

AUGMENTED MUON BACKGROUND SIMULATION WITH NORMALISING FLOWS

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SHiP 33RD COLLABORATION MEETING

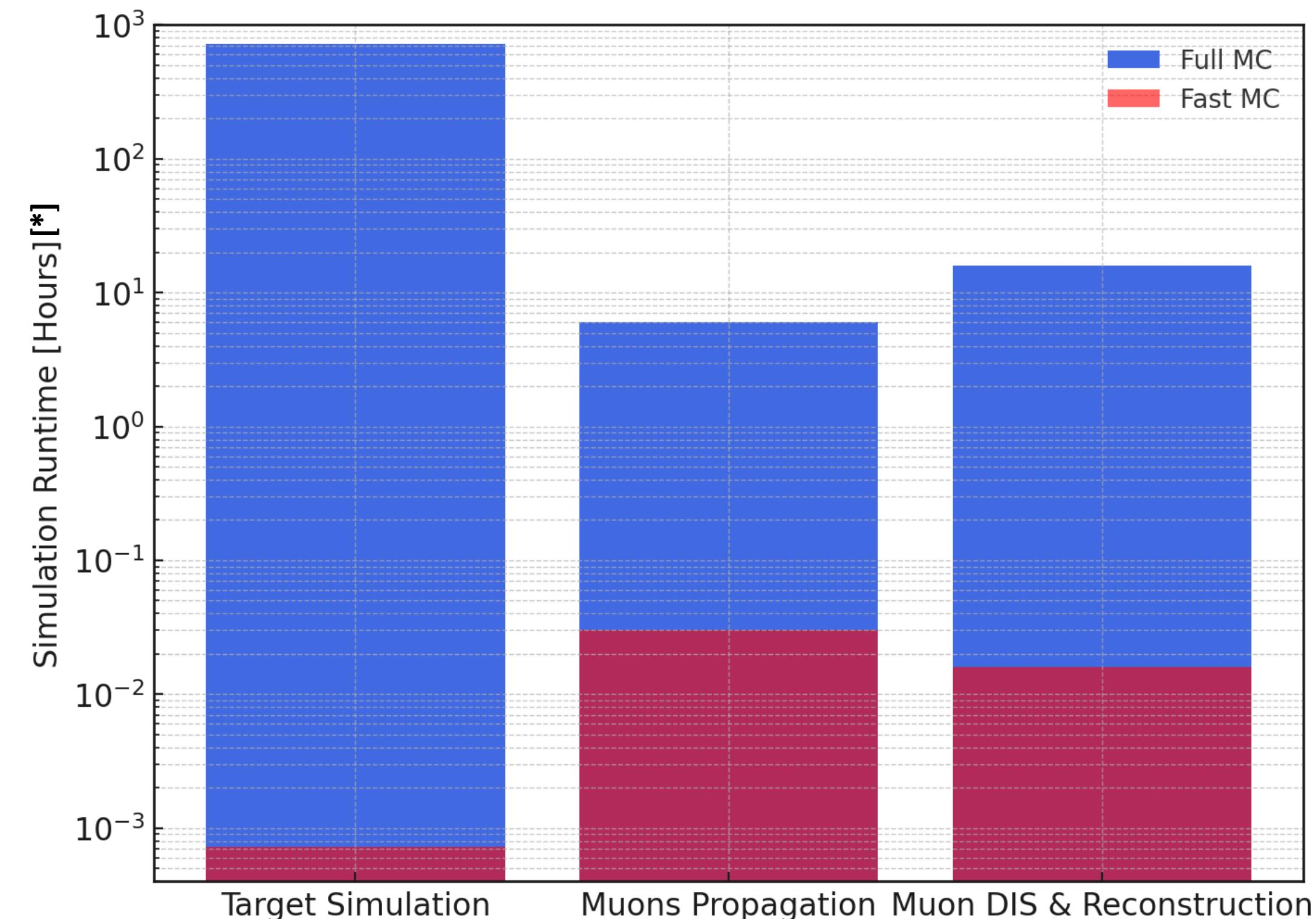
5TH JUNE 2025



PROBLEM STATEMENT: SIMULATION SPEEDUP NEEDED

[*] for the equivalent of **1 spill**

From my talk at SHiP's 32nd Collaboration Meeting



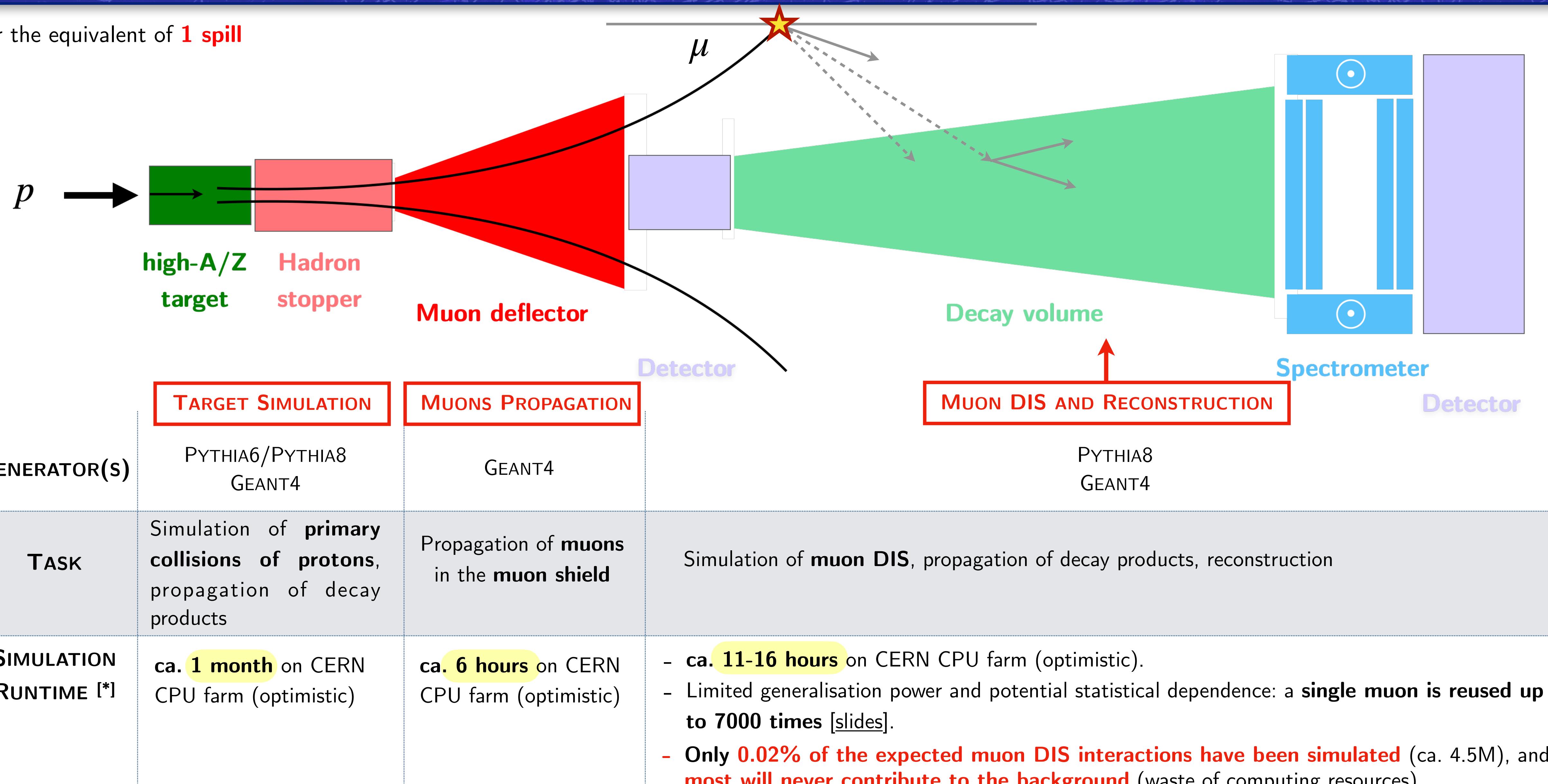
The current setup can be significantly **optimised**, achieving **orders of magnitude speed-up** in each simulation step.

How?



MUON DIS PRODUCTION: WHERE IS THE BOTTLENECK?

[*] for the equivalent of **1 spill**





LIMITATIONS ARISING FROM LIMITED MC STATISTICS

LIMITATIONS

Possibly prone to criticism, case of **Muons DIS** background.

- **Limited generalisation power:** over-usage ($\times 7k$) of **narrow phase space** region due to limited statistics muon samples
- **Strong assumptions** requiring validation: **factorisation** trick between veto and selection efficiencies

SOLUTIONS

Both could be overcome by simply generating **larger MC** samples, which comes at the **expensive cost of computational resources and unfeasible processing times**.

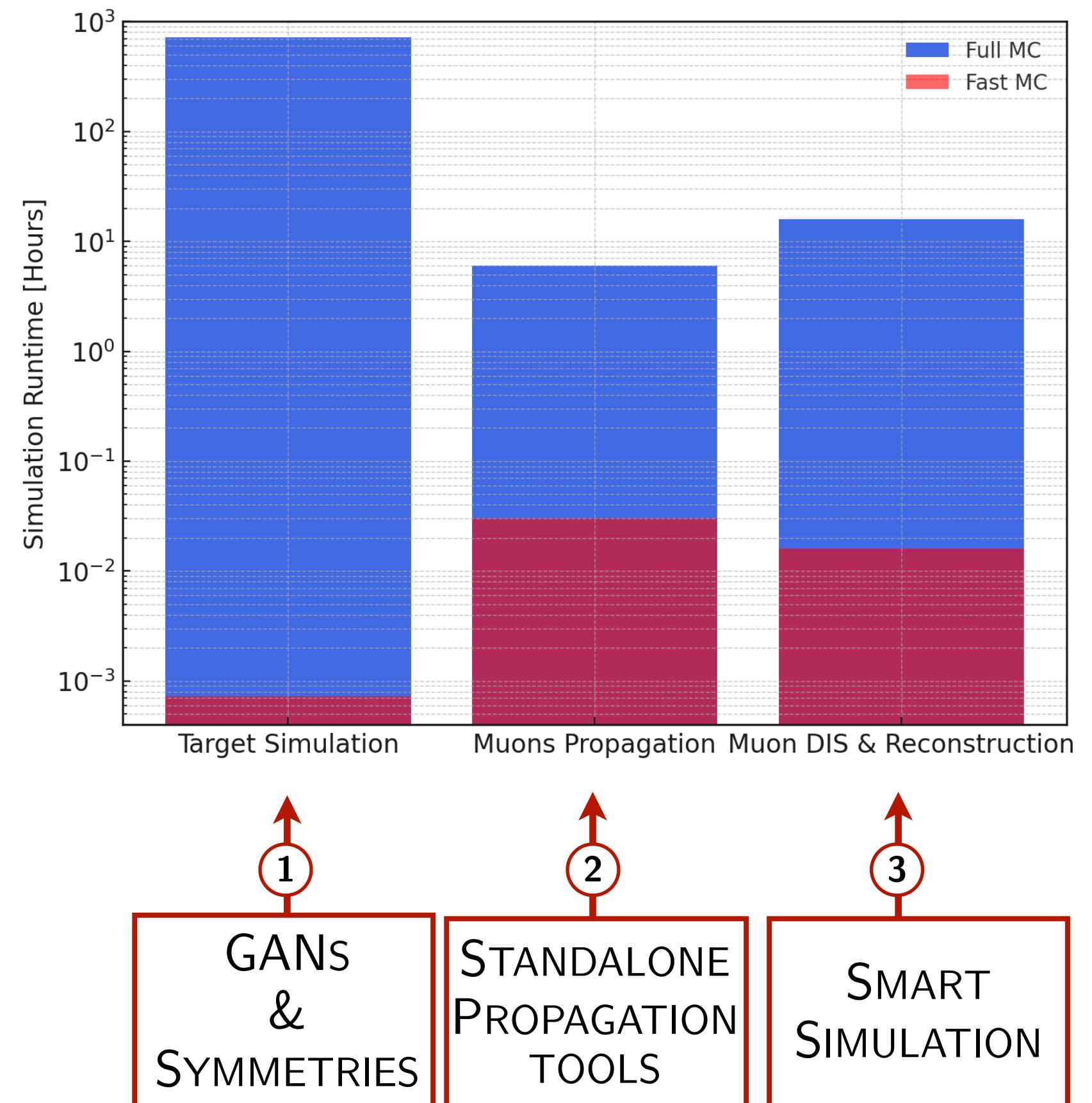
⇒ A novel approach to **background** simulation is **urgently** needed and should be on the **top of priorities** list.



