

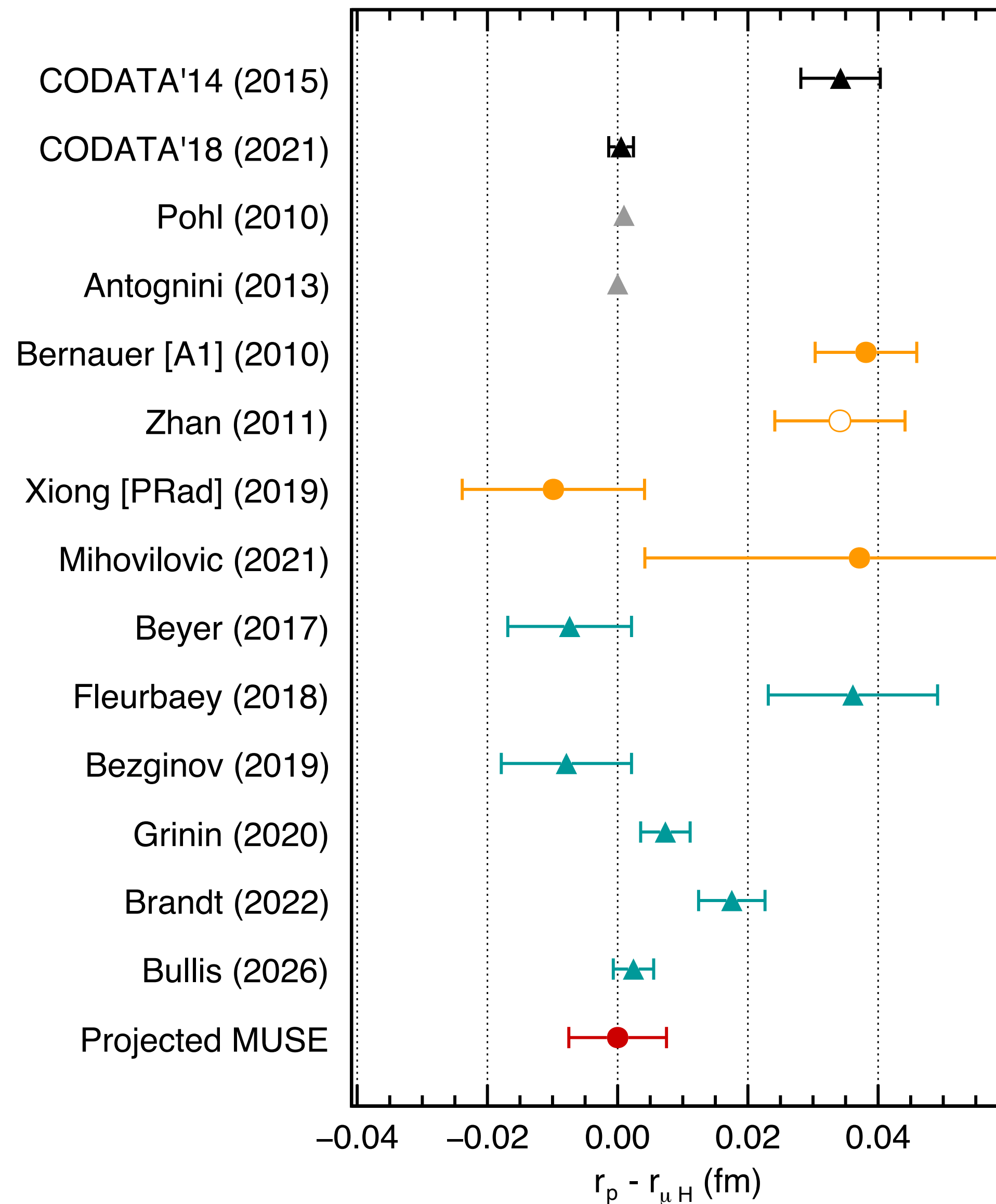
# **Instrumental uncertainties in radiative corrections for the MUSE experiment**

Steffen Strauch (University of South Carolina)  
for the MUSE Collaboration

Workshop on NREC 2026 (the second workshop on Nuclear Radius Extraction Collaboration)  
Stony Brook University, NY, April 13 — 17, 2026

Supported in parts by the U.S. National Science Foundation: NSF PHY-2111050. The MUSE experiment is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. National Science Foundation, the Paul Scherrer Institute, and the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation.

# MUSE and The Proton-Radius Puzzle



Possible explanations of the proton charge-radius puzzle:

**Radiative Correction Effects**

**Two Photon Exchange (TPE)**

**Physics Beyond Standard Model  
(Violation of Lepton Universality)**

Inconsistent **electron-scattering** data

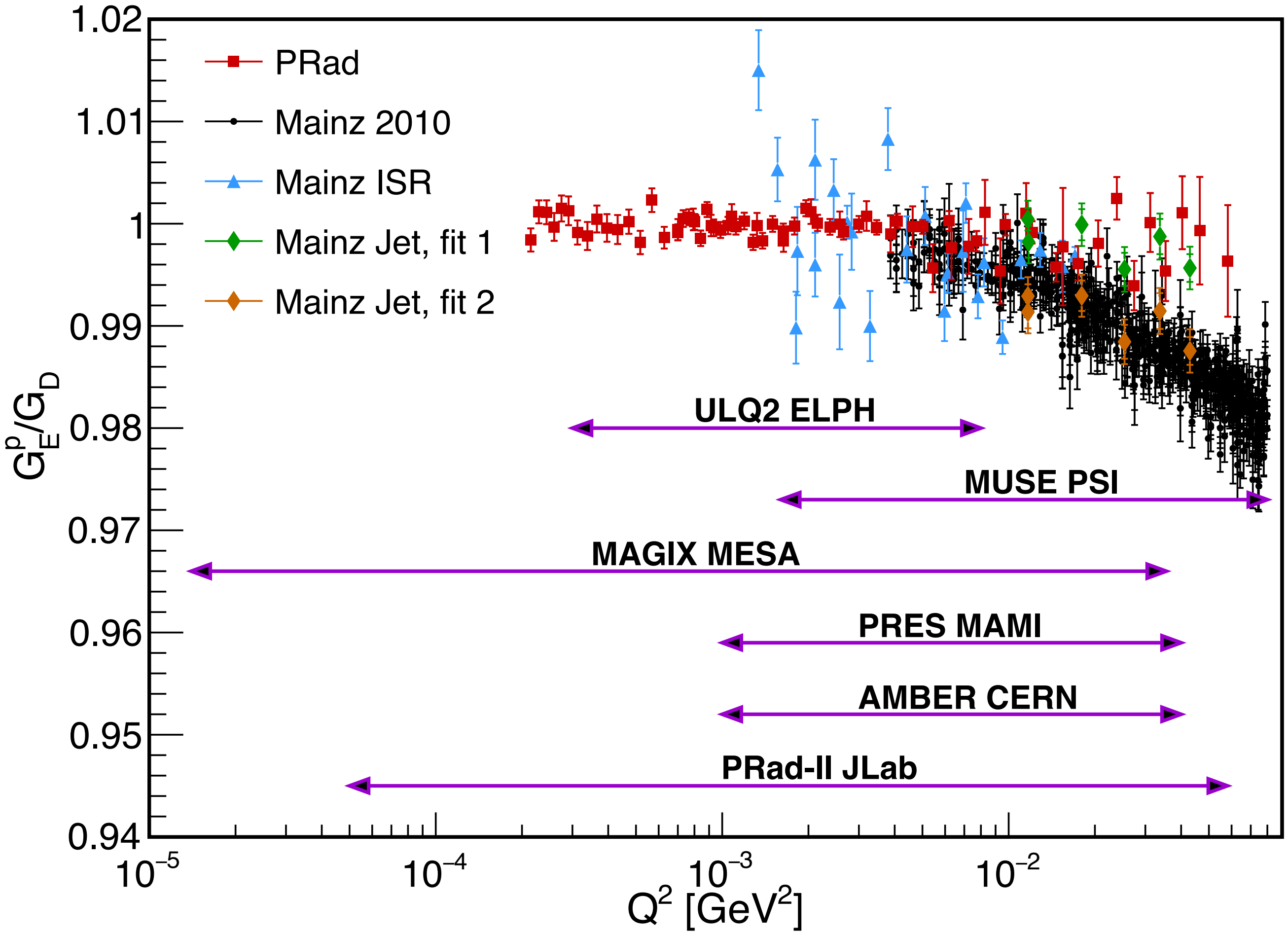
Inconsistent **hydrogen-spectroscopy** data

**MUSE**

$$e^{\pm}p \rightarrow e^{\pm}p$$

$$\mu^{\pm}p \rightarrow \mu^{\pm}p$$

# MUSE is the only low- $Q^2$ scattering experiment using $e^\pm$ and $\mu^\pm$ beams



Beam	$e^-$	$e^+$	$\mu^-$	$\mu^+$	
PRad	✓				completed
Mainz 2010	✓				
Mainz ISR	✓				
Mainz Jet	✓				
<b>MUSE PSI</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	running
PRad-II JLab	✓				future
ULQ2 ELPH	✓				
AMBER CERN			✓	✓	
MAGIX MESA	✓				unlikely
PRES MAMI	✓				

W. Xiong and C. Peng, "Proton Electric Charge Radius from Lepton Scattering," Universe 9, no.4, 182 (2023), doi:10.3390/universe9040182, [arXiv:2302.13818 [nucl-ex]].

# MUSE at the secondary $\pi$ M1 beam line at PSI

$Q^2 = 0.002$  to  $0.08 \text{ GeV}^2$

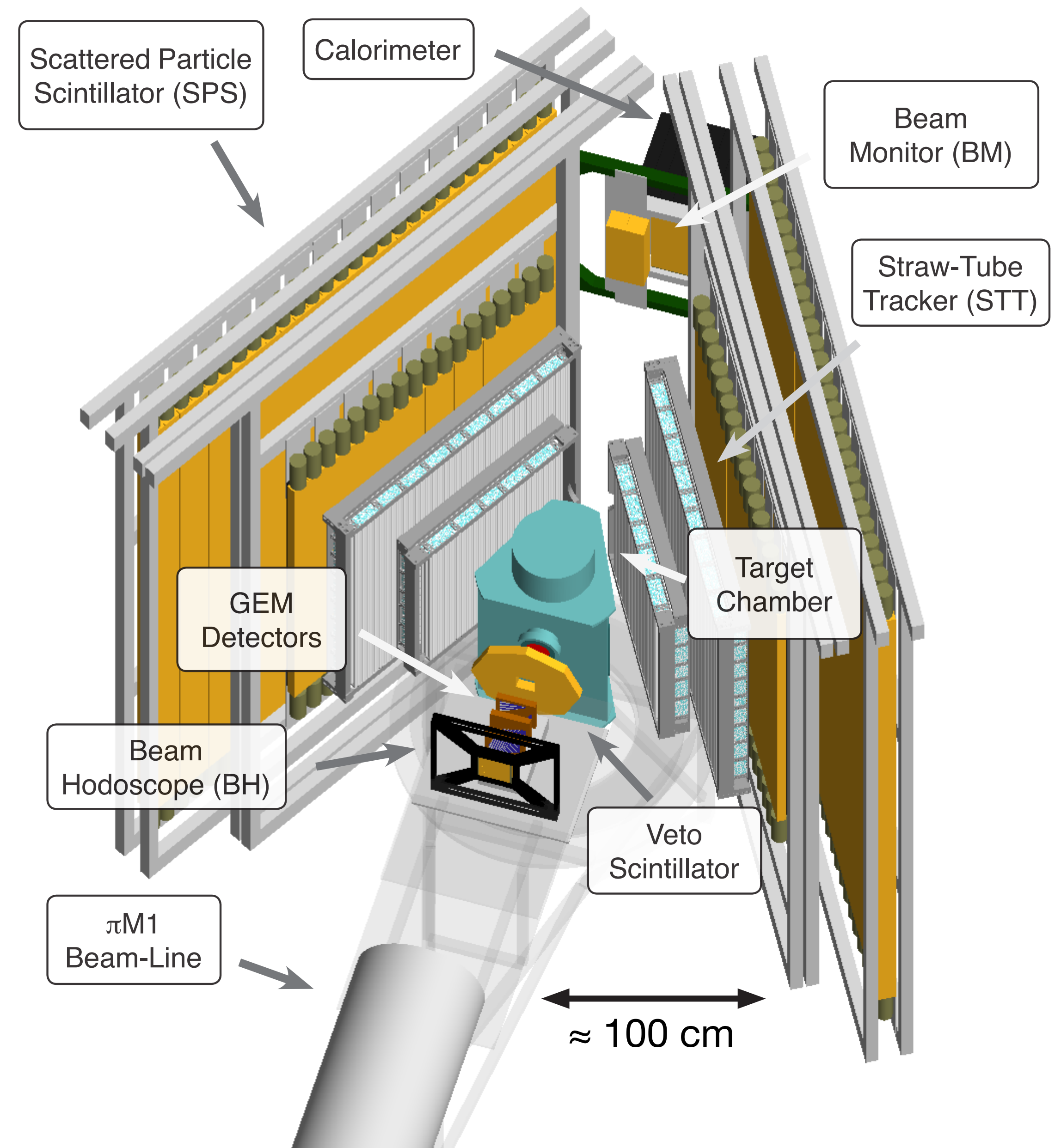
## Beam

50 MHz RF (19.75 ns bunch separation)  
e,  $\mu$ ,  $\pi$  beams with large emittance  
Momenta: 115, 160, 210 MeV/c

## Beam line detectors

## Scattered particle detectors

The MUon Scattering Experiment at PSI (MUSE), MUSE Technical Design Report, arXiv:1709.09753 [physics.ins-det] E. Cline et al. (MUSE Collaboration), Phys. Rev. C 105 (2022) 5, 055201.

