



Tackling the muon $g-2$ anomaly with the MUonE experiment at CERN

Eugenia Spedicato on behalf of the
MUonE collaboration



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Anomalous magnetic moment of the muon

$\vec{M}_l = g_l \frac{e}{2m_l} \vec{S}$ \longrightarrow Dirac prediction $g_l = 2$ \longrightarrow Quantum corrections give the **anomaly**:

$$a_l = \frac{g_l - 2}{2}$$

Experimental average **FERMILAB+BNL**

VS

Theoretical **dispersive method** Discrepancy $> 5\sigma$

but...

LQCD result summarized in Theory

initiative White Paper (2025)

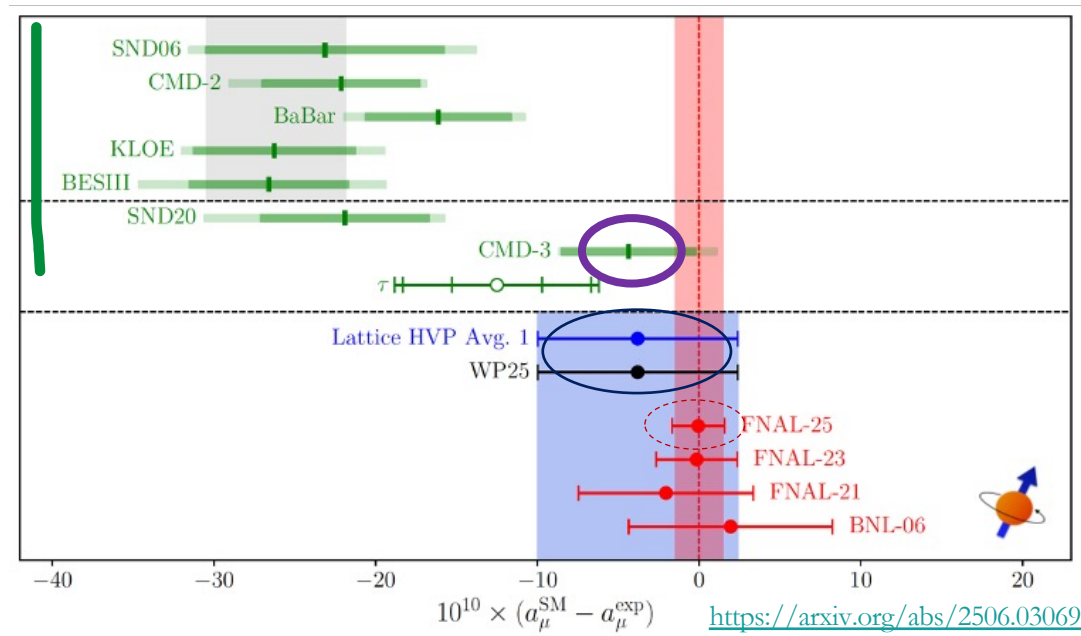
R. Aliberti et al., (2025) [arXiv:2505.21476](https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.21476)

Discrepancy $< 1\sigma$

New result from $e^+e^- \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$ cross section with **CMD-3** data

F. V. Ignatov et al., (2023) [Phys. Rev. D 109, 112002](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.03069)

Discrepancy $< 1\sigma$



Saskia Charity's [talk](https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.03069)

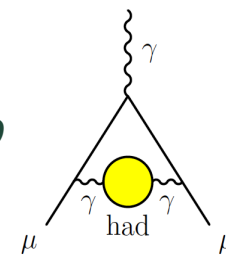
Can we experimentally test the lattice calculations?

1. Reduce the **experimental** error \longrightarrow Fermilab g-2 goal (124 ppm – [new article](https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.03069)-)

2. Improve **theoretical** precision \longrightarrow Dominant uncertainty: **LO hadronic vacuum polarization term** a_μ^{HLO}

$$a_\mu^{SM} = a_\mu^{QED} + a_\mu^{EWK} + a_\mu^{had}$$

0.6%



MUonE proposal

Independent estimate of a_μ^{HLO} through innovative method:

C.M. Carloni Calame, et al [Phys.Lett.B746\(2015\)325](#)

$$a_\mu^{HLO} = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \int_0^1 dx (1-x) \Delta\alpha_{had}[t(x)] \xrightarrow{\text{Smooth function}} \text{Space-like}$$

B. E. Lautrup et al., [Phys. Rept. 3 \(1972\) 193](#)

Proposed process to measure $\Delta\alpha_{had}$: **elastic scattering**

G.Abbiendi et al., [Eur.Phys.J.C77\(2017\)139](#)

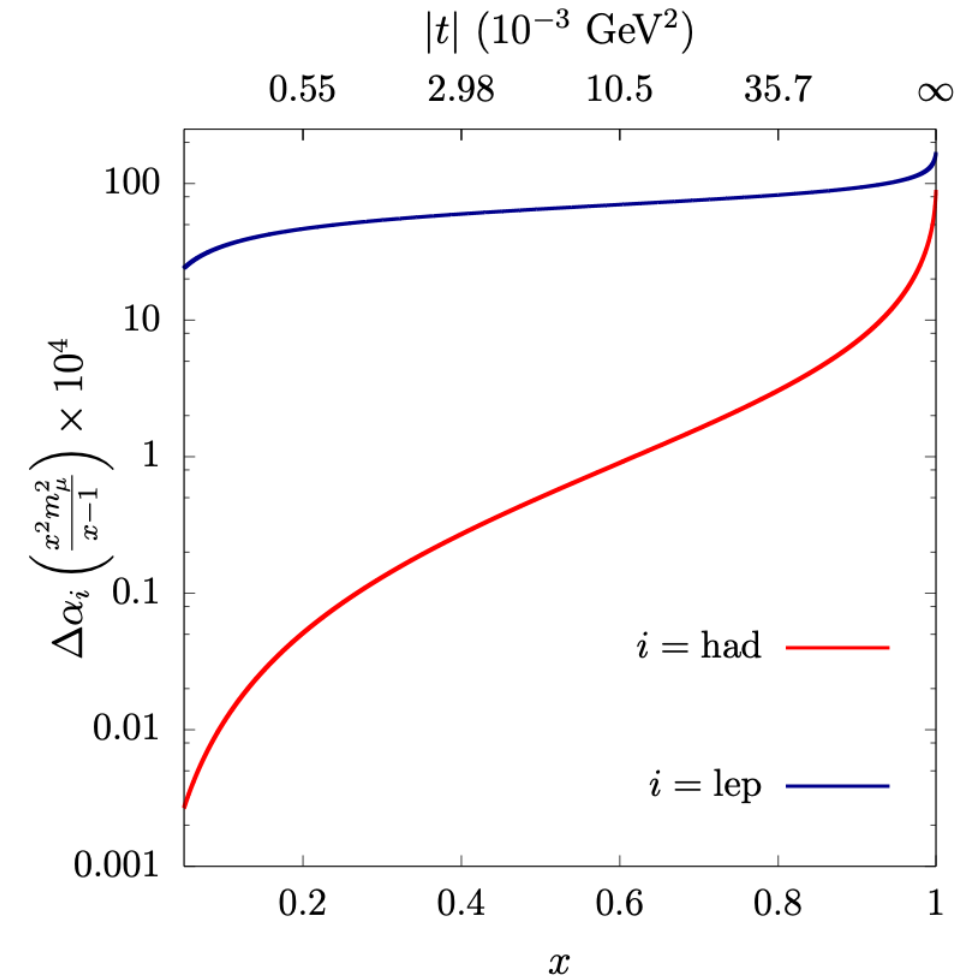
$$\mu (160\text{GeV}) + e^-(\text{rest}) \rightarrow \mu + e^-$$

M2 muon beam at CERN SPS

Workflow

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{d\sigma_0}{dt} \left| \frac{1}{1 - \Delta\alpha(t)} \right|^2 \xrightarrow{\text{Template fit}} \Delta\alpha_{had}(t) \xrightarrow{\text{Master integral}} a_\mu^{HLO}$$

$\Delta\alpha(t) = \Delta\alpha_{lep}(t) + \Delta\alpha_{had}(t)$

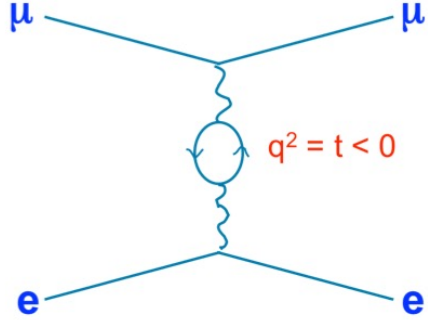


Required precision on $a_\mu^{HLO} < \mathbf{1\%}$ implies a relative precision of $\sim \mathbf{10^{-5}}$ on the shape of the elastic differential cross section



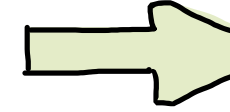
Great challenge in terms of required **precision!**

$\mu - e$ elastic scattering



Simple kinematics relations ($t \leftrightarrow \theta_l$)

$$\frac{d\sigma_{elastic}}{dt} \longleftrightarrow \frac{d\sigma_{elastic}}{d\theta}$$



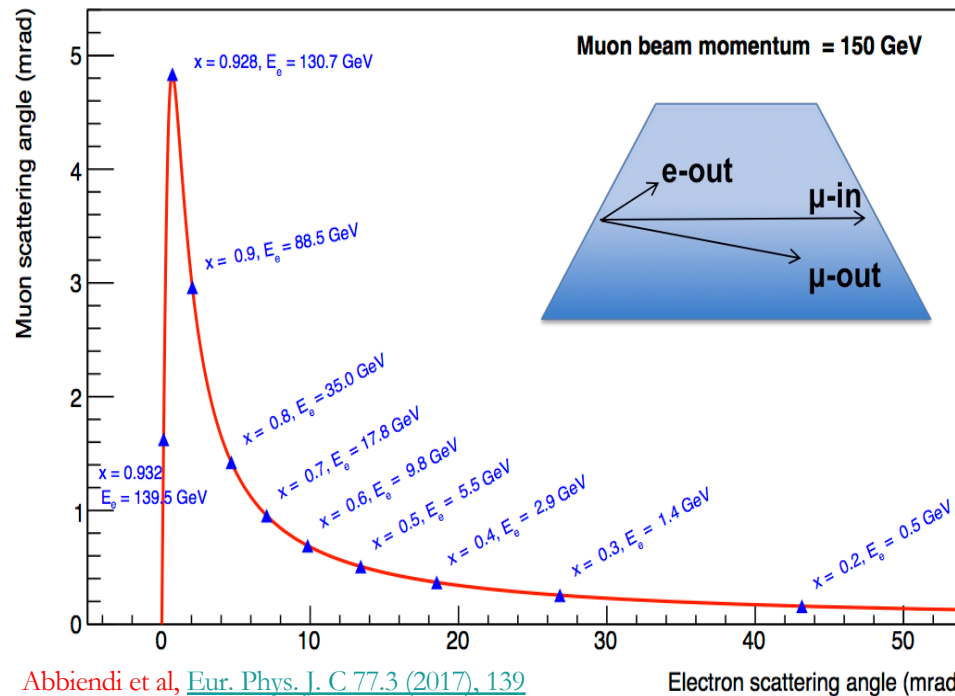
Measuring the **leptons scattering angles**

