

Imperial College
London



The COMET Experiment:

Searching for Muon-
to-Electron Conversion

Ben Krikler

9th March 2016

Presented at University of Birmingham

Overview

Charged Lepton Flavour
Violation

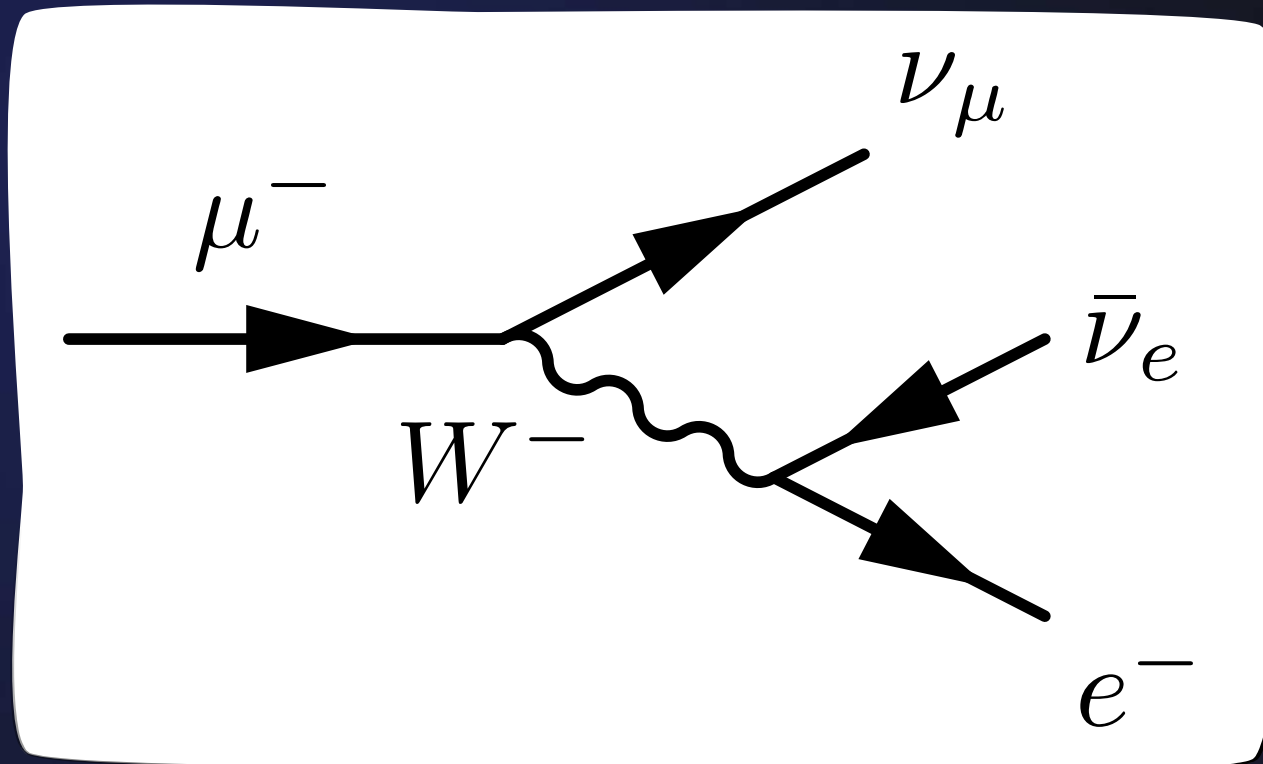
Bound muons and the
 μ -e conversion process

How to build a sensitive
 μ -e conversion experiment
(COMET)

COMET Status and R&D

Charged Lepton Flavour Violation

Muon Decay

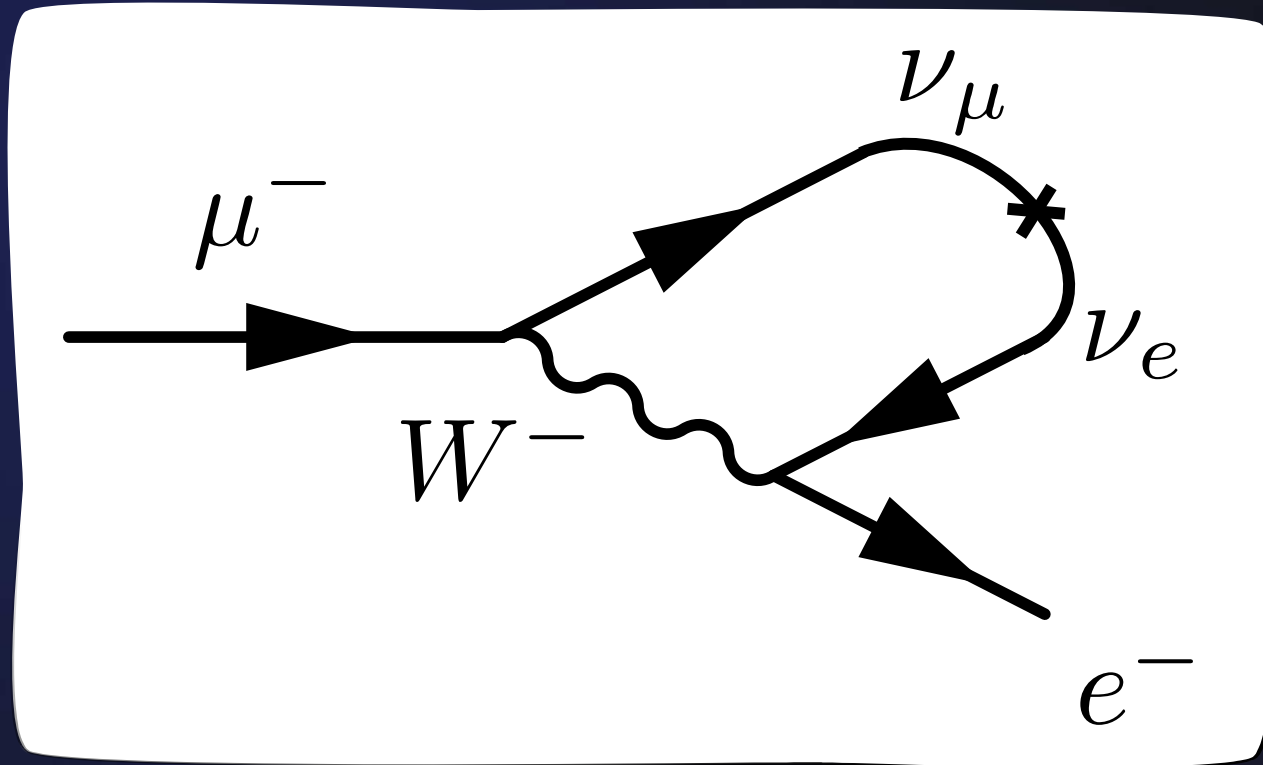


Conservation of Lepton Flavour:

1 muon \rightarrow 1 muon-neutrino

0 electrons \rightarrow 1 electron + 1 anti electron-neutrino

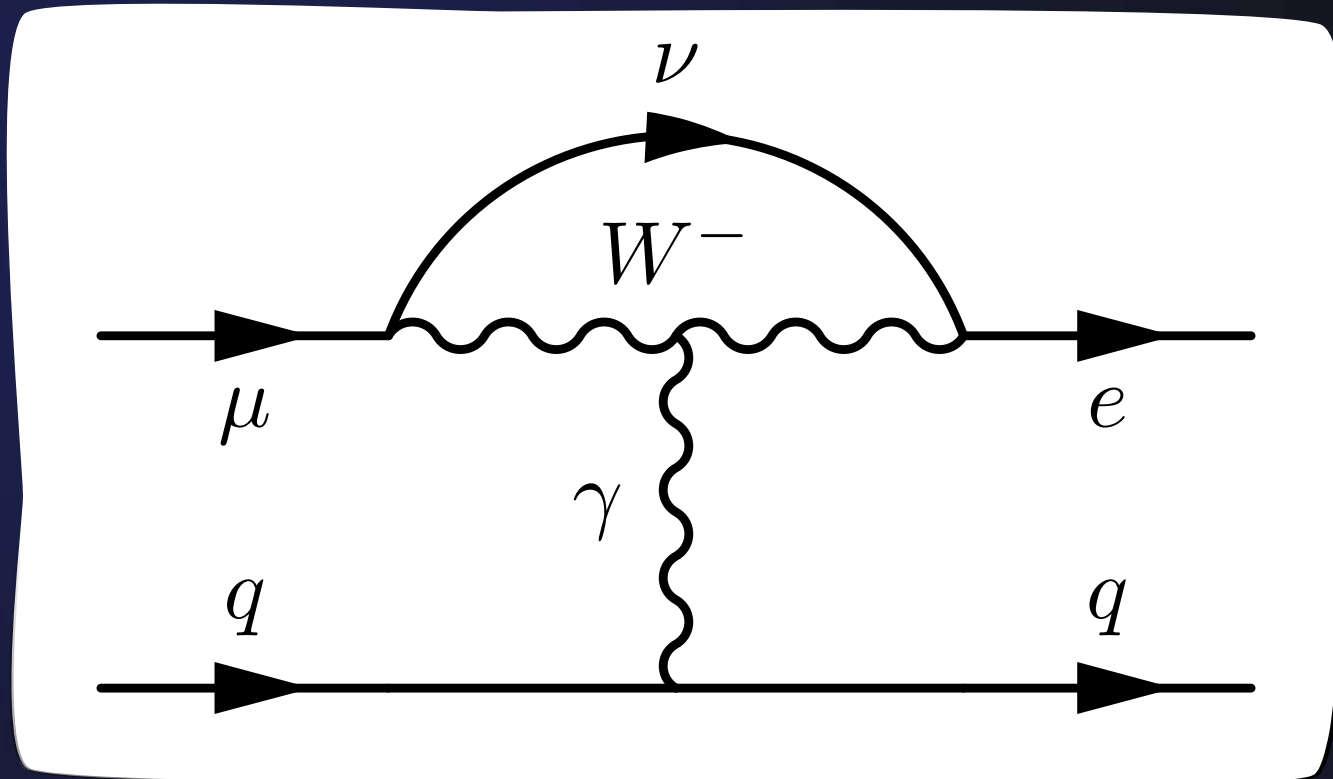
Muon Decay + Neutrino Oscillations



- 1 muon \rightarrow 1 electron
- No outgoing neutrinos
- BUT: would not conserve energy and momentum

Muon to Electron Conversion

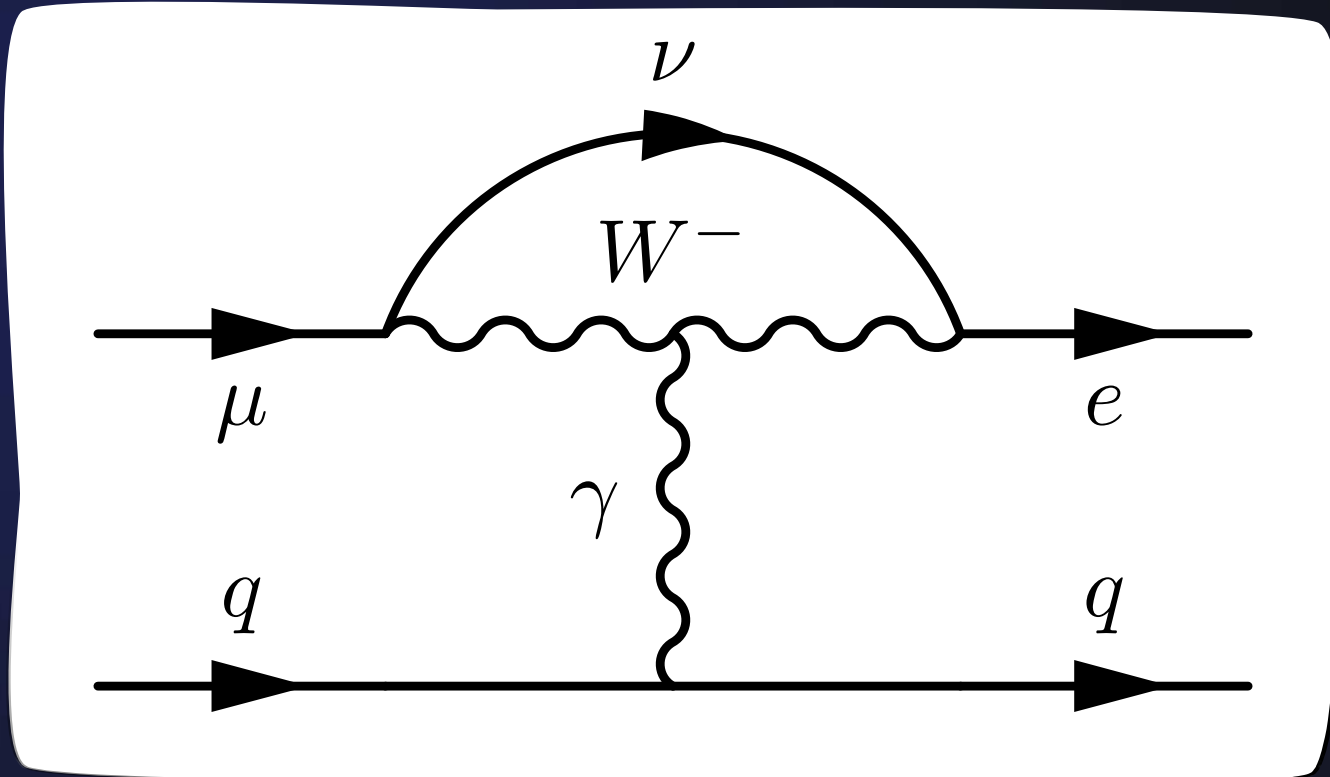
via Neutrino Oscillation



- $\mu^- + N(A, Z) \rightarrow e^- + N(A, Z)$
- No outgoing neutrinos
- Atomic nucleus: conserve energy and momentum
- Violates conservation of Charged Lepton Flavour

Muon to Electron Conversion

via Neutrino Oscillation

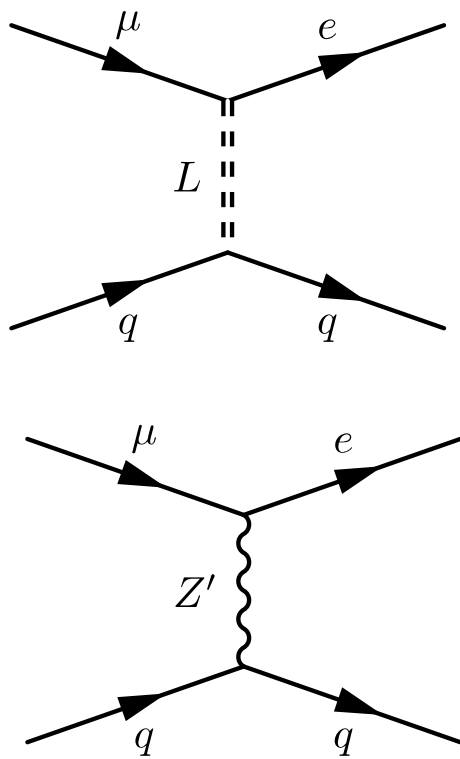


Conversion
Rate:

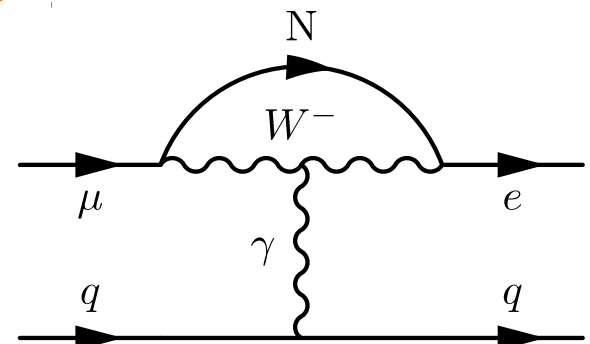
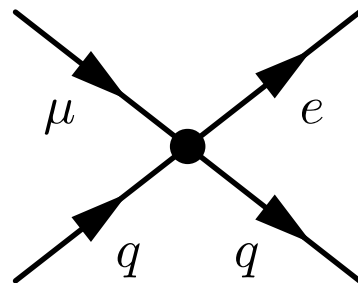
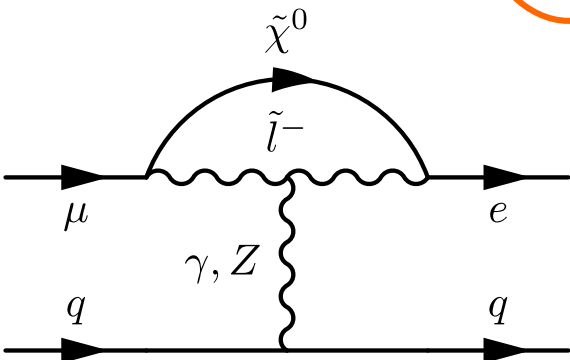
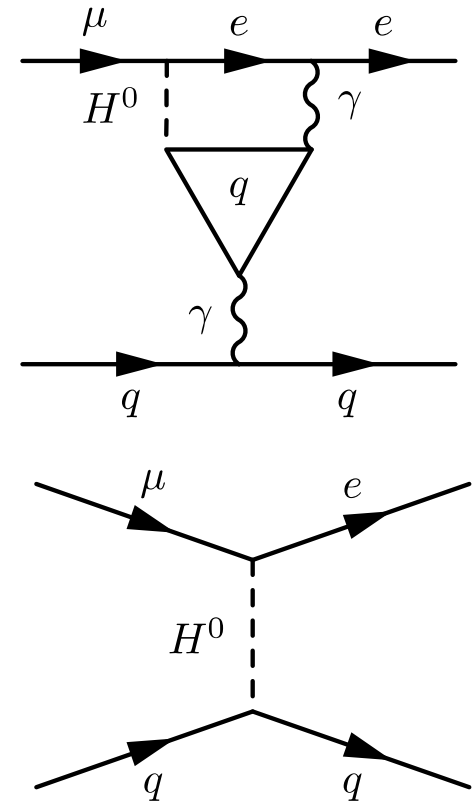
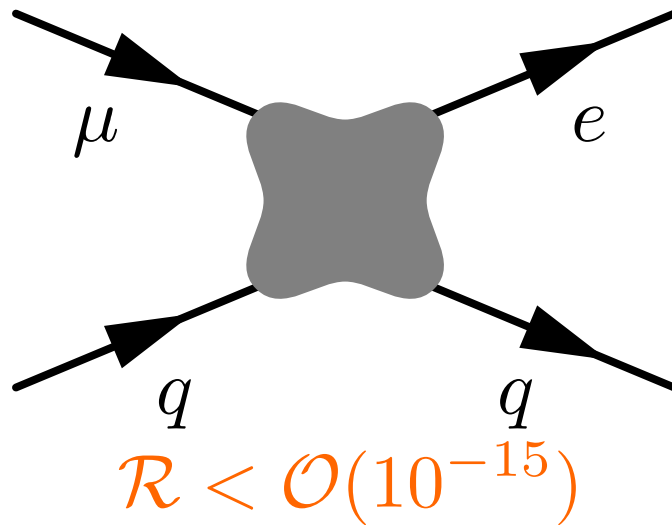
$$\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{\text{GIM Supressed } (\Delta M_{\nu}^2)^2}{(M_W^2)^2} \right) \sim 10^{-54}$$

Muon to Electron Conversion

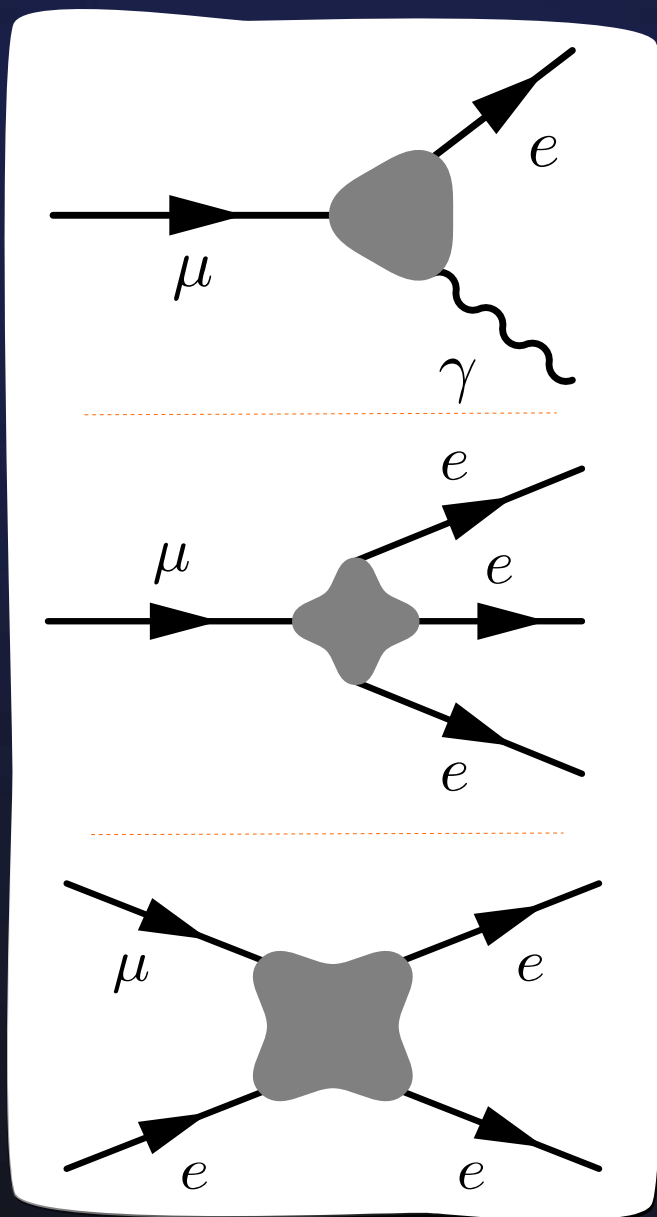
Beyond the Standard Model



- Predicted in many Beyond the Standard Model theories
- Rate is model dependent



Complementarity with Other Muon LFV Channels



Muon to electron + gamma

- Emission of a photon
- MEG experiment at PSI
- Last published 2013
- Upgrade to begin running shortly

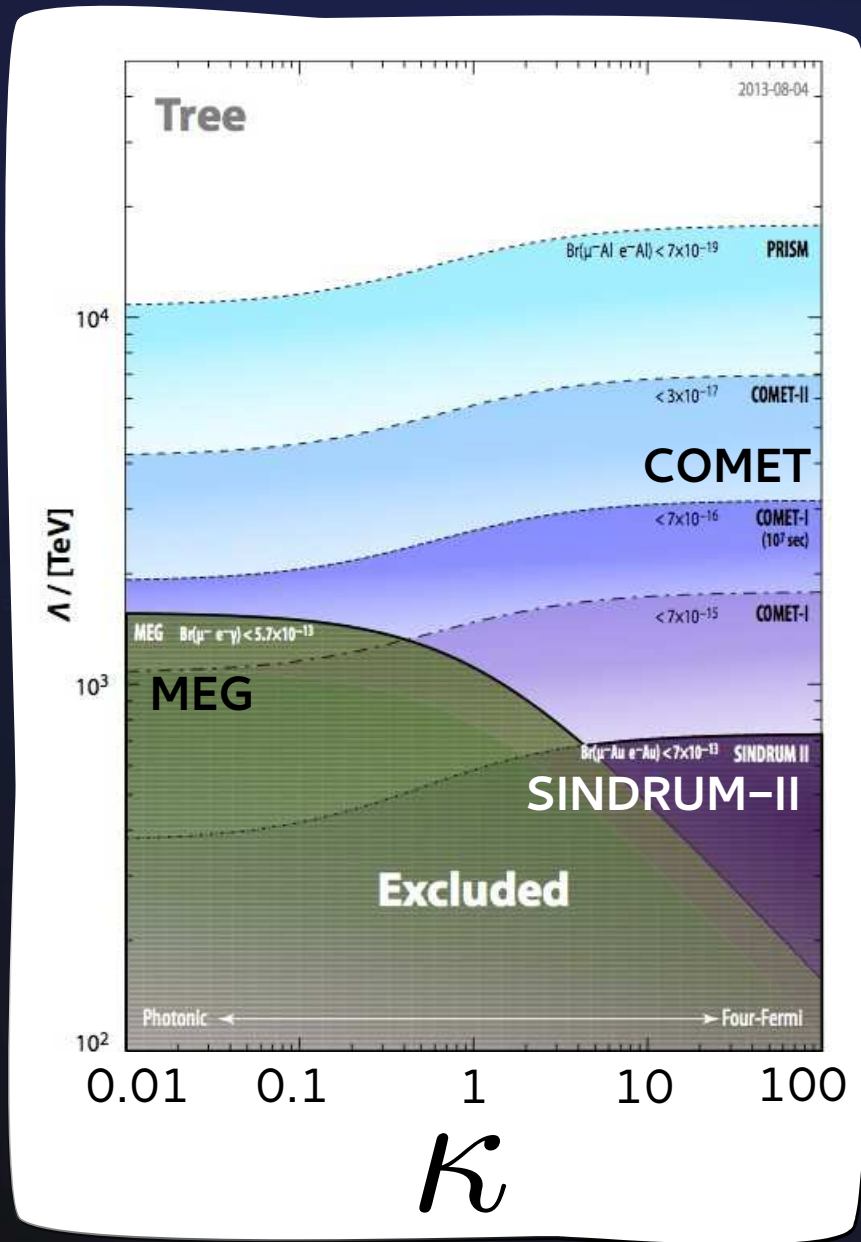
Muon to three electrons

- Mu3e experiment at PSI

μ -e conversion against atomic electrons

- Replace quark in nucleus with atomic electron (at COMET ?)

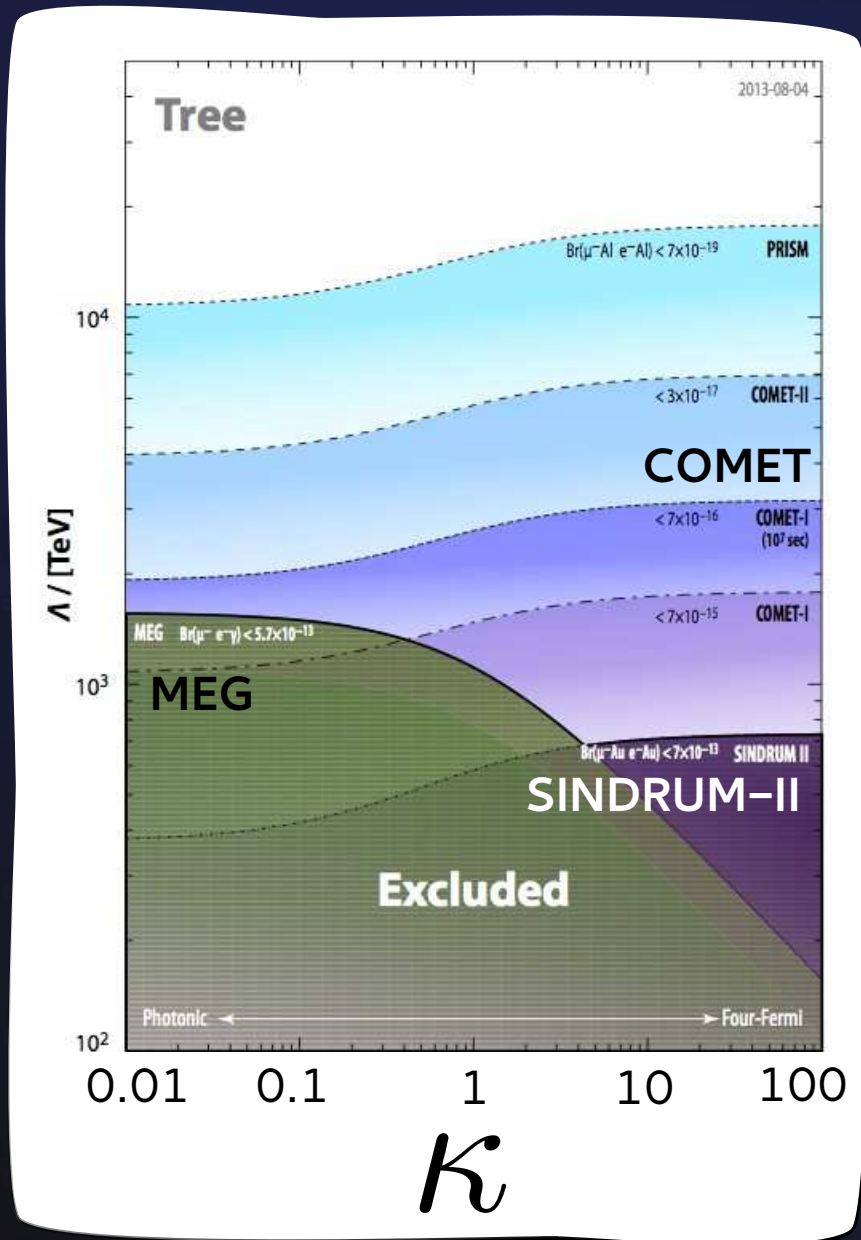
$\mu \rightarrow e$ gamma vs μ -e conversion



- Relative sensitivity in μ -e conversion and μ -e gamma is model dependent
- Highly complementary searches

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Photonic} \\ \kappa \rightarrow 0 \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{c} \text{Four-fermi contact} \\ \kappa \rightarrow \infty \end{array} \right\} + \frac{\kappa}{\kappa + 1}$$

$\mu \rightarrow e$ gamma vs μ -e conversion



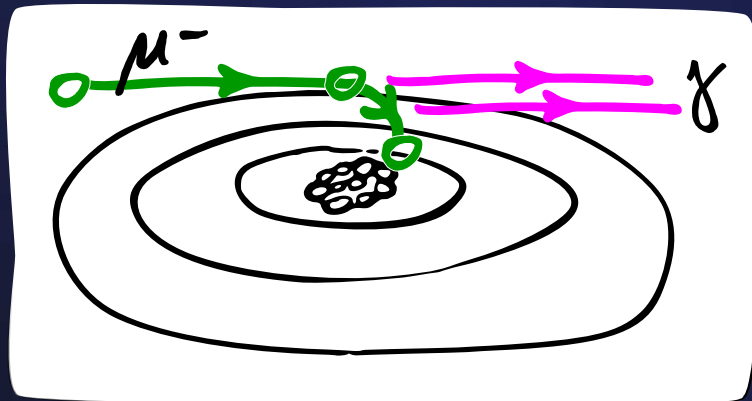
- Relative sensitivity in μ -e conversion and μ -e gamma is model dependent
- Highly complementary searches

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \frac{m_\mu}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\mu}_R \sigma^{\mu\nu} e_L F_{\mu\nu}) + \frac{\kappa}{\kappa + 1} \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\mu}_L \gamma^\mu e_L) (\bar{q}_L \gamma_\mu q_L)$$