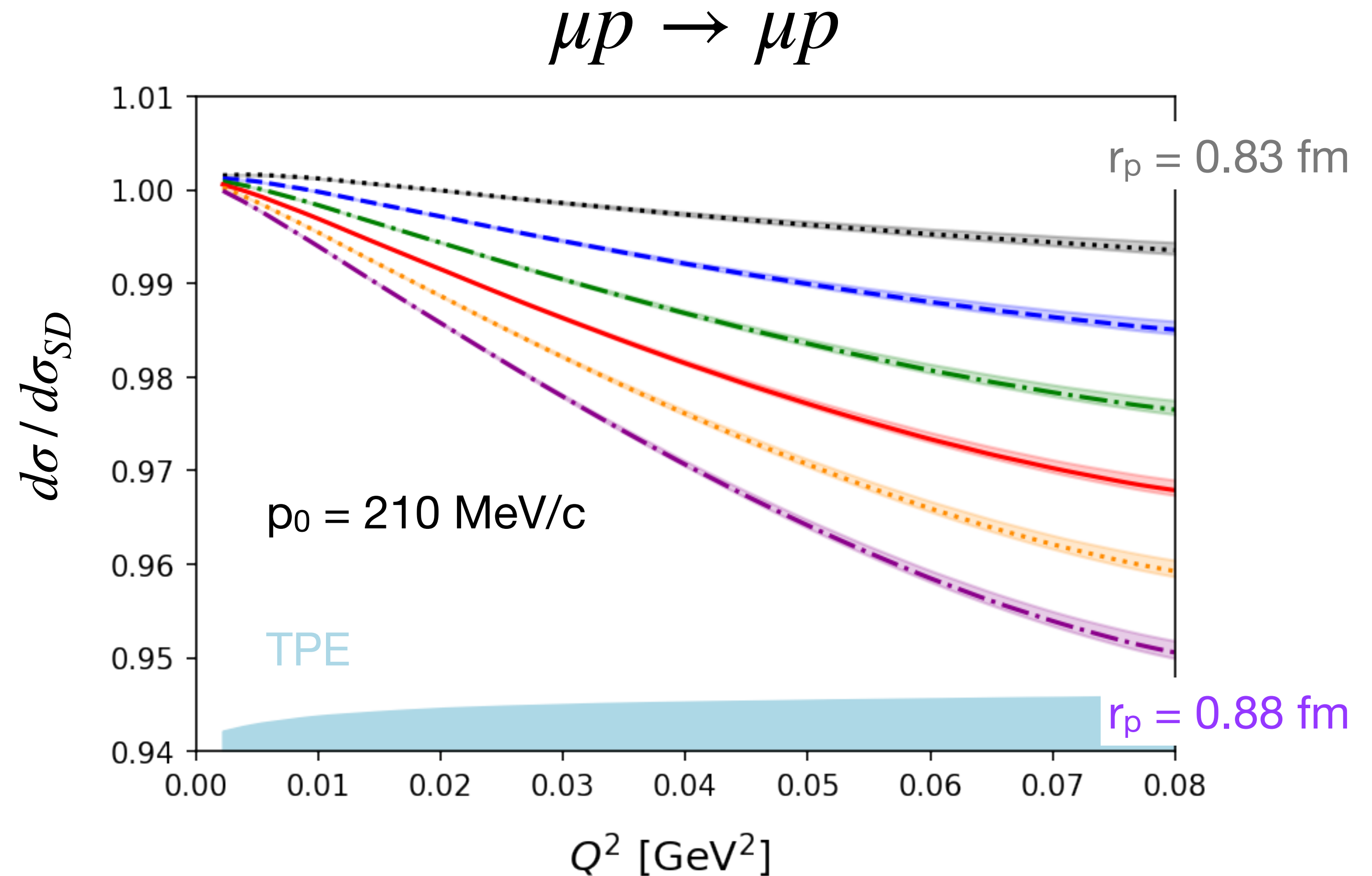


# Predicted sensitivity of the $\mu p$ cross section to the proton charge radius

A 0.01 fm change in radius corresponds to about 0.9 % change in cross section.

**Radiative corrections** are the largest contributor to systematic uncertainties in MUSE and depend on detector thresholds and ISR.

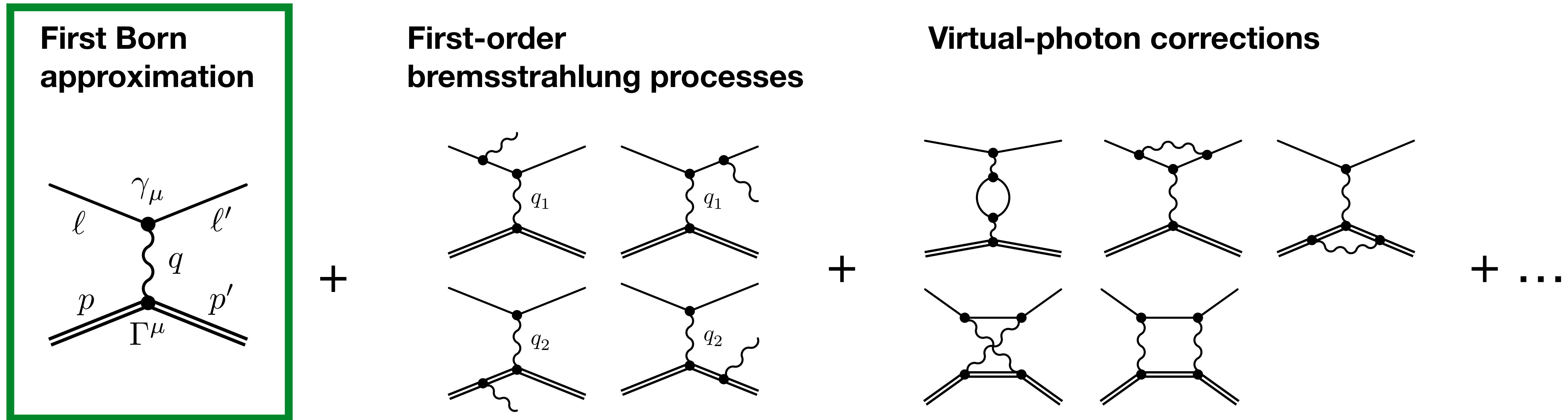
⇒ Controlling radiative corrections is essential for sub-percent precision.



Dispersively improved chiral effective field theory:

F. Gil-Domínguez, J.M. Alarcón and C. Weiss, Phys. Rev. D 108, no.7, 074026 (2023)

# Experimental lepton-proton cross section $\ell^\pm p \rightarrow \ell'^\pm p' \gamma$



## Born cross section:

- is needed to determine form factors and charge radius,
- can be obtained from  $\sigma^{\text{exp}}$  with radiative corrections.

Vacuum polarization  
 Lepton/proton vertex corrections  
 Two-photon exchange corrections

ESEPP includes emission of **hard radiated photon**, beyond soft-photon approximation and the **mass of lepton**.

# Experimental cross section depends on kinematic setting and acceptance

Experimental bremsstrahlung cross-section

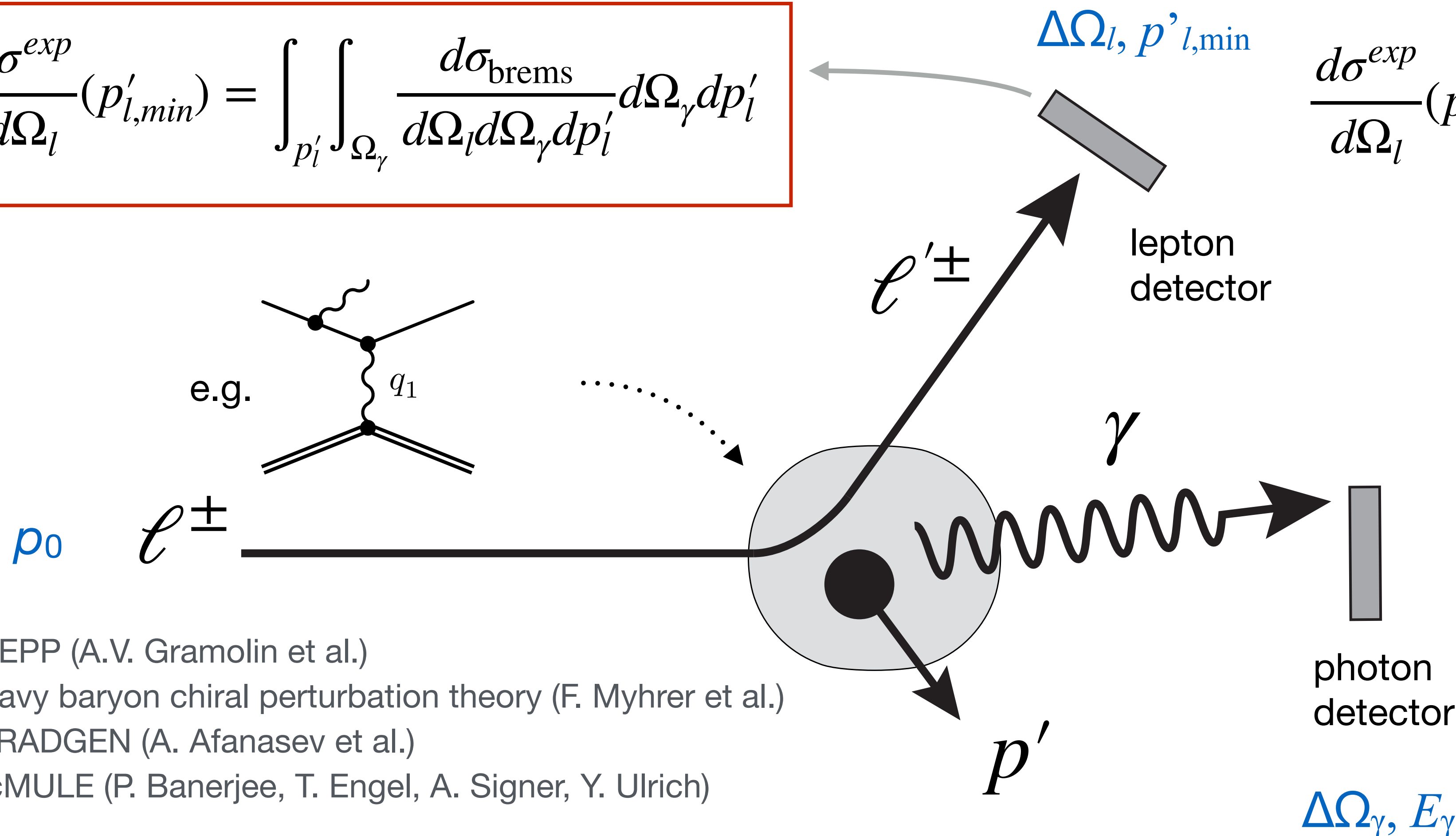
$$\frac{d\sigma^{exp}}{d\Omega_l}(p'_{l,min}) = \int_{p'_l} \int_{\Omega_\gamma} \frac{d\sigma_{brems}}{d\Omega_l d\Omega_\gamma dp'_l} d\Omega_\gamma dp'_l$$

Born cross section

$$\frac{d\sigma^{exp}}{d\Omega_l}(p'_{l,min}) = \frac{d\sigma_0}{d\Omega_l} \left[ 1 + \delta(p'_{l,min}) \right]$$

Calculated radiative corrections

$$\delta = \frac{d\sigma^{MC}}{d\Omega_l} / \frac{d\sigma_0}{d\Omega_l} - 1$$



ESEPP (A.V. Gramolin et al.)

Heavy baryon chiral perturbation theory (F. Myhrer et al.)

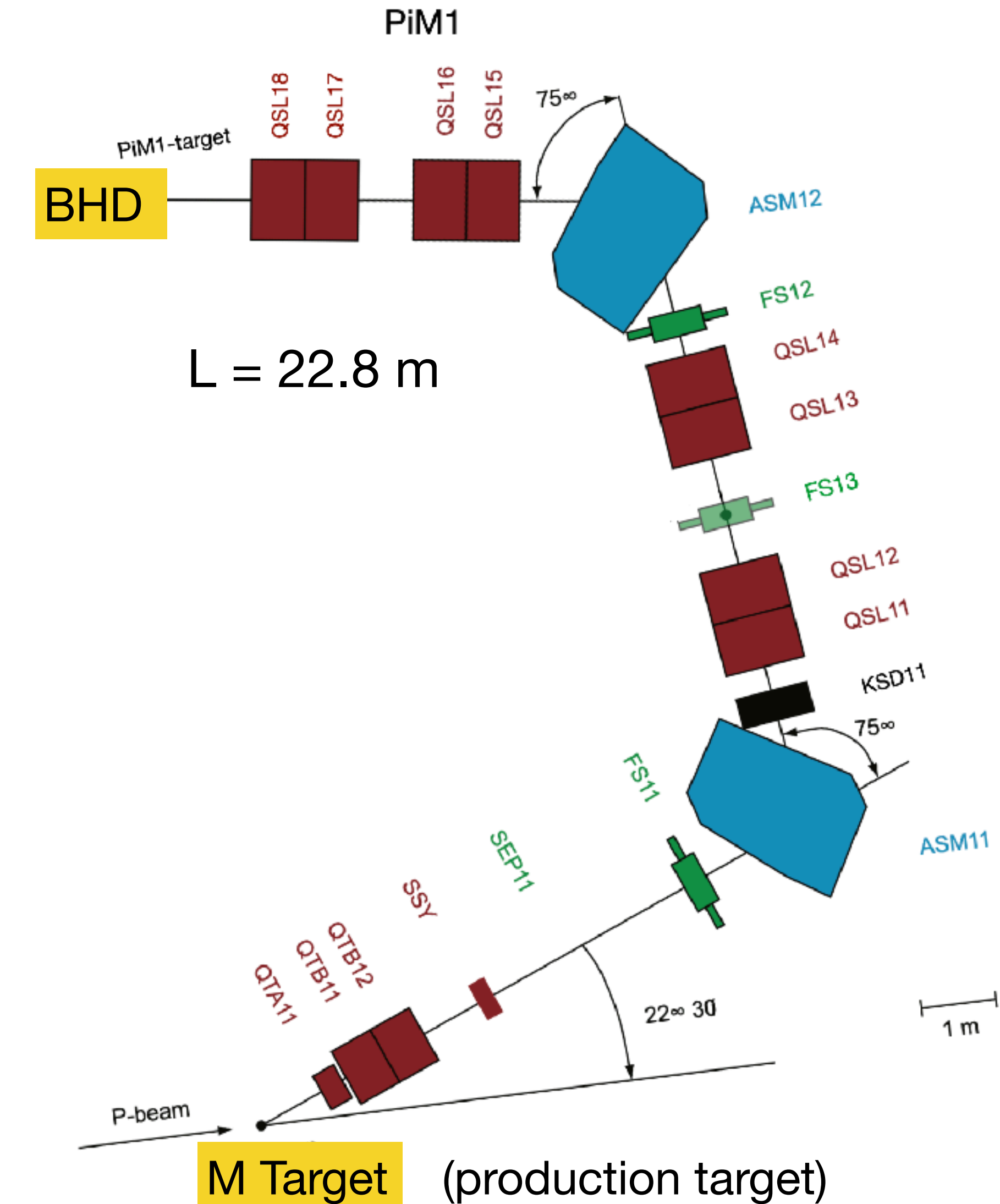
ELRADGEN (A. Afanasev et al.)

