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Using Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering to characterise the ePIC detector

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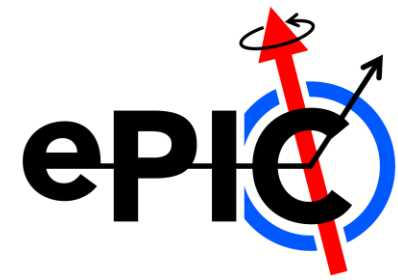
EIC-UK Community Meeting
09/12/25

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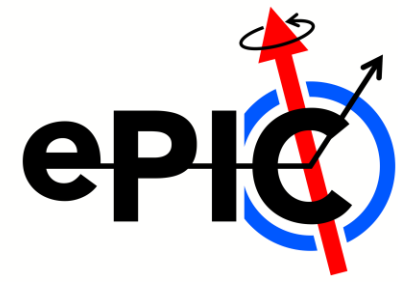
This presentation



- Context: DVCS and its place in the EIC physics programme.
- DVCS simulations to test ePIC performance.
 - Electrons and photons in the barrel/endcaps.
 - Far forward protons.
 - Fully exclusive DVCS events.
- Where we go from here...



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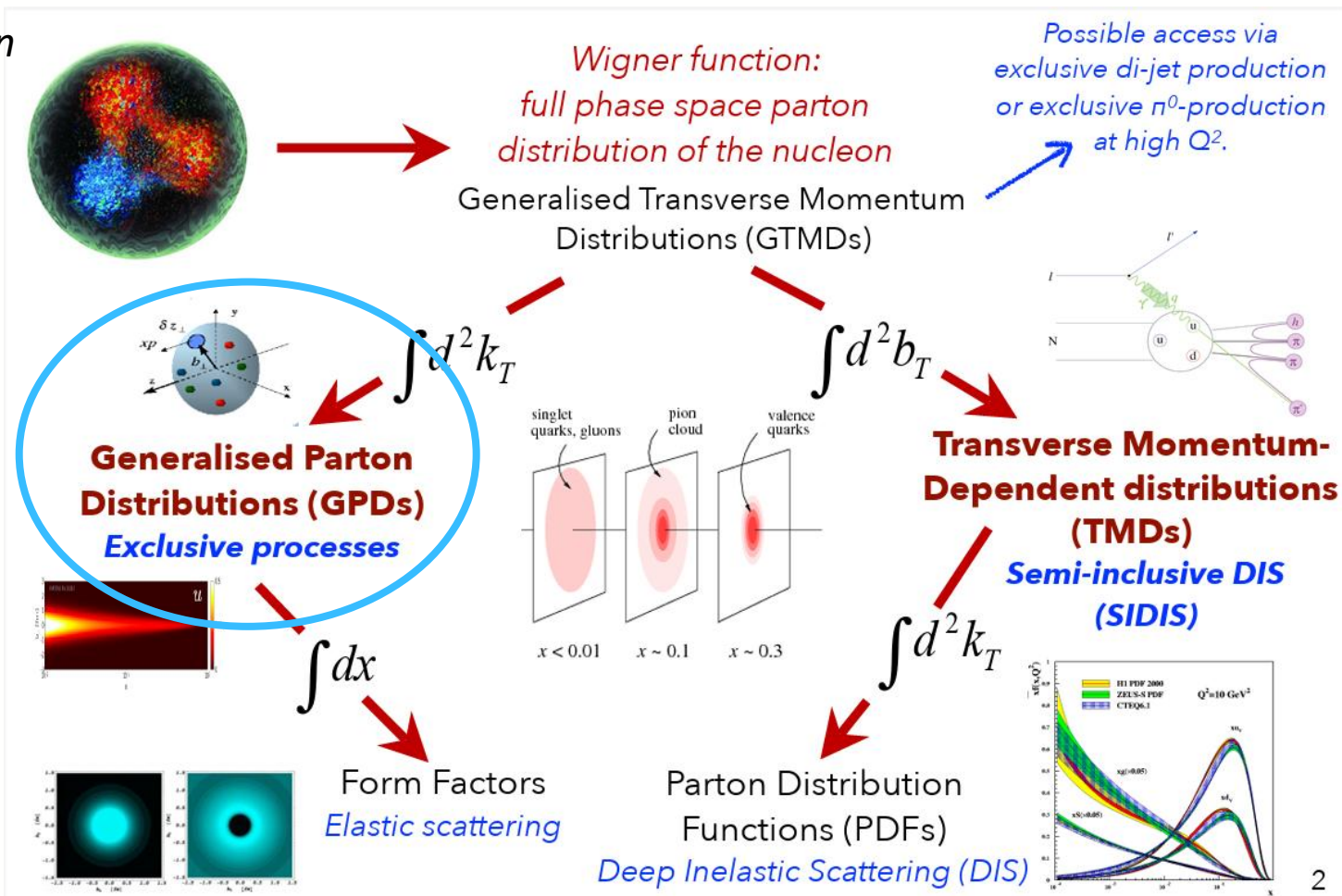
Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering



Nucleon structure – multi-dimensional pictures



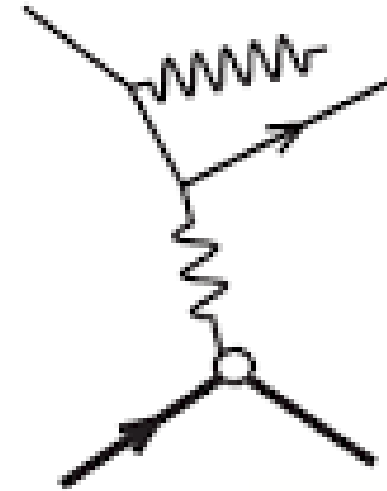
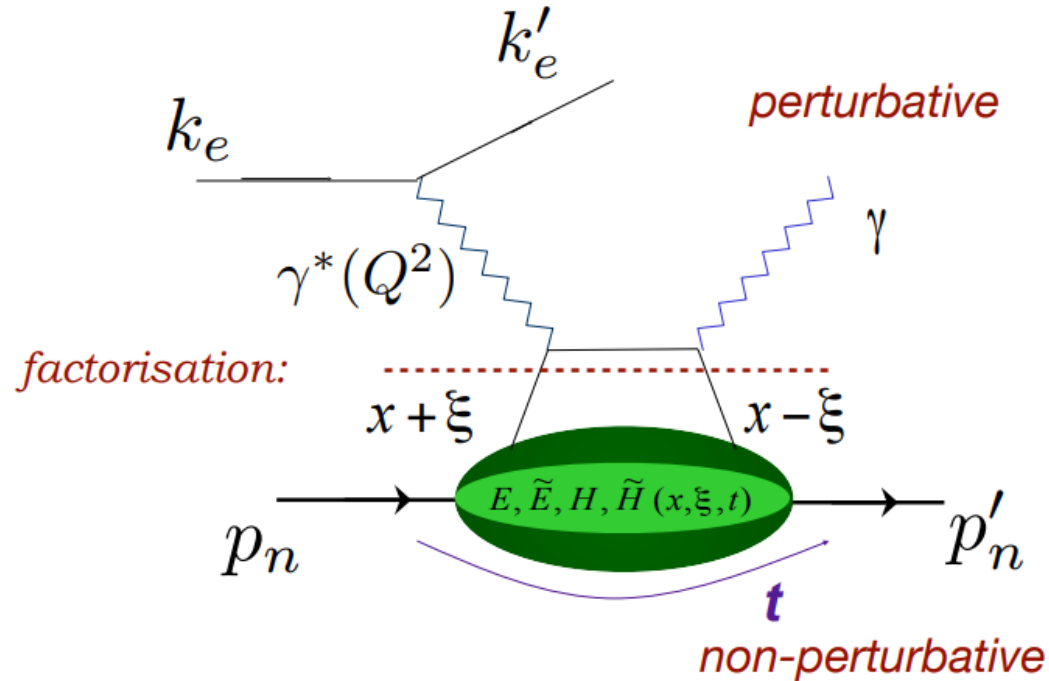
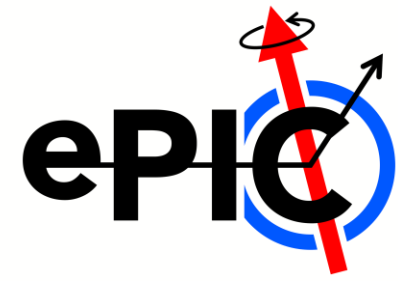
D. Sokhan



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Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering

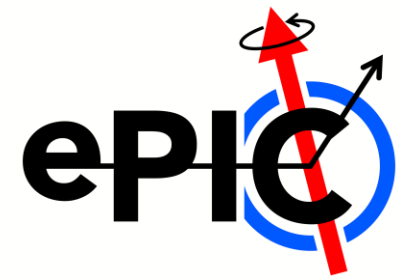


- DVCS: electroproduction of a photon off a hadron target

- QM interference: Bethe-Heitler (e^- radiates final state photon).



Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering: kinematics



- Default kinematics:

- $e(k) + p(p) \rightarrow e'(k') + p'(p') + \gamma$

- Inclusive kinematics: scattered electron only (“Electron method” in EICrecon)

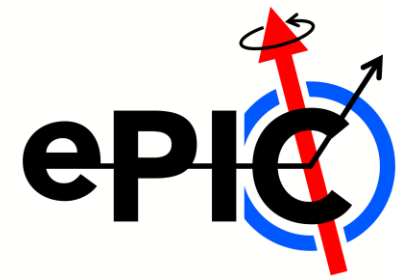
$$Q^2 = -q^2 = -(k - k')^2 \quad y = \frac{q \cdot p}{k \cdot p} \quad x = \frac{Q^2}{2q \cdot p} \quad \xi = \frac{x}{2 - x} \approx \frac{x}{2}$$

