

Search for X17 in the $\eta \rightarrow e^+e^-\pi^+\pi^-$ decay at pp@4.5 GeV with HADES

Workshop at 1 GeV scale:
from mesons to axions
CRACOW 19.09.2024



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Motivations

- Big Bang should create the same amount of matter and antimatter
- but we observe more baryons than antibaryons (baryogenesis puzzle)
- Standard Model includes **CP symmetry violation** in weak interactions, but it is not sufficient to explain observed asymmetry
- according to Peccei-Quinn-Wilczek's theory axion explains no CP violation in strong interactions and helps to understand baryon-antibaryon asymmetry

$$\frac{N_B - N_{\bar{B}}}{N_\gamma} \approx 6 \cdot 10^{-10}$$

N_B - number of baryons

$N_{\bar{B}}$ - number of antibaryons

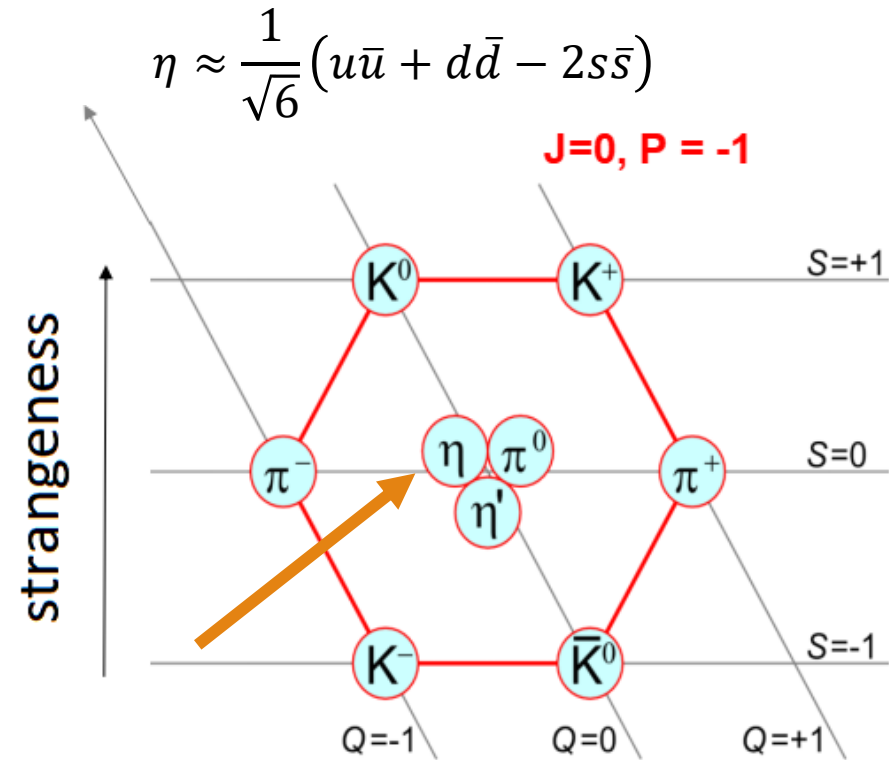
N_γ - number of photons

Theoretical hypothesis: existence of axions or axion-like-particles (ALP)

η meson properties

mass	$547.862 \pm 0.018 \frac{MeV}{c^2}$
electric charge	0
spin	0
P parity	-1
C parity	+1
Example decays	$\eta \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ (39.36%)
	$\eta \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \pi^0$ (32.57%)
	$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$ (23.02%)
	$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$ (4.28%)
	$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$ (0.03%)

Ref.: pdg.lbl.gov website, access: 05 IX 2024



Nonet formed by pseudoscalars mesons consisting of u, d, s quarks.

X17 search in η decay

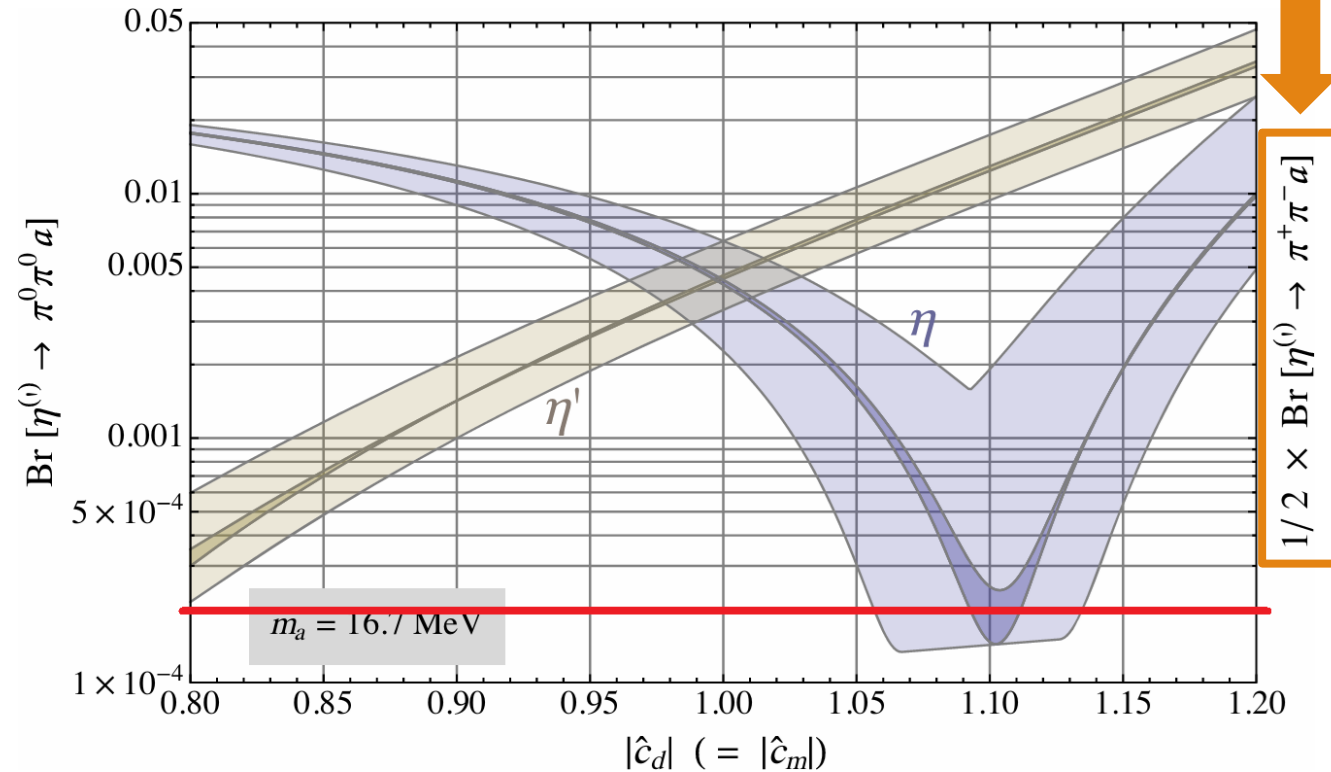
- QCD Axion couples predominantly to the first generation of SM fermions
- Suppressed mixing-angle results in the isoscalar couplings of the axion
- Hadronic decay channels of η and η' could be coupled to ALP's:

$\eta(\eta') \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^- a (\rightarrow e^+ e^-)$
 "axio-hadronic decay"

$$\Gamma \sim \underline{4 \cdot 10^{-14} \text{ s}}$$

$$\text{BR} \sim \underline{1 \cdot 10^{-4}}$$

(for decay $\eta \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-e^+e^-$ (no X17) - $\text{BR}_{\text{PDG}} = 2.68 \cdot 10^{-4}$)

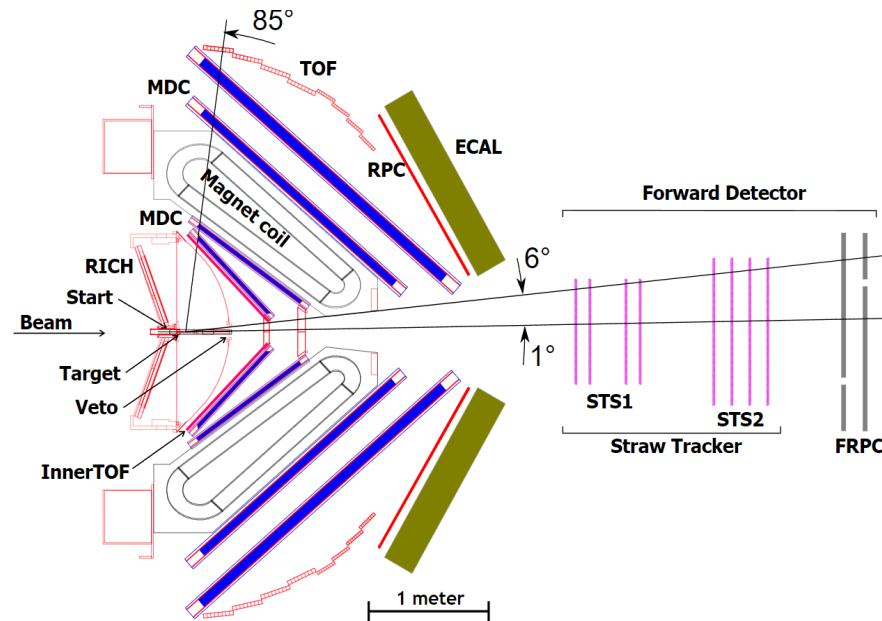
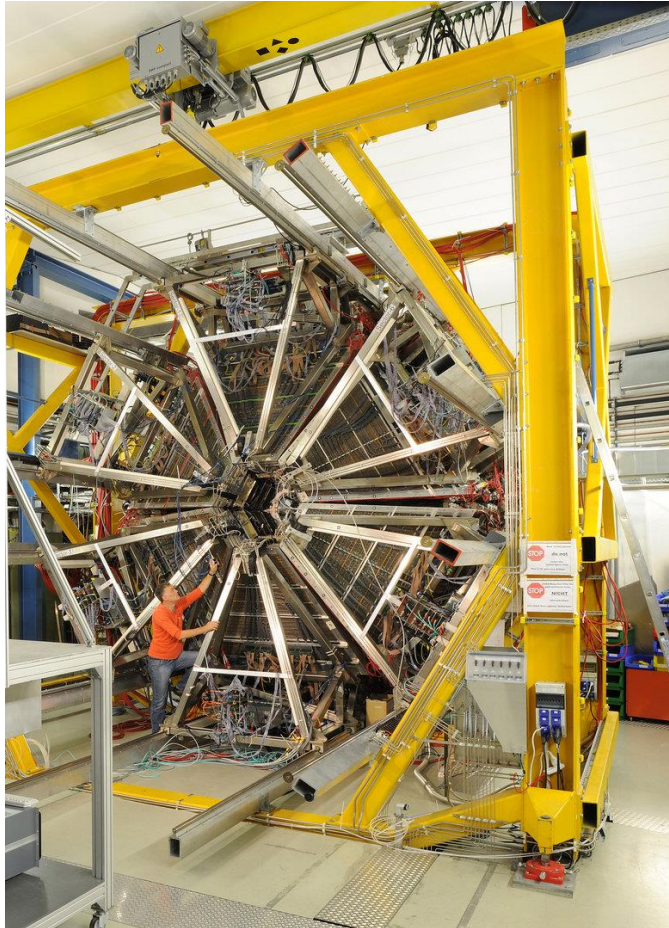


Ref. : D. Alves et al., PHYS. REV. D 103, 055018 (2021)

REDTOP proposal: C. Gatto et al. arXiv. 1910.08505 (2019)

Sergi Gonzalez-Solis morning talk

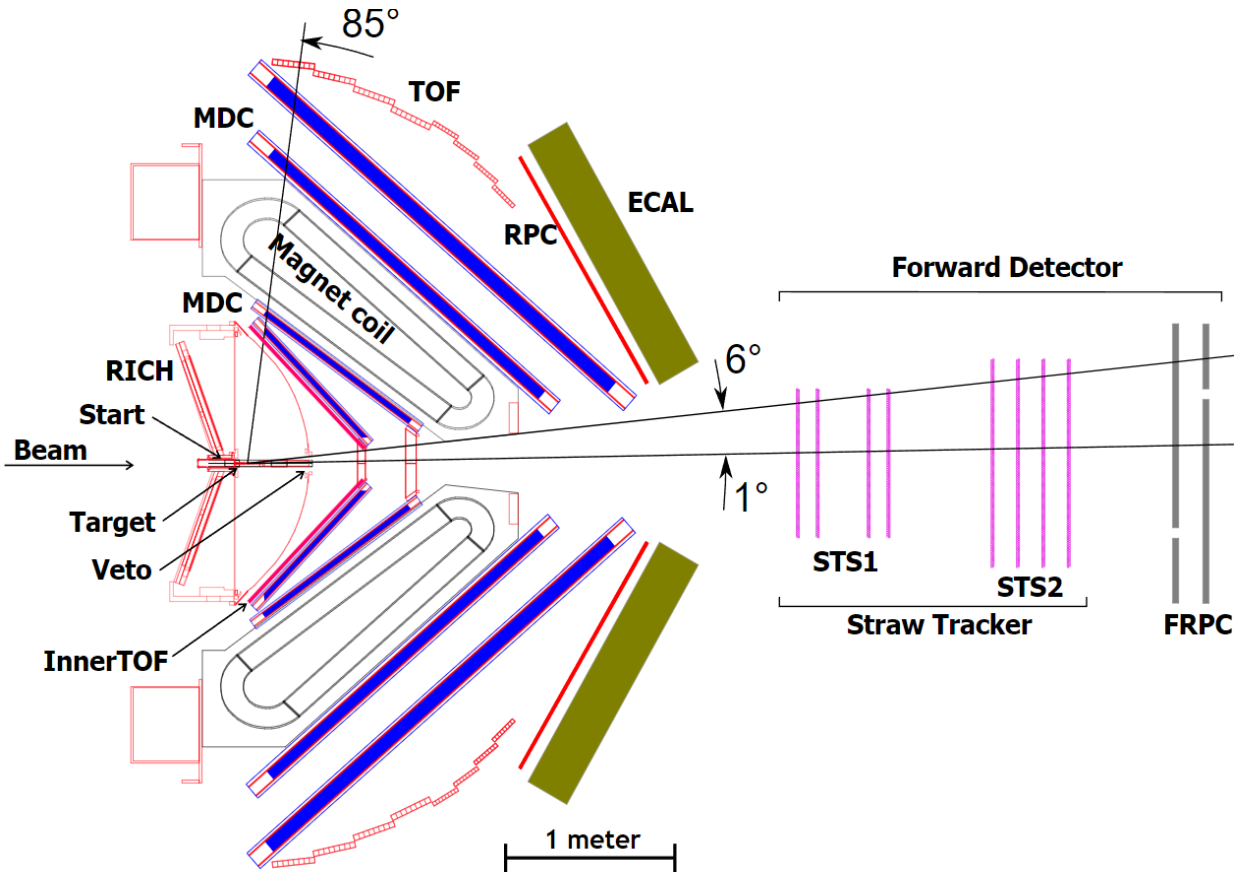
HADES detector



High Acceptance Di-Electron Spectrometer

- START – T0 reaction start time for the time-of-flight system
 - RICH – Cherenkov detector (di-electron e^+e^-)
 - MDC – track reconstruction
 - magnet coil – generates magnetic field
 - ToF & RPC – time-of-flight META detectors
 - ECAL – electromagnetic calorimeter (photons)
- Trigger logic based on InnerToF and Meta.
(very efficient and selective)

February 2022 experiment



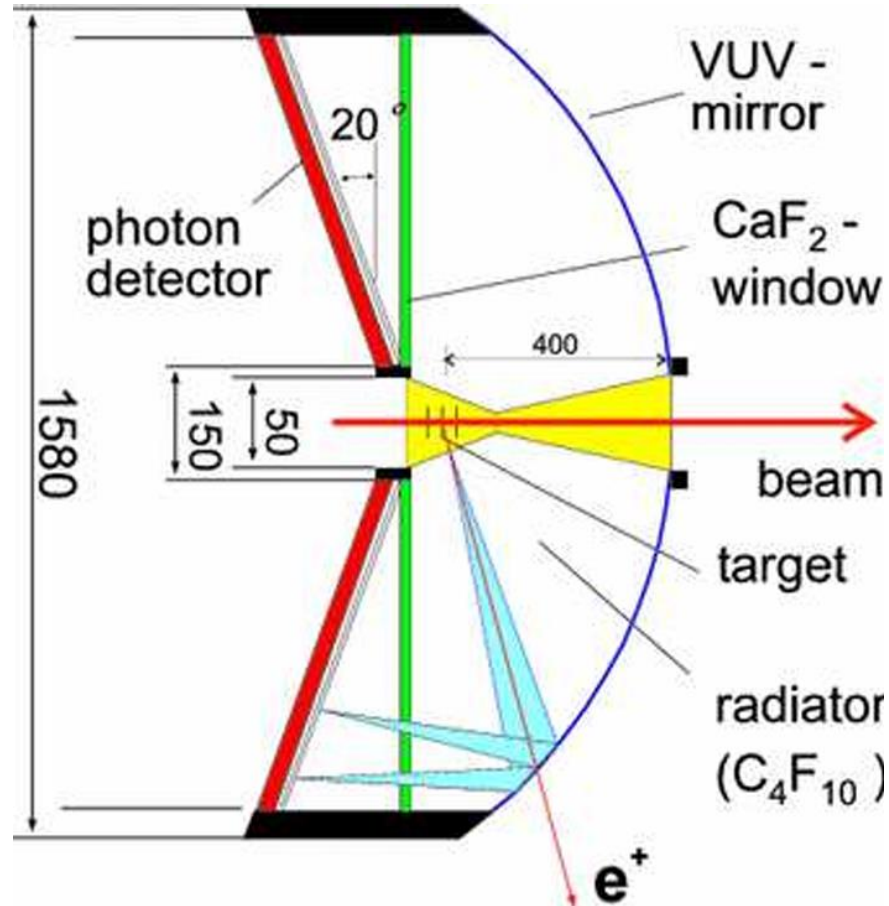
Scheme of the HADES detector.

February 2022 experiment:

- proton – proton collisions at 4.5 GeV
- liquid hydrogen target LH_2
- 28 days of experiment
- total integrated luminosity $\sim 6 \frac{1}{\text{pb}}$

Ref.: J. Adamczewski-Musch et al. Eur. Phys. J. A (2021) 57:138

Identification of leptons in RICH



For particles heavier than electrons:

$$m_{\pi} > m_e$$

$$\beta_{\pi} < \beta_e$$

We can choose material where:

$$\beta_{\pi} < \beta_{\text{Cher}} < \beta_e$$

electrons and positrons create Cherenkov radiation

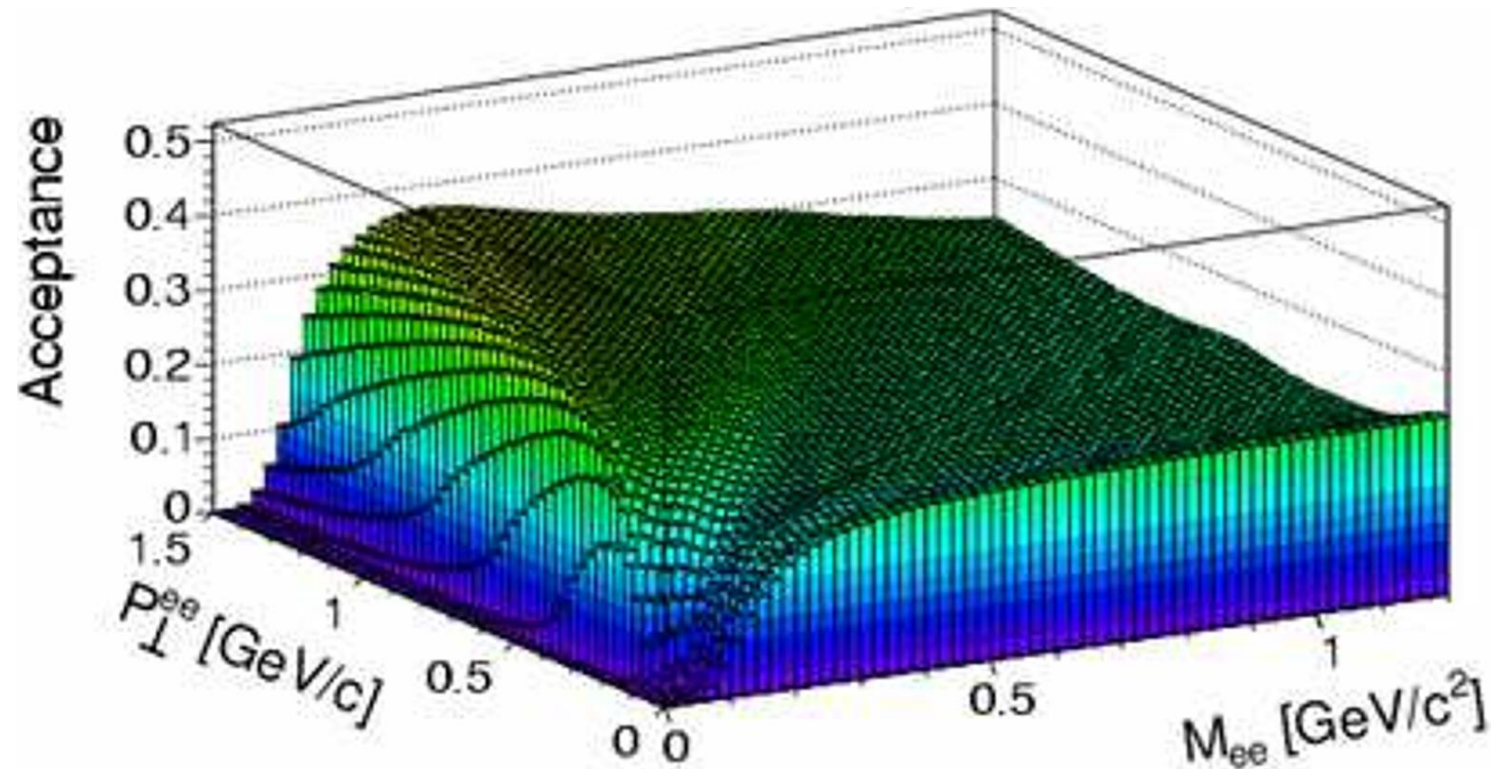
at SIS18 Energy range only leptons can create Cherenkov radiation

