



# Open heavy-flavour hadron decay muon production in pp collisions with ALICE



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**MD SAMSUL ISLAM**

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

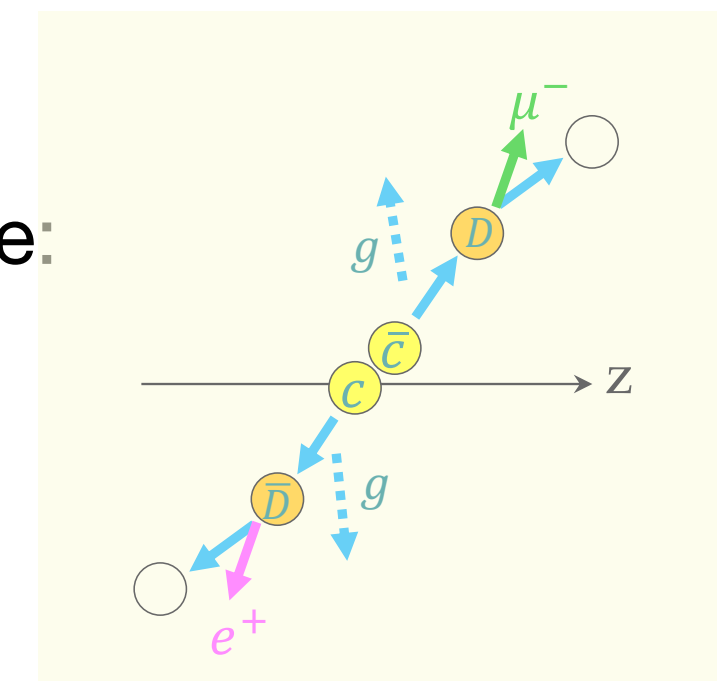
July 04, 2025

◆ In relativistic heavy-ion collisions:

- a) heavy quarks are produced much before the formation of deconfined medium consisting of quarks and gluons called quark-gluon plasma (QGP)
- b) experience full evolution while propagating through the produced medium and lose energy by successive elastic and inelastic collisions in the fireball

◆ The study of Heavy Flavour (charm and beauty) production in proton-proton (pp) collisions at LHC energy regime:

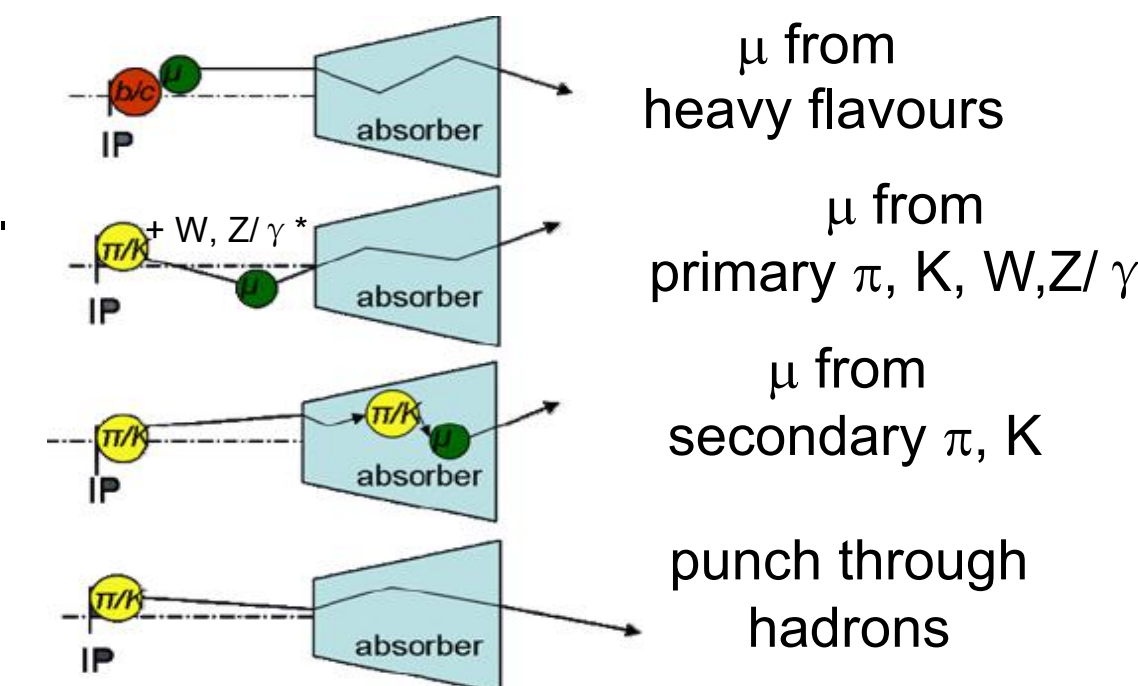
- a) provides an investigation of pQCD calculations.
- b) as a baseline for the same measurement in heavy-ion collisions.



The experimental study in ALICE Run 3 will allow subsequent increment in statistical significance and precision measurements.

The study of HFM production as a function of charged particle multiplicity ( $N_{ch}$ ) in pp collisions =>

- i) could provide more insight of the interplay between the soft and hard physics with better precision.
- ii) helps to improve understanding the phenomenological model to explain the underlying physics.



Extraction of Open Heavy Flavour hadron decay Muons

$$\frac{dN_{pp}^{\mu \leftarrow HF}}{dp_T} = \frac{dN_{pp}^{incl \mu}}{dp_T} - \frac{dN_{pp}^{\mu \leftarrow \pi, K}}{dp_T} - \frac{dN_{pp}^{sec \mu}}{dp_T} - \frac{dN_{pp}^{\mu \leftarrow J/\psi}}{dp_T} - \frac{dN_{pp}^{\mu \leftarrow W/Z/\gamma^*}}{dp_T}$$



# Particle production at high multiplicity in small systems



Observations of features similar to Heavy-ion collisions for high multiplicity pp events at LHC=>

a) near side ridge [ Phys. Lett. B 765 (2017) 193 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2016.12.009> ]

b) strangeness enhancement [ Nature Phys. 13 (2017) 535 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nphys4111> ]

=> Understanding the phenomenology of hadronization mechanisms, huge kinetic energy is involved irrespective of collision system sizes.

=> More insight of the interplay between soft and hard physics.

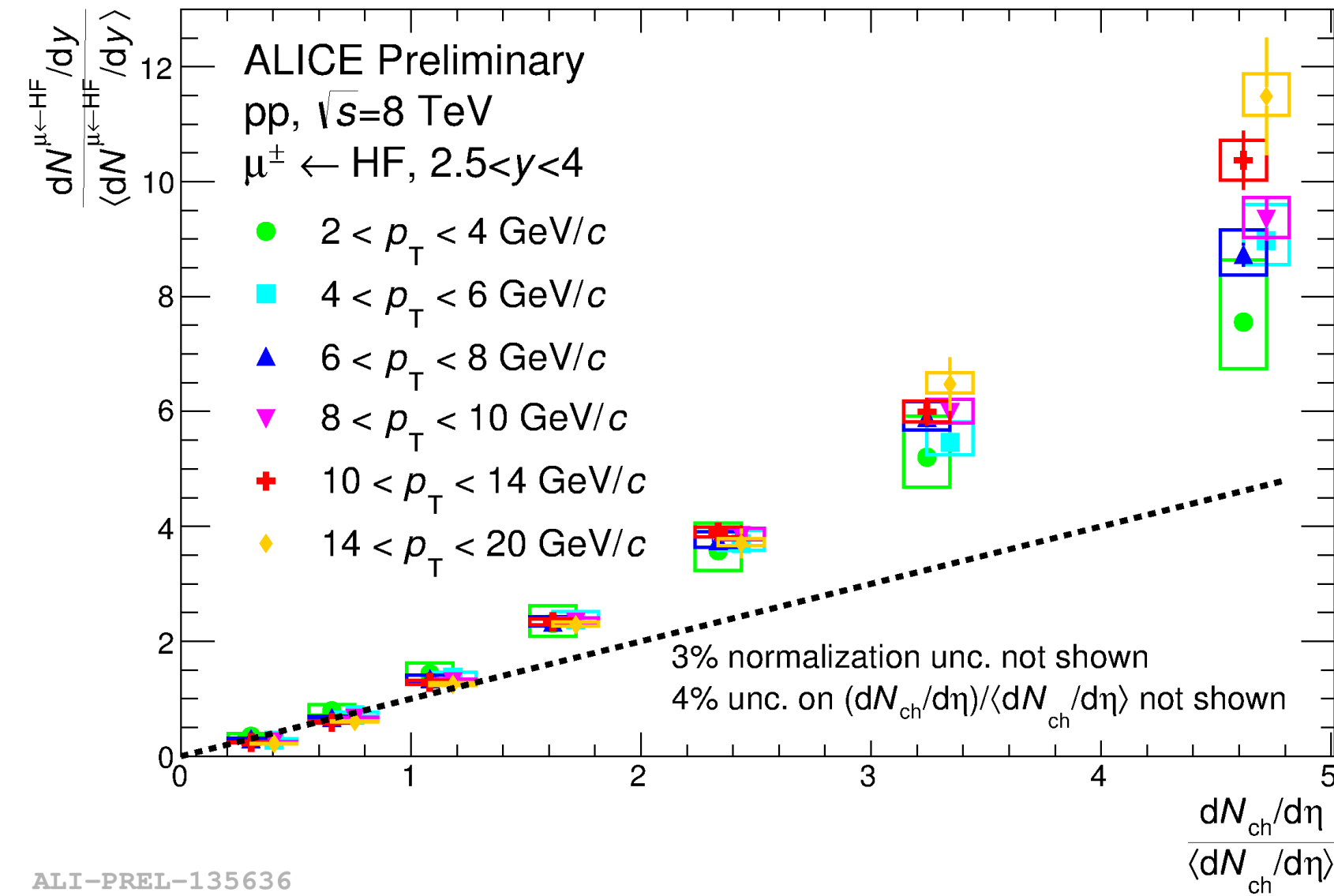
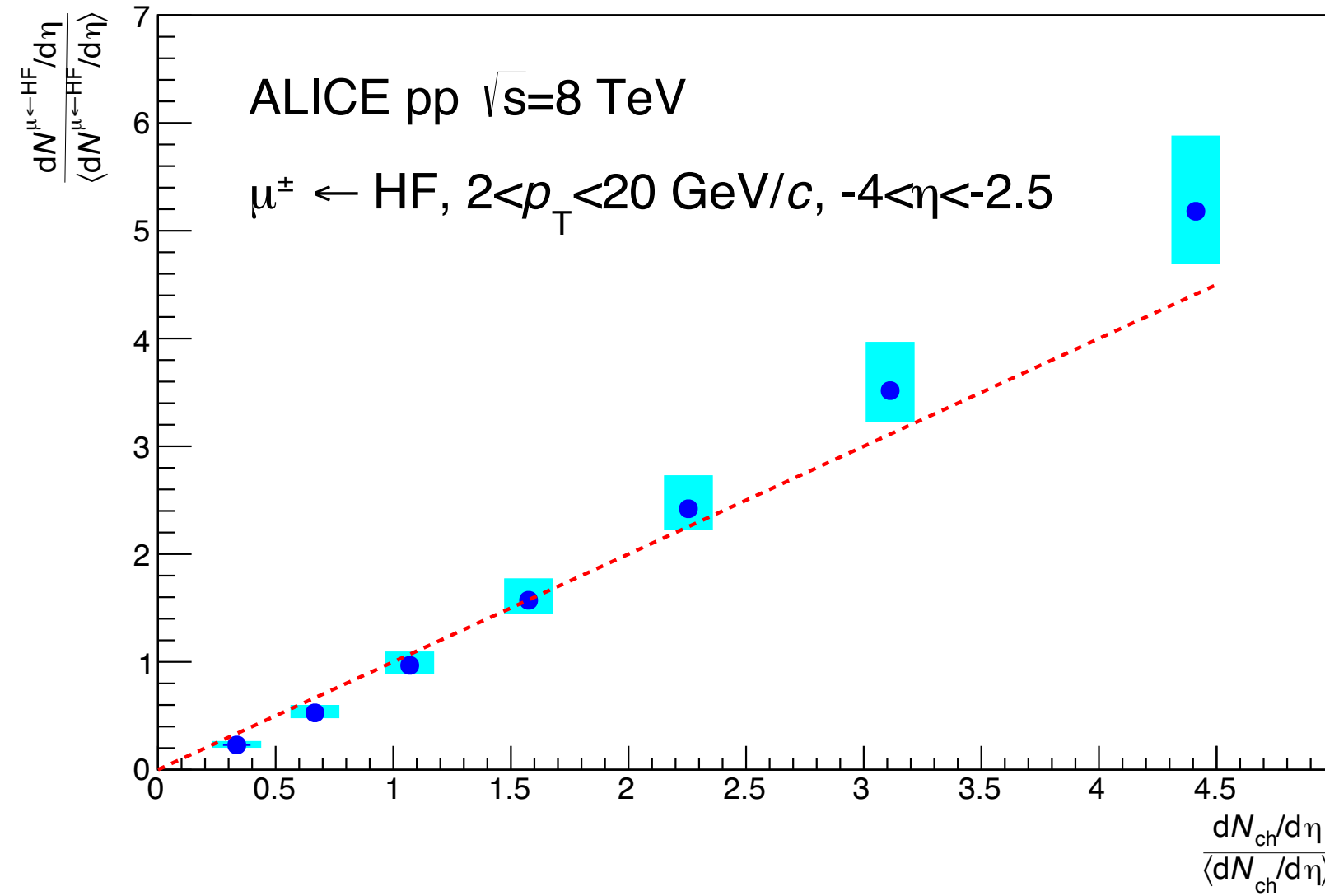
=> To understand the description of the final hadronic state of the underlying events :

i) **Multiple parton-parton interactions (MPI):** average multiplicity is proportional to average number of MPI.

