



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY



# DETECTION OF MEV-SCALE GAMMAS FROM PION/MUON NUCLEAR CAPTURE WITH THE LARIAT LIQUID ARGON TPC

This document was prepared by the LArIAT Collaboration using the resources of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab), a U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of High Energy Physics HEP User Facility. Fermilab is managed by Fermi Research Alliance, LLC (FRA), acting under Contract No. DE-AC02-07CH11359.



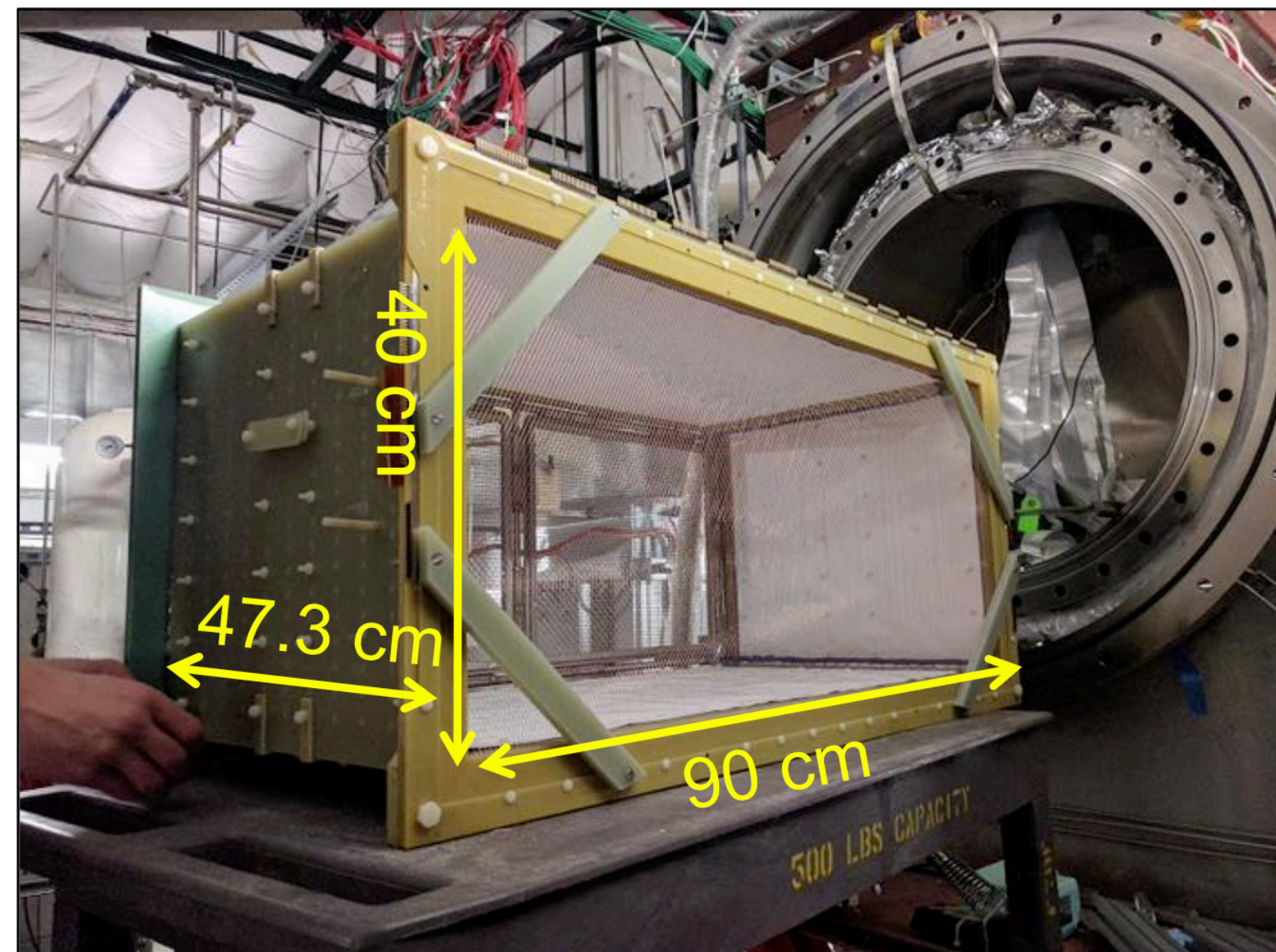
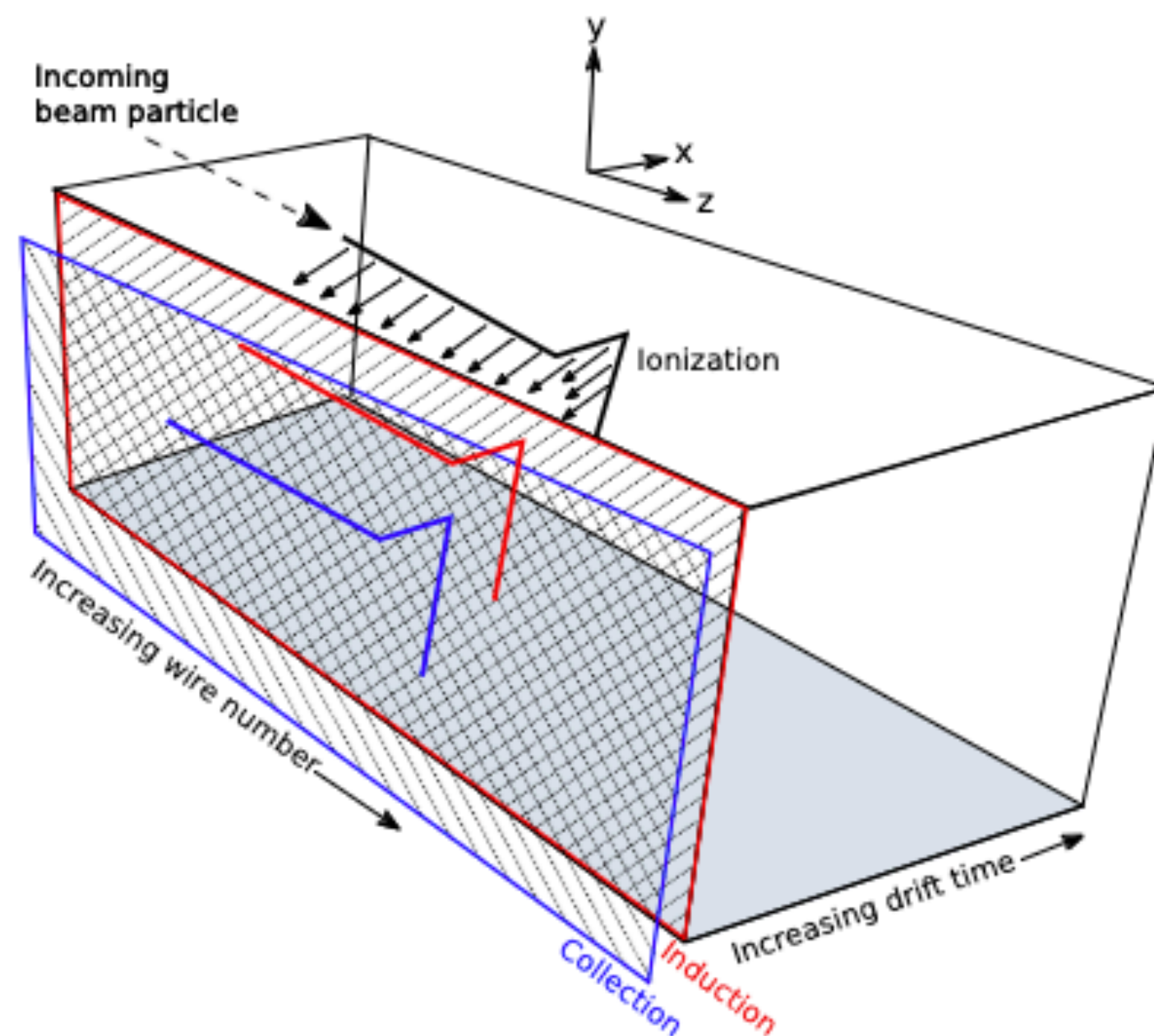
# LArIAT

## Liquid Argon In A Testbeam

An experiment to perform a precise calibration of LArTPC detectors.

LArIAT is a LArTPC used to measure charged particles that could emerge from neutrino argon interactions, was the first LArTPC in a beam line.

- LArIAT took data from 2015 to 2017 at Fermilab.



LArIAT cryostat with TPC, image from [LArIAT, JINST 15 \(2020\)](#).



# Beamline

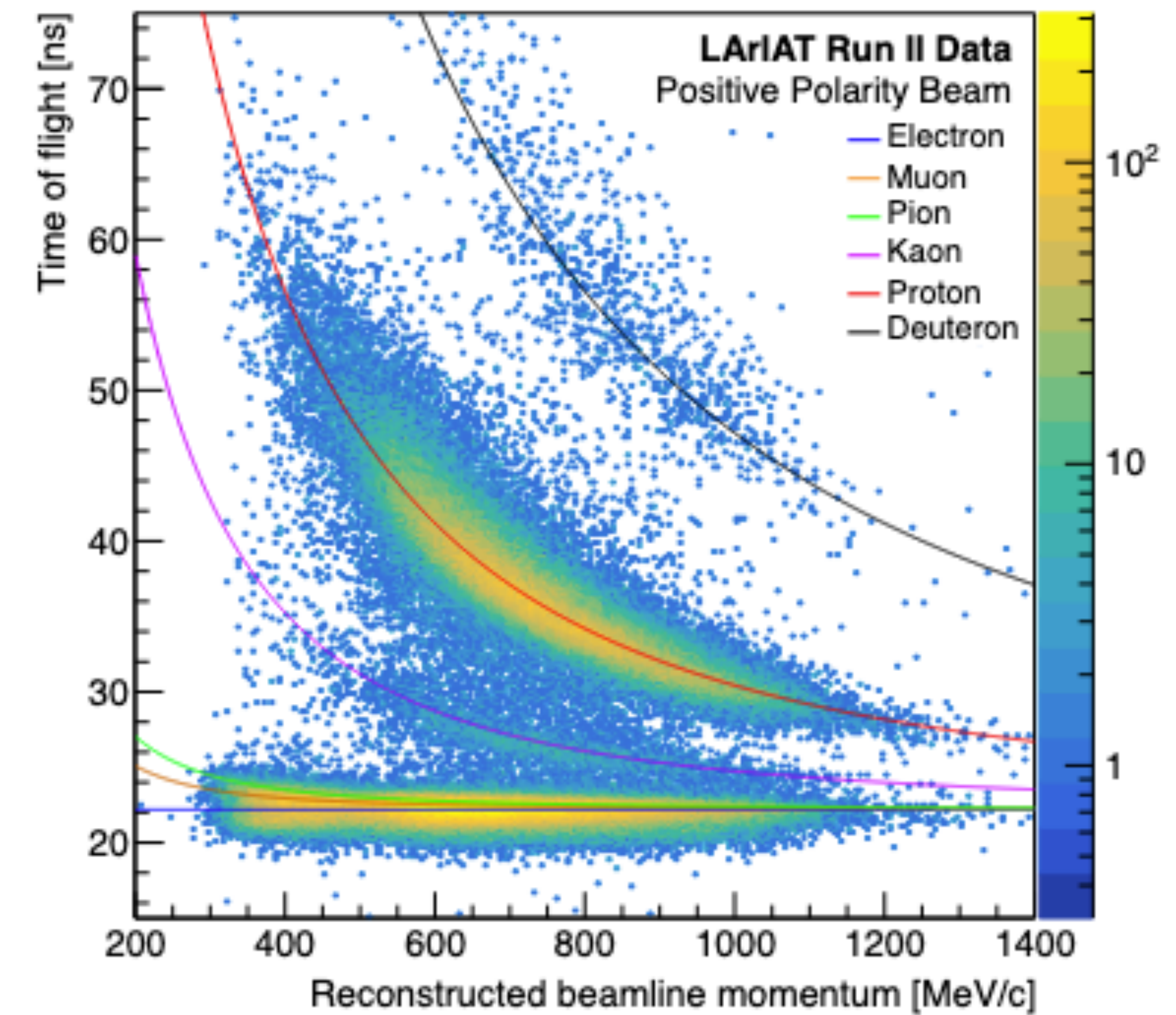
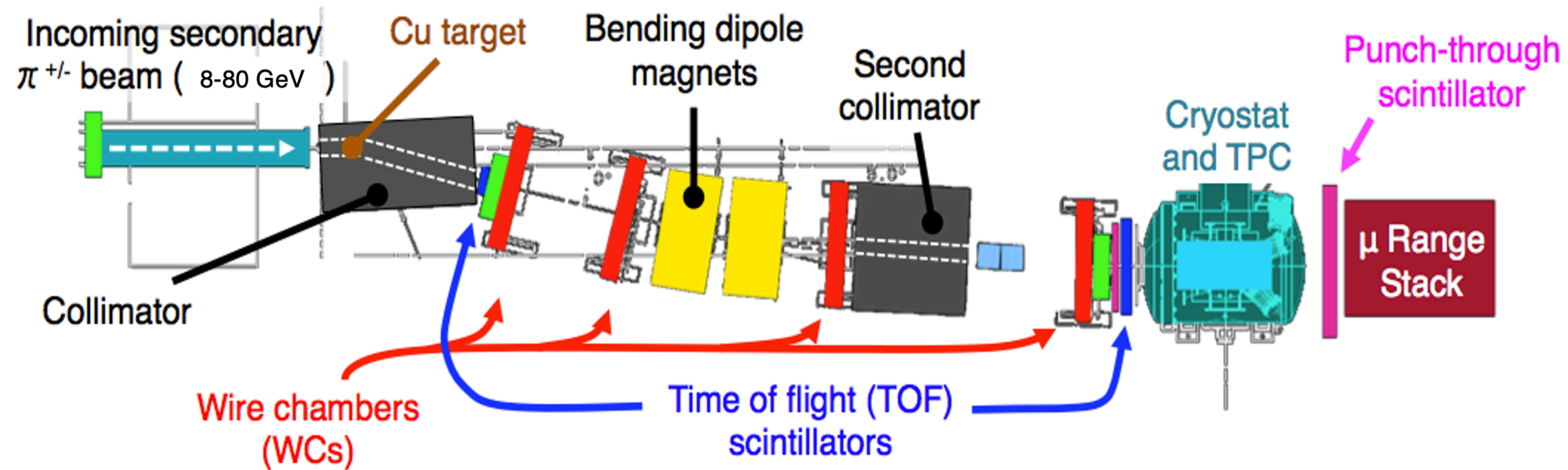


Image from [LArIAT, JINST 15 \(2020\)](#).

