

# Muon reconstruction in JUNO

Université

de Strasbourg

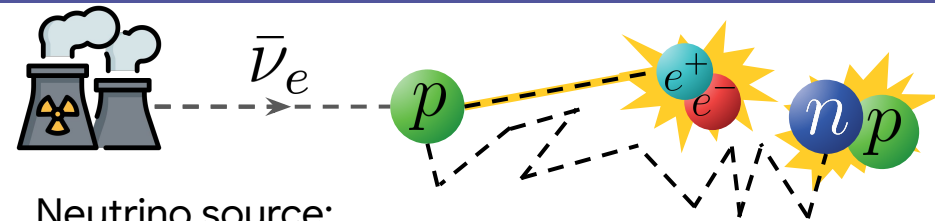


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*on behalf of the JUNO Collaboration*

IRN Neutrino June 1-2 2026, 2 June 2026

# Cosmogenic background in JUNO



Neutrino source:

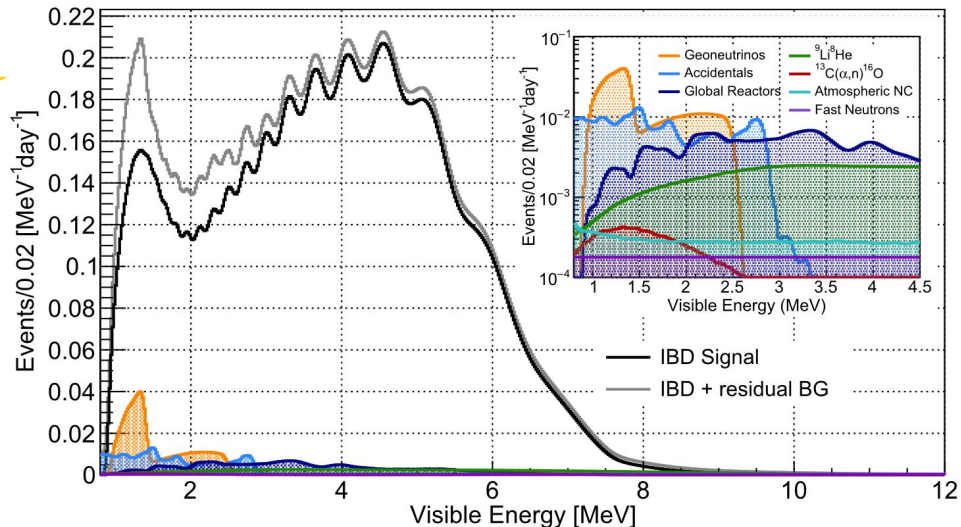
- Reactor electron antineutrino.
- IBD interaction.

Challenge: cosmogenic isotopes  $^9\text{Li}/^8\text{He}$

- Produced by atmospheric muons.
- $\beta$ -n decay.

Cannot be suppressed using IBD-like cuts (fiducial volume, prompt-delayed coincidence, etc.)  $\Rightarrow$  Indistinguishable.

Correlated with parent muon  $\Rightarrow$  use muon track information.



Current veto status:

- Spallation neutron-based .
- No track-based yet .

Residual cosmogenic:  $3.9 \pm 0.6$  cpd  $\Rightarrow$  dominant background.

# Track-based muon veto

## Temporal veto

Reject events within a time window based on cosmogenic lifetimes  $\tau_{1/2}({}^9\text{Li}) \sim 178 \text{ ms}$

⇒ Reliable **muon identification**.

## Spatial veto

Reject events within a cylinder around muons.

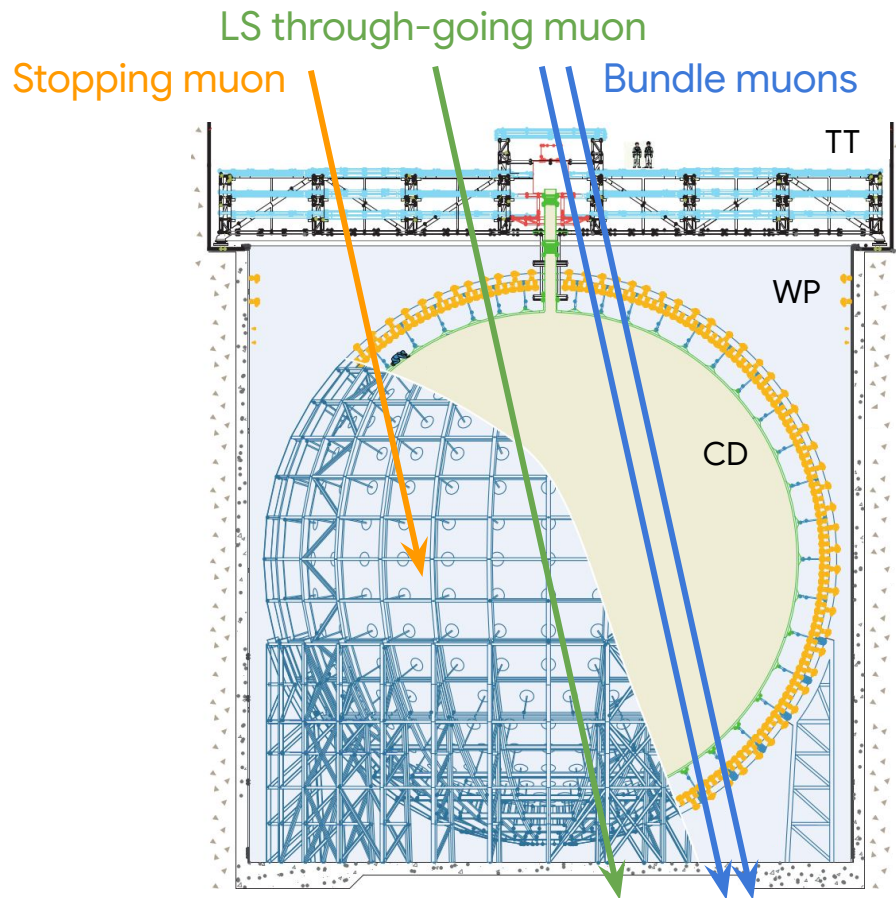
⇒ Accurate **track reconstruction** ⇒ veto radius depends on reconstruction resolution.

## Muon topologies

Through-going, stopping, bundle, etc.

⇒ Requires **event classification**.

Track-based veto ⇒ limiting unnecessary dead time.



# Detector observables

## Central Detector (CD)

Scintillation light  $\Rightarrow$  high light yield.

Dense PMT coverage, **hit times, charges.**

## Water Pool (WP)

Cherenkov detector, and covered by Tyvek.