ACTION PLAN FOR MUON DIS FAST SIMULATION

Achievable MC simulation speedups:

- (1) Accelerating **target simulation** with GANs and exploiting azimuthal symmetry → factor $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^6)$
- (2) **Muons propagation** in MS significantly faster in ad-hoc, standalone tools
→ factor $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^2)$
- (3) **Intelligent simulation strategy**
 - (a) Use **NF** to efficiently generate **synthetic muon data after the MS**, interpolating sparse distribution in phase space
→ factor $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^6)$
 - (b) Focus full simulation effort exclusively on potential muon DIS background events
→ factor $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^3)$



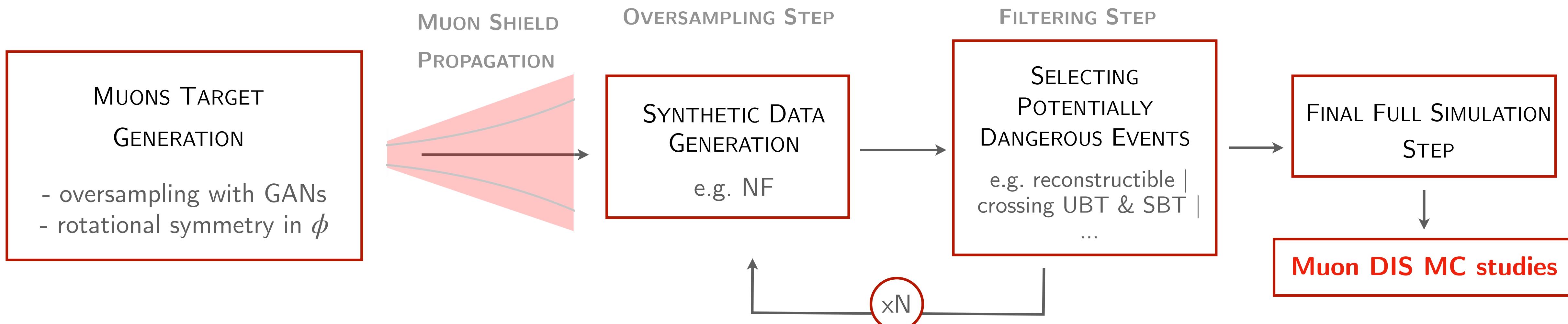


SMART SIMULATION APPROACH

Efficiently generate fewer events by ensuring **simulations focus exclusively on relevant background**

ITERATIVE AUGMENTATION STRATEGY

- Use generative surrogate models to create **synthetic muon samples**, *interpolating* between scarcely populated bins
- Apply cascade of acceptance requirements, *a.k.a.* "**Filters**", corresponding to a certain selection stage in the background generation step



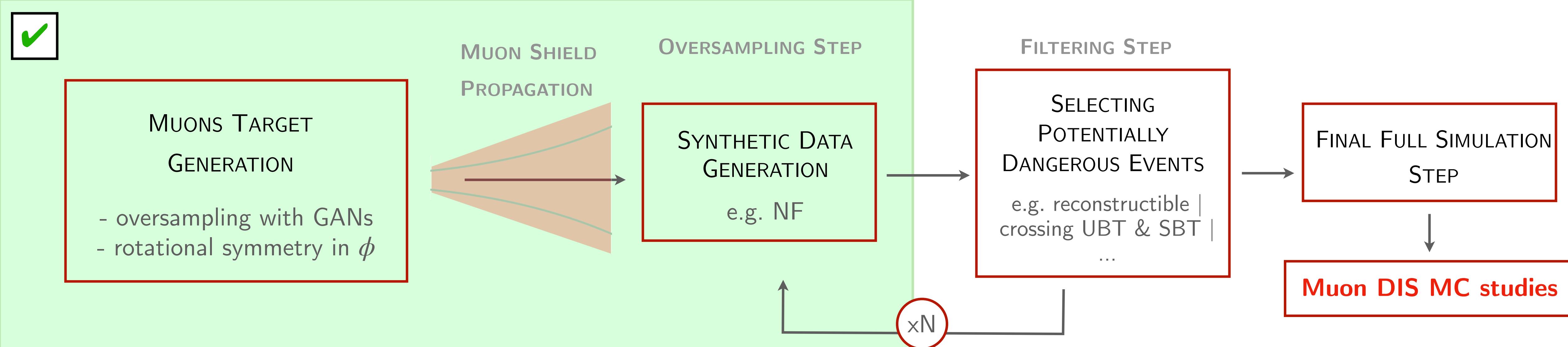


SMART SIMULATION APPROACH: STATUS

Efficiently generate fewer events by ensuring **simulations focus exclusively on relevant background**

ITERATIVE AUGMENTATION STRATEGY

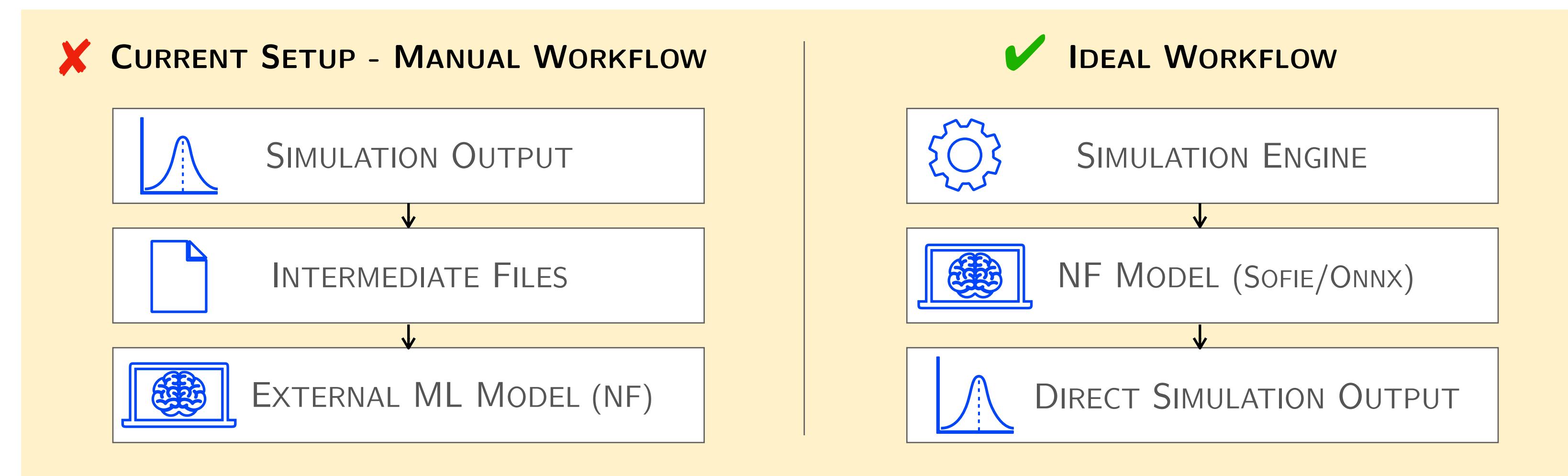
- Use generative surrogate models to create **synthetic muon samples**, extrapolating between scarcely populated bins
- Apply cascade of acceptance requirements, a.k.a. "**Filters**", corresponding to a certain selection stage in the background generation step





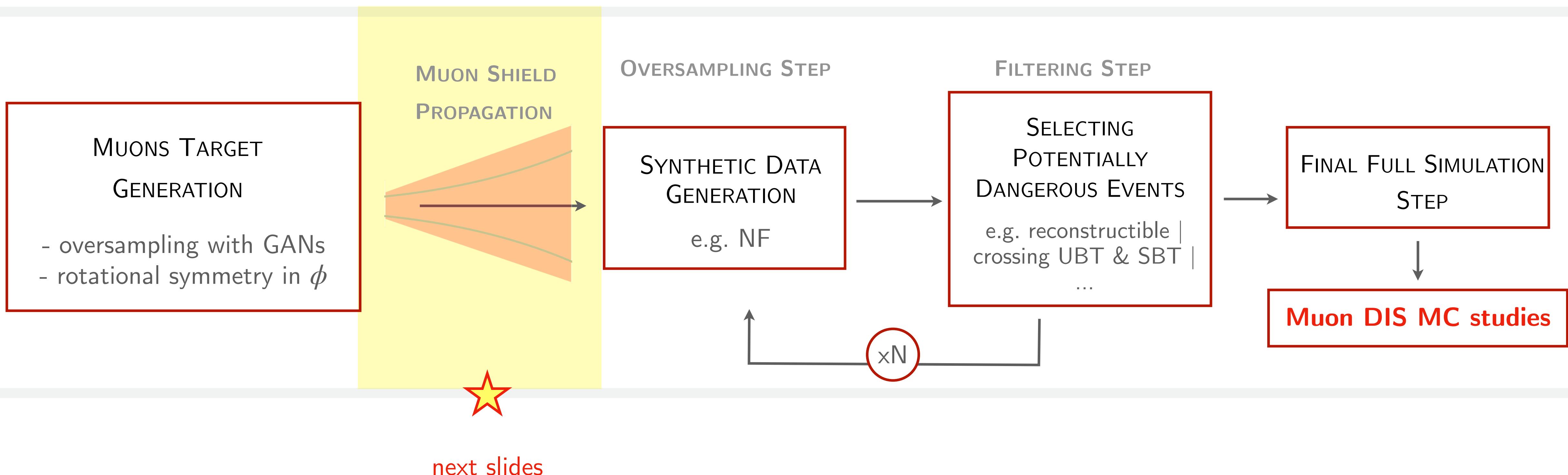
INTEGRATION OF FAST SIMULATION WITHIN COMMON FRAMEWORK

- Any fast simulation mechanisms developed should be available to the whole collaboration, seamlessly [O. Lantwin]
- **FairShip** can already read **Muons & Matter** input data from NTuples (and adding support for new formats trivial)
- Closer **integration** using runtime inference from **fast simulation model using SOFIE/ONNX** feasible once proof-of-concept using normalising flows is ready (no intermediate files needed, fully integrated)
 - Inference performance on CPU will require study
 - Dependencies available via LCG, once common software migrates to use LCG



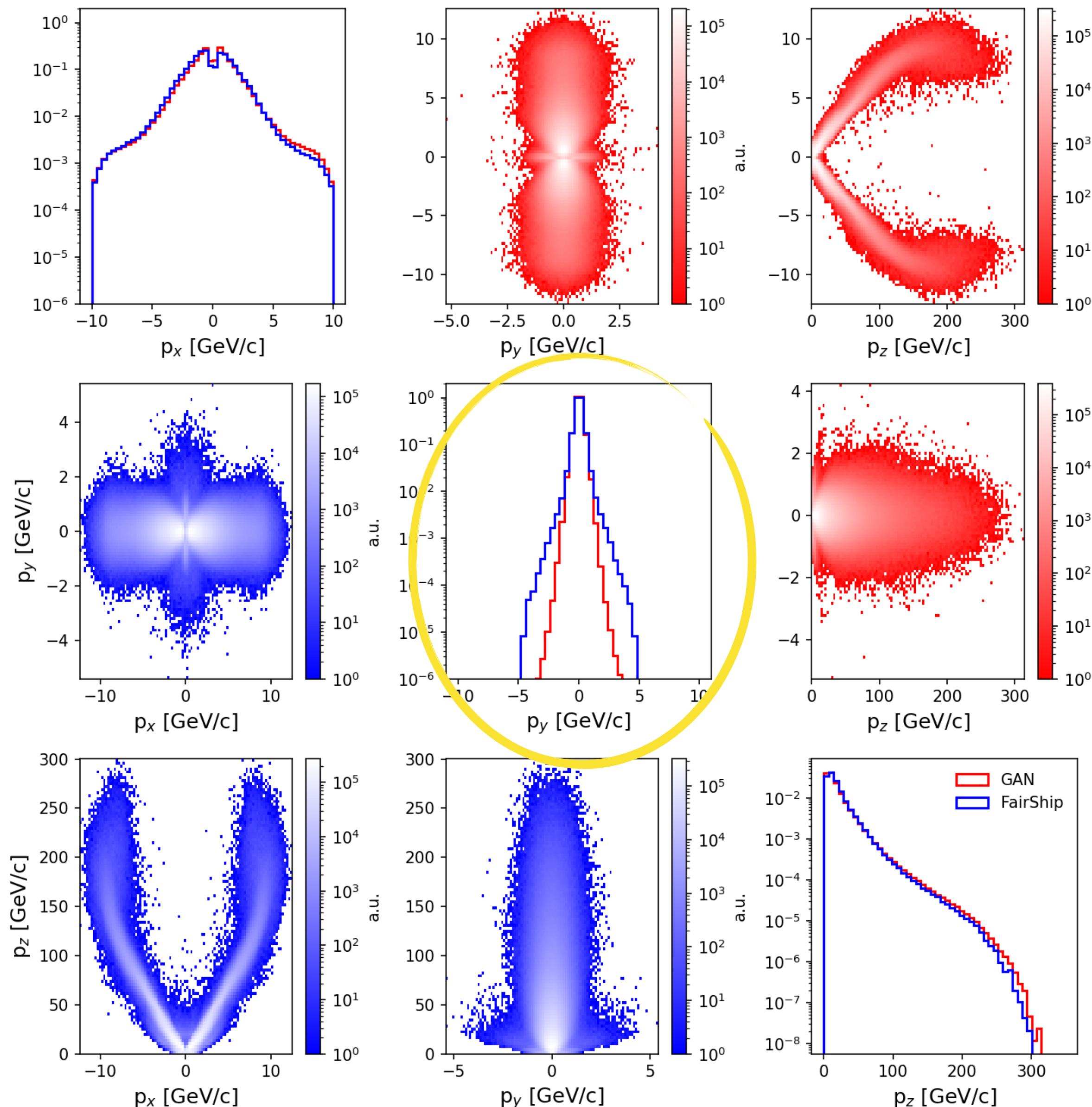


STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE





AUGMENTED SIMULATION - AFTER MS



[O. Lantwin, MF]

MUON KINEMATIC DISTRIBUTION AT THE END OF THE MUON SHIELD

USING MUONS & MATTER

- Propagating muons inside the MS (optimal design for the warm magnet option) using standalone tool [[Luis Felipe's talk](#)]

- Good match, except for p_y

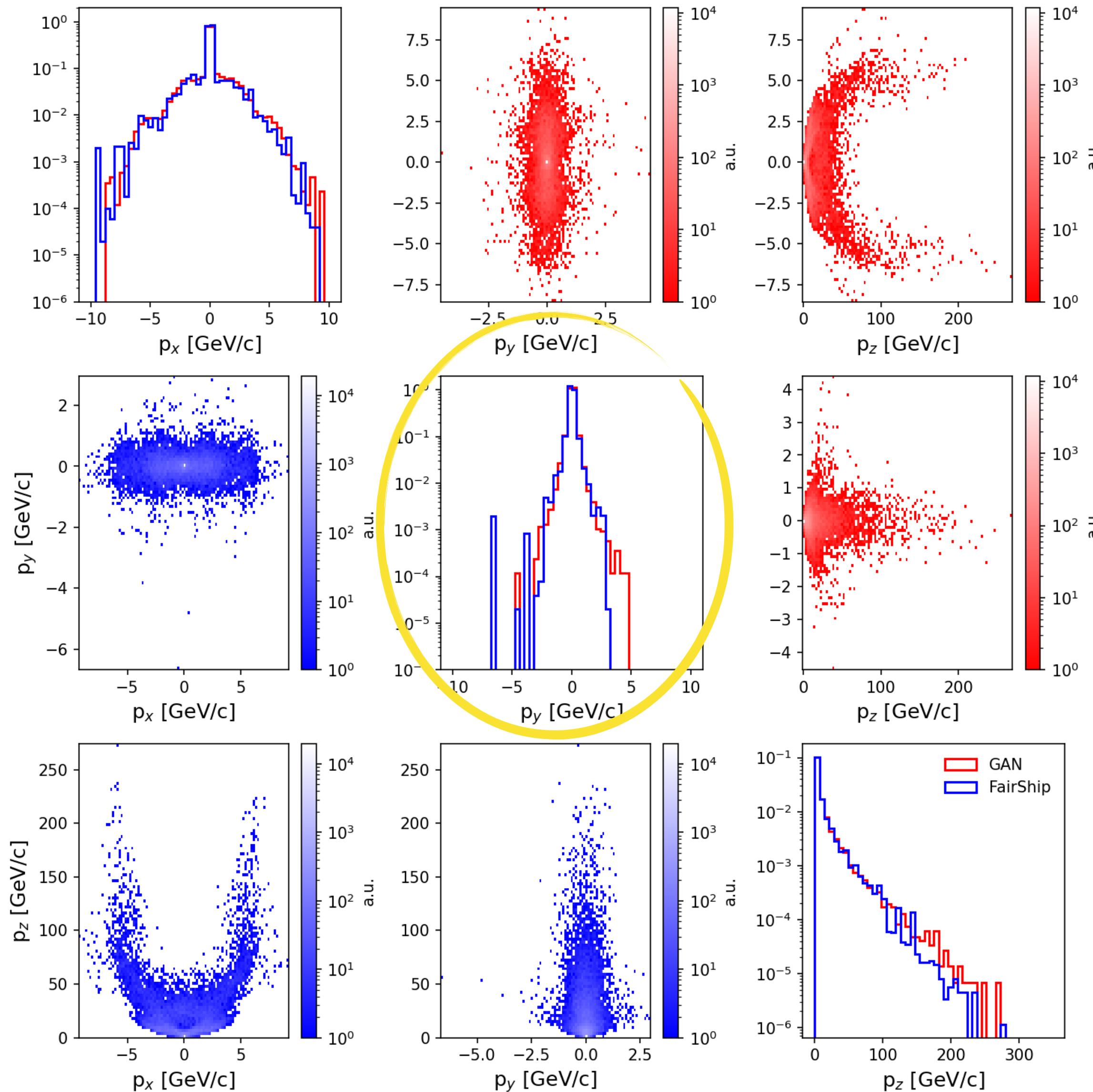
- Floating point differences btw M&M/GAN samples?

