



南京大學
NANJING UNIVERSITY

Machine learning in ATLAS simulation

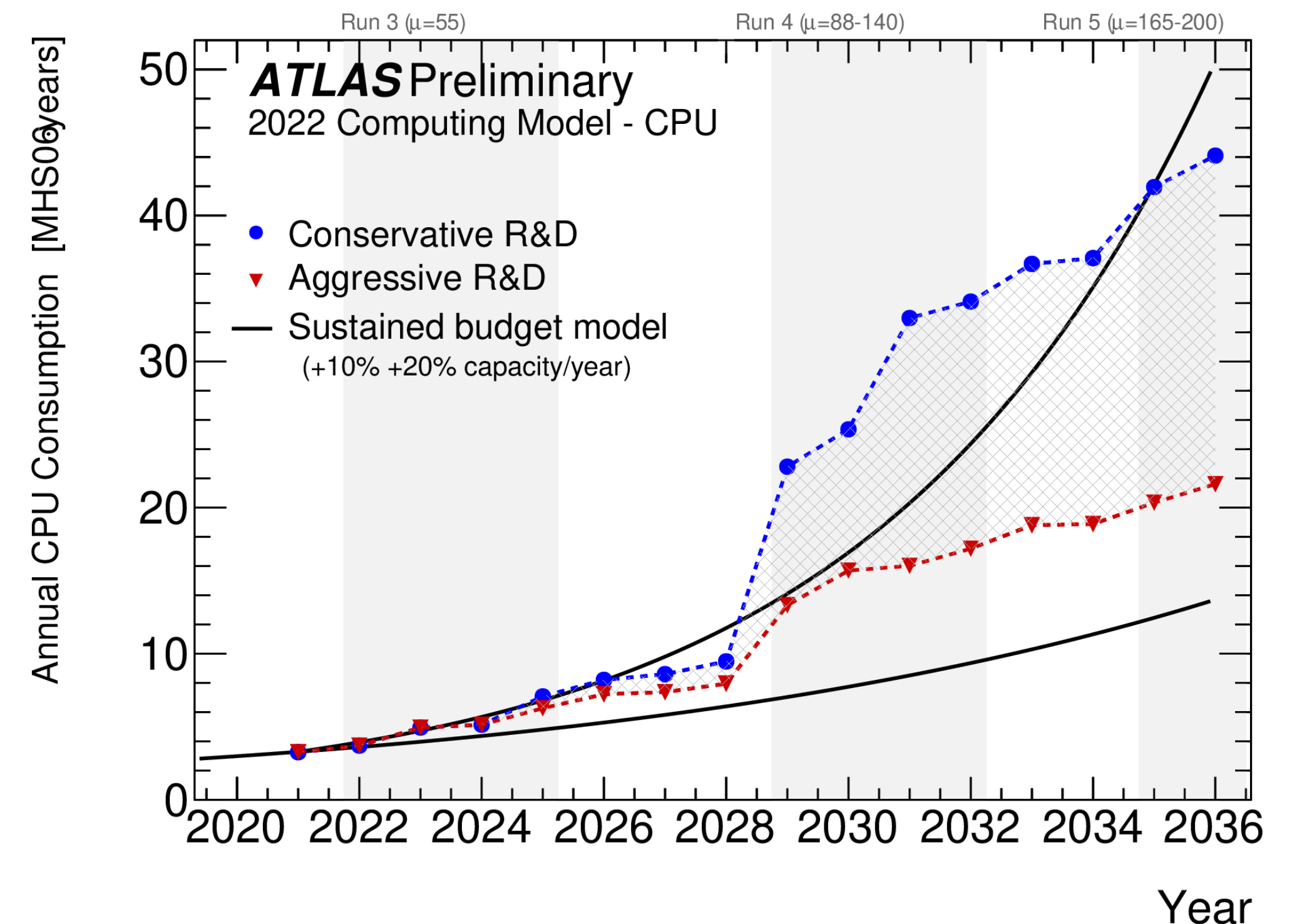
张 瑞 (南京大学)

2026年超级陶粲装置研讨会

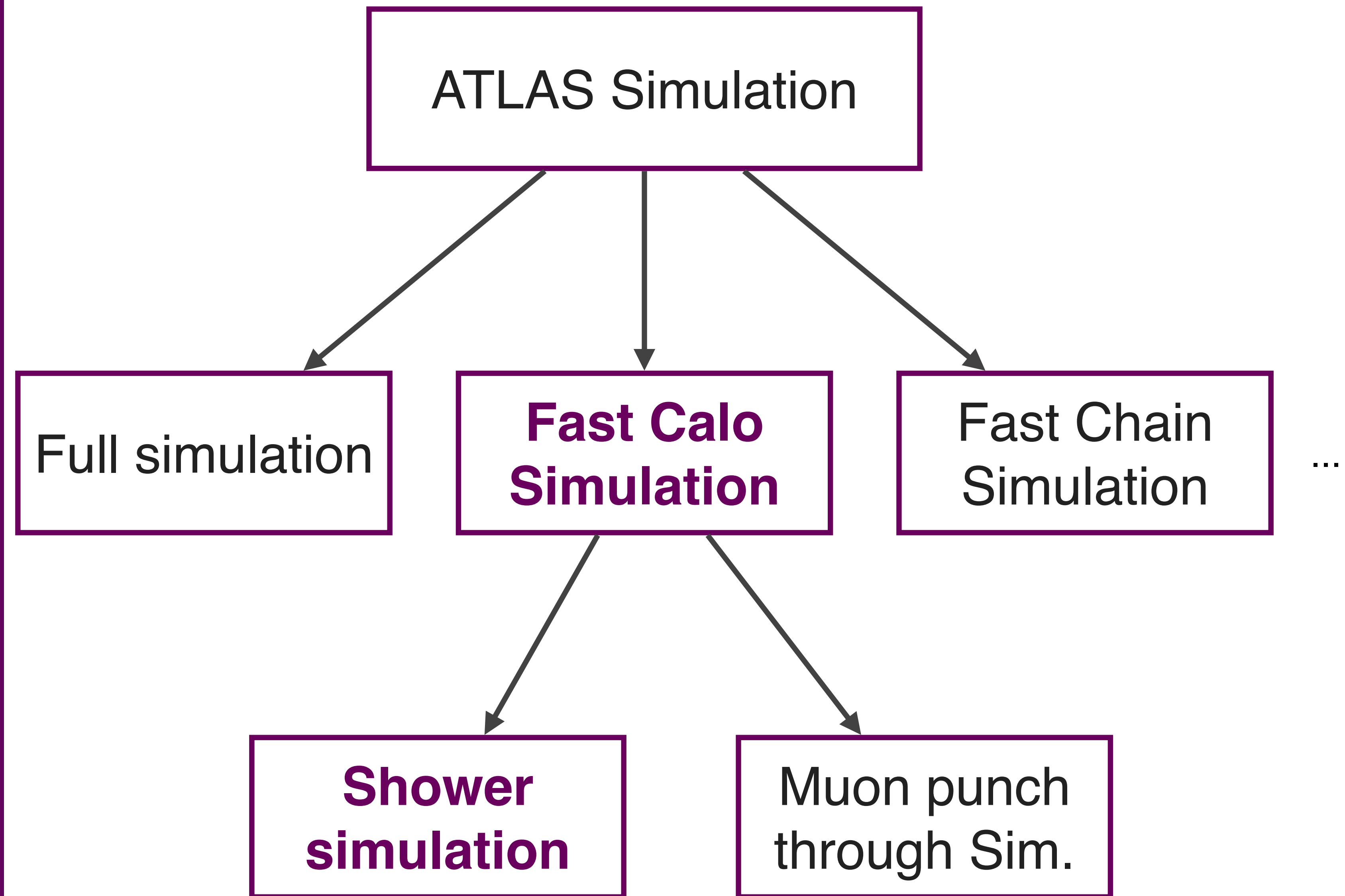
2026.6.30—2026.7.5, 西安

Introduction

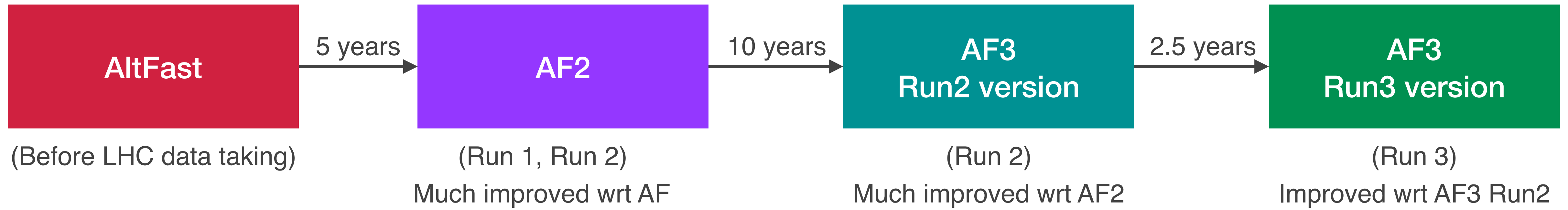
- Machine learning (ML) has wide applications in high energy physics
- One of the applications is in detector simulation
- Geant 4 is the most precise tool for detector simulation, however, it requires considerable CPU resources
- ML can assist in various places in fast simulation tools
- Present today:
 - Machine learning to acceleration simulation at ATLAS



Contents



ATLAS Fast Calorimeter Simulation (AF)



Simplistic, e.g.
Gaussian
smearing

FastCaloSim

- Based on parametrisation
 - 2D splines for lateral shape
-
- Limited shower fluctuations
 - Not usable for boosted topologies
 - No FCAL parametrisation
 - Not usable for VBF
 - No Muon Punch-Through

FastCaloSimV2

- PCA for longitudinal energy deposits (better correlation)
- Hit-based lateral shape with more fluctuations to resemble energy resolution

FastCaloGAN

- First use of GANs in a large-scale HEP experiment)
 - Used for mid-energy pions
- ### Muon Punch-Through
- Simple (based on a look-up)

-
- $0 < |\eta| < 5$ fully covered
 - Derived from G4 10.1
 - Released in Spring 2021

FastCaloSimV2

- Same as Run2 version
- ### FastCaloGANV2
- Improved GANs
 - Introduce proton GANs

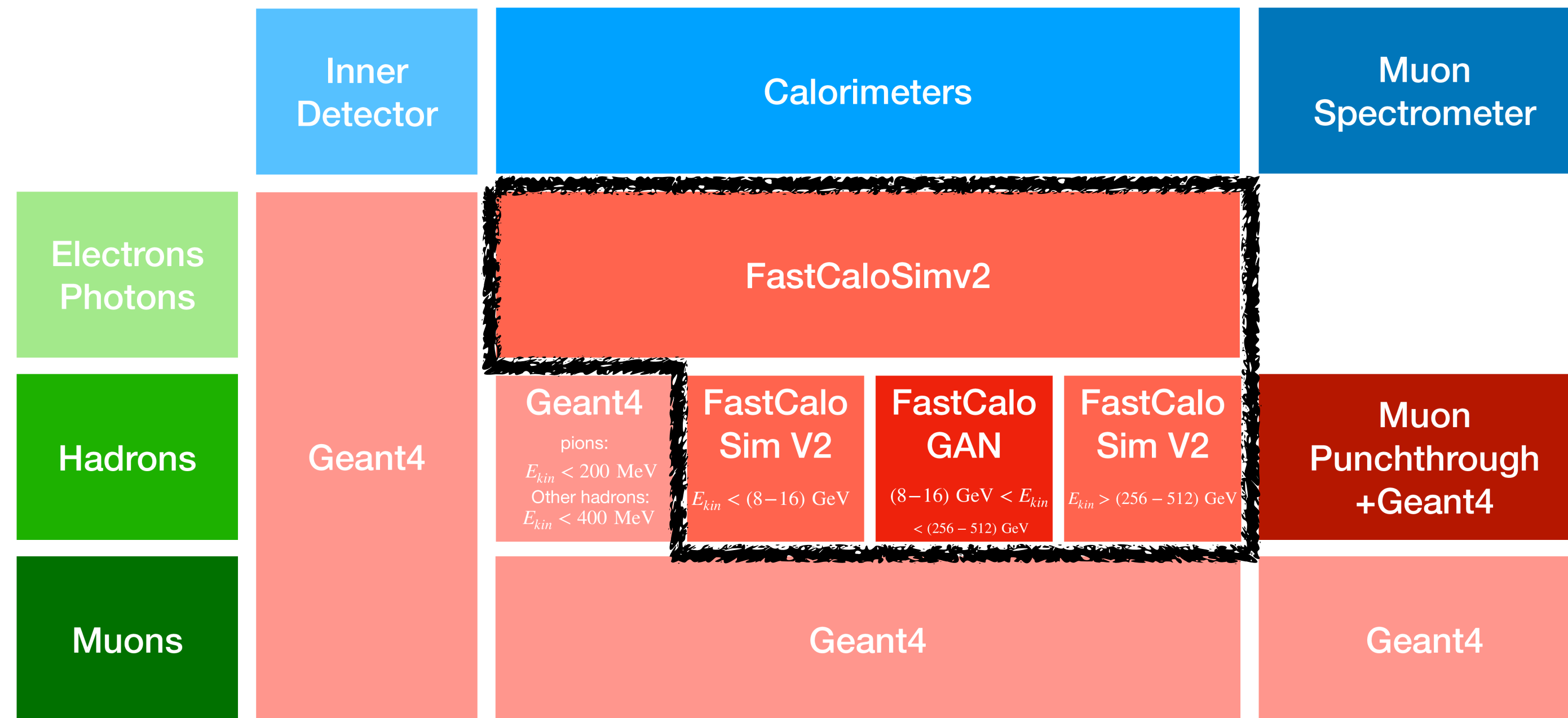
Muon Punch-Through

- Improved based on DNN
-
- $0 < |\eta| < 5$ fully covered
 - Derived from G4 10.6
 - Released in Fall 2023

