

Generative AI for BIB Simulation

Radha Mastandrea

rmastand@uchicago.edu

In collaboration with Matt LeBlanc, Shiyu Peng, Ben Rosser

AI4MuC Virtual Mini-Workshop

06/30/2026

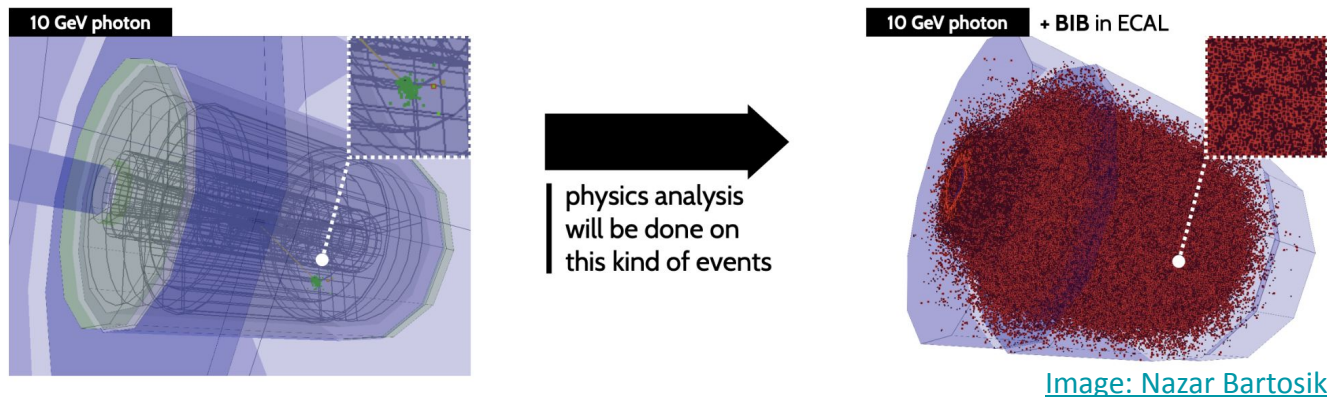


Motivation

The challenge of beam-induced background

Beam-induced background (BIB) provides a large computational challenge for event reconstruction at a future muon collider.

BIB is produced when unstable muons in the beam line decay and interact with the detector and accelerator, leading to a slew ($\sim 10^8$) of background particles (γ , e , n , ν).



BIB will overwhelm “interesting” tracks, so it is vital that we understand how BIB will show up in future detectors.

Generating BIB for muon collider R&D

Understanding what BIB would look like at a future collider requires that we have large amounts of BIB simulation.

Currently, BIB is simulated with FLUKA and GEANT. These simulations are **CPU-intensive**, and we can often only generate a portion (~10%) of a bunch crossing at a time.

[Table: Kevin Pedro](#)

Step	CPU	Memory	Disk
BIB simulation	up to 24 hours/event (10^8 particles)	up to 32 GB/event (considering whole chain)	~20 GB/event (BIB)
BIB overlay	5 mins/event (before digitization!)		
Tracking	5 mins/event up to hours/event (depends on lattice)		~1 MB/event (signal, w/o BIB)

Geant alone!

Generating BIB for muon collider R&D

Understanding what BIB would look like at a future collider requires that we have large amounts of BIB simulation.

Currently, BIB is simulated with FLUKA and GEANT. These simulations are **CPU-intensive**, and we can often only generate a portion (~10%) of a bunch crossing at a time.

[Table: Kevin Pedro](#)

Step	CPU	Memory	Disk
BIB simulation	up to 24 hours/event (10^8 particles)		~20 GB/event (BIB)
BIB overlay	5 mins/event (before digitization!)	up to 32 GB/event (considering whole chain)	
Tracking	5 mins/event up to hours/event (depends on lattice)		~1 MB/event (signal, w/o BIB)

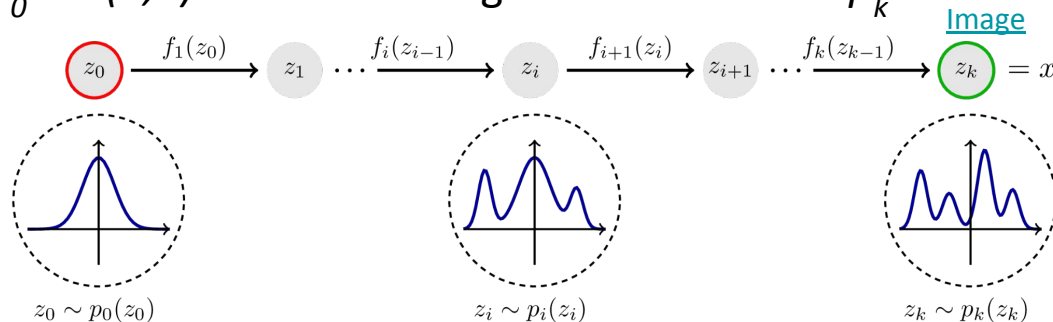
Geant alone!

Given that we already have a small number of BIB events, we can use them to create a **fast BIB generator** by training generative machine learning networks.

Methodology for ML BIB generation

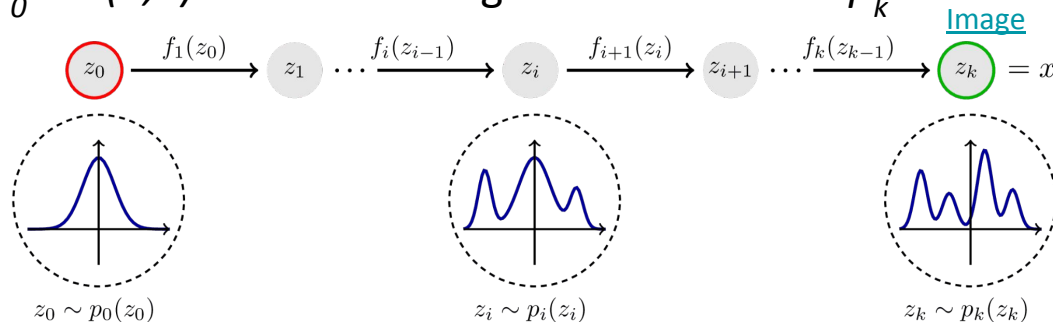
Baseline architecture: normalizing flows

- ❖ Normalizing flows are expressive neural networks that can be used to model high-dimensional probability densities
- ❖ The flow learns a series of invertible transformations f_i from a standard normal distribution $z_0 \sim N(0,1)^D$ to the training data distribution p_k



