

Track reconstruction in liquid Argon TPC experiments

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on behalf of the ICARUS collaboration



Università
di **Genova**

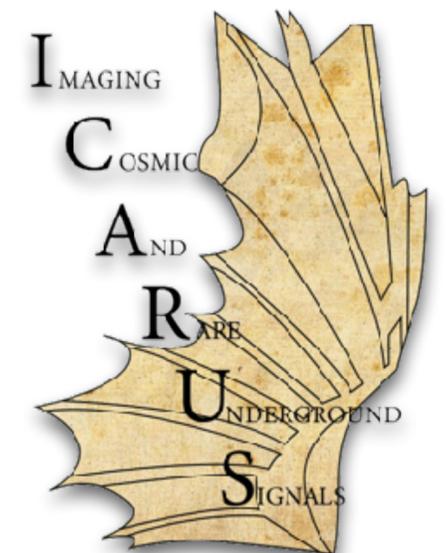
4 April 2024



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

Overview of the content this talk

- Introduction to **LArTPC** experiments and SBN physics program
- General description of **TPC** event reconstruction chain and main steps
- Two *parallel* event reconstruction paths:
 - *Pandora-based* event reconstruction: overview of the hierarchy, insights on the main stages
 - *Machine Learning-* (ML) based event reconstruction: overview of the full reconstruction chain
- Conclusions and perspectives



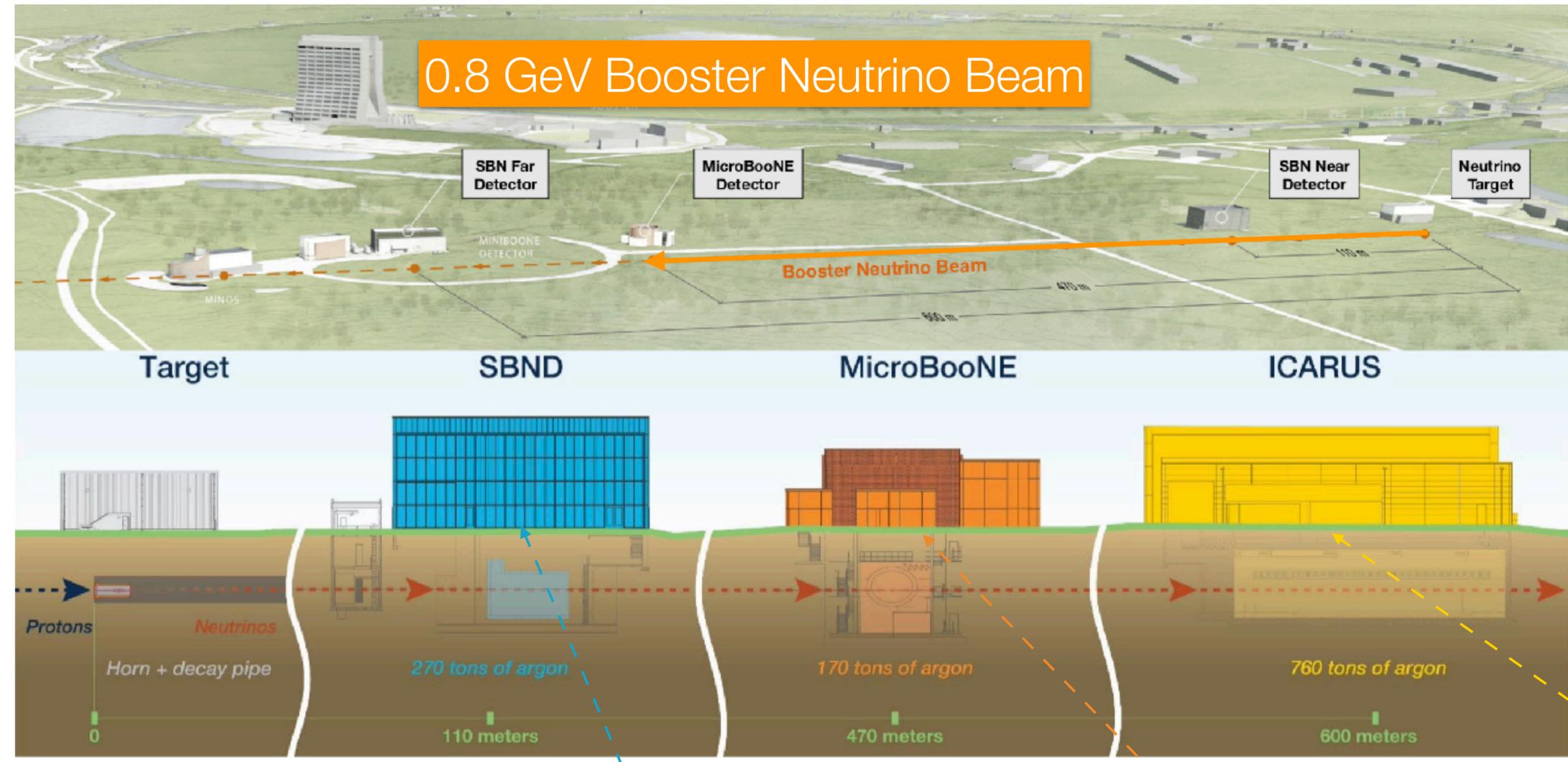
The Short Baseline Neutrino (SBN) program

Precision search for 1 eV mass scale sterile ν to confirm/rule out previous anomalies from past experiments

Sensitive searches for ν_μ disappearance, ν_e appearance

ICARUS exposed also to NuMI beam (6 degrees off axis)

Same detector technology to reduce systematics and increase sensitivity



High statistics measurement of ν -Argon cross sections for DUNE

Search for Beyond Standard Model (BSM) physics

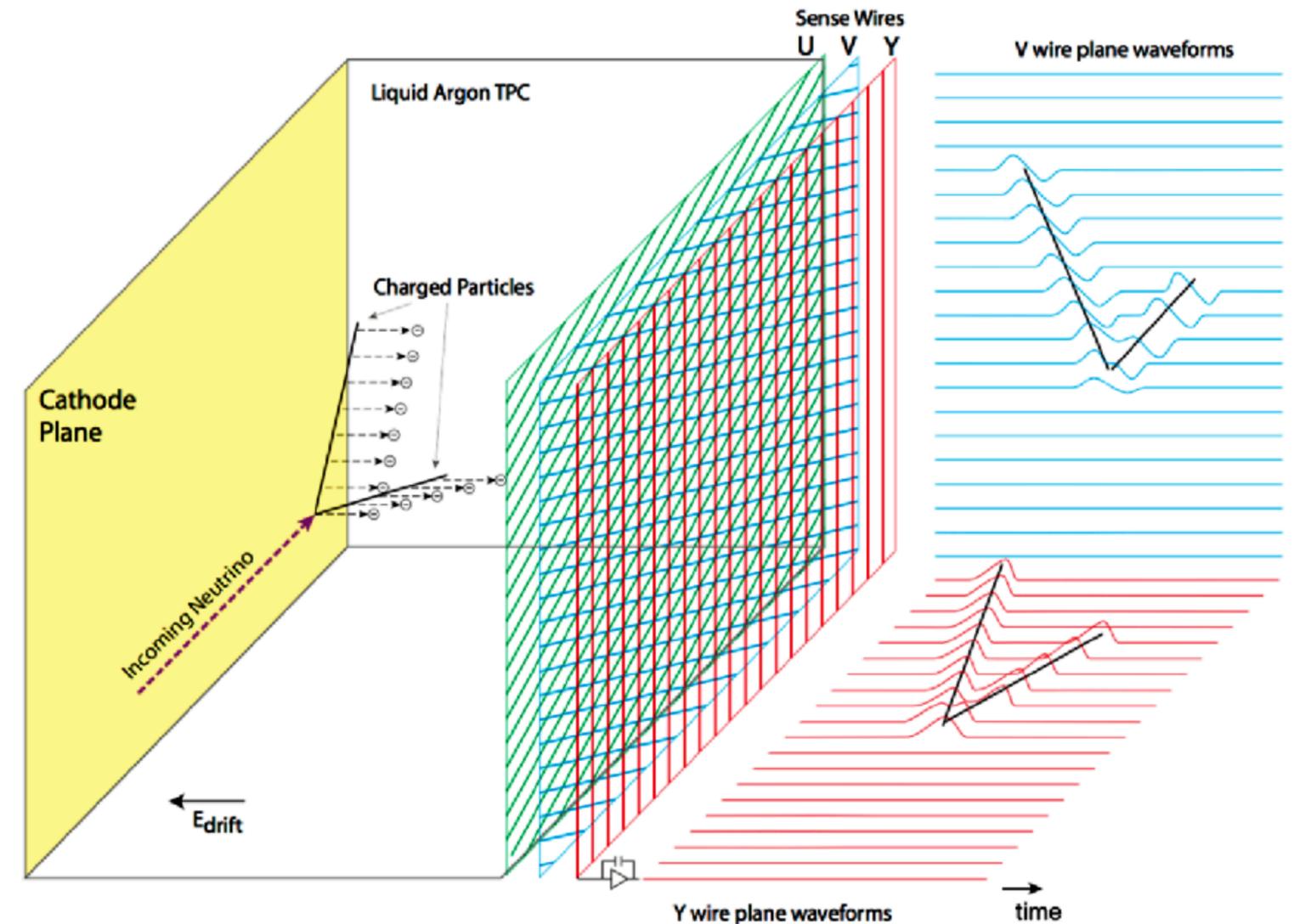
SBND
Near detector

MicroBooNE

ICARUS
Far detector

Liquid Argon Time Projection Chambers (LArTPCs)

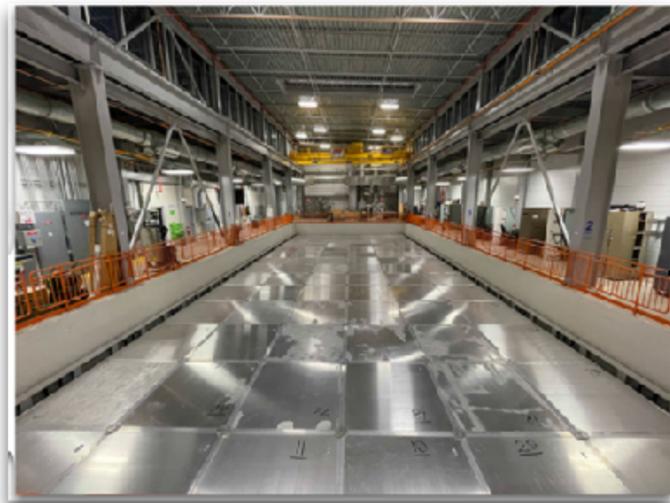
- Proposed by C. Rubbia in 1977, LArTPCs are high granularity, continuously sensitive, self-triggering detectors
- Dense medium: high rate of ν interactions
- 2/3 wire planes (3-5 mm wire pitch) with different orientation to generate 2D views of particle tracks
- 3D imaging with mm-scale resolution
- Calorimetric reconstruction capabilities
- Scalable to large detector volumes $O(10)$ kton



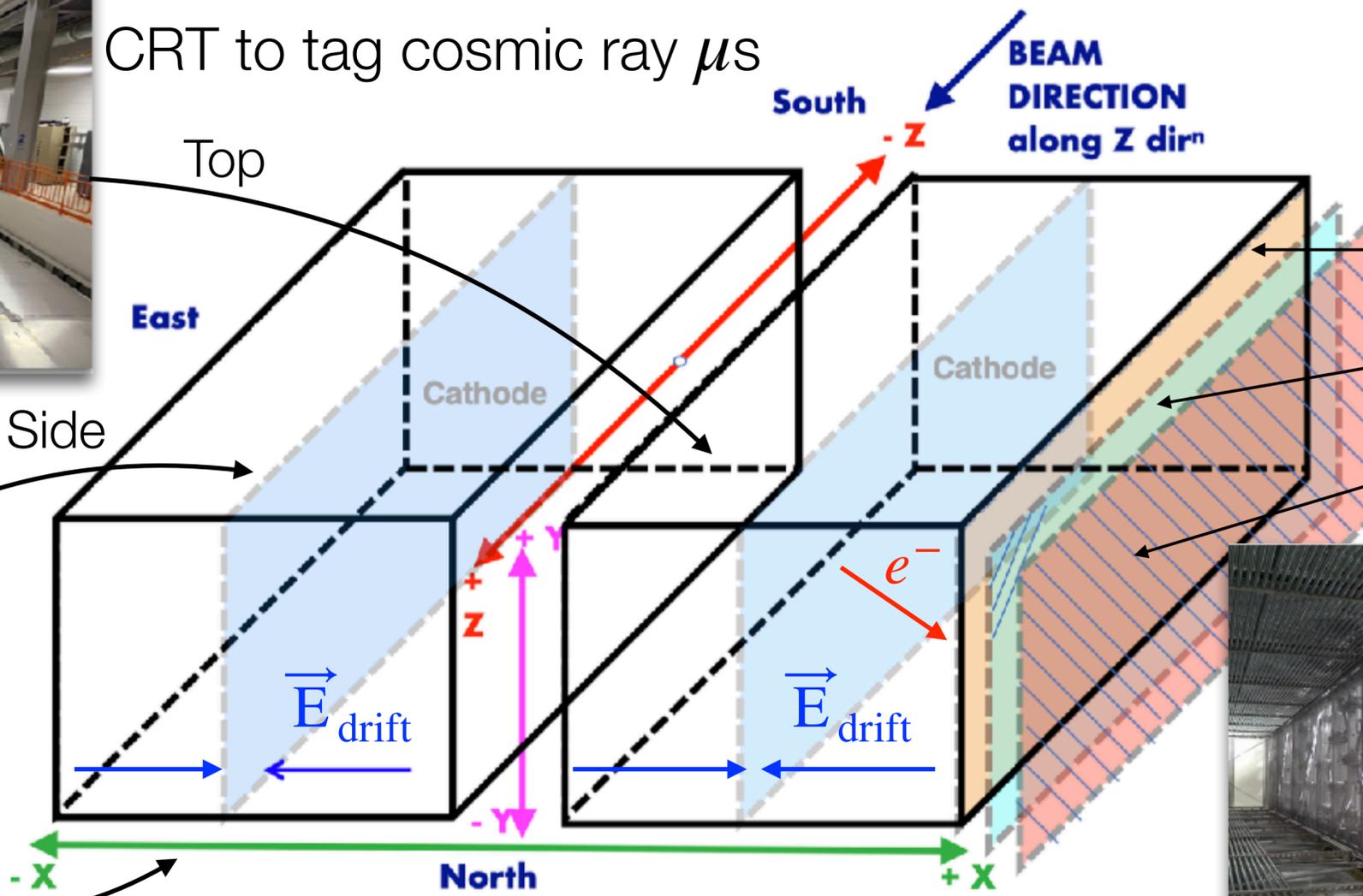
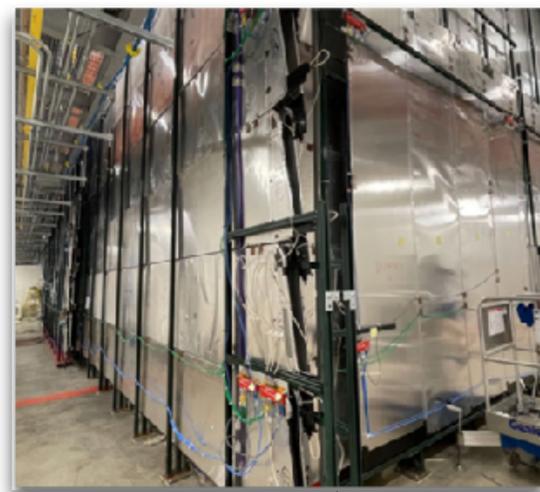
Ideal for ν interaction studies
in a wide energy range

Typical LArTPC detector components: ICARUS detector as example

Two identical cryostats ($3.6 \times 3.9 \times 19.6 \text{ m}^3$) housing two TPCs each, 760 tons of ultra pure liquid argon for a total active mass of 470 ton



CRT to tag cosmic ray μs



Ionization charge read by 3 wire planes with different orientation:

Induction1 (0°)

Induction 2 ($+60^\circ$)

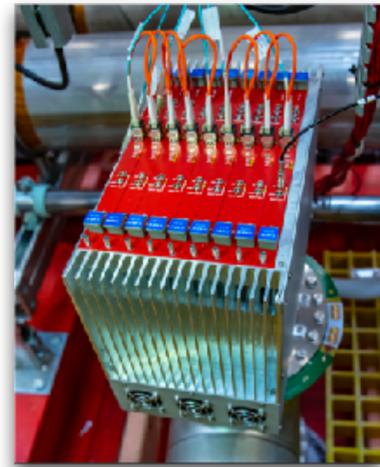
Collection (-60°)



360 PMTs behind the wires to collect scintillation light and trigger events

Bottom $E_{\text{drift}} = 500 \text{ V/cm}, t_{\text{drift}} \sim 1 \text{ ms}$

Event reconstruction in LAr TPCs: ICARUS reconstruction chain



Data

Unpack the data and turn it into a raw waveform

Decoding

Deconvolution

ROI Finder

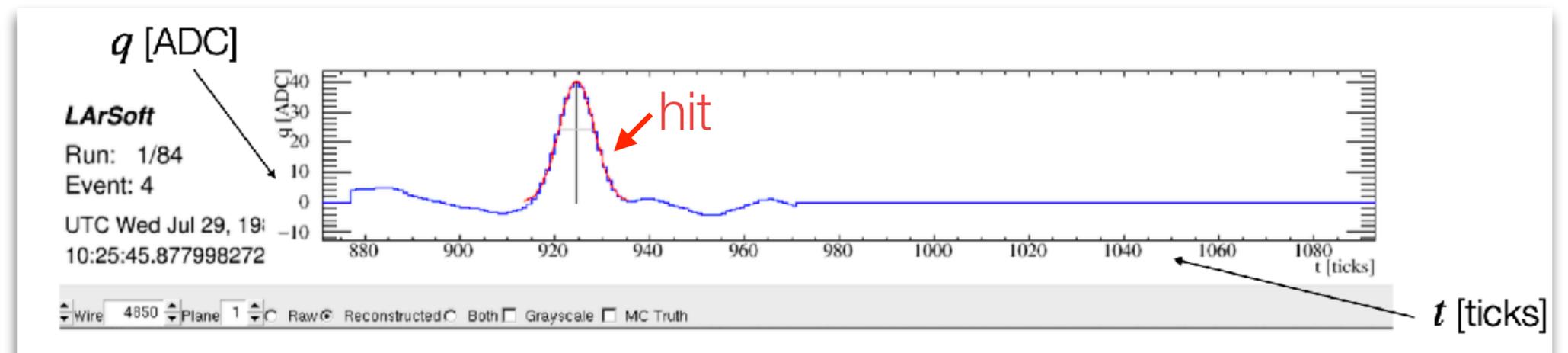
Gauss hits

Threshold-based algorithm to identify regions containing *hits*, i.e. segments of waveforms corresponding to signal.

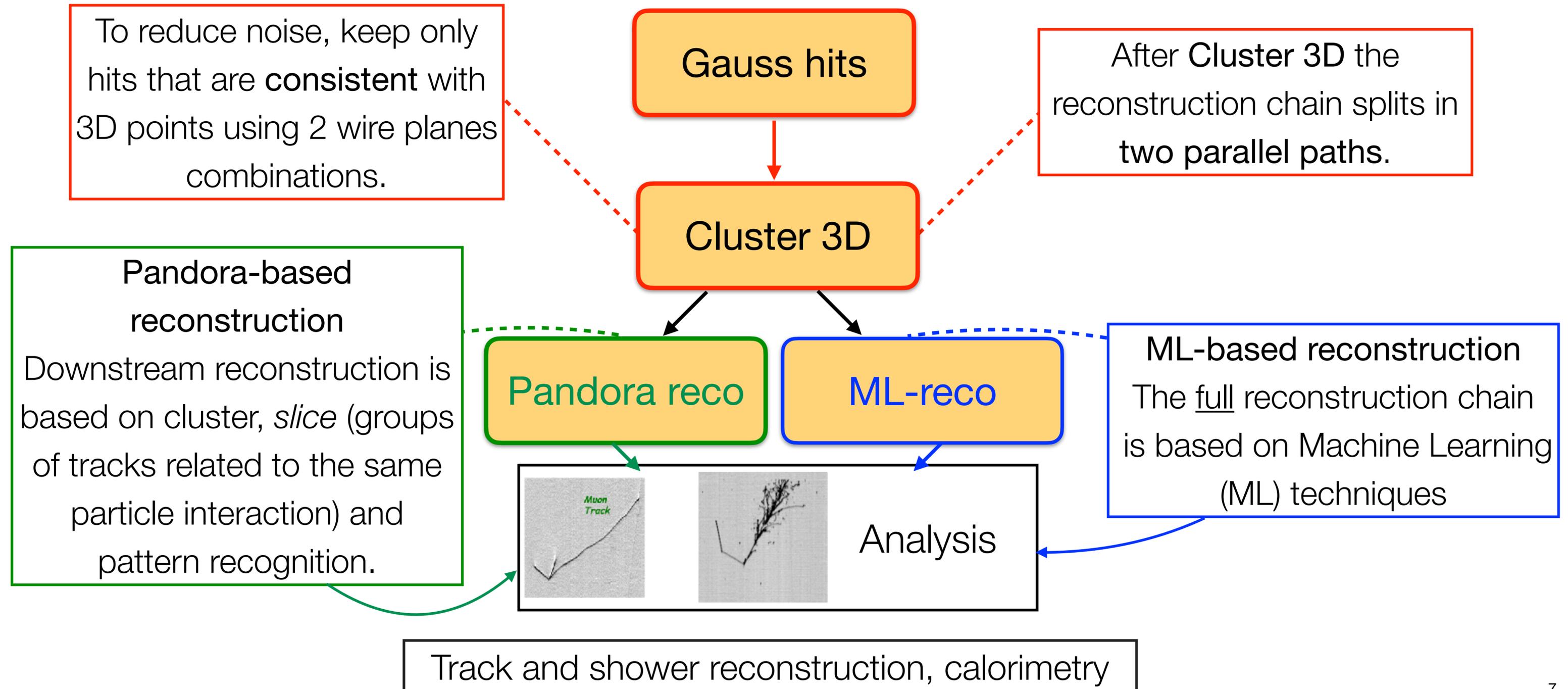
- Removal of coherent noise
- Deconvolution to remove the \vec{E} distortions and electronics shaping effects on wire signals

Fit each signal hit with Gaussians: the area is proportional to n_{e^-} drift electrons that generated that.

Example of deconvolved signal (charge vs time) on a single wire plane after ROI finding and Gaussian fit



Event reconstruction in LAr TPCs: ICARUS reconstruction chain



Signal processing: foreseen change from 1D to 2D deconvolution

- Wire signals are a convolution of electric field and electronics responses:

$$M(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} R(t, t') \cdot S(t') dt$$

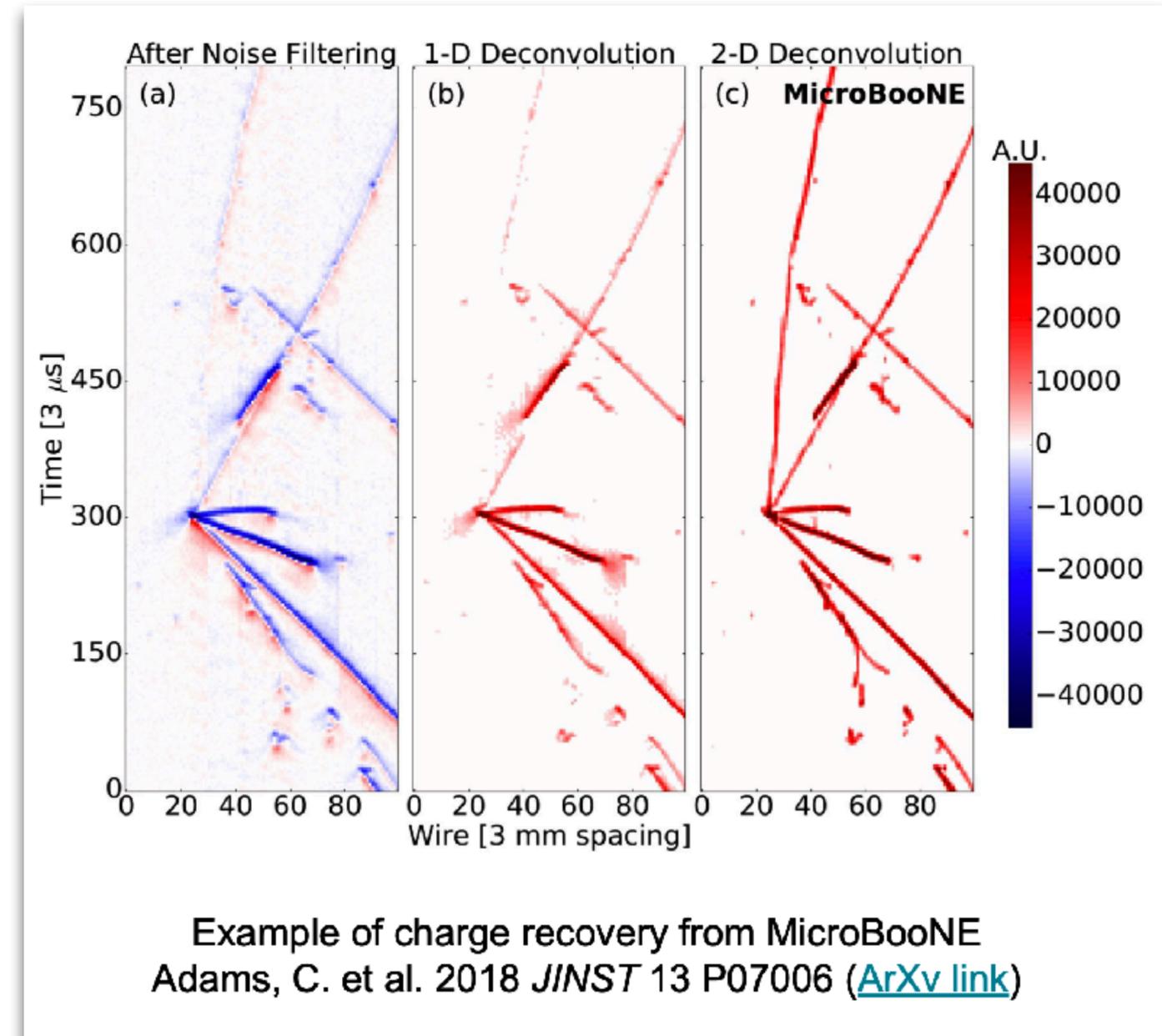
Measured signal Response function Original wire signal

- Original wire signal extracted with 1D deconvolution after applying a filter for noise

- 2D deconvolution to account for induced charge effects, i.e. charge drifting in nearby wire regions

