



# Progress of the STCF ECAL

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On behalf of the STCF calorimeter working group

International Workshop on Future Tau Charm Facilities (FTCF 2025)  
Huangshan, Nov. 26, 2025



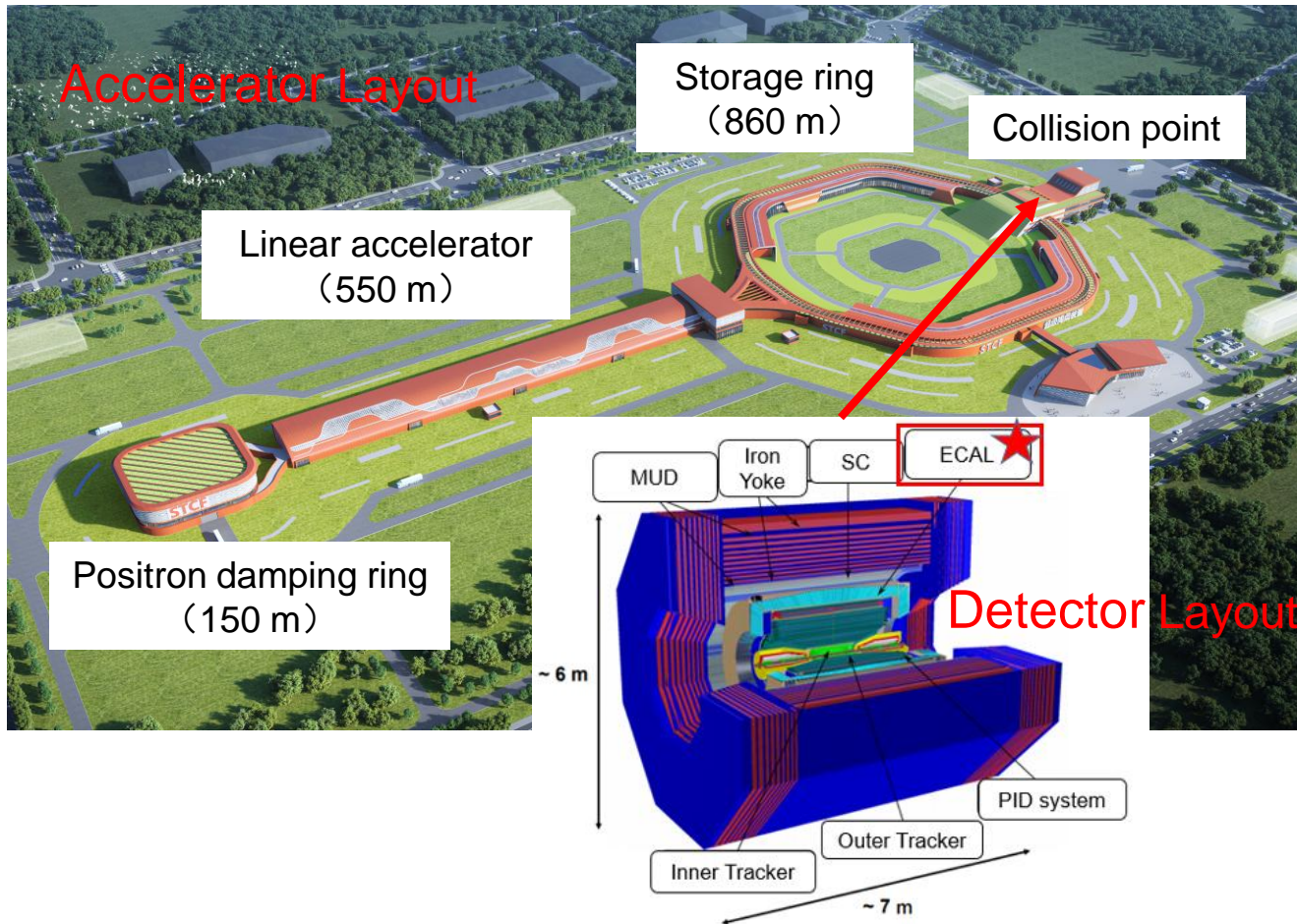
- **Introduction to STCF ECAL**
- **Optimization and Development of Prototype**
- **Beam Test and Performance Study**
- **Summary**

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# Super Tau-Charm Facility (STCF)

## ● Next-generation high luminosity $e^+e^-$ collider in China

- Center-of-mass energy: 2 – 7 GeV
- Luminosity:  $\geq 0.5 \times 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} @ 4 \text{ GeV}$



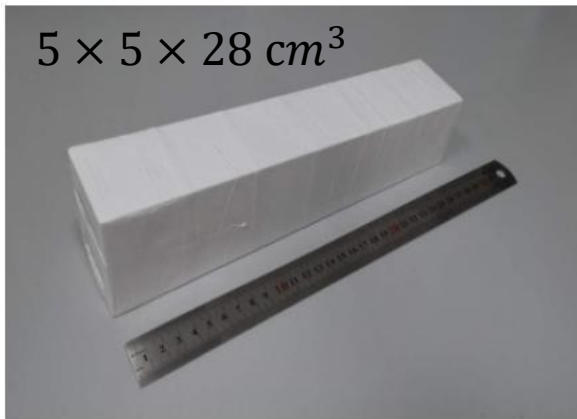
## ● Challenges and requirements of ECAL

- ❑ High event rate (400 kHz)
- ❑ High background level ( $\sim \text{MHz}$ )
- ❑ Radiation resistance (40 krad)
- ◆ Large energy dynamic range:  
25 MeV  $\sim$  3.5 GeV
- ◆ Precise energy resolution :  
 $< 2.5\% @ 1 \text{ GeV}$
- ◆ Good position resolution :  
 $\sim 5 \text{ mm} @ 1 \text{ GeV}$
- ◆ Good time resolution:  
 $\sim 300 \text{ ps} @ 1 \text{ GeV}$

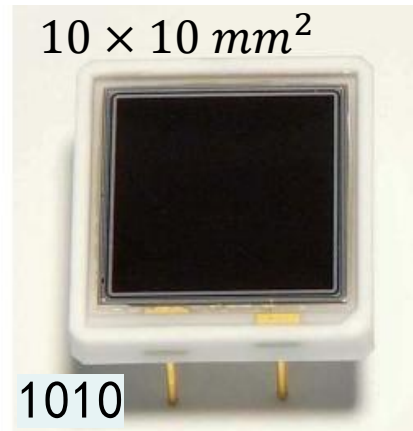
# Design of STCF ECAL

- **Design of Sensitive Units**

- ◆ Pure CsI (**pCsI**) crystal ( $28\text{ cm}$  ( **$15X_0$** ))
  - Fast decay time ( $\sim 30\text{ ns}$ )
  - Excellent radiation hardness
- ◆ Avalanche photodiode (**APD**)
  - Insensitive to magnetic field
  - High quantum efficiency (Q.E.)



pCsI crystal



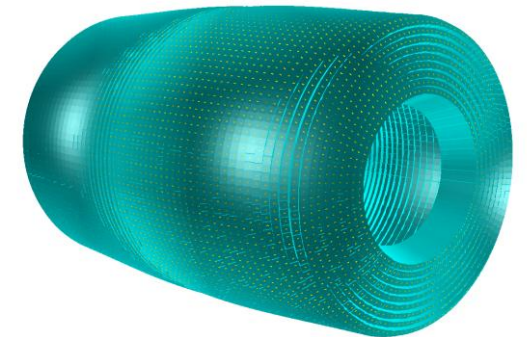
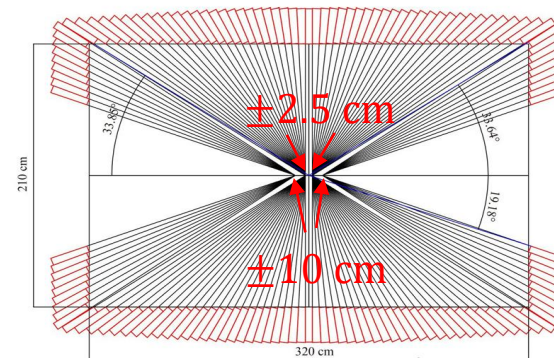
APD (S8864-1010)

- **Design of Electronics**

- Charge-sensitive amplifier (CSA)
- Waveform sampling readout

- **Design of Geometry**

- Barrel + Endcap: 8670 crystals
  - ✓  $\sim 95\%$  solid angle coverage
- Defocus layout
  - ✓  $\sim 6\%$  higher detection efficiency



Crystal arrangement diagram

# Outline

- Introduction to STCF ECAL
- **Optimization and Development of Prototype**
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# Light output enhancement

- **Low light collection efficiency**

- **Emission peak of pCsI is ~310 nm**

- ☐ Low transmittance

- ☐ Low APD Q.E.

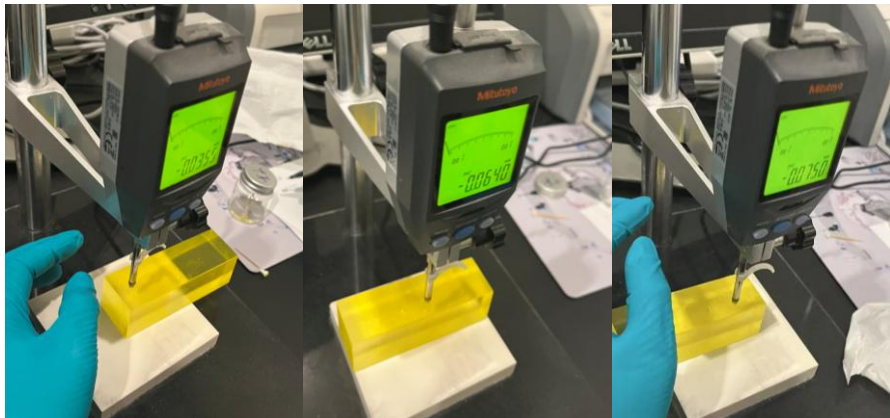
- **WLS coating scheme**

- **Wavelength shifting: ~300 nm → ~550 nm**

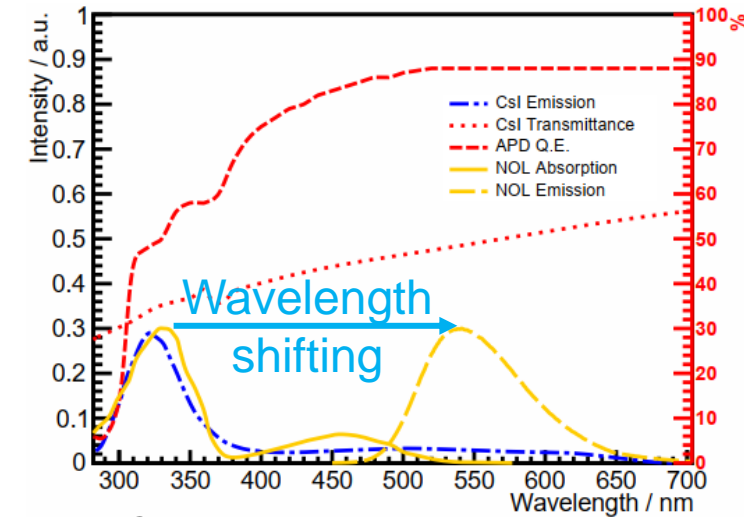
- ✓ Transmittance: 30% → 50%

- ✓ APD Q.E.: 40% → 80%

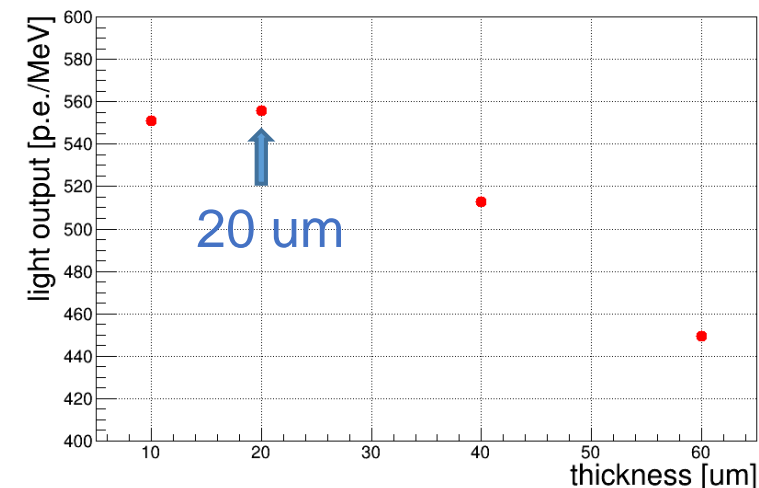
- Coating thickness optimization: ~20  $\mu\text{m}$



thickness measurement



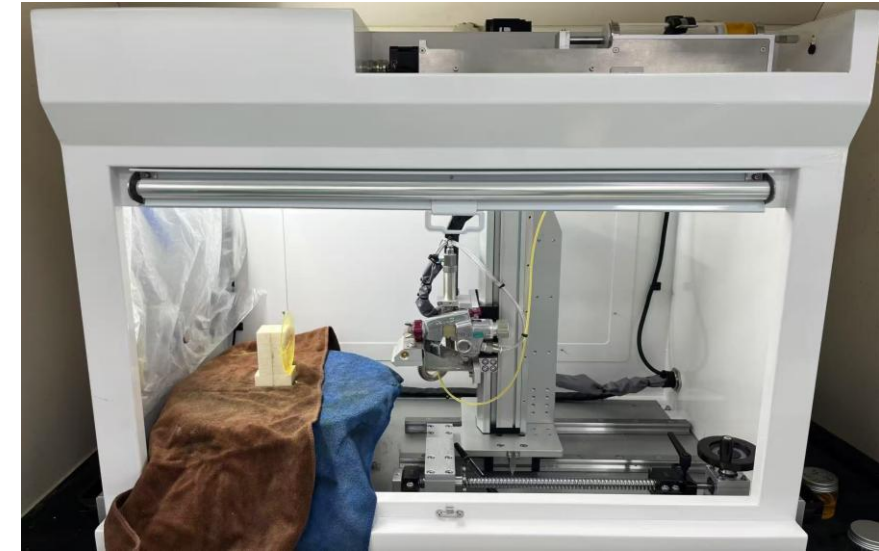
Spectra of pCsI Emission & transmittance, APD Q.E., NOL Absorption & emission



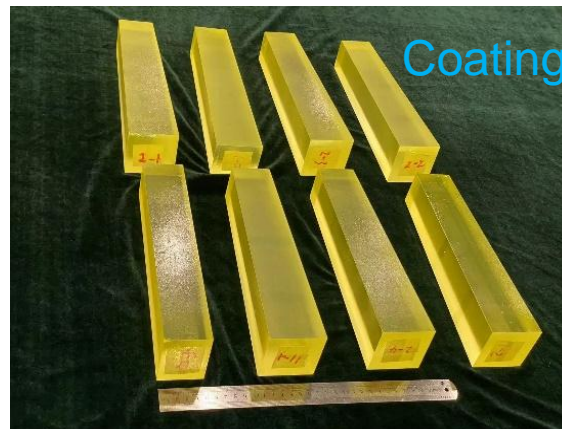
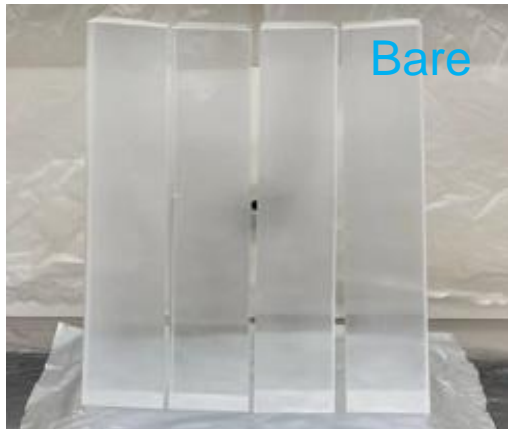
Light output vs. coating thickness

# Light output enhancement

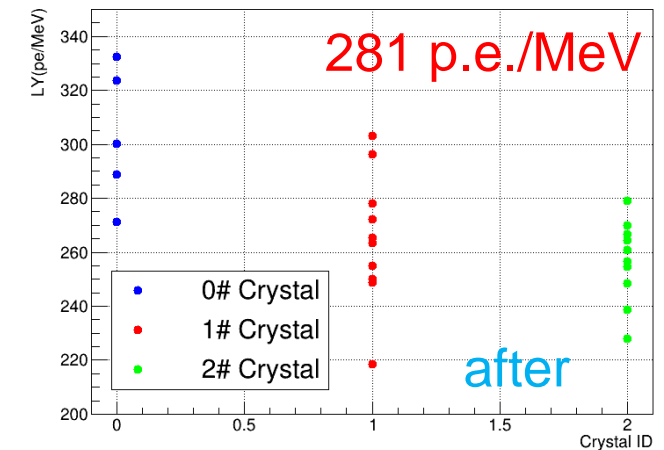
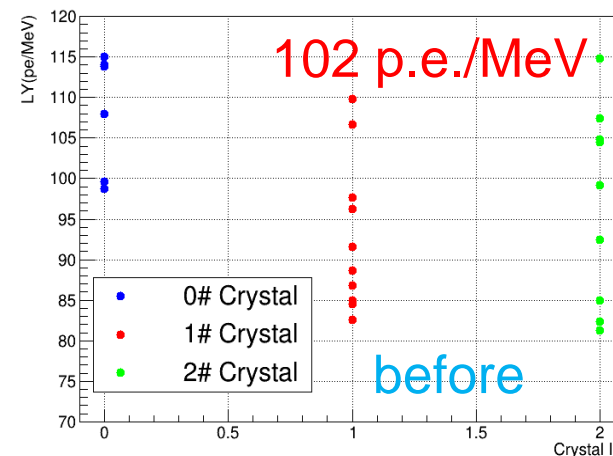
- **Automated coating device**
  - Higher coating efficiency
  - Better thickness uniformity
  - Less harm to humans
- **Light output enhancement**
  - Coat 25 crystals in the prototype
  - **Average light output increase: ~175%**



