

MPGD-HCAL for future collider experiments

status and perspectives

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- 6) CERN
- 7) University of Padova

EPS-HEP 2025

6-11 Jul 2025

PALAIS DU PHARO, Marseille, France



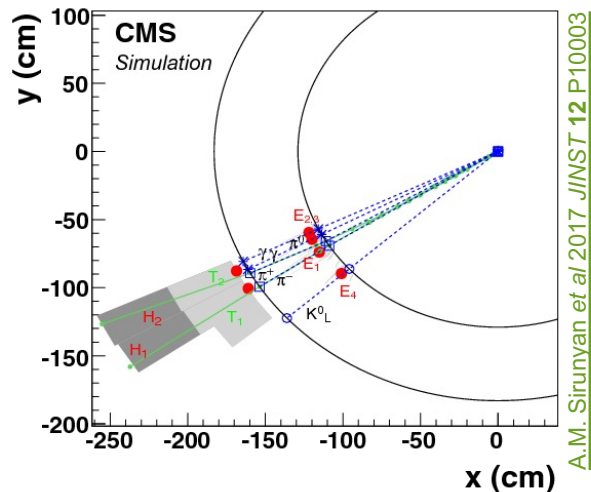
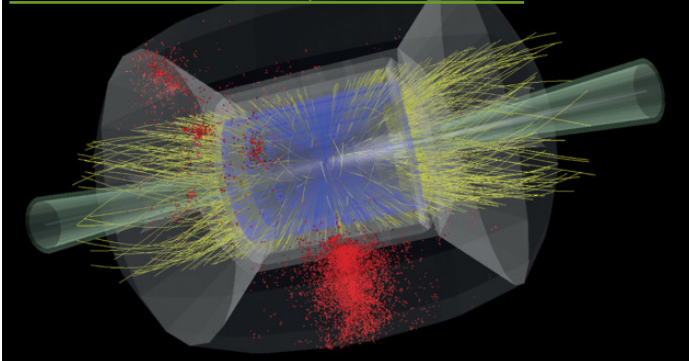
Hadron Calorimetry at Future Colliders

- **Goals for FCC-ee and Muon Colliders: Higgs coupling and new physics**
- **Benchmark example for (hadron) calorimetry**
 - ✓ Sub-percent precision measurement $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$
 $\delta(\sigma \times BR(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})) \approx 0.2-0.4 \% \text{ @FCC-ee and Muon Collider}$

Requirements for HCAL: 5D calorimetry in Particle Flow

- $\sigma/E \sim \mathcal{O}(50\%) / \sqrt{E}$
 - jet energy resolution $\sim 30\% / \sqrt{E}$
 - σ_m/m comparable with natural width for W/Z
- **High granularity $\mathcal{O}(1 \text{ cm}^2)$**
 - track matching and/or reject machine-induced background
- **Time resolution: $\mathcal{O}(\text{few ns-tenths of ps})$**
 - reject background and/or improve energy estimation

$H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ at a Muon Collider, D. Lucchesi et al.



A.M. Sirunyan et al 2017 JINST 12 P10003

A MPGD Hadronic Calorimeter

Sampling with micro-pattern gaseous detector (MPGD) as readout layers

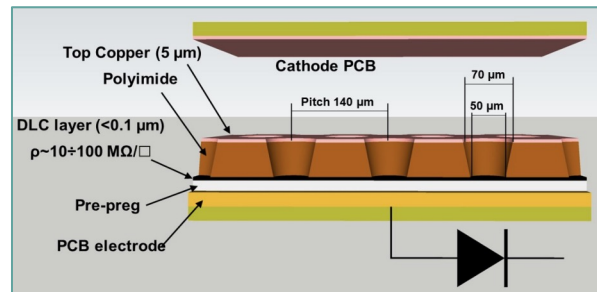
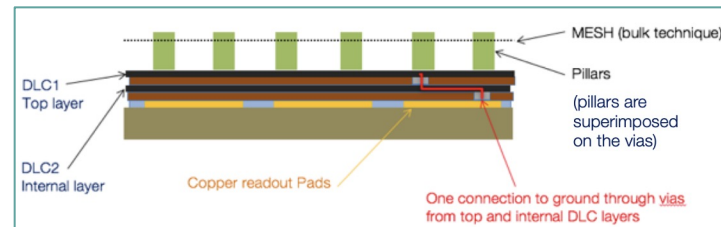
MPGD features:

- radiation hardness up to several **C/cm²**
- rate capability **O(MHz/cm²)**
- high granularity
- time resolution of **few ns**
- **cost-effectiveness** for large area instrumentation

Goals of this project→

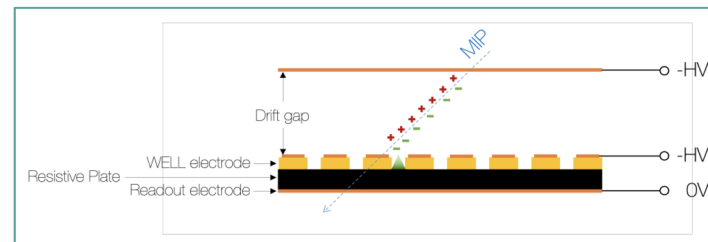
- compare three MPGD technologies for hadronic calorimetry: resistive **MicroMegas**, **μRWELL** and **RPWELL**
- investigating **timing**

MicroMegas
(MM)



μRWELL

RPWELL

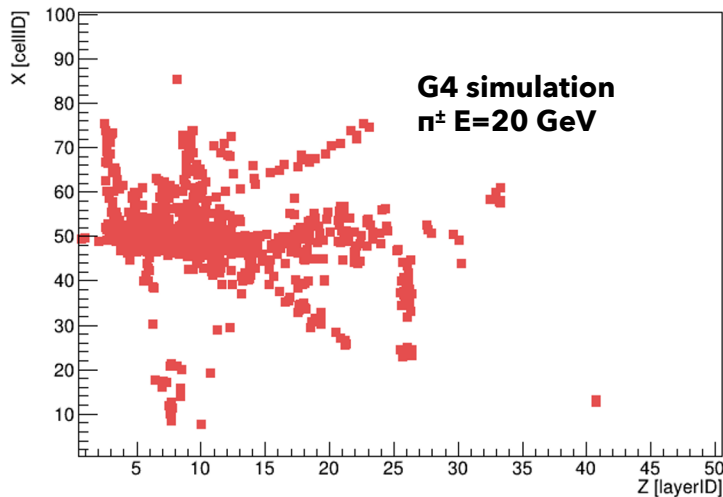


HCAL R&D included in DRD1-WP5 (Calorimetry) and DRD6-WG1 (Sampling Calorimeter)

Readout: Digital and Semi-digital HCAL

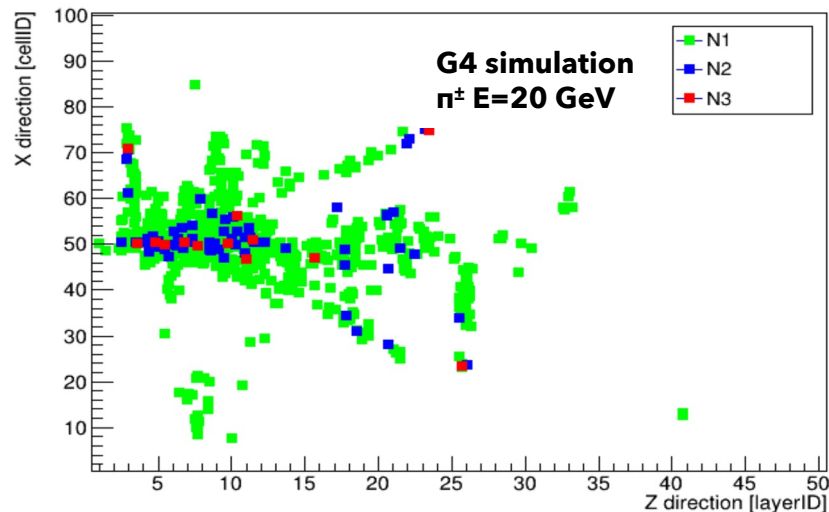
Digital Readout (Digital RO)

- Digitization: 1 hit=1cell with energy deposit higher than the applied threshold
- Calorimeter response function:
 $\langle N_{hit} \rangle = f(E_n)$
- Reconstructed energy: $E_n = f^{-1}(\langle N_{hit} \rangle)$



Semi-digital Readout (SDRO)

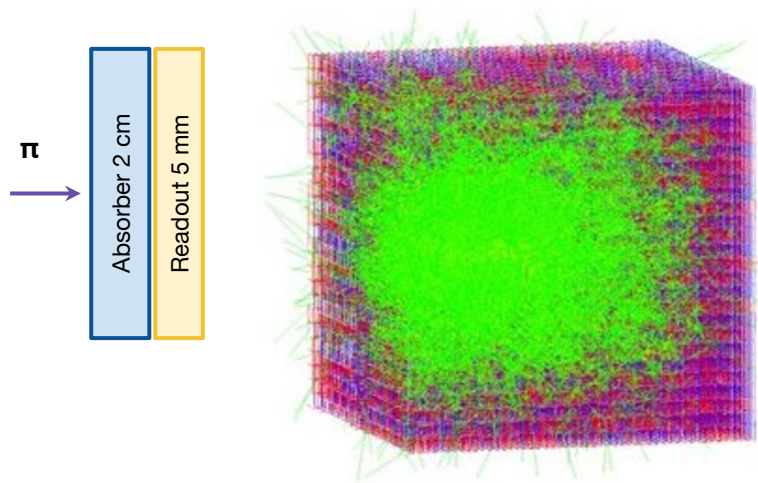
- Digitization: defined multiple thresholds
- Reconstructed energy: $E_n = \alpha N_1 + \beta N_2 + \gamma N_3$:
 - $N_{i=1,2,3}$ number of hits above i -threshold (0.2-4-12 keV)
 - α, β, γ parameters obtained by χ^2 minimization procedure