Threshold momentum for electrons 9.18 MeV and for pions 2 508.38 MeV

HADES detector – dielectron acceptance

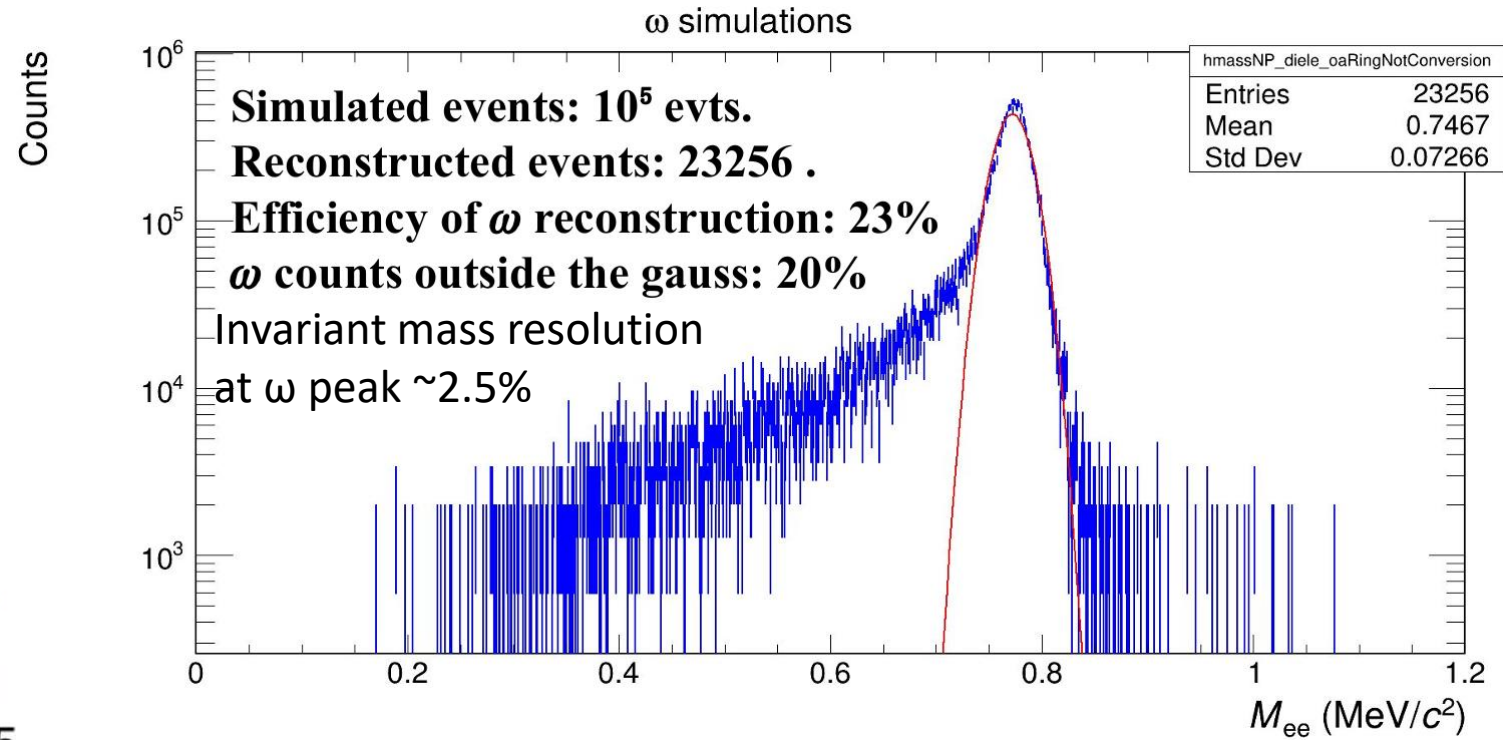
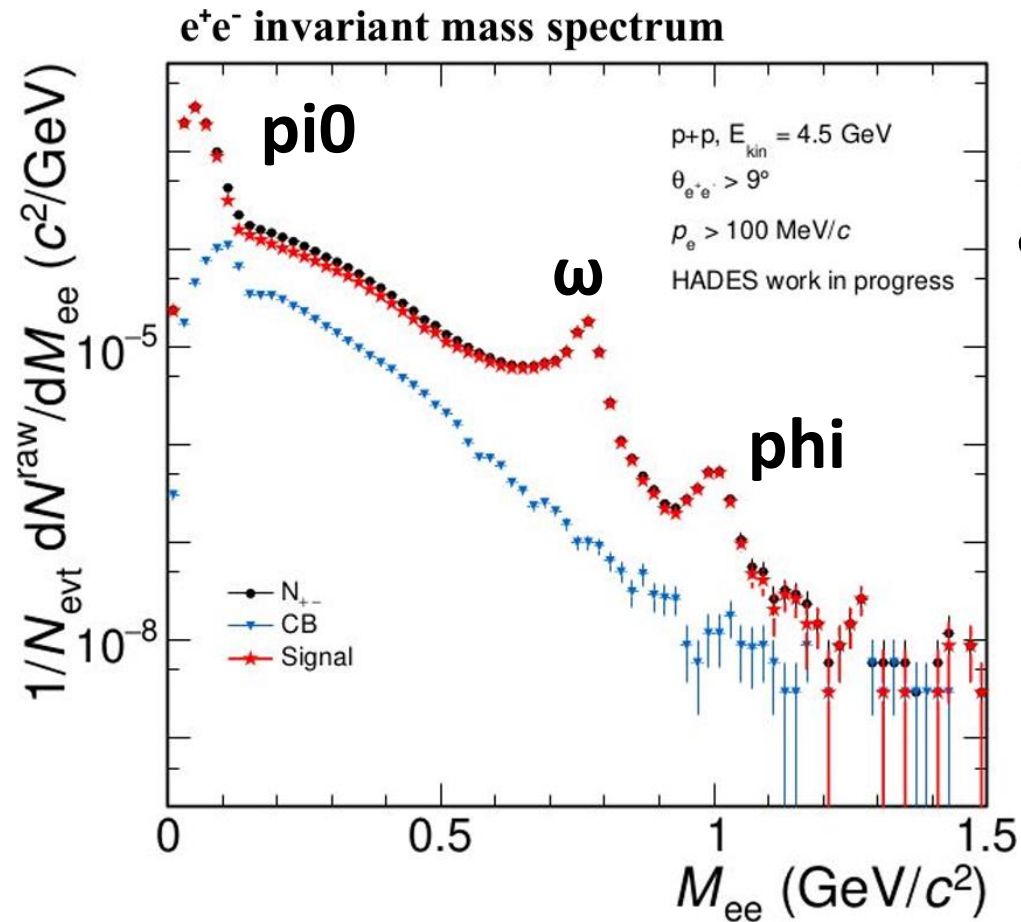
Previous lepton identification:

- based on signal in RICH
- acceptance as a function of transverse momentum and invariant mass
- in standard HADES analysis e^+e^- opening angle $> 9^\circ$ to subtract conversion
- reduction of acceptance for low invariant masses



Ref.: G. Agakishiev et al. Eur. Phys. J. A (209) 41:243-277

HADES detector



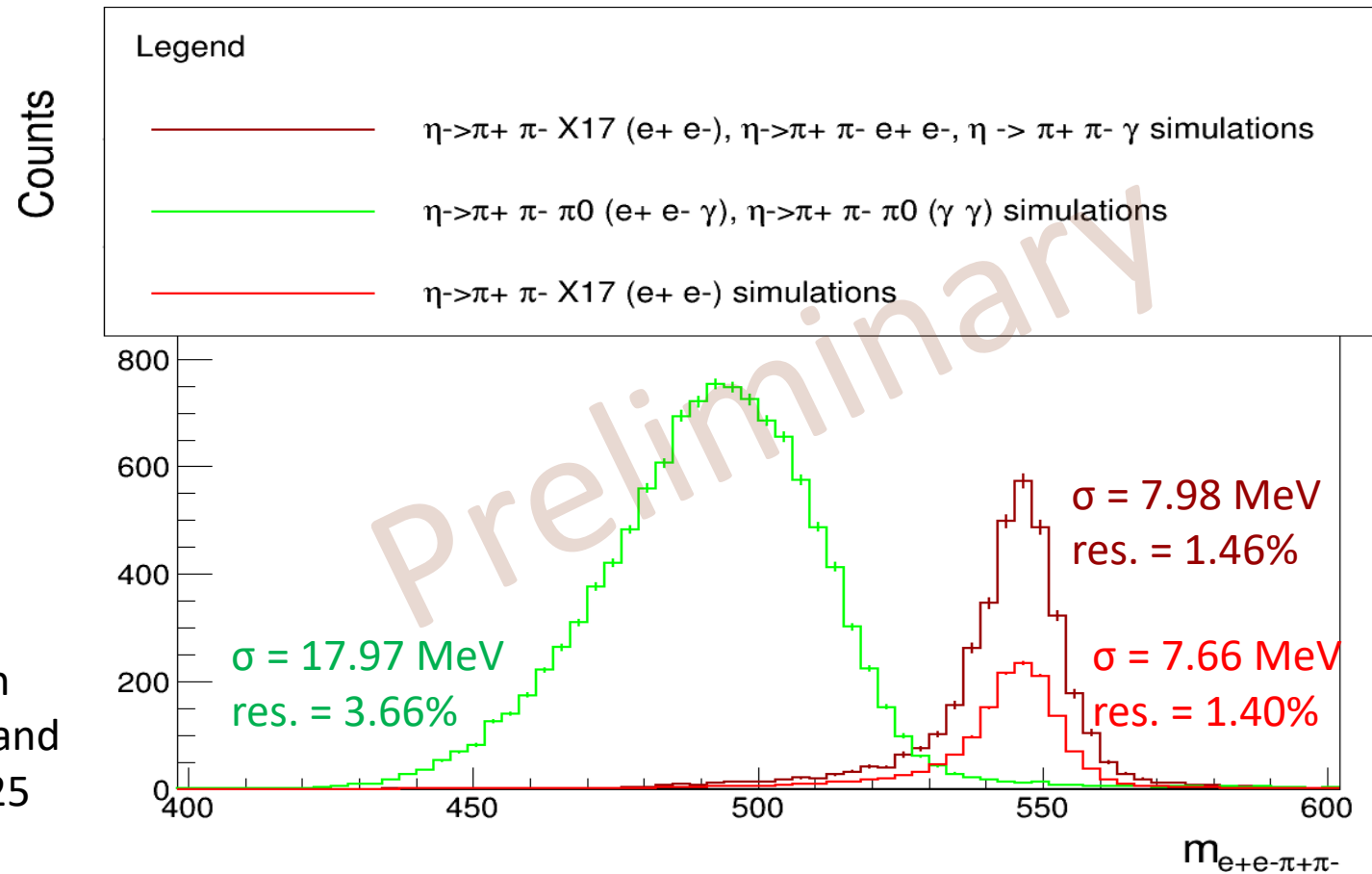
Ref.: R. Abou Yassine presentation at 6th HADES analysis meeting

Simulations of signals

Simulations conducted for signal reaction and some background reactions:

- $pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$
- **$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- X17 (e^+ e^-)$**
- $pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (e^+ e^- \gamma)$
- $pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (\gamma \gamma)$
- $pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$

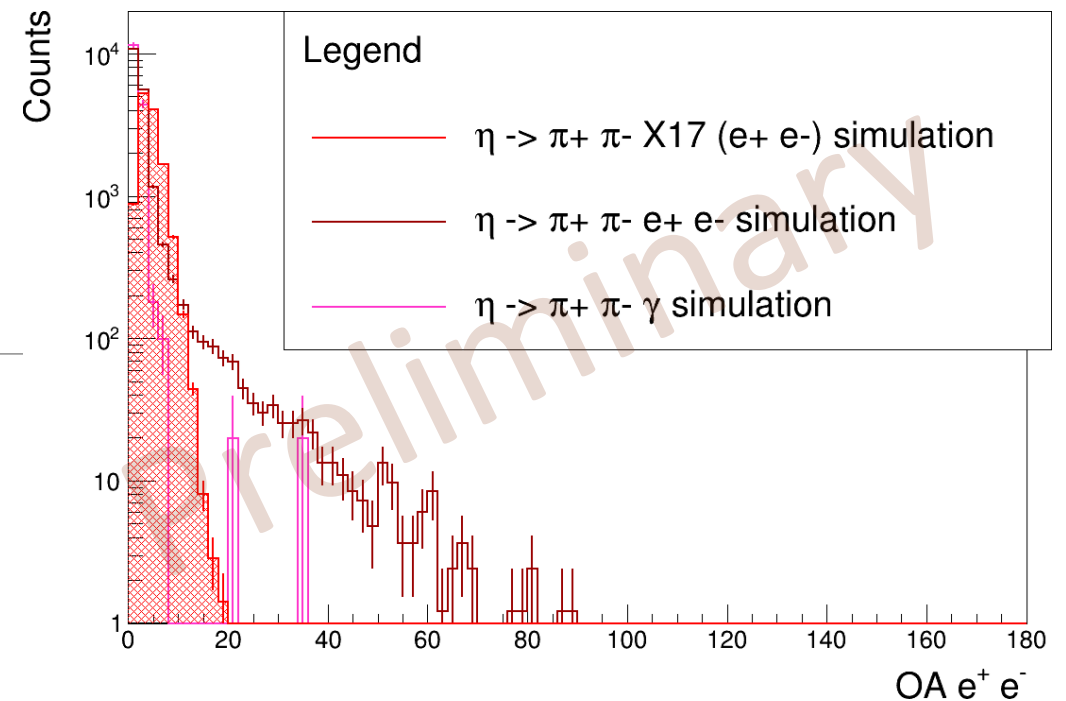
Ratio between events in left and right peak: 3.25



Simulations of signals

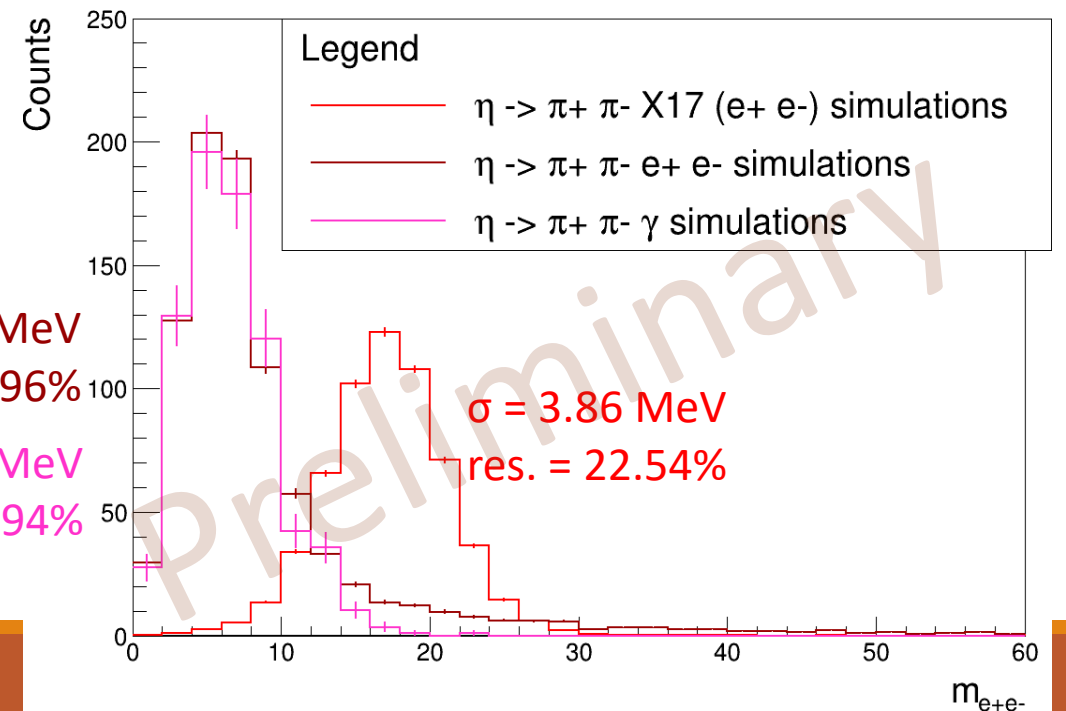
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 - **$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- X17 (e^+ e^-)$**
 - $pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$
-
- e^+e^- opening angle for reaction with X17 mainly below 20°
 - Conclusion: X17 can be reconstructed in HADES



$\sigma = 2.94 \text{ MeV}$
res. = 46.96%

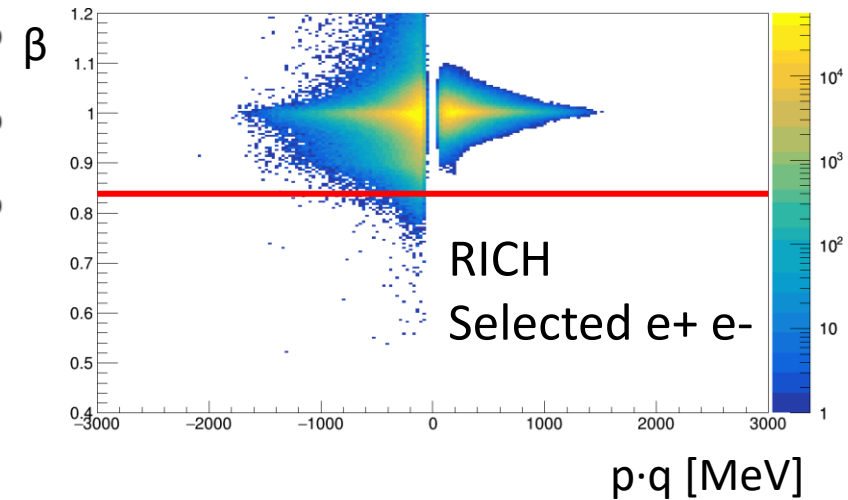
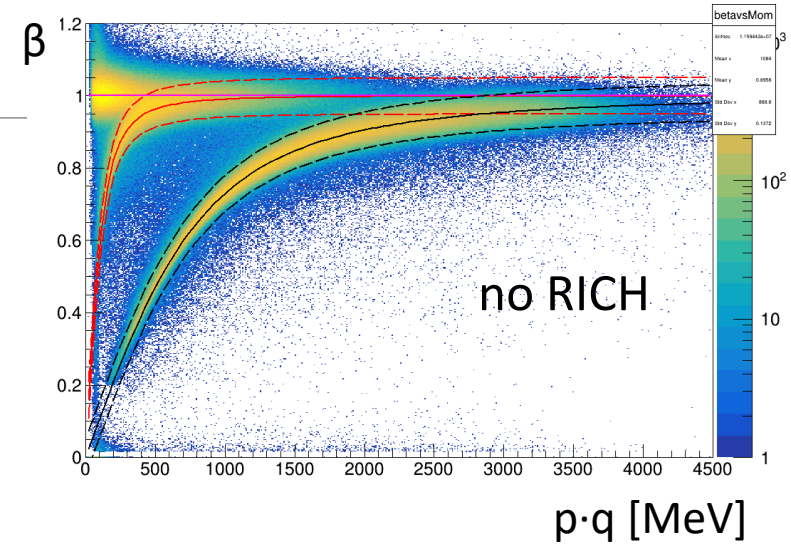
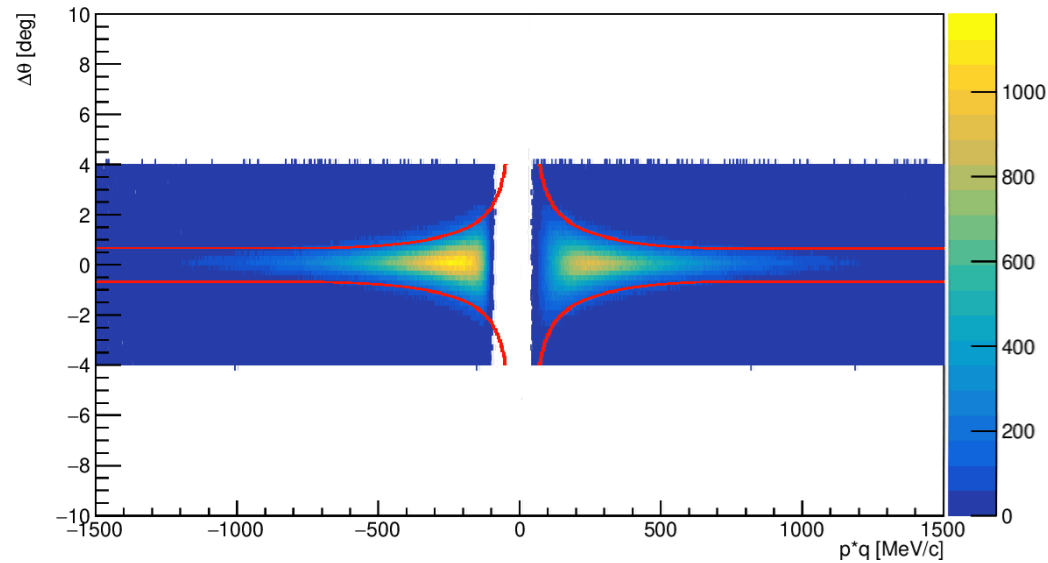
$\sigma = 2.85 \text{ MeV}$
res. = 45.94%



Main selection criteria

Following particles have to be selected: $\pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$

- leptons selected by correlation windows in RICH and MDC
- pions selected by cuts on beta vs momentum distribution
- additional cuts for leptons: $\beta > 0.85$



Event selection: hypothesis (e^+, e^-, π^+, π^-)

Analysis strategy

charge	Ring in RICH	particle
+	1	lepton+
-	1	lepton-
+	0	hadron+
-	0	hadron-

Initial particle identification.