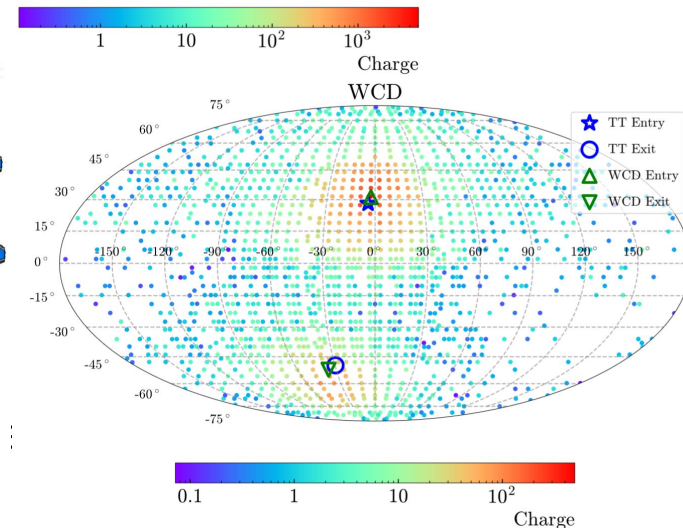
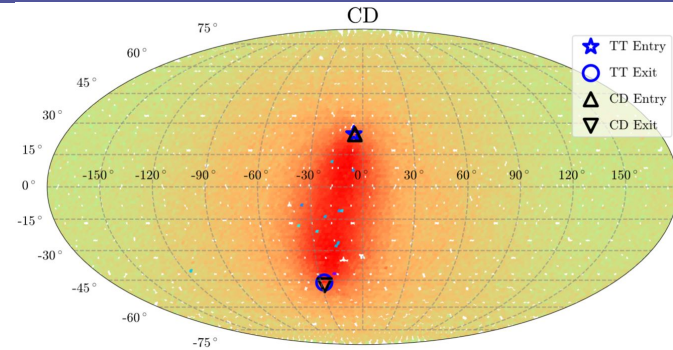
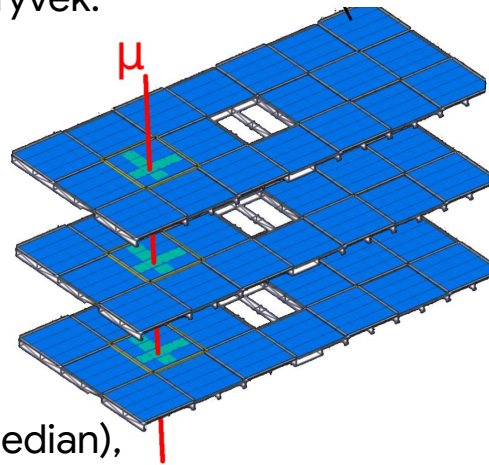
## Top Tracker (TT)

3 layers of 7 by 3 walls.

Wall composed of **orthogonal plastic scintillator strips.**

$\Rightarrow$  Discrete tracking points.

$\Rightarrow$  Provide clean muon sample ( $0.2^\circ$  median),  
but sees only 30% of CD muons.



# Approaches overview

## Two main approaches to muon reconstruction

### Traditional methods

⇒ Physics-driven: explicit modeling

Charge-based clustering

Timing-based reconstruction ( $\chi^2$  minimization)

### Machine learning methods

⇒ Data-driven: learn from simulation/data.

Graph-based convolutional networks

Transformer-based model

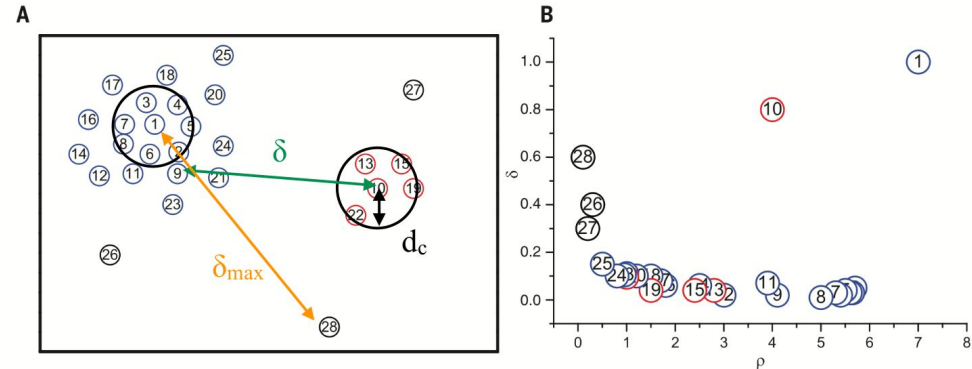
# CD/WP charge cluster classification

## Charge density peak algorithm.

⇒ Independently applied to the CD and the WP.

For each PMT:

- $\rho$  is the sum of PEs within  $d_c$ .
- $\delta$  is the minimum distance to any PMT with higher density.

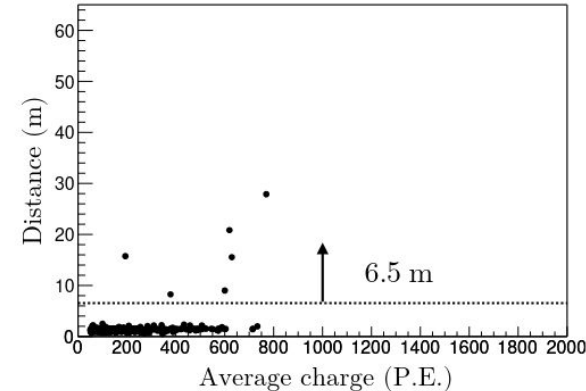
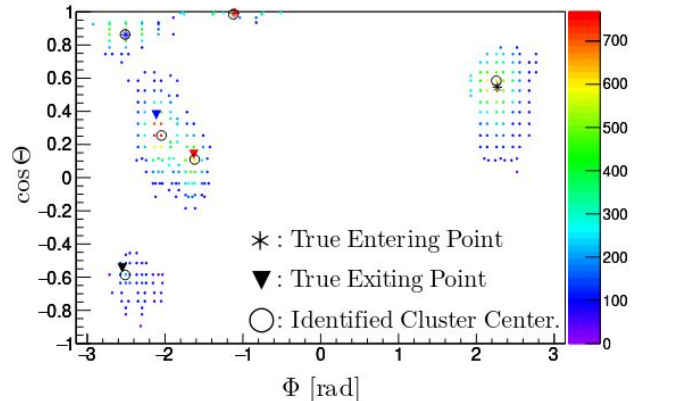


Cluster ⇒ high  $\rho$  and  $\delta$ .

Identified as **outliers** in  $\rho$ - $\delta$  space.

Association assumptions:

- Down-going tracks
- Parallel bundle muons.