Bound Muon Physics and the μ -e Conversion Process

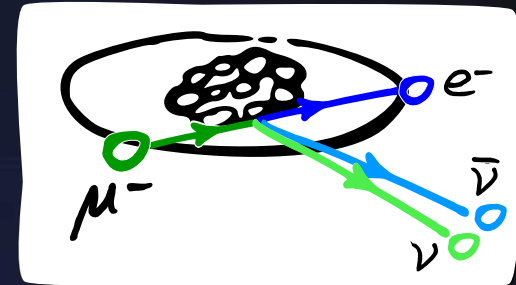
Bound Muons

- Everything starts by stopping muons around a nucleus



Electromagnetic cascade to the ground state orbital

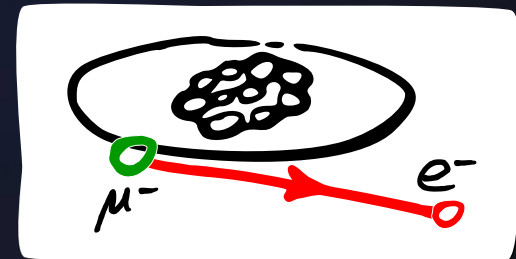
Bound Muon Decay



Muon Nuclear Capture

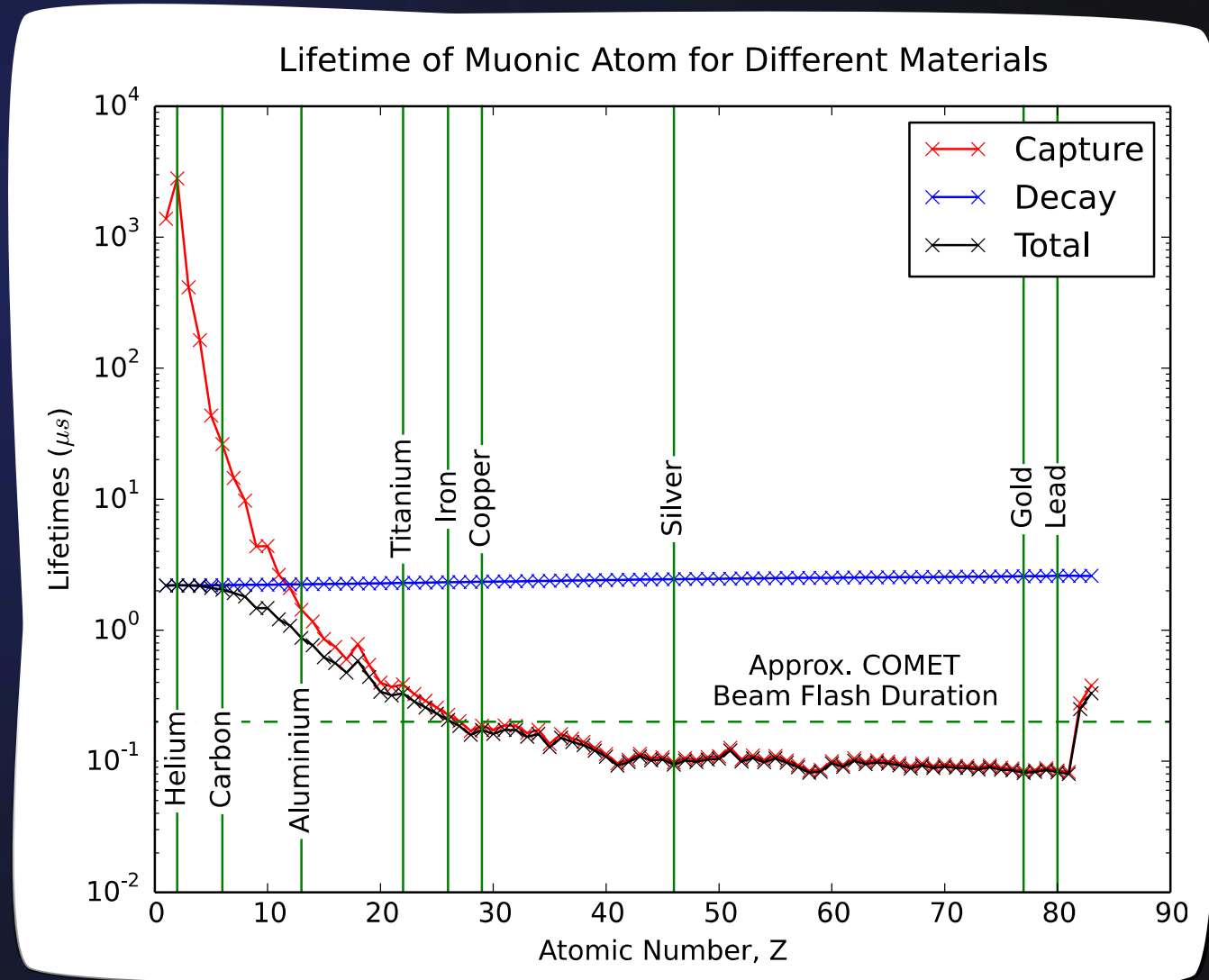


Muon to Electron Conversion

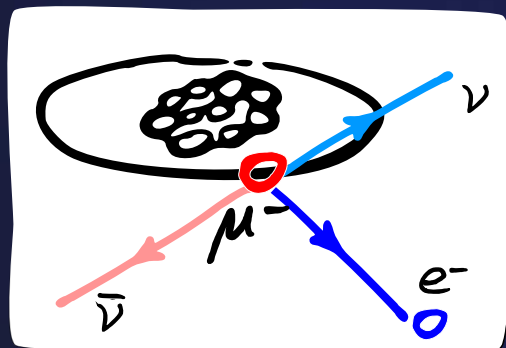


Muon Lifetime

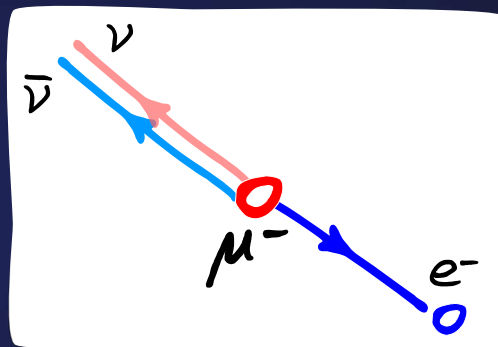
- **Decay partial lifetime**
 - Increases with Z
 - Bound muon momentum increases \Rightarrow Time dilation
- **Capture partial lifetime**
 - Incoherent \Rightarrow Grows linearly with Z
 - Eventually muon completely contained in nucleus \Rightarrow levels out



Bound Muon Decay

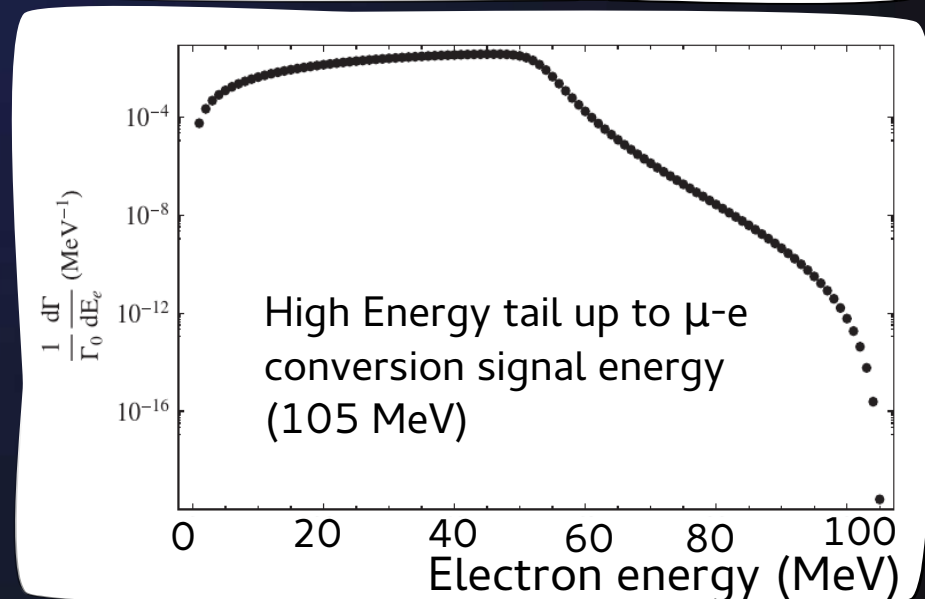
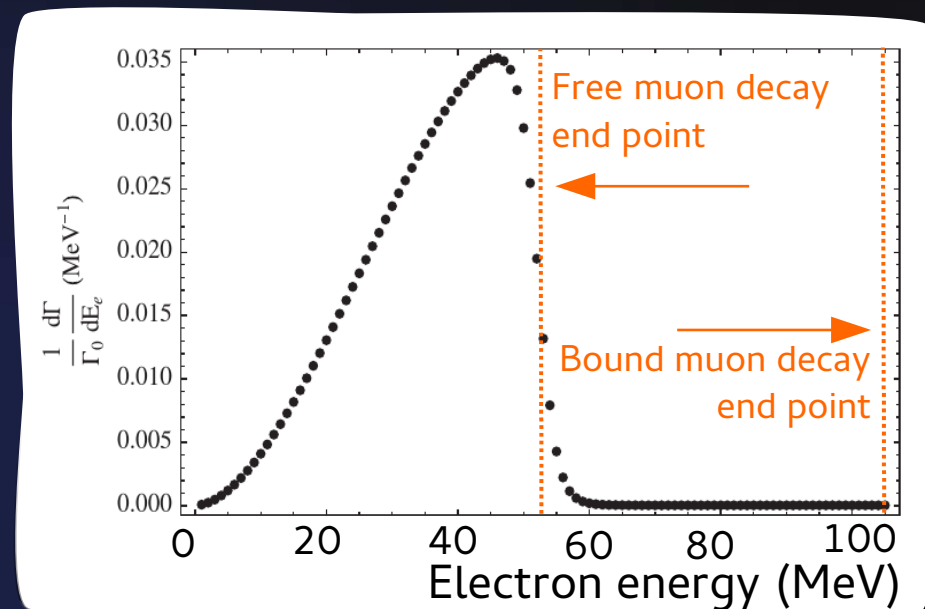


Bound muon decay



Free muon decay

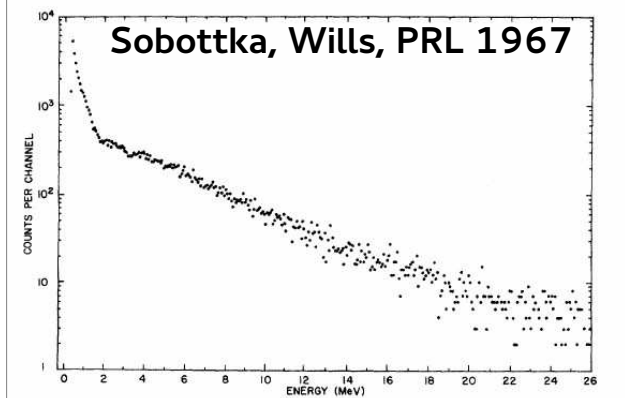
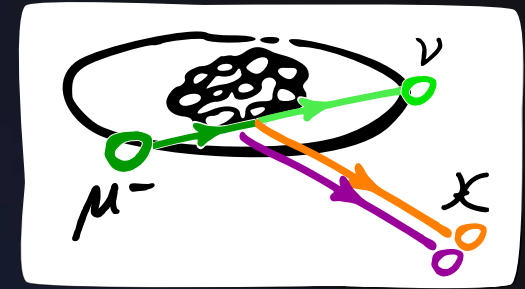
- Maximum energy for electrons from free muon decay = Half of muon mass
- Bound decay around nucleus
 - End-point close to muon mass
 - Very steeply falling spectrum above 60 MeV
- Theoretical uncertainty on spectrum from initial muon wavefunction
- No accurate measurement at the end point



Czarnecki et al. 2011 DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.84.013006

Muon Nuclear Capture

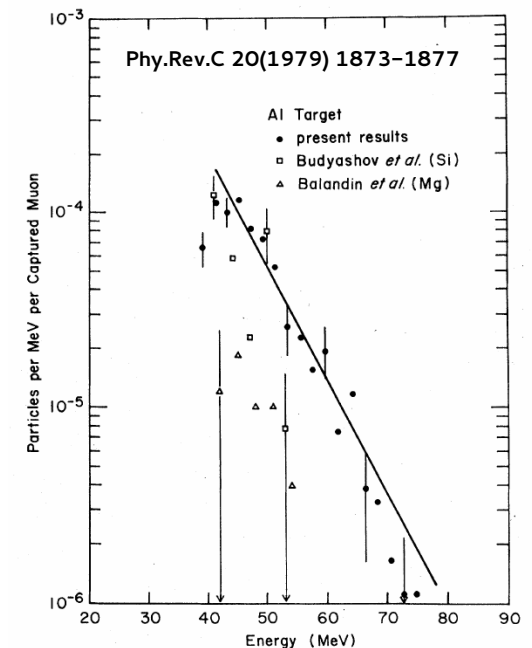
- Nuclear capture dumps about 50 MeV into nucleus
- Often followed by particle emission:
 - Photons, neutrons
 - Protons, deuterons, alphas
- Products of muon capture on Aluminium are not well known
- Had to measure this (AlCap experiment)



Inclusive Emission of charged particles from capture on silicon

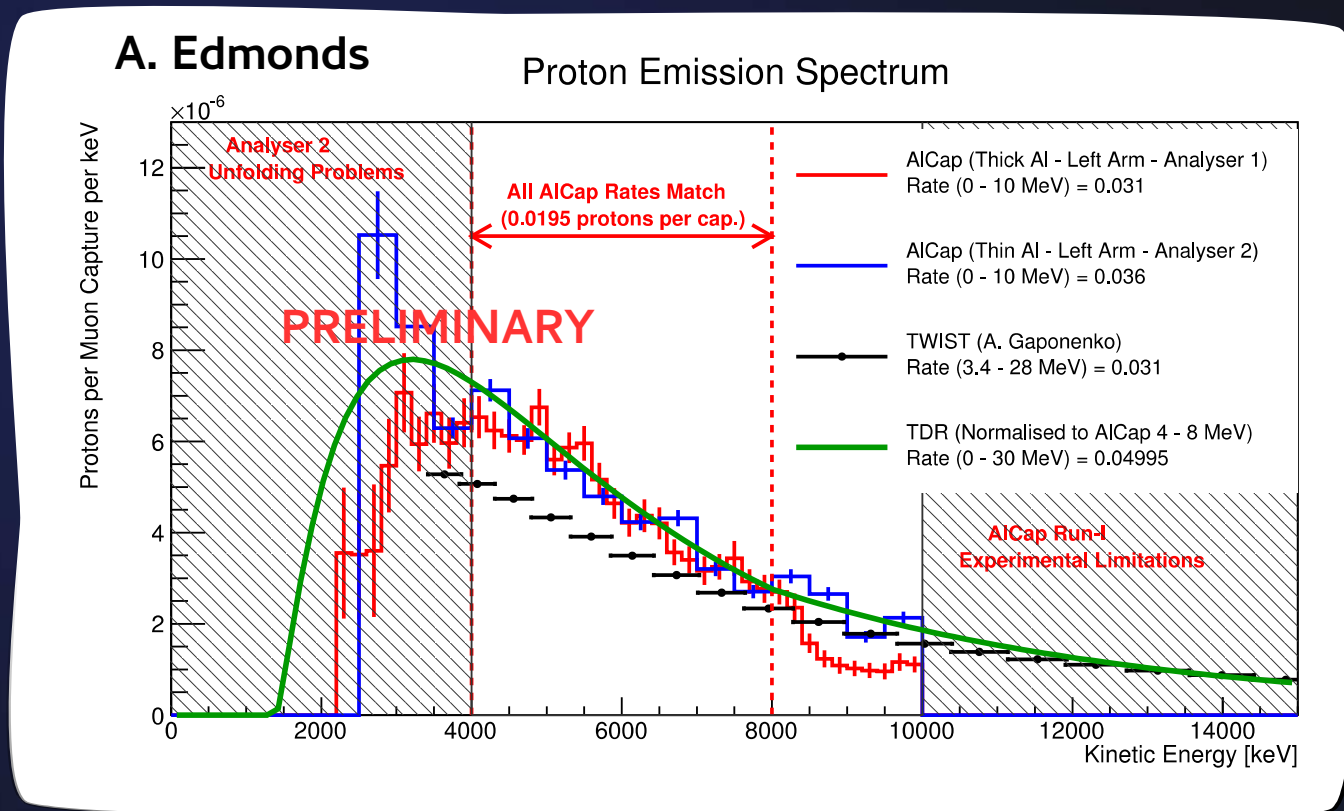
Target	$A-2, Z-2$	$A-4, Z-3$
	(μ^-, pn)	(μ^-, α)
A, Z	(10^{-3})	(10^{-3})
$^{27}_{13}\text{Al}$	28 ± 4	7.6 ± 1.1

Proton and alpha emission
per muon capture
Wytenbach et al. Nuc. Phys. 1978



Proton emission spectrum
above 40 MeV

AlCap: Aluminium Capture of Muons



- Joint effort between Mu2e and COMET
- 3 runs at Paul Scherrer Institute from 2013 to 2015
- Studying charged and neutral particles emitted following muon capture on aluminium

Muon to Electron Conversion

Charged Lepton Flavour Violation:



Nucleus is unchanged, process is coherent:

$$E_e = m_\mu - B_\mu - E_{\text{recoil}}$$

On Aluminium, used by COMET:

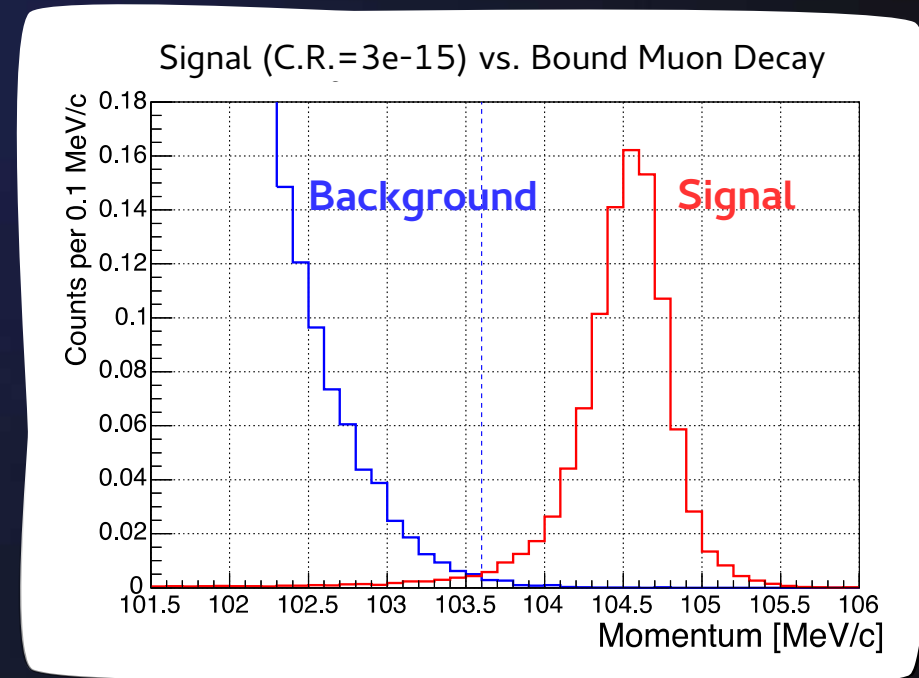
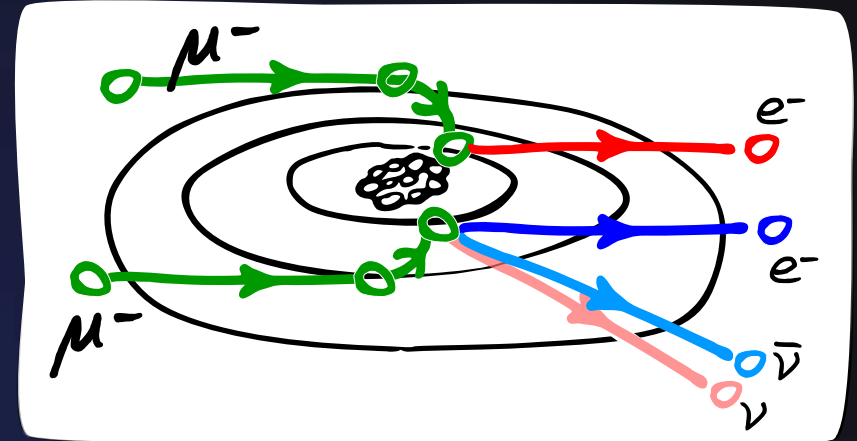
$$E_e = 104.9 \text{ MeV}$$

Typically define the conversion rate as:

$$\mathcal{R} = \frac{\Gamma(\mu\text{-}e \text{ conversion})}{\Gamma(\mu \text{ capture})}$$

Current limit from SINDRUM-II

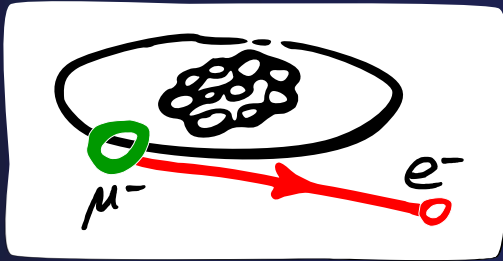
$$(90\% \text{ C.L.) on Gold: } \mathcal{R} < 7 \times 10^{-13}$$



Designing the COMET Experiment

COMET:

COherent Muon to Electron Transitions



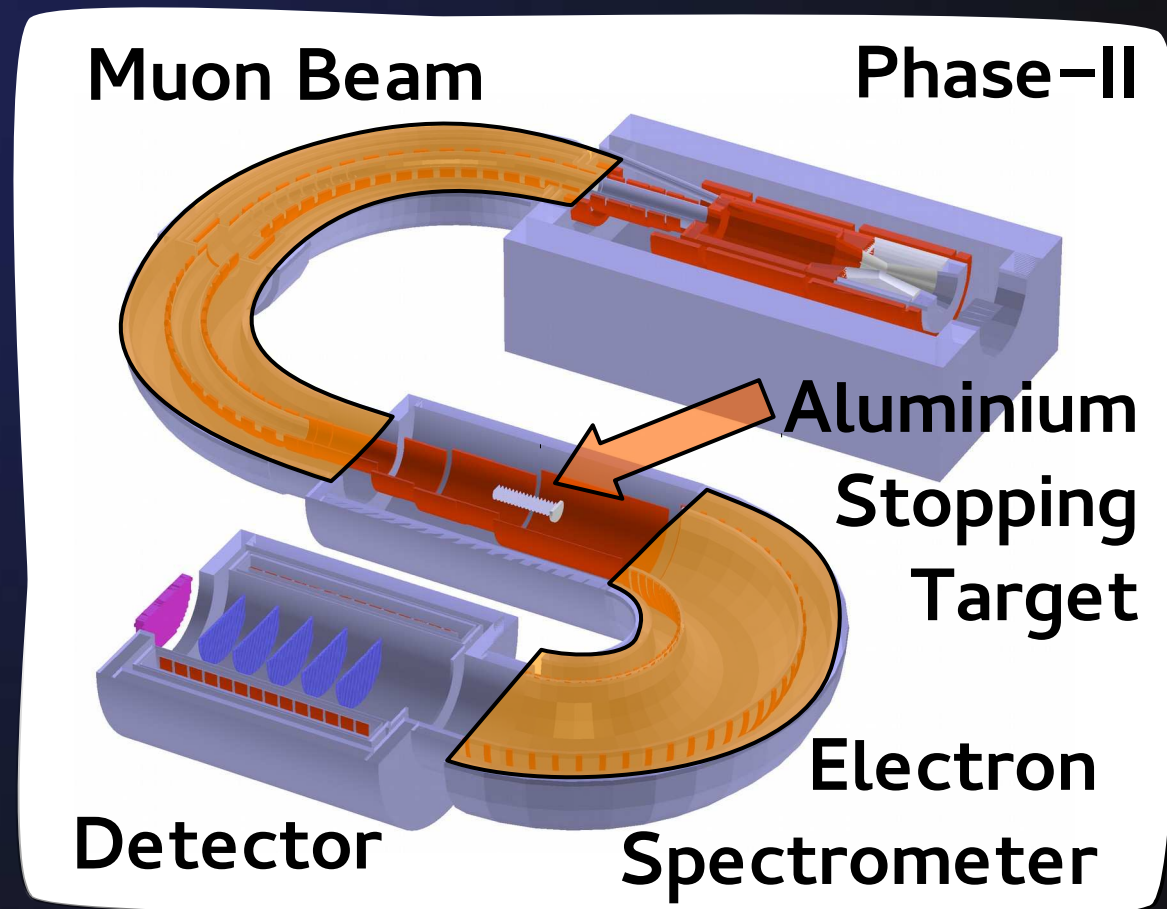
Present limits by
SINDRUM-II (2006):

$$\mathcal{R} < 7 \times 10^{-13}$$

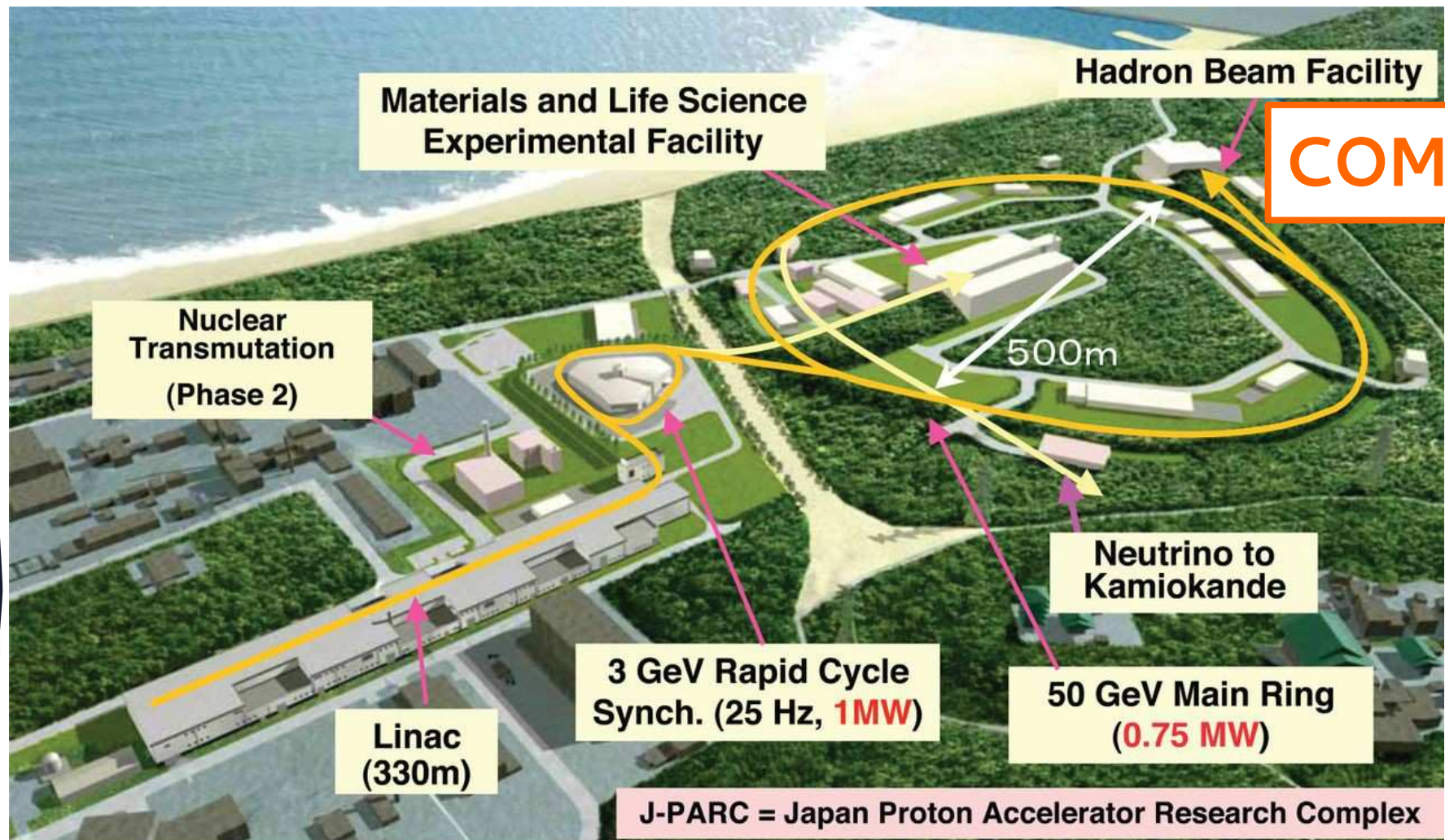
COMET Single-Event-
Sensitivity:

$$\text{Phase-I} = 3 \times 10^{-15}$$

$$\text{Phase-II} = 3 \times 10^{-17}$$



COMET at J-PARC

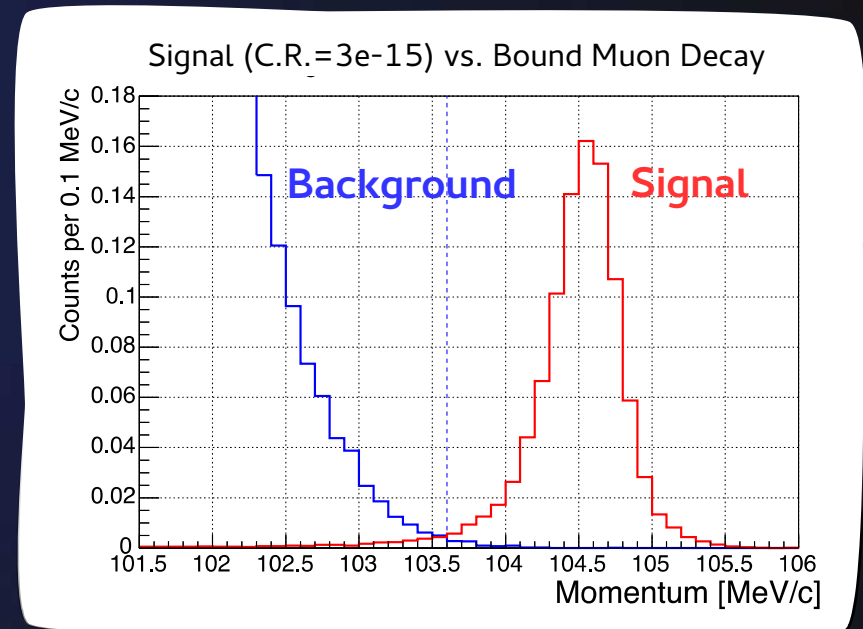
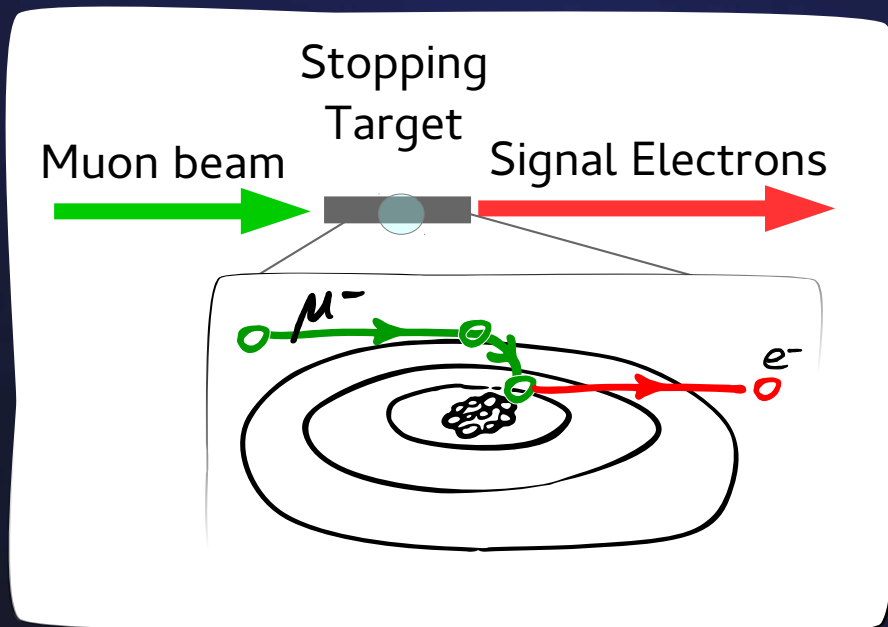


Joint Project between KEK and JAEA

Achieving High Sensitivity

Overall Goals

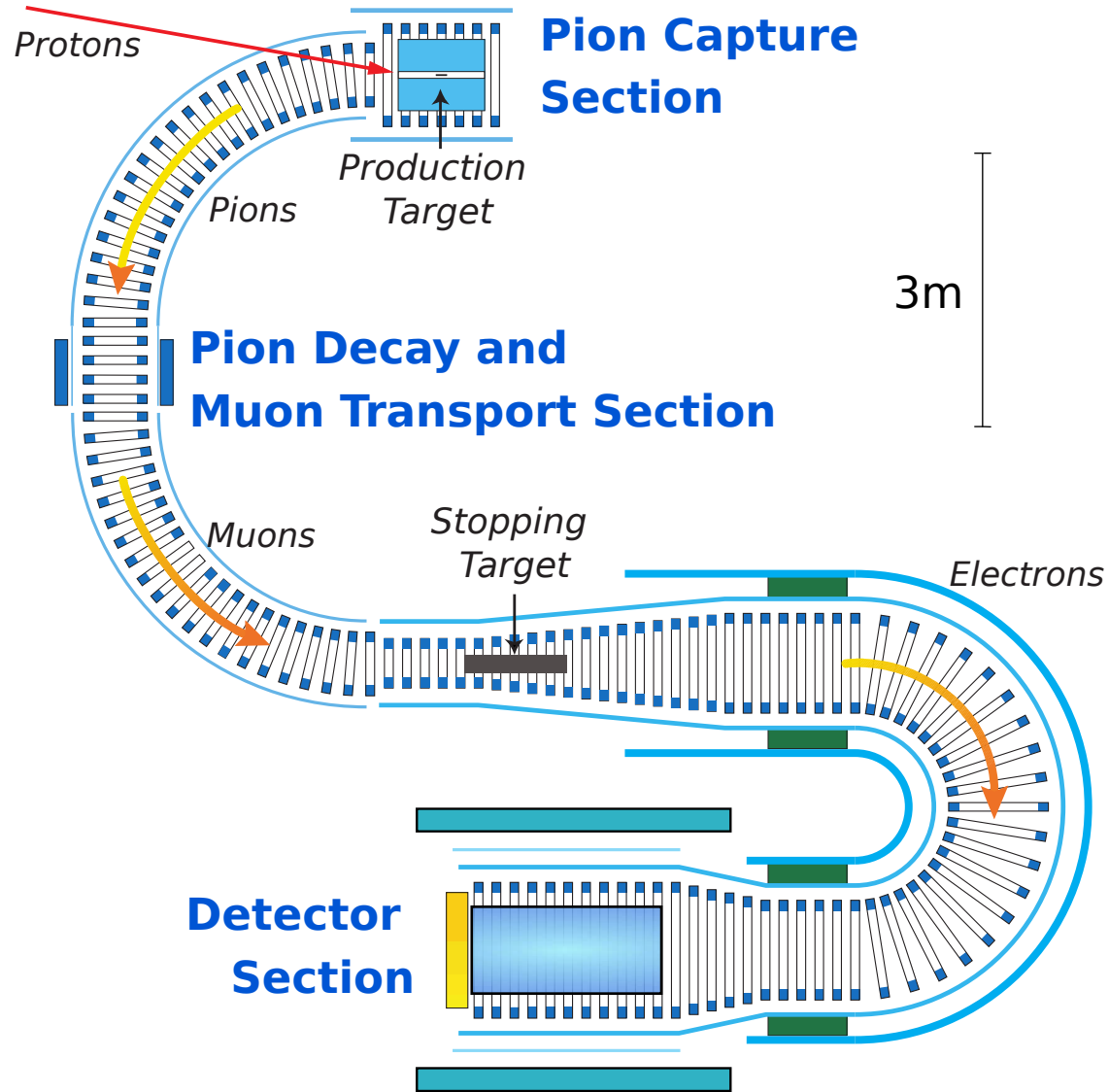
- Many stopped muons
- High signal acceptance
- Fewer than 1 expected background events during the run