Hypotheses:

- (e^+, e^-, π^+, π^-) – opposite leptons sign
- (e^+, e^+, π^+, π^-) – like leptons sign
- (e^-, e^-, π^+, π^-) – like leptons sign

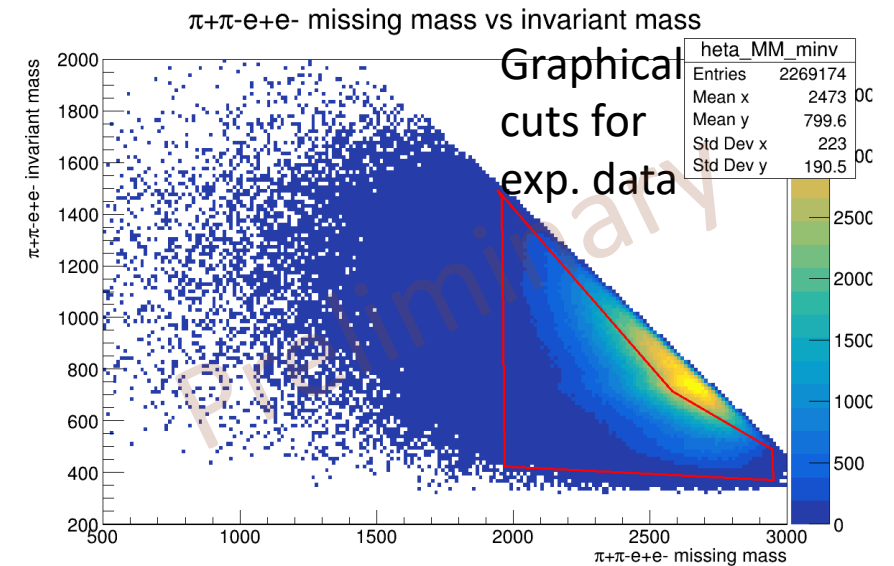
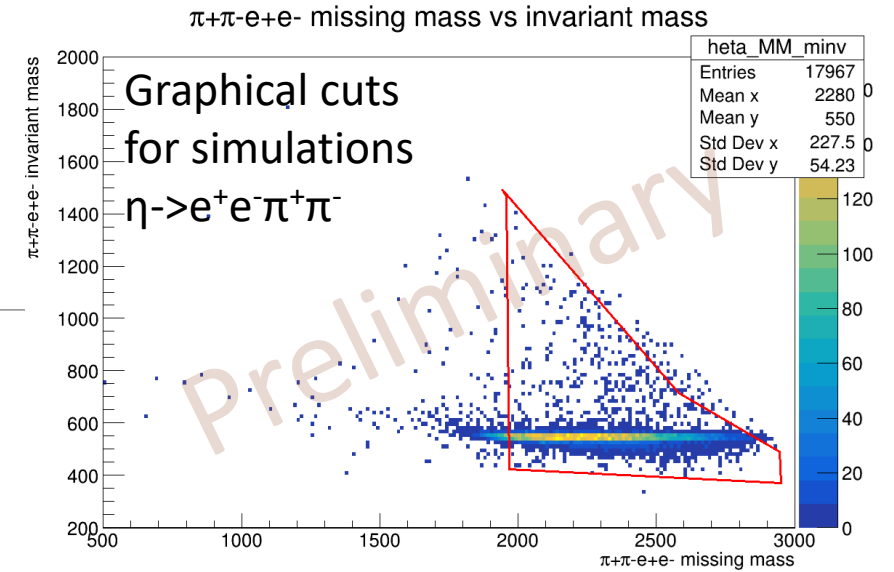
Best combination chosen (isBest = 1): all particles satisfy selection criteria and this combination has the smallest calculated χ^2 .

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \left(\frac{t_{exp} - t_{theor}(p, m)}{\sigma^2} \right)^2$$

Applied cuts to select η

- vertexReco $z \in (-200 \text{ mm}, 0)$
- $\pi^+\pi^-e^+e^-$ missing mass vs invariant mass (graphical cut)
- $(e^+e^-)(\pi^+\pi^-)$ opening angle $< 50^\circ$
- $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass $< 480 \text{ MeV}$
- $(e^+e^-)(\pi^+\pi^-)$ opening angle in C.o.M. $> 140^\circ$

Cuts found according to simulations of signal and background channels.

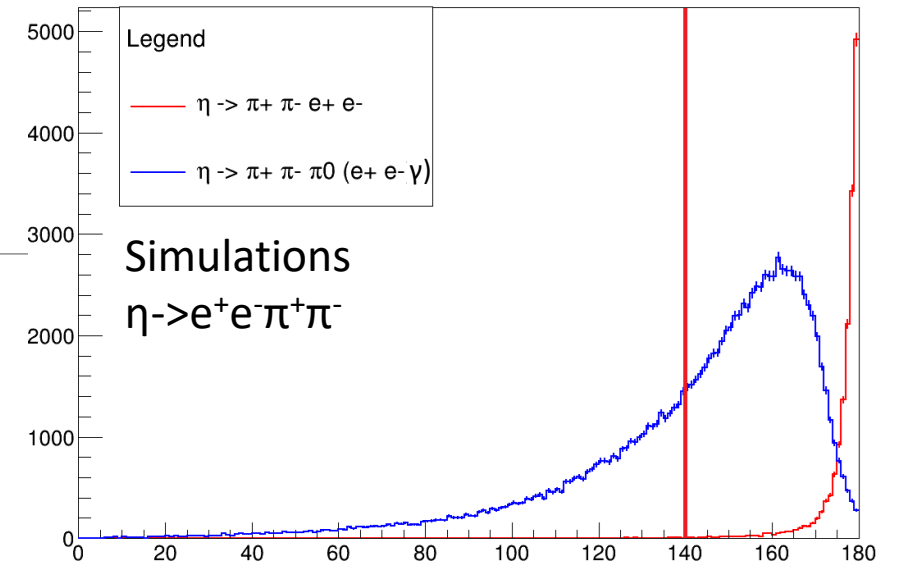


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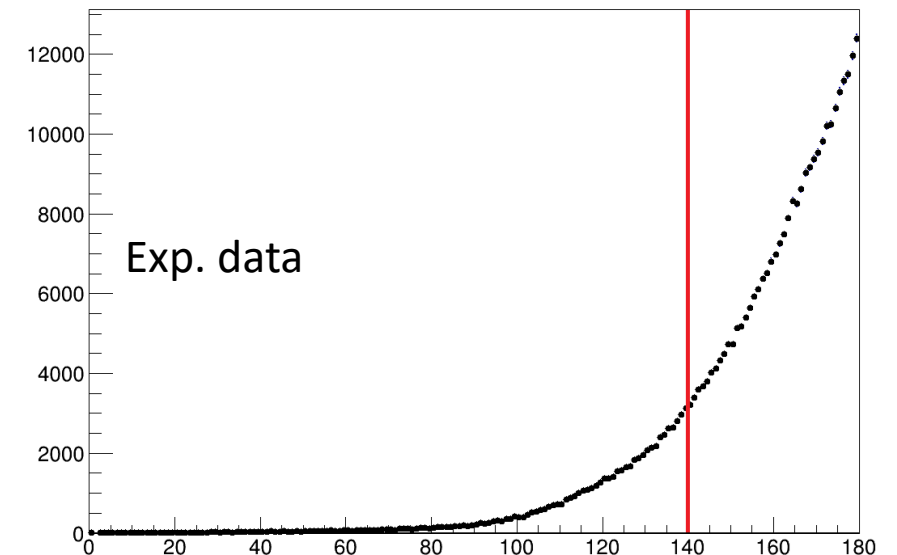
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- **$(e^+e^-)(\pi^+\pi^-)$ opening angle in C.o.M. $> 140^\circ$**

C.o.M. frame found assuming $e^+e^-\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass is equal η mass

$(e^+e^-)(\pi^+\pi^-)$ opening angle in C.o.M.

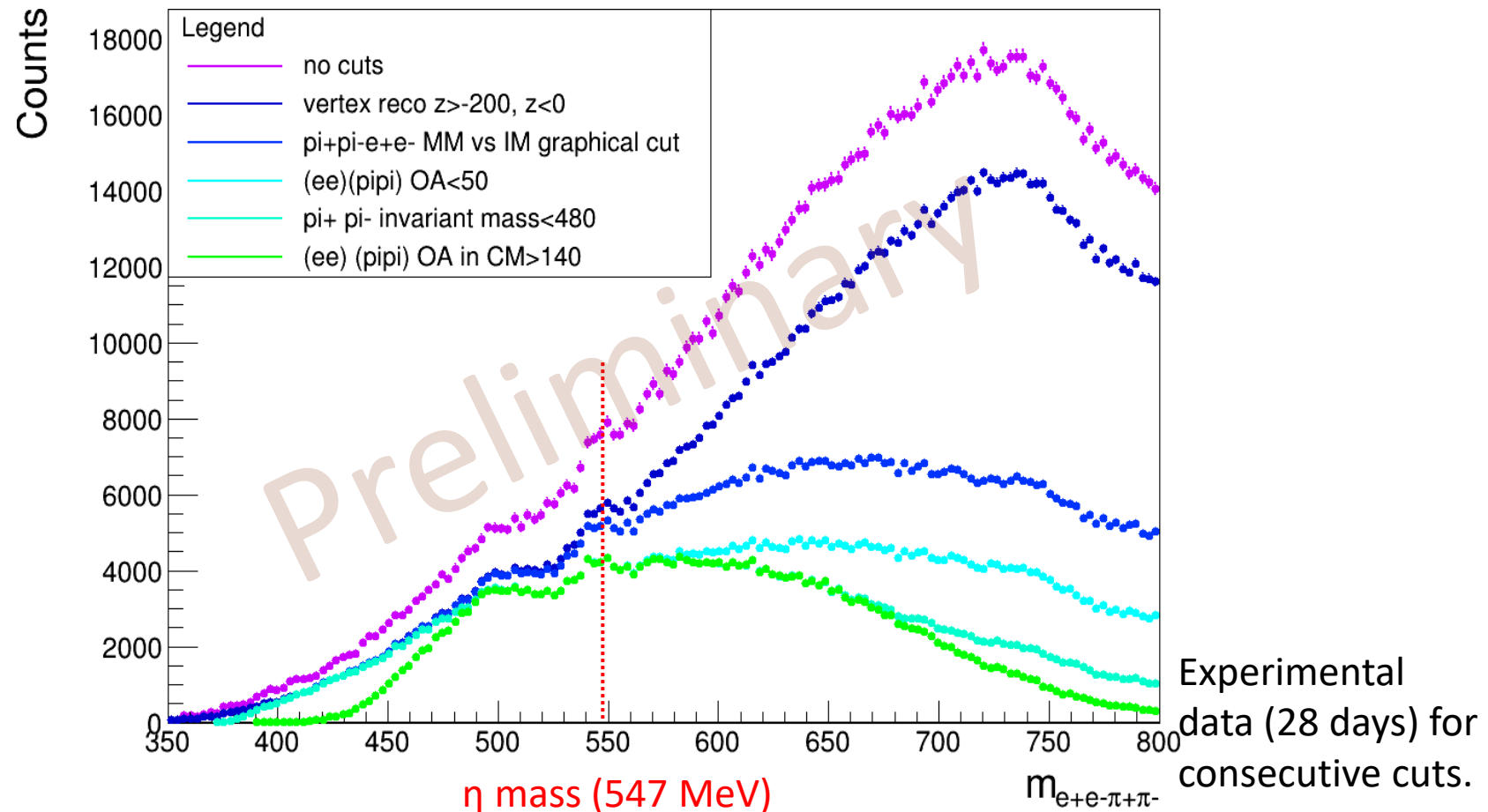


$(e^+e^-)(\pi^+\pi^-)$ opening angle in C.o.M.

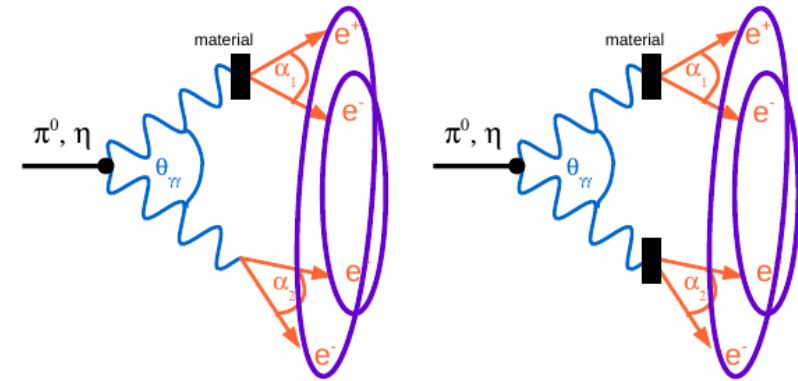
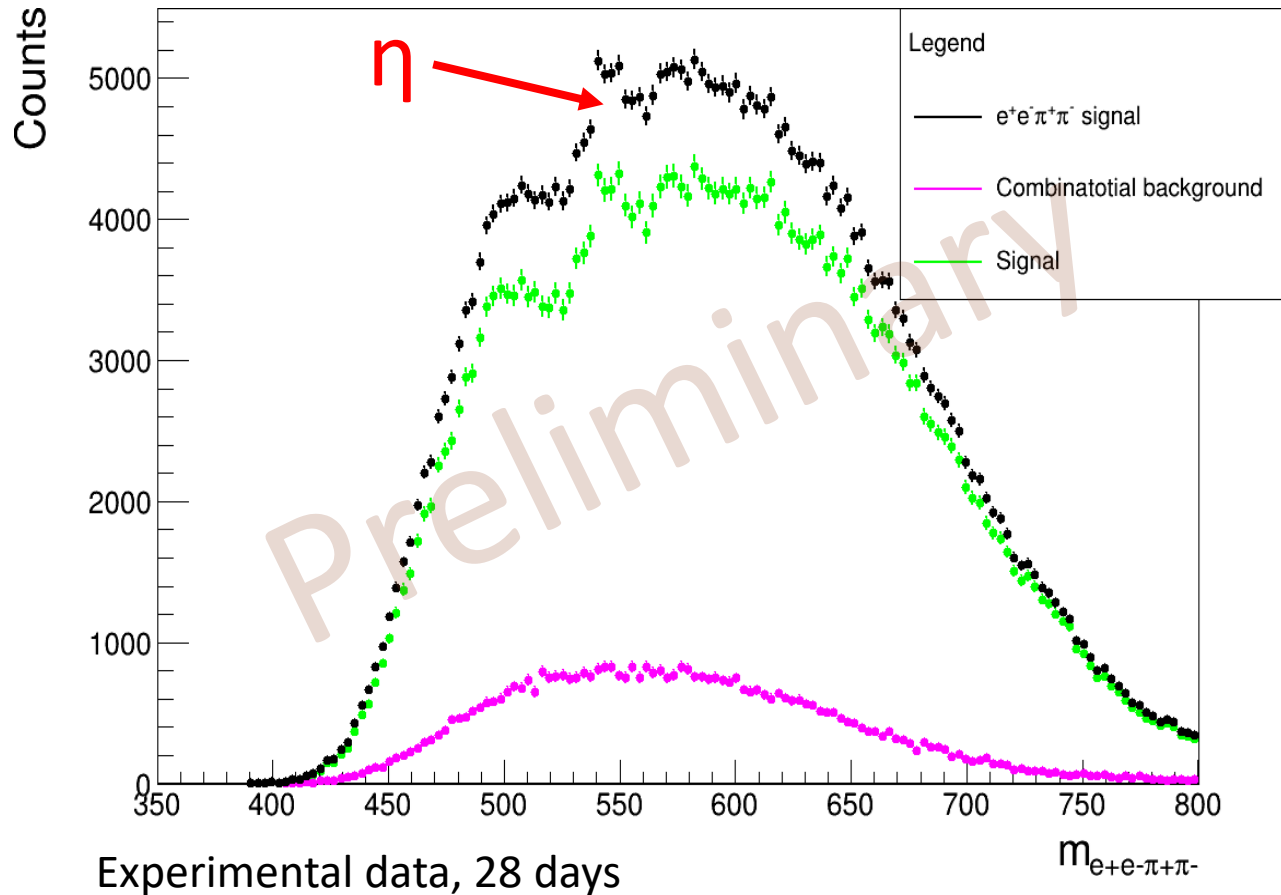


$\pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$ invariant mass after consecutive cuts

- all cuts were compared using $e^+e^-\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass
- reduction of 86.78% events in total range of $e^+e^-\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass distribution (data)
- reduction of 10.16% events in η signal range (SIM)



Combinatorial background subtraction



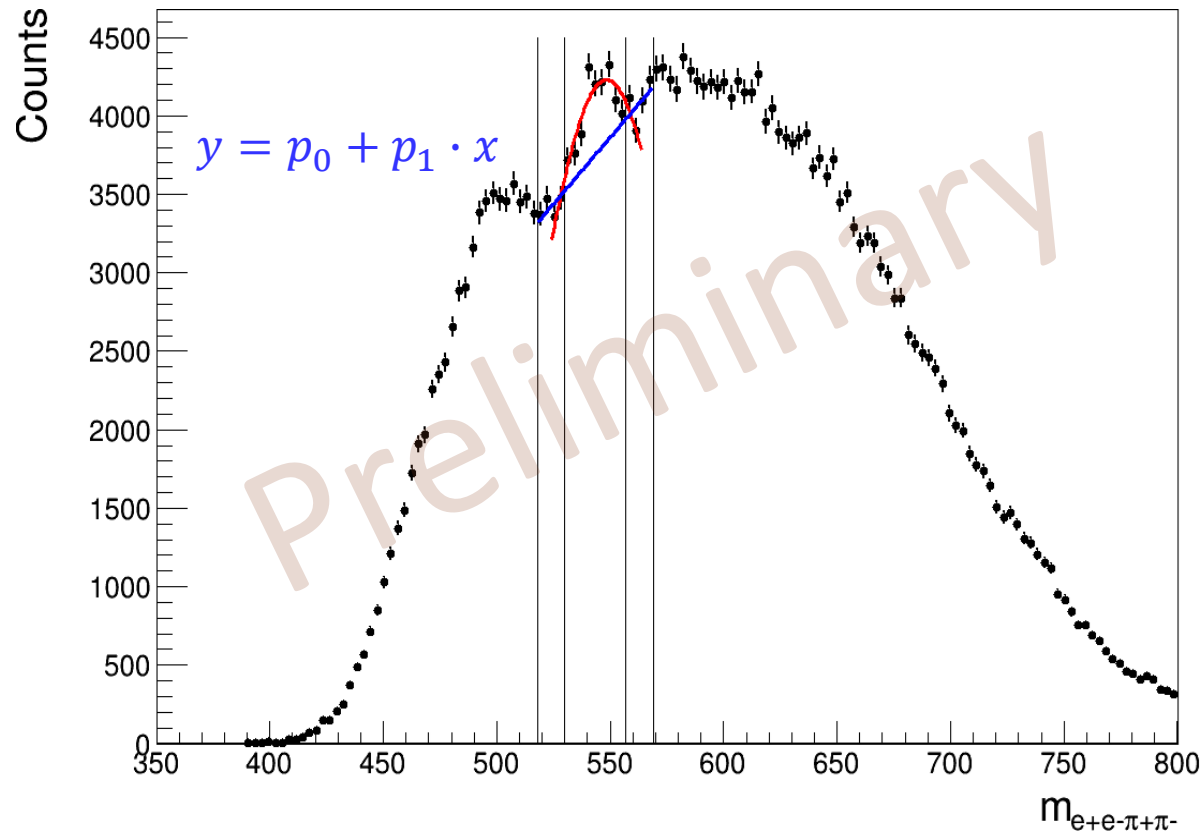
Combinatorial background:

$$\langle N_{CB} \rangle = 2\sqrt{\langle N_{\pi^+\pi^-e^+e^+} \rangle \langle N_{\pi^+\pi^-e^-e^-} \rangle}$$

$$\langle N_{signal} \rangle = \langle N_{\pi^+\pi^-e^+e^-} \rangle - \langle N_{CB} \rangle$$