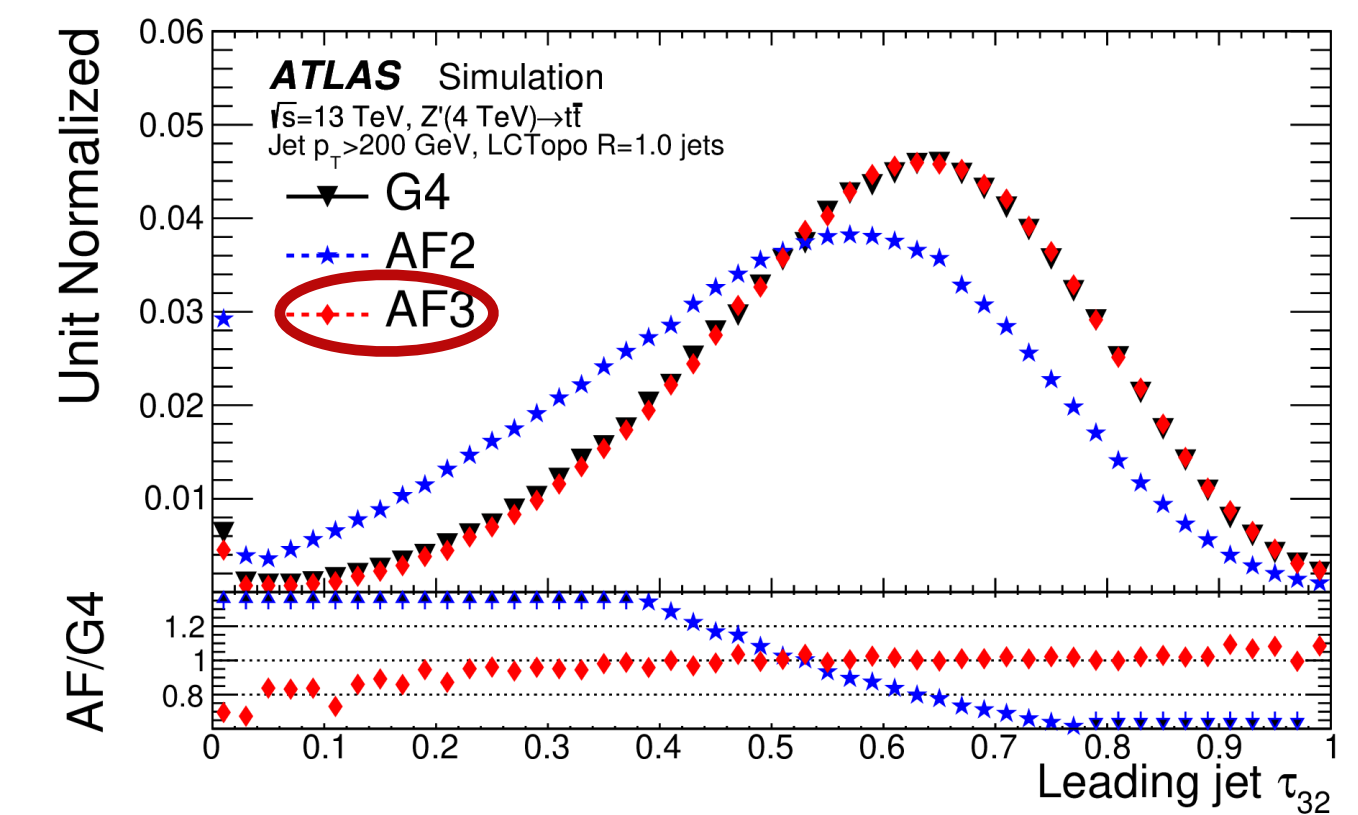
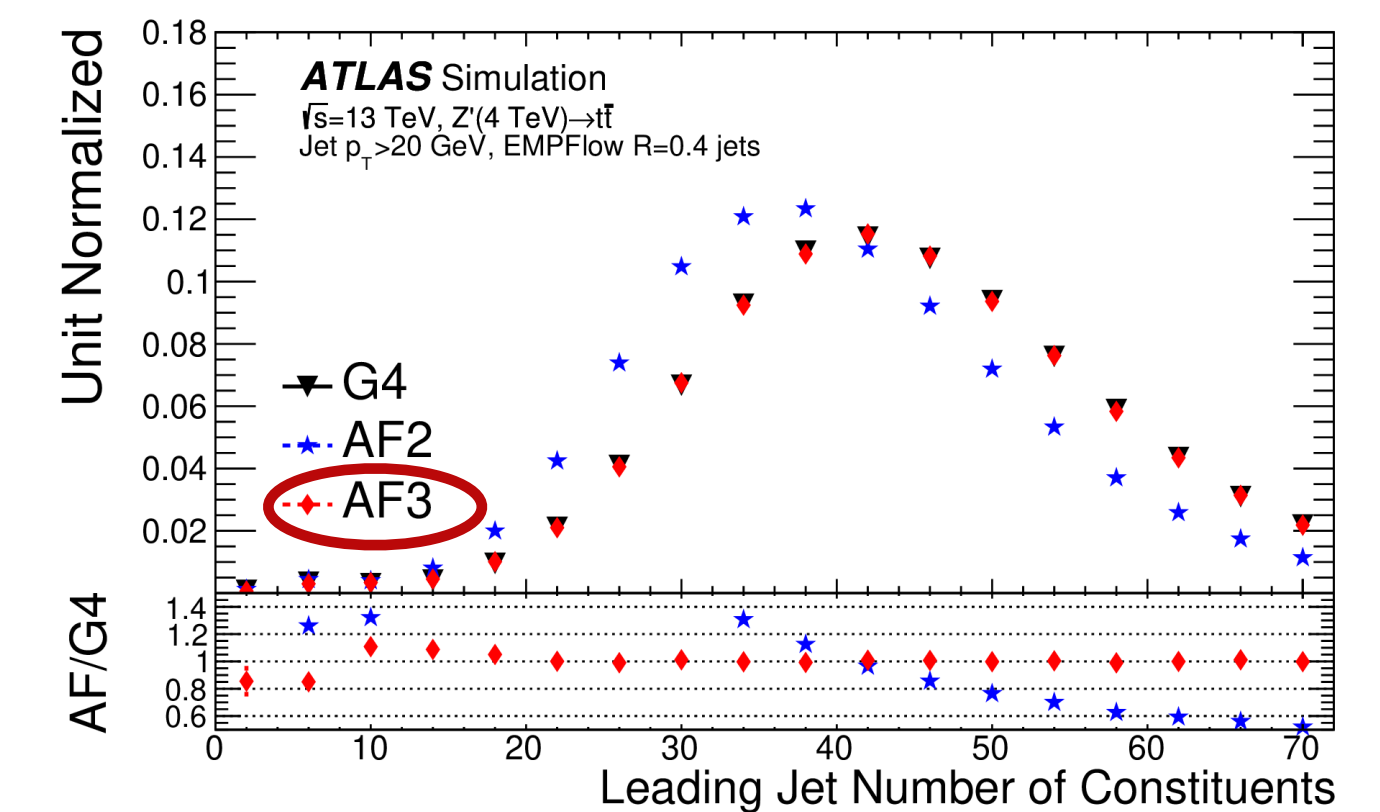
AF3 Run2 version

- Much improved over AF2
 - ▶ Has forward calo parametrisation, can be used for **VBF**
 - ▶ Better correlation modelling, can be used for **jet substructure** and **boosted** topology
 - ▶ First attempt to use ML in production

Comput Softw Big Sci 6, 7 (2022)



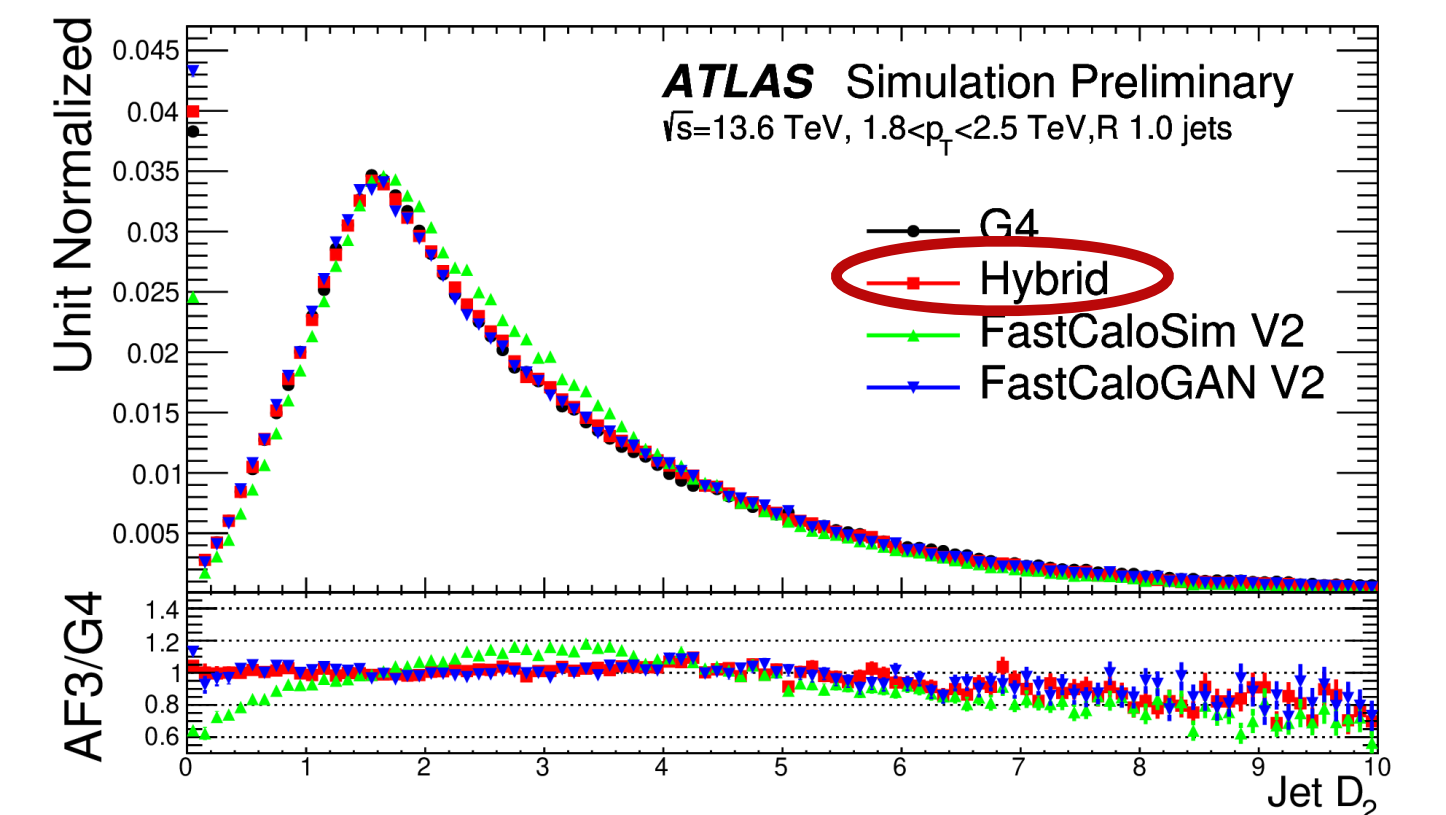
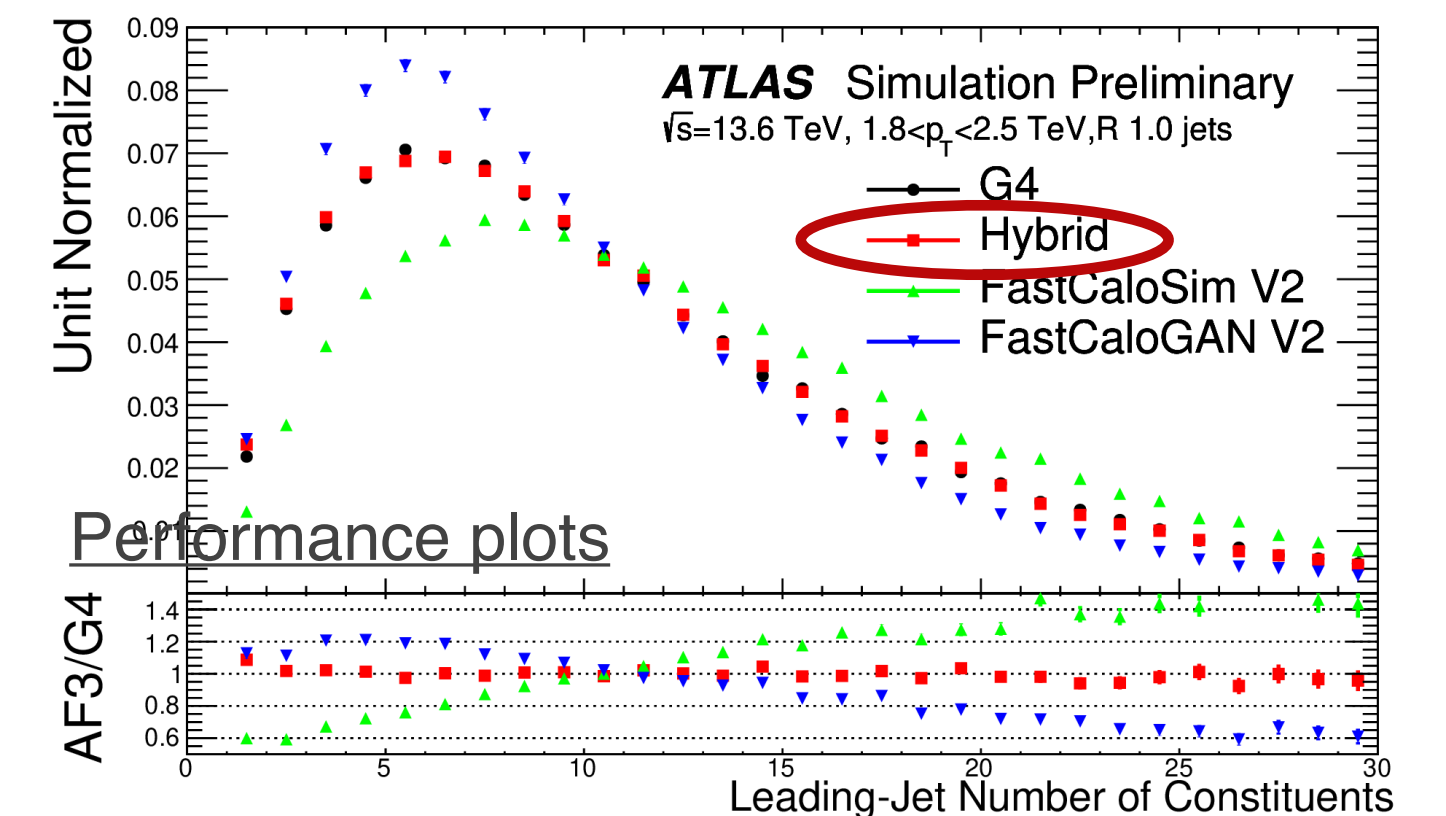
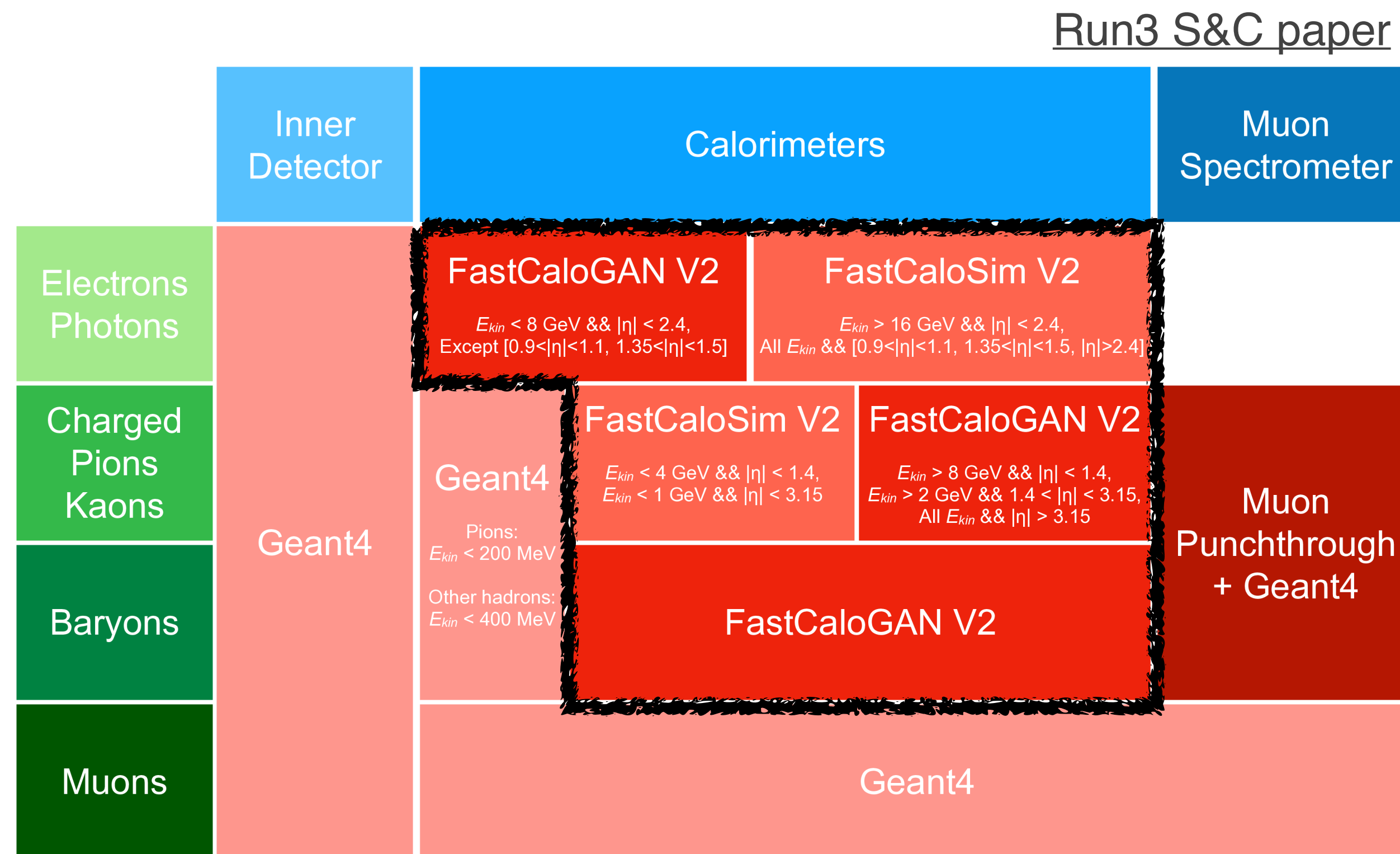
Note: Inner Detector, low energy hadrons, muons are simulated with Geant4