Simulation studies

Standalone Simulation results

Geant4 simulation

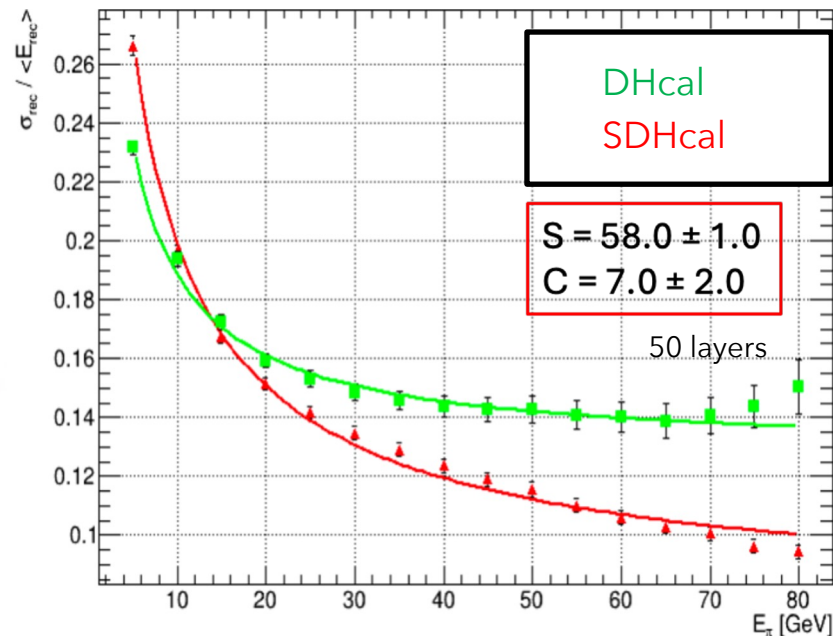


- Geometry: 2 cm iron, 5 mm gas (Ar/CO₂)
- Readout granularity $\rightarrow 1 \times 1 \text{ cm}^2$ cell size
- Pion guns of different energies

Result: 95% shower containment

- $\sim 10 \lambda_I$ longitudinal
- $\sim 2 \lambda_I$ transversal

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2022.167731>



SDHCAL: better resolution for $E_\pi > 40 \text{ GeV}$

DHCAL: saturation effect for $E_\pi > 40 \text{ GeV}$

At $E_\pi = 80 \text{ GeV}$, the resolution

- DHcal $\sim 14\%$
- SDHcal $\sim 8\%$

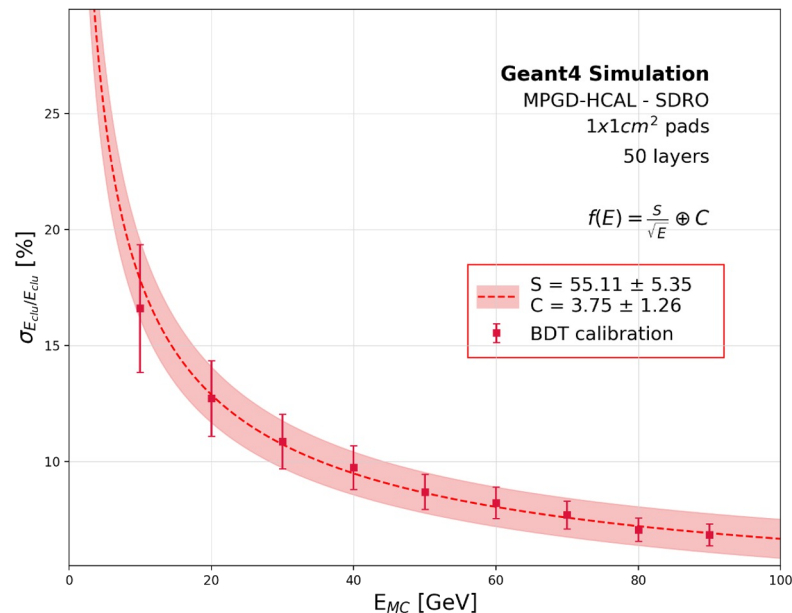
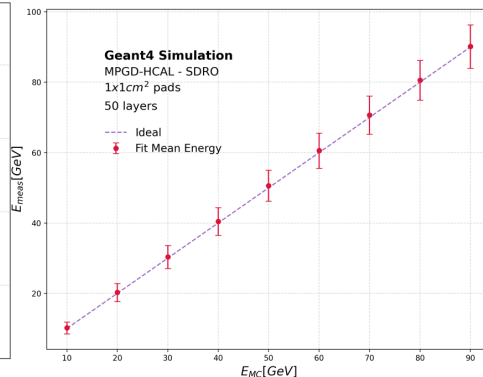
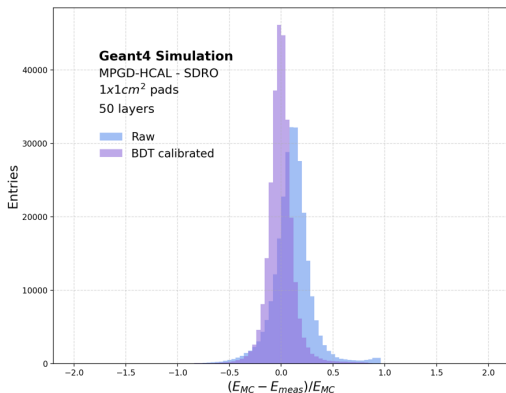
Standalone Simulation results with BDT

XGBoost squared-error regression to improve the energy calibration, linearity and resolution

- Training: $\sim 600k$ events, $E_\pi = 2-120$ GeV
- Target : (reconstructed energy) / (MC energy)

Input Features :

- Number of hits in HCAL
- Reconstructed shower energy
- Number of hits in the 3 energy ranges
- Number of hits per layer
- Energy Fraction per layer
- X, Y, and Z centroid (weighted by the hit energy)
- Standard dev of hit coordinate X & Y per layer

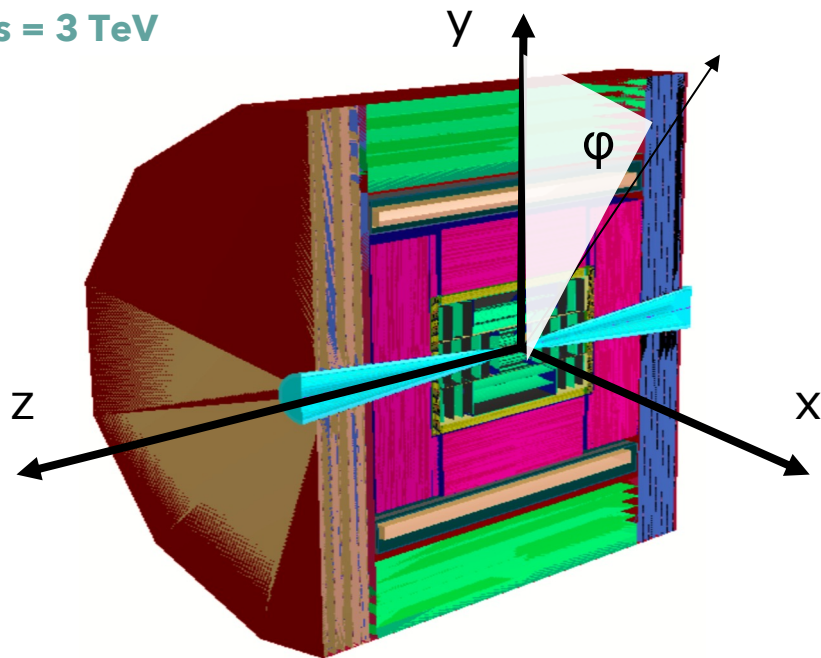


- ✓ Stochastic term S compatible with previous results
- ✓ Significant reduction of the constant term
C : 8.0% \rightarrow 3.75 %

Muon Collider simulations

MPGD HCAL performance studied in Muon Collider $\sqrt{s} = 3$ TeV (w/BIB) and MUSIC $\sqrt{s} = 10$ TeV (w/ BIB)

$\sqrt{s} = 3$ TeV



MPGD-based HCAL before solenoid

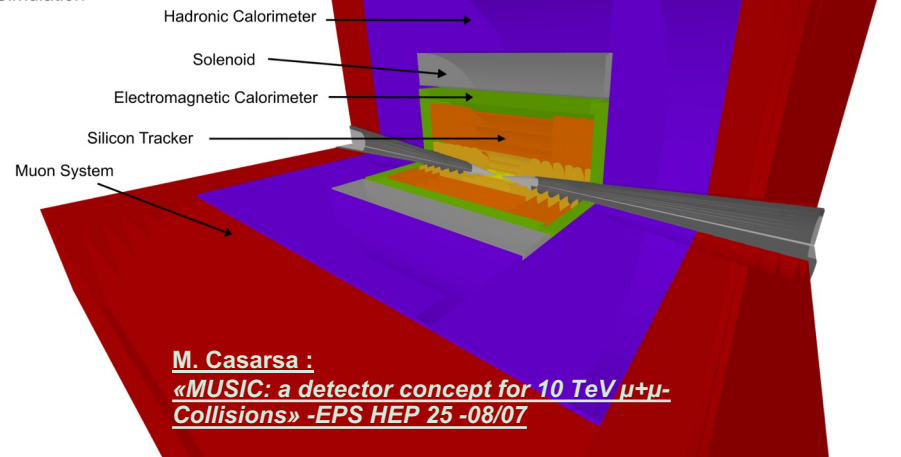
60-layer SAMPLING CALORIMETER

Layer thickness: **2.65 cm** - cell: **1 cm²**

$\sqrt{s} = 10$ TeV

MUSIC Detector Concept

Muon Collider
Simulation



MPGD-based HCAL outside 80 cm solenoid (barrel only)

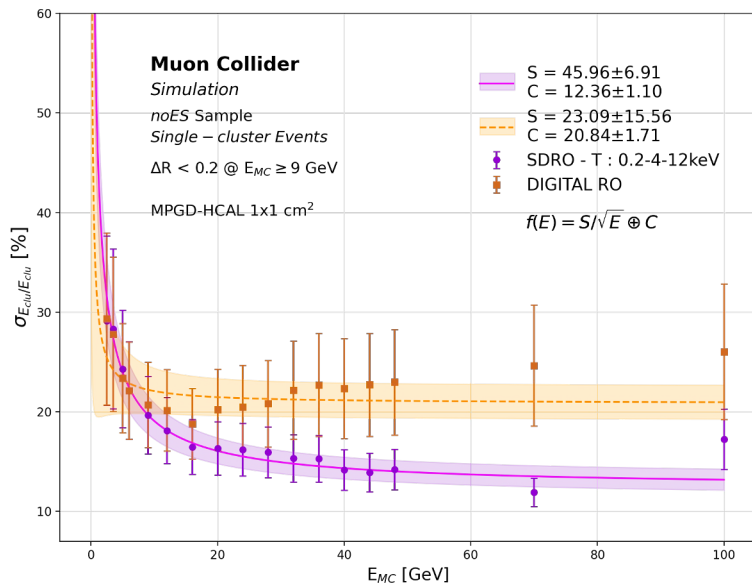
70-layer SAMPLING CALORIMETER

Layer thickness: **2.65 cm** - cell: **1 cm²**

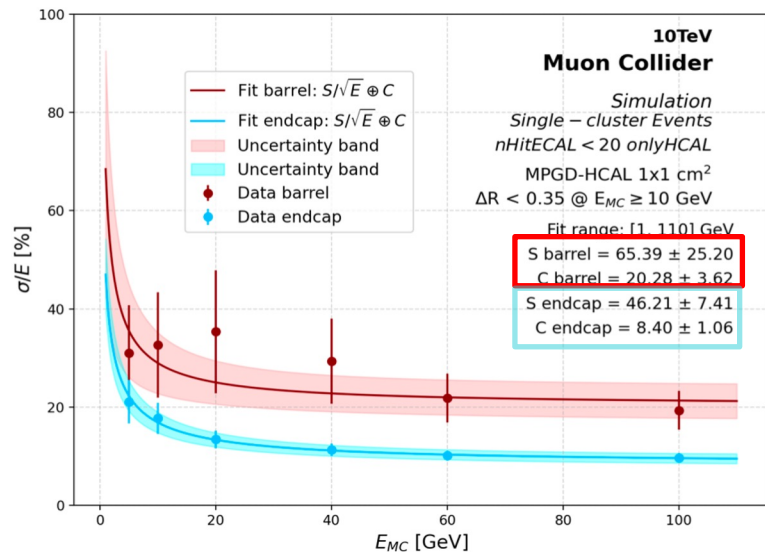
M. Casarsa :
«MUSIC: a detector concept for 10 TeV $\mu+\mu$ -
Collisions» -EPS HEP 25 -08/07

