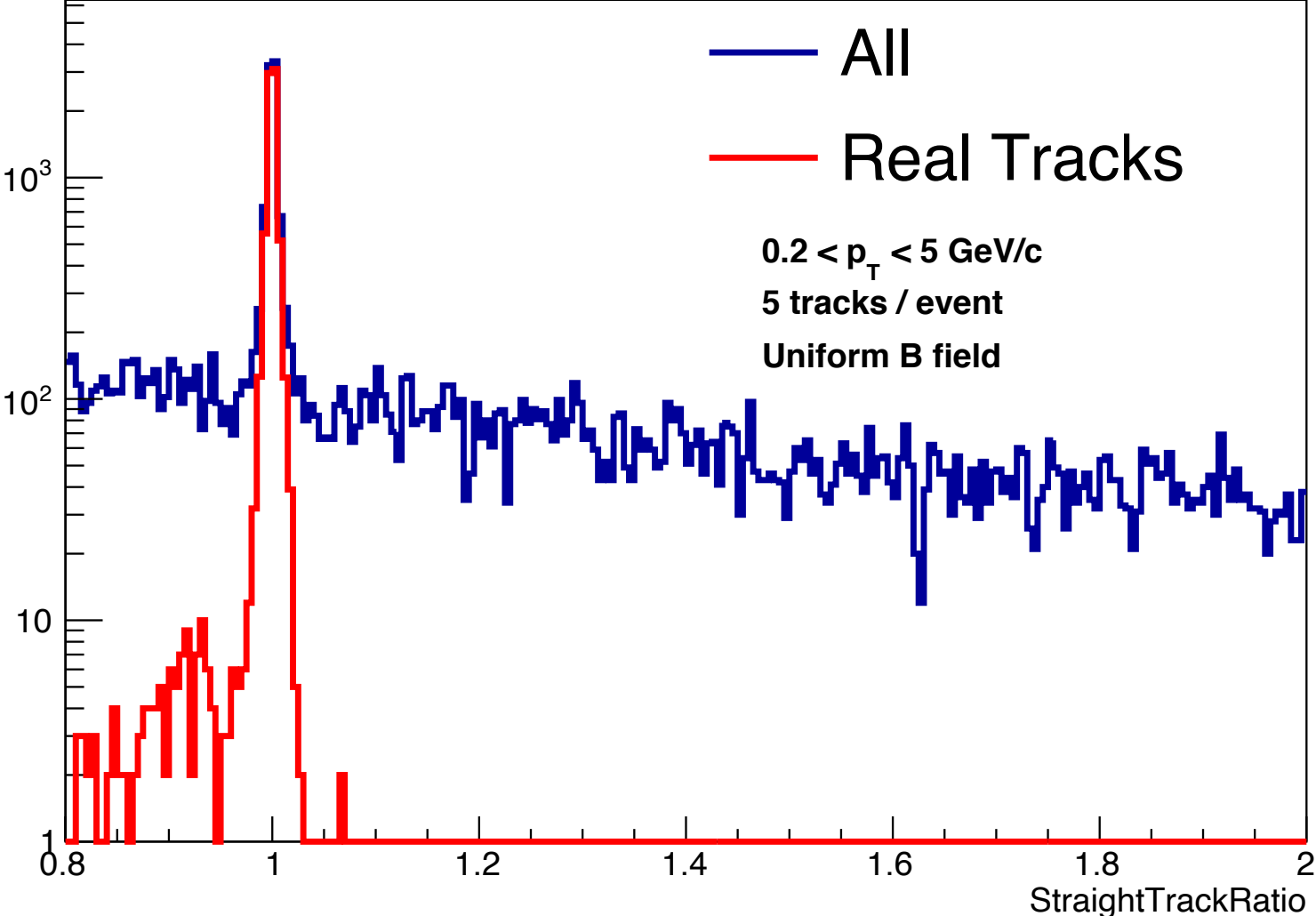
Criteria

StraightTrackRatio :

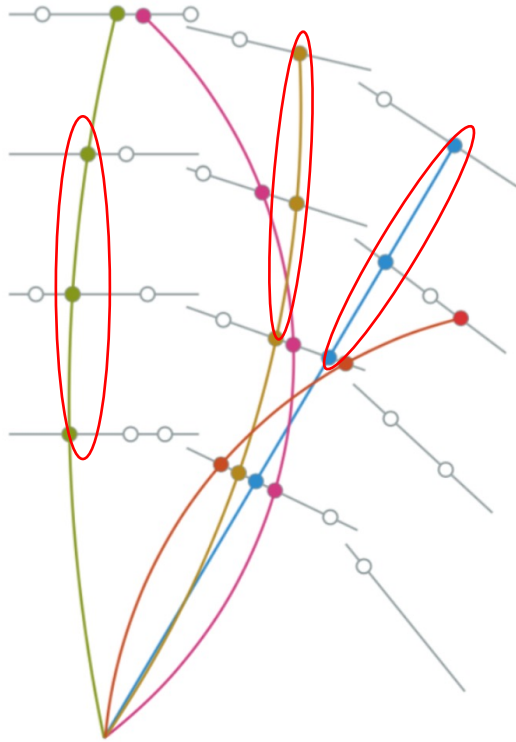
$$\frac{\rho_A * Z_B}{\rho_B * Z_A}$$

Strong discriminator
for forward tracks

Hits at GEN level precision
($\sigma_x = \sigma_y = 0$)



Apply Cellular Automata to Tracking?



- Next look at “hit triplets”
- Hits on neighboring detector planes connected by one hit
- How to distinguish “real” pairs (from a single particle track) from “fake” pairs?
- Can we apply simple criteria for this?

Criteria for Finding Track Segments

Three-Segment Criteria : 2DAngle

Criteria 2DAngle :

$$\Delta x_1 = x_B - x_A$$

$$\Delta y_1 = y_B - y_A$$

$$\Delta x_2 = x_C - x_B$$

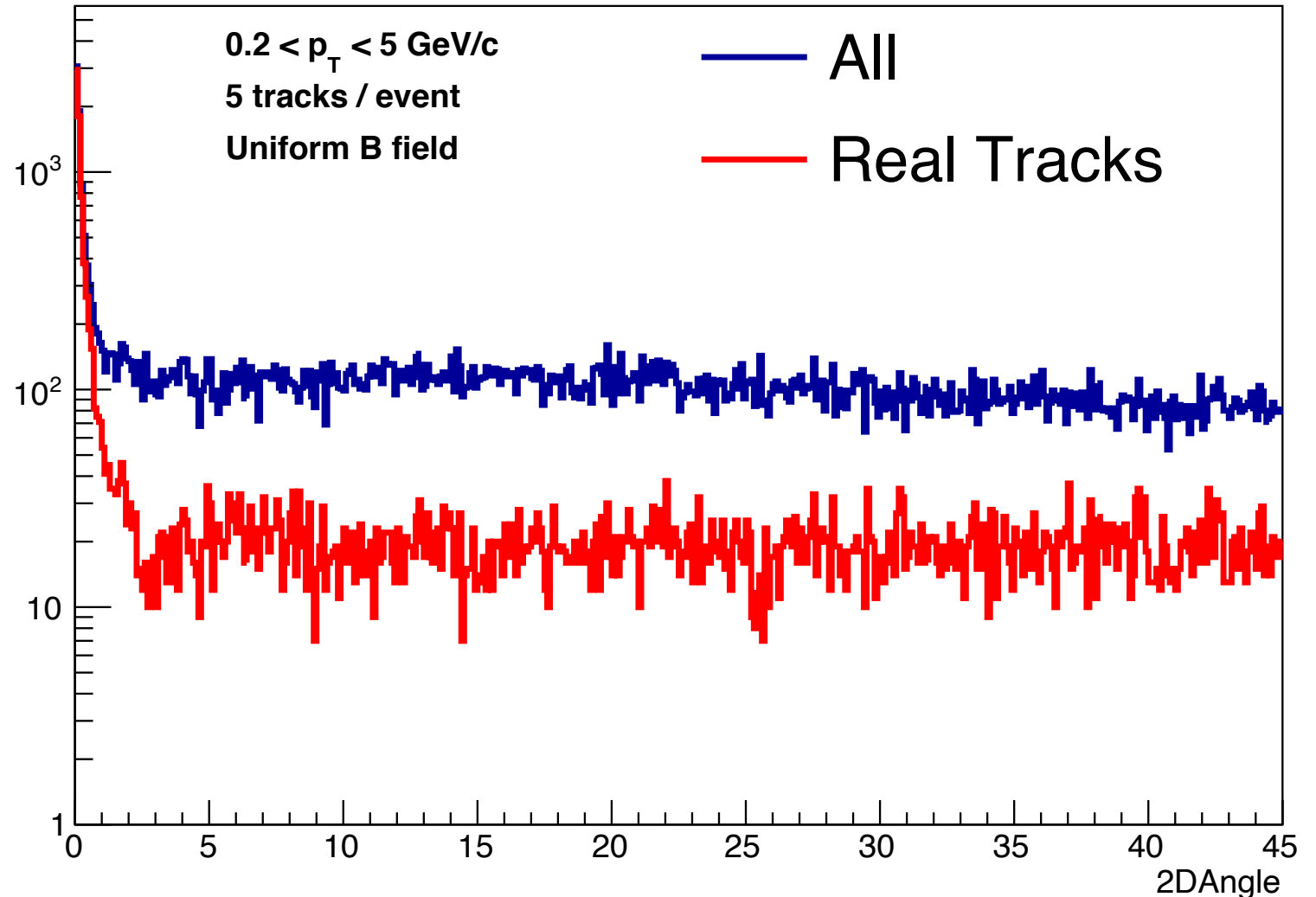
$$\Delta y_2 = y_C - y_B$$

$$u = (\Delta x_1)^2 + (\Delta y_1)^2$$

$$v = (\Delta x_2)^2 + (\Delta y_2)^2$$

$$\cos^2(\theta) = \frac{\Delta x_1 * \Delta x_2 + \Delta y_1 * \Delta y_2}{u * v}$$

**Hits at GEN level precision
($\sigma_x = \sigma_y = 0$)**



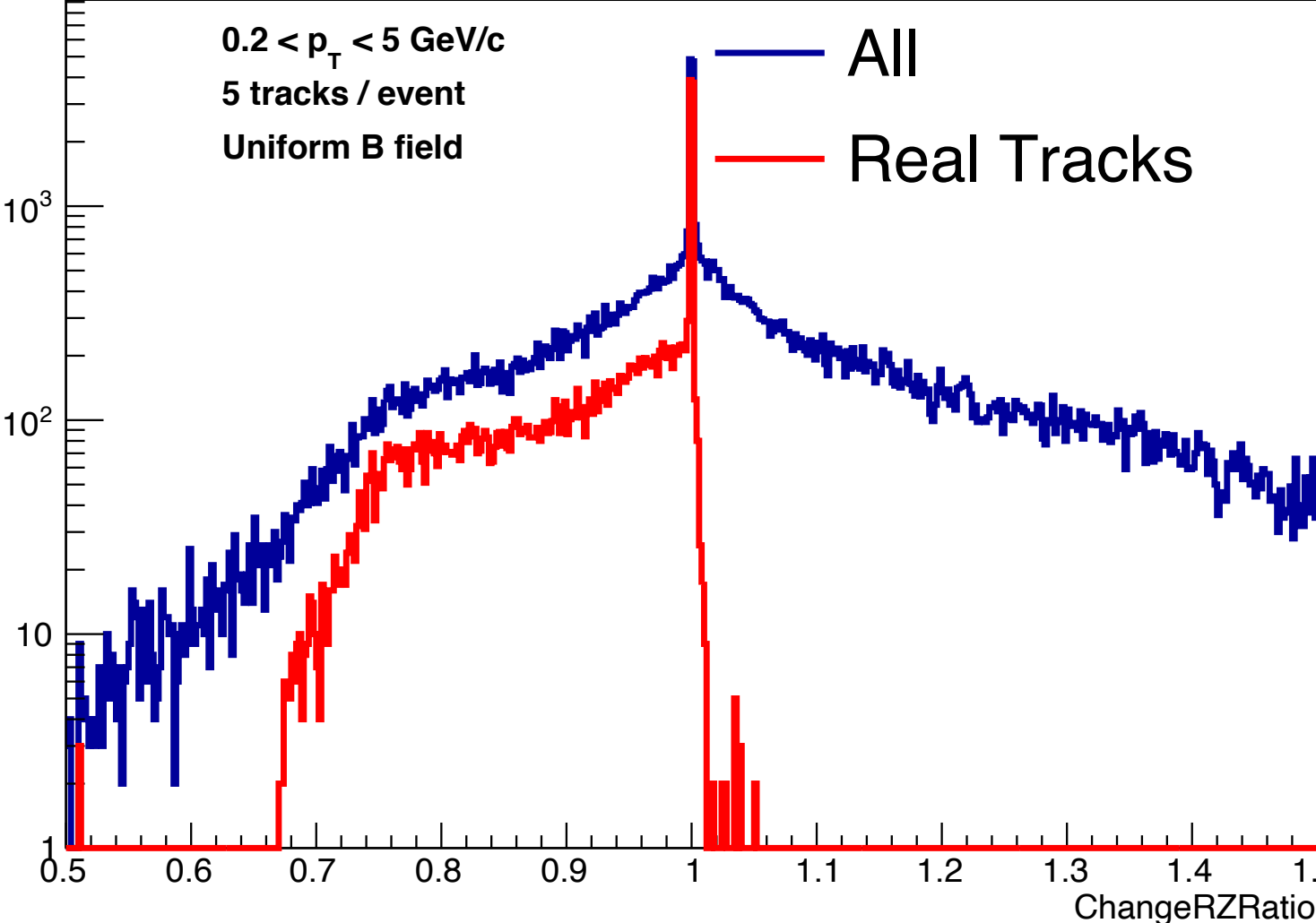
Criteria for Finding Track Segments

Three-Segment Criteria : ChangeRZRatio

Criteria ChangeRZRatio :