McMULE (P. Banerjee, T. Engel, A. Signer, Y. Ulrich)

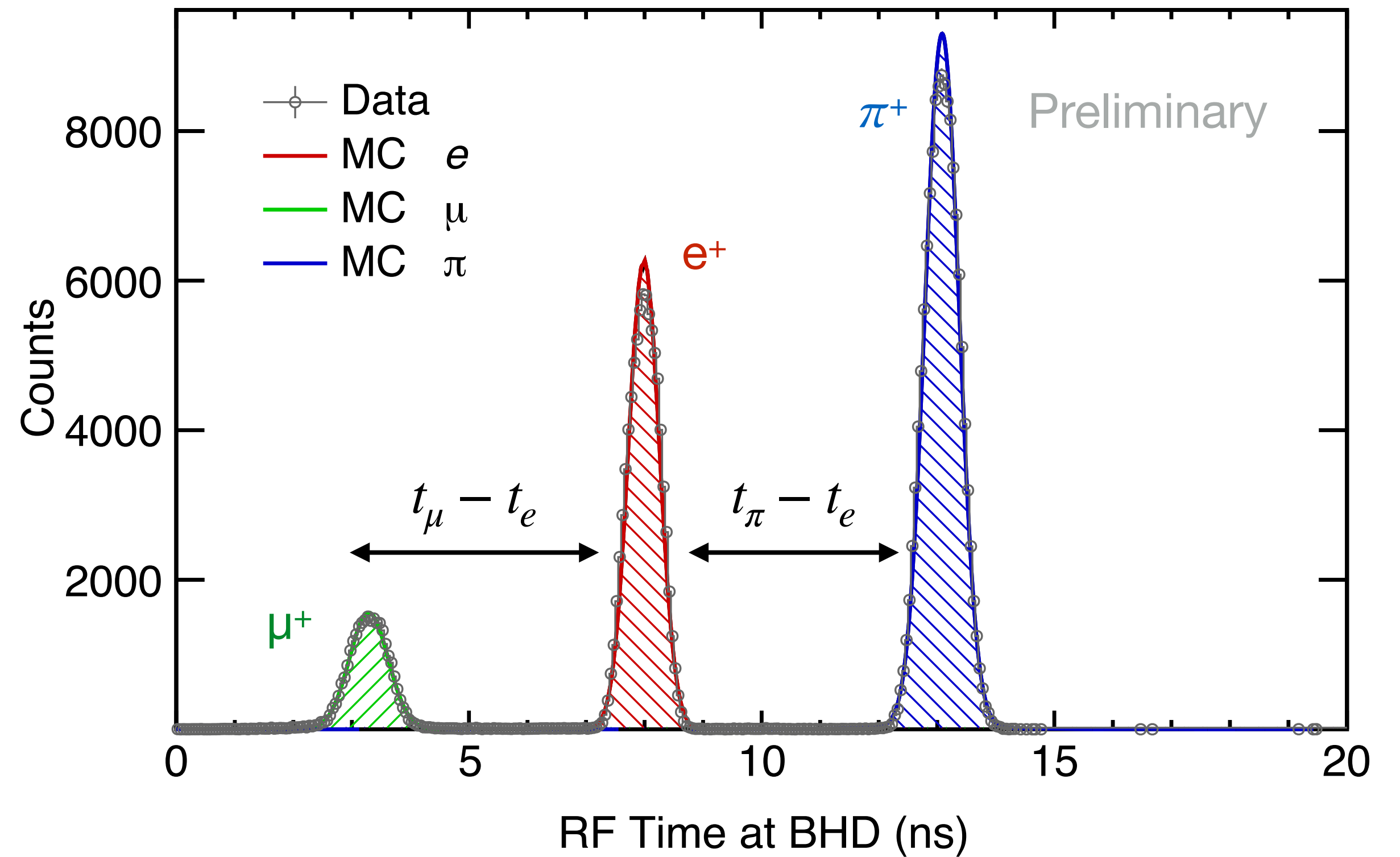
...

# Beam-particle identification and beam-momentum

determinations from RF time differences  $t_\mu - t_e$  and  $t_\pi - t_e$

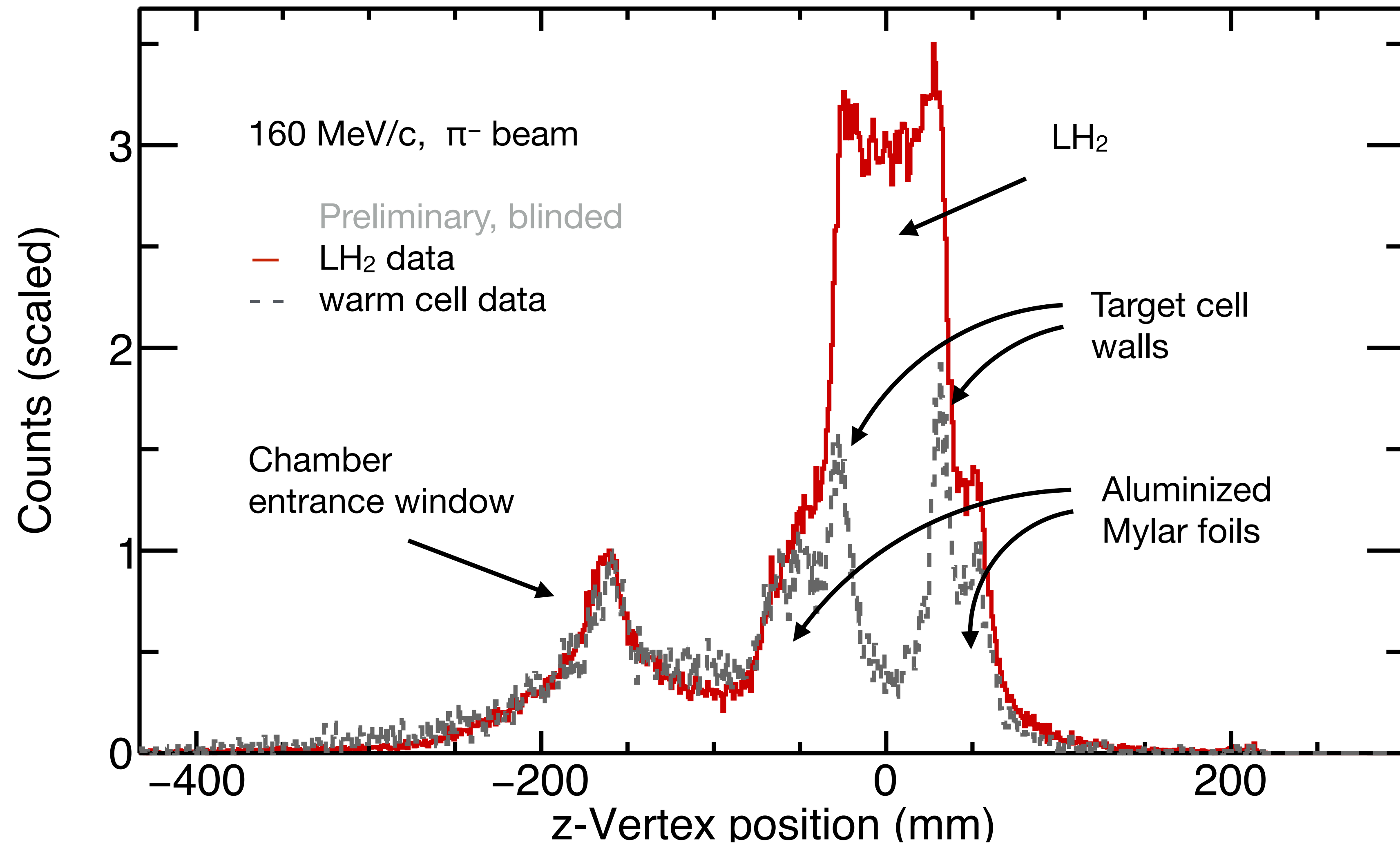


Comparing simulation and data gives *relative* shifts to the electron reference:  $\Delta t_x$

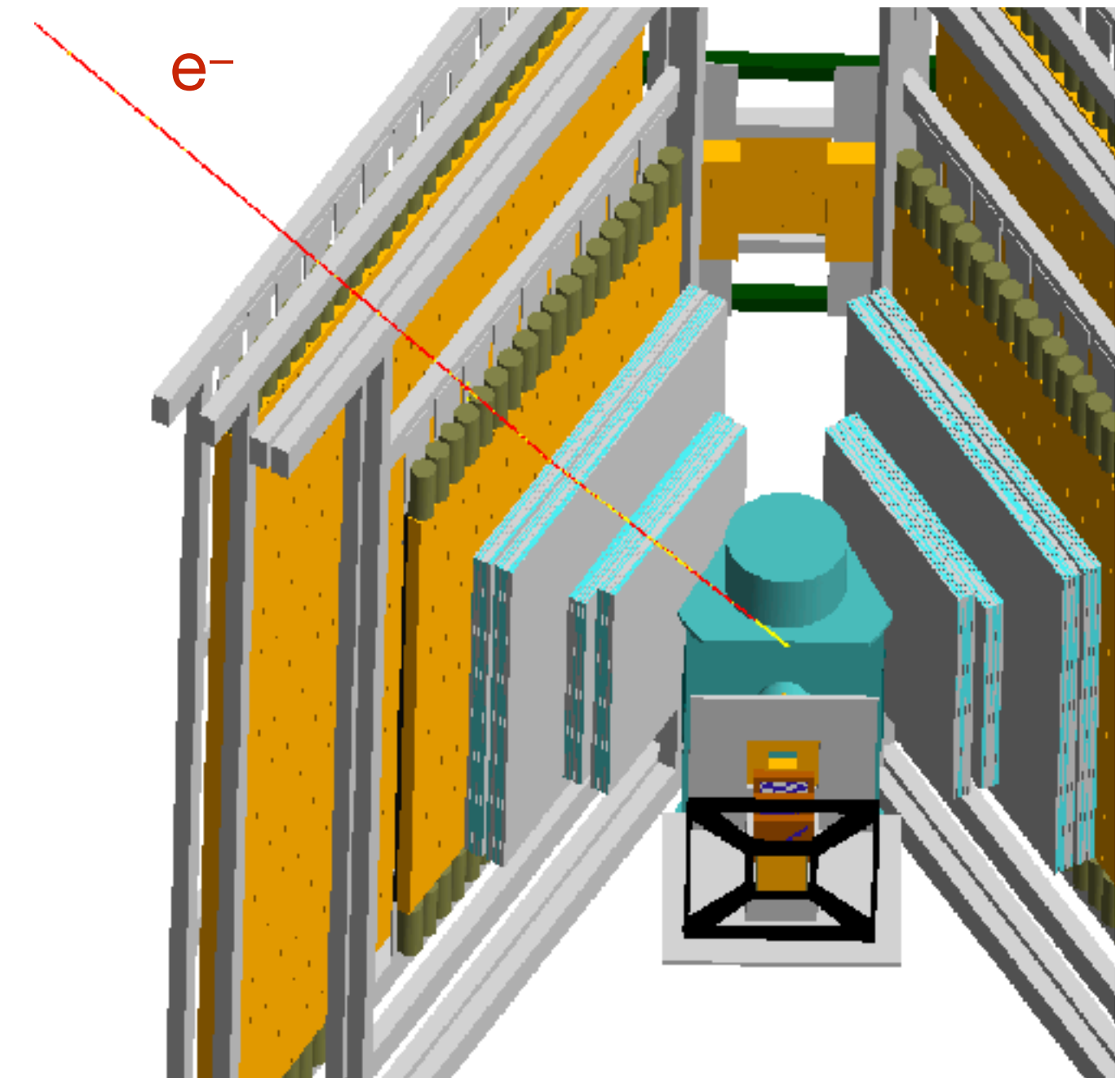
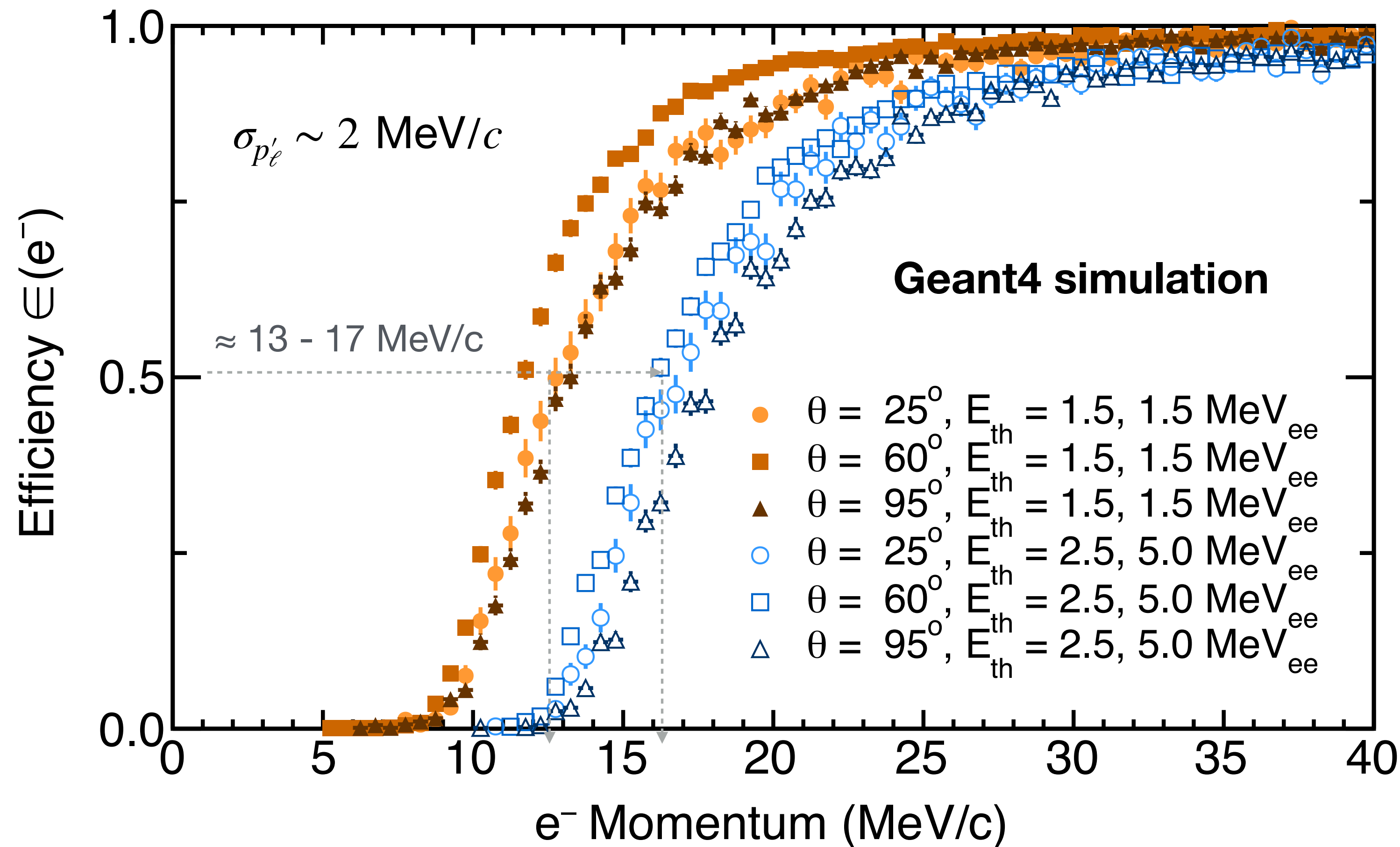