Cluster energy resolution

- Pandora Particle Flow clustering
- π^\pm guns with energy ranging from 2.5 to 100 GeV, **only pions not showering in ECAL**;
- Linear calibration to correct the energy response



- Digital RO: saturation at high energies
- Overall, better performances of the **SDRO**
 $\sigma/E = 45.96\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 12.36\%$

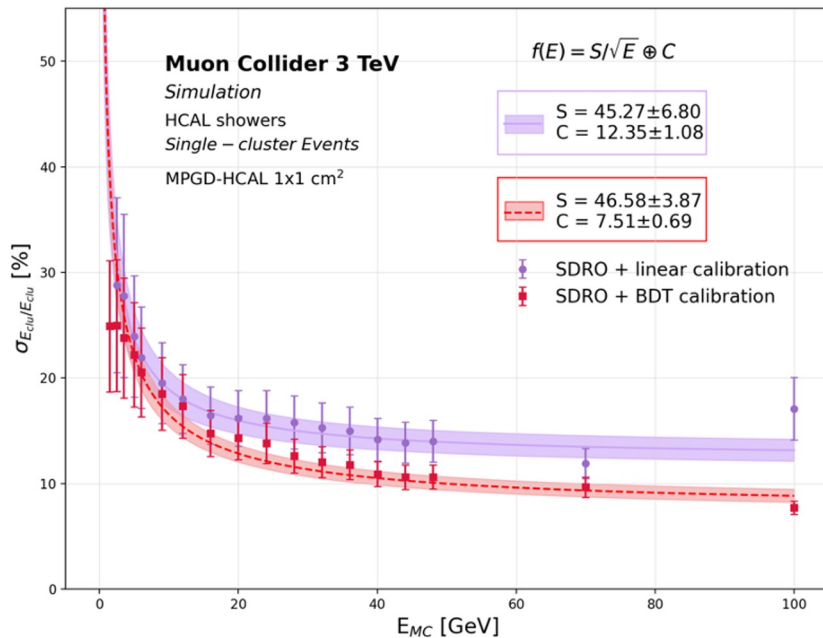


- Just SDRO considered
- Different calibrations for barrel and endcap
 Barrel: $\sigma/E = 65.39\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 20.8\%$
 Endcap: $\sigma/E = 46.21\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 8.40\%$

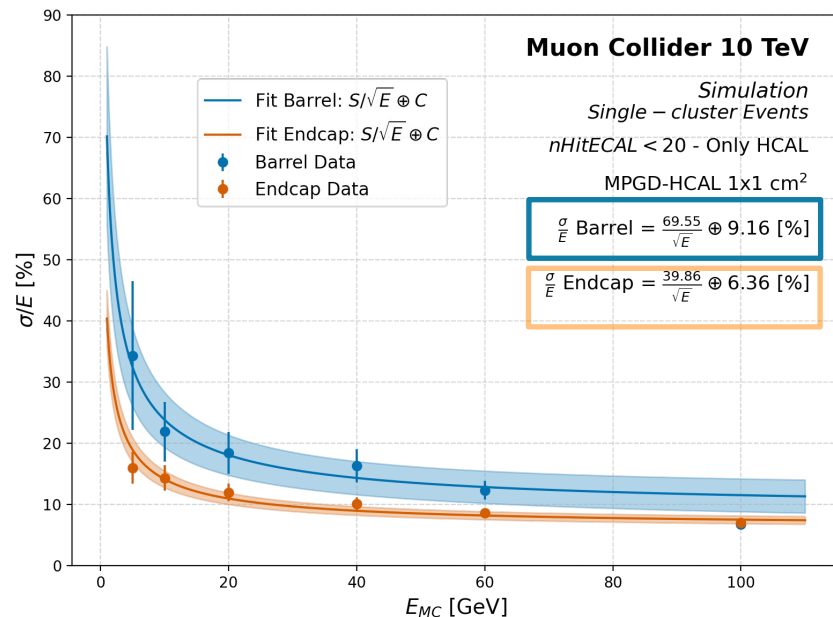
BDT-calibrated cluster energy resolution

Same approach as G4 simulation, some changes in input features, accounting PF clustering

- e.g. cluster size, cluster energy, cluster position



- ✓ BDT regression improves energy resolution at high energy $\rightarrow C \sim 12\% \rightarrow 7\%$, comparable with G4 simulations



- ✓ Separated calibration for barrel and endcap \rightarrow improved results at high energies $C \sim 9.16\%$ barrel, 6.36% in endcap

Development of a hadronic calorimeter prototype

MPGD-HCAL Test Beam

2 test beam campaigns in 2023 and 2024:

- **without absorbers** for detector characterization,
- **with absorber** for shower studies ($\sim 1\lambda_I$).

12 prototypes of active layers produced and tested

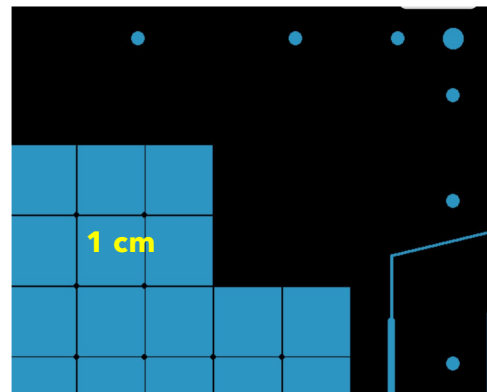
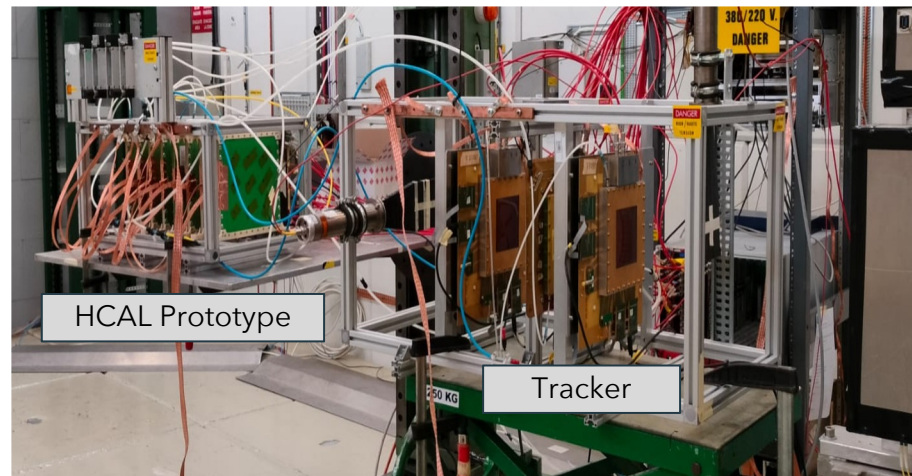
- 7 μ -RWELL
- 4 MicroMegas
- 1 RPWELL

Detector design:

- Drift gap 6 mm
- Active area $20 \times 20 \text{ cm}^2$
- Pad size $1 \times 1 \text{ cm}^2$

HCAL prototype:

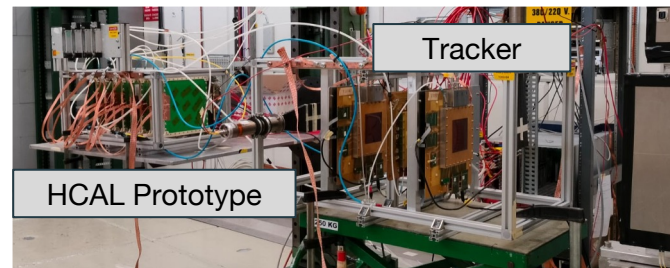
- 8 MPGD layers alternated with iron absorbers



MPGD Characterization

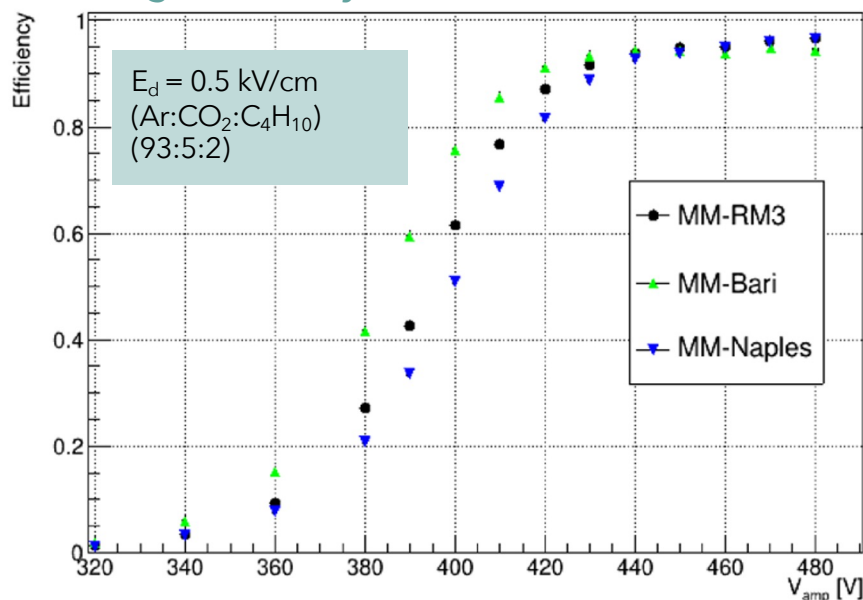
Active layer characterization - efficiency