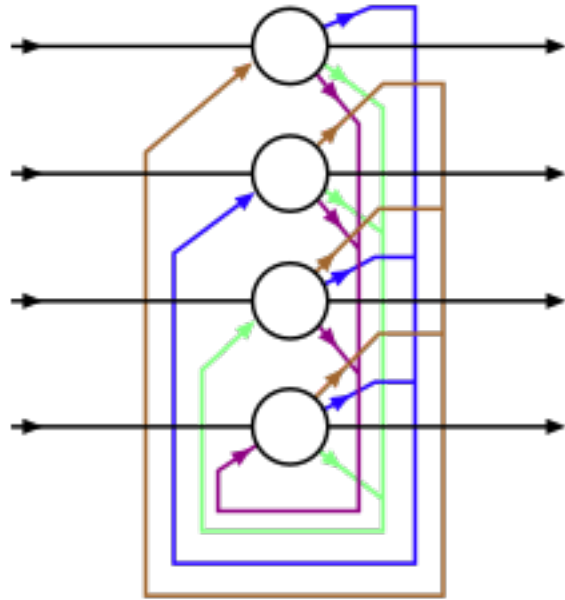
$$\Delta RZ = \left(\frac{\Delta R}{\Delta Z}\right)_{BA}^2 - \left(\frac{\Delta R}{\Delta Z}\right)_{BC}^2$$

Hits at GEN level precision
($\sigma_x = \sigma_y = 0$)



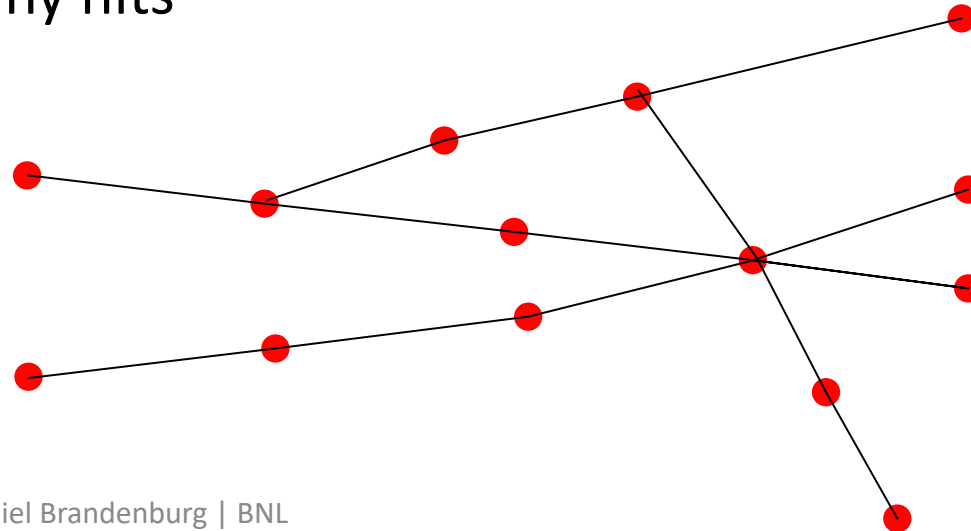
Cleaning the Cellular Automata output

- After Cellular automata, we have all possible tracks
- Use Hopfield Neural Network to find “Best Tracks”



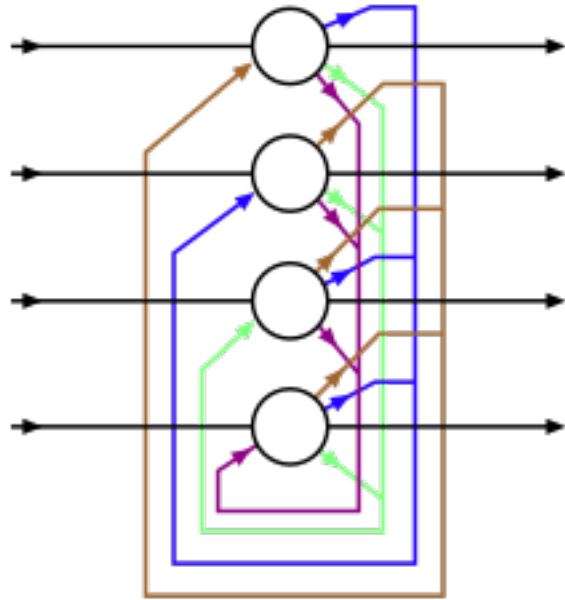
Hopfield Recurrent Artificial Neural Network

- Can process “corrupt” data, reconstructing true data
- Recurrent network – exhibits temporal behavior “memory”
- For tracking, ideal for finding **unique tracks**
- It is generally a good assumption that real tracks do not share any hits



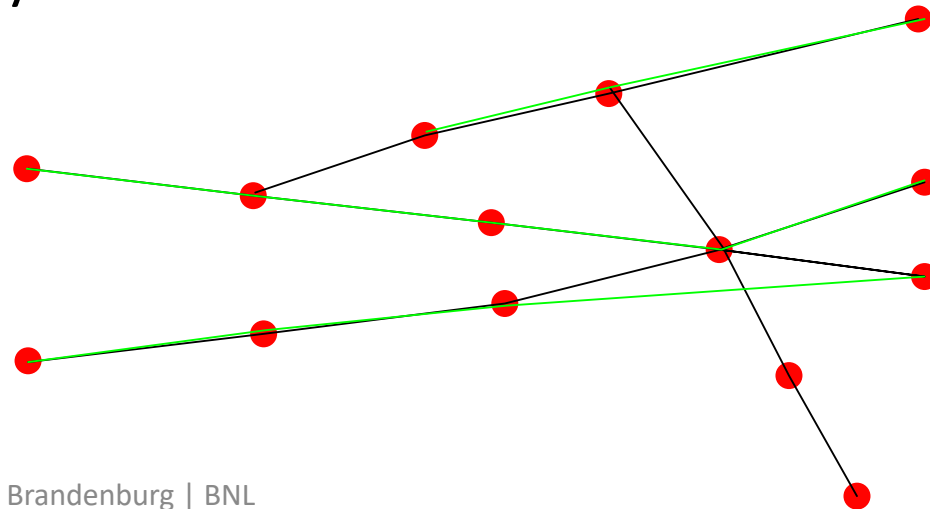
Cleaning the Cellular Automata output

- After Cellular automata, we have all possible tracks
- Use Hopfield Neural Network to find “Best Tracks”

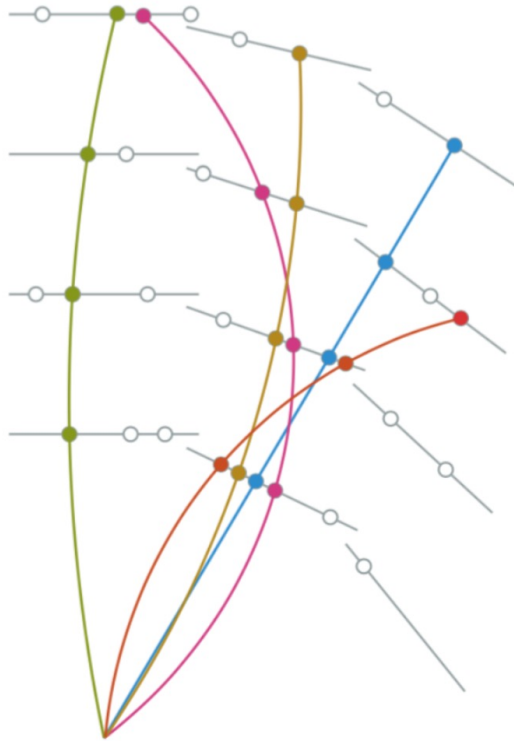


Hopfield Recurrent Artificial Neural Network

- Can process “corrupt” data, reconstructing true data
- Recurrent network – exhibits temporal behavior “memory”
- For tracking, ideal for finding **unique tracks**
- It is generally a good assumption that real tracks do not share any hits



Goal of Track Finding



1. Efficiency

- Find every track that exists – criteria cannot be too specific or inflexible

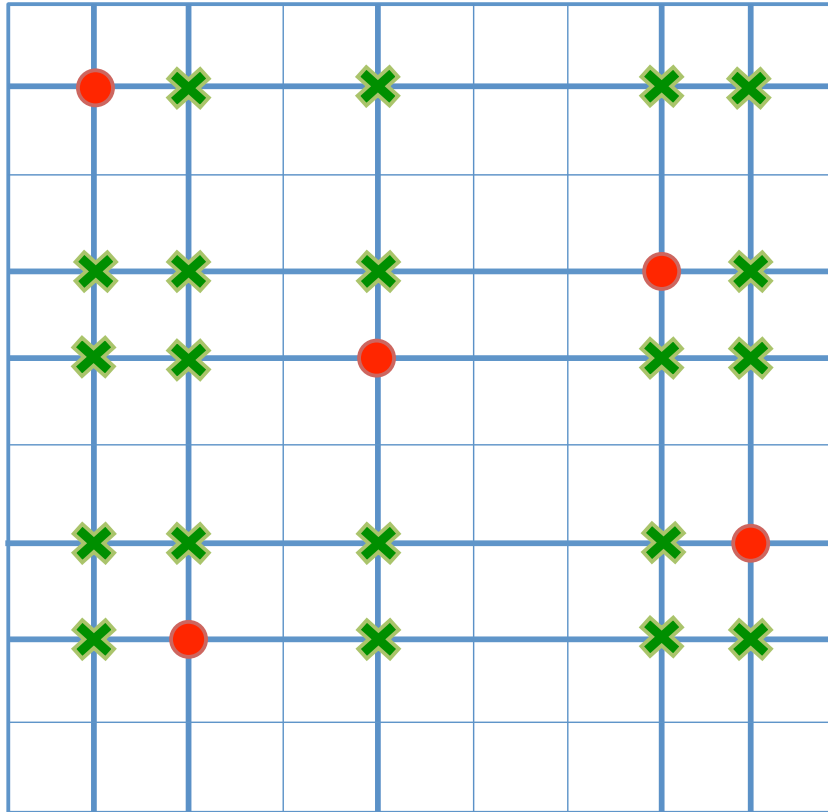
2. Purity

- Don't find tracks that shouldn't be there
- Caused by mismatching hits from one track with hits from another (previous slides)
- Ghost hits!



sTGC Ghost hits

sTGC ghost hits

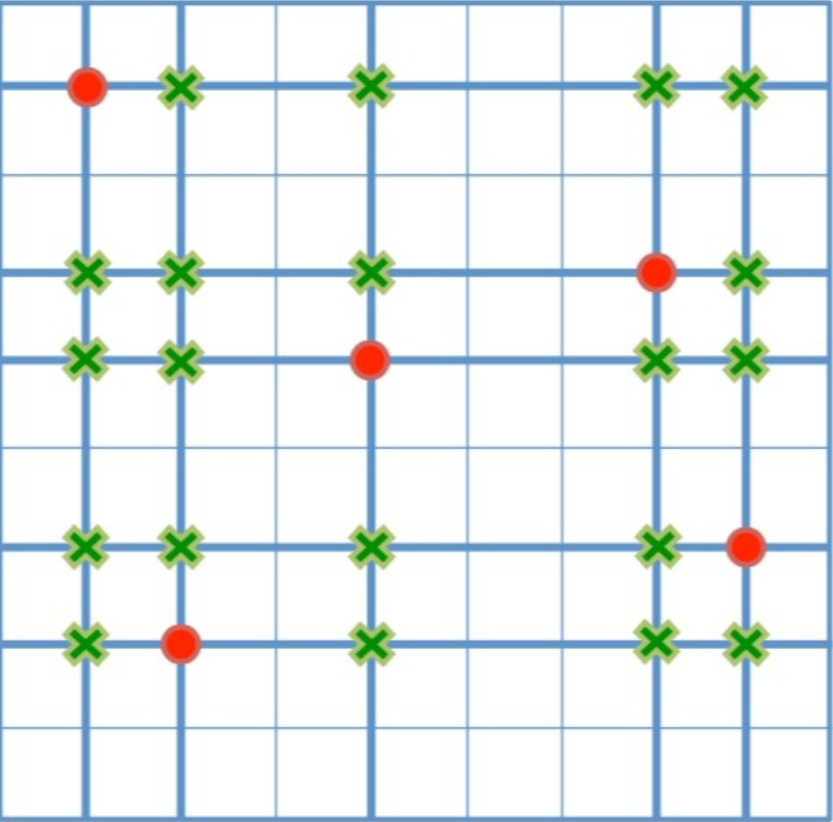


● Real Hit
✕ Ghost Hit

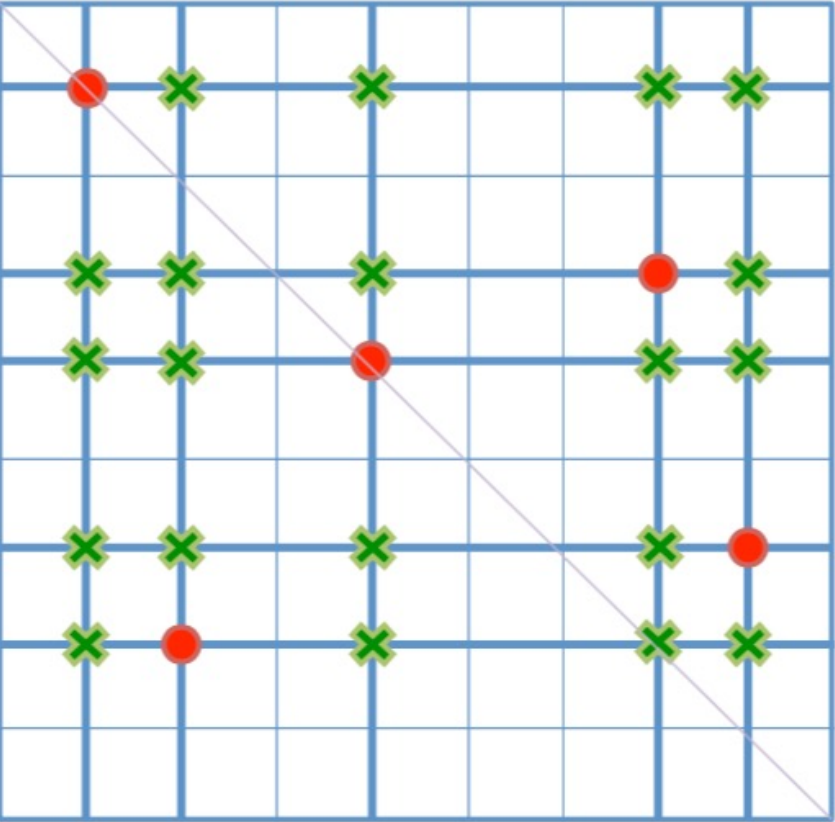
- sTGC is basically a sandwich of two 1 dimensional detectors
- Ambiguity exists when multiple hits occur
- Leads to “ghost” hits
- Major problem for high multiplicities

