

Enhancing Timing Information Reconstruction with LAr Calorimeter

Primary Vertex Timing

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01 September 2025

Part 1

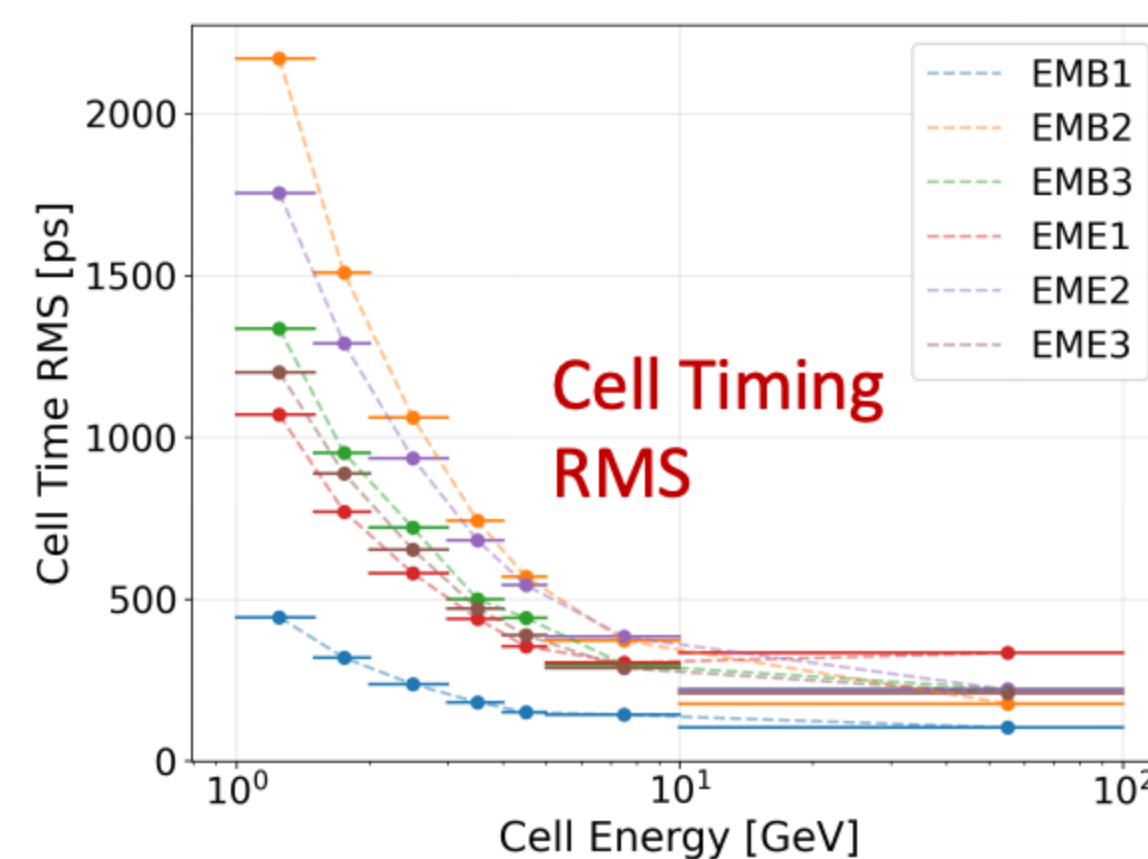
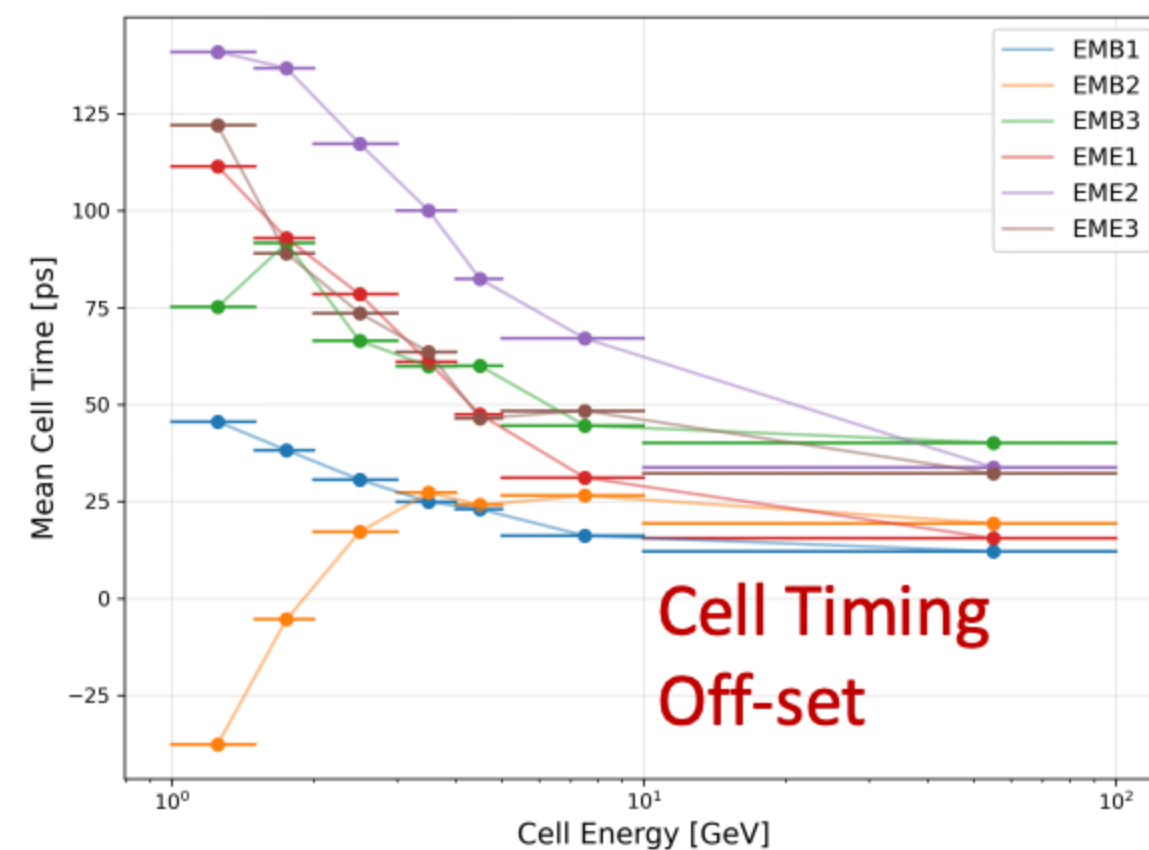
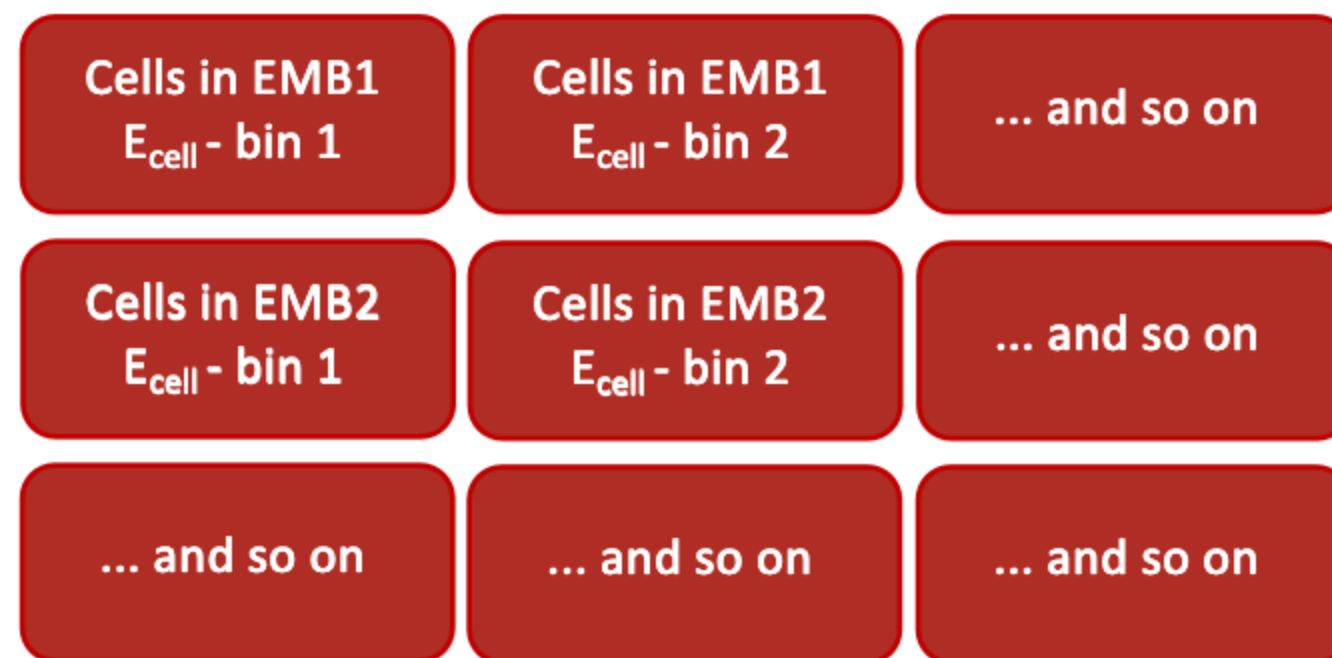
Review of Prior Progress

Inclusive PV t_0 Reconstruction with EM-layers

❑ Use All Cells in EM-layers (EMB&EMEC)

➤ Cut for cells:

$E \geq 1.0 \text{ GeV}$; Significance ≥ 4.0



❑ Back to Reco. Level

$$t_0^{\text{PV}} = \frac{\sum_{\text{cell}} w^{\text{cell}} t_0^{\text{cell}}}{\sum_{\text{cell}} w^{\text{cell}}}$$

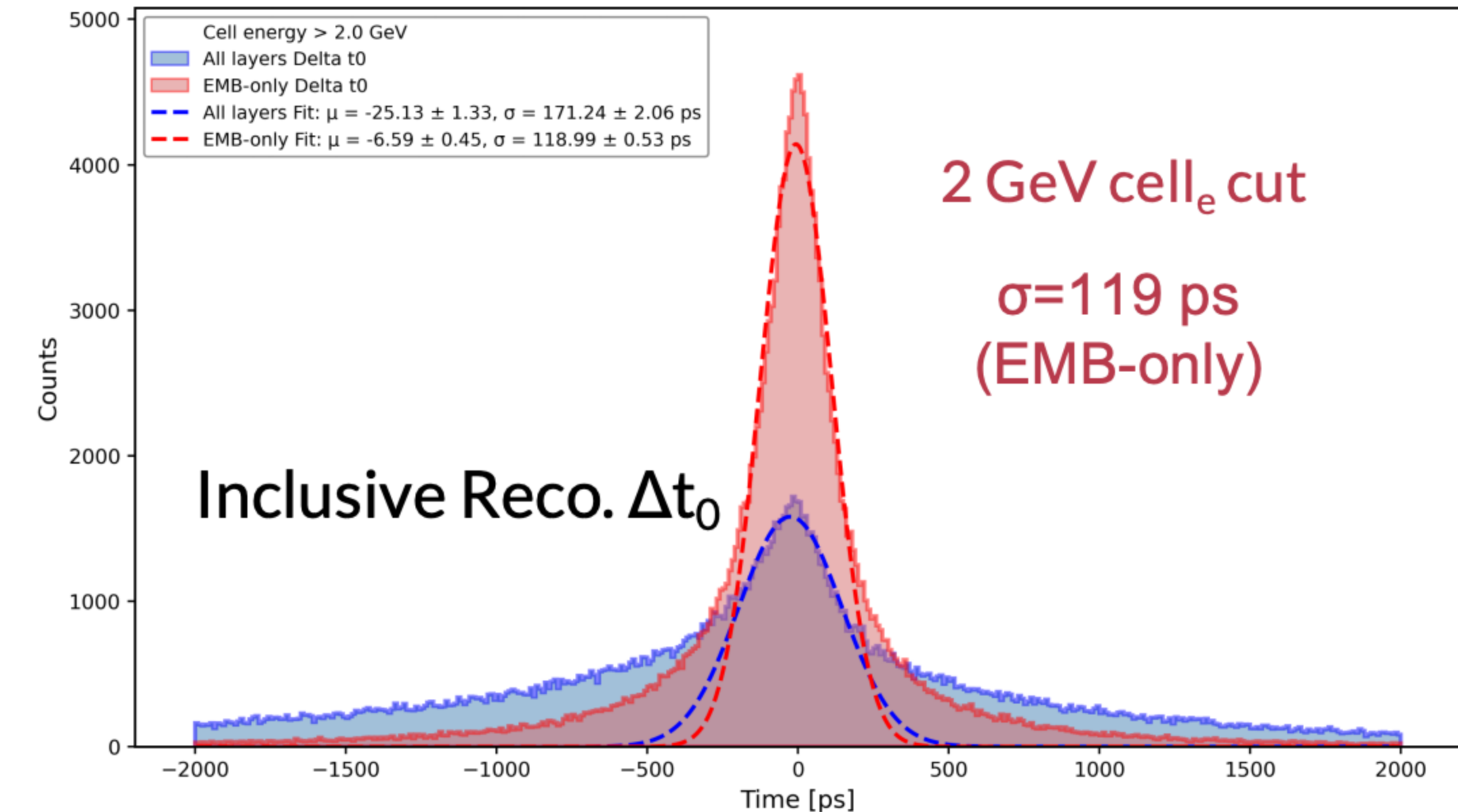
Weighted average

$$t_0^{\text{cell}} = t_0^{\text{cell, AOD}} + t_{\text{tof}}(\vec{0}, \vec{r}^{\text{cell}}) - t_{\text{tof}}(\text{reco. PV}, \vec{r}^{\text{cell}}) - t_{\text{offset}}^{\text{cell}}$$

$$w^{\text{cell}} = \frac{1}{(\sigma_t^{\text{cell}})^2}$$



$\Delta t_0 = (\text{Reco} - \text{Truth}) \text{ PV } t_0$

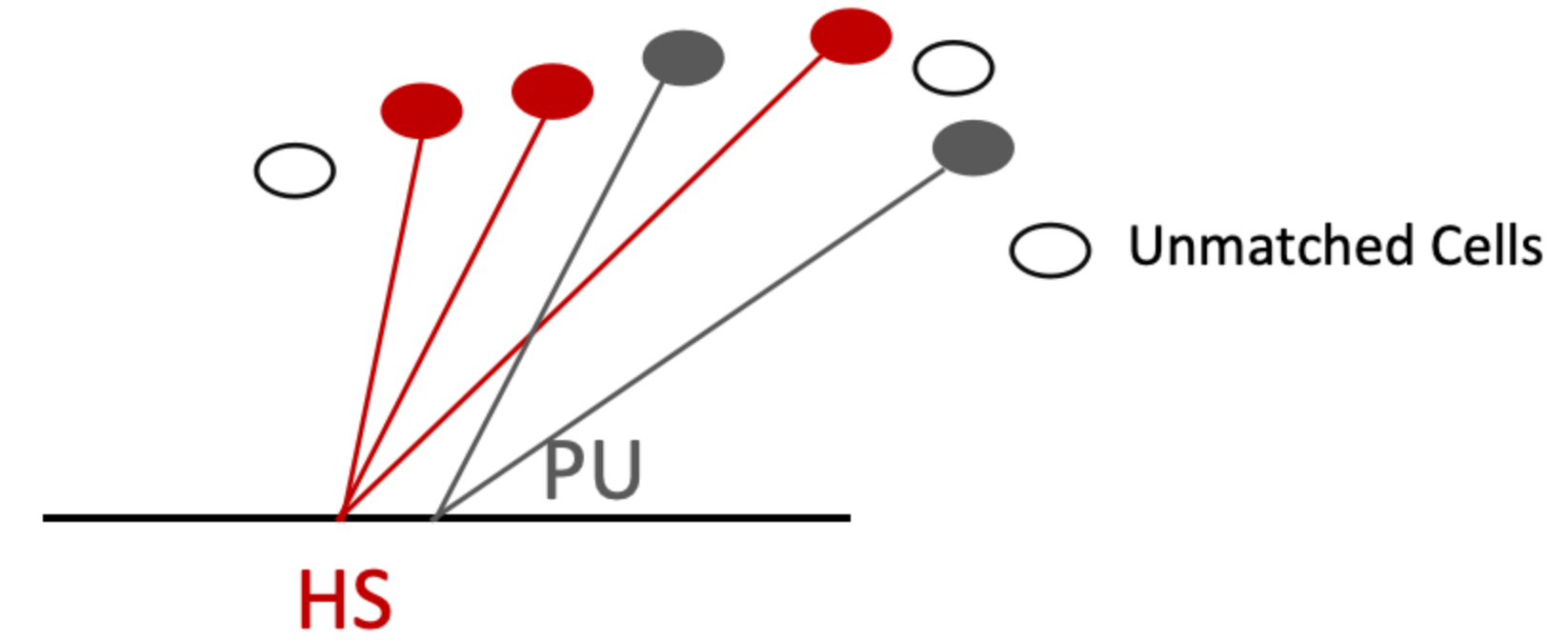


Incorporating Track/Jet Matching Information

Inclusive Reco.
best: 119 ps

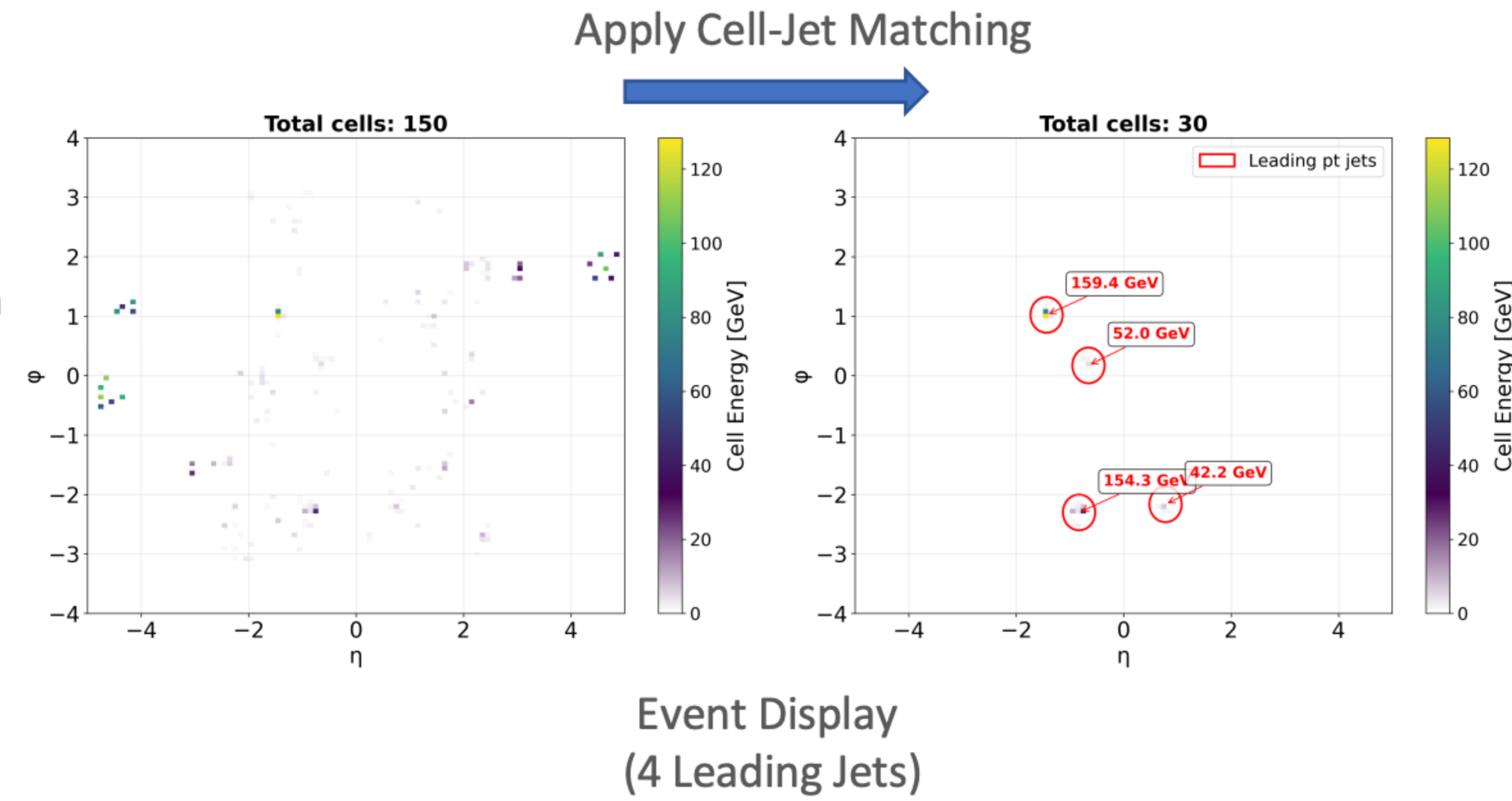
→ Cell-Track Matching

- $\Delta R(\text{cell}, \text{track}) \leq 0.05$, choosing highest p_T track
- Classification of cells:
 - Matched to a Hard-Scatter (HS) track
 - Matched to a Pile-Up (PU) track
 - Unmatched to any track



→ Cell-Jet Matching

- All reco. jets that satisfy:
 - $p_T \geq 30$ GeV
 - Matched to truth HS jets
- $\Delta R(\text{cell}, \text{jet}) \leq 0.3$ cells for t_0 reconstruction



Cell-Track

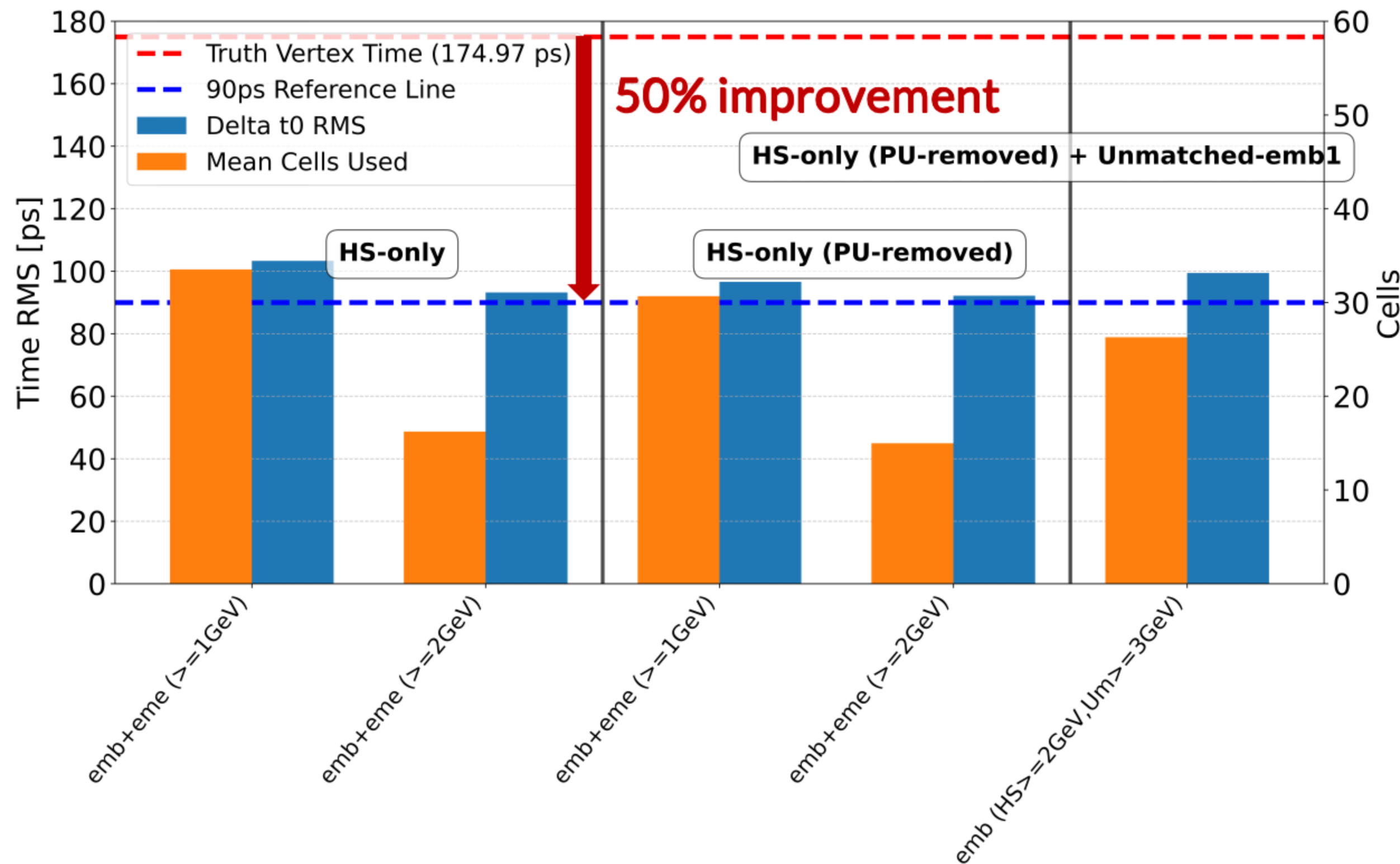
- ✓ PU suppression
- ✗ Neutral particles

Cell-Jet

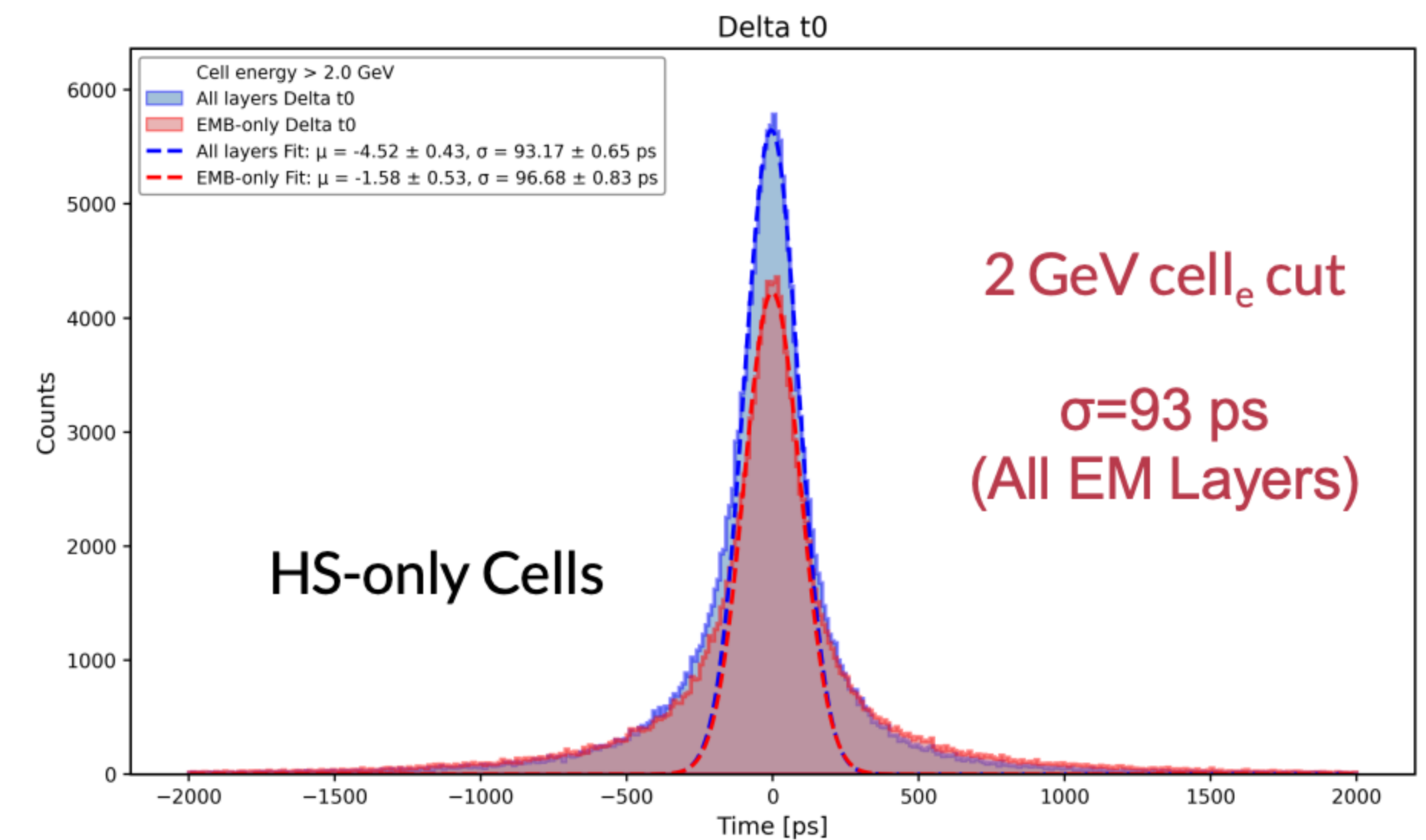
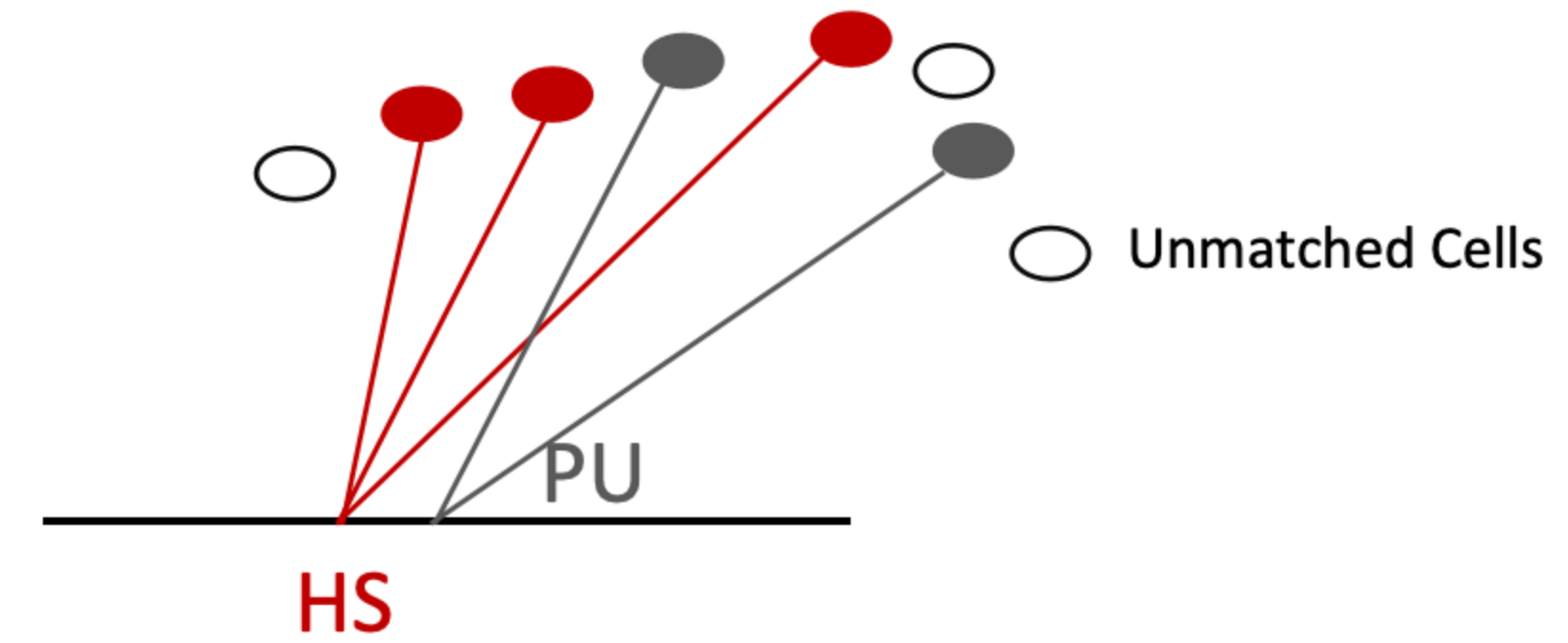
- ✓ Neutral particles
- ✗ PU suppression

Summary of Cell-Track Matching

Selected Optimal Strategies



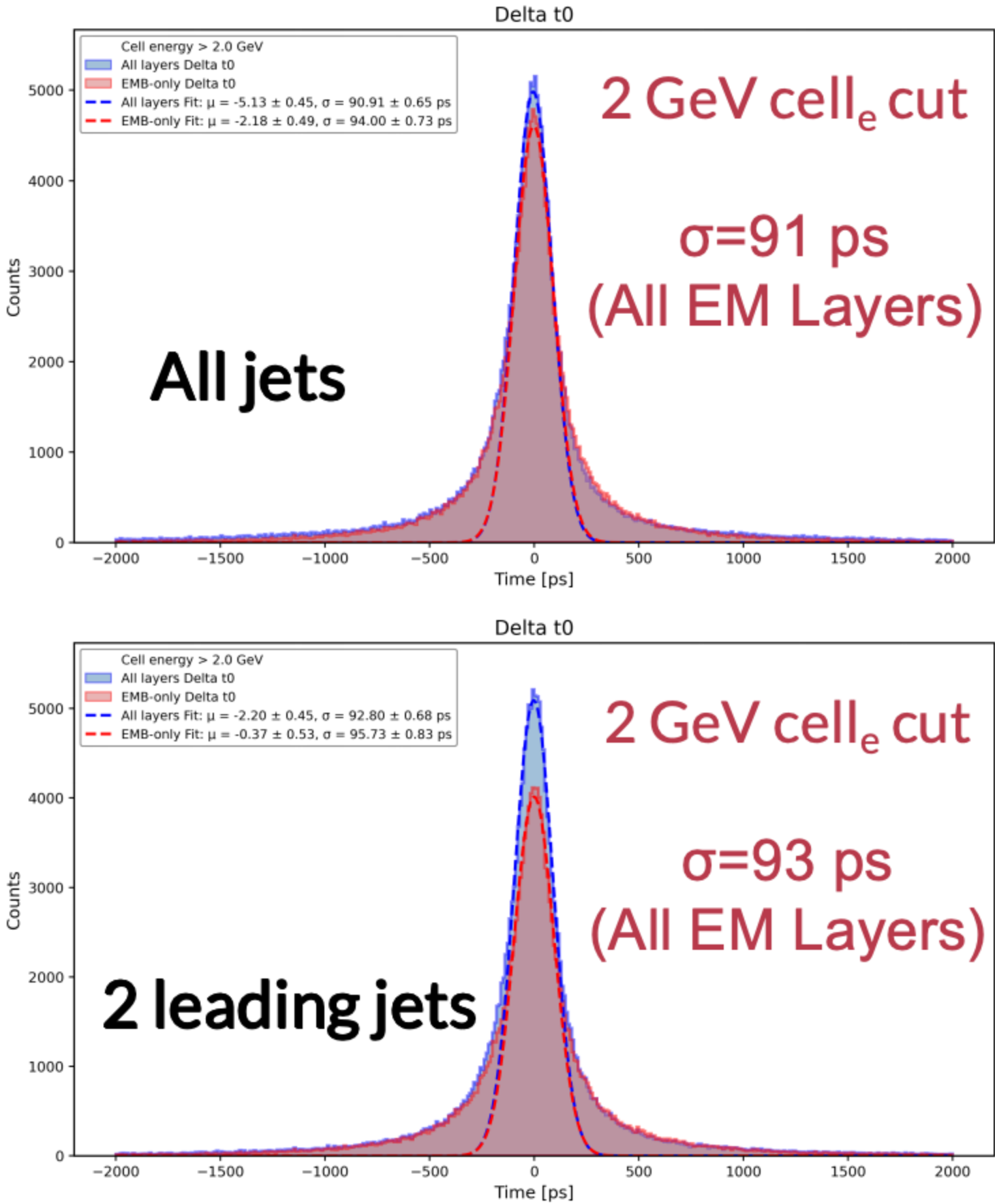
- The best timing resolution achieves ~93 ps with only 0.02% reconstruction failure rate.
- Increasing the cell energy cut improves resolution slightly.
- No significant improvement from lower cell significance or $\Delta R(\text{cell, track})$ cut.



- Sub-100 ps Δt_0 resolution with HS-only cells
- Using all EM-layers did help!

Summary of Cell-Jet Matching

❑ All Jets vs 2 Leading Jets



- Reaching ~90 ps level
- Varying the ΔR doesn't help:
 - 0.15 --> 90.97 ps;
 - 0.30 --> 90.91 ps;
 - 0.40 --> 91.25 ps

PV t₀ Reconstruction Summary

	Inclusive	Track-matching	Jet-matching
Best Δt_0 Resolution [ps]	119.0	93.2	90.9
Layers	EMB-only	EMB & EMEC	EMB & EMEC
Cell Energy Cut [GeV]	2.0	2.0	2.0
Mean Cells Used	11.0	15.7	21.7

ML is coming in for the next step.

Part 2

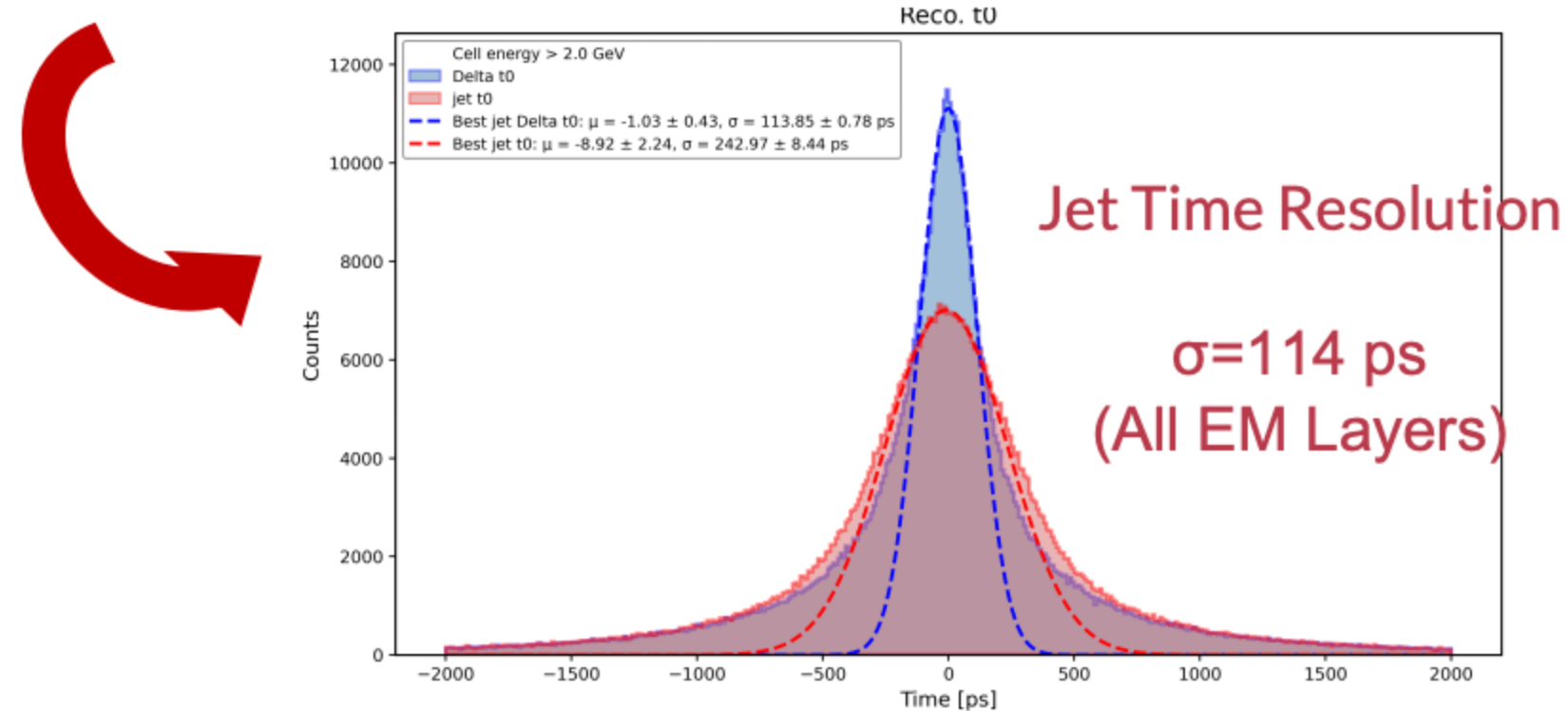
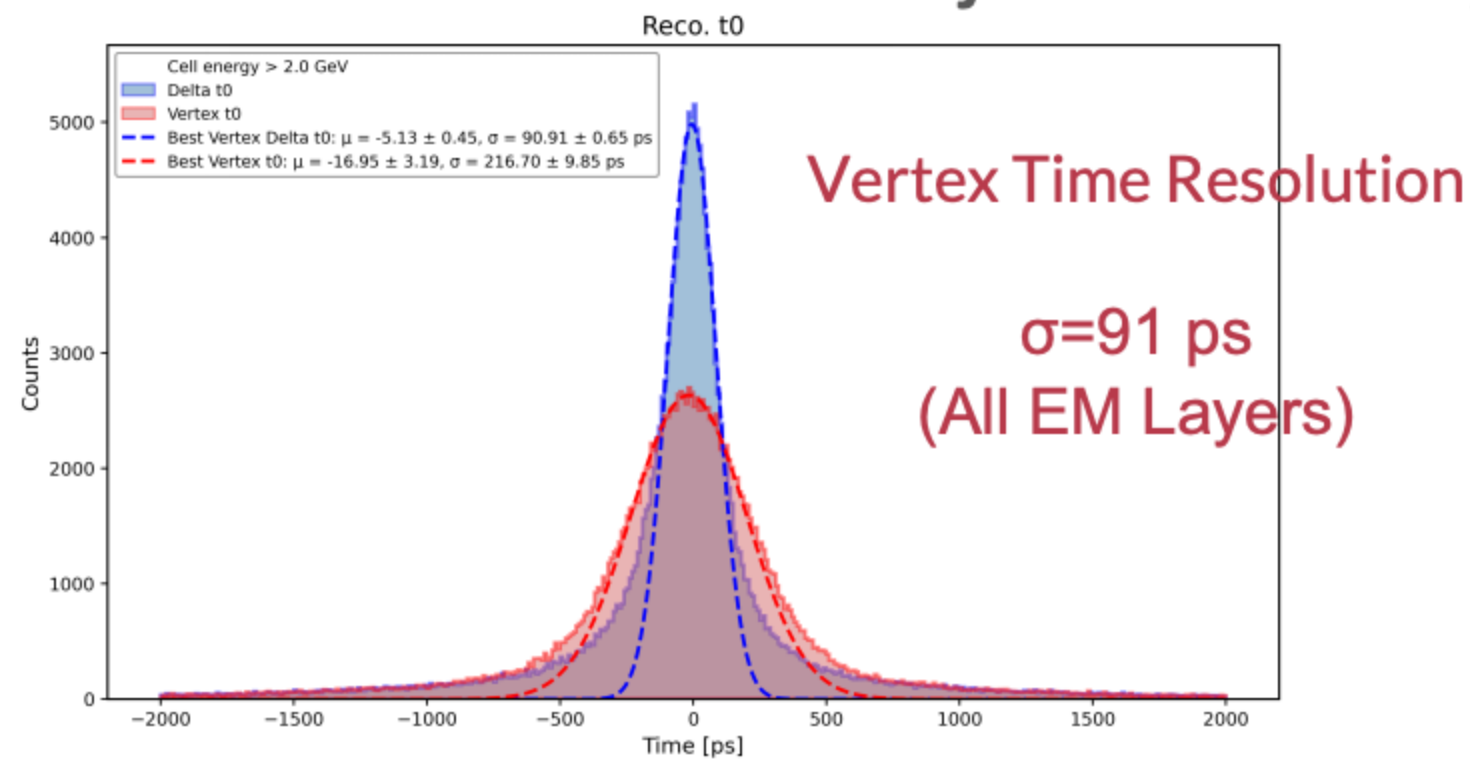
Impact of Shower Physics/Topology

Shower Physics Impact on t_0 Resolution

❑ Motivation

- Do showers with different topologies exhibit different time resolution performance?

