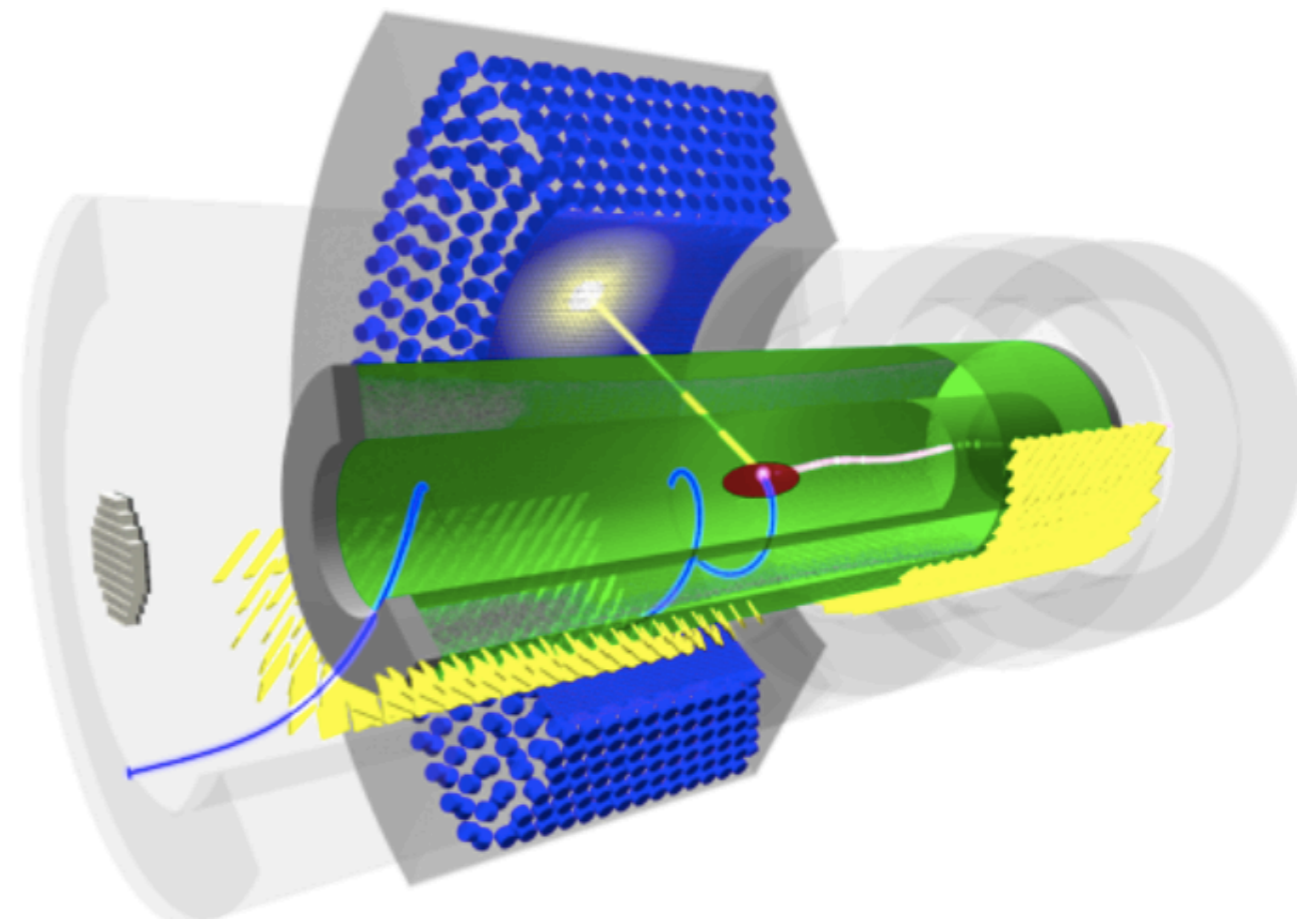


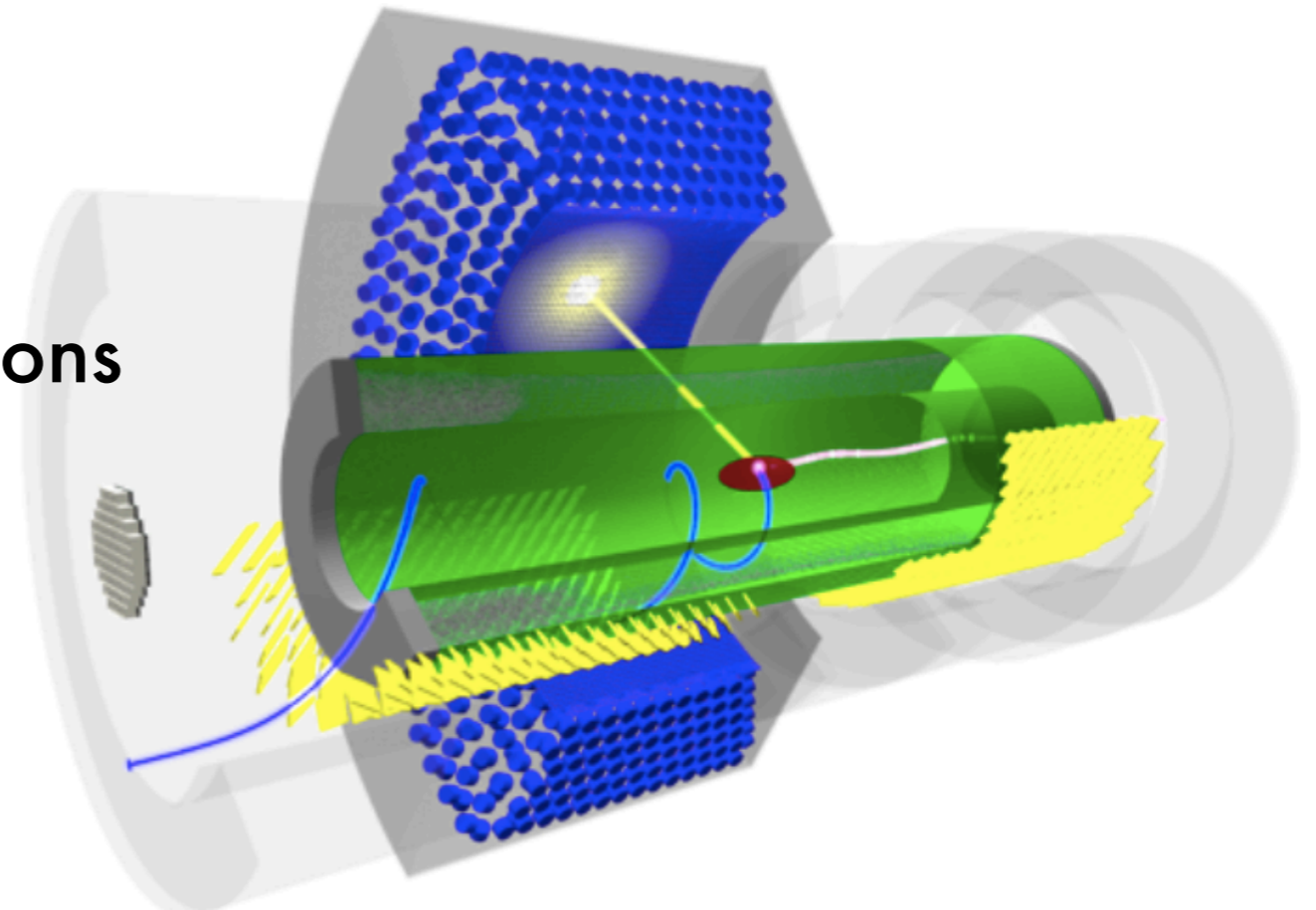
The X17 search with the MEG-II apparatus

Hicham Benmansour, INFN Pisa
on behalf of the MEG-II collaboration

WPCF 2024
Toulouse, November 5th, 2024

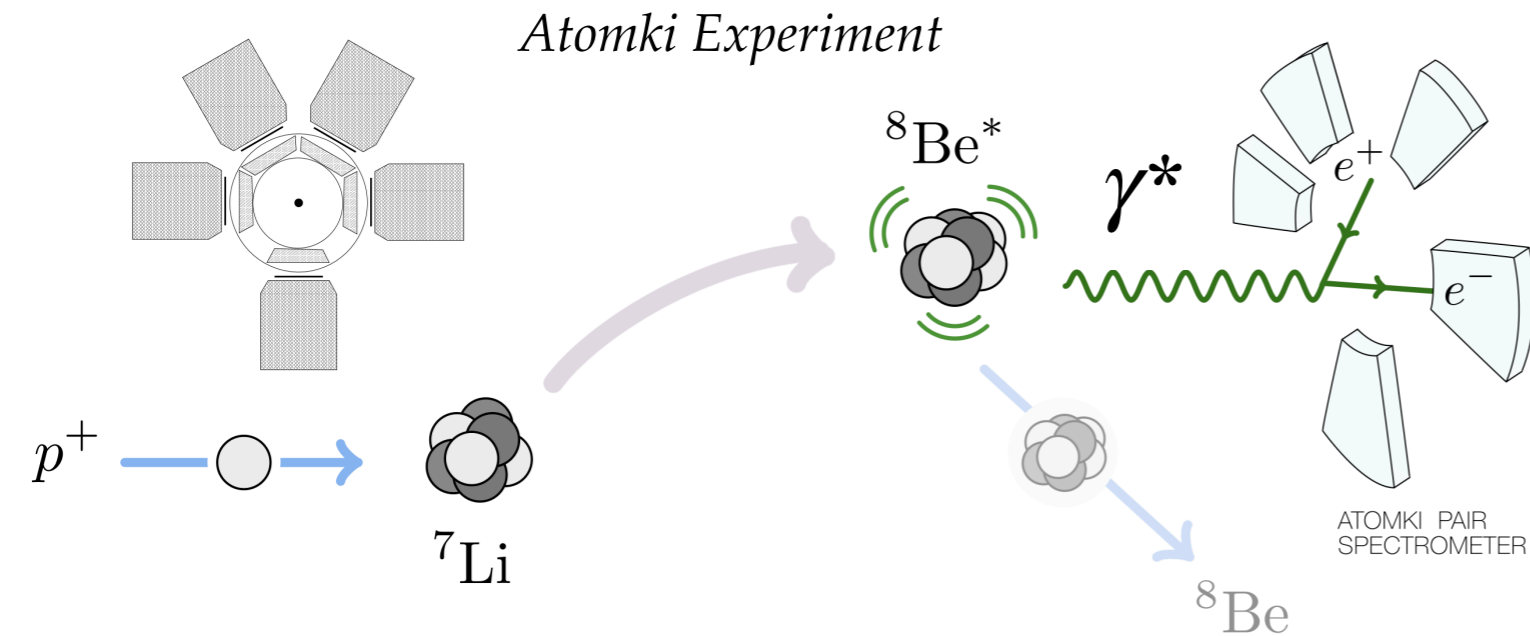


- 1) Physics motivation: the Atomki anomalies
- 2) The MEG-II apparatus
- 3) Backgrounds and signal simulations
- 4) Pair reconstruction
- 5) Trigger and DAQ strategies
- 6) Collected data and analysis strategy



1) The Atomki anomalies

The Beryllium Anomaly

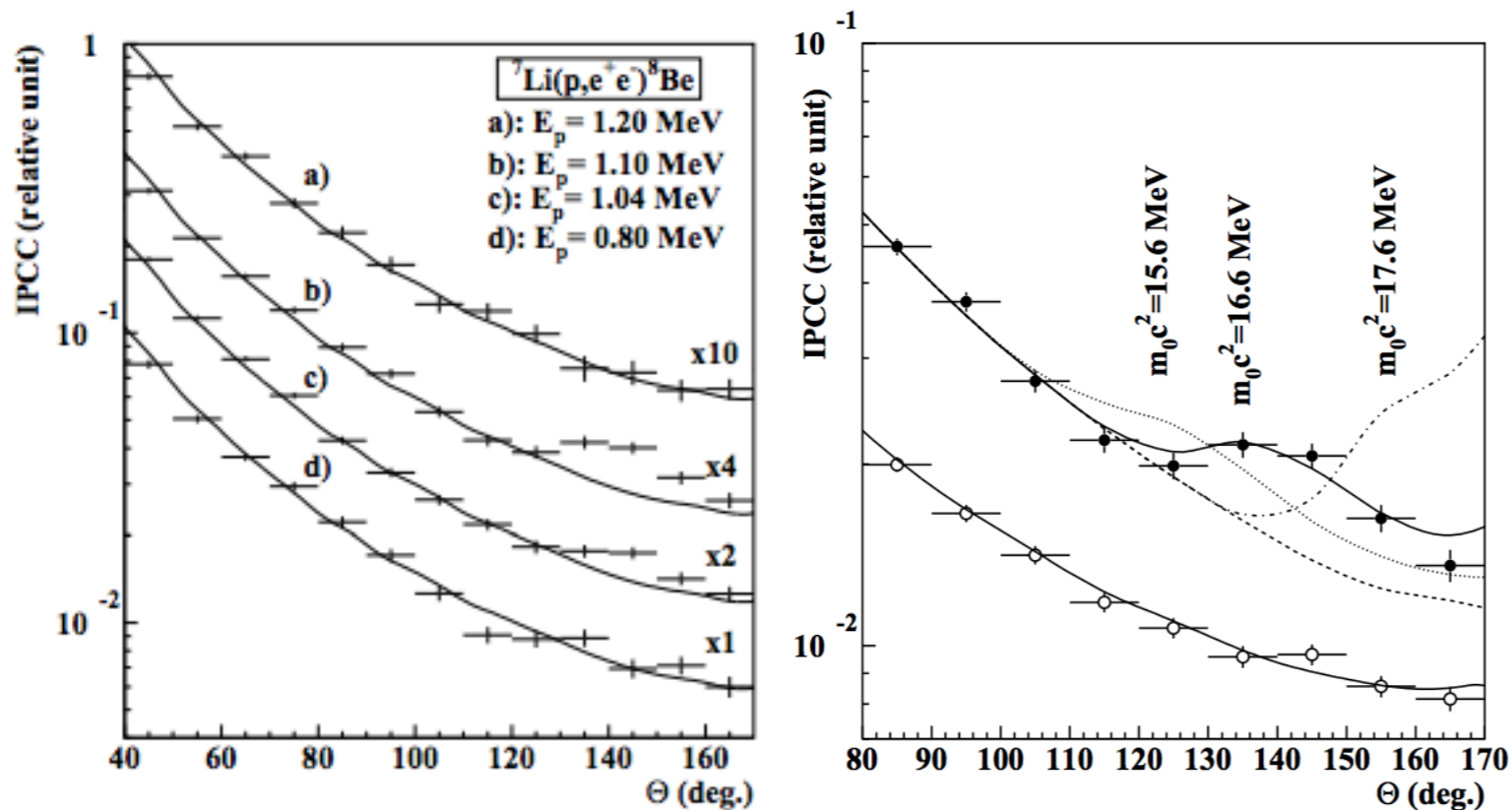


${}^7\text{Li}(p, e^+e^-){}^8\text{Be}$ studied at $E_p = 800, 1040, 1100, 1200$ keV

→ e^+/e^- energy sum and angular opening Θ

IPC = Internal Pair Conversion
→ direct e^+/e^- pair creation

2016 Atomki results



Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 042501

- Internal Pair Conversion (IPC) distribution shows excess at $\Theta \sim 140^\circ$ at 1100 keV

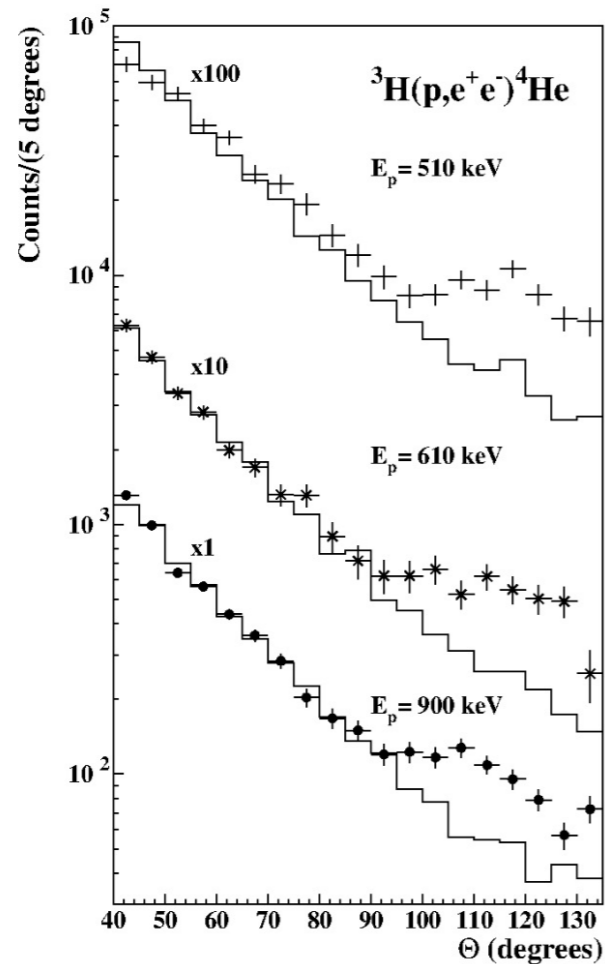
→ 1 possible explanation: decay of a light particle emitted during proton capture

→ best fit $m_X = 16.70 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
 $BR(X) = 6 \times 10^{-6}$
wrt to γ production

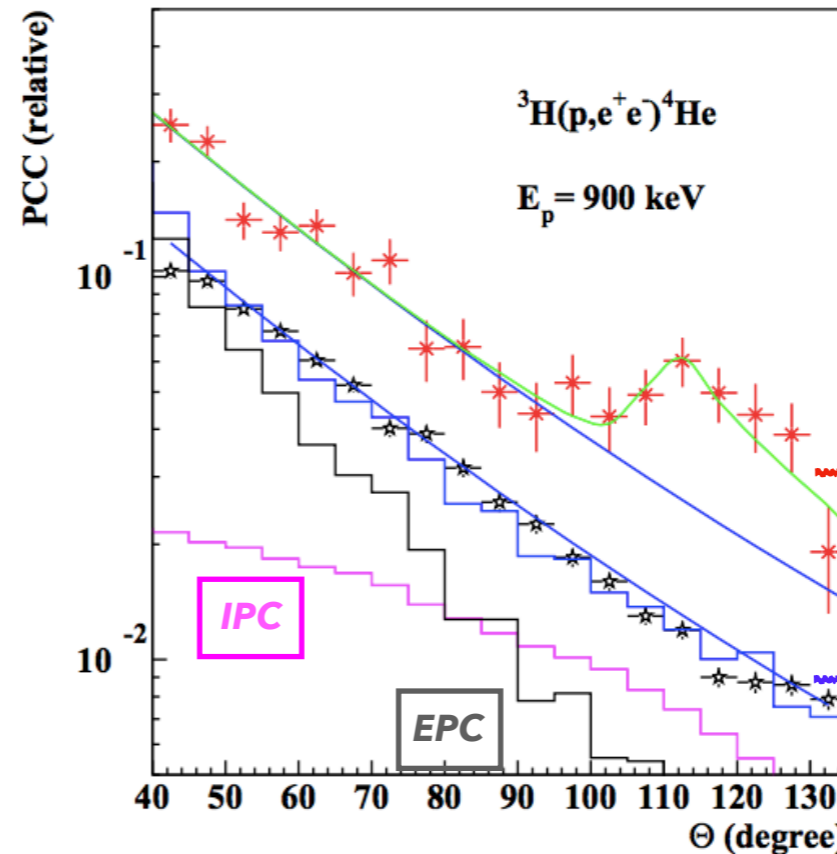
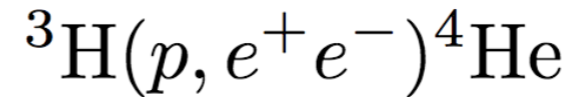
→ vector boson X17?
mediator of a fifth force?

Phys. Rev. D 95, 035017

Signal region



Study repeated with Tritium target



$E_{\text{sum}} = E_{e^+} + E_{e^-}$

$IPC = \text{Internal Pair Conversion}$
 $\rightarrow \text{direct } e^+/e^- \text{ pair creation}$

$EPC = \text{External Pair Conversion}$
 $\rightarrow \gamma\text{-conversion in matter}$

E_{sum} signal region

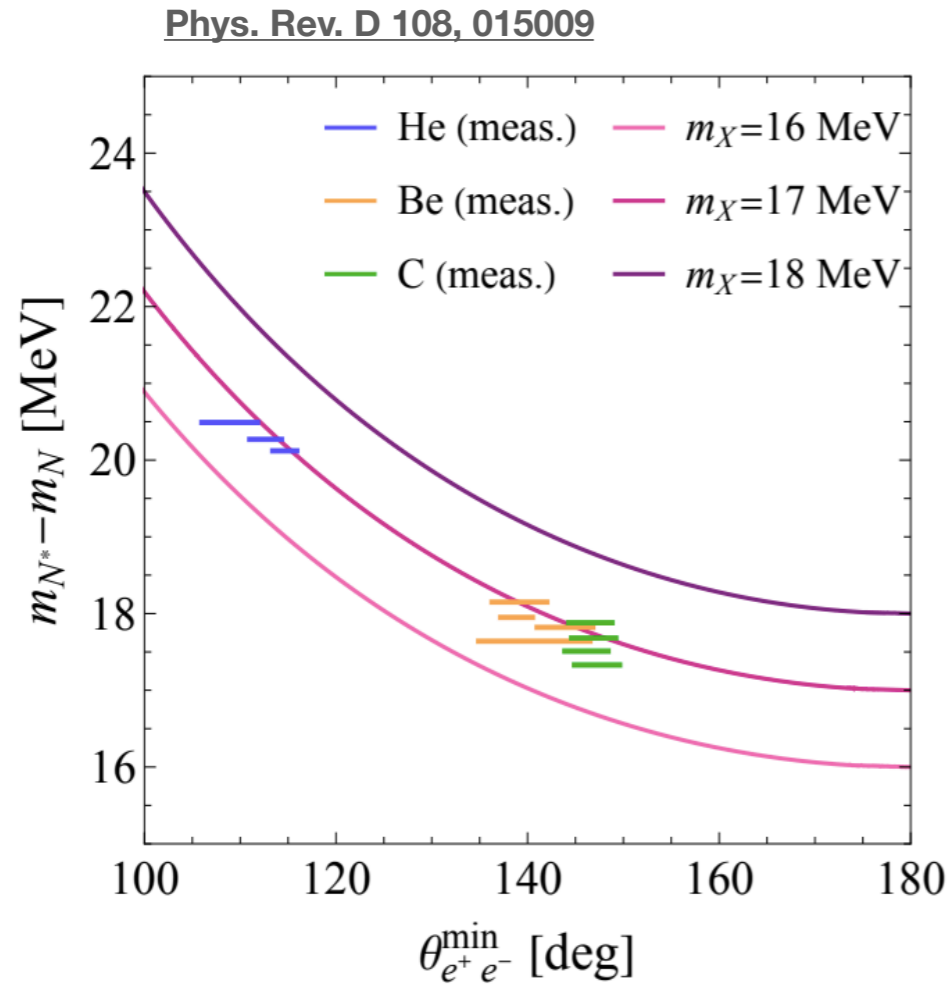
E_{sum} background region

- Excess in IPC background at 115° angular opening: $>6\sigma$
- Possible explanation: a 16.84 MeV neutral boson (X17?)
- Recent excess in ${}^{11}\text{B}(p, \gamma) {}^{12}\text{C}$ as well [Phys. Rev. C 106, L061601](#)
- Other indirect searches (NA64, NA48/2): no evidence for X17 but strong constraints [Phys. Rev. D, 101:071101](#) [Phys. Lett. B 746, 178](#)

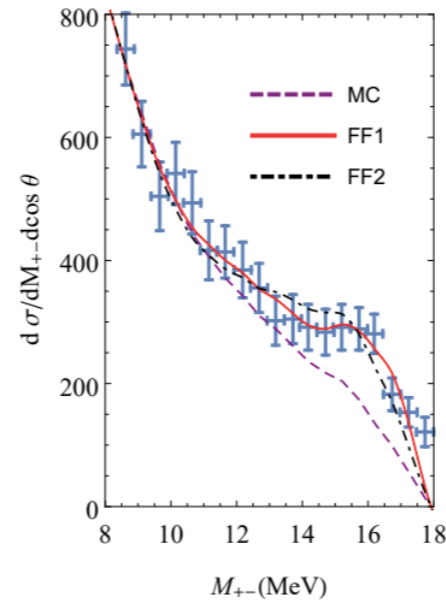
New boson?

or

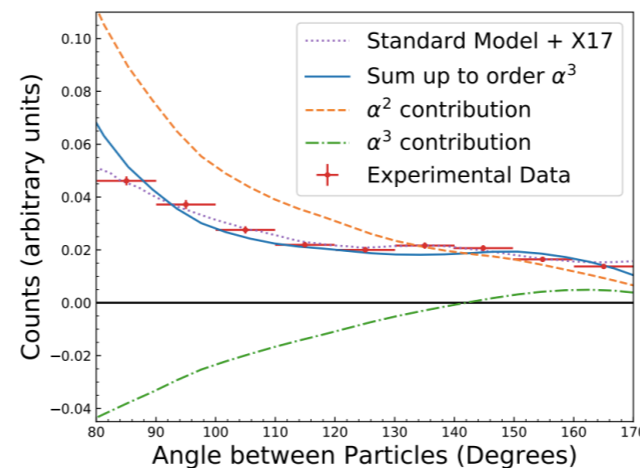
Standard Model physics?



- Reported results are kinematically consistent



- Koch 2021 Modified Bethe-Heitler
Nucl. Phys. A 1008, 122143

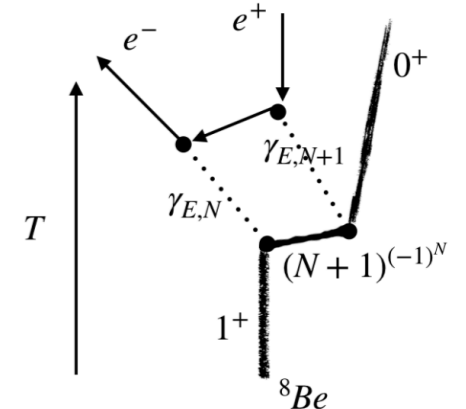


- Hayes 2021 Phys. Rev. C 105, 055502
Underlines importance of E1/M1 multipole contribution ratio

- Zhang & Miller 2017

Phys. Lett. B 773, 159

Multipole interferences?
Form factor?



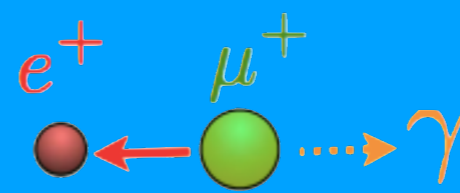
- Aleksejevs 2021 arXiv:2102.01127
IPC second-order processes included

- Hint for the production of a neutral, 17 MeV boson, potential mediator of a fifth force: X17
- Can the measurement be reproduced with an independent setup?
- Need for experimental confirmation: MEG-II has all elements to carry out the measurement
 - Improved resolution
 - Reconstruction in full solid angle
 - Reproduction of excess?
- Engineering run in 2022
- First DAQ period in February 2023

2) The MEG-II apparatus

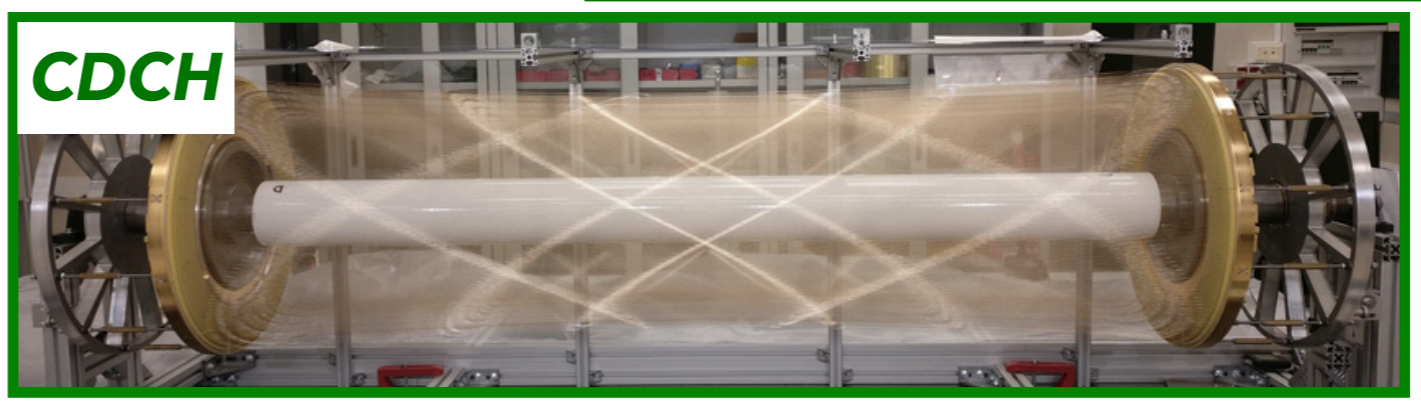
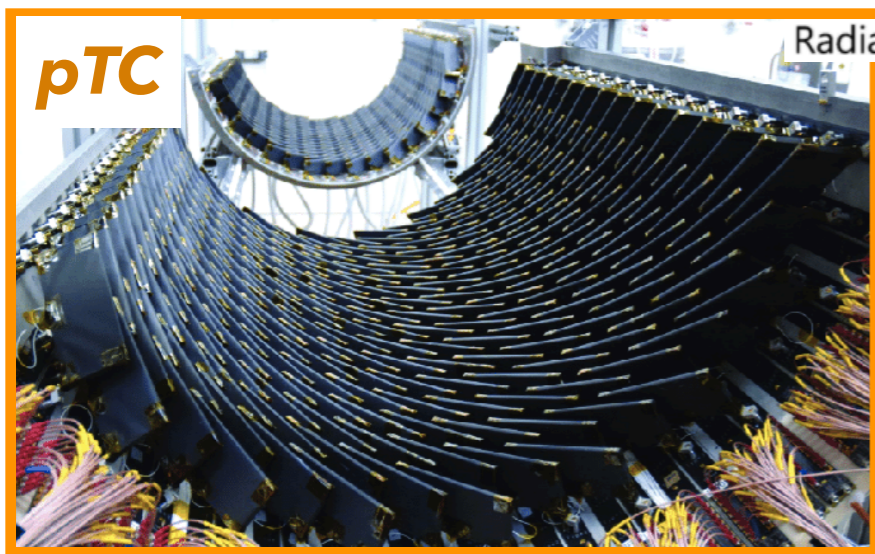
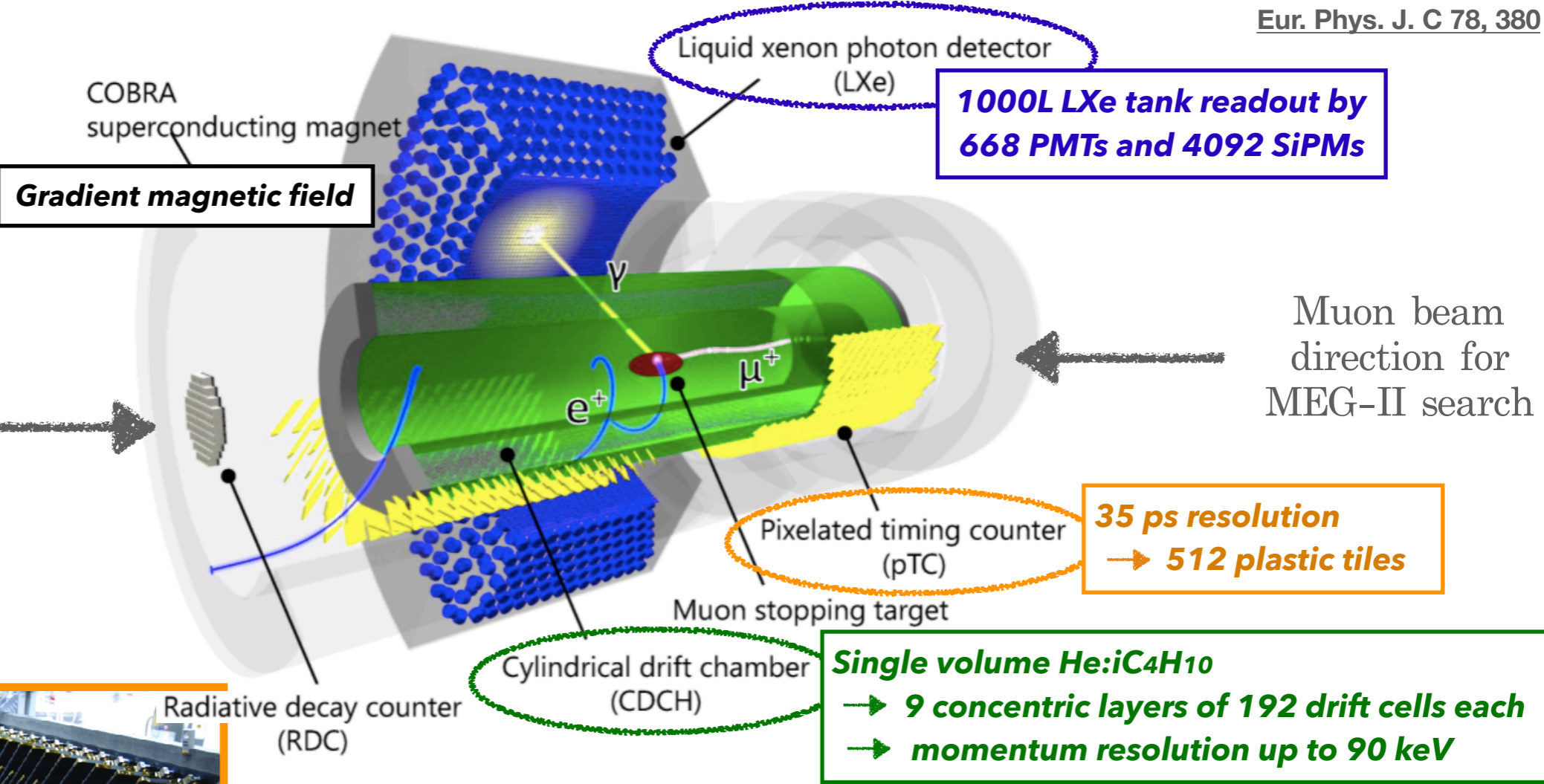
The MEG-II experiment