# CD+WP+TT joint reconstruction

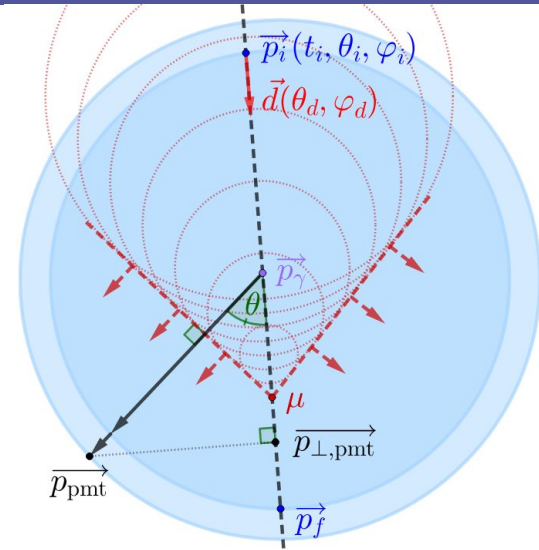
Each sub-detector contributes a  $\chi^2$  term.

Joint reconstruction  $\Rightarrow$  minimize the sum.

$$\chi^2 = \frac{1}{ndf_{CD}} \sum_{i=1}^{17612+25600} \left( \frac{t_{i,meas} - t_{i,theo}}{\sigma_i} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{ndf_{WP}} \sum_{j=1}^{2400} \left( \frac{t_{j,meas} - t_{j,theo}}{\sigma_j} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{ndf_{TT}} \sum_{k=1}^3 \left( \frac{\|(\vec{p}_k - \vec{p}_0) \times \vec{d}\|}{\|\vec{d}\| \sigma_k} \right)^2$$

**TT:** Line fit through hit points.

$\Rightarrow$  Used as reference (not used in data reconstruction).



**CD and WP:** First Hit Time (FHT) method.

FHT: time of the earliest detected photon.

Calculate expected FHT  $\Rightarrow$  depends on the track parameters.

FHT residuals  $\Rightarrow \chi^2$  minimization.

# DeepSphere-based

Large volume detector  $\Rightarrow$  image-like representation  $\Rightarrow$  CNN.

But operate on Euclidean space  $\neq$  spherical geometry.

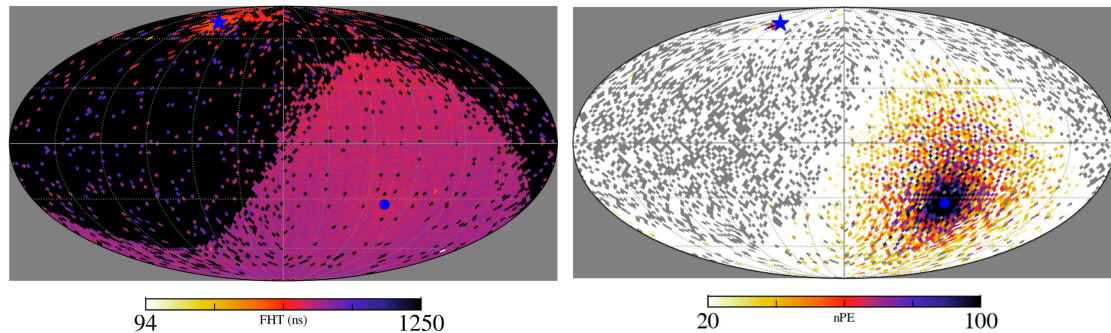
$\Rightarrow$  Graph-based CNN  $\Rightarrow$  DeepSphere framework.

Sphere divided in pixels of equal area using HEALPix.

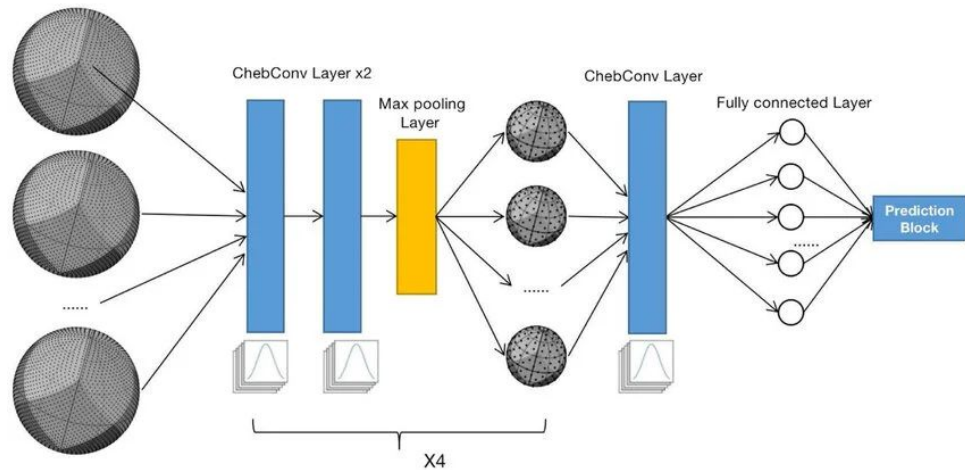
Input features: FHT, charge.

Convolution + fully connected layers  $\Rightarrow$  predicts muon entry point and direction.

$\Rightarrow$  Under active development and validation!



Input channels



# Transformer

Based on **self-attention** mechanism.

Each hit is treated as an input token  $\Rightarrow$  no need for spatial discretization.

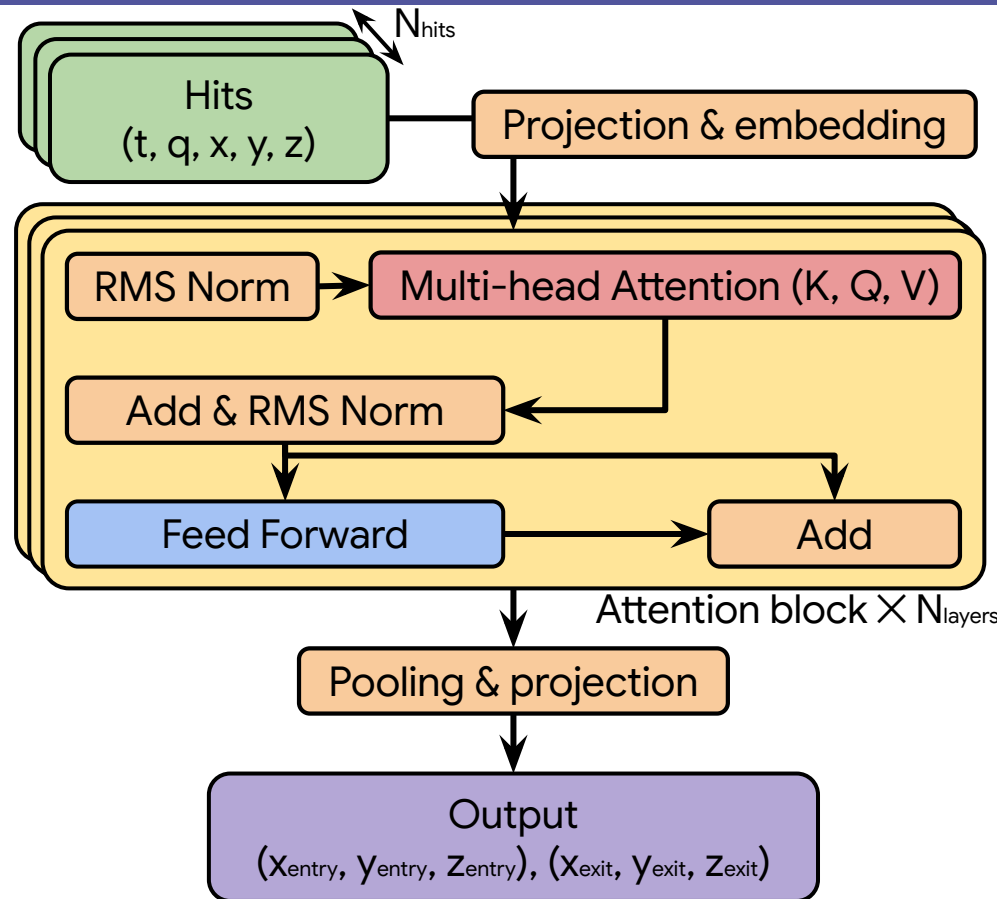
Attention mechanism learns relationships between hits  $\Rightarrow$  captures global event structure.

