

Assessing Systematic Errors in Simulation Studies of Mu2e

Joel Huether, SULI Intern, University of Kentucky

Introduction to Mu2e Simulations

About Mu2e

The Muon-to-Electron Conversion Experiment (Mu2e) aims to measure the ratio of the rate of coherent conversion of muons to electrons in the field of an atomic nucleus relative (a charged lepton flavor violation decay) to the rate of ordinary muon capture on the nucleus, $R_{\mu e}$:

$$R_{\mu e} = \frac{\mu^- + A(Z,N) \rightarrow e^- + A(Z,N)}{\mu^- + A(Z,N) \rightarrow \nu_\mu + A(Z-1,N)}$$

Currently, the Standard Model provides an experimental limit on the order of $< 10^{-50} R_{\mu e}$, while Mu2e is projected to measure $R_{\mu e}$ with a sensitivity on the order of $\sim 10^{-17}$, a measurement that would be sensitive to New Physics [1].

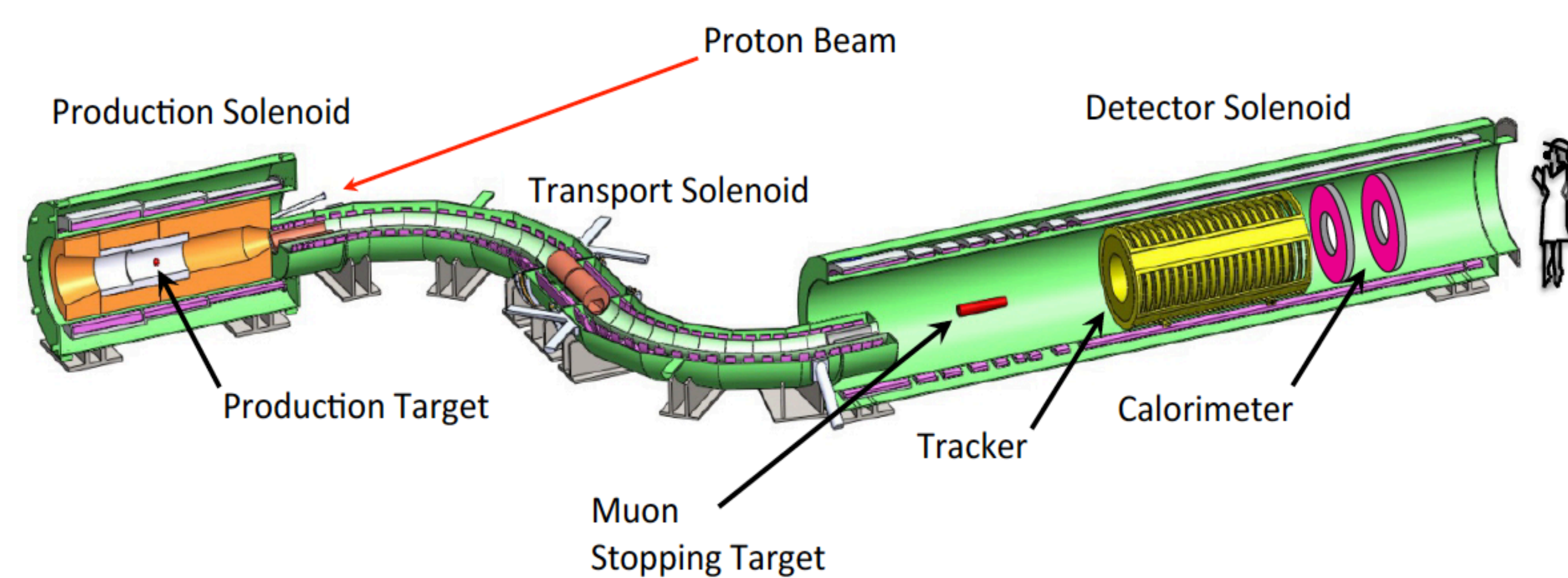


Figure 1. Basic Schematic of Mu2e Beamline

The Mu2e beamline is divided into three main parts: the production solenoid, the transport solenoid, and the detector solenoid. 8 GeV protons produced by the Fermilab Booster strike a tungsten production target to produce pions that are conducted down the beamline, eventually decaying to muons of the desired energy via a magnetic field gradient. Pion and muon production is essential to the production of electrons at ~ 105 MeV/c to be detected in the Mu2e detector. The present analyses is primarily concerned with simulation studies of particle production at the production solenoid.

G4beamline vs. MARS15 Simulations

G4beamline (G4BL) and MARS15 are two Monte Carlo simulators used for simulation of the Mu2e beamline. Both models are independently developed from one another, and both simulate particle transport and interaction with matter on the nucleus to produce secondary particles.