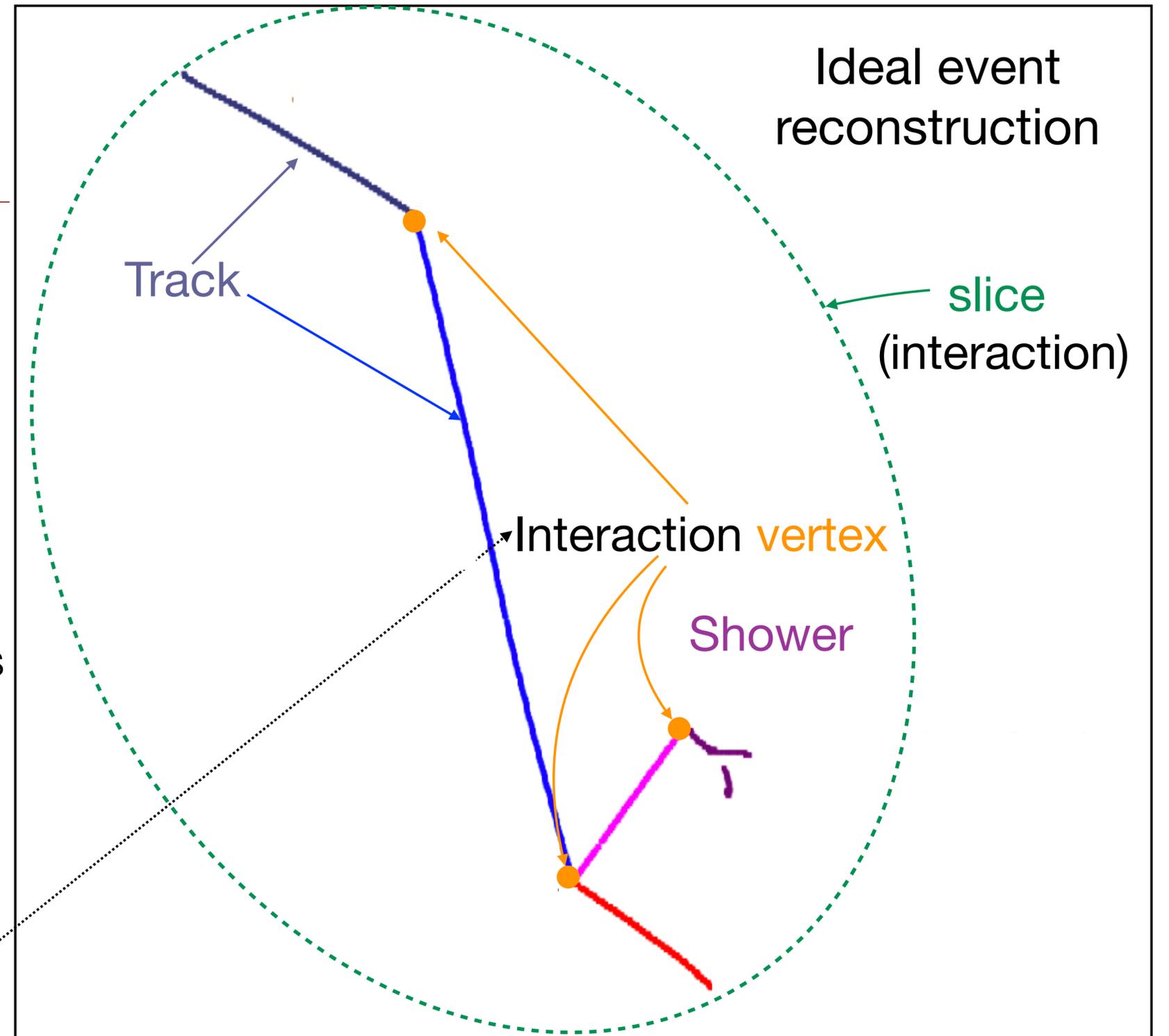
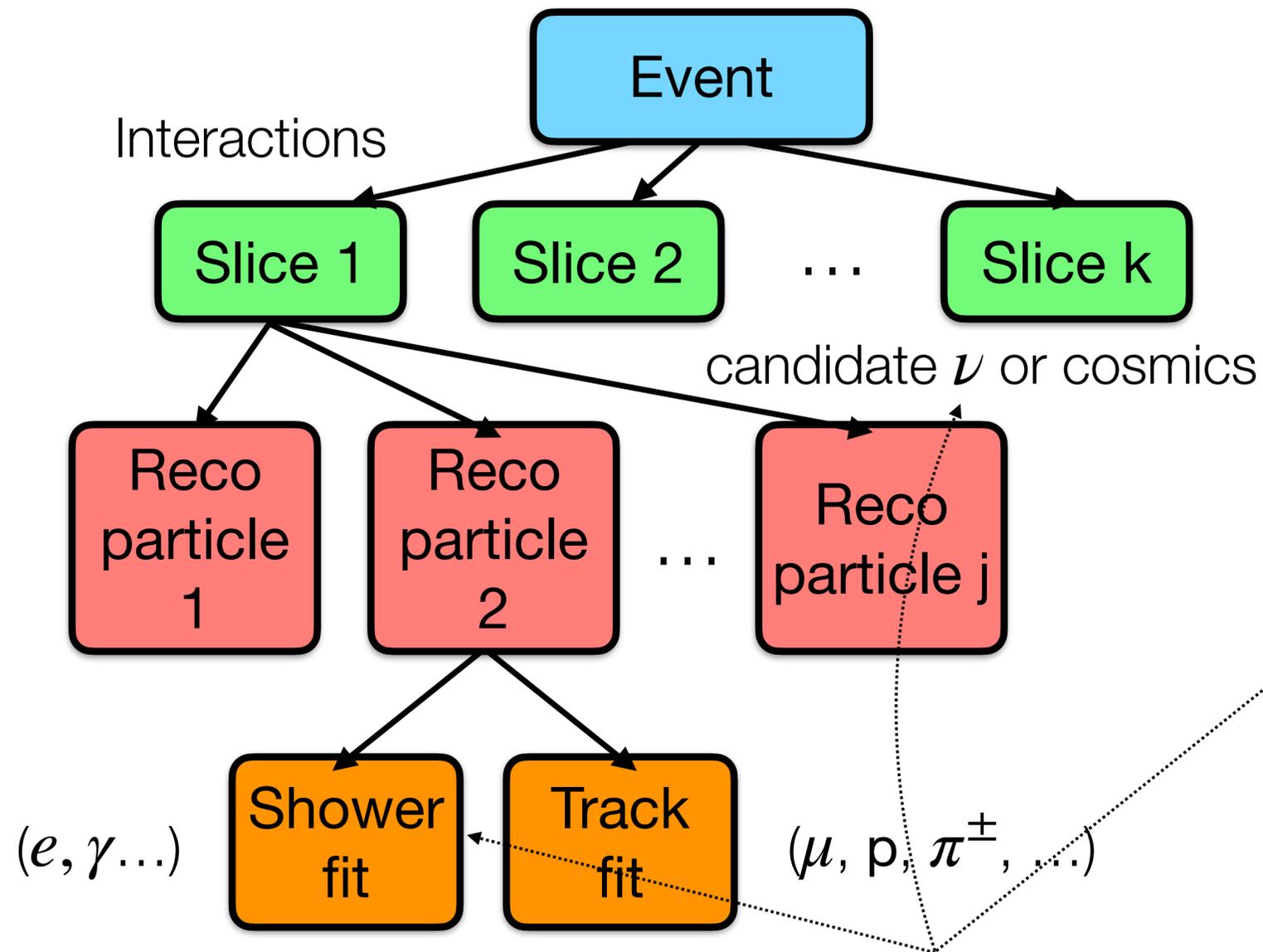
- improvement of the charge resolution

- higher ϵ on hits reconstruction for specific track classes



Pandora-based event reconstruction

- Multi-algorithm pattern-recognition software
- Goal: reconstruct interaction hierarchies



• <https://github.com/PandoraPFA>

Boosted Decision Tree (BDT)

We mentioned several places where Pandora uses this algorithm for the reconstruction.

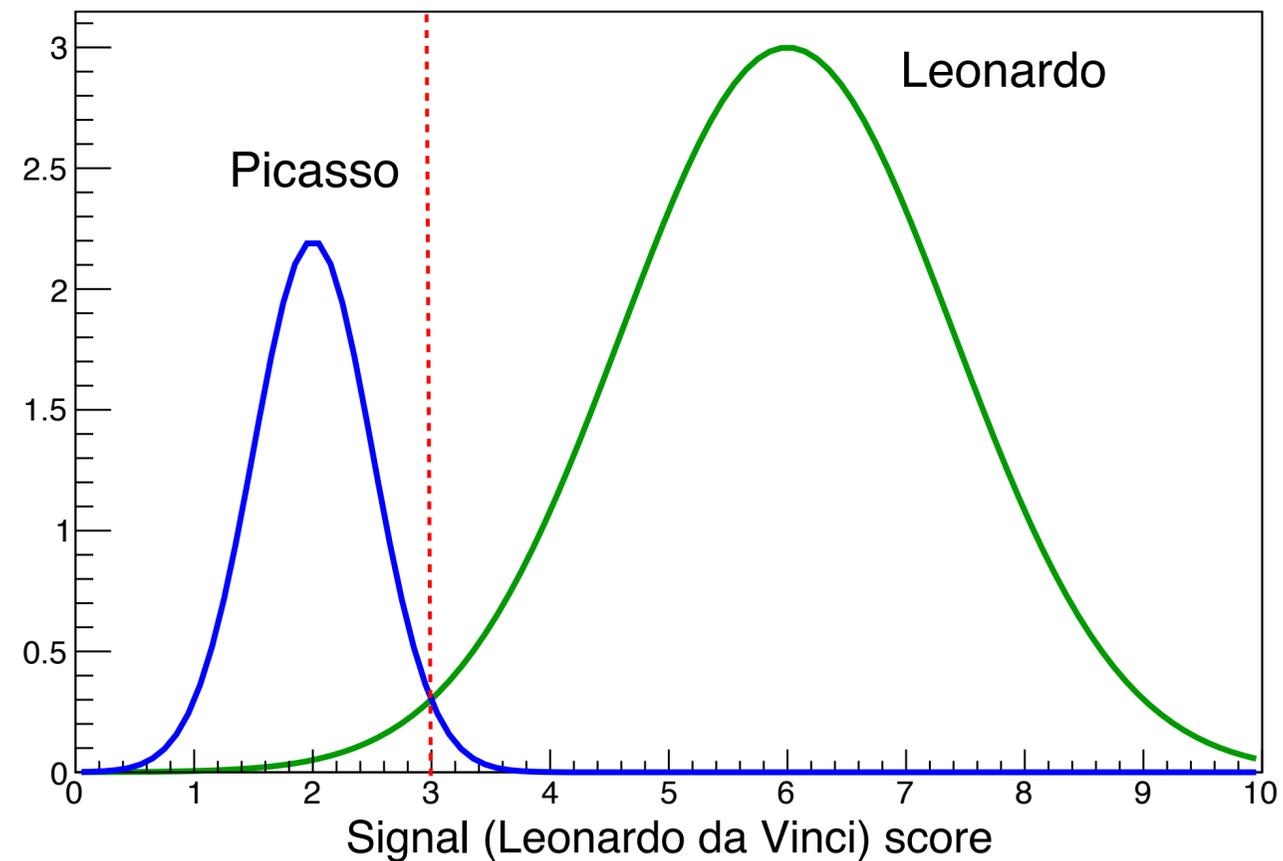
- Idea: Identify a **signal** and a **background** class and a **set of input features** on which you expect there could be a good separation between them.
- Method: BDT is first **trained** on a sample where the true class is known and input features are used to have the power to distinguish between signal and background, then for a new sample with unknown class the same set of features is computed to define a **score** that quantifies how “signal-like” the sample is.
- Example: **Signal**: Leonardo da Vinci art work
Background: Pablo Picasso art work (from the cubism period)
Sample: a generic painting
Input parameters: use of colors, light and shadow, presence of geometric shapes

Boosted Decision Tree (BDT)

- Example: **Signal**: Leonardo da Vinci art work
Background: Pablo Picasso art work (from the cubism period)
Sample: a generic painting
Input parameters: use of colors, light and shadow, geometric shapes, ...



Signal



Background

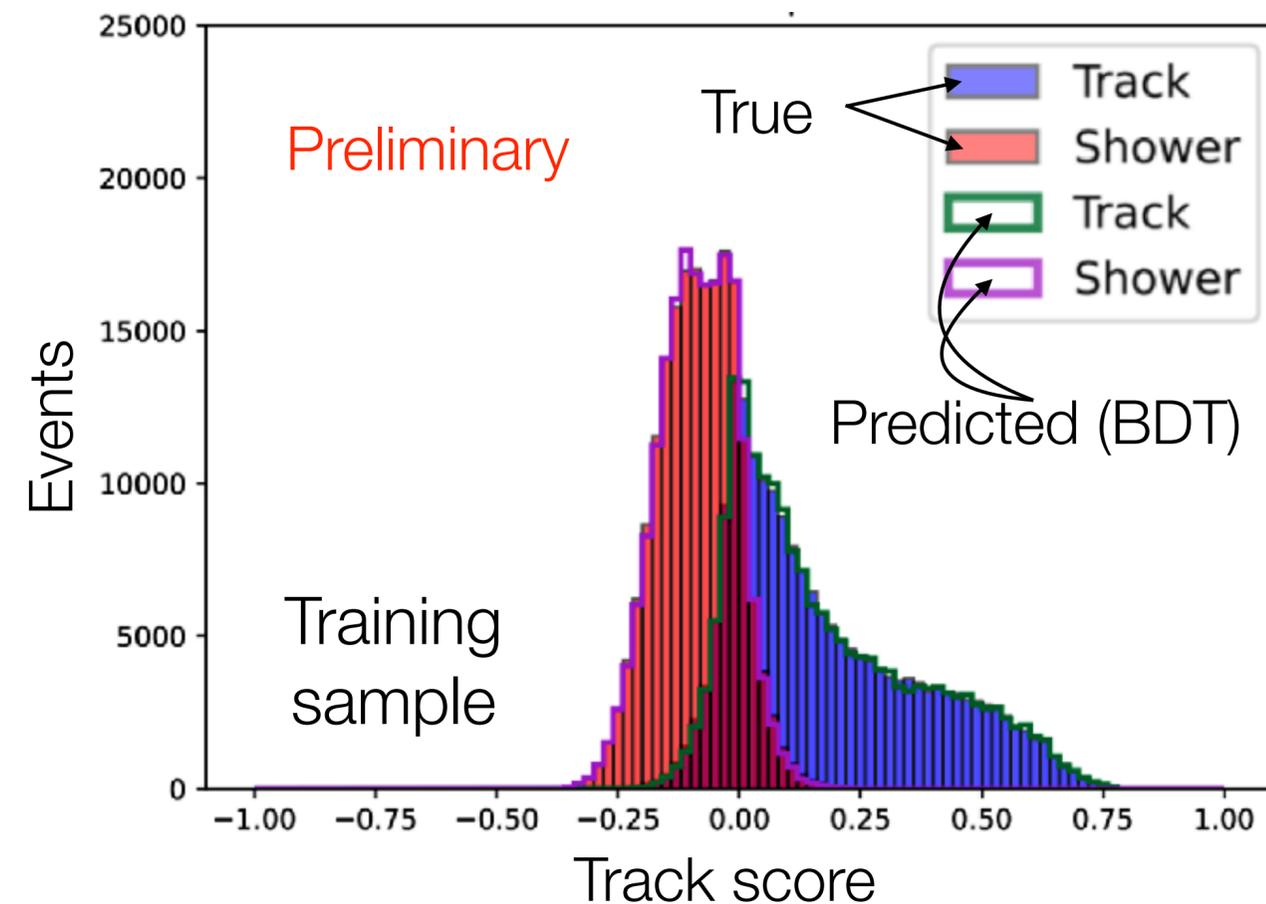
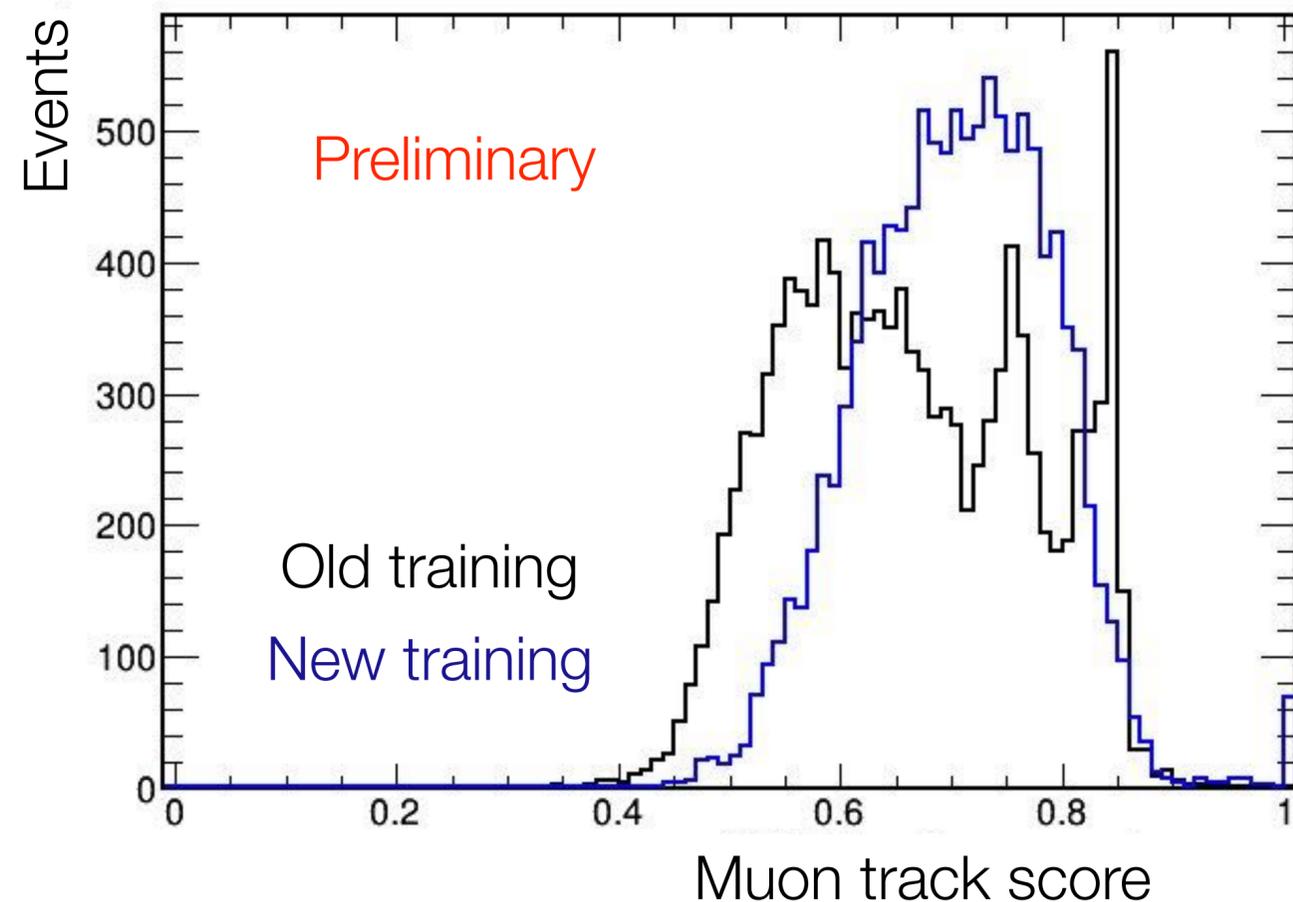
Pandora-based event reconstruction: new BDT training to discriminate tracks and showers

- Training based on 8 geometrical variables (5 calorimetric) from the 3D coordinates (charge) of the hits

New training based on BNB ν -only MC

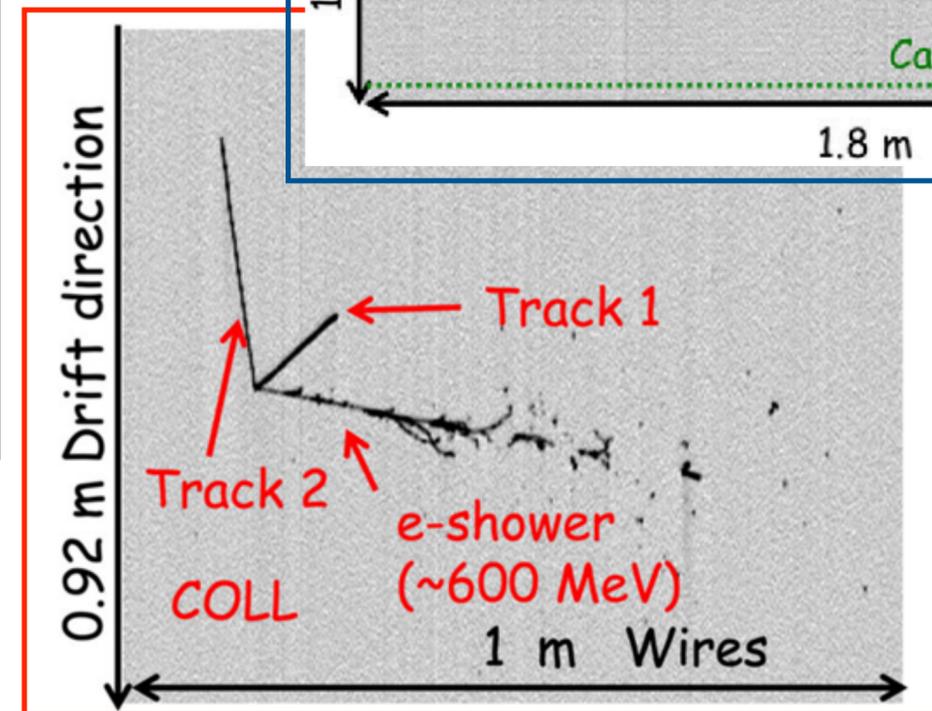
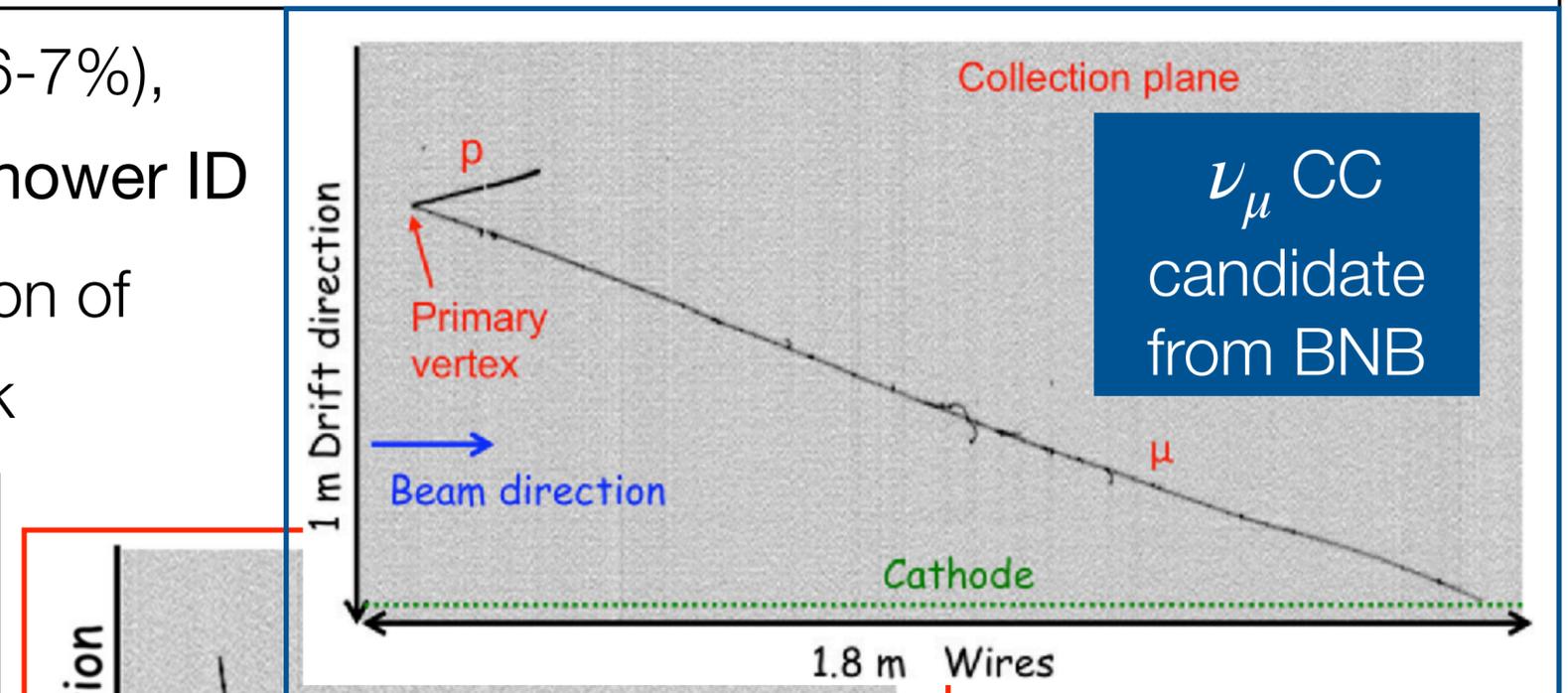
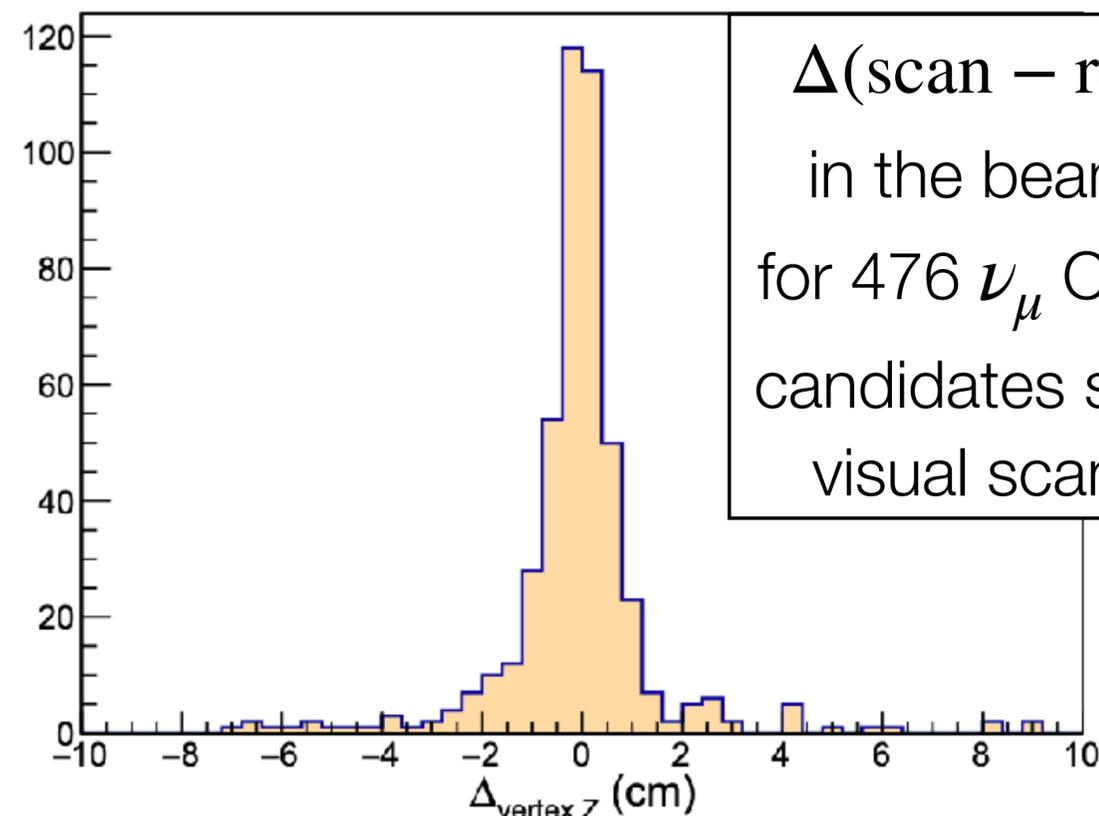
Preliminary

$\epsilon_{\text{classification}}$	Old training	New training	Δ
BNB ν only	72.3%	80.3%	8.0%
NuMI ν only pre-tuning [*]	67.8%	79.9%	12.1%
NuMI ν only tuned [*]	66.7%	79.2%	12.5%



Pandora event reconstruction: visual scanning and data/MonteCarlo comparison to evaluate performance/improvements

- We employ visual scan ν events selection and Monte Carlo simulations to identify reconstruction pathologies, explore reconstruction improvements and tune our selection algorithms for analyses
- Most frequent pathology is track splitting $\mathcal{O}(6-7\%)$, followed by wrong vertex ID $\mathcal{O}(4\%)$ and track/shower ID
- Validation w/ visual scan based on the 3D position of the vertex V , end point and length of μ track



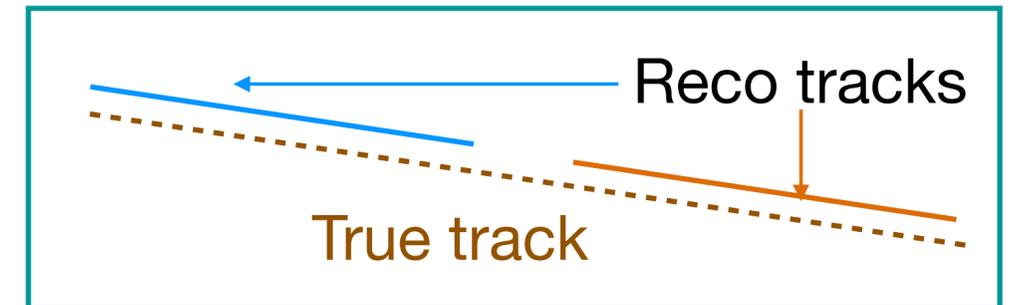
ν_e CC
candidate
from NuMI



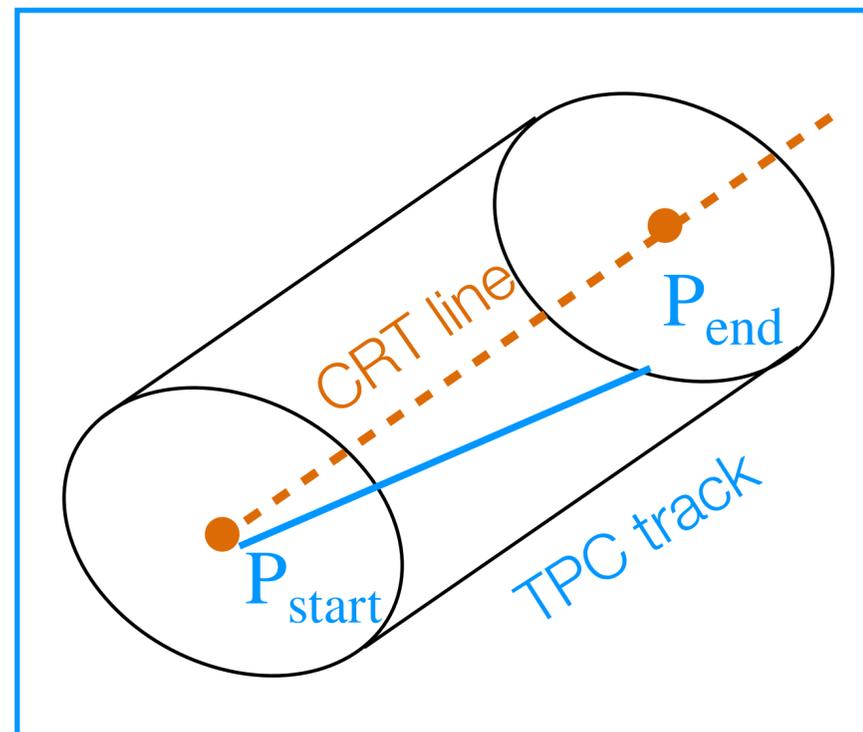
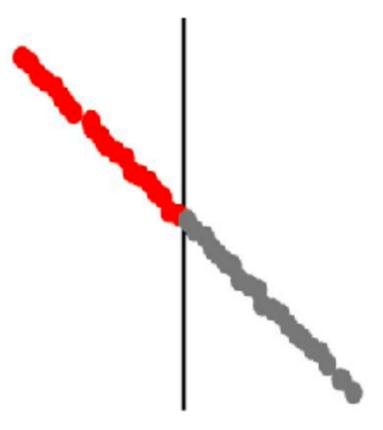
Eur. Phys. J. C
83:467 (2023)