AF3 Run3 version

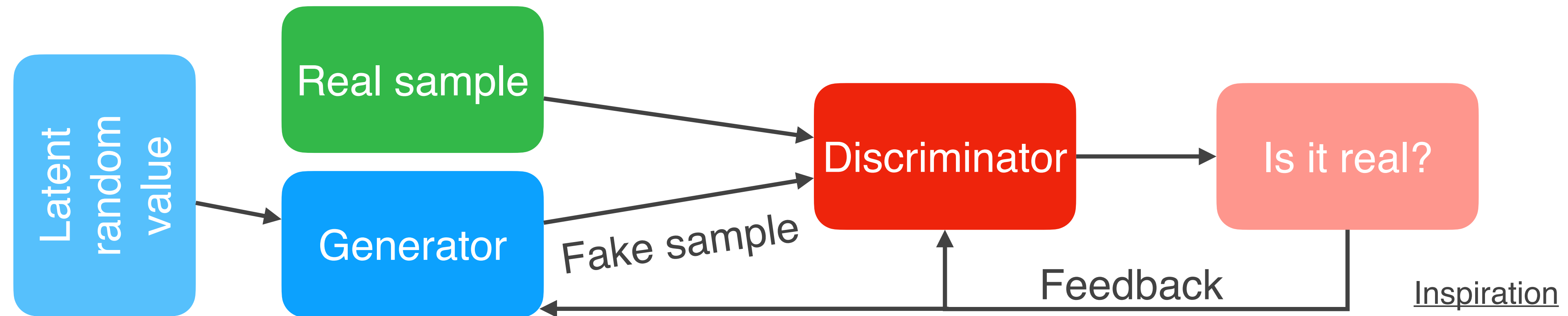
- Improved over AF3 Run2 version
 - FastCaloGAN V2** is better in increased phase space
 - Better **Muon Punch-Through** modelling

Note: Inner Detector, low energy hadrons, muons are simulated with Geant4



What are GANs?

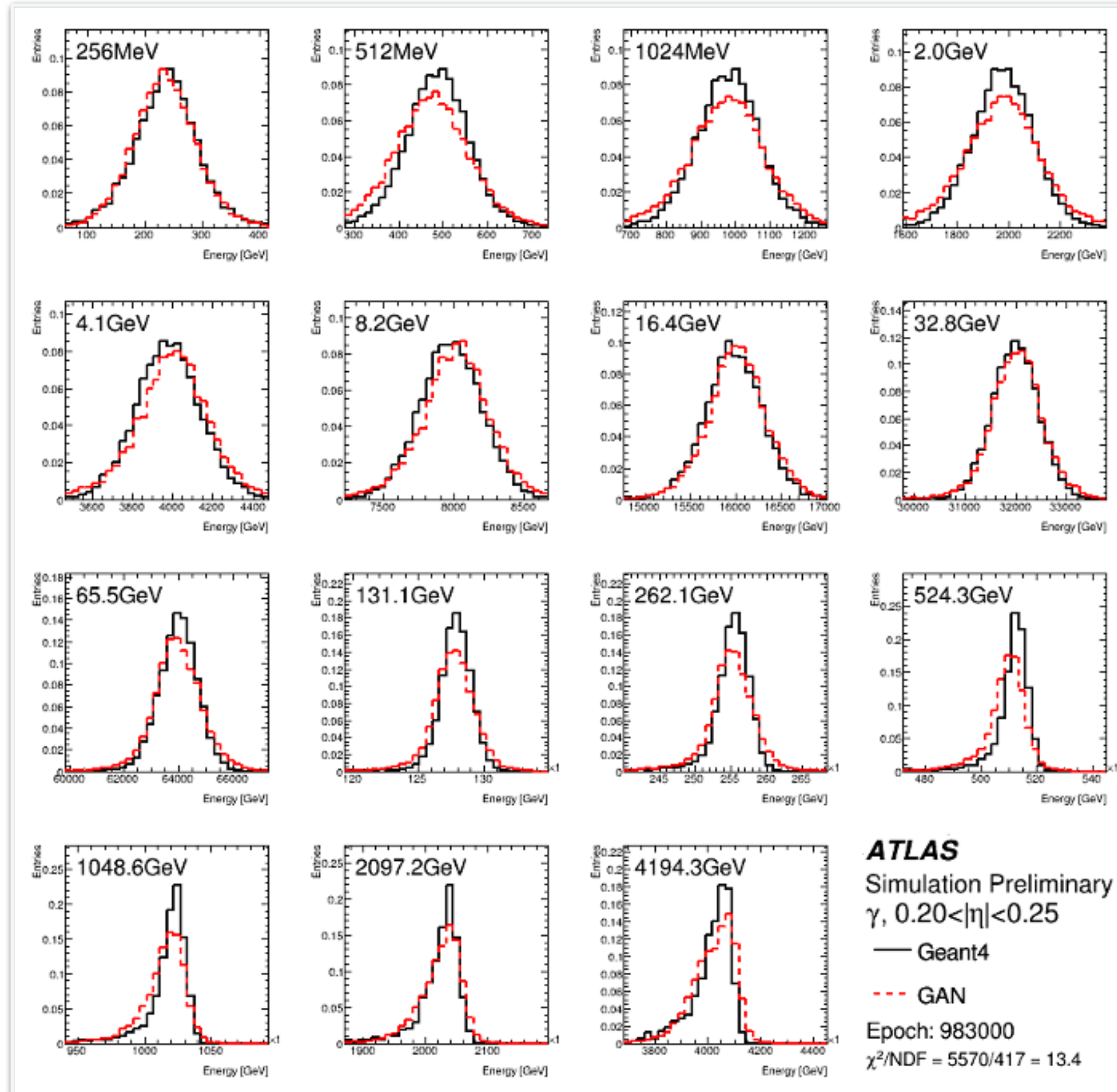
- Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) is a generative approach to generate new data that look like training data.
- Realised by adversarially training between a generator and discriminator. Once trained, generator is used for simulation



- FastCaloGAN is trained on Geant4 calorimeter shower data
- Due to very different behaviour, FastCaloGAN is designed and trained differently for different particle and $\ln$

