

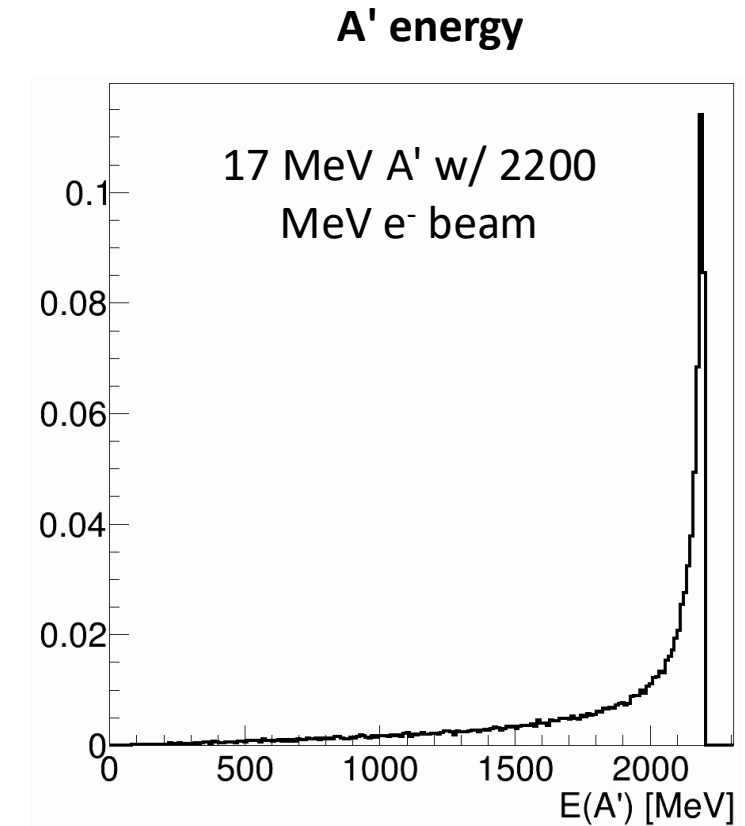
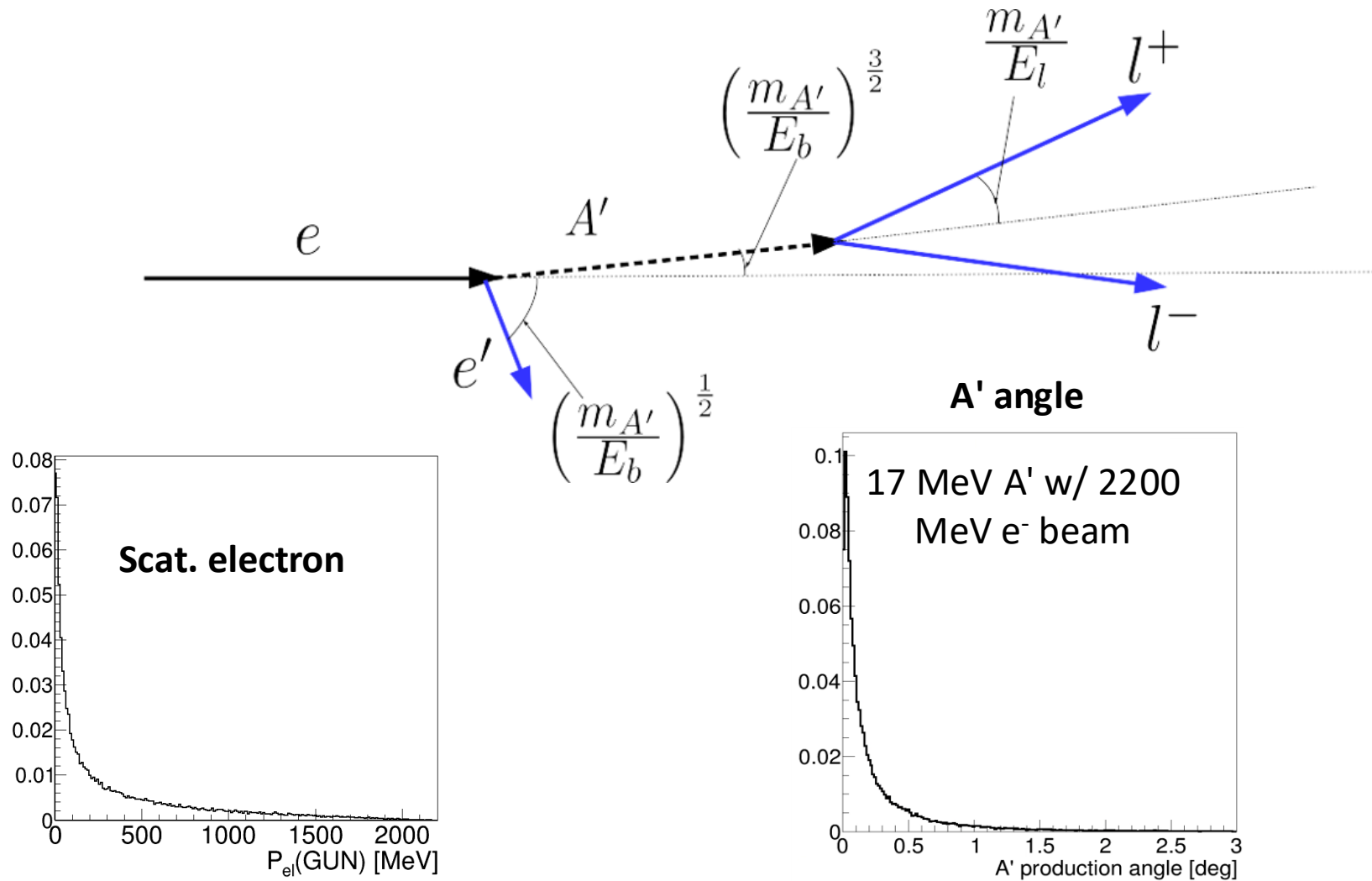
Geometric acceptance of the large and small absorbers for dark photons

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PRad/X17 collaboration meeting, September 12, 2025, Jefferson Lab

Electro-produced heavy photon kinematics on fixed targets

- Unlike Bremsstrahlung, A' takes almost all the beam energy: $E_{A'} \sim E_b(1 - m_{A'}/E_b)$
- Peaked at forward angles: $(m_{A'}/E_b)^{3/2}$



The Full simulation of the signal

MadGraph5 A' production

GEANT4

Reconstruction

Analysis

$$e + \text{Ta} \rightarrow \text{Ta} e^- e^+ e^-$$

A' is generated for 5 different masses - M [MeV]: 10, 17, 25, 35, 55

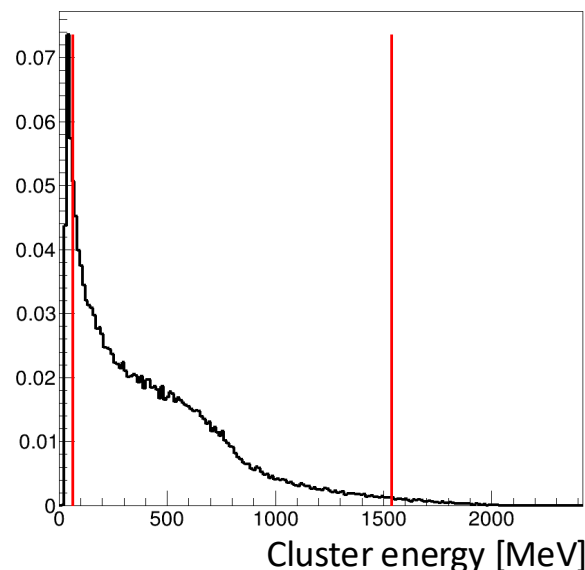
An example for 2200 MeV Beam and 17 MeV A'

Analysis conditions

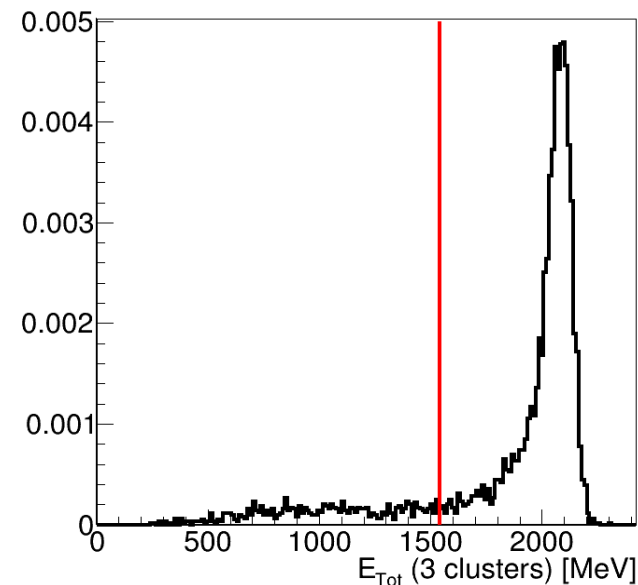
- Three or more clusters
- All clusters are charged,
- $0.03 \cdot E_b < \text{Cluster energy} < 0.7 \cdot E_b$
- Sum of all three cluster energies $> 0.7 \cdot E_b$

Slide from ERR. Plots represent the big absorber setup.

