

# Exclusive $\phi$ electroproduction with CLAS12

## Workshop on Vector Quarkonia and Pressure Gauges

**Bhawani Singh\***

**Jefferson Lab**

Friday, March 27, 2026

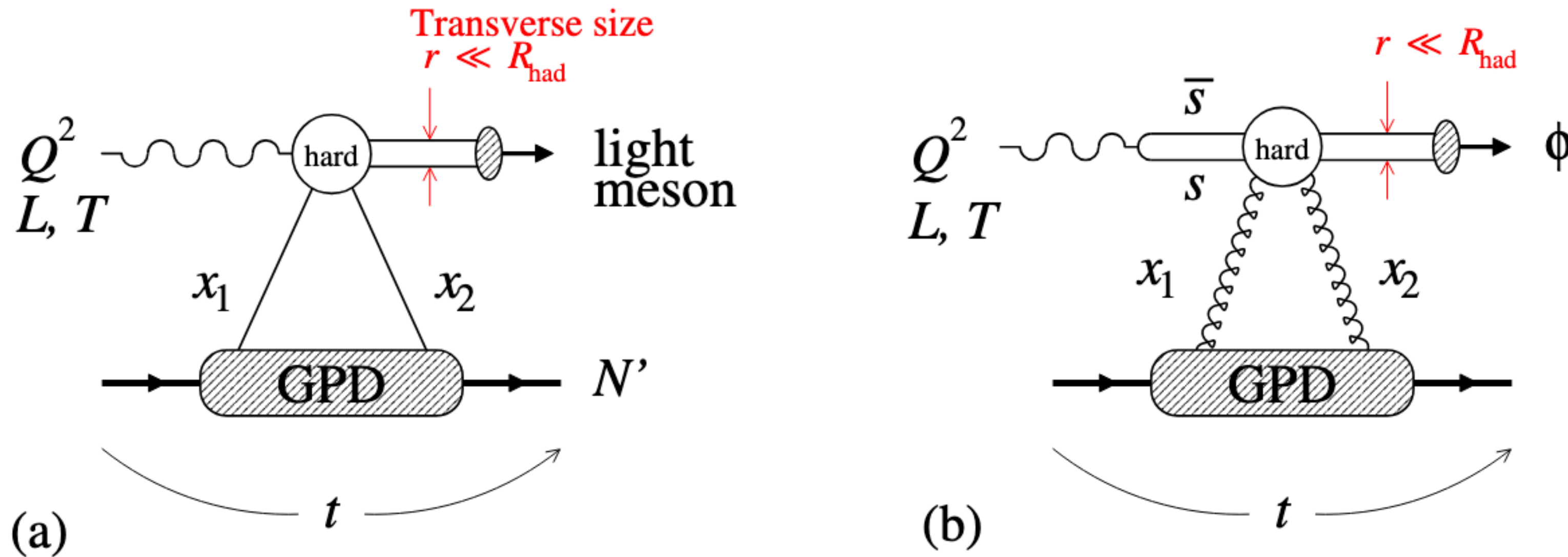
\*H. Avakian, V.D. Burkert, L. Elouadrhiri, F.X. Girod, R. Milner, K. Neupane, and Y. Wang

✉ [singh@jlab.org](mailto:singh@jlab.org)



# Clean Probe For Gluonic Structure of Nucleon

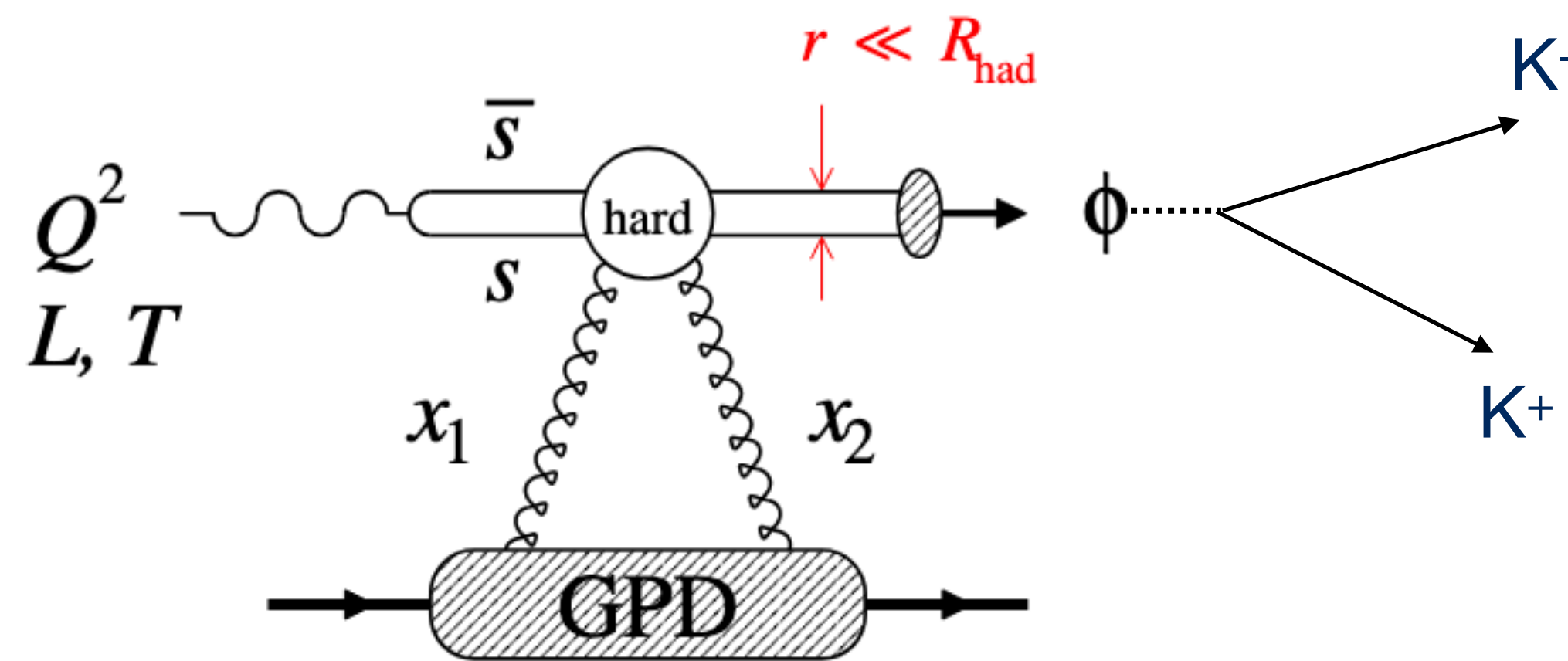
- $\phi$  meson a **pure  $s\bar{s}$  state**, its coupling to light quarks (u,d) is suppressed (by OZI rule)
- Access to the gluon GPD even at low energy due to its flavor content  $s\bar{s}$



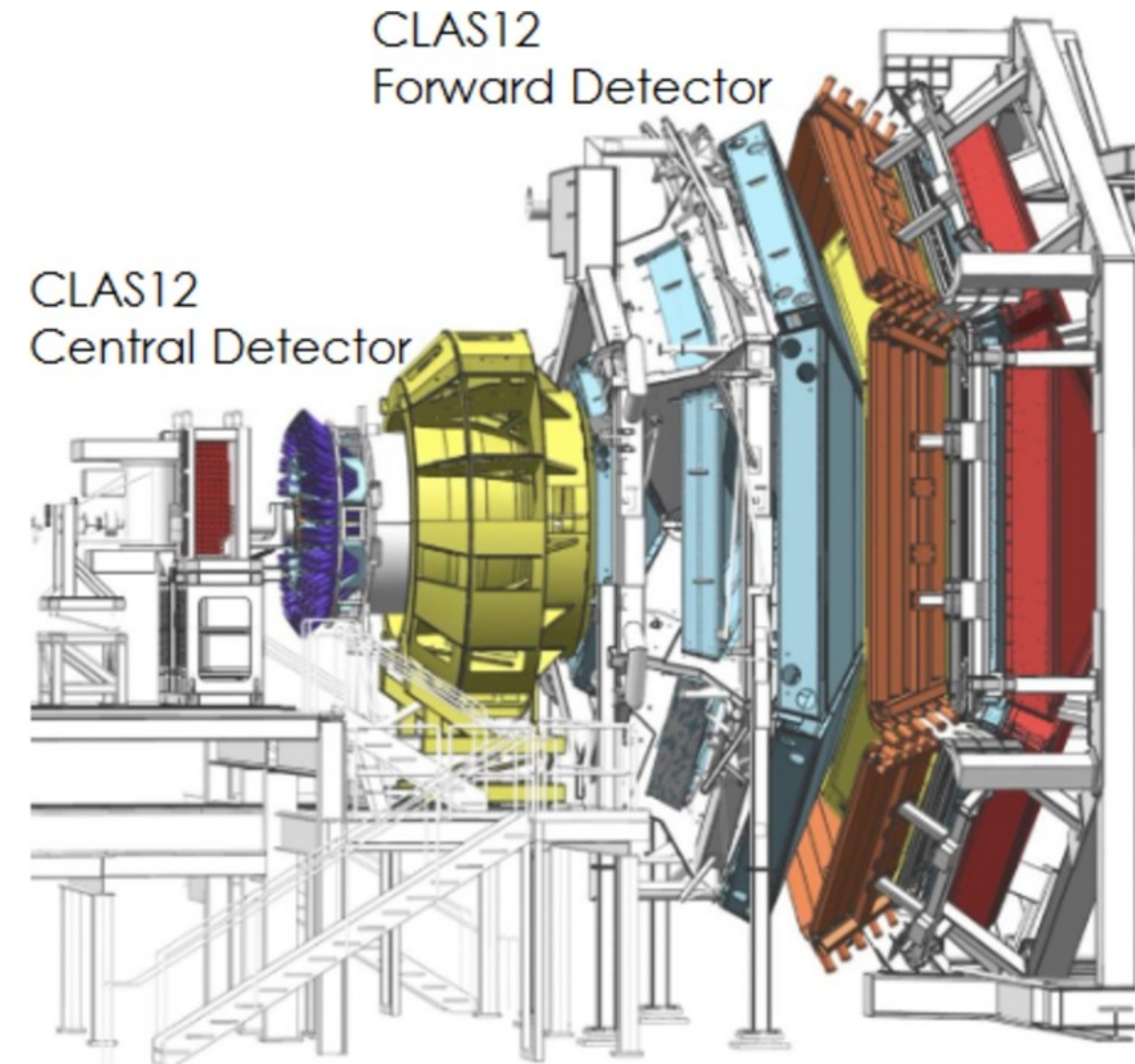
- $Q^2$  scaling of  $\phi$  production cross section: opens doors to test **QCD factorization** ( $\sigma_L \sim 1/Q^6$ ,  $\sigma_L/\sigma_T \sim Q^2$ )
- Change of  $|t|$ -dependence with  $Q^2$   $\rightarrow$  **gluonic radius** of the proton
- Search for **near-threshold effects** linked to intrinsic  $s\bar{s}$  pairs

# Exclusive $\phi$ production with proton target

- Beam energy 10.6 GeV dependent production from data sets collection during **2018-19**
- Analysis strategy: select charge decay daughter  $ep \rightarrow e'pK^+K^-$  (branching ratio:  $\sim 49.2\%$ )



- **Forward Detector (FD)** covers the range of polar angles from 5 to 35 degrees segmented into 6 sectors in azimuthal angle
- **Central Detector (CD)** covers the range of polar angles from 35 to 125 degrees
- Electron selected in only FD while protons and Kaons are selected in both CD and FD

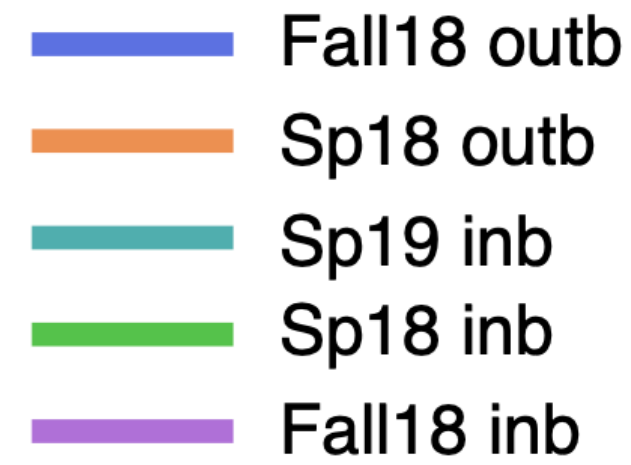


R. Tyson et al, Comp. Phys. Com., 290, 108783, (2023)

# Particle Kinematics (exclusive reaction)

- **Datasets** from Run group A (10.6 & 10.2 GeV beam)
- Torus -1 (inbending) Spring & Fall 2018, and Spring 2019

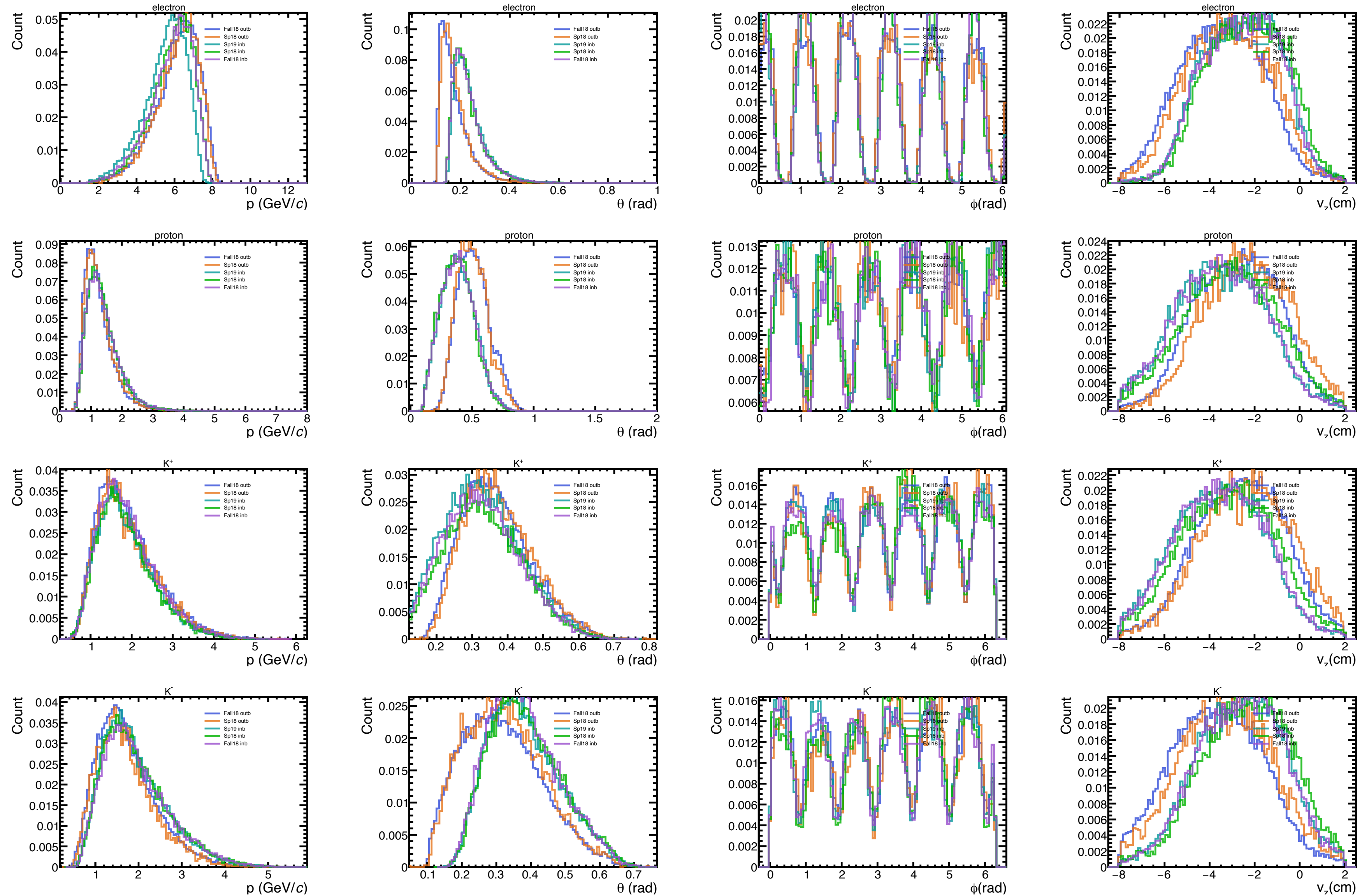
- Torus+1 (outbending) Spring & Fall 2018



- Minimum cuts

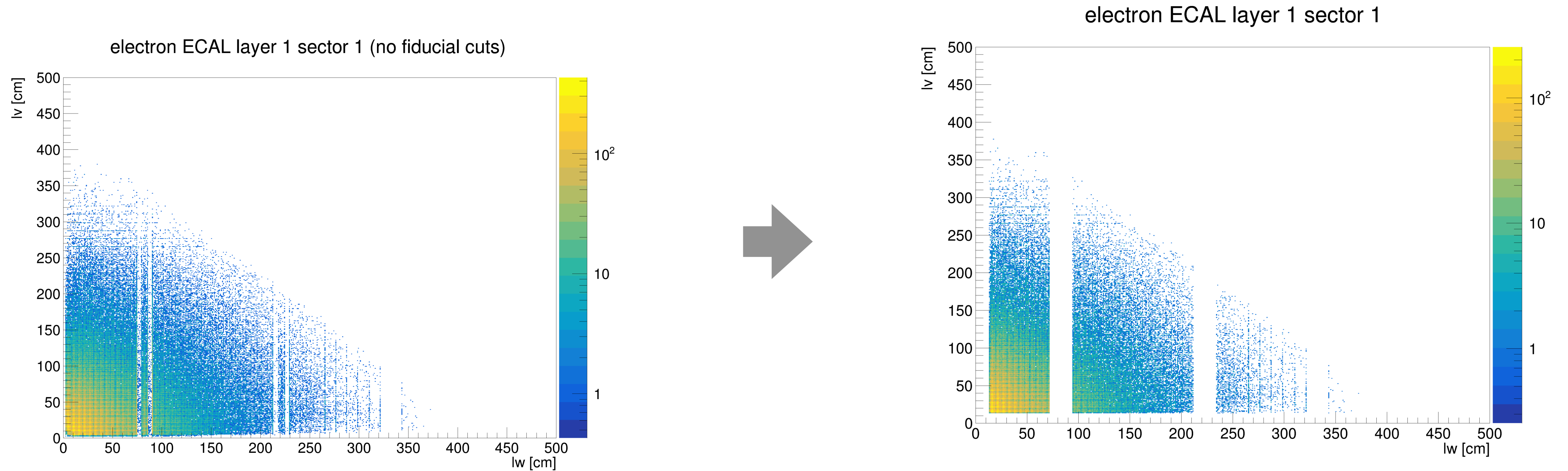
$p_e > 1.5$  GeV in FD  
 $p_p > .4$  GeV in FD and CD

$0.2 < p_K < 7.5$  GeV in FD  
 Vertex for all particles  
 $-8\text{cm} < v_z < 2\text{ cm}$



# Fiducial volume for electron and hadrons

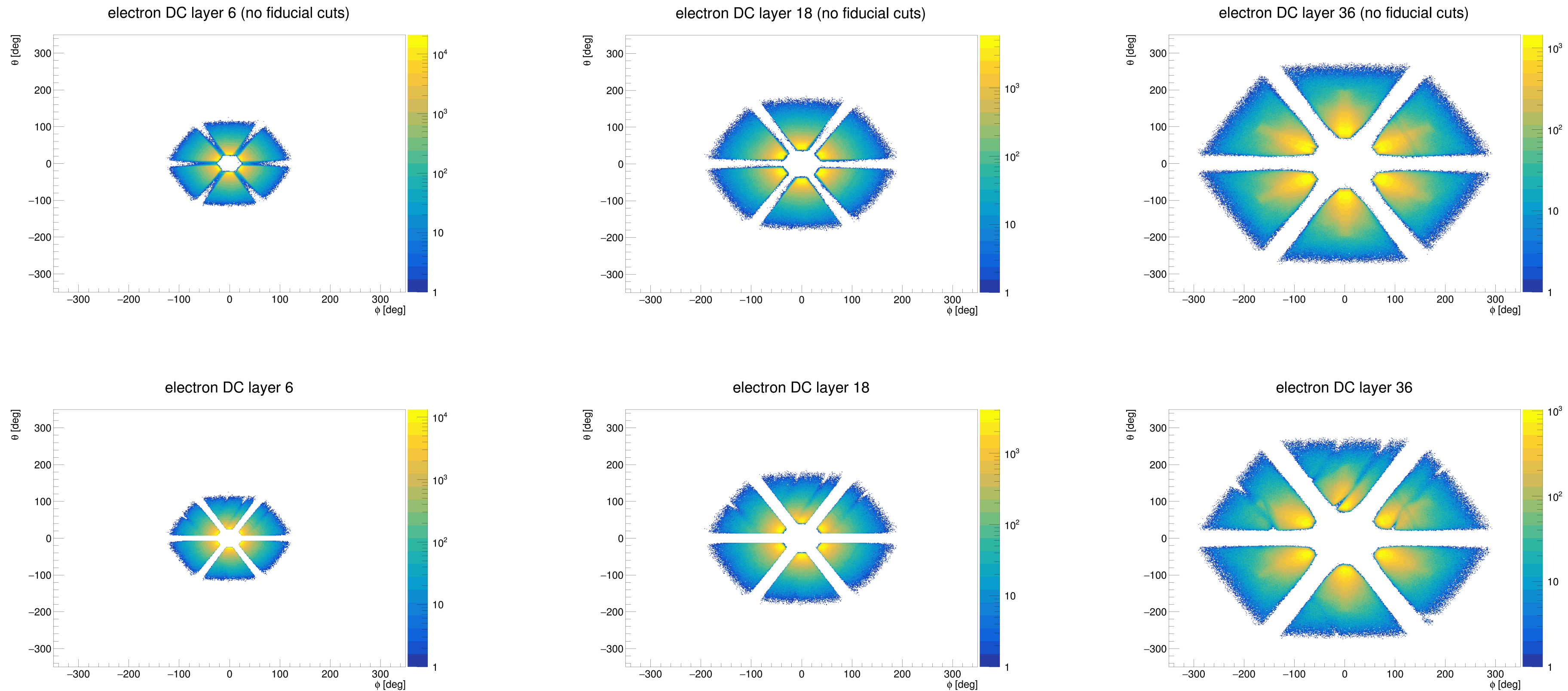
- **FD**, and **CD** regions with possible reconstruction inefficiencies are removed.



- In the Calorimeter, the edge cuts ( $lv$ ,  $lu$ , and  $lw$ ) are applied to remove the inefficient regions (all sectors!) in the  $ECAL_{in}$  and  $ECAL_{out}$

# Fiducial volume for electron and hadrons

- **FD**, and **CD** regions with possible reconstruction inefficiencies are removed.

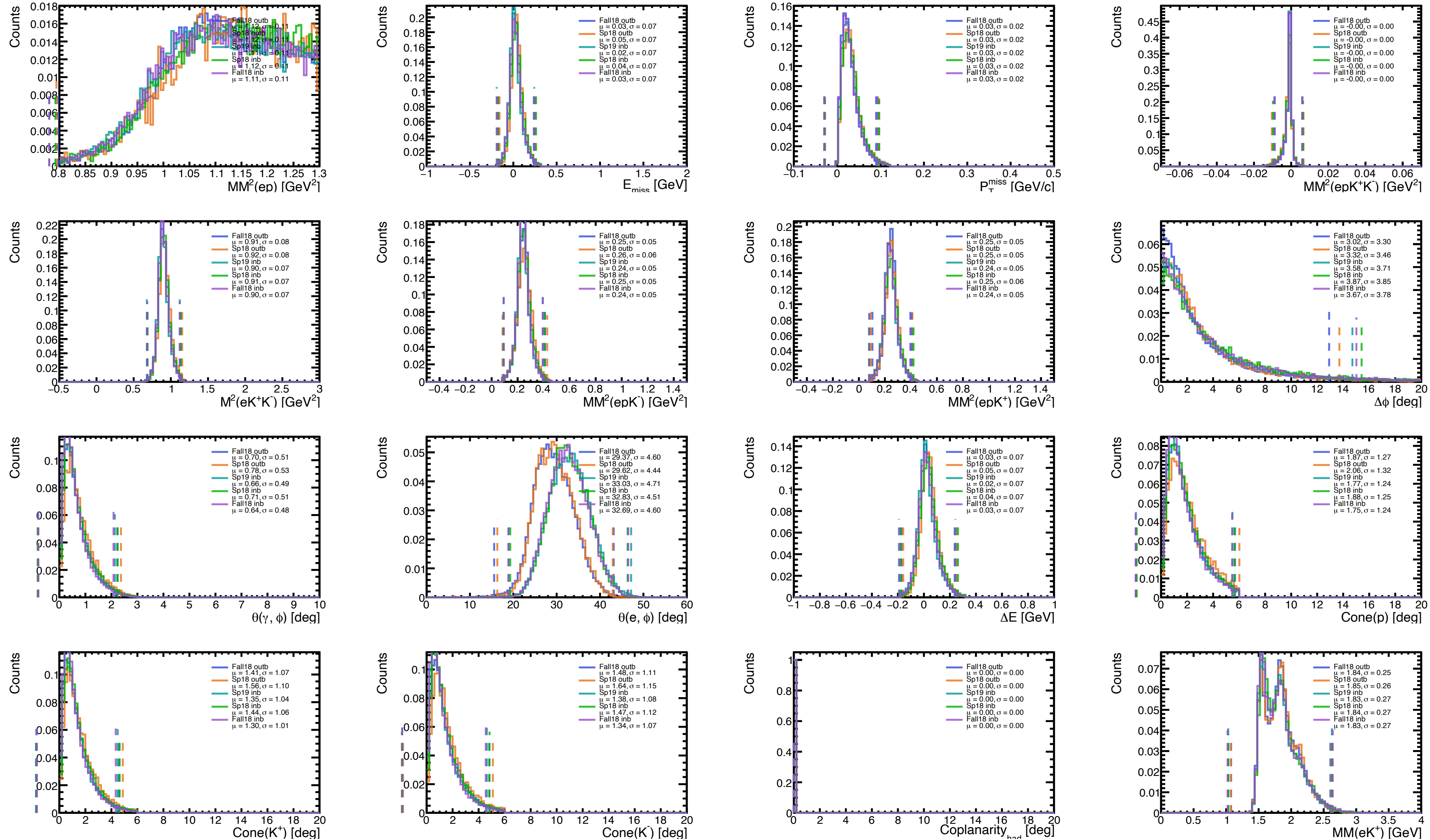


- The inefficient regions in the DC regions for electron protons and Kaons are removed from
- Similarly for Central Vertex Tracker the small regions in layers 1, 3, 5, 7, and 12 are removed
- Sampling fraction cuts for electron, and energy loss corrections for proton are applied.

# Exclusivity cuts for further refinements

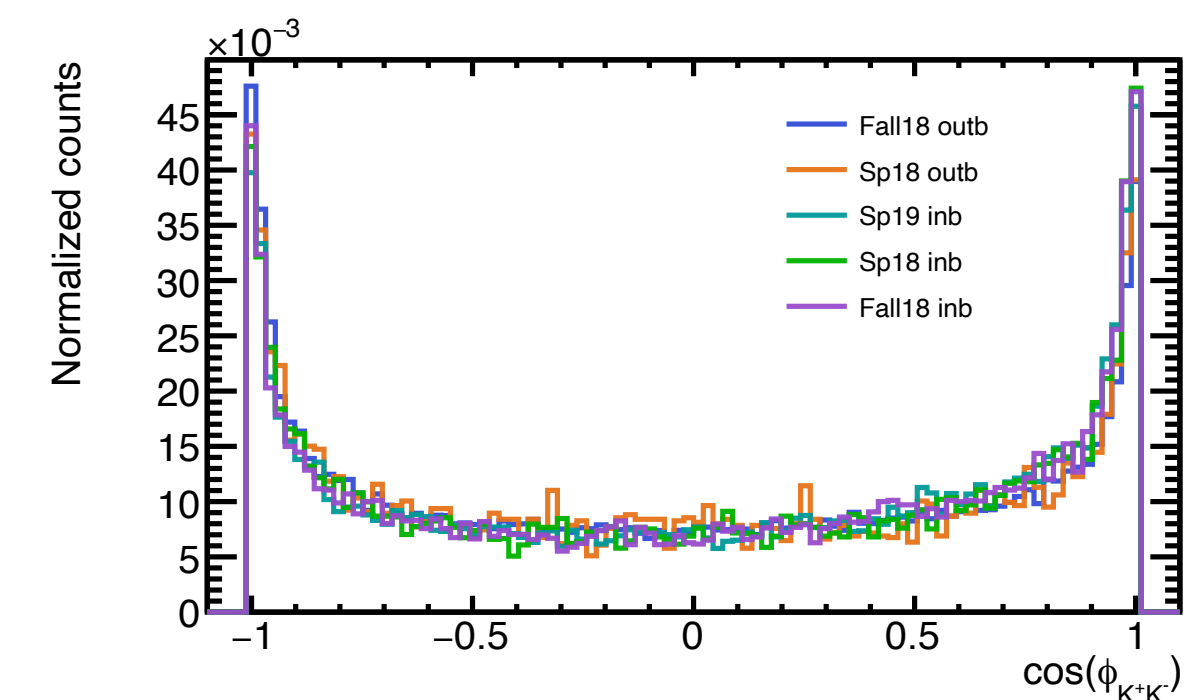
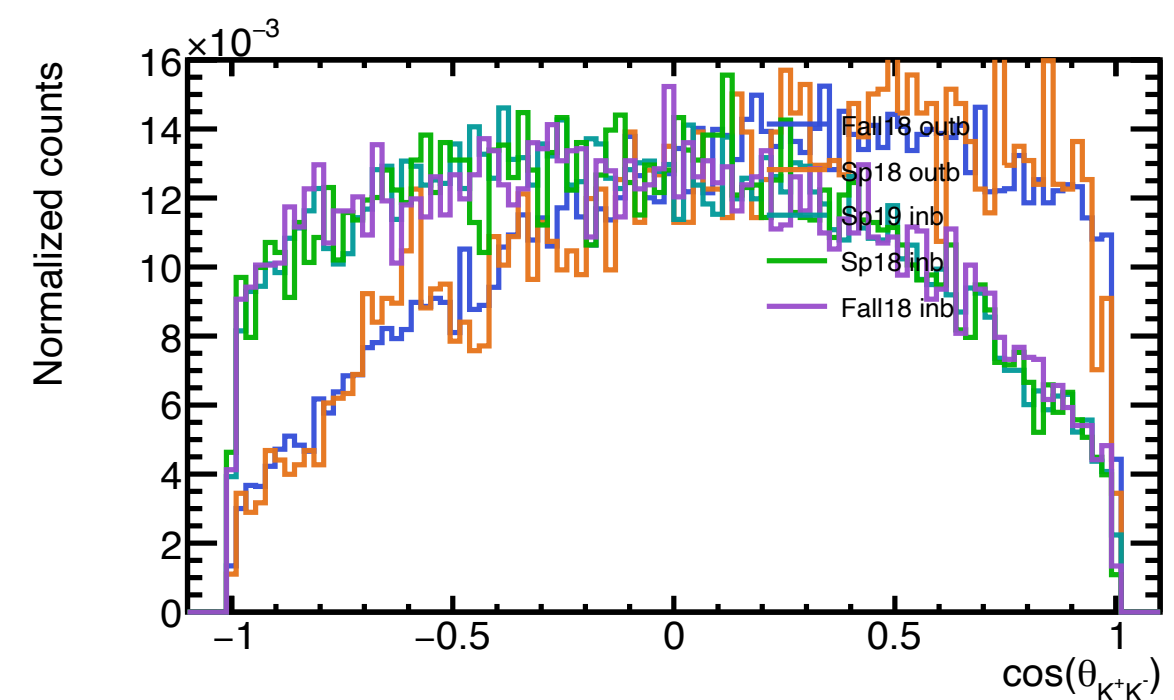
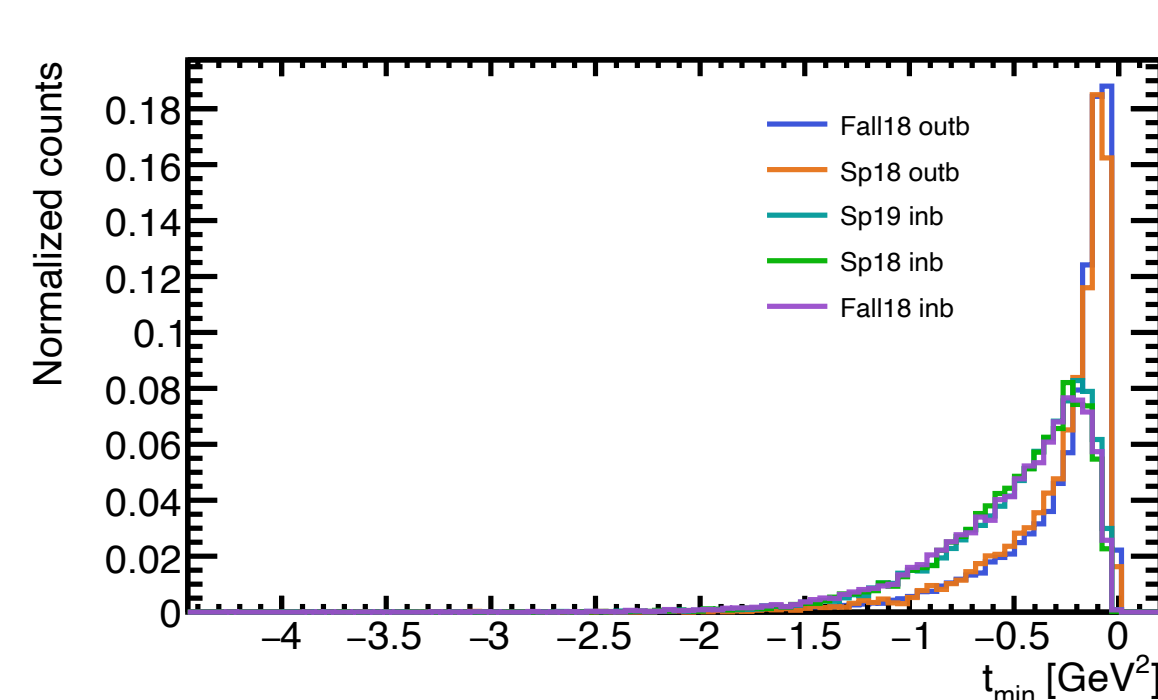
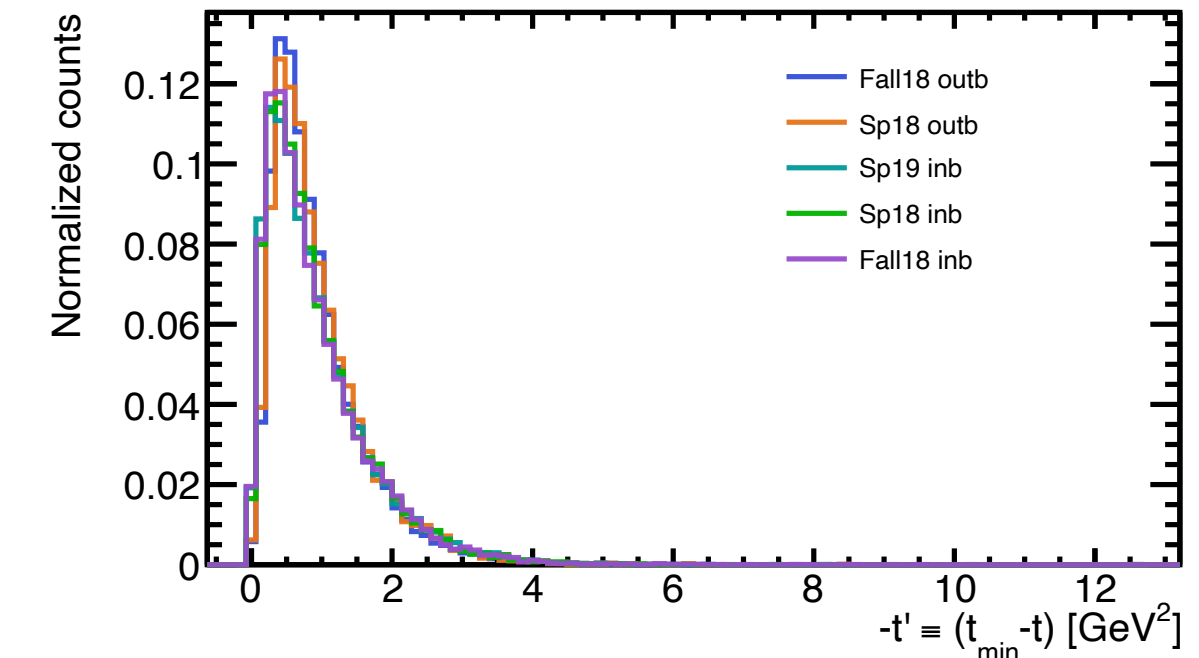
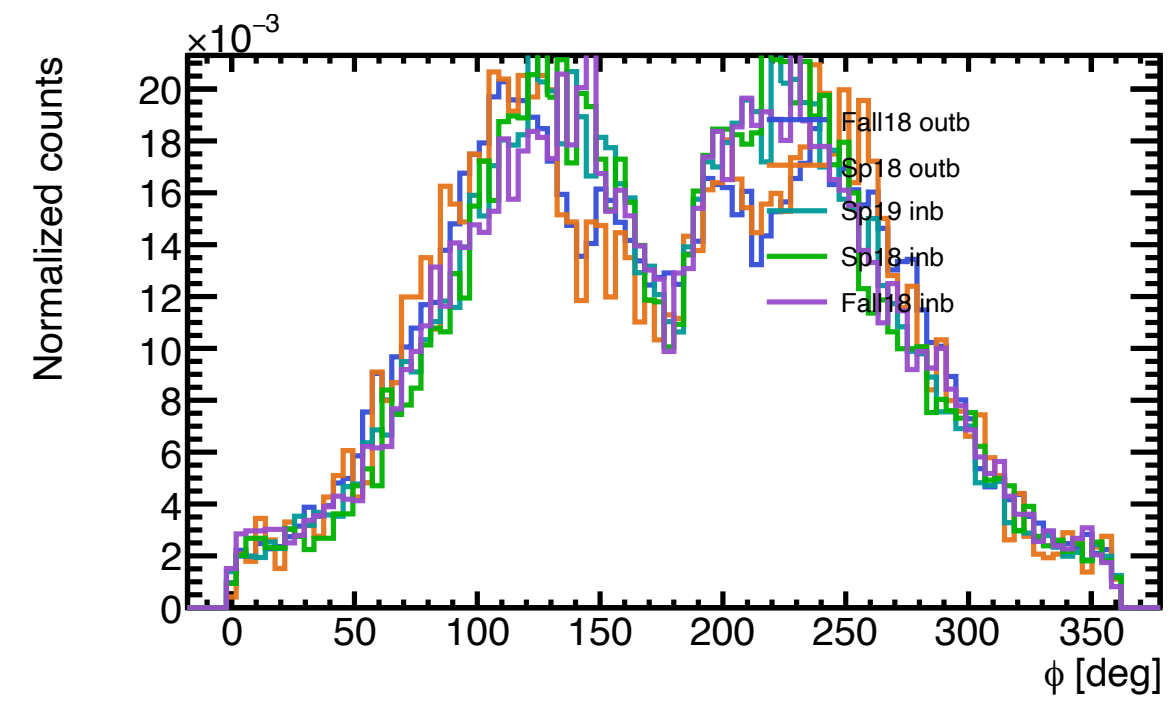
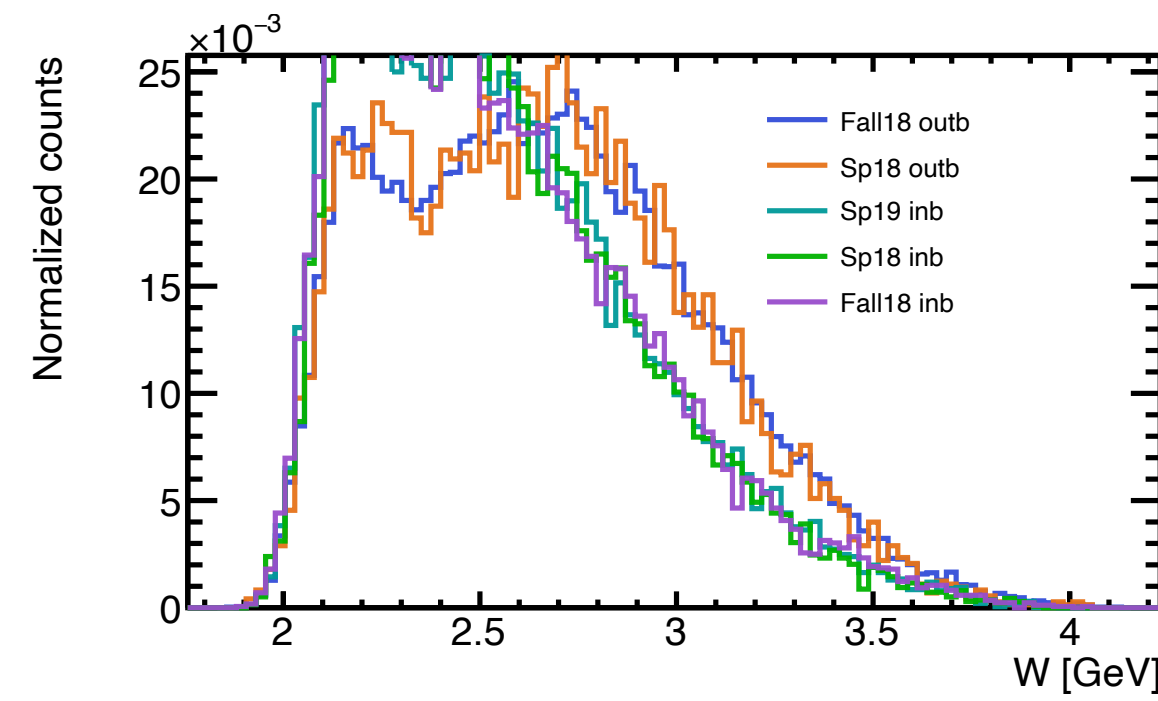
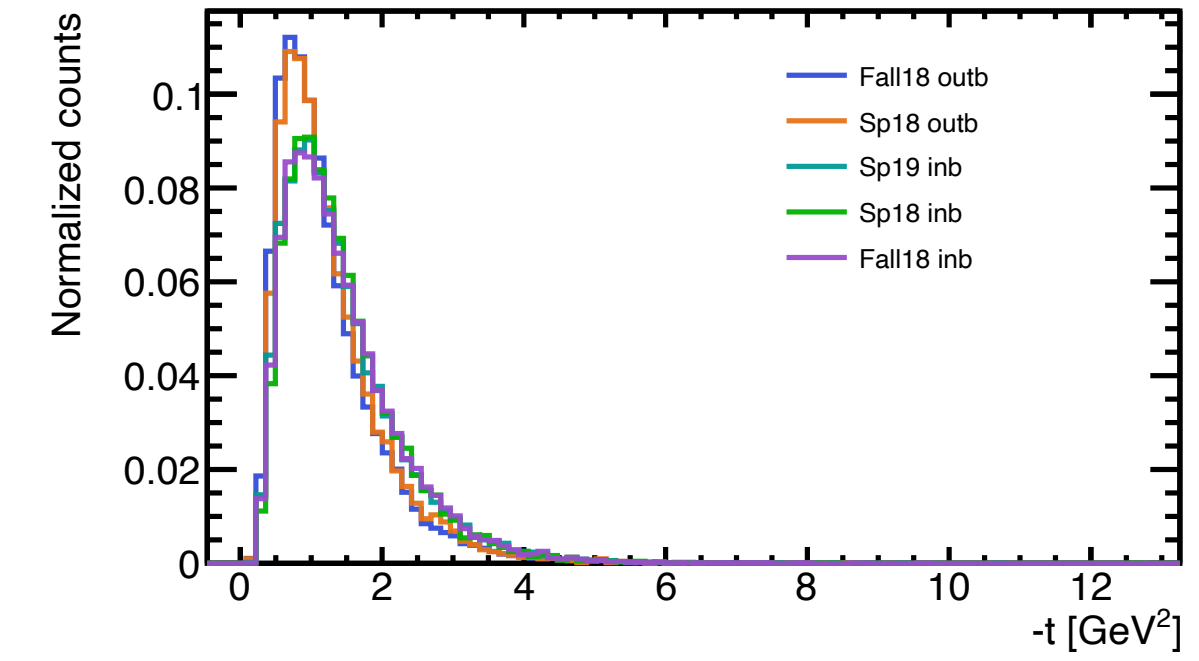
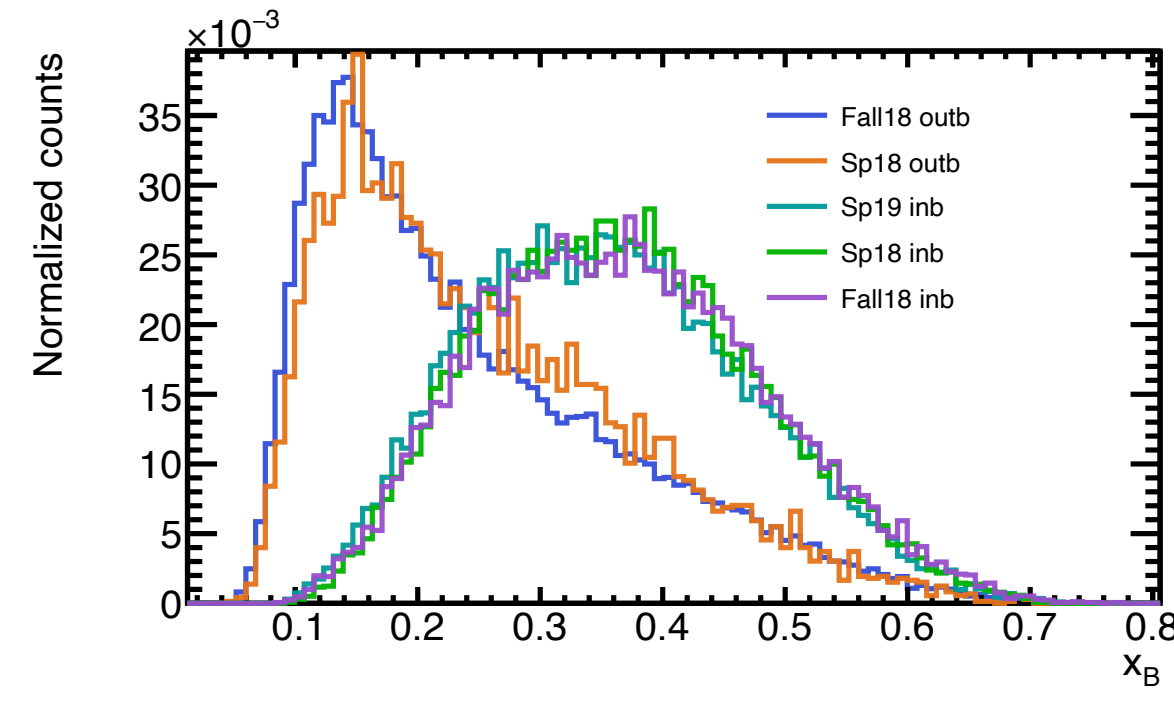
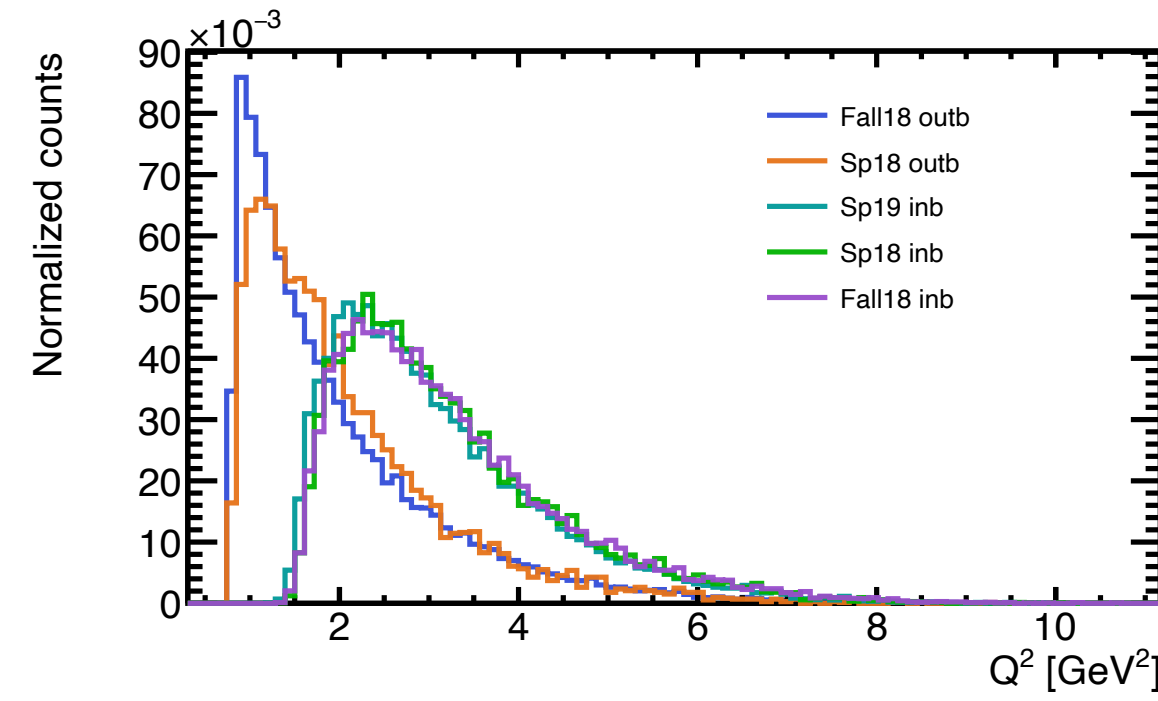
- Exclusivity variables are prior to phi mass peak cut
- Exclusivity cuts