Pandora-based event reconstruction: track splitting

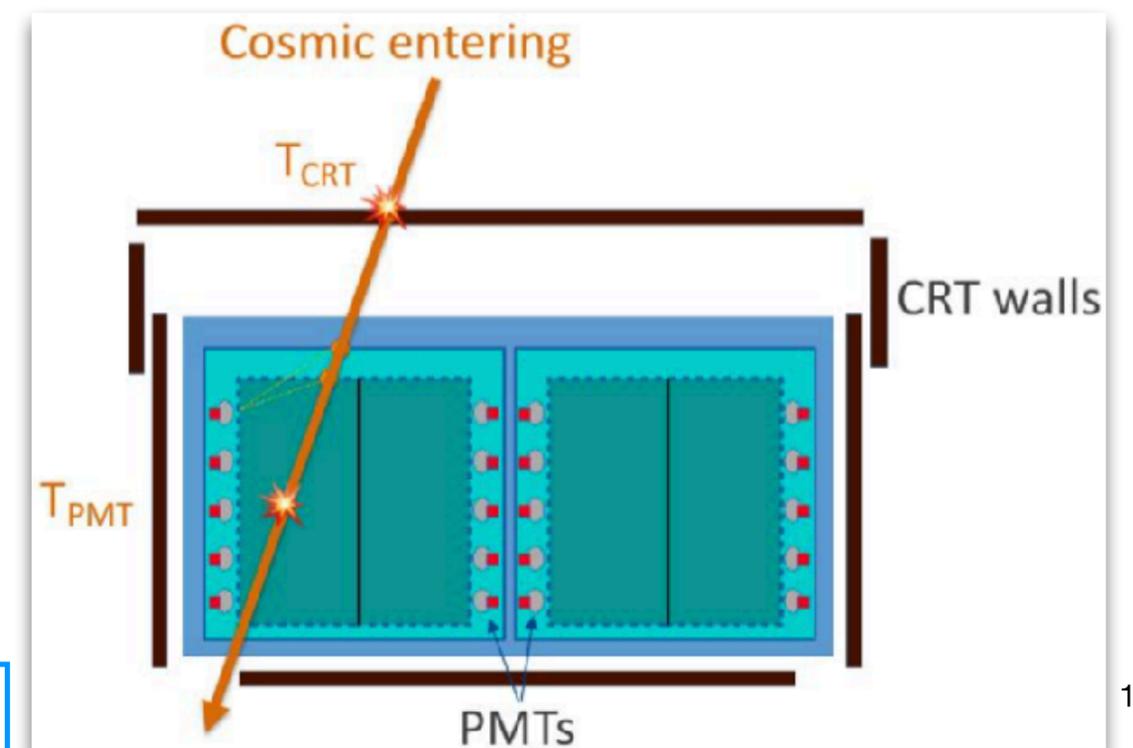
- Several studies to mitigate the problem of **track splitting**:
e.g. the single track of a μ is reconstructed as $n \geq 1$ segments



- Track splitting happening at detector boundaries:
 $z = 0$, at the **cathode**
- Ongoing study of a **stitching algorithm** to join track pieces post-reconstruction based on **MC**
- Study of a stitching algorithm on **cosmic μ in data**: TPC tracks are identified after CRT-PMT info
- Study of the **systematic** induced by track-splitting:



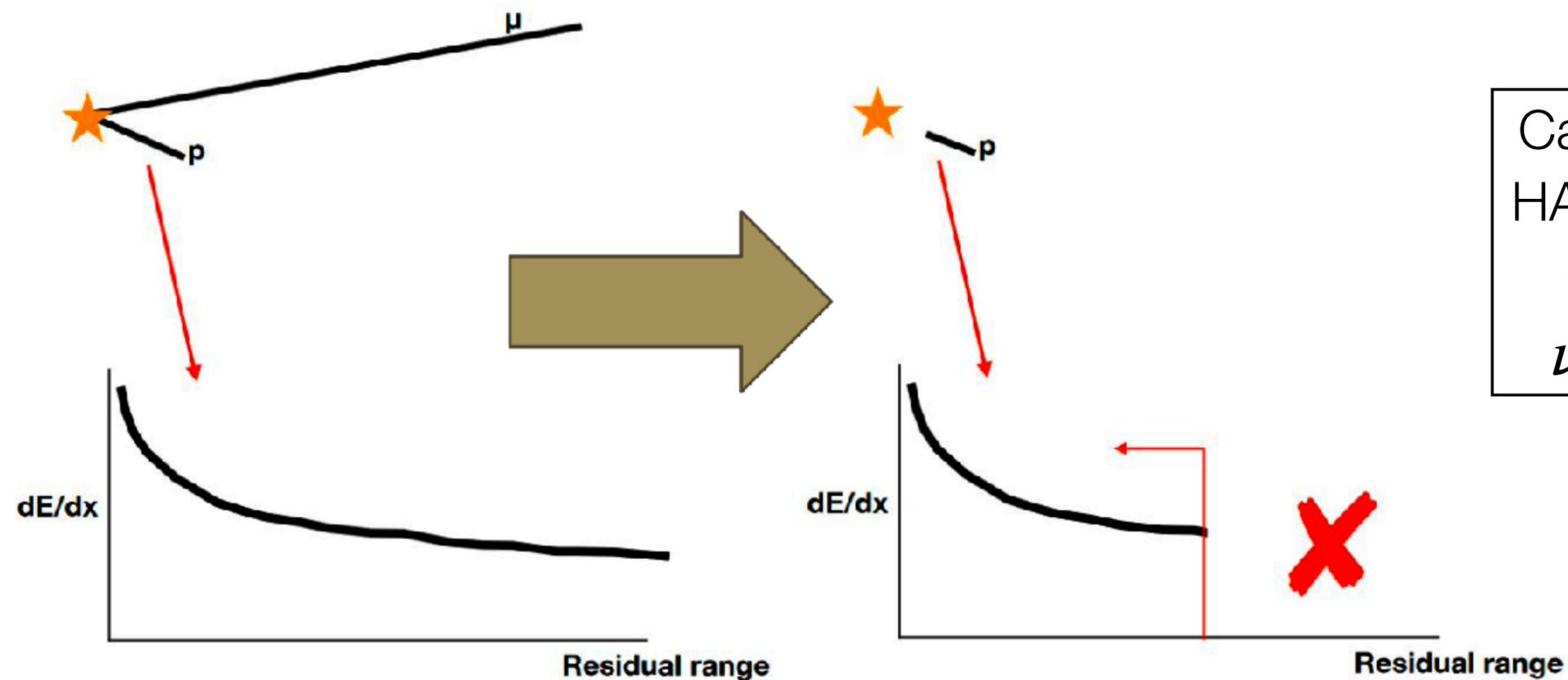
Cartoon of the stitching algorithm



- Basic idea: break tracks
study how reco is affected

Pandora-based event reconstruction: data-driven systematics study

- Goal: understand and account for differences in reconstruction between data and MC
- Foreseen goal: data driven validation of ML algorithms
- *Hit Activity Removal from Particles for Systematics (HARPS)*: operate on specific particles and reduce their size \leftrightarrow similar to starting with a lower energy particle and analyse the impact on reconstructed quantities

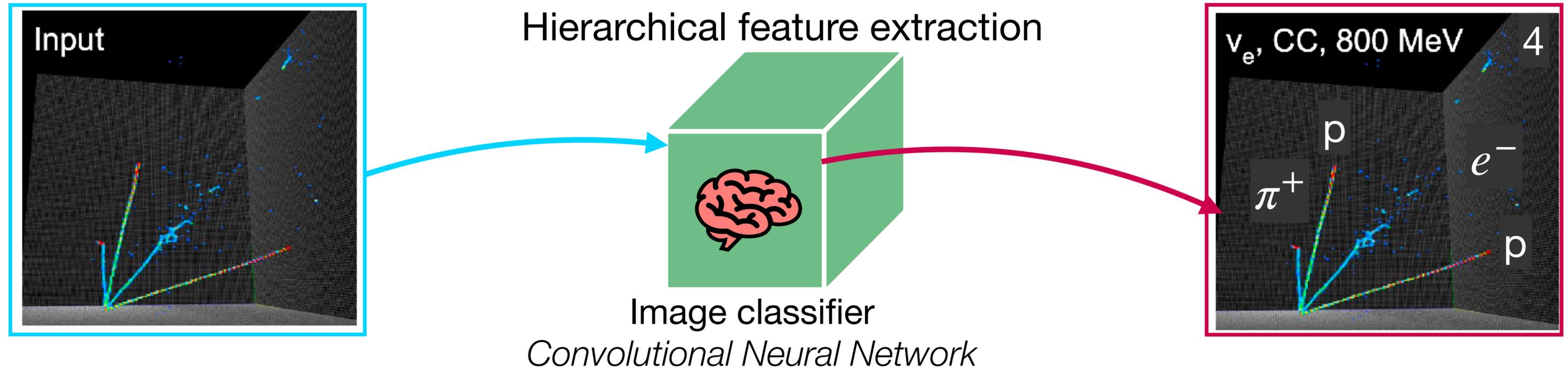


Cartoon of the idea:
HARPS on a sample
of protons from
 ν + cosmics MC

Pandora-based event reconstruction: summary and next steps

- Strong **interplay** with the needs/results of the ongoing analysis efforts in defining our goals: we are increasing our effort towards evaluating **reconstruction (detector) systematics**
- Several efforts to mitigate the effects of the most relevant reconstruction pathologies at different levels including track splitting, track vs shower misidentification, vertex reconstruction
- Next steps foreseen: continuous **validation** of the reconstruction chain and (re)training of the **ML algorithms** employed in several points of the reconstruction any time relevant changes to signal processing at previous stage are included in the data processing chain

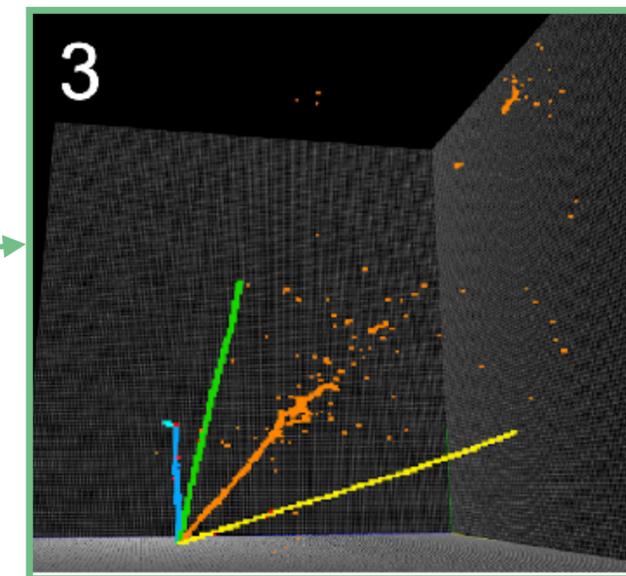
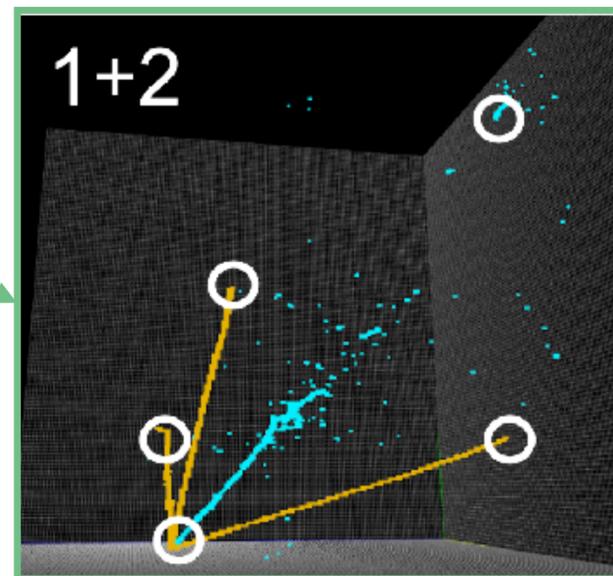
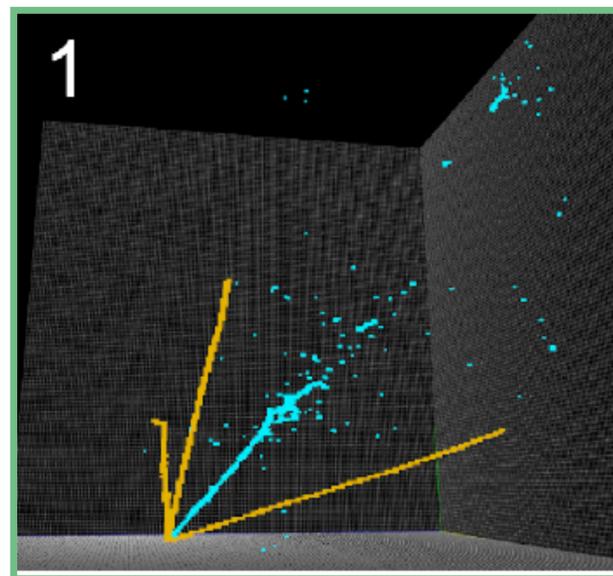
Machine Learning (ML) based LArTPC event reconstruction



1 Separate voxels based on the topology

2 Find important points (vertex V , start/end P)

3 Cluster particles



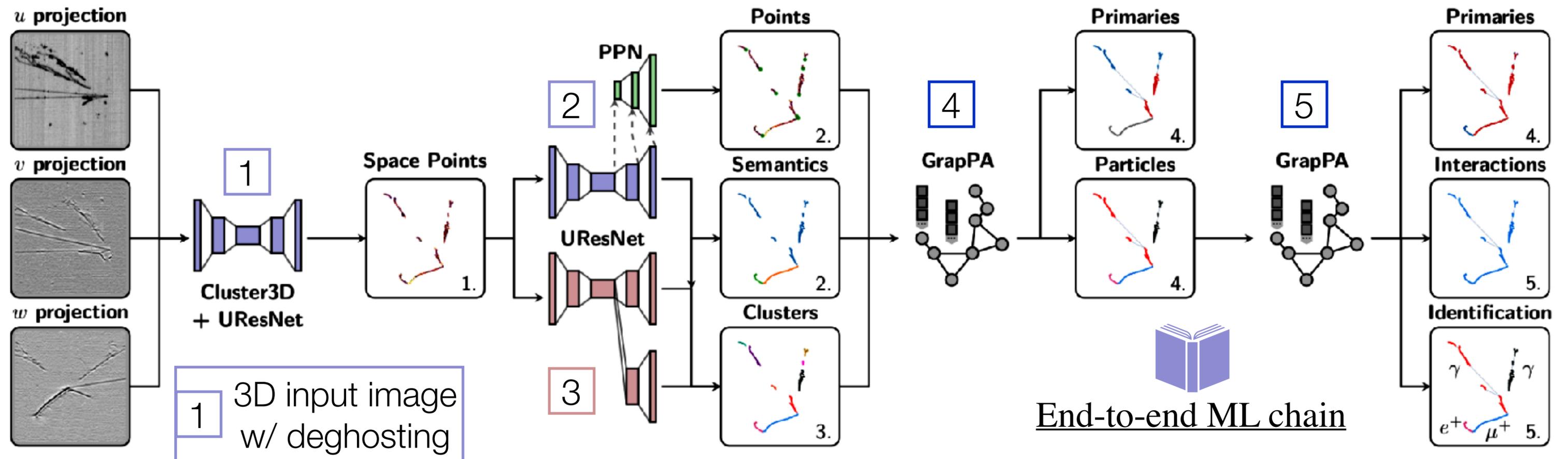
ML-based LArTPC event reconstruction: end to end reconstruction chain

2 Voxels classified in different abstract particle classes + identification of the points of interest

4 Assemble shower objects and identify primary fragments

Convolutional NN

Graph NN

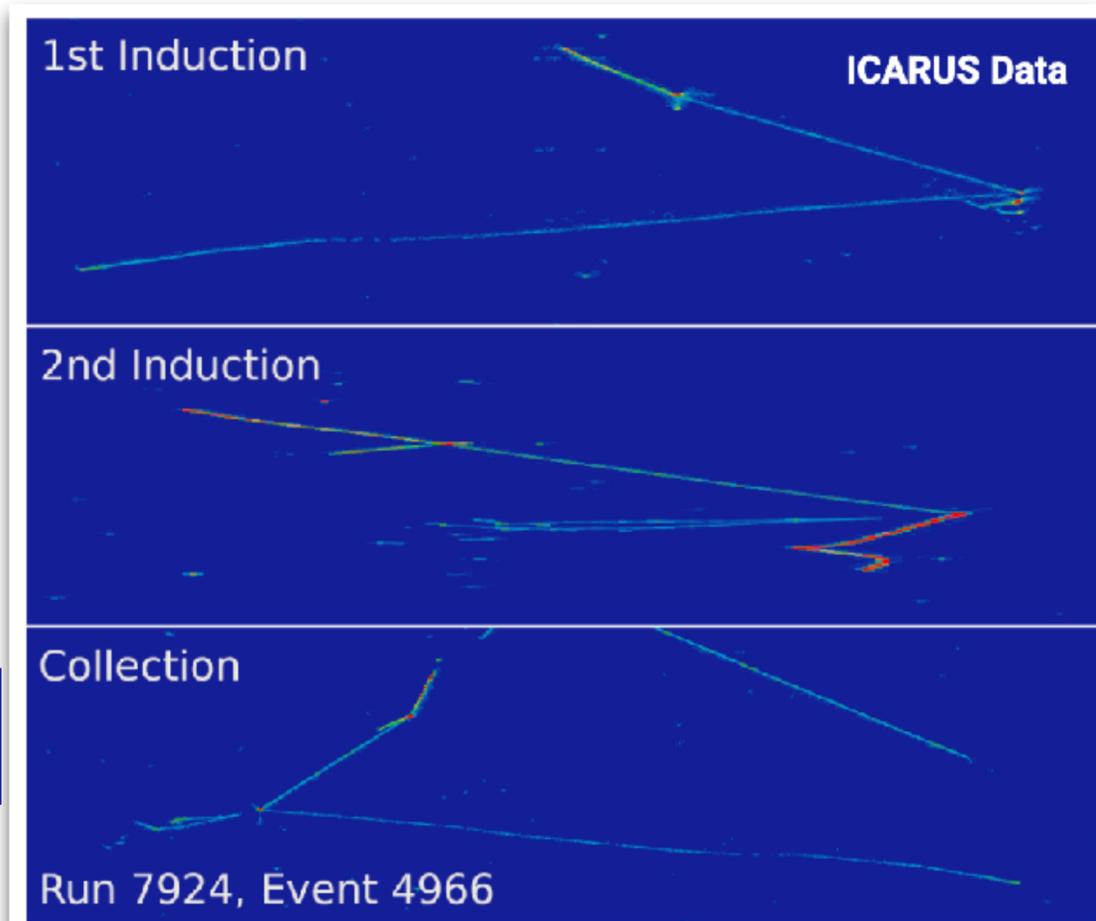


2D views from wire planes

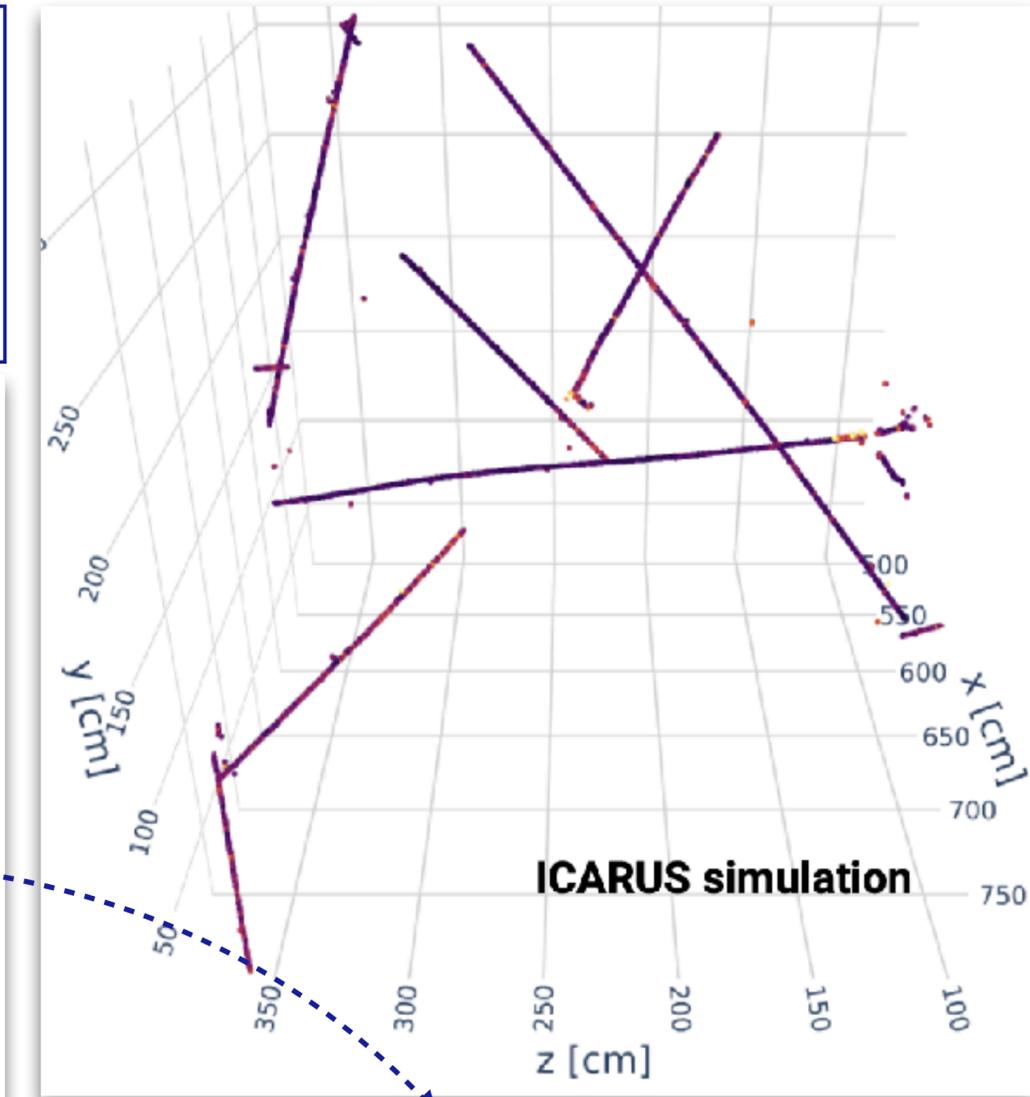
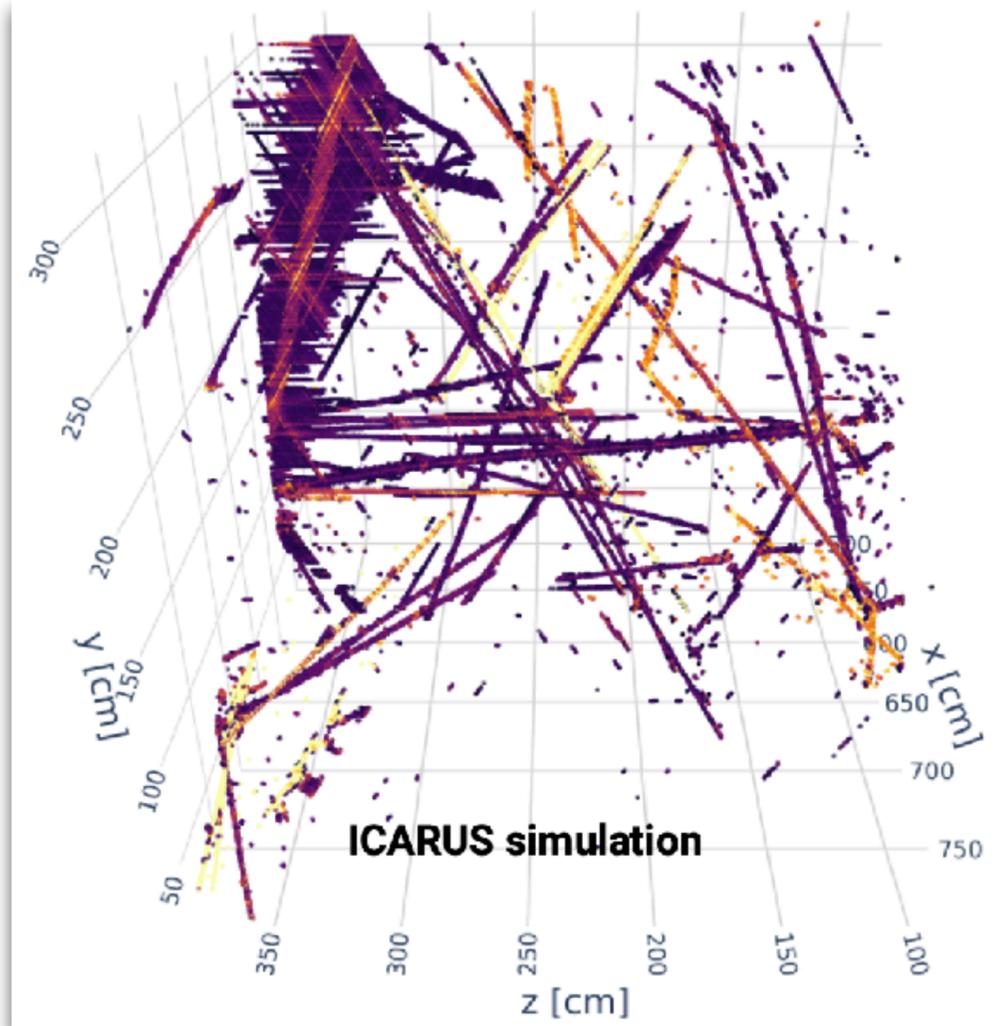
3 NN to build individual dense particle clusters

5 Particles aggregation into interactions and ID

1 ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction



Cluster 3D: make all valid (time-compatible & intersecting) combinations of hits across 2 wire planes