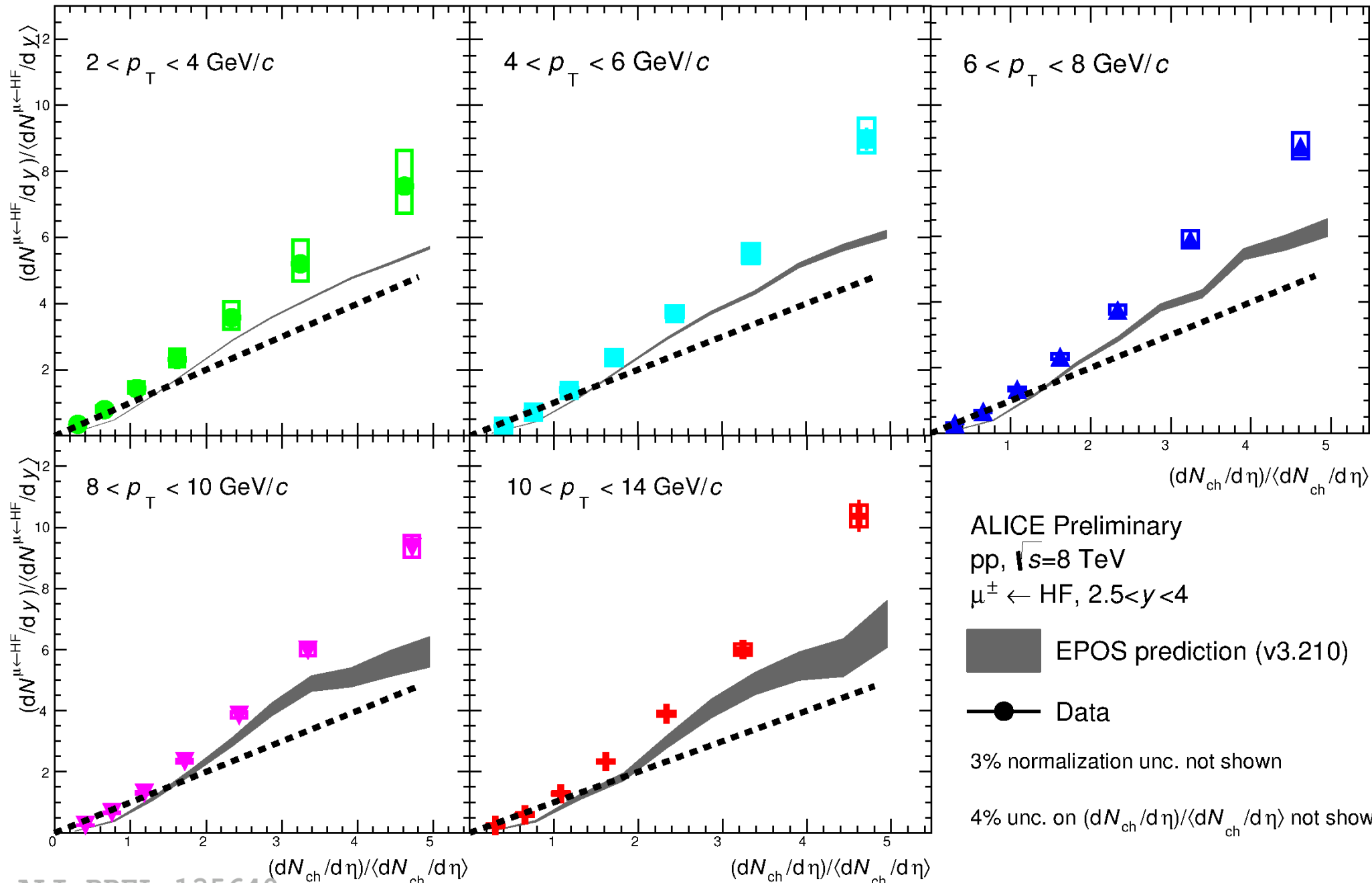
ii) **Colour reconnection (CR):** rearrangement of partons at the perturbative level just before hadronization => hadronization gets modified => could explain the flow like effect in pp collisions.

# Multiplicity dependence of HFM production in pp at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV

<https://alice-notes.web.cern.ch/node/642>



ALI-PREL-135636



ALI-PREL-135640

=> Production of HFM is faster than the linearly increasing trend  
 => production of HFM is steeper at higher multiplicities.

=> EPOS prediction without hydrodynamics underestimated compared to data for all  $p_T$  ranges => hints to understand hadronization mechanism at high multiplicity events.

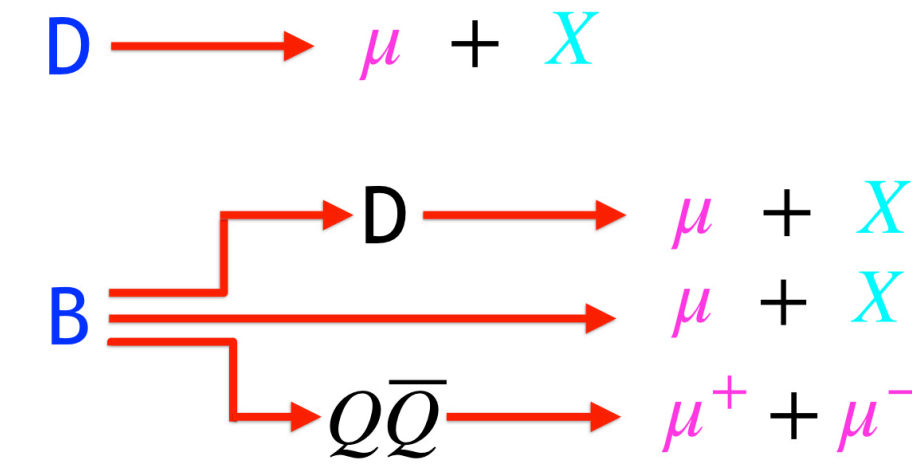


=> Study of multiplicity dependence for the production of HFM in pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13.6$  TeV with much higher precision measurements.

=> Investigation for the separation of charm and beauty component.

# Scope with MFT+ MuonSpectrometer of ALICE

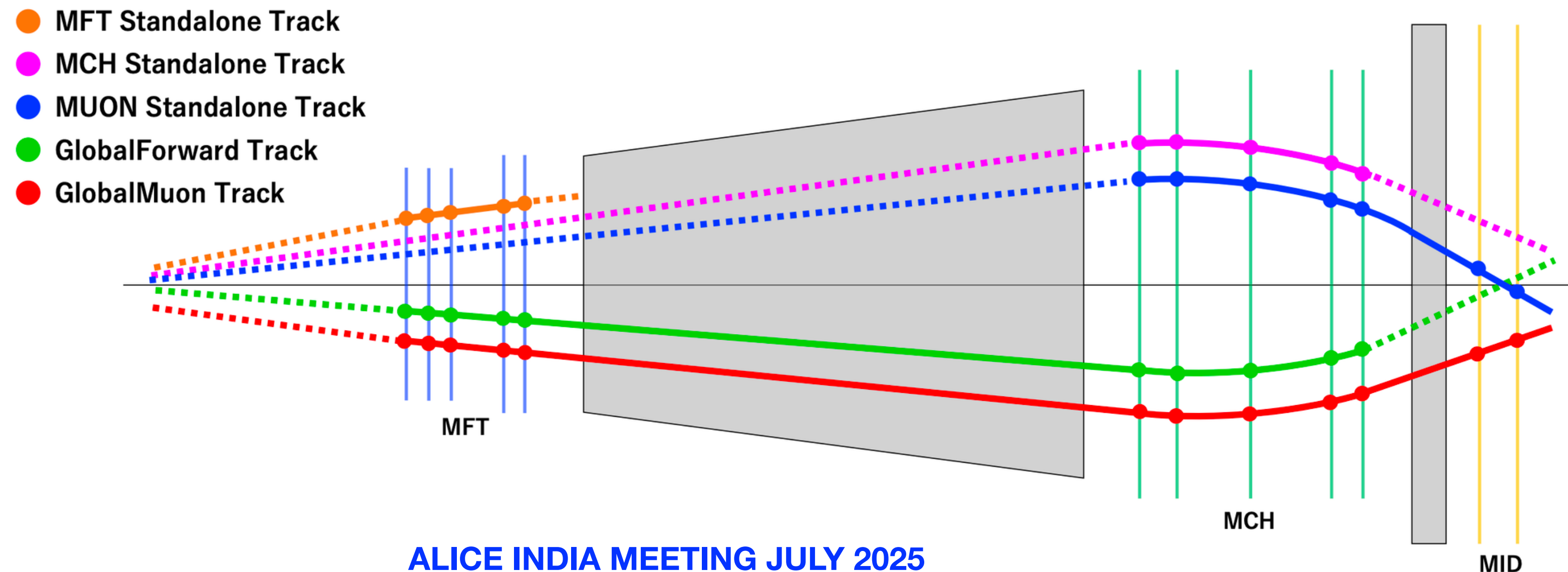
Muons produced via semi-muonic decays of open charm (D) and open beauty (B) hadrons at forward rapidity.



Muon physics program suffered several limitations during Run 1 and Run 2, specially due to the multiple scattering experienced by the muon tracks inside hadron absorber => vertex region smears.

Matching of tracks reconstructed in the tracking system of Muon Spectrometer and that with MFT cluster =>

- i) Separation of prompt  $J/\psi$  from b-decay  $J/\psi$ .
- ii) Open charm and open beauty via semi-muonic decay can be distinguished.
- iii) Study of heavy-flavor (HF) using single muons down to  $p_T \sim 1$  GeV/c.



# Muon Selection

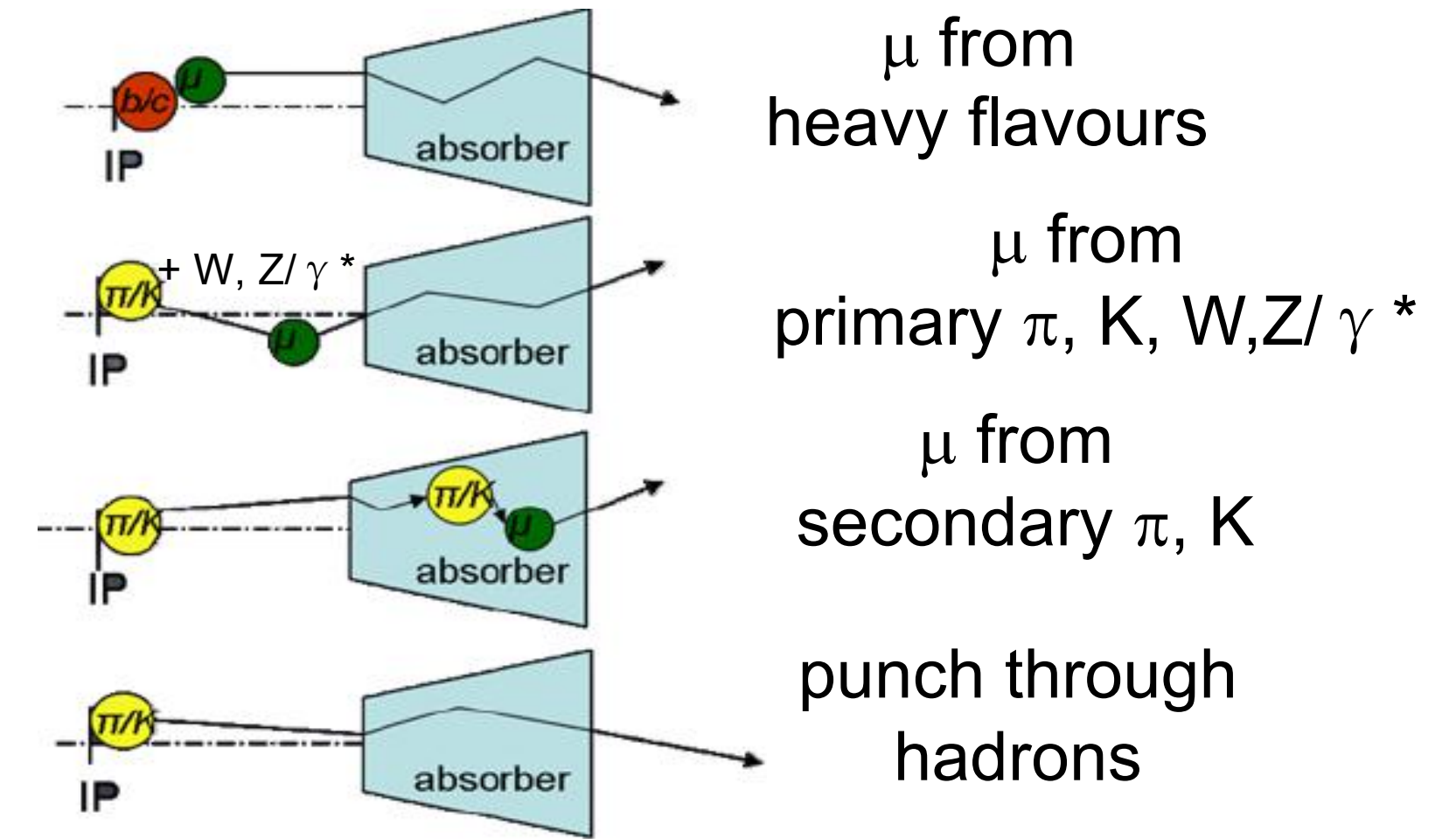
◆ pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13.6$  TeV