$E_{\text{miss}} \in [-0.0075, 0.32] \text{ GeV}$   
 $P_{T\text{miss}} < 0.12 \text{ GeV}$   
 $M_{X^2}(\text{eK}^+\text{K}^-) \in [0.64, 1.1664] \text{ GeV}^2$   
 $M_{X^2}(\text{epK}^+\text{K}^-) < 0.0075 \text{ GeV}^2$   
 $M_{X^2}(\text{epK}^-) \in [0.08, 0.48] \text{ GeV}^2$   
 $M_{X^2}(\text{epK}^+) \in [0.08, 0.48] \text{ GeV}^2$   
 cone angles  $K_p/K_m/p < 6 \text{ deg}$   
 coplanarity  $< 15 \text{ degrees}$



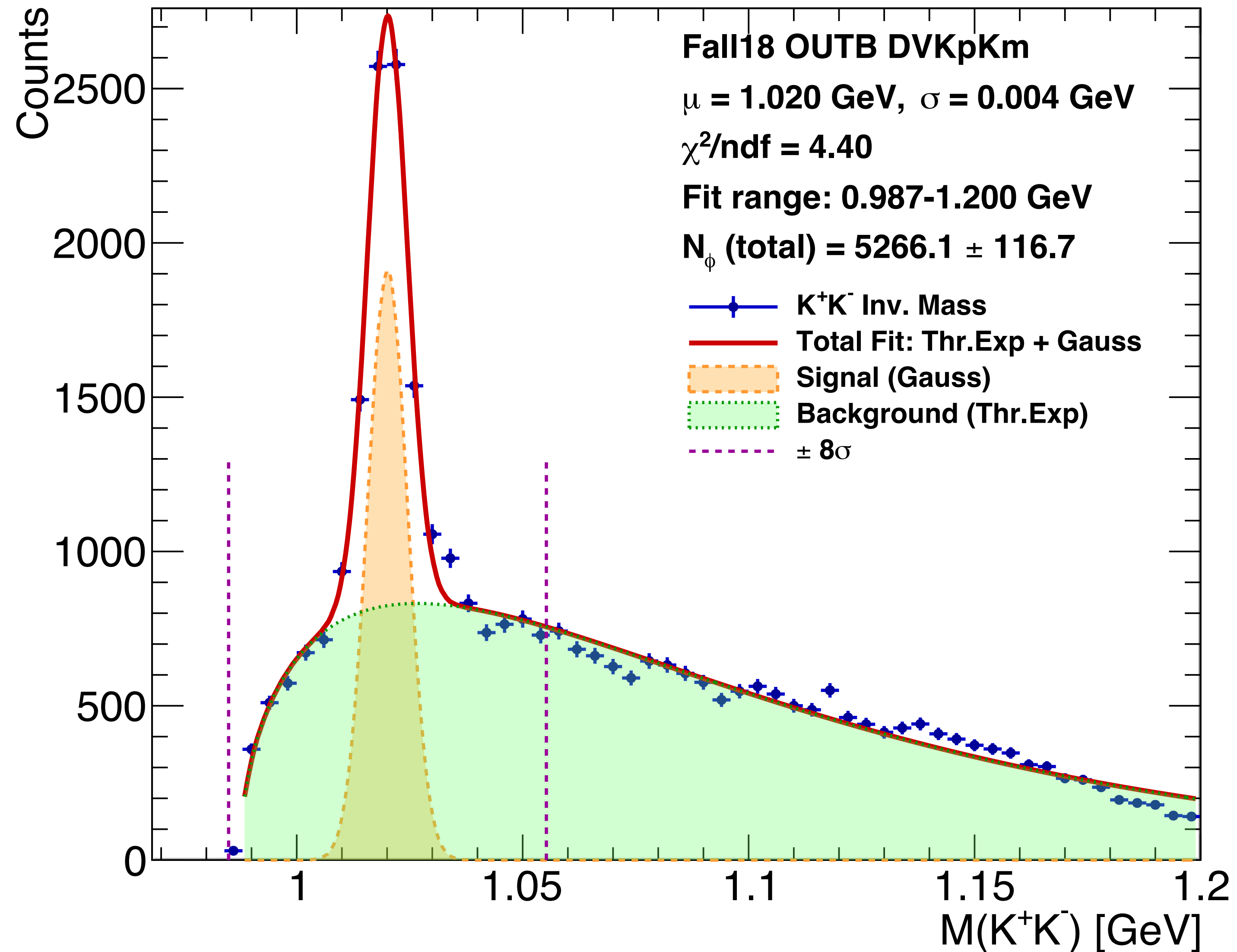
# DVEP Kinematic variables

- Energy loss correction for proton and  $W > 1.8$  GeV and  $Q^2 > 0.2$  GeV<sup>2</sup>



# K<sup>+</sup>K<sup>-</sup> Invariant Mass Distributions

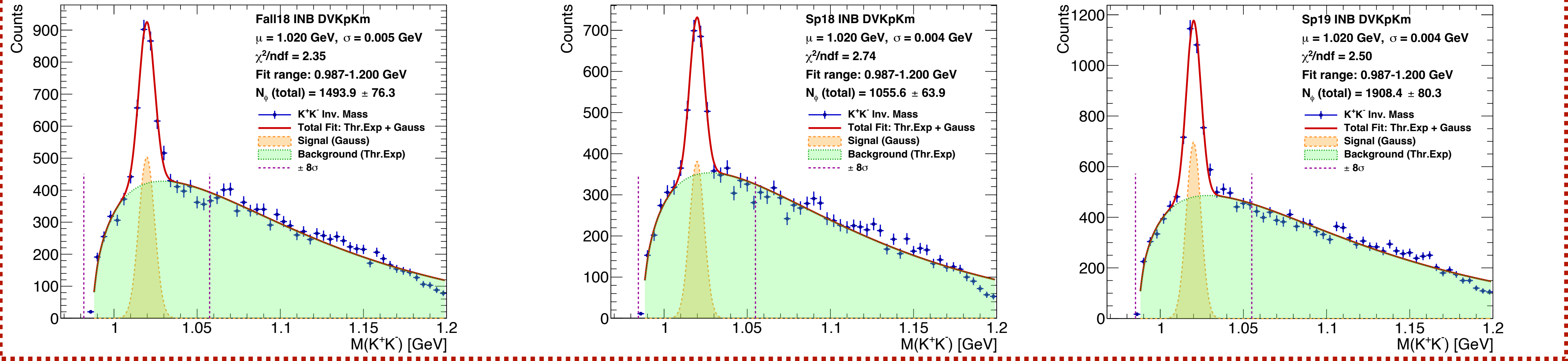
- $\phi$  candidate counts from the invariant mass peak at  $\sim 1.019$  GeV of  $K^+K^-$  in  $ep \rightarrow epK^+K^-$
- Signal: Gaussian distribution
- Background: Exponential+polynomial 3rd order
- Extracted yield as integral of the Gaussian function
- Exclusive selection:  **$\sim 5200$**  candidates from fall 2018 outb alone



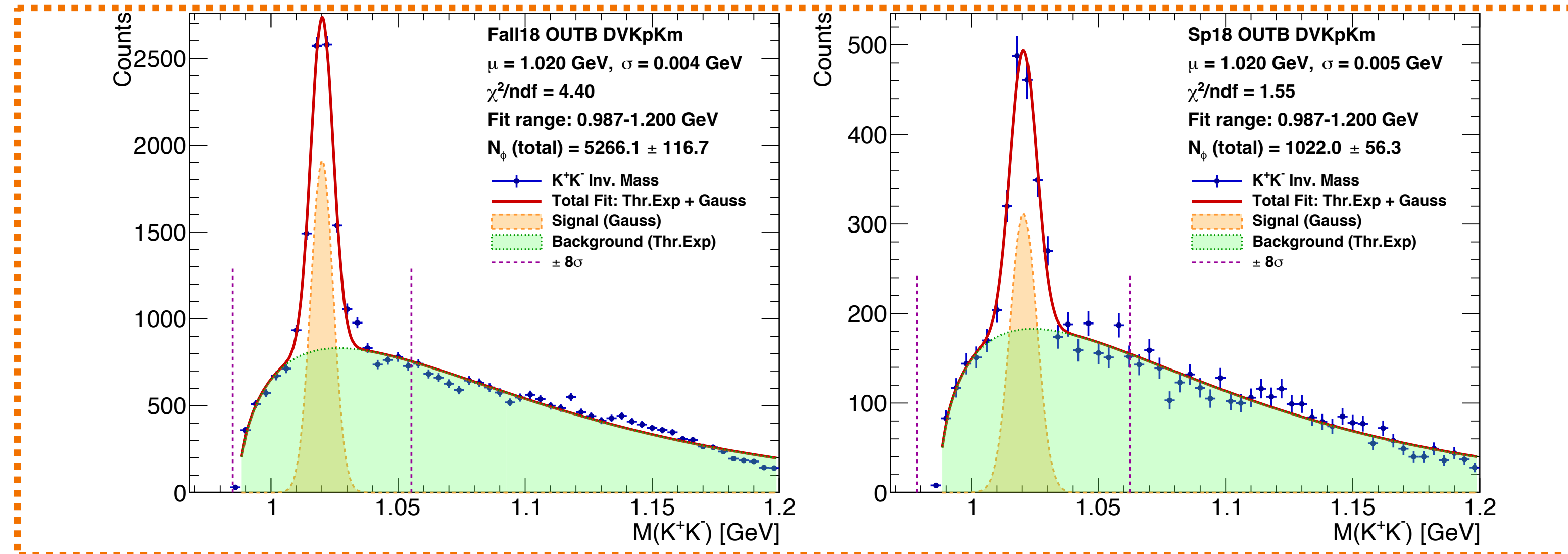
# All phi K<sup>+</sup>K<sup>-</sup> Invariant Mass all periods of 2018-19 run

- $\phi$  peak at  $\sim 1020$  MeV, total  $\sim 10000$  candidates from 2018-19 Run group A datasets

Inb

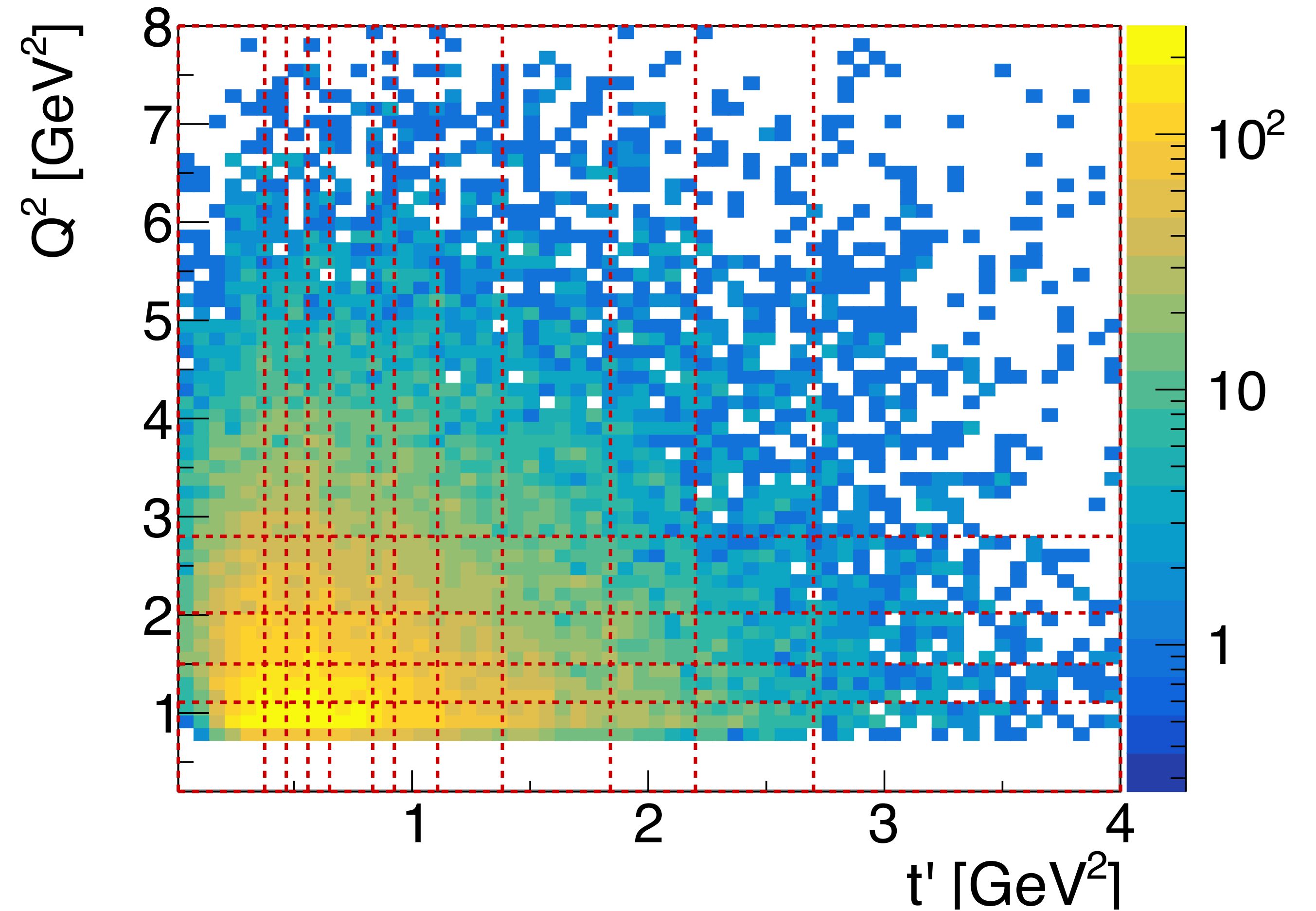


Outb



# Extraction of cross-section

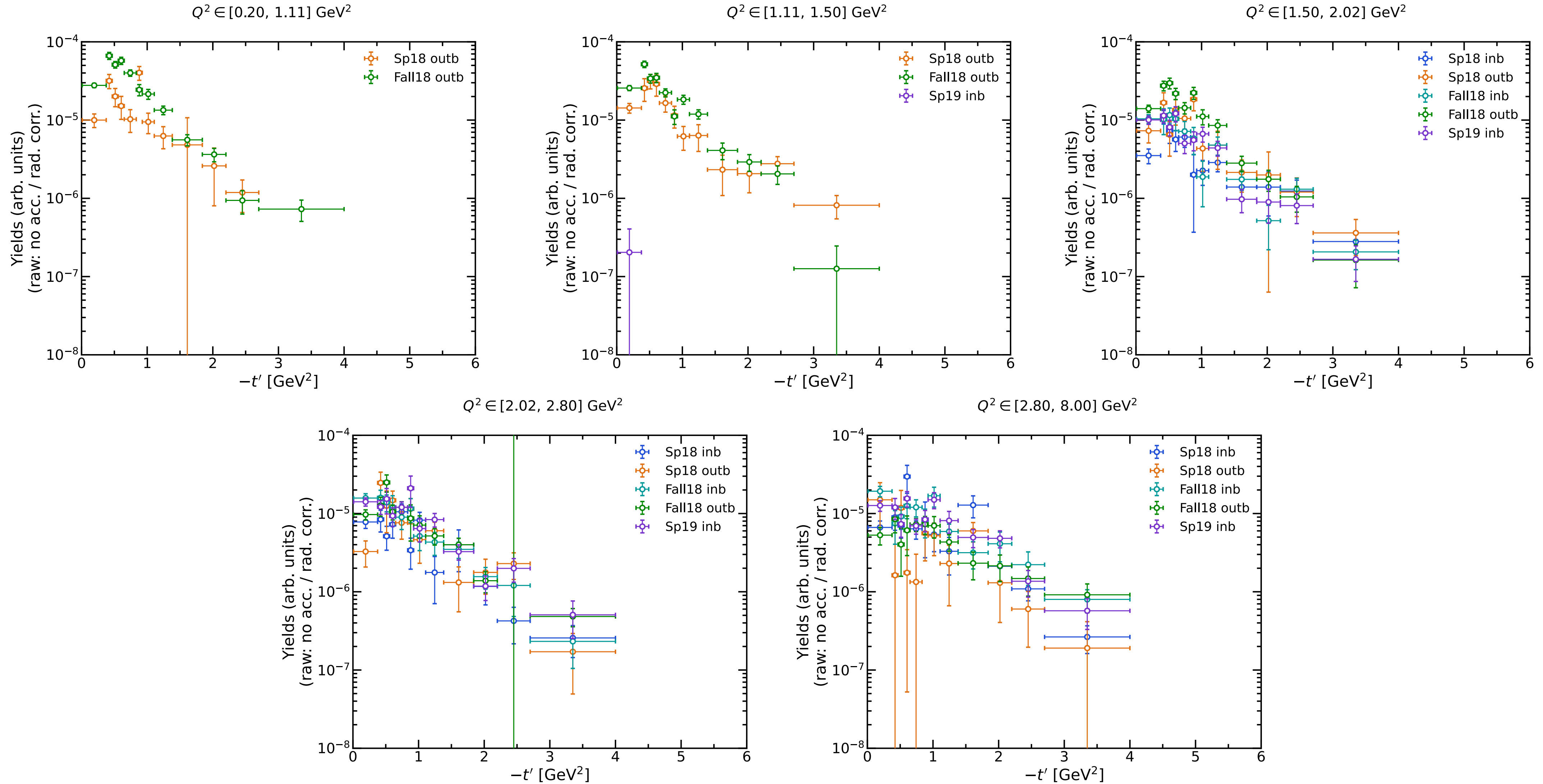
- Divide the sample total sample with equal statistics in each  $Q^2$  and  $t'$  bin
- Currently **5**  $Q^2$  and **12**  $t'$  bins
- In each  $t'$  bin used a  $InvM_{K+K^-}$  distribution to extract the counts of  $\phi$



$t'$ bin edge ( $\text{GeV}^2$ )	[0.01, 0.38]	[0.38, 0.47]	[0.57, 0.56]	[0.56, 0.65]	[0.65, 0.83]	[0.83, 0.93]	[0.93, 1.11]	[1.11, 1.38]	[1.38, 1.84]	[1.84, 2.2]	[2.2, 2.7]	[2.7, 4.0]
$Q^2$ bin edge ( $\text{GeV}^2$ )	[0.20, 1.11]	[1.11, 1.50]	[1.50, 2.02]	[2.02, 2.80]	[2.80, 8.0]							

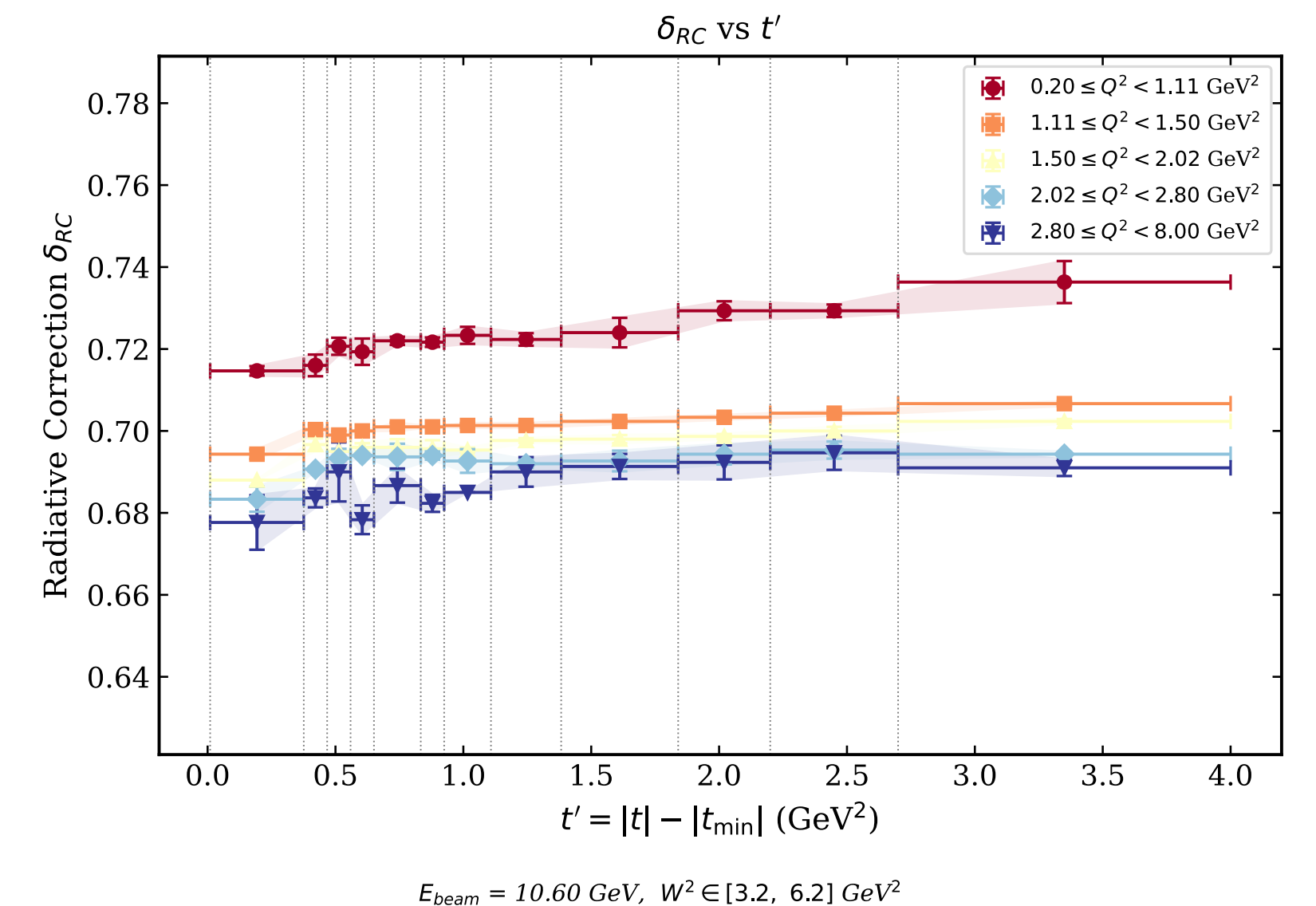
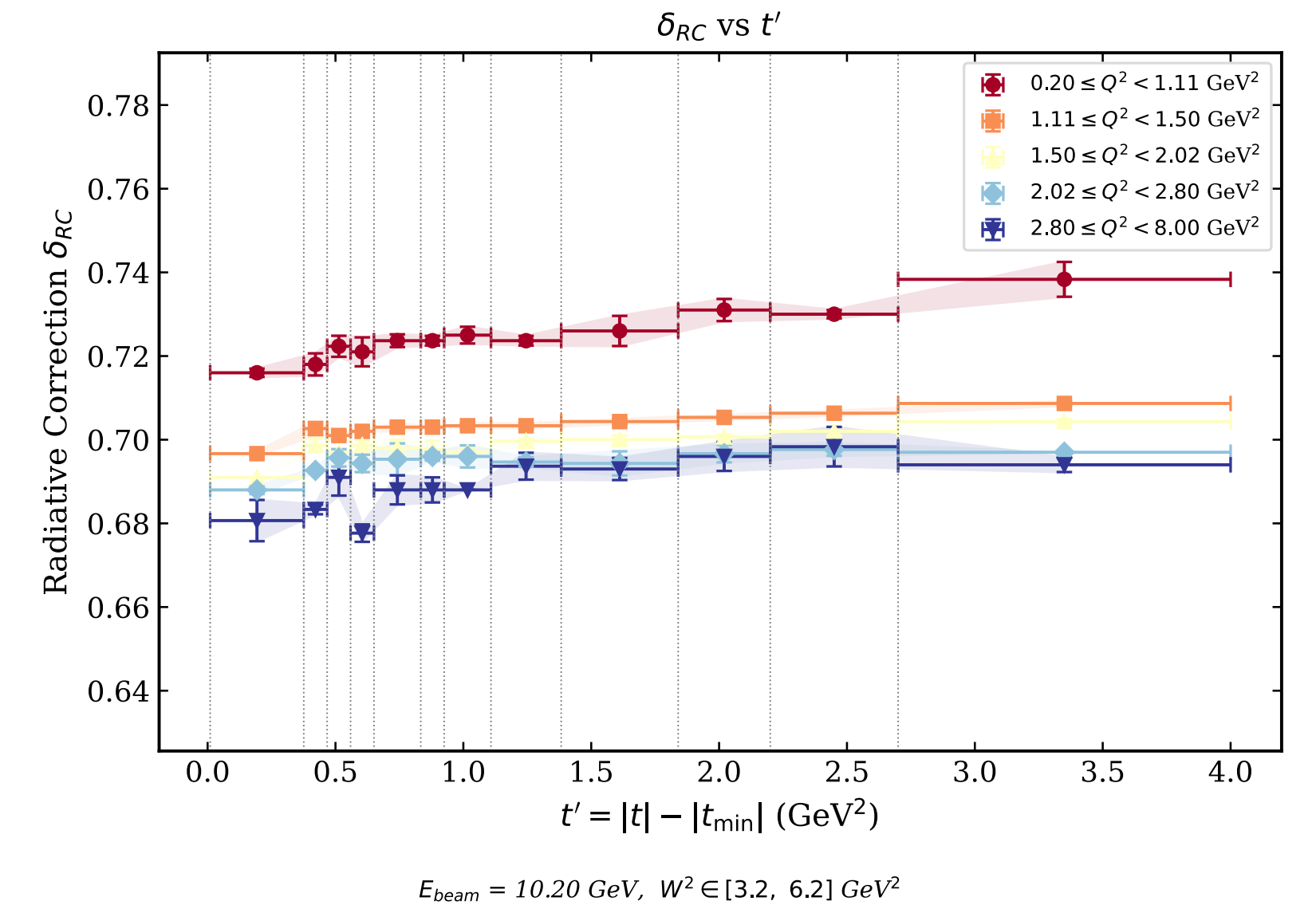
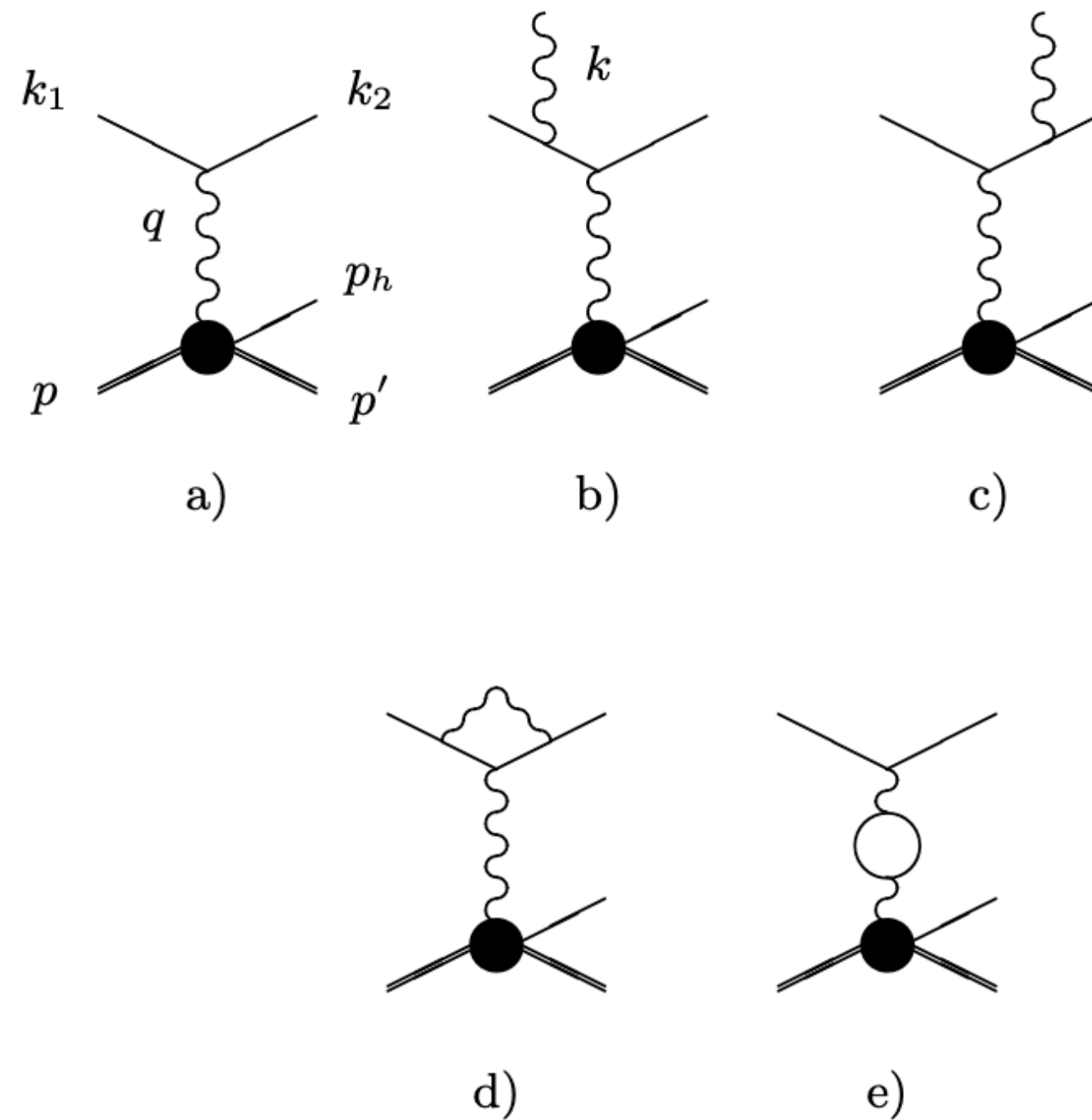
# The raw yields

- Without the efficiency corrections!