The MEG-II experiment



- MEG-II experiment searches for charged lepton flavour violating decay: $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \gamma$
- At Paul Scherrer Institute, PSI, Switzerland Eur. Phys. J. C, 76(8):434
- 1 order of magnitude sensitivity improvement wrt MEG: $BR(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) \rightarrow 6 \times 10^{-14}$ Eur. Phys. J. C 78, 380

MEG-II results from an intense upgrade program

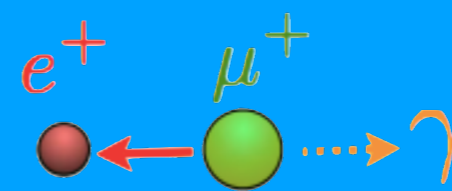


2) The MEG-II apparatus

Adapting for the X17 search

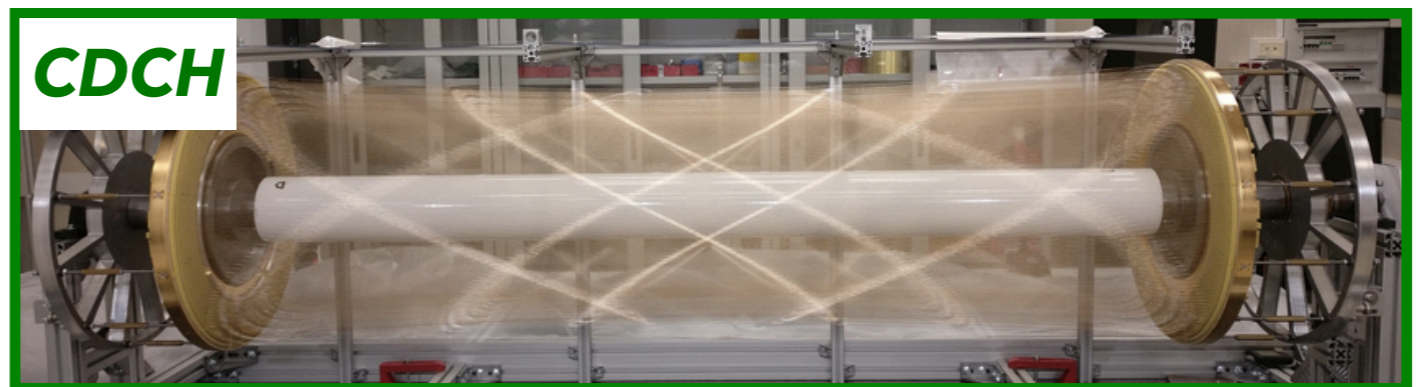
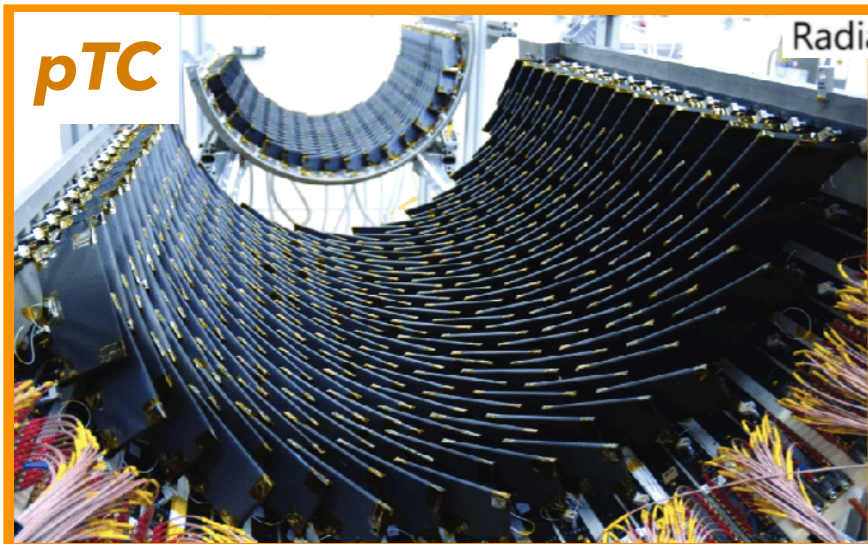
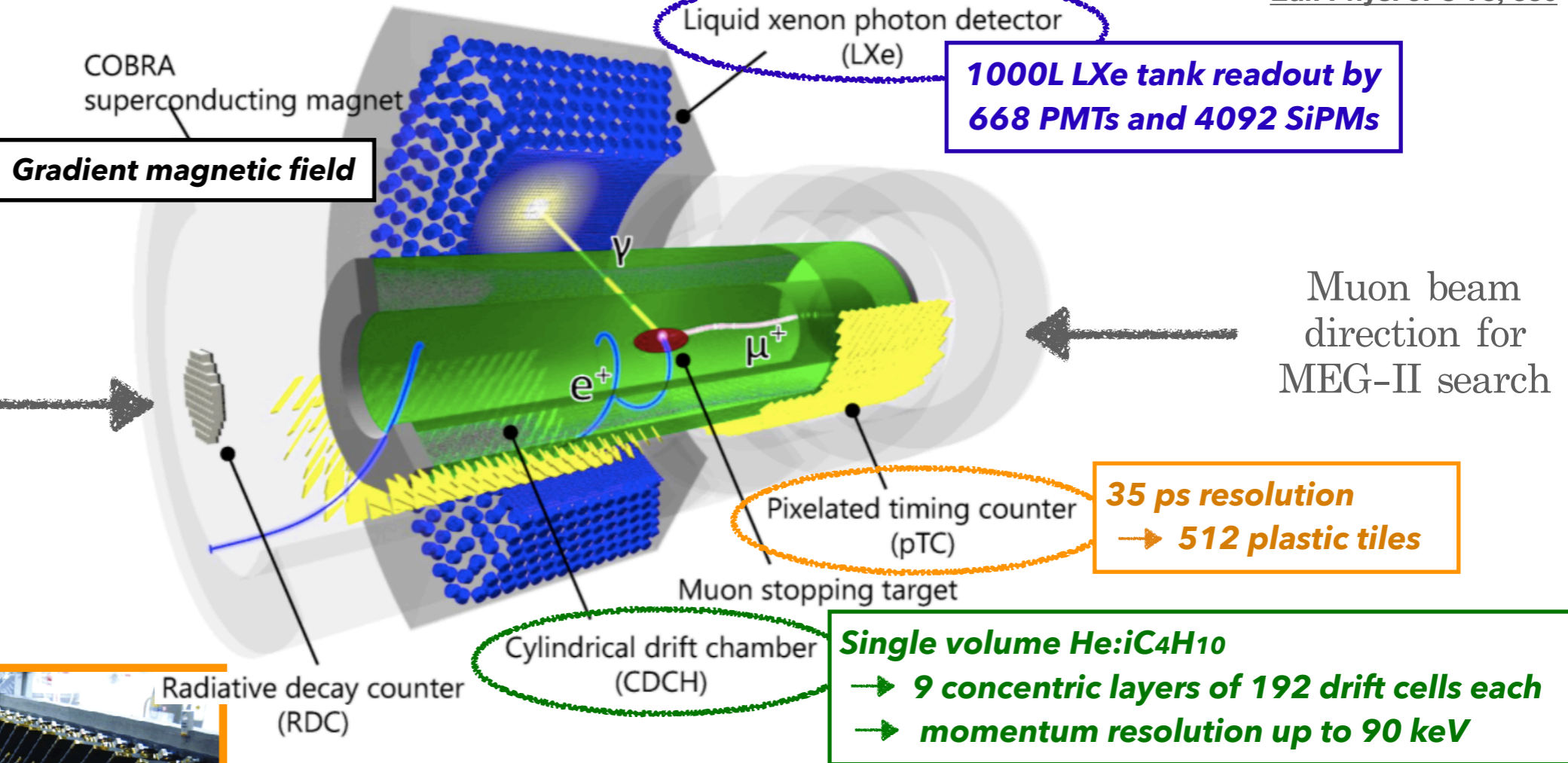
- We need to measure the direction and momentum of both electron and positron
- MEG-II highly performing spectrometer can be used for the X17 search:
 - MEG-II CW accelerator as proton beam
 - X17-dedicated target in place of the muon target
 - gamma auxiliary detectors
 - reduced magnetic field
 - optimized TDAQ

The MEG-II experiment



- MEG-II experiment searches for charged lepton flavour violating decay: $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \gamma$
- At Paul Scherrer Institute, PSI, Switzerland Eur. Phys. J. C, 76(8):434
- 1 order of magnitude sensitivity improvement wrt MEG: $BR(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) \rightarrow 6 \times 10^{-14}$ Eur. Phys. J. C 78, 380

MEG-II results from an intense upgrade program



- LXe calibration

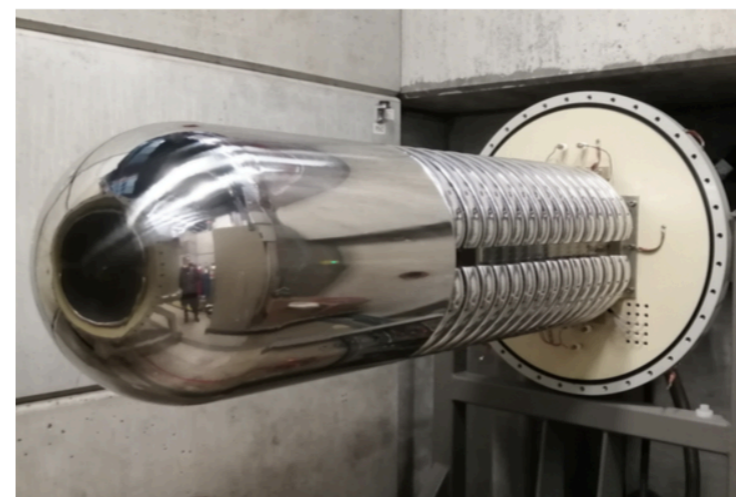
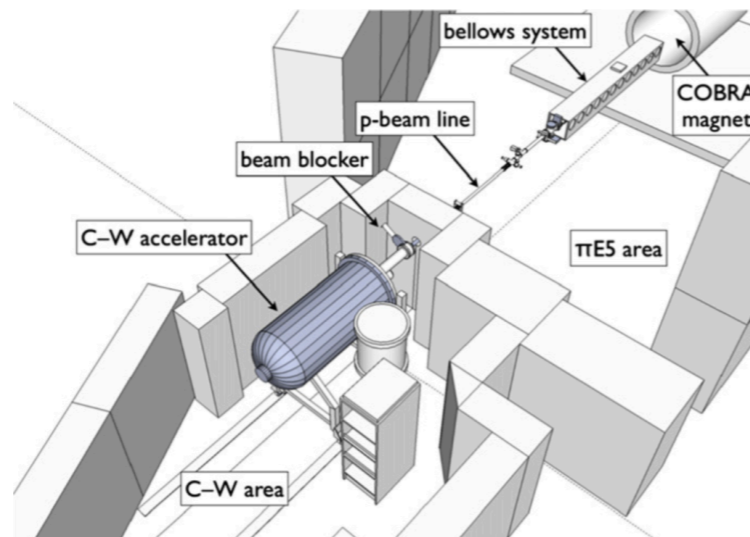
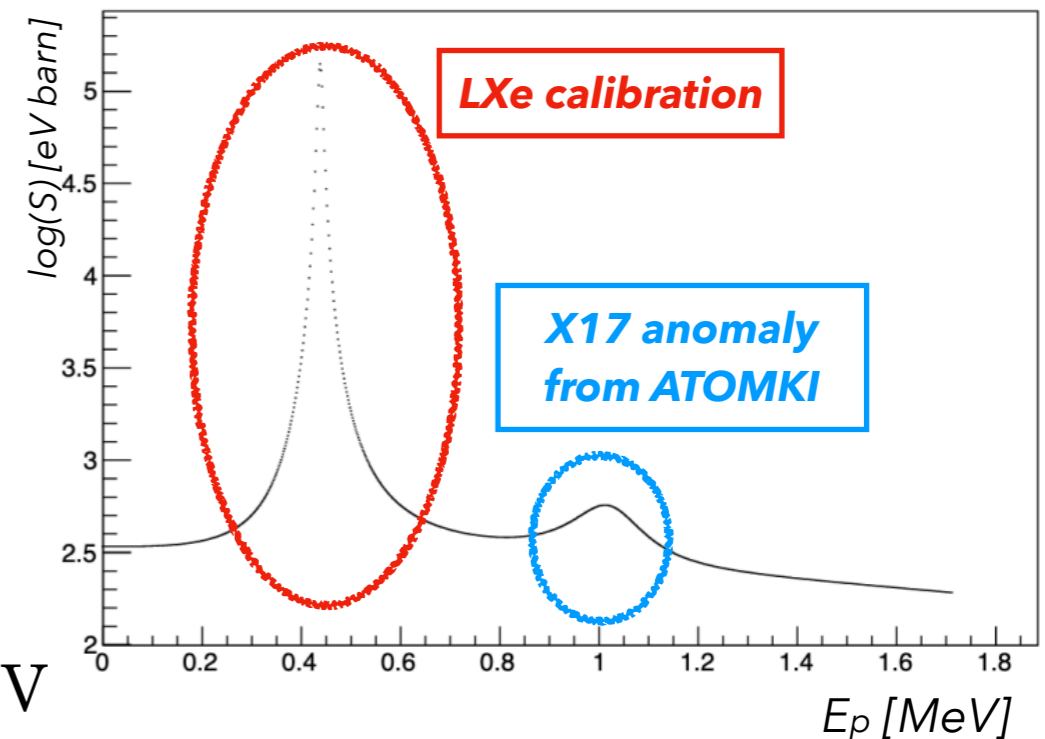
- MEG-II Cockcroft-Walton accelerator: used for calibration of LXe calorimeter
- Proton beam impinging on Li target (0.44 MeV resonance): 17.64 MeV γ line

- X17 search

Max proton current and energy: 100 μ A and 1.1 MeV

- ideal for X17 search, 1.03 MeV resonance

${}^7\text{Li}(p,\gamma){}^8\text{Be}$ astro factor

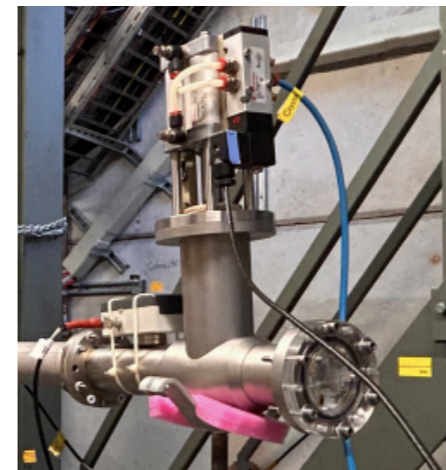


- Beam composition investigation and tuning

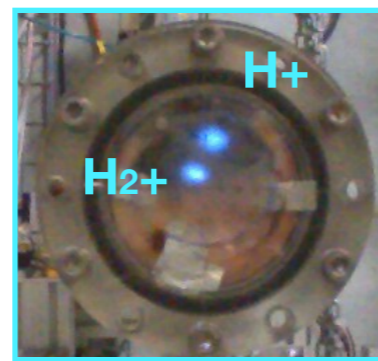
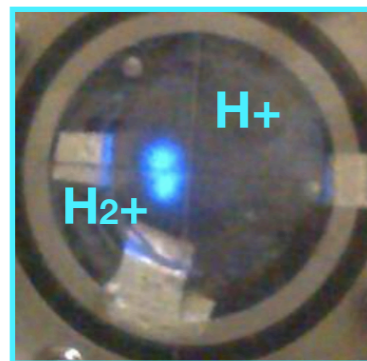
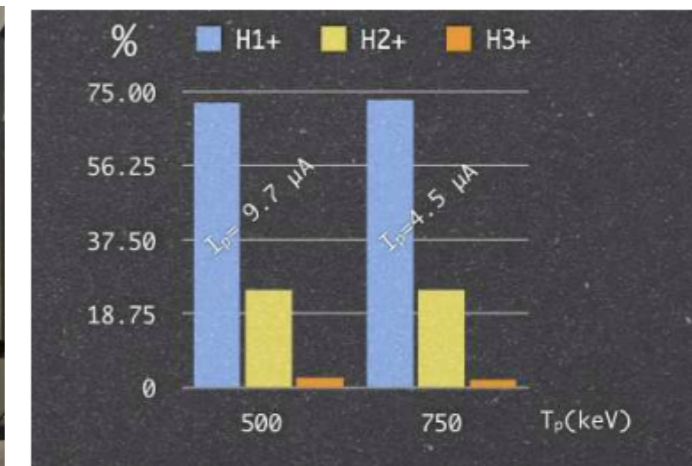
- CW beam tuned using a quartz target: proton-induced fluorescence in the quartz, visible emission
- Tuning made varying 4 dipolar fields along the beamline
- H₂⁺ contamination in the beam

Measurement of the beam ion composition with Faraday Cup

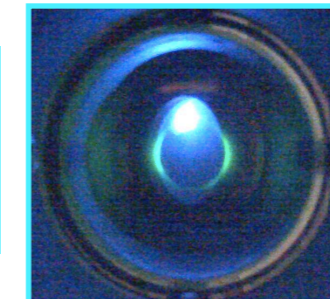
Faraday cup



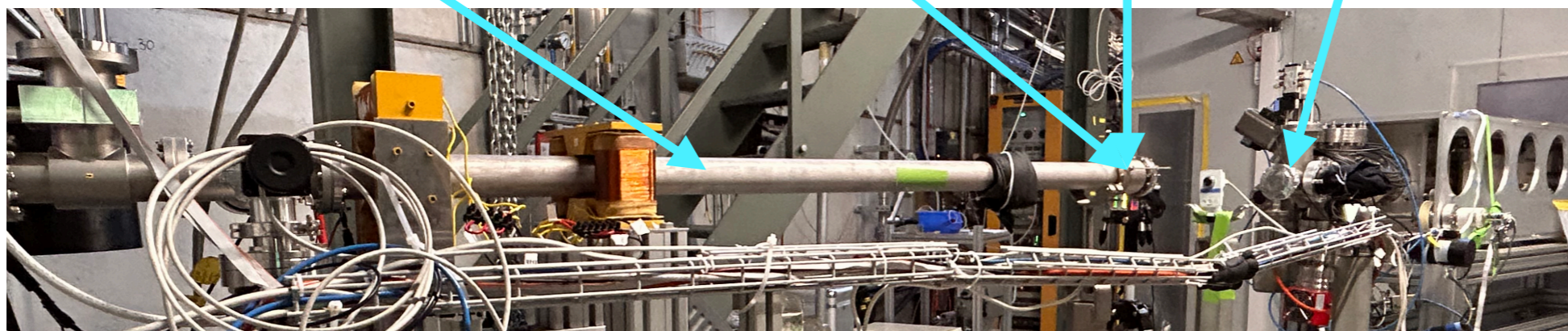
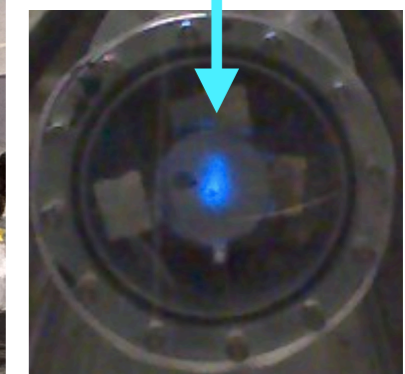
Ion composition



Collimator to reject H₂⁺



Spectrometer center



The new target region

- 400 μm -thick carbon fiber vacuum chamber to minimize multiple scattering
- Main target for physics run
 - 2 μm LiPON^(*) on 25 μm copper substrate (by PSI)
- For gamma detectors calibration
 - 5 μm LiF on 10 μm copper substrate (by INFN Legnaro)
- Target-supporting and heat-dissipating copper structure attached to CW nose

B field x0.15 wrt MEG
(0.2T at center)

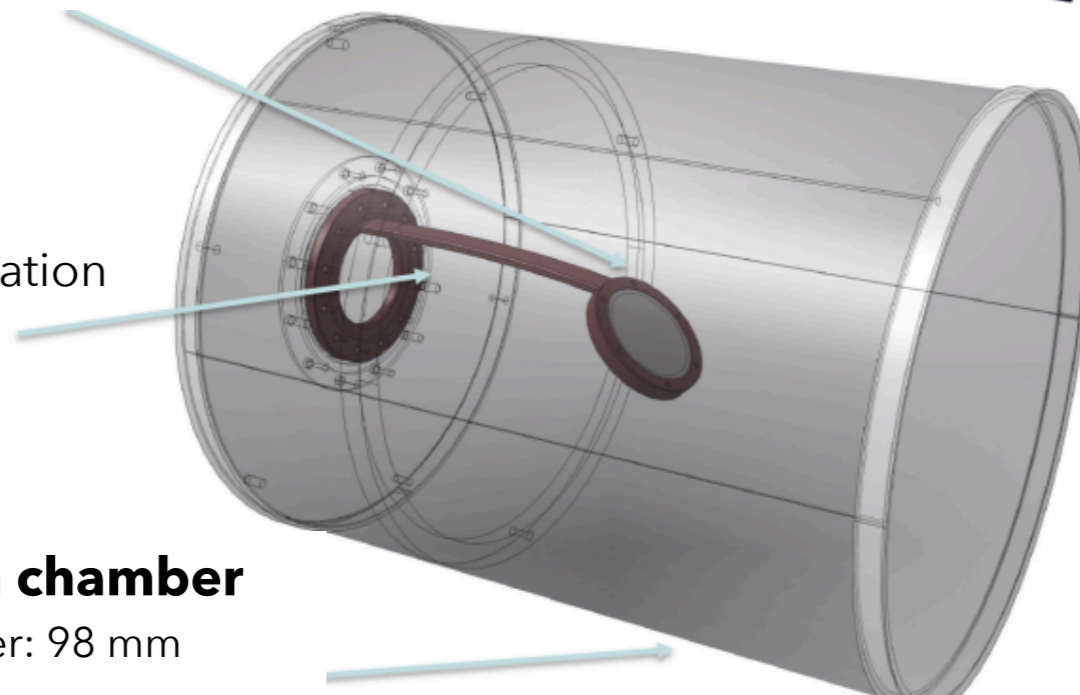
Li target

at COBRA center
45° slant angle



Target arm

Cu for heat dissipation



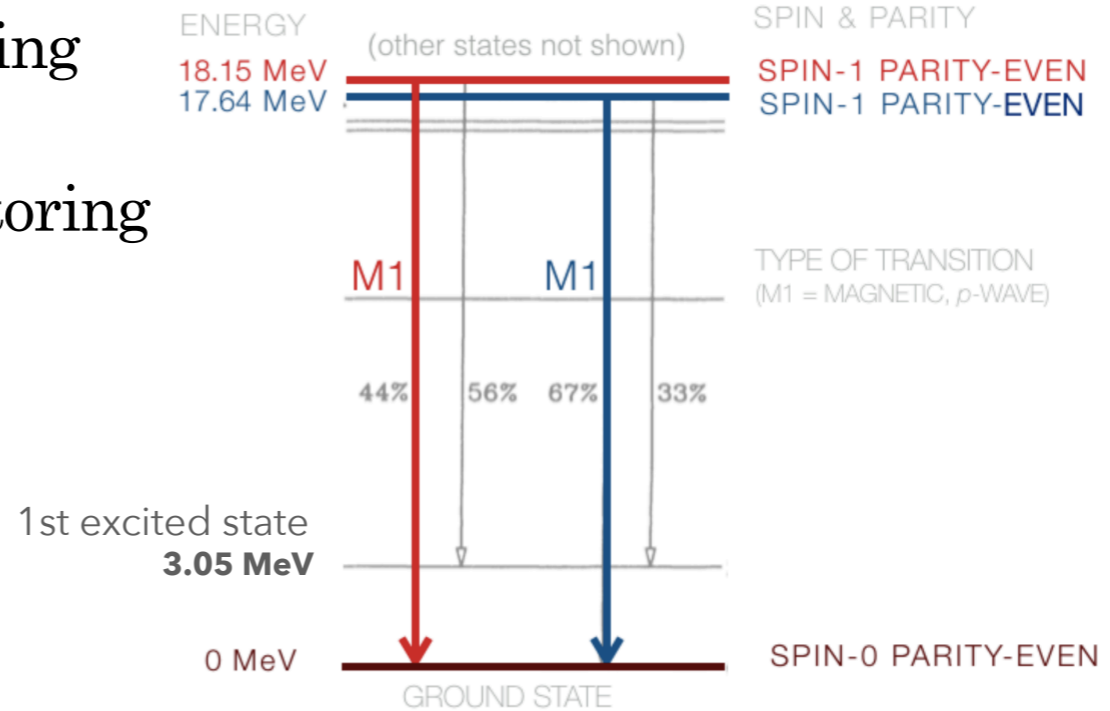
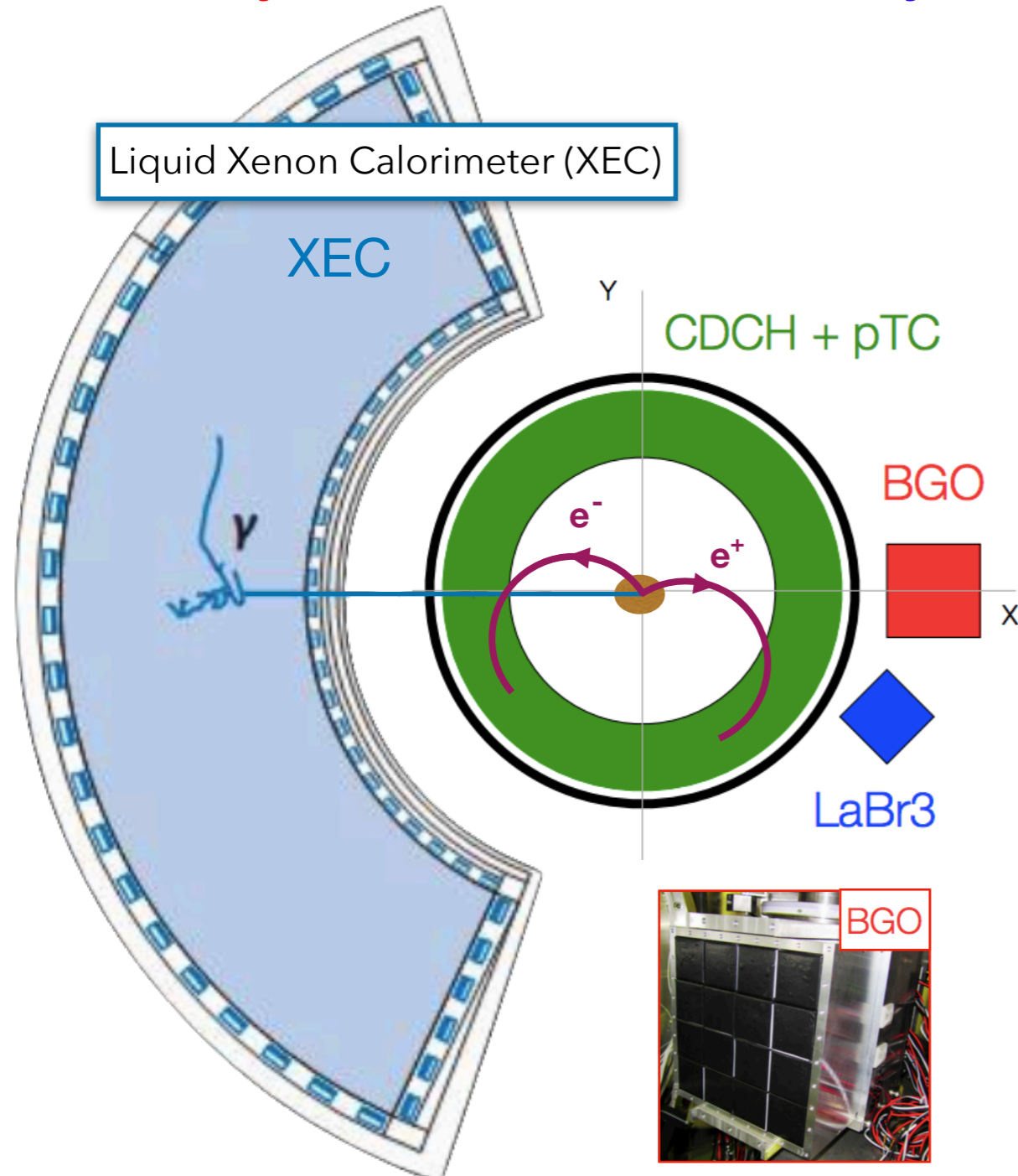
Carbon fiber vacuum chamber