- Mandelstam t : beam and scattered proton (BABE method in *tRECO* convention)

$$t = (p - p')^2$$



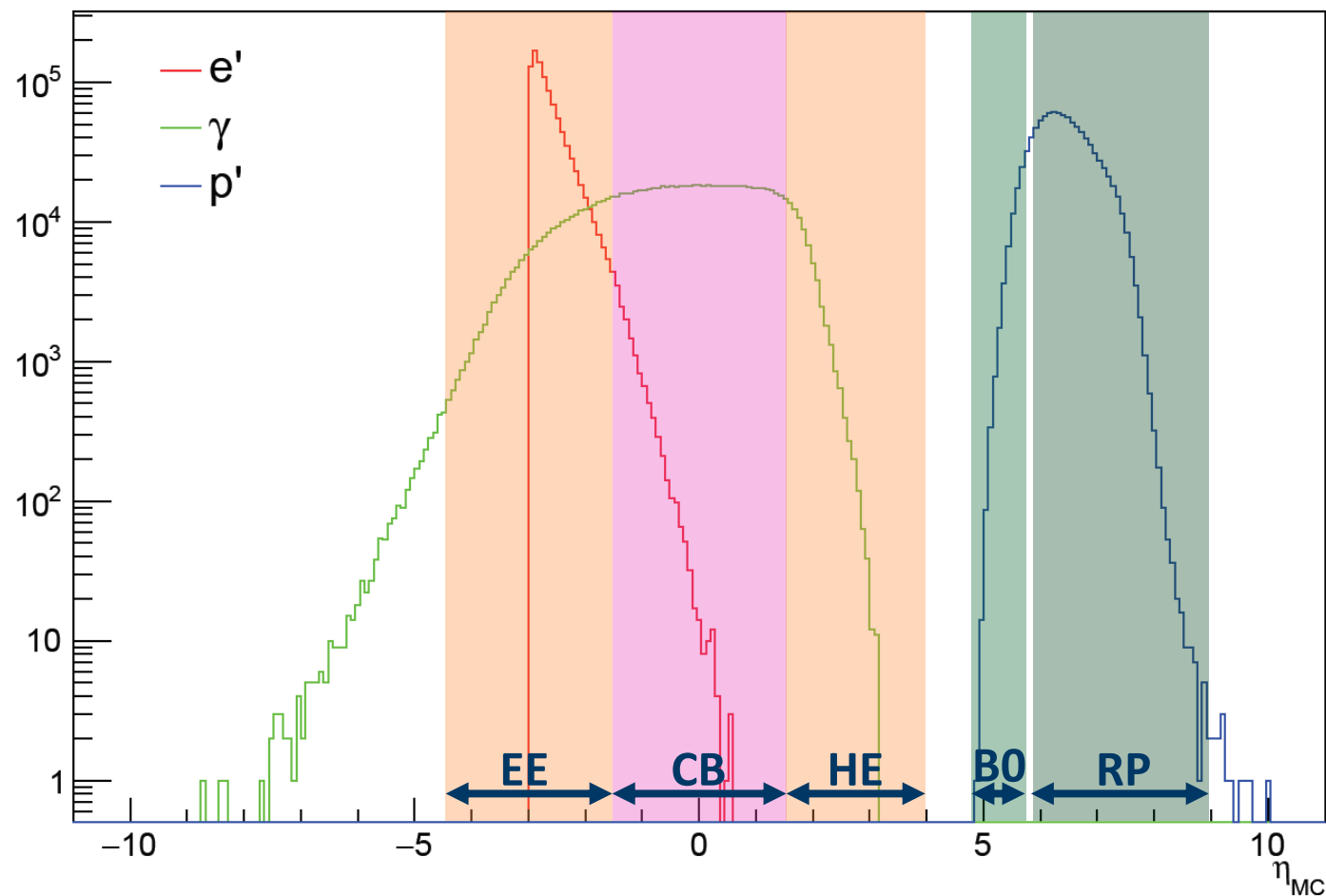
Why DVCS @ ePIC?



- Amongst the EIC's physics goals are:
 - Probing the 3D structure of nucleons.
 - Fourier transform of GPDs.
 - Solving the mystery of proton spin.
 - Ji's Sum Rule (combination of GPDs)
- DVCS covers 2 of the stated physics goals in 1 channel!



Why DVCS @ ePIC?

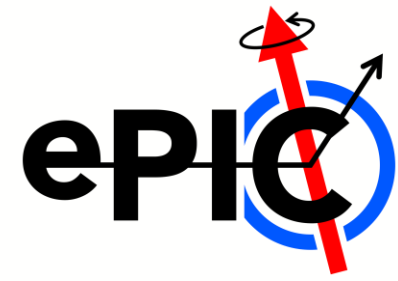


EpIC MC generator, 1M events (ep 10x100)

- Much of the ePIC detector used for reconstruction.
 - Electrons: **central barrel** and **backward endcap**.
 - Photons: across **central barrel** and **both endcaps**.
 - Protons: **B0** and **Roman Pots** (energy-dependent).
 - 5x41 – 94% B0, 6% RP
 - 10x100 – 3% B0, 97% RP
 - 10x130 – same as 10x100
 - 18x275 – 100% RP



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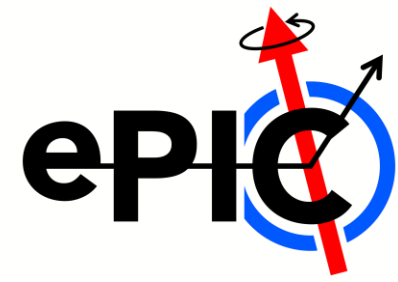


DVCS simulations for ePIC

Showing output from 25.10.2 simulation campaign

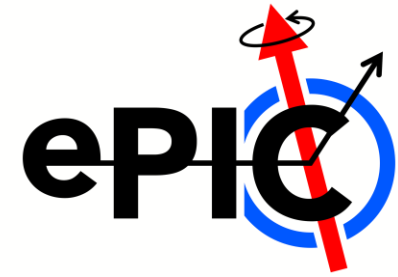


Simulation details



- Using EpIC generator ([GitHub link here](#)).
 - Purpose built generator for such GPD-sensitive processes (DVCS, TCS, DDVCS, etc.).
- Can run in fixed target or colliding beams mode.
 - Useful for JLab and EIC kinematics!
- Cross-sections and CFFs evaluated from models (Guichon and Vanderhaegen / Goloskokov-Kroll respectively).

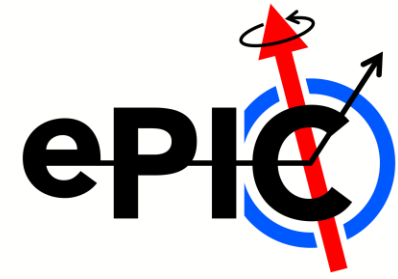
Simulation details



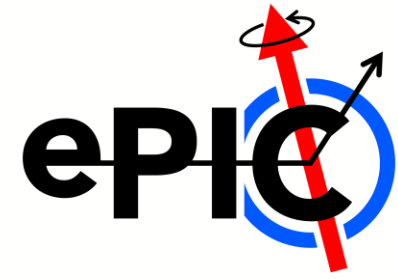
- Event samples used:
 - 1M events; DVCS only (5x41, 10x100, 18x275) / DVCS+BH+int. (10x130)
 - $1 < Q^2 < 100 \text{ GeV}^2$ $0.01 < y < 0.9$ $10^{-5} < x_B < 0.7$
- Generated events represent $\mathcal{L}_{int} \sim 2 fb^{-1}$ for the “standard” EIC energy settings, $\mathcal{L}_{int} \sim 0.5 fb^{-1}$ for 10x130 GeV.
- Events are passed through the full EIC simulation pipeline.
 - Afterburner (to add beam smearing and crossing angle).
 - npsim
 - EICrecon



Cuts applied



- Single species cuts:
 - Electron: only 1 reconstructed and $Q^2 \geq 1 \text{ GeV}^2$
 - Photon: only 1 reconstructed
 - Proton: only 1 reconstructed and track theta appropriate for detector used.
 - $5.5 < \theta_{p'} < 20 \text{ mrad}$ for B0 tracks
 - $0 < \theta_{p'} < 5 \text{ mrad}$ for RP tracks
- DVCS event cuts:
 - Full exclusivity ($e'p'\gamma$ reconstructed)
 - All single species cuts simultaneously.
 - $M_{\text{miss}}^2 \leq 1 \text{ GeV}^2$

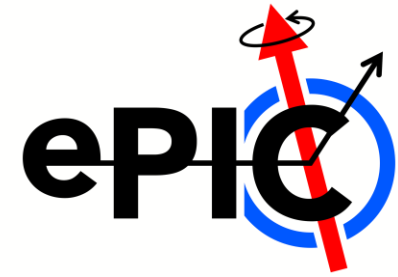


Central barrel and backward endcap

Electrons and photons

(Mostly using 10x100 GeV setting for plots)

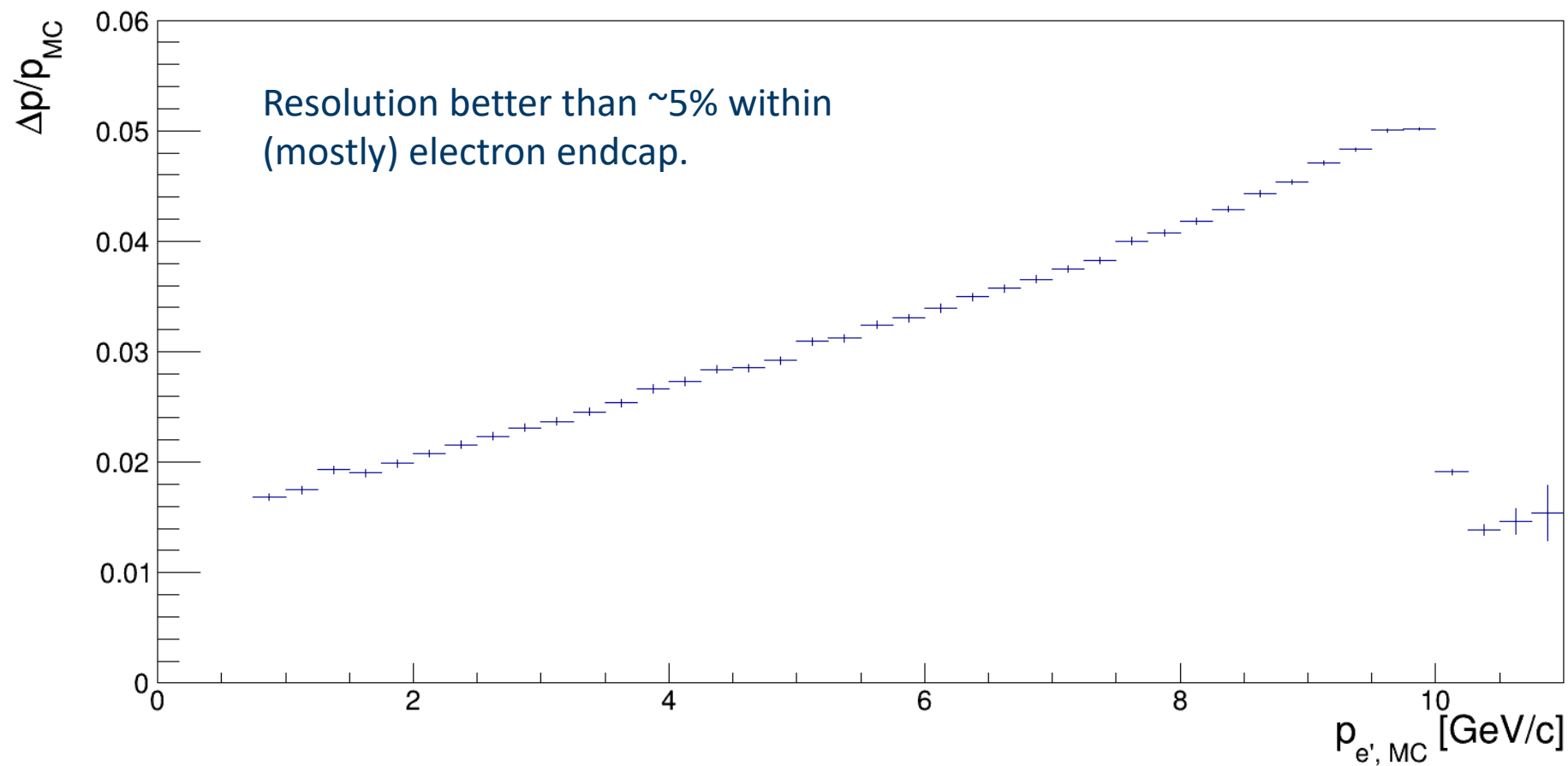
ePIC PID performance



- Electrons in the barrel/endcaps get passed through ePIC PID simulation.
 - Provides test of PID performance in live physics channel.
- Current PID performance (using small sample, ~10k DVCS events):
 - 5x41, 10x100 – ~60% PID efficiency.
 - ~25-30% mis-ID'ed as π^- (small proportion as K^-).
 - 18x275 – ~20% efficiency.
 - ~10% as π^- , ~5% as K^- .
 - ~60% without valid PID flag.
- Needs work; DVCS can help monitor this as the algorithm changes.