# Muon and pion Capture at rest

$$\mu^{-} + p \rightarrow n + \nu_{\mu}$$

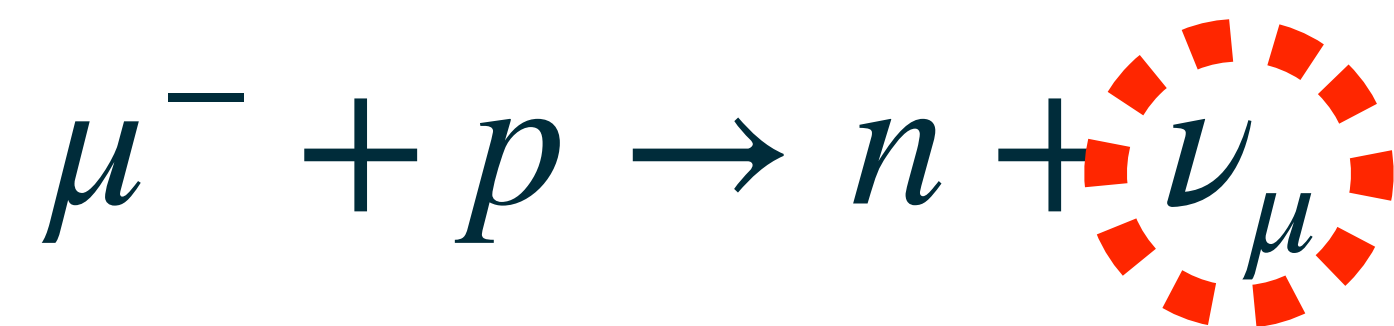
Muon capture at rest process

$$\pi^{-} + p \rightarrow n$$

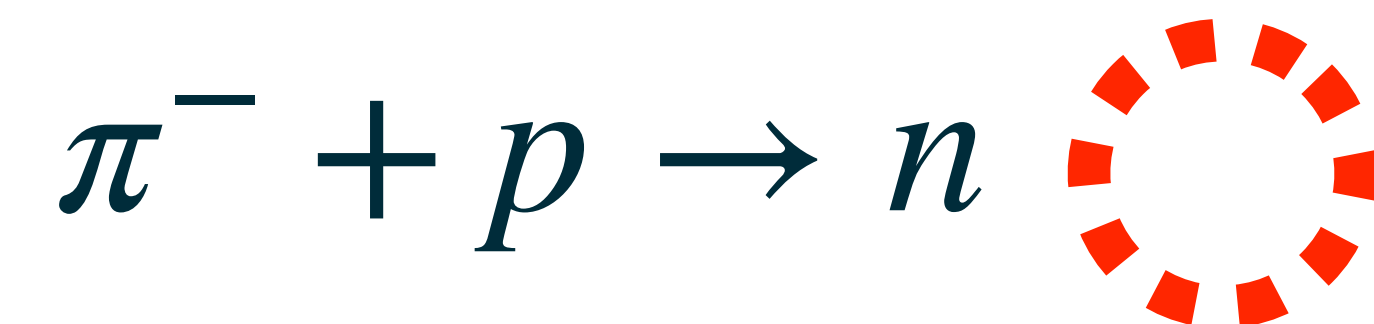
Pion capture at rest process

- Pions and muons captured at rest transfer different amounts of energy to nucleus

# Muon and pion Capture at rest



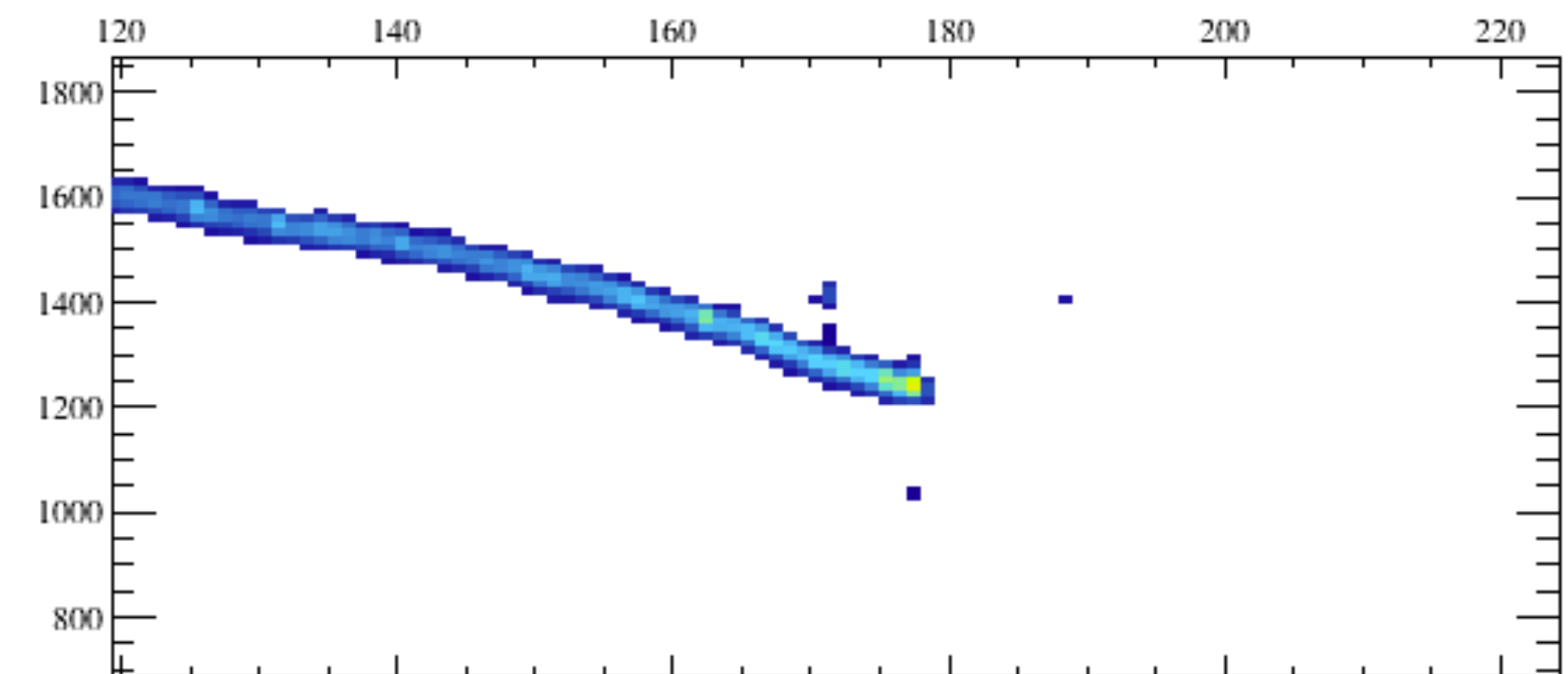
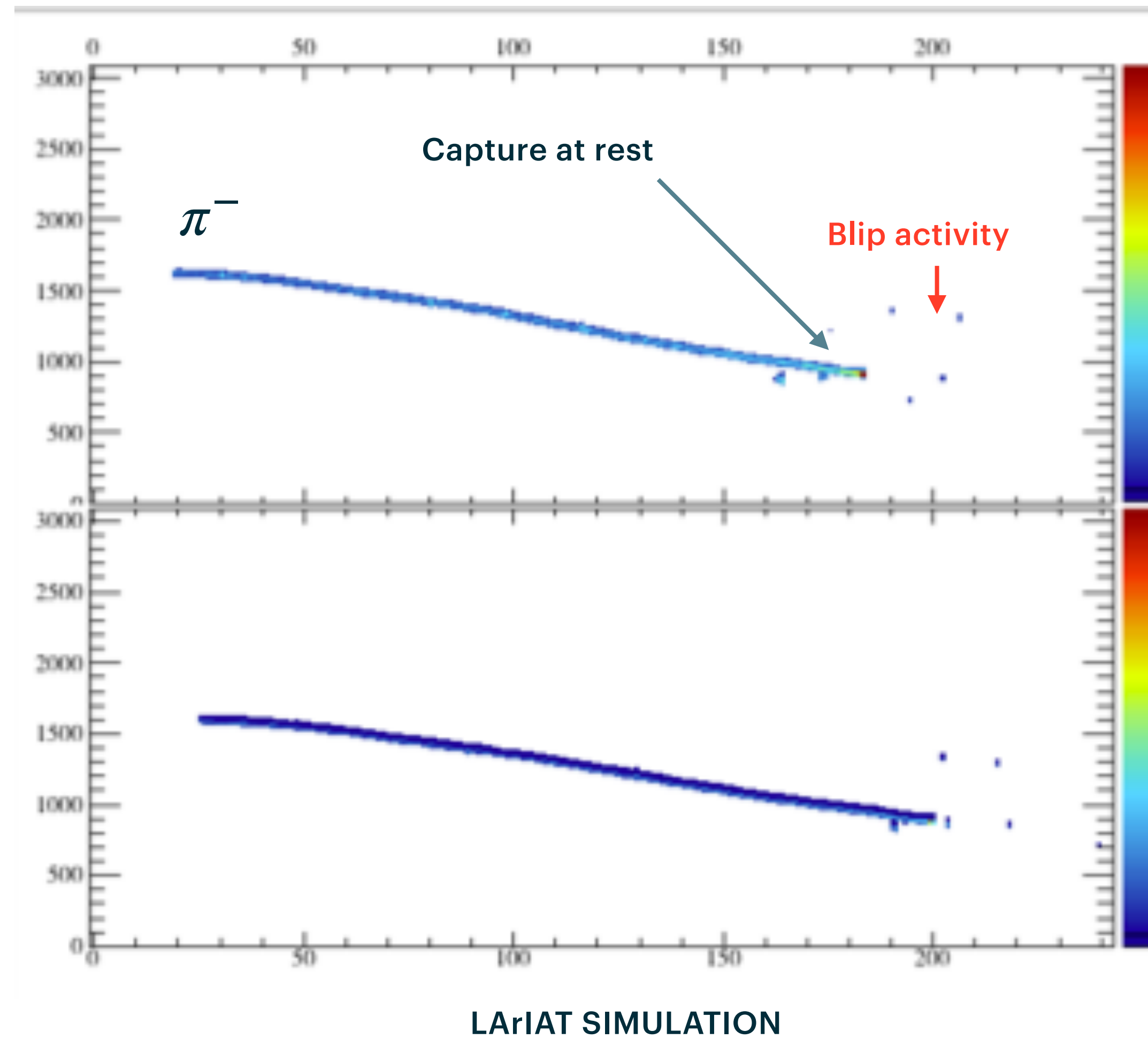
Muon capture at rest process



Pion capture at rest process

Pions transfer all energy to nucleus; muons transfer some energy to neutrinos  
Blip activity for pion should be higher than muon

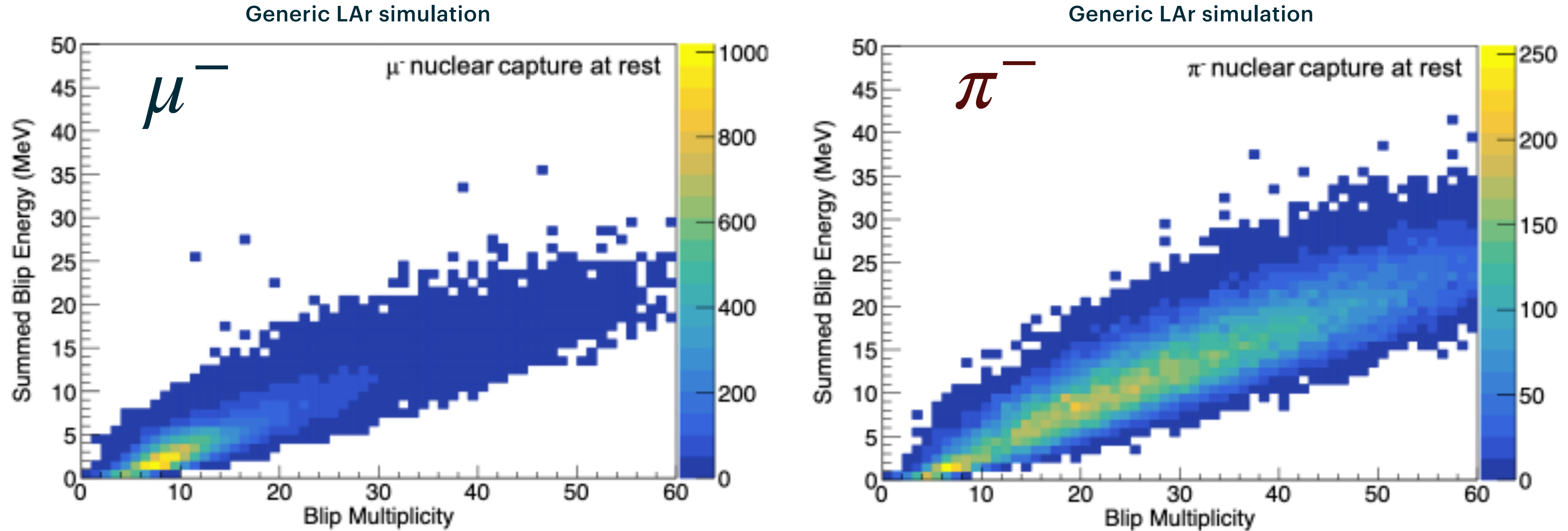
# What is a Blip?