Thickness: 400 μm , Diameter: 98 mm
Length: 226 mm

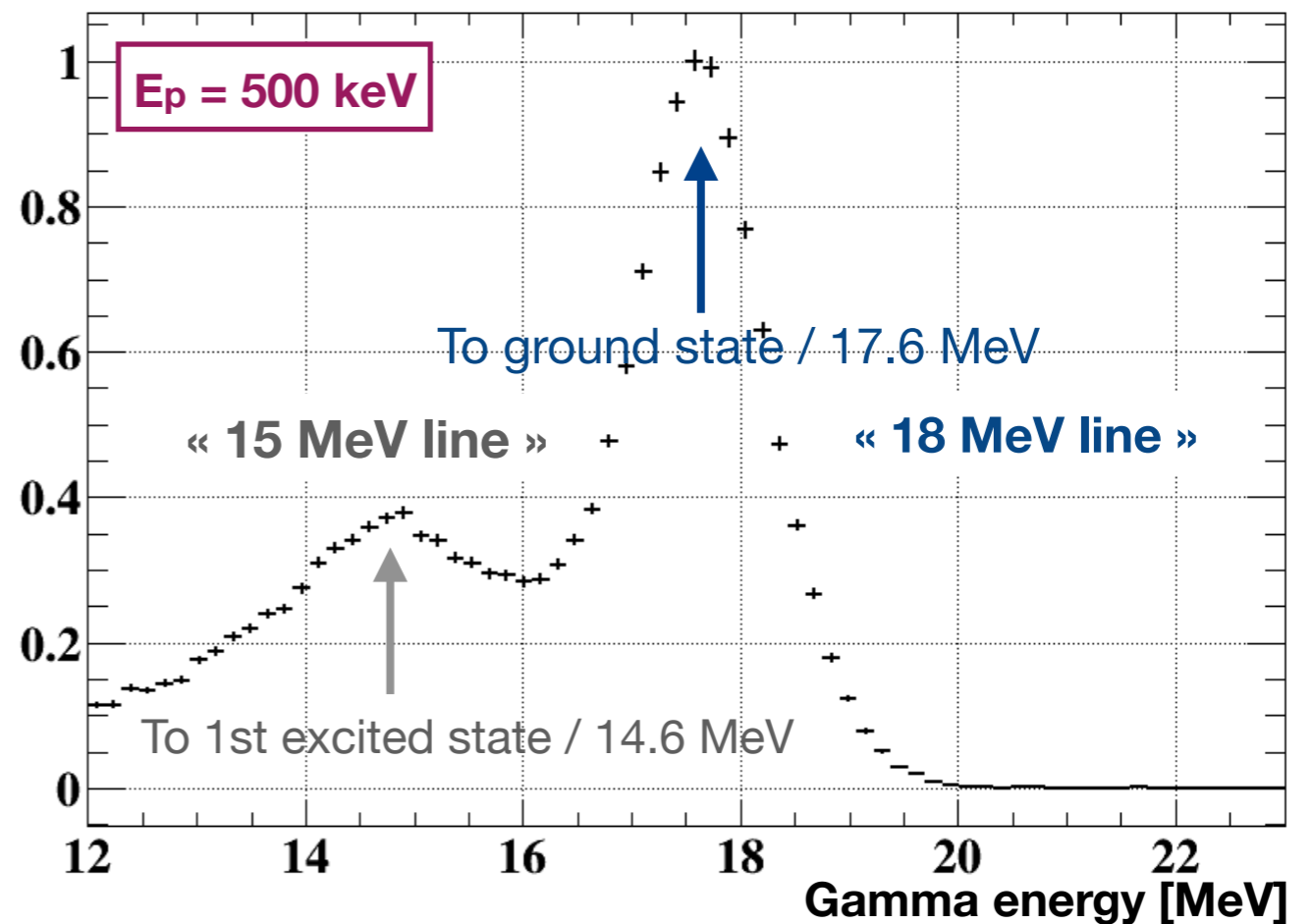


(*) Lithium phosphorus oxynitride ($\text{Li}_{3-x}\text{PO}_{4-y}\text{N}_{x+y}$)

- Main gamma detector for bkg understanding
LXe calorimeter
- Two additional gamma detectors for monitoring
BGO crystal matrix (4x4) **LaBr3 crystal**

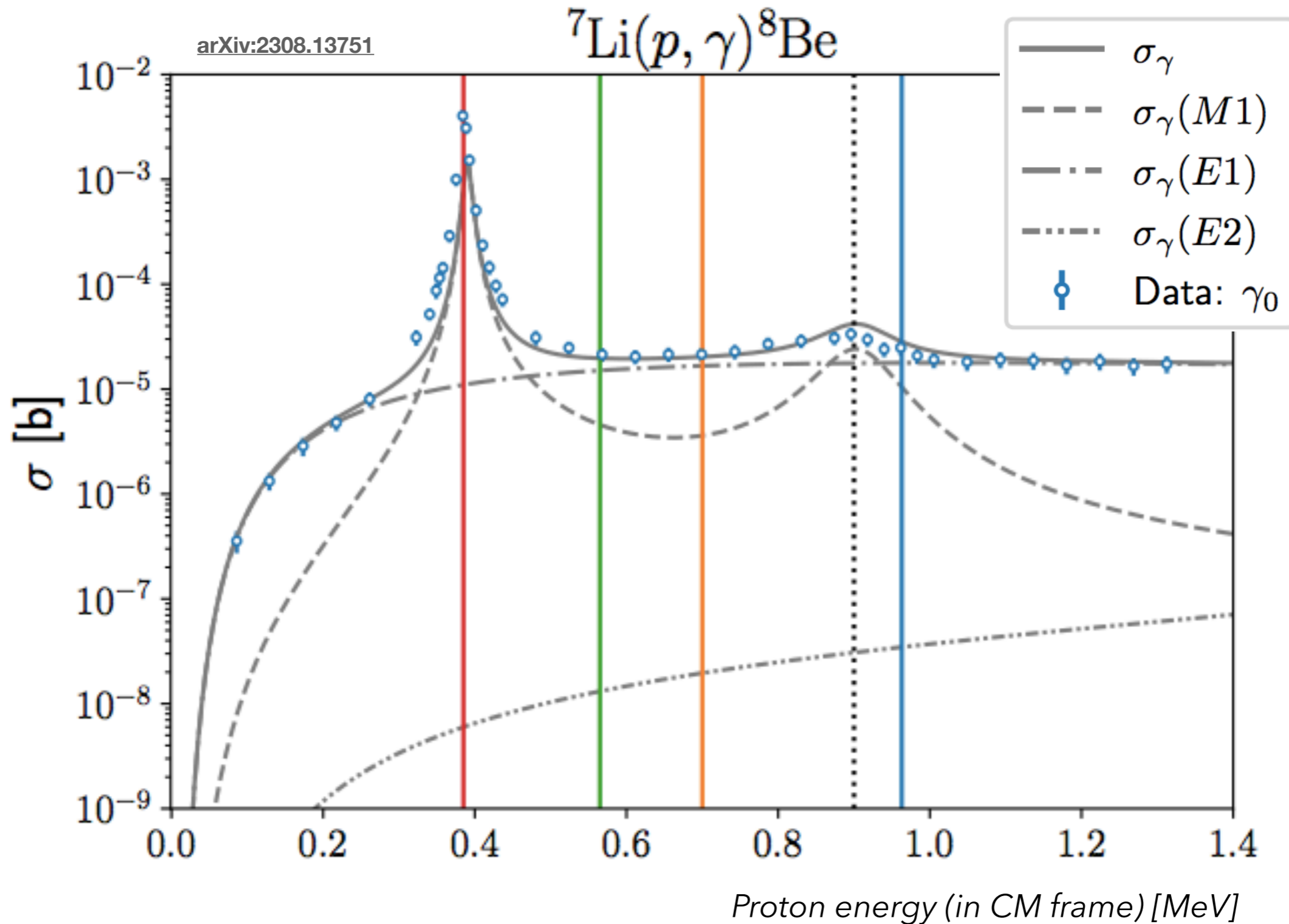


LiPON spectrum from XEC



3) Physics backgrounds and signal simulations

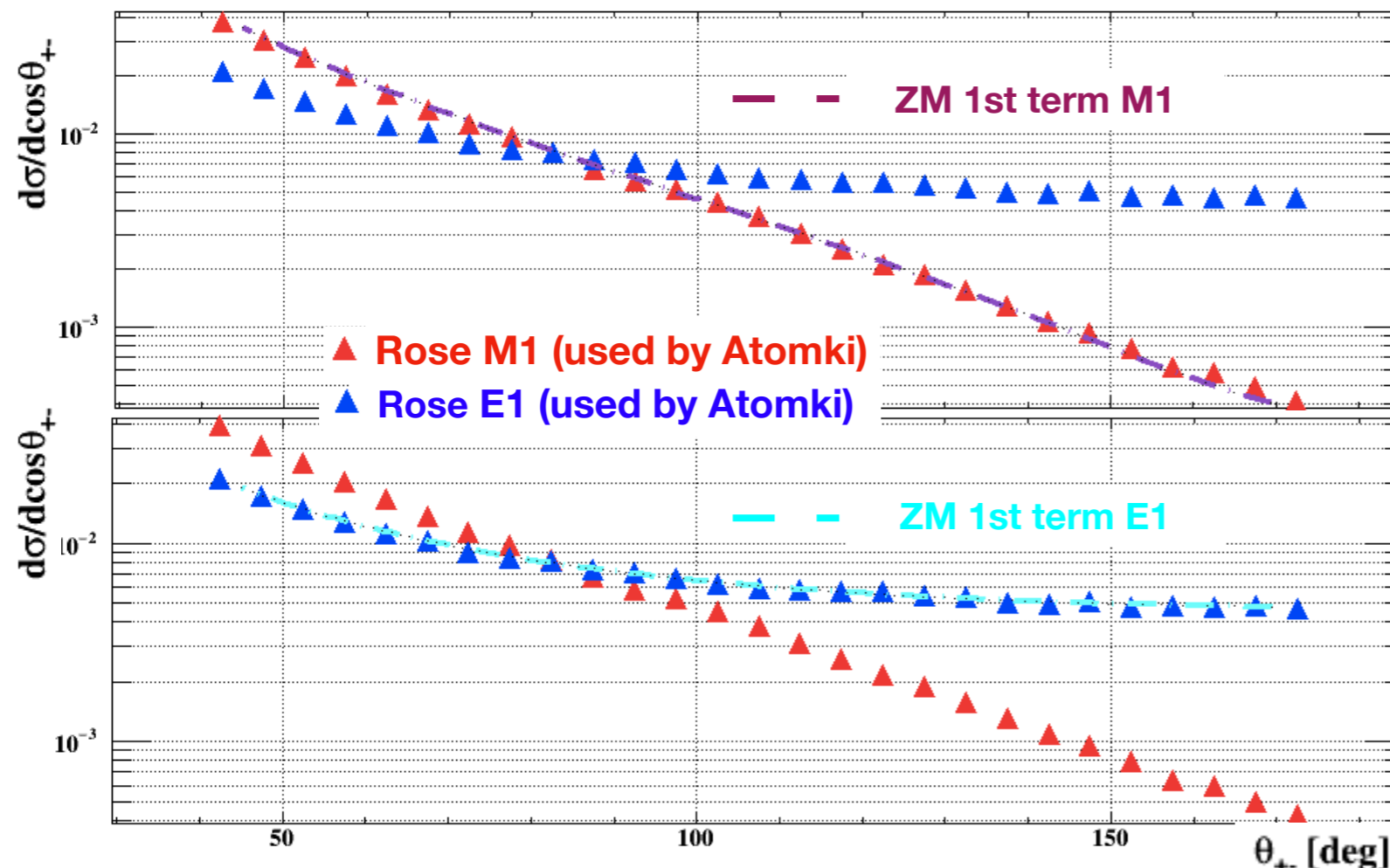
- Cross-section multipole contributions is largely dependent on proton energy



- Need for an accurate background model, IPC is dominant background in signal region
- First IPC model developed by Rose in 1949 [Phys. Rev. 76, 678](#)
- Anisotropy and multipole interferences not included
- Zhang and Miller in 2017 did it, ZM model
[Phys. Lett. B 773, 159](#)

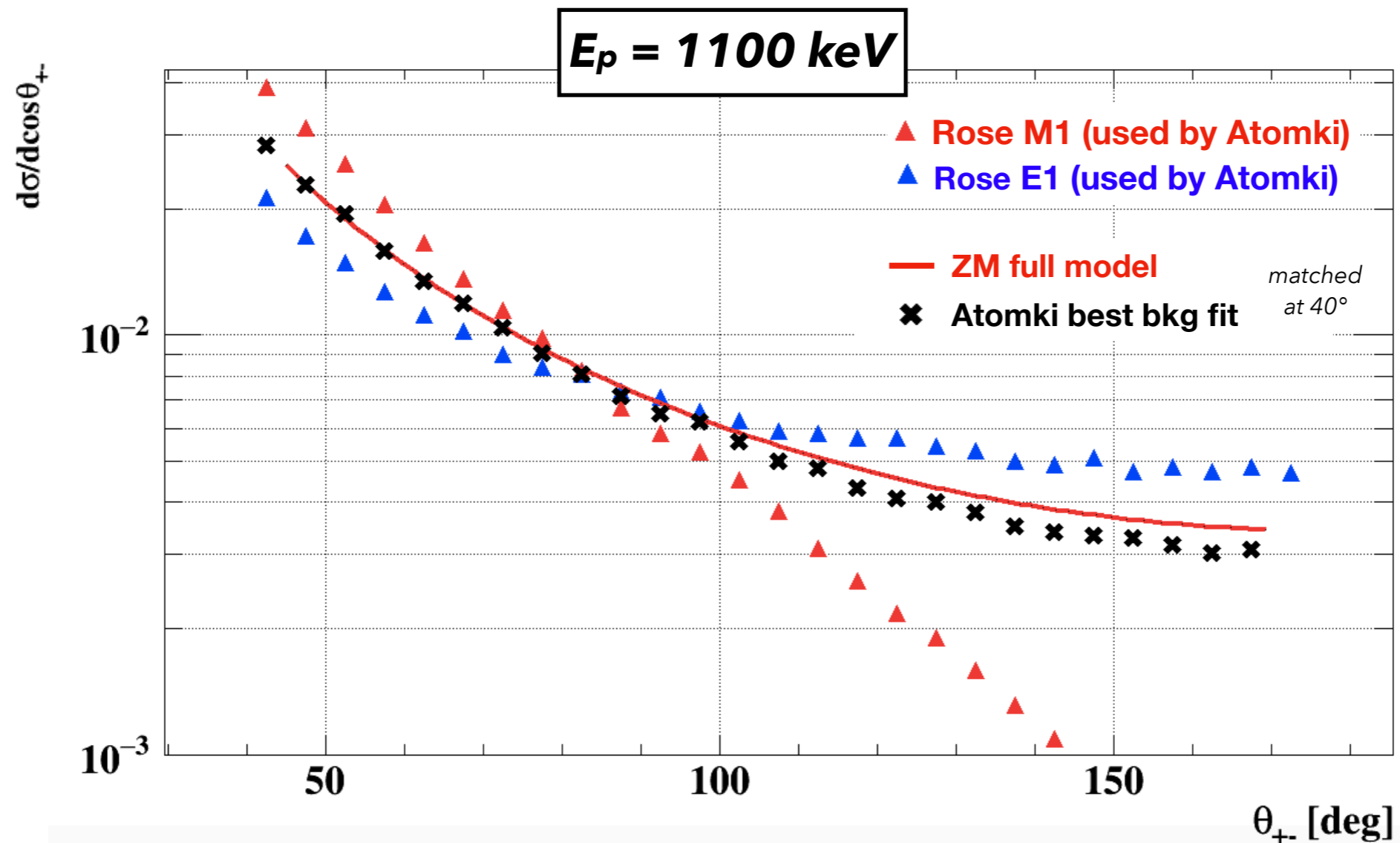
$$\begin{aligned}
 & d\sigma/d\cos\theta_{+-}dE_{+}d\cos\theta d\phi \\
 & \propto \underbrace{T_{0,0}}_{\text{Rose-equivalent}} + T_{0,2}\cos 2\phi + T_{1,0}P_1 + T_{2,0}P_2 + T_{2,2}P_2\cos 2\phi \\
 & + T_{3,1}\sin\theta\cos\phi + T_{4,1}\sin 2\theta\cos\phi, \quad (4.1)
 \end{aligned}$$

→ We implemented Zhang-Miller model



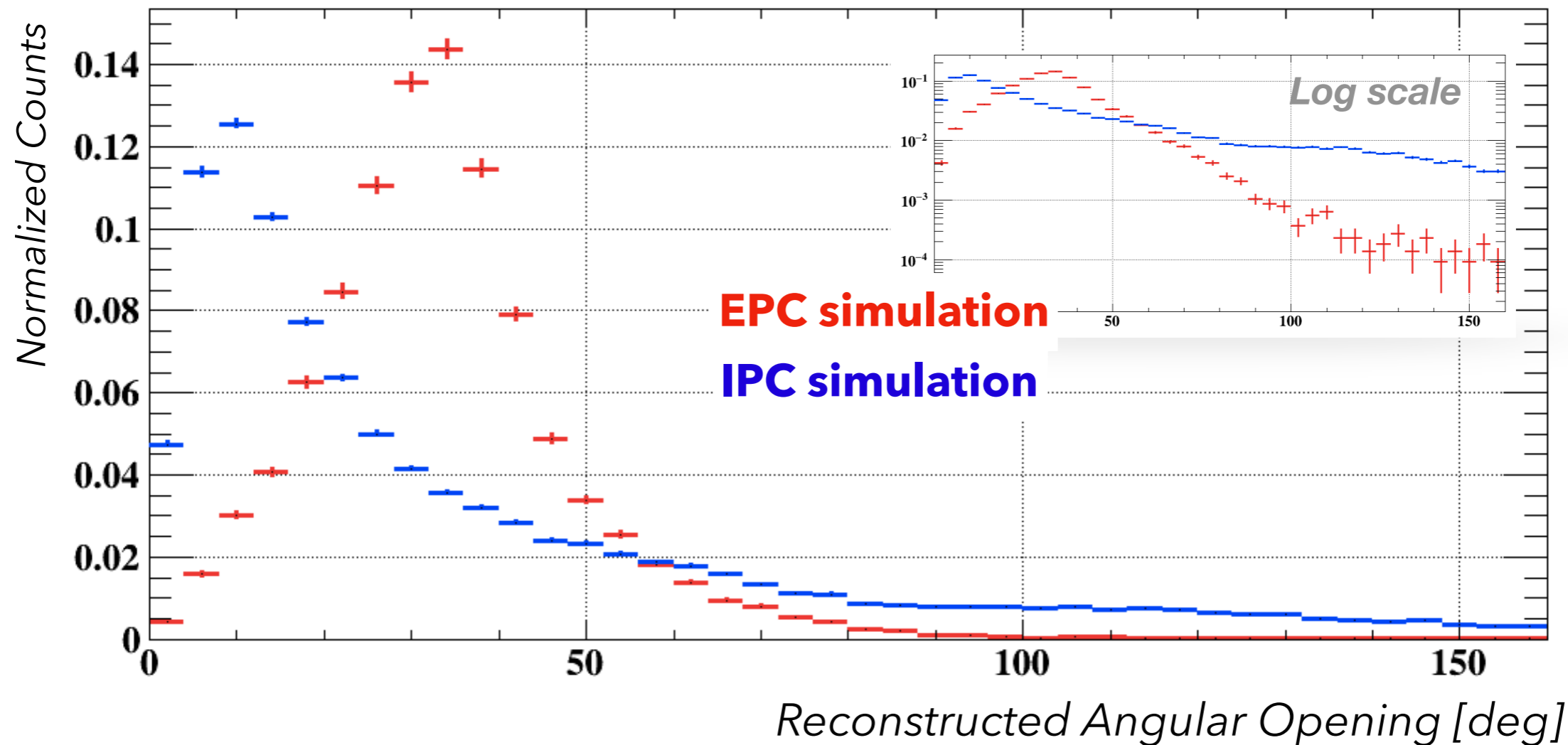
→ Rose/simplified ZM models agree for both E1 and M1 multipoles

- Let's compare Atomki's background with ZM full model



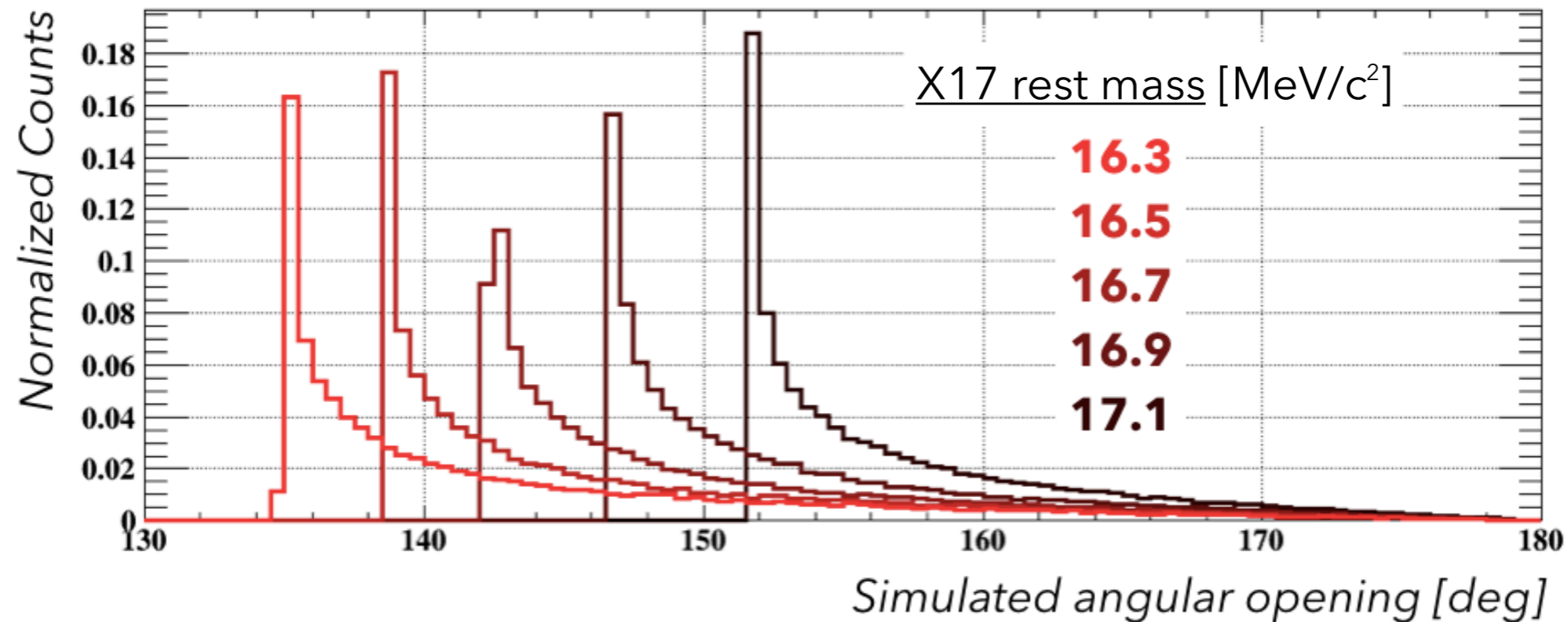
- When interferences and anisotropy terms are included
 - IPC background shape is changed
 - Cannot explain anomaly but can impact significance

- We simulated External Pair Conversion \rightarrow gamma conversion in matter
- EPC rate was estimated to be comparable to IPC
 - \rightarrow But angular opening is largely concentrated below 70° , far from the signal region

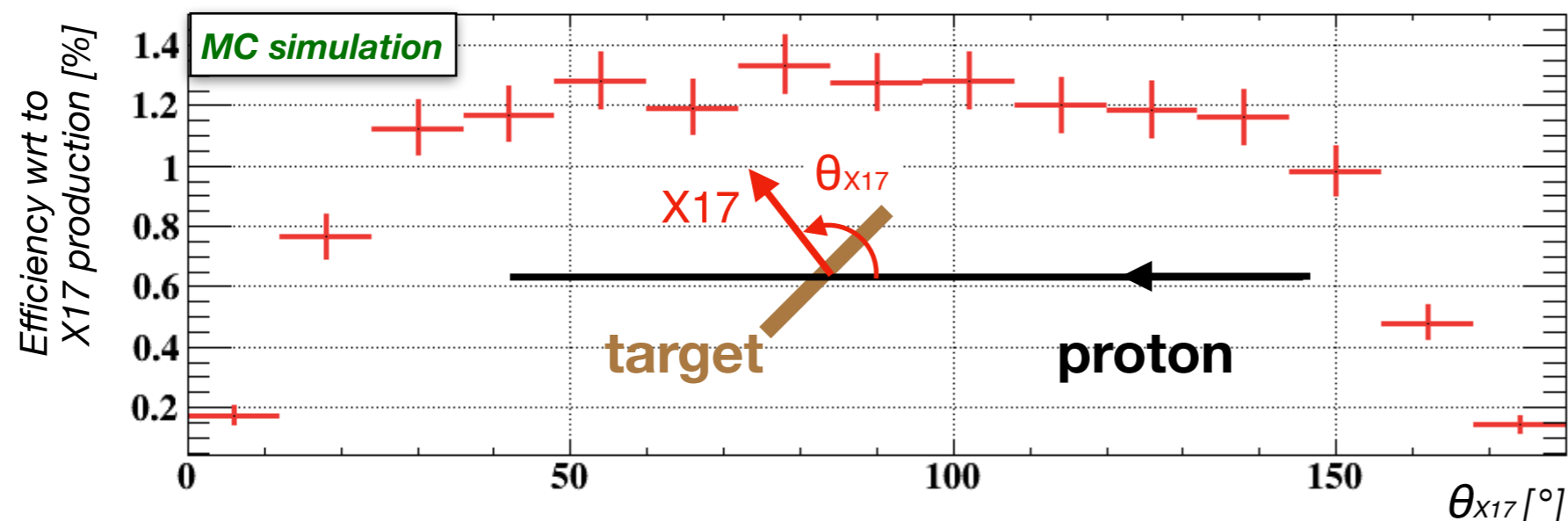


- \rightarrow Almost 2 orders of magnitude below IPC in signal region
- \rightarrow All photon conversion events included in full simulation

- We want to carry X17 search in both 0.44 and 1.02 MeV resonances
- X17 is assumed isotropically produced



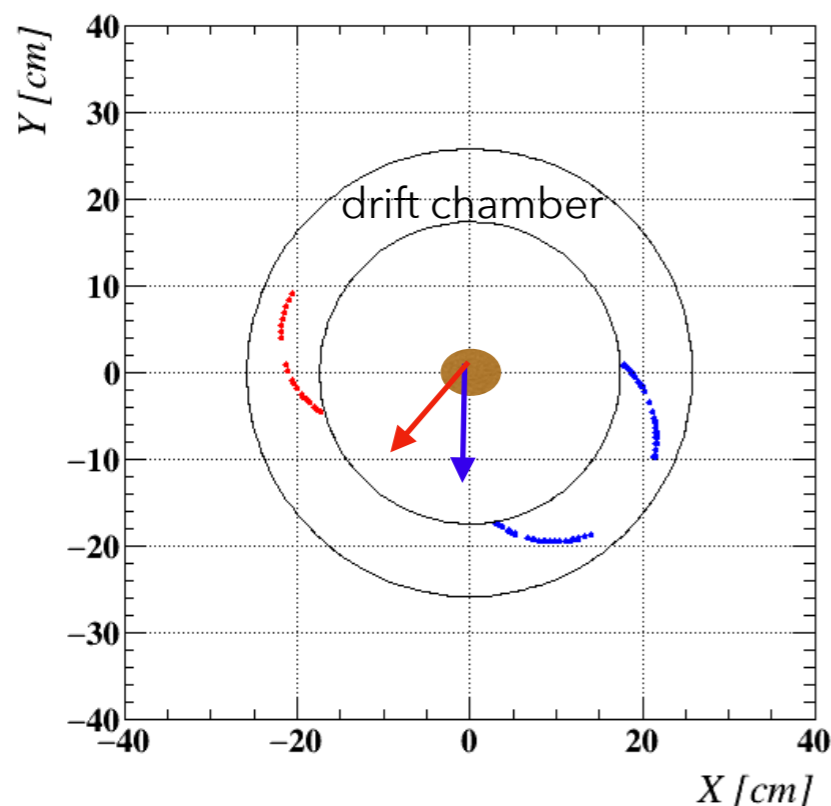
- Atomki has carried out the search only in plane orthogonal to beam



- X17 reconstructed not only in orthogonal plane
- 1% efficiency in planes between 40° and 140°

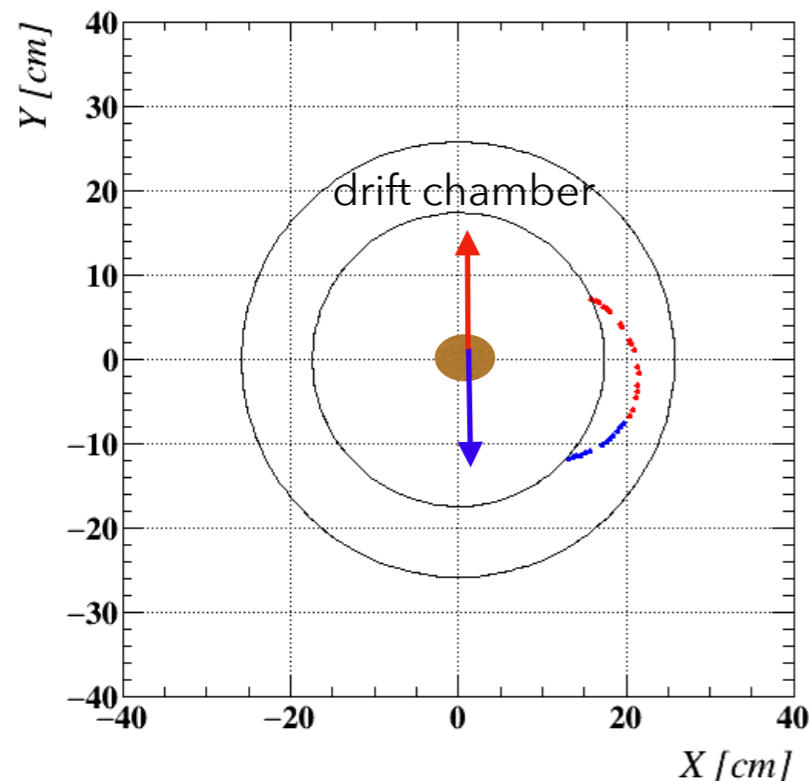
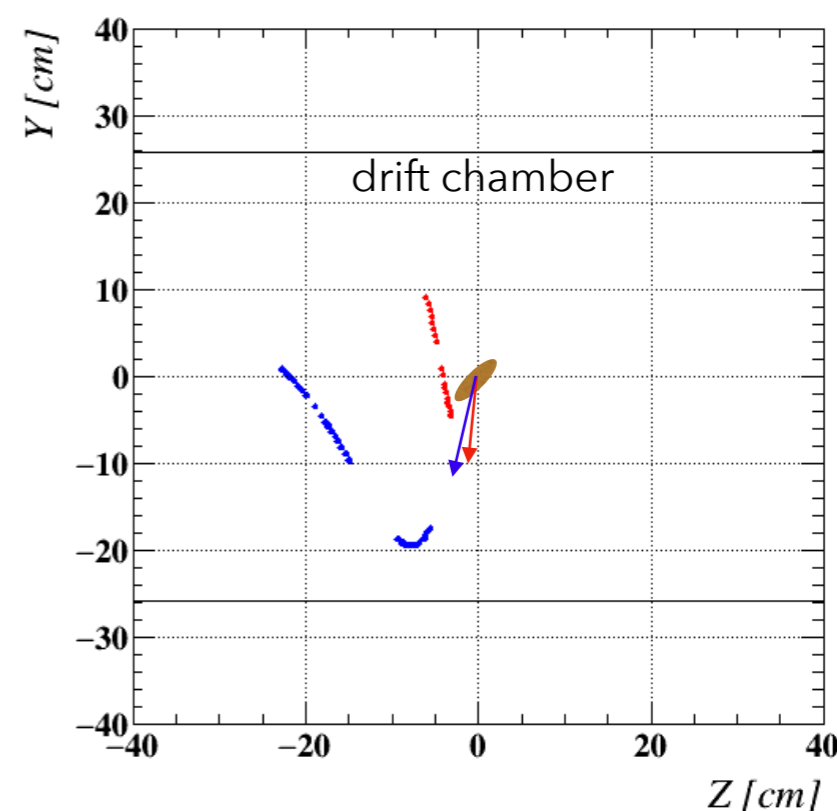
4) Pair reconstruction

- MEG-II only reconstructs e^+ . Procedure was adapted for e^- as well.