⇒ Let's test this within the Fairship framework

USING FAIRSHIP



AUGMENTED SIMULATION - AFTER MS



[O. Lantwin, MF]

MUON KINEMATIC DISTRIBUTION AT THE END OF THE MUON SHIELD

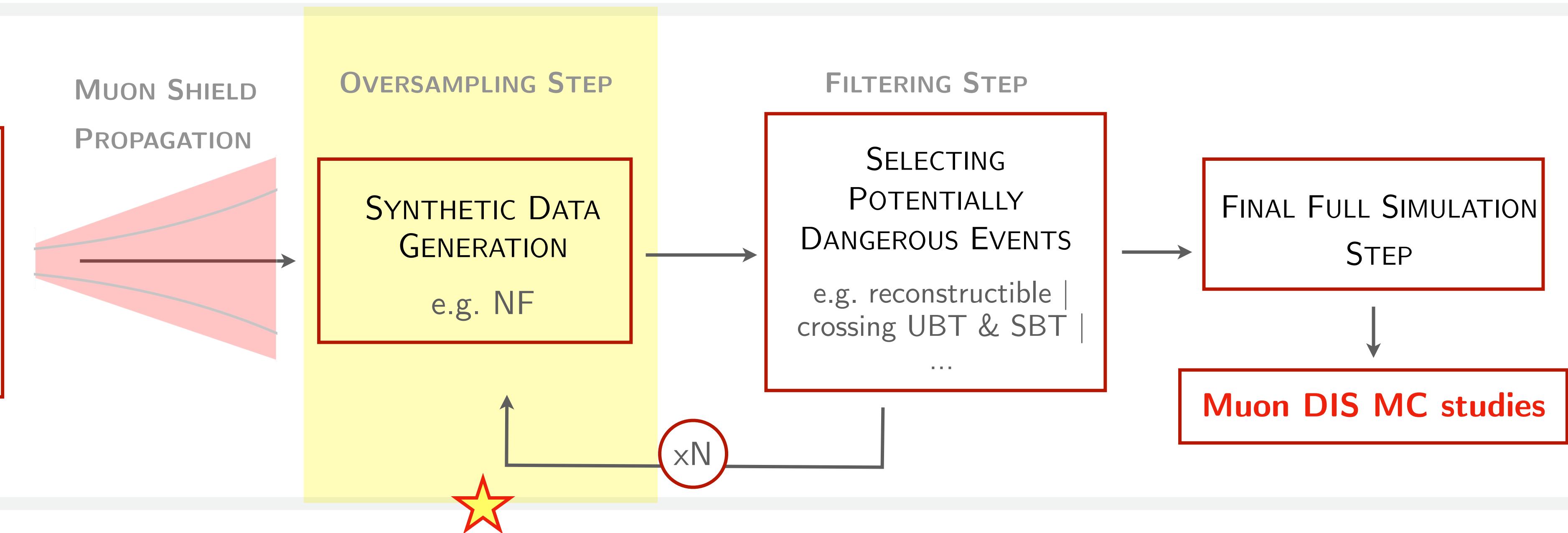
USING FAIRSHIP

- Despite the lower stats, the effect on the p_y tails seem to vanish

STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE

MUONS TARGET GENERATION

- oversampling with GANs
- rotational symmetry in ϕ



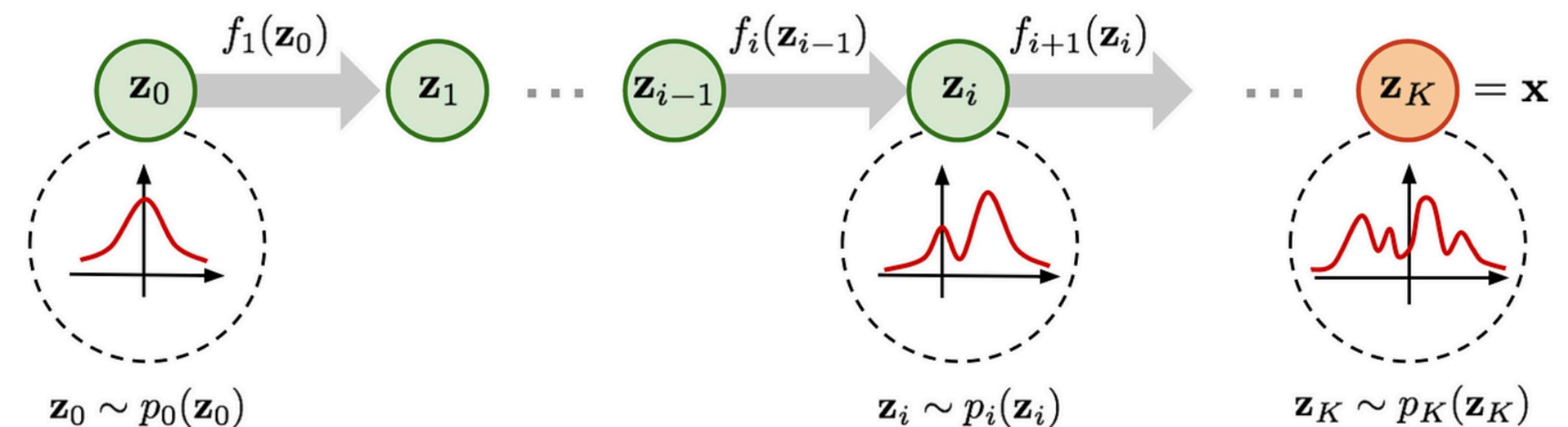
next slides



DATA AUGMENTATION WITH NORMALISING FLOWS

Step 4 Use **fast deep-generative models** to generate **synthetic muon data** after the MS to interpolate between sparse simulation bins
(e.g. Normalising Flows, but any other Deep Generative Model could fit here)

Normalising Flows (NF) are **probabilistic generative models** that learn an **invertible mapping** between a simple distribution (e.g. Gaussian) and a complex target distribution



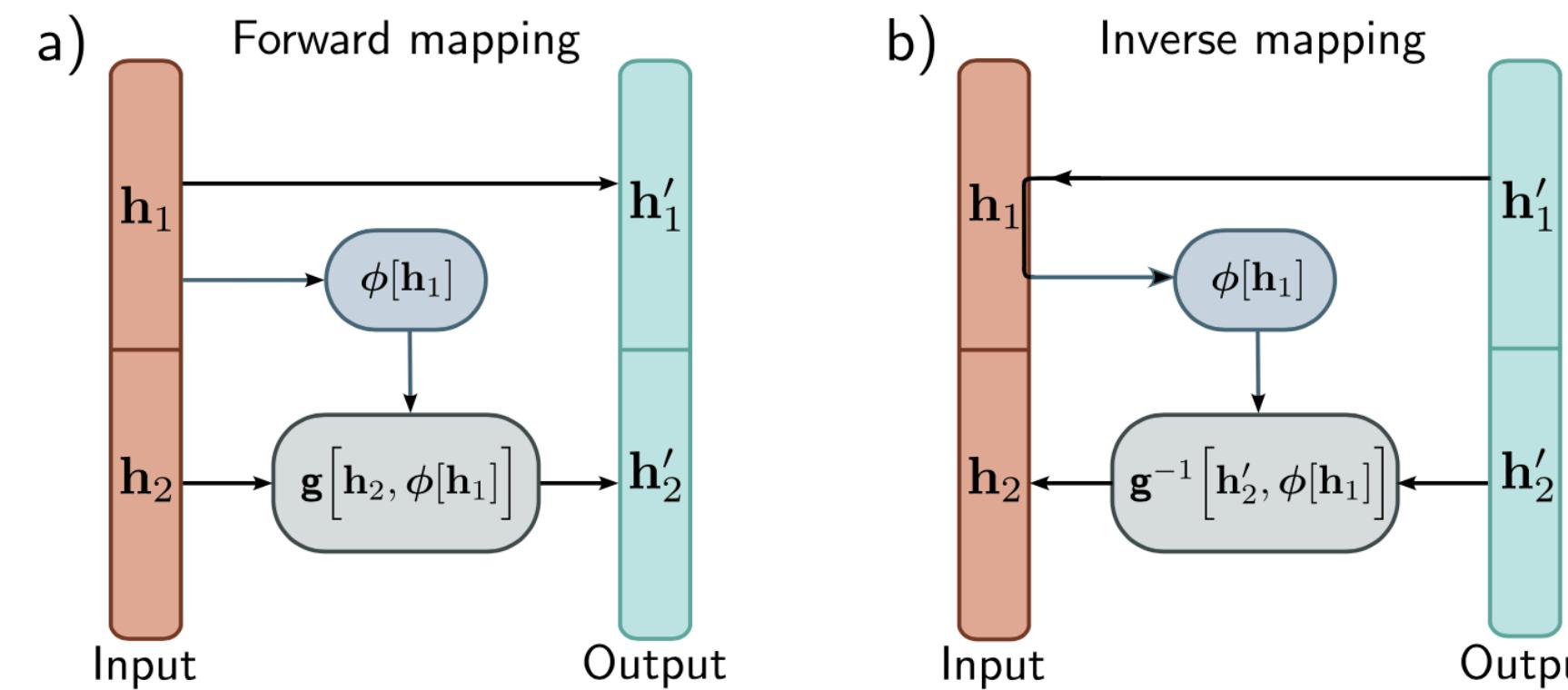
NF at work (in a nutshell)

- Starting with an easy to sample distribution, usually Gaussian, $z \sim \Pi(z)$
- Applying an **invertible, parameterised transformation** $x = f(x | \phi)$, typically a **NN** with parameters ϕ
- After training, the **NF approximates the target distribution** $P(x | \phi) = \left| \frac{\partial f(z, \phi)}{\partial z} \right|^{-1} \Pi(z)$