# Radiative correction for phi meson production

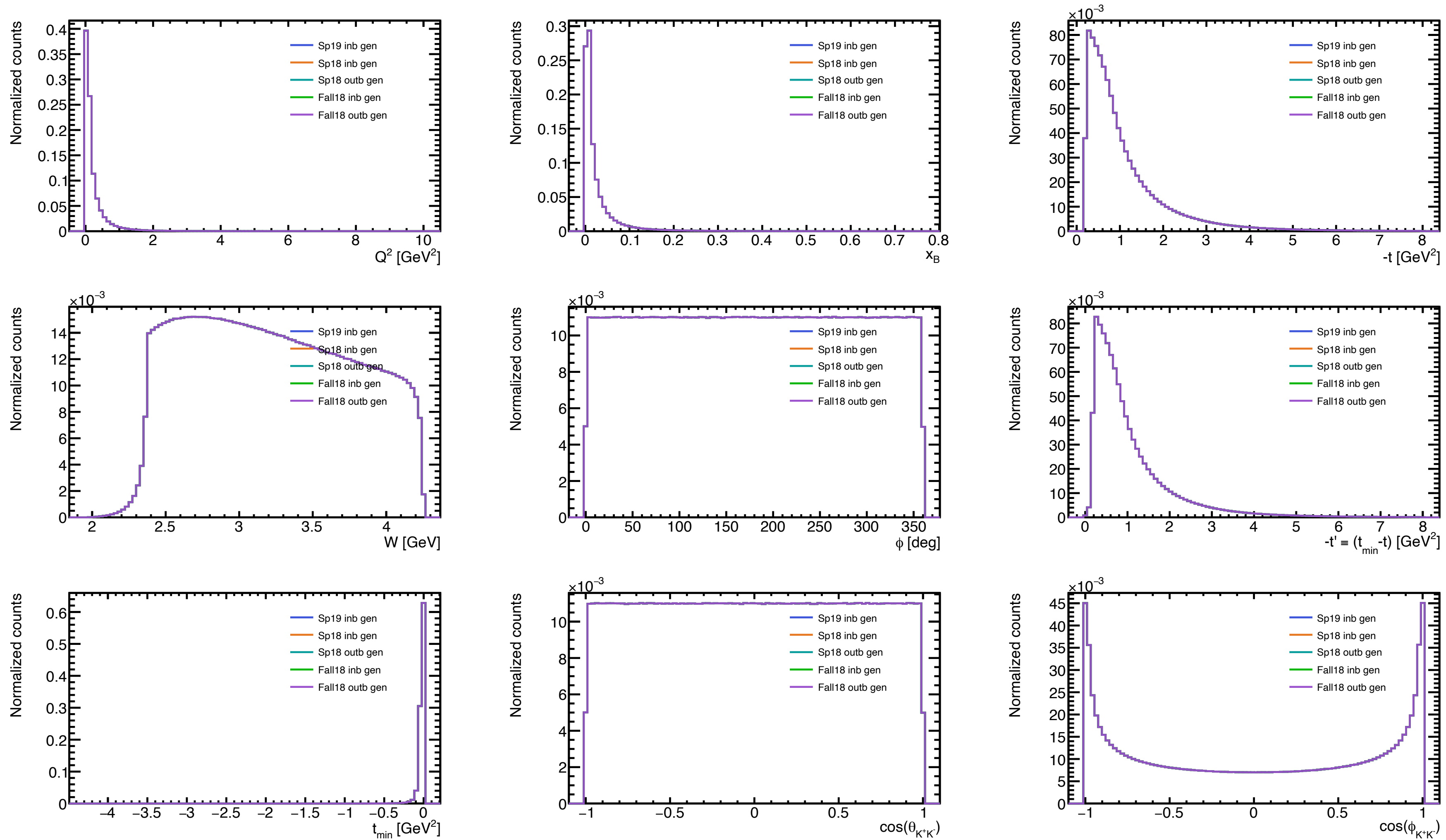
- Based on the codes by DIFFRAD (I.Akushevich, EPJC8:457-463,1999)
- Inelasticity cut parameter  $v_m = 0.02$  (J. Santoro, "Electroproduction of  $\phi(1020)$  mesons")



- The observed correction is  $\sim 30\%$  which is very large! Need further check investigations!

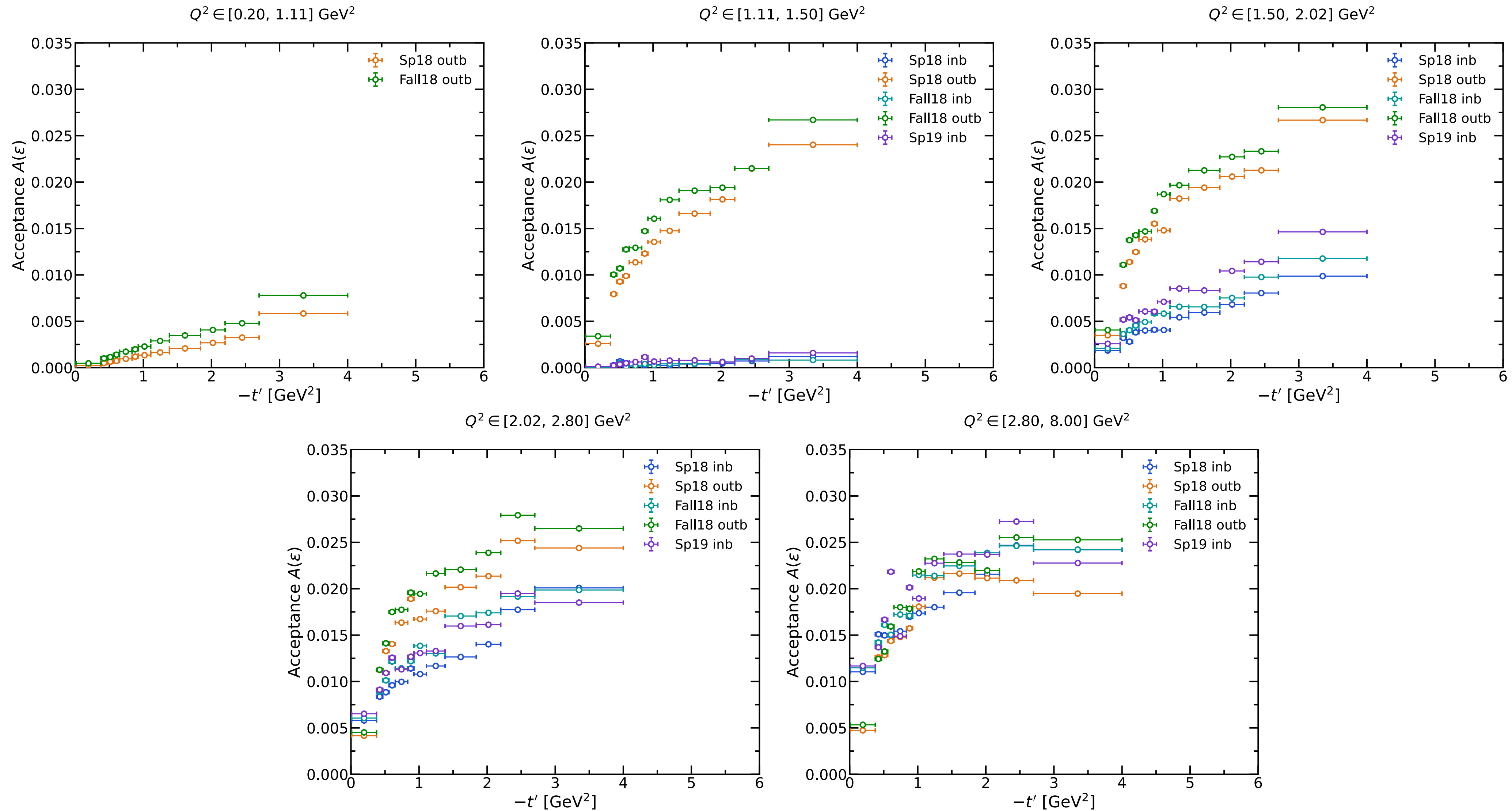
# Acceptance Effects within CLAS12

- Simulations based on the Argonne  $\phi$  Event Generator tuned to Clas 6 data and  $\phi$  event decay in rest mass is considered as isotropic (flat distribution)



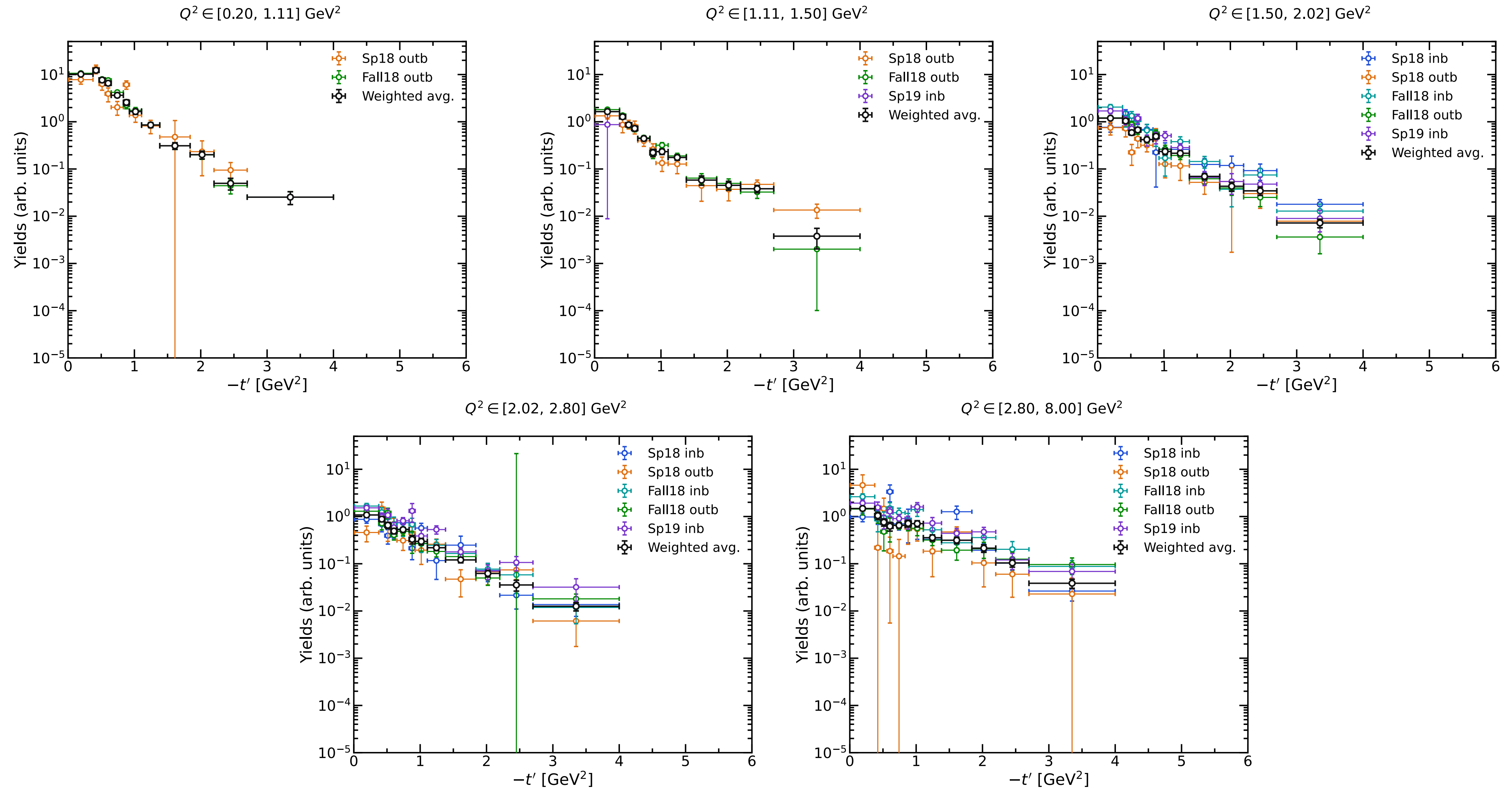
# Detector acceptance effects

- Without the efficiency for background merging corrections!



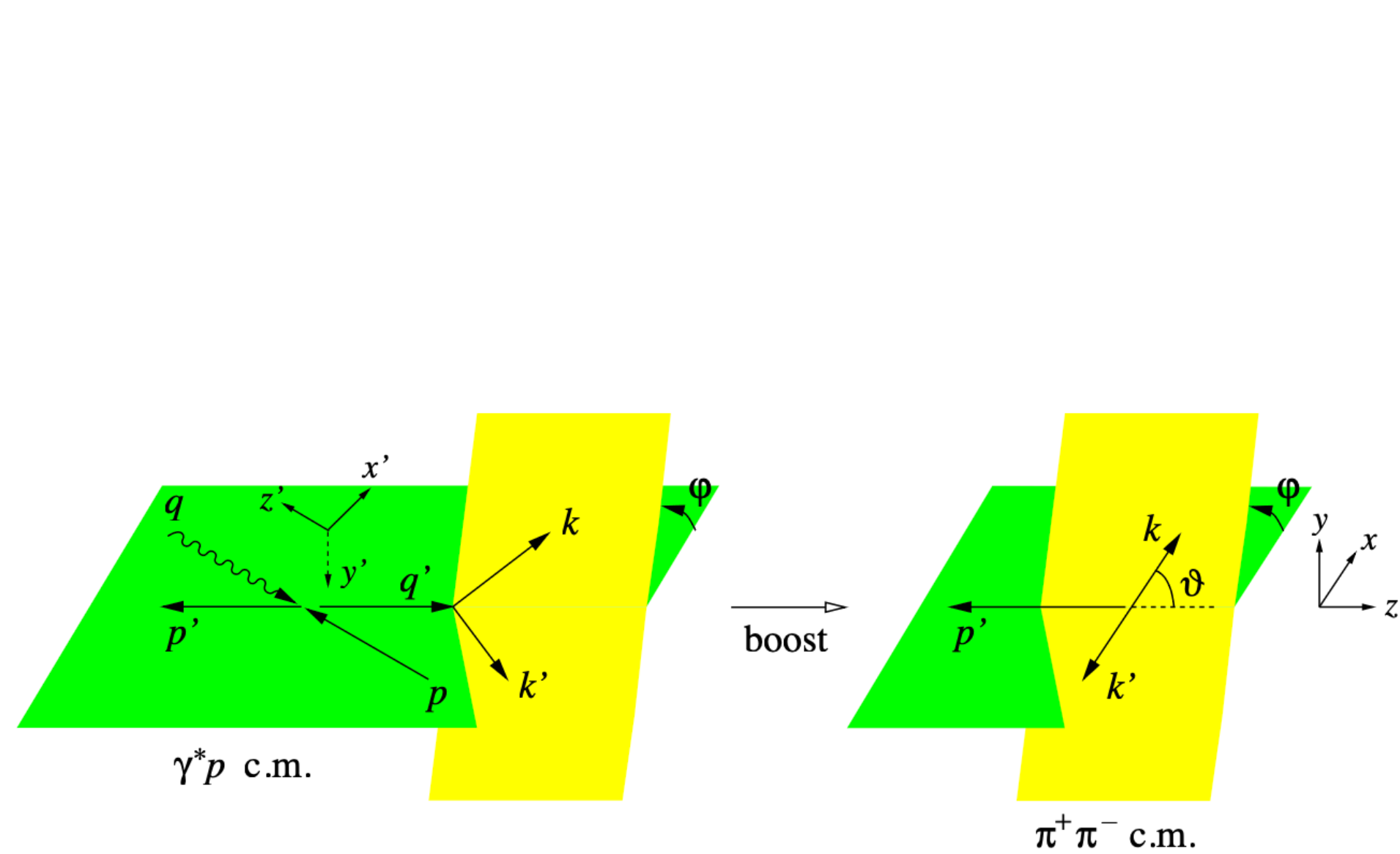
# Final reduced cross-sections

- Without the efficiency for background merging corrections!

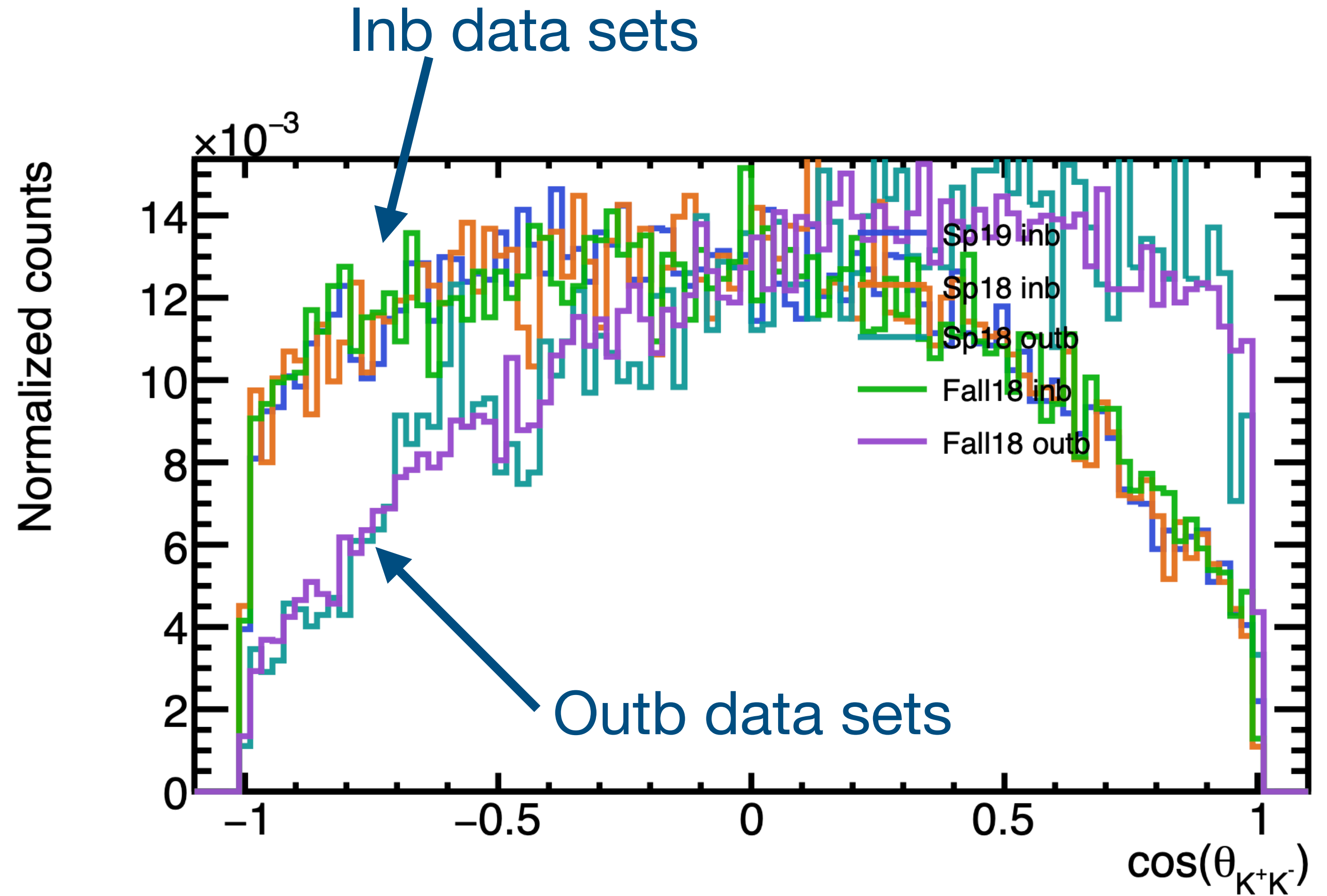


# $\phi$ -decay and acceptance within CLAS 12

- Vector meson with spin 1 possible decay is expected to be a non-flat distribution

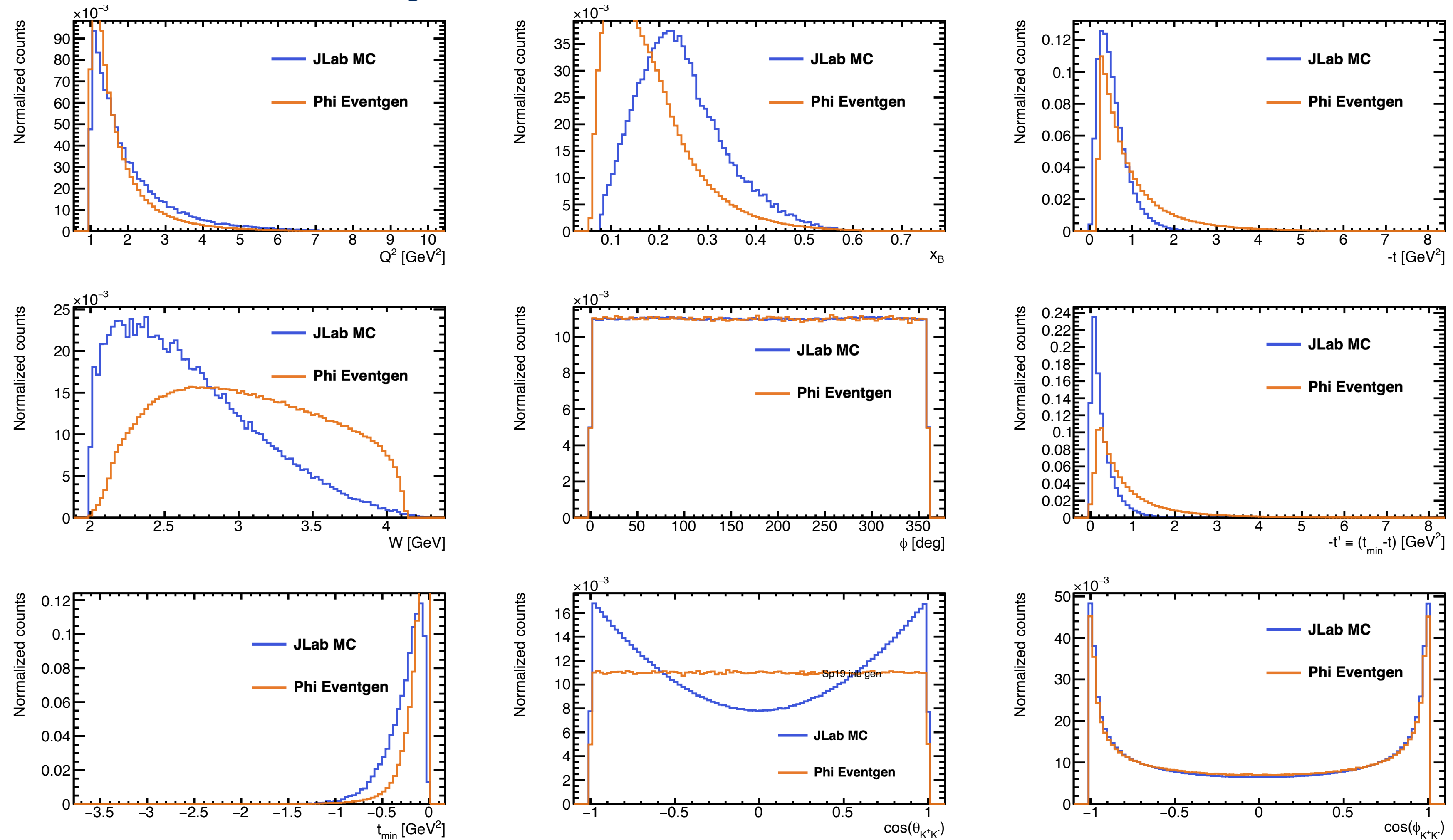


Markus Diehl JHEP09(2007)064



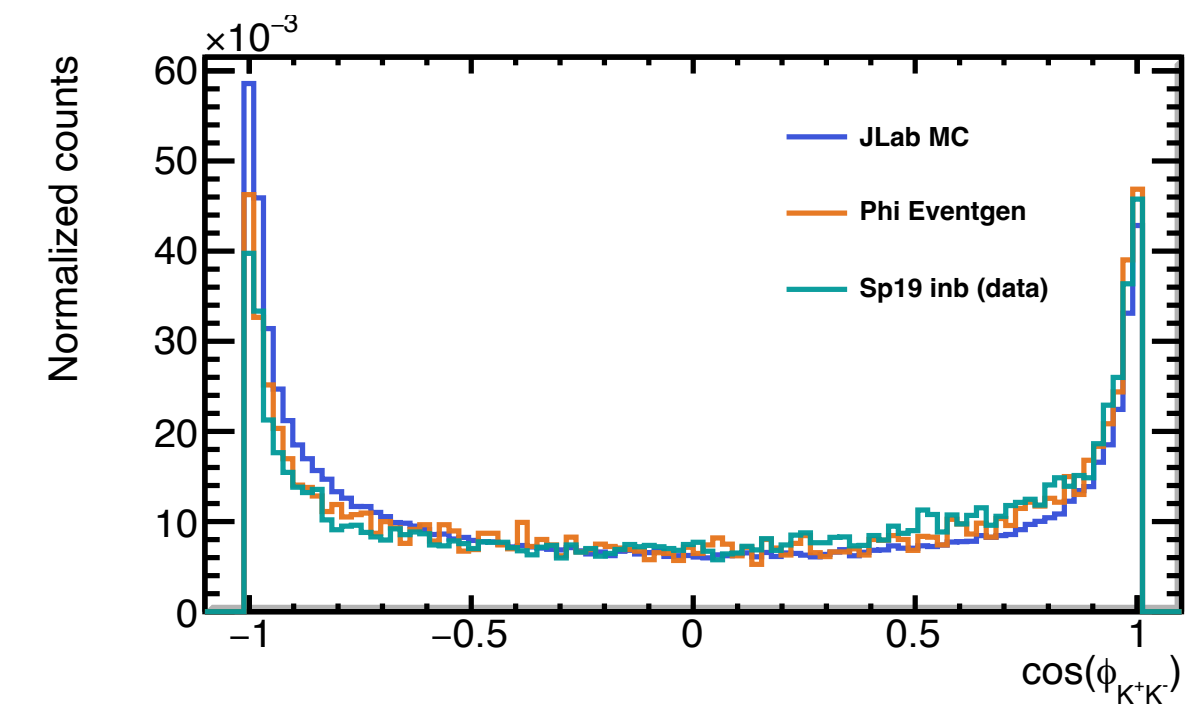
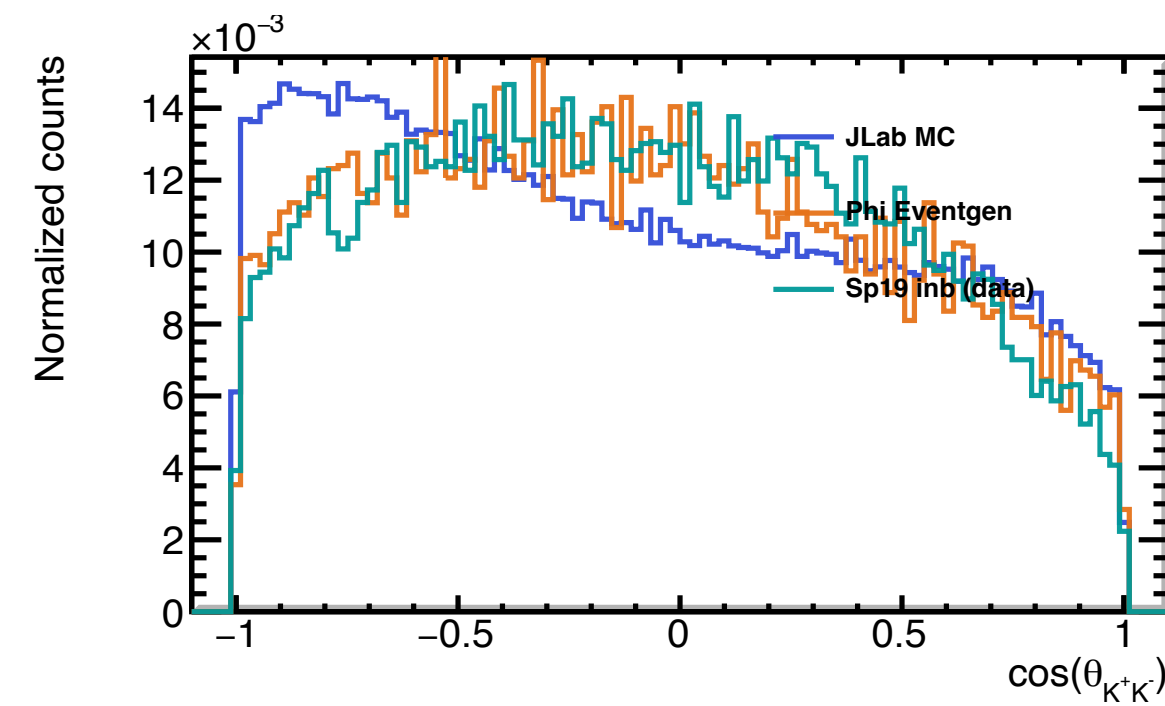
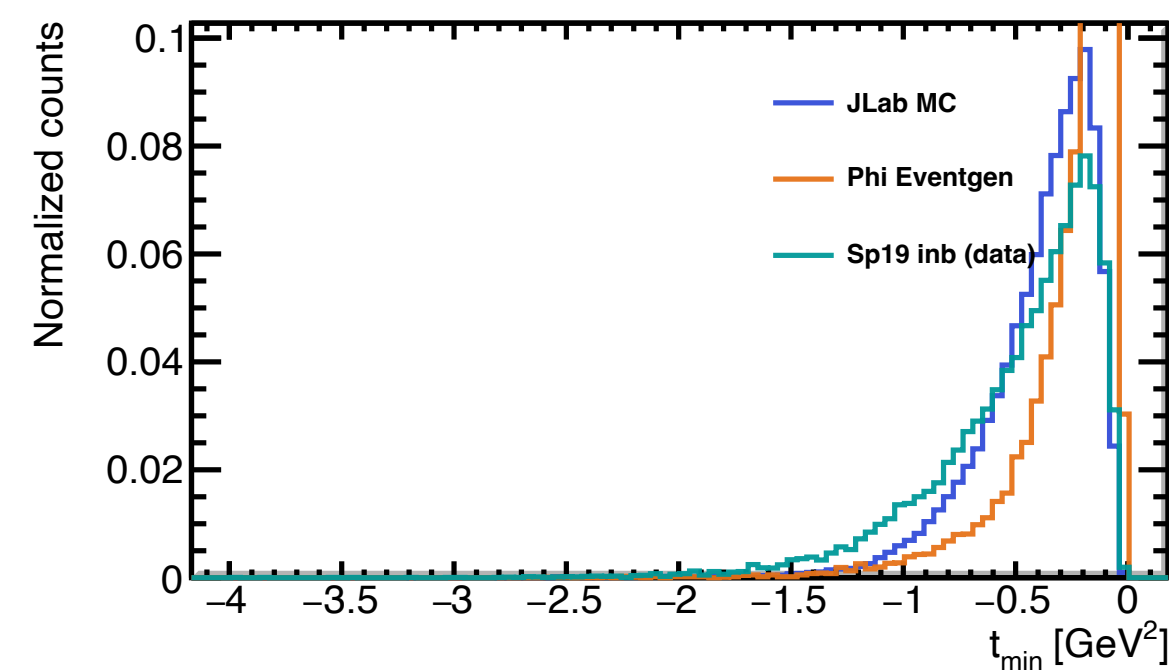
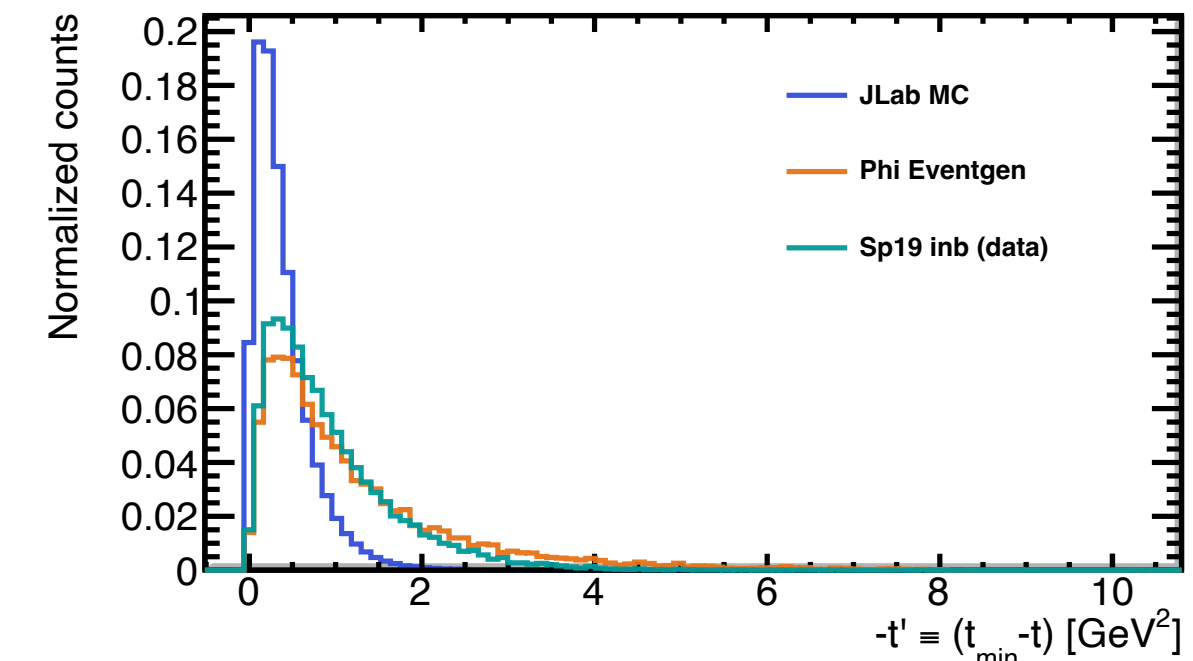
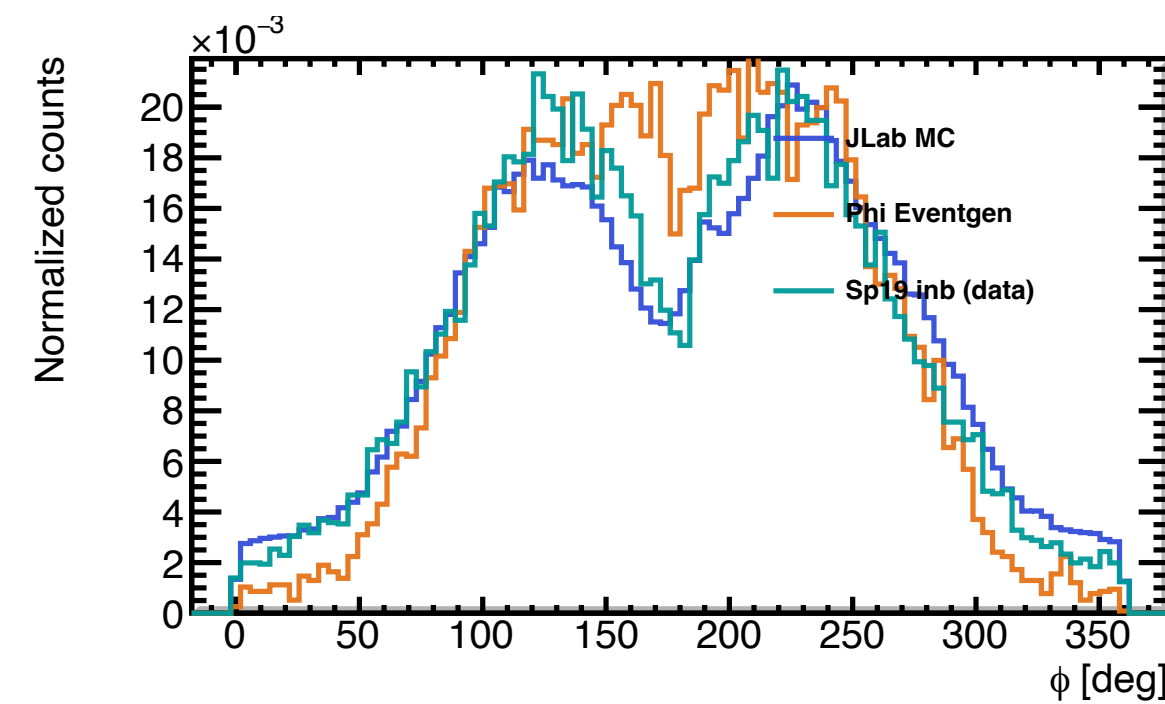
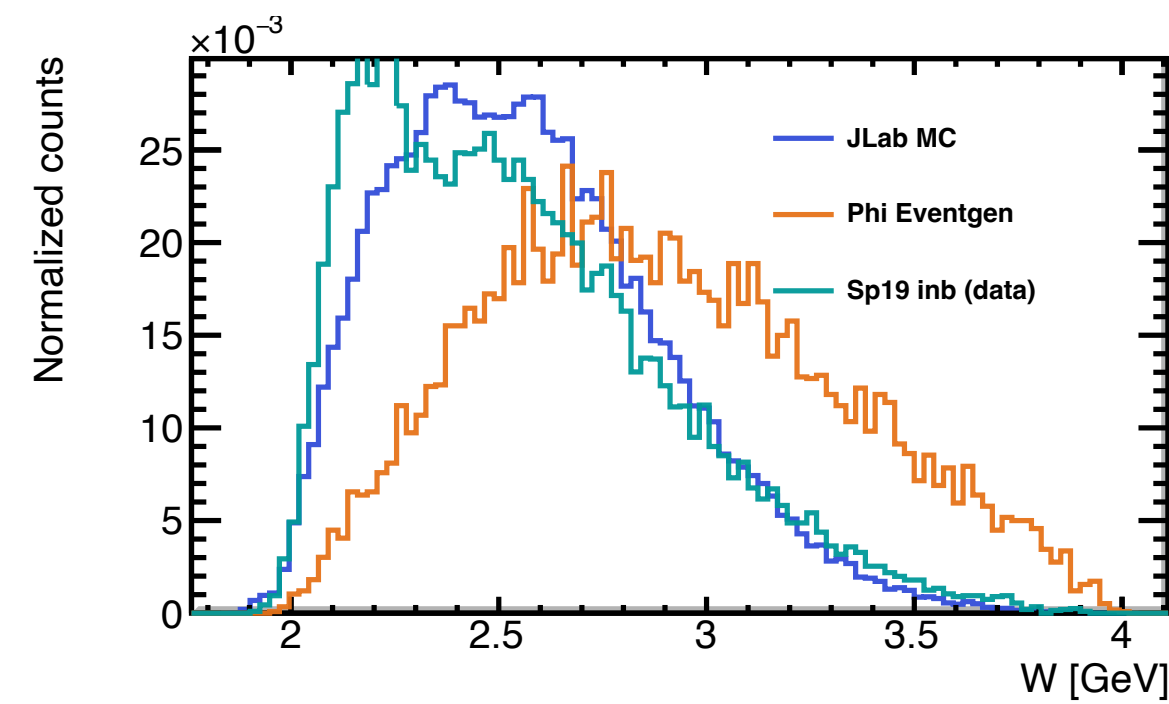
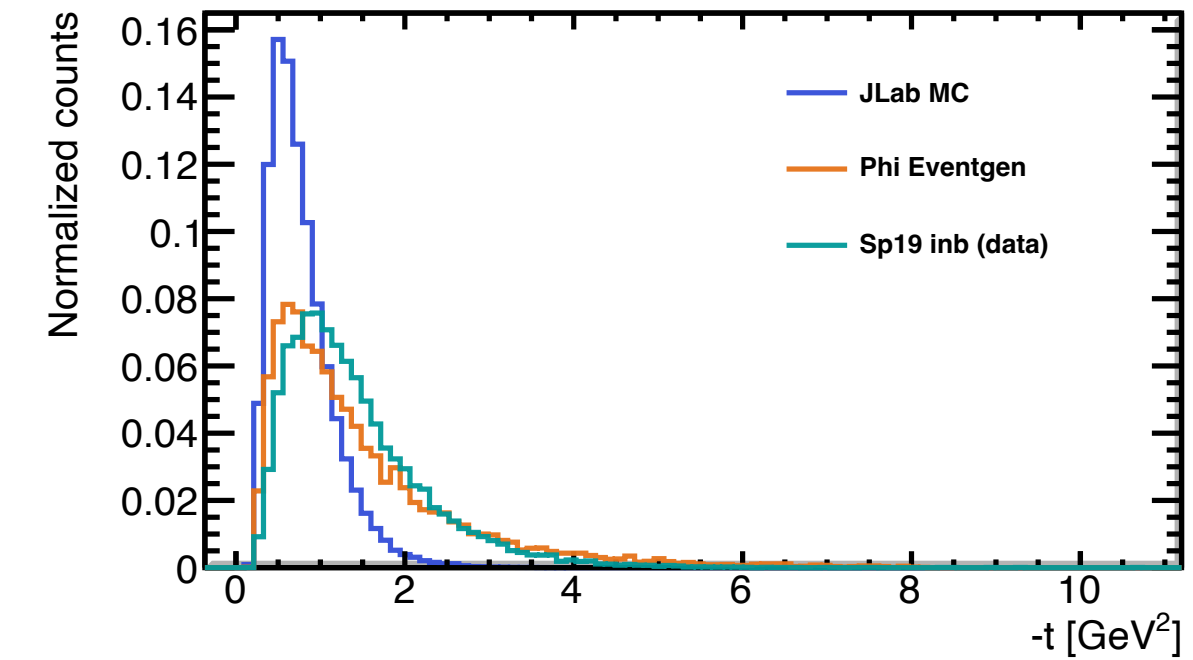
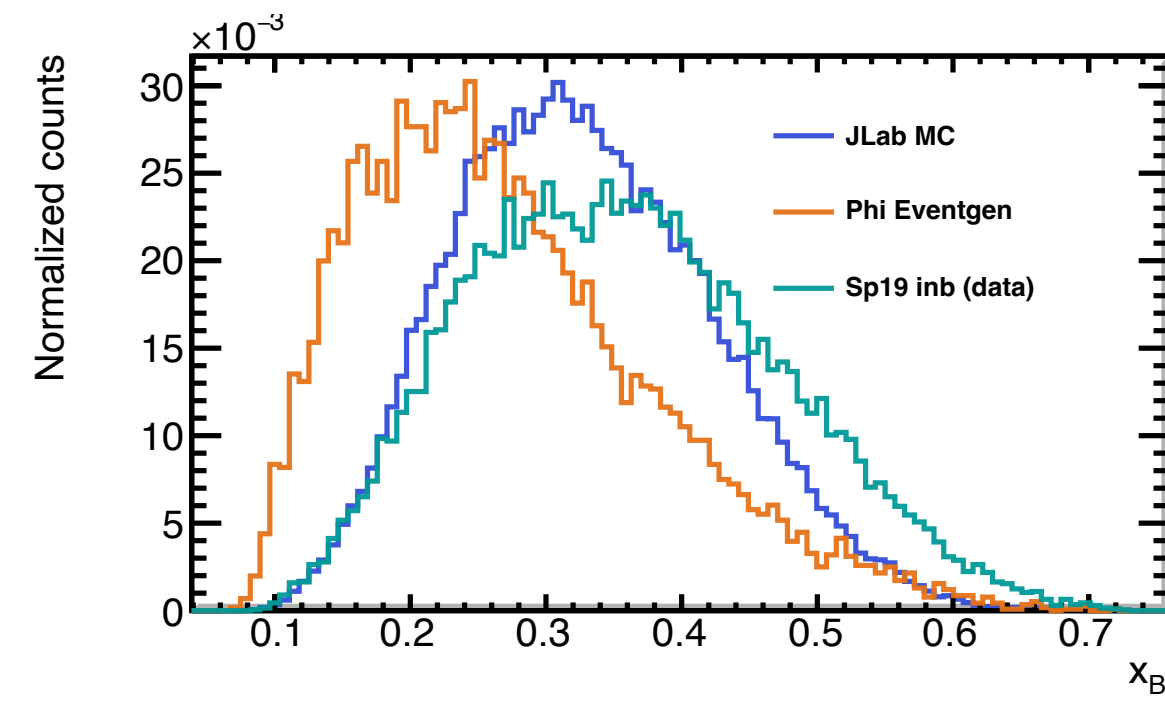
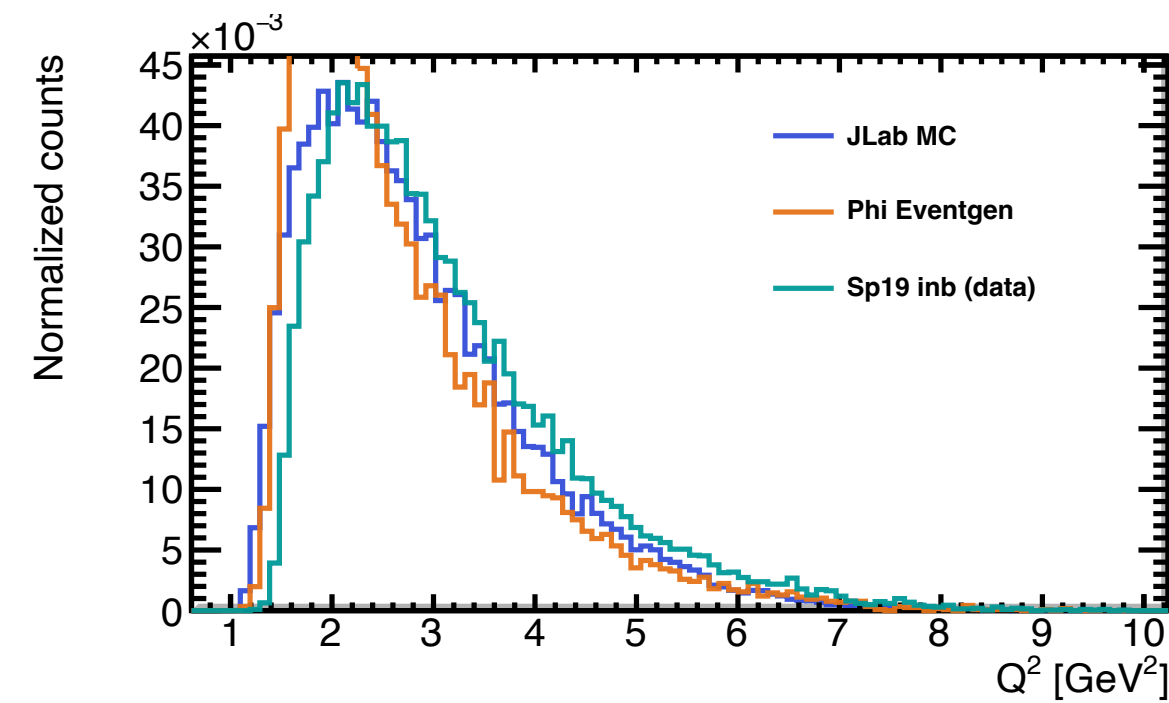
# MC can change things drastically (Gen only)