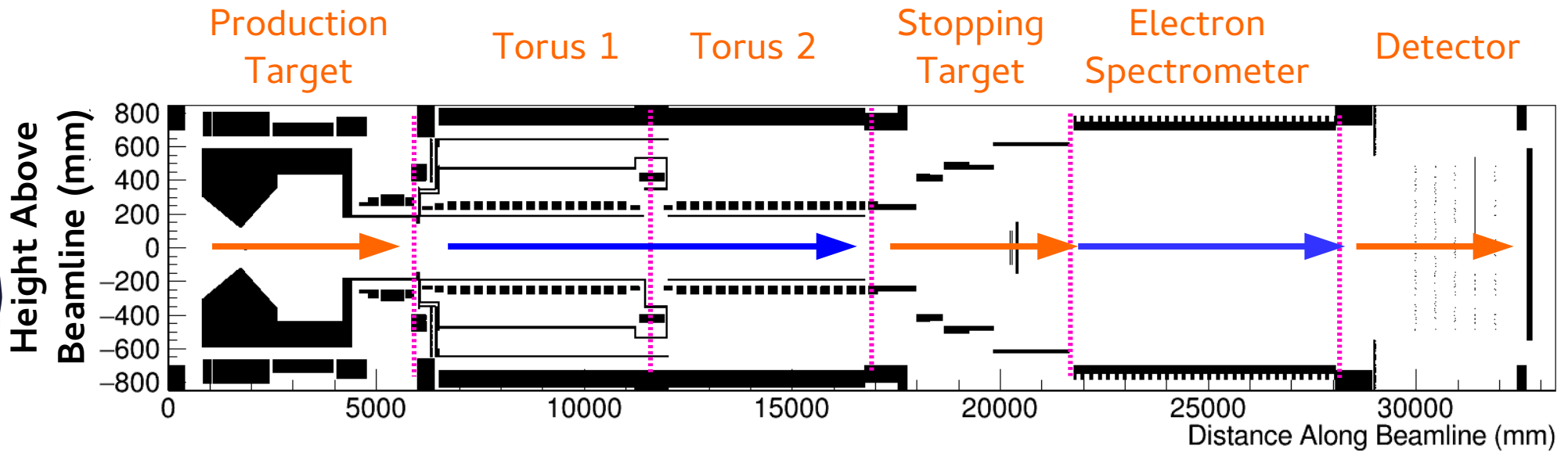
Design Considerations

- Intense, low-energy muon beam at the target
- Low detector occupancy
- Low material budget (Stopping Target and Detector)

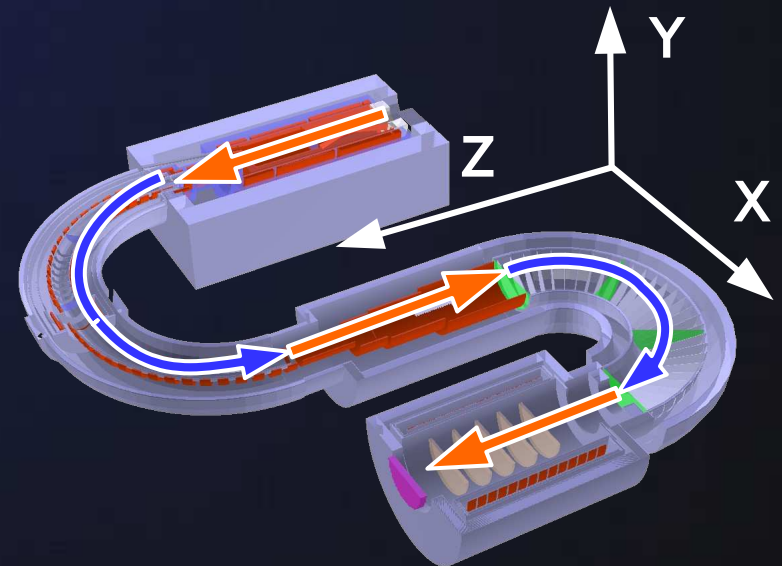
COMET: Phase-II



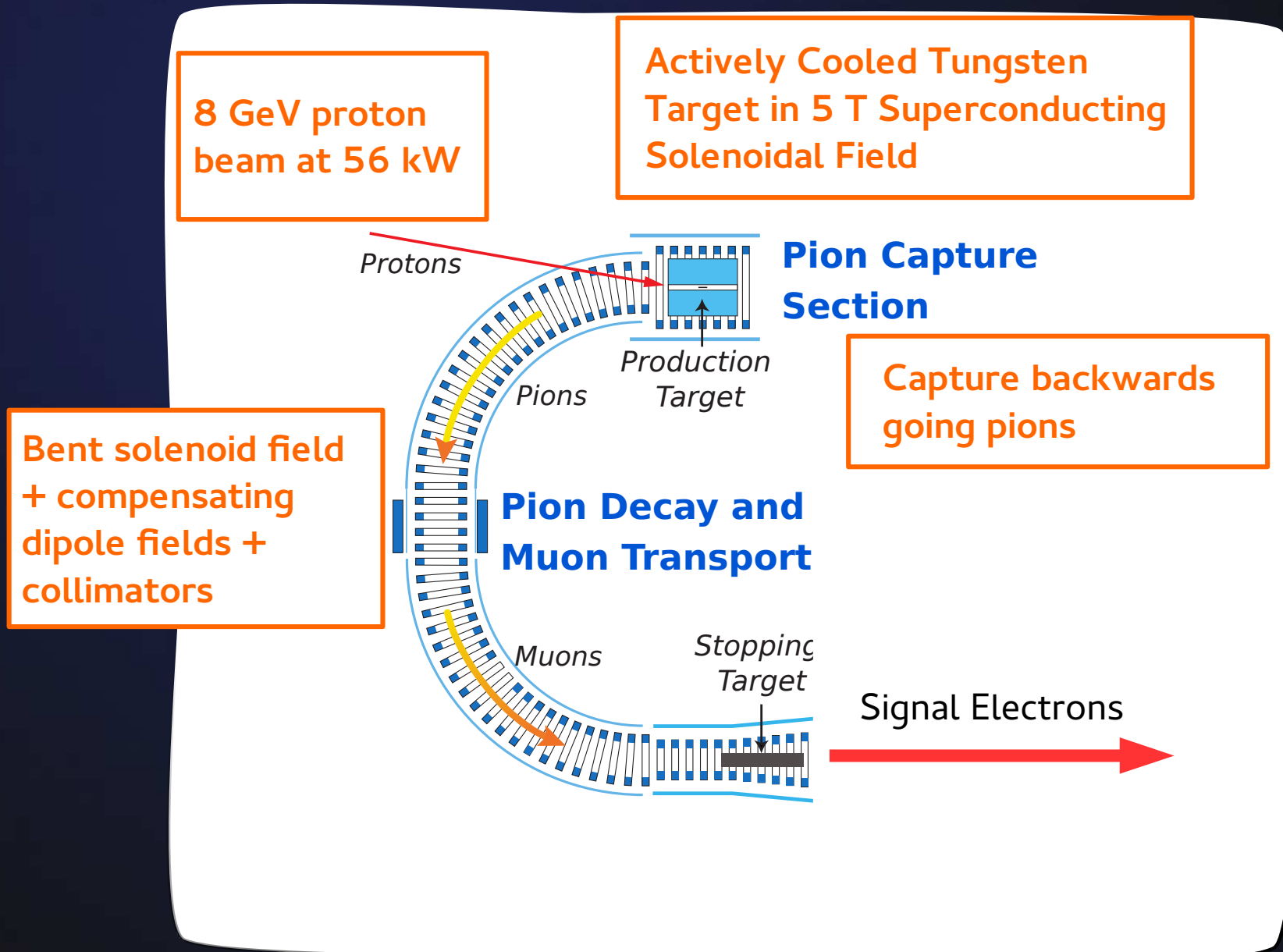
The COMET Beamline



- Beamline coordinate system
 - Distance along beamline
 - Curved sections appear straight



An Intense Muon Beam but Few Backgrounds

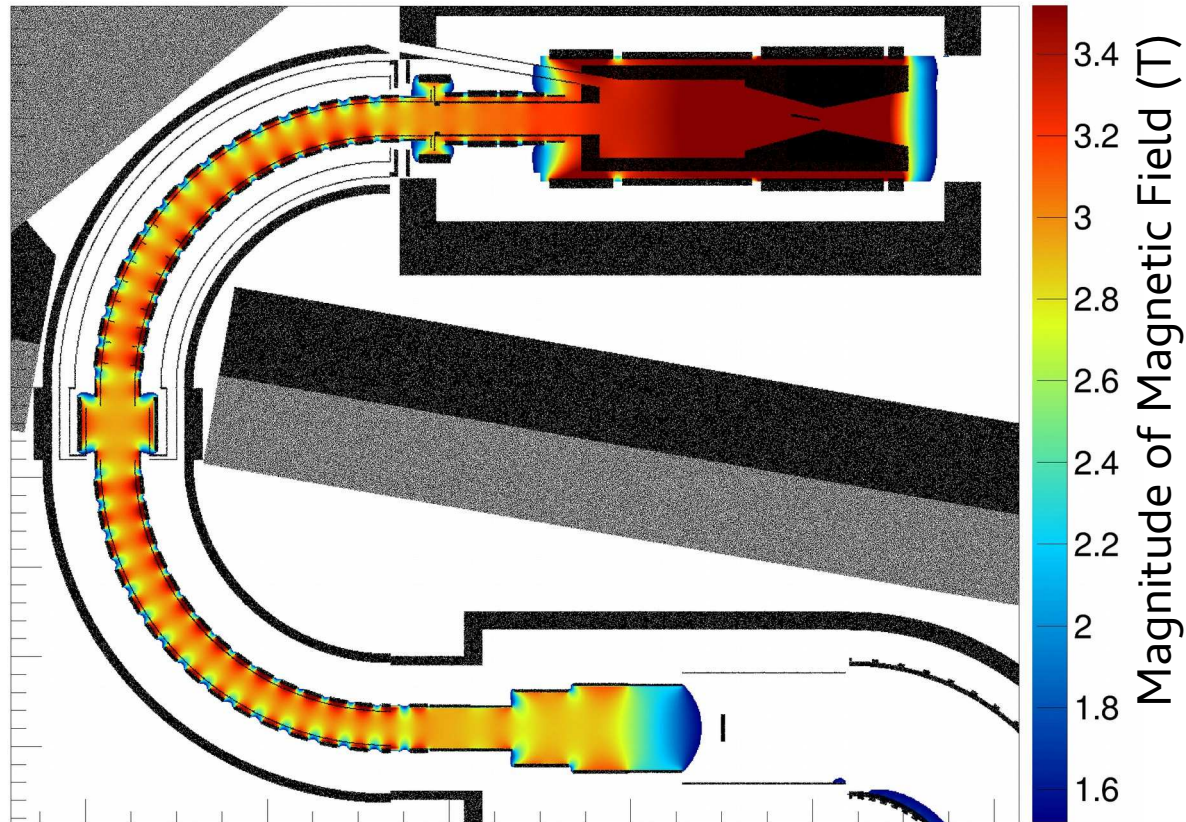


An Intense Muon Beam but Few Backgrounds

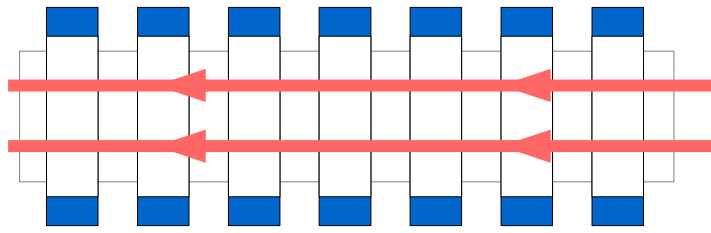
8 GeV proton
beam at 56 kW

Actively Cooled Tungsten
Target in 5 T Superconducting
Solenoidal Field

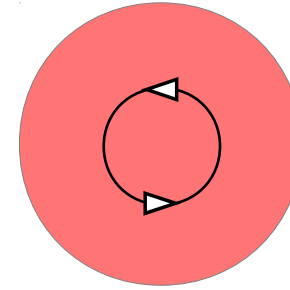
Bent solenoid field
+ compensating
dipole fields +
collimators



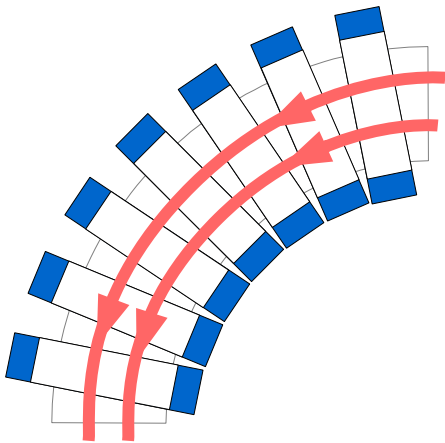
Bent Solenoid Drifts



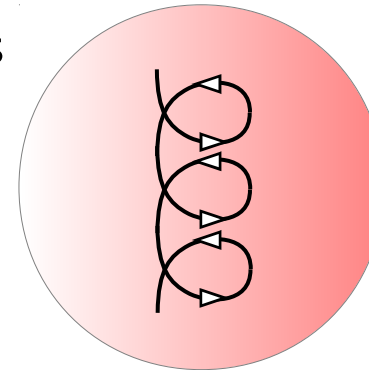
- Linear field lines
- Uniform B field



Circular motion about field lines



- Cylindrical field lines
- Radial gradient in magnetic field

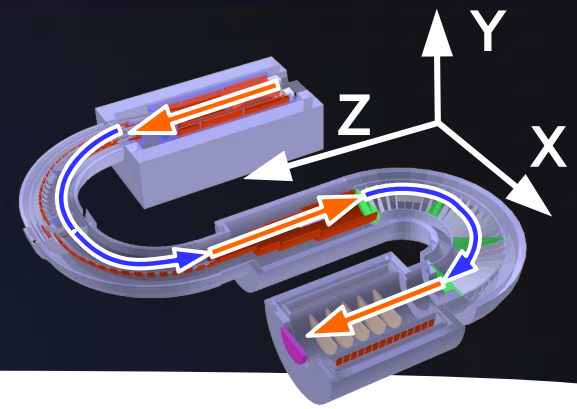


Circular motion about a drifting centre:

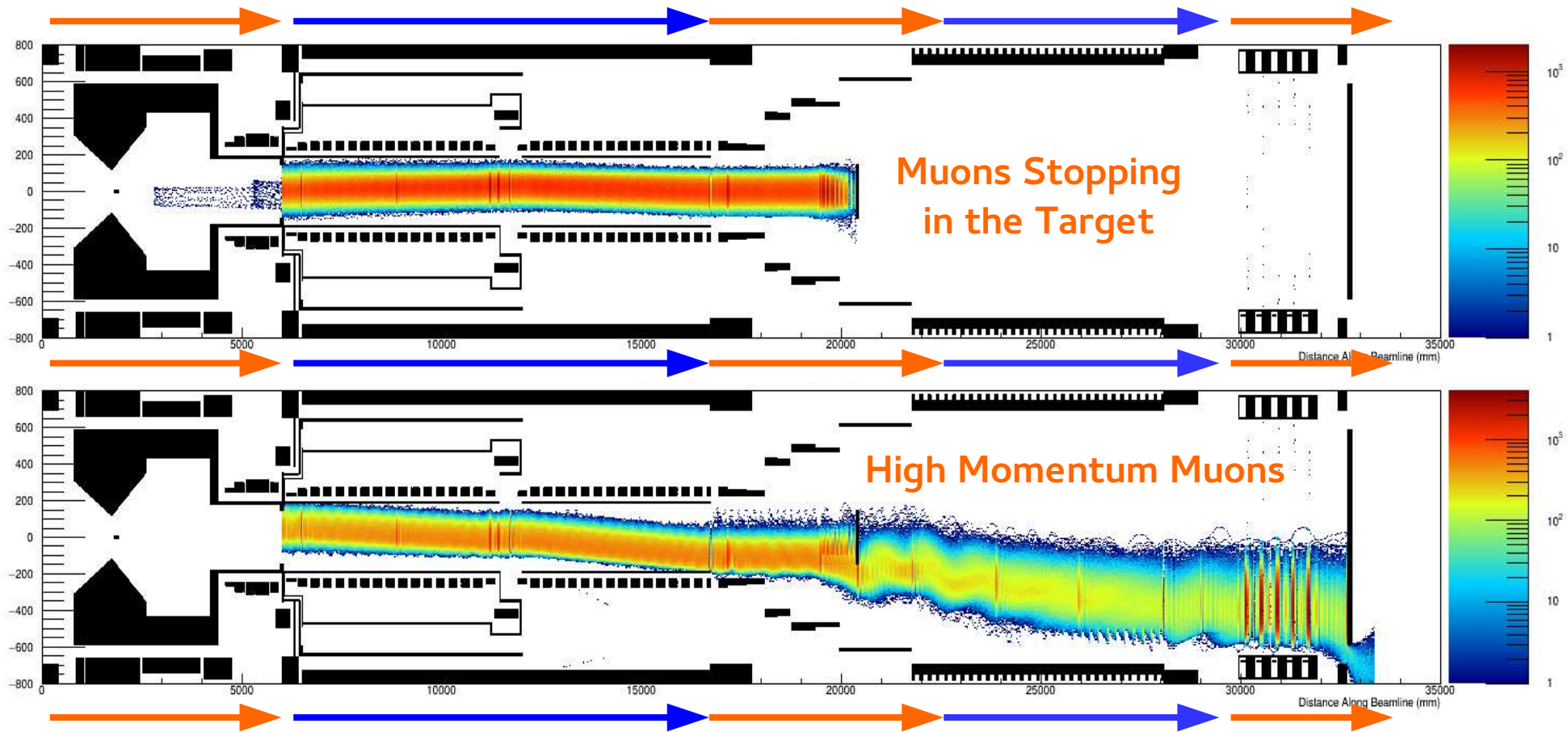
$$D \propto \frac{p}{qB} f(\theta)$$

Bent Solenoid Drifts

- Remove high momentum muons and pions
- Maintain low momentum muons



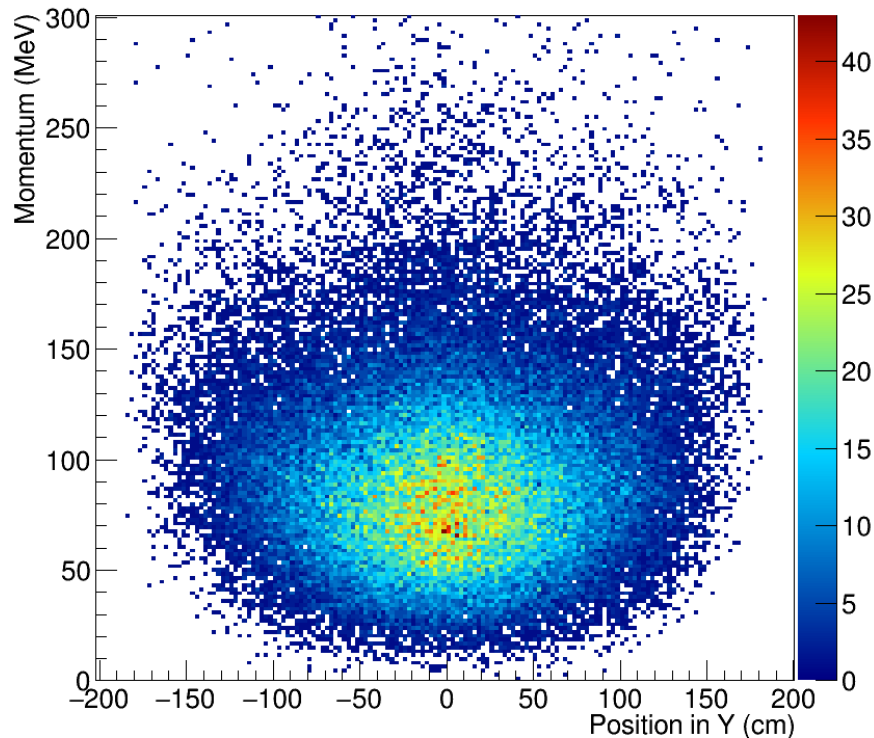
Collimators Not Included



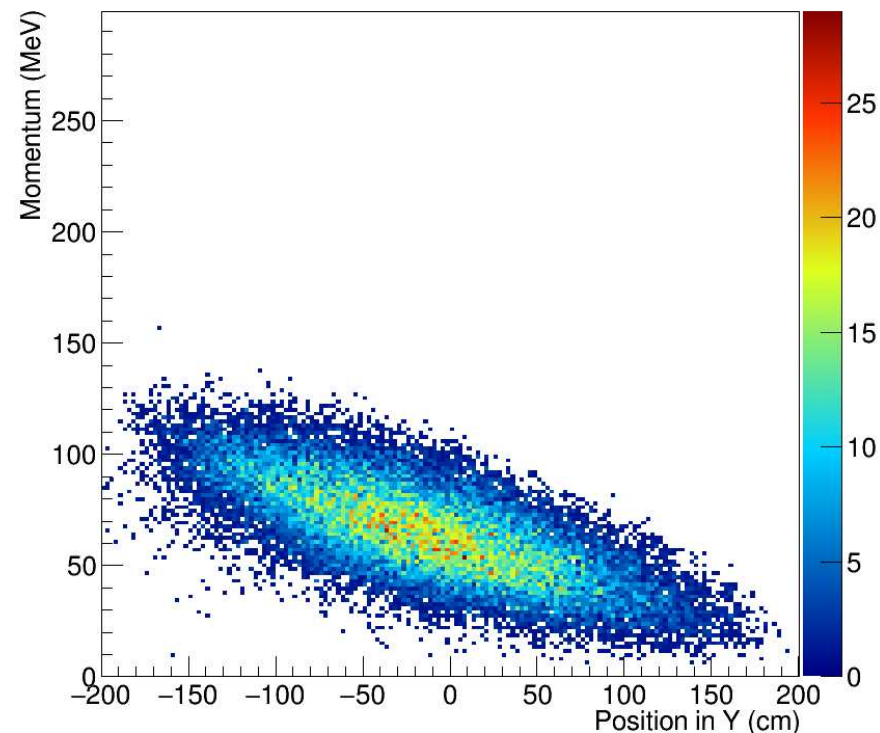
Bent Solenoid Drifts

(Geant4 Simulation)

At Entrance Bent Solenoid



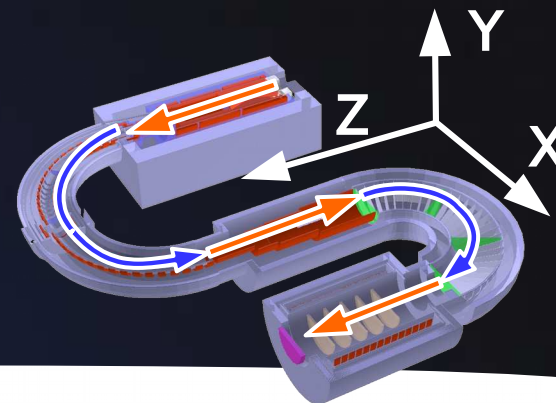
At Exit of Bent Solenoid



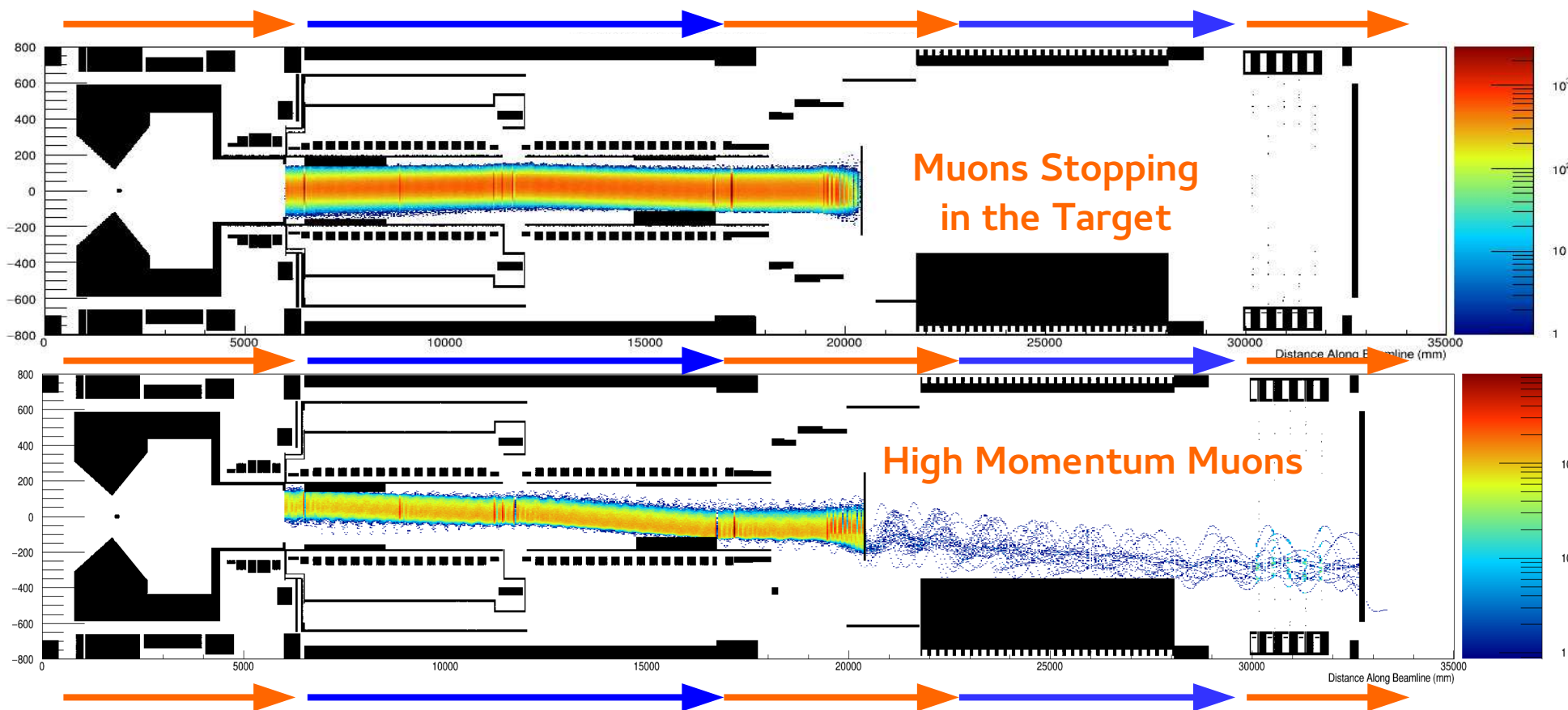
- High momentum particles drift down more than low momentum particles
- Additional tunable dipole field
 - Can select which momenta remain on-axis

Dipoles and Collimators

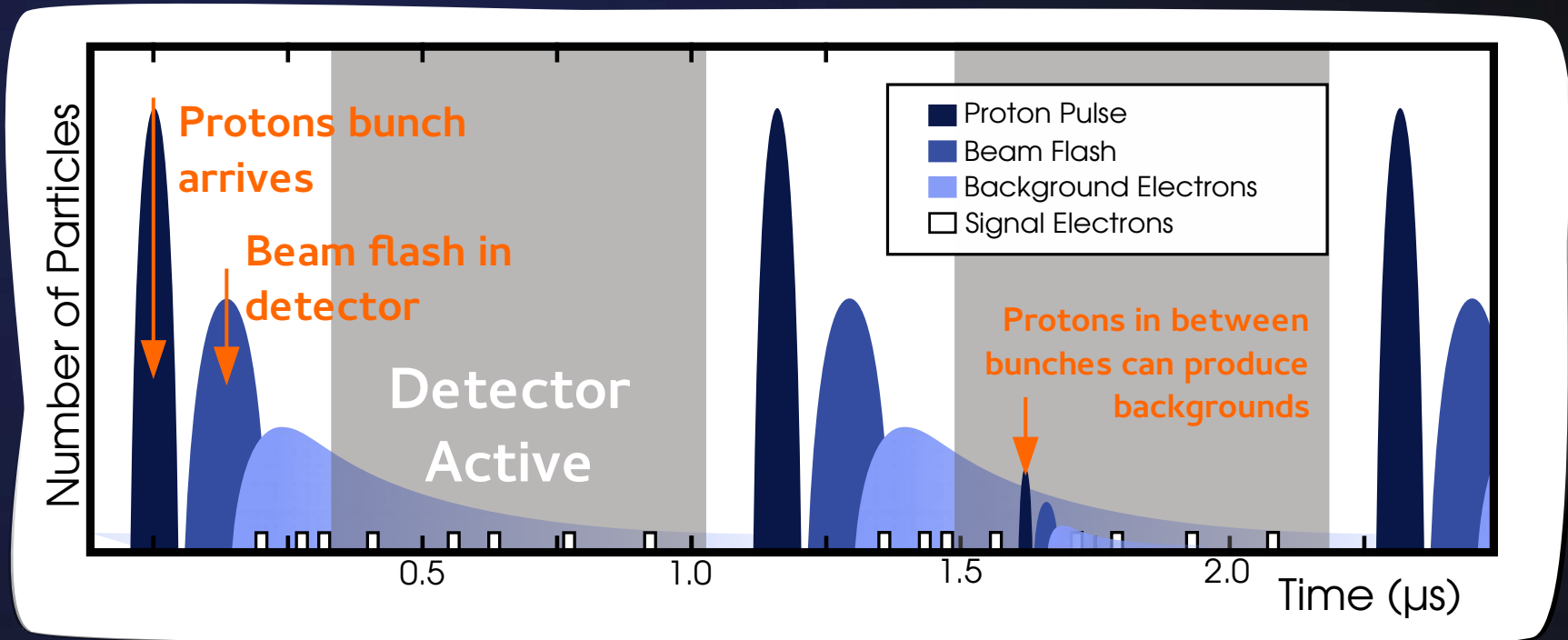
- Remove high momentum muons and pions
- Maintain low momentum muons



With Collimators Included



Pulsed Proton Beam Reduces Backgrounds

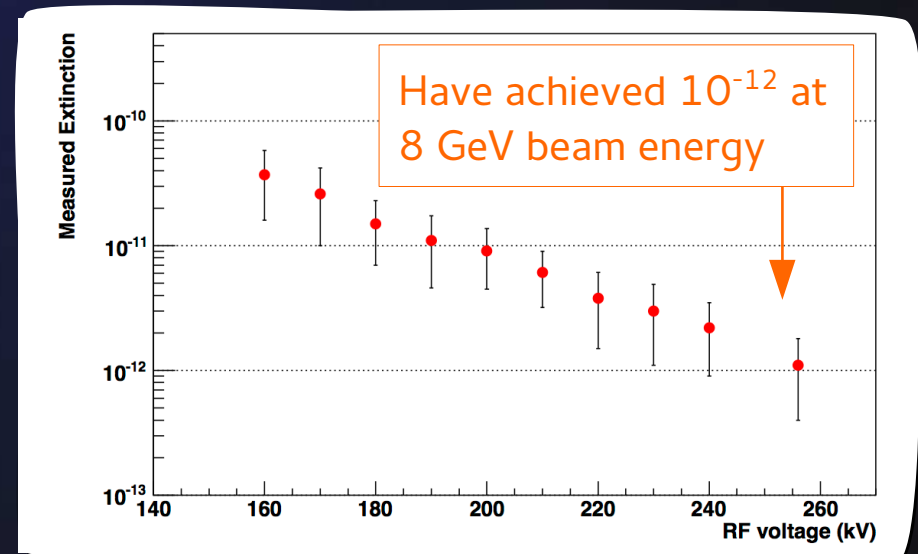


- Muon lifetime on Aluminium: 864 ns
- Pulsed beam removes beam-related backgrounds, typically up to 200 ns
- Few protons between pulses as possible:

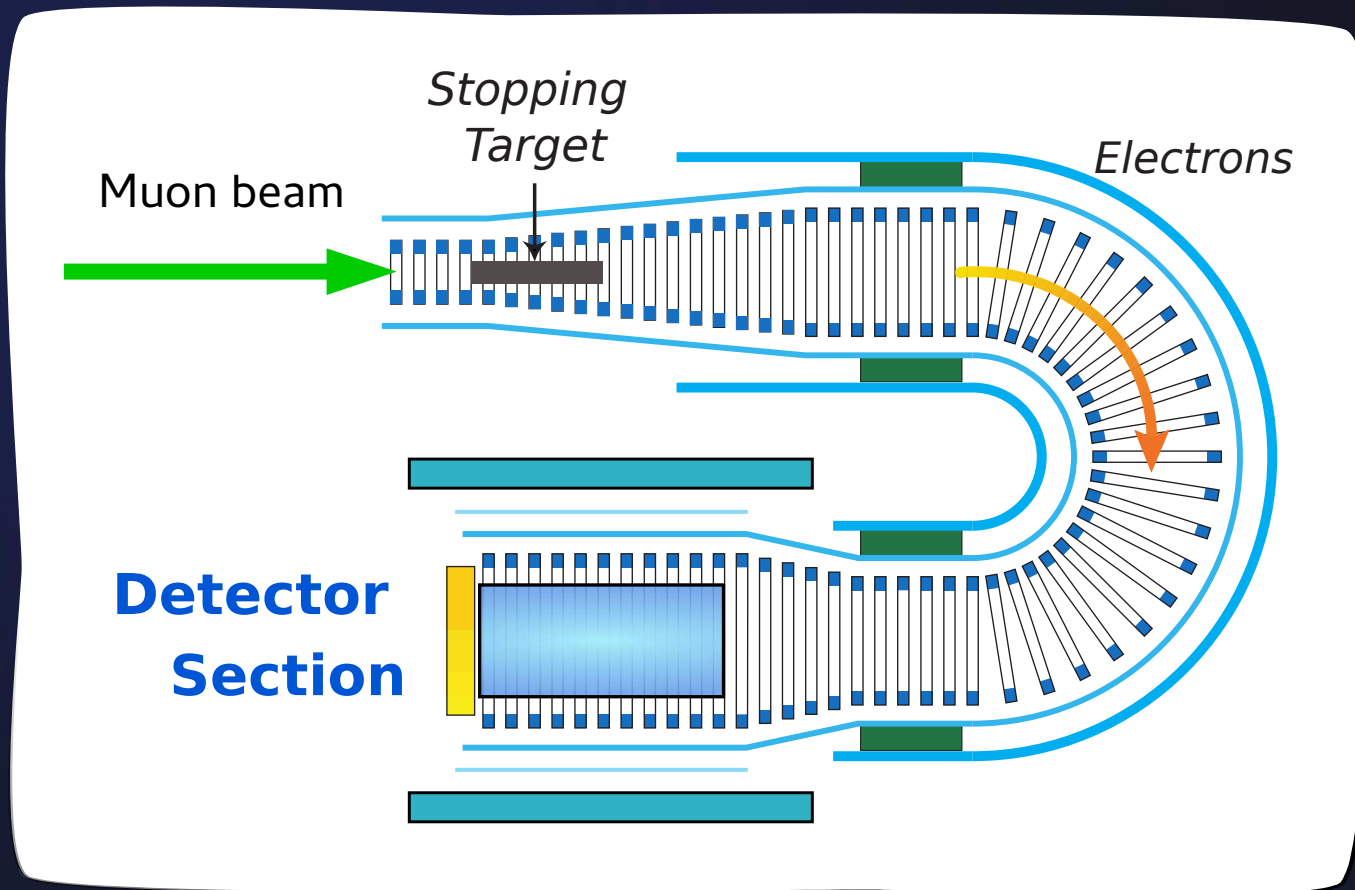
- Extinction factor:

$$\text{Extinction} = \frac{N(\text{Protons between pulse})}{N(\text{Protons in bunch})}$$

