



# Track reconstruction with timing in ATLAS during the HL-LHC for Run 4 and beyond

Lorenzo Santi

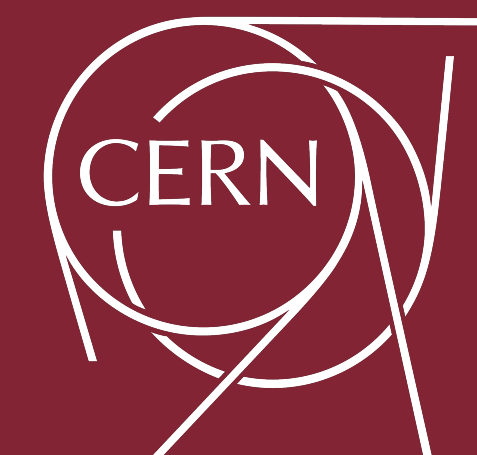
o.b.o. ATLAS

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Polarized Perspectives:

*Tagging and Learning in the SM*

20.02.2025



# Being on time

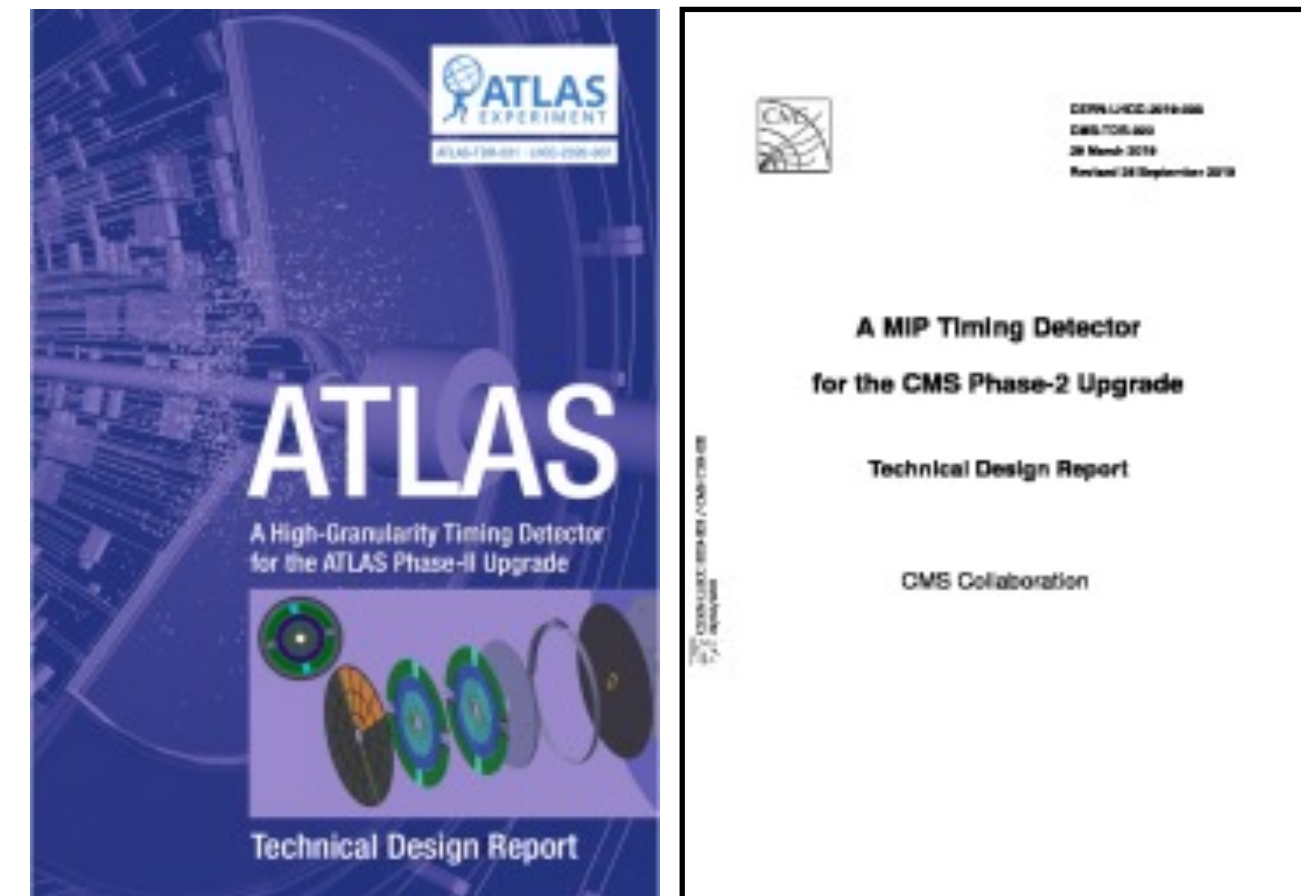
HL-LHC is a **unique opportunity to test future frontier** detectors such as **4D Trackers**

**Timing detectors** are a **growing area** of interest in HEP  
i.e. **HGTD** in ATLAS and **MTD** in CMS will be installed in Run4!

The **next phase** in technological advancement is the **development** of **silicon trackers** characterized by  $\mathcal{O}(10\mu m) \otimes \mathcal{O}(10ps)$ :

In Run4 ATLAS will install a fully silicon tracker: **ITk**

The presented work is a study of a potential impact of a hermetic timing coverage in ATLAS in ITk, eventually beyond Run4: [link](#)

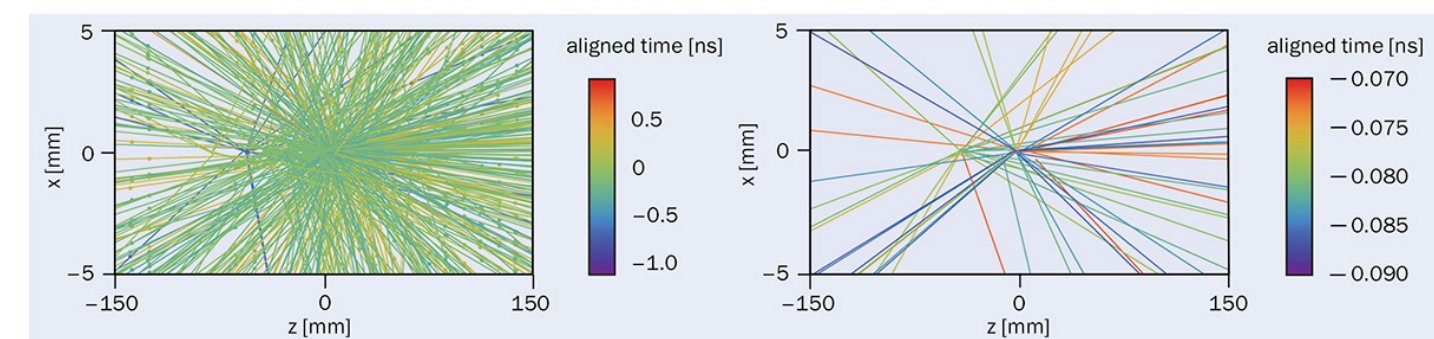


FLAVOUR PHYSICS | FEATURE

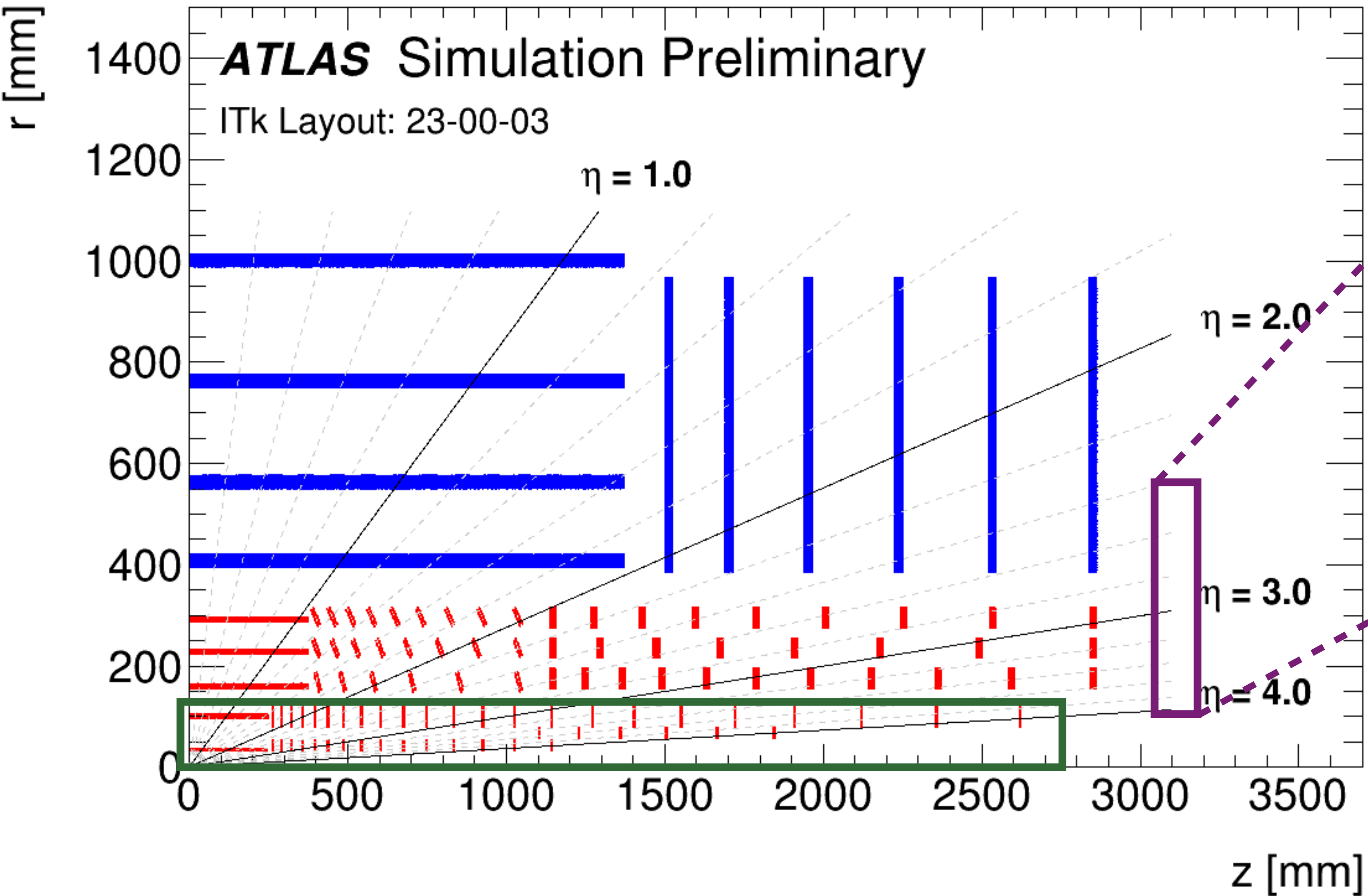
## LHCb looks forward to the 2030s

1 March 2023

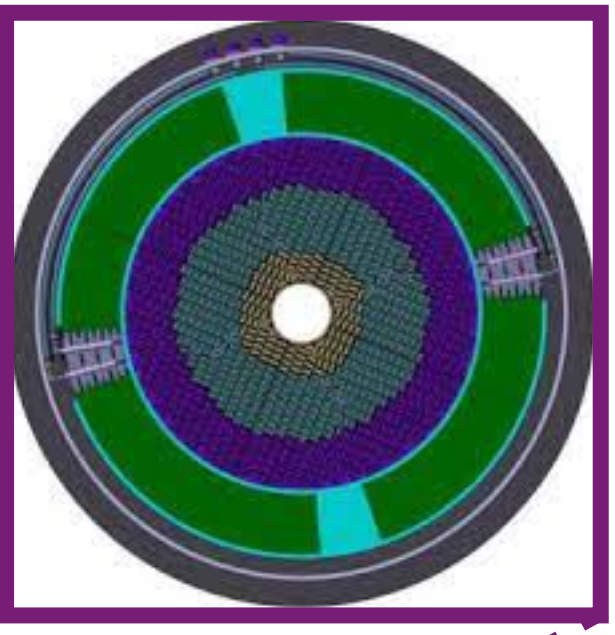
The future VELO will be a true 4D-tracking detector



# Timing opportunities in ATLAS



High Granularity Timing Detector (HGTD) installed for Run4



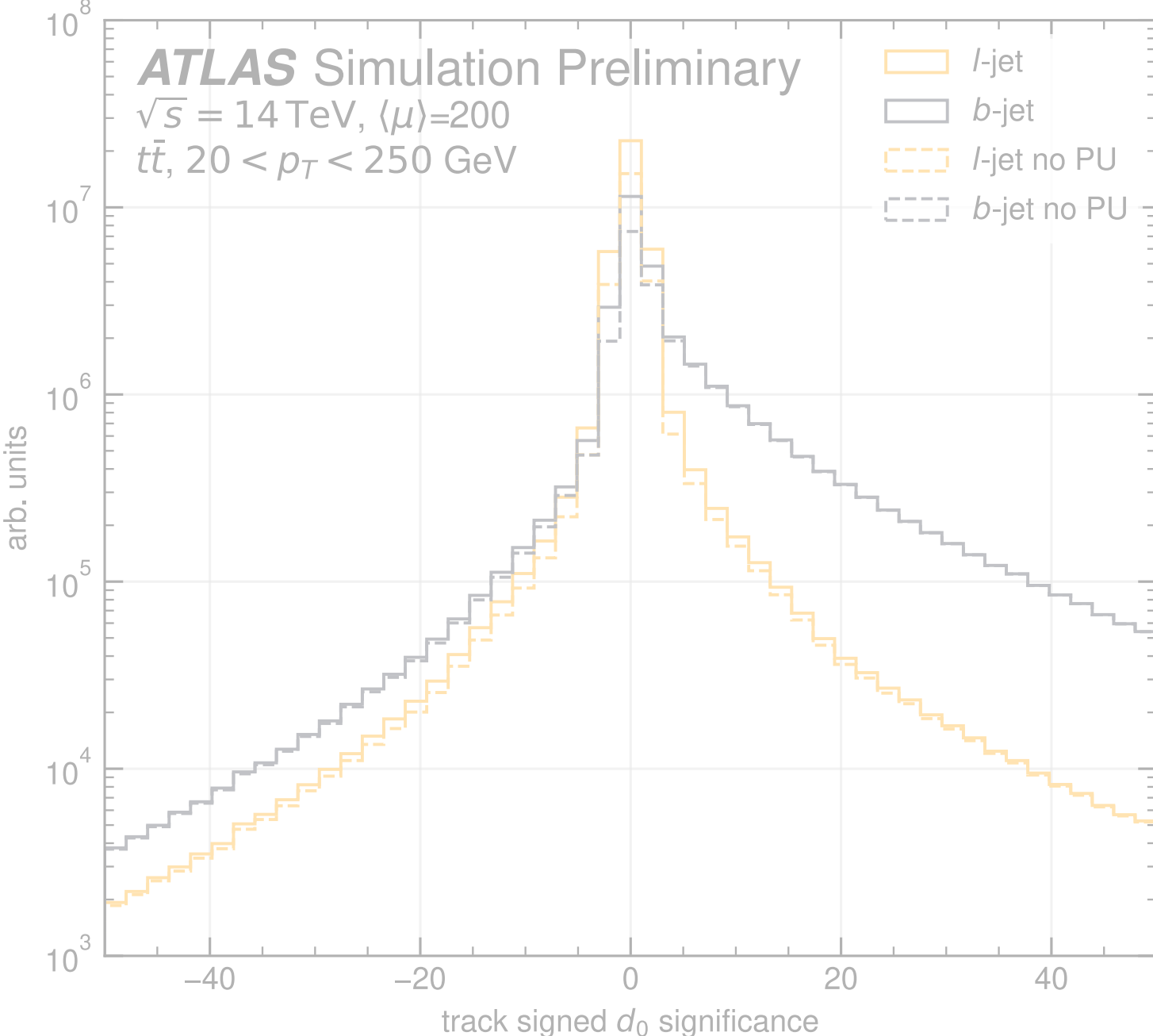
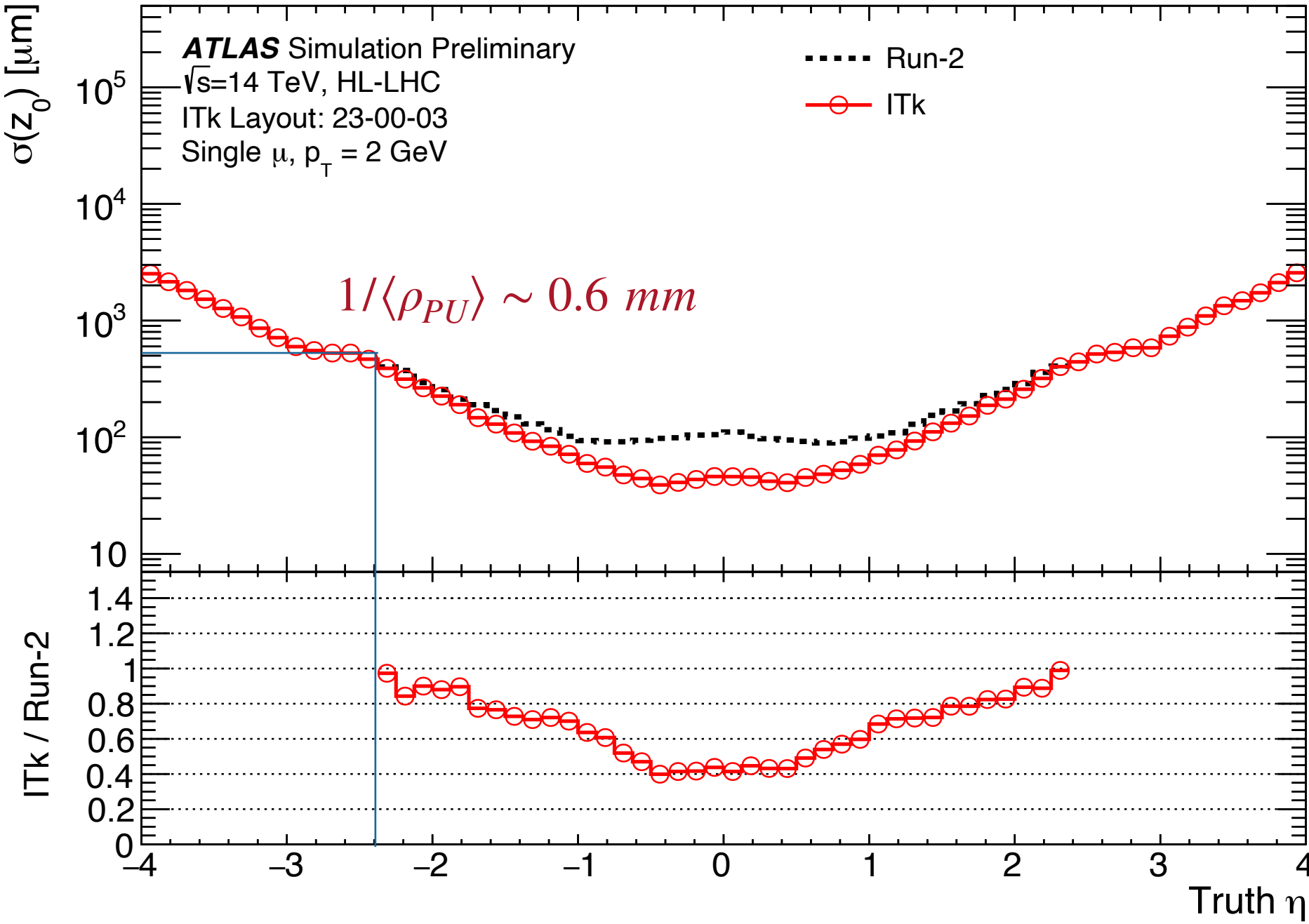
Coverage:  
 $2.4 < \eta < 4$   
track time resolution:  
 $t_{trk} \sim 30ps$

**Main questions:**

- How *precisely* we can determine the **vertex time**  $t_{HS}$  on **all** events?
- Can we improve **b-tagging**?

**Two innermost pixel layers** of ITk need to be replaced due to hard radiation after  $2000 fb^{-1}$  of data at HL-LHC

# Motivations



HGTD motivation:

Pile-Up removal in forward region

Where the  $IP_{z0}$  resolution is lower

What if we have hermetic coverage

with timing in the barrel?

Performance: Vertexing, FTag ...

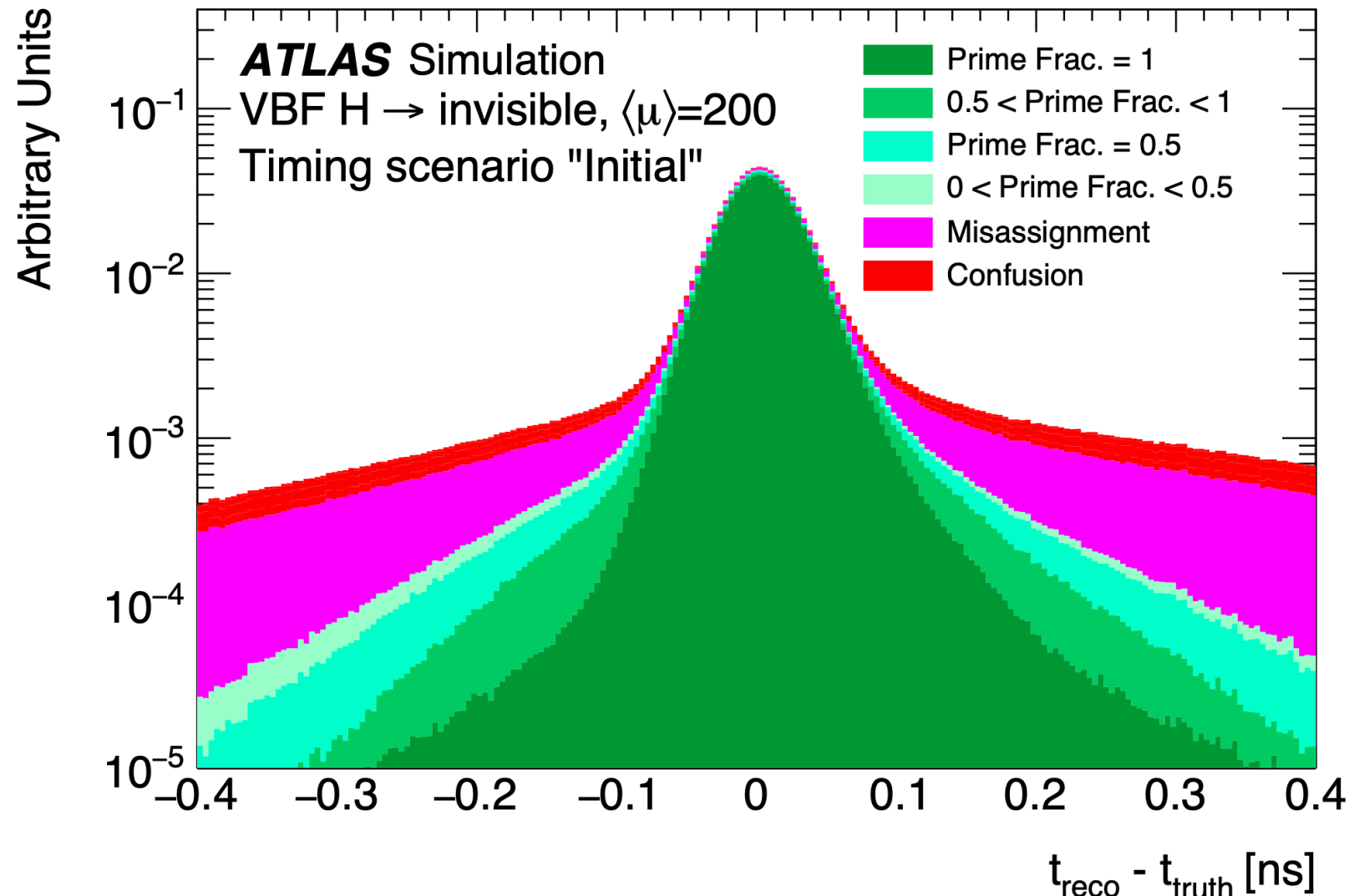
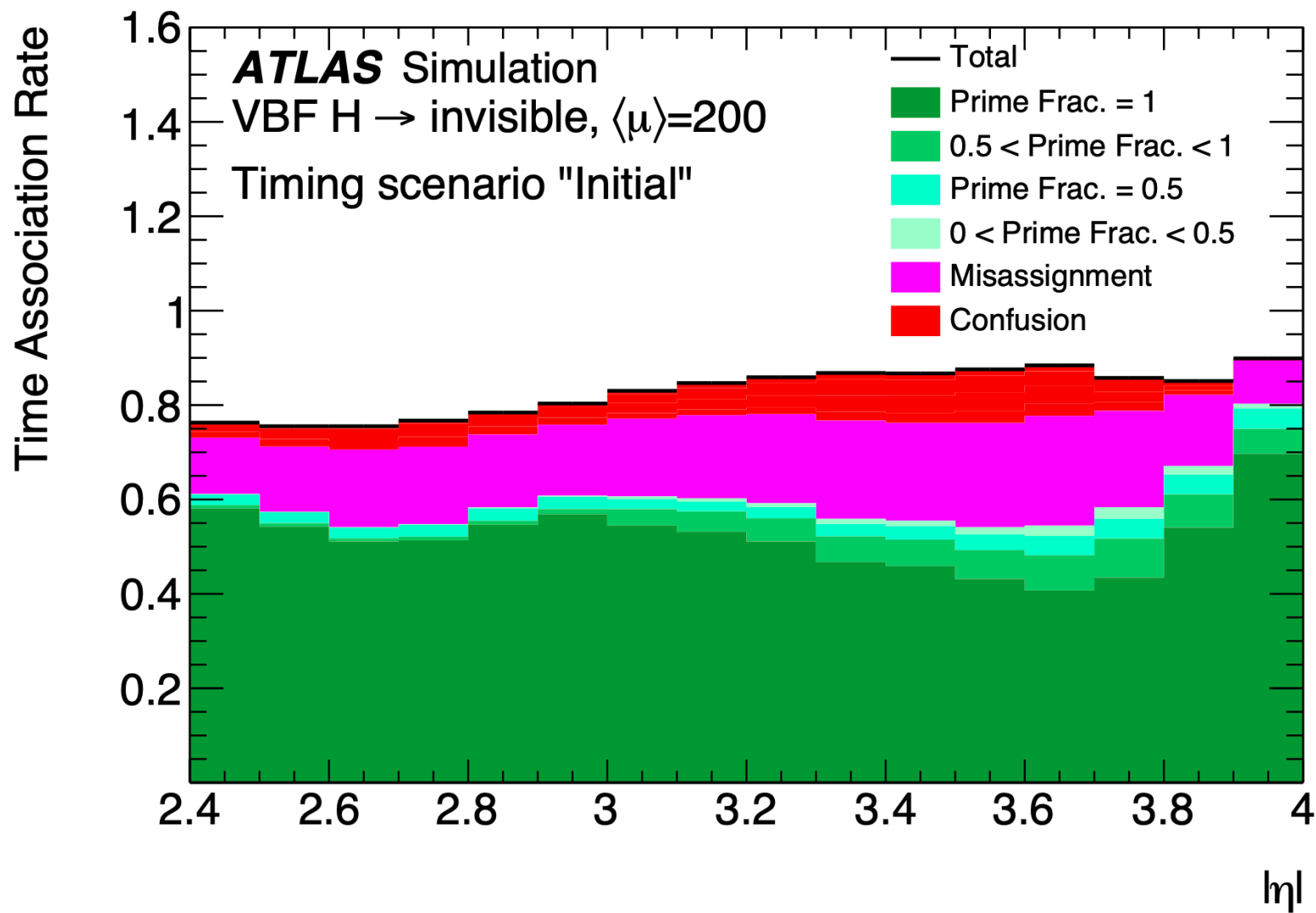
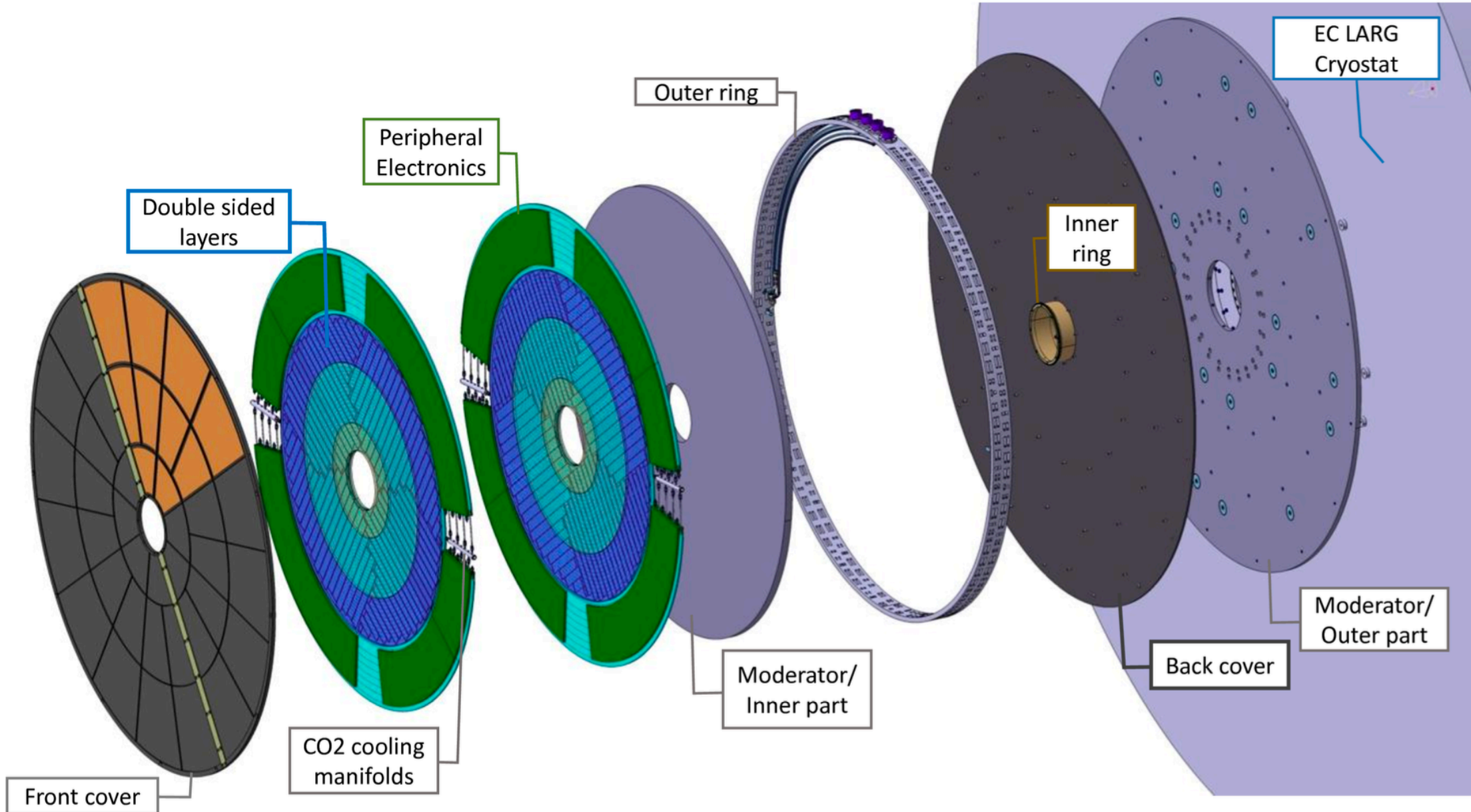
Physics case: HH, LLP ...