Precise correlation

$$0 < \theta_\mu < 5 \text{ mrad}$$

$$0 < \theta_e \lesssim 50 \text{ mrad}$$

ELASTIC CURVE

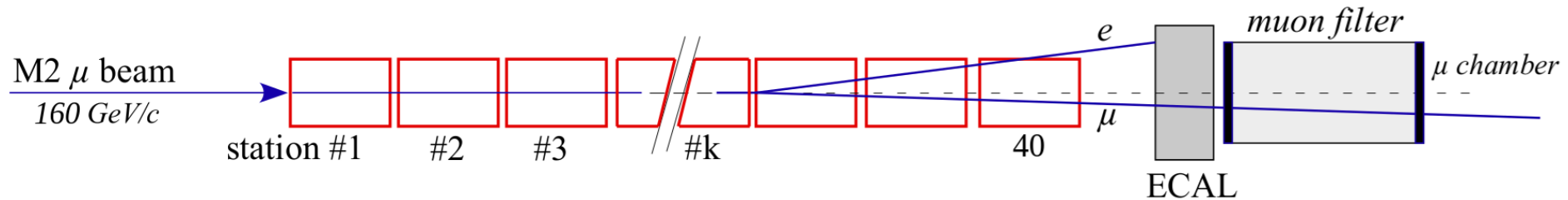


Helps in the selection of **purely elastic events**

Experimental apparatus

Forseen after CERN Long
Shutdown 3 (2027-2029)

40 tracking stations + Electromagnetic calorimeter + Muon filter

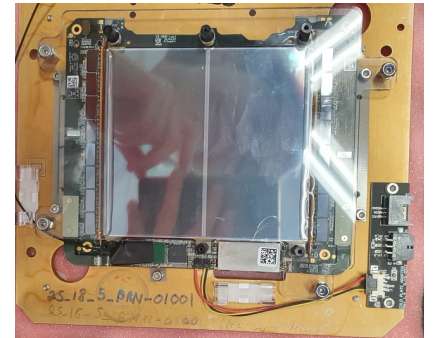
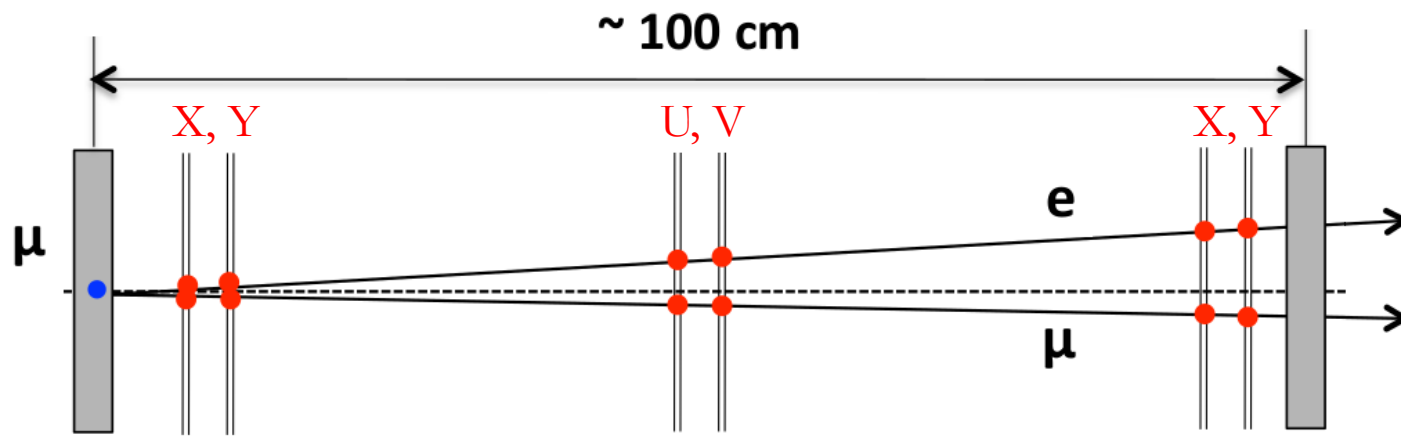


Each tracking station behaves as an independent *detector*

1 beryllium or carbon target (1.5 – 1.0 cm)

6 silicon strip modules (CMS 2S modules)

Modular layout to achieve the necessary interaction rate *minimizing* systematic effects (e.g. **Multiple Scattering**)



[CERN-LHCC-2017-009](#)

More info about
'detectors' in
[Aldo Arena's talk](#)

Letter of Intent: The MUonE Project, [SPSC-I-252](#)

Achievable precision

To be **competitive** with previous theoretical estimates:

precision on $a_\mu^{HLO} < 1\%$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{40 stations} \\ \text{(tot: 60 cm Beryllium)} \end{array} + \begin{array}{l} \text{3 years of data taking with} \\ \text{an integrated luminosity of} \\ \text{1.5} \times \text{10}^7 \text{ nb}^{-1} \end{array} = \text{Statistical error on } a_\mu^{HLO} < 0.5\%$$



Main systematics effect:

1. Intrinsic **angular** resolution.
2. Multiple **scattering**;
3. **Beam energy** knowledge (few MeV)- **longitudinal** alignment.

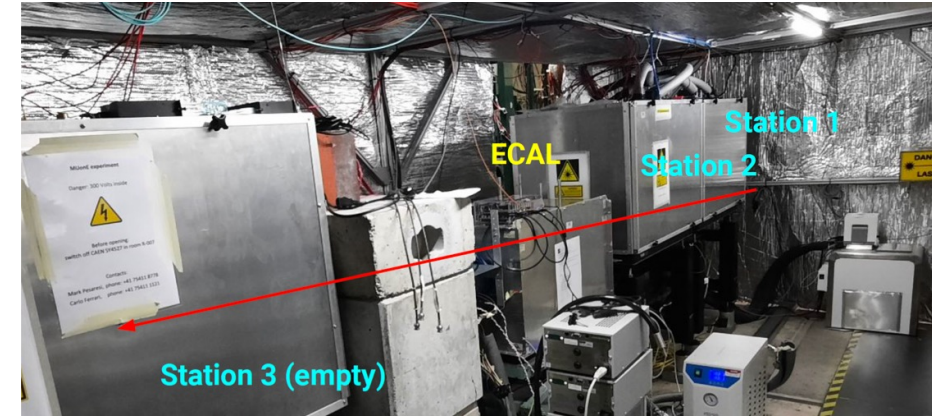
The challenge is to control the **systematic effects** at the same level

Test Runs towards the final experiment

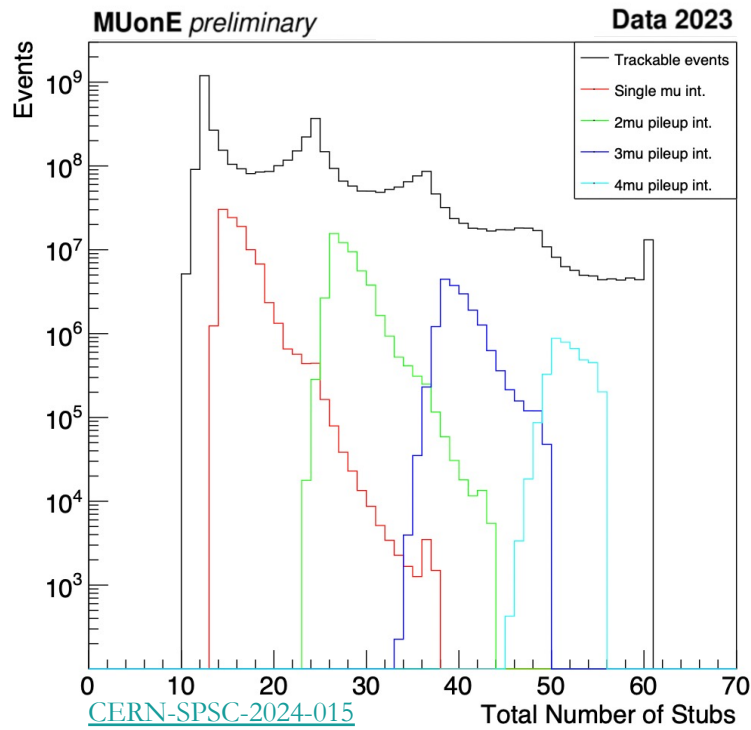
- 2017: dedicated test beam to study multiple scattering
[JINST 15 \(2020\) P01017](#)
- 2018: test beam to study elastic scattering properties and event selection
[JINST 16 \(2021\) P06005](#)
- 2021: first joint test CMS-MUonE with a few 2S modules prototypes (parasitic)
- 2022: test 1 tracking station + test the ECAL
- 2023: test with 2 tracking stations + ECAL **Ongoing analysis!**
- 2024: 2 tracking stations (DAQ tests) + calorimeter (characterization)
- 2025: run with a scaled version of the complete apparatus:
3 tracking stations + ECAL + Muon ID + Beam Momentum Spectrometer (BMS).

Test Run 2023

- 160 GeV muons of **M2 beam** line at CERN North Area;
- Max **asynchronous** rate at 50 MHz ($2 \times 10^8 \mu$ per spill);
- **Setup**: 2 tracking stations + ECAL;
- **Triggerless** DAQ \rightarrow Large data volumes processed offline.



Future plan: data filter on **FPGA**; **now** an **offline skimming algorithm** has been implemented to preselect candidate events from target interaction: base on the hit pattern in the two stations.



From **~ 12 B recorded events**, the skimming procedure reduced the output at **$\sim 1 - 2\%$** .

Different classes are well separated:

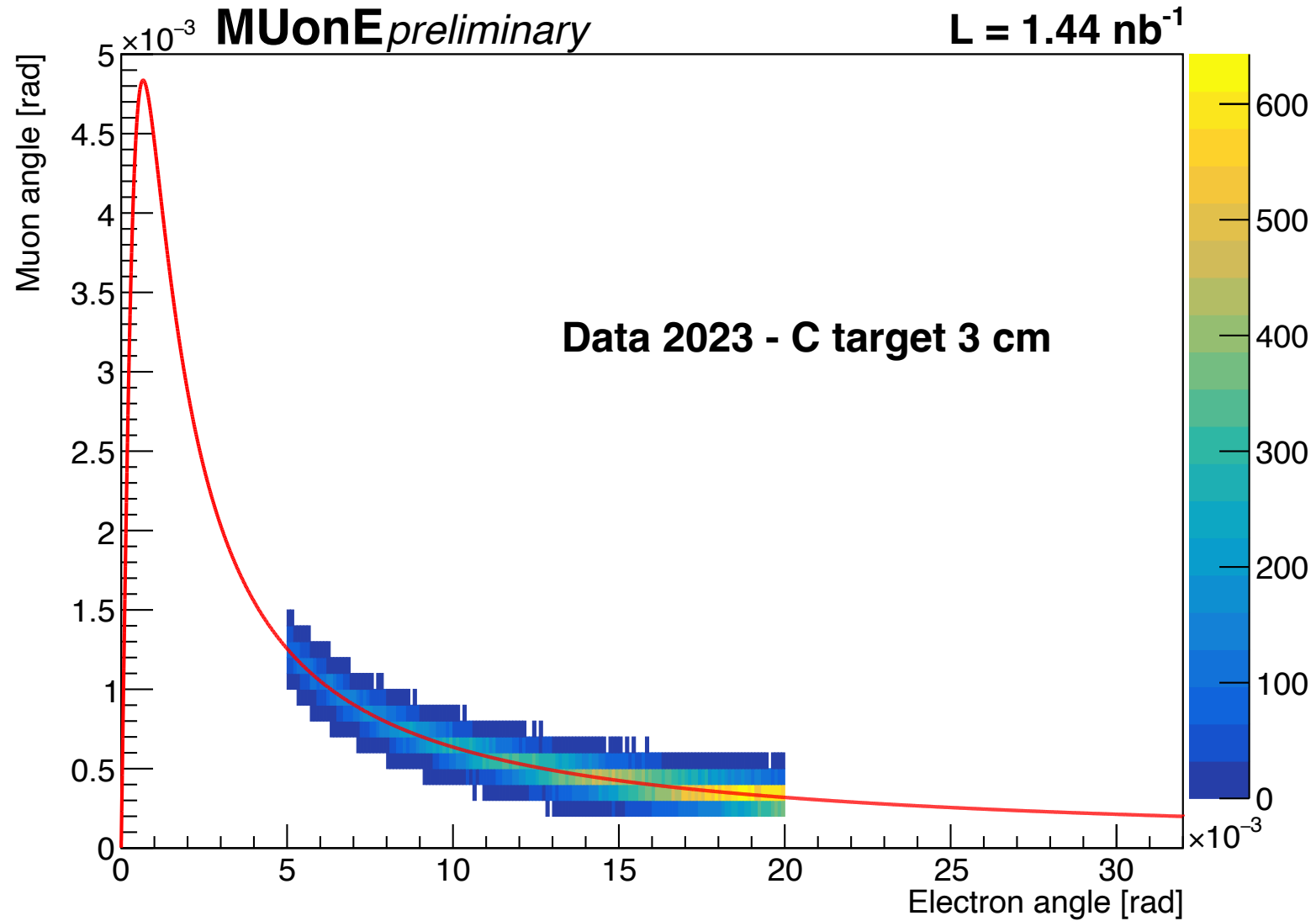
1. **Single** muon interactions
2. **2,3,4** pile-up muons with interactions

Figure: Fraction of different event multiplicities, in 2023 data, after skimming based on hits patterns.