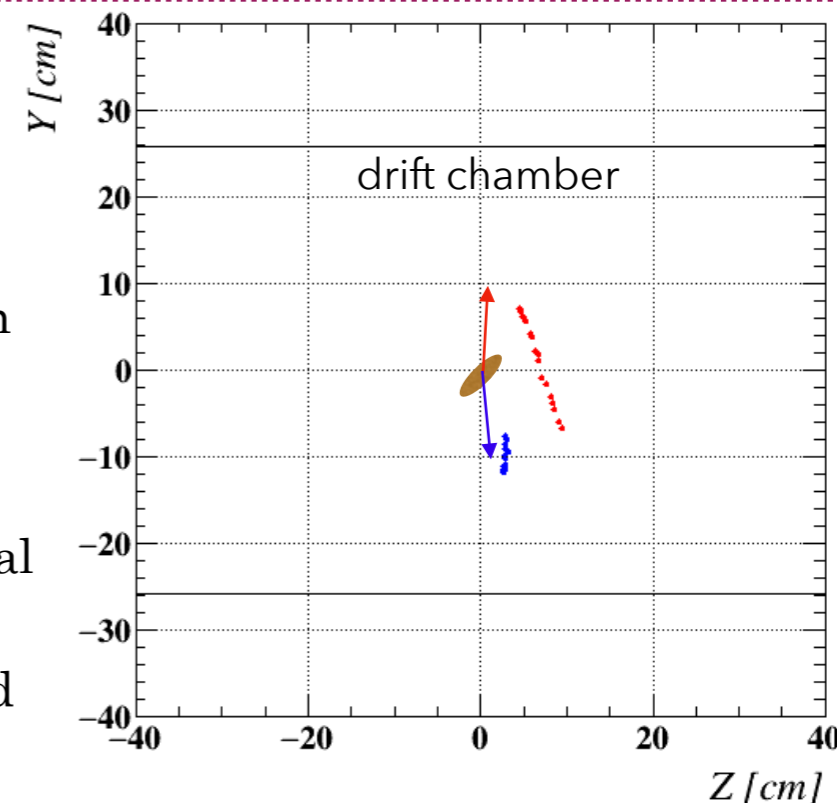
GOOD PAIR

- \vec{p}^+ at target
- \vec{p}^- at target
- e^+ hit
- e^- hit
- target



FAKE PAIR

- Two pieces of the same track reconstructed with opposite sign
- Back-to-back reconstructed
- Dangerous, close to signal region
- Need to characterize and reject these

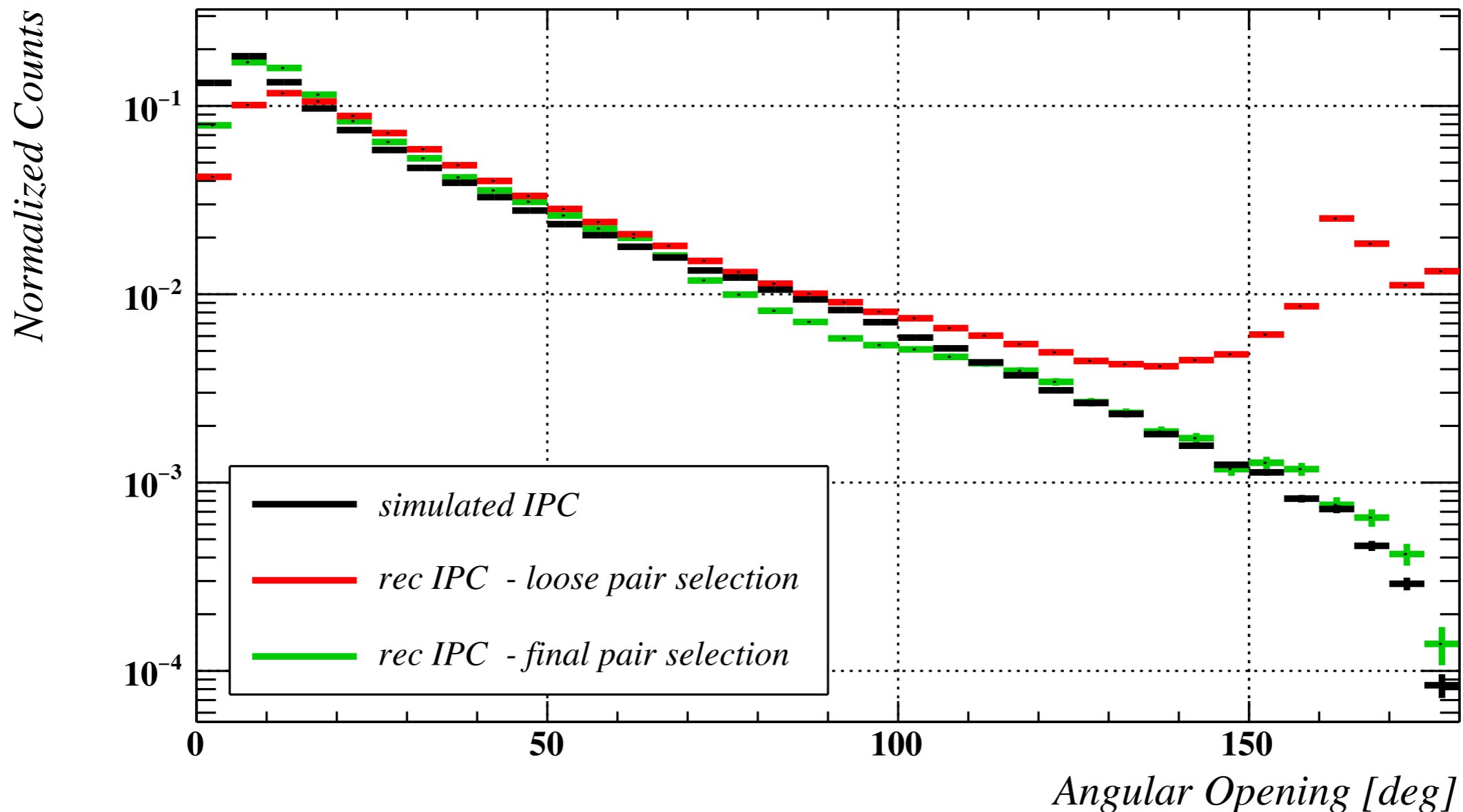


Fake tracks

- short
- consecutive hits distance large
- if longer, little dense
- orthogonal to the beam and close to $z=0$

Advanced track selection was developed

- With full selection, IPC simulated monotonous shape is recovered
- Remaining fakes in signal region estimated to be negligible



5) Trigger and DAQ strategies

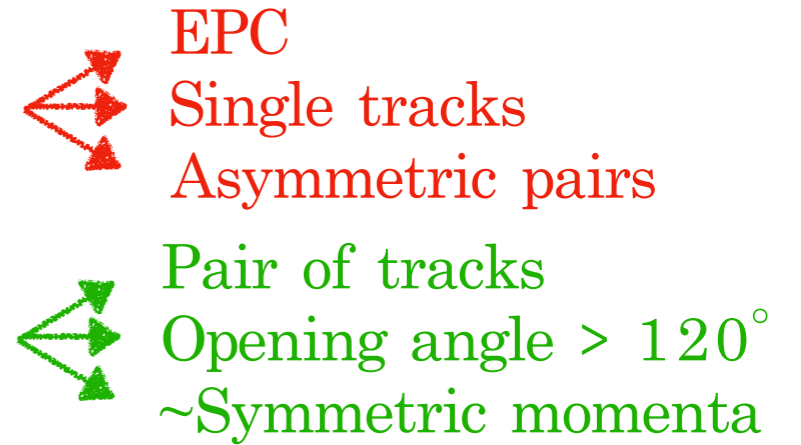
- S/B (X17 to IPC ratio) in signal region is fixed by physics

- To maximize significance

→ Reduce non-signal-like contamination in trigger

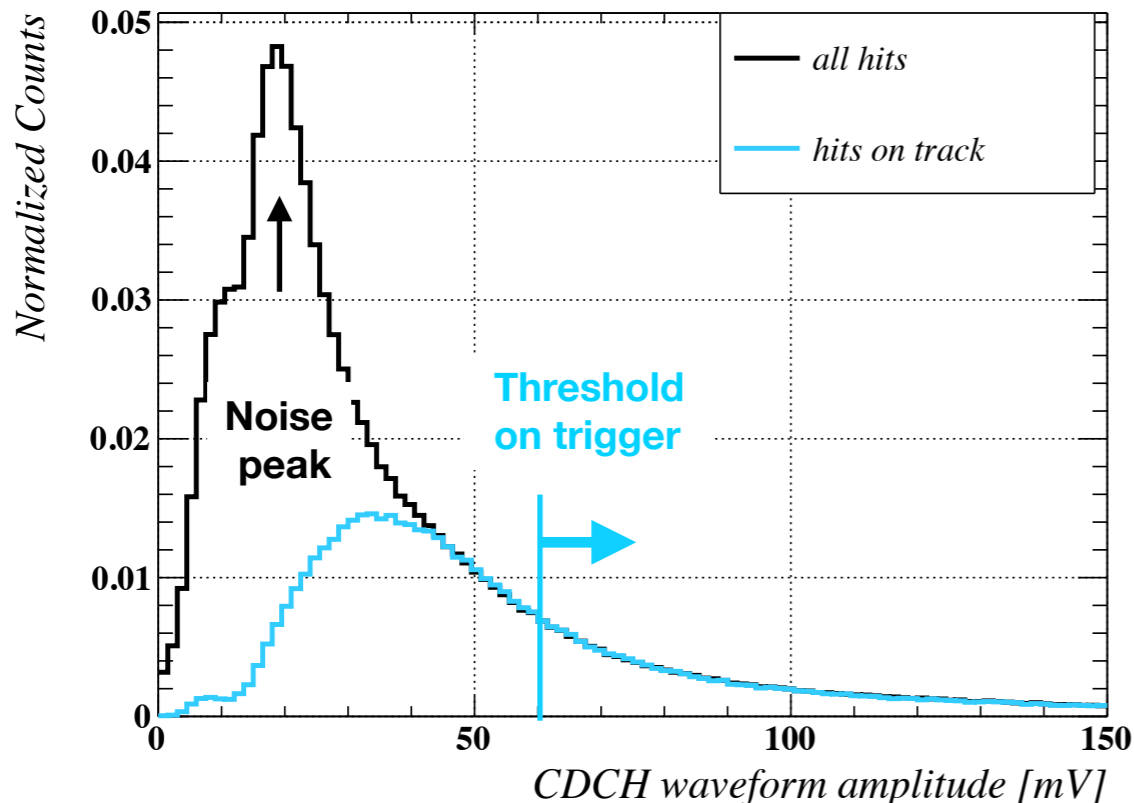
→ Select signal-like pairs

→ Increase proton current up to trigger capabilities



HOW TO TRIGGER ON SIGNAL-LIKE?

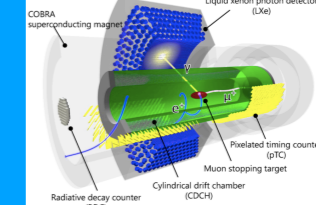
- In practice, difficult because of no online access to CDCH hit coordinates
- No CDCH trigger for MEG: one to be developed for X17 search



- Alternative: let's use online CDCH waveform amplitude

- High online threshold to trigger on **good hits** mostly
- How to exploit them?

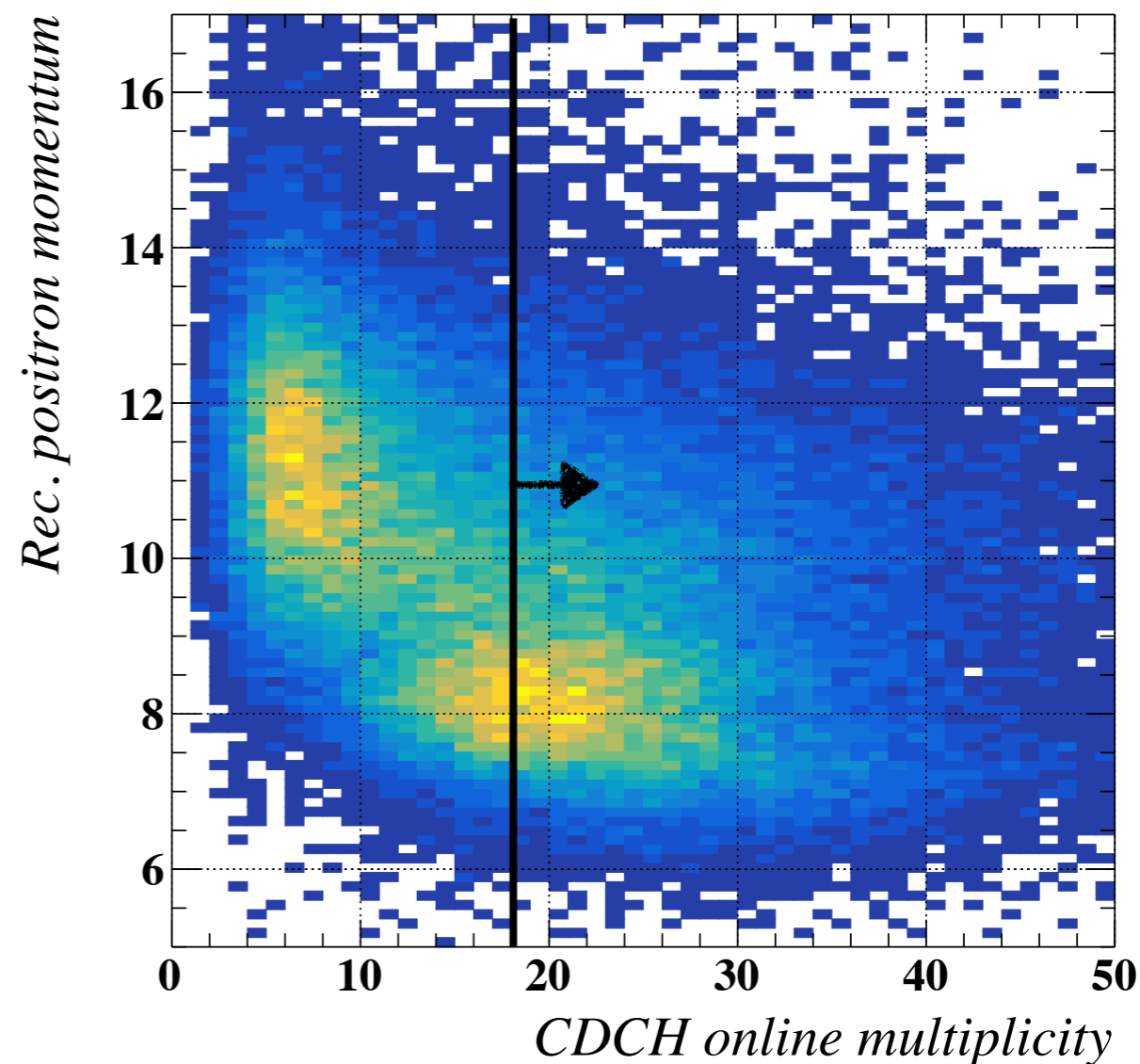
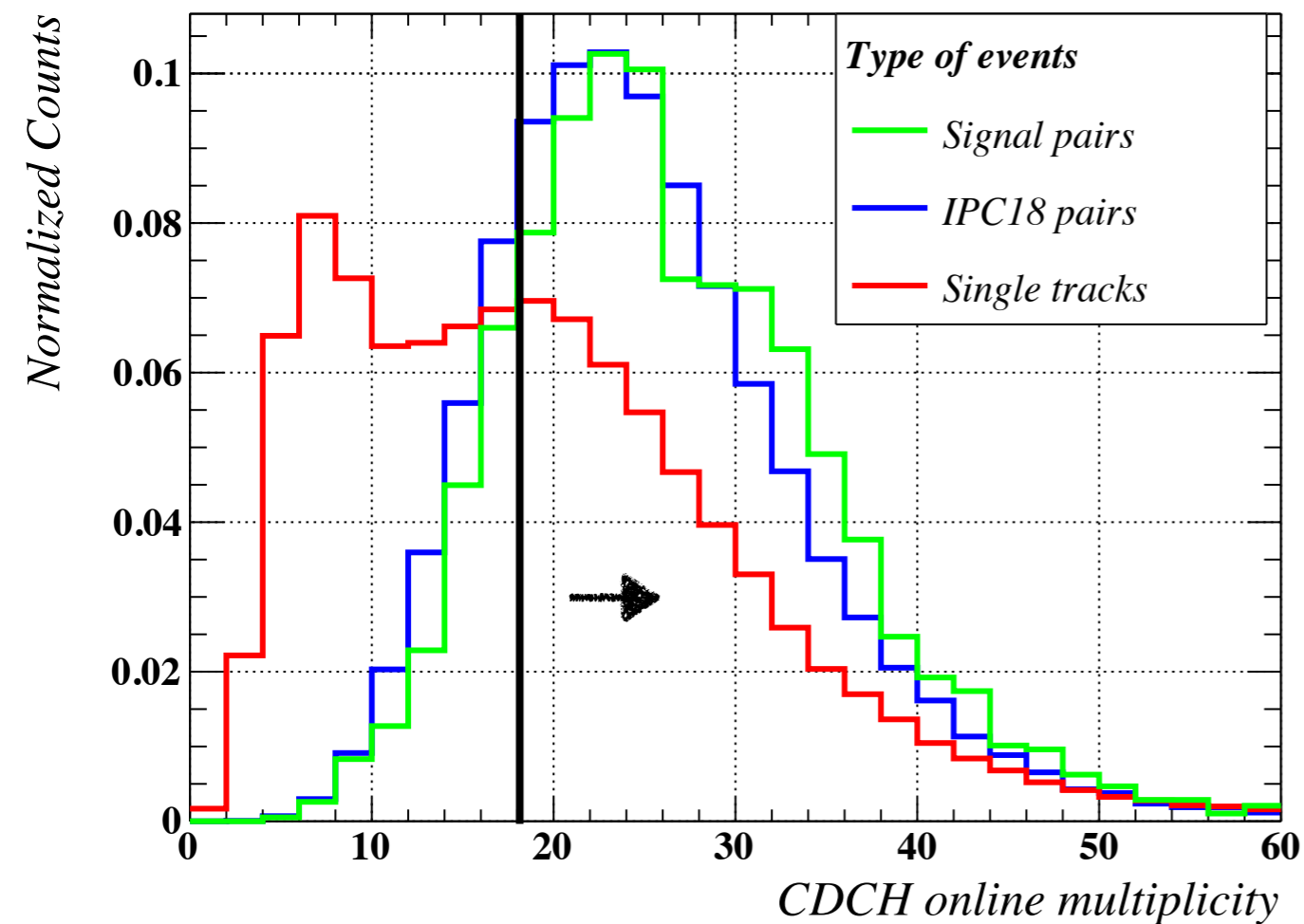
Trigger strategy: CDCH hit multiplicity



- CDCH hit multiplicity is higher for:
 - CDCH online multiplicity to reconstruct **single tracks**/**IPC pairs**/**signal pairs**

- pair of tracks
- symmetric pairs
- tracks produced at target center

Reco momentum vs CDCH online multiplicity



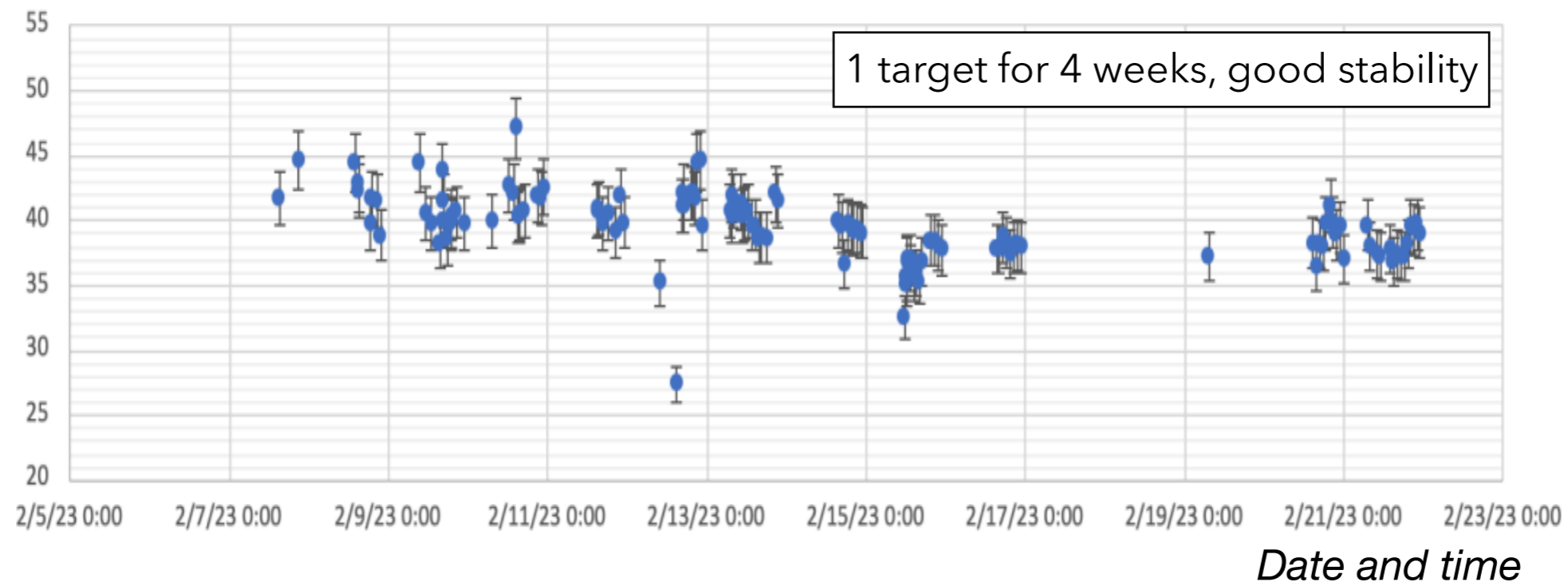
Trigger set as 18 hits > 60 mV

- Background rate divided by 5 (wrt. 10 hits)
- 10% signal lost
- Proton current can be largely increased

6) Collected data and analysis strategy

- In February 2023, first run at $E_{\text{beam}} = 1080 \text{ keV}$ @ $I_{\text{beam}} = 10 \mu\text{A}$
- X17 runs: sample of **25k** runs of **3k** events each
 - **75M** triggered events
 - **300k** pairs to be reconstructed

Gamma rate in BGO per current unit [Hz/ μA]

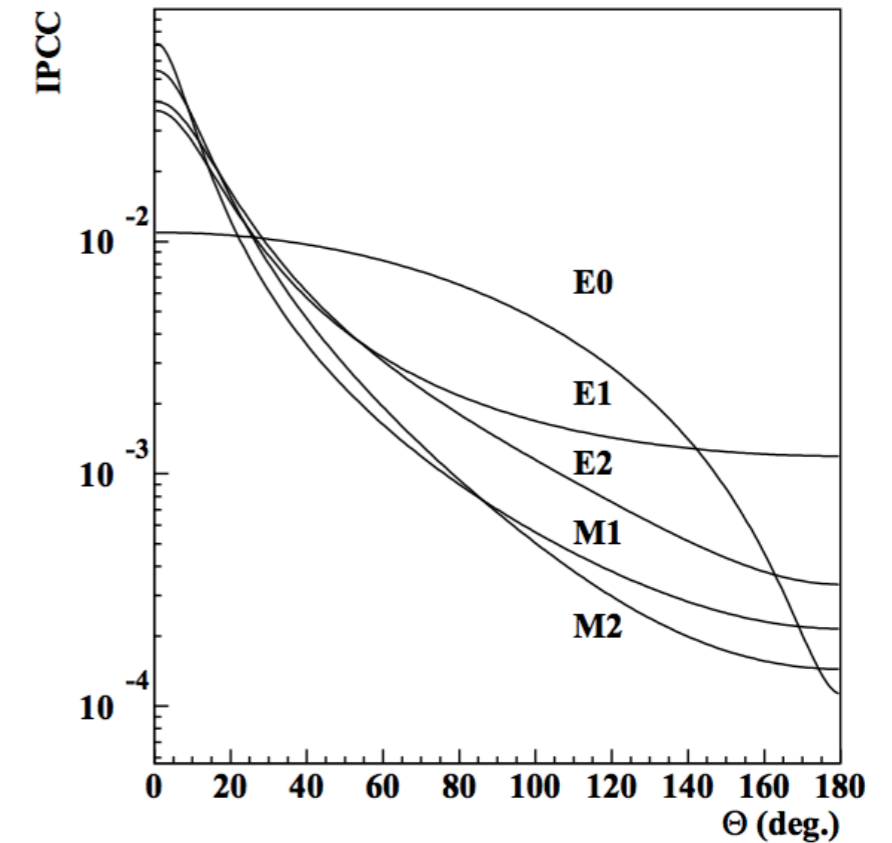
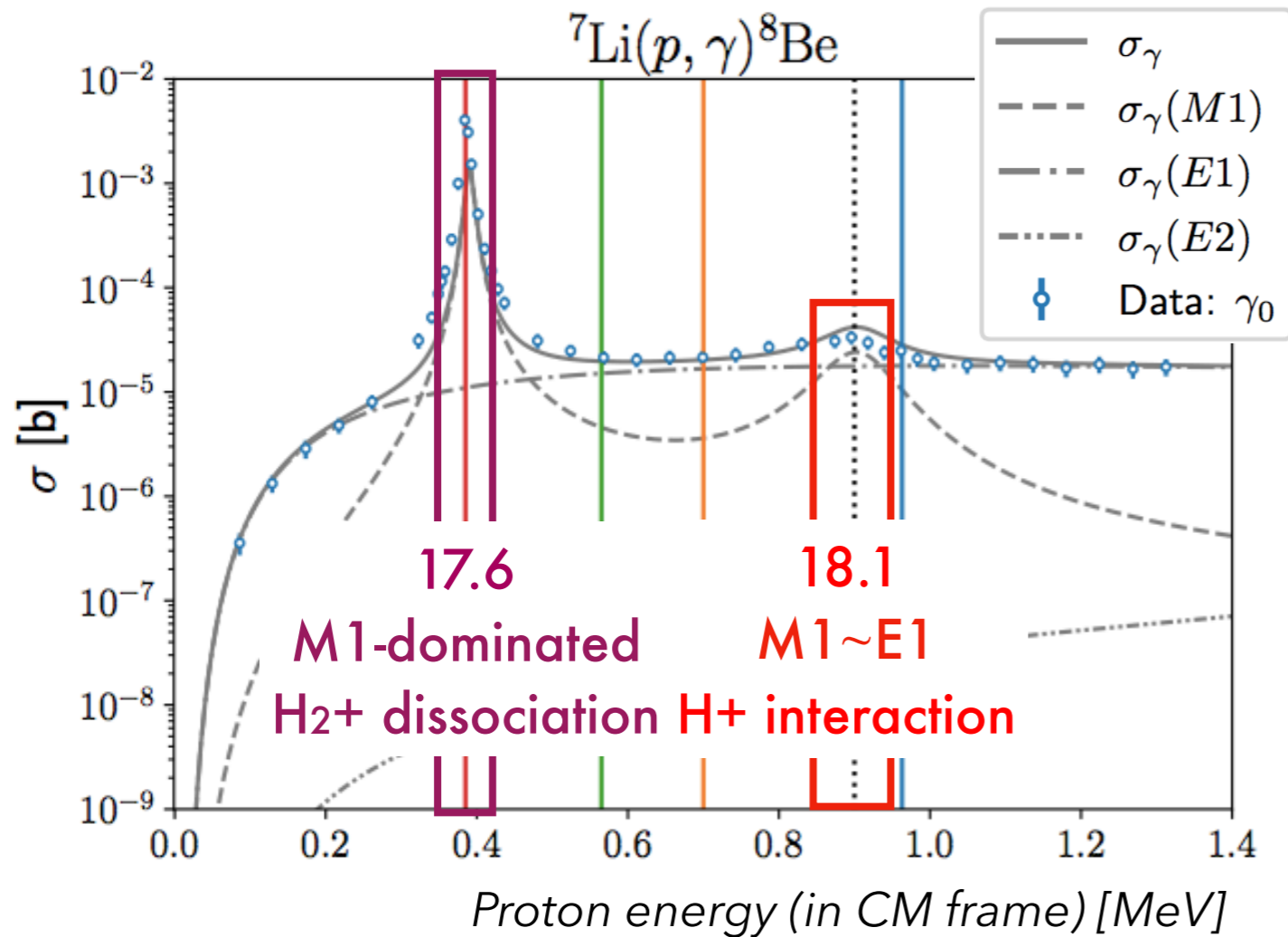


On full E_{sum} and Angular Opening range:

→ **60%** EPC (15+18) → **40%** IPC (15+18)

Unfortunately, we have had contamination from H_2^+ within proton beam

- To account for H₂⁺ contamination:
Two IPC templates based on interacting proton energy