- SPS@CERN: ~100 GeV muon beam
- Trigger and tracking with micromegas with 250 strip pitch

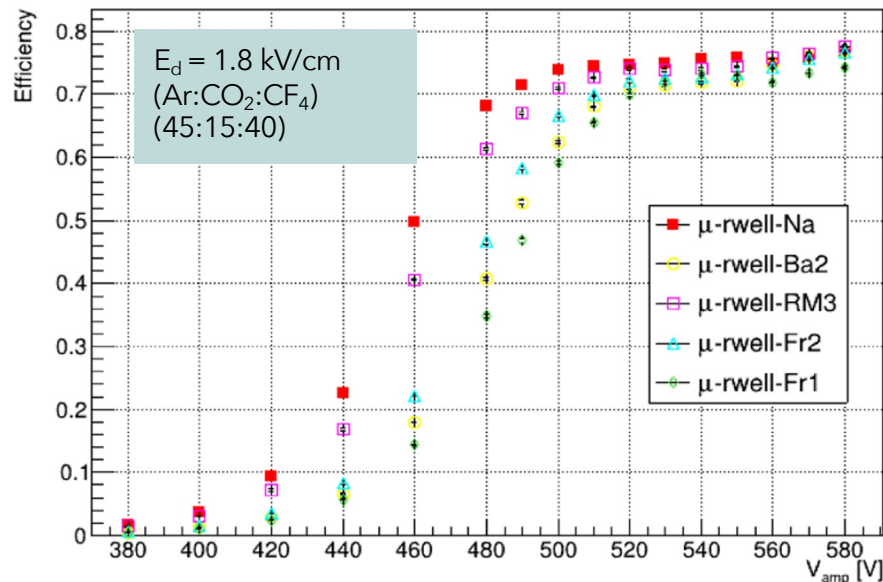


Electronics: APV25 chip + SRS back-end

Micromegas efficiency ~ 95%



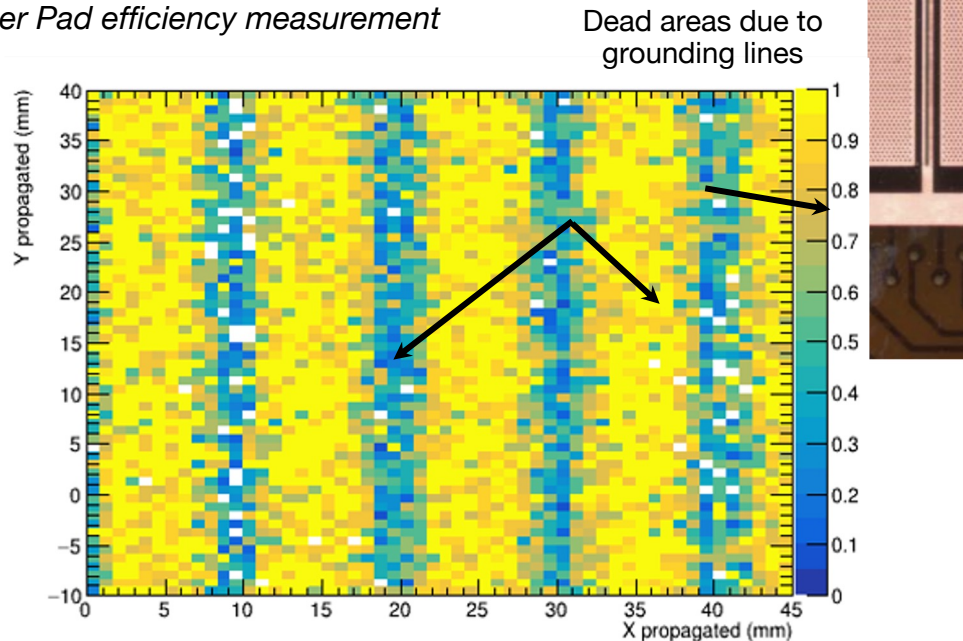
μ RWELL efficiency ~ 75%



MPGD-HCAL Test Beam

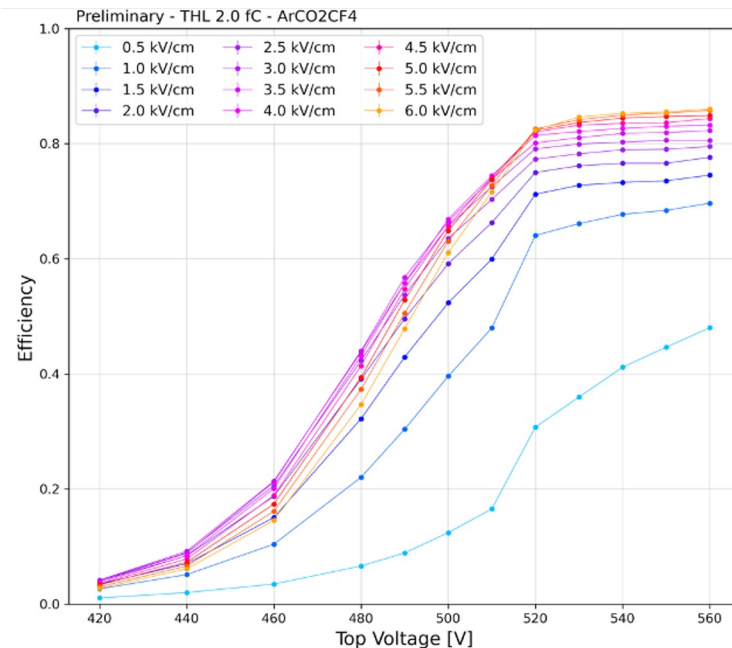
Active layer characterization - efficiency

Understanding μ RWELL results
Per Pad efficiency measurement



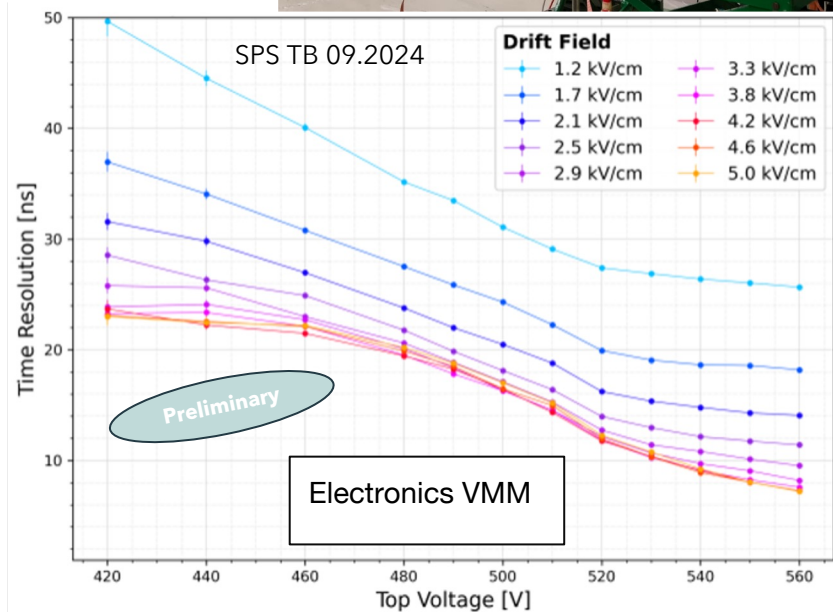
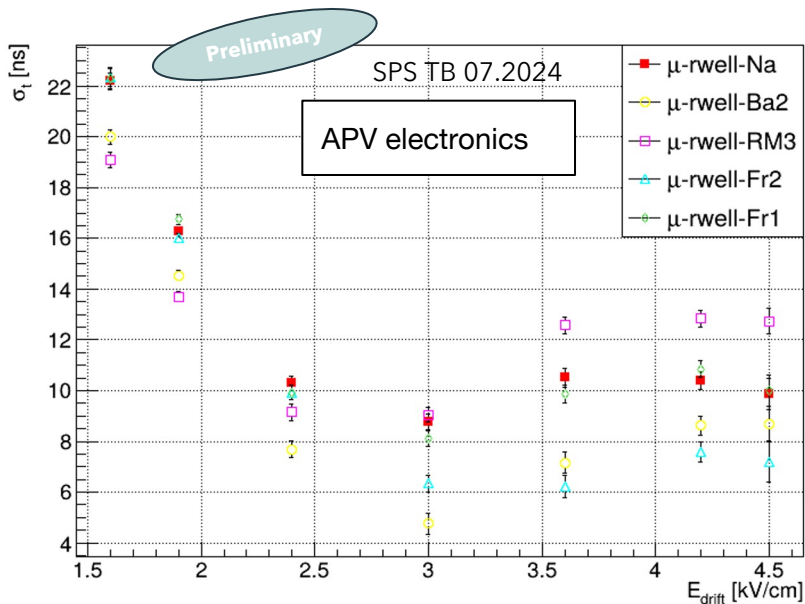
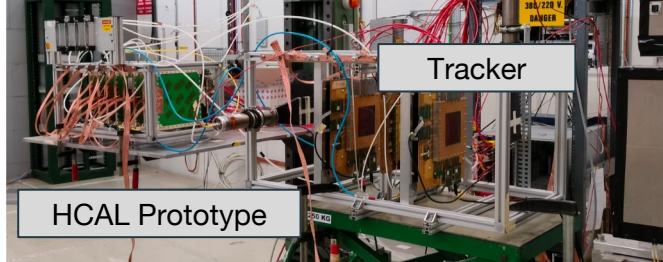
- Locally very high efficiency $\sim 95\%$
- Ground lines introduce regions of ~ 1 mm with $\sim 50\%$ efficiency drop

Inefficiency regions can get partially recovered increasing drift field



MPGD Characterization

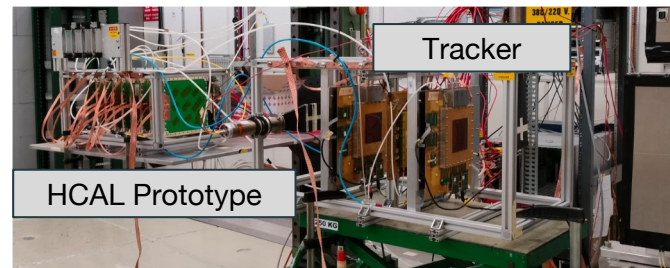
Active layer characterization - Time resolution