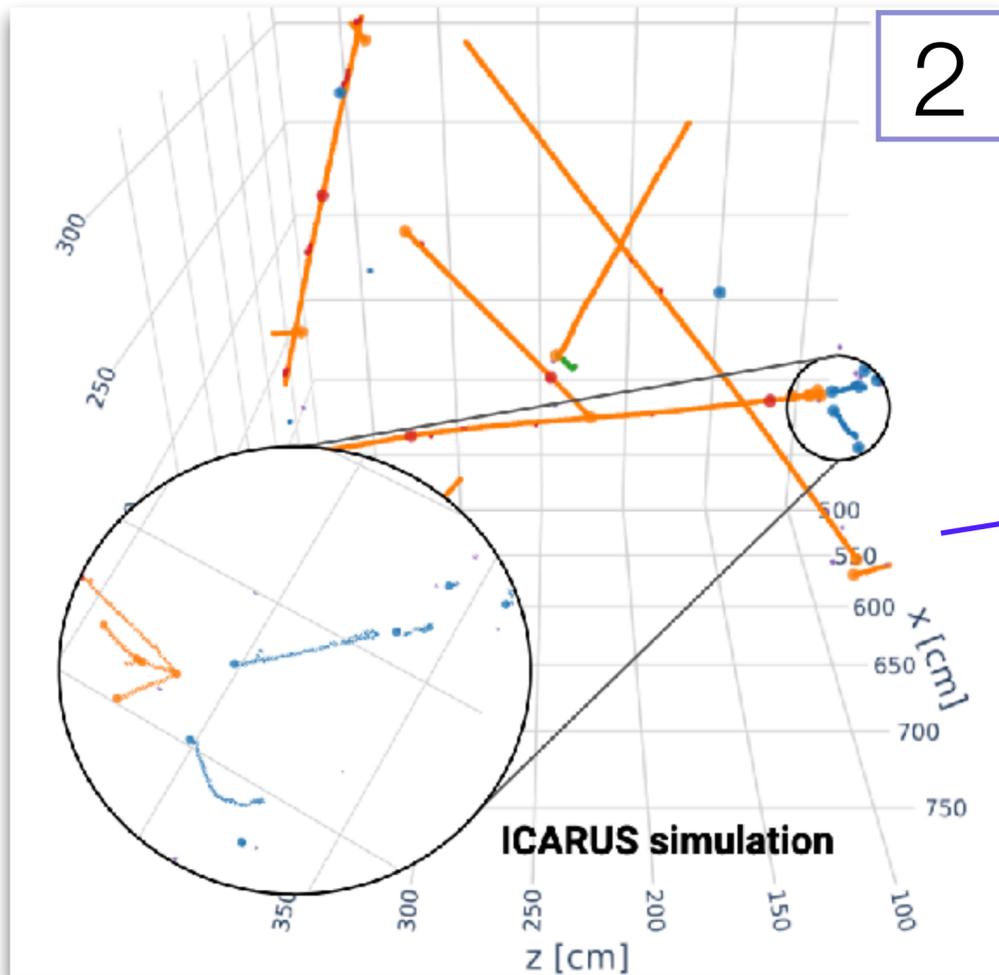
Deghosting: use U-ResNet to identify and remove *artifacts* of the reconstruction

time

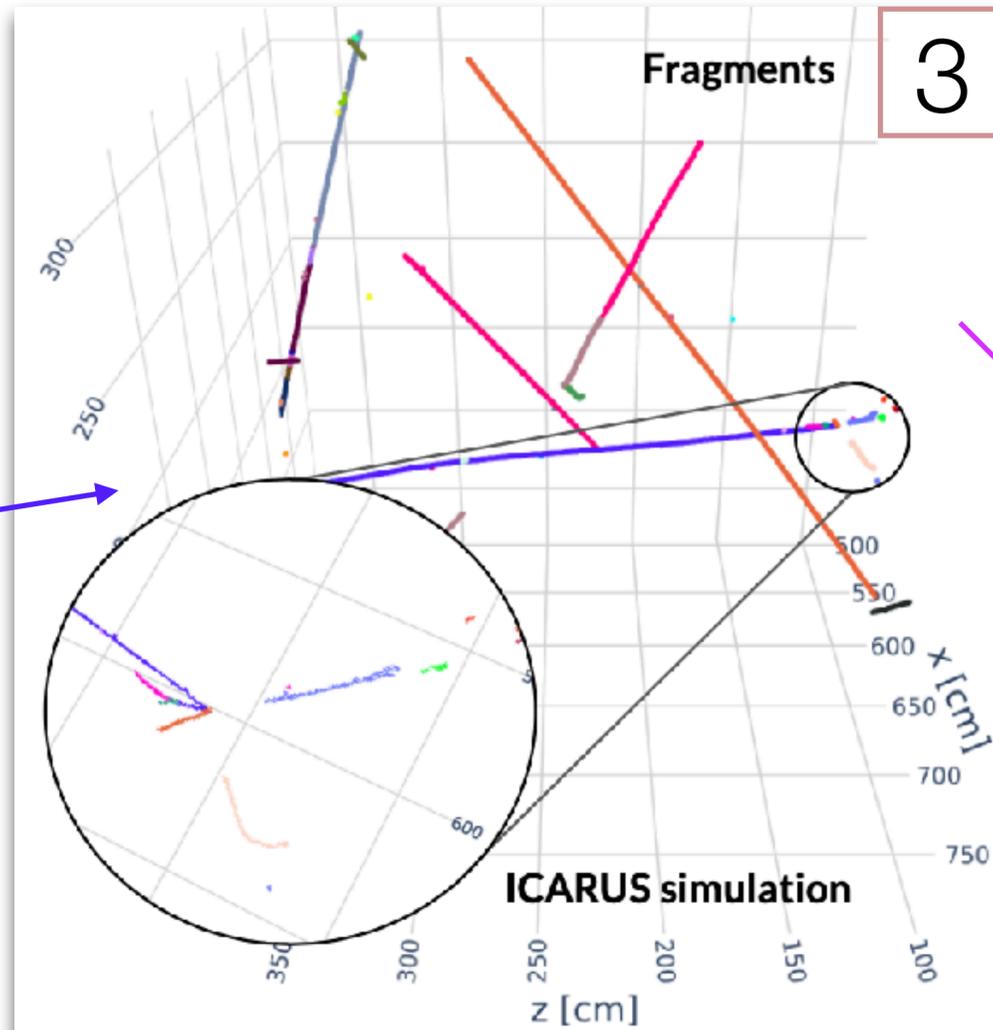
wire

Starting point:
3 wire planes ↔ 3 x 2D images

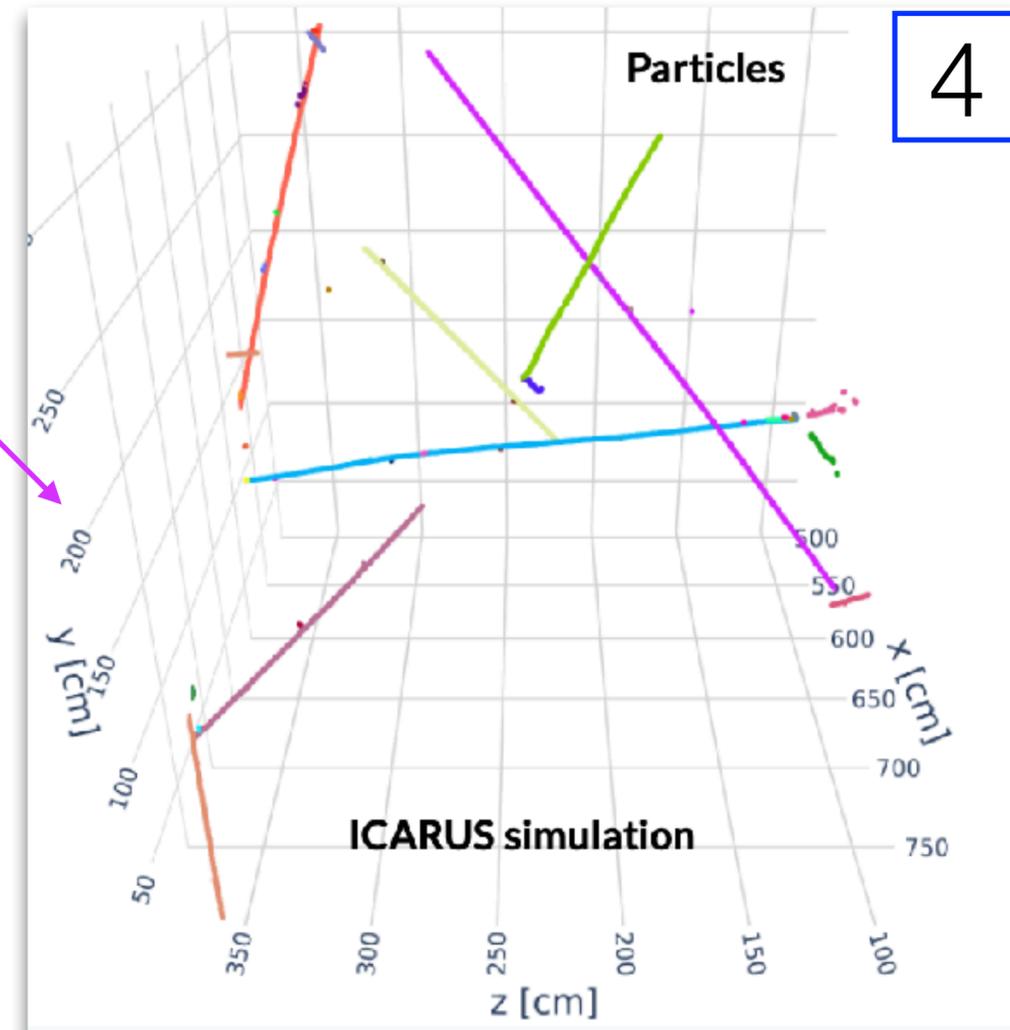
ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction



Semantic segmentation & Point of interest (PPN)
Distinguish different particle types based on topological features and identify vertex, start/end points

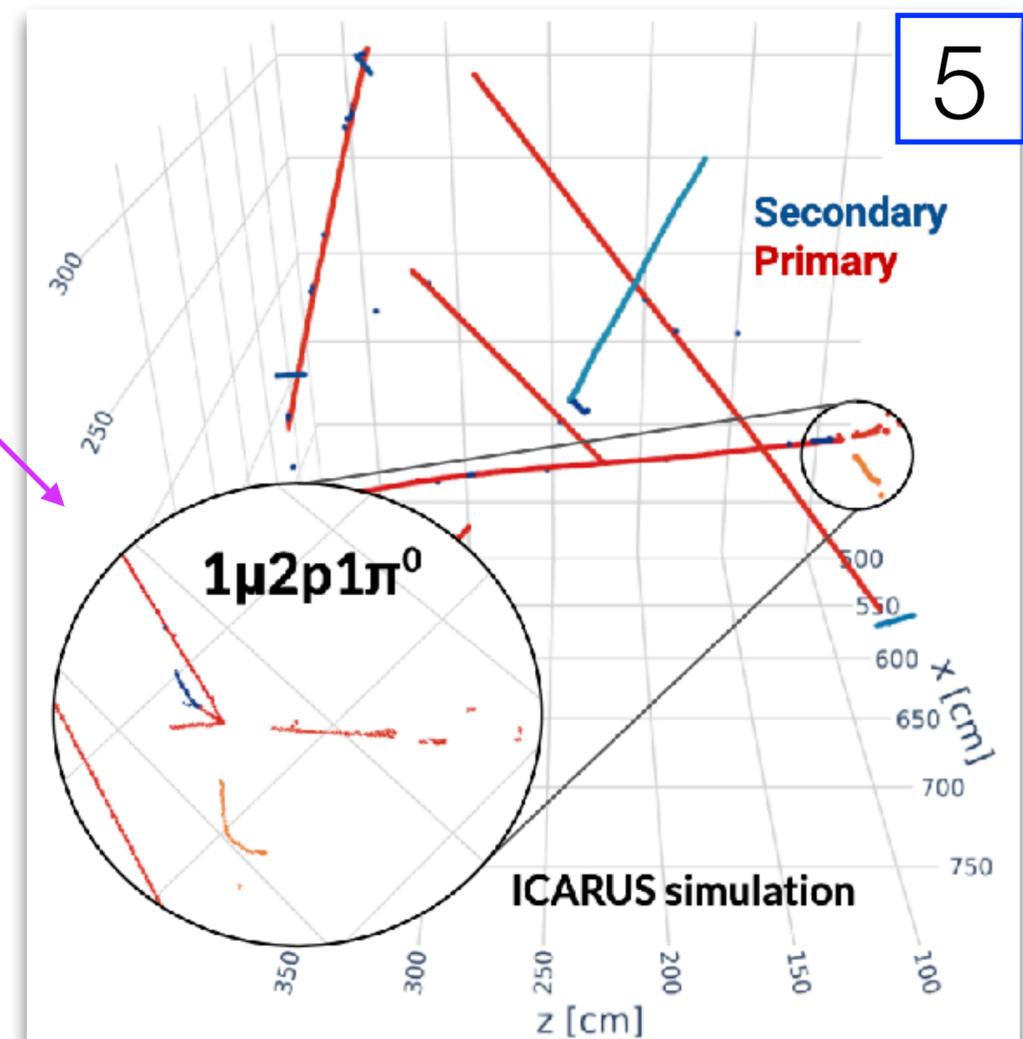
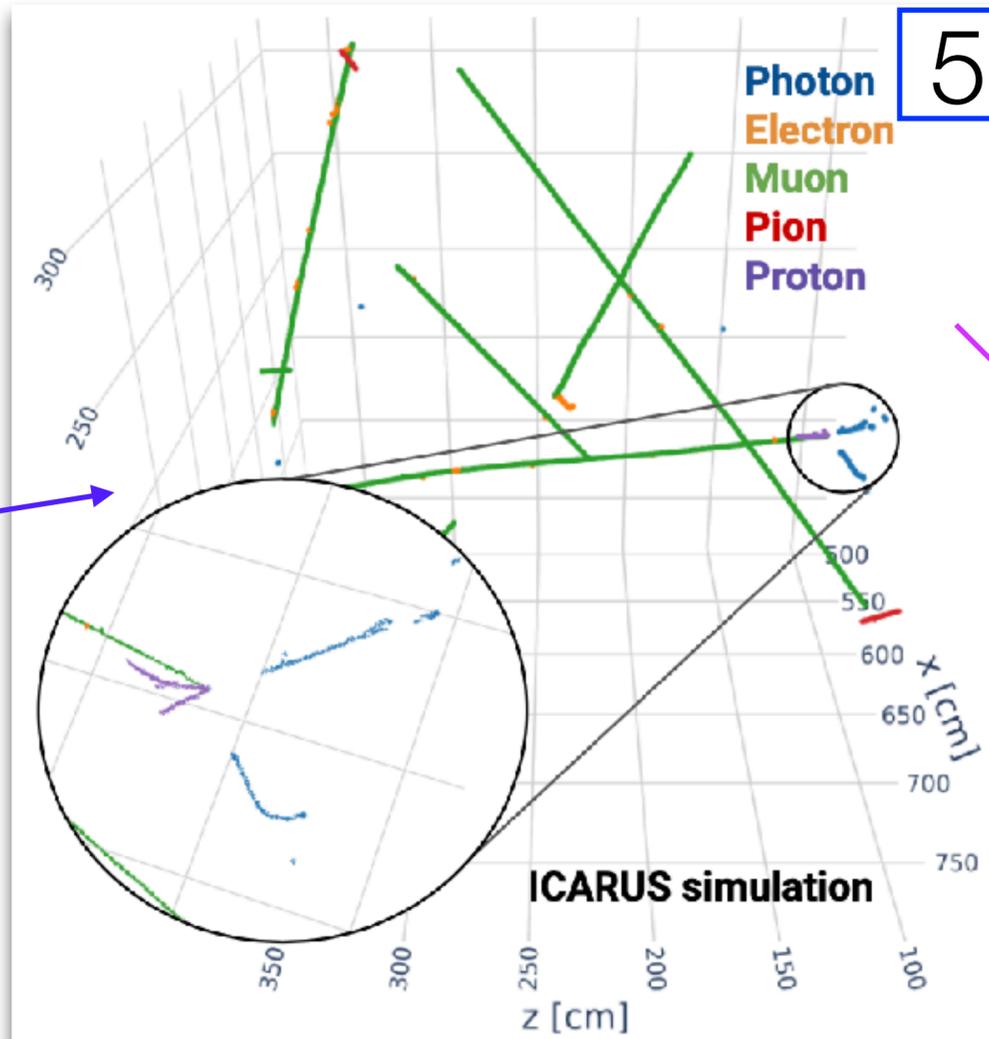
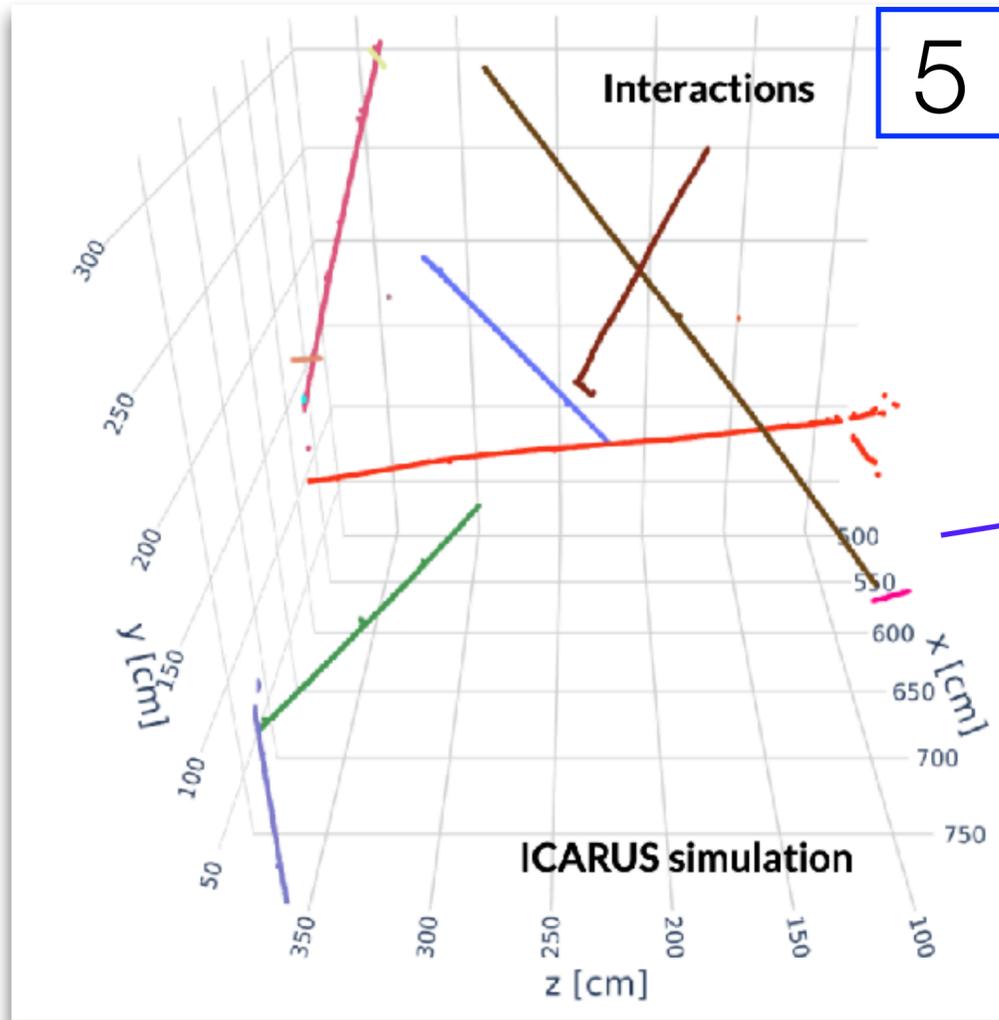


Particle clustering
Cluster particle fragments that belong to a common *semantic* class, i.e. break track/shower fragments at PPN



Particle aggregation
Use a Graph Neural Network (GNN) to aggregate fragments and form particles

ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction

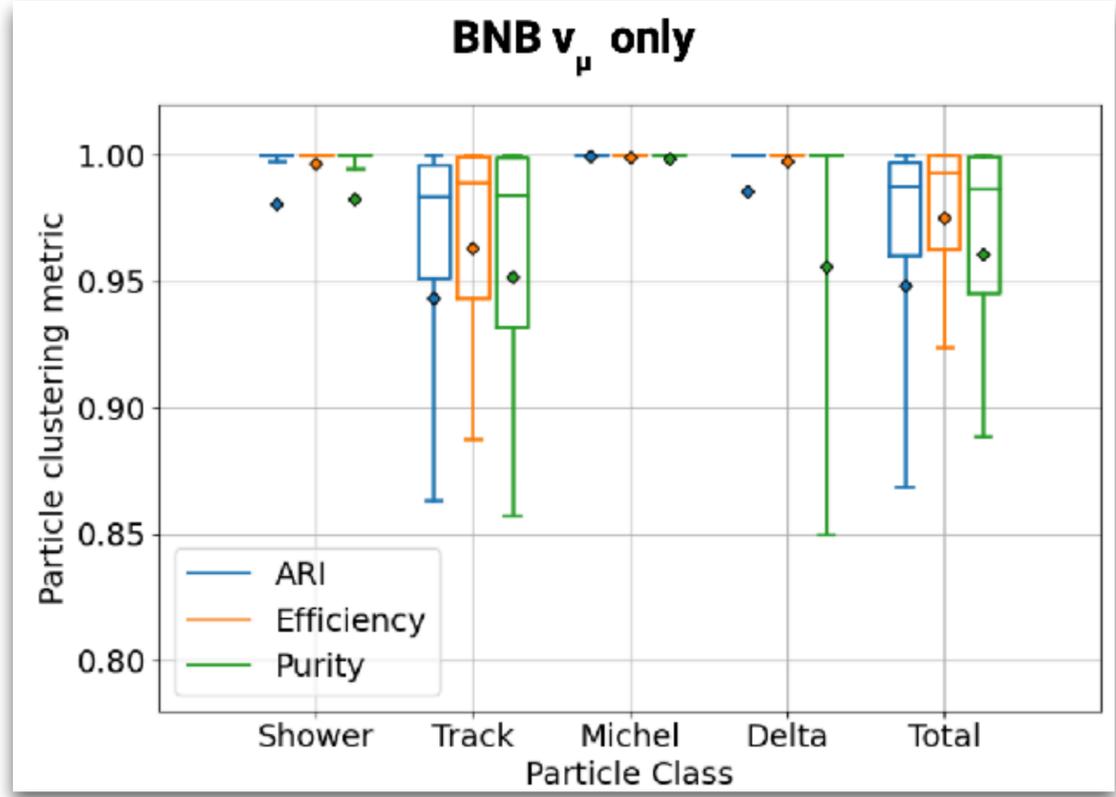
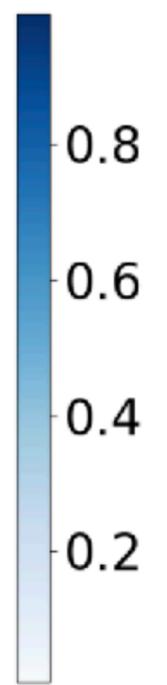
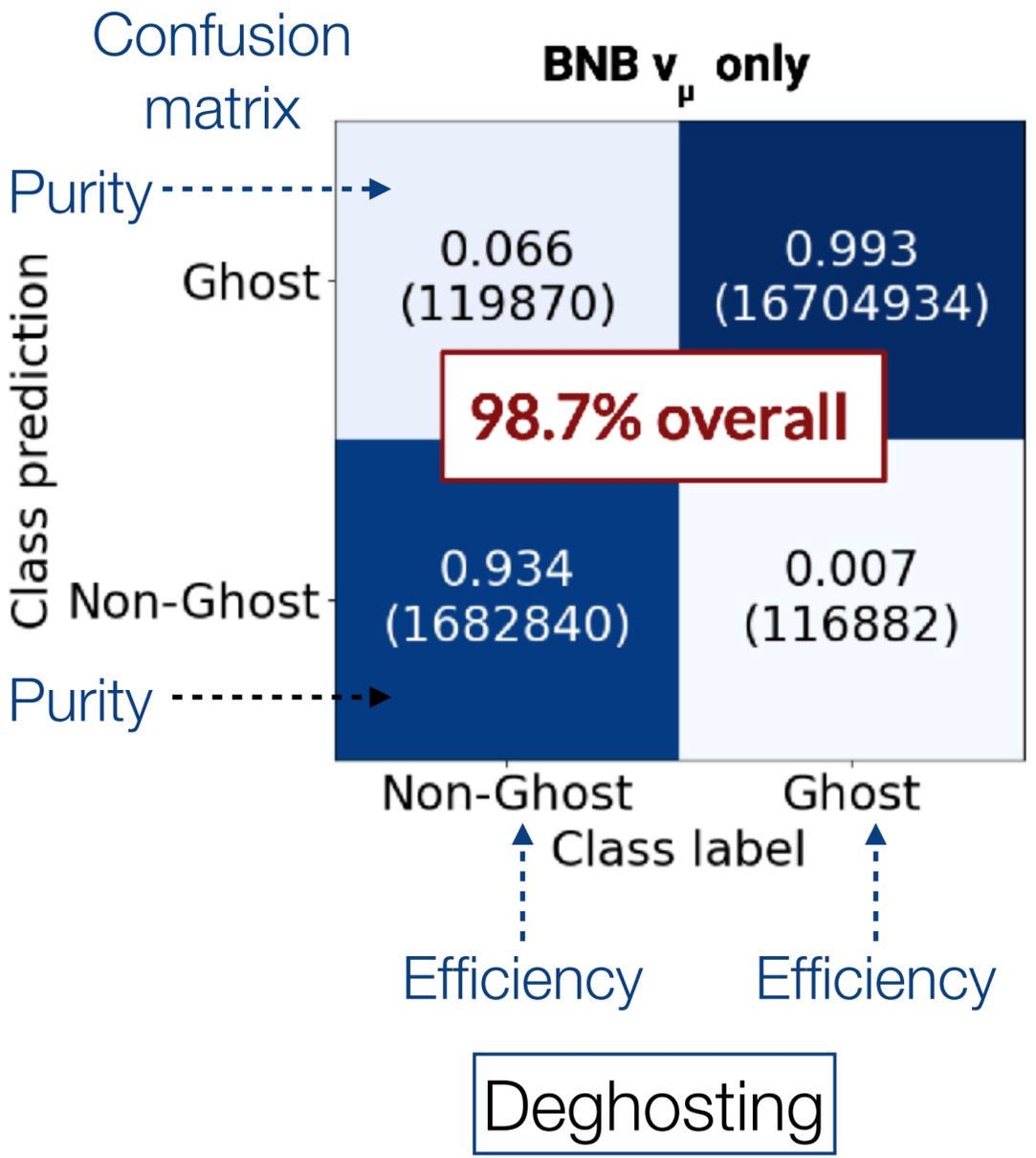


Interaction aggregation
Use a Graph Neural Network (GNN) to aggregate particles and form interactions

Particle identification
Use GNN to identify particles e, γ, μ, π, p in context

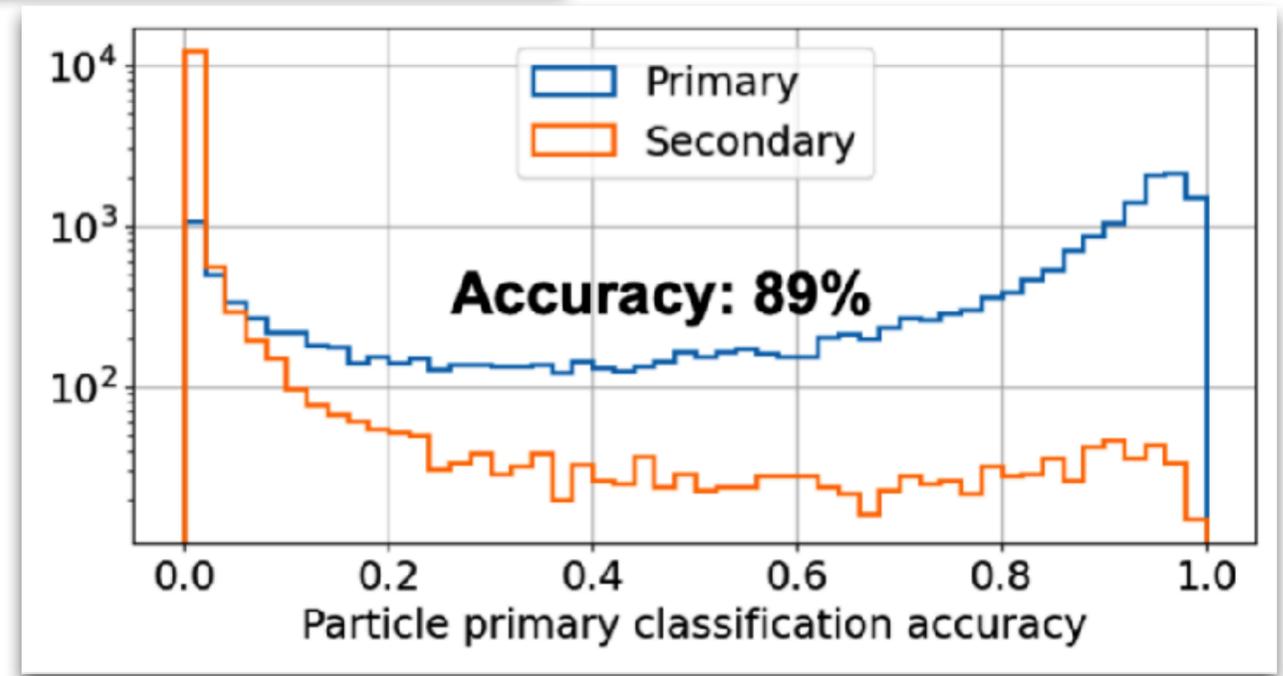
Primary identification
Separate particle(s) which originate from the vertex. This is fundamental for analyses.

ML-based event reconstruction: performance



Particle clustering

Primary identification



ML-based event reconstruction: current effort and next steps

- Continuous effort to improve the performance of the end-to-end ML-based reconstruction chain as a whole exploiting both MC simulations and visual scanning info
- Several physical analyses underway in ICARUS using ML-based reconstruction:
 - **Beyond Standard Model physics:** Higgs-portal scalar decays, $S \rightarrow ee$, (J.Dyer) see her talk tomorrow!



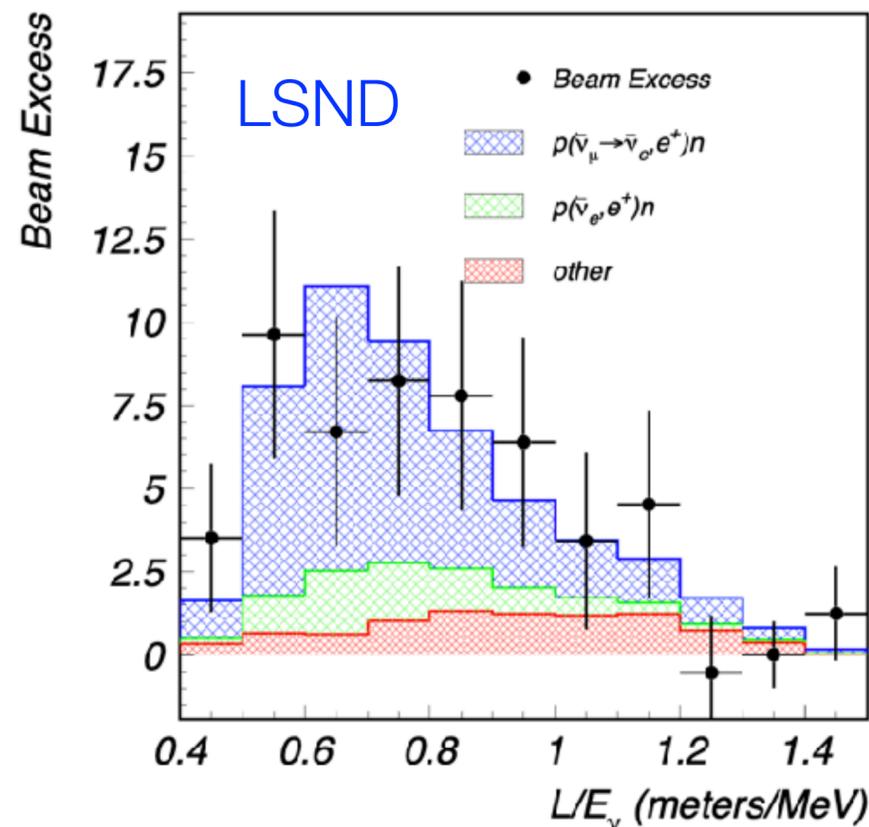
Thank you for your attention!