2D scattering angles plots

From an elastic sample that passed an elastic selection

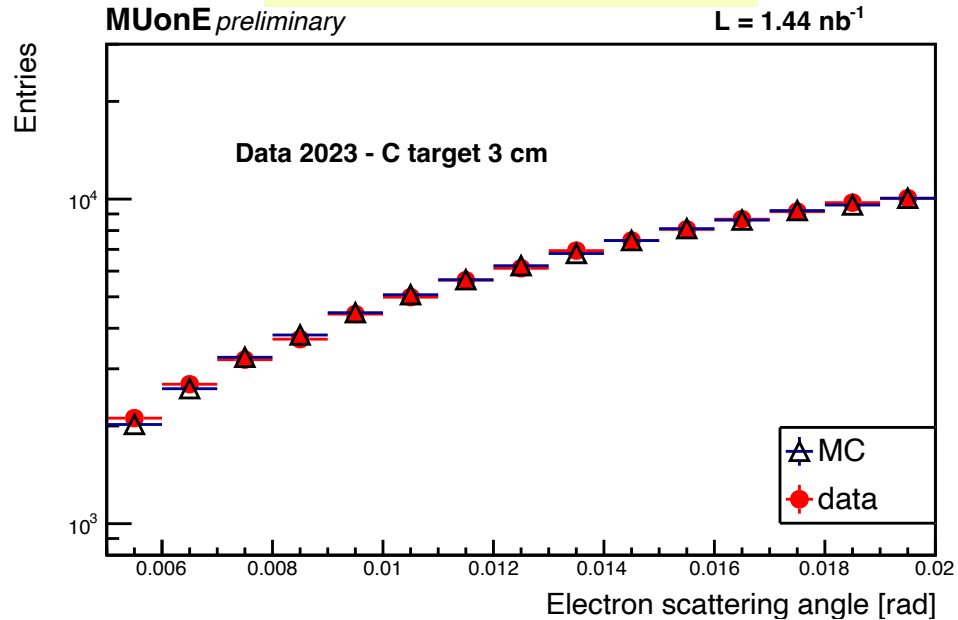
Details in backup



Data/MC comparison of angular distributions **after an elastic selection**

With resolution correction

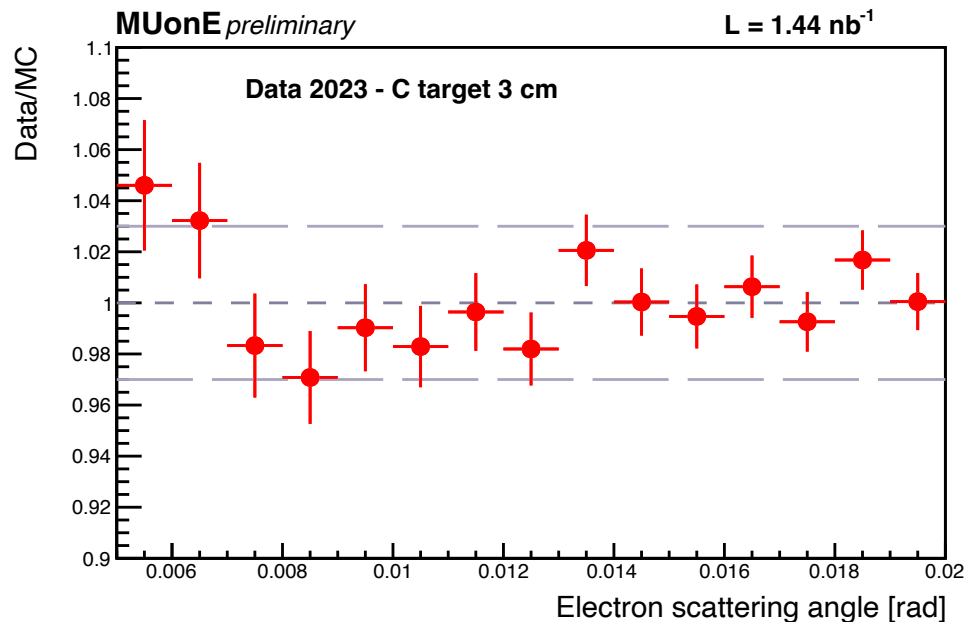
$$5 < \theta_e < 20 \text{ mrad}$$



MC **normalization** to the
number of real data events

Data/MC ratio as a function of
electron angle is mostly within
gray limits $\rightarrow \pm 3\%$

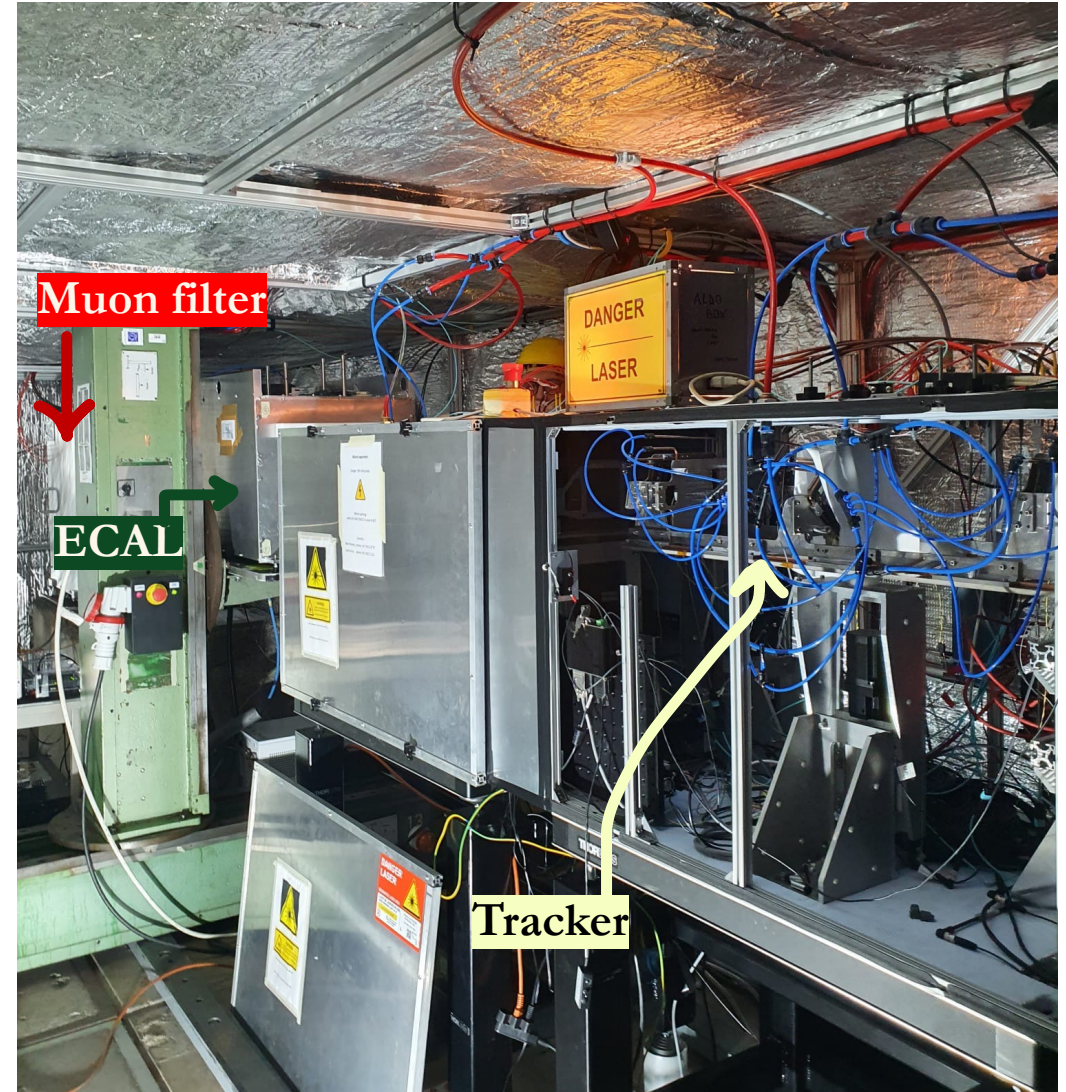
NB: For the leptonic running of $\alpha(t)$ to be
observed, the **MC description of angular
shapes** must be accurate to at least $\pm 0.5\%$.



Test Run 2025

- From **April to July 2025** possibility to use the M2 beam line at CERN;
- More complete **setup**: 3 tracking station + ECAL + Muon filter + BMS;
- This consists in the **Phase 1 of the MUonE experiment**, presented in this [proposal](#);
- Now, the **setup is all installed** (with the exception of the BMS → July);
- Commissioning has ended, now data taking has started!

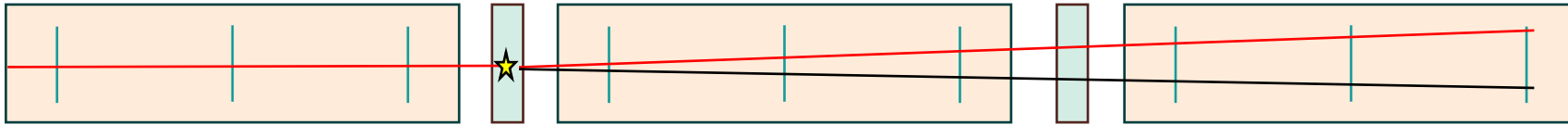
MAIN GOAL: Collect data to make $\Delta\alpha_{had}(t)$ measurement with a $\sim 20\%$ statistical uncertainty, providing elements to optimize a full scale experiment (foreseen after LS3)



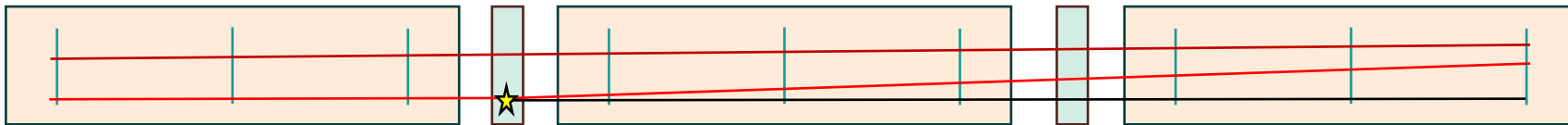
New trigger implemented on FPGA

We are able to directly filter **online** on FPGA different classes of events based on the *bit pattern in the three stations*:

- Single muon interaction first (in the example) / second target



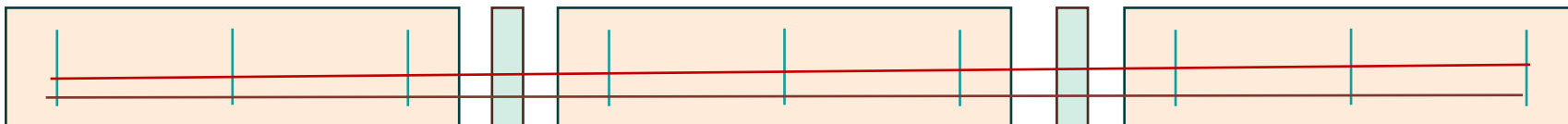
- Pileup muon interaction first (in the example) / second target



