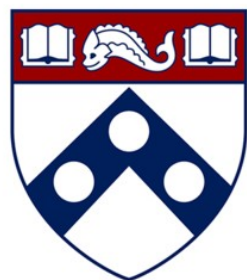


# First Direct Measurement of Nuclear Dependence of Coherent Pion Production

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Joint Experimental-Theoretical Physics Seminar

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**Penn**  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



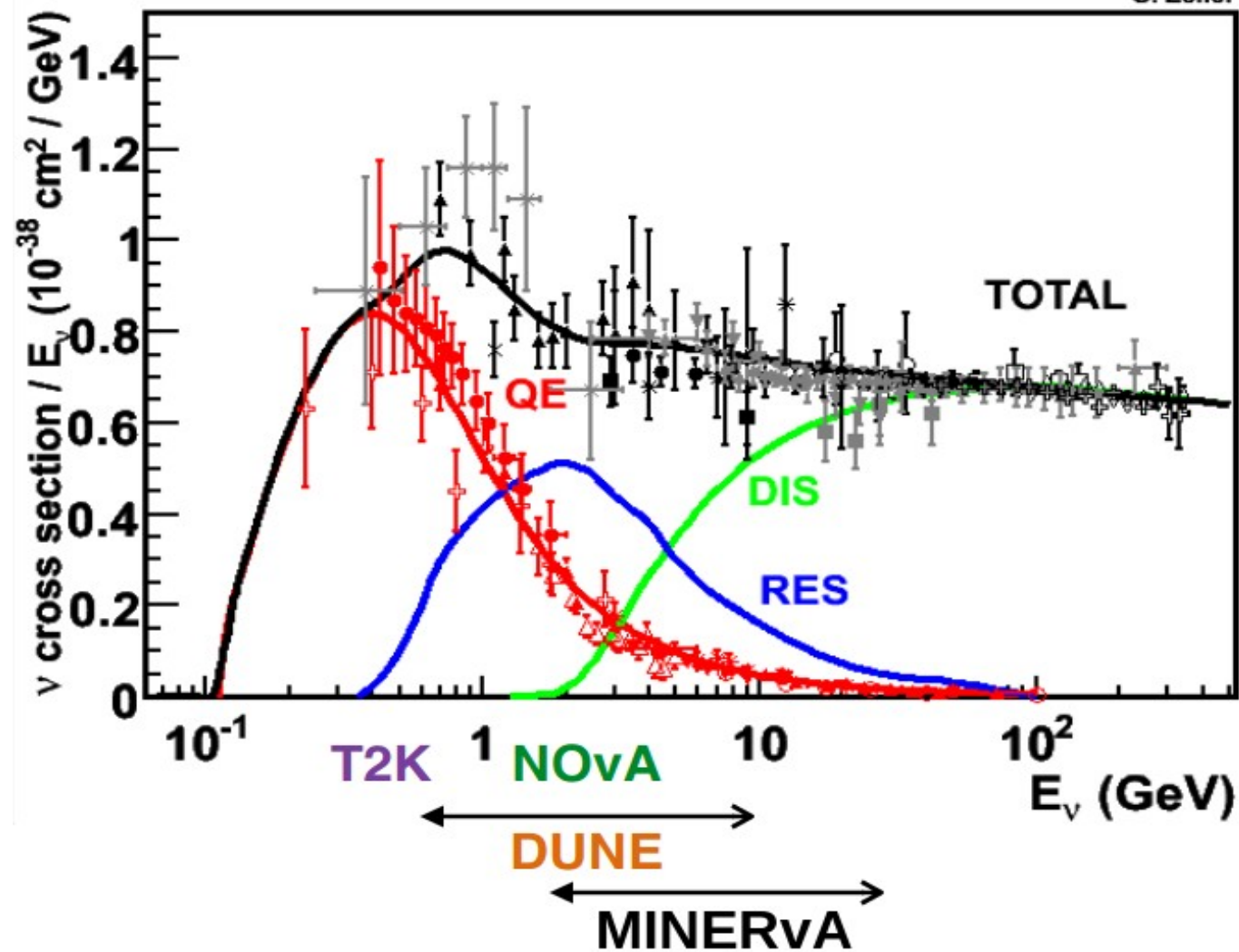
**MINERvA**

- 1 Neutrino Interactions (Briefly)
- 2 What is Coherent Pion Production?
- 3 High  $E_\nu$  Measurements
- 4 Low  $E_\nu$  Measurements
- 5 A-Dependence of Coherent Pion Production
- 6 Results
- 7 Summary

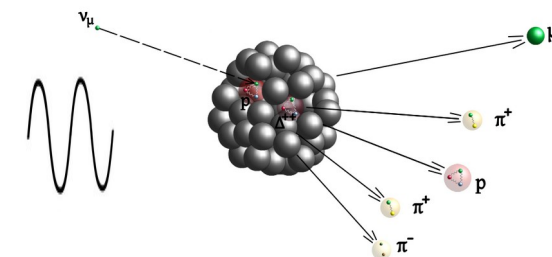
# 1 – Neutrino Interactions (Briefly)

## Types of Neutrino Interactions

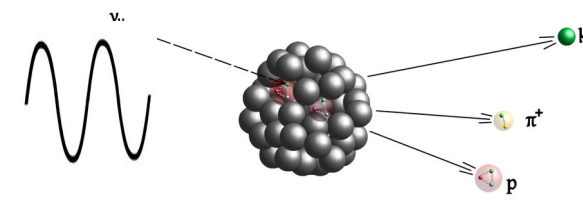
G. Zeller



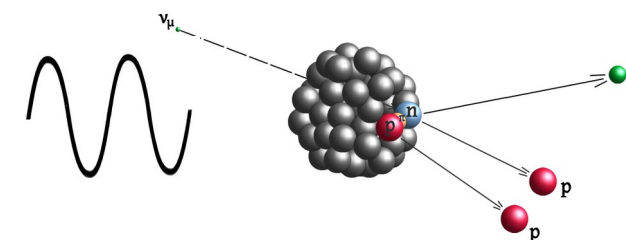
J.A. Formaggio, G. Zeller, Reviews of Modern Physics, 84 (2012)



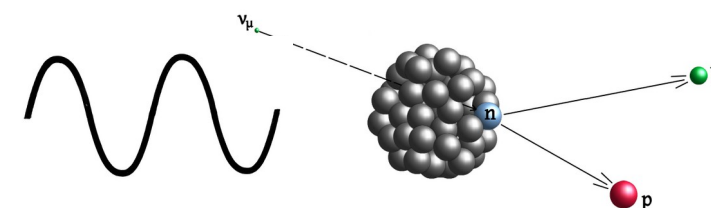
Deep Inelastic Scattering



Resonant Pion Production

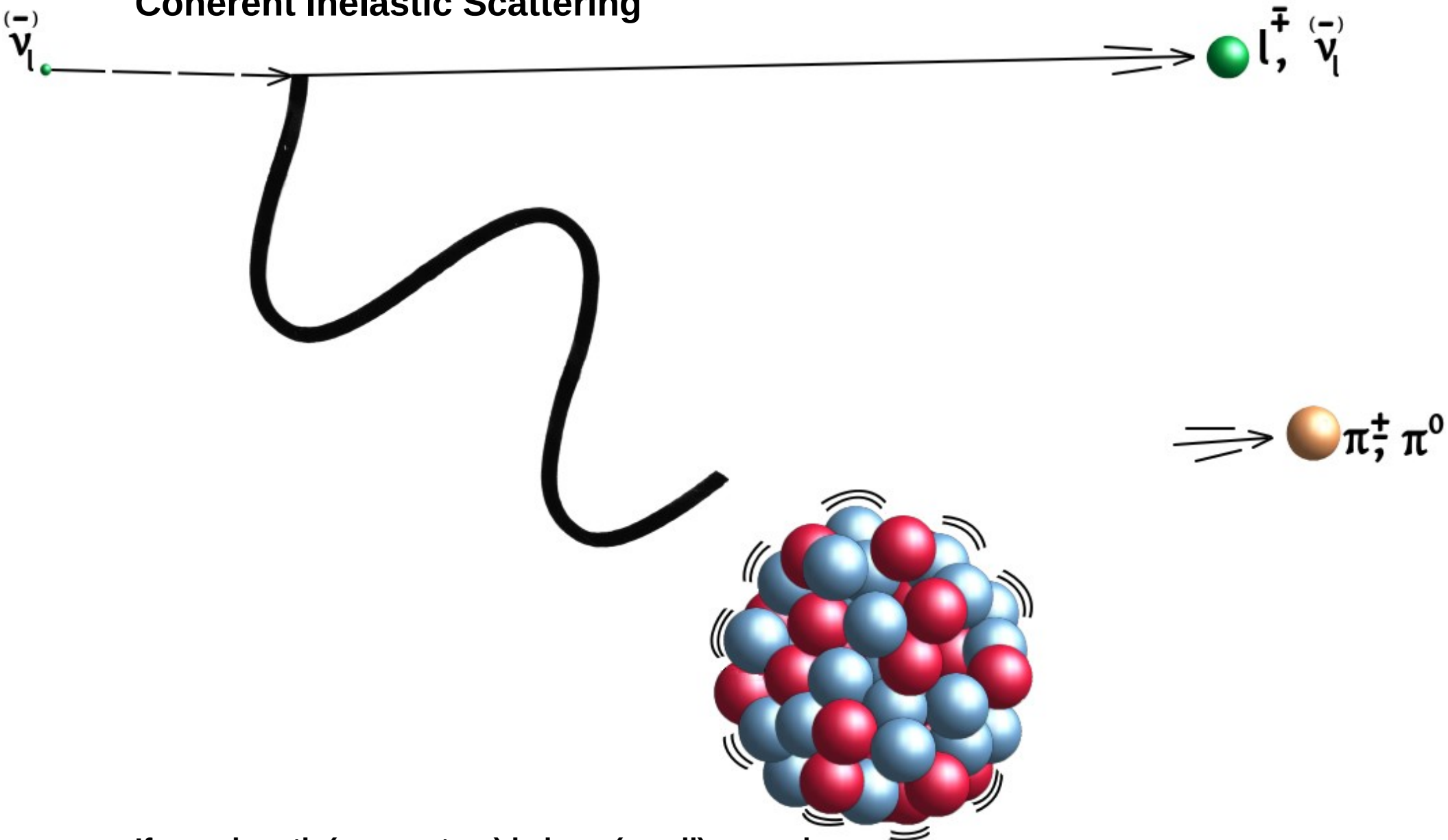


2p2h Scattering



Quasielastic Scattering

## Coherent Inelastic Scattering



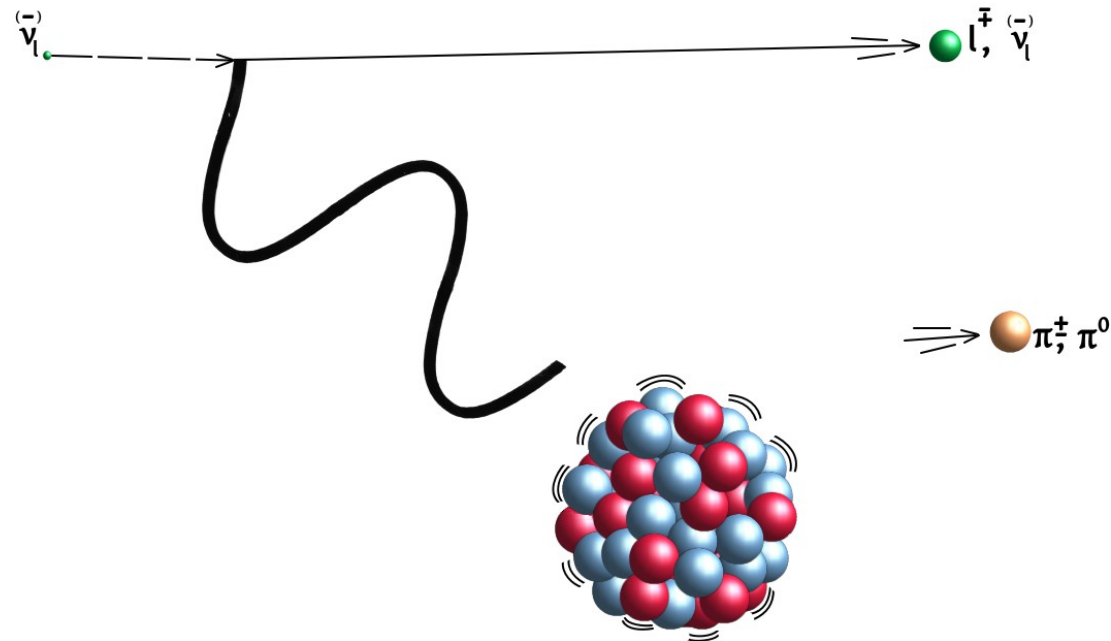
If wavelength (momentum) is long (small) enough...



# 2 - What Is Coherent Pion Production?

## Features

- All nucleons react in phase (coherently).
- Nucleus left in its initial state (no breakup).
- Nucleus recoils undetected,  $O(\sim \text{keV})$ .
- Forward lepton and forward pion created.
- Pion scatters coherently off the nucleus.
- Occurs in both **charged (CC)** and **neutral (NC)** channels.
- It can be induced by a neutrino or anti neutrino of any flavor.



## Features

- Coherence depends on the magnitude of the four-momentum transfer to the nucleus,  $|\mathbf{t}|$

$$|t| = \left| (p_\nu - p_l - p_\pi)^2 \right|$$

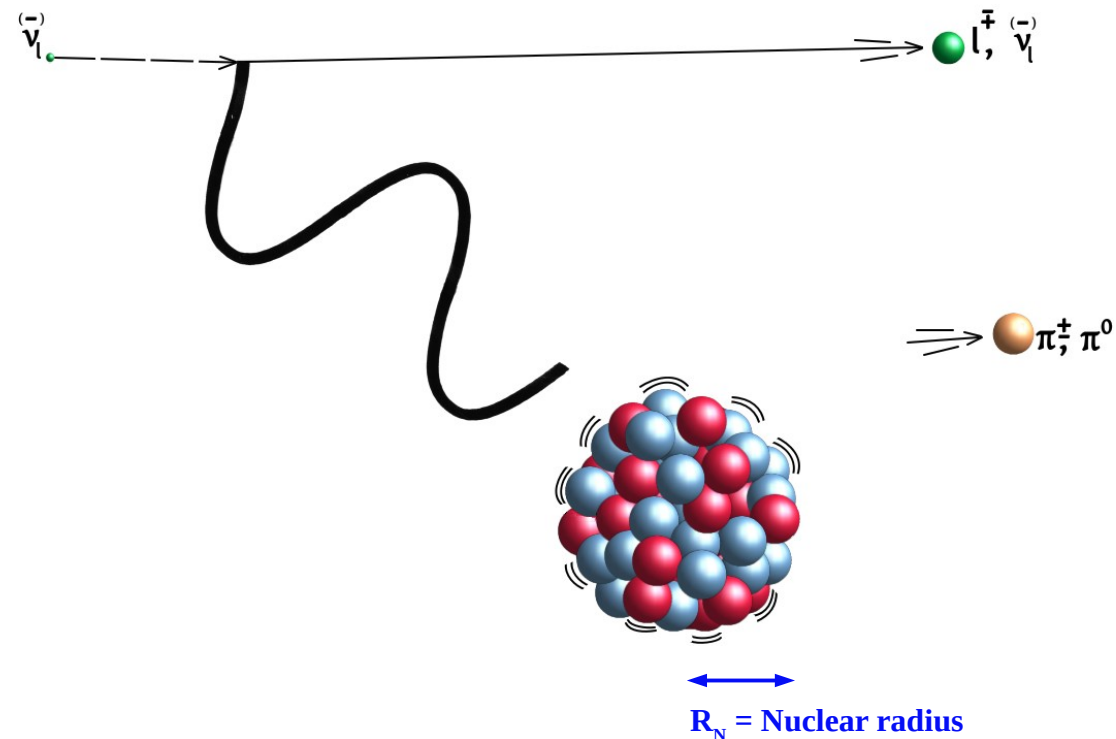
- There is a threshold  $|\mathbf{t}_{min}|$

$$|t_{min}| \simeq \left( \frac{Q^2 + m_\pi^2}{2E_\pi} \right)^2$$

- and a maximum  $|\mathbf{t}_{max}|$

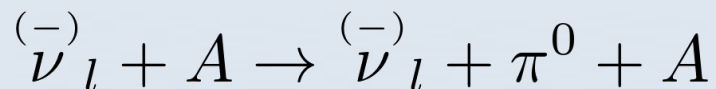
$$|t_{max}| \simeq 1/R_N^2$$

within which the interaction takes place.



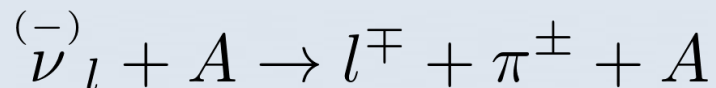
## Topologies

### NC Channel

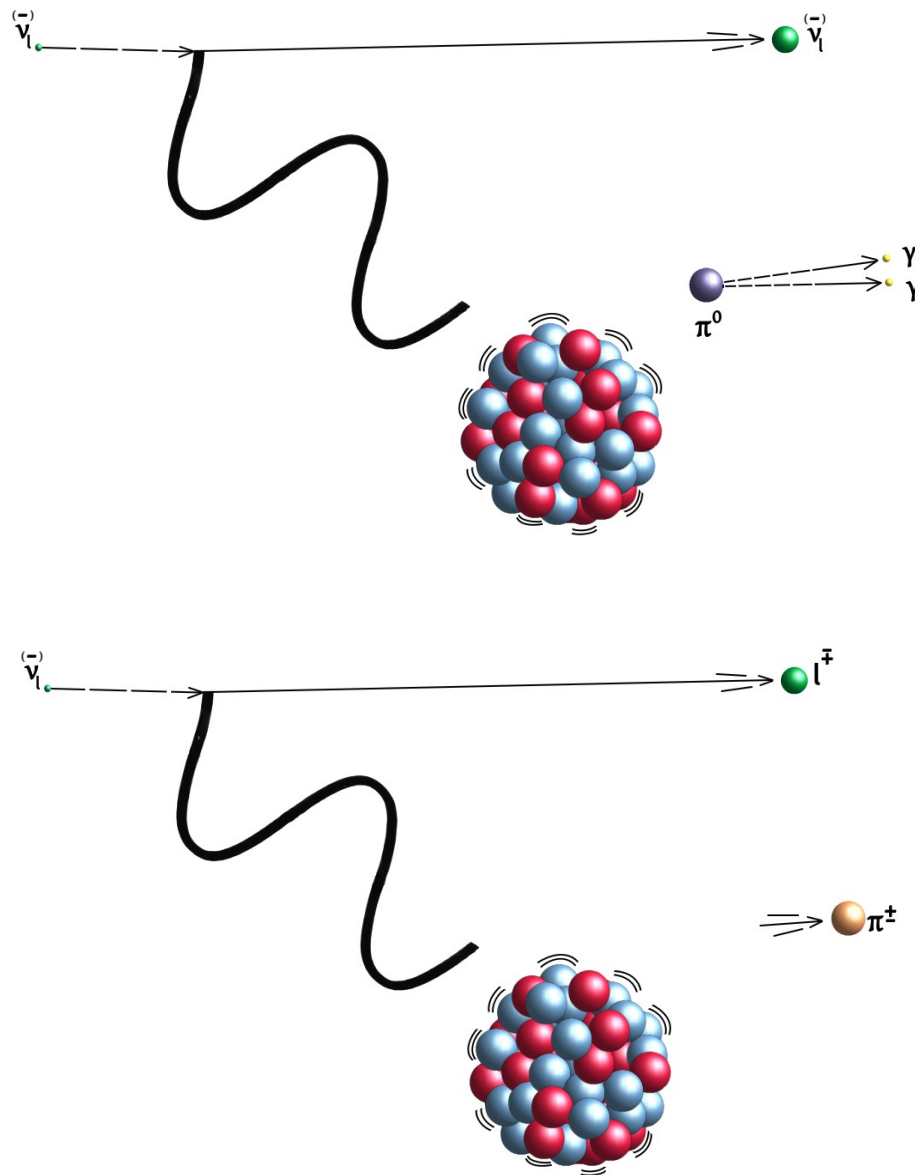


- Two forward gammas from the prompt decay of the neutral pi.

### CC Channel



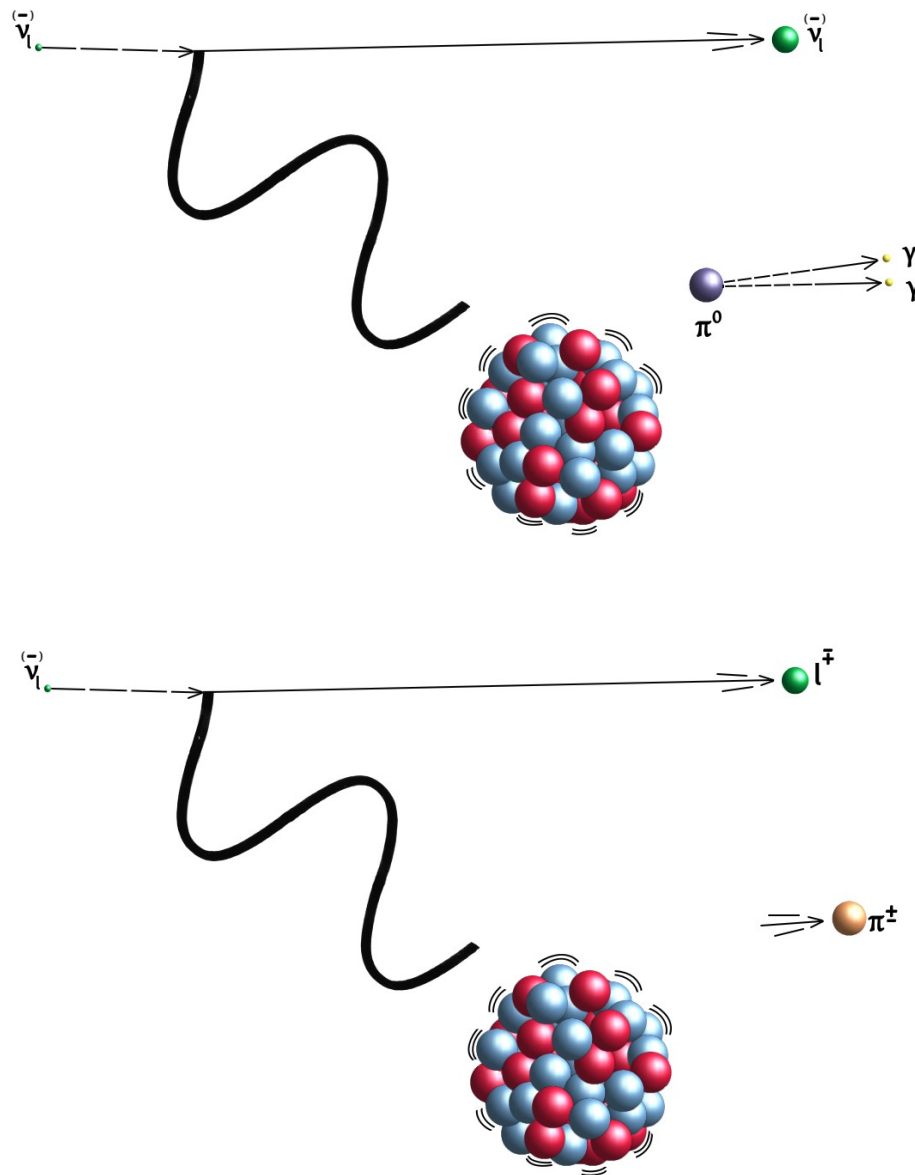
- A forward charged lepton and a forward charged pi from the interaction vertex.



## Phenomenology

Underlying details of the interaction **not truly understood.**

- **Partially Conserved Axial Current (PCAC) hypothesis:**  
A neutrino exchanges a  $W$  or  $Z$  boson in the presence of a nucleus. The boson then fluctuates to a  $\pi$  meson.
- **Microscopic Interpretation:**  
Coherent addition of all neutrino-nucleon interactions in the nucleus.  
 $\Delta$  resonance production is the main process contributing to the final state.



## The Rein-Sehgal Model

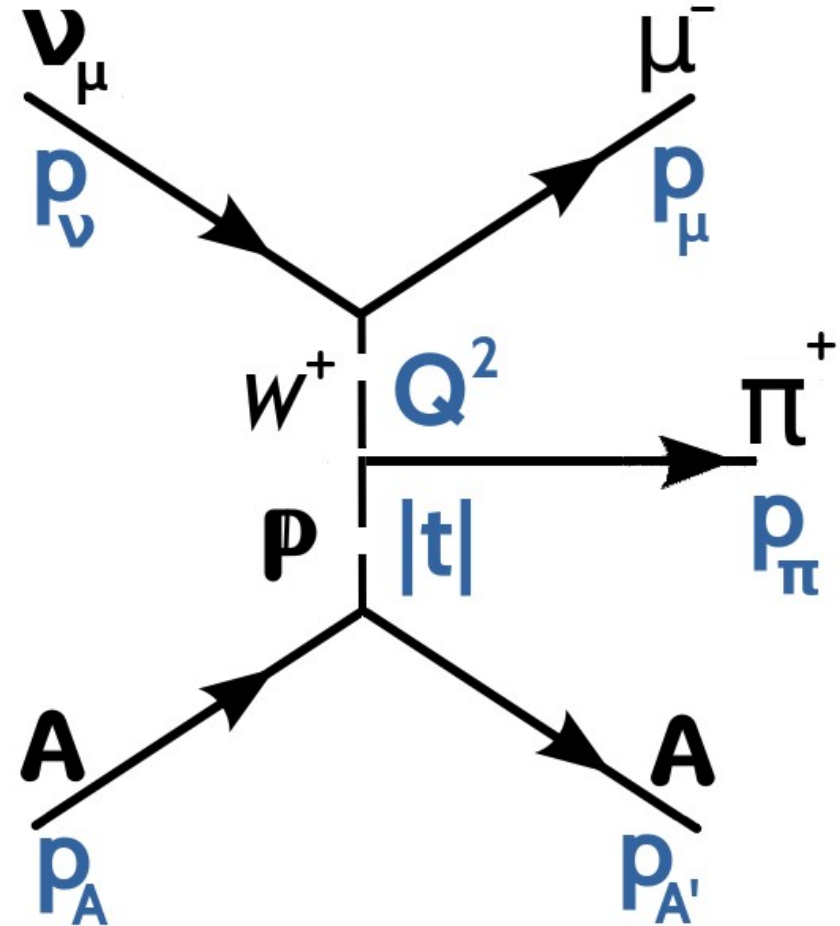
- Uses **Adler's theorem** to relate the inelastic process

$$\nu + A \rightarrow l + \pi + A$$

to the elastic process

$$\pi + A \rightarrow \pi + A$$

- It assumes the incoming neutrino and the outgoing lepton are parallel (**when  $Q^2 = 0$** ), and neglects the lepton mass.



## The Rein-Sehgal Model

- It extrapolates the CC cross section

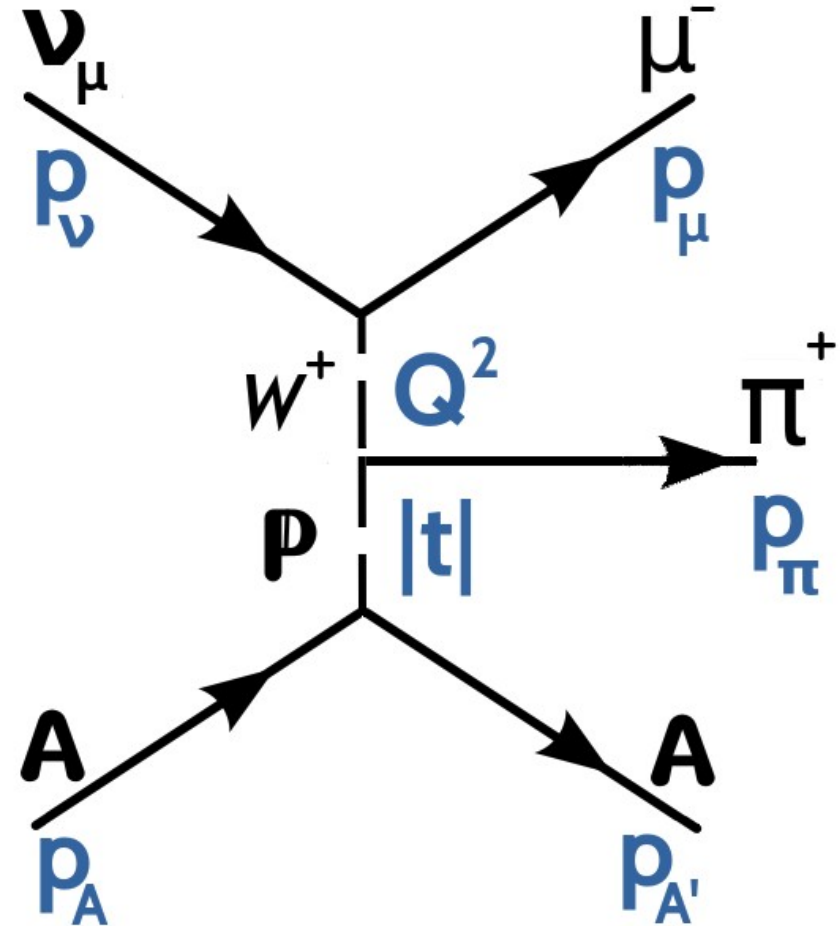
$$\left. \frac{d^3 \sigma_{coh}^{CC}}{dQ^2 dy d|t|} \right|_{Q^2=0} = \frac{G_F^2 f_\pi^2}{2\pi^2} \frac{1-y}{y} \frac{d\sigma^{\pi^\pm A}}{d|t|}$$

to  $Q^2 > 0$

- Using a form factor

$$\left[ m_A^2 / (m_A^2 + Q^2) \right]^2$$

- Pion-nucleus scattering is modeled using pion-nucleon data.





## Other Models

### Berger-Sehgal (B-S) [Phys.Rev. D79, 053003 (2009)]

- It uses  $\pi$ -carbon data for the  $\pi+A \rightarrow \pi+A$  scattering.
- Includes lepton mass

### Belkov-Kopeliovich (B-K) [Sov.J.Nucl.Phys. 46 (1987) 499]

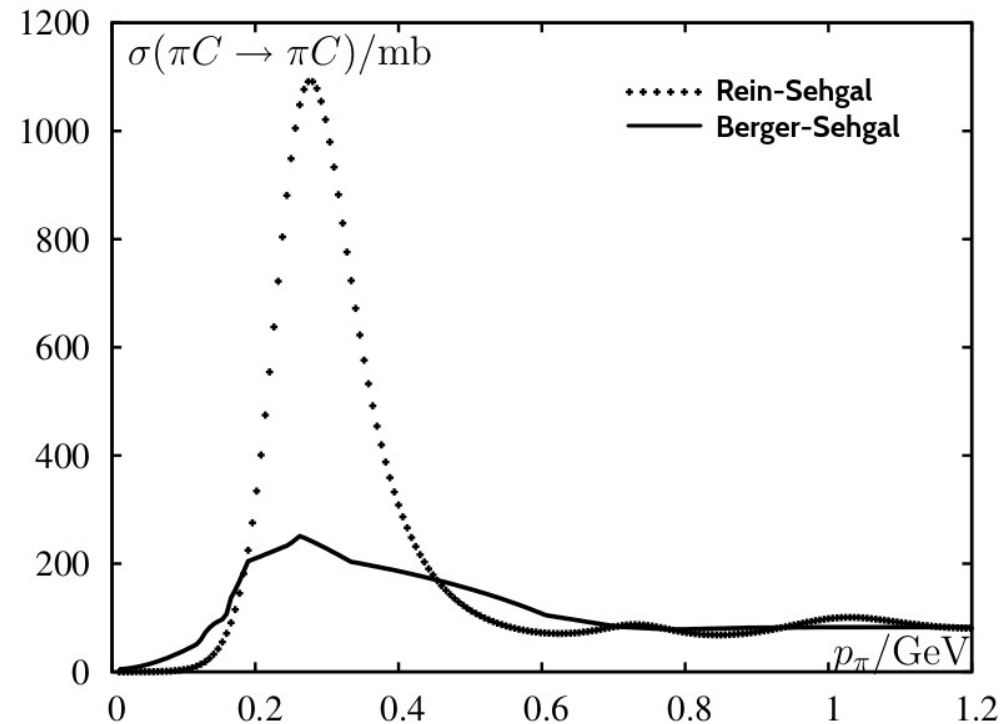
- Predicts energy-dependent A-scaling of the cross section.

### Paschos-Schalla (P-S) [Phys.Rev. D80, 033005 (2009)]

- Focuses on  $Q^2 < 0.1 \text{ GeV}^2$  region, also including the lepton mass.

### Microscopic Models (M-M) [Phys.Rev. C75, 055501 (2007)]

- $\pi$  production obtained through baryon  $\Delta$  resonances.
- Valid for  $E_\nu < 2 \text{ GeV}$ .



Elastic pion-Carbon cross section.  
Berger-Sehgal vs Rein-Sehgal predictions

# 3 – High $E_\nu$ Measurements

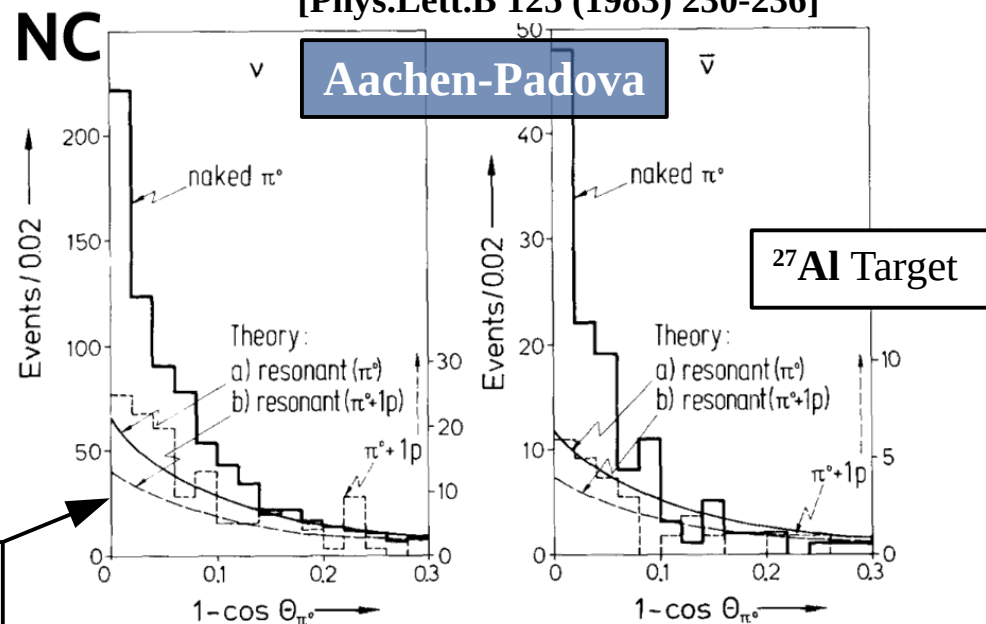
## Purpose

- Meant to test **PCAC** hypothesis. Focused on understanding the nature of the weak currents.
- Mostly compared against the Rein-Sehgal and Belkov-Kopeliovich models

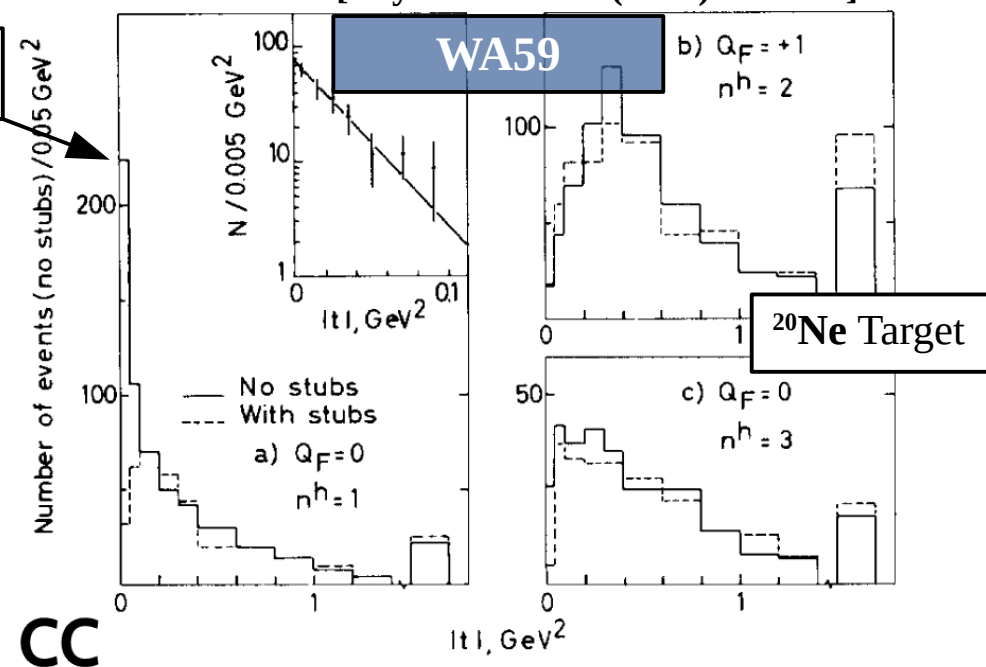
First NC Measurement

First CC Measurement

[Phys.Lett.B 125 (1983) 230-236]



[Phys.Lett.B 140 (1984) 137-141]



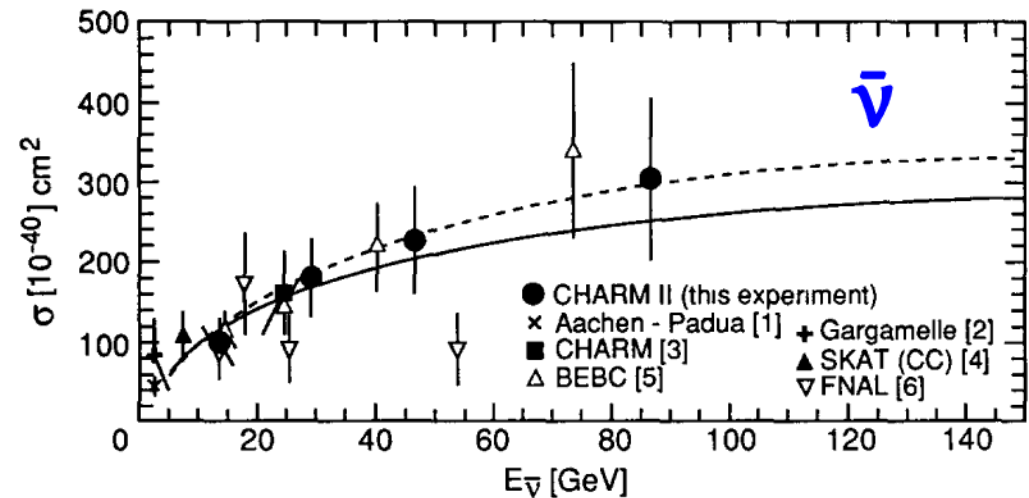
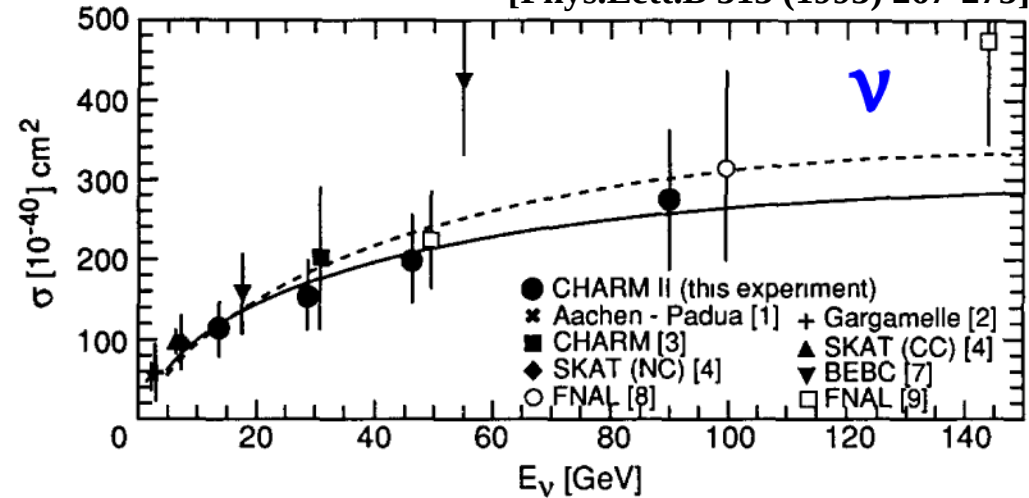
## NC Measurements

- $E_\nu$  range:  $\sim 2$  to  $\sim 300$  GeV
- $A$  (nuclear mass) range:  $^{12}\text{C}$  to  $^{80}\text{Br}$
- $\nu$  modes:  $\nu_\mu$  and  $\bar{\nu}_\mu$
- Signature of coherence:  $1 - \cos \theta_\pi$

## CC Measurements

- $E_\nu$  range:  $\sim 5$  to  $\sim 300$  GeV
- $A$  (nuclear mass) range:  $^{12}\text{C}$  to  $^{80}\text{Br}$
- $\nu$  modes:  $\nu_\mu$  and  $\bar{\nu}_\mu$
- Signature of coherence:  $|t|$

[Phys.Lett.B 313 (1993) 267-275]



### CC and NC Interactions:

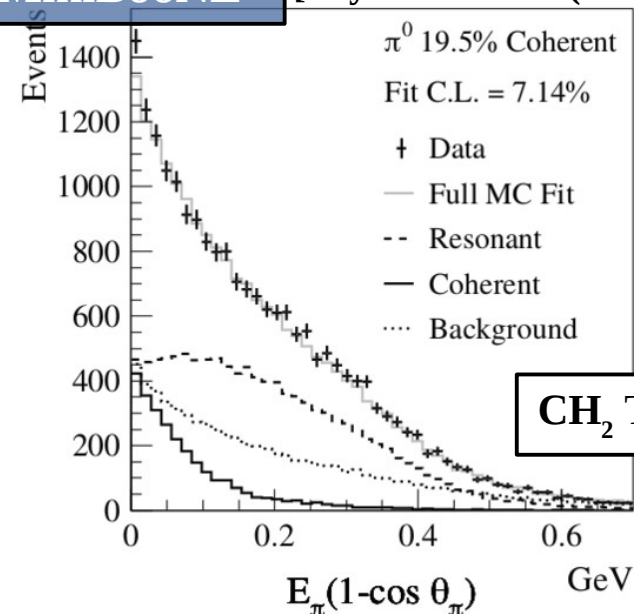
- Observed across different materials.
- In a wide range of neutrino energies.
- In both neutrino and anti-neutrino modes.