Baseline architecture: normalizing flows

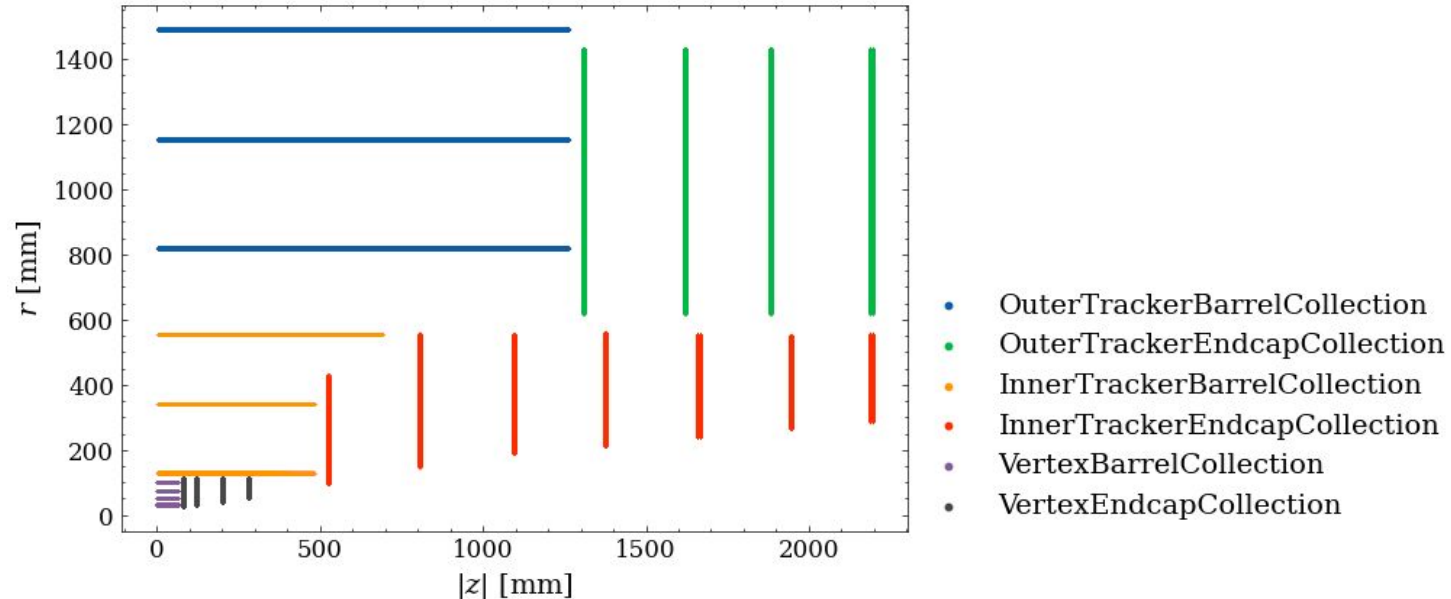
- ❖ Normalizing flows are expressive neural networks that can be used to model high-dimensional probability densities
- ❖ The flow learns a series of invertible transformations f_i from a standard normal distribution $z_0 \sim N(0,1)^D$ to the training data distribution p_k



- ❖ We can **quickly draw samples** from p_k by sending standard normal samples z_0 through the flow — without having a closed form expression for p_k !
- ❖ We use a Neural Circular Spline Flow (NCSF) architecture [[stat/2002.02428](https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.02428)] which is good for observables on a circular domain (e.g. φ)

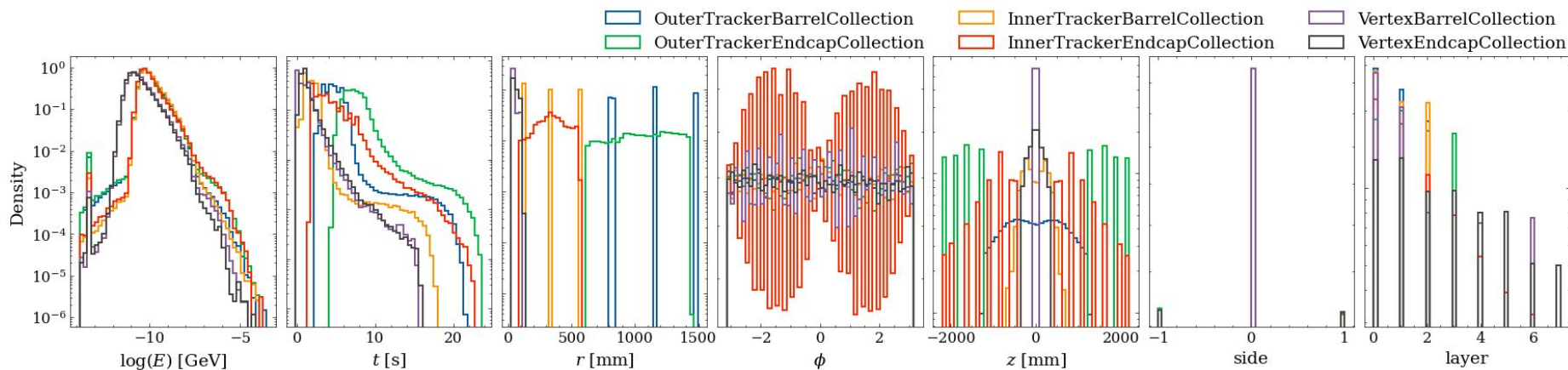
Sim BIB training set: pre-digitized tracker hits

- ❖ We use 1 event from the latest MAIA BIB simulation (stored on the OSG)
 - ν gun samples with $p_T \in [0, 50]$ GeV
 - **MAIA detector** geometry [physics.ins-det/2502.00181] with 6 tracking subsystems



Sim BIB training set: pre-digitized tracker hits

- ❖ We use 1 event from the latest MAIA BIB simulation (stored on the OSG)
 - ν gun samples with $p_T \in [0, 50]$ GeV
 - MAIA detector geometry [physics.ins-det/2502.00181] with 6 subsystems
- ❖ We train a separate flow model for each of the 6 tracker subsystems
- ❖ We train a NCSF to model 5 features: $\log(E)$, t , r , ϕ , z for SimTrackerHits (i.e. pre-digitization)
- ❖ We condition the flows on the side and layer integer associated with each BIB hit



Sim BIB training set: pre-digitized tracker hits

- ❖ We use 1 event from the latest MAIA BIB simulation (stored on the OSG)
 - ν gun samples with $p_T \in [0, 50]$ GeV
 - MAIA detector geometry [physics.ins-det/2502.00181] with 6 subsystems