Automated coating device



pCsl crystals before and after coating



Light output before and after coating

# Development of Prototype

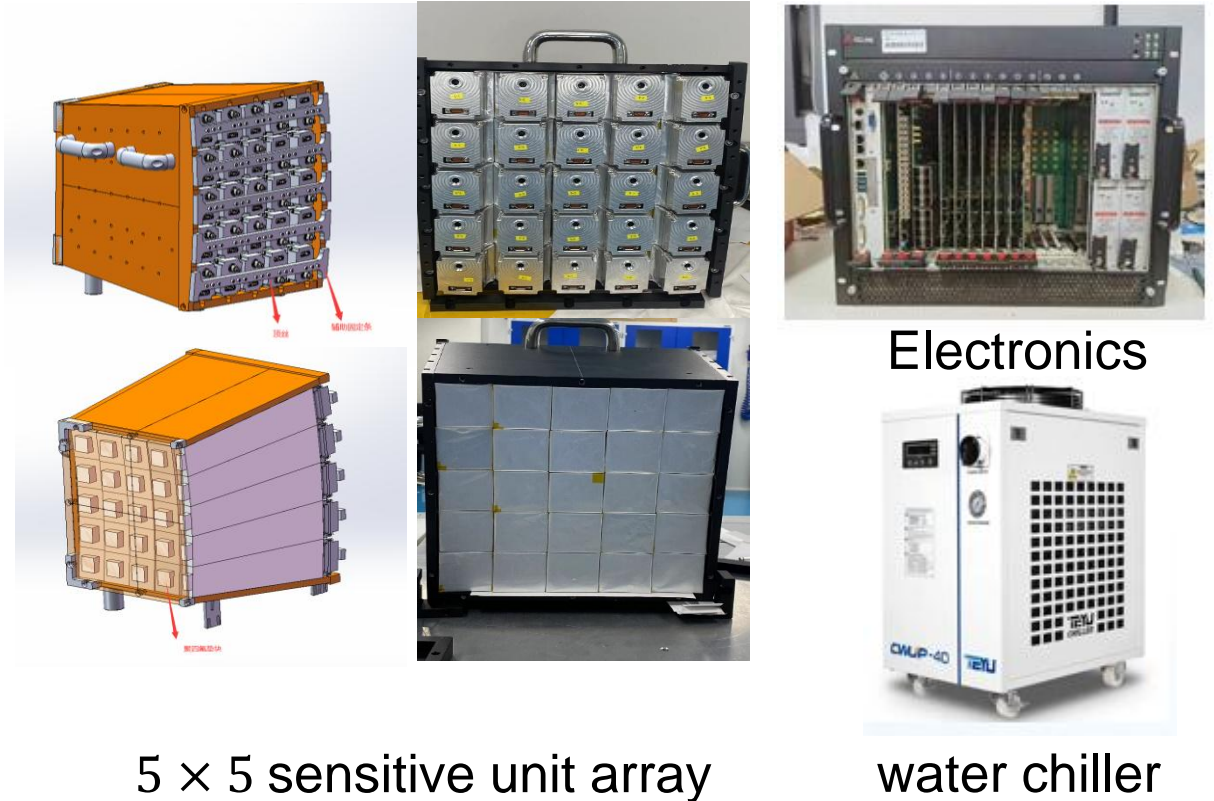
- **Sensitive unit components:**

- ① Crystals with reflective material
- ② 4 APDs
- ③ Front-end electronics



- **ECAL prototype components:**

- **5 × 5 sensitive unit array**
- Back-end electronics
- Temperature stabilization system



# Optimization of Crystal Growth Conditions

- **Requirements of pCsl crystals**

- Radiation hardness: >70% L.Y. (100 krad)
- Slow component fraction: <10%

- **Performance vs. growth conditions**

✓ 7.4% slow component fraction

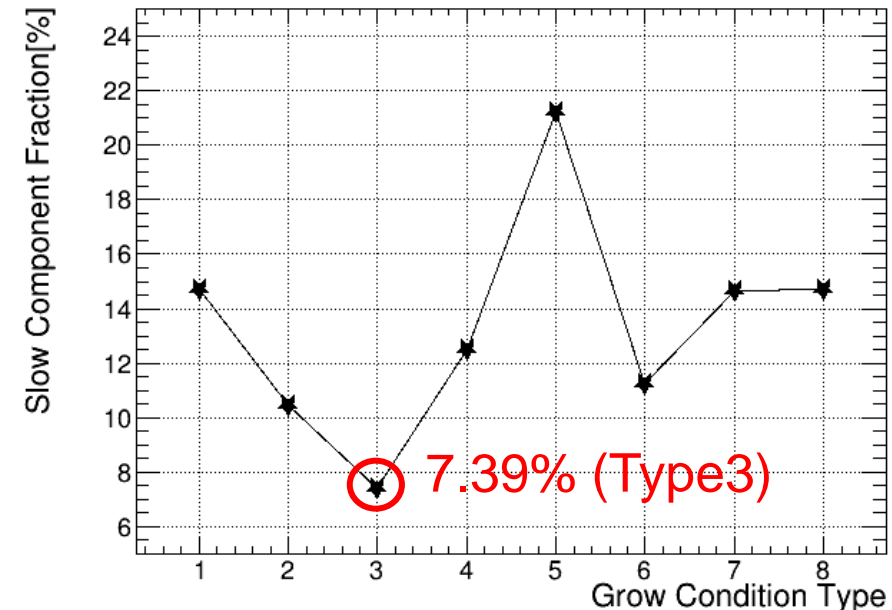
□ Radiation hardness test in the future

Growth condition	Baking environment	Annealing	Deoxidizing
Type 1	Vacuum	No	Yes
Type 2	Vacuum	No	No
Type 3	Air	No	Yes
Type 4	Air	No	No
Type 5	Vacuum	Yes	Yes
Type 6	Vacuum	Yes	No
Type7	Air	Yes	Yes
Type 8	Air	Yes	No

8 types of growth condition



Crystal samples



Slow component fraction vs. growth conditions

- Introduction to STCF ECAL
- Optimization and Development of Prototype
- **Beam Test and Performance Study**
- Summary

# Beam Test

## ● Beam test of the ECAL prototype

- PS T09 beam line at CERN
- Multi-system test
  - PID Detector——BTOF&PIDB
  - ECAL
  - T0 Detector
  - Tracking Detector
- Beam type and momentum

Type	Momentum
$\mu^+$	$\sim 10 \text{ GeV/c}$
$e^+$	0.2-3.5 GeV/c
$hadron^+$	1-5 GeV/c



# Beam Test



ECAL prototype



ECAL test team

# Operating status of Prototype

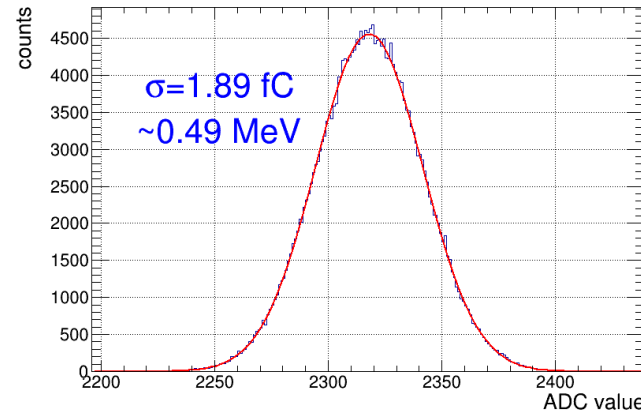
- **Noise level**

- Low Gain :  $\sim 3.2$  fC (ENE:  $\sim 0.8$  MeV)
- High Gain:  $\sim 1.9$  fC (ENE:  $\sim 0.5$  MeV)

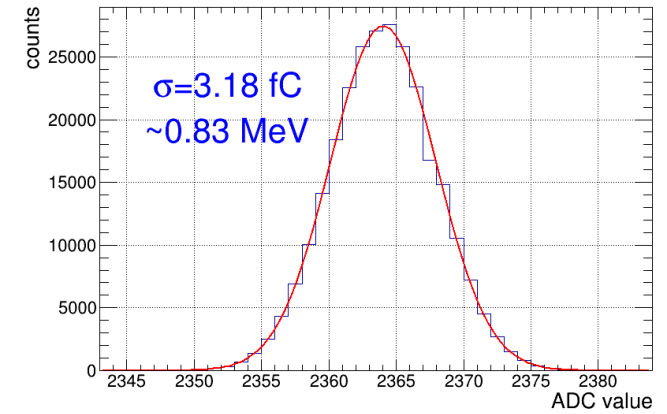
- **High-Low gain ratio :  $\sim 10$**

- **Calibration with  $\mu^+$  :  $\sim 180$  MeV**

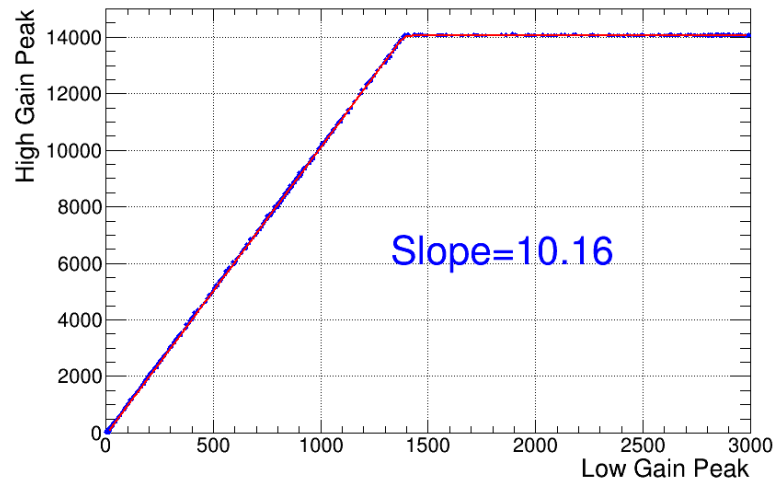
- **Temperature is stable:  $\sim 30 \pm 0.5$  °C**



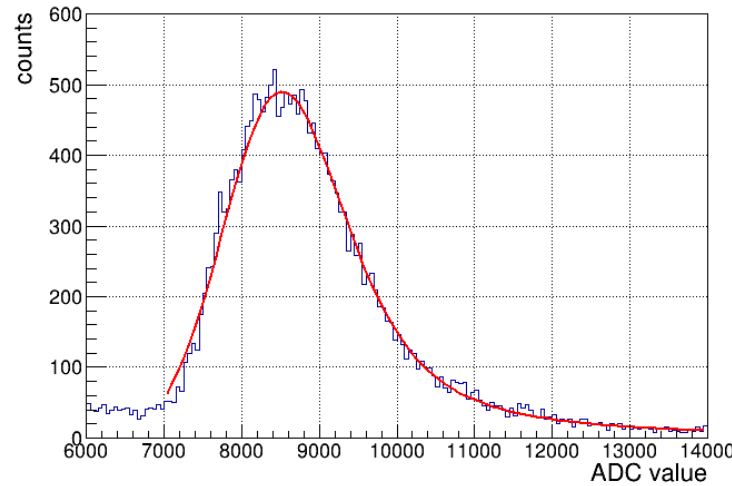
High gain noise



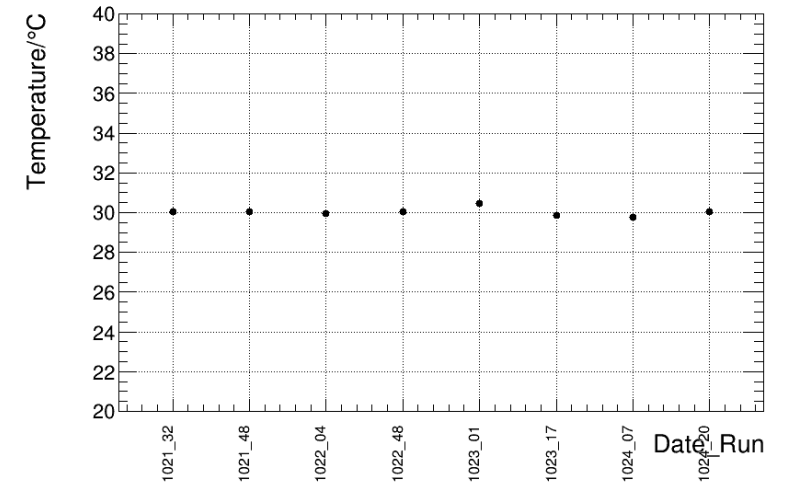
Low gain noise



High-Low gain ratio



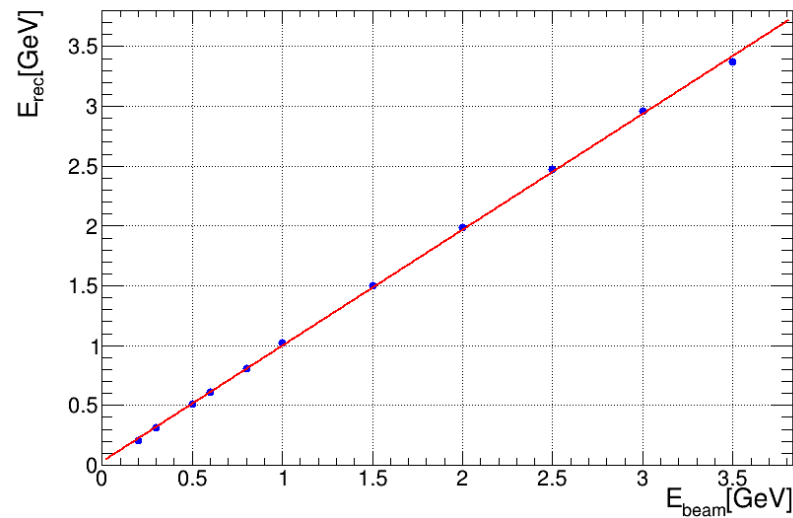
Energy spectrum of MIPs



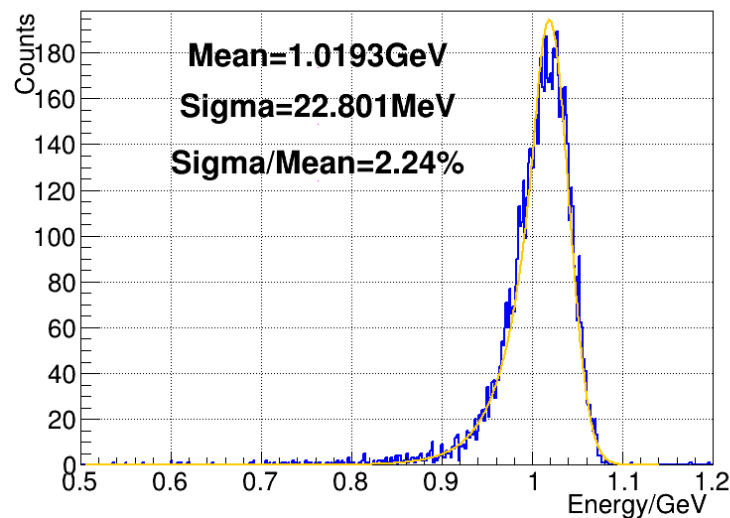
Temperature stability

# Energy Reconstruction Performance

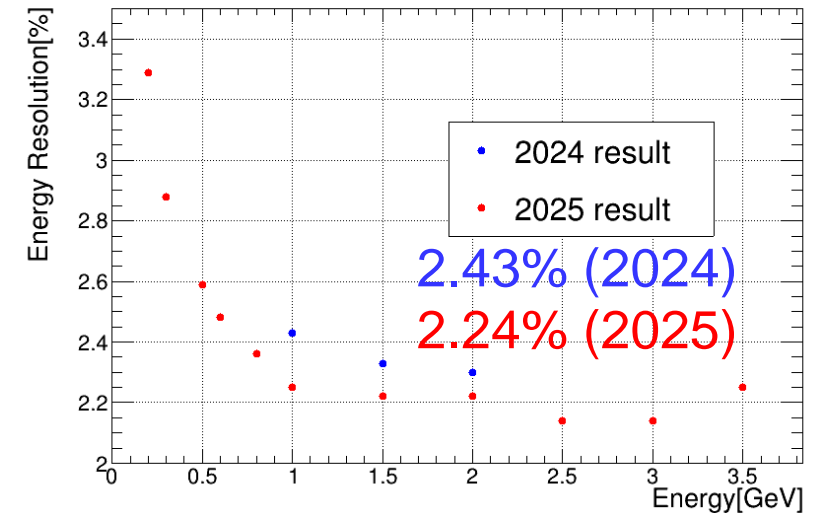
- **Good Energy linearity**
  - From 0.2 GeV to 3.5 GeV
- **Energy resolution for 1 GeV  $e^+$  is 2.24% (better than 2024)**
  - Higher dynamic range of low-noise HG channel
  - Less material budget in front of ECAL



