

# ACTS project: Status and R&D

A. Salzburger (CERN)



# From where we come

- ▶ The [acts project](#) was started roughly 6 years ago
- ▶ Project Mission Statement:
  - Creating a toolbox of re-usable tools for experiments
    - detector agnostic top level tools
    - specification possibility for dedicated detectors/experiment
    - component library design
- ▶ Facilitate algorithmic and technology research
  - Allow easy extensibility
  - ML / Accelerator integration ( two **R&D** lines on acceleration / ML algorithms)

# Where we stand now

- ▶ Establish a feature rich toolbox
  - C++17 standard (preparing move to C++20)
  - Minimal dependencies (CMake, Eigen)
  - Plugins to enhance functionality
  - Enables parallel processing

- ▶ The [acts project](#) has an increased several base, e.g.



[acts-telescope@cern.ch](mailto:acts-telescope@cern.ch)

# Where we stand now

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'acts-project / acts'. The repository is public and has 102 stars and 156 forks. The main branch is 'main', and there are 108 branches and 158 tags. The repository description is 'Experiment-independent toolkit for (charged) particle track reconstruction in (high energy) physics experiments implemented in modern C++'. The repository includes a README, MPL-2.0 license, and a Code of conduct. The repository is categorized with tags: simulation, reconstruction, particle-track-reconstruction, and physics-experiment. The repository has 69 contributors and 102 stars.

acts-project / acts

Code Issues (101) Pull requests (53) Discussions Actions Projects (2) Security Insights Settings

acts Public Edit Pins Unwatch (10) Forks (156) Stars (102)

main 108 Branches 158 Tags Go to file Add file Code

andiwand refactor: Simplify layer handling in Navigator (#3190) a16e3e6 · 3 hours ago 7,805 Commits

File/Folder	Commit Message	Time
.github	feat: removing SYCL Plugin (#3186)	yesterday
Alignment	ci: Add clang-tidy check for nested namespace definition...	last month
CI	refactor!: Refactor CKF branch stopper to allow stop and ...	2 weeks ago
Core	refactor: Simplify layer handling in Navigator (#3190)	3 hours ago
Examples	chore: Use Fatras log level for propagation (#3191)	yesterday
Fatras	refactor: replace C-style casts (#3146)	3 weeks ago
Plugins	refactor!: Use std::string_view for addColumn in track E...	15 hours ago
Tests	feat: removing SYCL Plugin (#3186)	yesterday
cmake	feat: removing SYCL Plugin (#3186)	yesterday

About

Experiment-independent toolkit for (charged) particle track reconstruction in (high energy) physics experiments implemented in modern C++

[acts.readthedocs.io](https://acts.readthedocs.io)

simulation reconstruction particle-track-reconstruction physics-experiment

Readme MPL-2.0 license Code of conduct Cite this repository Activity Custom properties 102 stars

The Contributors section shows 69 contributors. The Languages section shows a bar chart of the repository's language composition: C++ 93.2%, Jupyter Notebook 3.0%, Cmake 1.4%, Cuda 1.1%, Python 1.0%, Shell 0.2%, and Other 0.1%.

Contributors (69)

+ 55 contributors

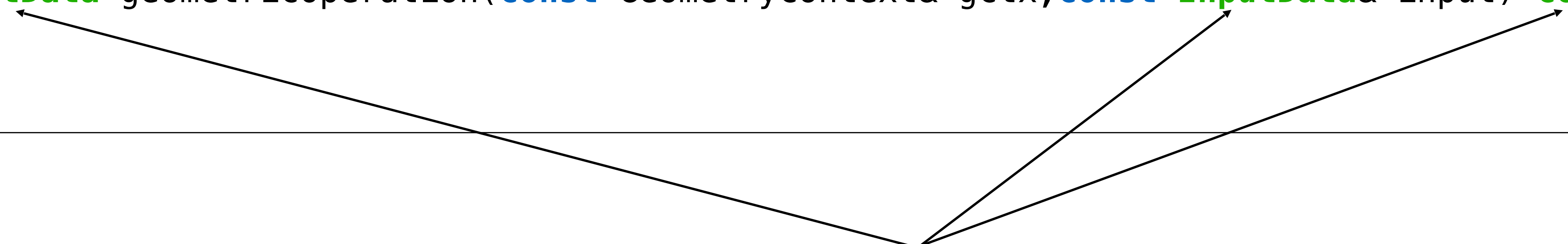
Languages

- C++ 93.2%
- Jupyter Notebook 3.0%
- Cmake 1.4%
- Cuda 1.1%
- Python 1.0%
- Shell 0.2%
- Other 0.1%

# Core concepts: multi threading and contextuality

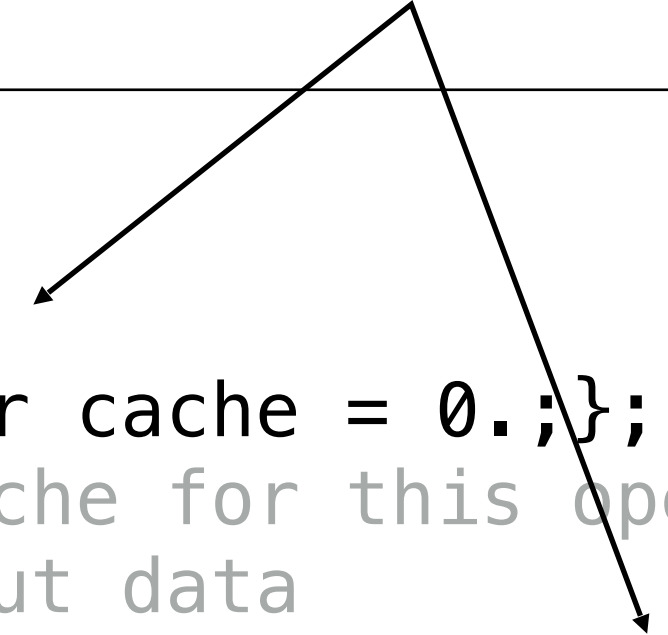
## Built-in parallelisation support

```
namespace Acts {  
  class Module {  
    /// @param gctx the geometry context (e.g. alignment)  
    /// @param input the input data  
    OutputData geometricOperation(const GeometryContext& gctx, const InputData& input) const;  
  };  
}
```



Allows parallel execution of this operation (without explicit technology binding, such as **tbb**) within and across events, nested **State** structs are used for necessary caching operations

```
namespace Acts {  
  class Module {  
    /// Nested State struct  
    struct State { ActsScalar cache = 0.; };  
    /// @param state is a cache for this operation  
    /// @param input the input data  
    OutputData operationWithCache(State& state, const InputData& input) const;  
  };  
}
```



# Core concepts: multi threading and contextuality

Built-in parallelisation support and contextuality

```
namespace Acts {  
    /// @param gctx the geometry context (e.g. alignment)  
    /// @param input the input data  
    OutputData geometricOperation(const GeometryContext& gctx, const InputData& input) const;  
};  
}
```

```
using GeometryContext = std::any;
```

ACTS allows you to pack your own contextual data into the context objects (geometry, magnetic, field) and will carry it through the code base (untouched)

```
auto Experiment::applyCorrection(const GeometryContext& gctx, const InputData& input) const {  
    const Experiment::Payload& payload = std::any_cast<const Experiment::Payload&>(gctx);  
}
```

# Core concepts: data driven, configuration & options

Design convention for data driven design, configuration and option

```
namespace Acts {  
  /// doxygen documentation  
  class Module {  
    /// @struct Config for this module,  
    struct Config {  
      ActsScalar globalParameter; ///  
    };  
  
    /// @struct Options for this module, changeable on call  
    struct Options {  
      ActsScalar callParameter; ///  
    };  
  
    /// @param cfg the configuration struct for this module  
    Module(const Config& cfg) : m_config(cfg){};  
  
    /// @param input the input data  
    OutputData operation(const InputData& input, const Options& opt) const;  
  
  };  
}
```

# Core concepts: configuration binding

Simple Config structs on ACTS side

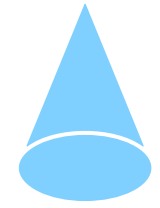
```
namespace Acts {  
  /// doxygen documentation  
  class WorkHorse {  
    /// @struct Config for To  
    struct Config {  
      ActsScalar coatColor; ///  
      ActsScalar maxPath;    ///  
    };  
  };  
}
```

Connection to experiment framework, e.g. Gaudi/Athena

```
/// feed from Framework into ACTS configuration  
declareProperty("CoatColor", m_cfg.coatColor);  
declareProperty("MaxPath", m_cfg.maxPath);
```



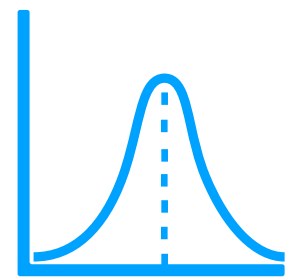
# Toolbox: track reconstruction building blocks



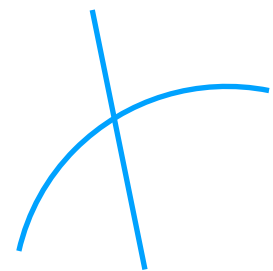
Geometry & Material



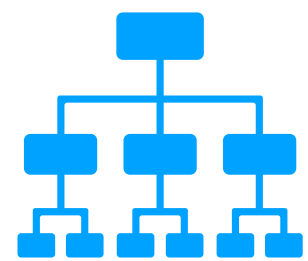
Event Data Model



Track Finding & Fitters



Vertexing



R&D lines (ML, GPU)

# Geometry - Concepts

- ▶ ACTS creates a reconstruction view of the detailed geometry
  - Plugin mechanism ensures compatibility with many geometry sources
  - Context mechanism ensures MT ready contextual geometry



**Detailed geometry model,**  
e.g. DD4hep, TGeo, GeoModel, etc.

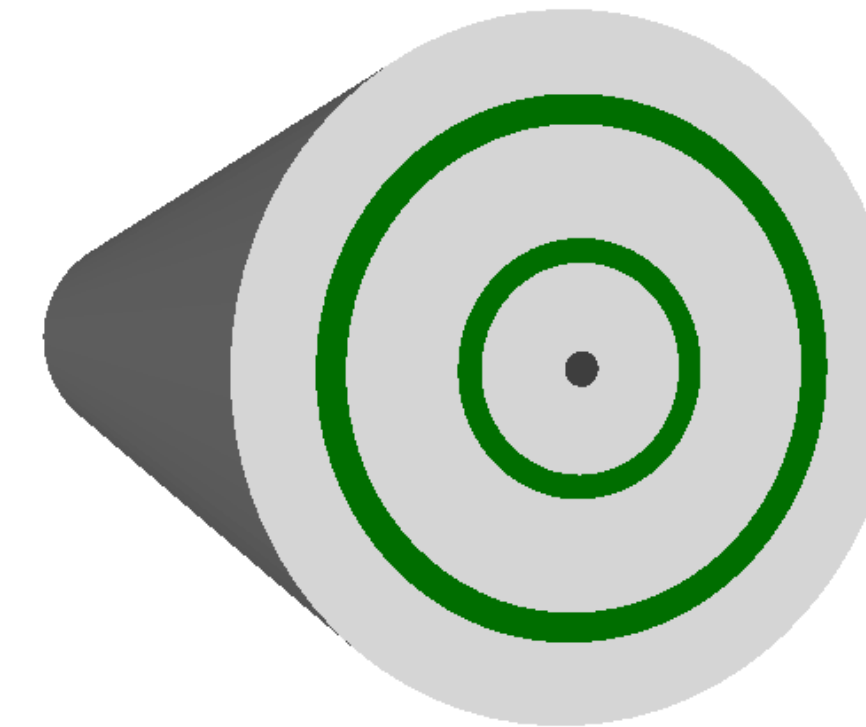
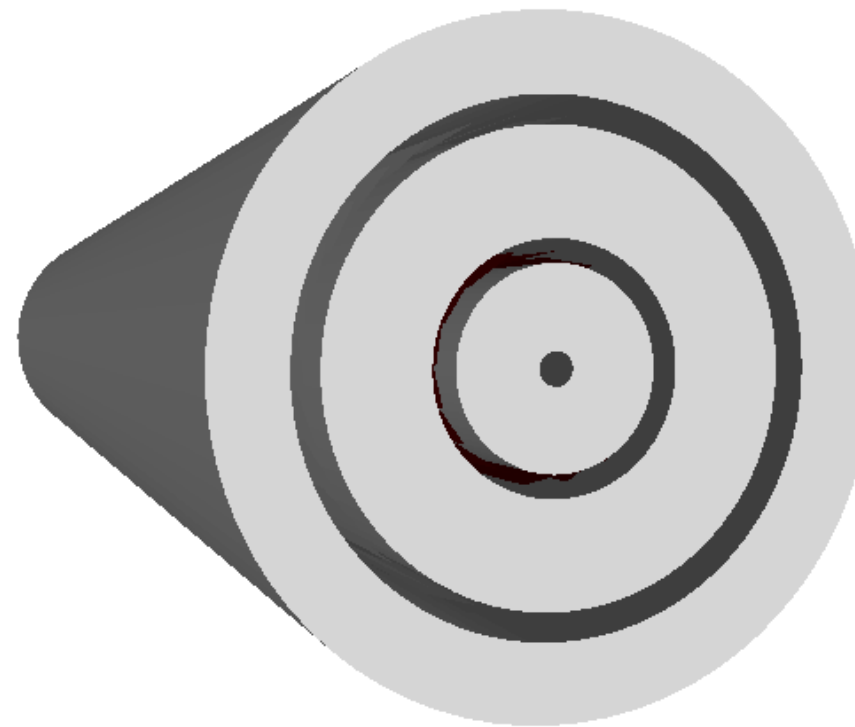
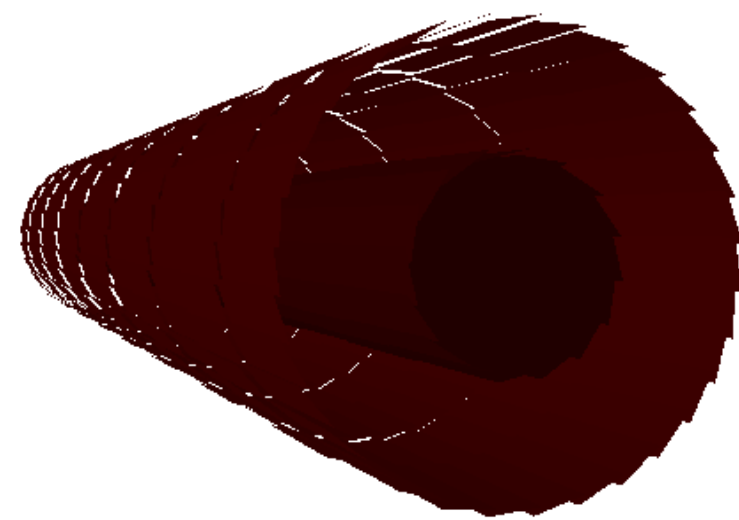
**ACTS geometry model**  
with builtin navigation

# Geometry R&D (1)

- ▶ Geometry model of ACTS stems from ATLAS `Trk::TrackingGeometry`
  - Conceptual building blocks

TrackingVolume  
Layer  
Surface

Quite some overlap between those



- `detray` GPU R&D geometry: re-implemented w/o layer concept
  - huge simplification in navigation code
  - can we do this also for ACTS/Core ?

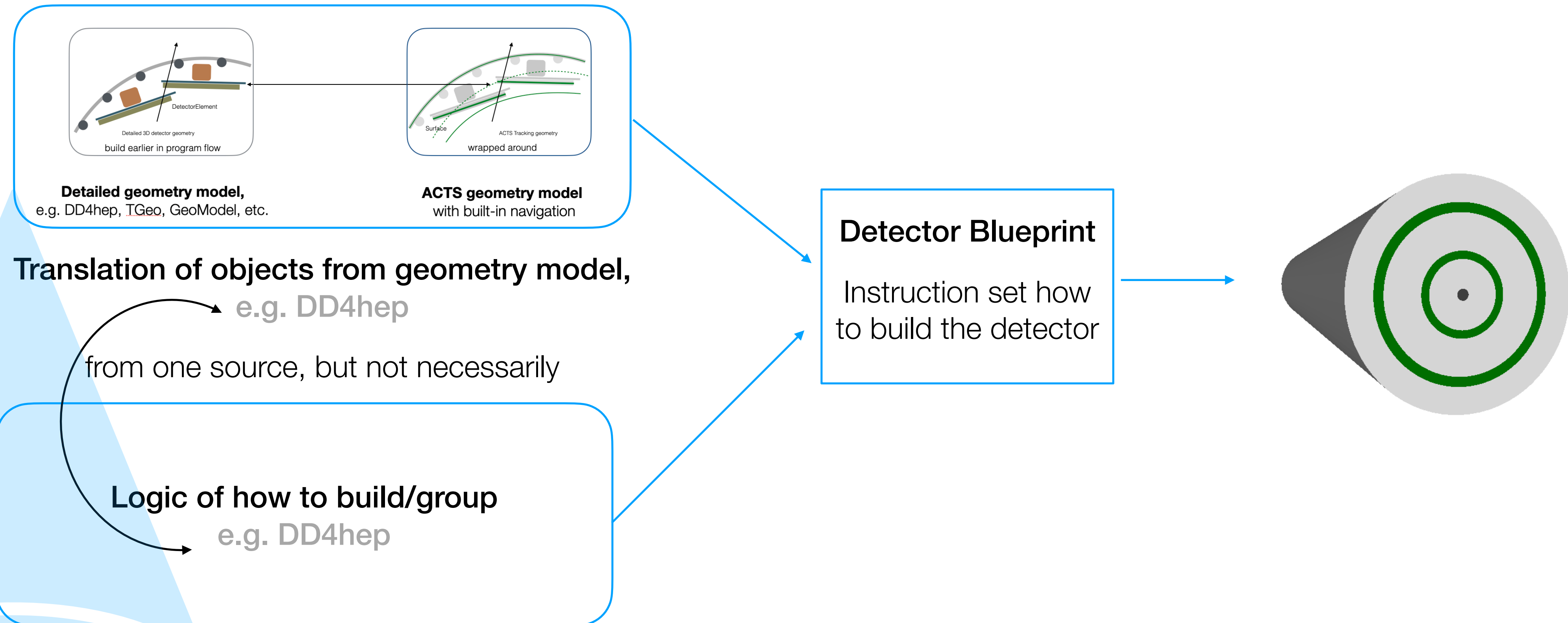
# Geometry R&D (2) - Experimental

- ▶ Experimental::Detector Geometry model of ACTS

Gen1 geometry type	Gen2 geometry type	
Acts::Surface	Acts::Surface	Surface objects are unchanged, allows client code to be untouched
Acts::Layer		Layer objects do not exist anymore, they are represented by volumes
Acts::TrackingVolume	Acts::Experimental::DetectorVolume	Double serving of volumes as containers or navigation volumes omitted
Acts::BoundarySurfaceT<Acts::TrackingVolume>	Acts::Experimental::Portal	Portal objects are not templated anymore, they are holder classes of surfaces and volume switches
Acts::TrackingGeometry	Acts::Experimental::Detector	Portal objects the top level entry point that will guide into the root volumes