Ref.: Szymon Harabasz PhD thesis

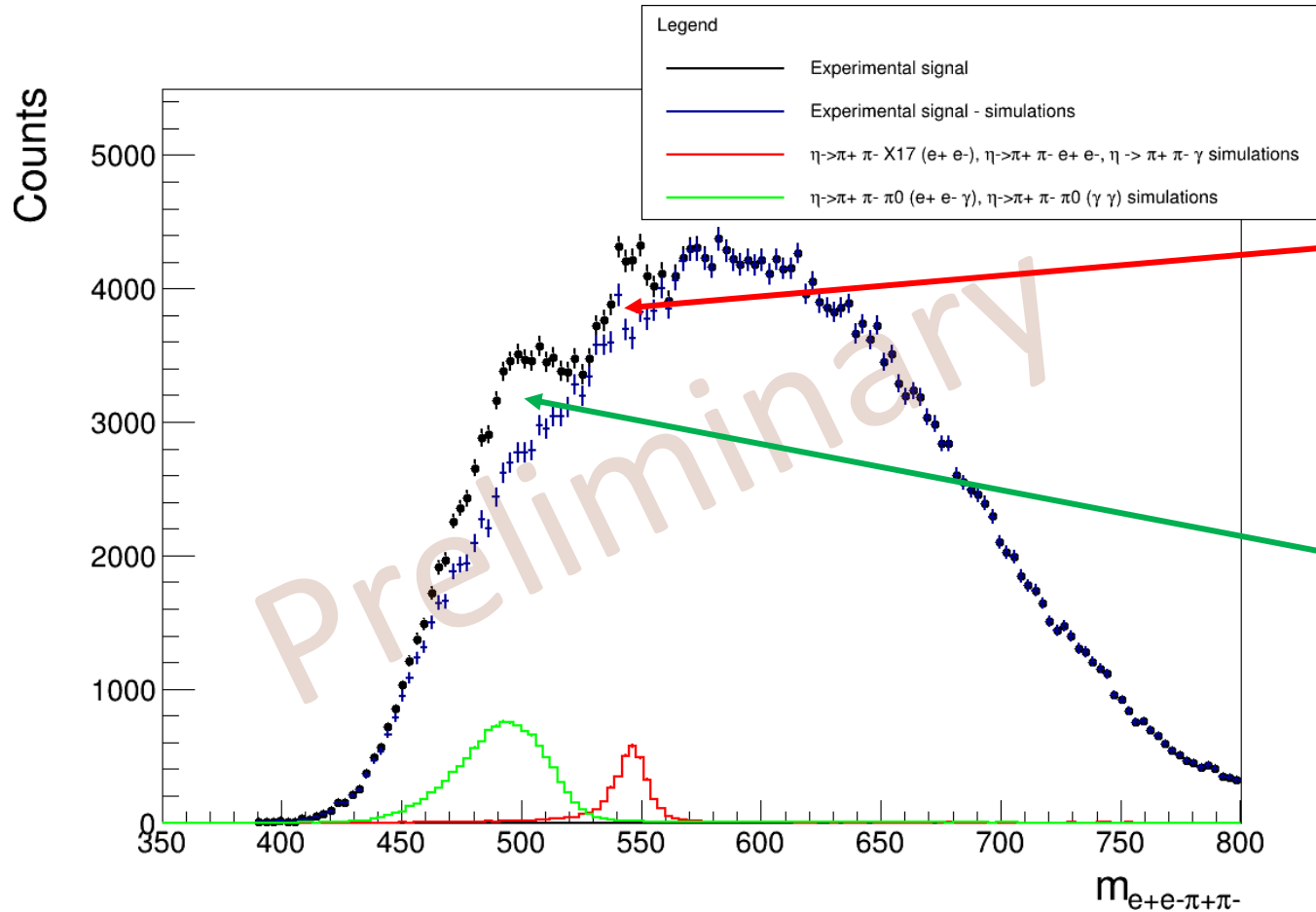
Extraction of number of signal events



- Selected signal and background regions shown on the picture
- Linear function fitted to background regions

Estimated number of signal events	2 758
η peak mean	548.40
η peak sigma	32.59

Data to SIM scaling (with X17)



- Right peak (R)



3 524 events
(2 919 in
peak region)

- Left peak (L)



11 200
events

$$\frac{N_L}{N_R} (SIM) = 3.25$$

Extraction of number of expected X17 events

Estimation of X17 contribution to signal region

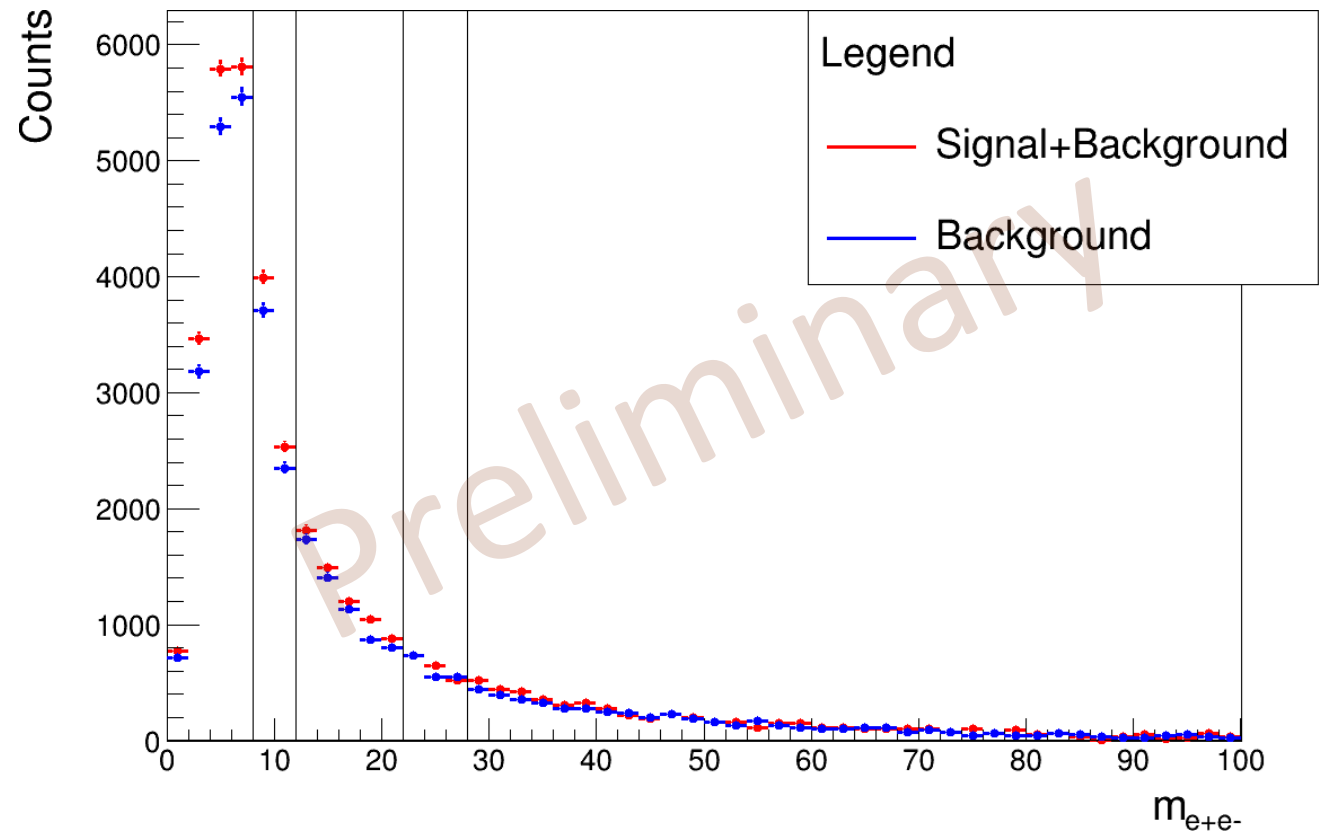
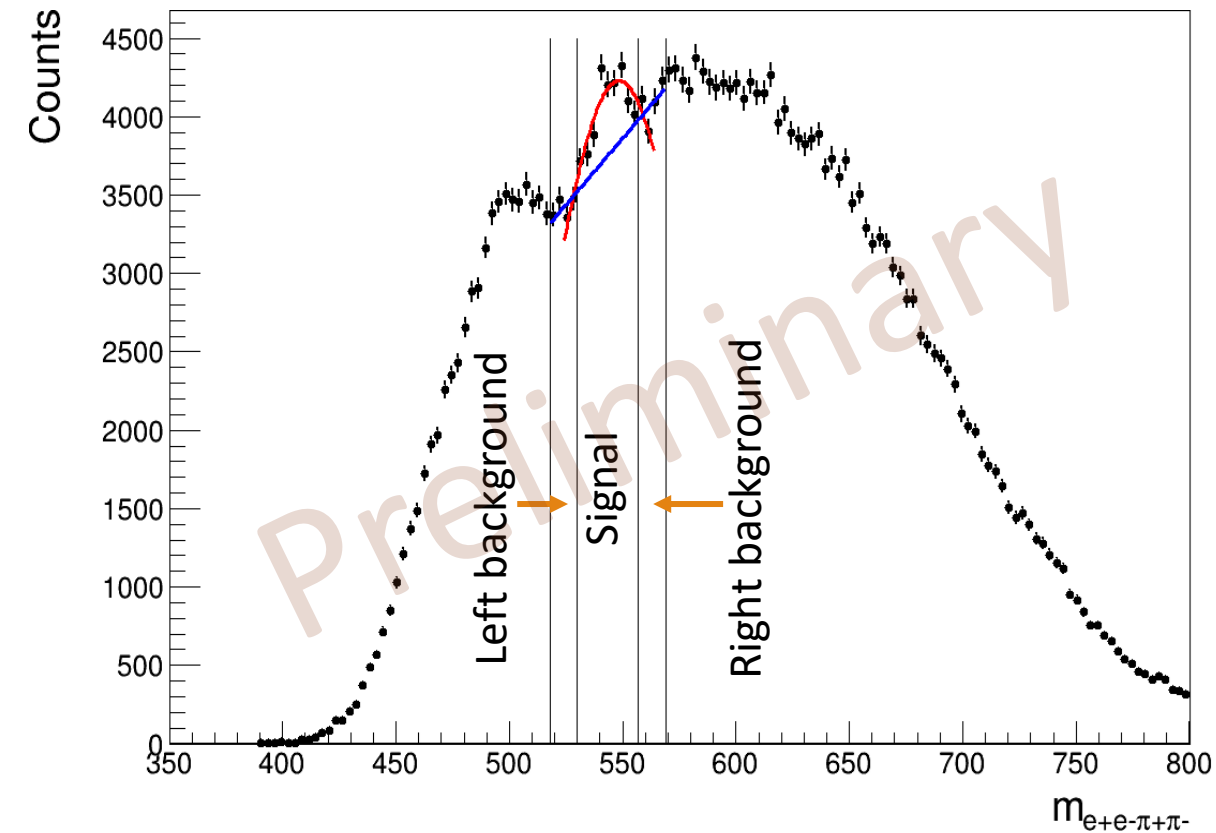
Reaction	Contribution	Branching ratio
$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$	39.95%	$2.68 \cdot 10^{-4}$
$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- X17 (e^+ e^-)$	26.28%	$1 \cdot 10^{-4}$
$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$	33.77%	$4.28 \cdot 10^{-2} *$

expected number of X17 in signal peak

$$N_{X17} = N_{ALL} \cdot f_{X17}$$

$$N_{X17} = 2758 \cdot 26.28\% = 725$$

Sideband method for background estimation



Extraction of number of expected X17 events

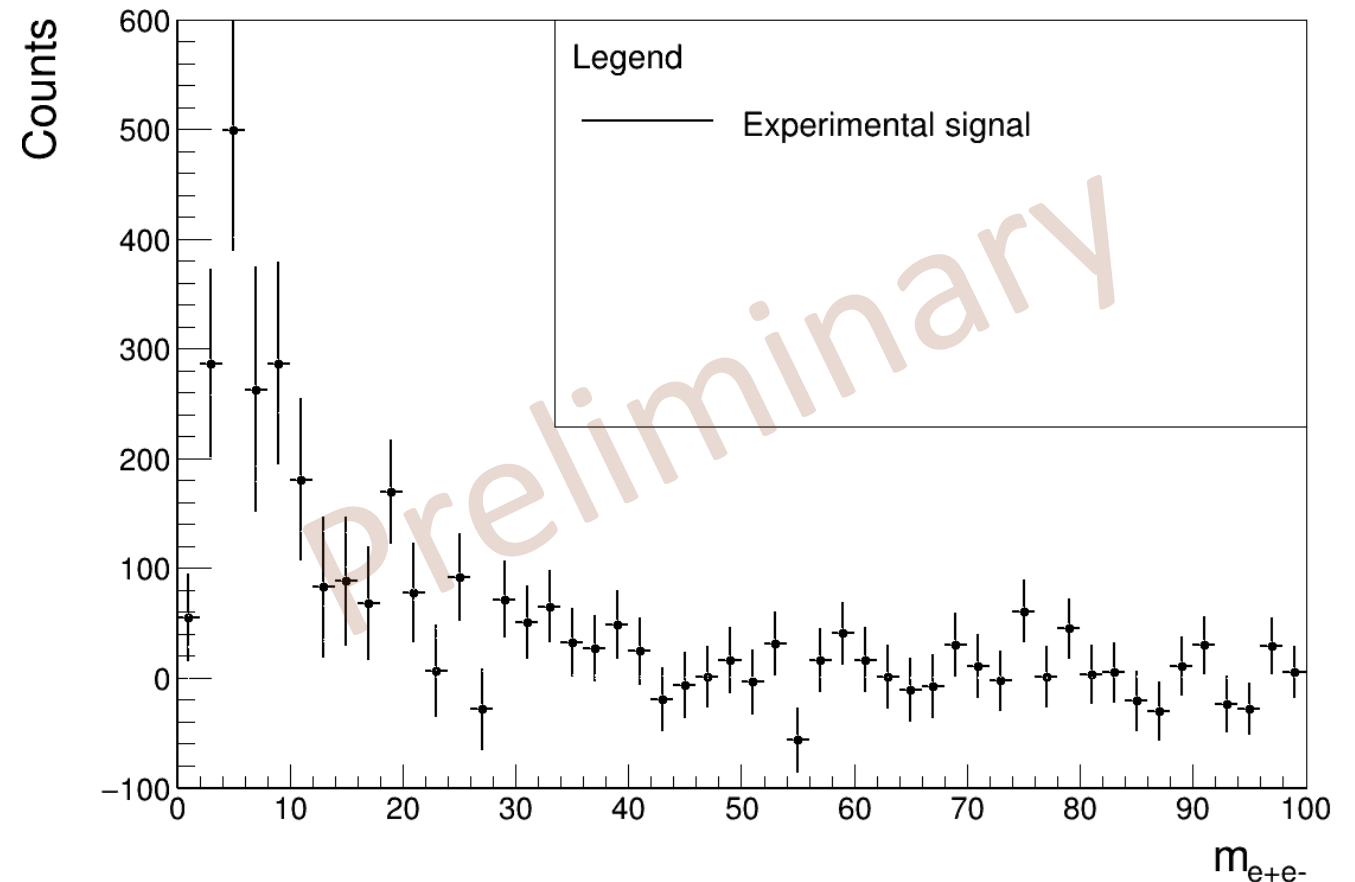
- Final distribution of e^+e^- invariant mass after background subtraction
- No visible peak in signal region
- Prediction of upper limit for X17 events according to **W. Rolke et al., Nucl. Phys. A, 551, 493-503 (2005)**

$$\text{efficiency} \cdot \text{acceptance} = 1.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$$

$$UL_{X17} = 255 \text{ (CL=90\%)}$$

$$BR_{\eta \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-X17} < 2.5766 \cdot 10^{-5}$$

$$BR_{th} \sim \underline{1 \cdot 10^{-4}}$$



Extraction of number of expected X17 events

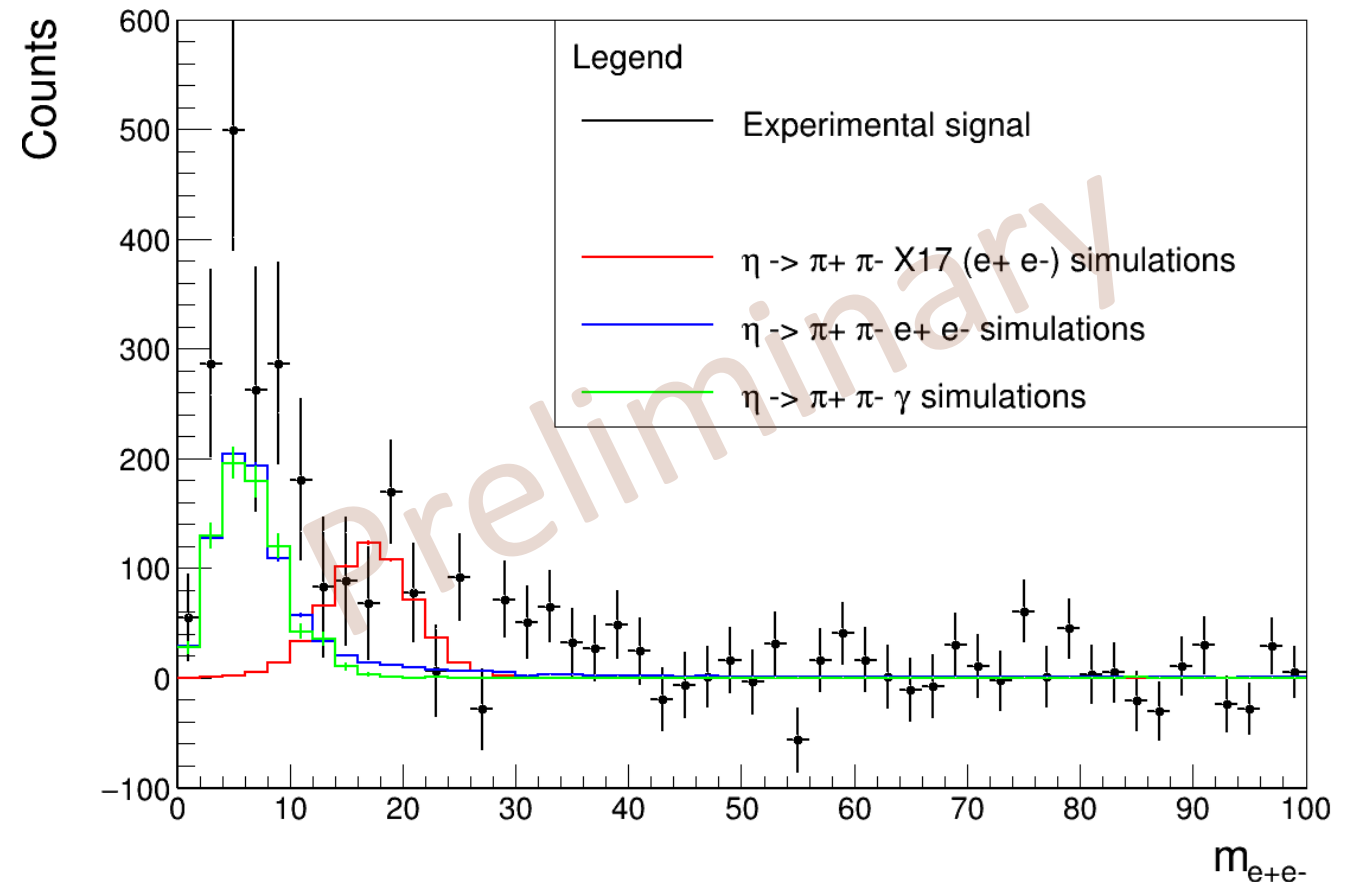
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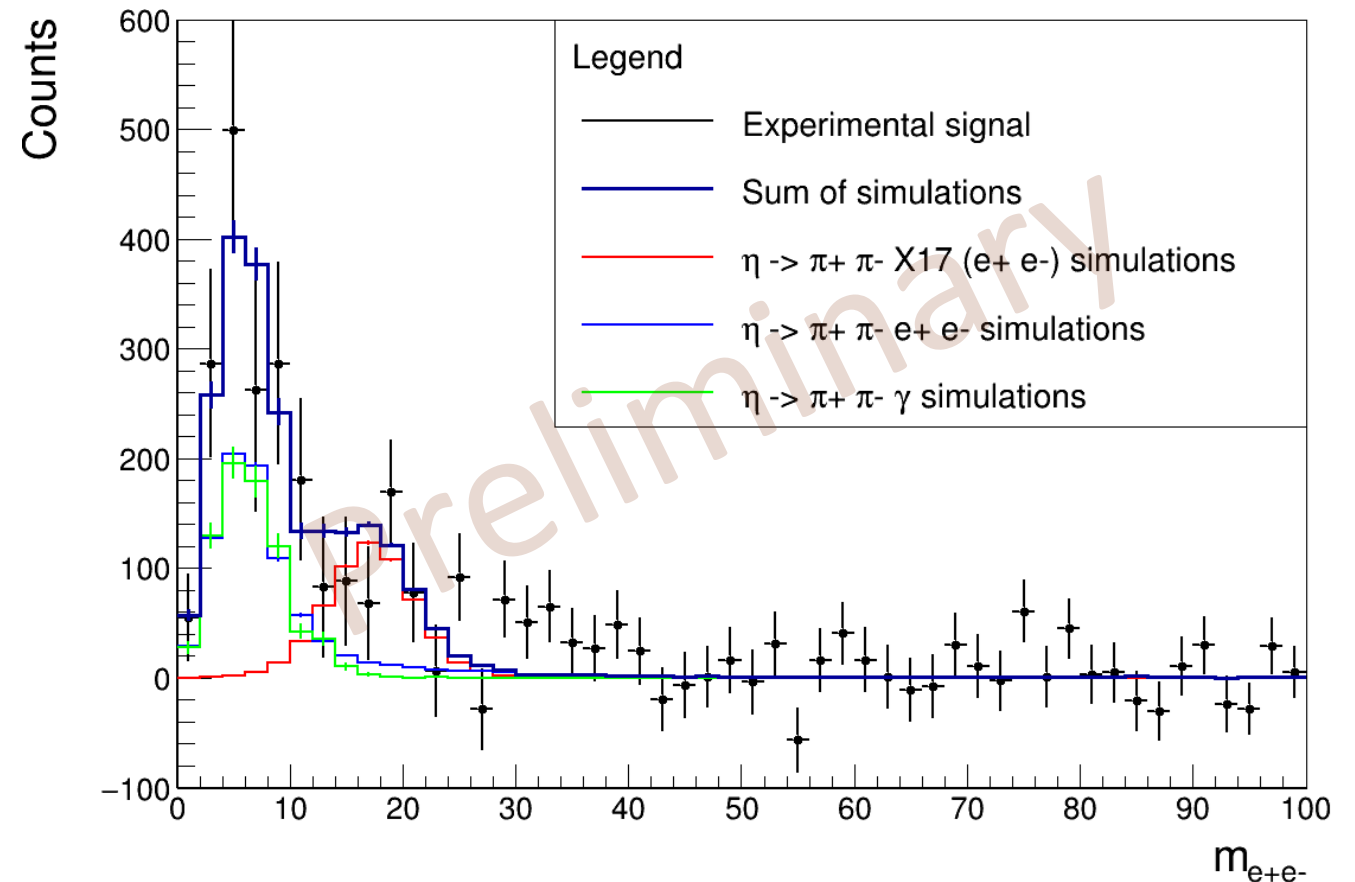
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X17 upper limit extraction

Cuts			Results		
$\pi^+ \pi^-$ invariant mass	$(\pi^+ \pi^-)(e^+ e^-)$ OA in C.o.M.	$e^+ e^-$ OA	Signal events in the η peak	Upper limit on X17 signal number of events	Upper limit on X17 branching ratio
<480	>140°		2 758	255	$2.58 \cdot 10^{-5}$
<480			2 756	255	$2.58 \cdot 10^{-5}$
<480	>140°	>2°	1 892	204	$2.06 \cdot 10^{-5}$
<480		>2°	1 890	204	$2.06 \cdot 10^{-5}$
<420	>140°		2 688	263	$2.66 \cdot 10^{-5}$
<420			2 689	251	$2.54 \cdot 10^{-5}$
<420	>140°	>2°	1 806	209	$2.12 \cdot 10^{-5}$
<420		>2°	1 807	209	$2.12 \cdot 10^{-5}$

Summary

Further steps:

- studies of systematical effects
- simulations of η decays using transport models SMASH/GiBUU
- machine learning analysis (MVA, BDT) to reduce background

SMASH – Simulating Many Accelerated Strong-interacting Hadrons
ref.: H. Petersen et al., Nucl. Phys. A, 982, 399 (2019)
GiBUU – the Giessen Boltzmann-Uehling-Uhlenbeck Project
ref.: O. Buss et al., Phys. Rept., 512, 1 (2012)

Thank you for attention!