Reduce Ghost hits with Diagonal strips

Split strip

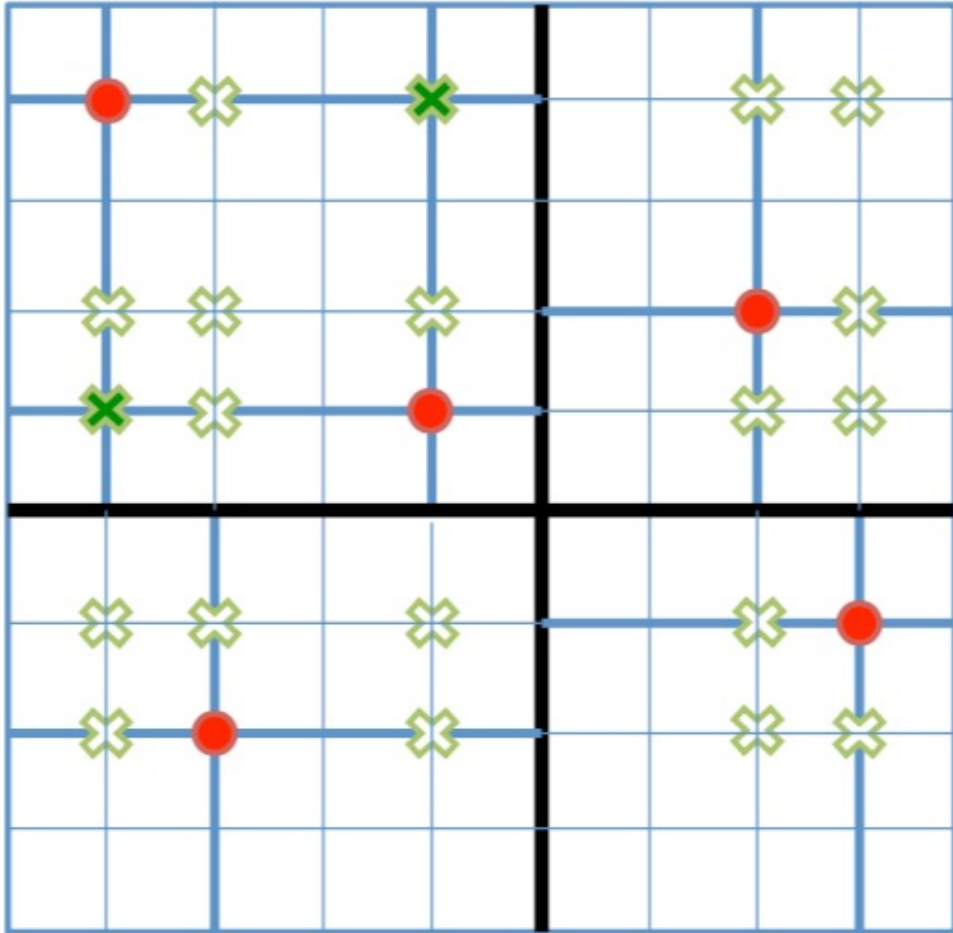


Diagonal strip

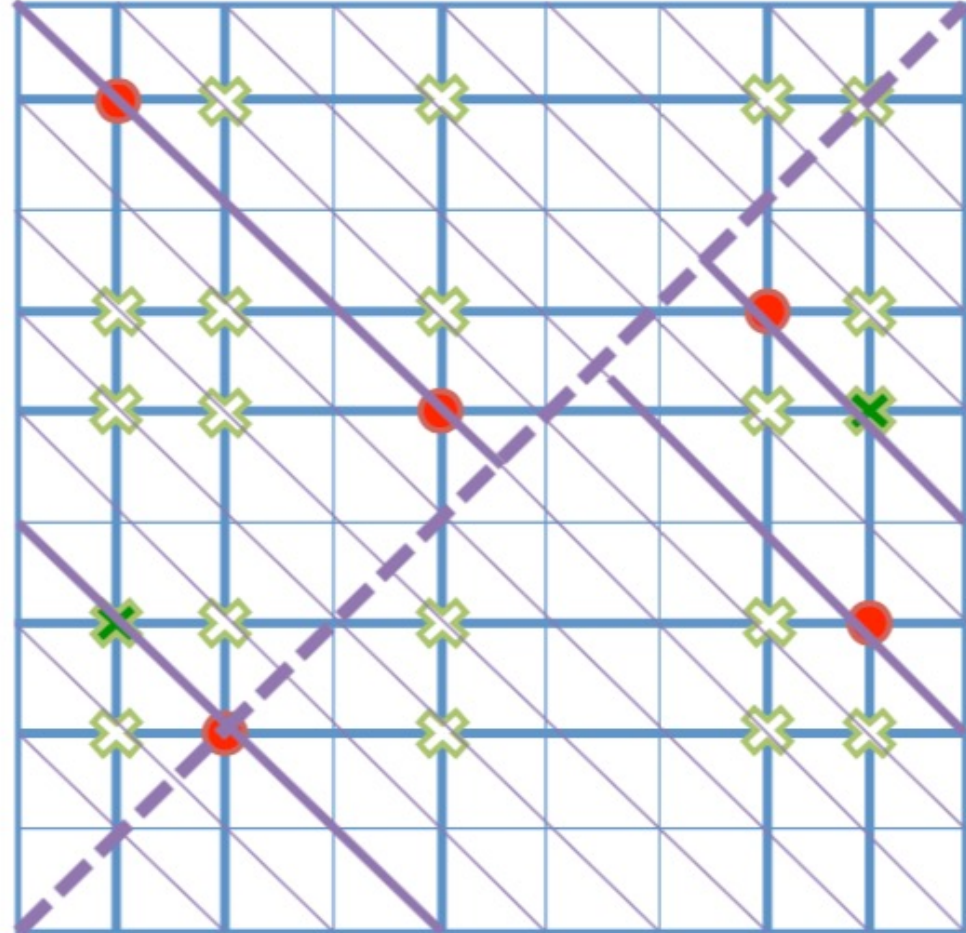


Reduce Ghost hits with Diagonal strips

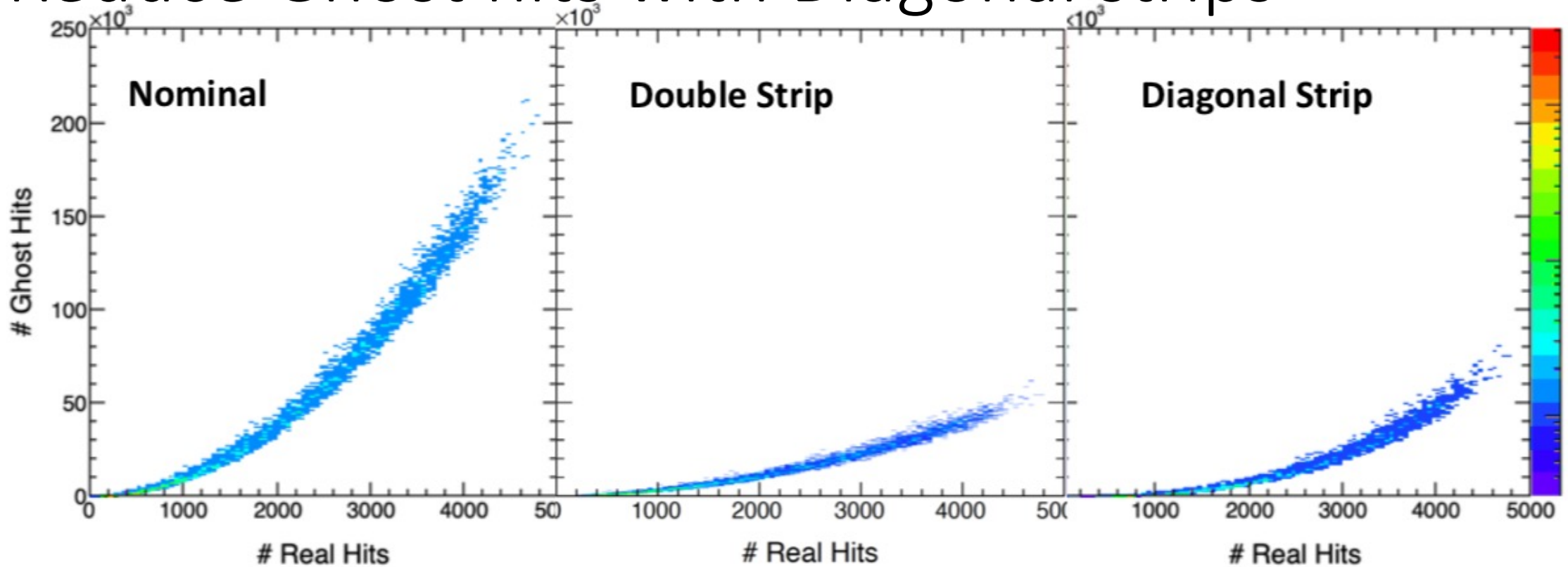
Split strip



Diagonal strip

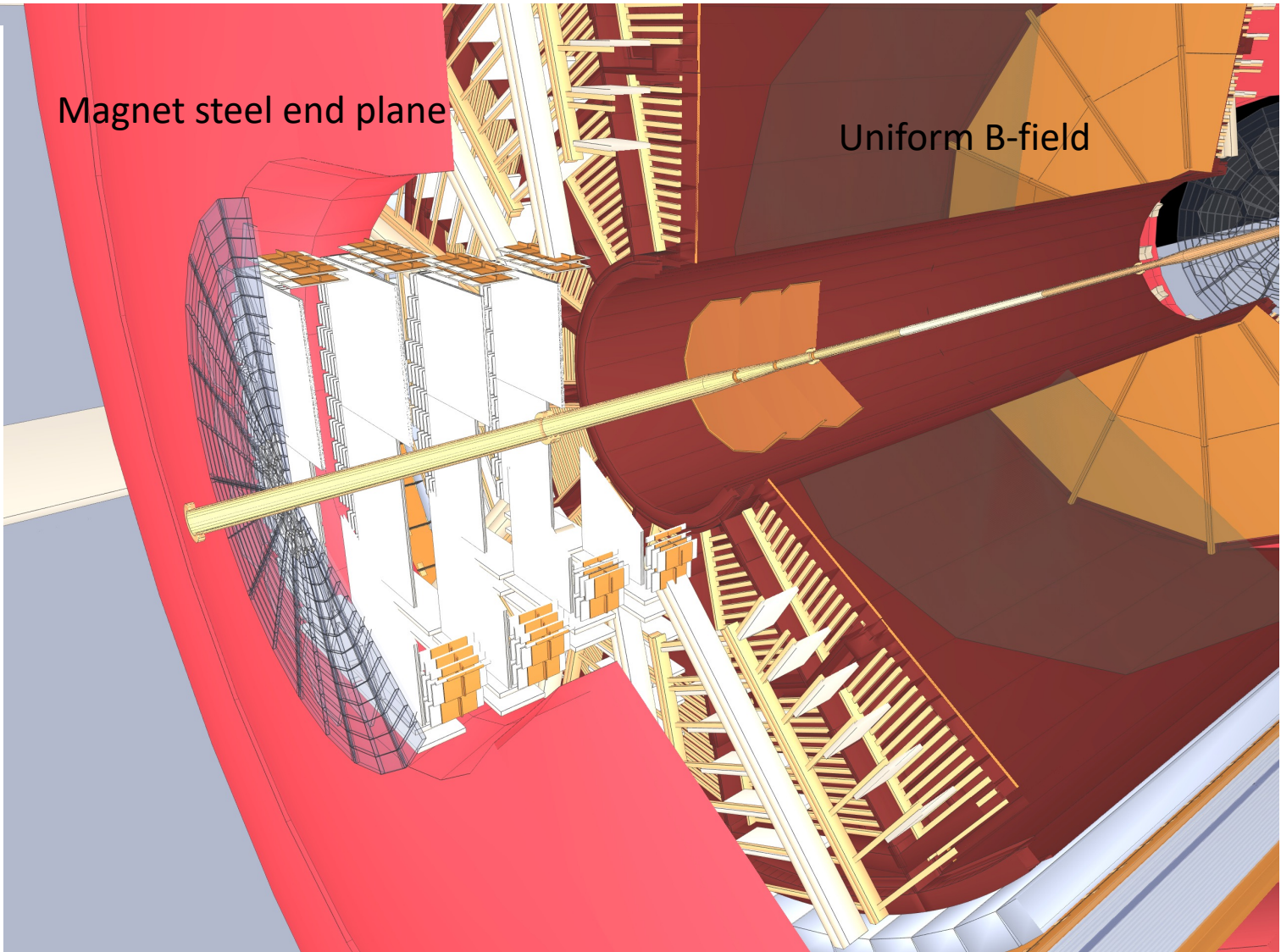
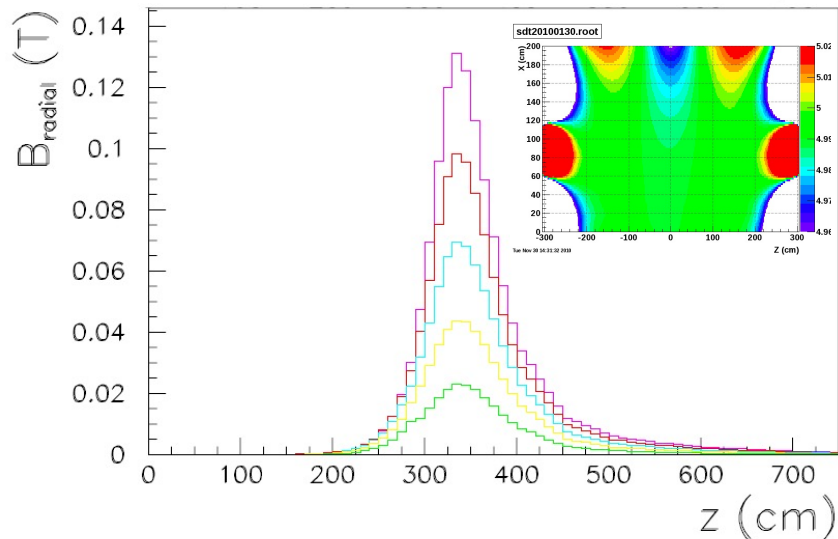
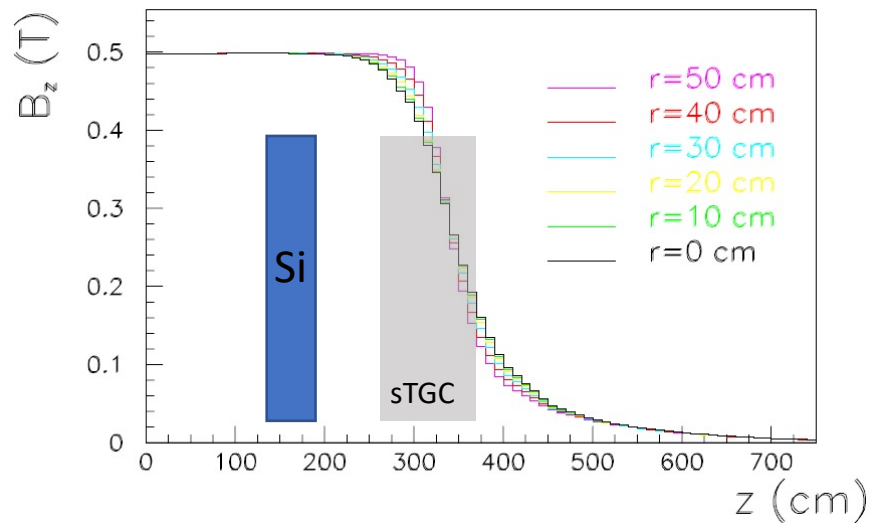