- Two generator **Argonne group** and **JLab vector meson event generator (JLab MC)** with  $\rho^0$  like decay
- In house **JLab MC** has enhanced longitudinal contribution in the cross-section

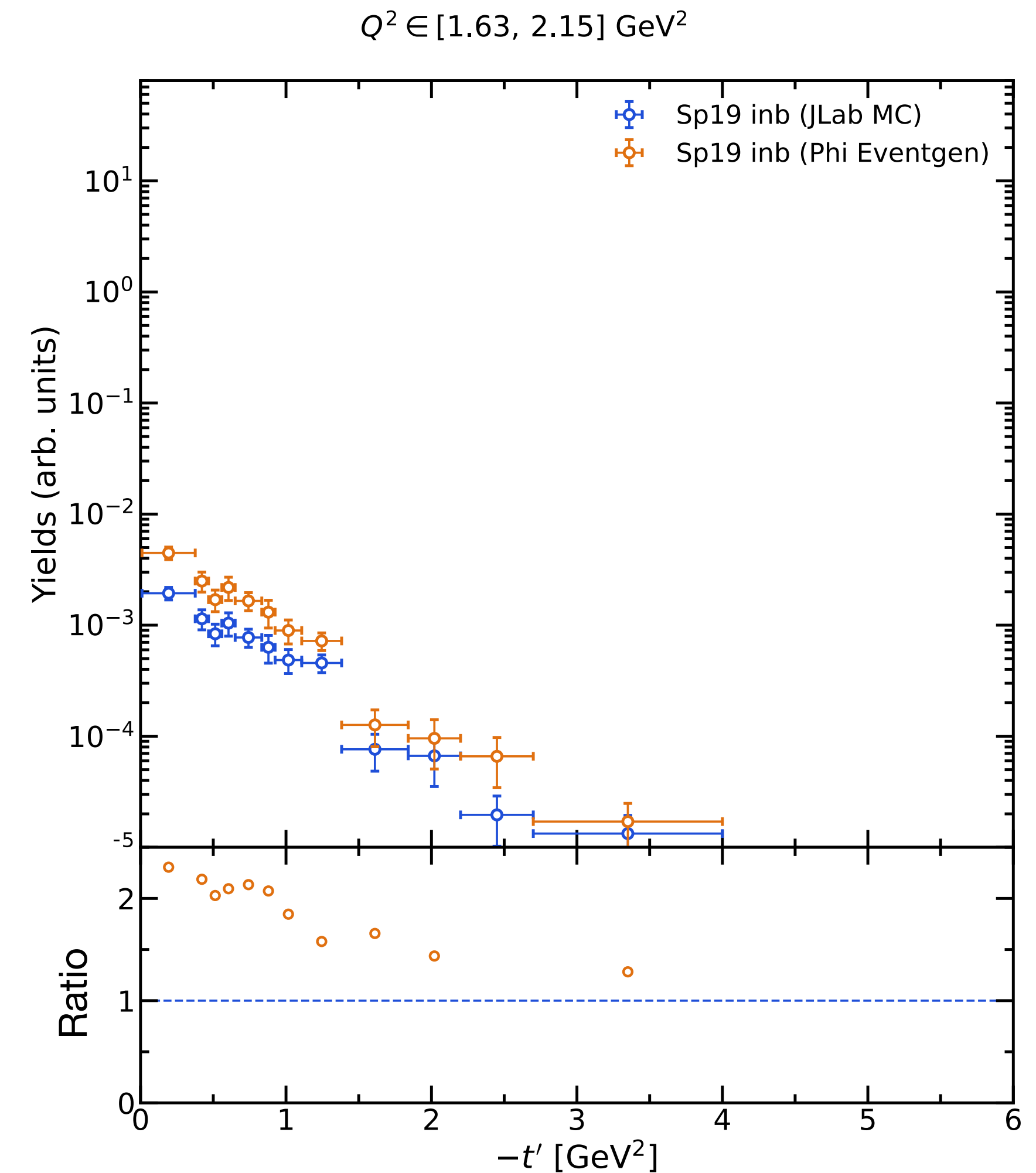
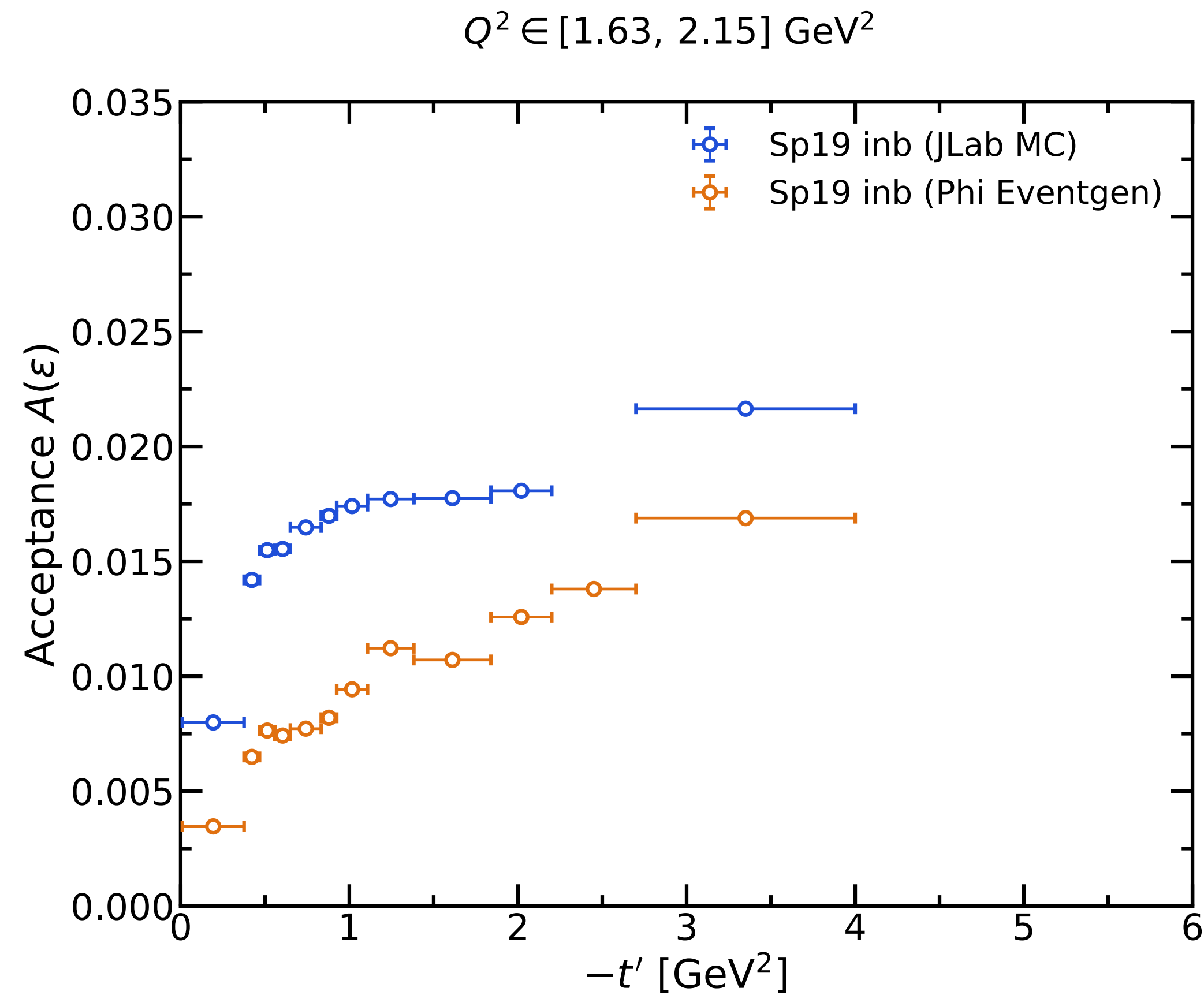


# MC can change things drastically (Reconstruction GEMC)

- While the reconstructed events have similar decay angle from both MC



# Impact on the acceptance

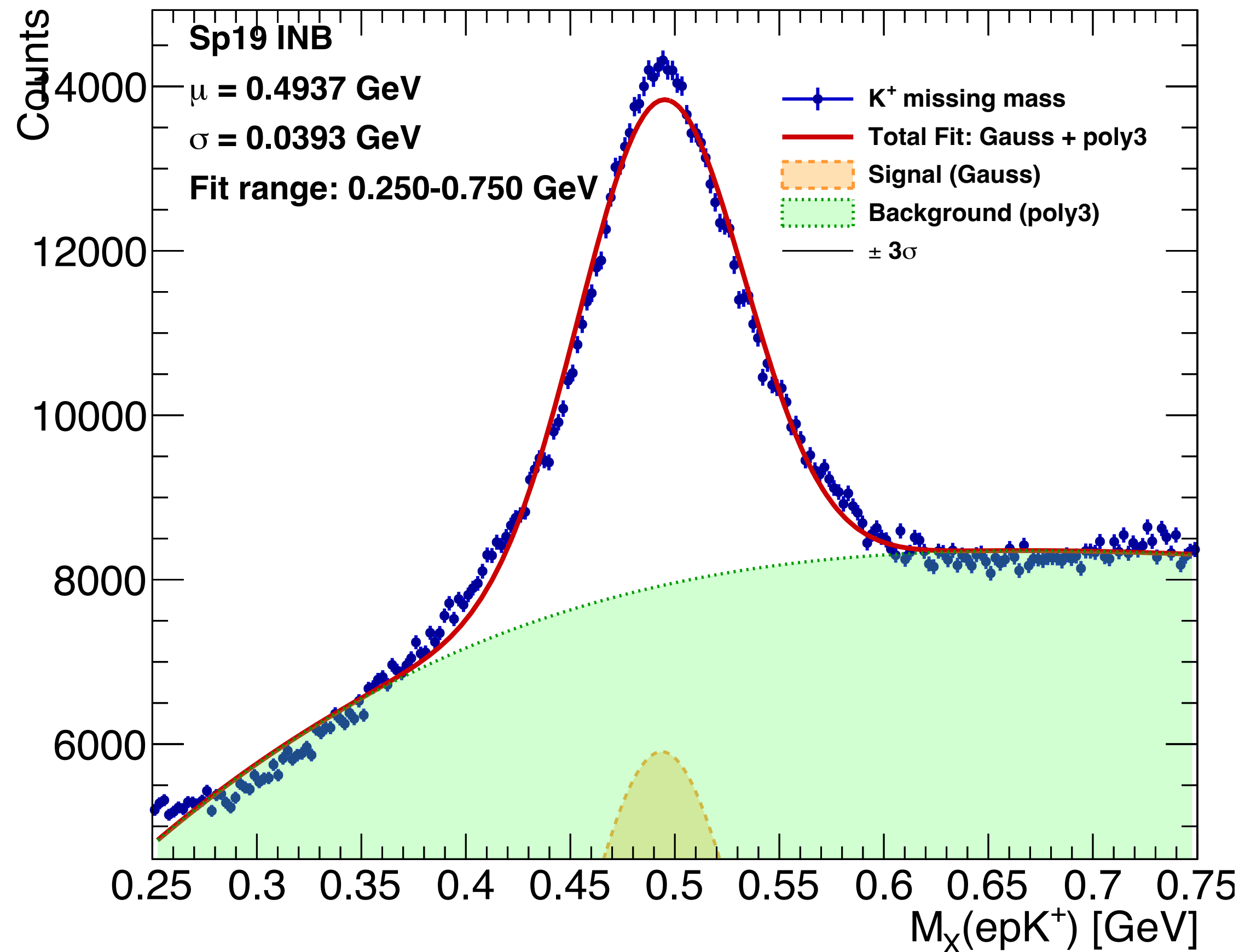


**The appropriate SDMEs in the generator is crucial for acceptance corrections for low statistics analysis!**

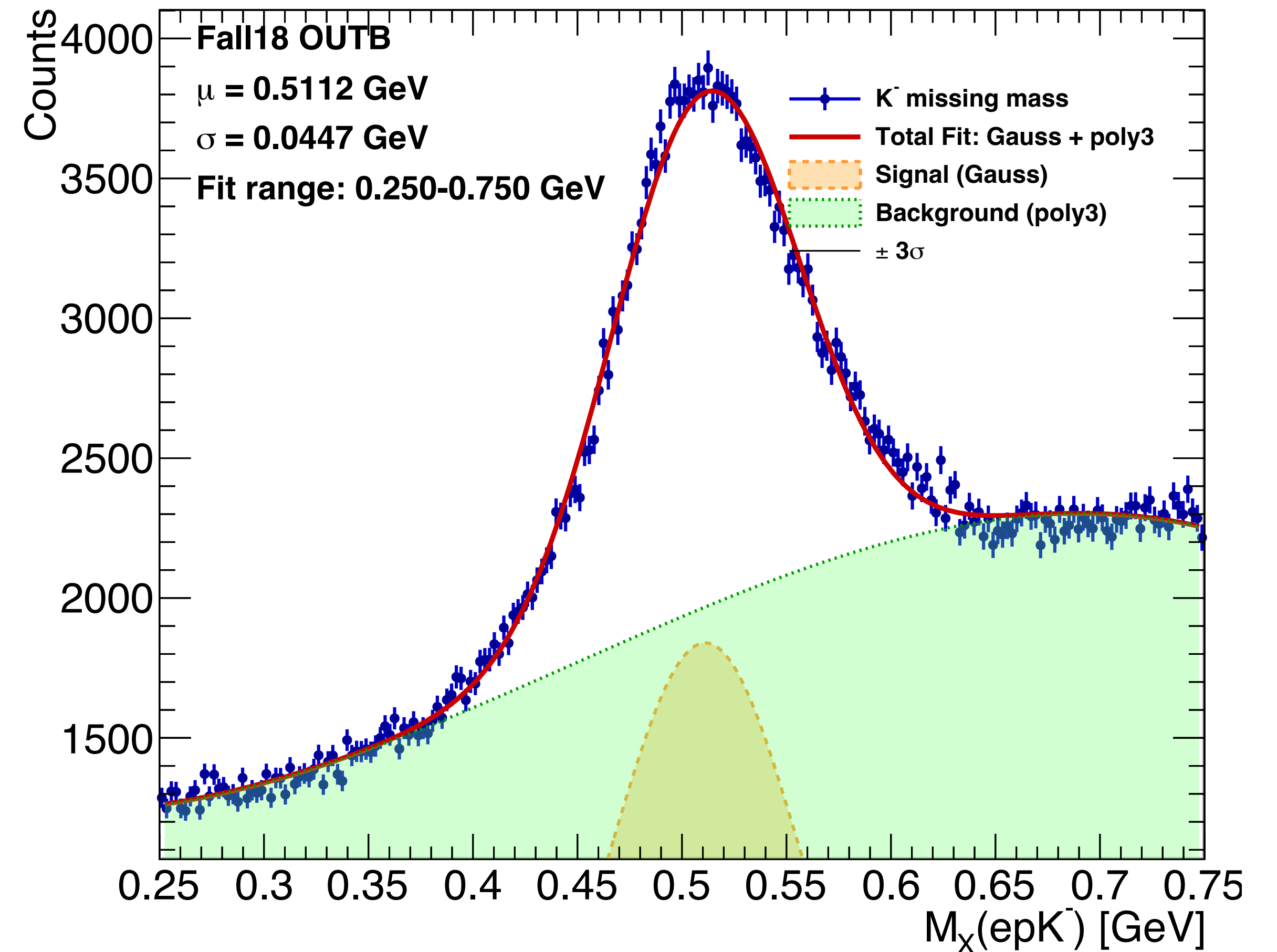
# Missing mass analysis

- Reconstruct the missing  $K^-$  peak at  $\sim 493$  MeV:  $\pm 3\sigma$  cut around the the peak

$K^-$  peak for  $ep \rightarrow epK^+(K^-)$



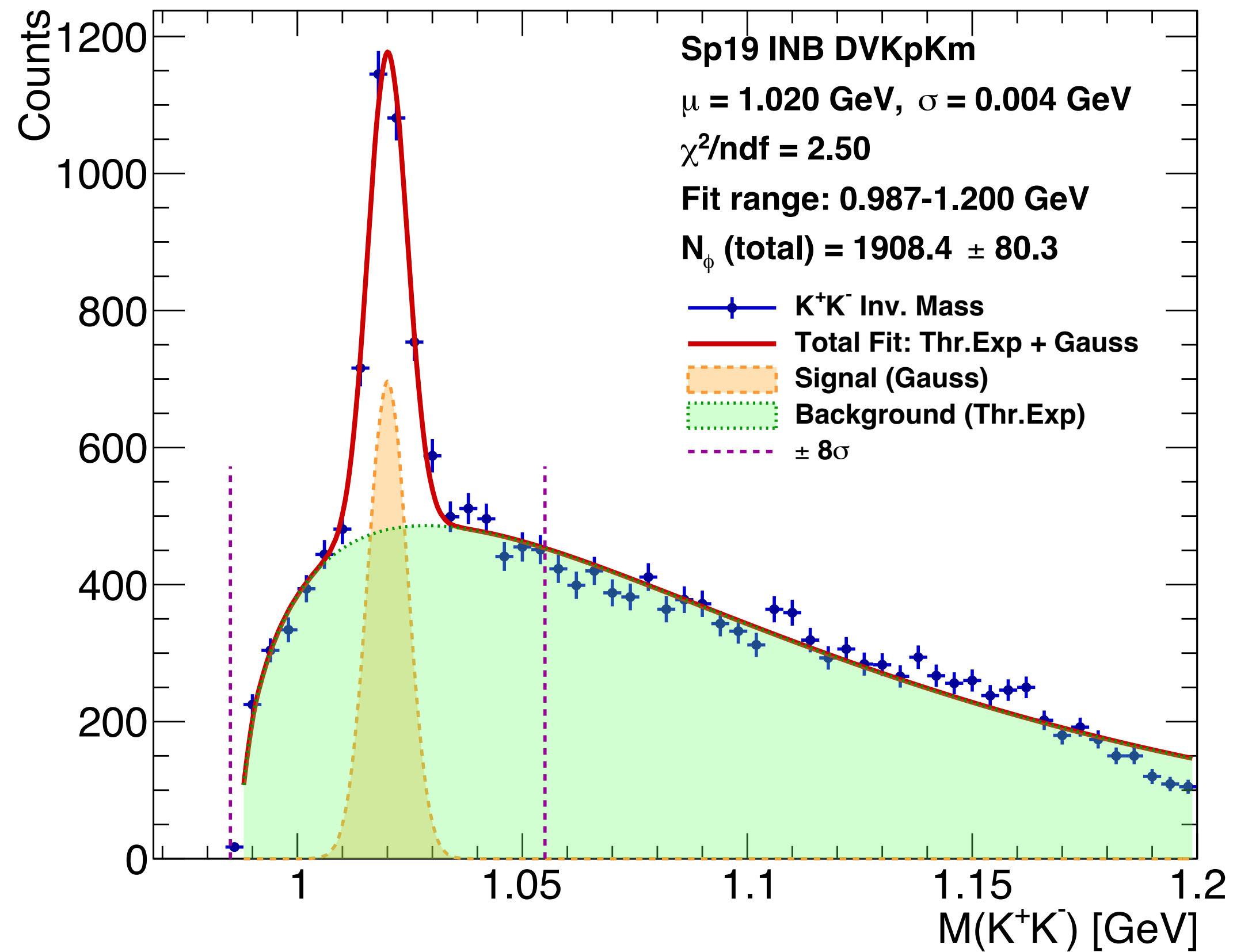
$K^+$  peak for  $ep \rightarrow epK^-(K^+)$



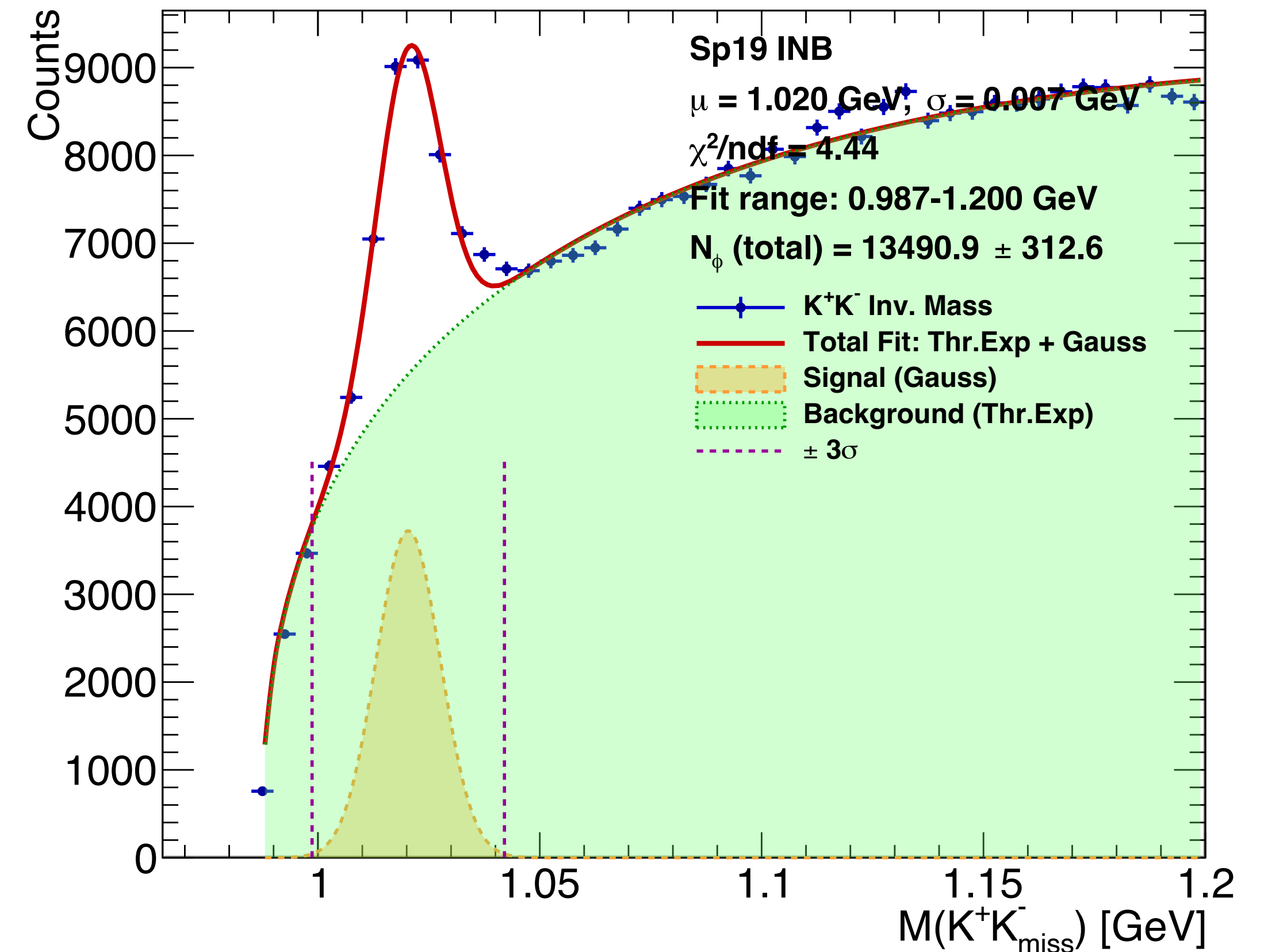
# Missing Mass vs Exclusive topology

- Enhanced statistics  $\sim 7$ - $8$  fold in the missing mass analysis.
- Larger background!

1908  $\phi$  candidates

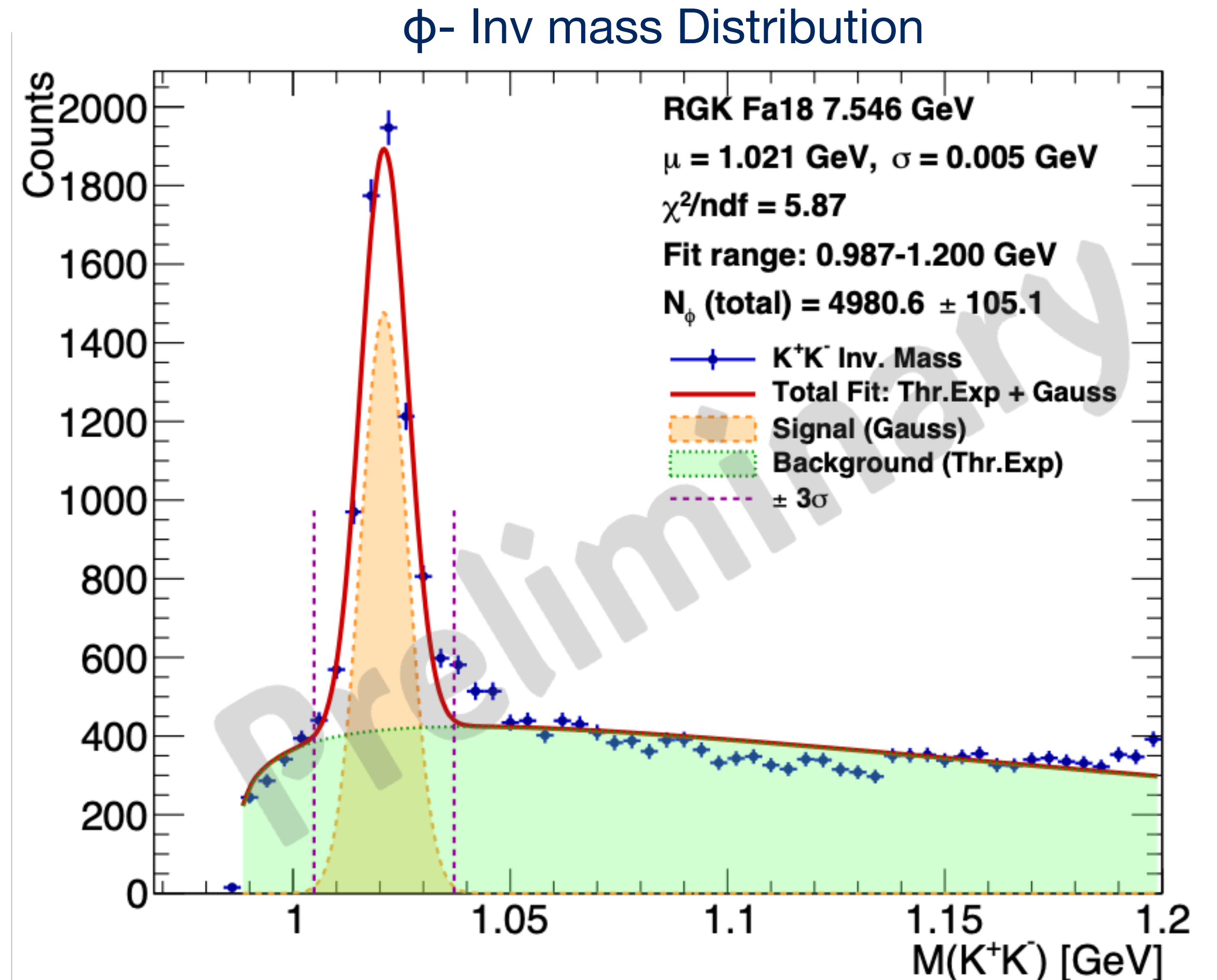
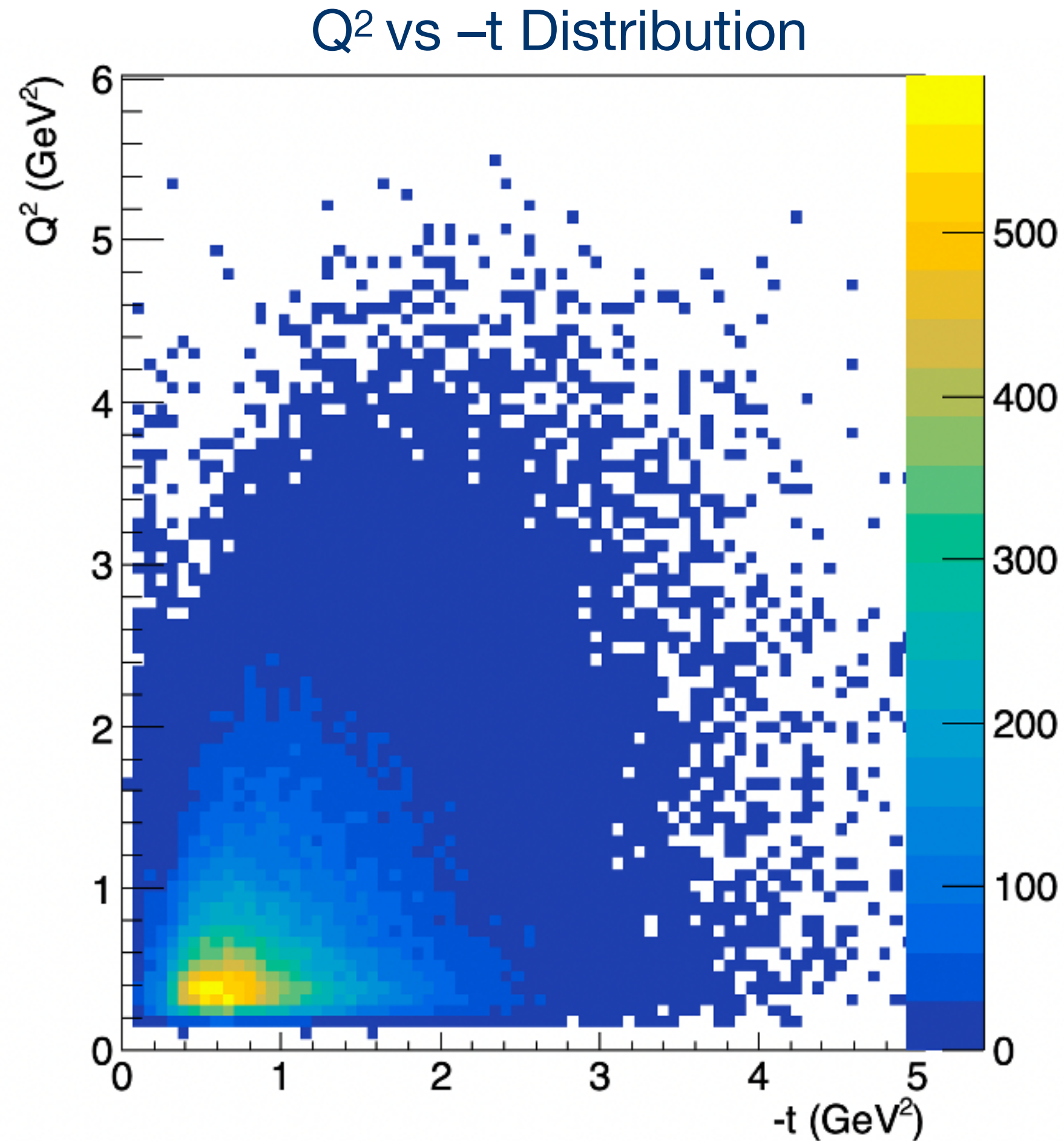