Energy linearity



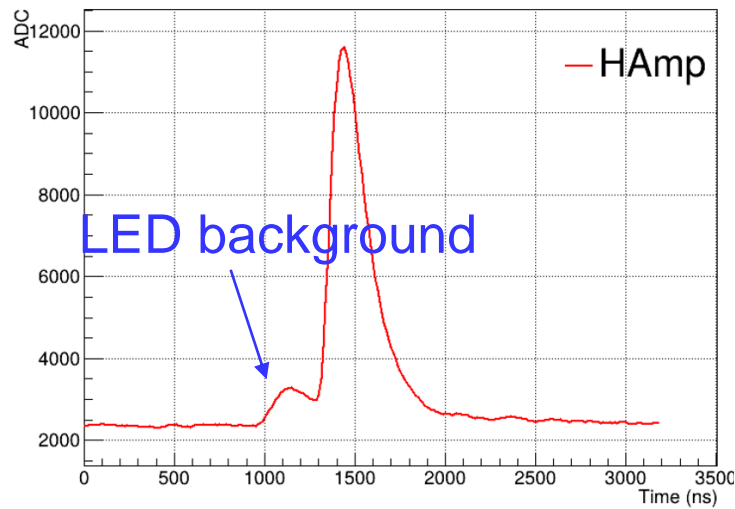
Energy spectrum of 1 GeV  $e^+$



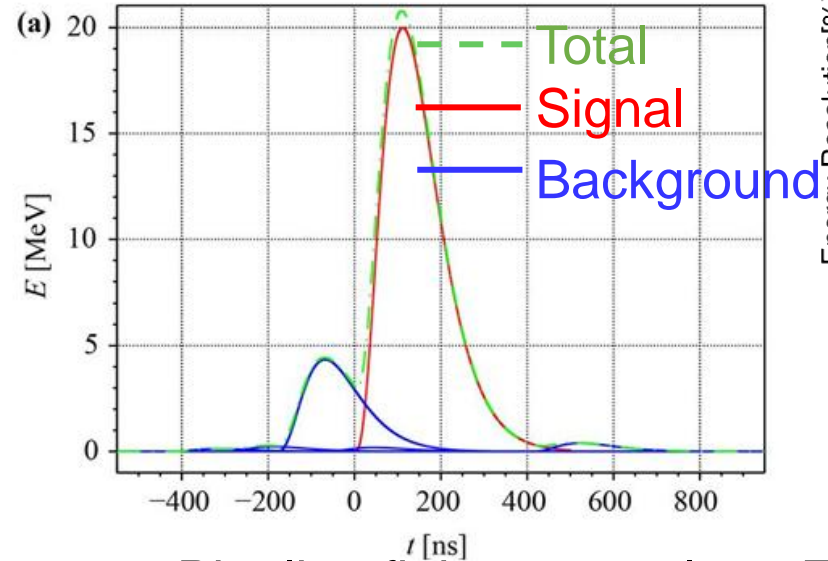
Energy resolution vs. Energy

# Pileup Mitigation

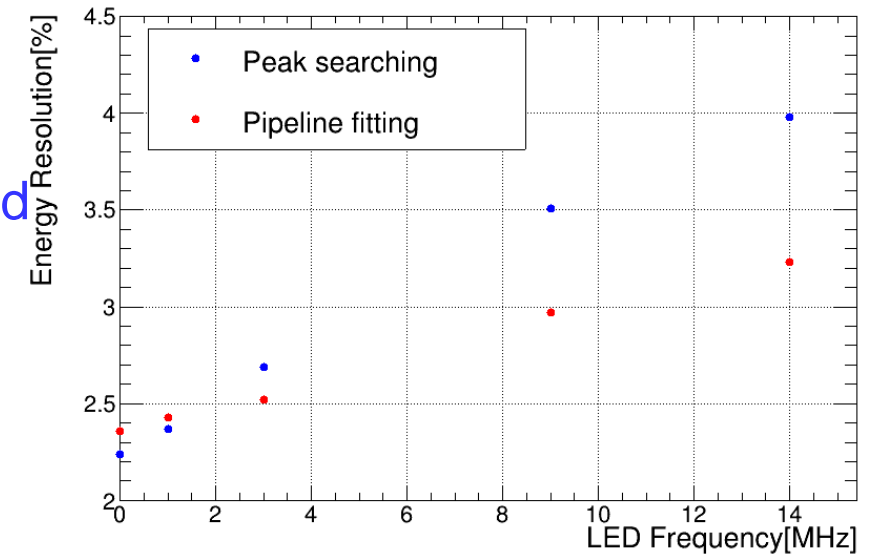
- **LED light** is introduced to simulate high background in STCF
  - Energy spectrum similar to background
  - Frequency up to 14 MHz
- **Pileup mitigation with “pipeline fitting” method**
  - **~2.5% energy resolution under 3 MHz background level**



Signal with LED background



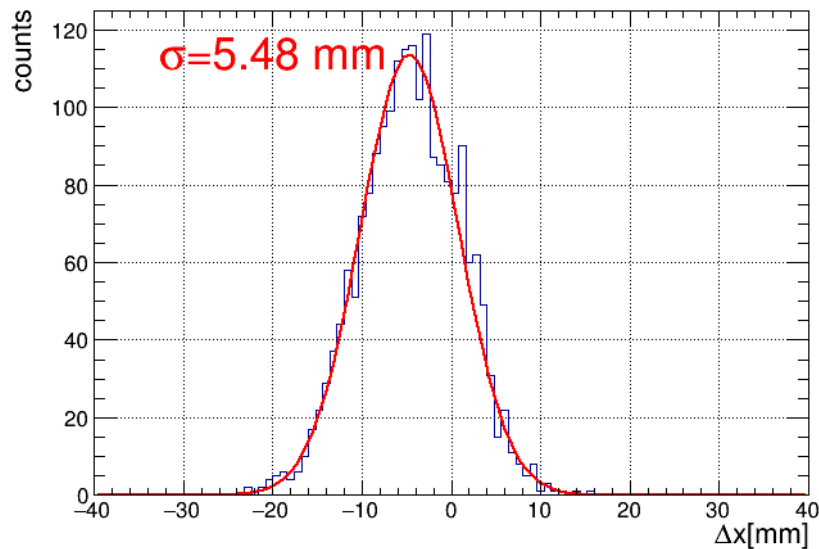
Pipeline fitting example



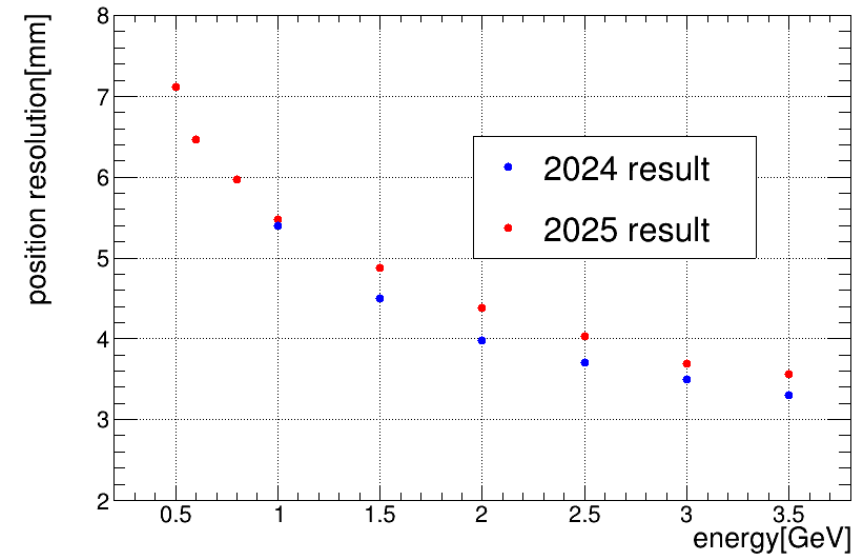
Energy resolution degradation with LED

# Position Reconstruction Performance

- **Position resolution for 1 GeV  $e^+$  is **~5.5 mm**** ( $\Delta_x = x_{ECAL\_Rec} - x_{Incident}$ )
- **Limited by the track extrapolation accuracy**
  - Unable to perform tracking goodness-of-fit selection
  - Next beam test is scheduled for December



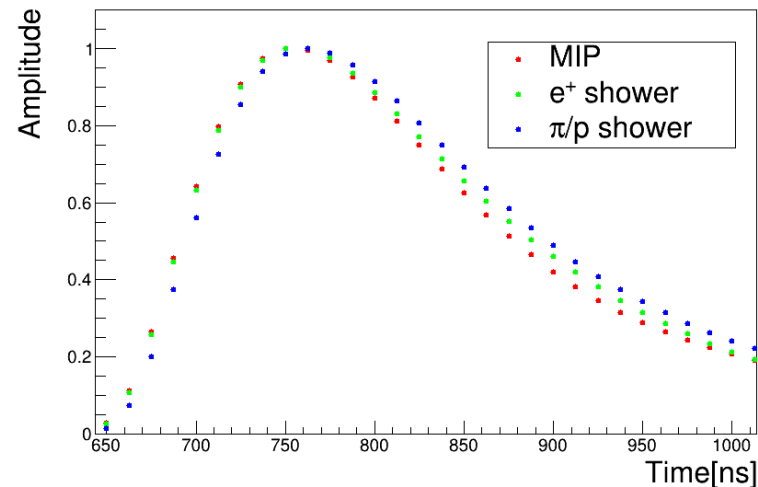
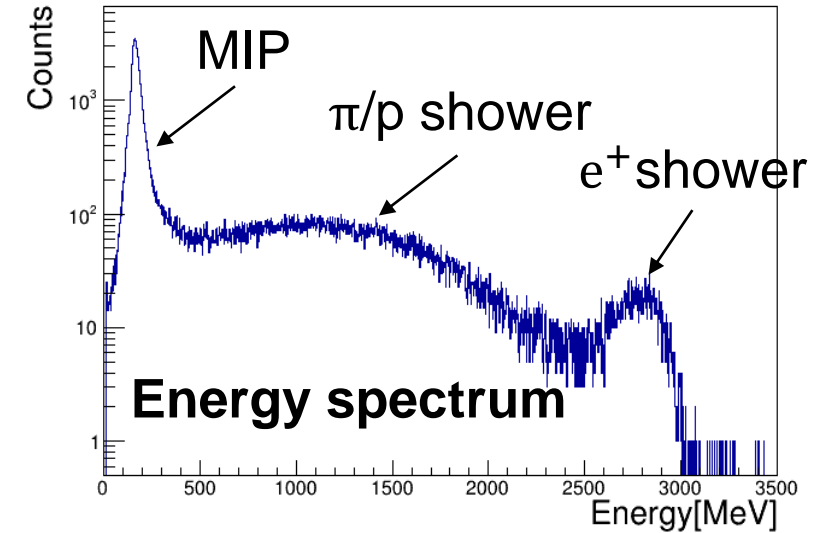
Position reconstruction results of 1 GeV  $e^+$



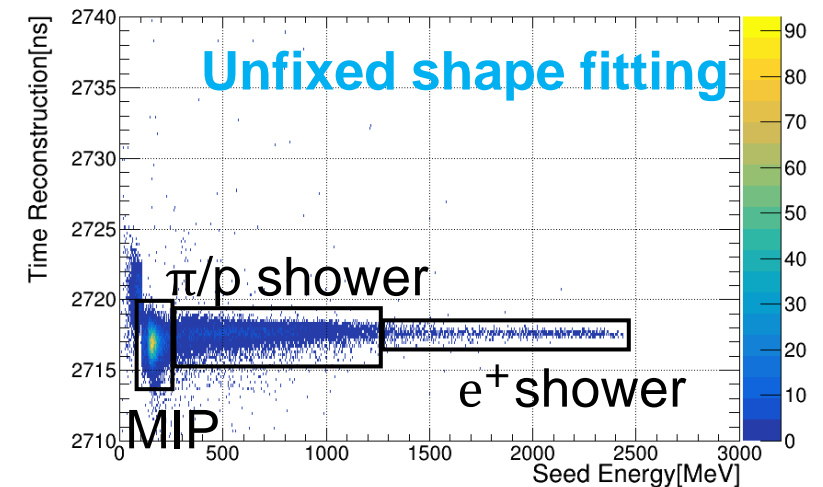
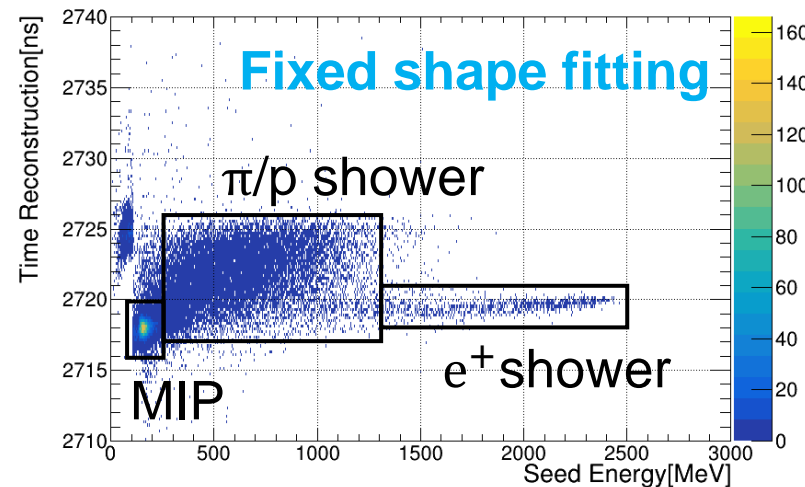
Position resolution vs. Energy

# Time Reconstruction Performance

- **Time reconstruction ( $\Delta_T = T_{ECAL\_Rec} - T_0$ ) for hadron beam ( $\pi^+ / p^+ / e^+$ )**
  - Pulse shape differences result in a nonuniform time response
  - ✓ A good uniformity is achieved with an “unfixed shape” fitting method



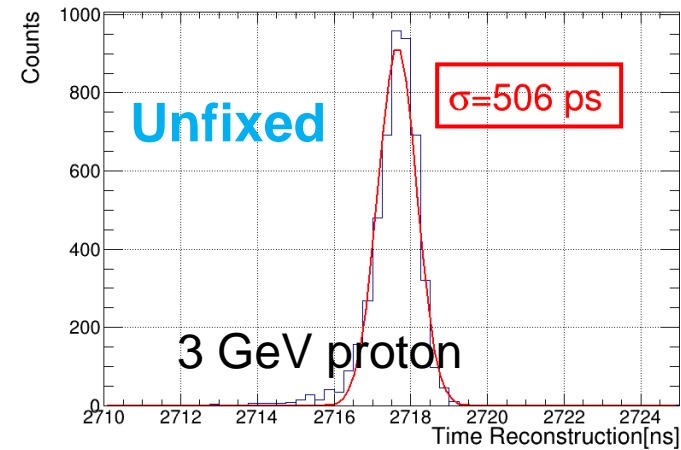
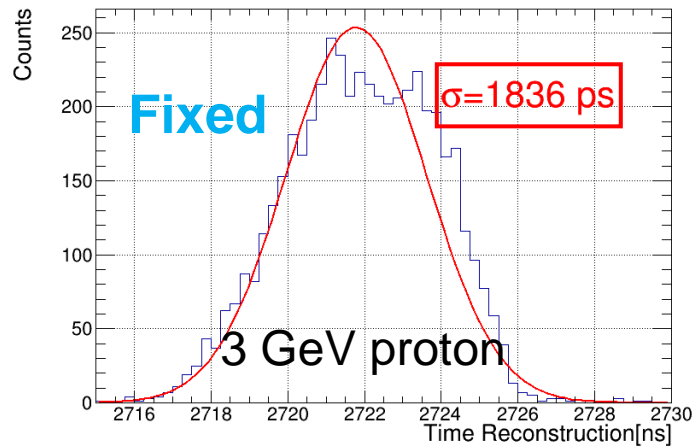
Pulse shape differences



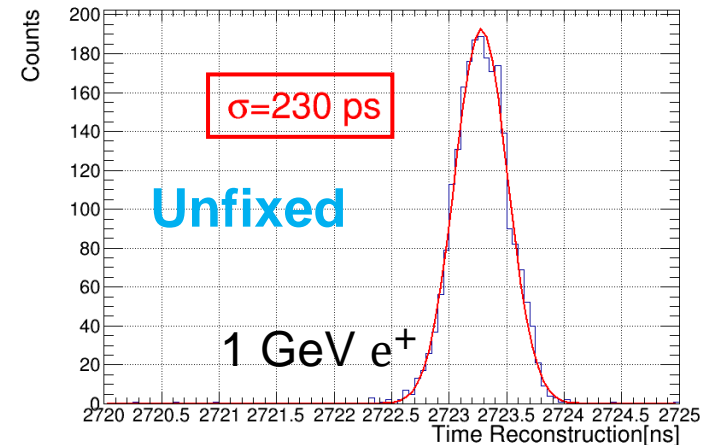
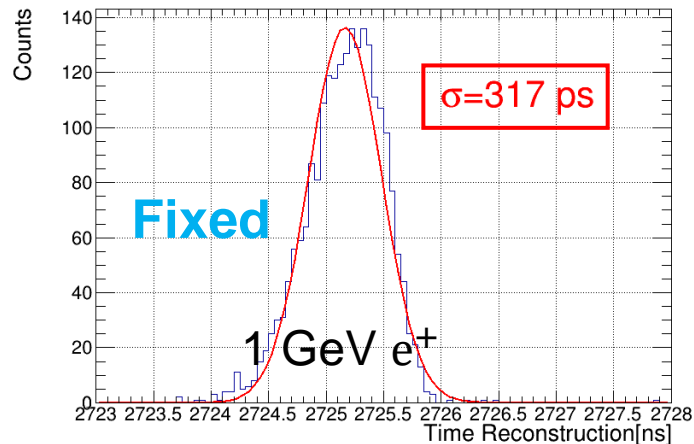
Time reconstruction vs. Energy for 3 GeV hadron<sup>+</sup> beam

# Time Reconstruction Performance

- Time resolution significantly improved for hadrons



- Time resolution for 1 GeV  $e^+$  reaches **230 ps**



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- **Summary**



# Summary

- **Optimization of sensitive units**

- Significant increase in light output ( $\sim 175\%$ )
- Growth of low slow-component fraction pCsl ( $\sim 7.4\%$ )

- **Development of ECAL prototype**

- **Beam test of ECAL prototype**

- Performance meets the design requirements
  - 2.24% (energy), 5.5 mm (position), 230 ps (time)
  - Pileup mitigation of background



# Summary

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  - Significant increase in light output ( $\sim 175\%$ )
  - Growth of low slow-component fraction pCsl ( $\sim 7.4\%$ )
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  - Performance meets the design requirements
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Thanks!