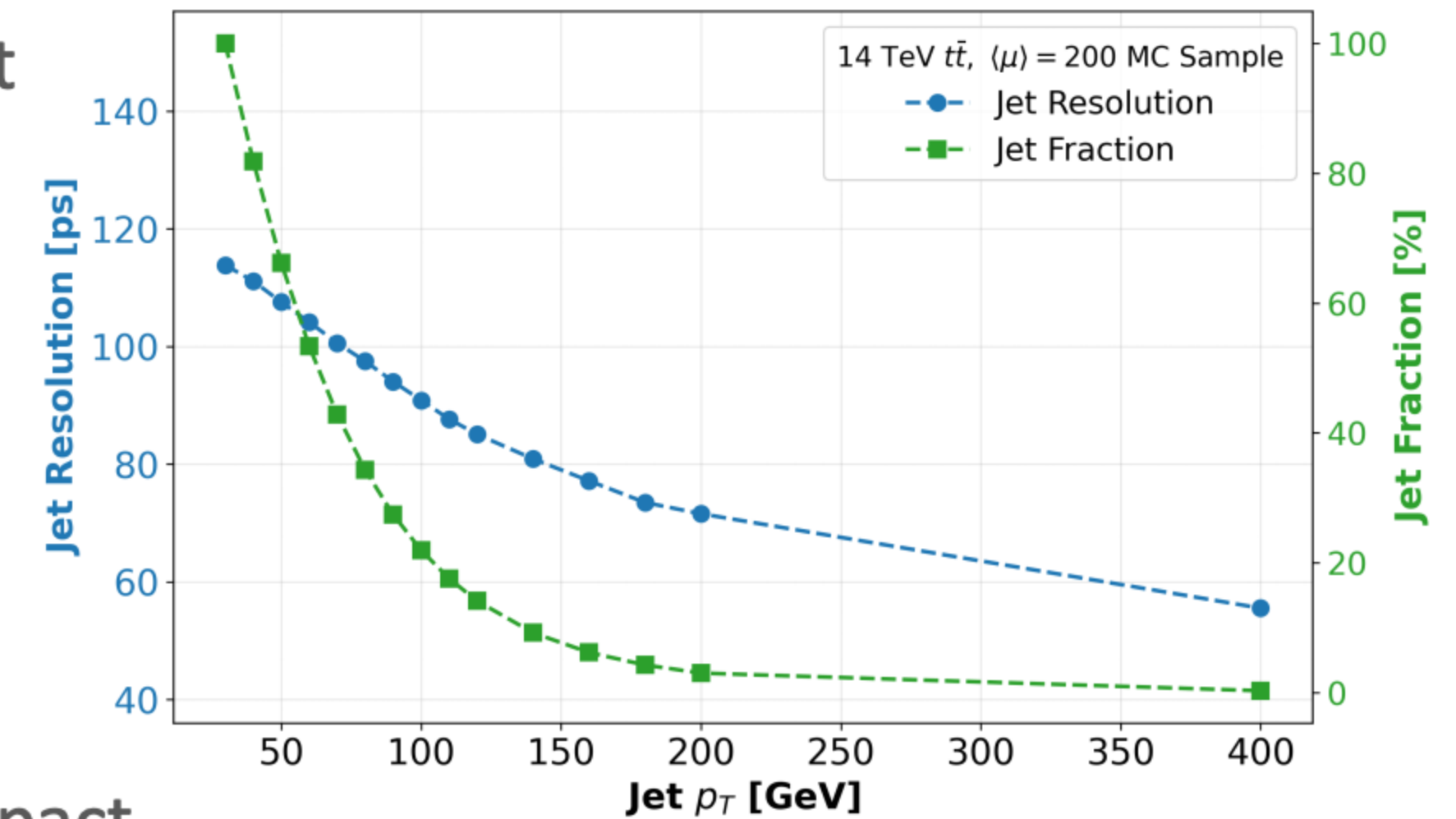
➤ From vertex-level to jet-level analysis



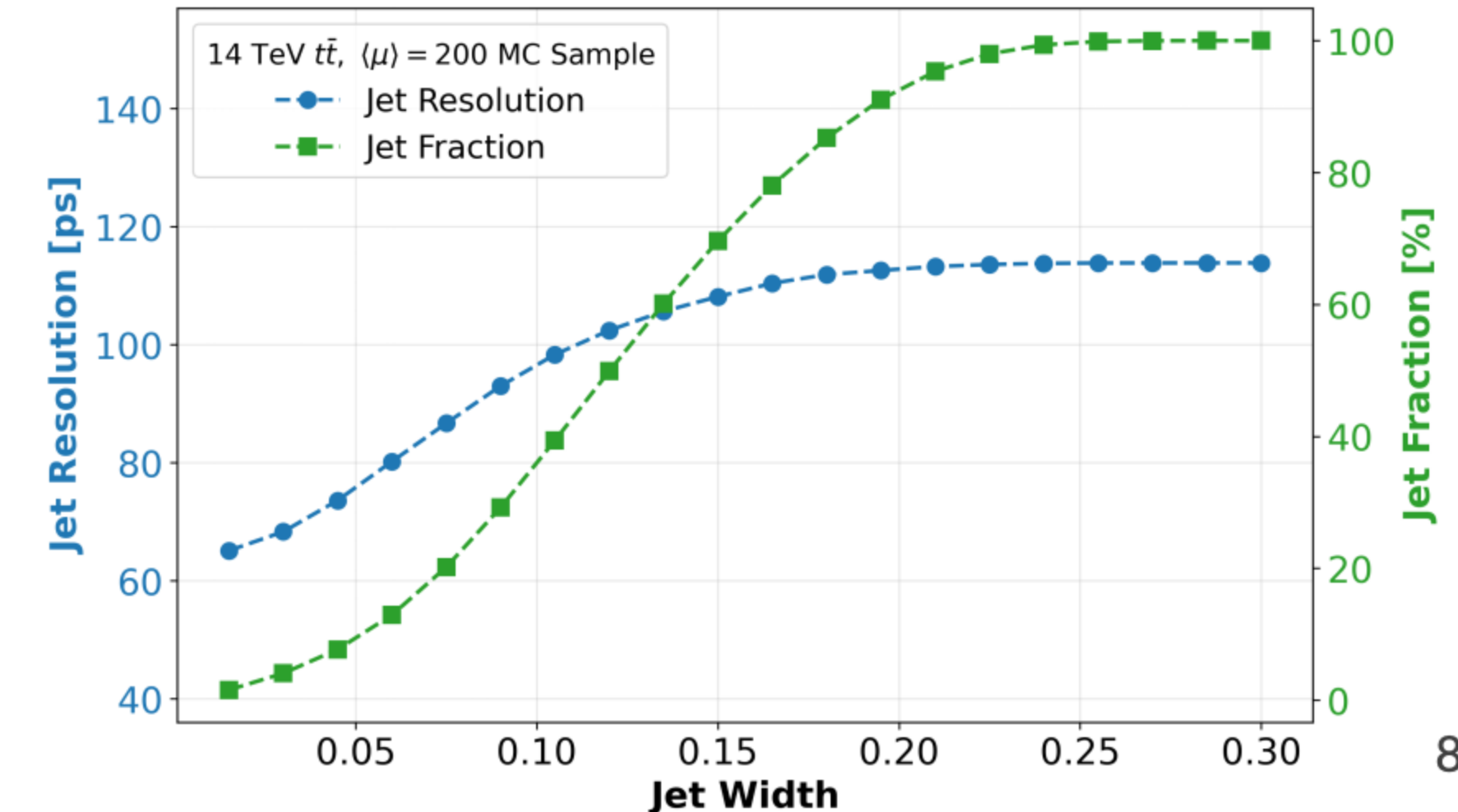
- Jet Resolution: resolution using only single-jet information.
- Jet Fraction: fraction of reco. jets passing specific cuts.

❑ Jet Physics Impact

➤ Jet- p_T Impact

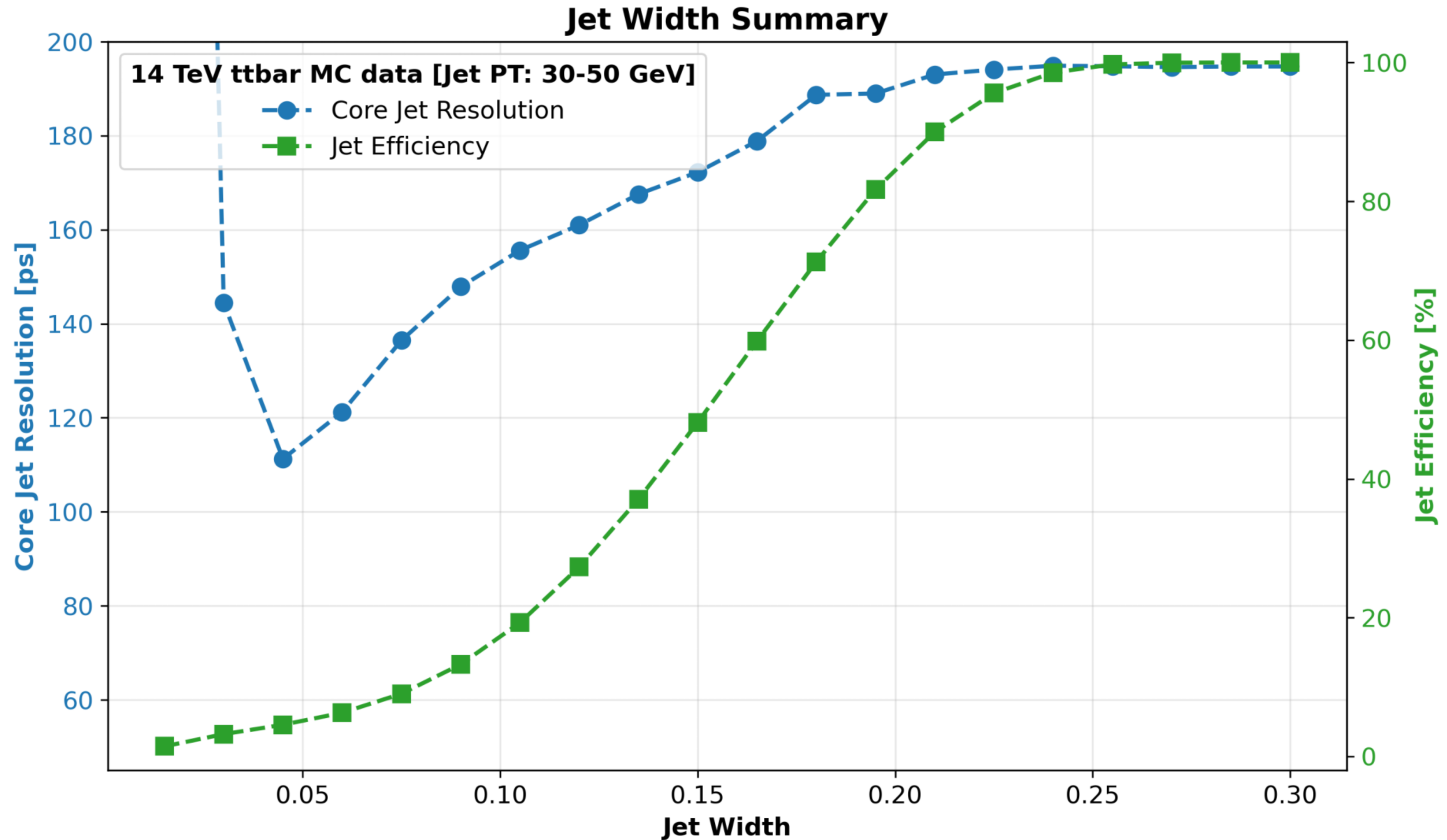


➤ Jet-width Impact

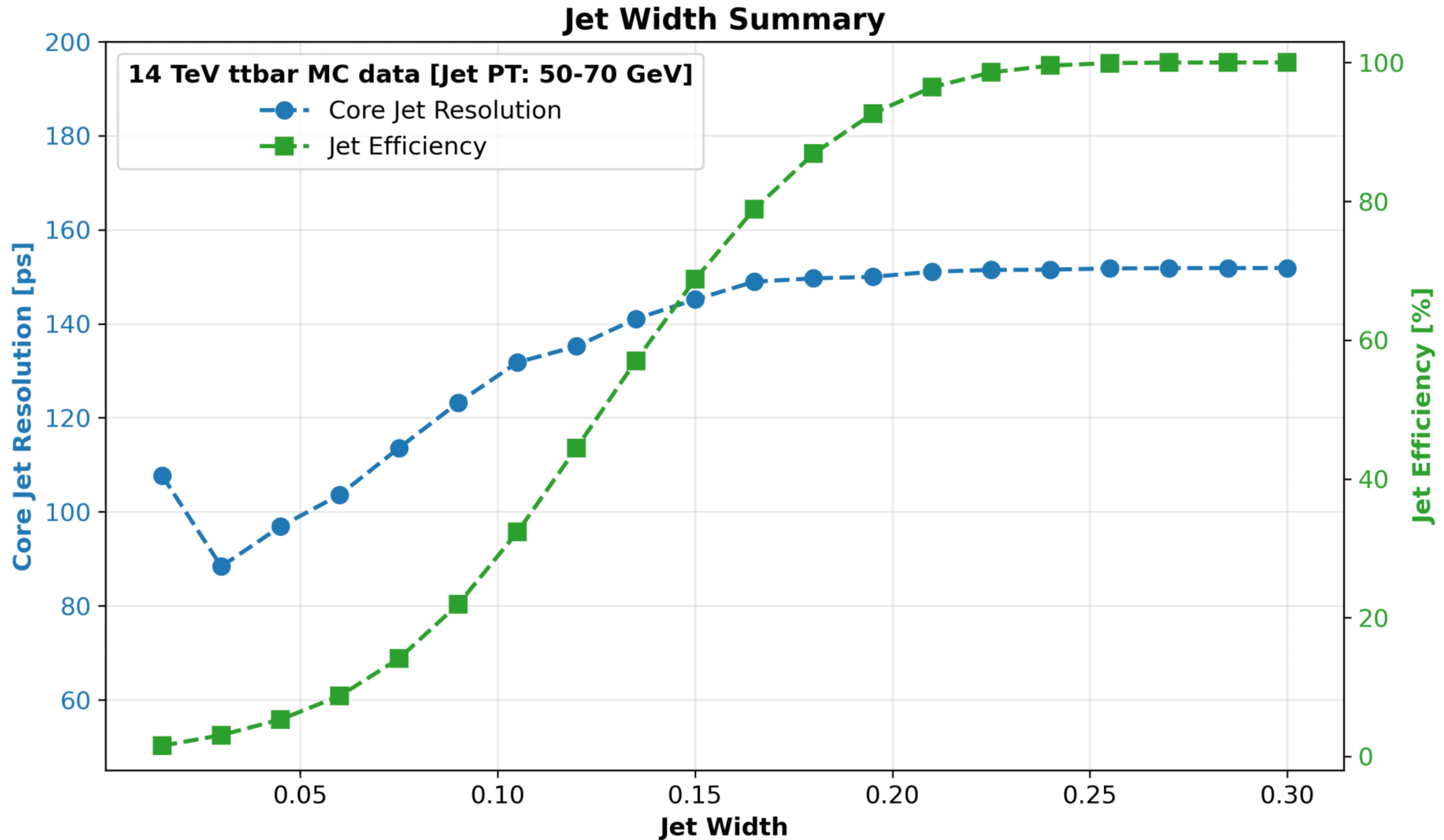


- Jets with higher p_T /narrower width exhibit better time resolution.

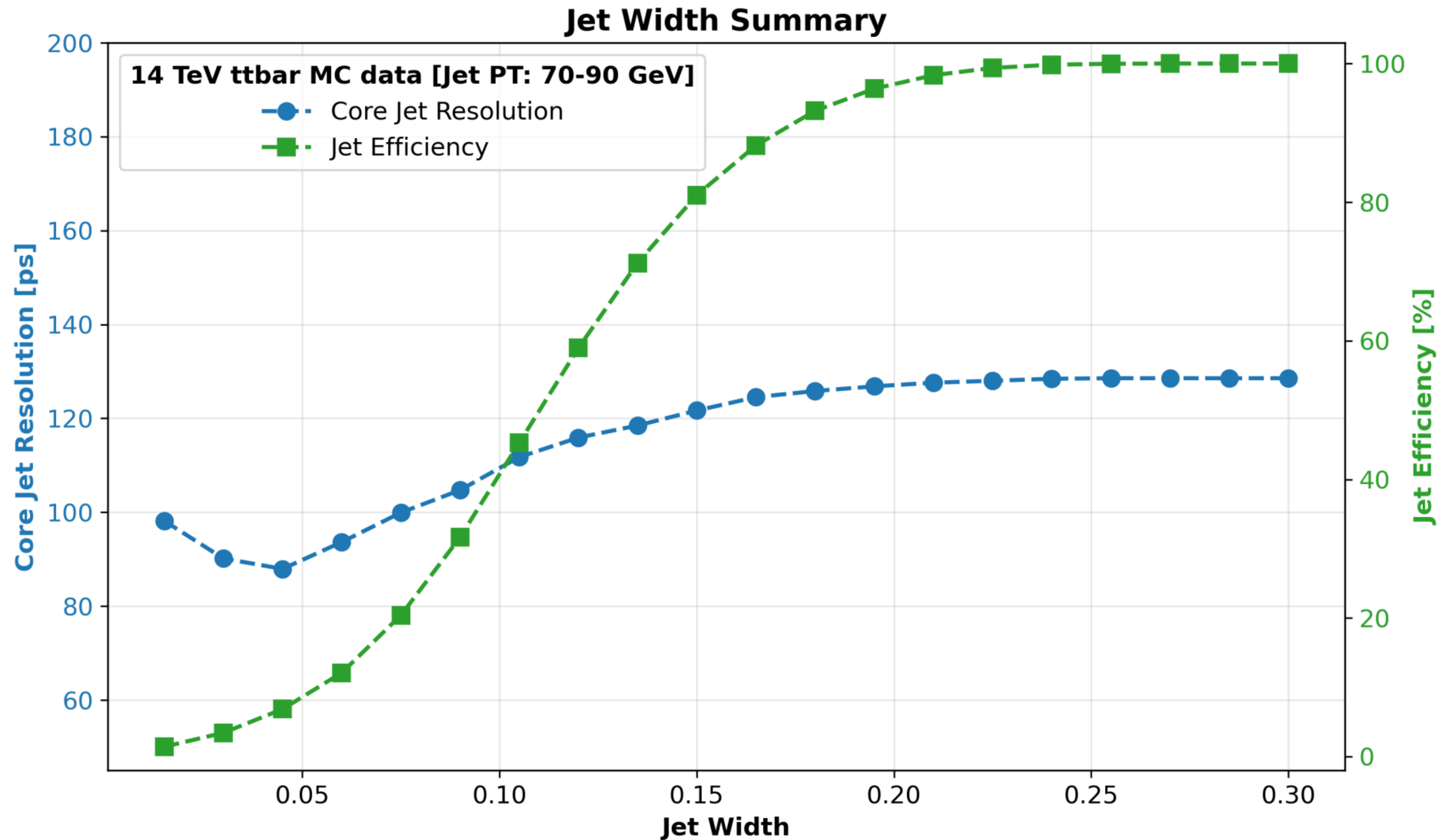
Jet-width Summary with Fixed Jet p_T Bins



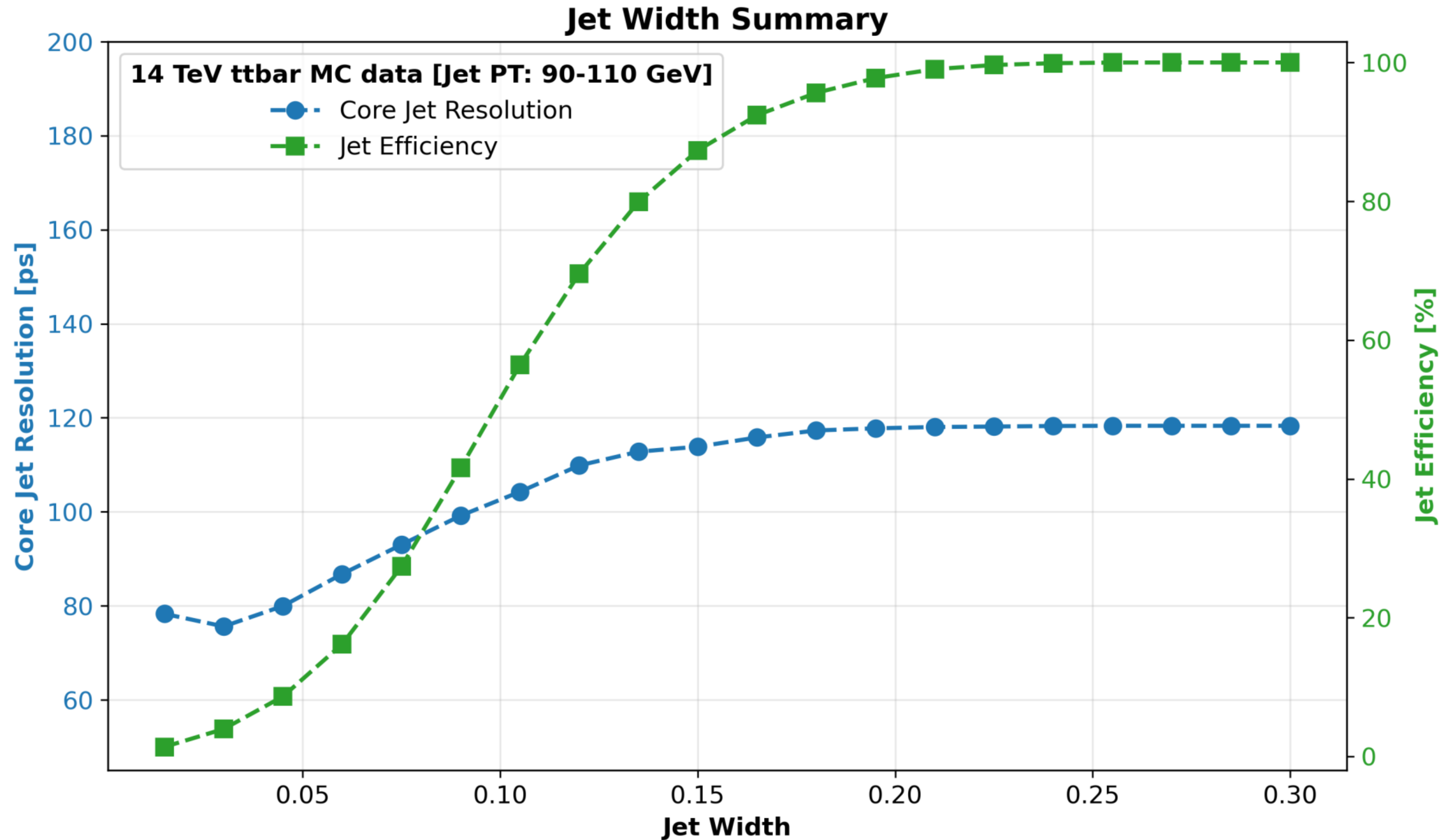
Jet-width Summary with Fixed Jet p_T Bins



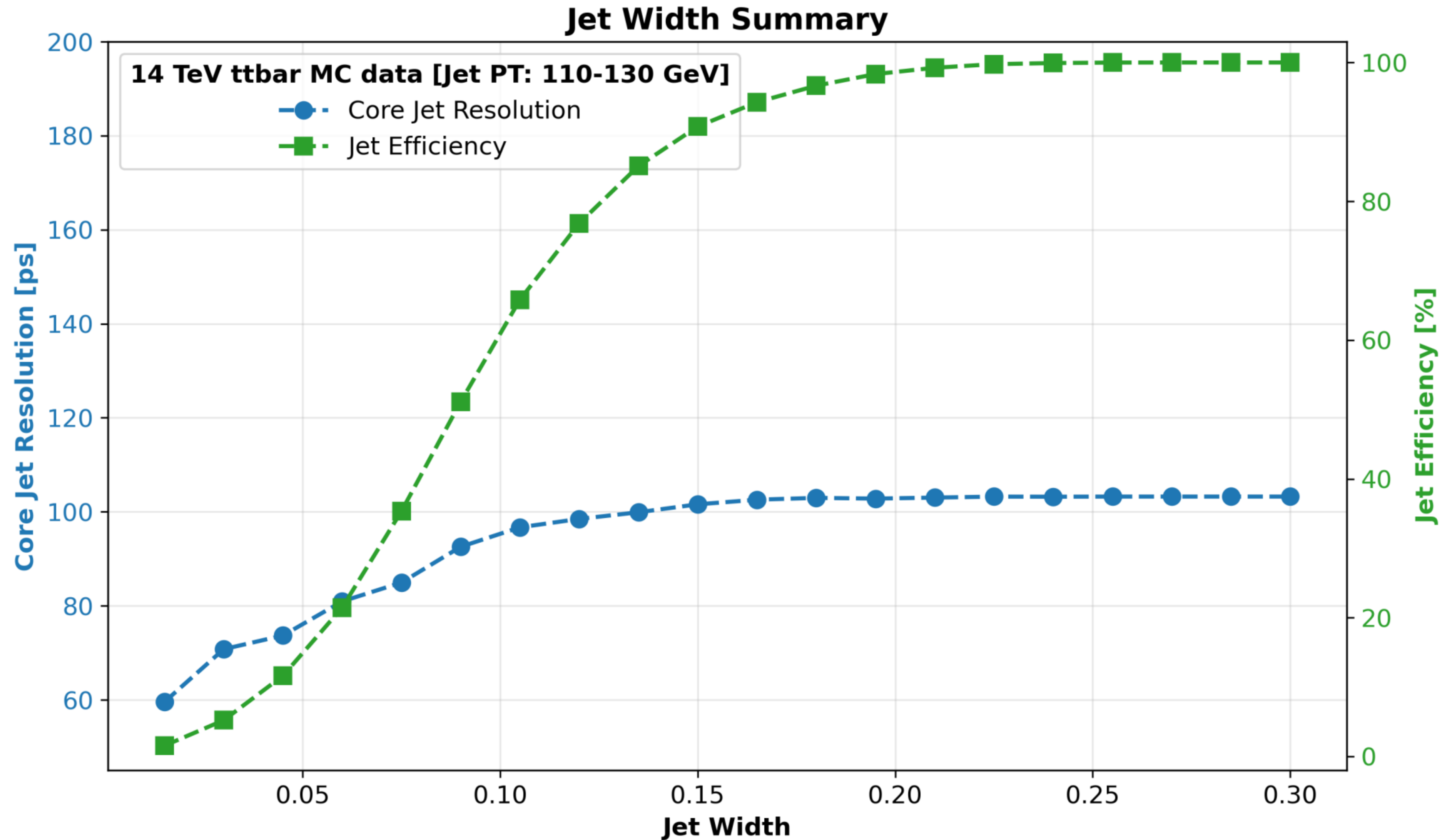
Jet-width Summary with Fixed Jet p_T Bins



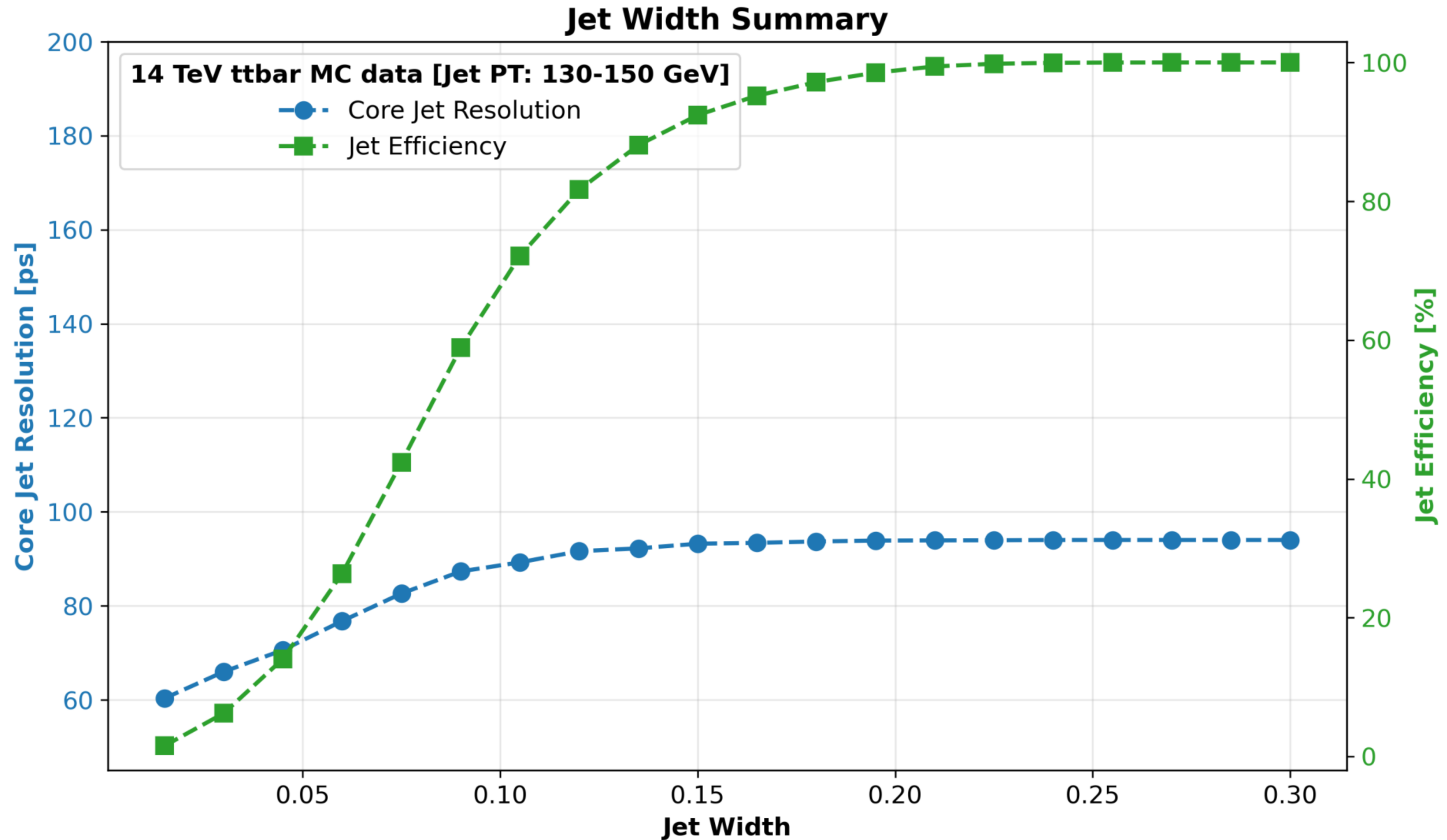
Jet-width Summary with Fixed Jet p_T Bins



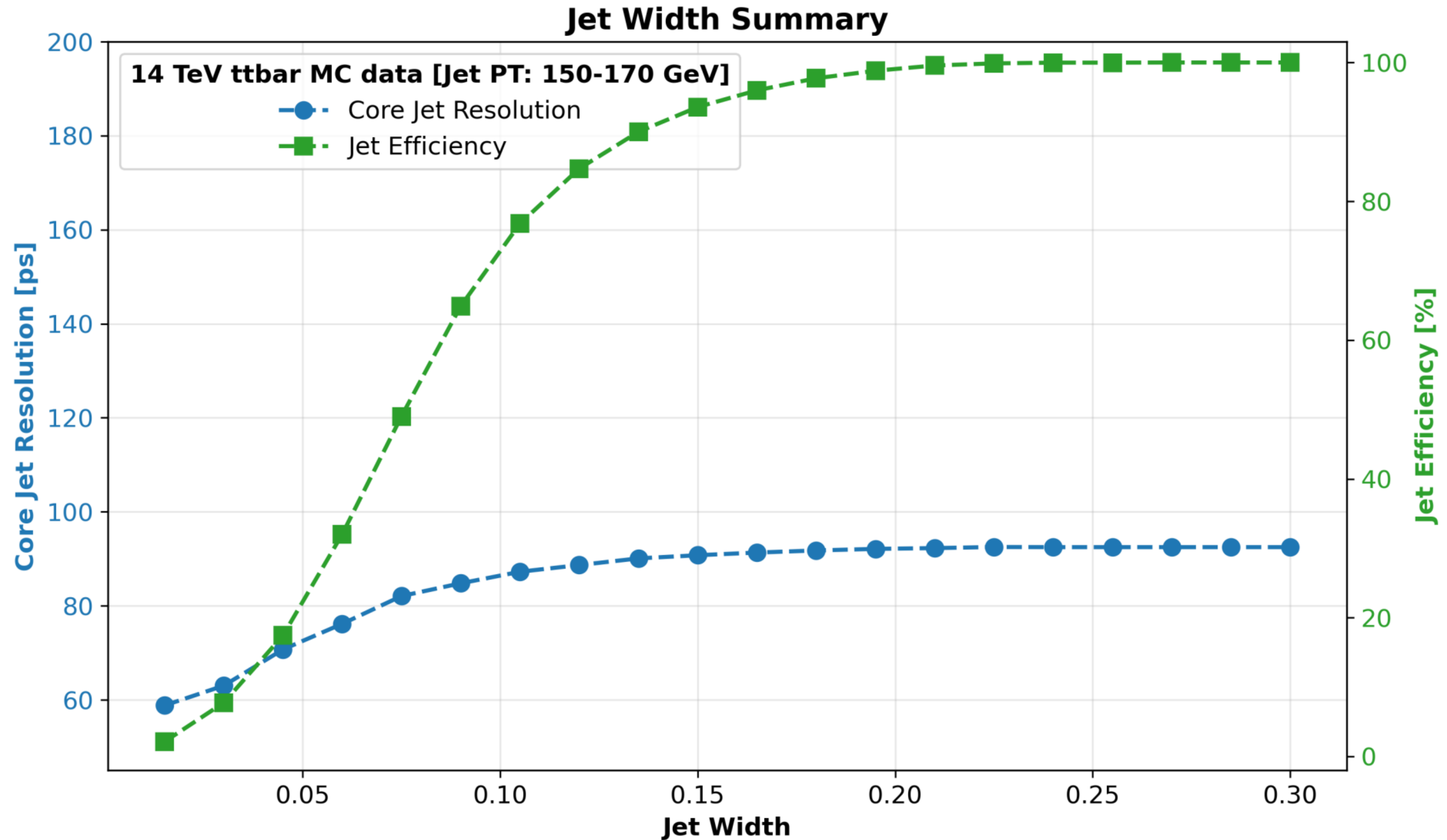
Jet-width Summary with Fixed Jet p_T Bins



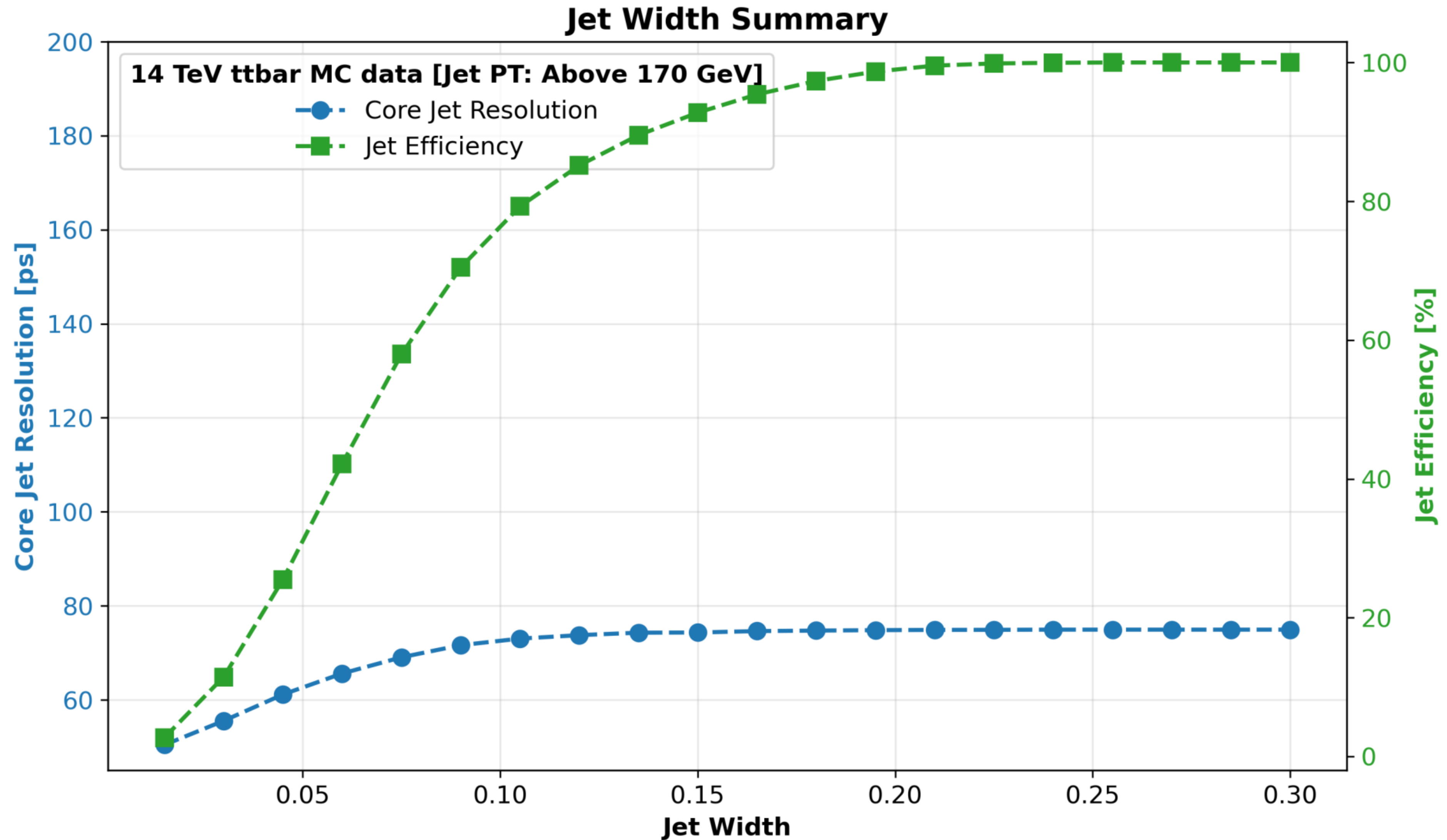
Jet-width Summary with Fixed Jet p_T Bins