Backup

Predictions of number of events

$$N = \epsilon \cdot I \cdot \rho \cdot t \cdot a_{DAQ} \cdot a_{beam} \cdot \sigma \cdot BR$$

ϵ – efficiency times acceptance factor

I – beam intensity

ρ – target density

t – measurement time (28 days)

a_{DAQ} – factor related to dead time of the DAQ system

a_{beam} – factor related to beam structure

σ – cross section

BR – branching ratio

Total integrated luminosity
($6 \frac{1}{pb}$ according to elastic
scattering analysis)

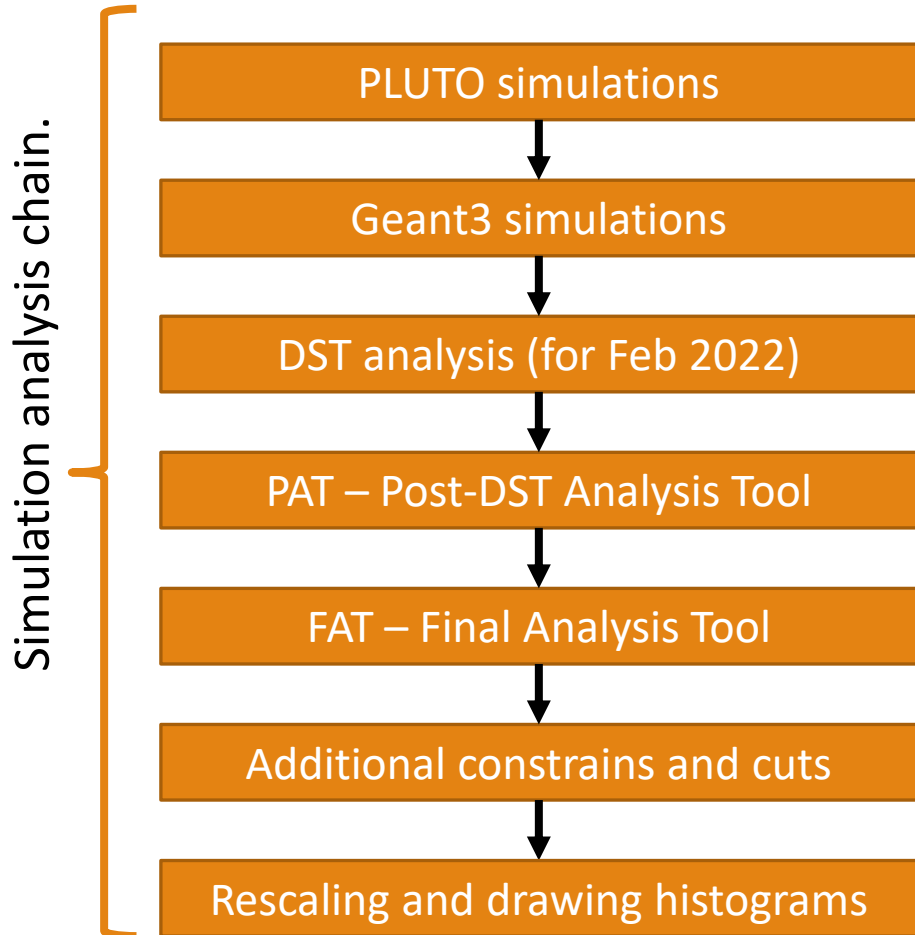
Estimated number of events for 6 [1/pb] (28 days): After ALL cuts

	Reaction	Cross section (mb)	ϵ (%)	BR (%)	Number of events for 28 days (4 π)	Number of events (HADES acc., all cuts)
η decays, decays from pp η	$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$	1.5*	0.7816	0.0268	2 412 000	19 093
	$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- X17 (e^+ e^-)$	1.5	1.3957	0.01	900 000	12 561
	$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (e^+ e^- \gamma)$	1.5	0.3661	0.27	24 322 932	89 052
	$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (\gamma \gamma)$	1.5	0.0032	22.75	2 047 414 914	66 409
	$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$	1.5	0.0042	4.28**	385 200 000	16 142
multi-pion decays, not complete list	$p p \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (e^+ e^- \gamma)$	1.84	0.0876	1.17	129 609 600	113 579
	$p p \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (\gamma \gamma)$	1.84	0.0006	98.82**	10 910 059 200	68 400
	$p n \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (e^+ e^- \gamma)$	0.3	0.1491	1.17	21 132 000	31 478
	$p n \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (\gamma \gamma)$	0.3	0.0015	98.82**	1 778 814 000	26 775
	$p p \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \pi^0 (e^+ e^- \gamma)$	0.3	0.0962	1.17	21 132 000	20 320
	$p p \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \pi^0 (\gamma \gamma)$	0.3	0.0029	98.82**	1 778 814 000	52 258

* - 1.1 mb measured by HADES pp@3.5

** - not including gamma conversion

Analysis of simulations



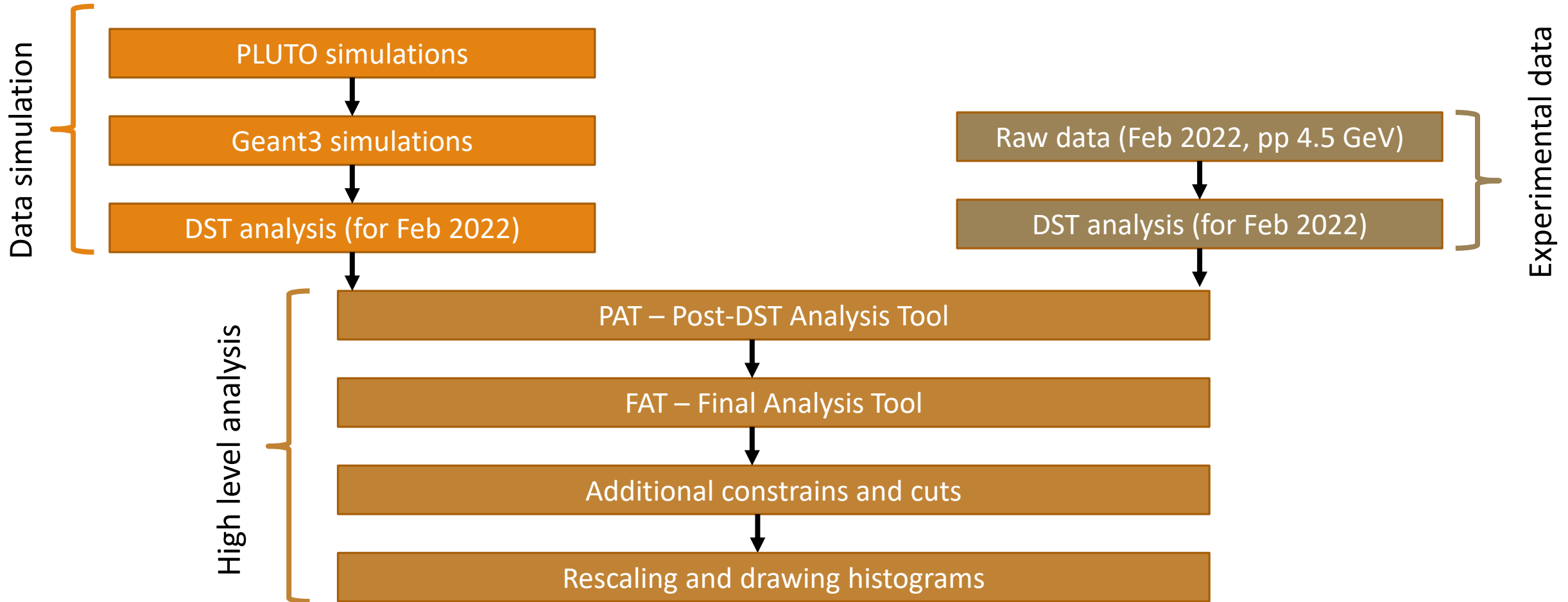
	Reaction	Branching ratio
Signal	$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^- + e^+ + e^-$	$2.68 \cdot 10^{-4} *$
	$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^- + X17$	$1 \cdot 10^{-4} **$
	$X17 \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$	1
Main background	$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^- + \pi^0$	$2.302 \cdot 10^{-1} *$
	$\pi^0 \rightarrow e^+ + e^- + \gamma$	$1.174 \cdot 10^{-2} *$
	$\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma$	$9.882 \cdot 10^{-1} *$
	$\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^- + \gamma$	$4.28 \cdot 10^{-2} *$

Branching ratios for simulated decays.

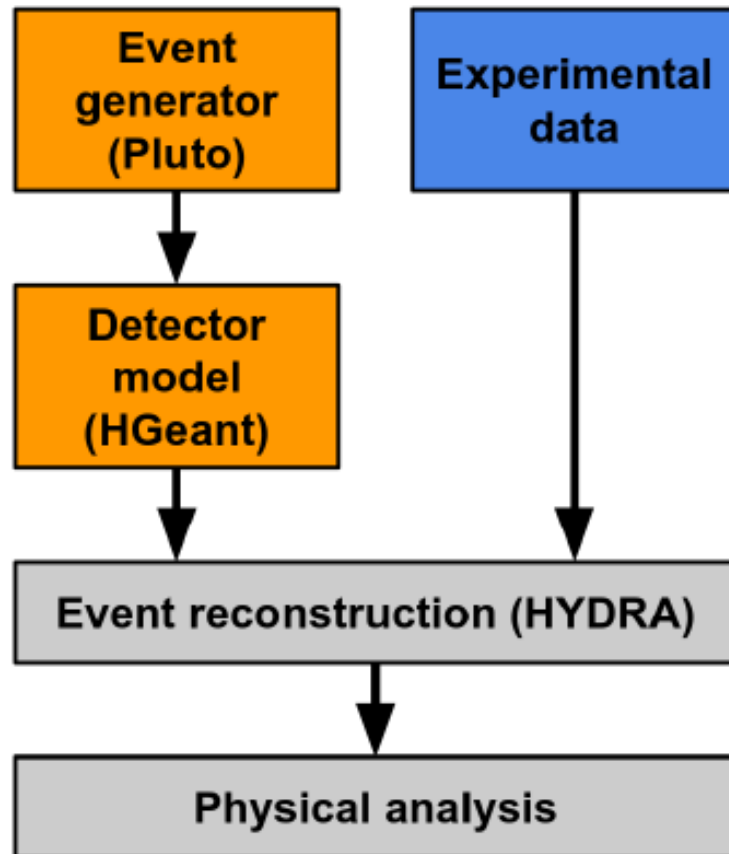
* - from PDG website

** - from Alves et al. (2022)

Analysis method



Analysis method



Physical analysis:

Two tools developed by Witold Przygoda

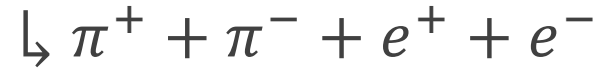
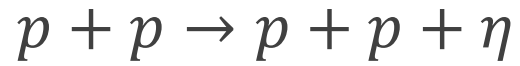
➤ PAT – Post-DST Analysis Tool

selects particles according to defined criteria

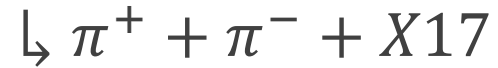
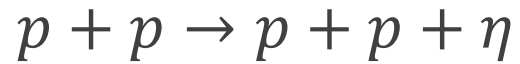
➤ FAT – Final Analysis Tool

calculates more complex observables, like invariant masses and opening angles

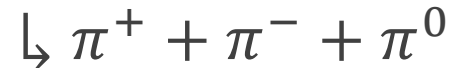
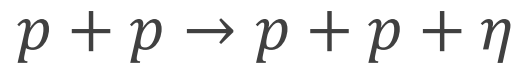
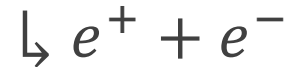
Simulated reactions



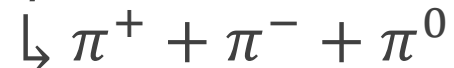
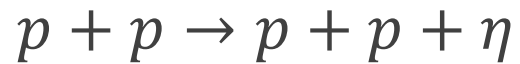
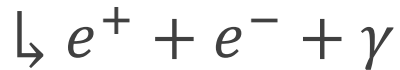
- signal with direct η decay



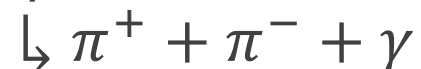
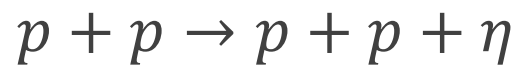
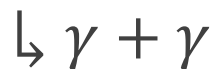
- signal with X17 resonance



- background



- background



- background

Simulated reactions – without η

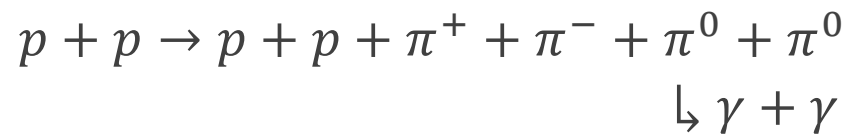
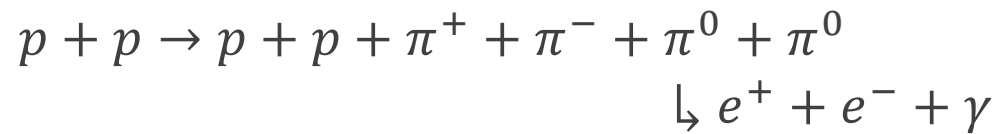
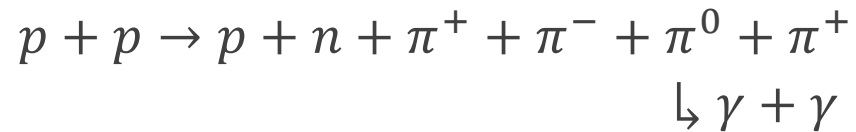
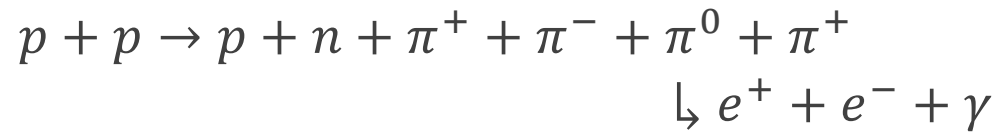
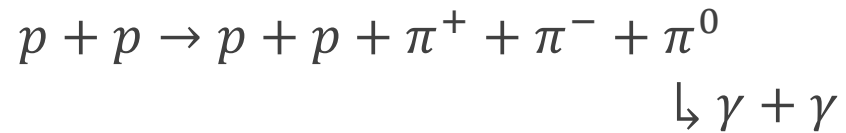
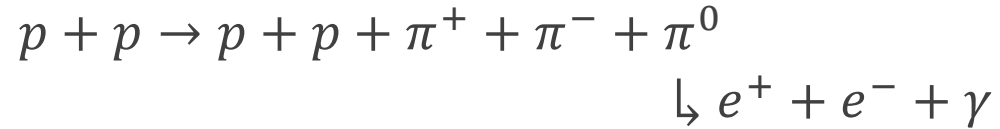


Table 3.: Number of events after each cut.

Reaction	Simulated events	isBest cut	vertexZ cut	graphical cut	OA cut	Minv ($\pi\pi$) cut	OA cut in C.o.M.
$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$	2 000 000	17 640	17 632	16 612	16 172	15 931	15 832
$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- X17 (e^+ e^-)$	1 900 000	29 517	29 507	27 822	27 019	26 658	26 519
$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (e^+ e^- \gamma)$	19 500 000	113 798	113 733	110 153	109 330	108 766	71 394
$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (\gamma \gamma)$	19 300 000	1 026	1 024	989	979	972	626
$pp \eta \rightarrow pp \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$	19 400 000	910	909	857	826	816	813
$p p \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (e^+ e^- \gamma)$	1 900 000	4 554	4 549	3 740	2 954	2 061	1 665
$p p \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (\gamma \gamma)$	19 300 000	357	355	290	229	141	121
$p n \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (e^+ e^- \gamma)$	1 900 000	8 926	8 939	5 933	4 462	3 330	2 832
$p n \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 (\gamma \gamma)$	19 200 000	839	835	549	412	329	289
$p p \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \pi^0 (e^+ e^- \gamma)$	1 900 000	5 242	5 240	3 653	2 676	2 102	1 827
$p p \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \pi^0 (\gamma \gamma)$	19 300 000	1 846	1 844	1 199	899	656	567

Analysis of real data

Data collected in february 2022

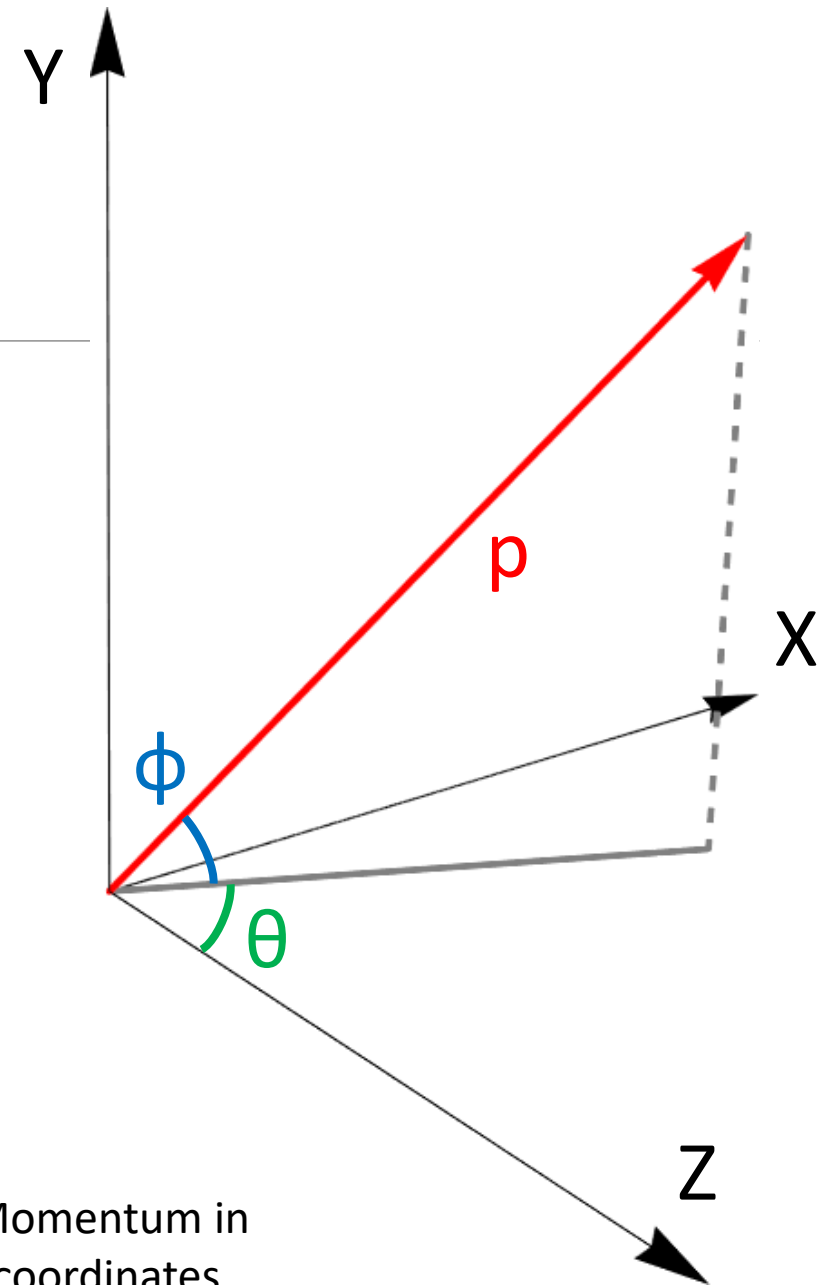
The main goal is to study η meson
reconstructed from $\pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$.

This requires proper identification of
each particle.

Selection of electrons and positrons
can be improved by implementing
certain parametrized cuts.