- Aiming for 10^{-9}

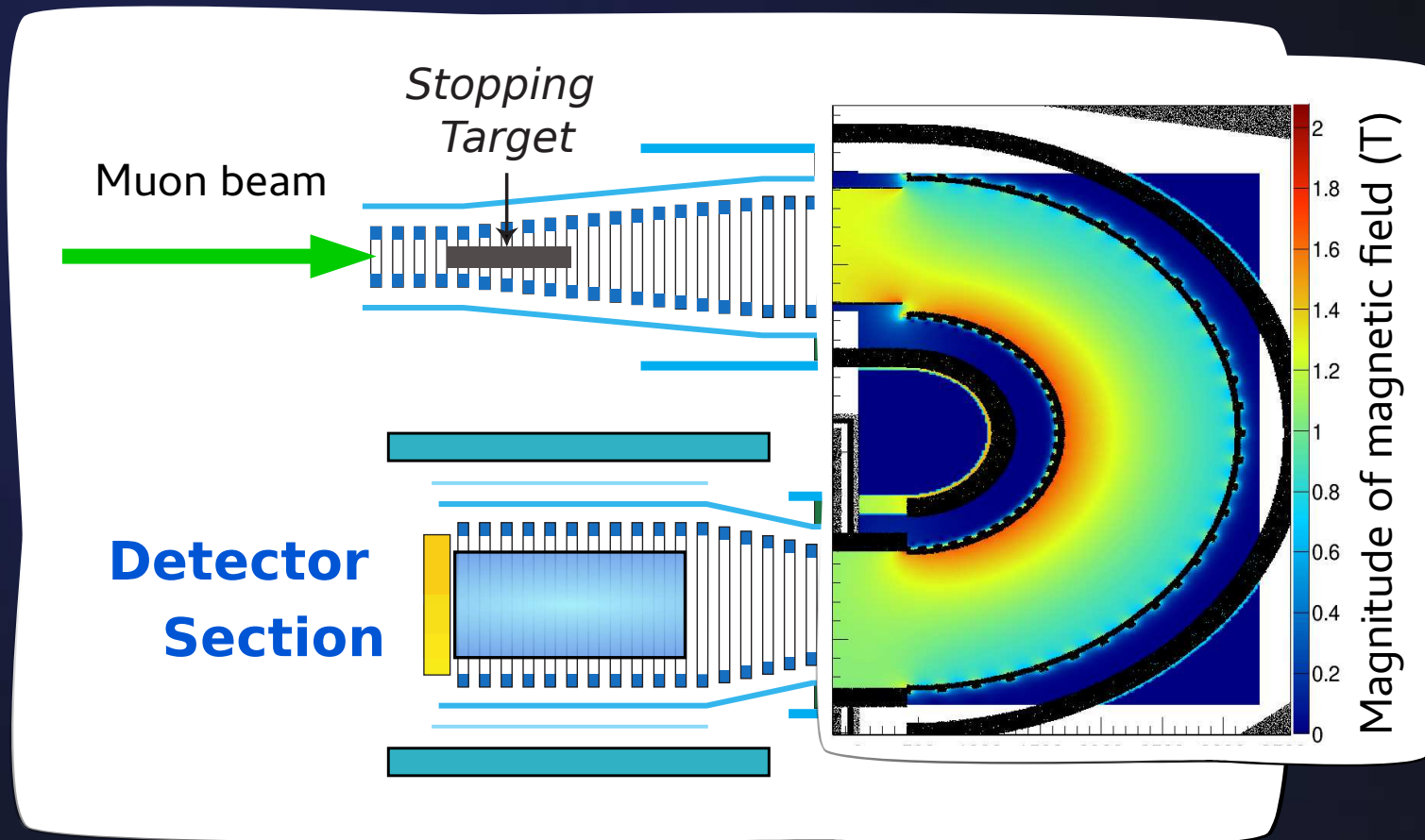


Phase-II Detection



- No line of sight between detector and target
- Select for high momentum electrons using bent solenoid and tuneable dipole field
- Straw Tracker and ECAL detector

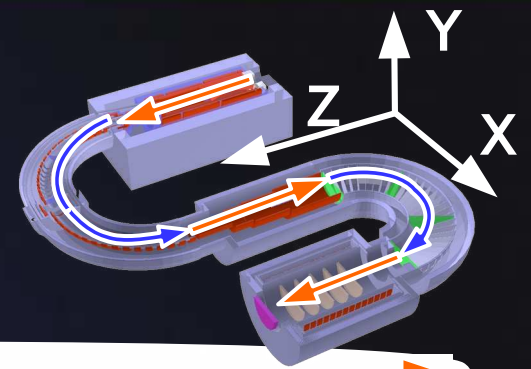
Phase-II Detection



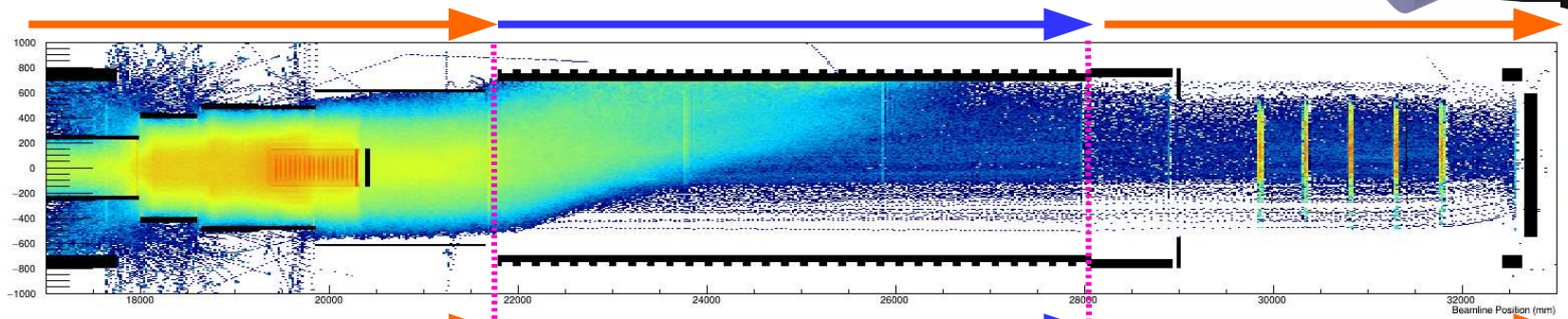
- No line of sight between detector and target
- Select for high momentum electrons using bent solenoid and tuneable dipole field
- Straw Tracker and ECAL detector

Bent solenoids + Dipole

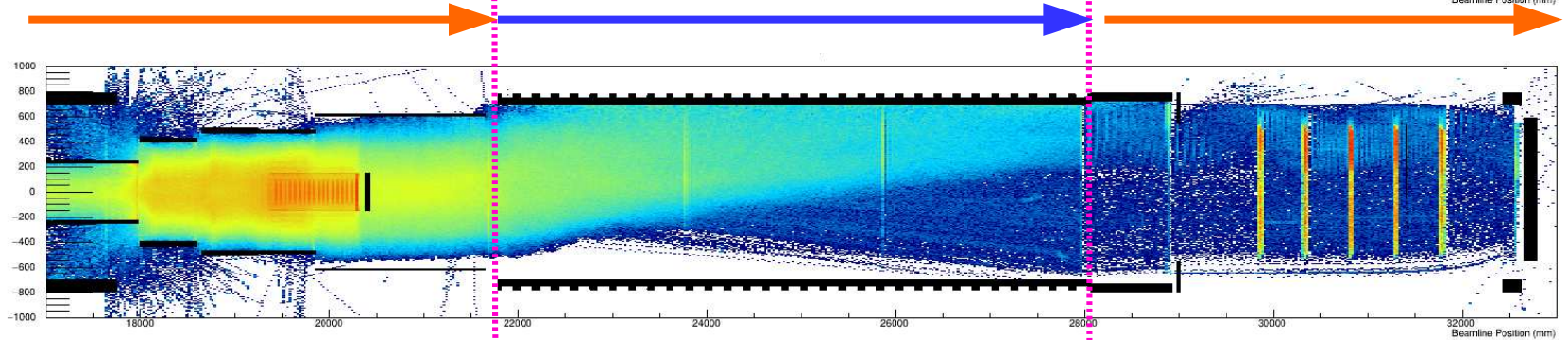
- A correcting dipole field allows us to select the momentum that remains on axis. Eg. 105 MeV/c:



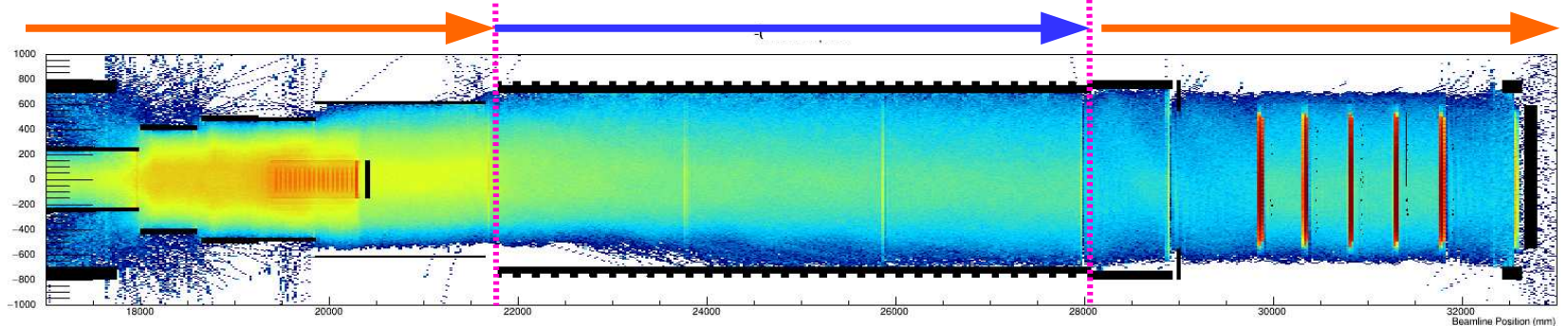
No Dipole



-0.08 T
Dipole



-0.22 T
Dipole



Stopping Target

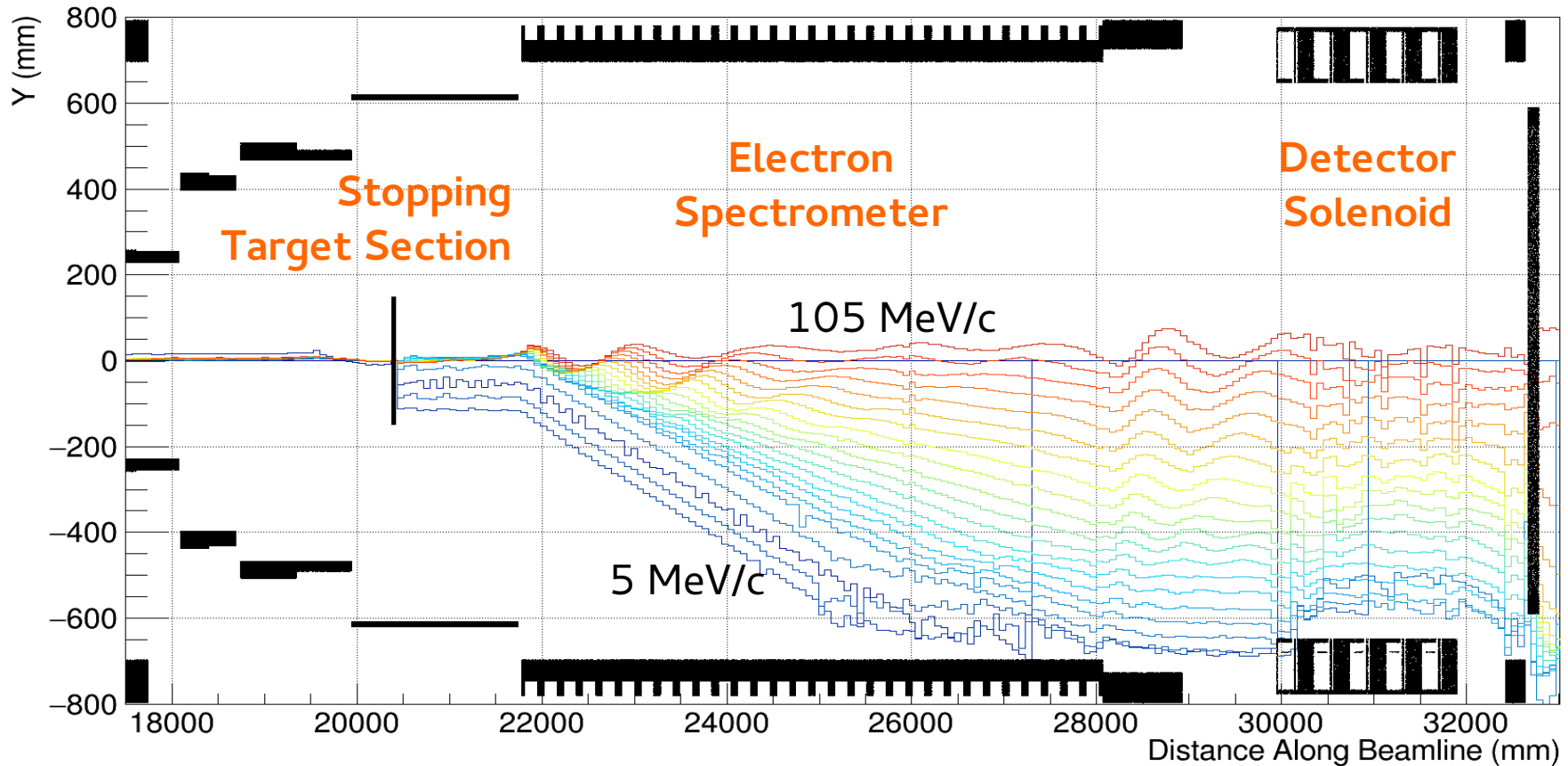
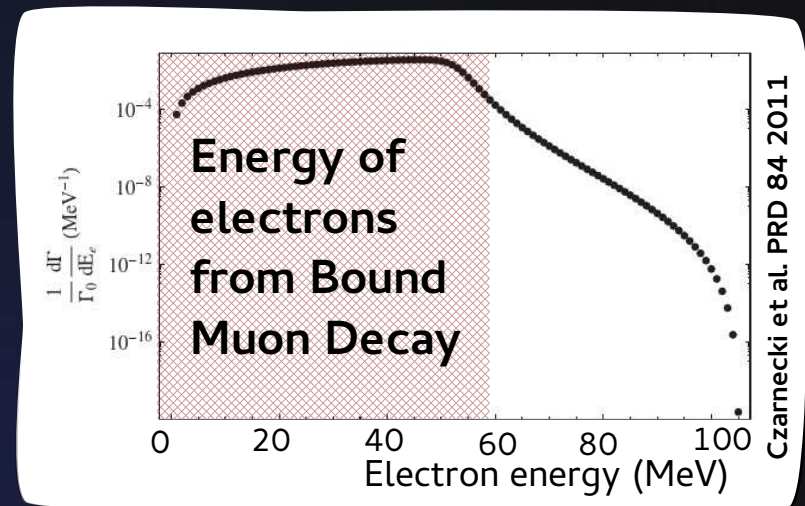
Electron Spectrometer

Detector

Momentum Separation

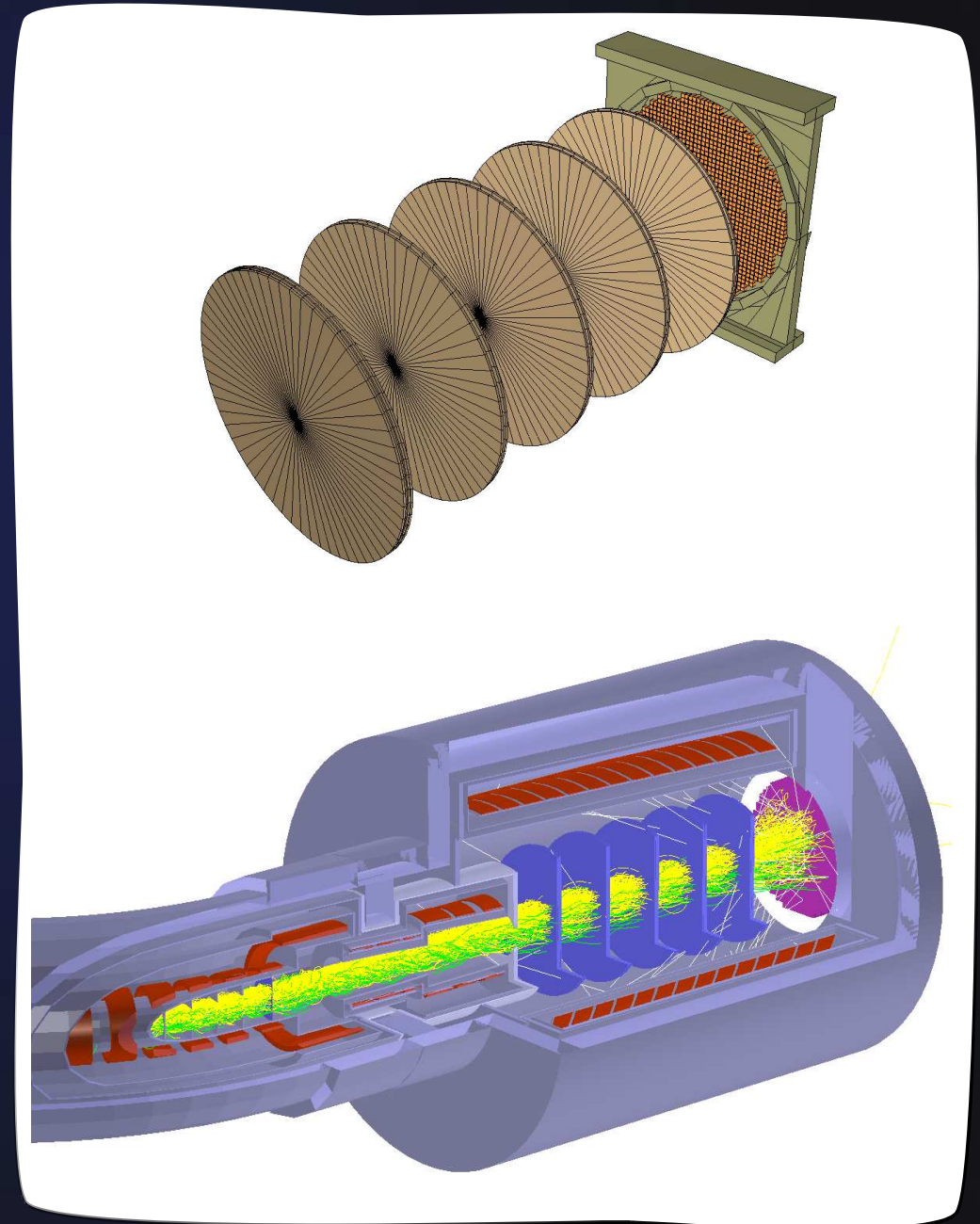
Bent solenoidal field separates electrons depending on their momentum

$$D \propto \frac{p}{qB} f(\theta)$$

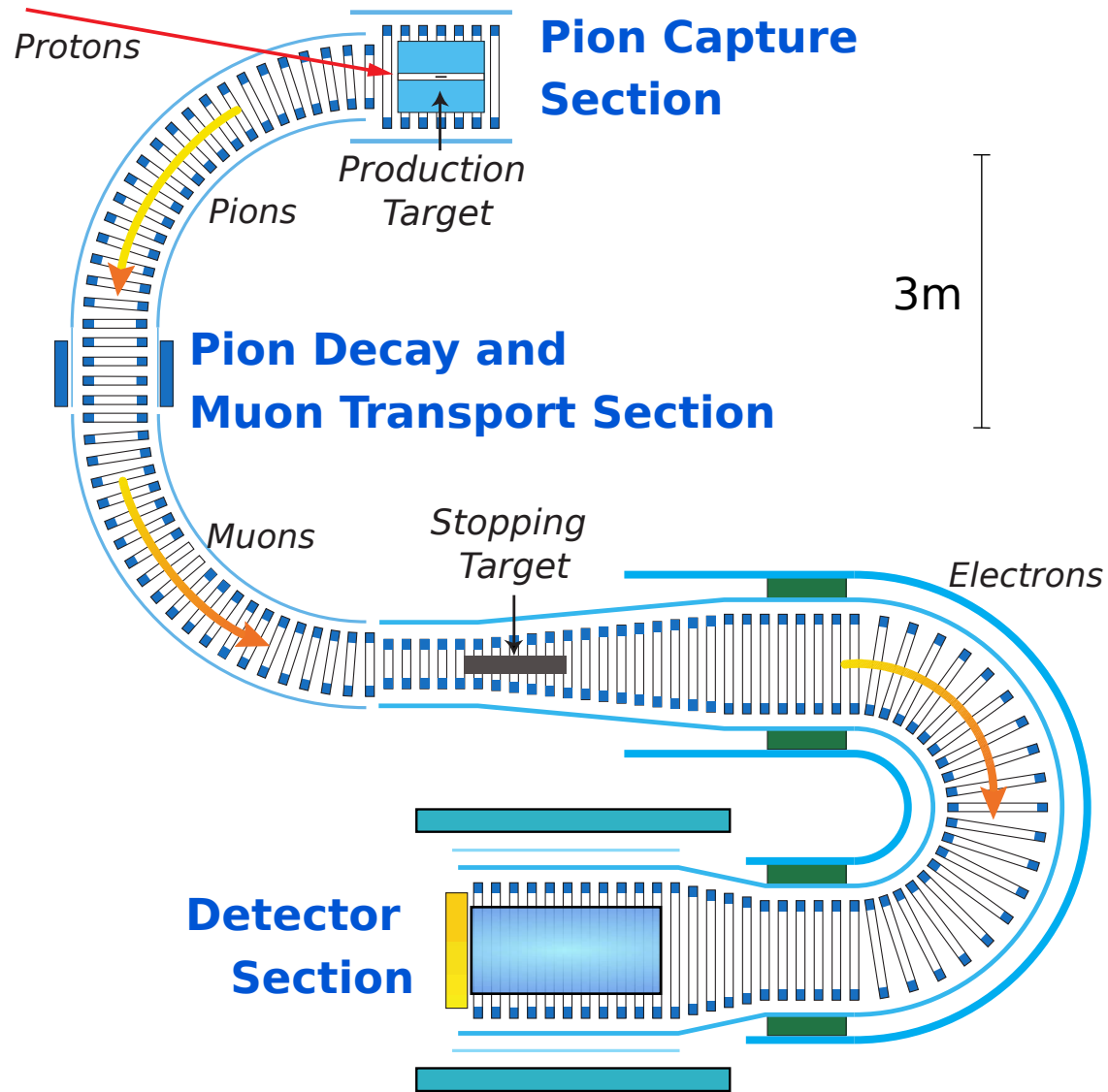


Phase-II Detector

- Straw Tube Tracker planes + Crystal ECAL
 - Straw Tracker \Rightarrow Momentum measurement
 - ECAL \Rightarrow Energy measurement
 - Combination \Rightarrow PID
- Low material budget
- High momentum resolution
 - About 200 KeV/c at 105 MeV/c
- Proto-typed in Phase-I



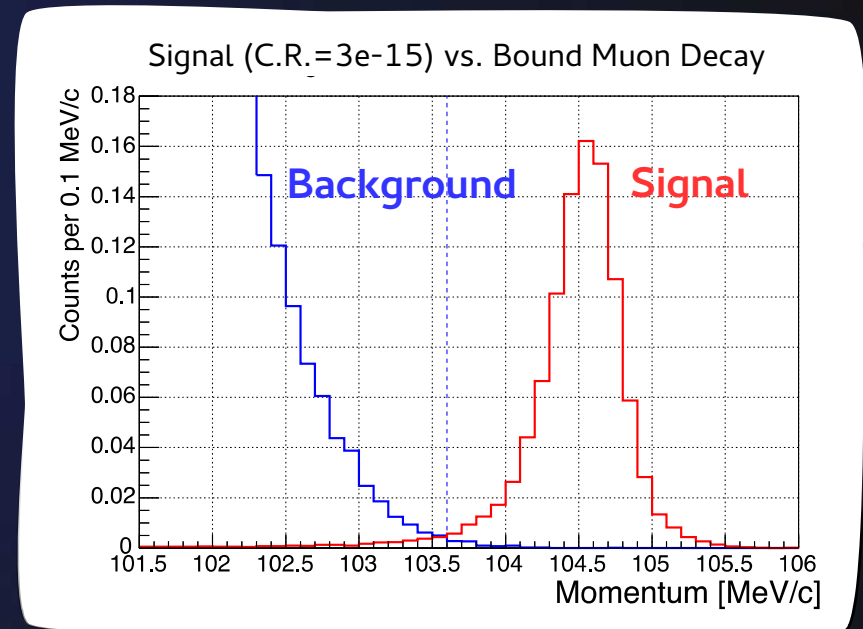
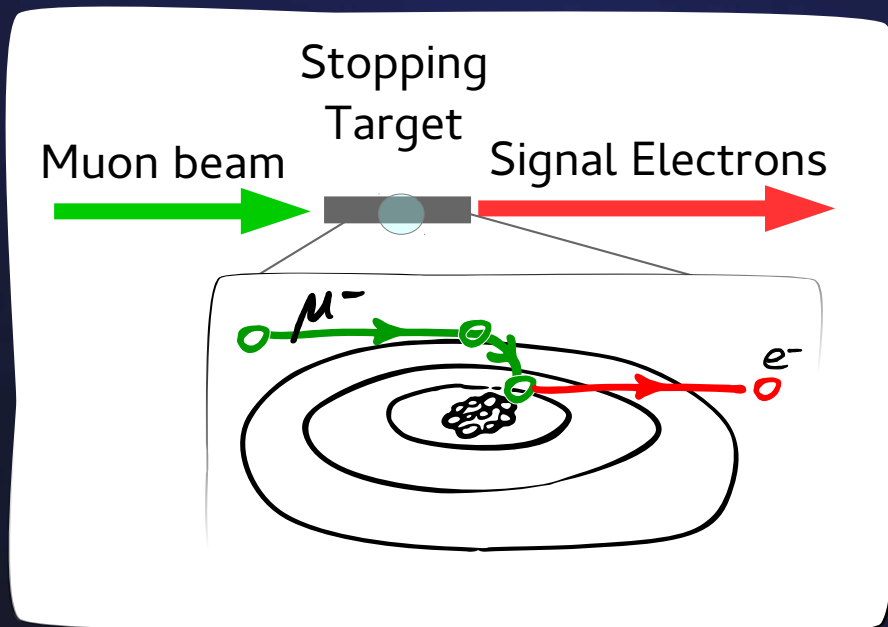
COMET: Phase-II



Achieving High Sensitivity

Overall Goals

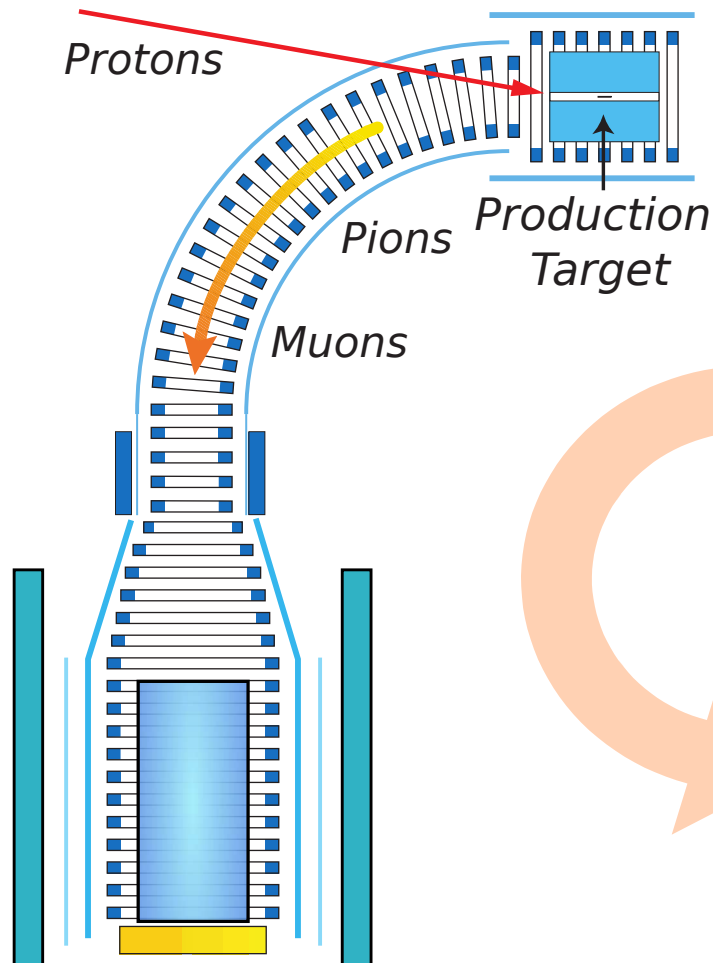
- Many stopped muons
- High signal acceptance
- Fewer than 1 expected background events during the run



Design Considerations

- Intense, low-energy muon beam at the target
- Low detector occupancy
- Low material budget (Stopping Target and Detector)

COMET: Phase-I

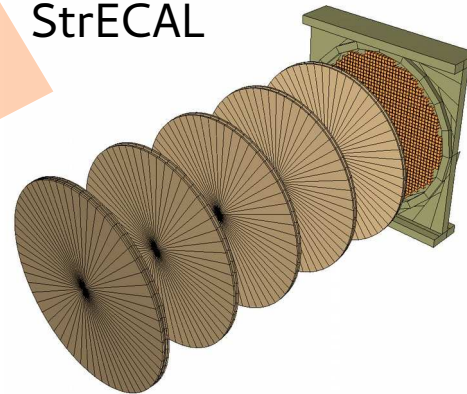


Pion Capture Section

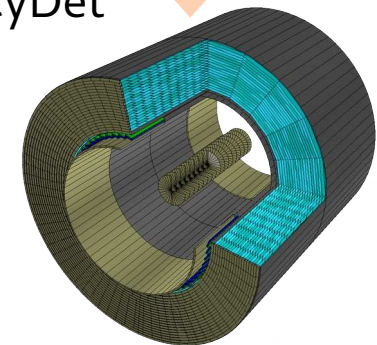
Goals of Phase-I

- Understand production system
- Understand bent solenoid dynamics
- Prototype the detector
- Measurement of background sources
- μ -e conversion search at: 3×10^{-15}

StrECAL



CyDet



Detector Section

Backgrounds

From Phase-I
TDR (2014)

From Phase-II
CDR (2009)

Type	Background	Predicted number of events per run	
		Phase-I [5]	Phase-II [3]
Intrinsic	Muon Decay-in-Orbit	0.01	0.15
	Radiative Muon Capture	0.00056	< 0.001
	μ^- Capture w/ n Emission	< 0.001	< 0.001
	μ^- Capture w/ Charged Part. Emission	< 0.001	< 0.001
Prompt	Radiative Pion Capture	0.00023	0.05
	Beam Electrons	0.00083	< 0.1*
	Muon Decay in Flight	≤ 0.0002	< 0.0002
	Pion Decay in Flight	≤ 0.00023	< 0.0001
	Neutron Induced	—	0.024
	Other beam induced B.G.	$< 2.8 \times 10^{-6}$	—
	Delayed	Delayed Radiative Pion Capture	~ 0
	Anti-proton Induced	0.007	0.007
	Other delayed B.G.	~ 0	—
Cosmic	Cosmic Ray Muons	—	0.002
	Electrons from Cosmic Ray Muons	< 0.0001	0.002
Total background		0.019	0.34
Signal (Assuming $B = 1 \times 10^{-16}$)		0.31	3.8