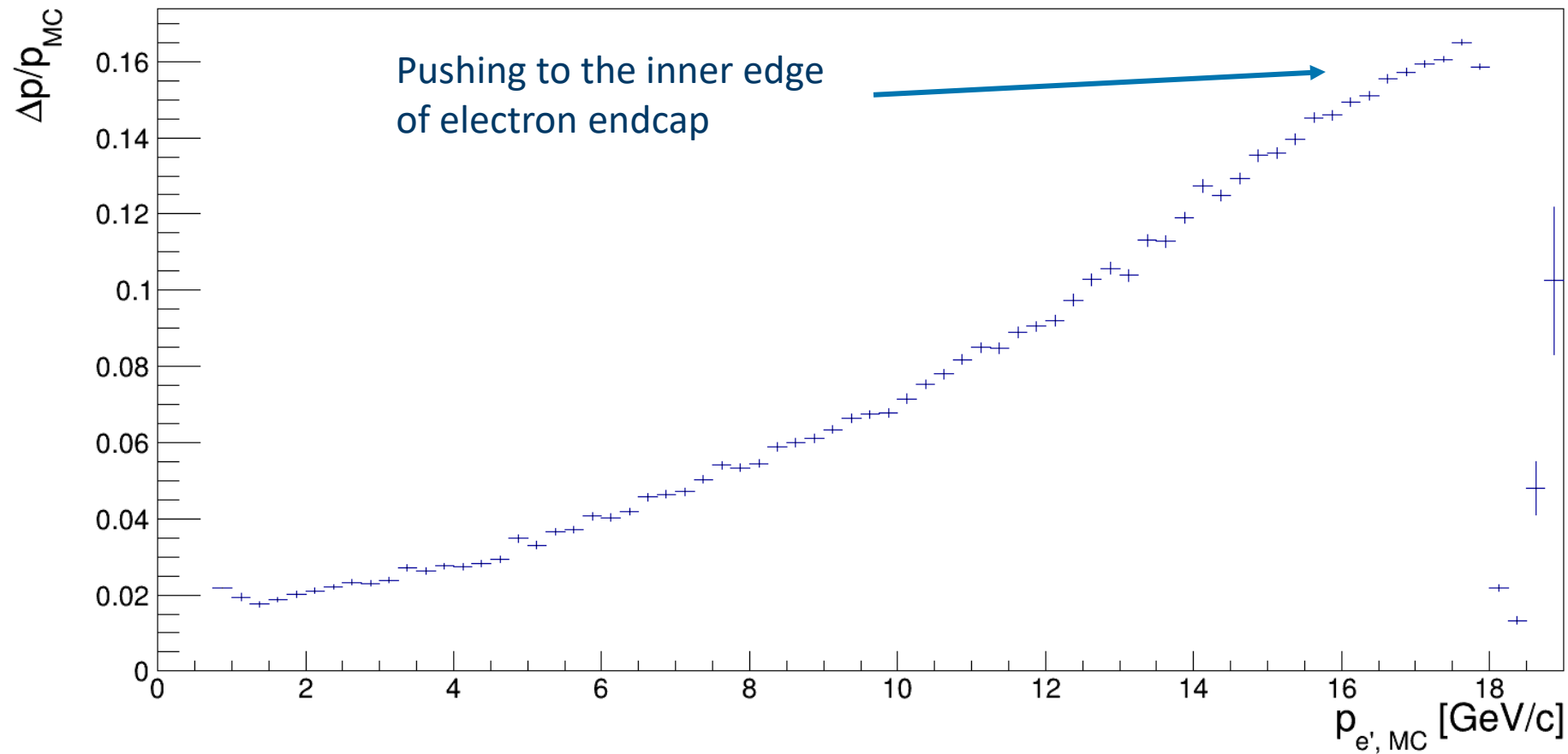
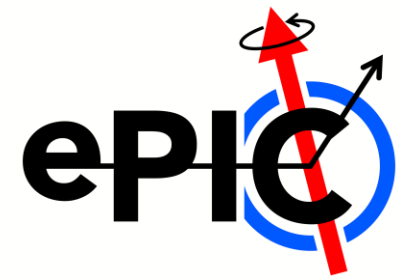


Momentum resolution – e'



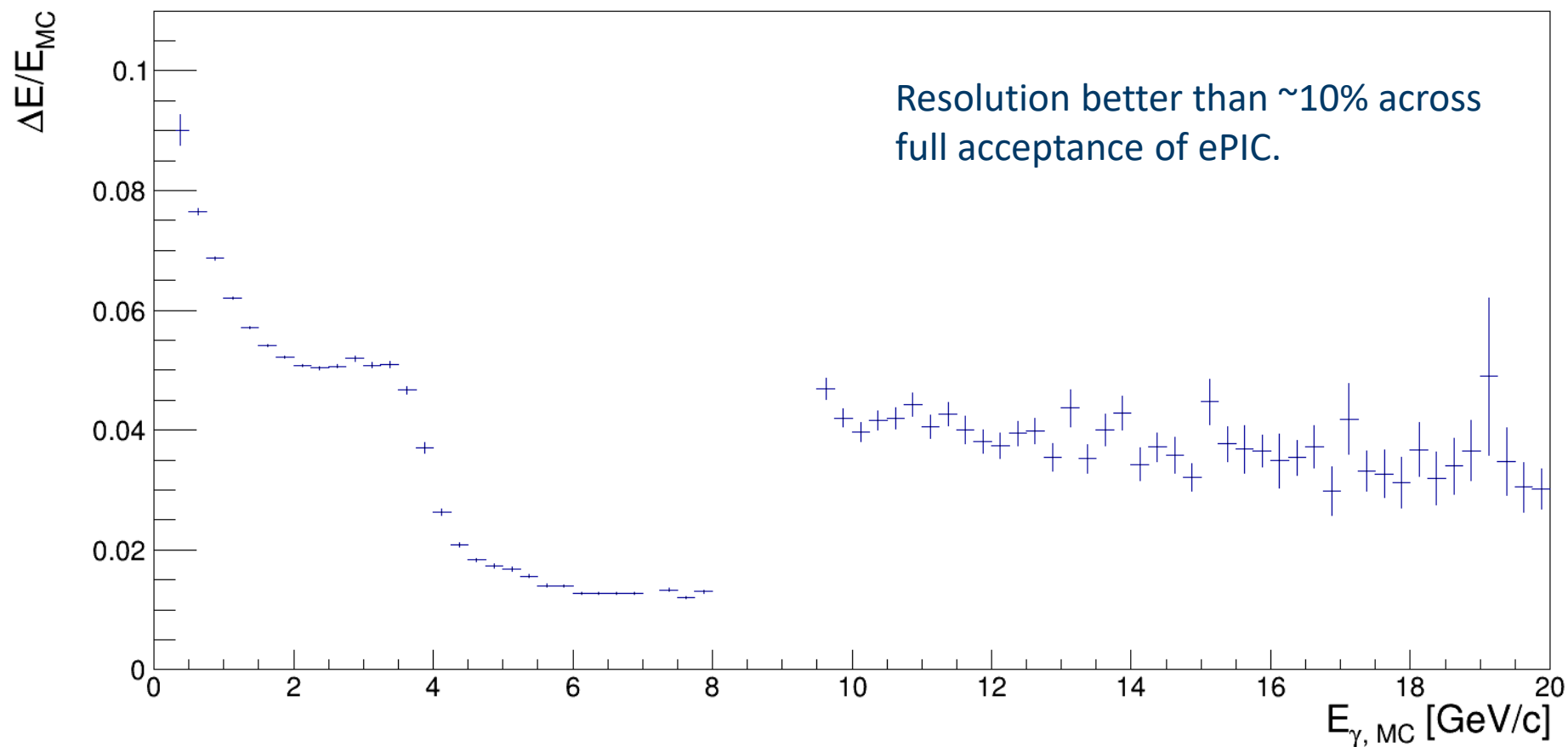


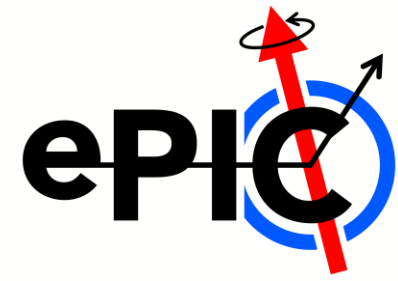
Momentum resolution – e' (18x275)





Energy resolution – γ



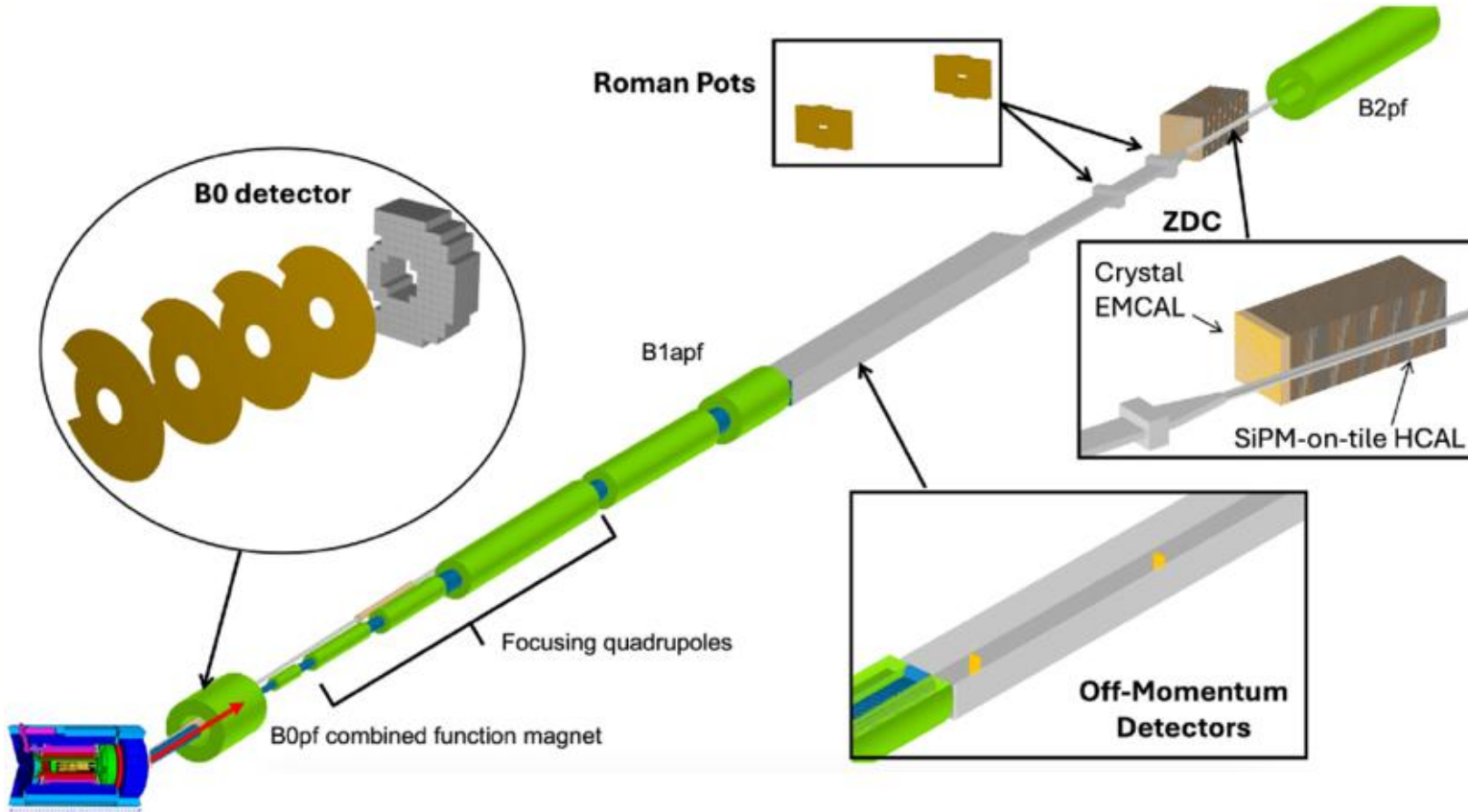
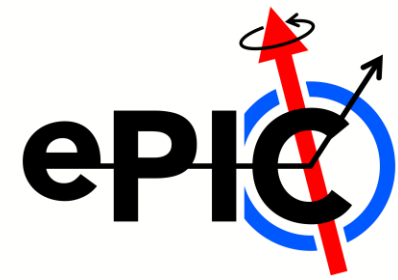