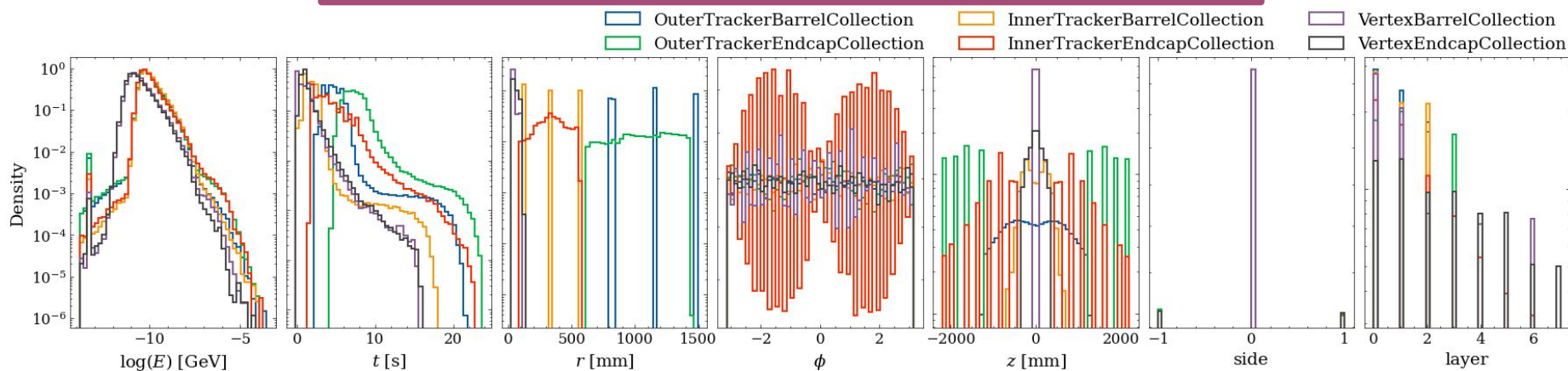
❖ We train a se

❖ We train a NO

❖ We condition

Due to a bug in its generation, the Sim BIB training set has a geometry where the sensitive layers of the detectors are too thin by several orders of magnitude

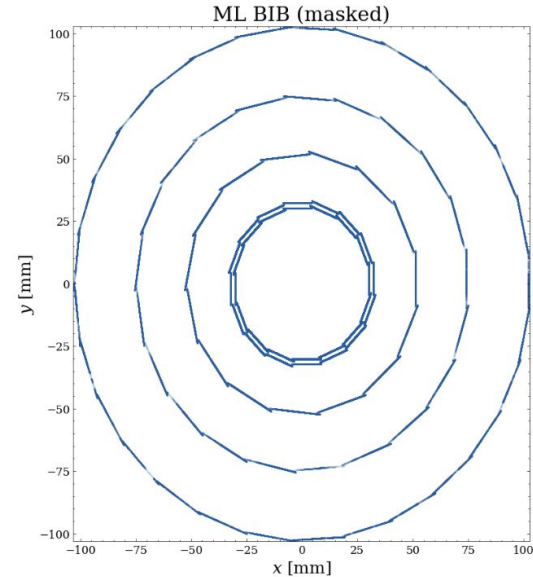
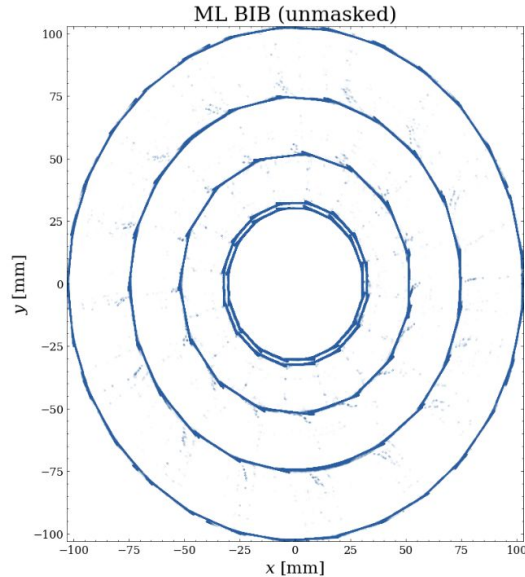
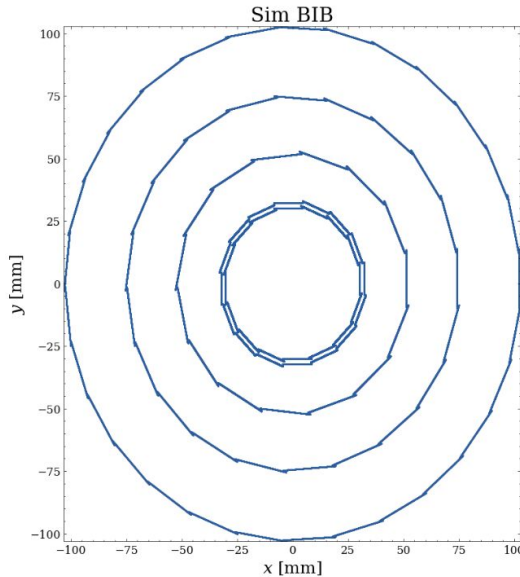
pre-digitization)
hit



[SKIP FOR TIME] ML BIB processing: detector geometry mask

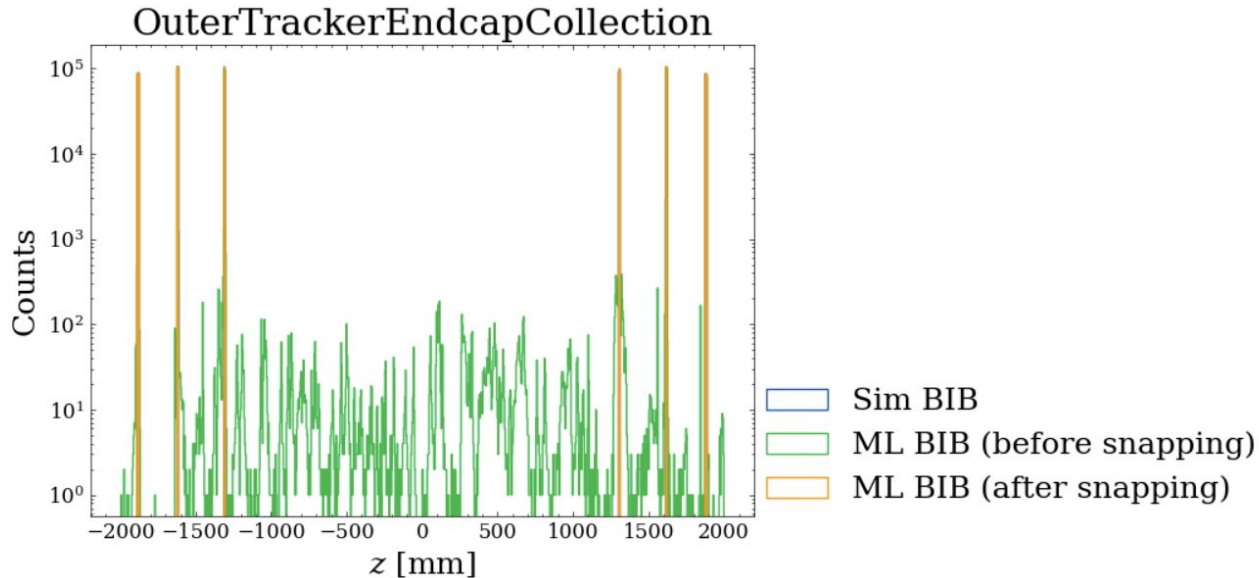
- ❖ After we generate BIB samples from the flow, we apply a **detector-based geometry mask** to reject off-module hits
- ❖ The mask primarily targets off-layer hits in the barrel subsystems
 - Pass rate is >99% for the endcaps and 45-80% in the barrels