Input features: **hit times and charges**.

Trained using TT as reference.

Predicts muon entry and exit points.

$\Rightarrow$  Under active development and validation!



# Methodology

## Identification:

- CD/WP time correlation (muons in the CD).
- WP charge threshold (muons in the WP only).

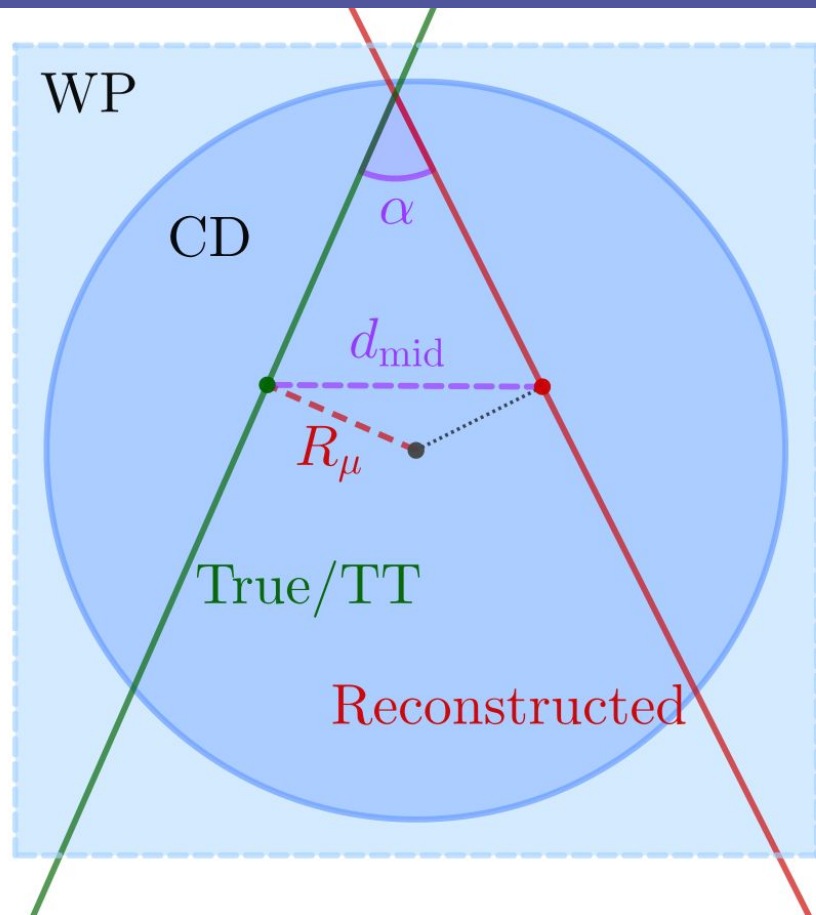
TT used as reference when available.

## Metrics:

- **Angle** between reference and reconstructed directions.
- **Distance** between reference and reconstructed track midpoints.

## Parameters:

- Distance between center of the CD and reference track.