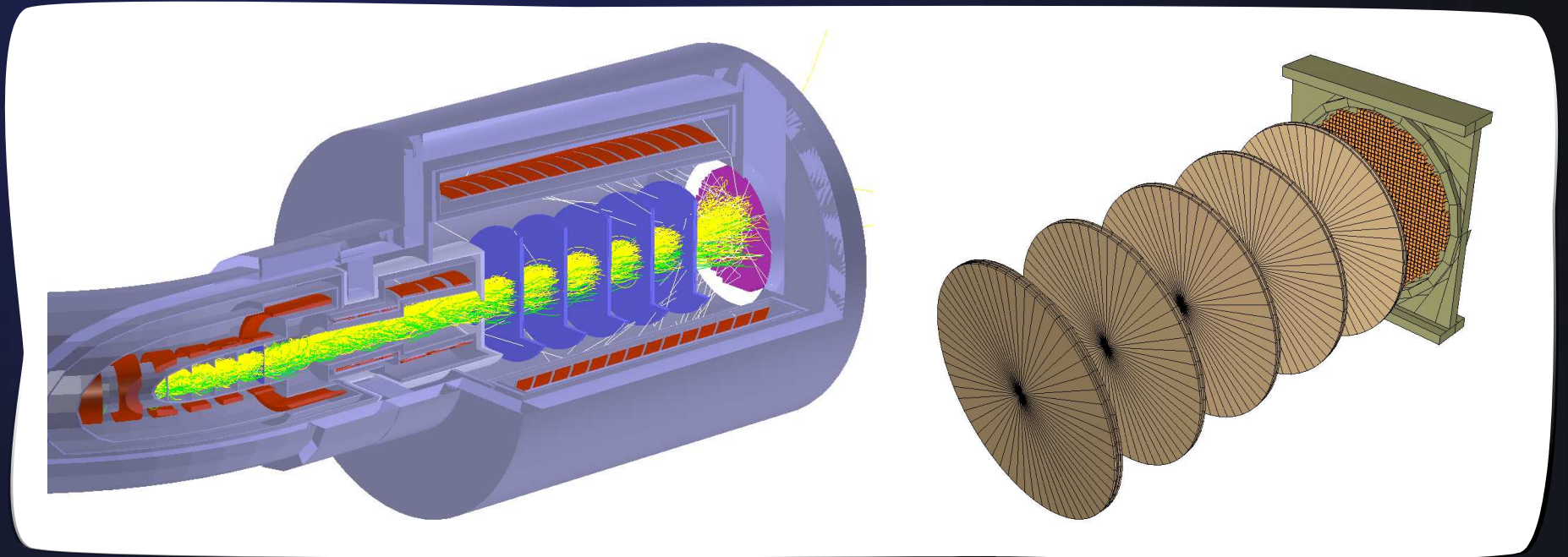
Assumed extinction factors:
Phase-I: 10^{-11}
Phase-II: 10^{-9} (to be updated)

Run times:
Phase-I: 110 days
Phase-II: 1 year

COMET Phase-I, Status and R&D

StrECAL Detector

Straw Tracker + ECAL



- Phase-II Detector prototype
- Used to characterise beam in Phase-I

Straw Tracker

- **Phase-I Straw Design**

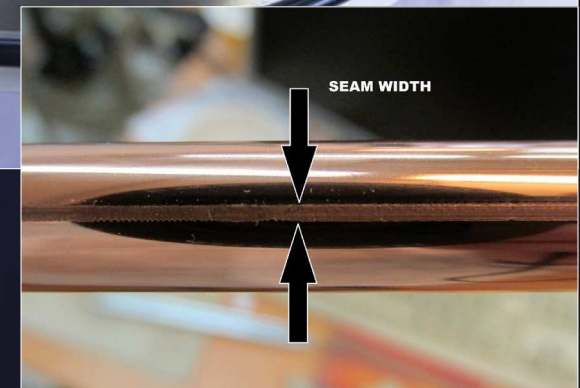
- Based on NA62 Straws with single seam weld
- Using same production technique
- 20 micron aluminised mylar
- 9.8 mm diameter tubes

- **Phase-II possibilities:**

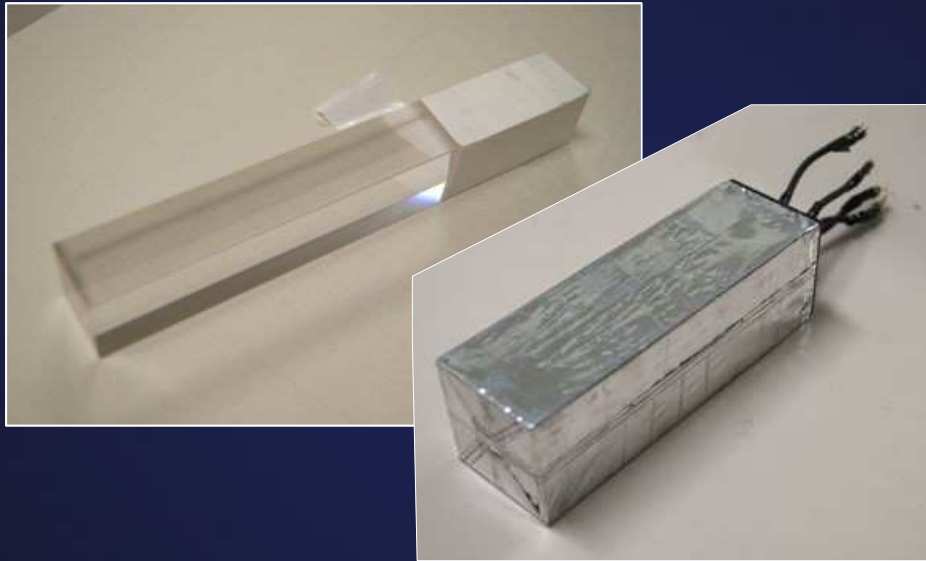
- 5 mm diameter
- 12 micron Al-mylar

- **Status**

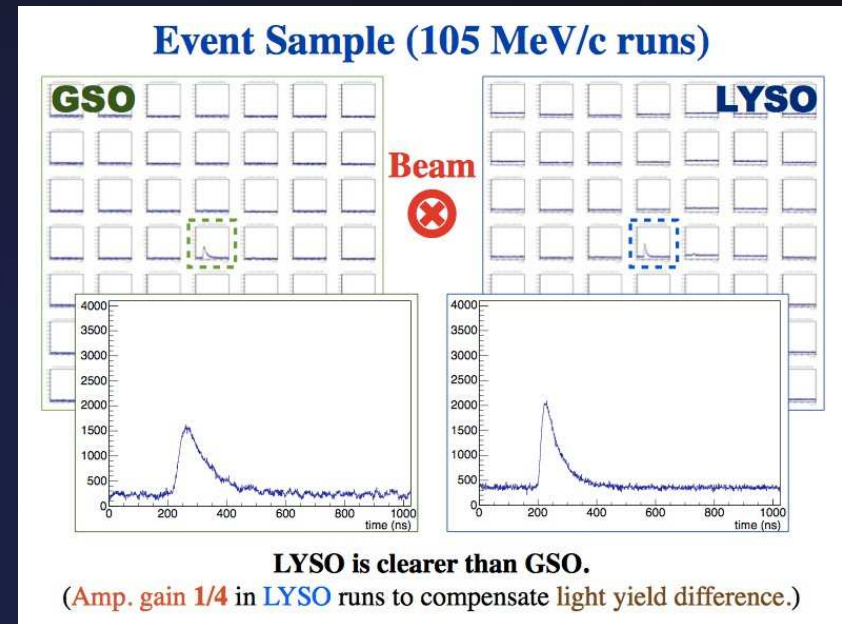
- Phase-I production finished (2500 straws)
- Aging tests, resolution studies underway



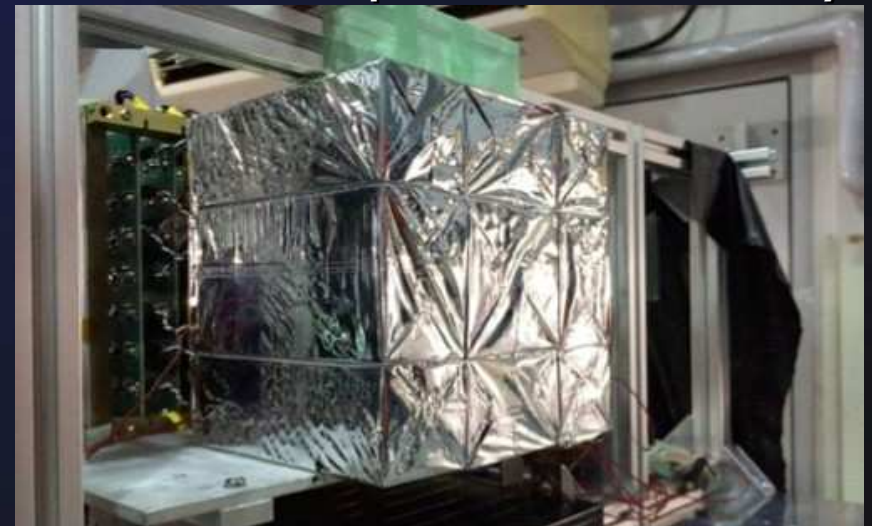
ECAL *StrECAL Trigger and Energy Measurement for PID*



- **2272 LYSO Crystals**
 - Dimensions: 2x2x12 cm
- **Status:**
 - Crystal purchasing on-going
 - Test bench being built
 - Beam tests for resolution studies, PID and DAQ underway
 - Calibration system being designed

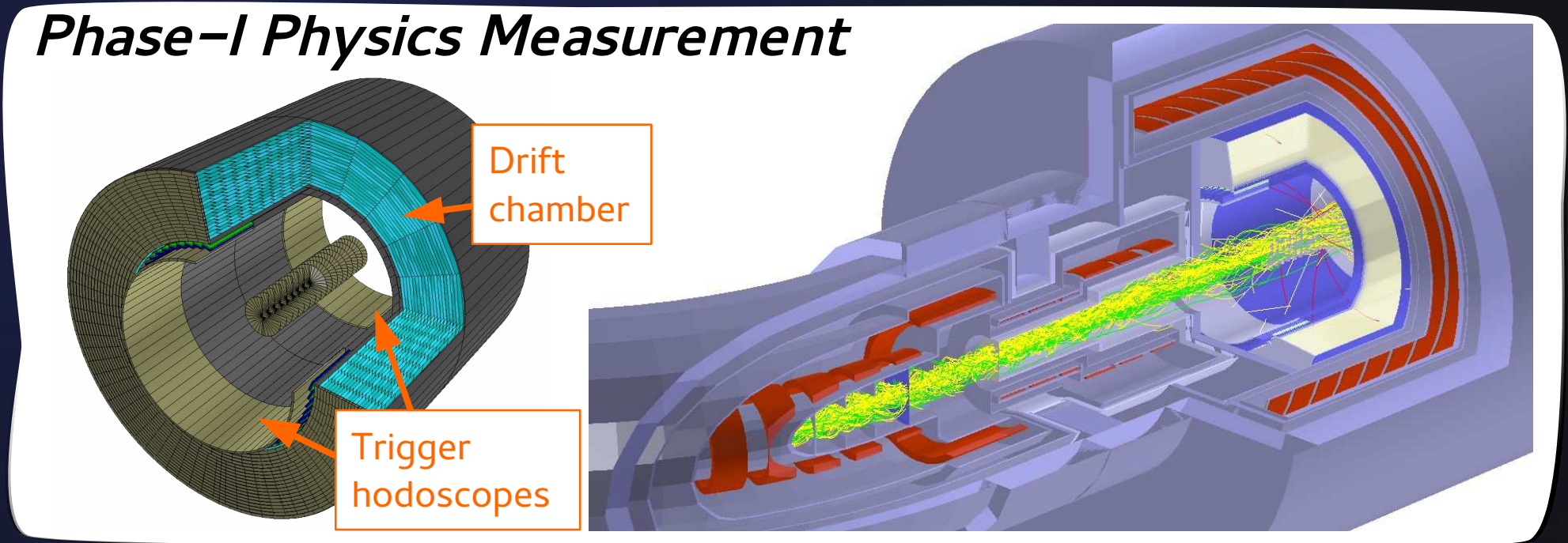


Beam test setup for resolution study

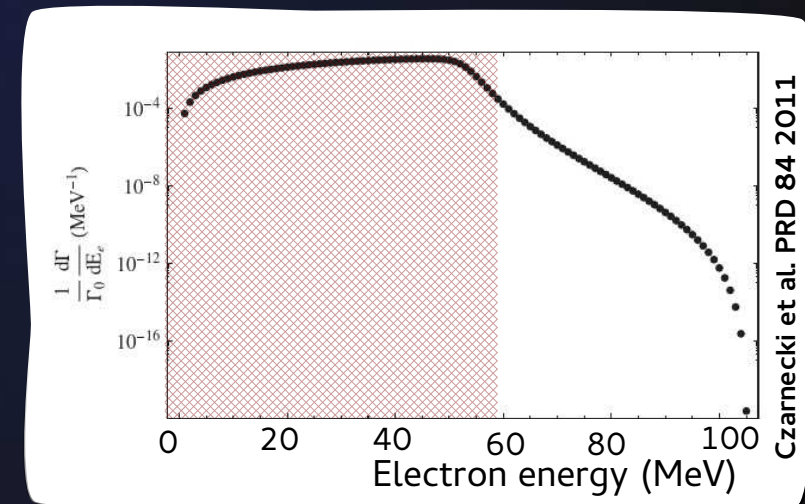


Cylindrical Detector (CyDet)

Phase-I Physics Measurement

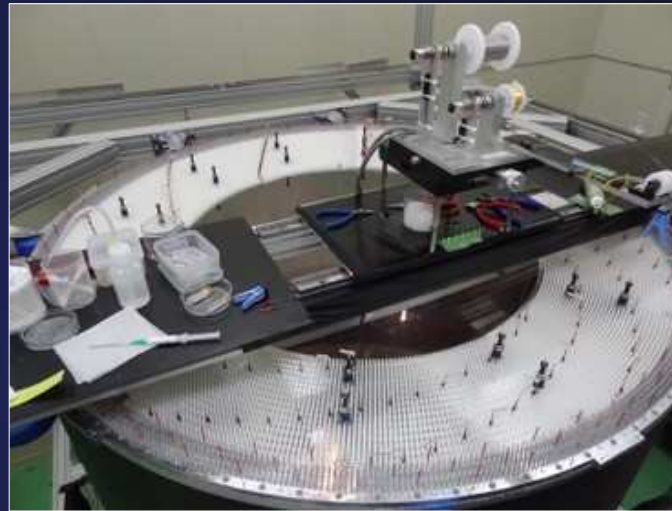
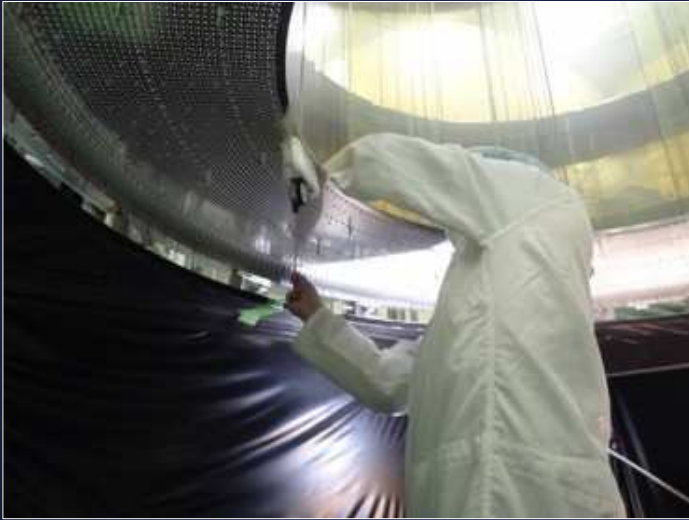


- Cylindrical Drift Chamber (CDC) triggered from hodoscopes made of Cherenkov counters and plastic scintillators
- 60 cm inner radius
 - Only accept particles with momentum greater than 60 MeV/c
 - Avoids beam flash and most electrons from bound muon decay
- Momentum measurement using drift chamber
 - Low material budget improves resolution
 - All stereo wires to recover Z information



Electrons from Bound Muon Decay

Cylindrical Drift Chamber (CDC)



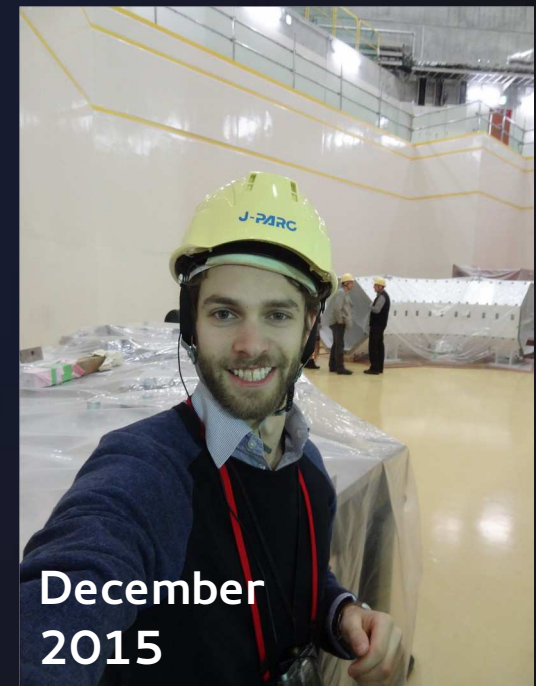
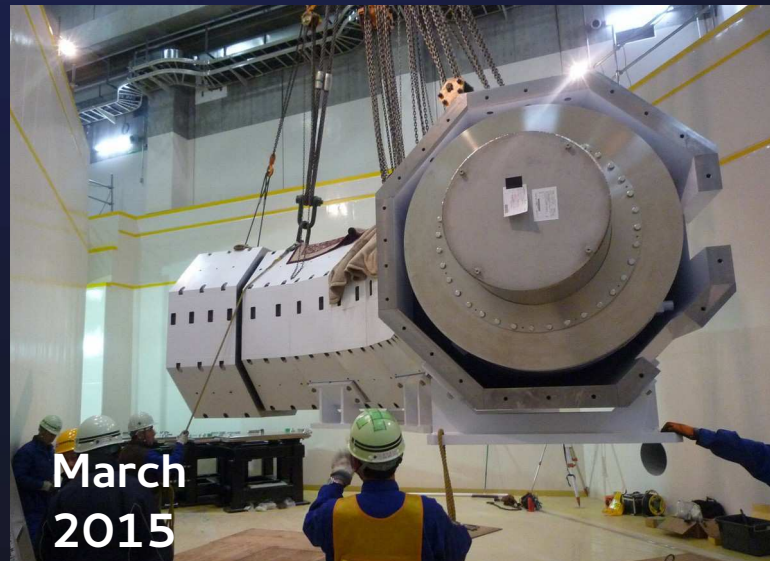
- 20 layers with alternating stereo angles of $\pm 4^\circ$
- 20,000 wires total
- Fully strung as of November 2015
- Wire tension checking



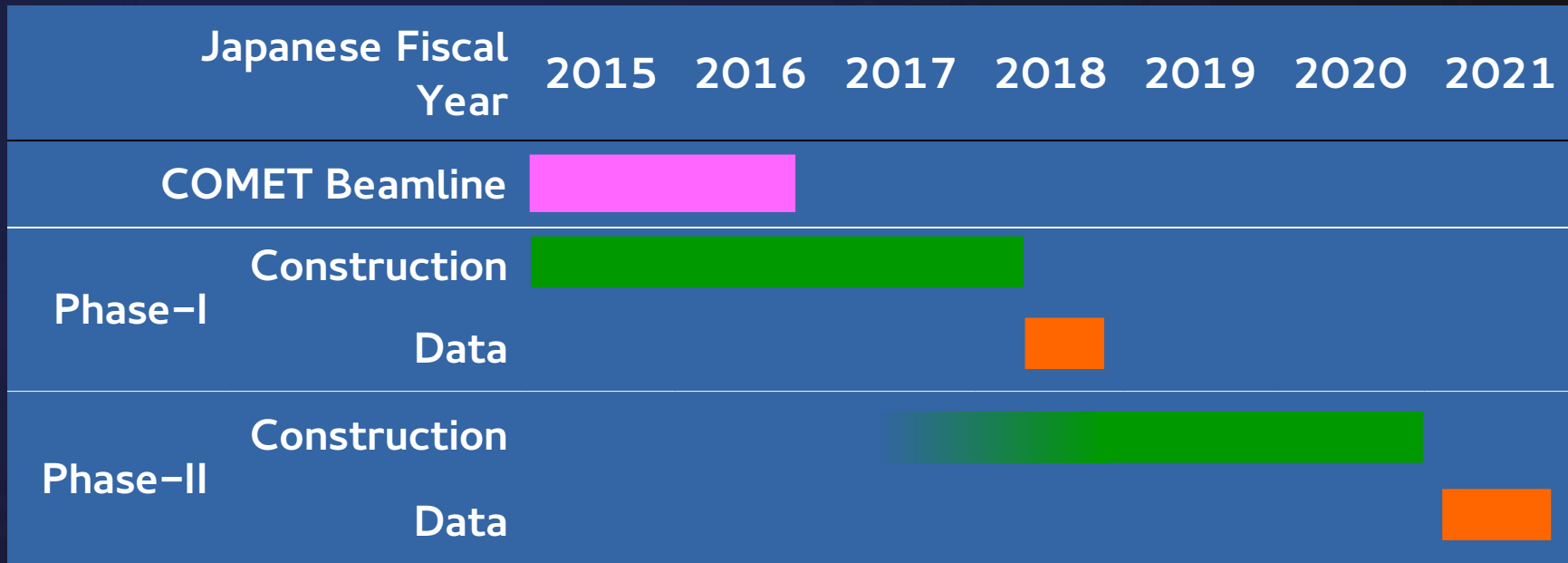
Facility Status and Beamline



- Building and hall completed
- Phase-I bent solenoid built and installed



Schedule and Collaboration



14 Countries
32 institutes
177 participants



Summary

**Muon-to-electron
conversion is a strong probe
of new physics**

**COMET's staged approach and
unique design makes it highly
sensitive to this process**

**Development and construction
are well under way**

COMET Phase-I

2018

Sensitivity $< 3 \times 10^{-15}$

110 days

3.2 kW proton beam

COMET Phase-II

2021

Sensitivity $< 3 \times 10^{-17}$

1 Year

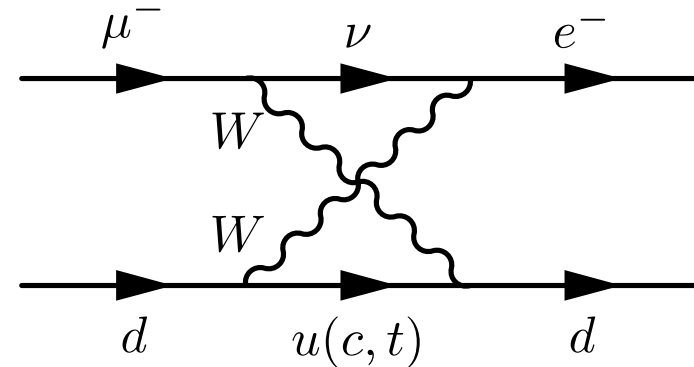
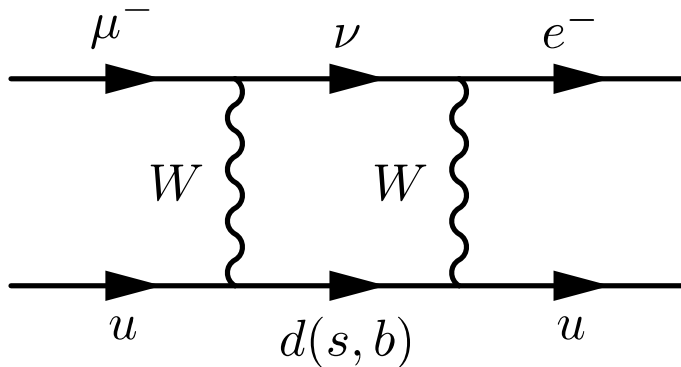
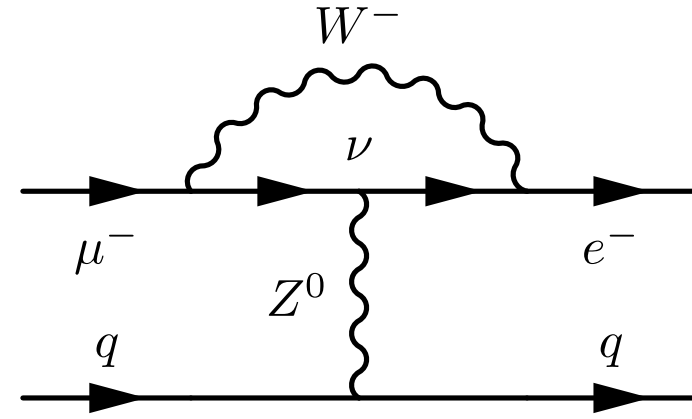
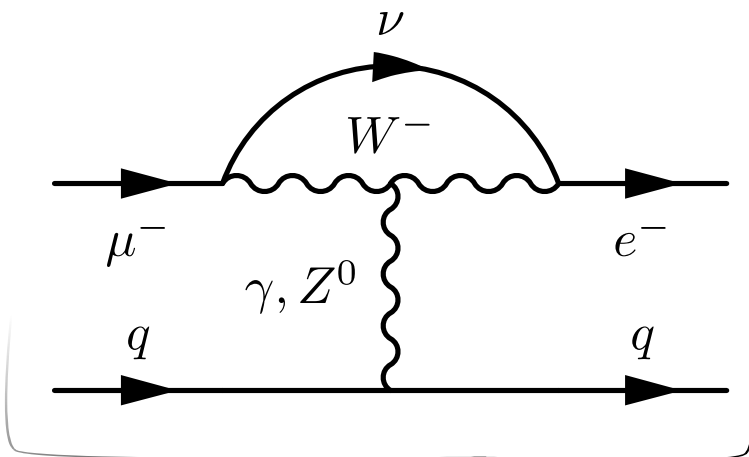
56 kW proton beam

Back-ups

Muon to Electron Conversion

via Neutrino Oscillation

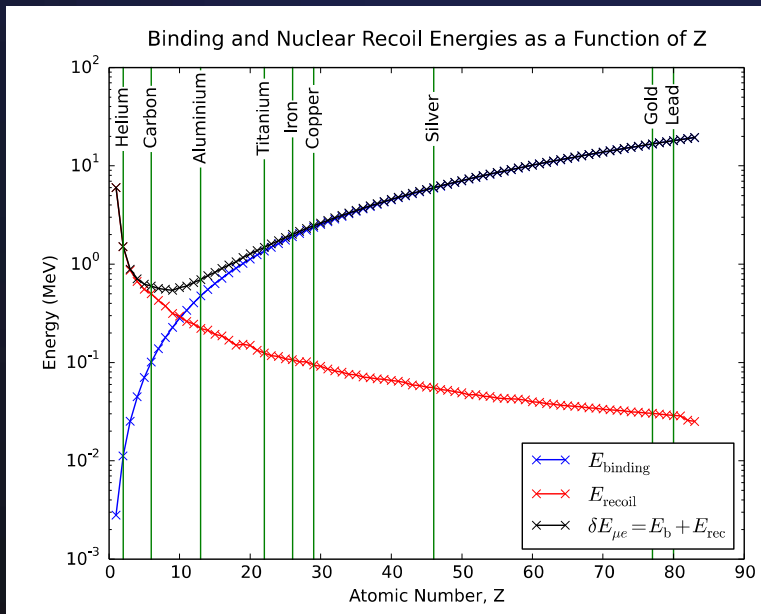
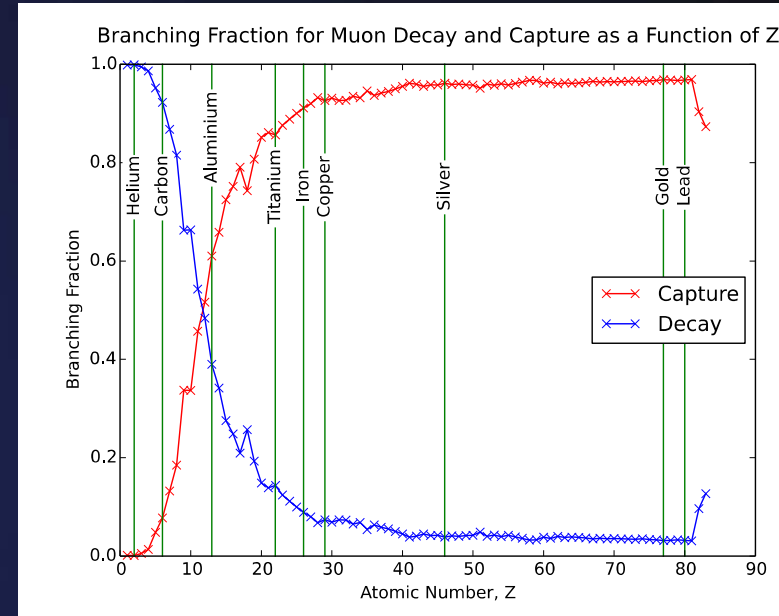
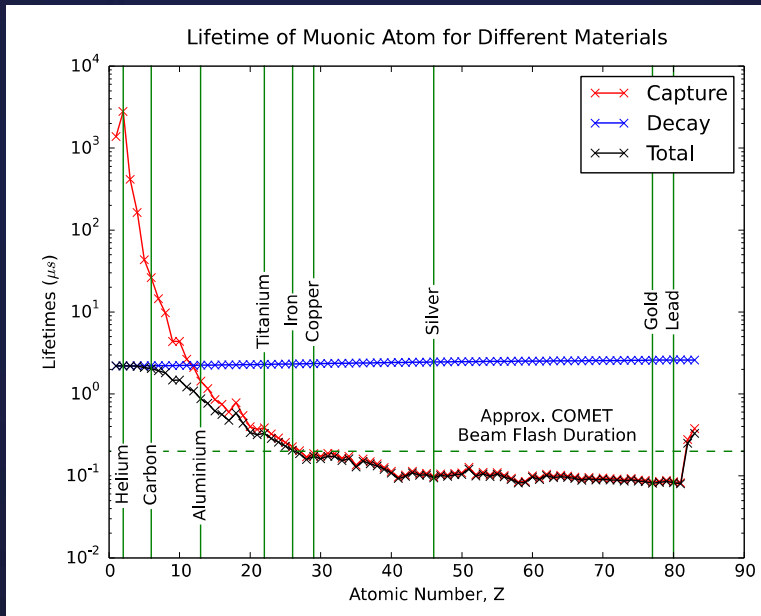
All diagrams involving Neutrino Oscillations



Although things still aren't especially simple:

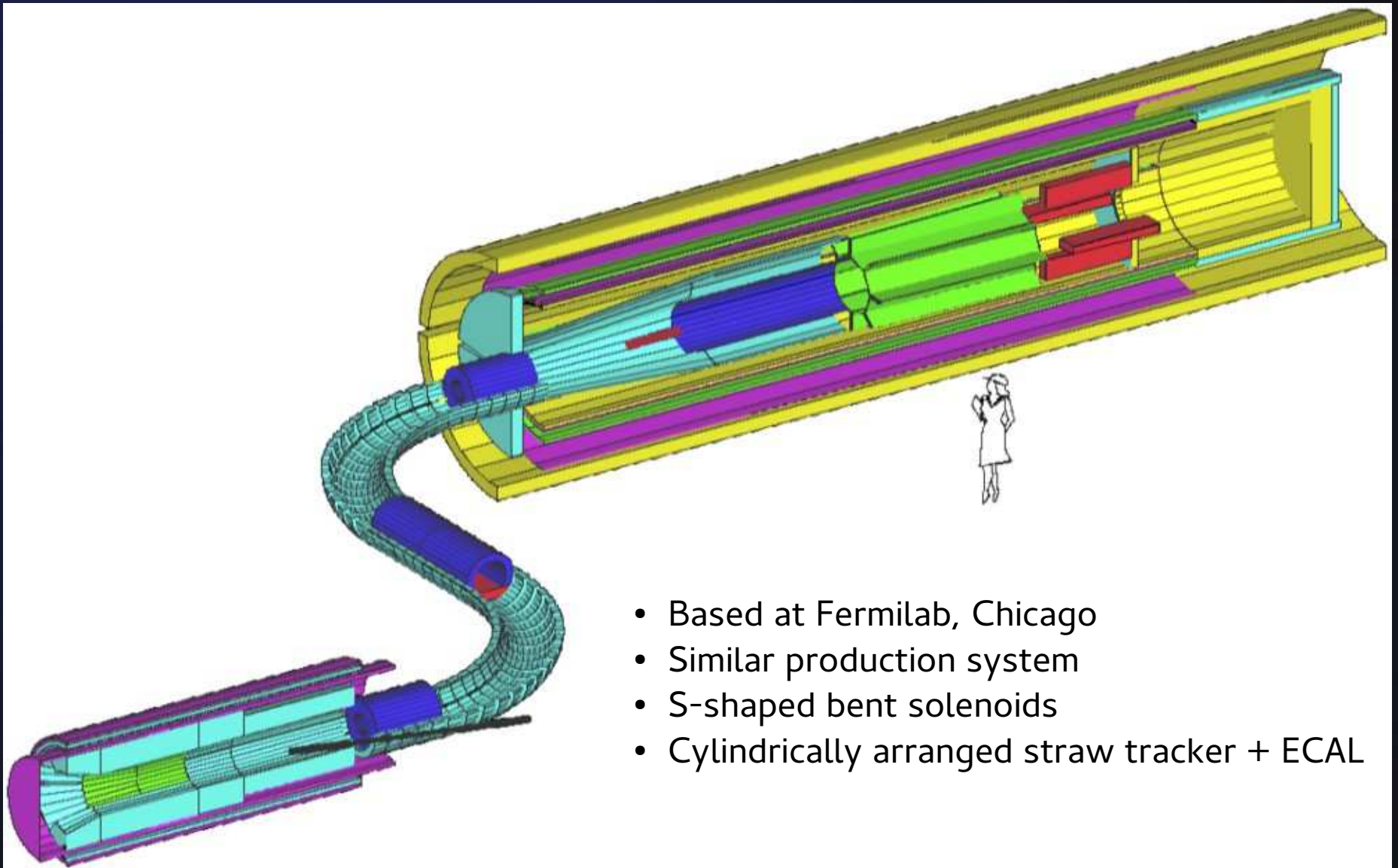
- Cancellations, coherences, form factors

Why an Aluminium Target?