VertexBarrelCollection



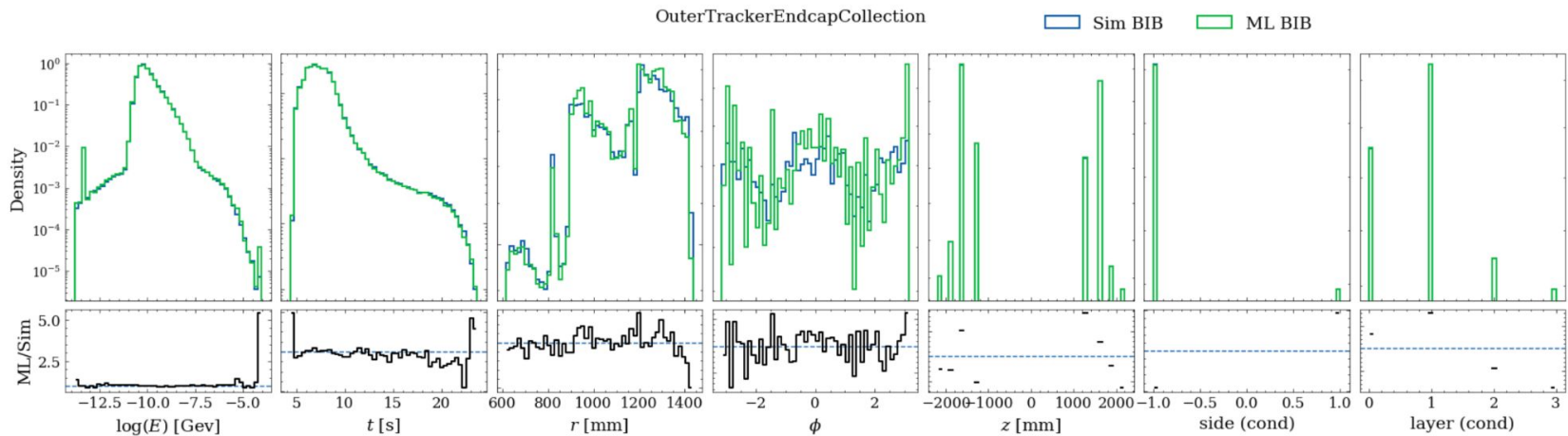
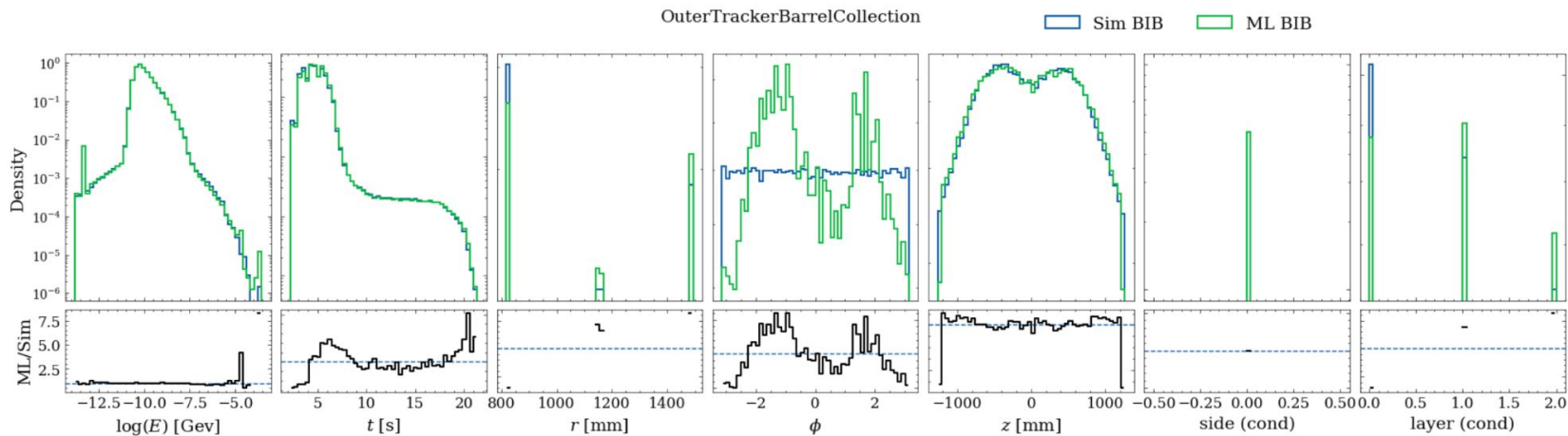
[SKIP FOR TIME] ML BIB processing: endcap z-snapping

- ❖ We snap the endcap subsystem hits to the z-position of the closest valid detector subcomponent
 - Flow models struggle with modeling delta functions (and the Sim BIB endcaps are already artificially too thin), so this snapping increases the mask pass rate without negatively affecting the ML BIB