Jet-width Summary with Fixed Jet p_T Bins



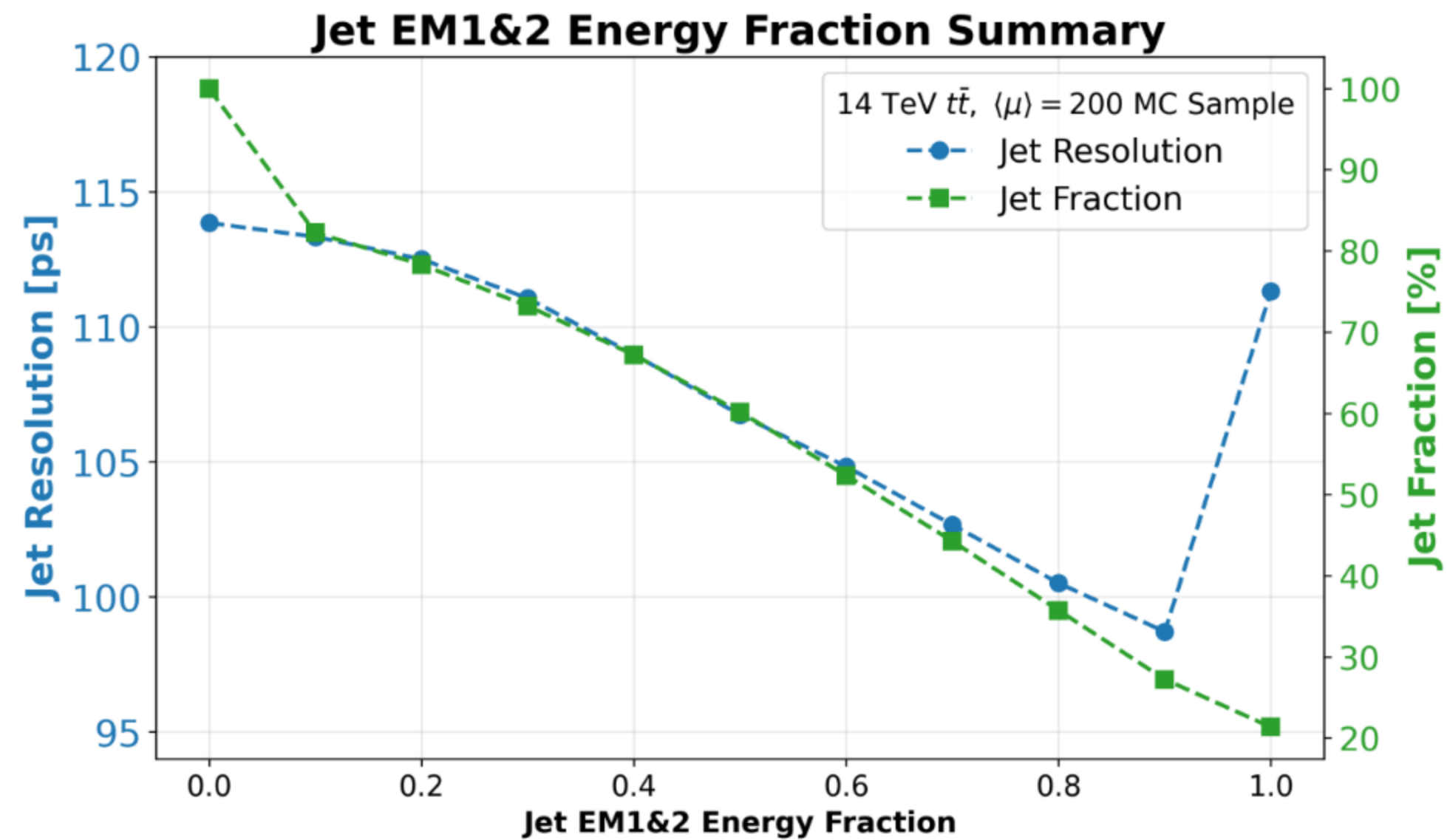
Jet-width Summary with Fixed Jet p_T Bins



Jet Longitudinal Impact

Jet-EM Layer Fraction

Evaluating Energy Deposition Ratios in Front-End EM Layers

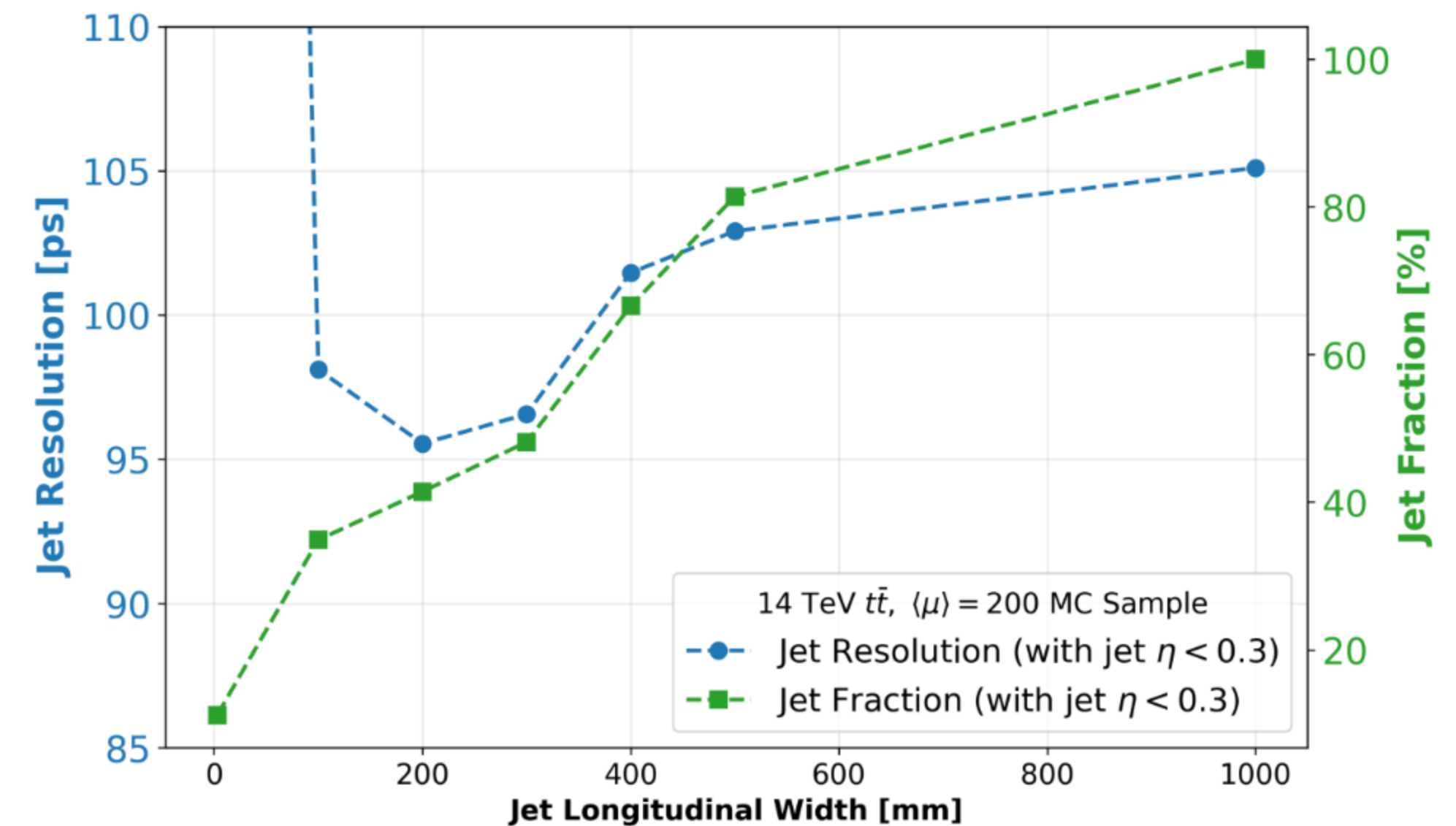


- Higher EM1&2 fraction indicates shallower showers, which provides better time resolution.

Jet Longitudinal Width

$$Lw^{jet} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{cell} E_{cell}^{jet} (Z_{cell}^{jet} - c.o.e^{jet})^2}{\sum_{cell} E_{cell}^{jet}}}$$

$$c.o.e^{jet} = \frac{\sum_{cell} E_{cell}^{jet} Z_{cell}^{jet}}{\sum_{cell} E_{cell}^{jet}}$$



- Longitudinal width distribution seems to have correlation with jet timing.

Part 3

Machine Learning Attempts

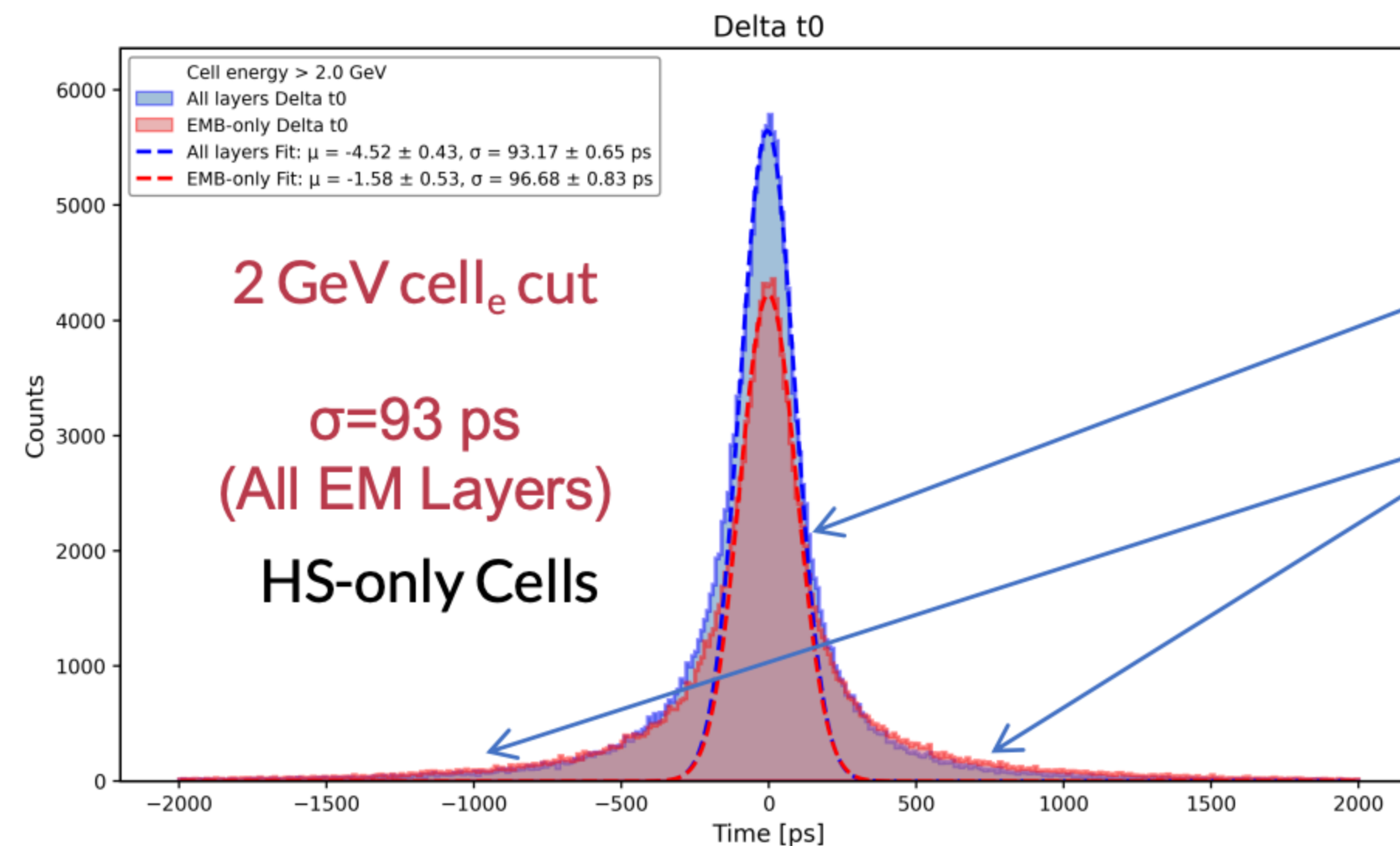
Machine Learning Approach for PV t_0

❑ Objective

- Leverage ML to predict primary vertex t_0 for each event
- Utilize cell-level data along with reco-track/jet info to further enhance time resolution

❑ Challenges with Conventional Methods

- e.g. Track-matching Result



Fittings exclusive to the core area

Long tails leads to non-Gaussian shapes

May not fully utilize all info to get the best resolution yet?

Starting Point: ML Regression Using Matched Cells

□ Input Features

`all_cell_features:`

- Cell_x
- Cell_y
- Cell_z
- Cell_eta
- Cell_phi
- Cell_Barrel
- Cell_layer
- Cell time TOF corrected
- Cell_e
- Cell_significance

→ Cell-Track Matching (if applicable)

`track_features:`

- matched_track_pt
- matched_track_deltaR

→ Cell-Jet Matching (if applicable)

`jet_features:`

- matched_jet_pt
- matched_jet_eta
- matched_jet_phi
- matched_jet_width
- matched_jet_deltaR

- Using leading energy cells (default: 40 cells)
- 3σ time significance cut for cell times ($175\text{ps} \oplus \sigma_{\text{cell}}$)
- Smart Padding:
 - Cell_time_TOF_corrected: 0.0
 - Cell_e: 0.0, Cell_significance: 0.0
 - Position features: All coordinates use 0.0
 - Classification features: Cell_Barrel: -1, Cell_layer: 0
 - Track matching: matched_track_pt: -1.0, matched_track_deltaR: -1.0
 - Jet matching: matched_jet_pt: -1.0, matched_jet_eta: -999.0, matched_jet_phi: -999.0

→ Calibrated before being provided to the ML model

□ Two Architectures

▪ Two-Stage DNN Model

- Stage 1: Cell-level MLP → Cell representations
- Stage 2: Masked Attention Pooling → Event representation
- Stage 3: Event-level MLP → Vertex time

▪ Transformer Model

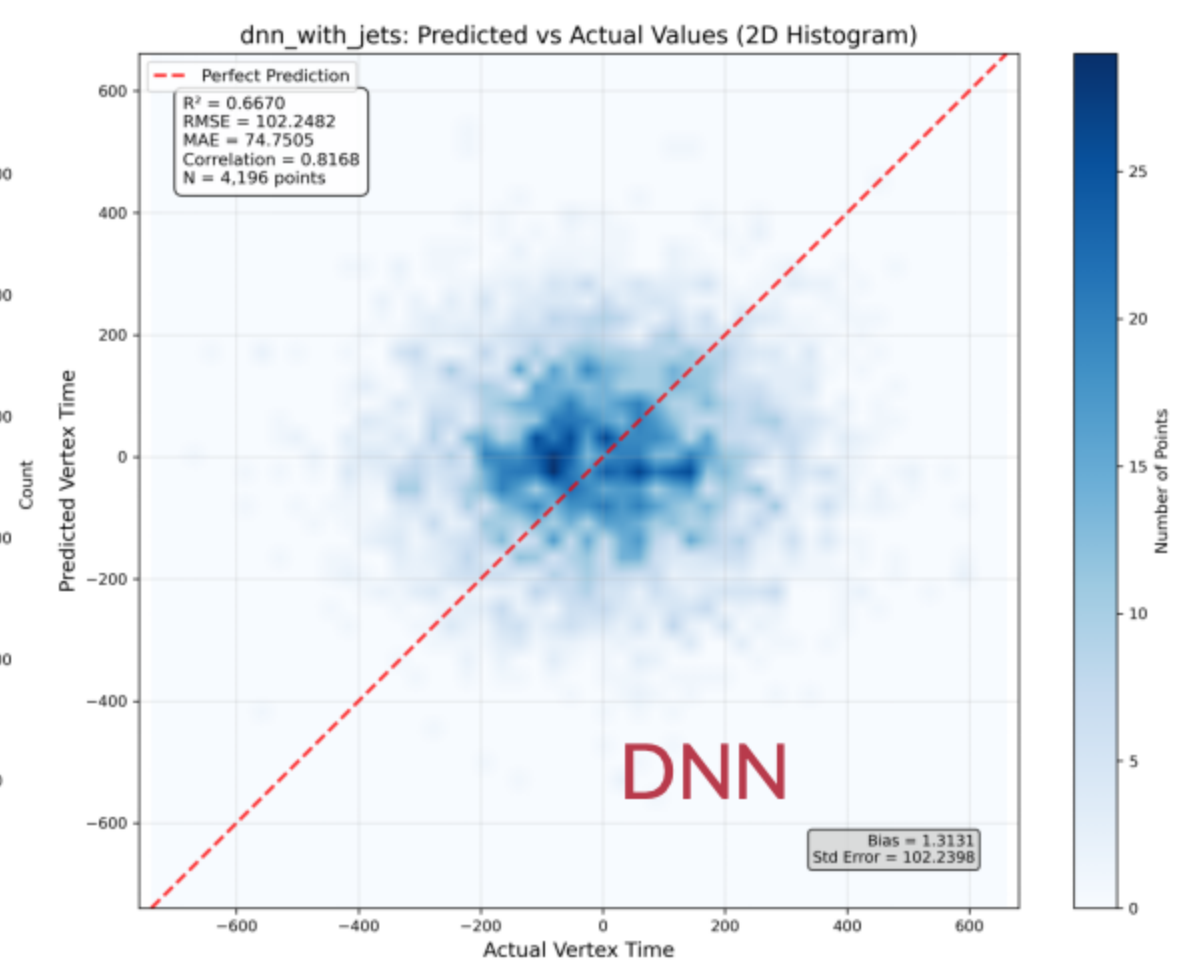
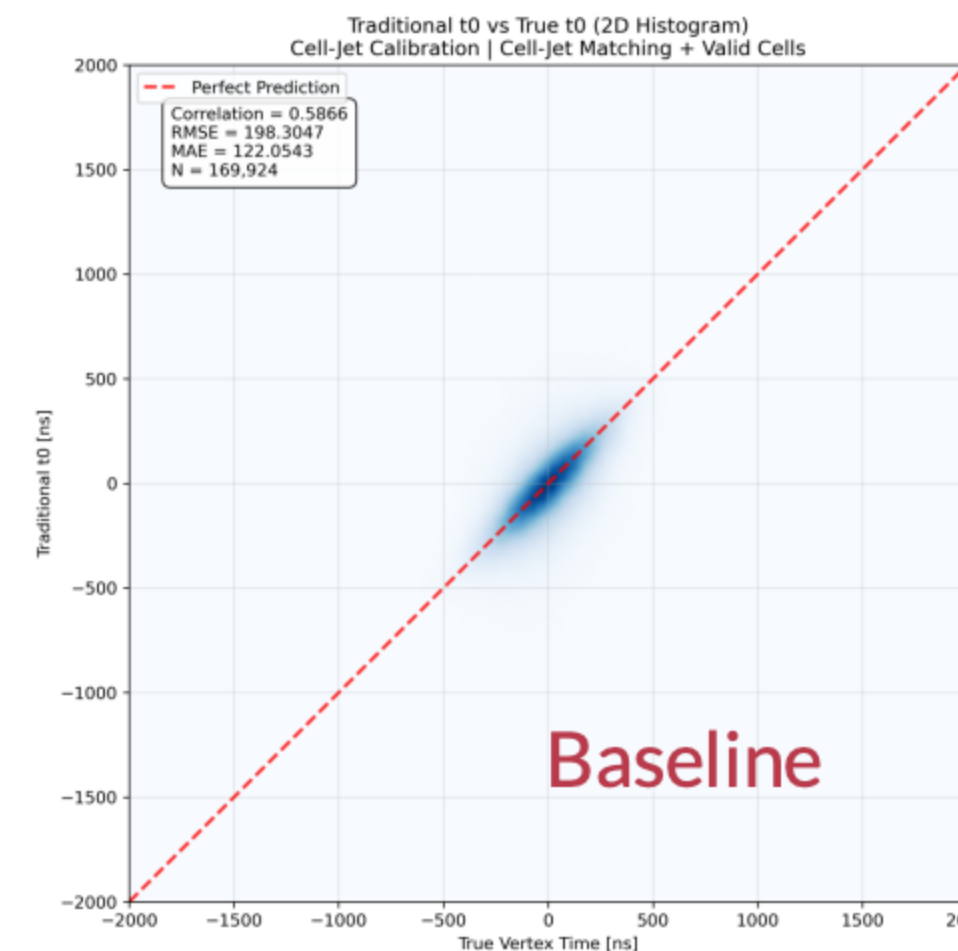
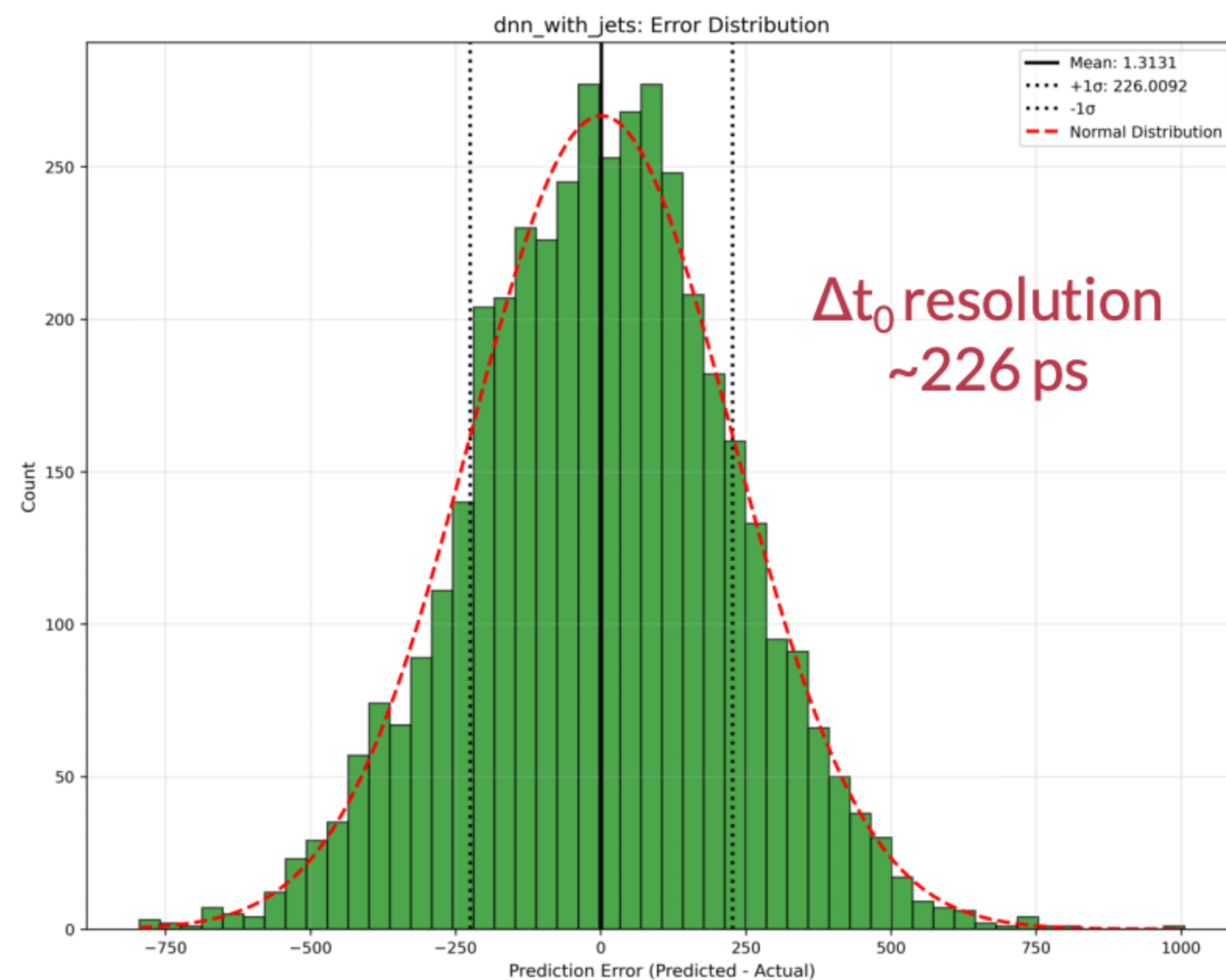
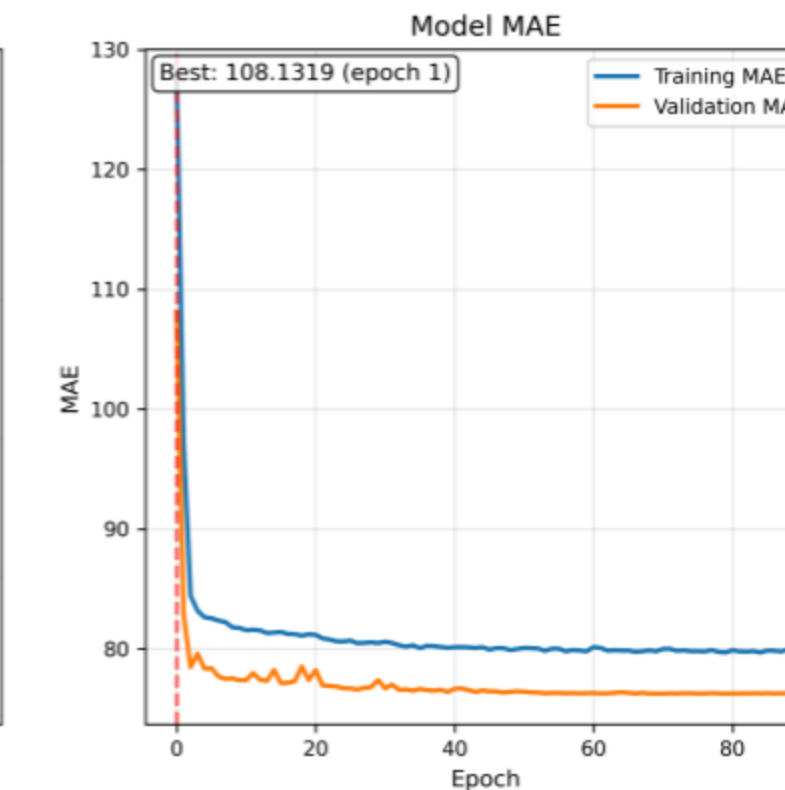
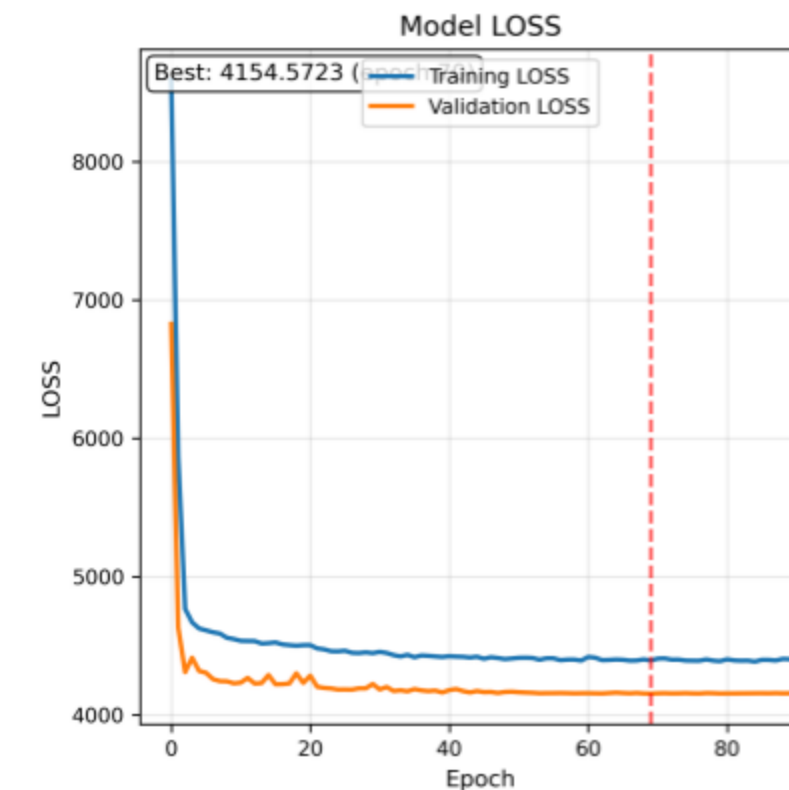
- Stage 1: Cell features → Dense projection → Positional encoding
- Stage 2: Embedded sequences → Transformer Blocks
- Stage 3: Transformer outputs → Pooling → Event representation
- Stage 4: Event-level MLP → Vertex time

ML Regression Using Jet-Matched Cells

Model 1: Two Stage DNN

- Use cells following conventional cell-jet matching
- Calibrate cell times prior to inputting them into the model
- Loss function: huber ($\delta=100$)

$$L_{\delta}(y, f(x)) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(y - f(x))^2 & \text{for } |y - f(x)| \leq \delta, \\ \delta \cdot (|y - f(x)| - \frac{1}{2}\delta), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



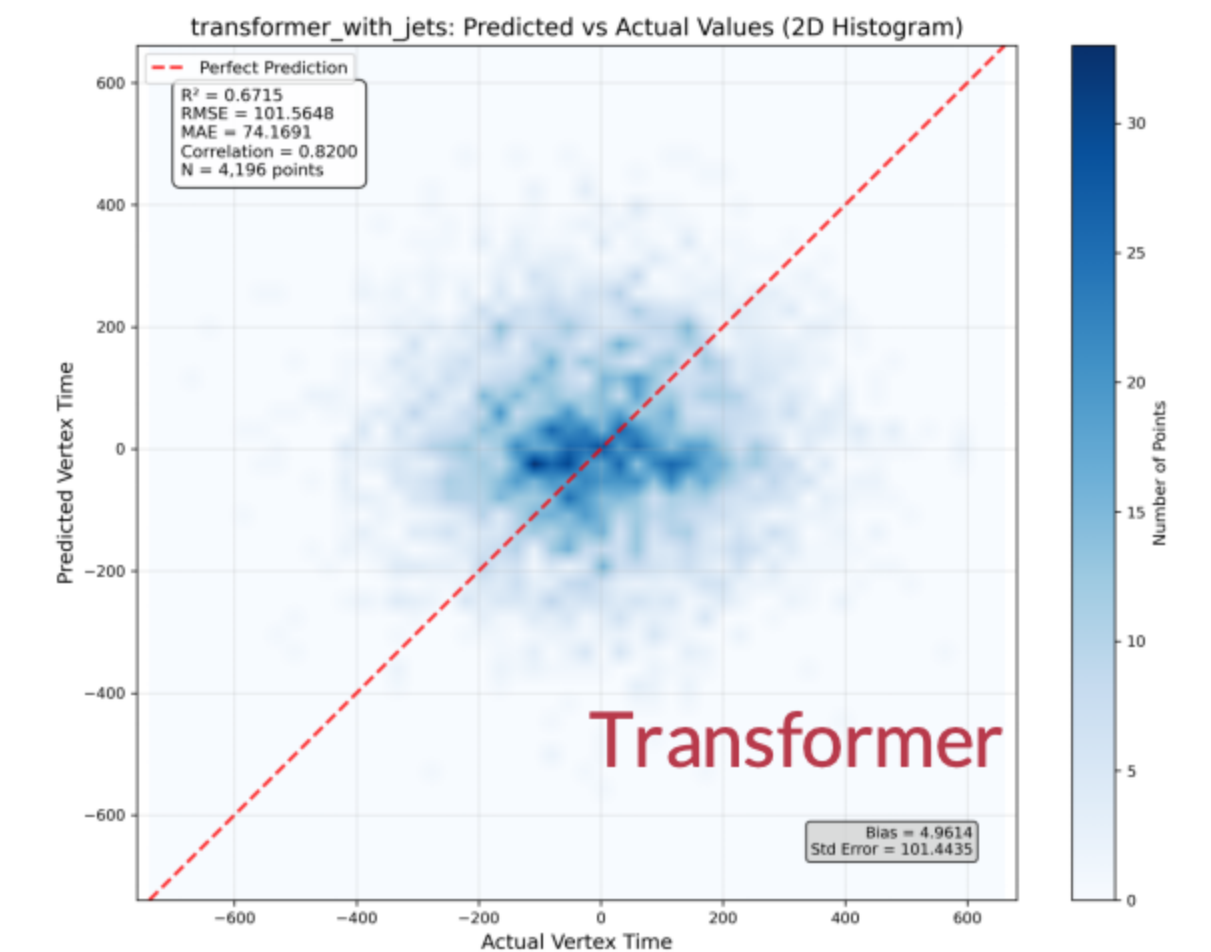
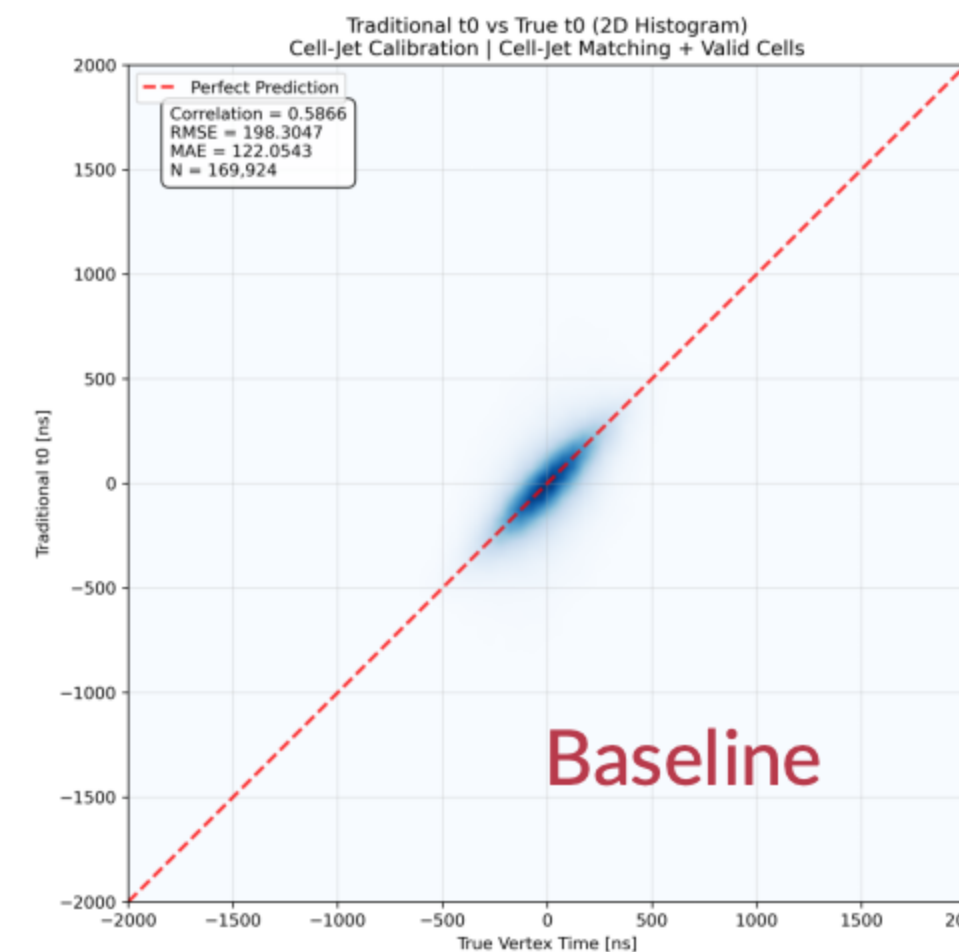
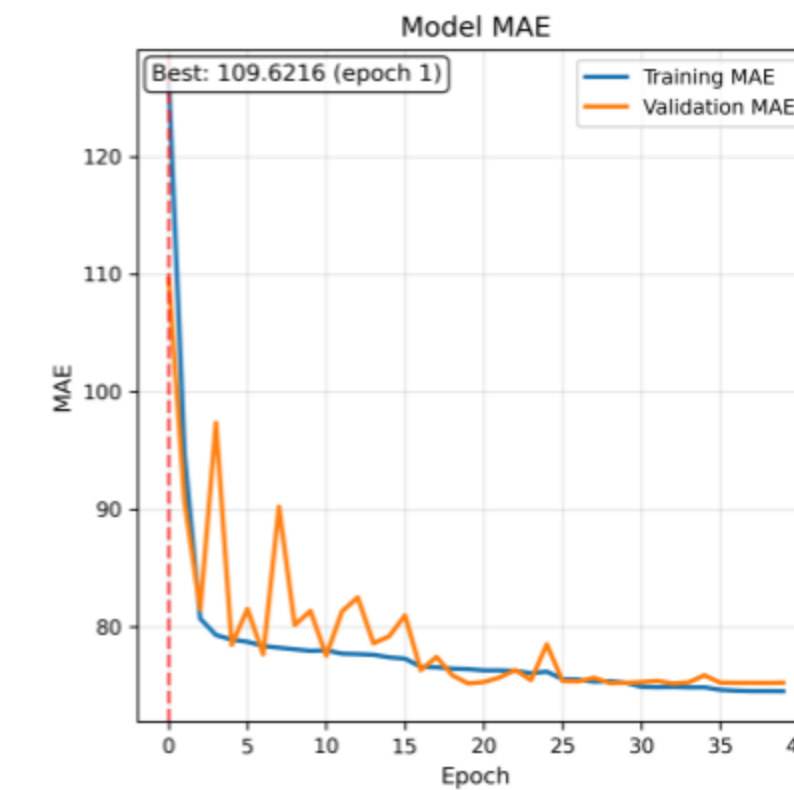
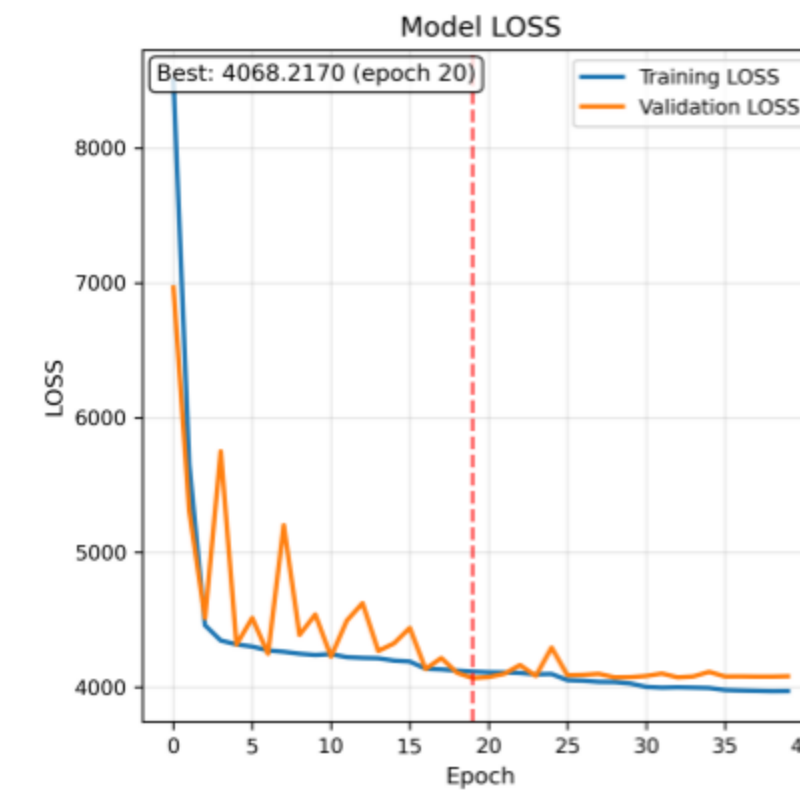
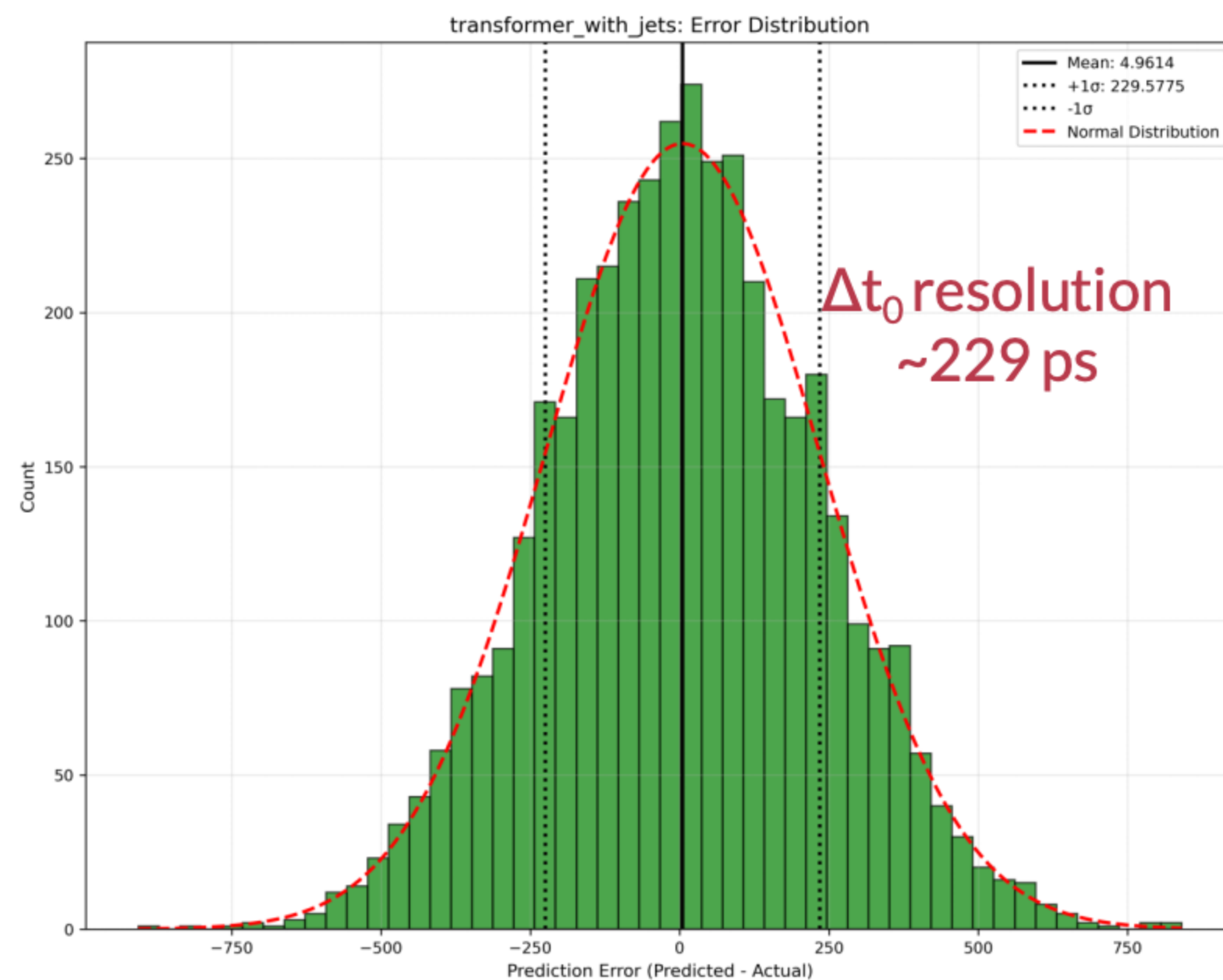
■ Was the model just randomly guessing?