# Geometry R&D (3) - Blueprint

- ▶ New type of geometry building using `Experimental::Blueprint`



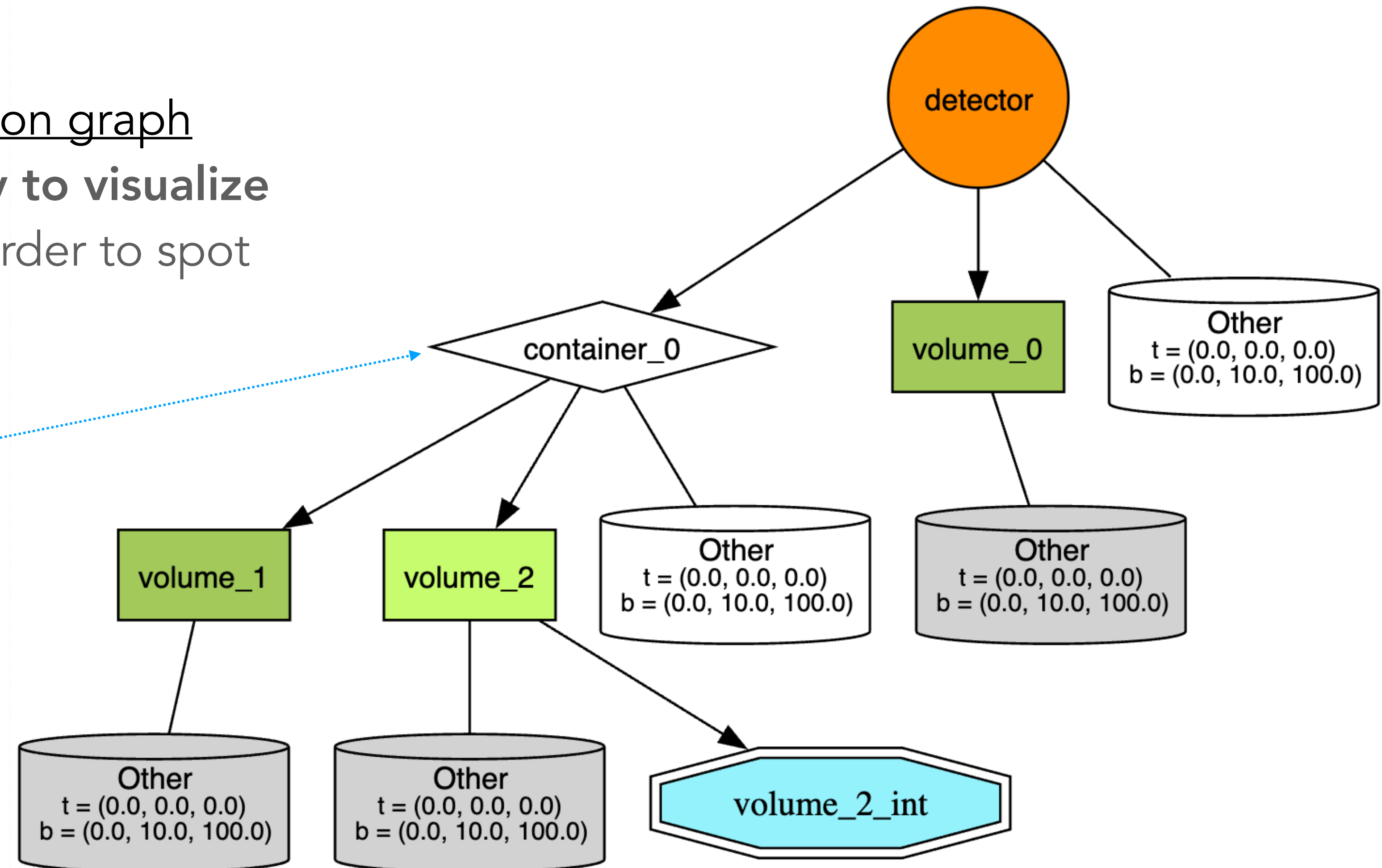
# Geometry R&D (4) - Blueprint

- ▶ New type of geometry building using `Experimental::Blueprint`

Blueprint is an instruction graph

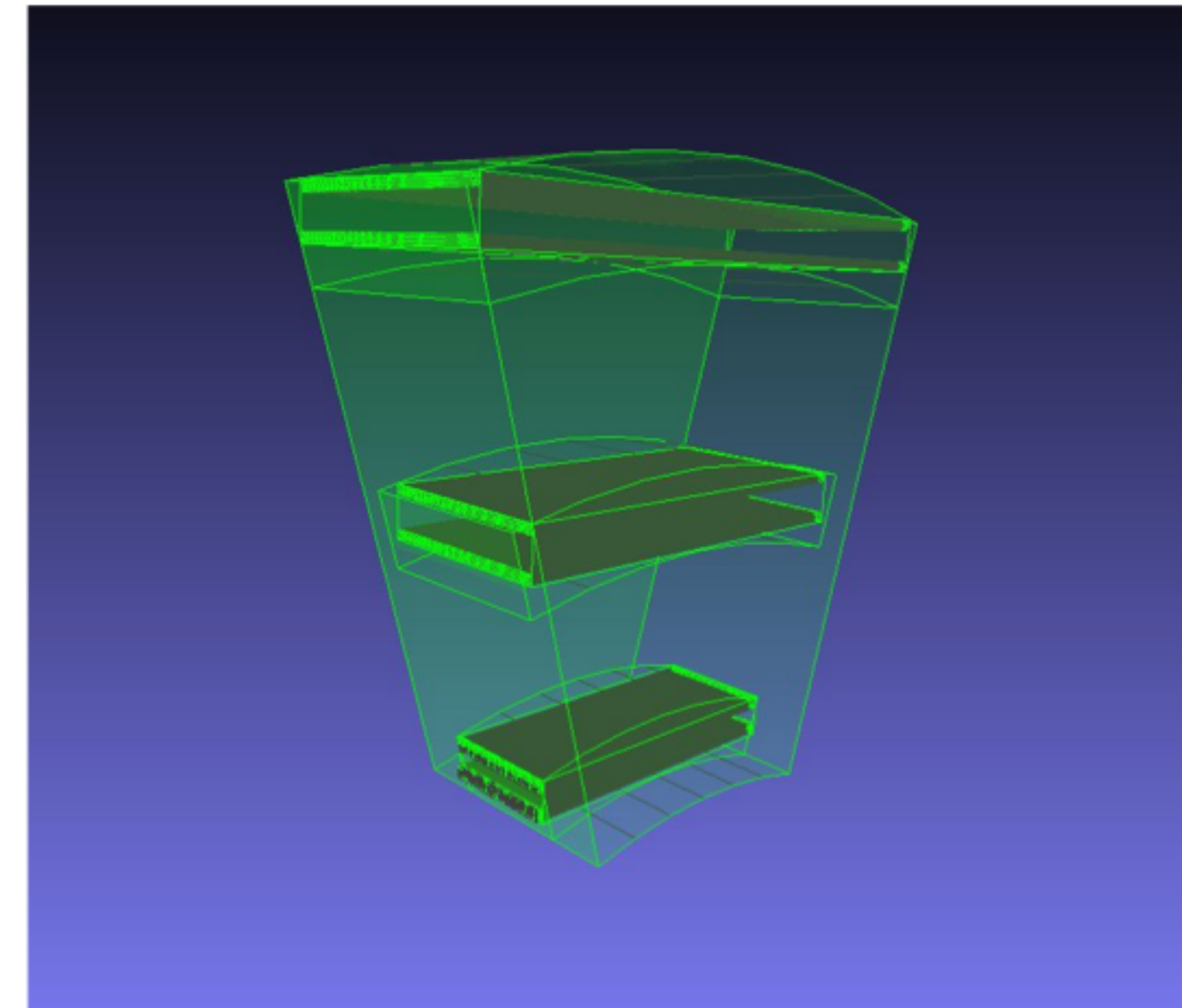
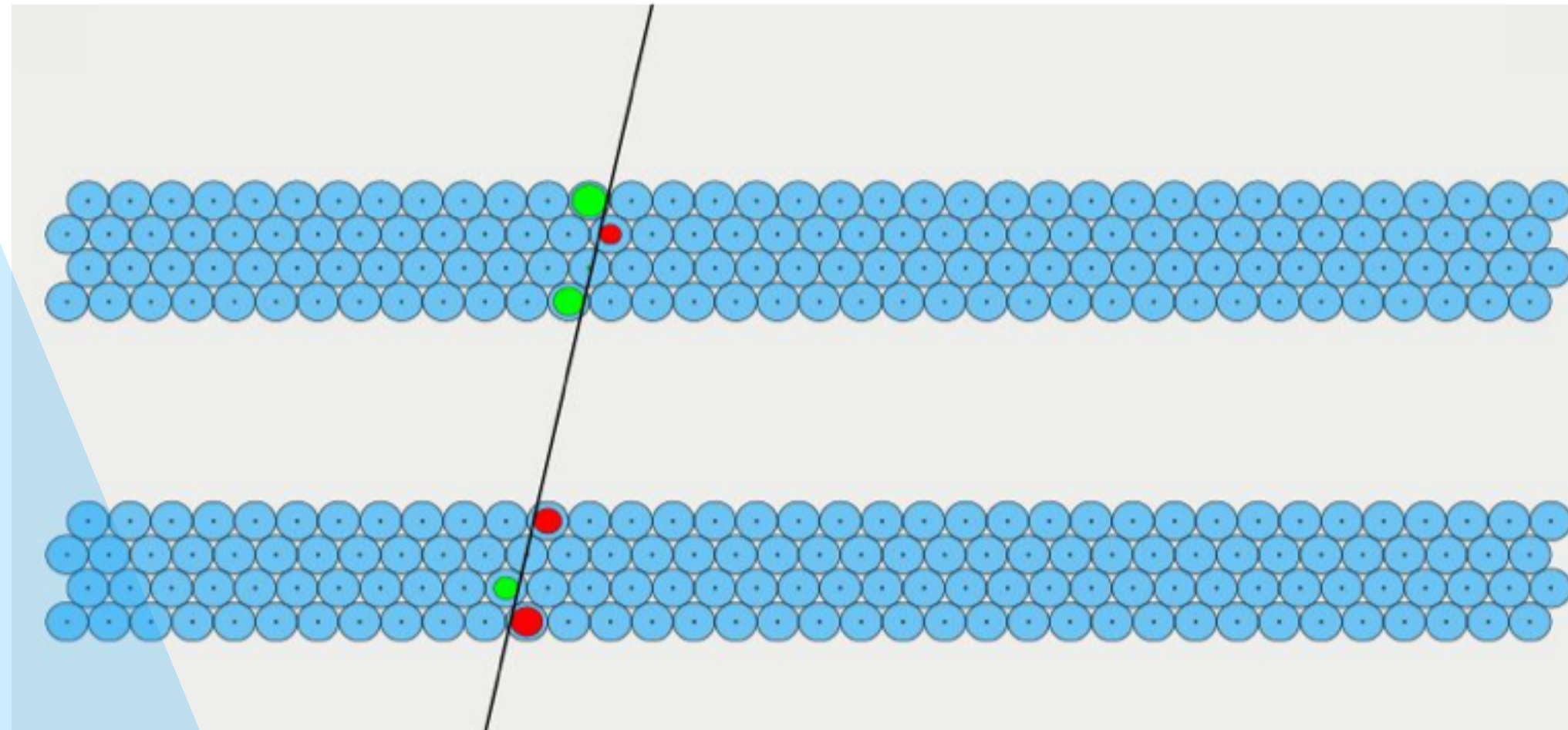
- Added functionality to visualize before building, in order to spot problems

non-coloured nodes  
are virtual containers



# Geometry R&D (5) - drift detectors

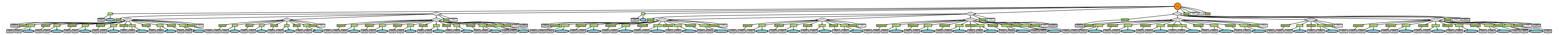
- ▶ In Gen2 geometry, navigation is outsourced to Delegates
  - allows for client-specified navigation
  - helped developing first prototypes for (ATLAS) Muon System



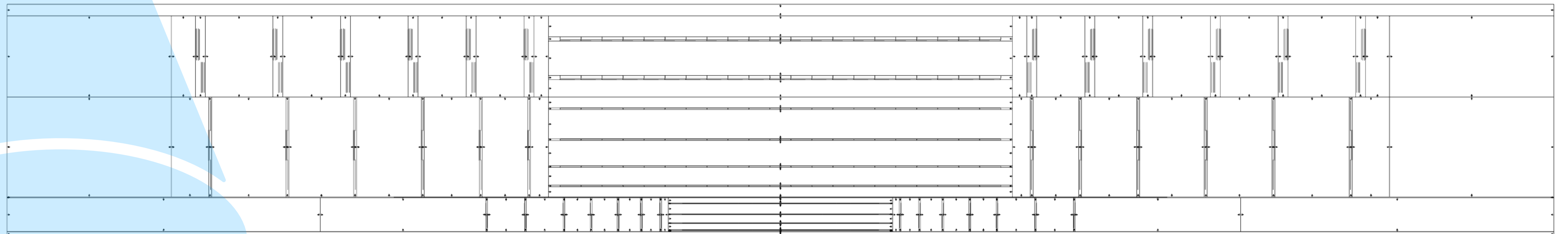
Mock up muon sector spectrometer .  
Every detector volume holds the navigation delegate

# Geometry R&D (5) - Blueprint on ODD

ODD building blueprint from DD4hep:



Resulting ODD detector



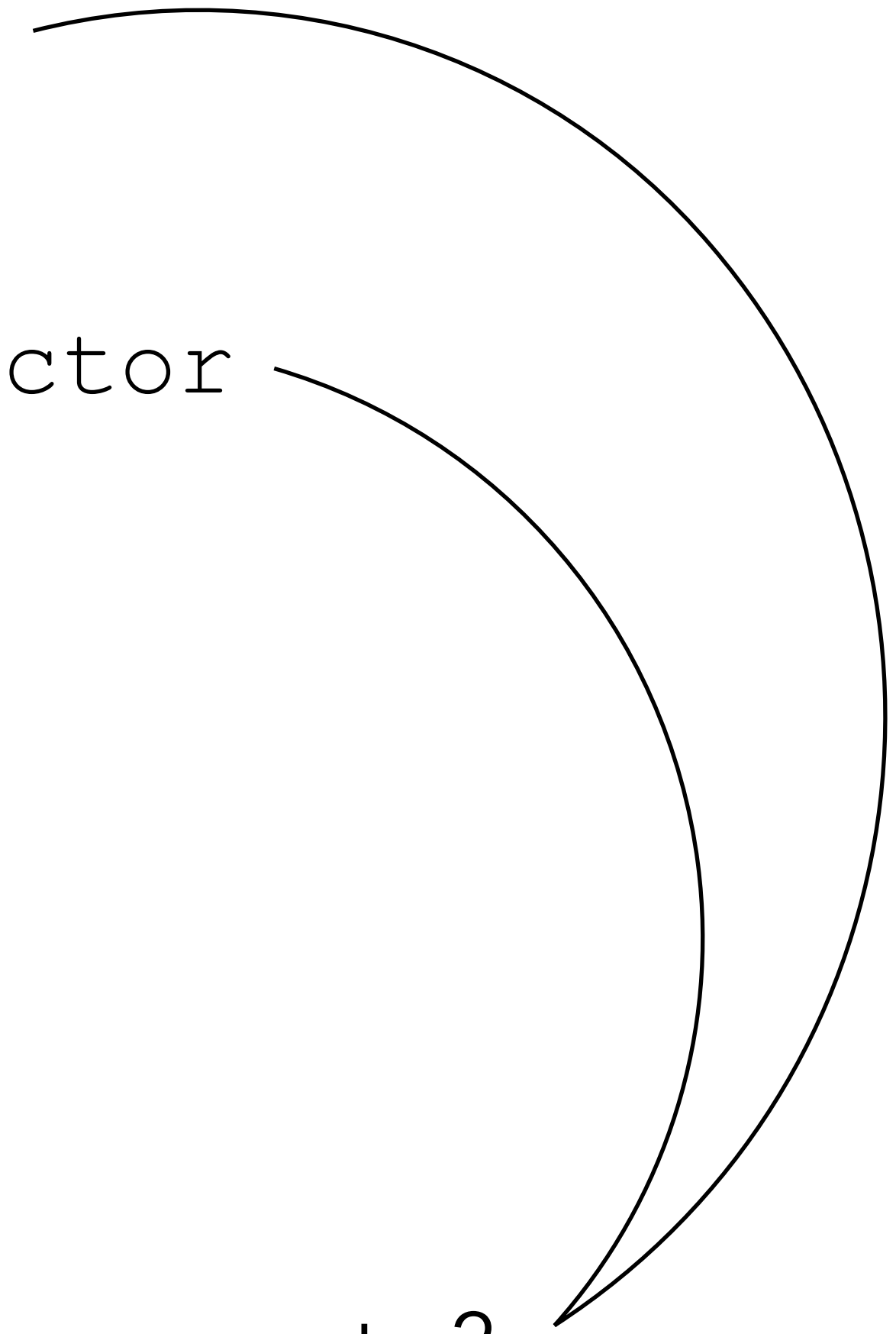


# Geometry (6) - Quo vadis ?

▶ **Gen1** geometry: `Acts::TrackingGeometry`  
Well established, baseline

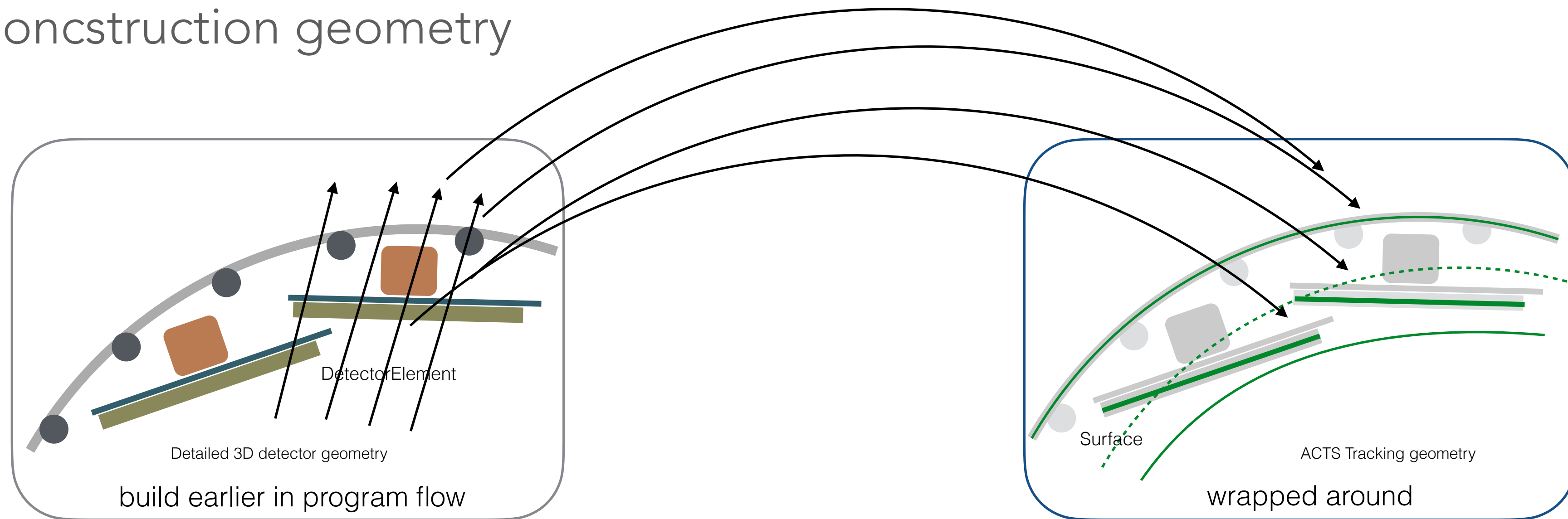
▶ **Gen2** geometry: `Acts::Experimental::Detector`  
Blueprint  
Layer-less  
Navigation delegates

- ▶ **Gen3** geometry:
- adiabatic merge of those two concepts ?
  - morph of Gen2 into full functionality of Gen1 ?