RESULTS WITH COUPLING NORMALISING FLOWS

ARCHITECTURE: COUPLING NF



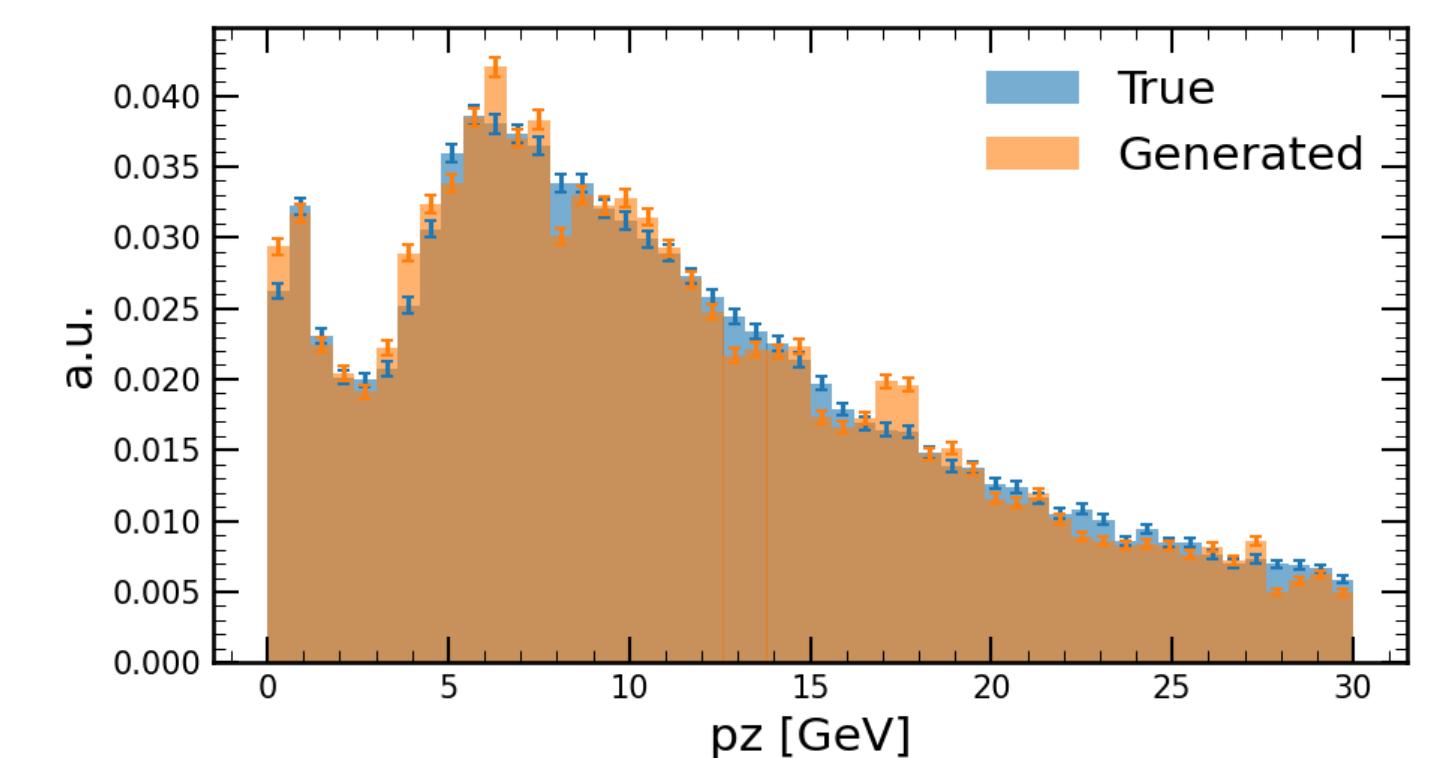
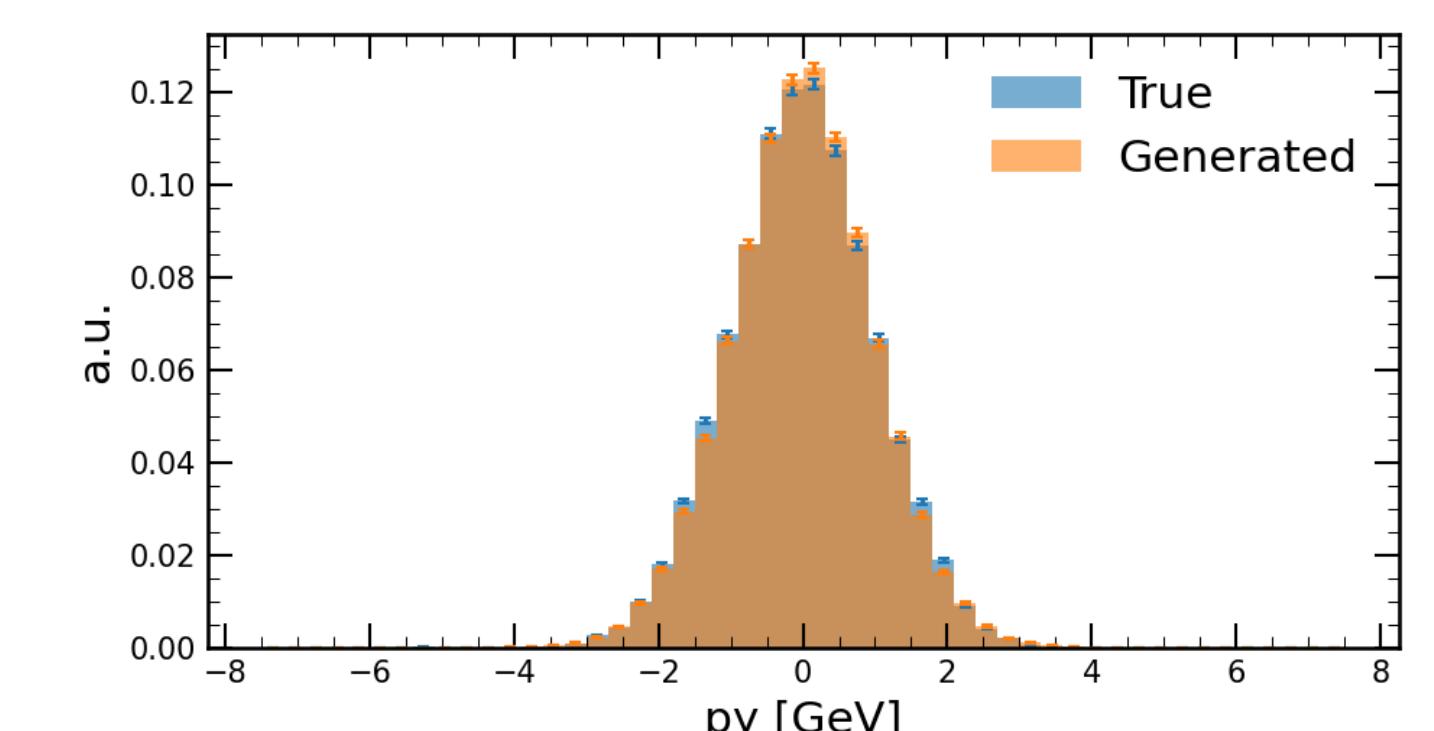
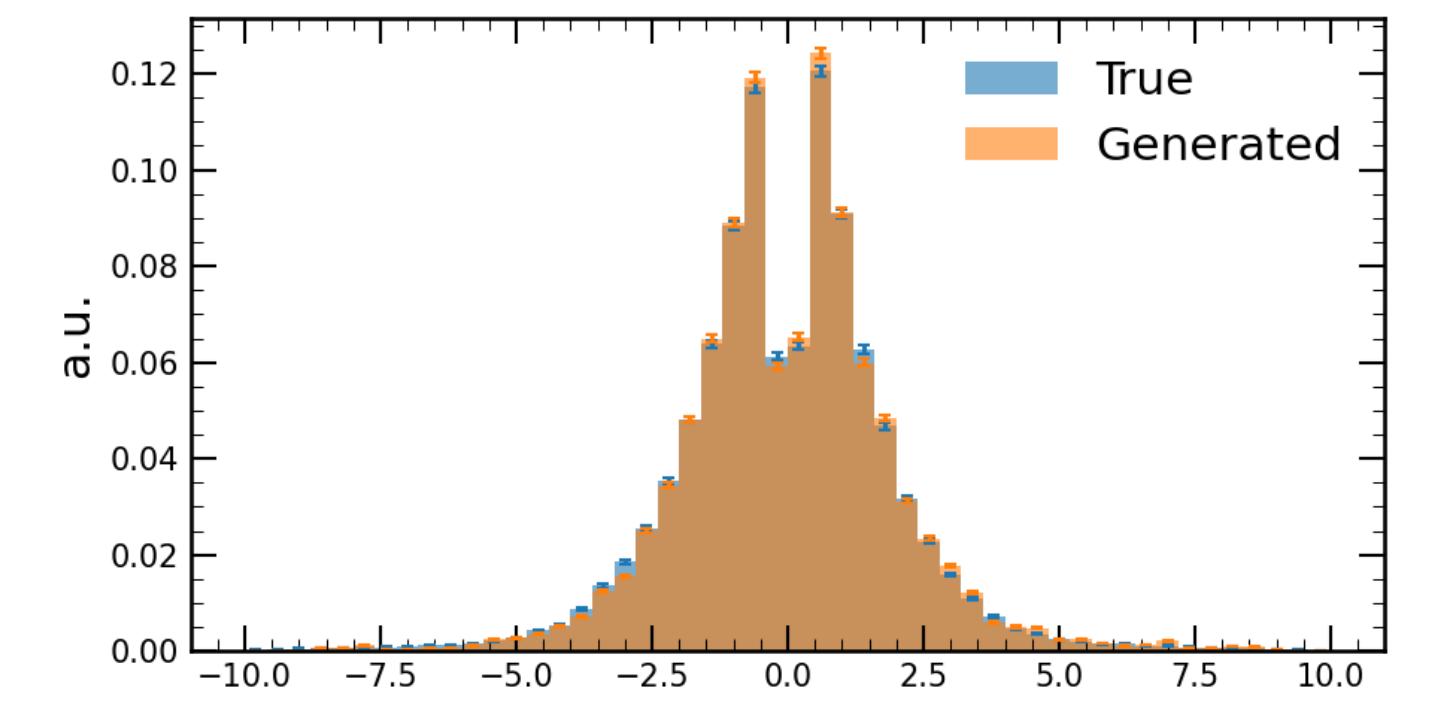
- Good match between **True** VS **Generated** muons, after the muon shield, for a relatively simple and small NF model (16k parameters)
- Fast inference time per NF-generated event $\simeq 10^{-7}$ s [from [talk](#)]
- Estimated time** to generate statistically independent events, equivalent to the 1 spill benchmark (4.5 M): **~0.58 s** on **1 GPU**, NVIDIA L40S



**SPEEDUP
FACTOR $\mathcal{O}(10^6)$**

**DATA AUGMENTATION IN
SCARCELY POPULATED PHSP AREA**

MUON SPATIAL MOMENTUM - AFTER MS





CAN WE DO BETTER THAN THAT?

STRUCTURED NORMALISING FLOWS

[M. Borysiak]

Propagation and selection of muons in SHiP is a **sequential procedure** of clearly defined steps :

- $i - 1$ • Muons get produced in the target area
- i • After deflection in the MS, a fraction of muons enters the Decay Volume
- $i + 1$ • Muons interacting inelastically within acceptance
- ... • Muon DIS events forming a “good candidate”
- n • Muon DIS events eluding the veto system
-

⇒ **Proposal:** structure the latent space of the Normalising Flow to reflect this hierarchy



STRUCTURED NF LOSS (I)

[M. Borysiak]

LOSS

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_0} l(x | \theta, 1) + \lambda_1 \cdot \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_1} l(x | \theta, \sigma_1^2) + \lambda_2 \cdot \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_2} l(x | \theta, \sigma_2^2) + \dots$$

- $l(x | \theta, \sigma^2)$ is the likelihood of the sample x given the parameters θ and variance σ^2 of the prior distribution of the latent variable
- $\lambda_i > 0$ hyperparameters

NESTED STRUCTURE

$x = f(z), z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbb{I})$, all muons;

$x = f(z), z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_1^2 \mathbb{I})$, muons entering the decay volume;

$x = f(z), z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_2^2 \mathbb{I})$, muons entering spectrometer;

...

where : $1 > \sigma_1 > \sigma_2 > \dots$

- Minimising this Loss is equivalent to minimising the weighted Kullback-Leibler divergence
⇒ Special structure allowing to **generate both inclusive samples** or specific, **dangerous background samples**

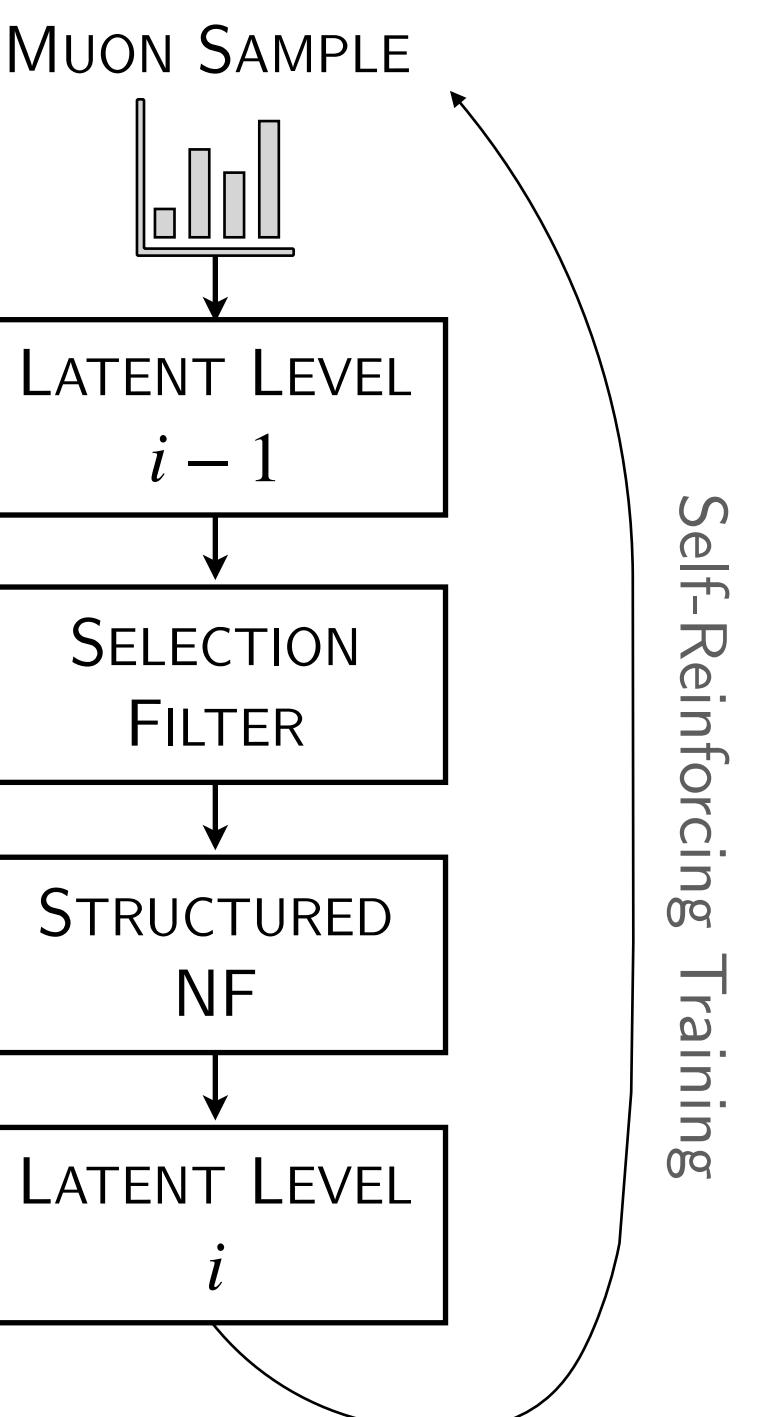


STRUCTURED NF LOSS (II)

[M. Borysiak]

The proposed loss:

- Enables fine control of the surrogate
- Equivalent to weighted Kullback-Leibler divergence
 - NF converges to the true distribution
- **Forces precise simulation of rare but interesting events (“dangerous backgrounds”)**
 - Increased penalty for such events
- Can be trained in a self-reinforcing manner