Reduce Ghost hits with Diagonal strips



Significant reduction of ghost hits

Challenges: Magnetic Field in Forward Region

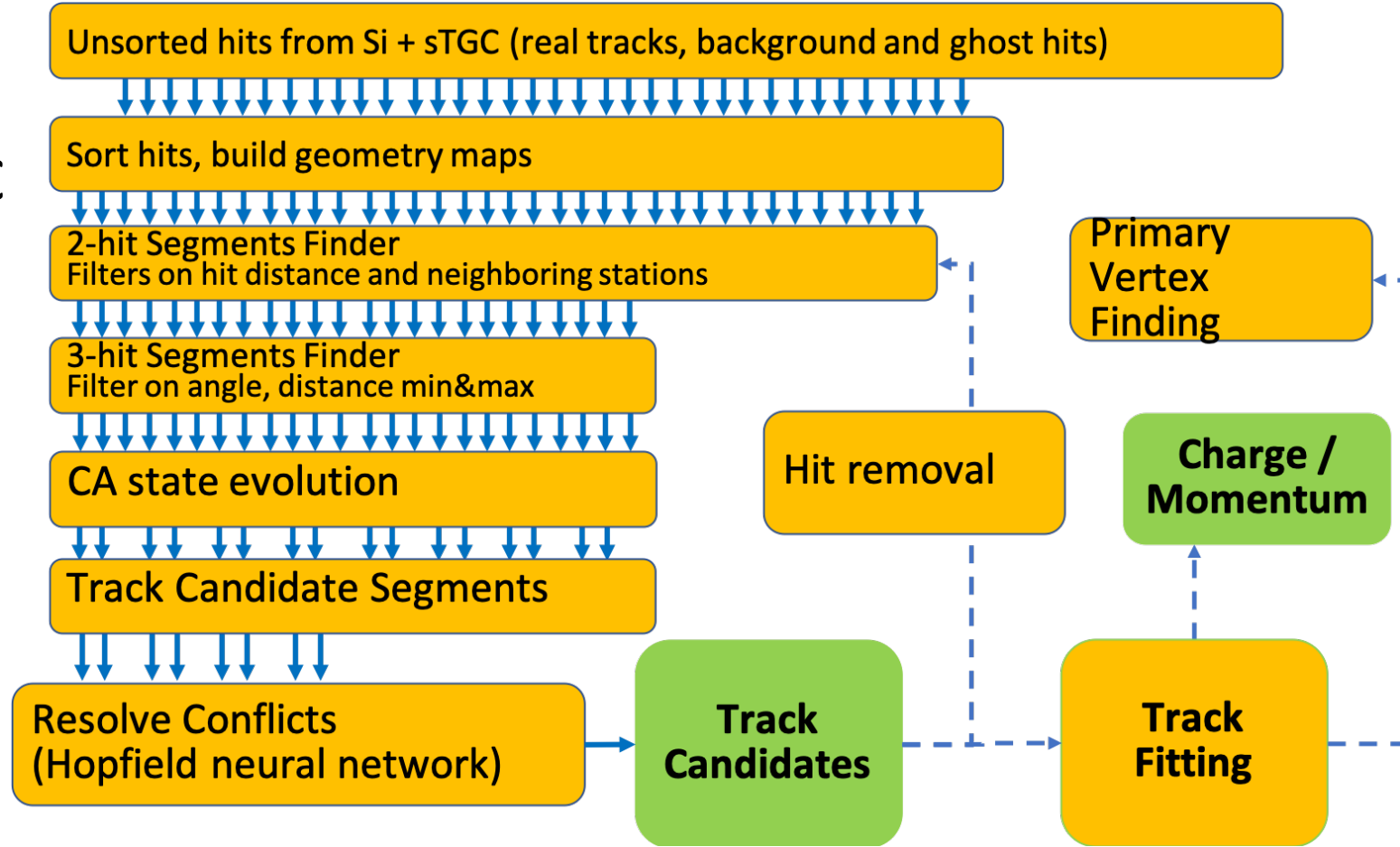


Forward Tracking

Unique Challenges:

- Combination of detector technologies: Silicon & sTGC
- Changing magnetic field
- Large hit density

- Track finding:
 - Cellular Automata
- Track Fitting:
 - GENFIT2 (a multi-experiment tracking framework)



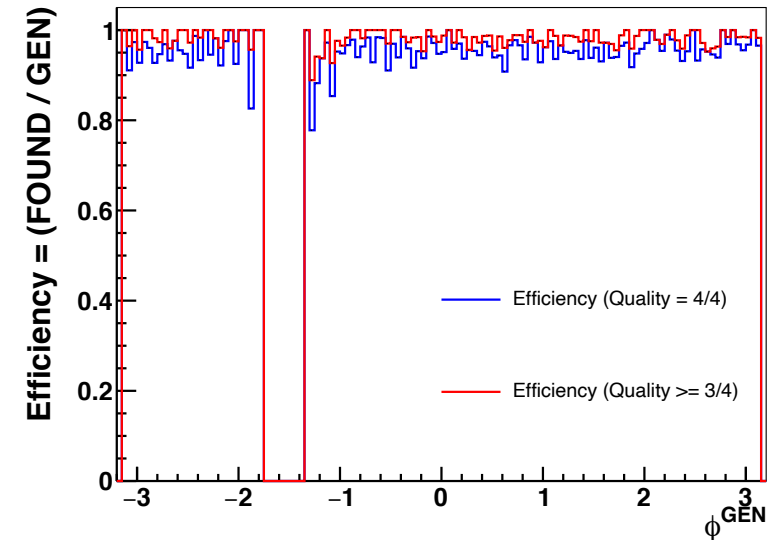
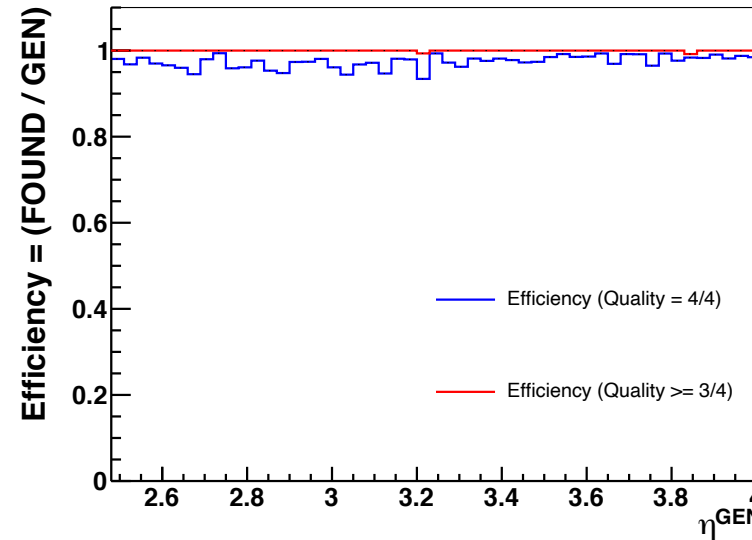
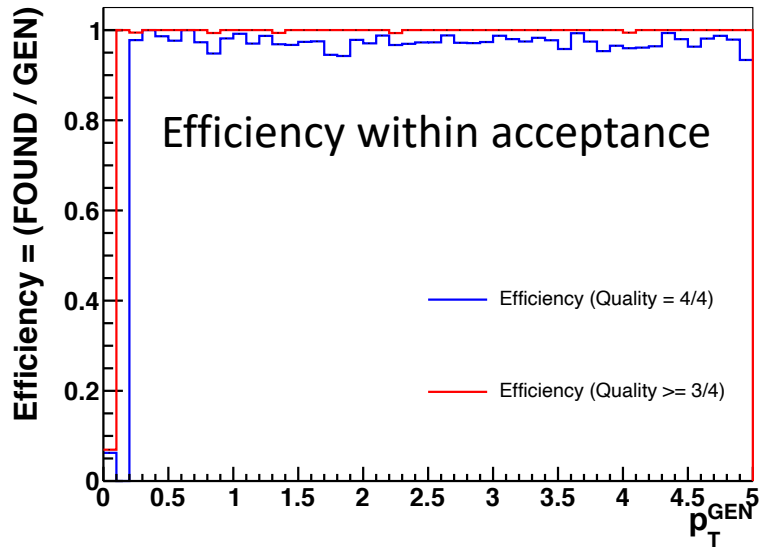
Tracking Efficiency

Evaluate performance under ideal conditions

- Track finding efficiency (perfect 4/4 correct hits) is $\approx 98\%$
- Track finding efficiency (3/4 or more correct hits) is $\approx 99.5\%$
- **Full material effects**
- **Real STAR B-field**

GENERATOR (“GEN” or “MC” hits):

- $1 \mu^+ / \text{Event}$
- $2.45 < |\eta| < 4.05$
- $0.2 < p_T < 5 \text{ GeV}/c$
- B Field : **REAL** (StarMagField)
- Primary Vertex distribution $\mu = (0, 0, 0)$, $\sigma = (0.05, 0.05, 5) \text{ cm}$.
- CA Track finding uses sTGC only, fast & generic