## Purpose

- Characterize it as **background for  $\nu$ -oscillations**.
- **NC channel** can **mimic** the signal of  $\nu_e$  **appearance** if one the photons goes undetected.
- **CC channel** can **mimic** the signal of  $\nu_\mu$  **disappearance** if the  $\pi^+$  is misidentified as a proton, or if the  $\pi^-$  is not detected.
- Proof of existence at  $E_\nu < 2$  GeV (NC).
- Proof of existence at  $E_\nu < 5$  GeV (CC).
- Most used model was also the one by Rein-Sehgal.

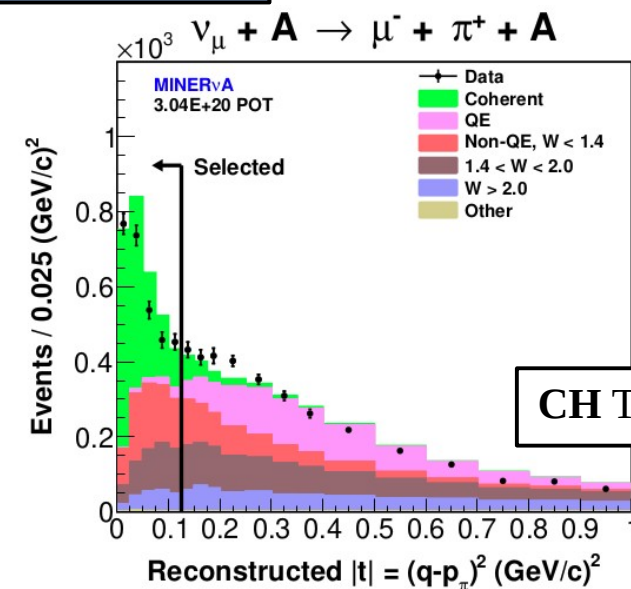
### MiniBooNE

[Phys.Lett.B 664 (2008) 41-46]



### MINERvA

[Phys.Rev.Lett. 113 (2014) 26]



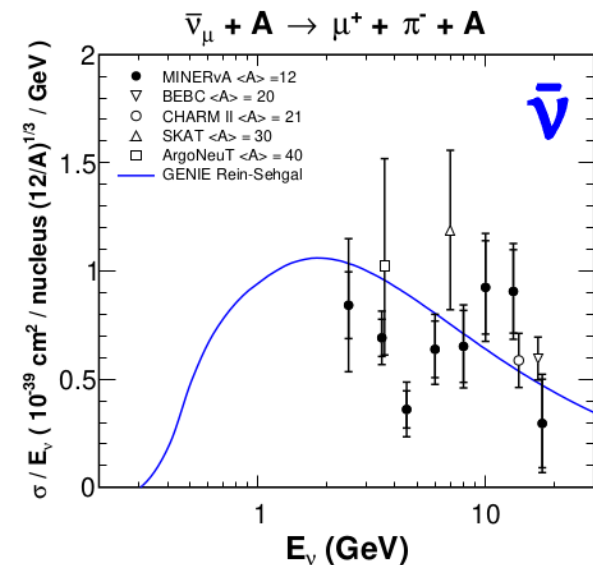
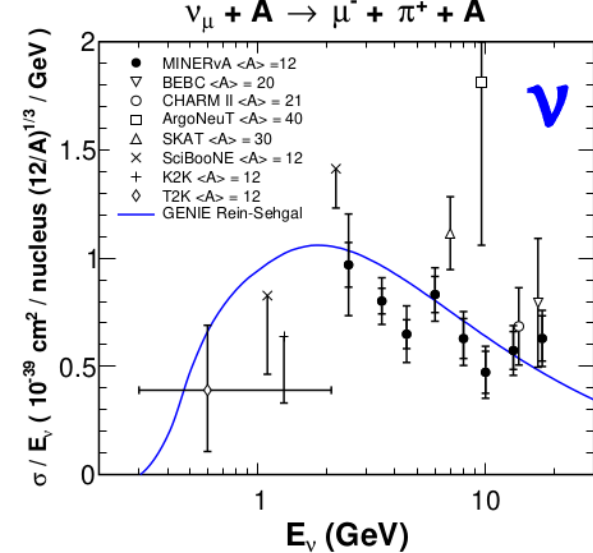
## NC Measurements

- $E_\nu$  range:  $\sim 2$  to  $\sim 300$  GeV
- $A$  (nuclear mass) range:  $^{12}\text{C}$  **only**.
- $\nu$  modes:  $\nu_\mu$  only
- Signature of coherence:  $1 - \cos \theta_\pi$

## CC Measurements

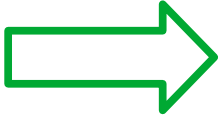
- $E_\nu$  range:  $\sim 1$  to  $9.6$  GeV
- $A$  range (nuclear mass) :  $^{12}\text{C}$  to  $^{40}\text{Ar}$
- $\nu$  modes:  $\nu_\mu$  and  $\bar{\nu}_\mu$
- Signature of coherence:  $|t|$

[Phys.Rev.D 97 (2018) 3, 032014]



### CC and NC Interactions:

- Observed across different materials.
- In a moderate range of neutrino energies.
- Anti-neutrino mode missing for NC channel.

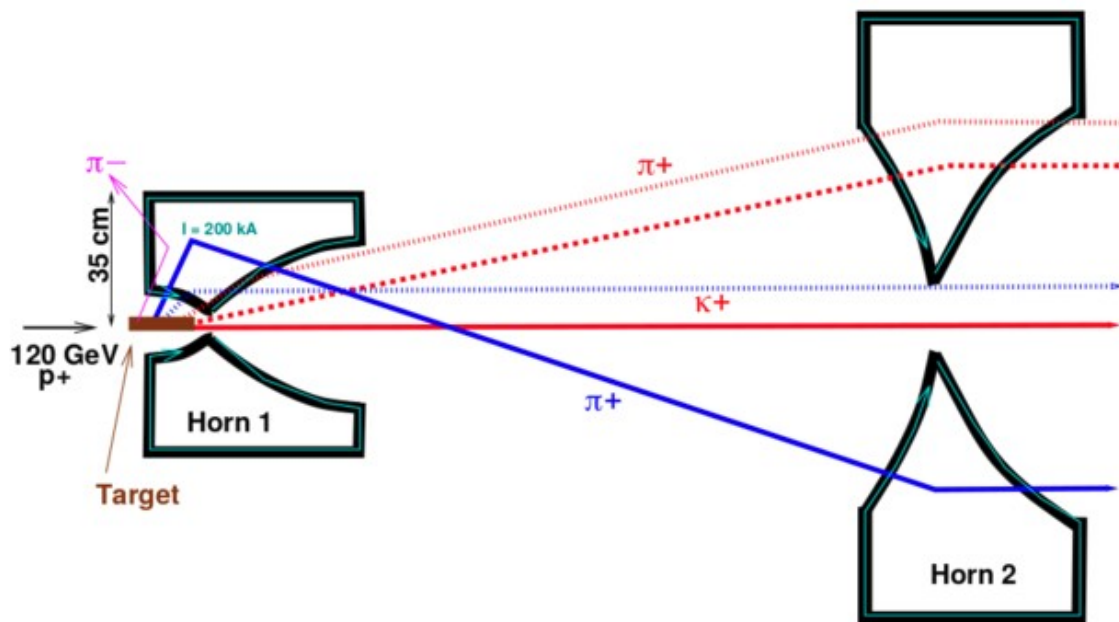
What Else?  A-Scaling Measurements!

- So far, **NO** measurements for **nuclei beyond  $A = 80$** . **A**-scaling of the cross section requires measurements in nuclei of very different mass.
- Different models predict different scaling of the coherent cross section with regards to the mass number **A**:
  - A set of models, like the **Rein-Sehgal** model, predict an **A**-scaling as  $A^{1/3}$ .
  - Other models, like the **Berger-Sehgal** model, predict a **A**-scaling as  $A^{2/3}$ .
  - The **Belkov-Kopeliovich** model predicts an “energy-dependent” **A**-scaling. Scaling as  $A^{1/3}$  at **low  $E_\nu$**  and as  $A^{2/3}$  at **high  $E_\nu$** .

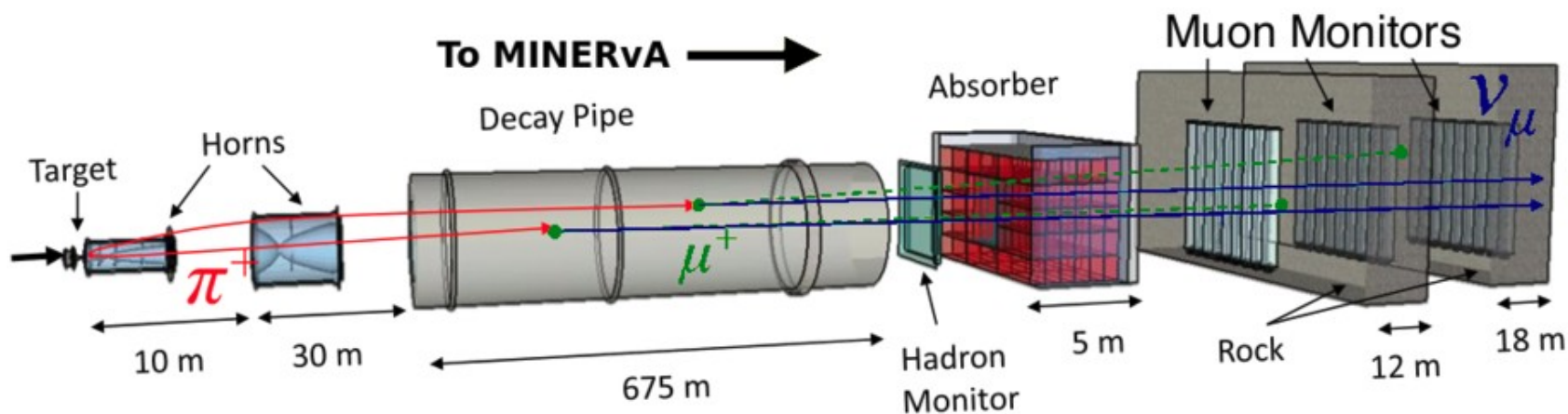


## The NuMI Beam at FNAL

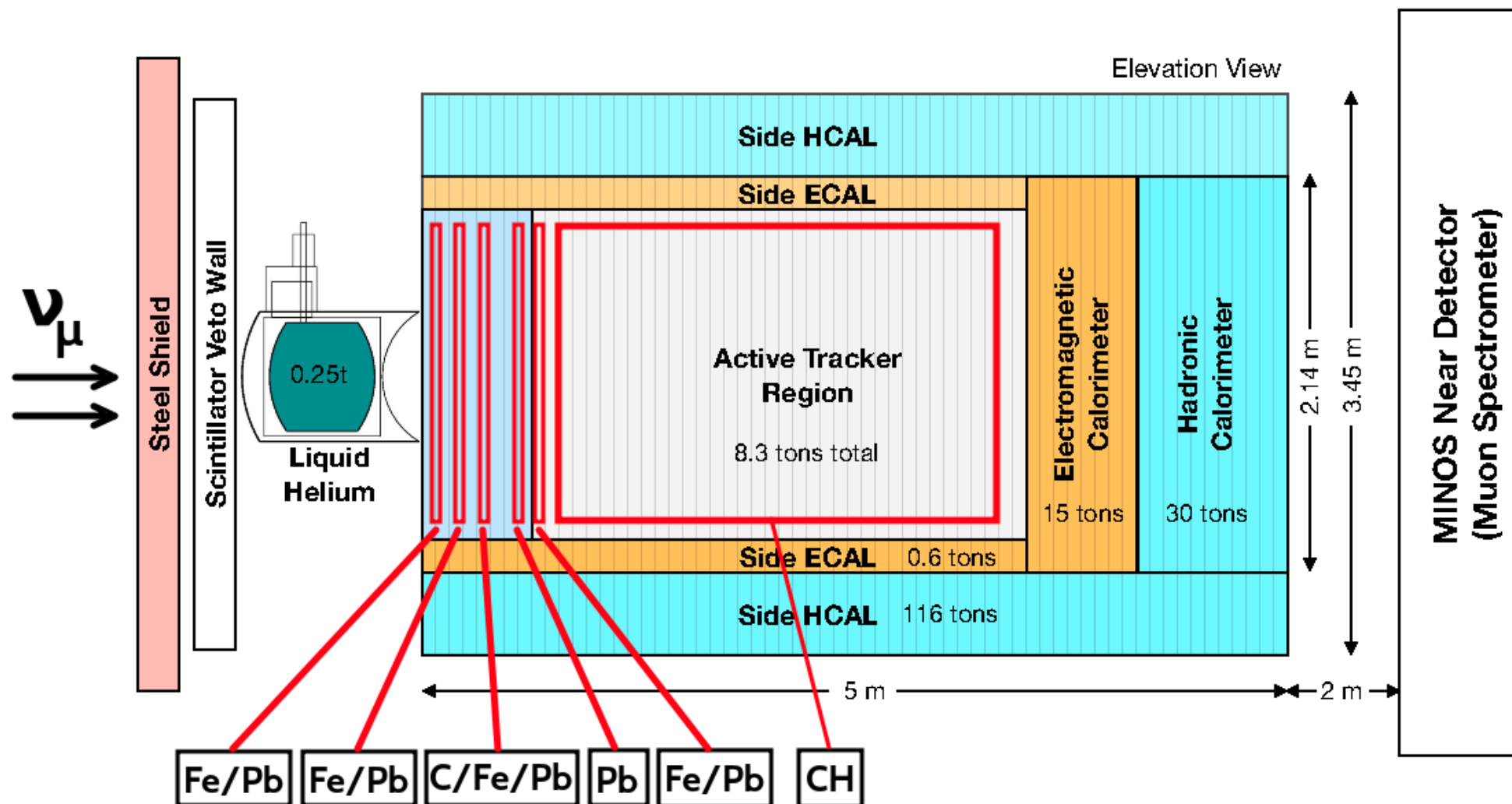
### Horns



### Beamline

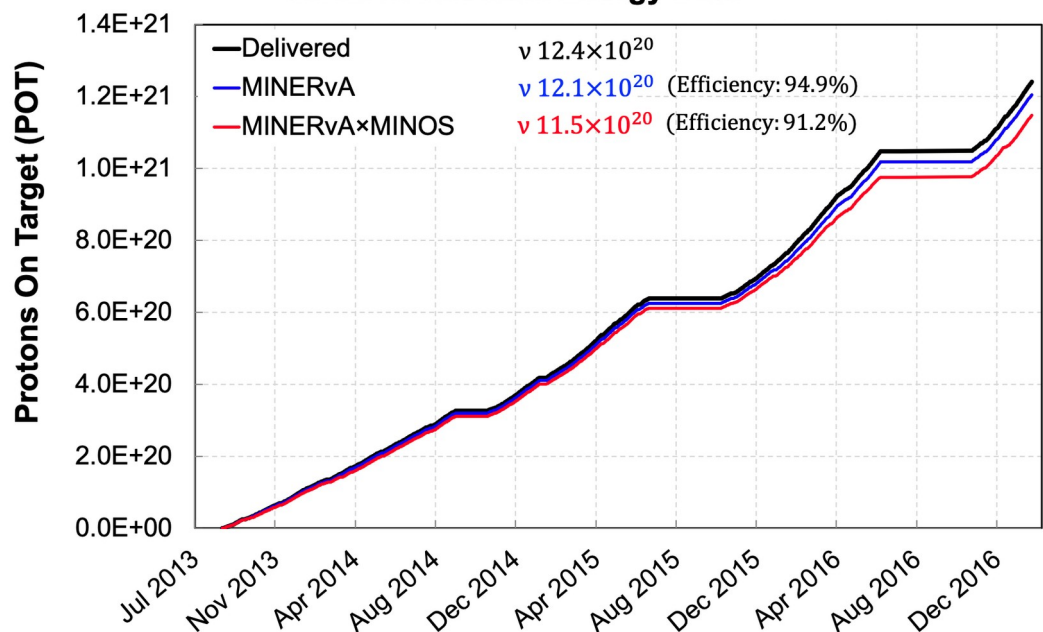


## MINERvA Detector

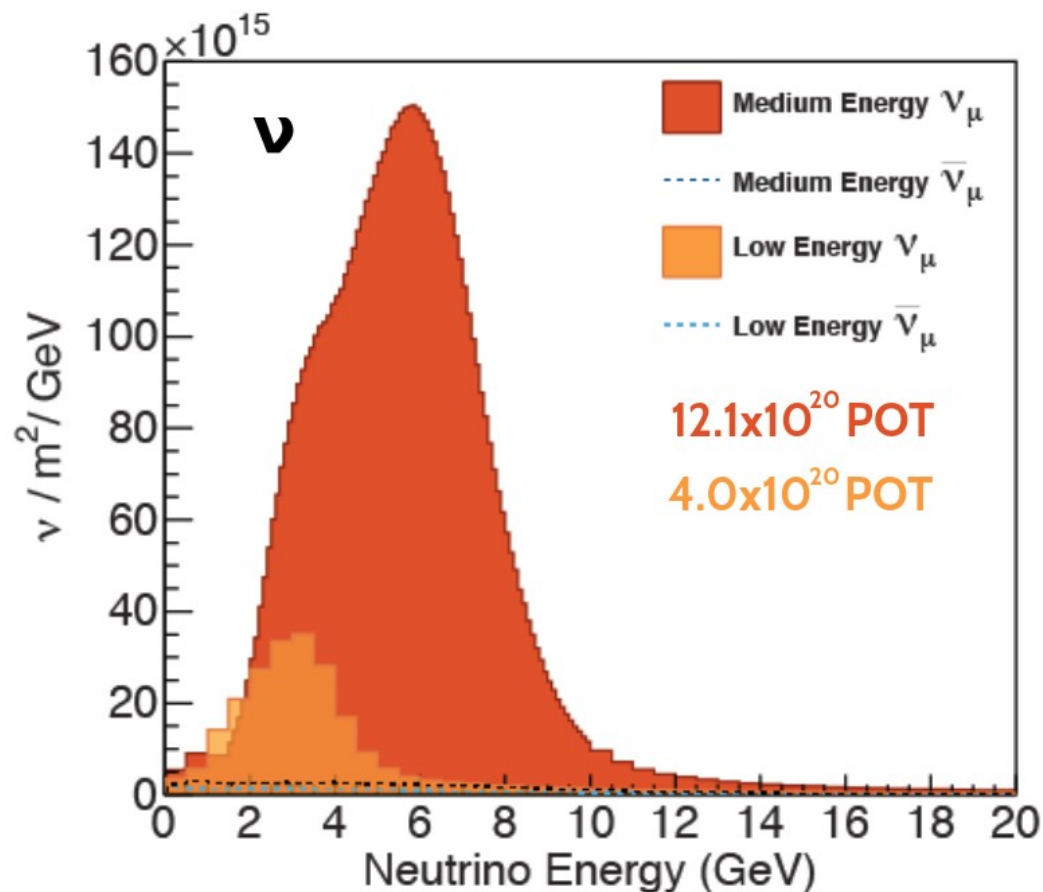


## $\nu_\mu$ Data Set

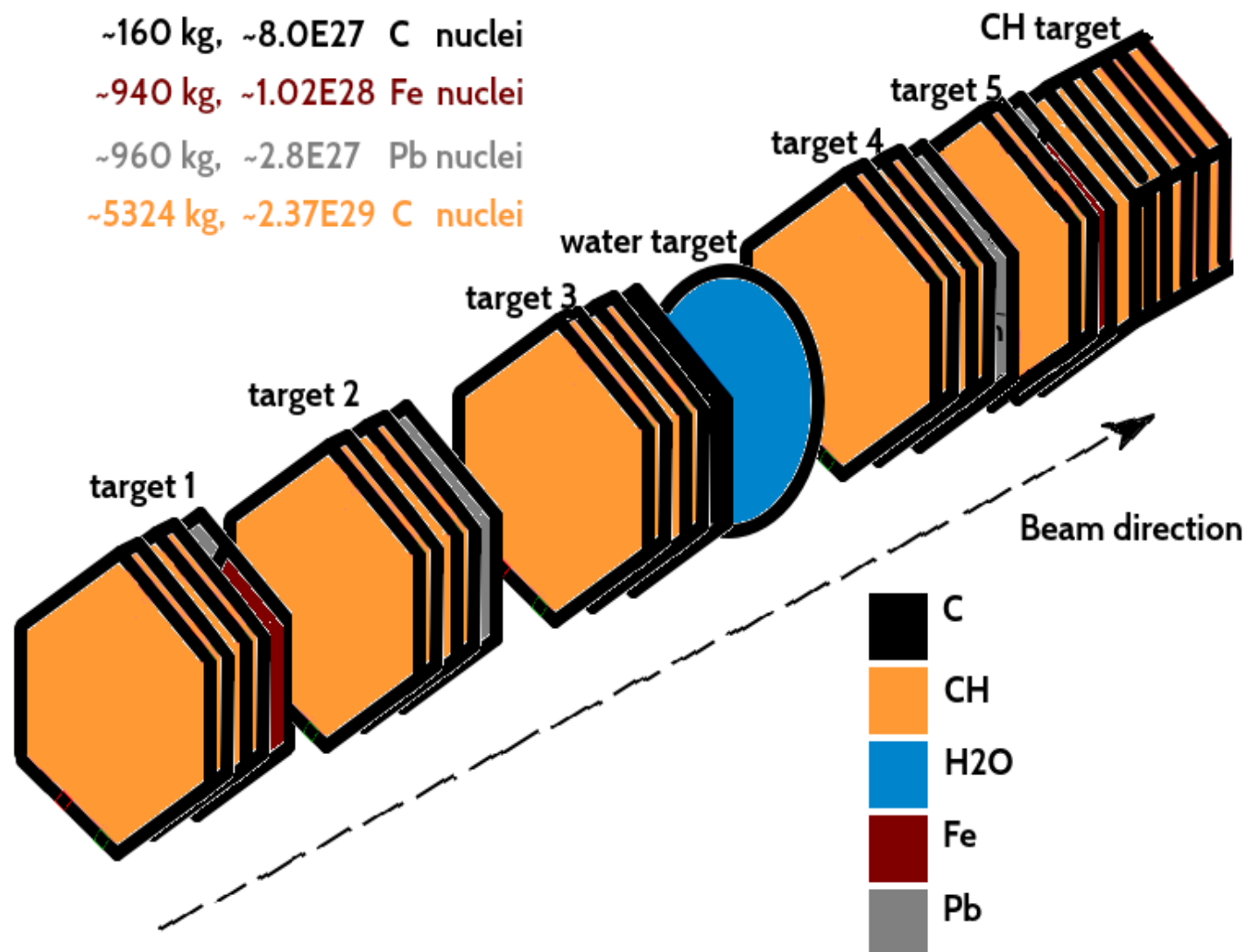
MINERvA Medium Energy Data



Thanks Accelerator Division for All the High Quality Beam!

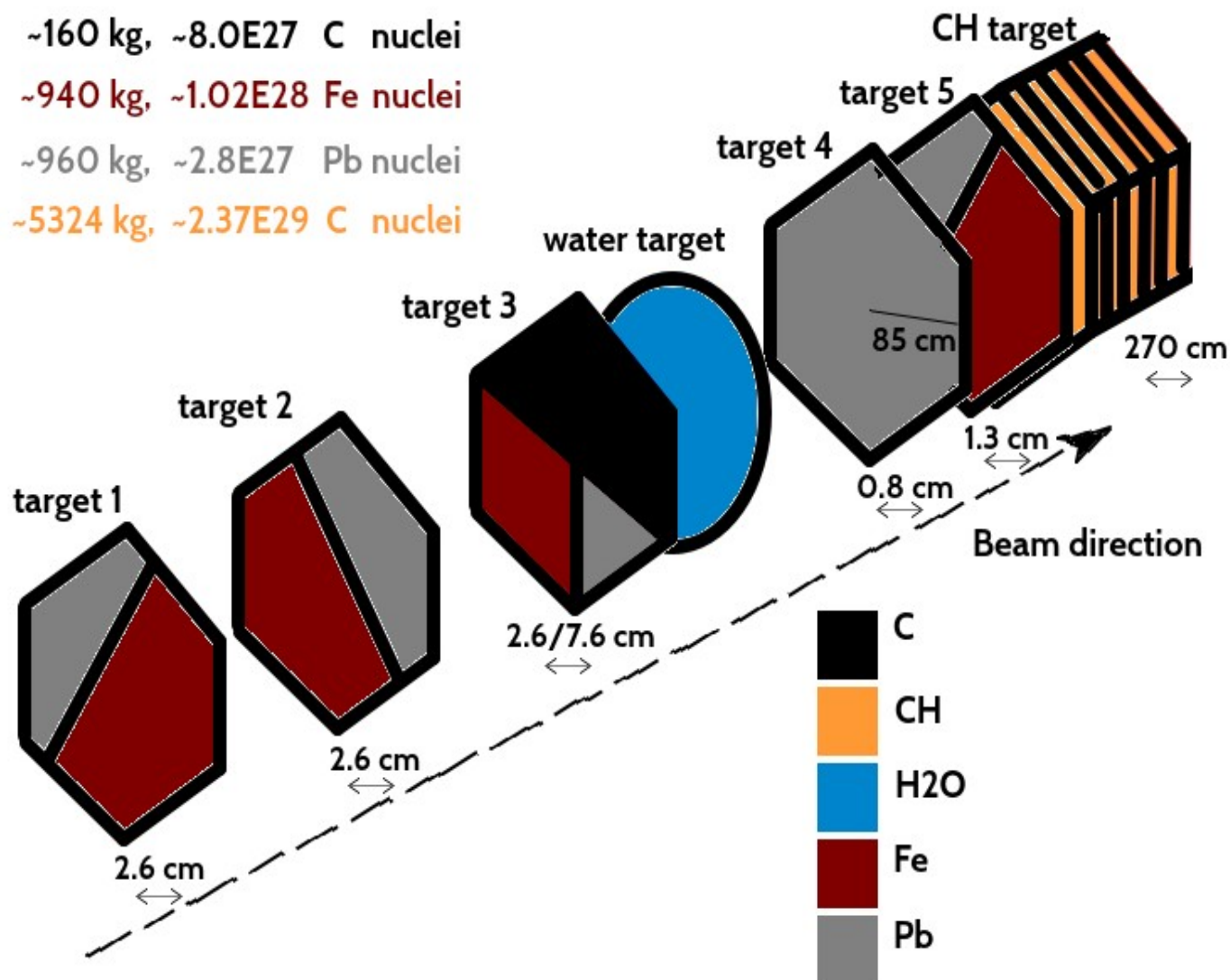


## Passive Target Region



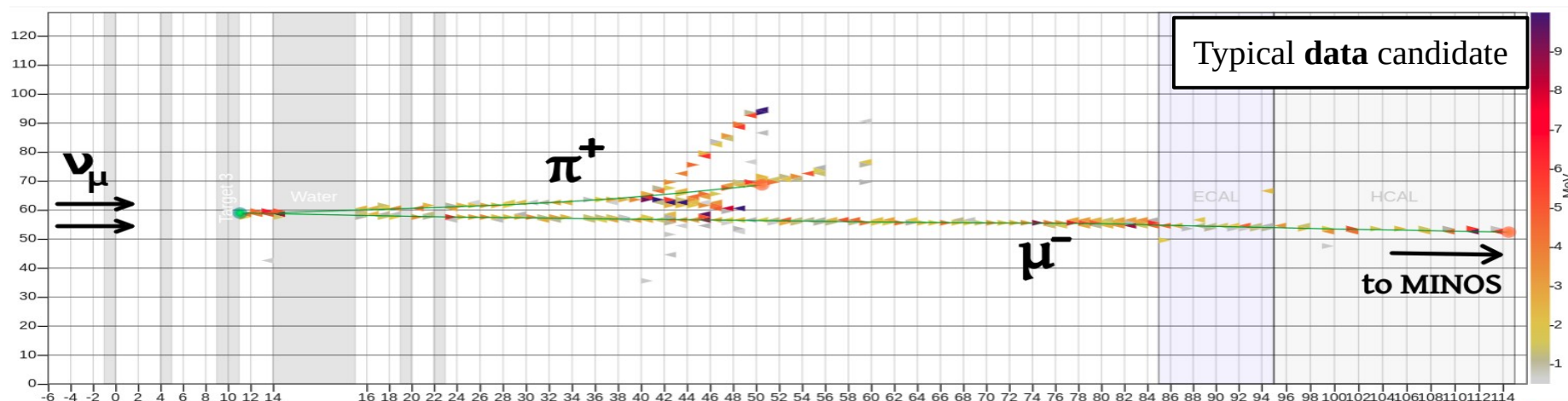
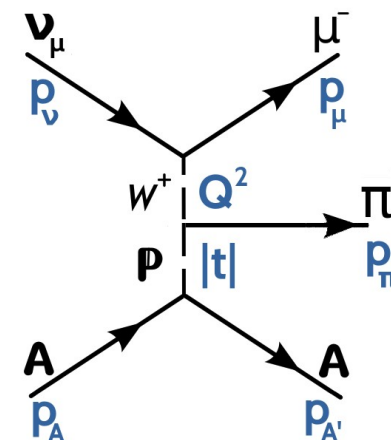
## Passive Target Region – Enabled Due to High Statistics!

- ~160 kg,  $\sim 8.0 \times 10^{27}$  C nuclei
- ~940 kg,  $\sim 1.02 \times 10^{28}$  Fe nuclei
- ~960 kg,  $\sim 2.8 \times 10^{27}$  Pb nuclei
- ~5324 kg,  $\sim 2.37 \times 10^{29}$  C nuclei



## Signal Definition

- $\nu_\mu$ -induced CC coherent  $\pi^+$  events in **C**, **Fe** and **Pb**.
- Multiplicity  $\Rightarrow 2 \rightarrow \mu^-$  and  $\pi^+$  candidate tracks.
- Muon vertex inside the material under study.
- Muon reconstructed inside MINOS detector.
- $2 < E_\nu < 20$  GeV (muons unable to reach MINOS and high flux uncertainty, respectively).
- Coherent interactions in chemical elements other than **C**, **Fe** and **Pb**, but inside the fiducial volume, are considered signal (a correction due to this is applied to the cross section).







## Backgrounds From GENIE + Mnv Tune

In terms of invariant hadron mass  $W = \sqrt{(M^2 + 2M\nu - Q^2)}$

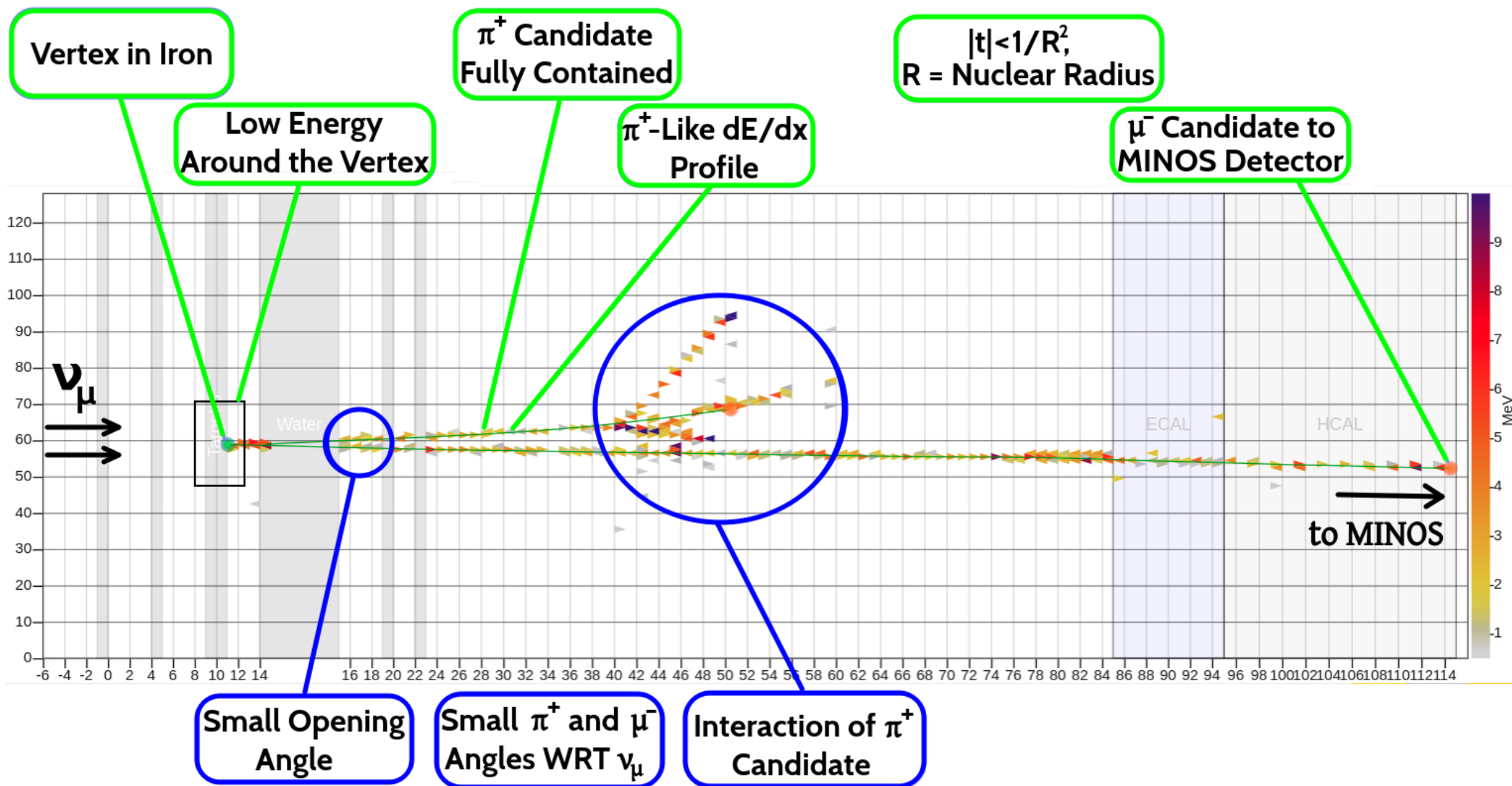
$M$  = nucleon mass,  $\nu$  = energy transfer from the neutrino.

- **Quasielastic Scattering (QE)**
  - Random Phase Approximation (RPA) correction.
  - Z Expansion fit to deuterium data.
- **Scattering off correlated nucleons (2p2h)**
  - Fit to MINERvA data.
- **Resonant pion production (Non-QE,  $W < 1.4$ )**
  - 15% increment from re-analysis of deuterium data.
  - “Ad hoc” correction for  $Q^2 < 0.7$  [GeV/c]<sup>2</sup> due to collective nuclear effects.
- **“Inelastic Scattering” (non-resonant pion production) ( $1.4 < W < 2.0$ )**
  - 43% reduction of the non-resonant pion production, from re-analysis of deuterium data.
- **Deep Inelastic Scattering ( $W > 2.0$ )**
- **Other interactions**
  - $\nu_e$ -induced and NC-induced interactions

# A-Dependence of Coherent Pion Production

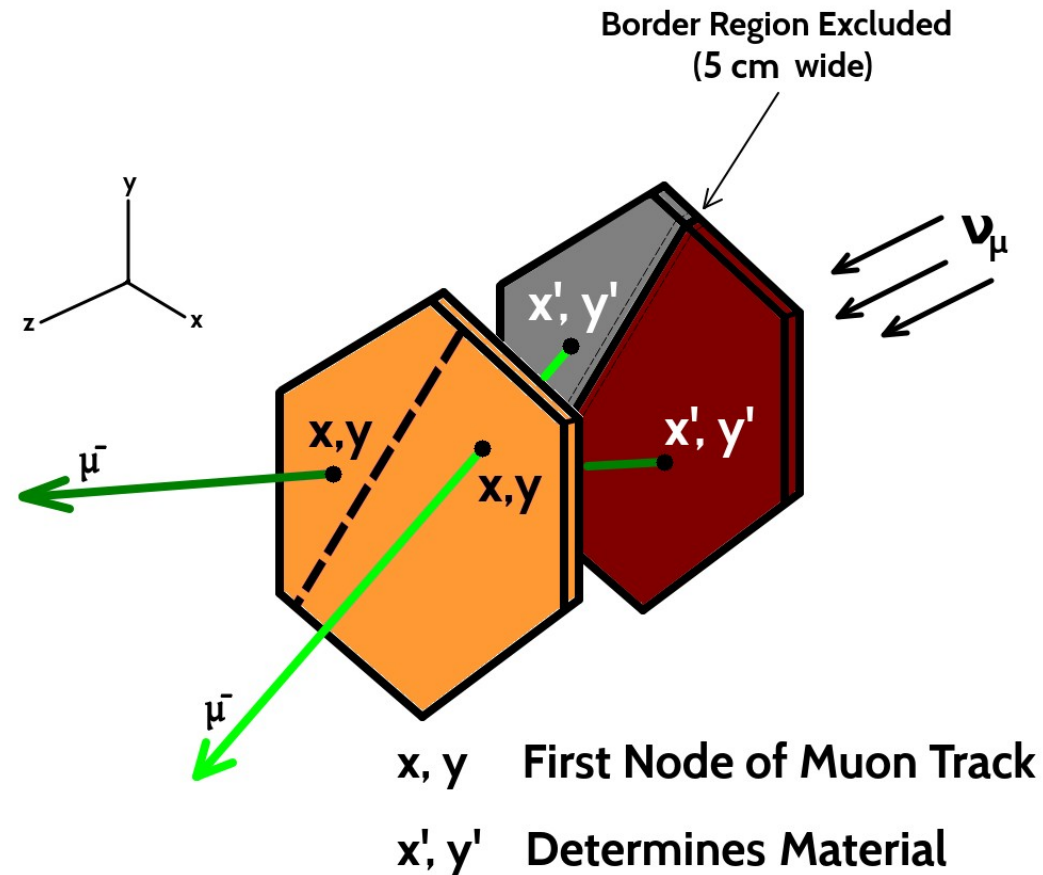
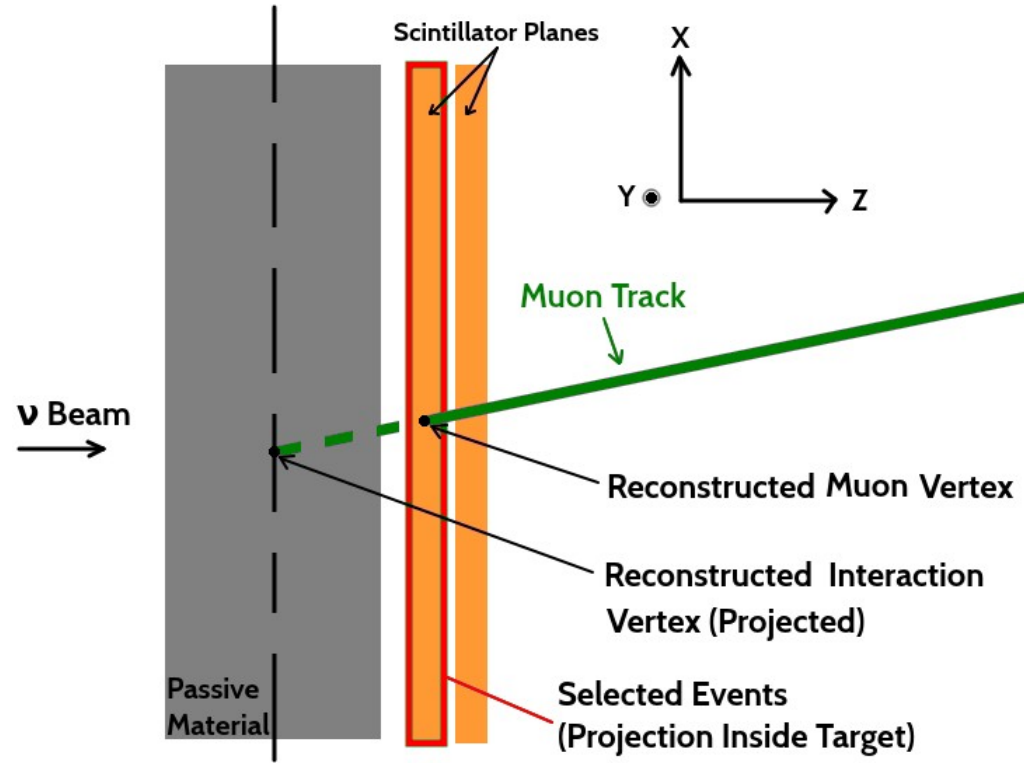
## Event Selection