- ✓ μRWELL time resolution w/ $\text{Ar}:\text{CO}_2:\text{CF}_4 \rightarrow$ **few ns ($\sim 6\text{ns}$) with Drift field of 3 kV/cm;**
- ✓ similar results with different electronics

MPGD Characterization

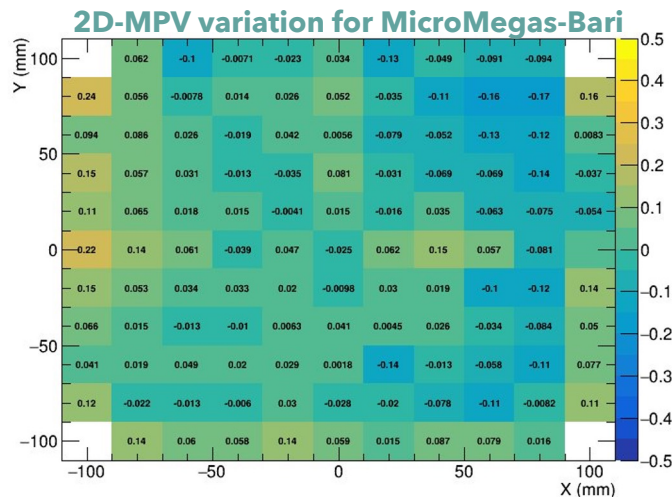
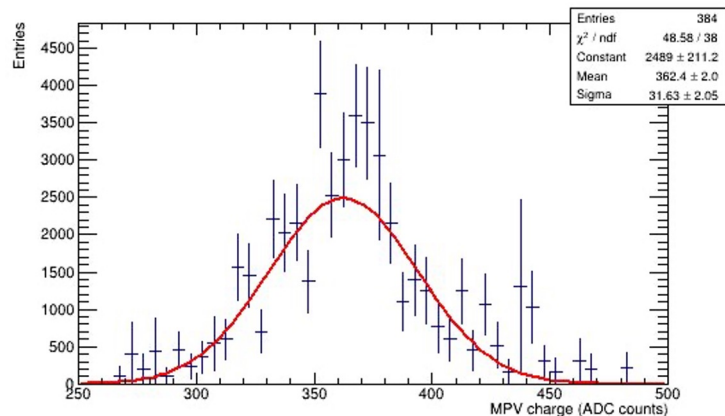
Active layer characterization - Response uniformity



Response uniformity measured using clusters matching muon tracks

- Good uniformity for **MicroMegas** ($\sim 10\%$)
- Regions of non-uniformity observed on some **μ -RWELLS** \rightarrow under investigation

Charge MPV distribution for MicroMegas-Bari



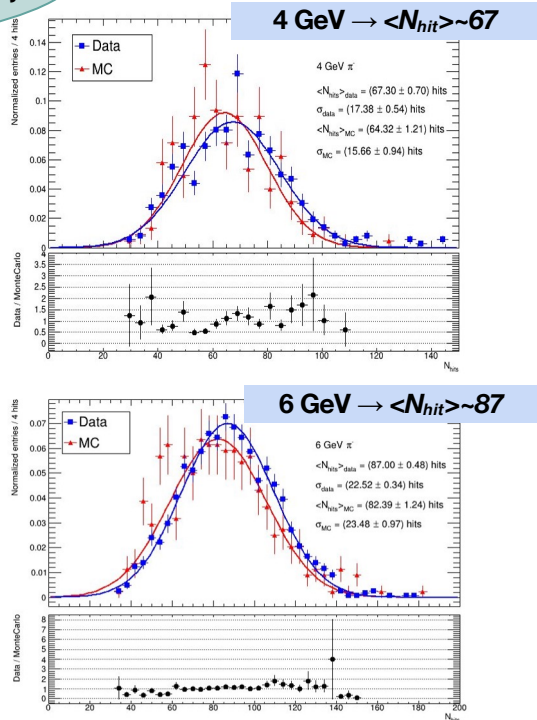
Detector	Uniformity (%)
MM-RM3	$(12.3 \pm 0.8)\%$
MM-Na	$(11.6 \pm 0.8)\%$
MM-Ba	$(8.0 \pm 0.5)\%$
RPWELL	$(22.6 \pm 4.7)\%$
μ rw-Na	$(11.3 \pm 1.0)\%$
μ rw-Fr2	$(16.2 \pm 1.7)\%$
μ rw-Fr1	$(16.3 \pm 1.1)\%$

MPGD-HCAL Test Beam

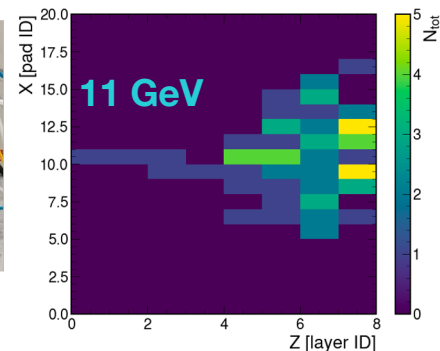
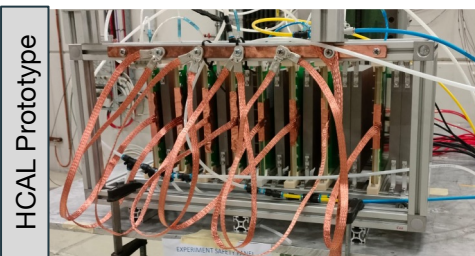
MPGD HCAL prototype test at CERN PS with pion beams with energy in 2-10 GeV

Preliminary

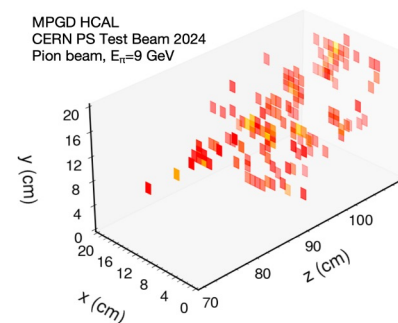
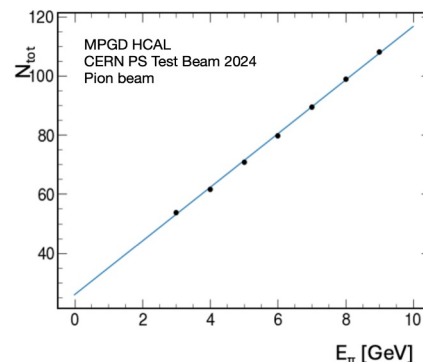
2023 PS Pion beams



✓ Data-MC agreement in number of hits



2024 PS Pion beam



✓ Linearity between pion beam energy and total number of hits

Conclusions and next steps

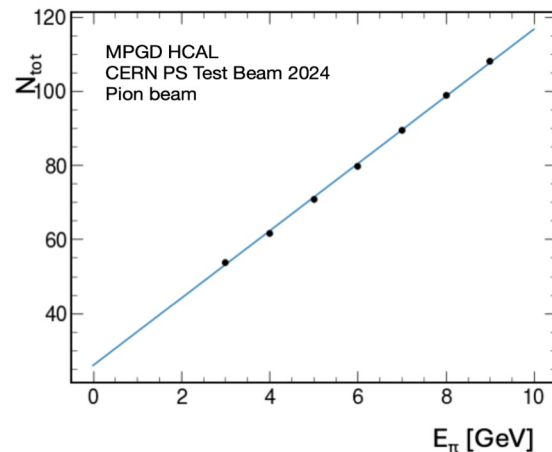
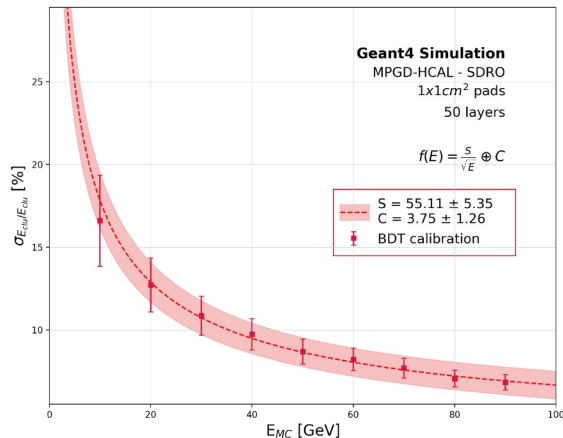
MPGD HCAL R&D ongoing: simulation and characterization with test beam

- **Simulations in G4 and Muon Collider:** promising results, **compatible with PF requirements**
 $S \sim 40\text{-}60\%$, $C \sim 4\text{-}9\%$ depending on geometry and clustering

- **Calorimeter prototype and MPGD characterization:**
 - Efficiency: $\sim 95\%$ for MicroMegas, $\sim 75\%$ for μRWELL
 - Response uniformity: $\sim 10\%$ for MicroMegas and $\sim 15\%$ for μRWELL
 - μRWELL timing resolution of $\sim 6\text{ns}$
 - Good **linearity** between pion beam energy and total number of hits

Next steps: Extension calorimeter prototype to $\sim 2 \lambda_I$

- μRWELL with new grounding schema to reduce dead area
- 2 MicroMegas and 2 μRWELL $50 \times 50 \text{ cm}^2$ under production



Backup

PEP lines Vs PEP dots

2022

PEP-Groove:

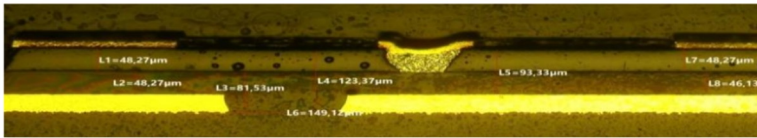
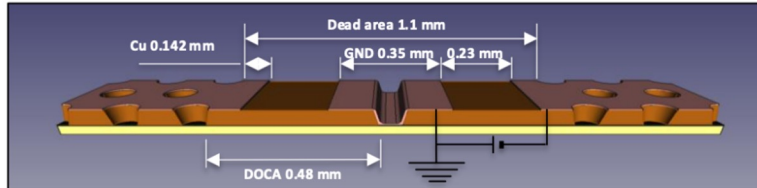
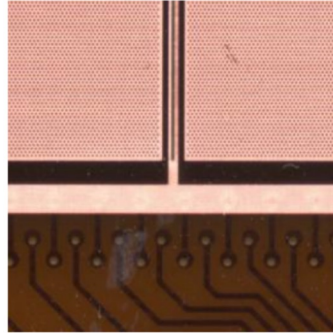
DLC grounding through conductive groove to ground line

Pad R/O = $9 \times 9 \text{ mm}^2$

Grounding:

- Groove pitch = 9mm
- width = 1.1mm

→ 84% geometric acceptance



2023

PEP-DOT:

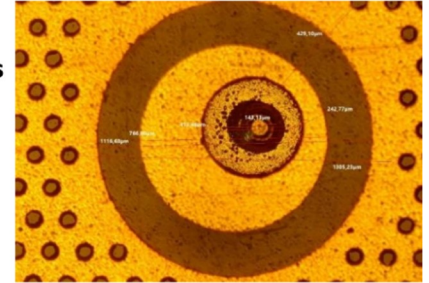
DLC grounding through conductive dots connecting the DLC with pad r/outs

Pad R/O = $9 \times 9 \text{ mm}^2$

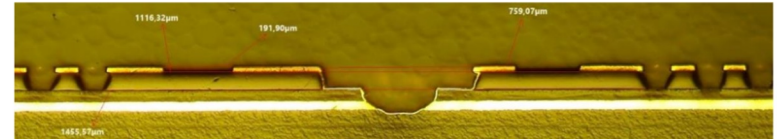
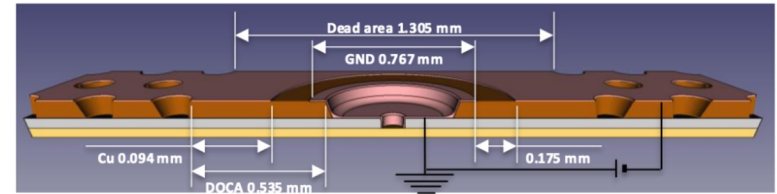
Grounding:

- Dot pitch = 9mm
- dot rim = 1.3mm

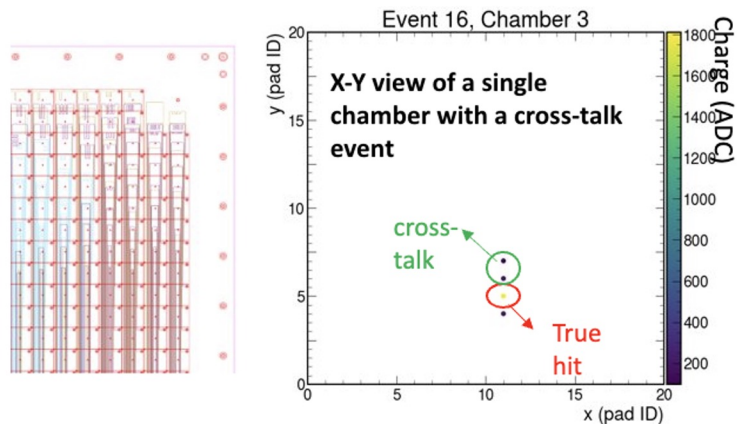
→ 97% geometric acceptance



DOT → plated blind vias



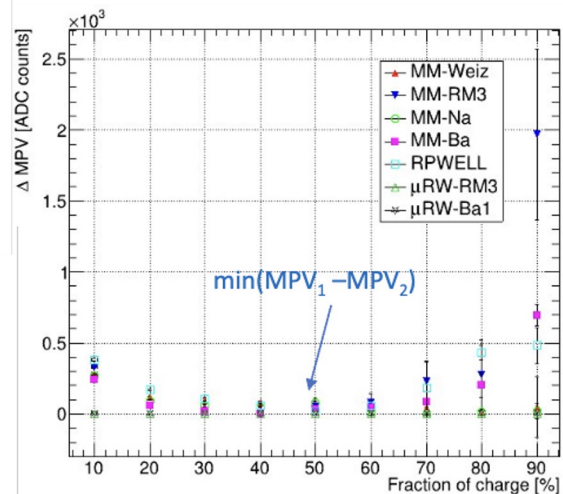
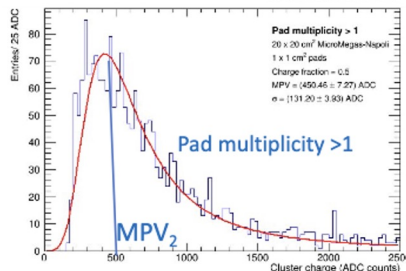
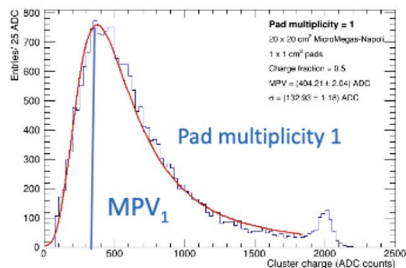
Cluster reconstruction



High probability of **cross-talk** effect observed among adjacent pads due to routing of the vias connecting pads to the connectors

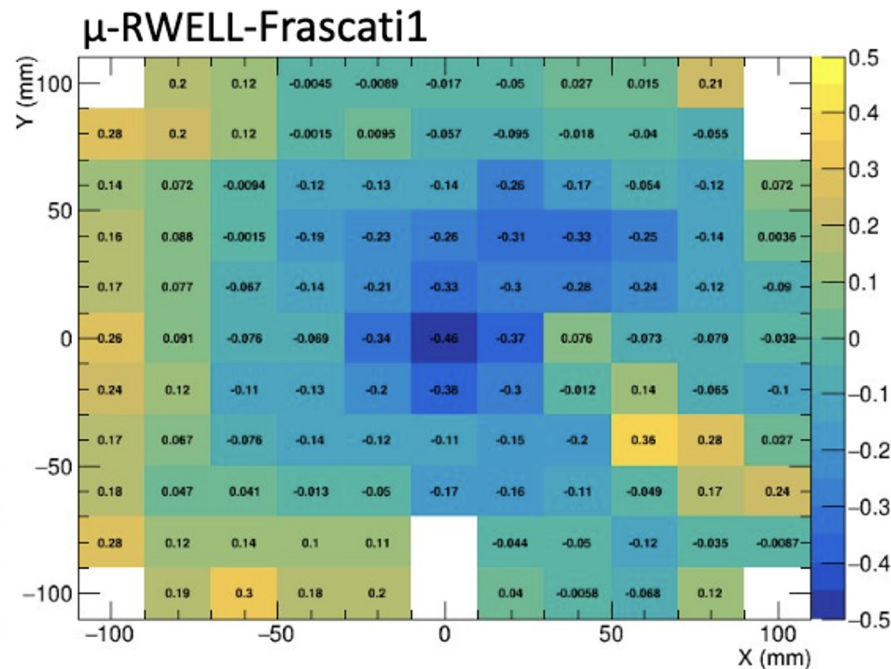
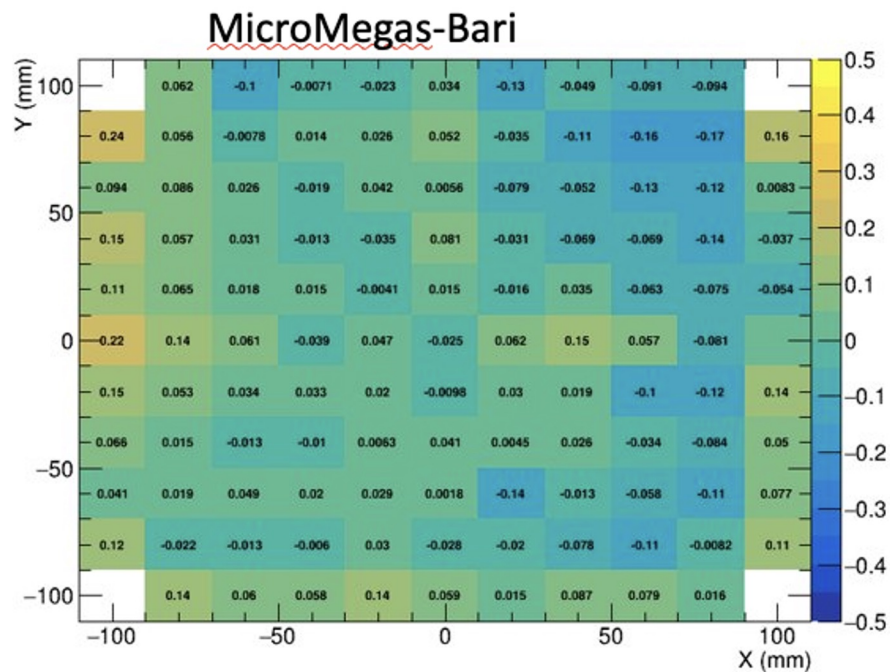
Developed ad-hoc **clustering algorithm** based on charge sharing criterium

- Selected pad with **highest charge** Q_{\max}
- Add a second pad if $Q = 50\% Q_{\max}$



Response uniformity

Preliminary

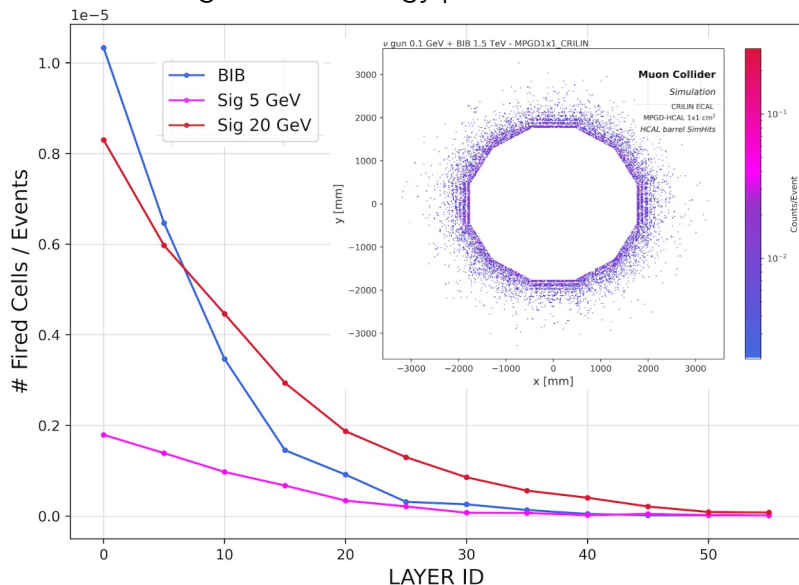


MPGD-HCAL BIB studies

Simulation: 60 layers of Iron (19mm) + Ar (3mm); **3 TeV layout; HCAL within the solenoid**