- Maximise atomic lifetime compared to beam flash duration
- Minimise binding and nuclear recoil energies
- Maximise capture branching ratio
- (Phase-I: Minimise emissions following muon nuclear capture)

Mu2e



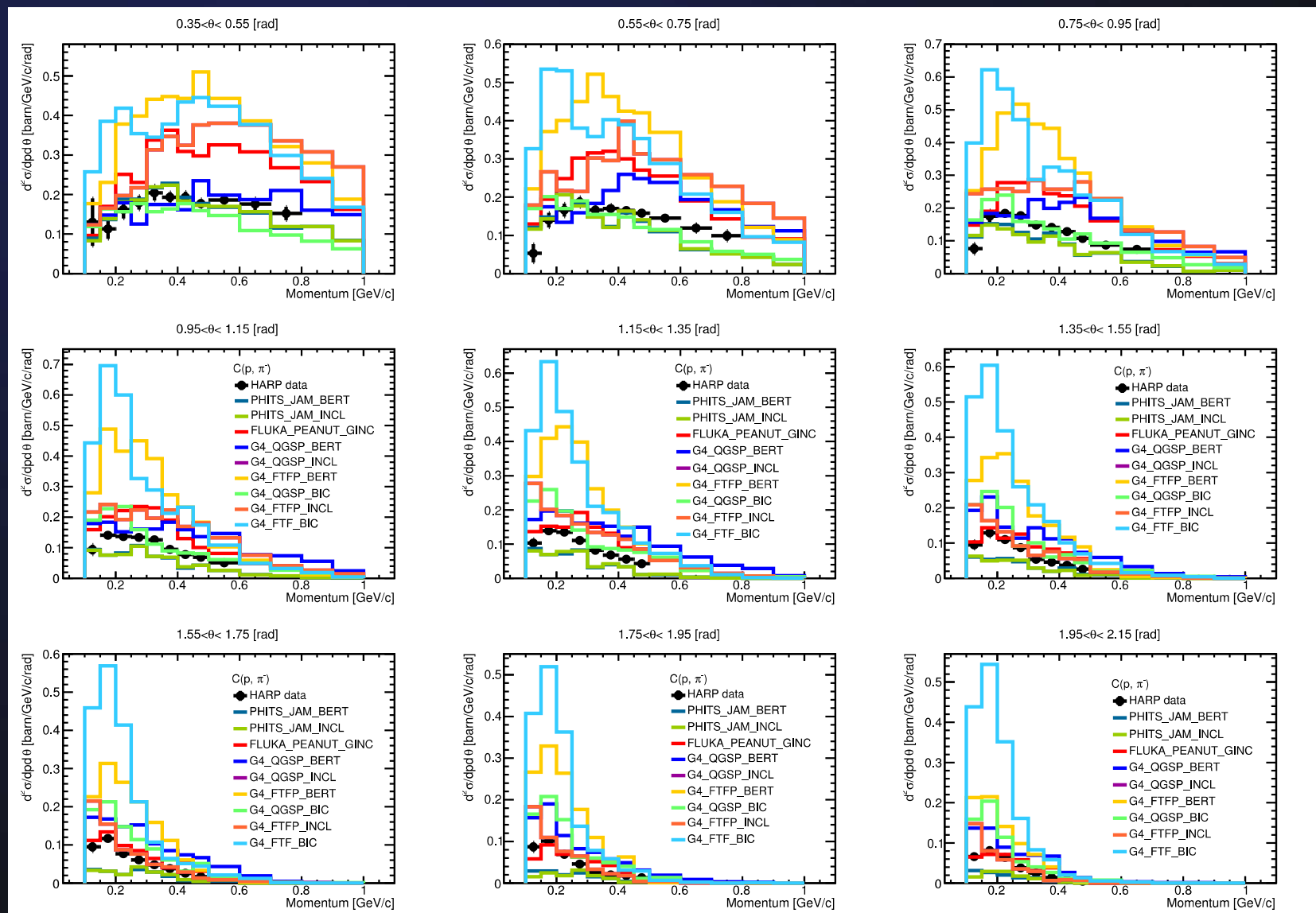
- Based at Fermilab, Chicago
- Similar production system
- S-shaped bent solenoids
- Cylindrically arranged straw tracker + ECAL

Mu2e vs COMET

- **COMET has tunable dipole fields**
 - Can select during running which momenta are accepted
- **COMET has a staged approach**
 - Will understand beamline and detector systems at Phase-II thanks to Phase-I knowledge
 - Uncertainty on Pion yield at production target
 - Mu2e will also be able to use COMET Phase-I knowledge
- **No line-of-sight between COMET Phase-II detector and stopping target**
 - Neutral particles are much less of a concern
 - Separation of low to high momentum electrons
- **COMET runs at a higher beam power**
 - 1 year to achieve same sensitivity
- **Mu2e can run simultaneously to g-2 and other experiments**
 - COMET uses dedicated accelerator mode so other experiments (eg. T2K / T2HK) wouldn't run

Production Target

Pion yield for a graphite target at different angles based on HARP data and different hadron codes



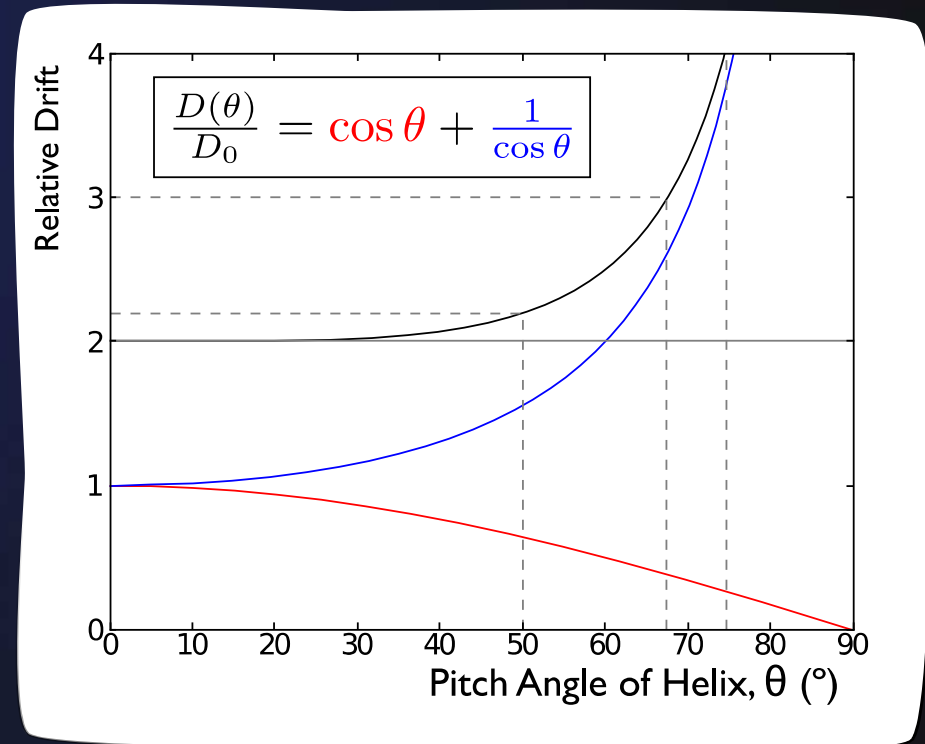
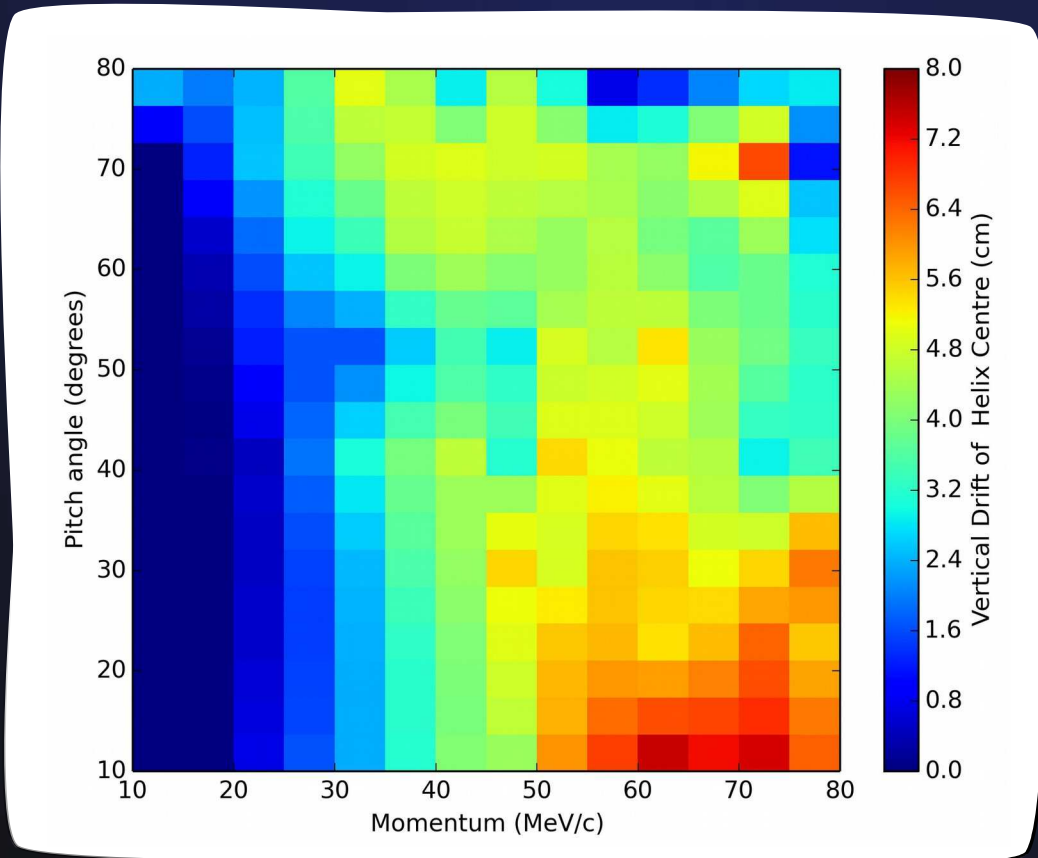
Ye Yang, KEK

Muon Beam: Bent Solenoid Drifts

- Helical centres follow cylindrical fieldlines
 \Rightarrow Pseudo-electric field radially \Rightarrow ExB drift
- Gradient in radial direction \Rightarrow Grad B drift

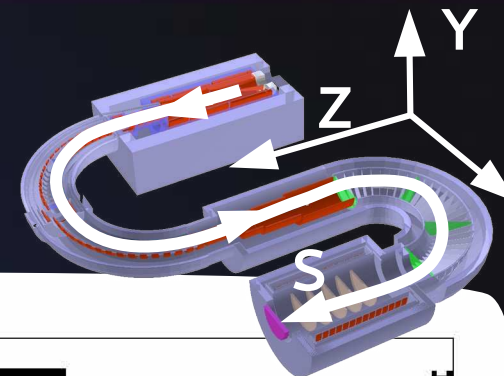
$$D \propto \frac{1}{qB} \left(\frac{p_l^2 + \frac{1}{2}p_t^2}{p_l} \right)$$

$$\propto \frac{1}{qB} \frac{p}{2} \left(\cos \theta + \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \right)$$

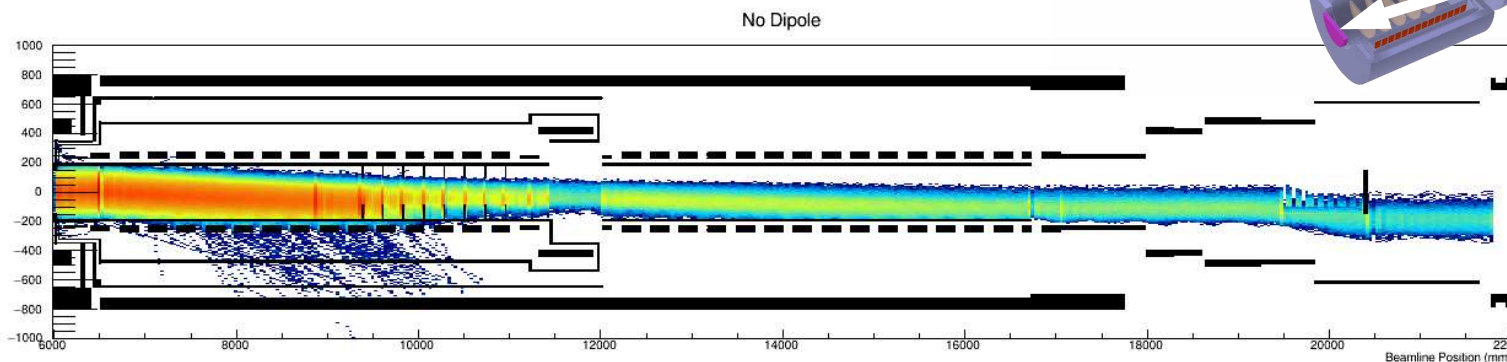


Muon Beam Height

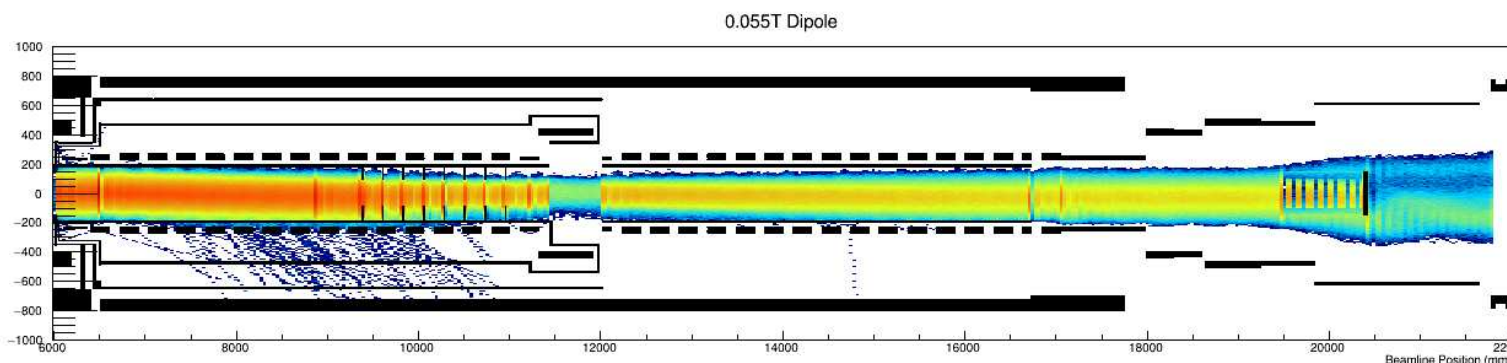
For Three Different Dipole 1 & Dipole 2 Values



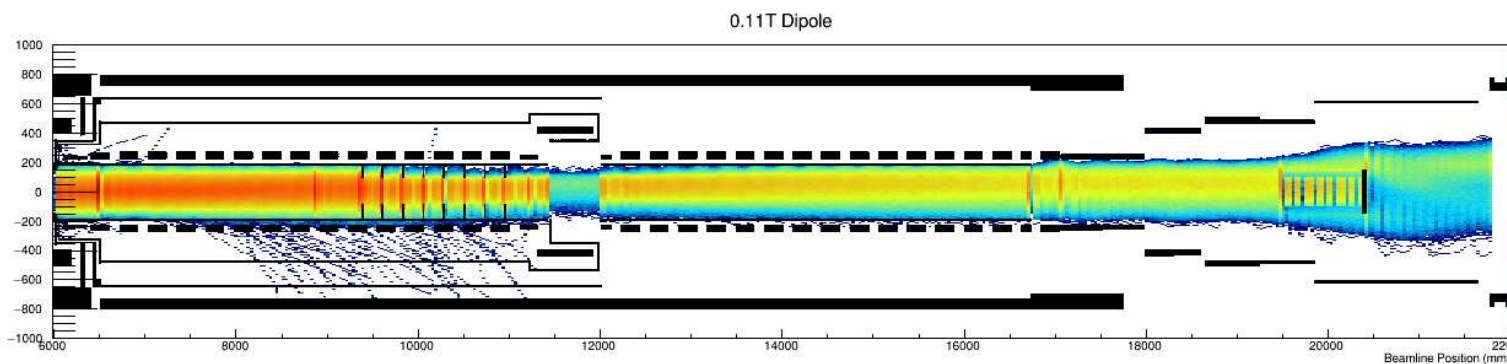
No Dipoles



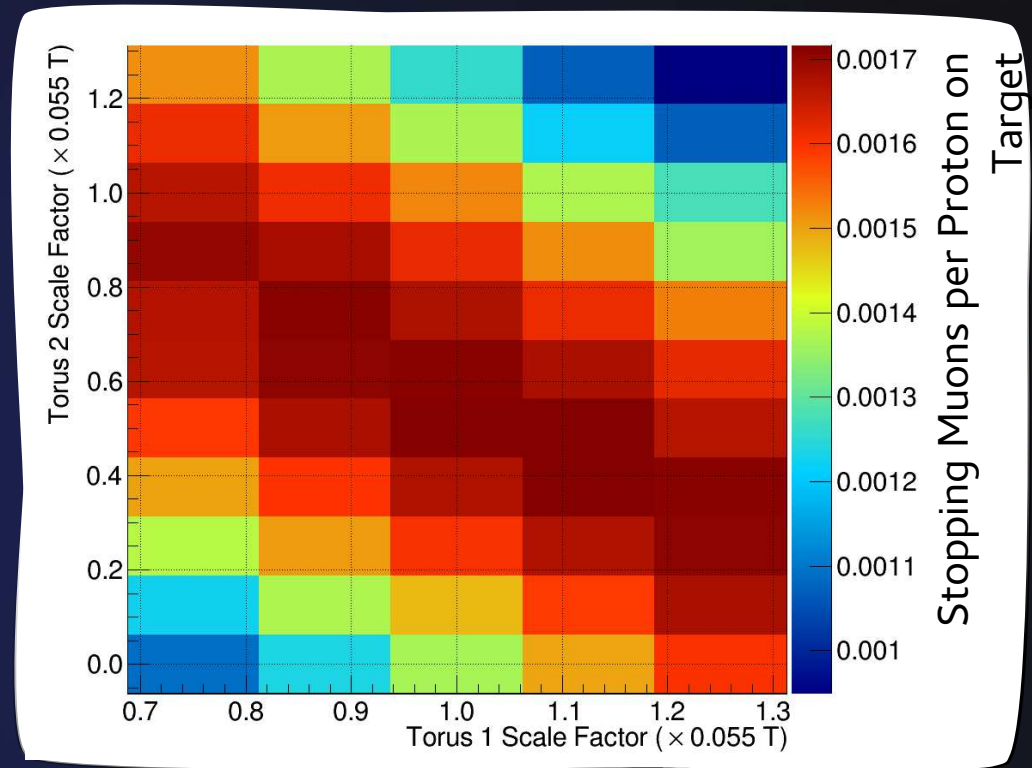
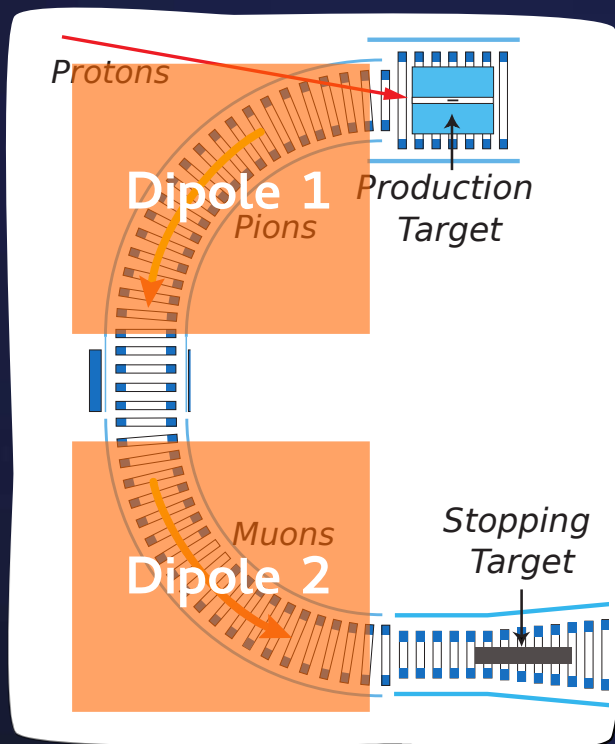
0.055 T



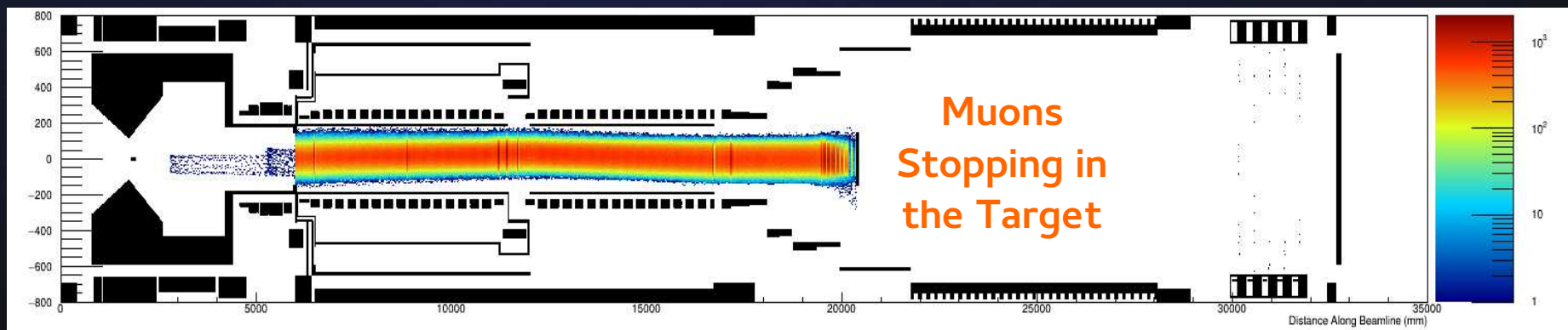
0.11 T



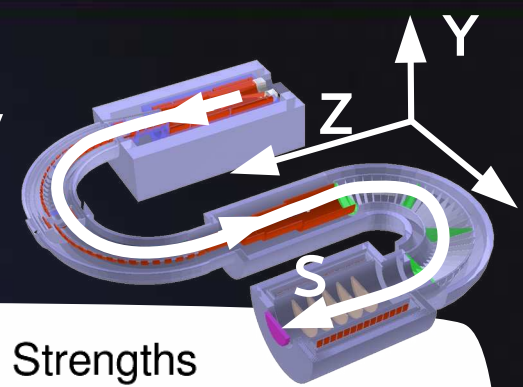
Muon Beam Dipole Optimisation



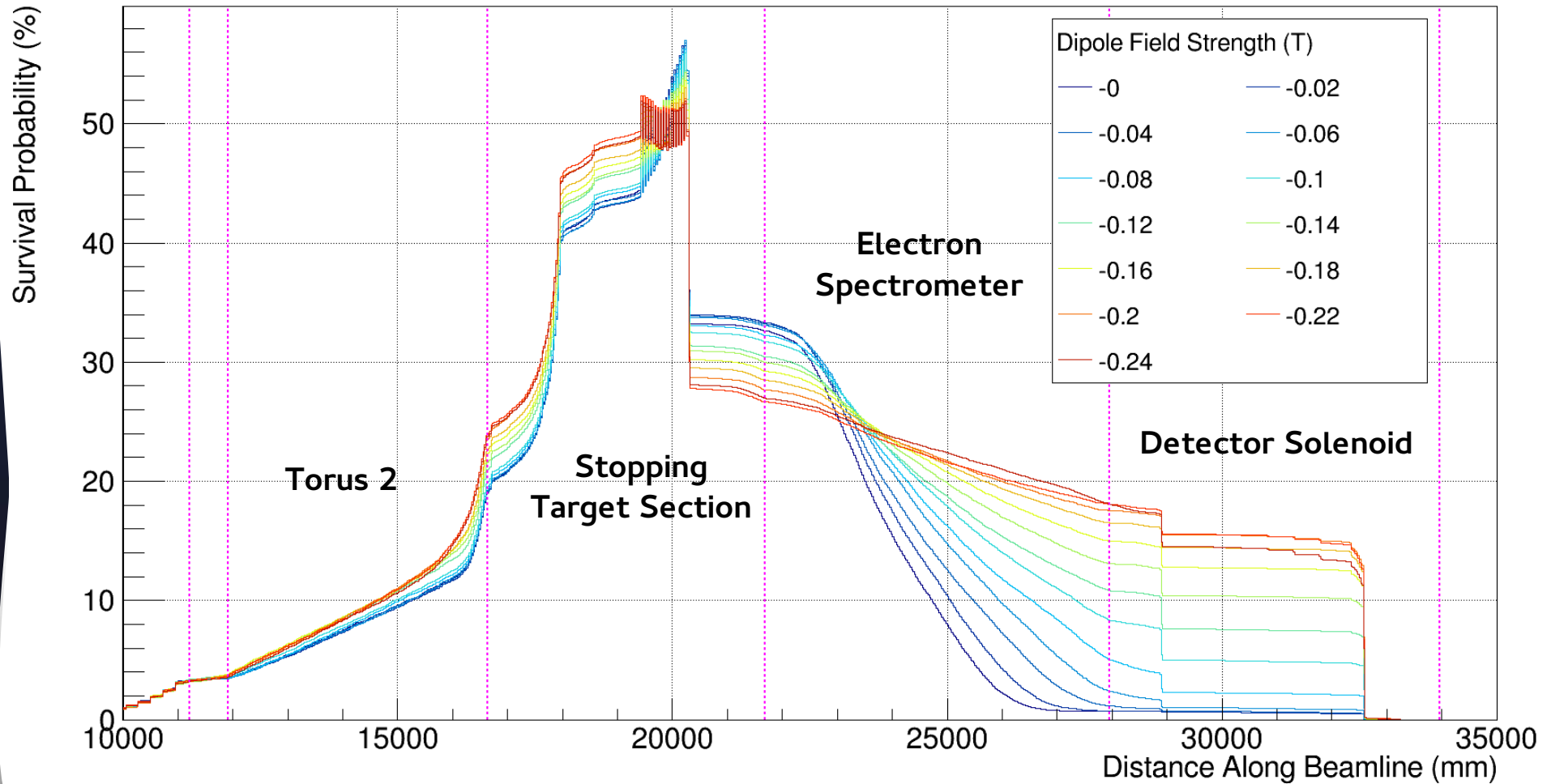
- Sum of Dipole 1 and Dipole 2 should be constant
- Total drift experienced by low energy muons should be the same



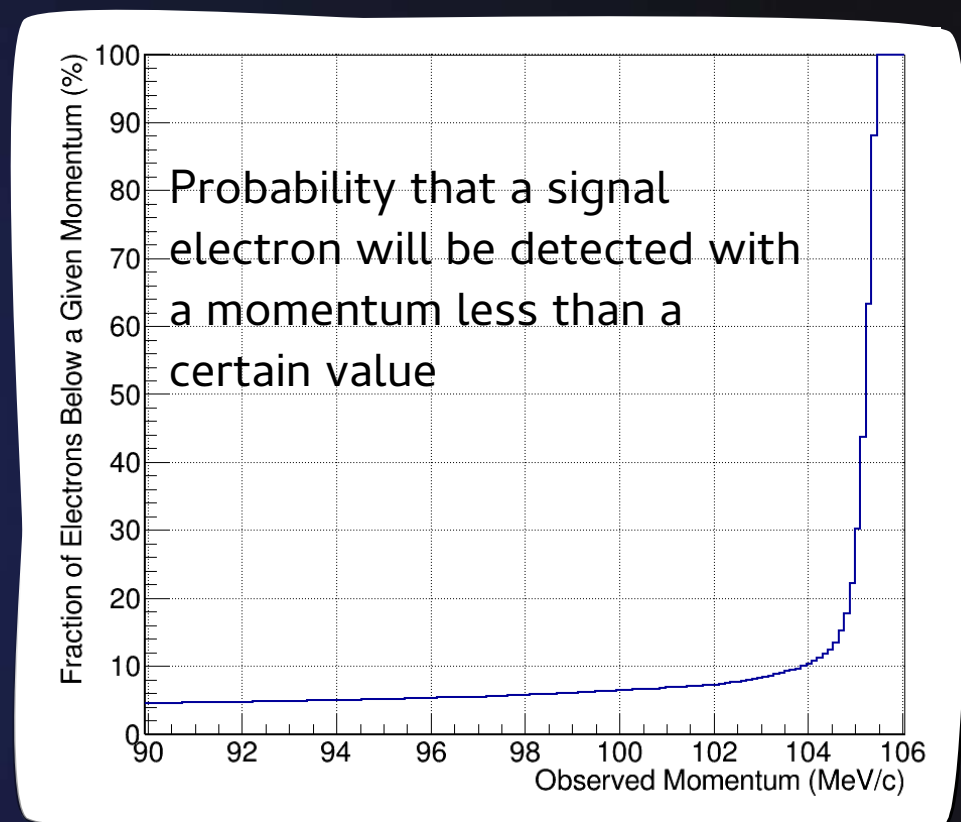
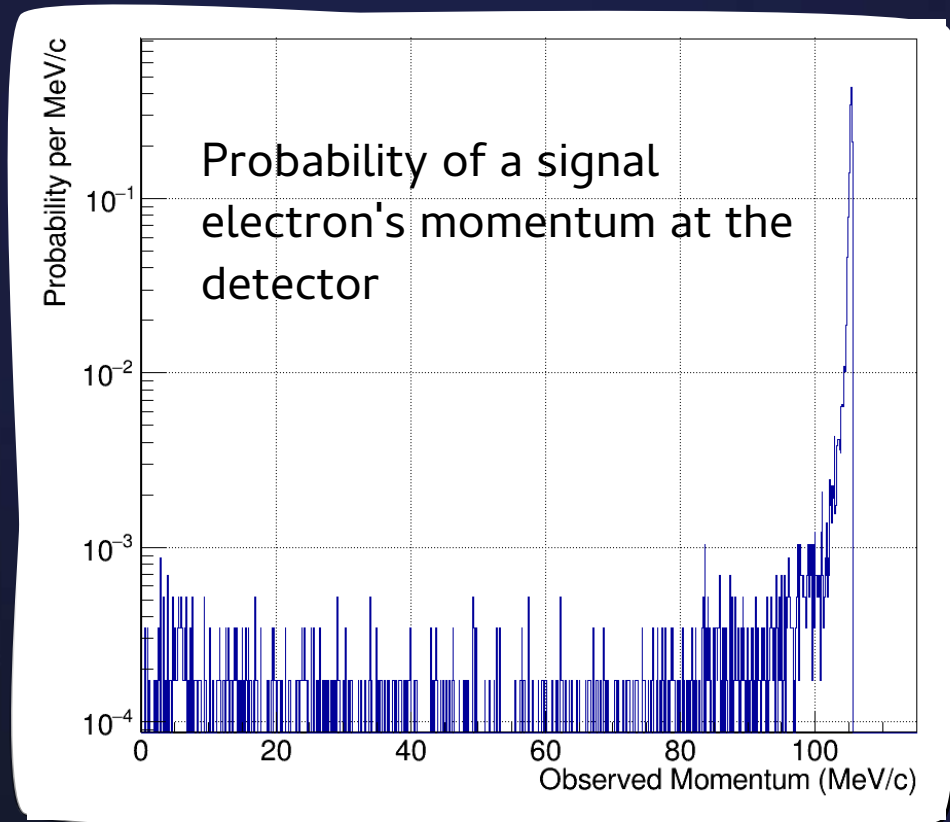
Dipole Scan: Survival Probability



Signal Acceptance Along Beam Axis for Different Dipole Field Strengths



Energy Losses Before The Detector



- Probability of a signal electron arriving with momentum less than:
 - $p(P < 104 \text{ MeV}/c) = 10\%$
 - $p(P < 100 \text{ MeV}/c) = 6.5\%$

Simulating COMET

Backgrounds at Phase-II

Looking for a rare process:

- A single event if conversion per capture at least: 10^{-17}

Need many muons:

- Stopped muons: 1×10^{18} muons
- Protons needed: 2×10^{22} protons

And fewer than 1 background event

⇒ Want to understand behaviour of 1 electron coming from 20 quintillion protons

⇒ What things can fake that signal?