$p = (160.1 \pm 0.1) \text{ MeV}/c$

# Reconstructed z-vertex from incident- (GEM) and scattered- (STT) particle tracks

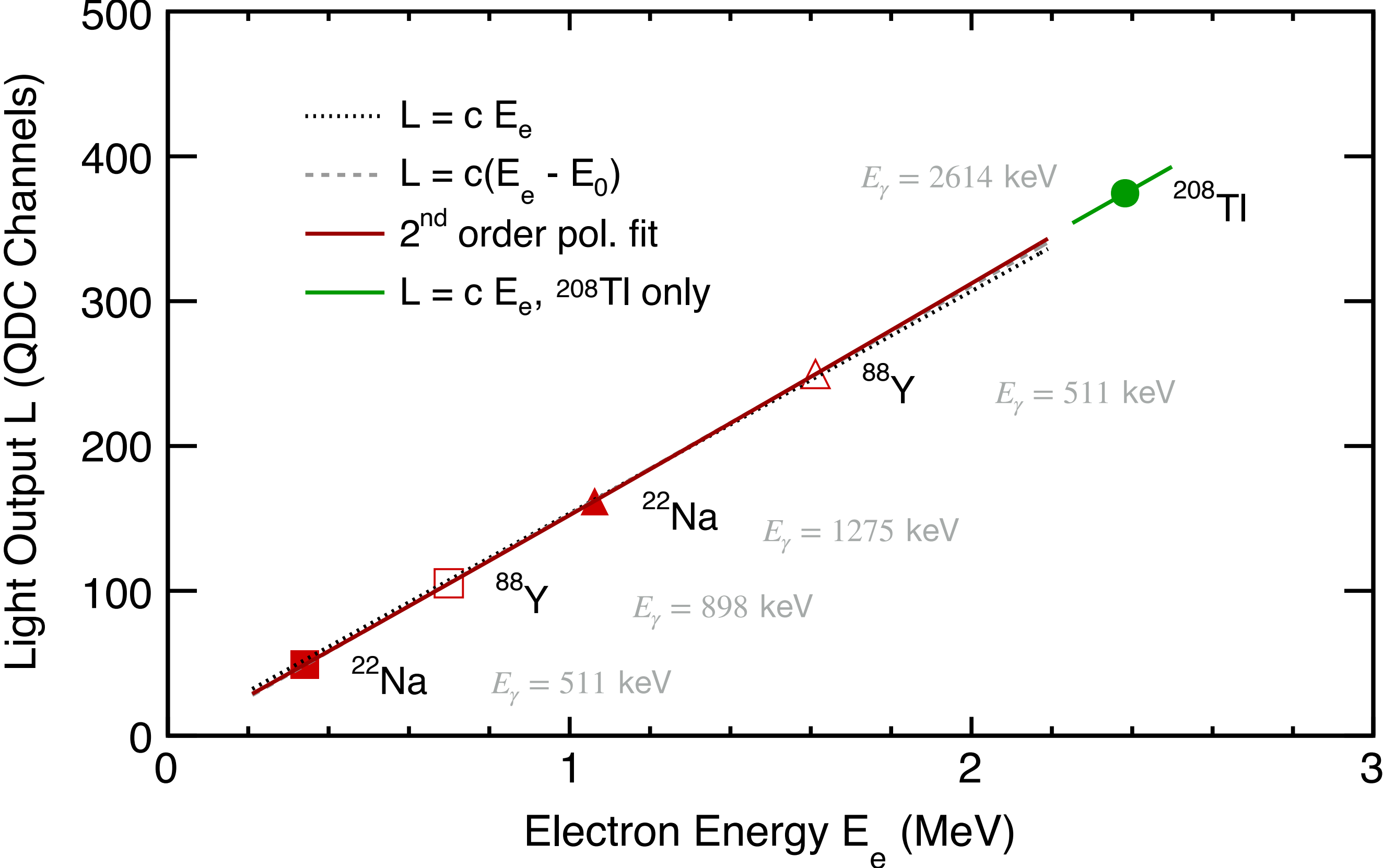


# Scattered lepton-momentum threshold is primarily determined by the SPS detector

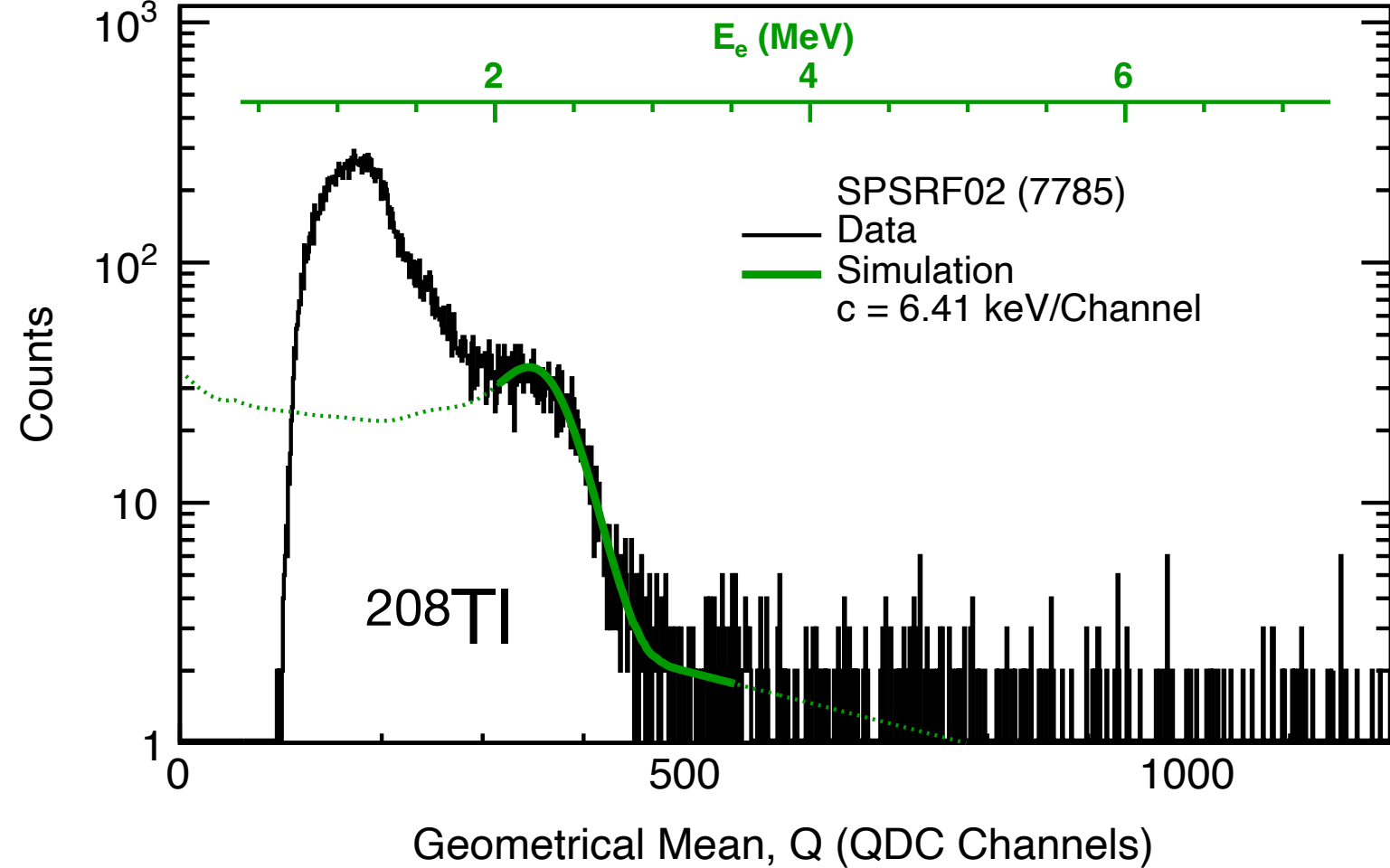
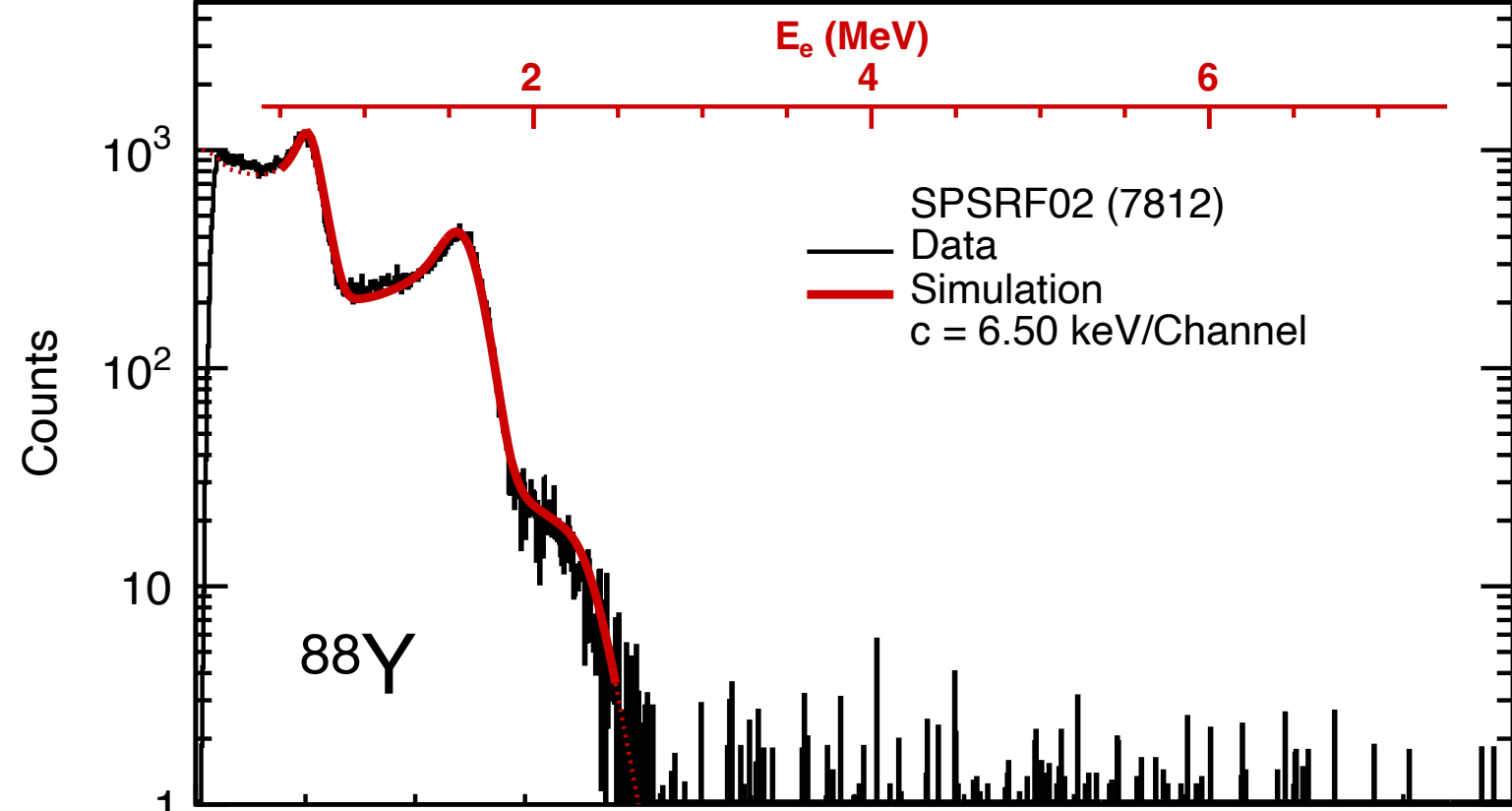
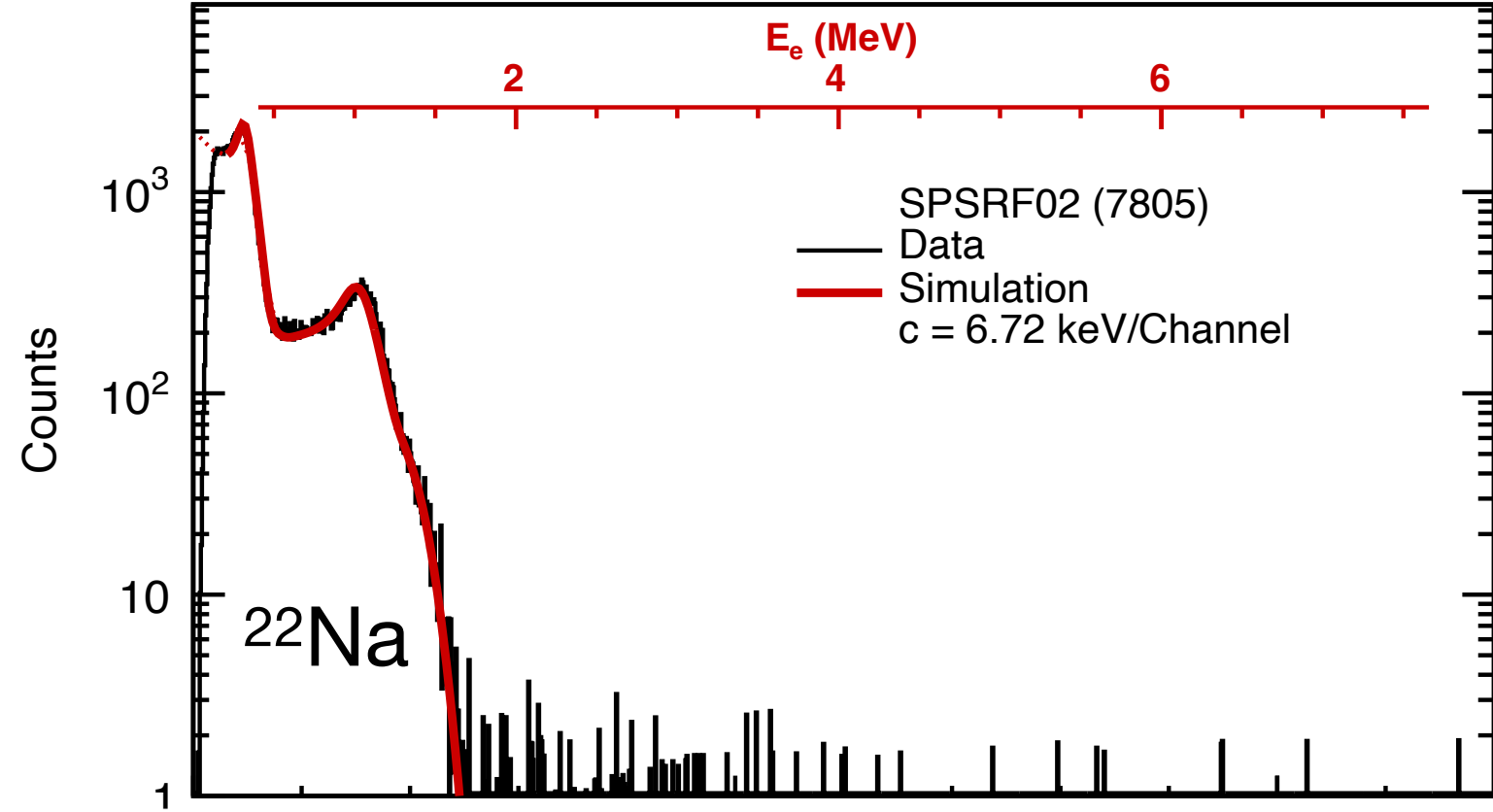


- Function of the SPS discriminator **thresholds** in the front and rear walls
- Function of the lepton **scattering angle**

# High-precision calibration of the SPS detector essential for determining the detector threshold



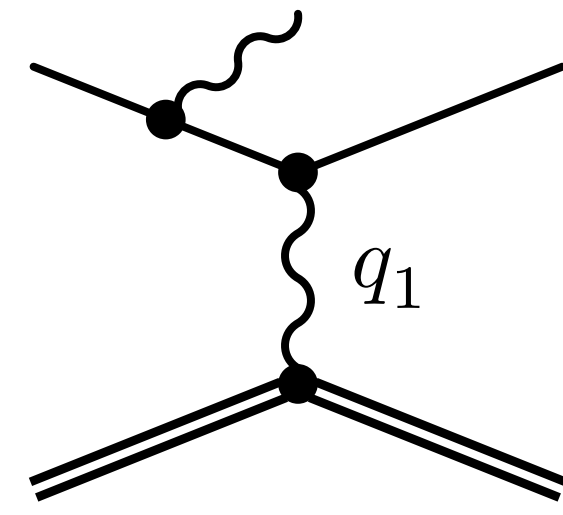
Calibrations with room background  $^{208}\text{Tl}$  agree with source-data ( $^{22}\text{Na}$  and  $^{88}\text{Y}$ ) results to better than 1% at the anticipated SPS threshold of 2 MeV.