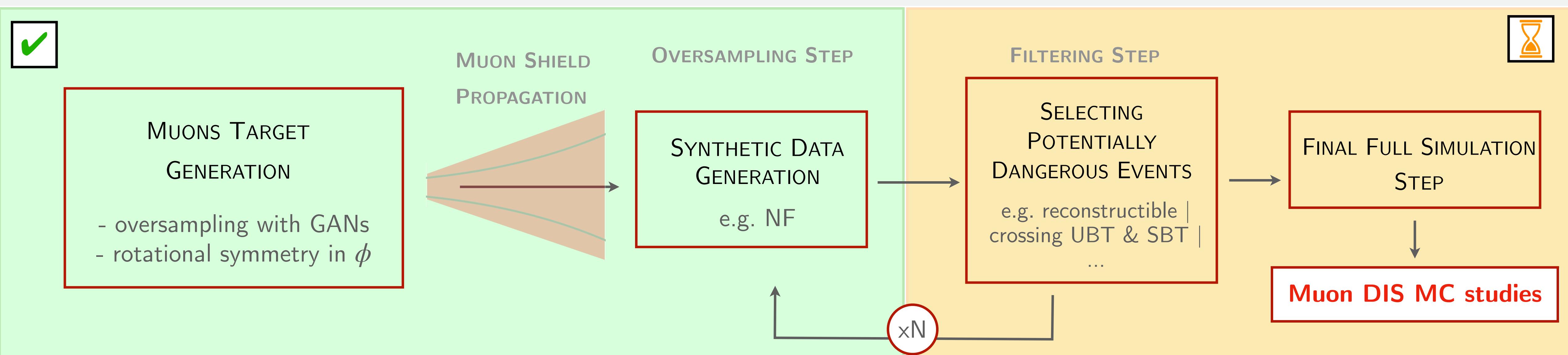
Planned as a Summer Student project, potentially in Bremen



OPEN CALL TO PROJECT COLLABORATORS

- Given the **urgency** and **importance** of the task, we **encourage** the **contribution** from **diverse groups** with complementary expertise to **quickly reach the completion stage**.
- The **project** is already **beyond the proof-of-principle phase**:
 - Ready to build, test, and deploy the final working solution, including the last *iteration steps*
 - Dedicated **technical paper** planned

Great opportunity (especially for PhDs!) to help the SHiP Collaboration and gain visibility





For questions and project collaboration requests, please get in touch with me or Nico

martina.ferrillo@cern.ch

Thank you

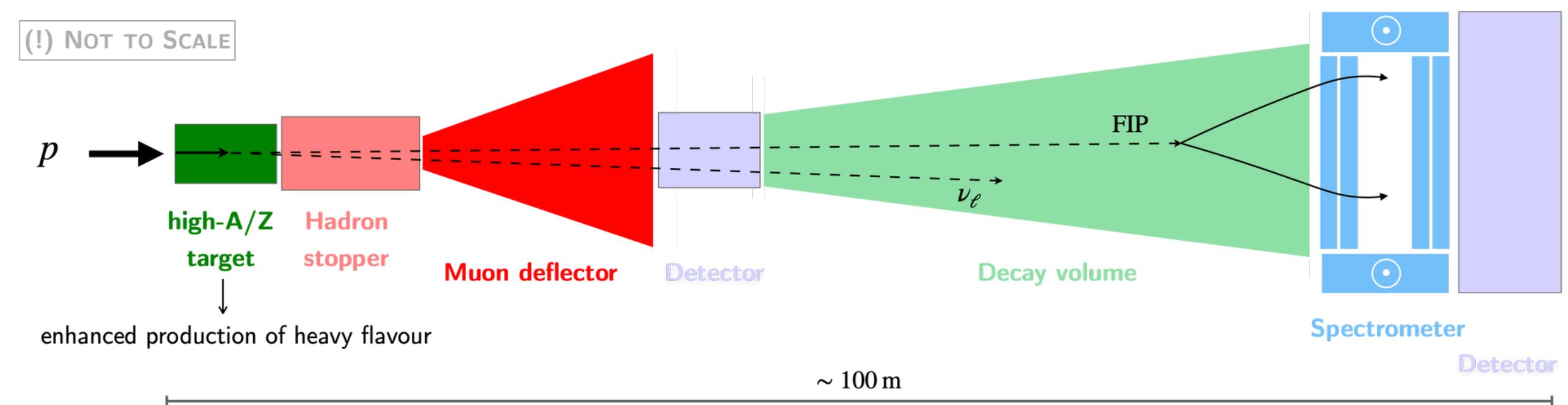
BACKUP SLIDES



HOW MUCH MC SIMULATION IS “ENOUGH”?

- **Ideal Scenario:** generating enough MC samples to ensure **statistical uncertainties** are *negligible* compared to **systematic effects**
- **Current Practice:** typically generating $\sim 10x$ more MC than the amount of expected data

Example: TARGET SIMULATION



- Currently generated MC sample corresponds to only about **1 spill** [*] of real data
- **Generation** from target simulation to reconstruction in HSDS takes **months** on dedicated CPU infrastructure

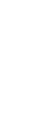
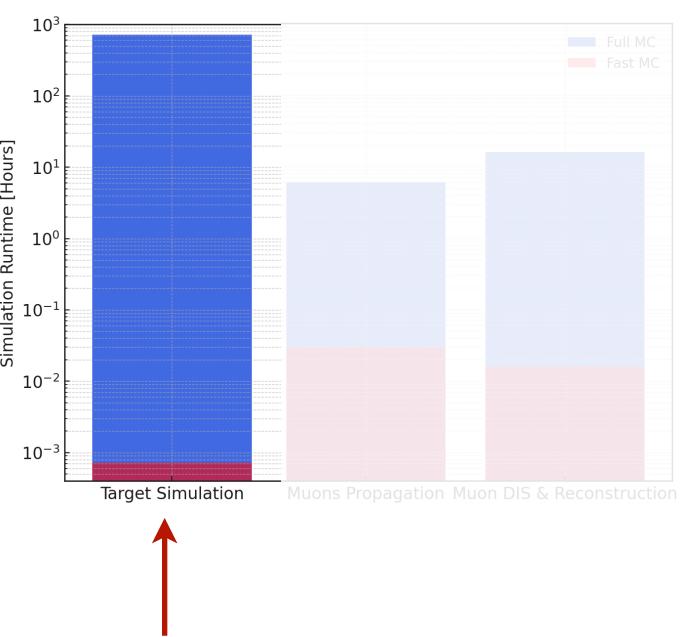
These statistical limitations severely restrict our ability to perform optimisations/estimate backgrounds accurately

⇒ Can't we just generate more?

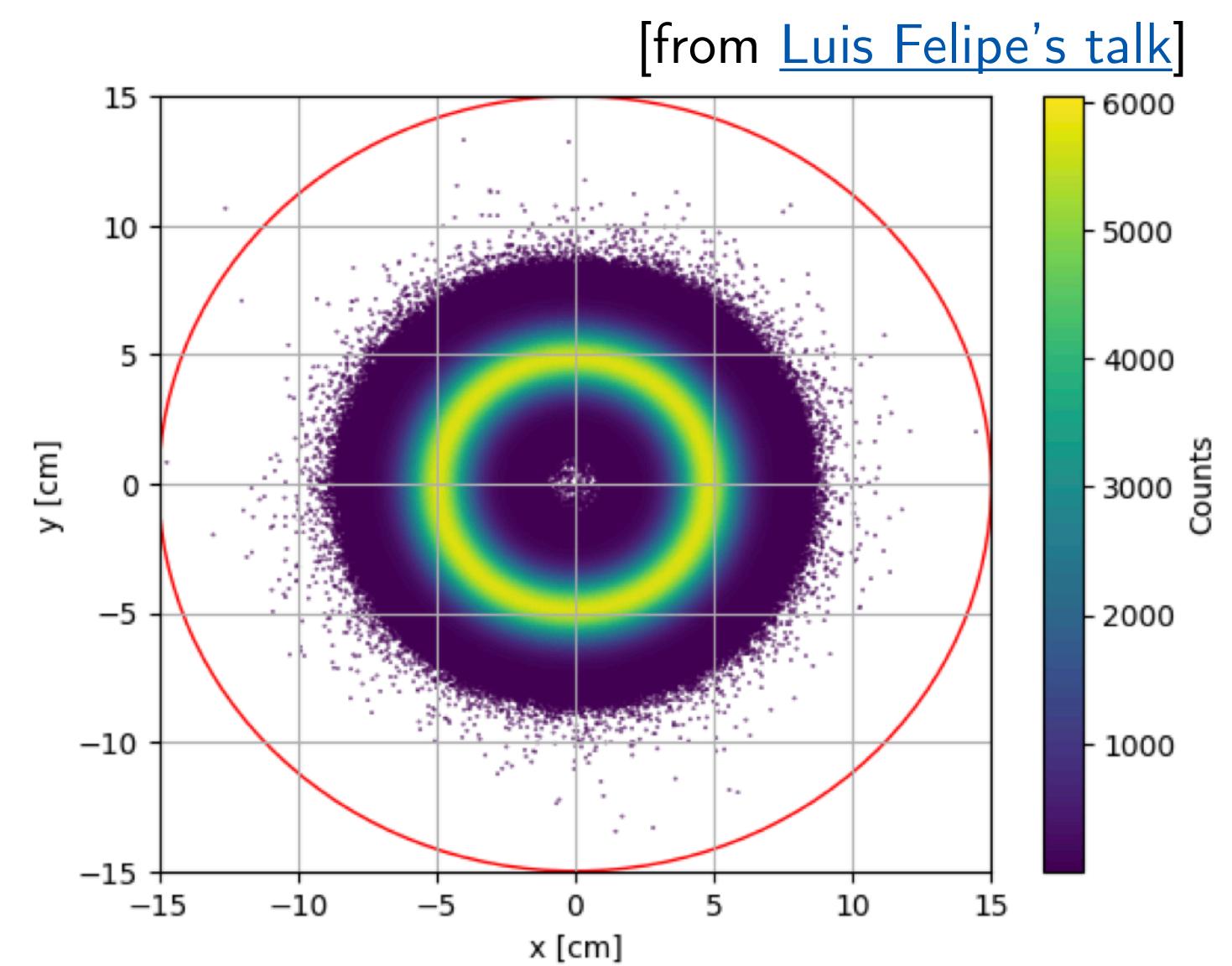
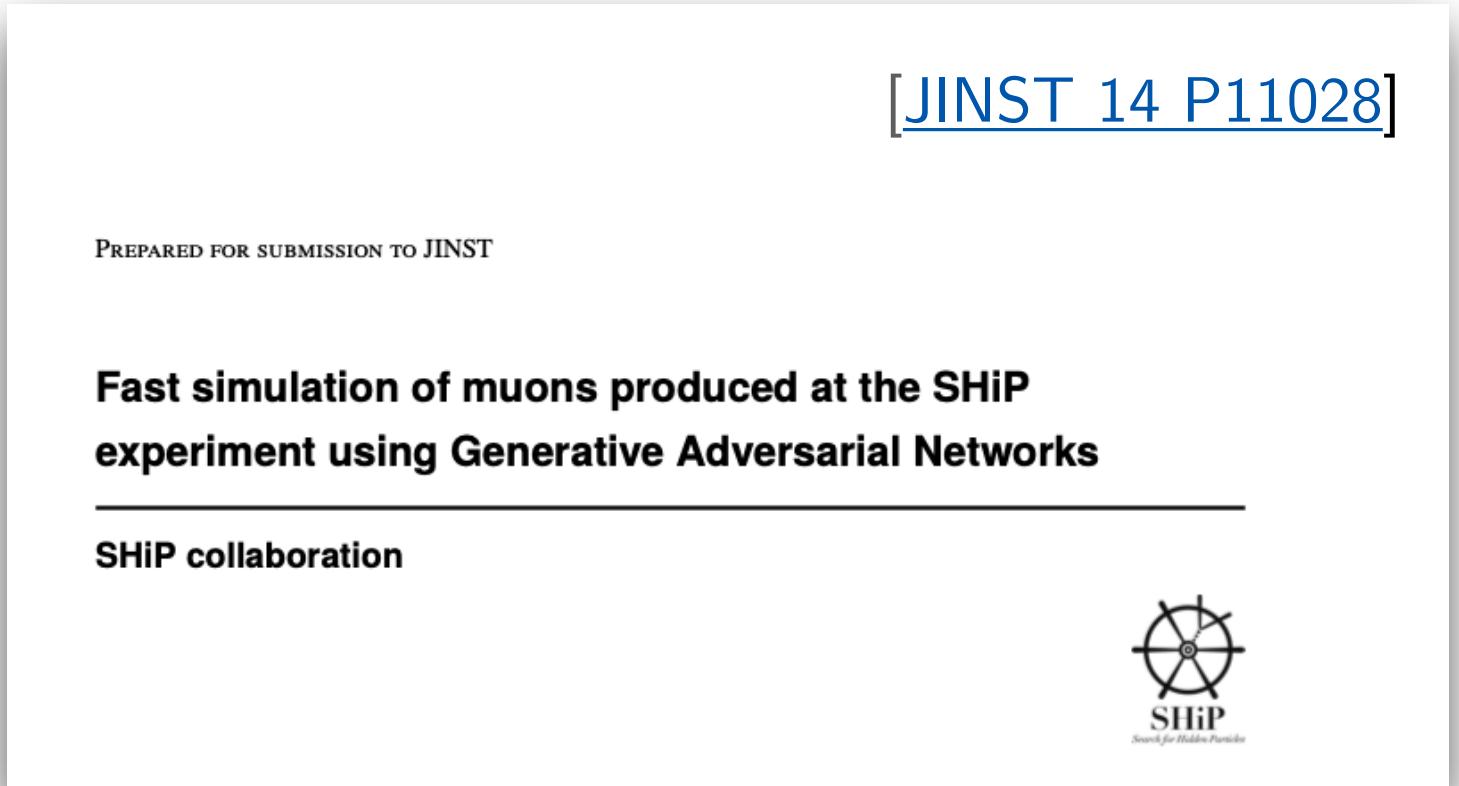
[*] Simulated sample statistics for the *minimum bias* corresponding to 6.5×10^{10} PoT, i.e. 2.5×10^{-3} spills [/eos/experiment/ship/data/Mbias/background-prod-2018/README]



ACCELERATING TARGET SIMULATION WITH GANs AND SYMMETRY

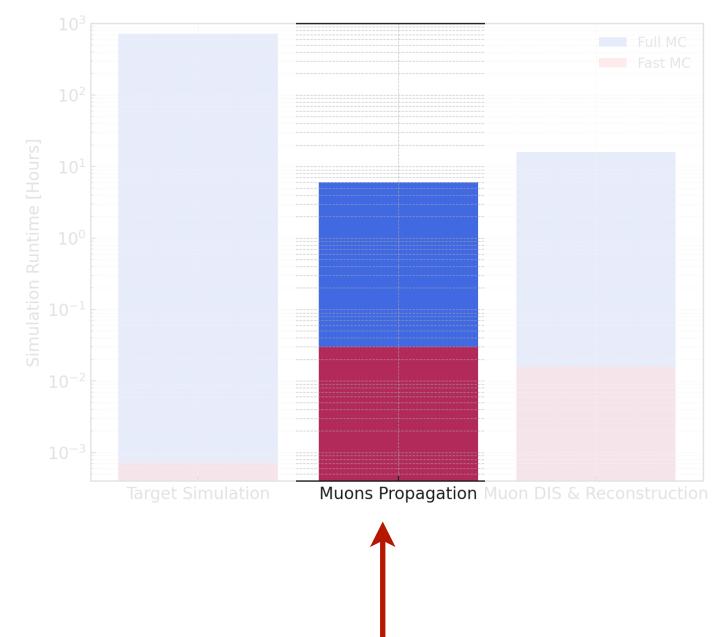


- Custom **SHiP-GAN** model produces muons $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^6)$ faster than the current Pythia + GEANT4 combo, preserving **physics fidelity**
- **Speed-up** applies primarily to already **sampled** regions of **phase space** produced in the full simulation (interpolation vs extrapolation)
- Additional $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^3)$ **increase in statistics** by exploiting rotational **symmetry** in the **azimuthal plane**





ACCELERATING MUONS PROPAGATION IN THE MS



- Significant speedup with **standalone propagation tools**
 - (1) CPU and GEANT4-based: **2x faster** compared to FairShip implementation
 - (2) GPU-based using pre-cached GEANT4 losses: $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^2)$ **faster** than CPU-based implementations
- Relevant also for the evaluation of **muon-induced background** on the electronics of the **SND** detector **within the muon shield**

STANDALONE OPTIMISATION FRAMEWORK

(1)

[[Luis Felipe's talk](#)]

Muon Shield Optimization

Status, results and next steps

Luis Felipe, Shah Rukh, Guglielmo, Melvin, Massimiliano, Patrick, Nico, et. al.