DataSet: LHC22o\_apass7

Number of events after selections :  $\sim 57$ M

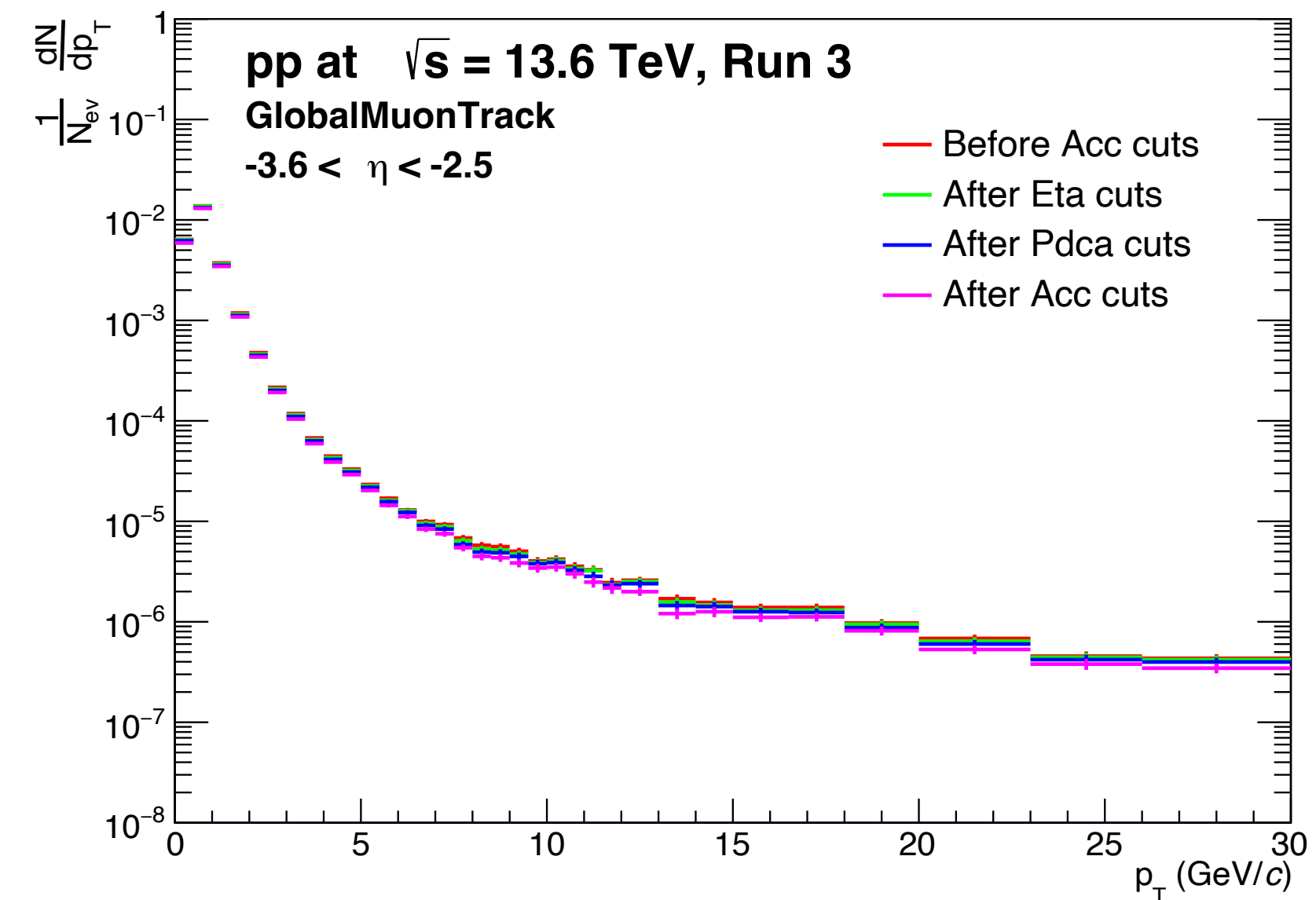
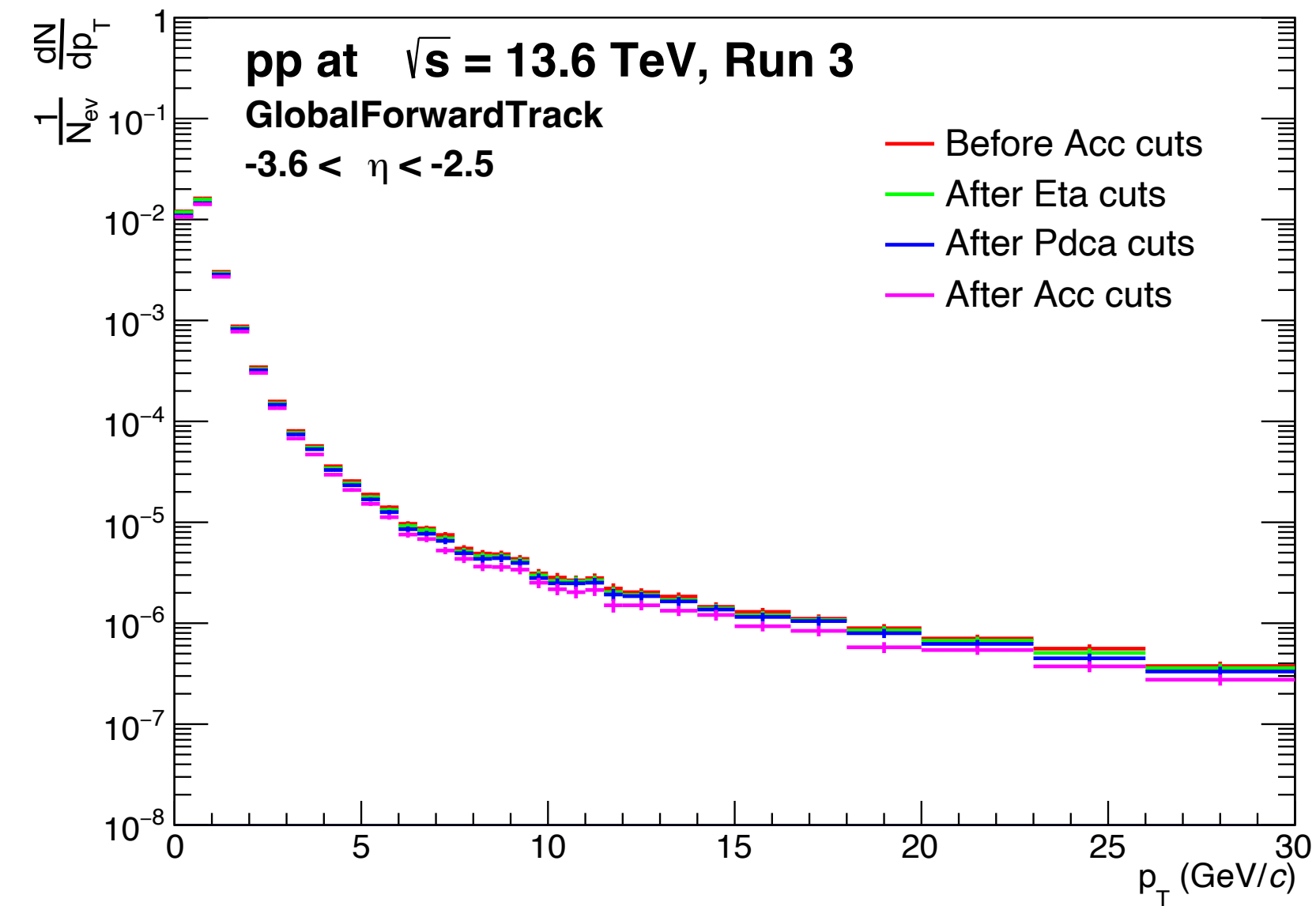
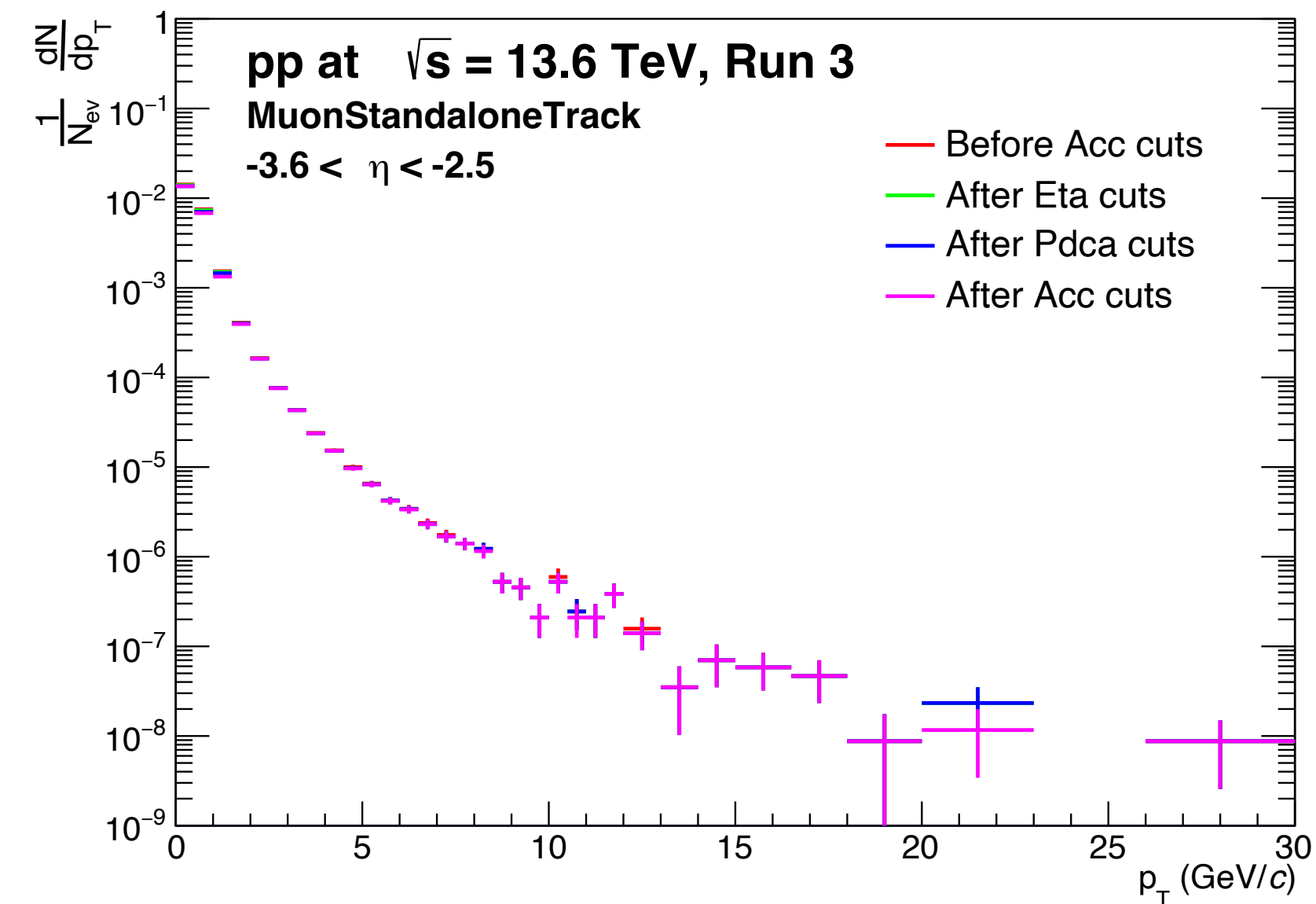
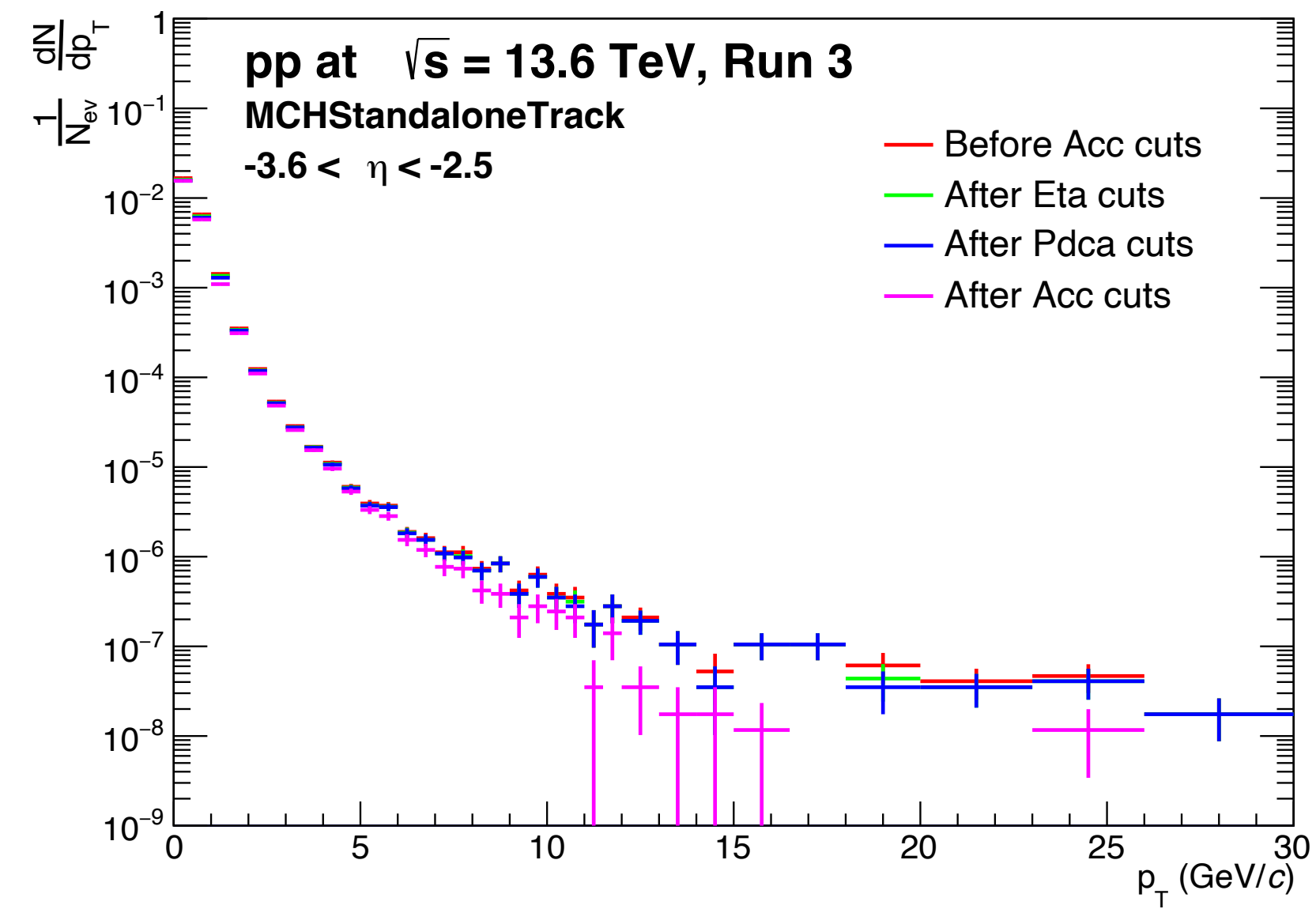
● **Event Selection Cuts :**