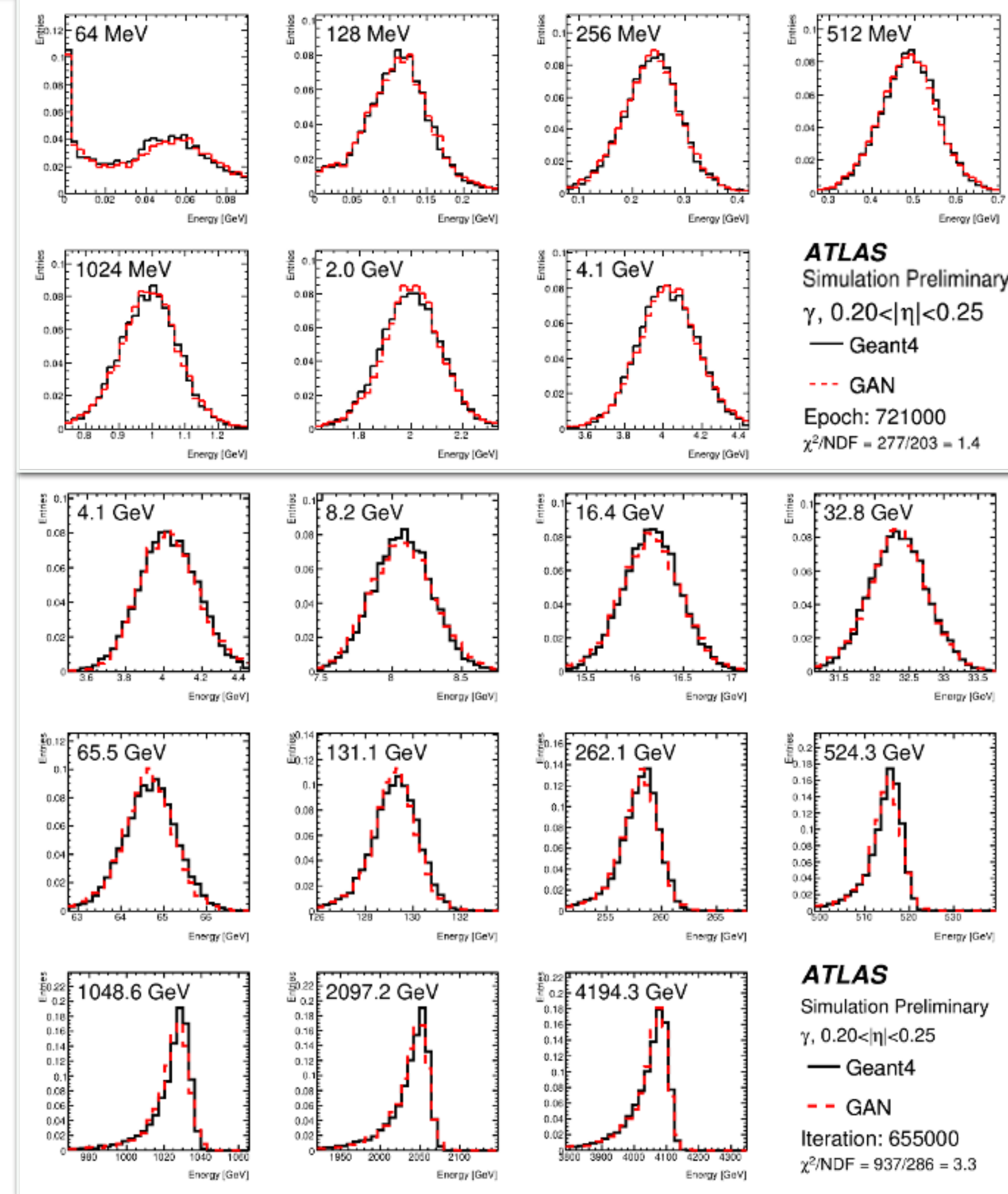
Photon (γ) FastCaloGAN

V1



$$\chi^2/\text{NDF} = 12.3$$

V2

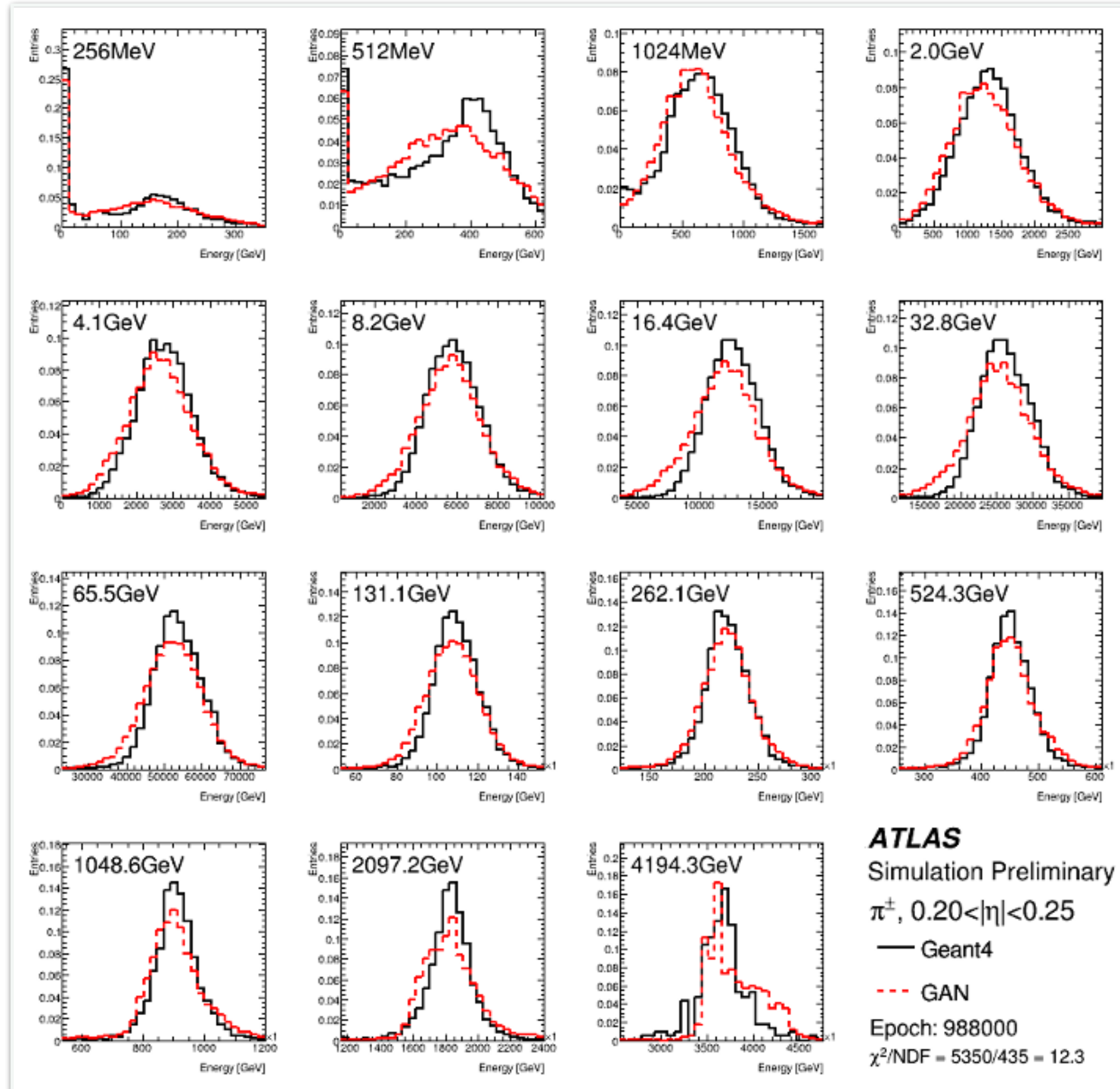


$$\chi^2/\text{NDF} = 2.5$$

Gaussian
shape in low
energy makes
training easier.

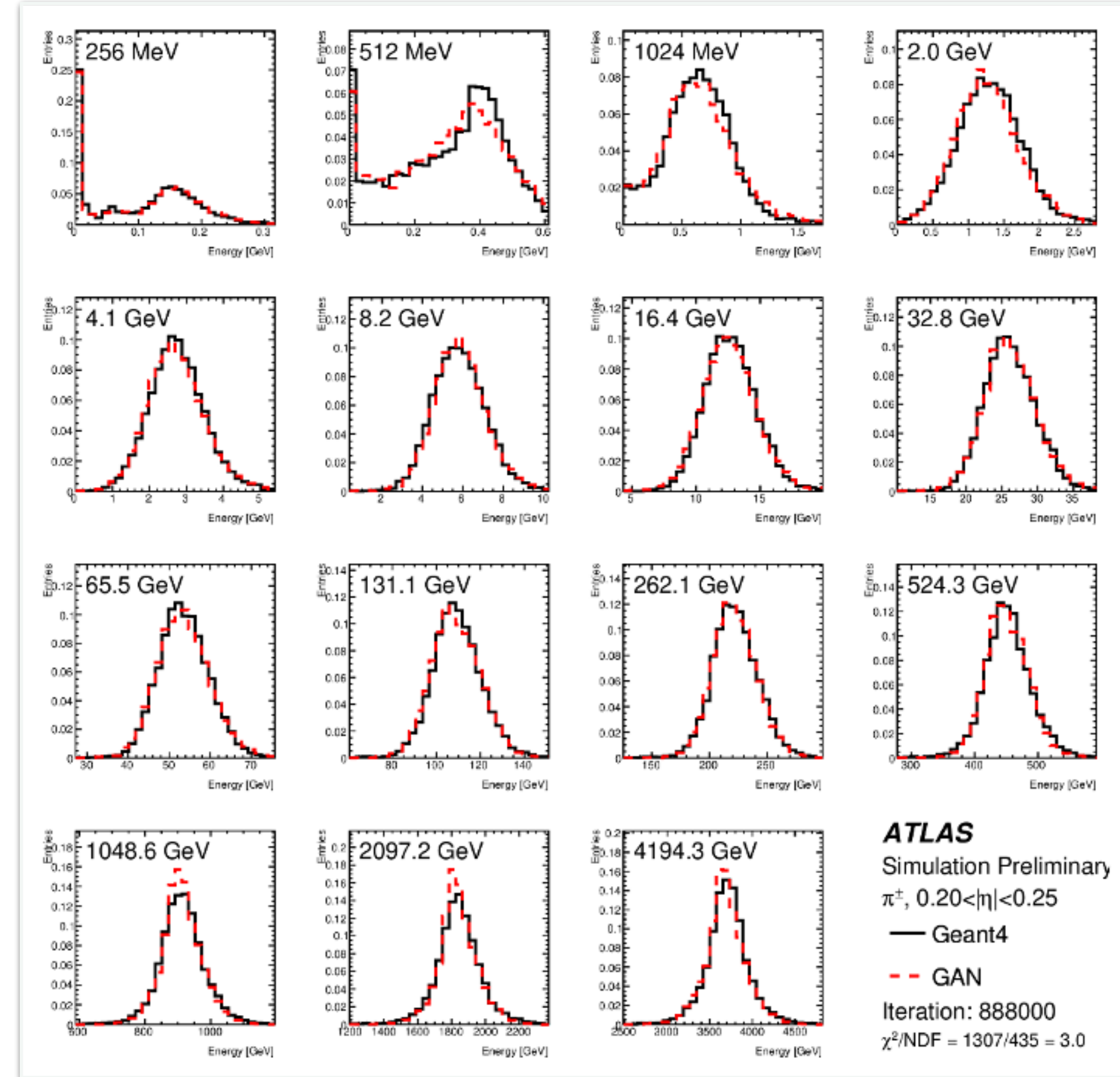
Pion ($\pi^\pm$) FastCaloGAN

V1



$$\chi^2/\text{NDF} = 12.3$$

V2

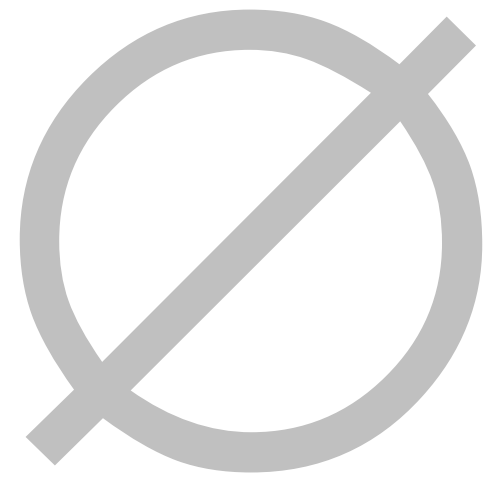


$$\chi^2/\text{NDF} = 3.0$$

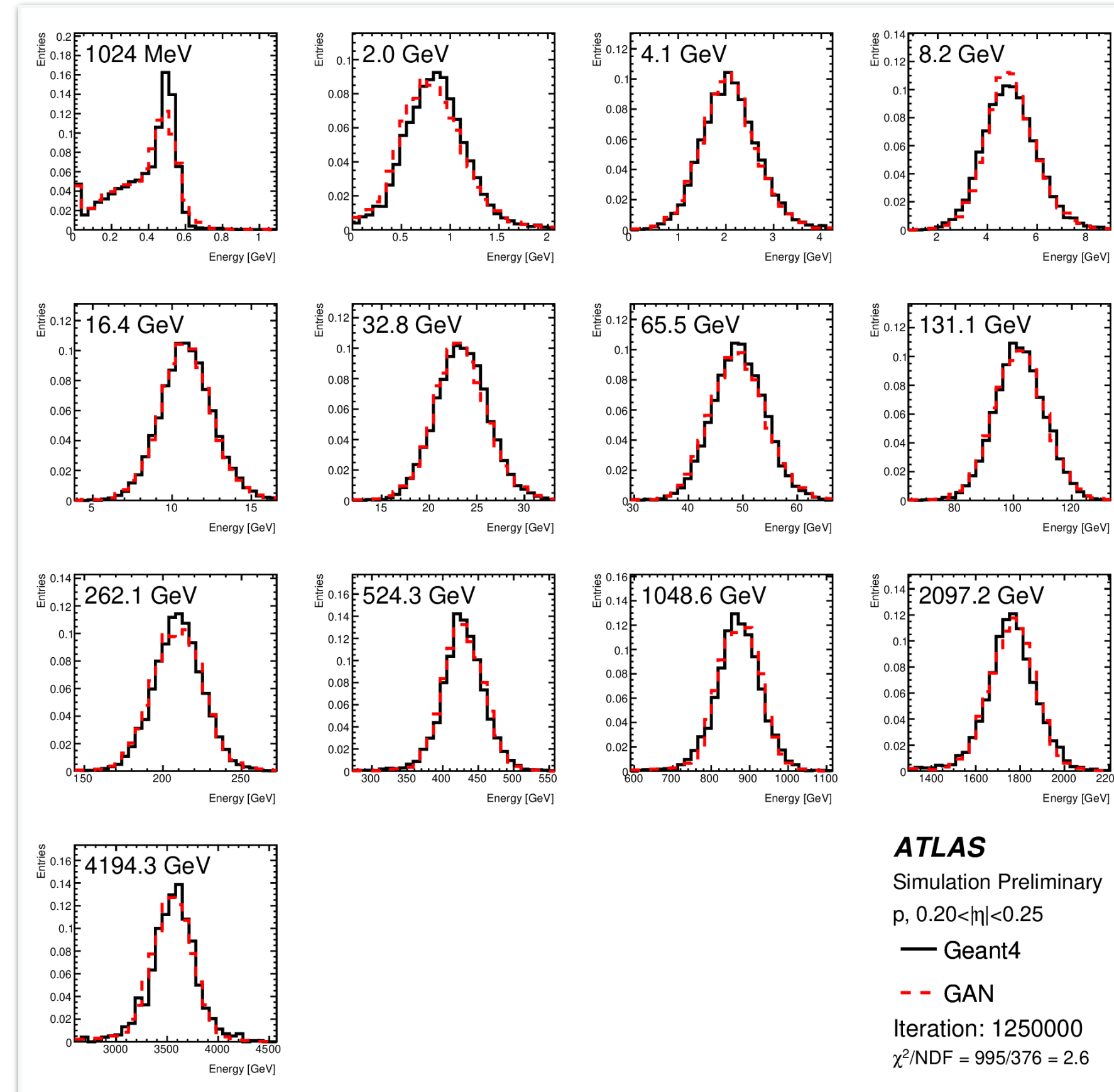
Significant
improvement
for charged
pions