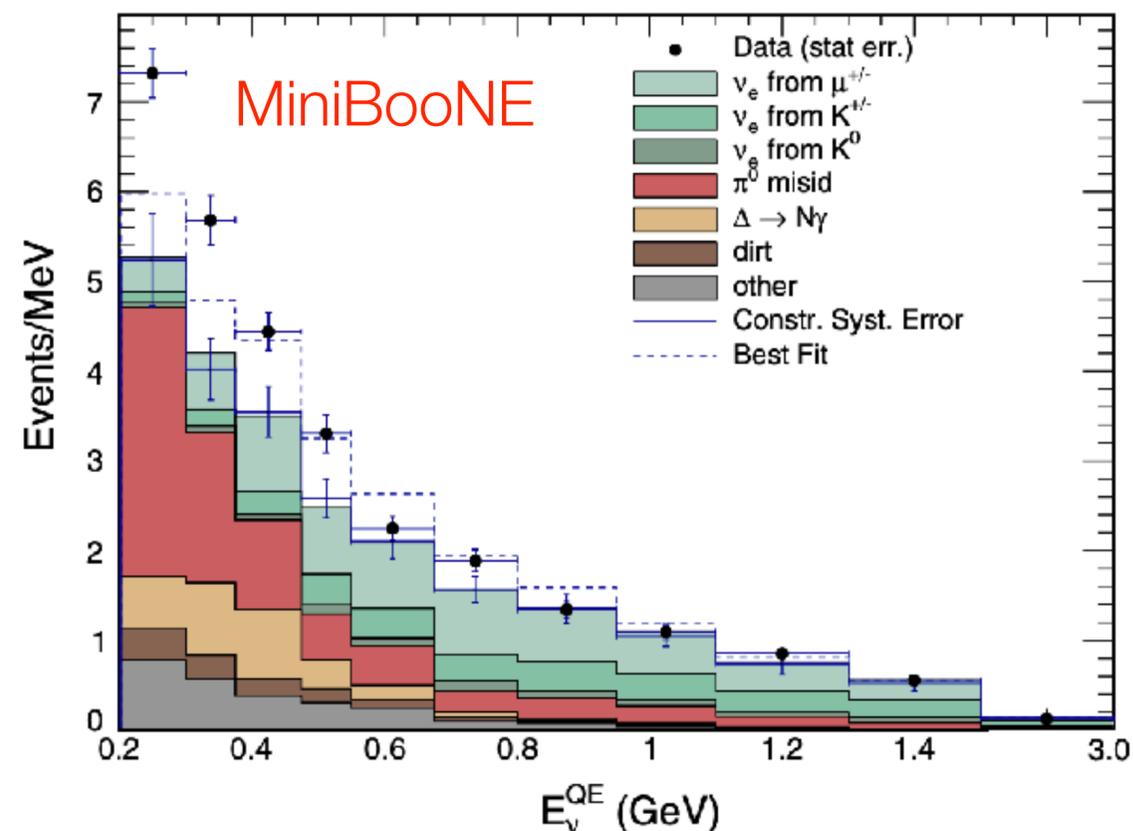
Back-up slides

Neutrino physics: oscillations and the sterile neutrino puzzle

- **LSND** and **MiniBooNE** reported anomalous signals of ν_e excess at low E: this could imply an additional term $\Delta m_{\text{new}}^2 \sim 1.0 \text{ eV}^2$ driving $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ oscillations at small distances and pointing towards the possible existence of non-standard heavier sterile neutrino(s)



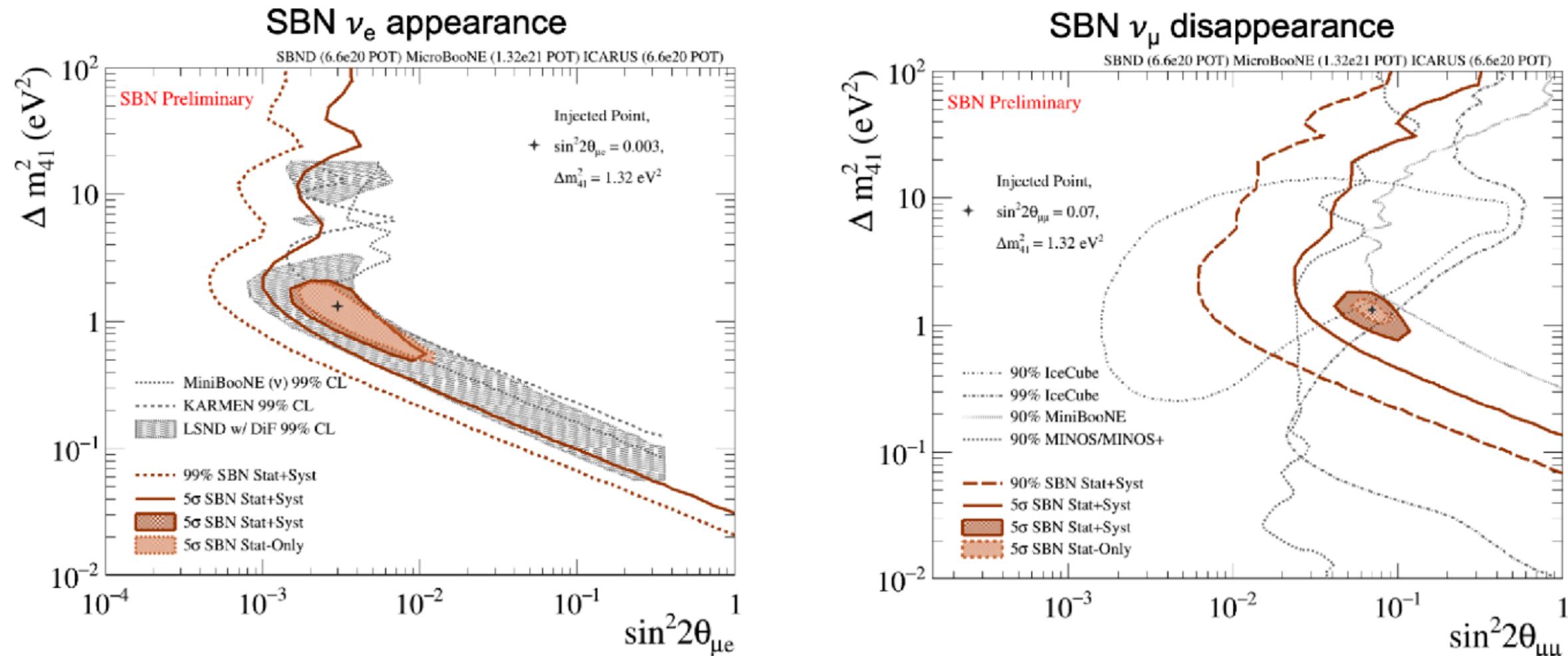
Phys. Rev. D 64, 112007 (2001)



Phys. Rev. D 103, 052002 (2021)

- A clear tension between appearance and disappearance results is also observed so the possibility to measure both channels with the same experiment is extremely helpful to understand the current physics scenario

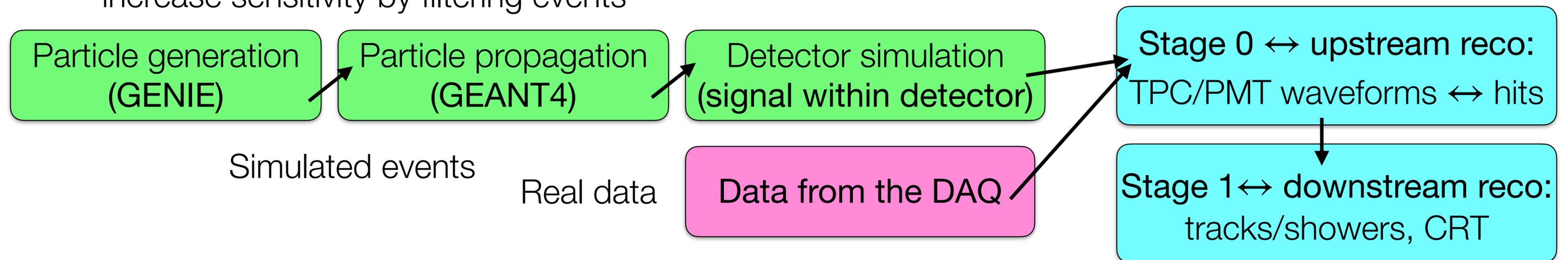
The Short Baseline Neutrino (SBN) physics program



The combined analysis of near and far detector will allow a sensitive search with 5σ sensitivity in both appearance and disappearance channels in 3 years of data taking

Event reconstruction in LAr TPCs

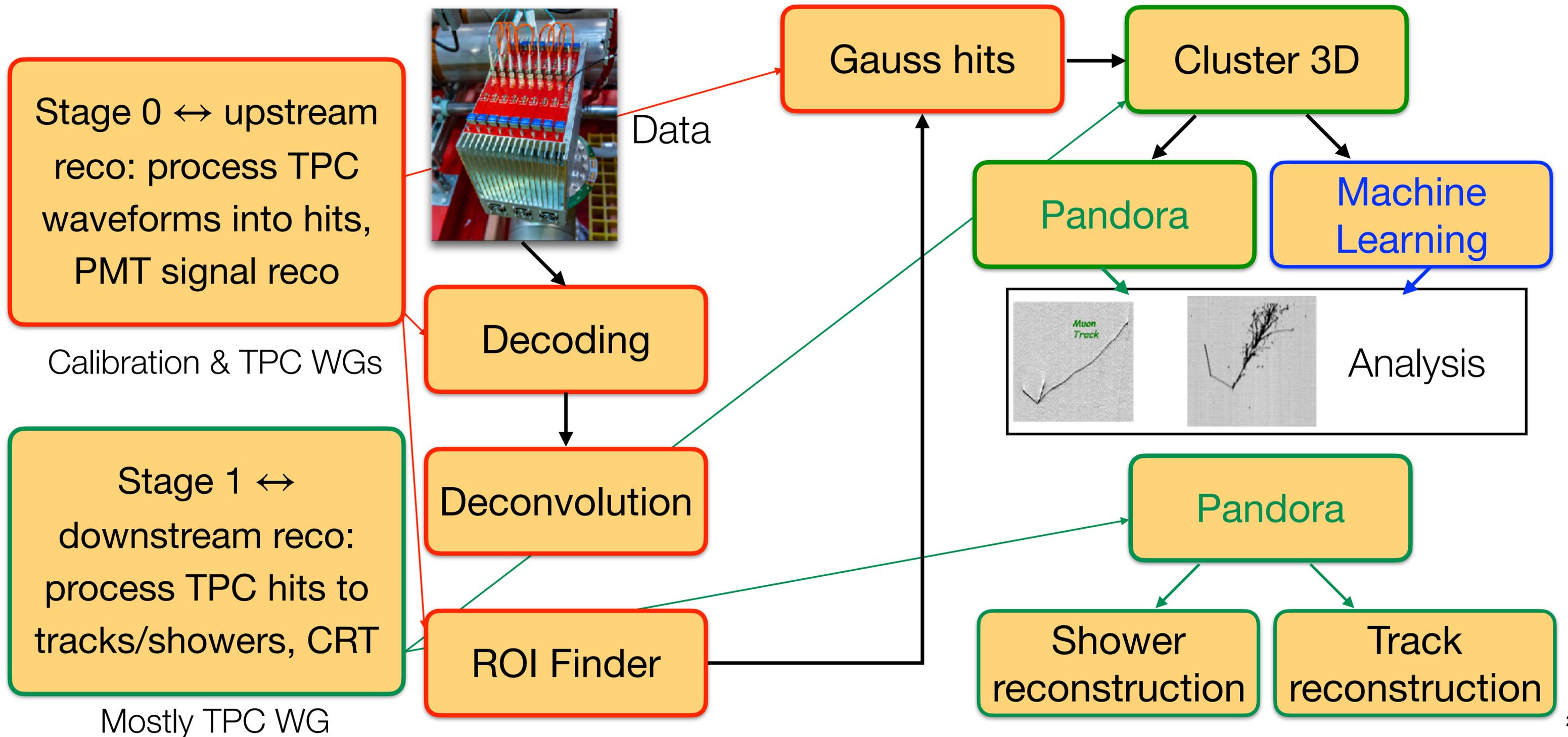
- **Goal:** take the electronic signals acquired by various subsystems and combine them to extract physical quantities related to neutrino interactions happened within the detector:
- **TPC** readout signals go from waveforms on 3 wire planes to *showers* and *tracks*
- Light detector (**PMT**) readout signals go from waveforms to *hits* clustered into *flashes*
- Cosmic Ray Tagger (**CRT**) signals to reduce cosmic rays background are collected into *hits*
- Tools to **match** info between TPC,CRT,PMT and fiducialize detector volume, mitigate background, increase sensitivity by filtering events



- Several activities: signal processing (*upstream* reconstruction), pattern-recognition, calorimetry, particle identification (*downstream* reconstruction)

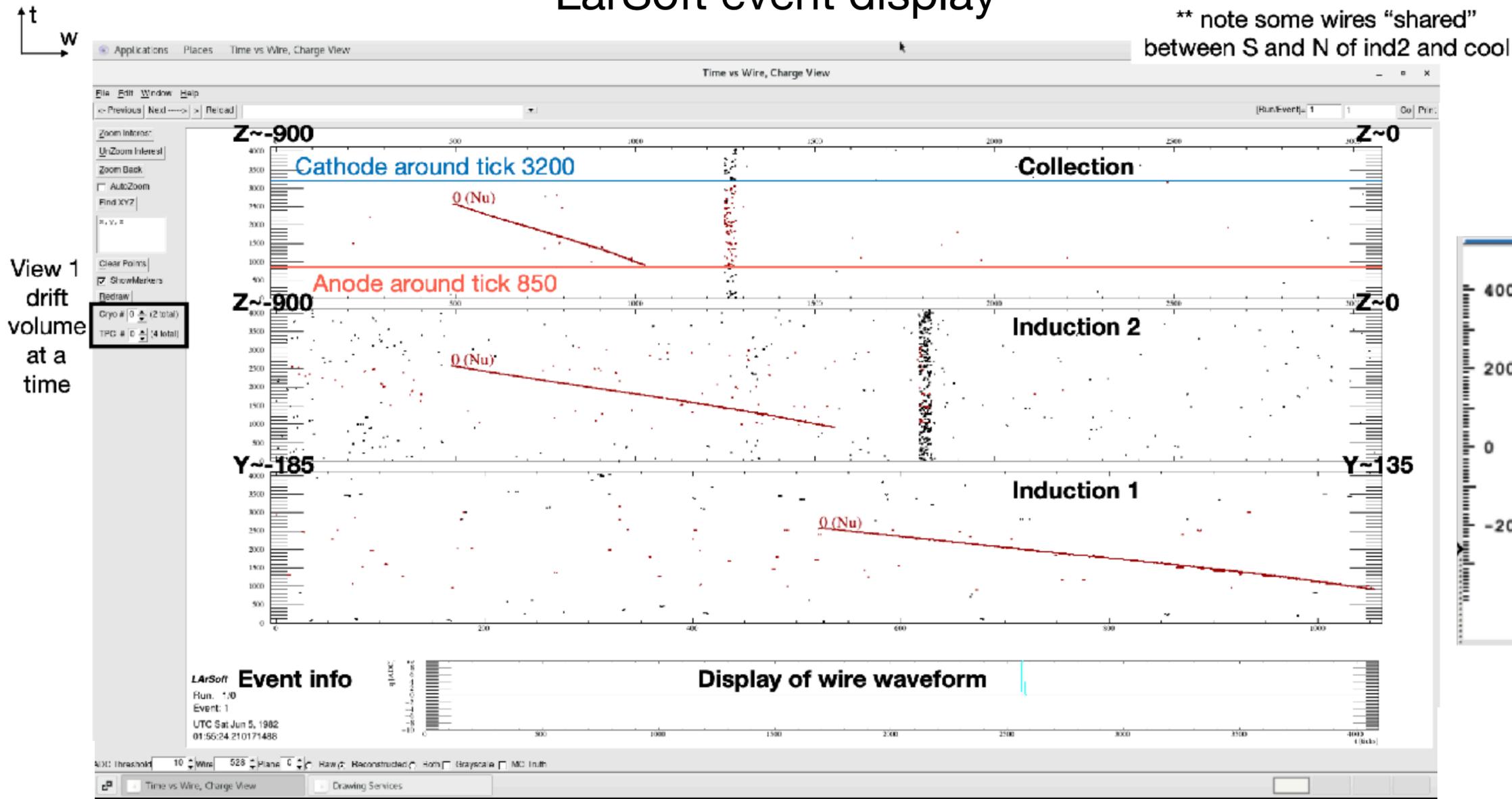
Disclaimer: I'll mostly refer to **ICARUS TPC downstream** reconstruction

The ICARUS TPC reconstruction chain



LAr TPC images: different event displays to help understanding reconstruction

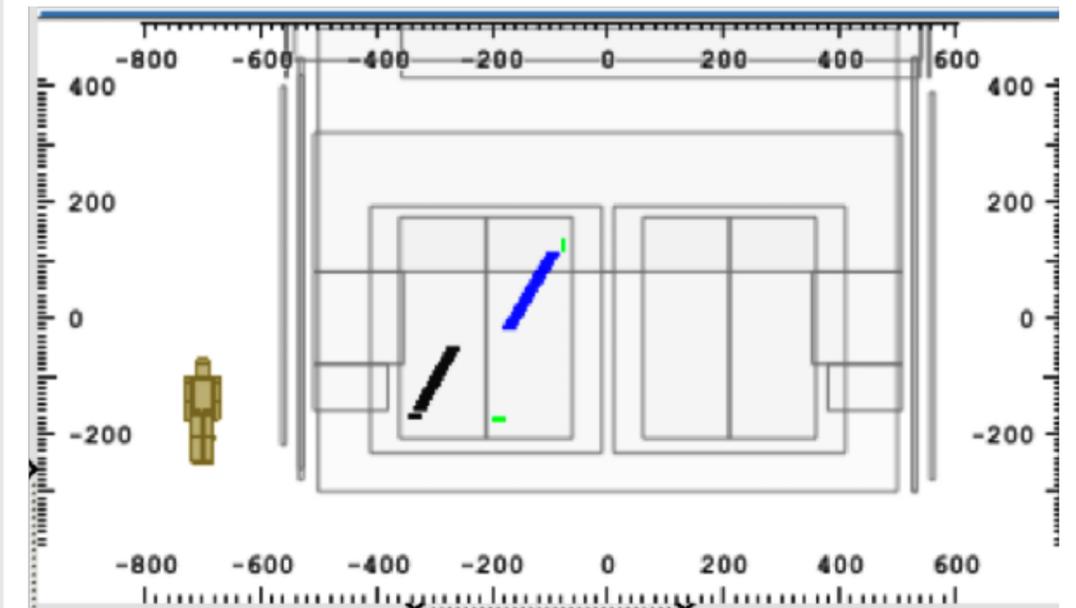
LarSoft event display



View 1
drift
volume
at a
time

DECAF

Event display for CAF
(Common Analysis Format)
files - final output of the
reconstruction chain



Possibility to see 3D points in
physical space, easier to
study the interplay of CRT,
PMT, TPC info (e.g. track
splitting stitching algorithms)

Several event displays (TITUS, LarSoft, DECAF) to analyze 2D images
of hits and reco objects and help understanding reconstruction (issues)

Signal processing: foreseen change from 1D to 2D deconvolution

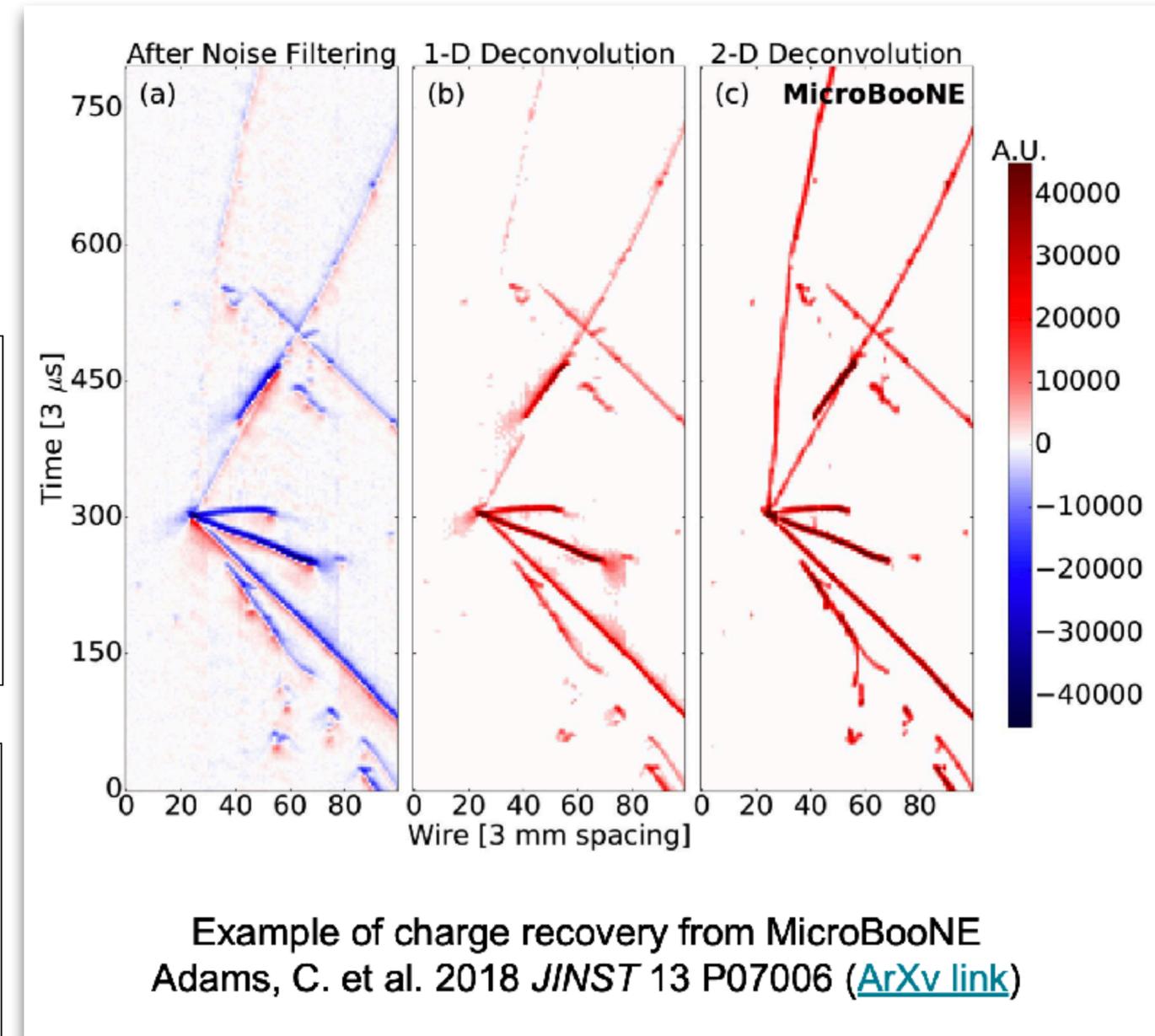
- Wire signals are a convolution of electric field and electronics responses:

$$M(t') = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R(t, t') \cdot S(t) dt$$

Measured signal Response function Original wire signal

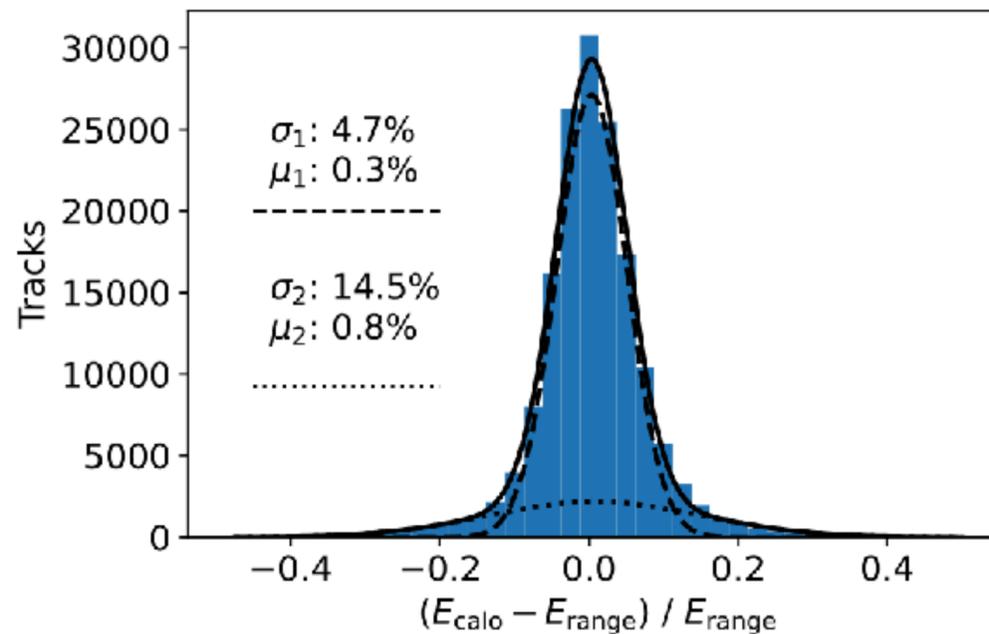
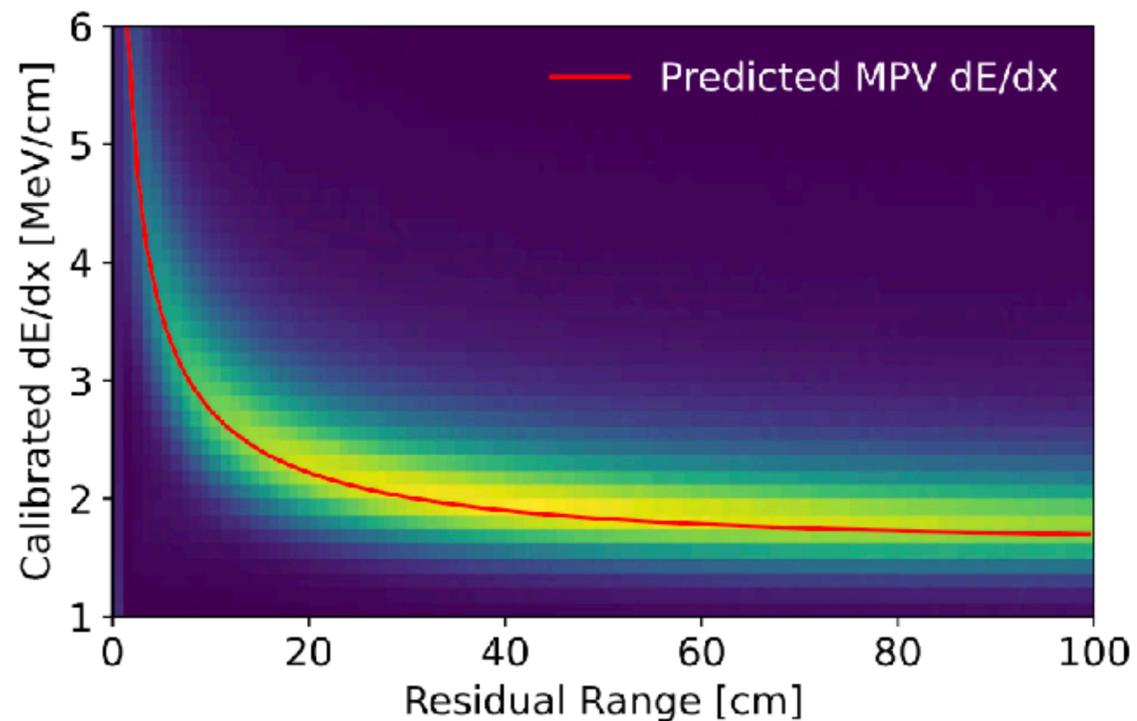
- Original signal can be extracted (1D deconvolution) as the inverse Fourier transform of $S(\omega) = \frac{M(\omega)}{R(\omega)} \cdot F(\omega)$ with $F(\omega)$ a filter (noise + zeros of the response function)

- 2D deconvolution to account for induced charge effects of charge drifting in nearby sense wire regions: improvement of the charge resolution \rightarrow higher ϵ on hits reconstruction for specific track classes



TPC signal calibration

- TPC calibration is based on the study of the ionization energy loss per unit length (dE/dx) versus residual range, i.e. distance from the end of the reconstructed TPC track, for cosmic muons (MIP) crossing the cathode and stopping/decaying in the active LAr volume



- Ongoing effort to tune TPC signal response to improve data/Monte Carlo agreement and to include the spatial variations observed in detector response to CR muons