# Material

- ▶ ACTS ships with a material mapping module
  - allows to transcribe the full Geant4 geometry and map it onto the simplified reconstruction geometry

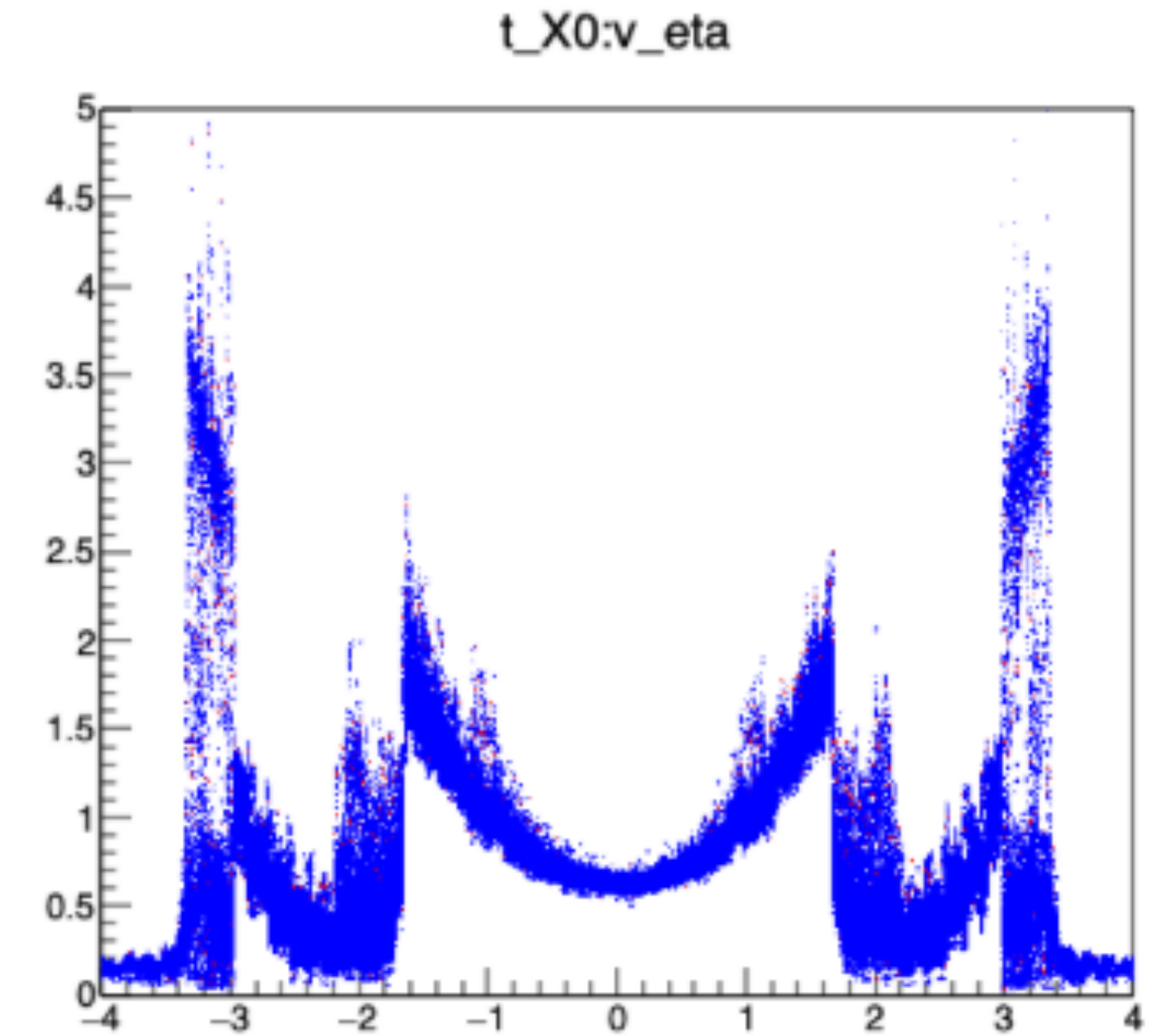


**Detailed geometry model,**  
e.g. DD4hep, TGeo, GeoModel, etc.

**ACTS geometry model**  
with builtin navigation

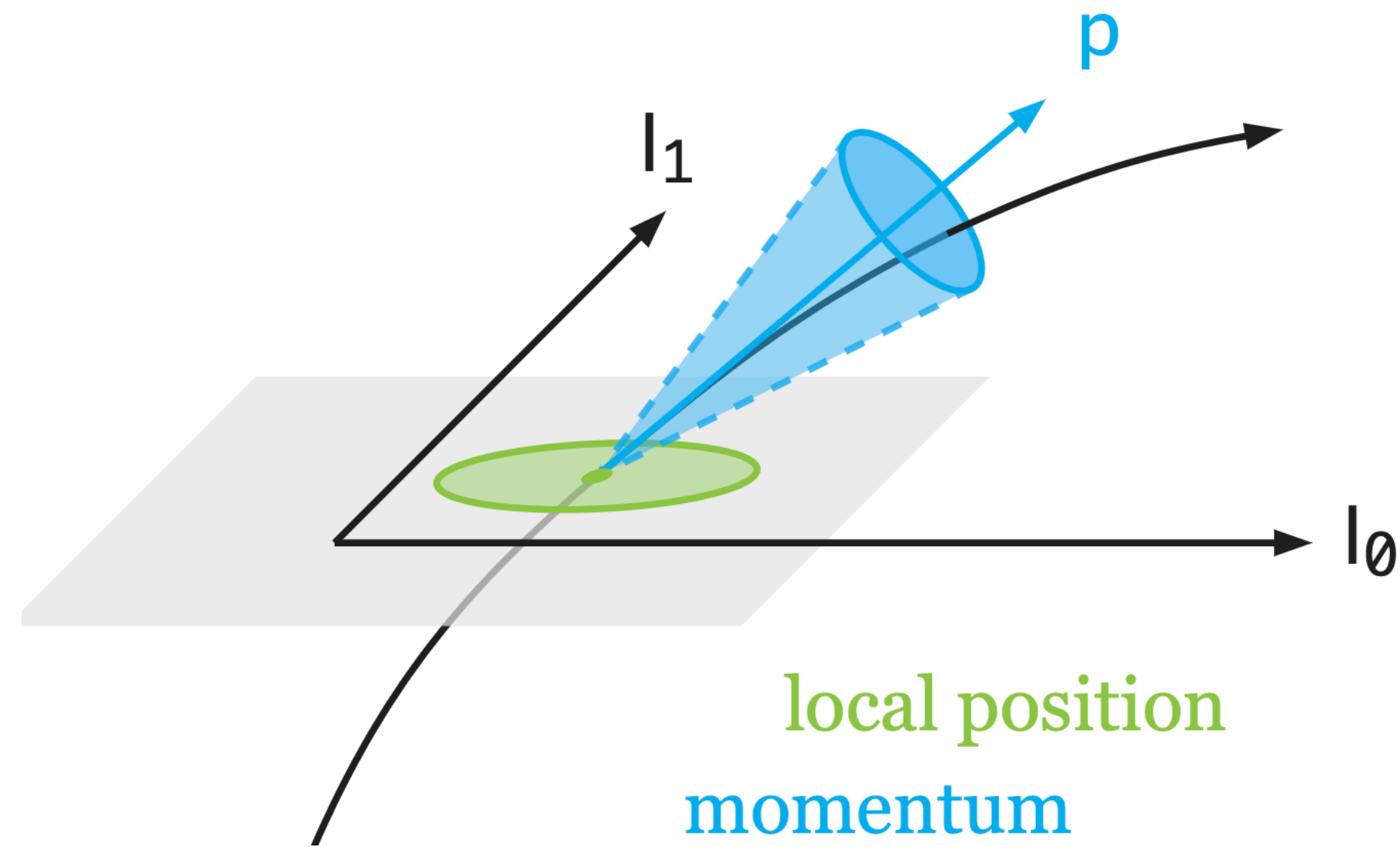
# Material R&D

- ▶ New Grid based material classes introduced
  - Including a k-means compression algorithm
- ▶ Material mapping/validation without & with propagation/navigation
  - This is to allow for material mapping/validation with optionally bypassing the propagator infrastructure
  - Support for Gen1/Gen2 geometry model
- ▶ Move most material mapping/validation into Core
  - Allow for more seemingness integration into SW stack

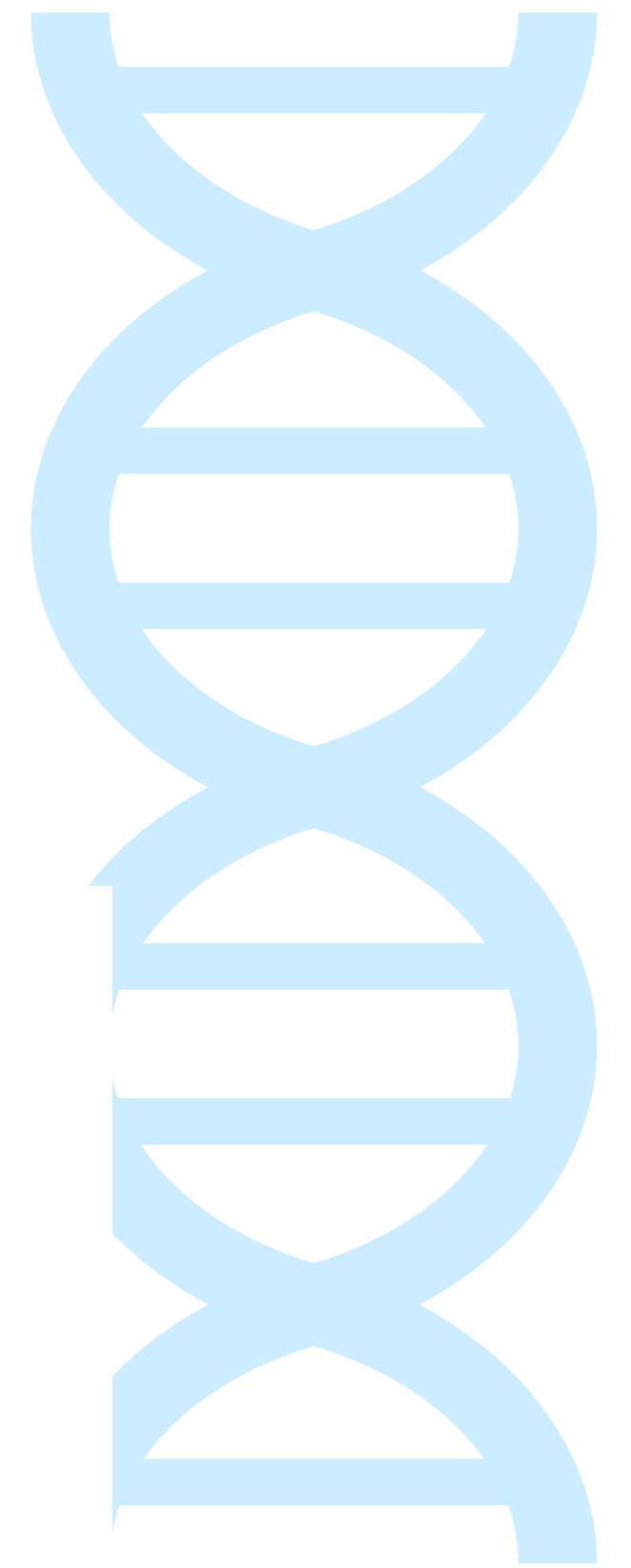
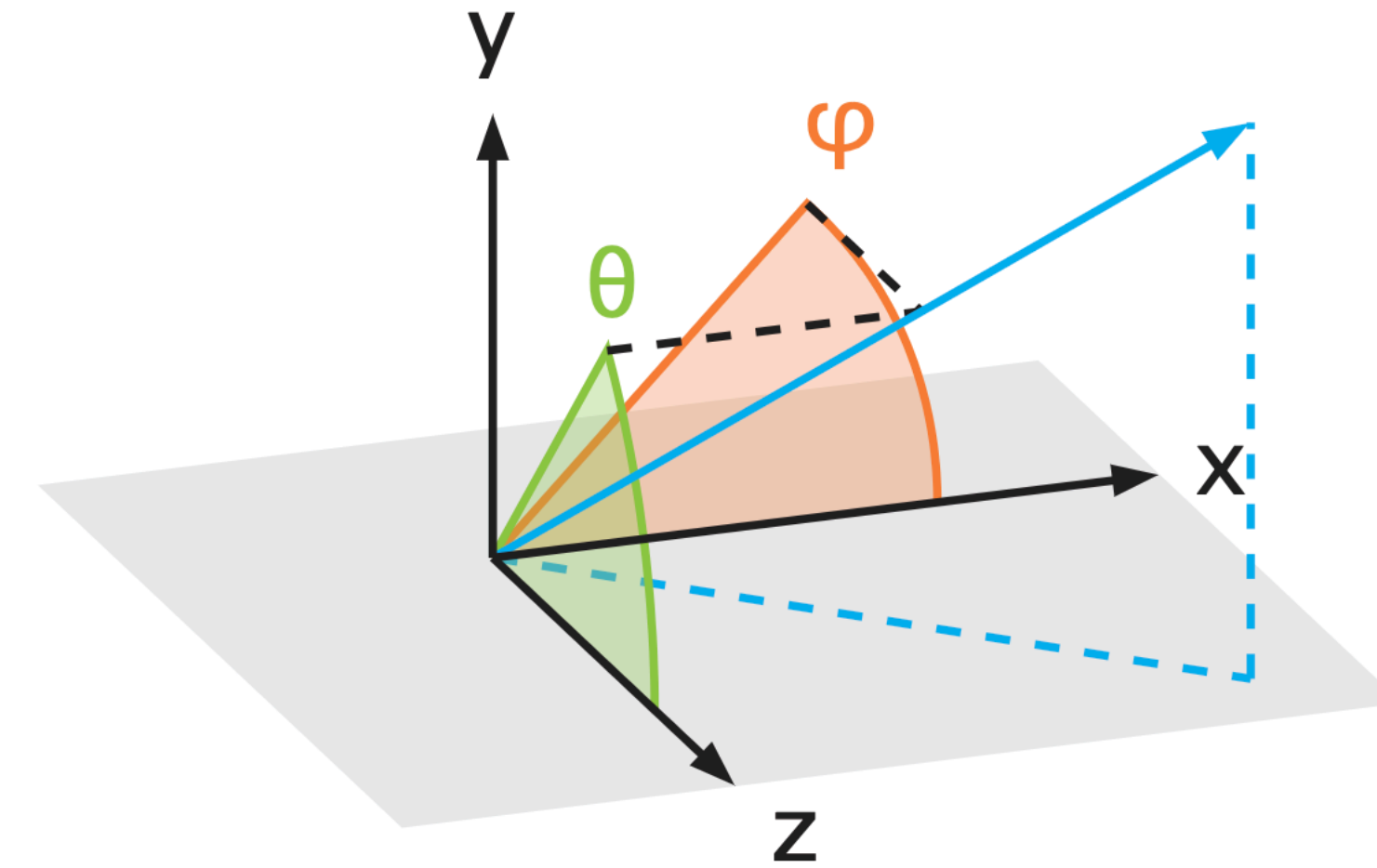


# Event Data Model (1)

(Bound) track parameterisation is defined:  
**local coordinates of the surface + global momentum**



$$\vec{x} = (l_0, l_1, \phi, \theta, q/p, t)^T$$

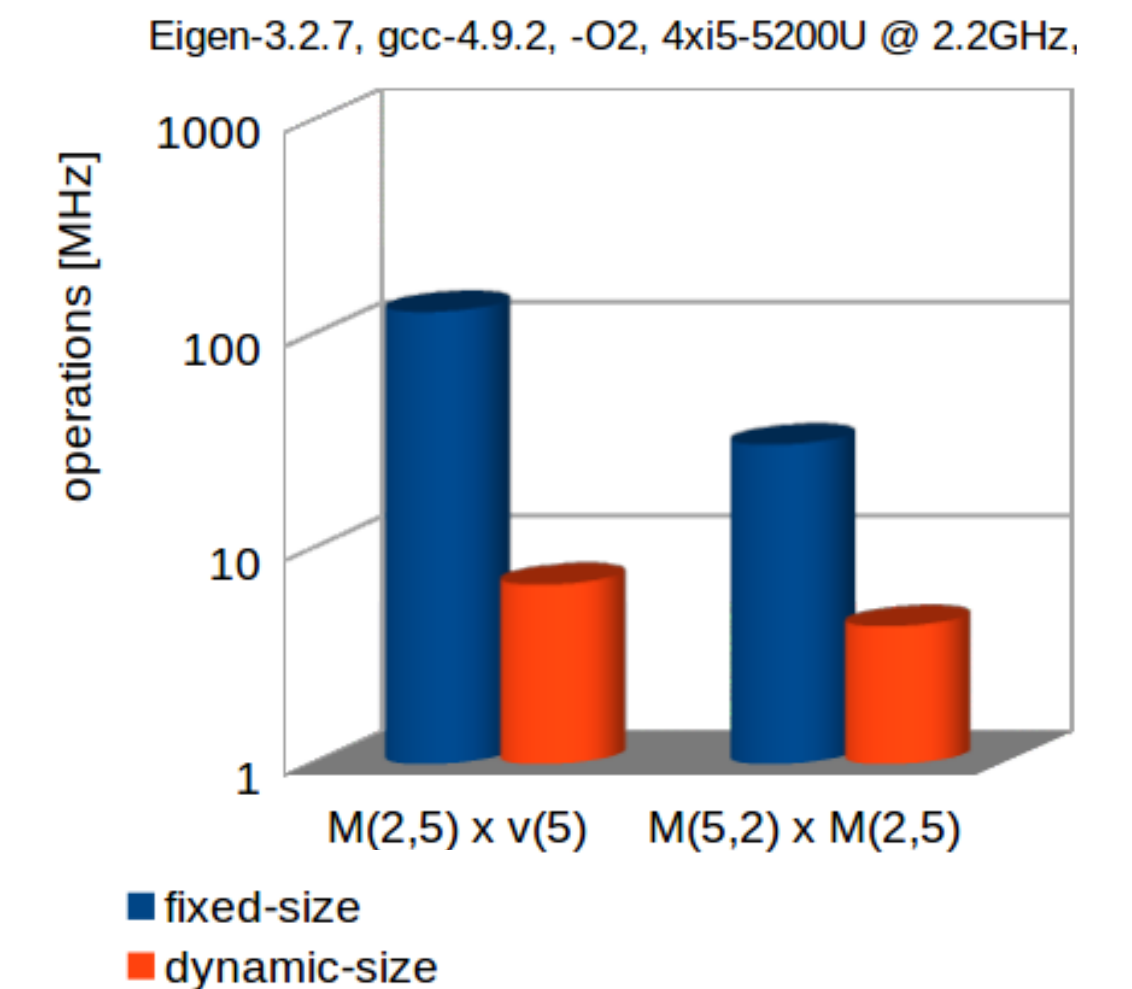


# Event Data Model (2)

Parameter	$l_0$	$l_1$	phi	theta	q/p	t
Bound track parameters	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Pixel measurement	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Pixel measurement with time	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Strip measurement (along local x)	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Strip measurement (along local y)	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Drift time/circle measurement	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Track segment (straight line)	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
...	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan	Cyan

Measurements can be represented as subsets of the full bound parameter space.

This is done at compile time to increase computing performance.

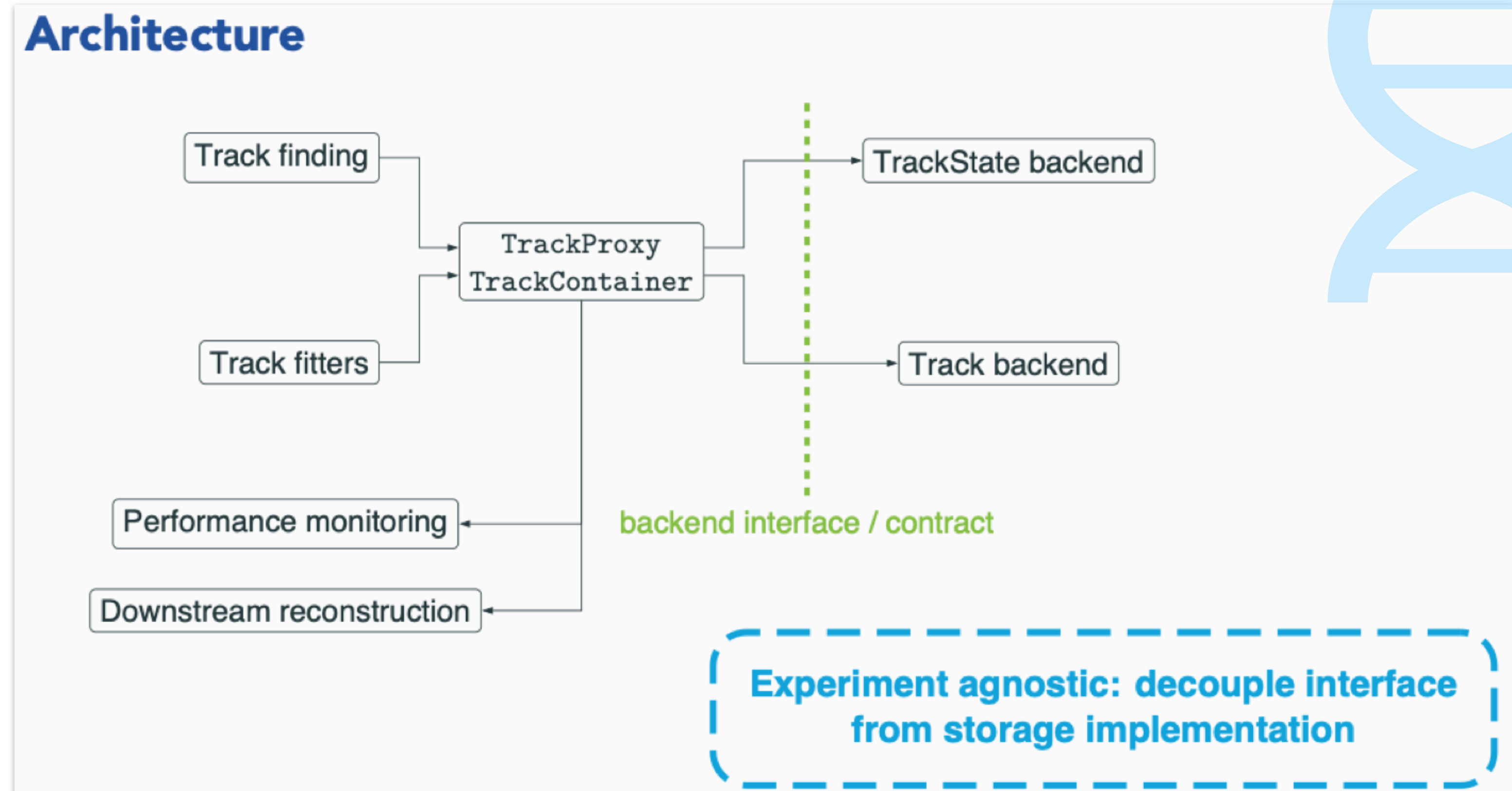


# Event Data Model (3)

- ▶ MultiTrajectory with frontend/backend split

ACTS has an internal EDM optimised for track reconstruction.