- Single passing muon station 1 && 2 / 2 && 3



- Pileup passing muon station 1 && 2 / 2 && 3



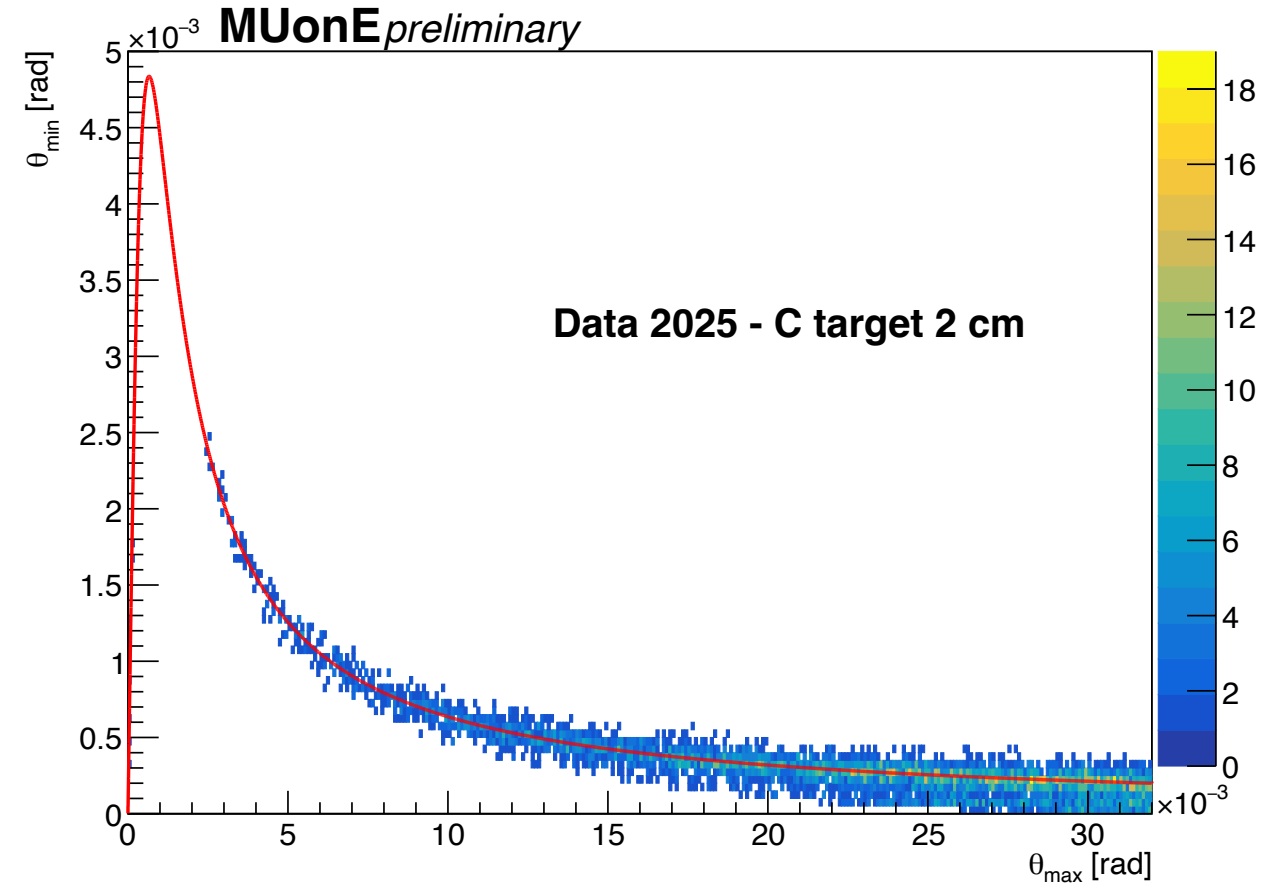
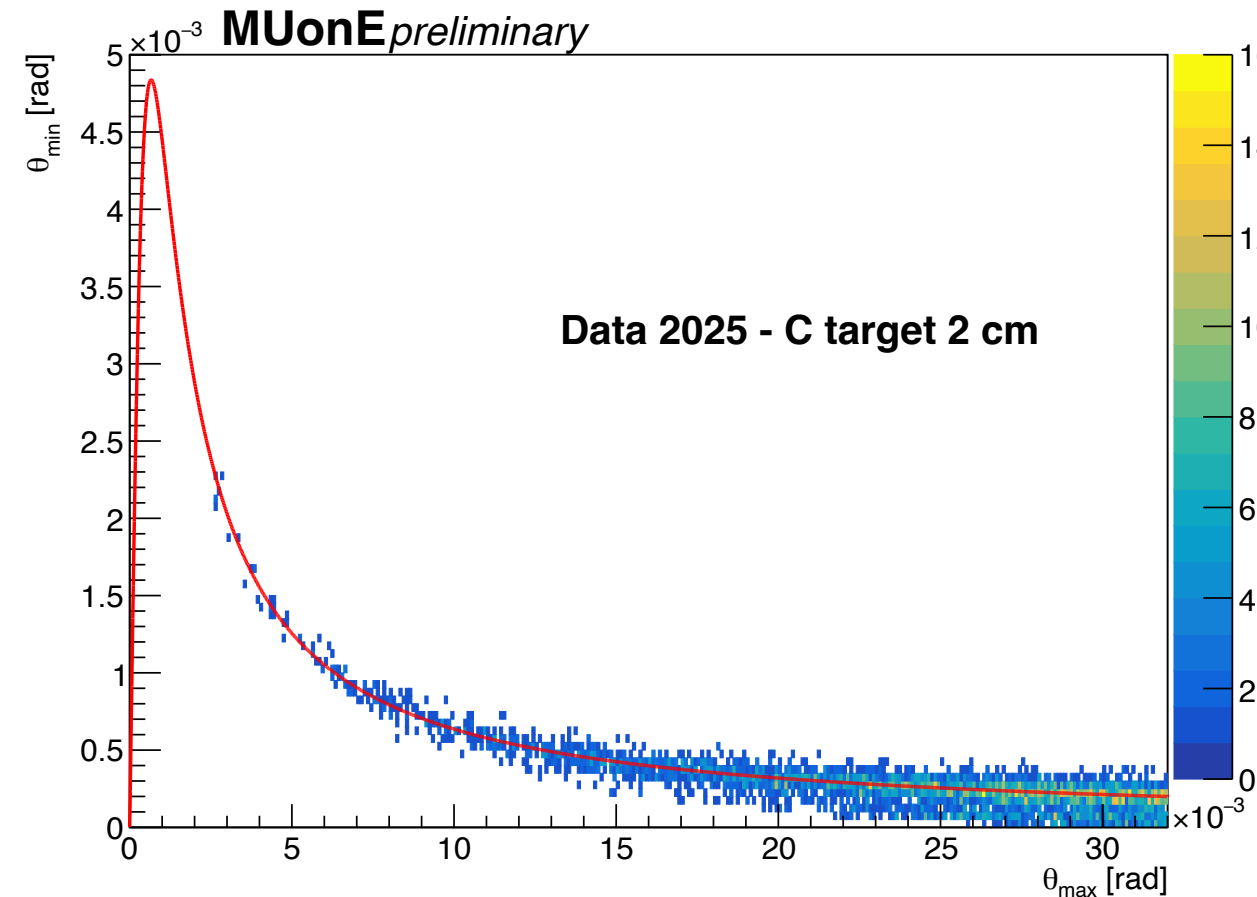
Let's consider events passing the trigger on **single muon interaction** in the **first target** and in the **second target**

We see elastics!

Details of the selection in backup

first target

second target



Conclusions

- **MUonE** proposes an **innovative and independent method** for the evaluation of the hadronic vacuum polarization term at LO a_μ^{HLO} which is **alternative** with the *previous ones*. MUonE is the only opportunity to test experimentally the Lattice calculations!
- First **results** and **data/MC comparisons** have been done with 2023 TR data;
- **Shapes comparisons** of electron angle distributions stands within **$\pm 3\%$** from the MC prediction. However, **for the running of $\alpha(t)$ to be observed**, the precision on the angular shapes must be accurate to within at least **$\pm 0.5\%$** . Several improvements are expected next months;
- Next important step:
2025 Phase 1: we presented a technical proposal to the SPSC in June for **4 weeks of running time** in 2025 to study the expected systematic errors and background under realistic conditions and make preliminary measurements of $\Delta\alpha(t)$.

Thank you for the attention!

And if you want to join, contact us! ☺

<https://web.infn.it/MUonE/>



BACKUP

MC generators and reconstruction tools

⊗ Dedicated **MC generator** ([MESMER](#)) for the **elastic signal** and the main **background** :

- **Background** $\mu^+ N \rightarrow \mu^+ N l^+ l^-$ with $l = e, \mu \rightarrow \sigma_{bkg} \propto Z^2$

(G. Abbiendi, E. Budassi, C. M. Carloni Calame, A. Gurgone, F. Piccinini; [Phys. Lett. B 854 \(2024\) 138720](#))

- **Signal+photons** $\mu^+ e^- \rightarrow \mu^+ e^- (\gamma) \rightarrow \sigma_{sig} \propto Z$

Developed at NNLO (Carloni Calame, C.M. *et al.*; [J. High Energy. Phys. 2020, 28](#))

⊗ Detector description for **full simulation**: GEANT4;

⊗ Tool for **offline reconstruction**: [FairMUonE](#) software (based on [FairRoot](#) frameworks)

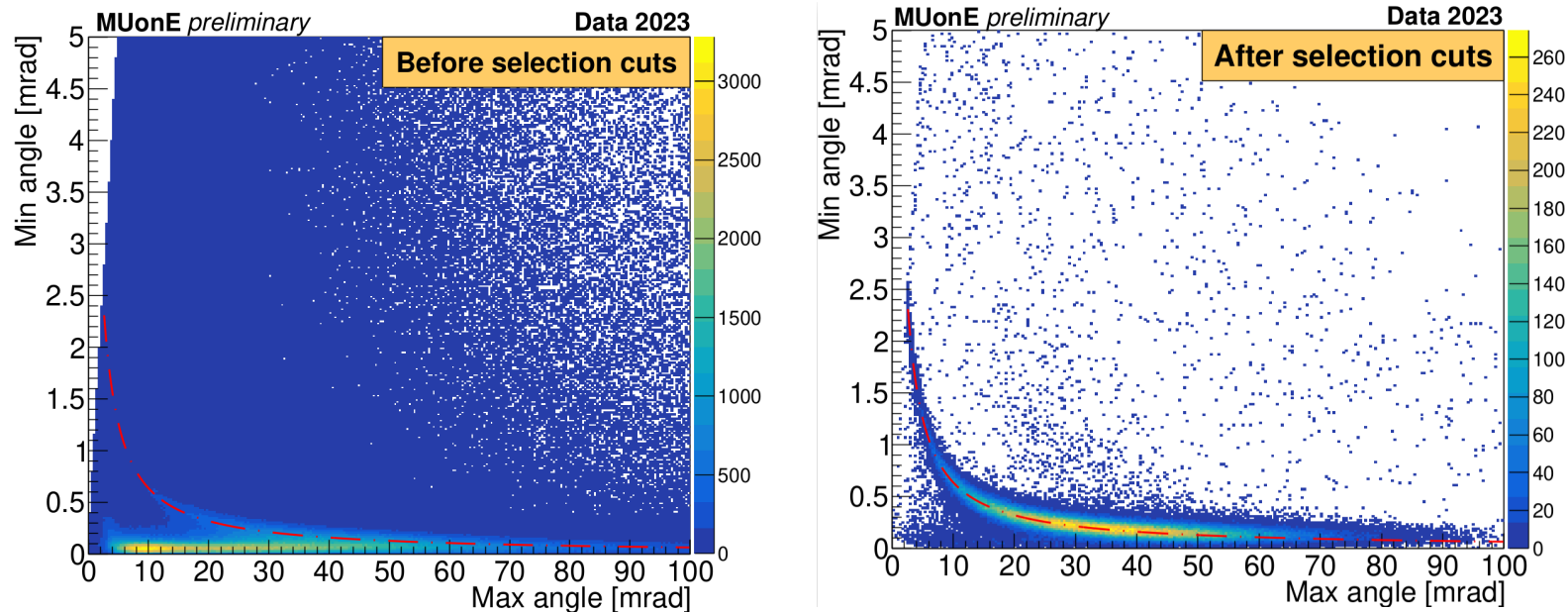


Figure: Skimmed events of a run from **Test Run 2023** (left), remaining reconstructed events after a **basic elastic selection** (right). 16