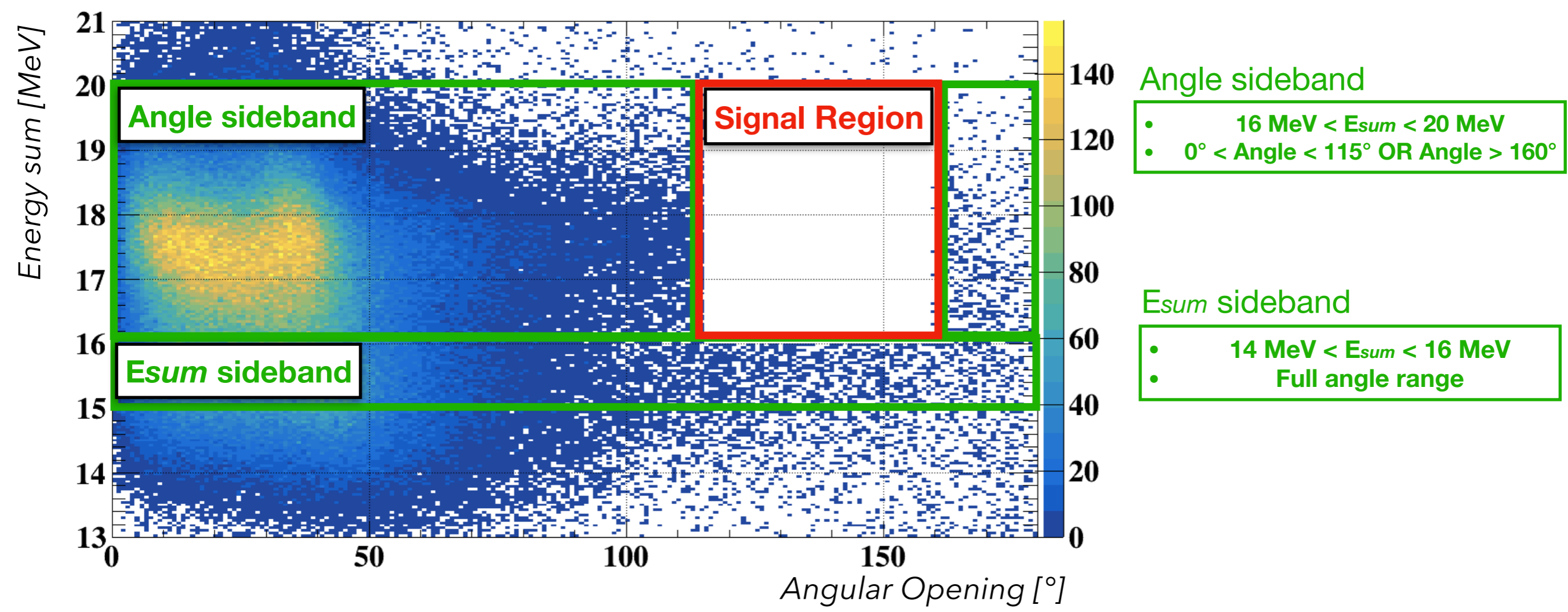


➡ simultaneous search for X17 in both 440 keV and 1030 keV resonances

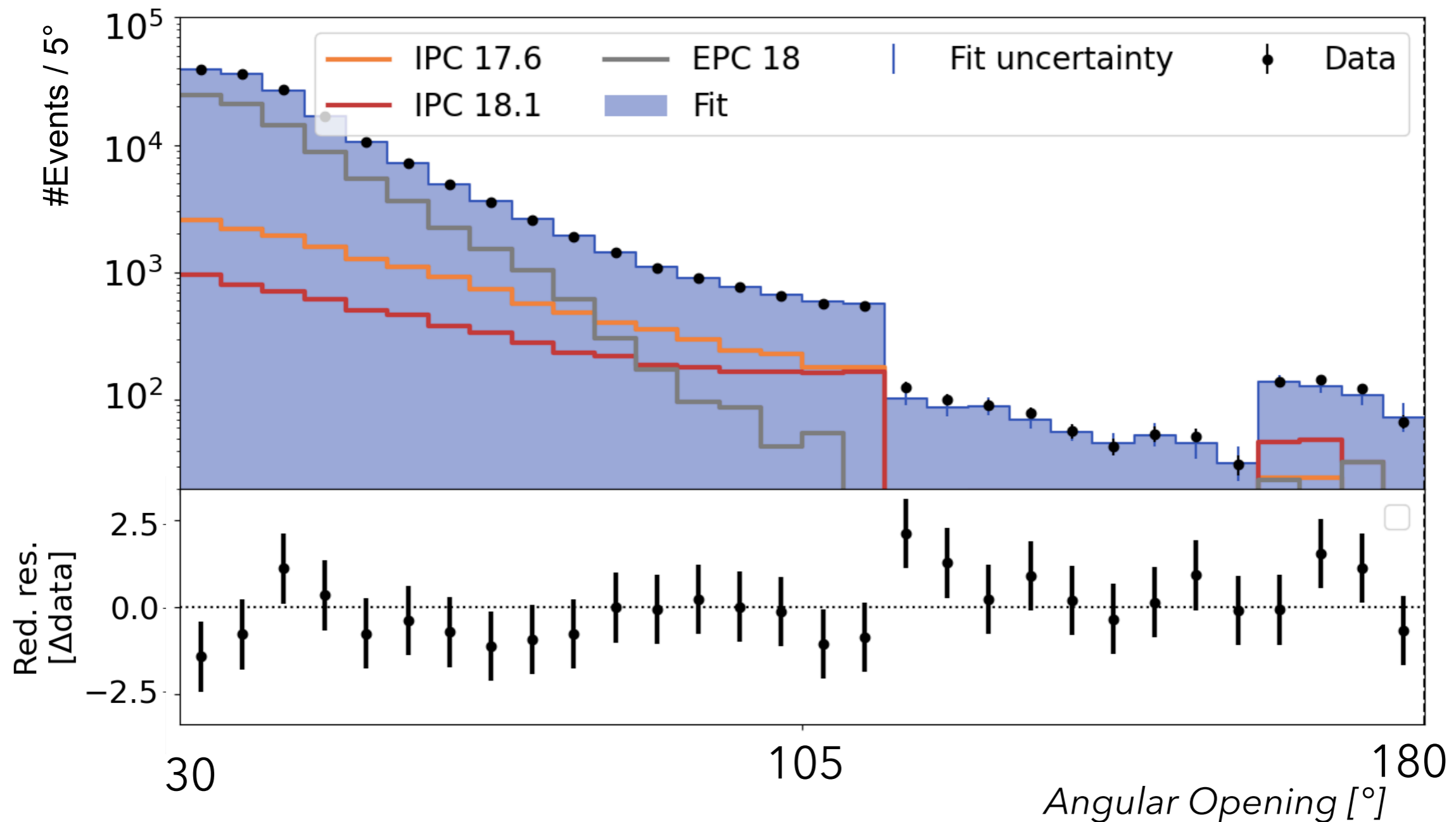
- 2D likelihood maximization: E_{sum} vs Angular Opening

- Blinded signal region defined as:
 - **Signal Region**
 - $16 \text{ MeV} < E_{\text{sum}} < 20 \text{ MeV}$
 - $115^\circ < \text{Angle} < 160^\circ$

- Before unblinding, understanding of background will be done in two sidebands

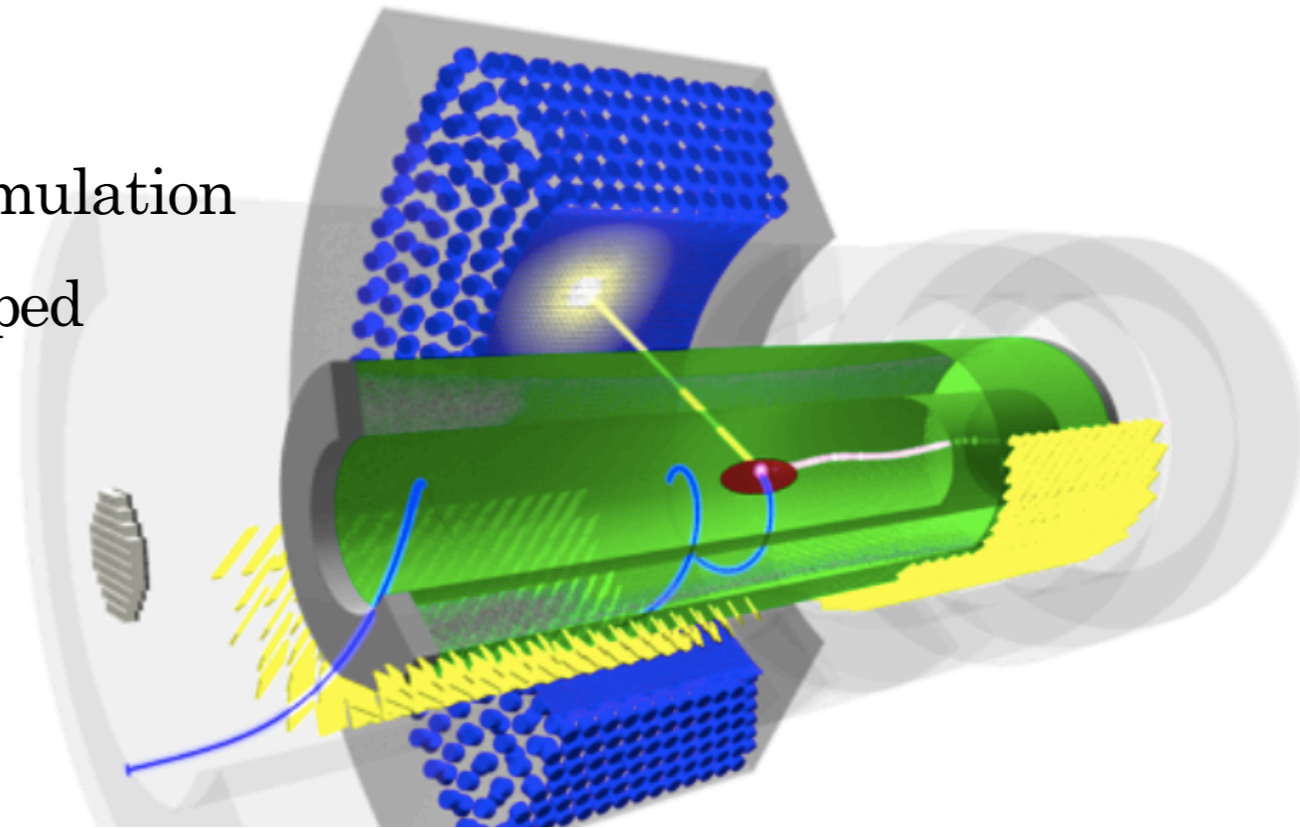


- 1D projection of the 2D fit



- ➡ Good understanding of the backgrounds above 30°
- ➡ Unblinded results out soon
- ➡ With this dataset, we can simultaneously search for X17 in both 440 keV and 1030 keV resonances

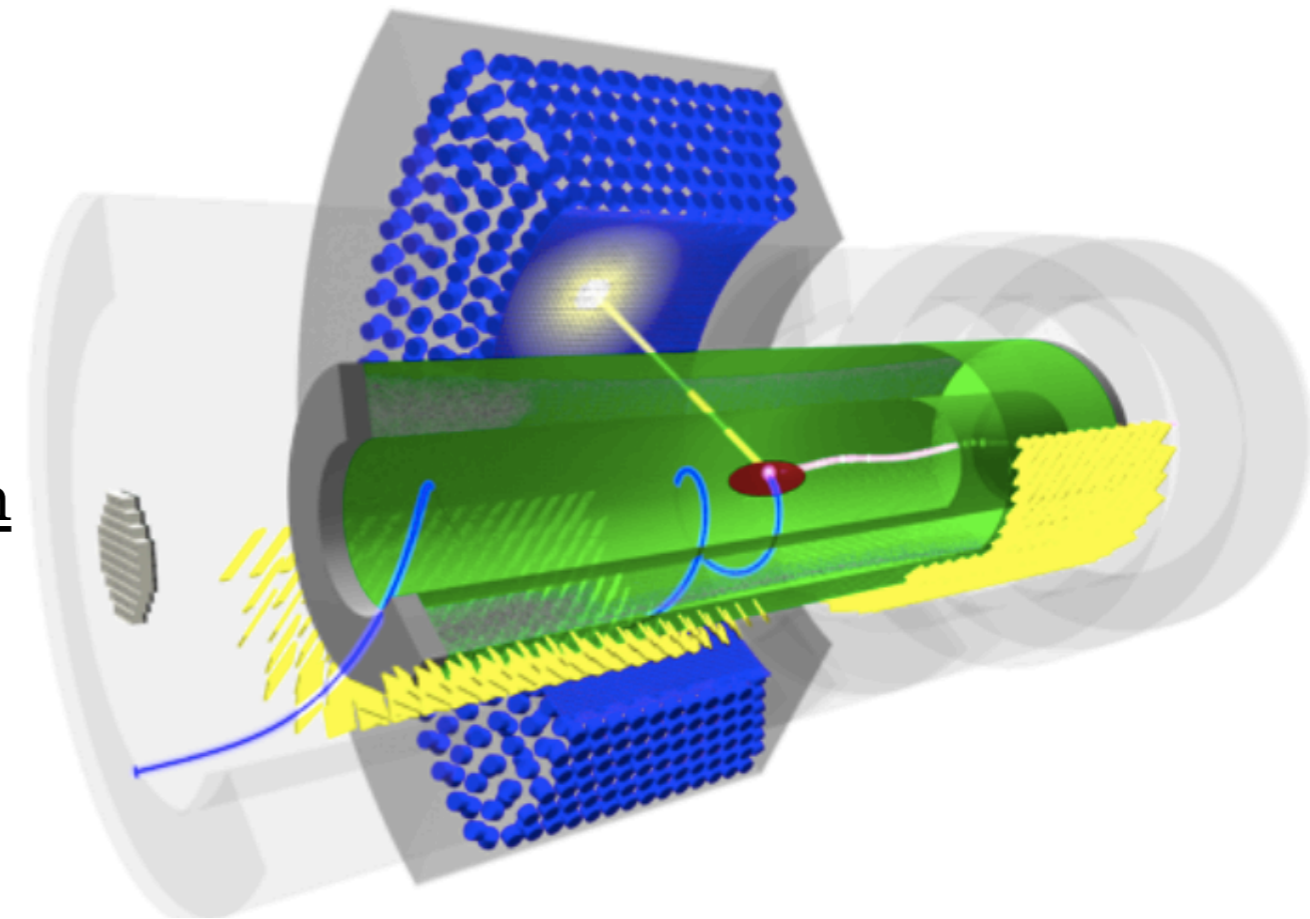
- Anomalous excess observed in the angular correlation of ${}^7\text{Li}(p, e^+e^-){}^8\text{Be}$ by the Atomki collaboration
- The MEG-II collaboration has designed, tested and built all the elements to perform the X17 search in an independent manner
 - better understanding of the X17 anomaly
- First run in February 2023
 - backgrounds, signal and detectors simulation
 - pair reconstruction procedure developed
 - new trigger strategy implemented
 - 2023 data was reprocessed, good background understanding
 - unblinded results out soon
- New DAQ period @1030 keV with pure proton beam is foreseen
 - improved sensitivity



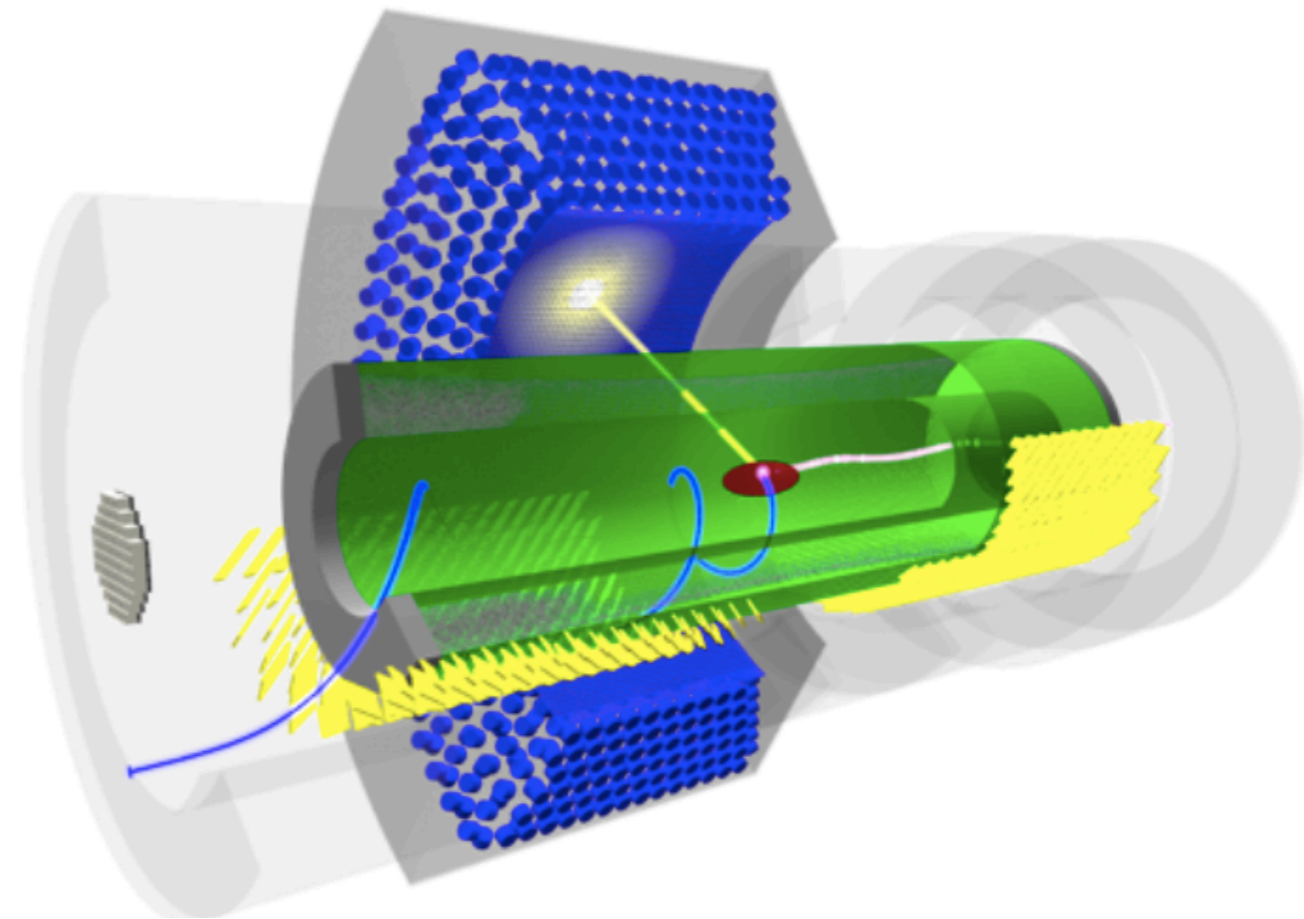
Thank you for your attention!

Hicham Benmansour, INFN Pisa
on behalf of the MEG-II collaboration

hicham.benmansour@pi.infn.it



Backup slides

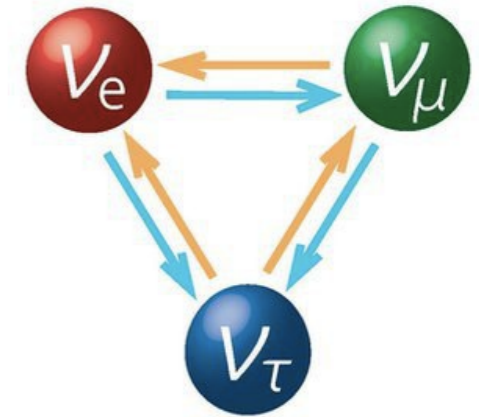


Charged Lepton Flavour Violation

0.511 MeV/c ² -1 1/2 e electron	105.7 MeV/c ² -1 1/2 μ muon	1.777 GeV/c ² -1 1/2 τ tau
<2.2 eV/c ² 0 1/2 ν_e electron neutrino	<0.17 MeV/c ² 0 1/2 ν_μ muon neutrino	<15.5 MeV/c ² 0 1/2 ν_τ tau neutrino

- Lepton flavour violation observed experimentally with neutral leptons

→ Neutrino oscillations (Kamiokande, SNOLAB)



- No Charged Lepton Flavour Violation (CLFV) observed so far
- Neutrinoless muon decay is a CLFV golden channel → $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \gamma$

SM with massive neutrinos

$$\mathcal{B}(\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \gamma) \approx 10^{-54}$$

BSM physics

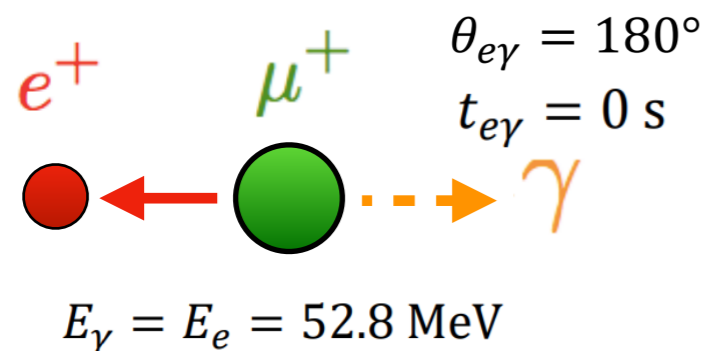
$$\mathcal{B}(\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \gamma) \gg 10^{-54}$$

accessible experimentally today

- Observation of CLFV at current sensitivities = unambiguous evidence for New Physics

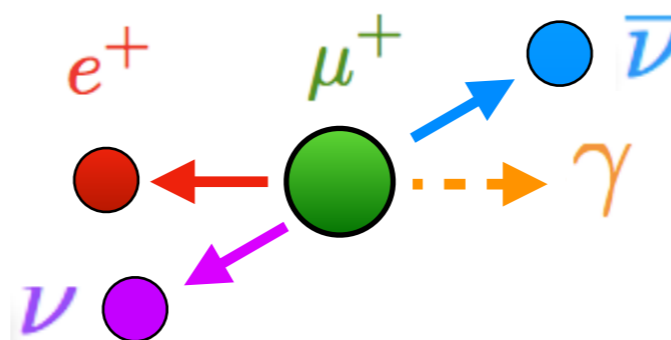
Signal

Back-to-back decay at rest

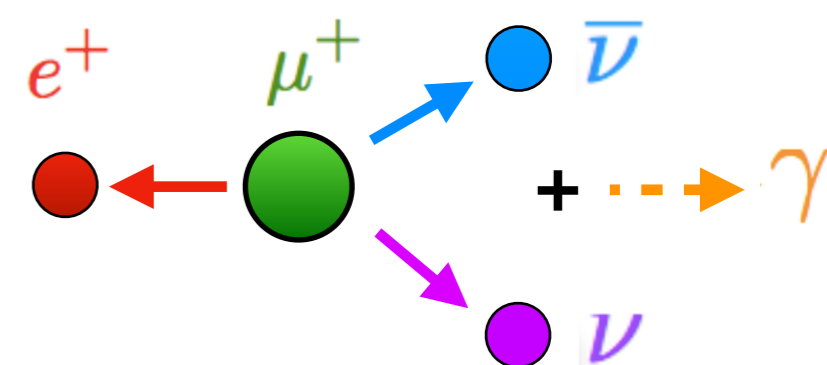


Backgrounds

Radiative Muon Decay

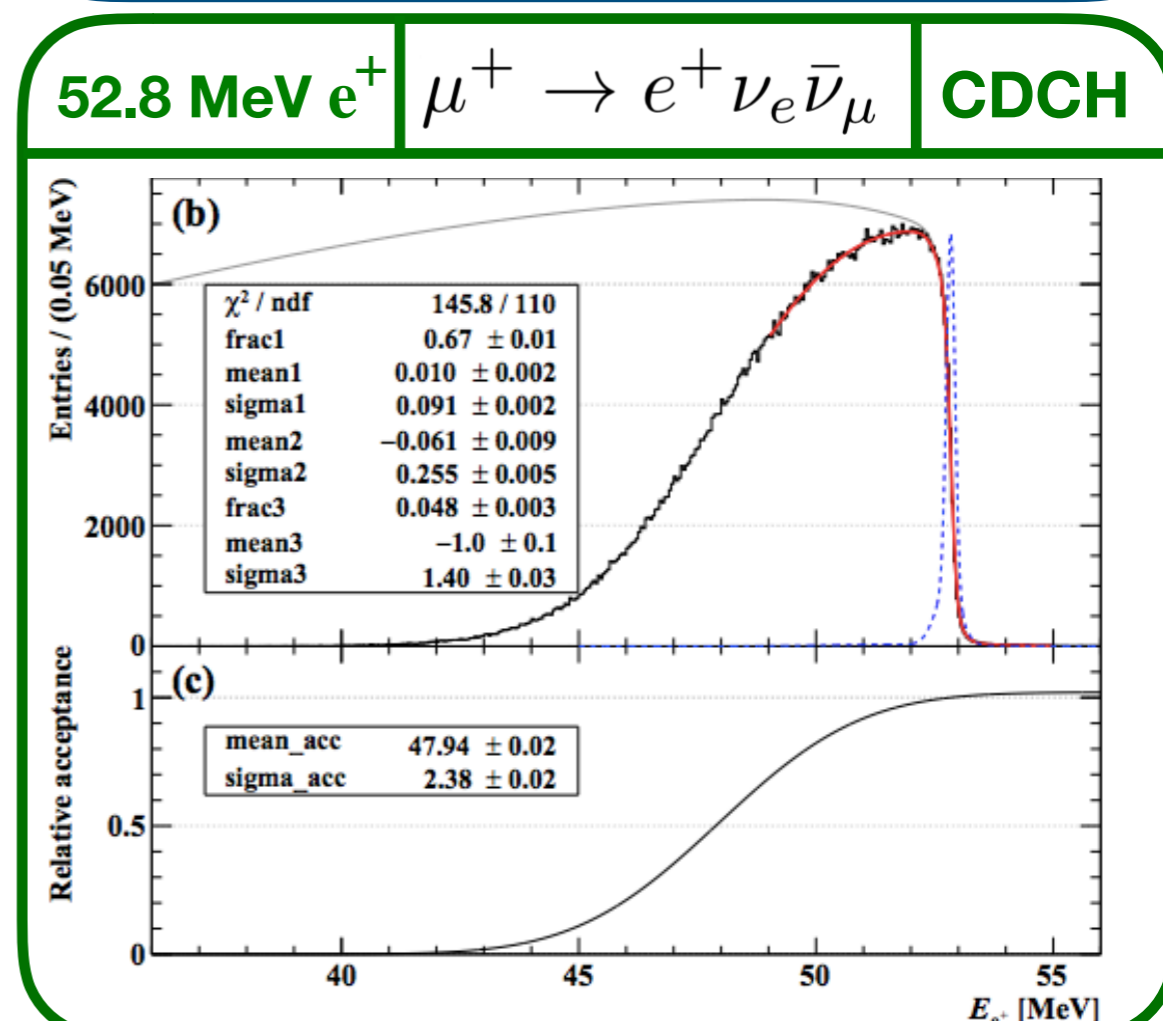
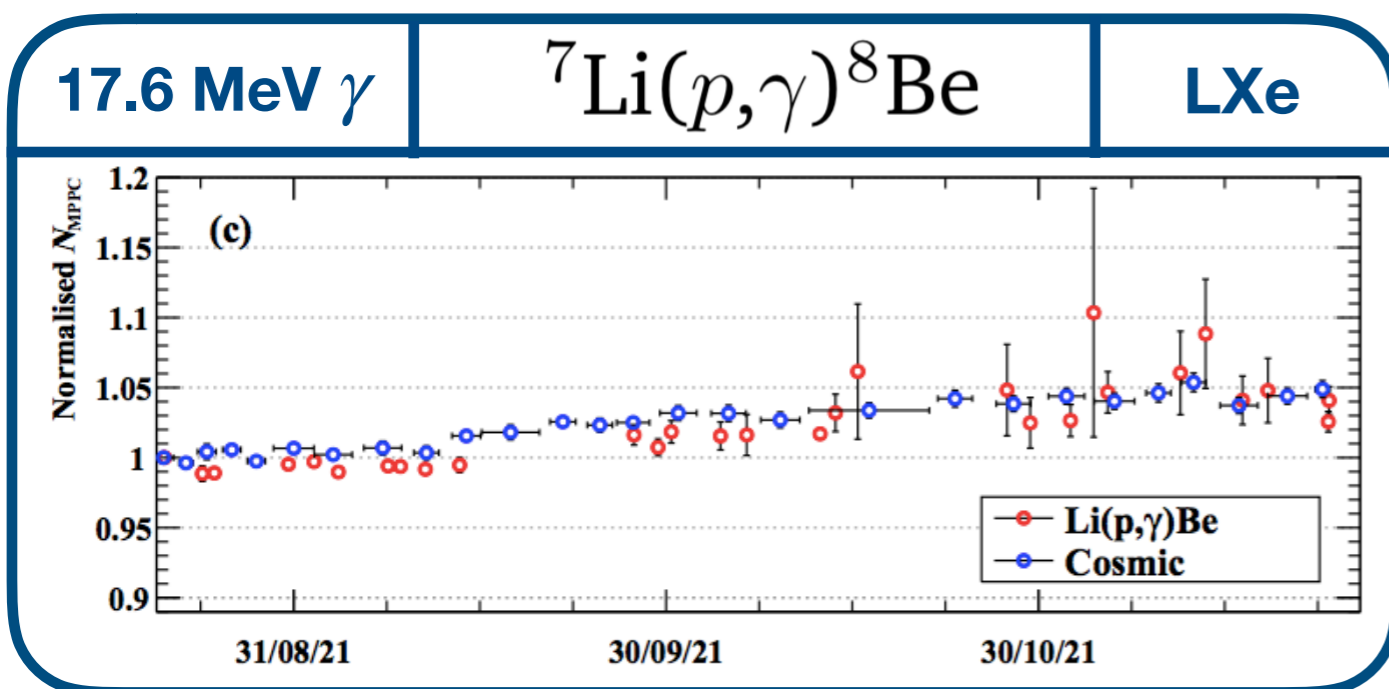
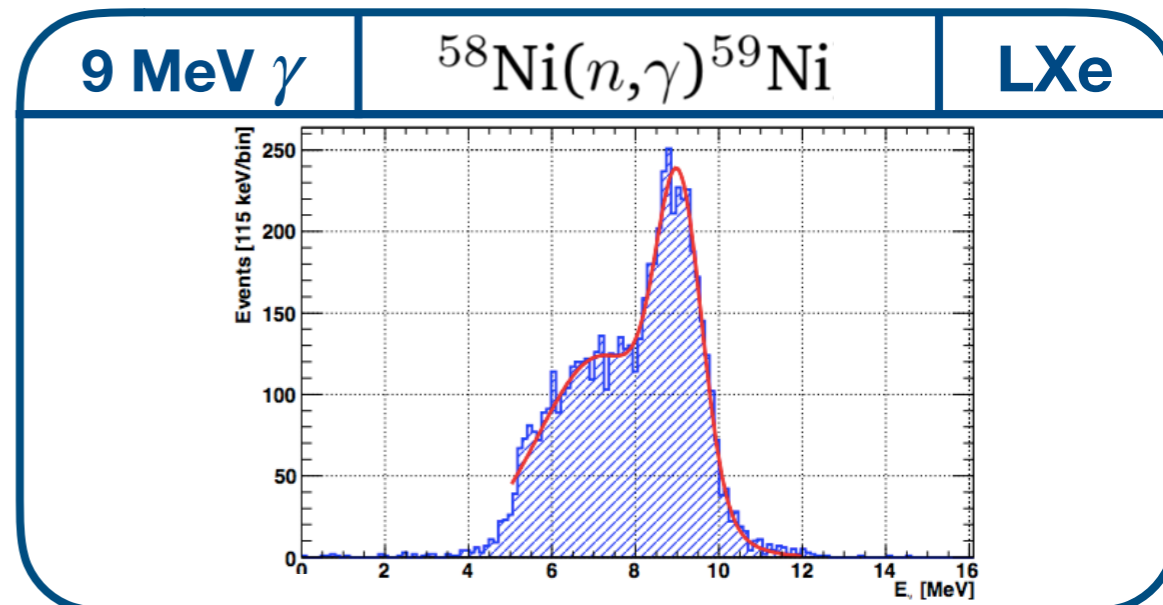
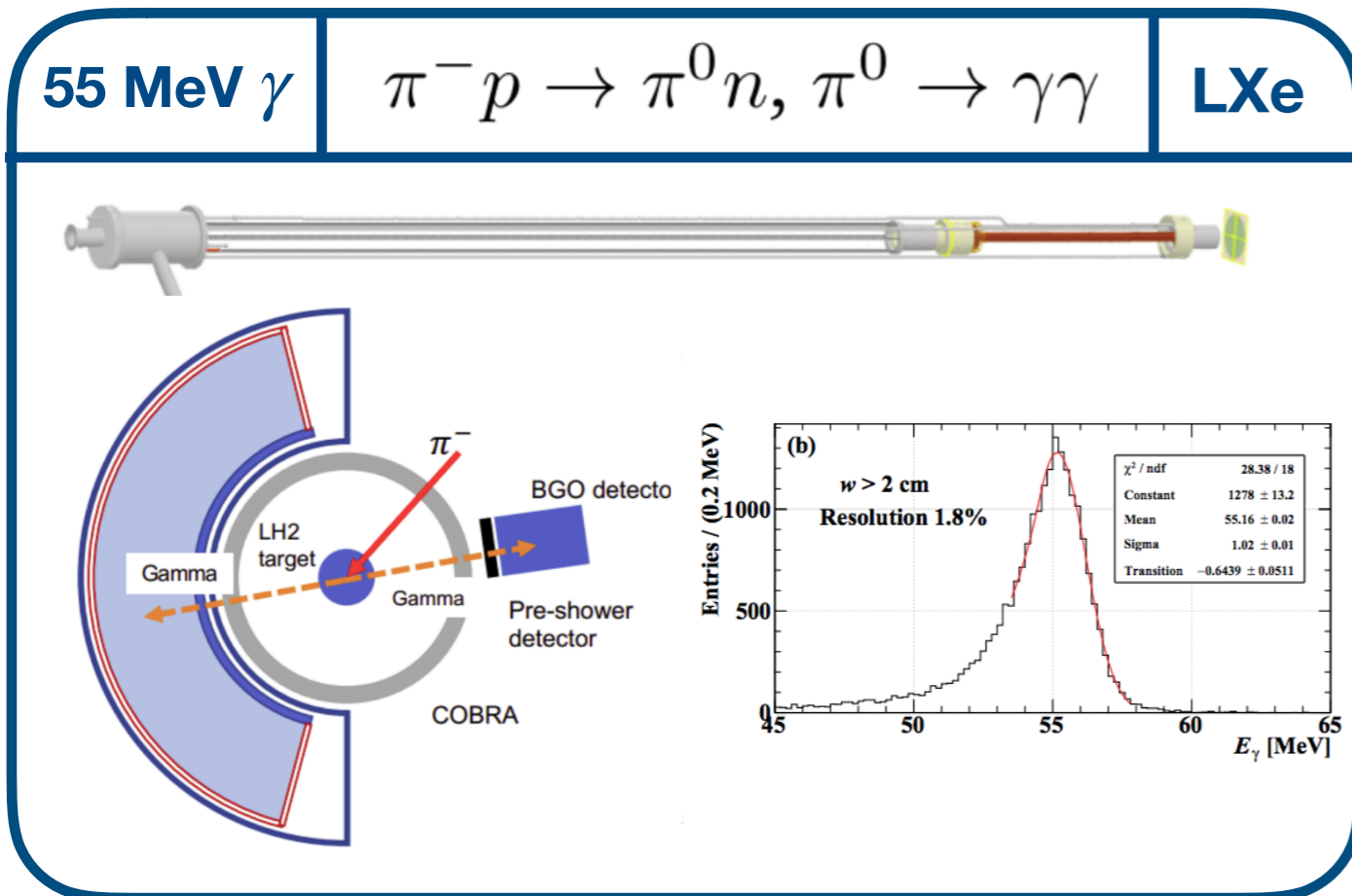