Blips are 1 to 2 signal wires big.



# Muon and pion Capture at rest



Images from [W. Castiglioni et al, PRD 102 \(2020\)](#)

- For this generic LAr simulation, on average we have a higher blip multiplicity and summed blip energy for  $\pi^-$
- Studying blip activity for different particles will demonstrate if it is possible to do PID and sign determination for pions/muons

# Blip activity study

We want to use LArIAT because we have low energy needed for capture at rest

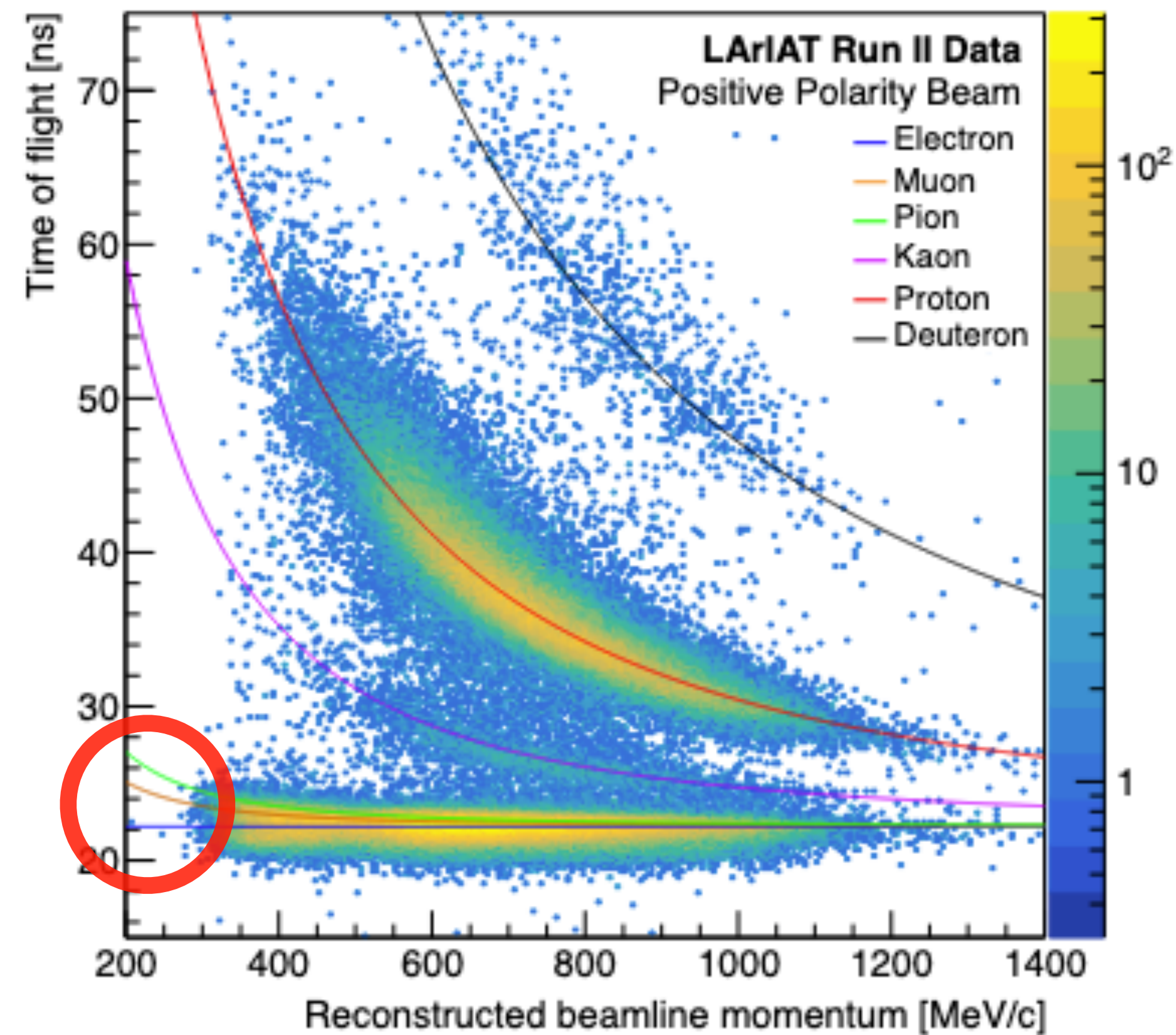
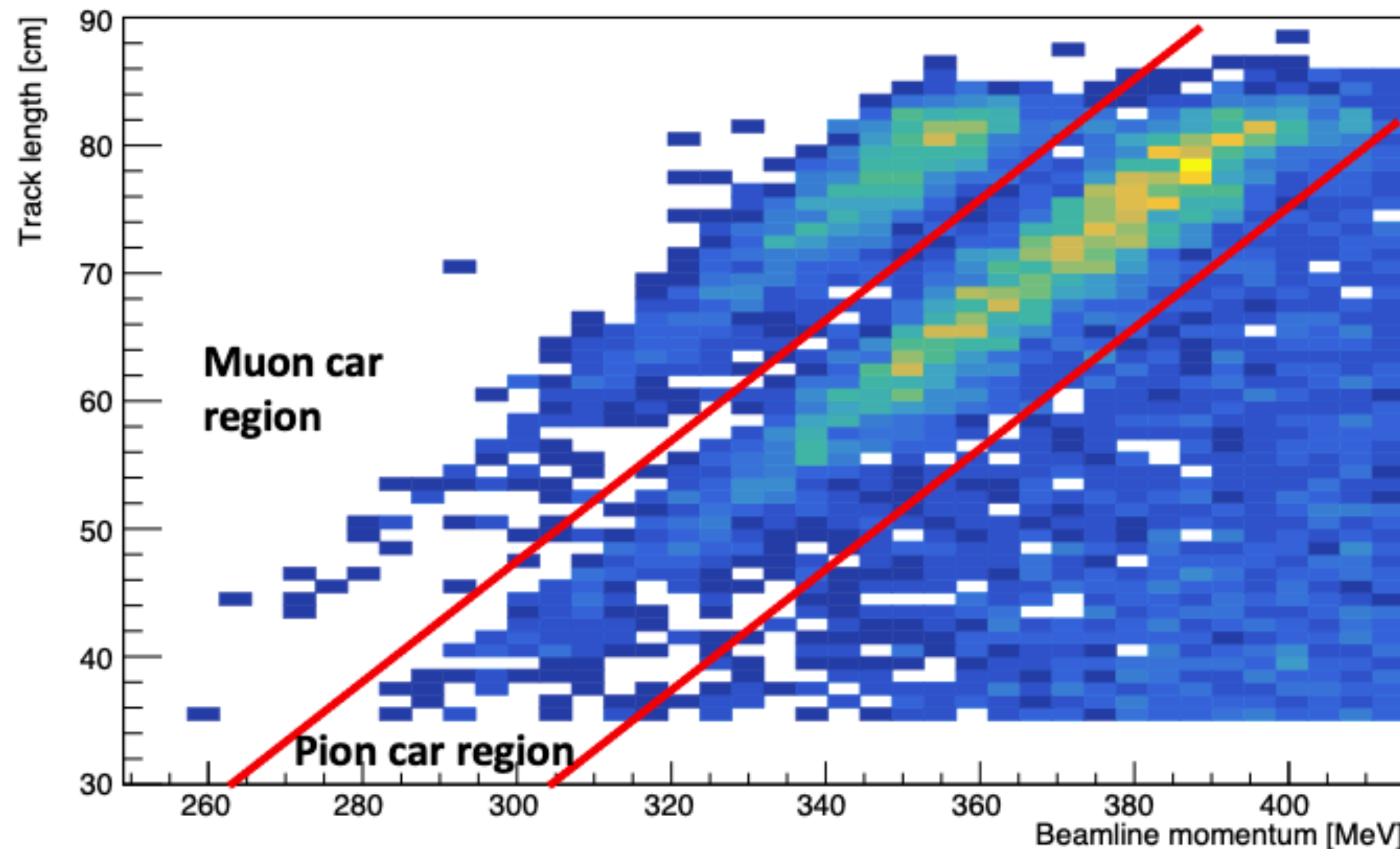


Image from [LArIAT, JINST 15 \(2020\)](#)



# Mu- and pi- Capture At Rest (CAR) selection in LArIAT



LArIAT SIMULATION

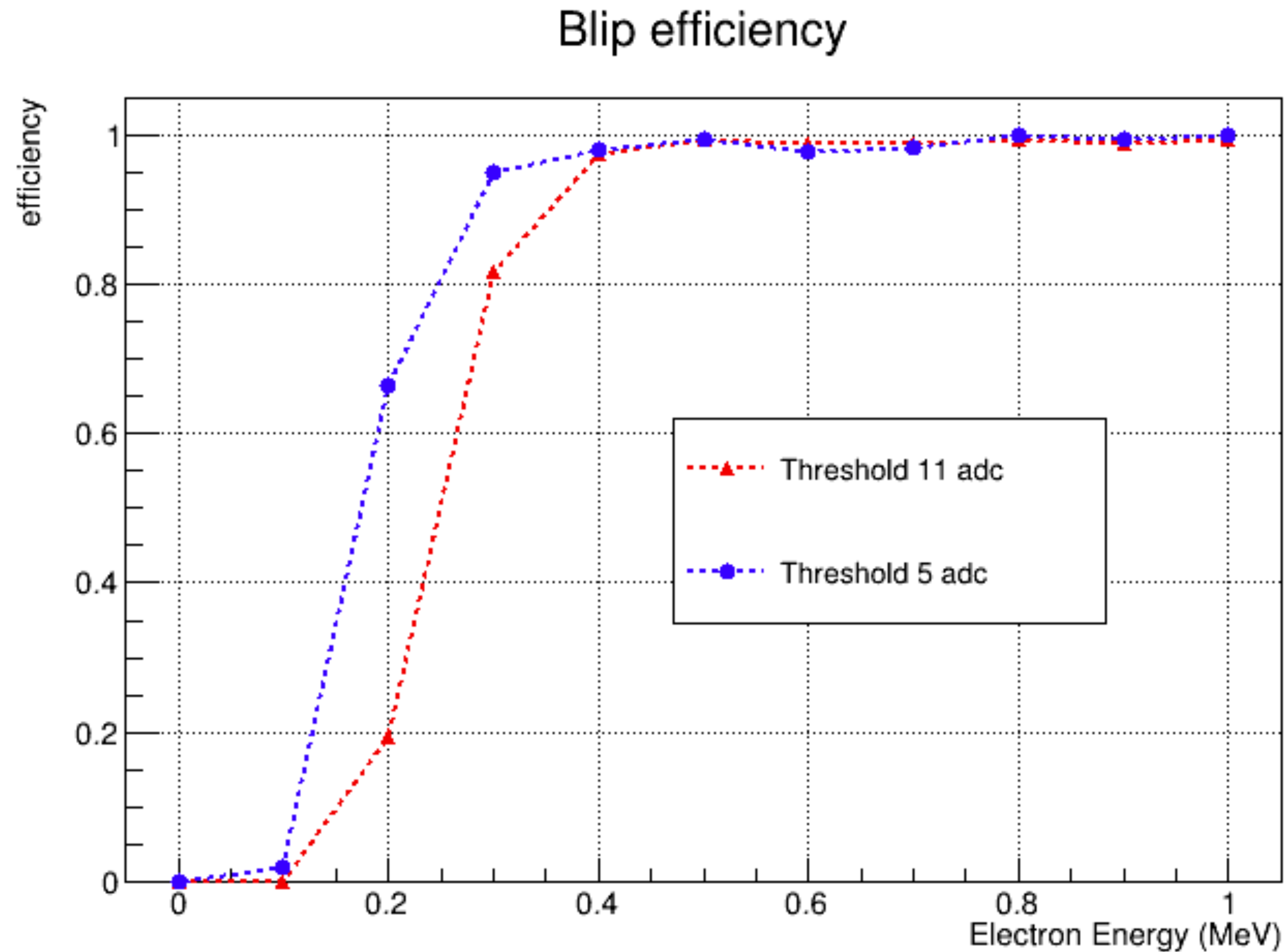
Using beam momentum and track stopping point inside of the TPC we separate stopping muons from stopping pions.