**CUTS APPLIED**

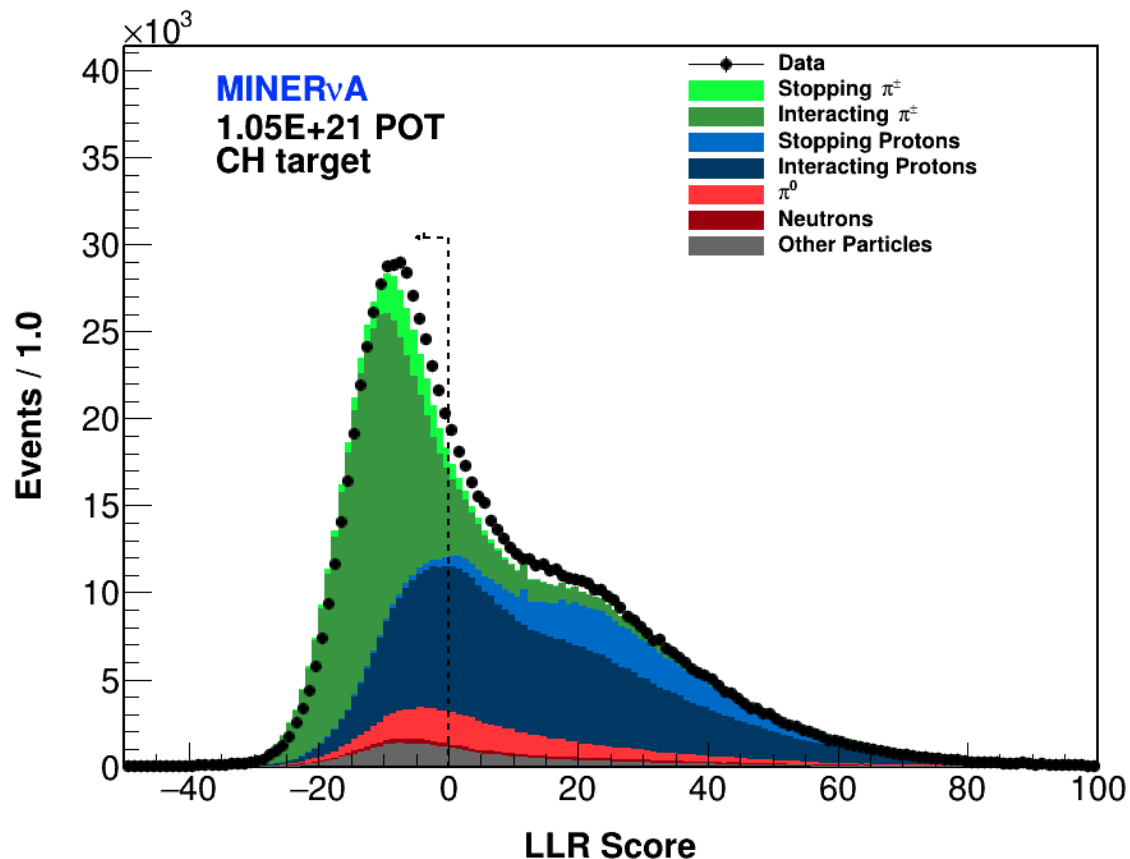
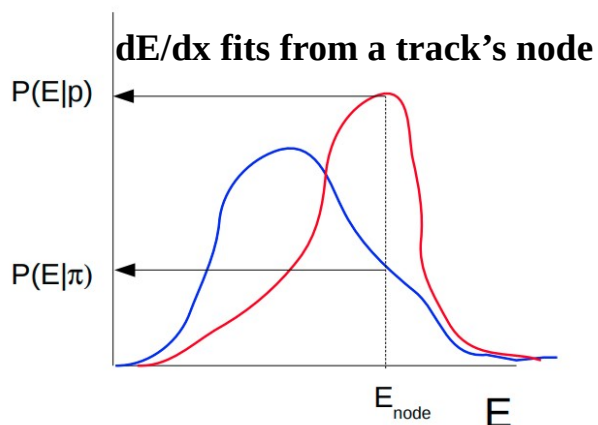
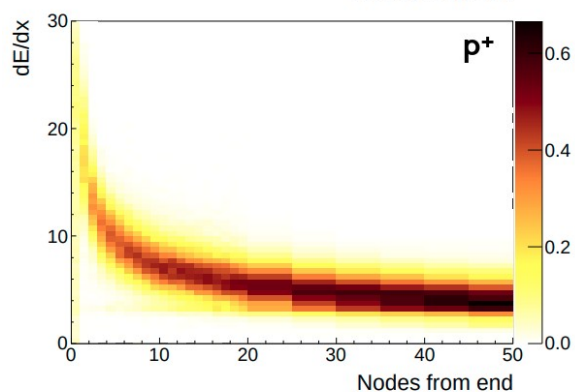
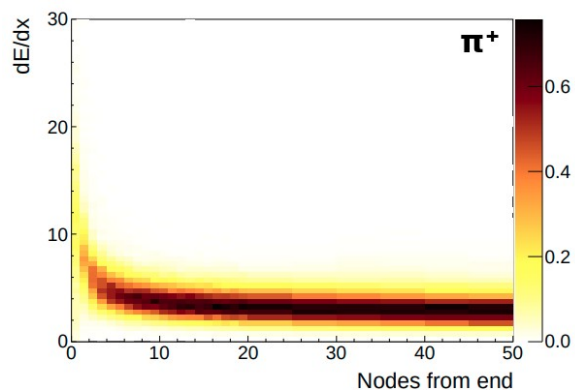


**OBSERVABLES**

## Event Selection – Determining the Material

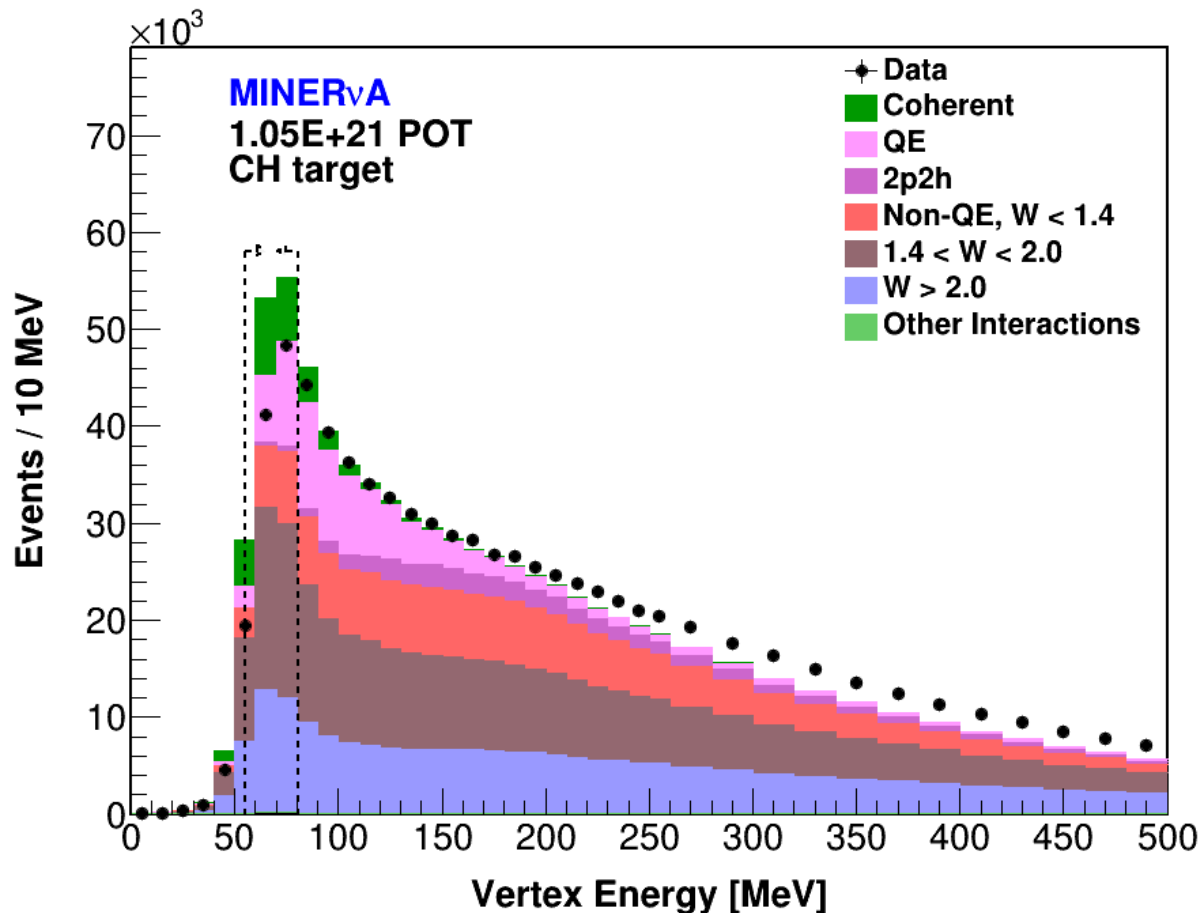
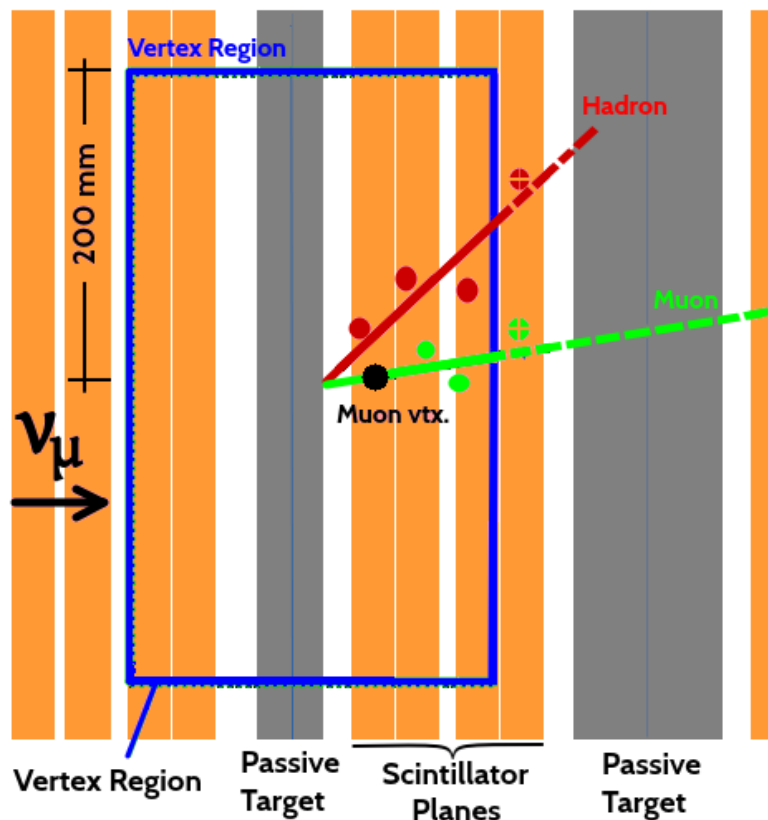


## Event Selection – dE/dx Cut



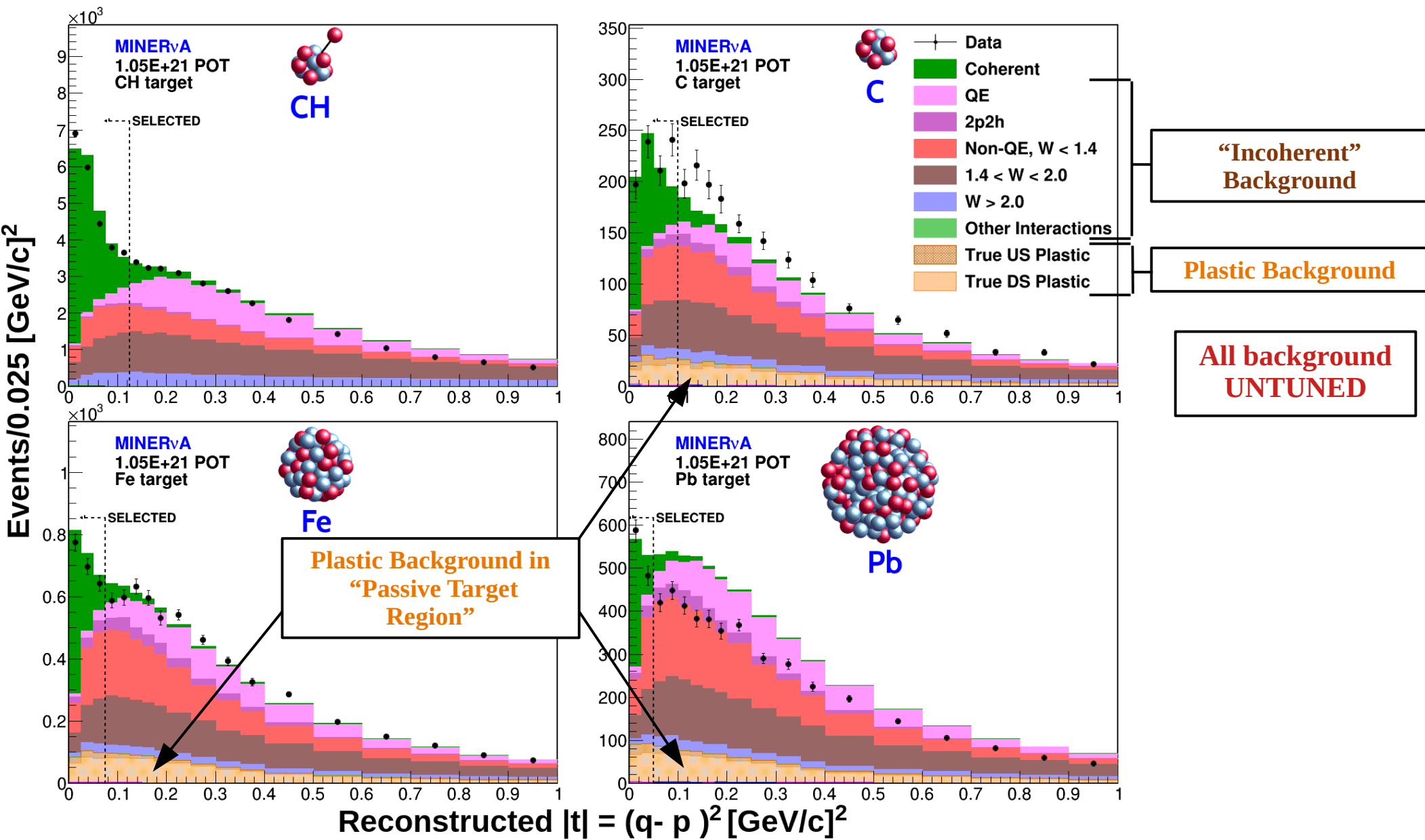
- Log Likelihood Ratio between proton and pion hypotheses.
- Contained track consistent with charged pion.
- Cut keeps  $\sim 70\%$  of pions.
- And removes  $\sim 87\%$  protons.

## Event Selection – Energy of Vertex Region



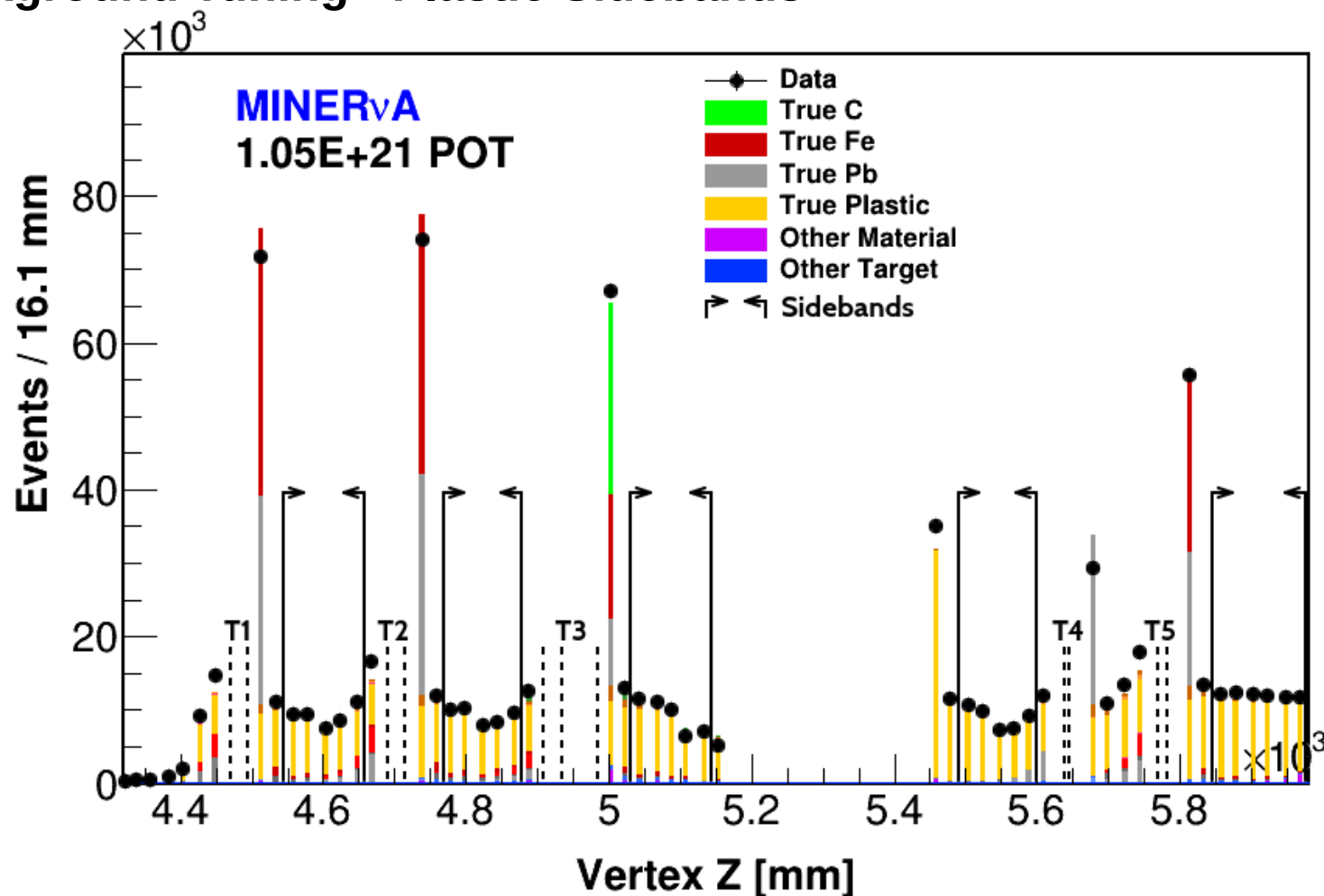
- Vertex energy consistent with 2 MIP ( $\mu^- + \pi^+$ ).
- Cut keeps  $\sim 60\%$  of signal.
- And removes  $\sim 86\%$  background.

## Event Selection – Momentum Transfer to the Nucleus $|t|$





## Background Tuning - Plastic Sidebands

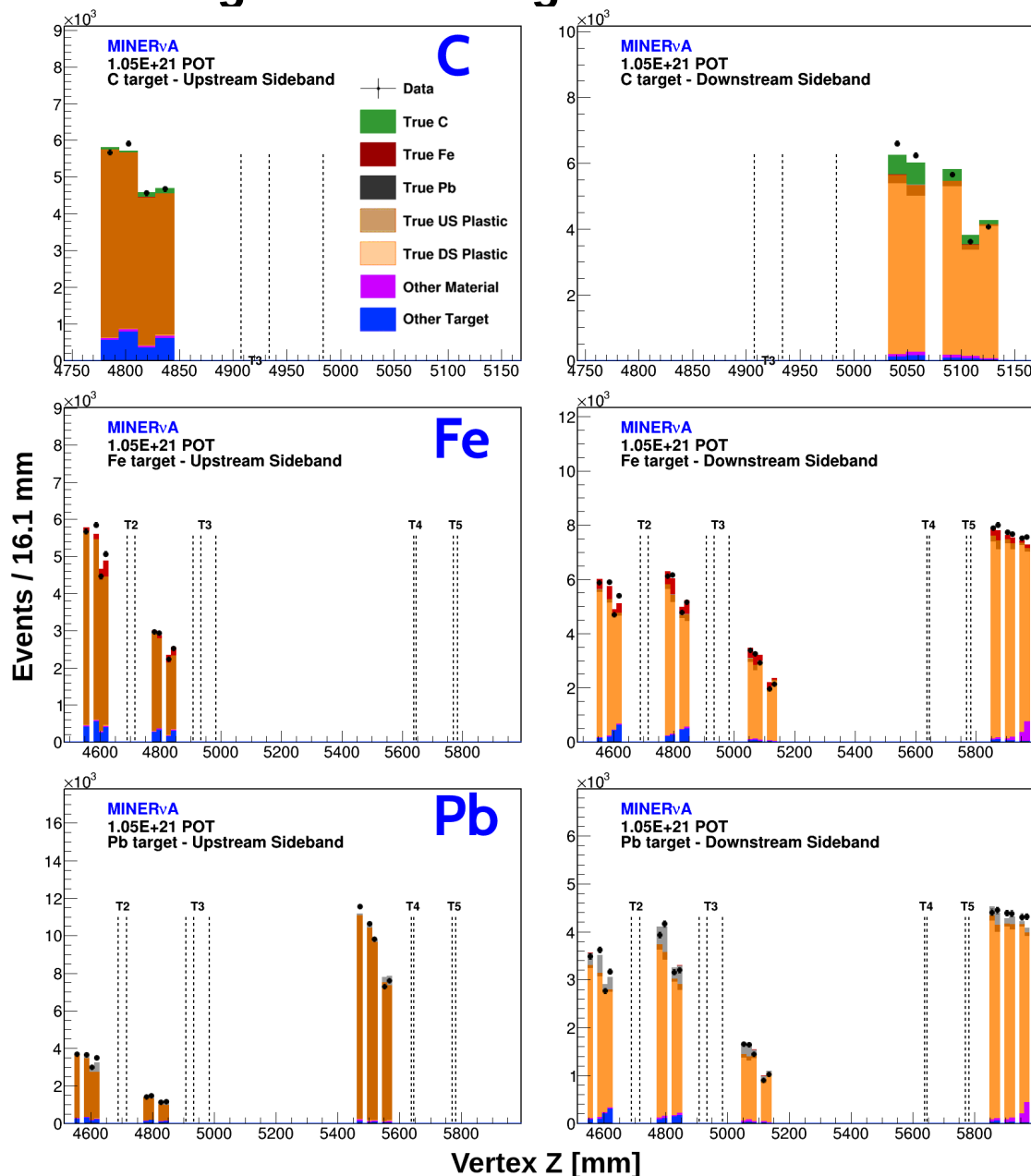


- Plastic regions between targets used as sidebands
- **Upstream** and **Downstream** plastic tuned separate
- Different sidebands for each material (C, Fe and Pb)

## Scale Factors

Material	$C$	$Fe$	$Pb$
$\alpha_{US}$	$1.15 \pm 0.009$	$1.17 \pm 0.004$	$1.16 \pm 0.005$
$\alpha_{DS}$	$1.11 \pm 0.008$	$1.04 \pm 0.005$	$1.17 \pm 0.005$

## Background Tuning - Plastic Sideband

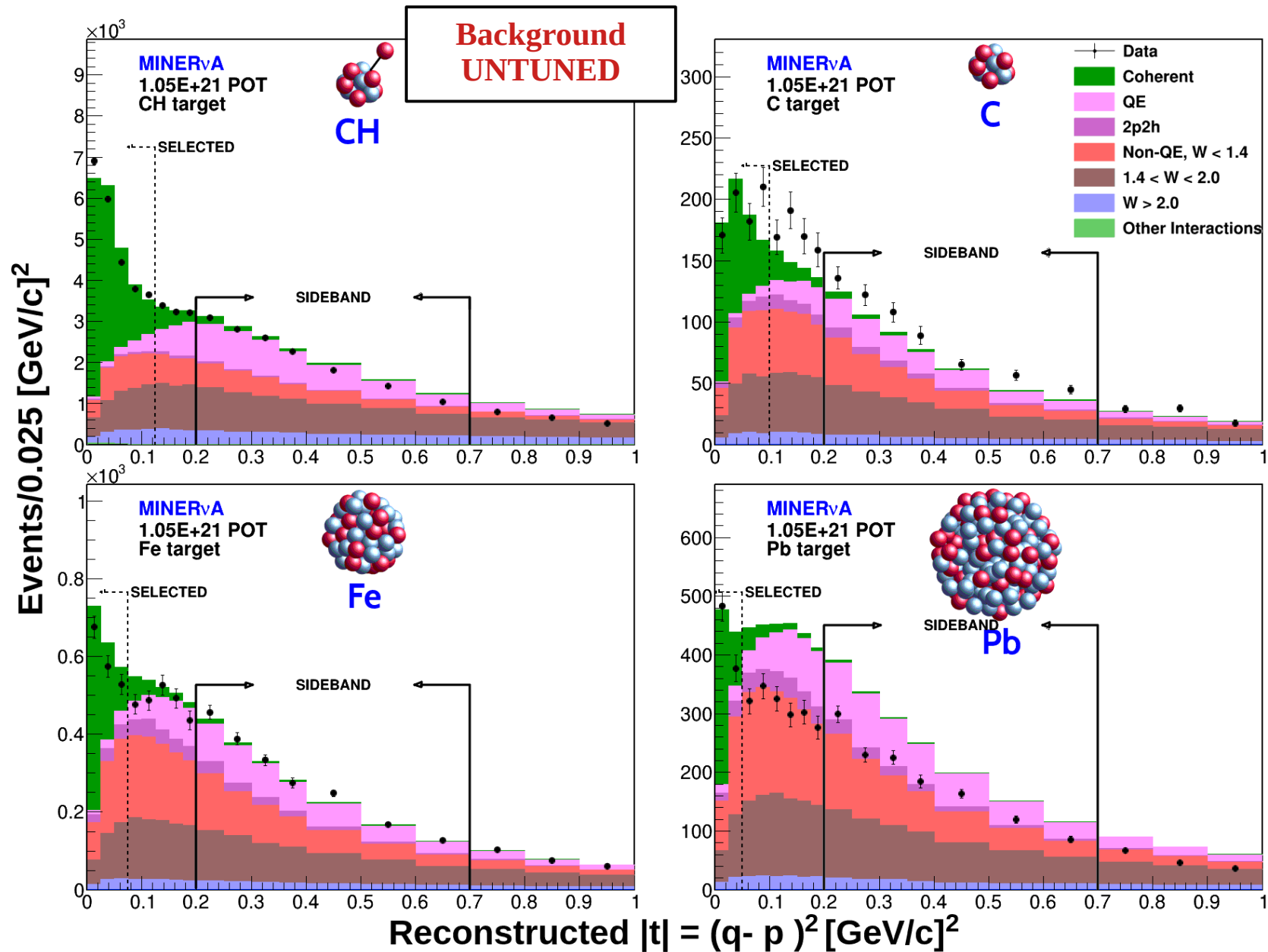


**Plastic background  
TUNED**

Tuned plastic background represents:

- ~14% of the selected **C** and **Fe** samples
- ~20% of the selected **Pb** sample

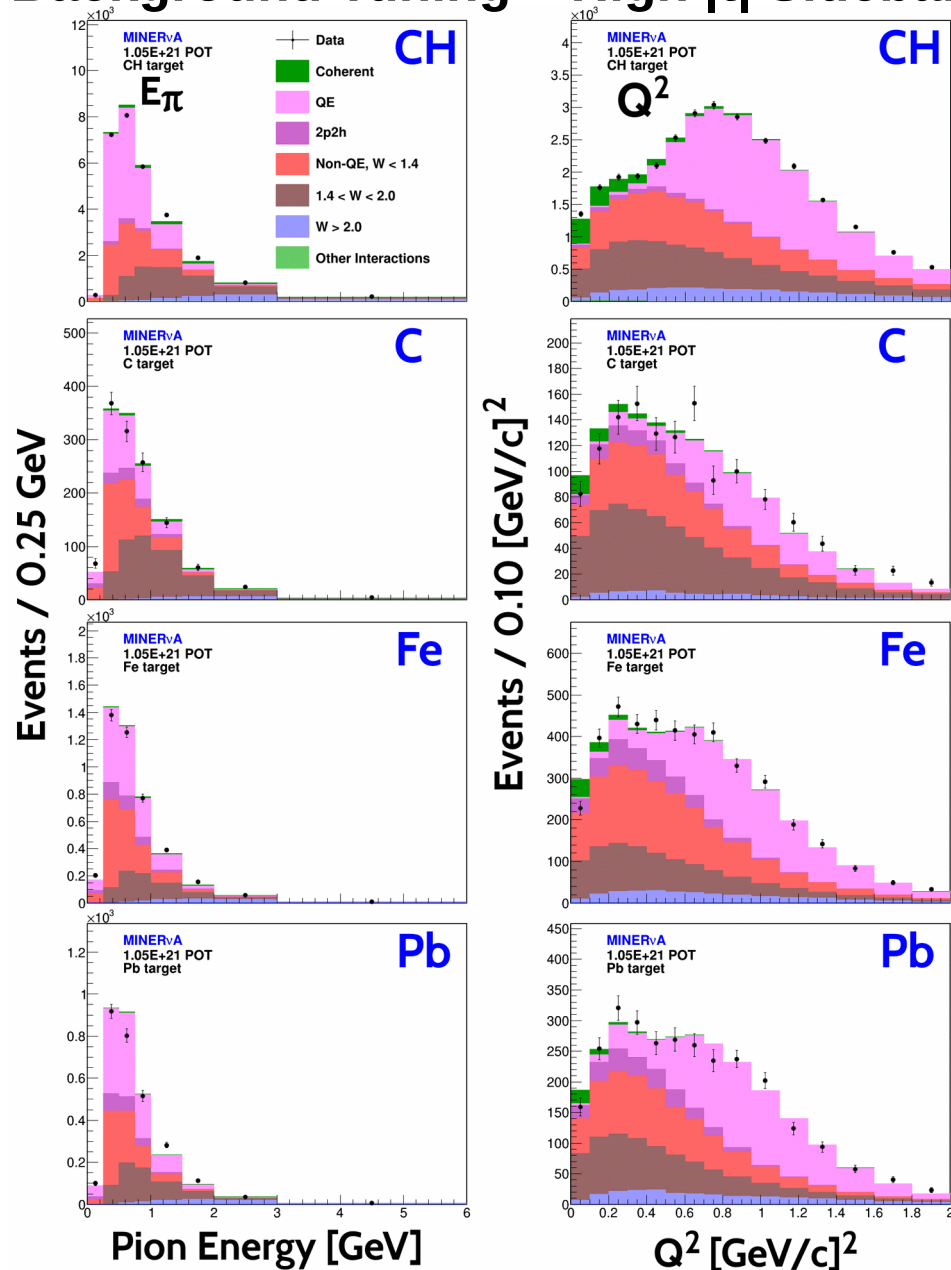
## Background Tuning – High $|t|$ Sideband



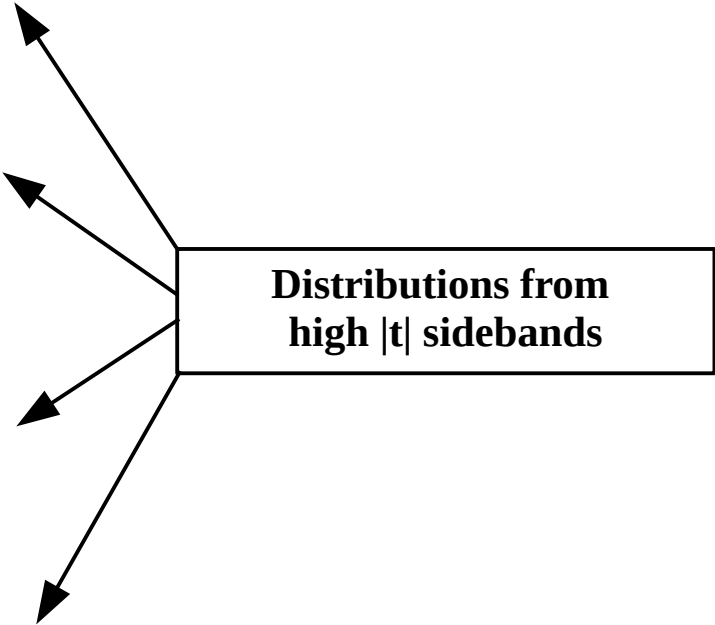
Scale Factors

Material	$CH$	$C$	$Fe$	$Pb$
$\alpha_{QE}$	$1.22 \pm 0.016$	$1.22 \pm 0.016$	$1.40 \pm 0.067$	$1.09 \pm 0.054$
$\alpha_{RES}$	$1.29 \pm 0.040$	$1.17 \pm 0.046$	$1.15 \pm 0.088$	$0.66 \pm 0.069$
$\alpha_{INE}$	$0.60 \pm 0.016$	$1.17 \pm 0.046$	$0.58 \pm 0.059$	$0.50 \pm 0.053$
$\alpha_{DIS}$	$0.65 \pm 0.026$	$0.65 \pm 0.026$	$1.08 \pm 0.137$	$0.98 \pm 0.144$

## Background Tuning – High $|t|$ Sideband

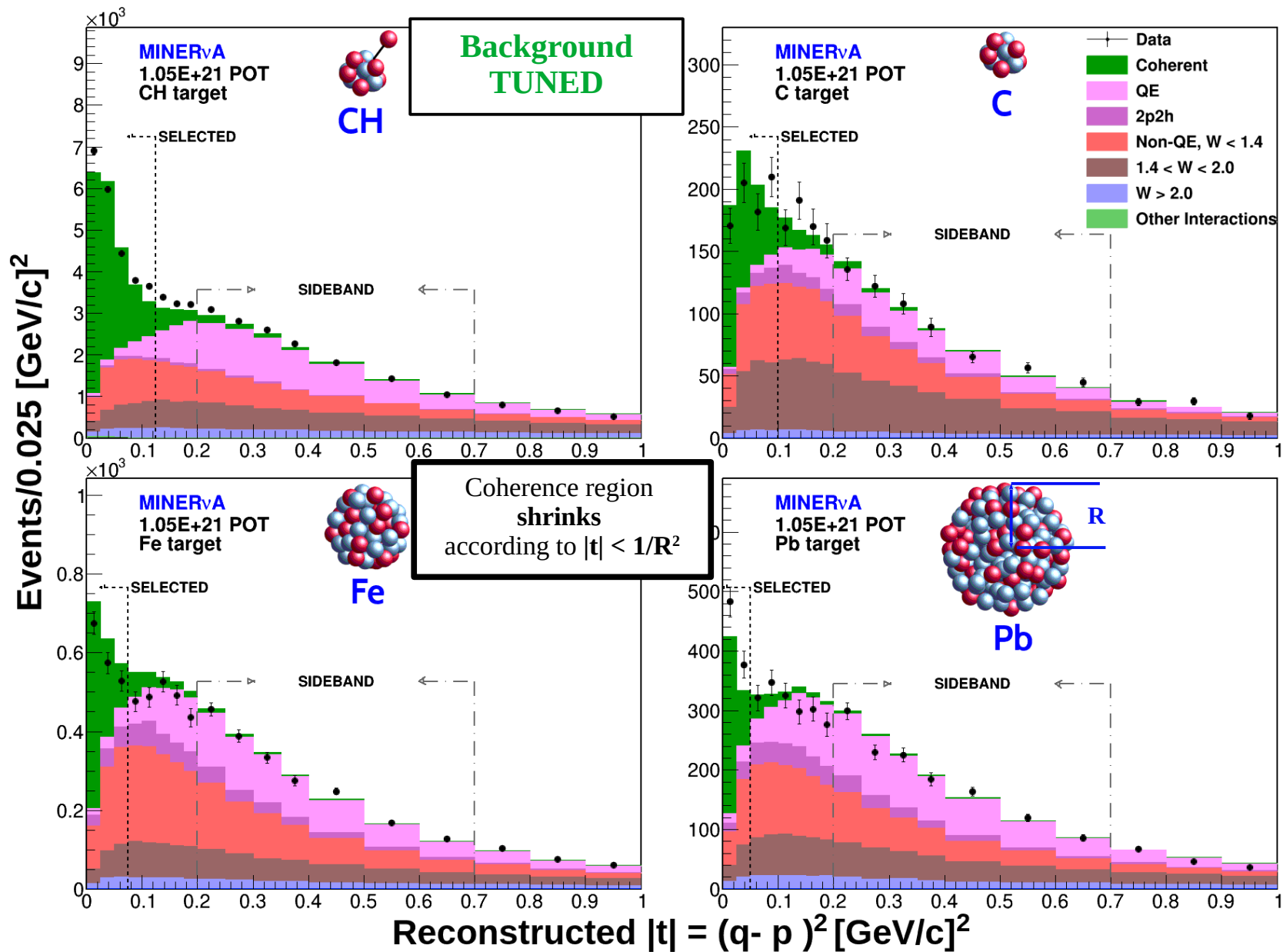


Background  
TUNED



- Tuned in  $E_\pi$  and  $Q^2$  simultaneously.
- Samples from  $0.3 < |t| < 0.7$  [GeV/c]<sup>2</sup>.
- Backgrounds in terms of  $W$ .

## Tuned $|t|$ Distributions



## Cross Section Extraction

$$\sigma_i = \frac{\sum_j U_{ij} (N_j^{DATA} - N_j^{BKGD})}{\epsilon_i \phi_i T}$$

The equation is annotated with the following labels and arrows:

- Total Cross Section**: Points to  $\sigma_i$ .
- True Bin**: Points to the subscript  $i$  in  $\sigma_i$ .
- Reco Bin**: Points to the subscript  $j$  in the summation  $\sum_j$ .
- Unfolding Matrix**: Points to  $U_{ij}$ .
- Number of Selected Data Events**: Points to  $N_j^{DATA}$ .
- Number of Predicted Background Events**: Points to  $N_j^{BKGD}$ .
- Efficiency**: Points to  $\epsilon_i$ .
- Flux Per Bin**: Points to  $\phi_i$ .
- Number of Nuclei**: Points to  $T$ .