# HGTD: tracks and time

Based on Low Gain Avalanche Detectors (LGAD)

Track time resolution: from 30ps (initial) to 50ps (final)

On VBF  $H \rightarrow inv$ . time association rate ~60%



# HGTD: physics objects

HGTD allows to have for the first time a  $t_0$  of the vertex

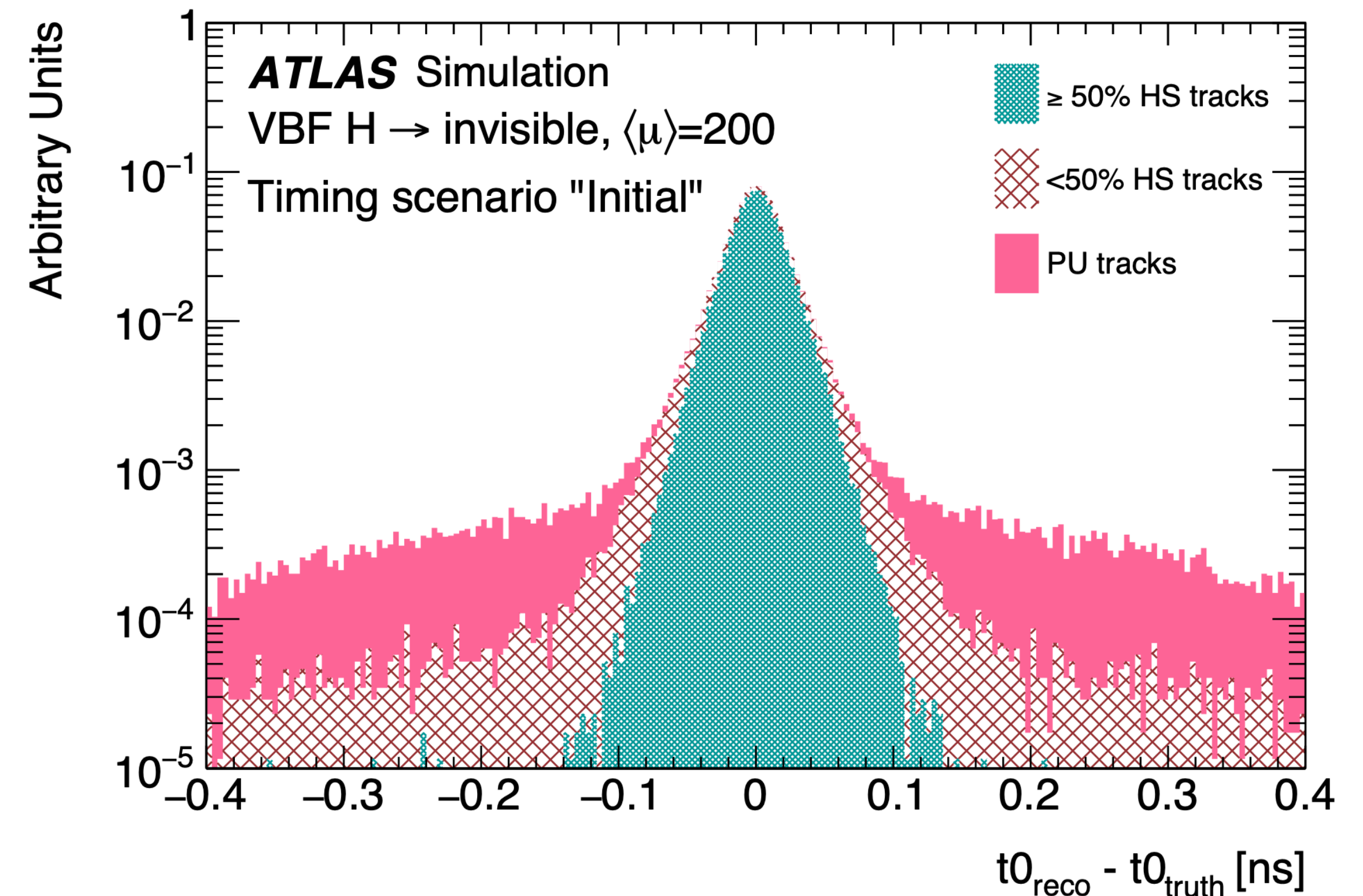
$t_0$  resolution gets up to **22ps** if more than 50% of the tracks come from HS

track to vertex association can be extended with time:

$$\frac{z - z_0}{\sigma_z} < s \rightarrow \frac{t - t_0}{\sigma_t} < s$$

with the caveat that **not always** it is possible to reconstruct the  $t_0$ :

On VBF  $H \rightarrow inv$  . about 65% of the events have a  $t_0$

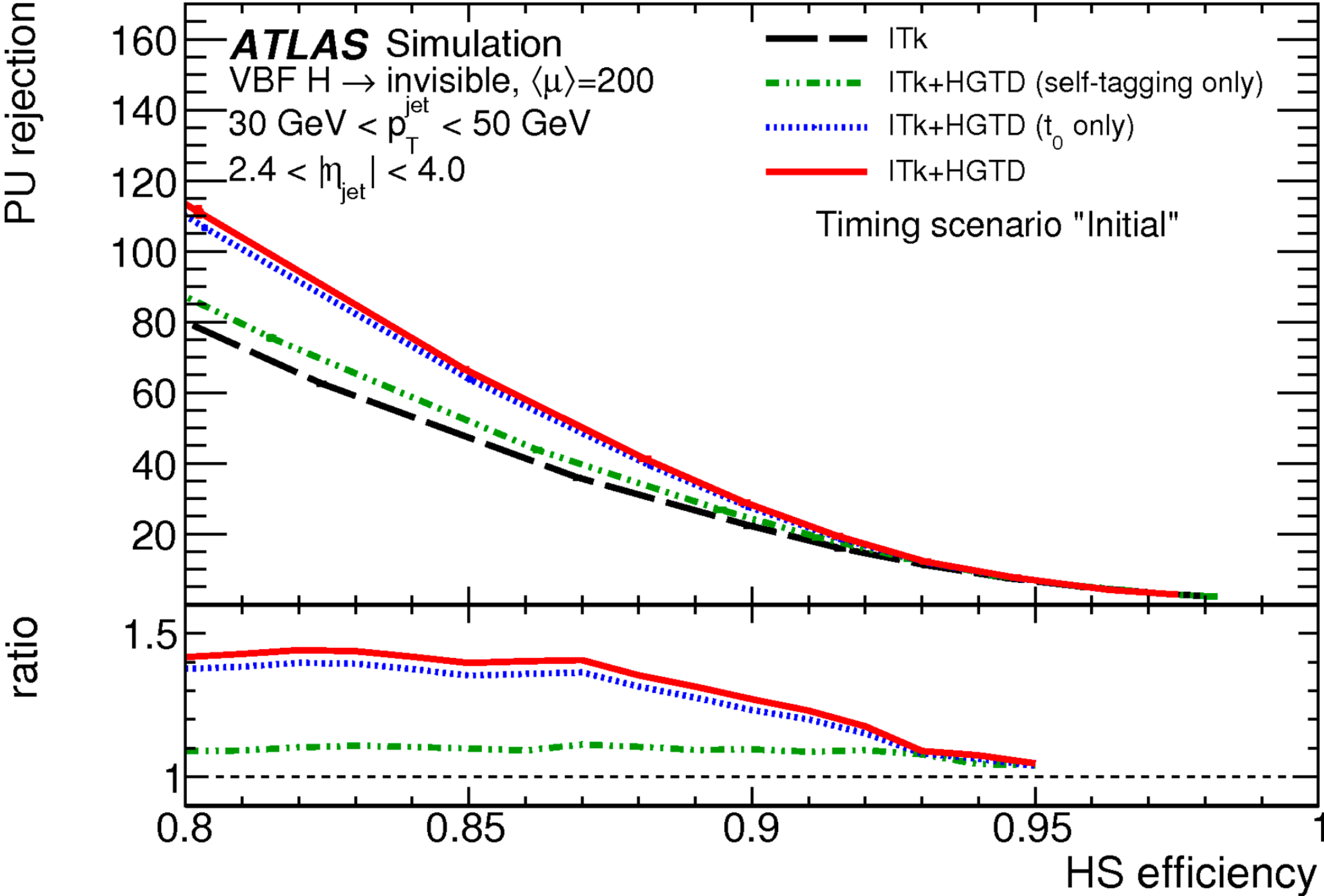


# HGTD: physics objects

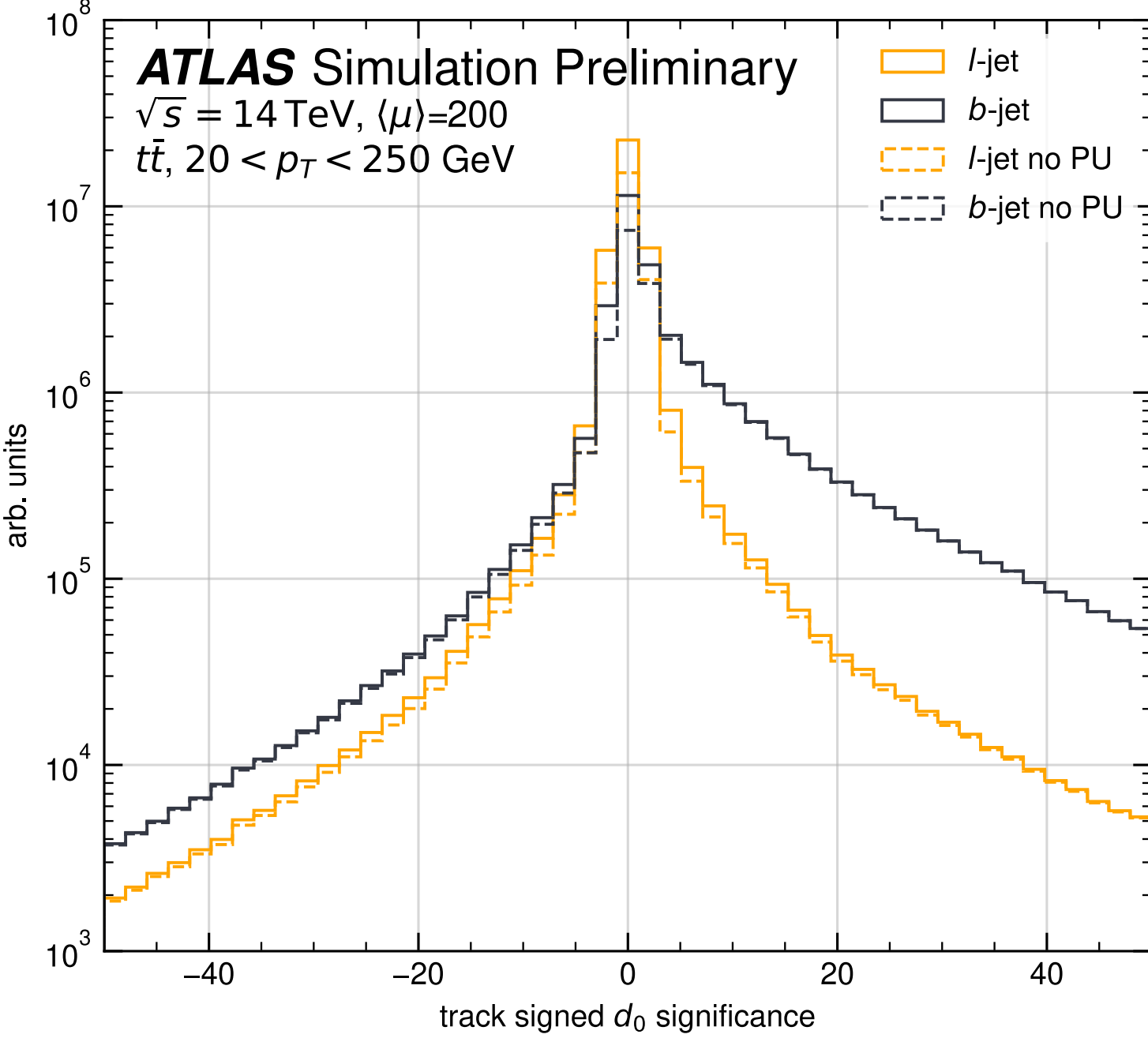
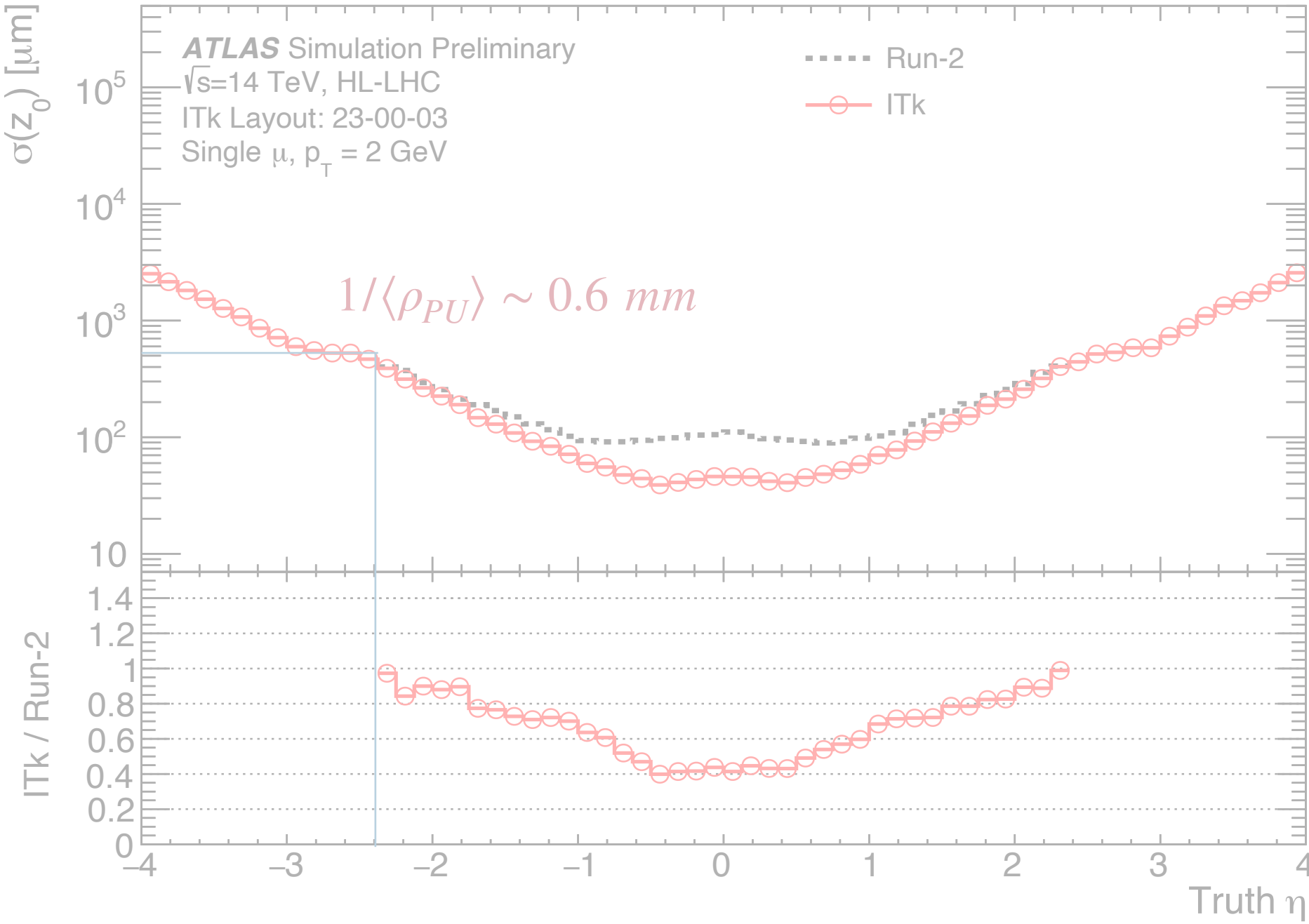
It allows also to suppress Pile-Up jets suppression

the PU rejection increases around 50%  
for an HS efficiency of 85%!

This requires a precise measurement on  $t_0$



# Motivations



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Pile-Up removal in forward region

Where the  $IP_{z0}$  resolution is lower

What if we have hermetic coverage

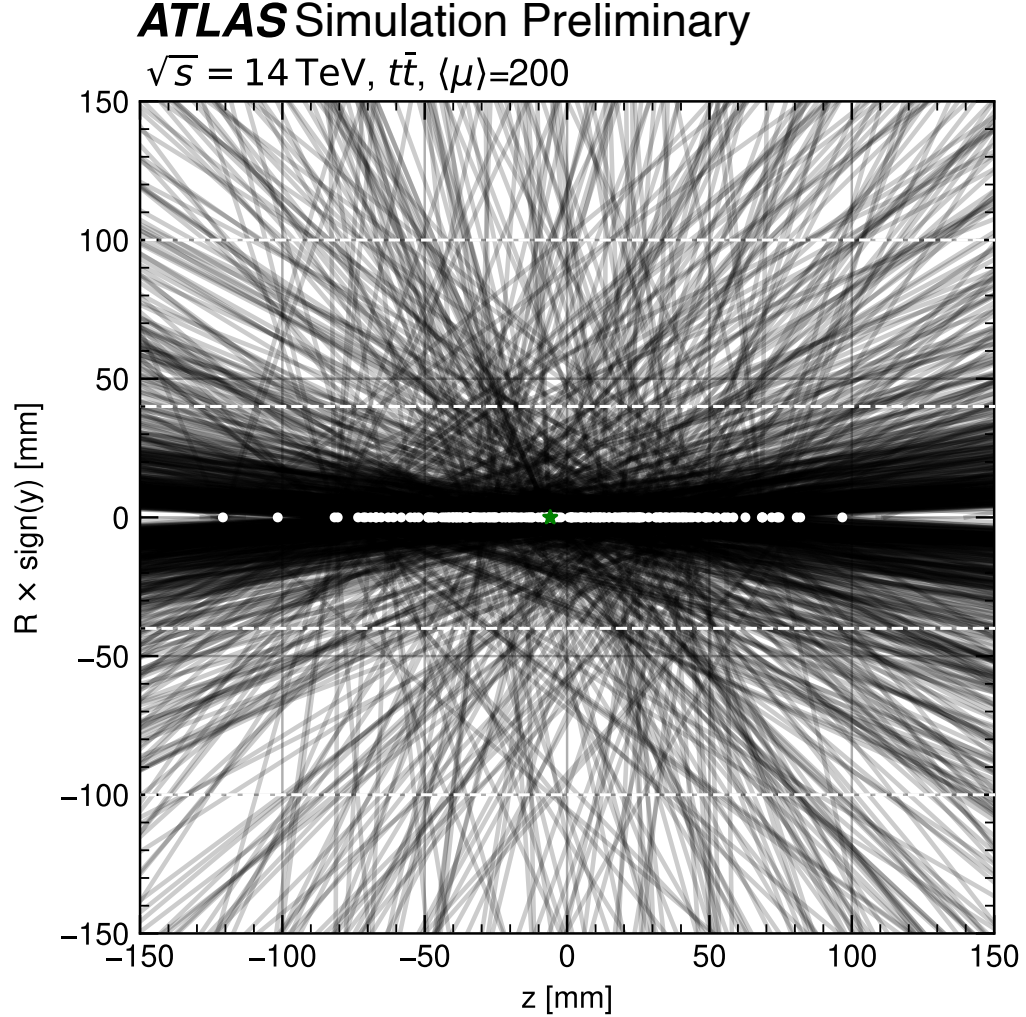
with timing in the barrel?

Performance: Vertexing, FTag ...

Physics case: HH, LLP ...