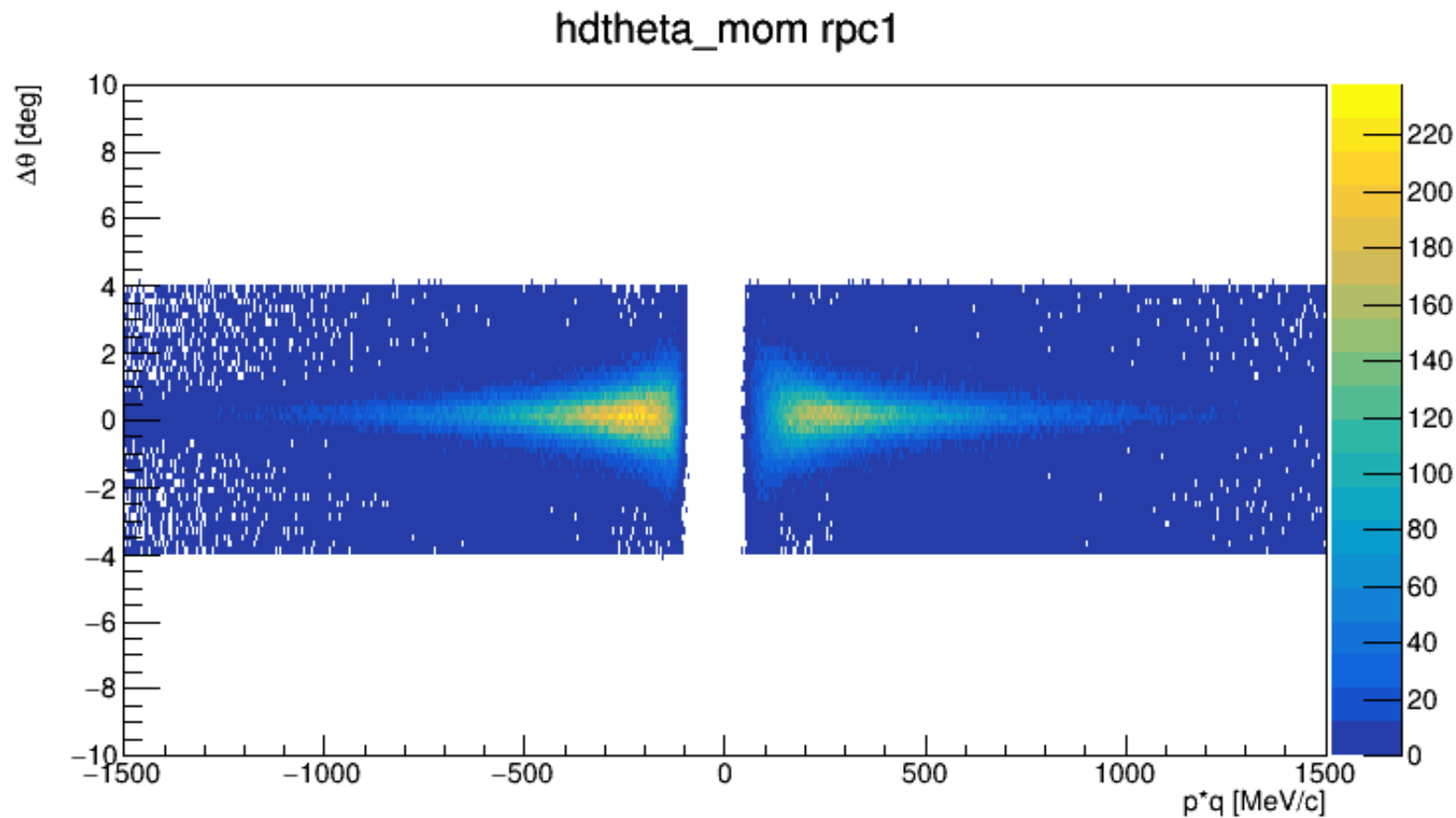
Selection according to momentum:

$$\vec{p} = (p, \theta, \phi)$$



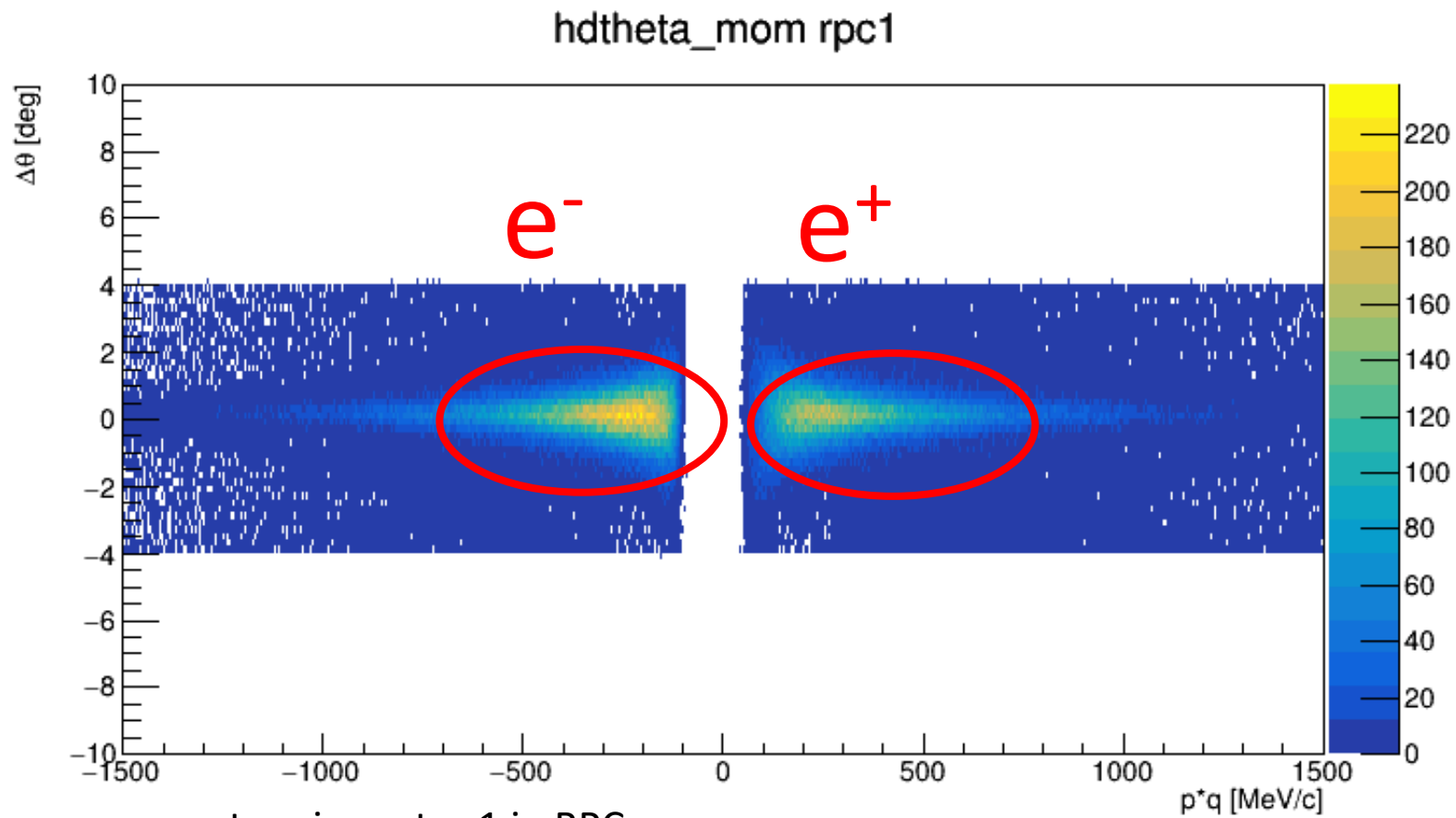
Pic. 22.: Momentum in
spherical coordinates.

$\theta_{\text{RICH}} - \theta_{\text{MDC}}$ vs momentum



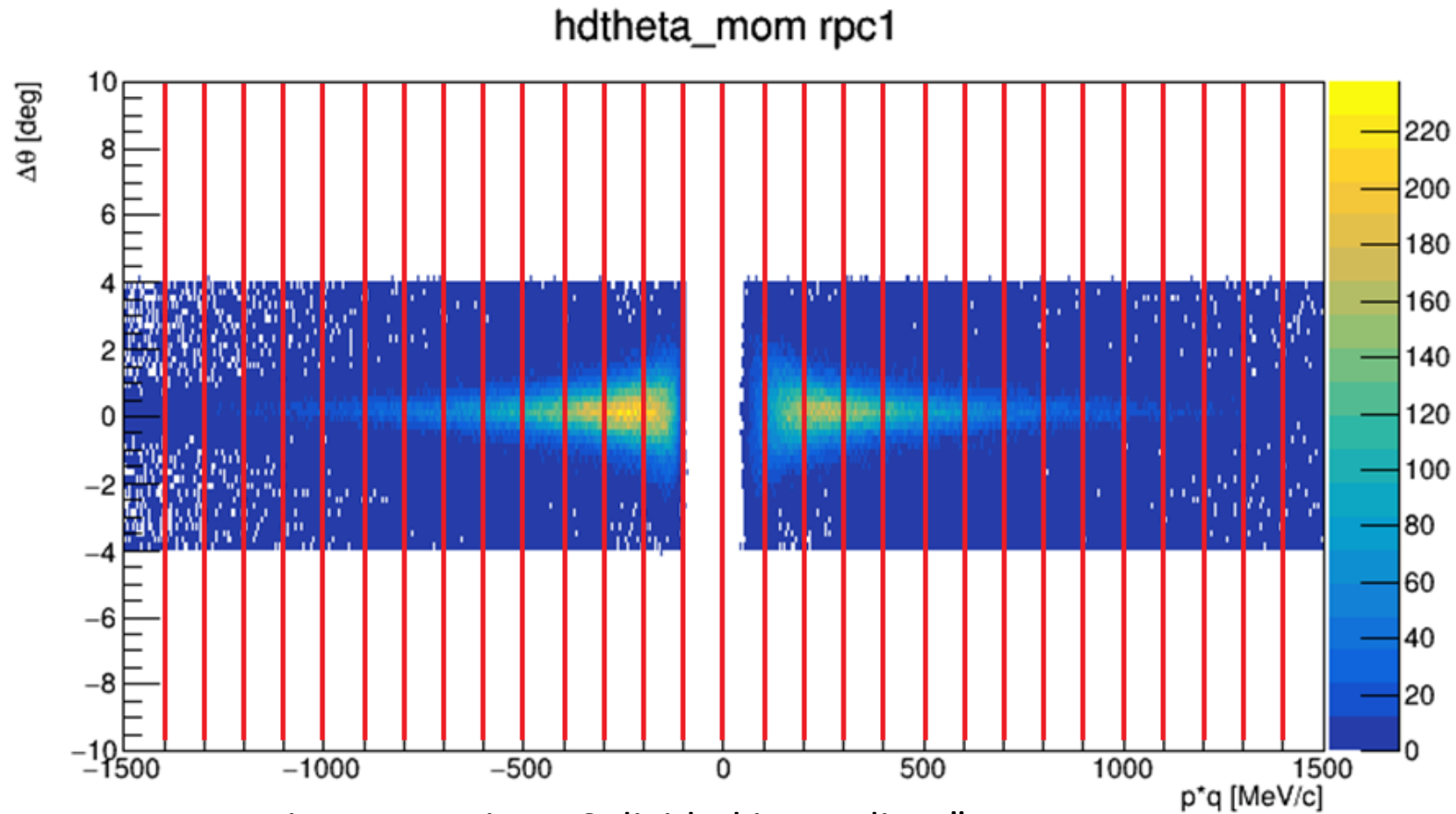
Pic. 26.: $\theta_{\text{RICH}} - \theta_{\text{MDC}}$ vs momentum in sector 1 in RPC.

$\theta_{\text{RICH}} - \theta_{\text{MDC}}$ vs momentum



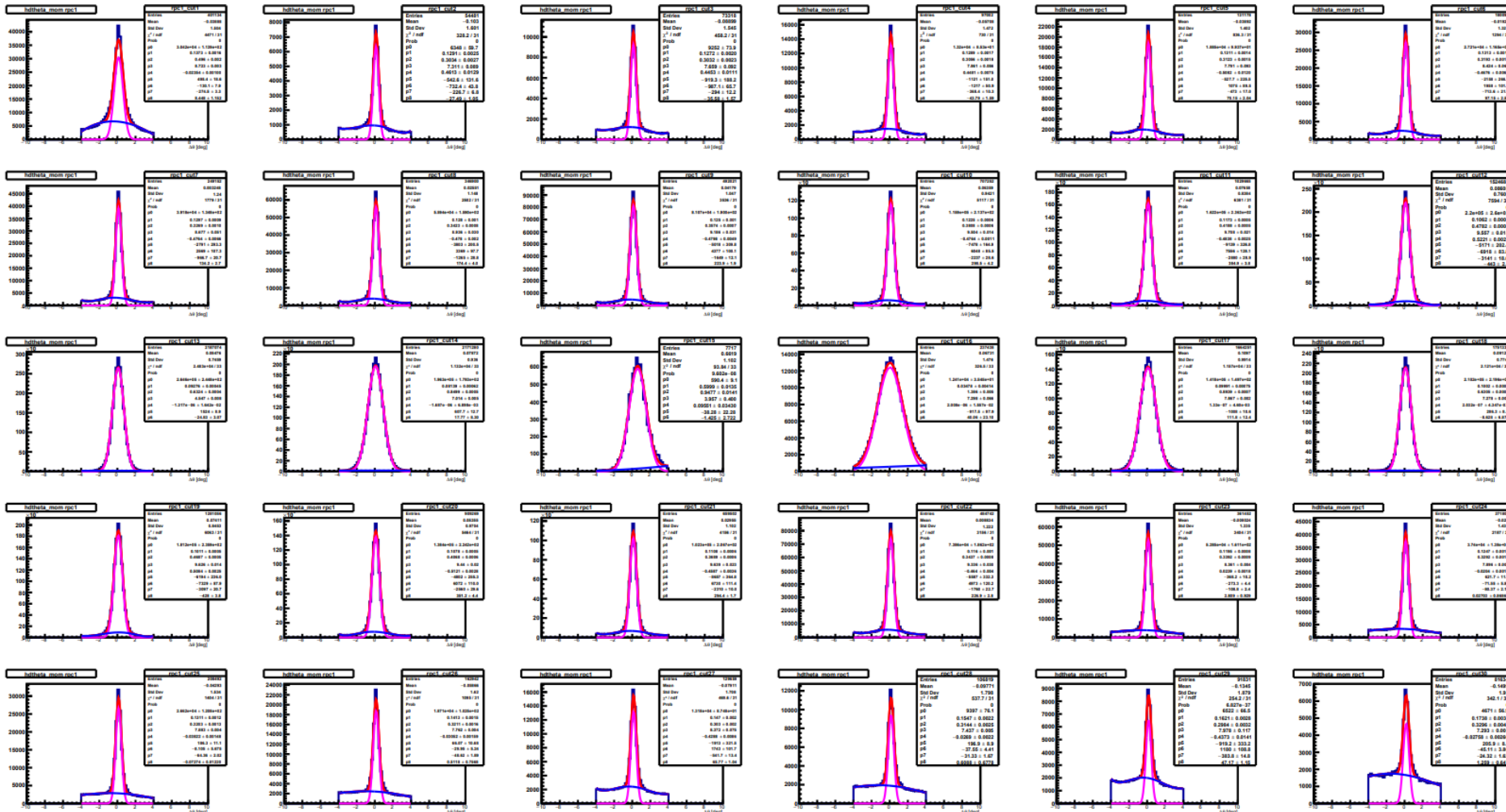
Pic. 27.: $\theta_{\text{RICH}} - \theta_{\text{MDC}}$ vs momentum in sector 1 in RPC.

$\theta_{\text{RICH}} - \theta_{\text{MDC}}$ vs momentum



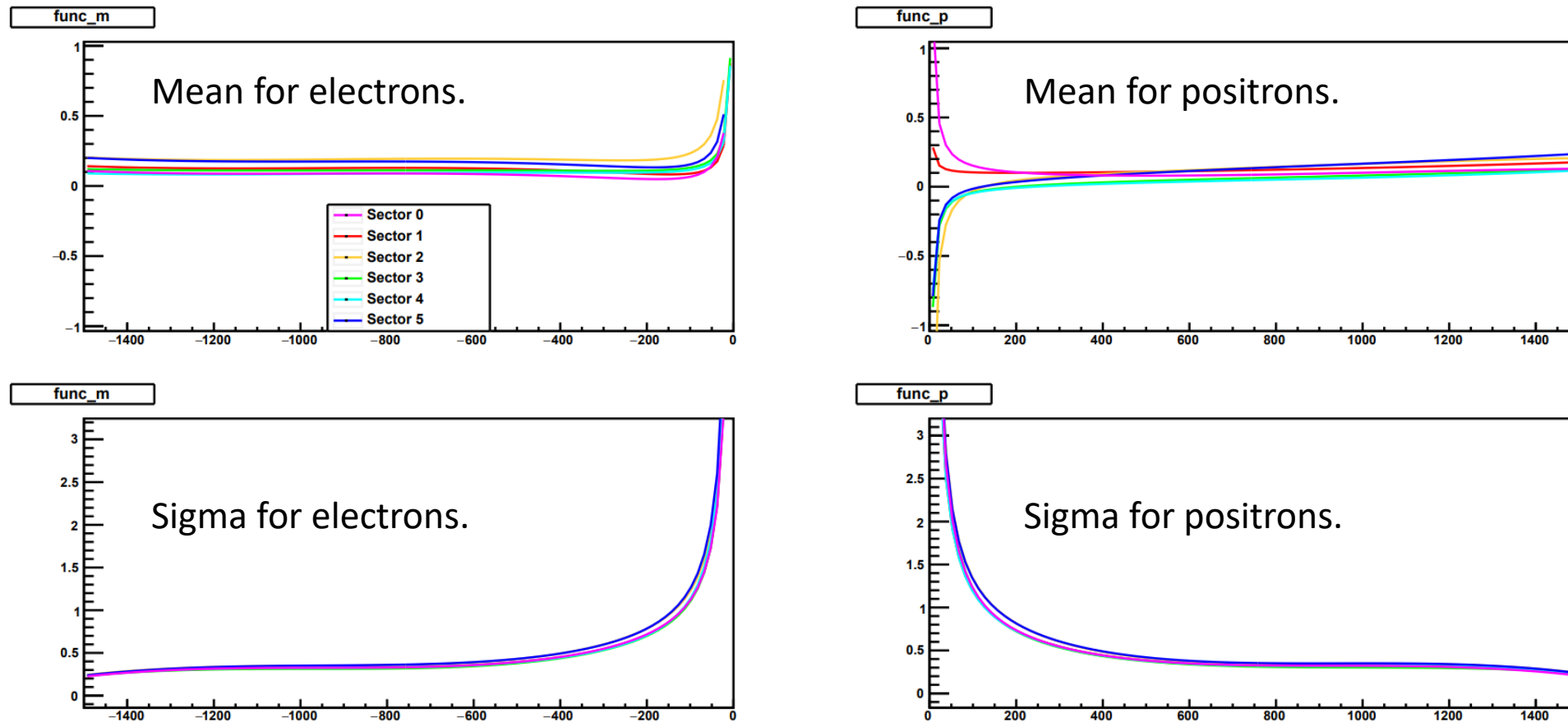
Pic. 28.: $\theta_{\text{RICH}} - \theta_{\text{MDC}}$ vs momentum in sector 1 in RPC divided into „slices”.

Gaussian fit for each slice



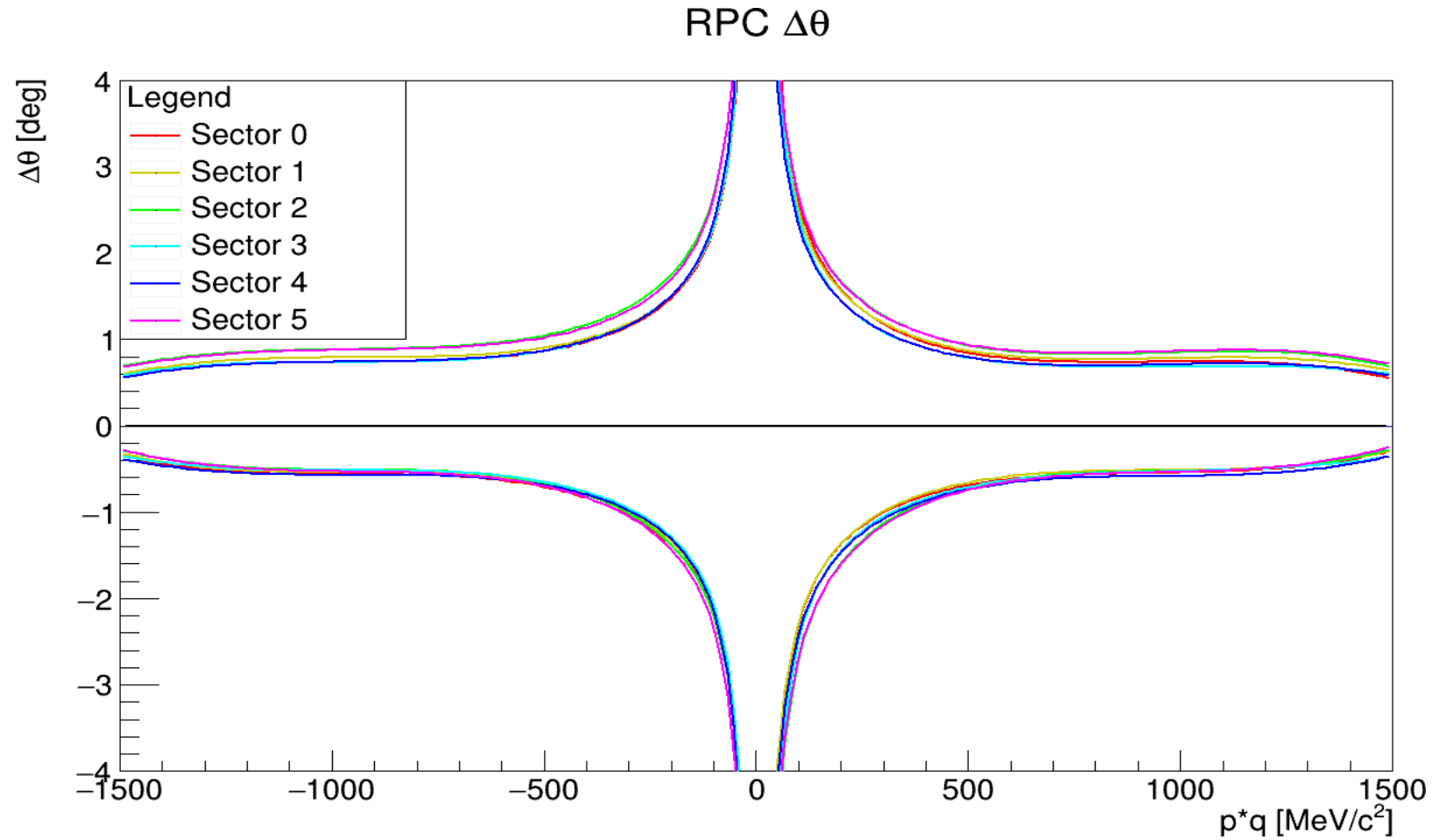
Pic. 29.: Results of fits for each slice.