East TPC, West Cryostat - Collection Plane

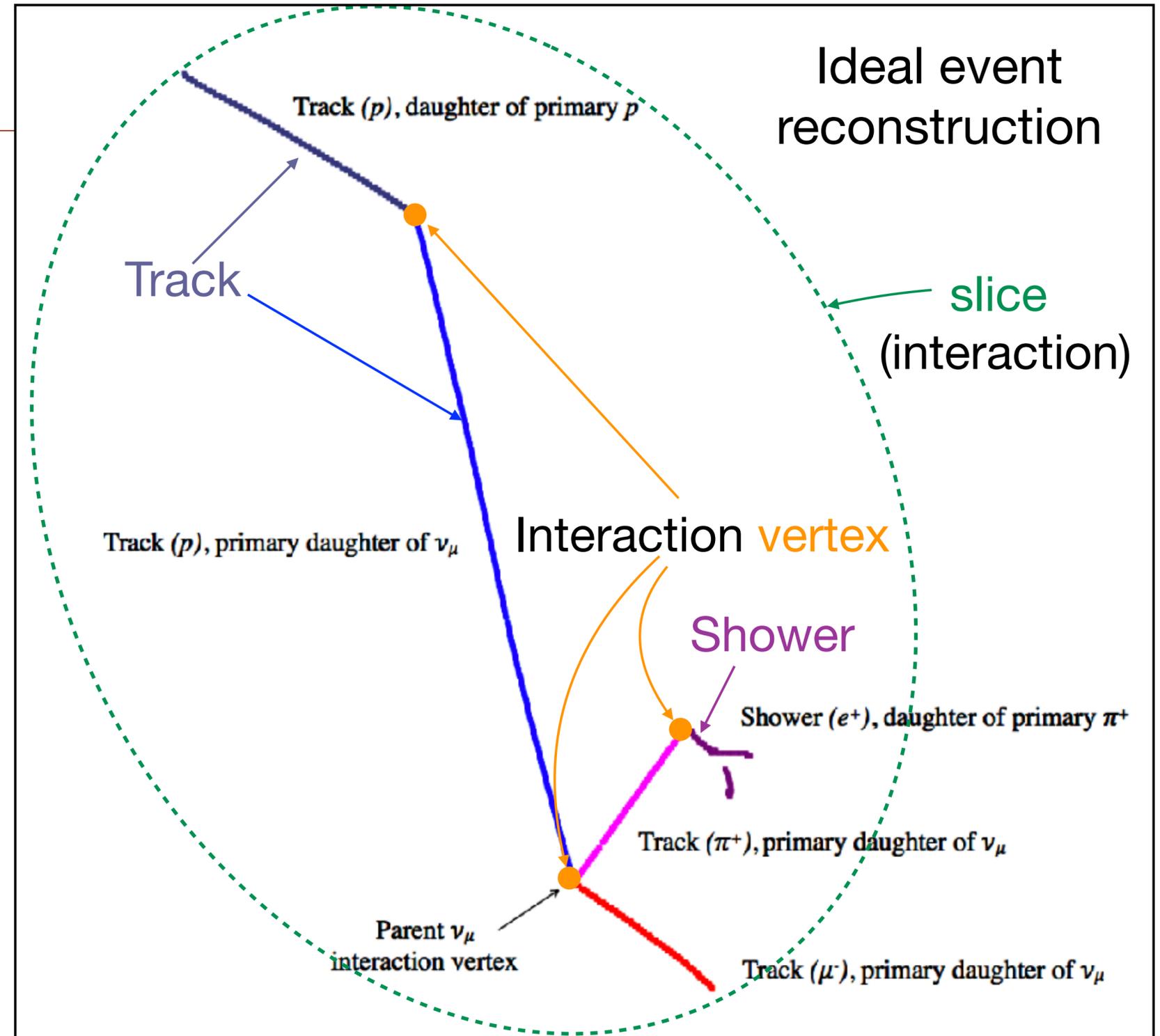
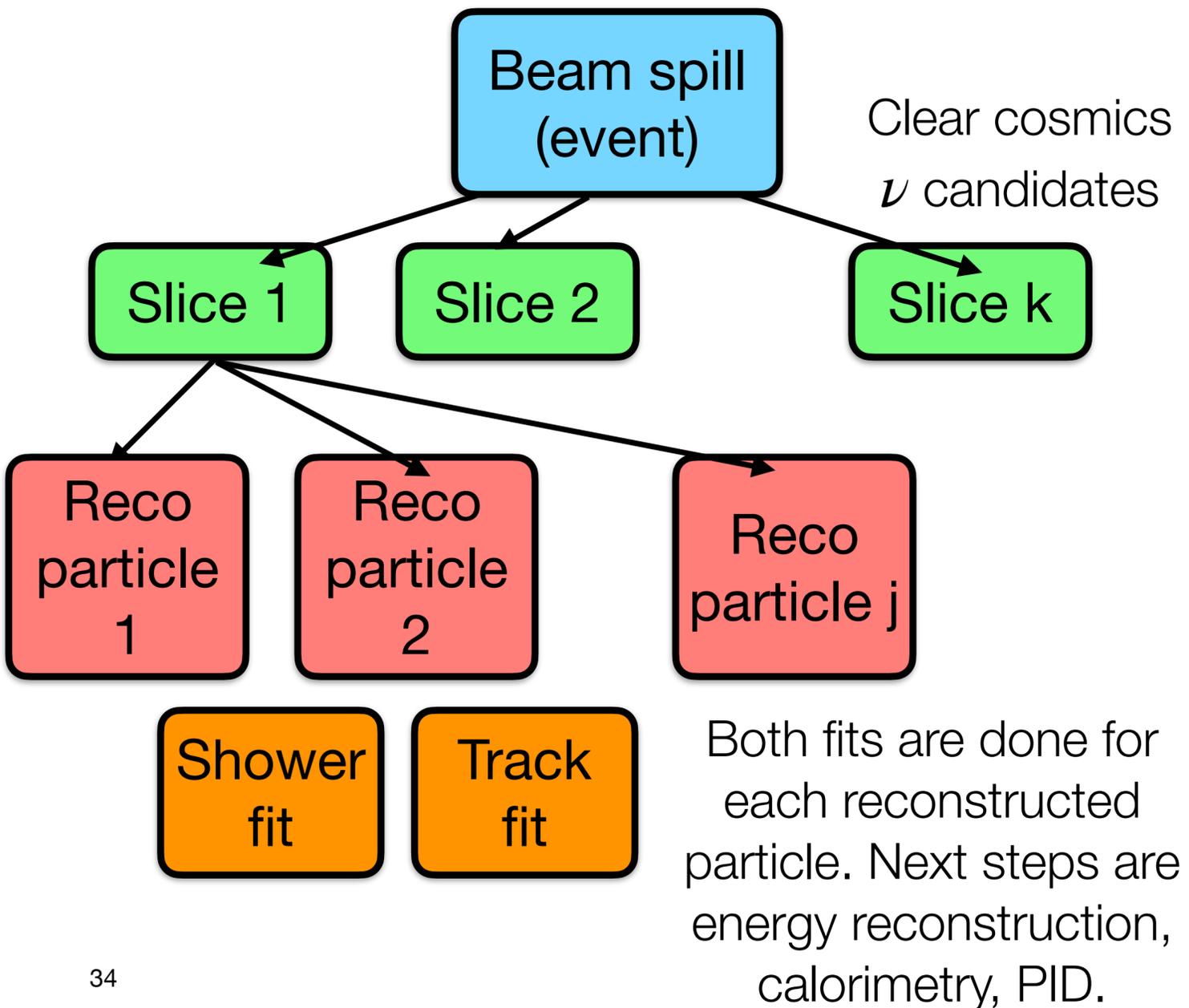
Further details in [Eur. Phys. J. C 83:467 \(2023\)](#)

Pandora-based event reconstruction

- Pandora (<https://github.com/PandoraPFA>) is a multi-algorithm pattern-recognition software with LArSoft interface (<https://larsoft.org>) commonly used in detectors based on LAr technology to:
 - **Cluster** the objects together into **reconstructed particles in 3D** by joining information (*hits*) from the TPC wire planes into a reconstructed interaction (i.e. a *slice*);
 - Reconstruct the **interaction vertex**, i.e. the common point where reconstructed particles originate and thus the point where the ν candidate interacted;
 - Reconstruct **particle hierarchy** (parent/child particles);
 - Classifies particles as **track-like** (μ , p , π^\pm , ...) or **shower-like** (e , γ ...)
- There is a series of algorithms that one can alter/expand or replace with alternatives
- Machine Learning algorithms, e.g. Boosted Decision Trees (**BDTs**) are used in 3 steps of the chain:
 - **Slice identification** to separate candidate ν events from cosmics
 - **Vertex selection** from candidate important points
 - **Track vs shower discrimination**

Pandora-based event reconstruction

- Ultimate output of Pandora is reconstructed interaction hierarchies:



- <https://github.com/PandoraPFA>

Pandora-based event reconstruction: new BDT training to discriminate tracks and showers

- BDT based on a set of reconstruction variables: 8 geometrical (5 calorimetric) from the 3D coordinates (charge) of the hits
- Output is a *track score*: parameter in range [-1,1] track-like (if ≥ 0), shower-like (if < 0) particle

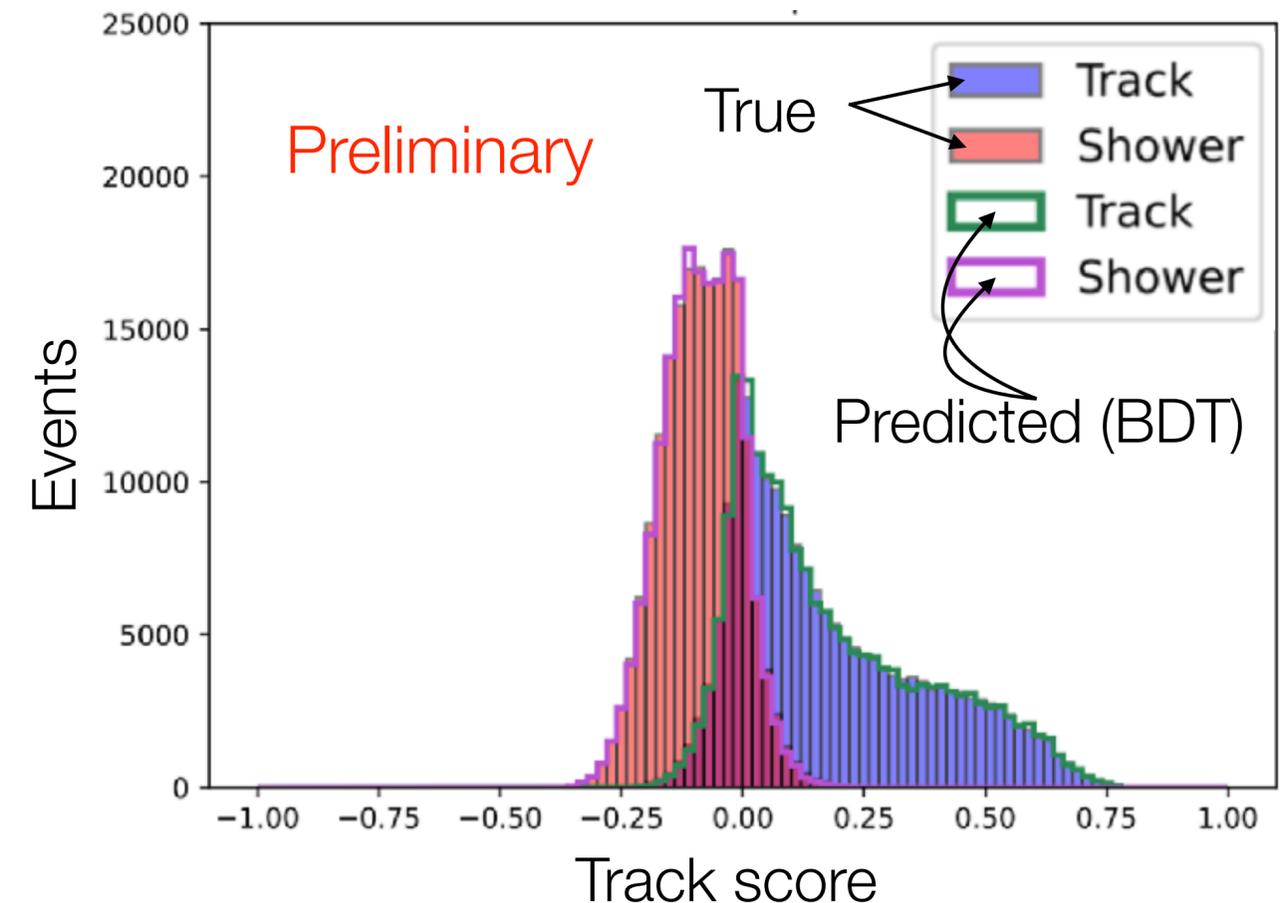
New training based on BNB ν -only
ICARUS MC recently introduced

- 3 additional charge variables to improve the discrimination capability
- Cross-Validation strategy to maximize the classification efficiency
- training sample with $n_{\text{tracks}} = n_{\text{showers}}$
- good events: only events from ν interactions with $n_{\text{hits}} \geq 15$ for $n_{\text{views}} \geq 2$

Test sample

Training sample	$\epsilon_{\text{classification}}$	v only	v + cosmics good events
	v only	81.8%	81.4%
	v + cosmics good events	81.5%	82.0%
	old training	72.0%	71.8%

Preliminary



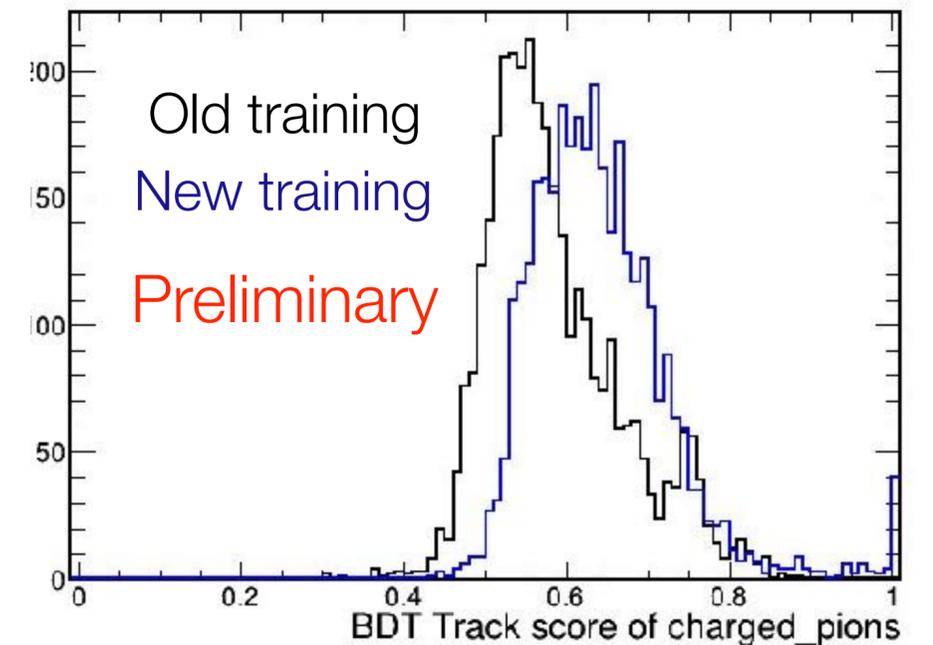
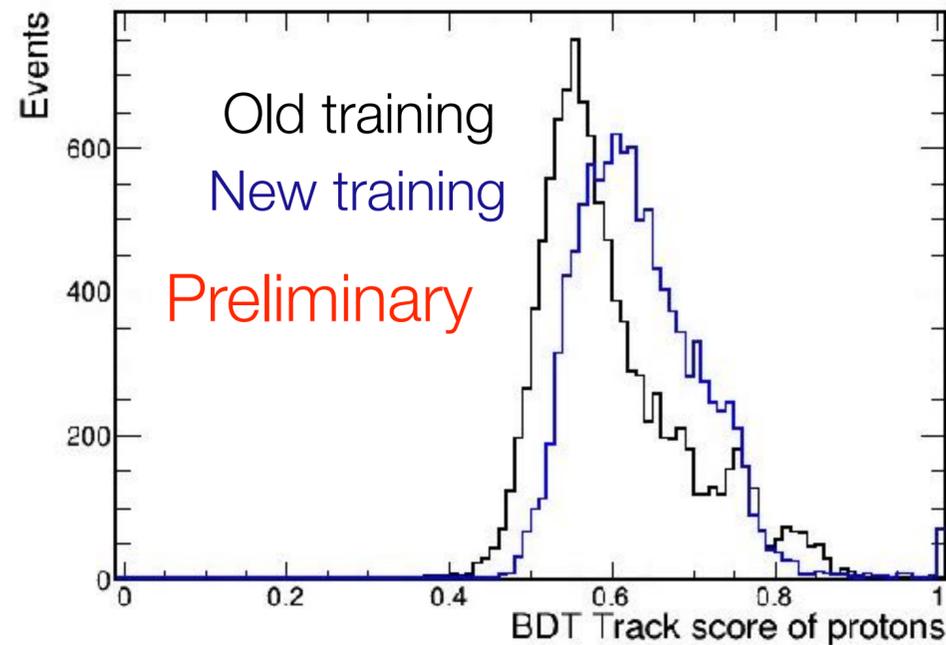
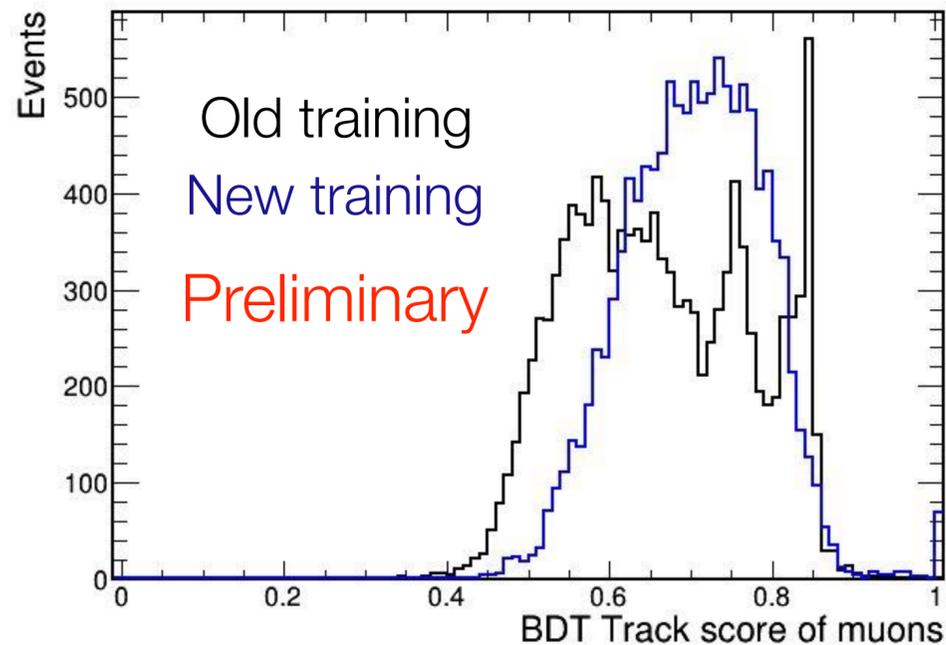
Pandora-based event reconstruction: new BDT training to discriminate tracks and showers

- Validation to exclude bias on the event selection, i. e. dependence on $E, \theta_{xz}, \theta_{yz}, L_{track}$
- Sample: $\mathcal{O}(5 \cdot 10^4)$ MC events BNB ν_μ, ν_e only, NuMI ν only w/ (w/o) good reconstruction [**]

$$\frac{\mathcal{E}_{\text{classification}}(\mu + p + \pi^\pm) \text{ in trks} + e^- \text{ in shws}}{(\mu + p + \pi^\pm + e^-) \text{ reco}}$$

Good events	Old training	New training	Δ
BNB ν only	94.6%	97.8%	3.2%
NuMI ν only pre-tuning [*]	82.9%	96.9%	14.0%
NuMI ν only tuned [*]	89.6%	95.4%	5.4%

All events	Old training	New training	Δ
BNB ν only	72.3%	80.3%	8.0%
NuMI ν only pre-tuning [*]	67.8%	79.9%	12.1%
NuMI ν only tuned [*]	66.7%	79.2%	12.5%



Track score BDT variables for track/shower discrimination

- The BDT uses 10 input variables:
 1. Length: estimate of length of the reconstructed particle
 2. Sliding linear fit: Estimate of difference with respect to a straight line averaged over planes (divided by length so it's a fraction and not length correlated)
 3. Sliding linear fit: Estimate of the largest gap averaged on planes (again divided by length)
 4. Sliding linear fit: Estimate of the RMS averaged on planes (divided by length...)
 5. Vertex distance: distance from the interaction vertex to the start of the particle
 6. Difference in beginning and end direction of the reconstructed particle: computes an angle relating to a few points at the beginning and at the end of the particle

Track score BDT variables for track/shower discrimination

- The BDT uses 10 input variables:

7. Principal Component Analysis: secondary eigenvalue / primary
(estimate of how linear the particle is)

8. Principal Component Analysis: tertiary eigenvalue / primary
(estimate of how linear the particle is)

9. Charge variable 1: fractional spread of charge values calculated as follows:

$$C_1 = \frac{\sigma/\sqrt{N}}{\mu} \quad \text{where } \mu = \sum_{hit} q_{hit} \text{ (mean charge) , } \sigma^2 = \sum_{hit} (q_{hit} - \mu)^2 \text{ , } \sigma/\sqrt{N} \text{ an RMS/mean}$$

10. Charge variable 2: fraction of the total charge that is near the end of the particle

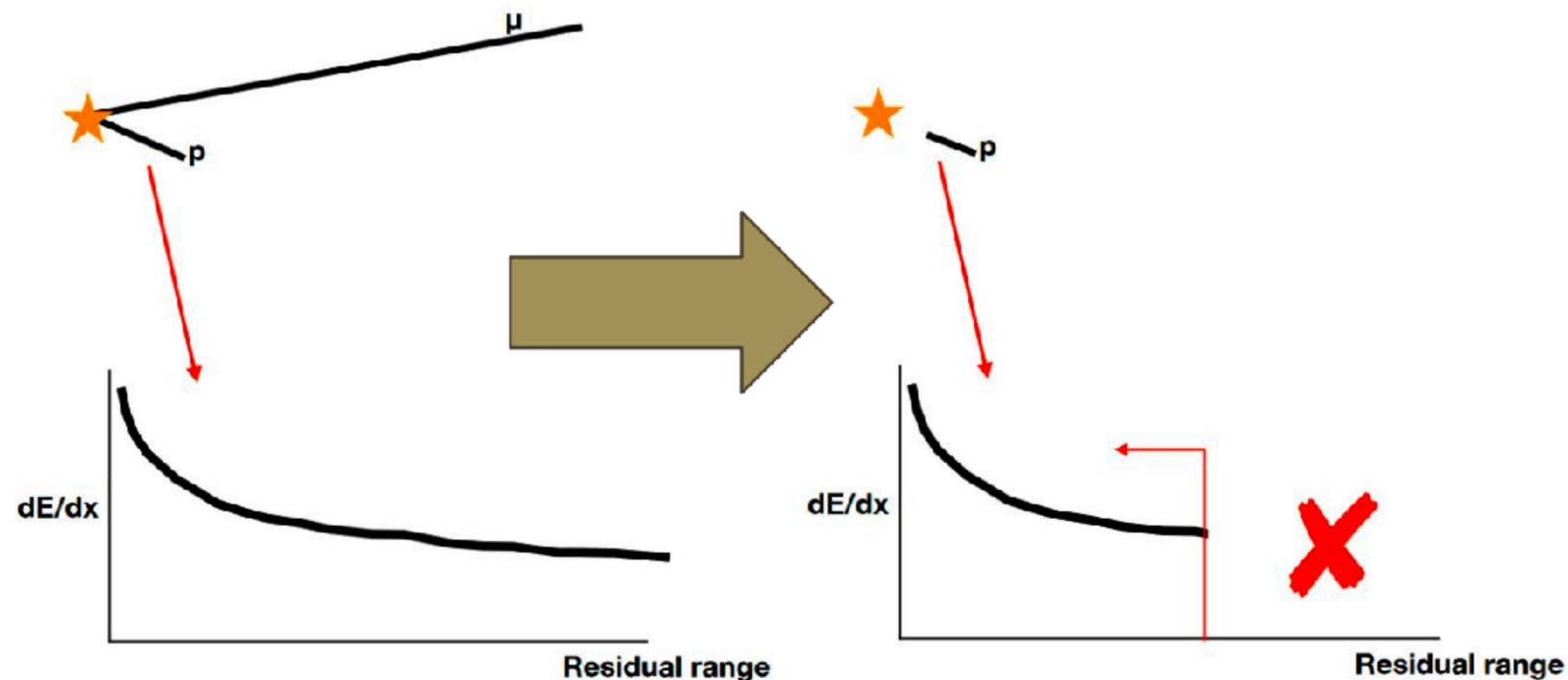
$$C_2 = \frac{q_{end}}{q_{tot}} \quad \text{where } q_{tot} \text{ is the total charge, } q_{end} \text{ the charge of the 10 \% hits near the end}$$

Track score BDT variables for track/shower discrimination

- **Halo total ratio:** in the shower hypothesis, the fraction of charge in the external halo, evaluated summing the energy of the hits whose transverse distance (R_T) to the cluster direction (outcome of PCA) is above 20% of the Moliere Radius ($R_M = 10$ cm);
- **Concentration:** in the shw hp, the ratio between the concentration and the total charge, where concentration is the sum of E/R_T for all the hits and the total charge is halo + cone charge, cone (halo) includes hits with $R_T < (>) 0.2 R_M$;
- **Conicalness:** in the shw hp, this variable quantifies the how the charge is distributed in the cone and increases if the charge is concentrated in the final part of the cone, it is computed as the ratio between charge in the final part/charge in the initial part of the cone (weighted by R_T^2) normalized to the ratio total end charge/total start charge.

Pandora-based event reconstruction: study of systematics and performance

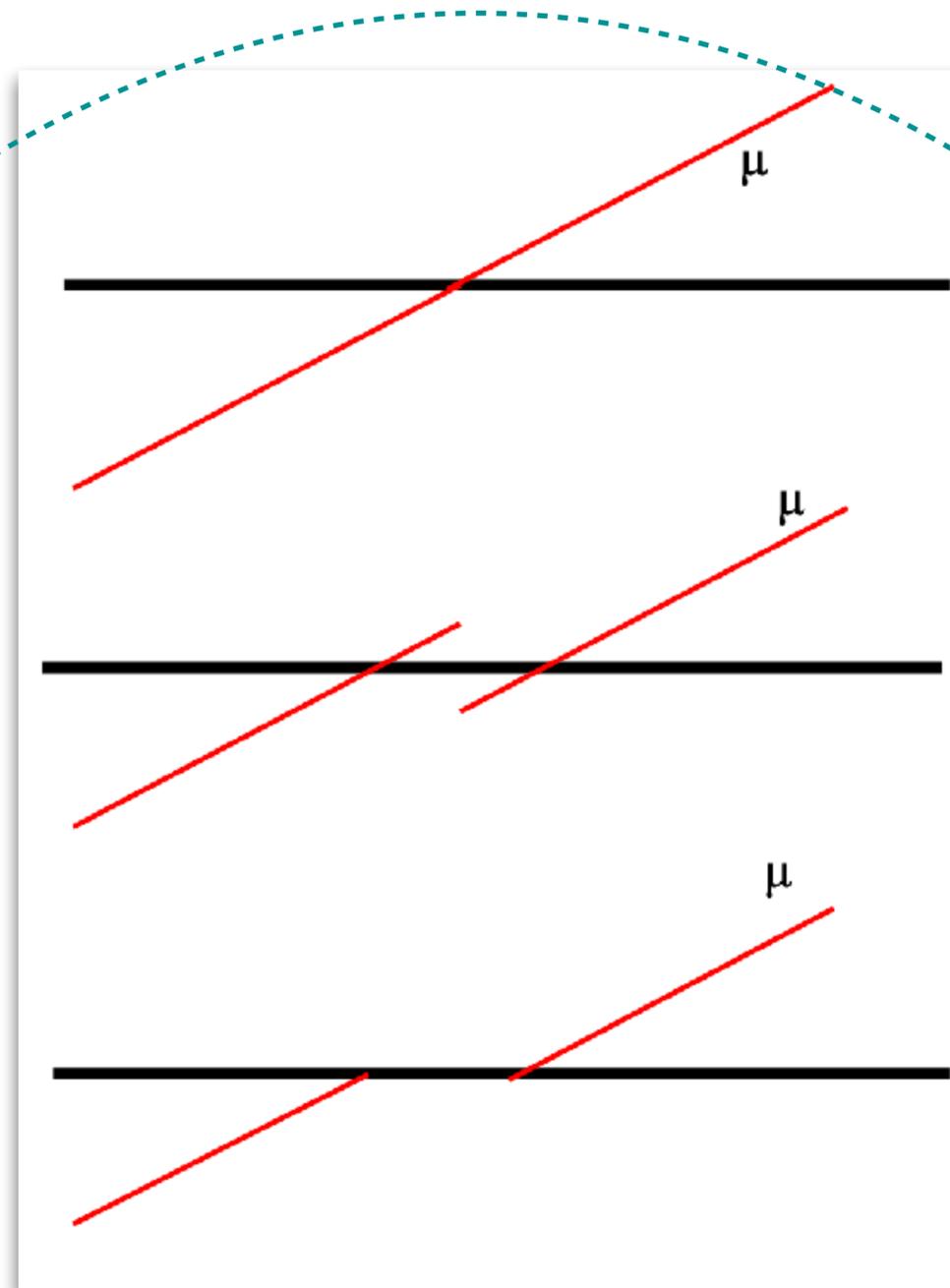
- Goal: understand and account for differences in reconstruction between data and MC
- *Hit Activity Removal from Particles for Systematics (HARPS)*: the basic idea is to operate on picked particles and reduce their size (e.g. take a long, clear proton and make it shorter by removing hits at the beginning of the track \leftrightarrow similar to starting with a lower energy proton) and analyse the impact on reconstructed quantities - data driven validation of ML algorithms