Far forward detectors – B0 and Roman Pots

Scattered protons



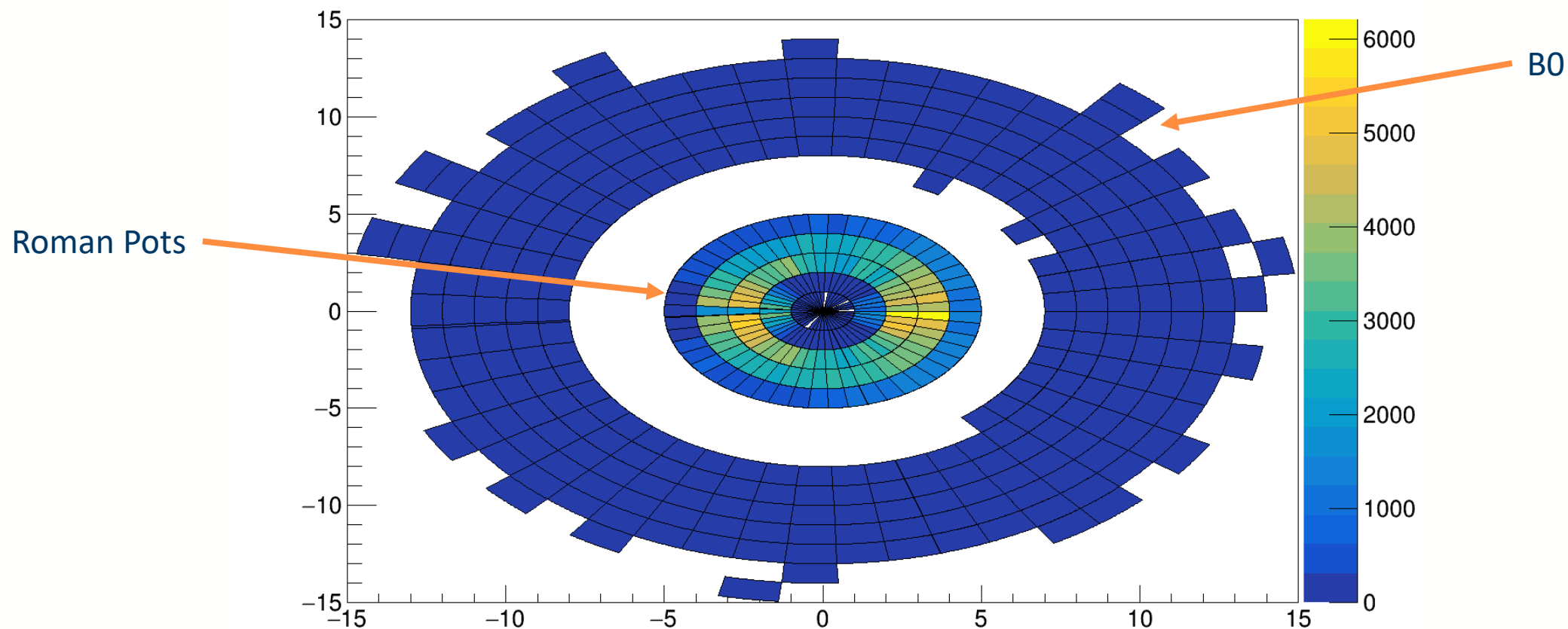
The far forward region



- B0 spectrometer – charged particles at higher angles (5.5 – 20 mrad).
- Zero Degree Calorimeter – far forward neutral reconstruction.
- Roman Pots – protons scattered at v. small angles.
- Off Momentum Detectors – detection of protons from nuclear breakup.

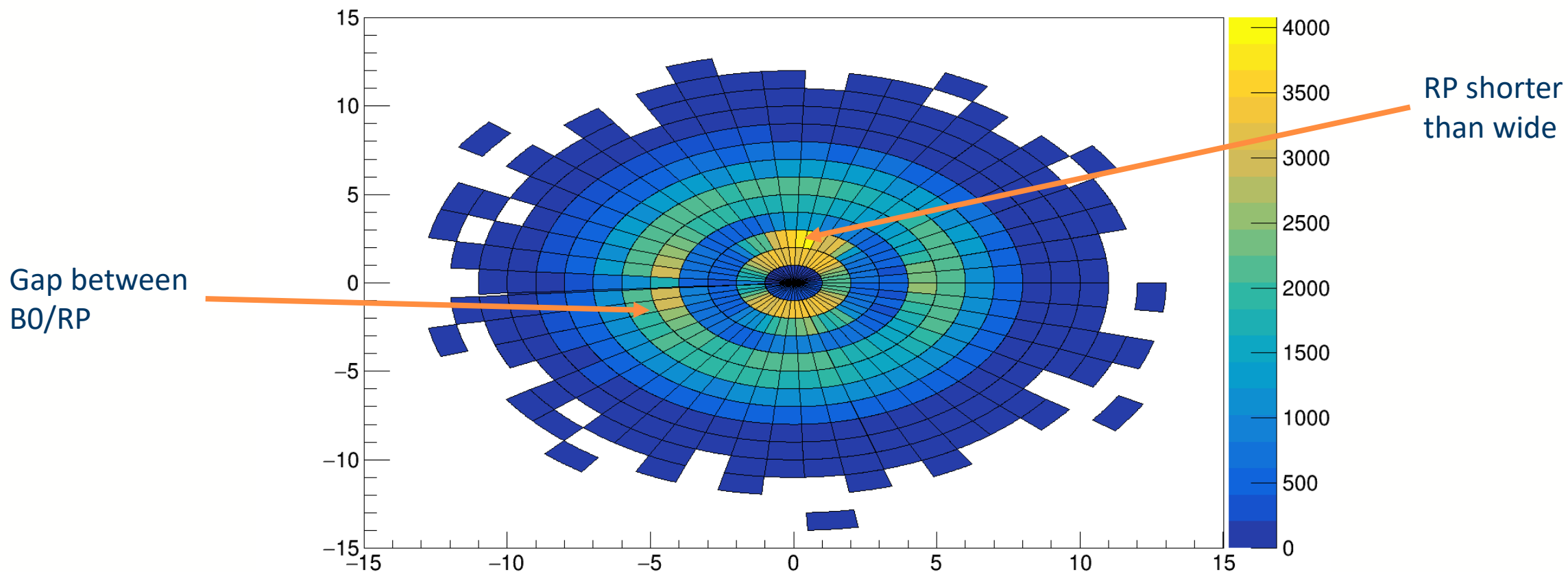


Scattered proton acceptance



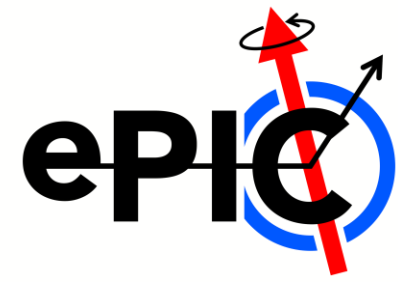


Missing protons



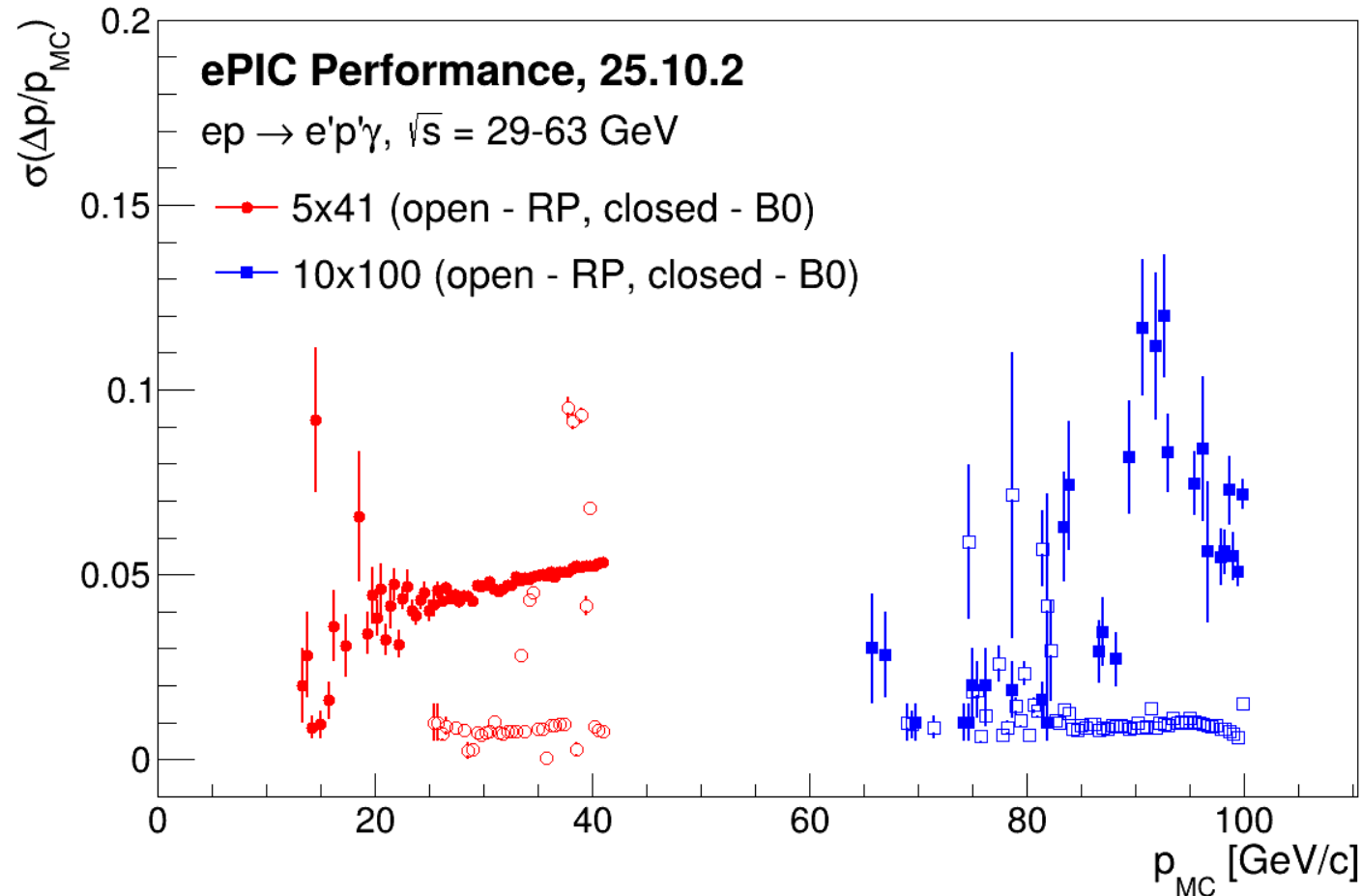


FF momentum resolution



Statistical fluctuations
aside, B0 p resolution
around ~few percent.