# Back Up

# STCF Physical Topics

STCF CDR: Volume 1 -- Physics & Detector

arXiv:2303.15790

To be presented on FOP



QCD and hadronic physics

**XYZ Properties:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow Y \rightarrow \gamma X, \eta X, \phi X$ ;  $e^+e^- \rightarrow Y \rightarrow \pi Z c, K Z c s$

**Hadron Spectroscopy:** Excited  $c\bar{c}$  and their transition, Charmed hadron spectroscopy, Light hadron spectroscopy

**R value:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow$  inclusive;  $\tau$  mass:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$

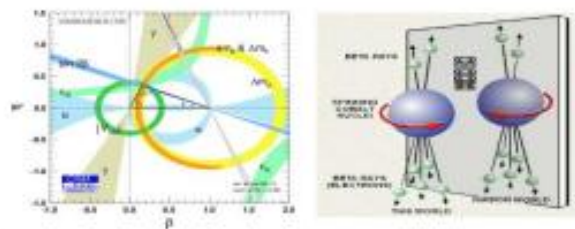
**Nucleon Form Factors:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow B\bar{B}$  from threshold

**Pentaquarks:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow J/\psi p p \bar{p}$ ,  $\Lambda_c D \bar{p}$ ,  $\Sigma_c D \bar{p}$

**Di-charmonium:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow J/\psi \eta c, J/\psi h c$

**Muon g-2:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-, \pi^+\pi^-\pi^0, 4\pi, K^+K^-, \gamma\gamma \rightarrow \pi^0, \eta(\prime), \pi^+\pi^-$

**Fragmentation functions:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow (\pi, K, p, \Lambda, D) + X, e^+e^- \rightarrow (\pi\pi, KK, \pi K) + X$



Flavor Physics and CP Violation

**CKM matrix ( $V_{cd}, V_{cs}$ ):**  $D_{(s)}^+ \rightarrow l^+ \nu, D \rightarrow P l^+ \nu$

**Charm hadron decay:**  $\Lambda_c^+, \Sigma_c, \Xi_c, \Omega_c$  decay

**CPV in Hyperons:**  $J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda}, \Sigma \bar{\Sigma}, \Xi^- \Xi^+, \Xi^0 \Xi^0$

**$D^0$ - $D^0$ bar mixing:**  $\psi(3770) \rightarrow (D^0 D^0 \text{bar})(CP=-)$ ,  $\psi(4140) \rightarrow \pi^0 (D^0 D^0 \text{bar})(CP=-)$  or  $\gamma (D^0 D^0 \text{bar})(CP=+)$

**CPV in  $\tau$ :**  $\tau \rightarrow K s \pi \nu$ , EDM of  $\tau$ ,  $\tau \rightarrow \pi/K \pi^0 \nu$  for polarized  $e^-$  beam

**CPV in Charm:**  $D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^- / \pi^+ \pi^-$ ,  $\Lambda_c \rightarrow p K^- \pi^+ / \Lambda \pi^+ \pi^- / p K s \pi^+ \pi^-$

**$\gamma/\phi^3$  measurement:**  $D^0 \rightarrow K(s/L) \pi^+ \pi^-$ ,  $K(s/L) K^+ K^- / K 3\pi, 4\pi$

**$\gamma$  polarization:**  $D^0 \rightarrow K 1 e^+ \nu_e$



Forbidden/Rare decay and New Particle

**LNV, BNV:**  $D(s)^+ \rightarrow l^+ l^+ X^-$ ,  $J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda_c e^-$ ,  $B \rightarrow B \text{bar} \dots$

**Symmetry violation:**  $\eta(\prime) \rightarrow l l \pi^0, \eta(\prime) \rightarrow \eta l l \dots$

**FLV decays:**  $\tau \rightarrow \gamma l, l l l, l P_1 P_2$ ,  $J/\psi \rightarrow l l'$ ,  $D^0 \rightarrow l l' (l' \neq l) \dots$

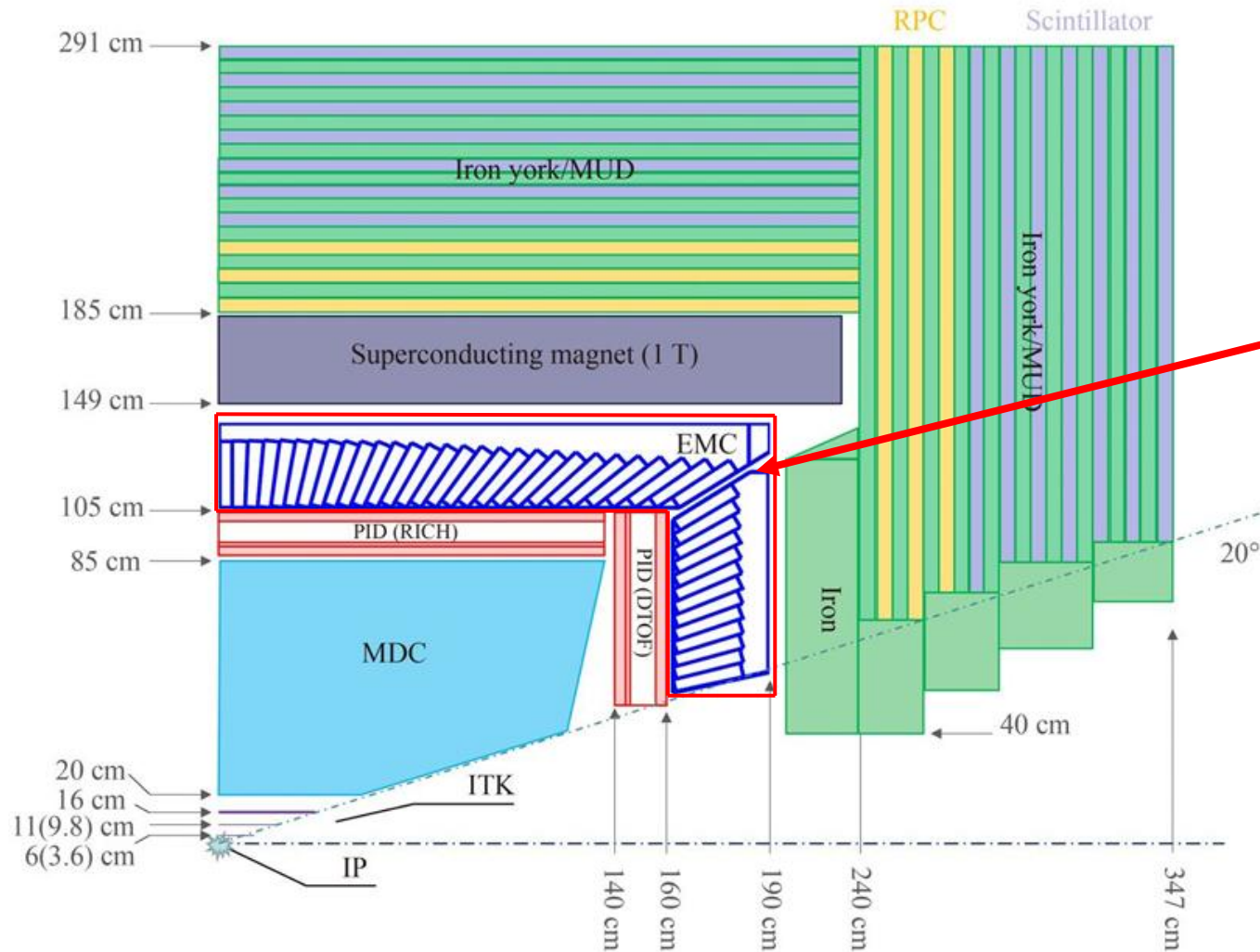
**FCNC:**  $D \rightarrow \gamma V$ ,  $D^0 \rightarrow l^+ l^-$ ,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow D^+ +$ ,  $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p l^+ l^- \dots$

**Dark photon:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma A' (\rightarrow l^+ l^-)$ ,  $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+e^- A' \dots$

**Millicharged:**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi \chi \bar{\chi} \dots$

- **Leading role**
- In Competition with Belle II/LHCb
- Synergy with BelleII/LHCb/Eic/EicC

# STCF Spectrometer



STCF spectrometer layout

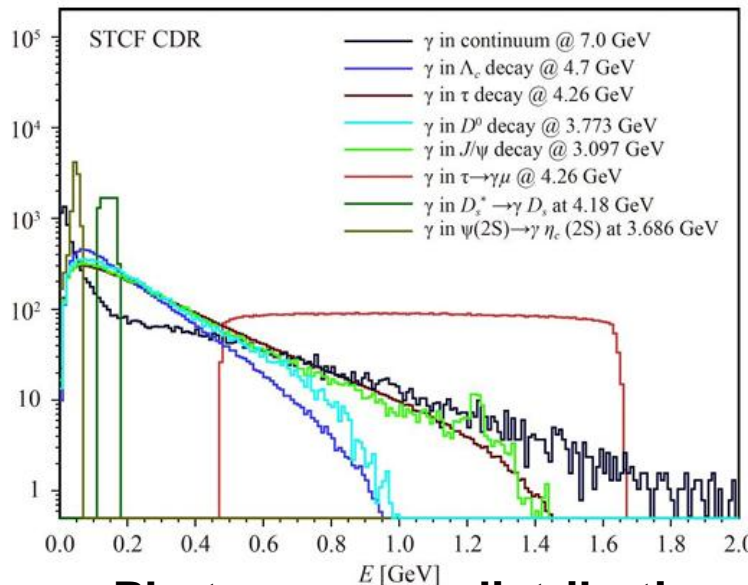
<b>MUD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><math>\mu/\pi</math> suppression power <math>&gt;30</math> at <math>p &lt; 2</math> GeV/c</li> </ul>
<b>ECAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy range: 25 MeV - 3.5 GeV</li> <li><math>\sigma_E/E \sim 2.5\%</math> at <math>E = 1</math> GeV</li> <li><math>\sigma_{pos} \sim 5</math> mm, <math>\sigma_T \sim 300</math> ps at <math>E = 1</math> GeV</li> </ul>
<b>PID</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><math>\pi/K</math> (and <math>K/p</math>) <math>4\sigma</math> separation power up to 2 GeV/c</li> </ul>
<b>MDC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><math>\sigma_{pos} = 130</math> <math>\mu</math>m</li> <li><math>dE/dx \sim 6\%</math>, <math>\sigma_p/p = 0.5\%</math> at 1 GeV/c</li> <li>Efficiency <math>&gt; 99\%</math> at <math>p_T &gt; 0.3</math> GeV/c and <math>&gt;90\%</math> at <math>p_T = 0.1</math> GeV/c</li> </ul>
<b>ITK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><math>\sim 0.25\%</math> <math>X_0</math>/layer</li> <li><math>\sigma_{pos} = 100</math> <math>\mu</math>m for single hit</li> </ul>

Required performances

# Performance requirements for ECAL

- Measurement requirements
- Working environment

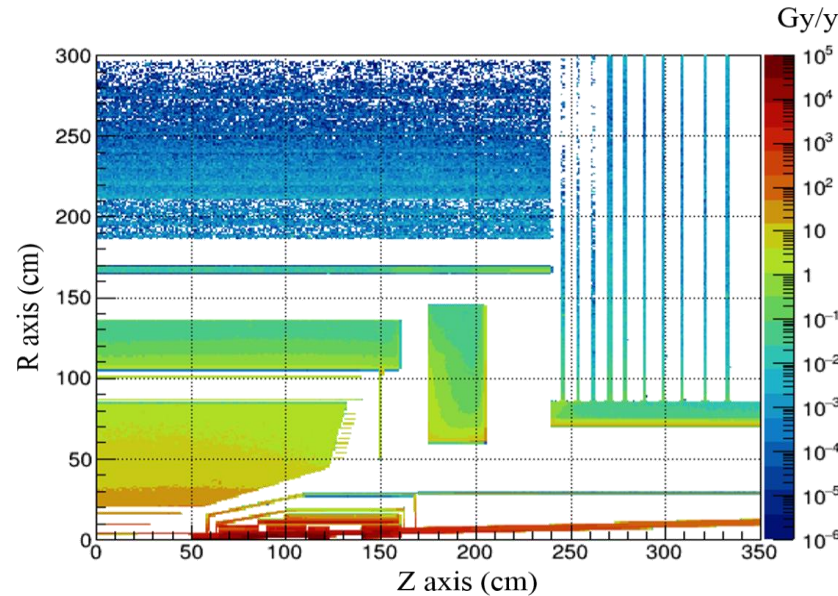
- Energy: **< 2.5% @ 1 GeV**
- Position: **~5 mm @ 1 GeV**
- Time: **~300 ps @ 1 GeV**