13490  $\phi$  candidates



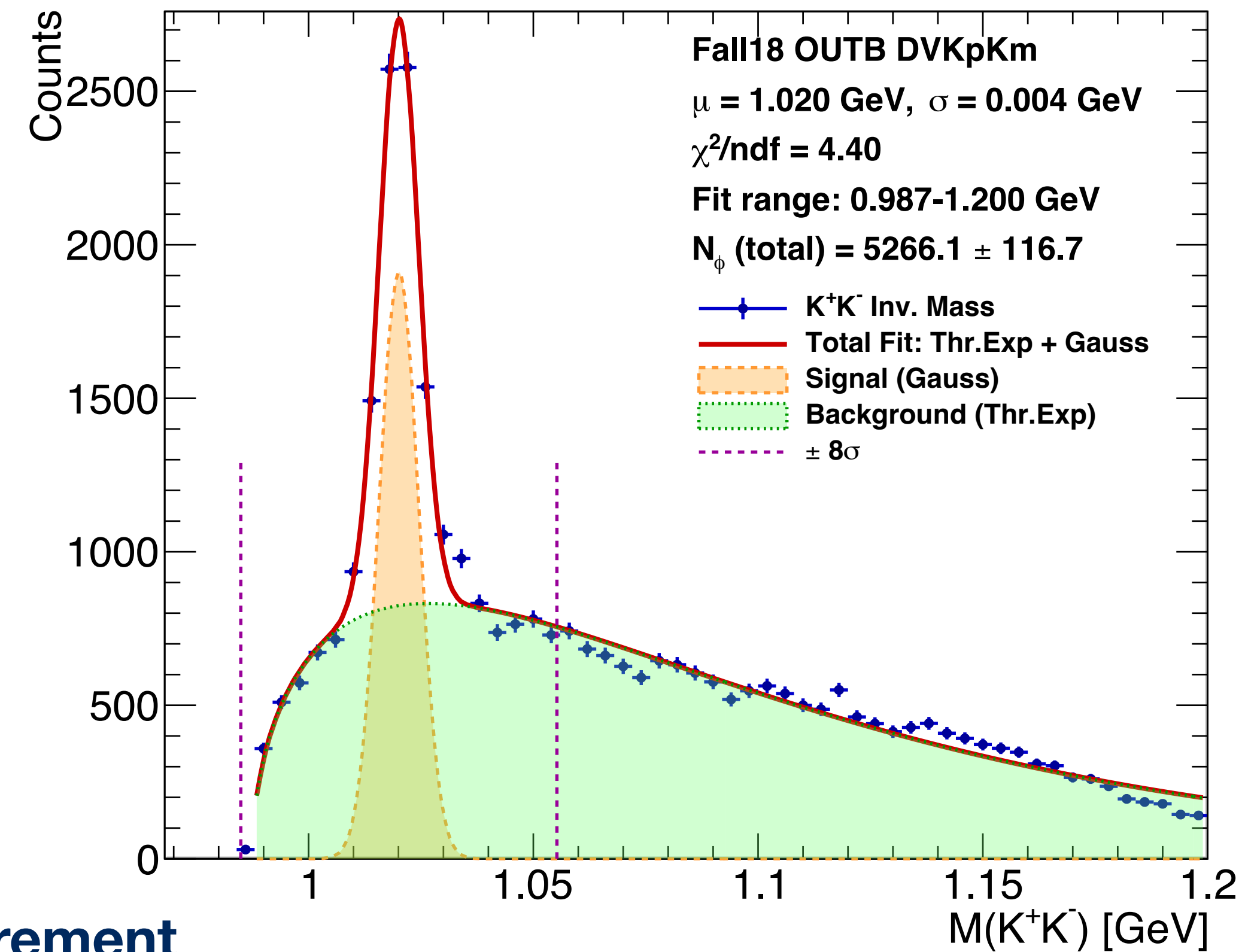
# Sneak peak: RGK Fall 2018 Outbending (pass2)

- Charge Decay Channel :  $ep \rightarrow e'p'\phi \rightarrow e'p'K^+K^-$  (Exclusive Topology)
- **Exp. data:** RGK, beam energy 7.546 GeV ~ 4980  $\phi$  candidates with full exclusive topology (135 runs)



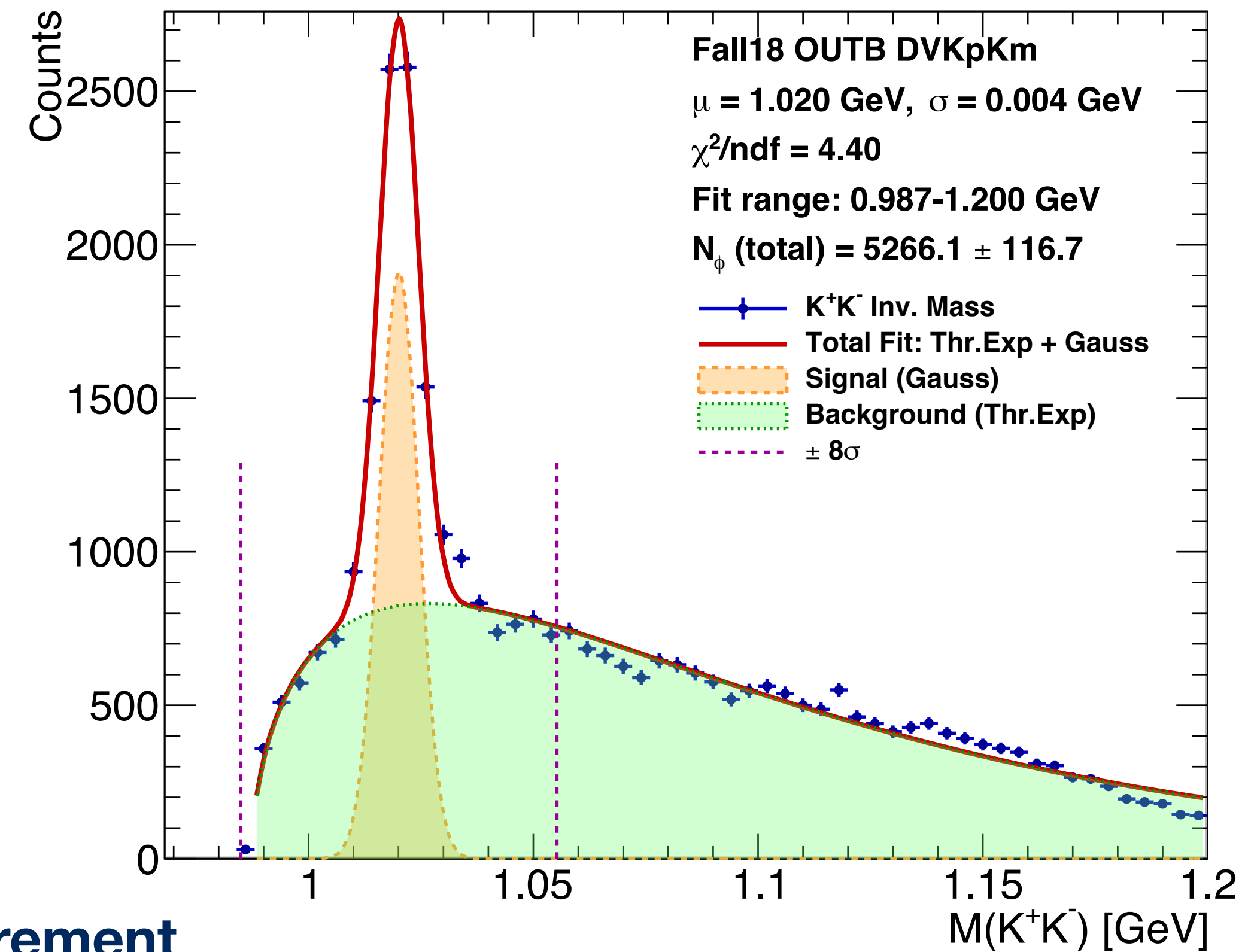
# Summary

- So far
  - First look at the exclusive  $\phi$  meson production combining all data set from RGA 10.6-10.2 GeV
  - Established missing mass analysis to enhance the statistics
- Next steps
  - Development of realistic **event generator with SDMEs**
  - Systematics on **acceptance** and efficiency corrections!
  - **More** data from different energies at **6.4, 6.5, 7.5, 8.4 GeV!**
- We need
  - **Theoretical calculations for better interpretation the measurement**



# Summary

- So far
  - First look at the exclusive  $\phi$  meson production combining all data set from RGA 10.6-10.2 GeV
  - Established missing mass analysis to enhance the statistics
- Next steps
  - Development of realistic **event generator with SDMEs**
  - Systematics on **acceptance** and efficiency corrections!
  - **More** data from different energies at **6.4, 6.5, 7.5, 8.4 GeV!**
- We need
  - **Theoretical calculations for better interpretation the measurement**

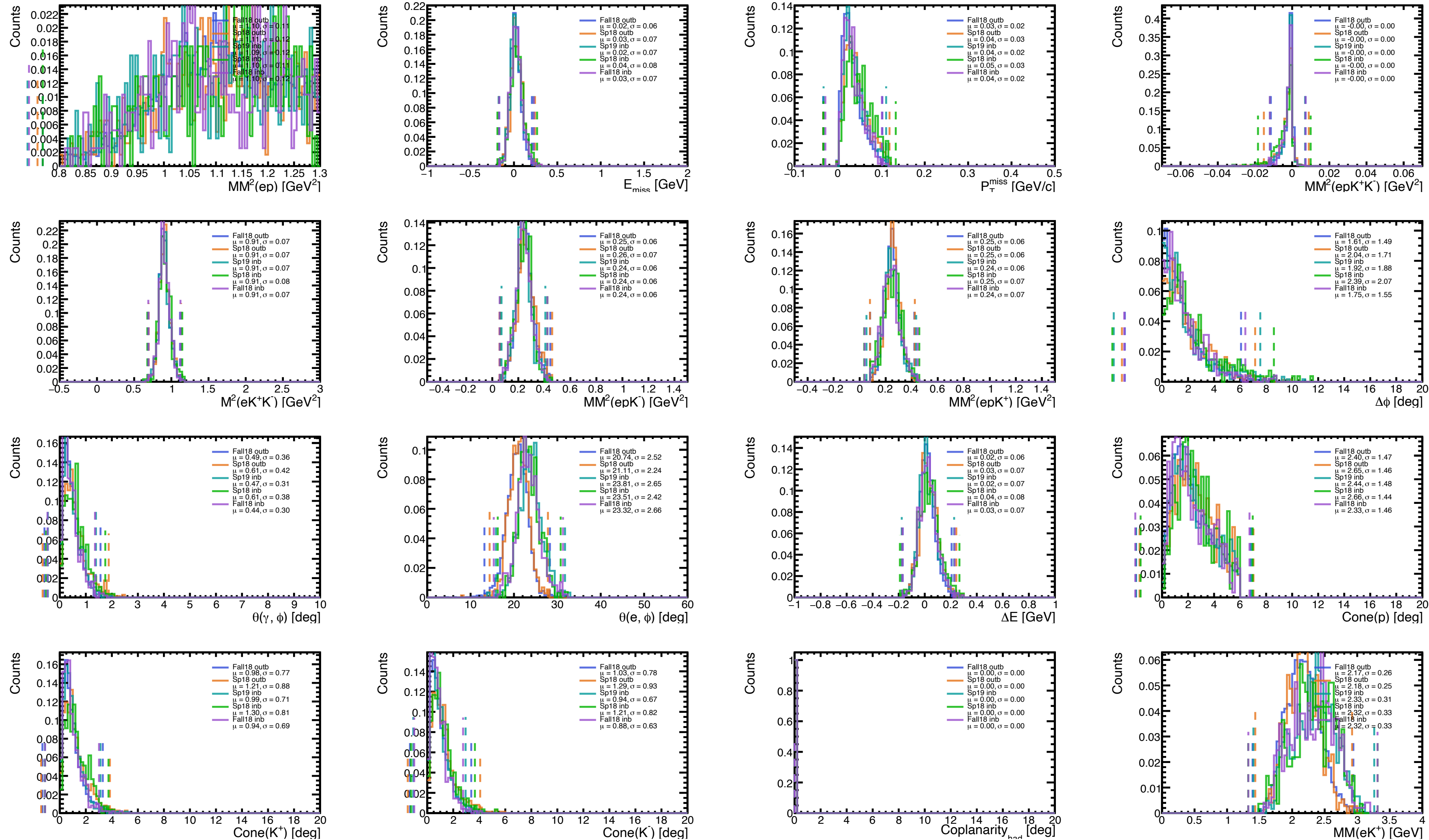


Thank you for your attention!

# Exclusivity cuts

- Proton in CD and Kaons in FD (less stat)
- Exclusivity variables are prior to phi mass peak cut
- Exclusivity cuts

$E_{\text{miss}} \in [-0.0075, 0.32] \text{ GeV}$   
 $P_{T\text{miss}} < 0.12 \text{ GeV}$   
 $M_{X^2}(\text{eK}^+\text{K}^-) \in [0.64, 1.1664] \text{ GeV}^2$   
 $M_{X^2}(\text{epK}^+\text{K}^-) < 0.0075 \text{ GeV}^2$   
 $M_{X^2}(\text{epK}^-) \in [0.08, 0.48] \text{ GeV}^2$   
 $M_{X^2}(\text{epK}^+) \in [0.08, 0.48] \text{ GeV}^2$   
 cone angles  $K_p/K_m/p < 6 \text{ deg}$   
 coplanarity  $< 15 \text{ degrees}$



# Venturing into Angular Distributions

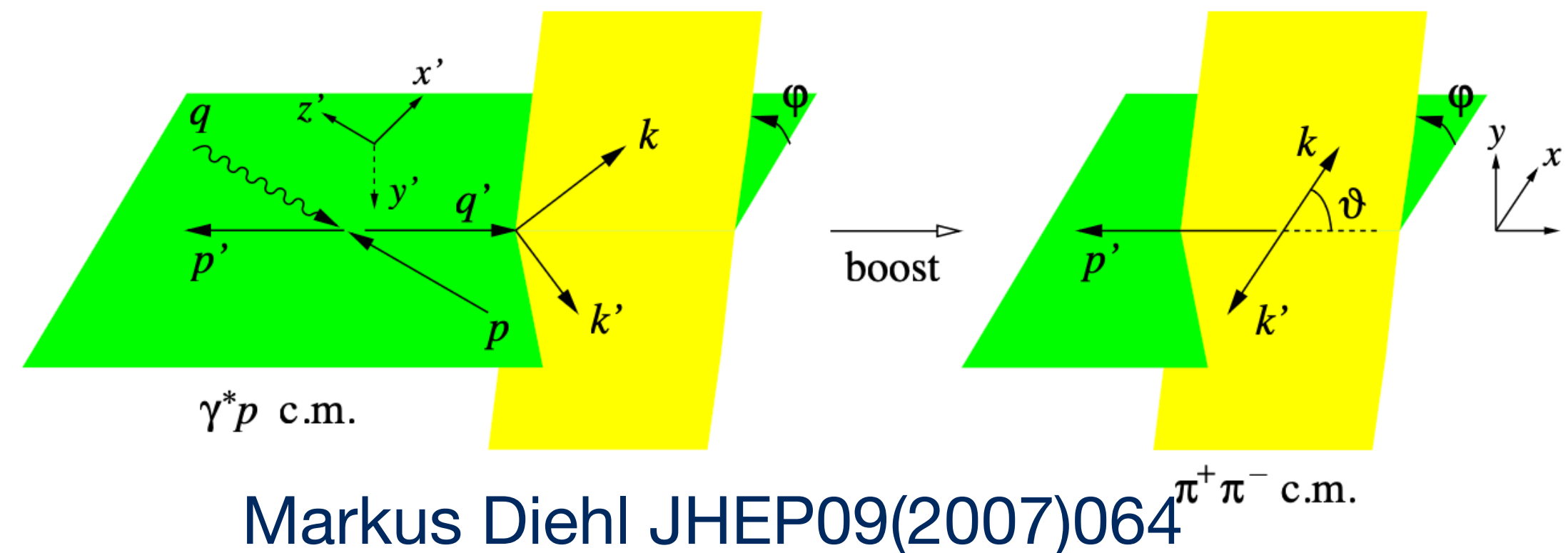
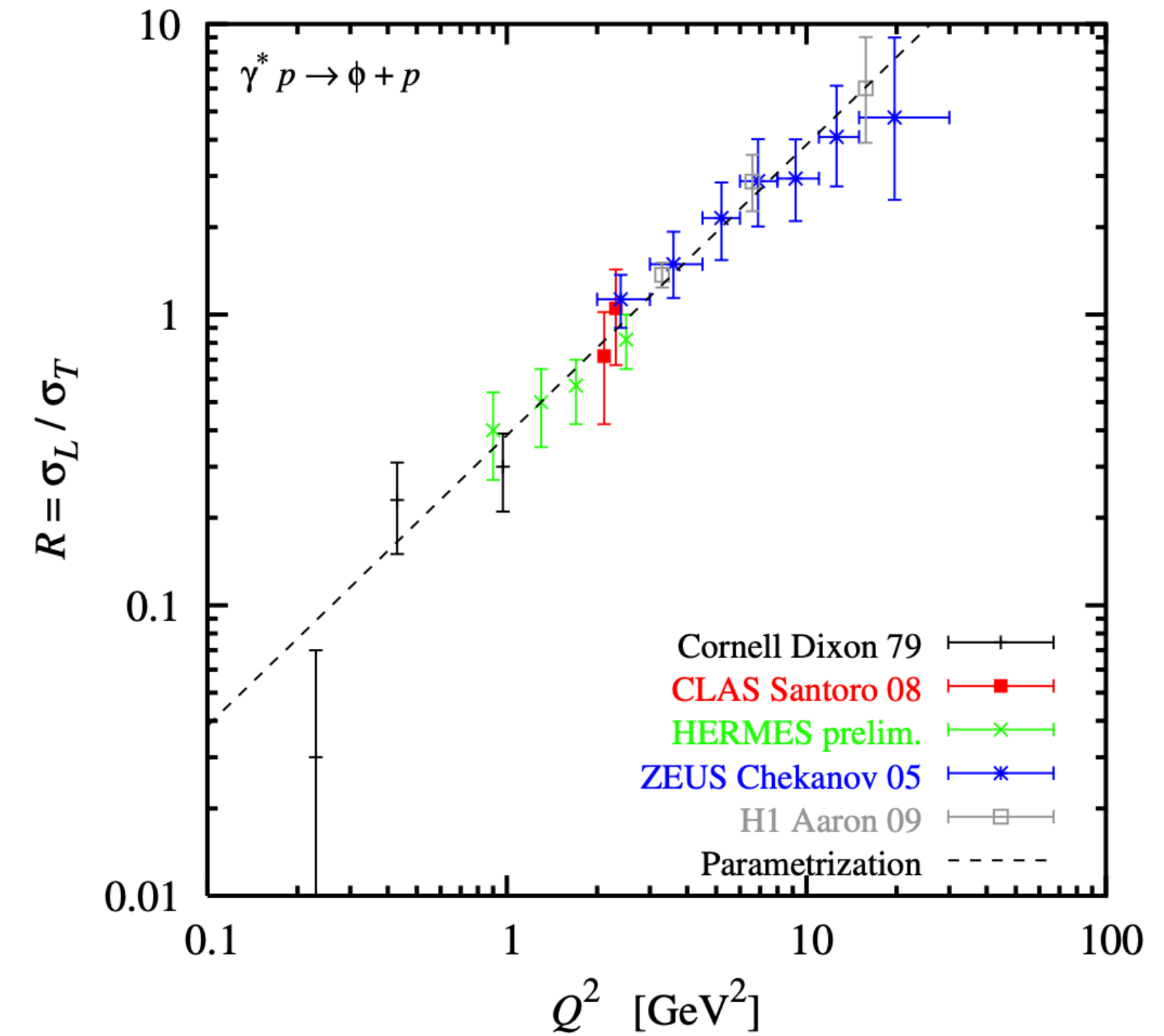
- It works at a single energy because  $\mathbf{R}$  comes entirely from the shape of the  $K^+K^-$  helicity-frame  $\cos \theta_H$  distributions

$$W(\cos \theta_H) = \frac{3}{4} \left[ (1 - r_{00}^{04}) + (3r_{00}^{04} - 1)\cos^2 \theta_H \right]$$

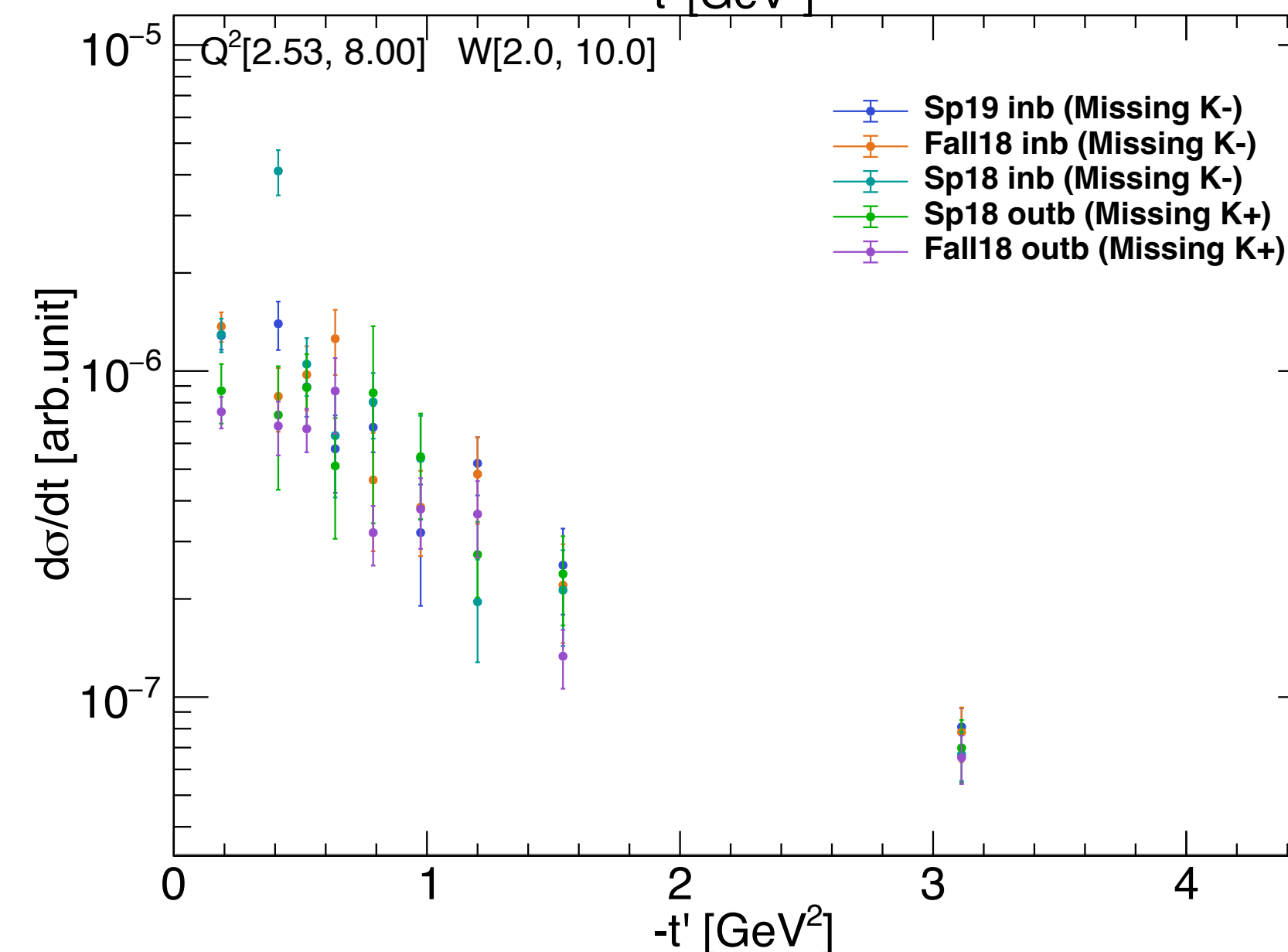
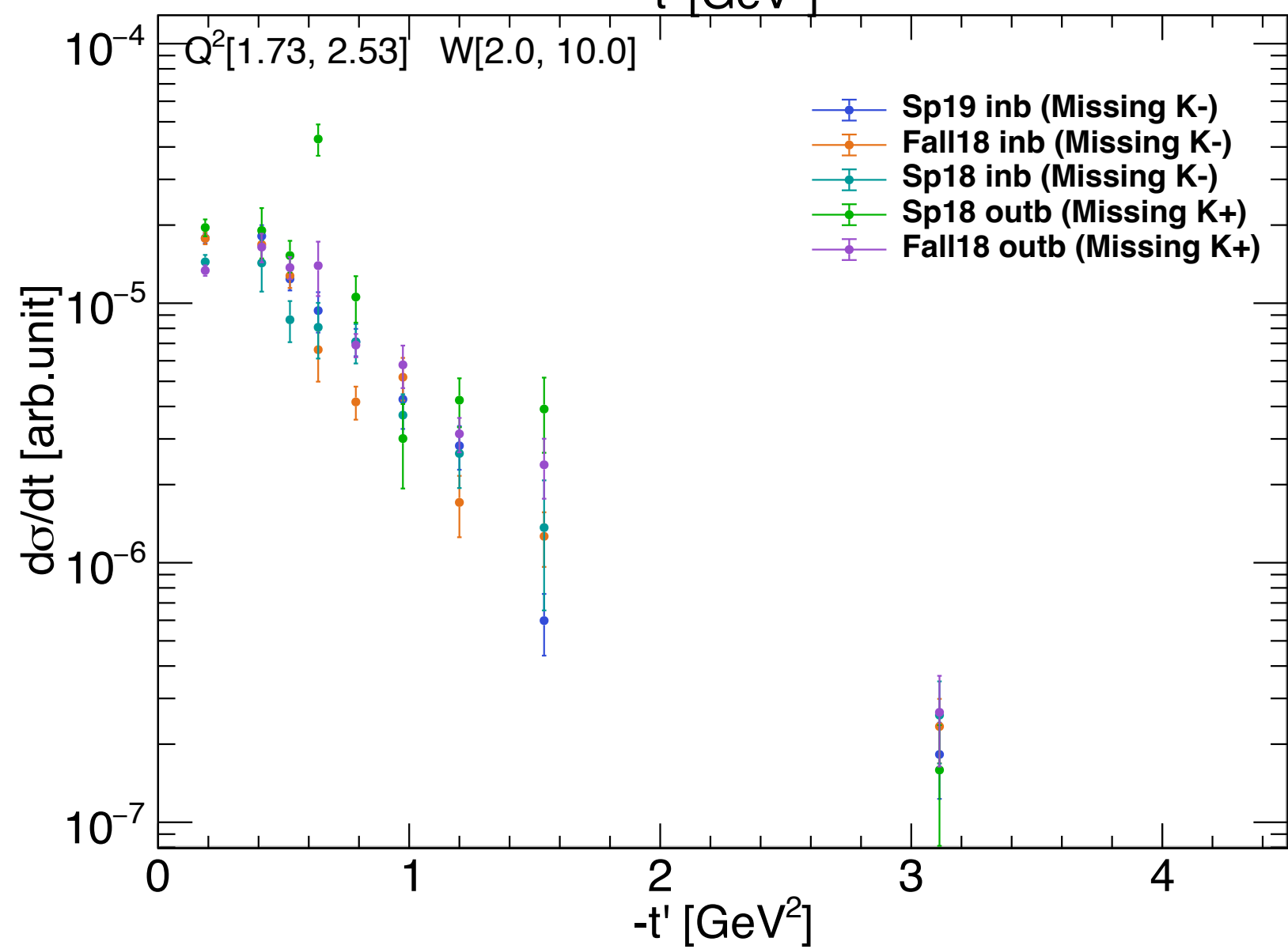
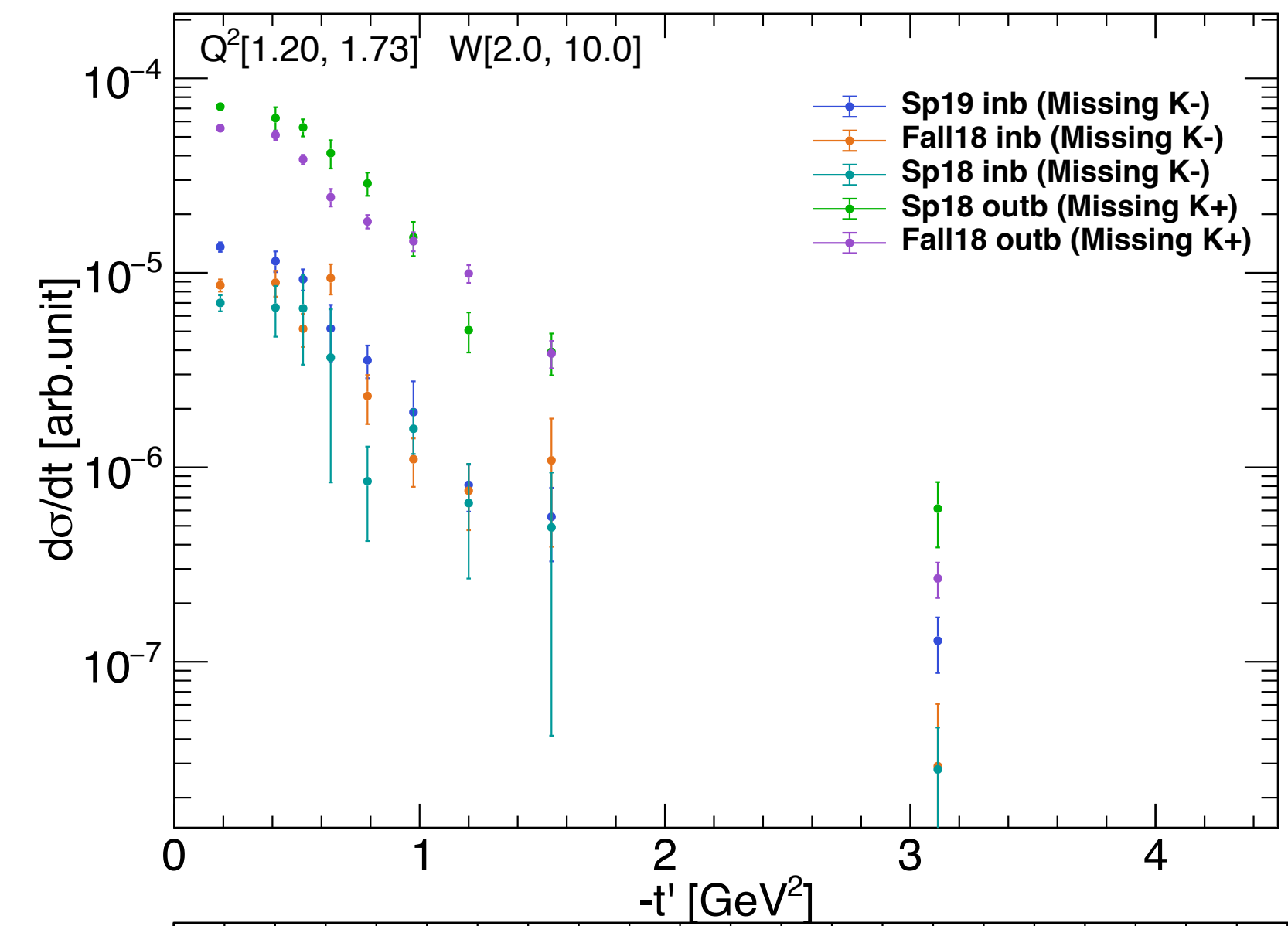
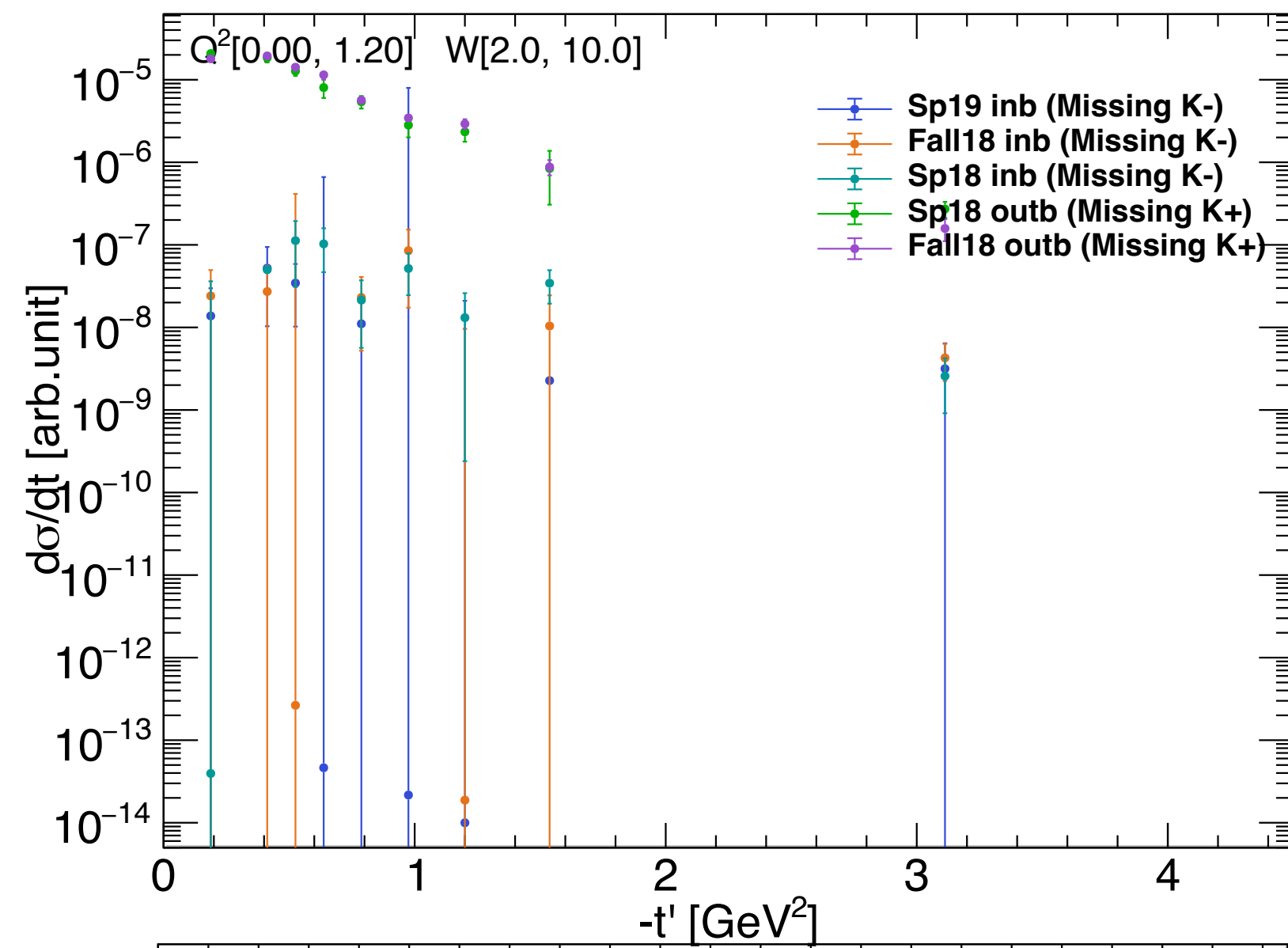
- The fit to this shape gives  $r_{00}^{04}$  with no reference to beam energy at all

$$R = \frac{r_{00}^{04}}{\varepsilon(1 - r_{00}^{04})}$$

- The  $\varepsilon$  is the tunable parameter to the beam energy — it is simply the kinematic value at the mean  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}^2$  of the bin



# Full statistics for all runs: momentum and QADB corrections



# Gluon radius extraction

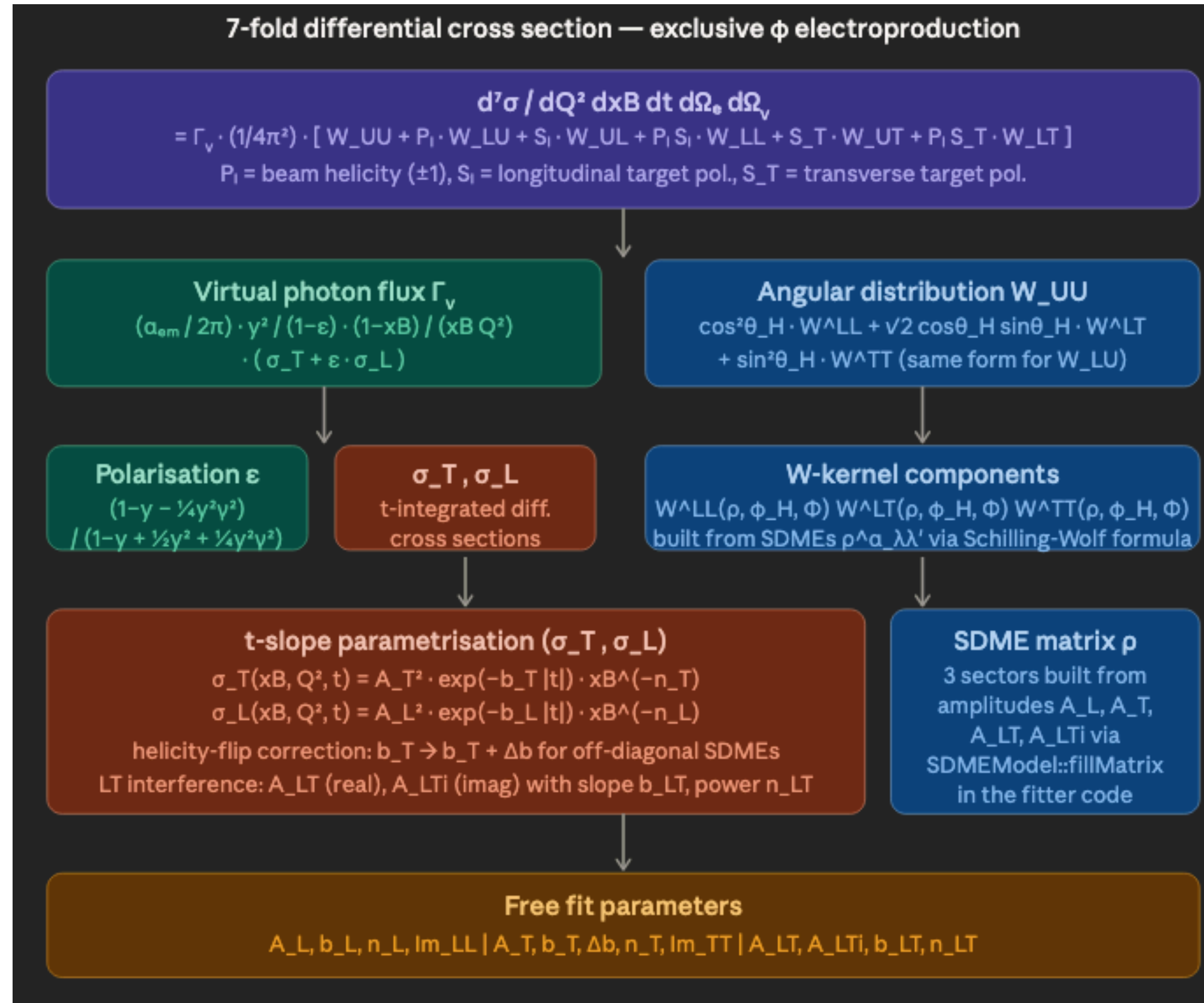
- Based on the PAC39 we can extract the gluon radius by assuming a dipole like behavior of the X

$$\text{Fit function } \frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{\sigma_0}{\left(1 + \frac{|t|}{m_g^2}\right)^4}$$

- Extract the mean gluon radius via the dipole mass:  $m_g^2 = \frac{8}{\langle b^2 \rangle_g} - |t_{\min}|$