With a MC sample of 500k events in the -60A configuration, my final selection is made with

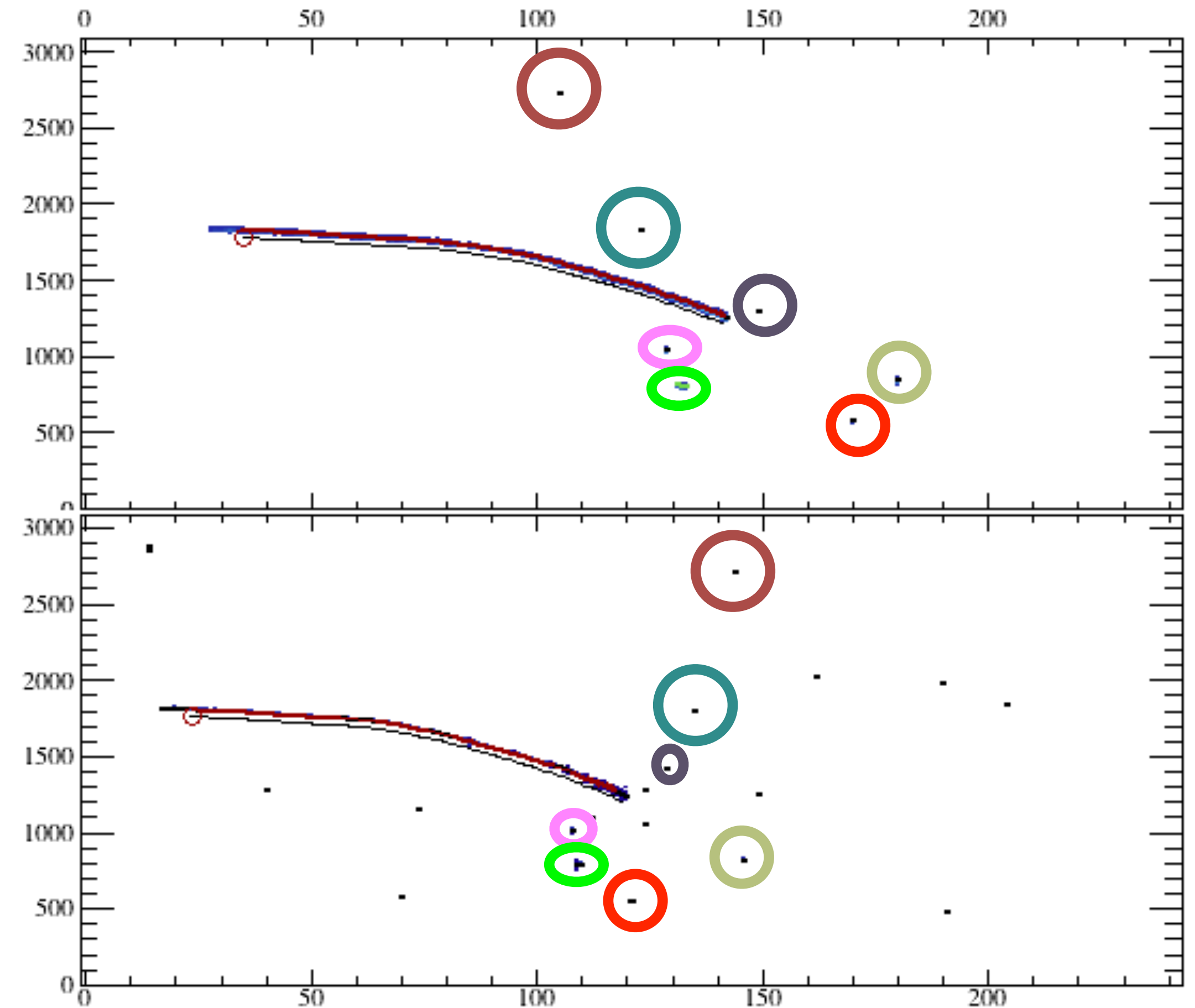
2177 muon car events (79% purity)  
3877 pion car events (76% purity)

Real Data has 89 muon car and 211 pion car candidates.

# Blip reconstruction in LArIAT



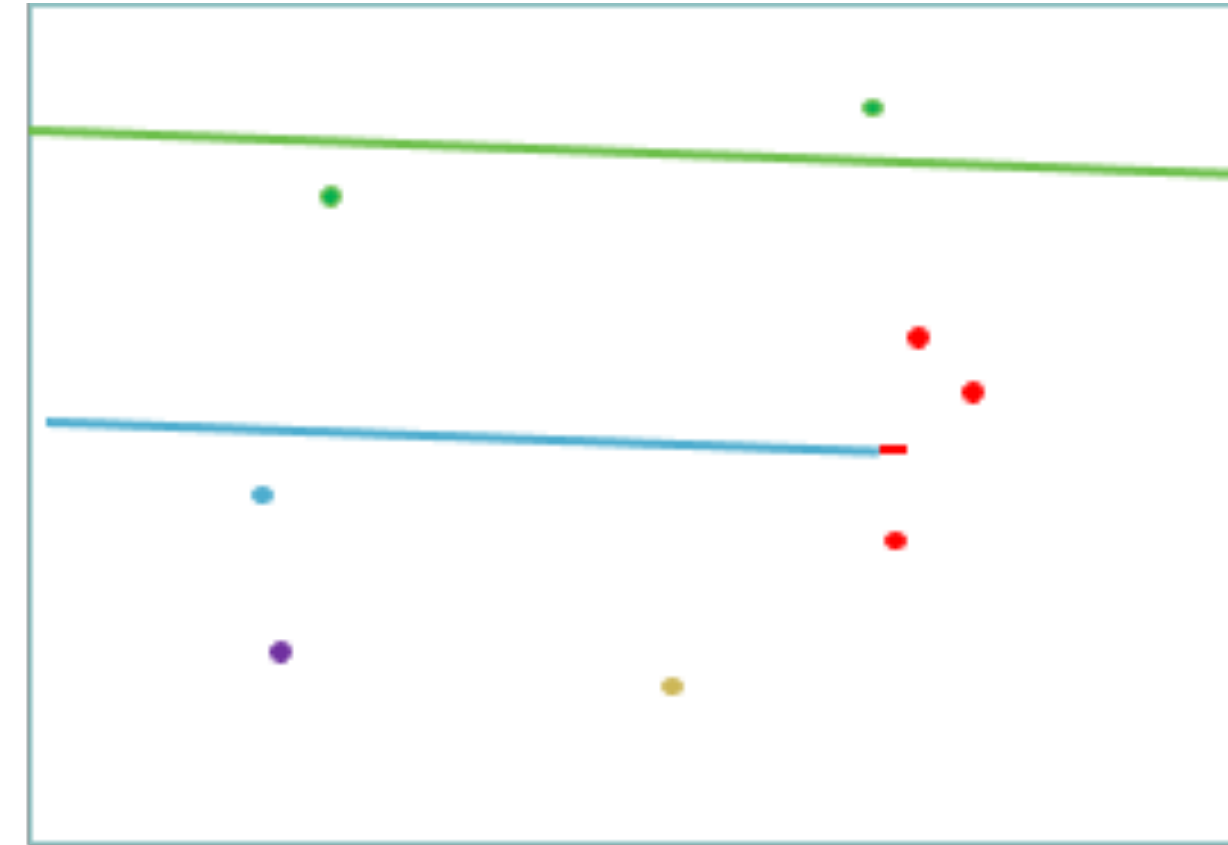
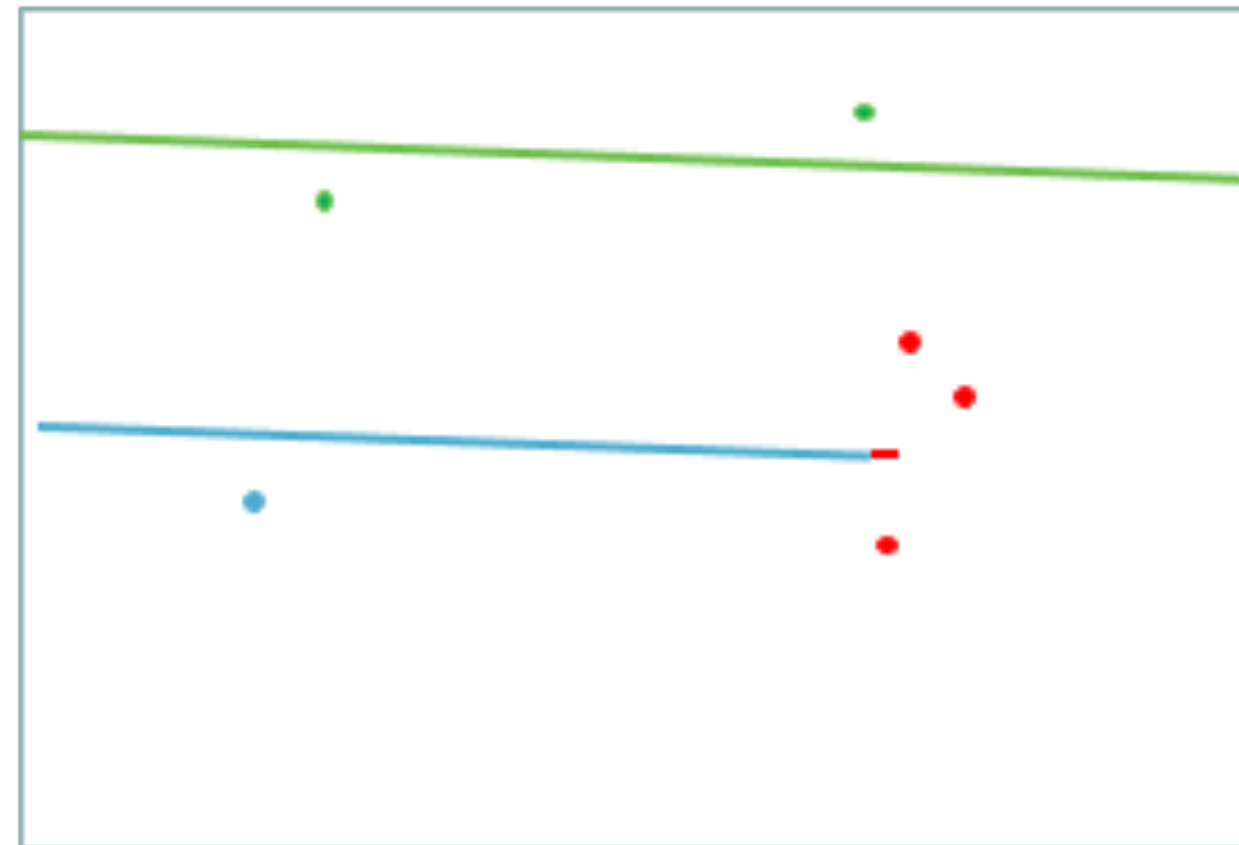
LArIAT SIMULATION,  
Blip efficiency with default thresholds (11  
ADC) and low thresholds (5 ADC)



LArIAT SIMULATION,  
Activity in an event with 7 matched blips



# Blips in LArIAT, Data and MC background



MC is missing some sources of backgrounds we see in data.

We are looking a way to subtract background.

## MC Blip

- Blips produced by mu/pi car
- Blips produced by main track but not related to car process
- Blips produced by pileup muons

## Data Blip

- Blips produced by mu/pi car
- Blips produced by main track but not related to car process
- Blips produced by pileup muons
- Blips produced by neutrons around the TPC
- Blips produced by nuclear activity (electronic noise, Ar39)