Analysis: $\Delta\alpha_{had}$ parametrization and a_{μ}^{HLO} estimate

G. Abbiendi,
Phys. Scr. 97 (2022) 054007;
[\[arXiv: 2201.13177\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.13177)

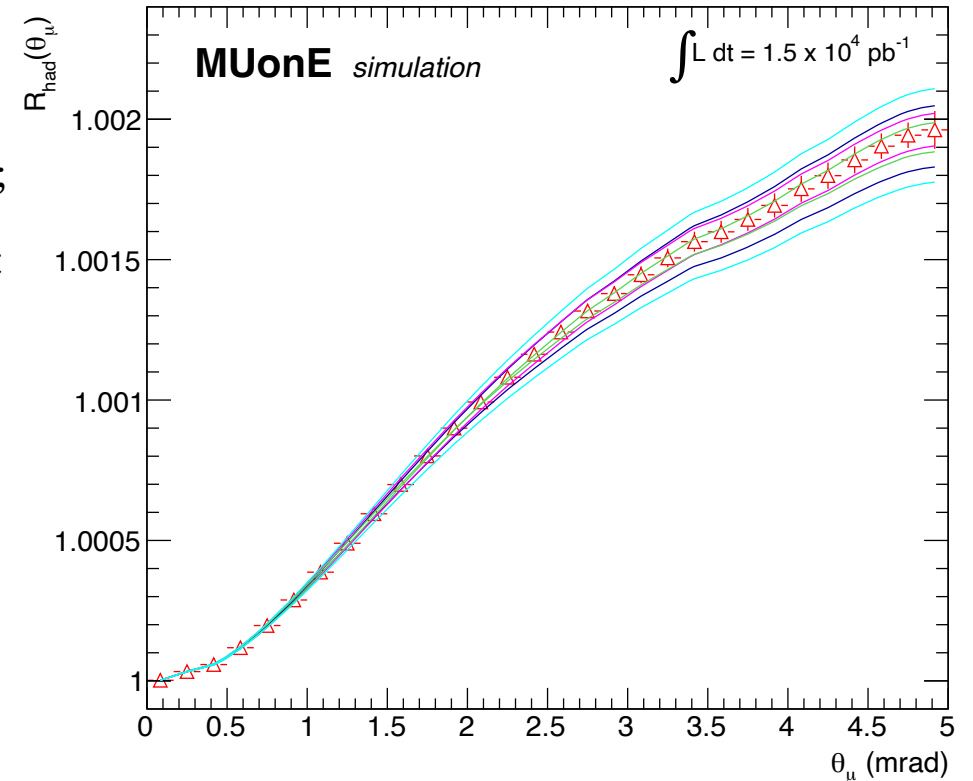
Inspired to the 1-loop QED calculation of the lepton vacuum polarization term

Parametrization with **two** variables K e M :

$$\Delta\alpha_{had}(t) = KM \left\{ -\frac{5}{9} - \frac{4M}{3t} + \left(\frac{4M^2}{3t^2} + \frac{M}{3t} - \frac{1}{6} \right) \frac{2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{4M}{t}}} \ln \left| \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{4M}{t}}}{1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{4M}{t}}} \right| \right\}$$

1. **Template fit**: generation of a grid of points in the parameters space (K, M) ;
2. R_{had} distribution as a function of the leptons' scattering angle **for different templates**;
3. χ^2 of the **data** and **templates**.

$$R_{had} = \frac{d\sigma(\Delta\alpha_{had})}{d\sigma(\Delta\alpha_{had} = 0)}$$



Analysis: $\Delta\alpha_{had}$ parametrization and a_μ^{HLO} estimation

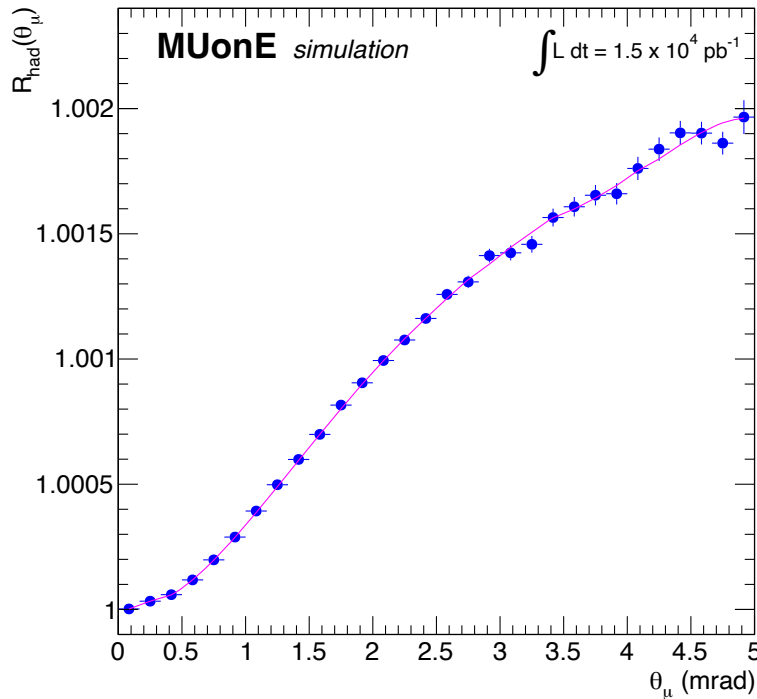
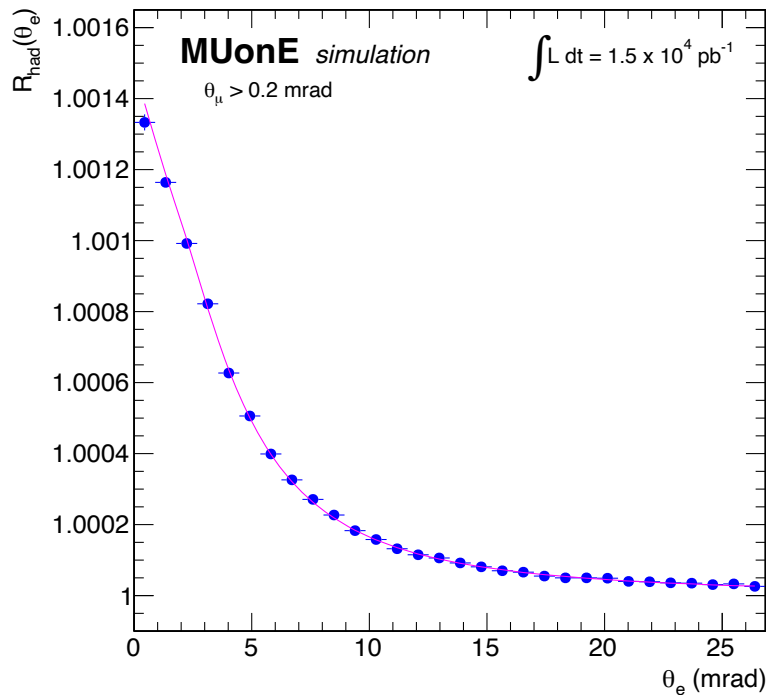
G. Abbiendi,
[Phys. Scr. 97 \(2022\) 054007](#);
[\[arXiv: 2201.13177\]](#)

$\Delta\alpha_{had}$ extraction in the final experiment
computed using 2D (θ_μ, θ_e)



The value would be inserted in the **master integral** for a_μ^{HLO}

Example of a pseudo-experiment:



Simulation result:

$$a_\mu^{HLO} = (688.8 \pm 2.4) \times 10^{-10}$$

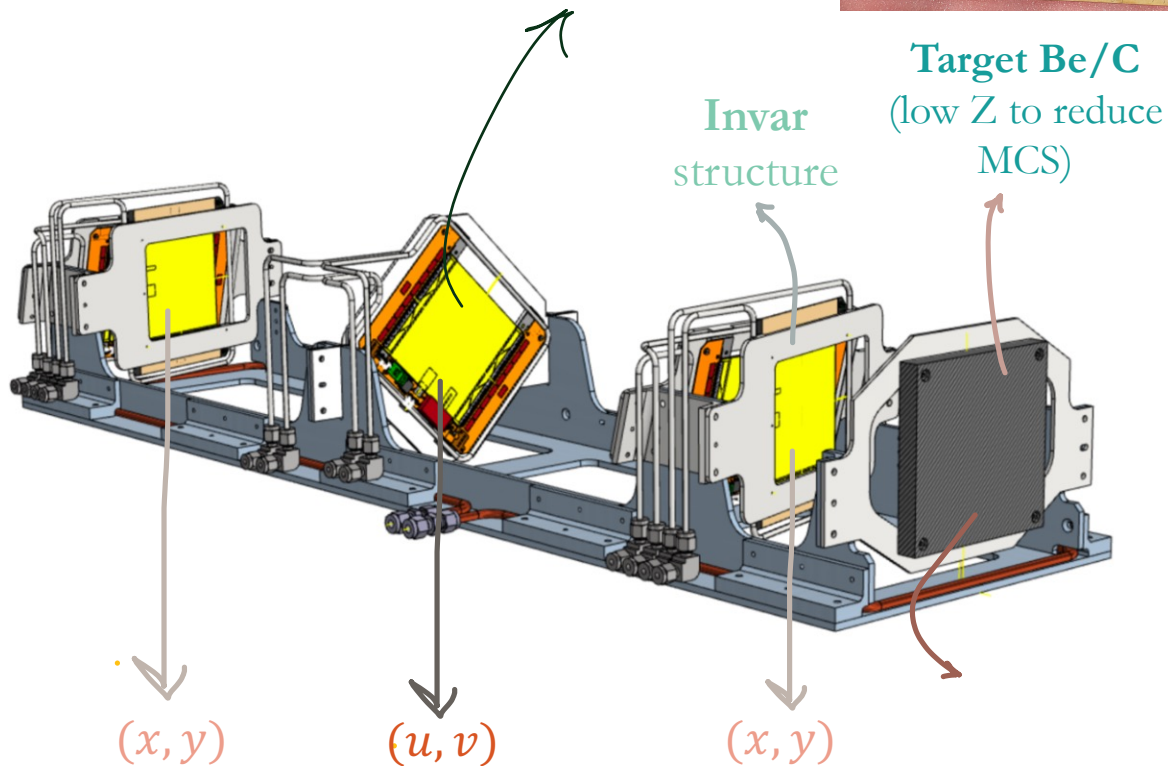
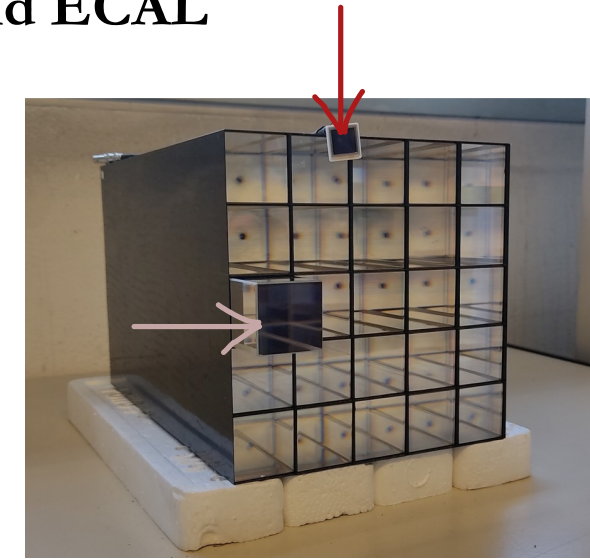
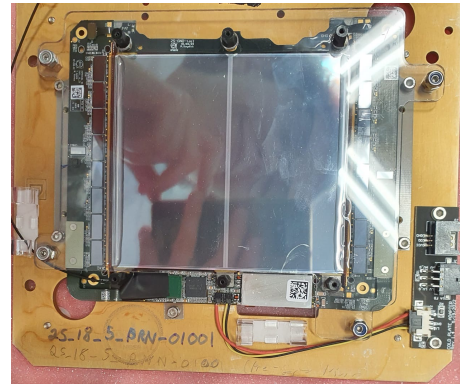
Input value for **generation**:

$$a_\mu^{HLO} = 688.6 \times 10^{-10}$$

Thickness: $2 \times 320 \mu\text{m}$
Pitch: $90 \mu\text{m}$ ($\sigma_x \sim 26 \mu\text{m}$)
Readout rate: 40 MHz
Active area: $10 \times 10 \text{ cm}^2$