Photon energy distribution

$$E_\gamma = 25 \text{ MeV} - 3.5 \text{ GeV}$$

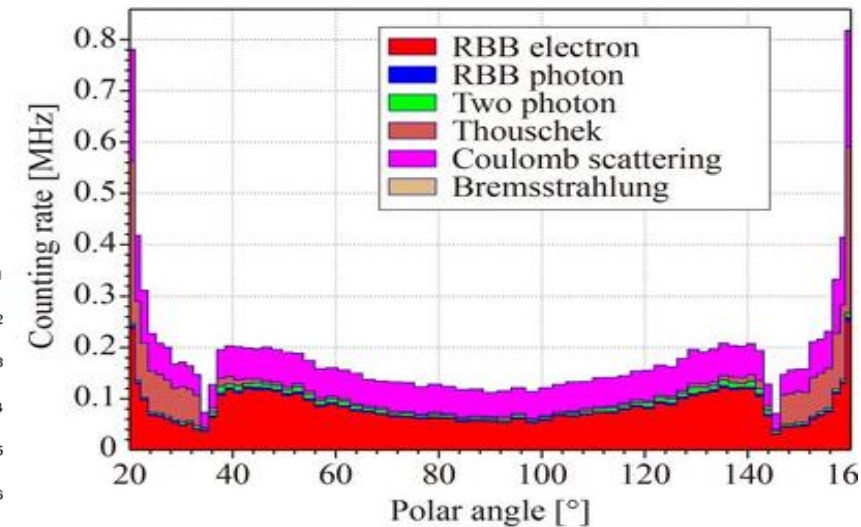
**Dynamic range**



Irradiation dose distribution

$$\text{Peak TID} > 400 \text{ Gy} \cdot \text{y}^{-1}$$

**Radiation tolerance**

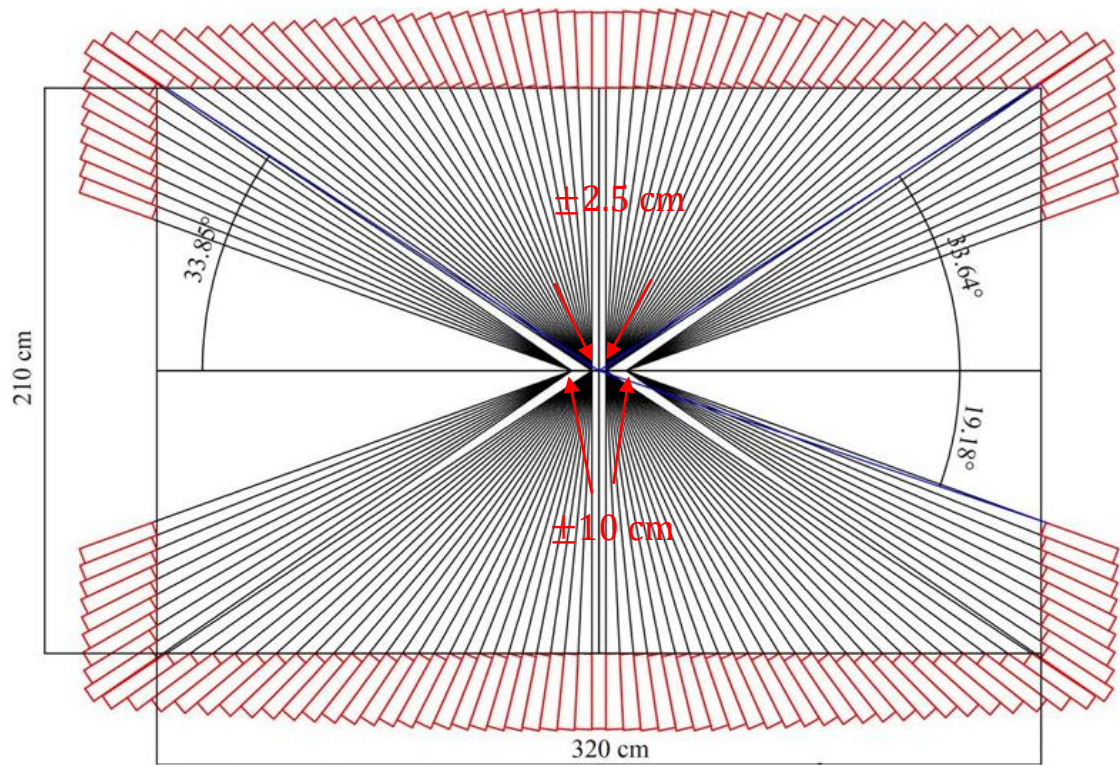


Background counts

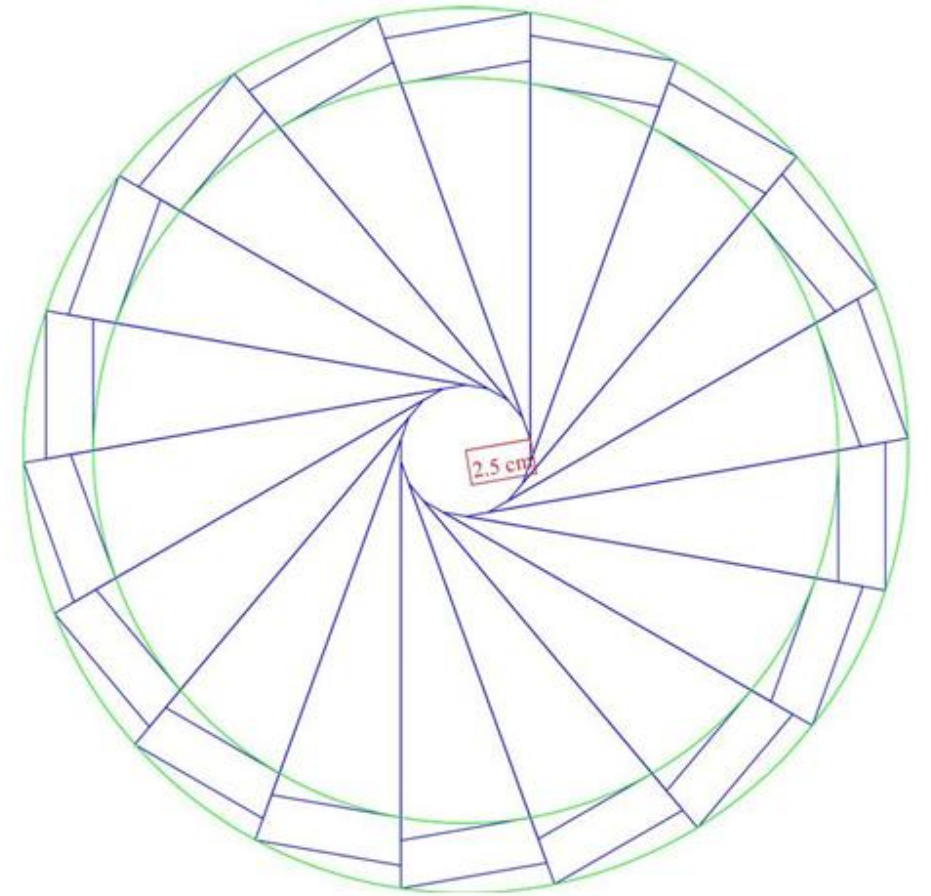
Background level ~1 MHz

**Fast response**

# Defocused Layout



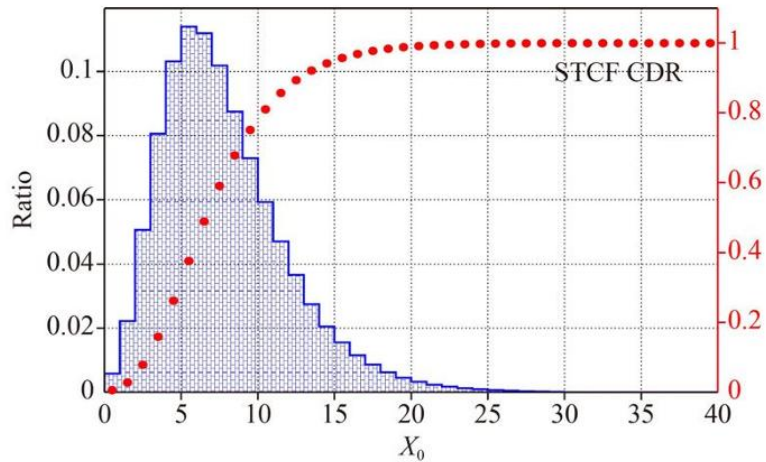
$\theta$ -direction arrangement



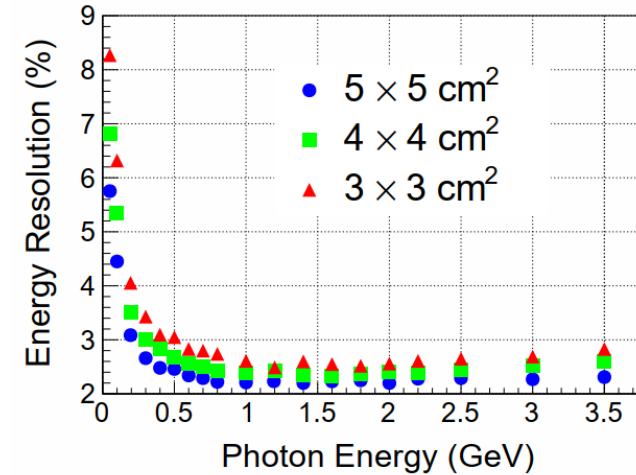
$\phi$ -direction arrangement

# Crystal Size Optimization

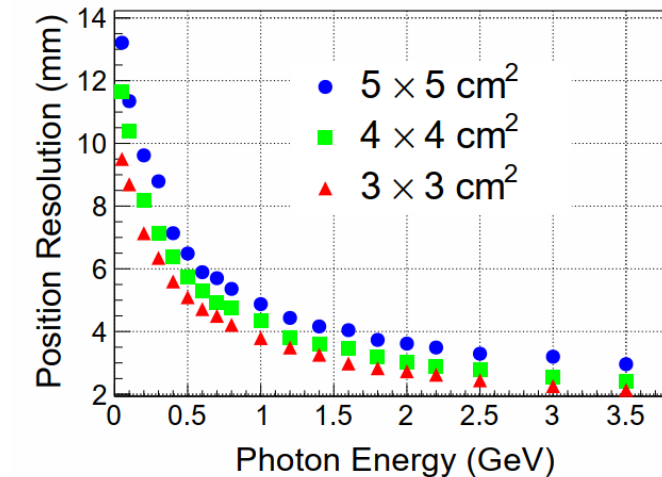
- Longitudinal size:  $15X_0$  (28 cm)
  - 95% energy deposits for 3 GeV photons



- Lateral size:  $5 \times 5 \text{ cm}^2$ 
  - The minimum angle of the two photons from the  $\pi^0$  decay is about  $10^\circ$  ( $\sim 5.5 \times 3 \text{ cm}$ )
  - Smaller size leads to poor energy resolution but better position resolution.



Energy resolution vs. lateral size

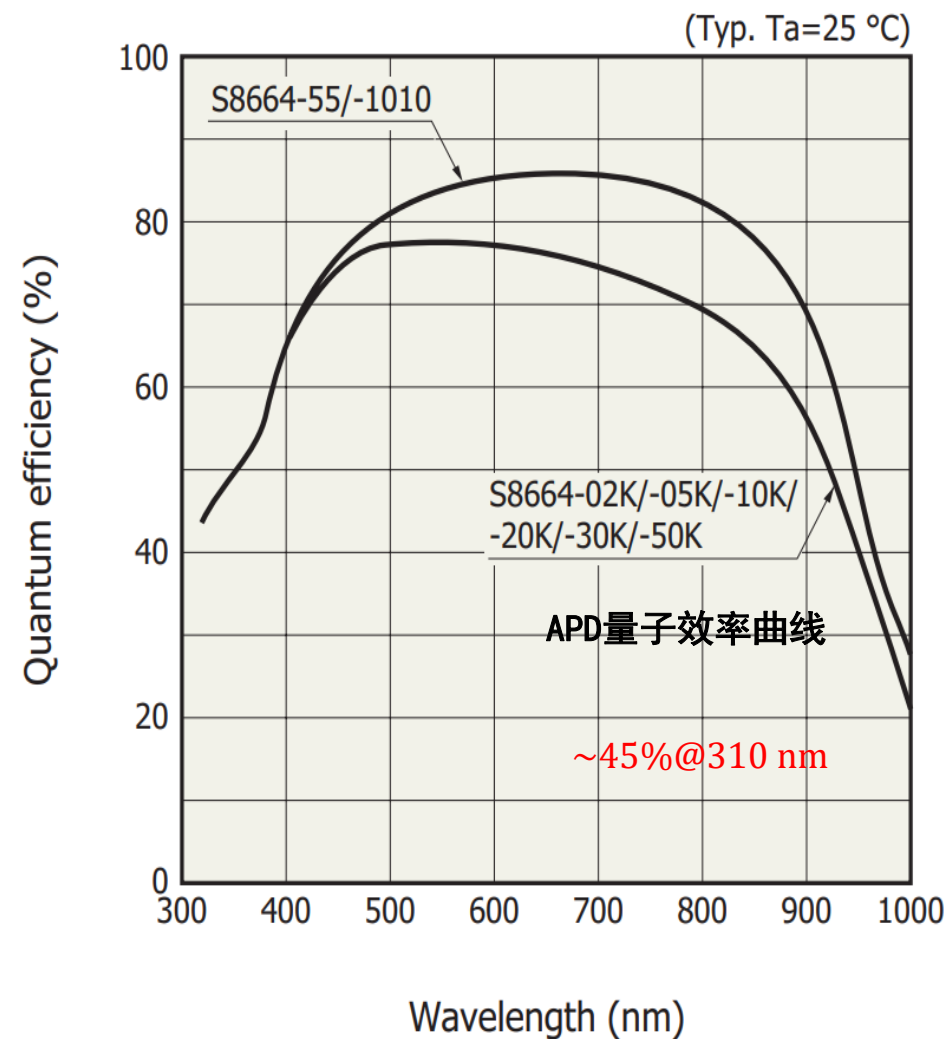


Position resolution vs. lateral size

# Crystal Selection - pCsl

Crystal	pure CsI	LYSO	GSO	PWO	BaF <sub>2</sub>
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	4.51	7.40	6.71	8.30	4.89
Radiation Length (cm)	1.86	1.14	1.38	0.89	2.03
Moliere Radius (cm)	3.57	2.07	2.23	2.00	3.10
Hygroscopicity	Slight	No	No	No	No
Luminescence (nm)	310	402	430	425(s) 420(f)	300(s) 220(f)
Decay time (ns)	30(s) 6(f)	40	60	30(s) 10(f)	600(s) 0.6(f)
Light output* (%)	3.6(s) 1.1(f)	85	20	0.3(s) 0.1(f)	36(s) 4.1(f)
Dose rate dependent	No	No	-	Yes	No
Reasons for not being selected	-	Cost is too high	Unable to produce large crystals	Too low light yield	Slow component is hard to suppress

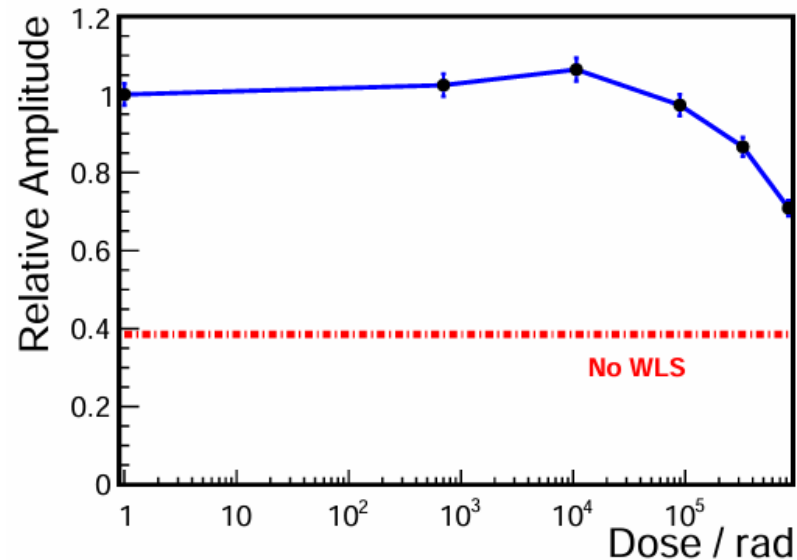
f = fast component, s = slow component.



# WLS Coating Stability

## ➤ Irradiation test

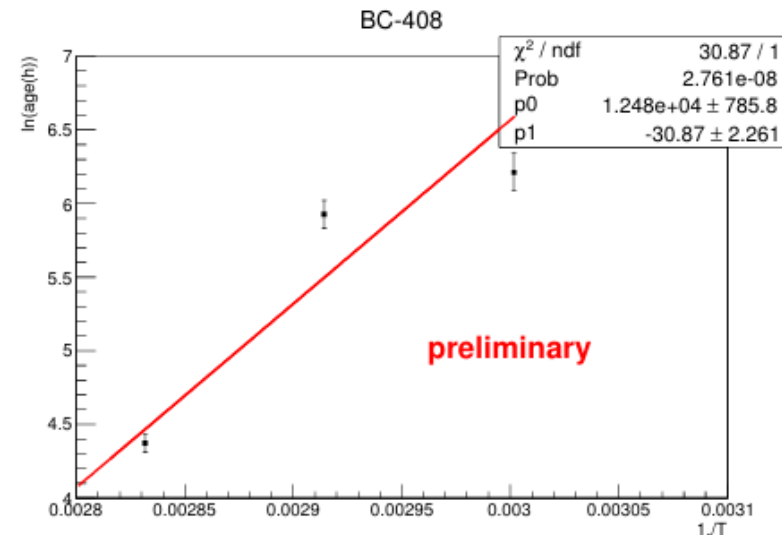
- Irradiate WLS with  $^{60}\text{Co}$  source:
  - 90 krad: no obvious decline
  - 833 krad: decrease by 30%
- **Good radiation hardness of WLS**



Light output vs. radiation dose

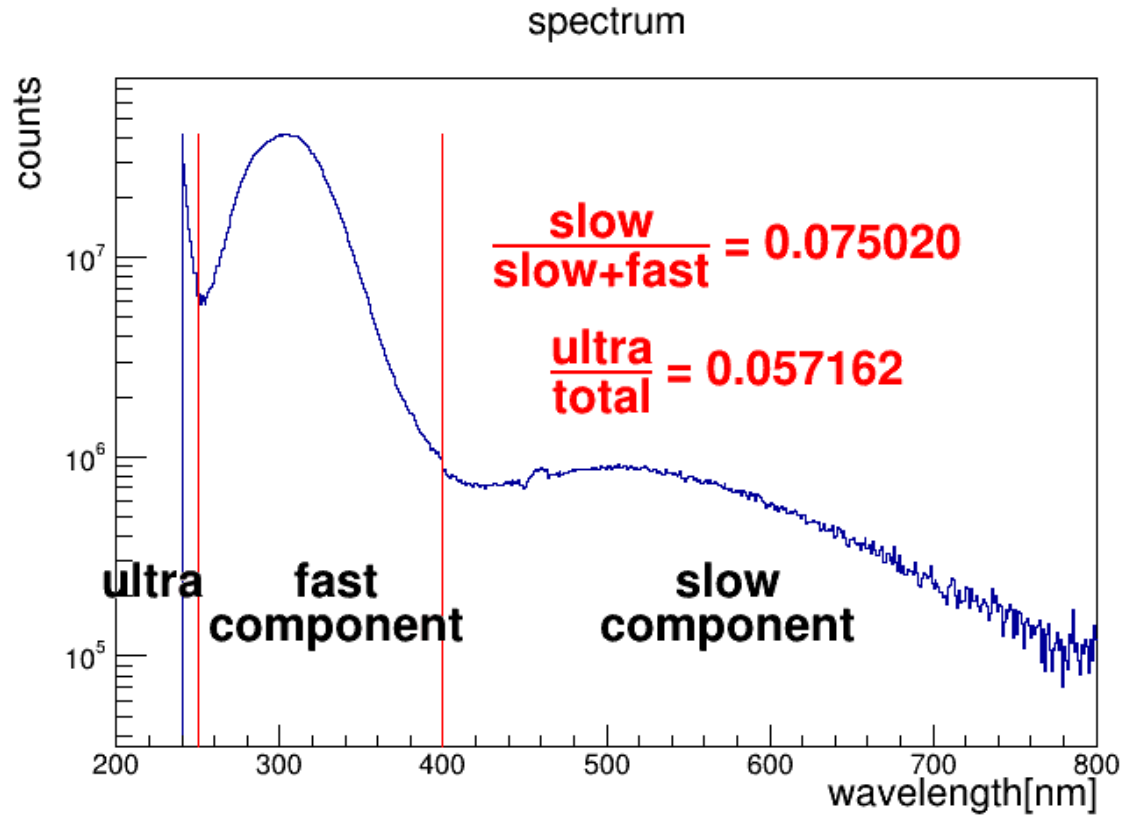
## ➤ Aging test in the future

- Aging study of WLS is tested in high temperature environment
- The relationship is described by Arrhenius formula:  $\ln(t) = \frac{A}{T} + B$ .