Roman Pot resolution
significantly improved by
move away from static
matrix reconstruction.



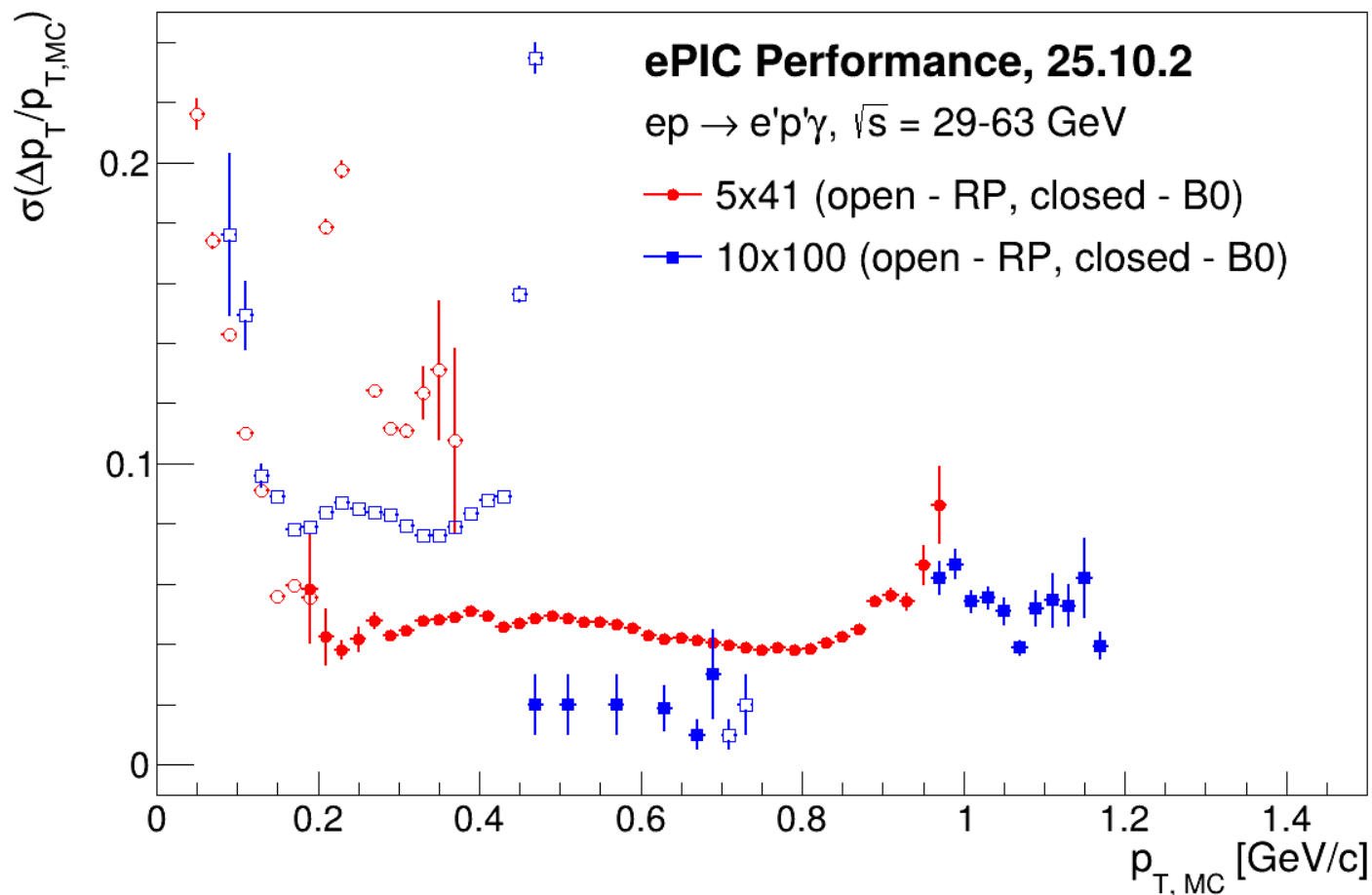
NB: B0 performance
unintentionally worsened
in recent campaigns.

More noticeable in higher
energy settings, where
fewer protons hit the B0.

Issue is known about, and
fix being developed.



FF p_T resolution

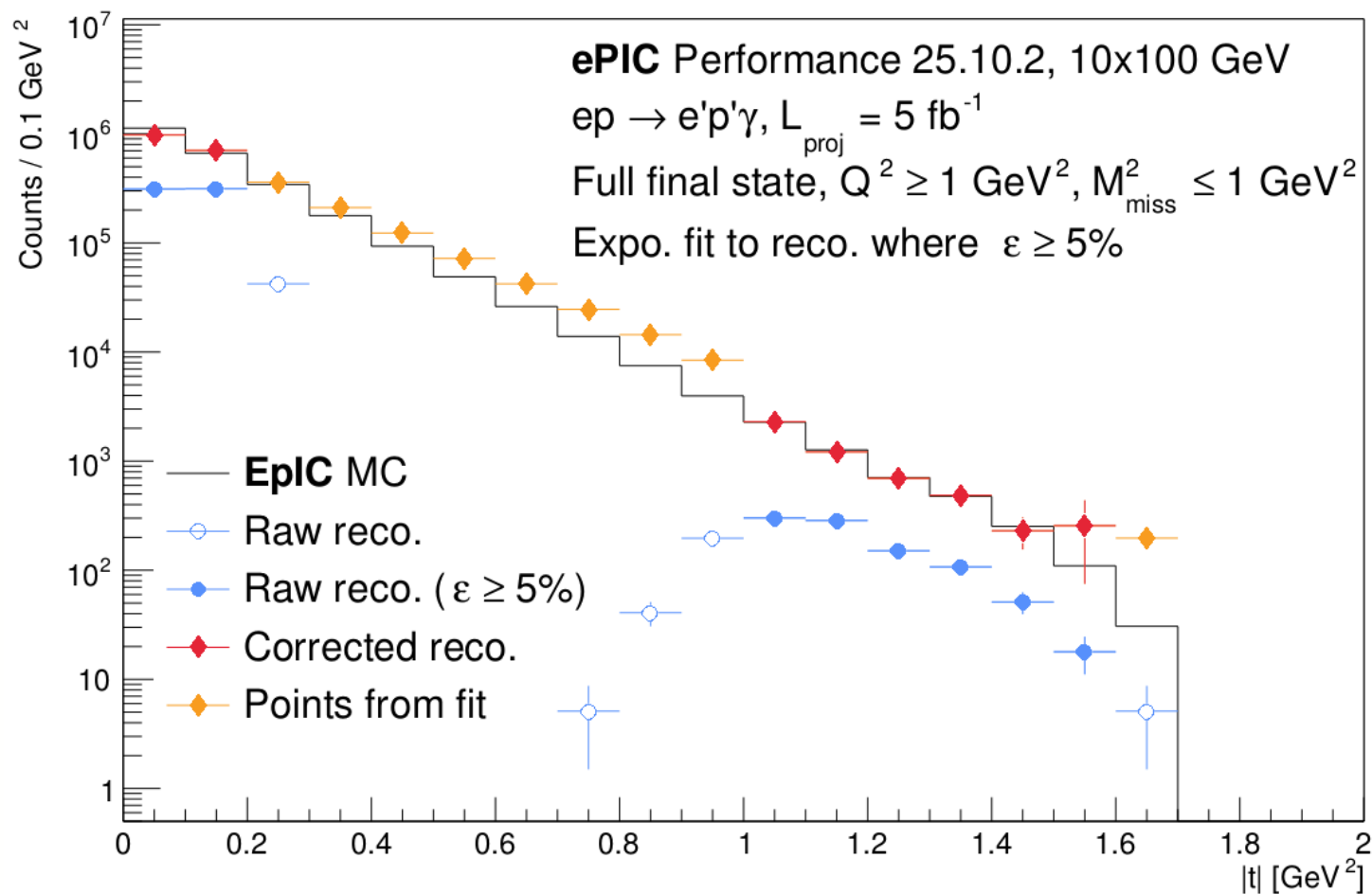




Full DVCS events

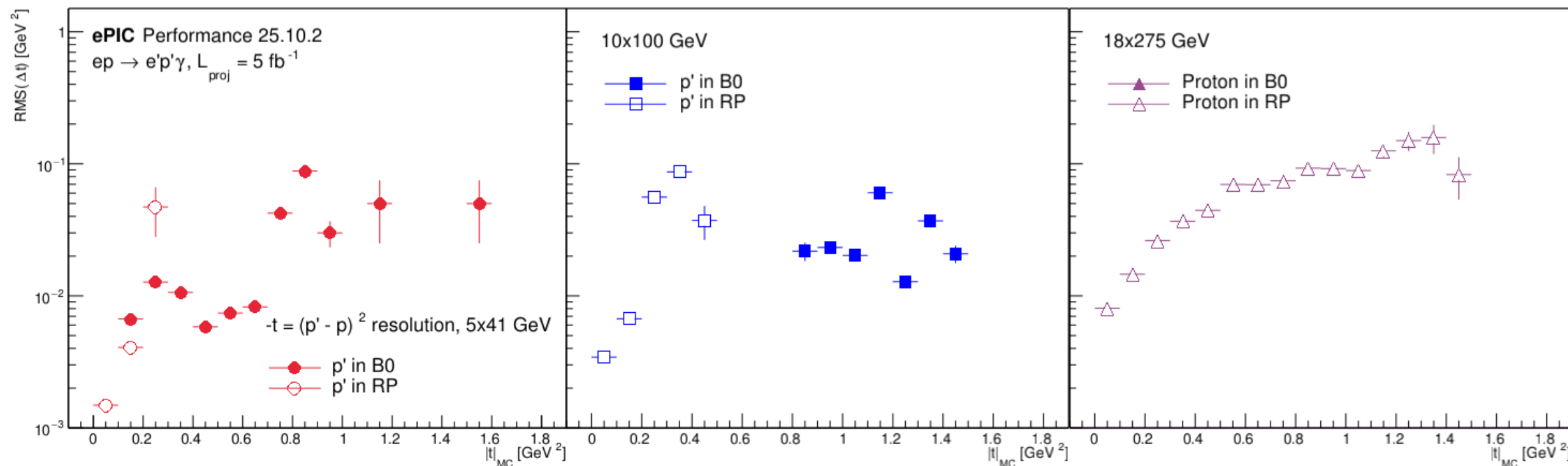
Only fully exclusive events (for now...)