Accidental

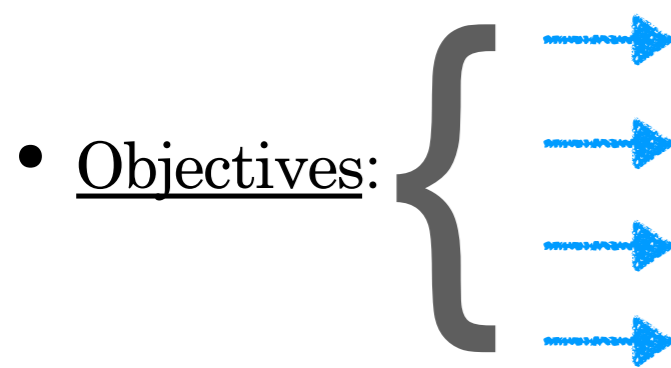


Detectors calibrations

- Search relies on an extensive and regular calibration routine



- With all elements mentioned above, engineering run in February 2022

- Objectives: 
 - define optimal experimental setup and final TDAQ configuration
 - understand backgrounds
 - optimize target region
 - develop reconstruction algorithm

- Take-aways from 2022 run

→ converting gammas from 6 MeV Fluorine line overcrowd the trigger when the LiF target is used → only good for calibration of ancillary detectors, LiPON has to be used for X17 search

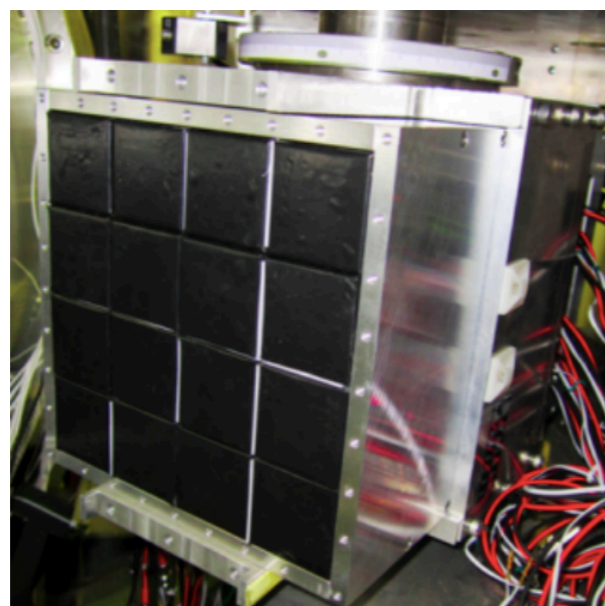
→ CDCH multiplicity condition (18 hits on each detector end) strongly suppresses trigger contamination and improves reconstruction

→ target region can stand high proton currents (up to 10uA) without overheating → heat-dissipation material can be reduced (less EPC background)

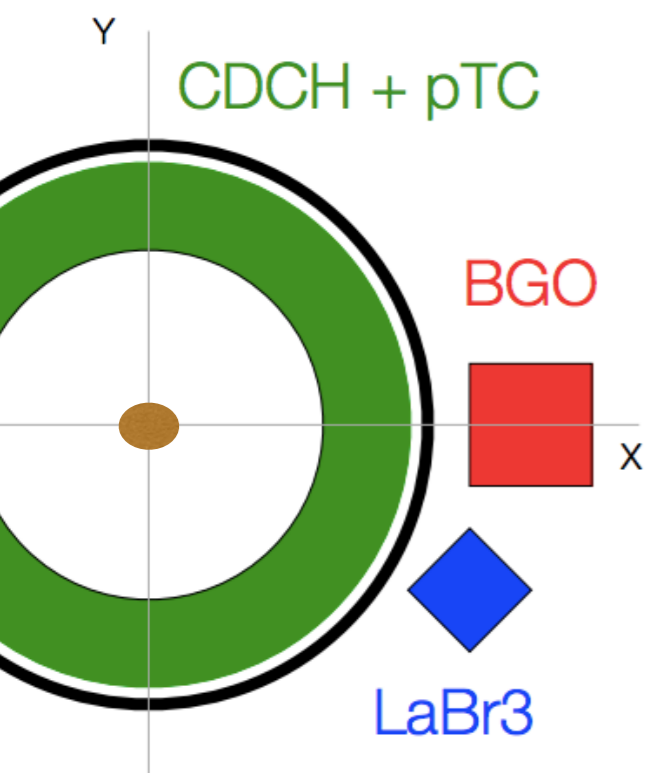
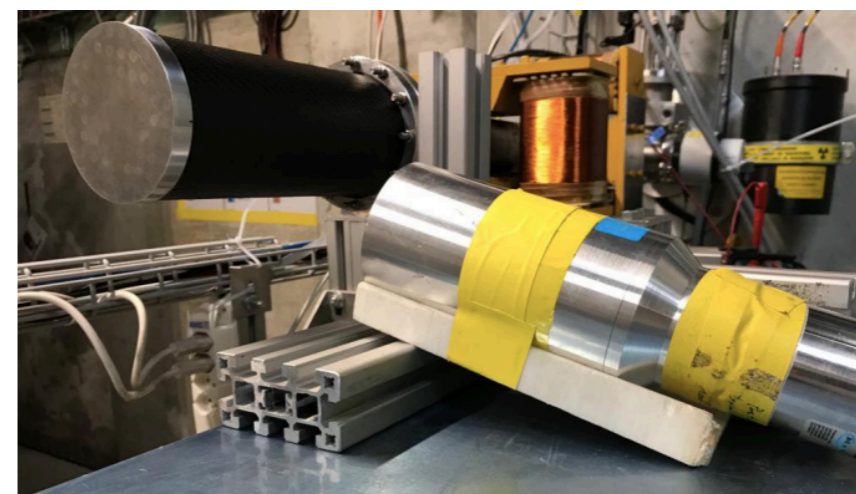
- Two additional gamma detectors

→ Stability monitoring
 → Signal normalisation
 → Daily monitoring

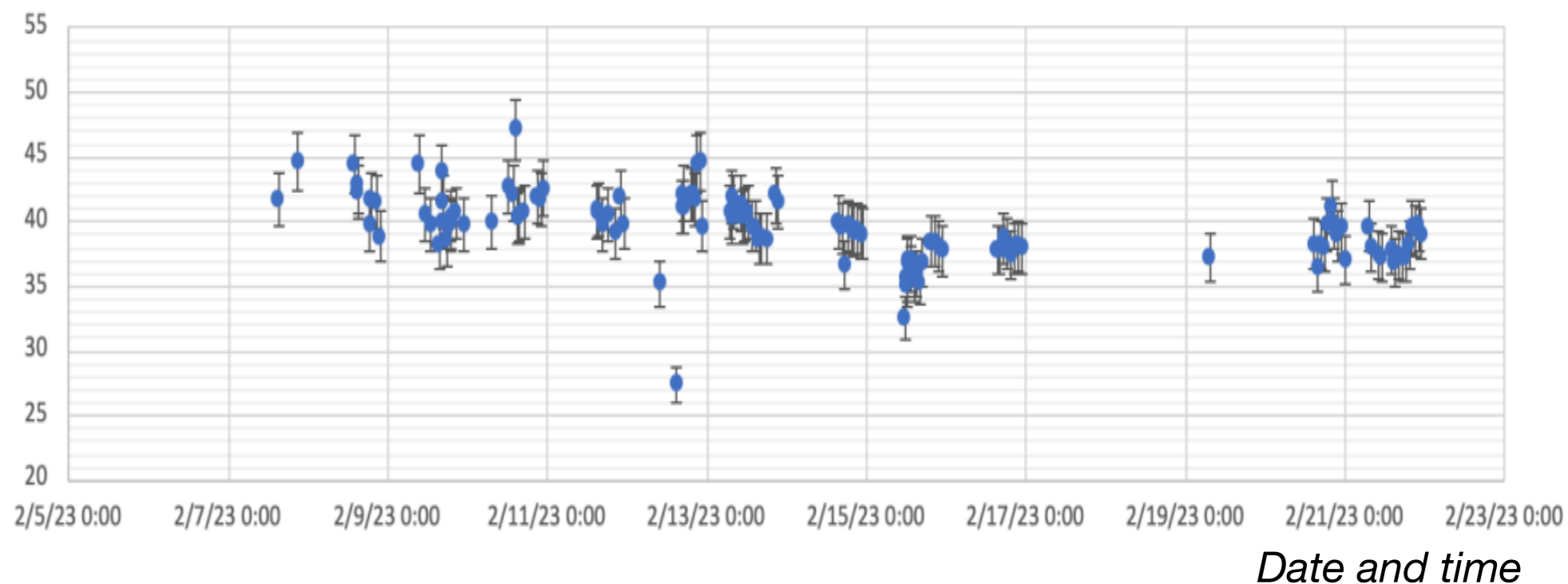
Bismuth Germanate (BGO) crystal matrix (4x4)



Lanthanum Bromide (LaBr3) crystal



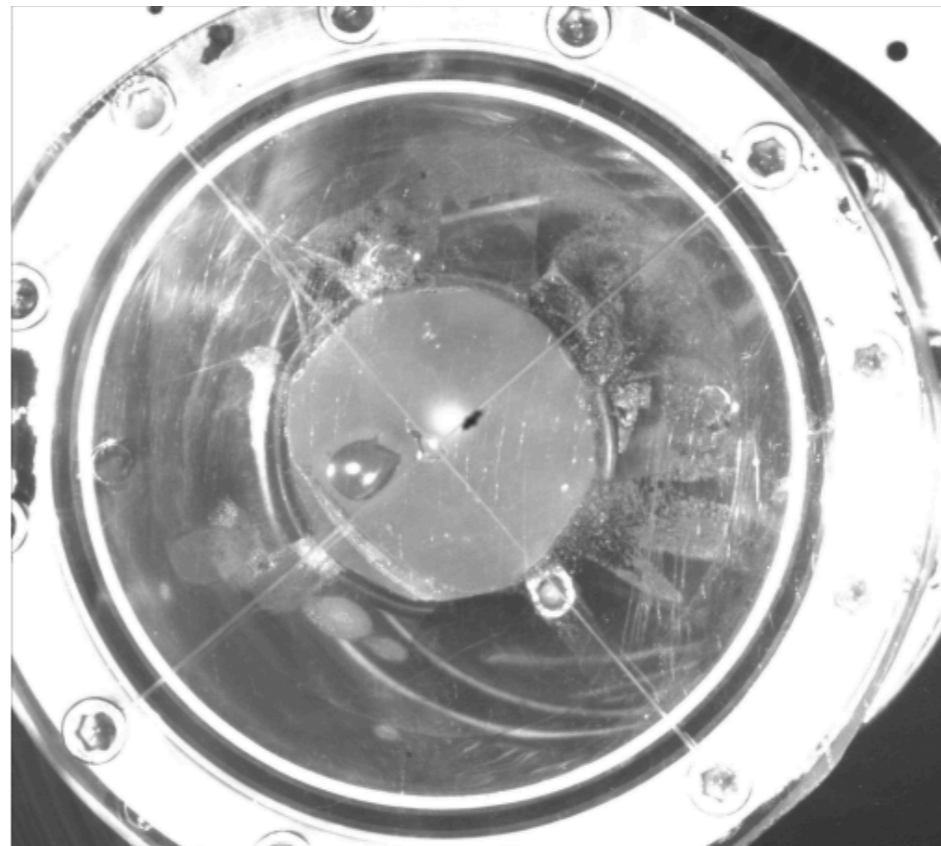
Gamma rate in BGO per current unit [Hz/ μ A]



- $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$ search relies on 52.8 MeV positron search with default magnetic field (1.27T at COBRA center)
- for X17: energies ~ 6 times lower \rightarrow scaling of the field by a factor 0.15
- CW tuned using a quartz target: proton-induced fluorescence in the quartz, visible emission
- Tuning made varying 3 dipolar fields along the beamline to center the beam \rightarrow beam spot centered and covering the Li area

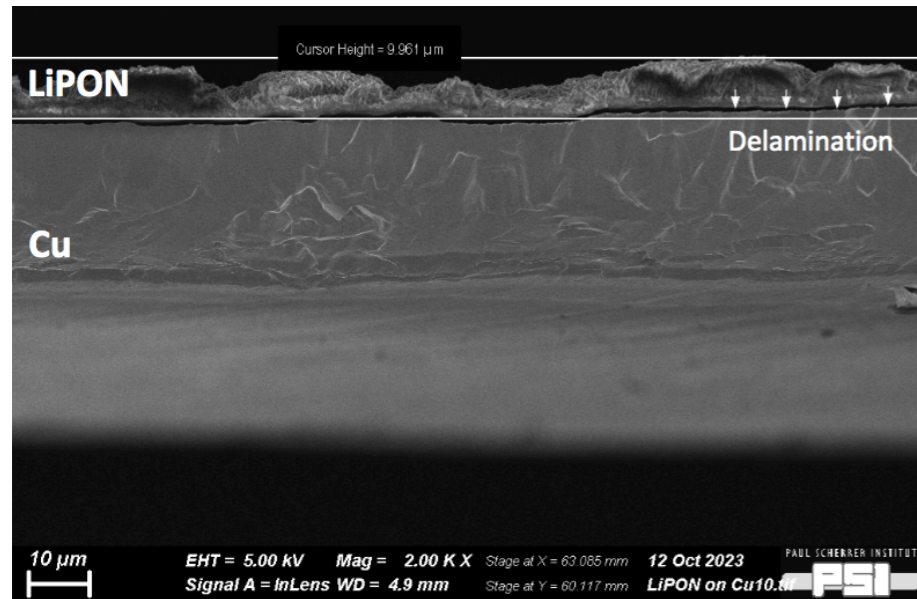


megCam - COBRA OFF



CCD camera - COBRA ON

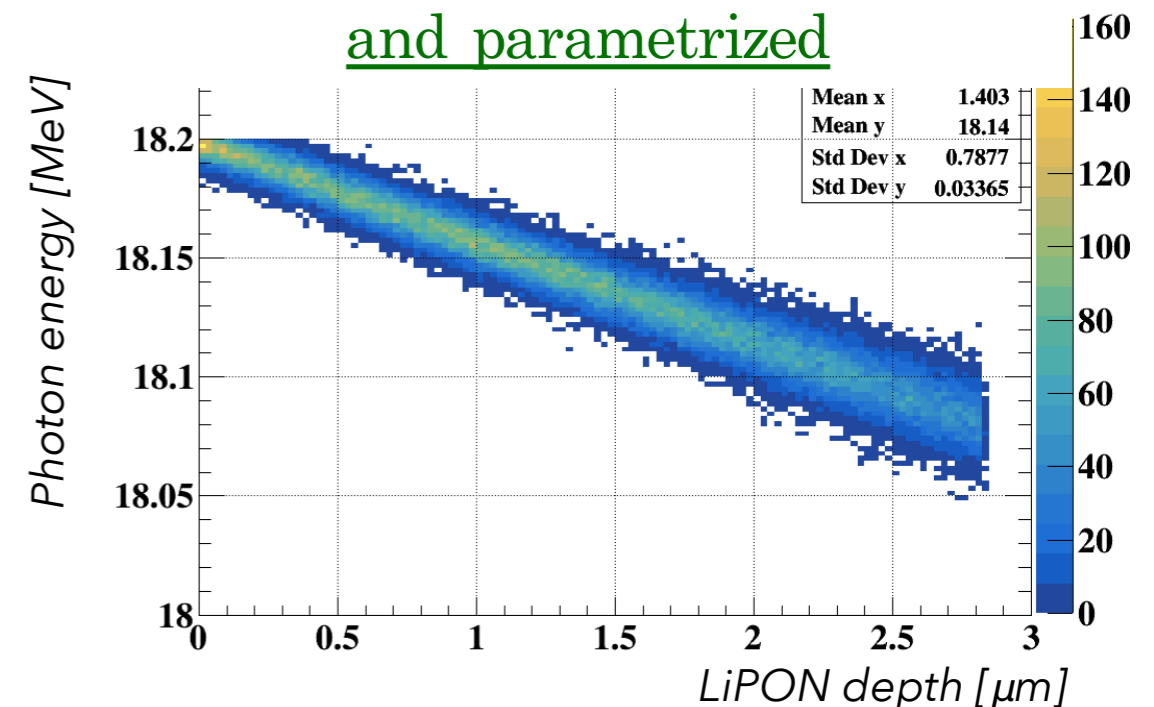
- Why LiPON?
 - Stable, no F-related bkg, thin films through sputtering, developed for batteries
- Difficulties for production: thickness control and non-uniformity, oxidation layer



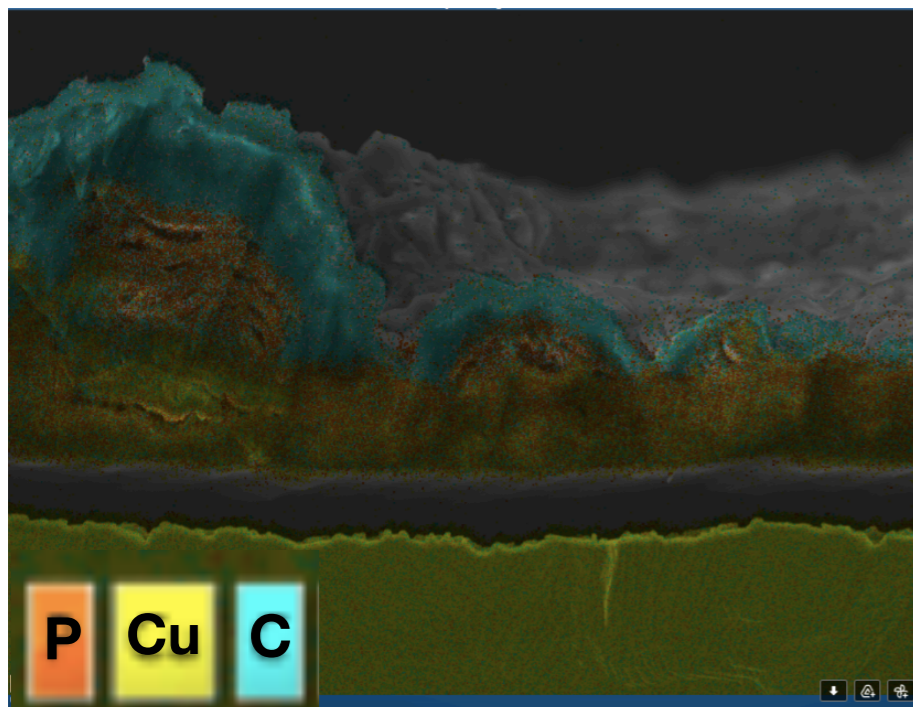
→ Delamination, pores, large thickness variations



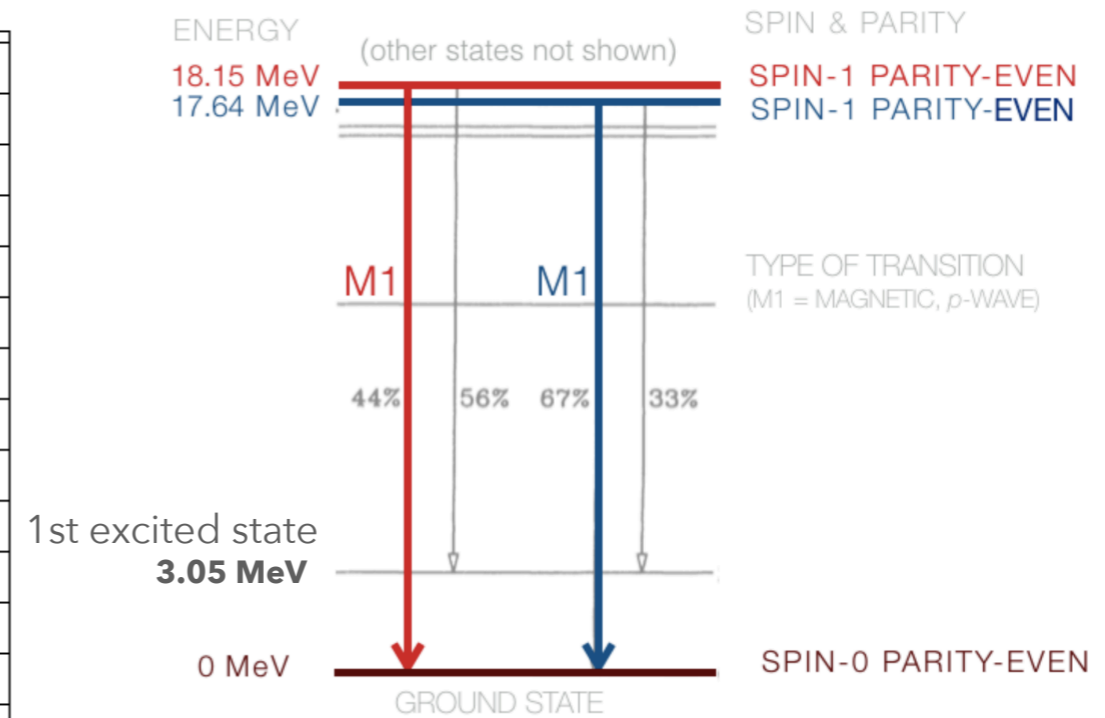
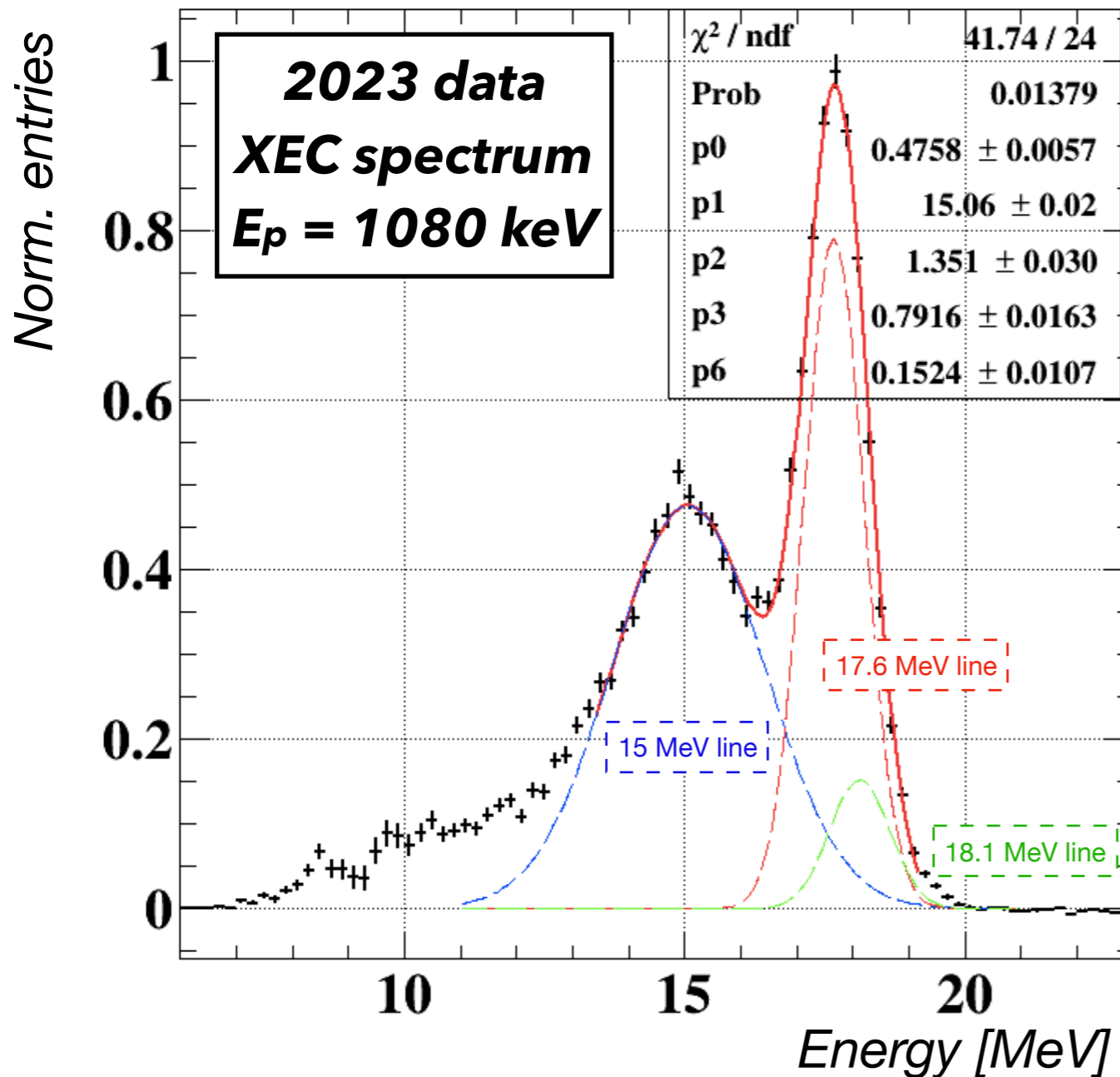
Proton energy loss simulated and parametrized



→ LiCO_3 on the surface



- Gamma spectrum using LXe calorimeter to understand excited transitions



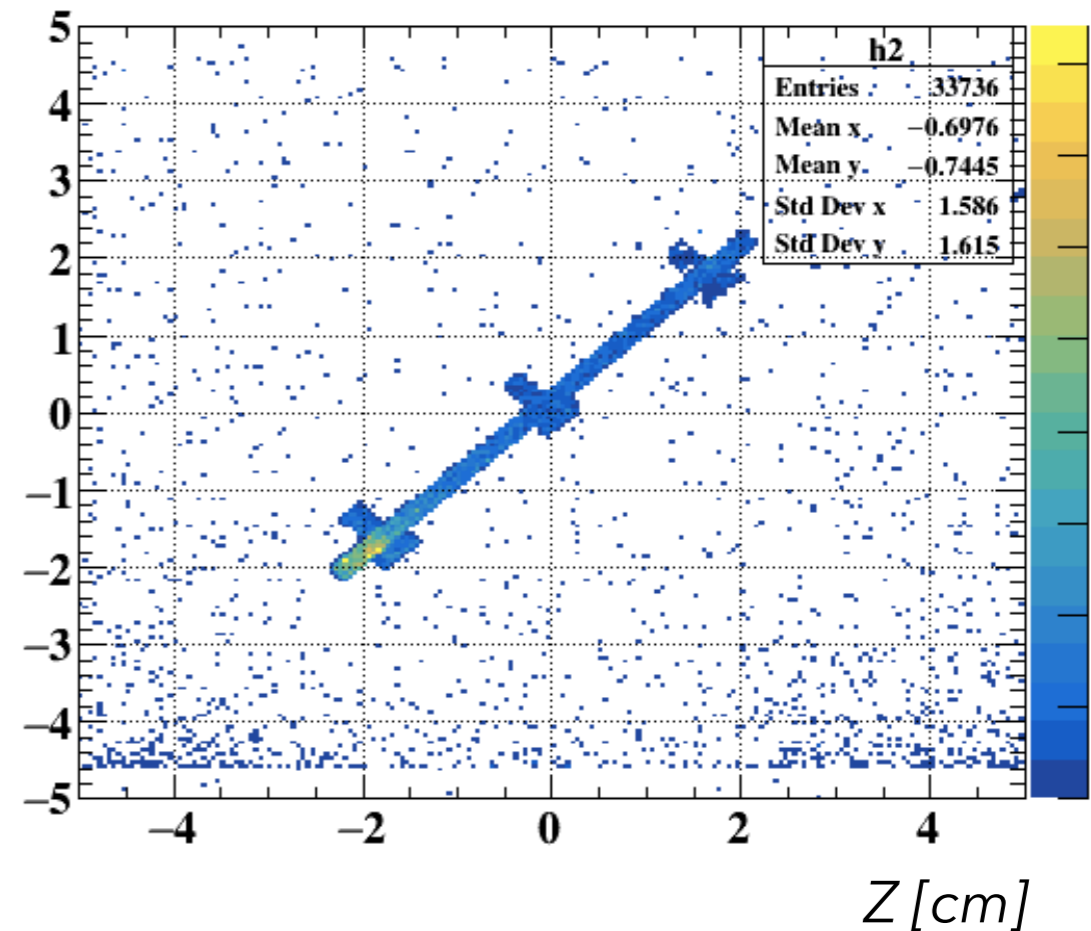
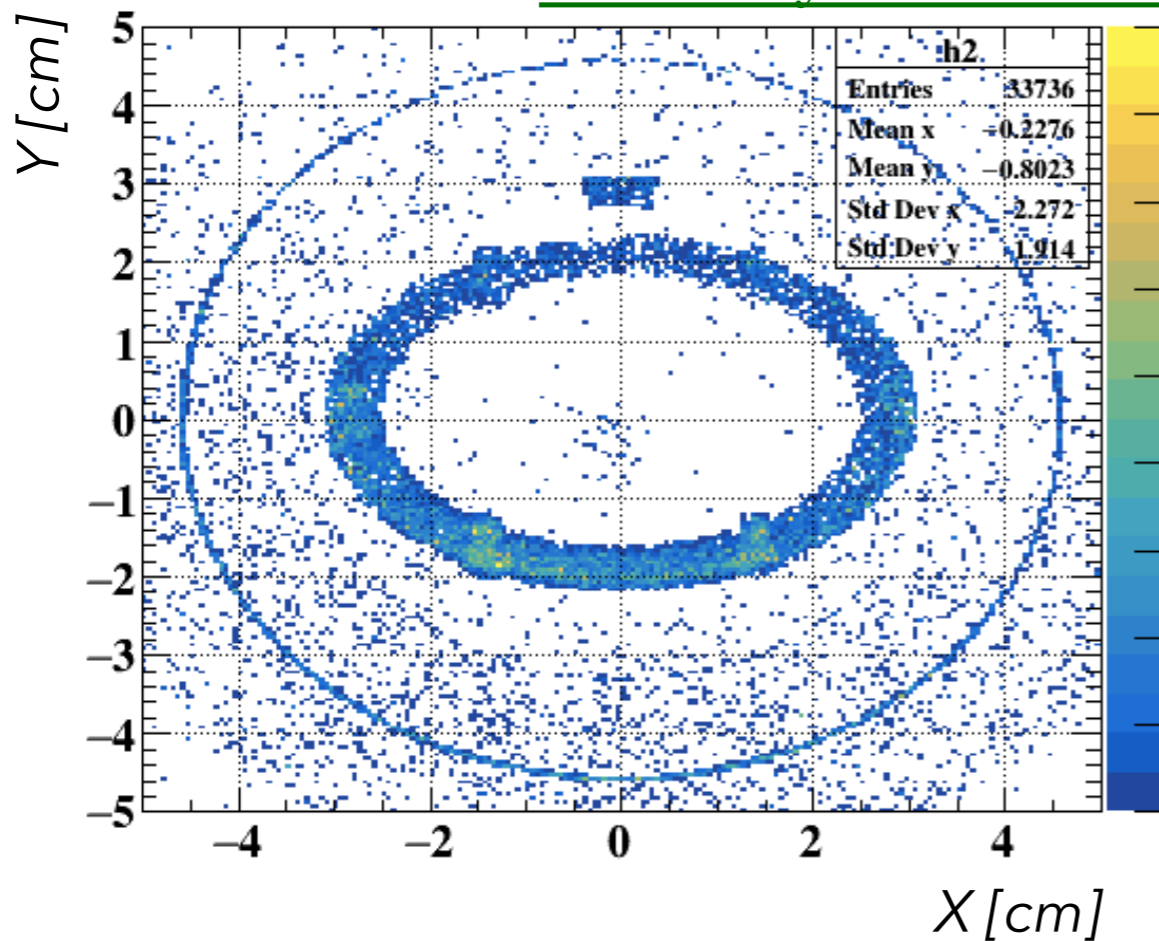
**Fraction of 18.1 MeV line
(wrt 17.6+18.1) can be extracted:**

$$f_{18.1} \sim 20\%$$

- Other backgrounds can impact the search
 - Need to be carefully studied and estimate probabilities
 - Complete setup with target, surrounding region, all detectors and all material was simulated
 - Large photon (18 and 15 MeV lines) simulation at beamspot position