Tracking Algorithm

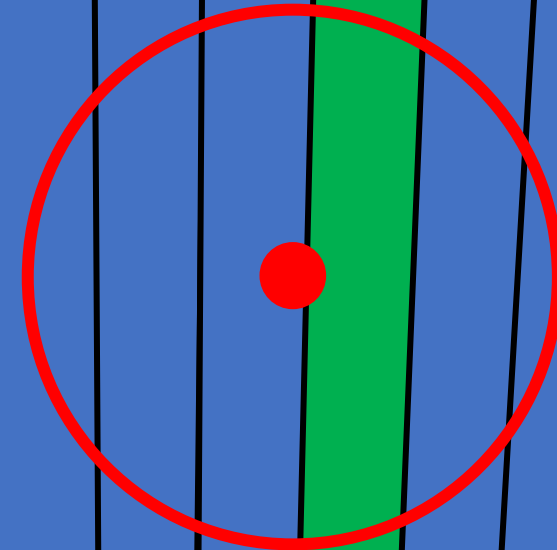
Track Finding

- Cellular Automata based
- Uses hits from sTGC detector

Track Fitting procedure

1. Fit primary vertex + sTGC hits
2. Swim along track, find hits in Si planes
3. Refit with primary vertex + Si + sTGC

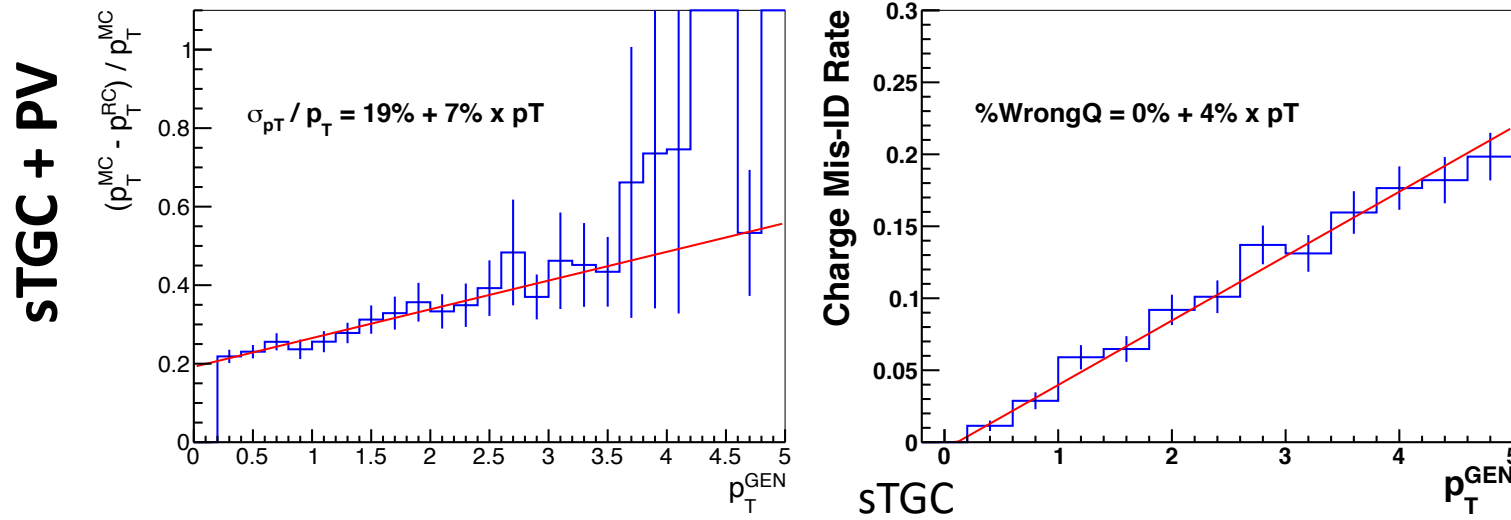
sTGC+PV track projection
uncertainty



EXAMPLE ONLY:
NOT to SCALE

HIT Strip

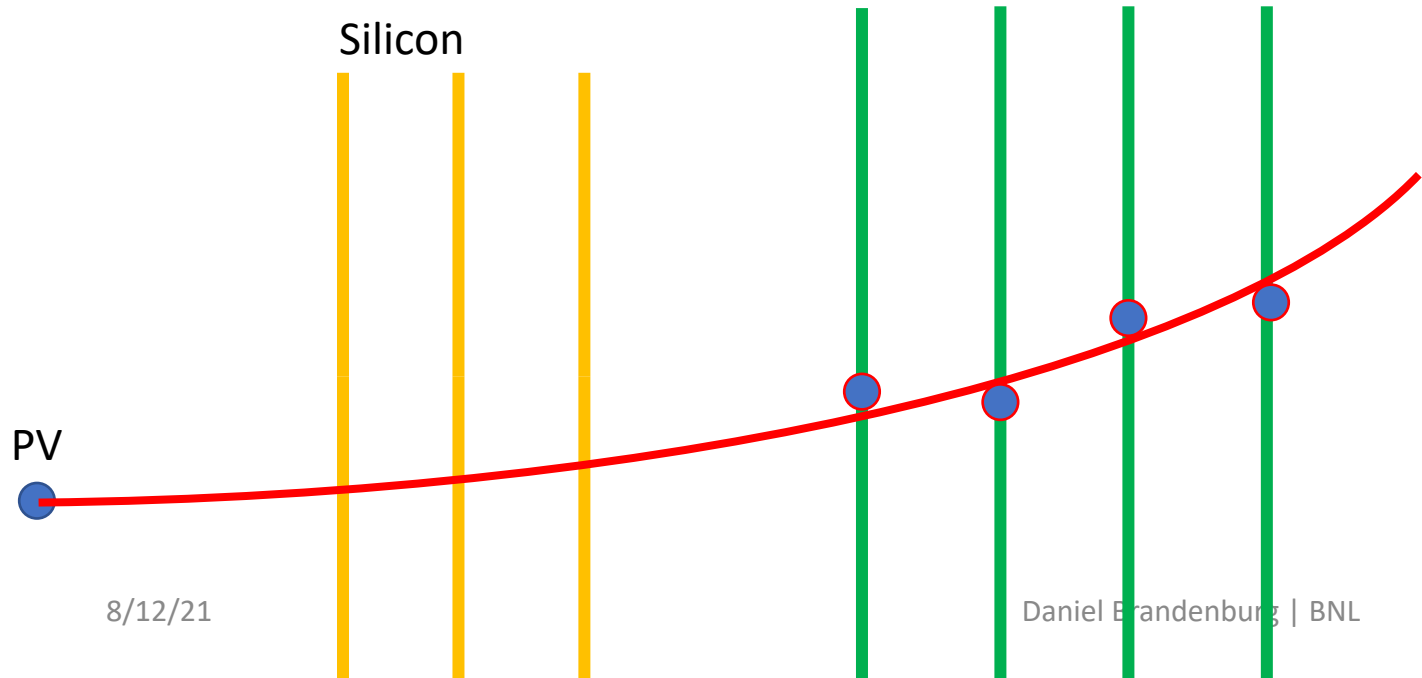
Track Fitting and performance



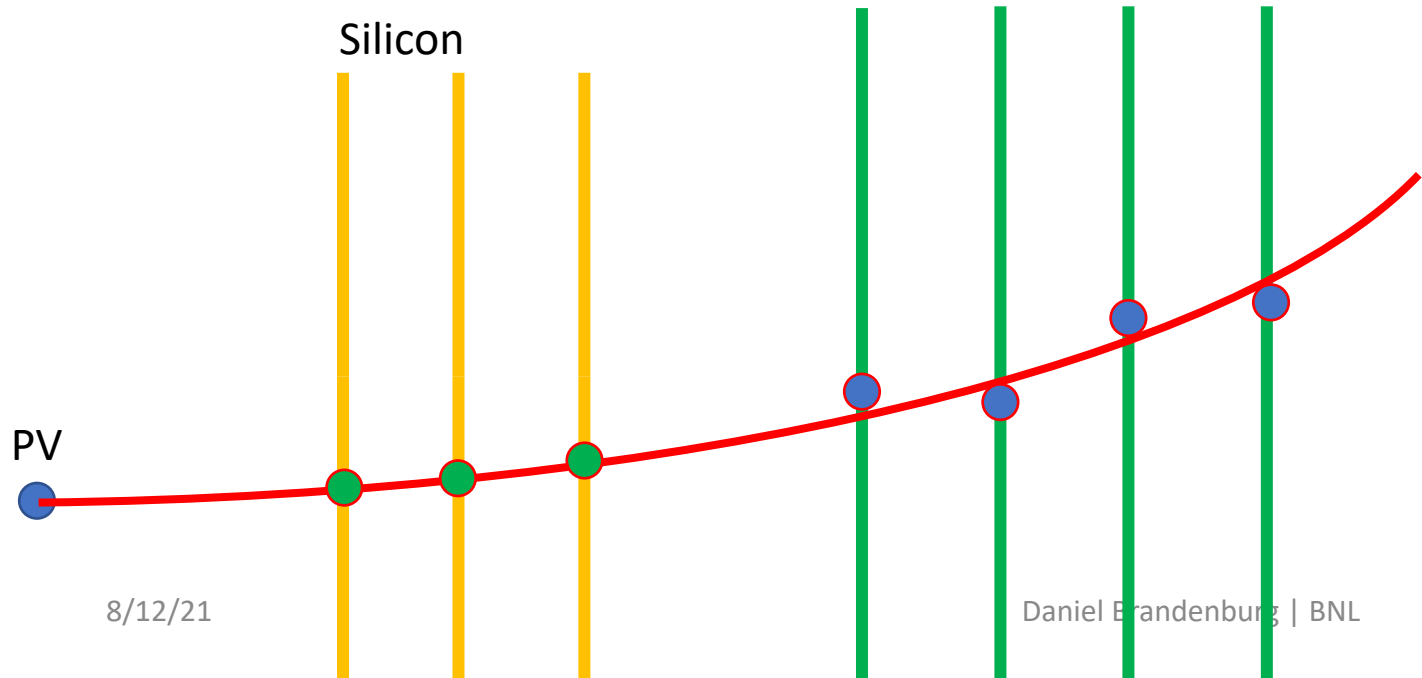
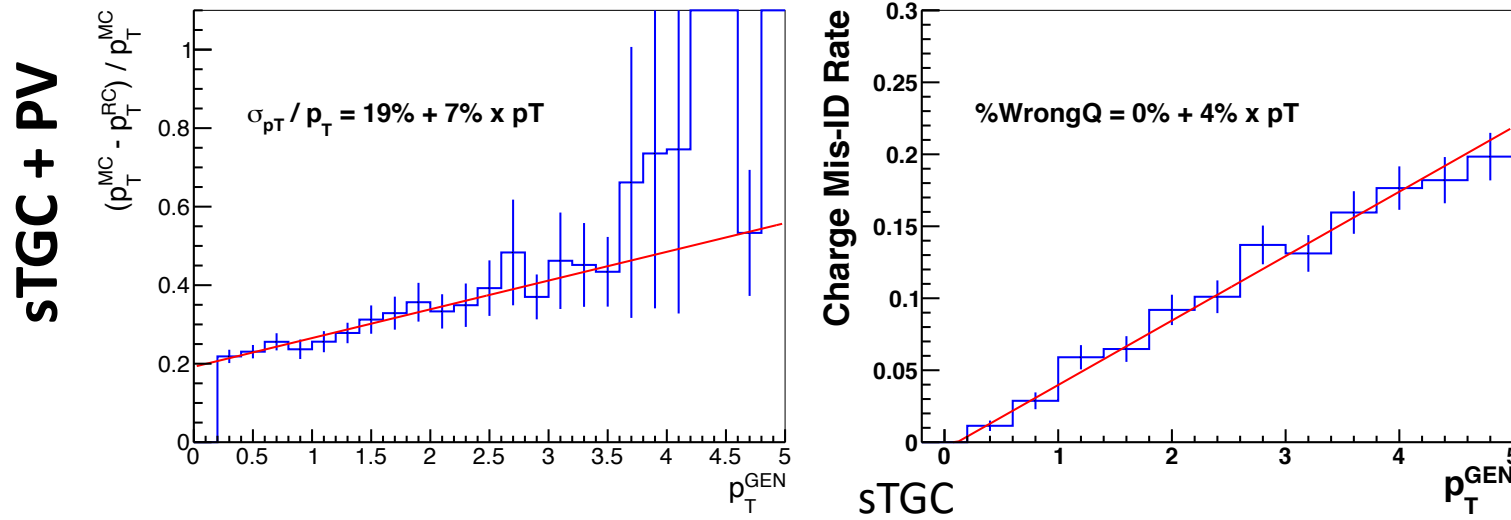
1. Fit with sTGC and primary vertex
2. Project tracks to Si disks and search for hits along track
3. Refit tracks with PV + sTGC + Si

Primary Vertex $\sigma_{XY} = 500 \mu m$

- Beamline constraint should provide $\sigma_{XY} = 500 \mu m$ or better



Track Fitting and performance

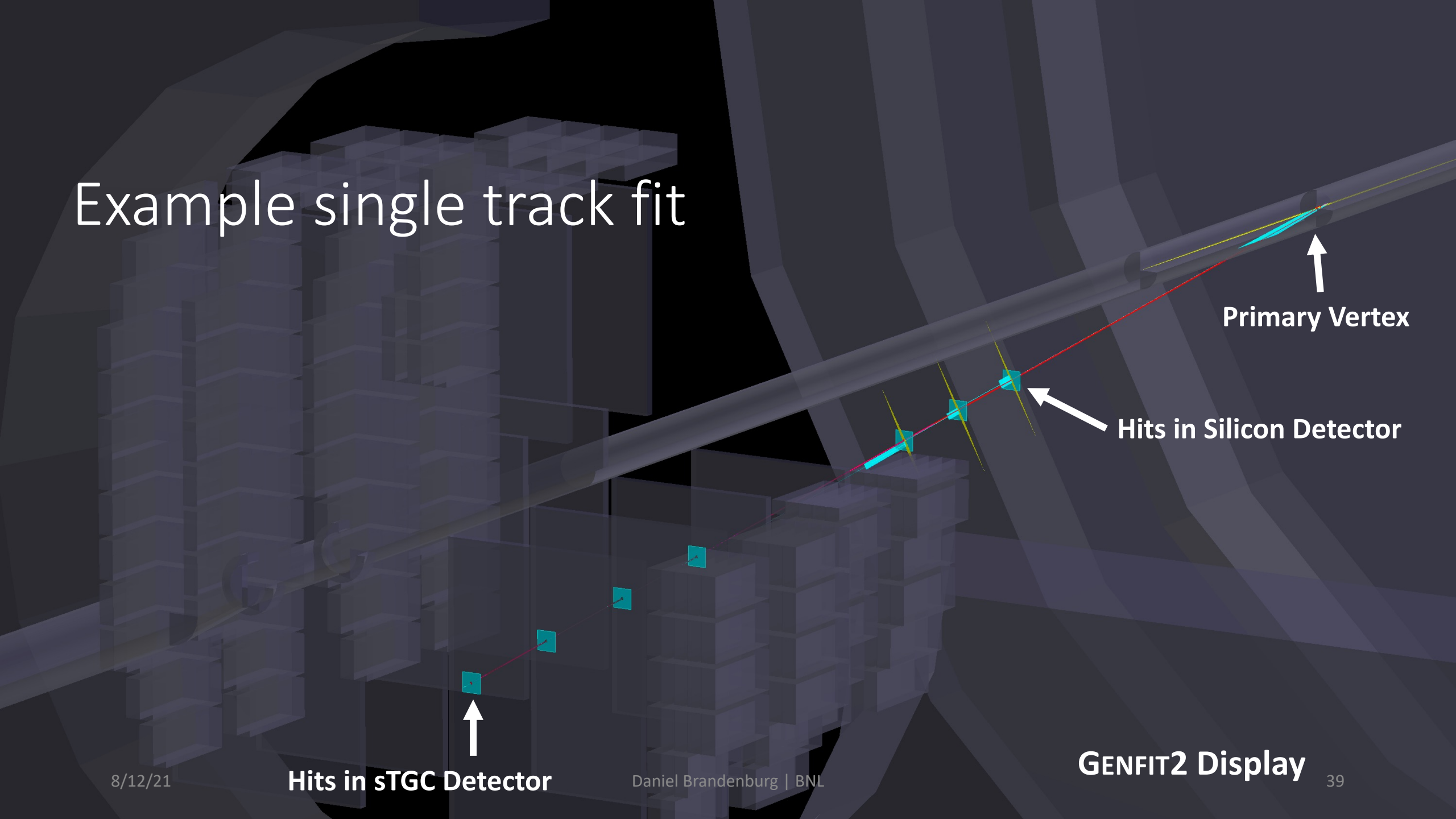


1. Fit with sTGC and primary vertex
2. Project tracks to Si disks and search for hits along track
3. Refit tracks with PV + sTGC + Si