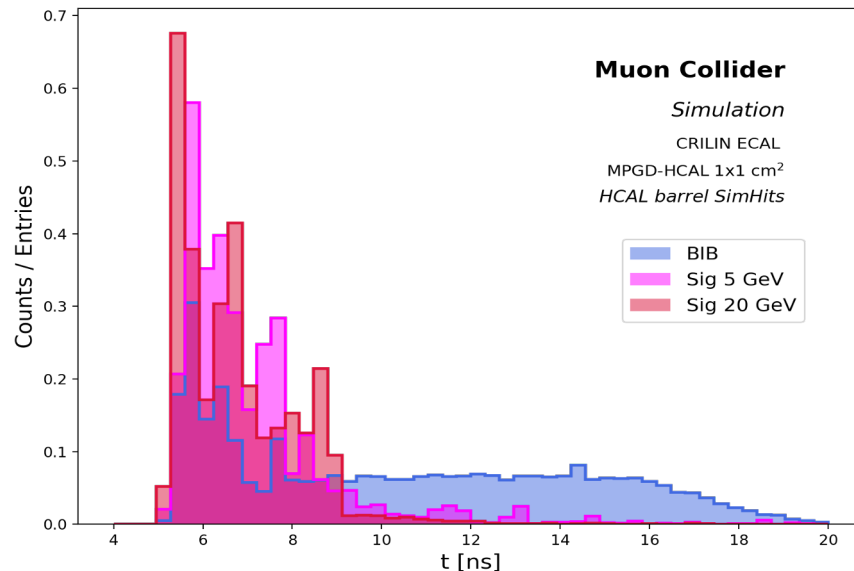
Hit Occupancy:

- **BIB** containment within the **first 20 layers** of HCAL
- Probability of a cell to be fired in the first layer :
 - **BIB** : $\sim 1 \times 10^{-5}$
 - **π^\pm 5 GeV** : $\sim 0.2 \times 10^{-5}$
 - **π^\pm 20 GeV** : $\sim 0.8 \times 10^{-5}$
- Challenge for low energy pion reconstruction



Arrival time:

- **BIB** arrival time distribution uniform in the **range 7-20 ns**;
- **signal** arrival time peaks at **~ 6 ns**;
- discrimination possible for **$t > 9/10$ ns** \rightarrow achievable with MPGD detectors

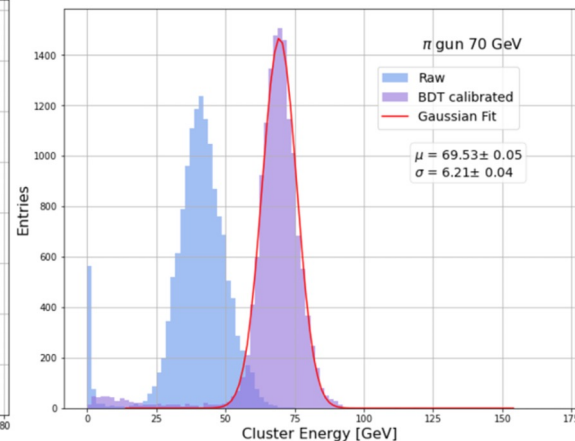
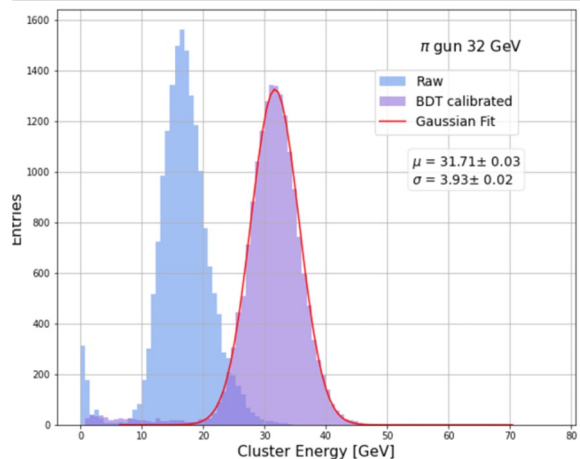
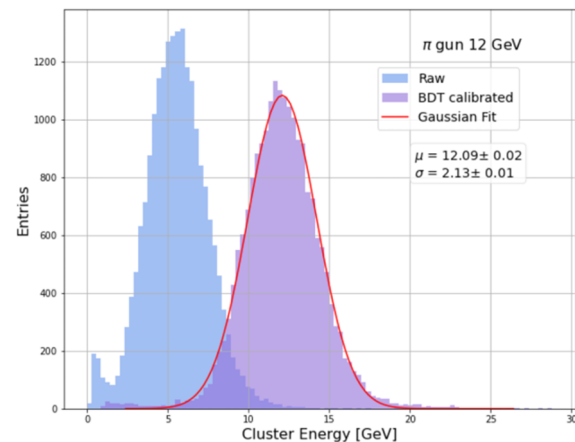


Semi-digital readout with BDT calibration

Calibrated energy = BDT output coefficient x Raw cluster energy

BDT implementation details

- **XGBoost** squared-error regression
- **Features dataset from pandora:**
 - Cluster energy and 3D centroid position
 - (Cluster size) / ln (cluster energy + 1)
 - Number of hits in ECAL and in HCAL
 - Number of HCAL hits below and above the 2nd threshold of the semi-digital RO
 - Total energy in ECAL and in HCAL
 - Total fraction of hits/energy in ECAL and in HCAL
 - Number of hits for each layer of ECAL and HCAL
 - Energy Fraction for each layer of ECAL and HCAL

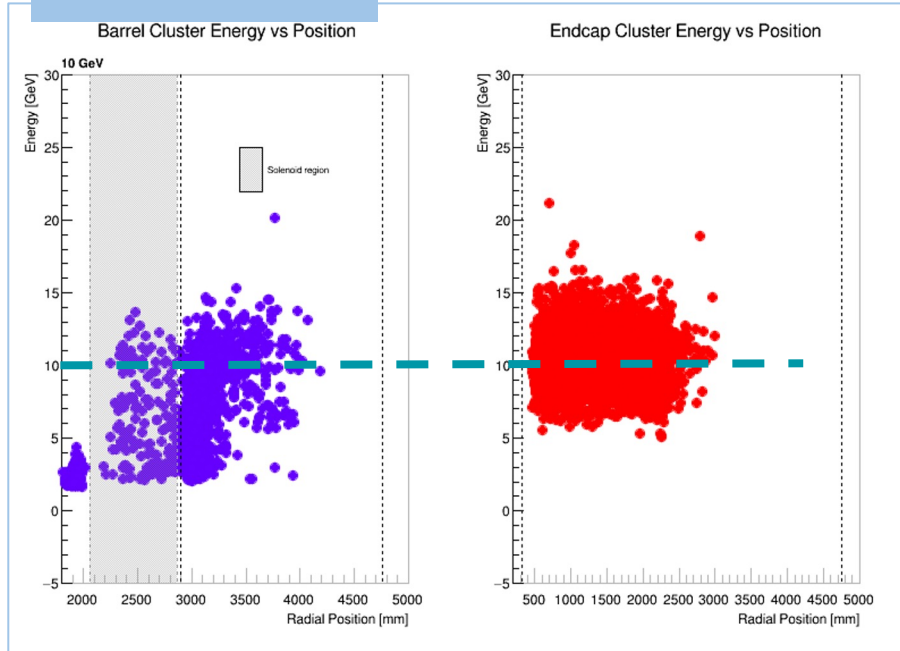


MPGD-HCAL within MUSIC - 10 TeV

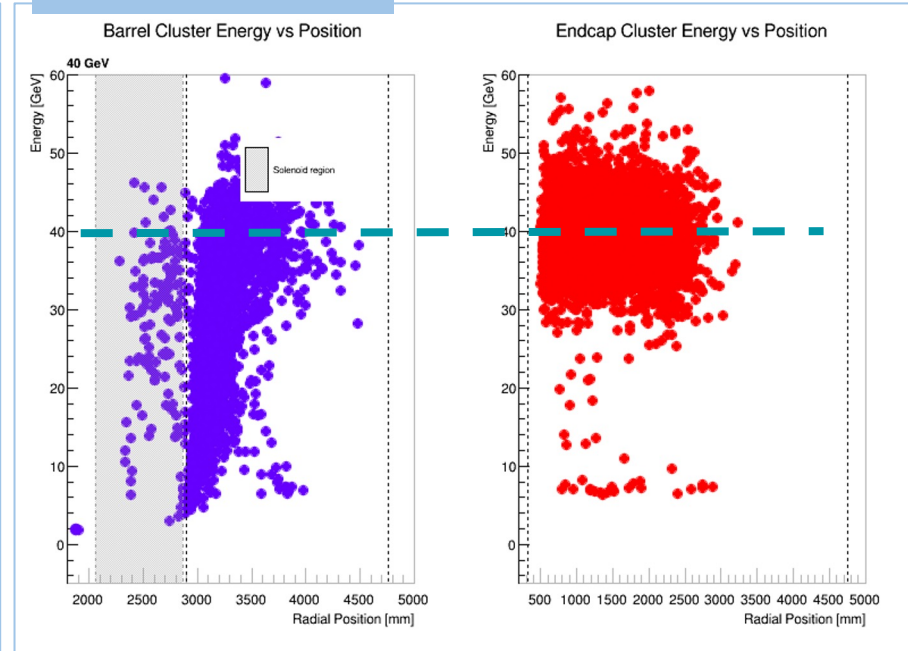
Impact of the solenoid on HCAL - pion guns