- Sel8
- Vertex: z-component of vertex selection within  $|V_z| < 10$  cm

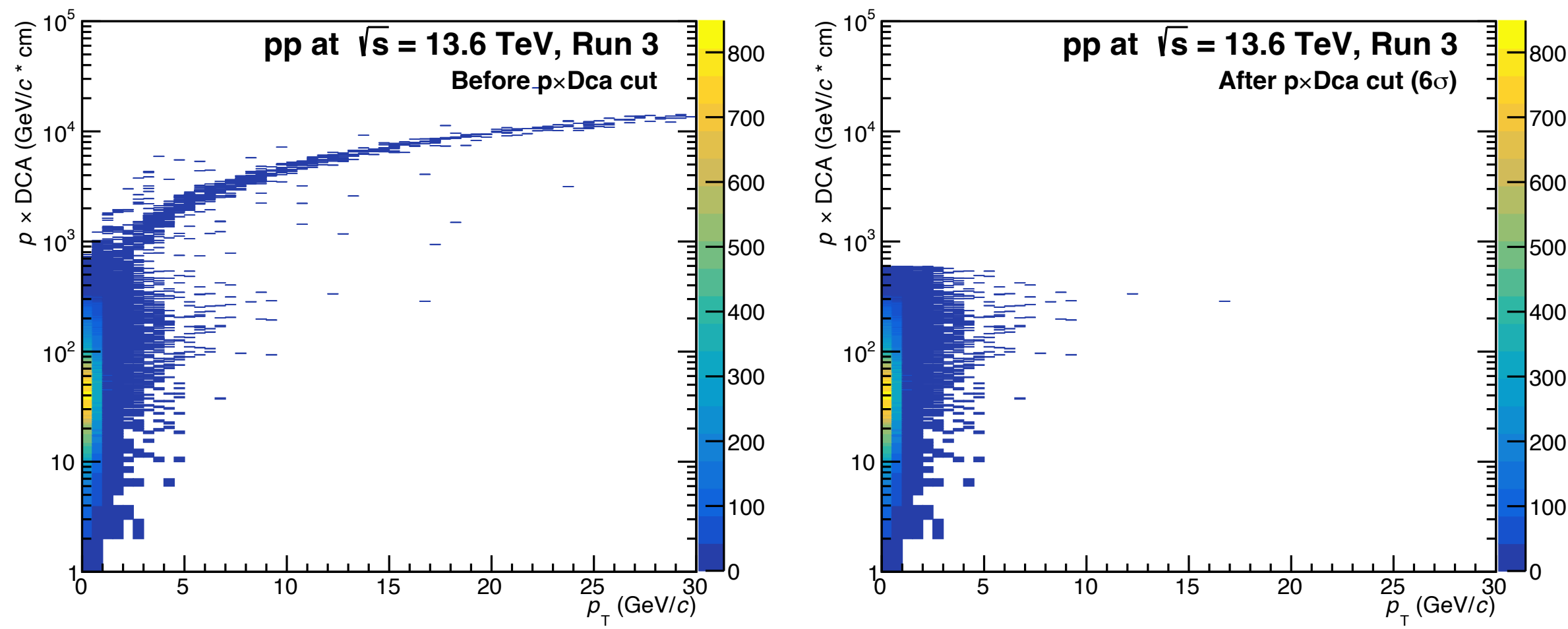


Track Selection Cuts	
Charged Tracks	Muon Tracks
i) $-0.8 < \eta < 0.8$	i) $-3.6 < \eta < -2.5$
ii) $p_T > 0.15$ GeV/c	ii) $17.6 \text{ cm} < R_{abs} < 89.5 \text{ cm}$
	iii) pDCA: $6\sigma$
	.....
	iv) chi2
	v) $\Delta p_T$

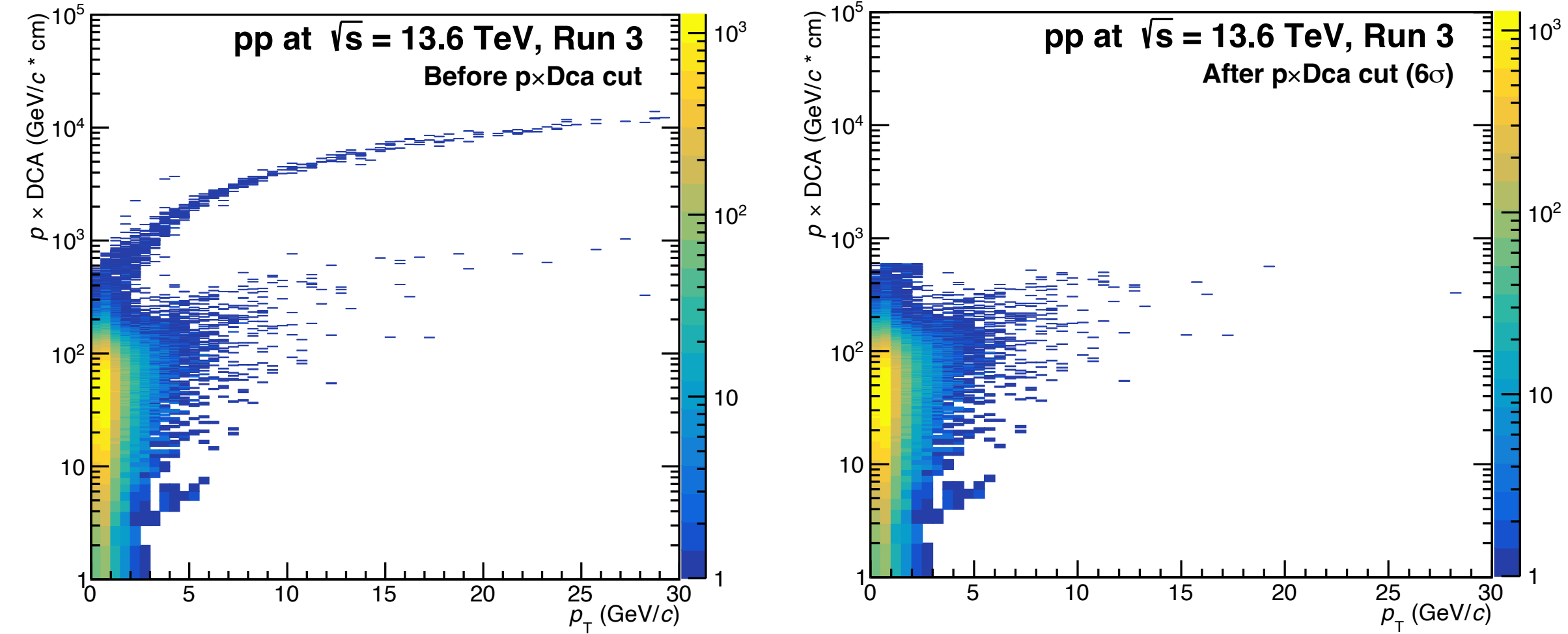
# $p_T$ spectra after applying different selection cuts



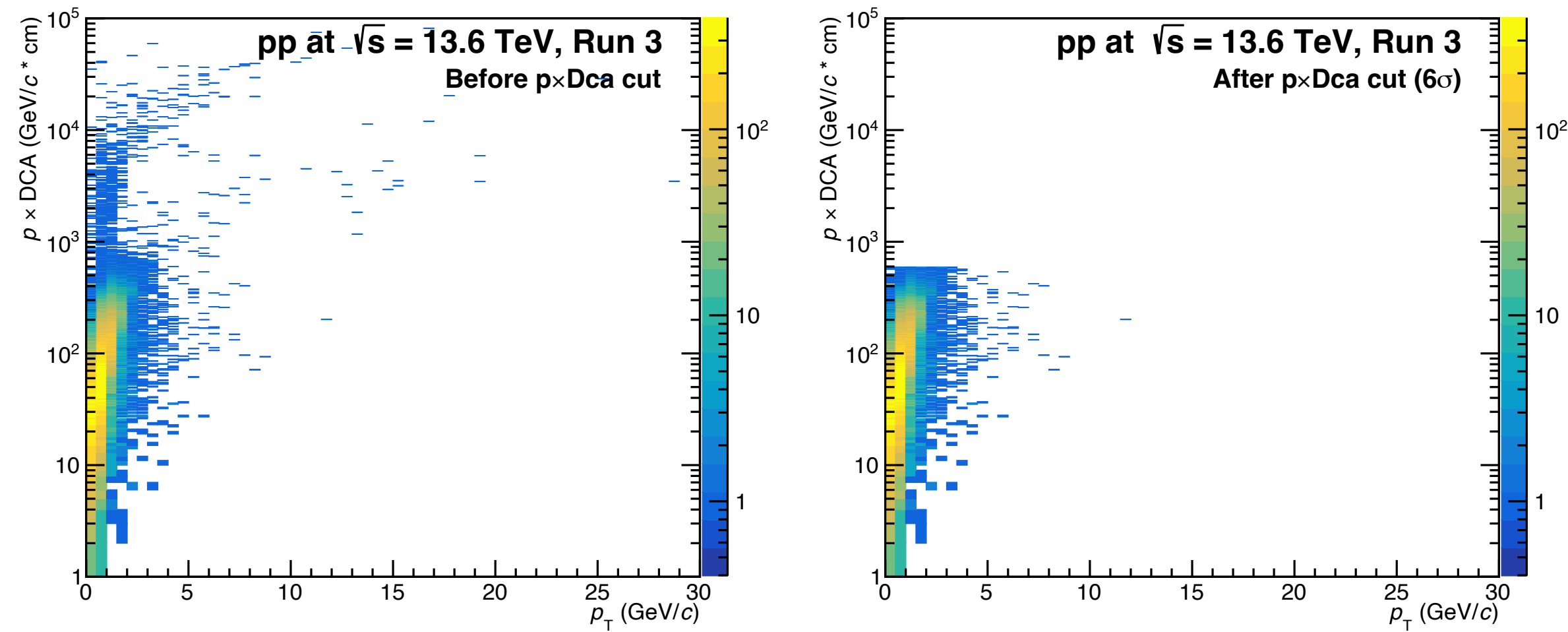
### MCH Standalone Tracks (TrackType=4)



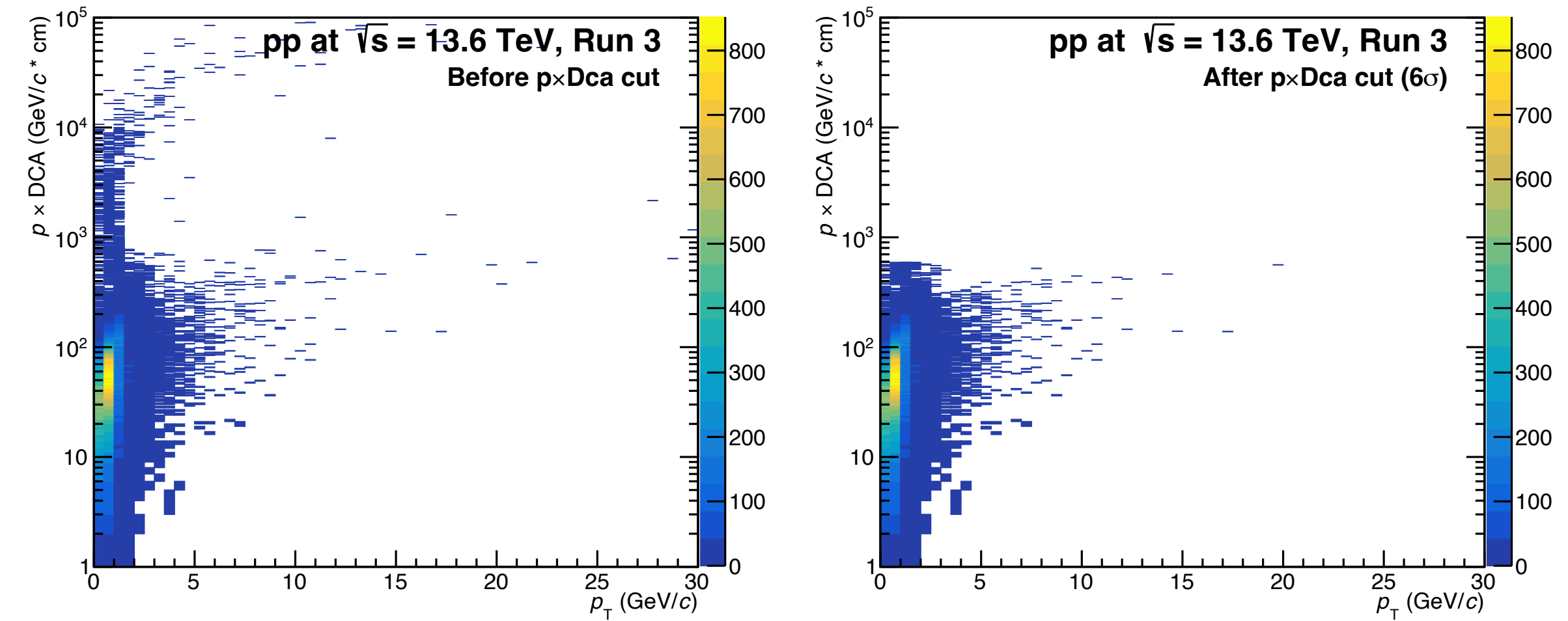
### Muon Standalone Tracks (TrackType=3)