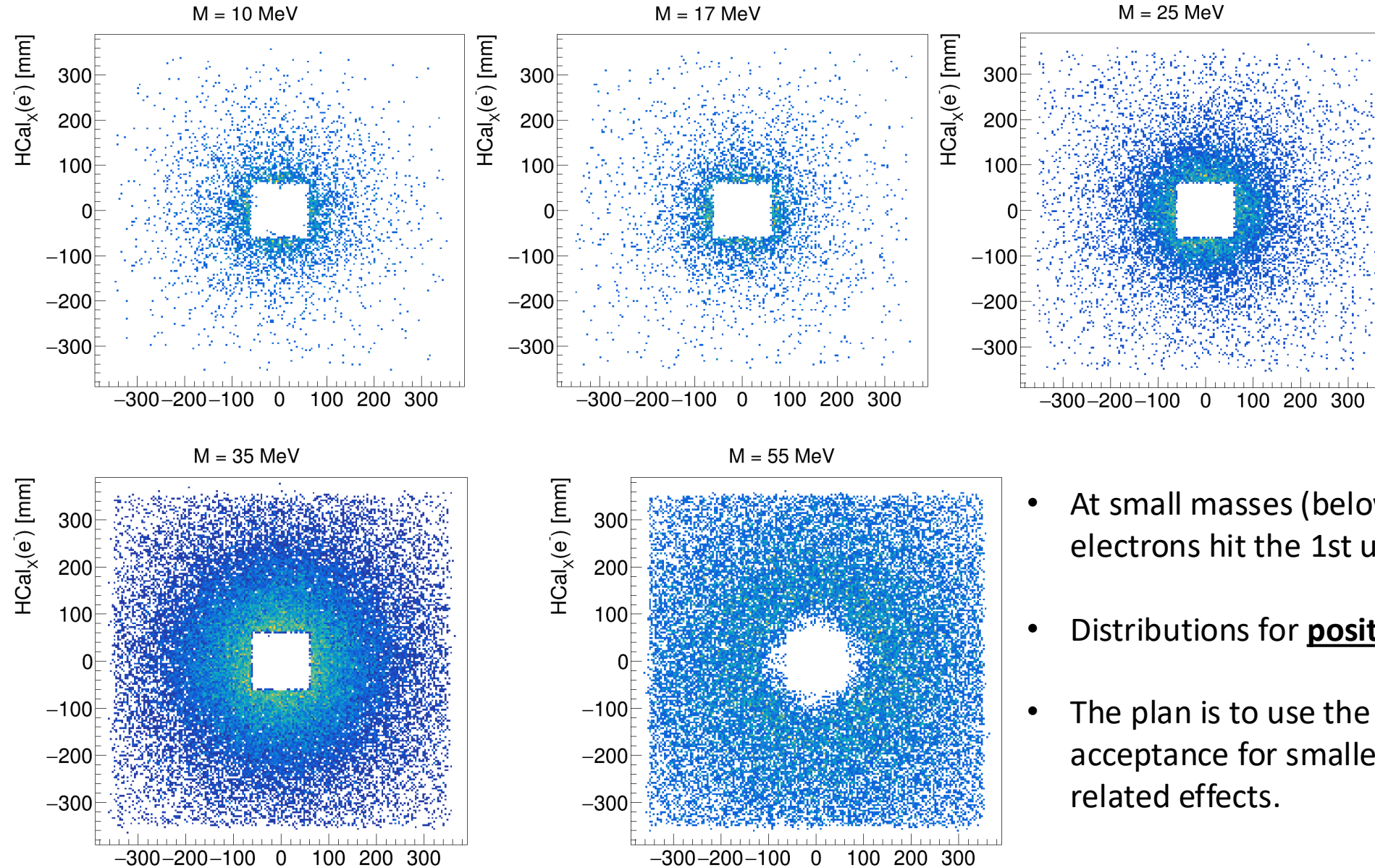
Single cluster energy



Energy sum of three clusters



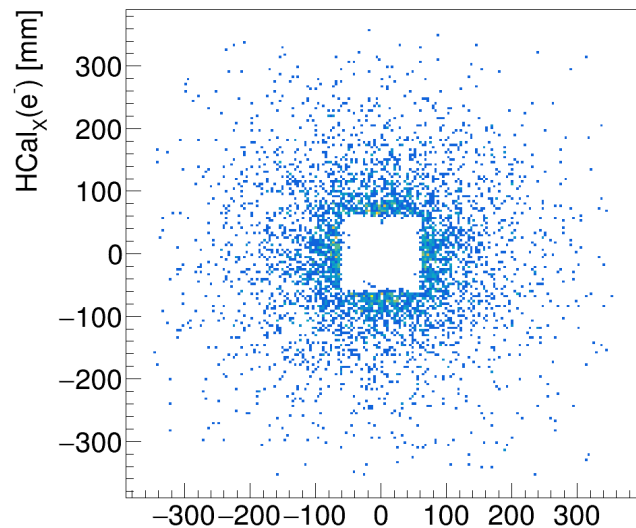
Decay electron on HCal face



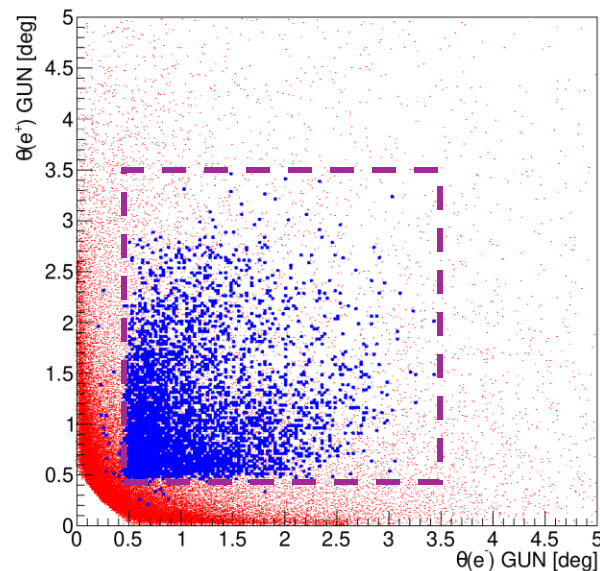
- At small masses (below 20 MeV) majority of decay electrons hit the 1st uncovered layer of HCal.
- Distributions for **positrons are identical**.
- The plan is to use the small absorber to increase acceptance for smaller masses and mitigate edge related effects.

Big absorber

M = 10 MeV



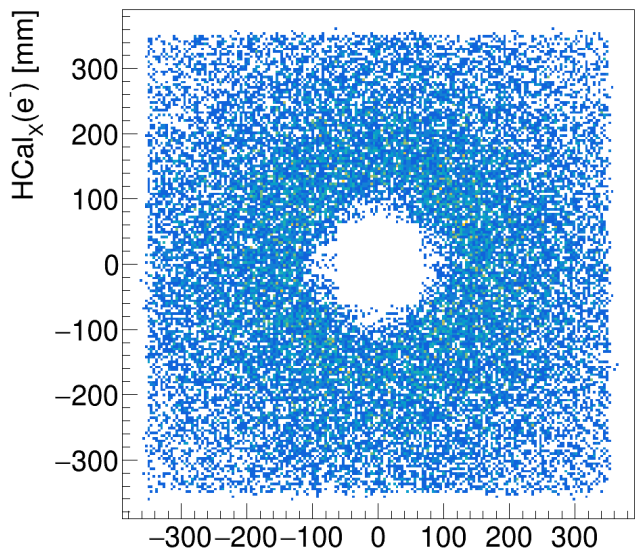
m = 10 MeV



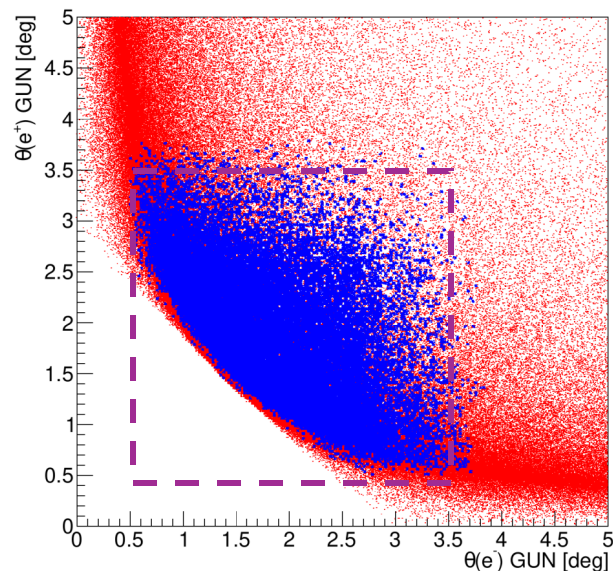
- Generated
- Accepted

Smaller masses: Majority of undetected A's has one of decay leptons (e^- or e^+) either hit the absorber or go through the ECal Hole.