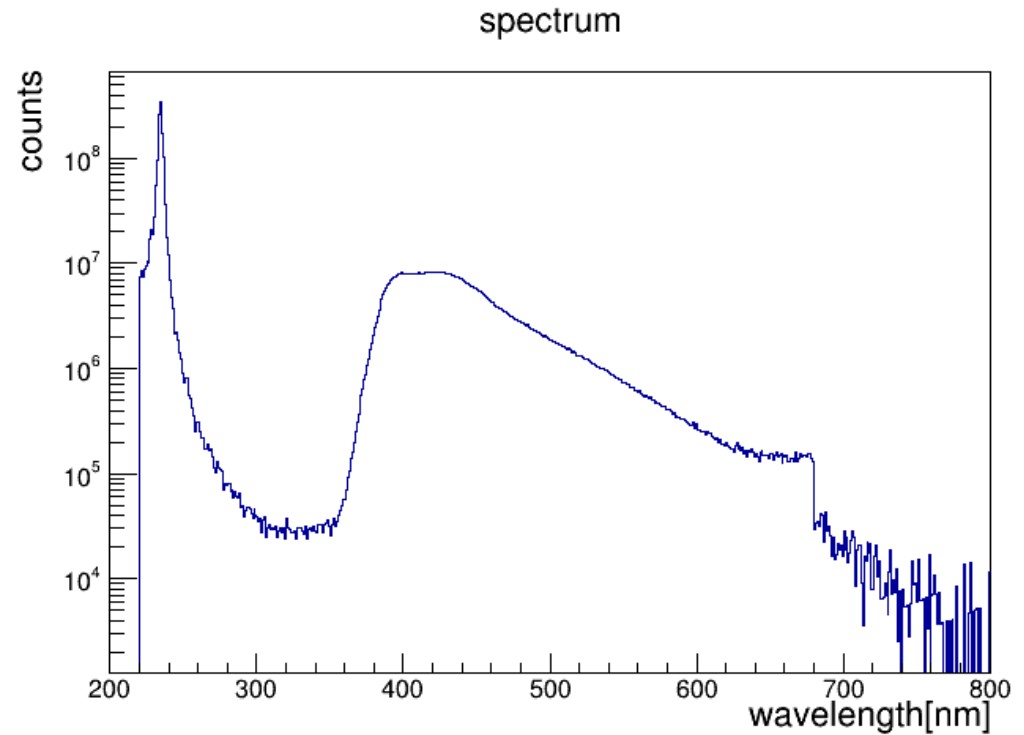


Aging effect of PS is described by Arrhenius formula

# Slow Component Fraction



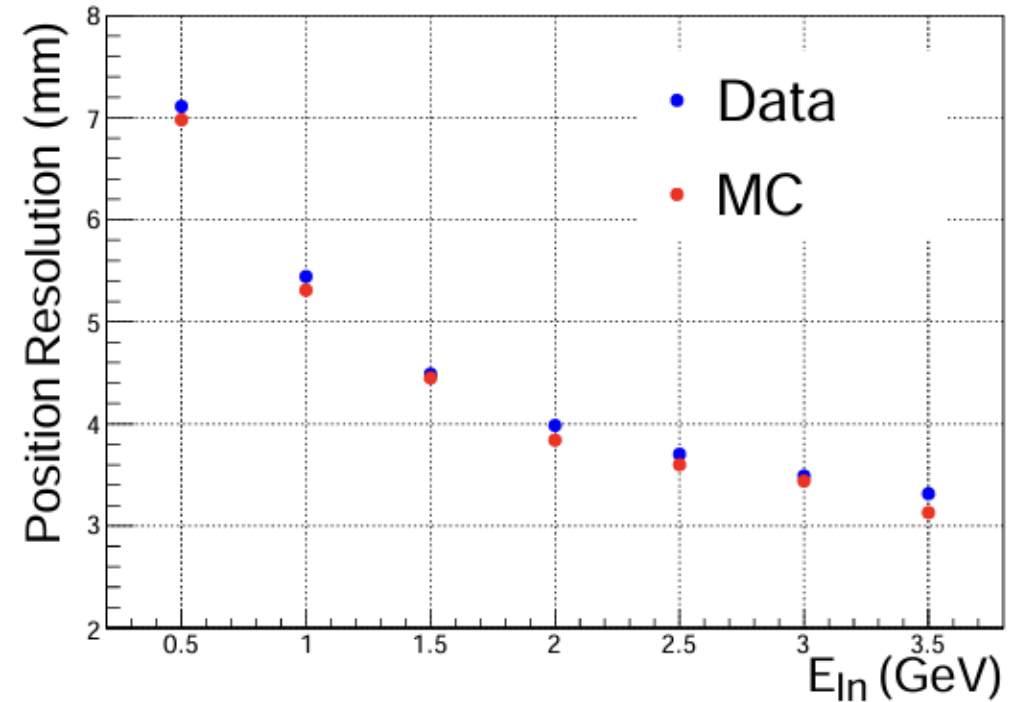
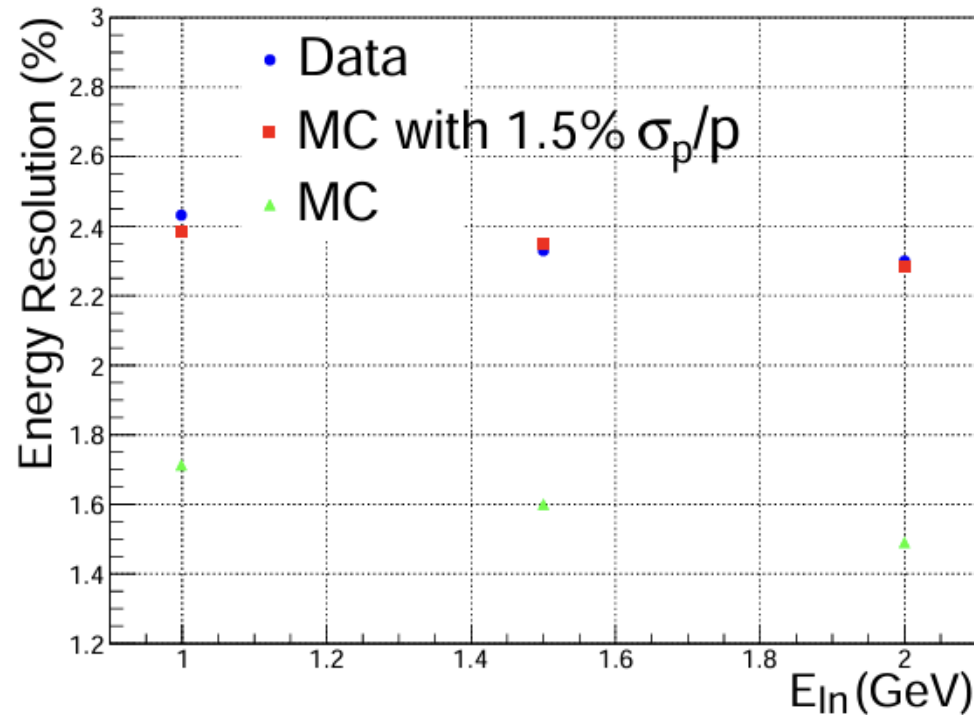
pCsl emission spectrum



LYSO emission spectrum

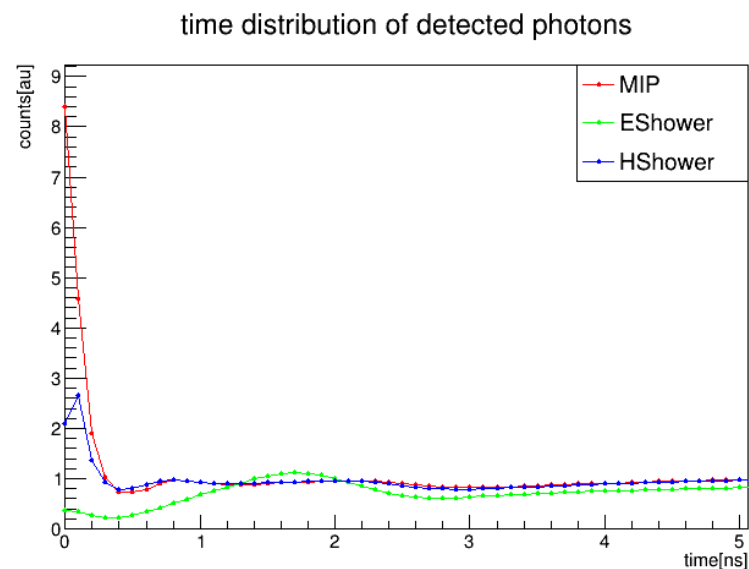
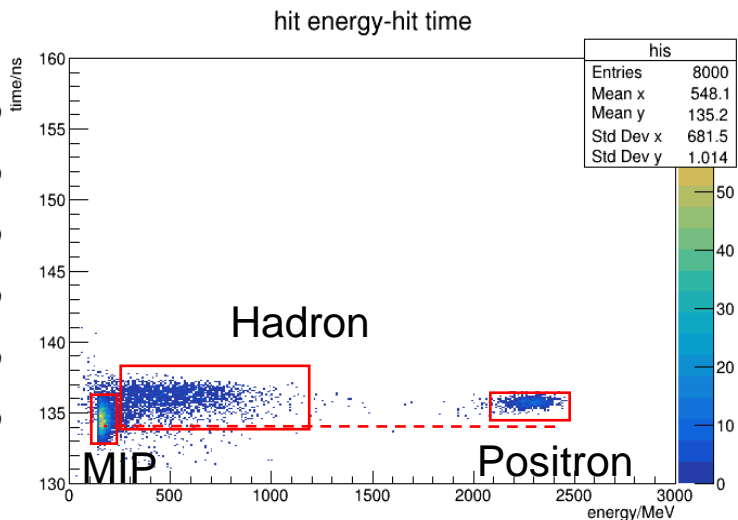
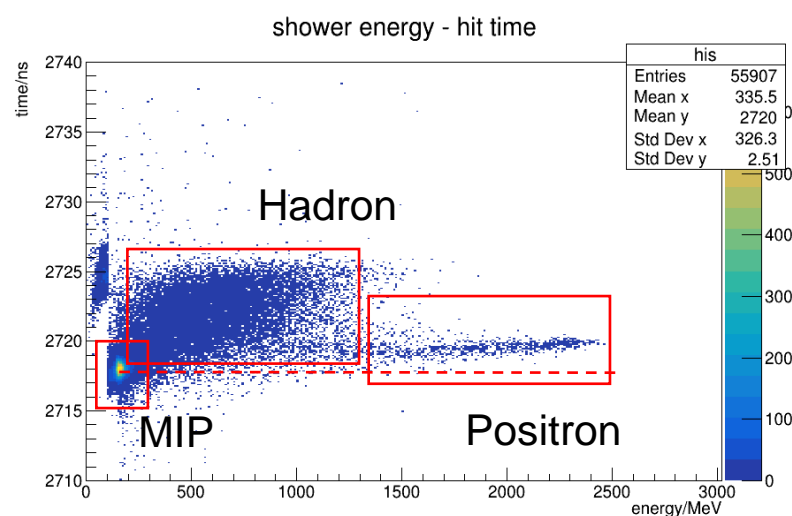
- Fast component [250 nm, 400 nm], slow component [400 nm, 800 nm]
- The short-wave component with a peak ~235 nm is caused by the instrument

# Performance vs. Simulation



- Energy and position resolution vs.  $e^+$  beam momentum

# Time Response Non-uniformity



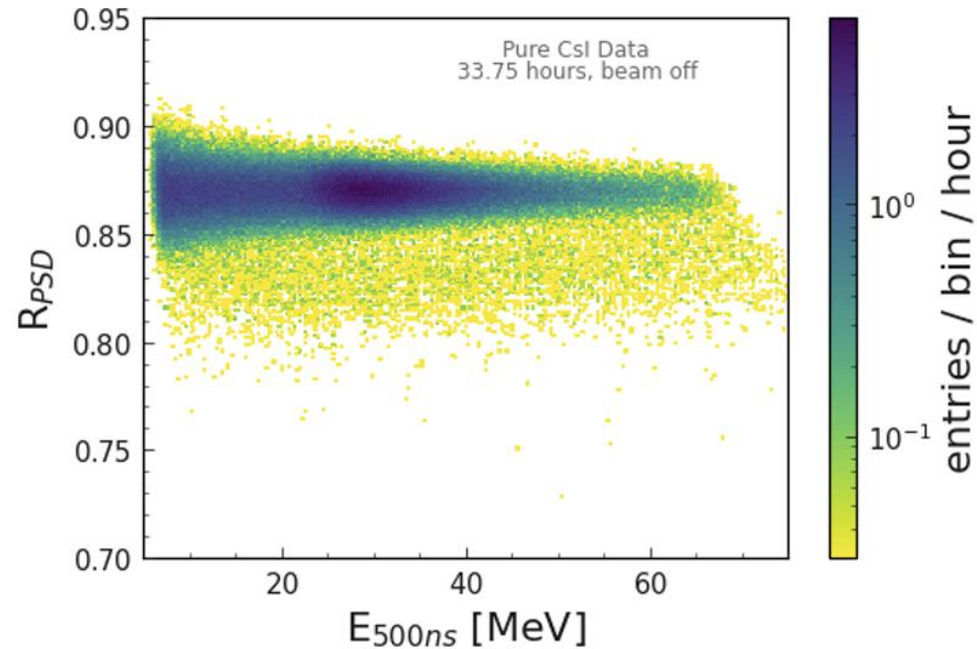
Time response vs. energy deposition  
for 3 GeV hadron beam (data)

Time response vs. energy deposition  
for 3 GeV hadron beam (simulation)

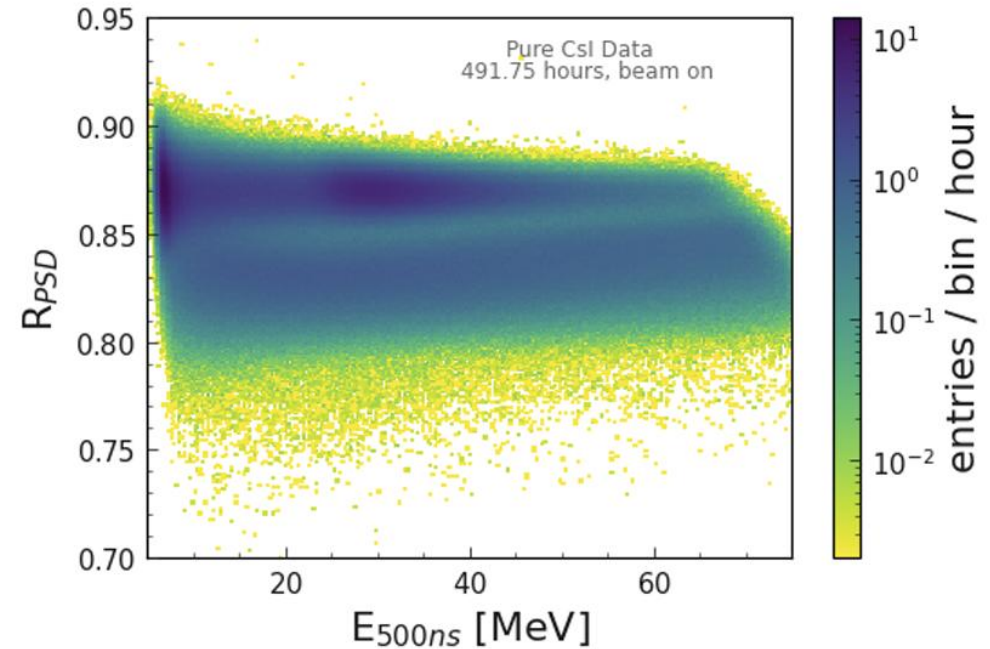
time distribution of photons detected  
in the simulation

- In the simulation, positrons are also slightly slower than MIPs ( $\sim 1$  ns), originating from the spatial distribution of energy loss

# Time Response Non-uniformity



$R_{psd}$  vs. Energy in cosmic-ray test

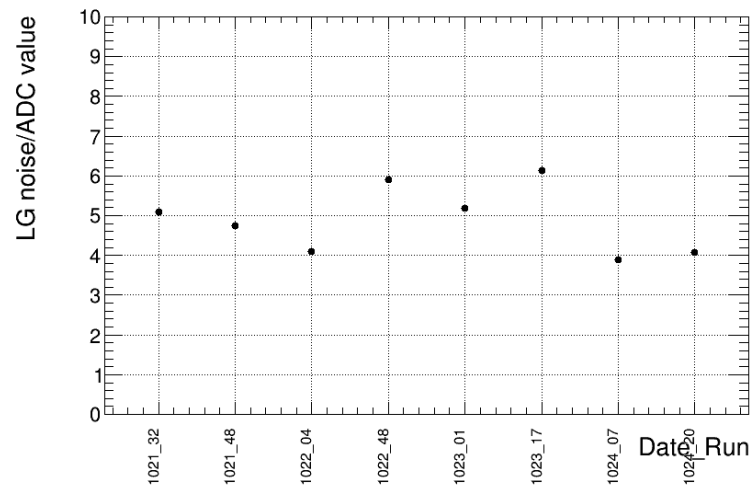


$R_{psd}$  vs. Energy in neutron beam test

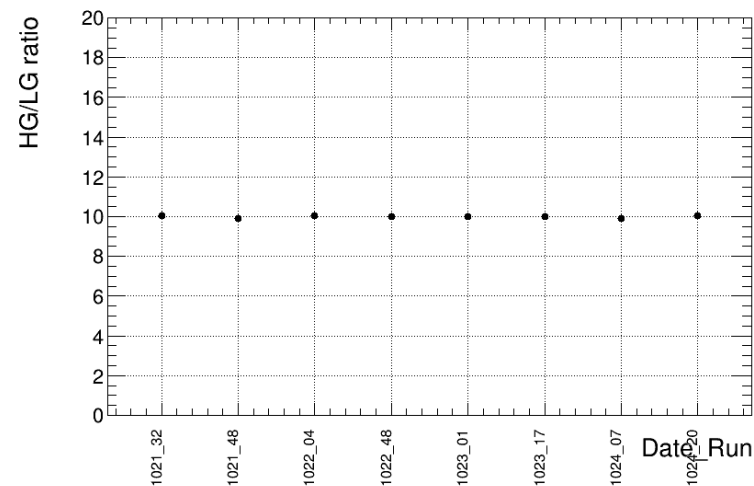
- Low  $R_{psd}$  events in neutron beam indicate a slower scintillation component of pCsI crystals