Primary Vertex $\sigma_{XY} = 500 \mu m$

- Beamline constraint should provide $\sigma_{XY} = 500 \mu m$ or better
- Combine projected R-position @ silicon with very high-precision phi-measurement

Example single track fit



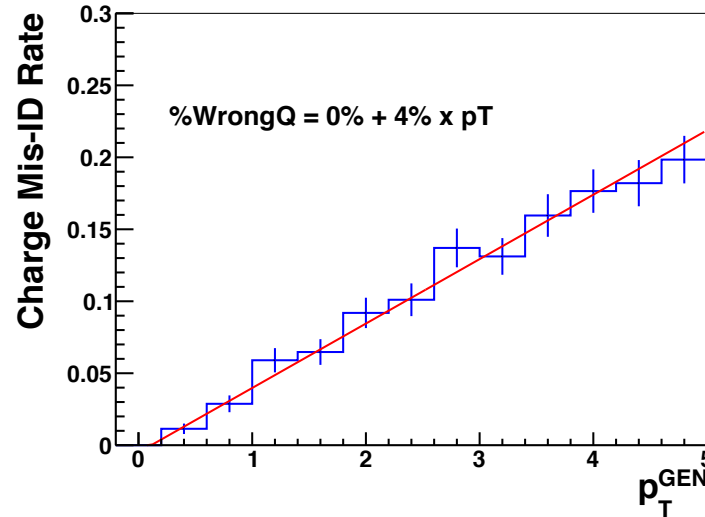
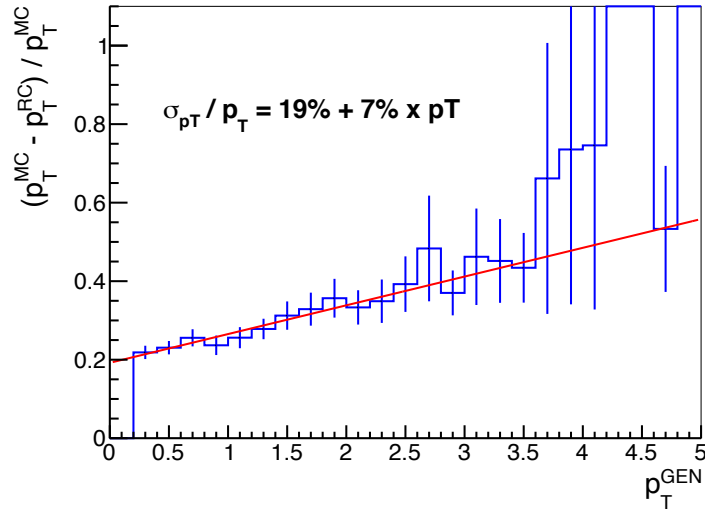
Primary Vertex

Hits in Silicon Detector

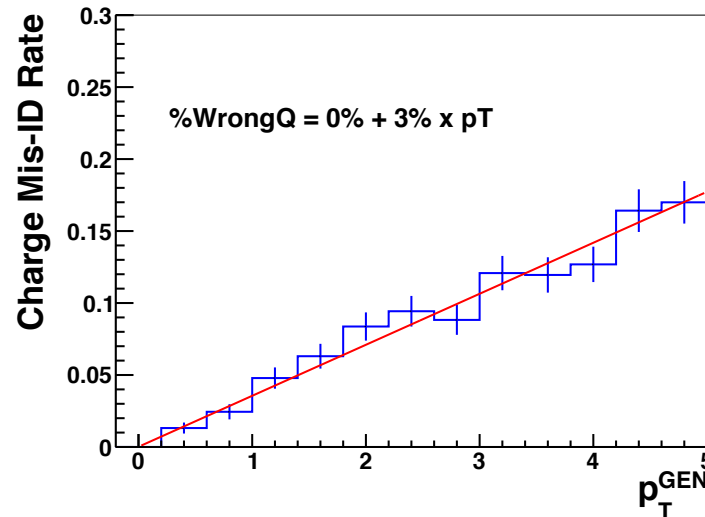
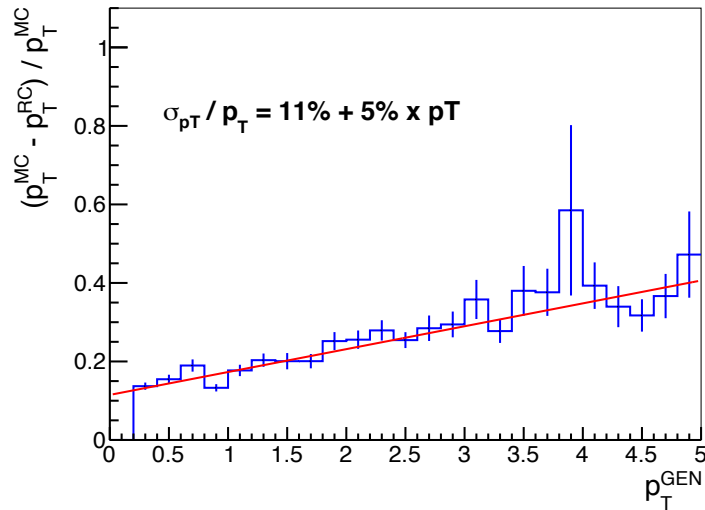
Hits in sTGC Detector

Track Fitting and performance

sTGC + PV



Refit 3 Silicon hits



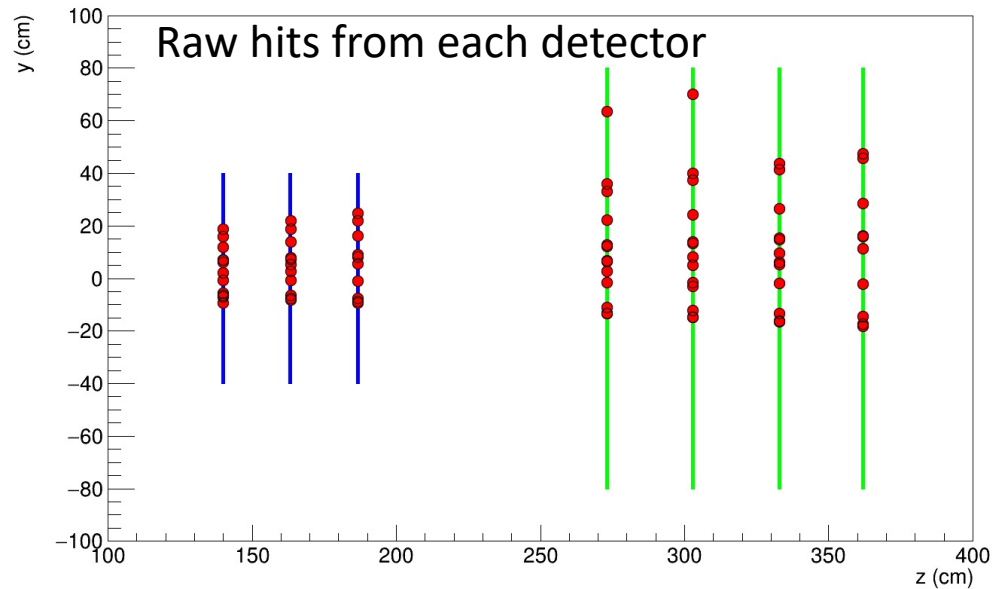
1. Fit with sTGC and primary vertex
2. Project tracks to Si disks and search for hits along track
3. Refit tracks with PV + sTGC + Si

Primary Vertex $\sigma_{XY} = 500 \mu m$

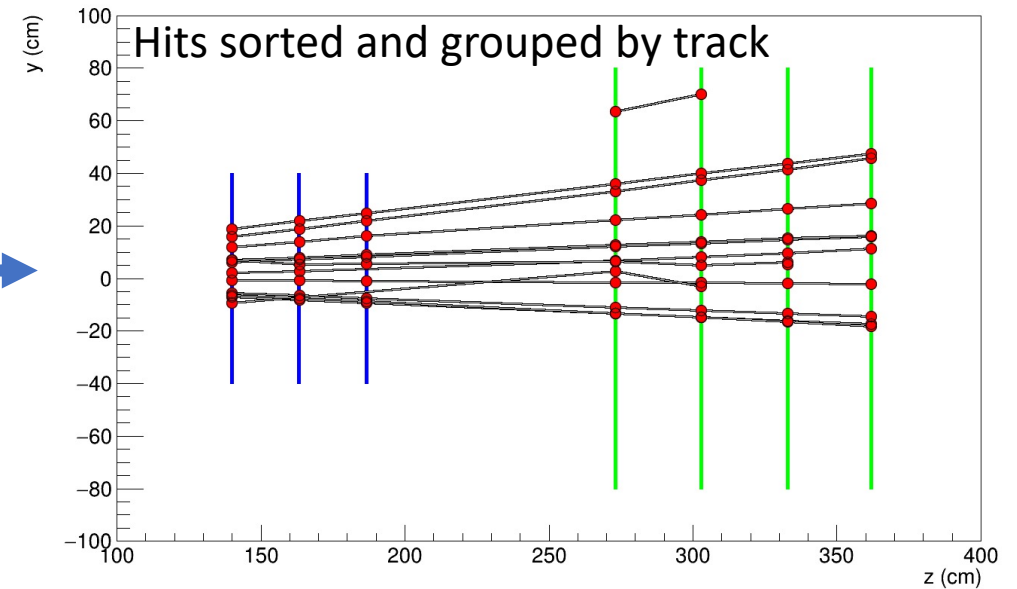
- Beamline constraint should provide $\sigma_{XY} = 500 \mu m$ or better
- Refit with Si provides significantly improved momentum resolution (x2) + charge identification (especially at higher pT)

Understanding the track fitting

- Study track FITTING only → assume **PERFECT** track finding, i.e.
- Why do this: Study track fitting independent of track finding



Track Finding



- If we have perfect information of track hits, how well can we determine track momentum and charge?

MC Closure test: verify the tracking procedure

➤ MC Closure to prove that the tracking code “works”

1. Generate tracks / propagate with GEANT

➤ Physics_OFF = Multiple scattering, hadronic interactions, etc. **turned OFF**

2. Use GEANT hits, blur position by $\sigma_{XY} = 1 \mu m$ (could be anything)

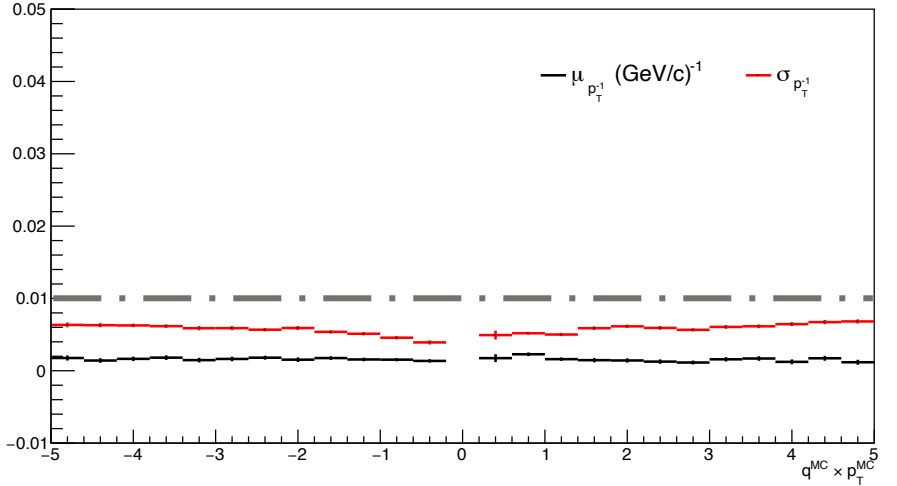
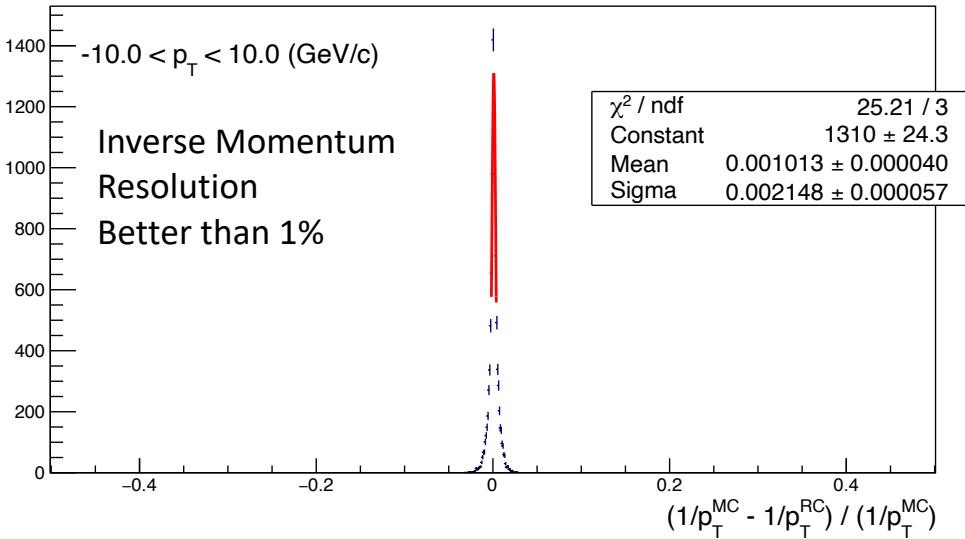
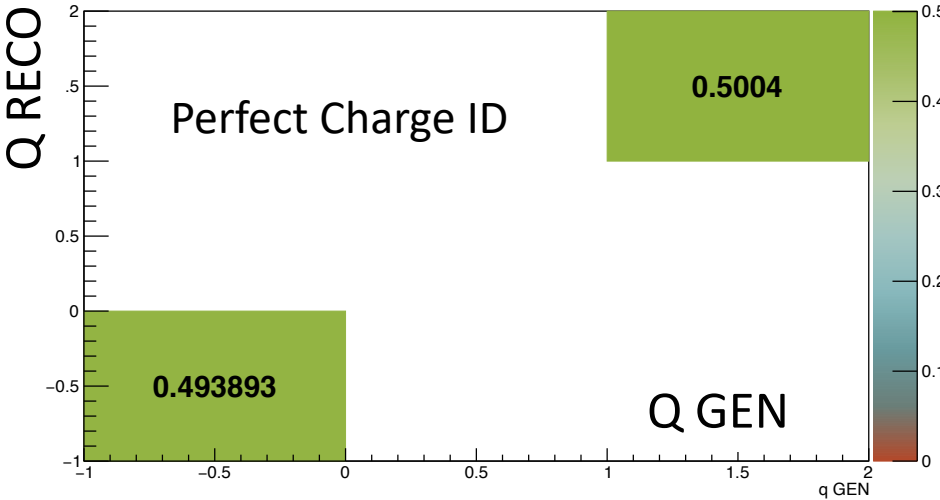
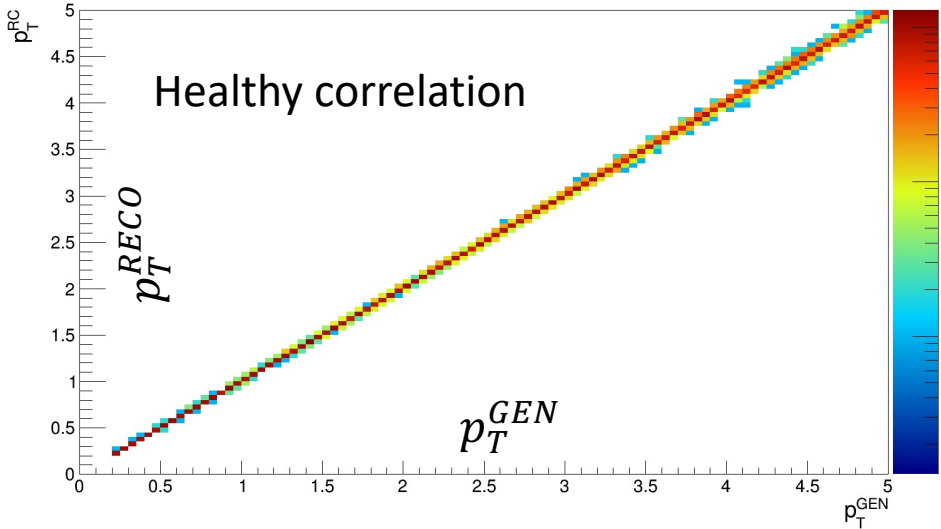
3. Assign hit covariance matrix according to σ_{XY}