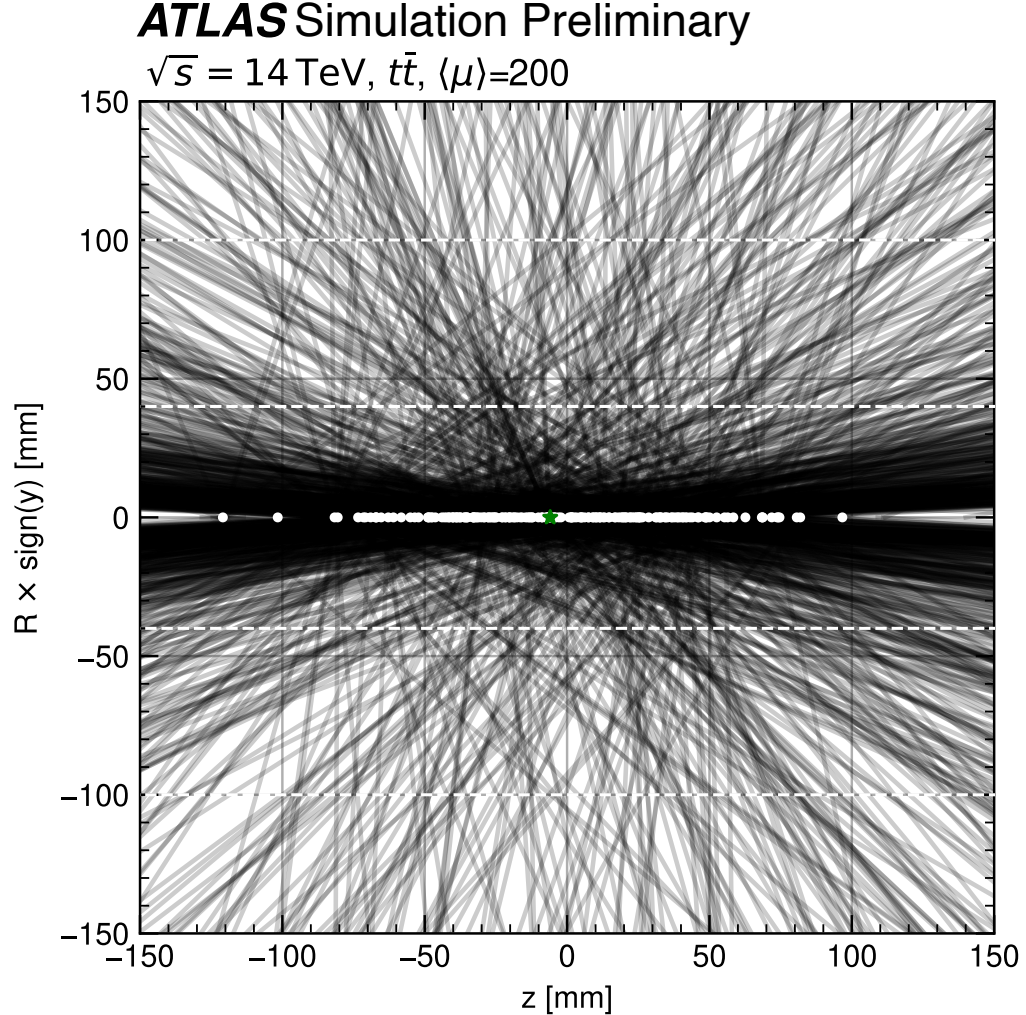
# Unfolding the 4-th Dimension



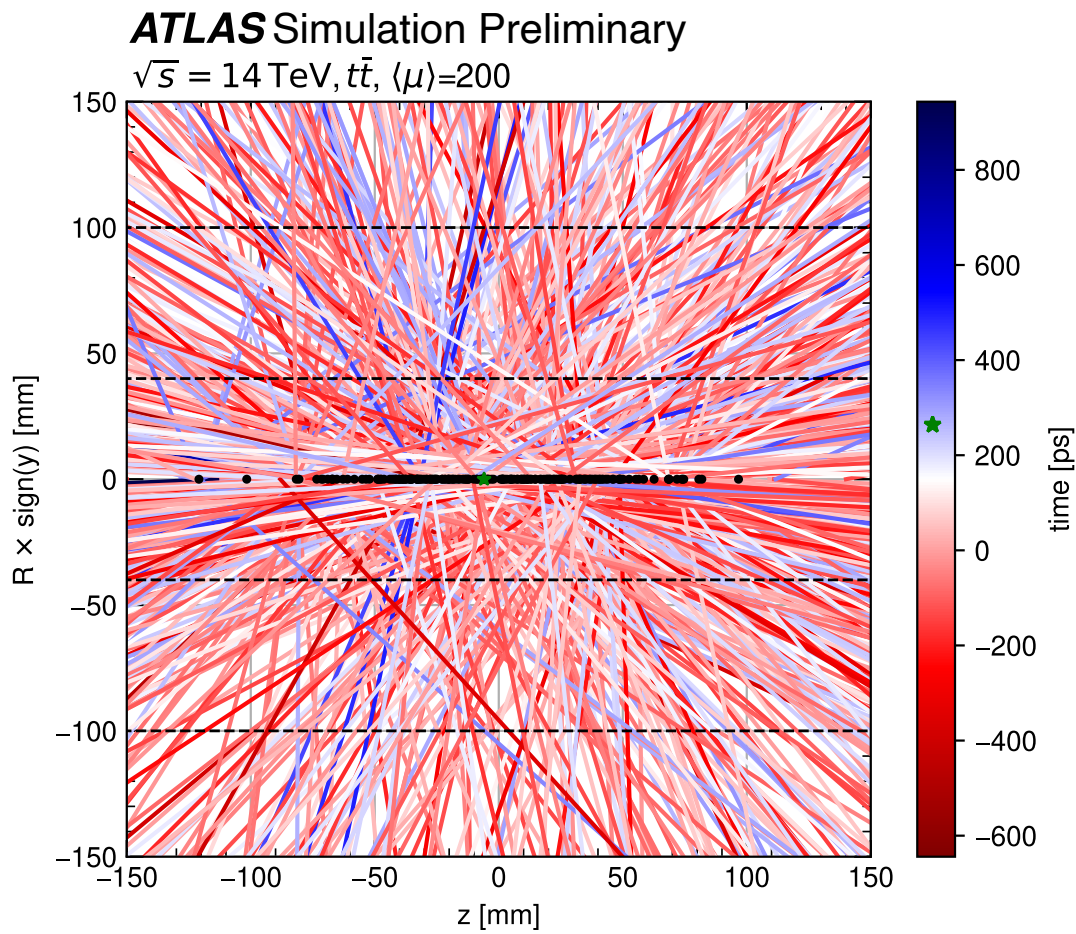
**without time**

All presented studies are based on MC simulations: [PUB Note](#)

# Unfolding the 4-th Dimension



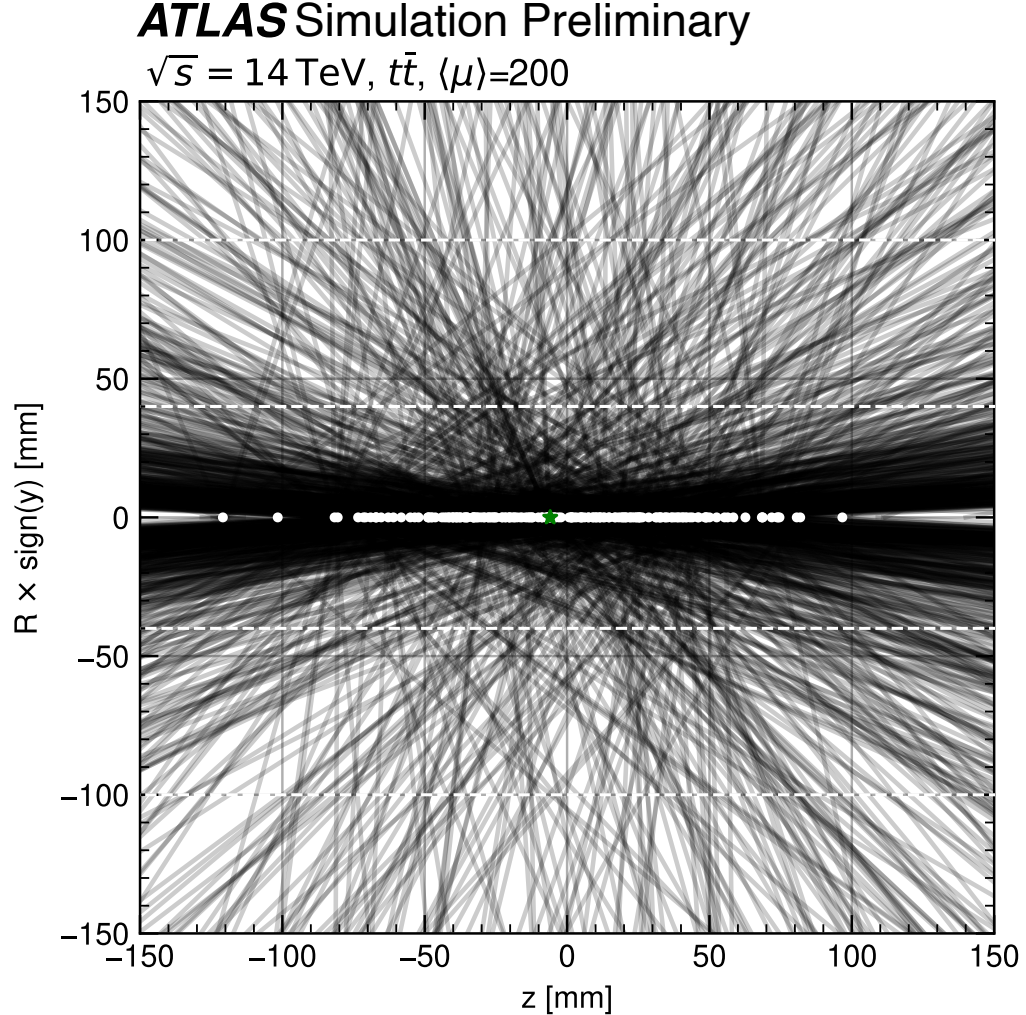
**without time**



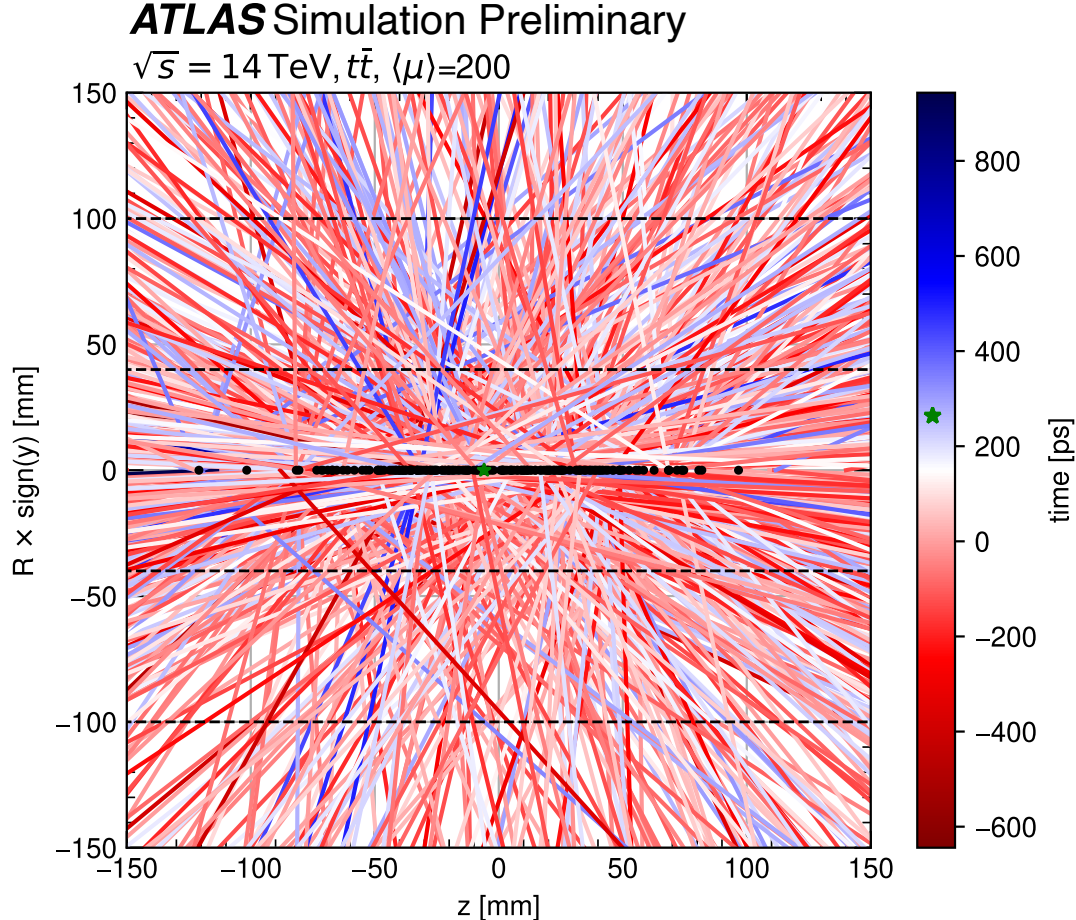
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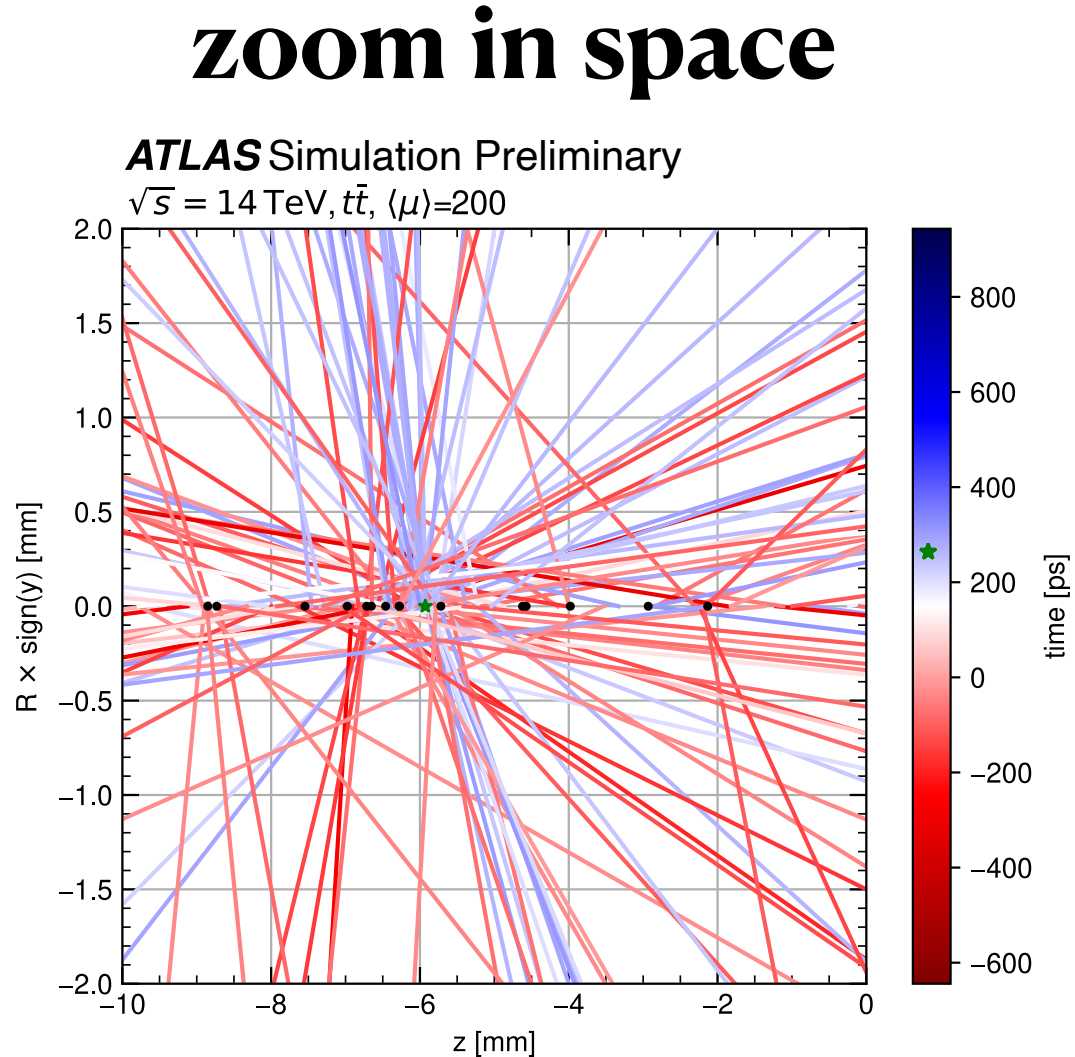
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without time

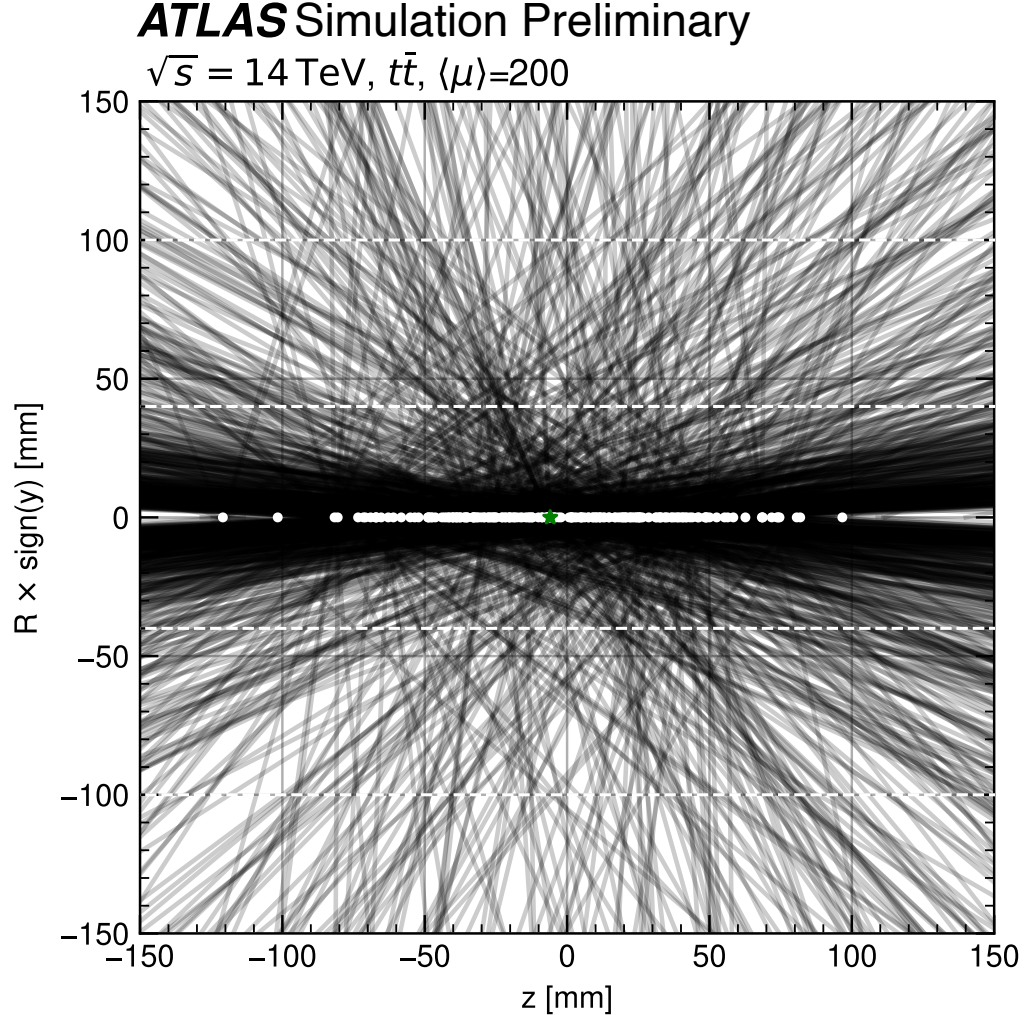


with time

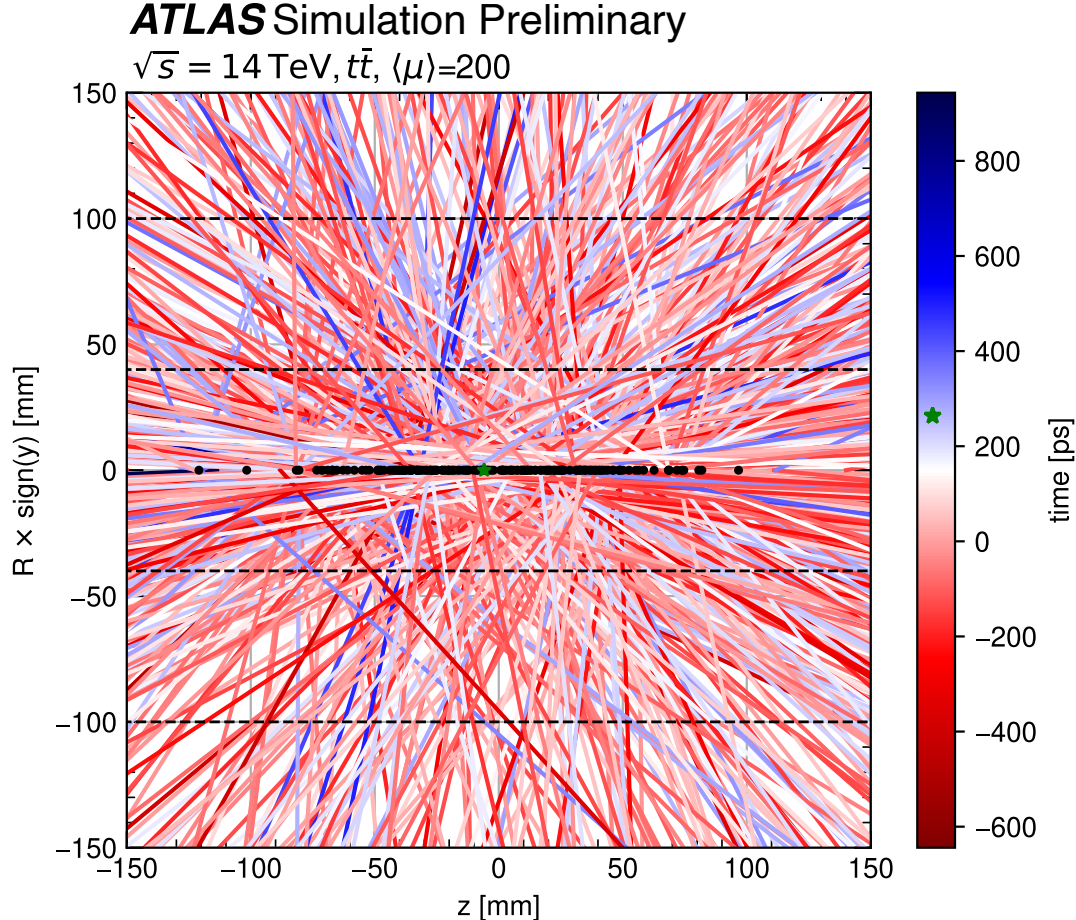


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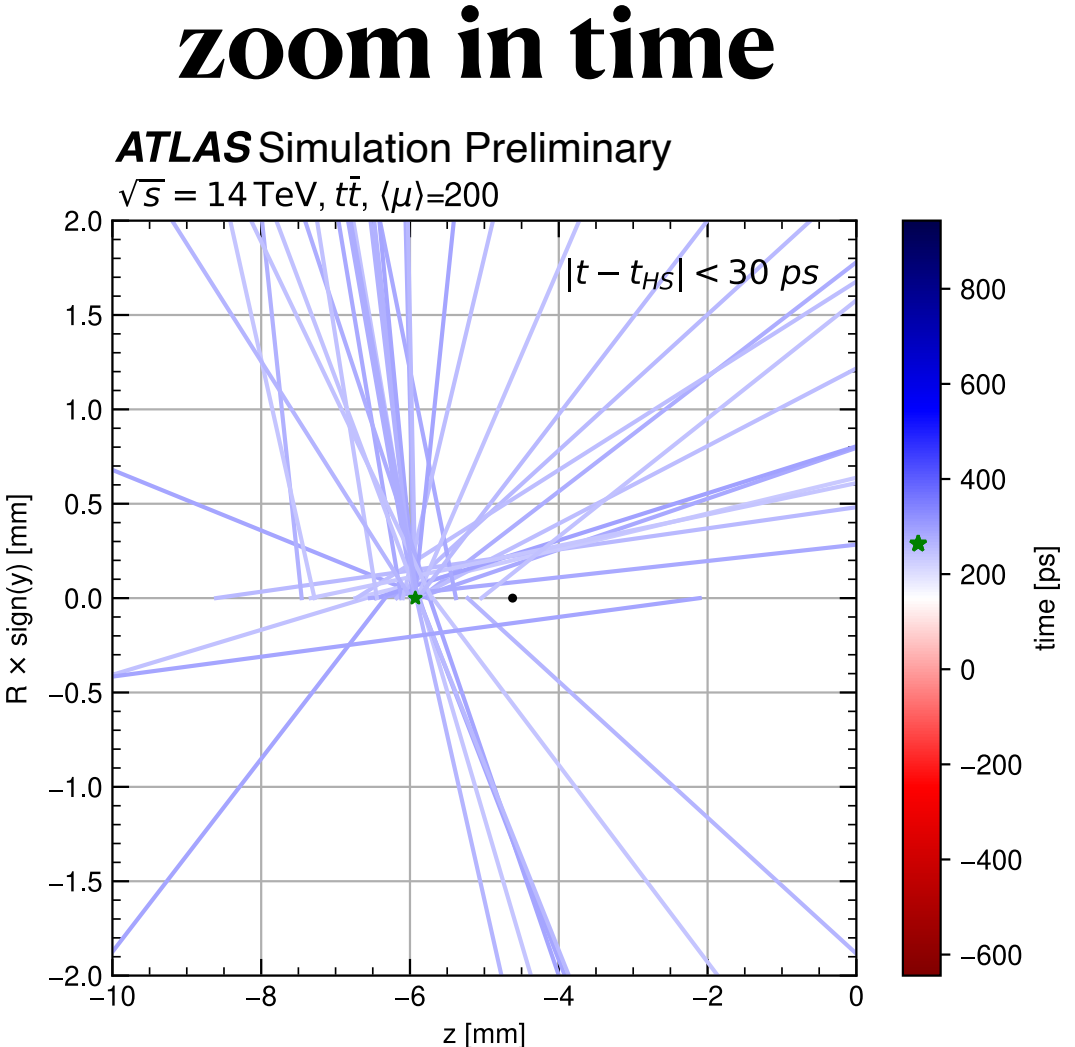
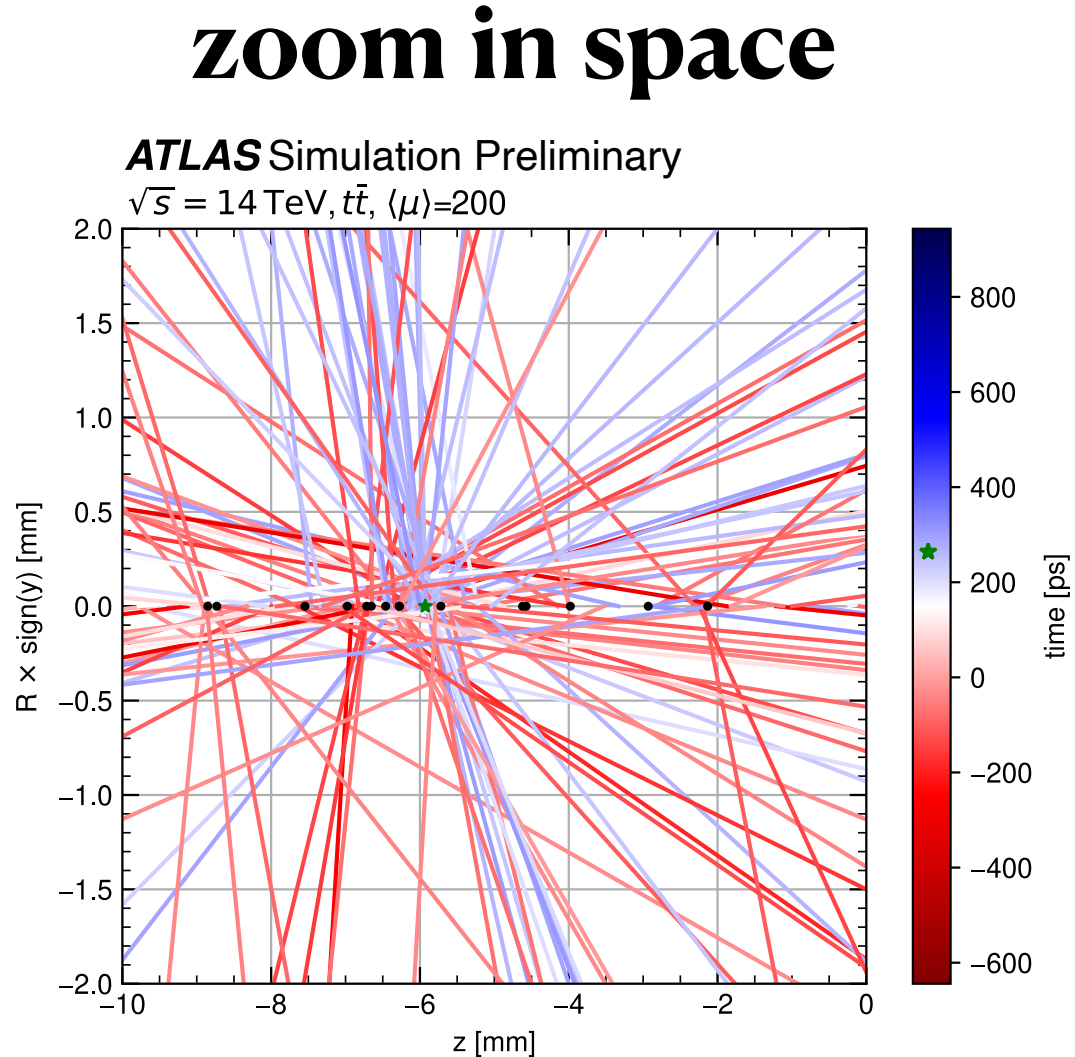
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without time