# Operational status stability

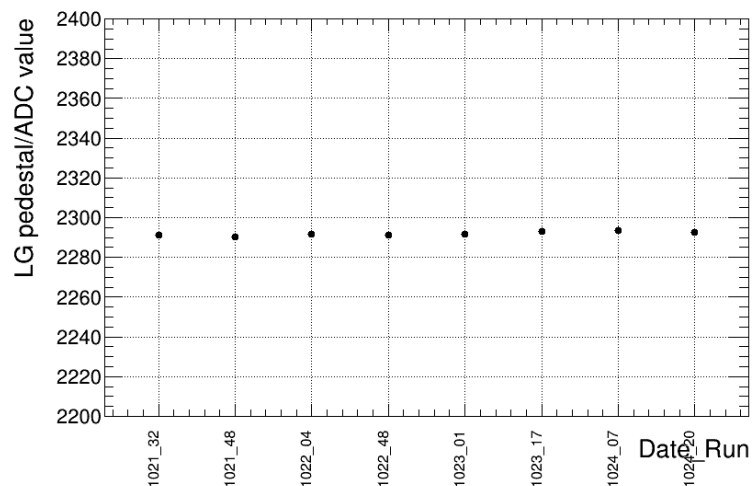
## ➤ Stability of LG noise



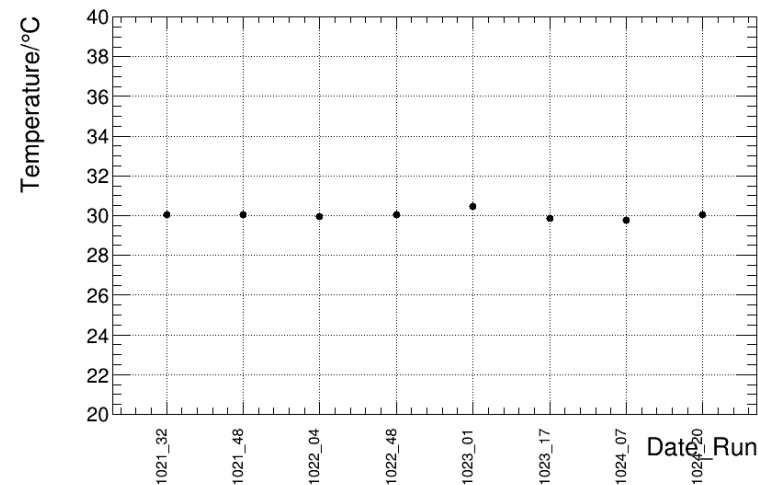
## ➤ Stability of HG-LG gain ratio



## ➤ Stability of LG pedestal

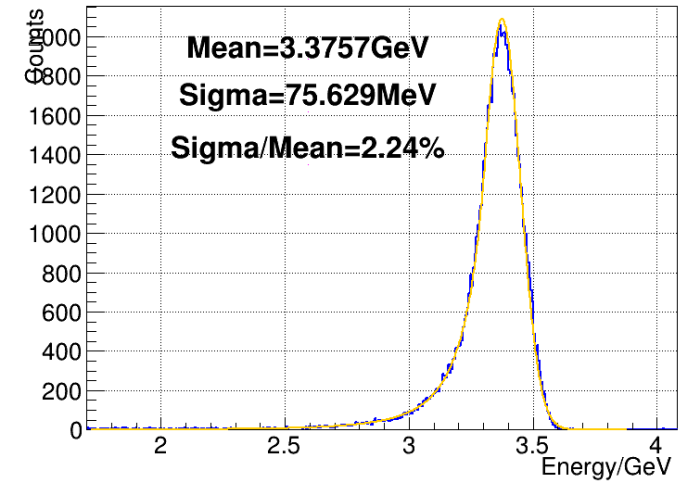
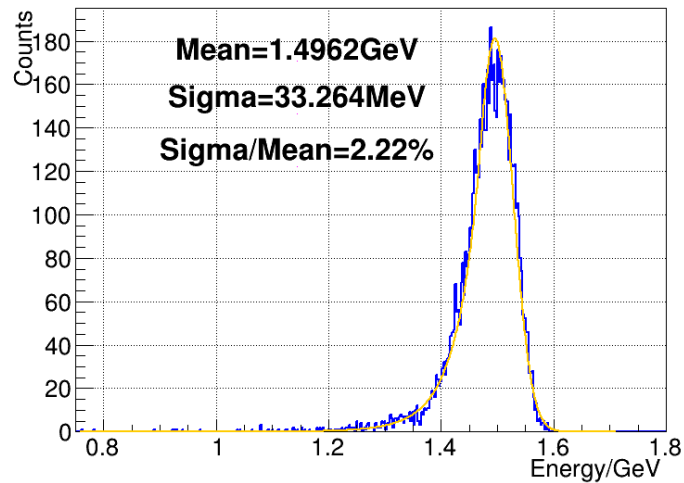
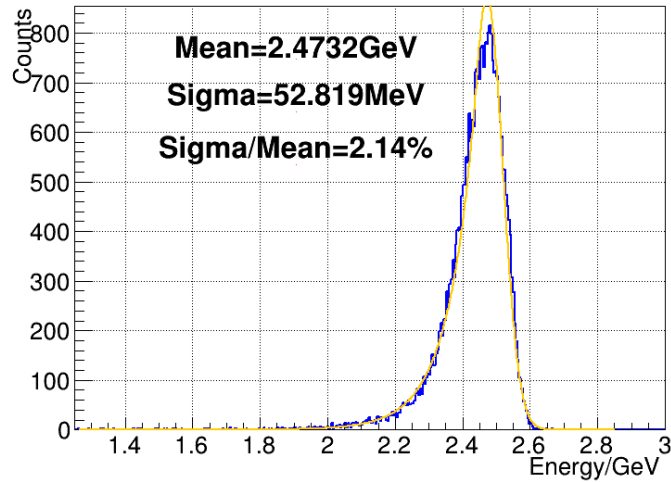
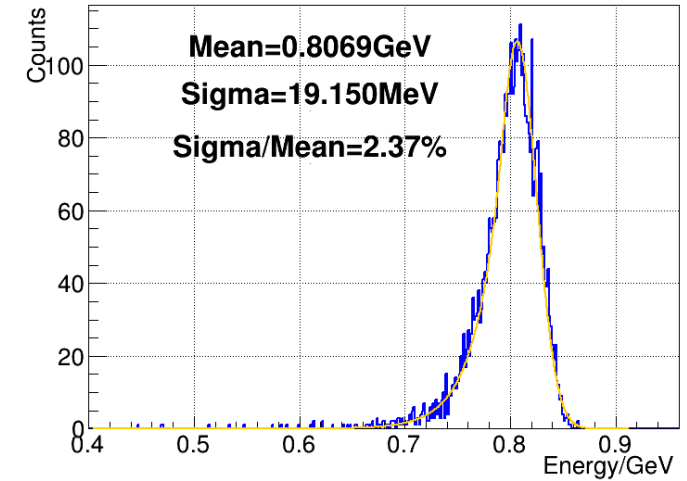
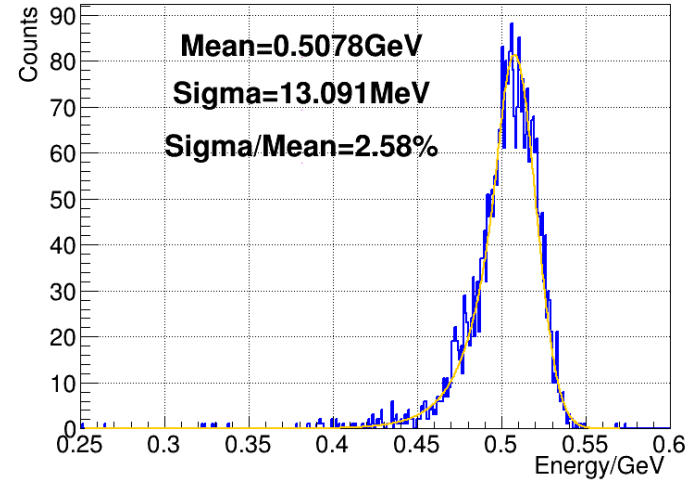
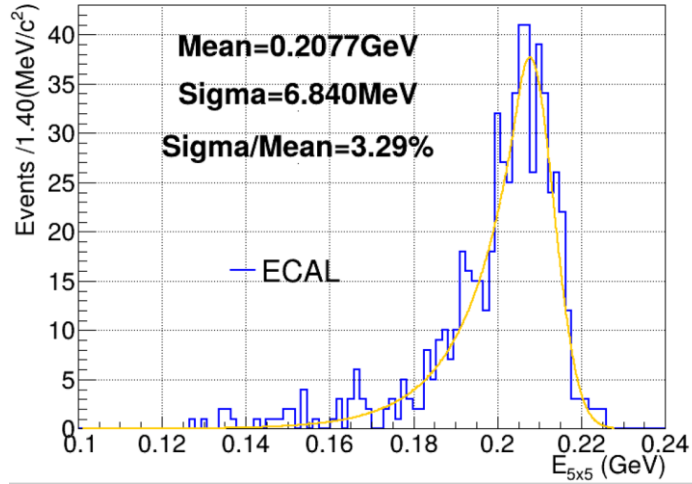


## ➤ Stability of temperature



# Energy spectra of $e^+$

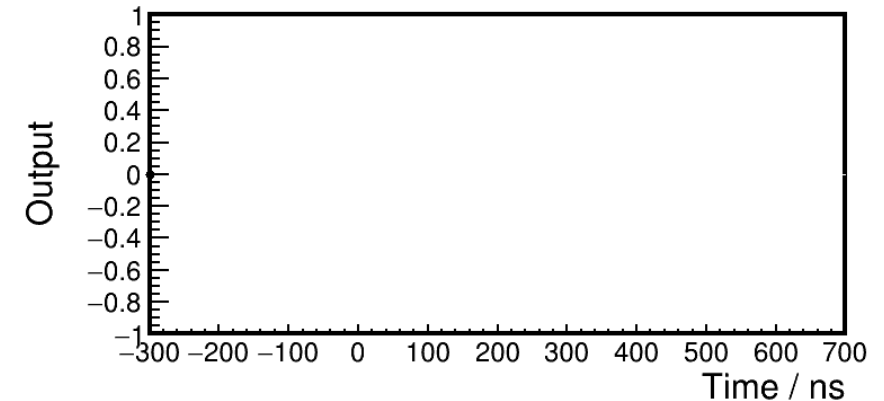
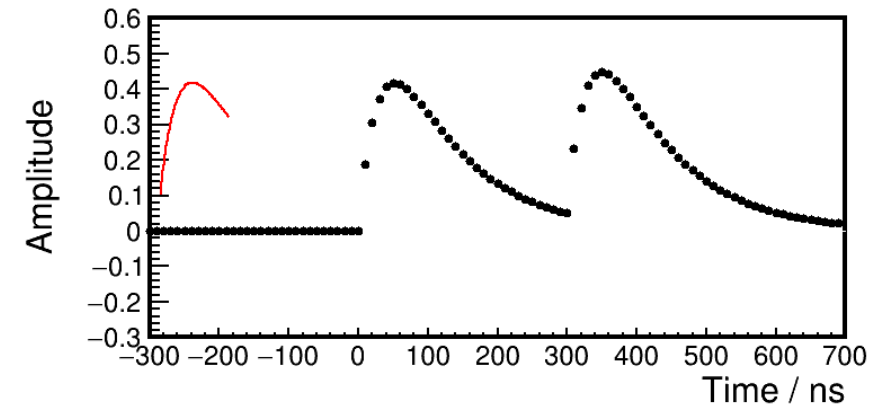
ECAL Energy Distribution



# Pipeline fitting

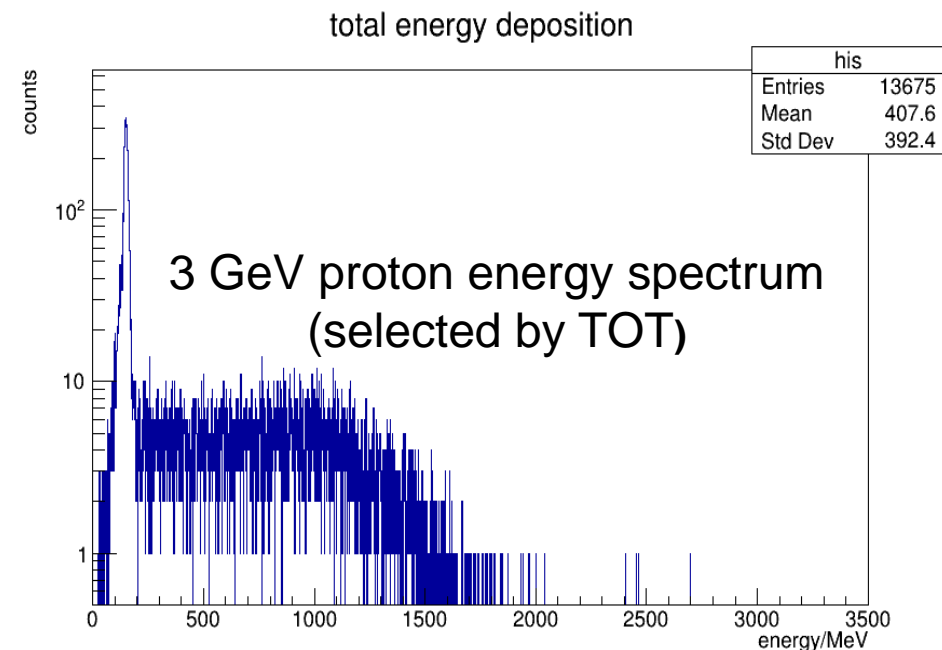
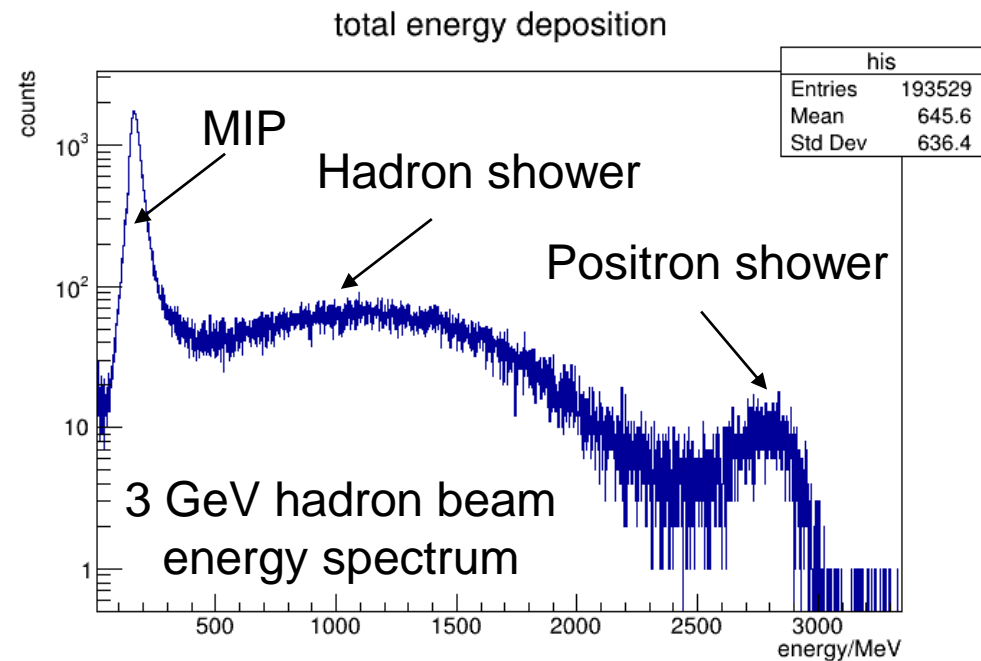
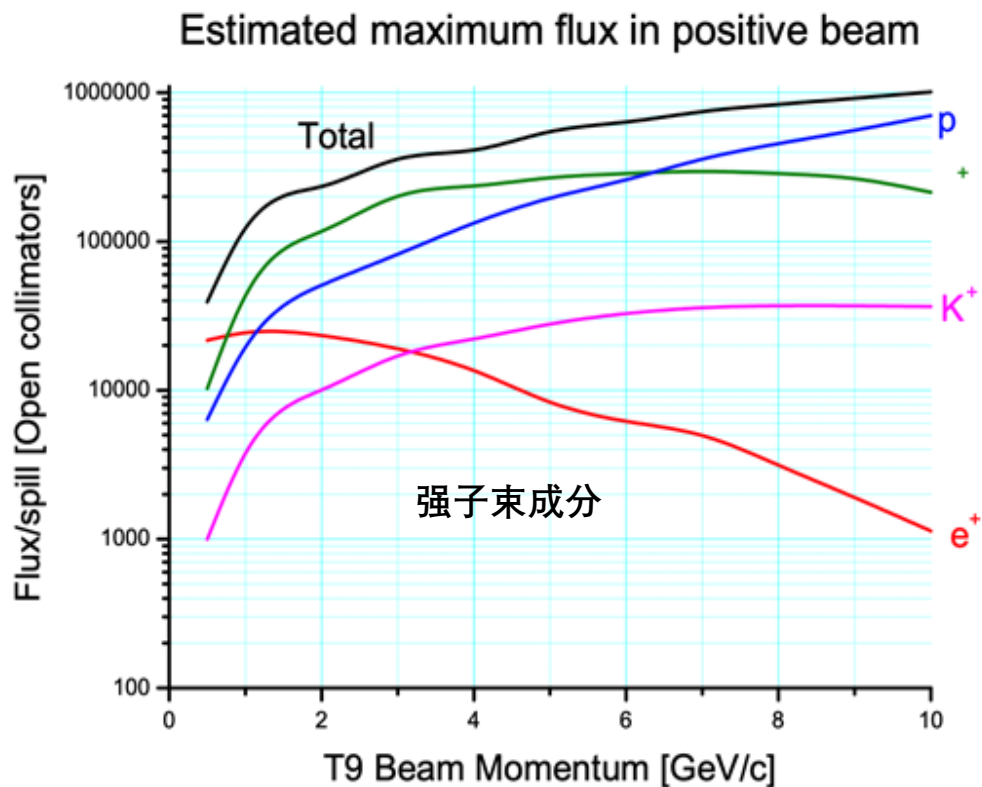
## □ Pipeline fitting method