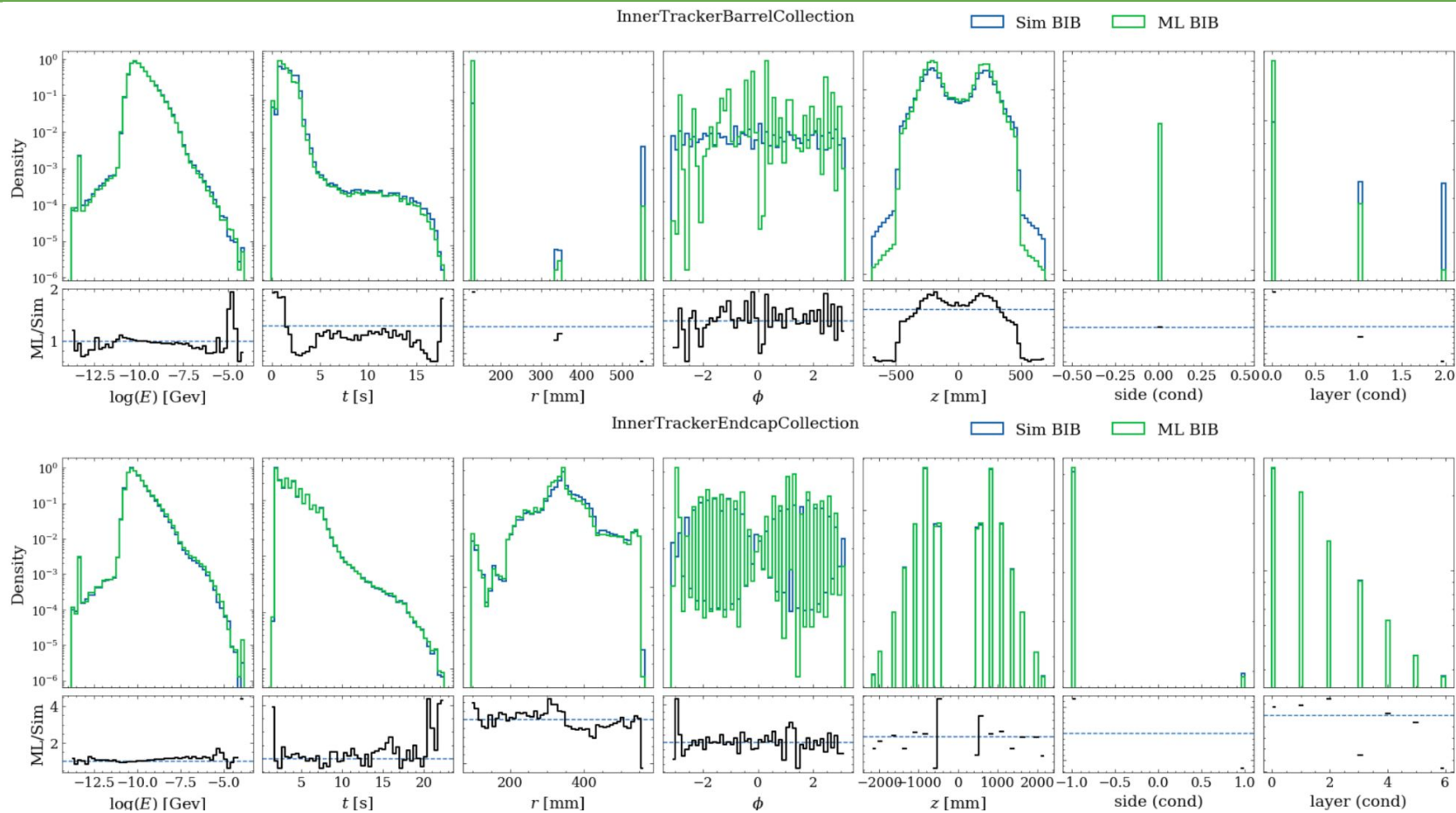


Evaluation of the ML BIB

Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: 1D histograms



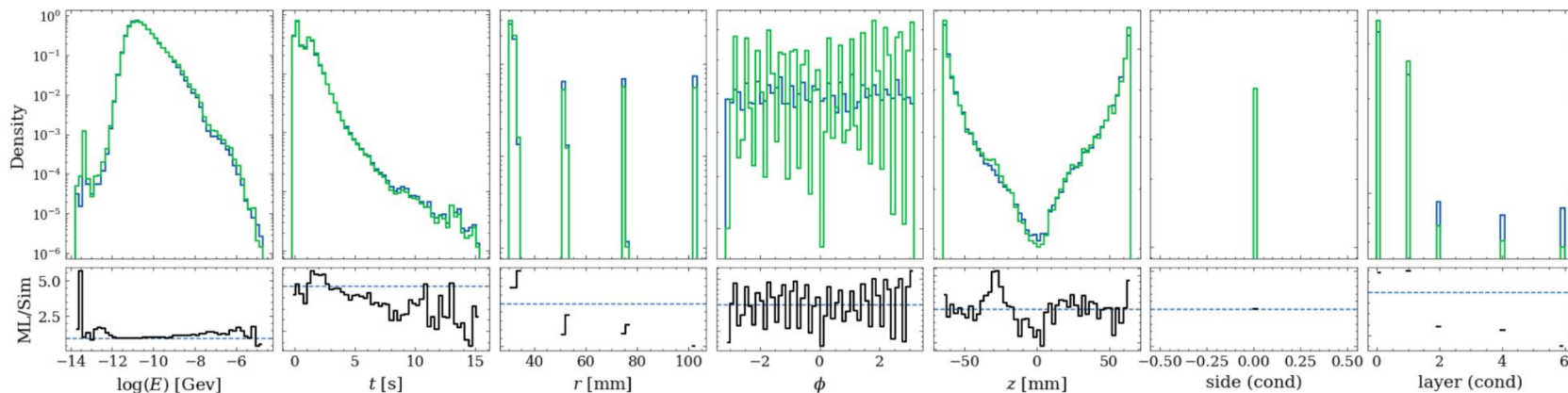
Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: 1D histograms



Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: 1D histograms

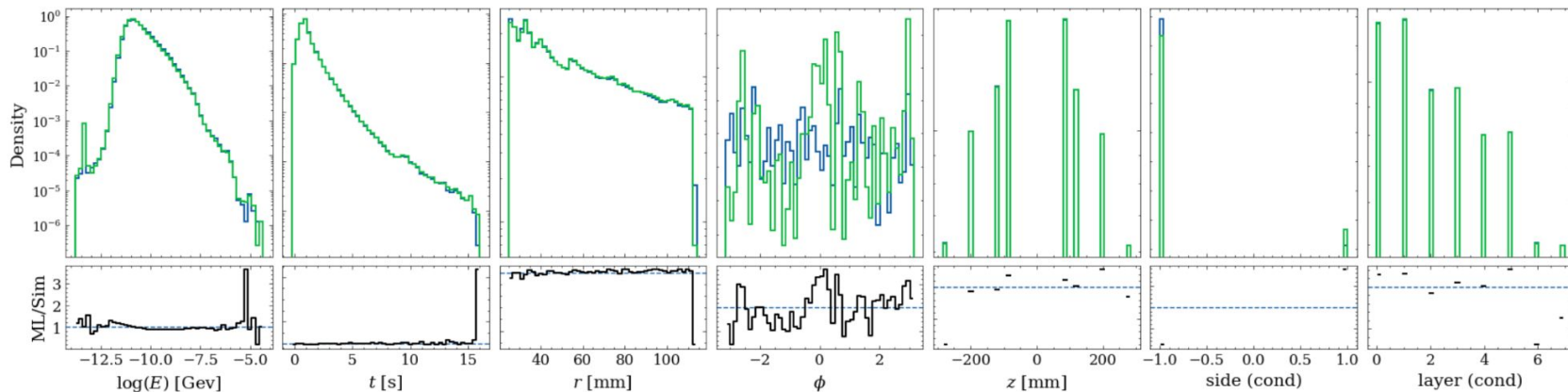
VertexBarrelCollection

Sim BIB ML BIB



VertexEndcapCollection

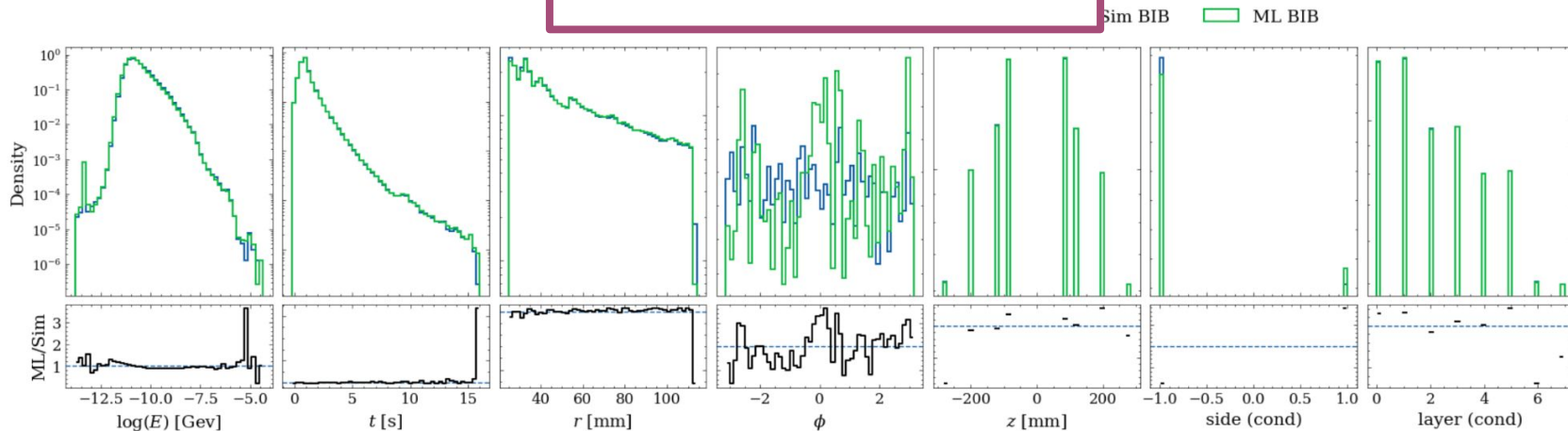
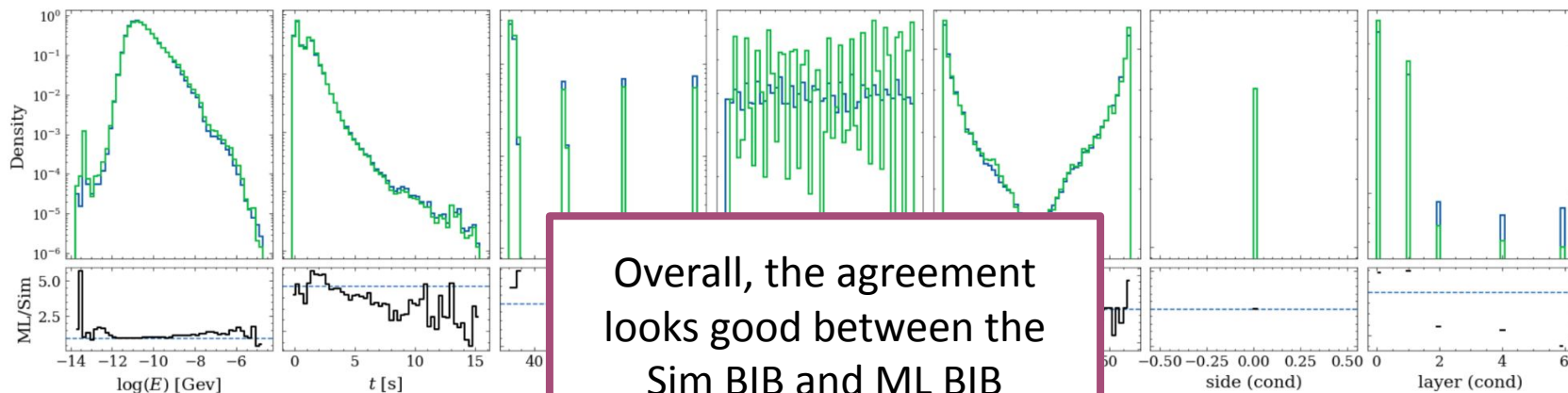
Sim BIB ML BIB



Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: 1D histograms

VertexBarrelCollection

Sim BIB ML BIB



Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: discrimination test

- ❖ We train a simple binary classifier (BDT) to distinguish Sim BIB from ML BIB
- ❖ Ideally the classifier would fail to distinguish the two sets (ROC AUC = 0.5)

----- BDT feature importances -----

	ROC AUC	$\log(E)$	t	r	φ	z
Outer Tracker Barrel	0.706	0.0151	0.0226	0.8131	0.0979	0.0513
Inner Tracker Barrel	0.636	0.0476	0.0610	0.7025	0.1524	0.0365
Vertex Barrel	0.627	0.0858	0.0496	0.5963	0.2334	0.0349
Outer Tracker Endcap	0.533	0.2133	0.1827	0.1509	0.1486	0.3044
Inner Tracker Endcap	0.530	0.1417	0.2184	0.2059	0.2171	0.2168
Vertex Endcap	0.538	0.1943	0.1272	0.2010	0.1402	0.3373
Overall	0.550	0.1117	0.1614	0.4166	0.1590	0.1514

Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: discrimination test

- ❖ We train a simple binary classifier (BDT) to distinguish Sim BIB from ML BIB
- ❖ Ideally the classifier would fail to distinguish the two sets (ROC AUC = 0.5)

----- BDT feature importances -----

	ROC AUC	$\log(E)$	t	r	φ	z
Outer Tracker Barrel	0.706	0.0151	0.0226	0.8121	0.0070	0.0512
Inner Tracker Barrel	0.636	0.0476				
Vertex Barrel	0.627	0.0858				
Outer Tracker Endcap	0.533	0.2133	0.1827	0.1509	0.1486	0.3044
Inner Tracker Endcap	0.530	0.1417	0.2184	0.2059	0.2171	0.2168
Vertex Endcap	0.538	0.1943	0.1272	0.2010	0.1402	0.3373
Overall	0.550	0.1117	0.1614	0.4166	0.1590	0.1514

The endcaps look good, with
minor z mismodeling

Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: discrimination test

- ❖ We train a simple binary classifier (BDT) to distinguish Sim BIB from ML BIB
- ❖ Ideally the classifier would fail to distinguish the two sets (ROC AUC = 0.5)