Proton (p) FastCaloGAN

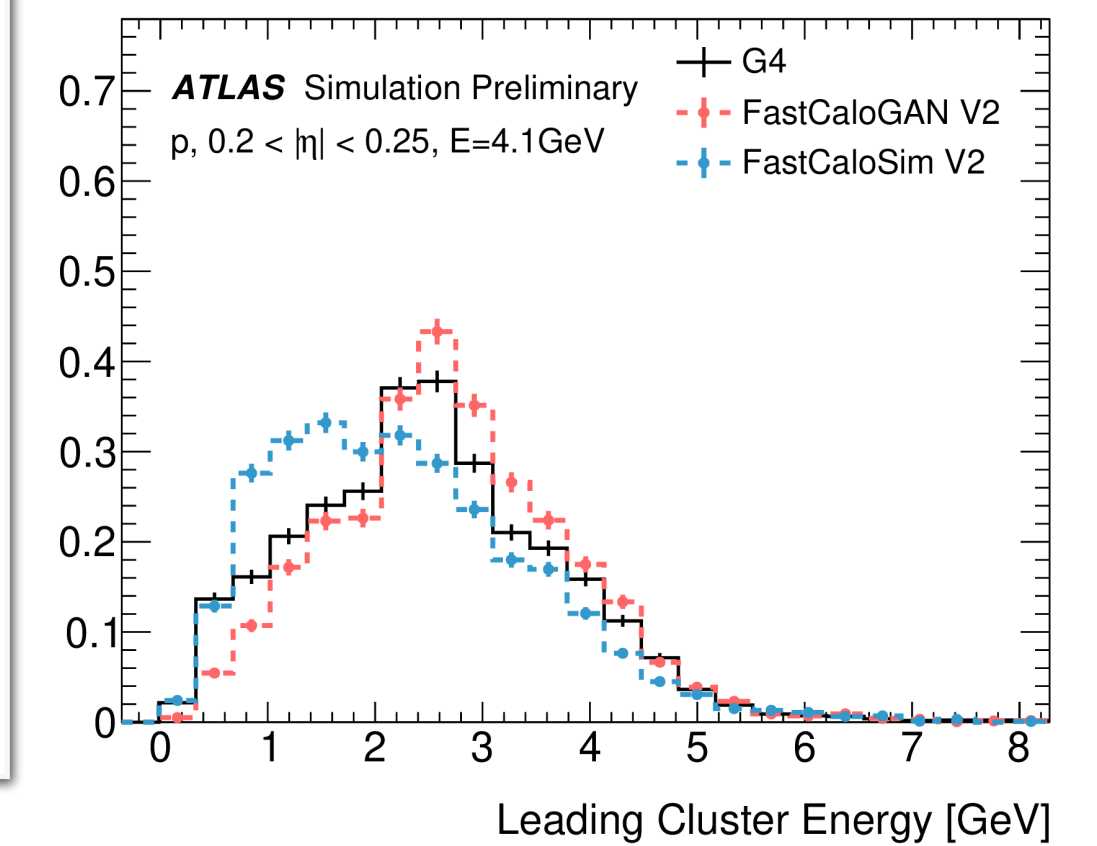
V1



V2



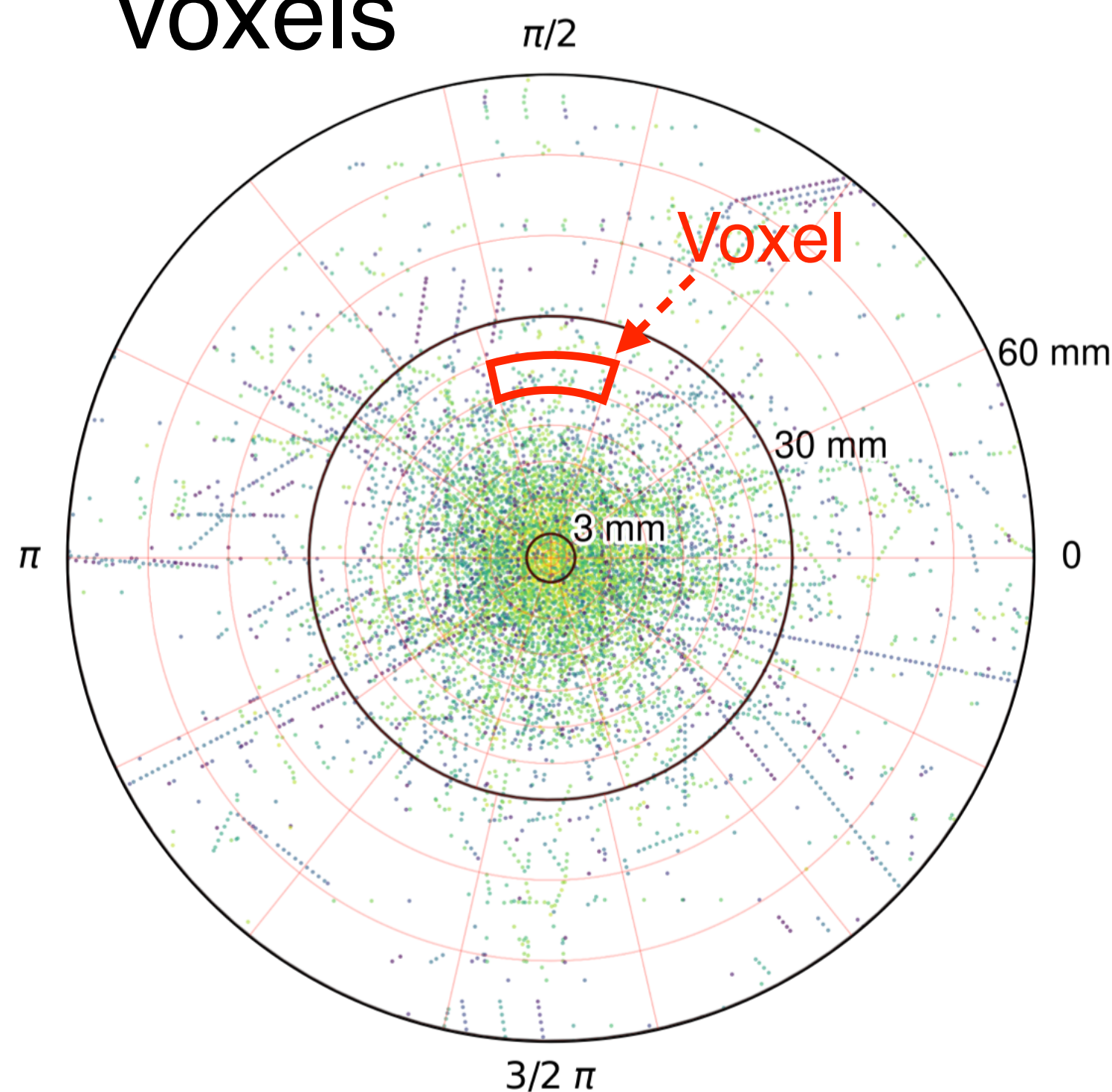
Dedicated GANs for protons: not possible to implement in FastCaloSim approach due to memory limitation



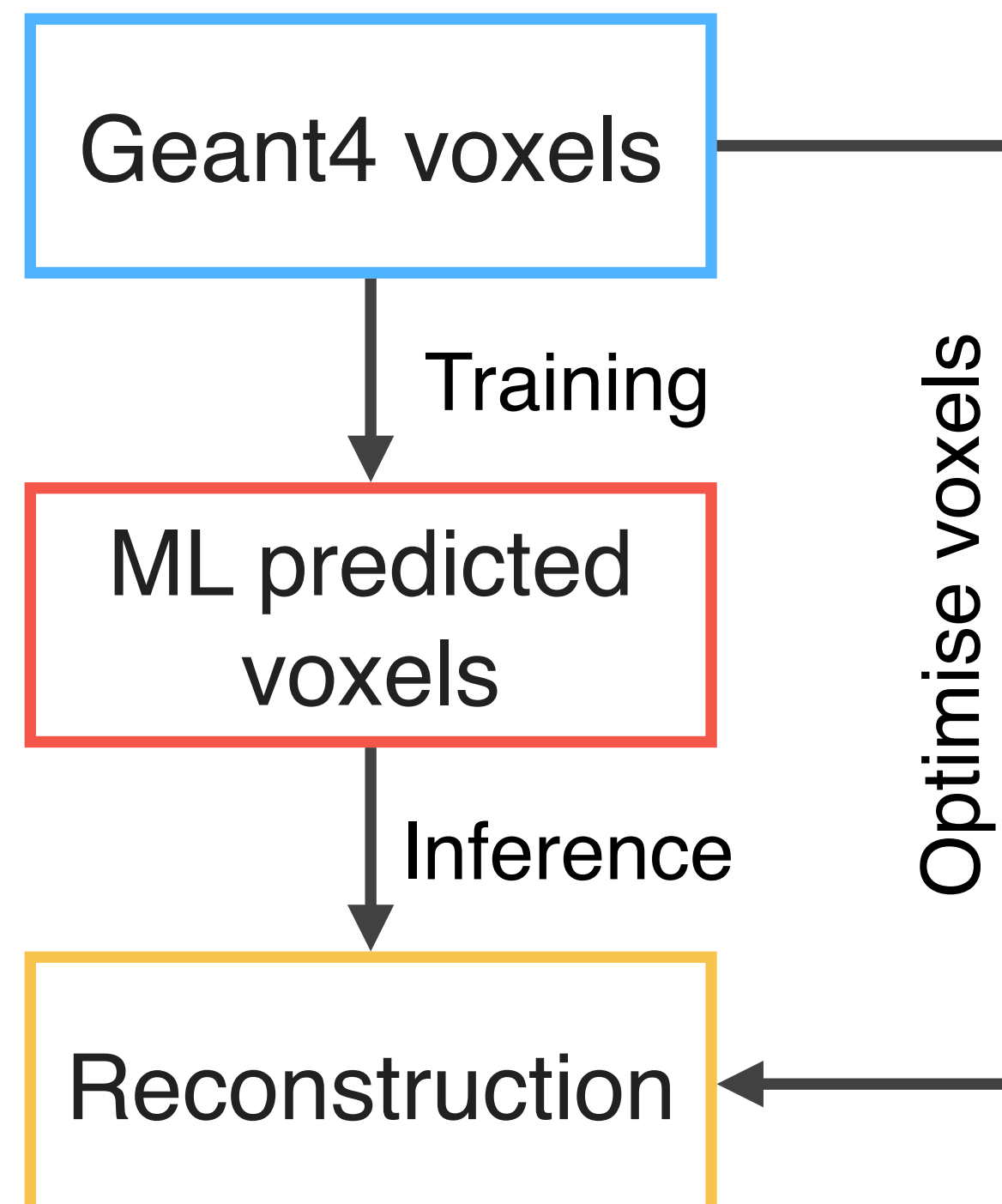
Preparing for AF4 and Run4

Improve ML input -- voxels

- Balancing voxel granularity
- Optimised by simulating directly on Geant4 voxels

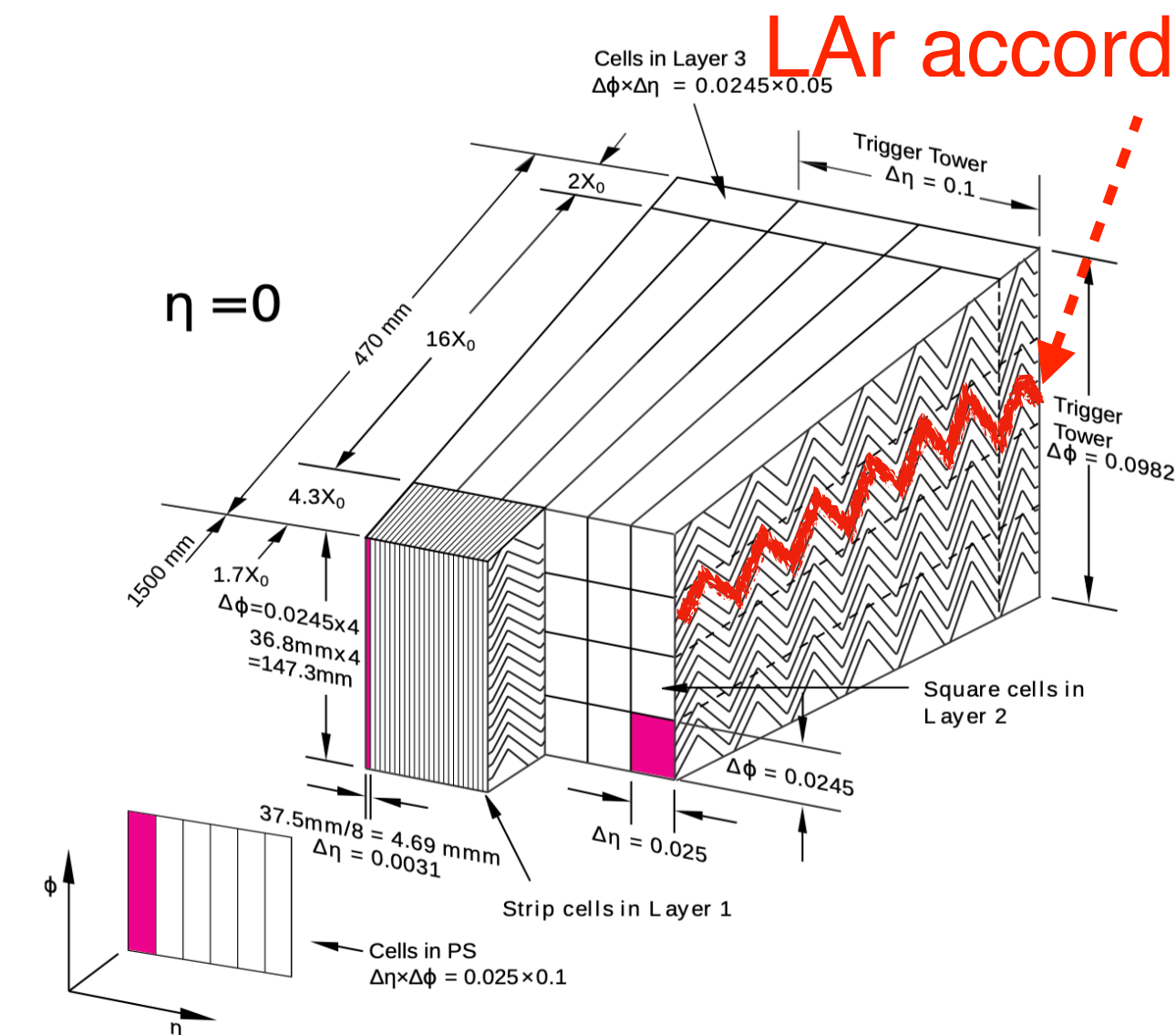


ATLAS Simulation Preliminary
Single shower, Photons,
 $E_{\text{kin}} = 65\text{GeV}$, $0.20 < |\eta_{\text{center}}| < 0.25$