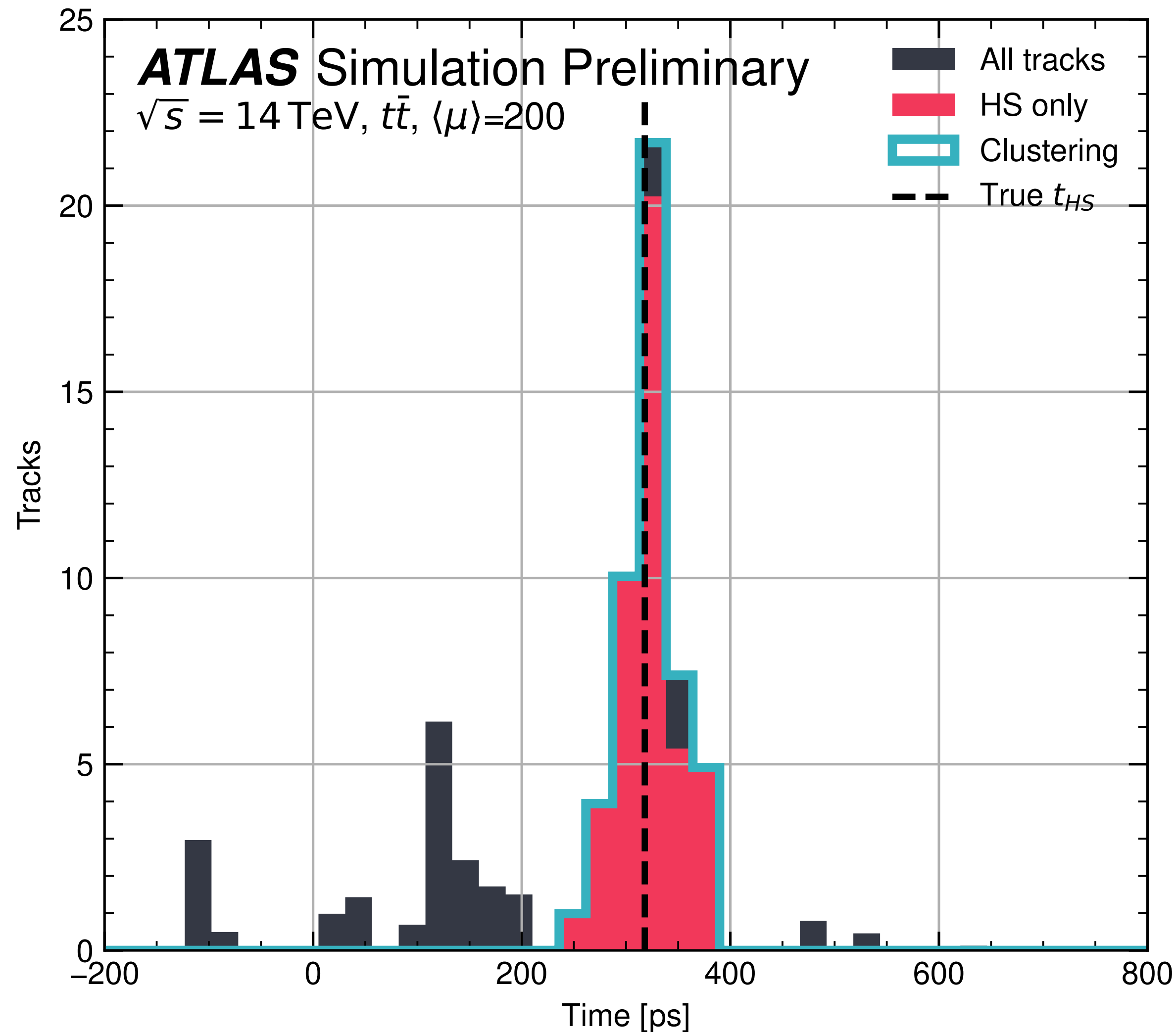


with time



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# Determination of $t_{HS}$



**Track time** emulated from **truth** level MC information

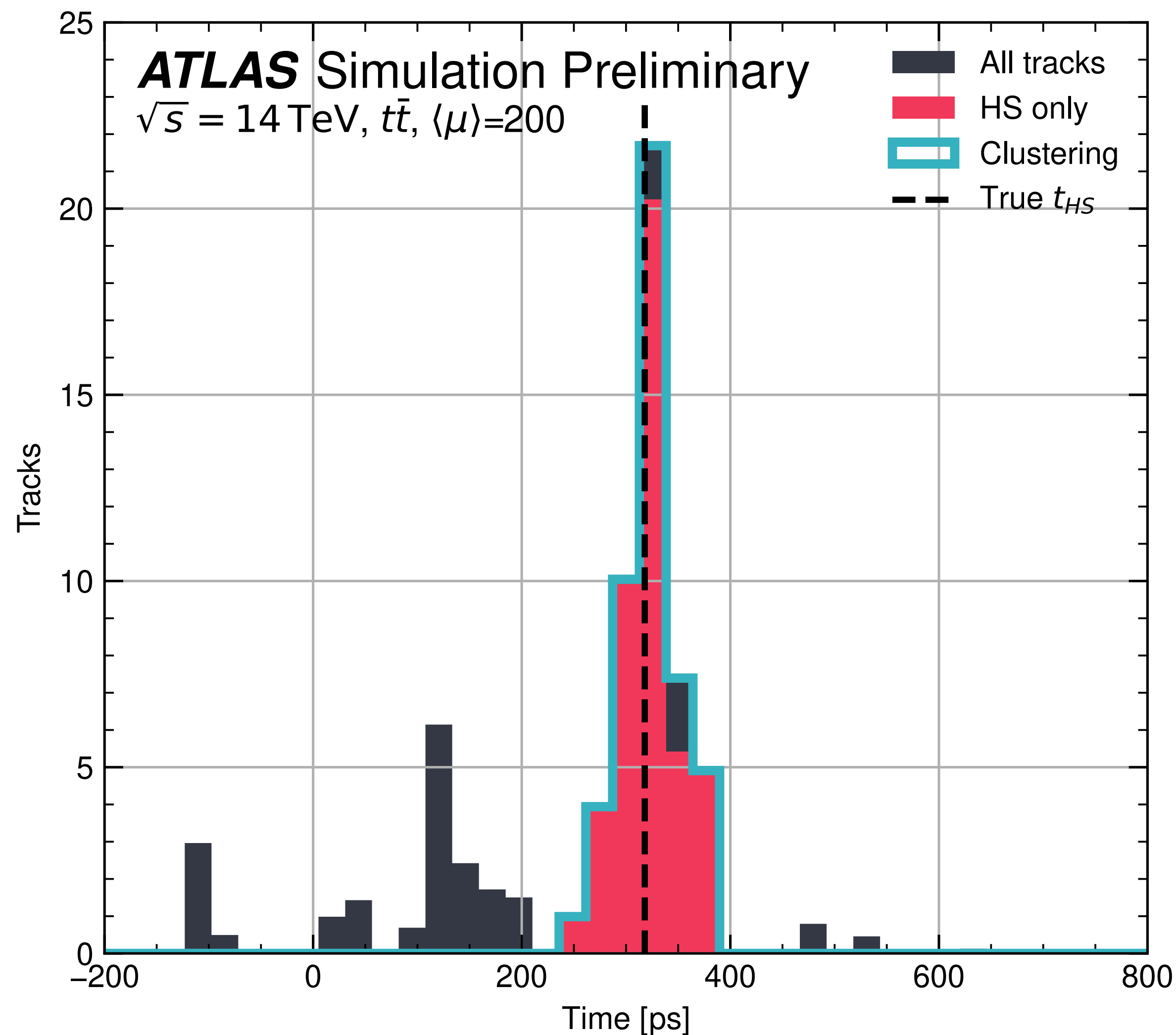
Track time distribution of  $vtx$

$$t_{all}^{reco} = \sum_{trk} t_{trk} w_{trk}$$

if we consider all the tracks associated to vertex from 3D-vertexing

Obs: this scan be seen as the case where no time information is available

# Vertexing: Determination of $t_{HS}$



**Track time emulated from truth level MC information**

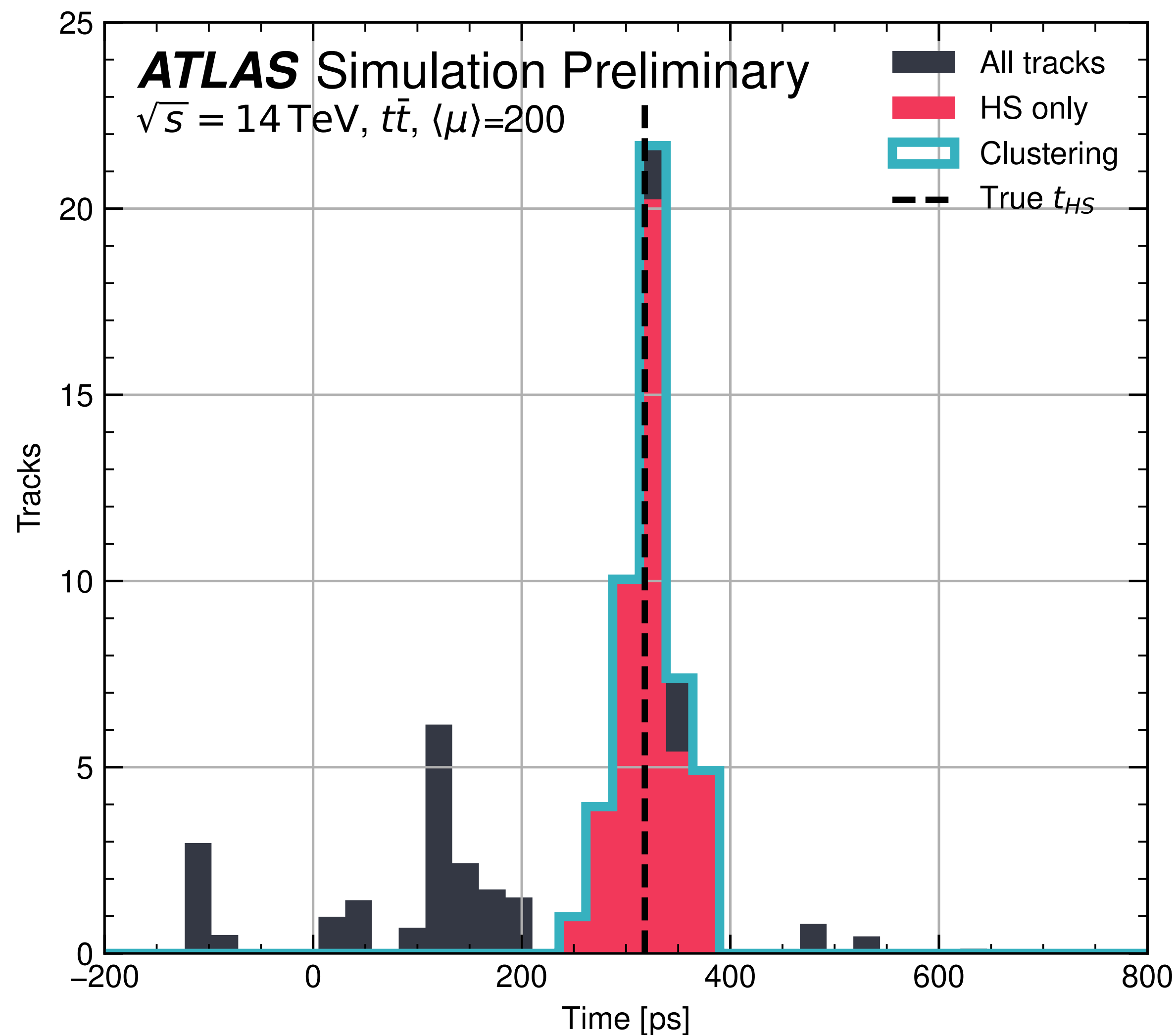
Track time distribution of  $vtx$

$$t_{all}^{reco} = \sum_{trk} t_{trk} w_{trk}$$

$$t_{HS}^{reco} = \sum_{trk \in HS} t_{trk} w_{trk}$$

Ideal Case selecting tracks from the HS

# Vertexing: Determination of $t_{HS}$



**Track time emulated from truth level MC information**

Track time distribution of  $v_{tx}$

$$t_{all}^{reco} = \sum_{trk} t_{trk} w_{trk}$$

$$t_{HS}^{reco} = \sum_{trk \in HS} t_{trk} w_{trk}$$

$$t_{clus}^{reco} = \sum_{trk \in clus} t_{trk} w_{trk}$$

DBSCAN Timing Clustering algorithm

Obs: This algorithm emulates a 4D Vertexing, 3D+1D

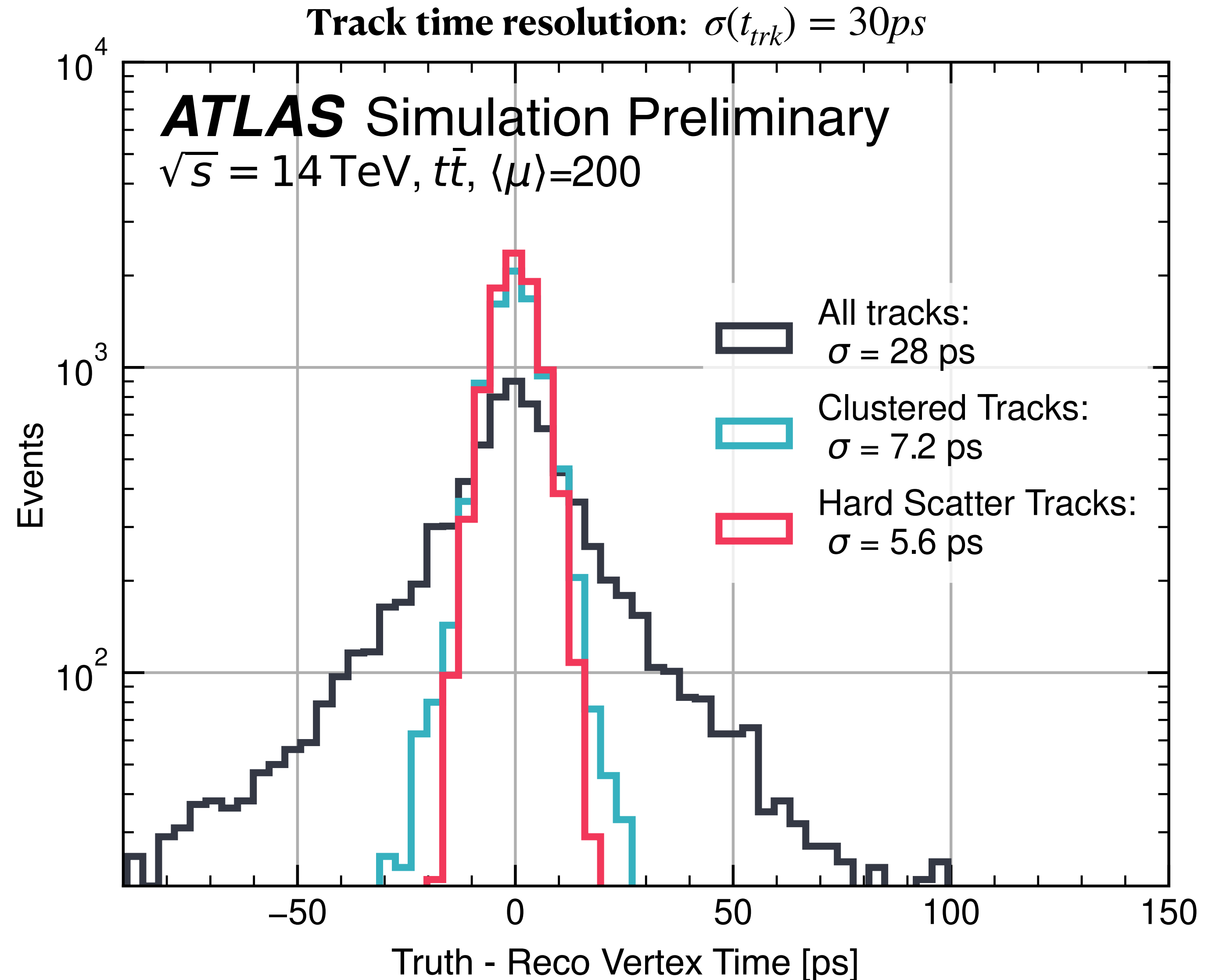
# Vertex time resolution

To extract the **vertex time resolution**,  $\sigma(t_{HS})$ , we can consider the standard deviation on the  $t_{HS}^{reco} - t_{HS}^{truth}$  distribution for the aforementioned cases

The distribution with **All tracks** corresponds to the case where no timing information is accessible.

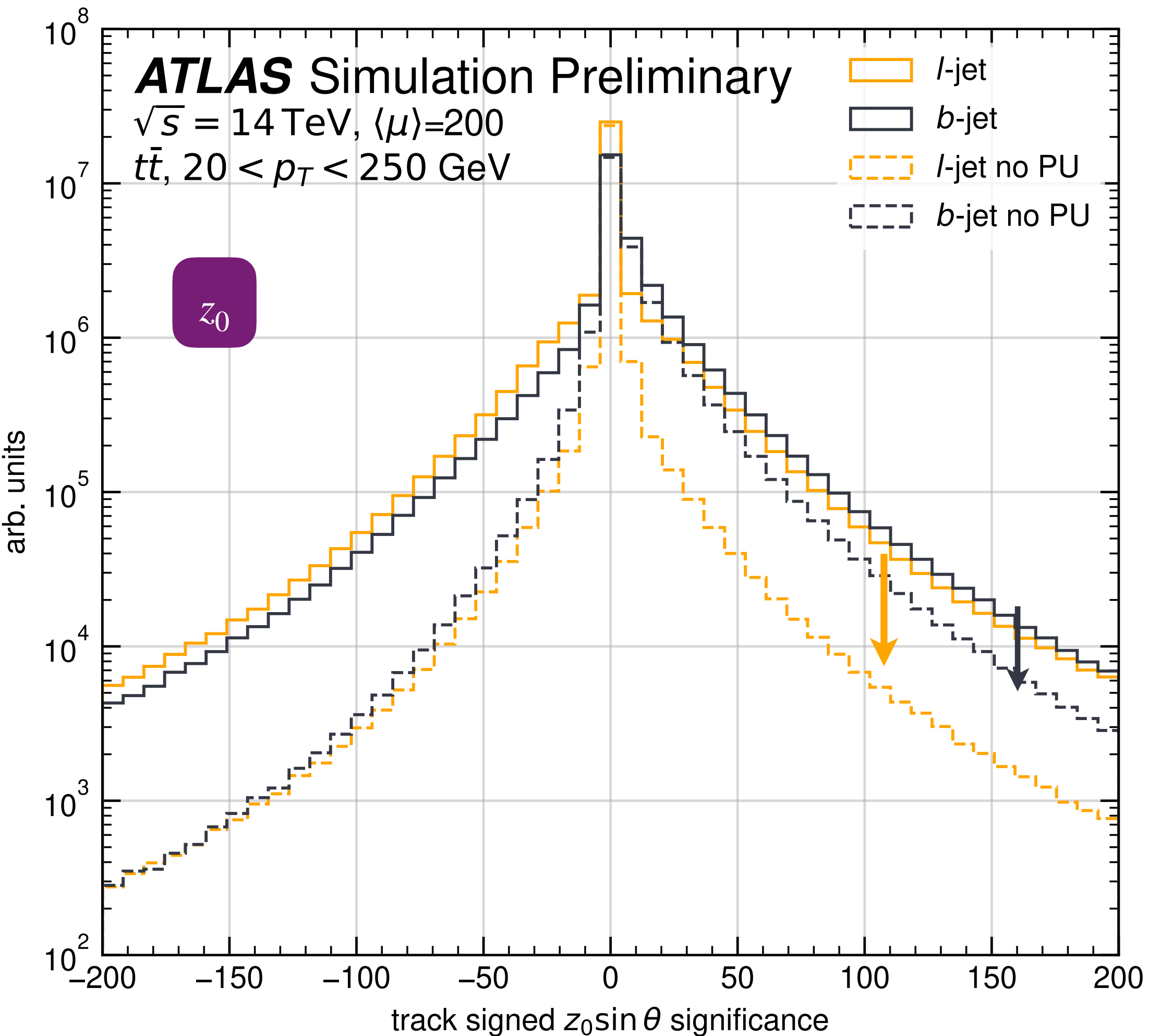
The **vertex time resolution** obtained with the **Clustering** is close to the **HS tracks** one corresponding to the ideal case where all the PU has been removed:

$$\sigma(t_{HS}): 28\text{ps} \rightarrow 7.2\text{ps} \text{ (} 5.6\text{ps)}$$



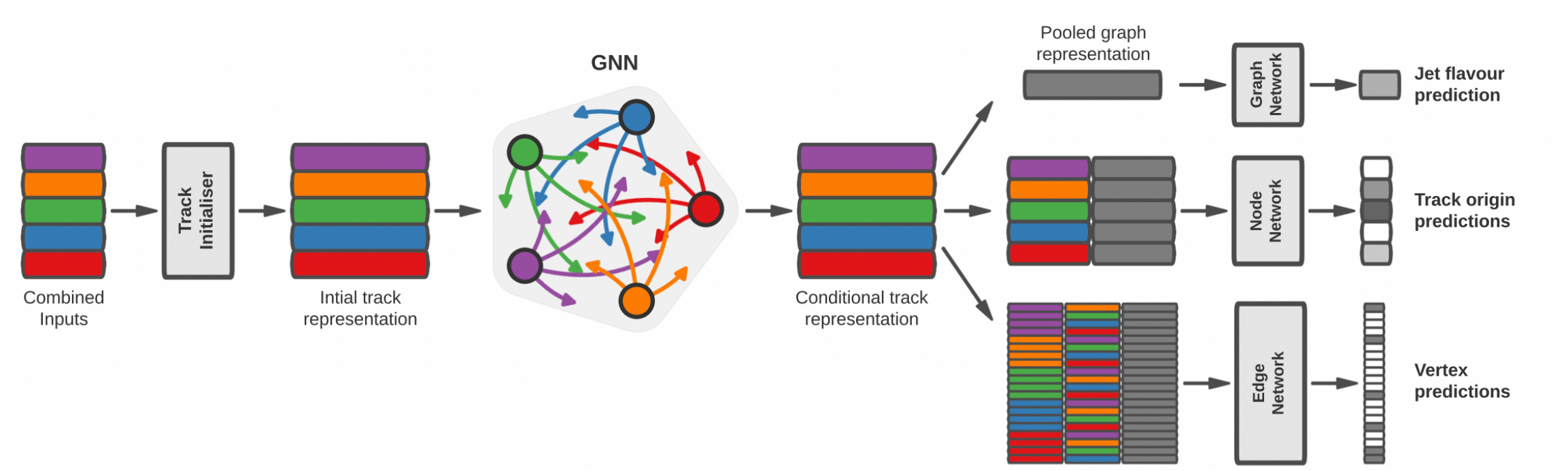


# Impact on Flavour Tagging



**Impact parameters** are the **most discriminant** variables in FTAG:  $(d_0, z_0)$

Being produced randomly along  $z$  **Pile-Up** will contaminate  $b$ -jets with **high longitudinal impact parameter** ( $z_0$ )



This study shows the impact of timing on the state-of-the-art GNN for FTag: GN1\*