- recent work to separate transient model from I/O backend
- demonstrator with PODIO established
- Non-optimised EDM4Hep version also available

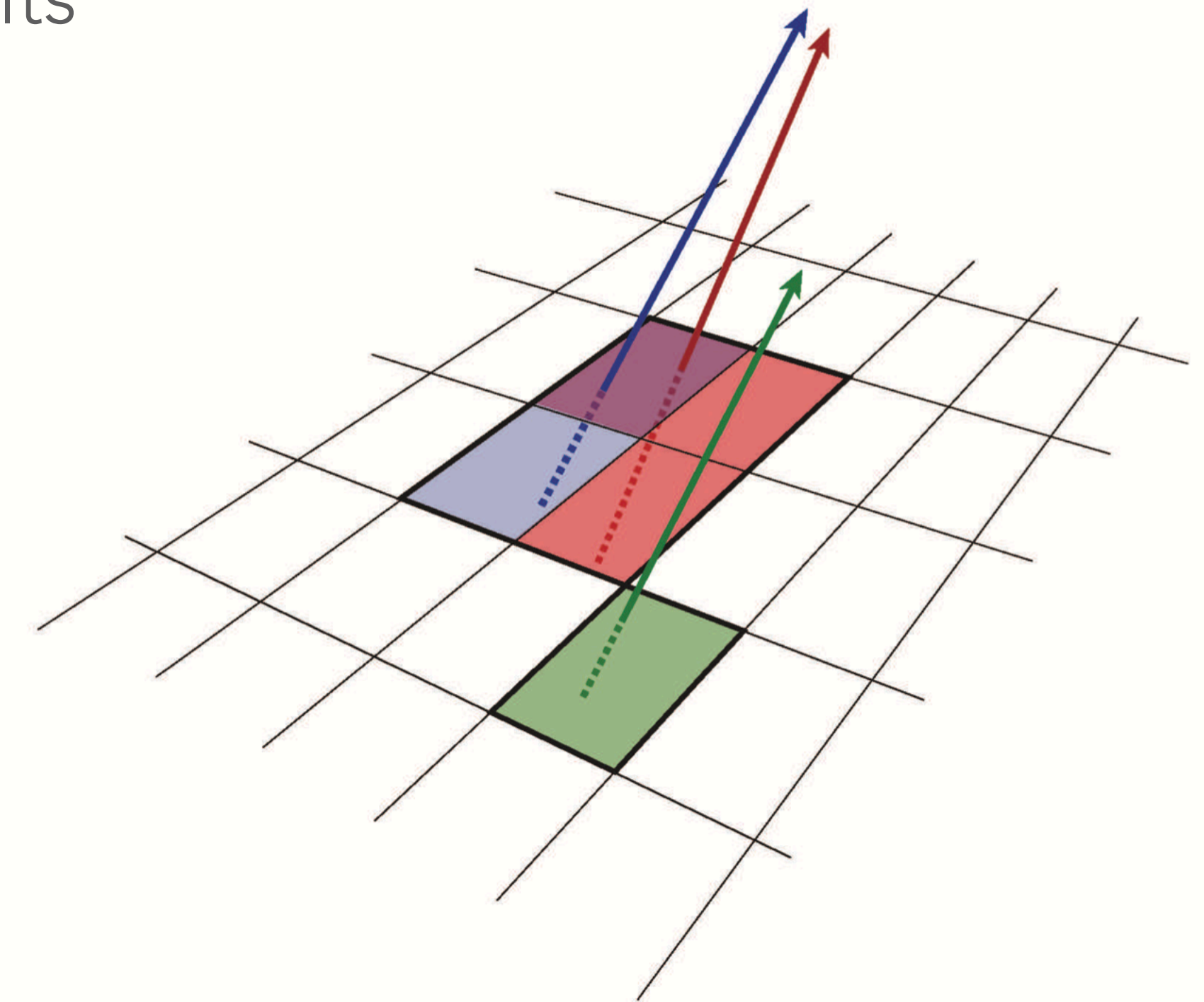


# Fitters (1) - Kalman Filter

- ▶ Kalman Filter implementation very matured
  - Designed as a plugin into the Propagation engine
  - shows nice performance on Geant4 simulated results

- ▶ Calibrator

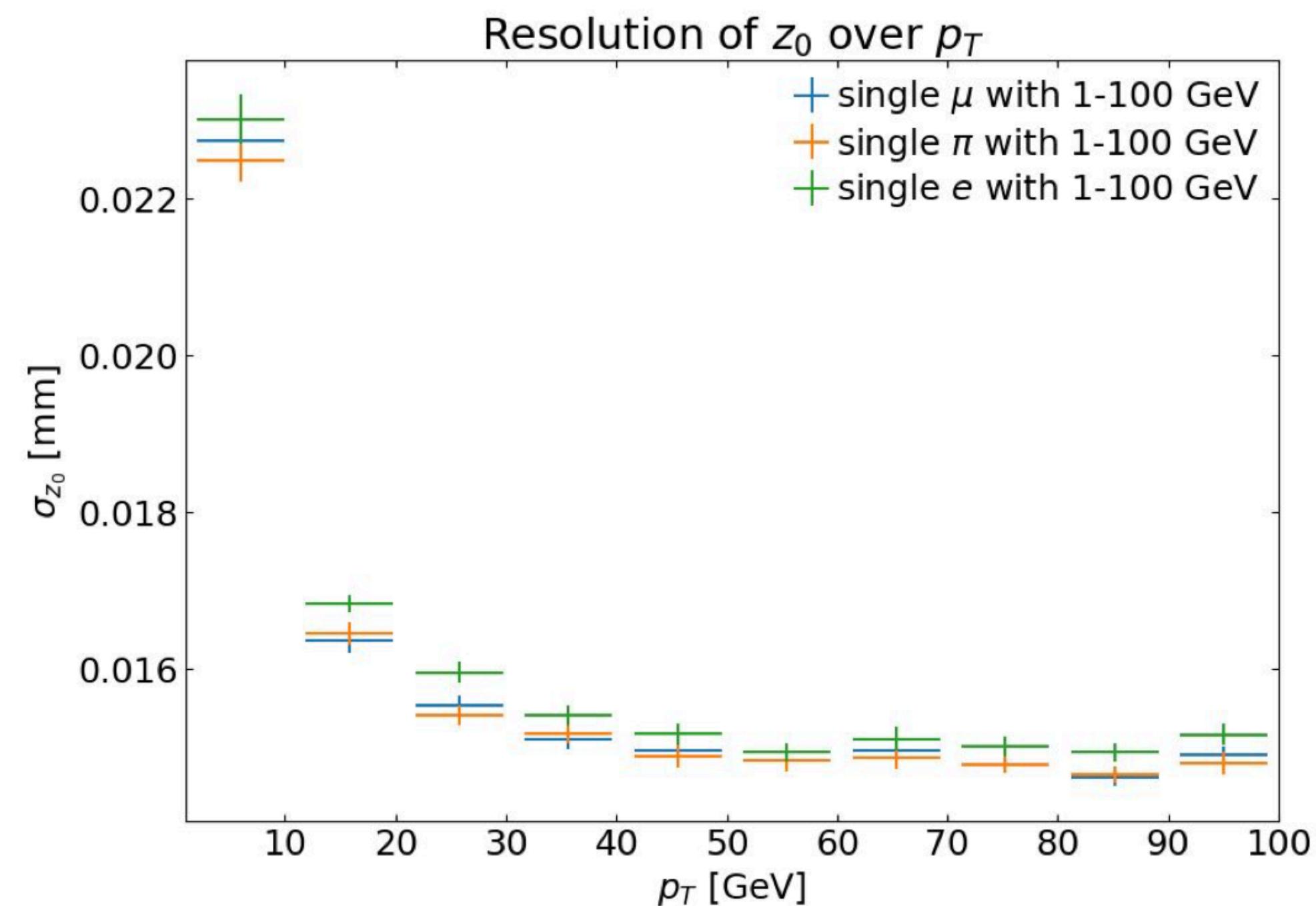
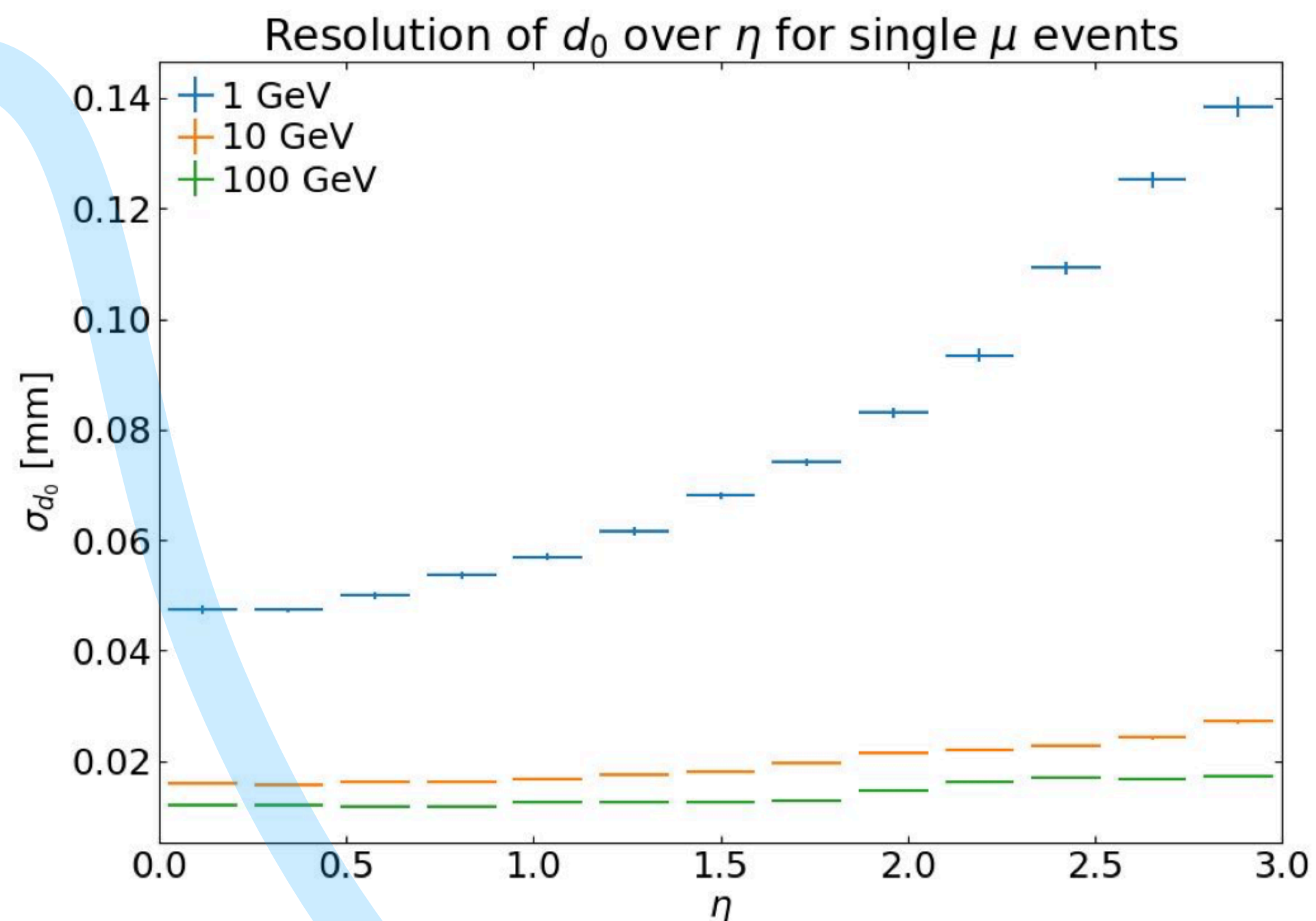
- Allows to do on the fly measurement creation
- Helps to get ultimate resolution for a detector
- Can help to resolve ambiguities
- A way to start with a misaligned detector



**Example, tracking in dense environment**

# Kalman Filter (2)

- ▶ Extremely high level of accuracy control
  - Given by stringent mathematical validation
  - Detailed material description

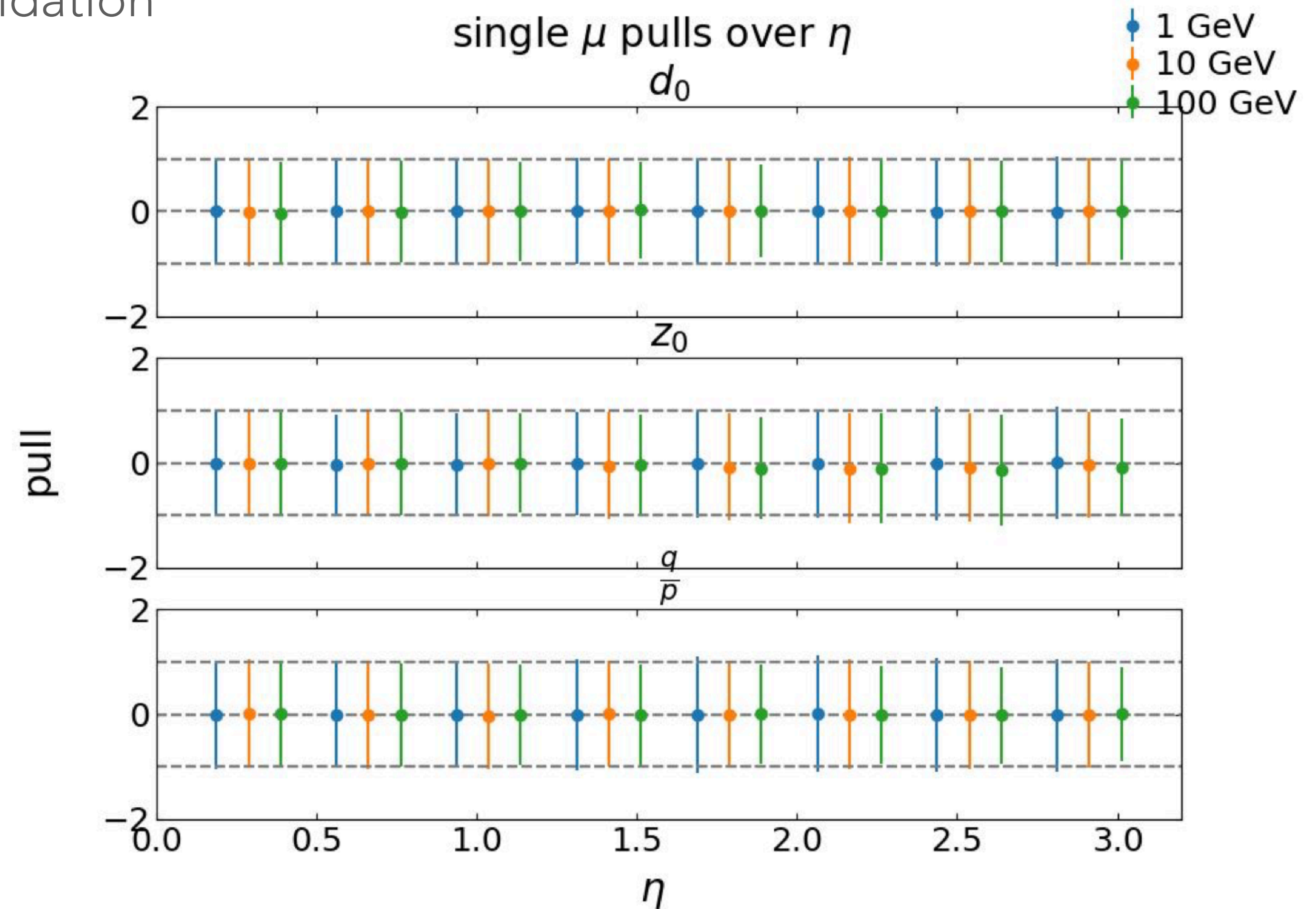




# Kalman Filter (3)

- ▶ Extremely high level of accuracy control
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  - Detailed material description

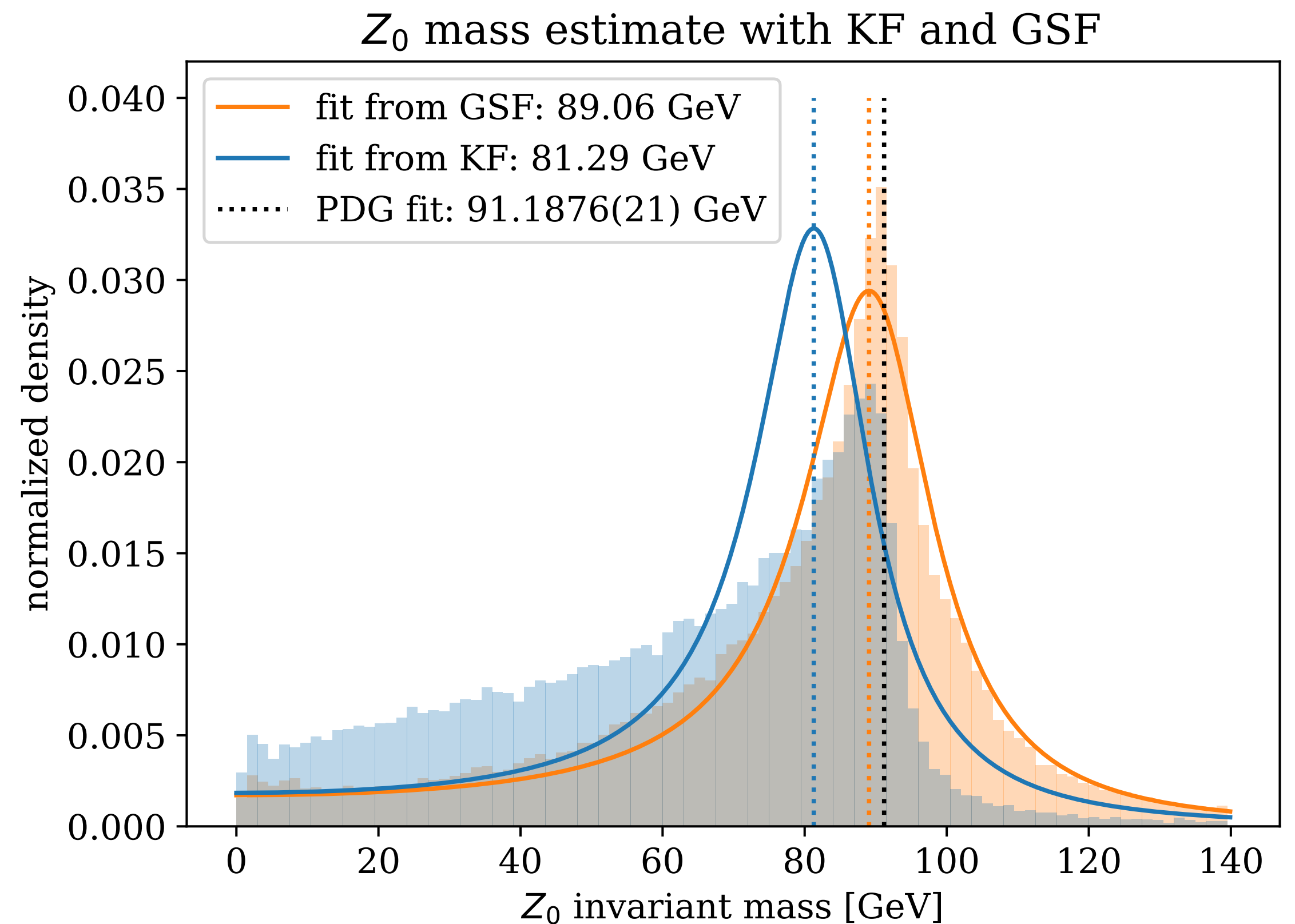
- ▶ Example on OpenDataDetector (Geant4 simulation)



# Fitters (2) - Gaussian Sum Filter

- ▶ Gaussian Sum Filter has been validated on Open Data Detector
  - shows nice performance on Geant4 simulated results
  - Is designed as a re-fitter, i.e. after electron pattern recognition

- ▶ Electron pattern recognition **not** yet implemented
  - start with concept from ATLAS to enlarge window if electron hypothesis is triggered ...