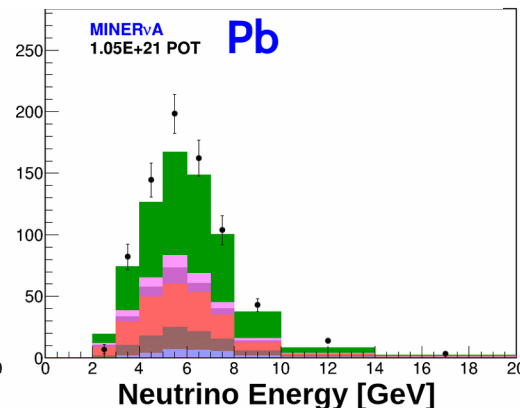
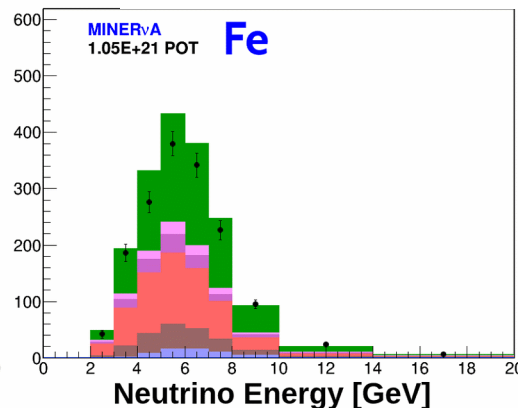
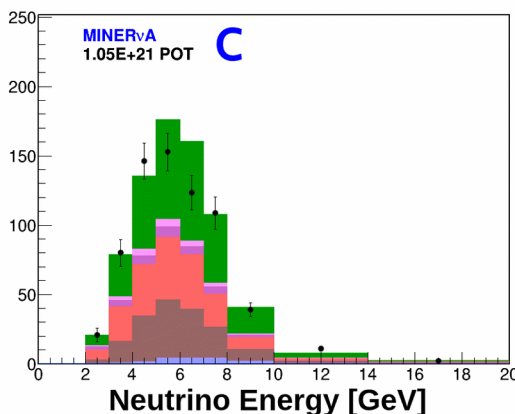
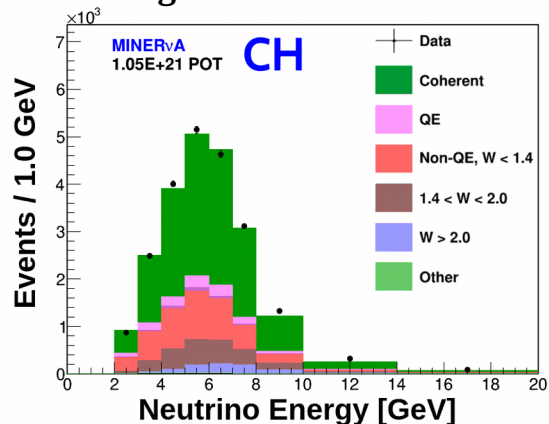
## Cross Section Extraction

### Selected Sample

$$\sigma_i = \frac{\sum_j U_{ij} (N_j^{DATA} - N_j^{BKGD})}{\epsilon_i \phi_i T}$$

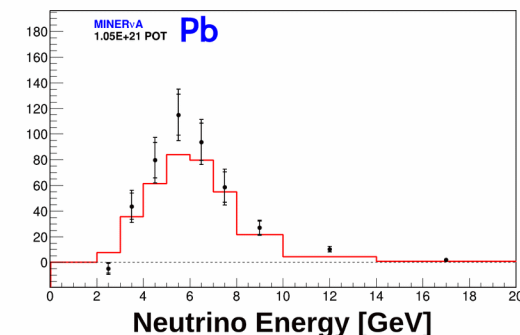
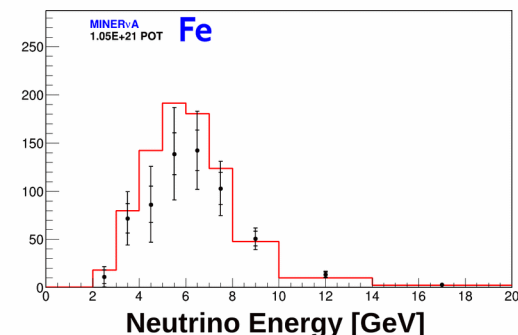
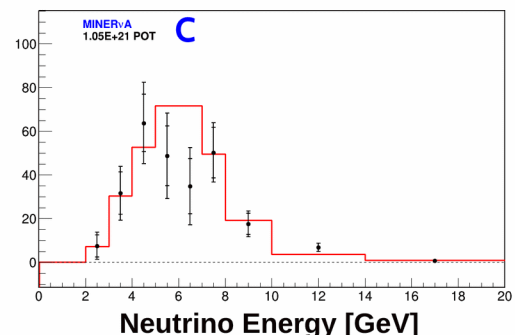
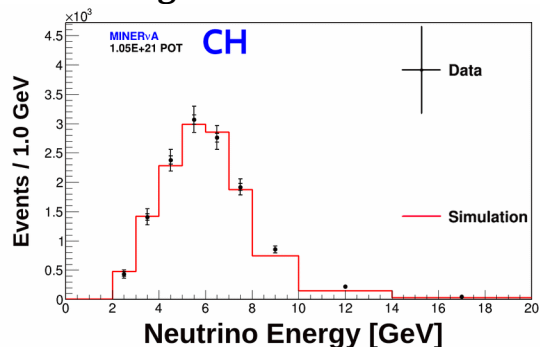
Total Cross Section  $\rightarrow$   $\sigma_i$   
 Unfolding Matrix  $\rightarrow$   $U_{ij}$   
 Number of Selected Data Events  $\rightarrow$   $N_j^{DATA}$   
 Number of Predicted Background Events  $\rightarrow$   $N_j^{BKGD}$   
 Reco Bin  $\rightarrow$   $j$   
 True Bin  $\rightarrow$   $i$   
 Efficiency  $\rightarrow$   $\epsilon_i$   
 Flux Per Bin  $\rightarrow$   $\phi_i$   
 Number of Nuclei  $\rightarrow$   $T$

### Background Tuned



Material	<i>CH</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Fe</i>	<i>Pb</i>
Candidate Events	14855	303	726	492

### Background Subtracted





## Cross Section Extraction

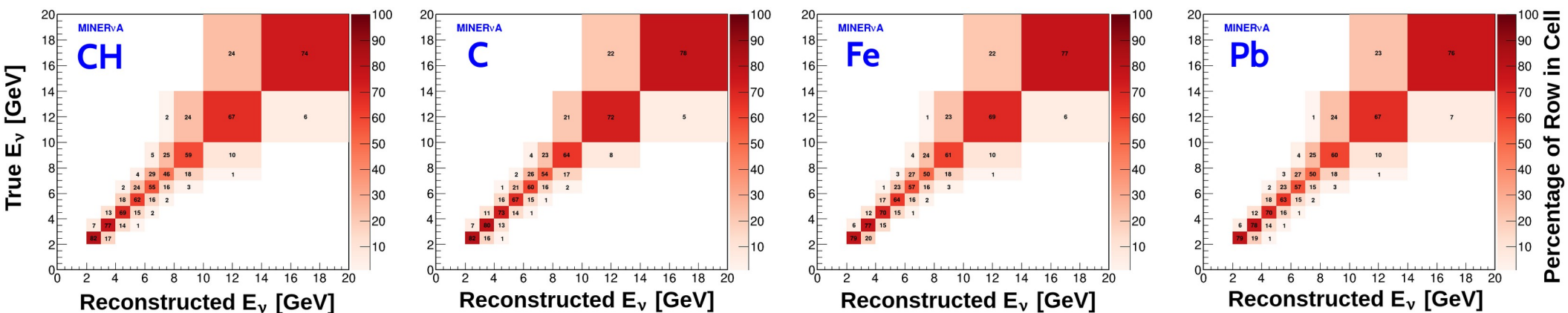
### Unfolding

- Bayesian Iterative Approach
- D'Agostini Method

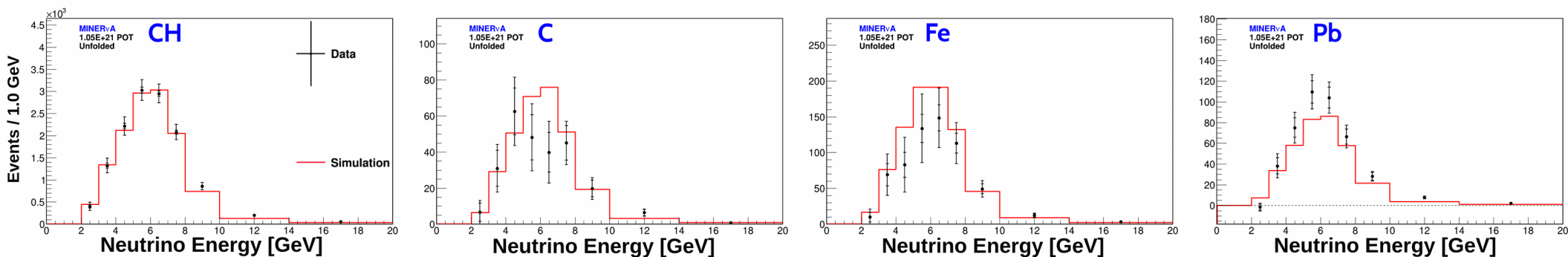
$$\sigma_i = \frac{\sum_j U_{ij} (N_j^{DATA} - N_j^{BKGD})}{\epsilon_i \phi_i T}$$

Total Cross Section  $\rightarrow \sigma_i$   
 Unfolding Matrix  $\rightarrow U_{ij}$   
 Number of Selected Data Events  $\rightarrow N_j^{DATA}$   
 Number of Predicted Background Events  $\rightarrow N_j^{BKGD}$   
 Reco Bin  $\rightarrow j$   
 True Bin  $\rightarrow i$   
 Efficiency  $\rightarrow \epsilon_i$   
 Flux Per Bin  $\rightarrow \phi_i$   
 Number of Nuclei  $\rightarrow T$

### Migration Matrices



### Unfolded Distributions

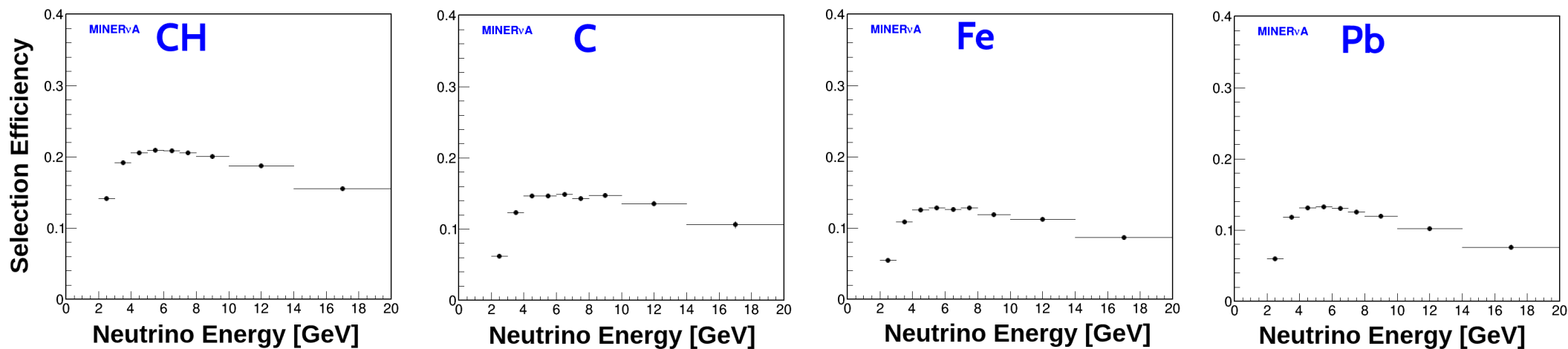


## Cross Section Extraction Efficiency Correction

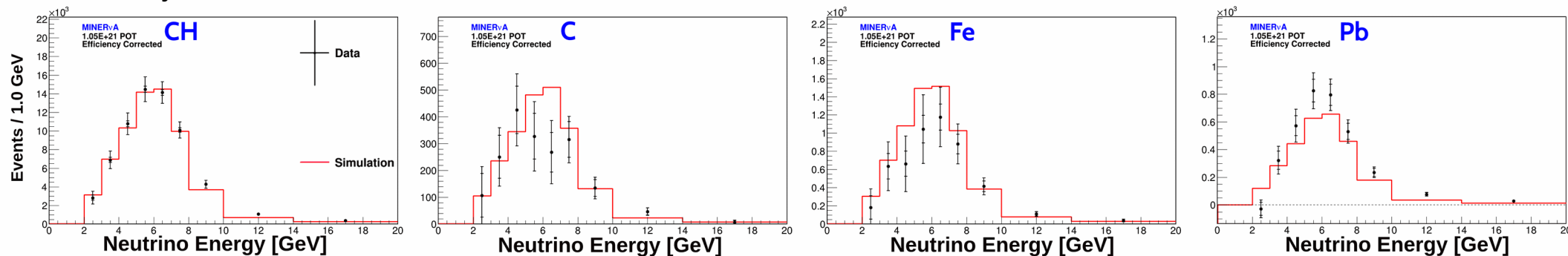
$$\sigma_i = \frac{\sum_j U_{ij} (N_j^{DATA} - N_j^{BKGD})}{\epsilon_i \phi_i T}$$

Total Cross Section  $\rightarrow \sigma_i$   
 Unfolding Matrix  $\rightarrow U_{ij}$   
 Number of Selected Data Events  $\rightarrow N_j^{DATA}$   
 Number of Predicted Background Events  $\rightarrow N_j^{BKGD}$   
 Reco Bin  $\rightarrow j$   
 True Bin  $\rightarrow i$   
 Efficiency  $\rightarrow \epsilon_i$   
 Flux Per Bin  $\rightarrow \phi_i$   
 Number of Nuclei  $\rightarrow T$

### Selection Efficiency



### Efficiency Corrected

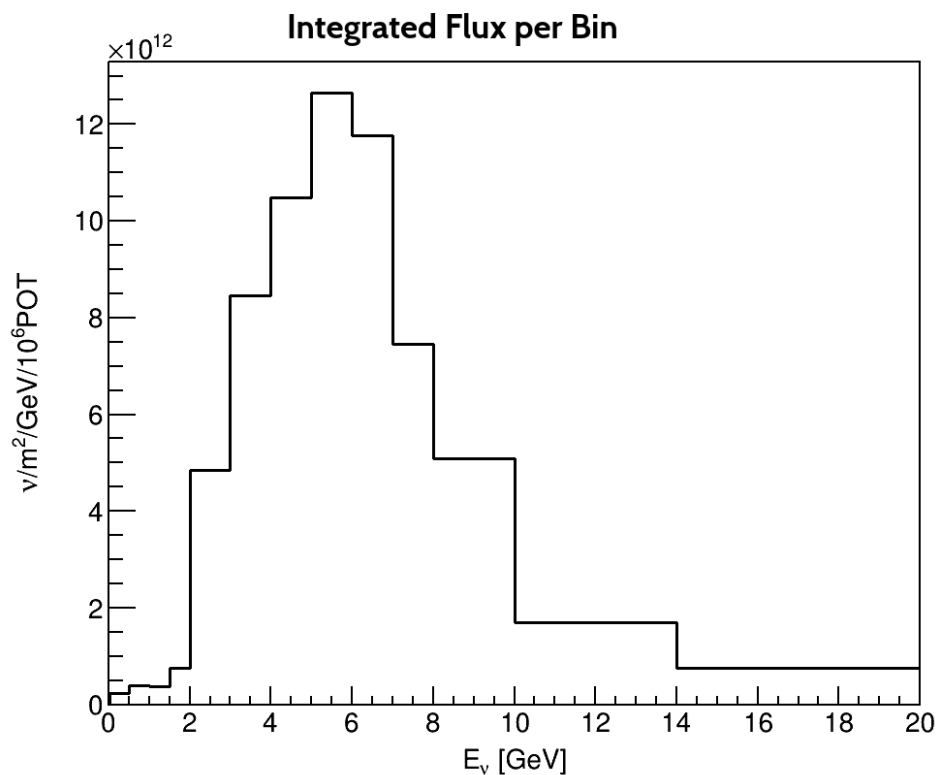


## Cross Section Extraction

### Normalizations

$$\sigma_i = \frac{\sum_j U_{ij} (N_j^{DATA} - N_j^{BKGD})}{\epsilon_i \phi_i T}$$

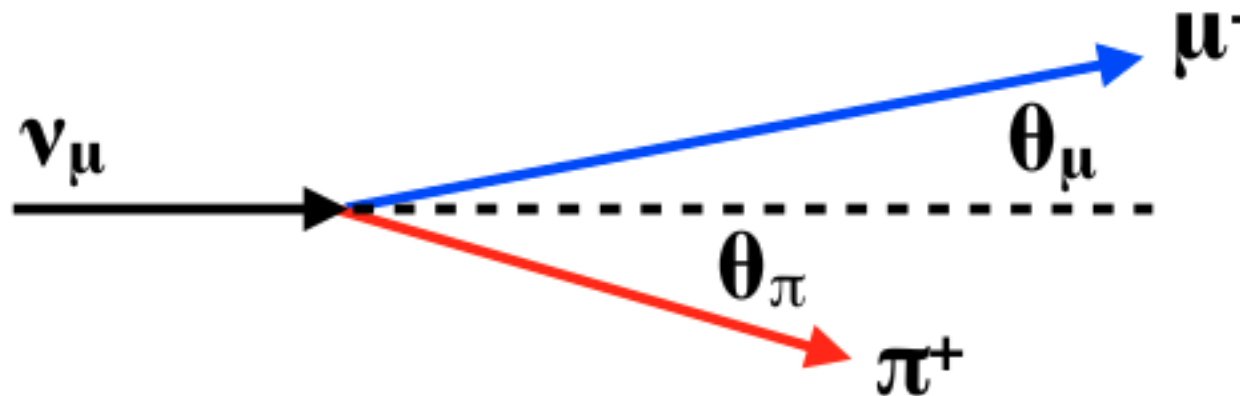
Total Cross Section  $\rightarrow \sigma_i$   
 Unfolding Matrix  $\rightarrow U_{ij}$   
 Number of Selected Data Events  $\rightarrow N_j^{DATA}$   
 Number of Predicted Background Events  $\rightarrow N_j^{BKGD}$   
 Reco Bin  $\rightarrow j$   
 True Bin  $\rightarrow i$   
 Efficiency  $\rightarrow \epsilon_i$   
 Flux Per Bin  $\rightarrow \phi_i$   
 Number of Nuclei  $\rightarrow T$



Material	No. of Nuclei
<i>CH</i>	23.6E+28
<i>C</i>	0.79E+28
<i>Fe</i>	1.02E+28
<i>Pb</i>	0.28E+28

## Cross Sections

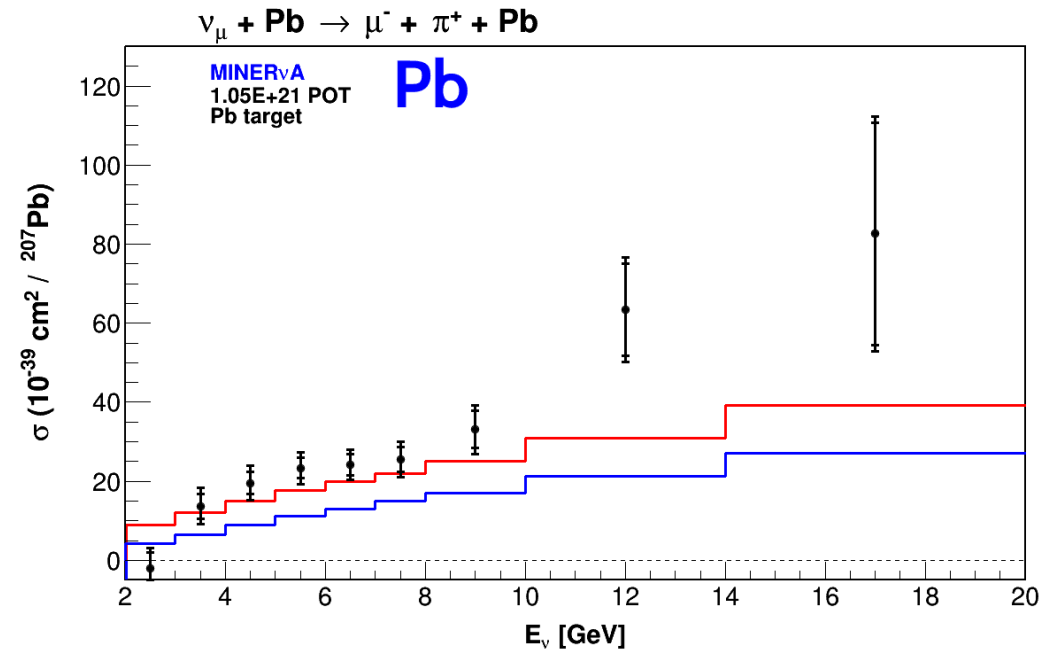
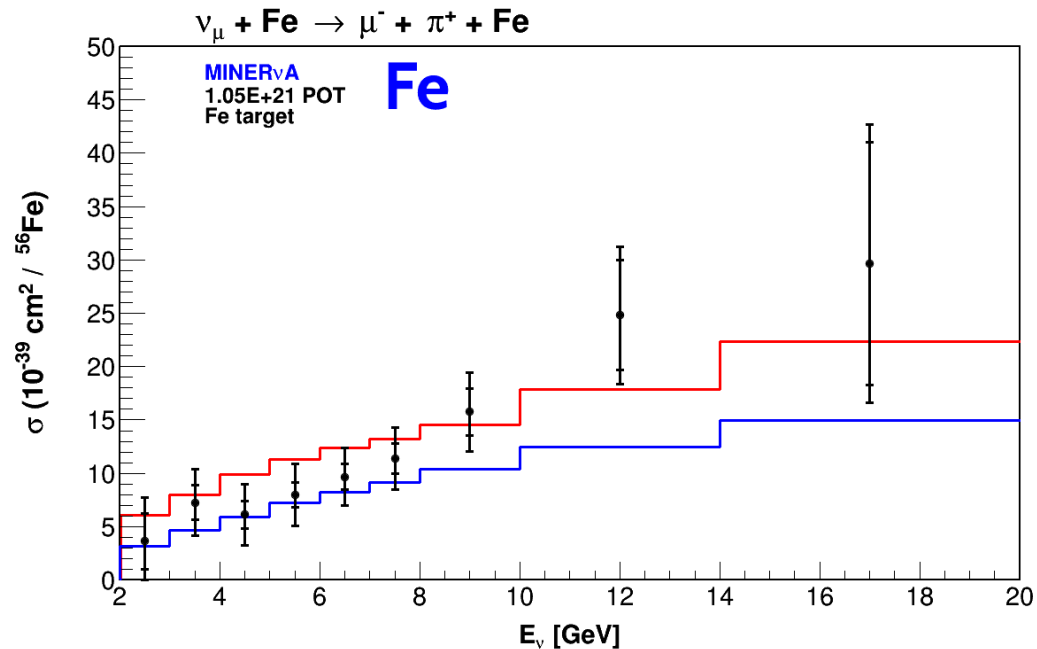
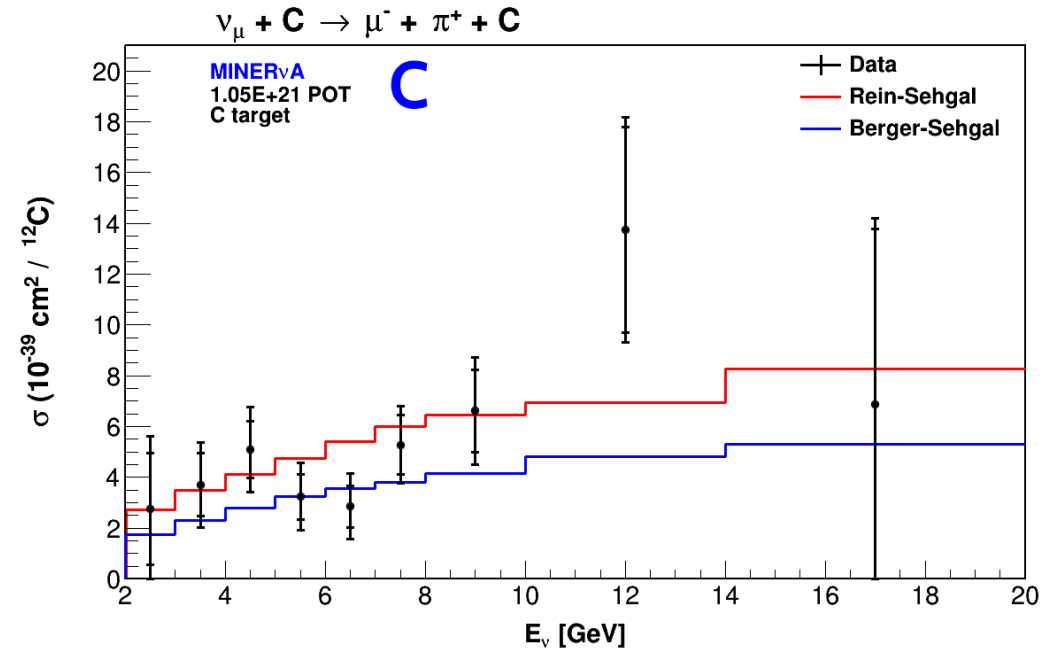
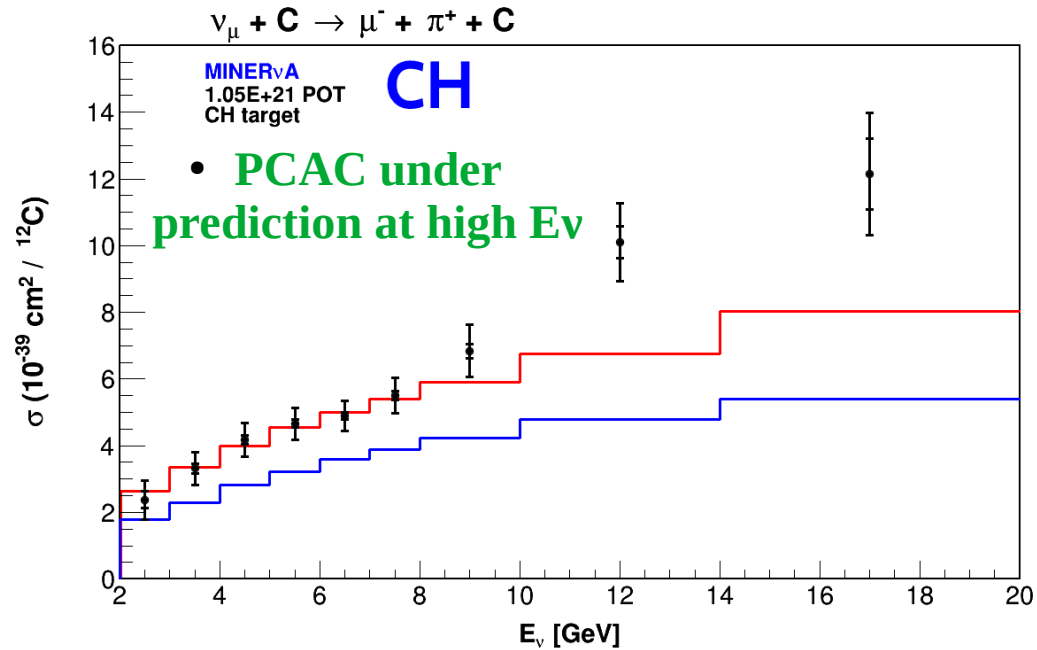
In 4 variables:  $E_\nu$ ,  $E_\pi$ ,  $Q^2$ ,  $\theta_\pi$



- $E_\nu \approx E_\mu + E_\pi$
- $E_\pi$  from calorimetry in MINERvA
- $E_\mu$  from range in MINERvA + range/curvature in MINOS
- $Q^2 = -(p_\nu - p_\mu)^2 \approx 2E_\nu (E_\mu - P_\mu \cos \theta_\mu) - m_\mu^2$
- $\theta_\pi$  and  $\theta_\mu$  from reconstructed tracks in MINERvA

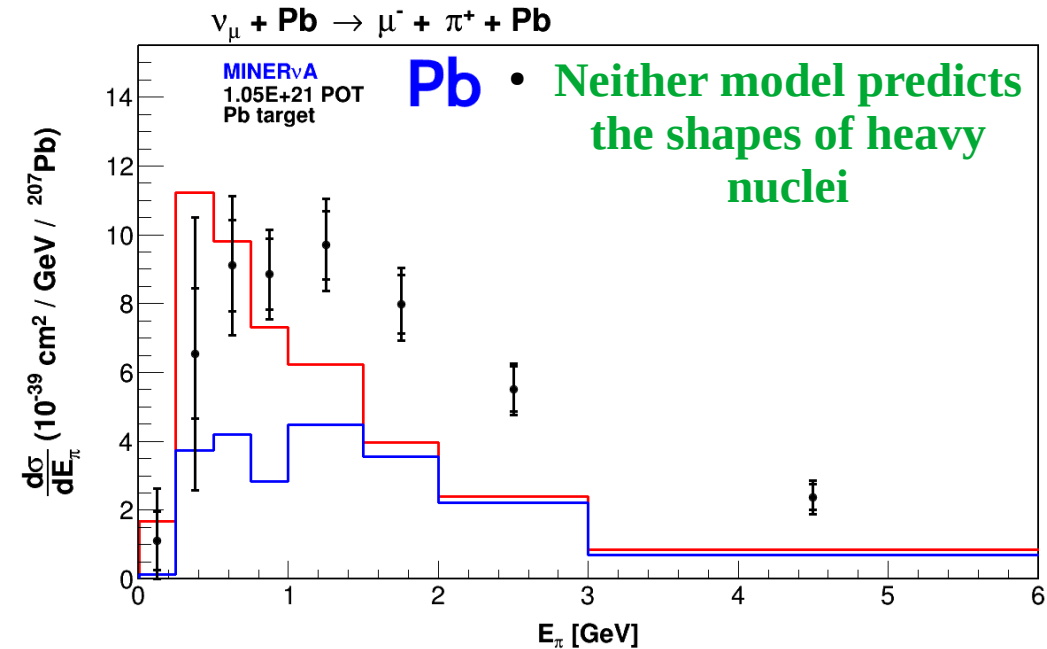
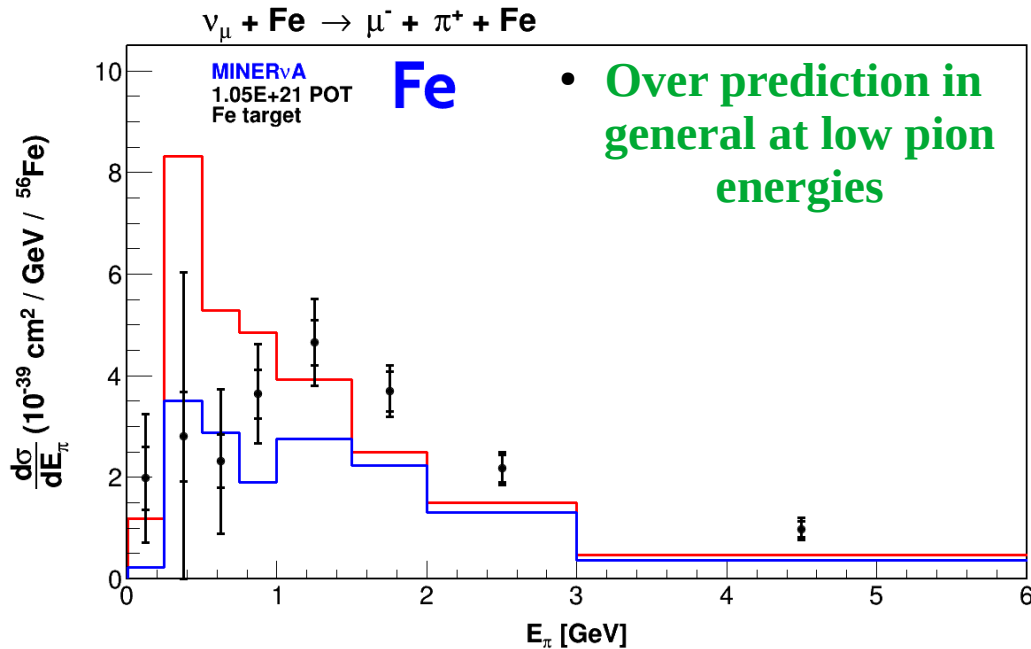
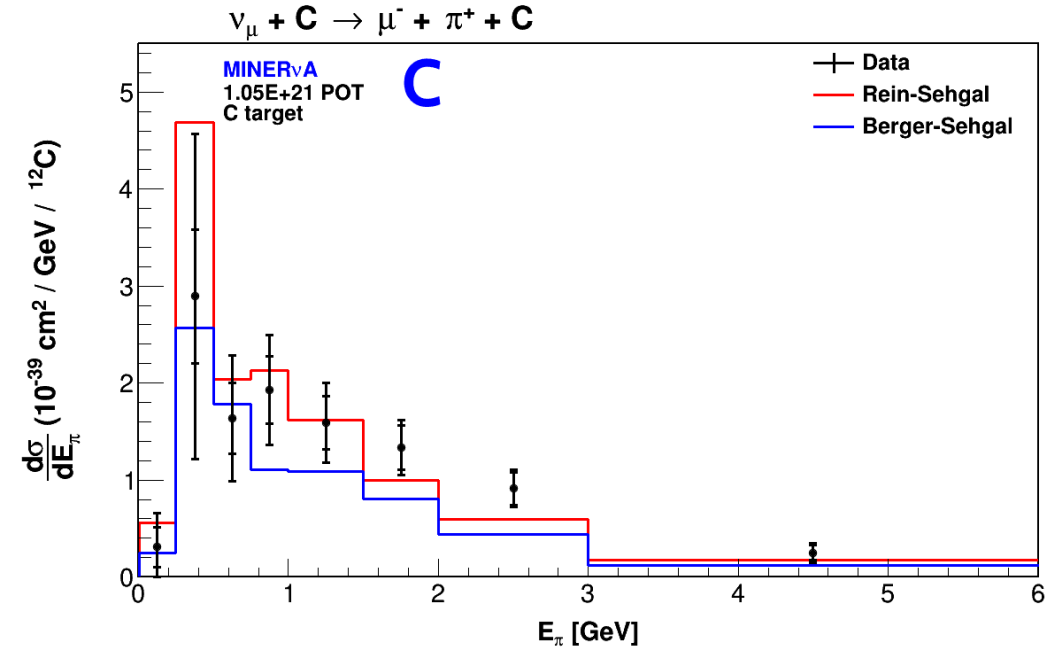
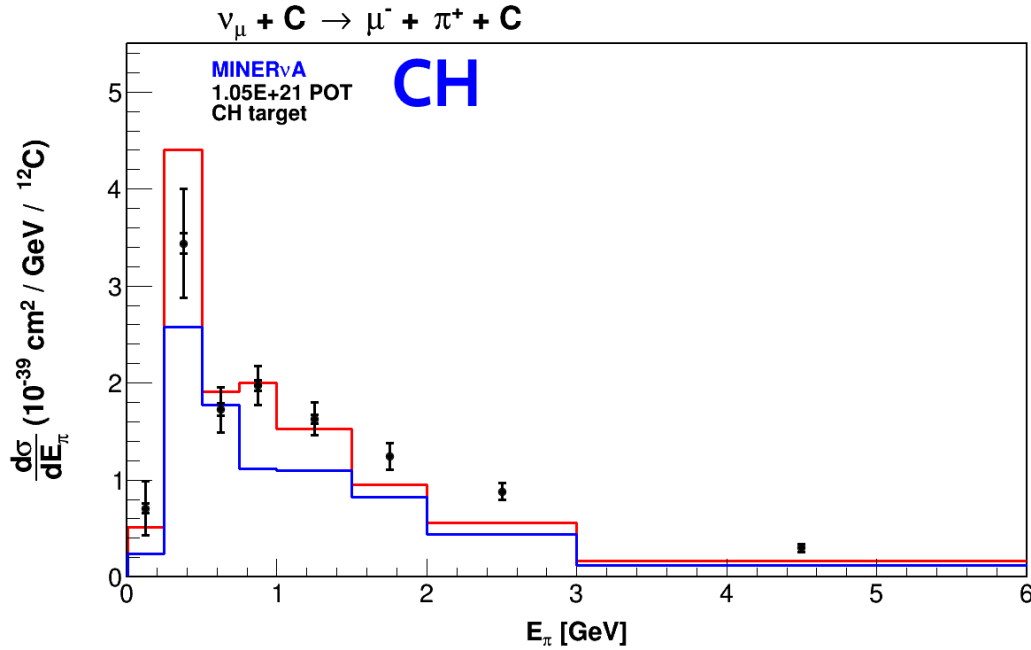
# 6 - Results – Total Cross Sections

$$\sigma E_\nu$$



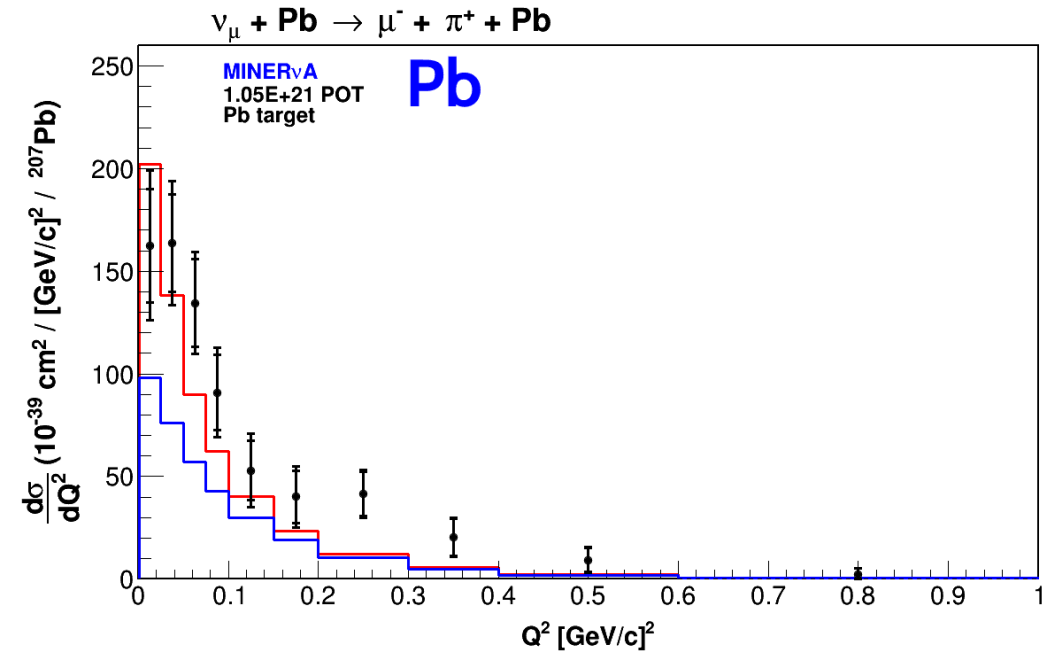
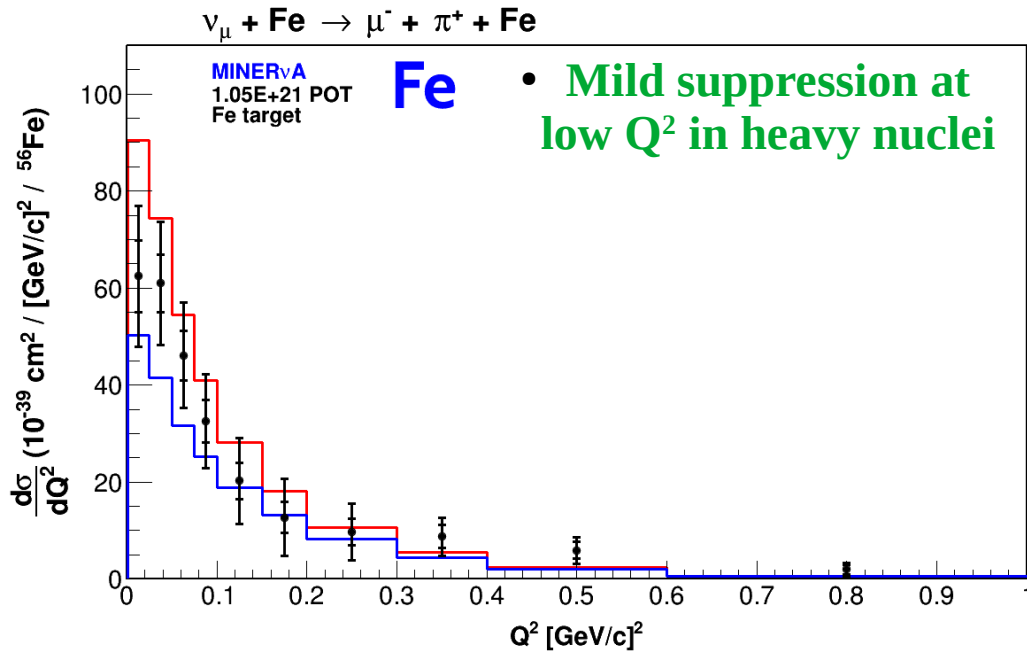
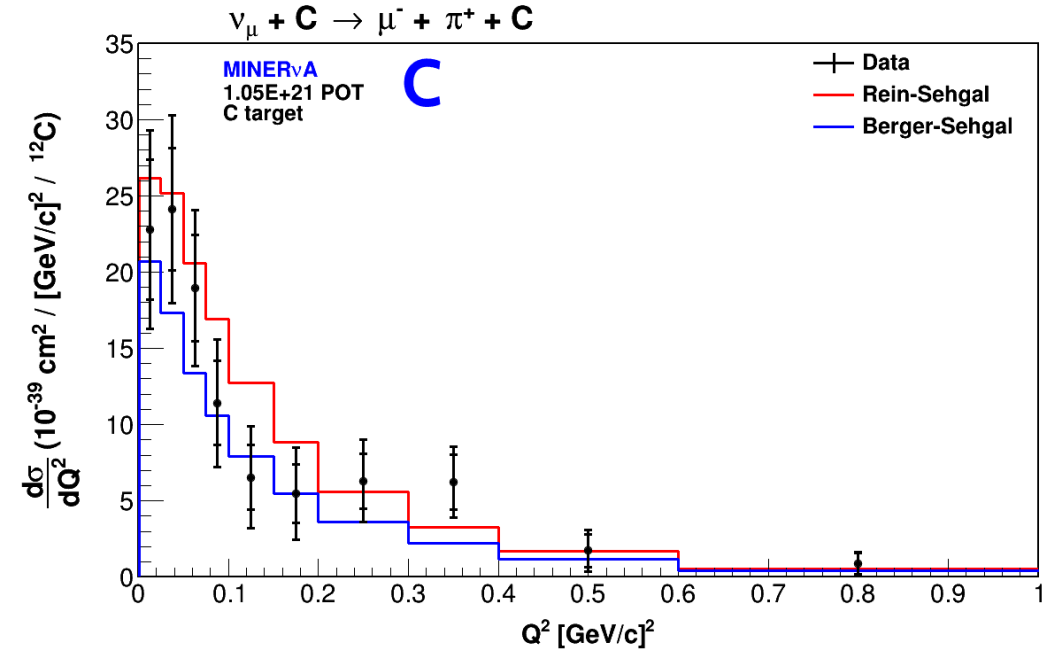
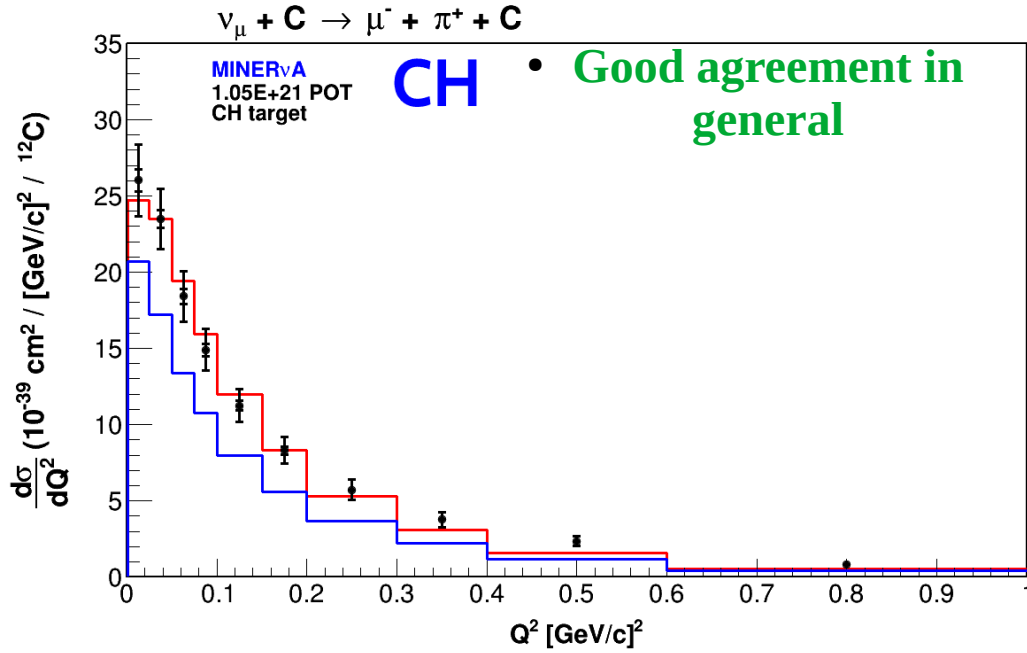
# Results – Total Cross Sections