March 7th 2025

GPU-BASED MUON PROPAGATION

(2)

[[Shah Rukh's talk](#)]

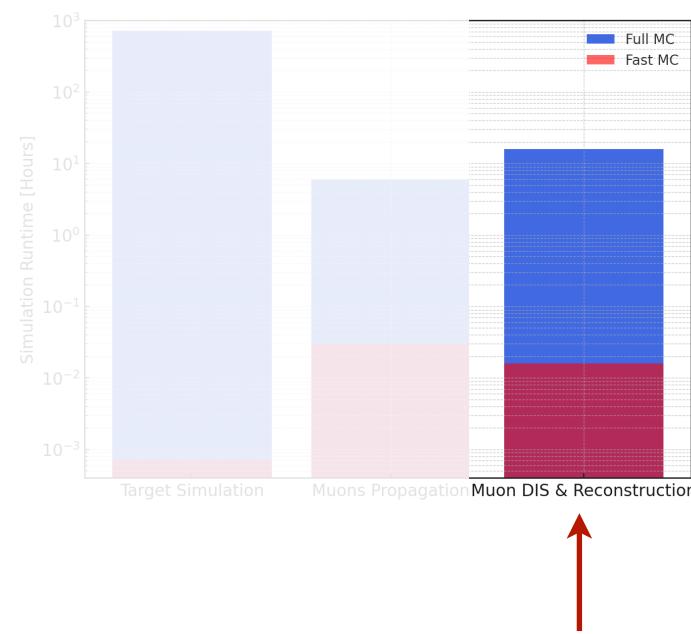
Faster Muon Propagation

Histogram sampling of Geant4 step losses

Shah Rukh Qasim and Patrick Owen
03.12.2024



SMARTER MUON DIS EVENT GENERATION

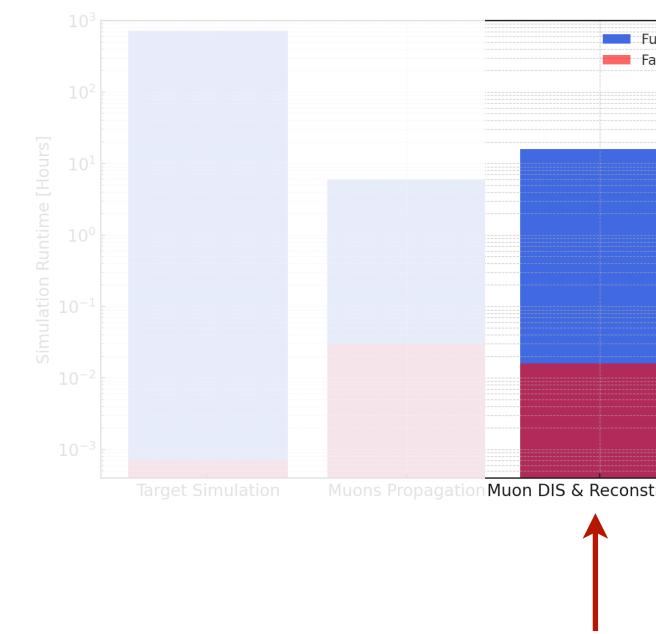


Simulating **all** possible **muon DIS** interactions ($\sim 2 \times 10^{10}$) so far **inefficient** and **computationally impractical**

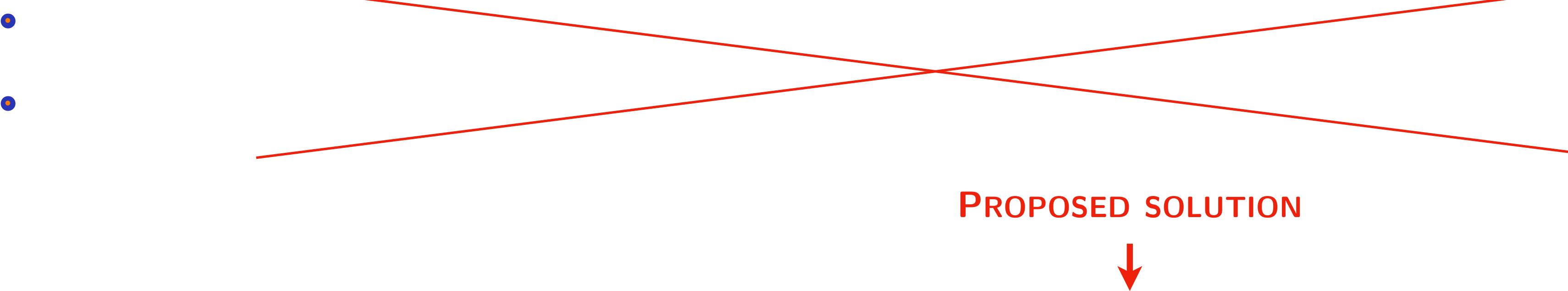
- Non-representative input muon sample, given the limited portion of sampled phase space (only 6k seeds)
- If 16h needed for ca. 4.5M events, the **full sample** would require **ca. 8 years**



SMARTER MUON DIS EVENT GENERATION



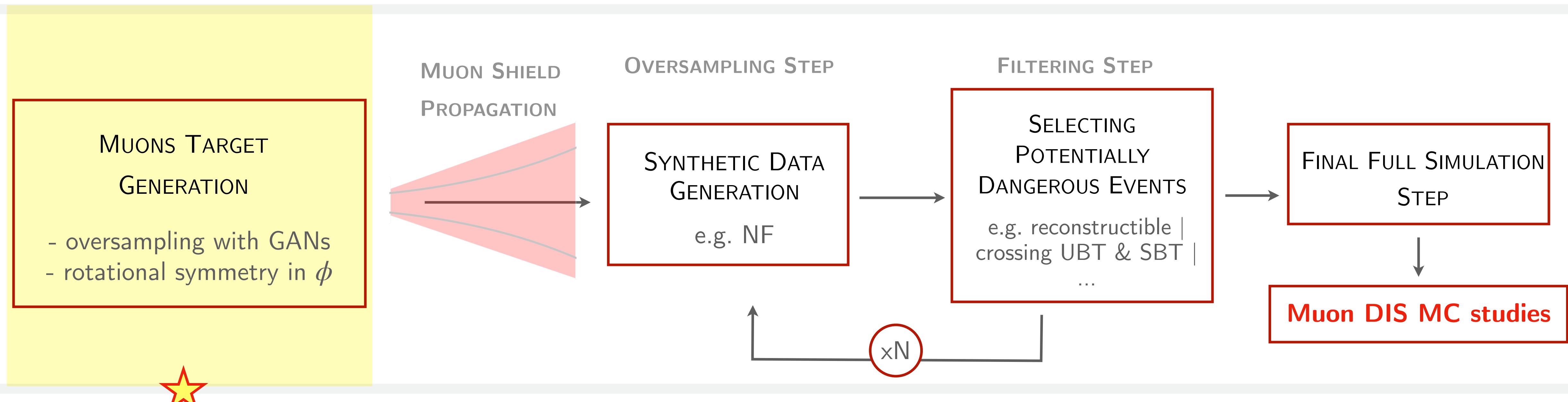
Simulating **all** possible **muon DIS** interactions ($\sim 2 \times 10^{10}$) so far **inefficient** and **computationally impractical**



- (1) Use **fast deep-generative models** to generate **synthetic muon data** after the MS to interpolate between sparse simulation bins
e.g. **Normalising Flows**, see next slides, or using gaussian smearing of muon kinematics (W. Bonivento)
- (2) **Identify** and select **only dangerous events** that realistically contribute to **muon DIS background**
e.g. using simple MLP/DNN for a classification task, identifying **only reconstructible events** (reduction factor $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^3)$)



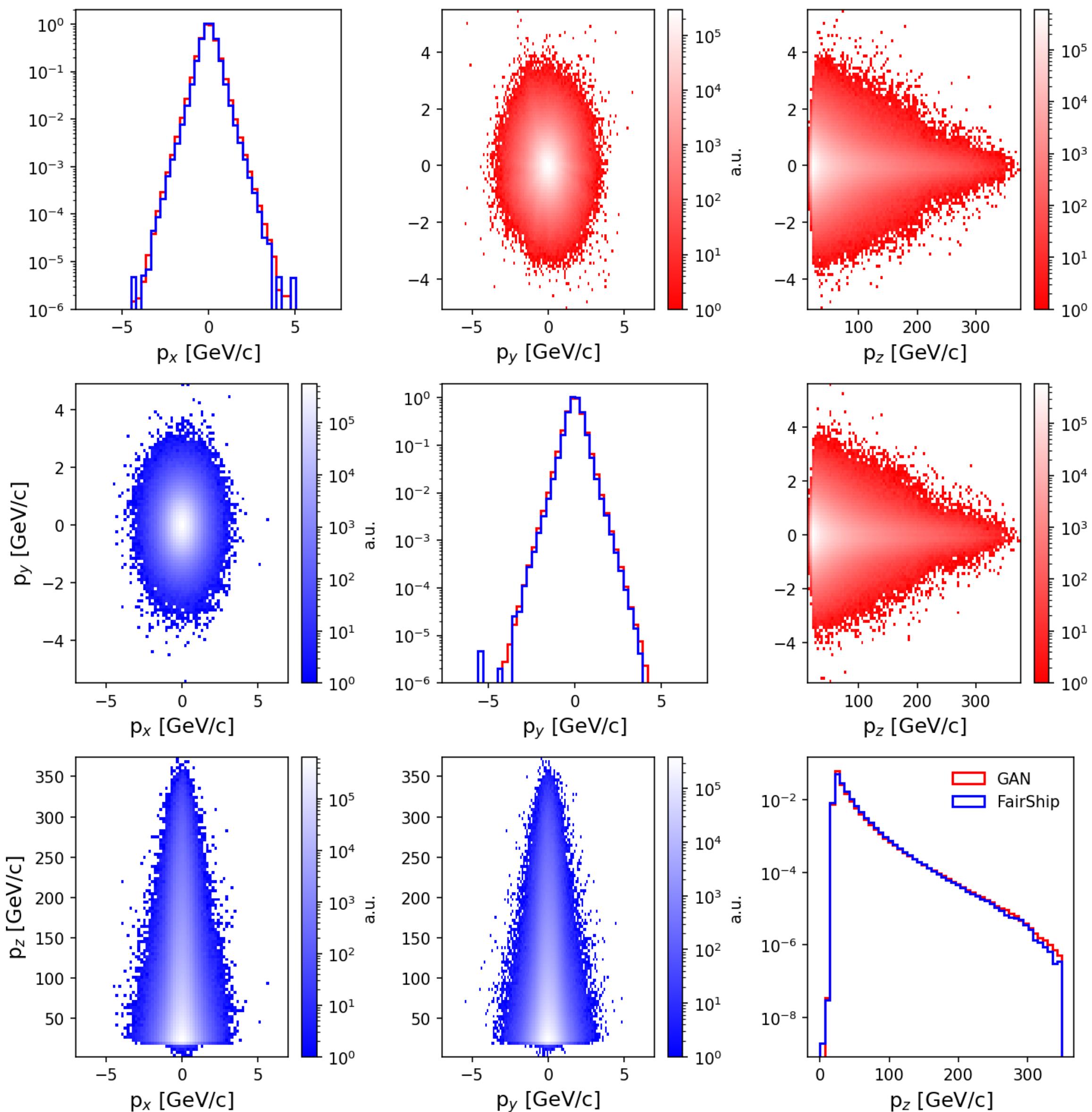
STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE



next slides



TARGET SIMULATION WITH GANS - BEFORE MS



MUON KINEMATIC DISTRIBUTION IN THE TARGET
(PRODUCTION POINT)