\*GN1 evolving to GN2

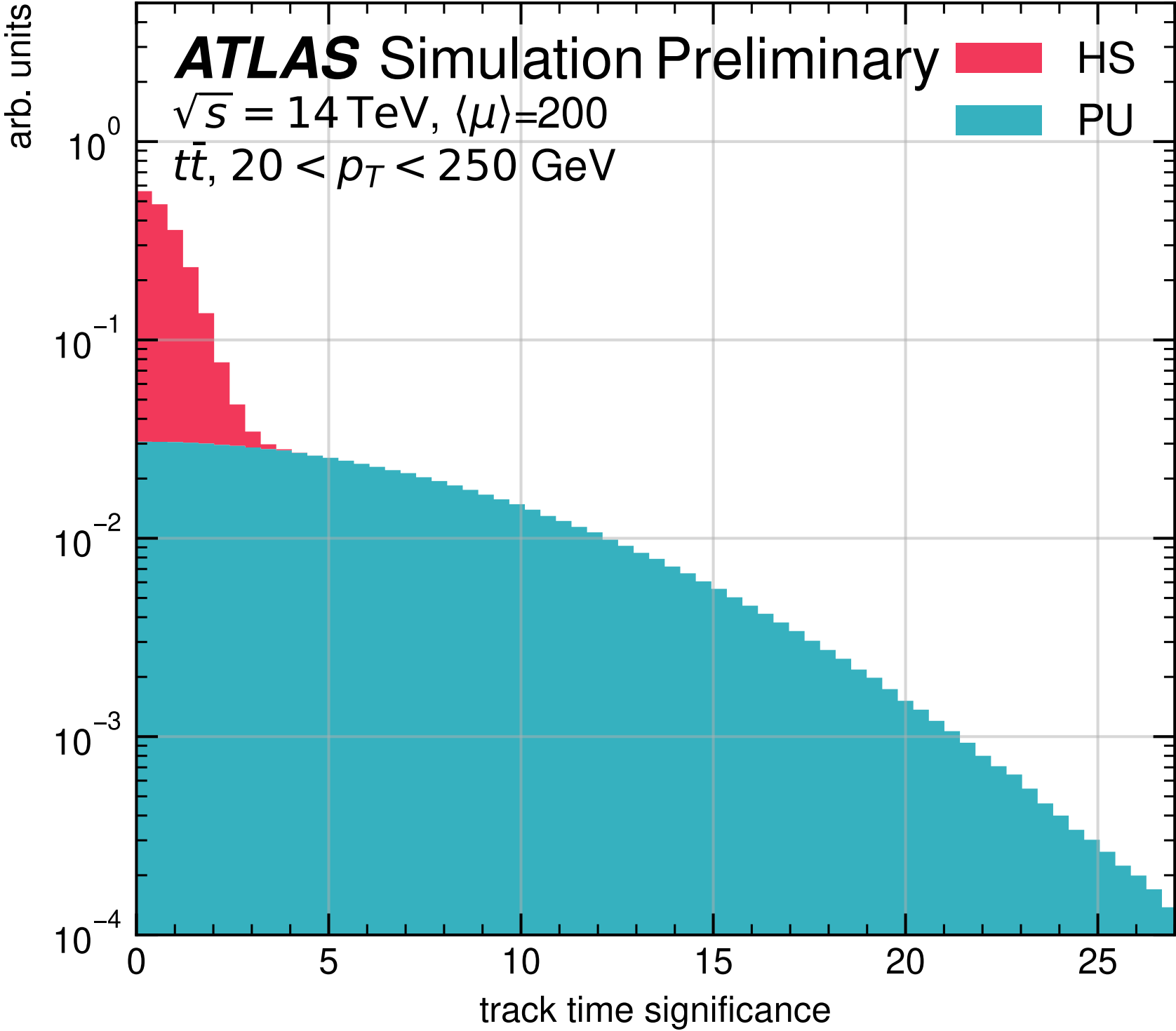
# Timing in GN1: GNT

Introduce a **new track input variable** based on time to discriminate between Pile-Up and HS

**Track time significance:**

$$s(t) = \frac{|t_{trk} - t_{HS}|}{\sigma_t}$$

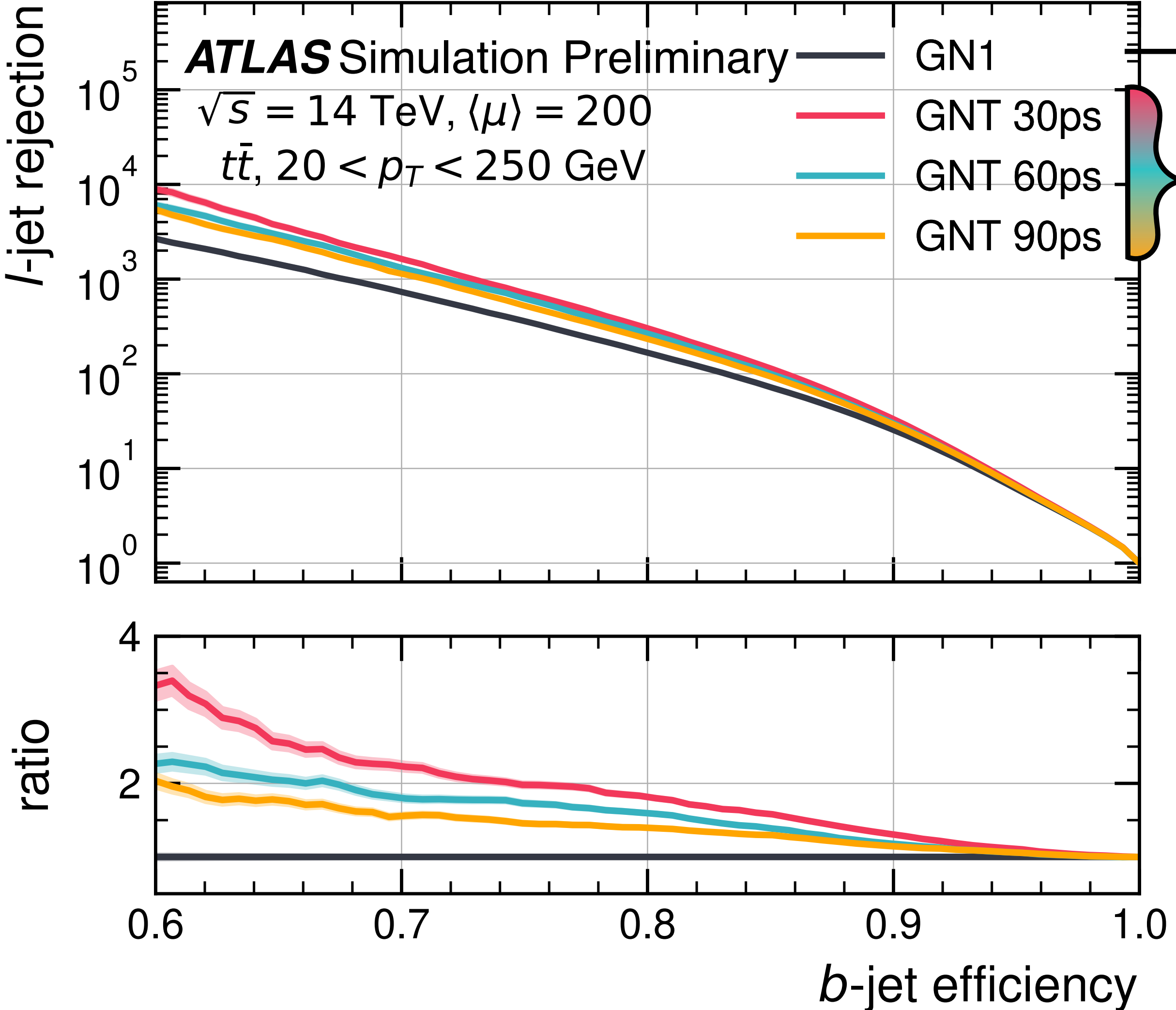
Having a precise  $t_{HS}$  is extremely important



Track Variables	GN1 ITk	GNT
d0	x	x
z0SinTheta	x	x
$\sigma(\text{Theta})$	x	x
qOverP	x	x
$\sigma(\text{qOverP})$	x	x
$\varphi$	x	x
$\sigma(\varphi)$	x	x
signed d0 significance	x	x
signed z0 significance	x	x
$\Delta\eta(\text{trk, jet})$	x	x
$\Delta\varphi(\text{trk, jet})$	x	x
n pix hits	x	x
n pix hits (11 variables)	x	x
$(t-t_{HS})/\sigma(t)$		x

GNT = GN1 + time significance

# Performances: ROC

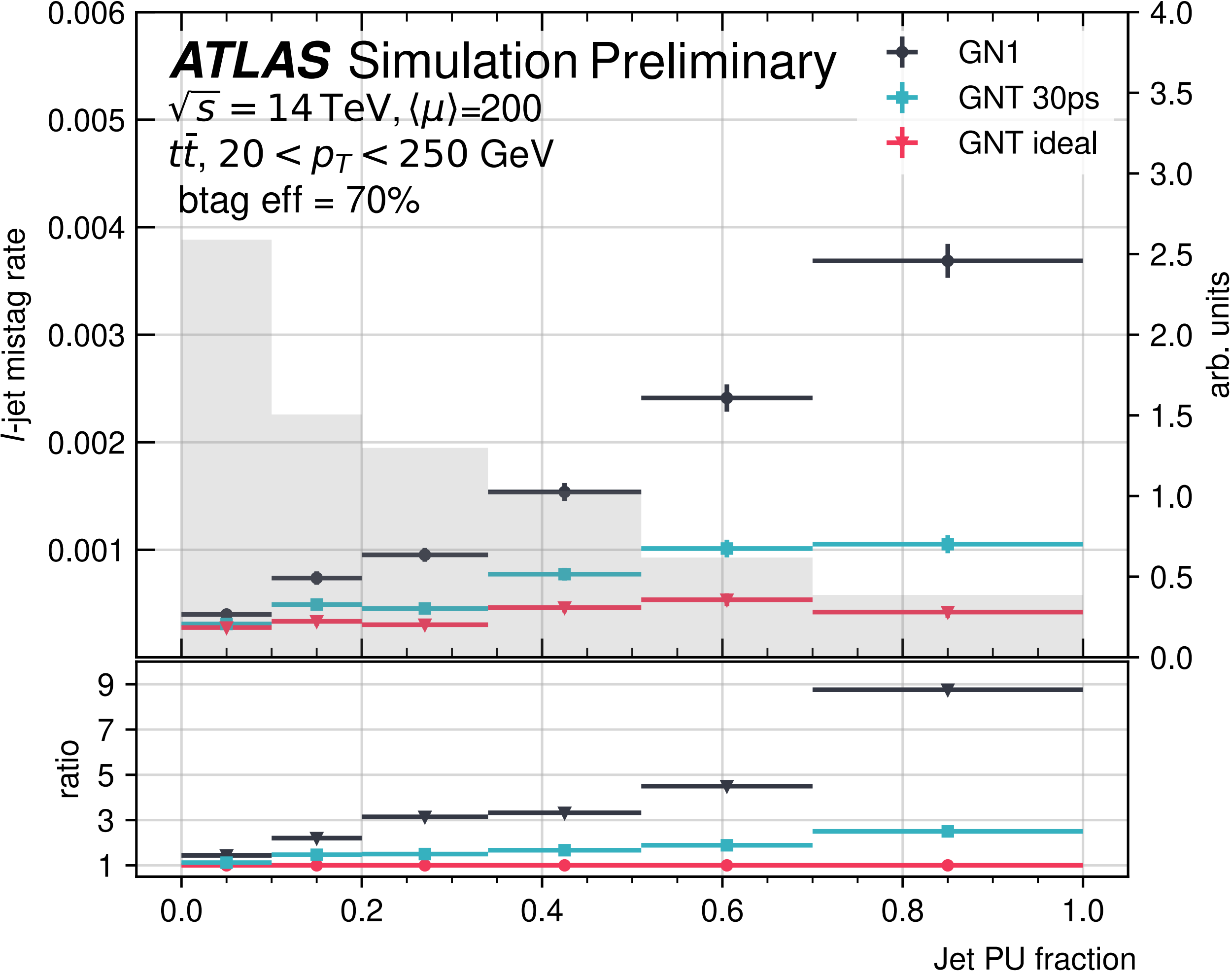


- 3D GN1 is the baseline without time
- 4D **GNT 30ps** is GN1+timing and 30ps smearing
- GNT 60ps** is GN1+timing and 60ps smearing
- GNT 90ps** is GN1+timing and 90ps smearing

**Up to a factor of 3 improvement** in  $l$ -jet rejection **with 30ps** smearing on already great performances of GN1

With lower track time resolution the improvement is less prominent but still solid

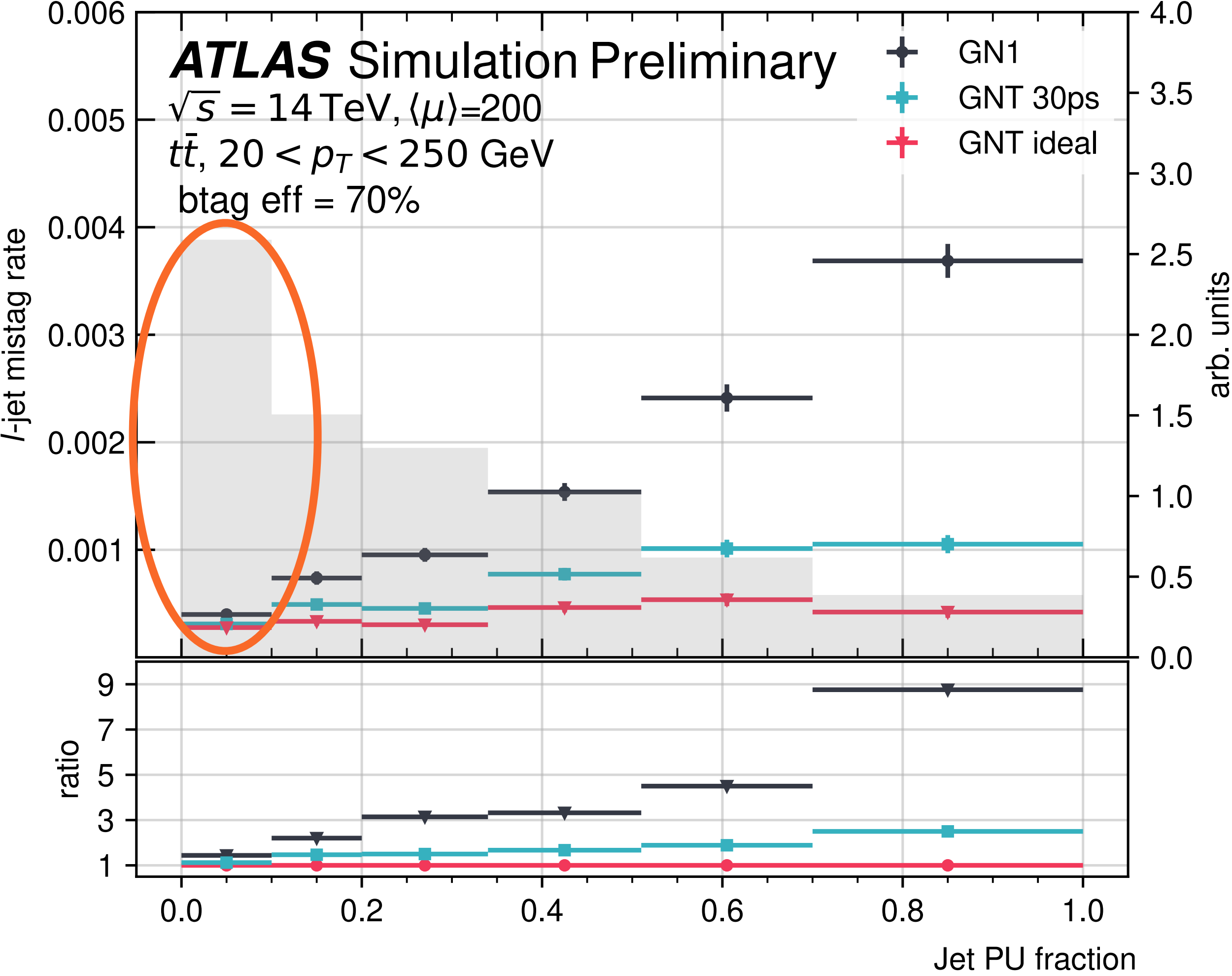
# Jet Pile-Up Contamination



To understand the improvement obtained it is possible to define:

$$\text{Jet PU fraction} = \frac{\#trk_{PU}}{\#trk}$$

# Jet Pile-Up Contamination

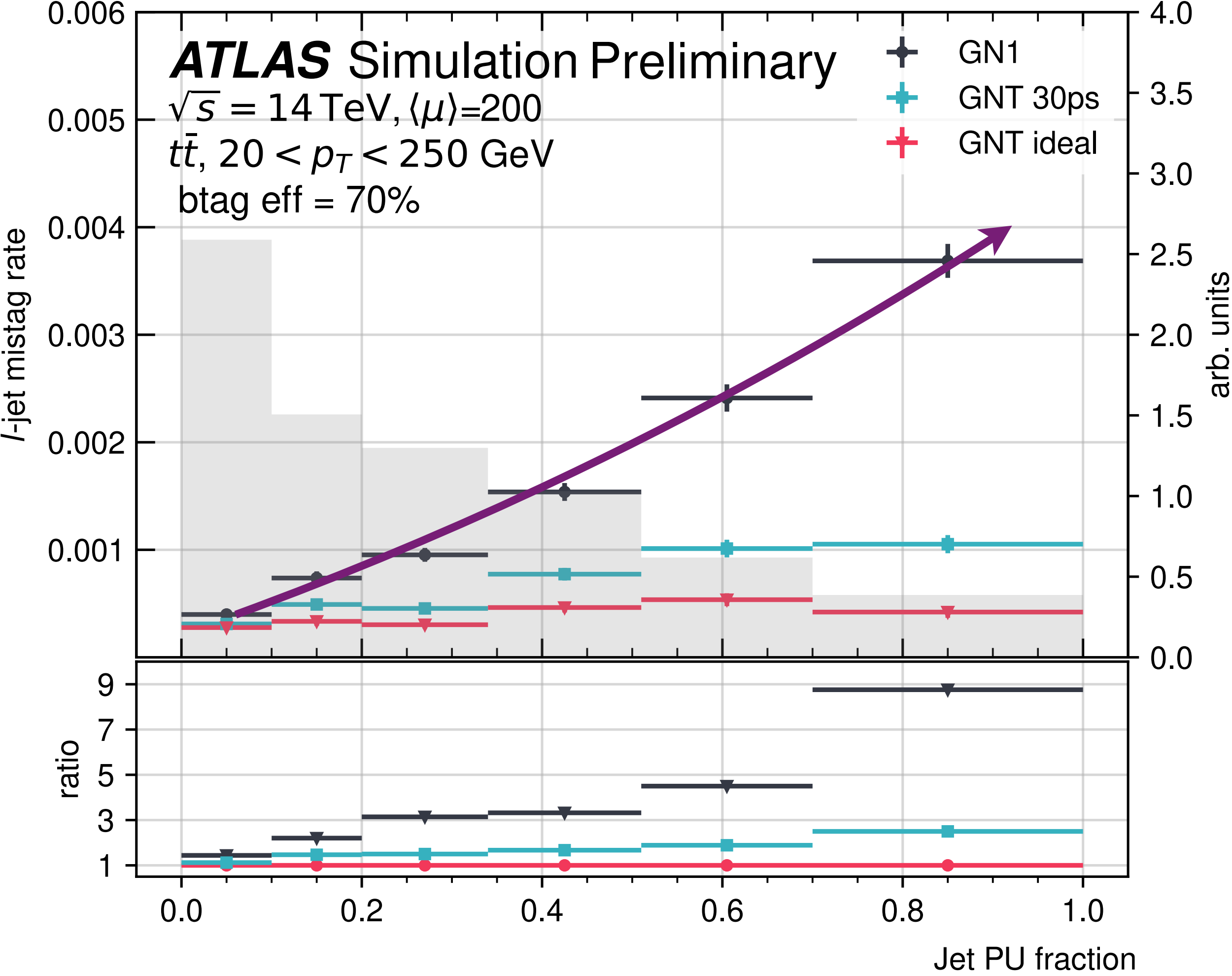


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The PU fraction distribution **peaks at low values** meaning that with ITk Jets are mainly "clean"

# Jet Pile-Up Contamination



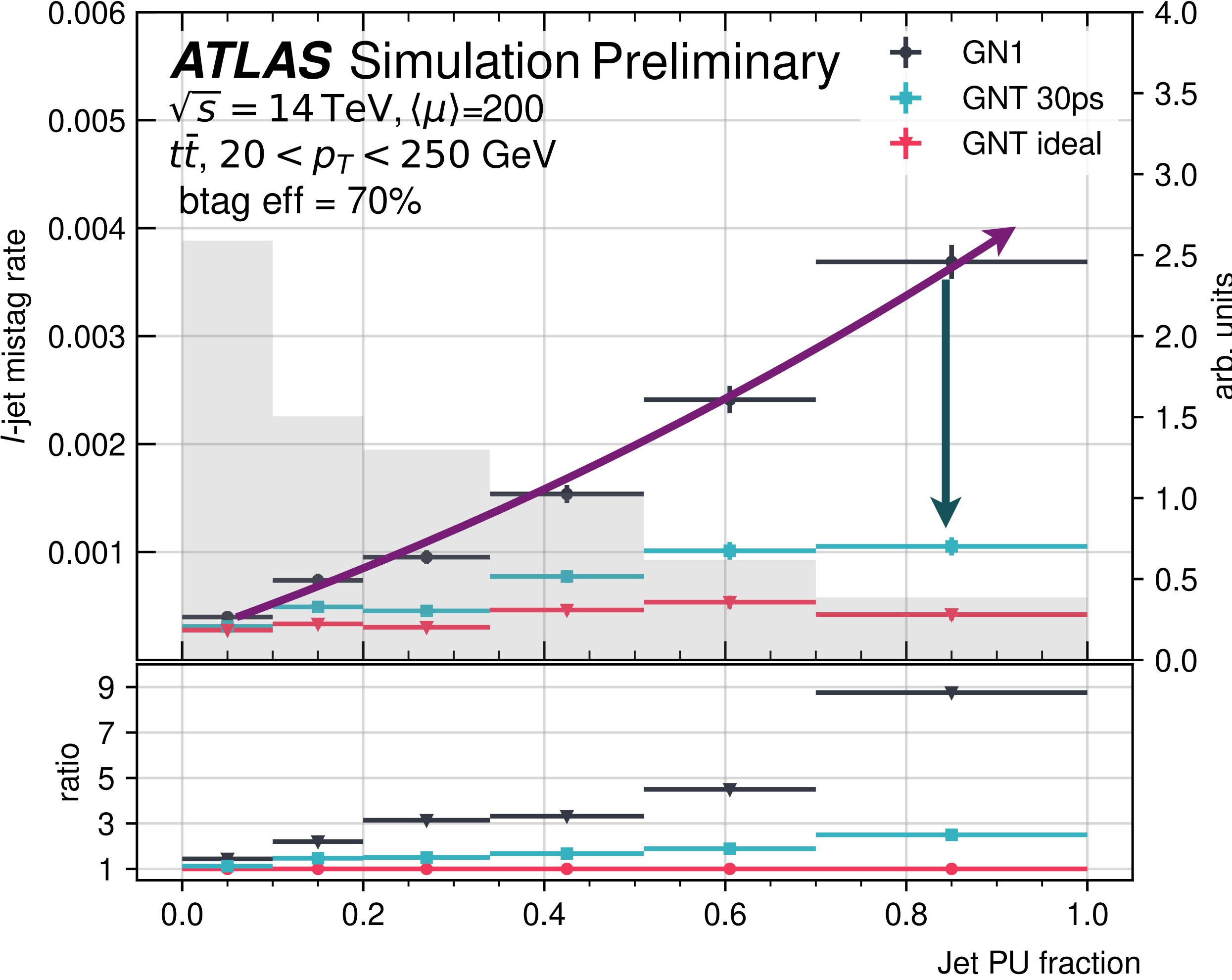
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The PU fraction distribution **peaks at low values** meaning that with ITk Jets are mainly “clean”

Nonetheless the **light-mistag** rate **increases** with Pile-Up contamination

With timing information this trend **gets flattened**

# Impact on Physics Analysis: HH

Timing could have **great impact** on all the Higgs program

**b-tagging** has a huge impact on **Di-Higgs** analyses

$HH \rightarrow bb\gamma\gamma$  in the right plot

How the **HH sensitivity improve** as a function of the **b-tagging efficiency**?