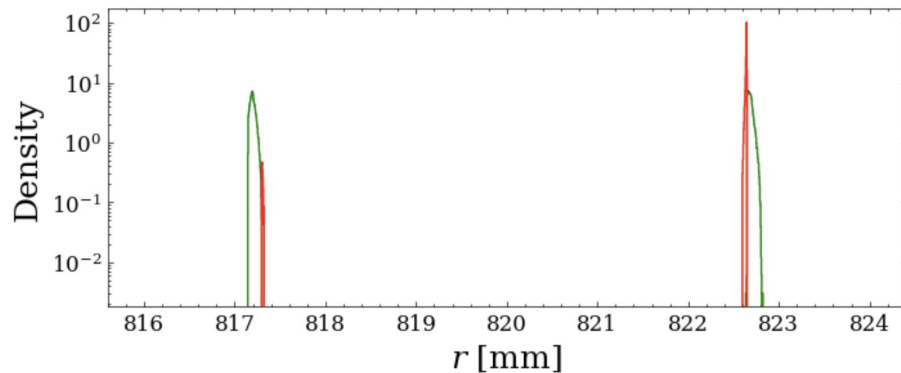
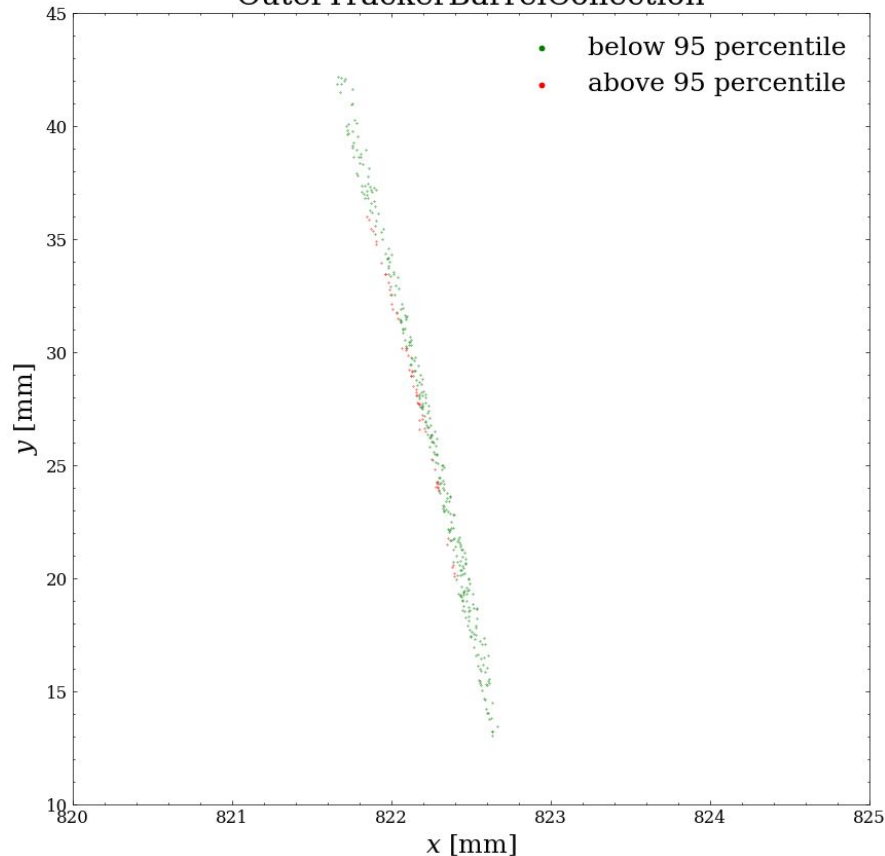
----- BDT feature importances -----

	ROC AUC	$\log(E)$	t	r	φ	z
Outer Tracker Barrel	0.706	0.0151	0.0226	0.8131	0.0979	0.0513
Inner Tracker Barrel	0.636	0.0476	0.0610	0.7025	0.1524	0.0365
Vertex Barrel	0.627	0.0858	0.0496	0.5963	0.2334	0.0349
Outer Tracker Endcap	0.533	0.0433	0.1027	0.4588	0.1486	0.3044
Inner Tracker Endcap	0.530	0.0433	0.1027	0.4588	0.1486	0.2168
Vertex Endcap	0.538	0.0433	0.1027	0.4588	0.1486	0.3373
Overall	0.550	0.1117	0.1614	0.4166	0.1590	0.1514

The barrels suffer from sizable r mismodeling

[SKIP FOR TIME] Why is r so poorly modeled in the barrels?

OuterTrackerBarrelCollection



The most “anomalous” (i.e. non Sim BIB-like) hits are at the edges of the sensitive layers of the barrel modules

Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: discrimination test

- ❖ We train a simple binary classifier (BDT) to distinguish Sim BIB from ML BIB
- ❖ Ideally the classifier would fail to distinguish the two sets (ROC AUC = 0.5)

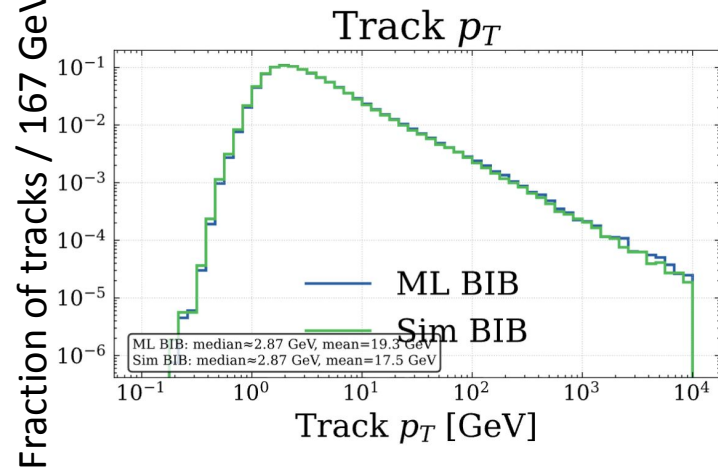
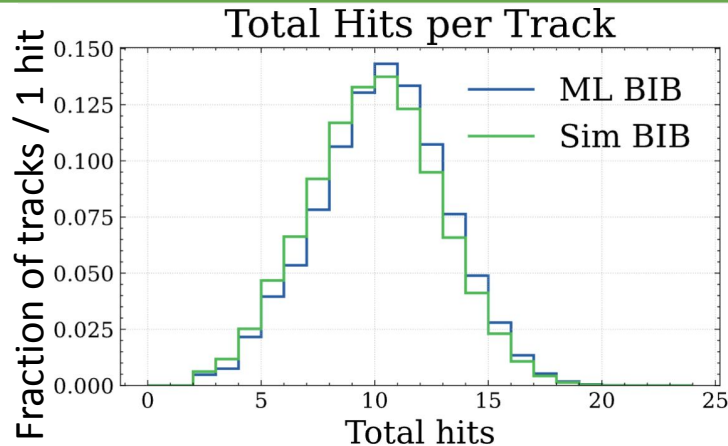
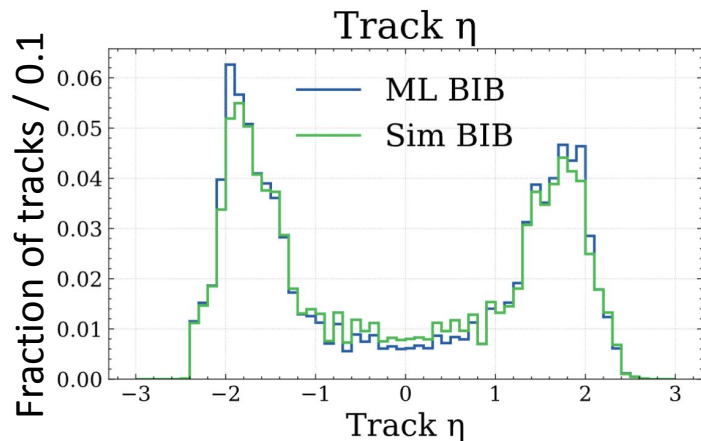
----- BDT feature importances -----