EPC = External Pair Conversion
 → γ -conversion to e^+/e^- pair in matter

Secondary electron and positron conversion points



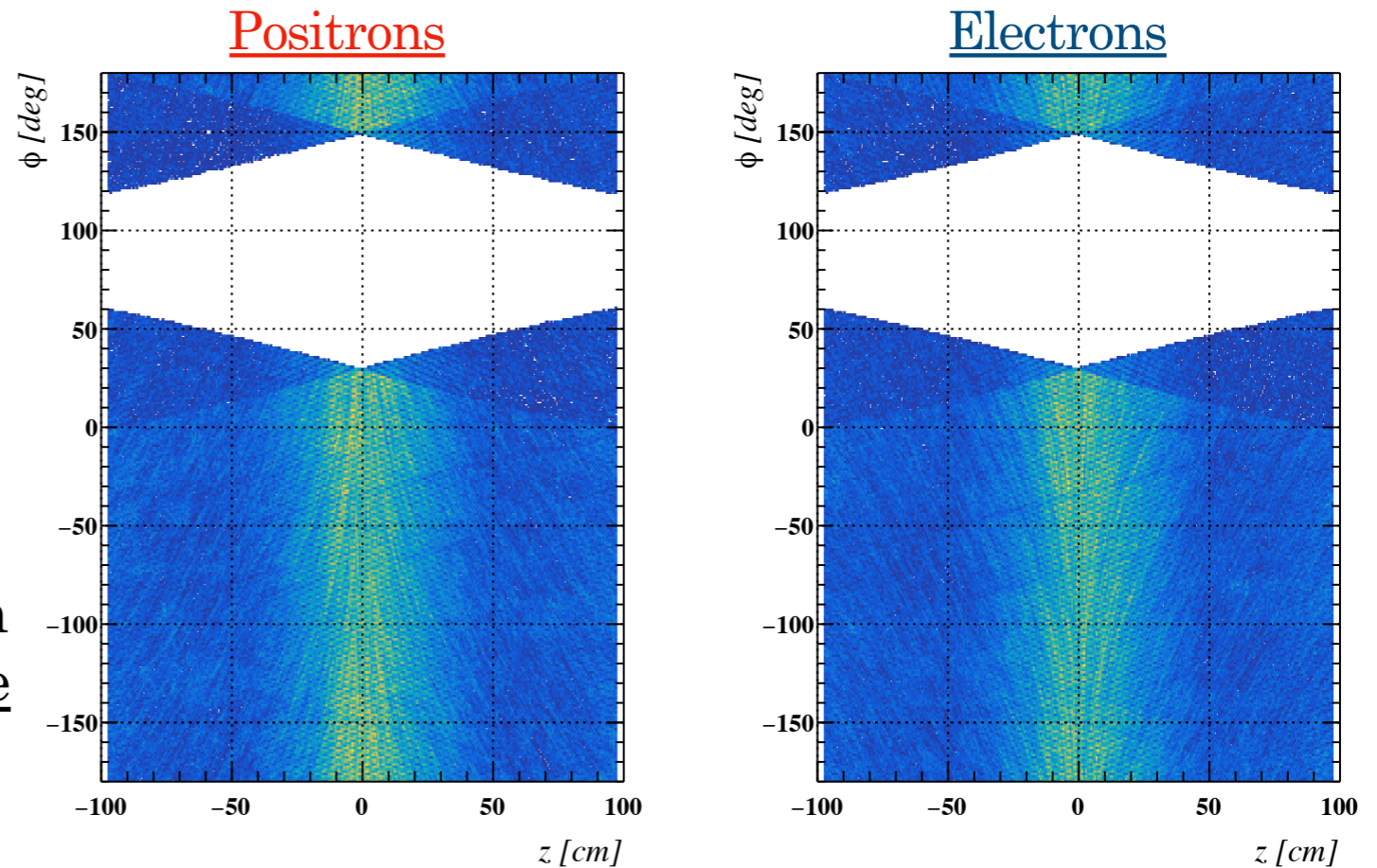
- Dominating background is EPC and Compton in heat-dissipating Cu ring
- With magnetic field and cylindrical design, reduced low-energy background

- MEG-II only reconstructs e+. Procedure was adapted for e- as well.

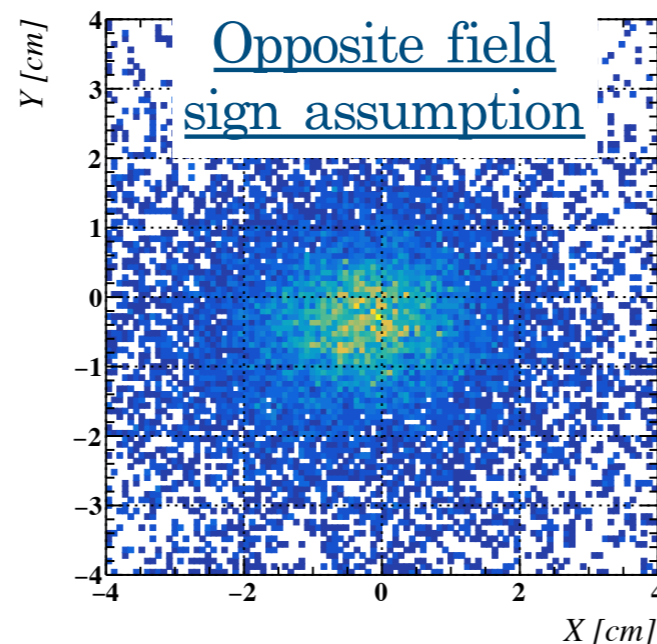
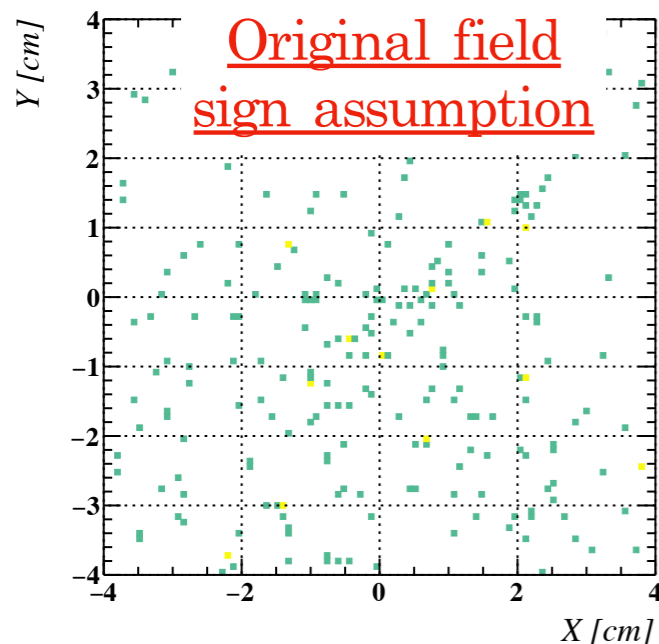
→ Simulated e+/e- tracks in CDCH

→ Both tracks can be distinguished through dp_T/dp_z sign in COBRA gradient field

→ Electron tracks reconstructed with MEG-II's track finder inverting the COBRA field sign assumption



Reconstructed vertices from electron-only simulation



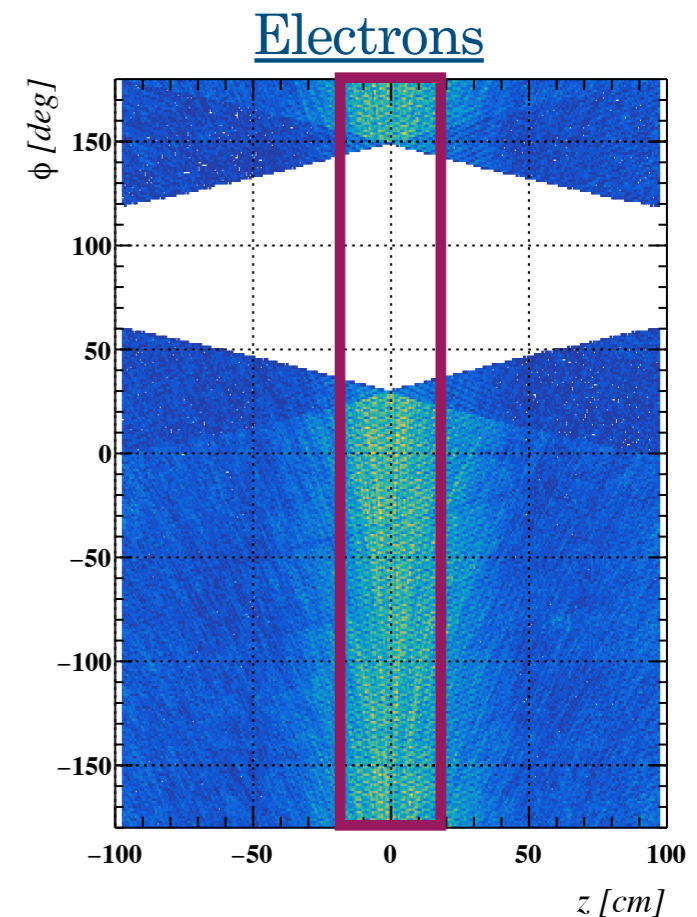
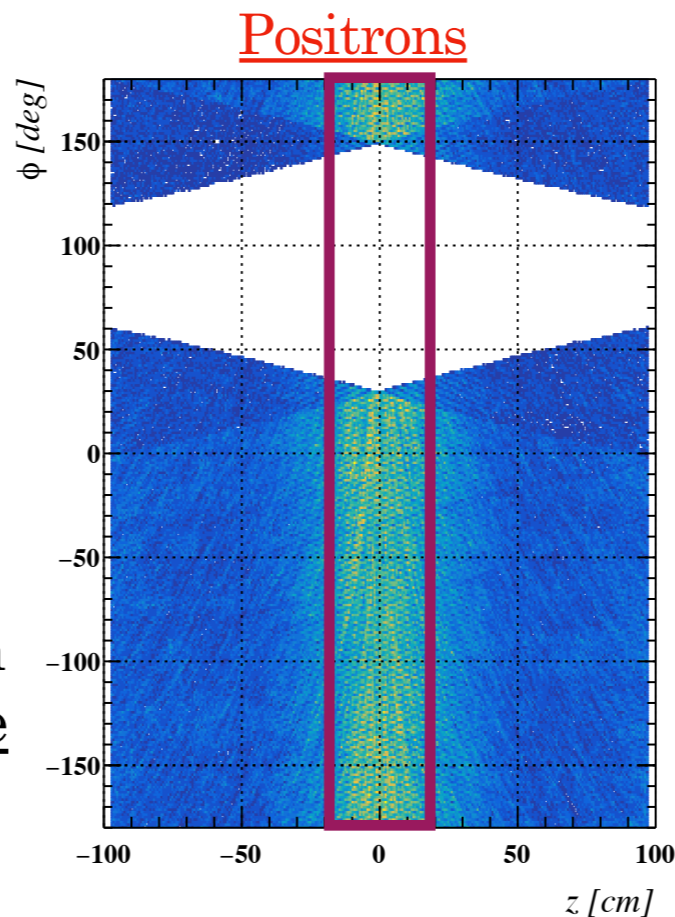
- 99% of tracks have correct sign
- 1% of tracks is misreconstructed

- MEG-II only reconstructs e+. Procedure was adapted for e- as well.

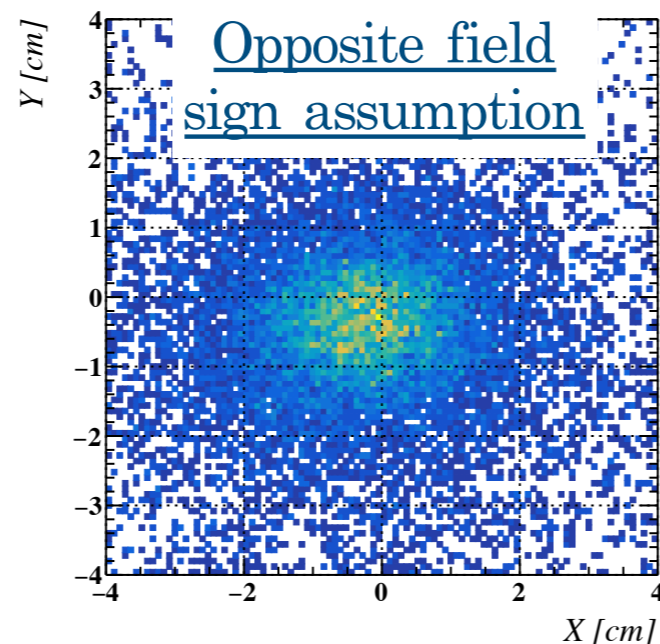
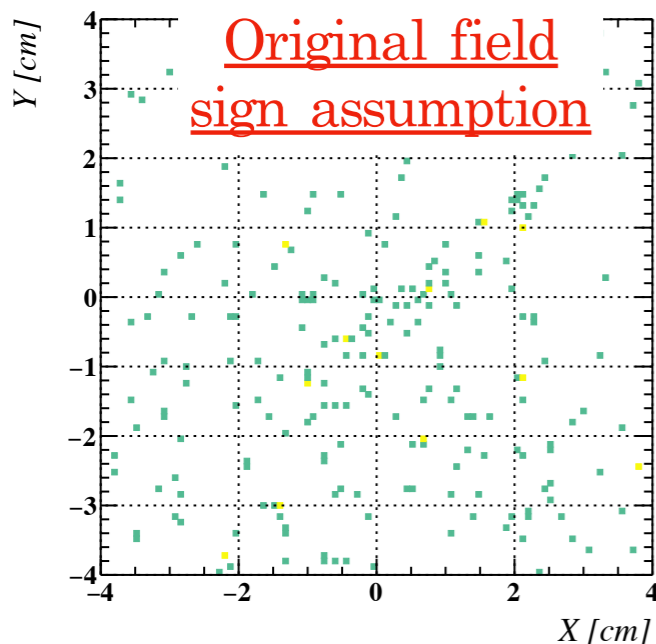
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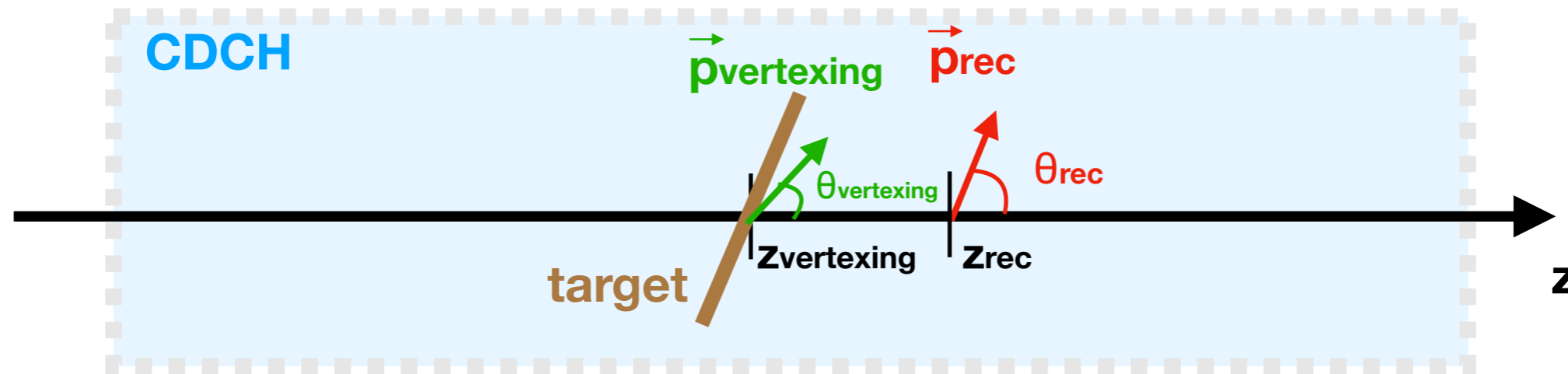
Reconstructed vertices from electron-only simulation



- 99% of tracks have correct sign
- 1% of tracks is misreconstructed

Tracks emitted orthogonal to the beam are sign-ambiguous

due to $O(20\text{cm})$ of air between target and CDCH and large multiple scattering
→ tracks are reconstructed $O(\text{cm})$ away from the true vertex



Objective: find e^+ and e^- common vertex

How: use e^+ and e^- state extrapolated at beam axis point of closest approach POCA + beam spot information

Why: improve resolutions

Procedure

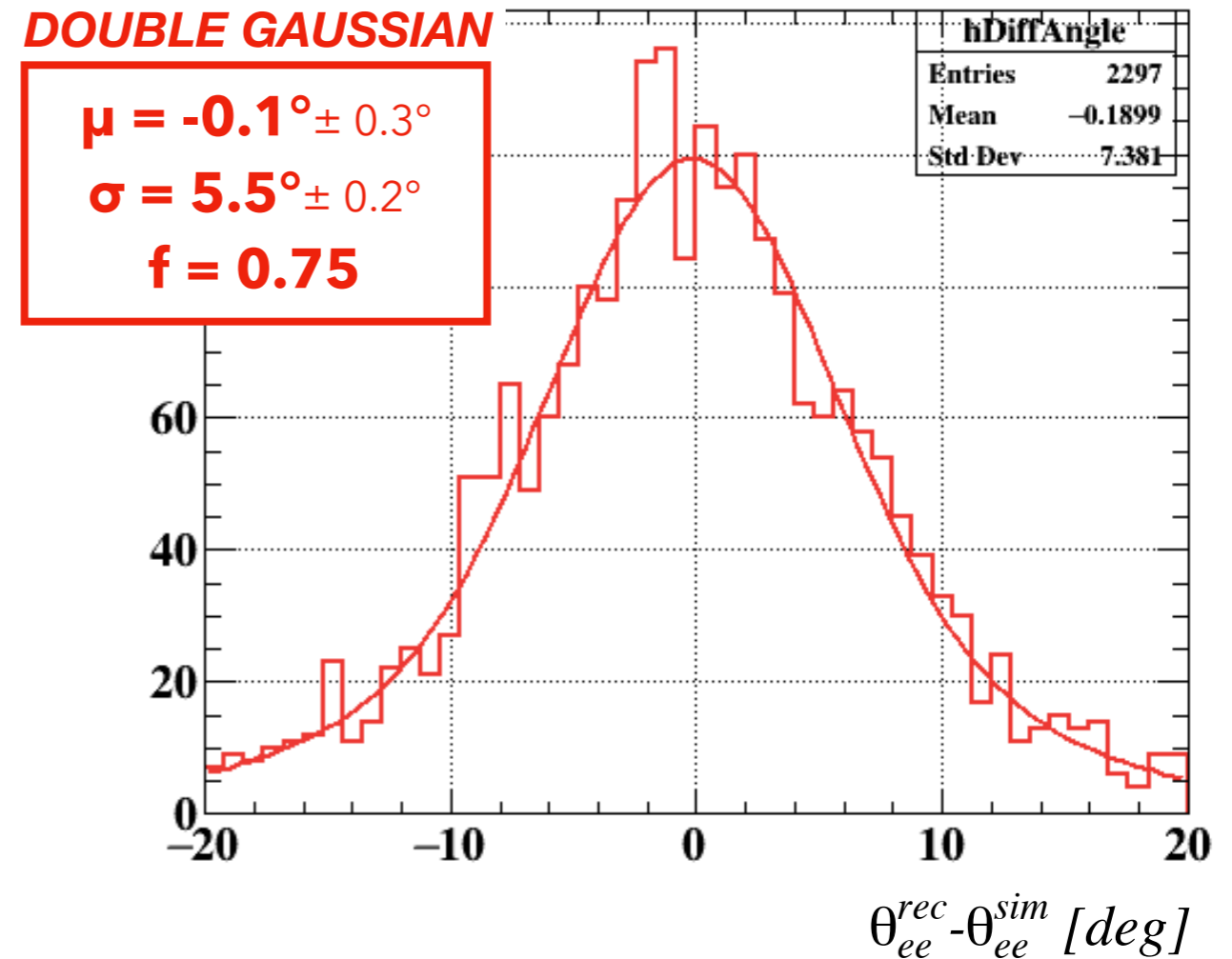
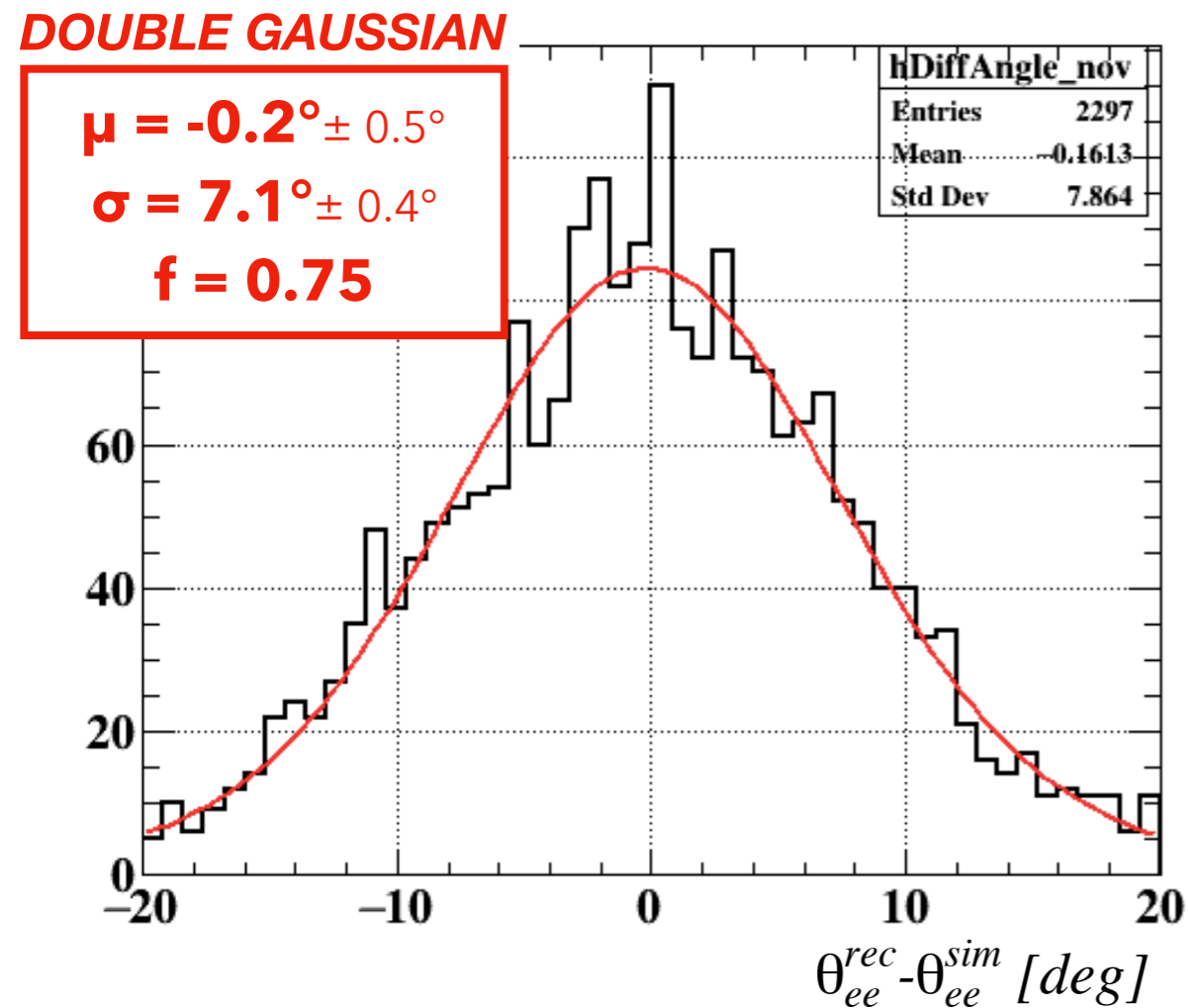
- all tracks are fitted separately to the z axis POCA
 - selection of best e^+ and e^- track
 - search for a possible common vertex within a beam spot constraint
 - vertexing tool
- RAVE (Reconstruction (of vertices) in Abstract Versatile Environments)
- compatible with GENFIT

Angular Opening resolutions

X17 MC simulation

No vertexing

With vertexing

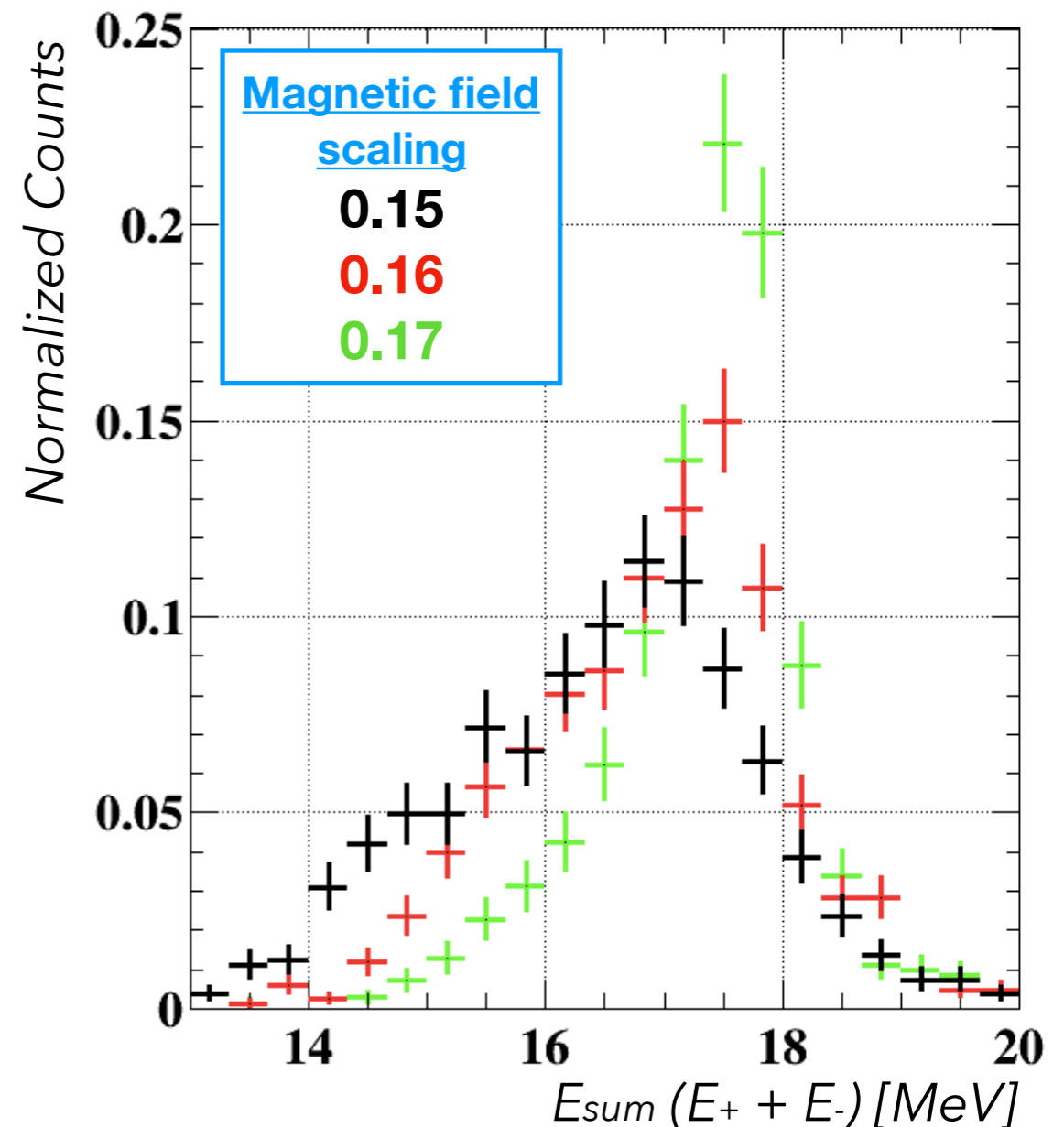


→ 25% improvement on X17 signal angular opening resolution

Reduced magnetic field

- $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \gamma$ search relies on 52.8 MeV positron search with default magnetic field (1.27T at COBRA center)
- for X17: energies ~ 6 times lower \rightarrow scaling of the field by a factor 0.15 wrt. default
- Signal and backgrounds simulation with different field strengths to estimate the best signal efficiency and resolution