4. Fit tracks using GENFIT2 implementation

Thank you to Jason / Victor for help turning OFF multiple scattering etc.

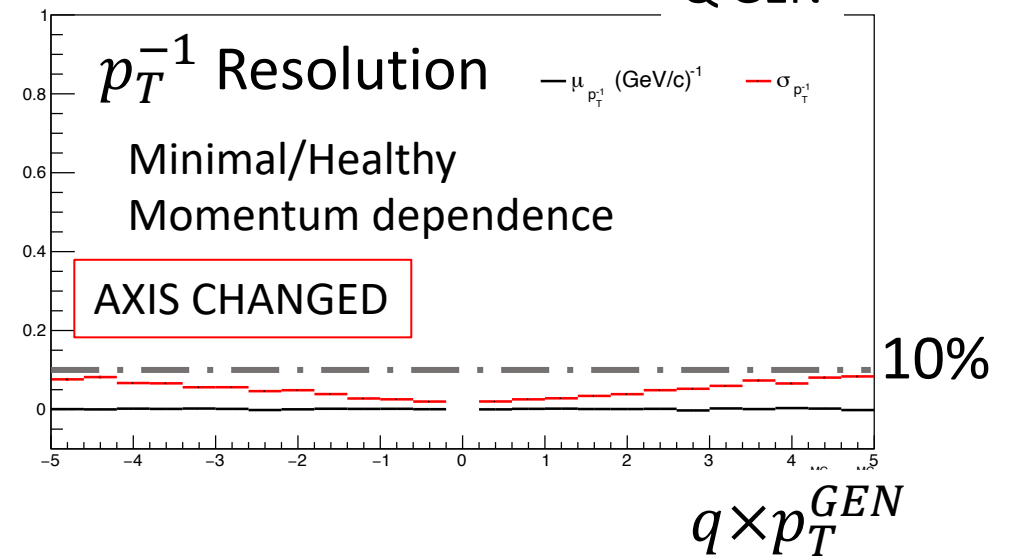
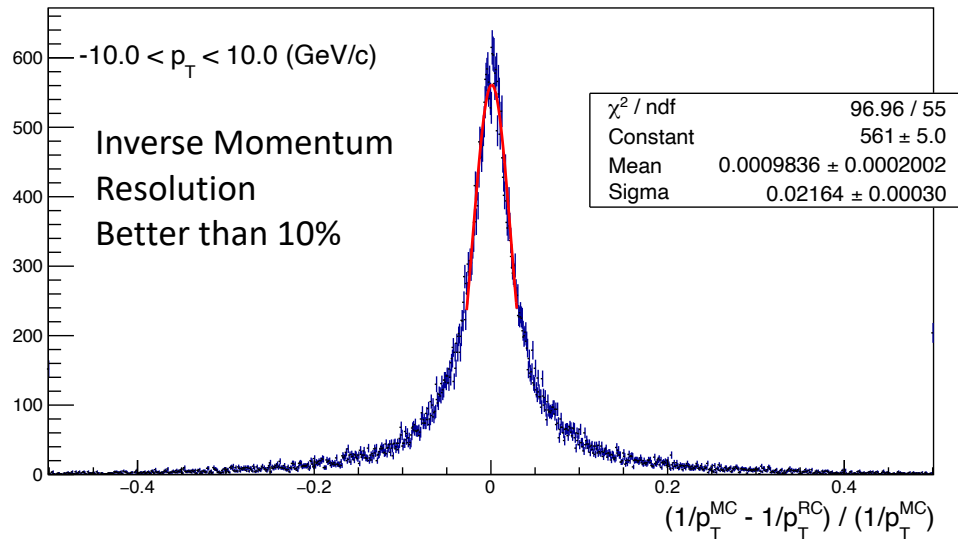
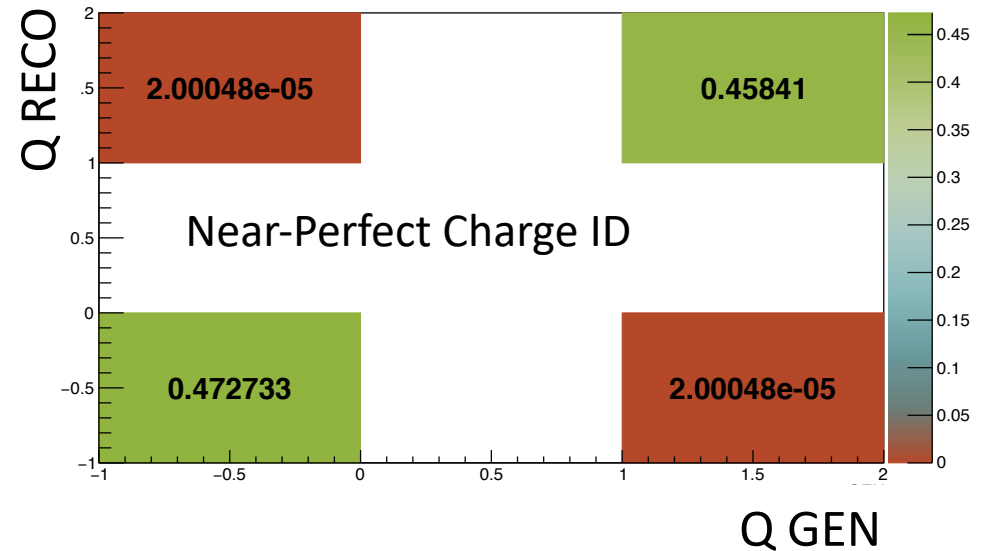
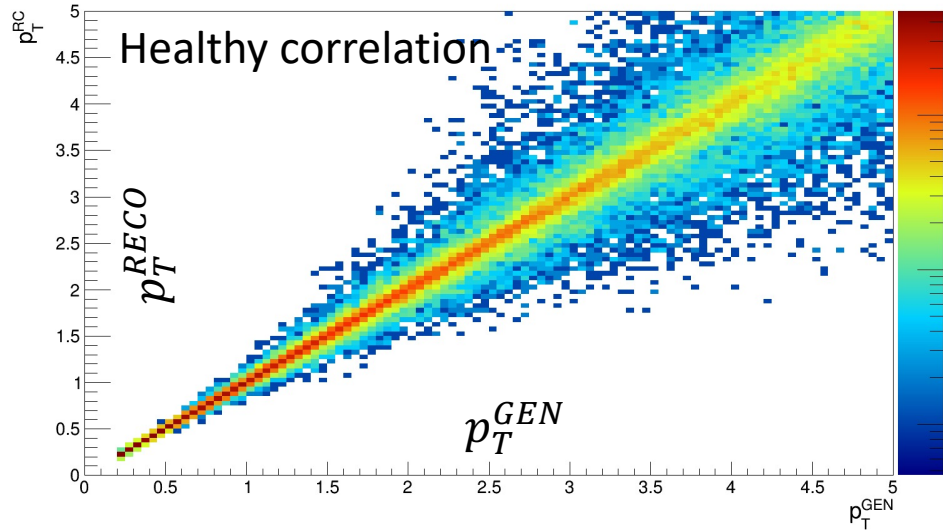
GEN Level (Physics_off) $\sigma_{XY} = 0.1\mu\text{m}$

Physics_off = leave hit in detector, otherwise no interaction with material

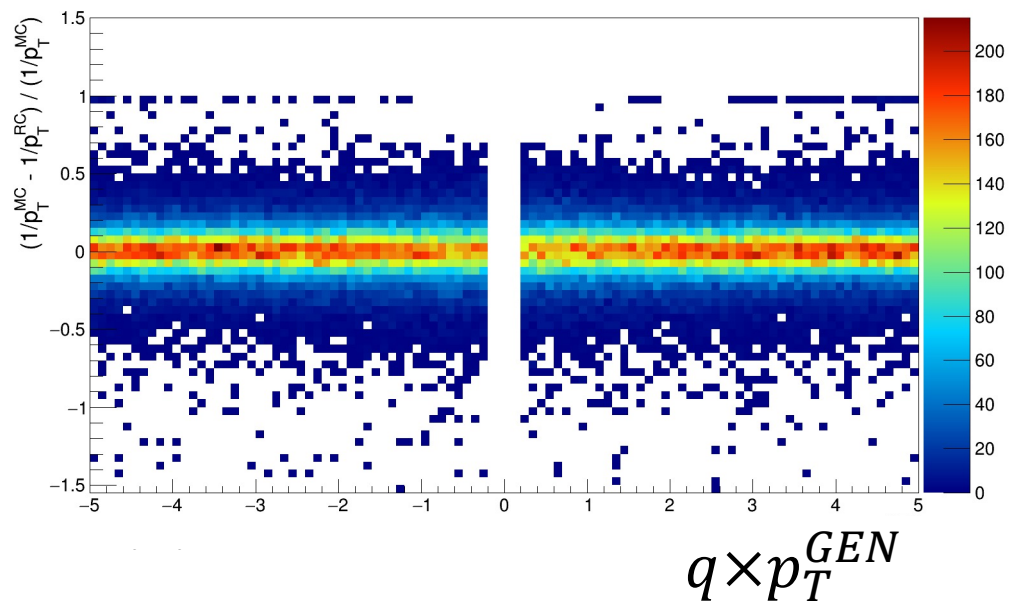
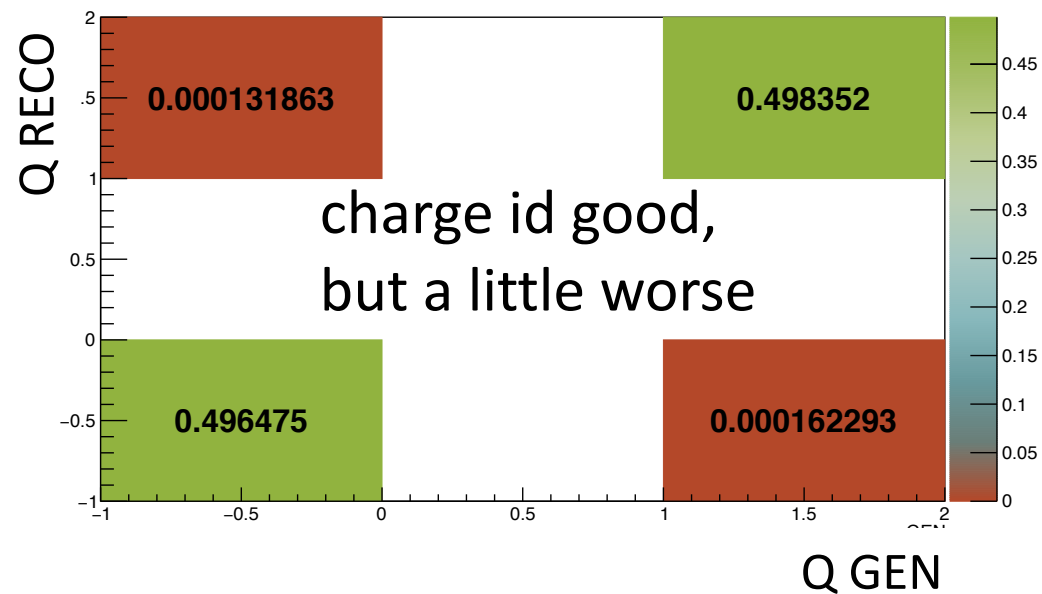
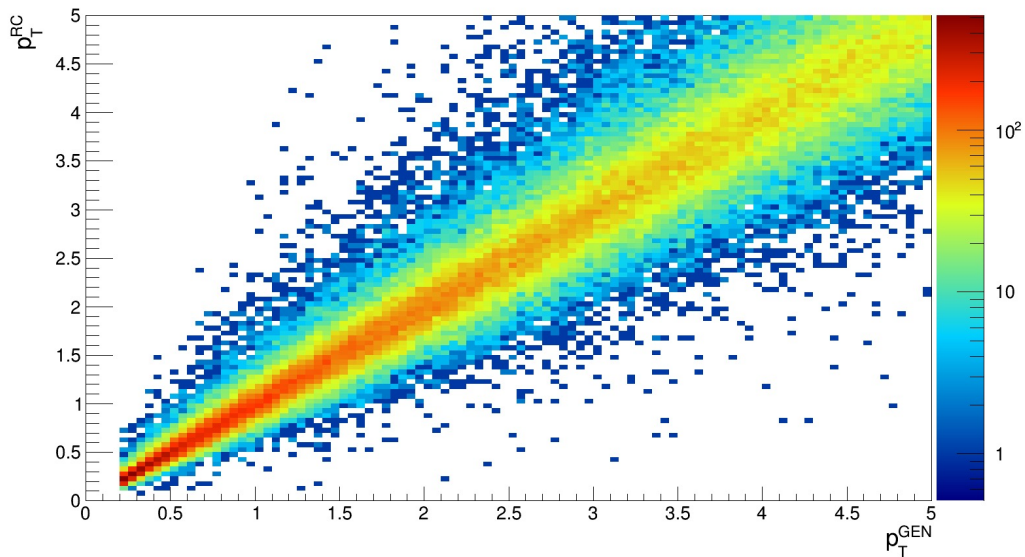