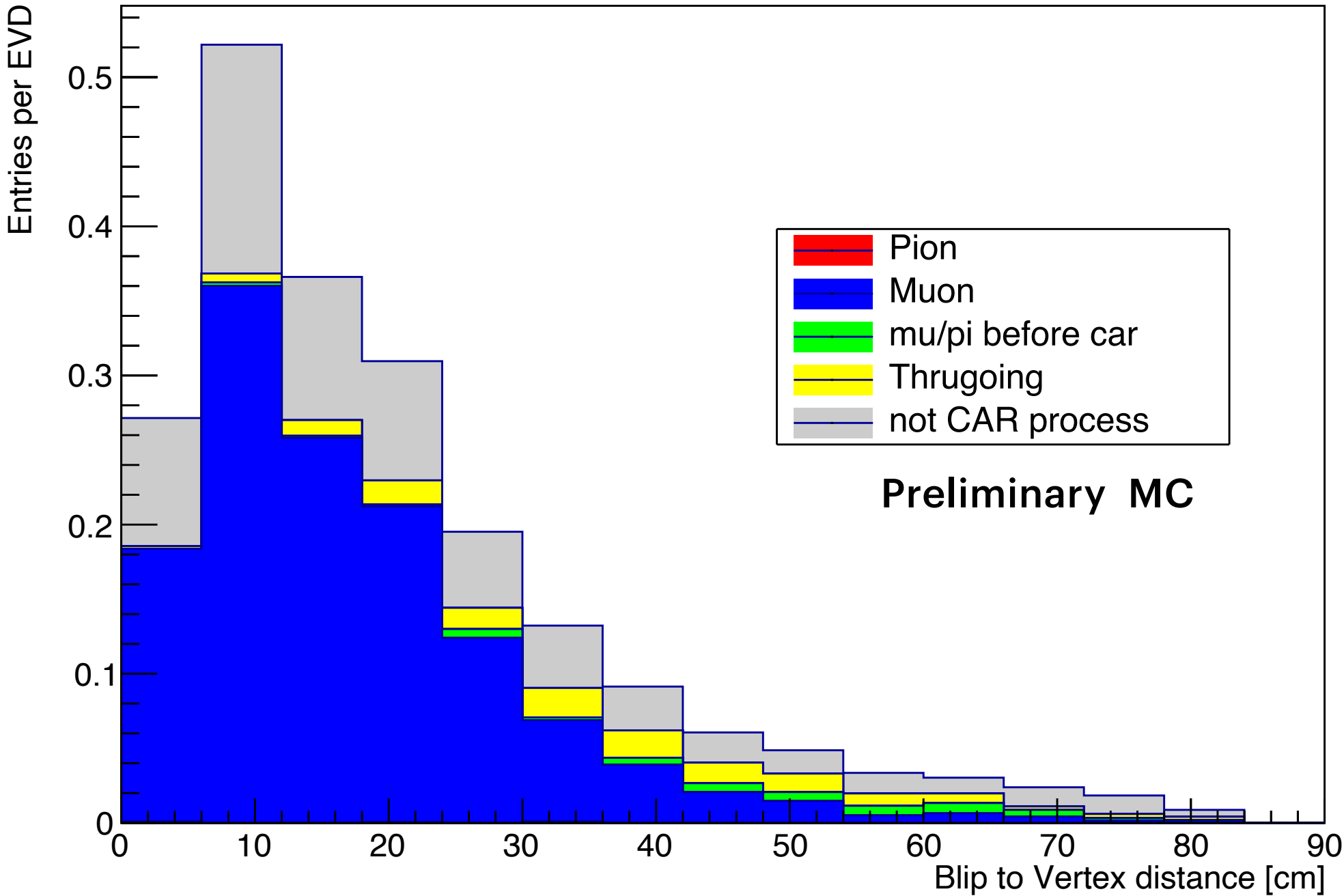
# Blips in LArIAT, CAR MC samples

Preliminary	MuCAR region (MC)	PiCAR region (MC)
Events	2177	3877
Blip multiplicity	$1.55 \pm 0.03$	$2.80 \pm 0.04$

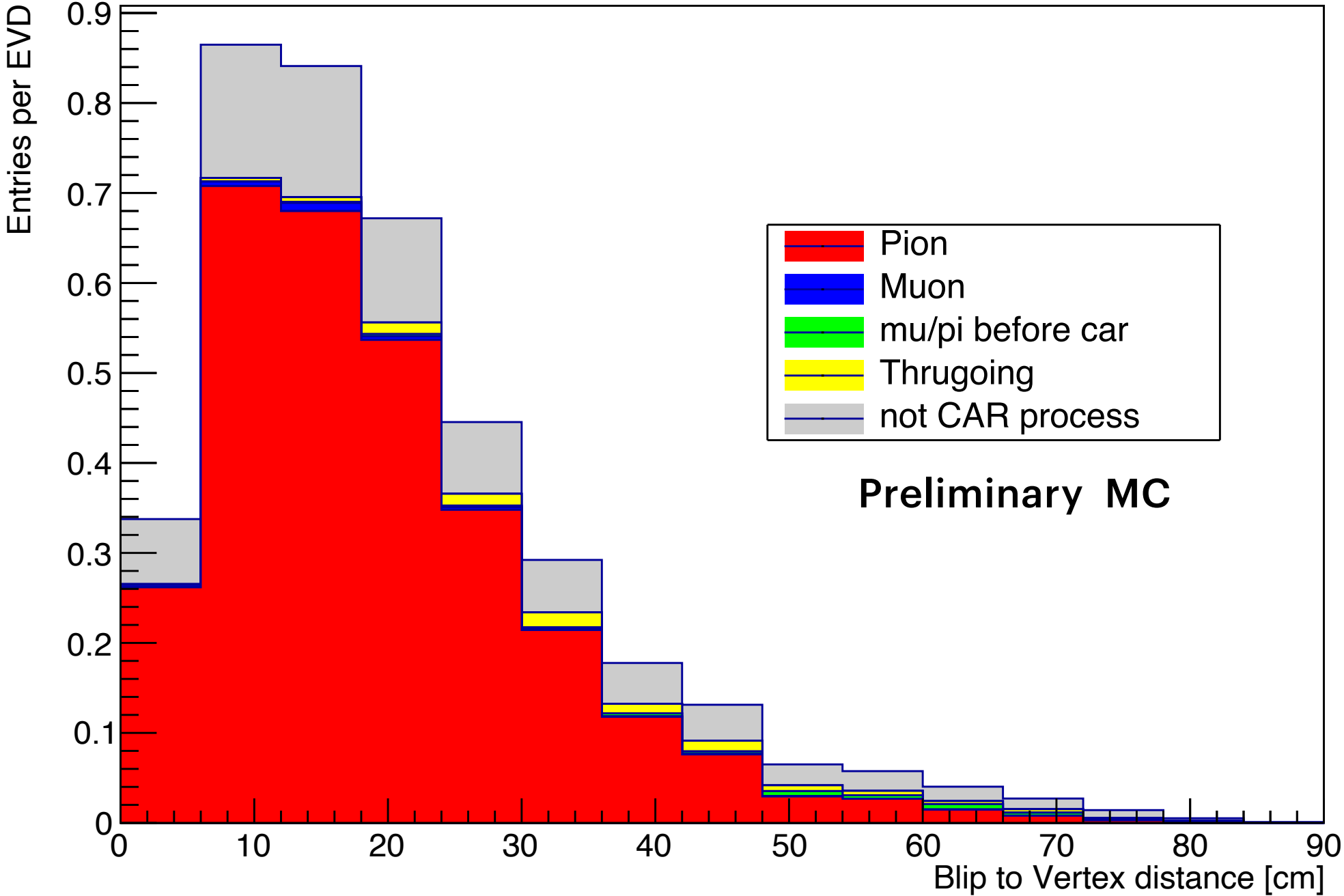
We see 1 more blip per EVD in the PiCAR region than MuCAR region

Blip activity for MuCAR and PiCAR regions with statistical errors

Muon CAR Region

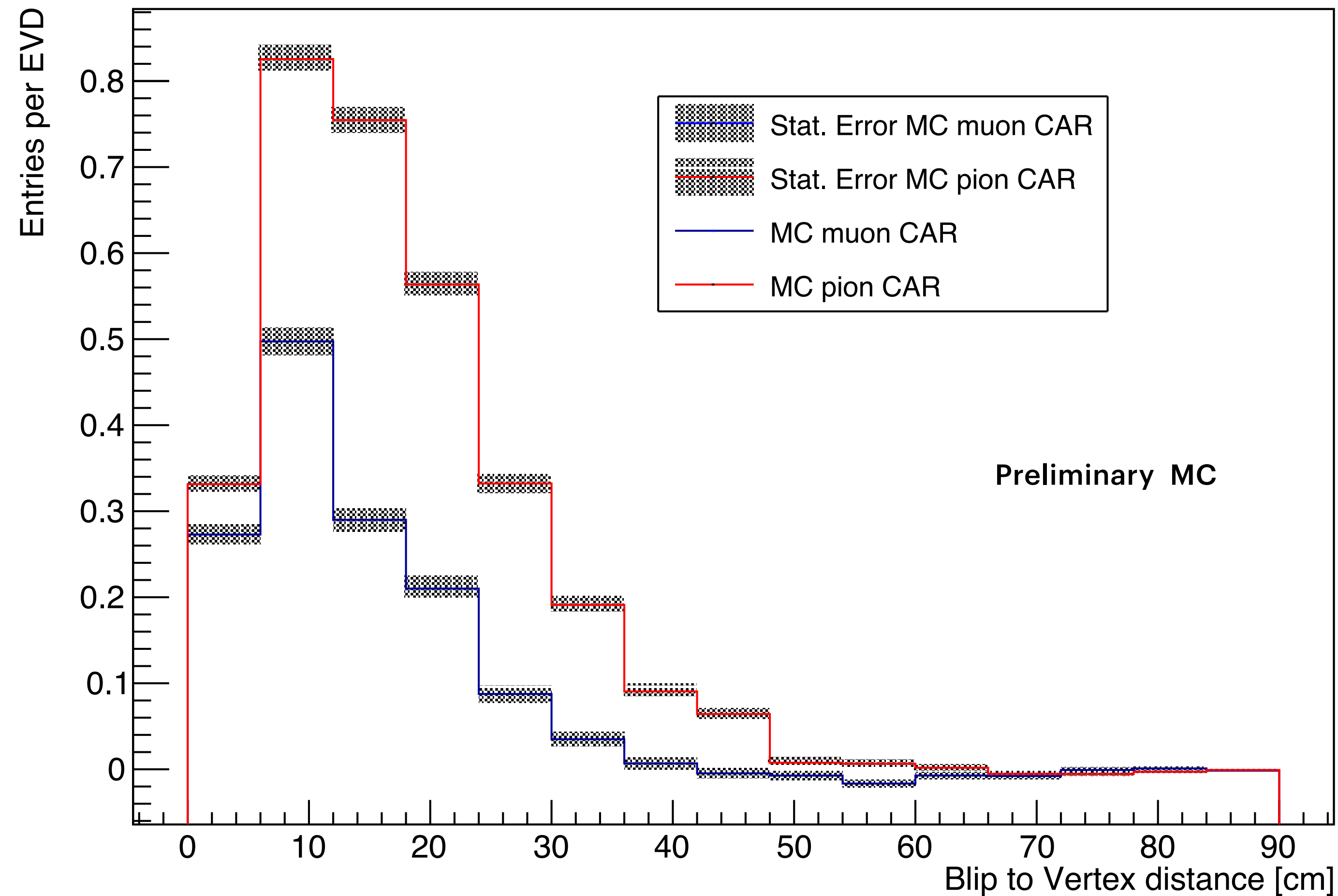


Pion CAR Region





# Blips in LArIAT, CAR MC samples after background subtraction



Blip activity for MuCAR and PiCAR regions with statistical errors

---

# Summary

- A selection for Muon and Pion CAR particles were made with a high purity using beam line instrumentation and TPC reconstruction.
- We developed a Blip analysis Module for LArIAT framework.

In MC, we can distinguish the difference between muon CAR and pion CAR using blip information.

- Systematics and data analysis in progress.



---

# **Thanks (Gracias)**

---

# BACKUP



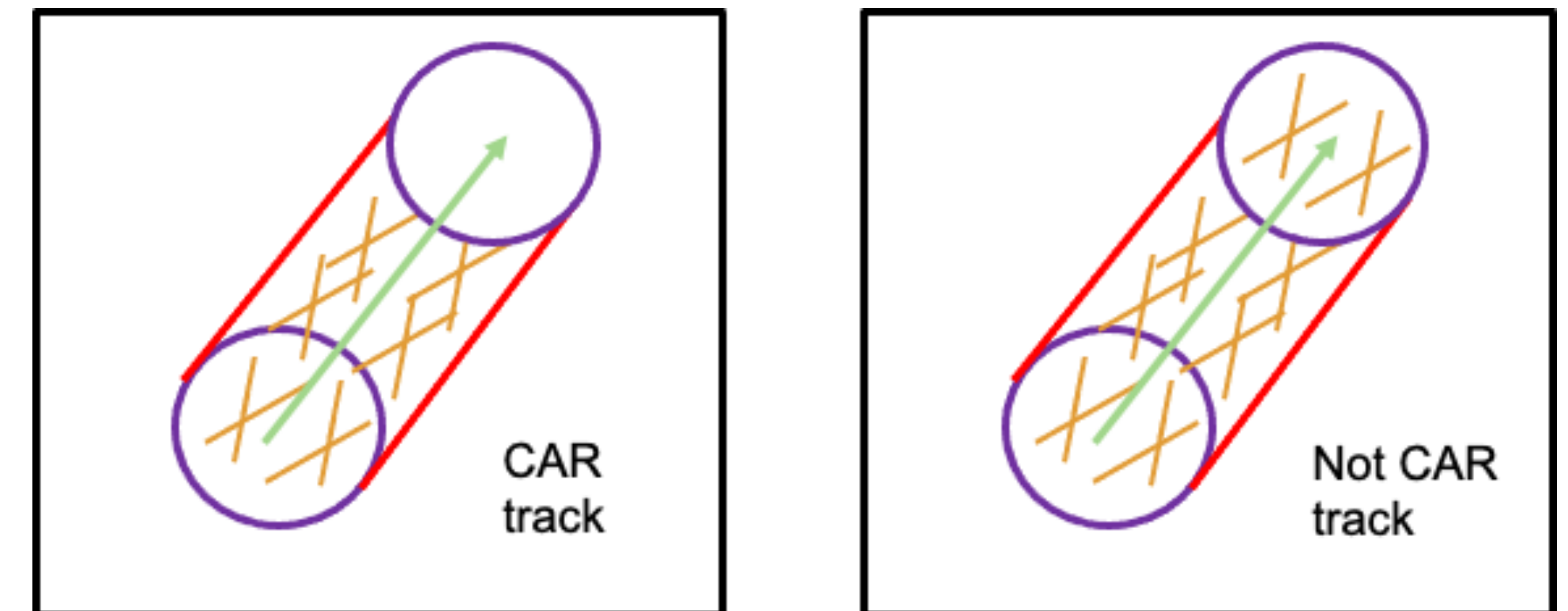
# Cuts for track classification

- WC to TPC match: We are checking for at least 1 WC to TPC match.
- Cylinder cut: check for tracks in the front of the TPC that has a match with WC. After that a distance higher than 8 cm is requested between this track and all the other tracks of the event.
- Energy cut: remove events with wc track momentum  $> 415$  MeV
- Signal cut: remove events with main track that finishes in the last 5 cm.
- dEdx; requirement of dEdx  $> 3.0$  MeV in the last 2 cm of the track.