ML Regression Using Jet-Matched Cells

❑ Model 2: Transformer

- Use cells following conventional cell-jet matching
- Calibrate cell times prior to inputting them into the model
- Loss function: huber ($\delta=100$)

$$L_{\delta}(y, f(x)) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(y - f(x))^2 & \text{for } |y - f(x)| \leq \delta, \\ \delta \cdot (|y - f(x)| - \frac{1}{2}\delta), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



- Was the model just randomly guessing?
- Perhaps too many 'bad events' hindered the model from learning the correct reconstruction mode?

ML Regression Using Jet-Matched Cells

❑ Exhibition of some “bad events”

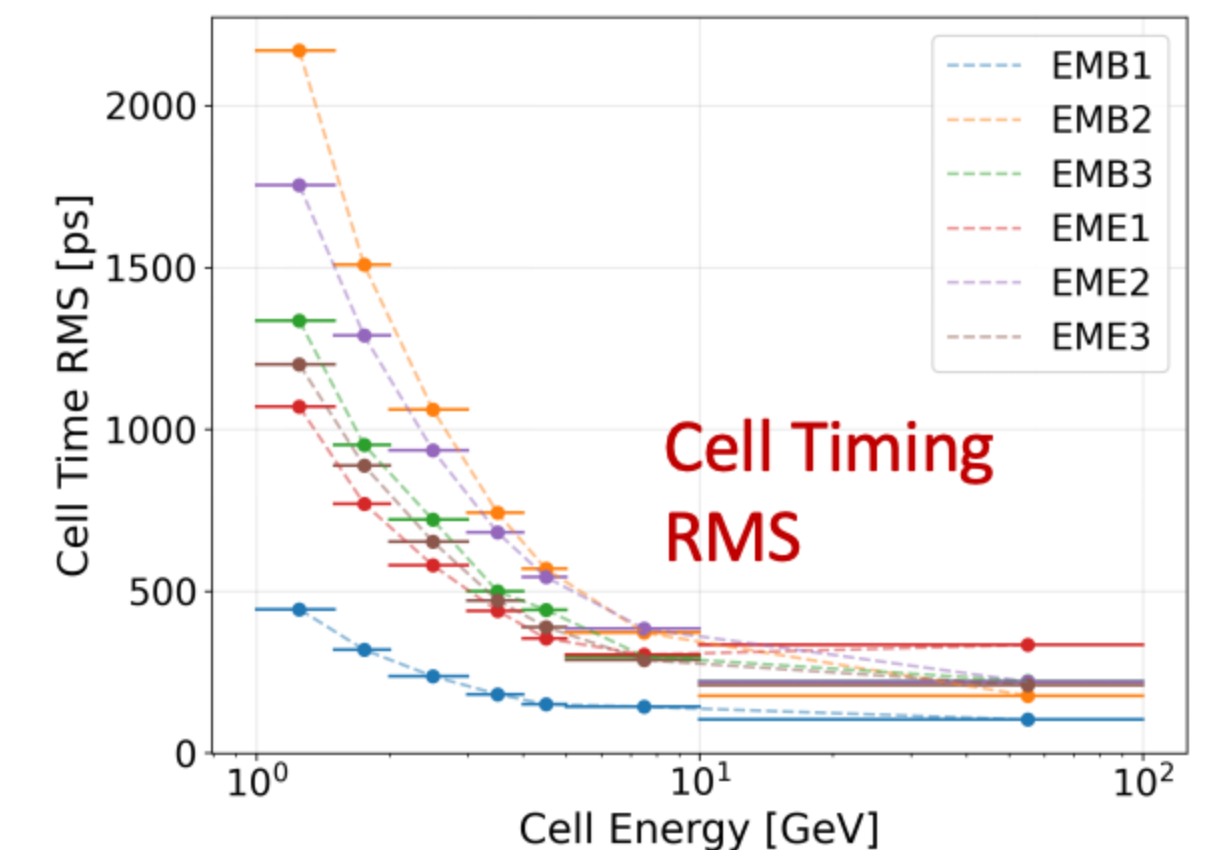
```
Truth time: -200.8873 ps
Reconstructed time: 5572.0681 ps
Error: 5772.9554 ps
Absolute error: 5772.9554 ps
Number of cells: 1
Cell energies: mean=1.00, std=0.00, min=1.00, max=1.00 GeV
Original cell times (before calibration): 5618.3 ps
Calibrated cell times (after calibration): 5572.1 ps
Cell time statistics - Original: mean=5618.29, std=0.00 ps
Cell time statistics - Calibrated: mean=5572.07, std=0.00 ps
Layer distribution: {np.int32(2): 1}
Detector region: {'Barrel': 1}
```

```
Truth time: -9.0438 ps
Reconstructed time: -5768.3108 ps
Error: -5759.2670 ps
Absolute error: 5759.2670 ps
Number of cells: 1
Cell energies: mean=1.28, std=0.00, min=1.28, max=1.28 GeV
Original cell times (before calibration): -5722.1 ps
Calibrated cell times (after calibration): -5768.3 ps
Cell time statistics - Original: mean=-5722.09, std=0.00 ps
Cell time statistics - Calibrated: mean=-5768.31, std=0.00 ps
Layer distribution: {np.int32(2): 1}
Detector region: {'Barrel': 1}
```

```
Truth time: -70.1644 ps
Reconstructed time: -5334.2371 ps
Error: -5264.0727 ps
Absolute error: 5264.0727 ps
Number of cells: 1
Cell energies: mean=1.10, std=0.00, min=1.10, max=1.10 GeV
Original cell times (before calibration): -5288.0 ps
Calibrated cell times (after calibration): -5334.2 ps
Cell time statistics - Original: mean=-5288.01, std=0.00 ps
Cell time statistics - Calibrated: mean=-5334.24, std=0.00 ps
Layer distribution: {np.int32(2): 1}
Detector region: {'Barrel': 1}
```

```
Truth time: 68.1768 ps
Reconstructed time: -4358.8383 ps
Error: -4427.0151 ps
Absolute error: 4427.0151 ps
Number of cells: 2
Cell energies: mean=1.38, std=0.05, min=1.32, max=1.43 GeV
Original cell times (before calibration): -2992.7, -5632.6 ps
Calibrated cell times (after calibration): -3038.9, -5678.8 ps
Cell time statistics - Original: mean=-4312.61, std=1319.96 ps
Cell time statistics - Calibrated: mean=-4358.84, std=1319.96 ps
Layer distribution: {np.int32(2): 2}
Detector region: {'Barrel': 2}
```

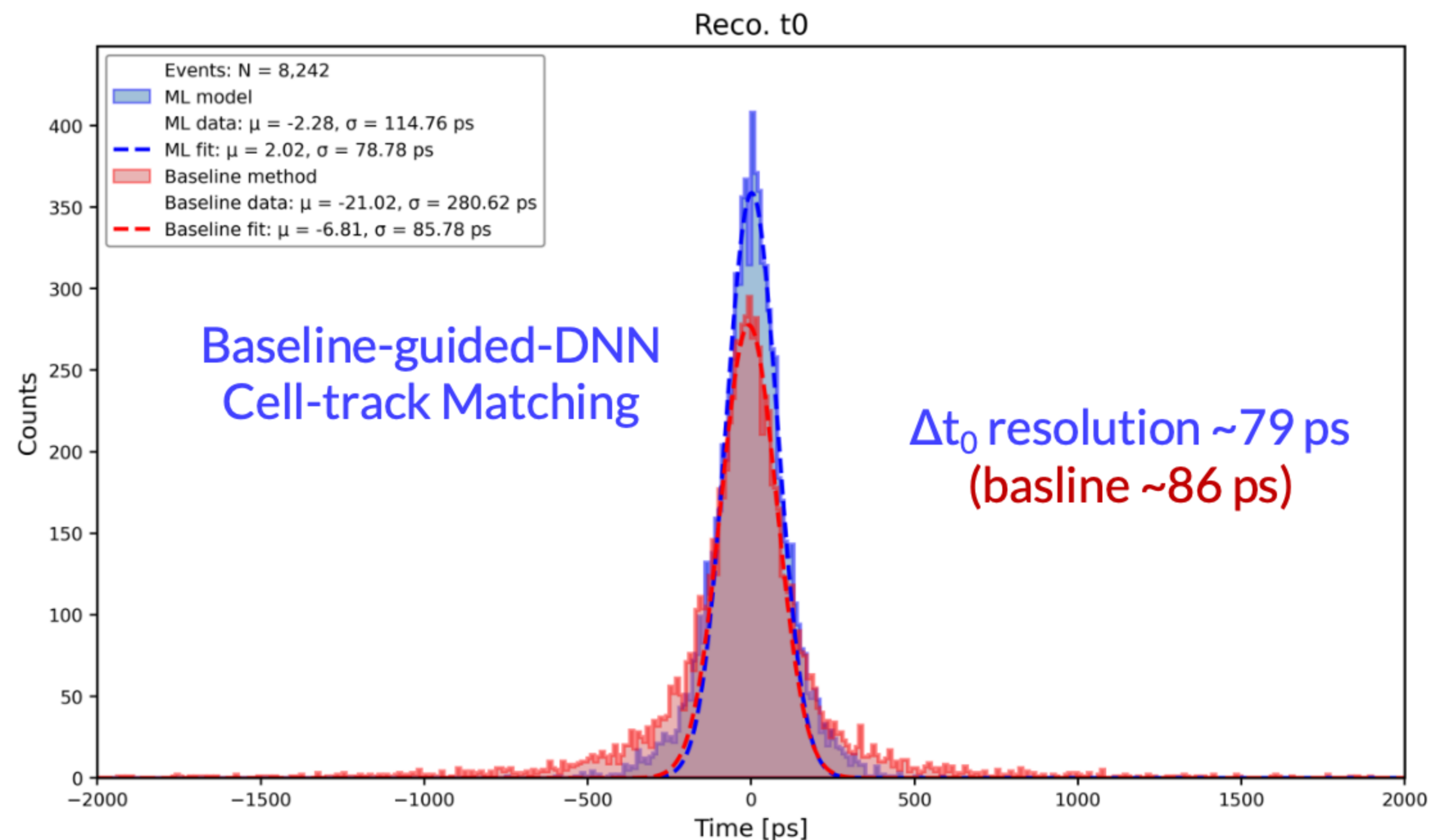
- Lots of them come from EMB1&EME2
- Excluding these bad timing cells leaves no usable cells
- May need either more events or additional information as input for the model to learn how to mitigate the effects of PU



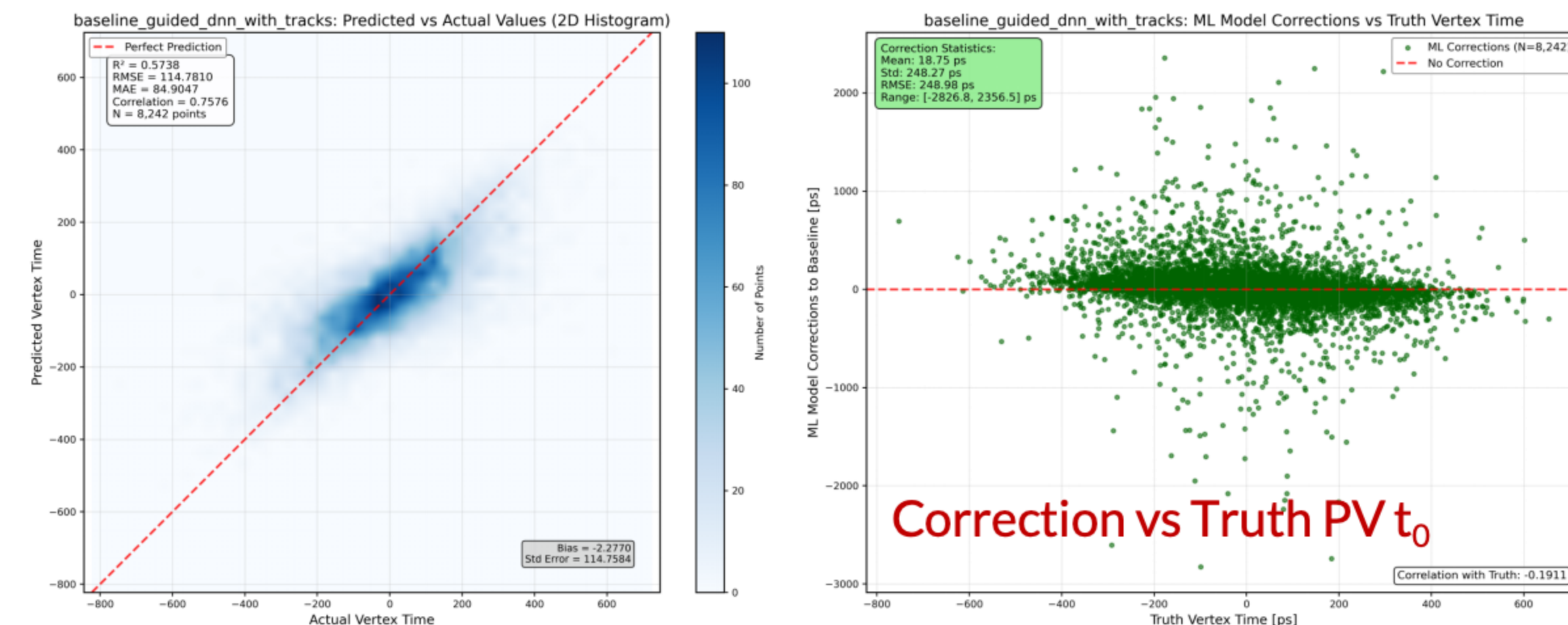
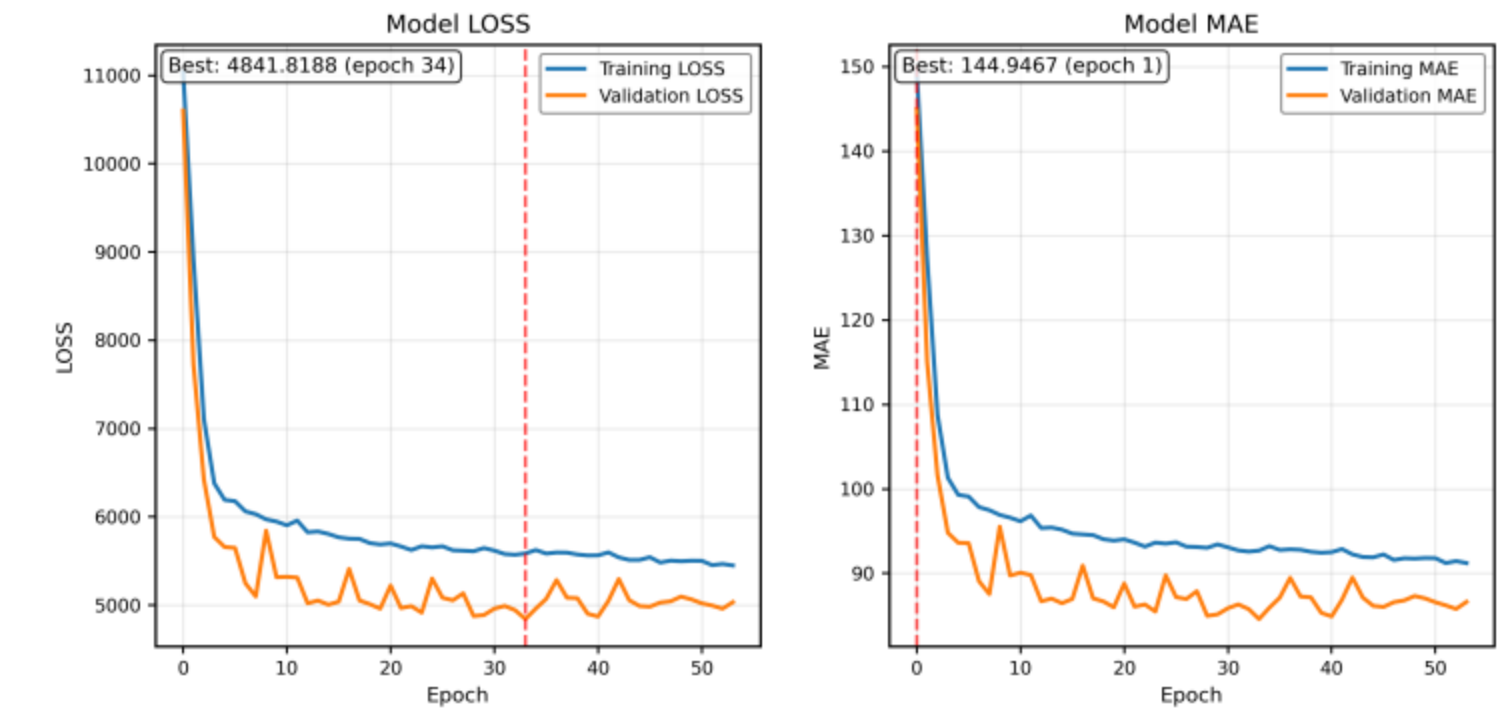
ML Regression Guided by Baseline Method

Objective

- ML model should perform at least as well as the baseline!
- Instead of predicting vertex t_0 directly, predicting correction to the baseline result.



- Now improvement of ~ 7 ps is observed with the ML
- The ML results exhibit a more Gaussian peak
- Cuts applied: $\text{Cell}_e \geq 2$ GeV, 3σ time significance cut

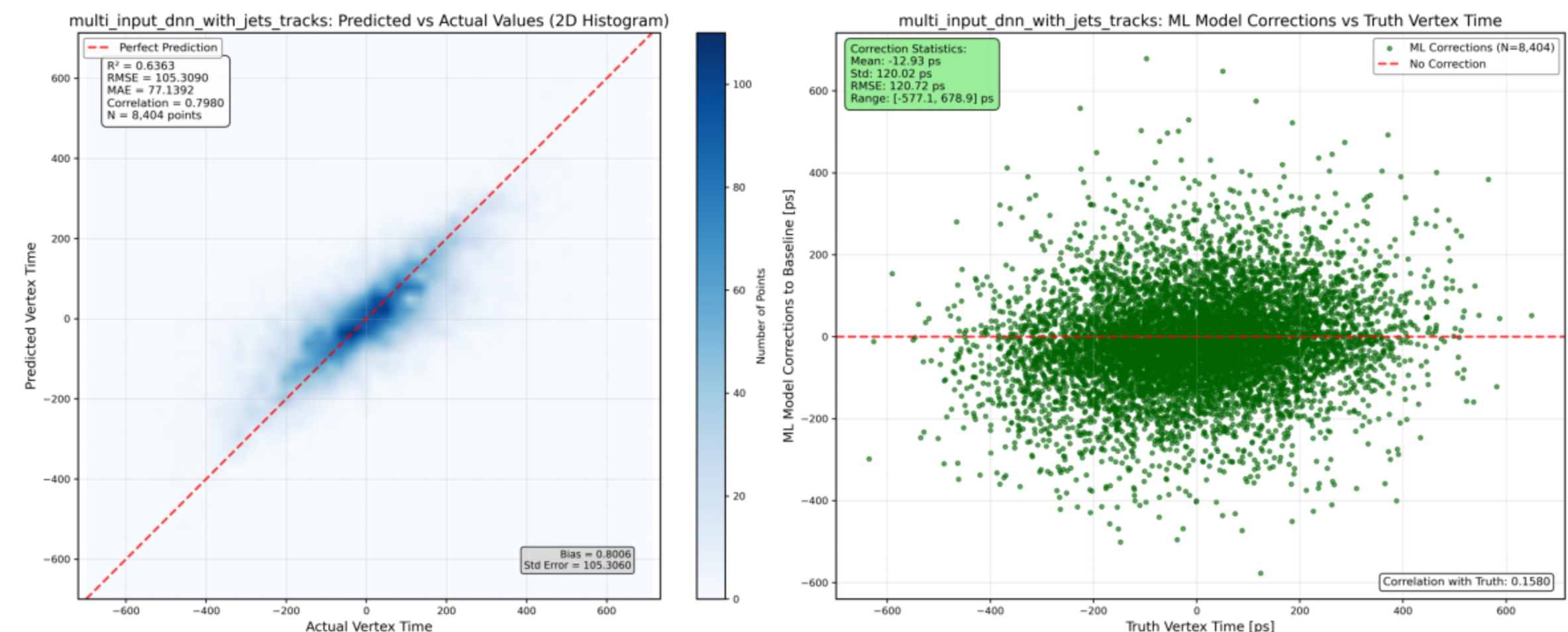
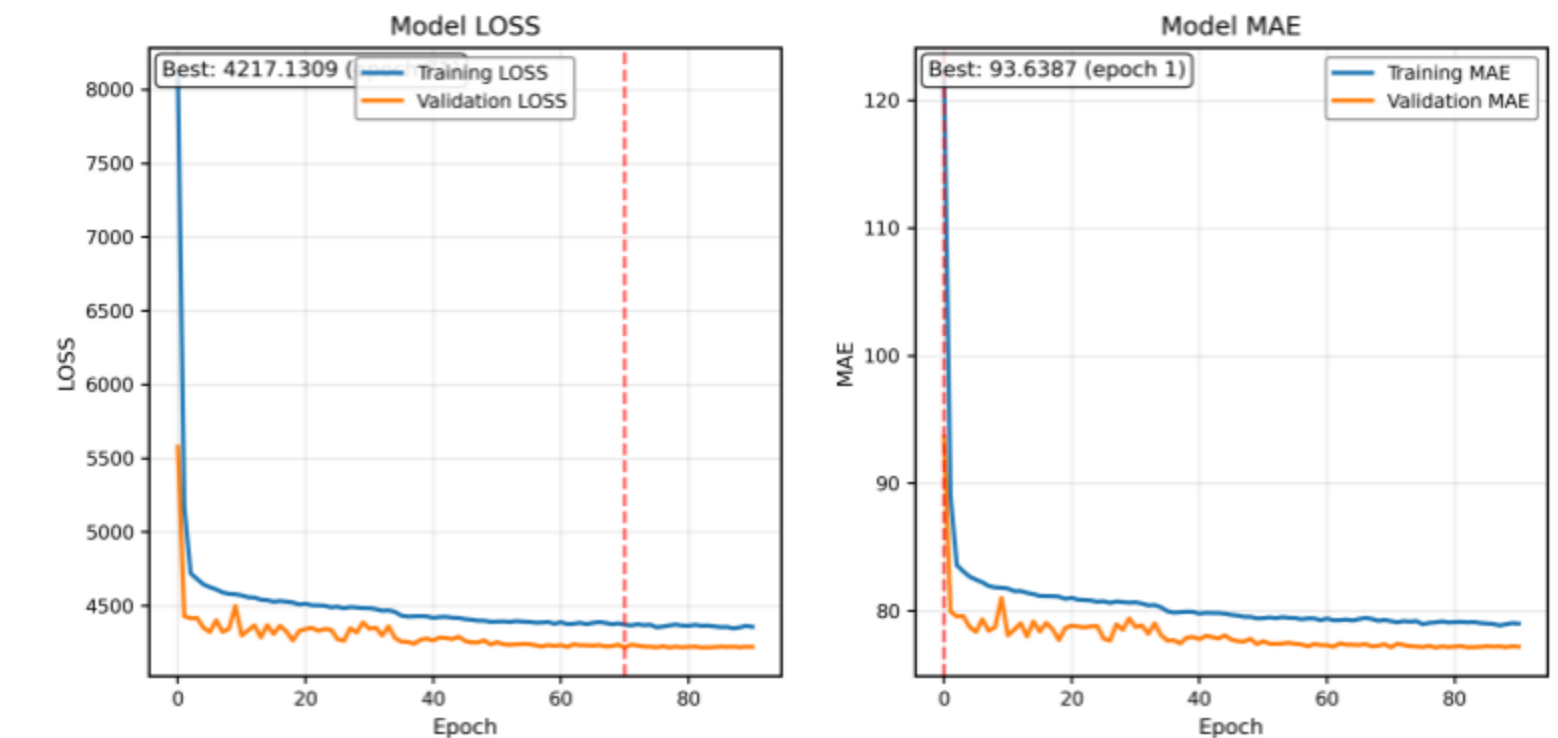
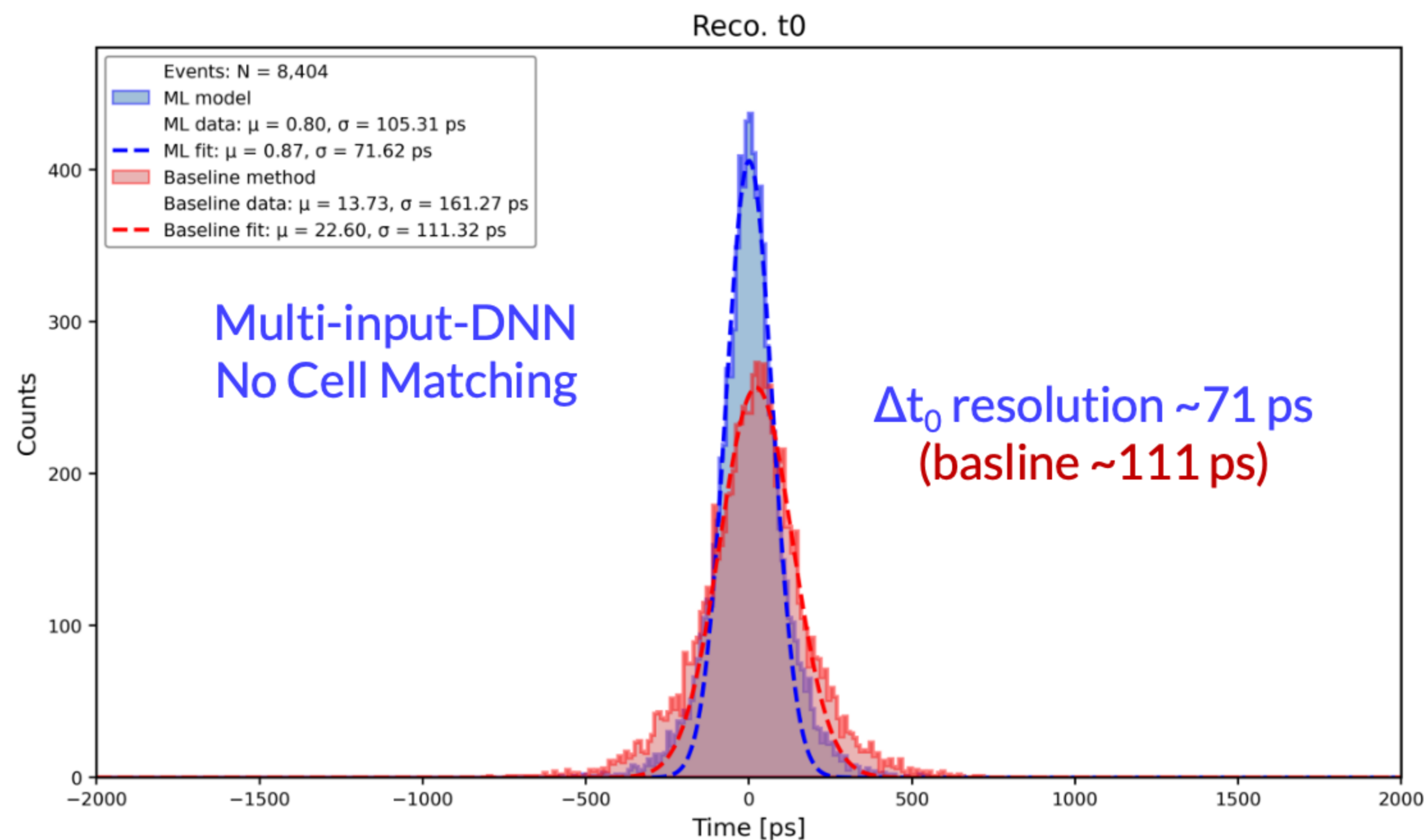


- The correlation between predicted&true values has markedly improved
- No distinct preference for corrections on specific vertex times; further investigation is needed

ML Regression w/o Matching Info

Objective

- Input more info (cell+HS jet+ HS track) to ML to enable it to learn how to mitigate PU (New features: $\text{HS jet } p_T, \eta, \phi, \text{width}$; $\text{HS track } p_T, \eta, \phi, d_0, z_0$)
- No pre-selection of track/jet matching, only inclusive calibration of cell times.



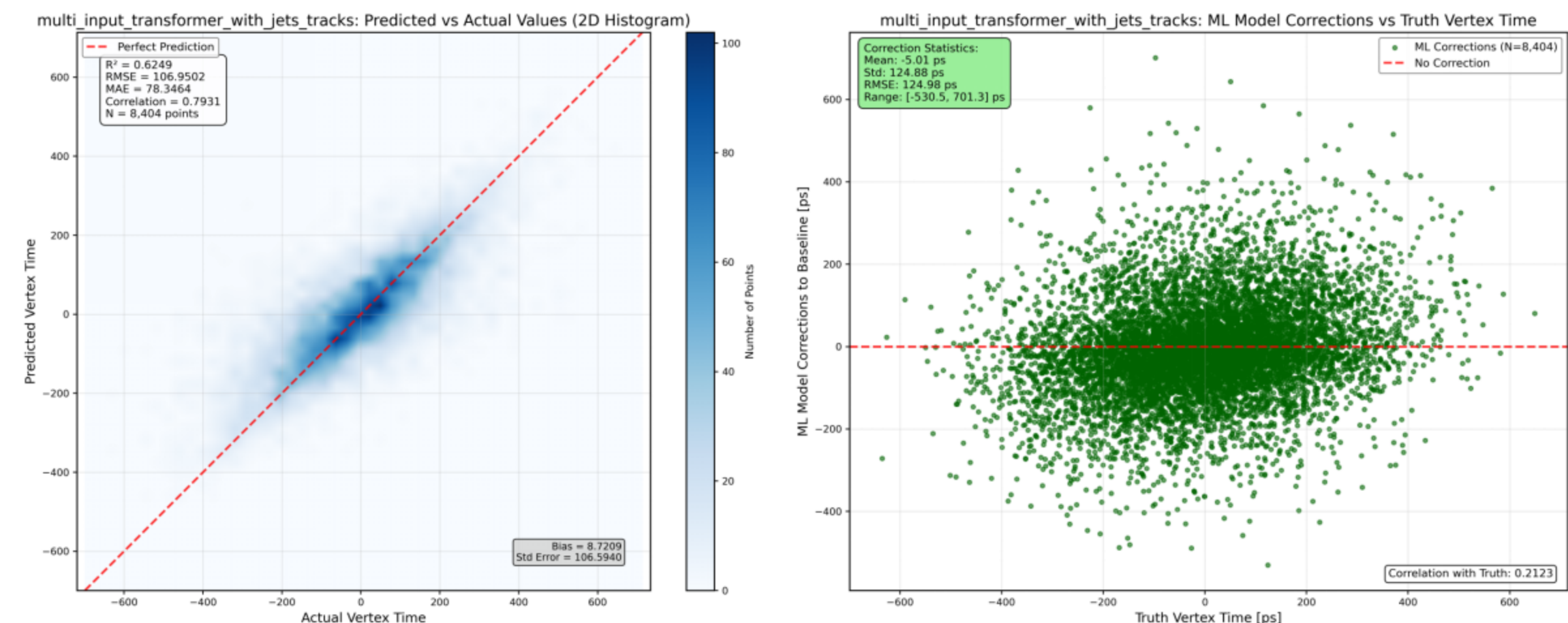
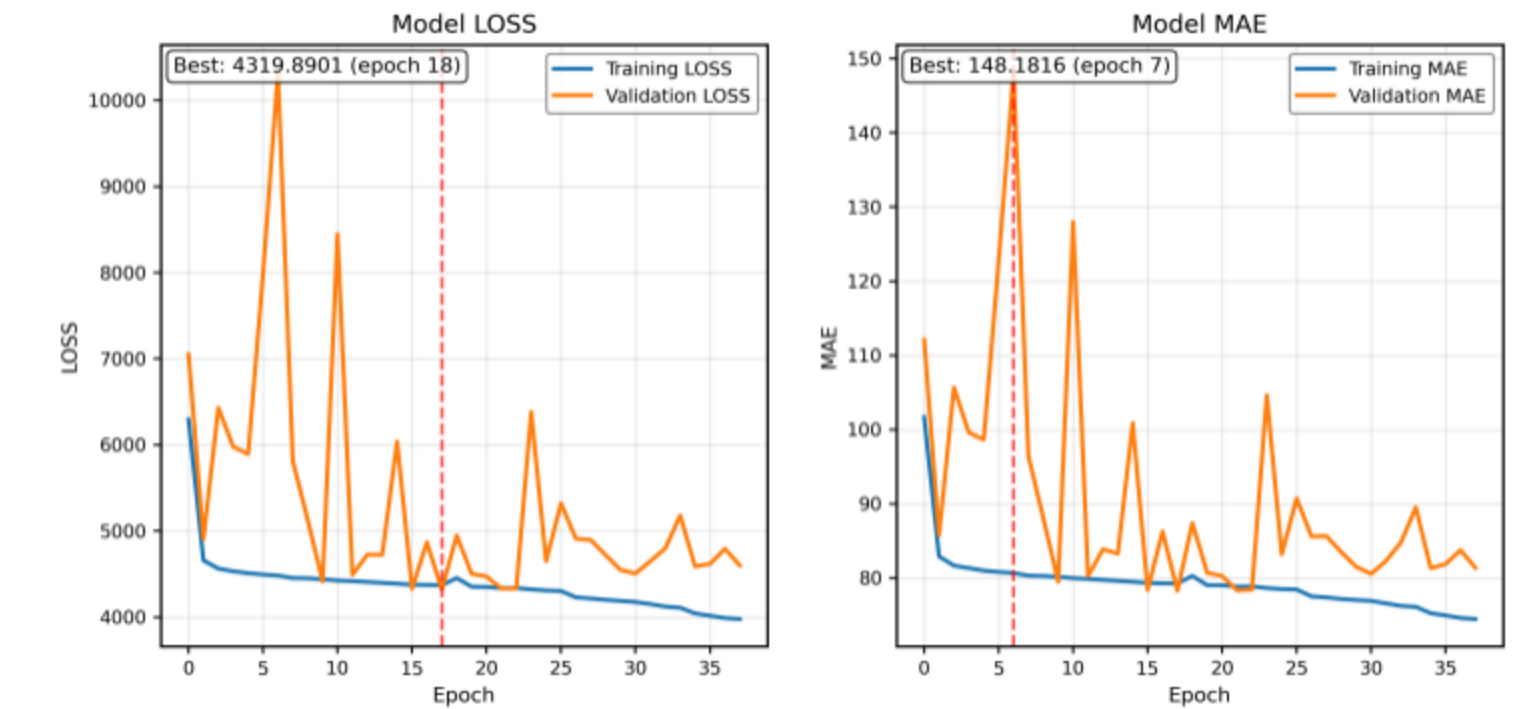
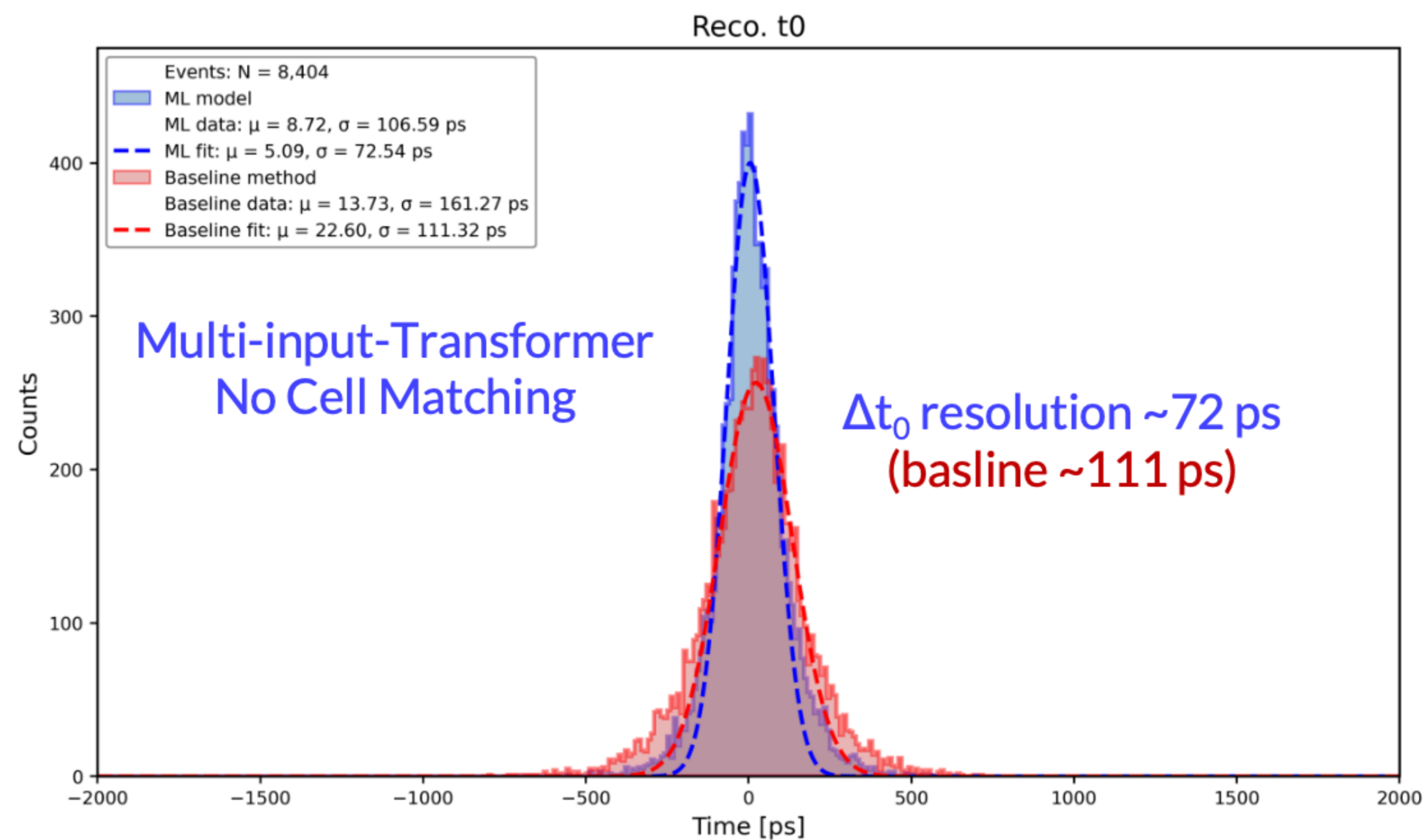
- Now improvement up to ~ 70 ps seen from ML!
- More gaussian peak from ML
- Cuts applied: $\text{Cell}_e \geq 1$ GeV, 3σ time significance cut

- The correlation between predicted&true values has markedly improved
- No distinct preference for corrections on specific vertex times; further investigation is needed

ML Regression w/o Matching Info

Objective

- Input more info (cell+HS jet+ HS track) to ML to enable it to learn how to mitigate PU (New features: $\text{HS jet } p_T, \eta, \phi, \text{width}$; $\text{HS track } p_T, \eta, \phi, d_0, z_0$)
- No pre-selection of track/jet matching, only inclusive calibration of cell times.