Experimental apparatus: tracker and ECAL

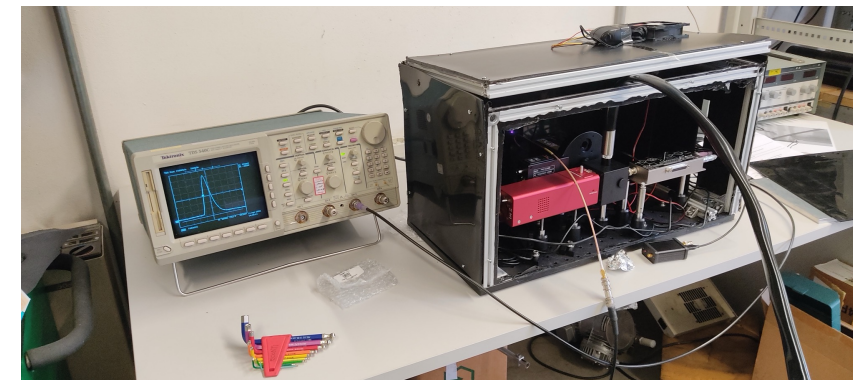
1 CMS 2S module = 2 coupled silicon strip sensors (CMS-Phase2 upgrade)



6 modules pairs

Actually in a **reduced format** for the future **Test Run** aimed at the validation of the experimental proposal:

- 25 cells in PbWO_4 ($22 \chi_0$)
- Surface $\sim 14 \times 14 \text{ cm}^2$
- Readout: **APDs** read by 2 **FEBs** connected to a **FC7 board**



Laser pulse system (at **450 nm**) for APD calibration

Results with data collected in 2023

As a function of the angle of selected golden muons:

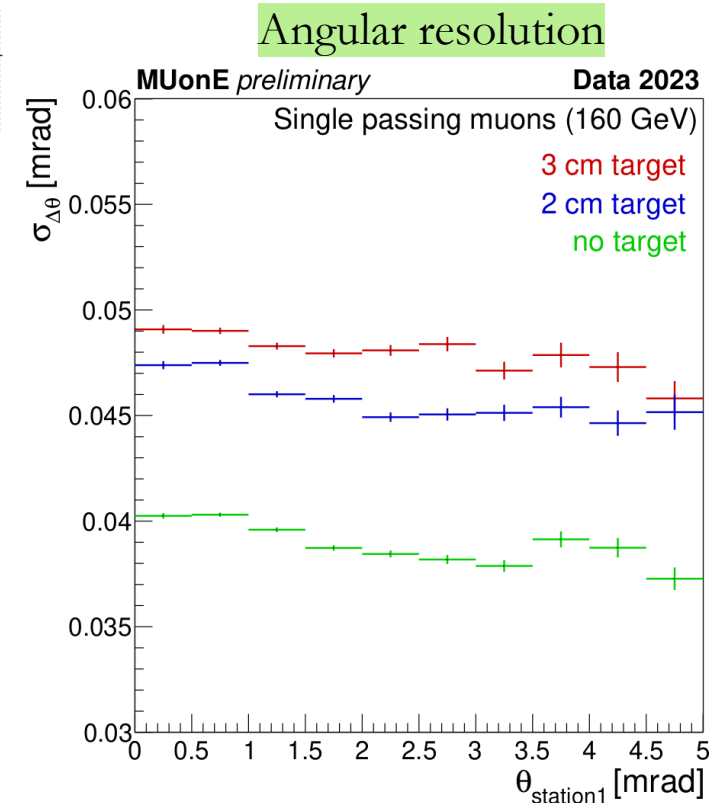
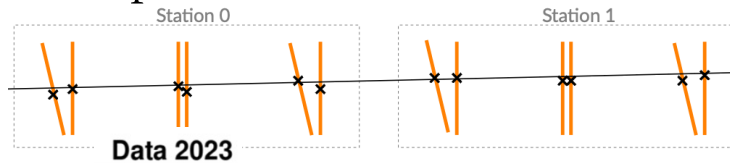
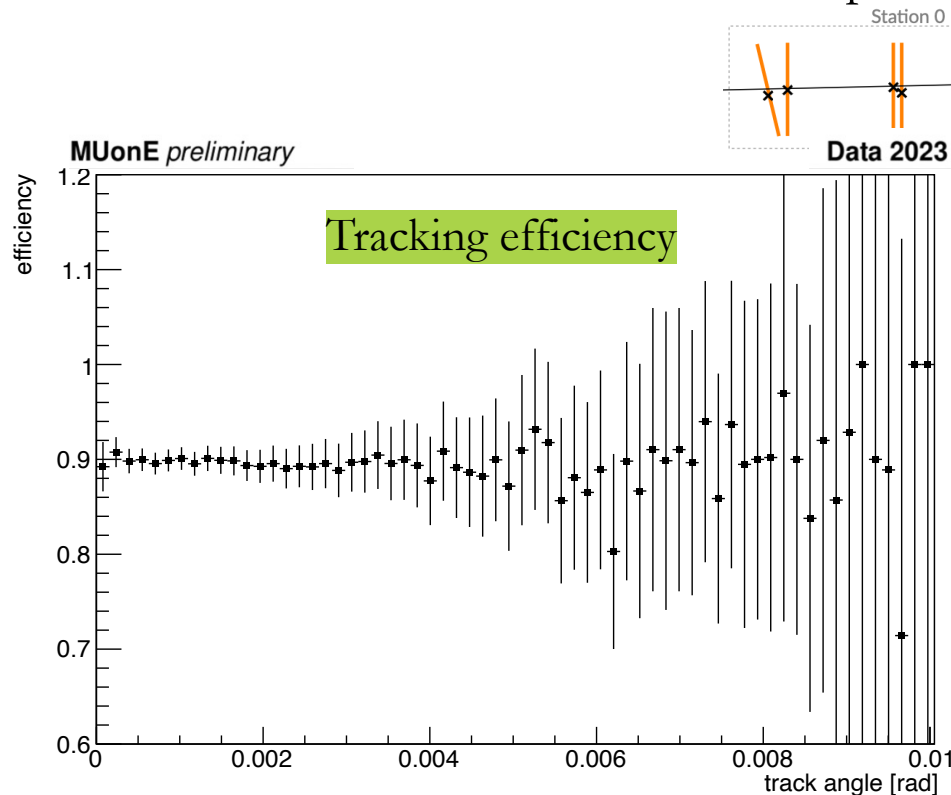
1. Tracking efficiency:

- Average module efficiency $\sim 98\%$;
- Given passing muons with 6 hits in first station, look for reconstructed muon in the second station.

Result: flat efficiency at $\sim 90\%$ \rightarrow consistent with combinatorial result of individual module efficiencies.

2. Angular resolution for different target thickness:

- $\Delta\theta = \theta_{st1} - \theta_{st0} \rightarrow$ Sensitive to: intrinsic resolution, residual misalignment, **multiple scattering (MS)**
- \rightarrow Estimate of **MS** consistent with **PDG** expectation.



Angular resolution correction for 2023 data

DATA-MC comparison of *angular resolutions*, we found a disagreement of $\sim 20 - 30\%$ (bringing huge *systematics*):

1. Considering just golden muons in first and second station

2. Evaluate difference in angle: $\Delta\theta = \theta_{st0} - \theta_{st1}$

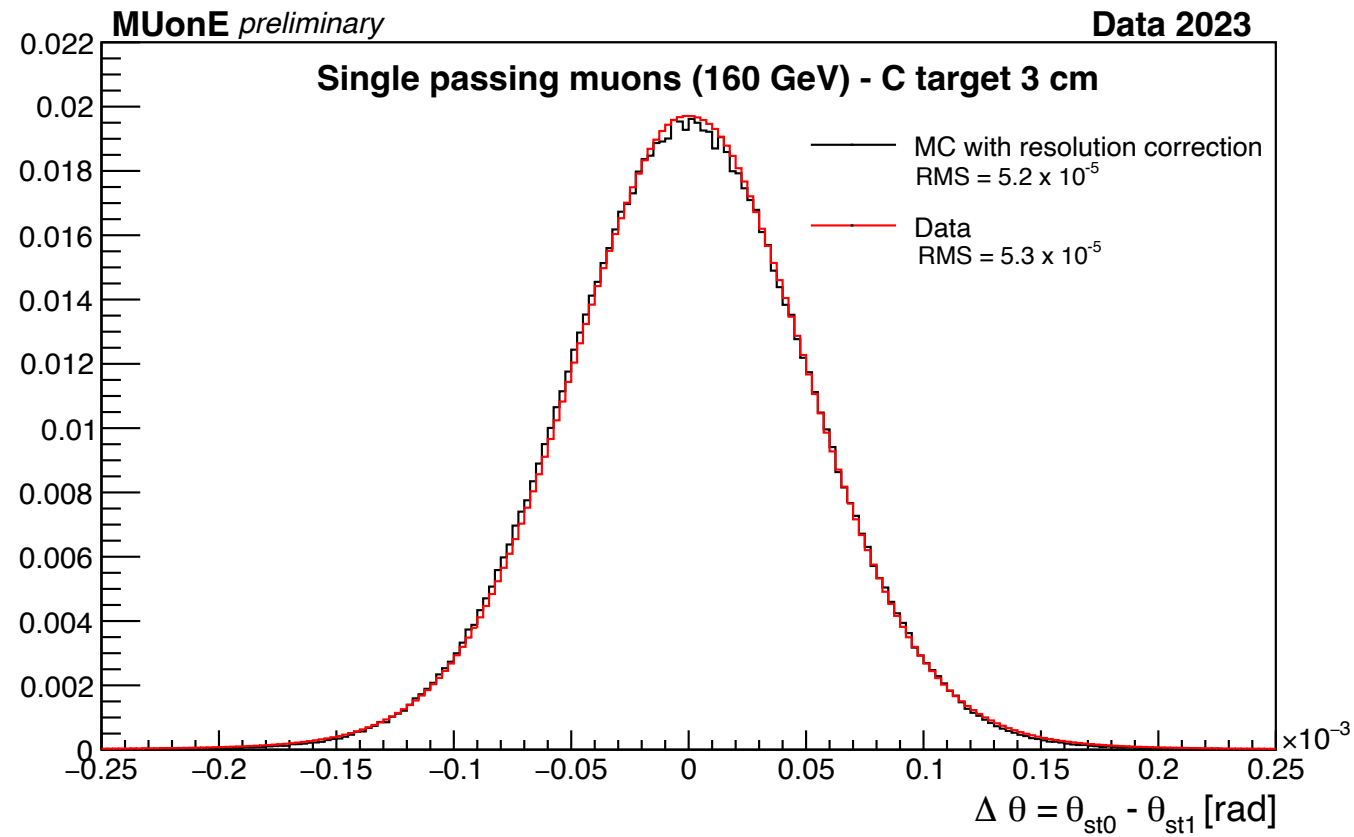
3. The uncertainty on $\Delta\theta$ is:
$$\sigma(\Delta\theta) = \sqrt{\sigma_{MS}^2 + \sigma_{int}^2 + \sigma_{alignment}^2}$$