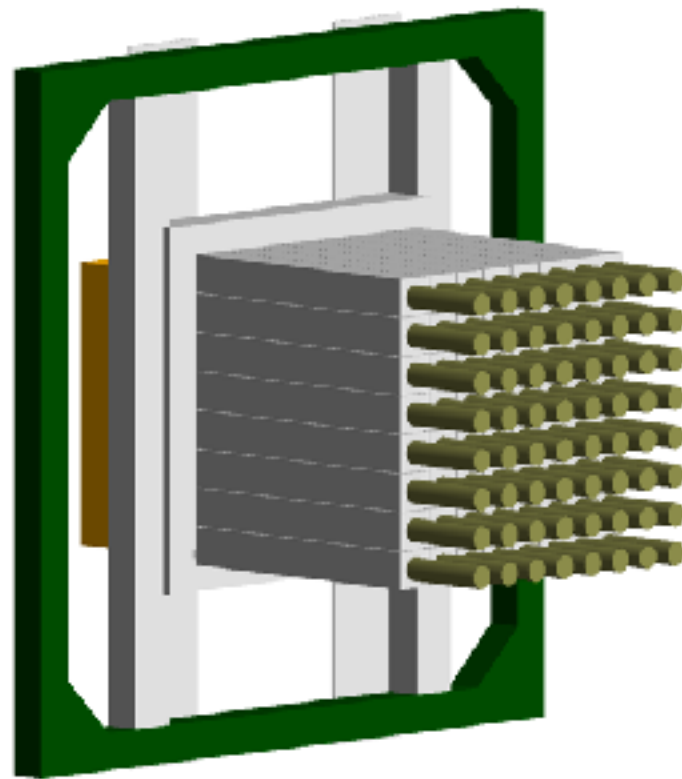
# Radiative effects in $ep$ and $\mu p$ scattering in MUSE kinematics

MUSE will integrate over a large momentum range.

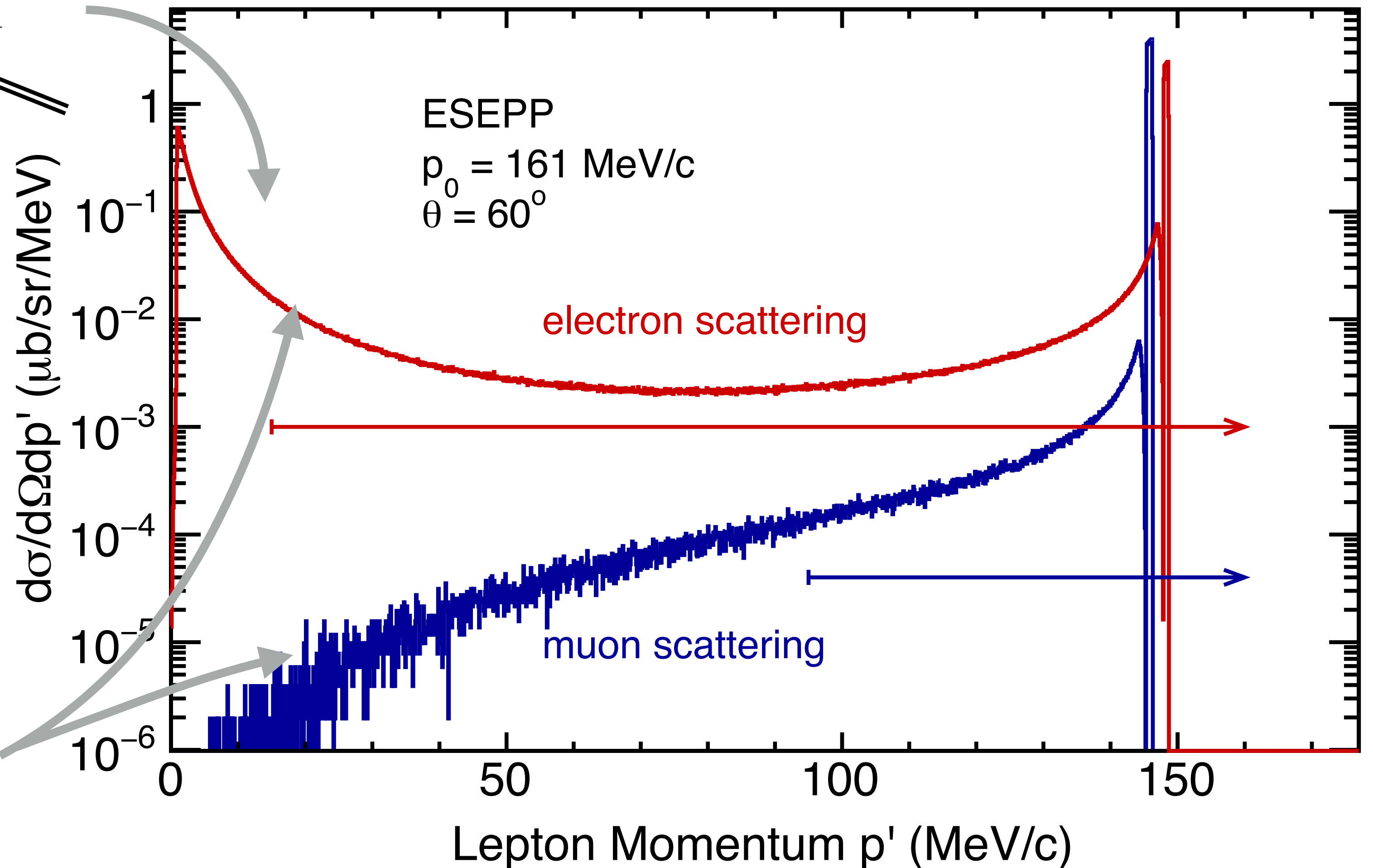
Initial-state radiation detectable by the downstream calorimeter



$\gamma$  - beam

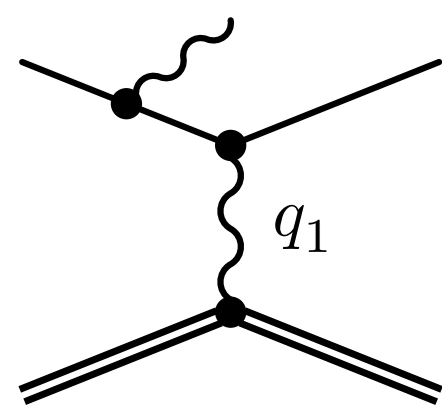
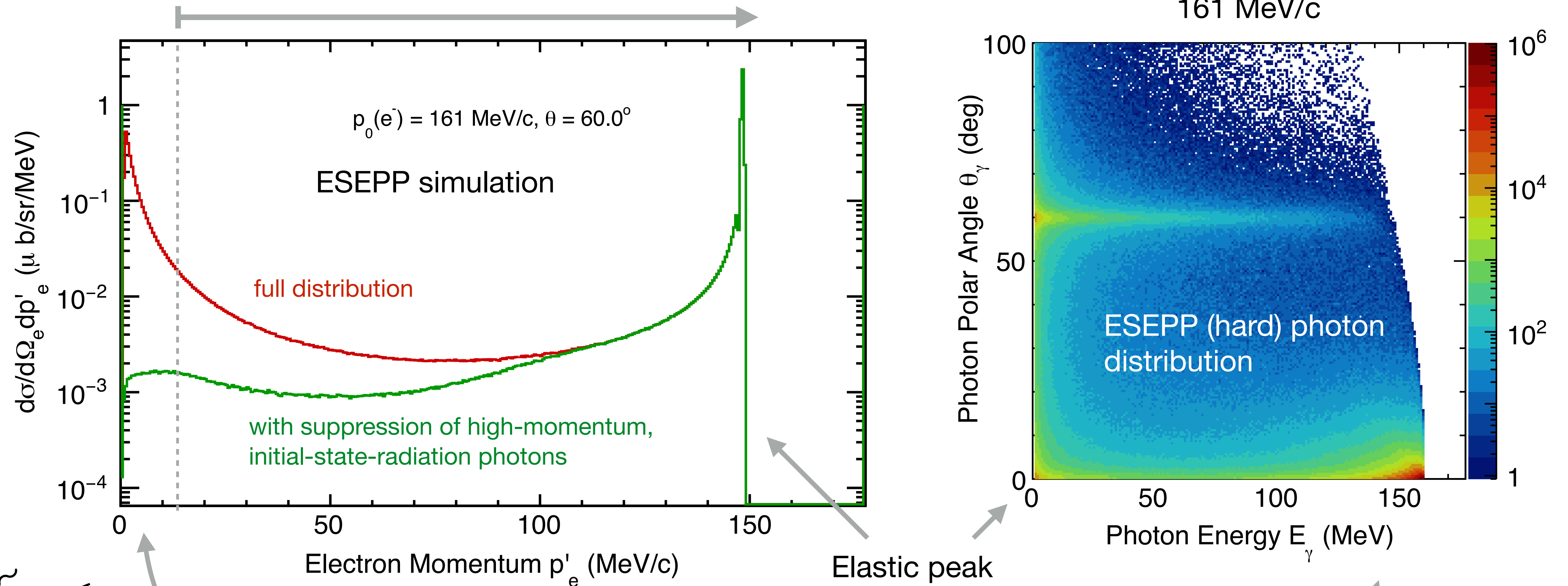


Very different radiative effects in  $ep$  and  $\mu p$  scattering



# $ep \rightarrow e'p\gamma$ photon distribution

MUSE will integrate over a large momentum range



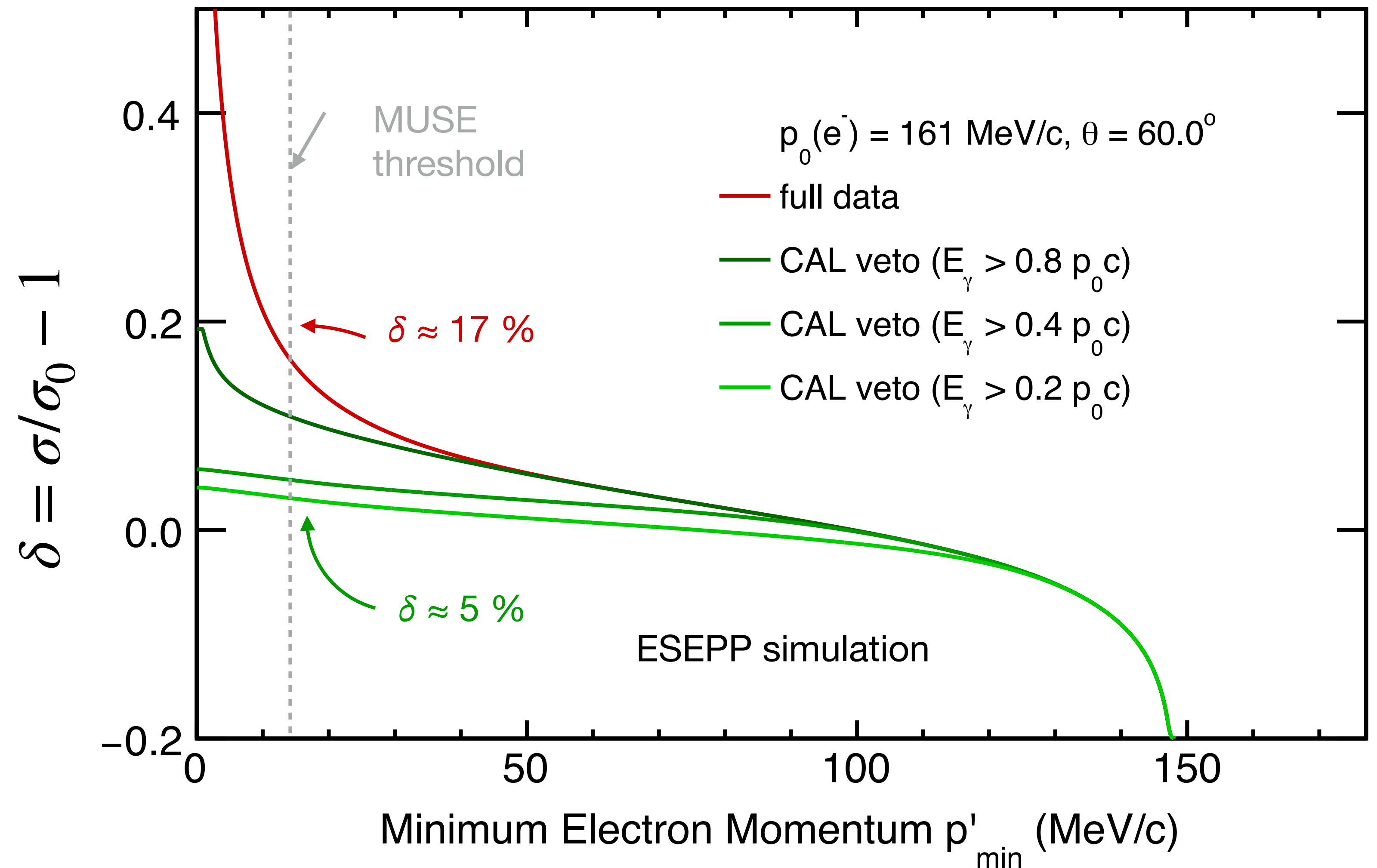
If the incident lepton loses energy due to the emission of a hard photon, then the probability for this lepton to be scattered by the proton increases.