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_\pi}$$



# Results – Total Cross Sections

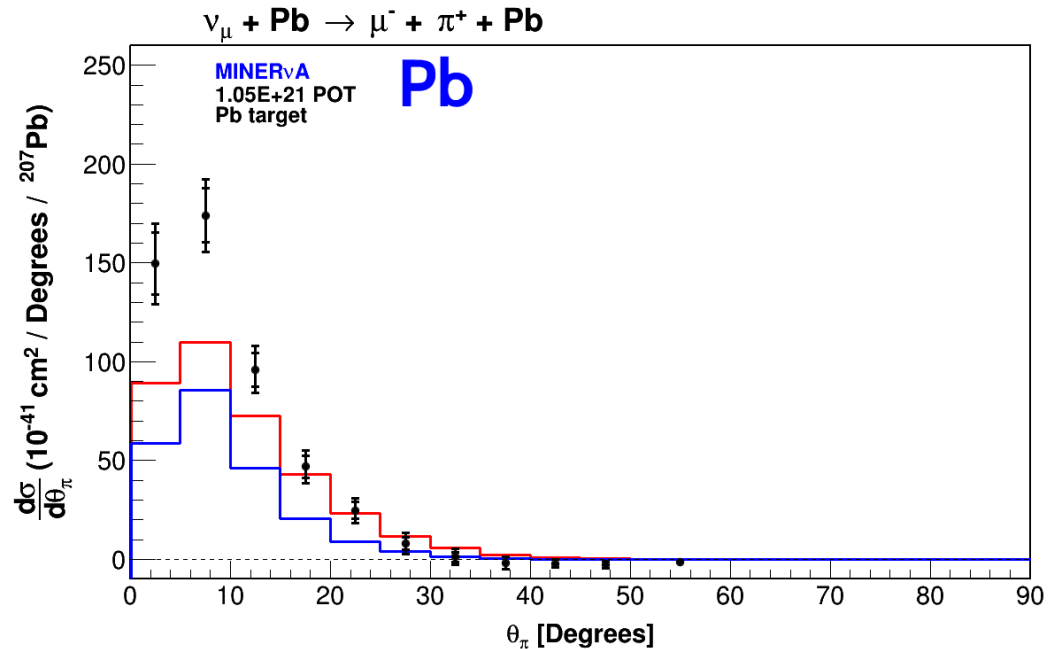
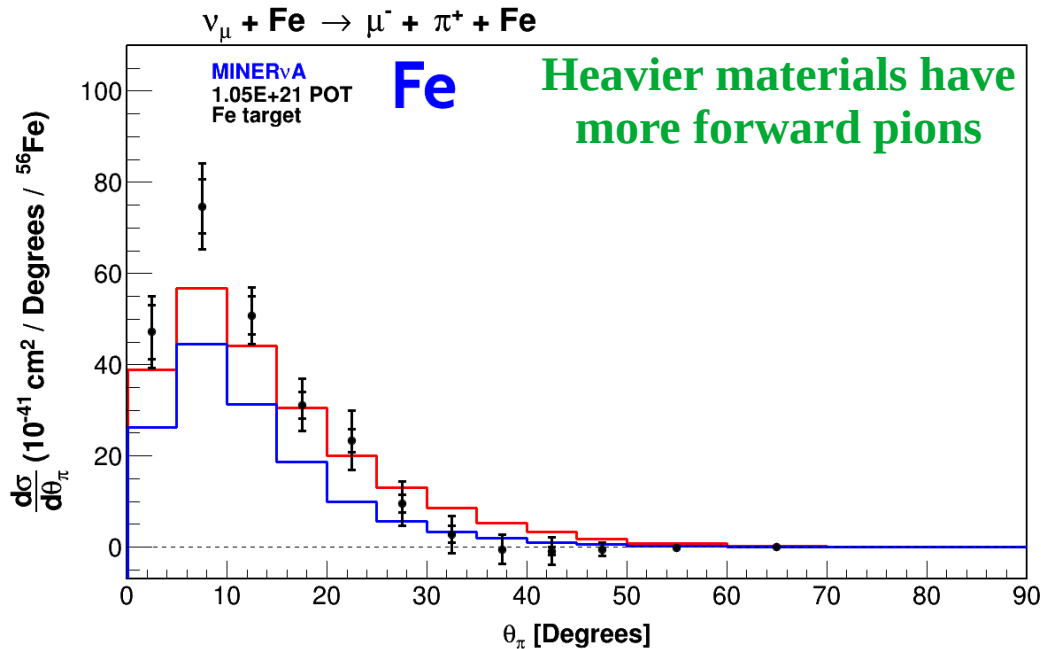
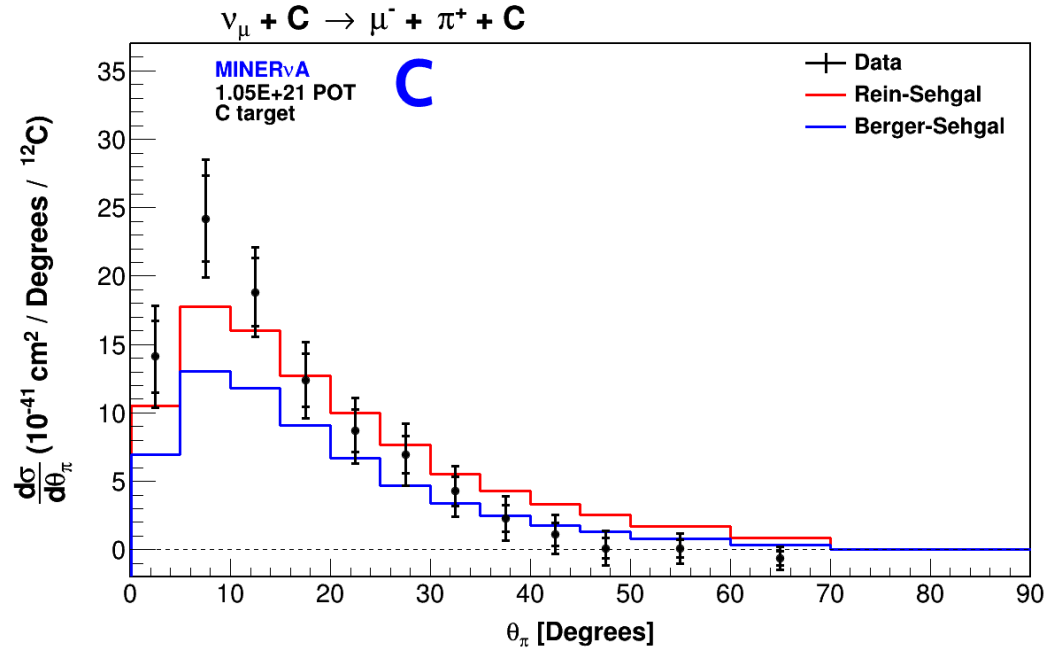
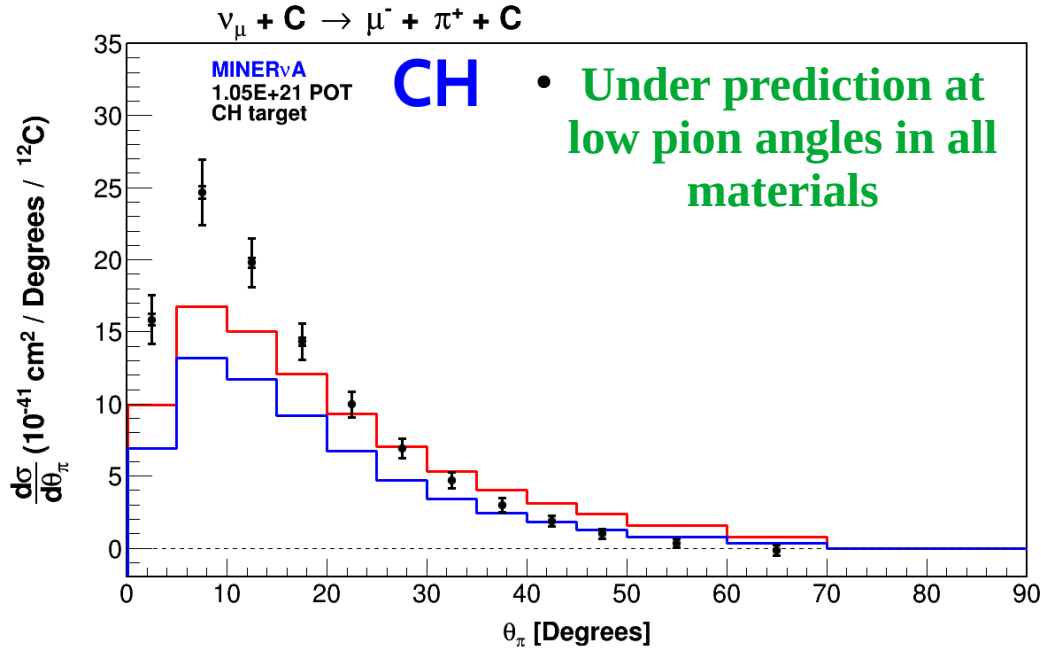
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2}$$

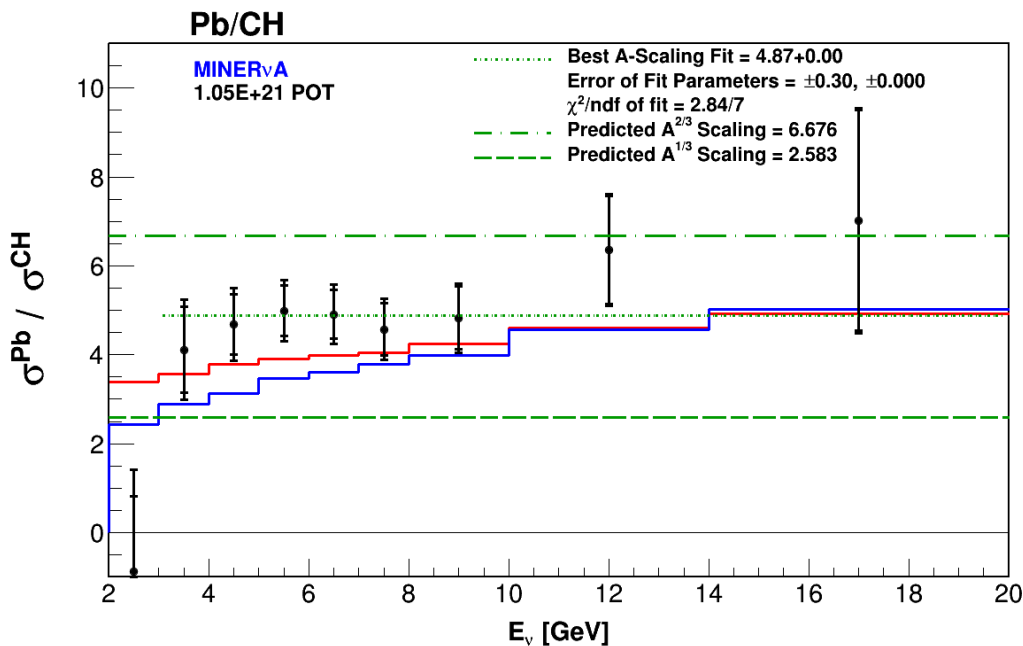
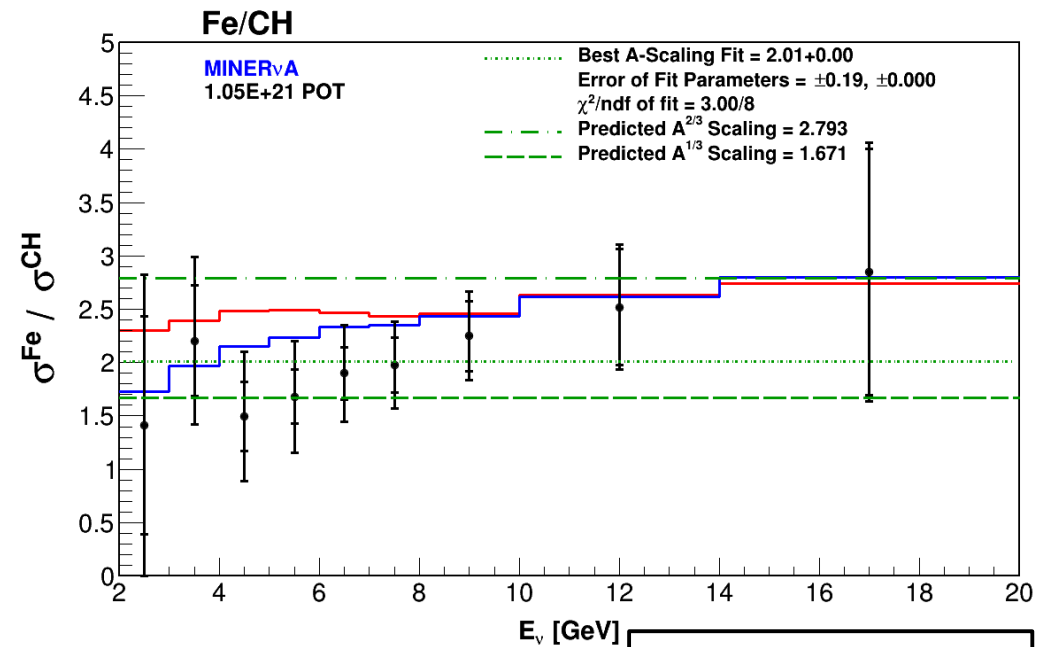
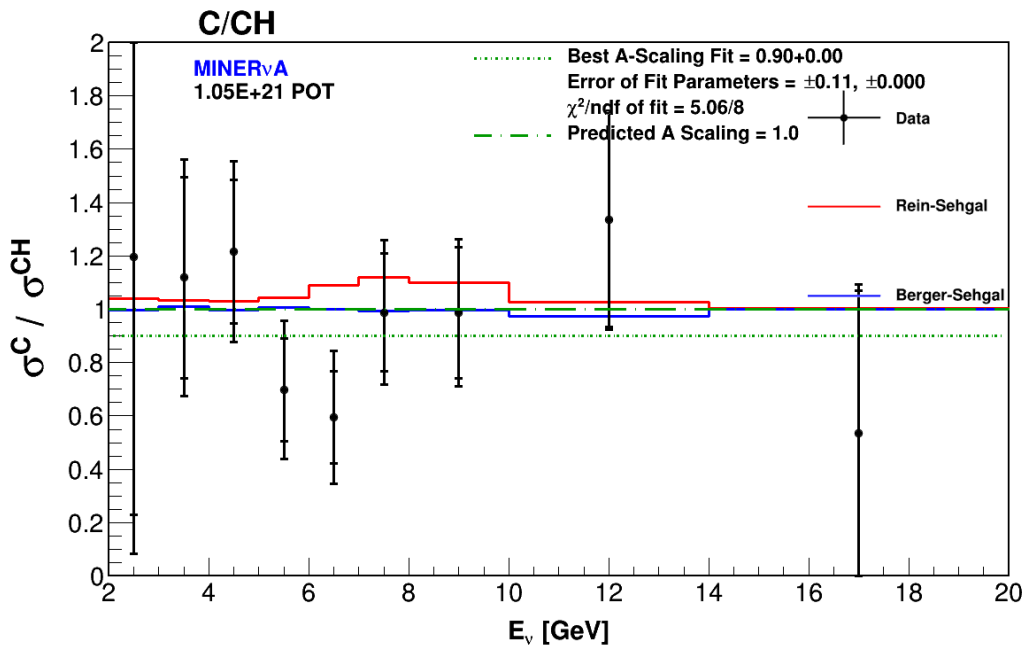




# Results – Total Cross Sections

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\theta_\pi}$$





## C/CH

- consistent with 1.0

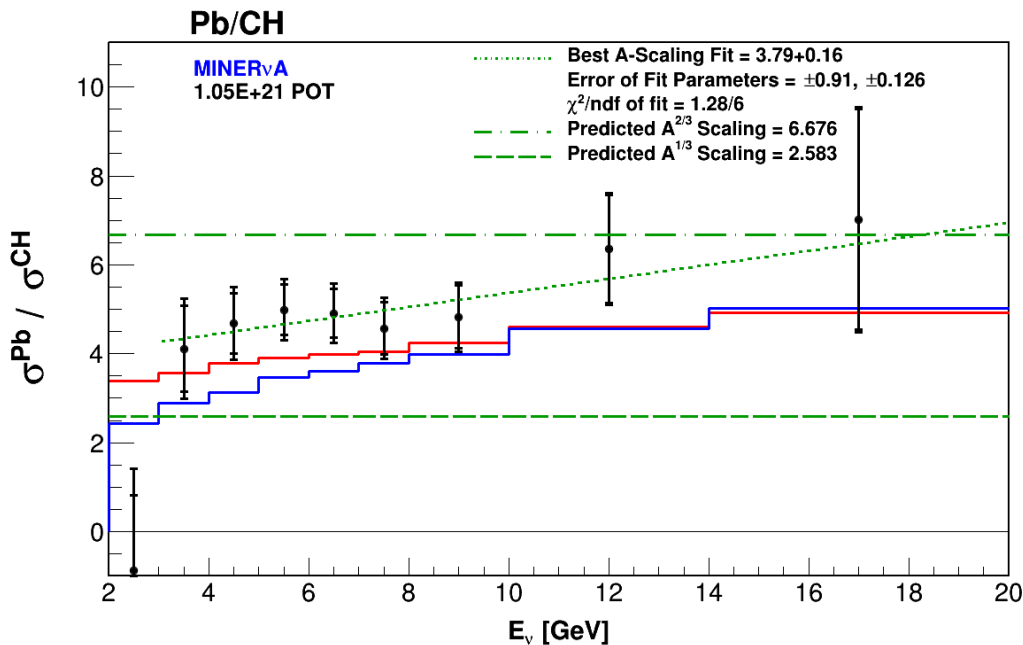
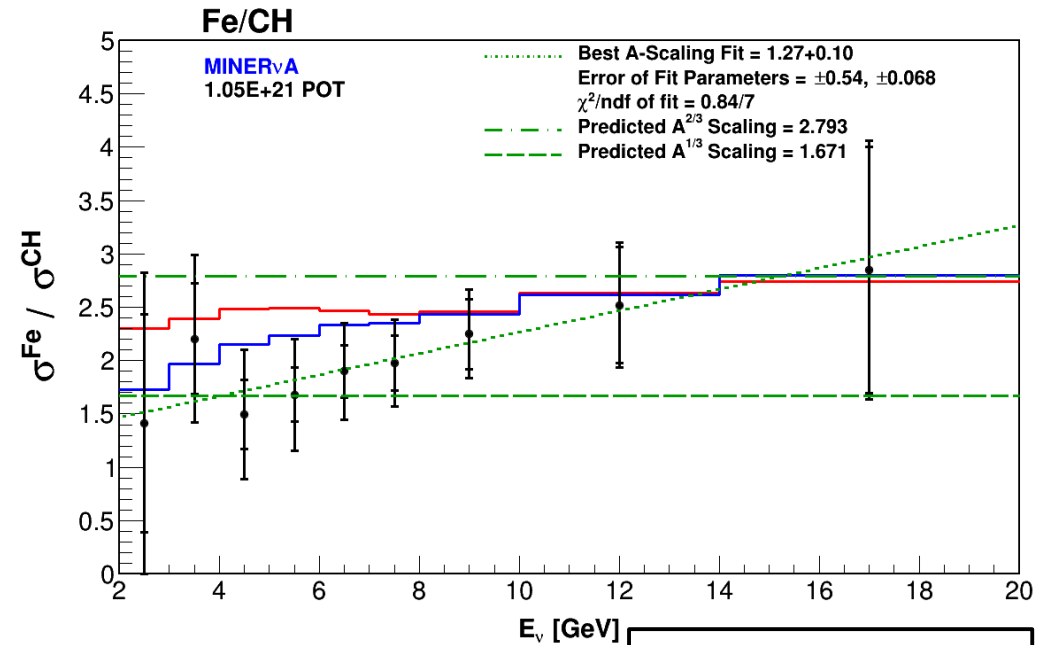
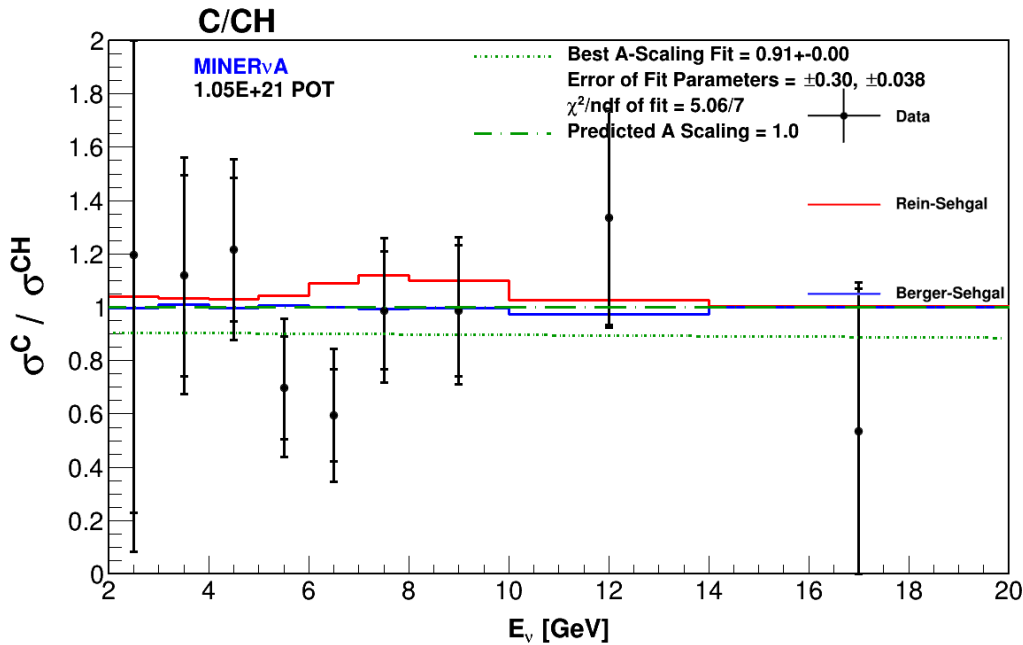
A-Scaling linear fit

## Fe/CH

- Neither model does a good description.
- Closer to  $A^{1/3}$  scaling for  $E_\nu < 8$  GeV.
- Closer to  $A^{2/3}$  scaling for  $E_\nu > 10$  GeV.

## Pb/CH

- Neither model does a good description.
- Closer to  $A^{2/3}$  scaling for  $E_\nu > 10$  GeV.
- Low  $E_\nu$  A-scaling in between predictions.



## C/CH

- consistent with 1.0

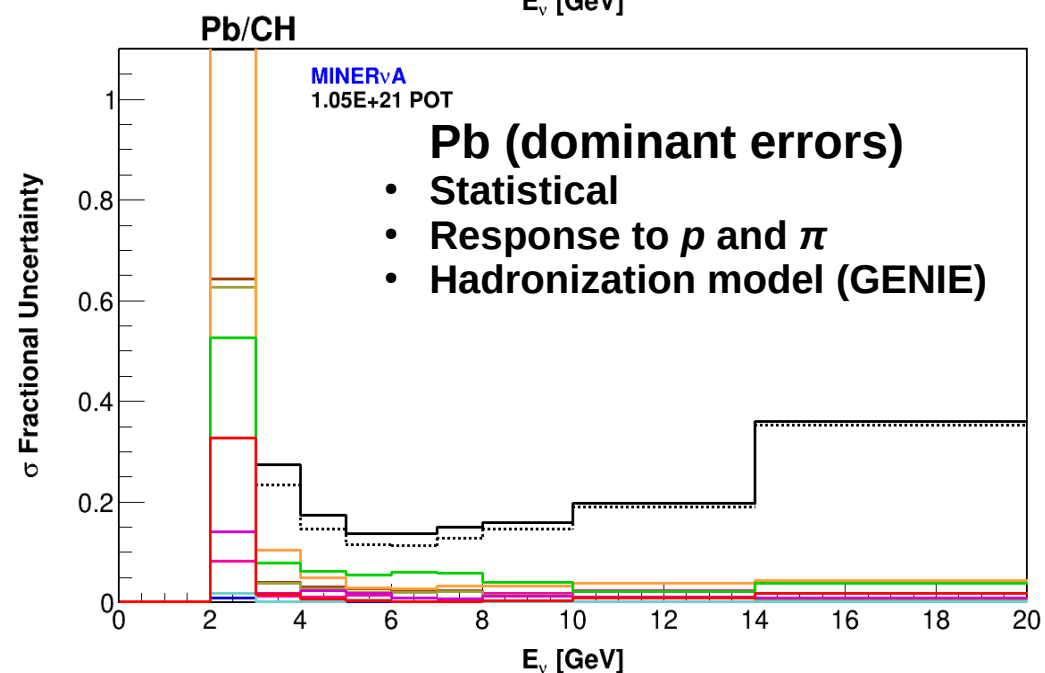
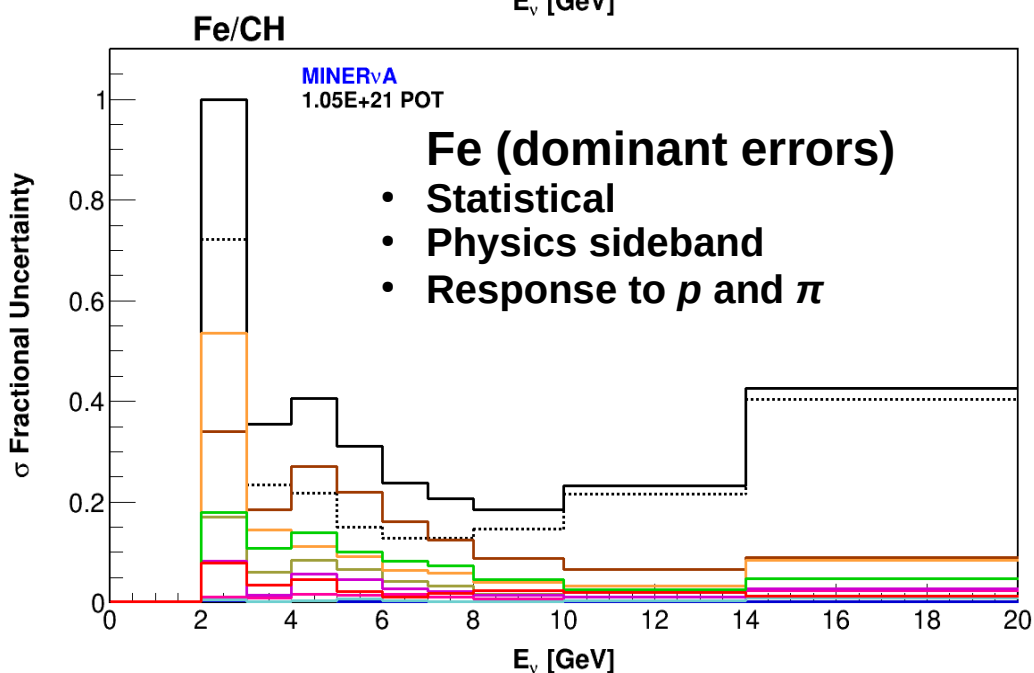
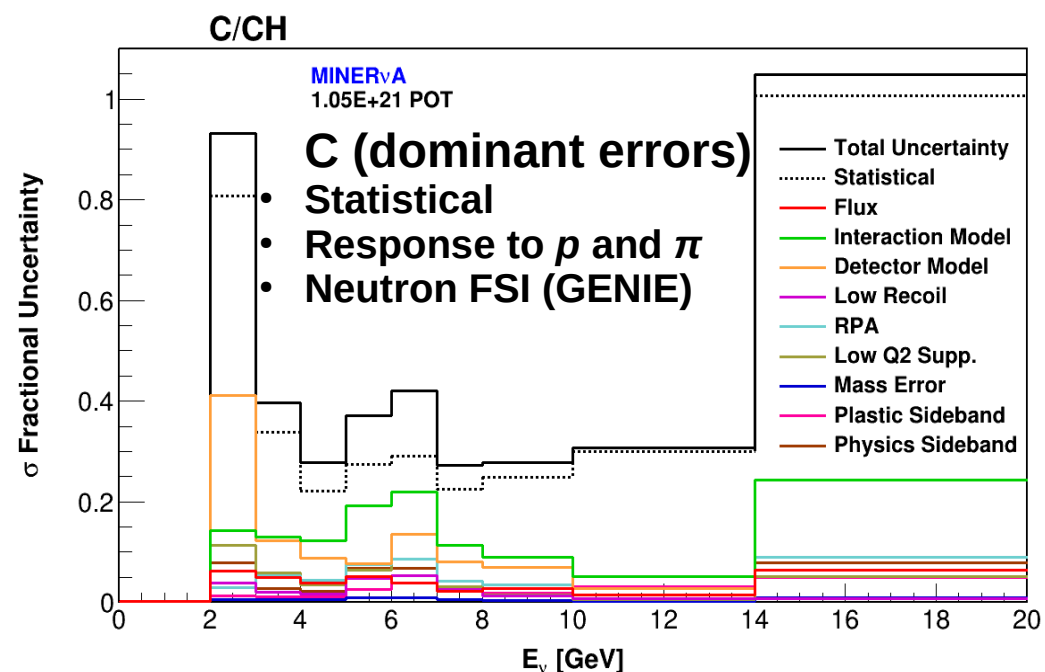
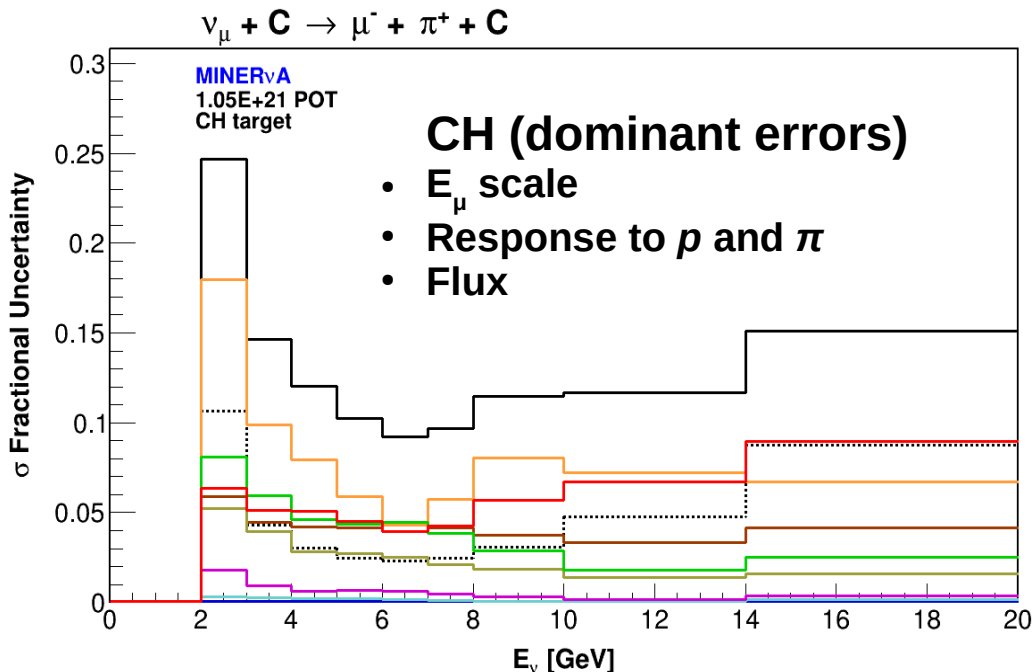
A-Scaling linear fit  
with slope

## Fe/CH

- Neither model does a good description.
- Closer to  $A^{1/3}$  scaling for  $E_\nu < 8$  GeV.
- Closer to  $A^{2/3}$  scaling for  $E_\nu > 10$  GeV.

## Pb/CH

- Neither model does a good description.
- Closer to  $A^{2/3}$  scaling for  $E_\nu > 10$  GeV.
- Low  $E_\nu$  A-scaling in between predictions.



- 1) **MINERvA** has performed the **first simultaneous measurement** in (four) different materials, of the **neutrino-induced coherent production of  $\pi^+$** .
- 2) **First evidence** of the interaction in iron and lead nuclei ( $A_{\text{Fe}} = 56$  and  $A_{\text{Pb}} = 207$ ). Lead being the **largest nucleus probed** so far.
- 3) **First measurement** in a **pure carbon** target.
- 4) **World's largest statistical sample** and **most precise measurement** (using the *CH* target).
- 5) **First cross section ratios** of the interaction: **C/CH, Fe/CH** and **Pb/CH**.
- 6) **Apparent energy-dependence** of the **A-Scaling** of the  $\sigma E_\nu$  cross section.



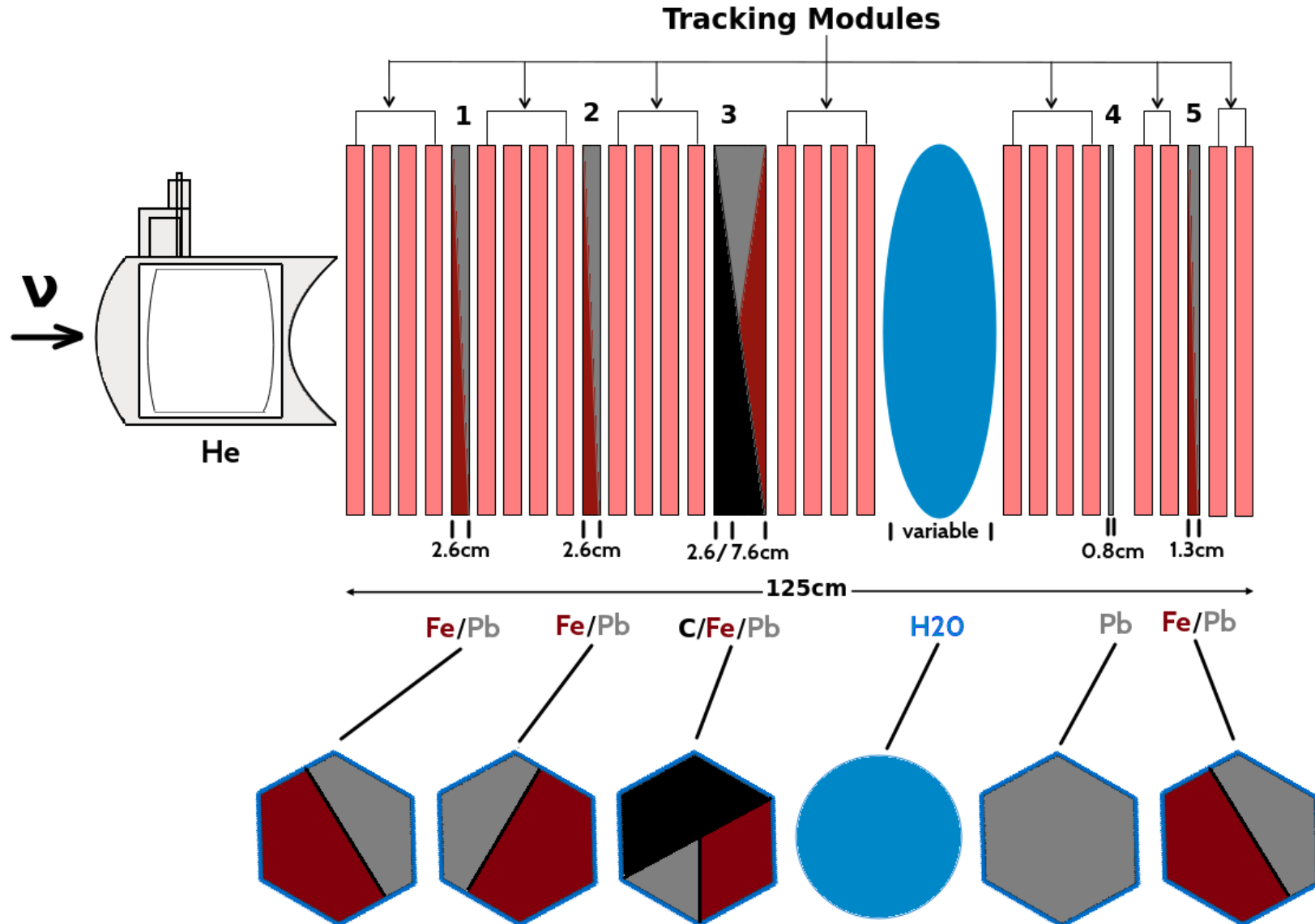
# THANKS!



Last Data Taken Celebration!