Example: HARPS on
a sample of protons
from ν +cosmics MC

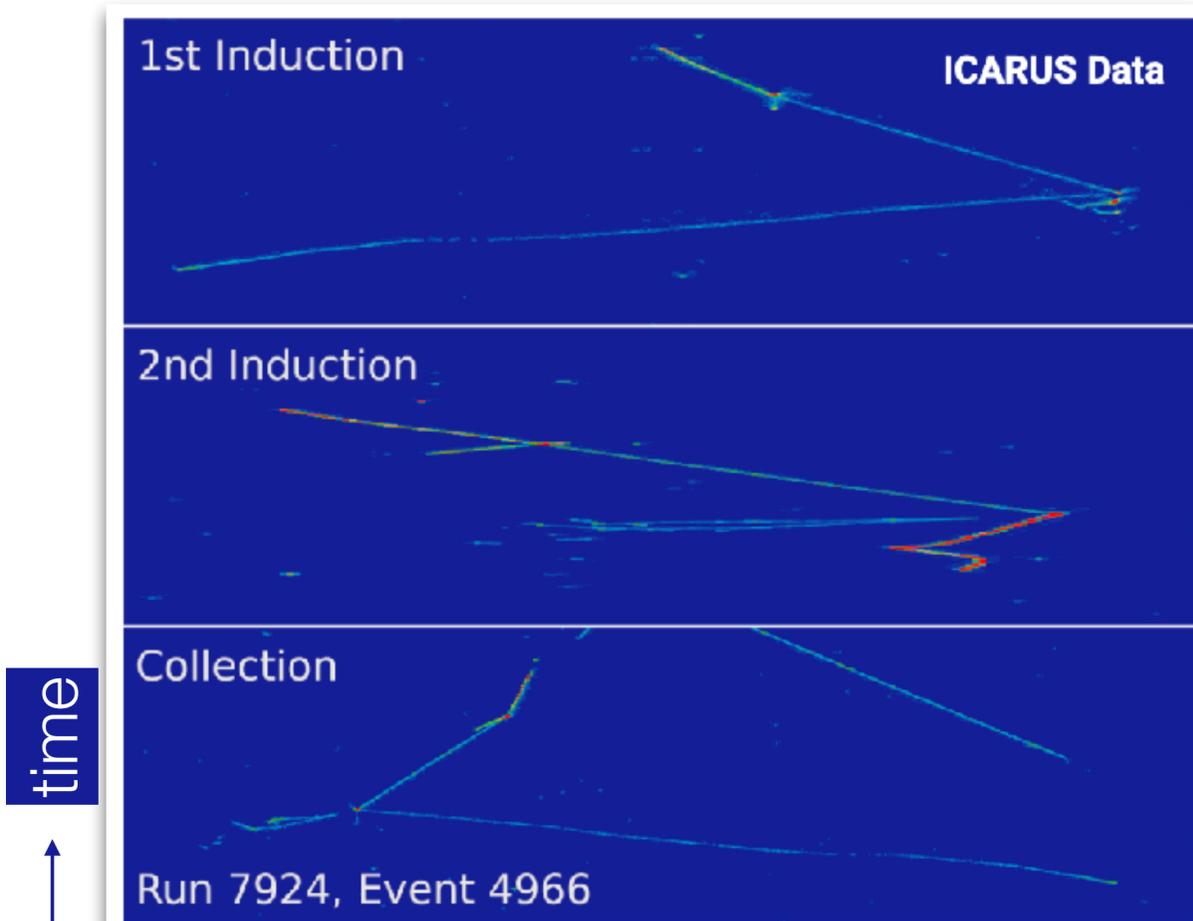
Pandora-based event reconstruction: improvements to MC simulations

- Difference in data and MC:
 $t = 0$ in an event was different:
 - In data: time of the trigger
 - In MC: start of the beam time
- Can lead to the effect of splitting the tracks if the event start at $t > 0$, particularly relevant for NuMI (beam duration of the beam spill is $9.6 \mu\text{s}$) as shown in the cartoon

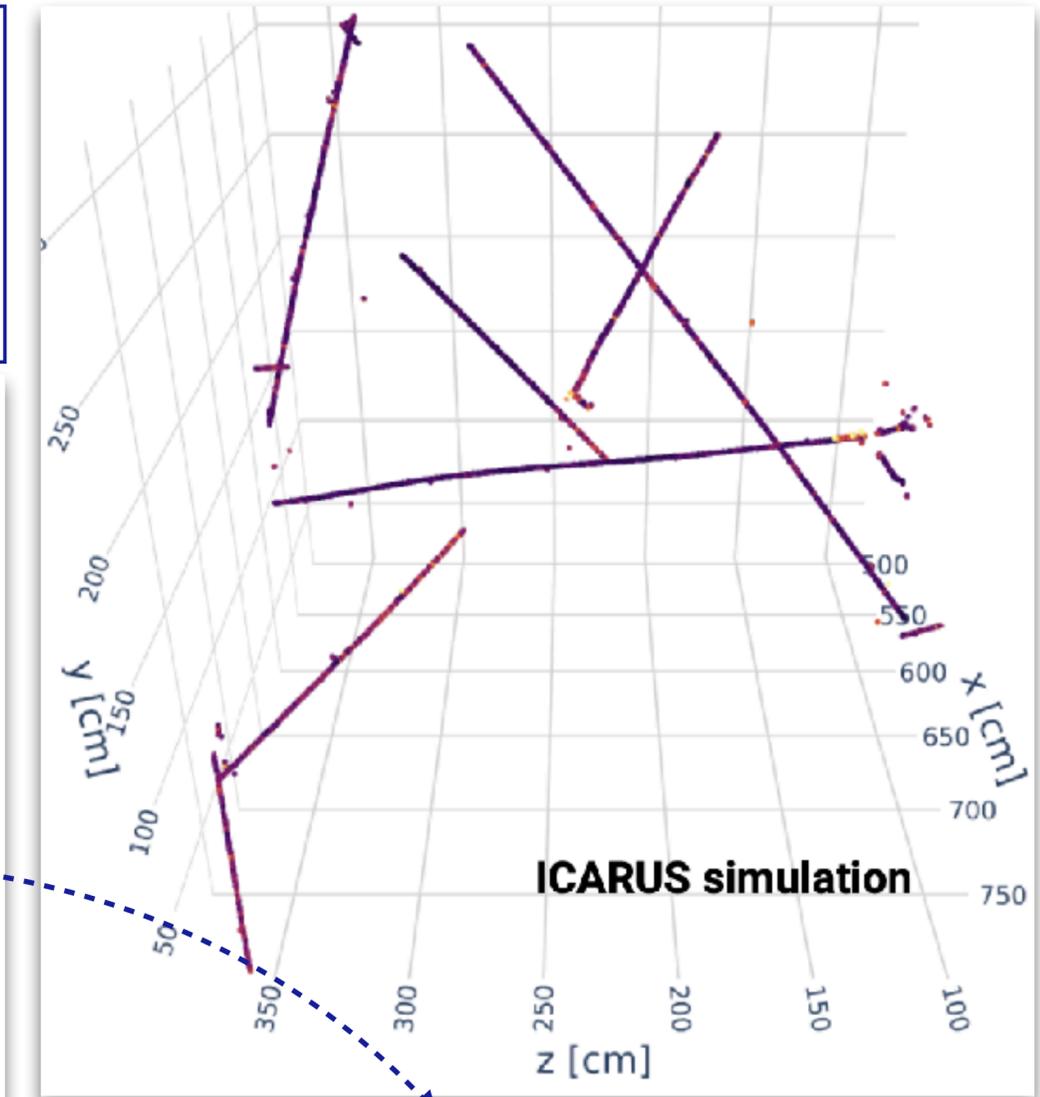
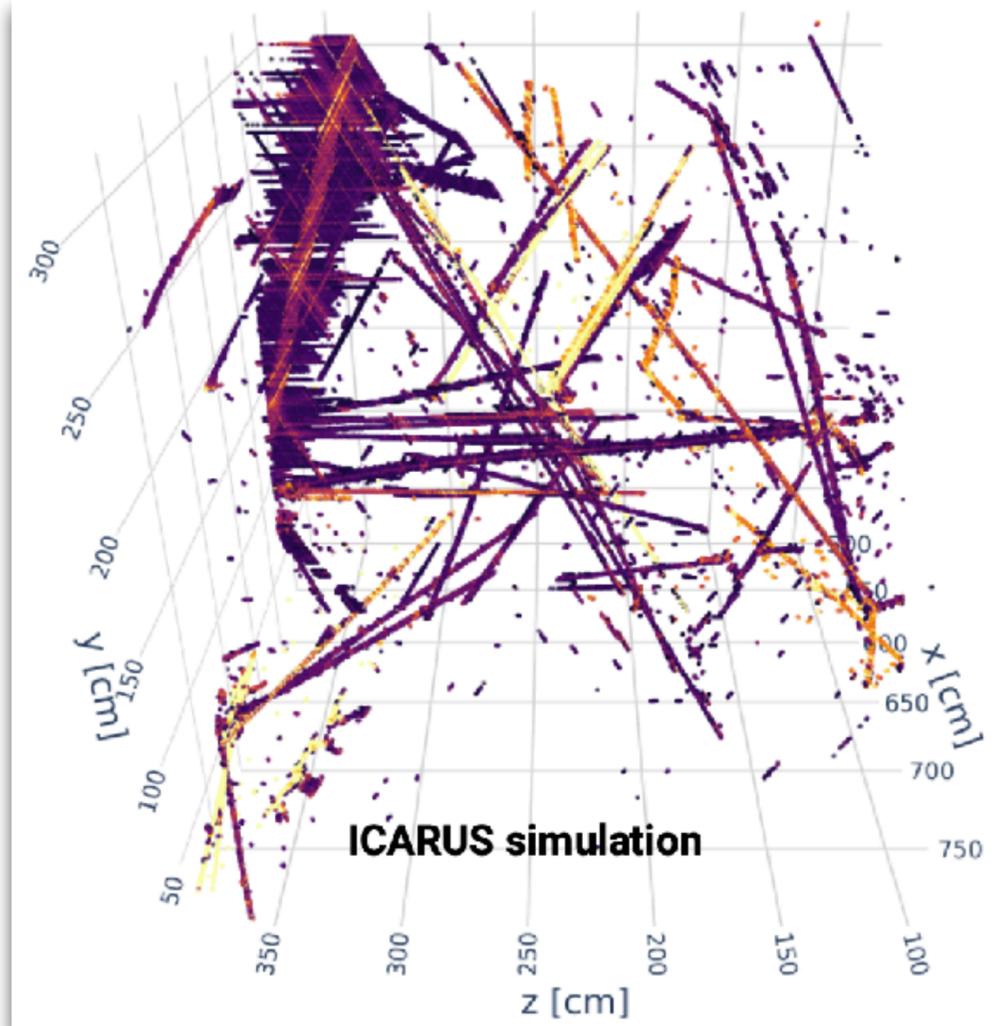


- New module to emulate the trigger added to the simulation tools improving the vertex reconstruction

1 ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction



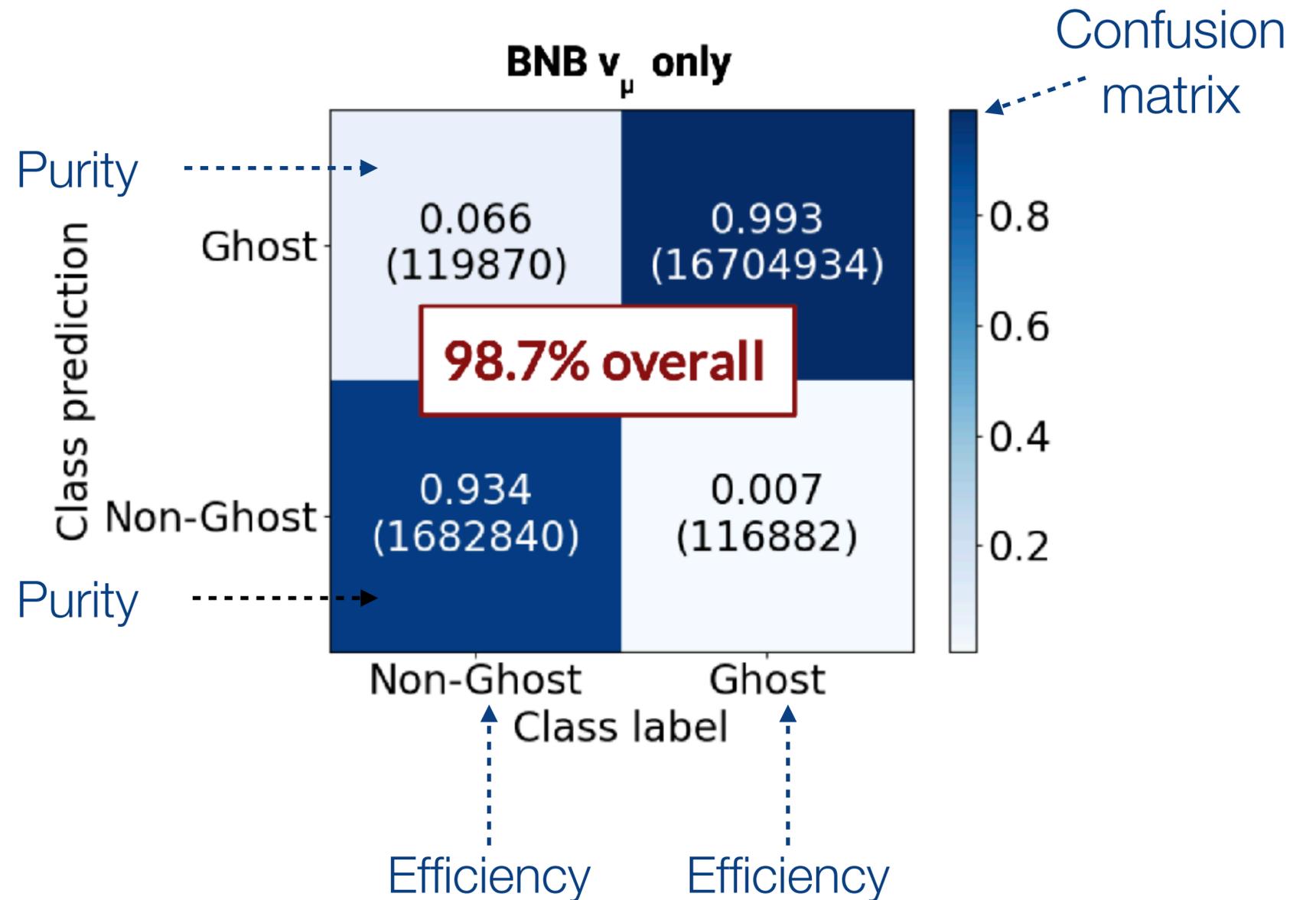
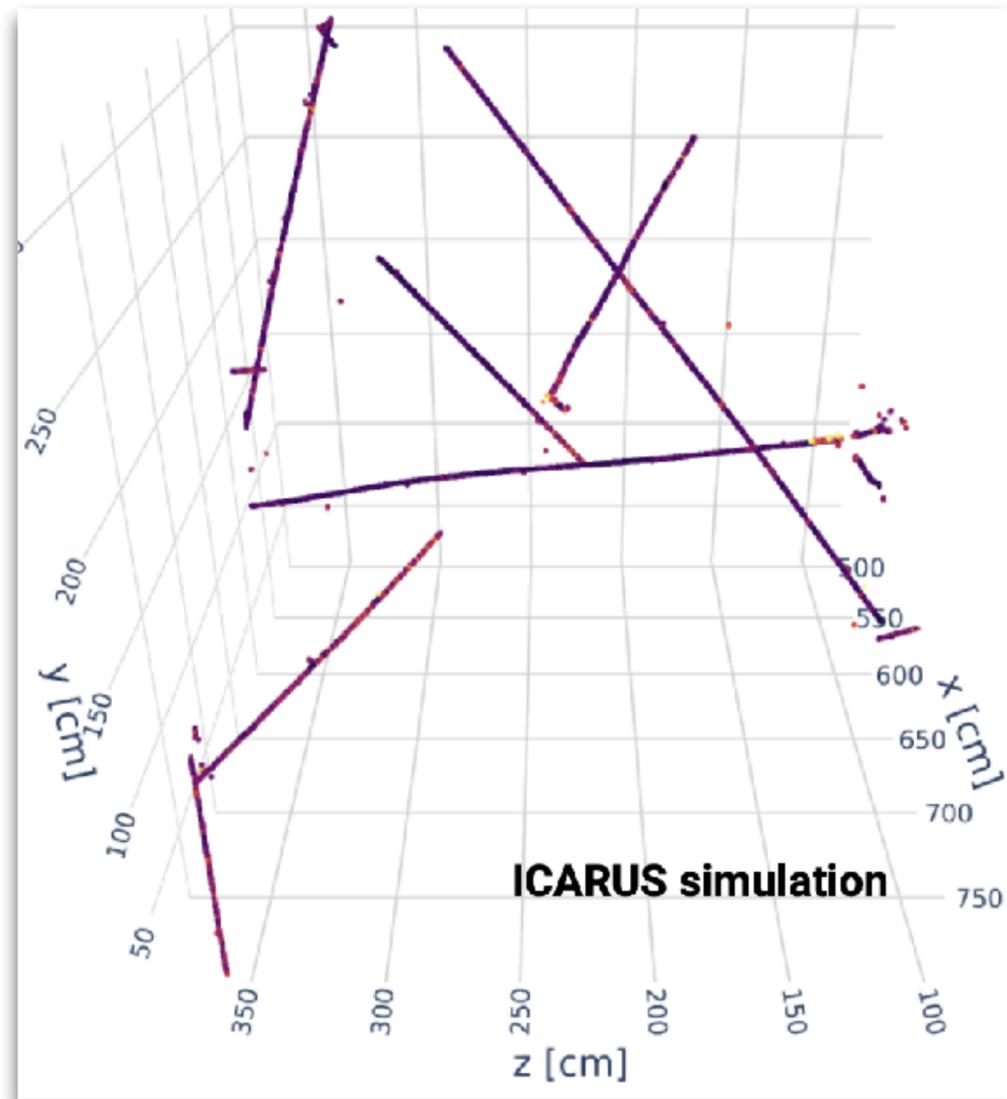
Cluster 3D: make all valid (time-compatible & intersecting) combinations of hits across 2 wire planes



Deghosting: use U-ResNet to identify and remove *artifacts* of the reconstruction

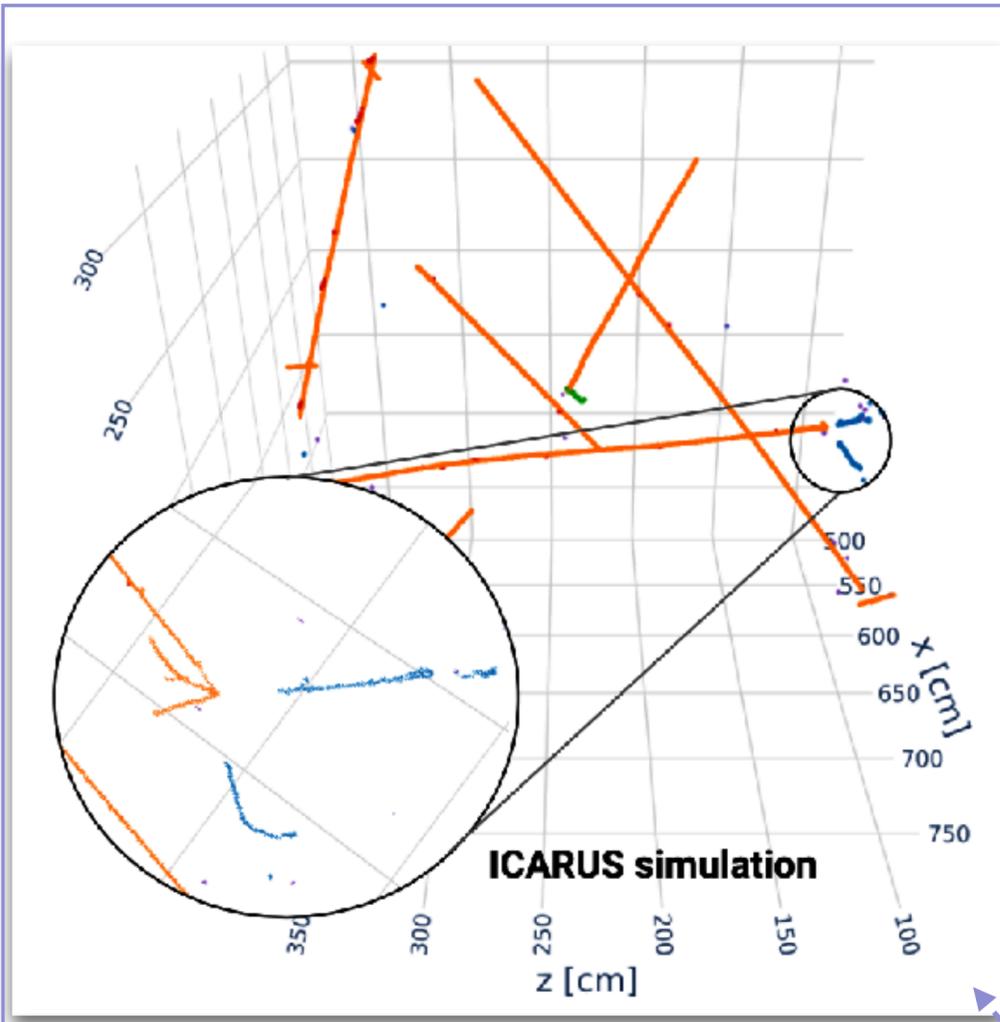
Starting point:
3 wire planes ↔ 3 x 2D images

1 ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction

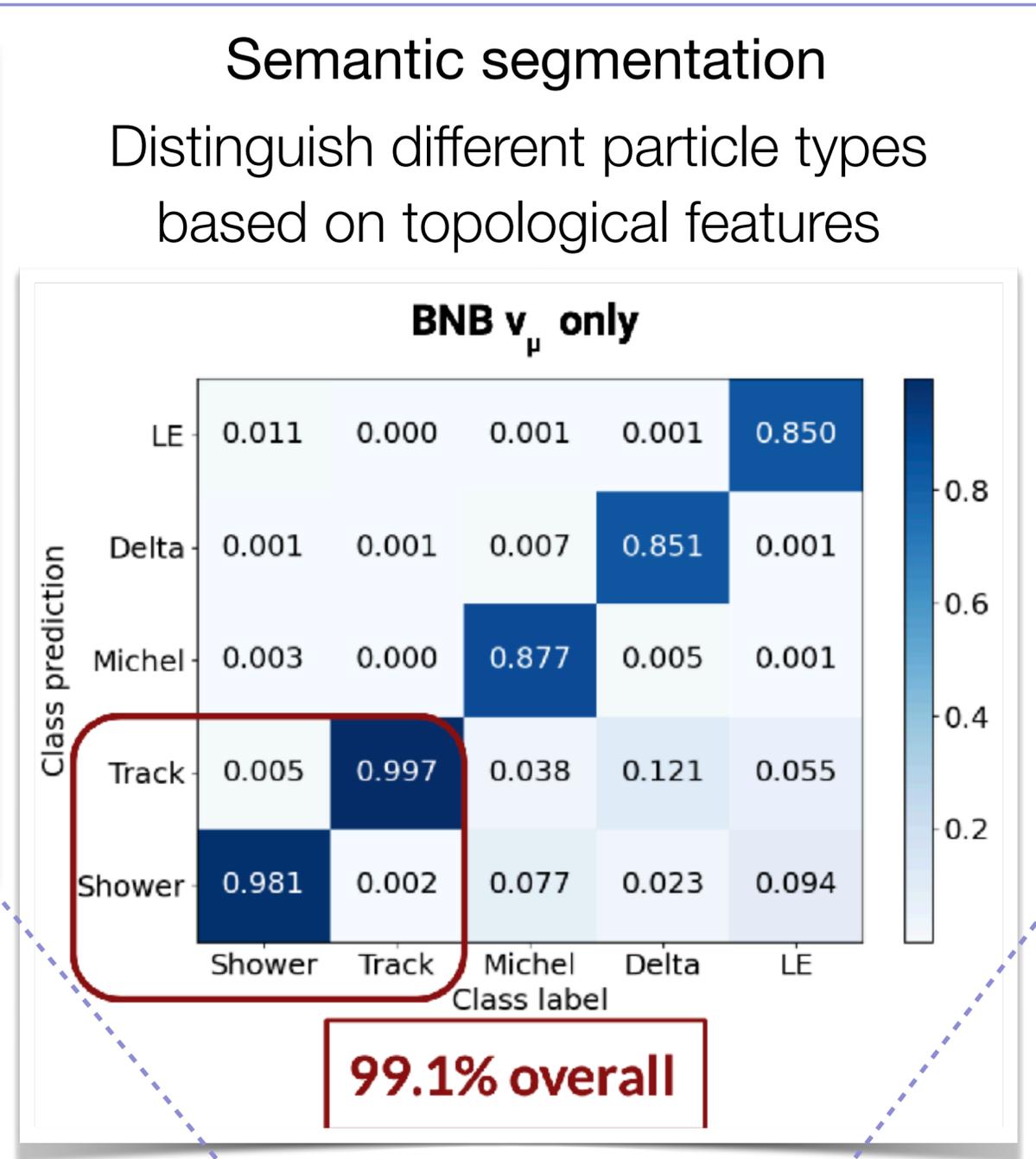


Deghosting: use U-ResNet to identify and remove *artifacts* of the reconstruction

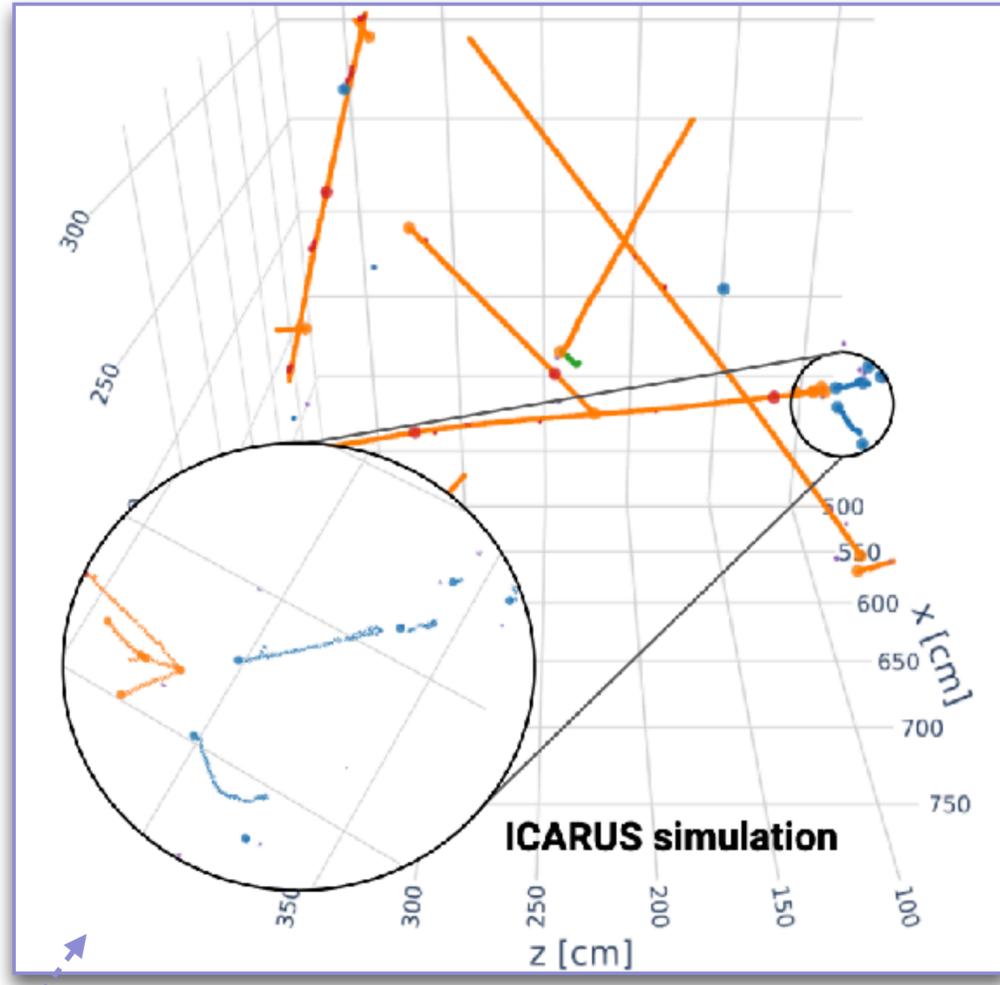
2 ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction



A score for each target particle class, EM shower, track-like, Michel electron, delta ray, low energy (LE), is predicted

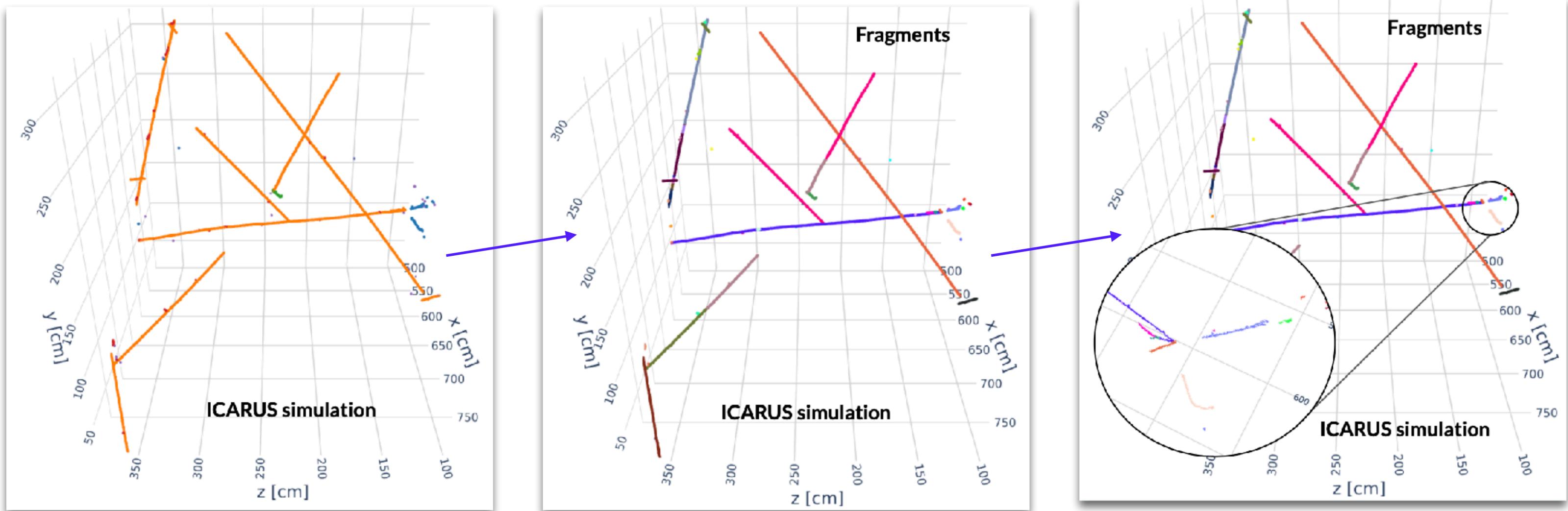


Sparse convolutional network ([U-ResNet](#))