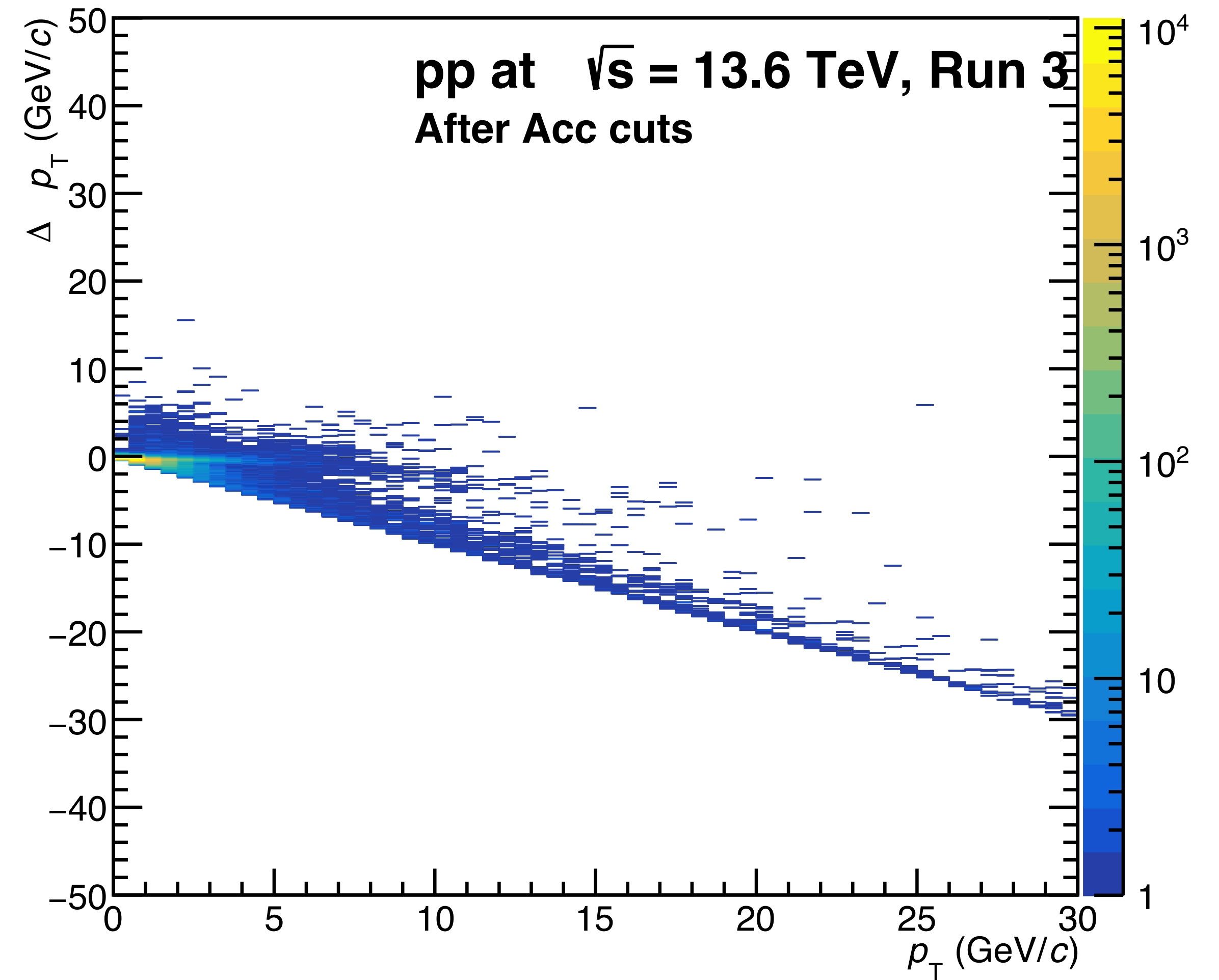
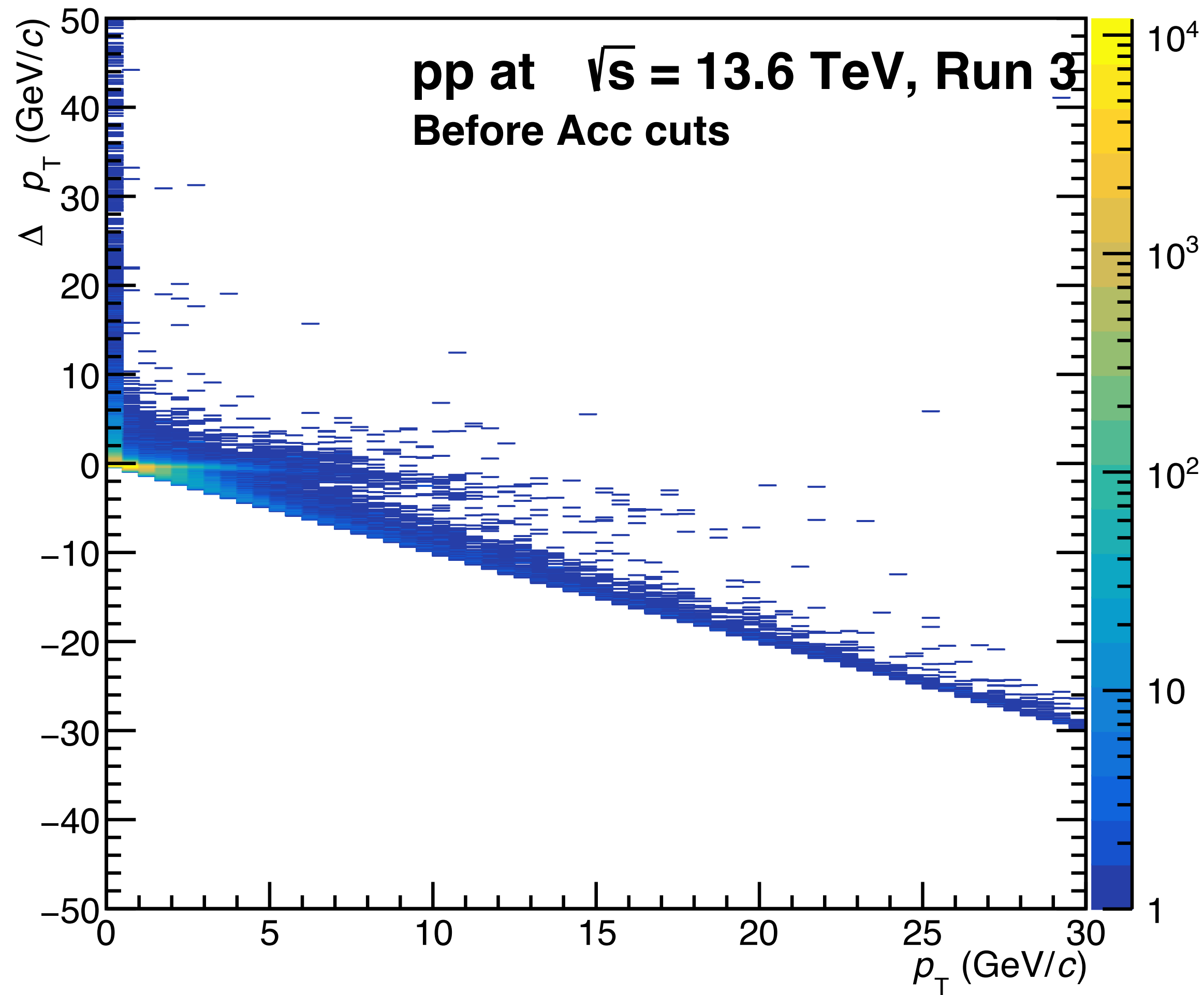
### Global Forward Tracks (TrackType=2)



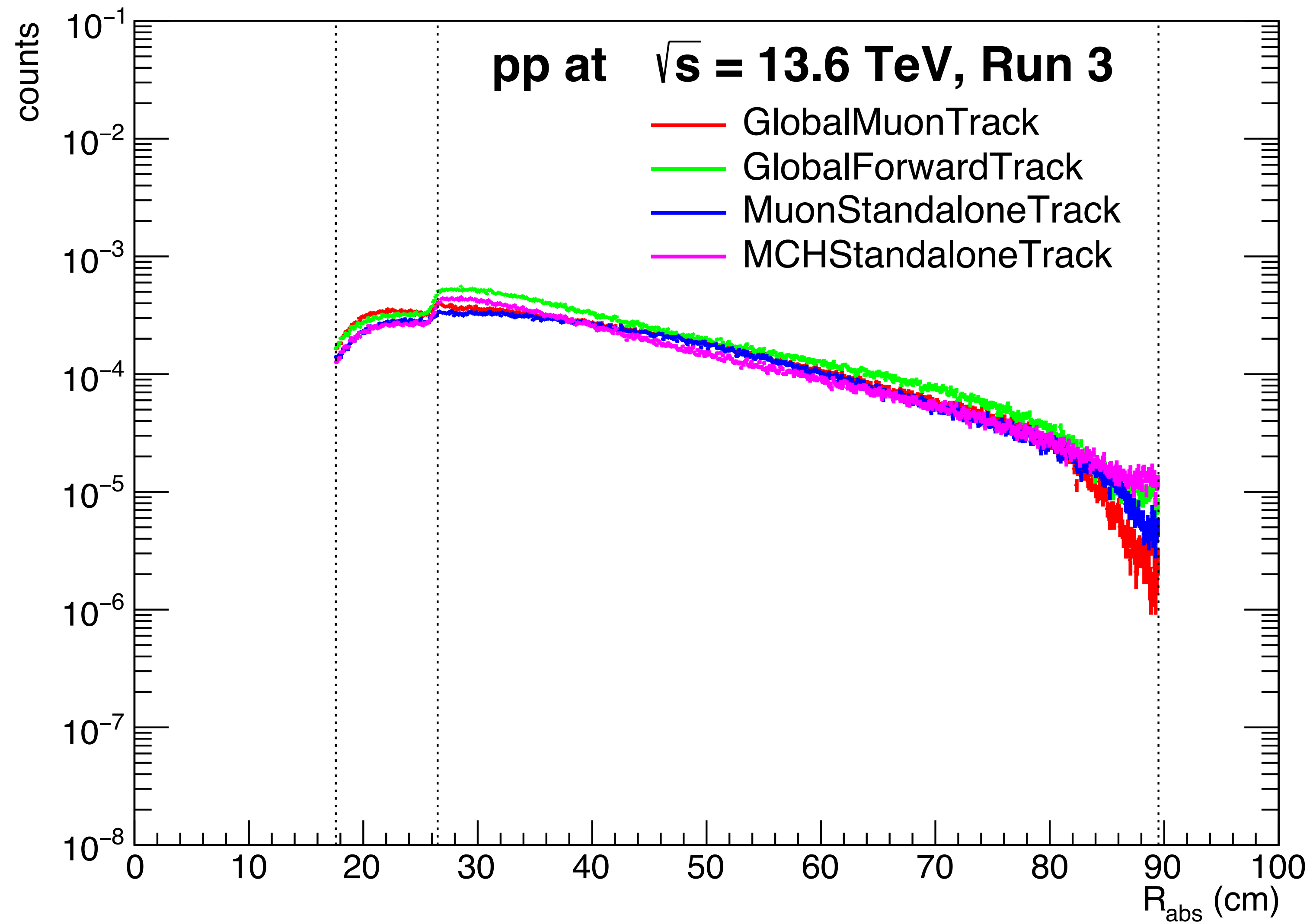
### Global Muon Tracks (TrackType=0)



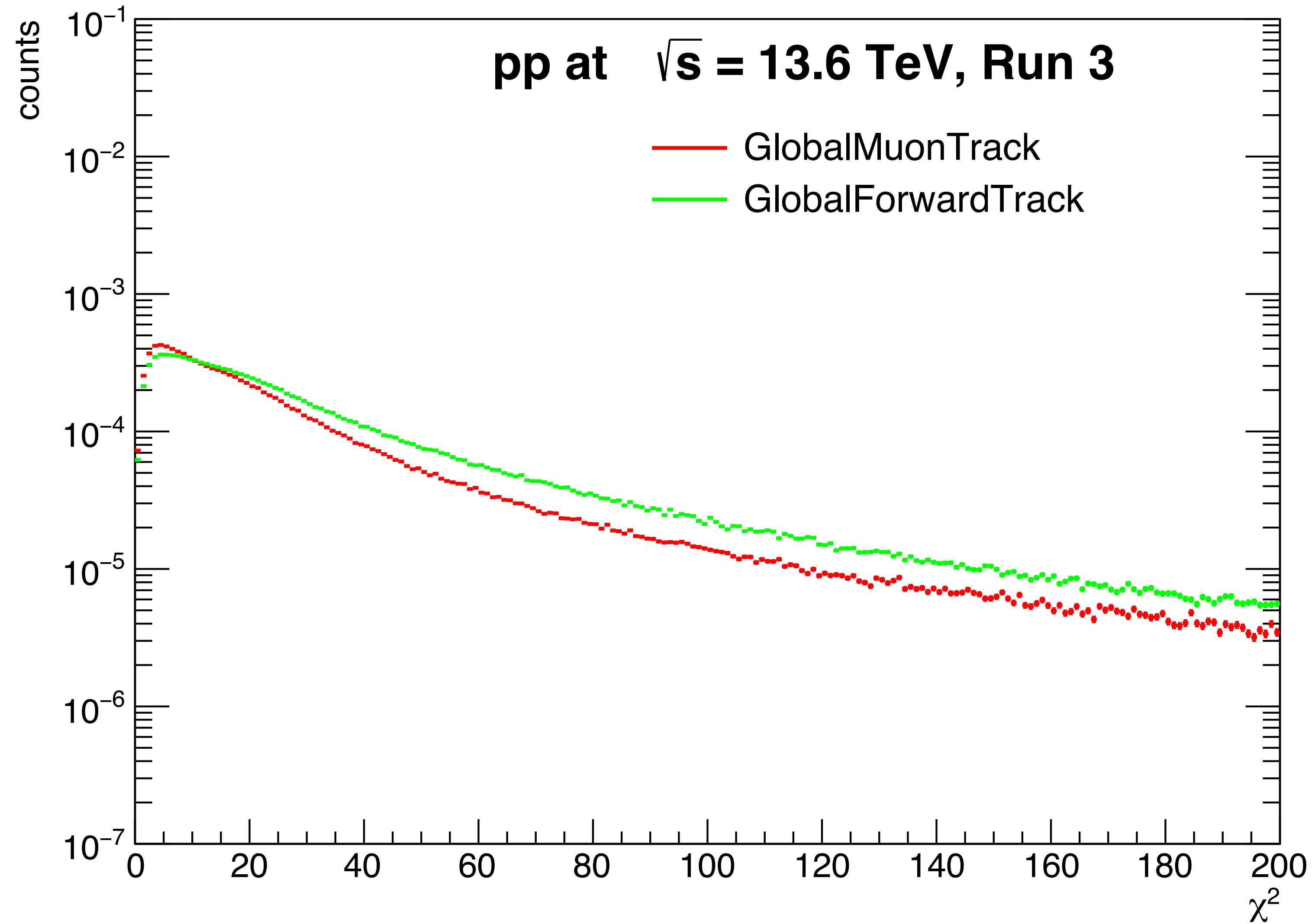
# $\Delta p_T$ ( $p_T$ standalone tracks - $p_T$ global tracks ) distribution