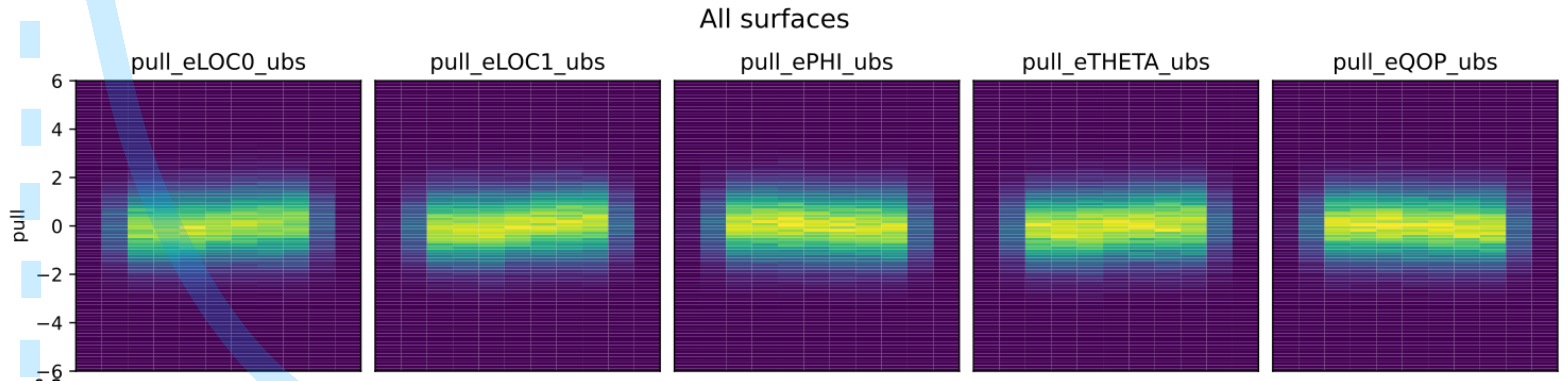


# Fitters (3) - Global Minimisation

- ▶ Global chi2 fitter progress
  - First pipe-line on OpenDataDetector implemented

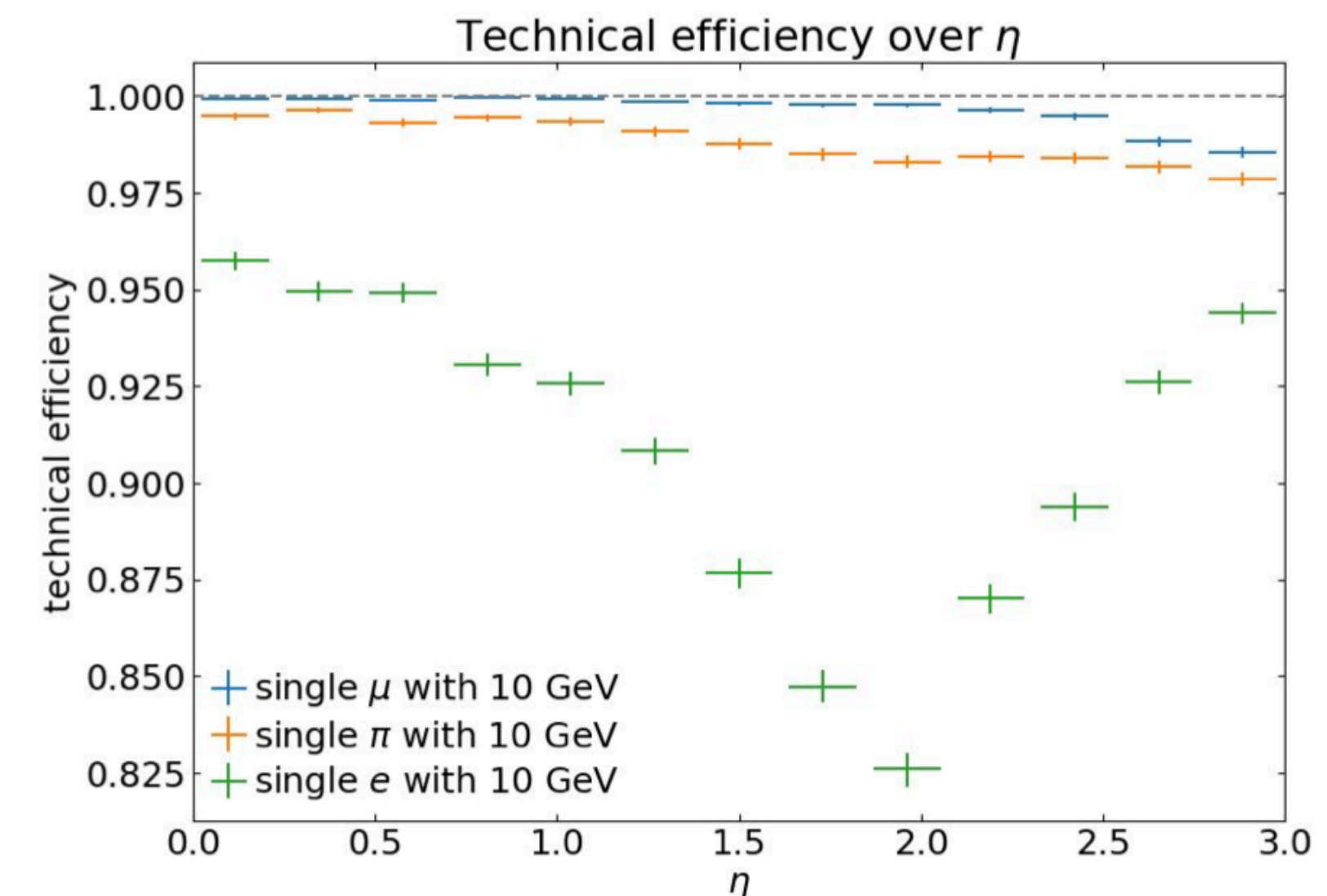
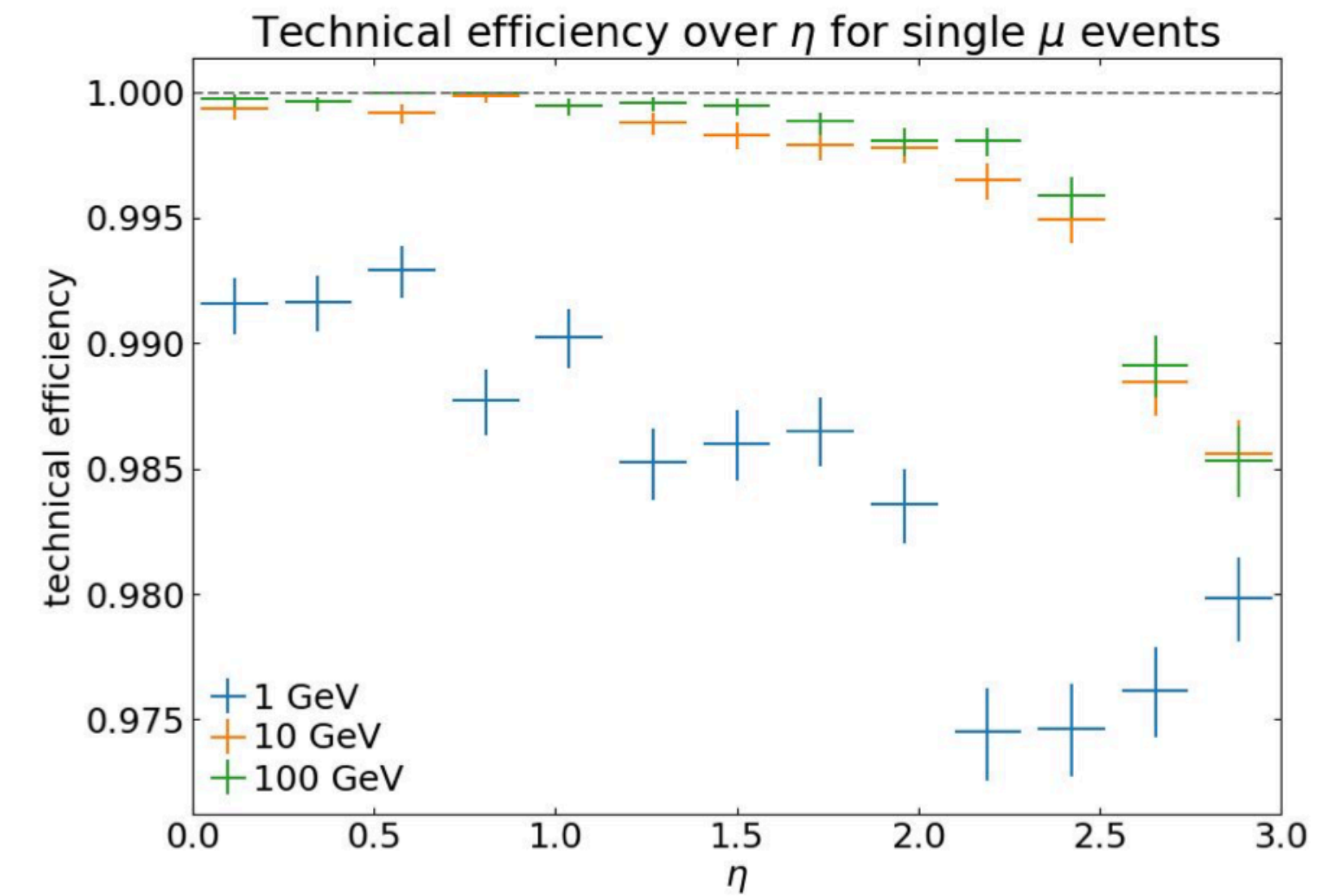
- ▶ Material effect integration **not** yet implemented

- Exists in a python based prototype



# Combinatorial Kalman Filter (1)

- ▶ Track finding implementation using a Combinatorial Kalman Filter (CKF)
  - Achieves almost perfect technical efficiency for muons
- ▶ Runs on top of different seeding strategies
  - Triplet seeding
  - Orthogonal seed finder
  - GNN
  - New seeding for telescope detectors



# Combinatorial Kalman Filter (2)

- ▶ Speed performance optimisation
  - Work on a new stepper has started (based on Symbolic math transcription)

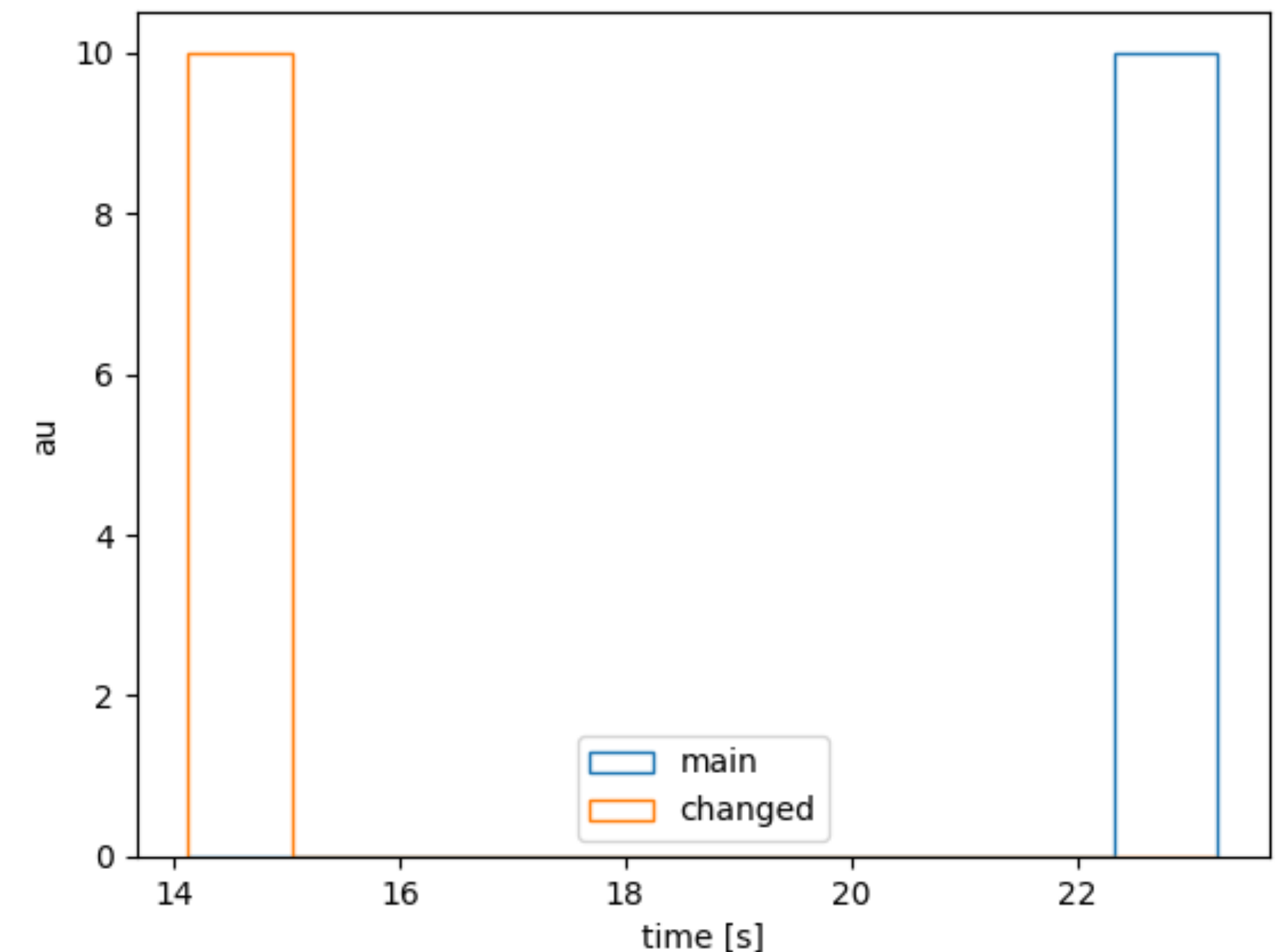
ttbar @  $\langle \mu \rangle \sim 200$

- ▶ Combinatorial Kalman filter updates
  - Improved branch stopping logic introduced
  - Smoothing separated from forward filtering
  - New, alternative CKF with external propagator steering in development

0.6209846368715083

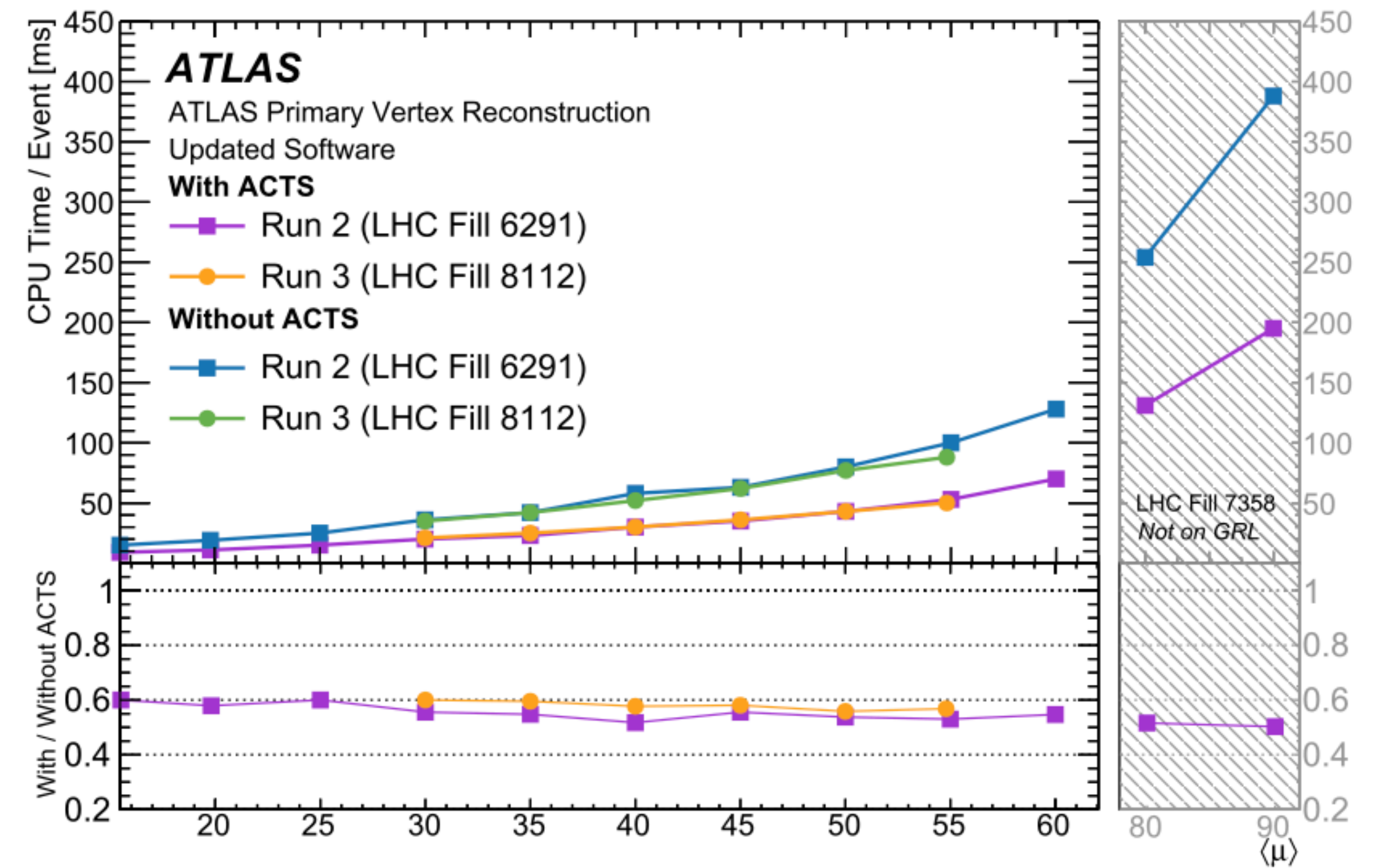
ckf

[PR #3116](#)



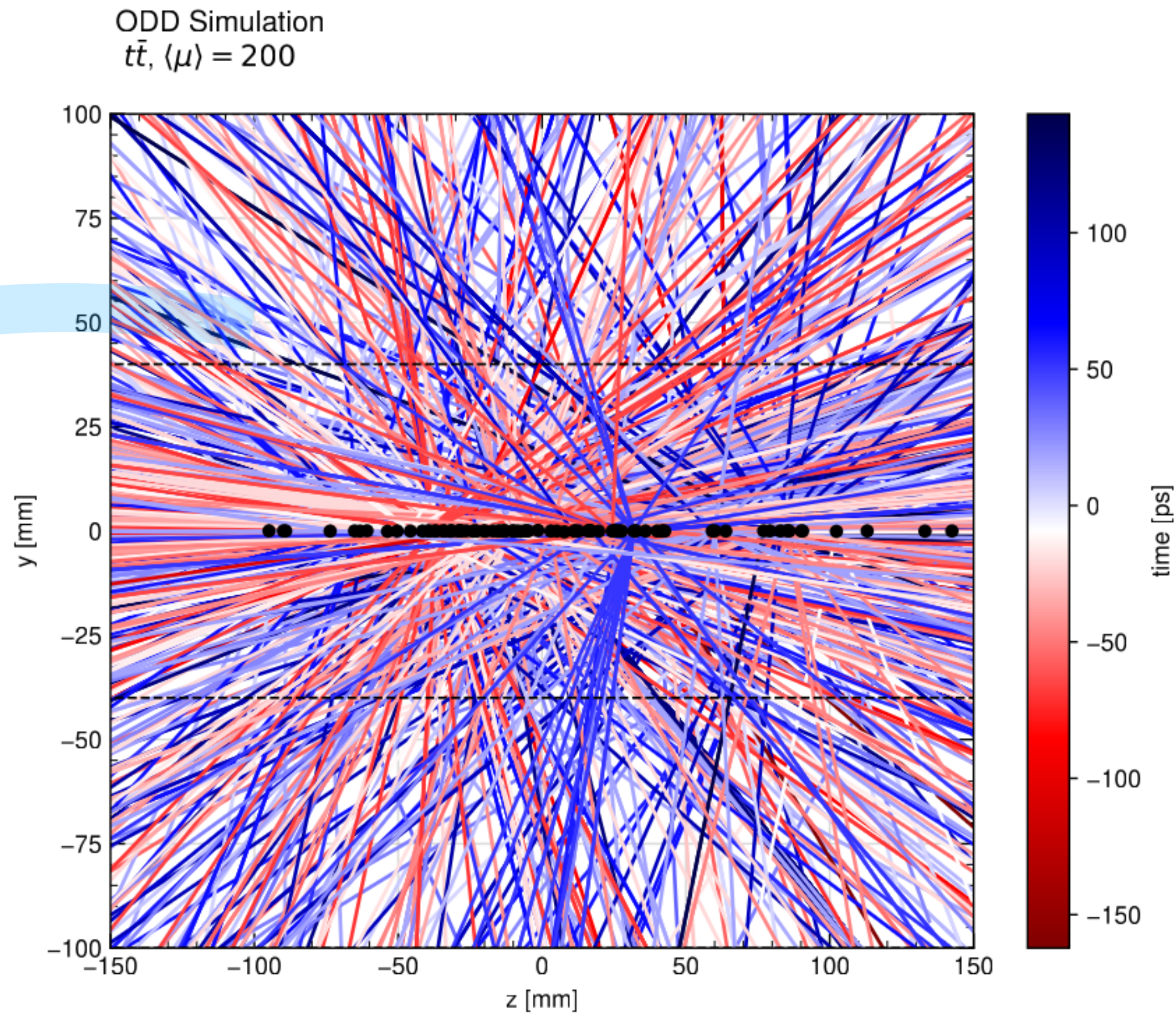
# Vertex reconstruction

- ▶ ACTS implements a fully fledged primary vertex reconstruction suite
  - Iterative Finder + Billoir Fitter
  - MultiAdaptiveVertexFinder + Fitter
    - Optimised for very high track and vertex multiplicities (HL-LHC)
  - Was the first module to be deployed in ATLAS from ACTS
    - Huge speed update with identical results