M = 55 MeV

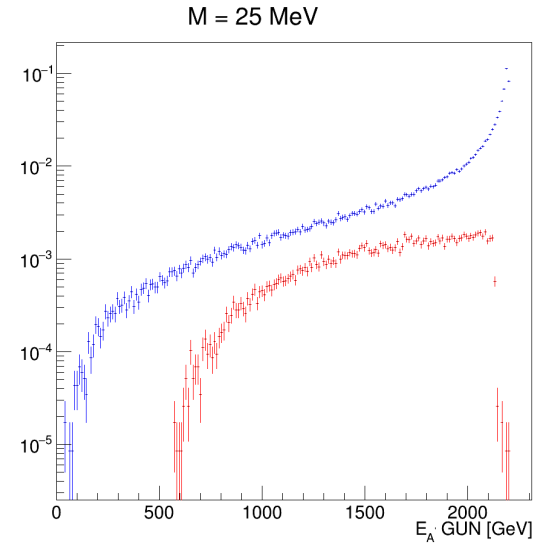
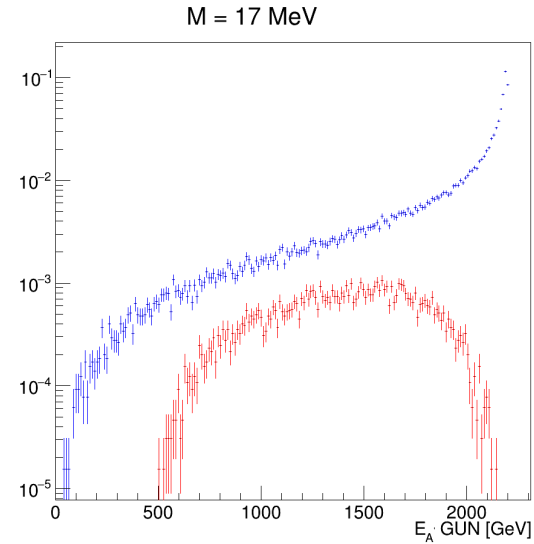
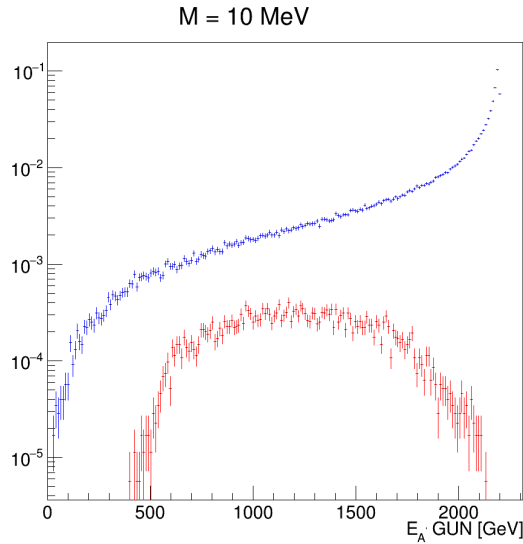


m = 55 MeV



Higher masses: Majority of undetected A's has one of decay leptons (e^- or e^+) large polar angle to miss the Lead Tungsten part of the HyCal.

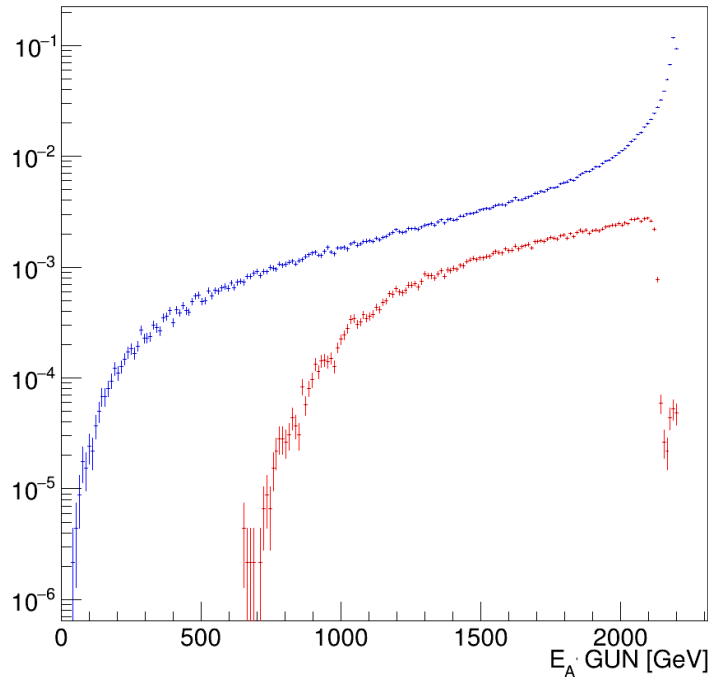
2200 MeV Energy of A'



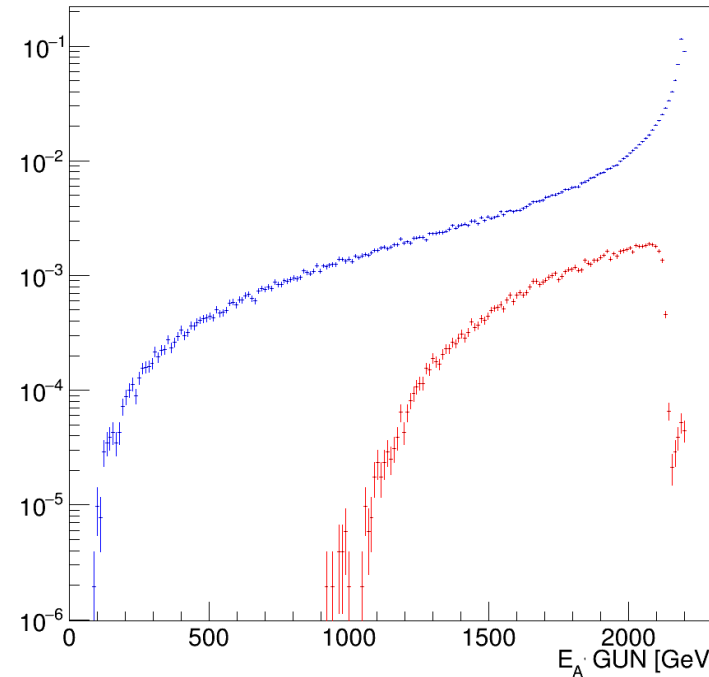
- Generated
- Reconstructed (e-,e+,e-)