- Now improvement up to ~ 72 ps seen from ML!
- More gaussian peak from ML
- Cuts applied: $\text{Cell}_e \geq 1$ GeV, 3σ time significance cut

- The val-loss exhibits significant fluctuations, need further investigation
- Why does the transformer perform worse than the DNN?

Summary

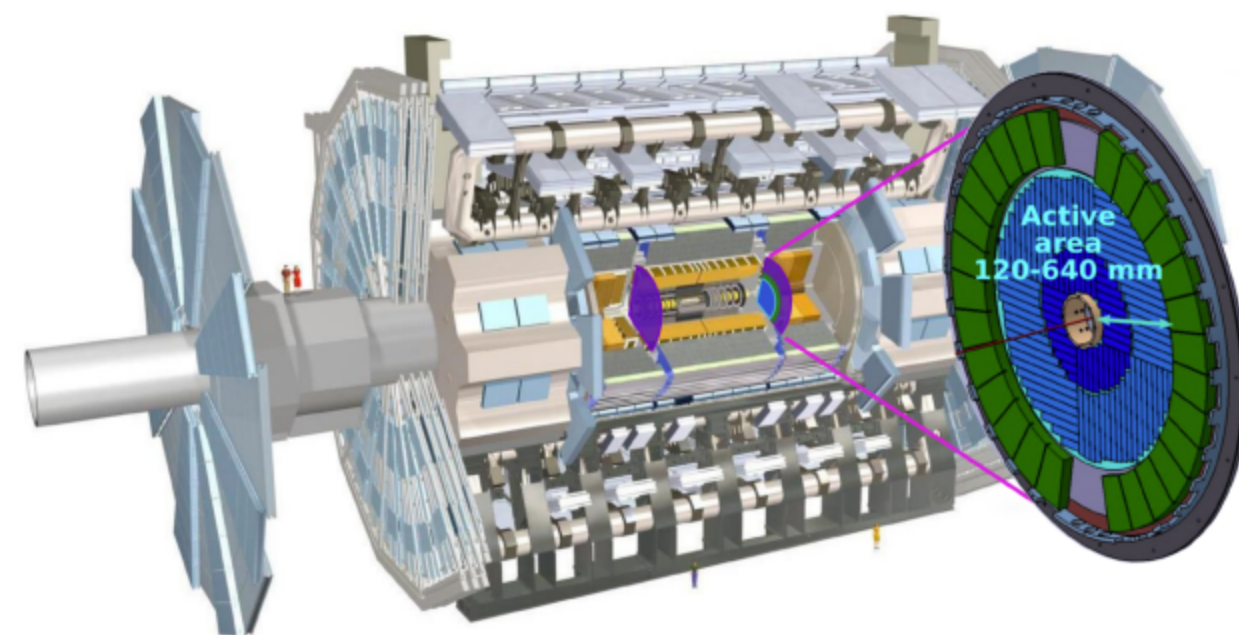
- ❑ **The baseline method utilizing track/jet matching** achieves approximately 90 ps level PV t_0 resolution in MC data, and a better understanding of these results will aid in effectively mitigating pile-up effects.
- ❑ **The impact of jet topological features on timing** is observed clearly for the first time, requiring dedicated consideration.
- ❑ **ML-based methods show promising performance** in PV t_0 reconstruction. The baseline-guided correction approach achieves ~ 80 ps resolution. The ML model utilizing cell, HS jet&track information for PU removal yields ~ 70 ps resolution, with the transformer model having potential for further improvement.

Back ups

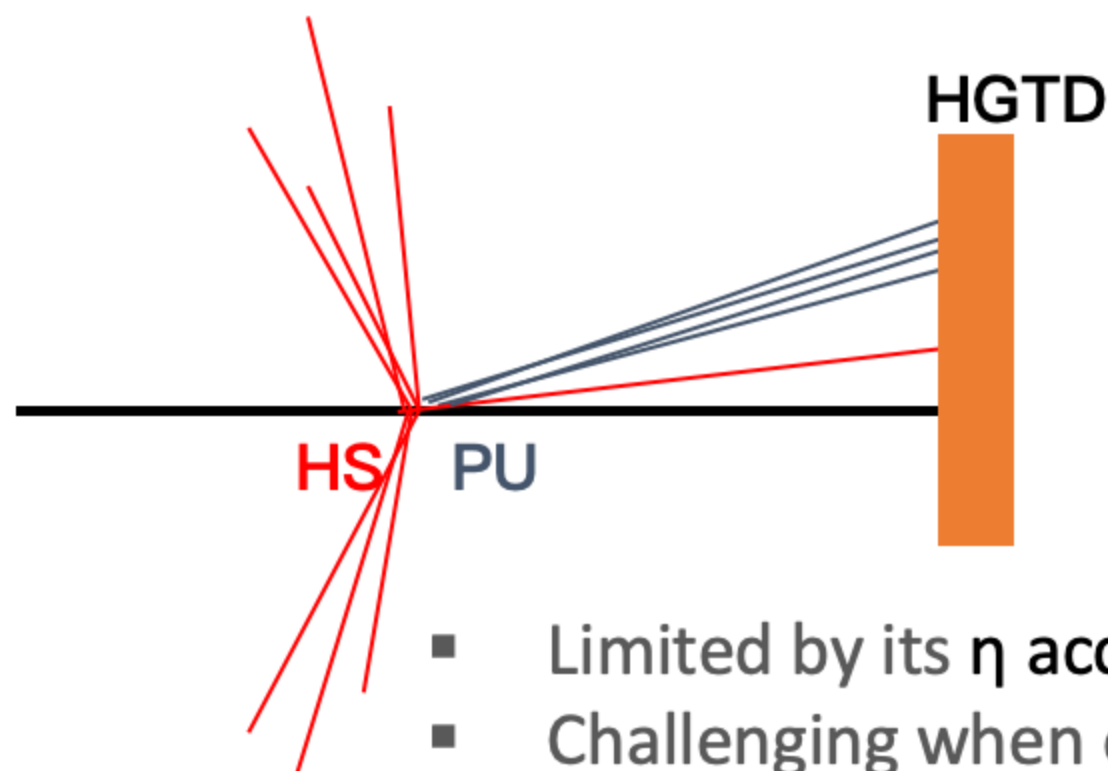
Pushing the Limits of LAr Timing

❑ We'll have the HGTD in Run 4

- ~30 ps resolution for reconstructed tracks
- Require precise HS vertex time (t_0) knowledge



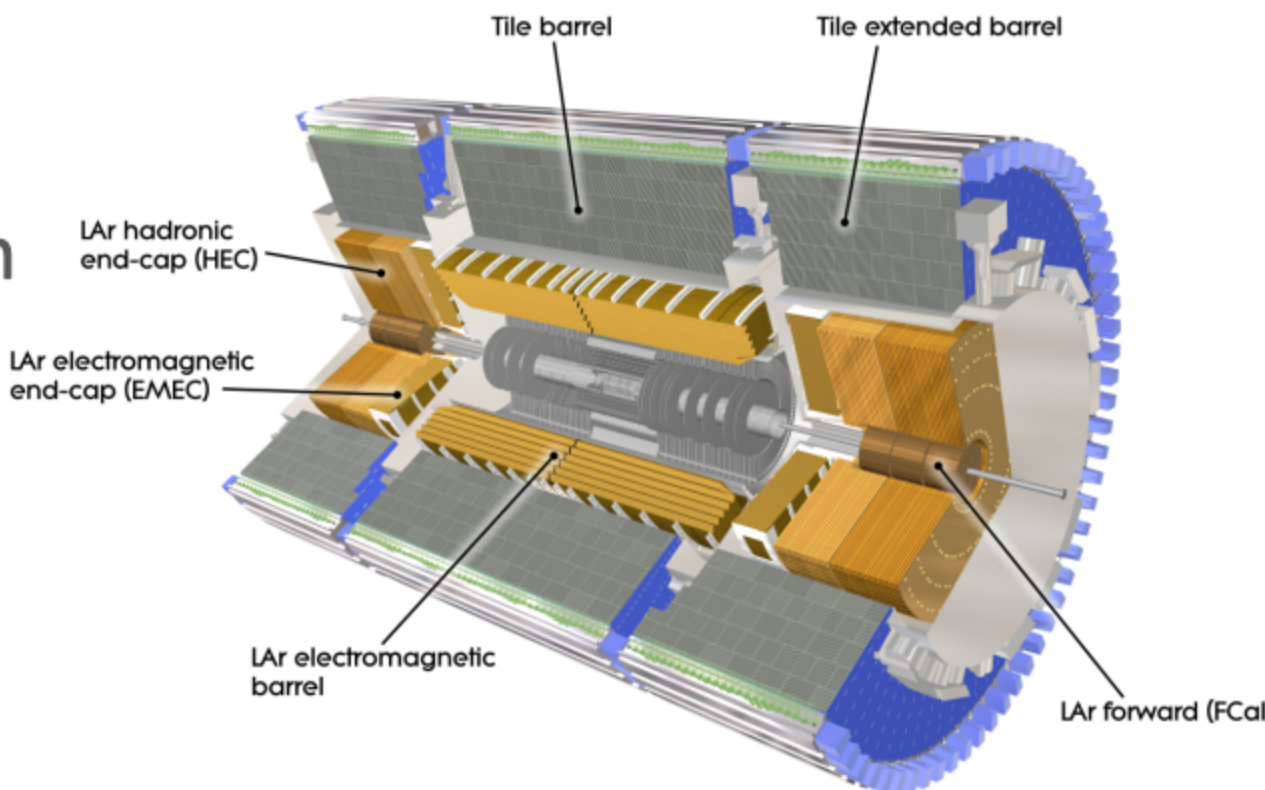
No central region coverage



- Limited by its η acceptance
- Challenging when only few forward HS tracks are available

❑ But, LAr is everywhere!

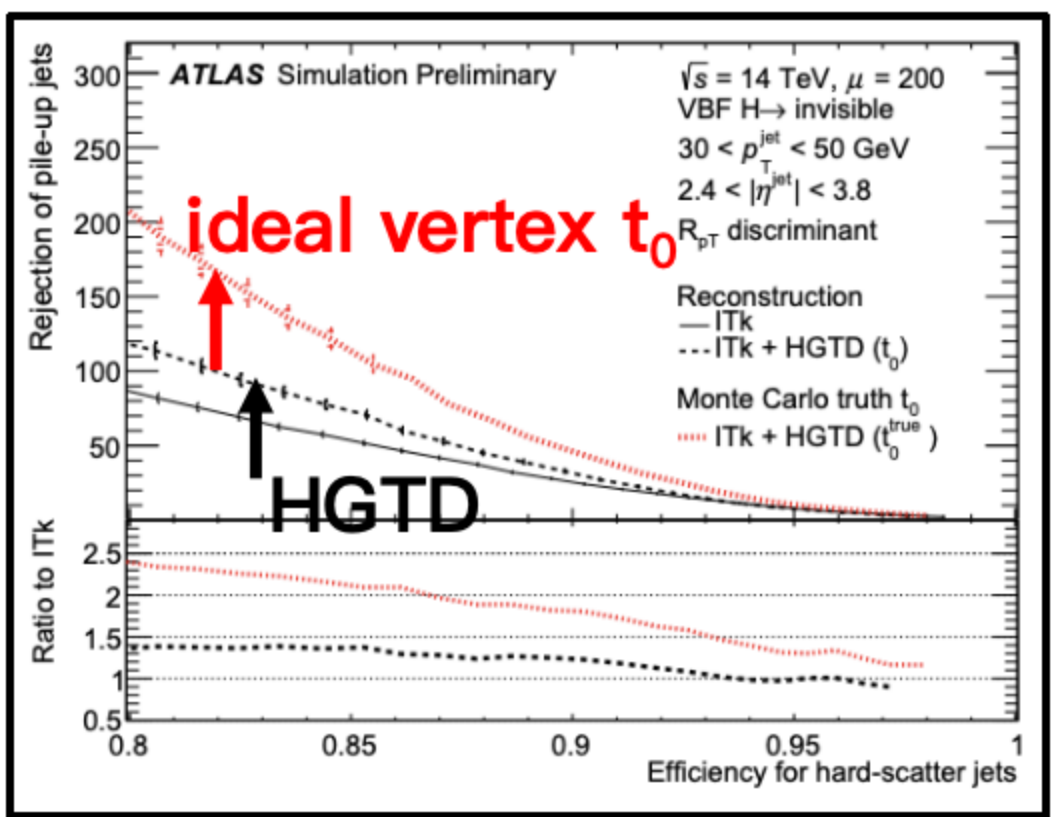
- Good intrinsic timing resolution $O(100\text{ ps})$ /better of best cells
- Include barrel timing for optimal t_0 determination



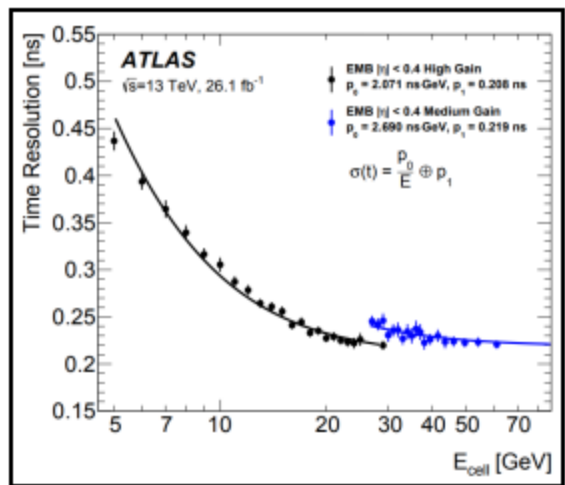
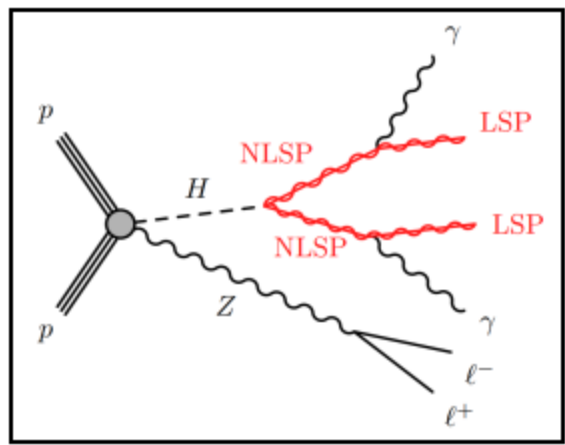
helps HGTD

helps LLP searches

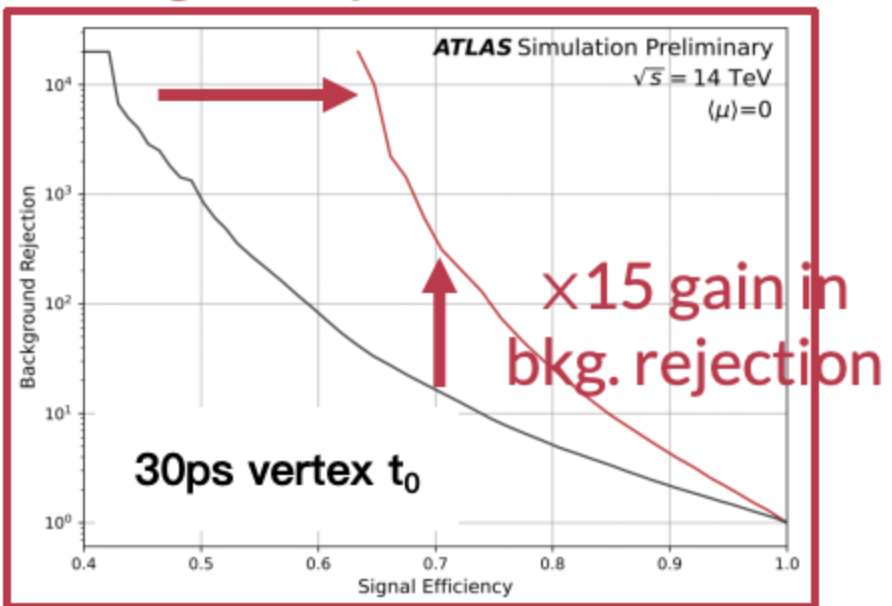
LLP searches using delayed photons



- Room for better PU jet suppression



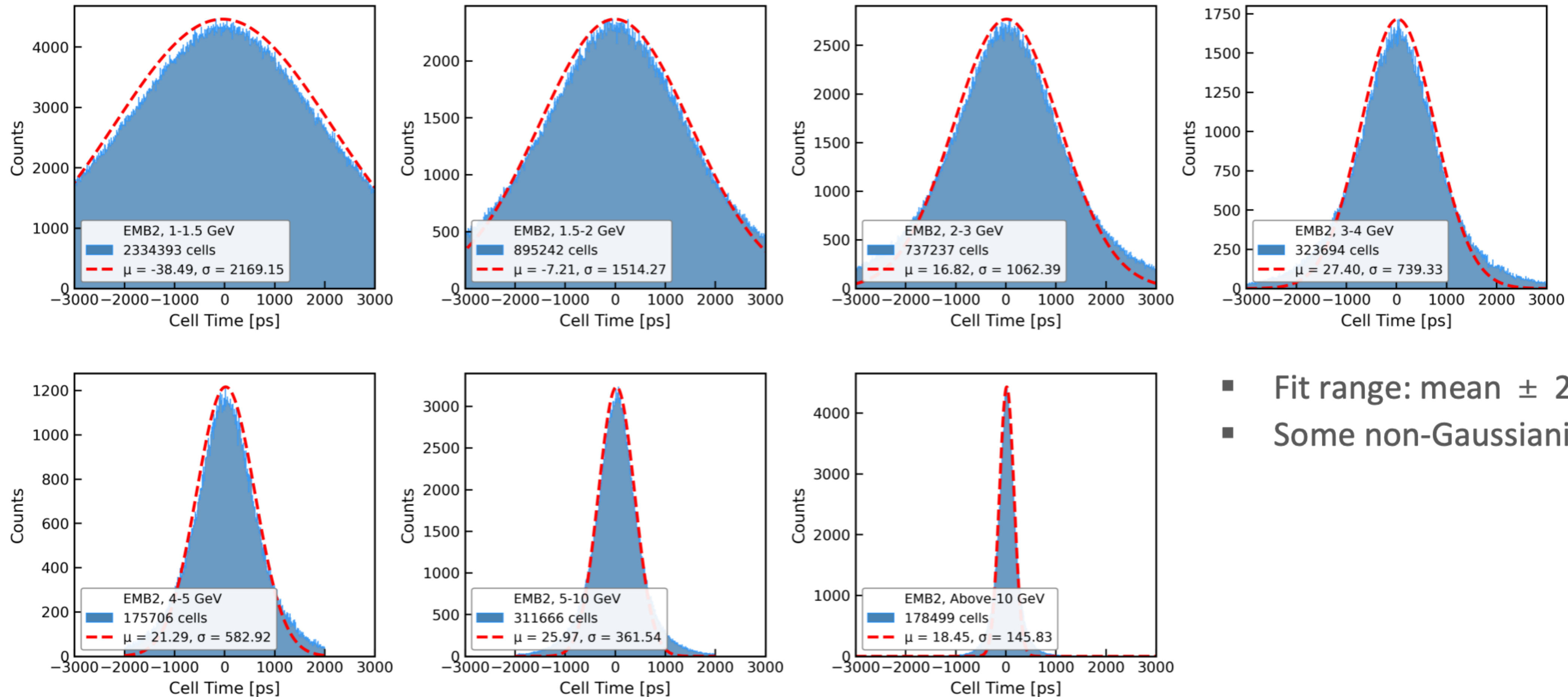
20% gain in sig. acceptance



- Could also help₂₉ delayed jet searches

Inclusive Calibration for EM-layers

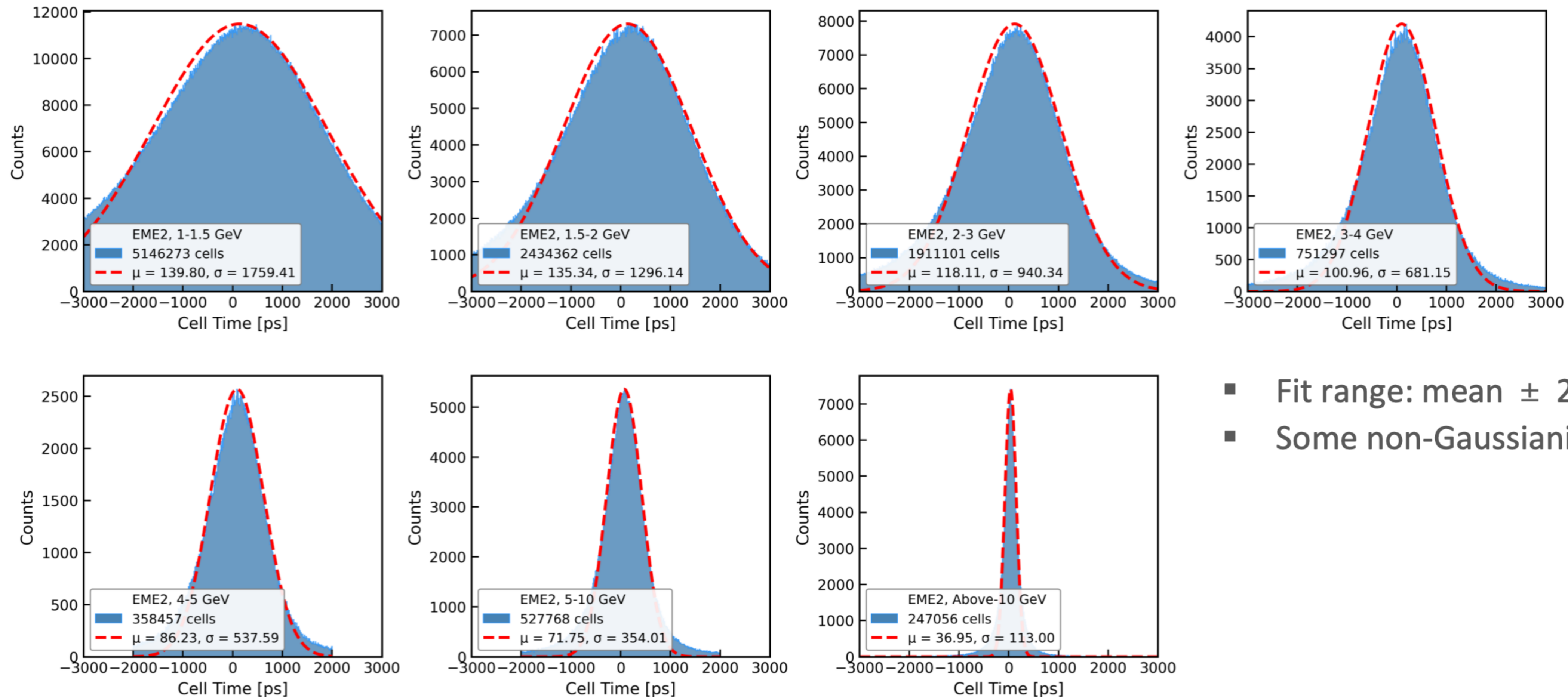
➤ Cell Timing Distribution (EM Barrel 2)



- Fit range: mean $\pm$ 2.0 std
- Some non-Gaussianity for low E

Inclusive Calibration for EM-layers

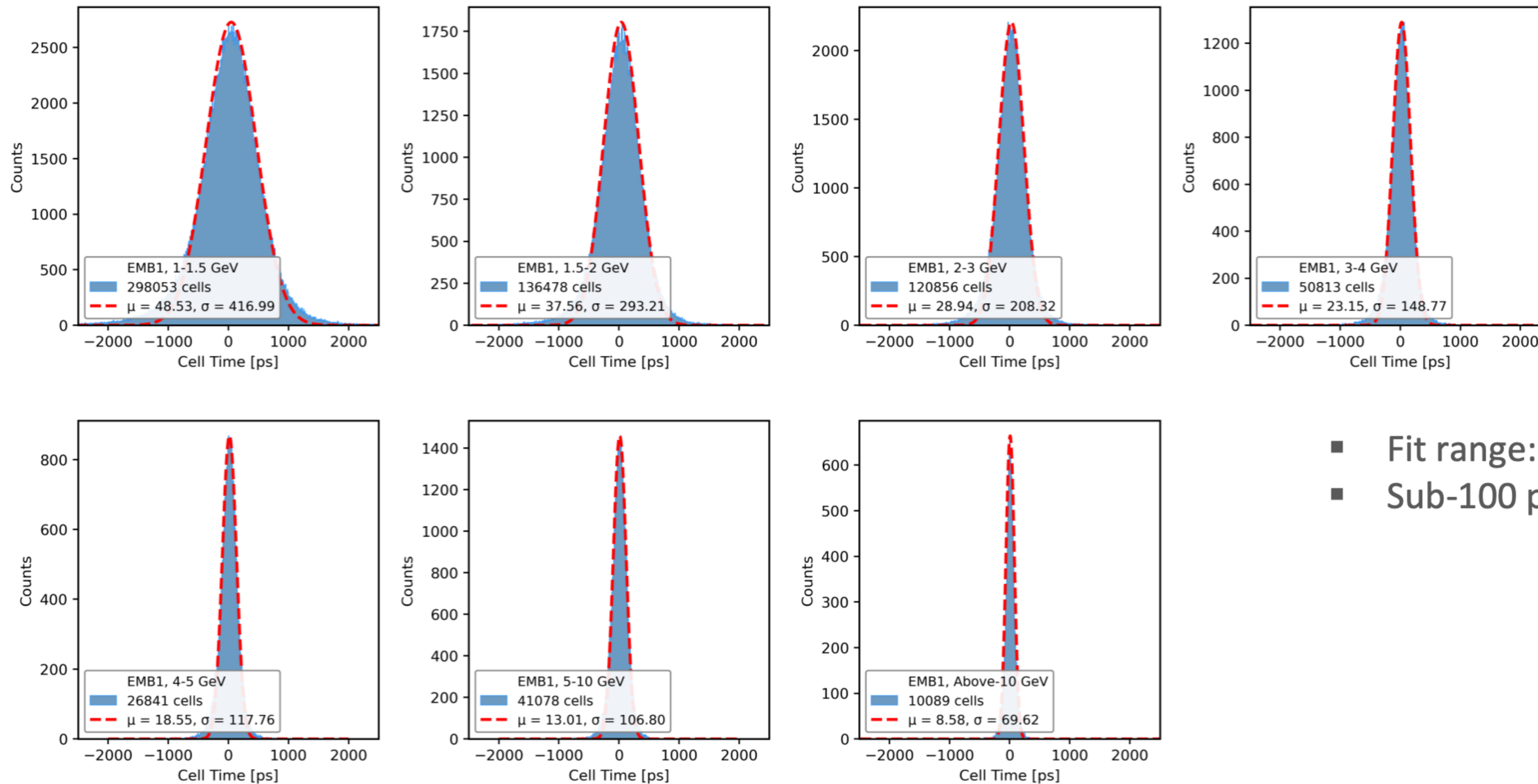
➤ Cell Timing Distribution (EM End-cap 2)



- Fit range: mean $\pm$ 2.0 std
- Some non-Gaussianity for low E

Calibration with Tracking Info

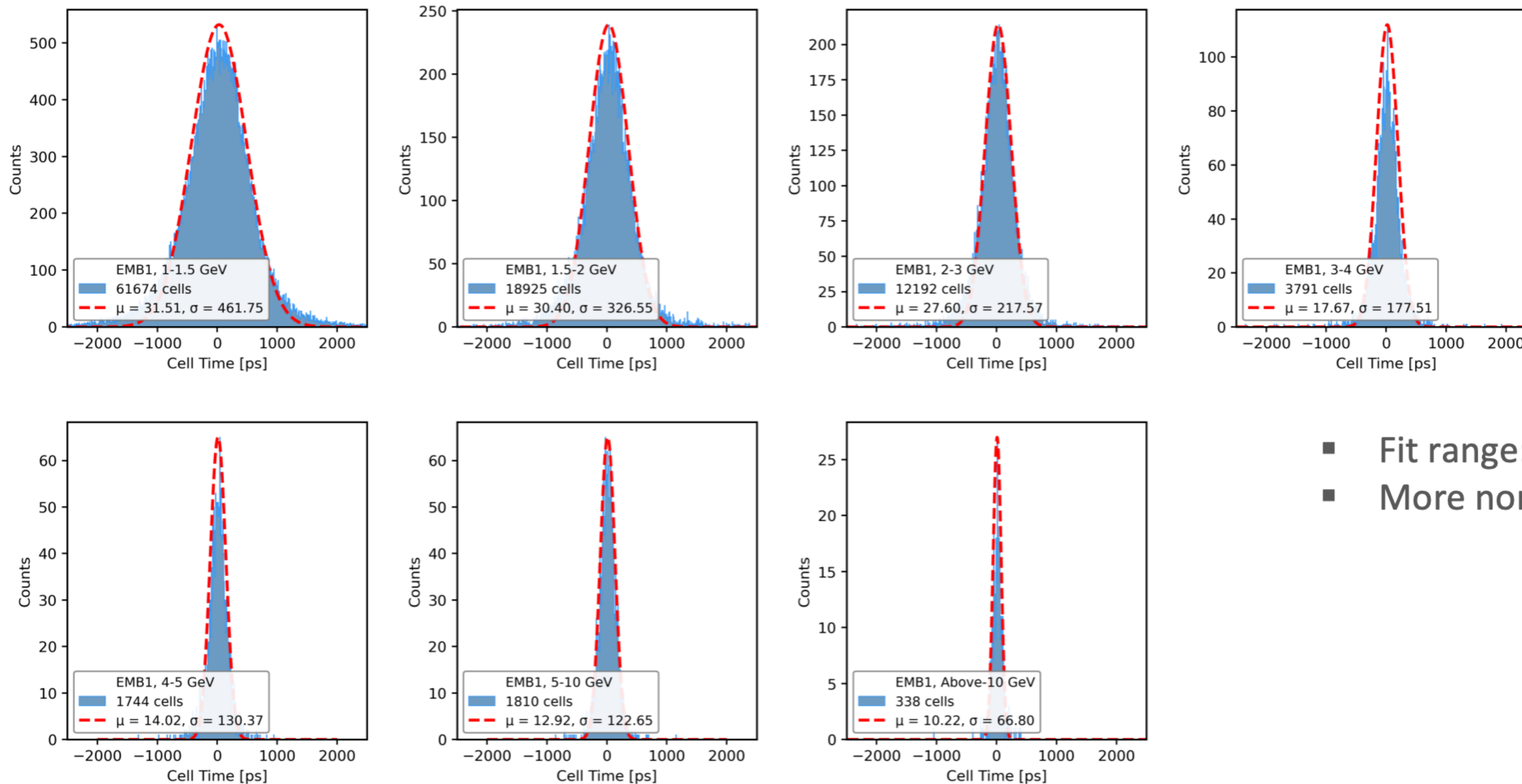
➤ Cell Timing Distribution (EM Barrel 1, HS)



- Fit range: mean $\pm$ 2.0 std
- Sub-100 ps at best cells

Calibration with Tracking Info

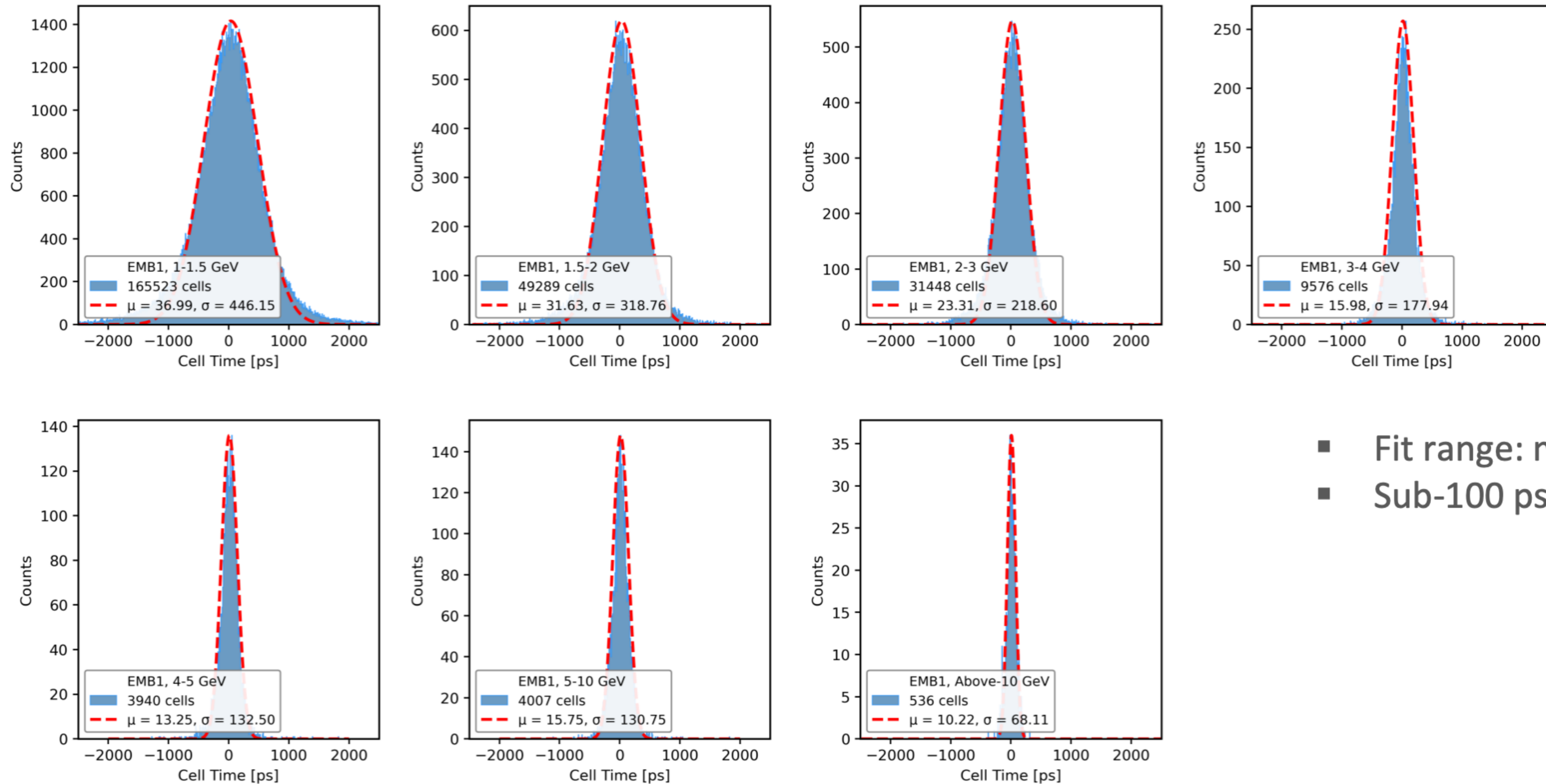
➤ Cell Timing Distribution (EM Barrel 1, PU)