Mandelstam t distribution



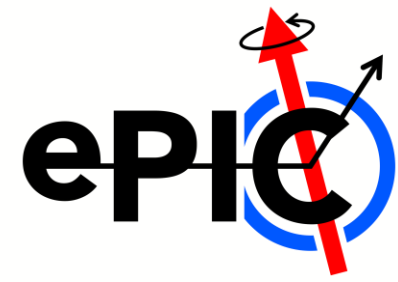


Mandelstam t resolution



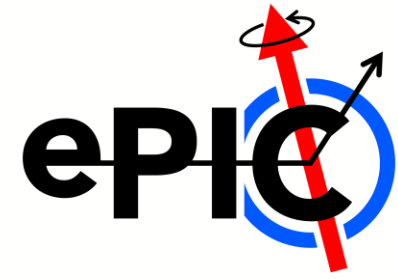


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Work ongoing...

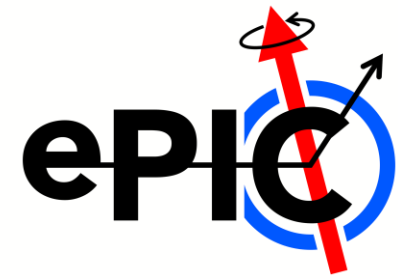
Mandelstam t reconstruction



- Looking into trying to reconstruct t via other methods.
 - If scattered proton is missed/poorly reconstructed.
- Constrained semi-inclusive reconstruction (tRECO “eXBE”/Yellow Report “method L”) look promising in other channels.
 - DVCS shows large smearing towards high- t .
 - Another method needed?



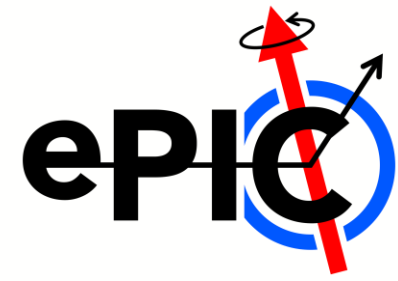
More simulations



- Integrated beam background simulations now available.
 - Single DVCS event per $1\mu\text{s}$ event frame...
 - ...plus synchrotron radiation, bremsstrahlung, beam-gas events...
 - Only made available as of yesterday (Monday 8th), so events not yet analysed.
- New DVCS event samples prepared (but not yet added to analysis chain).
 - Using different beam helicities (unpolarized target), to give estimate on asymmetry uncertainties.



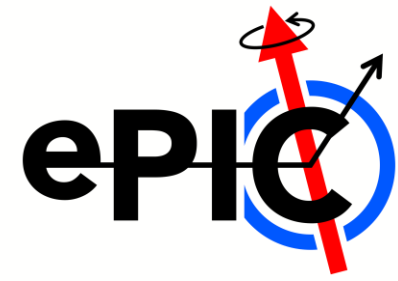
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Concluding remarks



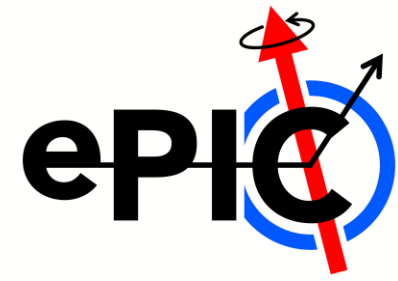
Summary



- i. DVCS is a very useful channel for ePIC to study.
 - Covers key EIC physics goals.
 - Provides a good probe of detector resolutions and reconstruction efficiencies.
 - Effective test bed for much of ePIC coverage.
- ii. Significant efforts currently going into analysis of regular simulation campaigns.
 - DVCS provides input to both pre-TDR and Early Science paper.
- iii. Soon to also test effects of beam-related backgrounds.



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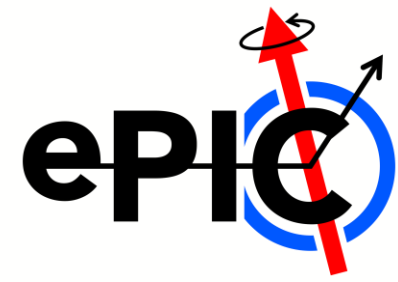


Thank you for listening!

Any questions?



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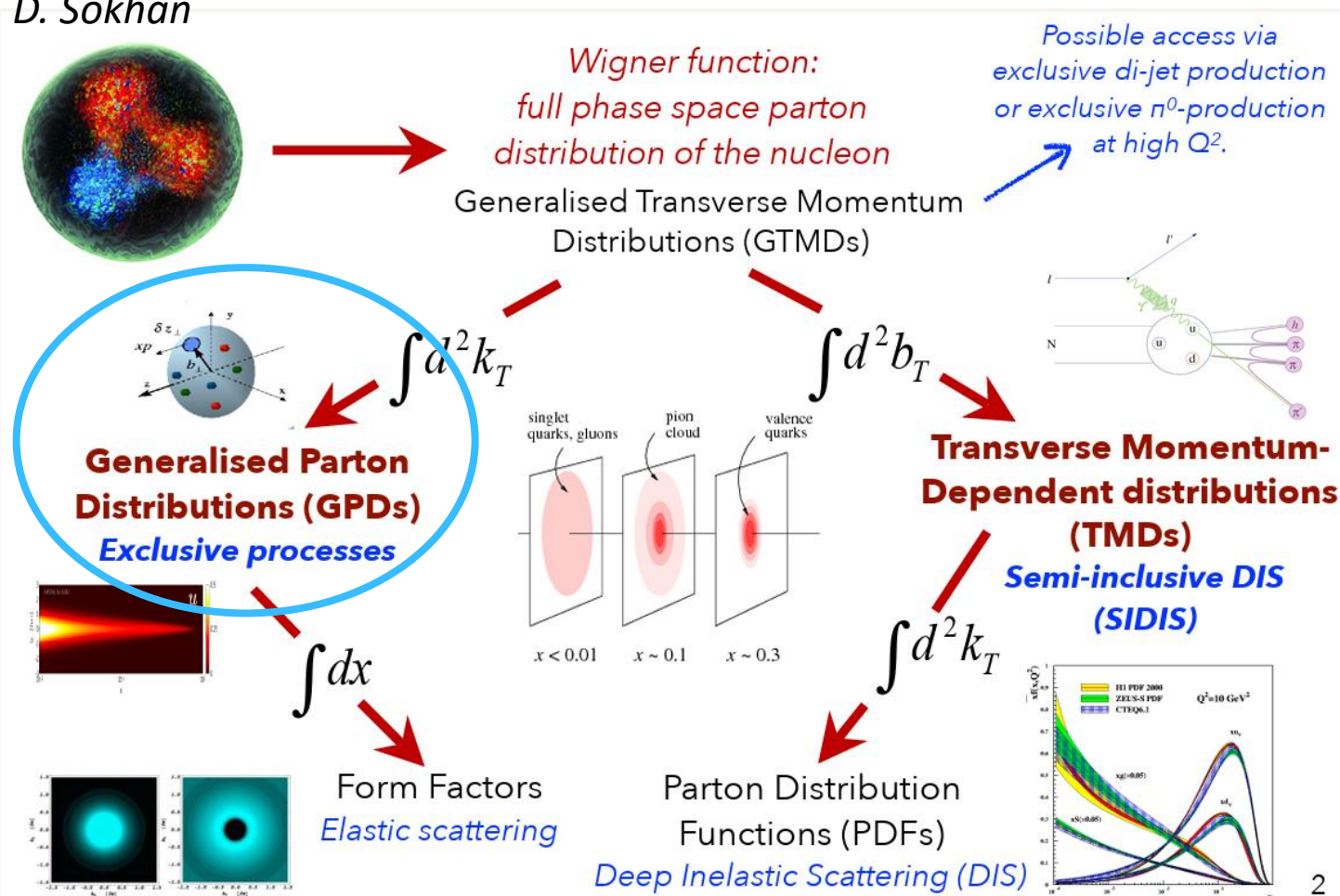


Backup

Nucleon structure



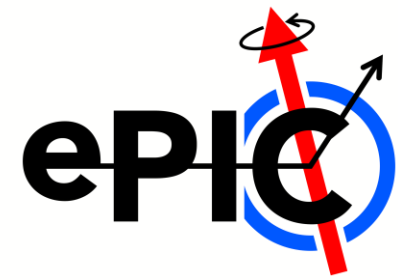
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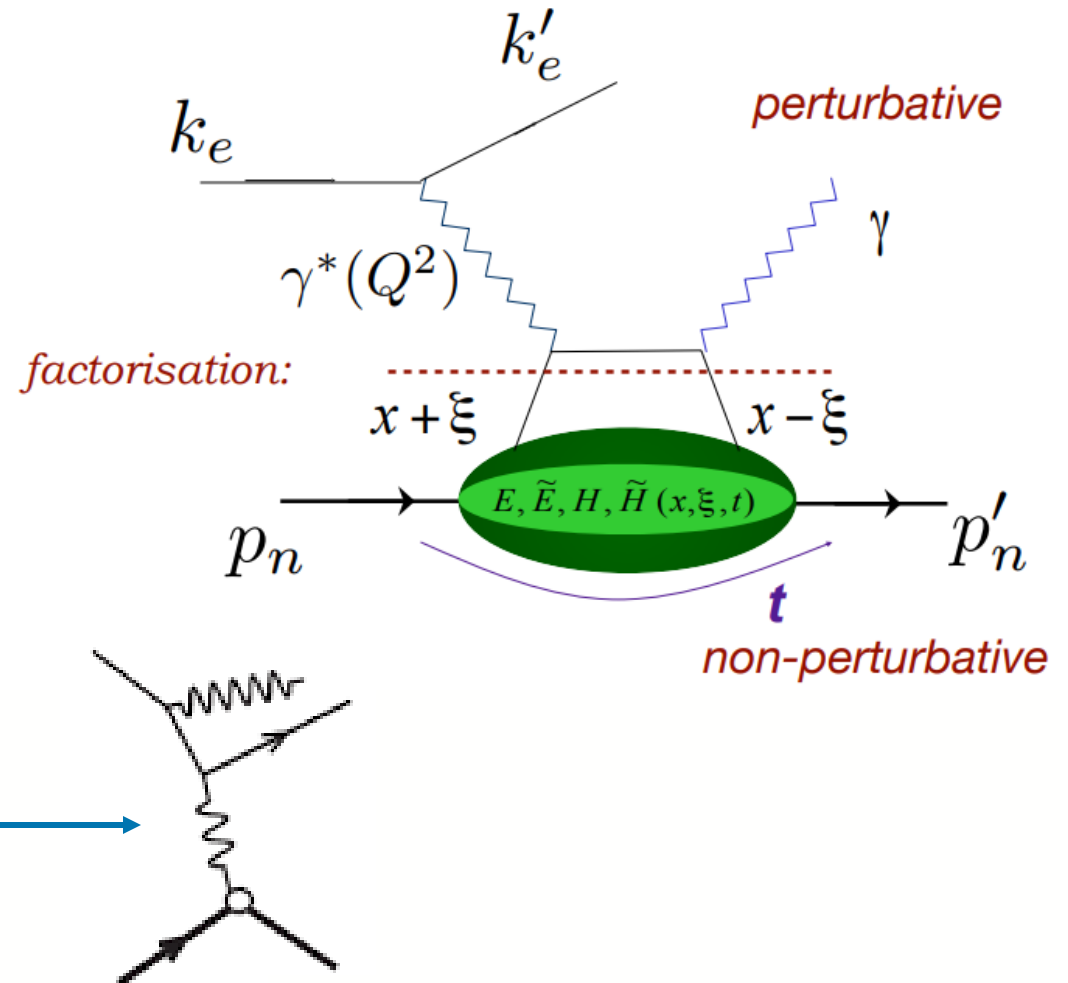
- Nucleon structure can be described within multiple dimensions by a large number of different functions.
 - GTMDs – full 5D phase space distributions.
 - PDFs – 1D as function of parton momentum.
 - Form factors – 1D as function of transverse distance from centre.
- GPDs relate the transverse position of partons to their longitudinal momentum fraction.



Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering

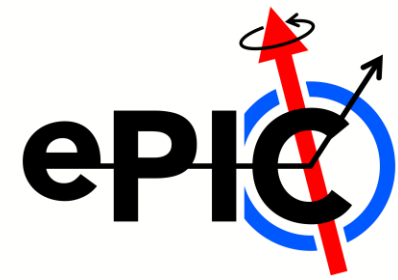


- Electroproduction of a single photon off a hadron target.
 - $ep \rightarrow e'p'\gamma$
 - Simplest inelastic channel the EIC can study.
 - Easiest channel for probing GPDs.
- The cross-section for this process is related to its matrix element, $|\mathcal{T}|^2$.
 - $|\mathcal{T}|^2 = |\mathcal{T}_{DVCS}|^2 + |\mathcal{T}_{BH}|^2 + \mathcal{I}$
 - \mathcal{I} is an interference term.
 - Bethe-Heitler: purely EM process, which does not probe partonic content.





Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering



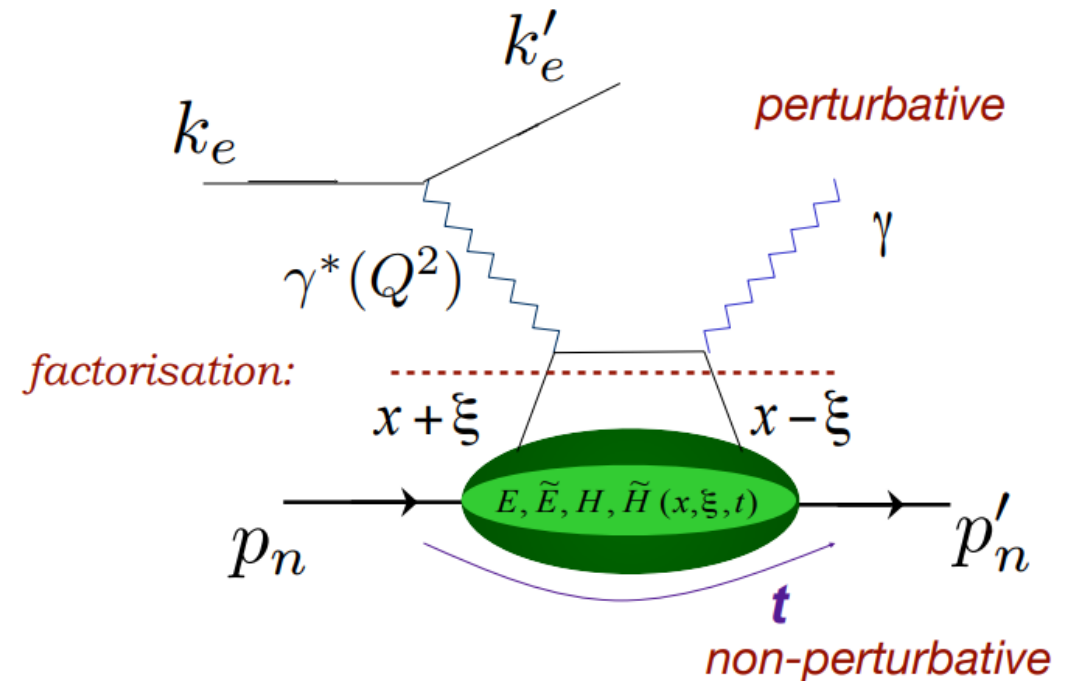
- Default kinematics:
 - $e(k) + p(p) \rightarrow e'(k') + p'(p') + \gamma$

$$Q^2 = -q^2 = -(k - k')^2 \quad x = \frac{Q^2}{2q \cdot p}$$

$$y = \frac{q \cdot p}{k \cdot p} \quad \xi = \frac{x}{2 - x} \approx \frac{x}{2}$$

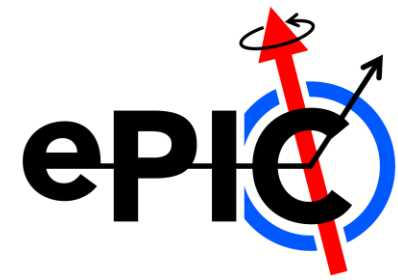
$$t = (p - p')^2$$

- Other formulae exist, using other combinations of reconstructed quantities, if needed (e.g. see InclusiveKinematics branches in EICrecon trees).

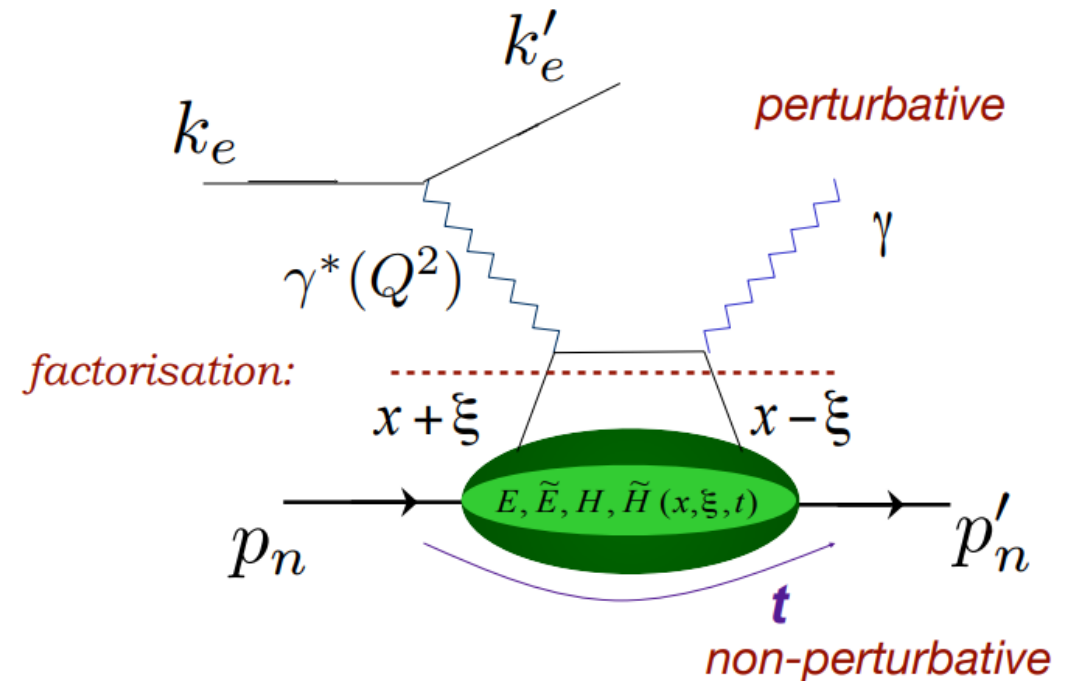




Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering



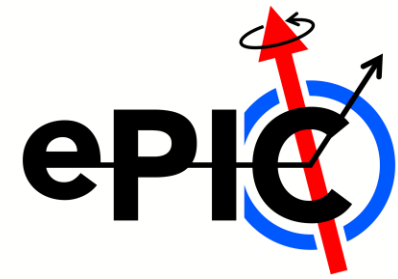
- DVCS amplitude can be parameterized in terms of Compton Form Factors (**CFFs**).
 - Experimentally accessible!
 - Access 4 quark **GPDs**: H_q , \tilde{H}_q , E_q , \tilde{E}_q .
 - Note: does not access GPDs directly, but linear combinations of GPDs.
- $Re \mathcal{F}_q(\xi, t) \propto \int_0^1 [F_q(x, \xi, t) - F_q(-x, \xi, t)] dx$
- $Im \mathcal{F}_q(\xi, t) \propto [F_q(\xi, \xi, t) - F_q(-\xi, \xi, t)]$
- Different combinations of (un)polarised beam and target are sensitive to different combinations of CFFs.



Extract CFFs from asymmetries
between different beam polarisation
states!



Why DVCS @ ePIC?

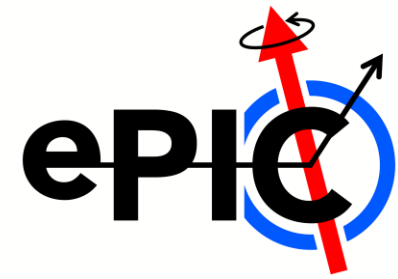


- Amongst the EIC's physics goals are:
 - Probing the 3D structure of nucleons.
 - Solving the mystery of proton spin.
- For an unpolarised target, the distribution of unpolarised quarks is the Fourier transform of the GPD H_q .

$$q(x, b_{\perp}) = \int \frac{d^2 \Delta_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i b_{\perp} \Delta_{\perp}} H_q(x, 0, t = -\Delta_{\perp}^2)$$



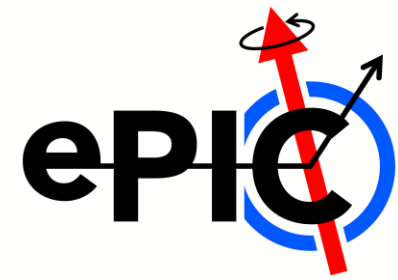
Why DVCS @ ePIC?



- Amongst the EIC's physics goals are:
 - Probing the 3D structure of nucleons.
 - Solving the mystery of proton spin.
- By Ji's Sum Rule, quark angular momentum can be given by a combination of GPDs.