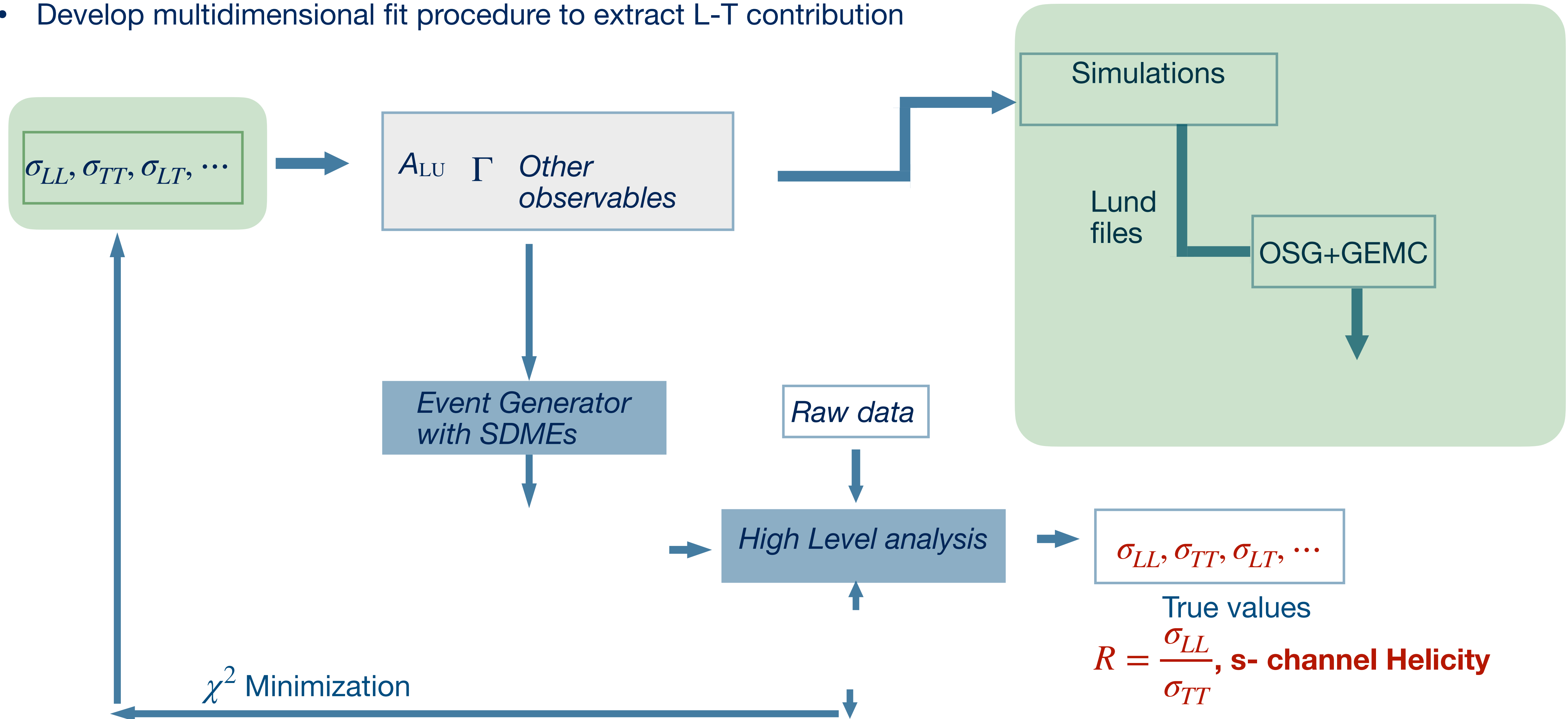
- Mean gluon radius as  $\langle b^2 \rangle_g = \frac{8}{m_g^2 + |t_{\min}|} \times (0.1973 \text{ fm})^2$  for different mean xB values

# The way we can compute directly the R



# Plan to tackle the MC situation

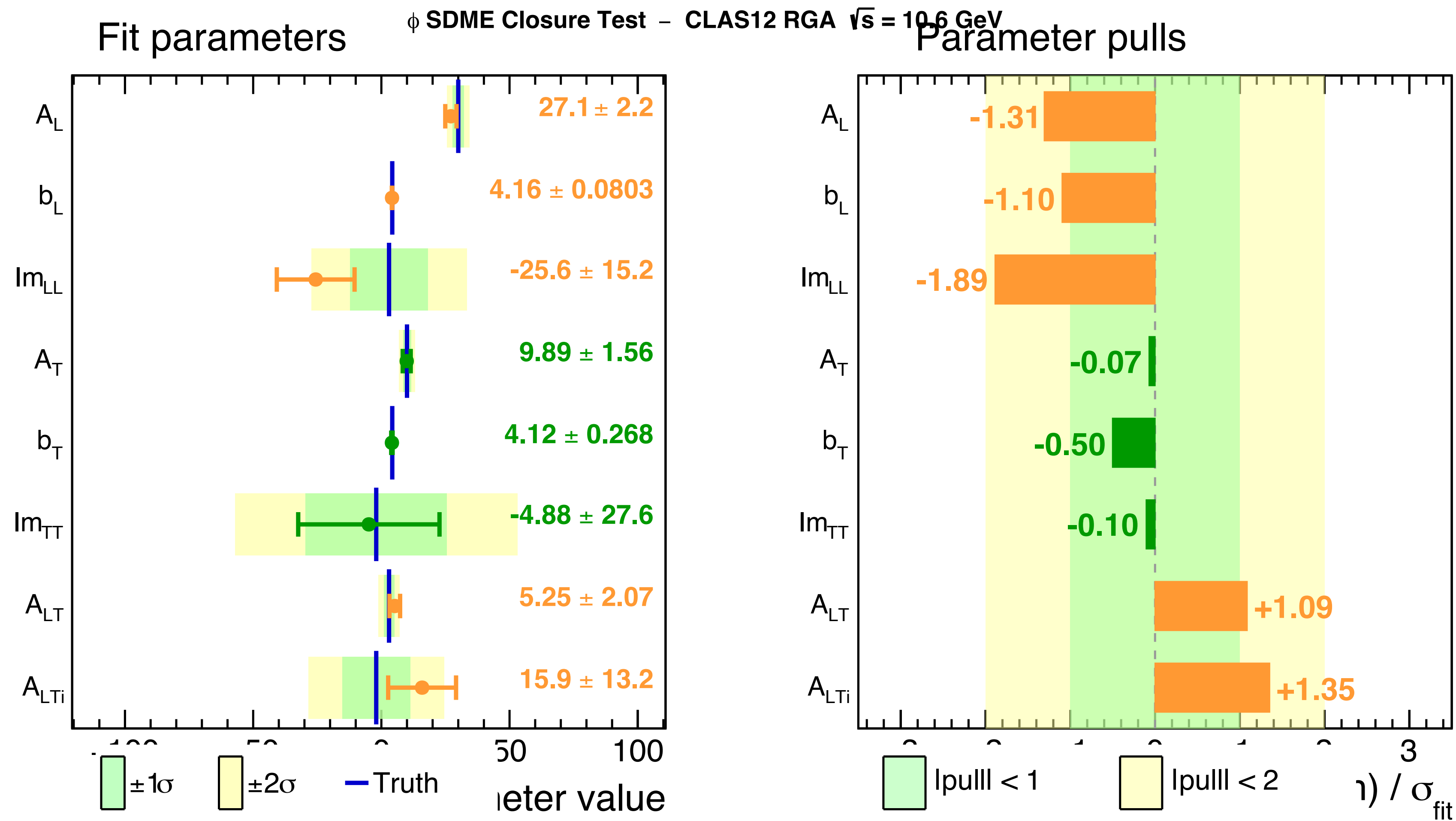
- Develop multidimensional fit procedure to extract L-T contribution



True values  
 $R = \frac{\sigma_{LL}}{\sigma_{TT}}$ , s- channel Helicity

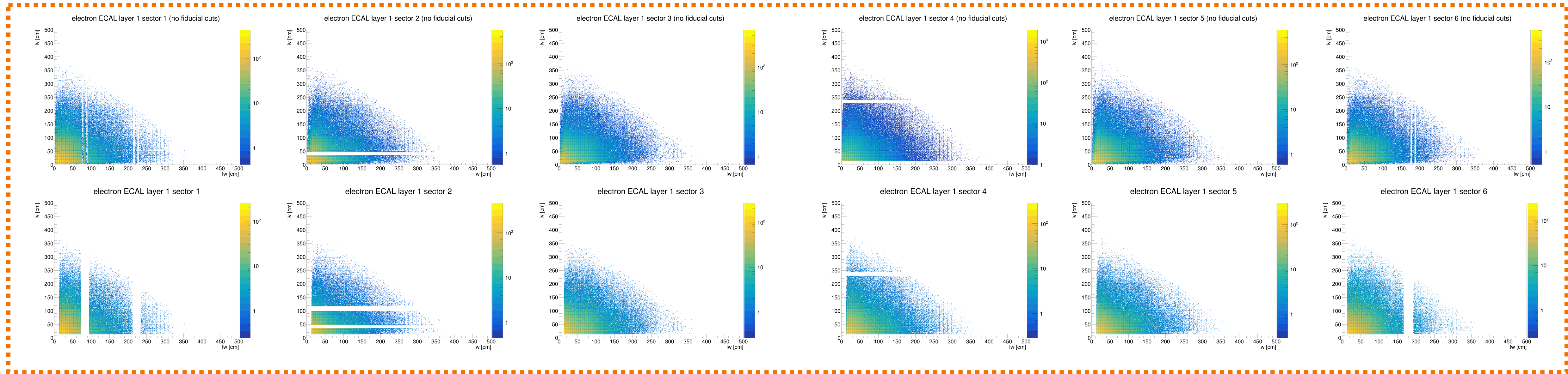
# Closure test for fitting procedure

- Take the generated cross-section with parameters +5 % smearing and expect the fits to return the similar parameters → **Closure test passed!**



# Fiducial volume for electron and hadrons

- FT, **FD**, and CVT regions with possible reconstruction inefficiencies are removed.



## Excluded PCAL cuts for electron

Edge cuts (all sectors): lw: 0.0–13.5, lv: 0.0–13.5cm  
 Sector 1: lw: 72–94.5cm, 211.5–234cm  
 Sector 2: lv: 99–117.5cm  
 Sector 3: lv: 346.5–378cm  
 Sector 4: lv: 0–13.5cm, 229.5–243cm  
 Sector 6: lw: 166.5–193.5cm

## Similarly for EC<sub>in</sub>

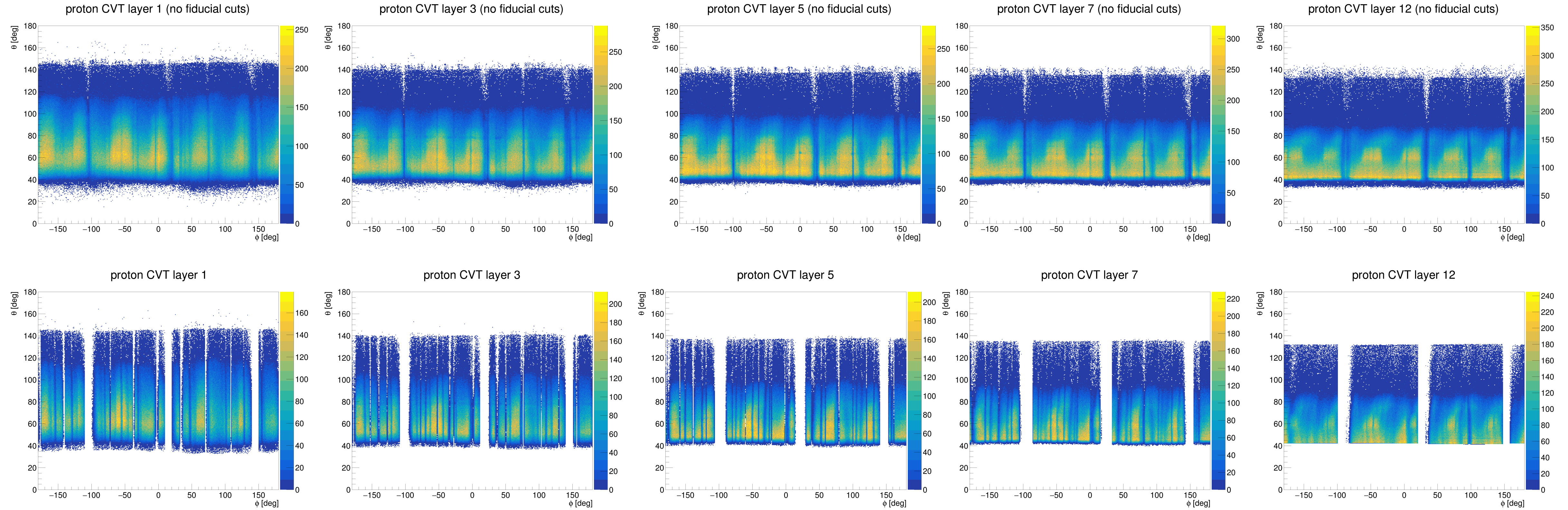
Sector 1 lv: 67.5cm – 94.5cm  
 Sector 4 lw: 0.0cm – 23.5cm  
 Sector 5 lv: 0.0cm – 23.5cm  
 Sector 6 lv: 0.0cm – 23.5cm

## Similarly for EC<sub>out</sub>

Sector 1 lv: 0.0cm → 40.5cm  
 Sector 5 lw: 193.5cm → 216.0cm

# Fiducial volume for electron and hadrons

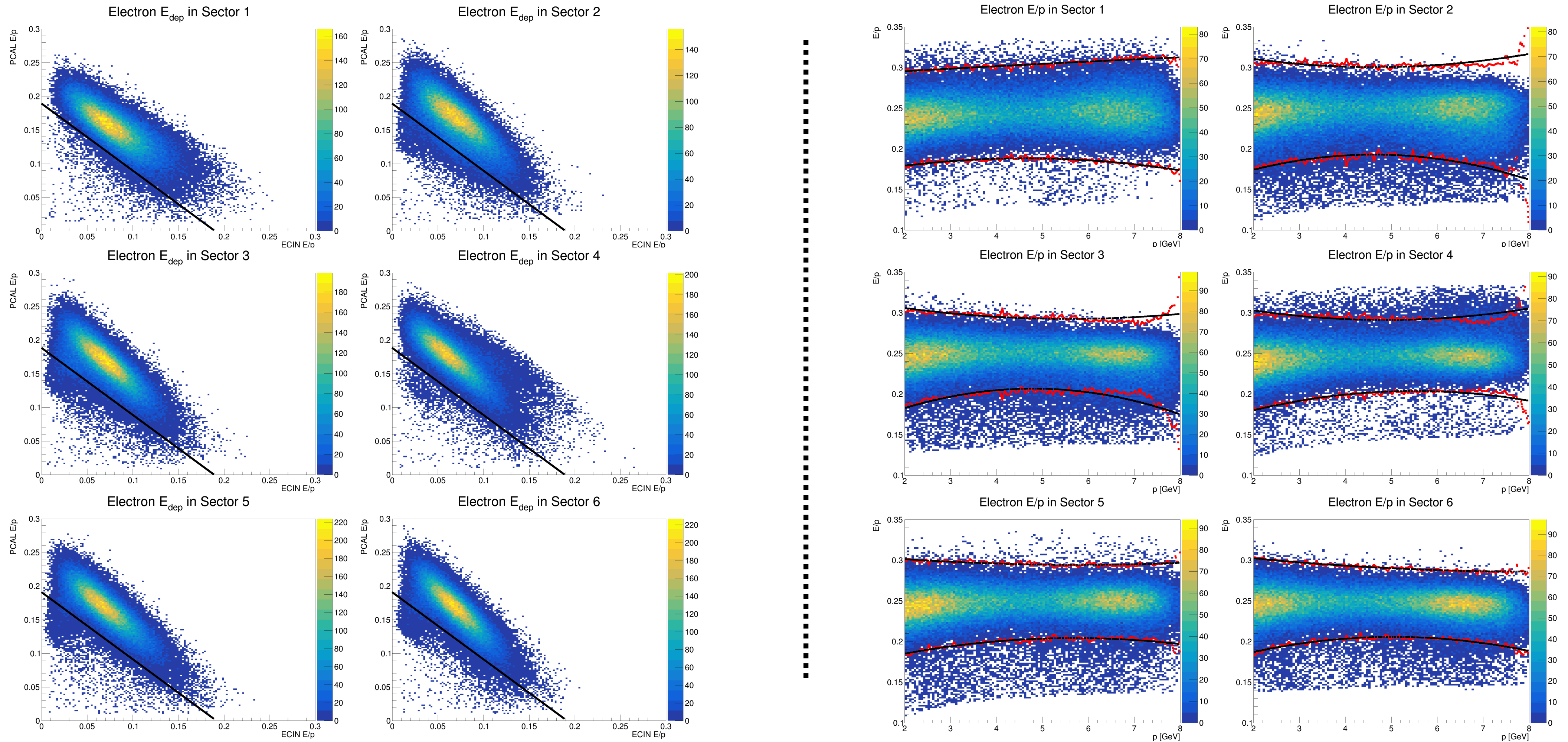
- FT, FD, and **CVT** regions with possible reconstruction inefficiencies are removed.



- CVT regions for  $\chi^2/\text{NDF}$  is non-flat below the edge variable **Fiducial cuts for the layer 1, 3, 5, 7, and 12)**
- **Sampling fraction cuts for electron, and energy loss corrections for proton are applied.**
- **QADB cuts to select the good run/events**

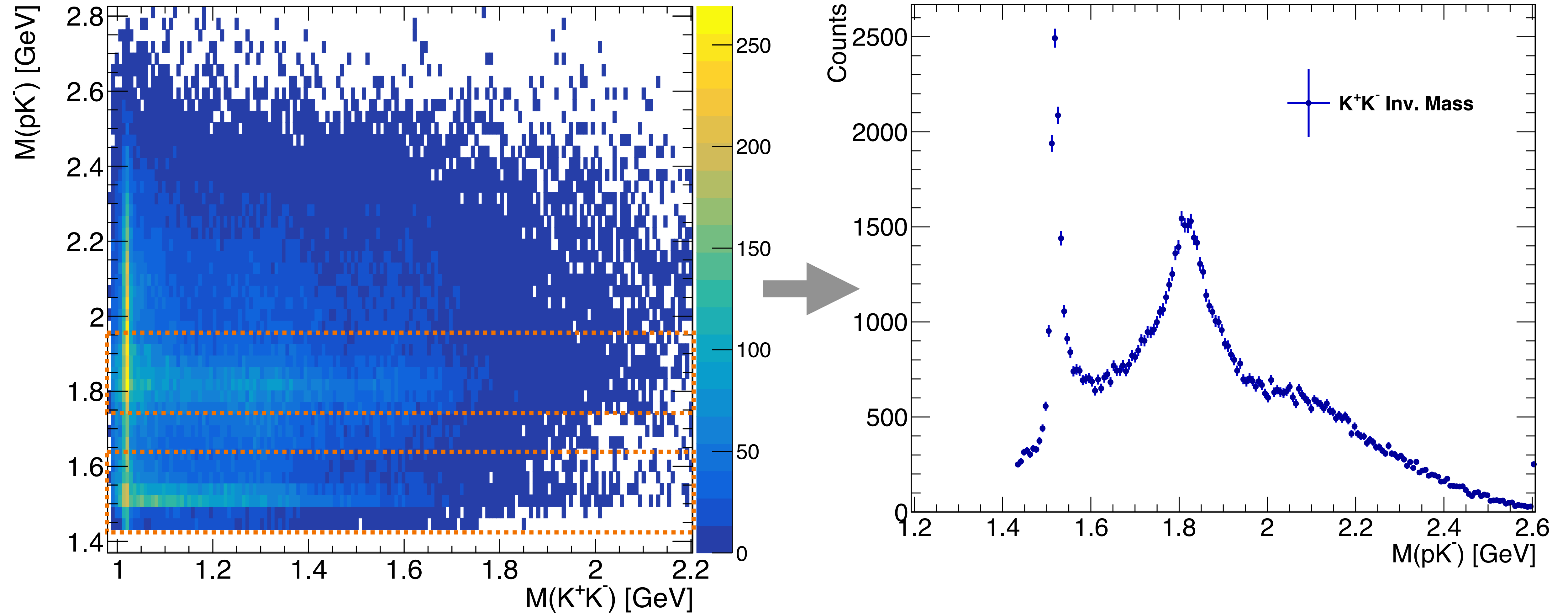
# Electron sampling fraction (spring 2018 inb)

- To reduce the contamination in the electron sample we enforce  $\pm 3$  sigma cuts on  $E/P$  distributions and PCAL  $E/p$  vs ECin  $E/p$  diagonals cuts to separate possible  $\pi^-$  contaminations



# Background under the signal

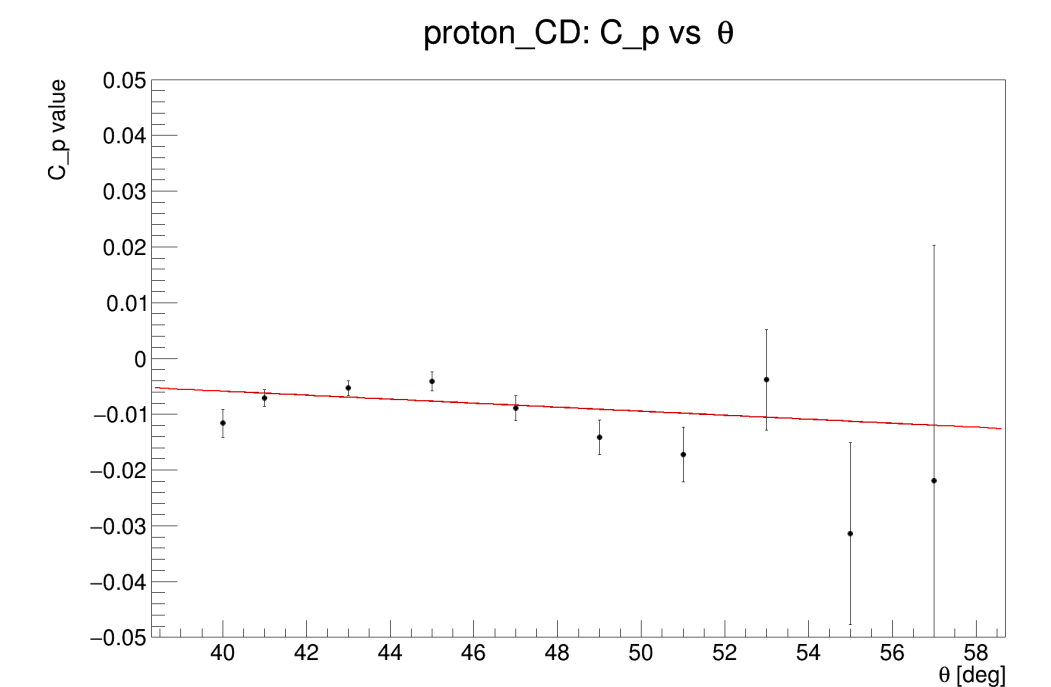
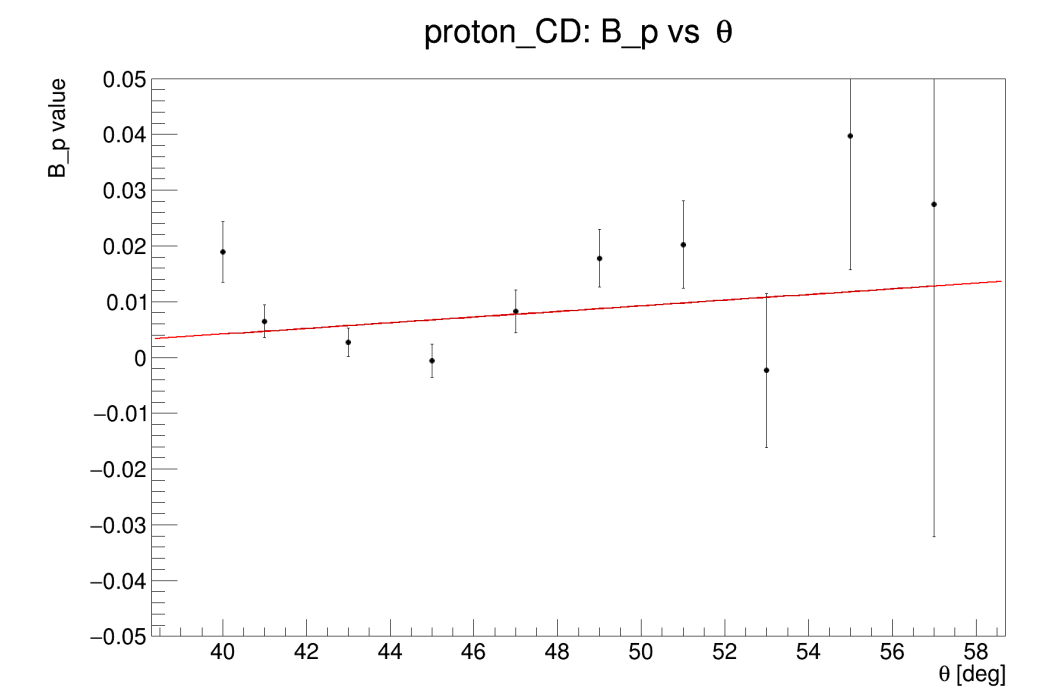
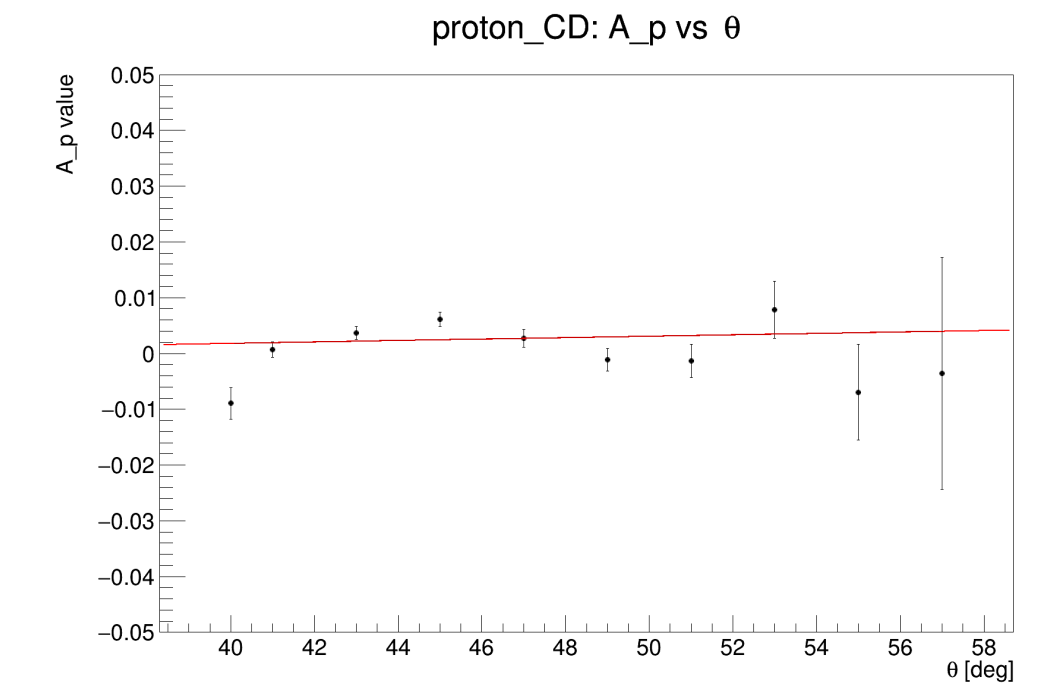
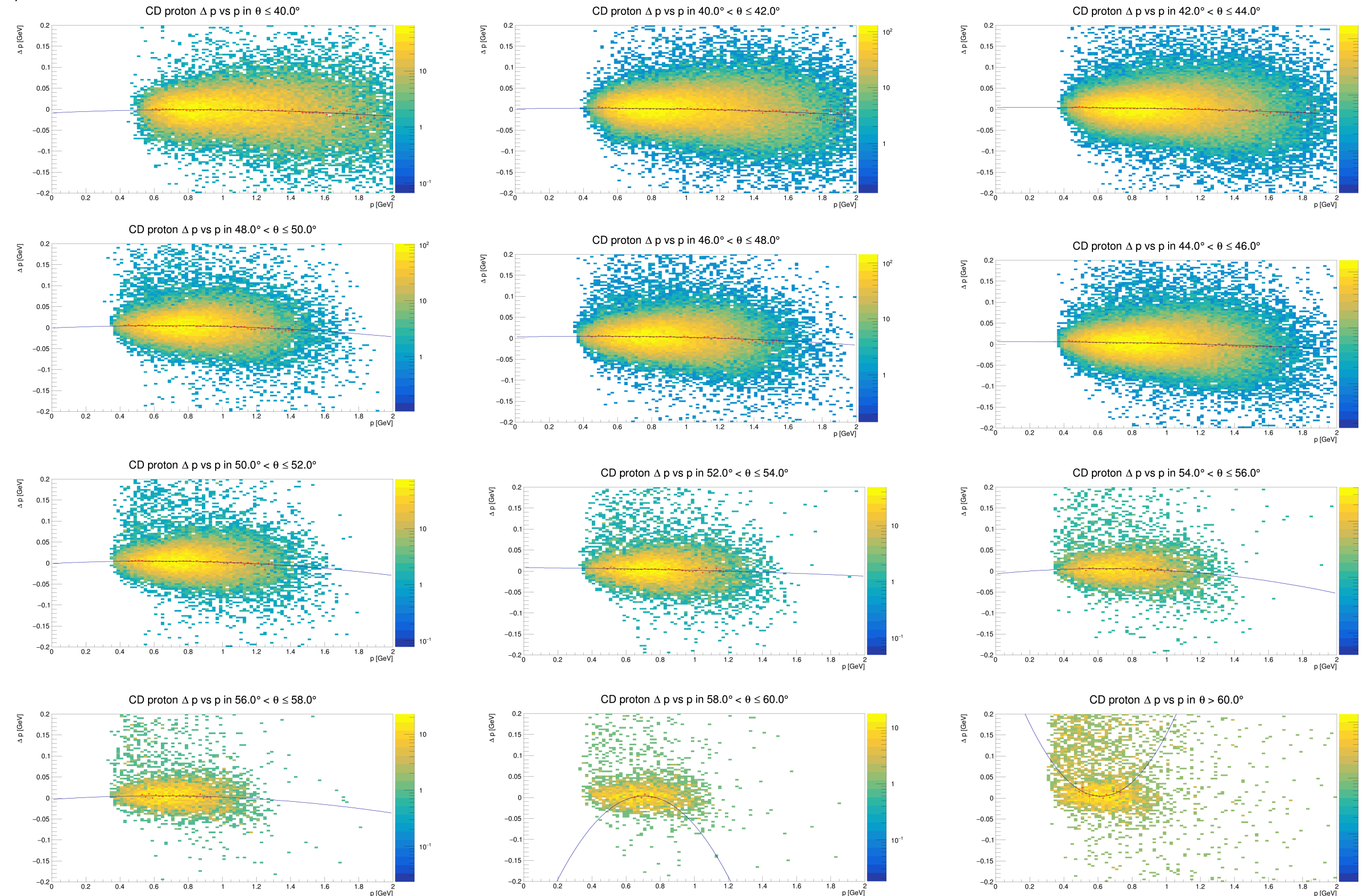
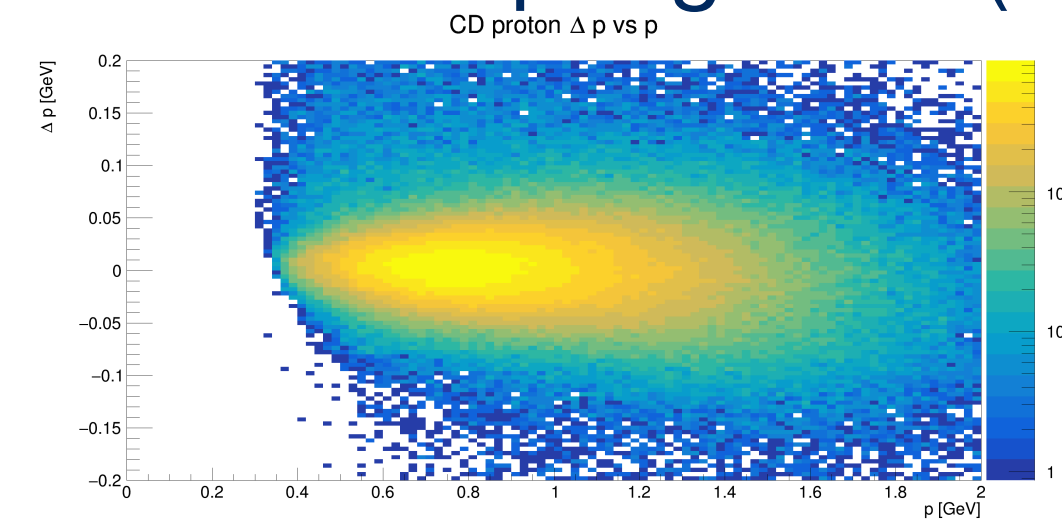
- Production of  $\Lambda^*(1520,1830)$  can lead to contamination in the phi DVMP channel



# Energy loss corrections RGA (spring 2018 inb)

- Here spring 2018 (Fall 2018, spring 2019 T. Hayward see slides:)