The loss at high A' energies is high especially at smaller masses

M = 35 MeV

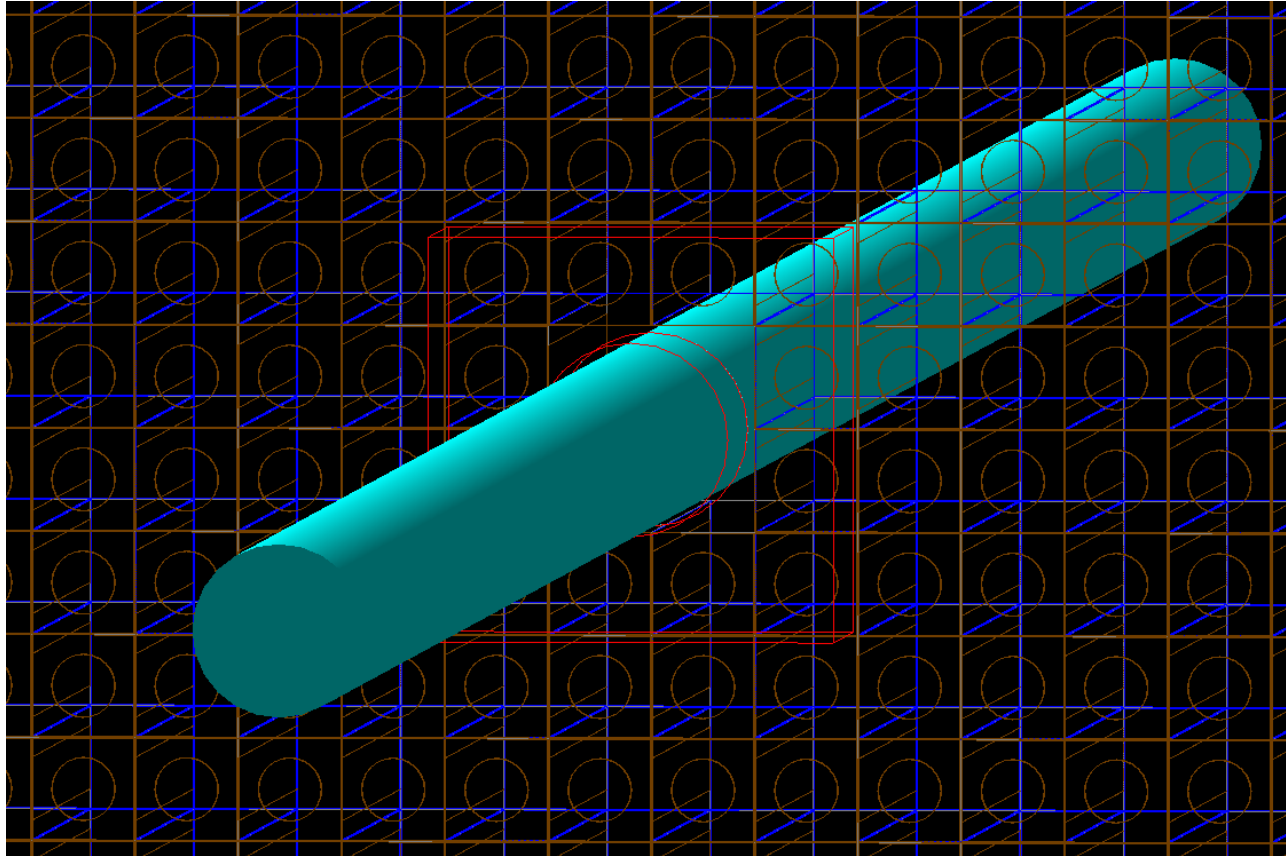


M = 55 MeV



Simulations with smaller absorber

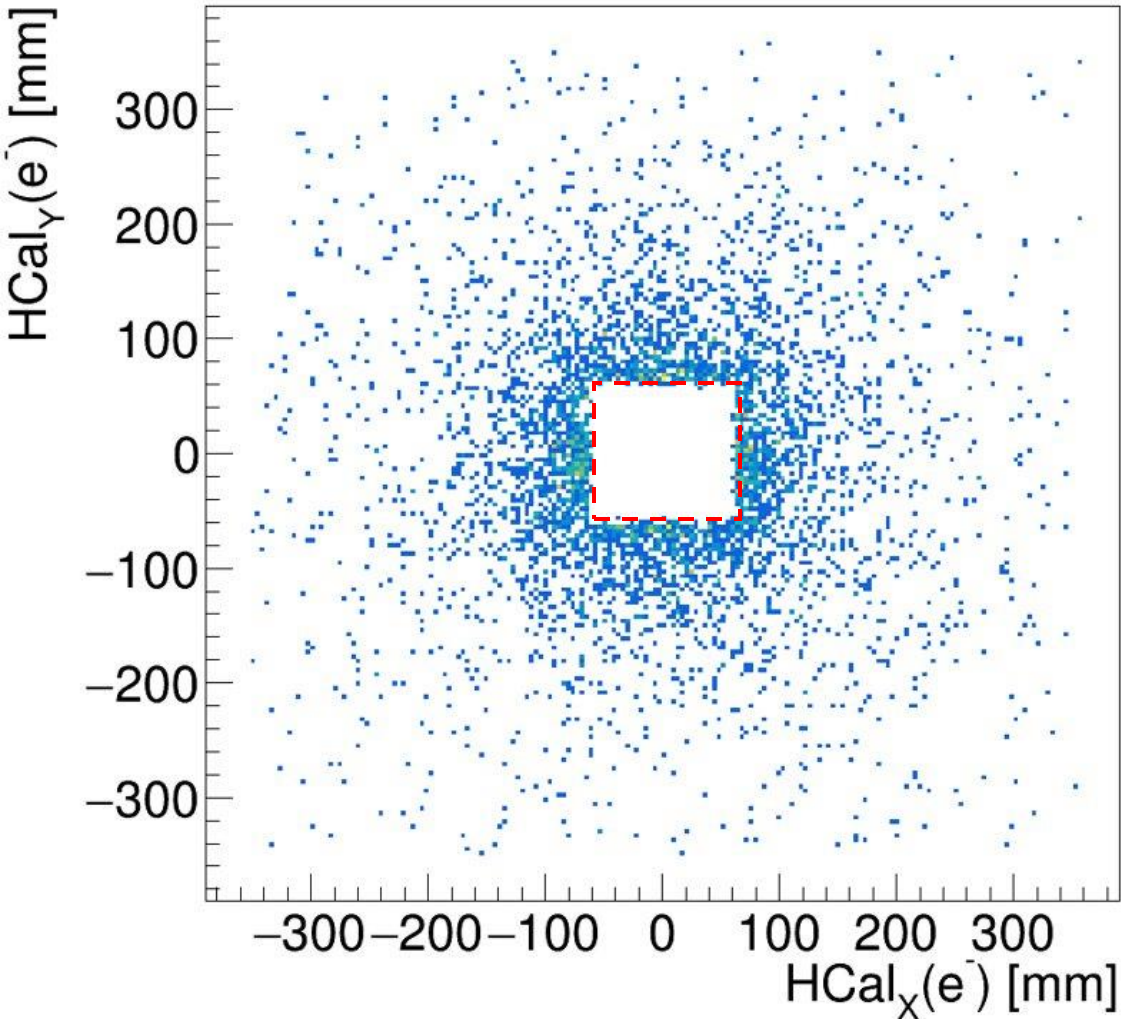
- Same generated A' events thrown to the new GEANT4 setup with smaller collimator, covering only 1st layer of crystals around the hole.
- In a similar manner events were reconstructed and analyzed.



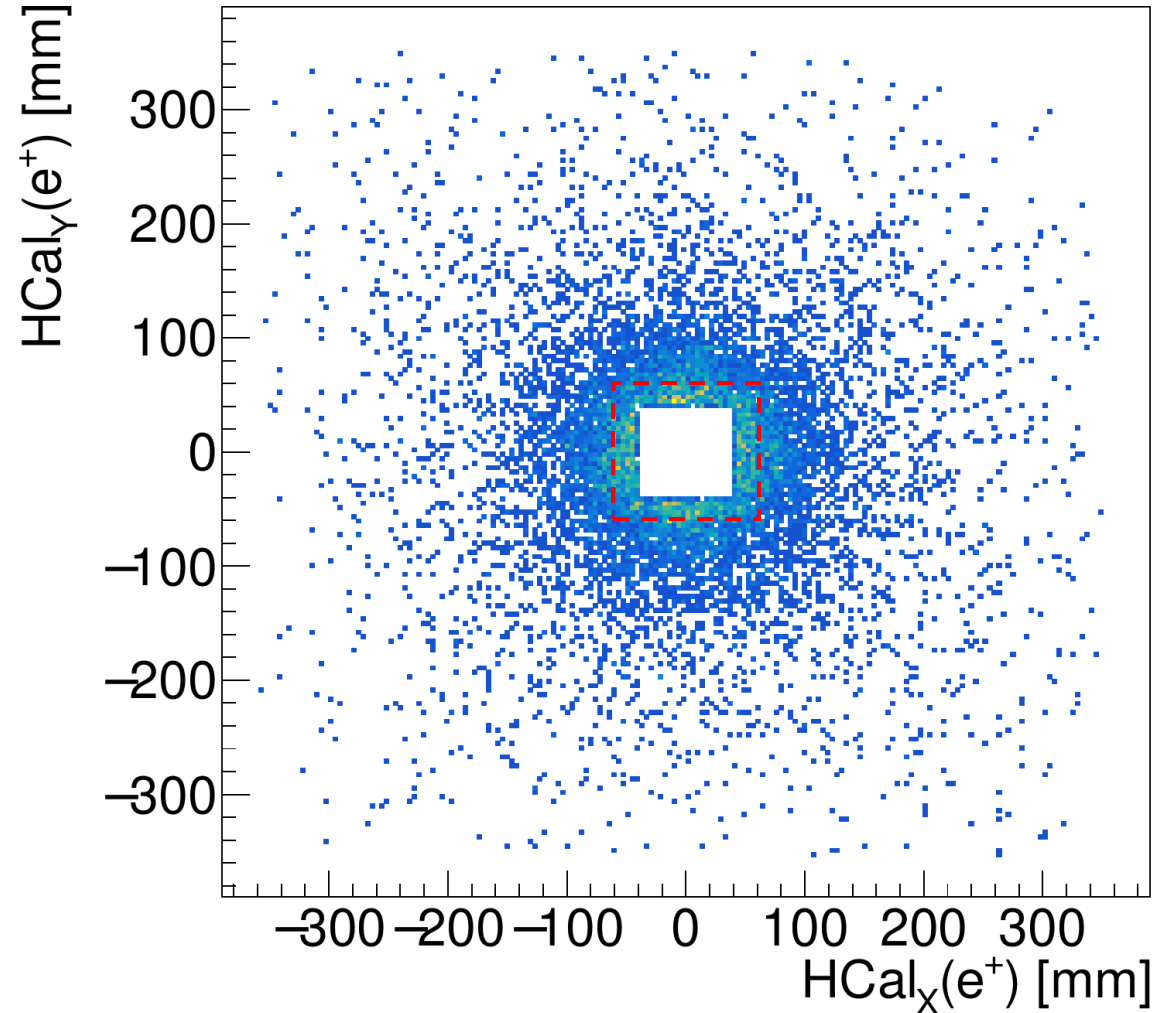
Distribution on HCal face: Decay electron