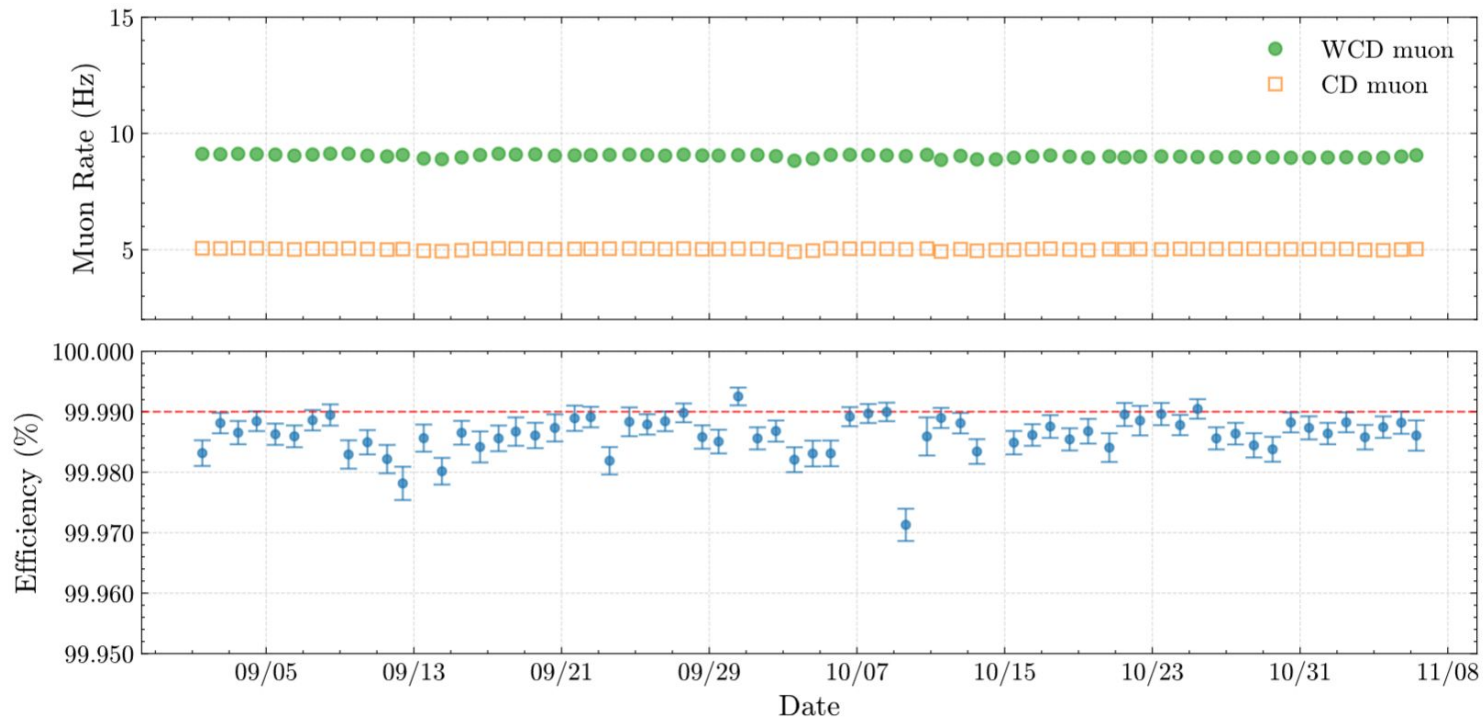
# Rate and efficiency

CD rate ~ 5 cps, WP rate ~ 9 cps.

⇒ Stable over time, consistent with simulations.

WP tagging efficiency > 99.97%.

⇒ Stable.

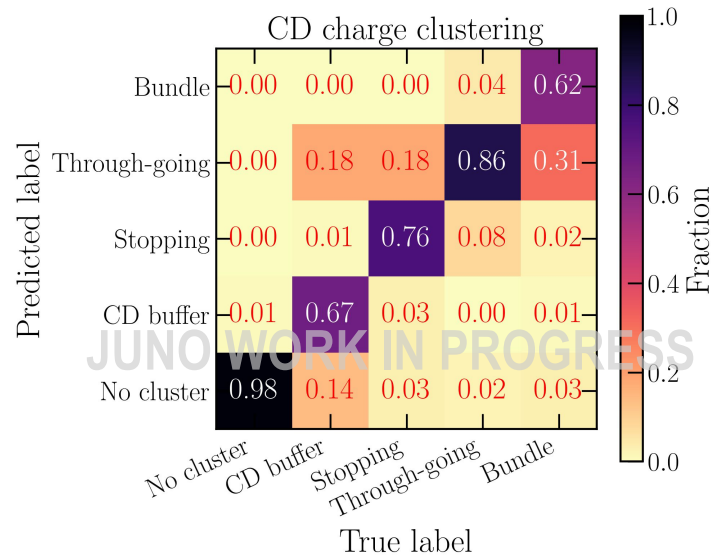


# Classification

$$\text{Classification Efficiency} = \frac{(\text{Correctly classified } \mu \text{ Events})}{(\text{Total number of } \mu \text{ Events})}$$

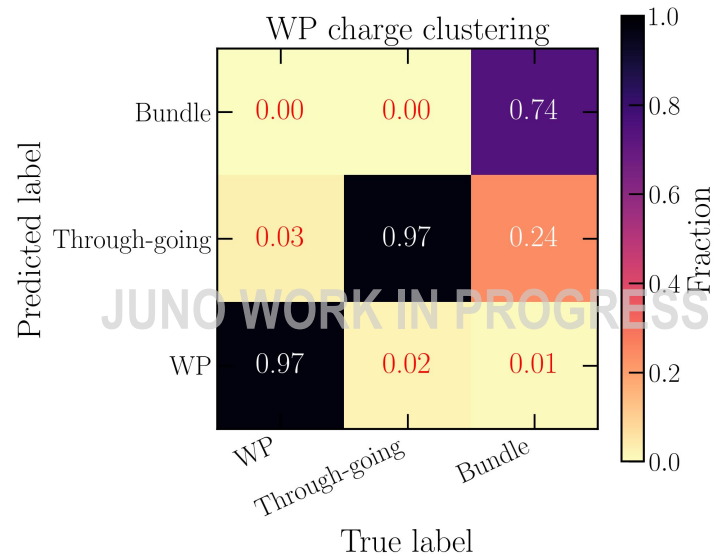
Classification efficiency (charge clustering):

- CD: 81%.
- WP: 95%.

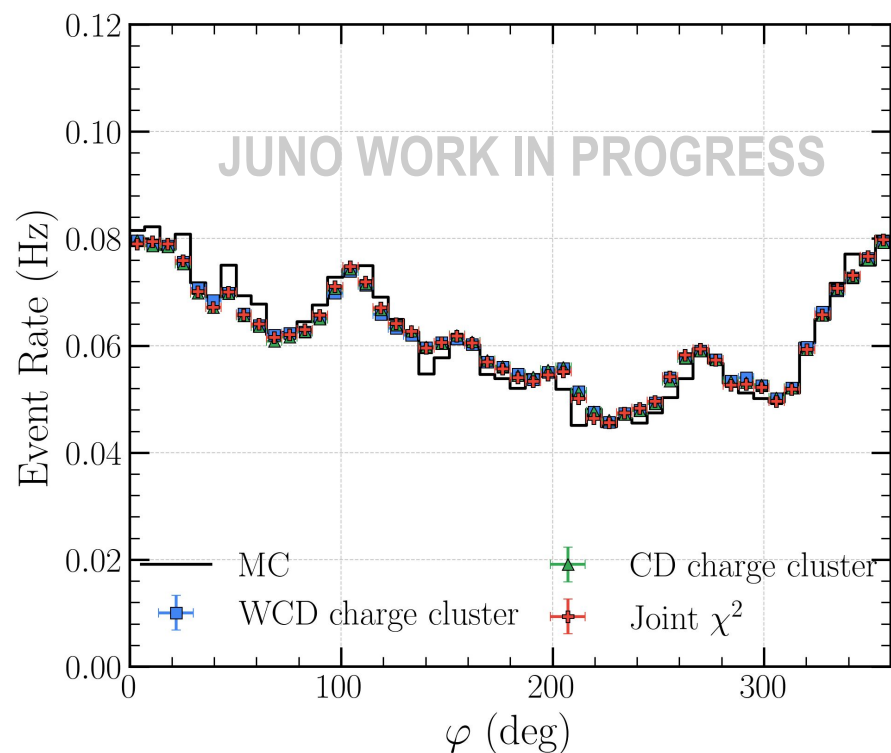
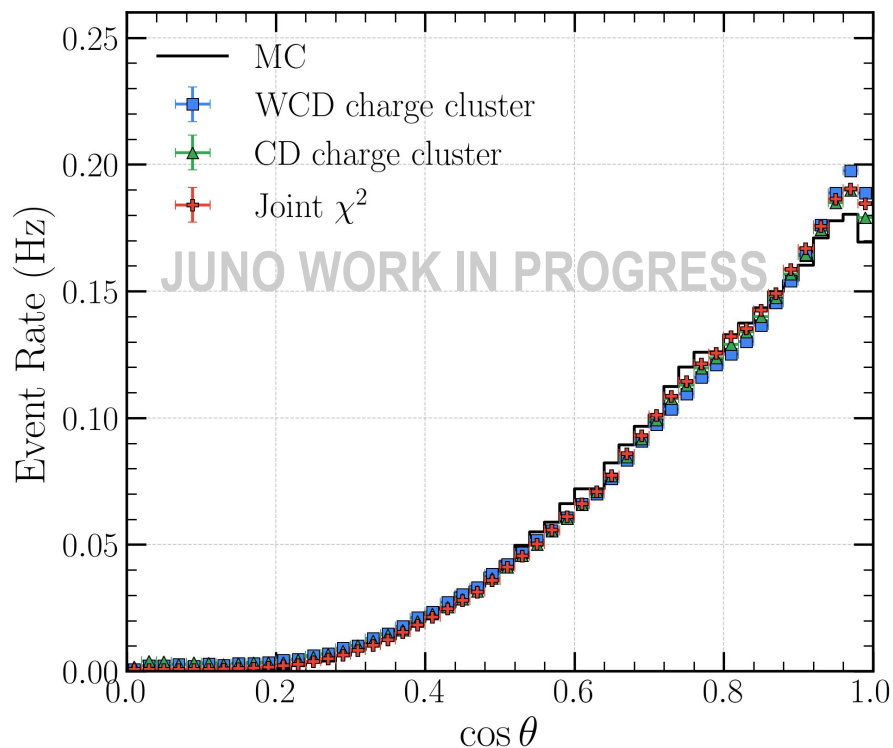