# Blips in LArIAT, cuts

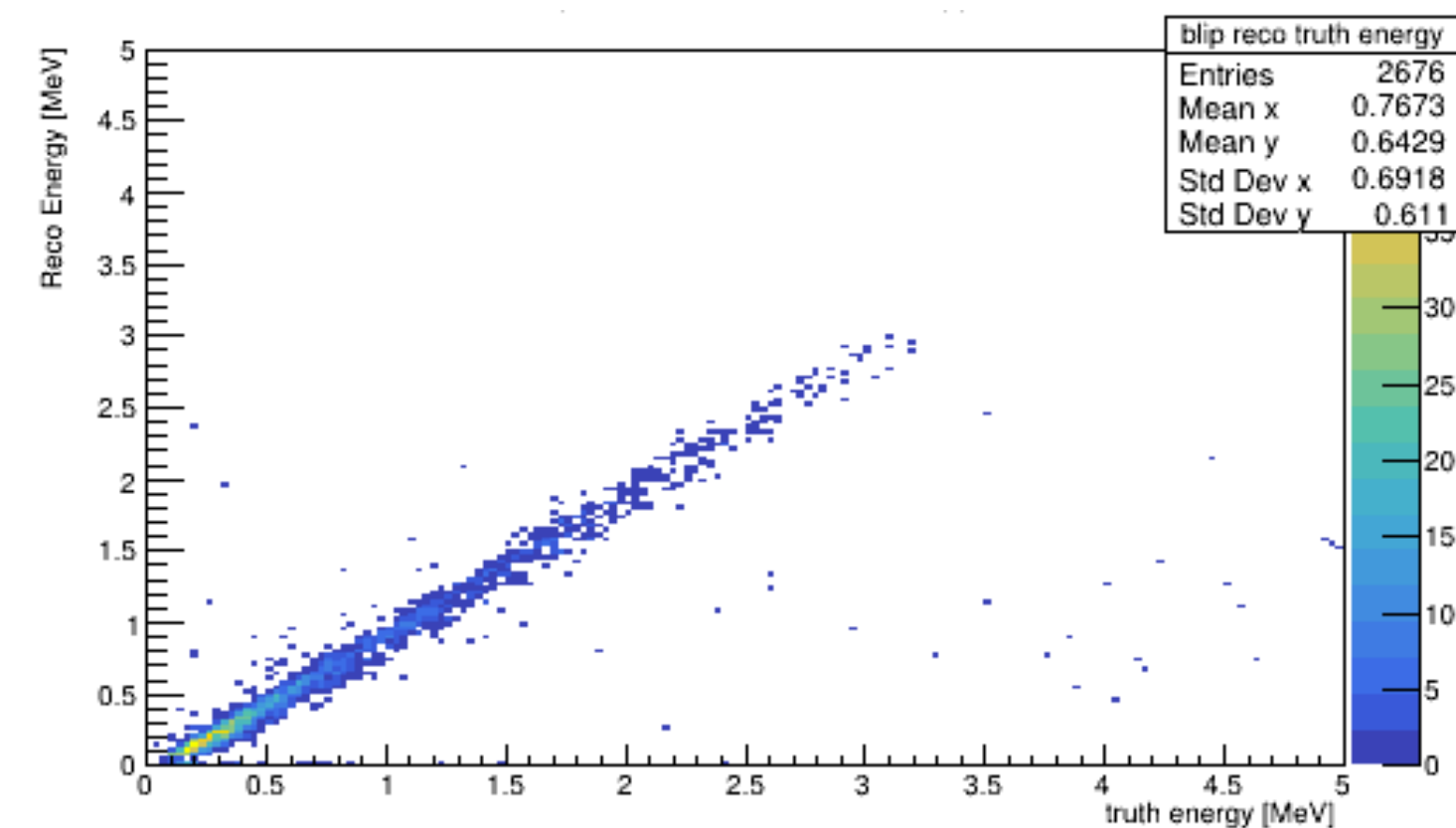
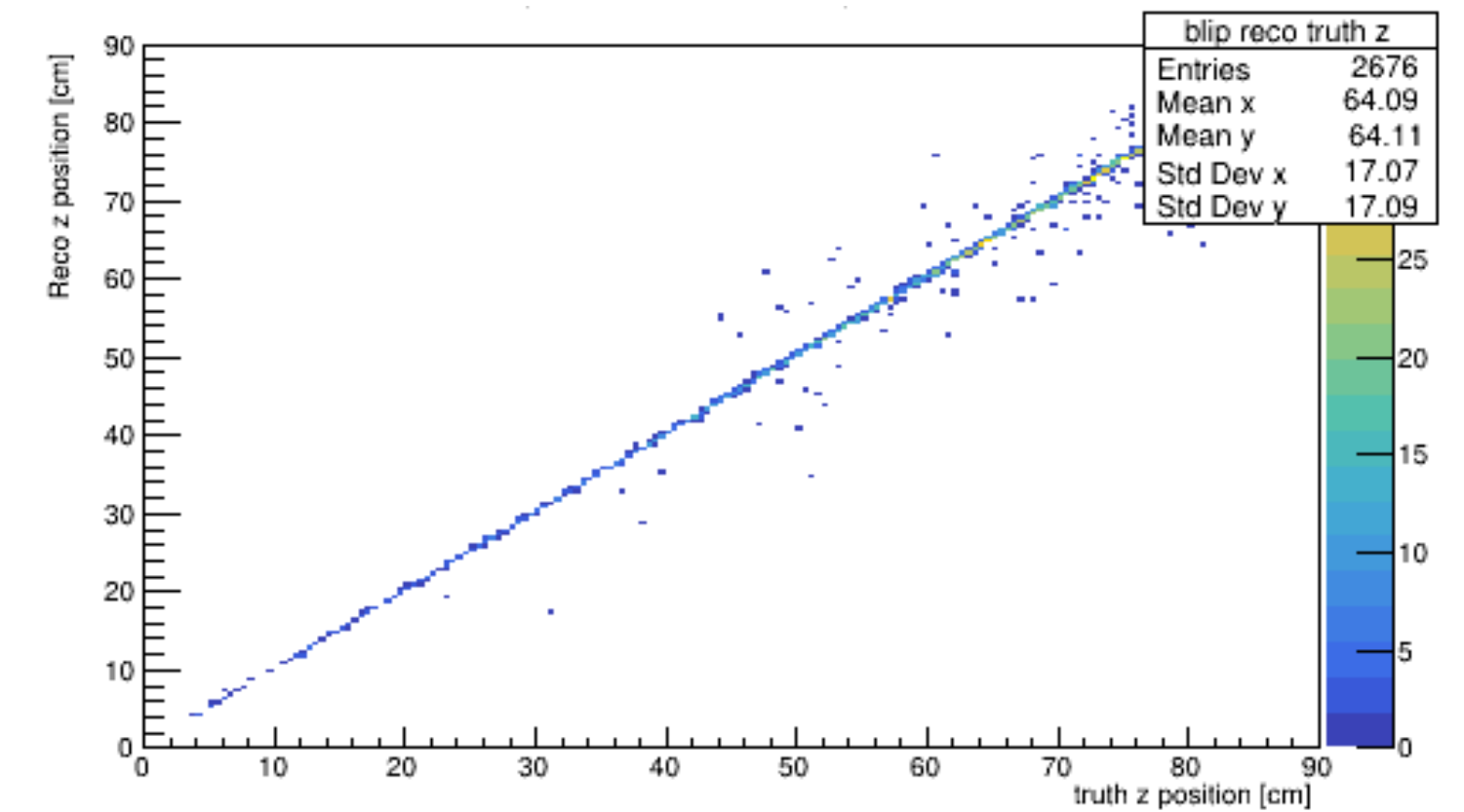
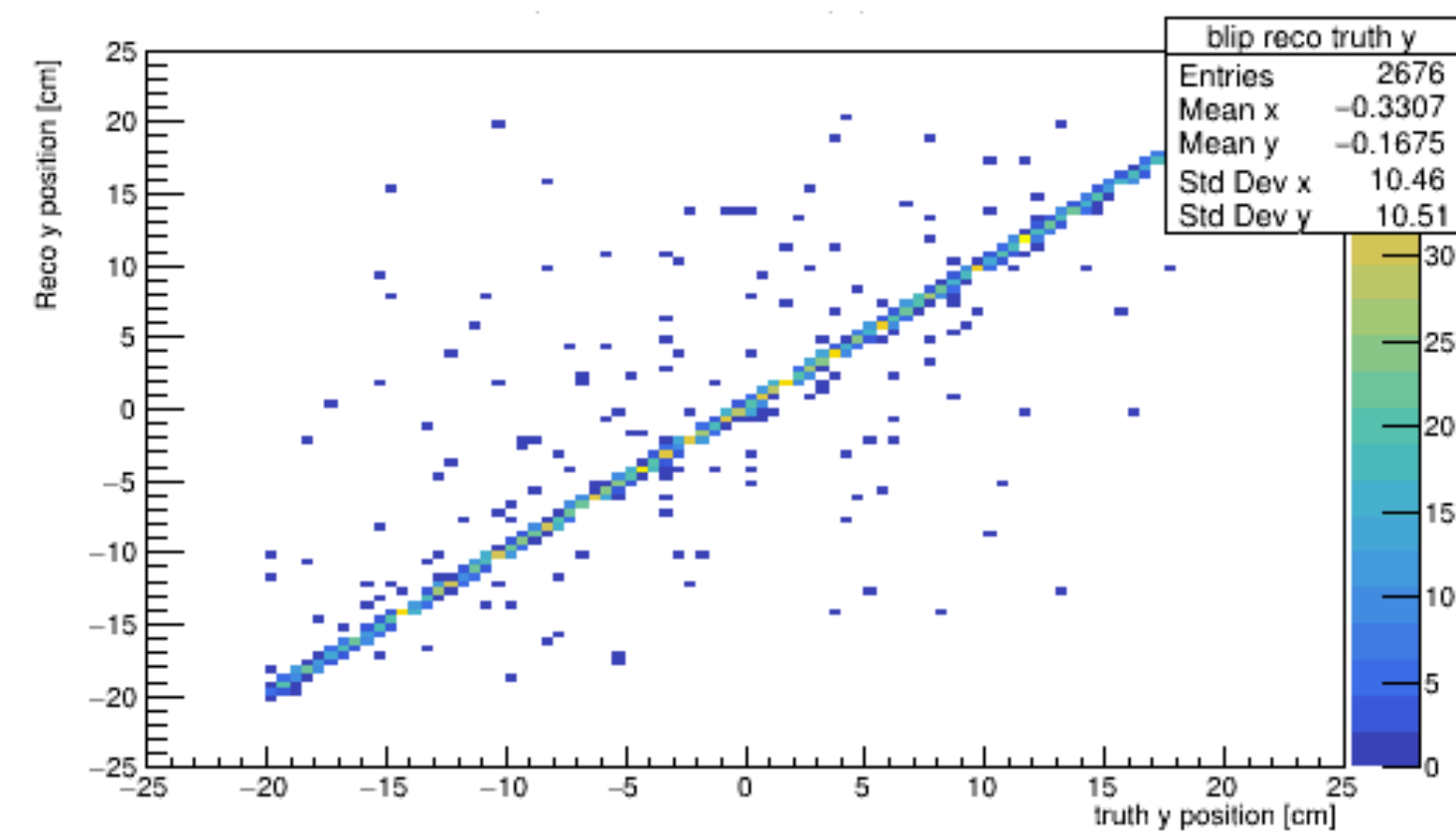
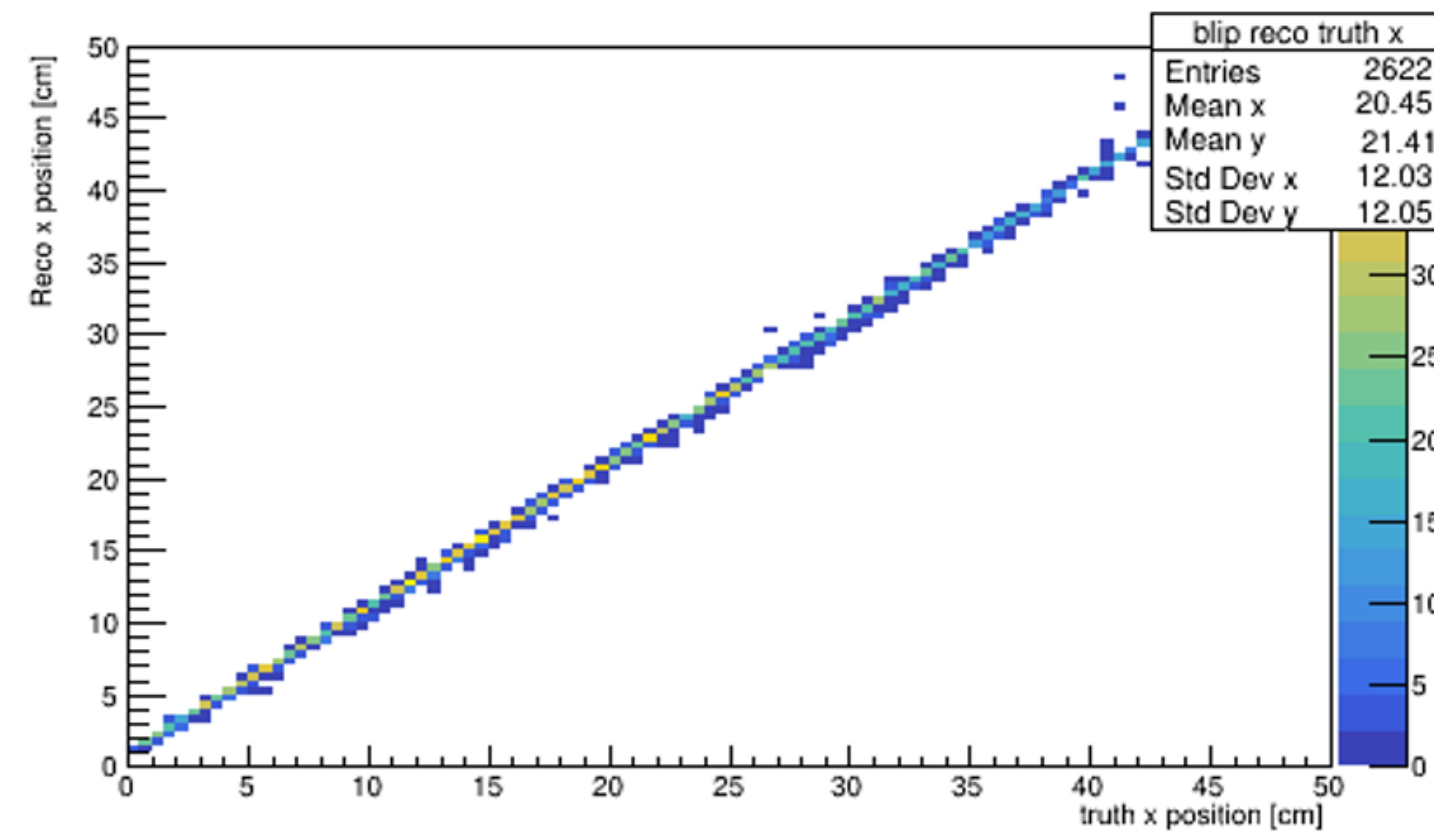
To keep blips produced by CAR process and remove background, we apply some cuts.