# The downstream photon calorimeter will veto events with hard initial-state radiation

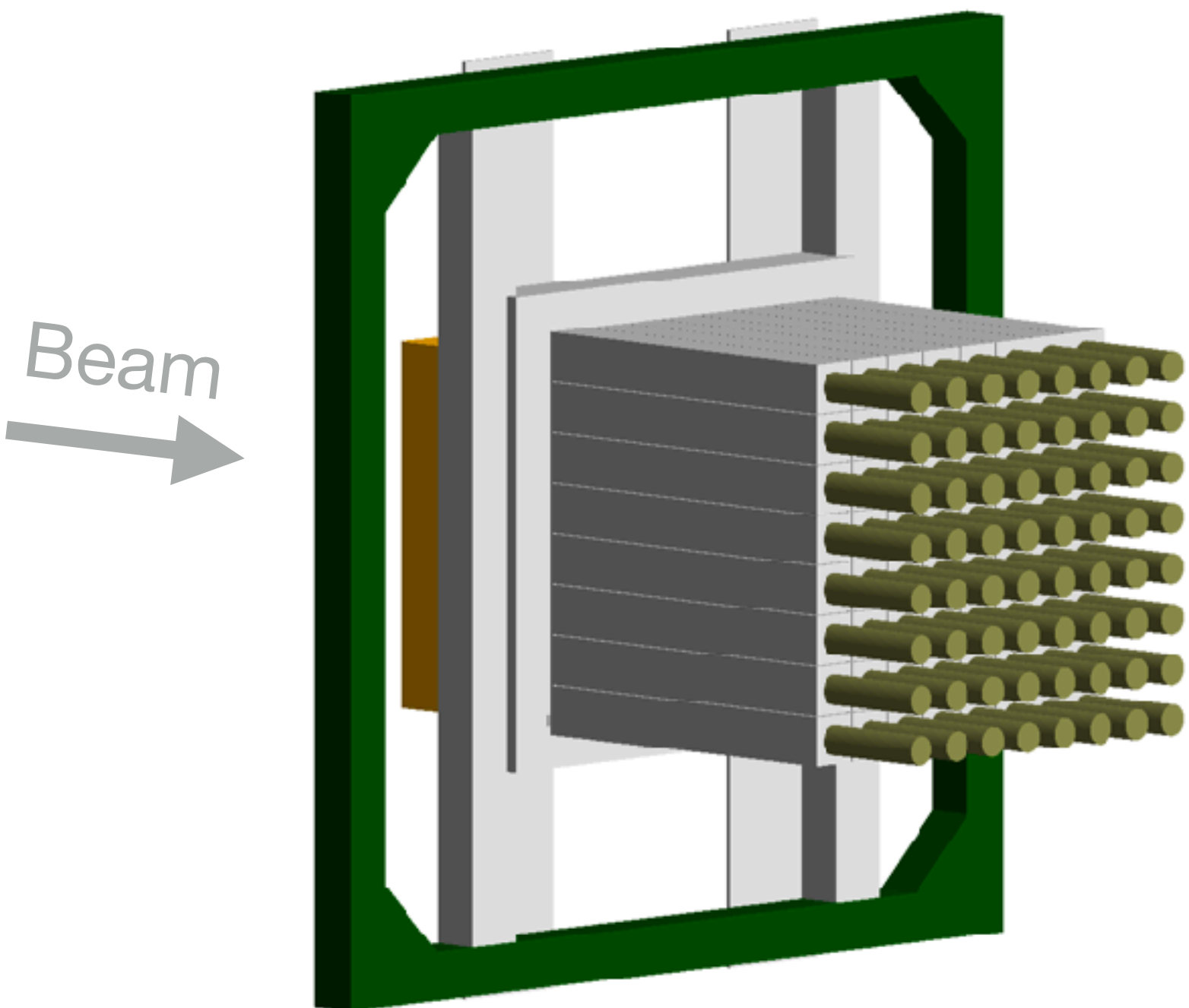
Rapidly changing radiative corrections for small  $p'_{\min}$ .

(> 1% change / MeV/c)

CAL veto on initial-state radiation reduces radiative corrections and  $p'_{\min}$  dependence, reducing uncertainty.

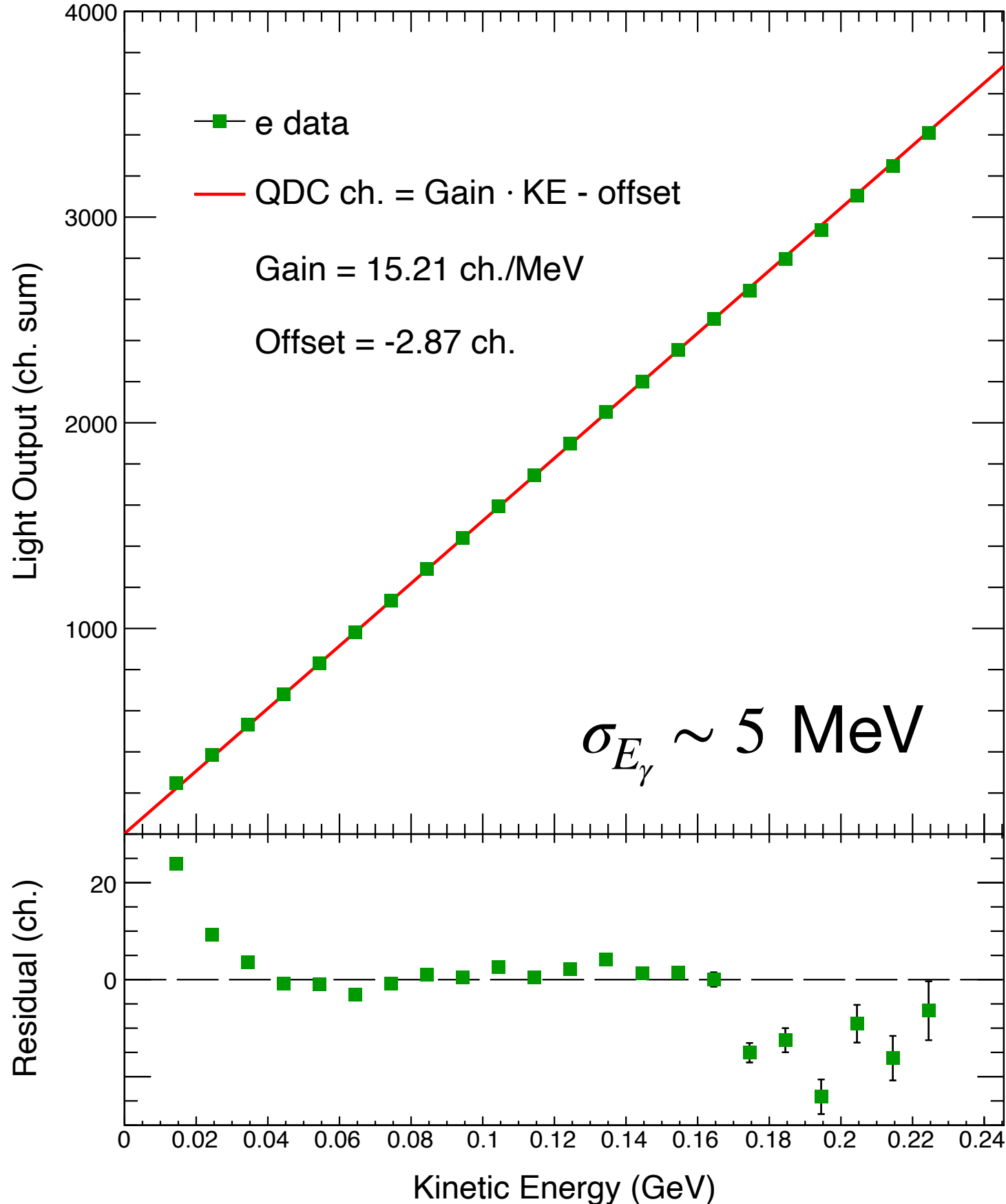


# Photon calorimeter will detect initial-state radiation and is calibrated with electron-beam data

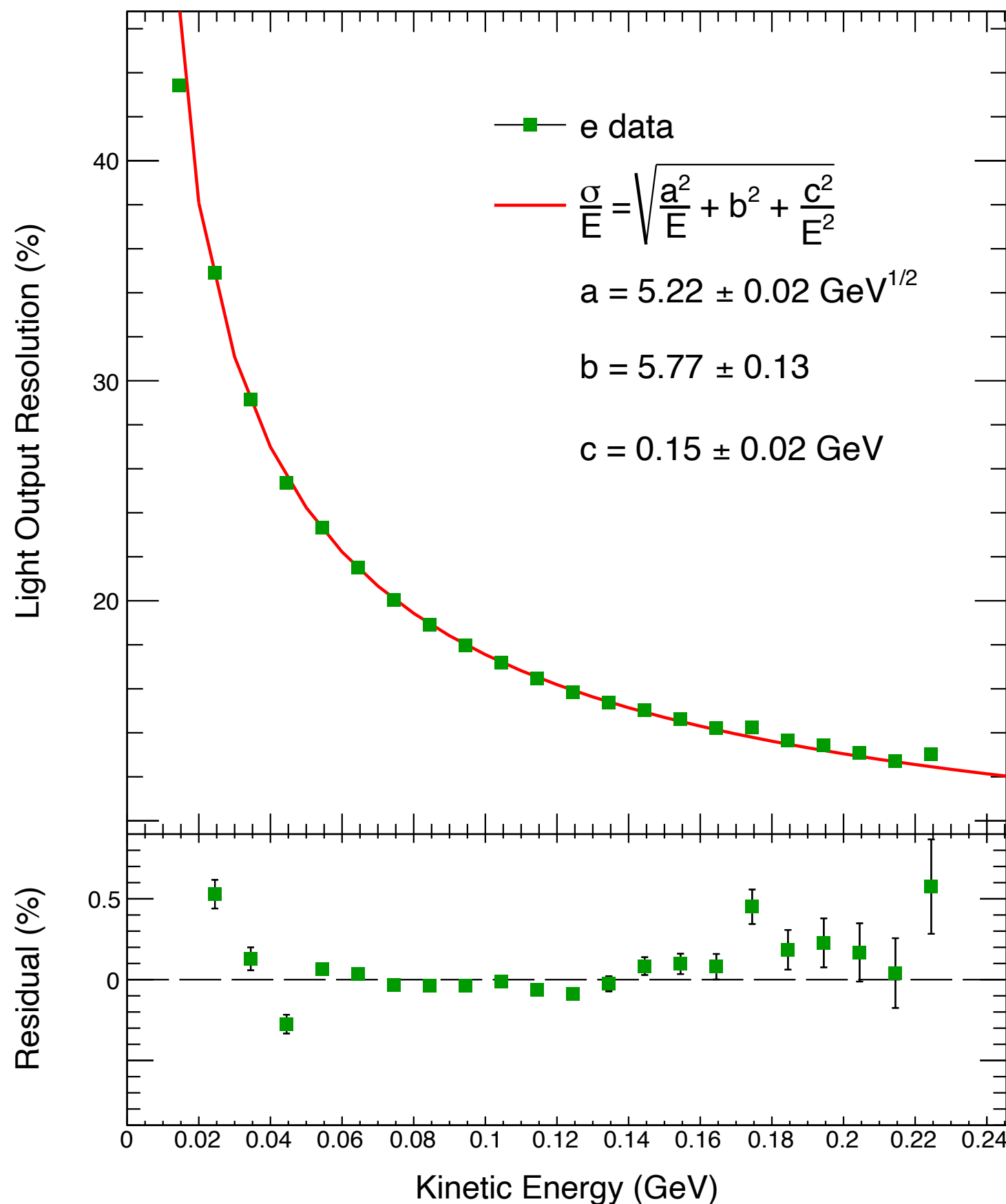


64 lead-glass crystals  
(4 cm x 4 cm x 30 cm)