Source of inefficiencies:

- Two close muons  $\Rightarrow$  single-like charge pattern.
- Stopping muons decaying before exiting  $\Rightarrow$  through-going-like charge pattern.



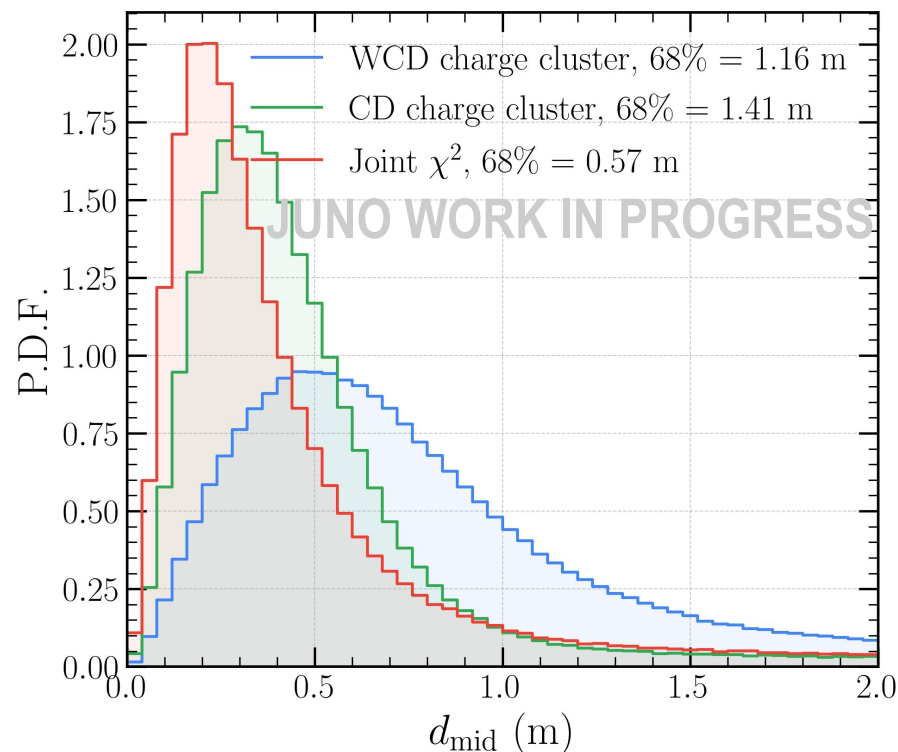
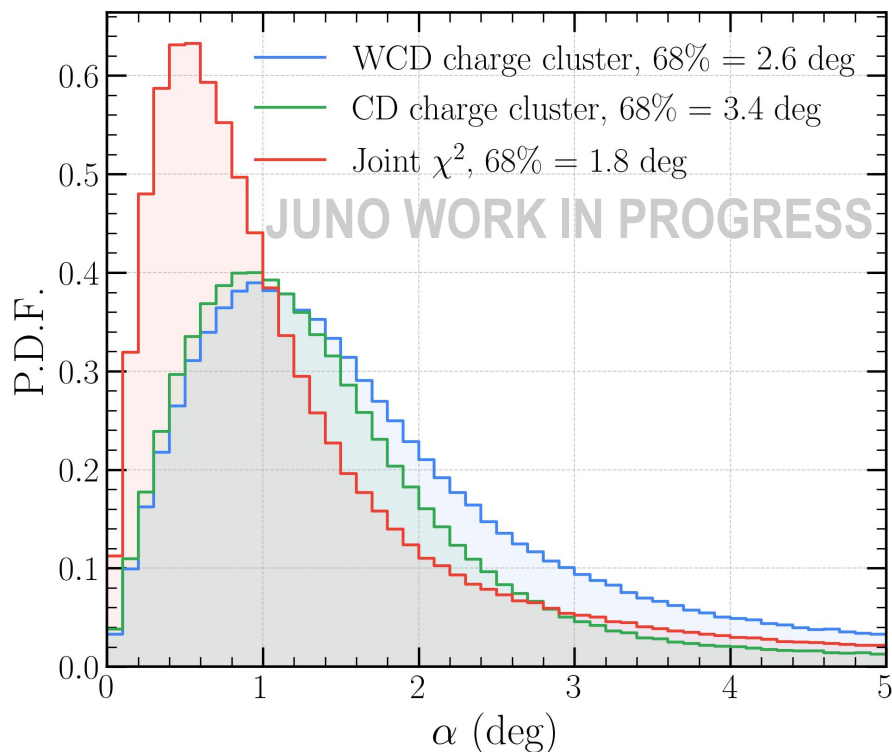
# Reconstruction: muon direction



Zenith and azimuth angles of the reconstructed muons.

Good agreement between all methods and simulation  $\Rightarrow$  accurate mapping of the mountain profile.