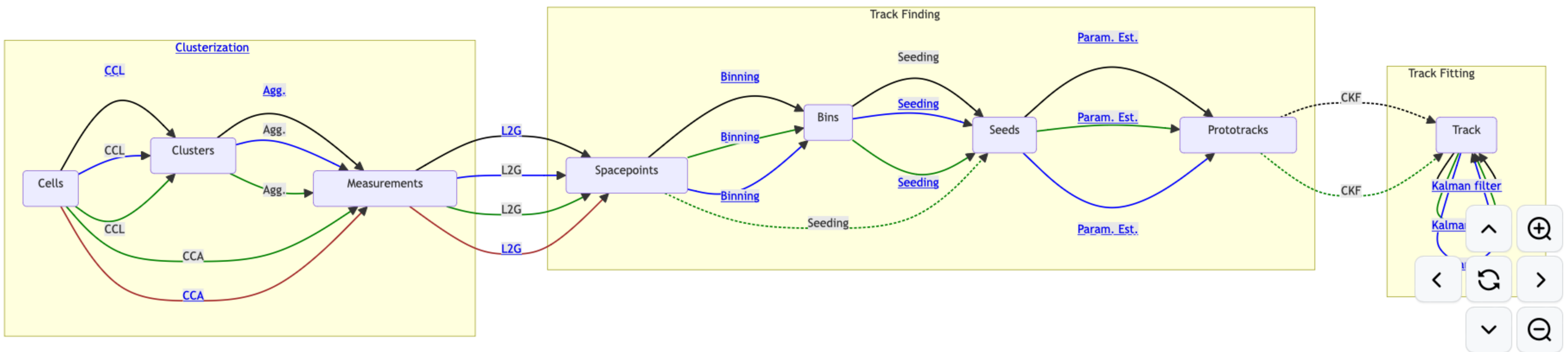
# Vertex reconstruction R&D: fully time-aware

- ▶ Introduction of time in all components of vertex reconstruction
  - full exercise on OpenDataDetector in progress



# R&D line: parallelisation

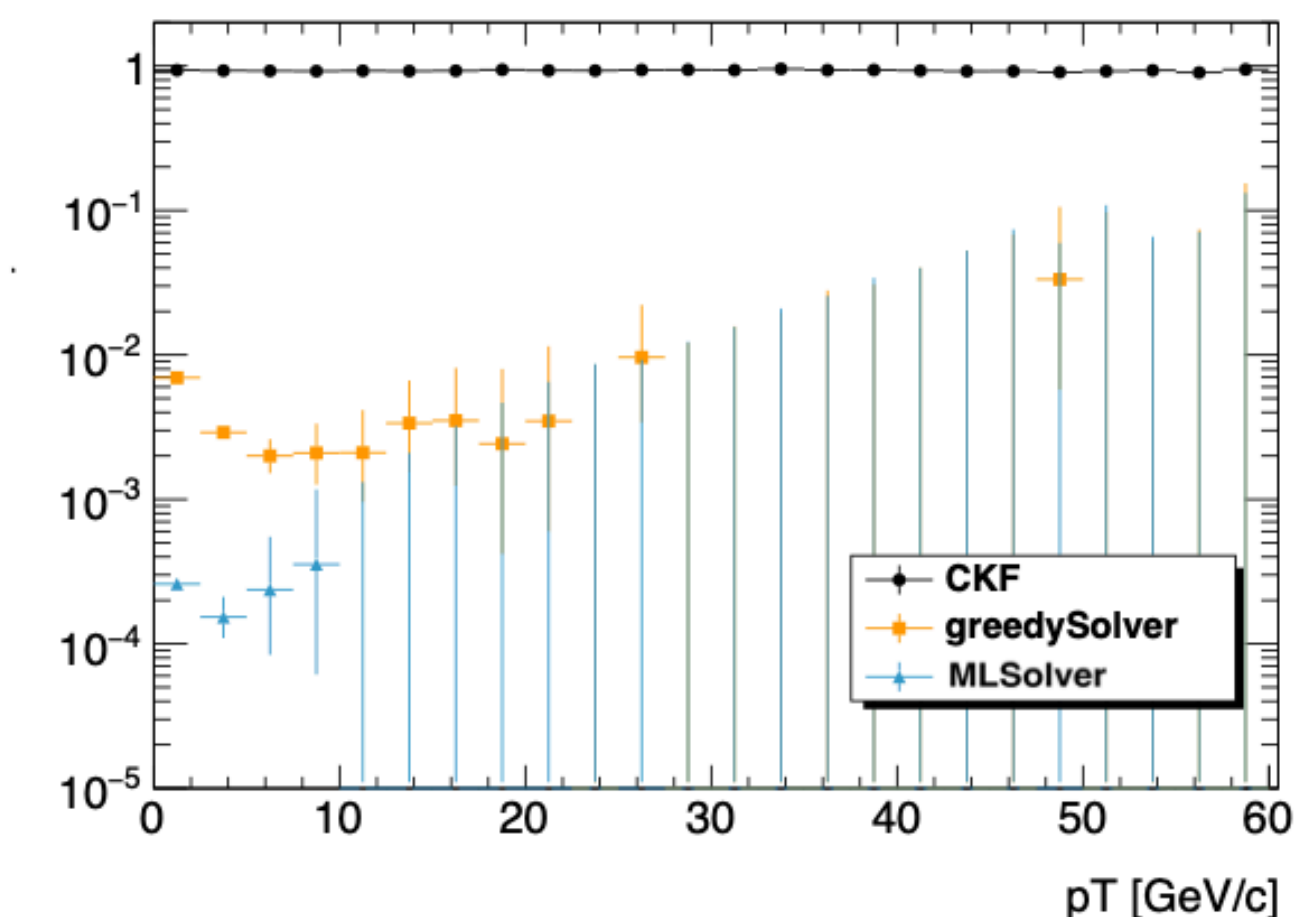
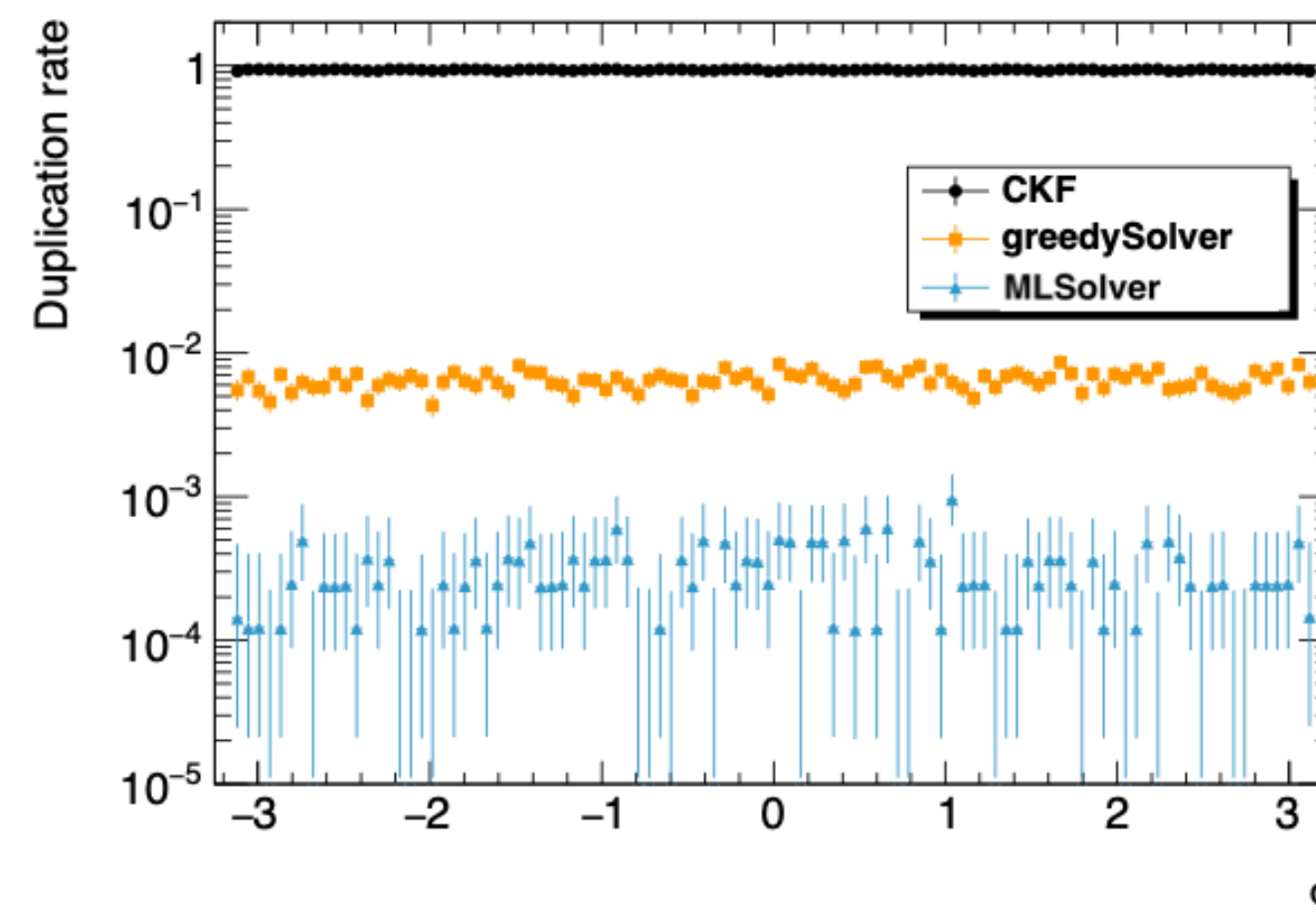
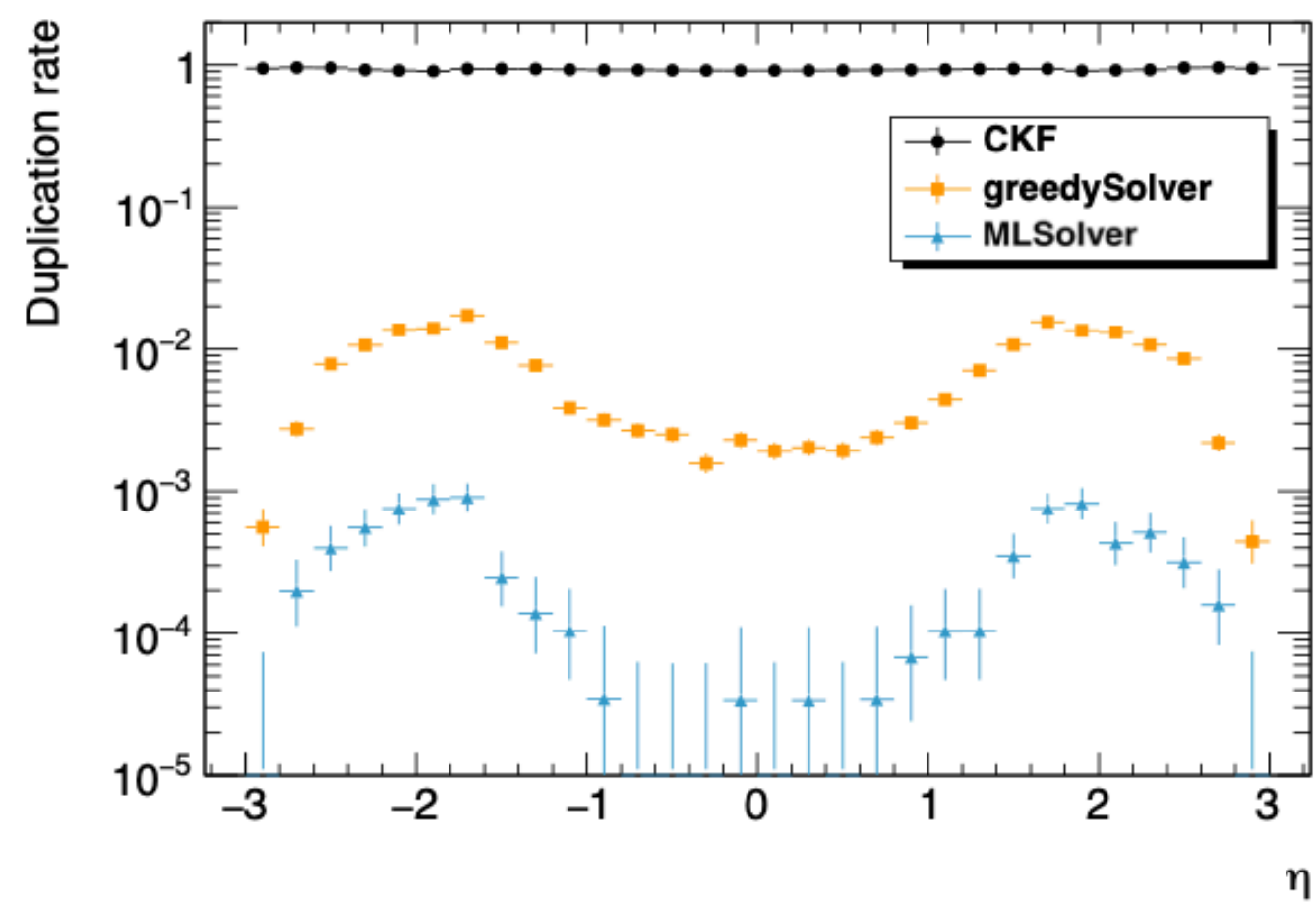
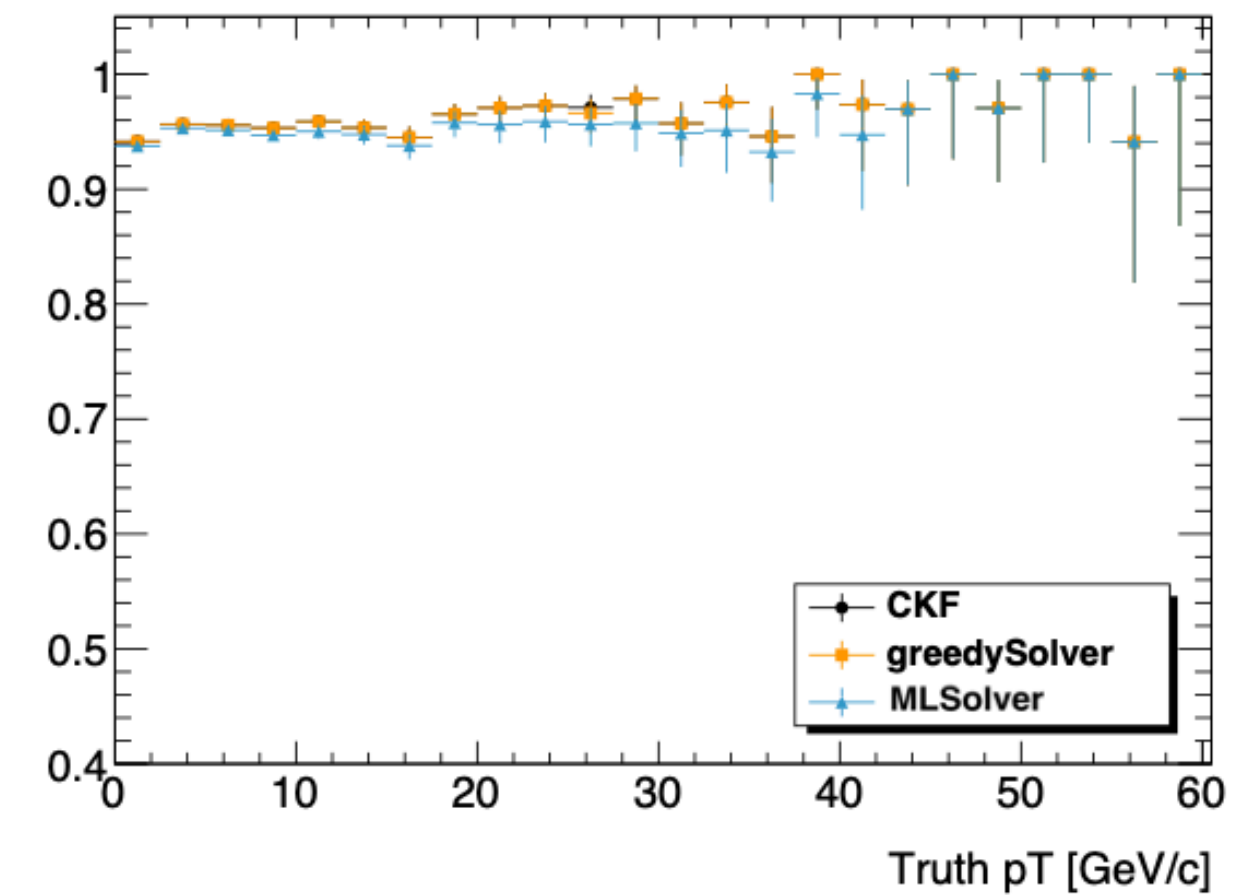
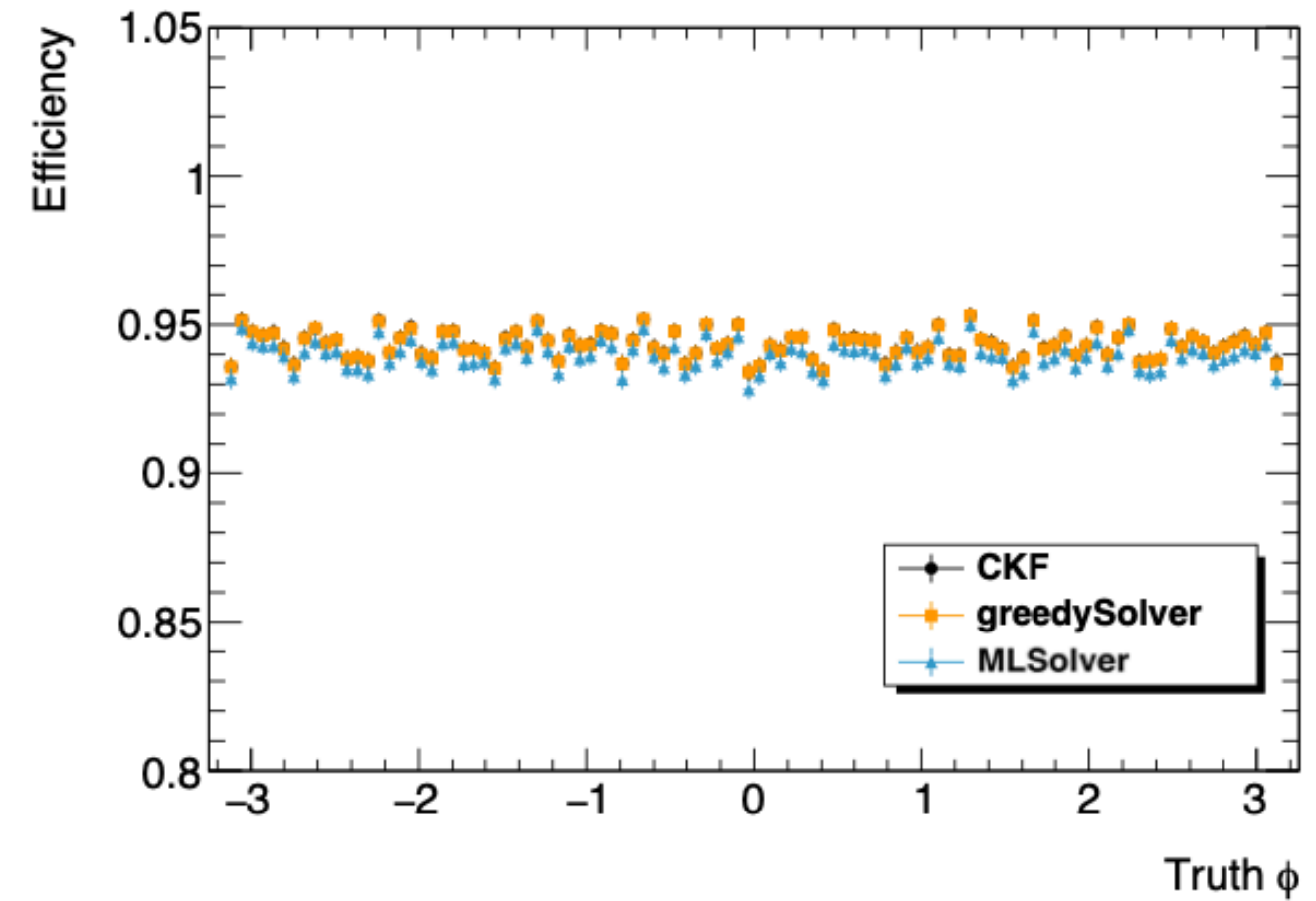
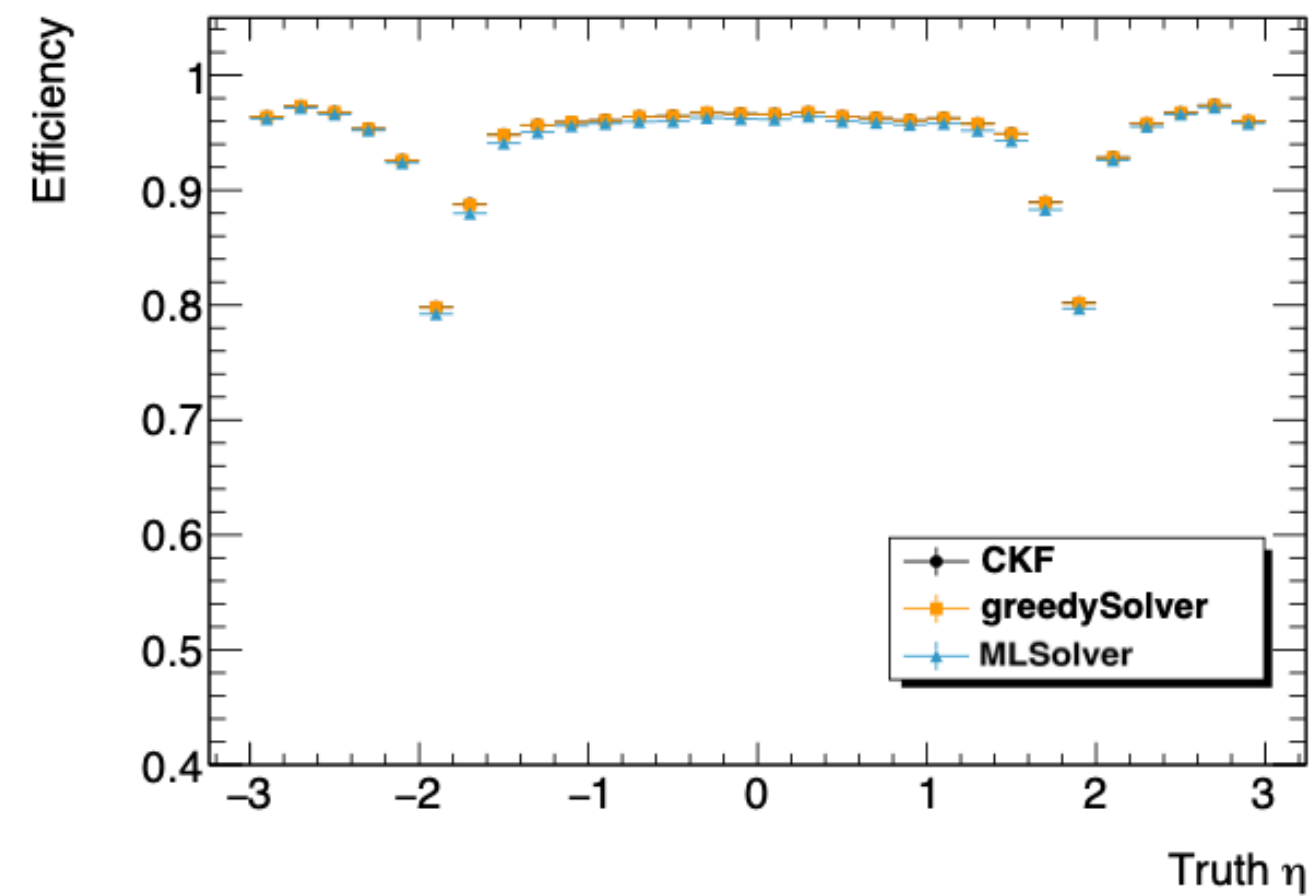
- ▶ First chain runs on OpenDataDetector in stand-alone
  - Performance (physics/computing) evaluation to start
- ▶ Integration of 'traccc' suite as Plugins started (talk by Beomki Yeo, tomorrow)
  - Aim is to be able to evoke a traccc reconstruction chain from ACTS