Accurate and Efficient Simulation

- **Accuracy:**

- Geometry

- Magnetic Field

- Physics models

- Hadron production with 8 GeV in backwards direction from Tungsten (and Graphite)

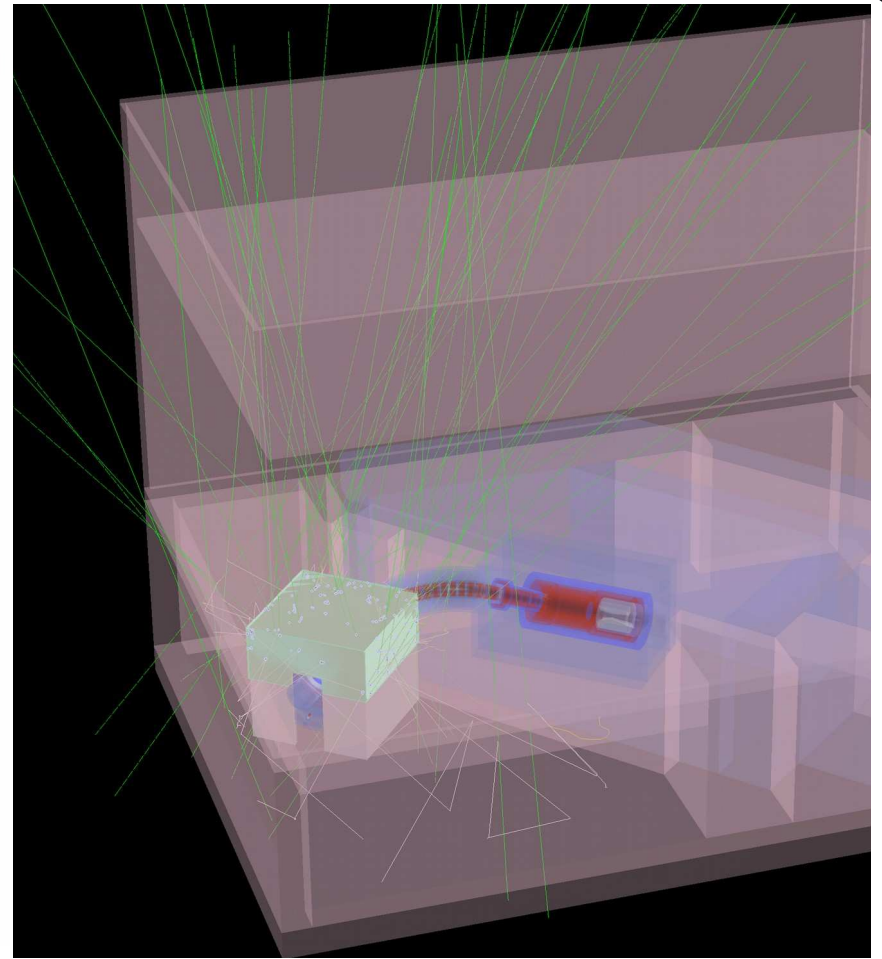
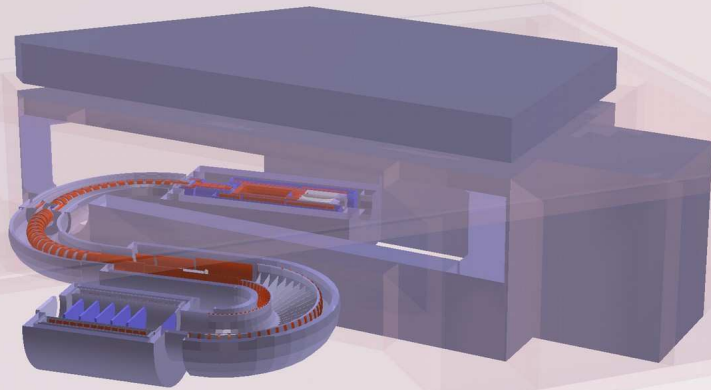
- Physics of stopped muons

- **Efficiency:**

- Resampling algorithms

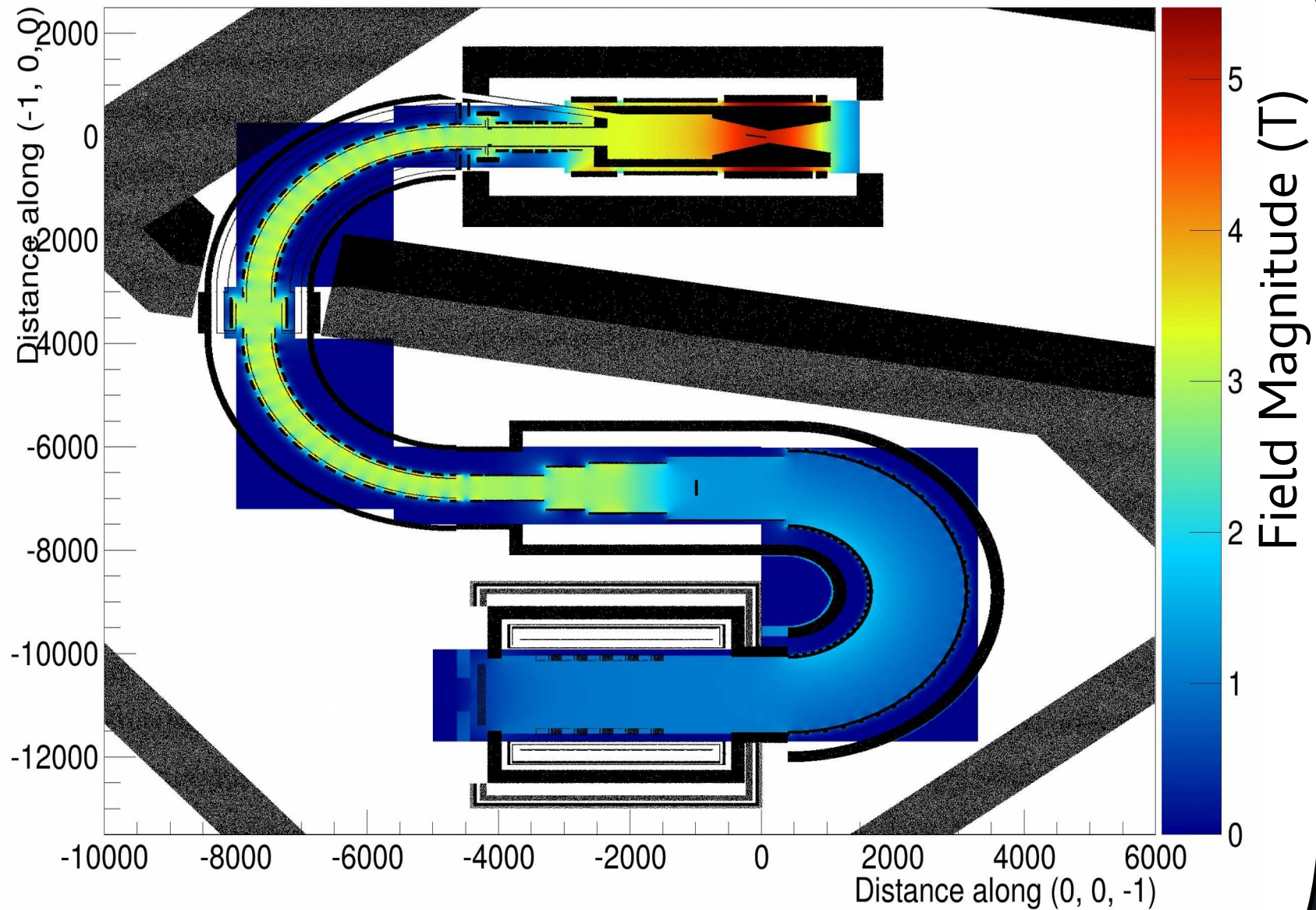
-

Geometry



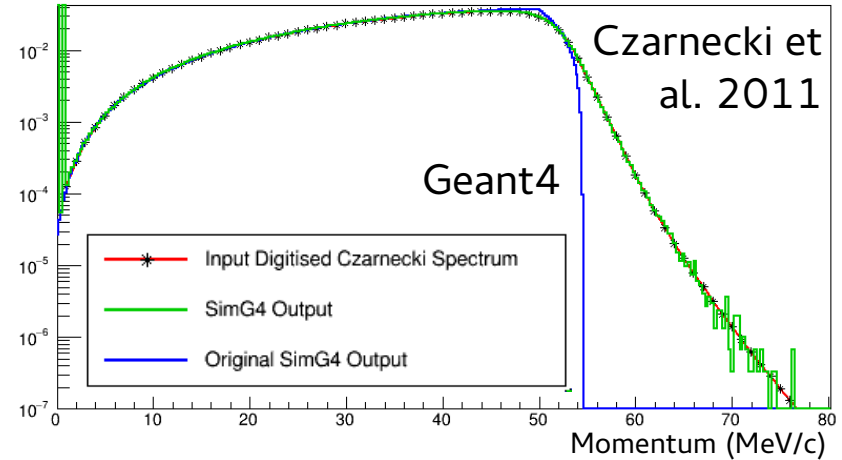
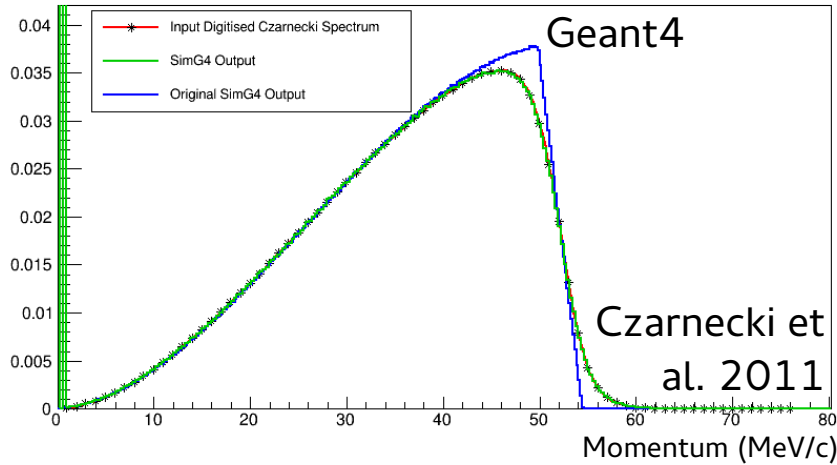
- Detailed detector and beamline description
- Full experimental hall design for Cosmic Ray studies

Fieldmap

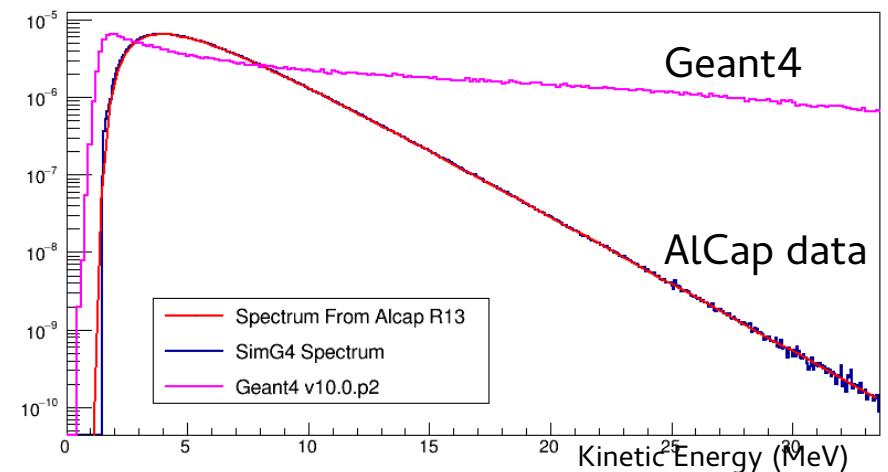
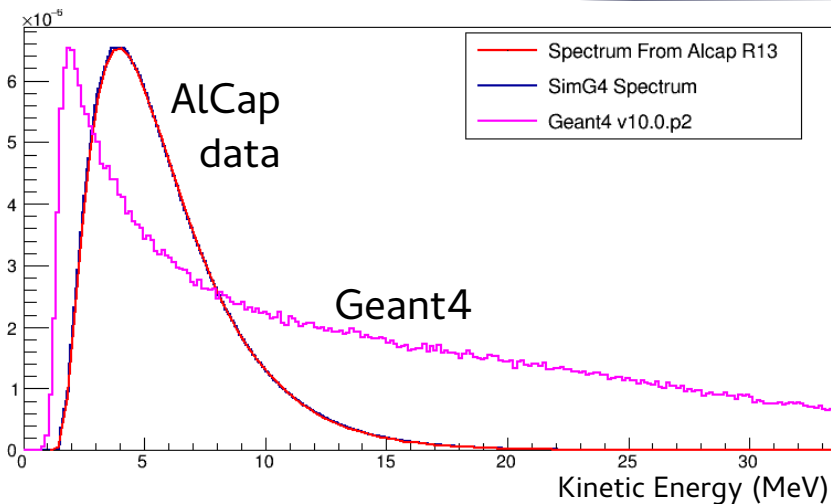


Custom Physics Models

Electrons from Bound Muon Decay

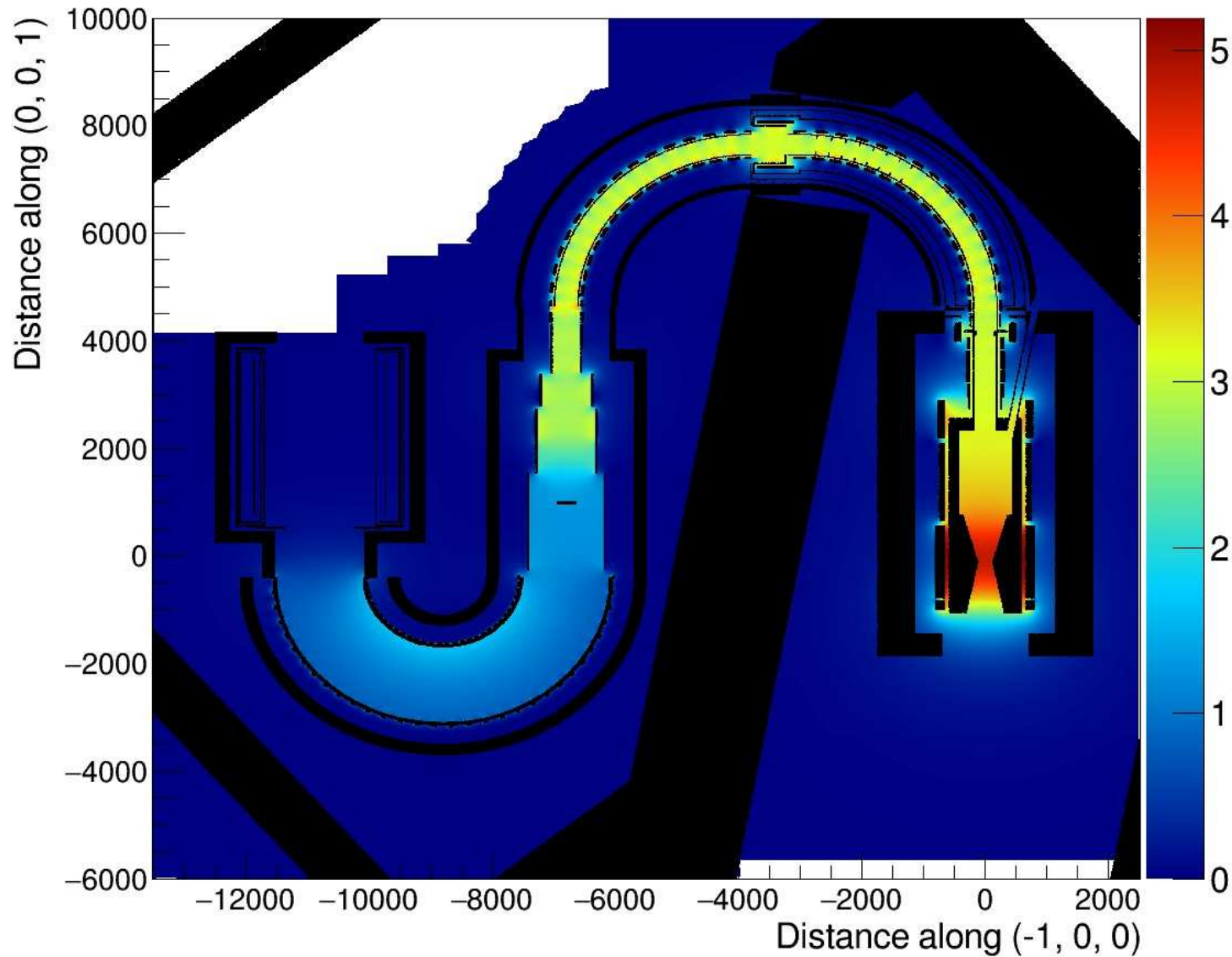


Protons from Muon Nuclear Capture



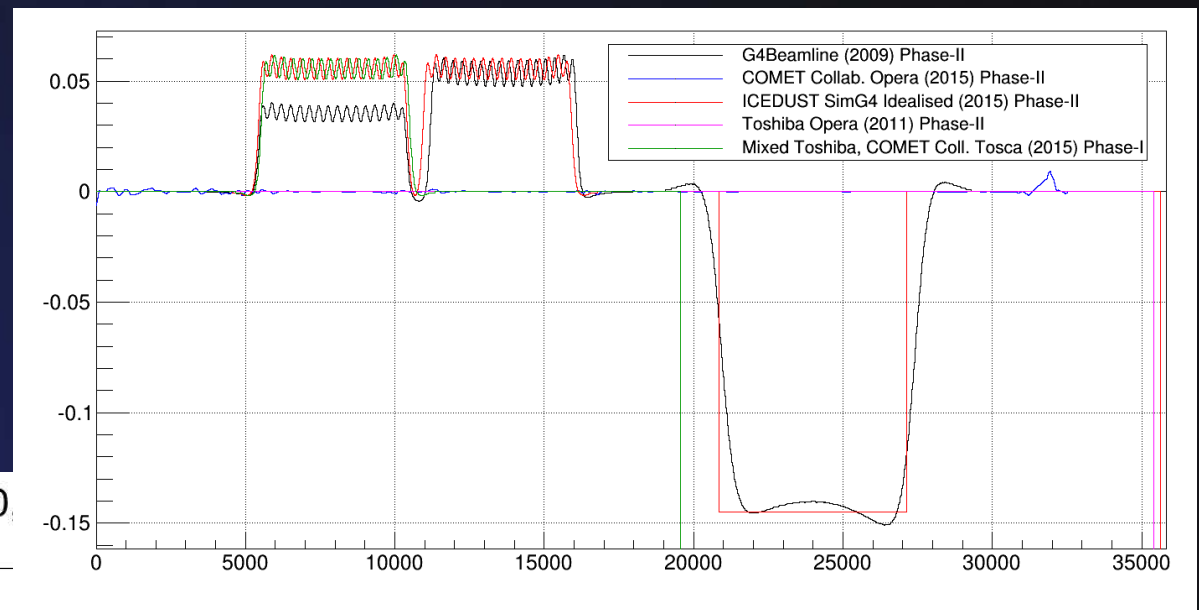
Fieldmap (G4Beamline)

Magnitude of field through (5500, 0, 2000)

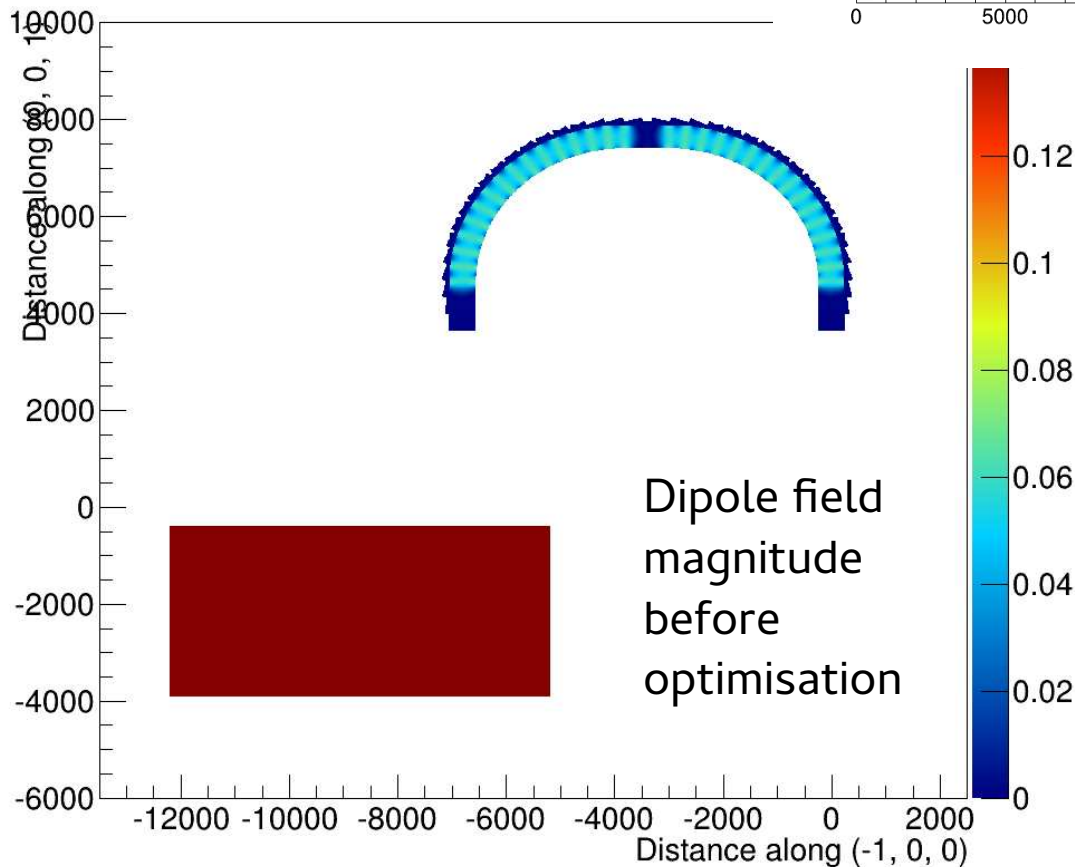


- No field in detector solenoid

Dipole Field

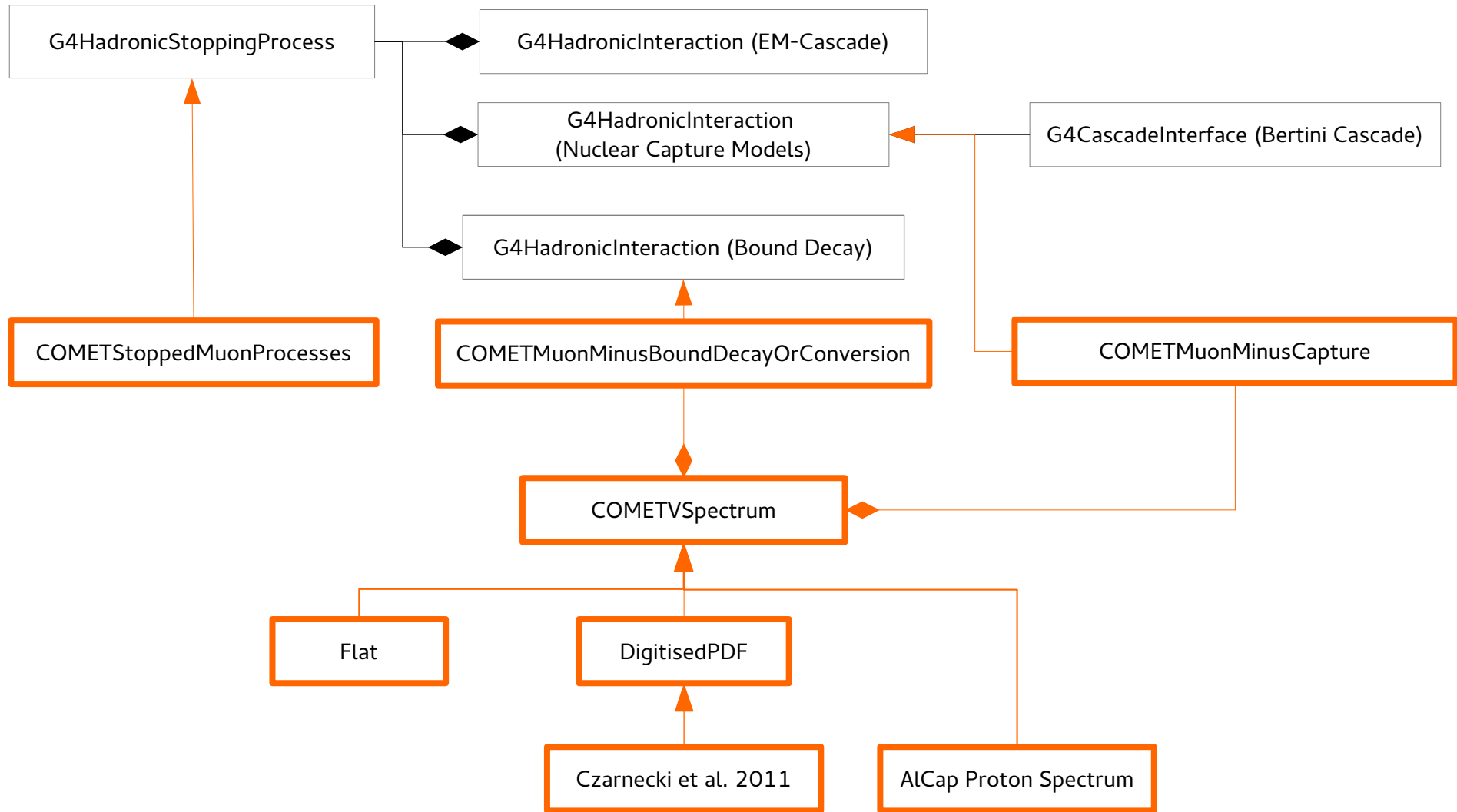


Magnitude of field through (5500, 0)



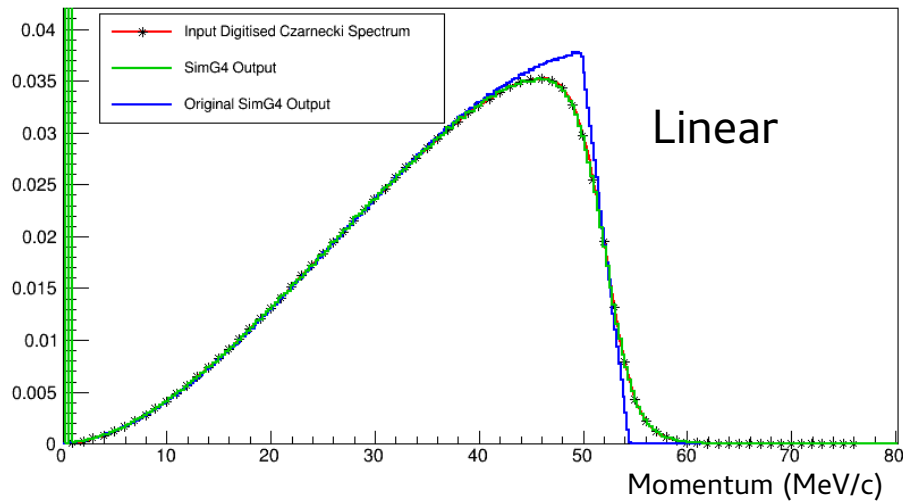
- Have realistic dipole field calculation by Toshiba for the bent muon beam transport (TS2 and TS4)
- No calculation for Electron Spectrometer
 - Use uniform field

Custom Muon Physics Implementation

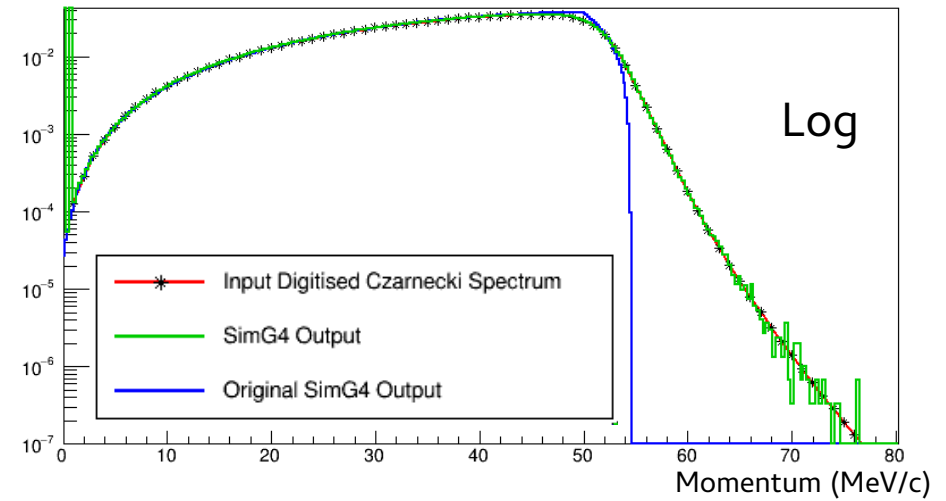


Decay-in-Orbit Spectrum

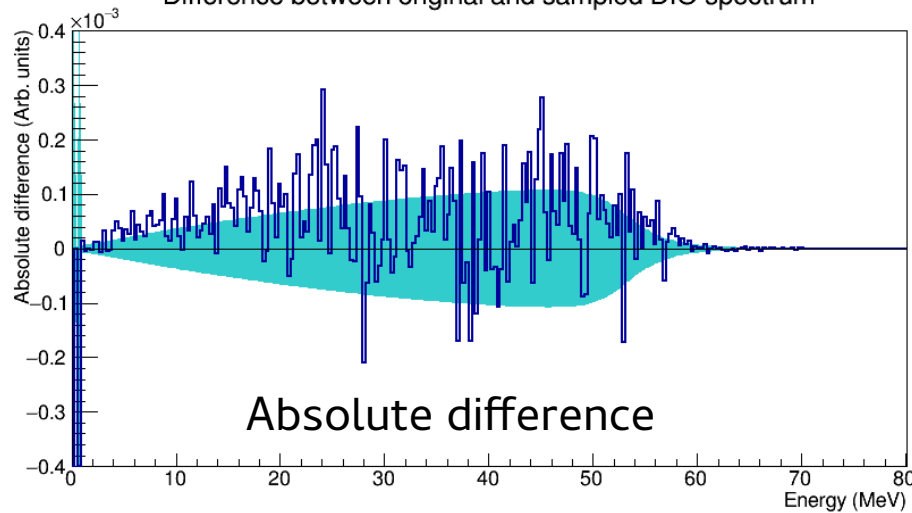
Overlay of the Czarnecki spectrum and the spectrum reproduced in SimG4



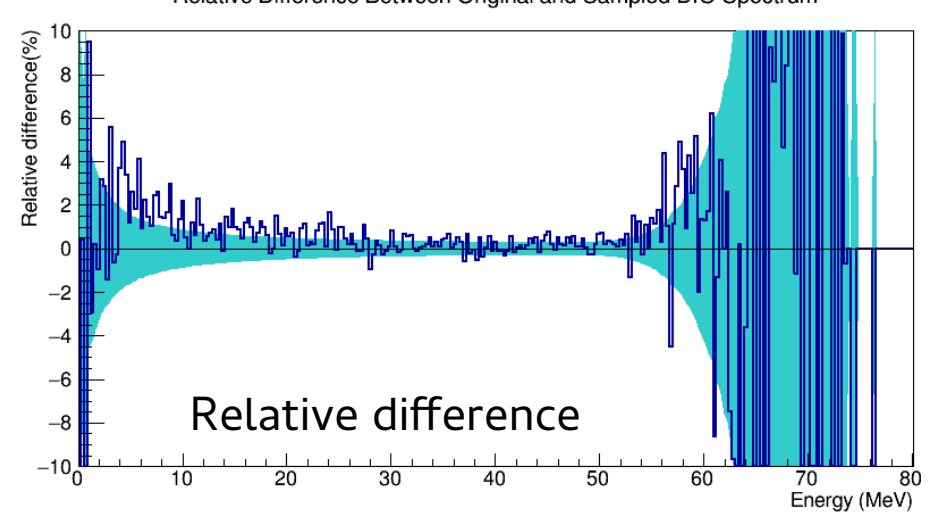
Overlay of the Czarnecki spectrum and the spectrum reproduced in SimG4



Difference between original and sampled DIO spectrum



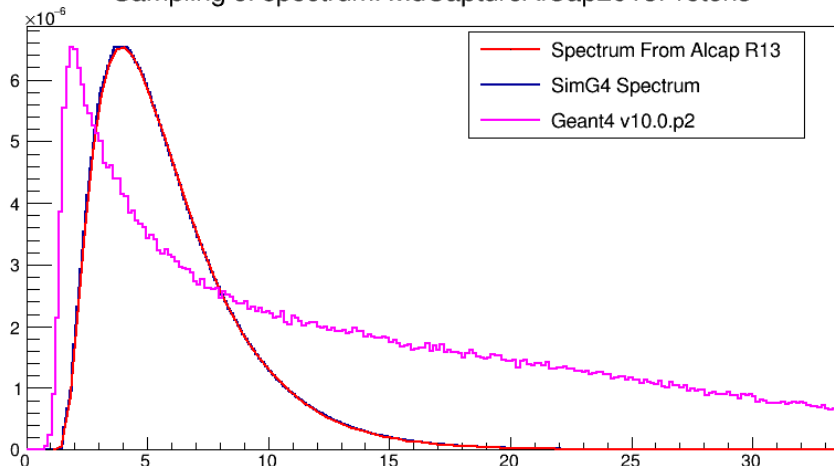
Relative Difference Between Original and Sampled DIO Spectrum