Point of interest (PPN)
 Progressively narrow down a region to a single point with successive masks: 96% of points are found within 0.7 cm⁴⁴

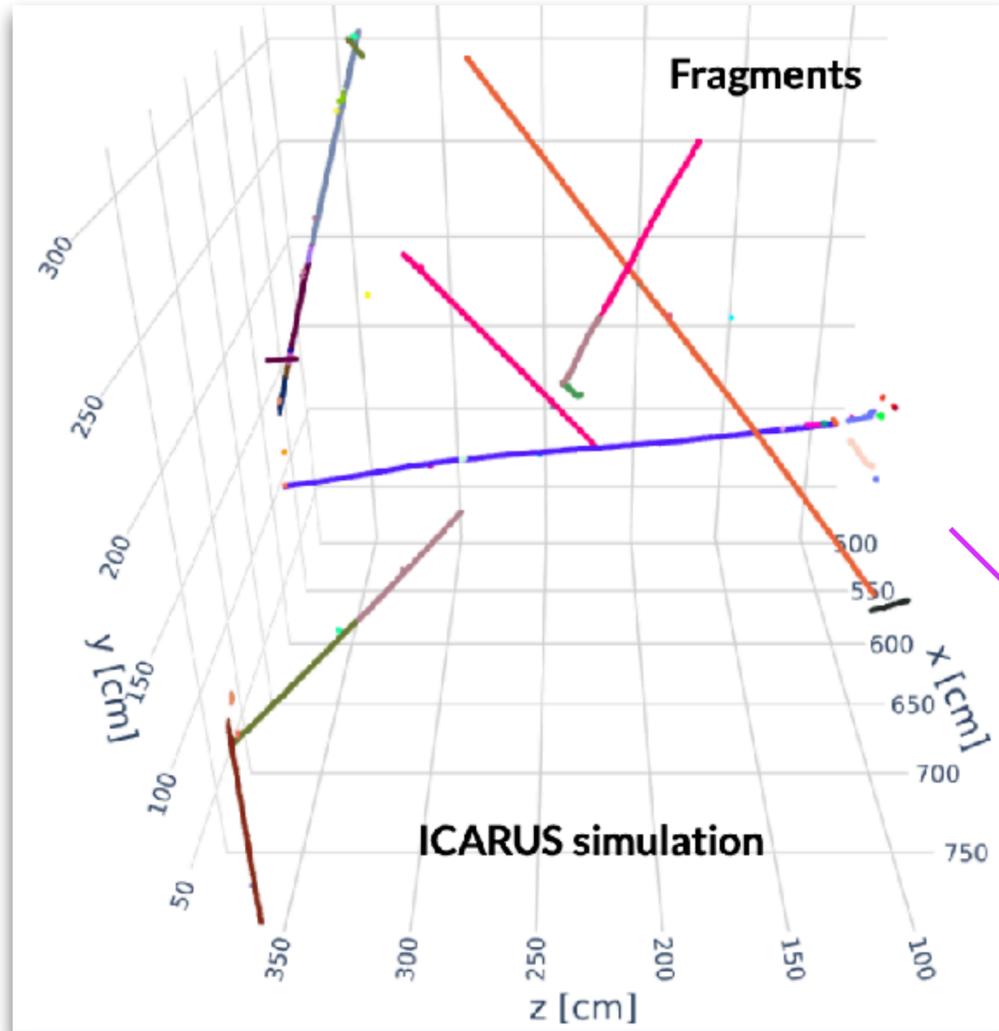
3 ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction



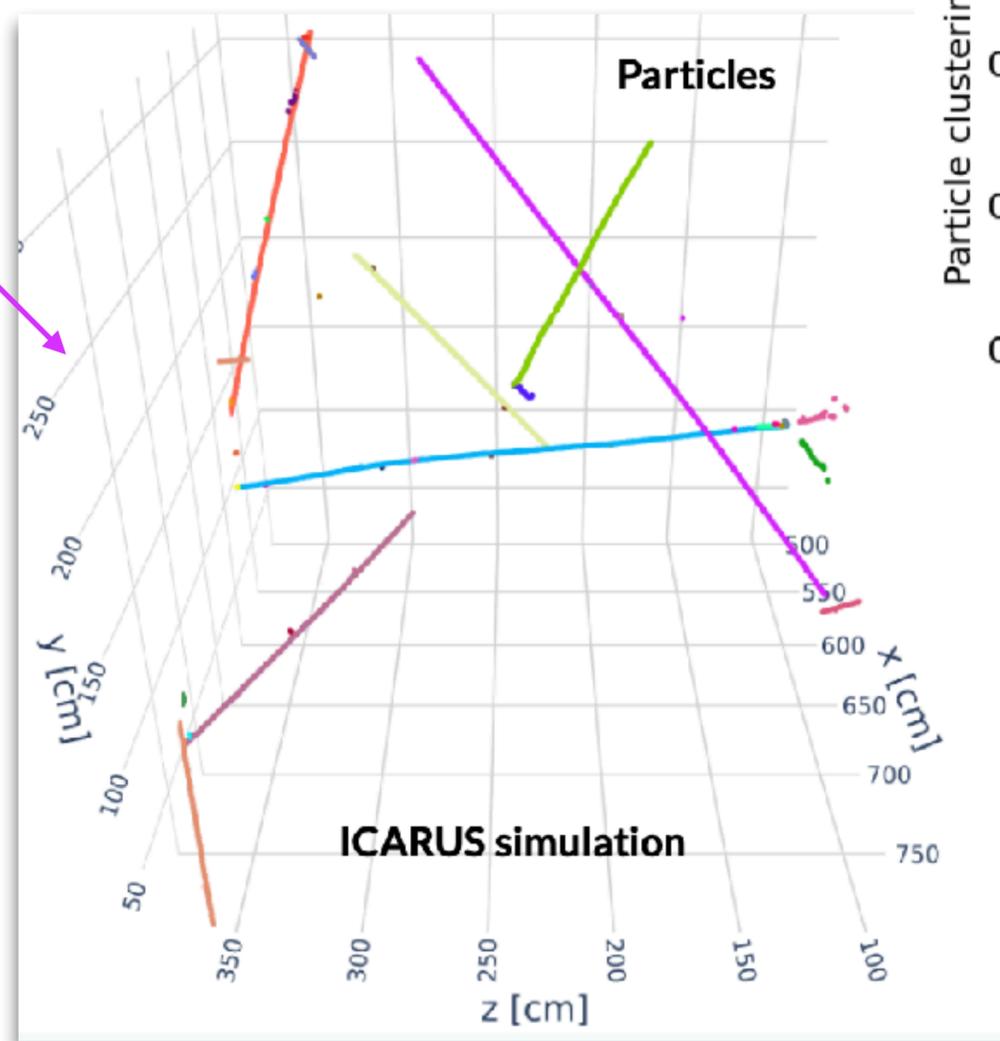
Dense clustering

Density based clustering (DBSCAN) used to cluster particle fragments that belong to a common semantic class, i.e. break track/shower fragments at PPN/where they touch

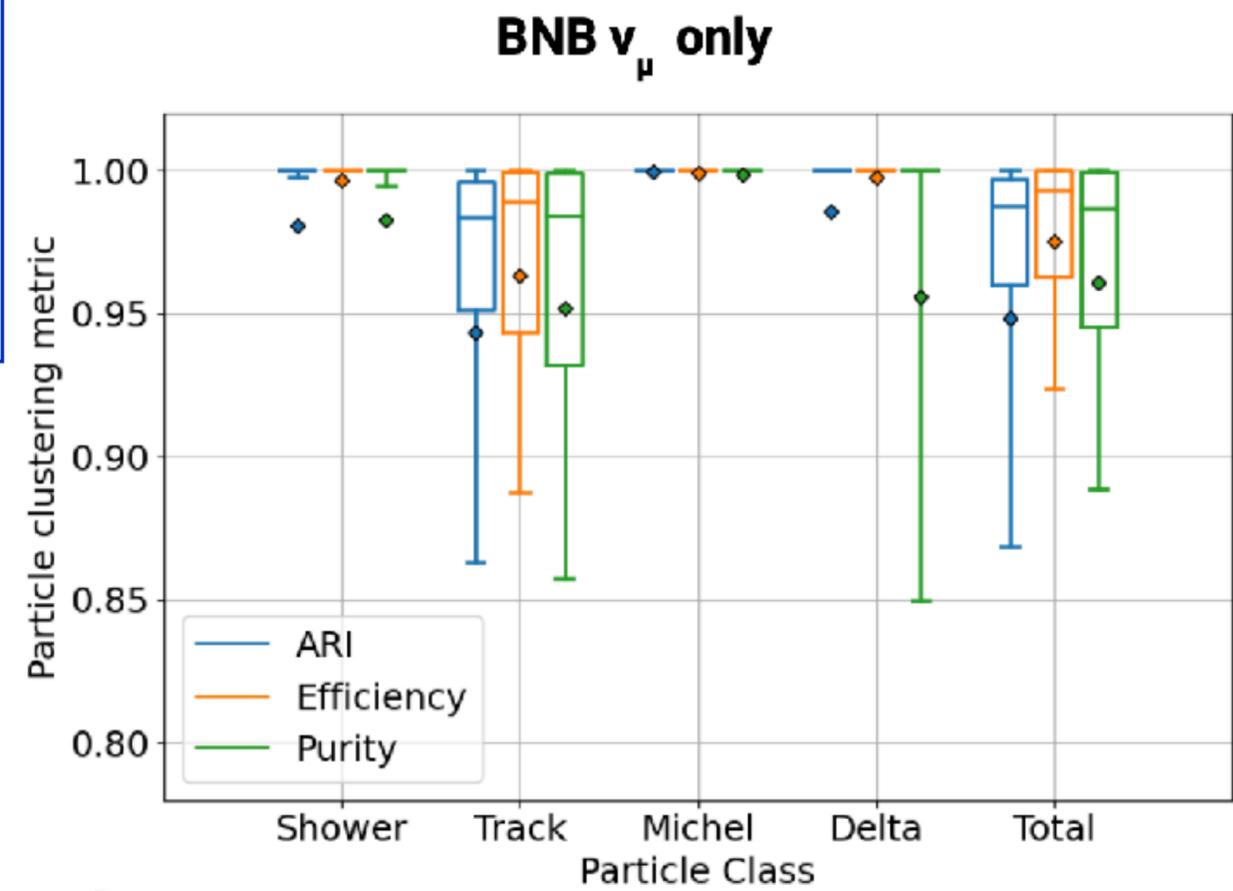
4 ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction



Particle aggregation
Use a Graph Neural Network (GNN) to aggregate fragments and form particles

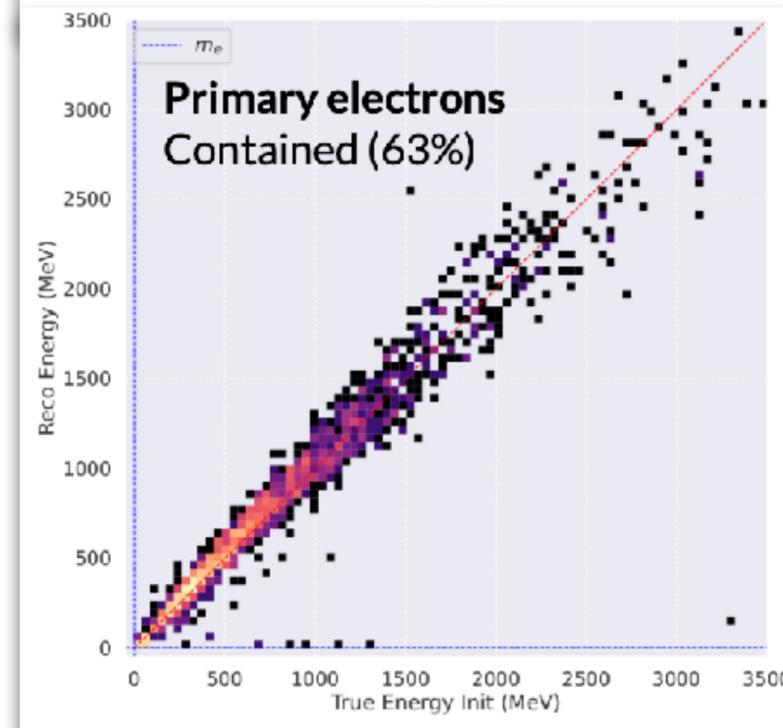
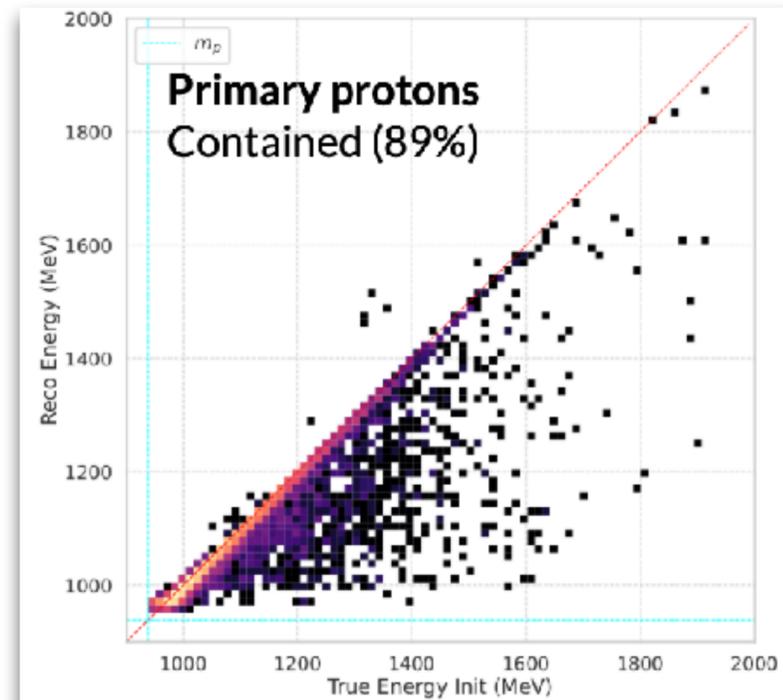
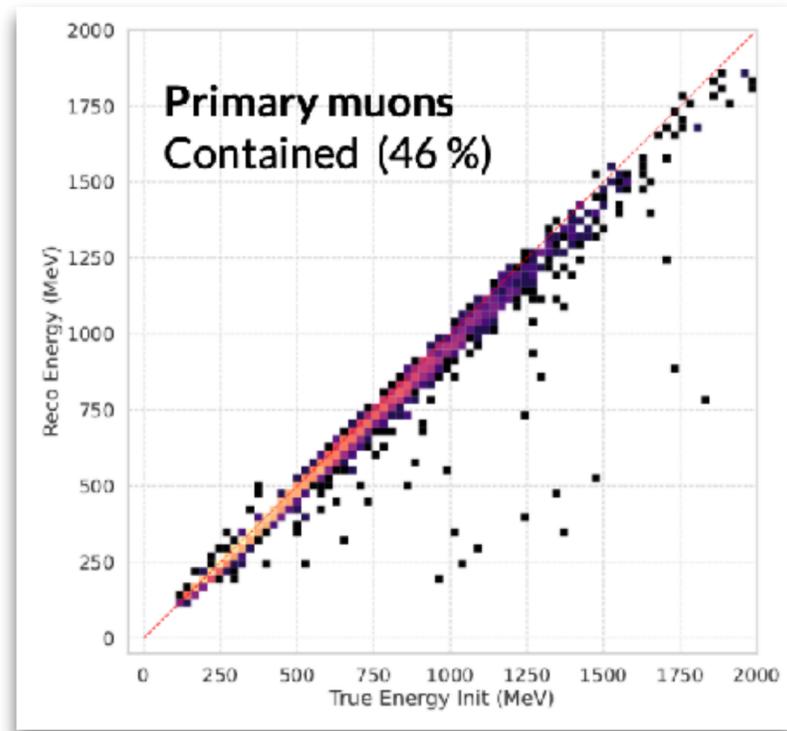


Represent the set of fragments as a set of *nodes* in a graph and connect them. *Edges* represent correlations between them.



Three metrics to characterize clustering performance:
efficiency (in both/true) [*]
purity (in both/predicted) [*]
ARI (Adjusted Rank Index)
[*] in both = pred & true

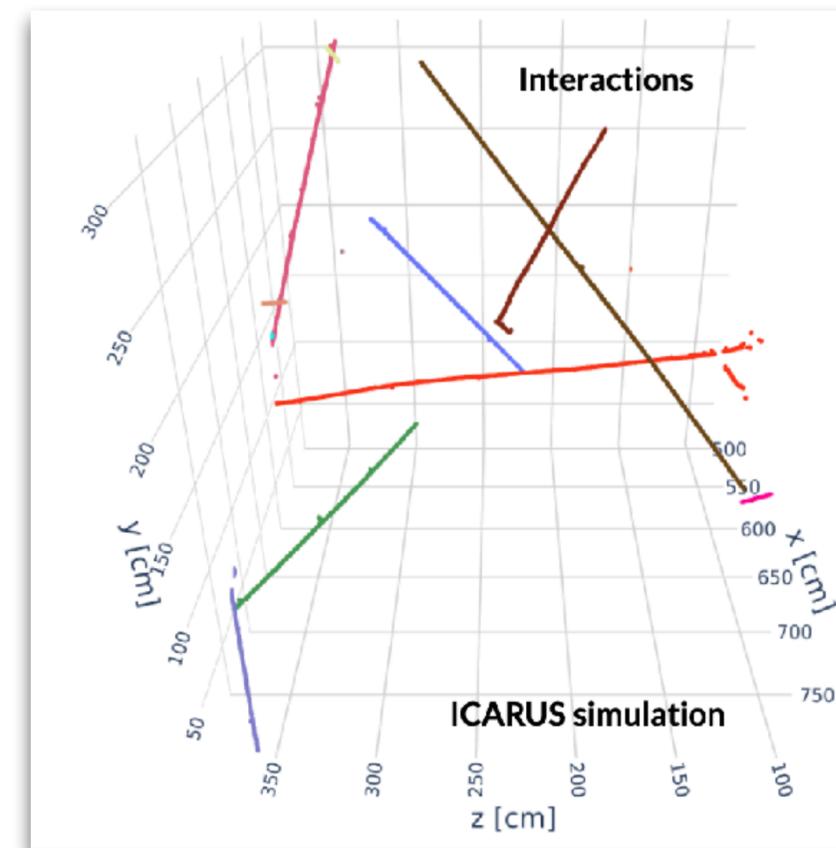
5 ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction



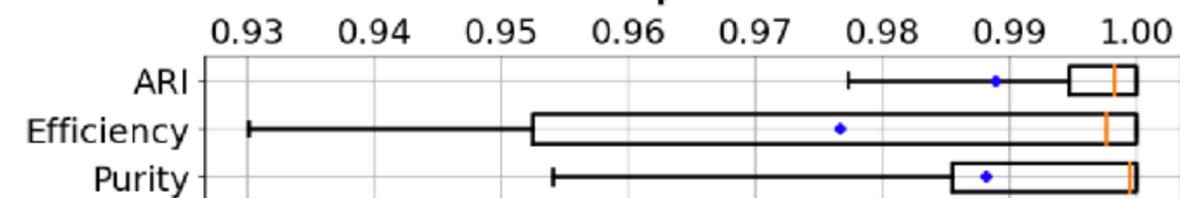
Traditional energy reconstruction

- range-based reconstruction for muons and protons
- calorimetric approach for electrons

Interaction aggregation
Use a Graph Neural Network (GNN) to aggregate particles and form interactions

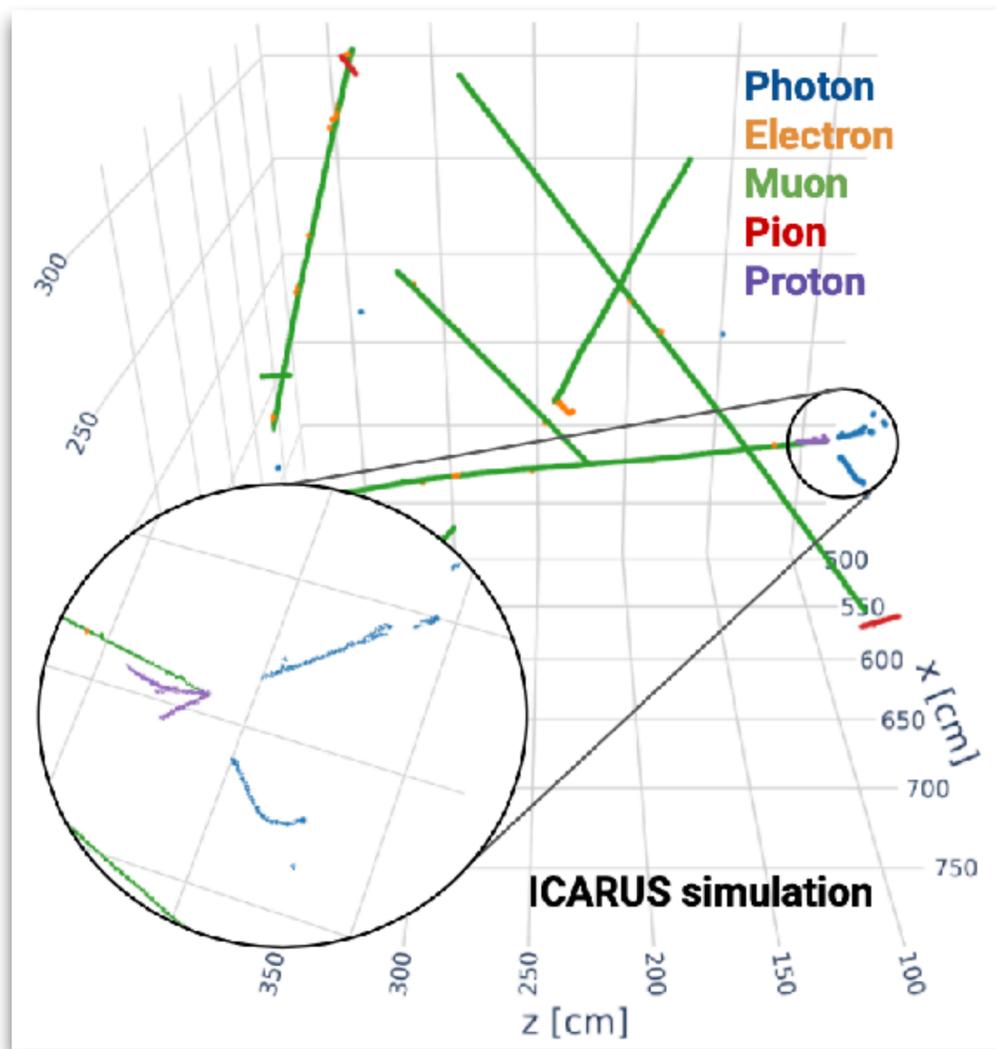


BNB ν_μ + Cosmics



5 ML-based event reconstruction: hierarchical feature extraction

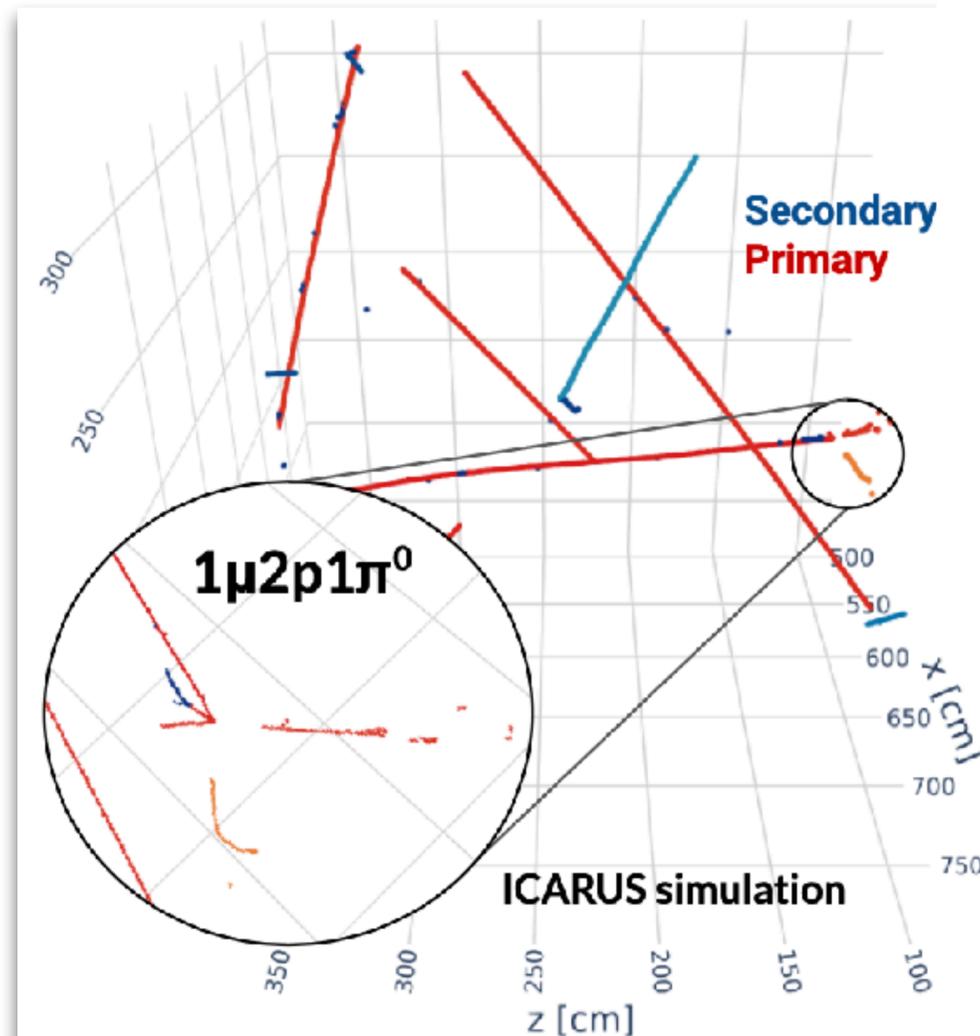
Particle identification



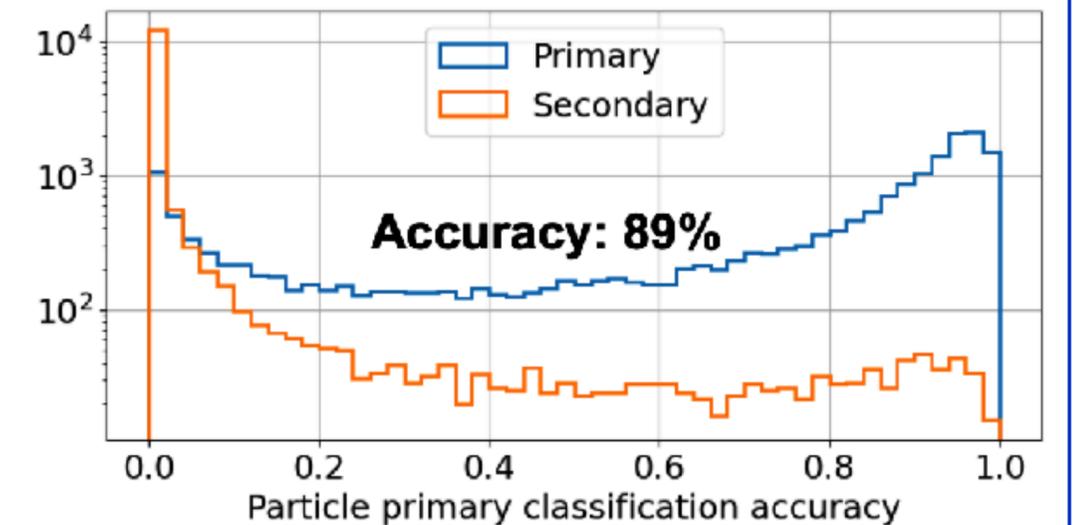
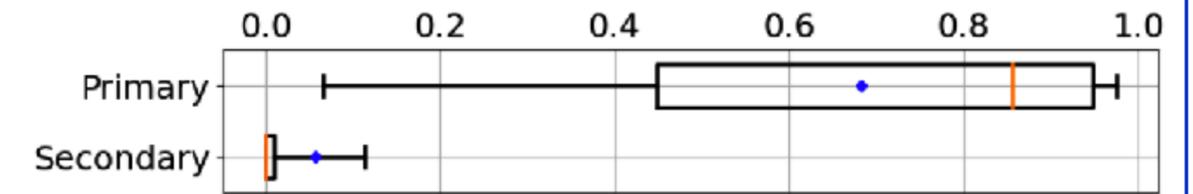
Use again GNN to identify particles e, γ, μ, π, p in context

Primary identification

Separate particle(s) which originate from the vertex.



BNB ν_μ primaries only



Use GNN to distinguish primary particles from secondaries. This is fundamental for any analysis studying a specific interaction channel.