**4% b-tagging improvement** can lead to up to **0.3 $\sigma$  significance improvement!**

**Obs:** Timing could be **available only on partial HL-LHC statistics**





# Conclusion

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This presentation shows the impact of **track reconstruction with timing** on the **physics program** ATLAS for the HL-LHC program

**Modern detectors and algorithms** are solid against **Pile-Up**, but a fraction is still observed

The work suggest that 4D tracking with **hermetic coverage** can potentially **improve performances** impacting physics cases

These results motivate in-depth studies with **more realistic detector** assumptions and also state of the art algorithms such as GN2

Similar studies are on-going to see the impact on **c-tagging/tau-identification**

**Technology challenge** requires great effort and R&D



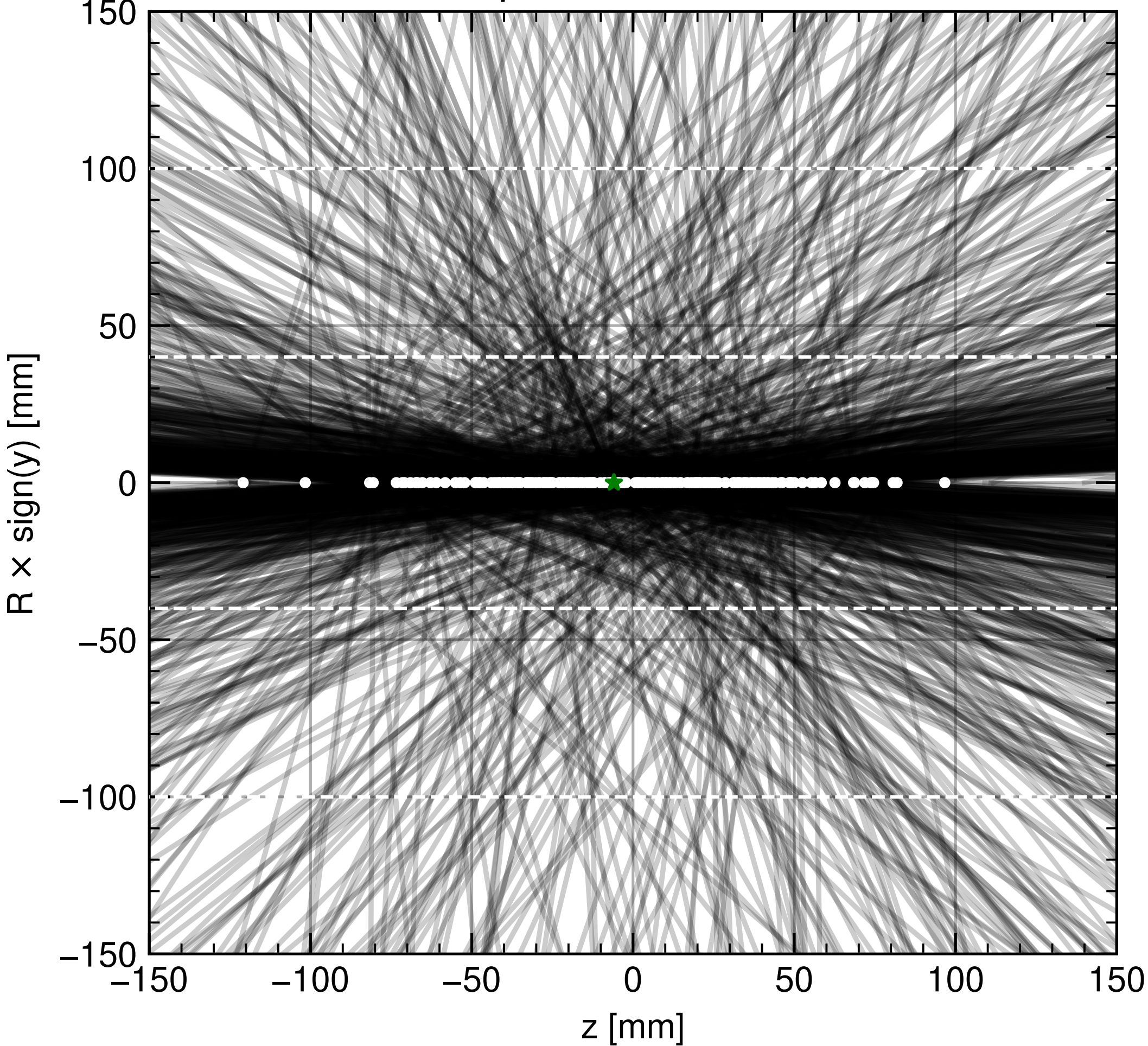
# Backup



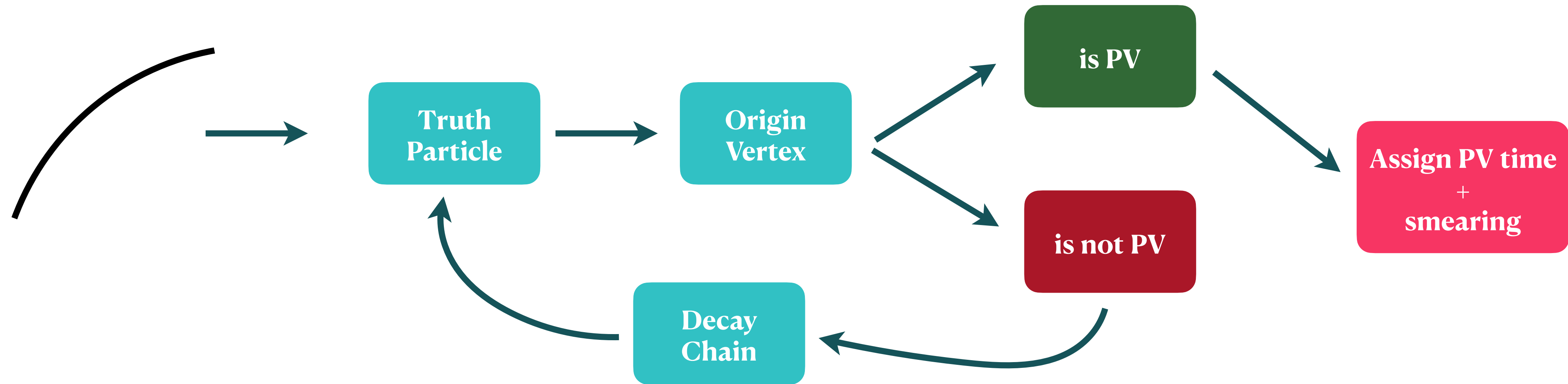
# Unfolding the 4-th Dimension

**ATLAS Simulation Preliminary**

$\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}, t\bar{t}, \langle\mu\rangle=200$



# Track Time assignment



Track time assignment from truth level information  
Gaussian smearing to emulate the timing resolution

Cases considered:  $\sigma(t_{trk}) = 30ps, 60ps, 90ps$

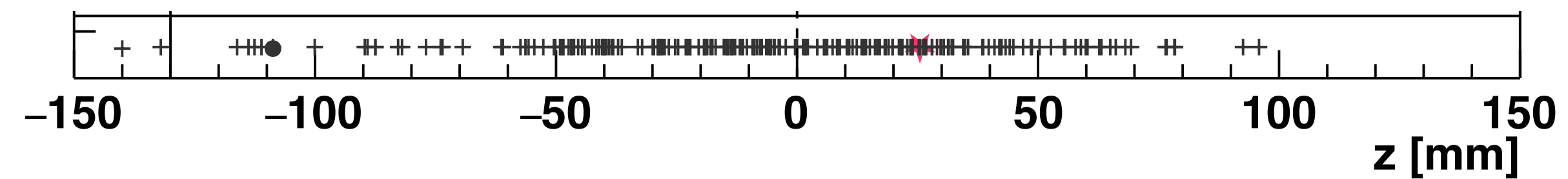
Perfect resolution when no smearing is applied

A relevant quantity is the relative time with respect to the Hard Scatter as:

$$t_{trk} - t_{HS}$$

# What if we have time?

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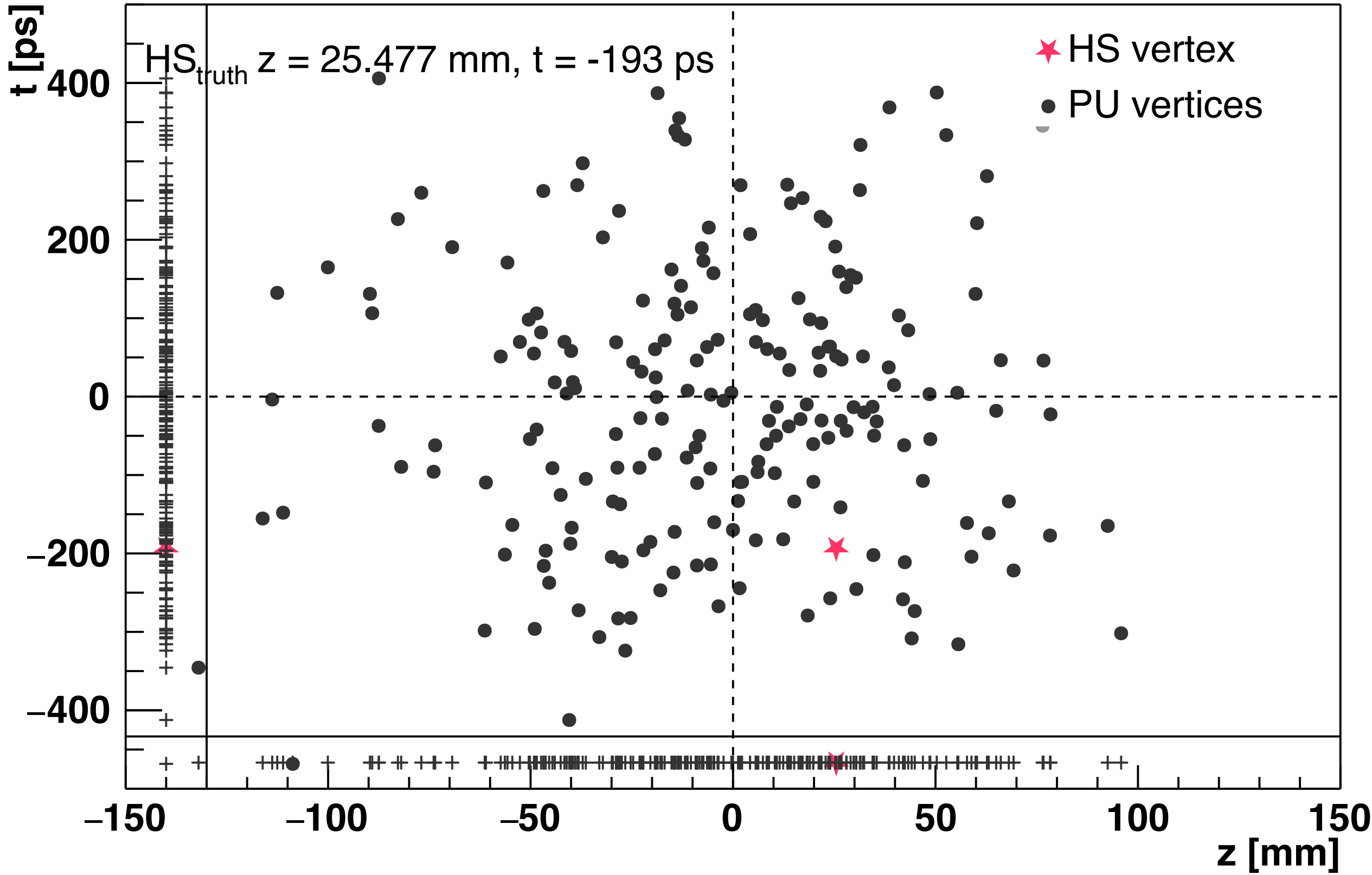


Event display from **truth** MC  $t\bar{t}$

PU:  $\langle\mu\rangle = 200$



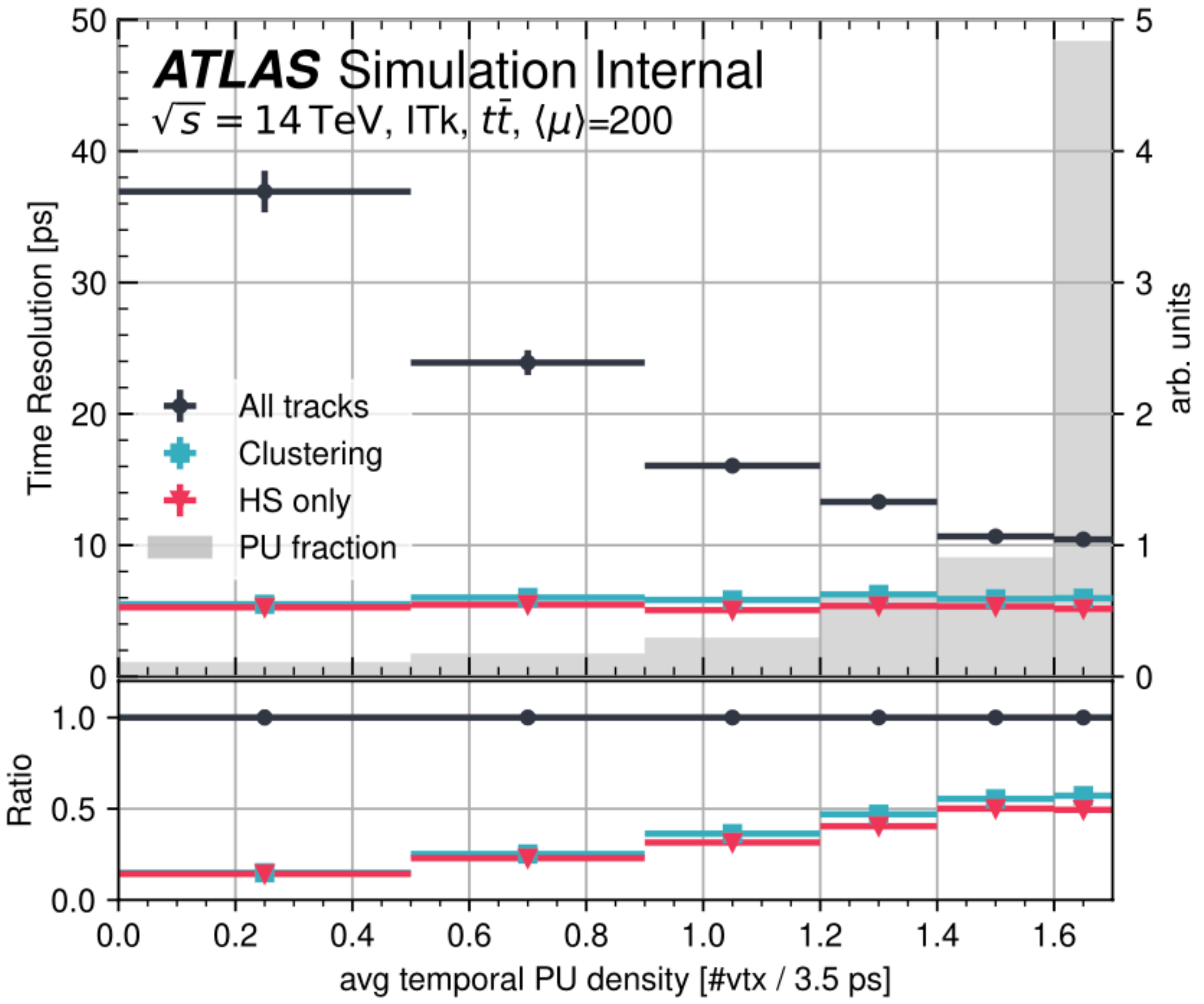
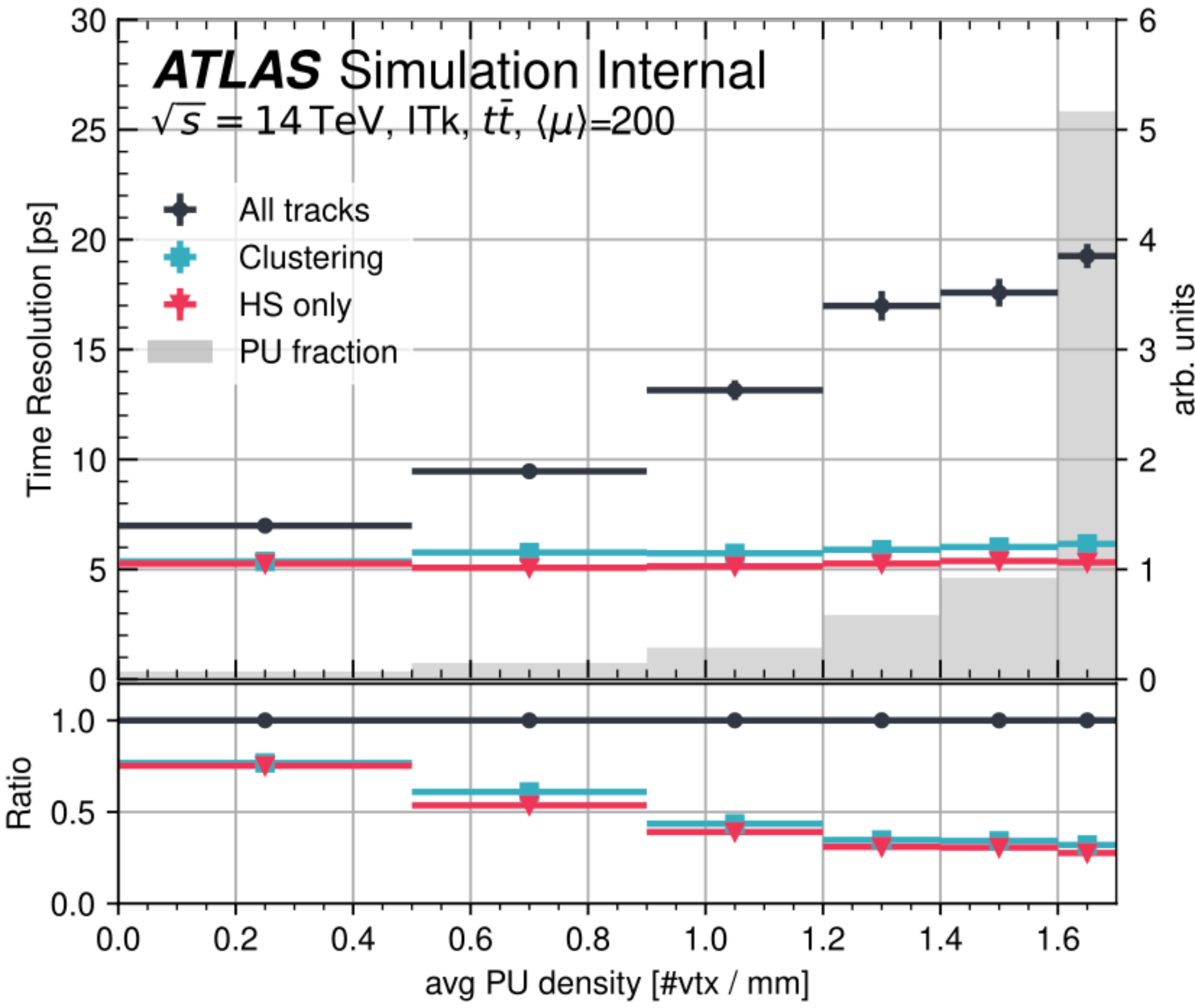
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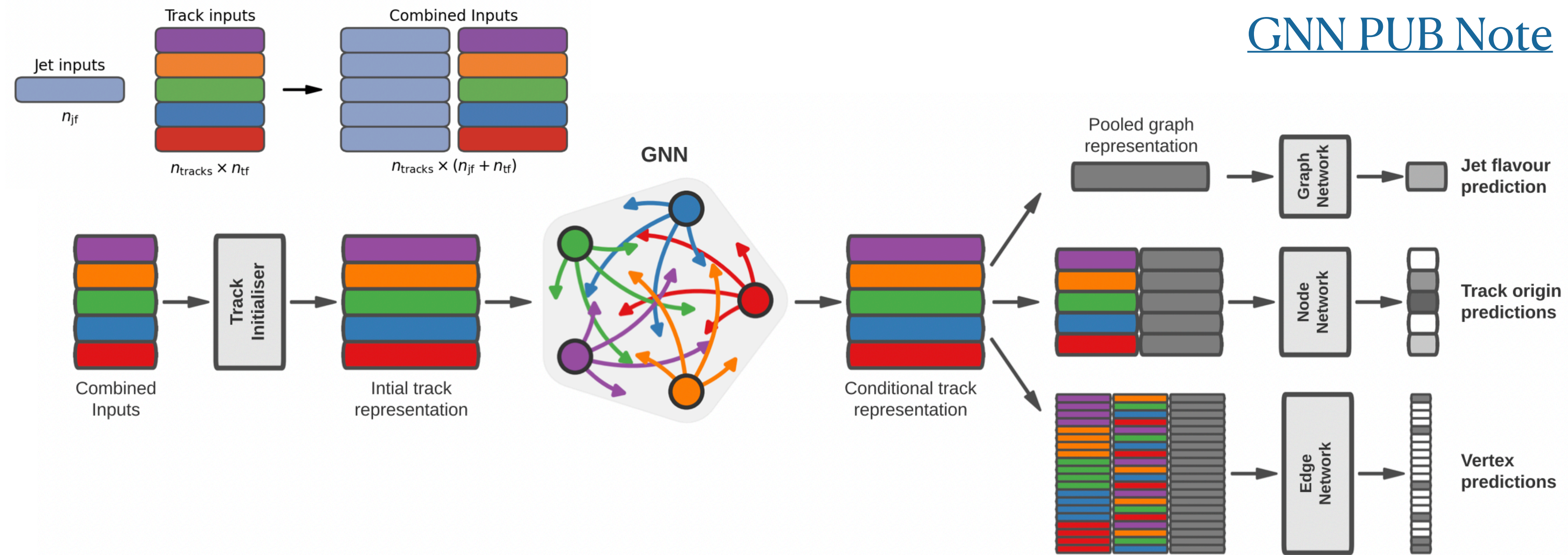
PU:  $\langle \mu \rangle = 200$

# Backup



In both cases the distribution gets flattened

# Graph Neural Networks for FTAG



Impact of timing on the state-of-the-art GNN for FTag: GN1\*

Tracks associated to the Jet as input to the GNN predicting the flavour

Auxiliary tasks for Vertex prediction and Track classification



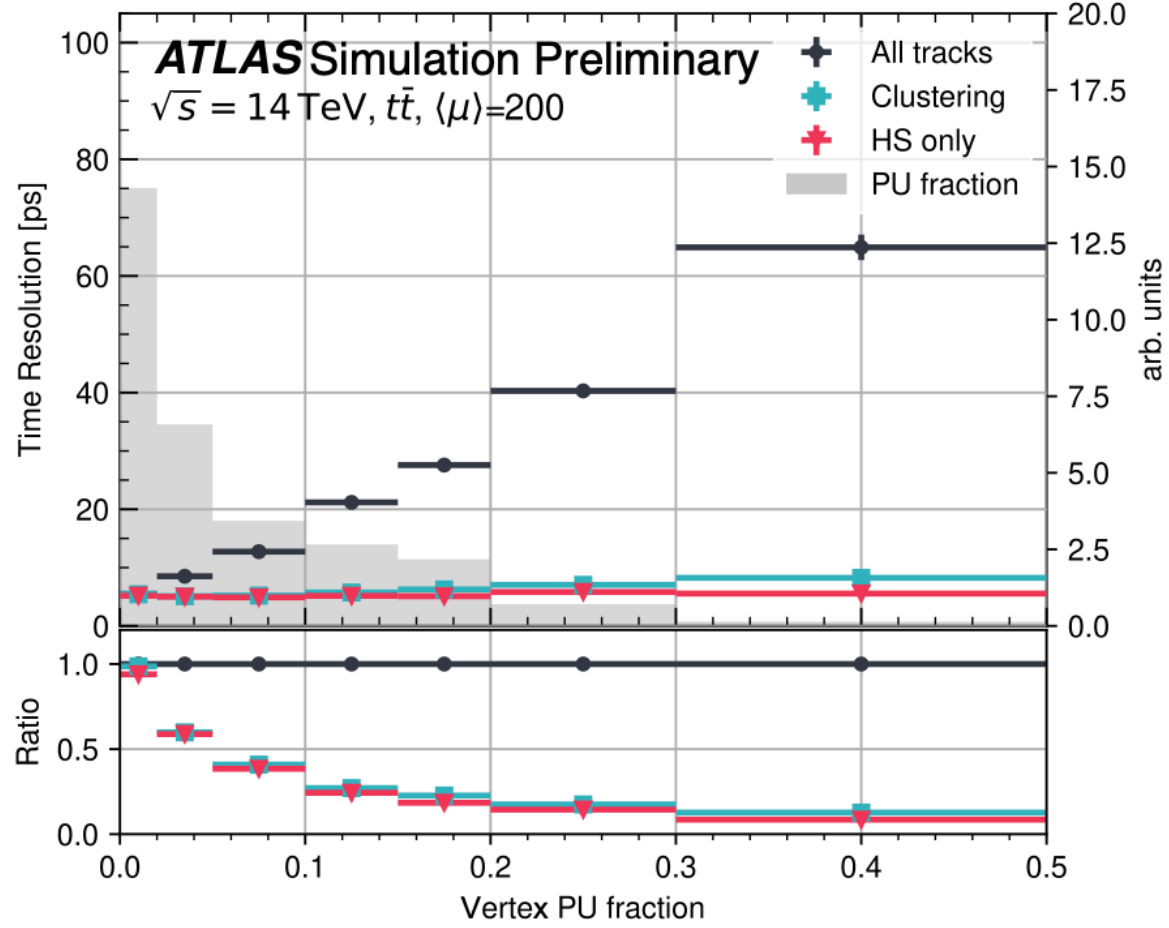
# Vertex Pile-Up Contamination

To understand where the improvement comes from a Pile-Up dependent variable is built:

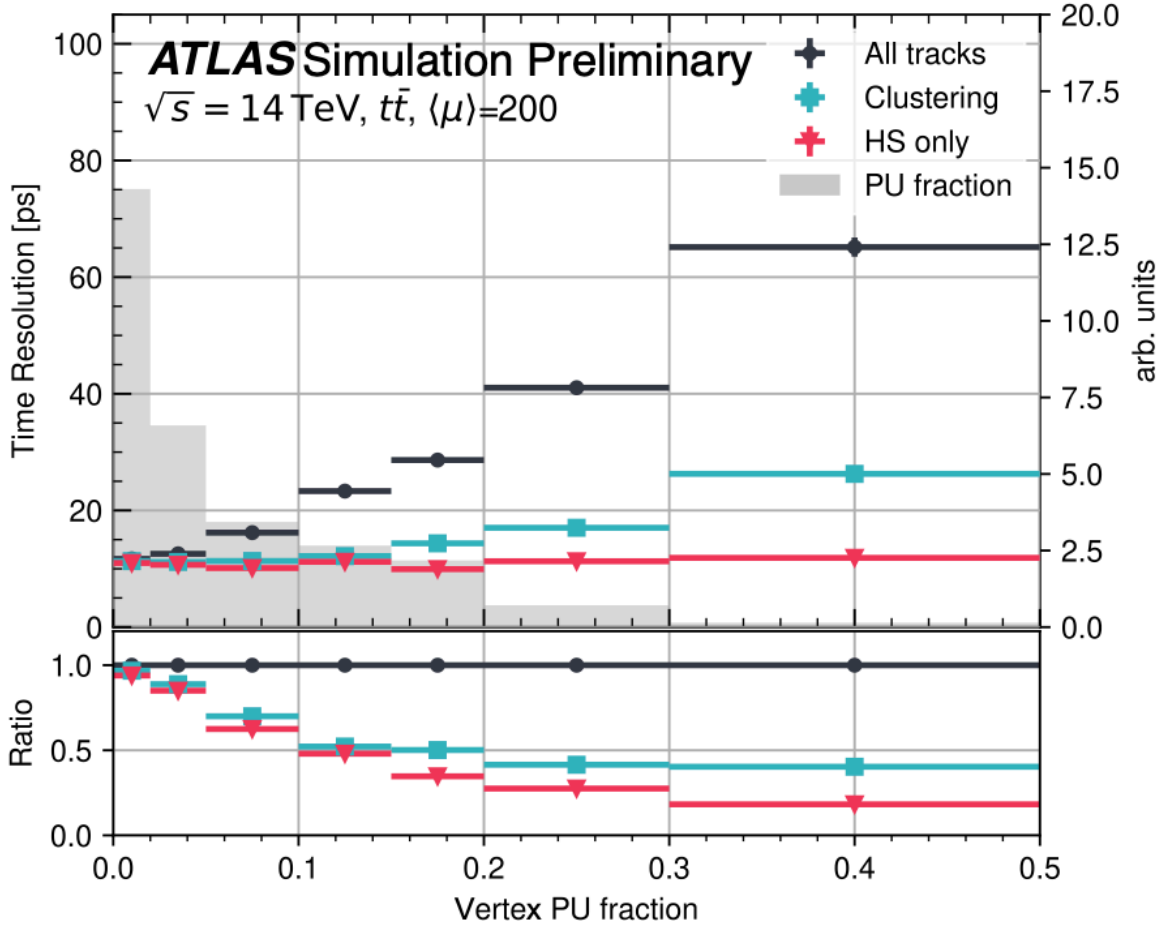
$$\text{vtx PU fraction} = \frac{\#trk_{PU}}{\#trk}$$