Preliminary

True Energy = 10 GeV



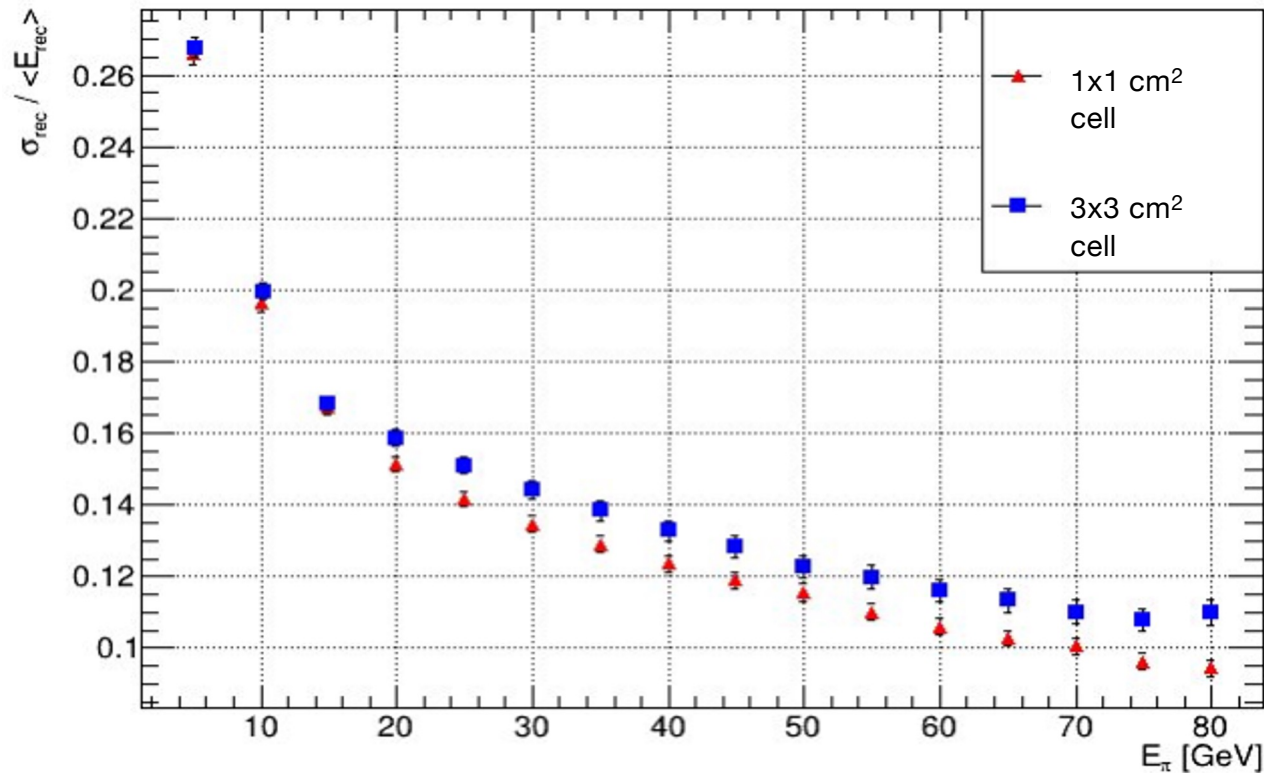
True Energy = 40 GeV



Depending of the hadrons energy, the **shower can initiate in the solenoid**:

- part of the shower is lost
- **Barycenter of the cluster** falls in the **solenoid region** or close to the **boundary** between **HCAL** and **solenoid**
- **Reconstructed energy** shifts towards **lower values**

Simulation: Semi-Digital readout



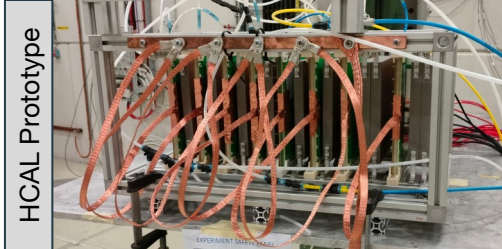
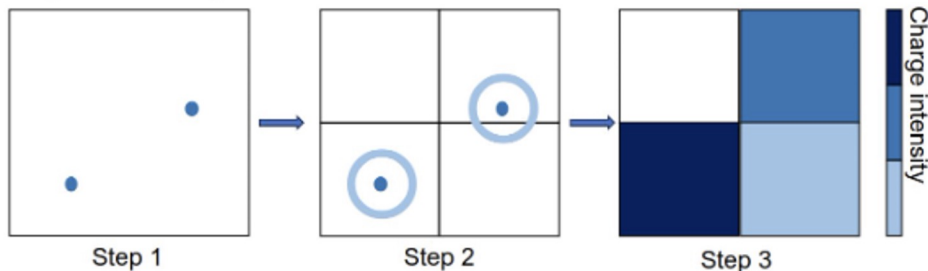
Investigating the possibility to **enhance** semi-digital readout with **machine learning technique: BDT regression**

MPGD-HCAL Test Beam

Prototype simulation

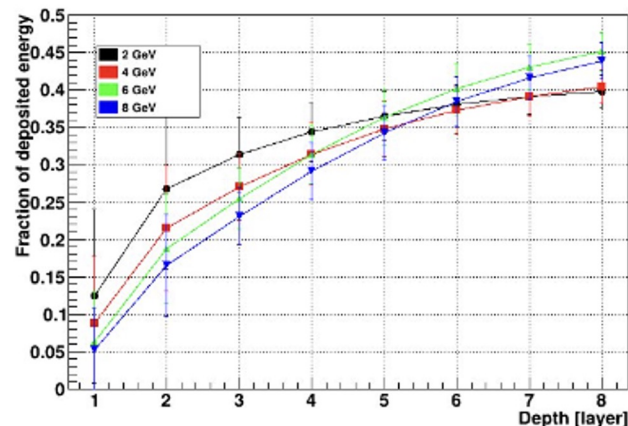
- Small detector geometry implemented
 - 8 layers of alternating of 2 cm stain-less steel absorbers and MPGD
 - First 2 layers with 4 cm absorbers to increase probability of shower development in the first layers
 - 20x20 cm² active surface
 - 1x1 cm² pad granularity
- Pion gun of energy range available at PS (4 – 8 GeV)
- **Digitization algorithm** implemented to account for charge-sharing among adjacent pads and detector efficiency

Digitization algorithm



Steel	2 - 4 cm
Air	1 cm
FR4	3 mm
Argon	6 mm
FR4	3 mm
Air	1 cm

Shower containment

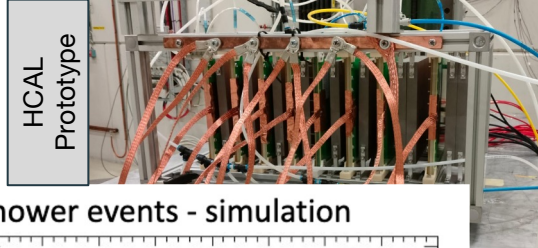


MPGD-HCAL Test Beam

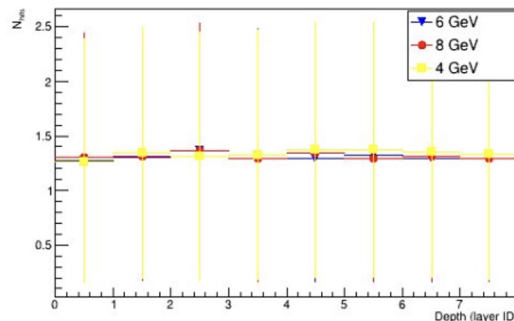
Prototype simulation

Event **selection criteria** supported by **simulation** using MC truth

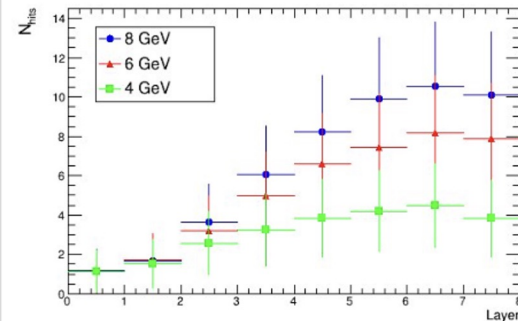
- MIP-like events:
 - single hit in each layer
- Shower events:
 - more than 4 hits per layer starting from layer 3



MIP-like events - simulation

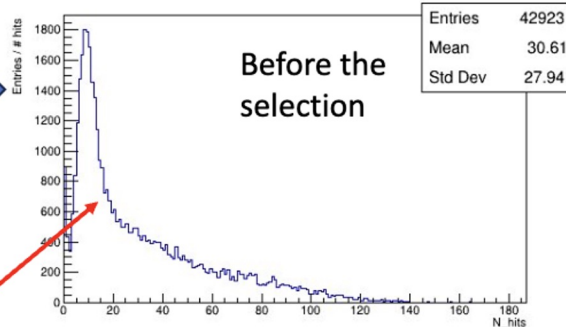


Shower events - simulation



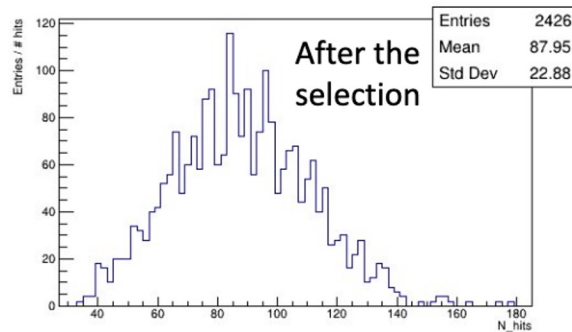
Distribution of the **number of hits** in all active layer from the **experimental data**

Number of hits for all events

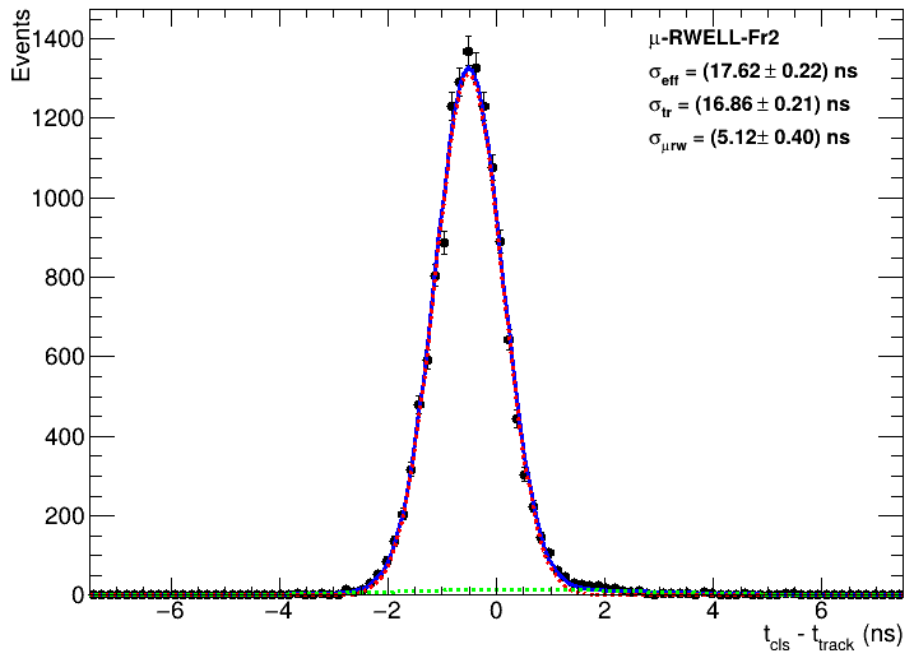


Peak at ~ 10 hits
-> MIP-like events

Number of hits for showers event



μ rwell time resolution measurement



TMM layer x (lower charge layer) is taken as reference for timing and corrected per time walk

Gaussian fit of

$$\Delta t = t_{\text{clus}} - t_{\text{track}} \rightarrow \sigma = \sqrt{\sigma_{\text{cls}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{track}}^2}$$

Study $\sigma_{\text{cls}} = \sigma_{\mu\text{Rwell}} = \sqrt{\sigma^2 - \sigma_{\text{track}}^2}$ wrt DF and TV