- Fit range: mean $\pm$ 2.0 std
- More non-Gaussianity

Calibration with Tracking Info

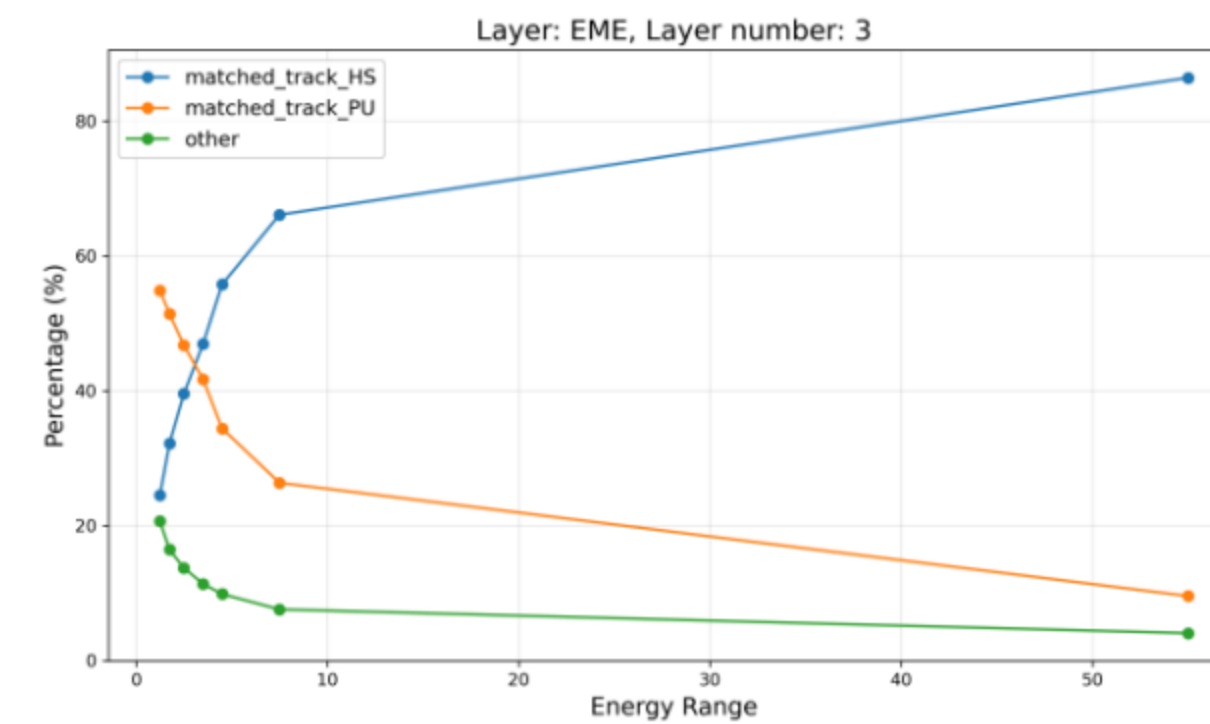
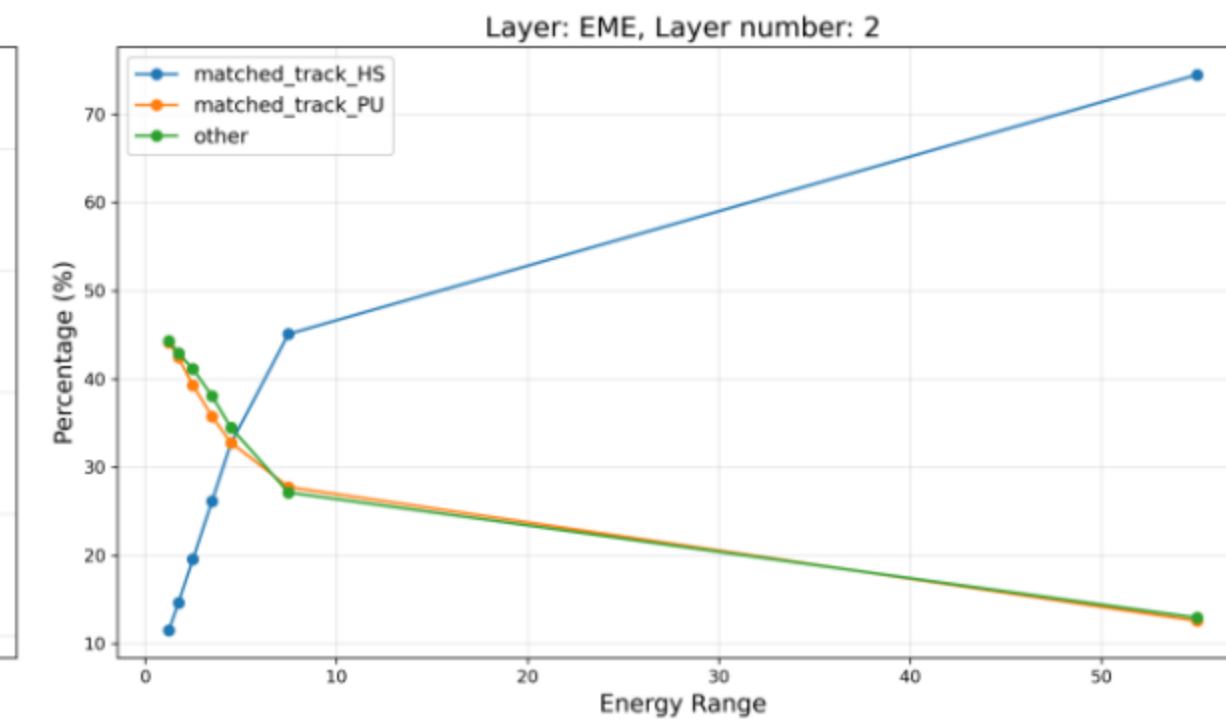
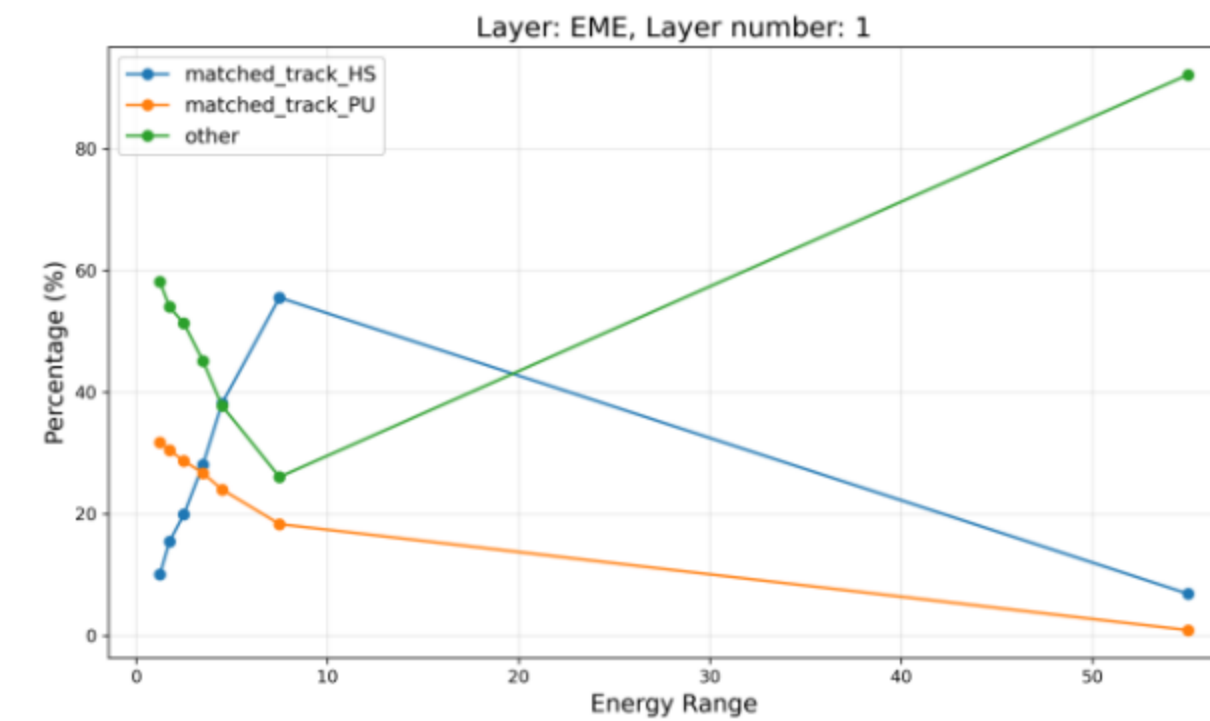
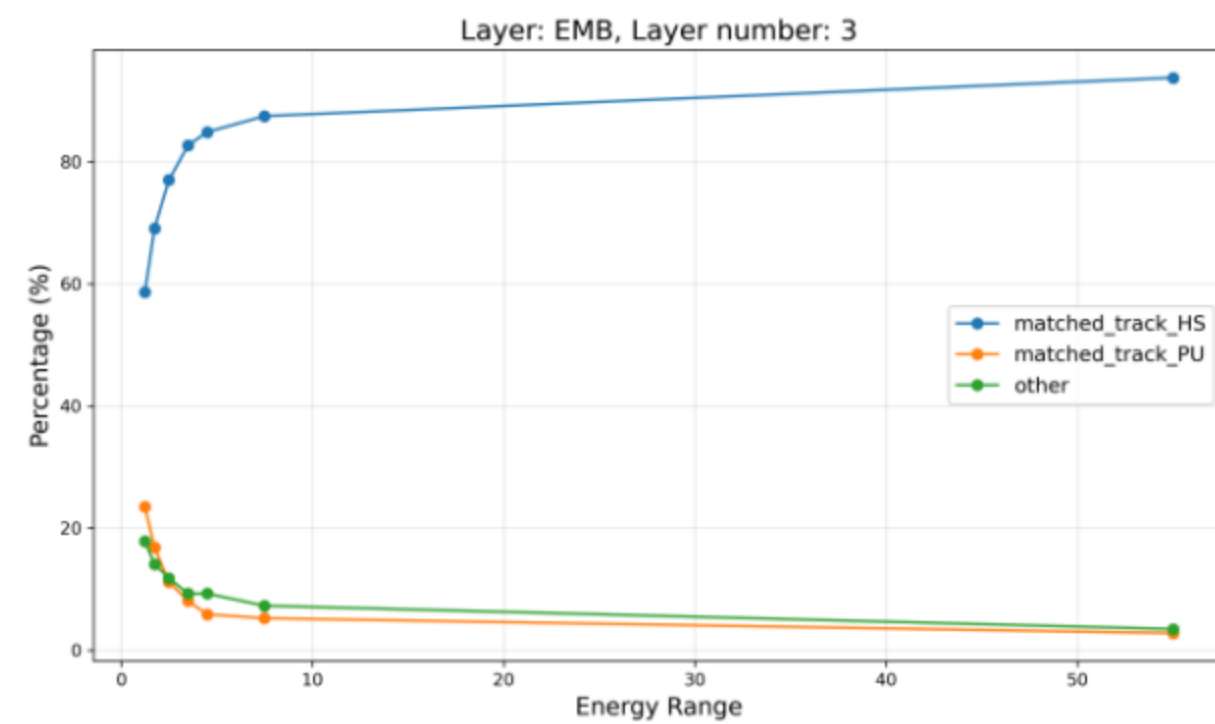
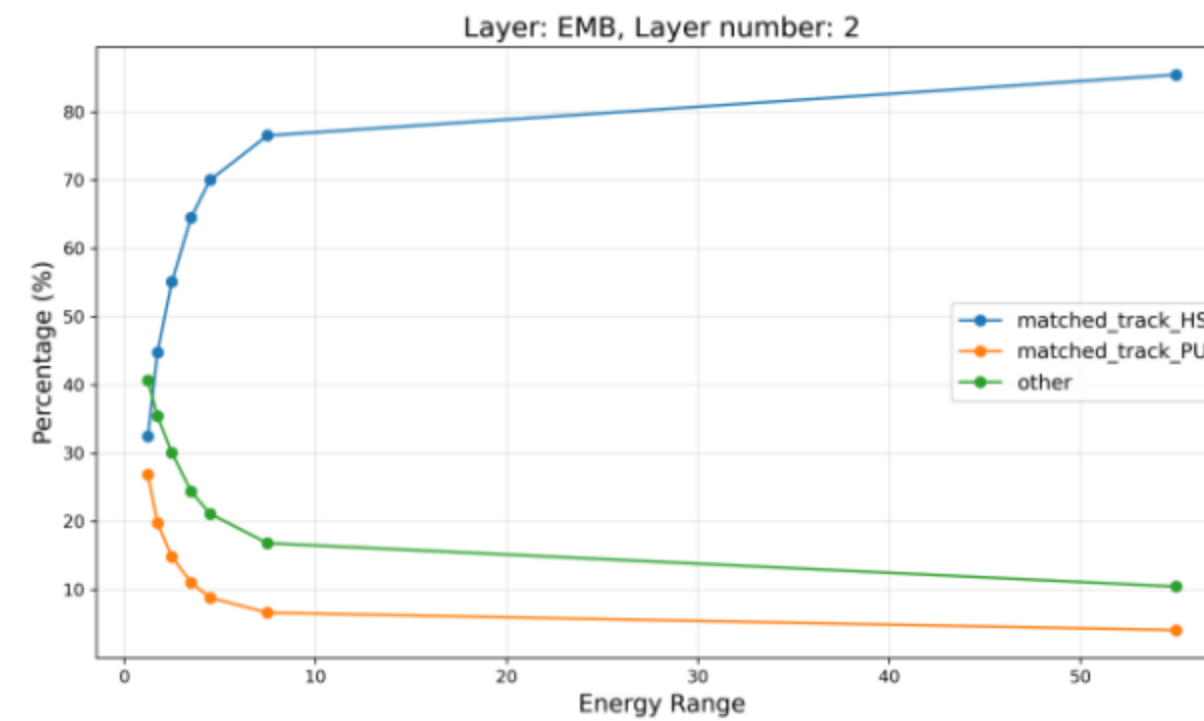
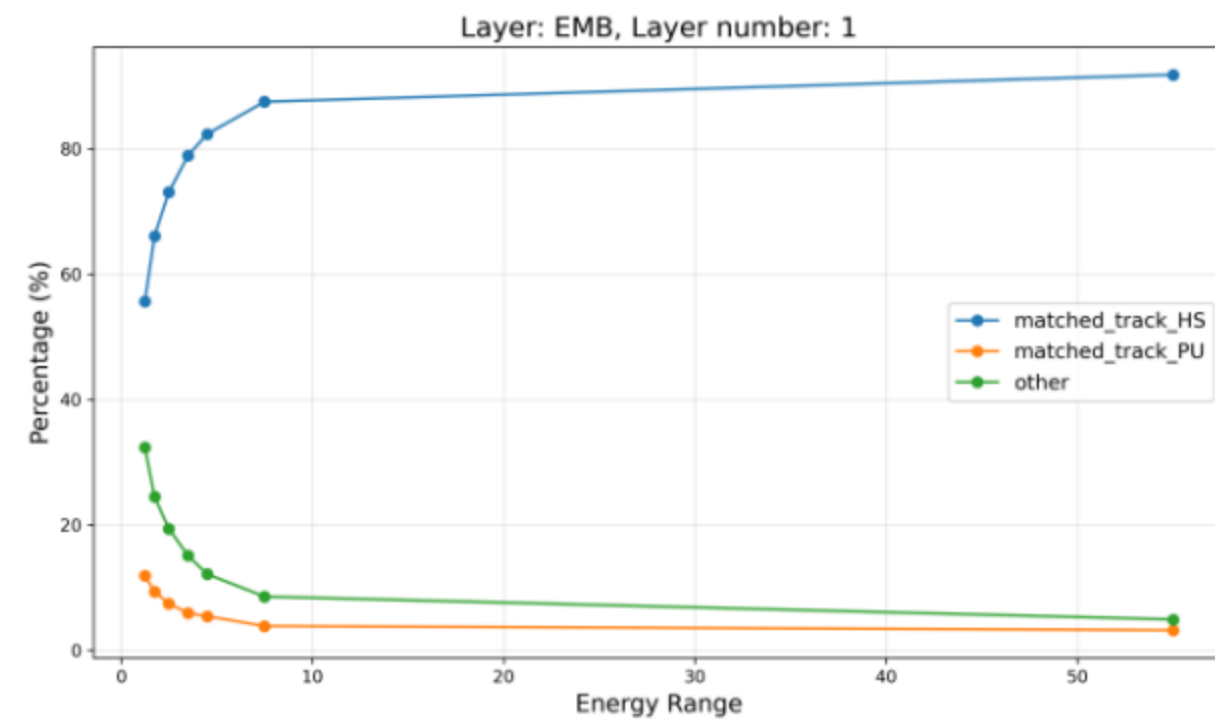
➤ Cell Timing Distribution (EM Barrel 1, Unmatched)



- Fit range: mean $\pm$ 2.0 std
- Sub-100 ps at best cells

Calibration with Tracking Info

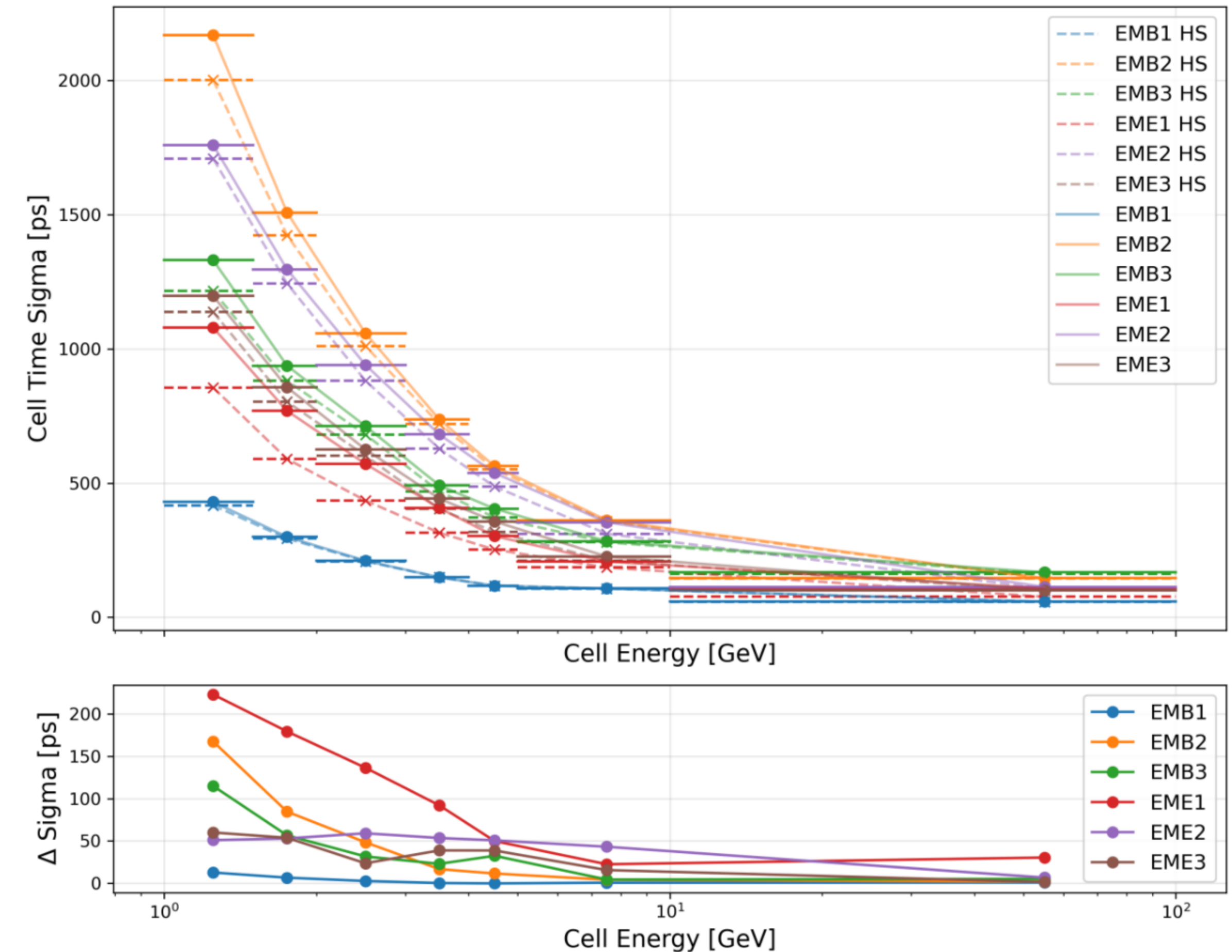
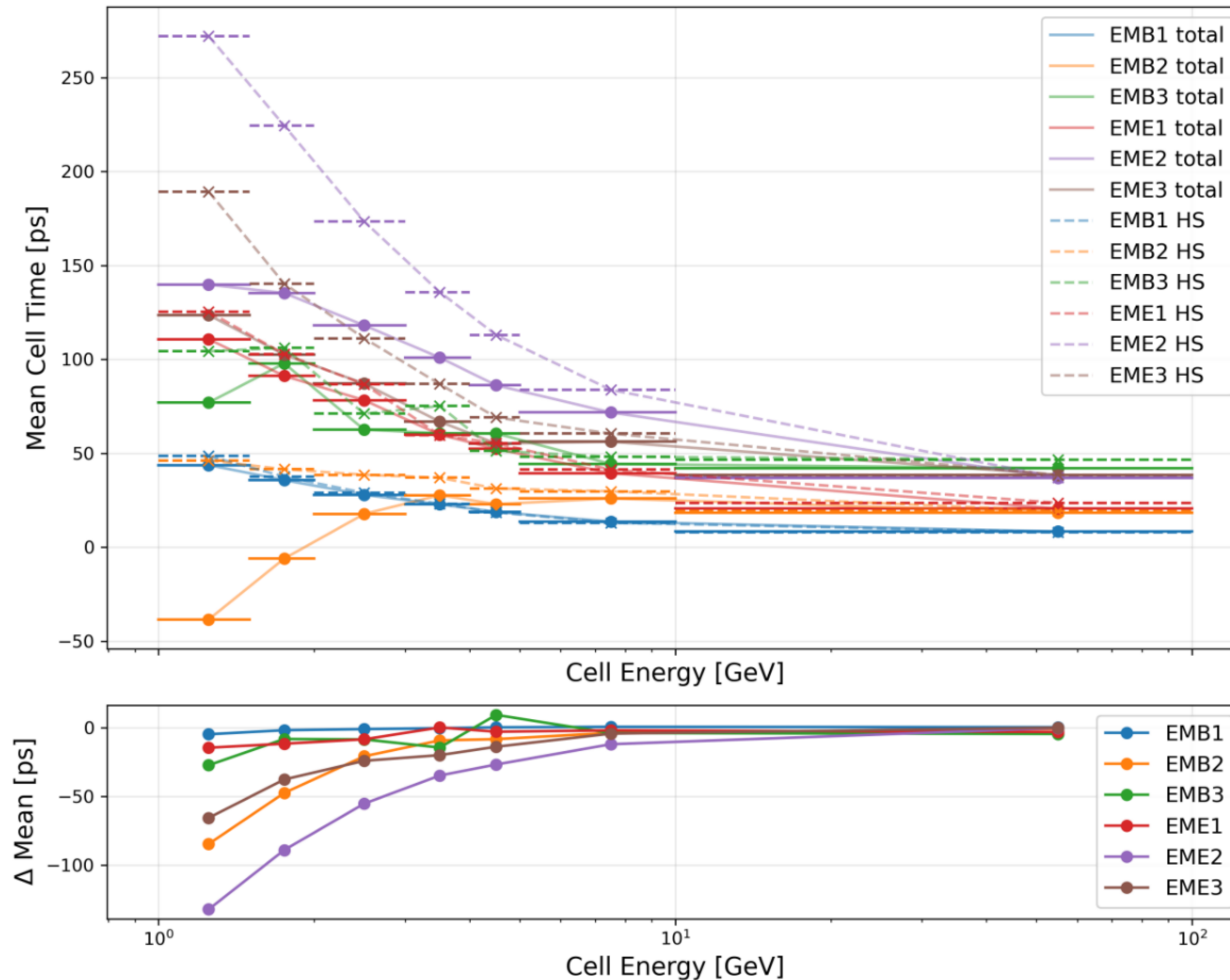
➤ Occupancy Statistics



- Most cells with sufficient high energy are HS-matched.

Calibration with Tracking Info

➤ Cell Timing Off-set & RMS

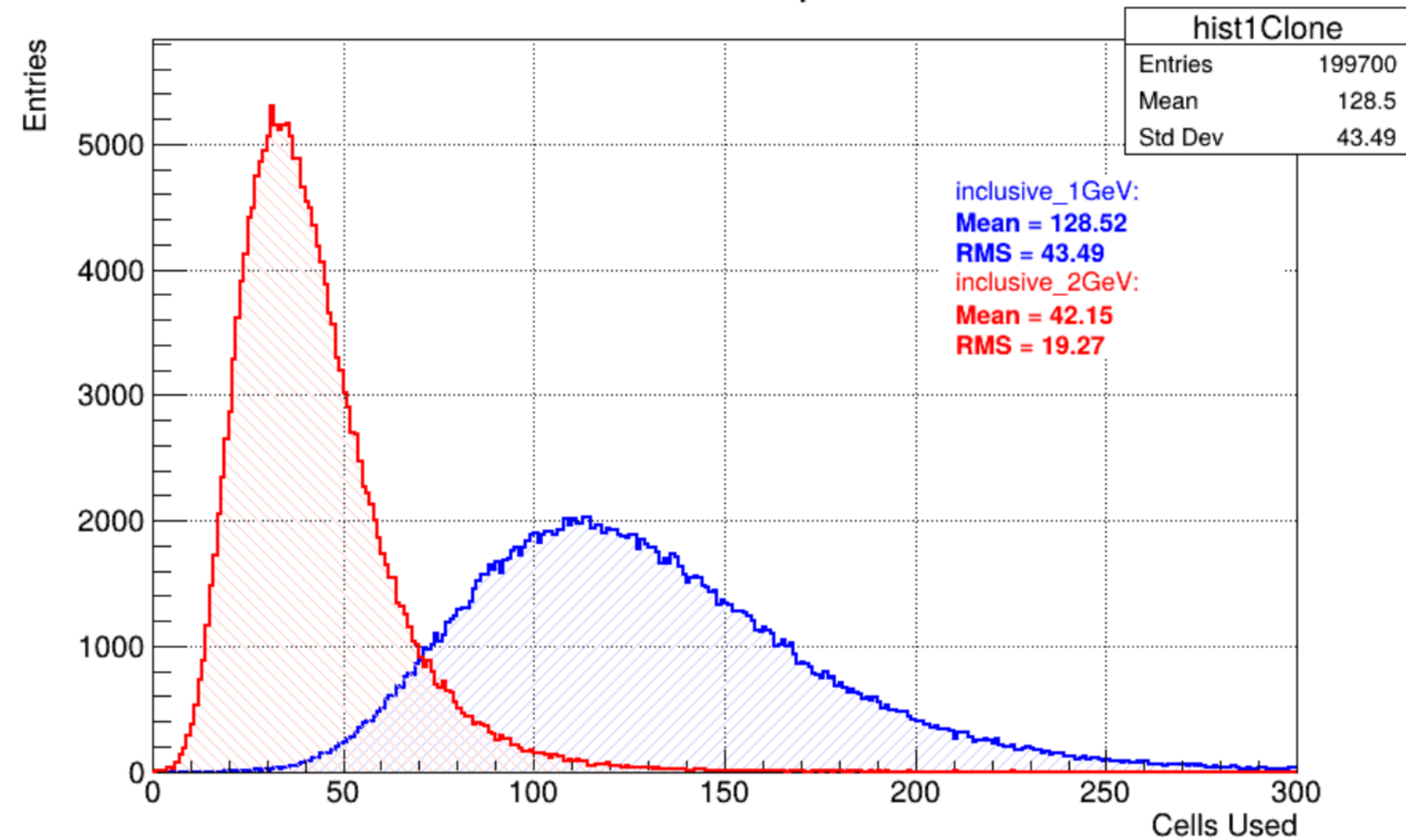


- Cells matched to a HS track result in a better resolution. (especially in lower-energy bins)

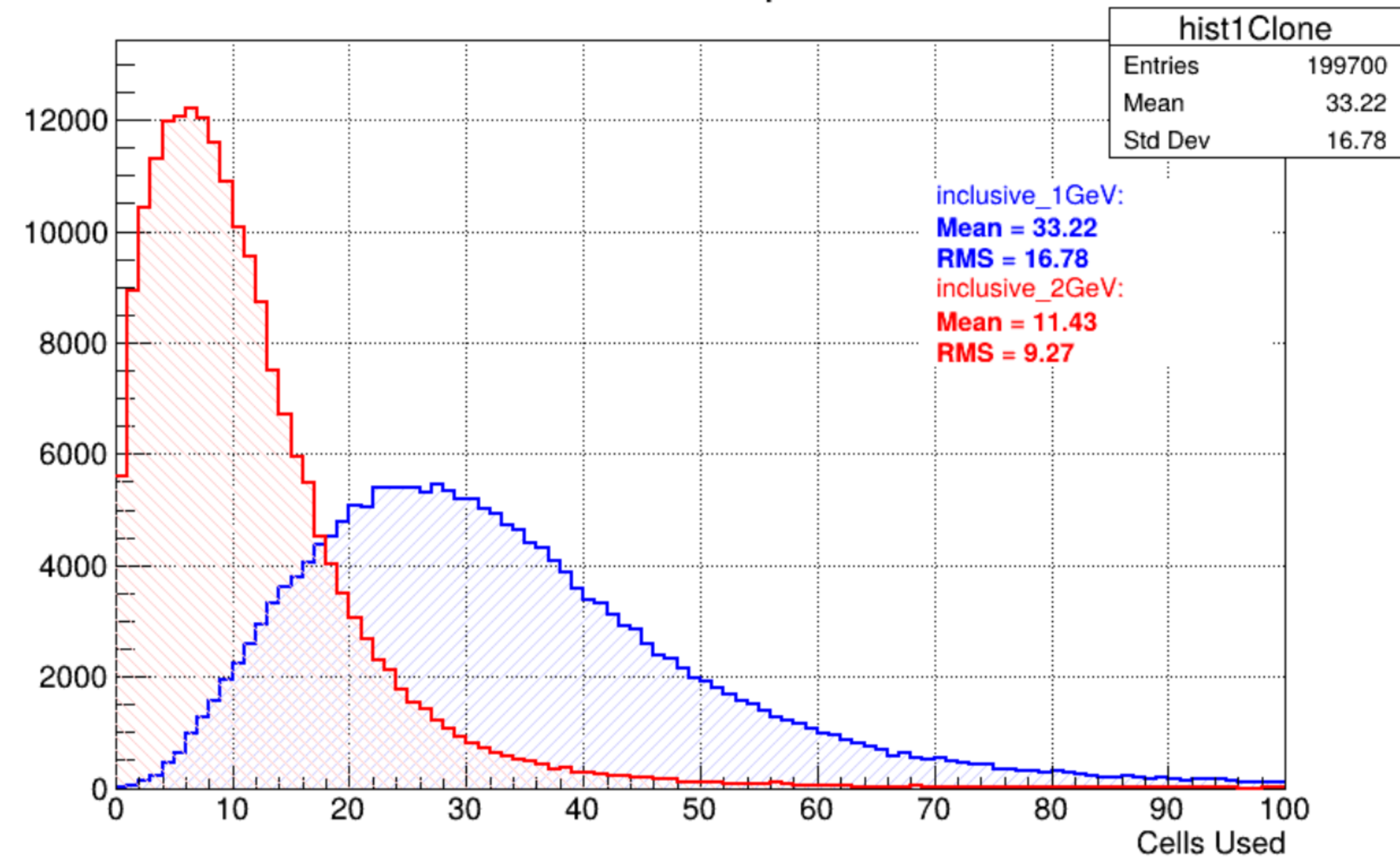
Inclusive Cells Count

➤ Cells Used Per Event

eventCell Comparison



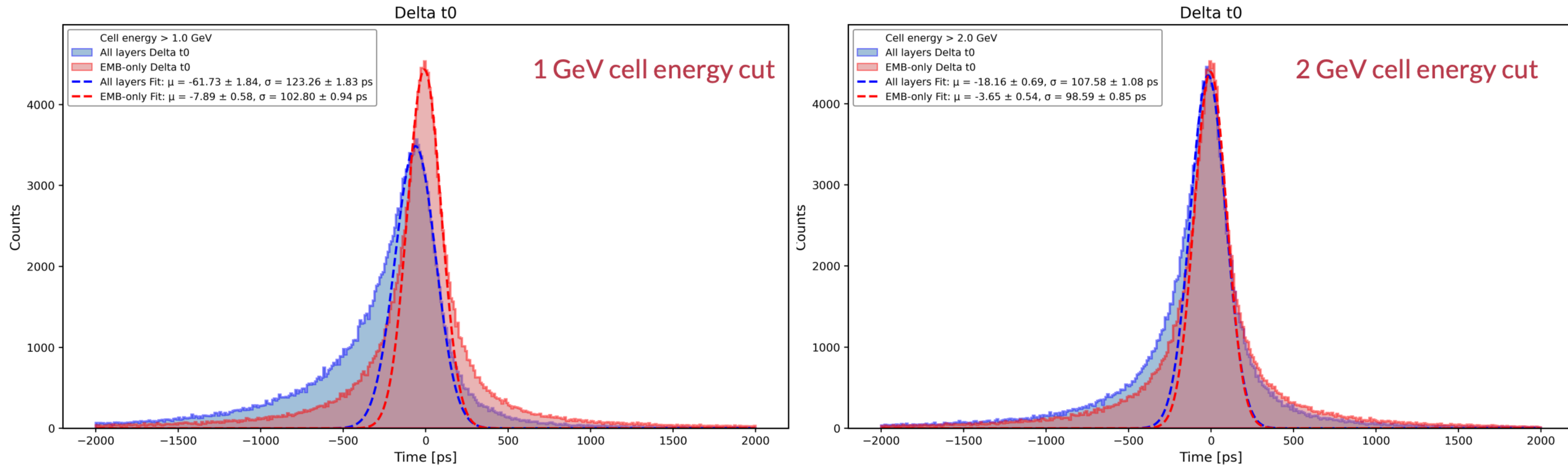
embCell Comparison



PV t_0 Reconstruction with Tracking Info

➤ Using PU-removed Cells:

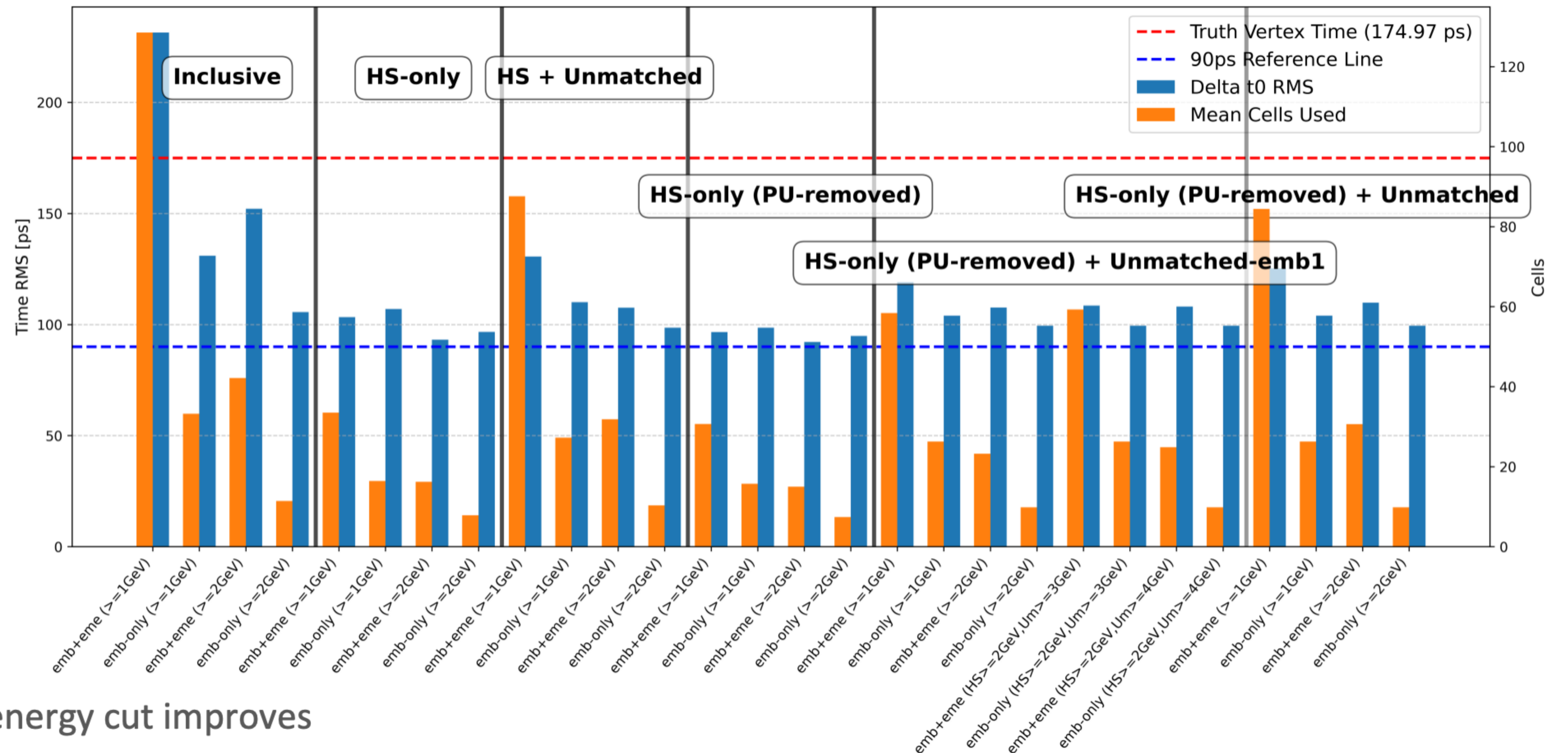
Once a cell is matched to PU-track during $\Delta R(\text{cell}, \text{track})$ selection, remove it



- No obvious improvement by combining the neutral events.

Summary of Tracking Info Combination

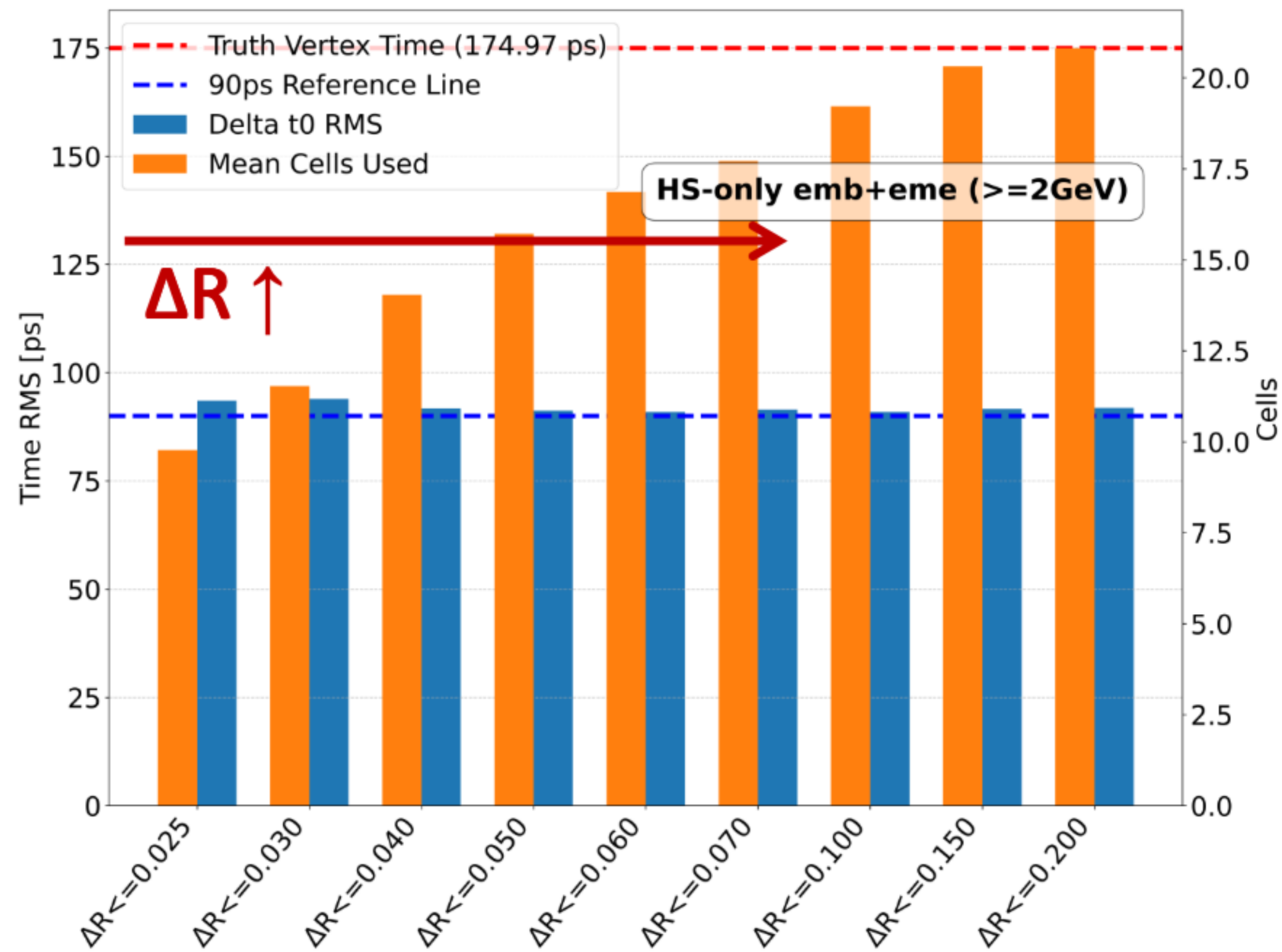
➤ A Lot Attempts



- Increasing the cell energy cut improves resolution slightly.