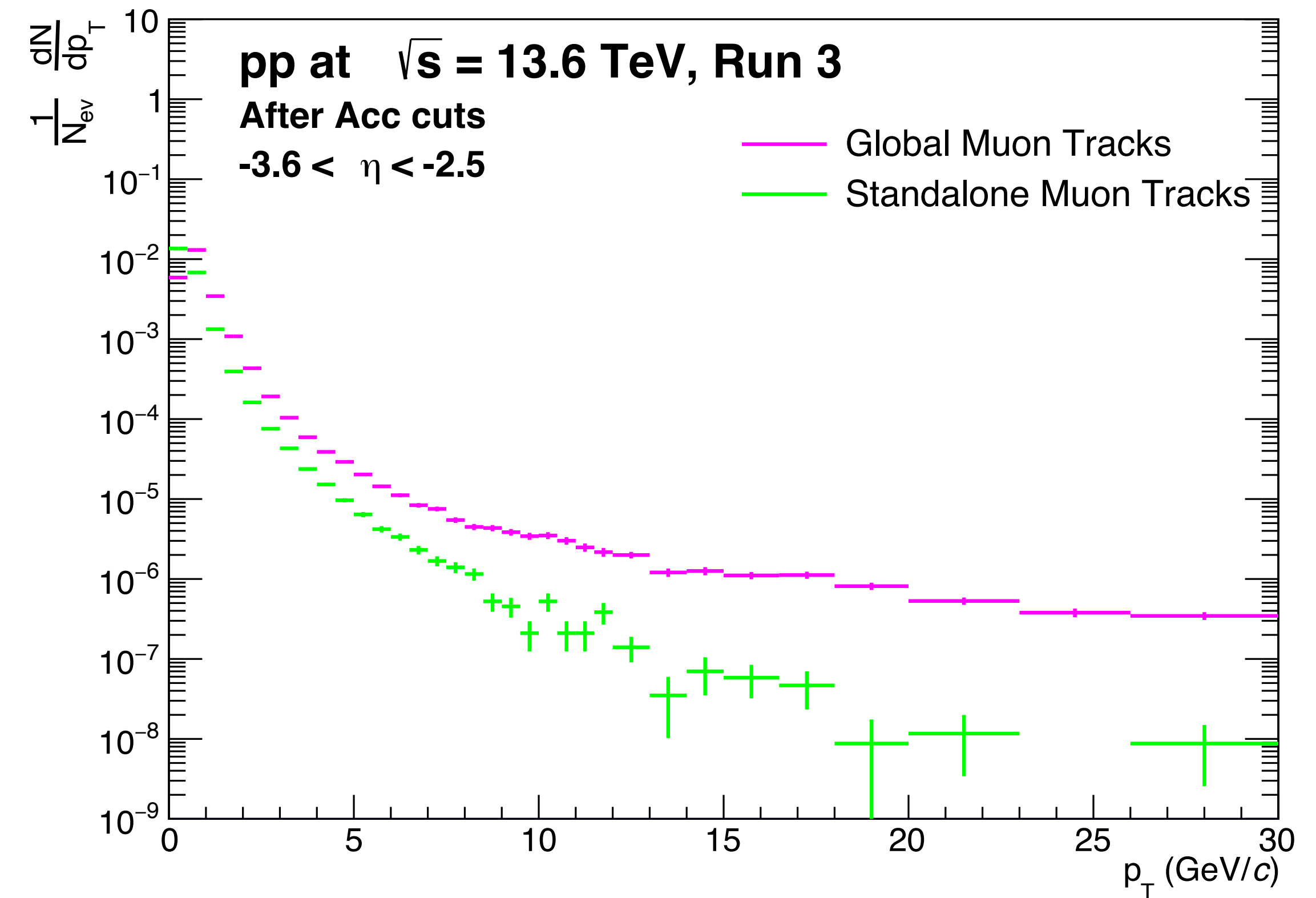
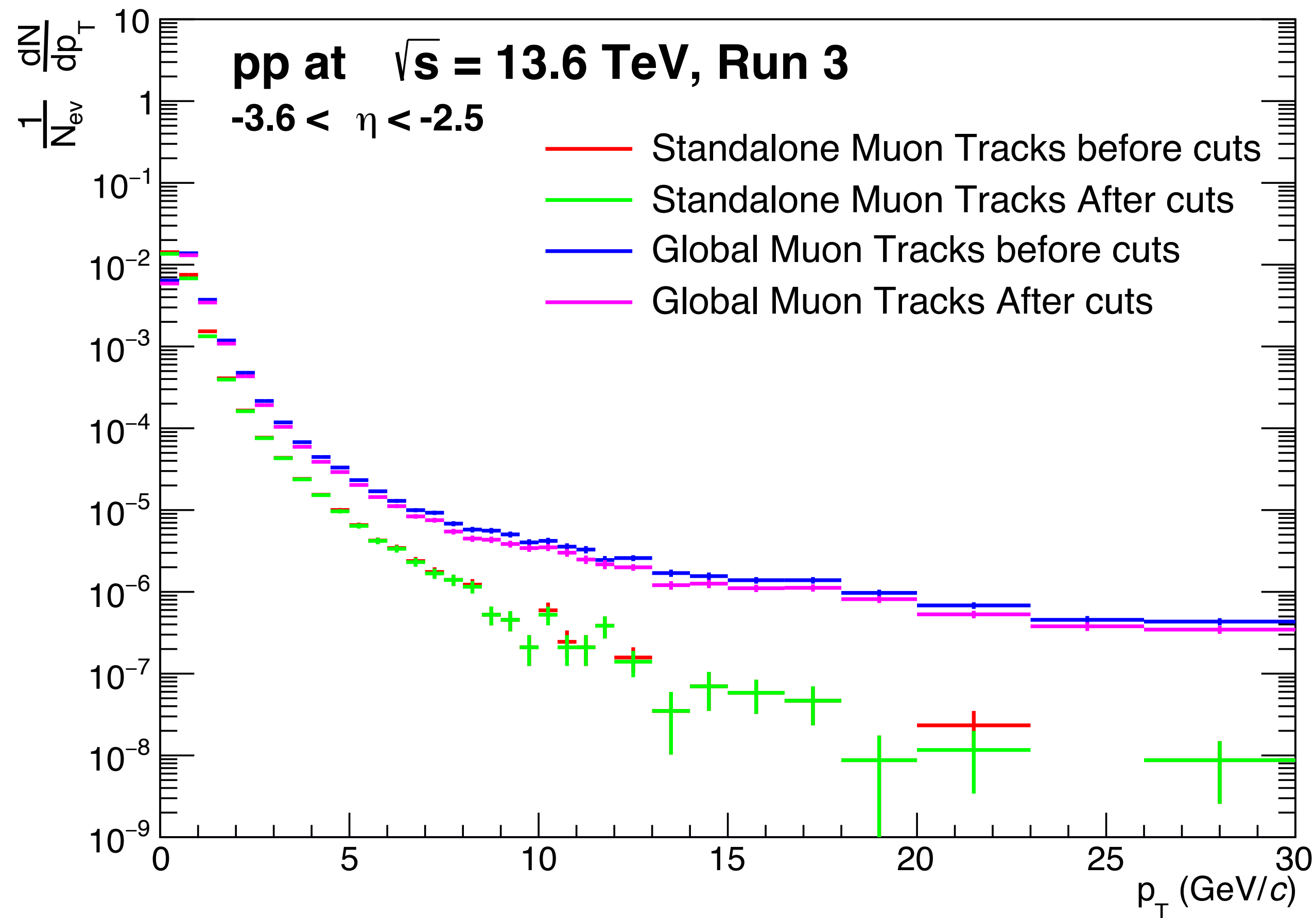
# Comparison of $R_{abs}$ distribution