Light output

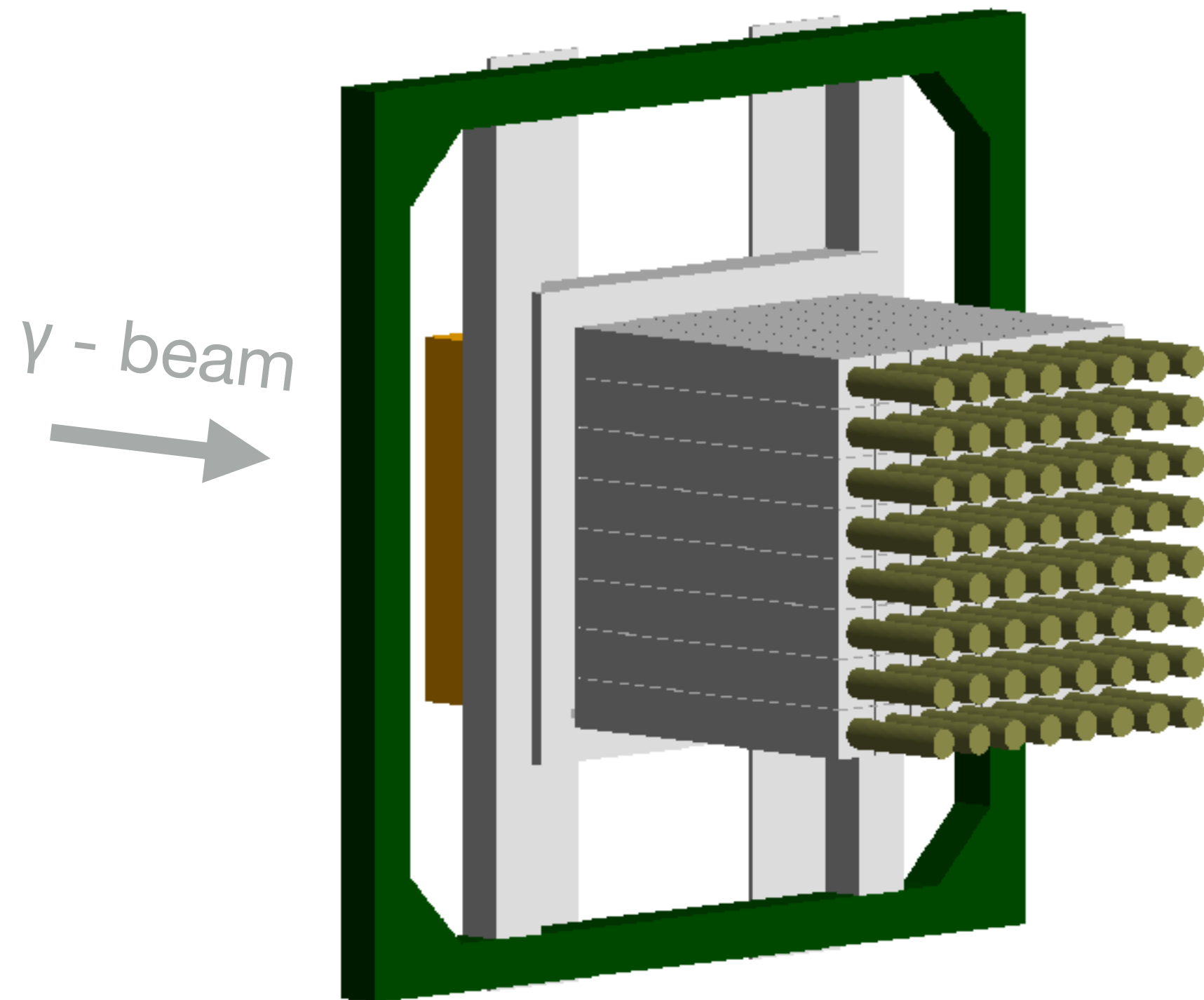


Light output resolution

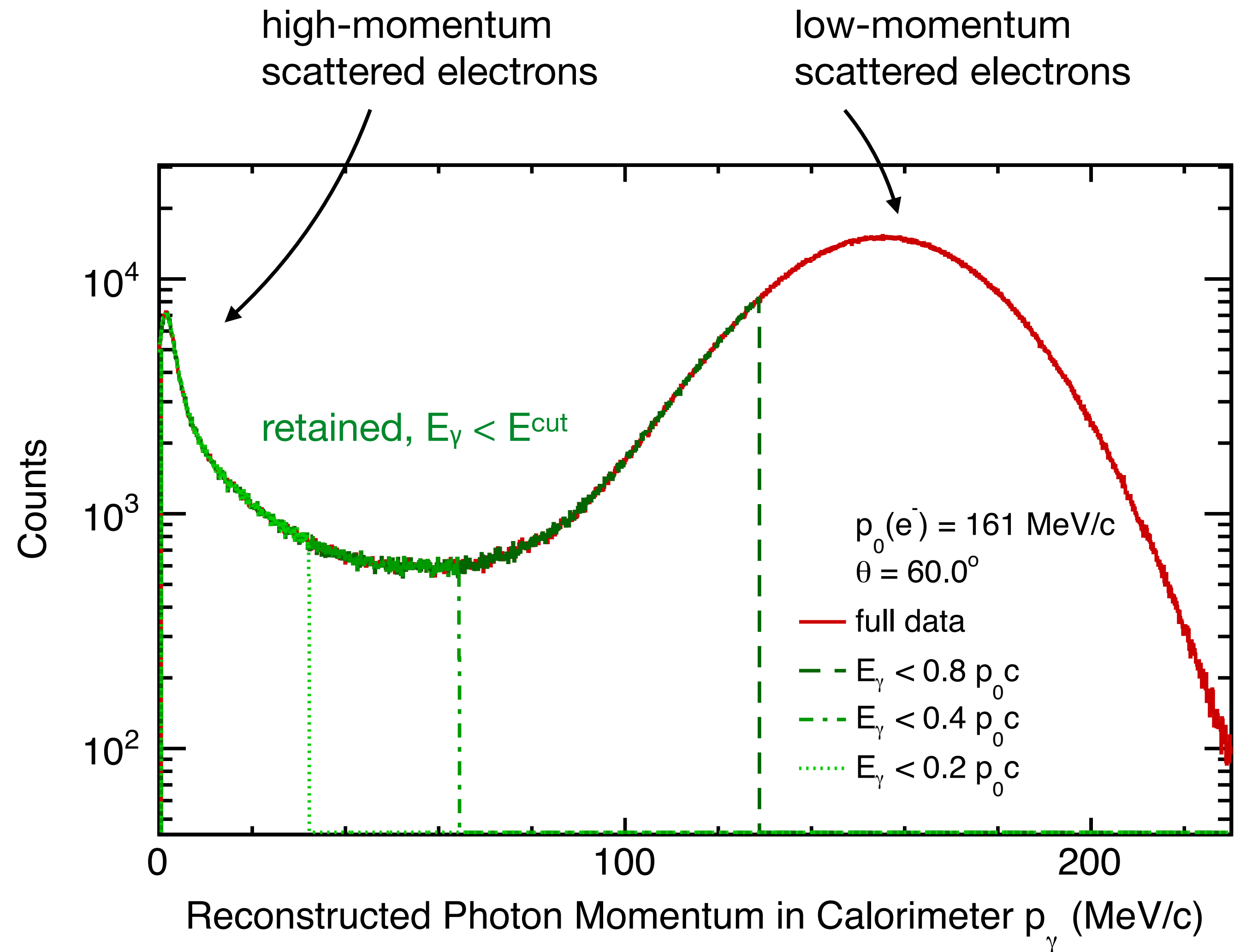


W. Lin et al. (MUSE Collaboration), NIM A 1080, 170754 (2025)

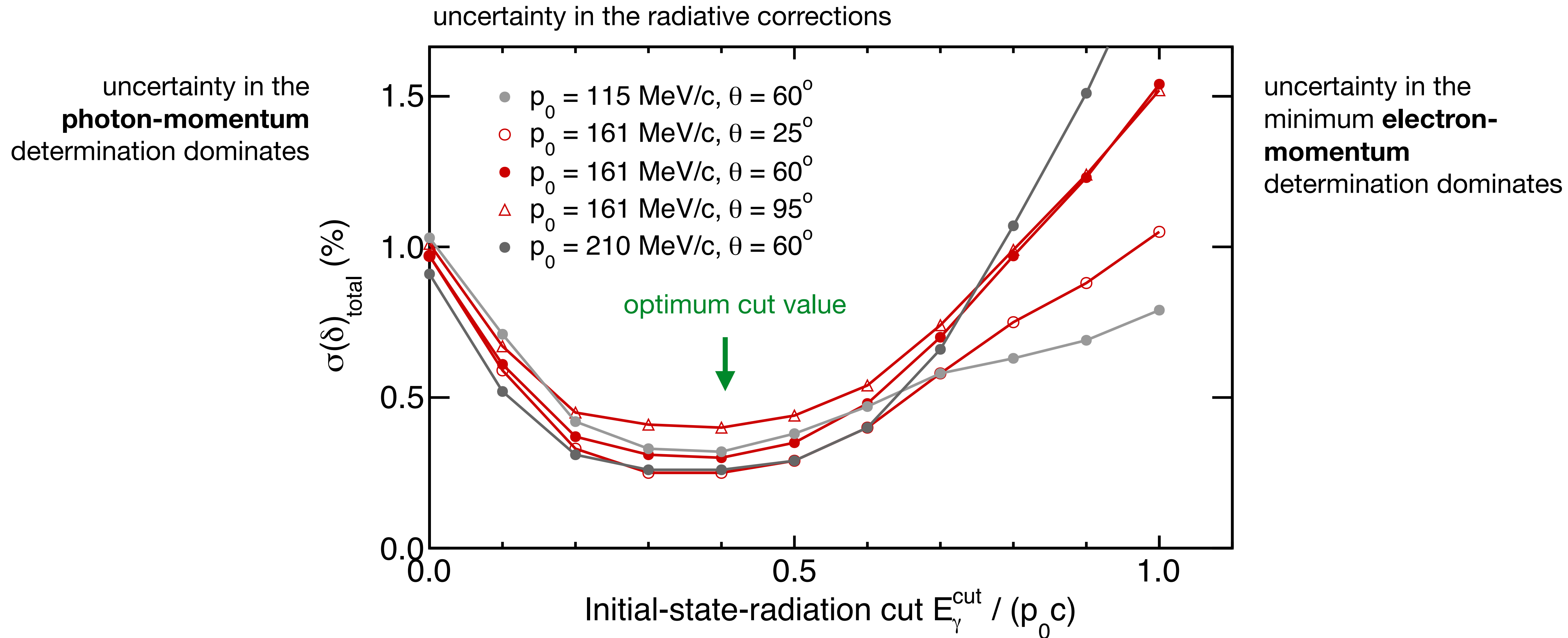
# The downstream photon calorimeter will veto events with hard initial-state radiation



64 lead-glass crystals  
(4 cm x 4 cm x 30 cm)



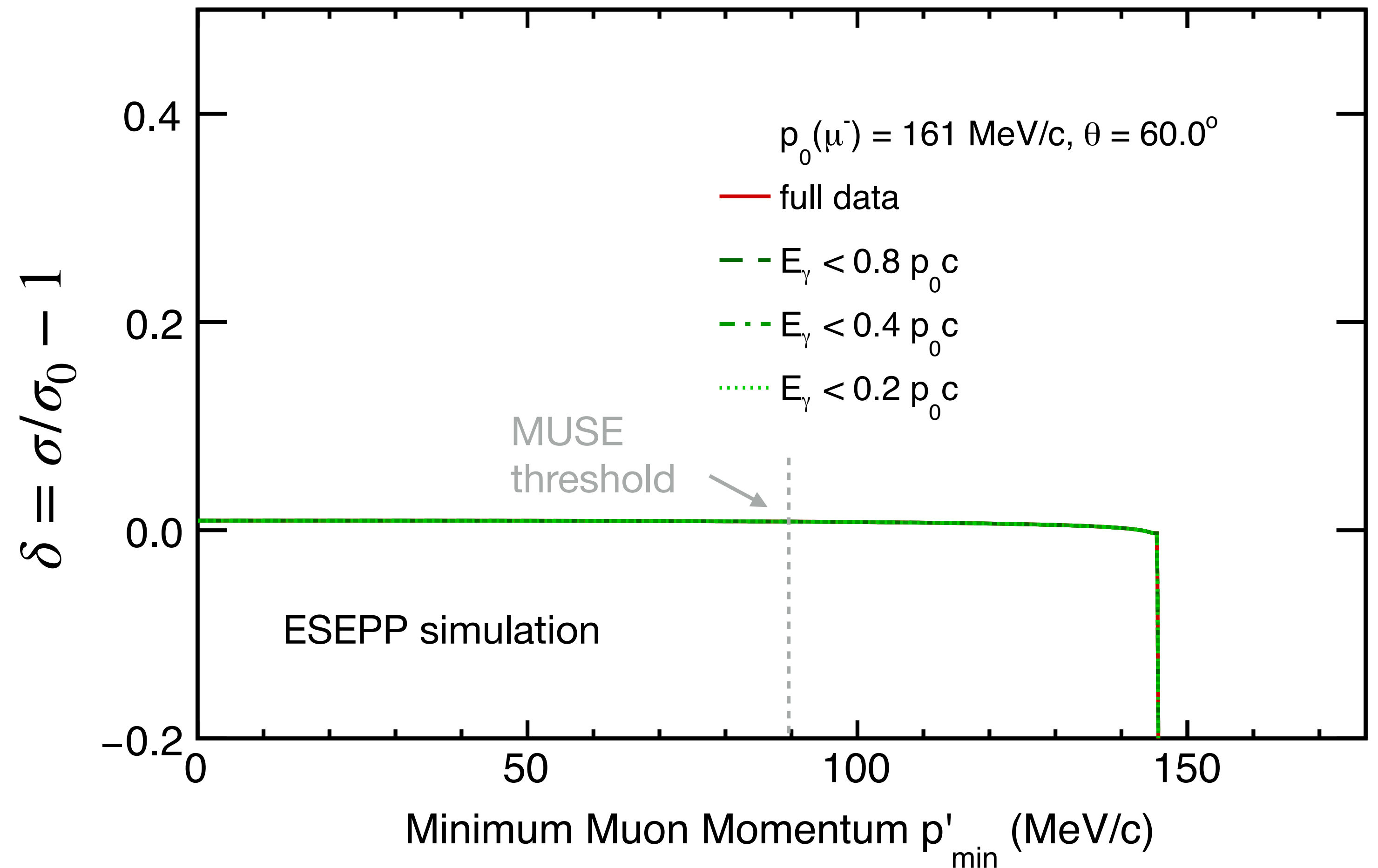
# There is an optimal cut balancing photon resolution and lepton momentum resolution



# Radiative corrections for $\mu p \rightarrow \mu' p \gamma$ are small and well determined

Compared with electron scattering, the radiative corrections for muon scattering are:

- small,  $\delta \leq 1\%$ ,
- (almost) independent of the muon detection threshold,
- independent of any photon veto.



# Instrumental uncertainties in the radiative corrections of the elastic scattering cross sections

- The preliminary estimates of the total instrumental uncertainties in the radiative corrections for **electrons** are **0.2% - 0.5%**.\*

$\sigma_{\delta}(e^-)$	115 MeV/c			161 MeV/c			210 MeV/c		
	20°	60°	100°	20°	60°	100°	20°	60°	100°
$p'_{\min}$	0.05%	0.18%	0.30%	0.03%	0.16%	0.31%	0.02%	0.13%	0.31%
$\theta$	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.03%	0.01%
$p_0$	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
$E_y$	0.32%	0.33%	0.33%	0.25%	0.25%	0.26%	0.20%	0.22%	0.22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.32%</b>	<b>0.38%</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>0.25%</b>	<b>0.30%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>0.20%</b>	<b>0.26%</b>	<b>0.38%</b>

angle-dependent uncertainty, relevant for radius extraction,  $\approx 0.3\%$

angle-independent uncertainty, **not** relevant for radius extraction

- The preliminary estimates of the total instrumental uncertainties in the radiative corrections for **muons** are smaller than **0.01%**.\*

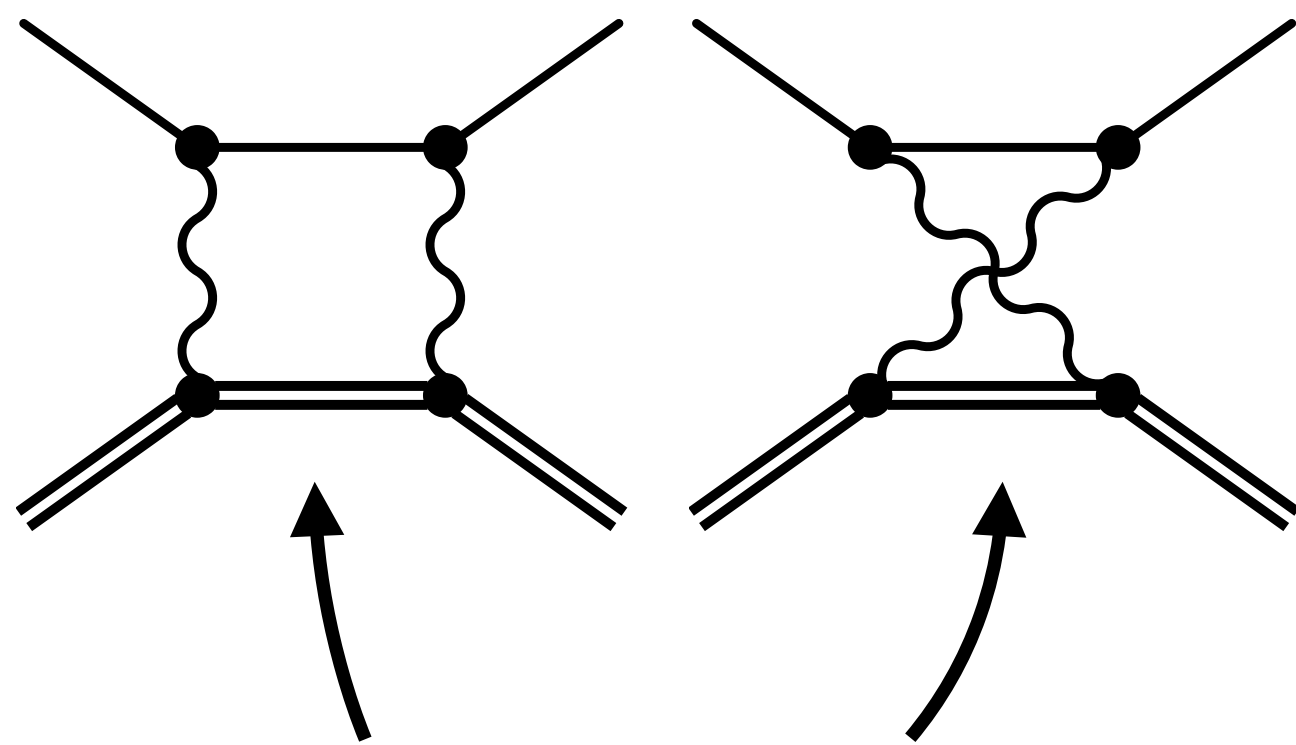
\* Not including model uncertainties.