MS effects of Silicon and target;

Intrinsic resolution;

Residual misalignment

4. Application of **additional and constant** effect to balance data/MC disagreement



Angular resolution

- $\sigma(\Delta\theta) = \sqrt{\sigma_{MS}^2 + \sigma_{int}^2 + \sigma_{alignment}^2}$

- Differences between data and MC resolutions

- $\sigma(\Delta\theta_{data})^2 - \sigma(\Delta\theta_{mc})^2 \propto \sigma_{int}^2 + \sigma_{alignment}^2$

is proportional to the difference of data and MC in intrinsic resolution and residual misalignment (MS effects were demonstrated to be quite in agreement in data and mc). This can be treated in MC as an **additional and constant** effect that smears the angular distributions to better describe data → to balance the observed disagreement in angular resolution ($\sim 20\%$)

$$\sigma_{residual}(\Delta\theta) = \sqrt{\sigma(\Delta\theta_{data})^2 - \sigma(\Delta\theta_{mc})^2} = 32. \mu rad$$

- This is the correction on $\Delta\theta$, so smearing on each individual θ results in:

$$\Delta\theta = \theta_1 - \theta_2$$

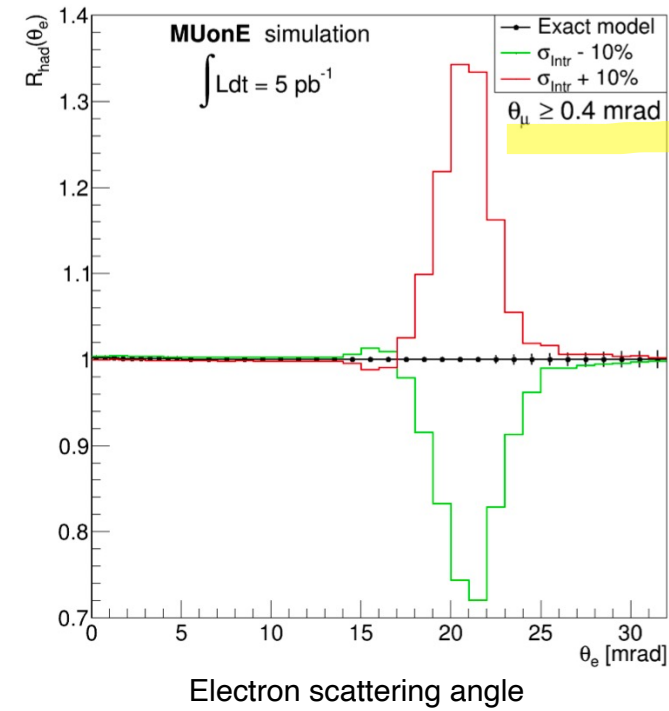
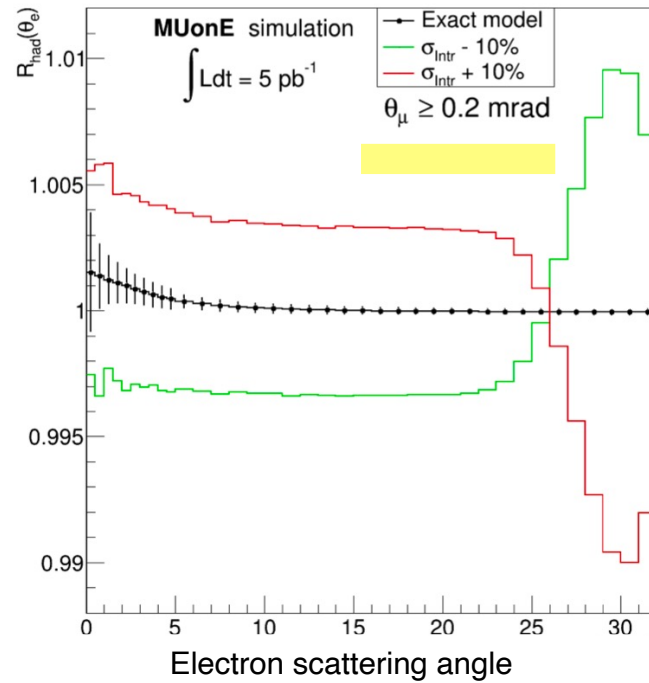
$$\sigma(\Delta\theta) = \sqrt{\sigma(\theta_1)^2 + \sigma(\theta_2)^2} = \sqrt{2} \sigma(\theta)$$

$$\sigma_{residual}(\theta) = \frac{32.2}{\sqrt{2}} = 23. \mu rad \rightarrow \text{Smearing } \theta_x, \theta_y \text{ of golden muon: } Gaus(0, \sigma_{residual})$$

Effect of bad estimate of angular resolution in MC

MC studies in
[Riccardo's thesis](#)

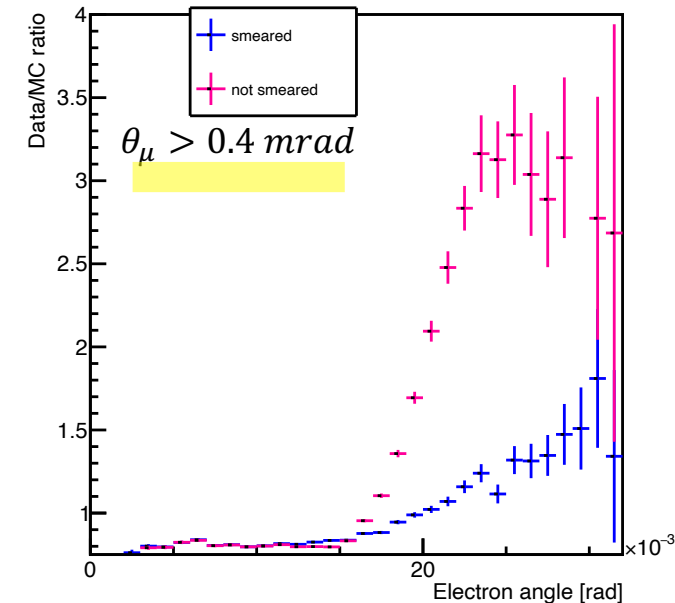
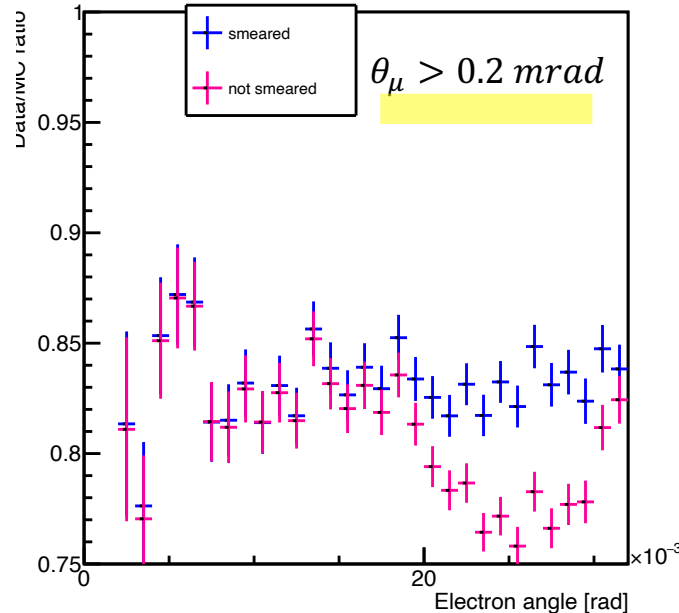
$$R_{had}(\theta_e) = \frac{d\sigma(\Delta\alpha_{had} \neq 0)}{d\sigma(\Delta\alpha_{had} = 0)}$$



MC with a sigma
of about **10%**
better than real one

$\frac{\text{data}}{\text{MC}}$ ratio

$5 < \theta_e < 32 \text{ mrad}$

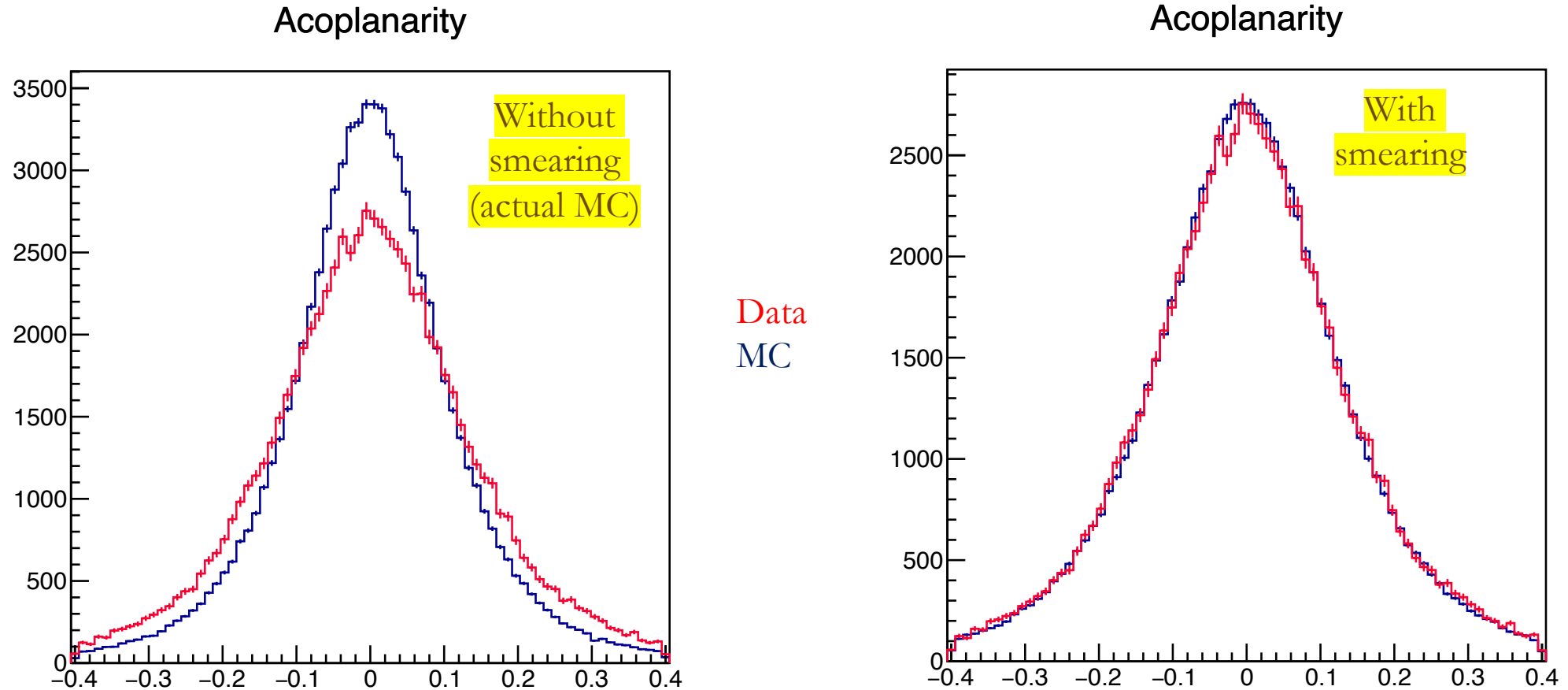


Smeared:
Application of smearing
on MC as just described,
accounting for **20%**
underestimation of real
sigma

Not smeared: actual MC
simulated with **fairmu**

Acoplanarity distribution with and without smearing

Acoplanarity distribution of [selected sample of elastic events](#)



Data-MC comparison of elastic events

Data sample: run 6 $\rightarrow 97 \times 10^6$ events **after skimming** to be reconstructed