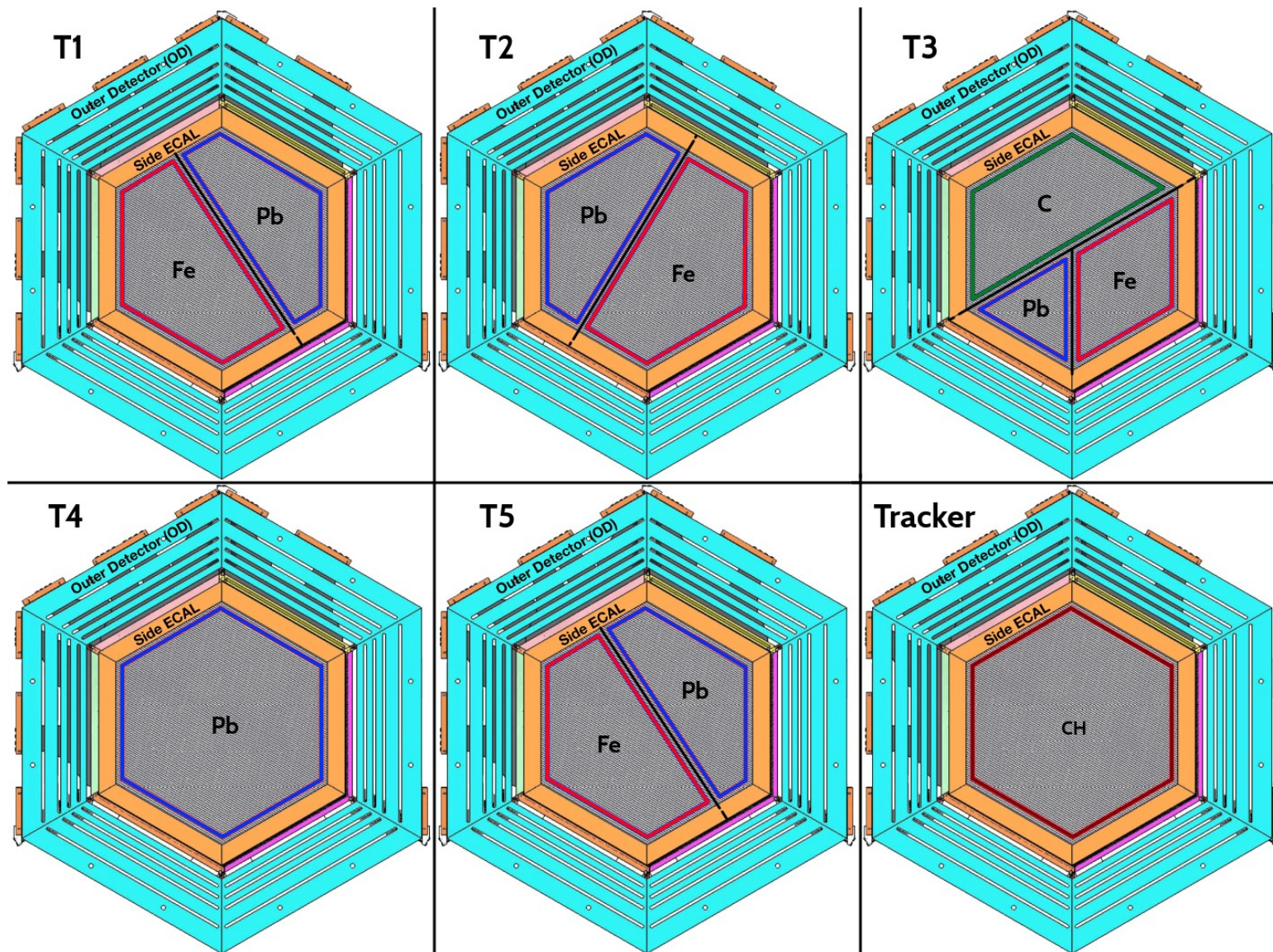


## Side View of the Passive Target Region

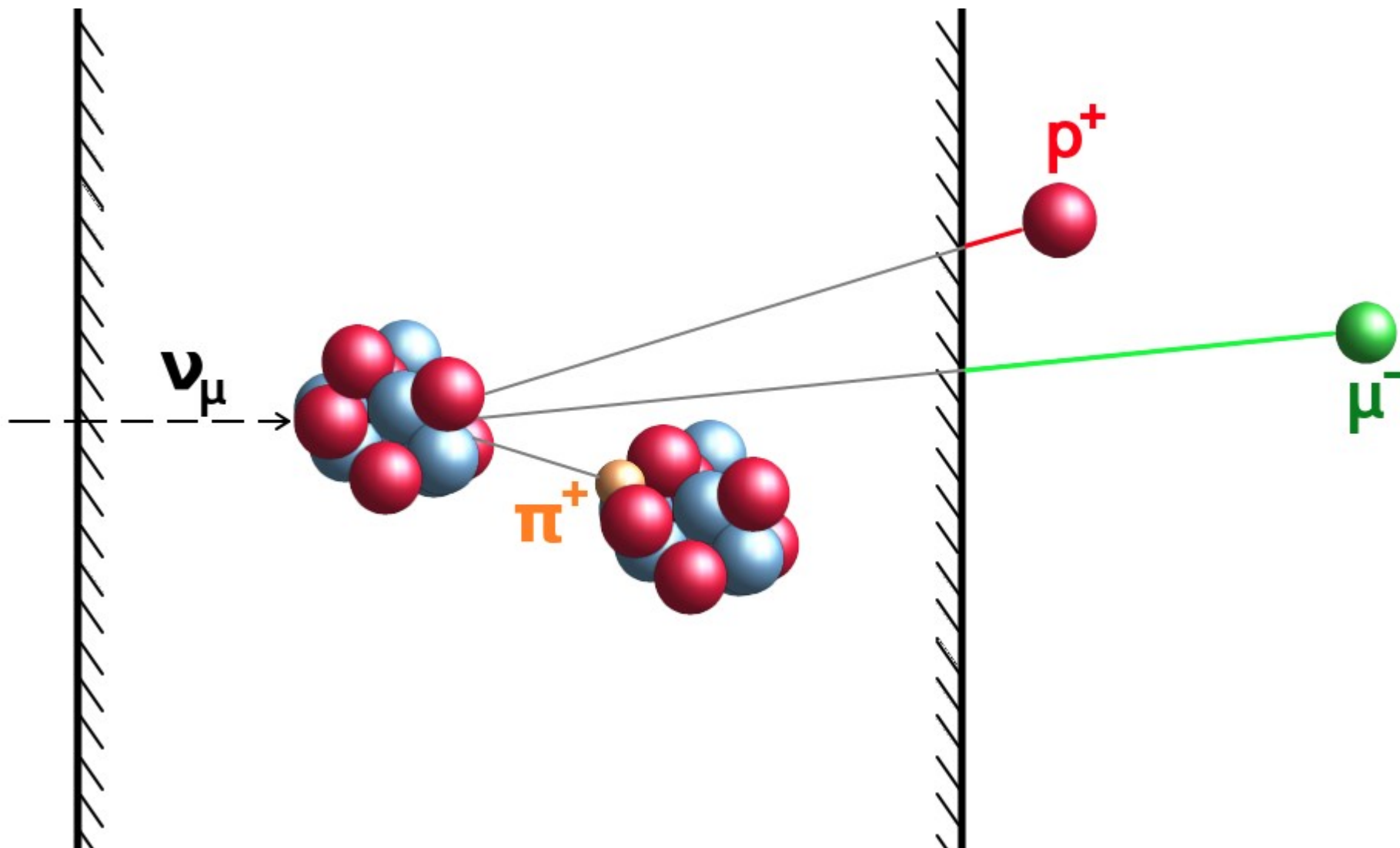




## Target Segments (Beam goes out of the page)

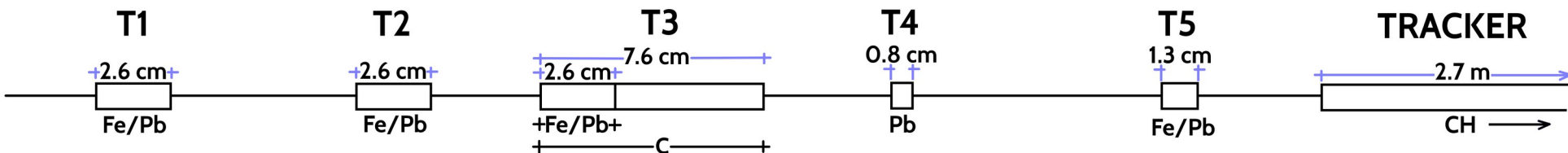


## Effect of Target Thickness – Why Are C and CH |t| Shapes Different?

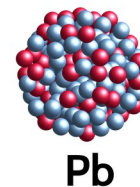
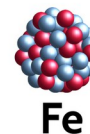
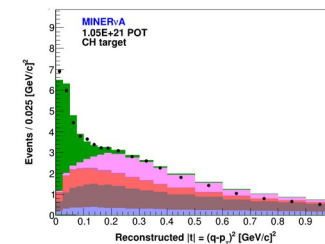
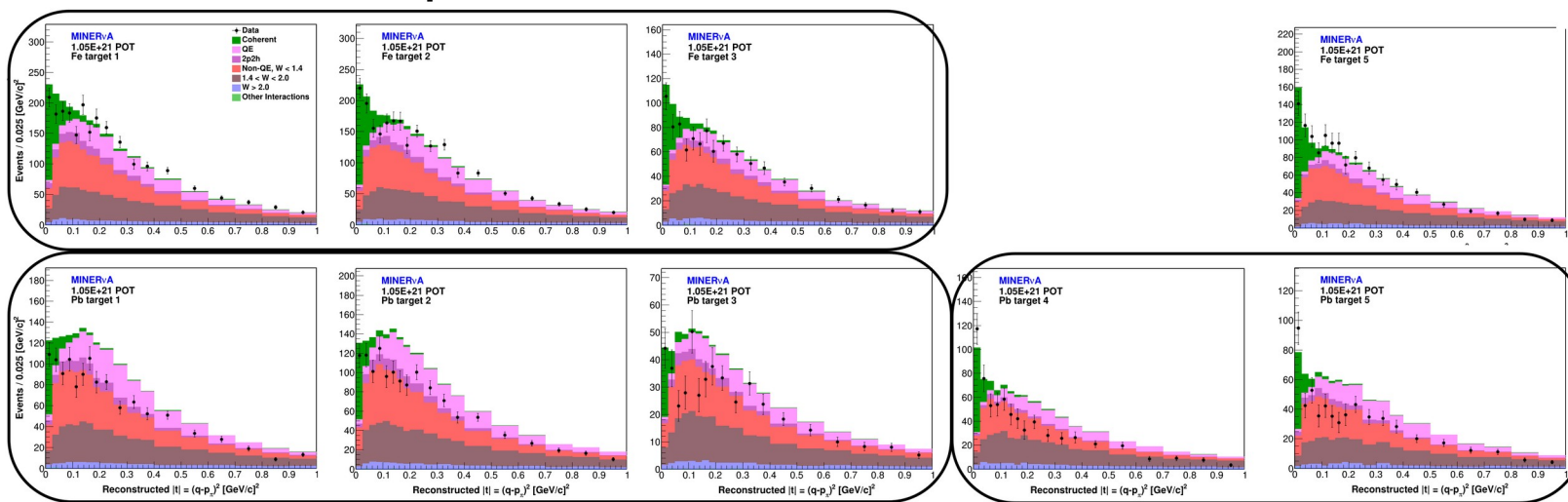




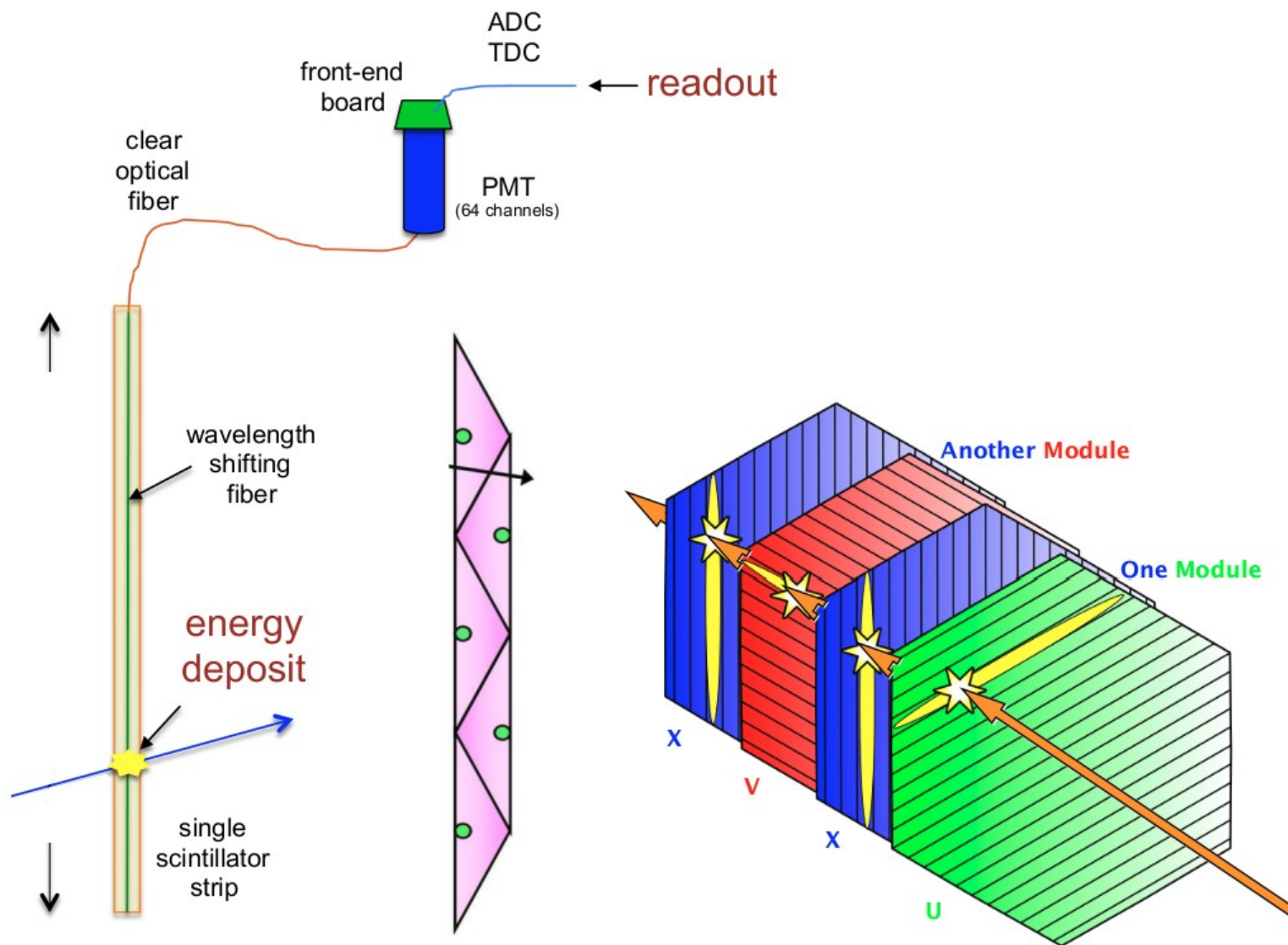
## Effect of Target Thickness - $|t|$ Shapes Depend on Thickness



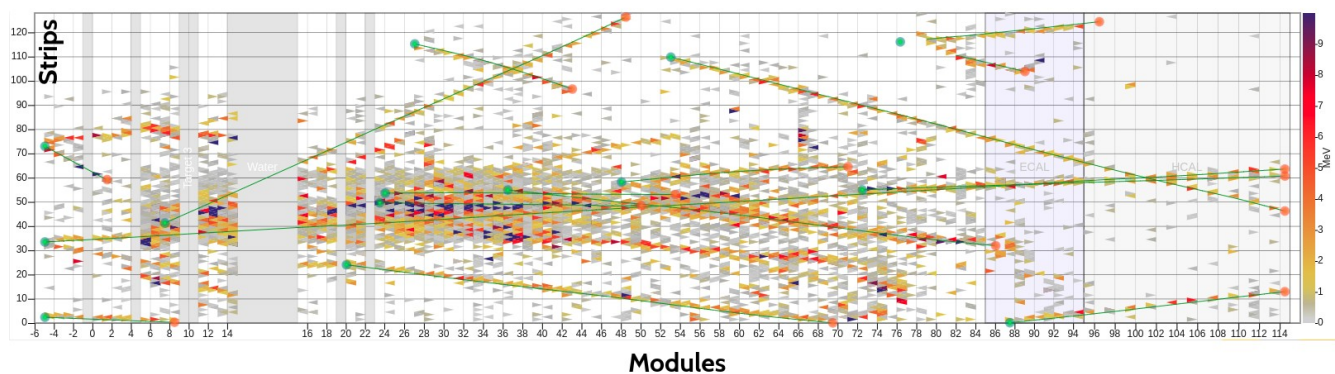
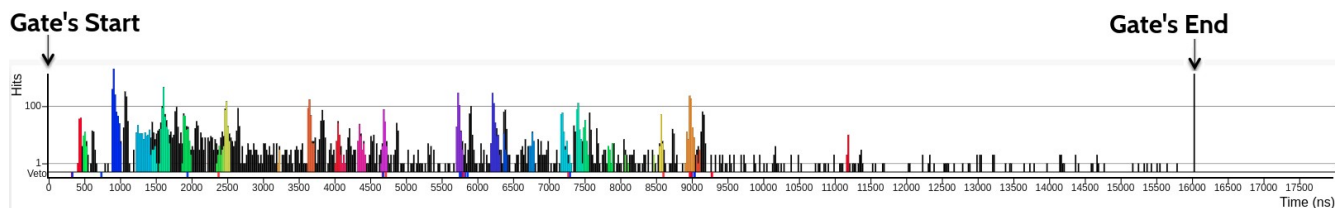
### Boxes of Similar Shapes



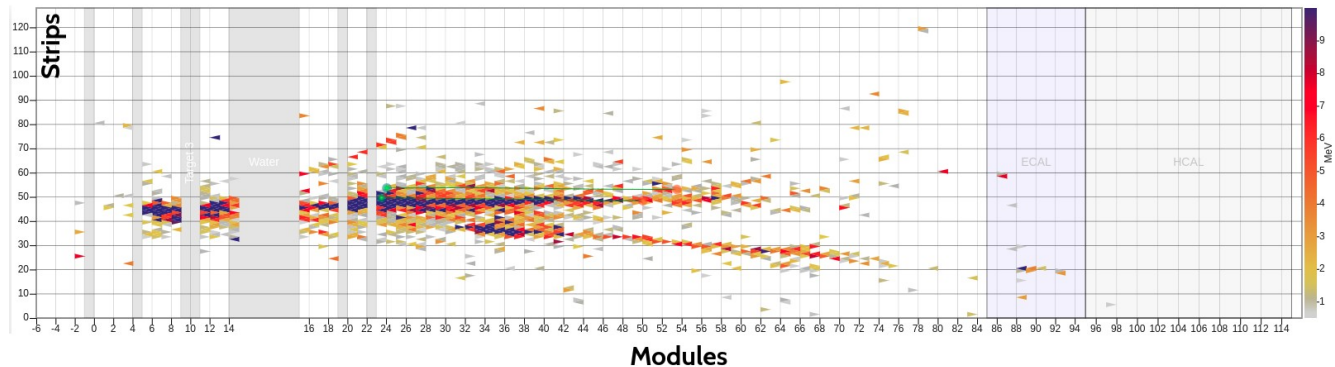
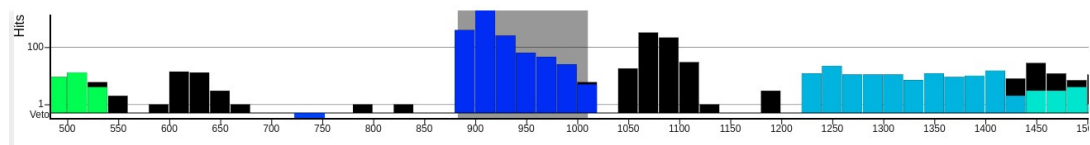
## Data Acquisition



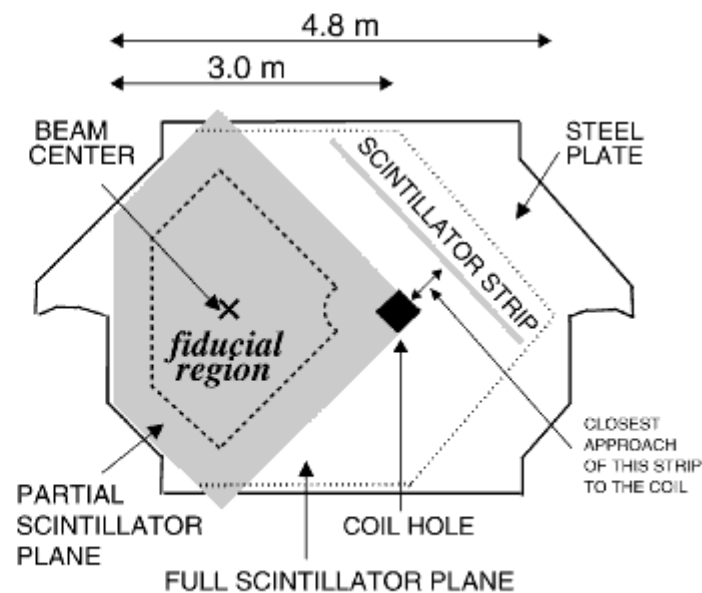
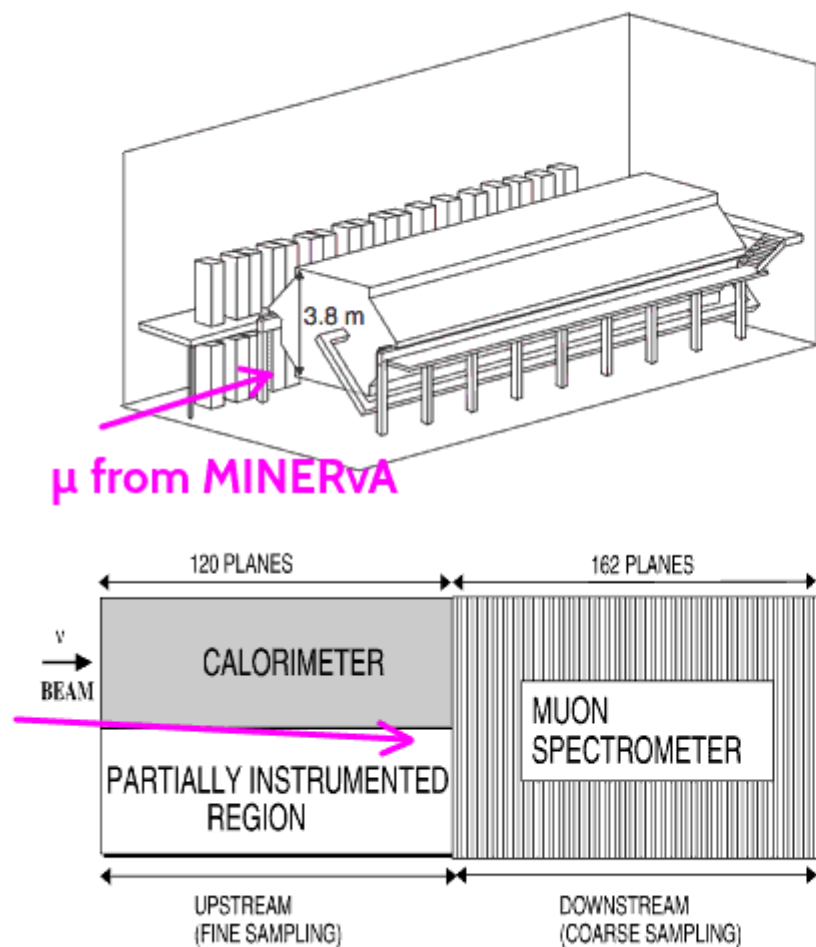
## Data Acquisition



Zoom 500-1500 ns



## The MINOS Detector



## $|t|$ in Terms of the Muon and Pion Kinematics

- Considering the nucleus at rest and the energy transferred to it negligible, the neutrino energy can be expressed like:

$$E_\nu \approx E_\mu + E_\pi$$

- With that assumption, it follows

$$|t| = \left| (p_\nu - p_l - p_\pi)^2 \right| \approx \left( \sum_{i=l,\pi} p_i^T \right)^2 + \left( \sum_{i=l,\pi} E_i - p_i^L \right)^2$$

- After deploying the algebra, is written like

$$\begin{aligned} |t| &\simeq |2(E_\mu + E_\pi)(E_\mu - p_\mu \cos \theta_{\nu\mu}) - m_\mu^2 \\ &- 2(E_\pi^2 - (E_\mu + E_\pi)p_\pi \cos \theta_{\nu\pi} + p_\mu p_\pi \cos \theta_{\mu\pi}) + m_\pi^2| \end{aligned}$$



## Diffractive Process

- Coherent inelastic pion production is also a diffractive process. This means that the momentum transfer to the target is “small”

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} \sim A(E_\pi) e^{-b|t|}$$

where  $b$  [ $\text{GeV}/c$ ] $^{-2}$   $\sim$  radius of the target:

- $R_C \sim 2.77$  fm,  $b \sim 40$  [ $\text{GeV}/c$ ] $^{-2}$
- $R_{\text{Fe}} \sim 4.29$  fm,  $b \sim 110$  [ $\text{GeV}/c$ ] $^{-2}$
- $R_{\text{Pb}} \sim 7.16$  fm,  $b \sim 270$  [ $\text{GeV}/c$ ] $^{-2}$

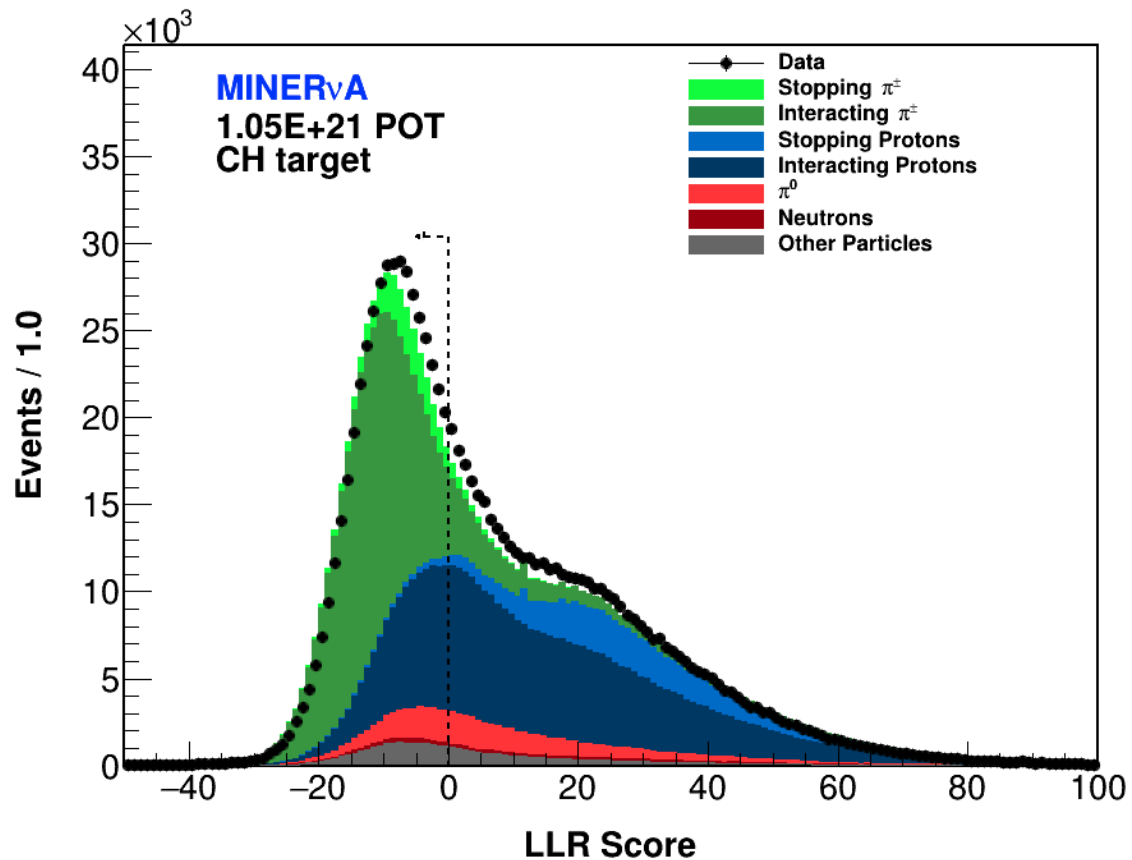
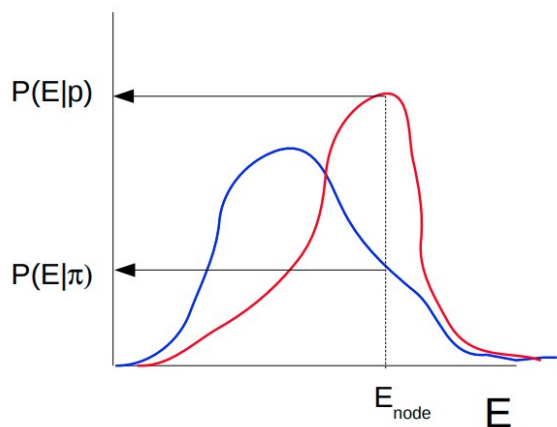
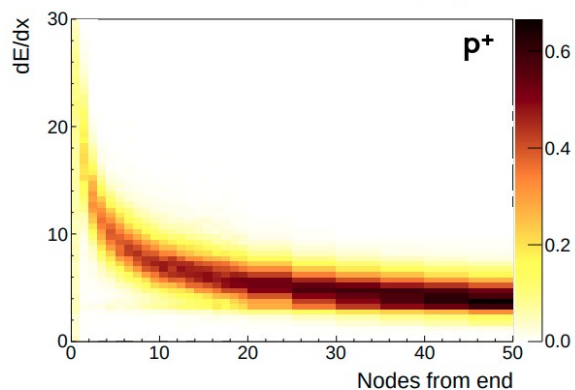
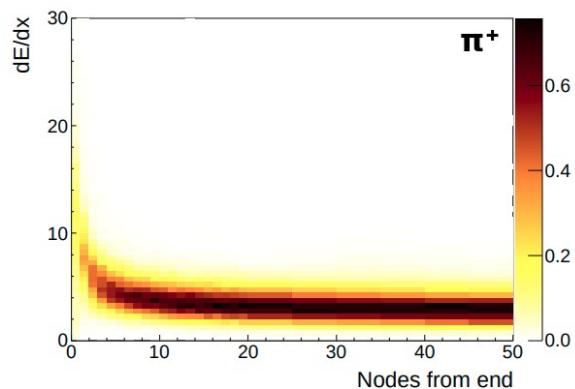
## MINERvA's LE Analysis [Phys.Rev.D 97 (2018) 3, 032014]

- The cross section is  $\nu + p \rightarrow \pi^+ + p$
- $|t|_{\text{diff}} = |(p_\nu - p_\mu - p_\pi)^2| = |(p_{p,f} - p_{p,i})^2| = 2m_p T_p$
- Because of the  $E_{\nu\text{tx}}$  cut, the protons kinetic energy  $T_p$  is restricted to small values and therefore small  $|t|$ .
- The slope  $b$  in the cross section is only  $\sim 8 [\text{GeV}/c]^{-2}$  compared to that of  $C \sim 40 [\text{GeV}/c]^{-2}$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} \sim A(E_\pi) e^{-b|t|}$$

- The small acceptance and the slow falling  $|t|$ -dependence of the cross section results in a small contribution to the coherent cross section.
- The LE MINERvA analysis showed that the measured diffractive cross section was consistent with zero!

## Event Selection - dE/dx Cut



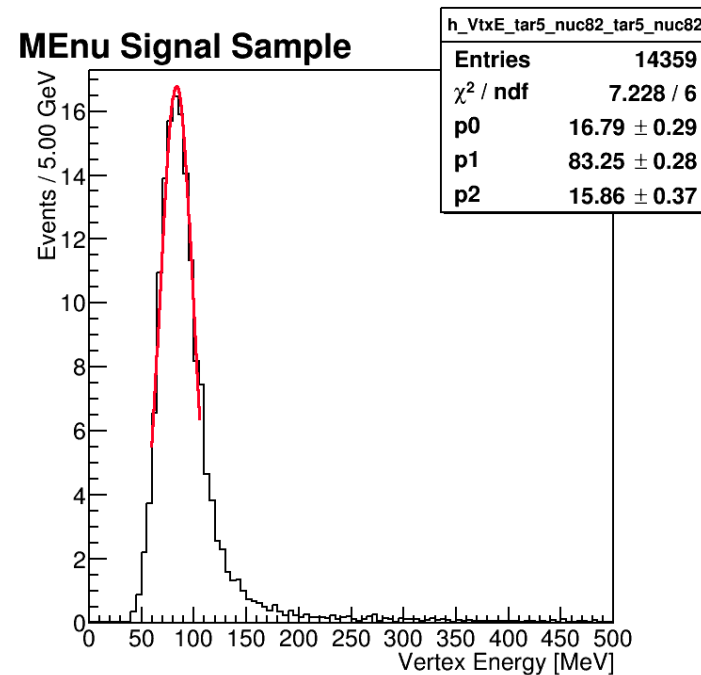
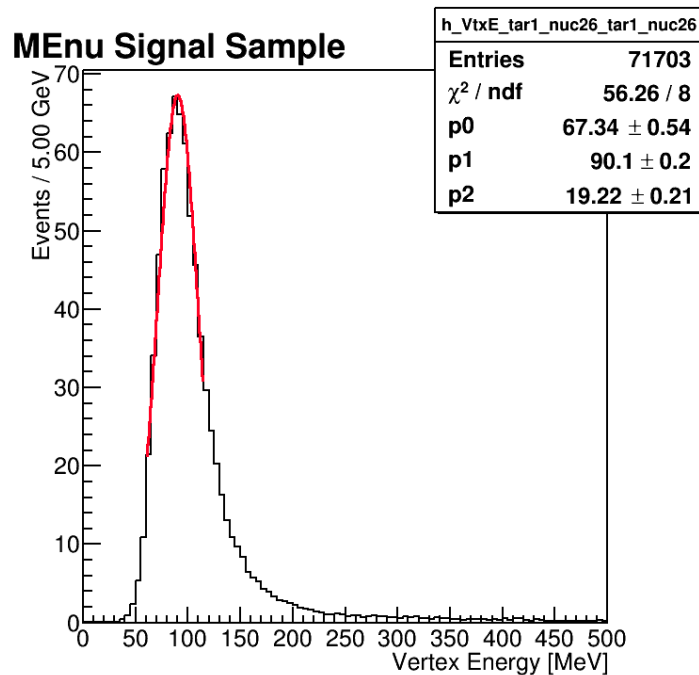
$$\mathcal{L}_{\pi^+, p} = \prod_{nodes} P(E_{node} | \pi^+, p) \quad \leftarrow \text{pion/proton hypotheses}$$

$$LR = \mathcal{L}_p / \mathcal{L}_{\pi^+} \quad \leftarrow \text{Likelihood ratio}$$

$$LLR = \sum_{nodes} [\log P(E_{node} | p) - \log P(E_{node} | \pi^+)]$$

## $E_{\text{vtx}}$ Fit

- Example of T1 Fe and T5 Pb distributions of the vertex energy using signal events only.
- The  $\mu \pm 1\sigma$  defines the  $E_{\text{vtx}}$  cut.



## $\chi^2$ for Plastic Sidebands

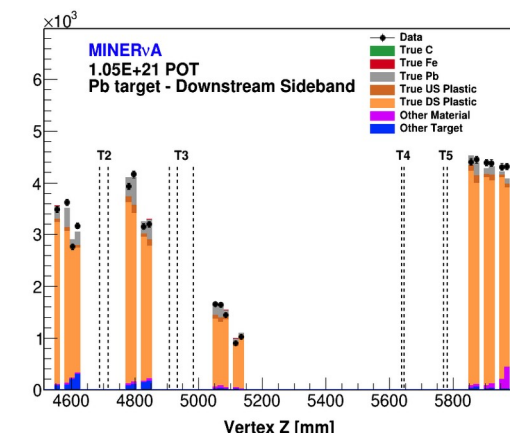
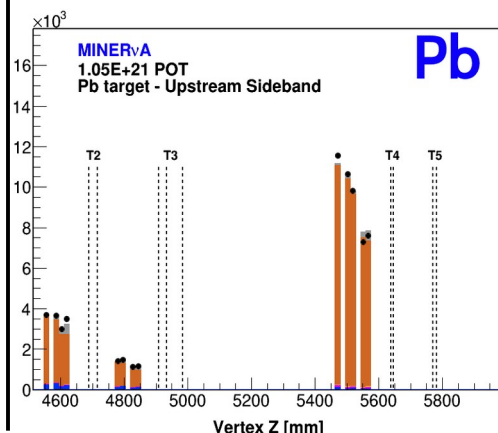
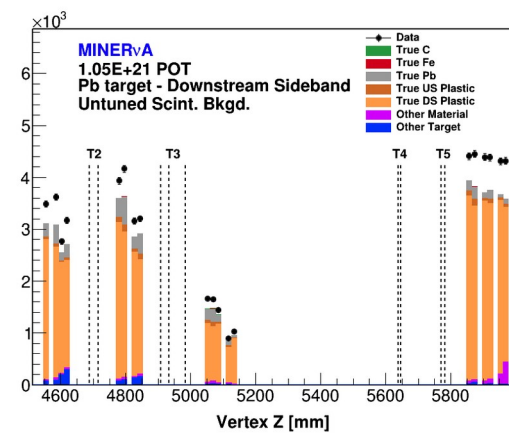
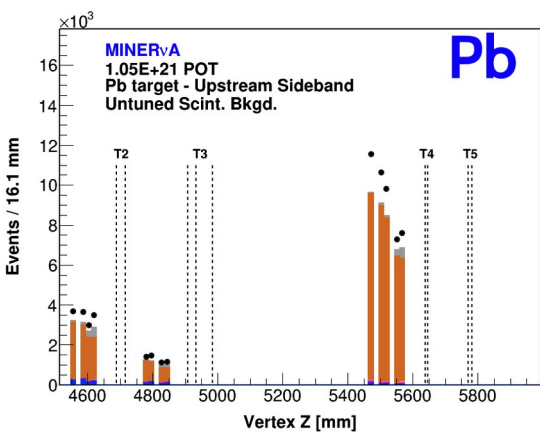
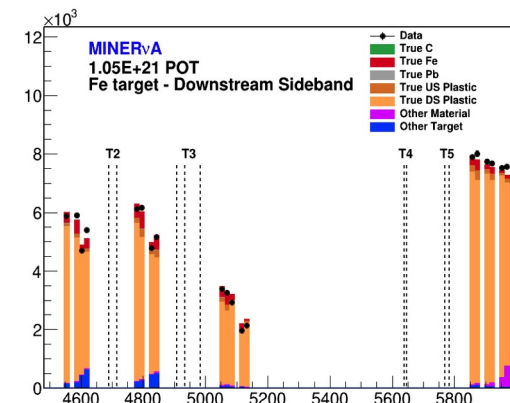
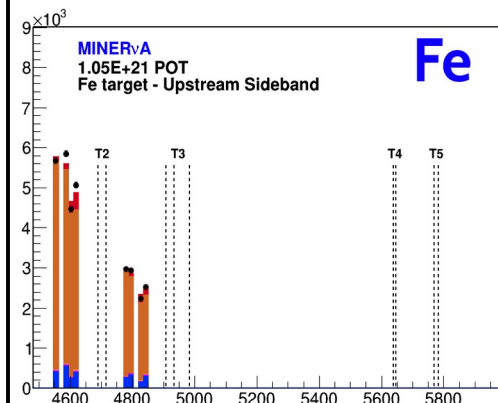
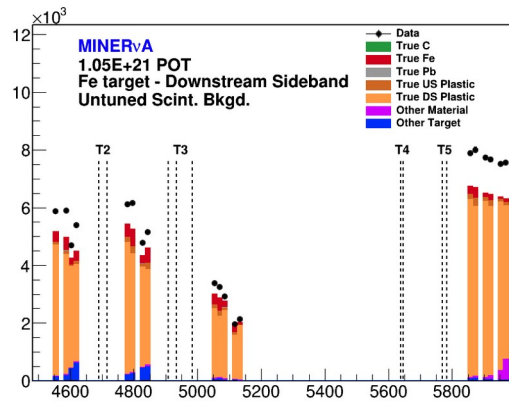
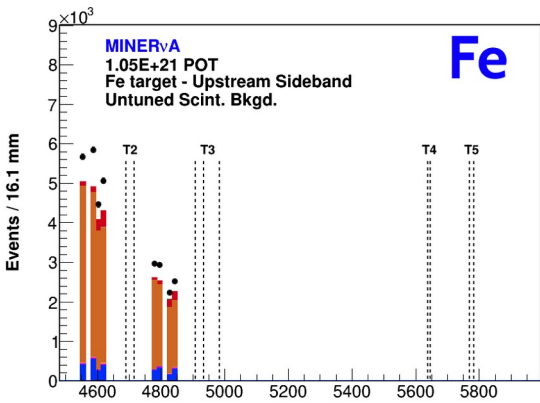
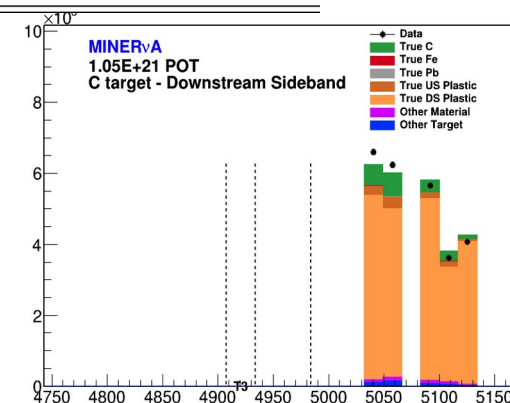
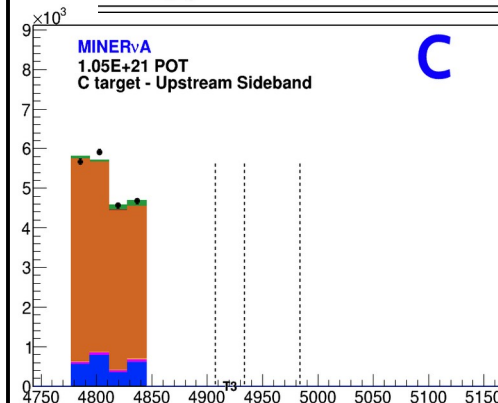
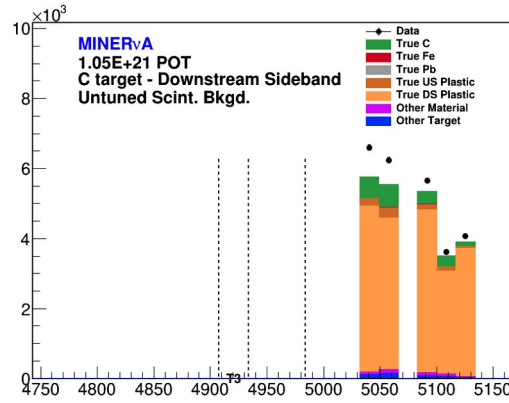
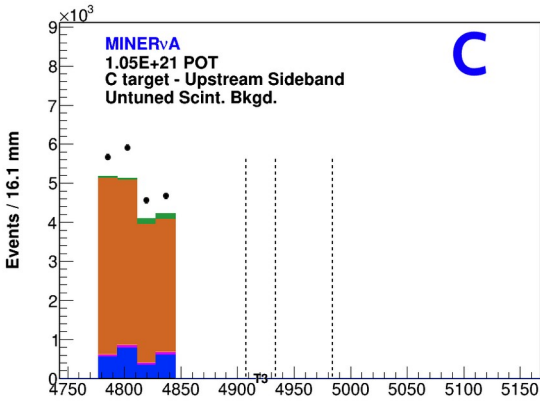
- A  $\chi^2$  hypothesis is constructed for each material (C, Fe and **Pb**) and for each plastic region: upstream (US) and downstream (DS).
- The sidebands are the plastic planes in between targets, excluding the planes immediately next to the targets, and all the planes in between targets 4 and 5.