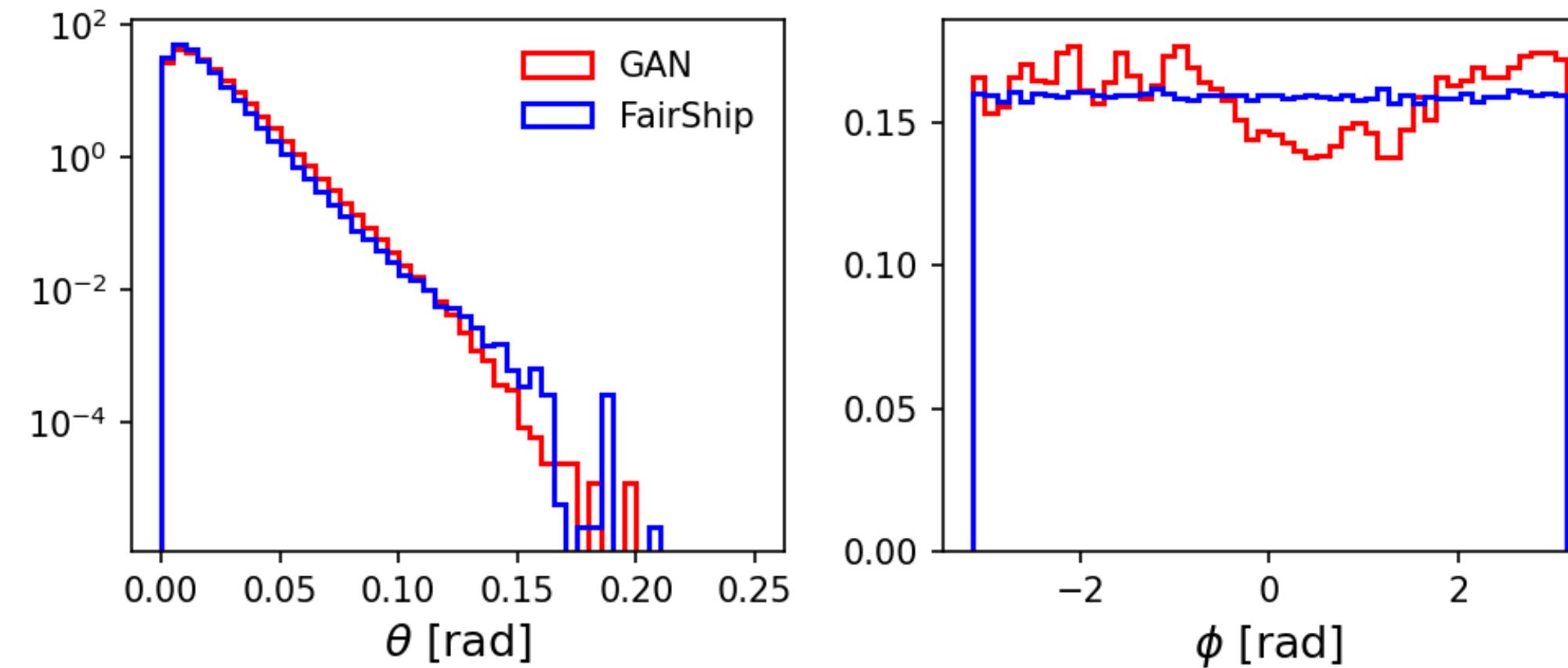
Step 1

- **Oversampling** full MC (FairShip) MC with the **GAN** tool
[\[JINST 14 P11028\]](#)
- Sanity check between **FairShip** and **GAN**-generated muons
- Comparison btw kinematic distribution before the propagation in the Muon Shield

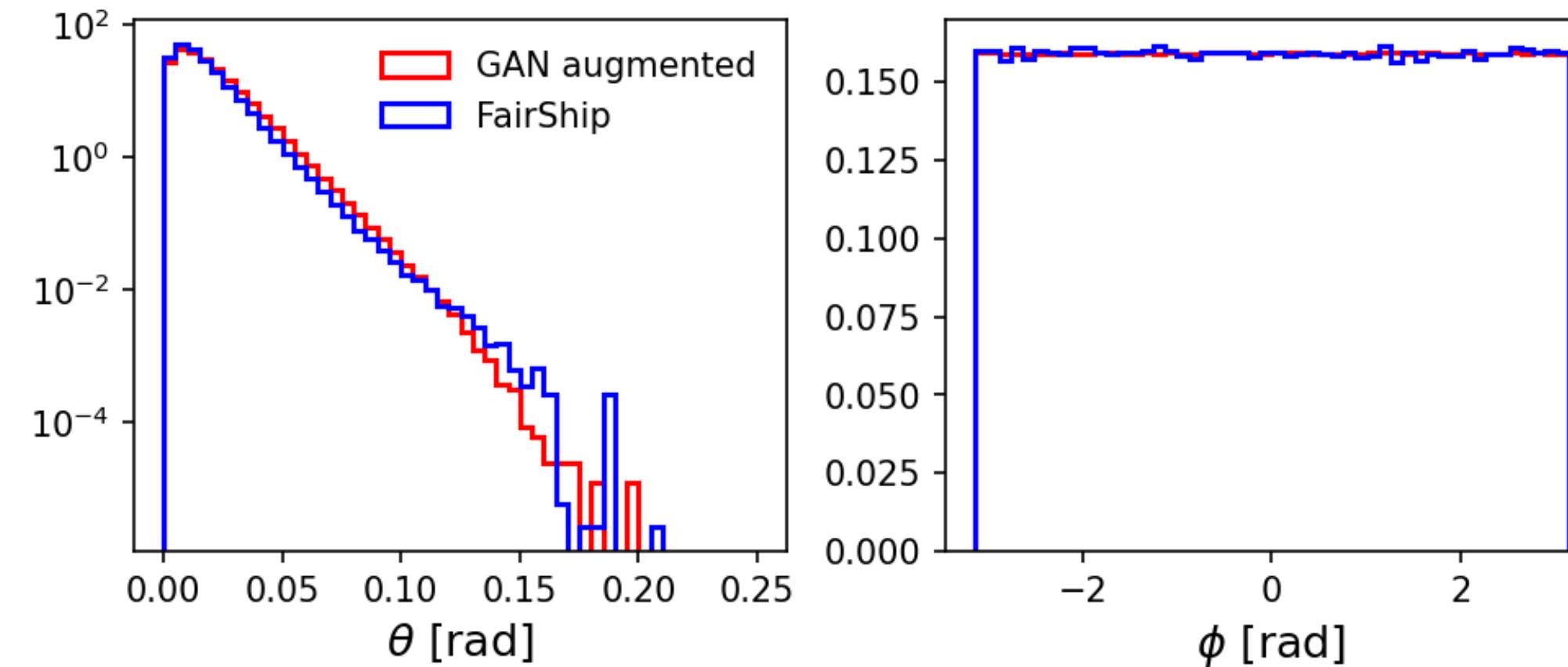


DATA AUGMENTATION IN AZIMUTHAL PLANE - BEFORE MS

BEFORE AUGMENTATION IN ϕ



AFTER AUGMENTATION IN ϕ



MUON ANGULAR DISTRIBUTION IN THE TARGET
(PRODUCTION POINT)

Step 2

- Comparison btw angular distribution before the propagation in the Muon Shield
- **ϕ augmentation**
Exploiting rotation invariance in the azimuthal plane by introducing a random rotation



MUON DIS BACKGROUND

Reconstructible events survive the selection criteria below:

[from [CERN-SHiP-INT-2024-001](#)]

Cut	Value
Good daughters	$n\text{DoF} > 25$, $\chi^2/n\text{DoF} < 5$, $p_{\text{track}} > 1 \text{ GeV}$
Number of “good” candidates per event	1
DOCA	< 1 cm
Vertex distance from vessel’s wall	> 5 cm (transverse), 20 cm (longitudinal)
IP (f.r.)	< 10 cm
IP (p.r.)	< 250 cm

Table 5: Event selection criteria on the muon-DIS background.

Setup	$N_{\text{DIS}}^{\text{pre-sel}}$	$N_{\text{DIS}}^{\text{pre-sel+SBT}}$	$N_{\text{DIS}}^{\text{pre-sel+SBT+UBT}}$
2024_{vac}	$1.9 \cdot 10^5$	73	0
2024_{He}	$4 \cdot 10^5$	718	0

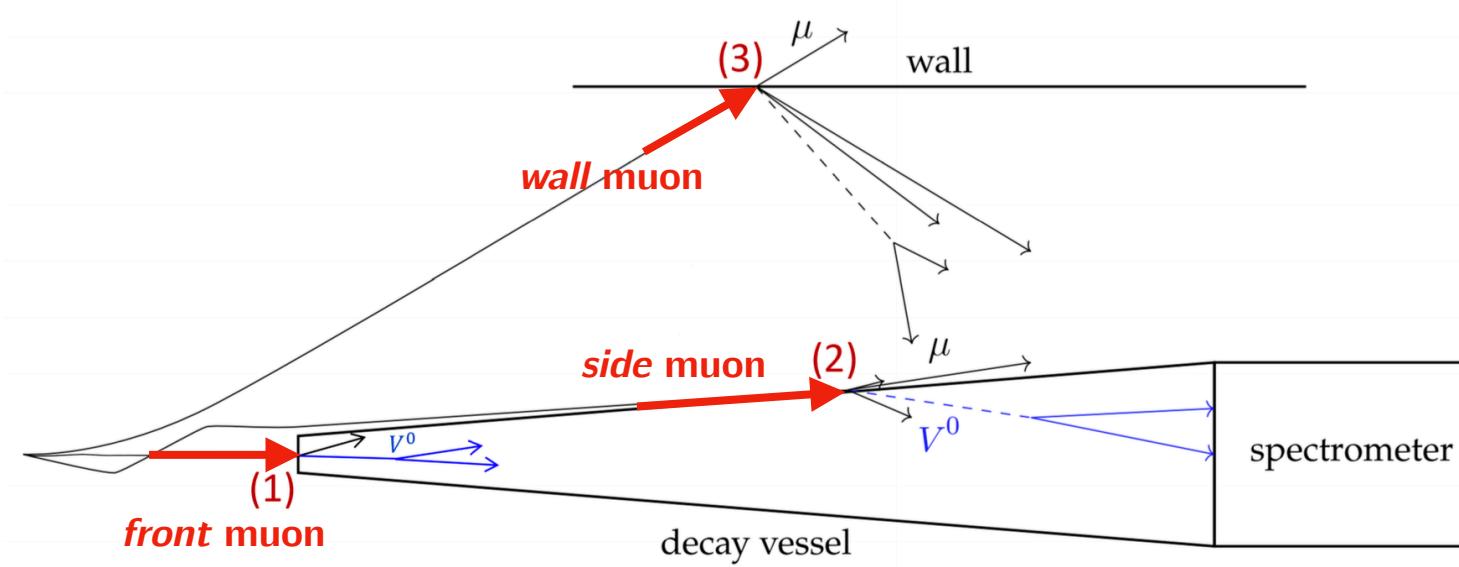
Table 7: DIS events per full timeline; effect of veto.



RESULTS: COUPLING NORMALISING FLOWS

GOAL OF THE PROJECT

Speed up the **SHiP muon background simulation** by *orders of magnitude* ($\sim \mathcal{O}(10^6)$) and, in turn, generate a much larger and representative muon sample.



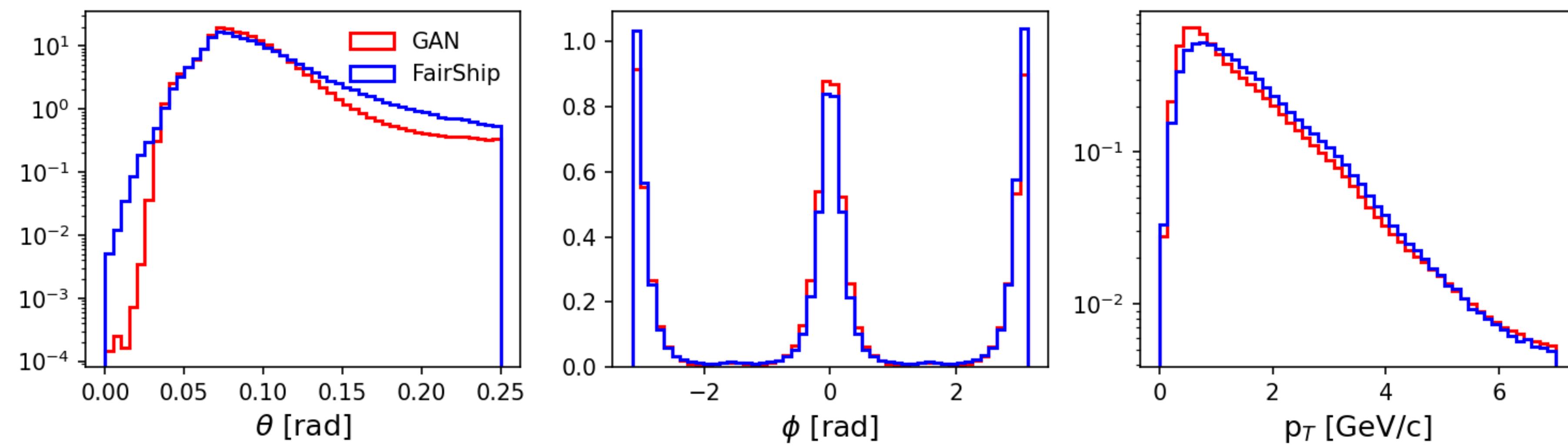
NF to *learn the kinematic distribution* of **muons** producing hard scattering in the proximity of the SHiP decay vessel.