- Real-time online processing
- Template fit once for each fitting
  - Each fitting begin with different ADC point
  - Add **one more fitting** between two ADC points
- Fit successful
  - $A > E_{thr}$
  - $\Delta T < 12.5/2$
  - **$\chi^2/ndf < 3$ :**
    - $\chi^2/ndf = [\sum_{i,j} (y_i - A \cdot f(t_i - \tau) - p) \cdot S_{ij}^{-1} \cdot (y_j - A \cdot f(t_j - \tau) - p)] / ((n - 2) \cdot (\sigma_{nos}^2 + (A \cdot 0.01)^2))$
    - **Cache and compared with next fit**
    - Remove template
    - Ongoing processing

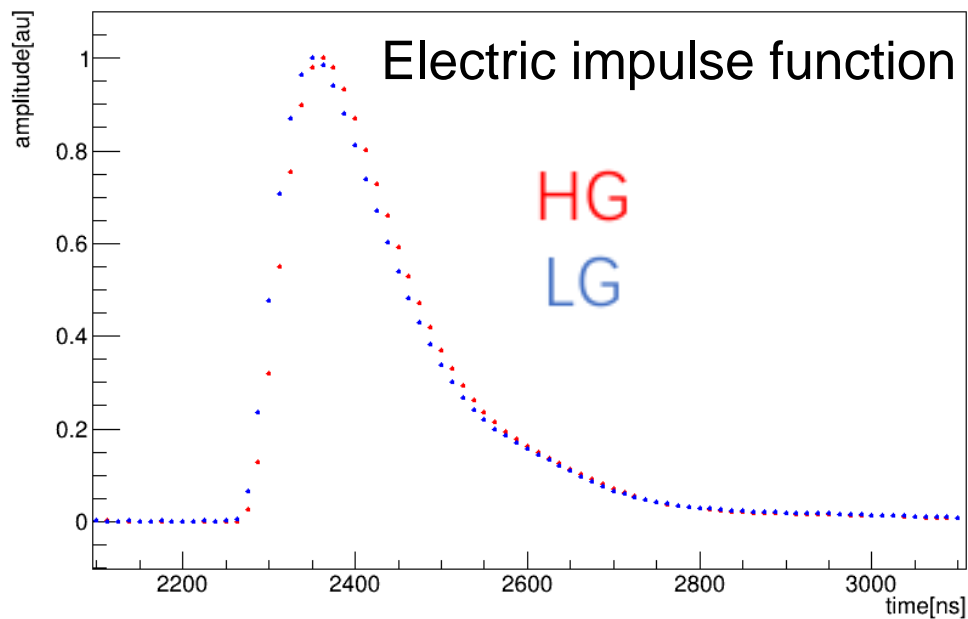


# Hadron beam components

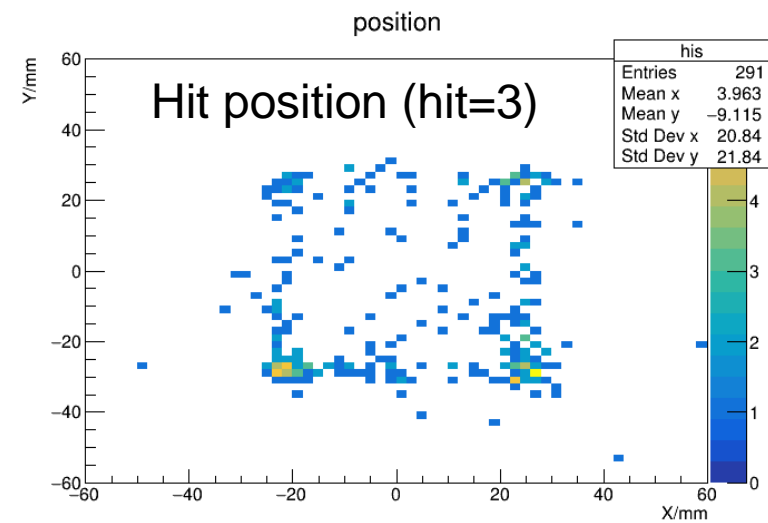
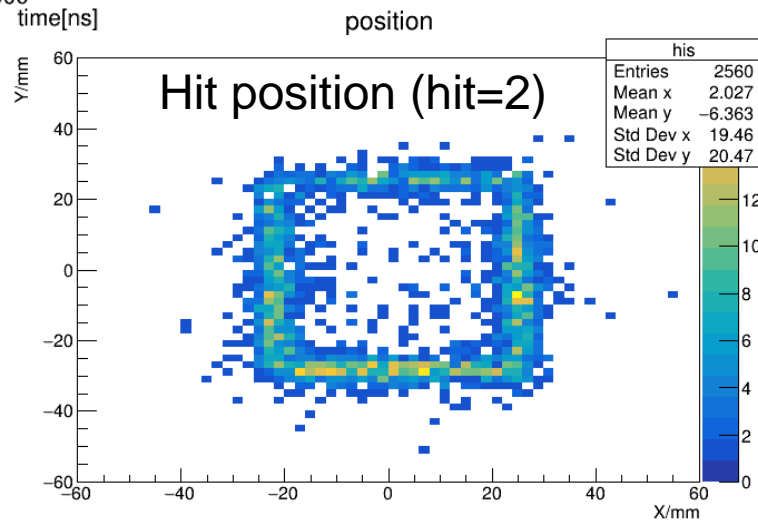
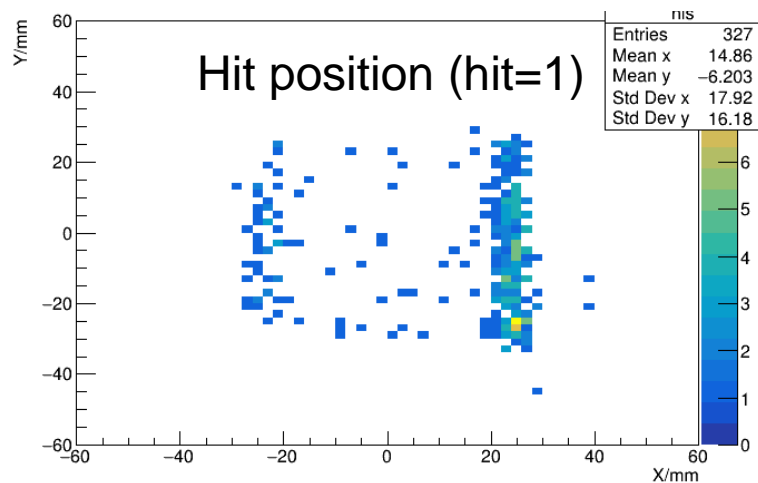
- Hadron beam consists of  $p$ 、 $\pi$ 、 $K$ 、 $e$ 。



# HG Channel Events



- Hit=1: pass through a single crystal and its gap
- Hit=2: pass through two crystals and the gap
- Hit=3: pass through three crystals and the gap



# Unfixed-shape fitting

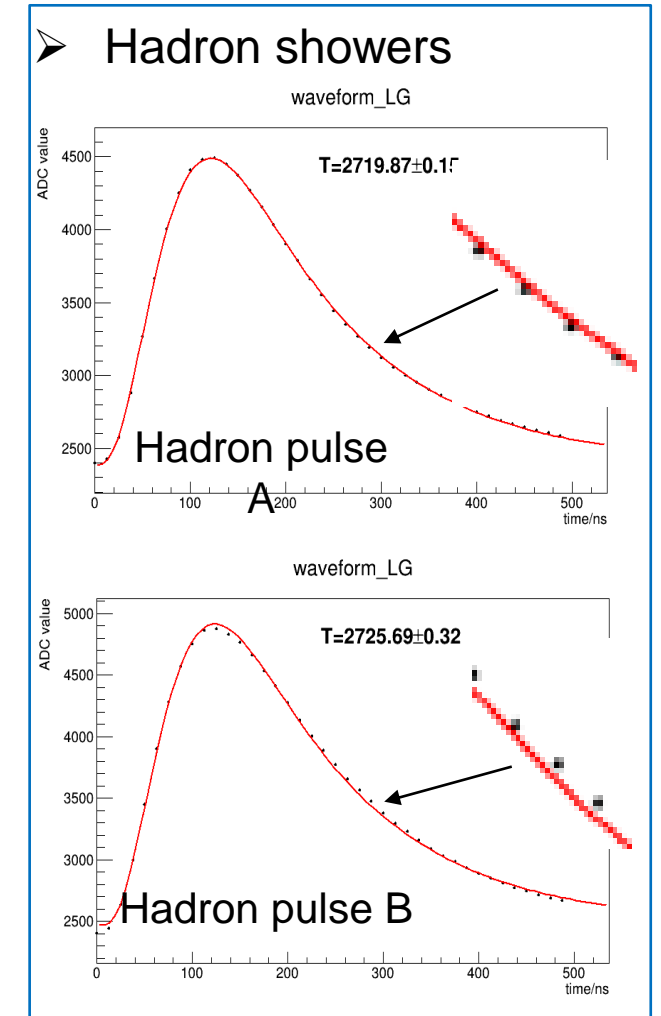
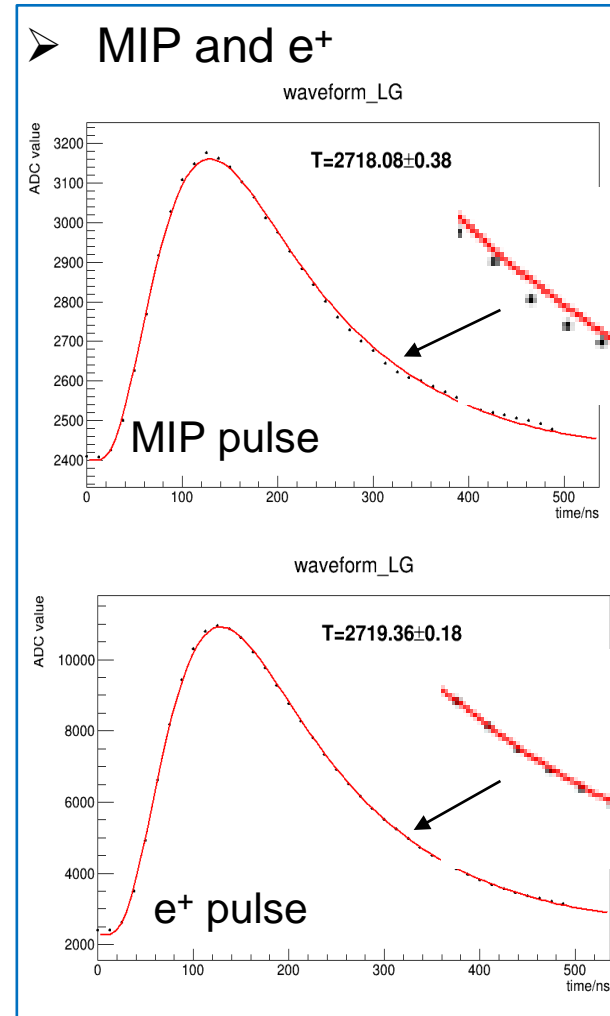
- Form of the template fitting function:

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^5 A_i e^{-\frac{t-T_0}{\tau_i}} \right\} \cdot (t - T_0)^k + ped & t \geq T_0 \\ ped & t < T_0 \end{cases}$$

**5 Exponential × 1 Power**

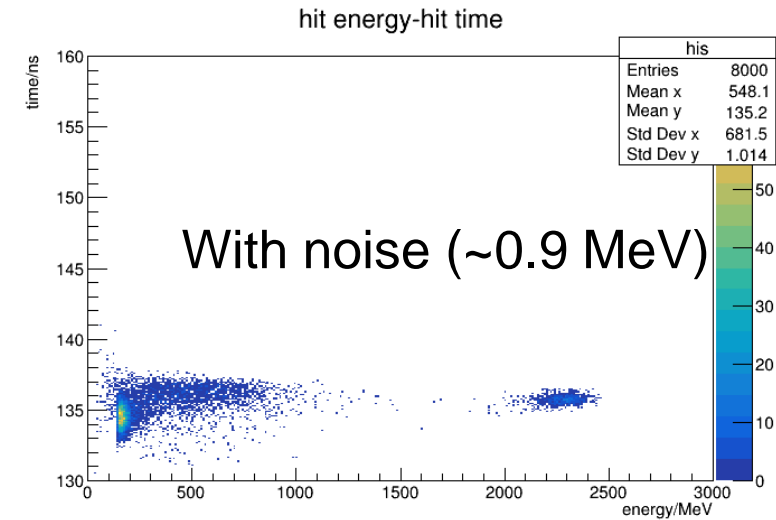
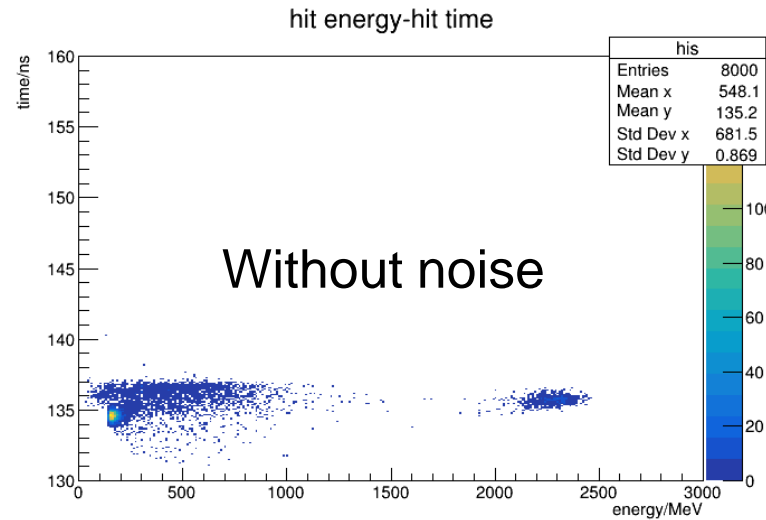
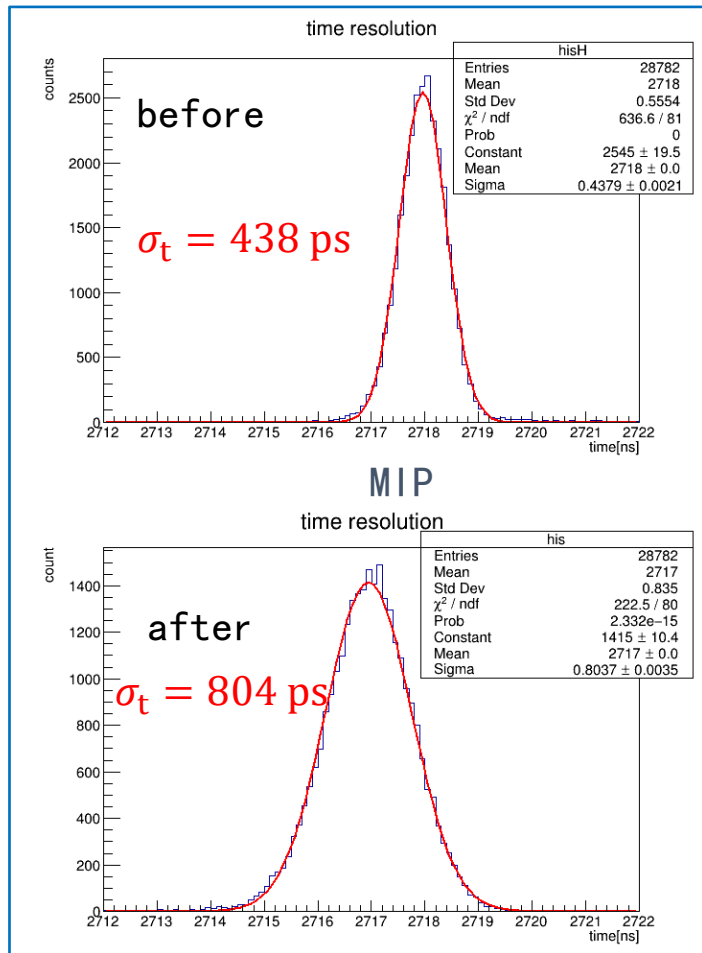
- Only two free parameters:  
ped(pedestal) and T0(time)

- Template does not fit MIP and hadron pulses well



# Unfixed-shape fitting

➤ Time resolution of MIP gets worse because of electronic noise



- Fitting result is affected by pulse shape perturbation from electronic noise