- $E_b = 2200$ MeV
- $M(A') = 17$ MeV

Big absorber



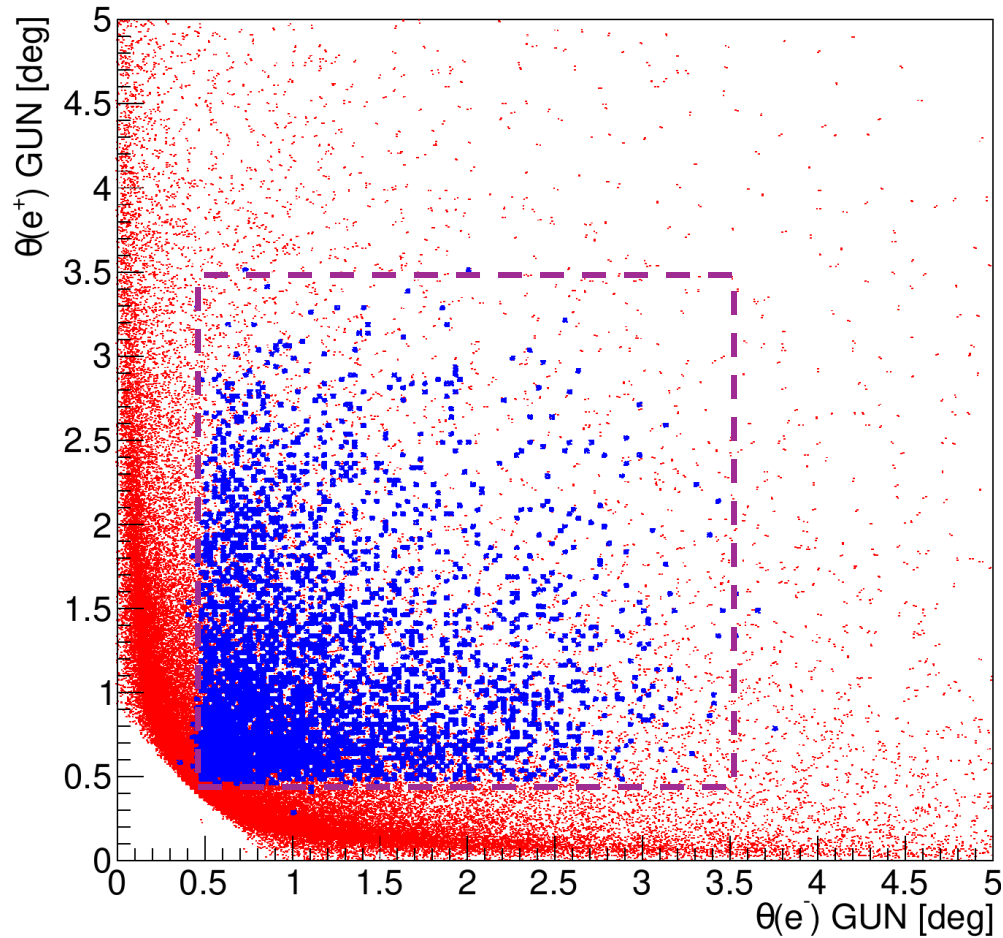
Small absorber
 $M = 17$ MeV



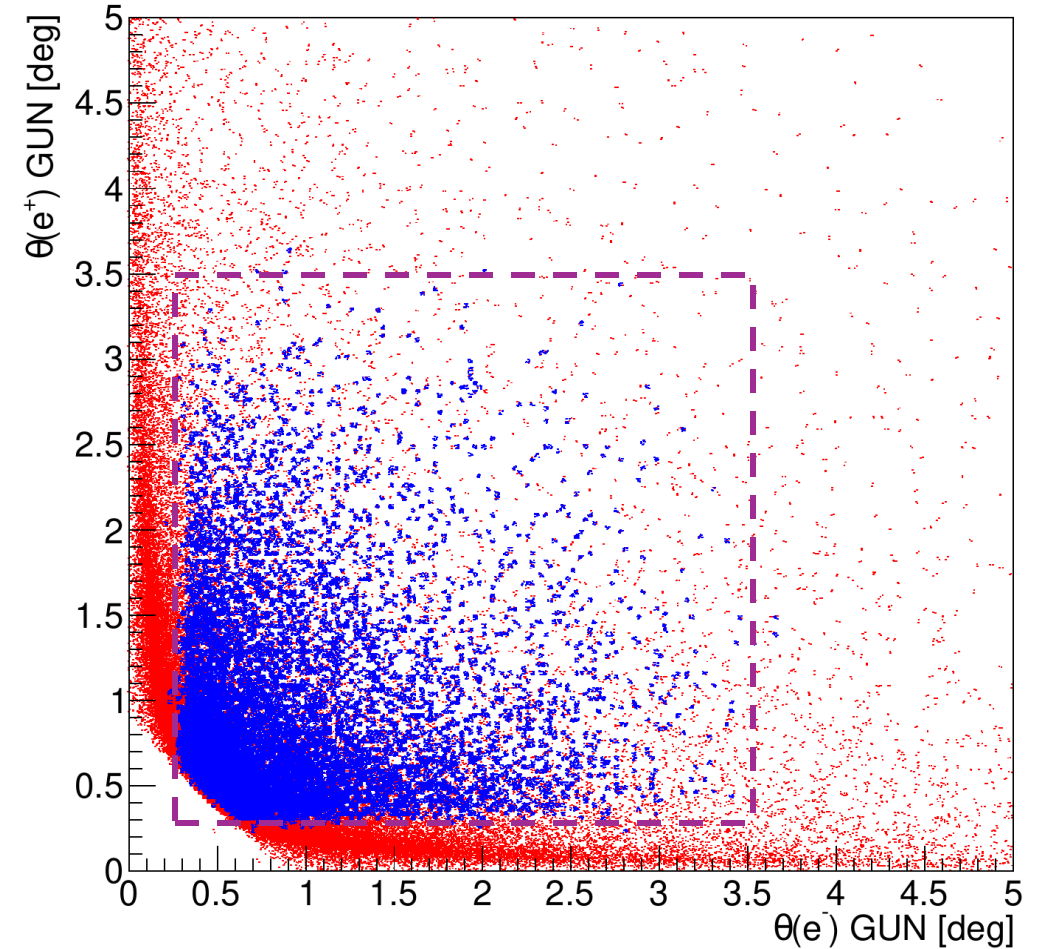
Angular distributions

Significant improvement for 17 MeV

Big absorber
 $m = 17$ MeV



Small absorber
 $m = 17$ MeV