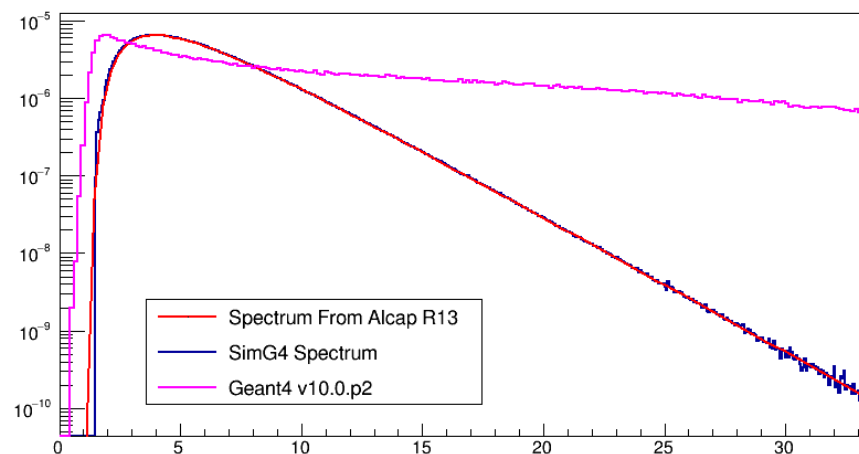
Proton Emission Following Muon Capture

AlCap Result

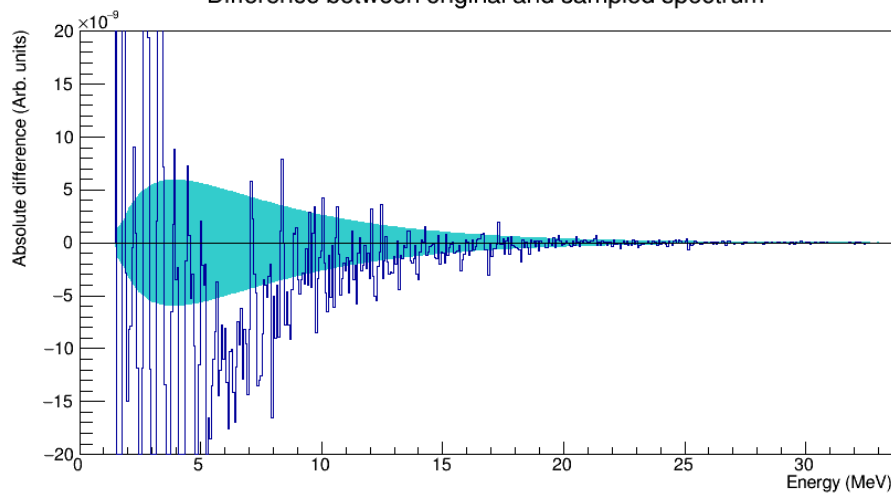
Sampling of spectrum: MuCaptureAlCap2013Protons



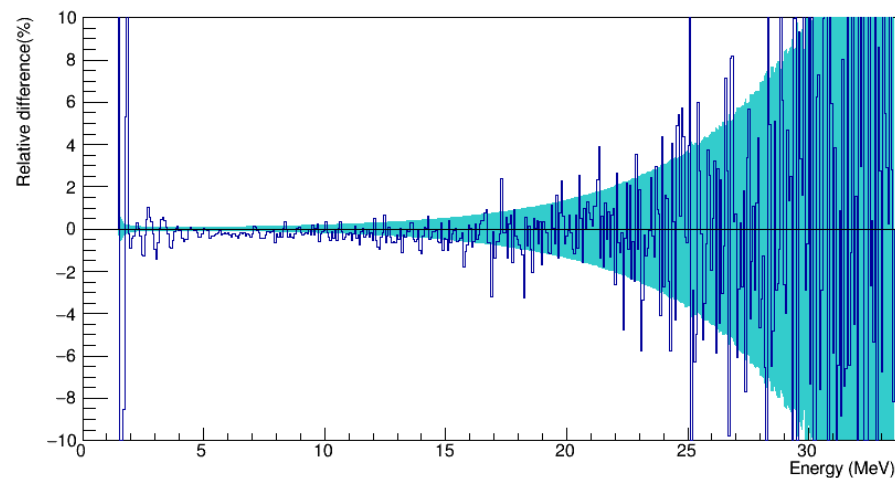
Sampling of spectrum: MuCaptureAlCap2013Protons



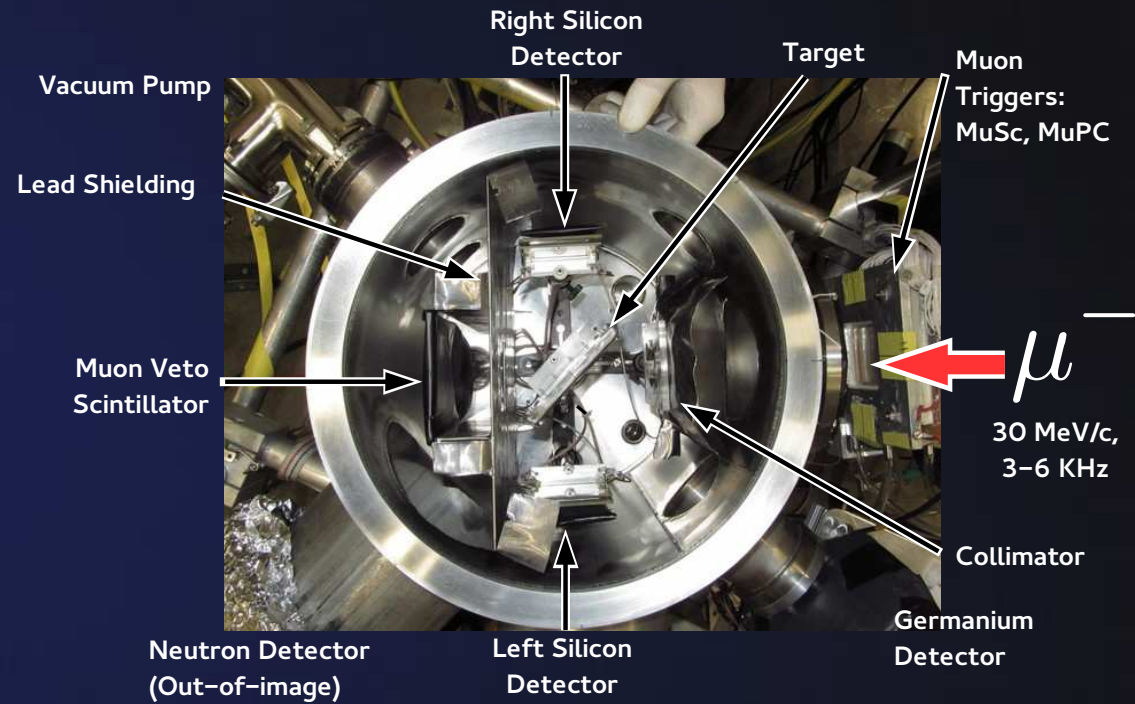
Difference between original and sampled spectrum



Relative Difference Between Original and Sampled Spectrum



The AlCap Measurement



COMET:

- Osaka University
- IHEP China
- Imperial College London
- University College London

Mu2e

- Argonne NL
- Boston University
- BNL
- INFN
- Fermilab
- Univ. of Houston
- Univ. of Washington

3 Runs at PSI:

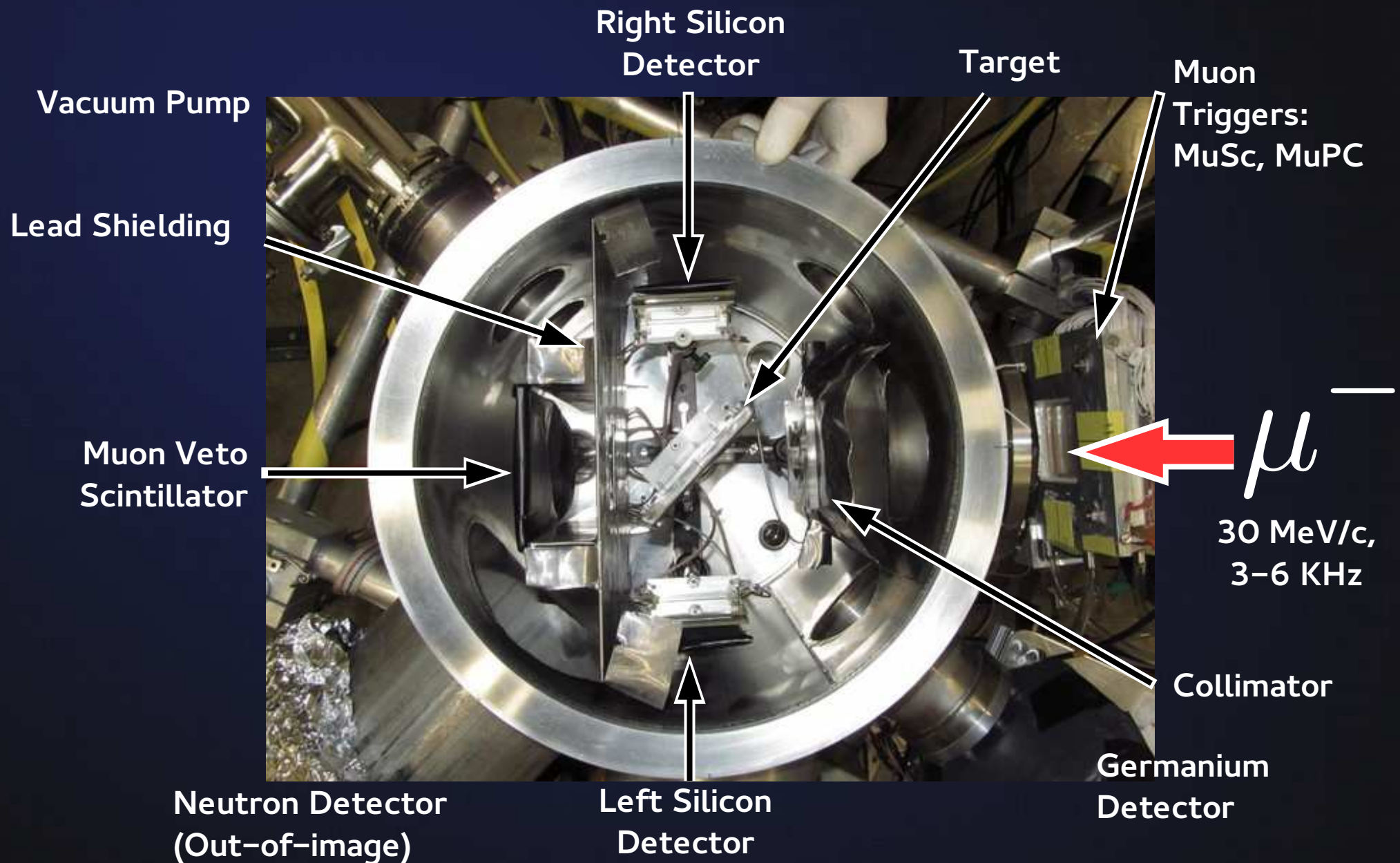
- 2013 for charged particles
- 2015a for neutral particles
- 2015b for charged particles

AlCap Work Packages

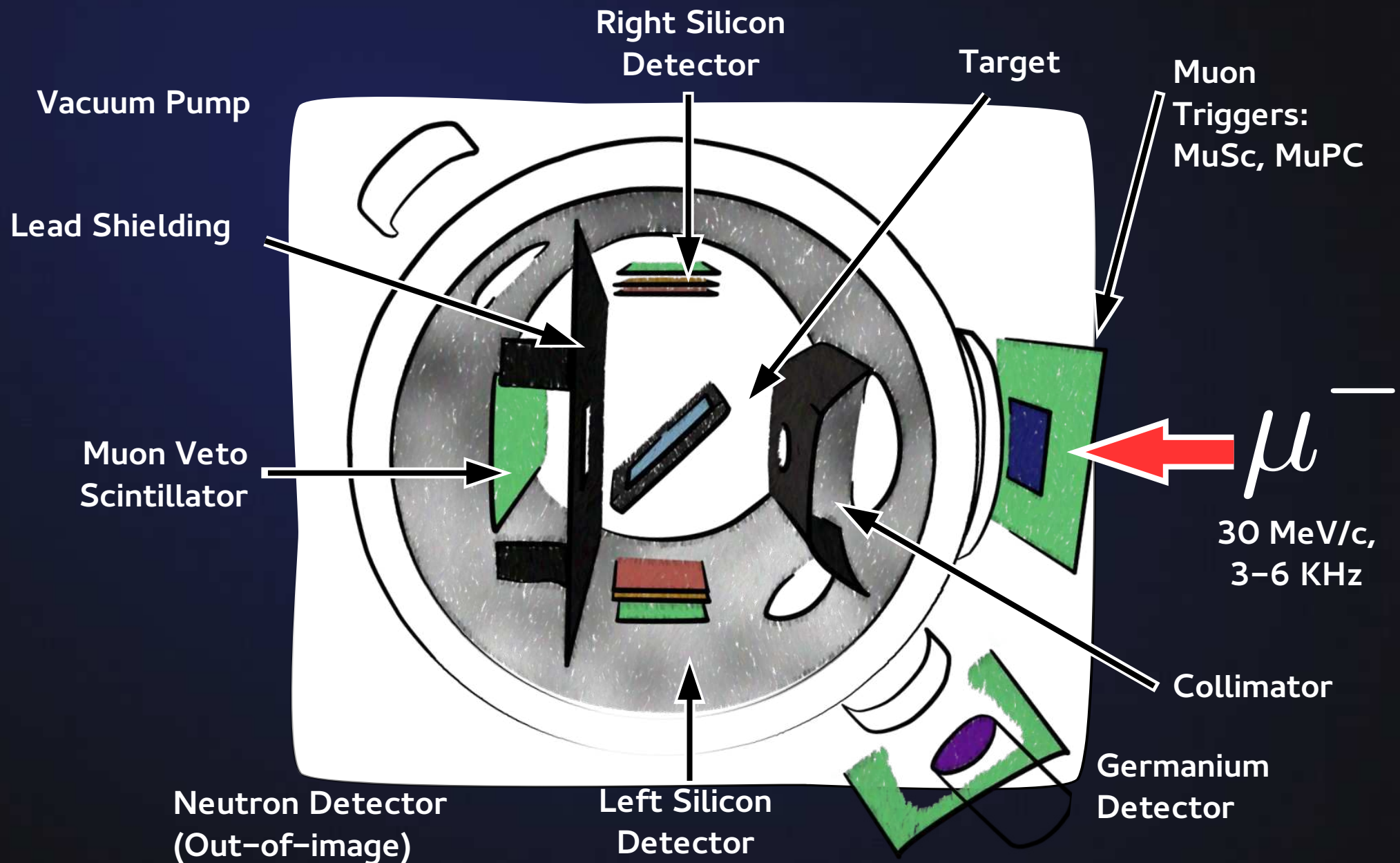
- **WP1: Charged Particle emission after Muon Capture**
 - Rate and spectrum with precision 5-10% down to 2.5 MeV
 - Dominant rate in tracker for Mu2e and COMET Phase-I
- **WP2: X-ray and Gamma Emission after Muon Capture**
 - X-ray and gamma ray for normalization (by Ge detector), radiative muon decay (by NaI detector)
- **WP3: Neutron Emission after Muon Capture**
 - Rate and spectrum from 1 MeV up to 10 MeV
 - BG for calorimeters and cosmic-ray veto, damage to electronics

Run 1 (2013)	Run 2 (2015)	Run 3 (2015)
WP1 and WP2	WP2 and WP3	WP1 and WP2

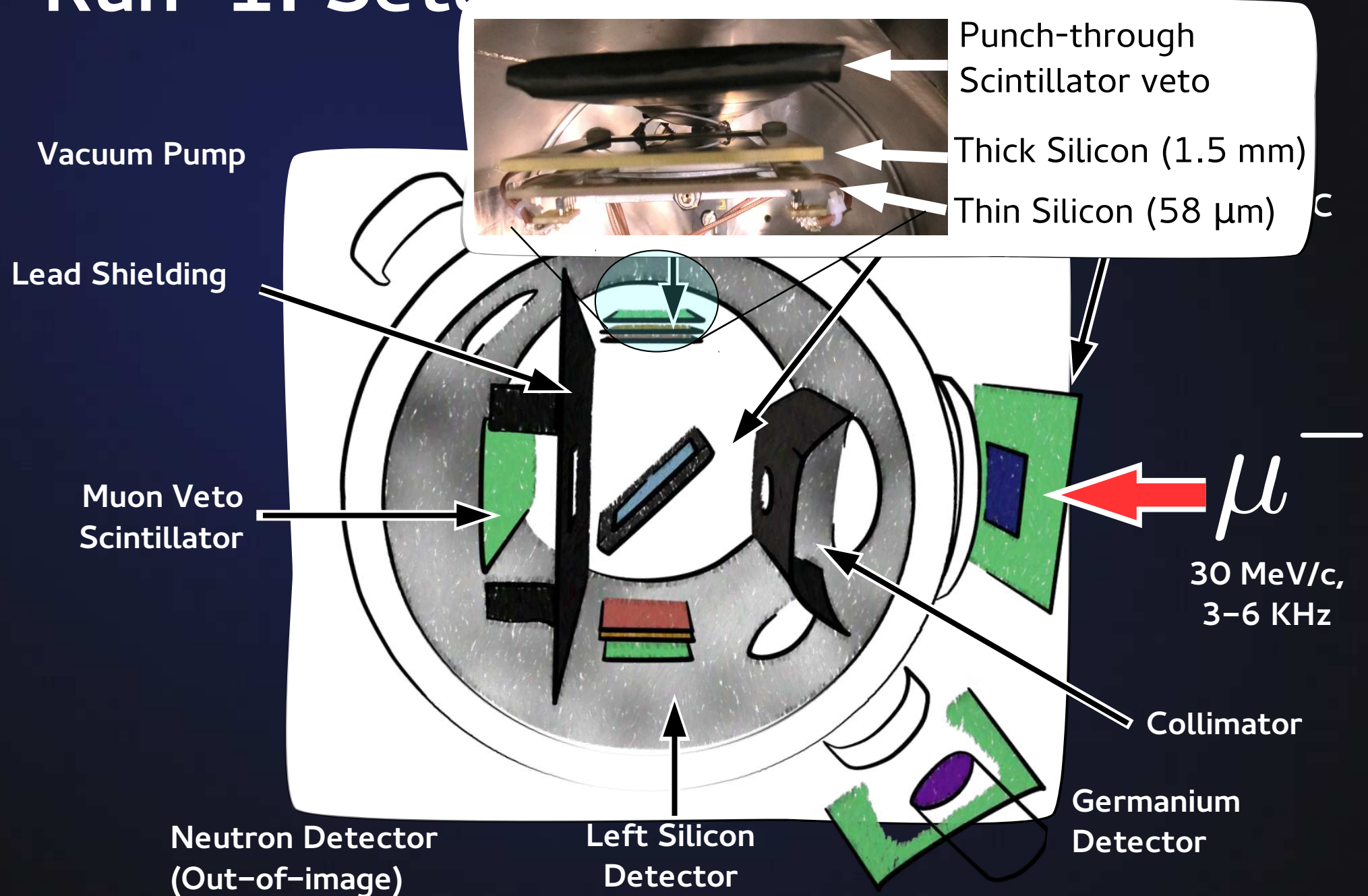
Run-1: Setup



Run-1: Setup

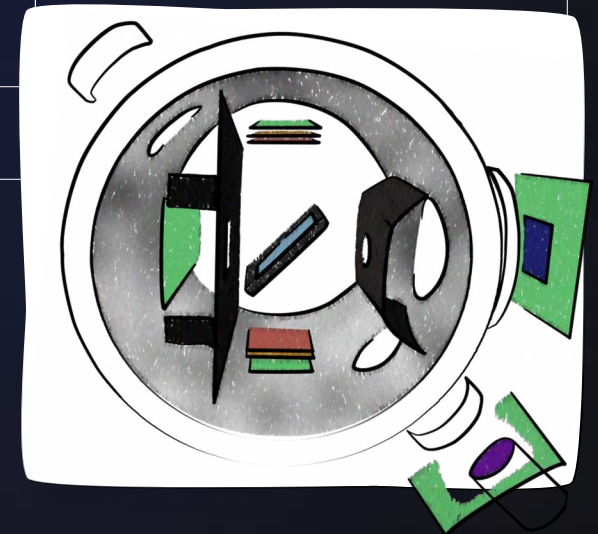


Run-1: Setup



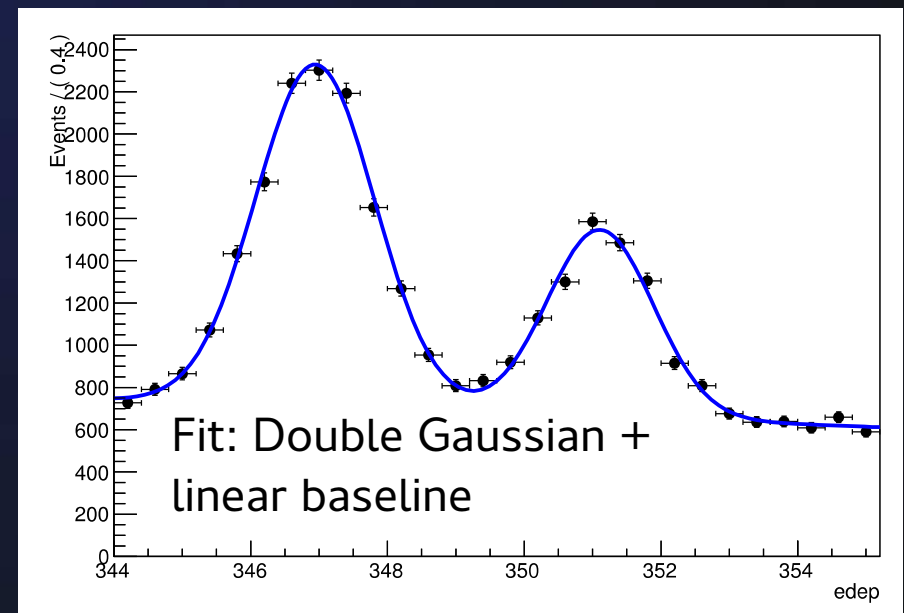
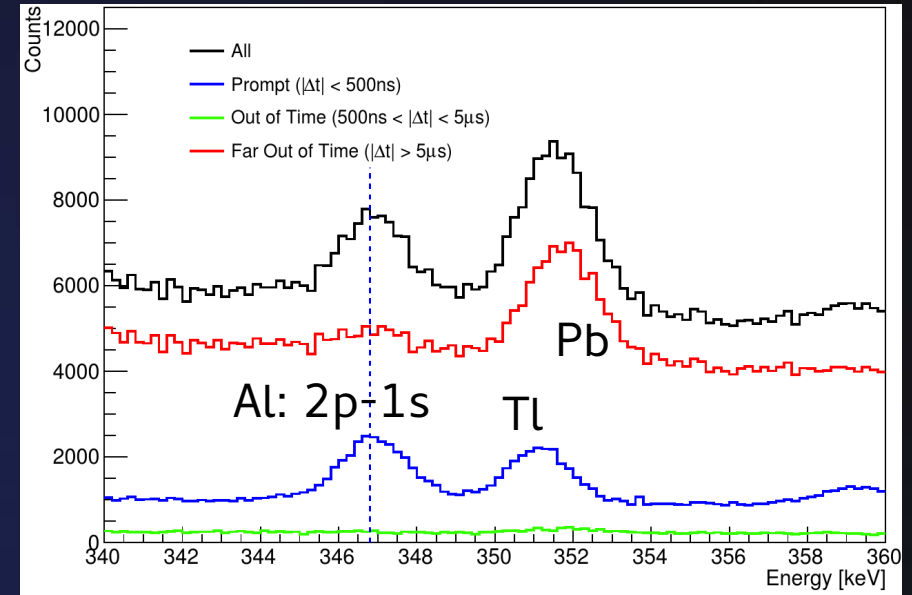
Run-1: Datasets

Target	Beam Momentum (x28 MeV/c)	Number of Muons (x10 ⁷)	Comments
Si (1500 μm)	1.32	2.78	Active Target
	1.30	28.9	Cross check with existing Si data
	1.10	13.7	
Si (62 μm)	1.06	1.72	Passive Target
Al (100 μm)	1.09	29.4	
	1.07	4.99	
Al (50 μm)	1.07	88.1	

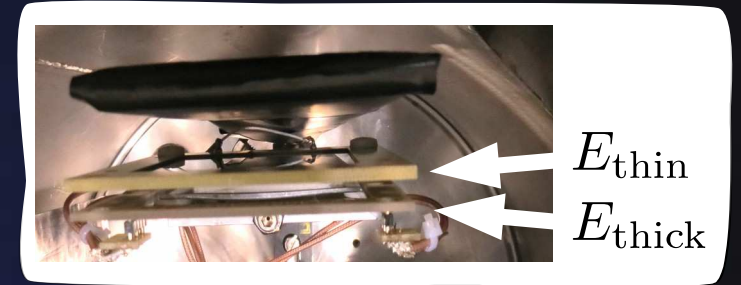
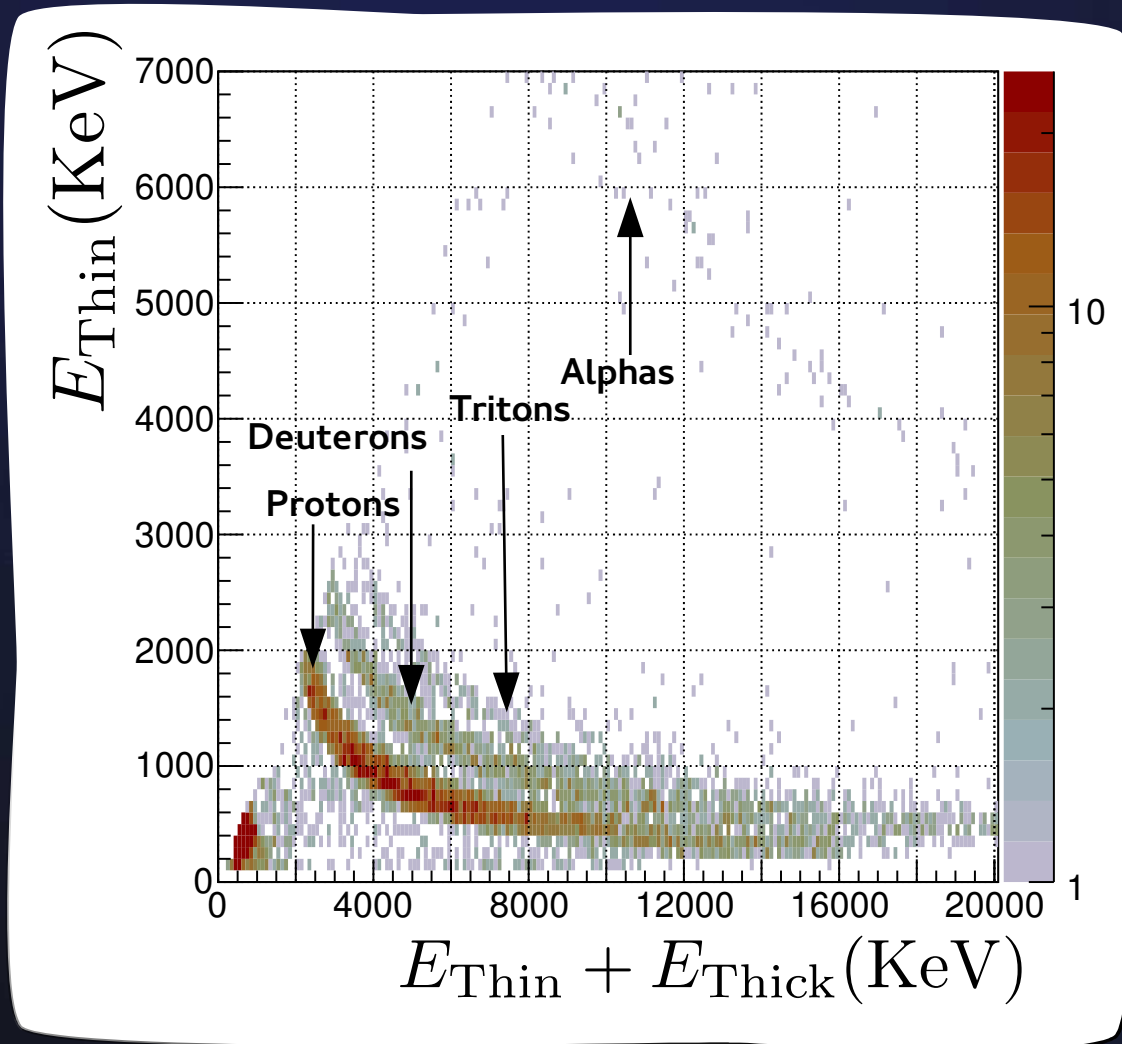


Number of Stopped Muons

- Germanium detector
 - X-rays from muon electromagnetic cascade to 1s orbital
- Muon selection criteria
 - Incoming muon cuts
 - Muon scintillator energy
 - Muon pile-up protection
 - Prompt X-rays (<500ns)
- Fit 2p-1s peak at 347 KeV
 - Gaussian
 - Background:
 - Linear baseline
 - Second Gaussian for nearby Pb/Tl capture peak



Charged Particle Measurement



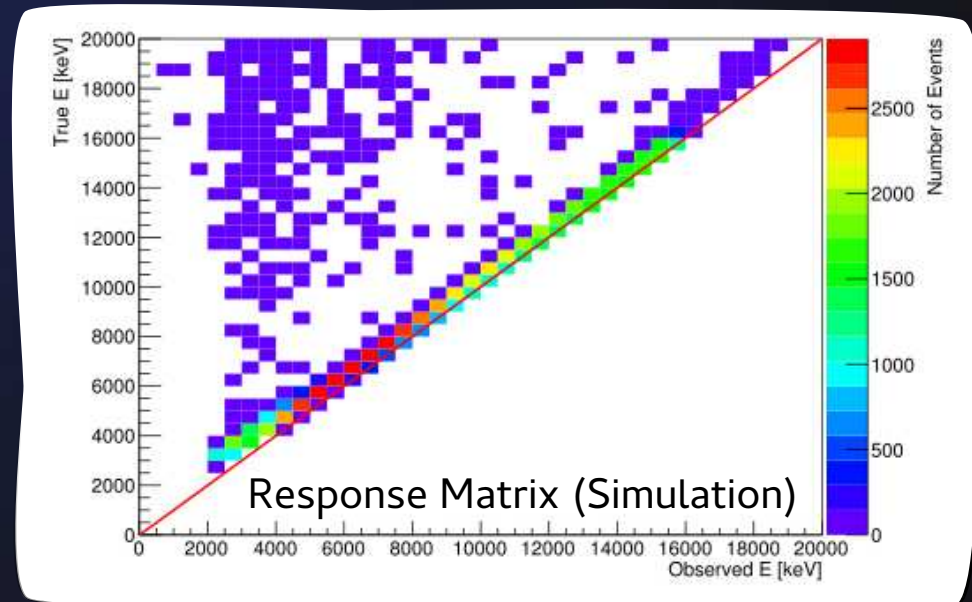
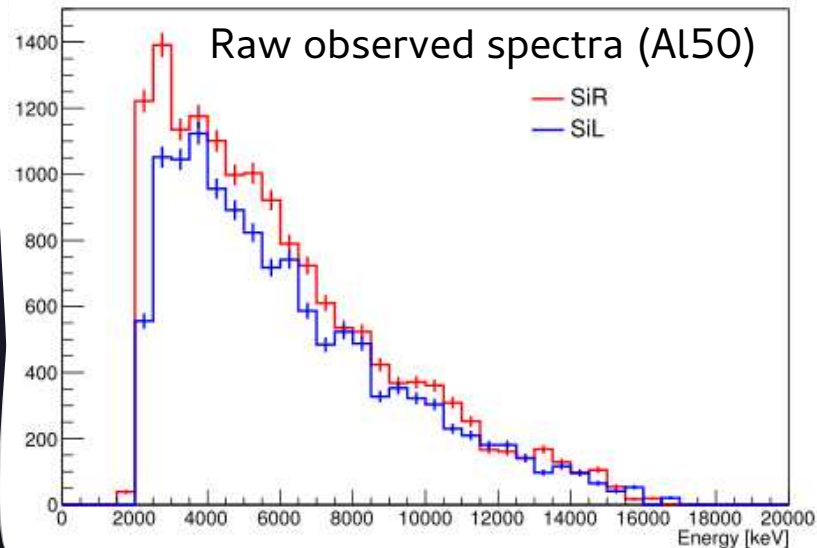
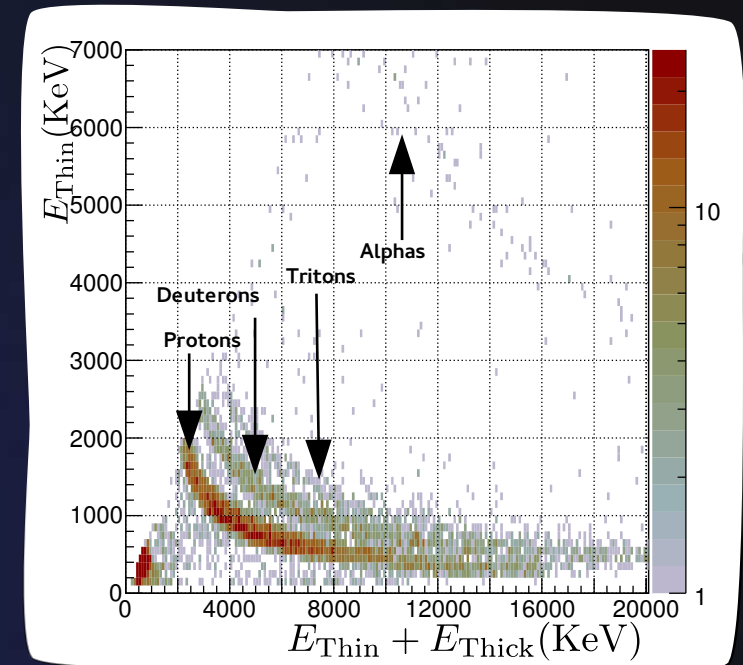
Identification of Stopped Particle Species using Thin and Thick energy deposits:

$$E_{\text{Thin}} = \frac{dE}{dx} \Delta x$$

$$E_{\text{Thin}} + E_{\text{Thick}} = E_{\text{Total}}$$

Charged Particle Measurement

- Hit selection criteria:
 - Time of hit > 100 ns since muon (removes scattered muons, lead capture products)
 - PID cut
 - Geometric
 - Probability based on Monte Carlo



First Tentative Signs?

- Higgs to Tau-mu
- Lepton non-universality:
 - Muon G-2
 - Lamb shift in muonic hydrogen
- Ratio of $\mathcal{BR}(B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu) / \mathcal{BR}(B_s \rightarrow ee)$
- Angular distribution in $B^0 \rightarrow K^* \mu\mu$