Remove modulation

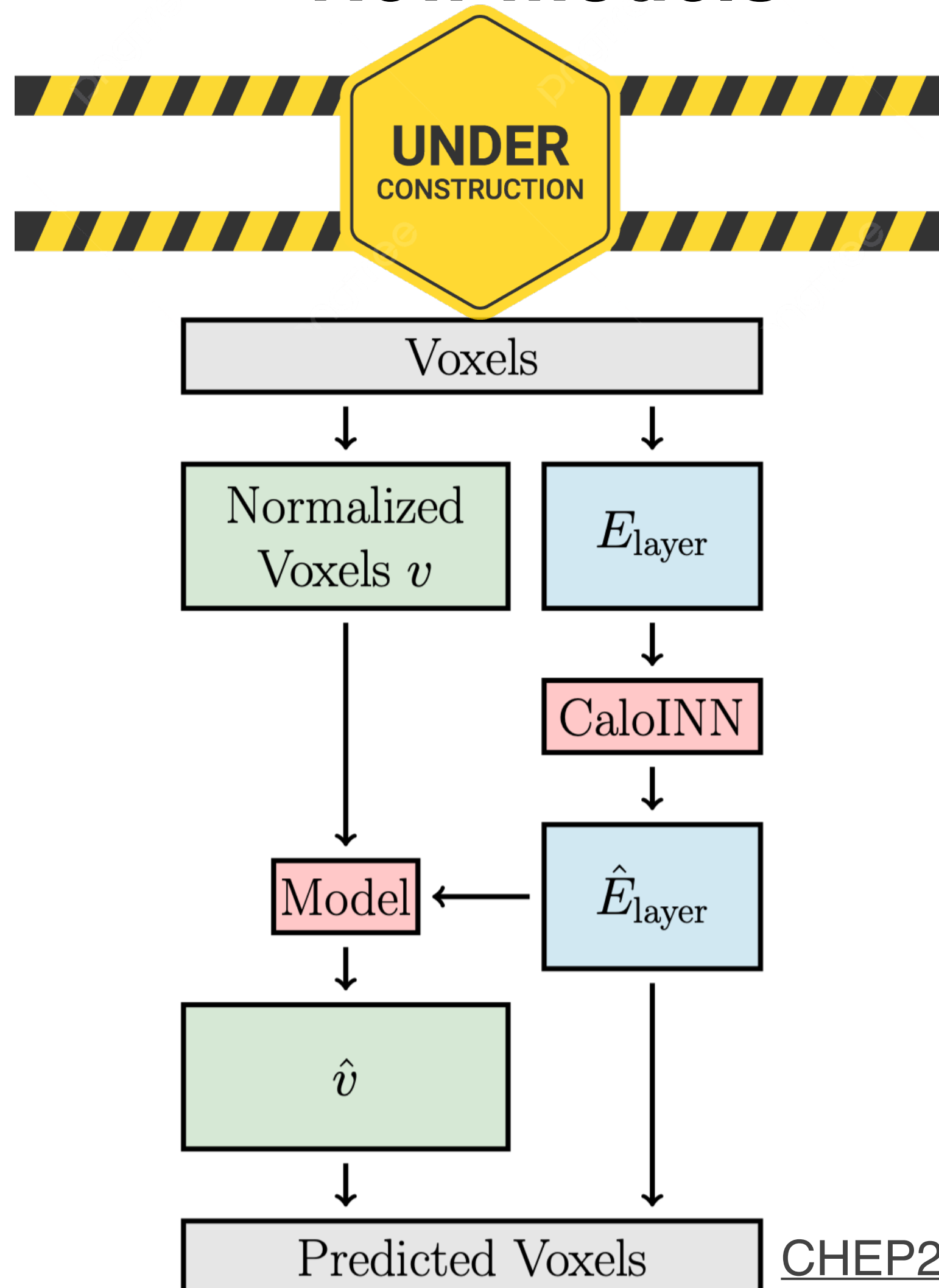
- Liquid Argon accordion shape breaks calo's uniformity
- Effect taken in Geant4 voxels, and removed from ML training



Data is public as CERN Open Data

Preparing for AF4 and Run4

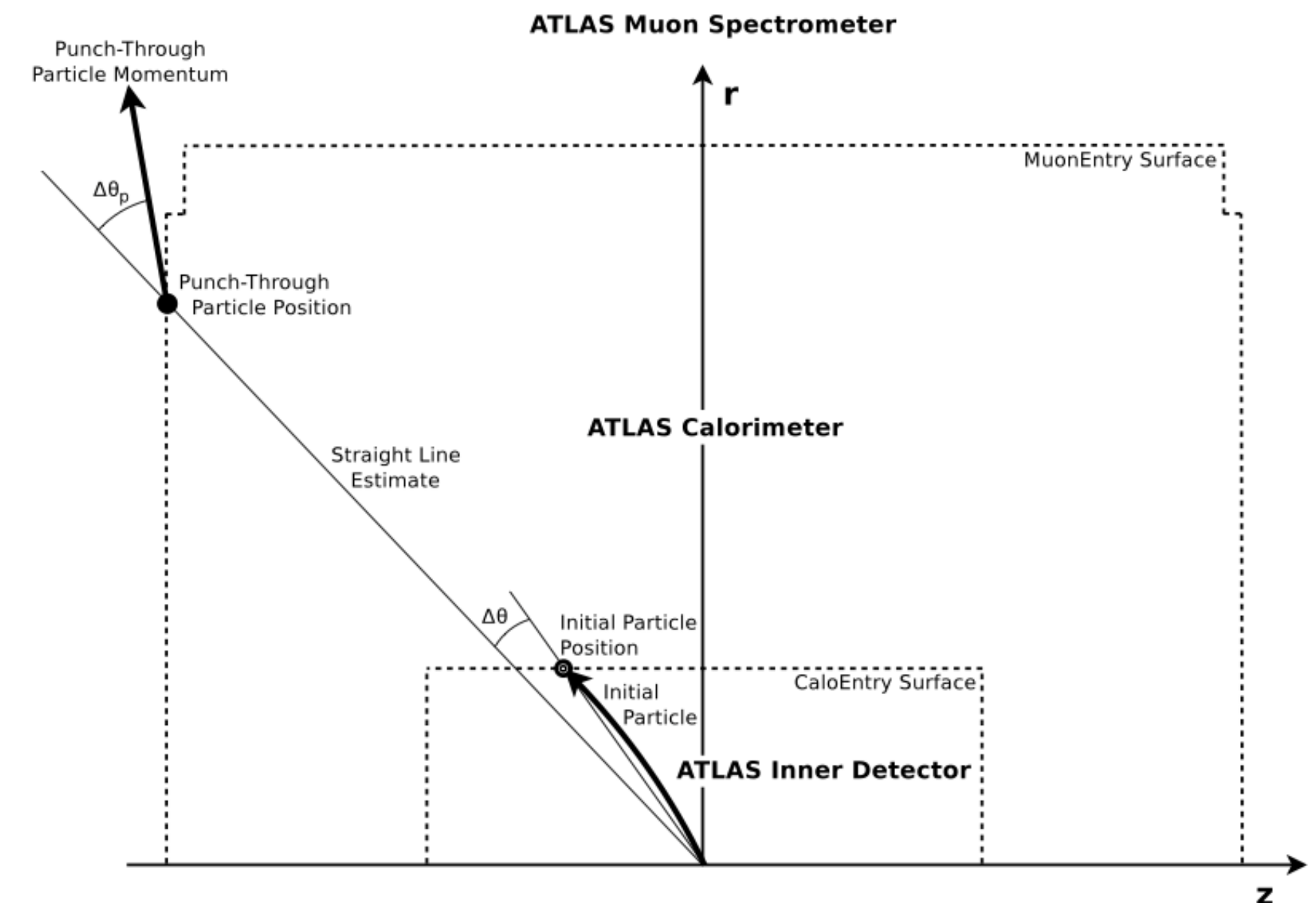
New models



- Move to flow and diffusion
- Separate models for layer energies and layer shape prediction

CHEP2026

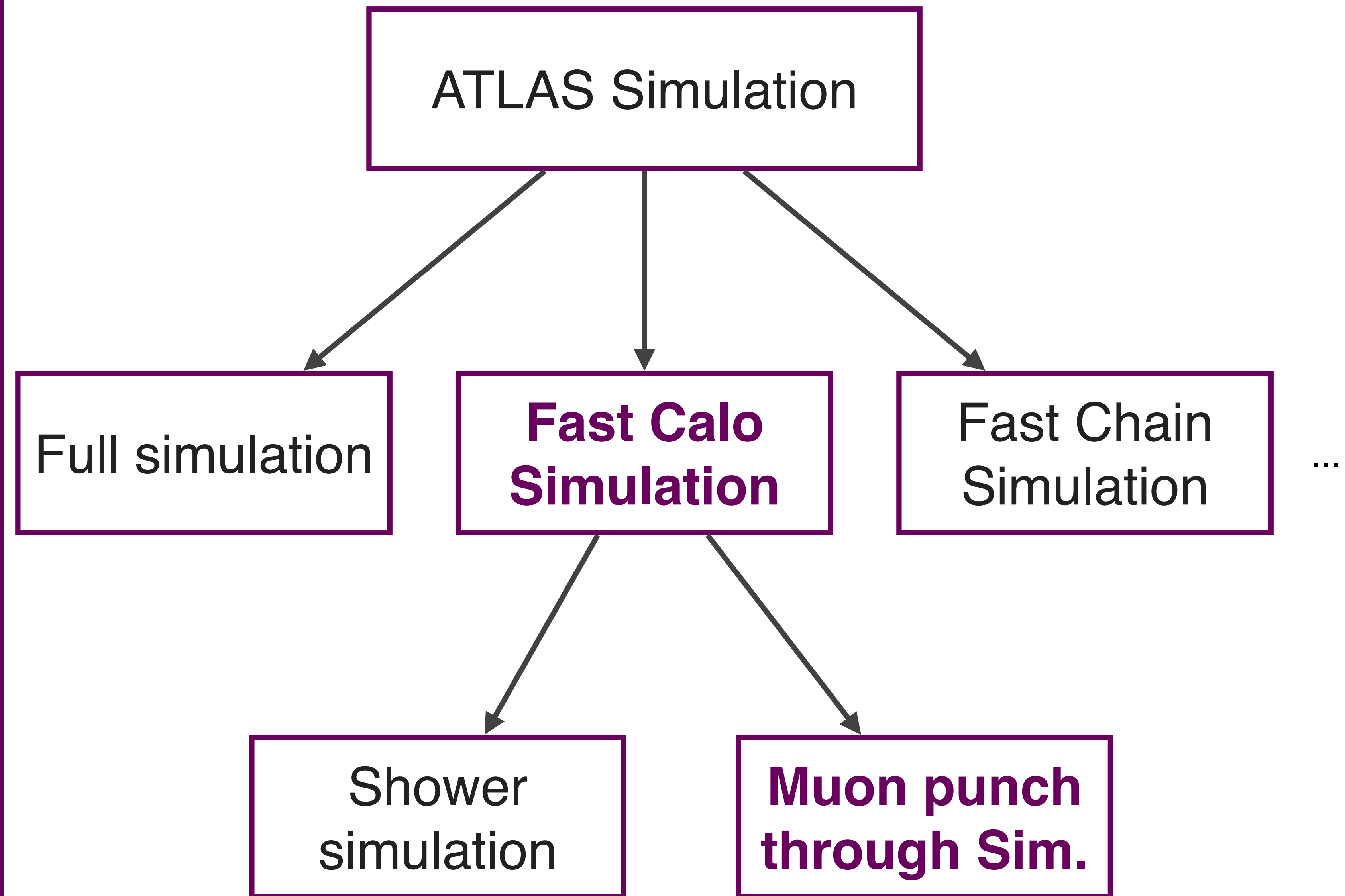
New muon punch through



- Use better network than NN on slide 15 to predict true distribution

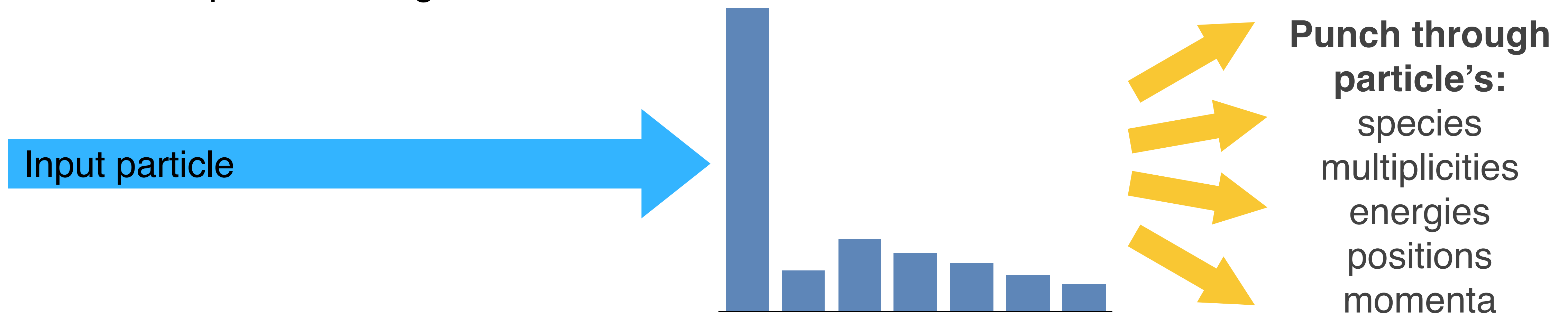
CHEP2026

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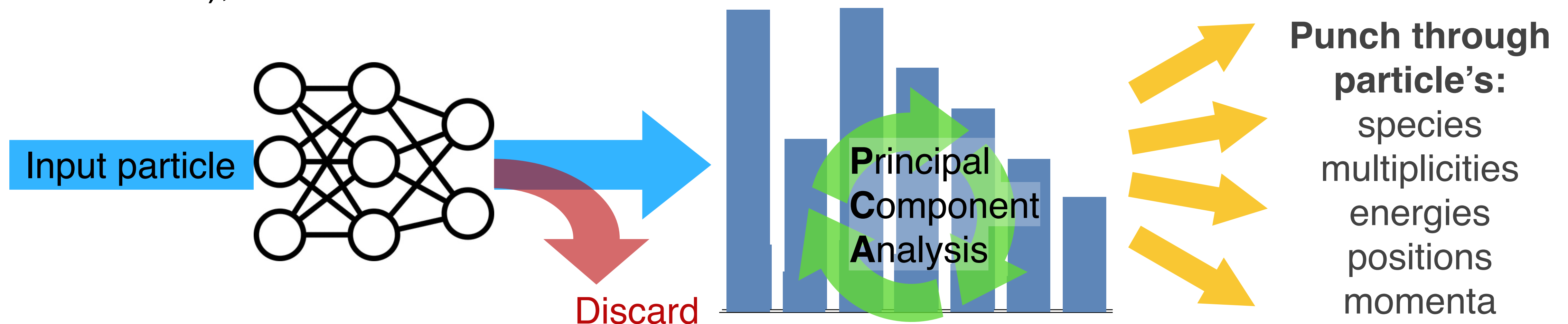
Muon Punch-Through in AF3 Run2

- ◉ (Secondary) Particles escaping calorimeter can generate hits in muon detector: punch-through effect
- ◉ Fast simulation generates energy deposits but not create secondary particles.
- ◉ In AF3 Run2 done by look-up histograms according to initial particle's momentum and $|\eta|$
- ◉ Produce punch-through particles' (e, μ , γ , π , p) multiplicities, energies, positions and momenta
- ◉ Missing info on initial particle's shower: given momentum and $|\eta|$, if deposited energy is large, chance to punch through should be lower