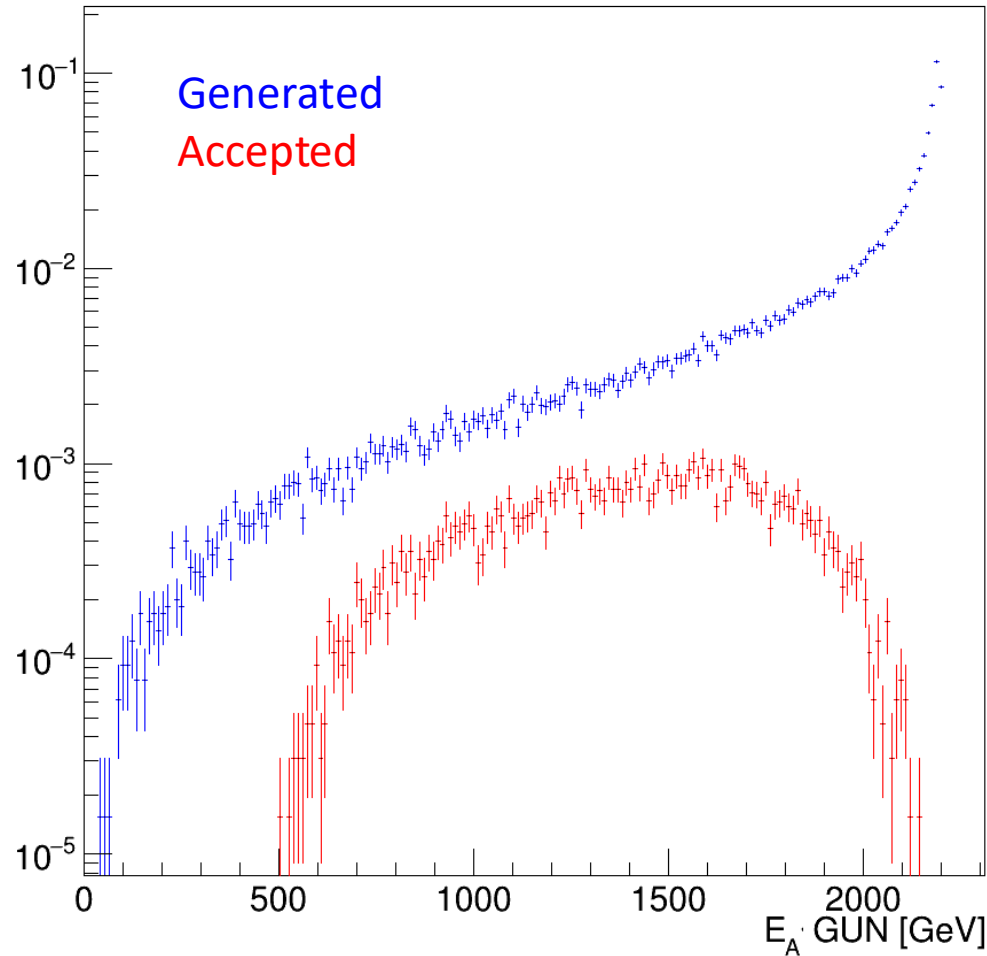


Energy sum distributions

Significant improvement for 17 MeV at high A' energies

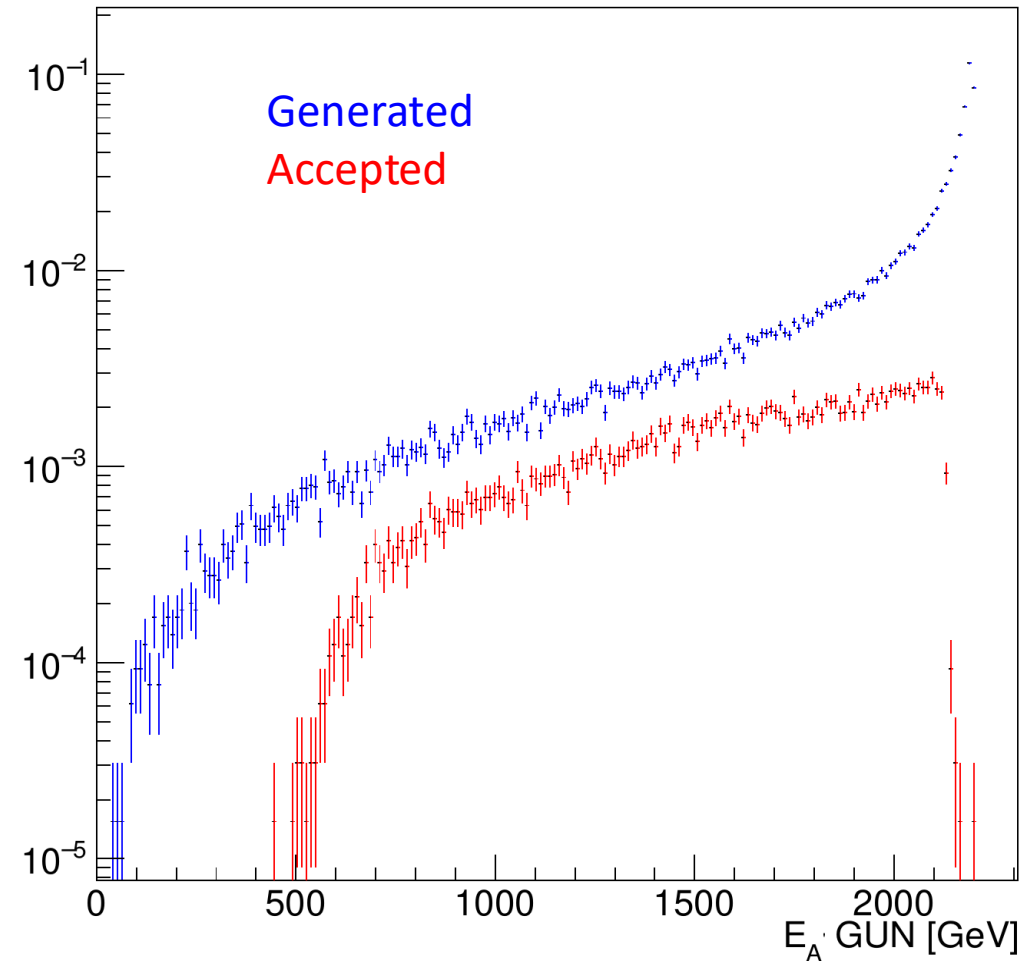
Large absorber

$M = 17$ MeV



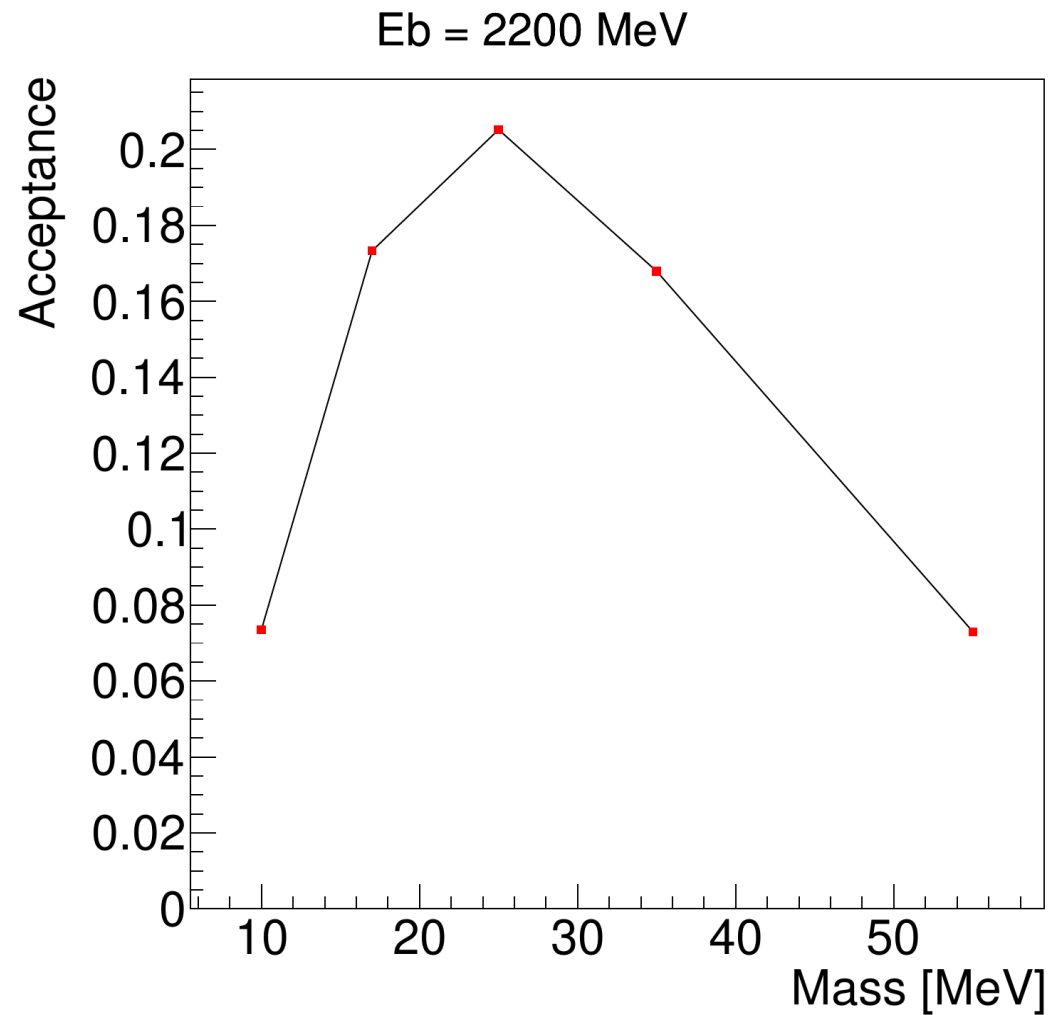
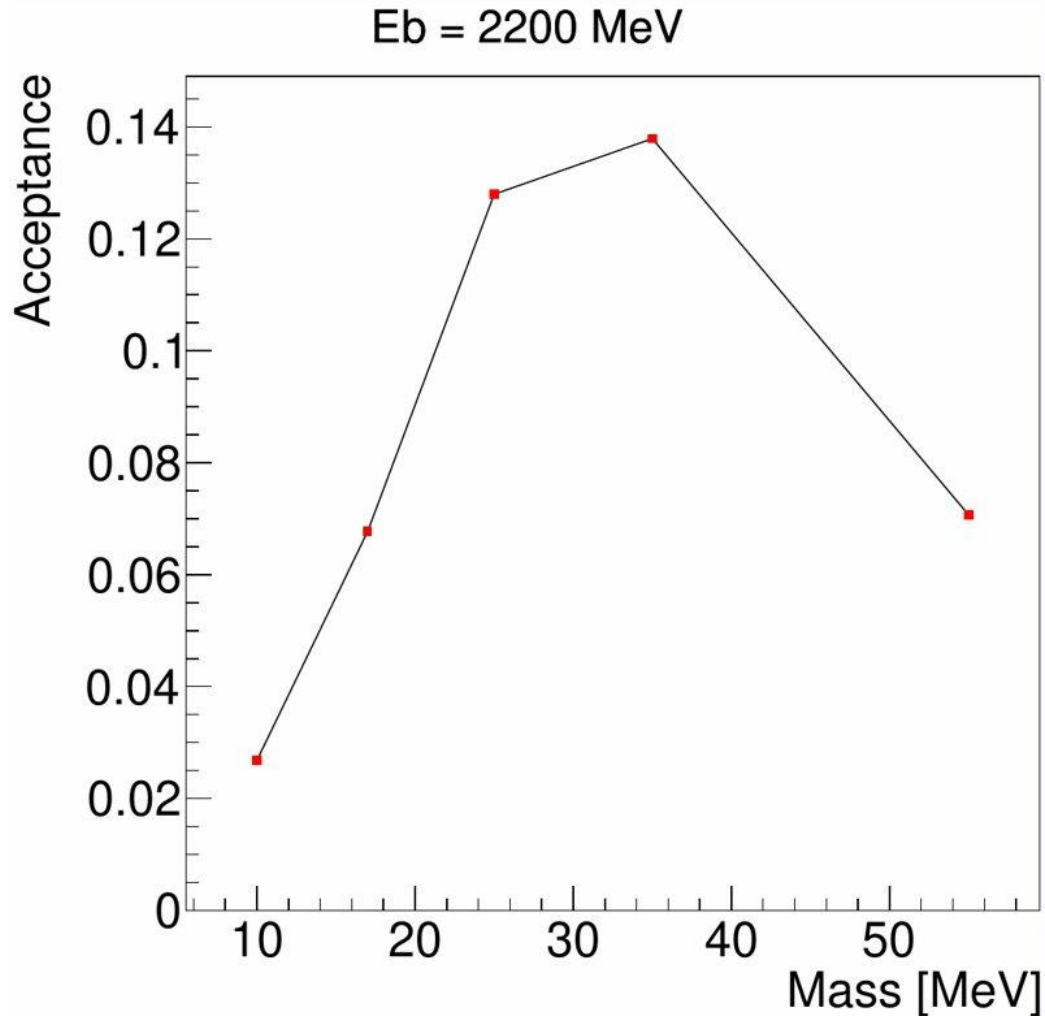
Small absorber