ARCHITECTURE

- **Model type:** Coupling Normalising Flows (ReaINVP)
- **Input features:** muon 4-momentum (p_x, p_y, p_z, E)
- **Generation time per event with NF** (on 1 GPU, NVIDIA L40S): $\simeq 1.47 \times 10^{-7}$ s
 - **Benchmark time** corresponding to the MC simulation of 10^{11} PoT (2.5×10^{-3} spills): “months” of running on dedicated CPU farms”
[arXiv:1909.04451]

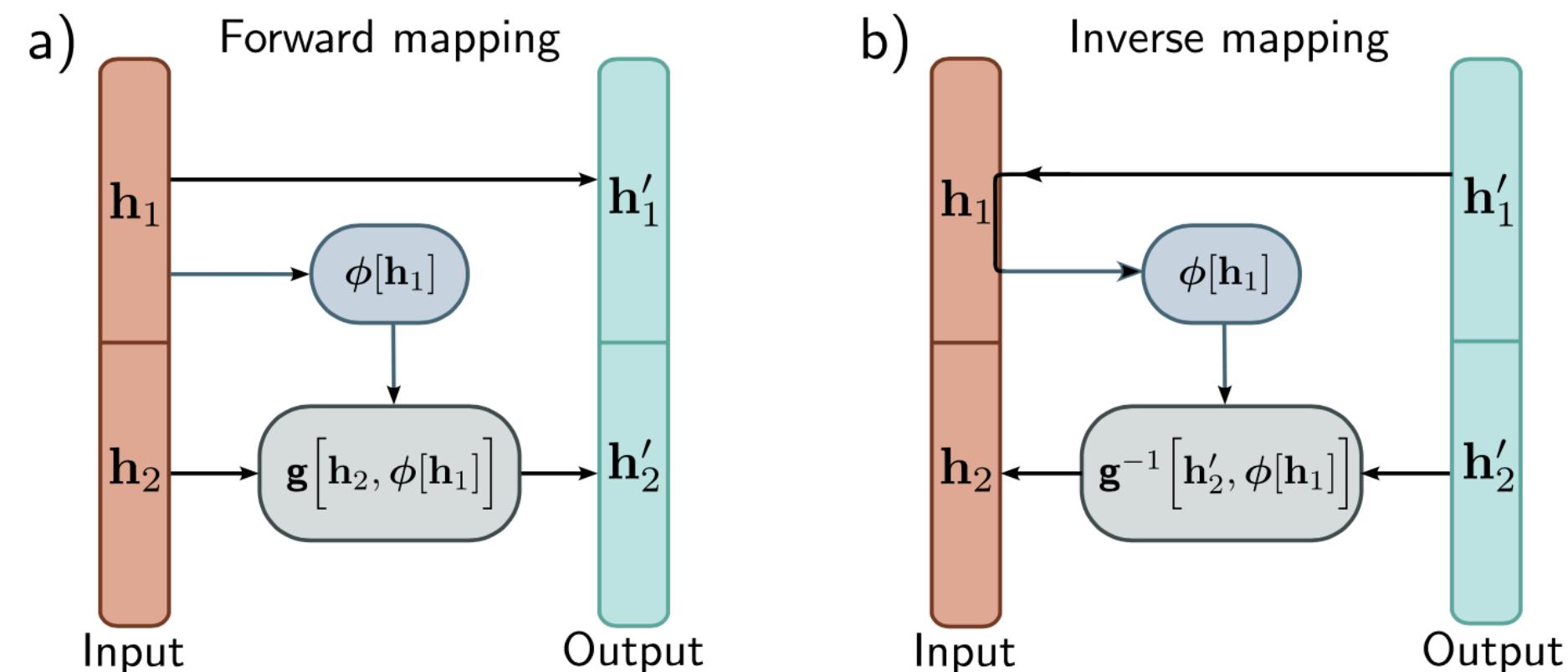


MUON ANGULAR DISTRIBUTION - AFTER MS



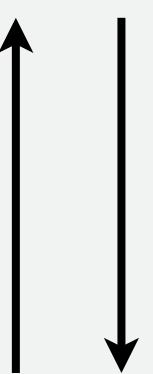


COUPLING NORMALISING FLOWS



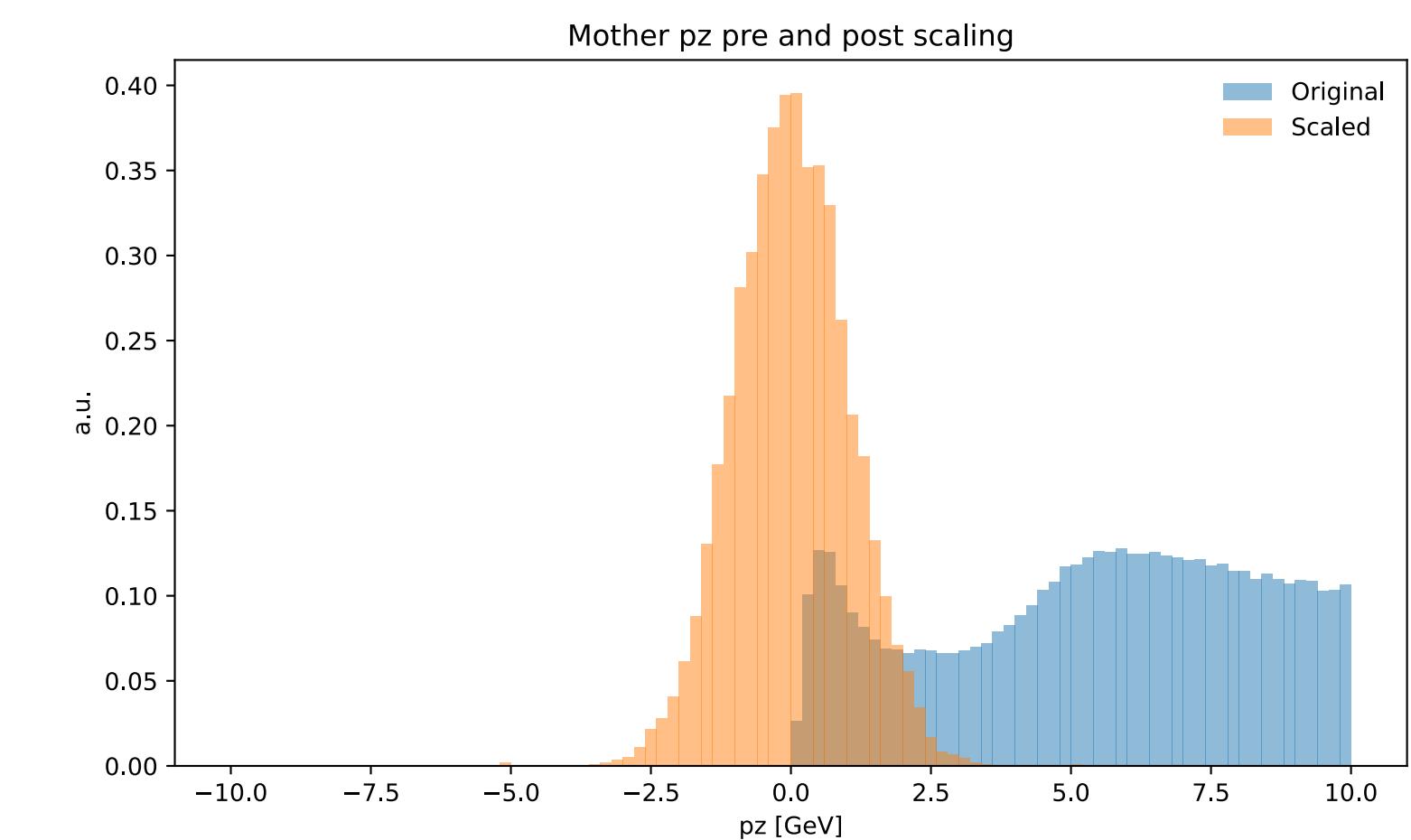
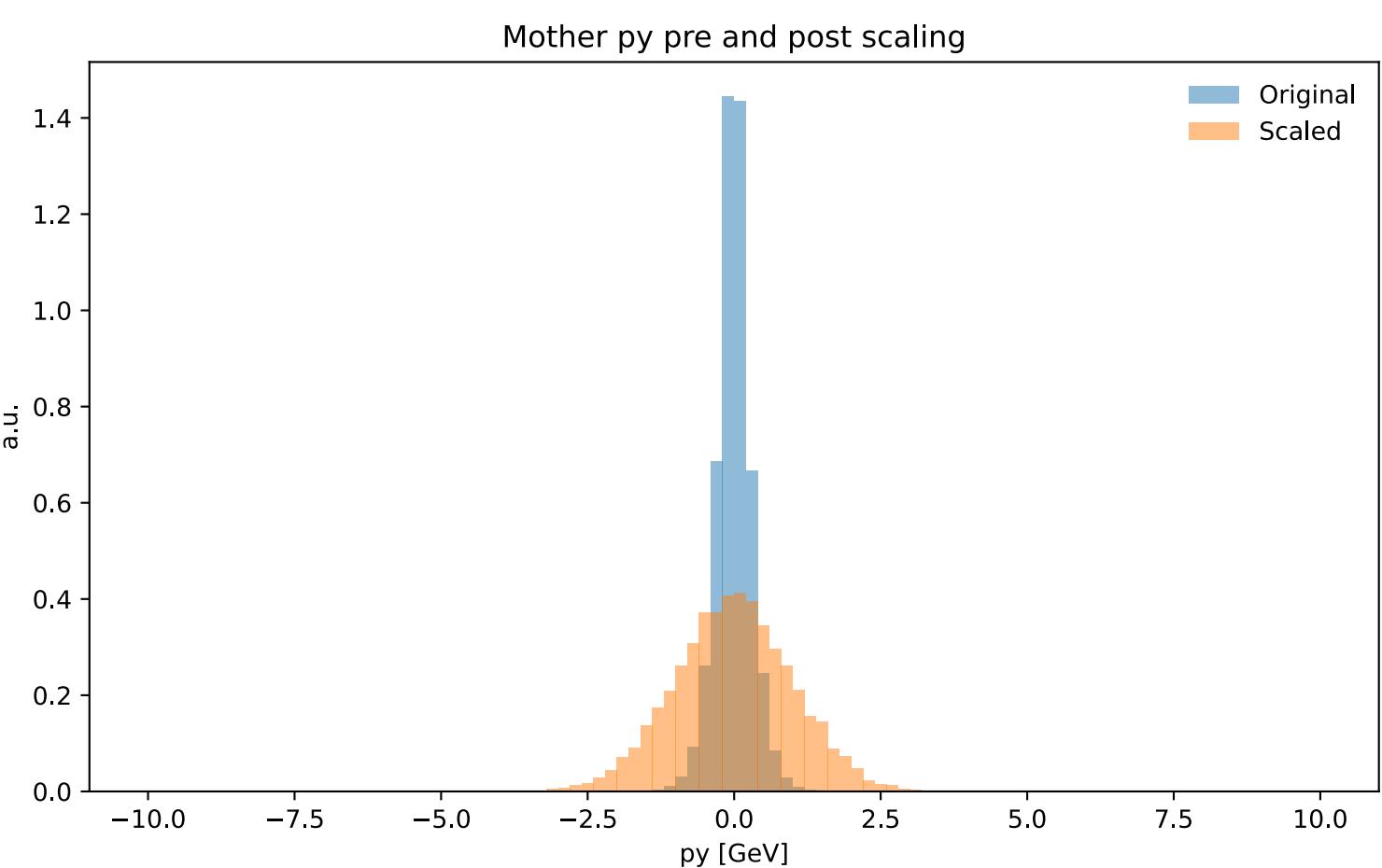
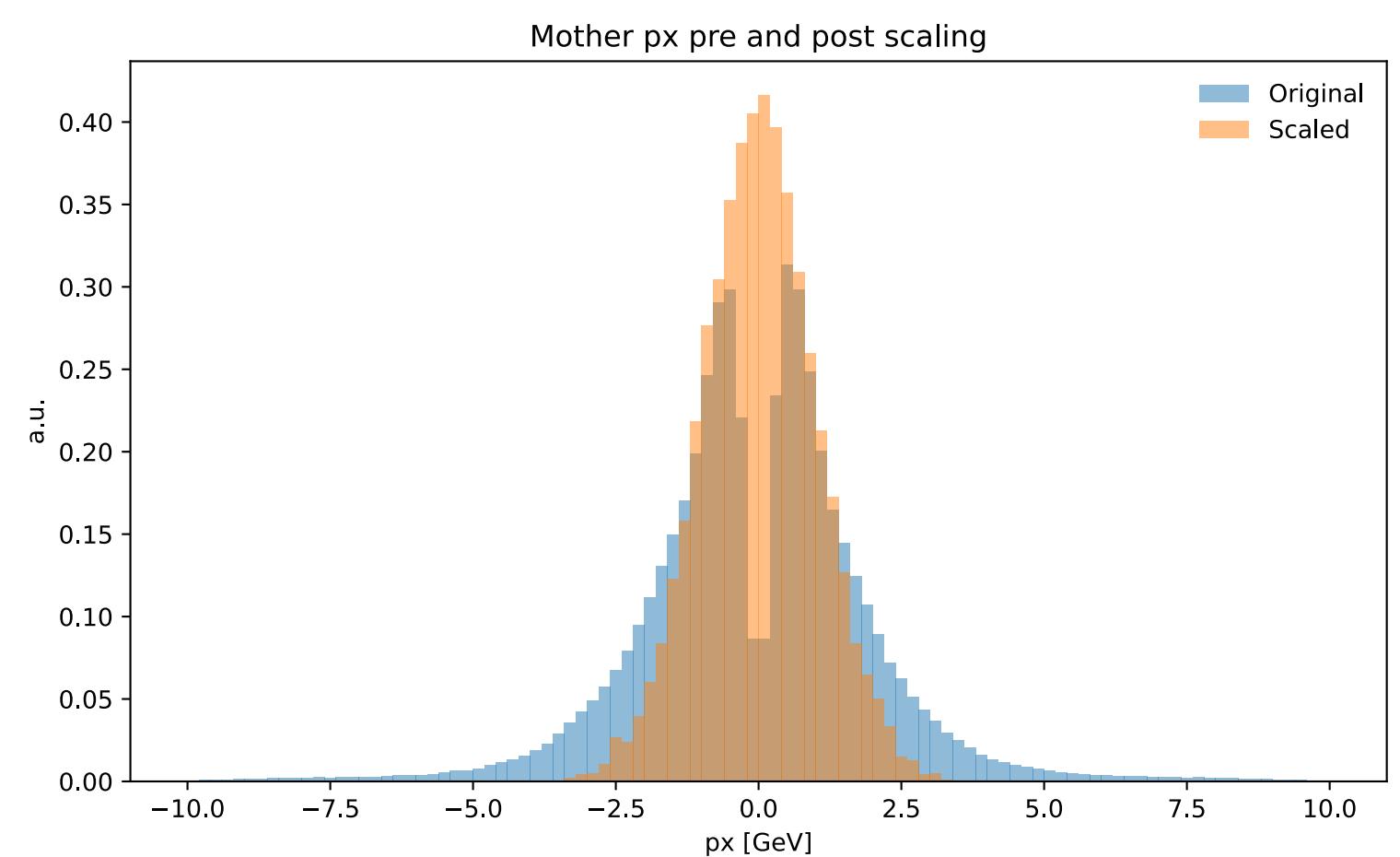
COUPLING NORMALISING FLOWS: 1 LAYER

- Split the input vector h in two parts, $[h_1, h_2]$
- Keep $h_1 = h'_1$ fixed and compute parameters of transformation $\phi(h_1)$
- Apply an *invertible* transformation on h_2 , based on $\phi(h_1)$, $g(h_2, \phi(h_1))$
- Shuffle the elements before the next layer to ensure all the elements are transformed





INPUT FEATURES PREPROCESSING





ANGULAR VARIABLES GENERATION