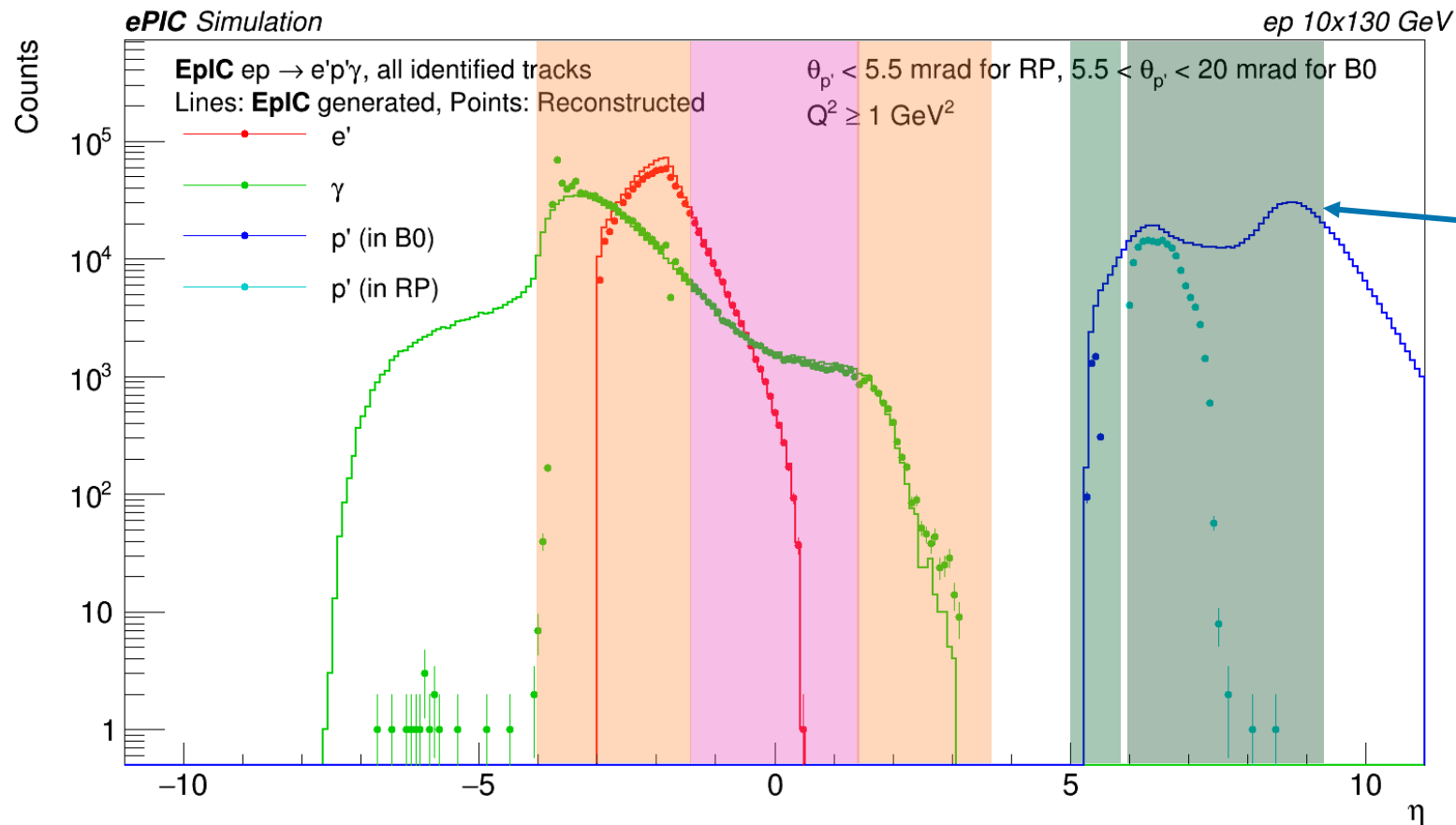
$$J = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 x dx [H(x, \xi, t = 0) + E(x, \xi, t = 0)]$$

Why DVCS @ ePIC?



- The final state of the DVCS reaction will utilise many of the subsystems present in ePIC and provide useful probes of their resolutions.
 - The **scattered proton** will only be deflected by a small angle and will end up in the **far forward** region.
 - Tests B0 spectrometer and Roman Pots.
 - The **scattered electron** will be detected in the **central barrel** or (mostly) the **backward endcap**.
 - Test of trackers, PID detectors and calorimeters almost everywhere in the barrel (just not hadron endcap/planes).
 - The **scattered photon** will be detected in the **barrel** or **either endcap**.
 - Very clean test of EEEMCAL resolution.

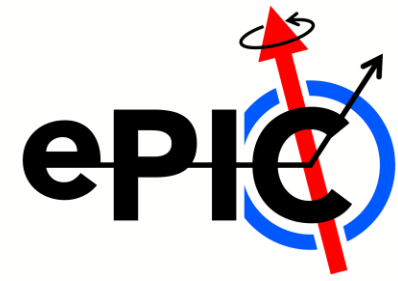
Detector occupancy (10x130)



Lot of BH
background is
removed by RP
acceptance!



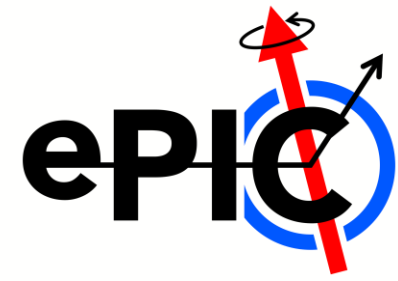
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Analysis details

Analysis code [on GitHub](#).

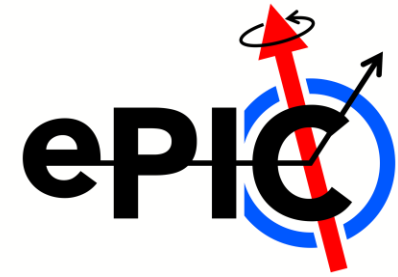
Analysis details



- Truth level particles in `MCParticles` branch.
 - Truth level with PID – afterburner applied.
- Reconstructed electrons and photons in `ReconstructedParticles` branch.
 - ePIC PID not accurate – using `ReconstructedParticleAssociations` to select candidates.
 - Electron energy is calculated using given momenta and e^- mass.
 - Associations branch also used for MC acceptance.

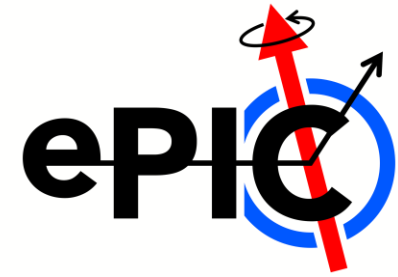


Analysis details



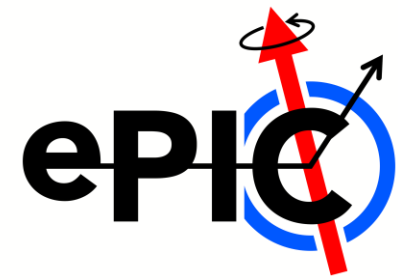
- Reconstructed particle PID using known Associations.
 - Scattered electron and photons reconstructed from tracker and calorimeter information.
 - Scattered protons in the B0 need truth seeding.
 - (For now) Assume all tracks from Roman Pots are real protons.

Detector acceptance correction



- Calculate acceptance from MC information if a reconstructed particle/event passes cuts.
 - Efficiency, $\varepsilon = \frac{N(MC\ accepted)}{N(MC\ truth)}$
- Correct reconstructed distributions by efficiency.
 - $N(corrected\ reco.) = \frac{N(raw\ reco.)}{\varepsilon}$
- Only correcting for detector acceptances for now.

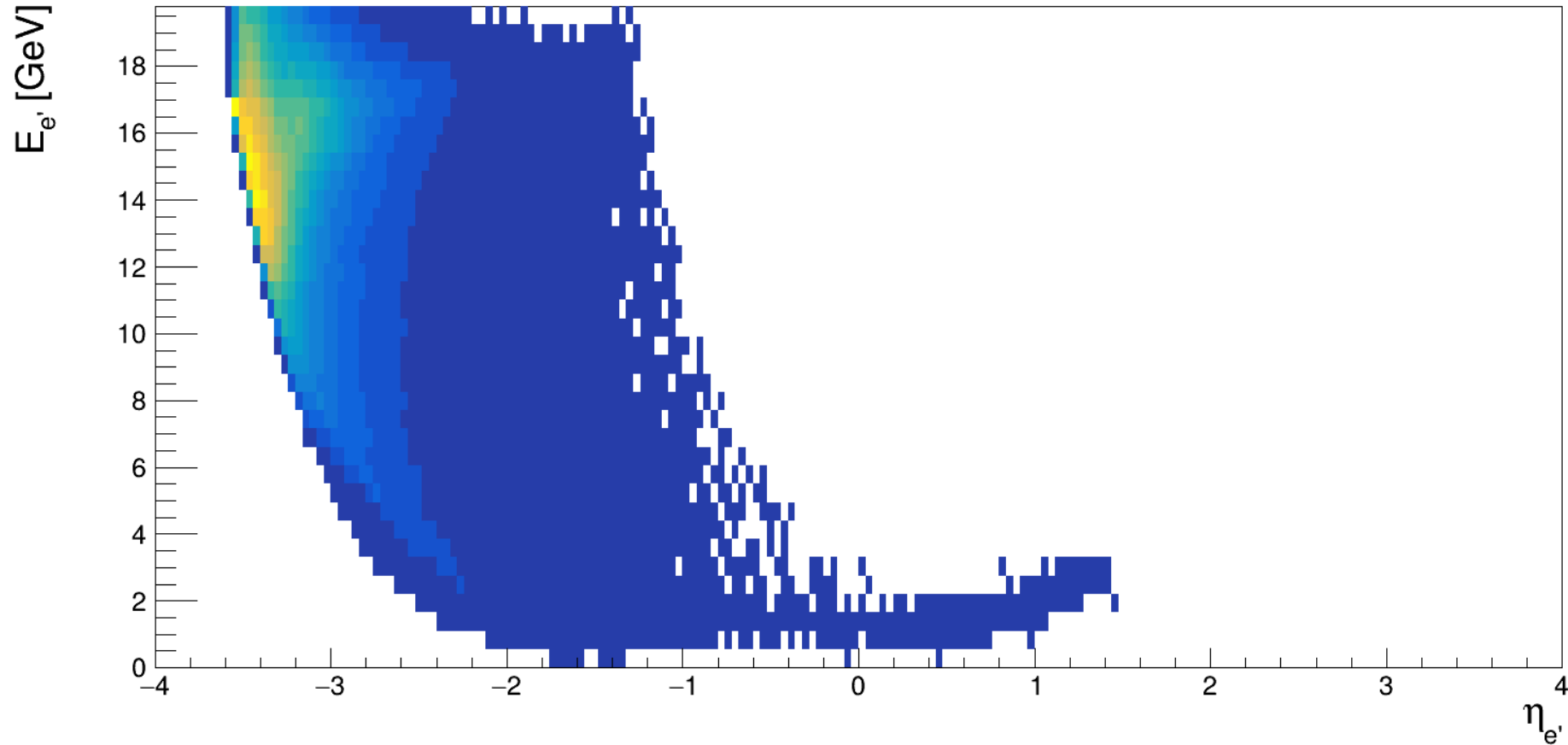
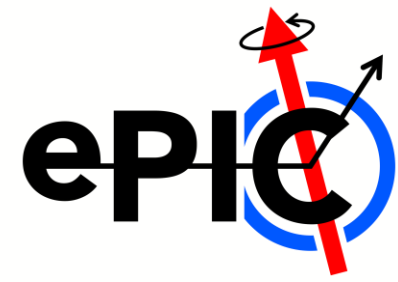
Analysis details



- Reconstructed protons in the B0 detector taken from `ReconstructedTruthSeededChargedParticles` branch.
 - Corresponding `Associations` branch used for PID.
 - Energy calculated from momentum and proton mass.
 - `Associations` also used for MC acceptance.
- Reconstructed protons in Roman Pots taken from tracks in `ForwardRomanPotRecParticles` branch.
 - All tracks in RP branch assumed to be protons.
 - If RP track is present, assume that MC proton is the correct associated particle.



E vs η – e' (18x275)





E vs $\eta - \gamma$ (10x100)