MC sample: MESMER generated signal elastic events $\rightarrow 16.5 \times 10^6$ to be reconstructed with **realistic misalignment scenario** (simulated geometry from real metrology followed by track-based alignment as with real data)

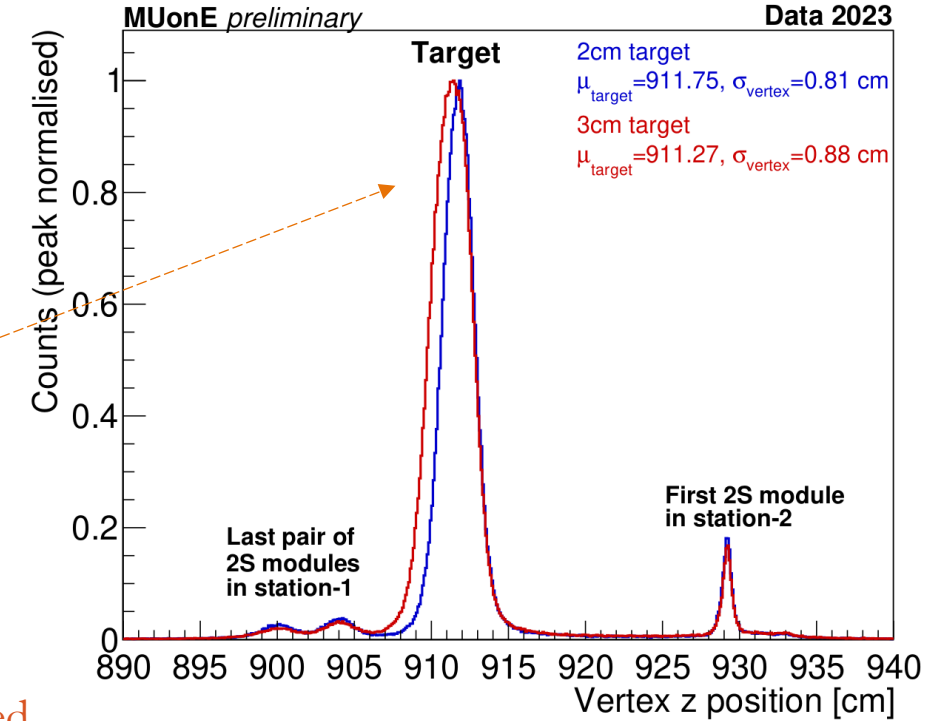
Fiducial selection:

- $N_{\text{hits}_{S0}} = 6 \rightarrow 1$ per module: golden muon (GM);
- GM impinges last 2 modules in S0 within ± 1.5 cm from centre in X and Y ;
- Reconstructed GM with $\theta < 4$ mrad.

Elastic selection:

- $N_{\text{hits}_{S1}} \leq 15$;
- Reconstructed Z vertex > 906 cm;
- $\theta_\mu > 0.2$ mrad, $5 < \theta_e < 20$ mrad;
- Acoplanarity $|A_\phi| < 0.4$ rad;
- Elasticity condition: $|\theta_\mu - \theta_\mu^{\text{exp}}(\theta_e)| < 0.2$ mrad

>0.2 mrad: main background removed
 >5 mrad: Avoid ambiguities in PID
 <20 mrad: region less affected by systematics



$$\theta_\mu^{\text{exp}}(\theta_e) = \arcsin \left\{ \sin \theta_e \sqrt{\frac{E_e^2(\theta_e) - m_e^2}{[E_\mu + m_e - E_e(\theta_e)]^2 - m_\mu^2}} \right\}$$

Absolute luminosity normalization

From the **knowledge of the number of golden muons** (passing the fiducial selection) that can potentially interact in the target, we can estimate luminosity:

Fiducial selection:

$N_{\text{hits}_{S0}} = 6 \rightarrow 1$ per module: golden muon (GM);

GM impinges last 2 modules in S0 within ± 1.5 cm from centre in X and Y ;

Reconstructed GM with $\theta < 4$ mrad.

Luminosity **real data**:

$$L = N_{\mu\text{T}} \cdot d_{\text{target}} \cdot \rho_{\text{target}}^e =$$

Golden muons on target

Target thickness

$$\text{Electron density target } \rho_{\text{target}}^e = \rho \cdot \frac{Z}{A} \cdot N_A$$

$$\text{Run 6} = (1443.0 \pm 8.0) \mu\text{b}^{-1}$$

Main error on:

$$\rho = (1.83 \pm 0.01) \text{g/cm}^3$$

+

$$d_{\text{target}} = (3.000 \pm 0.001) \text{cm}$$

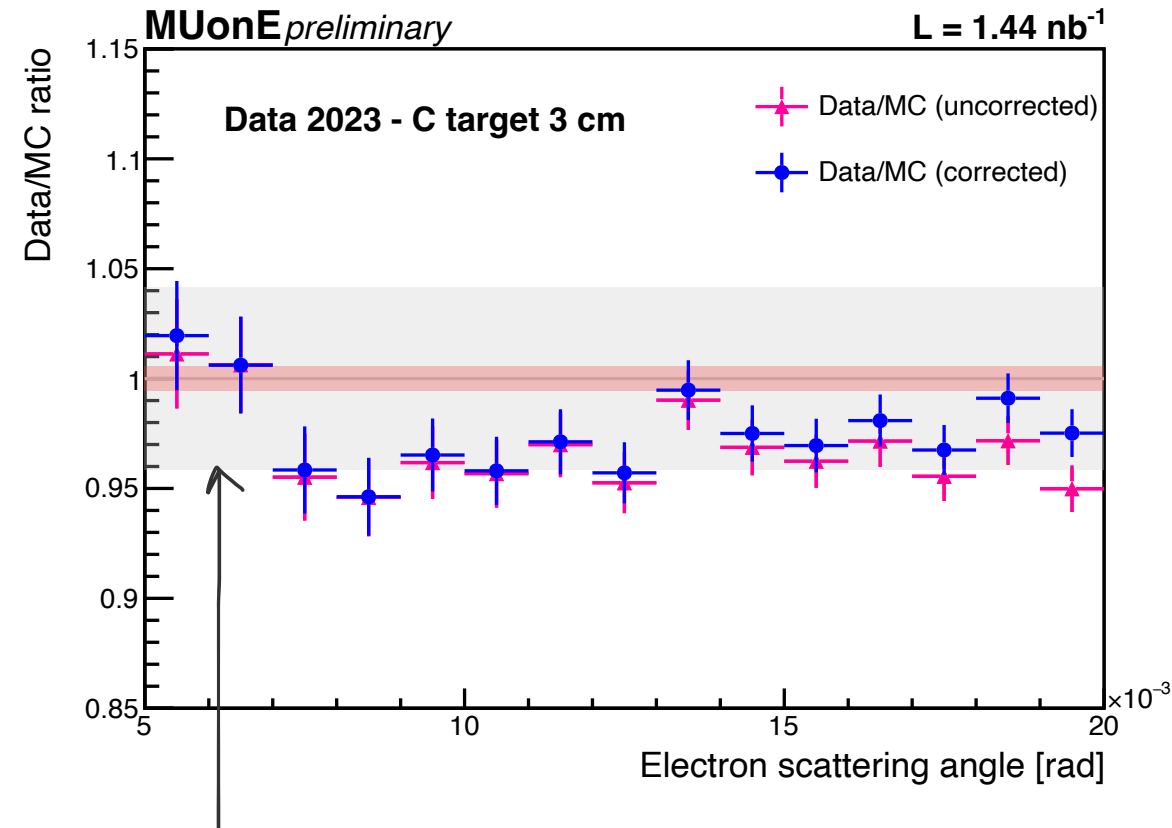
Data/MC ratios as a function of scattering angles

$$5 < \theta_e < 20 \text{ mrad}$$

MC Normalization to the Data Luminosity $\times \epsilon_{hw}$

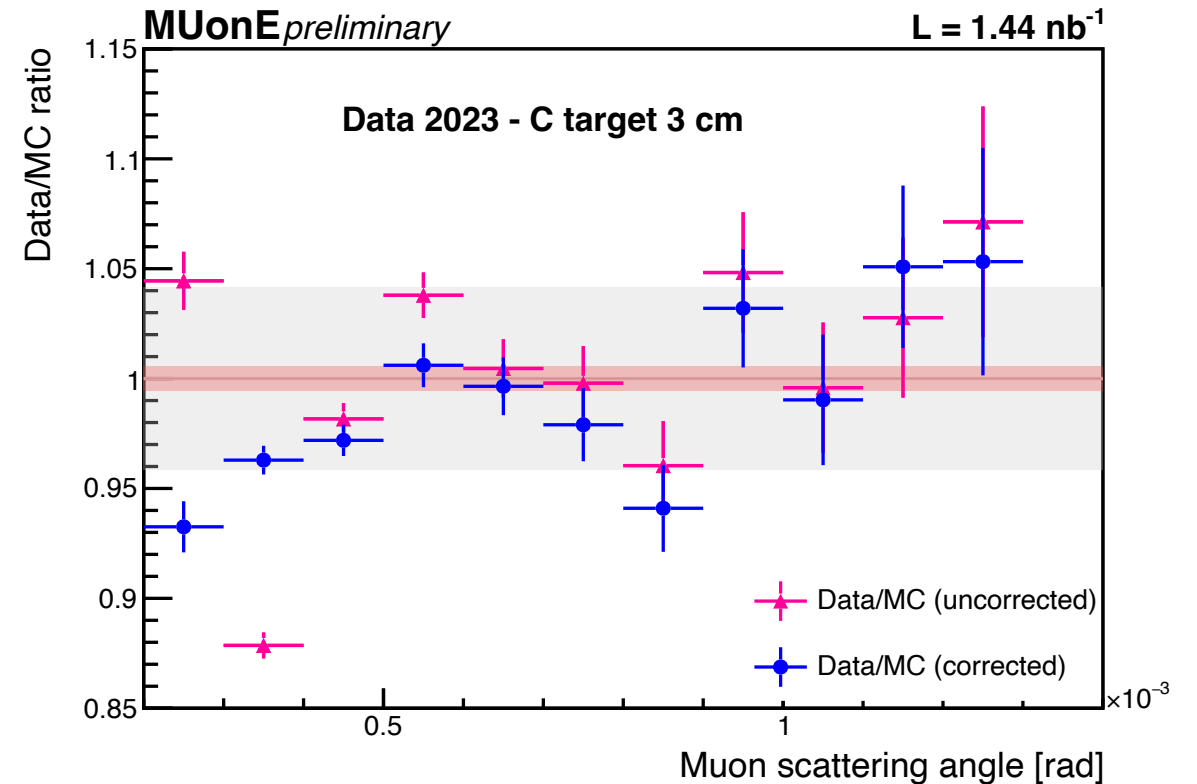
$$\epsilon_{hw} = 0.850 \pm 0.035$$

Detector efficiency:
reconstruct 2 tracks, depends
on modules efficiency
($\epsilon_{mod} = 0.980 \pm 0.005$)



Systematic uncertainties bands:

- Luminosity $\sim 0.5\%$
- Detector (ϵ_{hw}) $\sim 4\%$



Ratio is on average in agreement with the
expected detector efficiency ϵ_{hw}

First cross section measurements

Selected region:
 $5 < \theta_e < 20 \text{ mrad}$

$$\sigma = \frac{N_{elastic}}{\epsilon_{hw} L}$$

Real data cross section within the selection:

$$\sigma_{data} = 75.1 \pm 3.1 \mu b$$

$\epsilon_{hw} = 0.850 \pm 0.035$:
2 tracks reconstruction
efficiency which depends on
modules efficiency
($\epsilon_{mod} = 0.980 \pm 0.005$)

MC cross section within the selection (selection efficiency $\epsilon = 76.5\%$):

$$\sigma_{MC} = 77.75 \pm 0.14 \mu b$$

First measurement of cross section in the selected region is **consistent** with
the MC prediction

Background