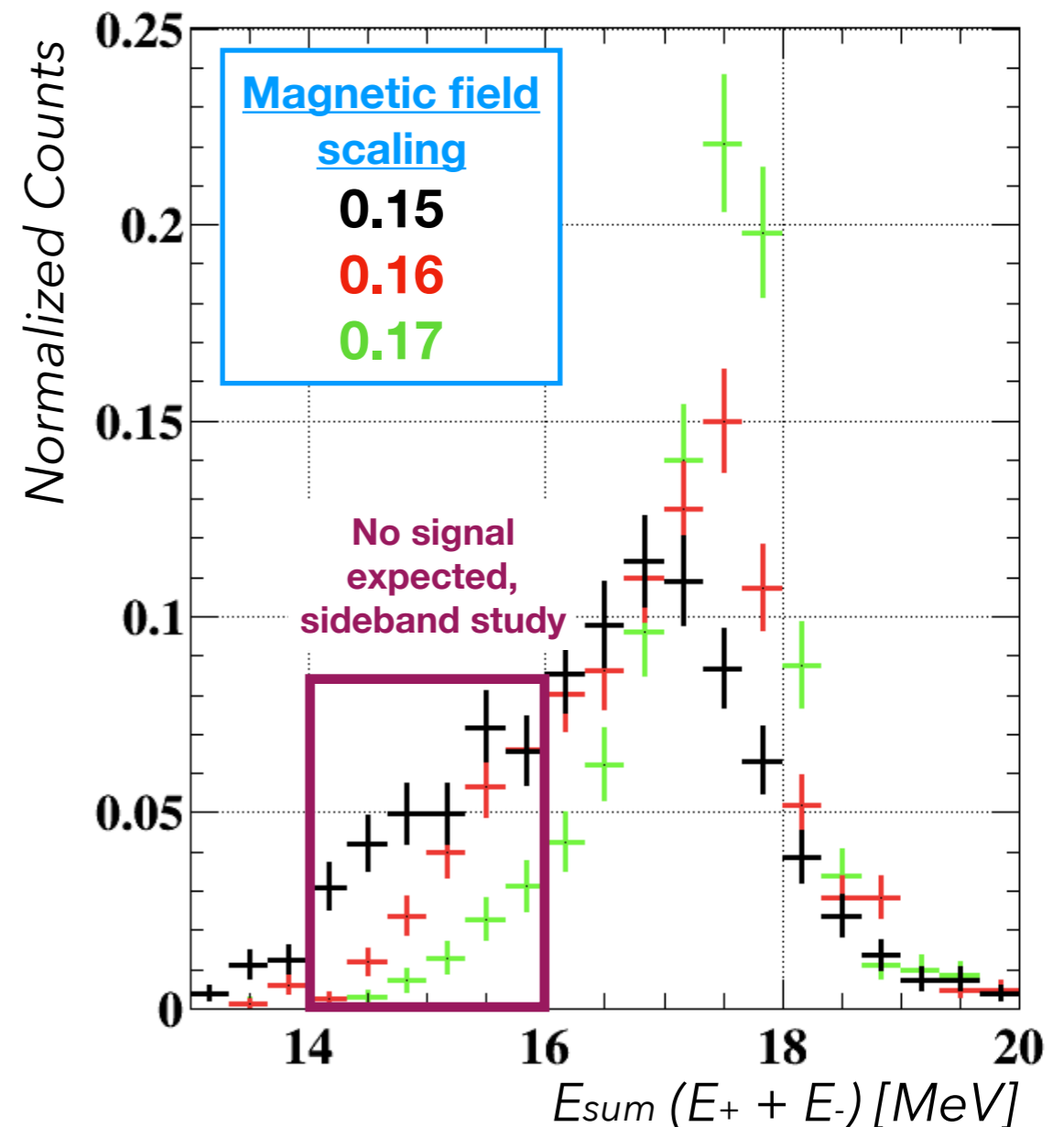
Field scaling	Comments
0.17	<u>good</u> resolution but poor efficiency (low mom outside acceptance)
0.16	<u>good</u> resolution + <u>good</u> efficiency
0.15	<u>good</u> resolution + <u>good</u> efficiency + <u>lower E_{sum} tail</u> for study in sidebands



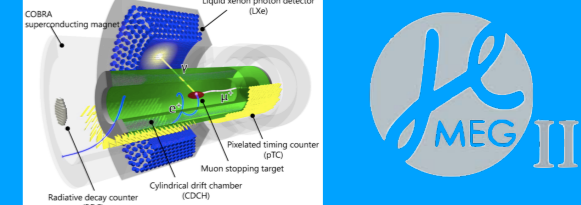
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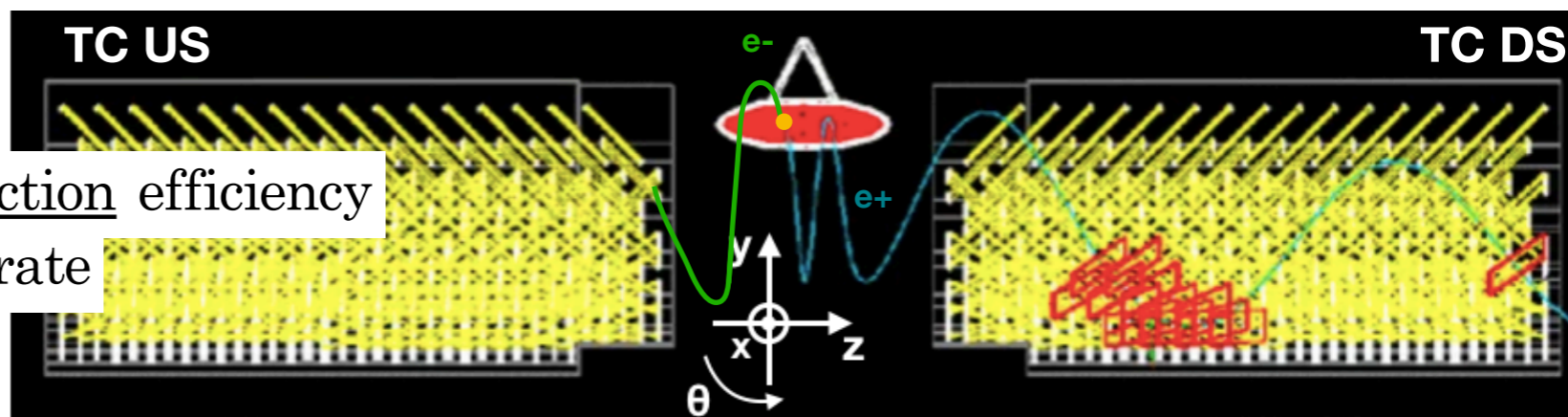


Trigger strategy: TC hit multiplicity



Why requesting at least 1 TC hit?

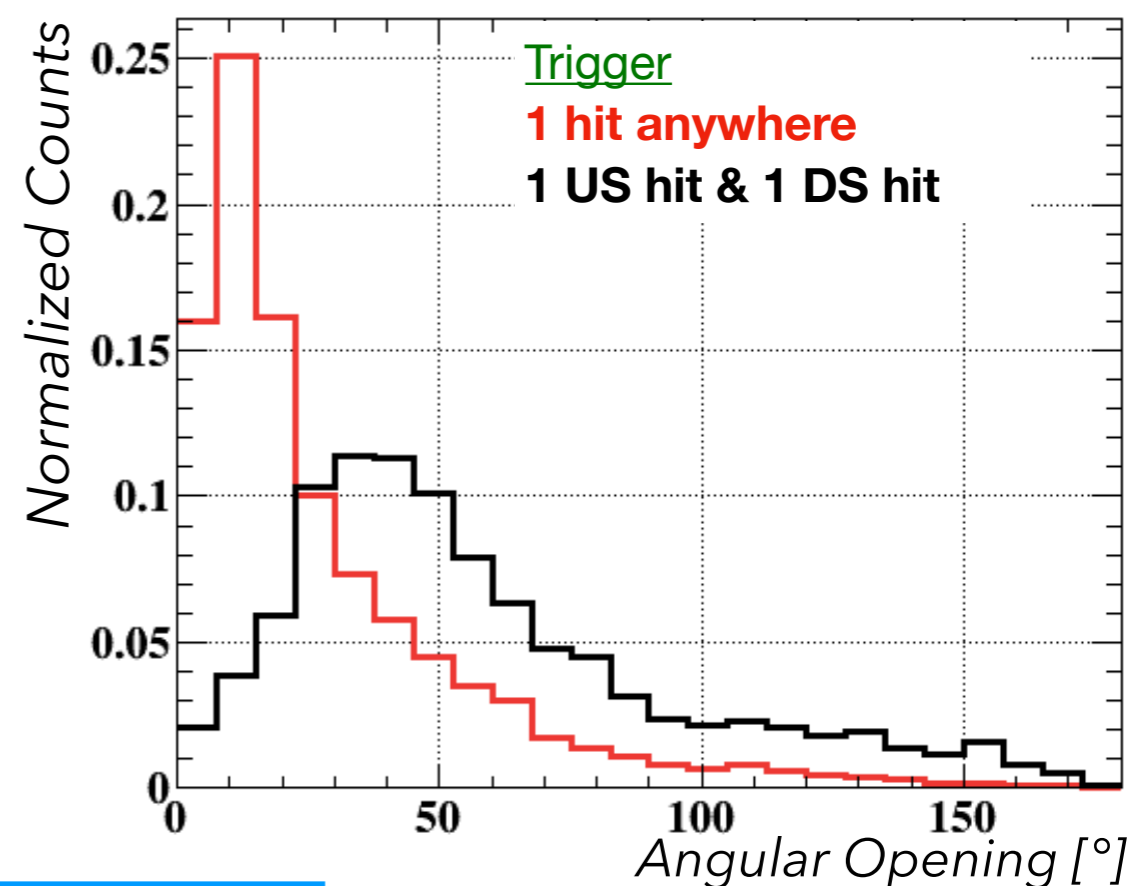
- largely improves track reconstruction efficiency
- less pileup, allows higher beam rate



One trigger option:

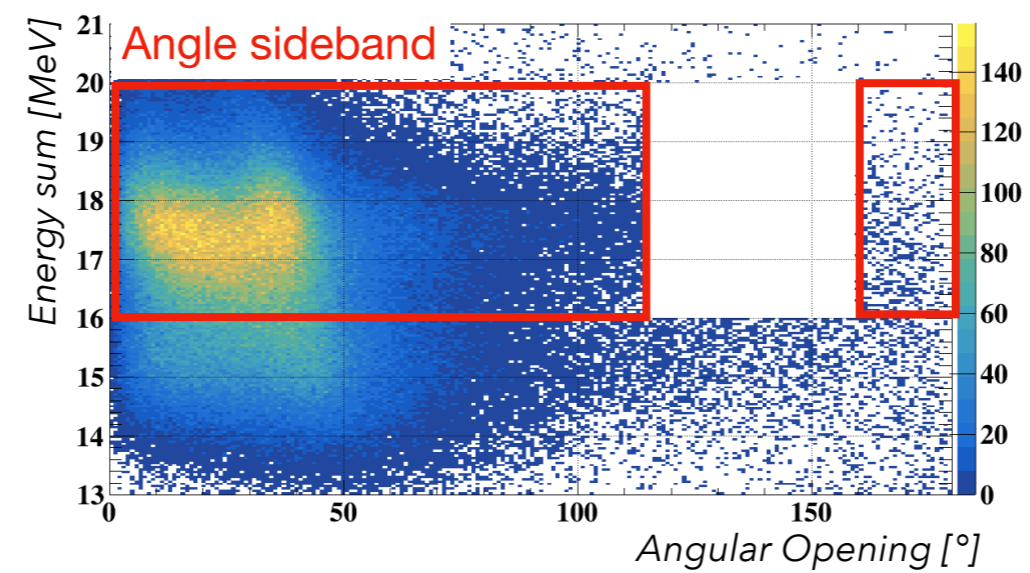
- 1 TC hit US & 1 TC hit DS
- Selects large angular opening pair
- IPC rate divided by a factor 60 (wrt to 1 TC hit)
- Total trigger rate < 1 Hz (at $I_{\text{proton}} = 10\mu\text{A}$)
- X17 rate divided by a factor 3 (wrt to 1 TC hit)
- Low angle statistics is mitigated
- Proton current limitations prevented us from making it advantageous

Reconstructed IPC angular opening

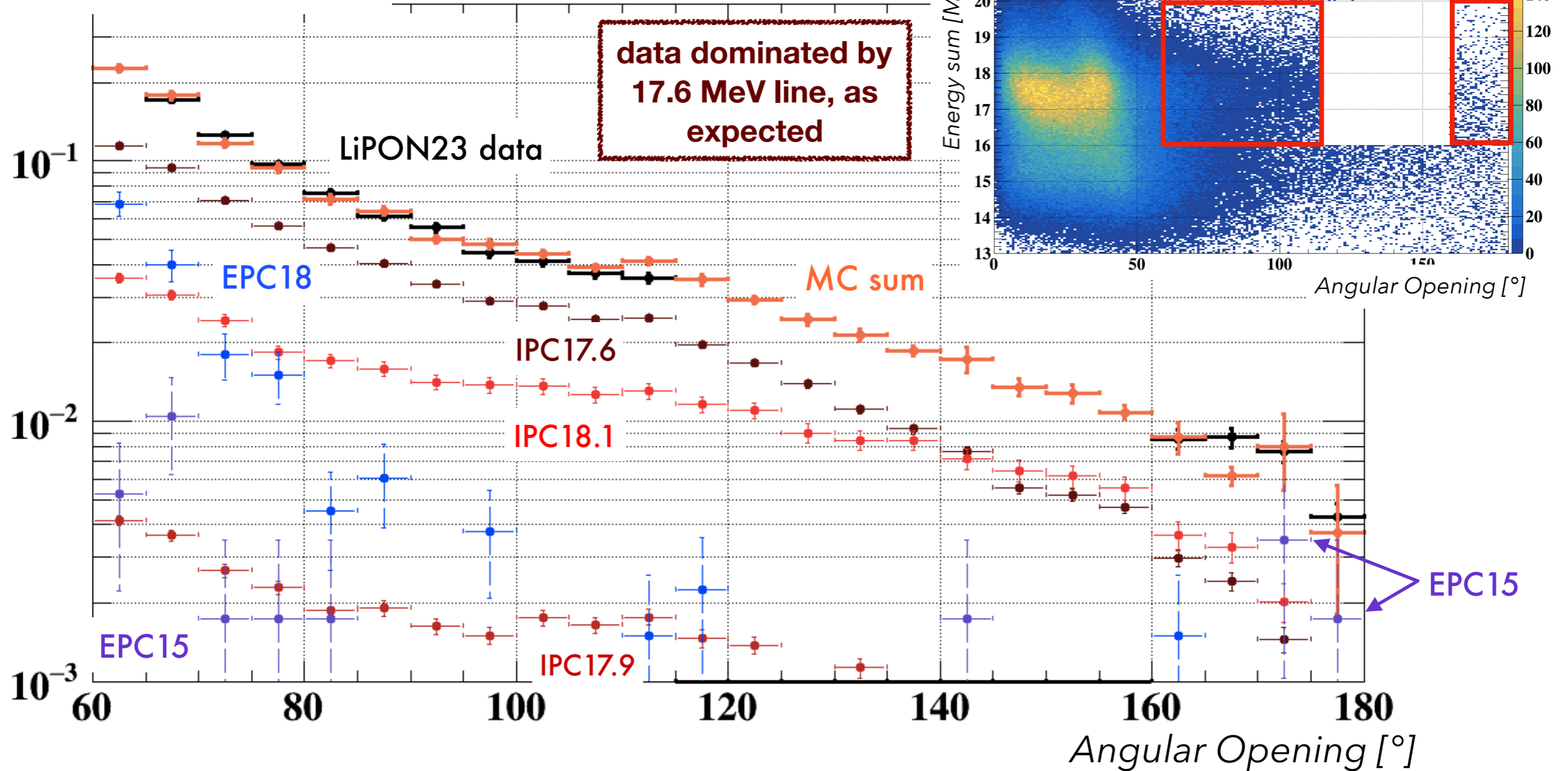


To be considered in the future but for now 1 TC hit required

Angle sideband fit



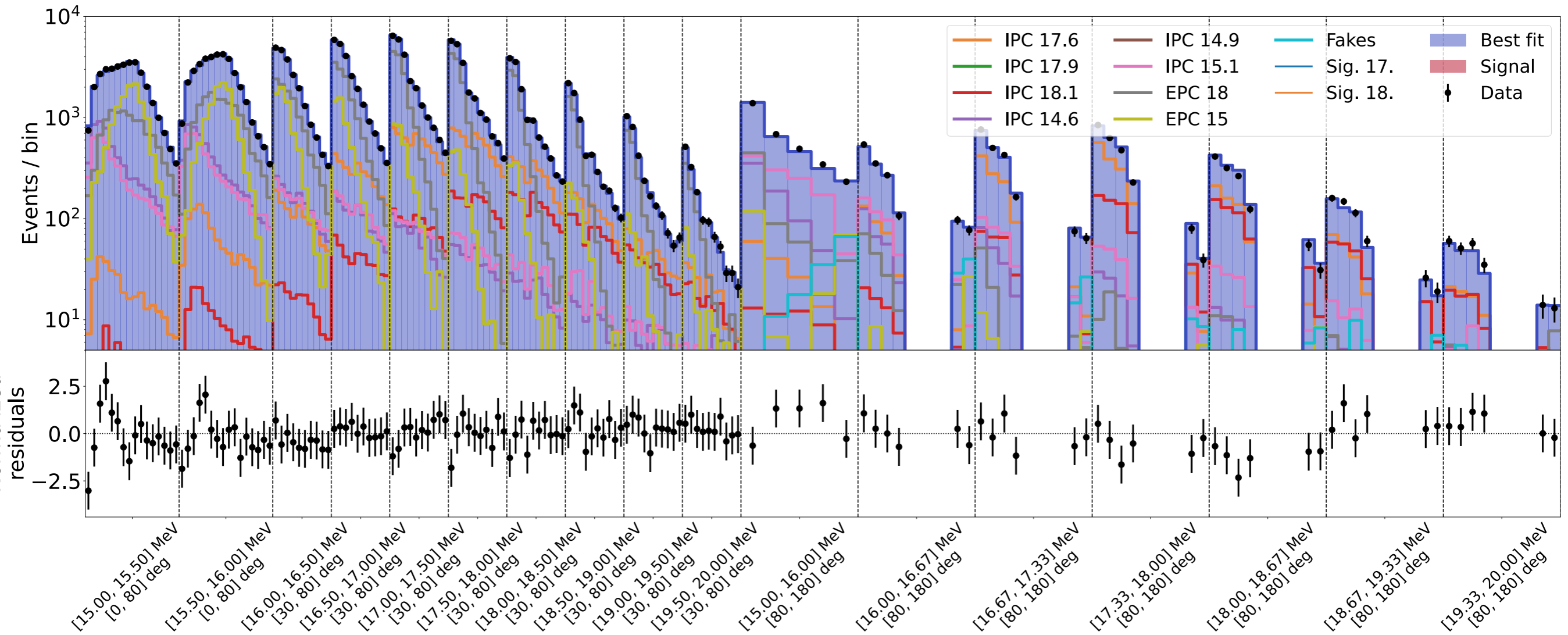
Events / 5° (normalized)



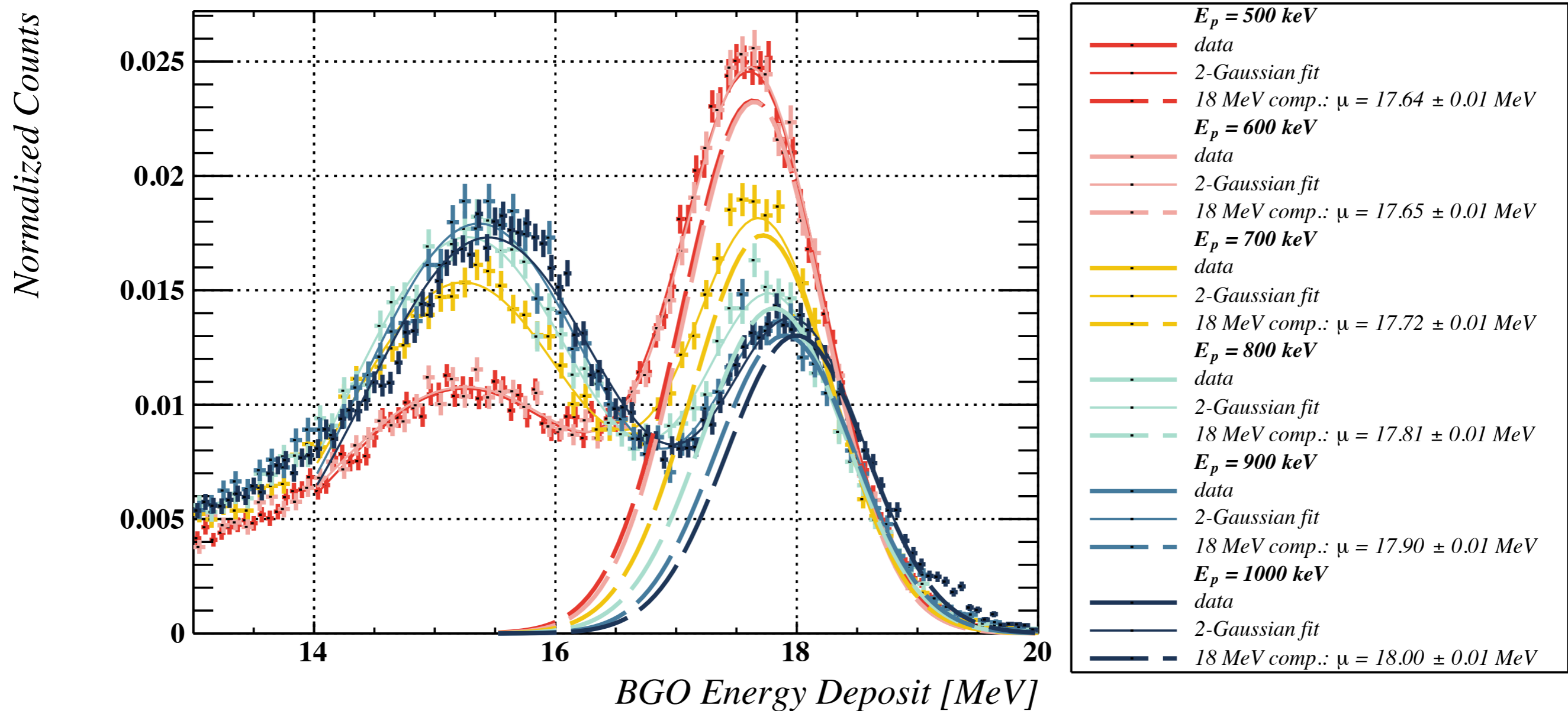
- ➡ large angles can be fitted with a mix of **flatter IPC** and **EPC bkg**
- ➡ further statistics will give more insight but **good understanding of various contributions**
- ➡ background is **smooth and monotonously falling in signal region**

- We can use template histograms, directly from the MC production:
- no need for PDFs definition
 - naturally accounts for linear and non-linear correlations between the fitted variables
 - easy implementation of Feldman-Cousins approach to confidence belts
-
- EPC and IPC MC production are particularly time consuming.
 - The effect of limited MC statistics can be accounted for in the likelihood (Beeston-Barlow likelihood)
Barlow 1993
 - 2D template fit Esum vs Angle maximizing such likelihood is under investigation
 - Additional constraints on ratio of proportions between **IPC18,i** and **IPC15,i** based on literature
 - First tests on both 2023 sidebands

● 2D fit in slices of E_{sum} :



➔ **A few hours of data were taken as well:** spectra are shown here



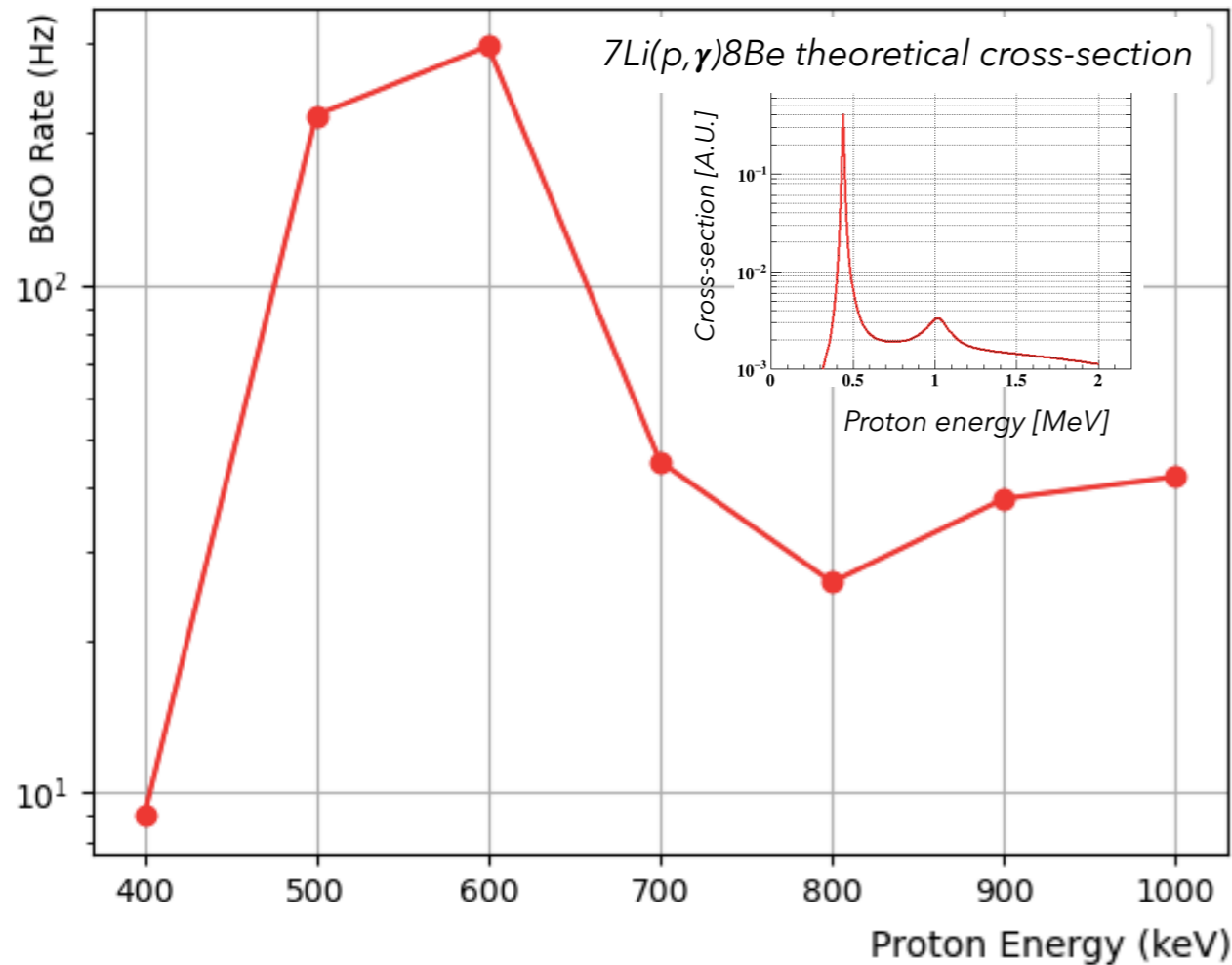
➔ As expected, **clear shift of a few hundred keV. To be confirmed with final fit.**

BGO PMTs gain drift considered small.

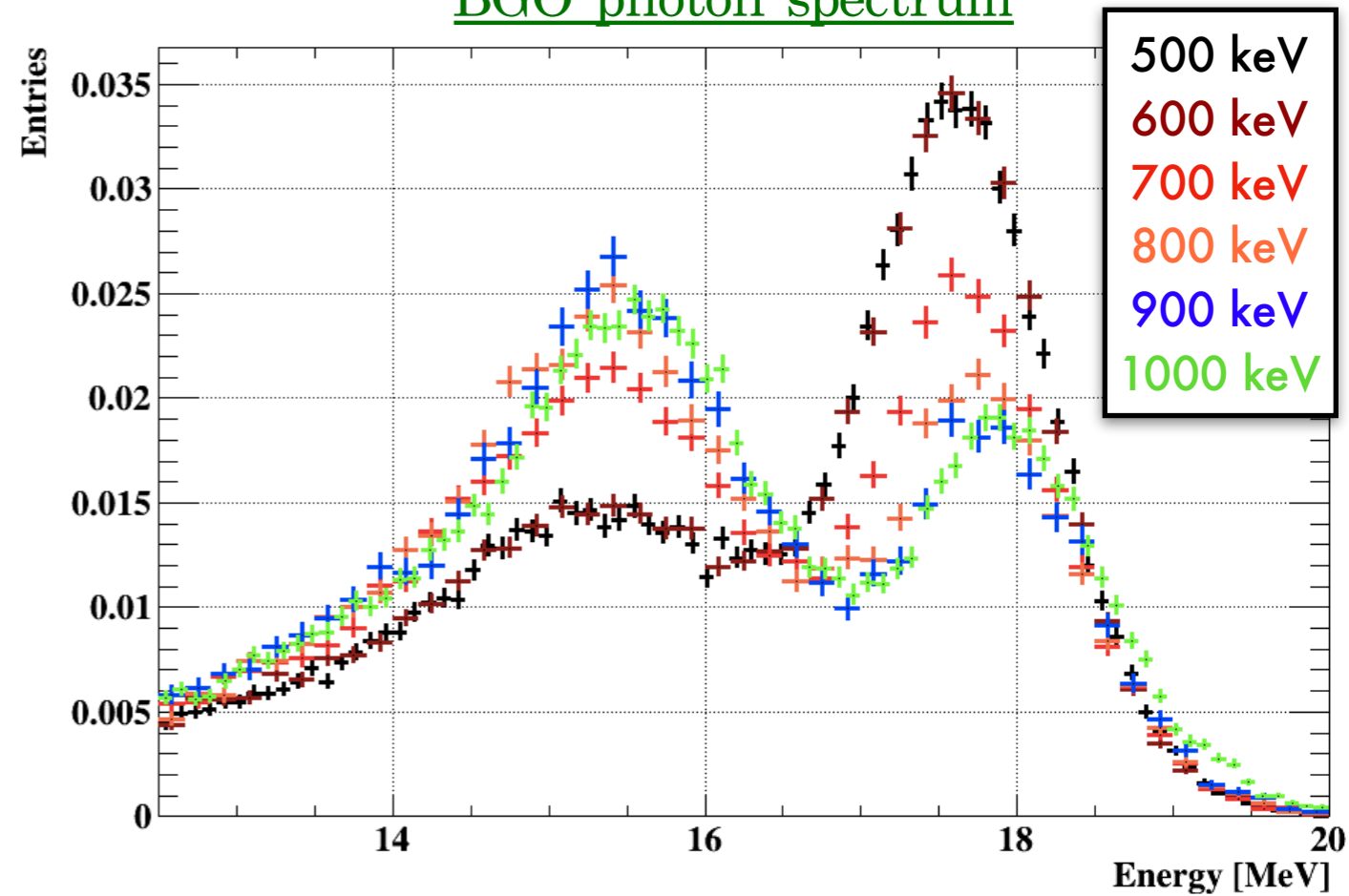
➔ As expected, **increased proportion of « 15 MeV line »**

- H_2^+ contamination was mitigated
- New thin $1.9 \mu m$ LiPON target installed
- Anisotropy measurements changing BGO position
- E_p scan with BGO @ 7 different proton energies

BGO trigger rate vs Proton energy



BGO photon spectrum



- Measurement fully in line with expected H^+ cross-section
- 18.1 MeV line was observed: ready for next DAQ!