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \left[ \frac{MC_{signal}^i + MC_{other}^i + \alpha_{us} MC_{us}^i + \alpha_{ds} MC_{ds}^i - Data^i}{\sqrt{Data^i}} \right]^2$$

- $MC_{signal}$  = C, Fe or Pb MC contribution
- $MC_{other}$  = Other material and other target MC contribution
- $MC_{us}$  = Upstream plastic MC contribution
- $MC_{ds}$  = Downstream plastic MC contribution

## Untuned vs Tuned Sidebands

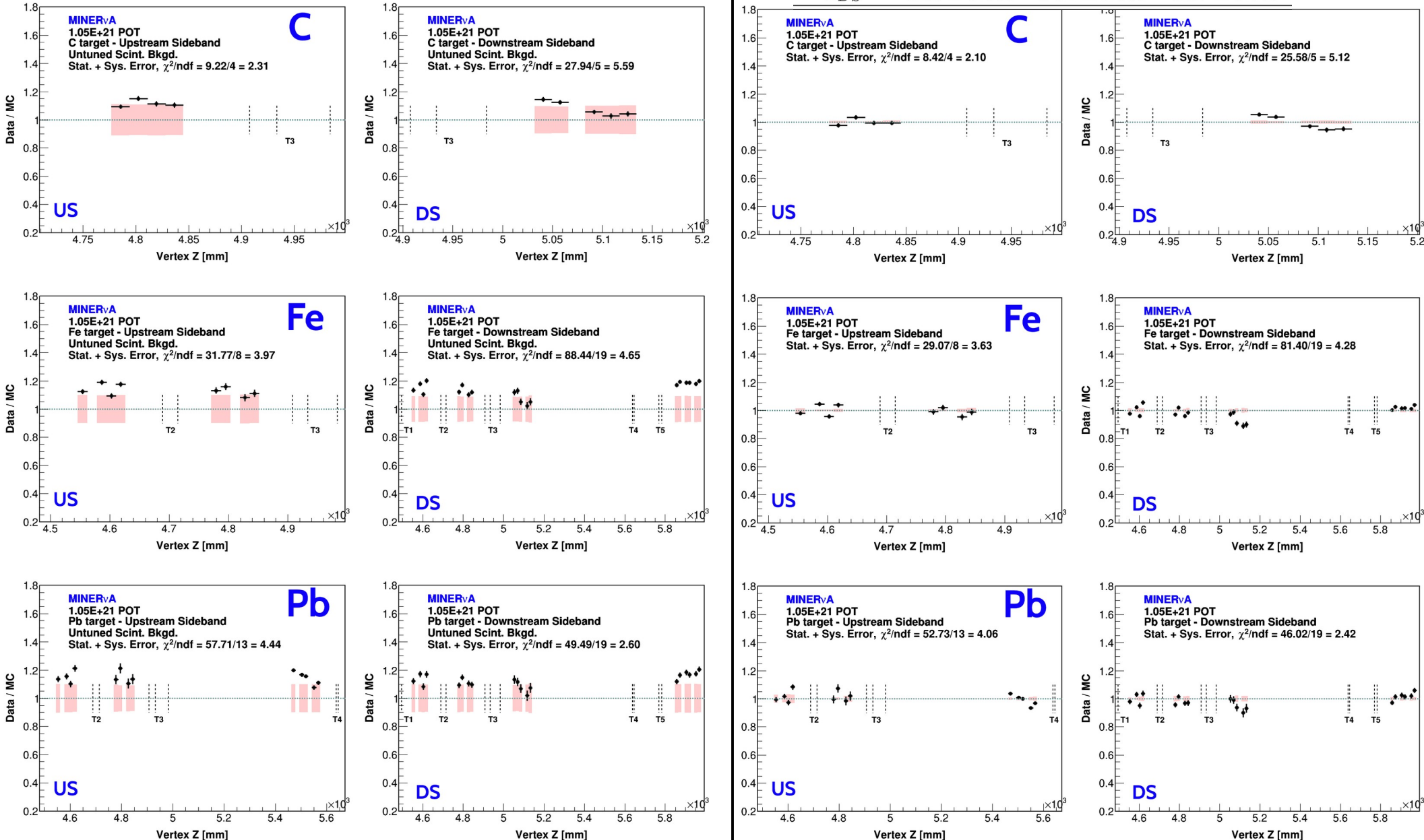
Material	$C$	$Fe$	$Pb$
$\alpha_{US}$	$1.15 \pm 0.009$	$1.17 \pm 0.004$	$1.16 \pm 0.005$
$\alpha_{DS}$	$1.11 \pm 0.008$	$1.04 \pm 0.005$	$1.17 \pm 0.005$





## Untuned vs Tuned Sidebands

Material	<i>C</i>	<i>Fe</i>	<i>Pb</i>
$\alpha_{US}$	$1.15 \pm 0.009$	$1.17 \pm 0.004$	$1.16 \pm 0.005$
$\alpha_{DS}$	$1.11 \pm 0.008$	$1.04 \pm 0.005$	$1.17 \pm 0.005$





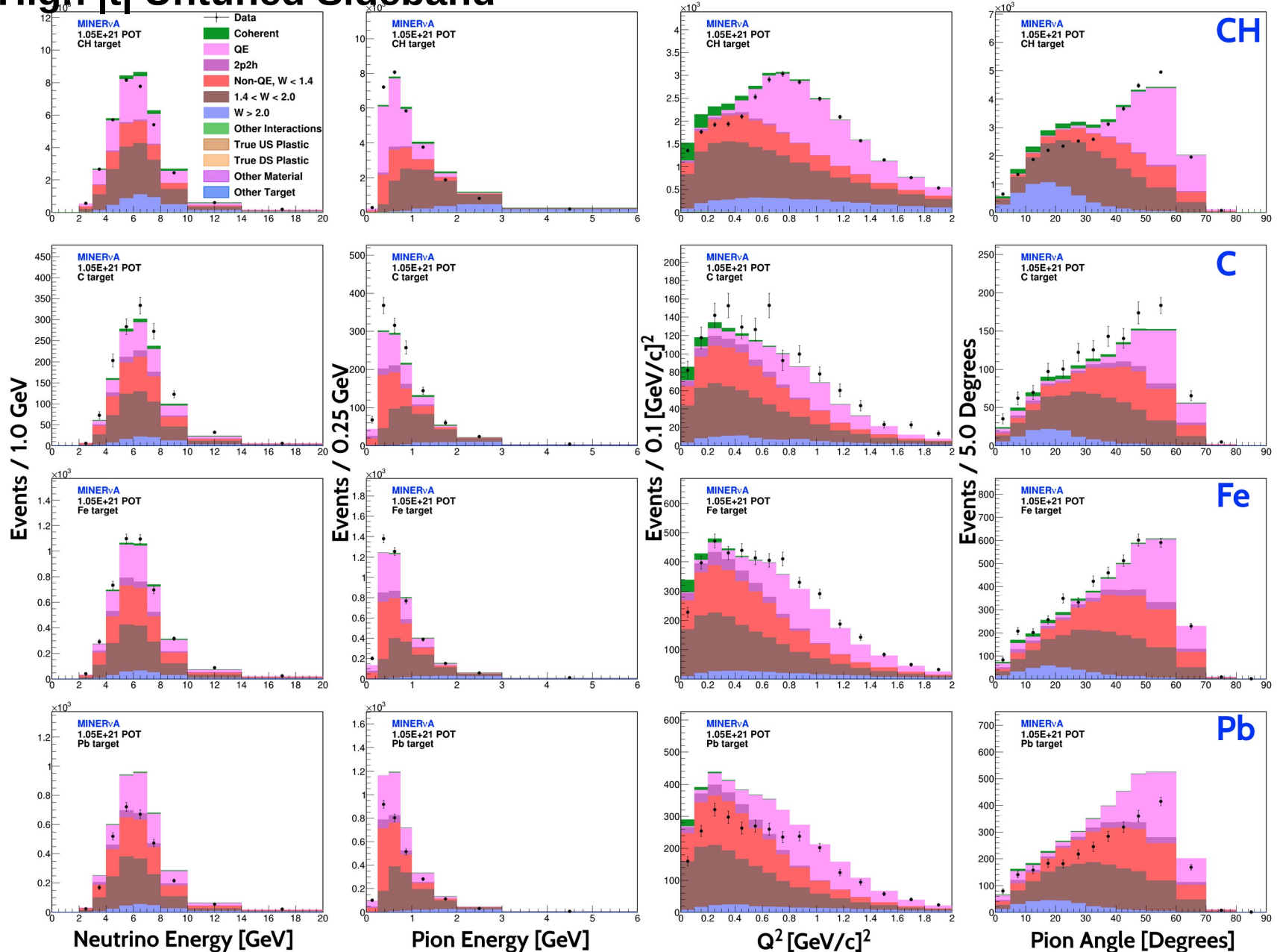
## $\chi^2$ for High $|t|$ Sideband

- The tuning is performed simultaneously in  $E_\pi$  and  $Q^2$  variables, after the  $E_{\text{vtx}}$  cut, inside the  $0.2 < |t| < 0.7$  [GeV/c]<sup>2</sup> sideband.

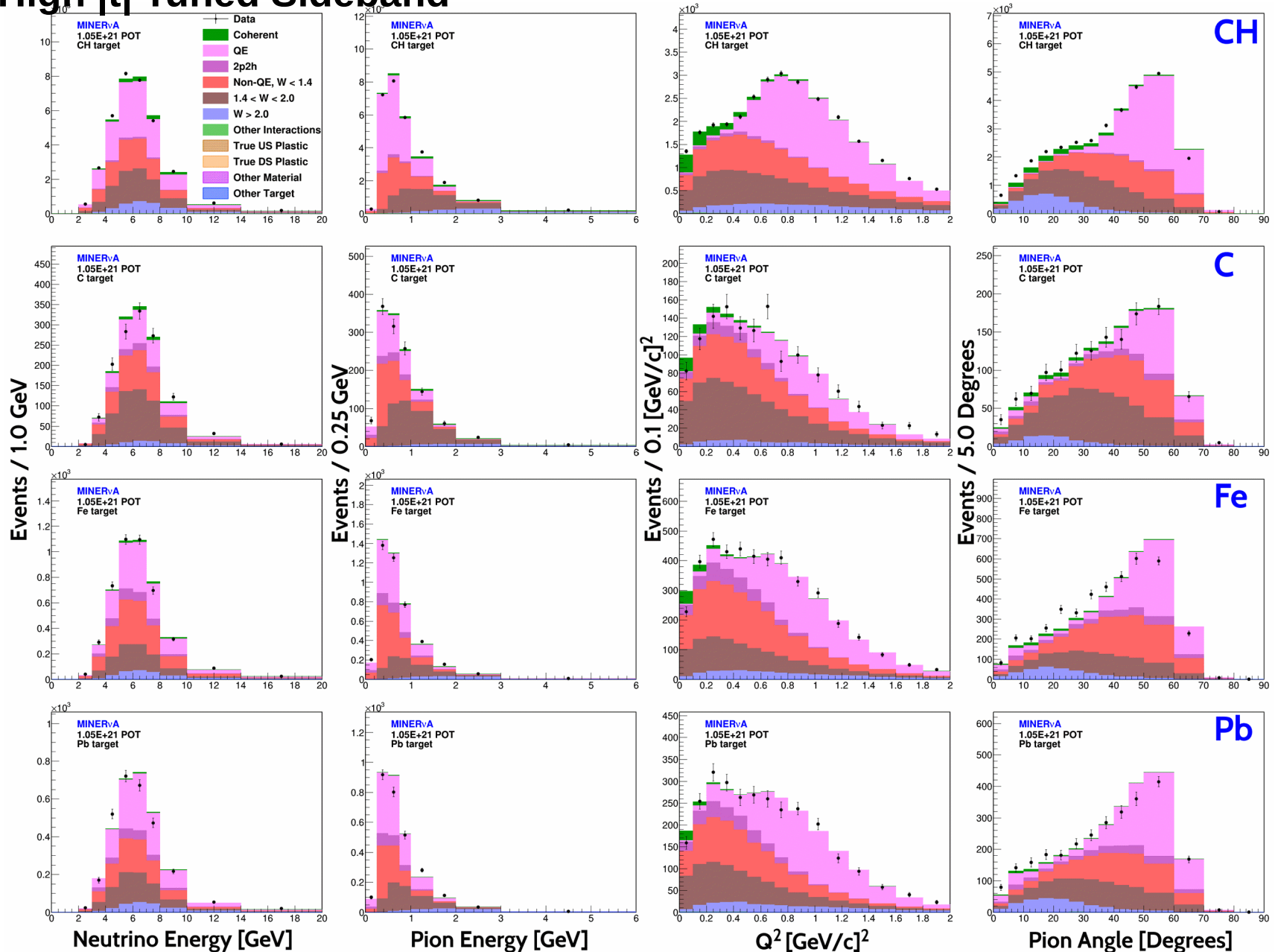
$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \sum_j \frac{\left[ N_{ij}^{\text{Data}} - \sum_k \alpha_k N_{ijk}^{\text{MC}} \right]^2}{\sum_k \alpha_k N_{ijk}^{\text{MC}}}$$

- $N^{\text{Data}}$  = Number of data events in the  $ij$  bin.
- $N^{\text{MC}}$  = Number of MC events from the  $k$  background, in the  $ij$  bin.
- $\alpha_k$  = Scale factor for each background.

## High $|t|$ Untuned Sideband



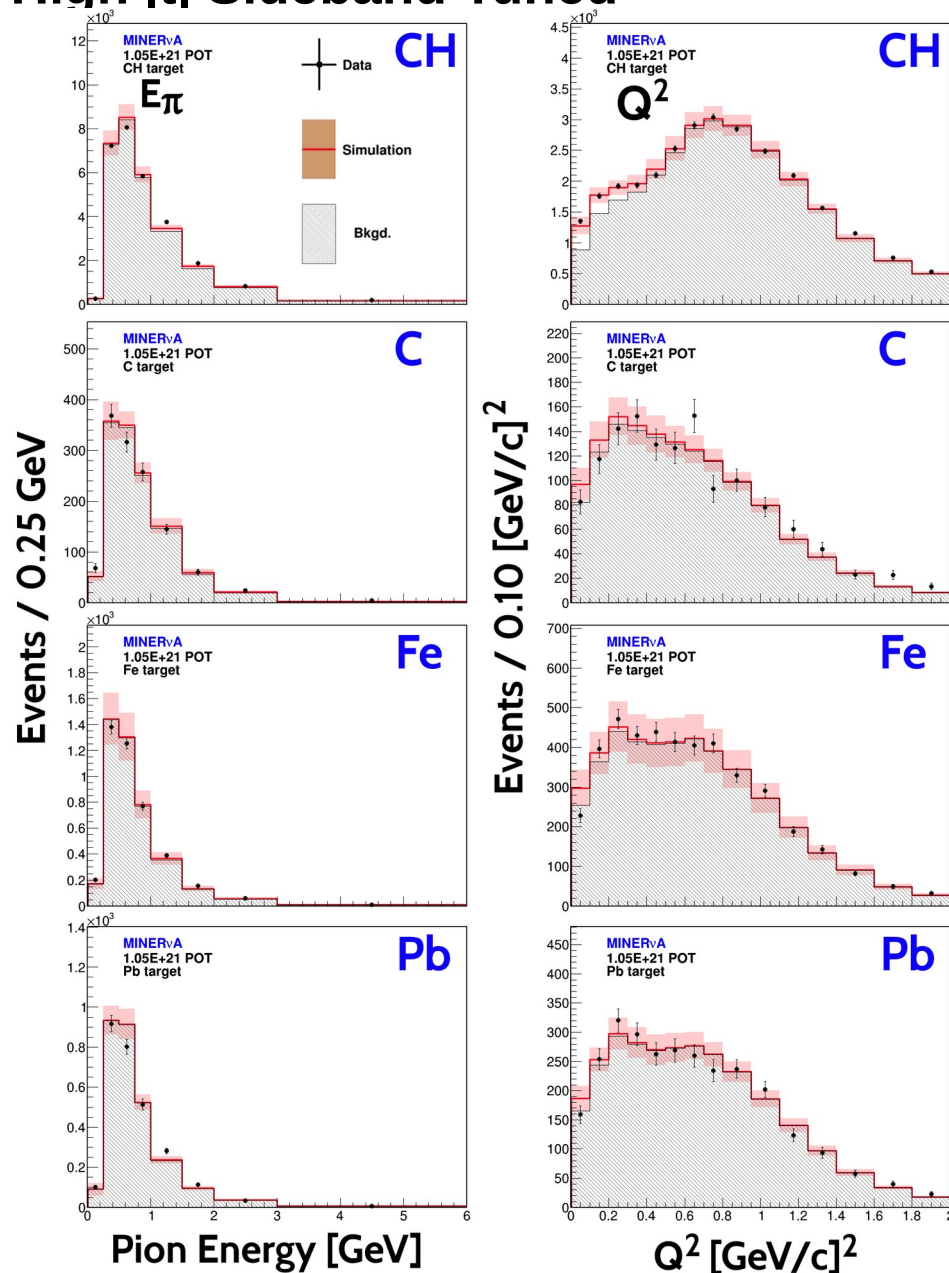
## High $|t|$ Tuned Sideband



Scale Factors

Material	CH	C	Fe	Pb
$\alpha_{QE}$	$1.22 \pm 0.016$	$1.22 \pm 0.016$	$1.40 \pm 0.067$	$1.09 \pm 0.054$
$\alpha_{RES}$	$1.29 \pm 0.040$	$1.17 \pm 0.046$	$1.15 \pm 0.088$	$0.66 \pm 0.069$
$\alpha_{INE}$	$0.60 \pm 0.016$	$1.17 \pm 0.046$	$0.58 \pm 0.059$	$0.50 \pm 0.053$
$\alpha_{DIS}$	$0.65 \pm 0.026$	$0.65 \pm 0.026$	$1.08 \pm 0.137$	$0.98 \pm 0.144$

## High $|t|$ Sideband Tuned

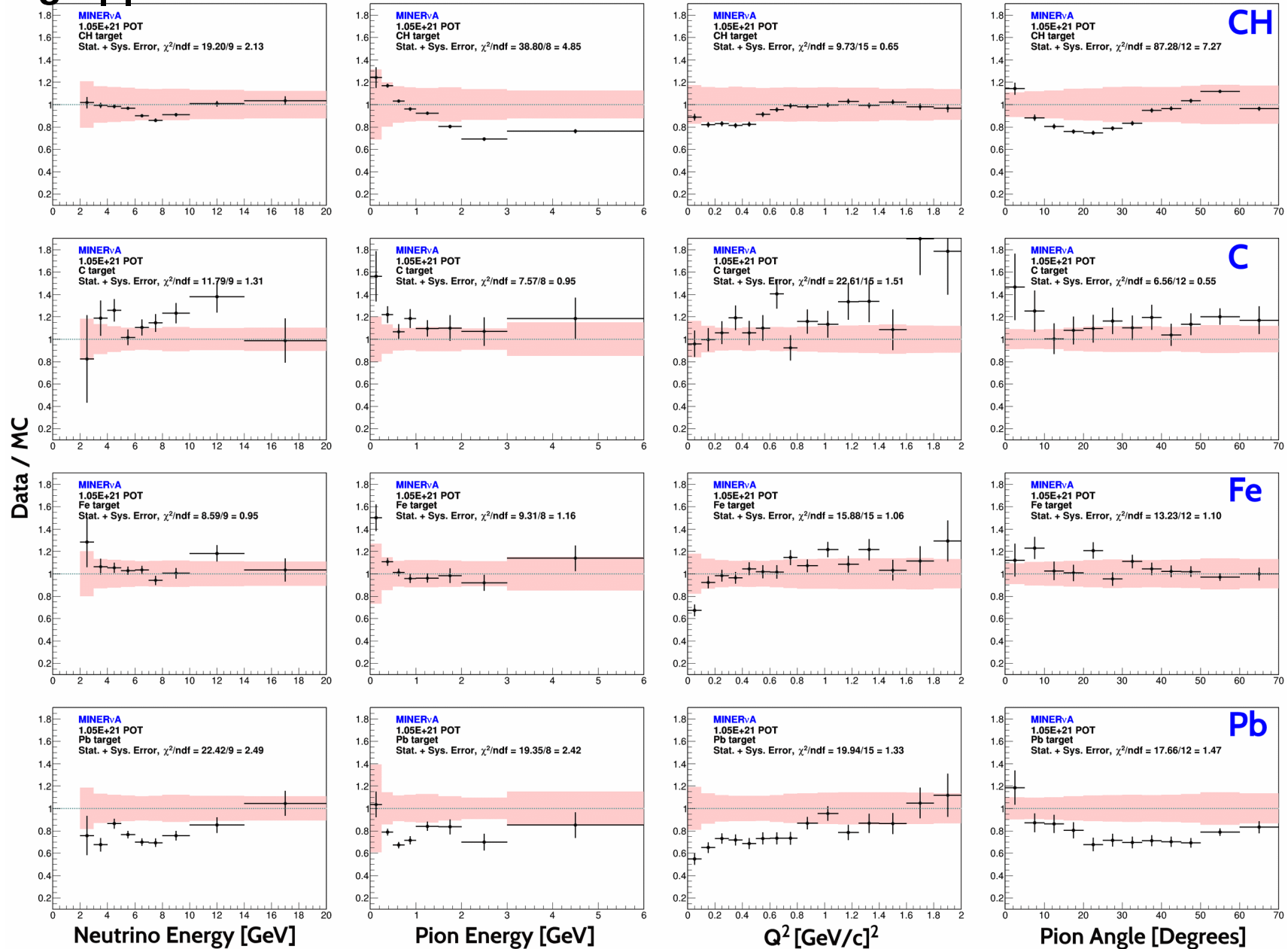


Background  
TUNED

Distributions from  
high  $|t|$  sidebands

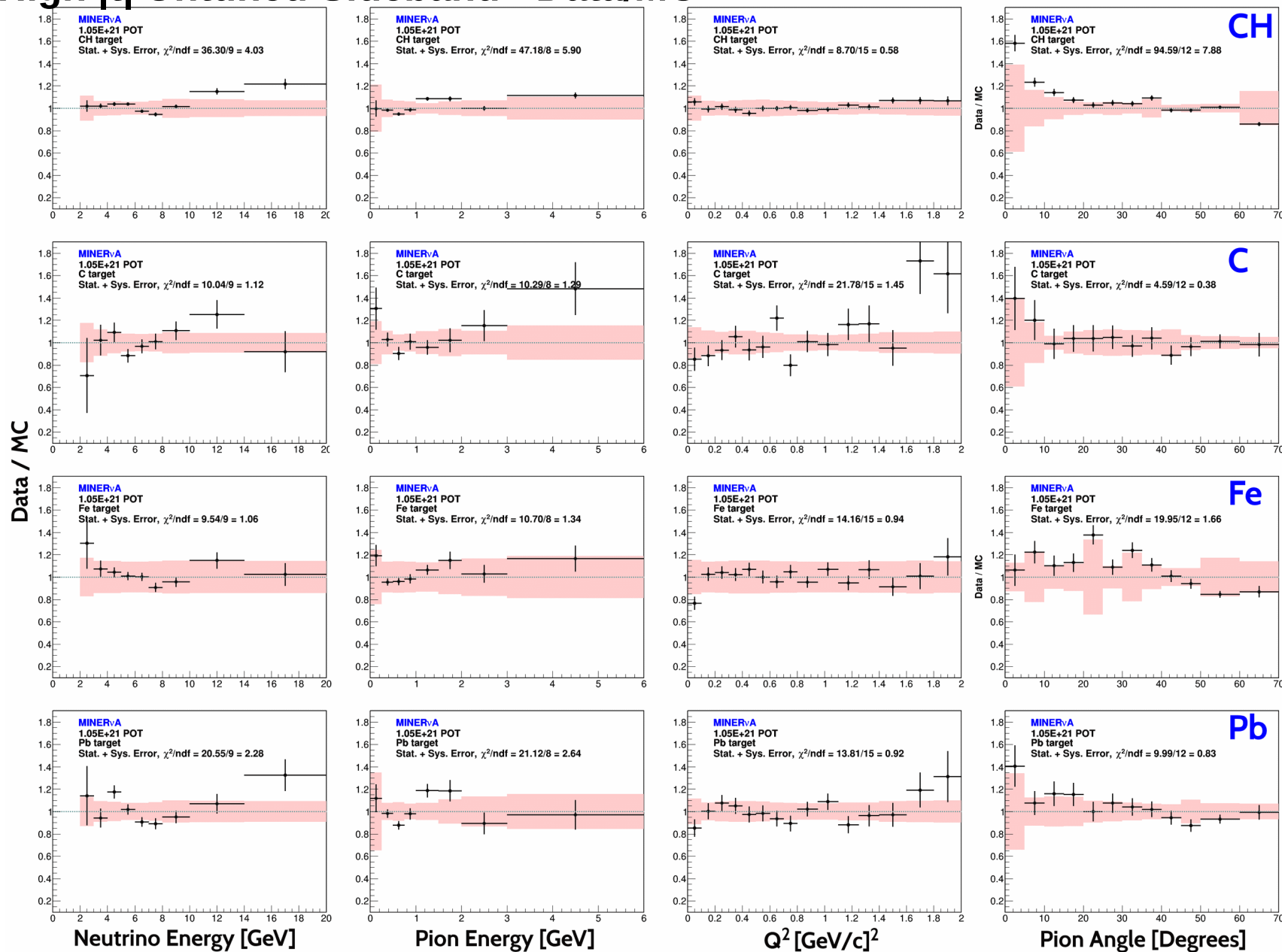
- Tuned in  $E_\pi$  and  $Q^2$  simultaneously.
- Samples from  $0.3 < |t| < 0.7$  [GeV/c]<sup>2</sup>

## High $|t|$ Untuned Sideband – Data/MC

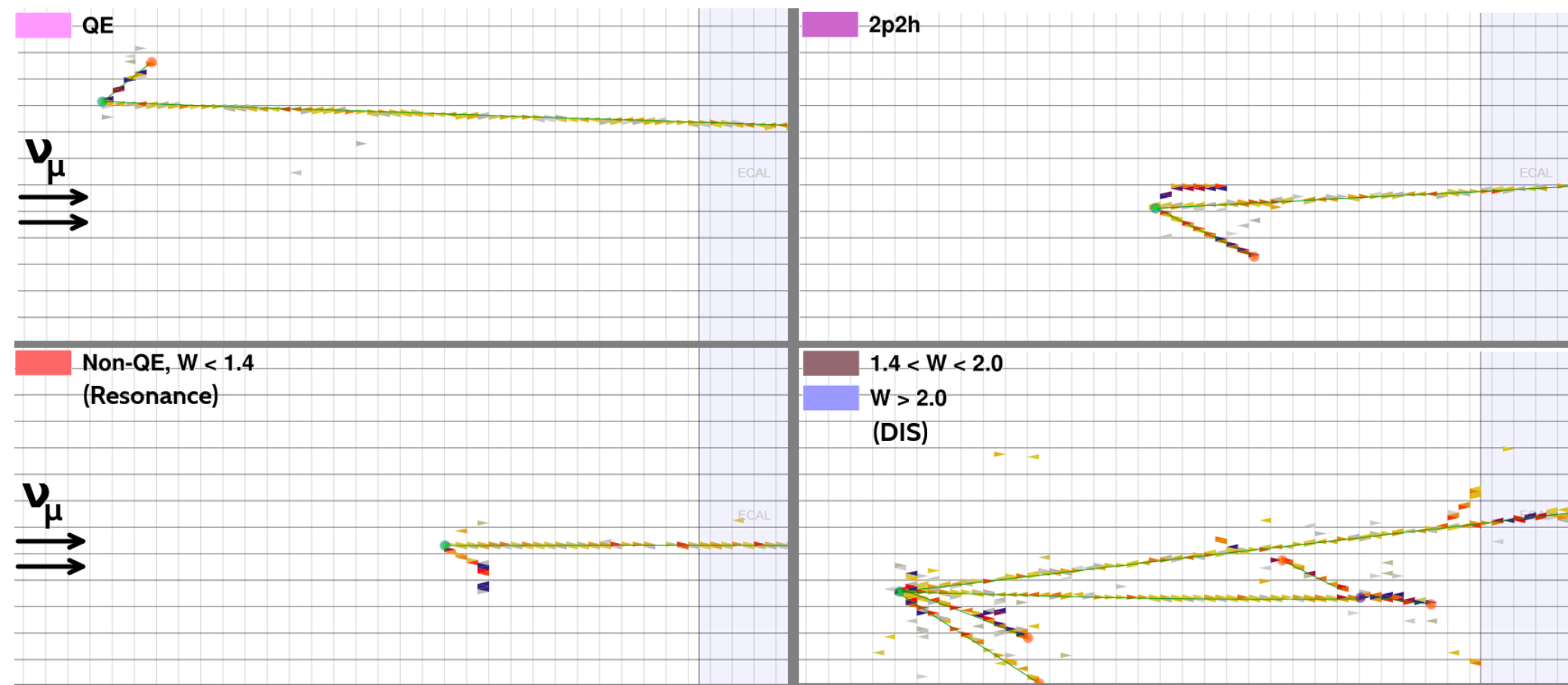




## High $|t|$ Untuned Sideband - Data/MC

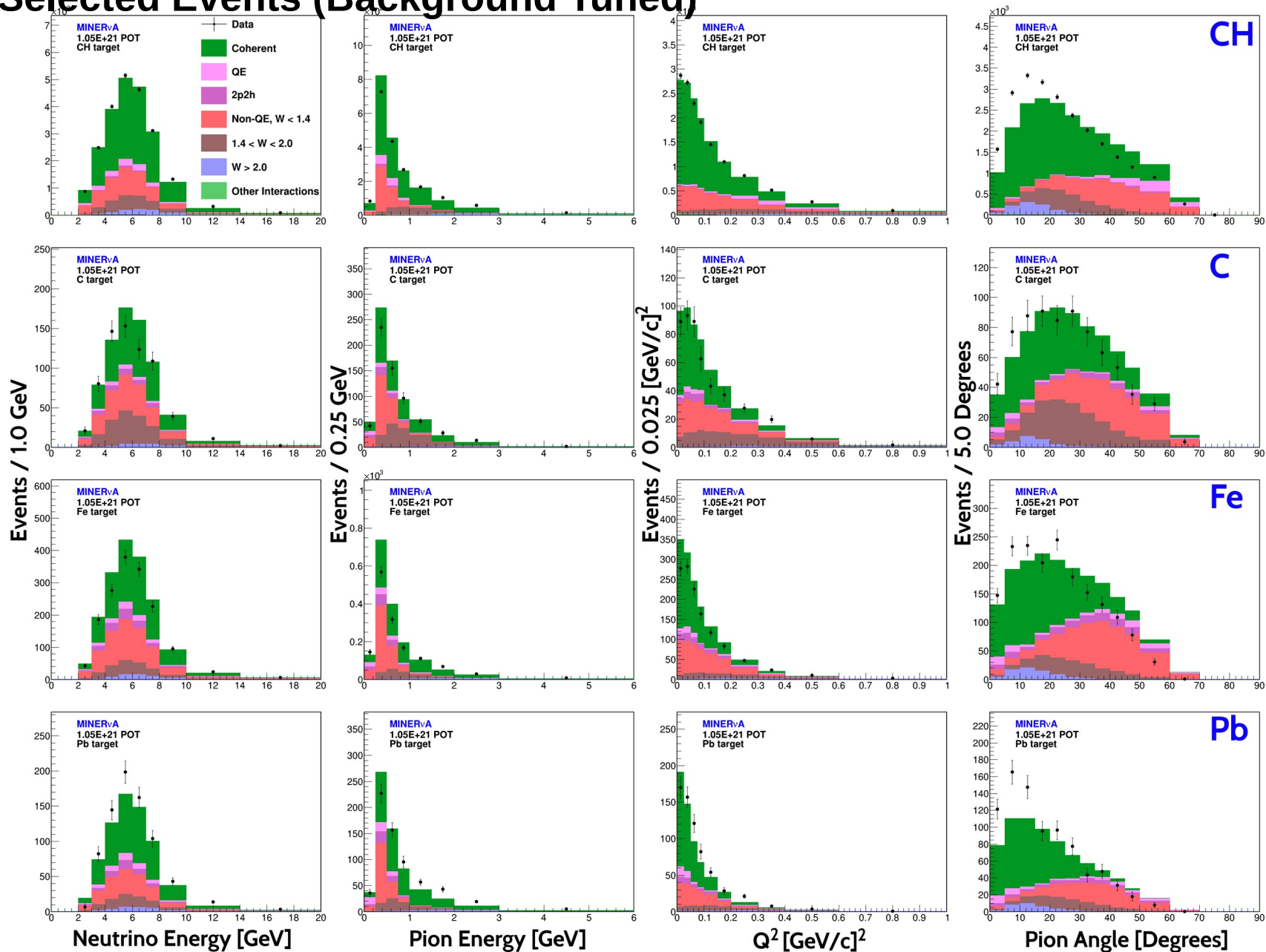


## Backgrounds – In Terms of Invariant Mass ( $W$ )

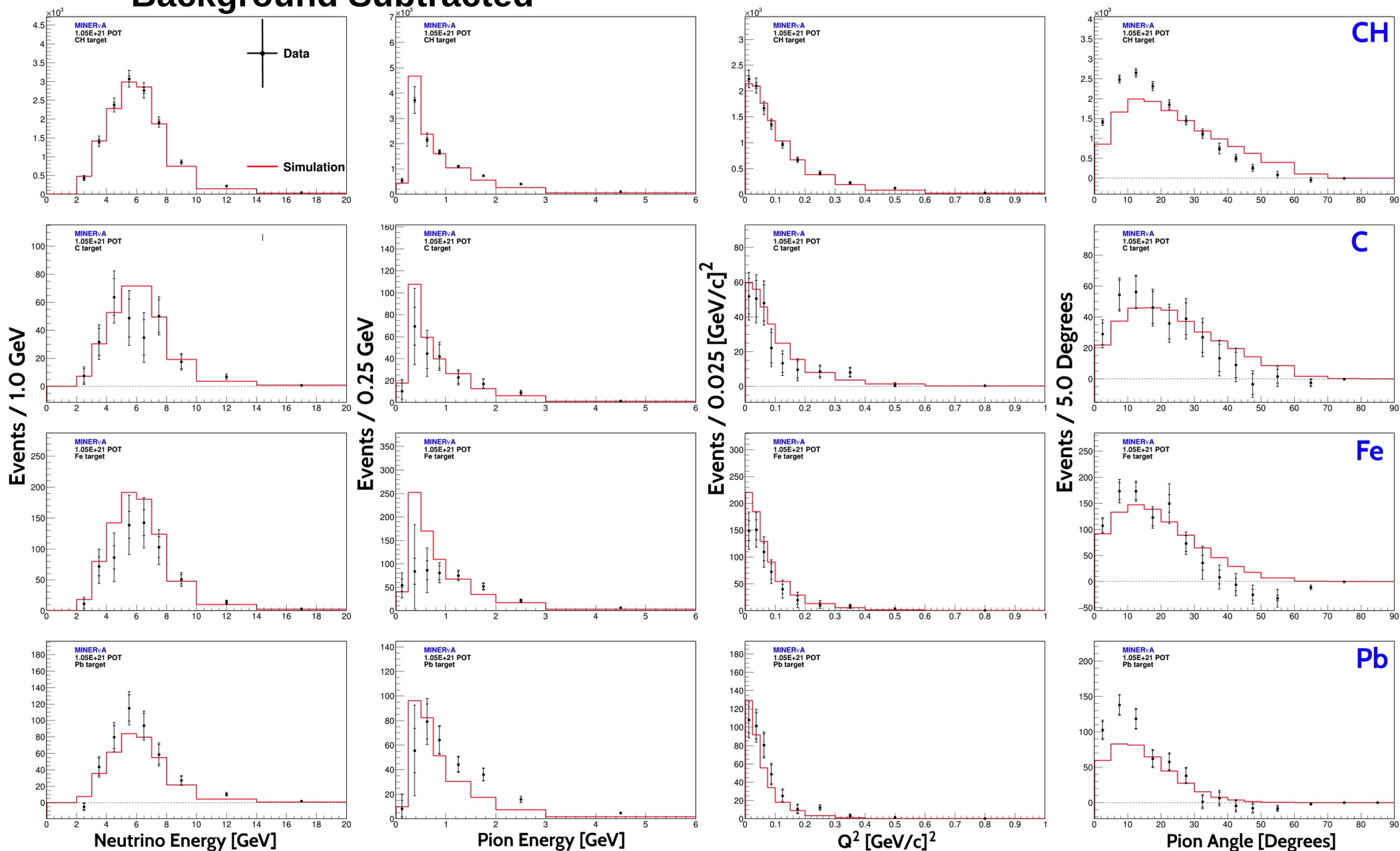




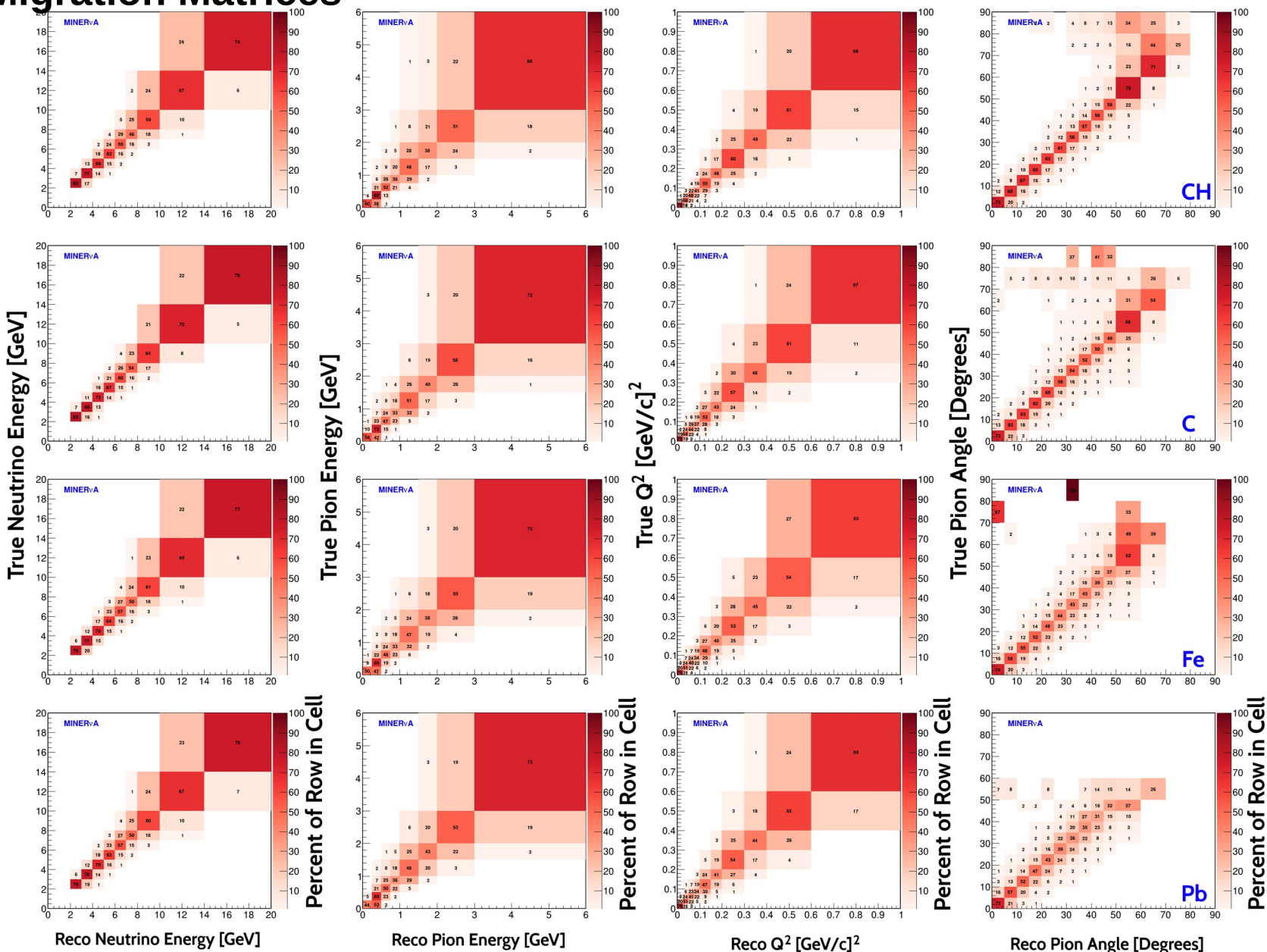
## Selected Events (Background Tuned)