# Comparison of $\chi^2$ distribution

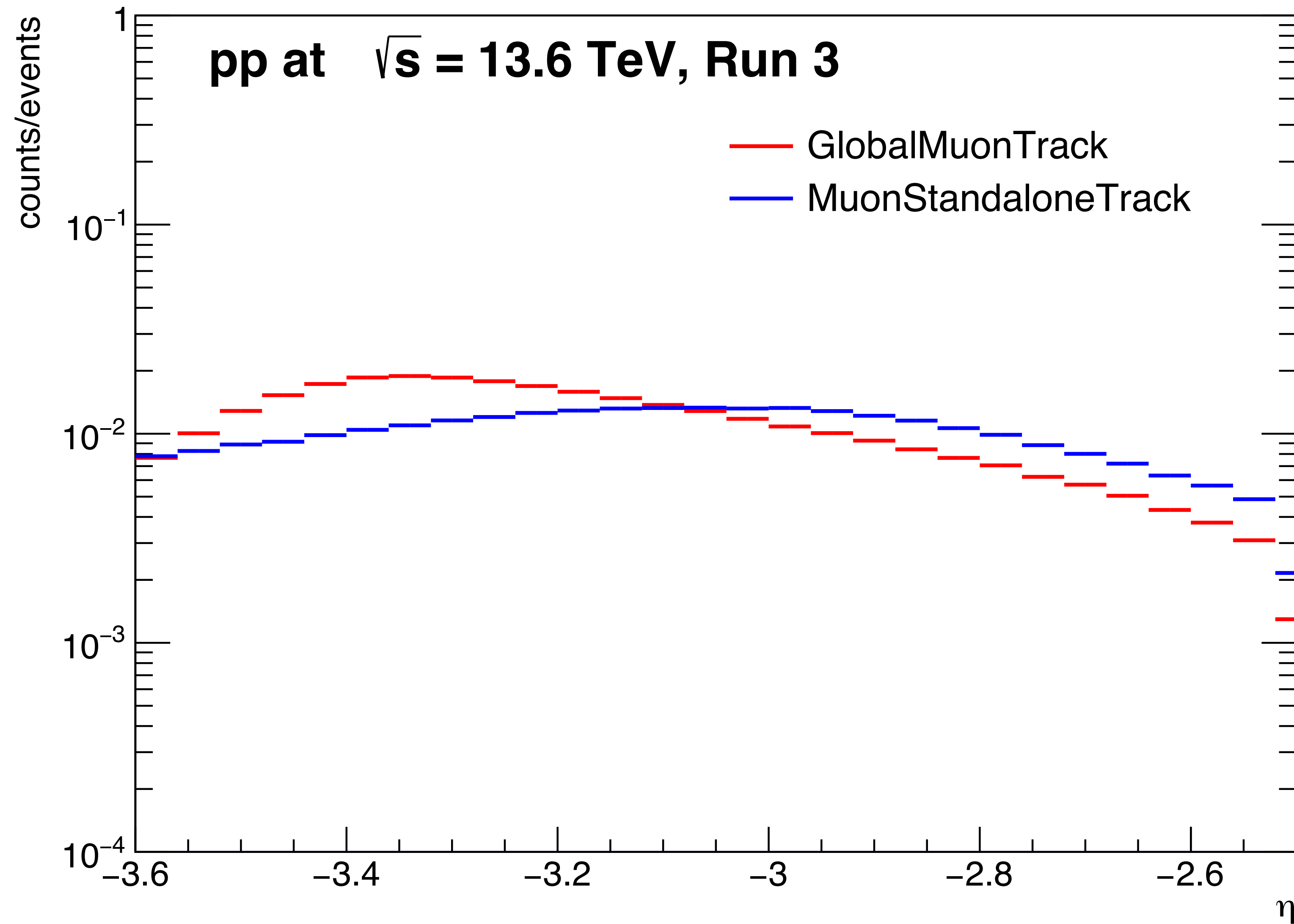


# $p_T$ spectra of Muon Standalone Tracks and Global Muon Tracks

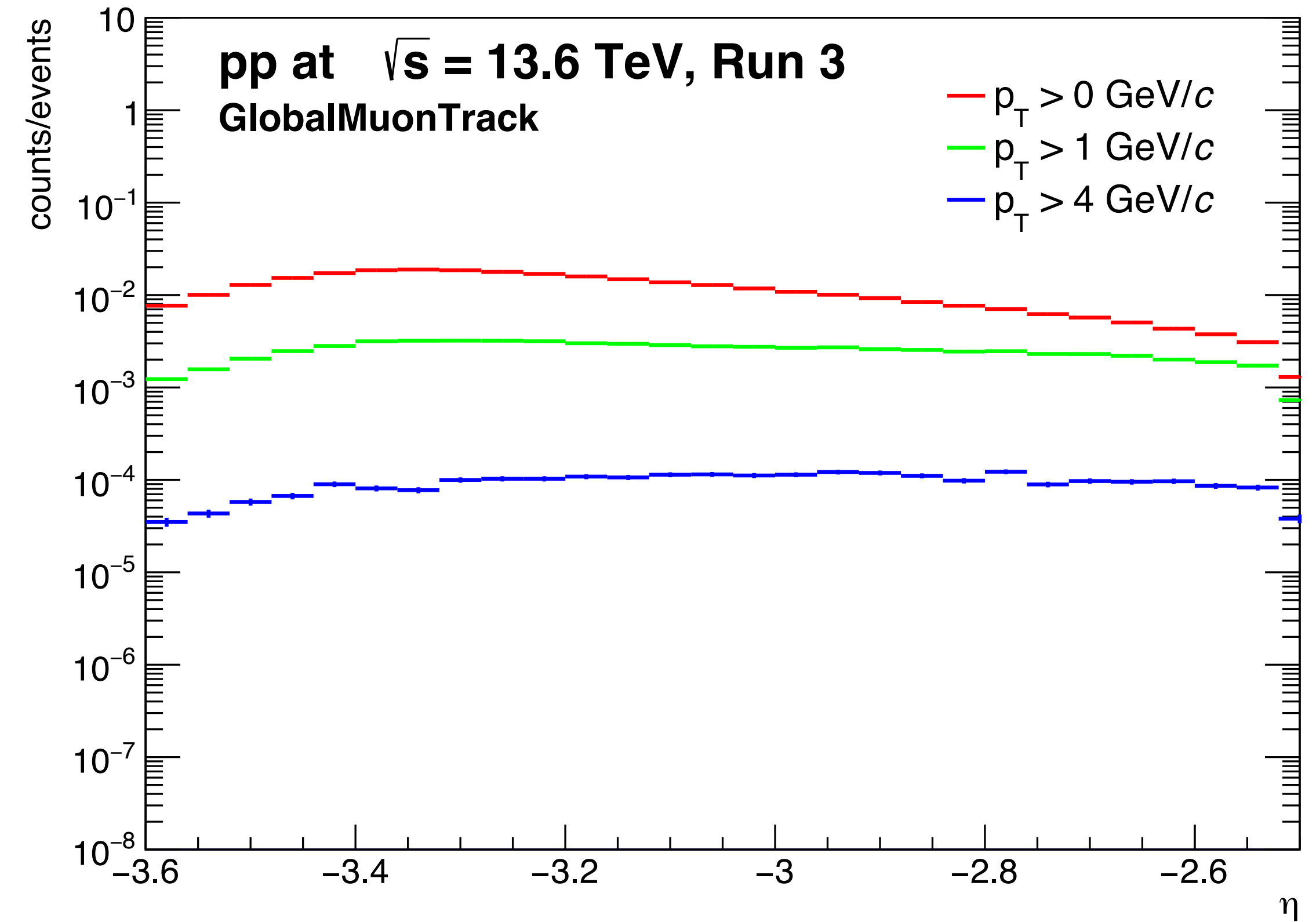
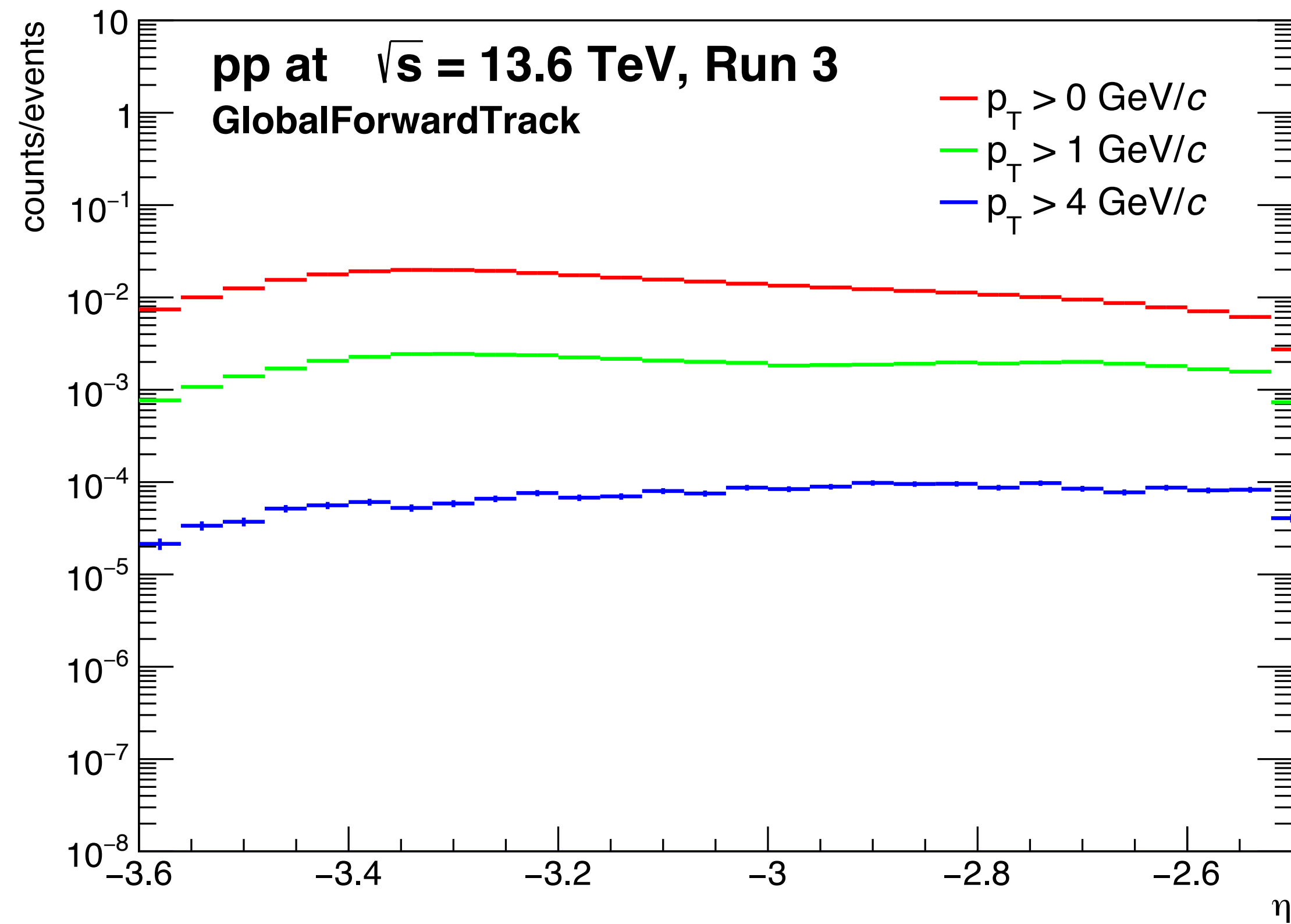




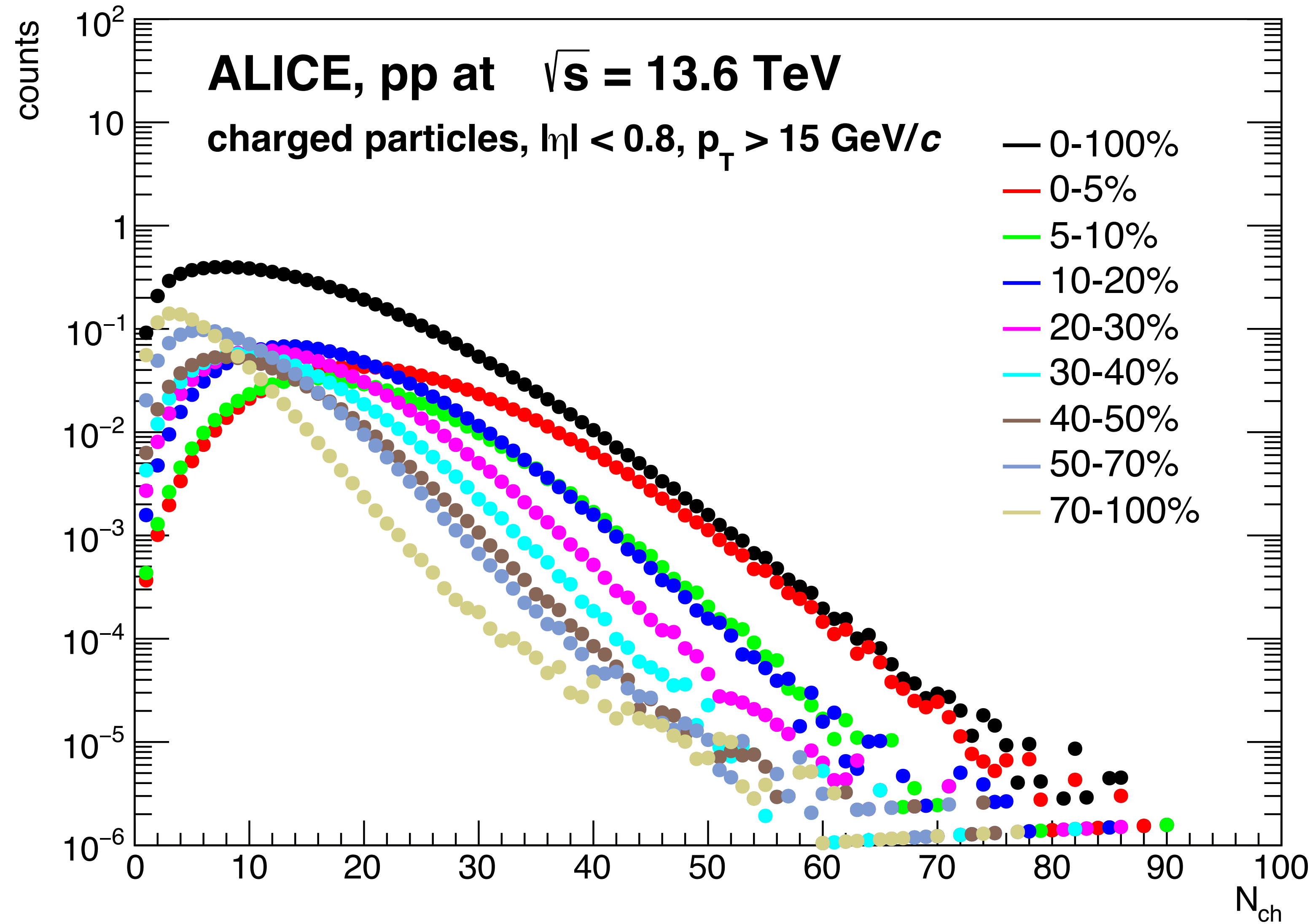
# Comparison of $\eta$ distribution between Muon Standalone tracks and Global Muon tracks