Dependence of  $\sigma(t_{HS})$  vs *PU fraction*

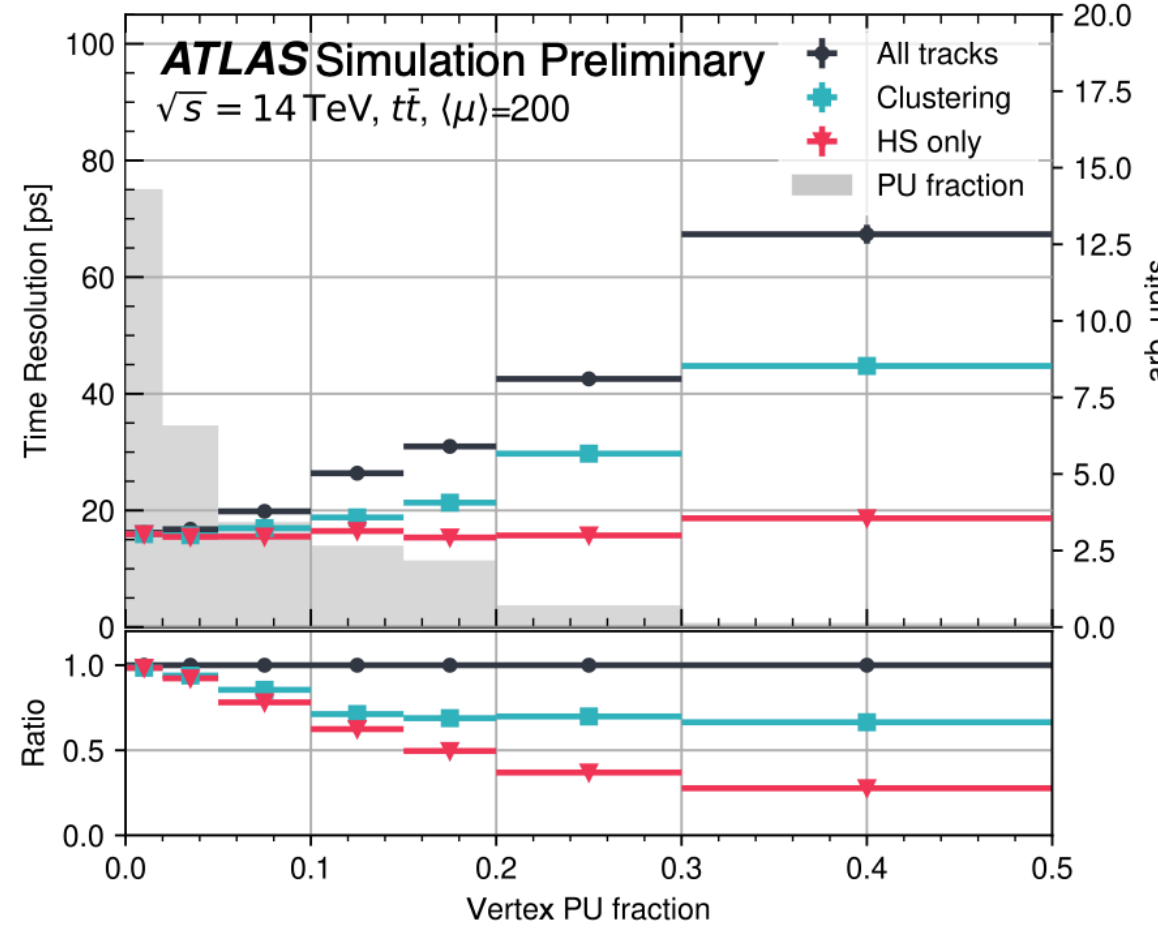
Degrading the track time resolution  $\sigma(t_{HS})$  the improvement is lower as expected and the distribution is less flat



(a) 30 ps track-time resolution



(b) 60 ps track-time resolution



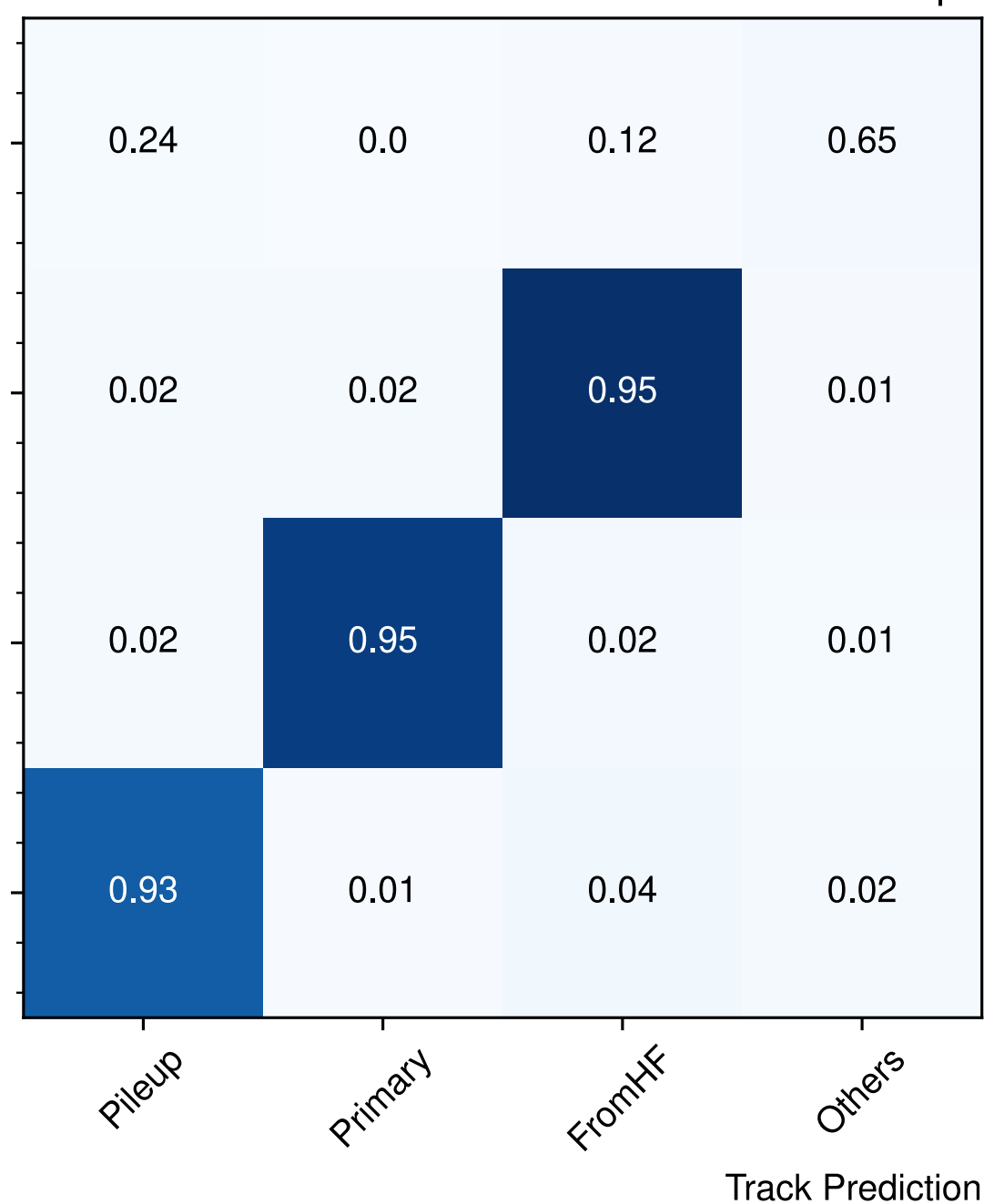
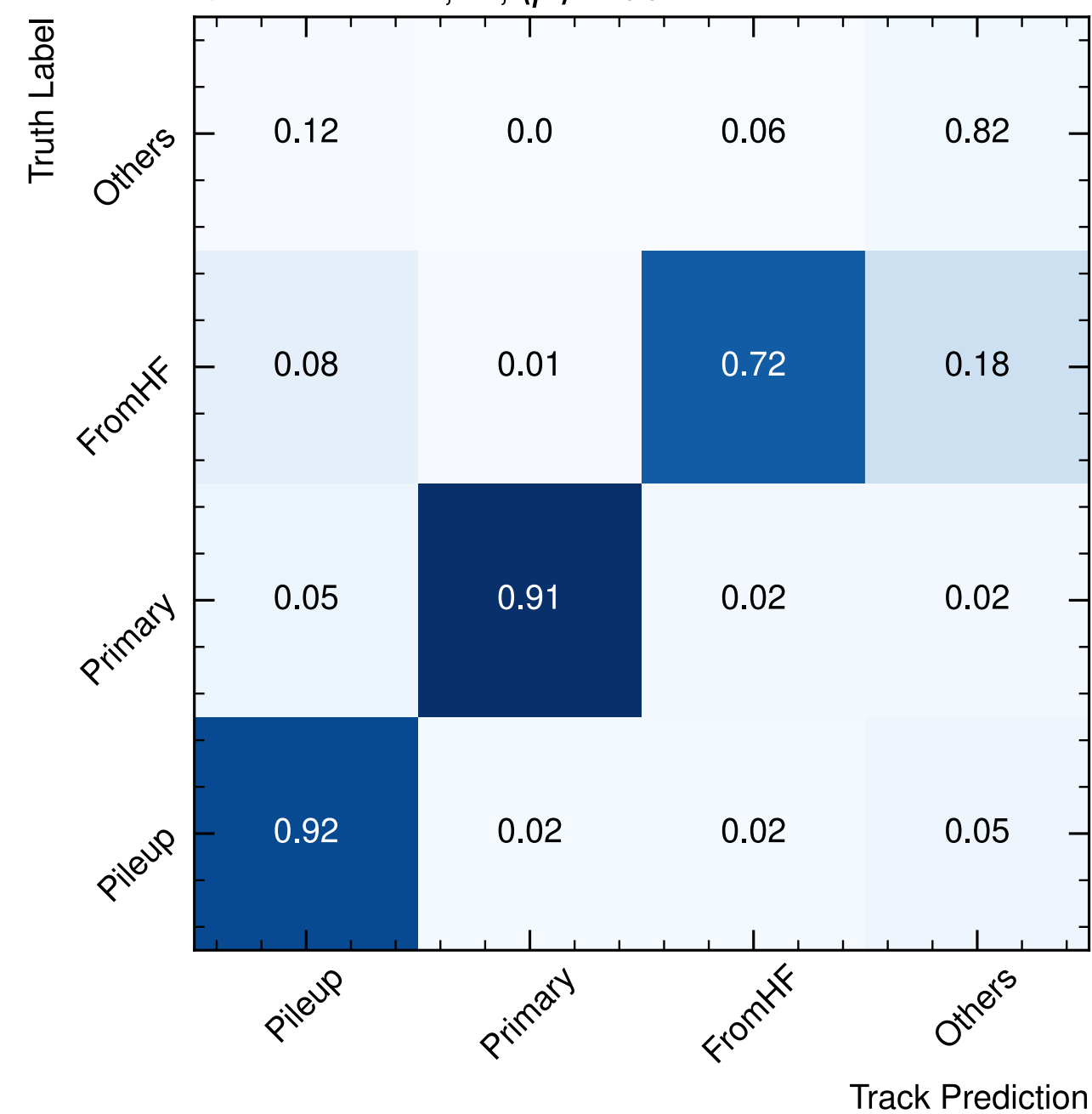
(c) 90 ps track-time resolution

**ATLAS Simulation Preliminary**

$\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}, t\bar{t}, \langle\mu\rangle=200$

GN1

GNT 30ps

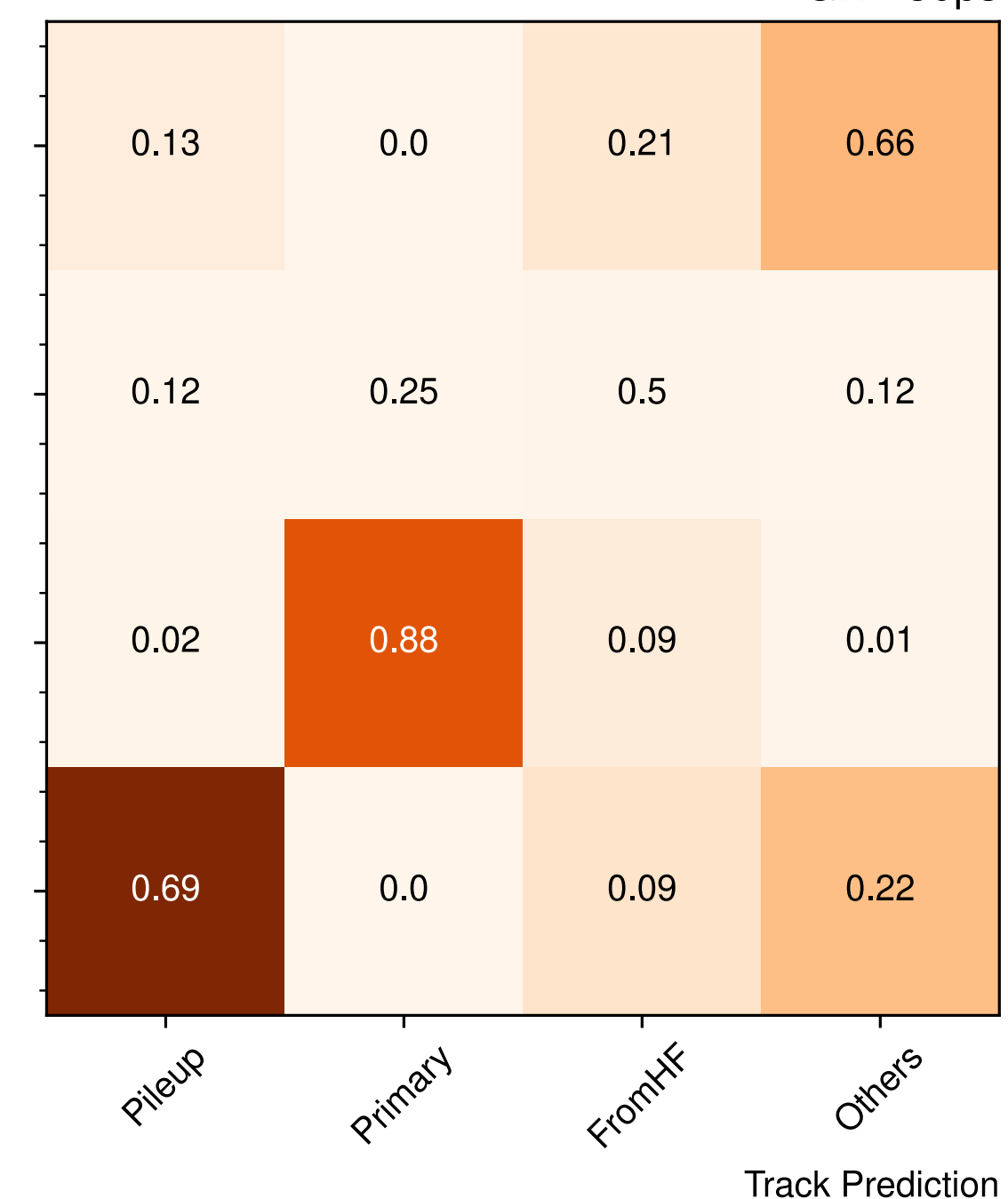
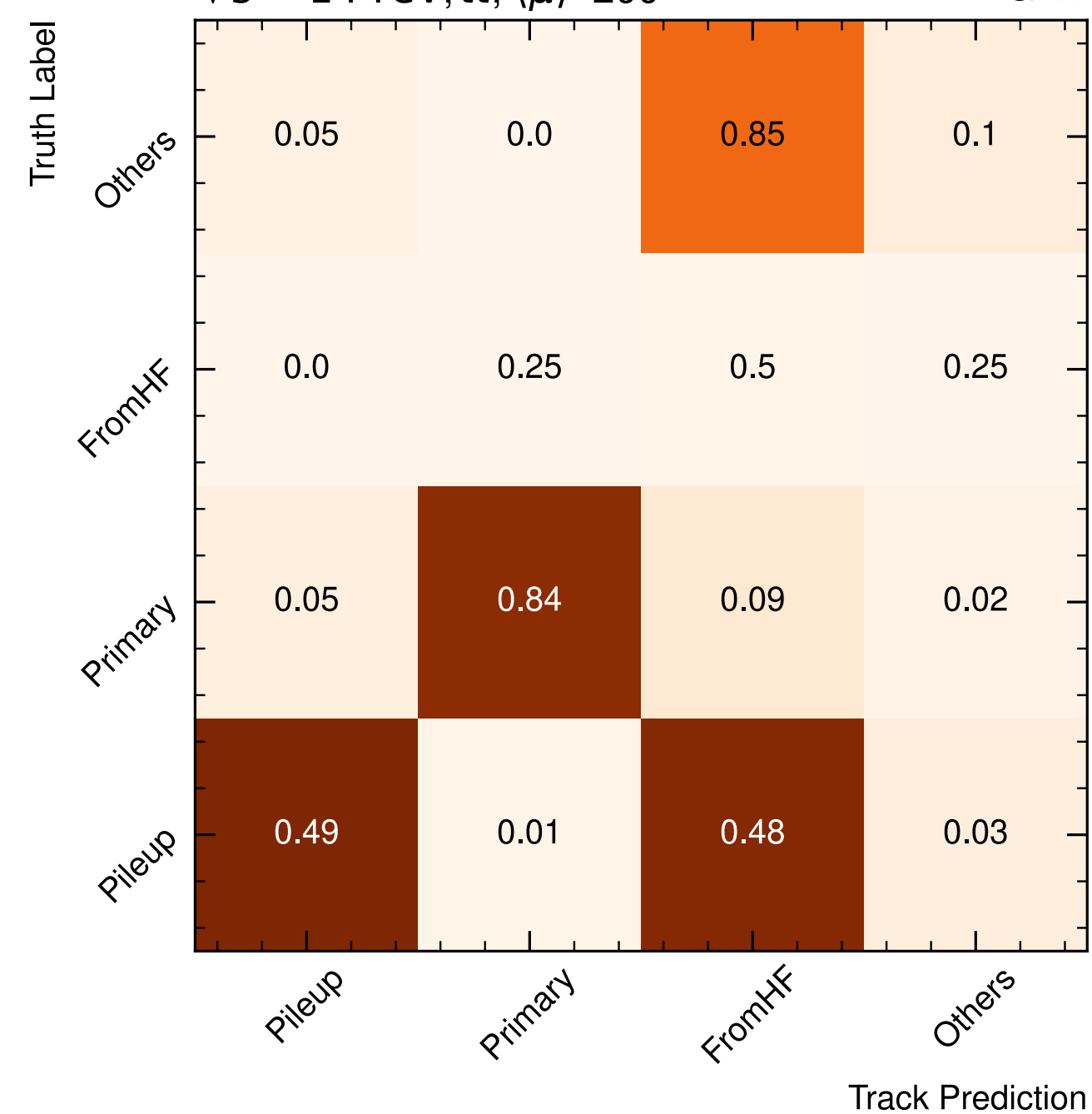


**ATLAS Simulation Preliminary**

$\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}, t\bar{t}, \langle\mu\rangle=200$

GN1

GNT 30ps



# Missing and mistagged hits

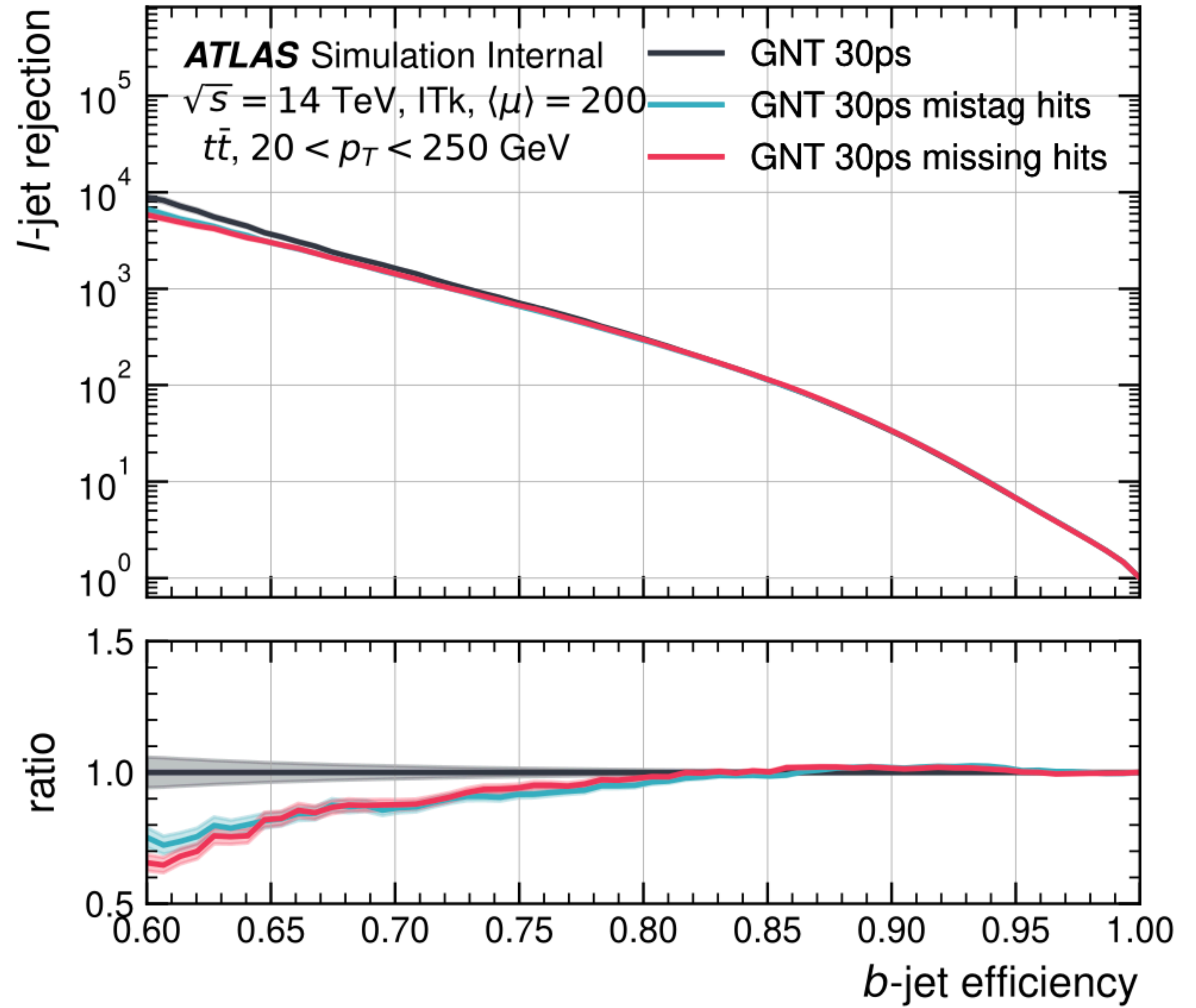
A complete simulation is needed for an accurate study

We investigated independently the impact of **missing hits** and **mistag hits** showing that the performances get degraded mostly at low b-jet efficiencies

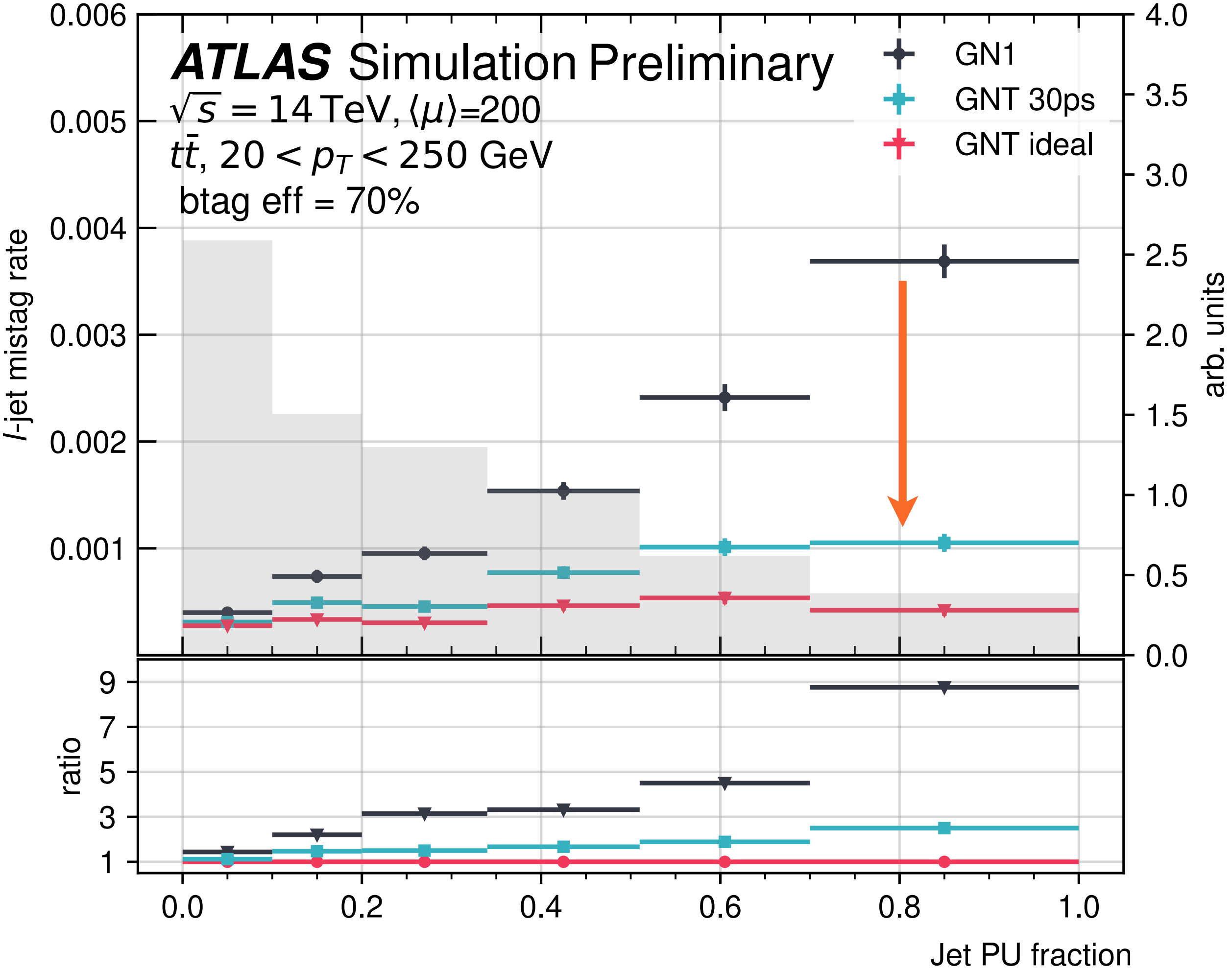
**missing hit:** assuming time only in 2nd layer; if a track has no hit the significance of the track is randomly emulated as HS

**mistag hit:** for tracks with Truth Match

Probability < 80% the significance is randomly emulated as PU



# Jet Pile-Up Contamination



Similarly to the vertex case we can define

$$\text{jet PU fraction} = \frac{\#trk_{PU}}{\#trk}$$

Dependence of light-jet mistag rate vs *jet PU fraction* gets flattened with time information

Large improvement comes from highly Pile-Up contaminated jets

# Impact on Physics Analysis: LLP

4D tracking can also improve the sensitivity to LLP:

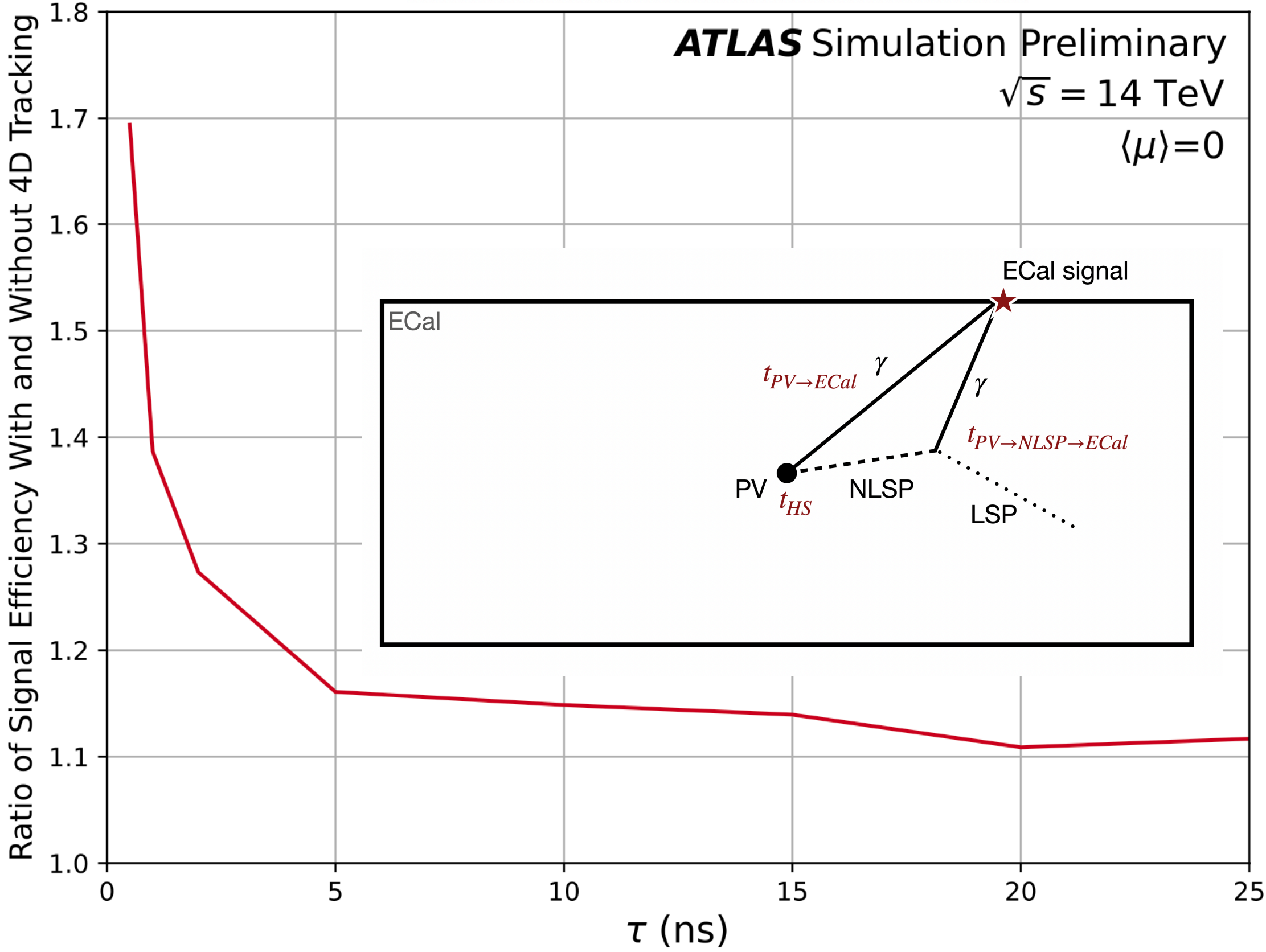
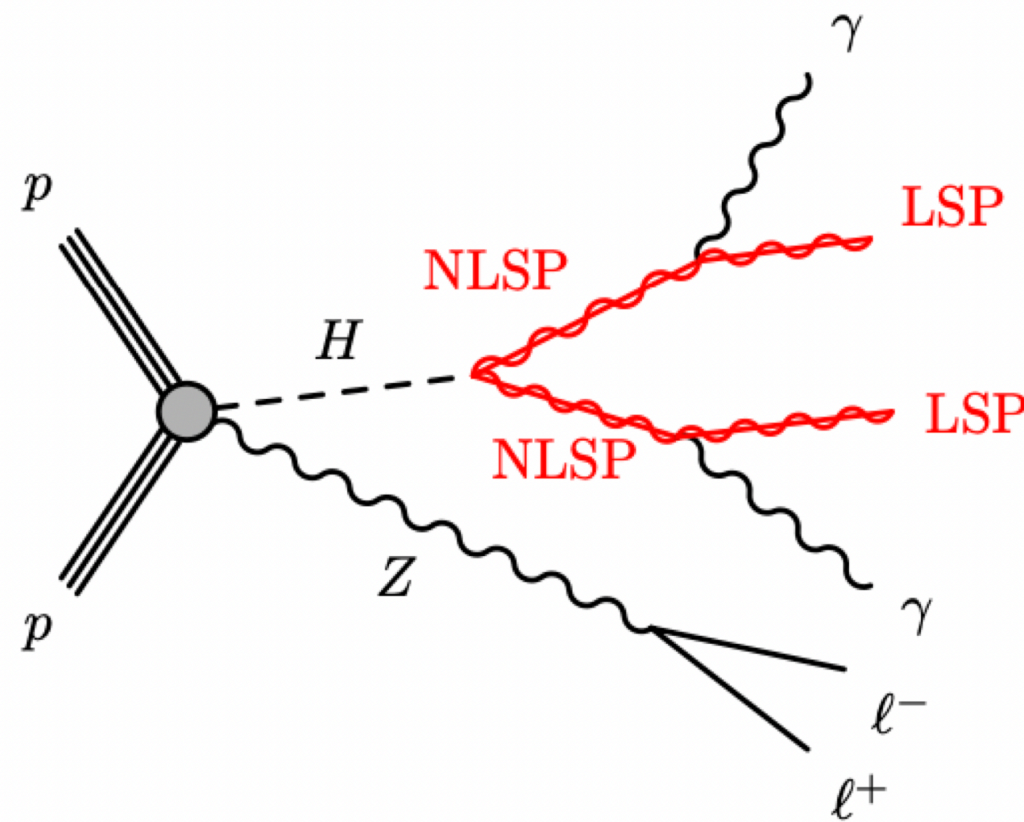
- LLP with small  $c\tau$
- displaced photons

$H \rightarrow inv$  . studied in the HGTD TDR

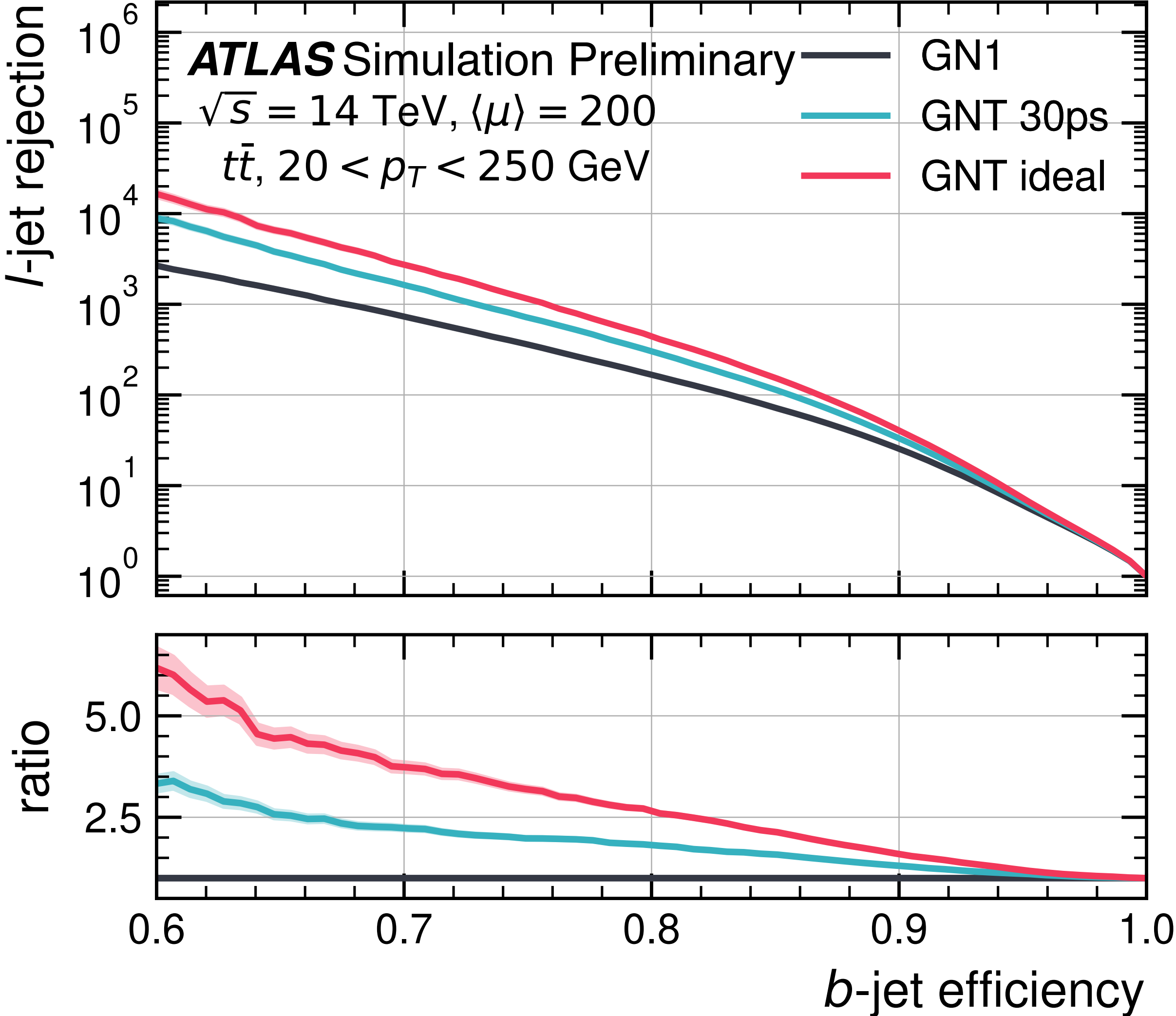
Time resolution of **delayed photons** is  $190ps$  due to the lack of knowledge about  $t_{HS}$

$$\Delta t = \boxed{t_0} + \boxed{t_{IP \rightarrow ECal}^{Reconstructed}} - \boxed{t_{IP \rightarrow ECal}} - \boxed{t_0^{Reconstructed}}$$

$180ps$ 
 $100ps$ 
 $4D \text{ improves!}$



# Performances: ROC



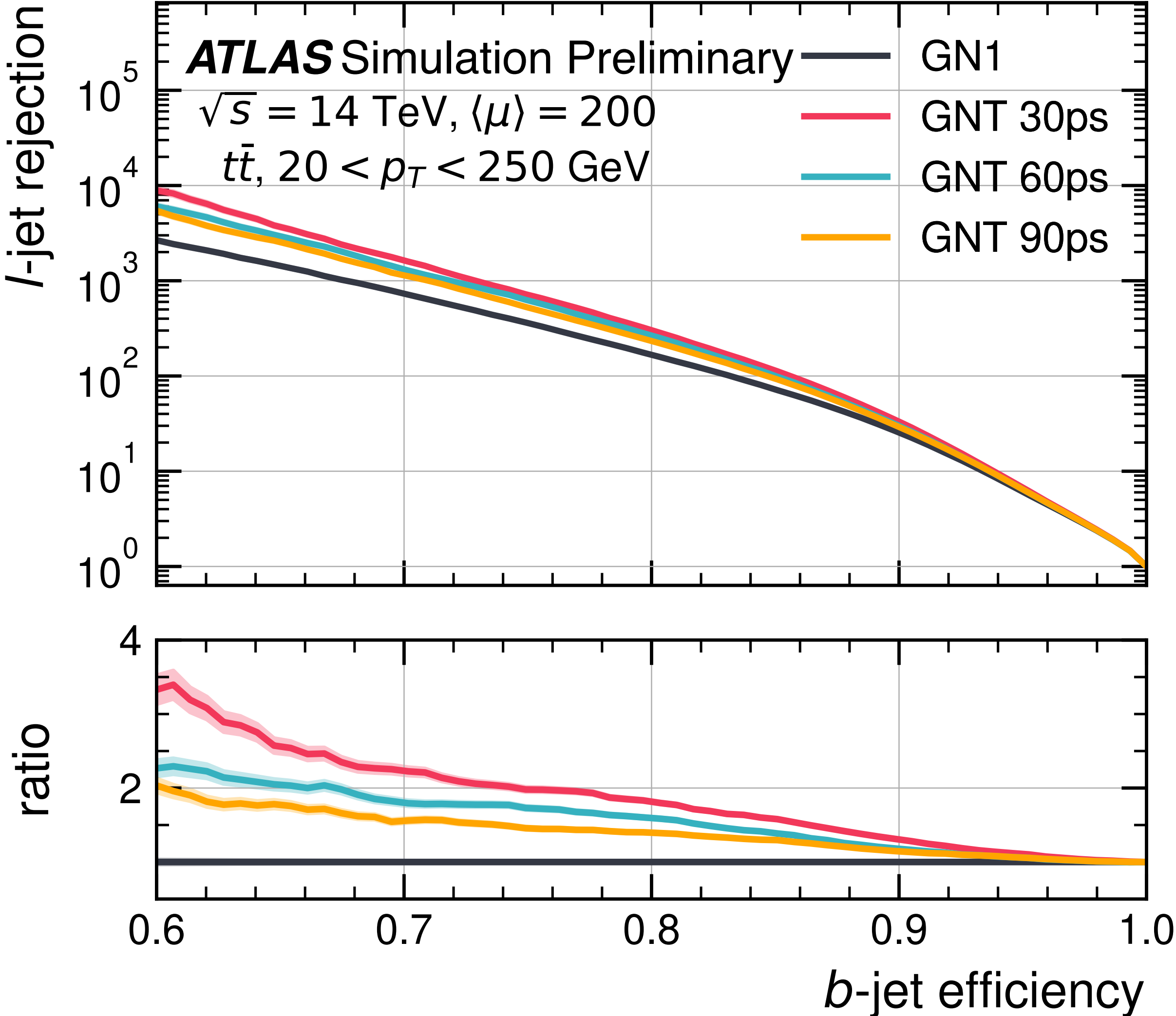
GN1 is the baseline without time

GNT 30ps is GN1+timing and 30ps smearing

GNT ideal is GN1+timing and no smearing

Up to a factor of 3 improvement in l-jet rejection with 30ps smearing on already great performances of GN1

# Performances: ROC



GN1 is the baseline without time

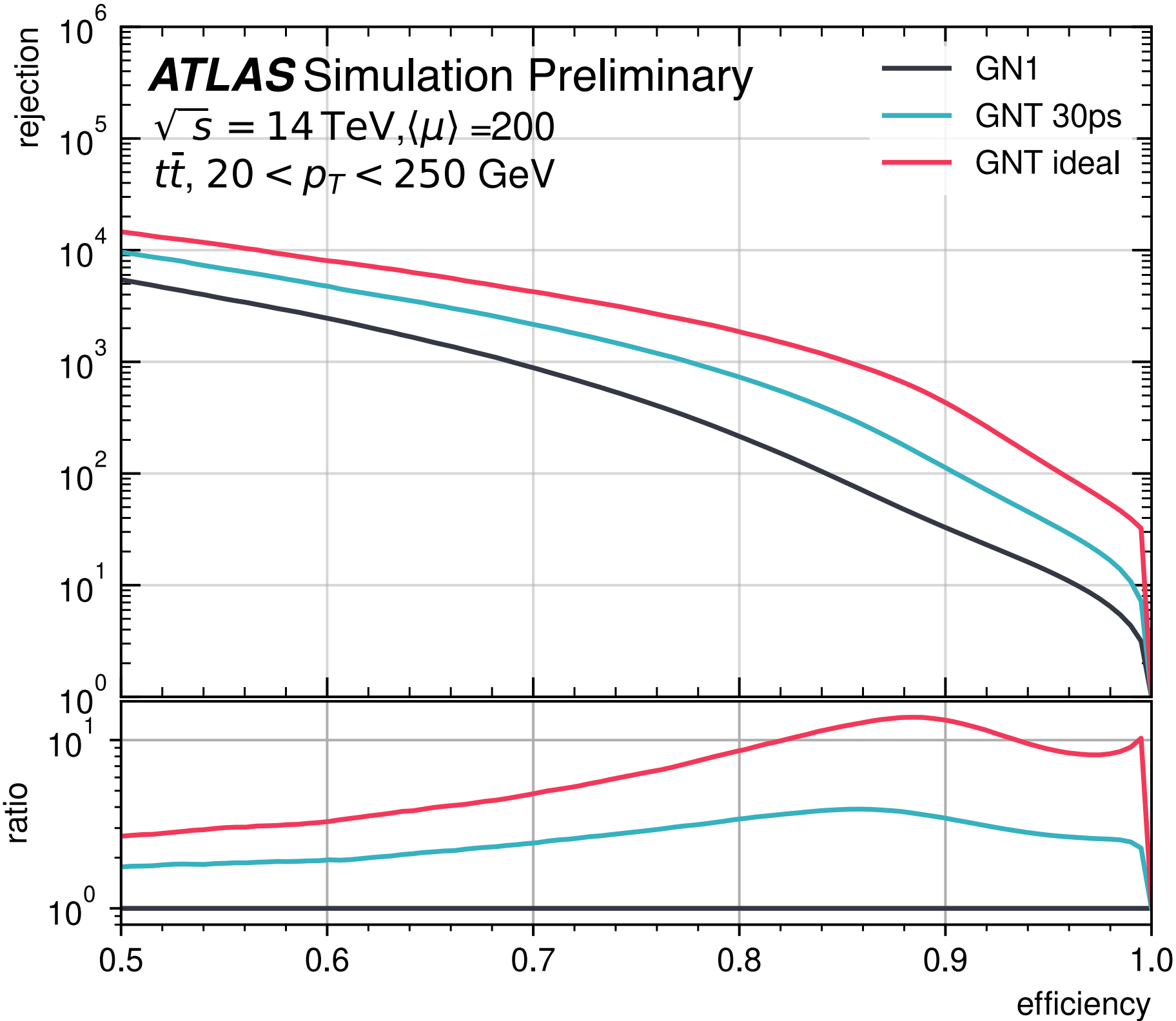
GNT 30ps is GN1+timing and 30ps smearing

GNT 60ps is GN1+timing and 60ps smearing

GNT 90ps is GN1+timing and 90ps smearing

With lower track time resolution the improvement is less prominent but still solid

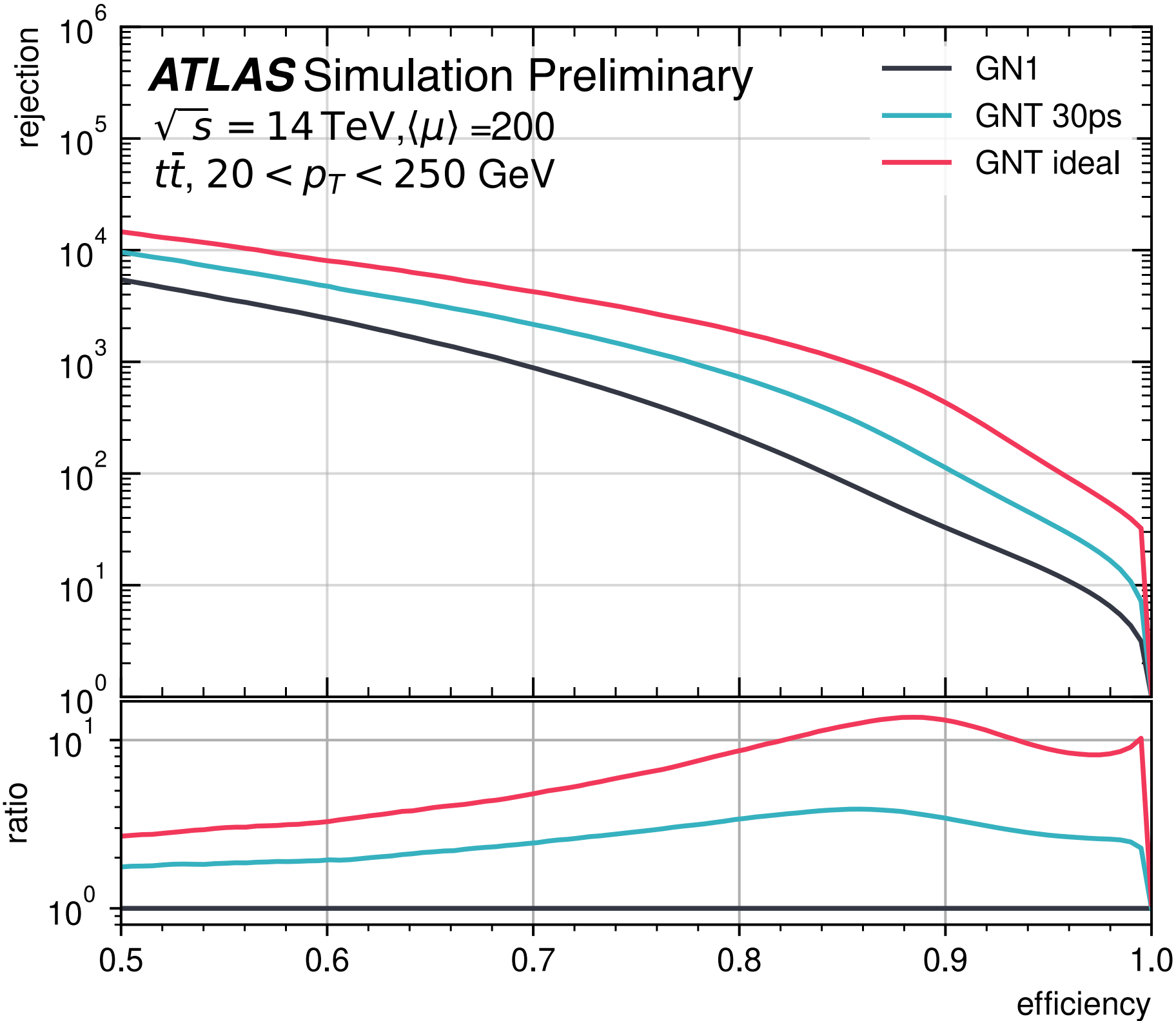
# Track classification



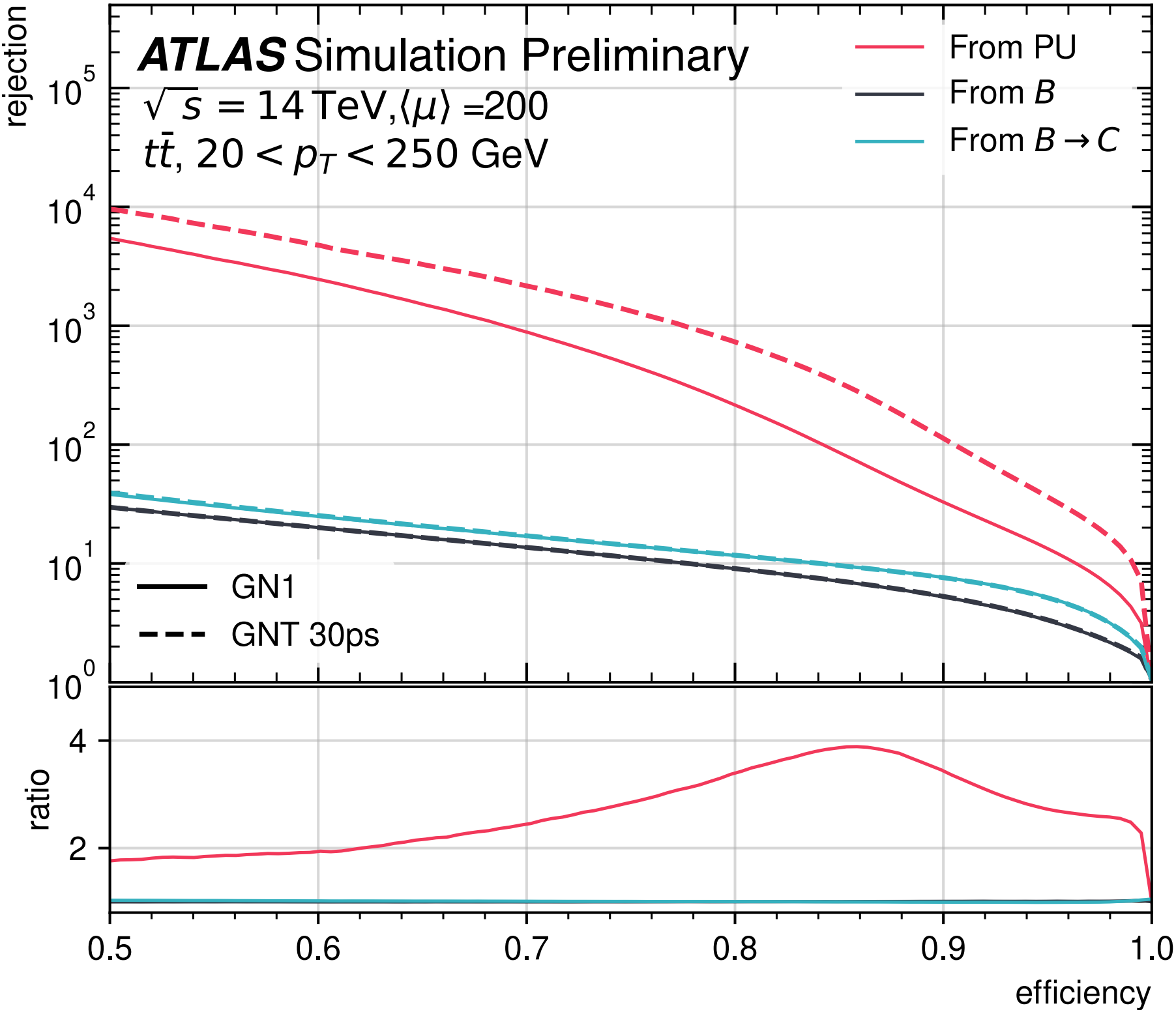
Largest improvement in discriminating  
Pile-Up tracks from non Pile-Up tracks



# Track classification



Largest improvement in discriminating Pile-Up tracks from non Pile-Up tracks



Not evident impact on Track from Heavy Flavour Tracks