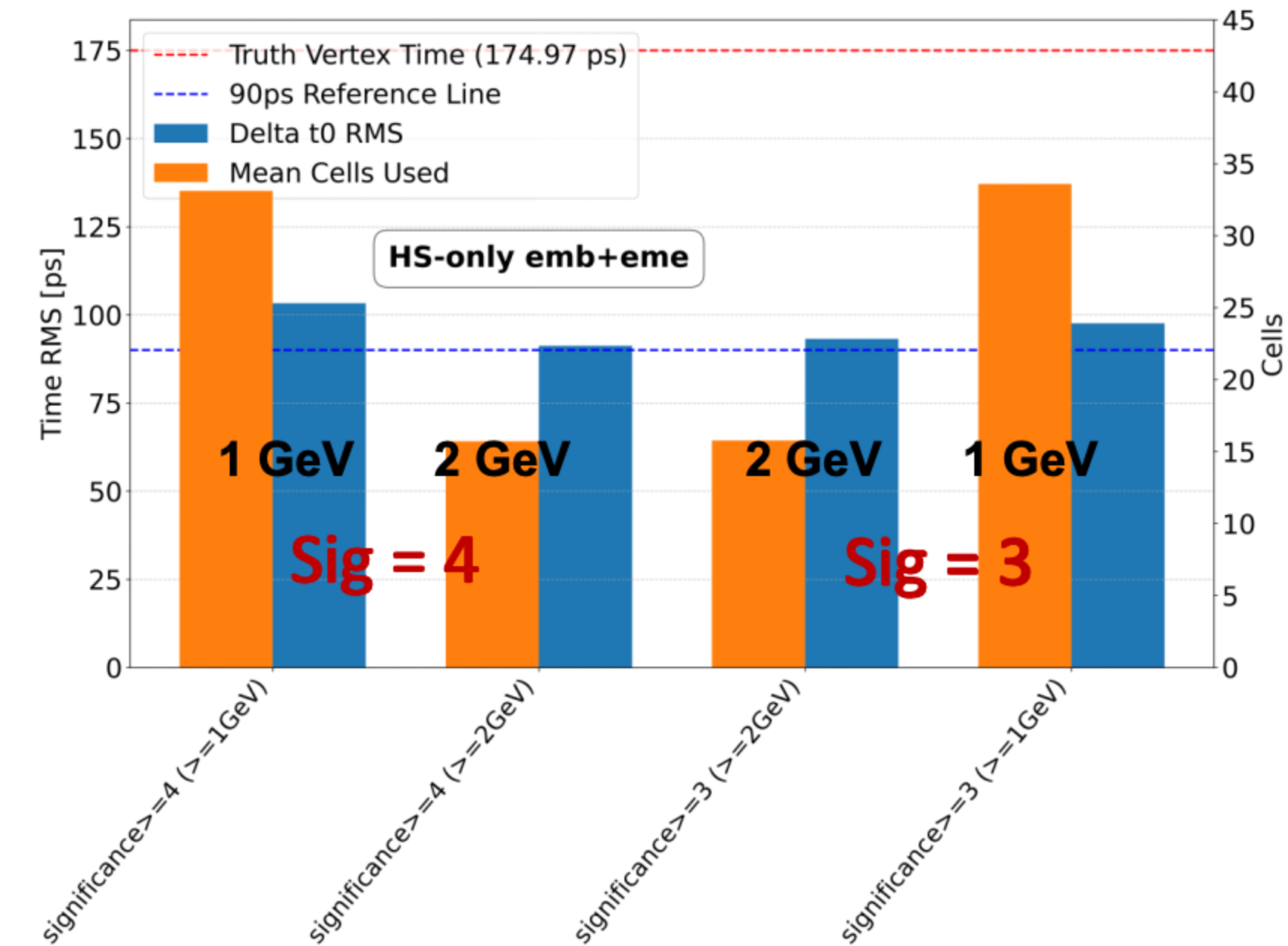
Summary of Cell-Track Matching

➤ Varying the $\Delta R(\text{cell, track})$



- Increasing ΔR threshold can slightly degrade the timing resolution, but relatively stable

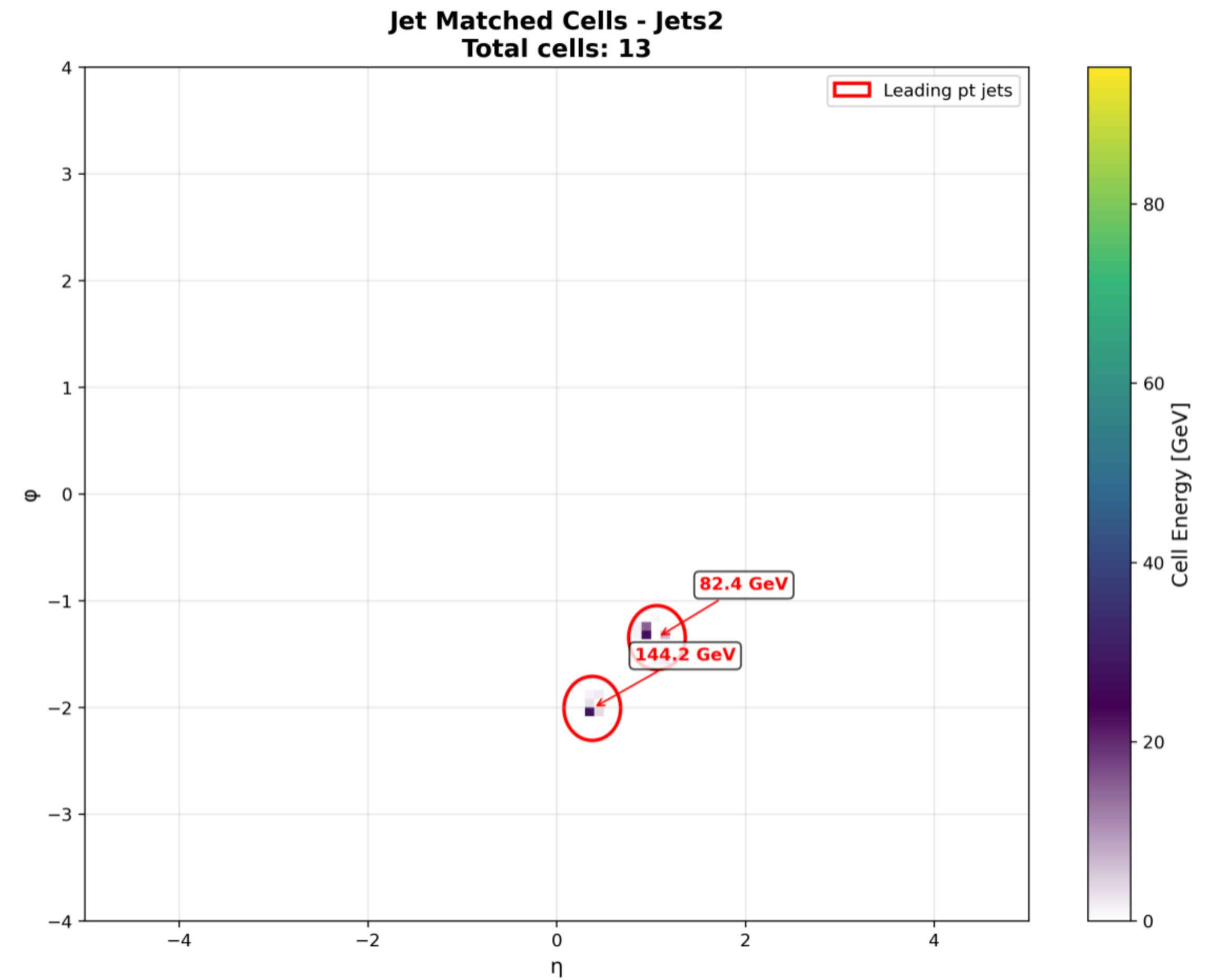
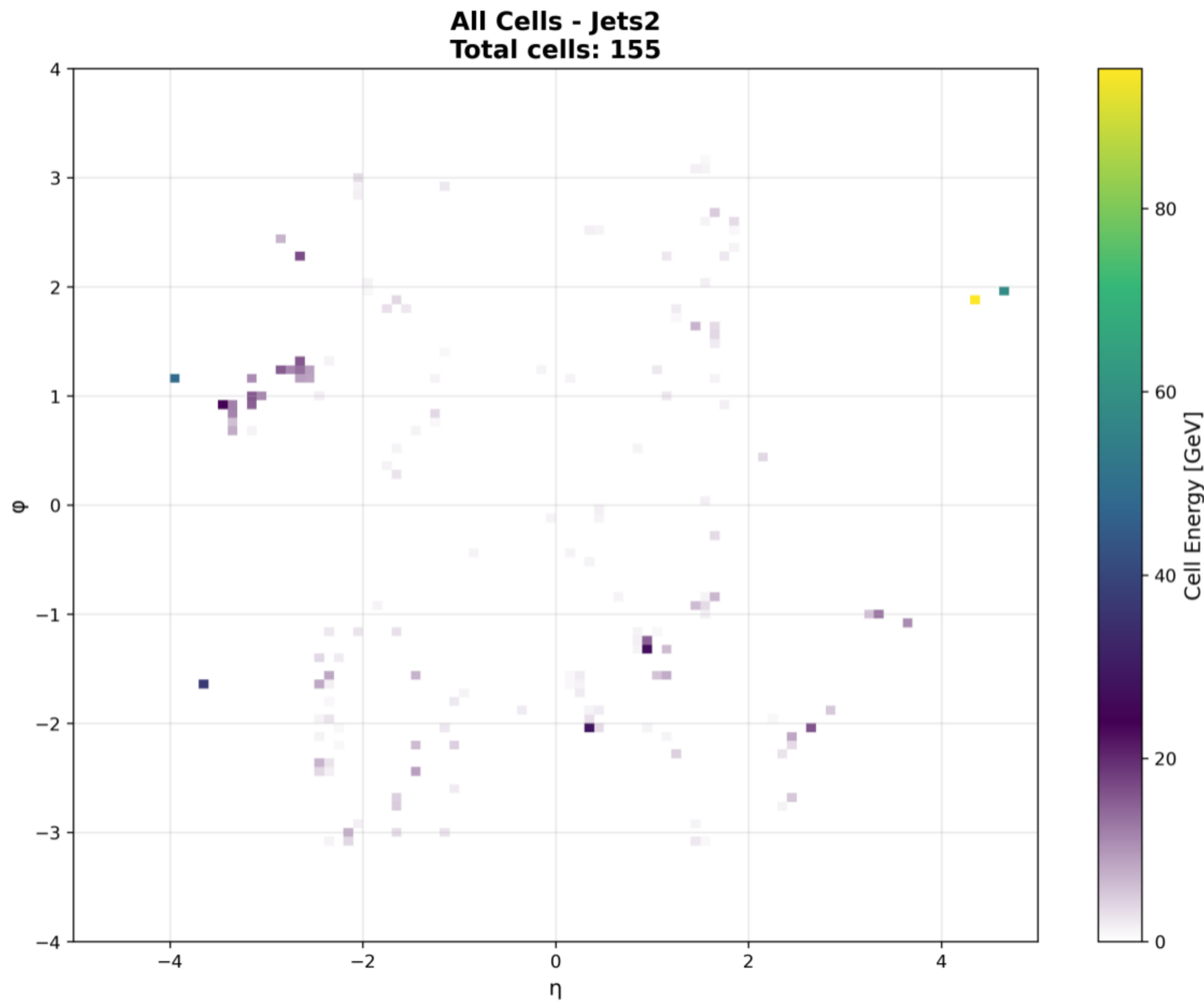
➤ Varying the Cell Significance



- No significant improvement from lower significance cut

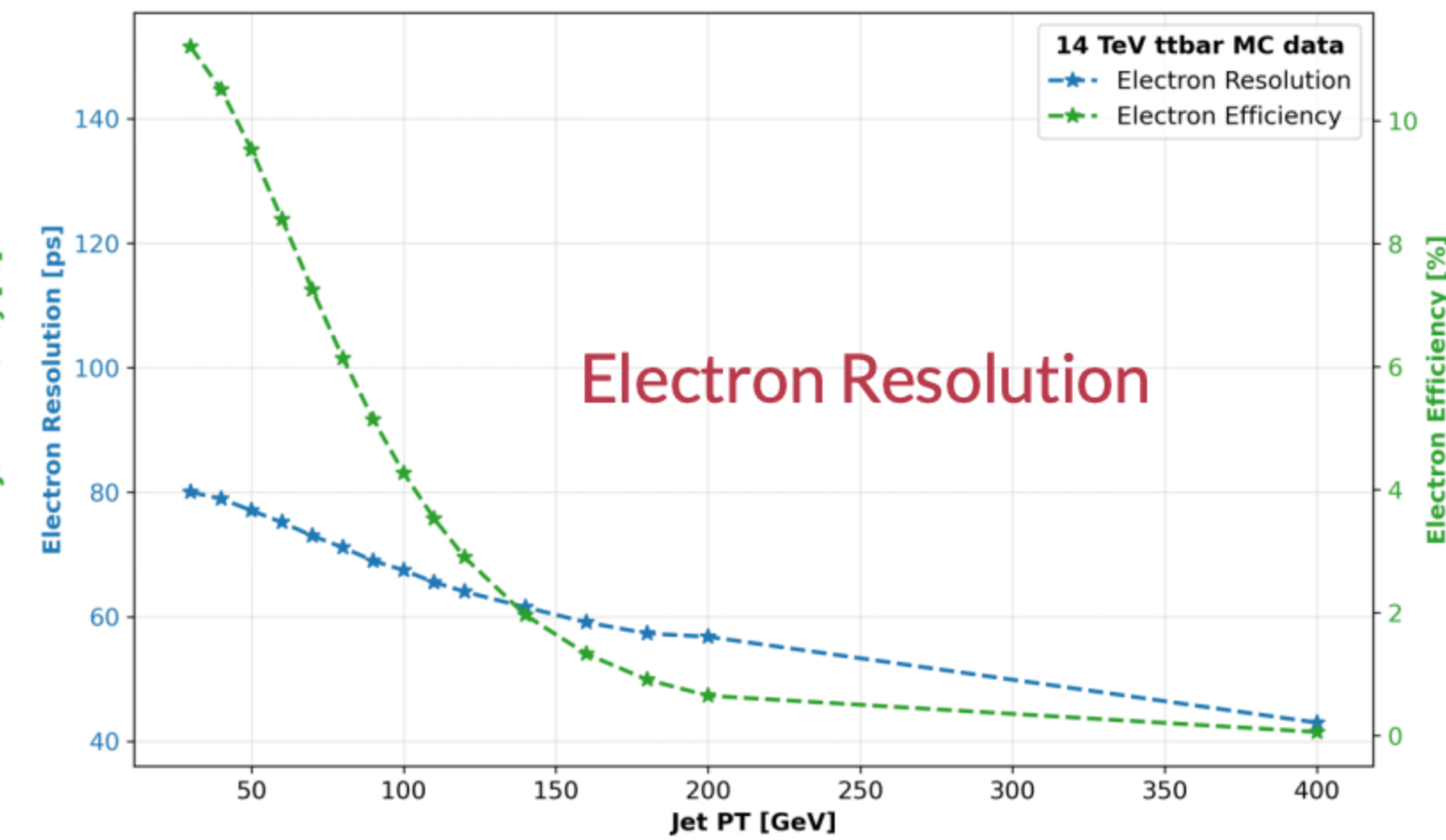
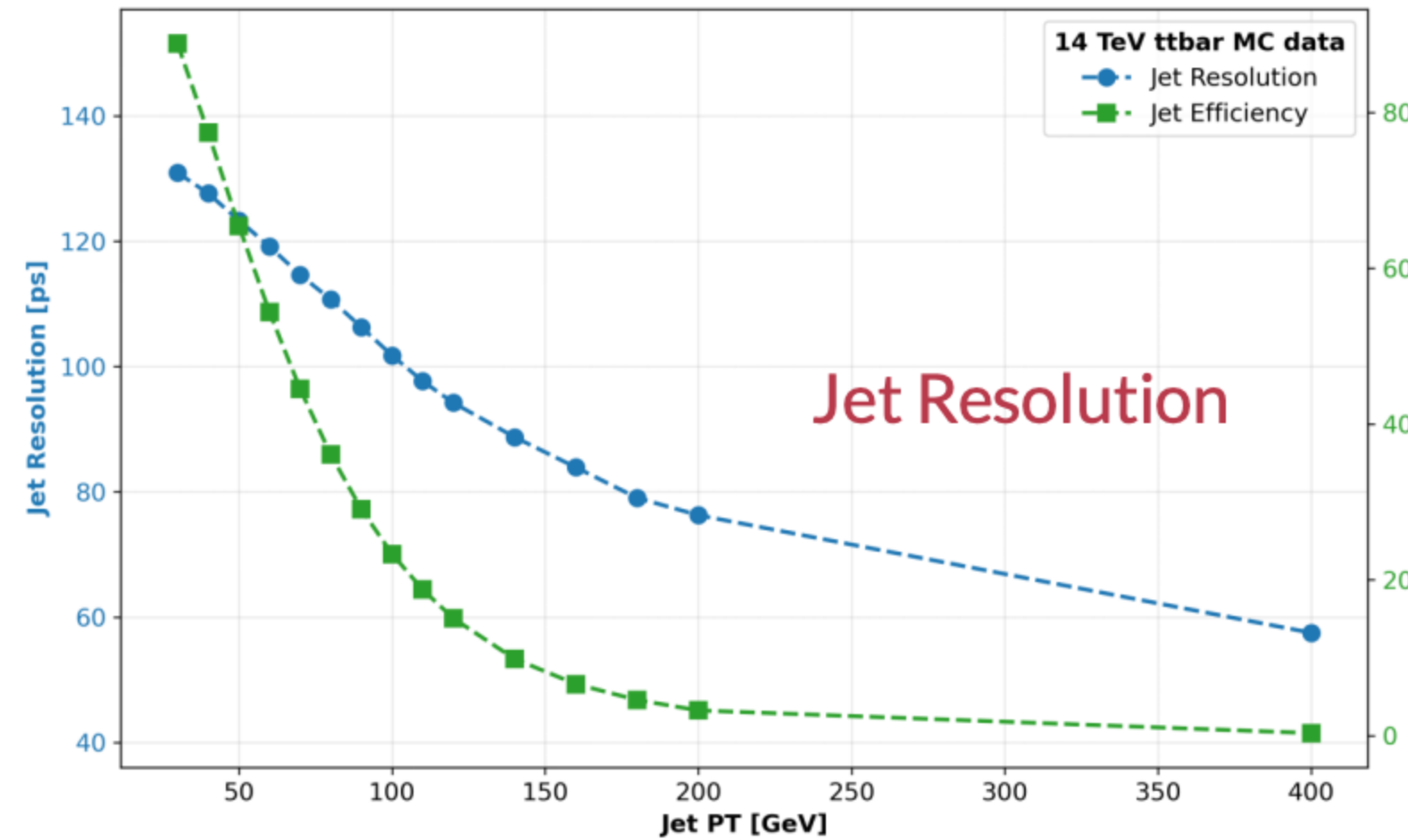
Incorporating Cell-Jet Matching Info

➤ Event Display (2 Leading Jets)

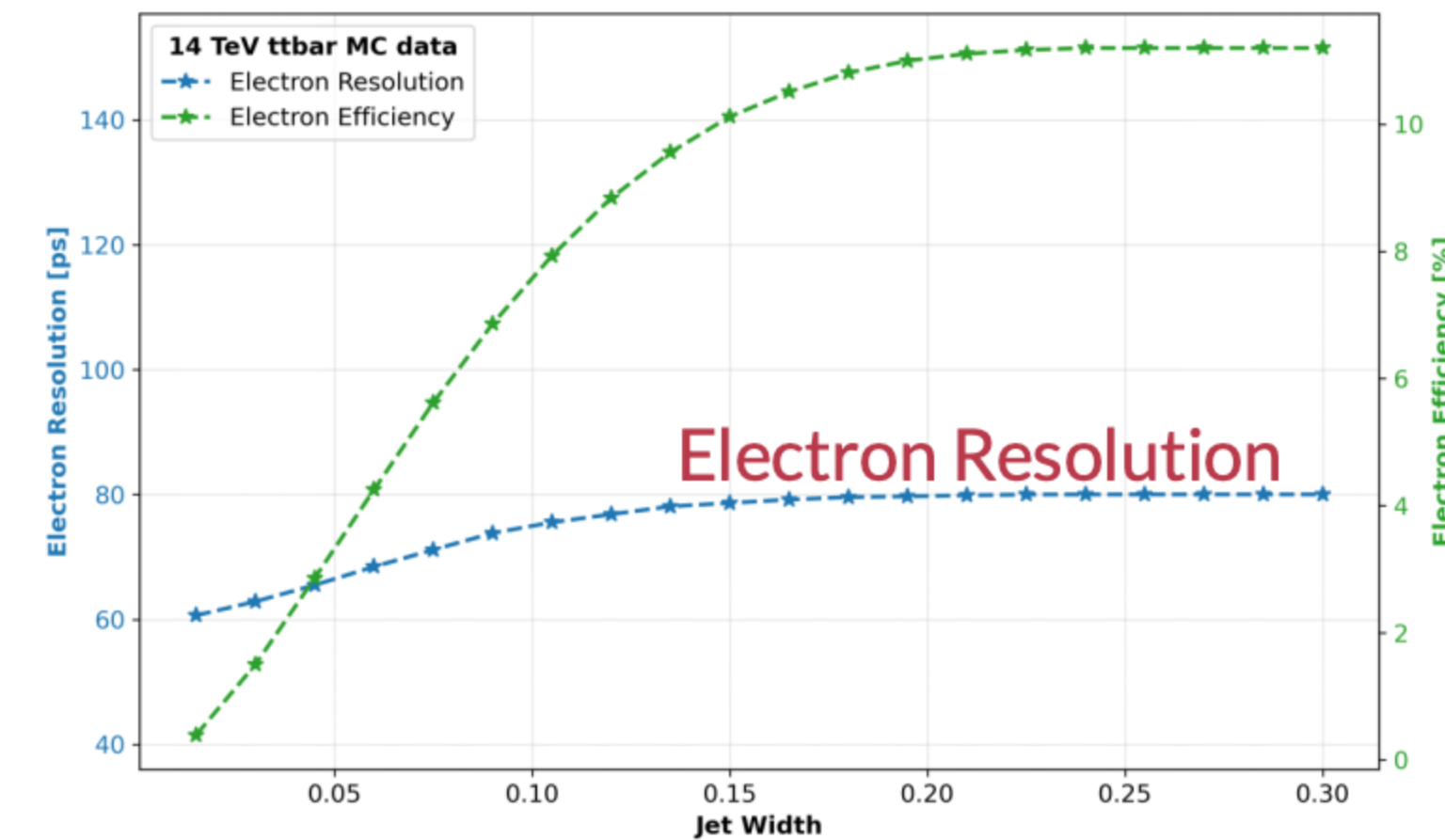
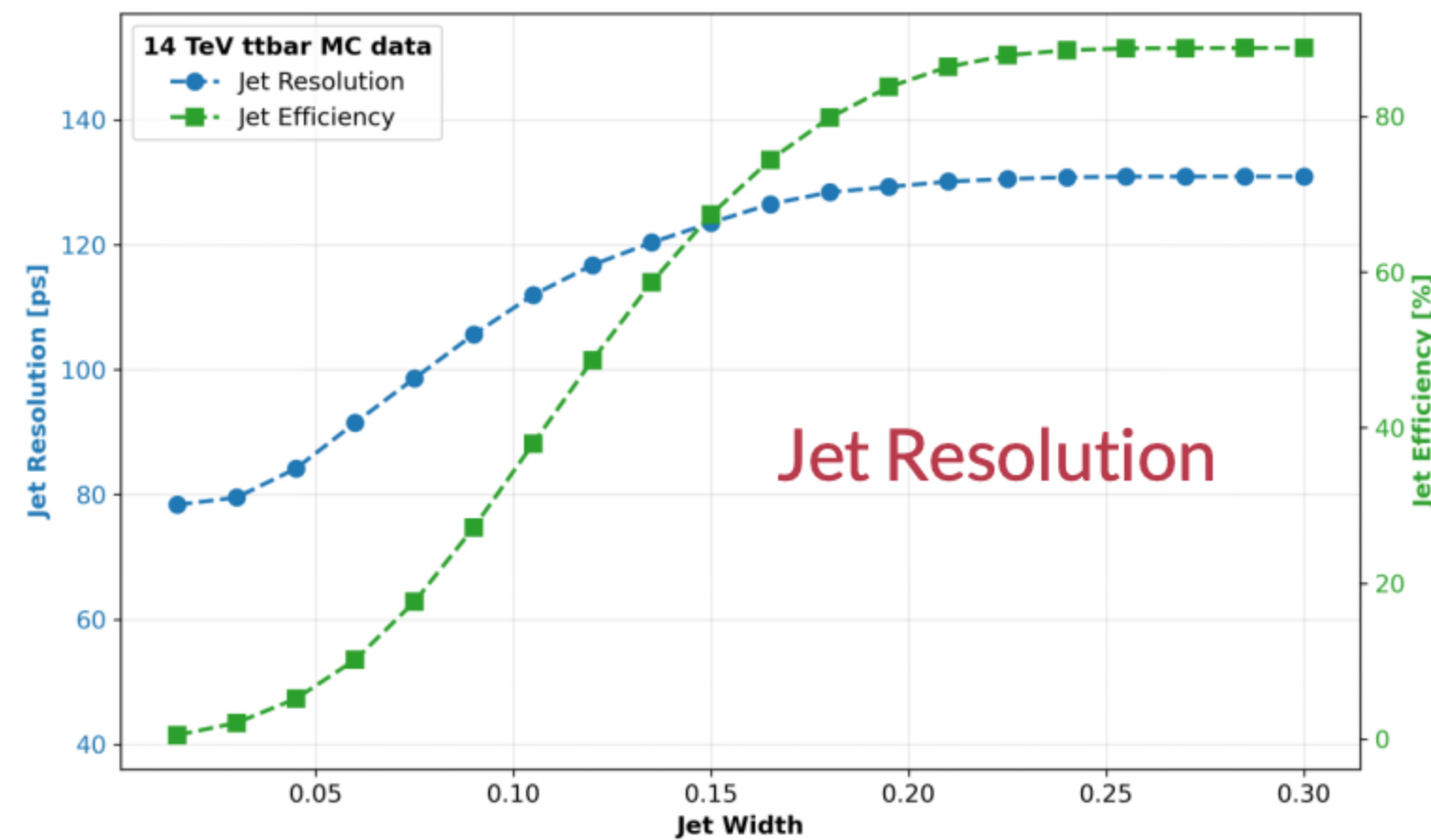


Separating Electrons from “Real” Jets

■ Jet- p_T Impact

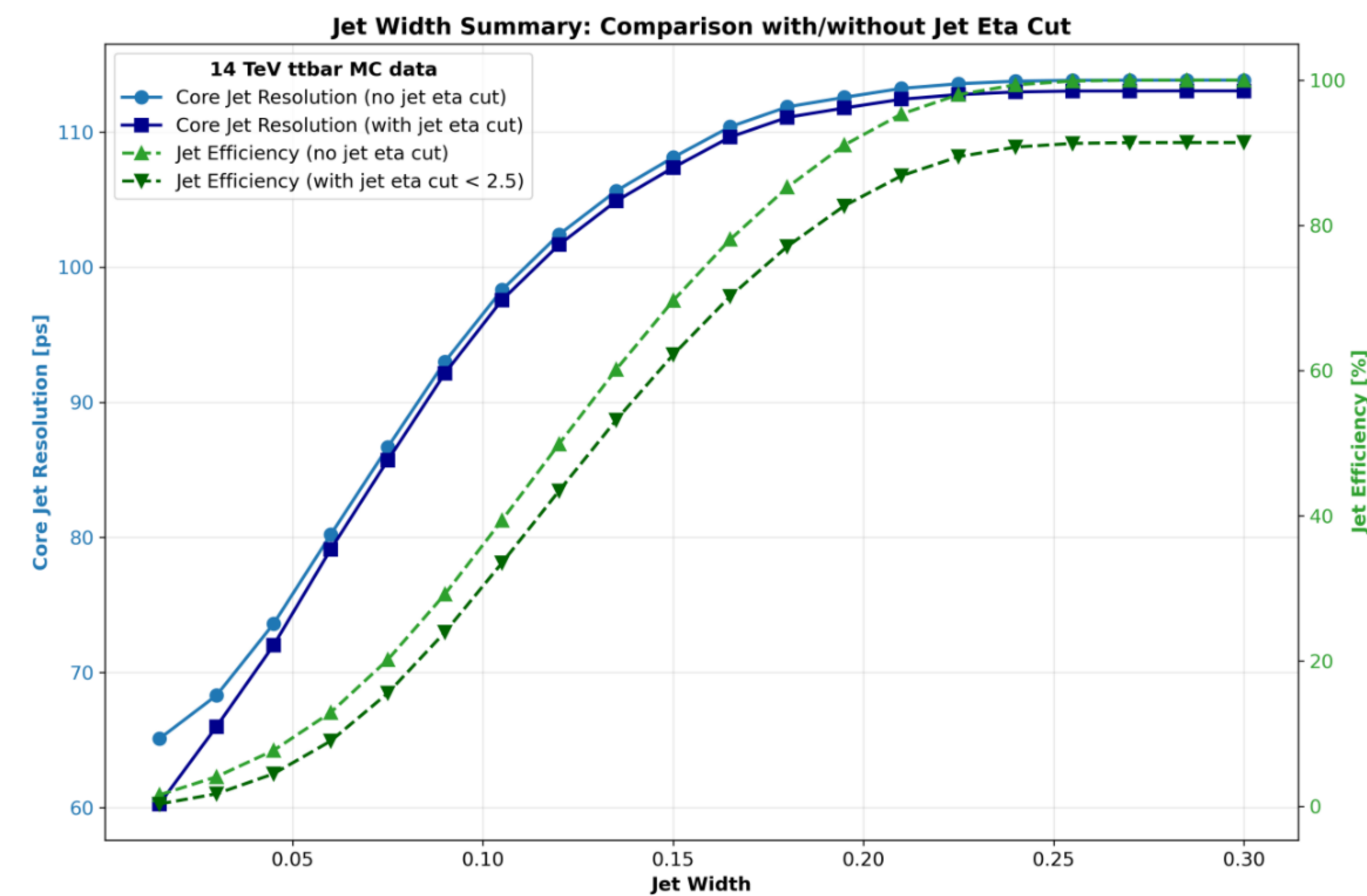
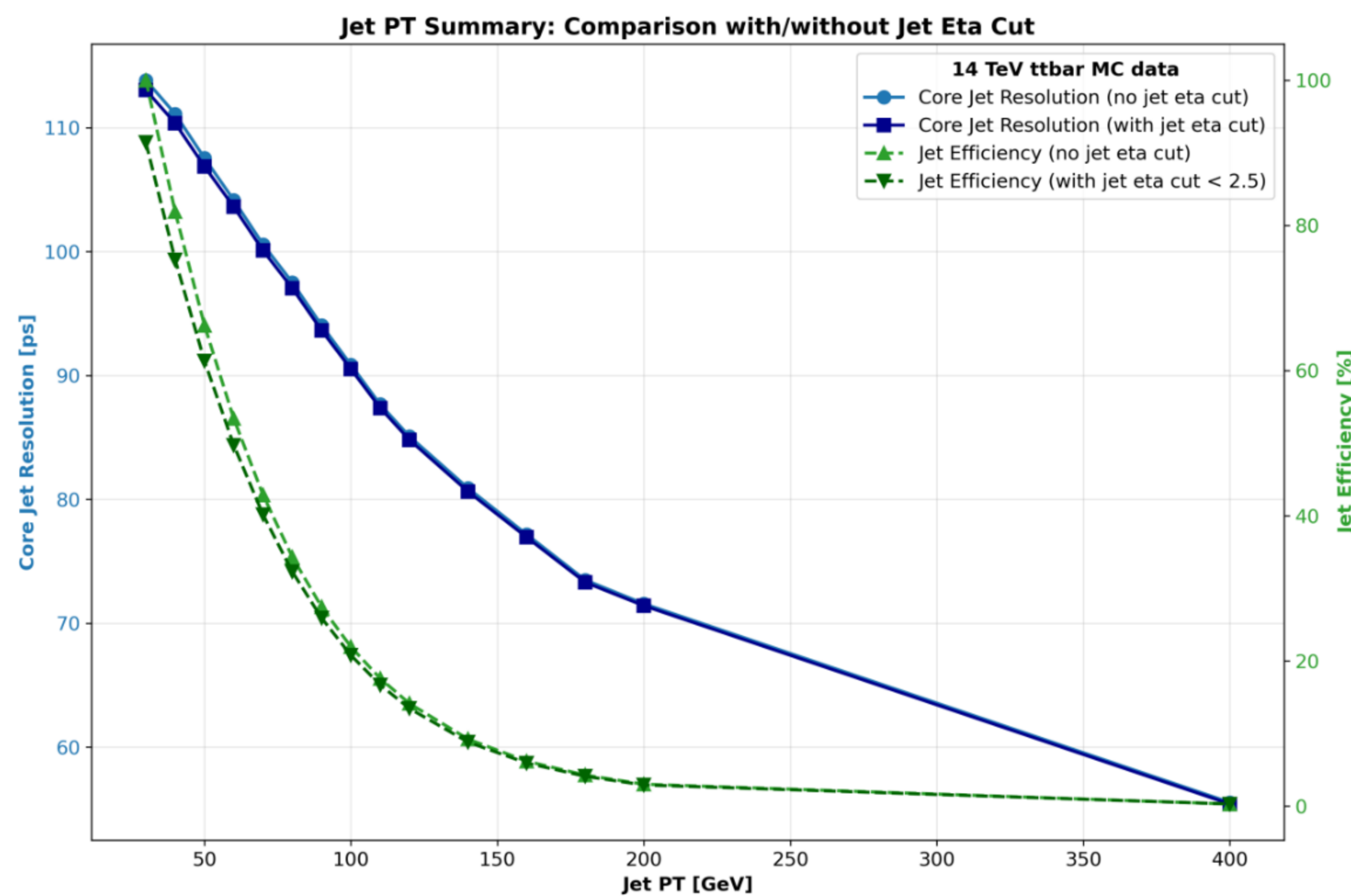


■ Jet-width Impact

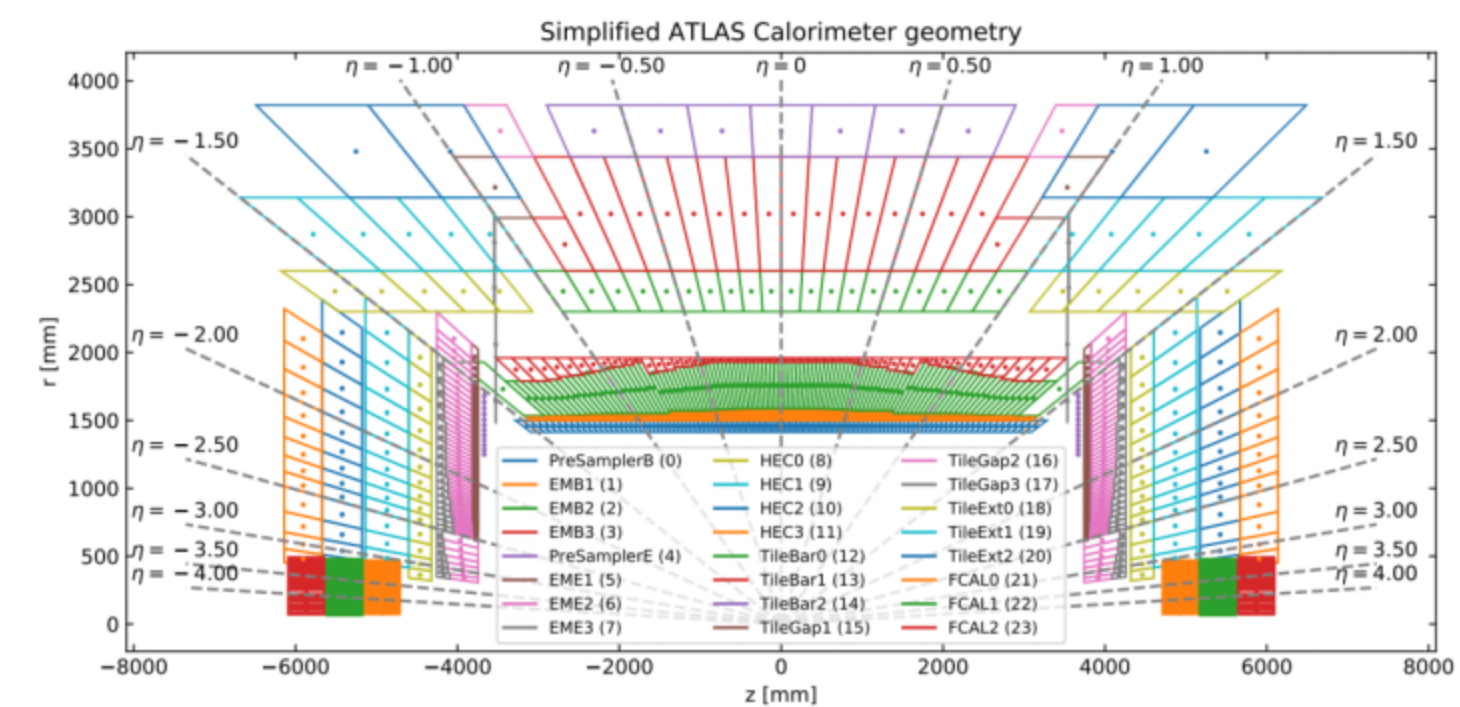


Jet-width Summary

➤ Excluding the Forward Jets

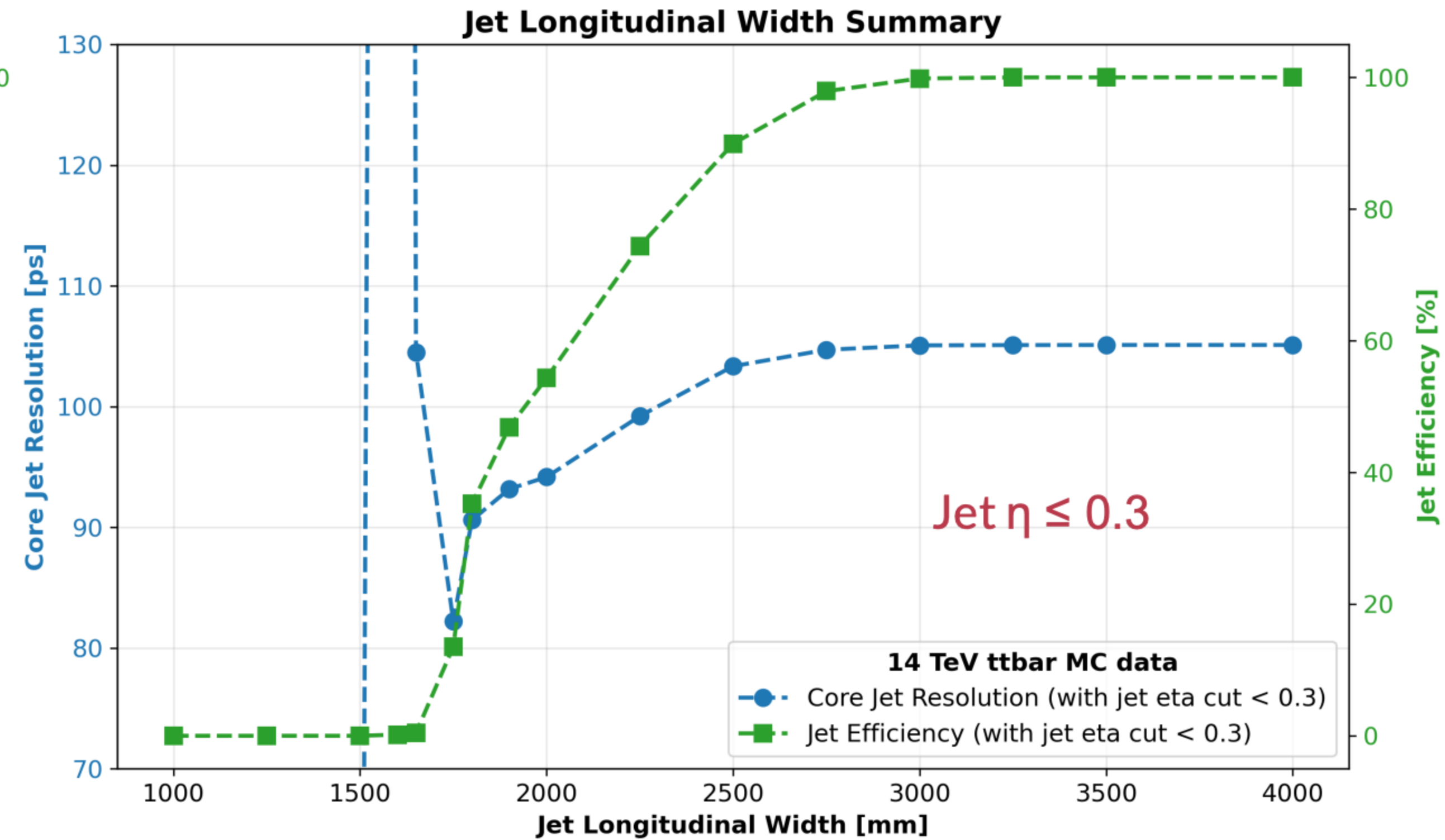
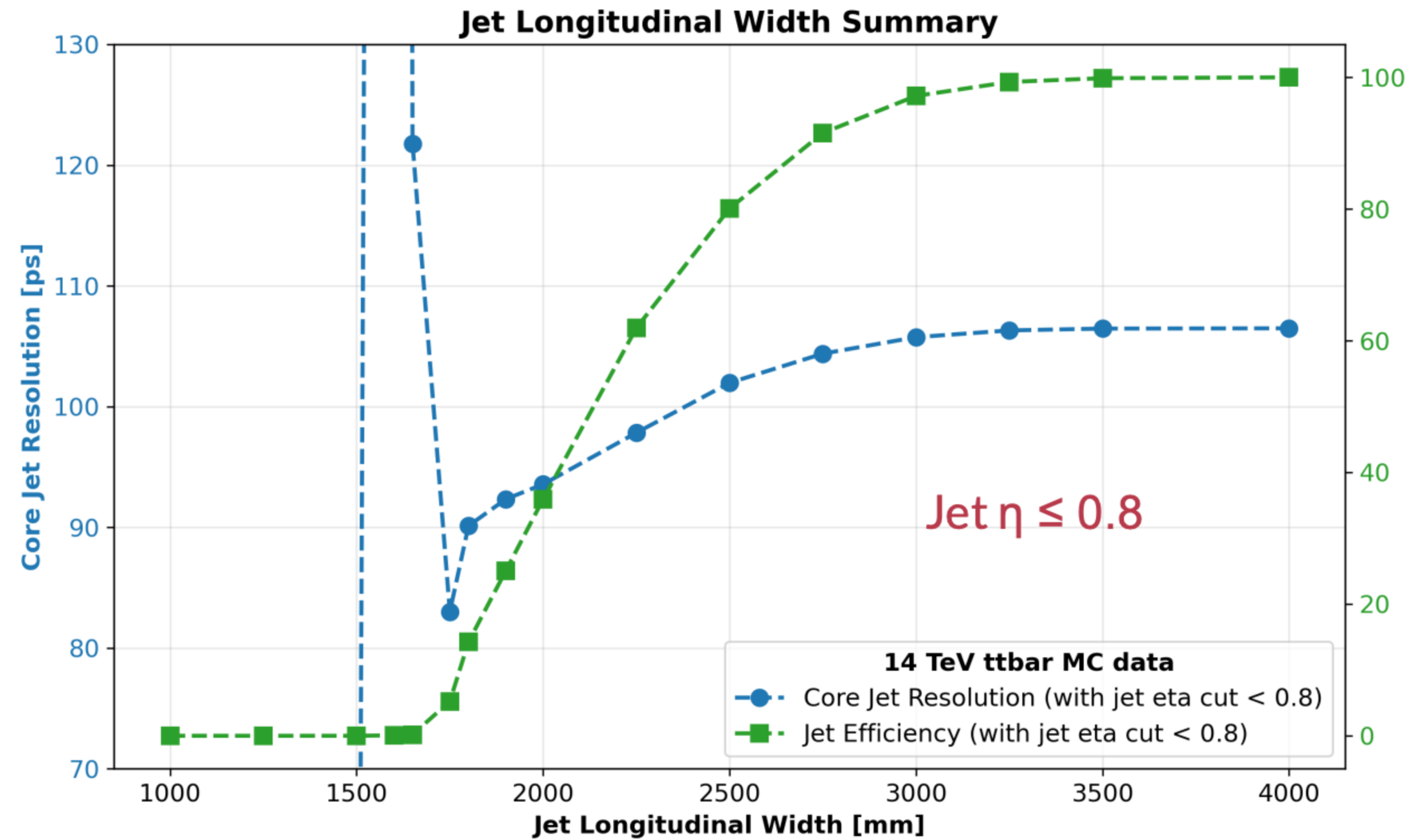


- Slightly Improvement but no significant difference.