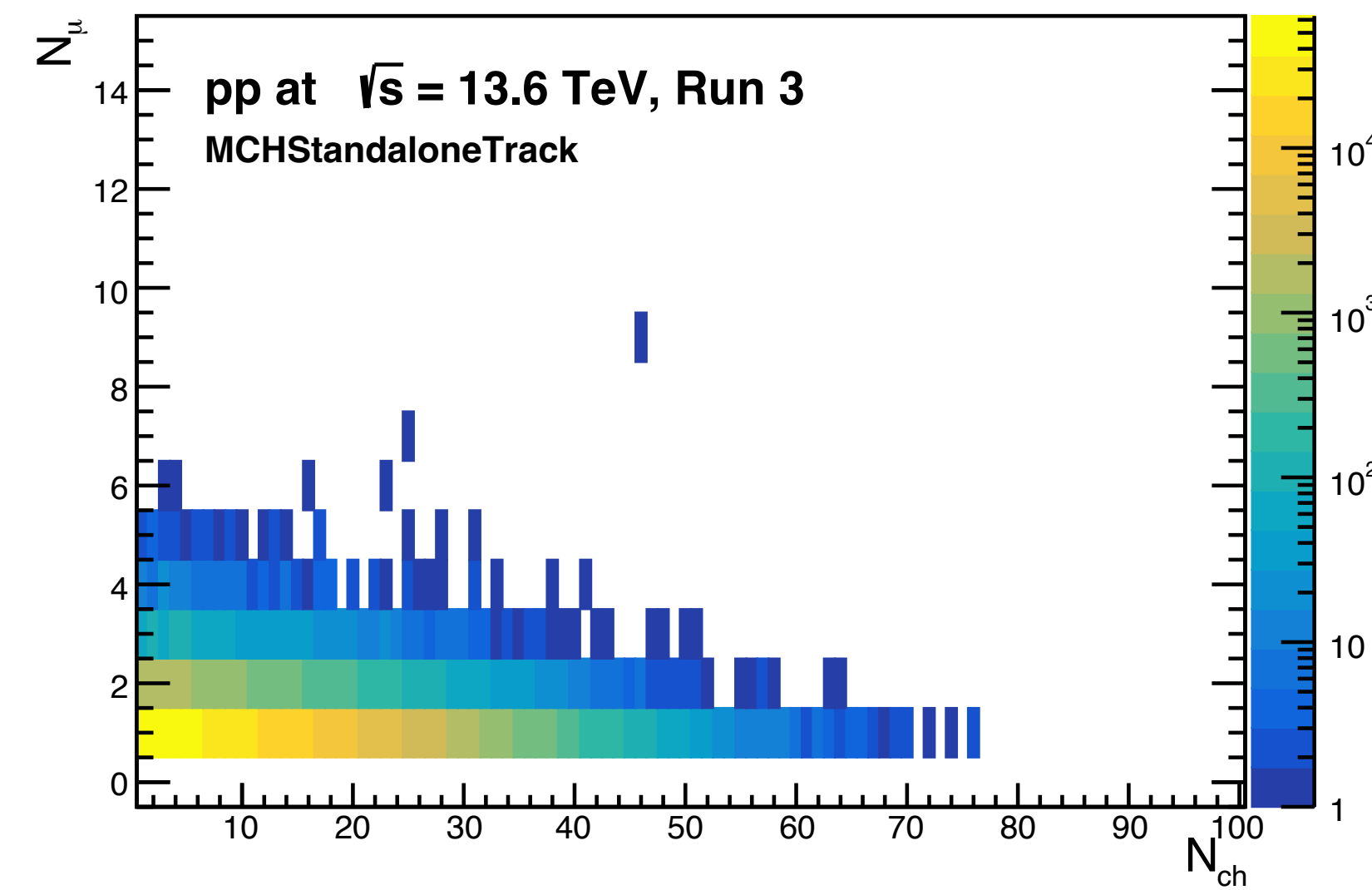
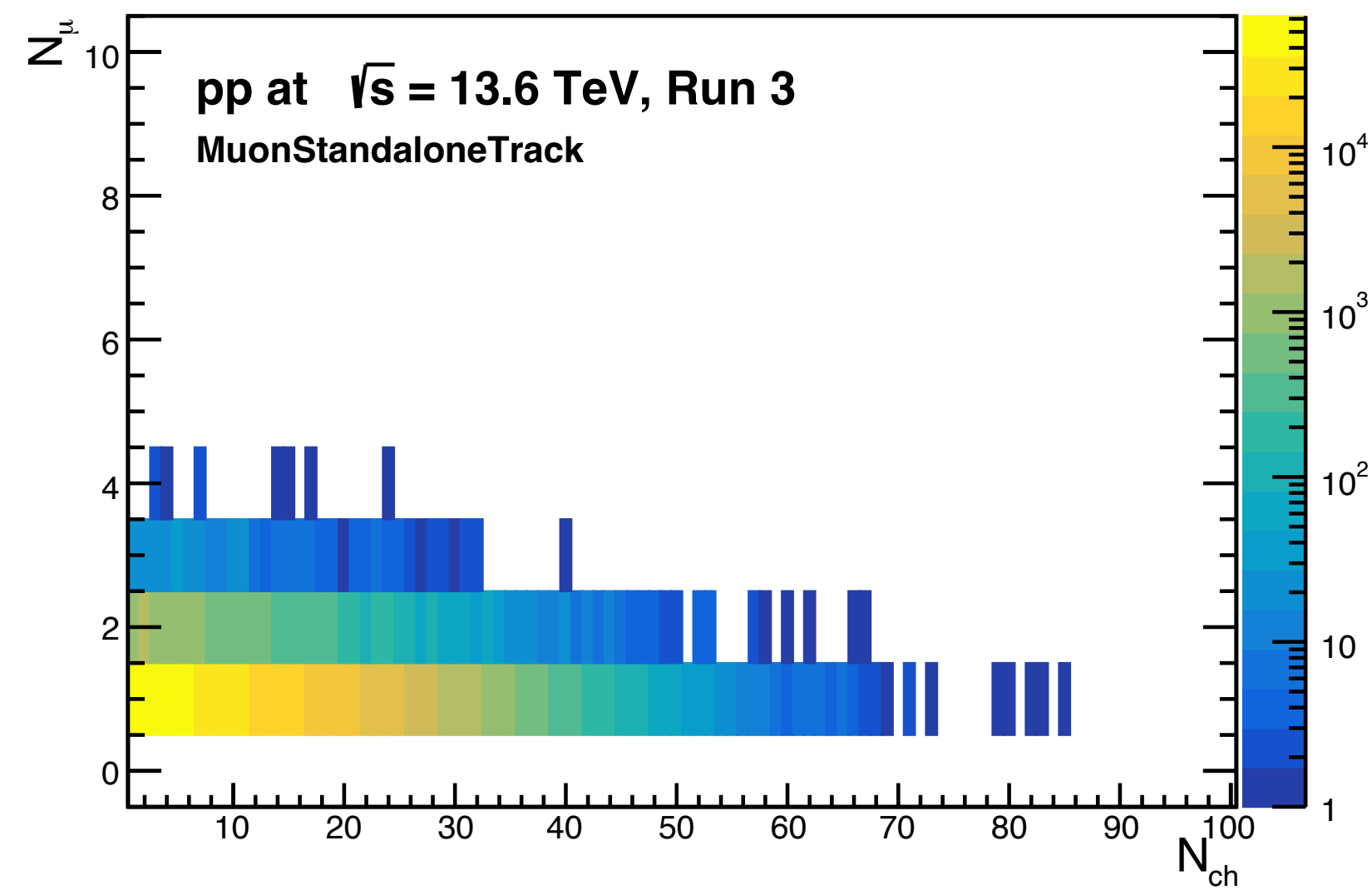
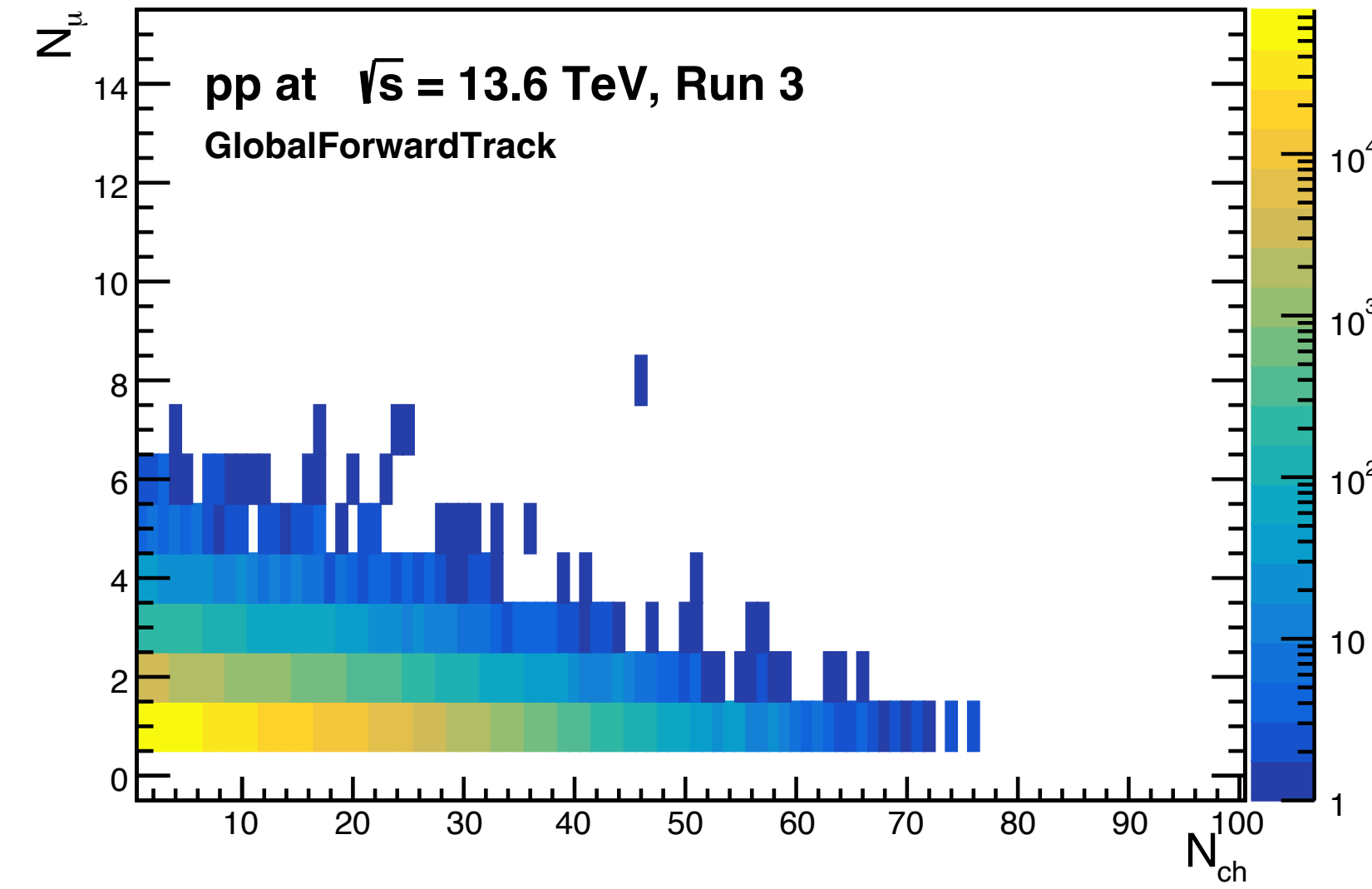
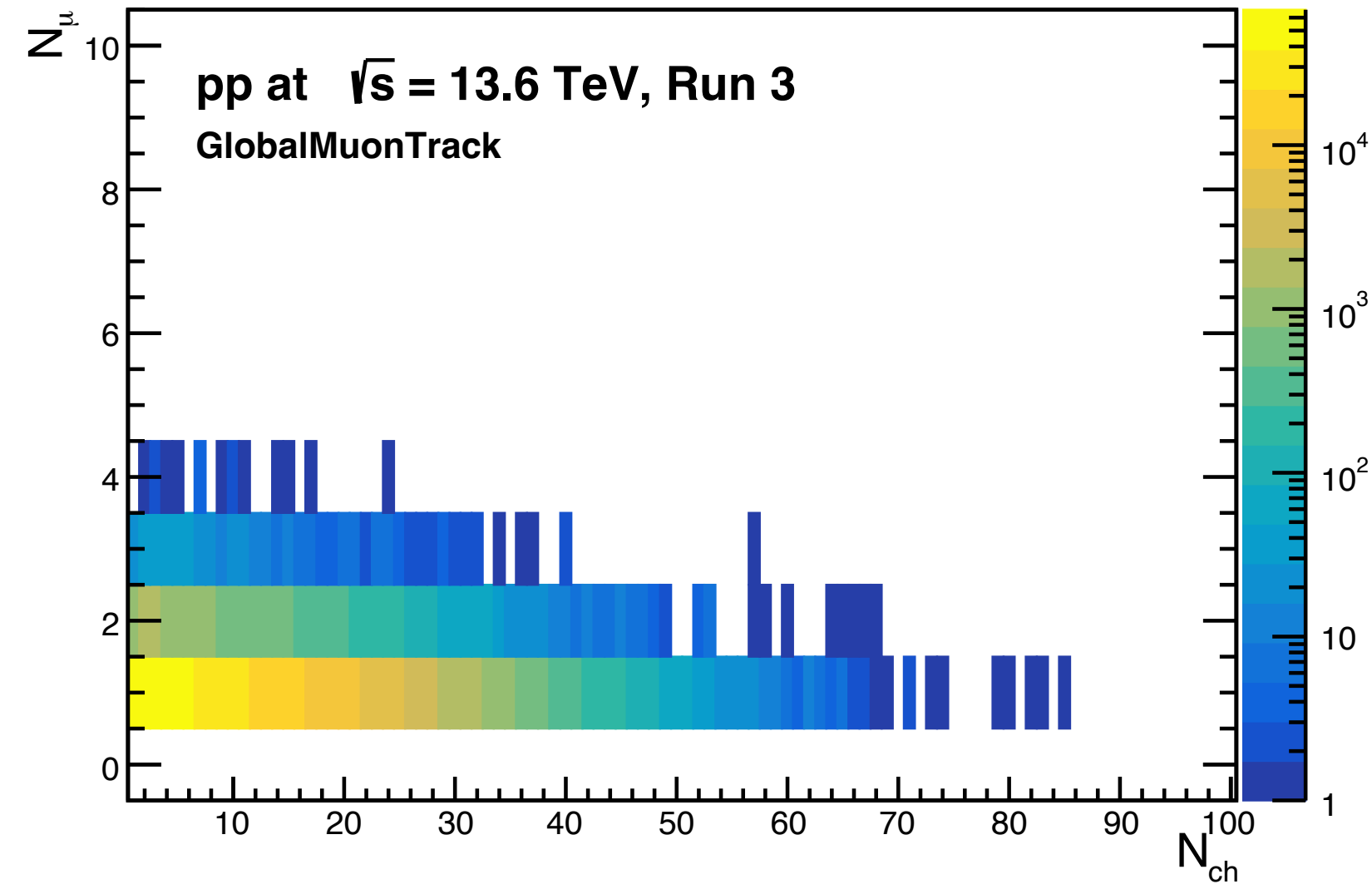
# Comparison of $\eta$ distribution at different $p_T$ cuts



# Charged Particle Multiplicity at various TOM Multiplicity percentile



# Charged Particle Multiplicity Vs Inclusive Single Muon



## Summary & Outlook

- $p_T$  -spectra of muons at various selection cuts are observed.
- Matching the MCH tracks that with MFT clusters seen to have effect in reducing the beam induced background specially at high  $p_T$  region.
- Application of  $6\sigma$  cut on  $p \times DCA$  is efficient to removed the beam induced background.
- To explore study with MC including Acceptance times efficiency ( $A \times \epsilon$ )correction.
- Need to explore tuning for  $\Delta p_T, \chi^2, pDCA$  values in matching the MCH-MFT tracks in order to match the spectra of Muon Standalone Tracks and Global Muon Tracks.
- The analysis task is committed in O2Physics repository: <https://github.com/AliceO2Group/O2Physics/pull/10435>
- Analysis with full dataset in pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13.6$  TeV.



**thank you**



# backup



# Selection cuts for globalTrack



Cuts	globalTrack
min number of crossed rows TPC	70
min ratio of crossed rows over findable clusters TPC	0.8
max chi2 per cluster TPC	4.0
max chi2 per cluster ITS	36.0
require TPC refit	true
require ITS refit	true
max DCA to vertex z	2.0
max DCA to vertex xy	$0.0105 * 0.035 / p_T^{1.1}$
cluster requirement ITS	Run 2 (Run 3): at least one hit in SPD (in 3 innermost ITS layers) [*]
$p_T$ range	0.1 - 1e10
$\eta$ range	-0.8 - 0.8

<https://aliceo2group.github.io/analysis-framework/docs/basics-usage/HelperTasks.html#track-selection>