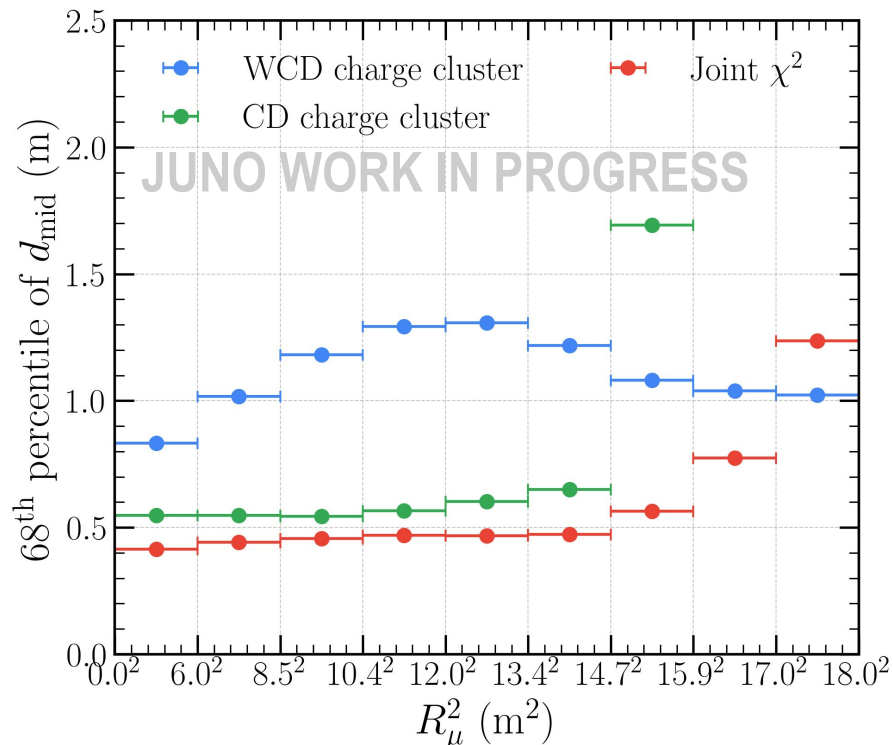
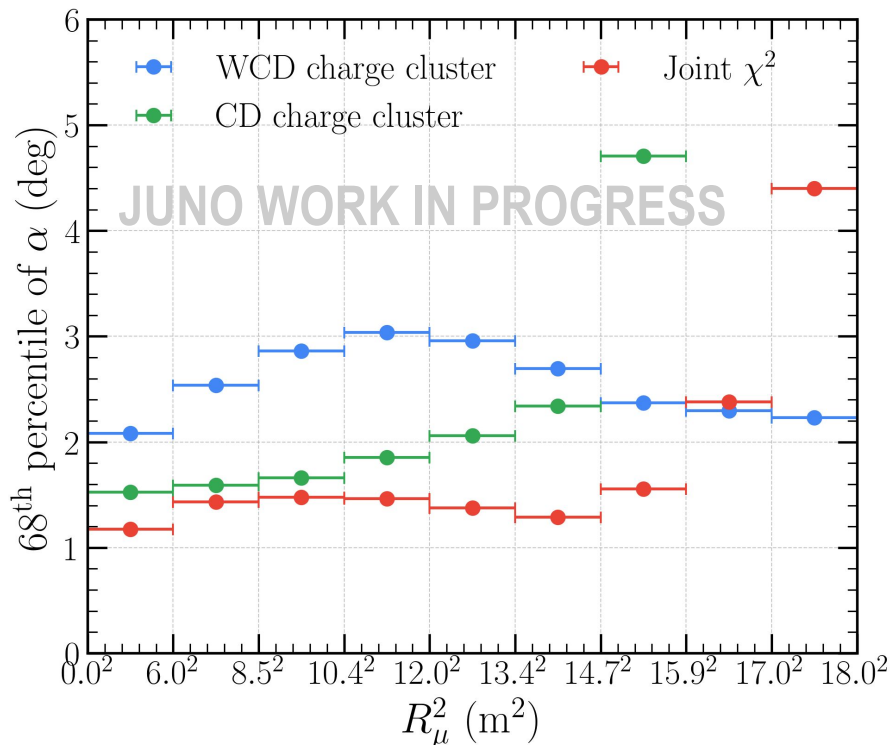
# Reconstruction: performance



Angular and spatial differences with TT reference.

Joint reconstruction provides the best resolution for now. Note: machine learning yet not included!

# Reconstruction: performance vs radial position



Resolution as a function of radial position.

Performance degrades for tracks near detector boundaries  $\Rightarrow$  optical effects.

# Conclusion

Muon reconstruction is essential for cosmogenic background suppression.

Different approaches explored:

- Traditional methods (charge-based clustering, timing-based reconstruction).
- Machine learning (graph-based CNN, transformer).

Good consistency between reconstruction methods and simulation.

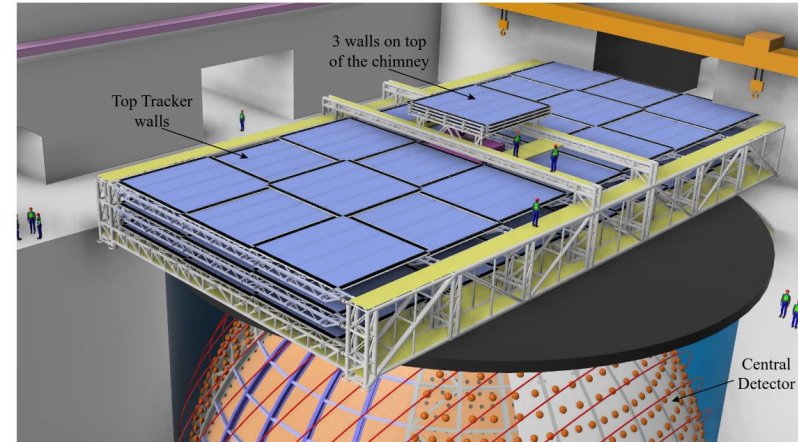
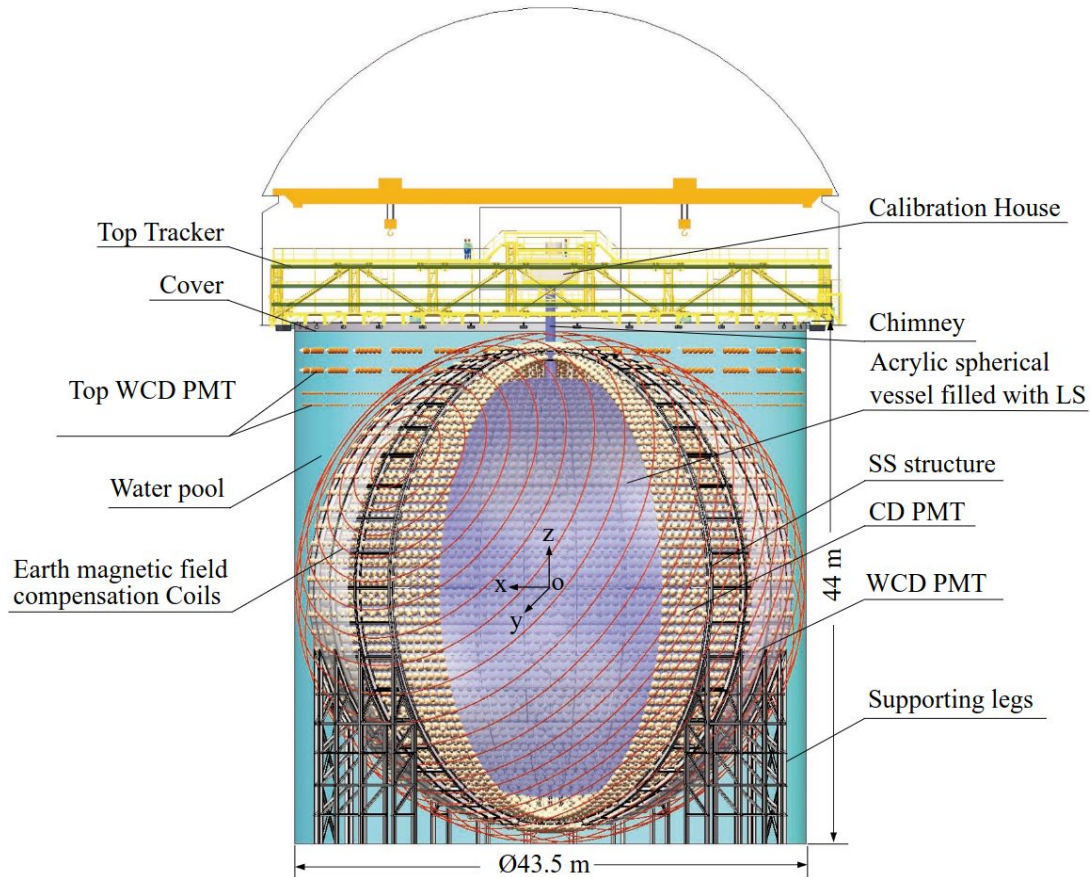
Good reconstruction performance achieved, with ongoing developments to improve resolution and integration of new methods.