- Remove blips with a **distance from blip to track** smaller than 2.0 cm (top right diagram)
- Remove blips **inside a sphere** on the **beginning and end** of the track for not car tracks (bottom right)
- Remove Blips **inside a sphere** on the beginning of the track and keep everything at the end of car tracks (bottom left)



Cut diagram for car track and pileup tracks

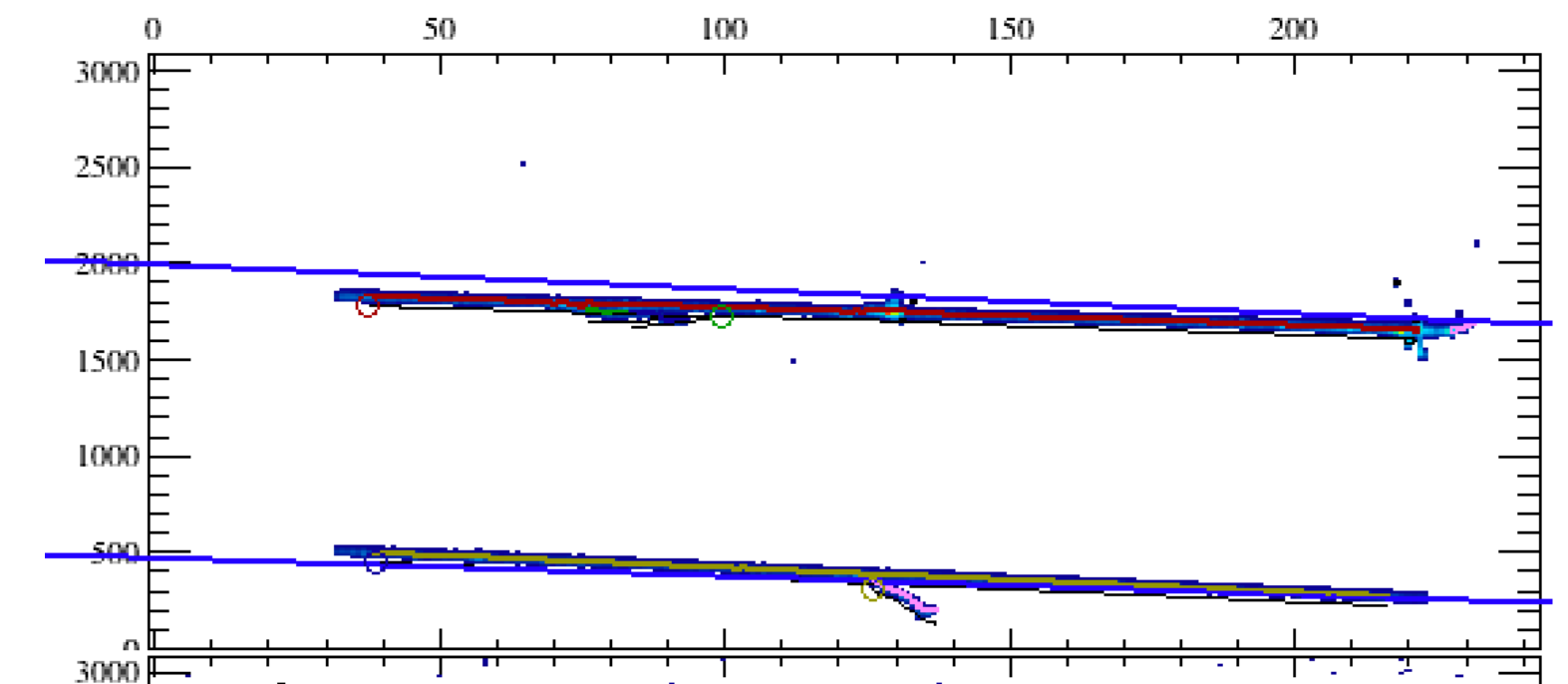
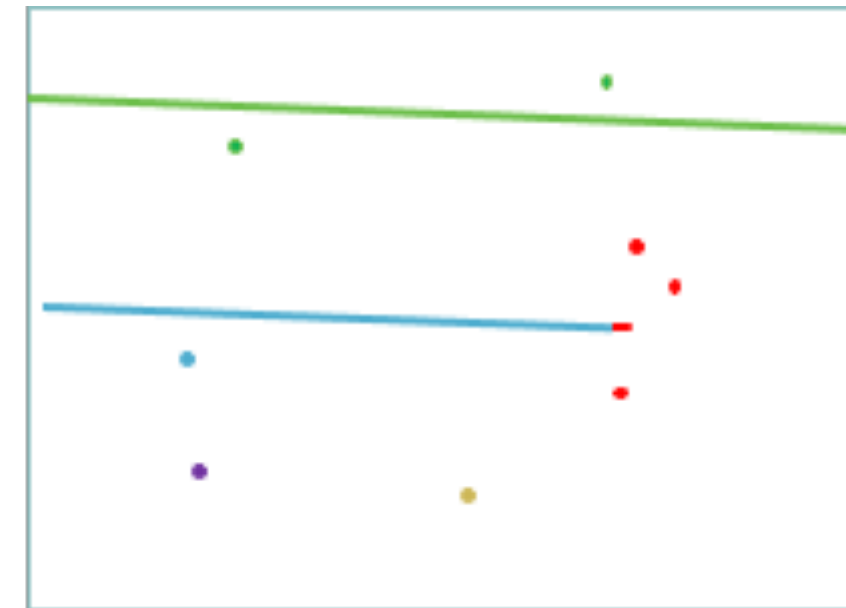
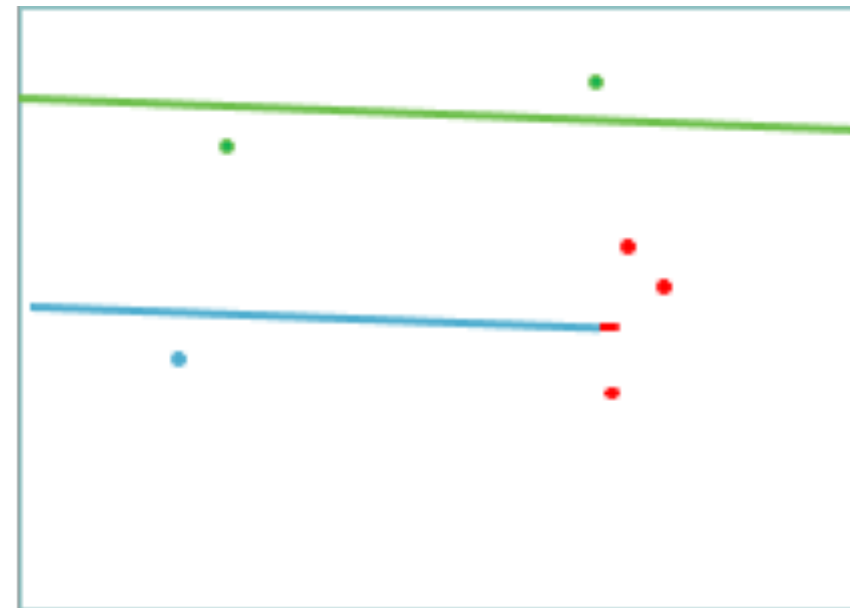
# Truth vs reco energy and positions reconstruction for blips



MC Picar sample, Blip Reco - truth X, Y, Z and energy



# Blips in LArIAT, Data and MC background



Thru-going muon event display

## MC Blip

- Blips produced by mu/pi car
- Blips produced by main track but not related to car process
- Blips produced by pileup muons

Thru-going  
MC

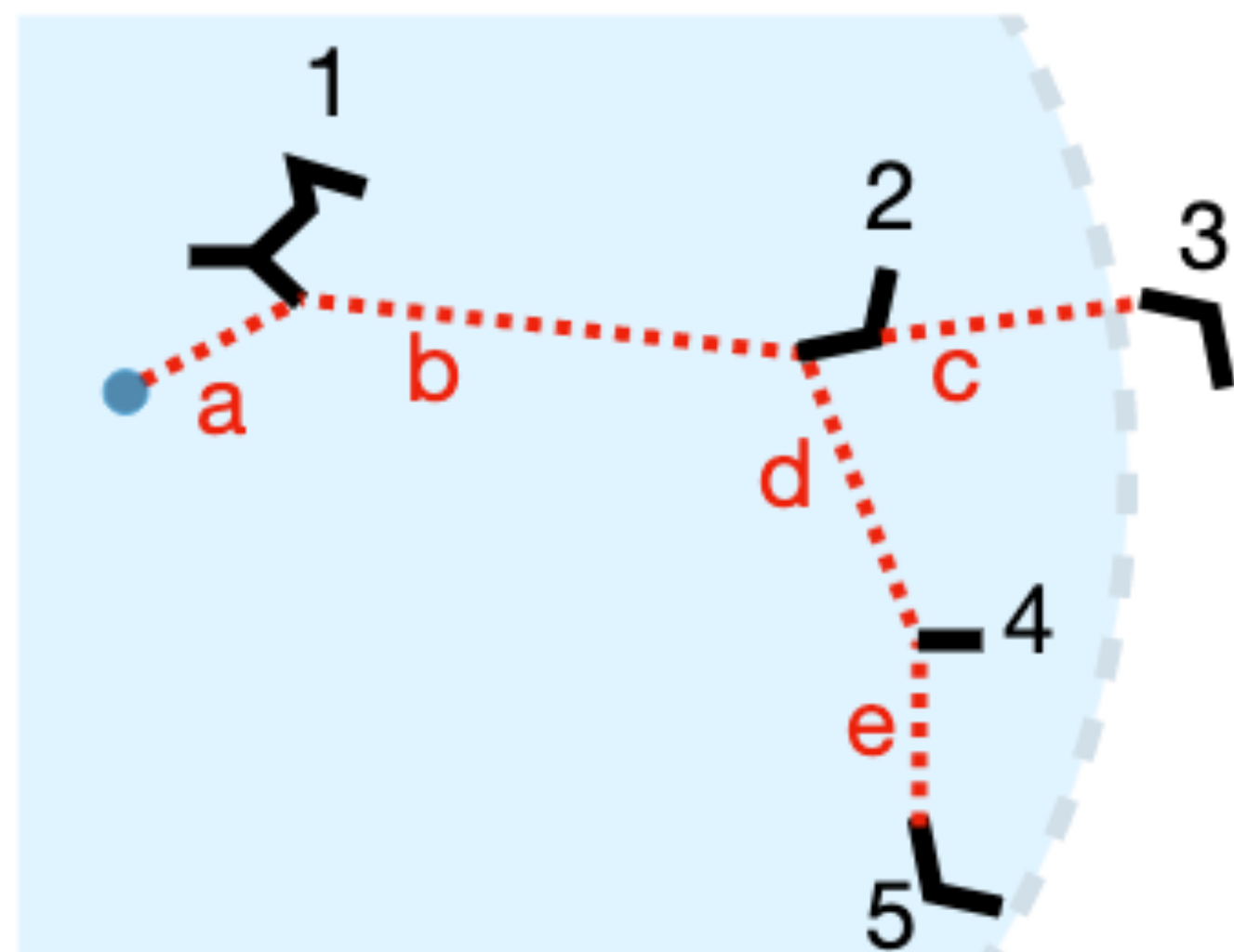
## Data Blip

- Blips produced by mu/pi car
- Blips produced by main track but not related to car process
- Blips produced by pileup muons
- Blips produced by neutrons around the TPC
- Blips produced by nuclear activity (pedestal, Ar39)