$$\Delta p = A + B \cdot p + C \cdot p^2$$



**CD  
Proton**

# Benchmark: Fall2018\_inb proton energy loss correction

CD

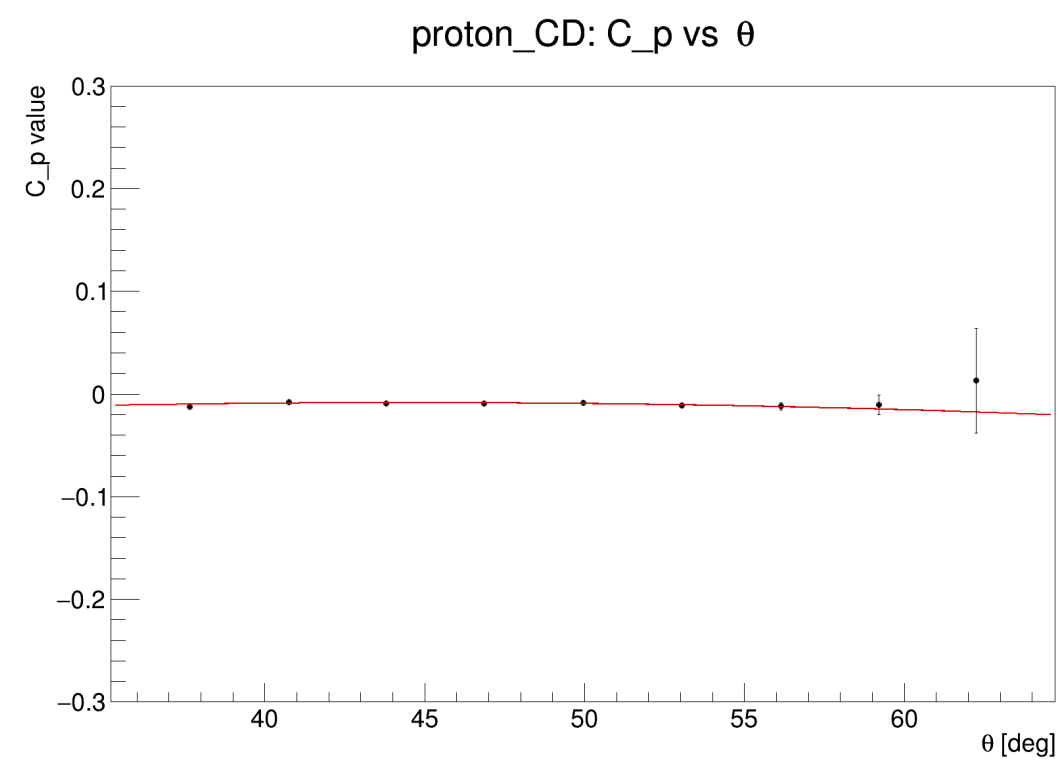
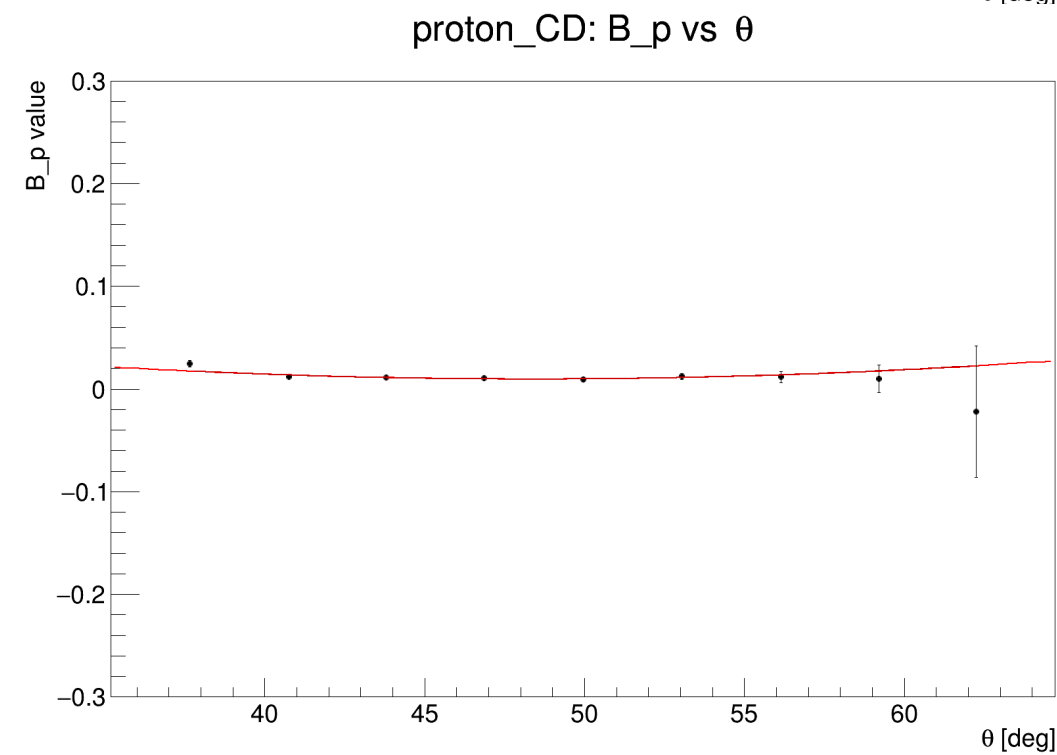
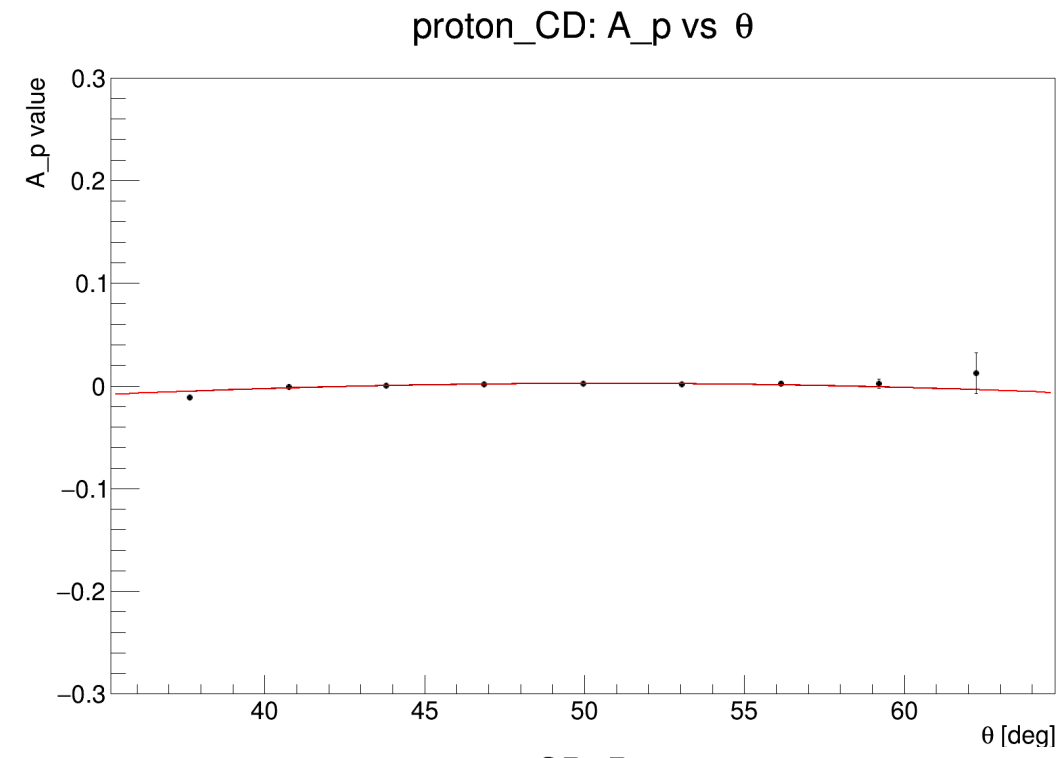
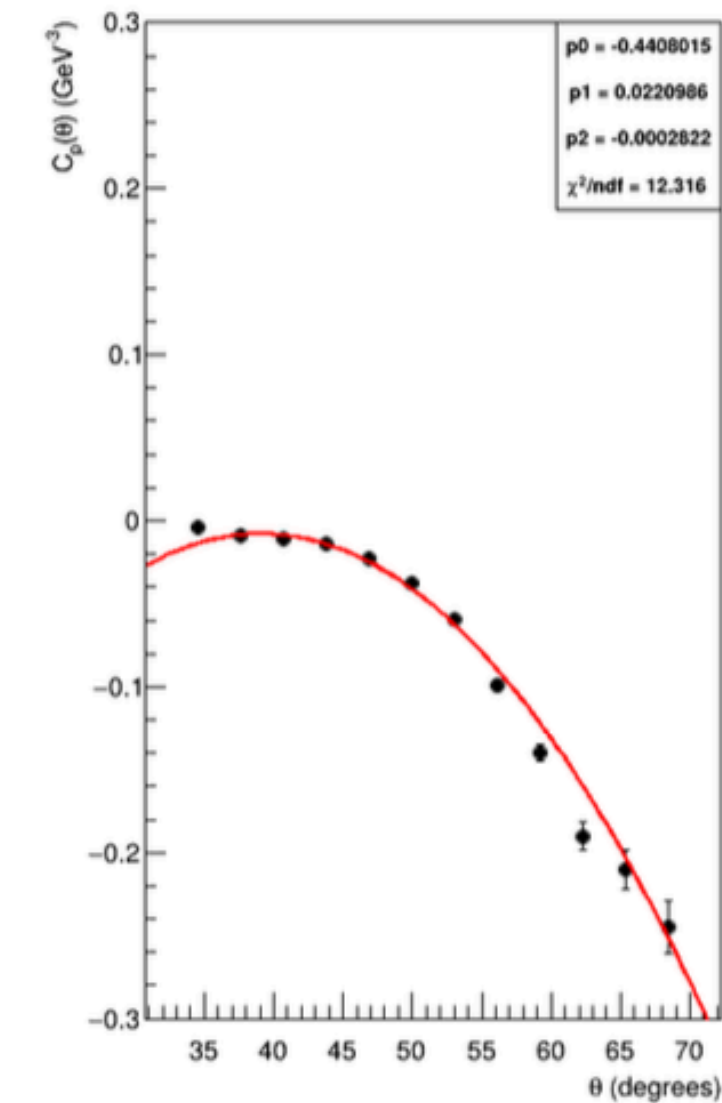
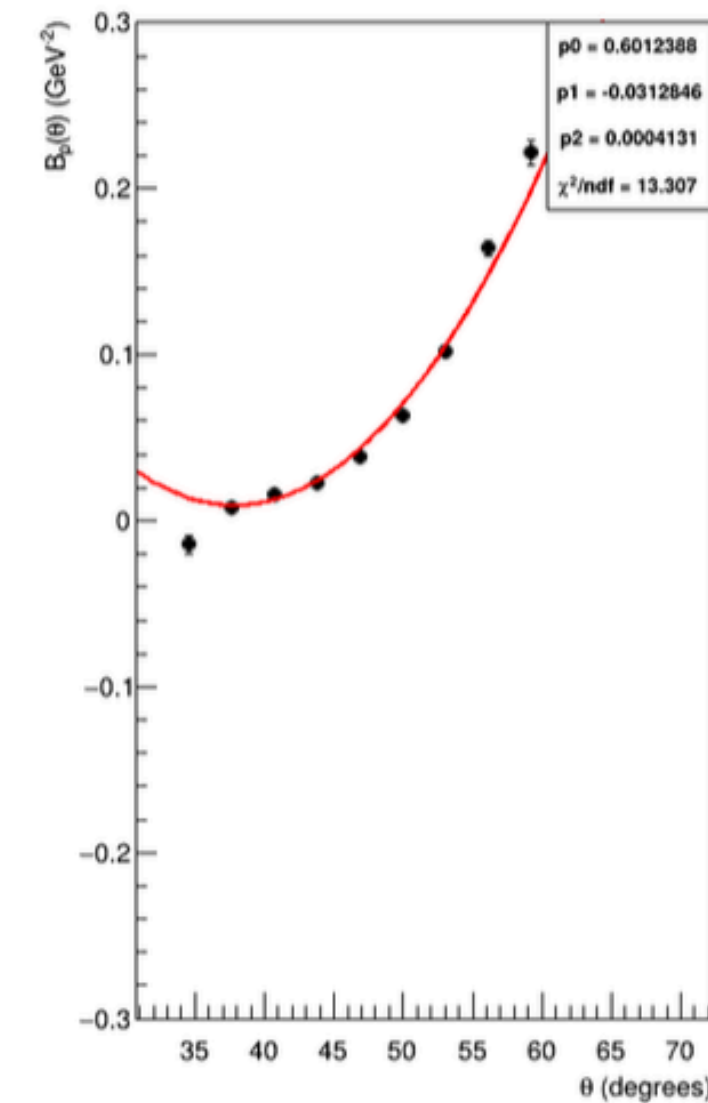
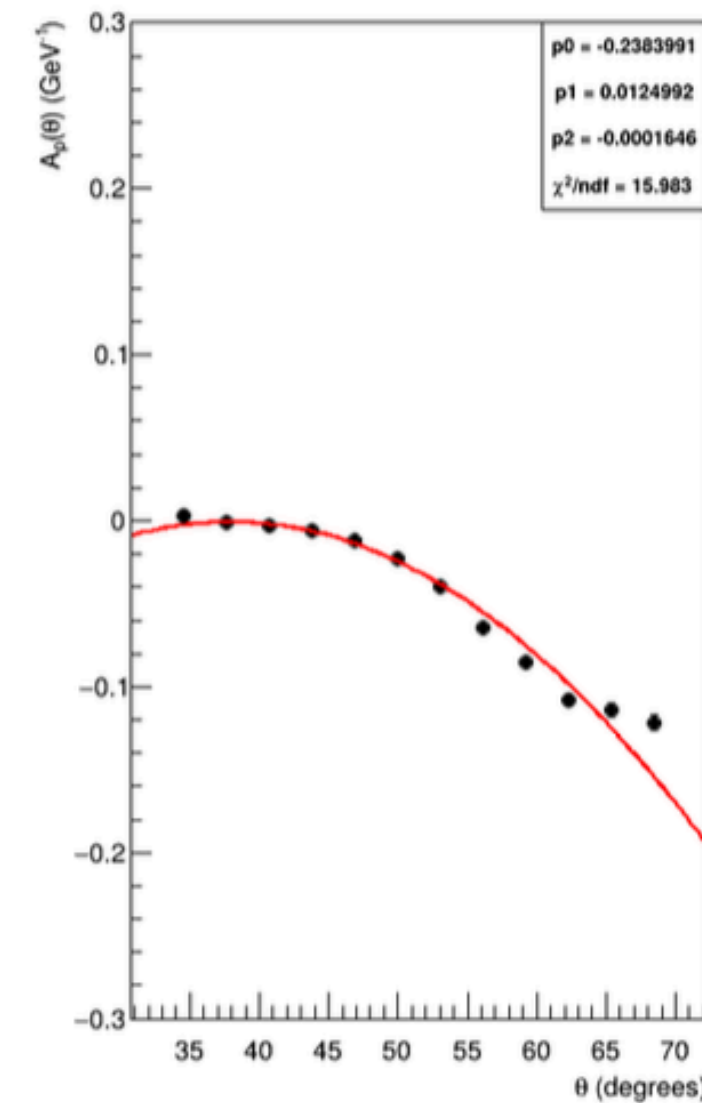
From Timothy

$$p \rightarrow p + A_p^{\text{CD}}(\theta) + B_p^{\text{CD}}(\theta)p + C_p^{\text{CD}}(\theta)p^2$$

$A_p, \Delta p, \text{rga\_fa18\_inb, CD}$

$B_p, \Delta p, \text{rga\_fa18\_inb, CD}$

$C_p, \Delta p, \text{rga\_fa18\_inb, CD}$

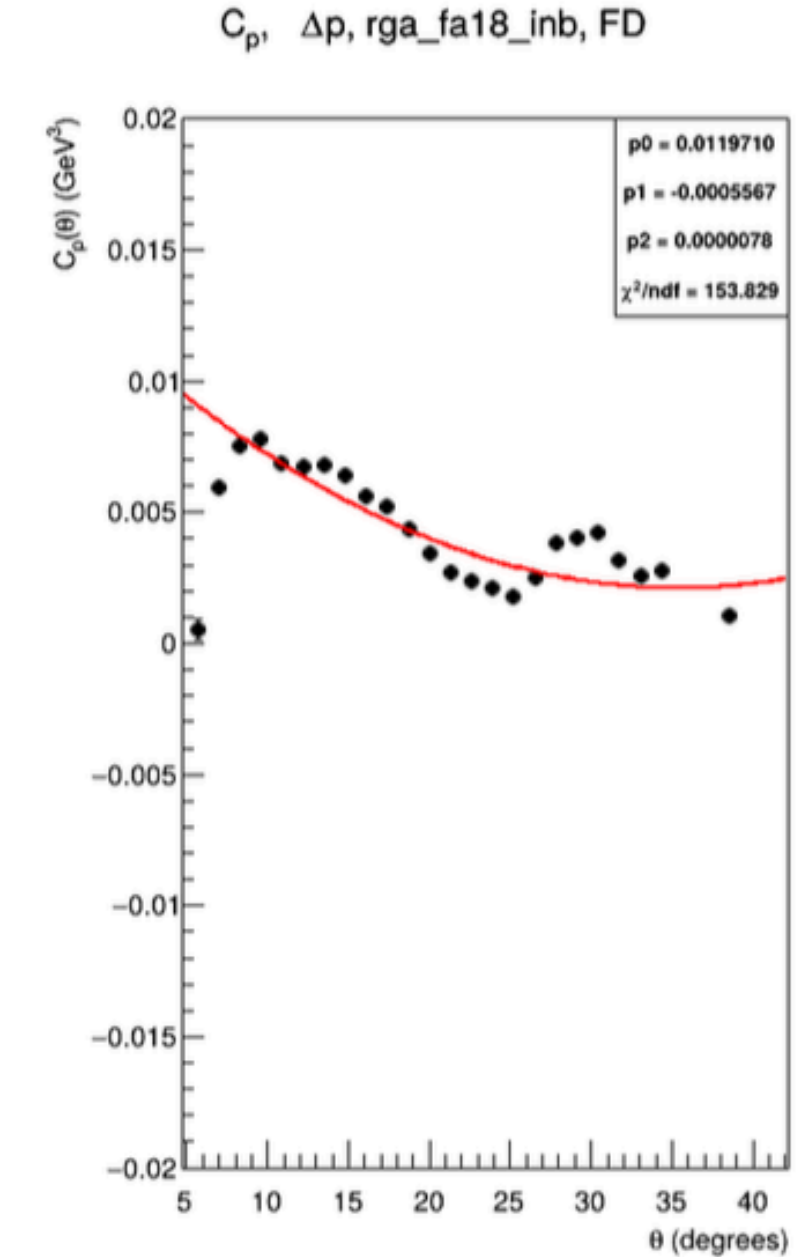
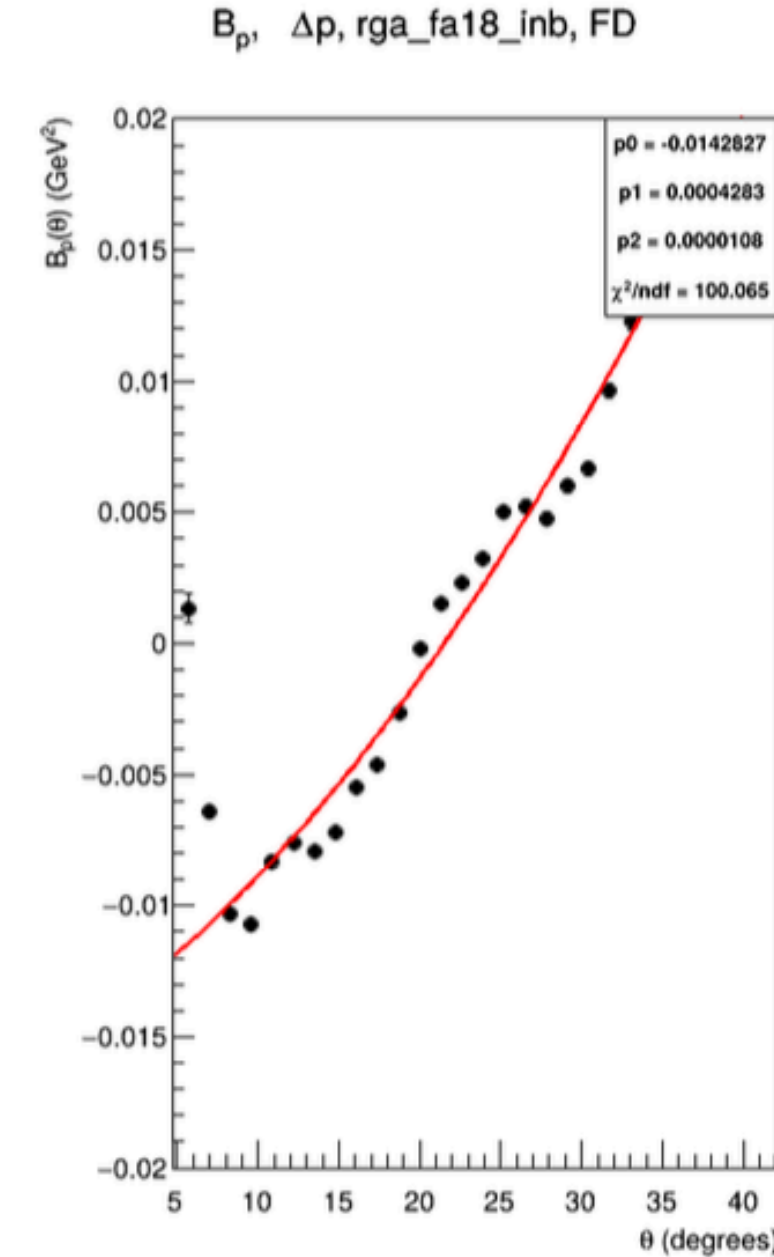
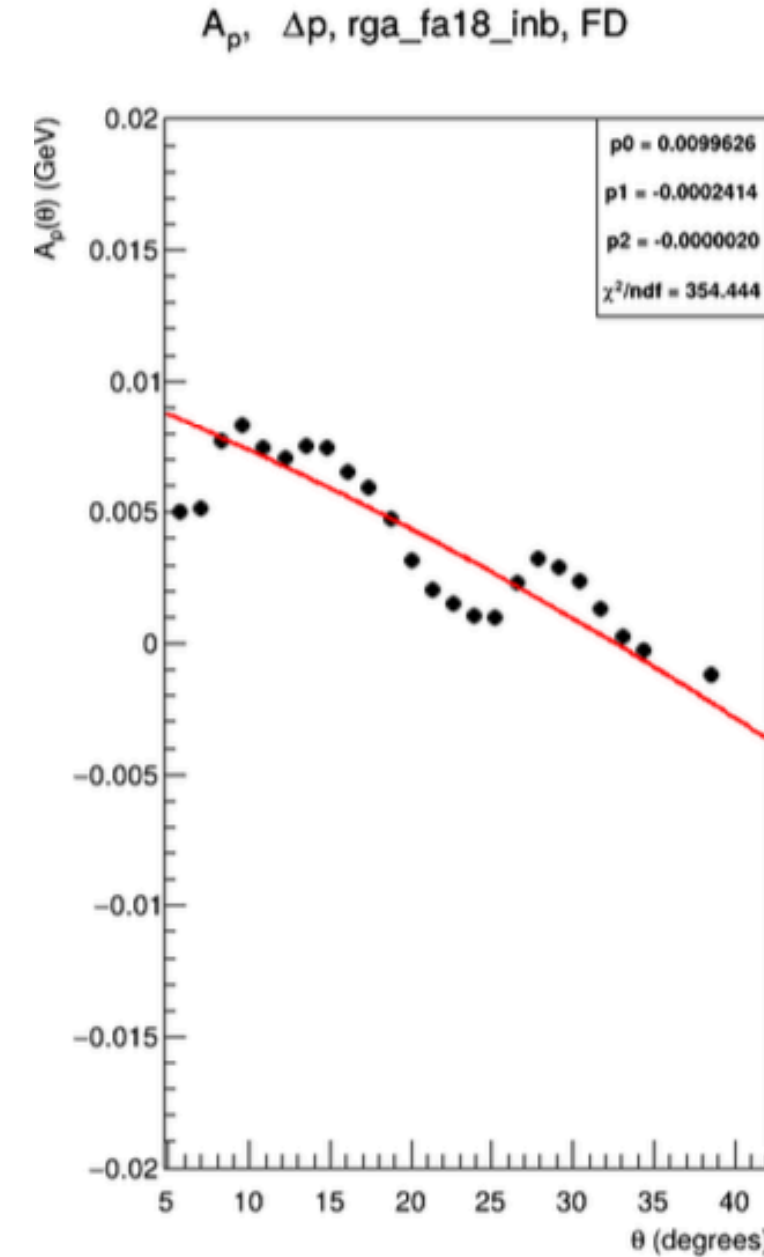
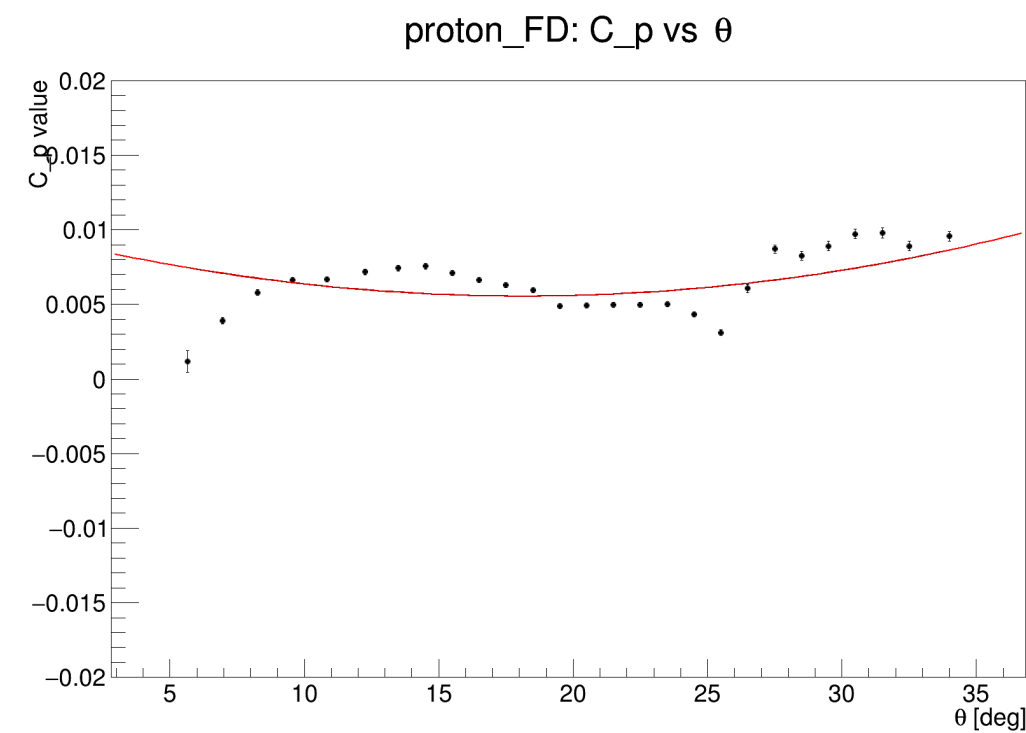
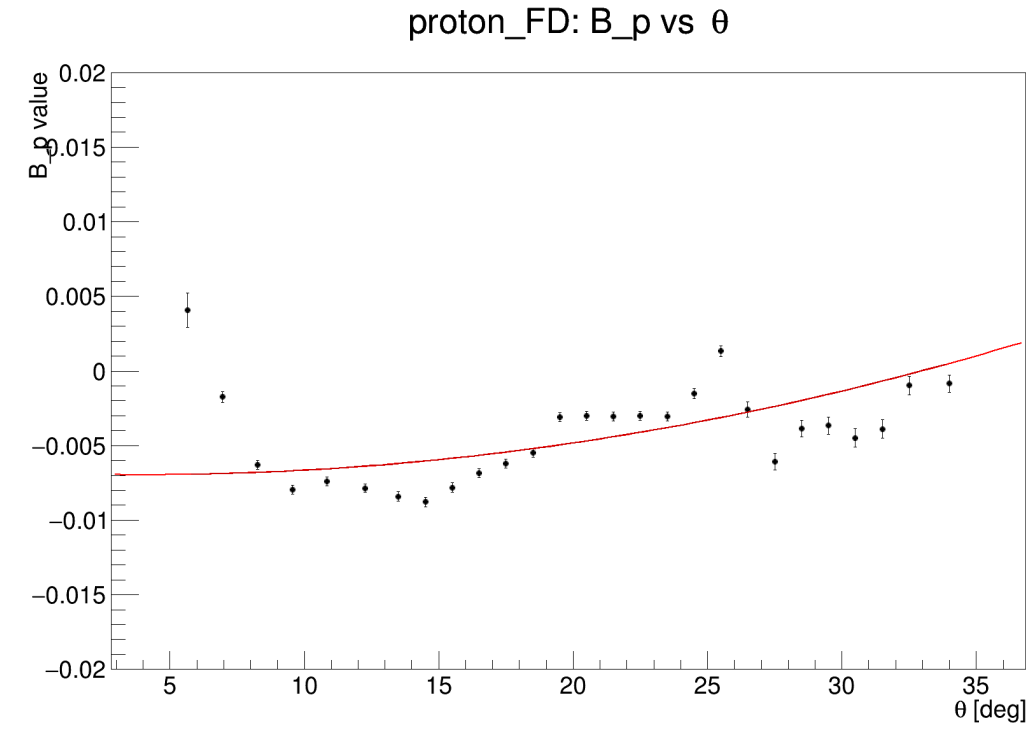
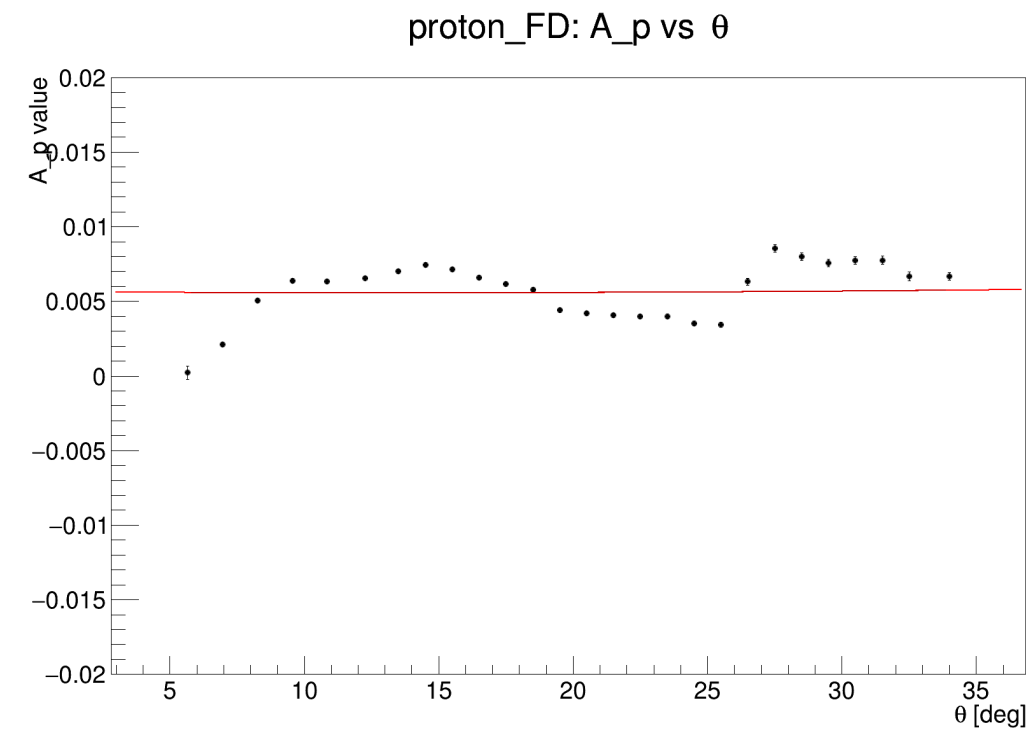


# Benchmark: Fall2018\_inb proton energy loss correction

FD

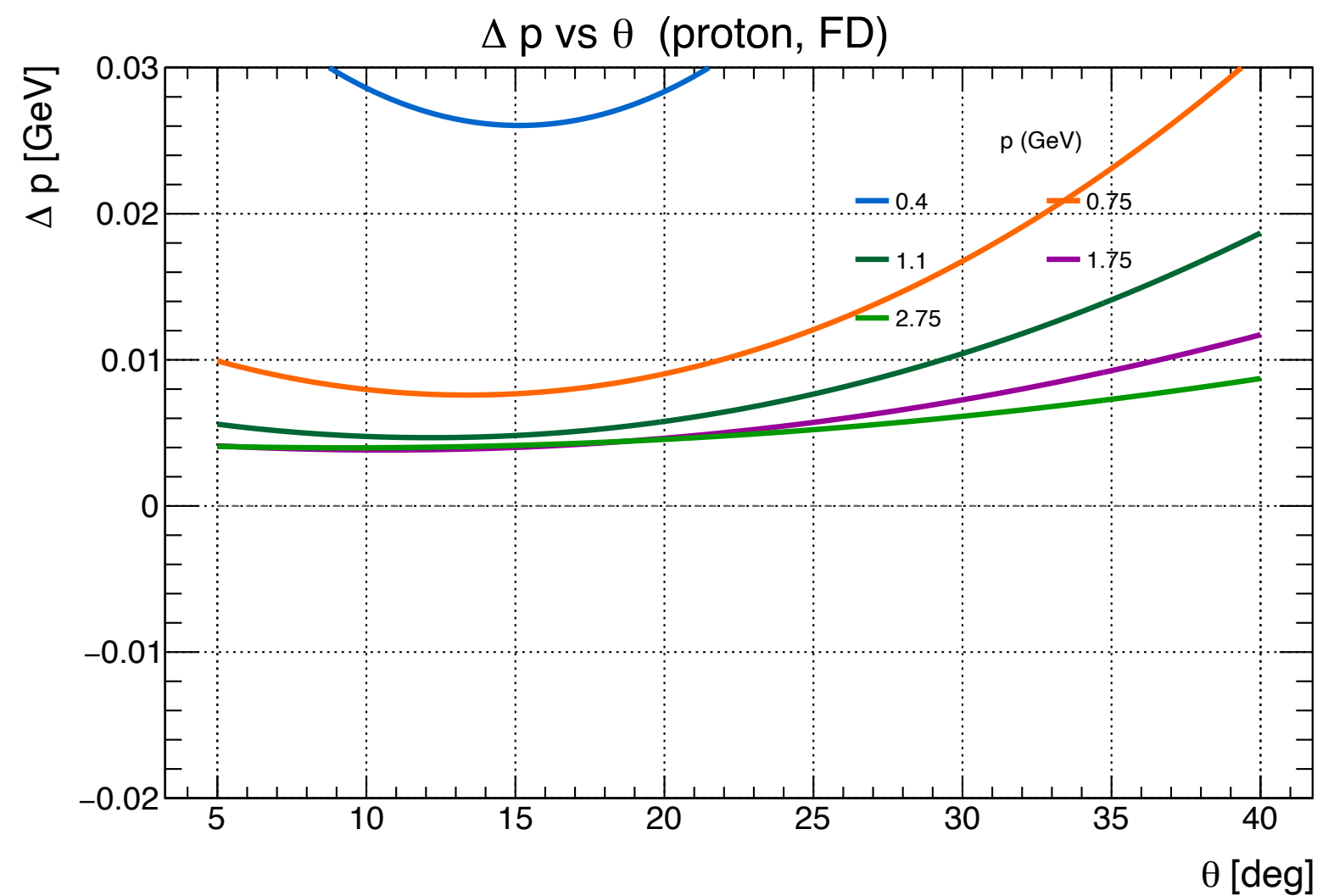
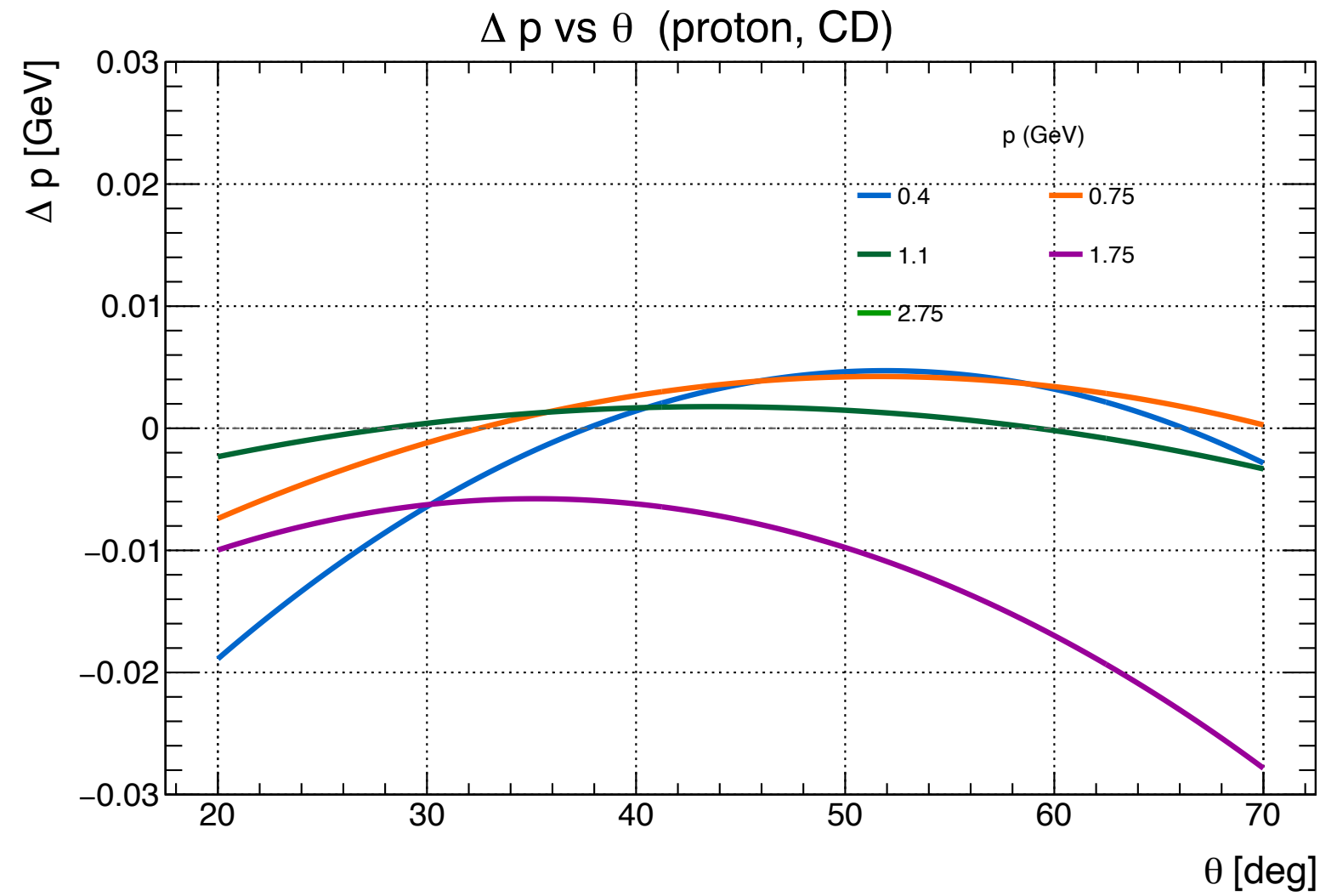
From Timothy

$$p \rightarrow p + A_p^{\text{FD}}(\theta) + B_p^{\text{FD}}(\theta)/p + C_p^{\text{FD}}(\theta)/p^2$$



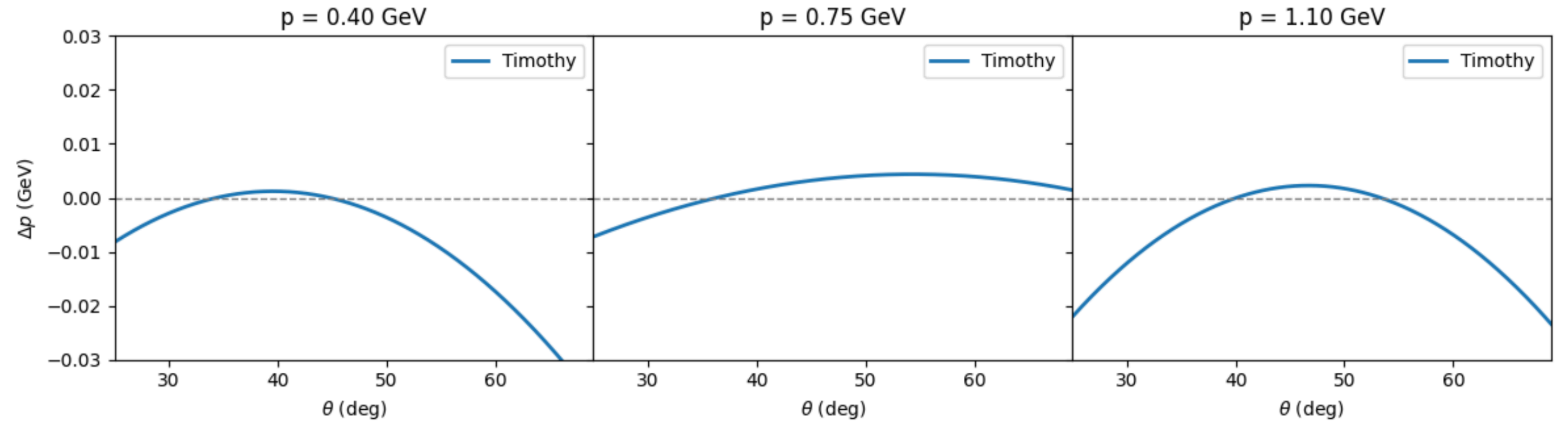
# Corrections as function of theta (inb fall 2018)