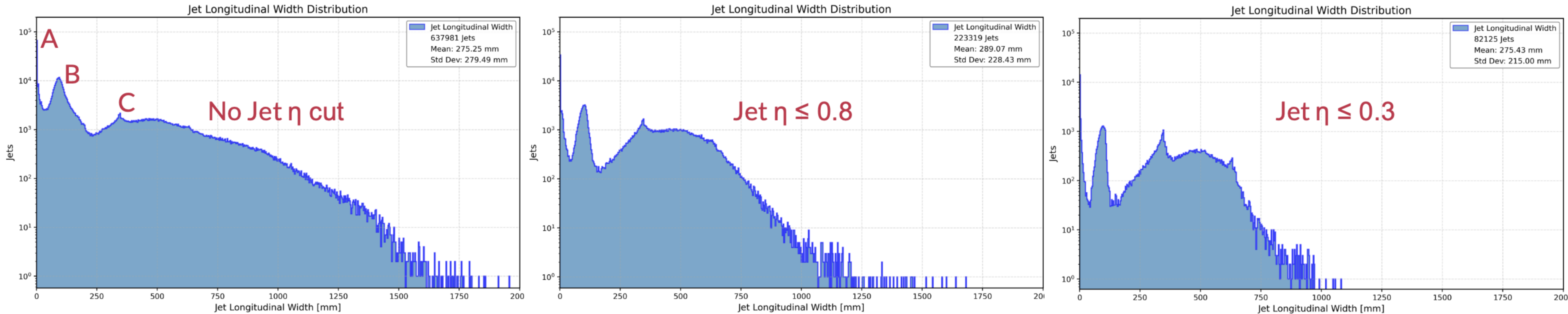


[ATLAS LAr Geometry](#)

Jet Longitudinal Width (c.o.e) Summary



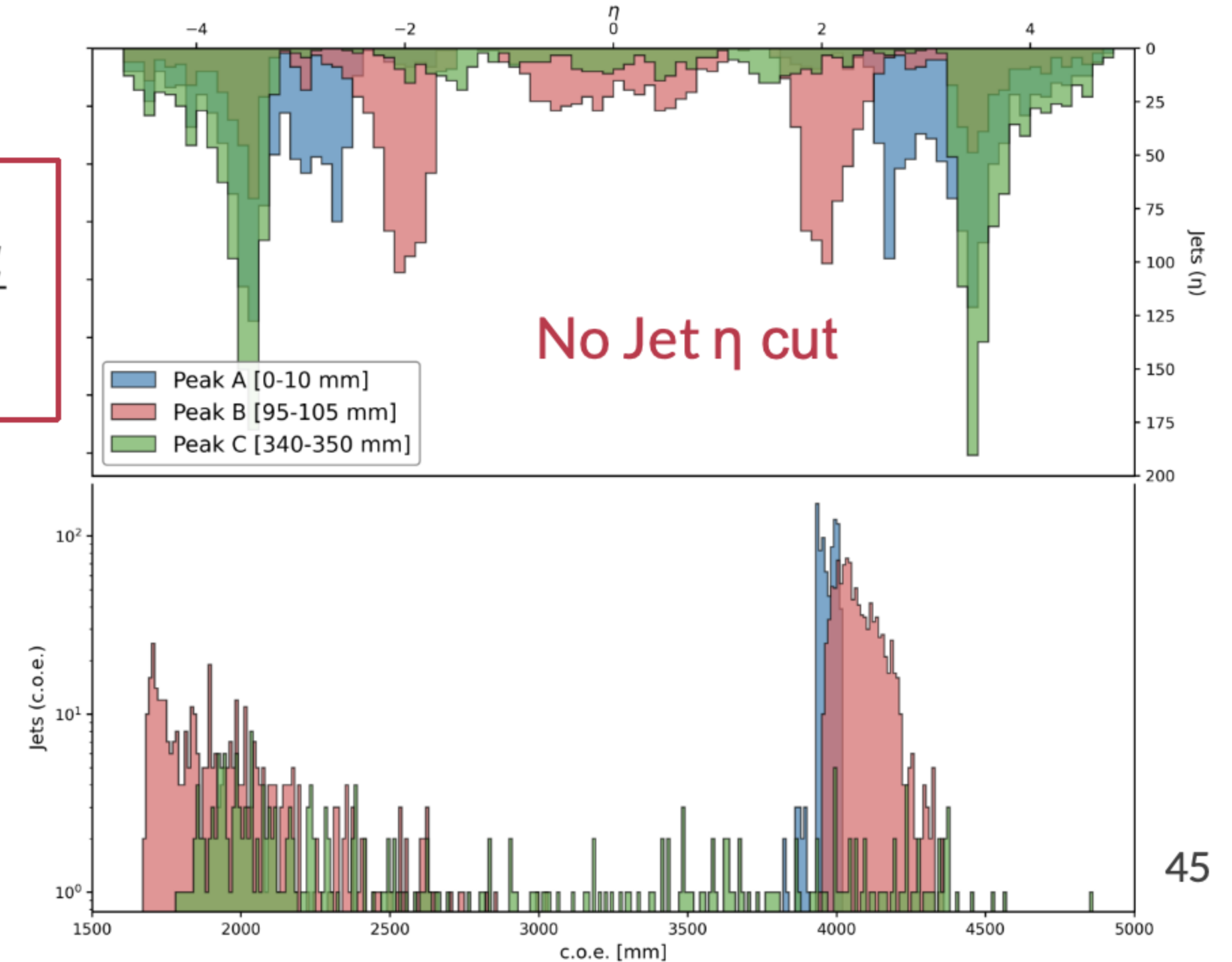
Jet Longitudinal Width Distribution



$$Lw^{jet} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{cell} E_{cell}^{jet} (Z_{cell}^{jet} - c.o.e^{jet})^2}{\sum_{cell} E_{cell}^{jet}}}$$

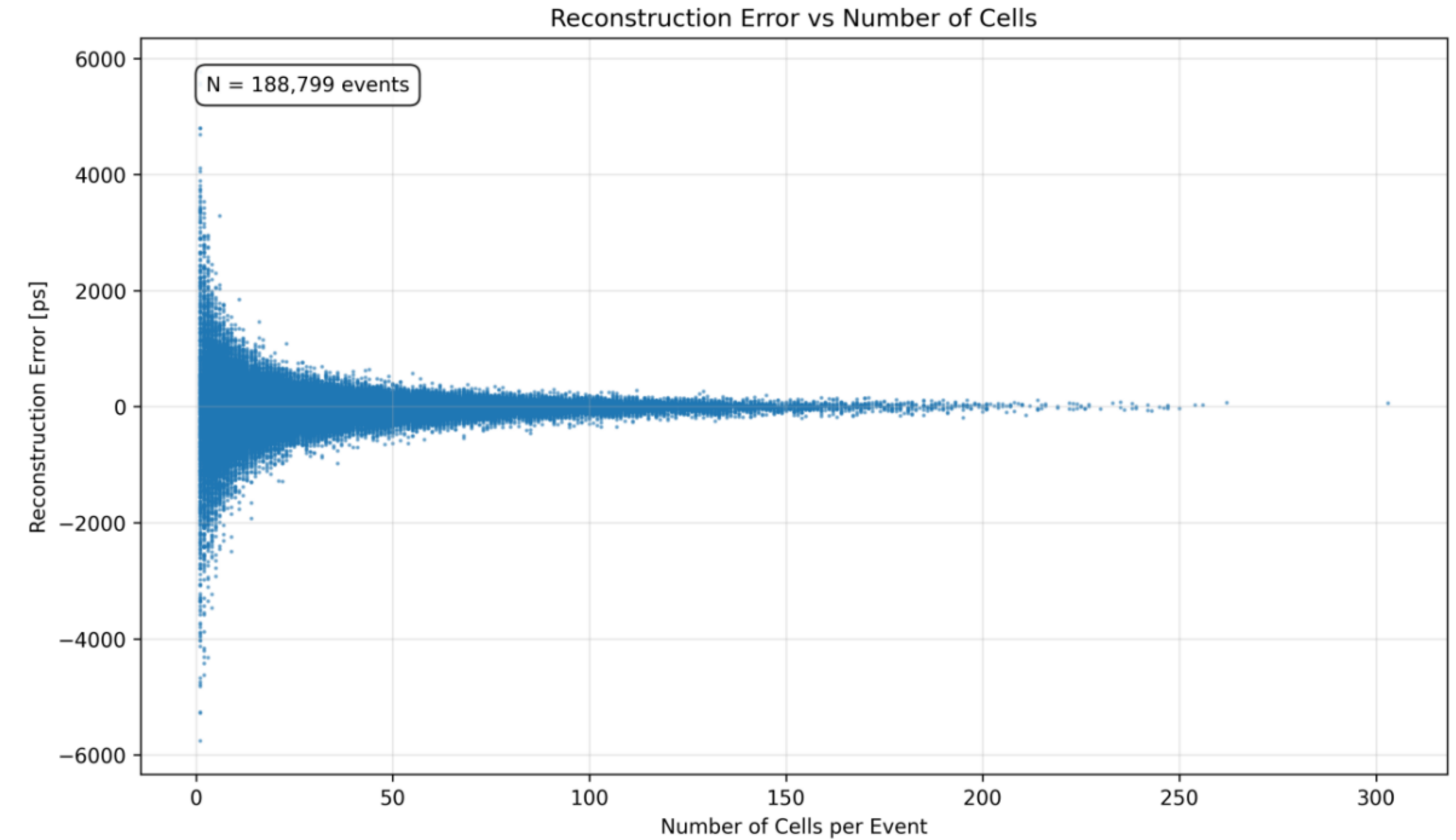
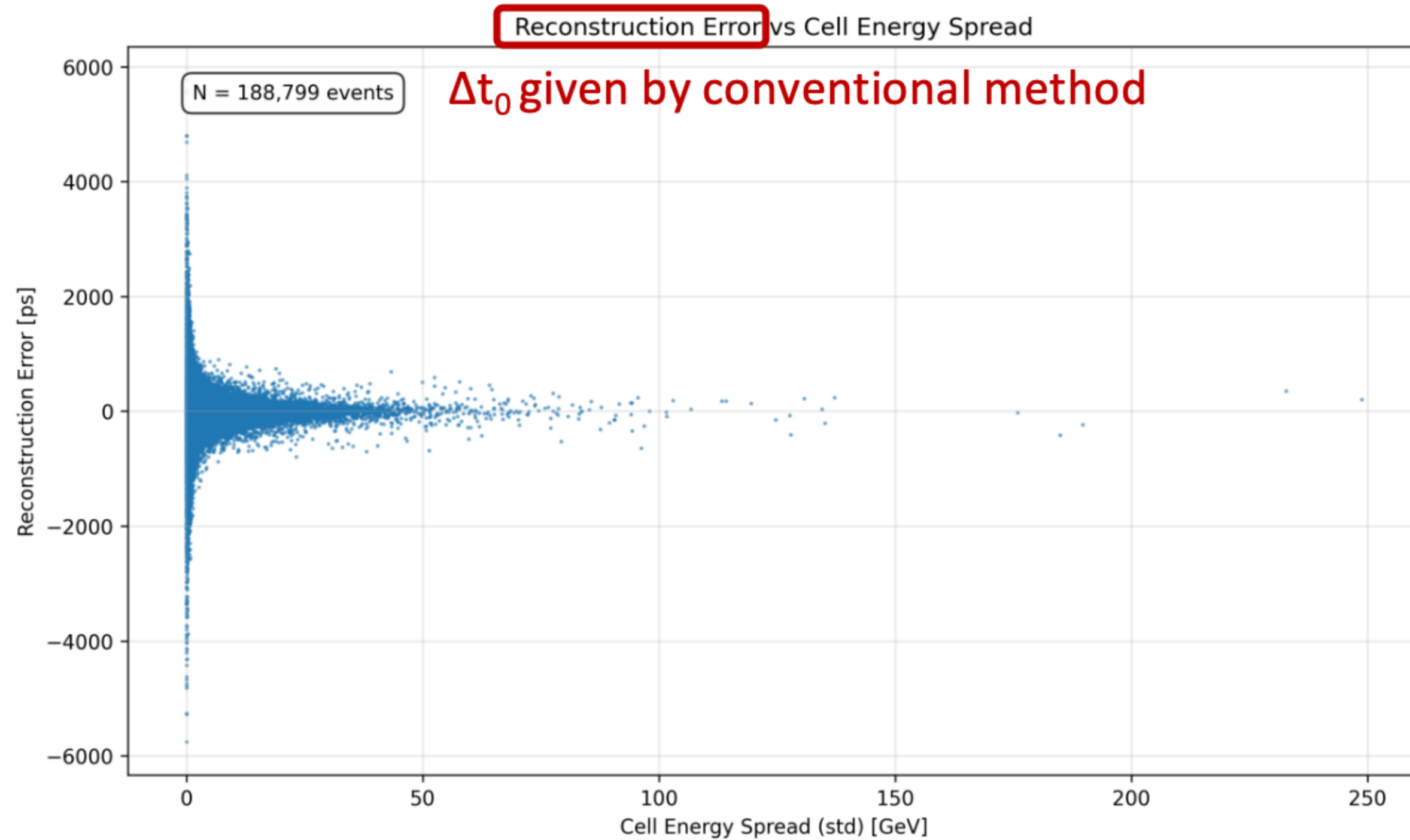
$$c.o.e^{jet} = \frac{\sum_{cell} E_{cell}^{jet} Z_{cell}^{jet}}{\sum_{cell} E_{cell}^{jet}}$$

- The longitudinal width distribution is not strong-correlated with jet η .



ML Regression Using Jet-Matched Cells

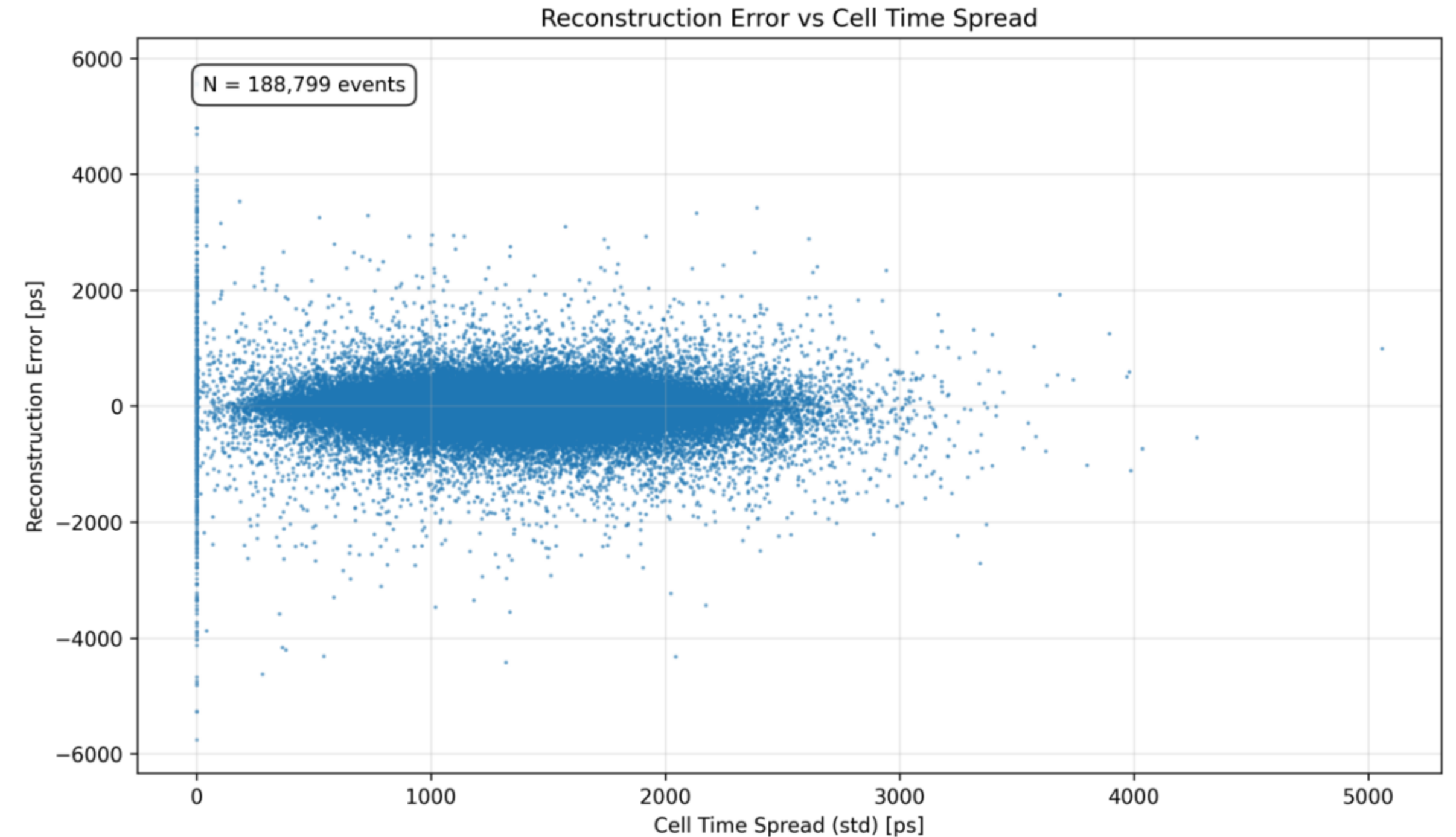
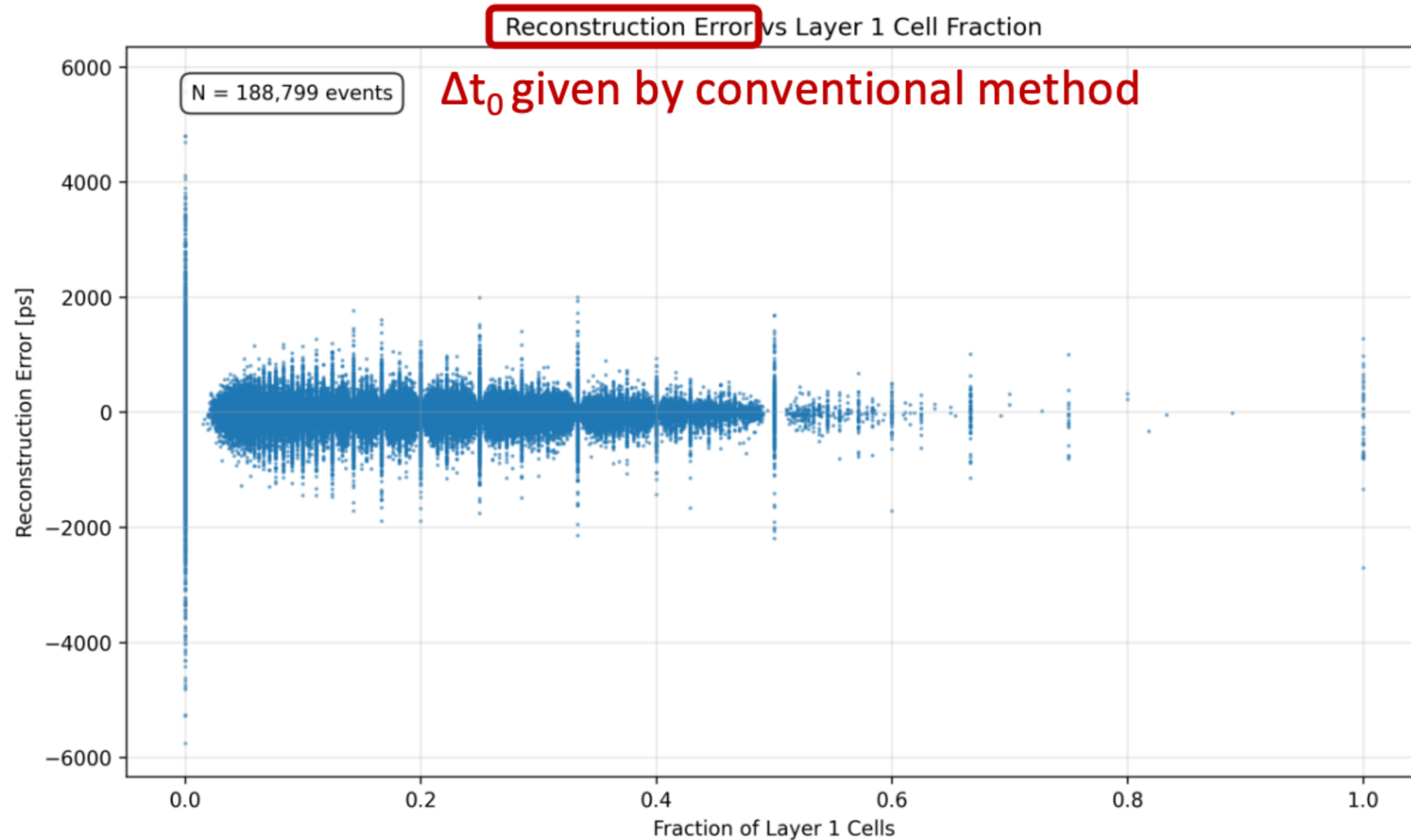
Exhibition of Δt_0 vs Cell Info



- More cut on the cell energy spread?
- Adjust Minimum cell number for each event?

ML Regression Using Jet-Matched Cells

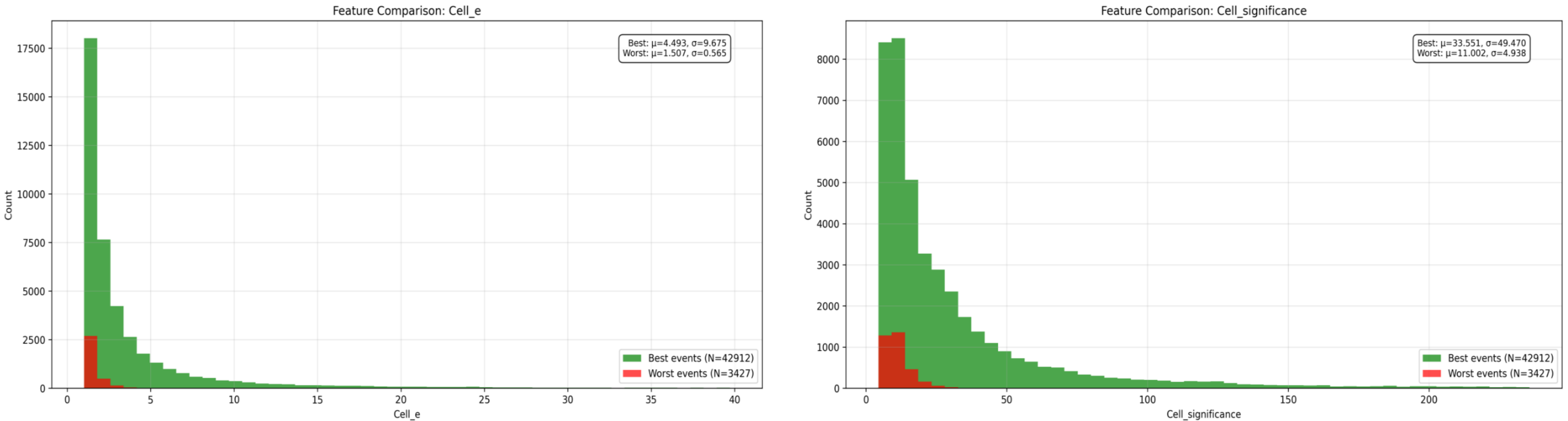
Exhibition of Δt_0 vs Cell Info



- Interesting pattern here in Fraction of Layer 1 Cells plot.
- Cell time std=0 usually means only 1 cell is available after cuts.

ML Regression Using Jet-Matched Cells

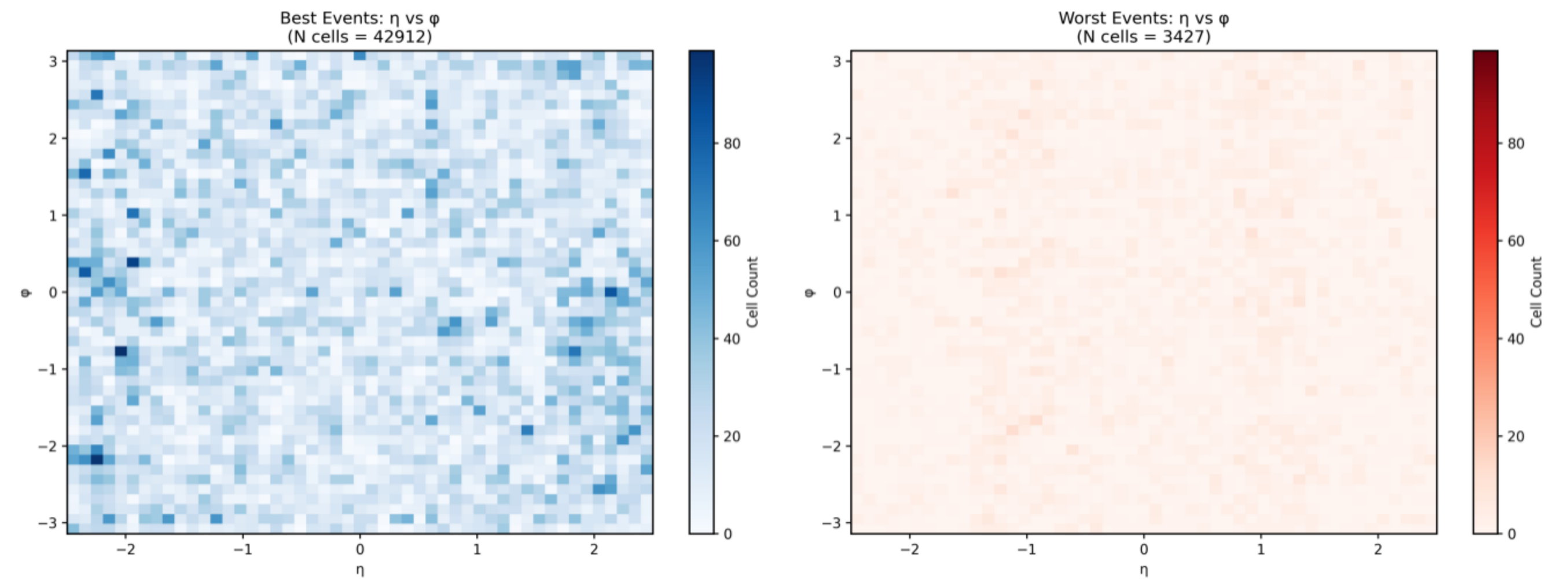
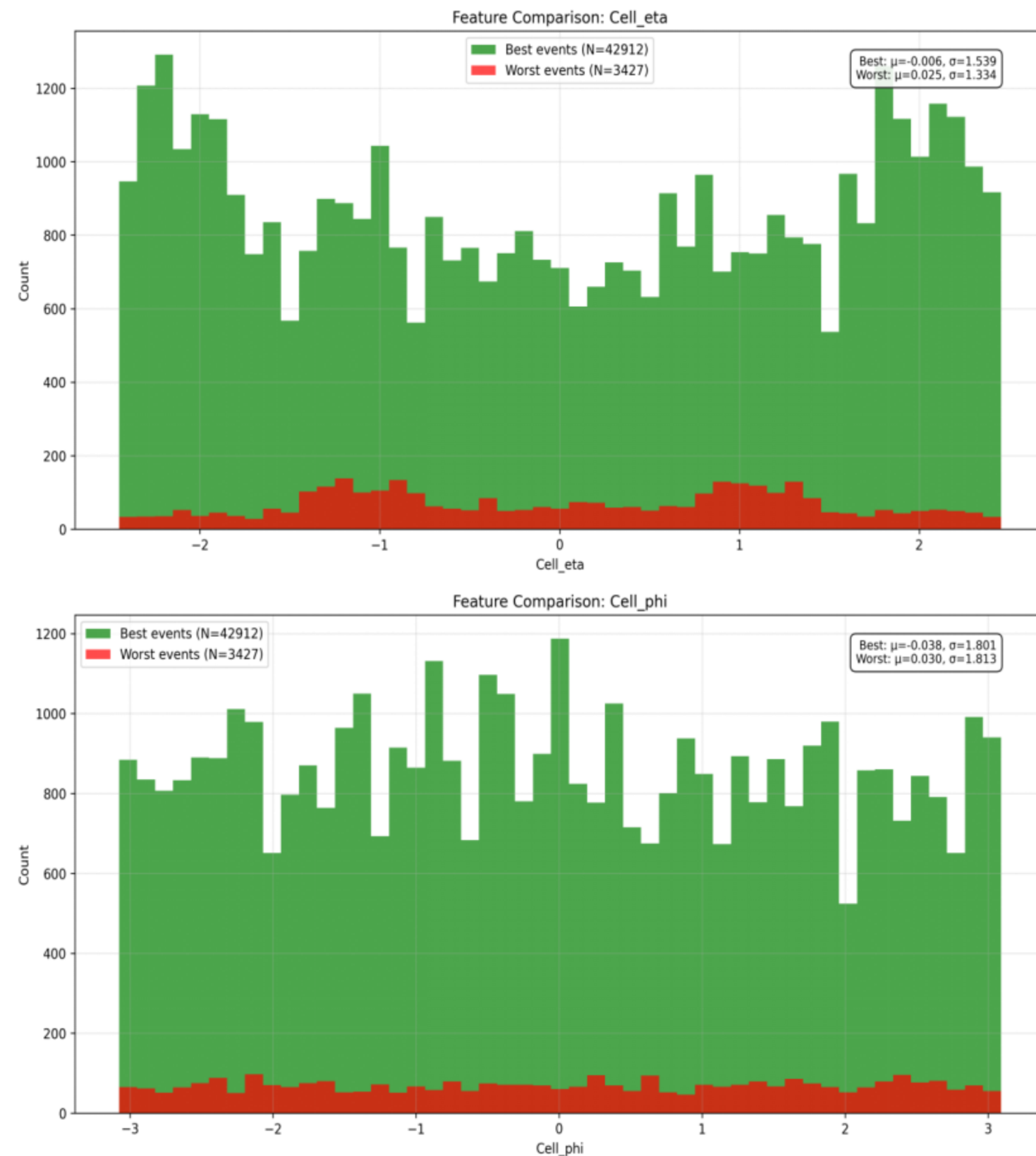
❑ Comparing 1,000 best and worst events (in terms of Δt_0)



- Lower cell energy and significance and also much lower #cells to use in worst events.

ML Regression Using Jet-Matched Cells

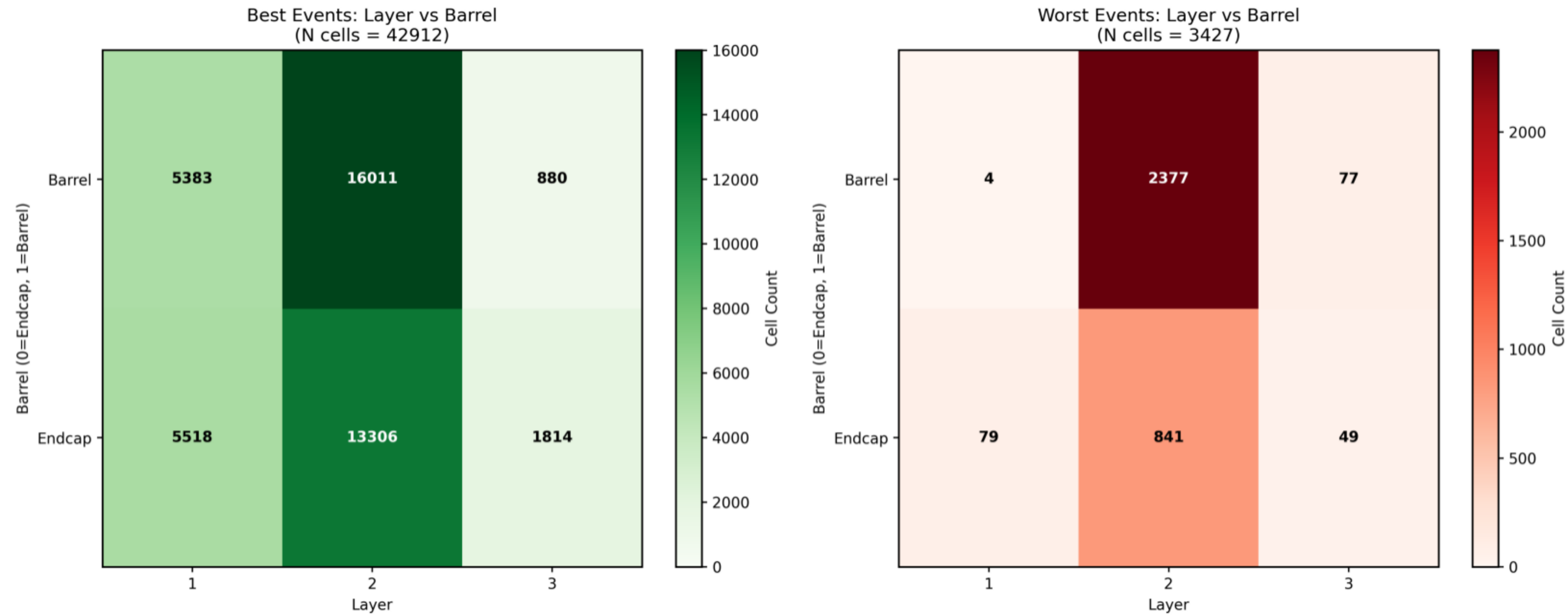
❑ Comparing 1,000 best and worst events



■ No obvious conclusion here...

ML Regression Using Jet-Matched Cells

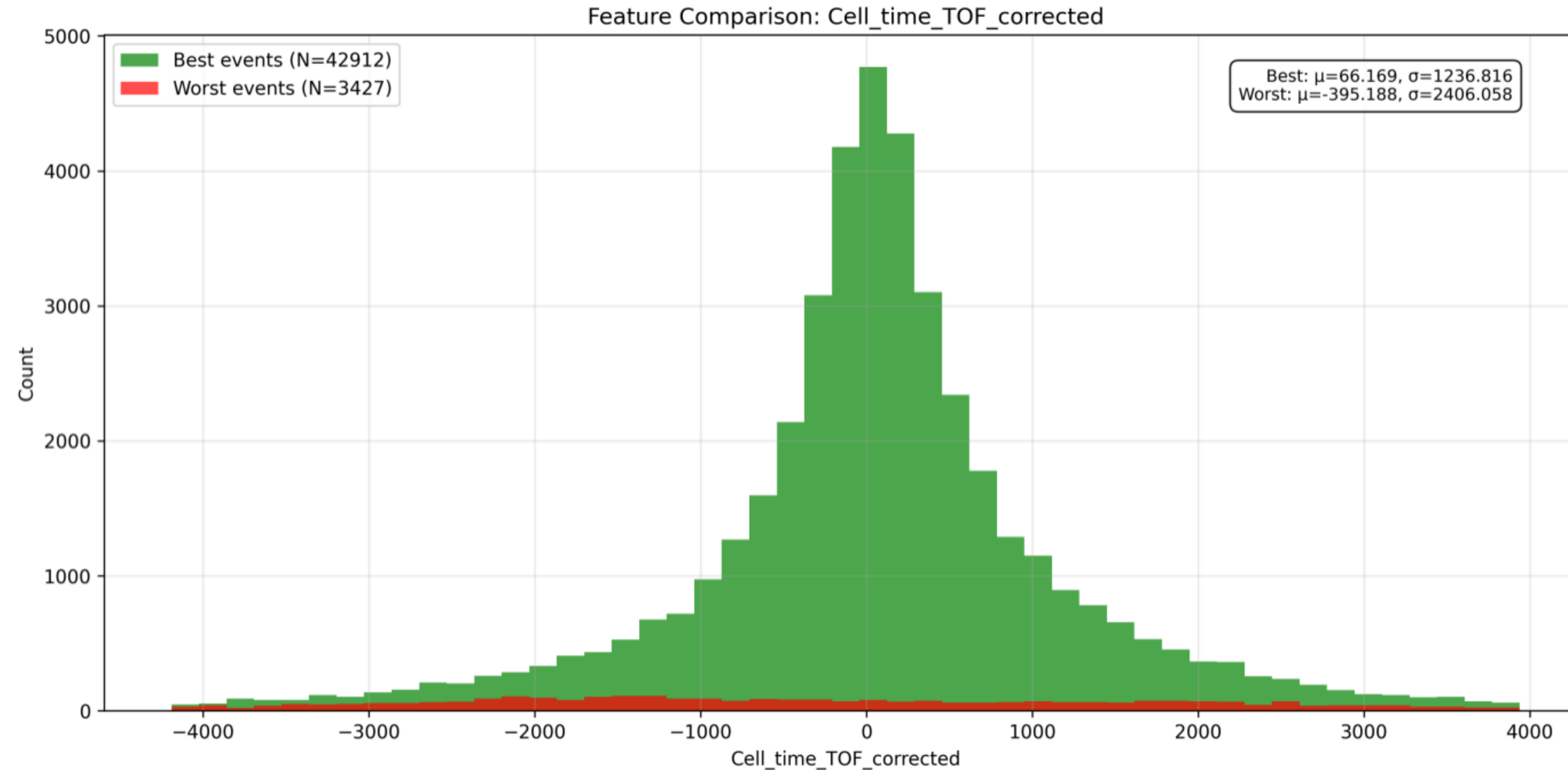
❑ Comparing 1,000 best and worst events



- No obvious conclusion here...

ML Regression Using Jet-Matched Cells

❑ Comparing 1,000 best and worst events



- More fraction of cells for worst events have time $\sim \pm 2000$ ps?