Outlook:

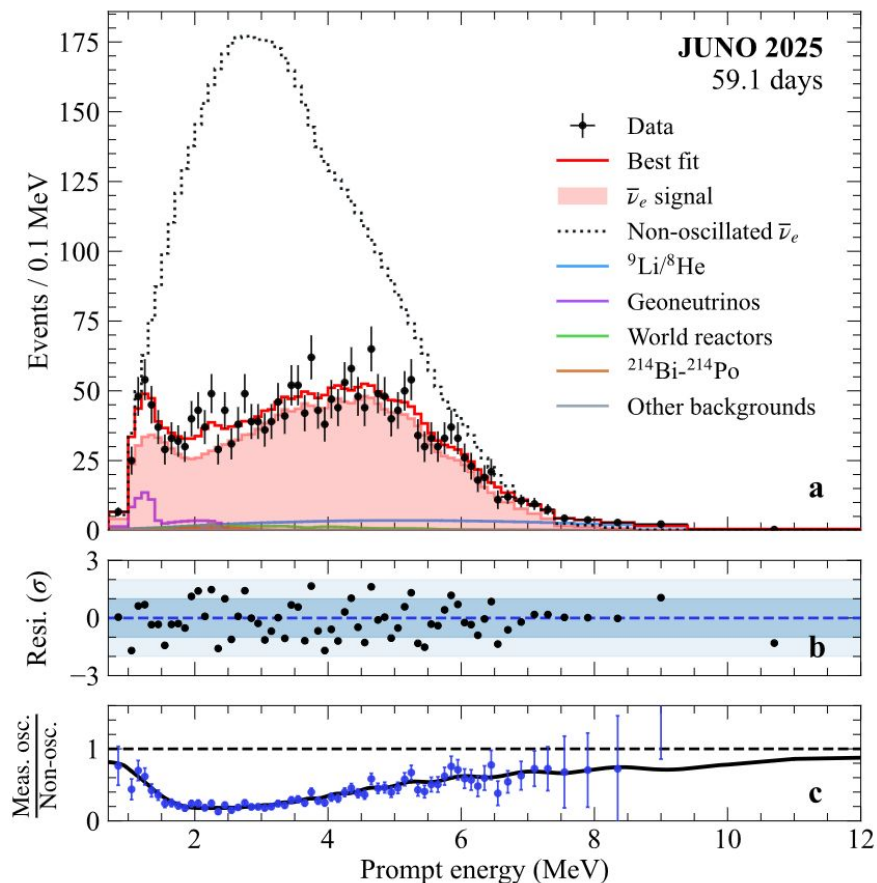
- Integration into physics analyses.
- Continued validation.

# Thanks for your attention!

# Backup - JUNO detector



# Backup - First results and background



## Antineutrinos ( $\bar{\nu}_e$ ) Candidates Summary

DAQ live time (days)	59.1	
$\bar{\nu}_e$ candidates	2379	
<b>Selection Efficiencies (%)</b>	$\varepsilon$	$\sigma_{\text{rel}}$
Fiducial volume	80.6	1.6
PMT flasher rejection	>99.9	negligible
$\mu$ veto	93.6	negligible
Multiplicity	97.4	negligible
Prompt-delayed coinc.	95.1	0.13
Total efficiency ( $\varepsilon_{\text{tot}}$ )	69.9	1.6
<b><math>\bar{\nu}_e</math> signal (cpd<sup>1</sup>)</b>		
w/o $\varepsilon_{\text{tot}}$ corrected	$33.5 \pm 1.7$	
w/ $\varepsilon_{\text{tot}}$ corrected	$47.9 \pm 2.6$	
Non-oscillated $\bar{\nu}_e$	$150.9 \pm 2.7$	
<b>Backgrounds (cpd)</b>	Pre-fit	Best-fit
${}^9\text{Li}/{}^8\text{He}$	$4.3 \pm 1.4$	$3.9 \pm 0.6$
Geoneutrinos	$1.2 \pm 0.5$	$1.4 \pm 0.4$
World reactors	$0.88 \pm 0.09$	$0.88 \pm 0.09$
${}^{214}\text{Bi}/{}^{214}\text{Po}$	$0.18 \pm 0.10$	$0.20 \pm 0.10$
${}^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n){}^{16}\text{O}$	$0.04 \pm 0.02$	$0.04 \pm 0.02$
Fast neutrons	$0.02 \pm 0.02$	$0.02 \pm 0.02$
Double neutrons	$0.05 \pm 0.05$	$0.07 \pm 0.05$
Atmospheric neutrinos	$0.08 \pm 0.04$	$0.07 \pm 0.04$
Accidentals ( $\times 10^{-2}$ )	$4.9 \pm 0.3$	$4.9 \pm 0.3$