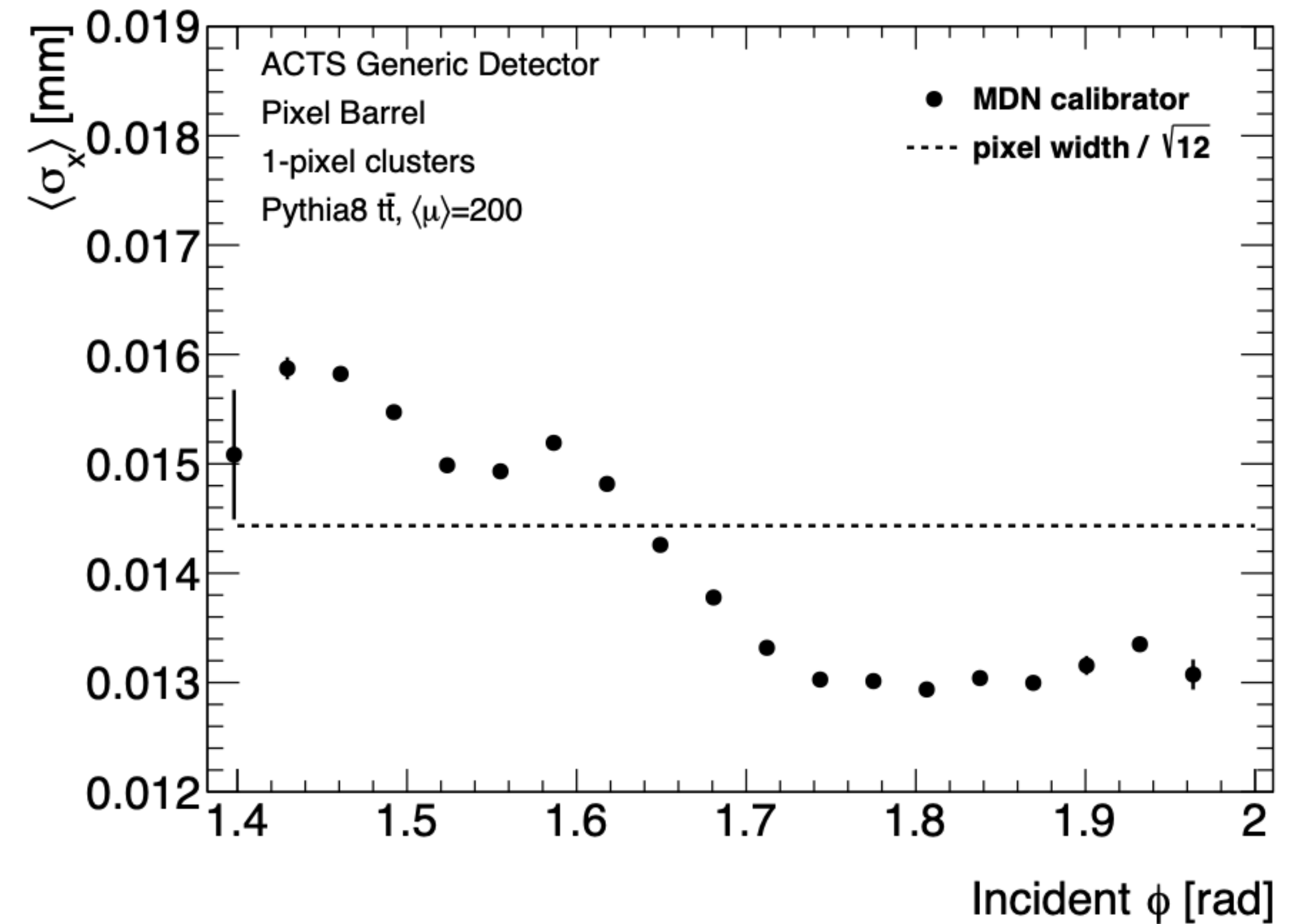
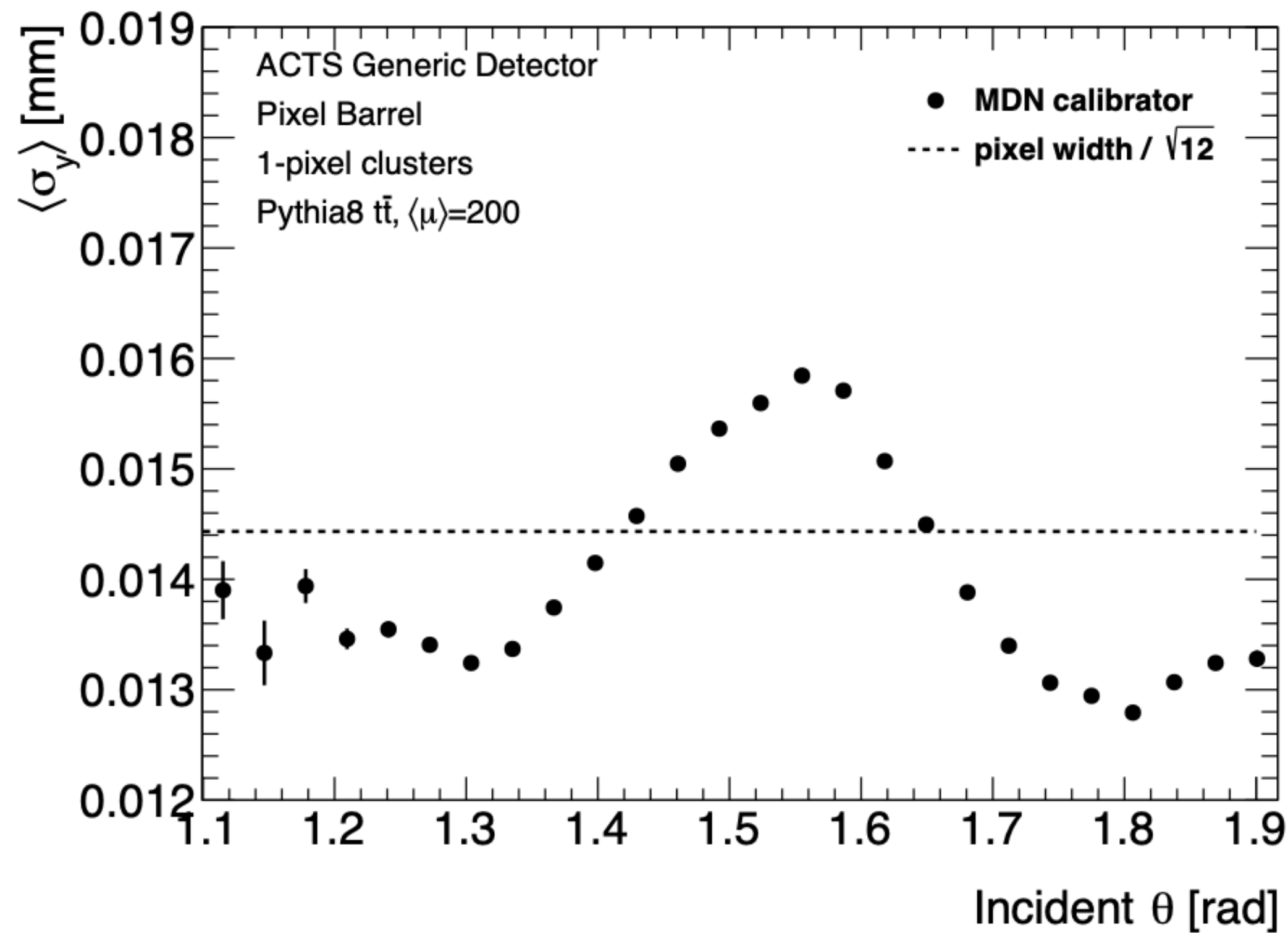
# R&D line: machine learning

## ► ML based ambiguity solver



# R&D line: machine learning

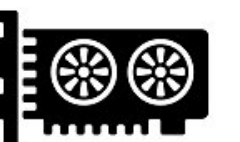
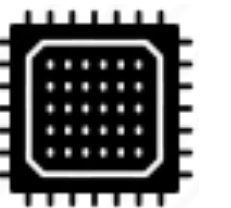
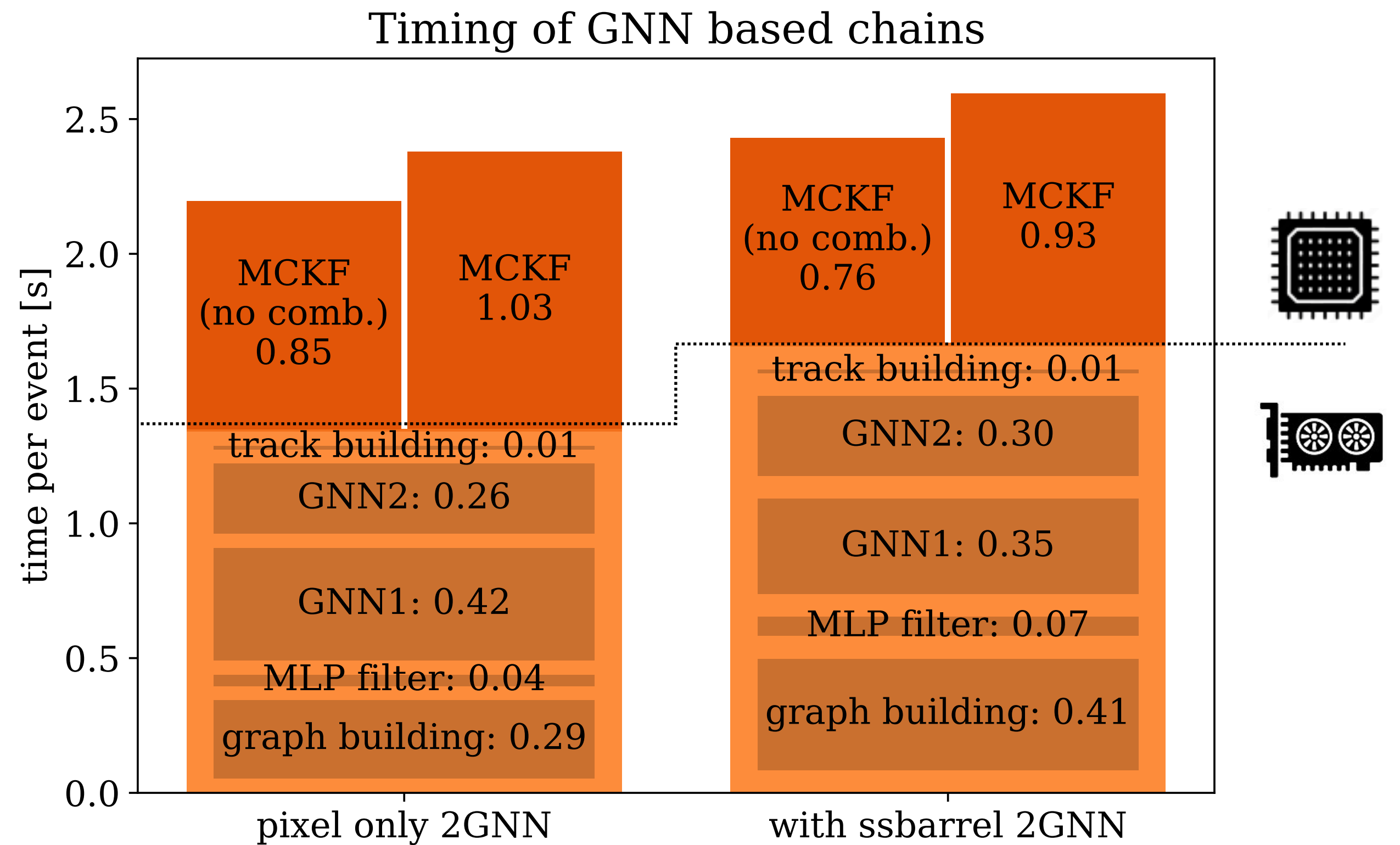
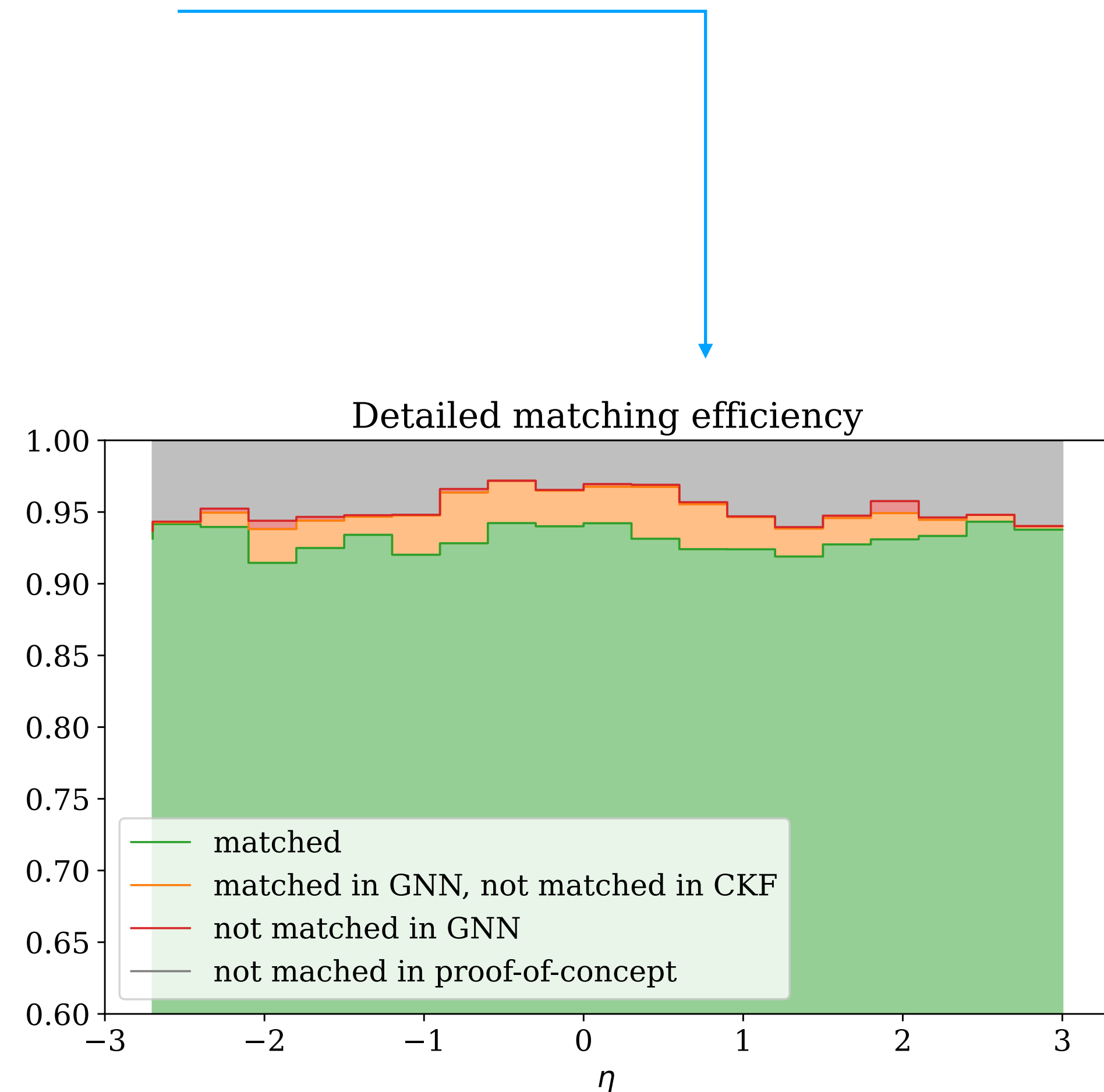
- ▶ NN based cluster position / calibration
  - NN based clusterization available



# R&D line: machine learning

- ▶ Graph network based pattern recognition with CKF on top

Preliminary results show that the CKF can be restricted to a branch number = 1 if first two (short) strip layers are also included (taking best hit only)



Cc

Cc

Cc

# Collaborating

ACTS is Open Source and invites contributions, corrections, interactions



<https://github.com/acts-project/acts>

Clone:

<https://github.com/<username>/acts>

Develop & Make a PR



Make an Issue:

<https://github.com/acts-project/acts>



Ask on mattermost:

<https://mattermost.web.cern.ch/acts/channels/town-square>

Development, Exchange with Experts,  
Collaboration, Code review, CI testing



Discuss at the open develops meeting  
<https://indico.cern.ch/category/7968/>

Tuesday 17:00, CE(S)T

**new, periodic Asia-friendly slot 9:00 CE(S)T ~ 1/month**

# Contributing

Pull requests come with a template that guides through a proper submission

**semantic naming:** feat, doc, refactor, fix

The screenshot shows a GitHub pull request interface. The title is "refactor!: MTJ stores measurement as jagged vector #1512", with "refactor!" circled in blue. The pull request is from "paulgessinger" and targets the "acts-project:main" branch. It includes 8 commits, 35 checks, and 18 files changed. A comment from "paulgessinger" contains a "Addresses #1516" section with a diagram of jagged vectors and a "BREAKING CHANGE" section. The code changes show the replacement of a simple measurement struct with a templated jagged vector structure. The right sidebar shows the "reviewers" section with "benjaminhuth" and "tboldagh" circled in red, and the "Milestone" section with "next" circled in green.

**refactor!:** MTJ stores measurement as jagged vector #1512

Conversation 9 | Commits 8 | Checks 35 | Files changed 18

reviewers

benjaminhuth | tboldagh

Addresses #1516.