$M = 17$ MeV



A' acceptance at different masses

- @ 10 MeV the gain is x3
- @ 17 MeV the gain is about 2.5
- @ 55 MeV the gain is insignificant

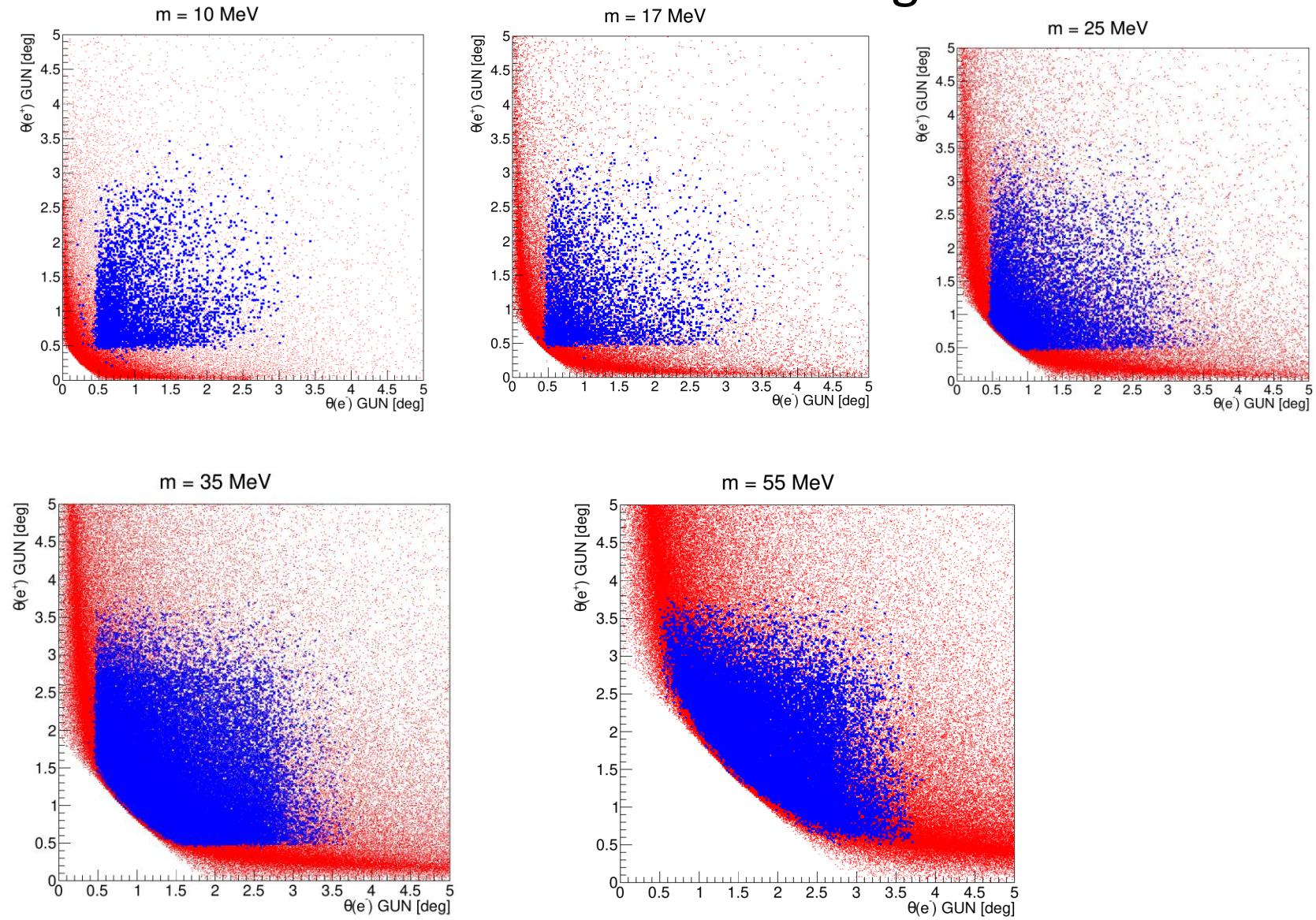


Summary

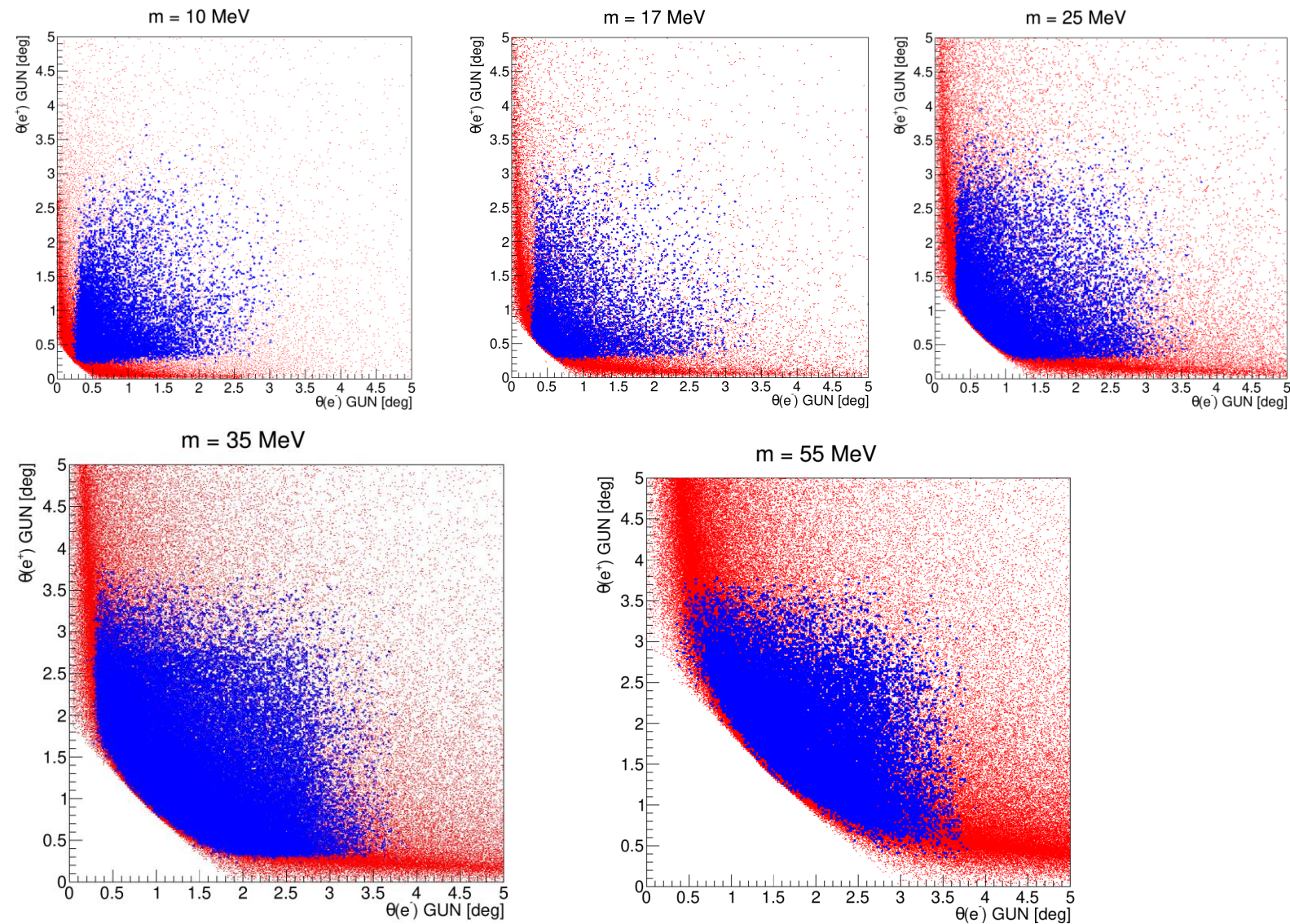
- At smaller masses (below 20 MeV) majority of A' decays have at least one of decay leptons either hit the absorber or travel through the beampipe
- Majority of survived A 's have at smaller masses occupy the 1st uncovered layer of the HyCal
- At high masses > 50 MeV, the absorber doesn't play significant role in the acceptance
- Having smaller absorber increases the acceptance x3 for 10 MeV *x2.5 for 17 MeV)
 - Also will mitigate edge related effects.