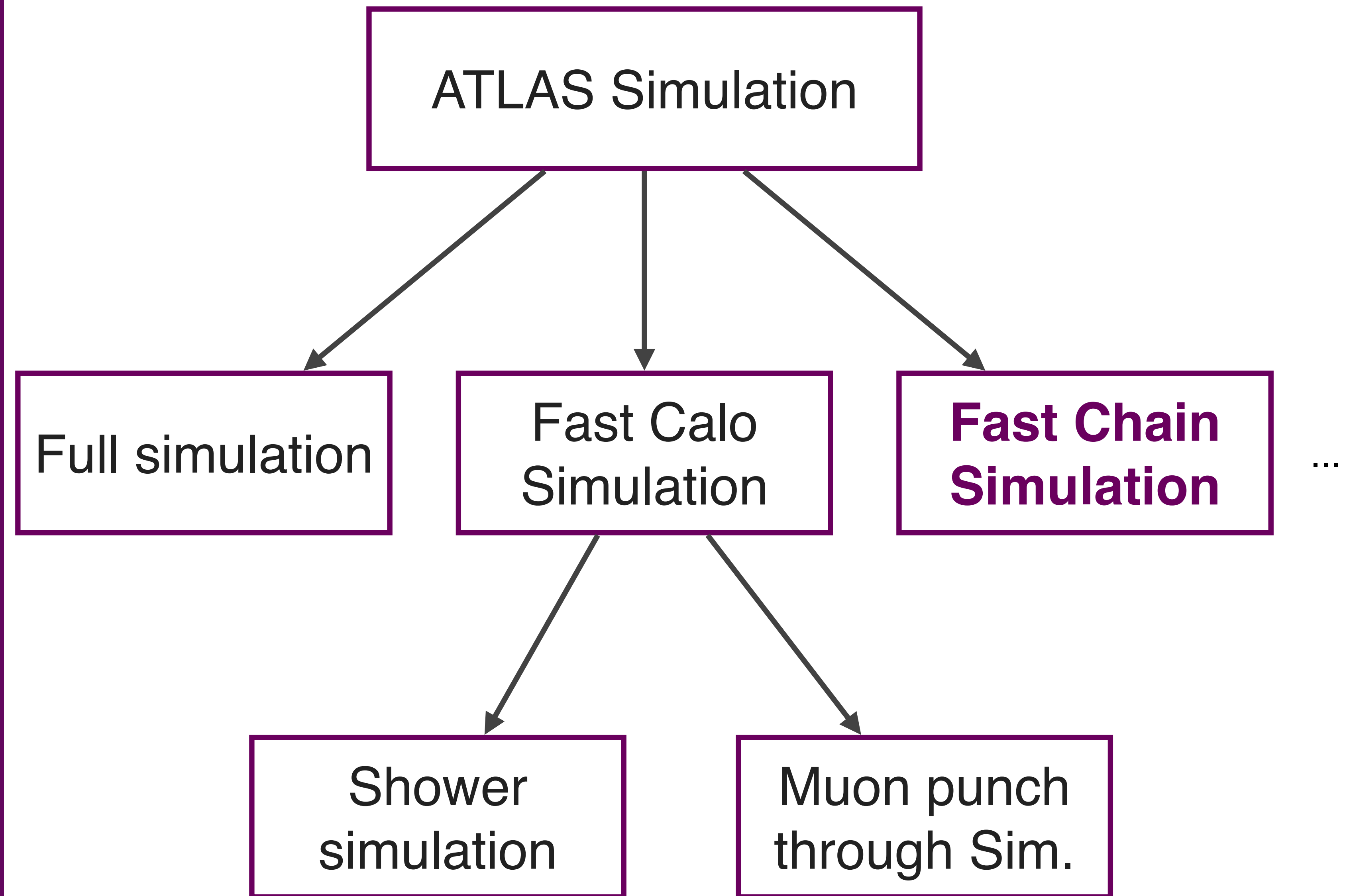


Muon Punch-Through in AF3 Run3

- In AF3 (MC23), a ML model is used to predict the probability of a primary particle to have a reconstructed muon segment in Geant4 simulation.
- A three-layer neural network to discover such primary particle, **based on its shower info**
- Draw punch-through particle (e , μ , γ , π , p , K) multiplicities from look-up histograms
- Simulate 5-dim kinematics of the punch-through particle: energy, exist position (θ , ϕ) and momentum direction (θ , ϕ); use PCAs for better modelling
- Independent PCAs for different initial pion energy- $|\eta|$, different punch-through particles (p/n v.s. others), inside/outside crack

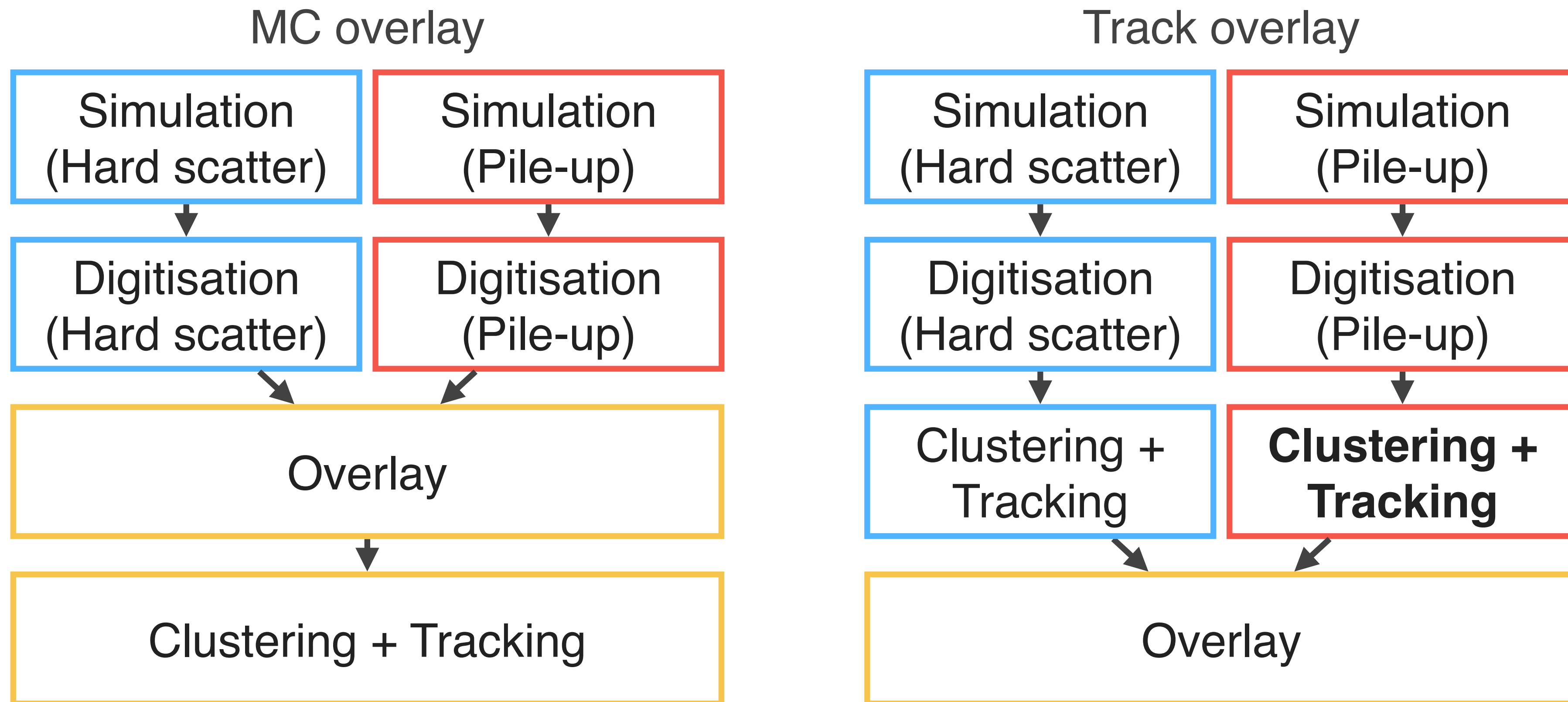


Contents



Track overlay

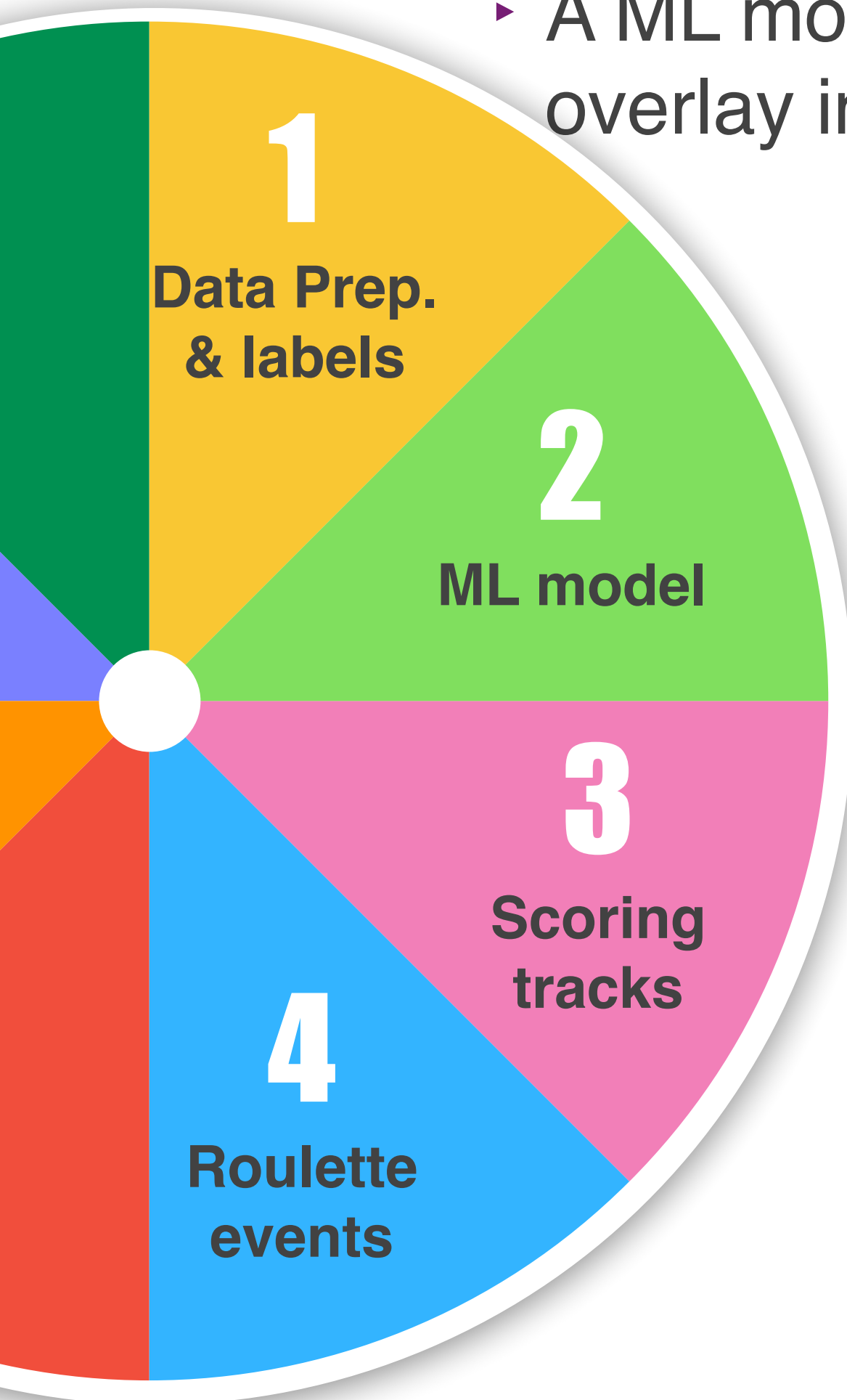
- Track-overlay is a fast alternative to MC overlay
 - Overlay **pre-reconstructed pile-up tracks** to mitigate the computational overhead in reconstruction of pile-up tracks



Roulette ML model in track overlay

- Track overlay performance is affected by event kinematics

- A ML model is trained to label events in dense environment that need to be sent to MC-overlay in order to maintain MC-overlay accuracy



1. Input: truth particle info (px, py, pz, E, pT), density (R02, sumpTR02, ...) and conditions (number of PU, TruthMultiplicity, event pT).
Label: “Bad track” if the track has a truth match in the track overlay but not in the MC overlay.