# In the $\ell^+/\ell^-$ cross-section ratio, many charge-even effects cancel in the ratio, isolating the TPE contribution

TPE correction  $\delta_{2\gamma}$  at leading order

$$\sigma^\pm = \sigma_{1\gamma}(1 \pm \delta_{2\gamma})$$

$$\frac{\sigma^+}{\sigma^-} \approx 1 + 2\delta_{2\gamma}$$

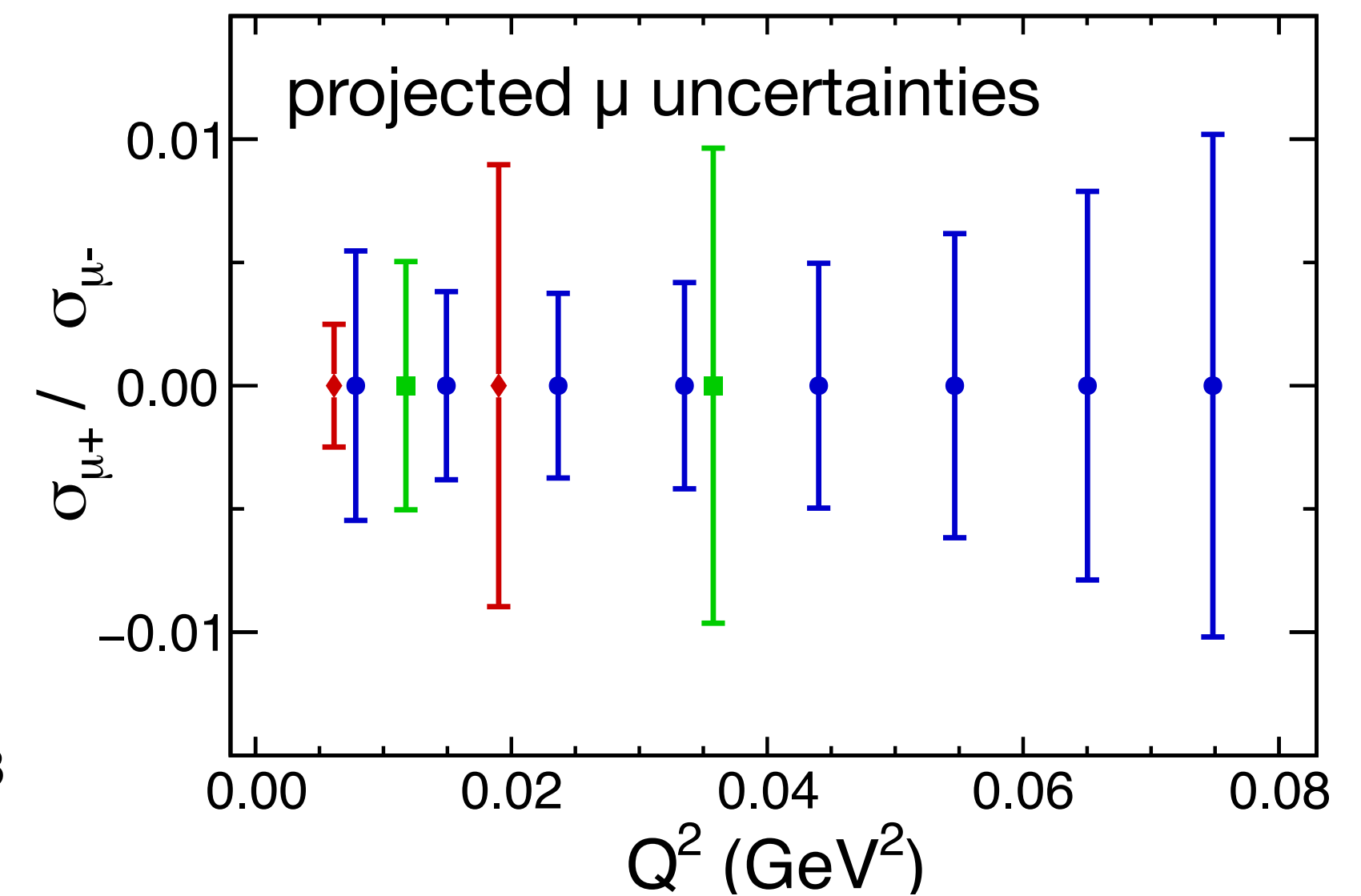
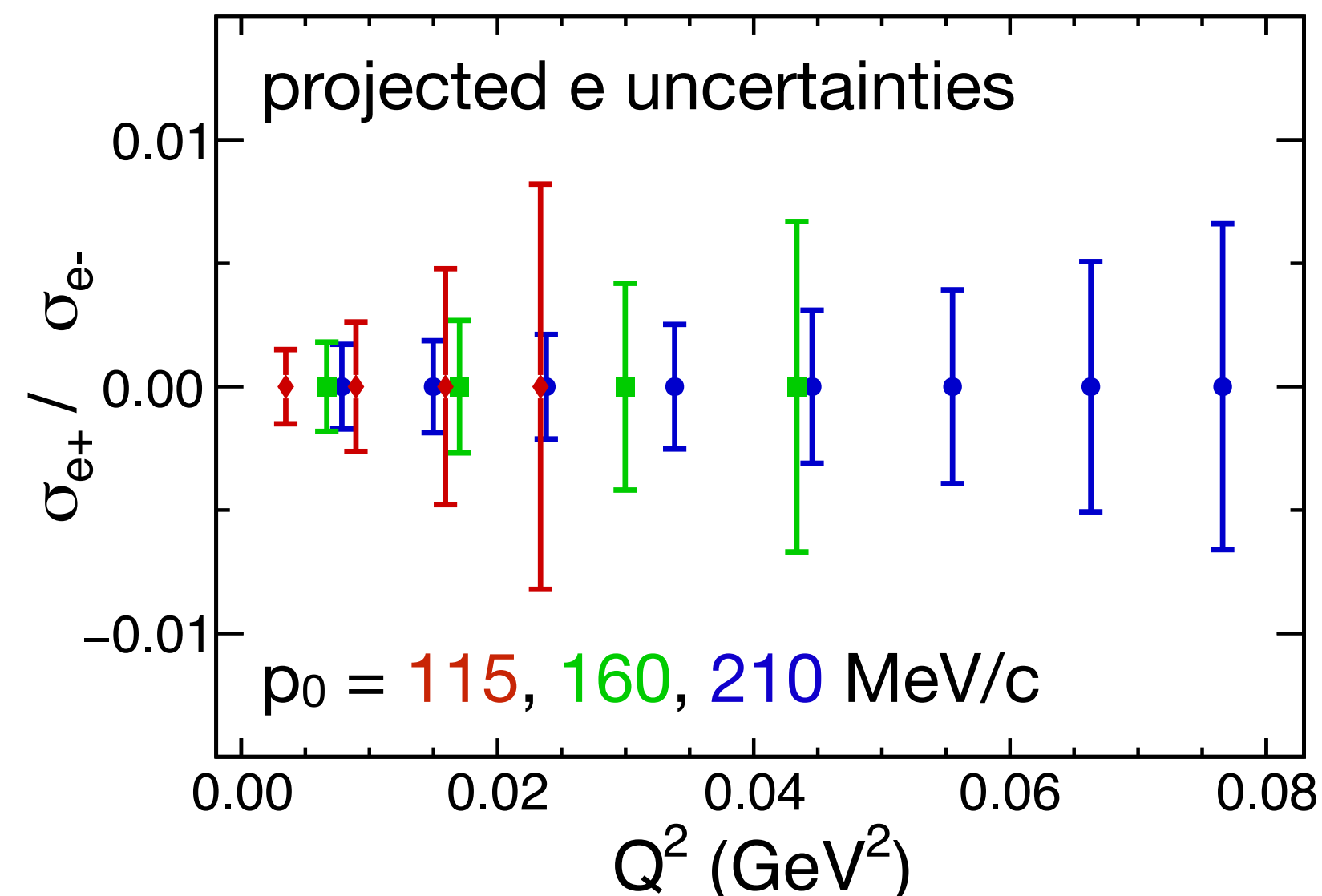


**Polarizability** effects ( $\propto m_\ell^4$ ) are part of the inelastic TPE contribution

MUSE TDR, arXiv:1709.09753 [physics.ins-det].

Projected **statistical** uncertainties are  $< 1\%$ .

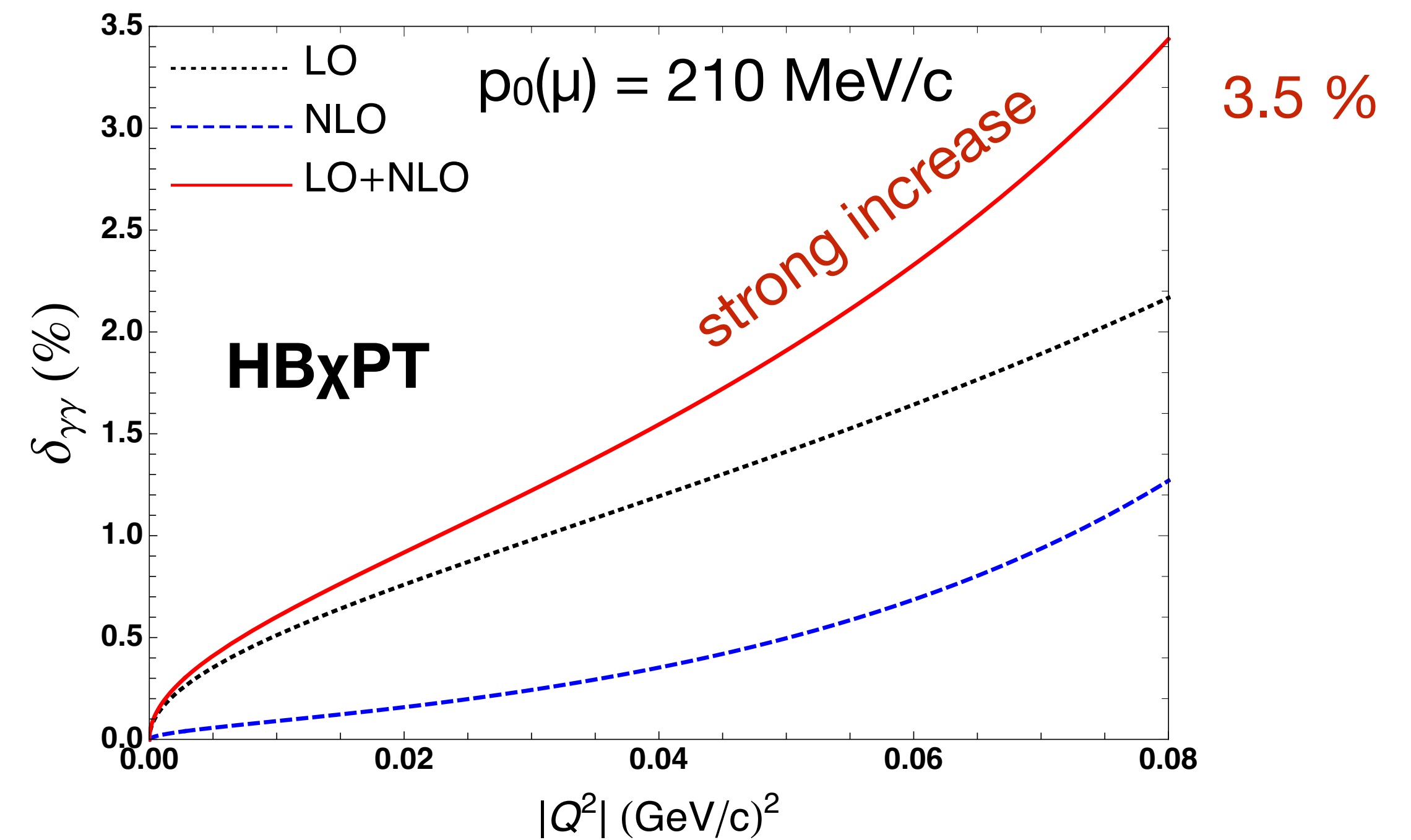
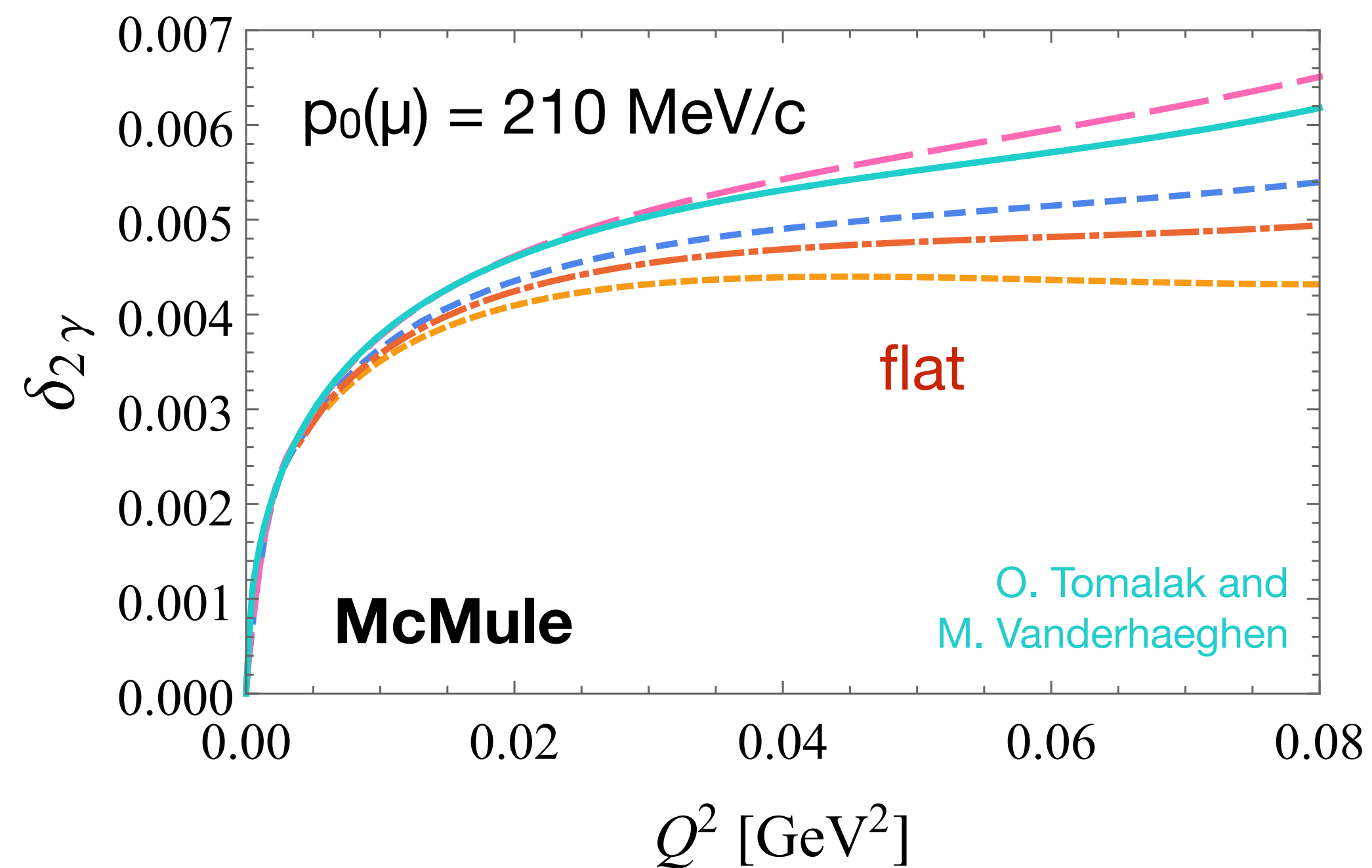
Many **systematic** contributions cancel in the cross section ratio, and the uncertainties are small  $0.1\%$  — need to be well controlled.



MUSE covers wide  $\varepsilon$  range, at small values of  $Q^2$  and **enables discrimination between models.**

# Calculations for MUSE differ significantly in their predictions for TPE corrections

Examples for TPE corrections to  $\mu p$



Oleksandr Tomalak, Few-Body Systems, 59, 87 (2018)  
 T. Engel, et al., Eur. Phys. J. A 59, 253 (2023) - McMule  
 P. Choudhary, et al., Eur. Phys. J. A 60, 69 (2024) - HBxPT

TPE corrections to  $ep$  are typically larger than to  $\mu p$

# Summary and Outlook

**MUSE** measures  $\mu^\pm p$  and  $e^\pm p$  scattering cross sections and will directly compare  $\mu p$  and  $ep$  interactions, extract the proton charge radius, and study two-photon exchange effects.

- Radiative corrections dominate systematics
- Instrumental control (SPS detector threshold + ISR veto) reduces them
- Expected sub-percent precision enables charge radius extraction and studies of TPE effects