Thru-going  
Data

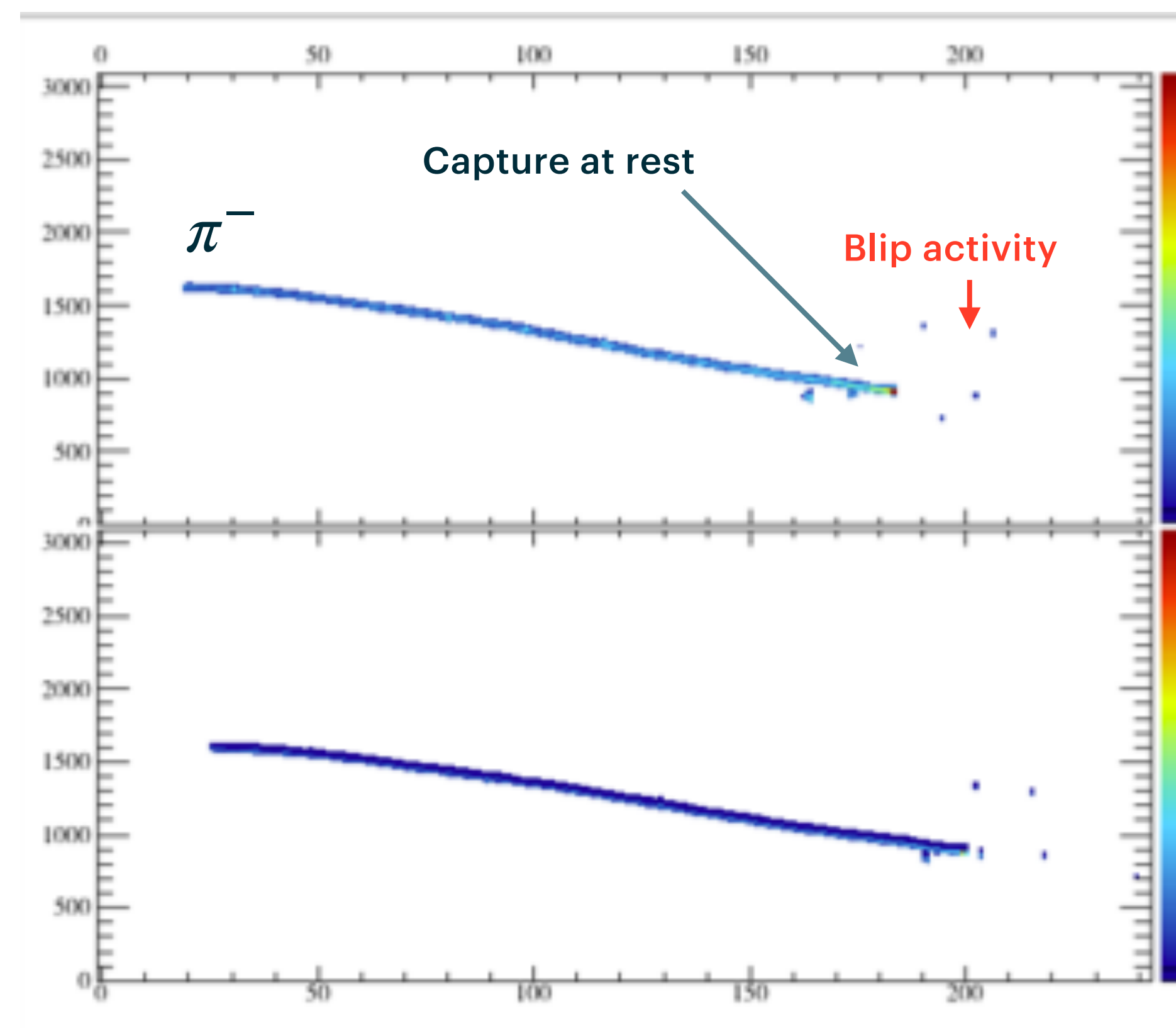
Our goal is to get a background subtraction, in this case the thru-going sample includes all the background, so the idea is to use thru-going MC for MC background and thru-going data for data background

# What is a Blip?



Item	Type	Creator Process	E <sub>start</sub> (MeV)	E <sub>end</sub> (MeV)	E <sub>blip</sub> (MeV)
a	$\gamma$	Primary	3.00	3.00	-
1	$2 e^-$	Compton scatter	1.50	0	1.50
b	$\gamma$	Compton scatter	1.50	1.50	-
2	$e^-$	Compton scatter	1.00	0	0.75
c	$\gamma$	Bremsstrahlung	0.25	0.25	-
3	$e^-$	Photoelectric effect	0.25	0	0.25
d	$\gamma$	Compton scatter	0.50	0.50	-
4	$e^-$	Compton scatter	0.05	0	-
e	$\gamma$	Compton scatter	0.45	0.45	-
5	$e^-$	Photoelectric effect	0.45	0	0.45

Image and table from [Benefits of MeV Reconstruction](#)



LArIAT SIMULATION

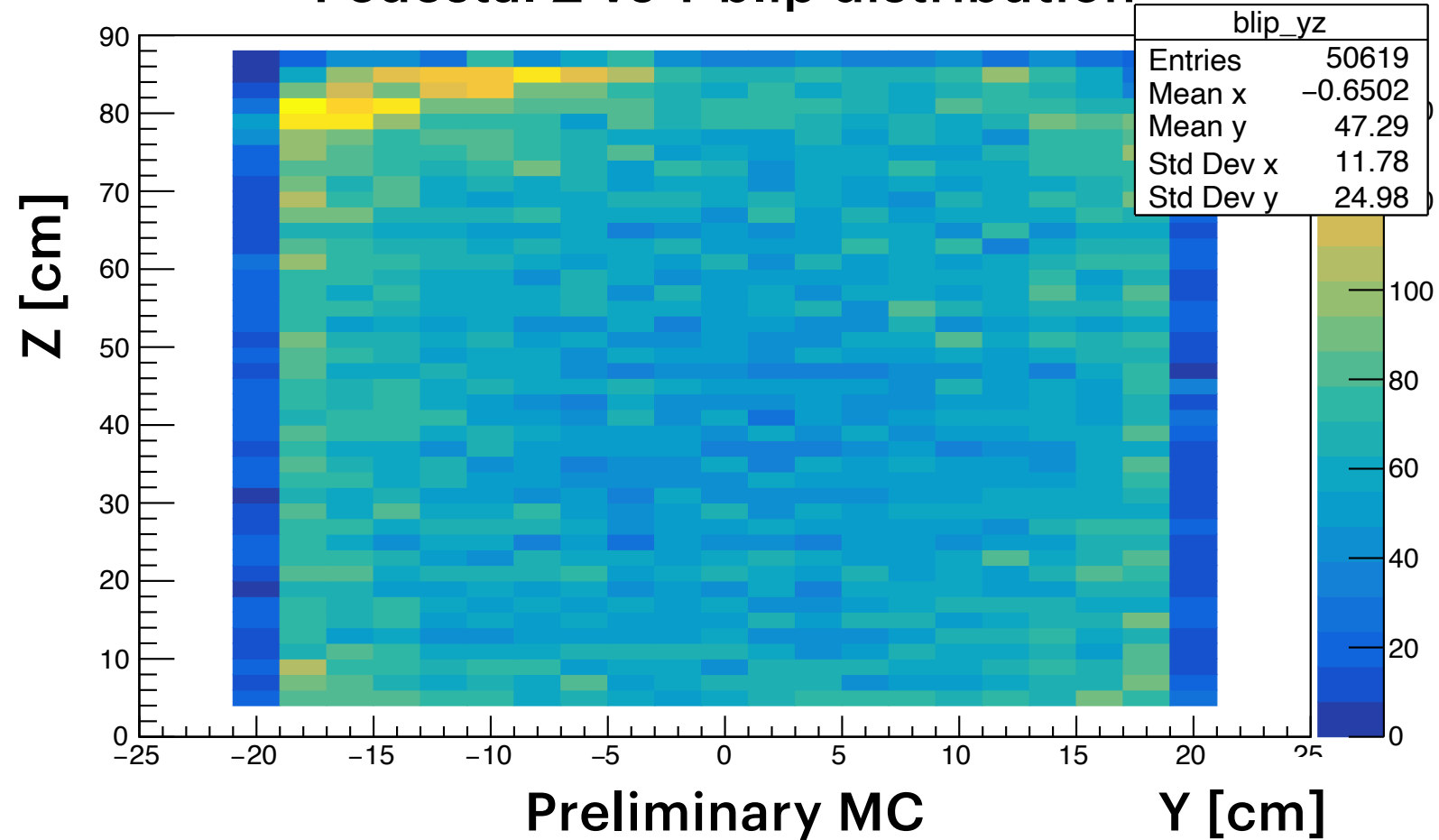
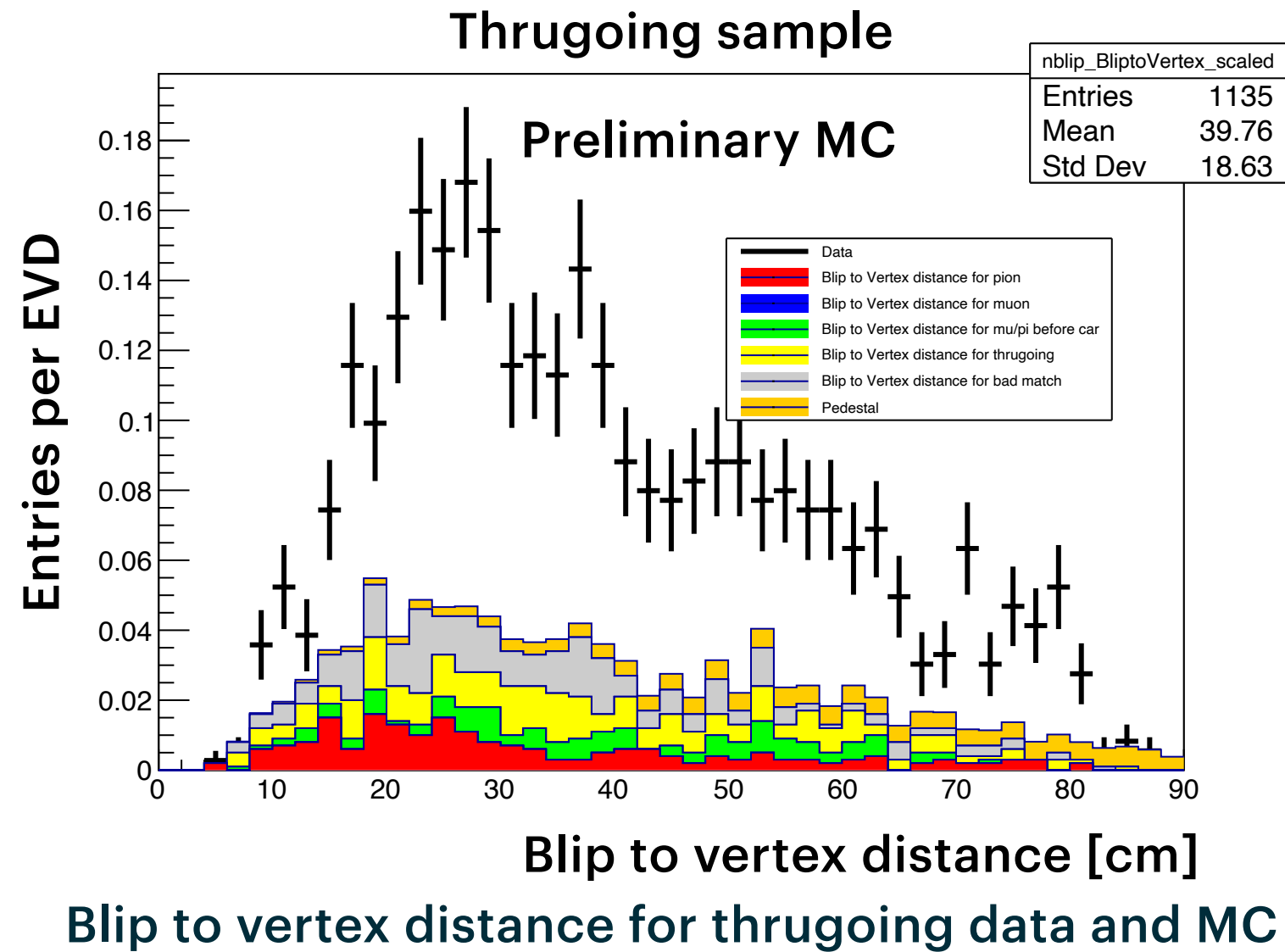
# Blips in LArIAT, thrugoing samples

	Thrugoing MC	Thrugoing Data
Events	1000	363
# Blips	887	1135
Blip multiplicity	$0.89 \pm 0.05$	$3.13 \pm 0.14$
Total energy per EVD	$0.59 \pm 0.03$	$2.04 \pm 0.10$

We see higher activity in Data than MC, neutrons around the TPC produced in the beamline

Blip activity for thrugoing regions with statistical errors

Pedestal Z vs Y blip distribution



Blip YZ distribution for pedestal sample.  
Blip multiplicity of 0.37