- Final corrections for different momenta

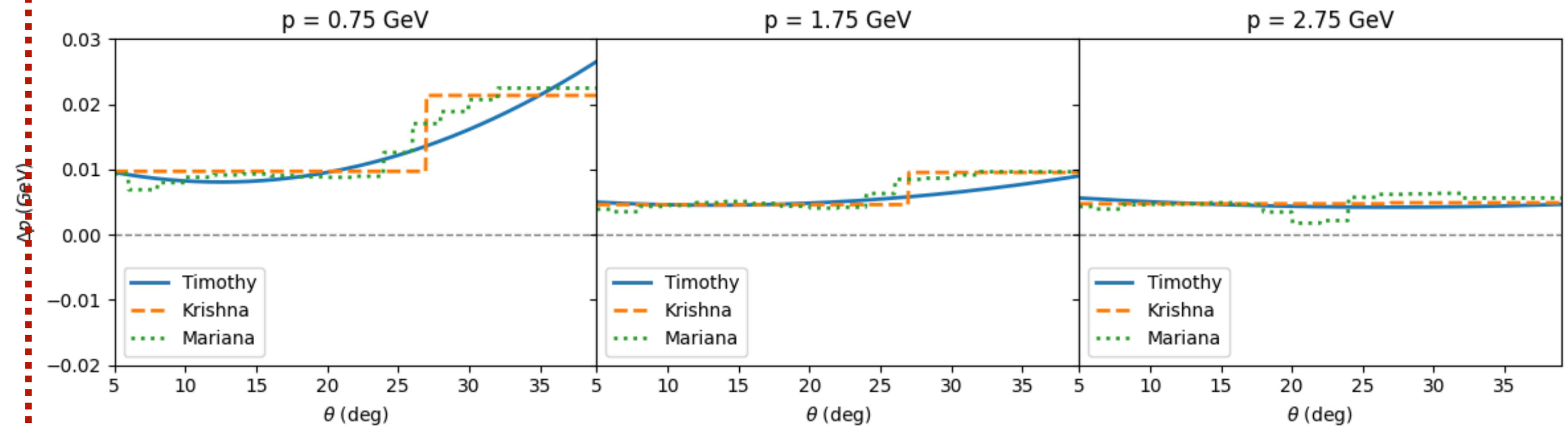


## From Timothy

Central Detector Energy Loss Corrections

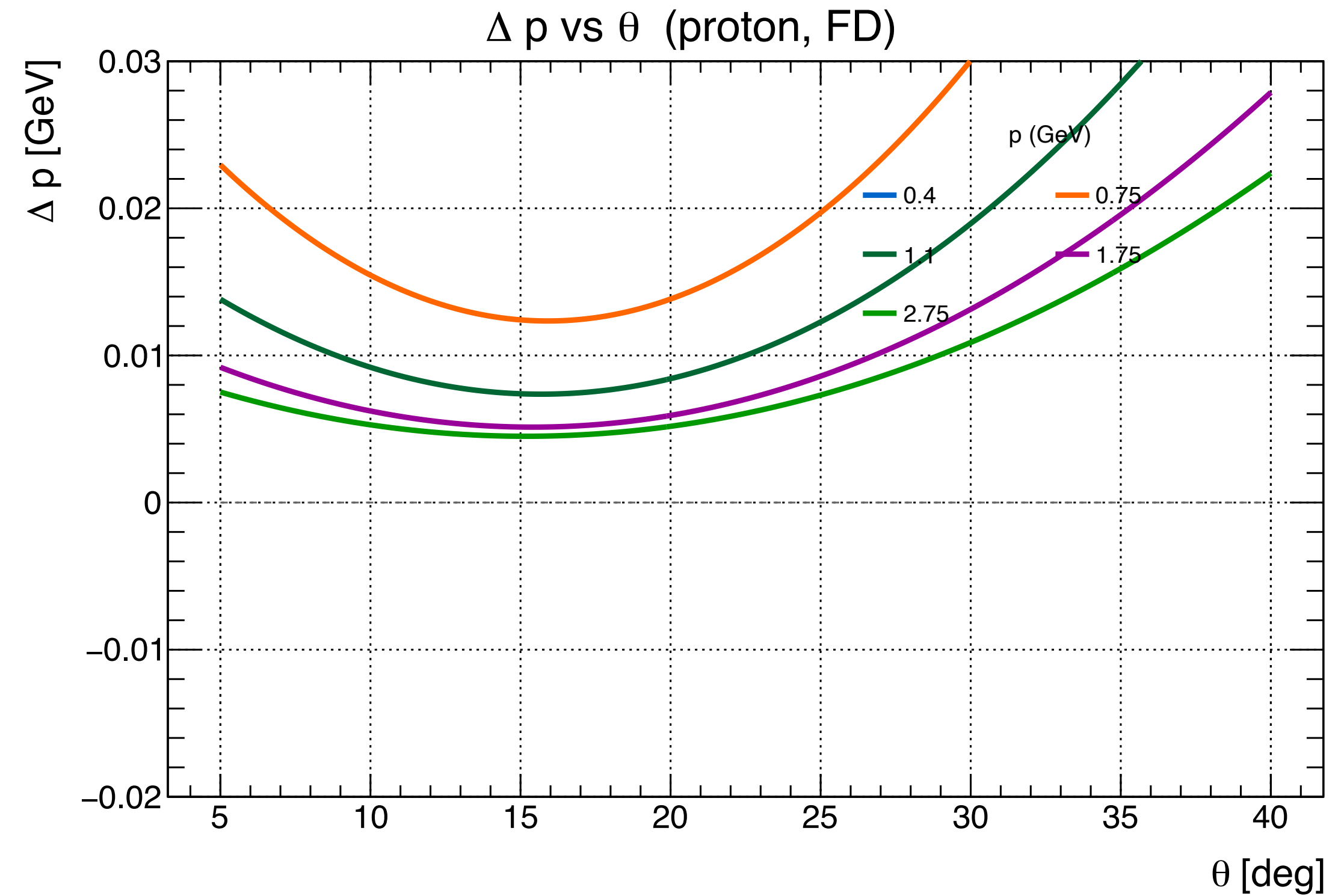
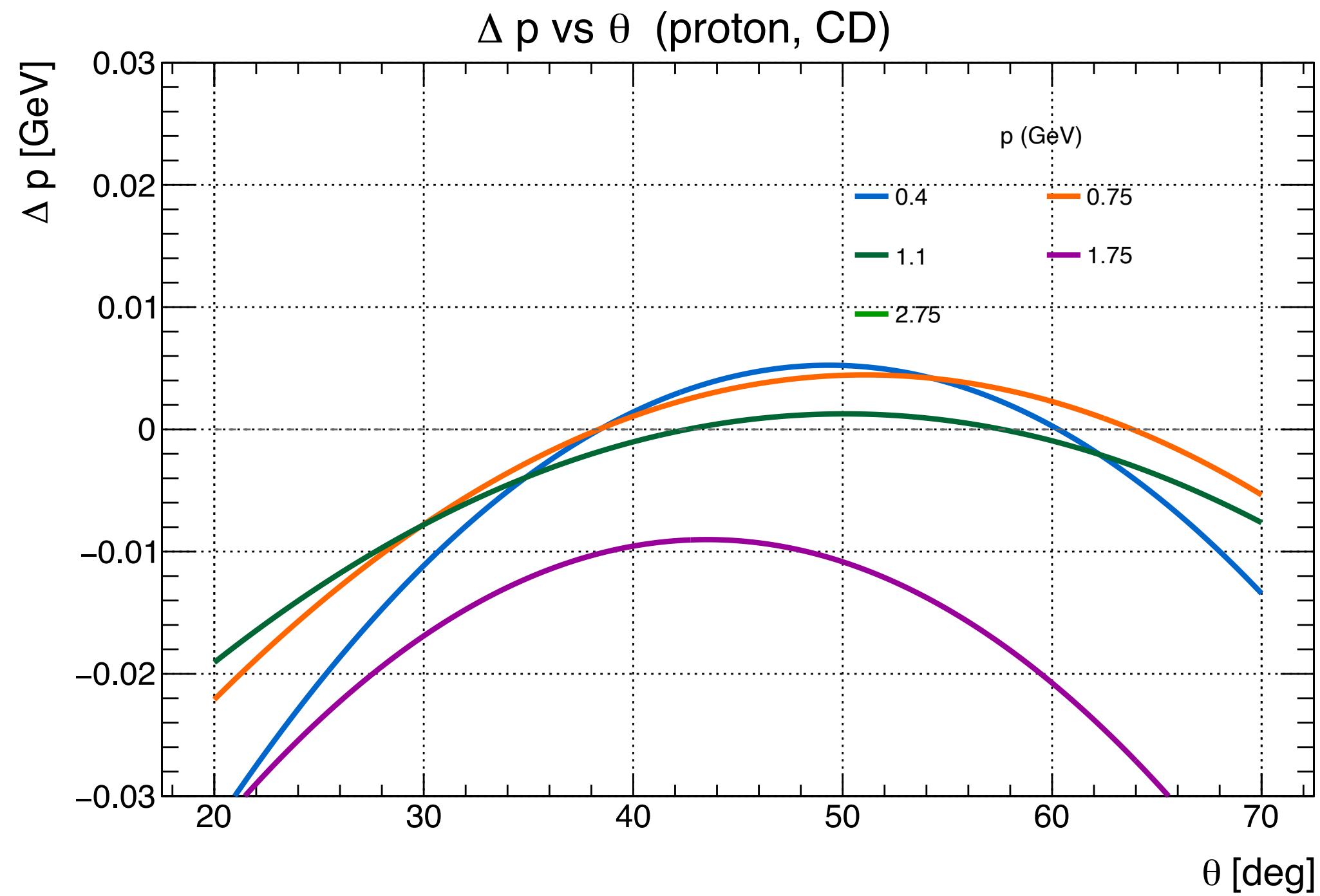


Forward Detector Energy Loss Corrections



# Corrections as function of theta (inb sp2018)

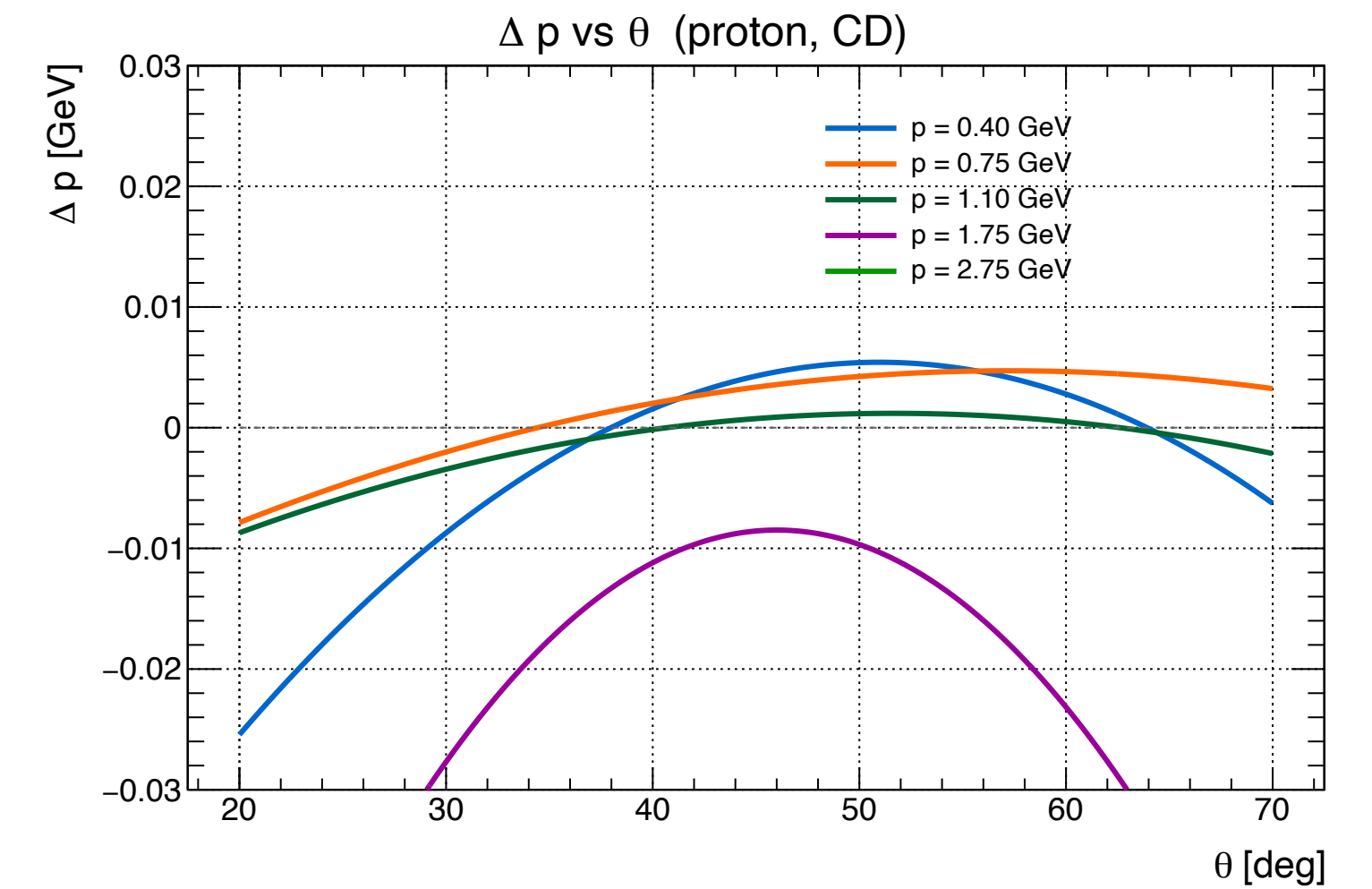
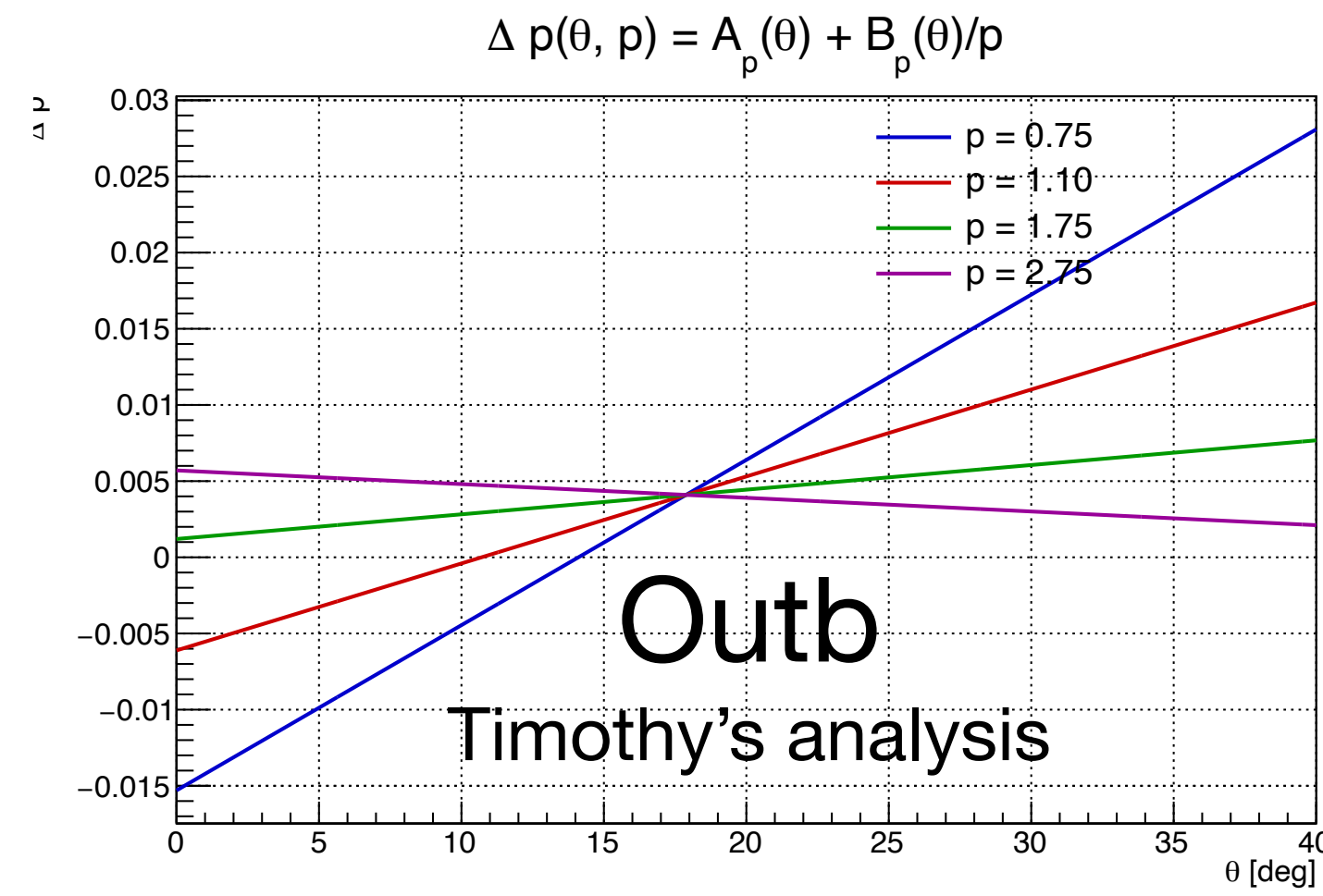
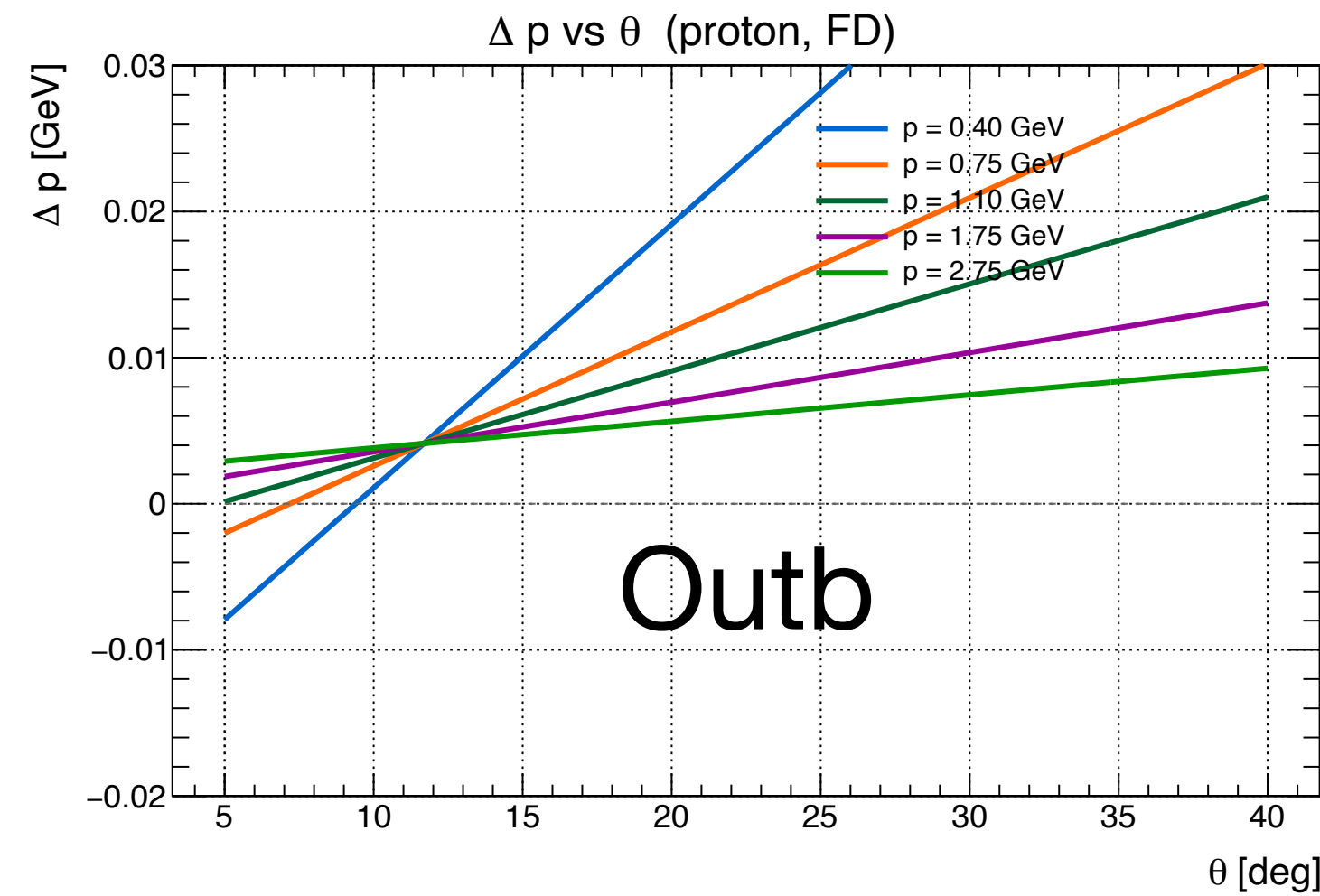
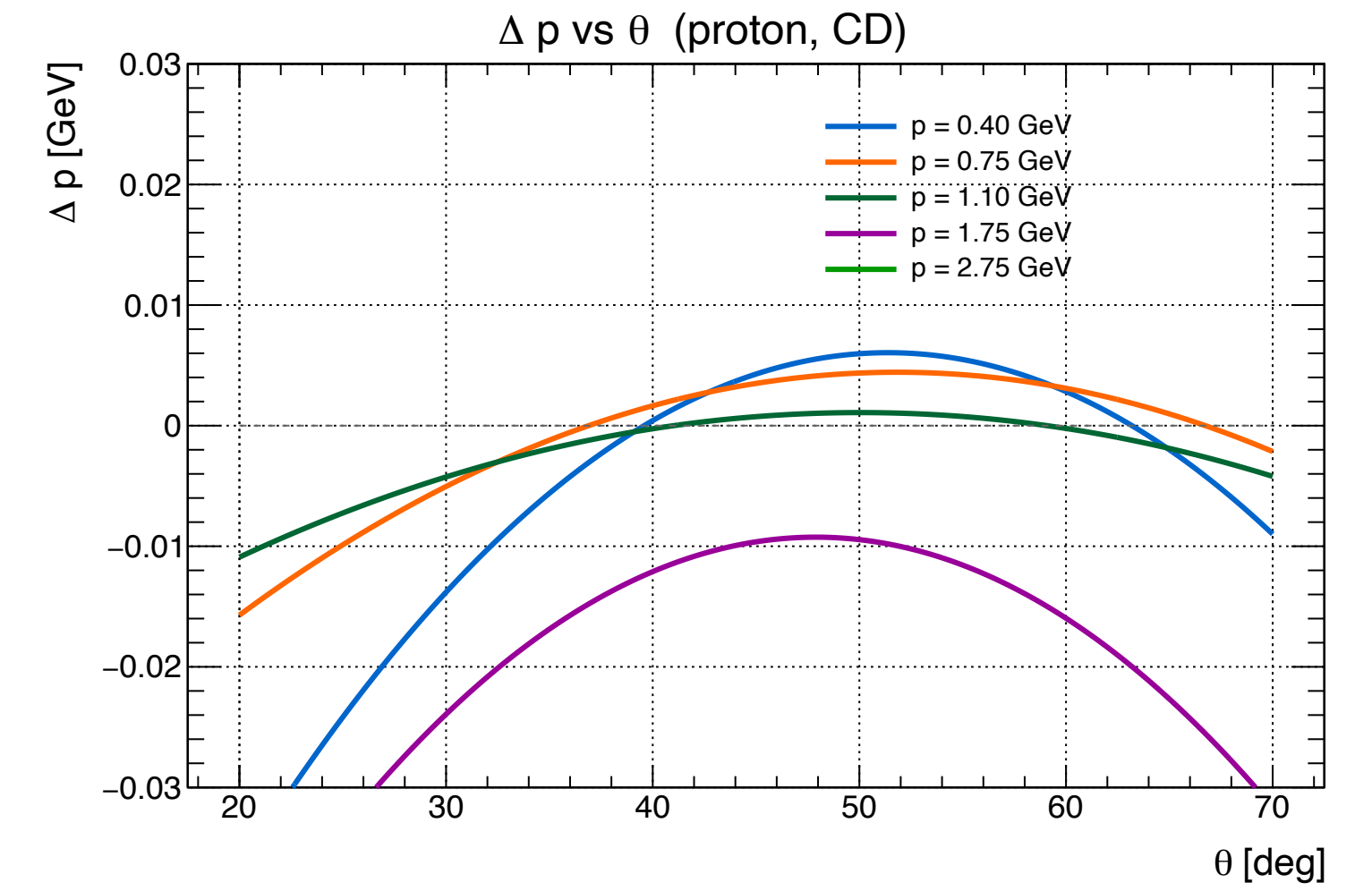
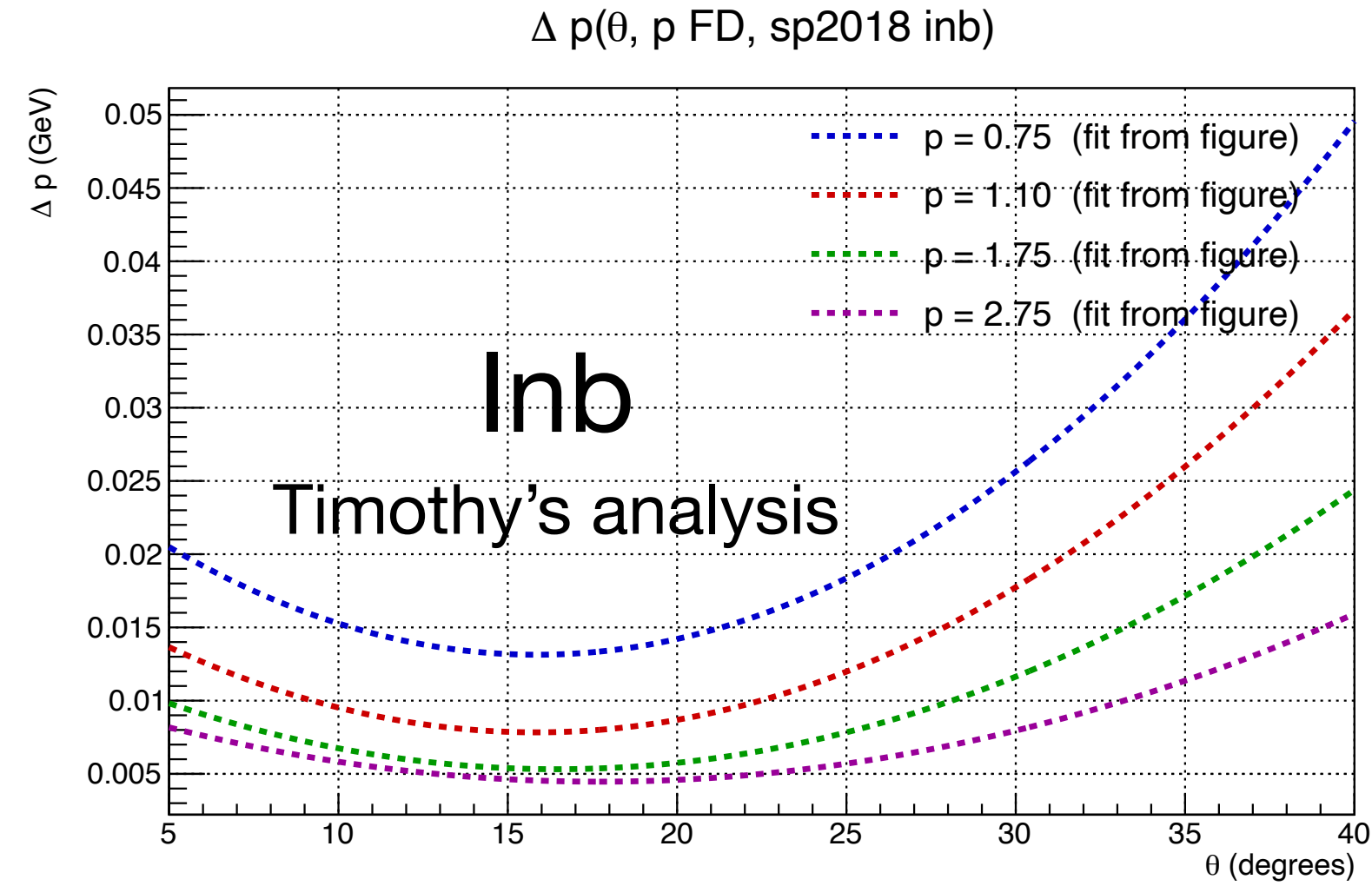
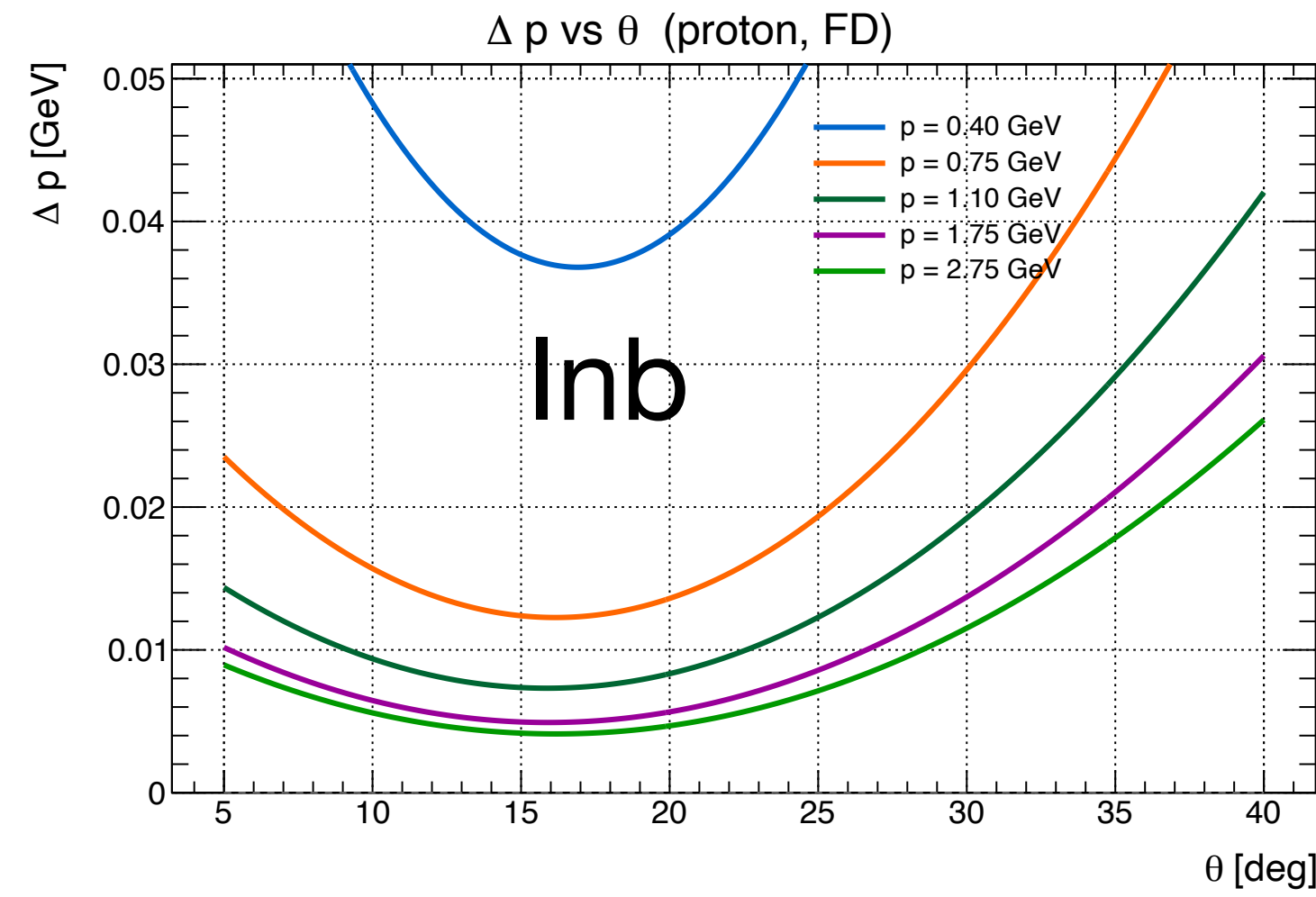
- Final corrections for different momenta



# Corrections as function of theta (inb and outb sp2018)

- Final corrections for different momenta

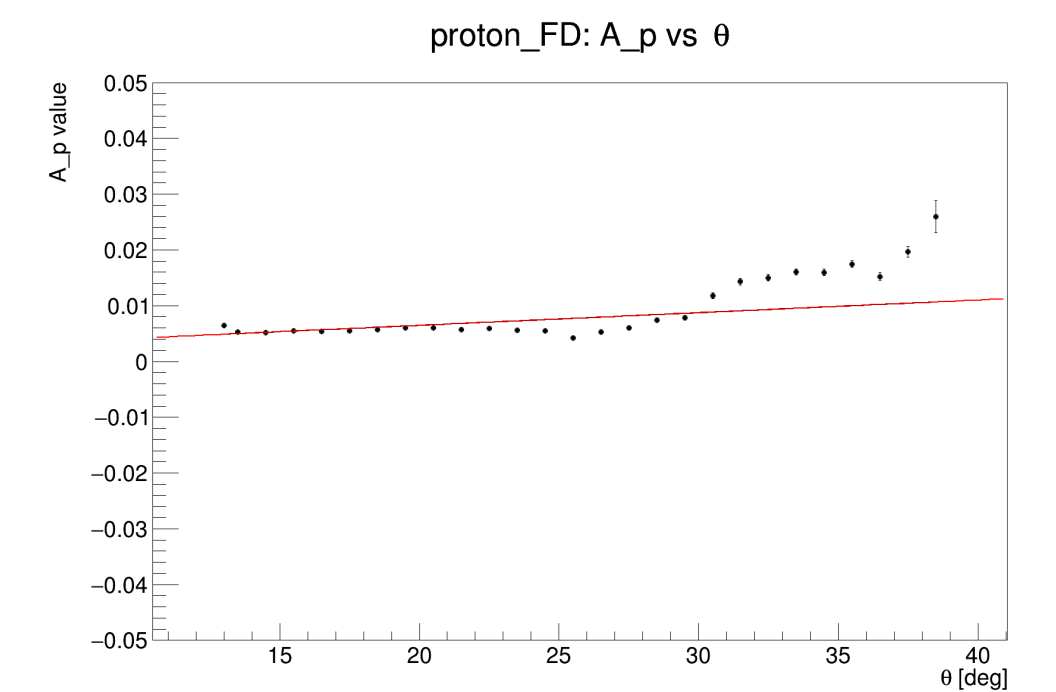
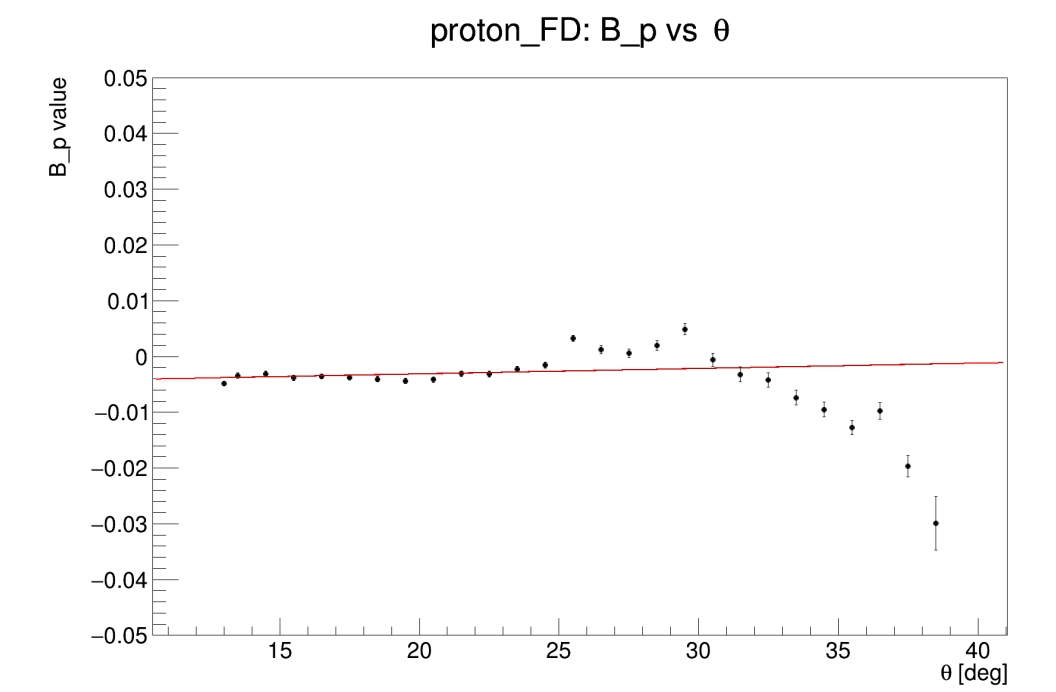
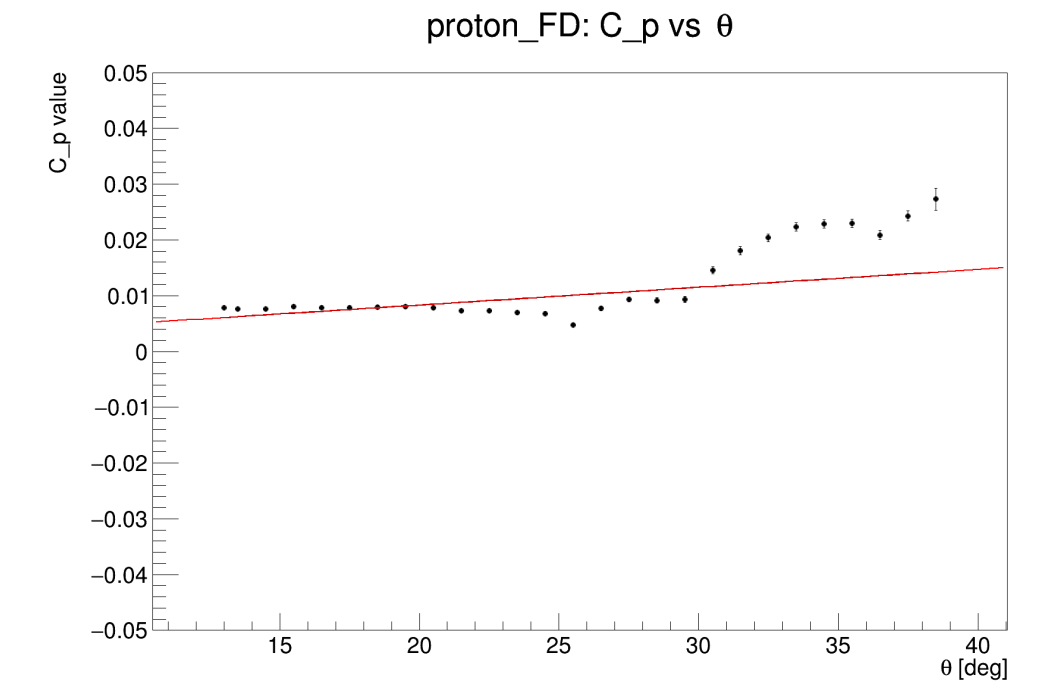
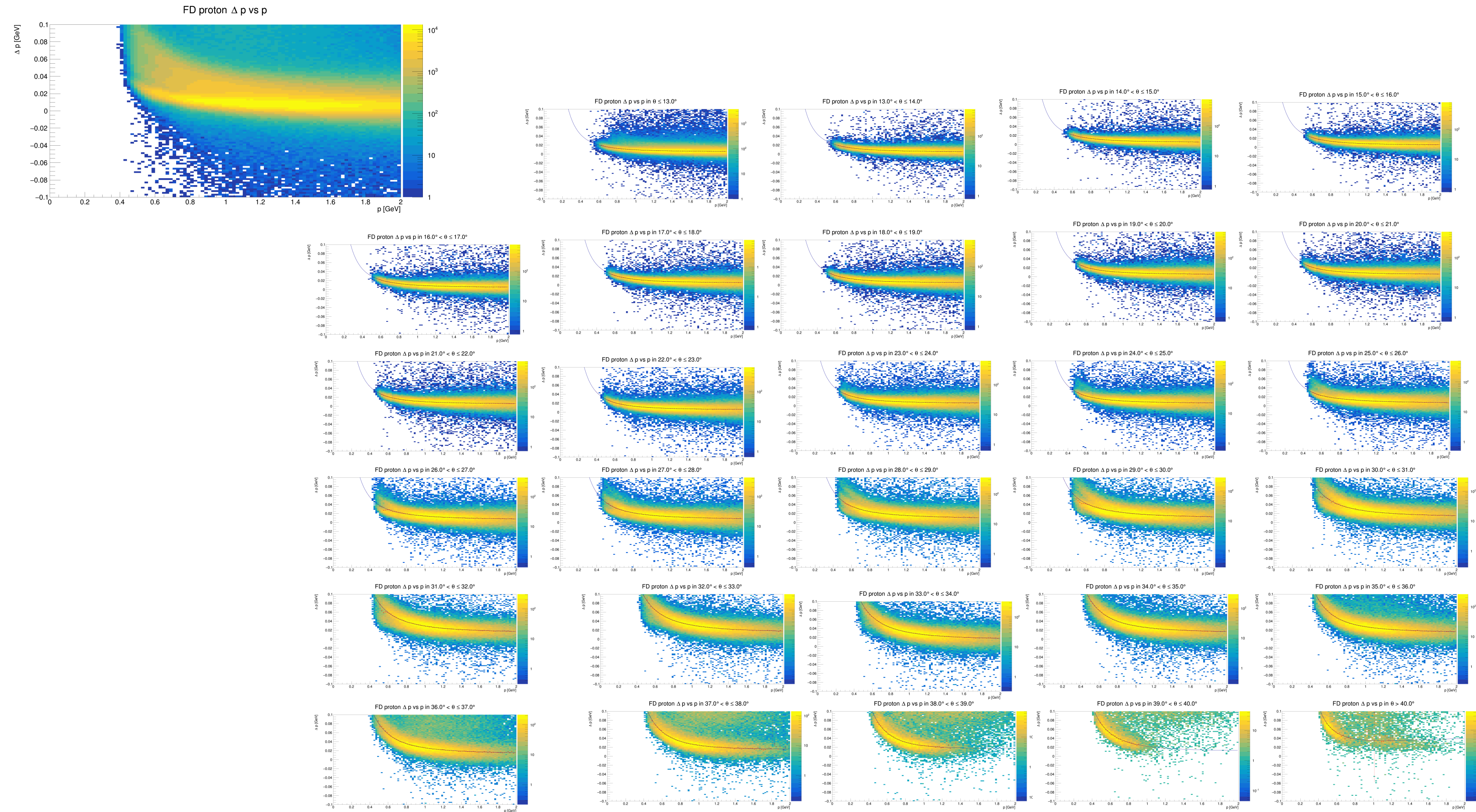
**Inb**



# Energy Loss Correction: RGA Spring2018 inb

FD  
Proton

$$\Delta p = A + B/p + C/p^2$$



# Energy Loss Correction: RGA Spring2018 inb

**CD Proton**  $\Delta p = A + B \cdot p + C \cdot p^2$