Mean and sigma parametrization



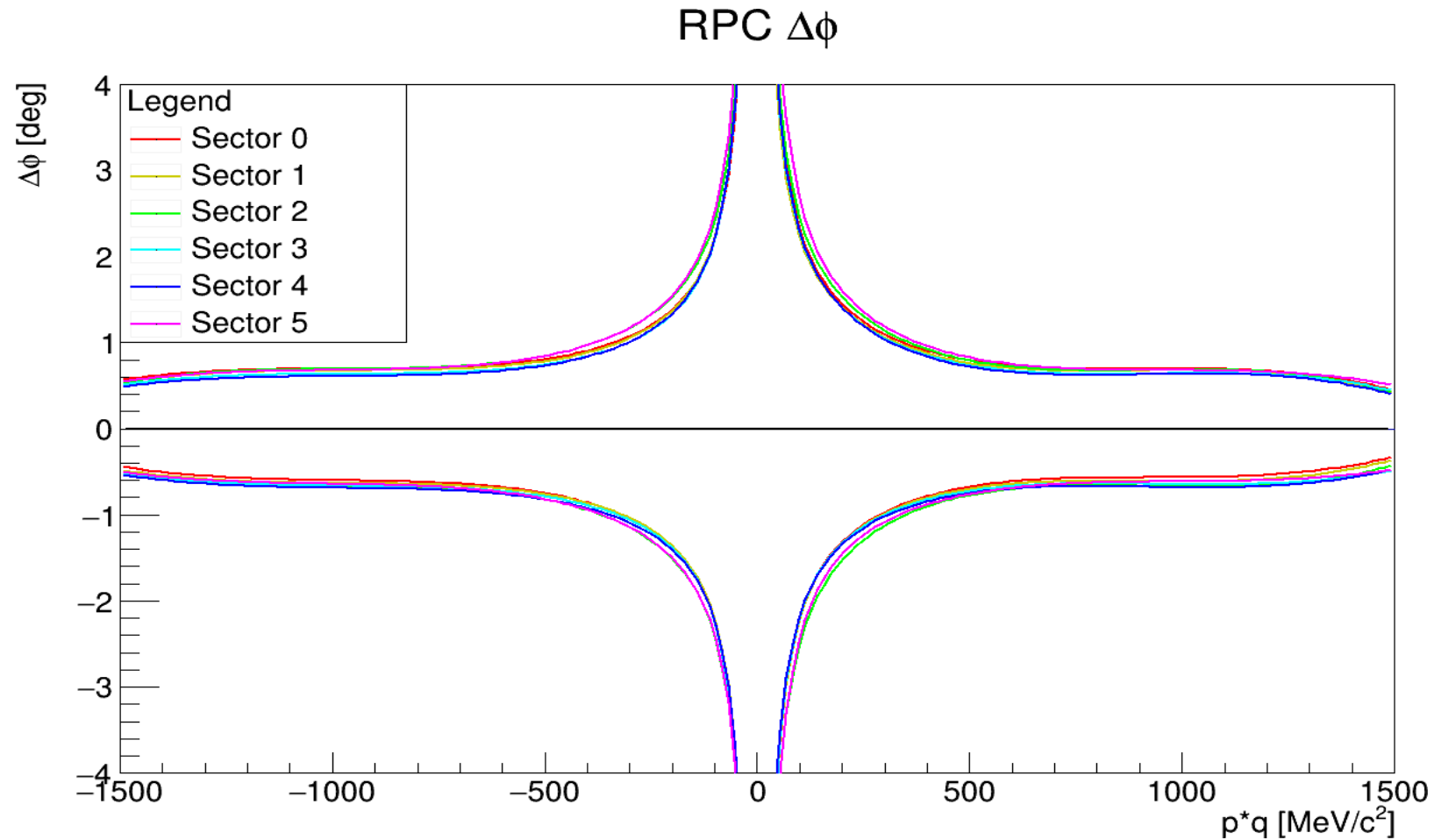
Pic. 30.: Parametrisation of sigma and mean values in distribution of $\theta_{\text{RICH}} - \theta_{\text{MDC}}$ vs momentum for RPC.

RPC $\Delta\theta$



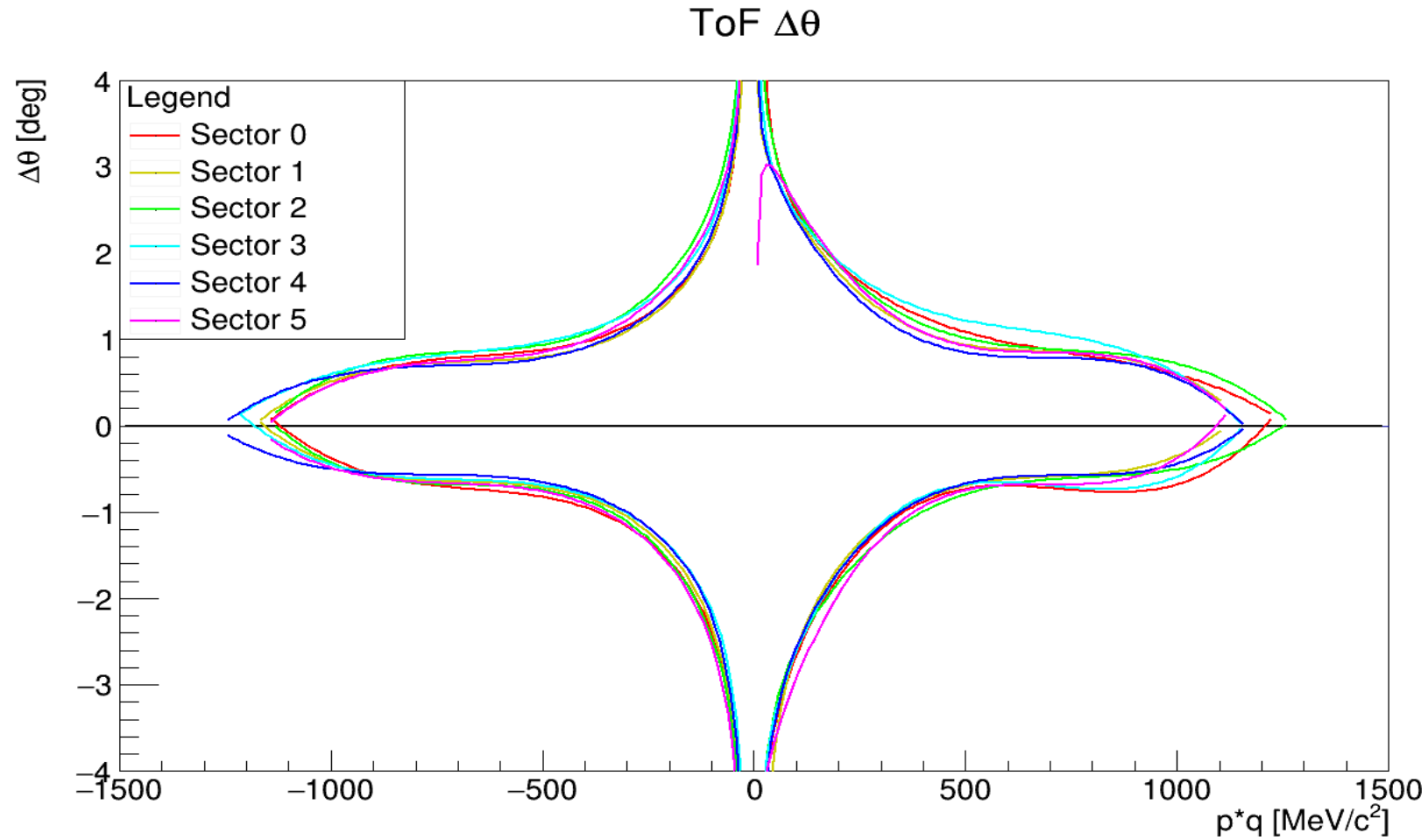
Pic. 31.: Plots of $\mu+2\sigma$ and $\mu-2\sigma$ for every sector in RPC $\Delta\theta$.

RPC $\Delta\phi$



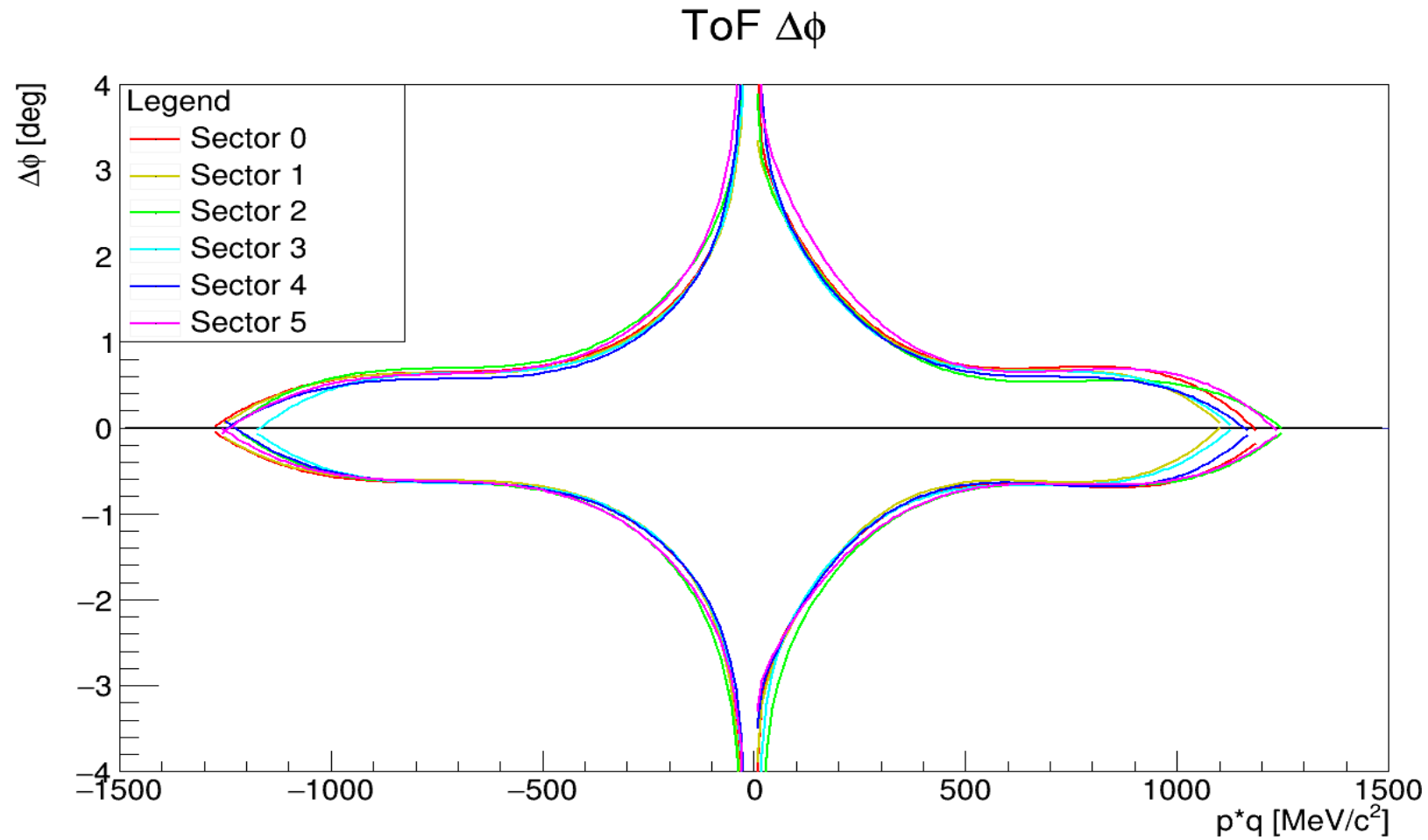
Pic. 32.: Plots of $\mu+2\sigma$ and $\mu-2\sigma$ for every sector in RPC $\Delta\phi$.

ToF $\Delta\theta$



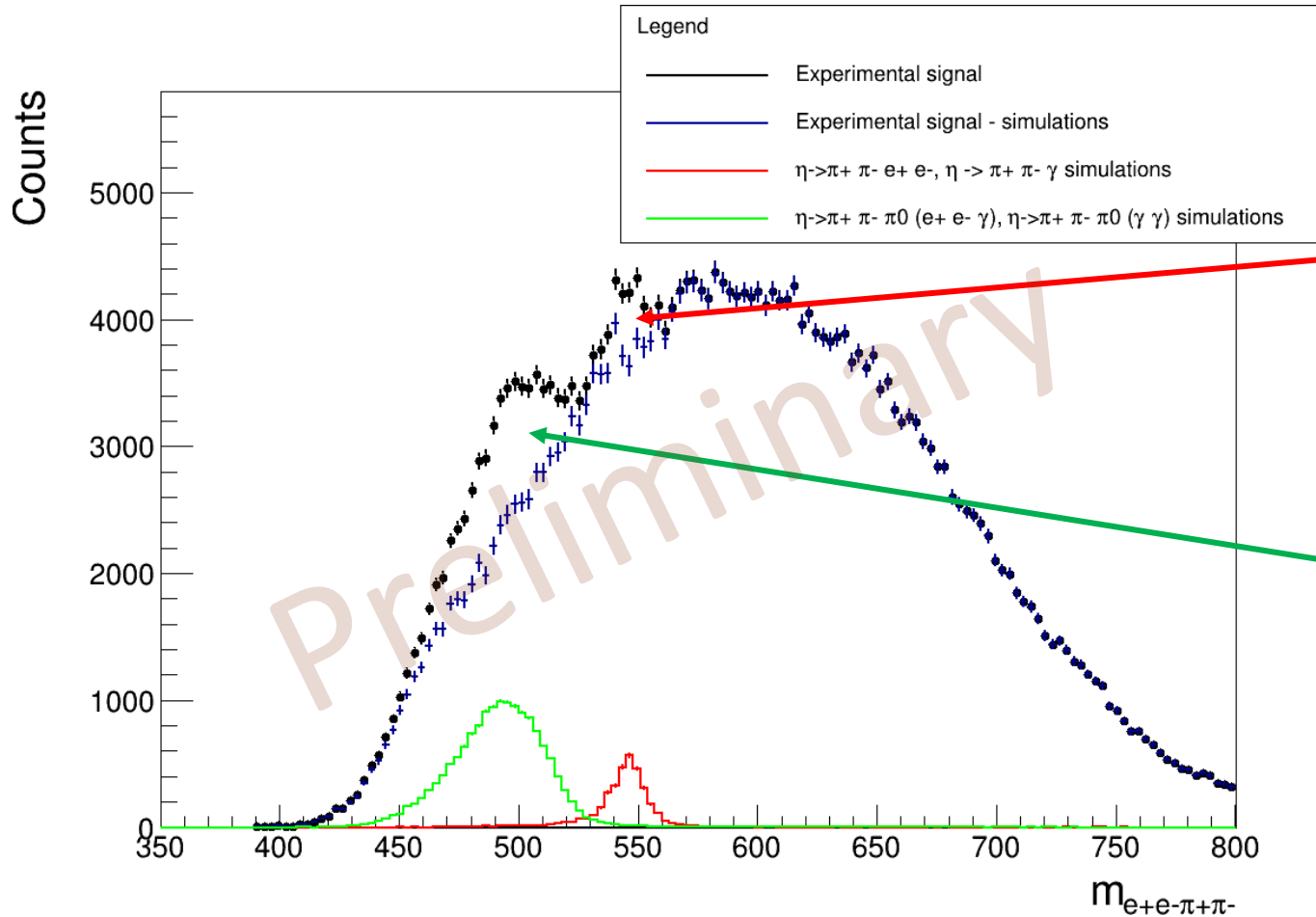
Pic. 33.: Plots of $\mu+2\sigma$ and $\mu-2\sigma$ for every sector in ToF $\Delta\theta$.

ToF $\Delta\phi$

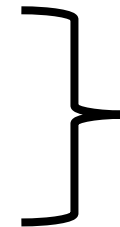
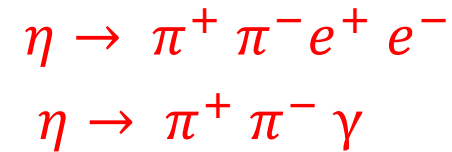


Pic. 34.: Plots of $\mu+2\sigma$ and $\mu-2\sigma$ for every sector in ToF $\Delta\phi$.

Data to SIM scaling (no X17)

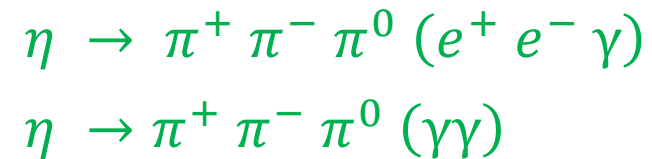


- Right peak (R)



3 446 events
(2 834 in peak region)

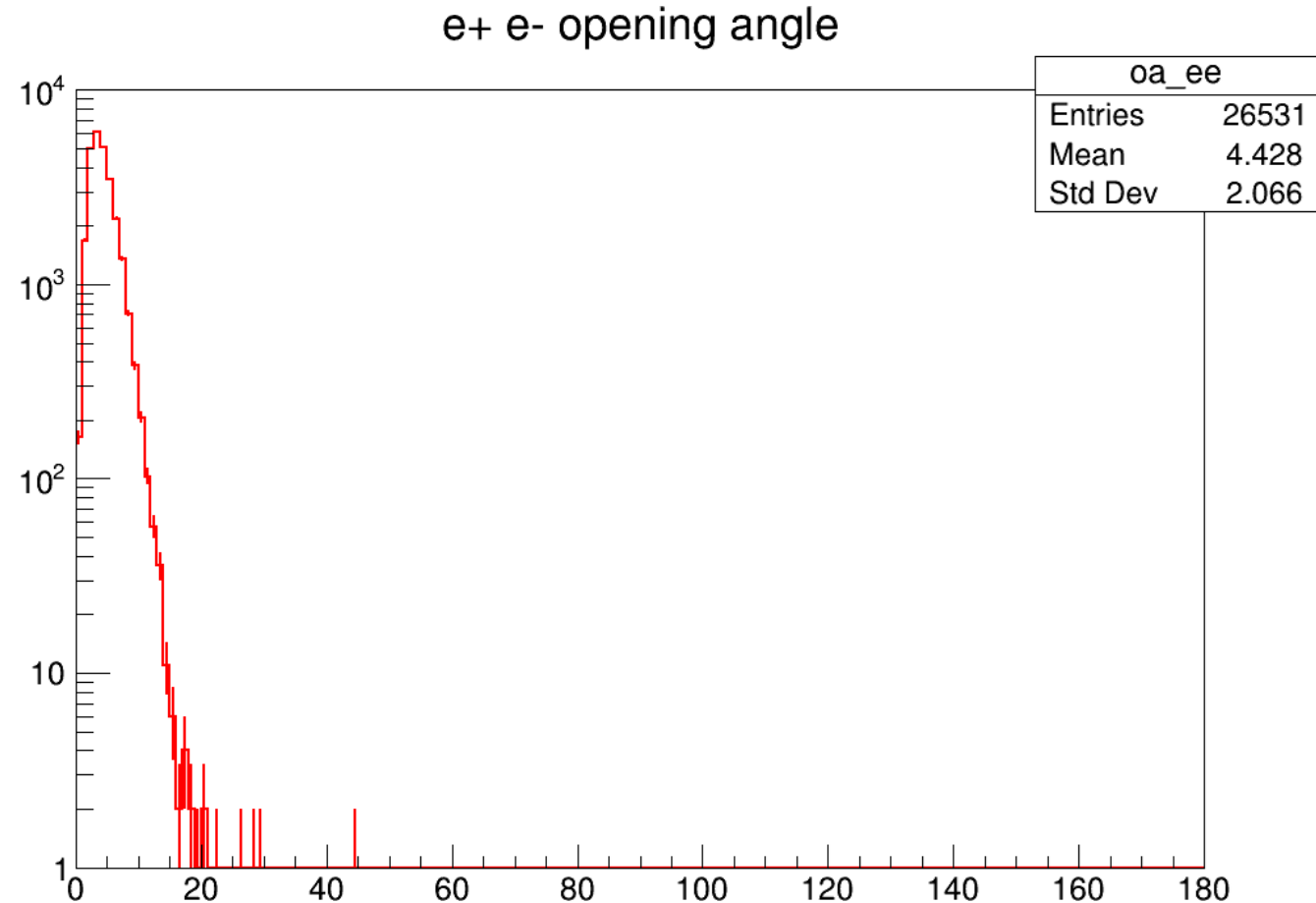
- Left peak (L)



15 204 events

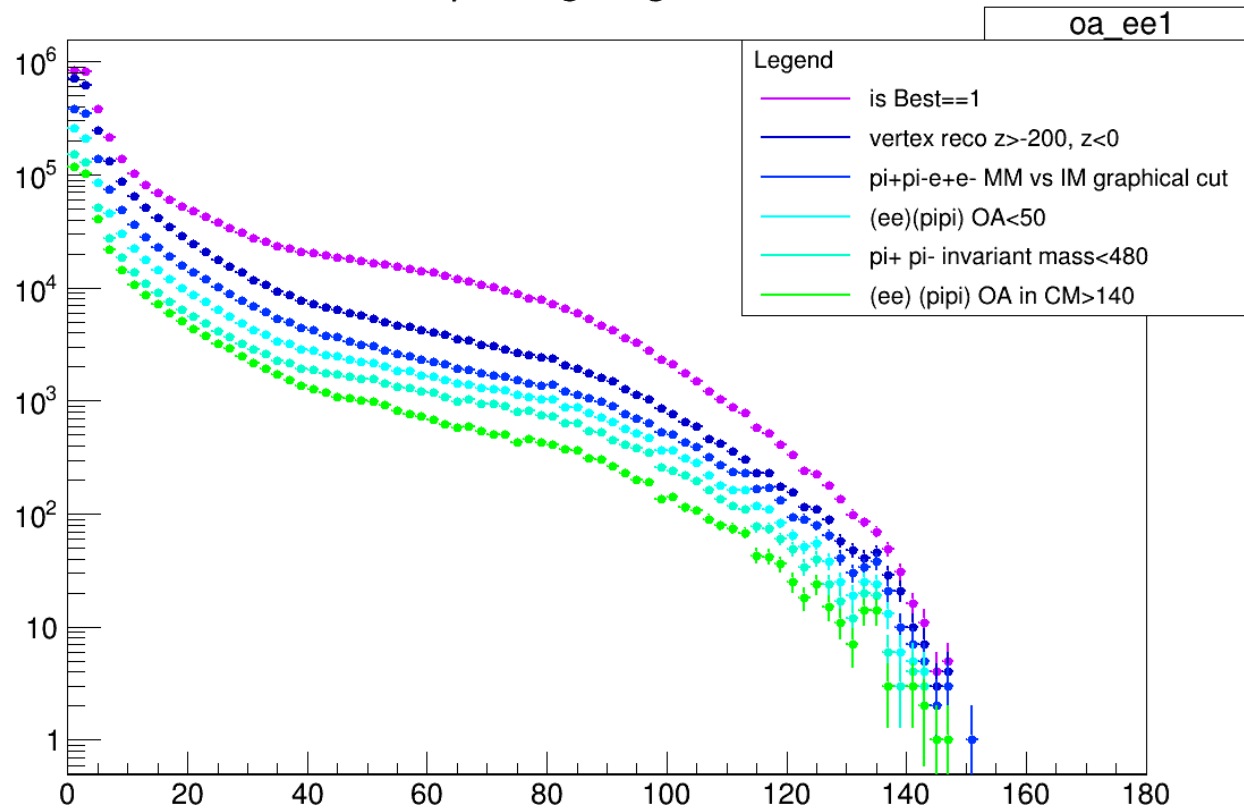
$$\frac{N_L}{N_R} (SIM) = 4.41$$

$e^+ e^-$ opening angle for X17 reaction



e+ e- opening angle

e+e- opening angle in C.o.M.