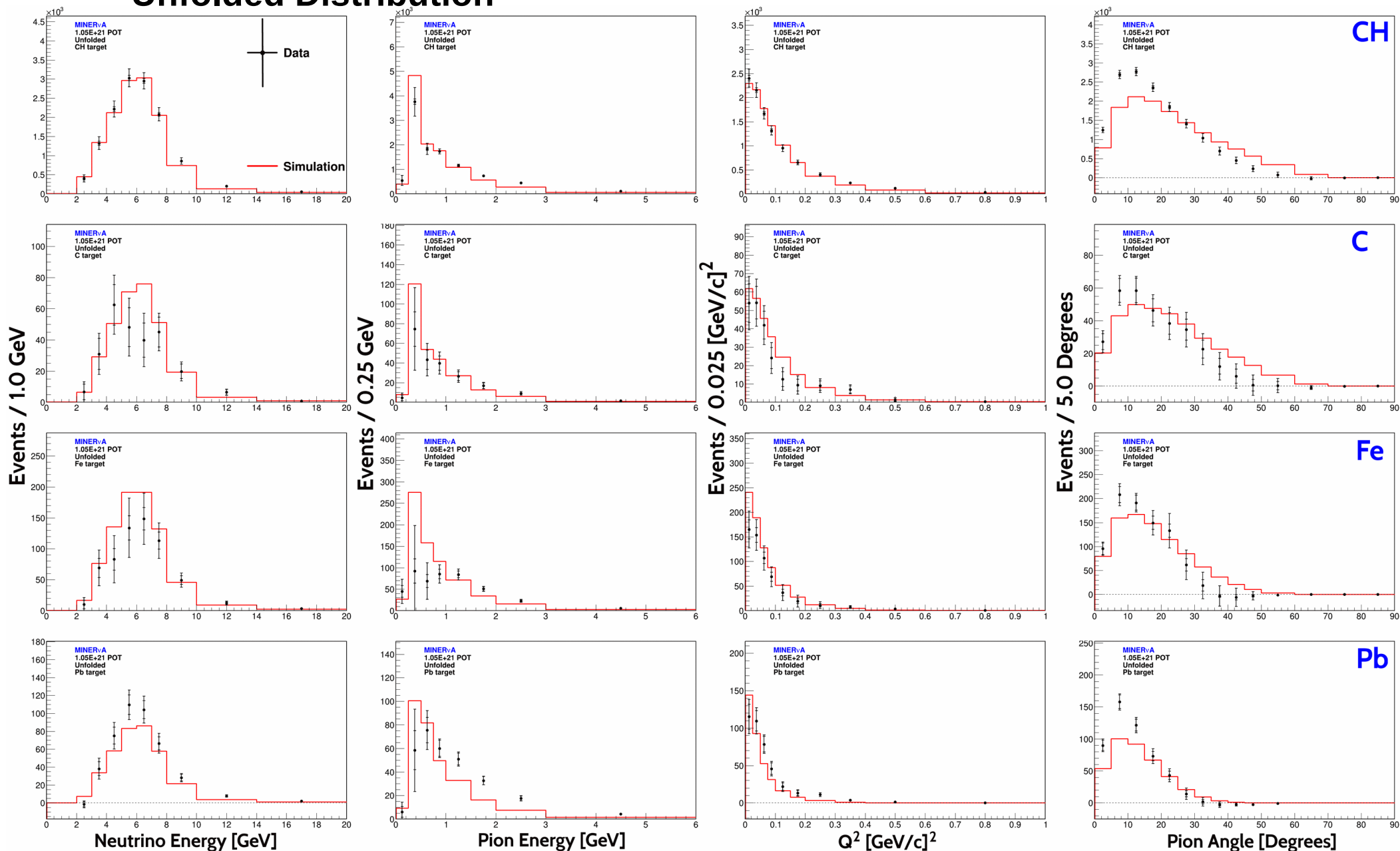
## Background Subtracted



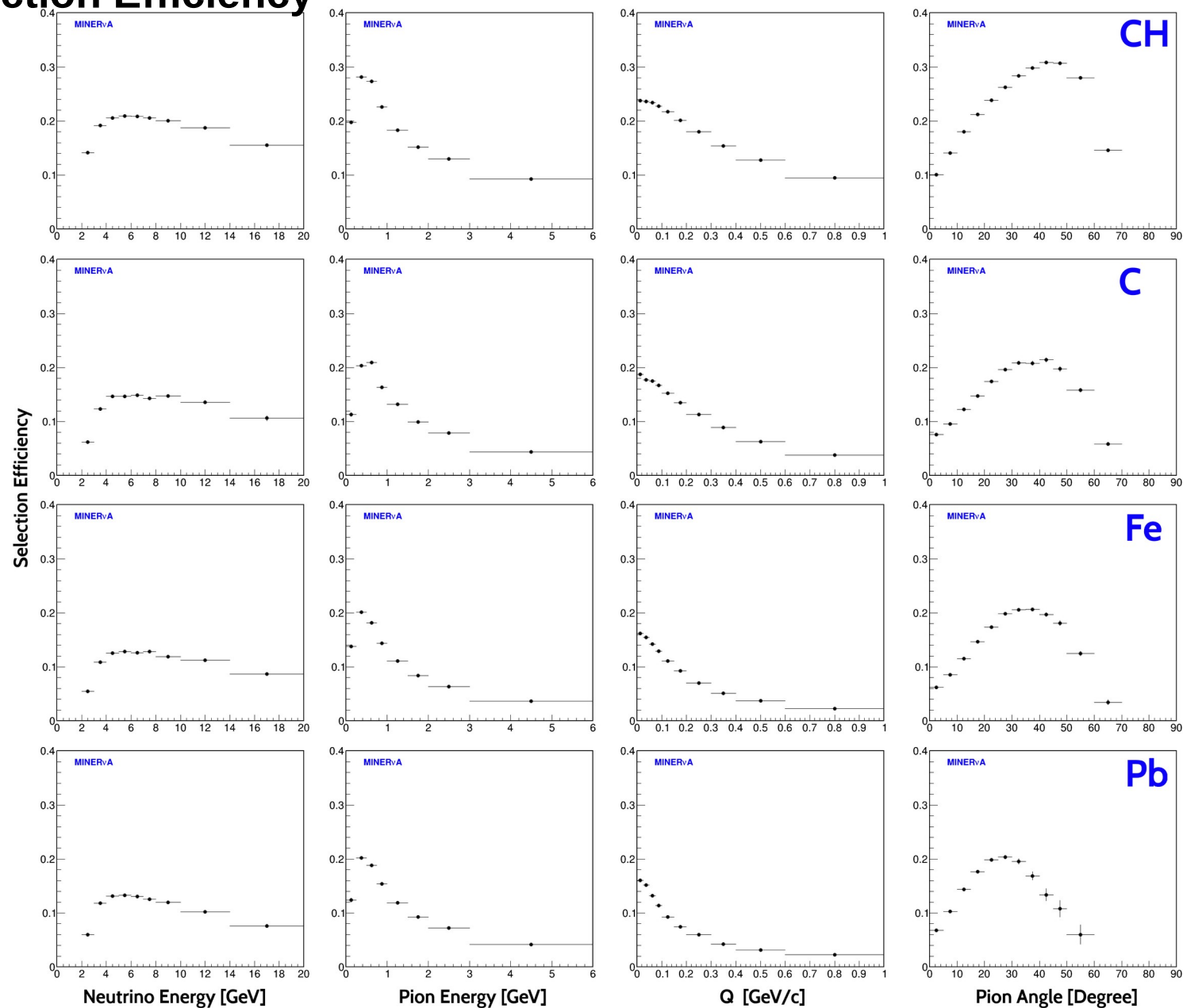
## Migration Matrices



## Unfolded Distribution

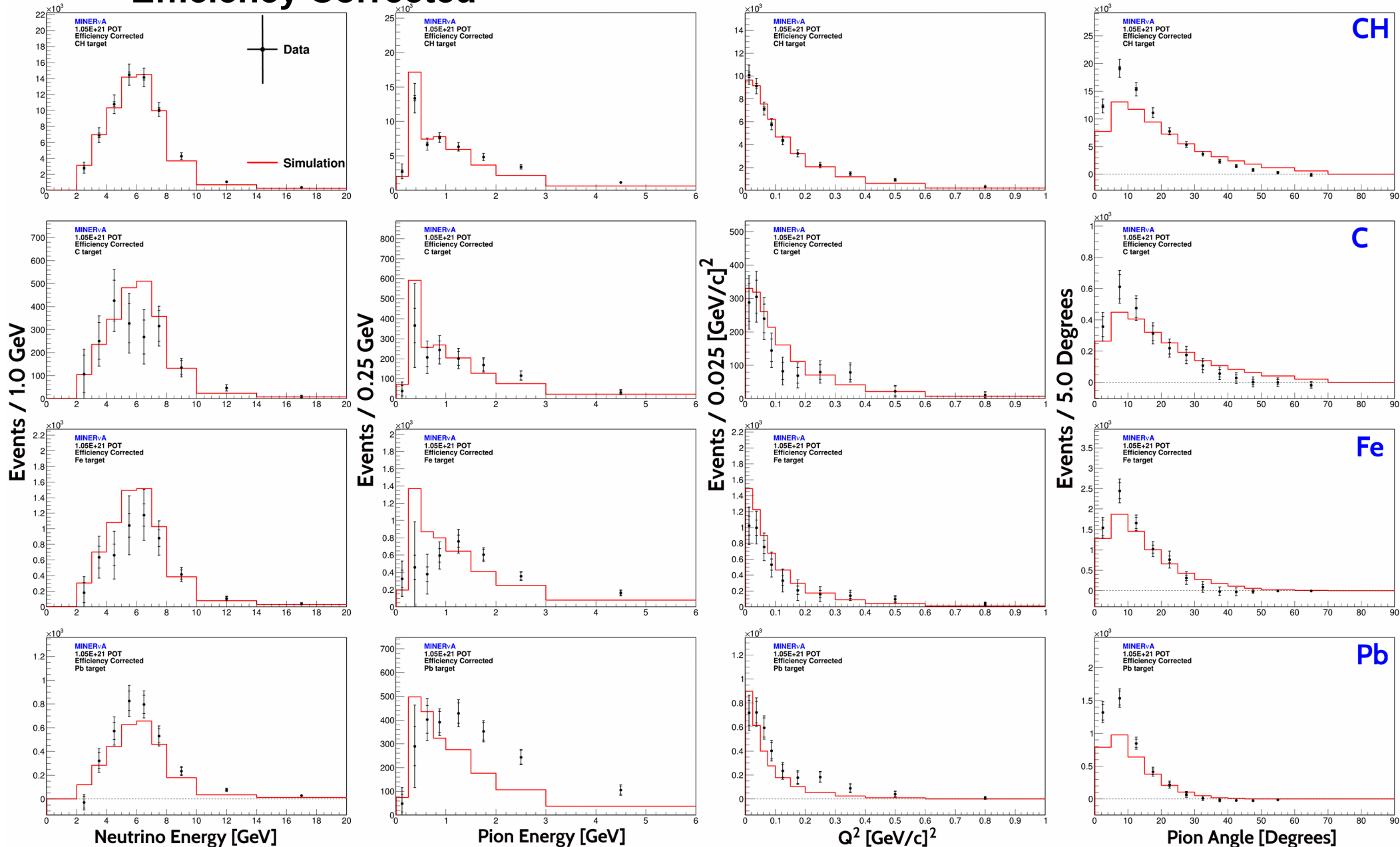


## Selection Efficiency





## Efficiency Corrected





## Correction Due To Other Materials in the Fiducial Volume

The **C** and **Pb** target have less than 1% contribution from other materials. The contribution from other materials to the **CH** and **Fe** targets is specified below

Nucleus in CH target	% of Total Mass	A	T
$^1H$	7.4	1.008	$2.425 \times 10^{29}$
$^{12}C$	87.6	12.011	$2.404 \times 10^{29}$
$^{16}O$	3.2	15.999	$6.548 \times 10^{27}$
$^{27}Al$	0.26	26.982	$3.175 \times 10^{26}$
$^{28}Si$	0.27	28.085	$3.167 \times 10^{26}$
$^{35}Cl$	0.55	35.453	$5.511 \times 10^{26}$
$^{48}Ti$	0.69	47.867	$4.749 \times 10^{26}$

Nucleus in Fe target	% of Total Mass	A	T
$^{12}C$	0.13	12.011	$6.137 \times 10^{25}$
$^{26}Fe$	98.7	55.845	$1.016 \times 10^{28}$
$^{28}Si$	0.2	28.085	$4.038 \times 10^{25}$
$^{55}Mn$	1.0	54.938	$1.032 \times 10^{26}$

Mass fraction, mass number A, and number of nuclei from all materials present in the CH and Fe targets. Included for every material.

## Correction Due To Other Materials in the Fiducial Volume

The correction  $\beta$  is defined as the number of coherent interactions in the material under study in the fiducial volume of a given target, over the total number of coherent interactions in the same fiducial volume

$$\beta = \left( N_M^{coh} / N^{coh} \right) = \frac{\phi \epsilon_M \sigma_M T_M}{\sum_i \phi \epsilon_i \sigma_i T_i} \approx \frac{A_M^{1/3} T_M}{\sum_i A_i^{1/3} T_i}$$

- where  $\phi$ ,  $\epsilon_M$ ,  $\sigma_M$  and  $T_M$  are the flux, efficiency, cross section and number of nuclei in each material due to **C** in the CH target, and due to **Fe** in the Fe targets
- $M$  is either **C** or **Fe**.
- The same quantities with the  $i$  sub index, correspond to the remaining materials in the same target. The assumption of equal flux and efficiency in all materials has been made.
- The cross section has been supposed to scale as  $A^{1/3}$  as in the Rein-Sehgal model. Using  $A^{2/3}$  yields similar values

## Correction Due To Other Materials in the Fiducial Volume

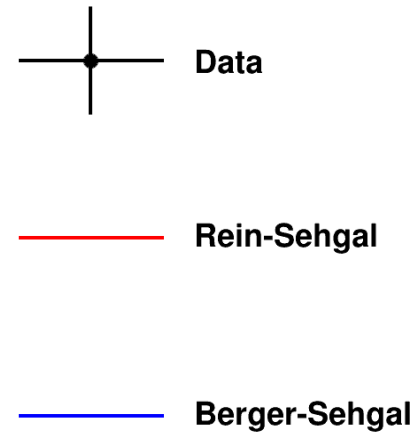
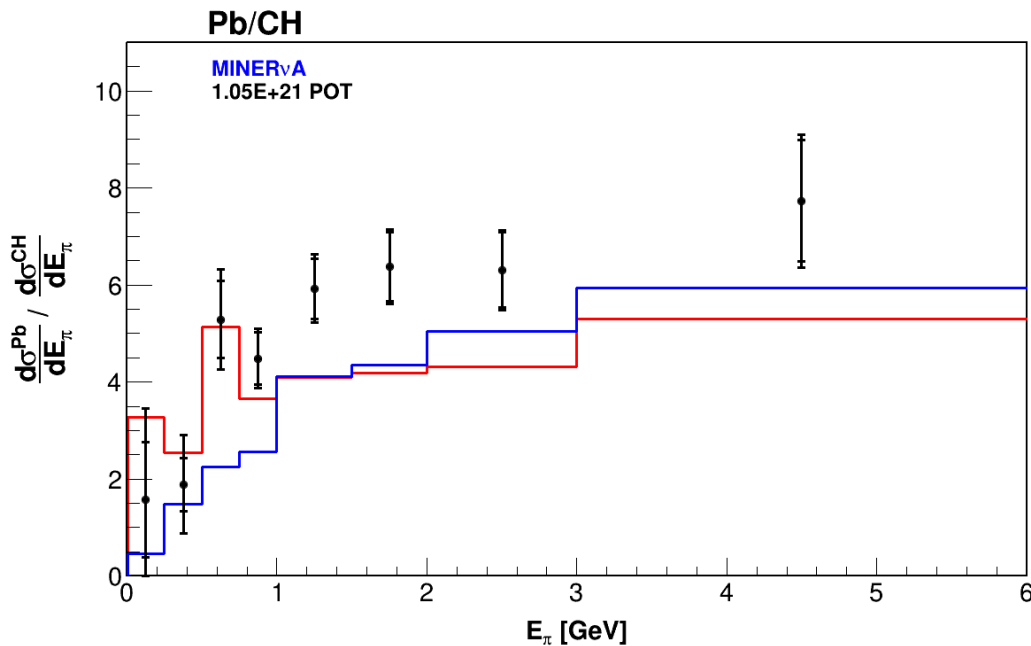
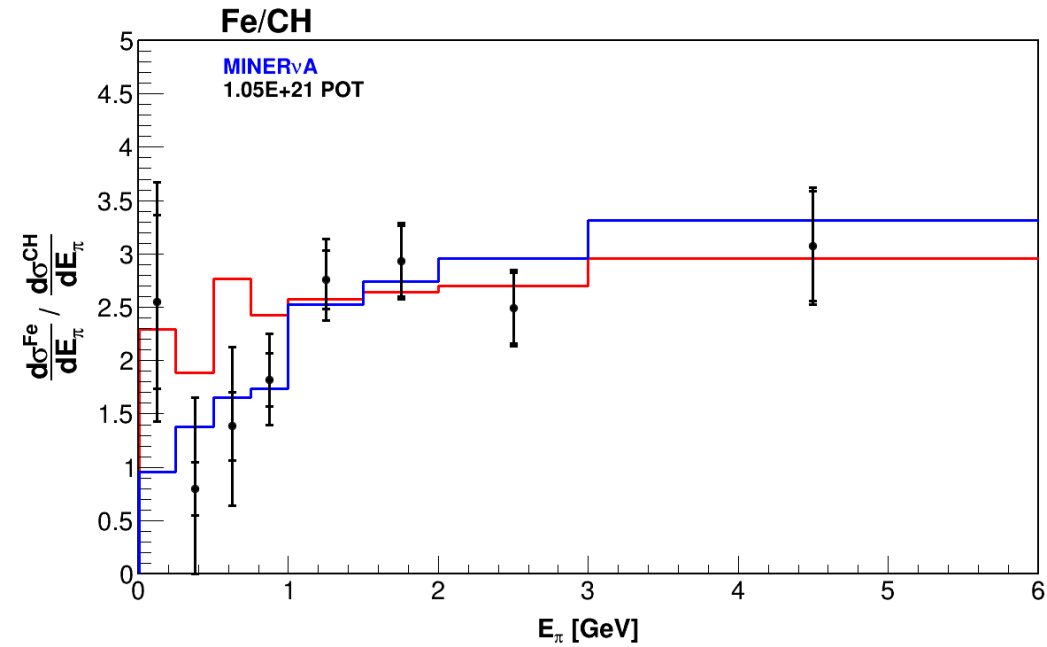
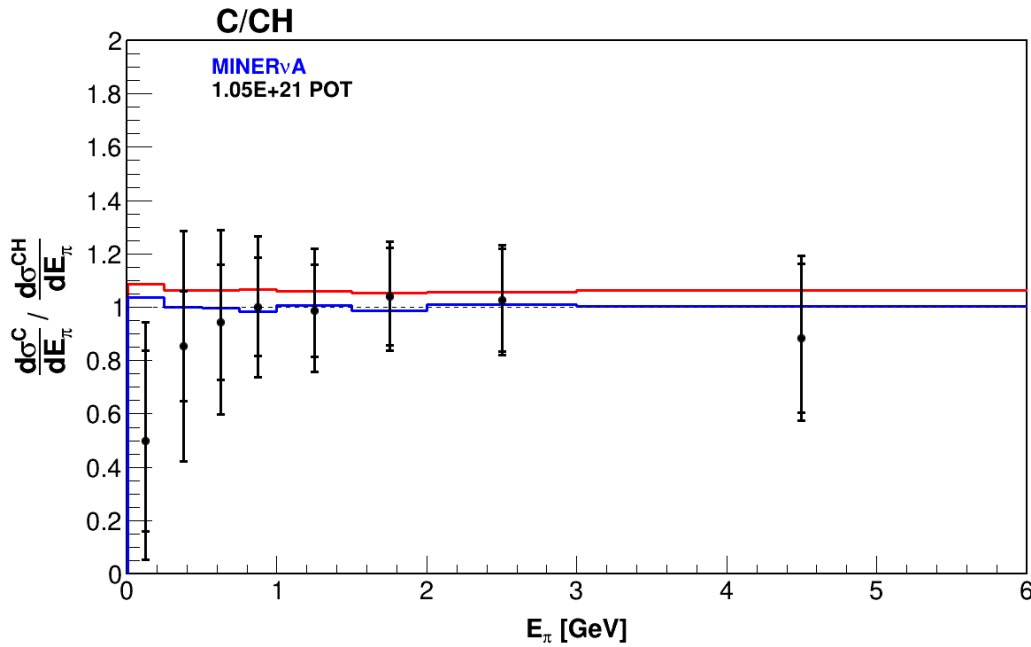
$$\sigma_i = \underbrace{\beta}_{\text{Material Correction Factor}} \frac{\sum_j U_{ij} (N_j^{\text{DATA}} - N_j^{\text{BKGD}})}{\epsilon_i \phi_i T}$$

Total Cross Section (points to  $\sigma_i$ )  
 Unfolding Matrix (points to  $U_{ij}$ )  
 Number of Data Events (points to  $N_j^{\text{DATA}}$ )  
 Number of Background Predicted Events (points to  $N_j^{\text{BKGD}}$ )  
 Efficiency (points to  $\epsilon_i$ )  
 Flux Per Bin (points to  $\phi_i$ )  
 Number of Nuclei (points to  $T$ )

Material	$\beta$
<i>CH</i>	0.96
<i>C</i>	1.0
<i>Fe</i>	0.98
<i>Pb</i>	1.0

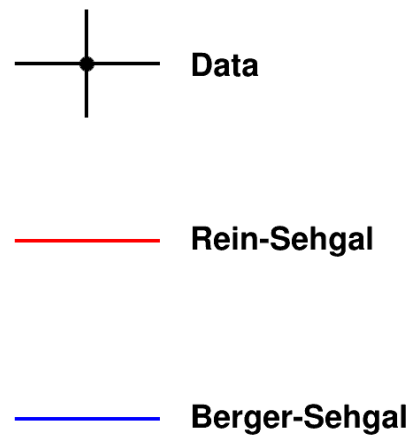
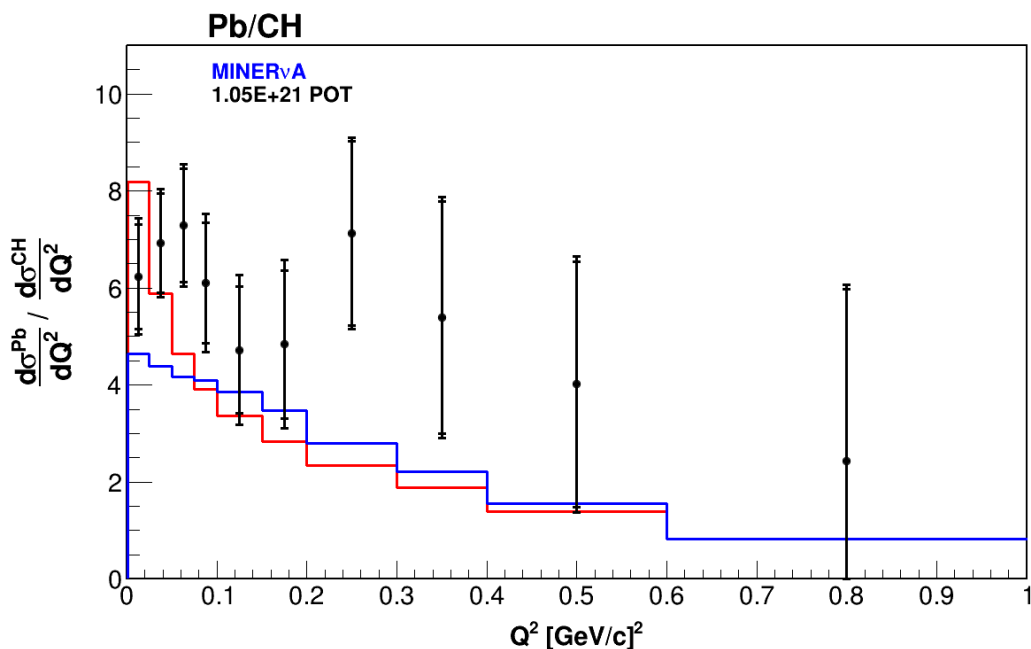
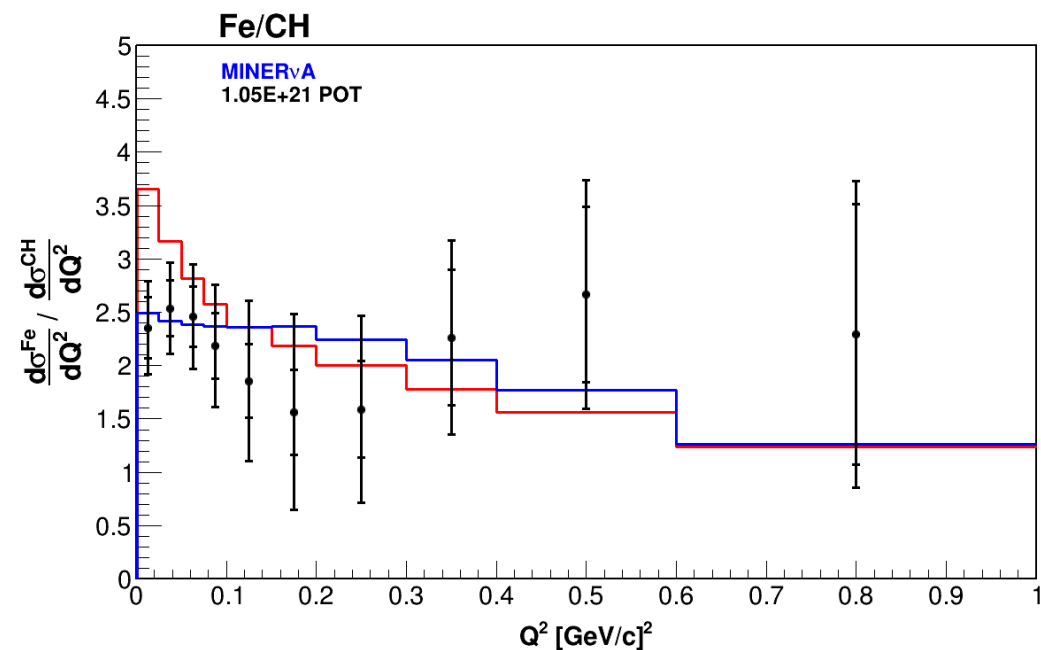
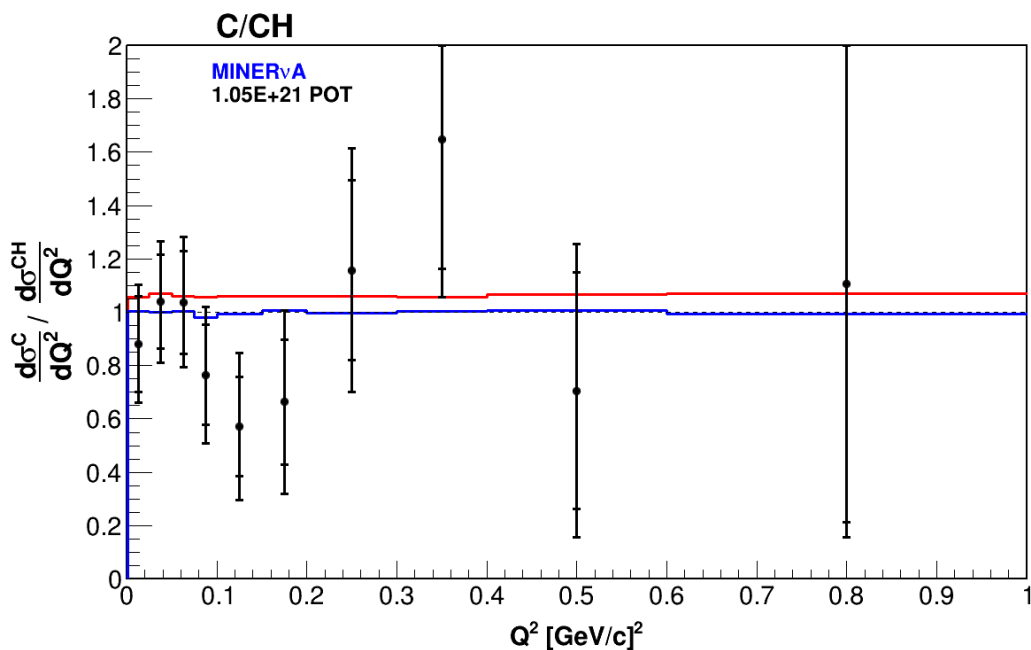
# Backup – Results – Cross Section Ratios

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_\pi}$$

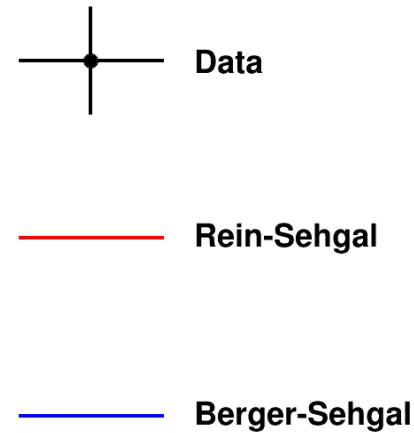
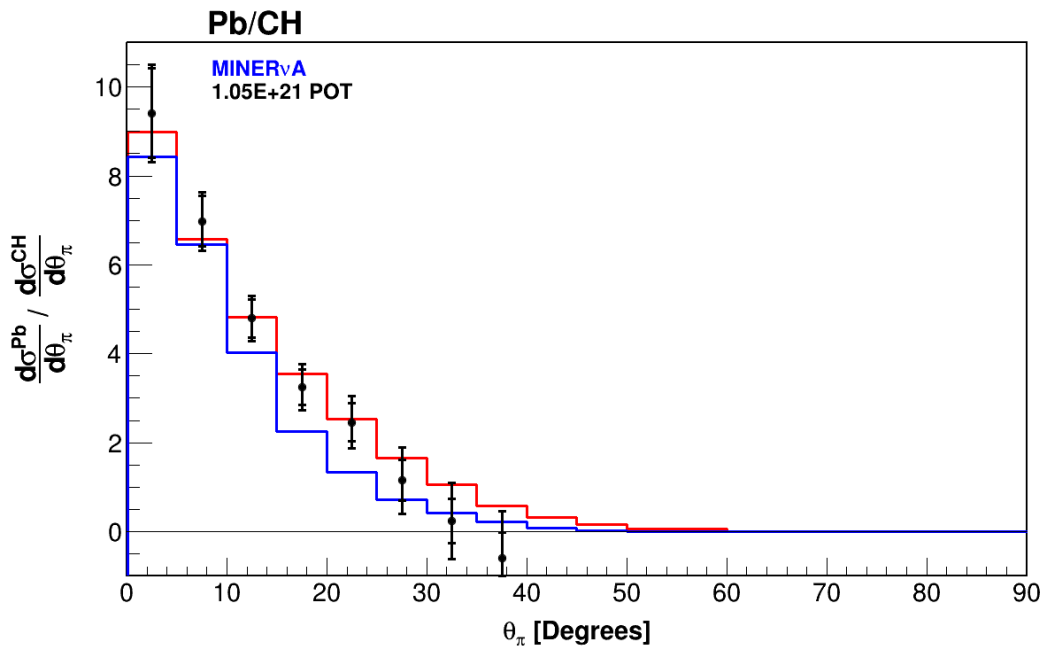
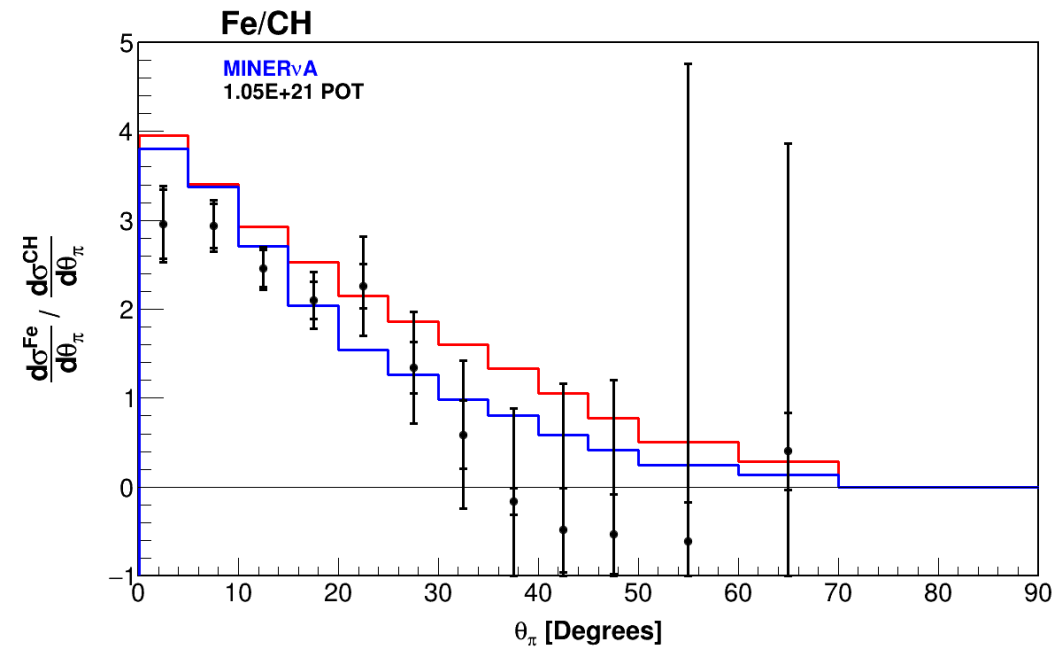
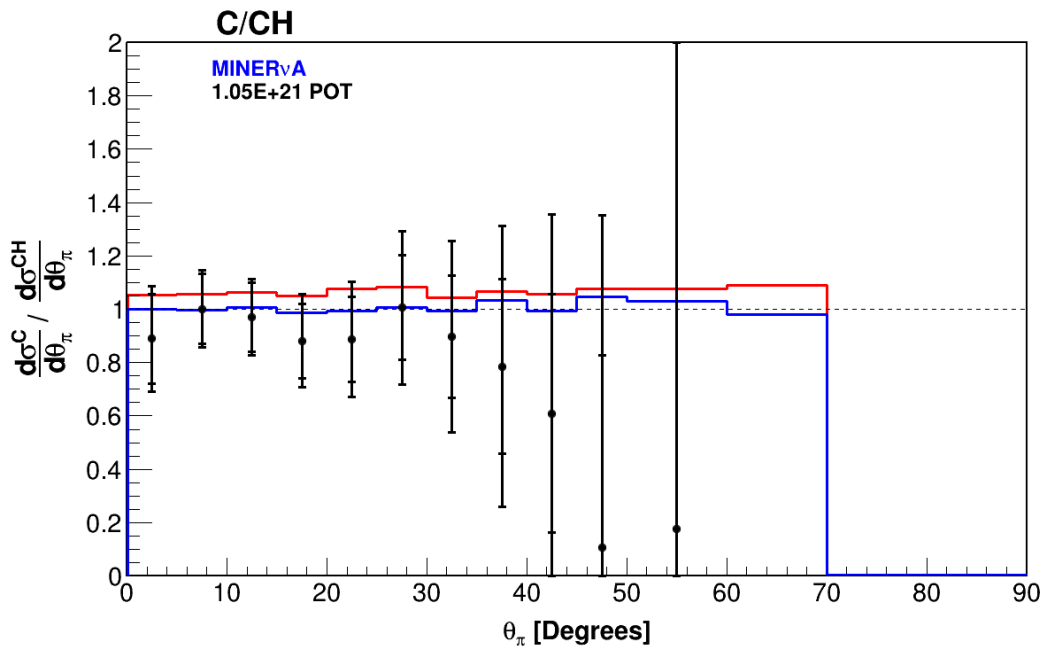


# Backup – Results – Cross Section Ratios

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2}$$



$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\theta_\pi}$$





## Other Models

### Berger-Sehgal (B-S) [Phys.Rev. D79, 053003 (2009)]

- It uses  $\pi$ -carbon data for the  $\pi+A \rightarrow \pi+A$  scattering.
- It predicts lower cross section at low  $P_\pi$  (see figure).
- Includes lepton mass

### Belkov-Kopeliovich (B-K) [Sov.J.Nucl.Phys. 46 (1987) 499]

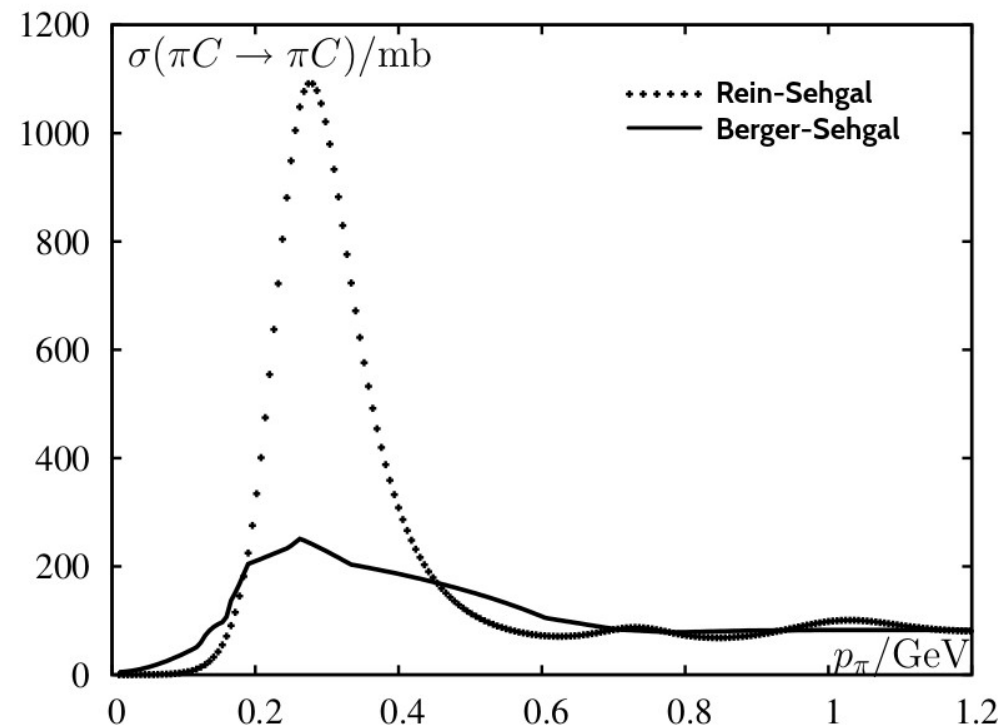
- Axial current dominated by heavy meson fluctuations,  $\mathbf{a}_1$  or  $\rho\pi$  system.
- Predicts energy-dependent A-scaling of the cross section.

### Paschos-Schalla (P-S) [Phys.Rev. D80, 033005 (2009)]

- Similar to B-S. It also uses  $\pi$ -carbon data for the  $\pi+A$  elastic scattering.
- Focuses on  $Q^2 < 0.1 \text{ GeV}^2$  region, also including the lepton mass.

### Microscopic Models (M-M) [Phys.Rev. C75, 055501 (2007)]

- Consider the individual contribution of nucleons to the cross section.  $\pi$  production obtained through baryon  $\Delta$  resonances.
- Valid for  $E_\nu < 2 \text{ GeV}$ .

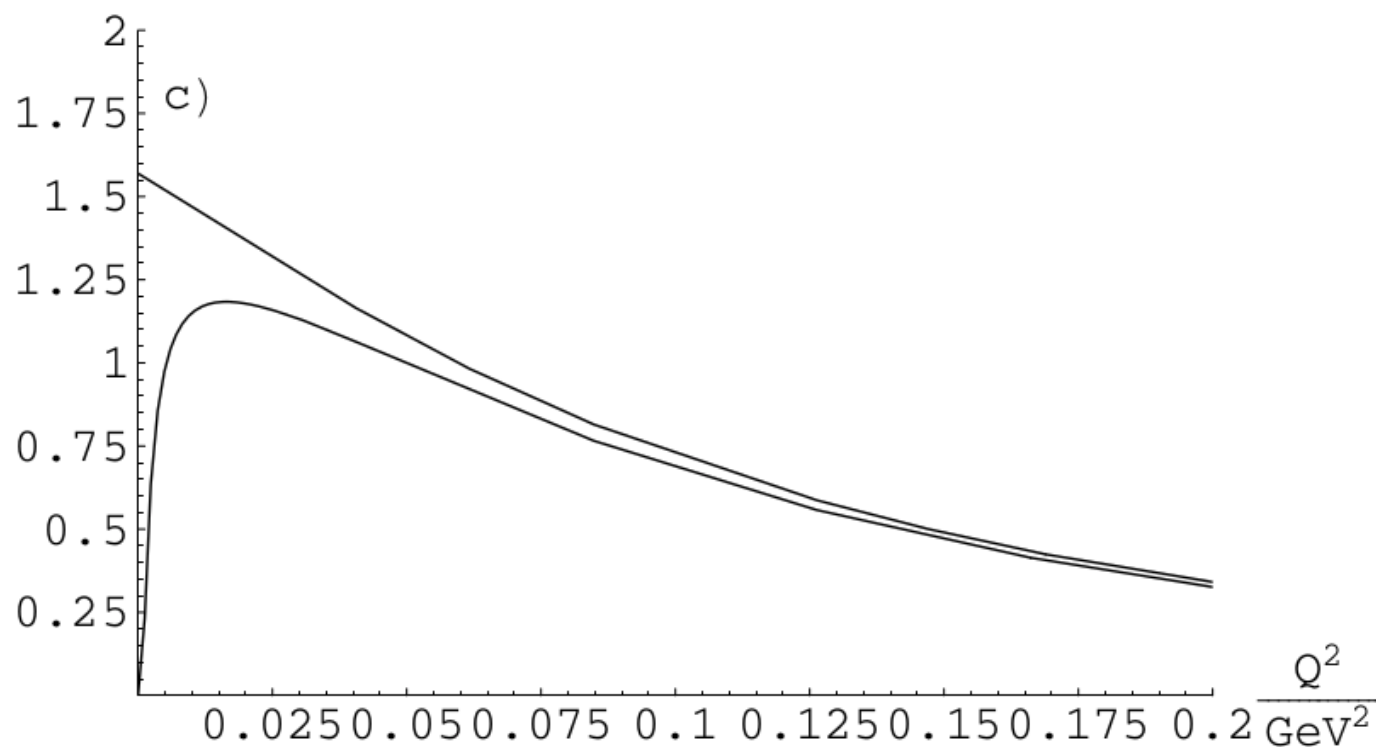


Elastic pion-Carbon cross section.

Berger-Sehgal vs Rein-Sehgal predictions

## Lepton Mass in the R-S Model

Suppression of the CC cross section on carbon for  $Q^2 < 0.1$  [GeV/c]<sup>2</sup> and  $E_\nu = 2.0$  GeV. The upper (lower) distribution corresponds to the cross section without (with) the lepton mass correction.



**MINERvA** will also be adding **Fe** and **Pb** to the literature!

EXPERIMENT	YEAR	BEAM	$\langle E_{\nu(\bar{\nu})} \rangle$ , range [GeV]	MATERIAL	$\langle A \rangle$
<b>NC</b>					
Aachen-Padova	1983	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	2	<i>Al</i>	27
Garmamelle	1984	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	2	<i>CF<sub>3</sub>Br</i> (Freon)	36
SKAT	1985	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	7	<i>CF<sub>3</sub>Br</i> (Freon)	36
CHARM	1985	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	31 (24)	<i>CaCO<sub>3</sub></i> (Marble)	20
15' BC	1986	$\nu$	20	<i>NeH<sub>2</sub></i>	20
MiniBooNE	2008	$\nu$	0.7	<i>CH<sub>2</sub></i>	12
NOMAD	2009	$\nu$	24, 2.5-300	<i>C</i>	12.8
SciBooNE	2010	$\nu$	0.8	<i>C</i>	12

EXPERIMENT	YEAR	BEAM	$\langle E_{\nu(\bar{\nu})} \rangle$ , range [GeV]	MATERIAL	$\langle A \rangle$
<b>CC</b>					
WA59	1984	$\bar{\nu}$	40	<i>NeH<sub>2</sub></i>	20
SKAT	1986	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	7	<i>CF<sub>3</sub>Br</i> (Freon)	36
BEBC WA59	1986	$\bar{\nu}$	5-150	<i>Ne</i>	20
E632	1989	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	150 (110)	<i>Ne</i>	20
BEBC WA59	1989	$\nu$	5-150	<i>Ne</i>	20
CHARM II	1993	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	20	Glass	20.7
E632	1993	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	80 (70)	<i>Ne</i>	20
K2K	2005	$\nu$	1.3	<i>C</i>	12
SciBooNE	2009	$\nu$	1.1	<i>C</i>	12
MINERvA (LE)	2014	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	3.6	<i>C</i>	12
ArgoNeuT	2015	$\nu/\bar{\nu}$	9.6 (3.6)	<i>Ar</i>	40
T2K	2016	$\nu$	< 1.5	<i>C</i>	12
<b>MINERvA (ME)</b>	2022	$\nu$	6	<b><i>C, Fe, Pb</i></b>	<b>12, 56, 207</b>