G4beamline, based on the GEANT4 toolkit [2], is primarily concerned with simulation of beamline and resulting matter interactions; MARS15 is Fortran/C++ code developed to simulate three-dimensional hadronic and electromagnetic

casades and modeling of heavy ion, muon and low energy neutron-photon transport [3]. By simulating identical phenomena in the experiment with two independent simulation programs, comparisons of their respective data products can be used to assess systematic errors in Mu2e.

Methods & Results

In G4beamline, two virtual detectors of definite length were placed 1.0 cm downstream and upstream of the proton target. The detectors were established to be sensitive to charged muons and pions. An additional detector was placed directly upstream of the collimator at the entrance of the transport solenoid. In MARS15, planar virtual detectors were installed at the same coordinates as those specified by the geometry in G4beamline.

1,000,000 events were run in each program, and normalized frequency histograms were produced for each particle at each detector using G4BL and MARS. These results are compiled below.

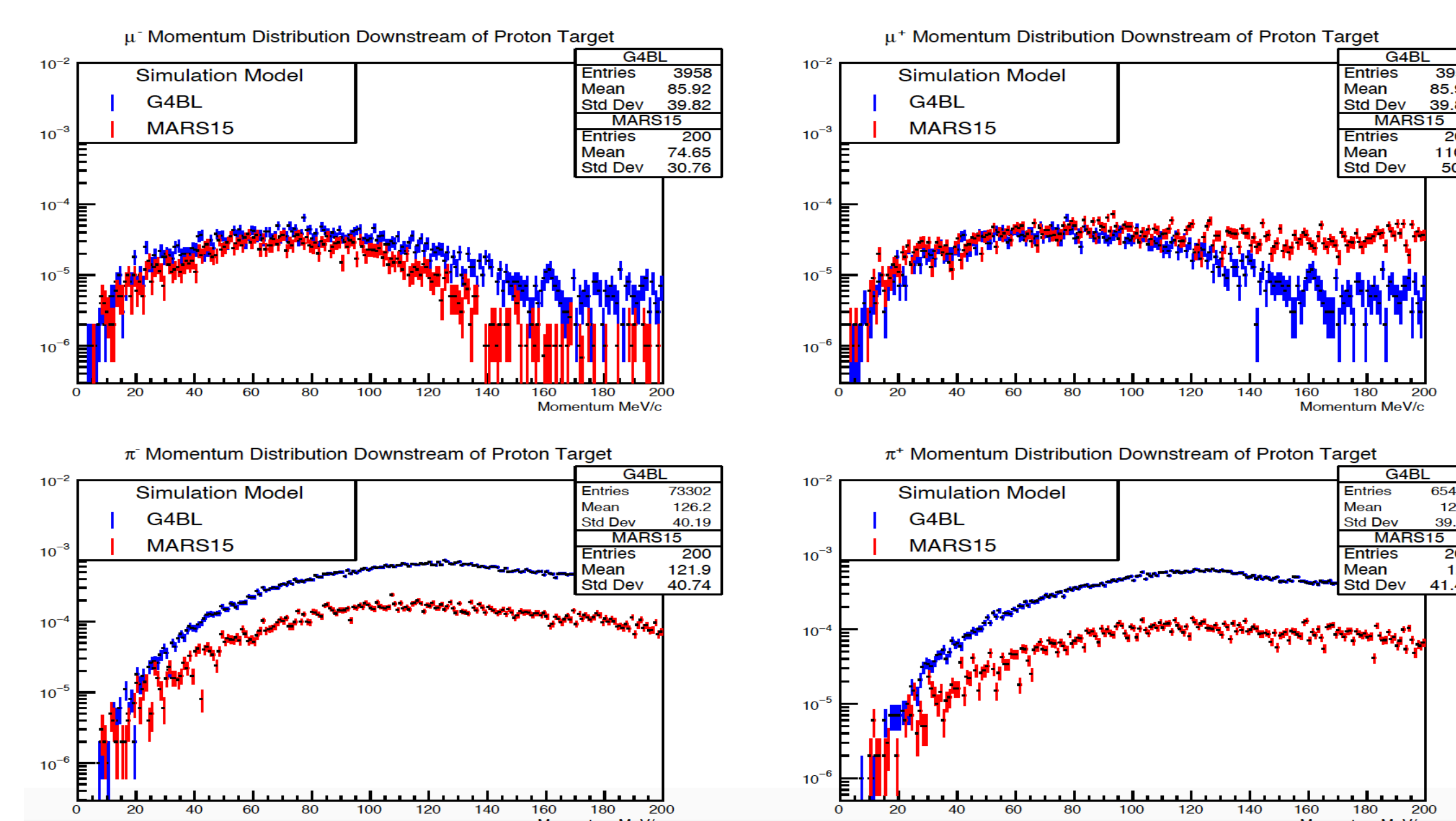


Figure 2. Momentum Distributions Downstream of the Proton Target

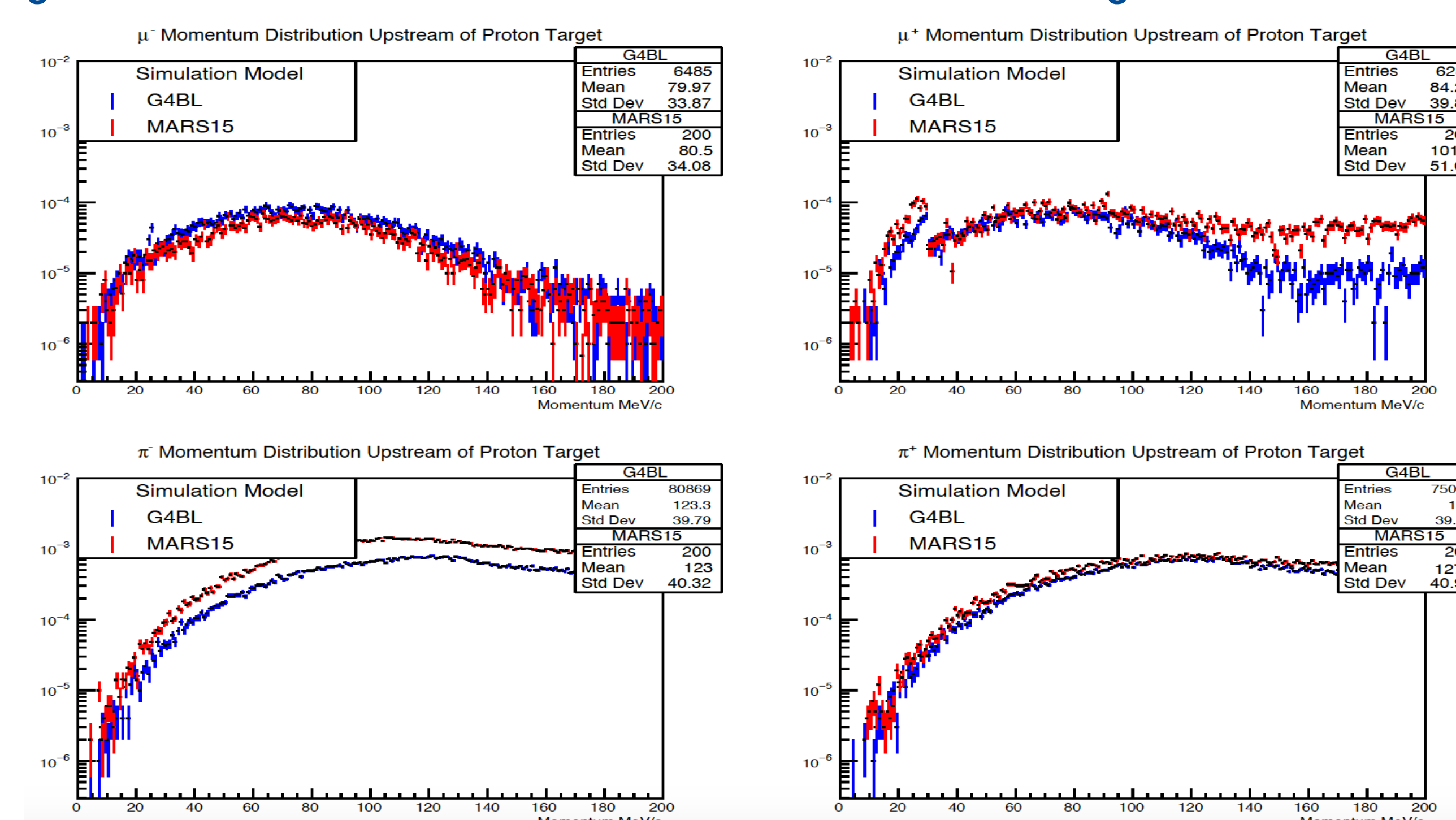


Figure 3. Momentum Distributions Upstream of the Proton Target

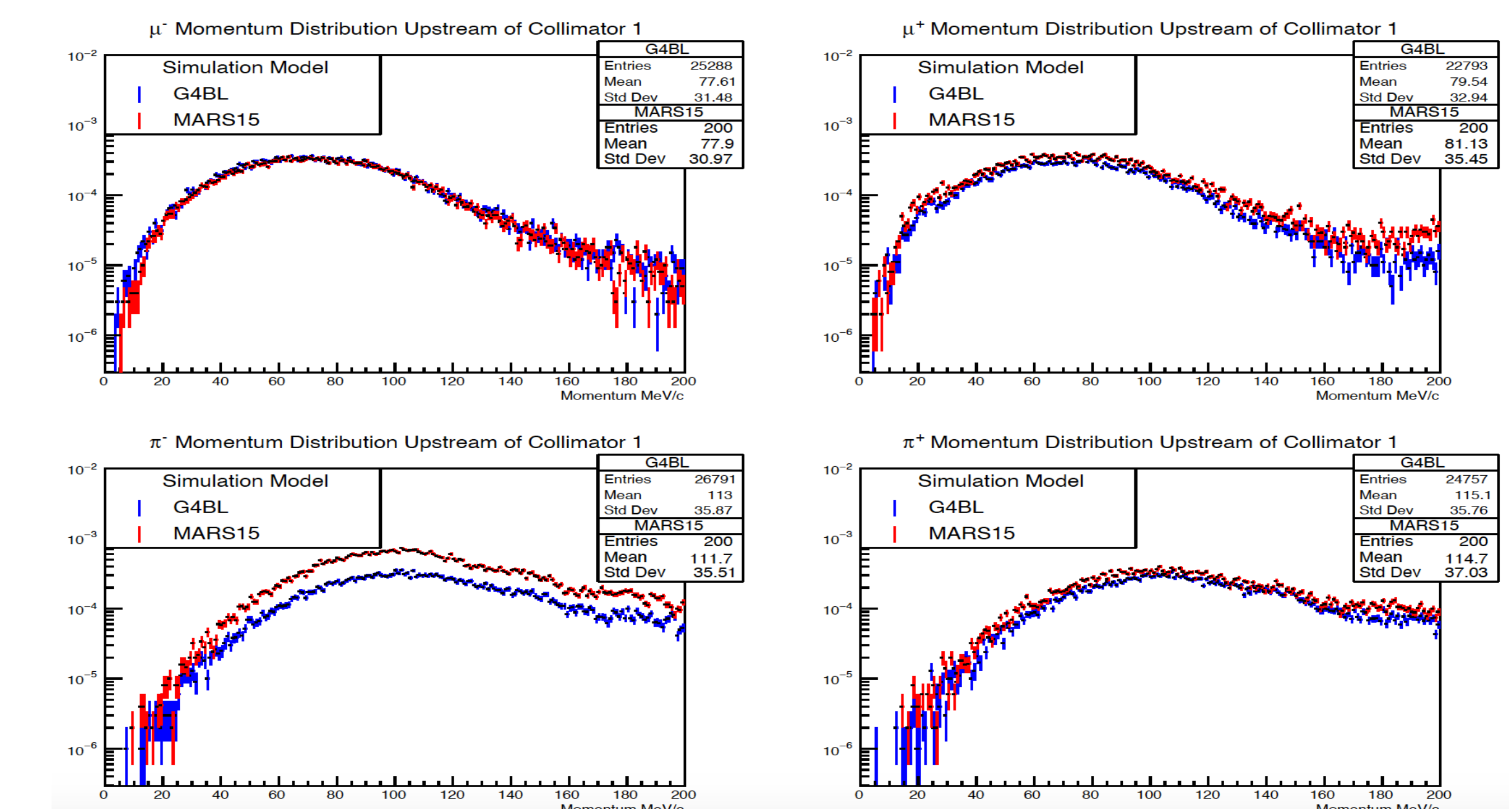


Figure 4. Momentum Distributions Upstream of the First Collimator

Discussion

Of importance to the simulation of the Mu2e beamline is production of μ^- with momenta of ~ 45 MeV/c at the entrance of the first collimator. The percent error of the bin centers at this momentum range (see Figure 4) is $\sim 6.68\%$, and within this error it is impossible to distinguish the curves. It can be concluded, then, that the systematic error for μ^- flux is $\sim 7\%$, and both MARS15 and G4beamline can be used interchangeably for simulation of μ^- production.

There are clear model dependencies between MARS15 and G4BL, however. In particular, π^- production is higher in G4BL than in MARS when looking downstream of the proton target, but the trend reverses when looking upstream of the proton target. Still, this does not appear to affect the μ^- flux at the collimator, as the differences between the codes level out.

The μ^+ fluxes at the first collimator do show a significant systematic error of $\sim 20-30\%$ that requires further improvements in the simulations for any potential work on μ^+ production.

References & Acknowledgements

- [1] Mu2e Collaboration. (2014). *Mu2e Technical Design Report*. Batavia, IL: Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.
- [2] Roberts, T. (2018). *G4beamline User's Guide* (3.06 ed.). Muons.
- [3] Mokhov, N., & James, C. (2016). *The MARS Code System User's Guide, Version 15*. Batavia, IL: Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.

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