Method for upper limit extraction

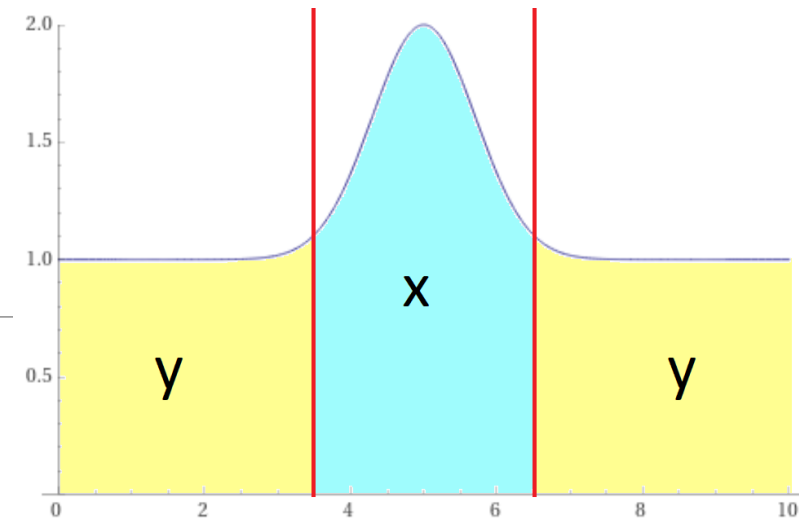
Method developed by Wolfgang A. Rolke (Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A, Volume 551, Issue 2-3, p. 493-503.)

Parameters for Poisson background and binomial efficiency:

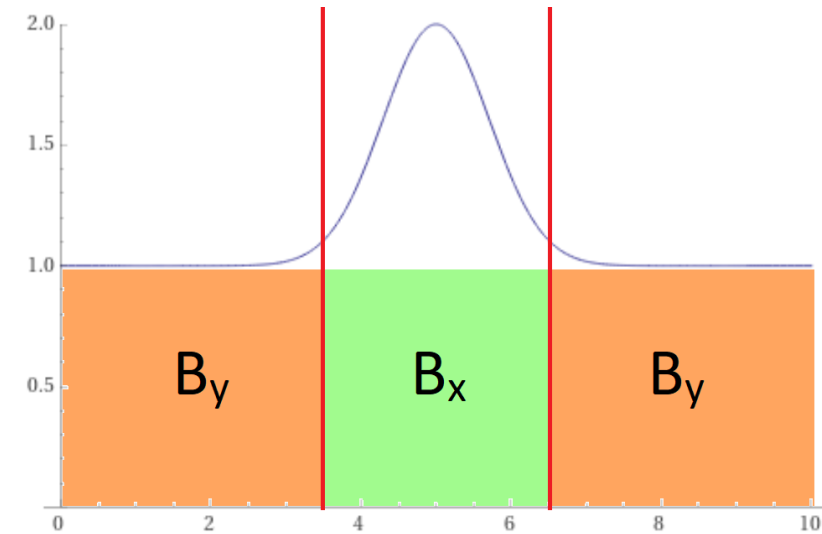
- x – events in the signal region
- y – events in the background region
- τ – number of background events in the background region divided by number of background events in the signal region ($\frac{B_y}{B_x}$)
- e – efficiency for signal

Assumed confidence level: 0.9

Remark: this method gives value in 4π , not in detector acceptance.



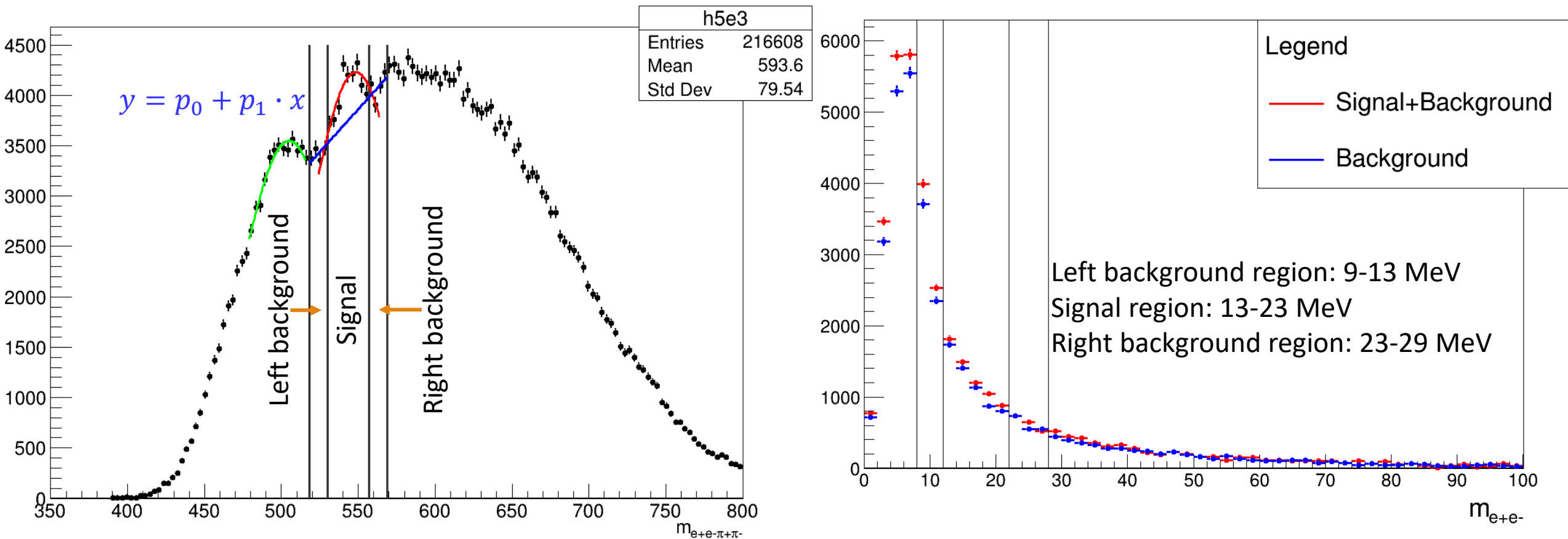
Determination of x and y values.



Determination of B_x and B_y values.

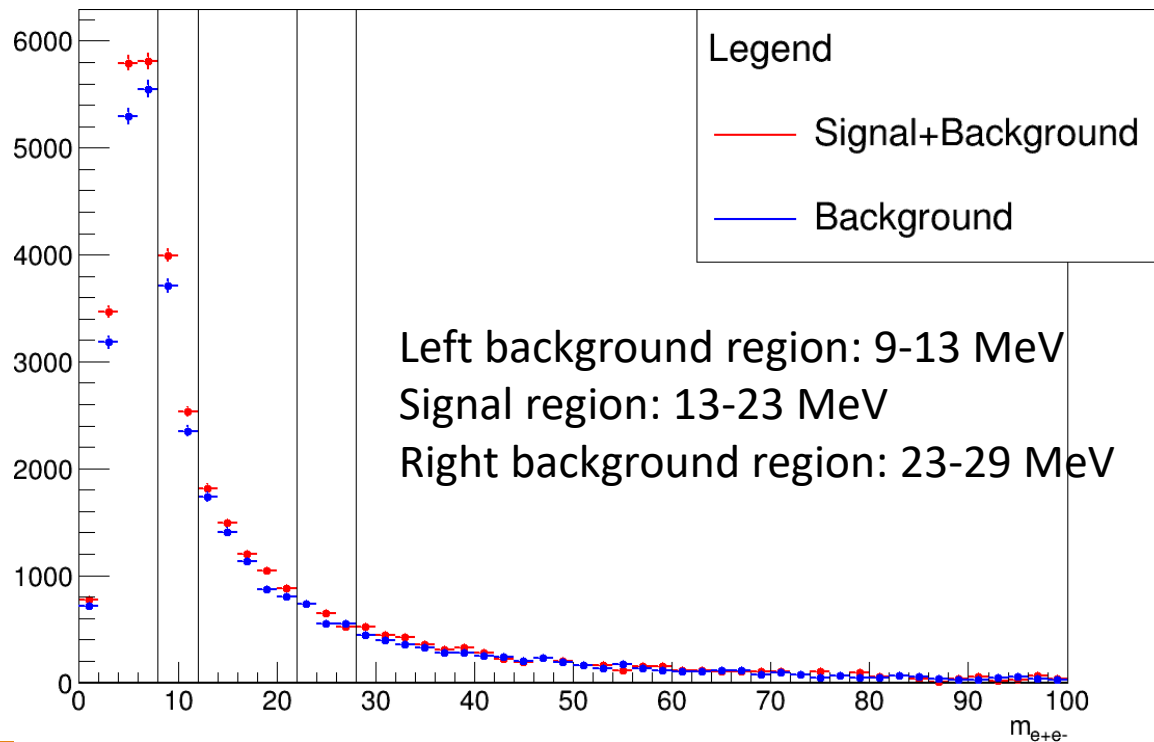
X17 upper limit extraction

$e^+ e^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ invariant mass



X17 upper limit extraction

Method developed by Wolfgang A. Rolke (Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A, Volume 551, Issue 2-3, p. 493-503.)



x	6 439
y	8 429
B_x	5 954
B_y	7 892
τ	1.3255
e	0.014030526

$UL_{X17} = 255 \text{ (CL=90\%)}$

$BR_{\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- X17} < 2.0275 \cdot 10^{-6}$

$BR_{th} \sim \underline{1 \cdot 10^{-4}}$

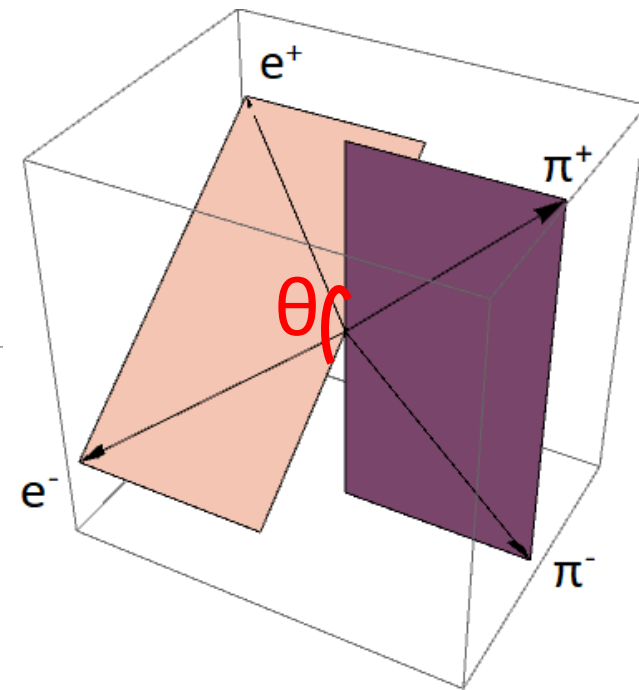
CP symmetry study

$$P(x,y,z) = (-x,-y,-z)$$

$$C(q) = \bar{q}$$

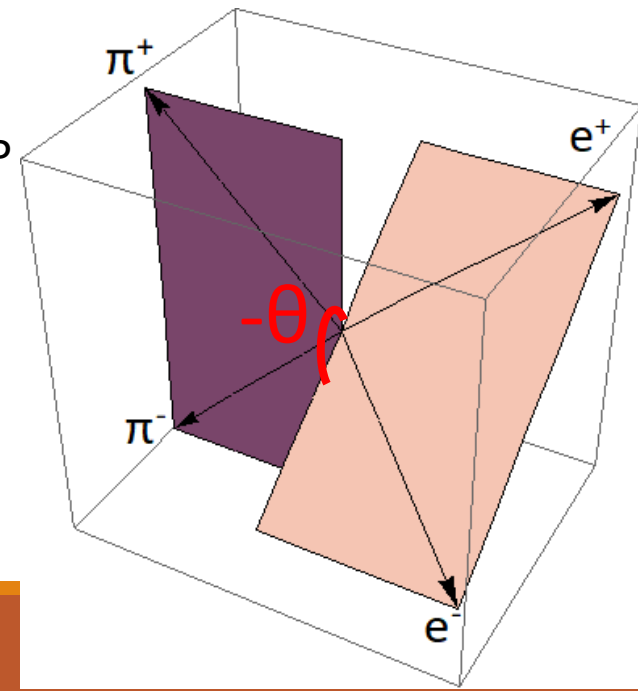
$$CP(\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta)) = -\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta)$$

if distribution of $\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta)$ is symmetric in respect to 0, then CP symmetry is conserved

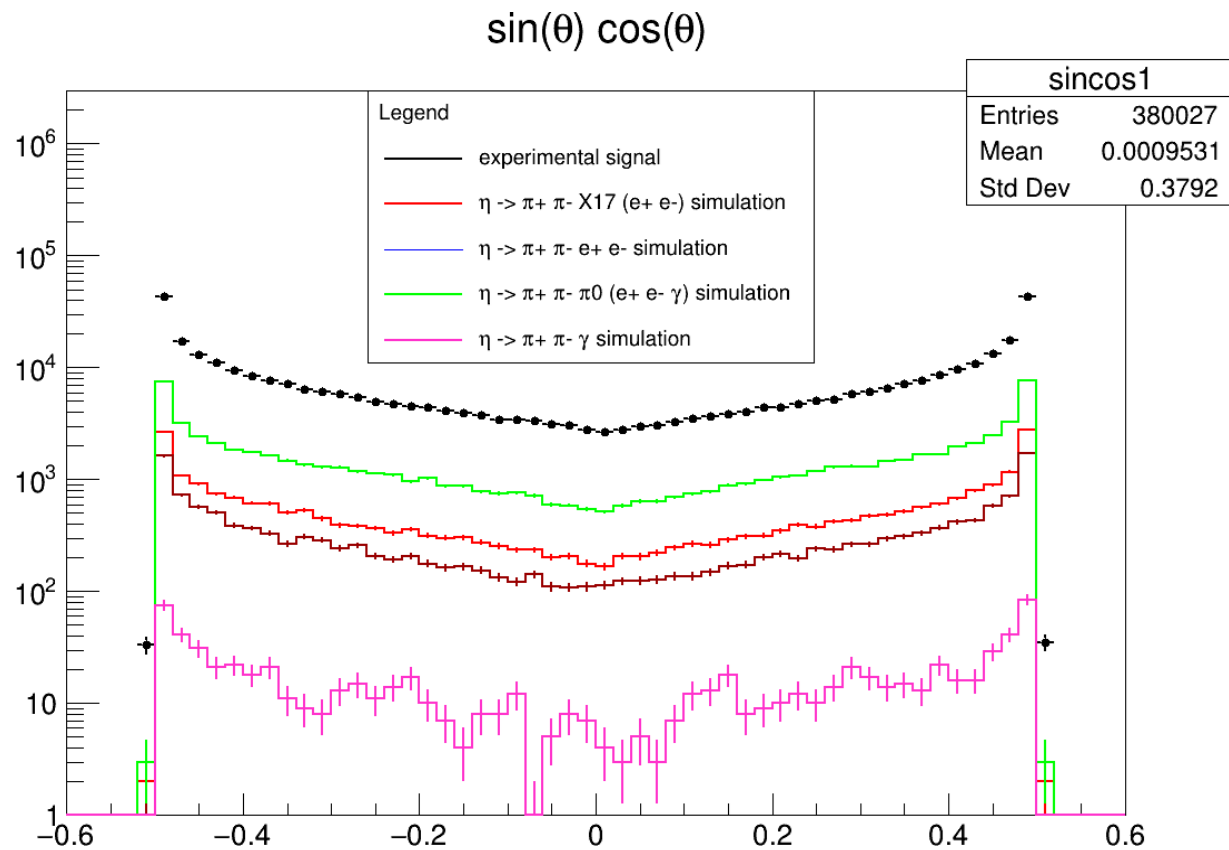


Example system of $\pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$ momenta and planes spanned by them.

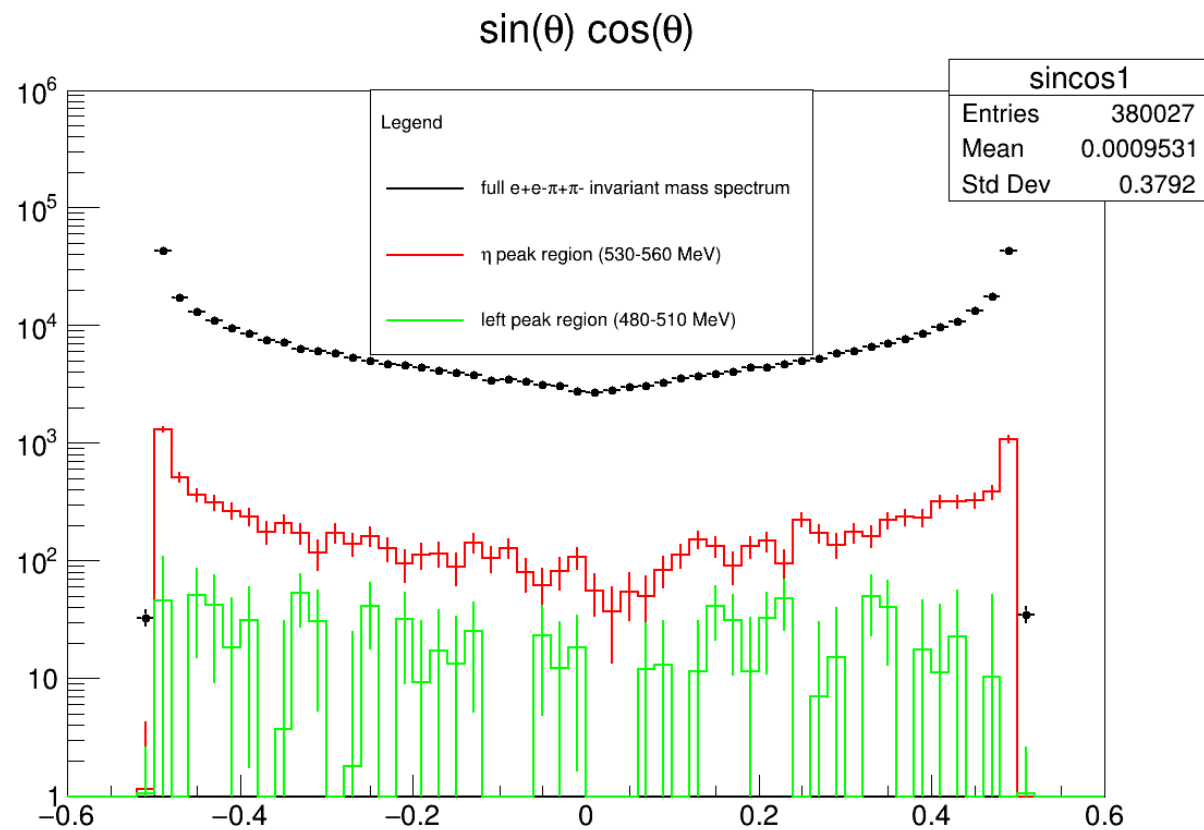
System from the picture 1 after CP transformation.



CP symmetry study



Simulations compared with experimental data



Distributions in peaks after sideband analysis