Backup

Big Absorber



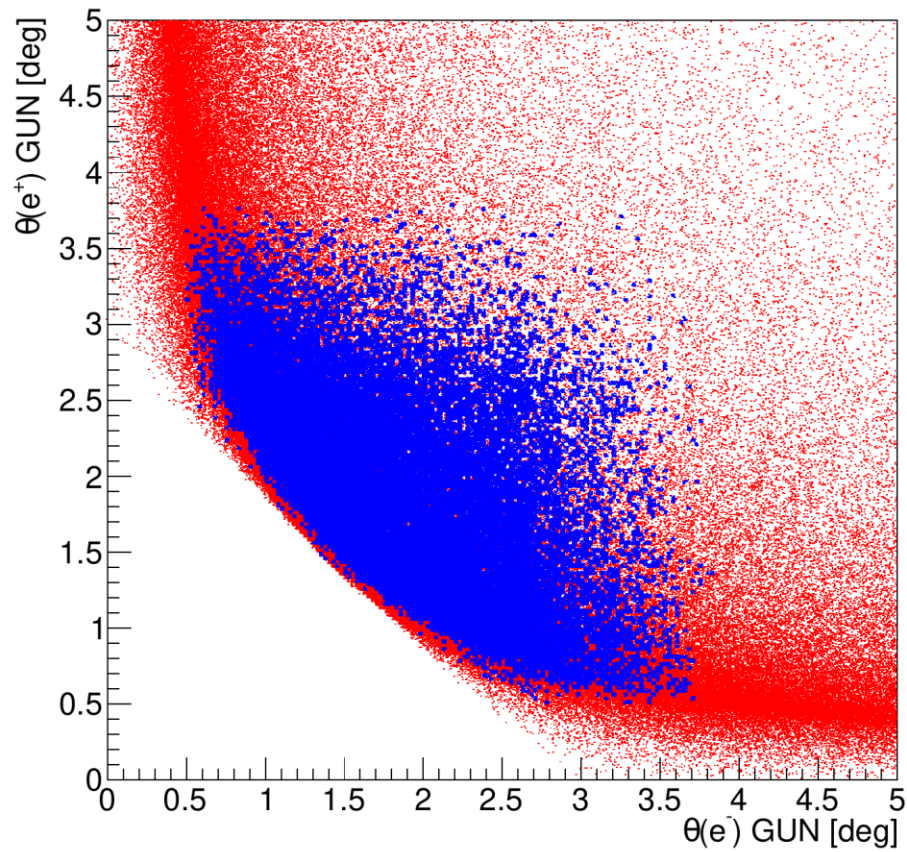
Small Absorber



No significant improvement at high mass

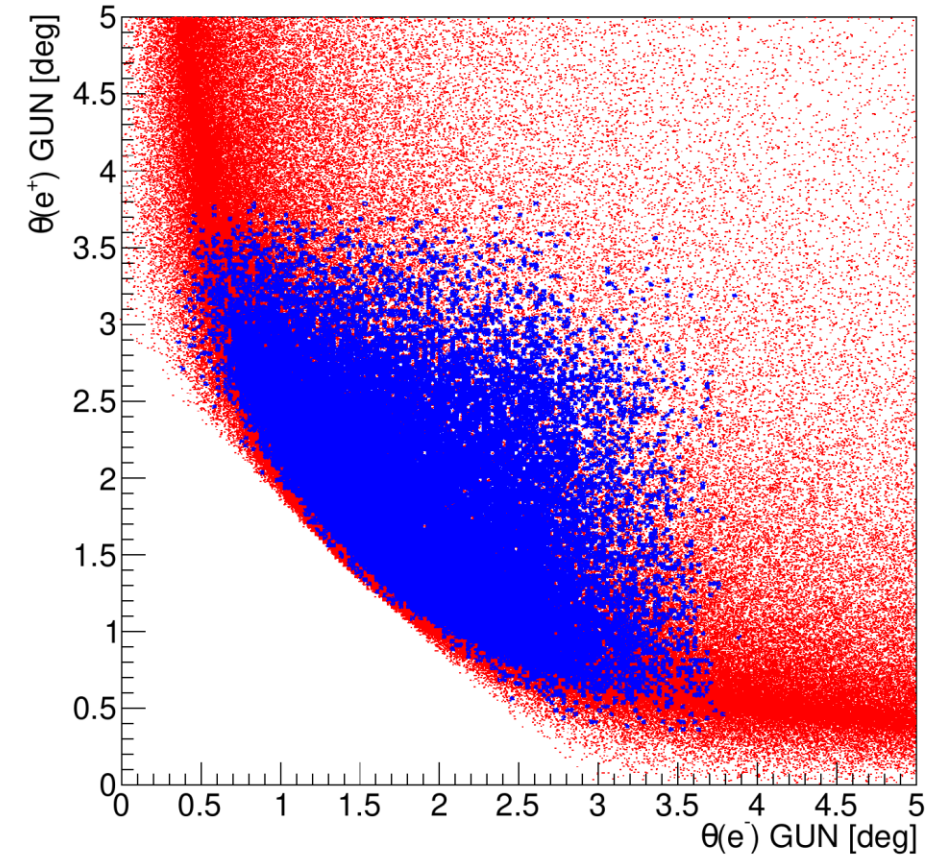
Big absorber

$m = 55 \text{ MeV}$

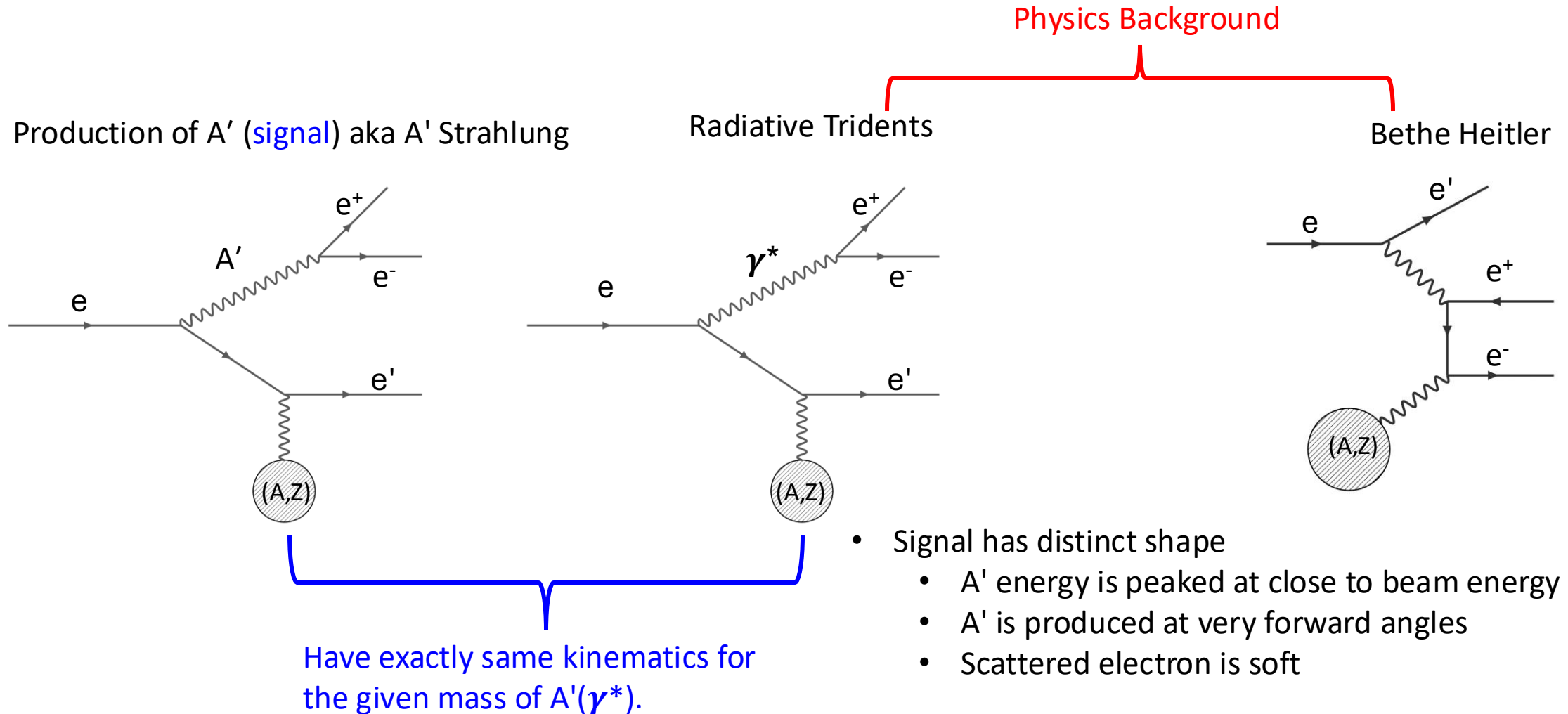


Small absorber

$m = 55 \text{ MeV}$



Background processes in A' production w/e- beam off fixed target



MadGraph5 generator is used to generate A' assuming the signal particle is a dark photon.