2. Train a supervised ML model using tracks in high pT jets (JZ7). Use this model to predict the “Badness” of the track.

3. A track receives a high score (> 0.742) will be considered as a “bad track”.

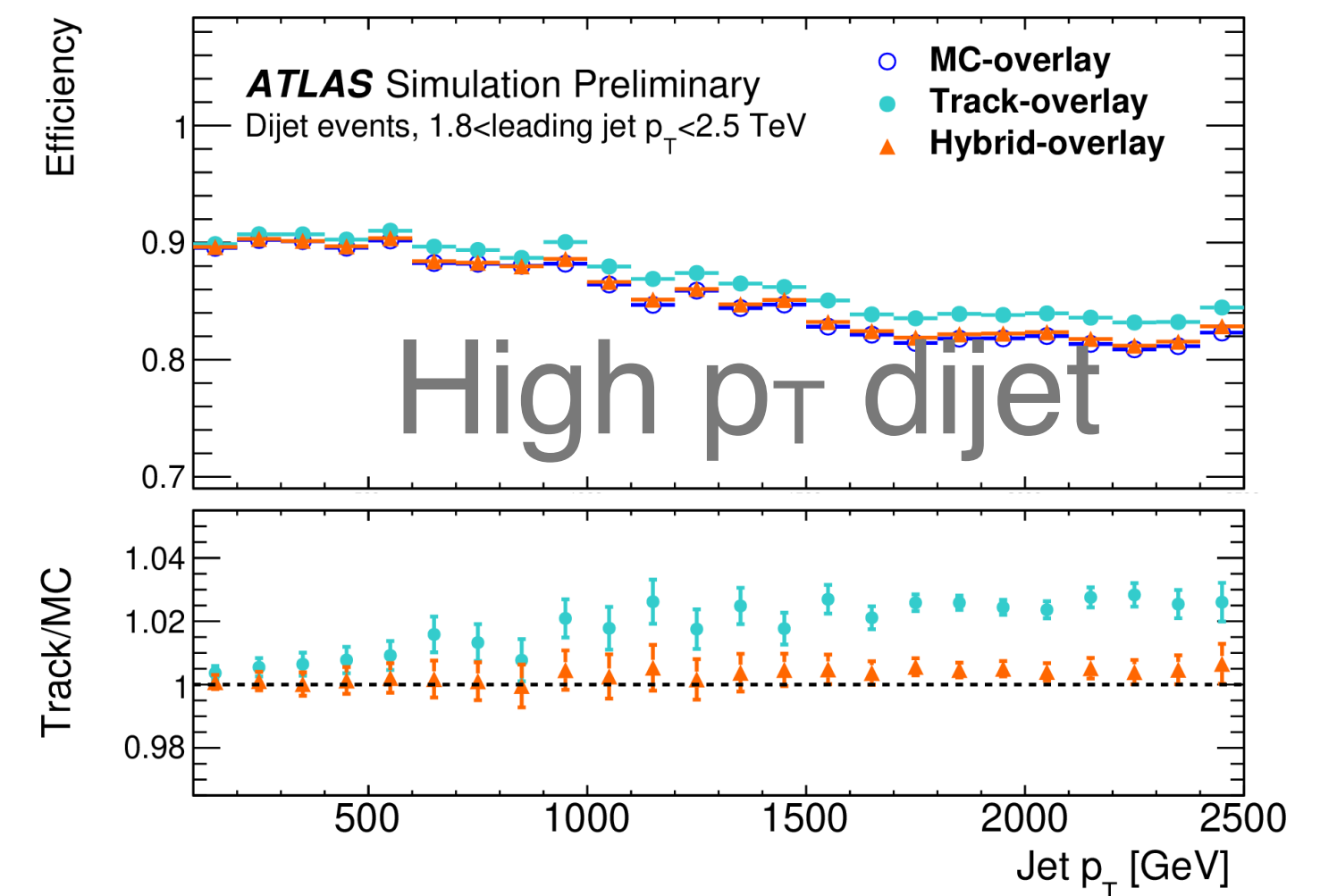
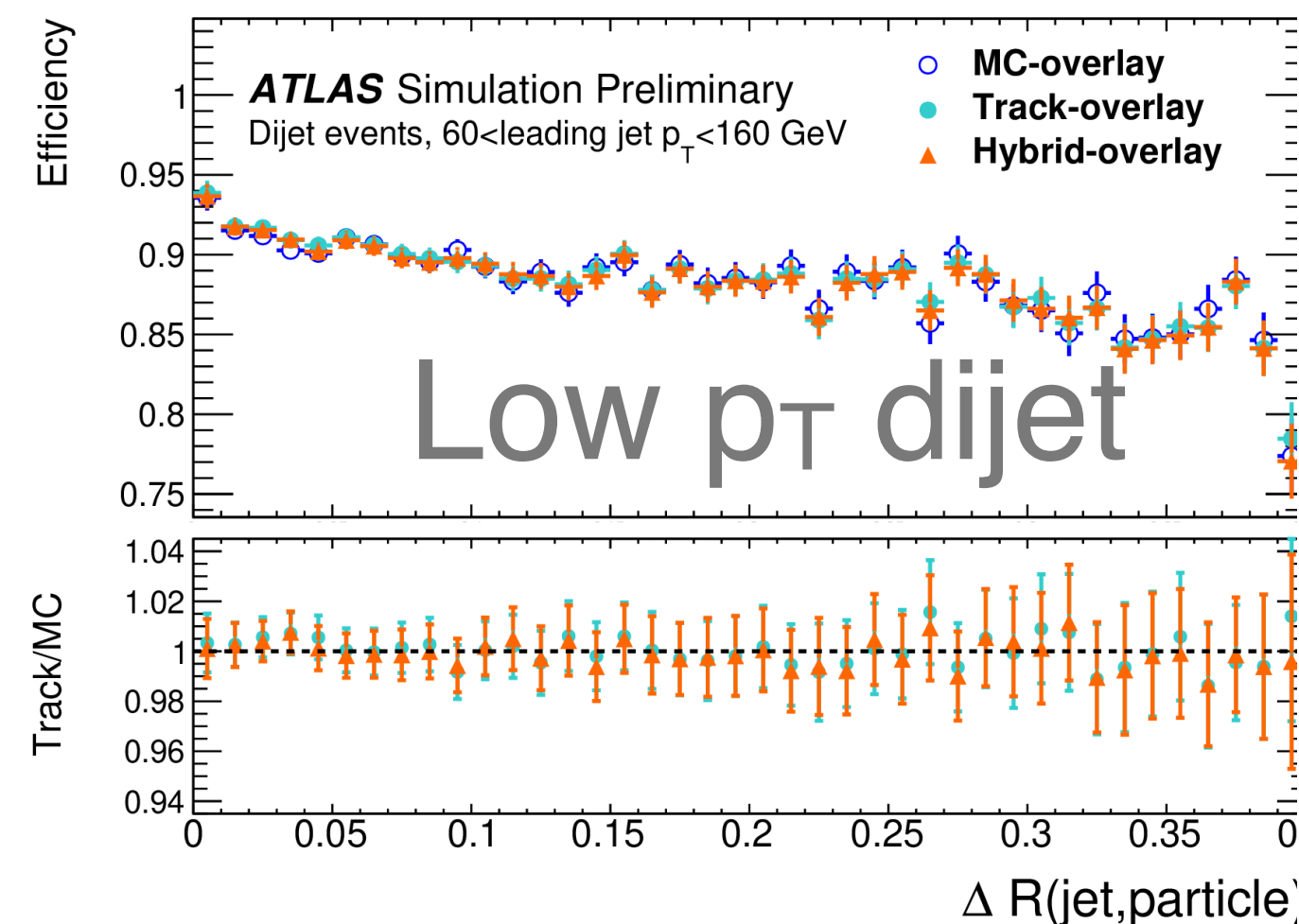
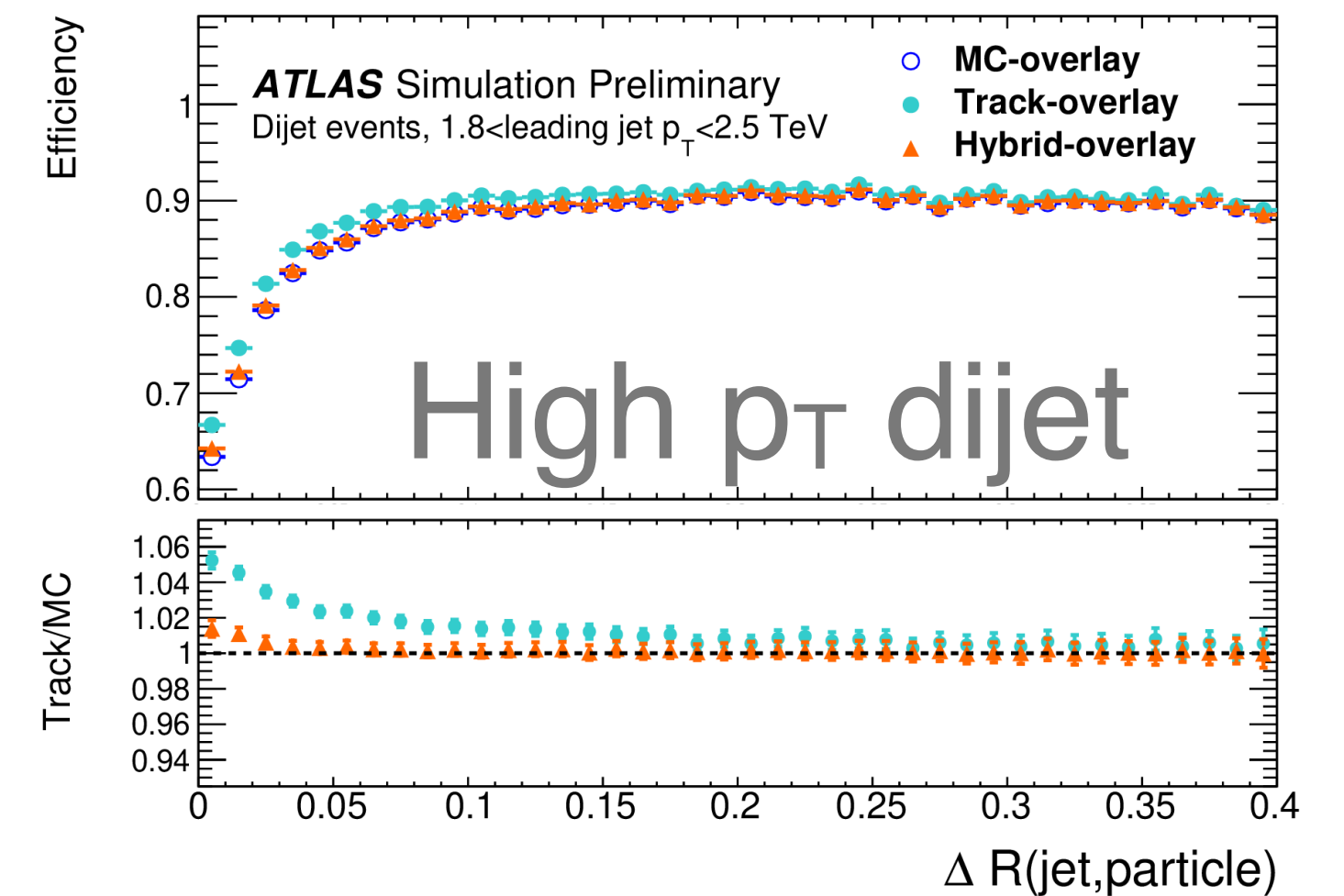
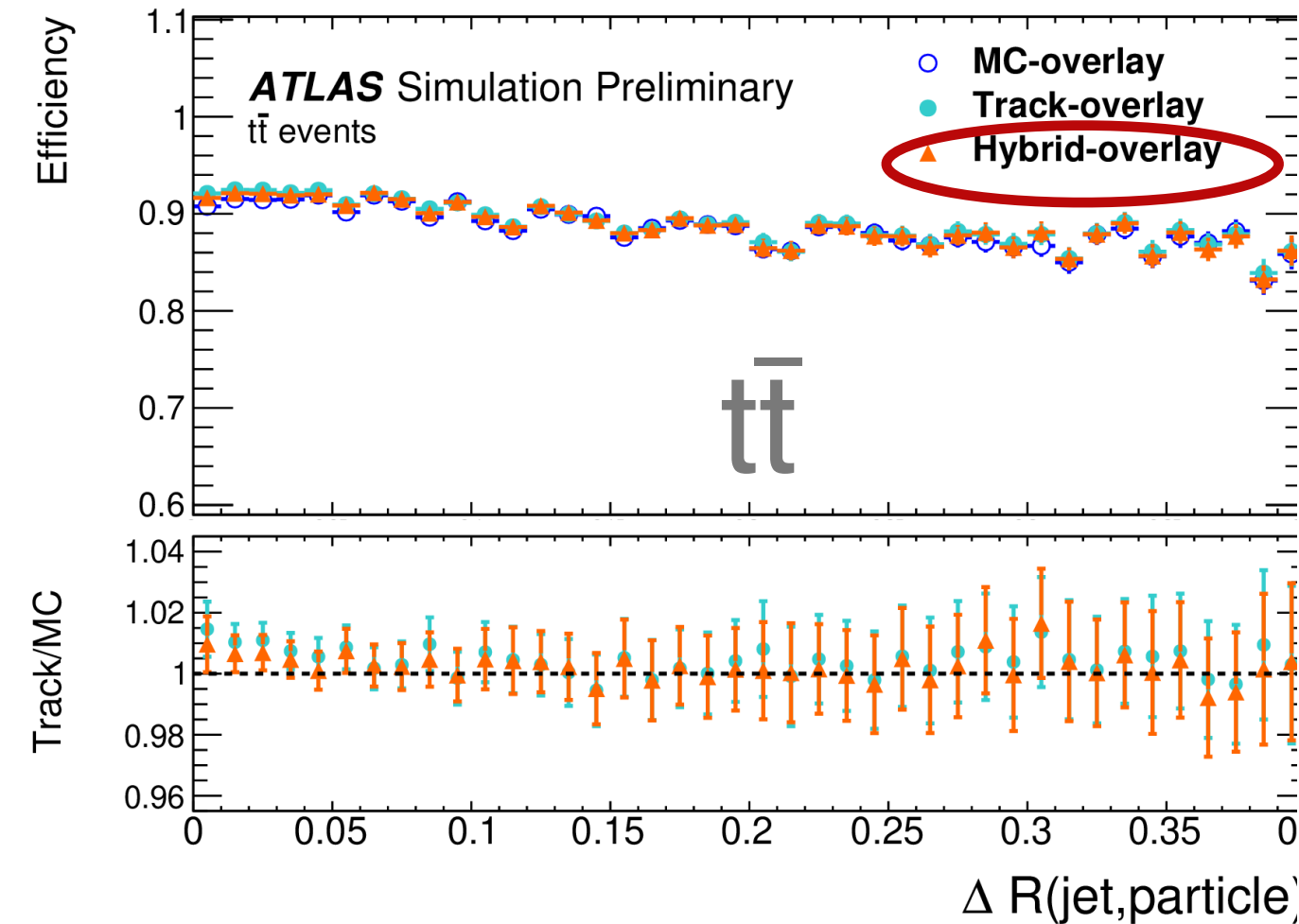
4. Calculate Roulette score for each event: $N_{\text{Bad tracks}} / N_{\text{total tracks}}$. Events with Roulette score = 0 will perform track overlay, while those with > 0 will perform MC overlay.

Improvement from ML

- Reconstruction efficiency agreement with MC overlay improves when using Roulette ML (hybrid overlay)

Event fractions for track overlay

- Low p_T dijet: 93.5%
- High p_T dijet: 35.3%
- $t\bar{t}$: 90.15%



Summary

- Simulation is a great field for ML applications
 - Suitable for both supervised (classification) and unsupervised (generative) applications
 - Rich information due to low-level inputs (hits, cells, ...), more than just 4-momentum in a stable particle
- A few selected mature examples presented; more ideas in pipeline to test, implement, and verify
 - For example in recent [#CaloChallenge](#) a lot of cutting-edge ML models were proposed to simulate calorimeter showers
 - We are far from reaching the limit ...