**meaningful description**

```
x x x | x | x x | ...
  ^     ^     ^
M1,D=3 M2,D=1 M3,D=2
```

**BREAKING CHANGE:** Acts::MultiTrajectory measurement access methods change:

```
- constexpr auto measurement(IndexType measIdx) const;
+ template <size_t measdim>
+ constexpr auto measurement(IndexType measIdx) const;
```

and

```
constexpr auto measurementCovariance(IndexType covIdx)
+ template <size_t measdim>
+ constexpr auto measurementCovariance(IndexType covIdx)
```

Milestone

next

# Community

## Community-Supported Components: Acts

Weekly dev meeting with involvement of users at multiple experiments

Status of work visibility through presentations

Example of agile in community software

<p>acts-project/acts: PRs merged between 2022-09-13 and 2022-09-20 II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>docs: Update logging doc, add info on thresholds (PR#1520) by @paulgessinger, no assignee, merged on 2022-09-16</li><li>docs: update markdown cheatsheet (PR#1524) by @benjaminhuth, no assignee, merged on 2022-09-16</li><li>feat: Exa.TrkX with torchscript backend (PR#1473) by @benjaminhuth, no assignee, merged on 2022-09-16</li><li>docs: Gaussian Sum Filter (PR#1403) by @benjaminhuth, assigned to @benjaminhuth, merged on 2022-09-16</li><li>fix: Added missing return to seedfinder::CreateSeedsForGroup (PR#1521) by @guilhermeAlmeida1, no assignee, merged on 2022-09-16</li><li>refactor: Improve material mapping speed (PR#1458) by @Corentin-Allaire, assigned to @asalzbürger, merged on 2022-09-16</li><li>feat: Allow configurable particle selection and reproducible seeds for Geant4 (PR#1428) by @benjaminhuth, no assignee, merged on 2022-09-19</li><li>chore: Add priority merge label to kodiak config (PR#1532) by @paulgessinger, no assignee, merged on 2022-09-19</li></ul> <p>3/14</p>	<p>acts-project/acts: PRs merged between 2022-09-13 and 2022-09-20 III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>chore: Add priority label to kodiak config (PR#1533) by @paulgessinger, no assignee, merged on 2022-09-19</li><li>docs: Contribution guidelines (PR#1525) by @paulgessinger, no assignee, merged on 2022-09-19</li><li>fix: ParticleSmearing options not setup in AMVF example exe (PR#1508) by @paulgessinger, no assignee, merged on 2022-09-19</li><li>refactor: improve full_chain_itk.py example (PR#1513) by @timadye, assigned to @andiwand, merged on 2022-09-19</li></ul> <p>4/14</p>
<p>acts-project/acts: Open PRs I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>refactor: improve full_chain_odd.py example (PR#1538) by @andiwand, assigned to @timadye, updated on 2022-09-20</li><li>refactor: MTJ stores measurement as jagged vector (PR#1512) by @paulgessinger, no assignee, updated on 2022-09-20</li><li>feat: Hough Transform first implementation (PR#1305) by @jahreda, no assignee, updated on 2022-09-19</li><li>feat: Material Mapping Auto-tuning script with Orion (PR#1464) by @Corentin-Allaire, no assignee, updated on 2022-09-16</li><li>docs: Exa.TrkX (PR#1517) by @benjaminhuth, no assignee, updated on 2022-09-16</li><li>fix: Refactor and fix component merging for GSF (PR#1364) by @benjaminhuth, assigned to @asalzbürger, updated on 2022-09-13</li><li>feat: Add a tool for writing B-fields to disk in CSV format (PR#1470) by @stephenswat, assigned to @stephenswat, updated on 2022-09-07</li></ul> <p>5/14</p>	<p>acts-project/acts: Open PRs II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>WIP ci: test exatrkx training ci (PR#1505) by @benjaminhuth, no assignee, updated on 2022-09-20</li><li>WIP feat: MultiTrajectory backends const version (PR#1496) by @paulgessinger, no assignee, updated on 2022-09-20</li><li>WIP feat: VectorMultiTrajectory memory statistics (PR#1511) by @paulgessinger, no assignee, updated on 2022-09-19</li><li>WIP refactor: Add macro to simplify algorithm binding (PR#1510) by @benjaminhuth, no assignee, updated on 2022-09-19</li><li>WIP docs: updates to the seeding documentation (PR#1476) by @LuisFelipeCoelho, no assignee, updated on 2022-09-16</li><li>WIP docs: adding Fatras description (PR#1402) by @asalzbürger, assigned to @asalzbürger, updated on 2022-09-14</li><li>WIP docs: polish tgeo plugin doc (PR#1397) by @niermann999, assigned to @niermann999, updated on 2022-09-14</li></ul> <p>6/14</p>

# Final remarks

- ▶ The ACTS project has grown immensely during the last years
  - a very feature rich toolbox that is still enlarging
  - increased focus on consolidation & performance tuning has started
  
- ▶ Collaboration is invited
  - This is an open source project where we want to serve many clients
    - Have the resources to optimise known algorithms and concepts
    - Free resources to do innovative R&D



# Links

[acts-developers@cern.ch](mailto:acts-developers@cern.ch)

[acts-users@cern.ch](mailto:acts-users@cern.ch)

[acts-parallelization@cern.ch](mailto:acts-parallelization@cern.ch)

[acts-machinelearning@cern.ch](mailto:acts-machinelearning@cern.ch)

[acts-telescope@cern.ch](mailto:acts-telescope@cern.ch)



[\[ CSBS, ACTS \]](#)

## Email lists

**Code base for acts-project, R&D lines, spin offs**

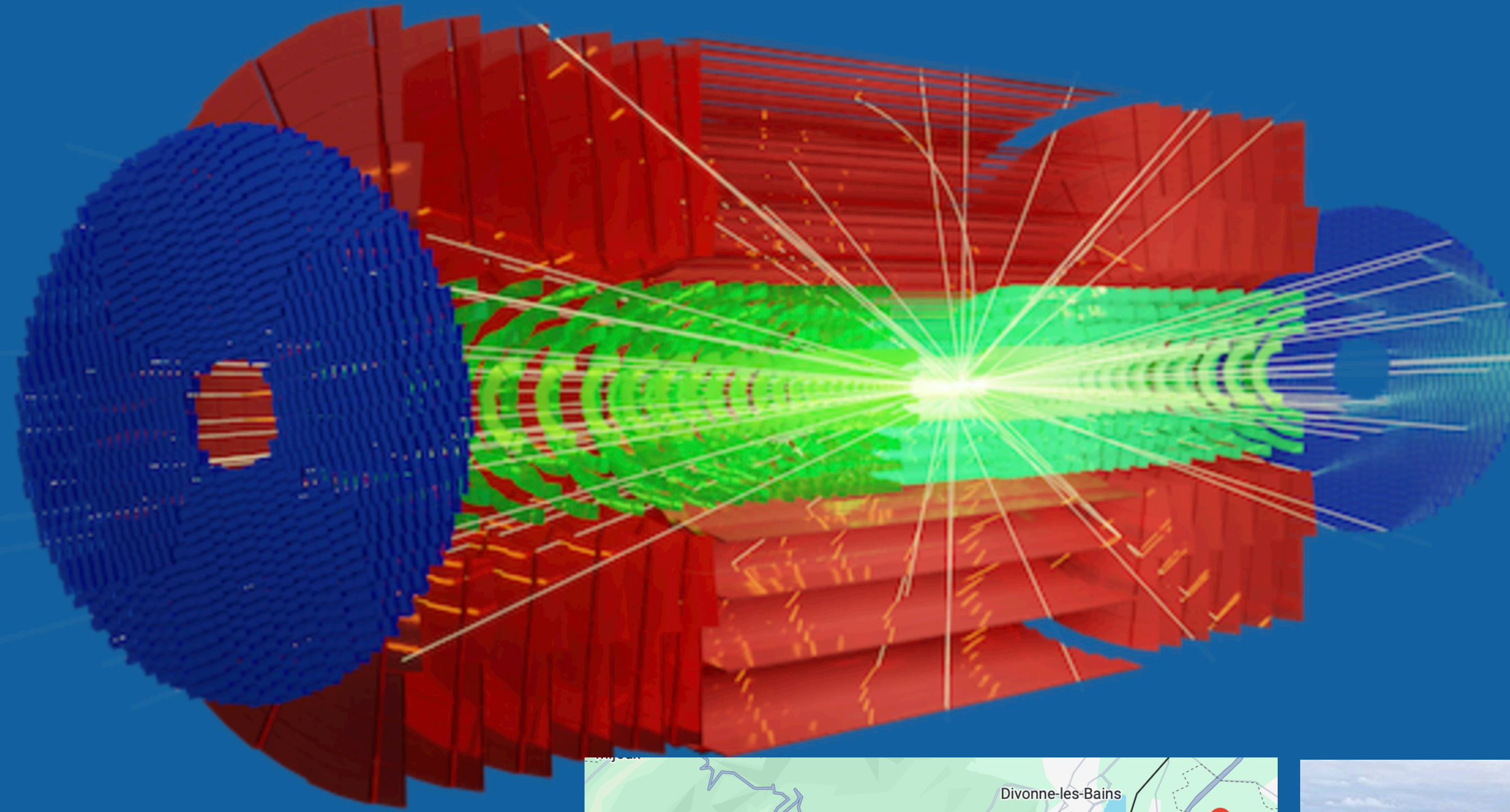
**Communication channel**

**Online documentation (built from latest snapshot)**

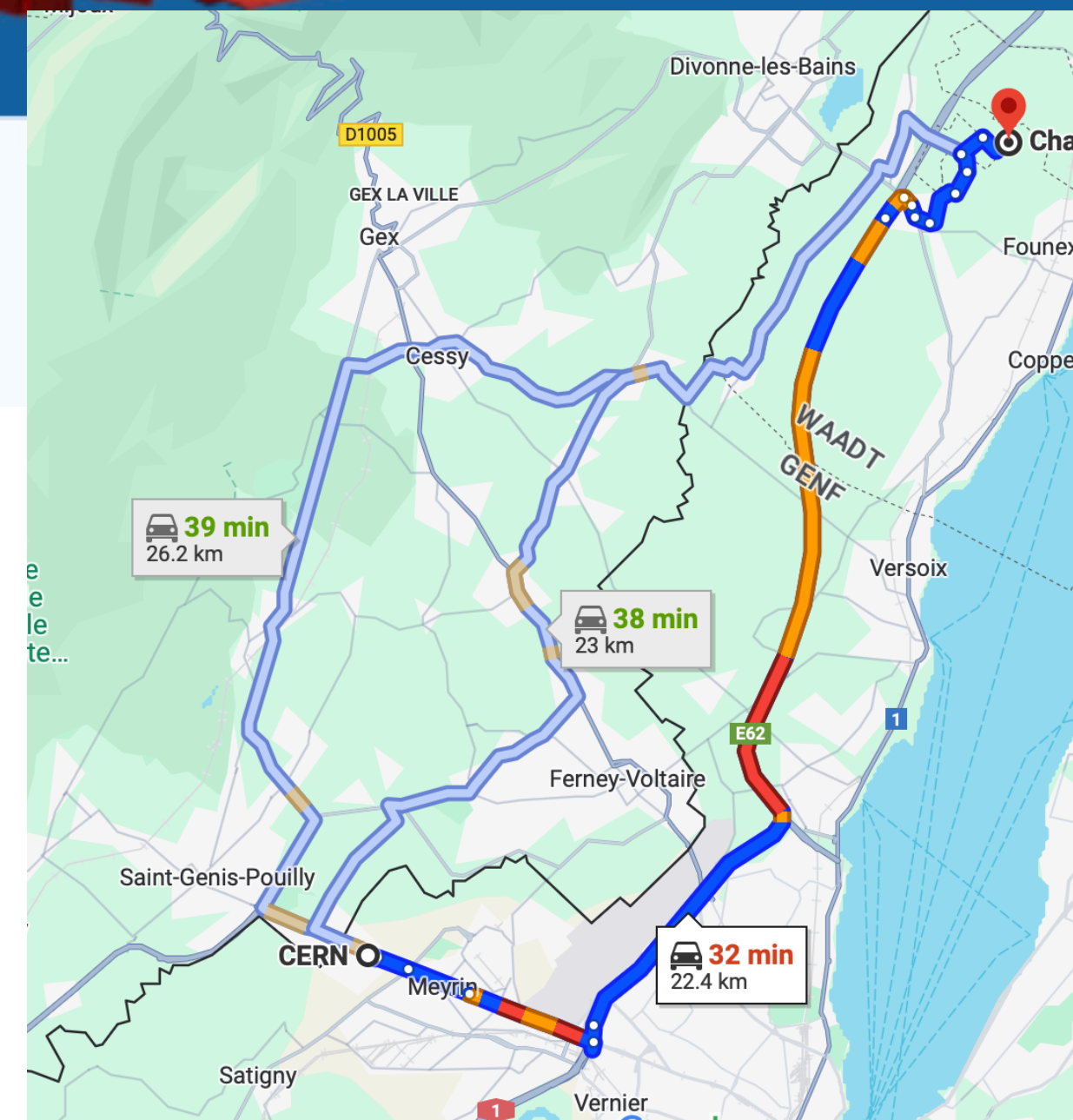
**Write-up documentation**

# ACTS Developers Workshop 2024

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1397634/>



18–21 Nov 2024  
Chateau de Bossey  
Europe/Zurich timezone

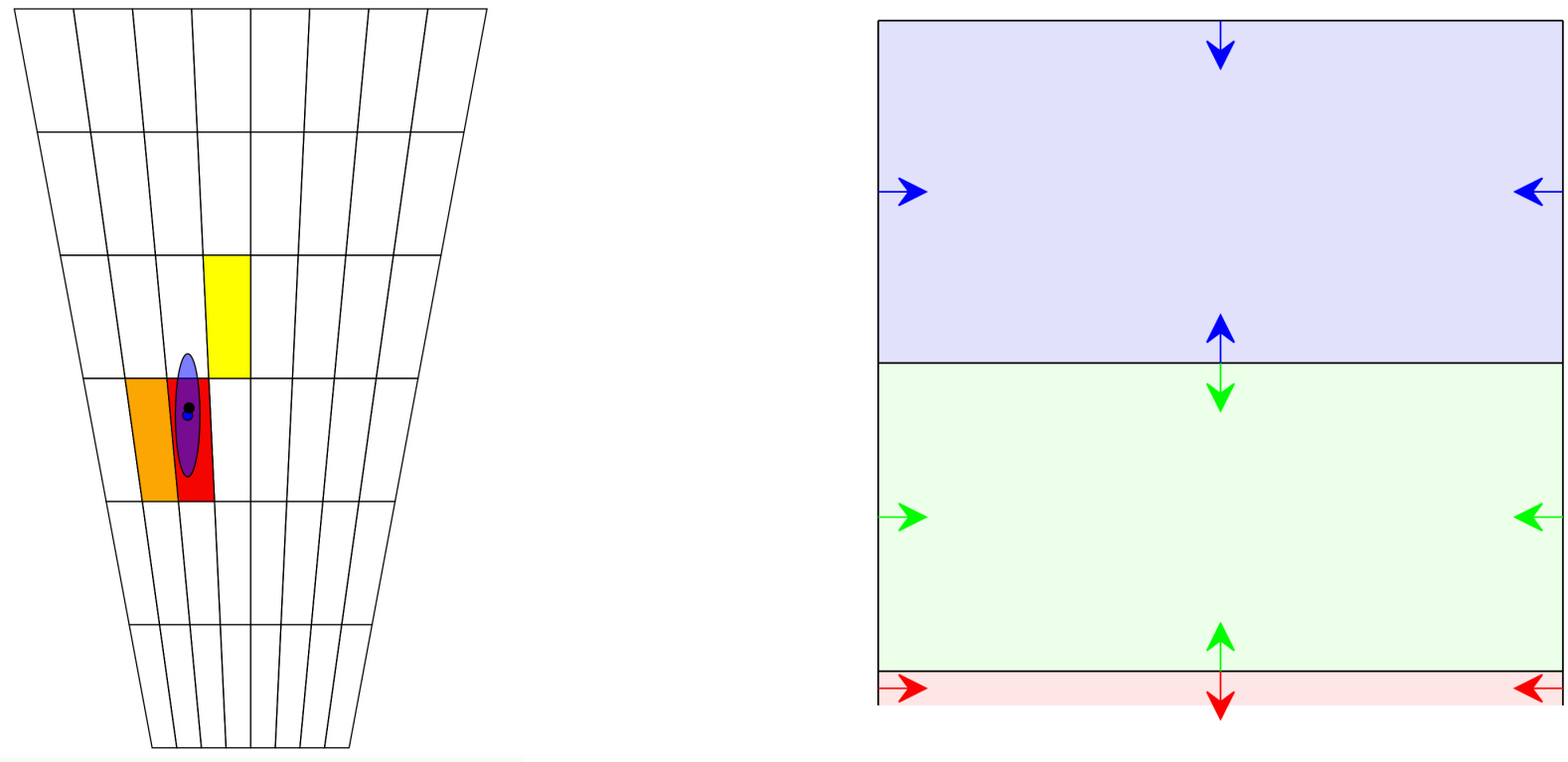


# Spin-offs

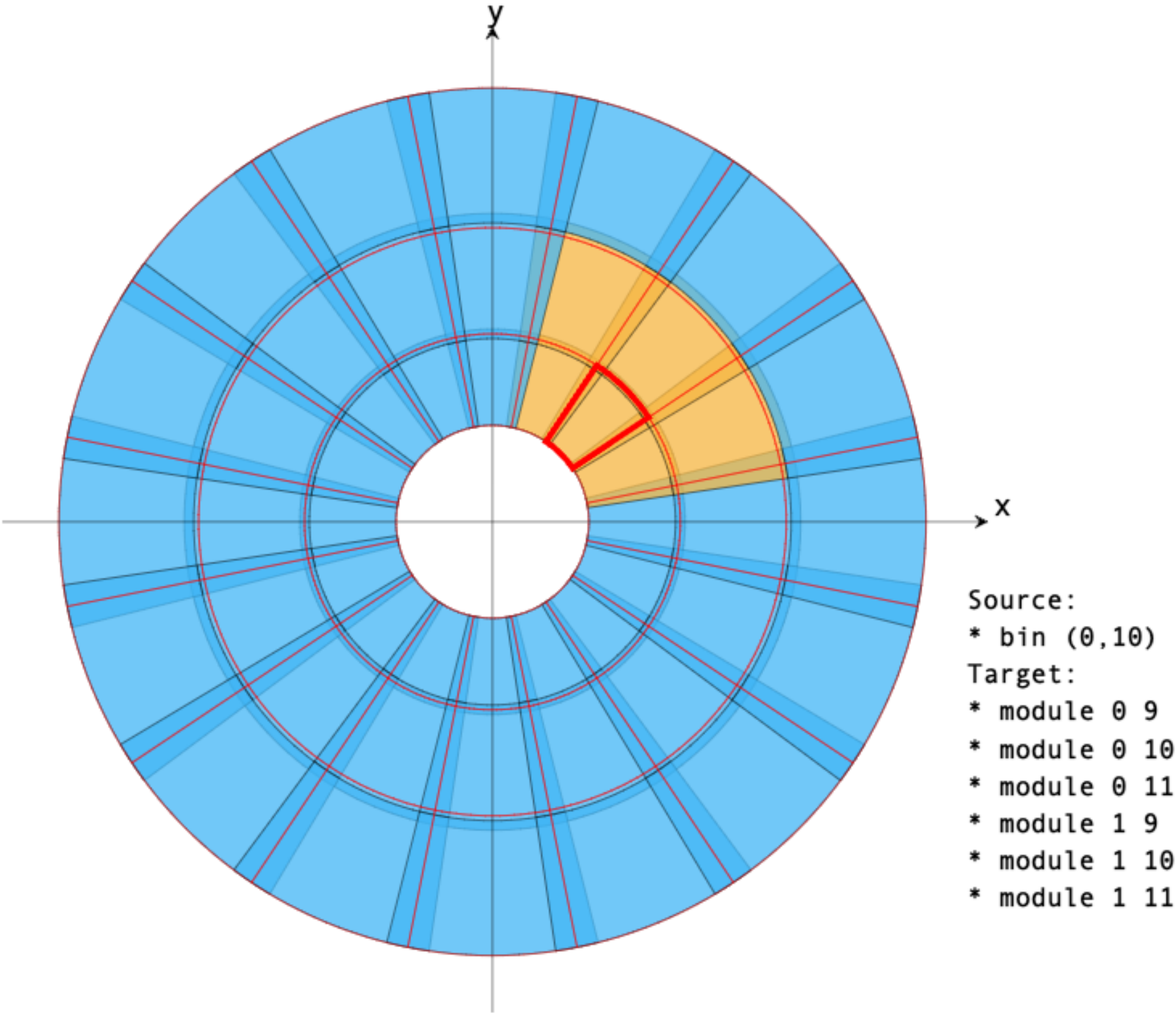
# Plotting: actsvg

2D plotting library dedicated for tracking

- No dependencies, C++ header only, no ACTS dependency
  - ACTS and detrays translate into `actsvg::meta` objects
- Plot geometry & geometric relations (on mouse over effects for debugging)
- Plot clusters & cluster information



Endcap with templates



```
Source:  
* bin (0,10)  
Target:  
* module 0 9  
* module 0 10  
* module 0 11  
* module 1 9  
* module 1 10  
* module 1 11
```

# Community: [Open Data Detector](#) & key4hep

## Evolution of TrackML detector

- Re-implemented in DD4Hep to enable full/fast simulation
- Quasi-realistic feedback to allow real-life scenario testing of algorithms
- Supports TrackML output format through ACTS binding (work ongoing to also support edm4hep)

## ACTS integration into key4hep SW stack

- Codename: acts4hep
- Summer student project to make a ACTS Gaudi based demonstrator

[[AS, CHEP2023 Parallel talk](#)]