1%

GEN Level (Physics_off) $\sigma_{XY} = 1\mu\text{m}$



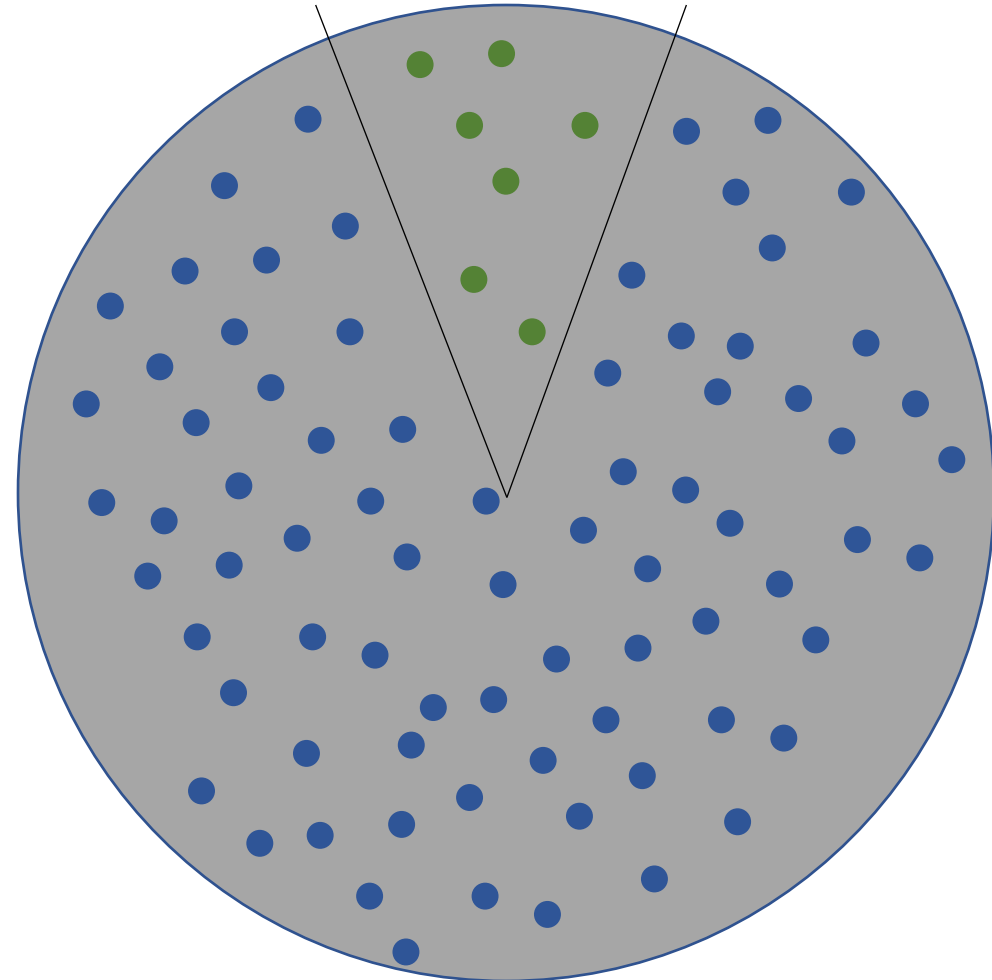
GEN level $\pm 1\mu\text{m}$ (Physics ON)



No p_T dependence, dominated by interactions

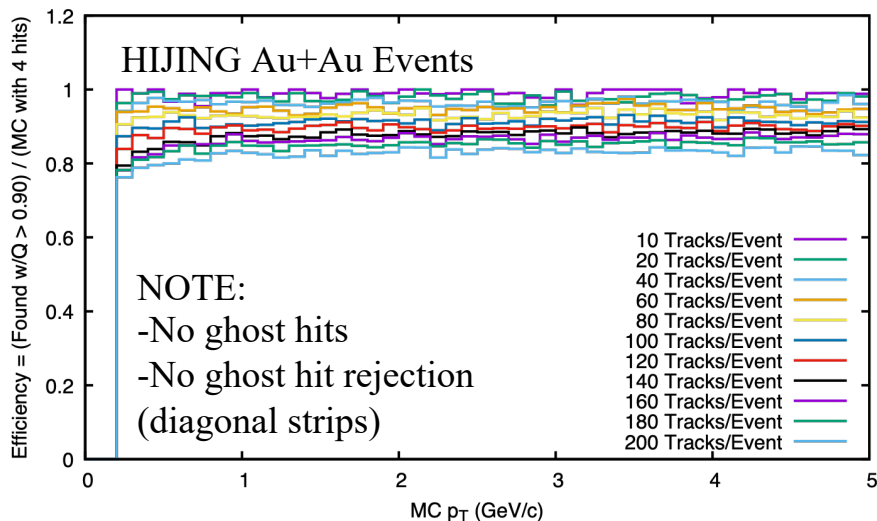
High Multiplicity Tracking

- Naïve CA implementation is very slow for high-mult events.
 - Scales with combinatorial pairs
 - Problem will be worse with ghost hits from sTGC in high-mult events
- CA is easily parallelizable / separable
 - Simplest approach: split hits from each station into slices in ϕ
 - Reduces combinatorial pairs
 - May reduce efficiency for low p_T tracks
 - ✓ Multiple iterations to recover hard-to-find track candidates



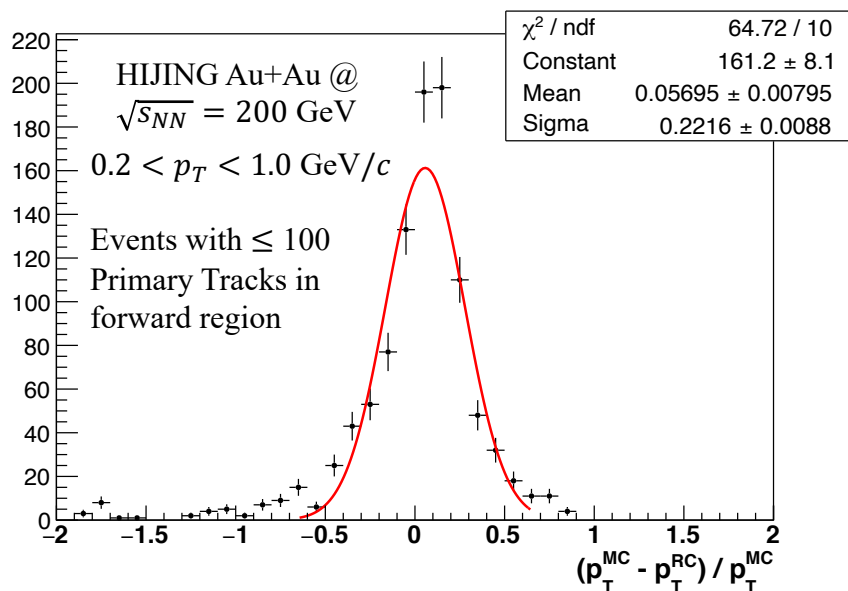
Tracking Performance at higher multiplicities

Track Finding Efficiency

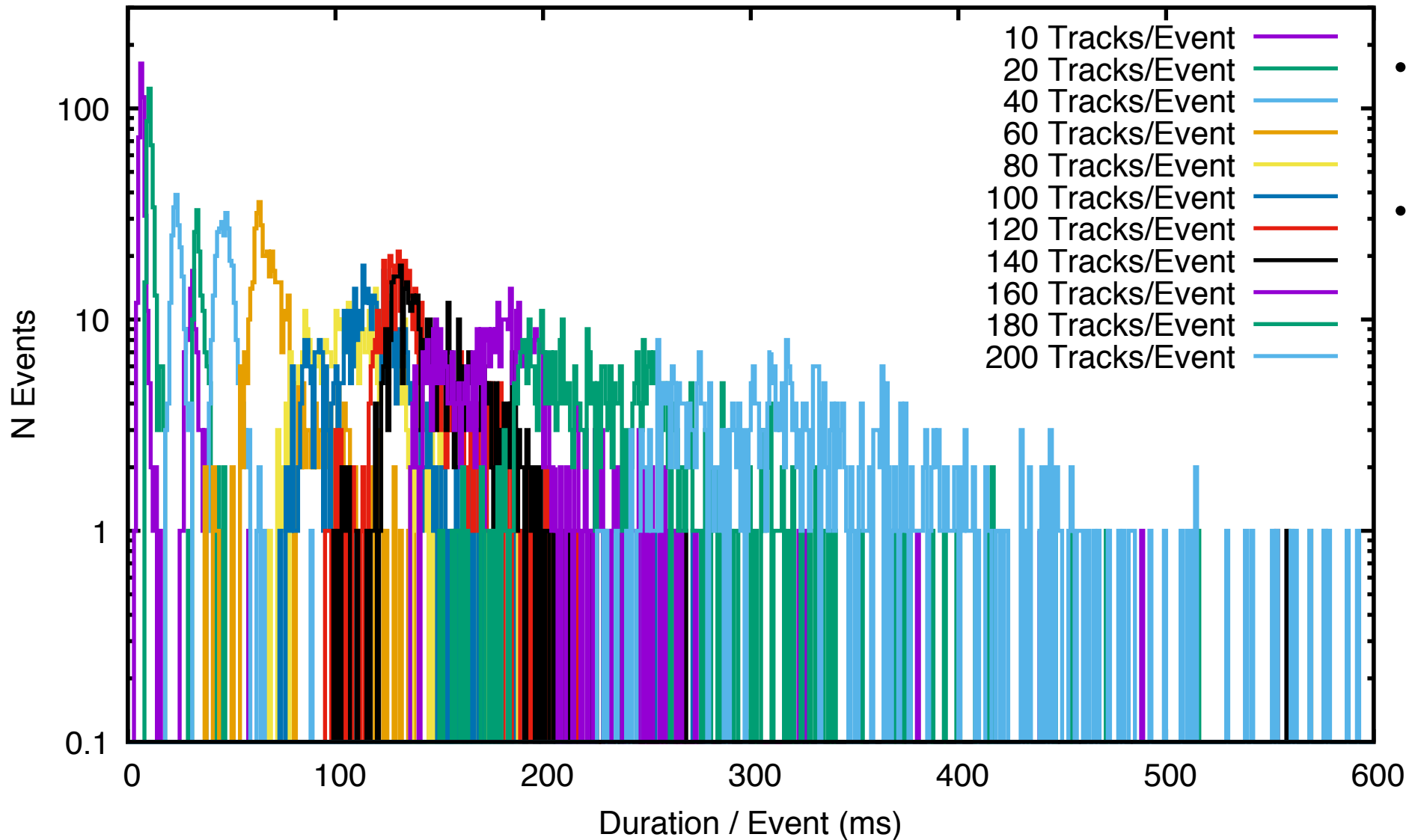


Tracking Performance:

- ✓ Split/Parallelize high multiplicity events – speedup $\sim x1000$
- Track finding shows healthy behavior trending towards higher multiplicity
- Detailed studies will be needed with ghost hits and diagonal strips
- Preliminary study: momentum resolution peripheral Au+Au < 30%, meeting goals for physics in AA
 - Note: resolution depends on η , p_T and multiplicity



Track Finding Efficiency vs. Multiplicity



- Healthy behavior with increased multiplicity
- Duration for high-mult event ~ 400 ms / Event

Conclusions

- Detector technology as been crucial for advancing our experiment reach and physical understanding
- STAR Forward upgrade uses modern tracking technology to achieve tracking in challenging situations : non-uniform B-field, various detector technologies...
- Tracking requires cutting edge mathematical algorithms for finding “real” tracks in the sea of background

Homework

- Read about particle detectors:
 - <https://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Detectors.pdf>
- Read about track finding using machine learning:
 - <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1904.06778.pdf>
- Derive the relation between track curvature and the track momentum in a given B-field
- Write a ROOT/python code to compute/plot the number of ghost hits vs. real hits for an sTGC like detector. Can you come up with a mathematical expression for this?
 - If you break the area into 4 smaller independent detectors, how would that change the number of ghost hits?