	ROC AUC	$\log(E)$	t	r	φ	z
Outer Tracker Barrel	0.706	0.0151	0.0226	0.8131	0.0979	0.0513
Inner Tracker Barrel	0.636	0.0476	0.0610	0.7025	0.1524	0.0365
Vertex Barrel	0.627	0.0858	0.0496	0.5963	0.2334	0.0349
Outer Tracker Endcap	0.533	Overall, the ML BIB is quantitatively similar to the Sim BIB				
Inner Tracker Endcap	0.530					
Vertex Endcap	0.538					
Overall	0.550	0.1117	0.1614	0.4166	0.1590	0.1514

Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: track observables

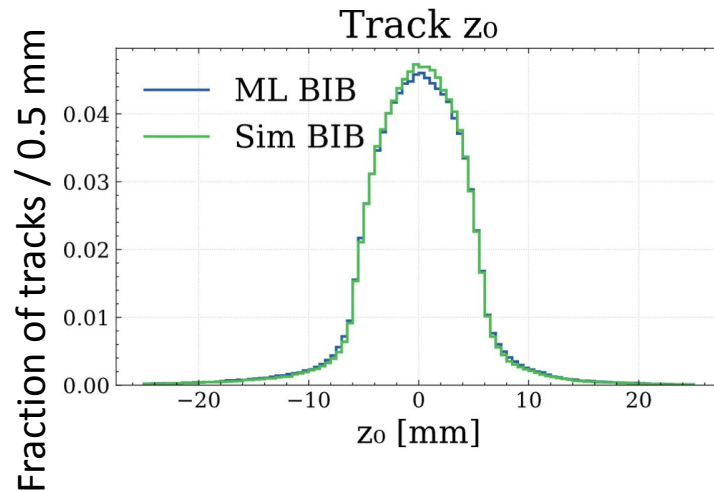
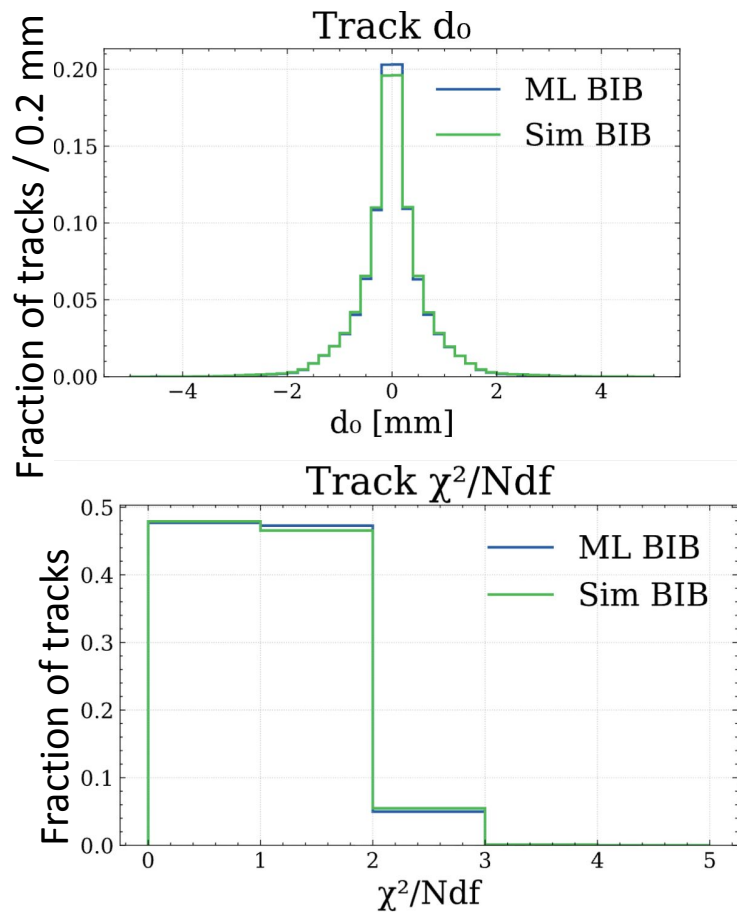
- ❖ A more important test of the ML BIB is a phenomenological one – to compare ML BIB tracks with Sim BIB tracks
- ❖ We compare digitized and reconstructed ML BIB to Sim BIB (both at 100%)
- ❖ We generate ML BIB such that it has the same number of hits in each tracking detector as the Sim BIB
- ❖ We find:
 - 1_329_032 ML BIB tracks (SiTrackDeduped)
 - 1_069_261 Sim BIB tracks (SiTrackDeduped)

Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: track observables



Overall we see good agreement in track kinematic observables, with ML bib having slightly more hits per track.

Comparison of ML BIB to Sim BIB: track observables



Overall we see good agreement in track fitting parameters.

Conclusions and next steps

We have developed a generative machine learning model that allows us to **quickly generate ML BIB** (pre-digitized tracker) hits that are qualitatively and phenomenologically **similar to Sim BIB**.

Next steps

- ❖ Targeting and minimizing the differences between ML BIB and Sim BIB at the hit and track level
- ❖ Exploring other network architectures (we are currently working on a tabular diffusion model, led by Shiyu Peng at Brown)
- ❖ Developing a model for post-digitized hits
- ❖ Developing a model for calorimeter hits

Backup slides

Number of training samples and material mask pass rates

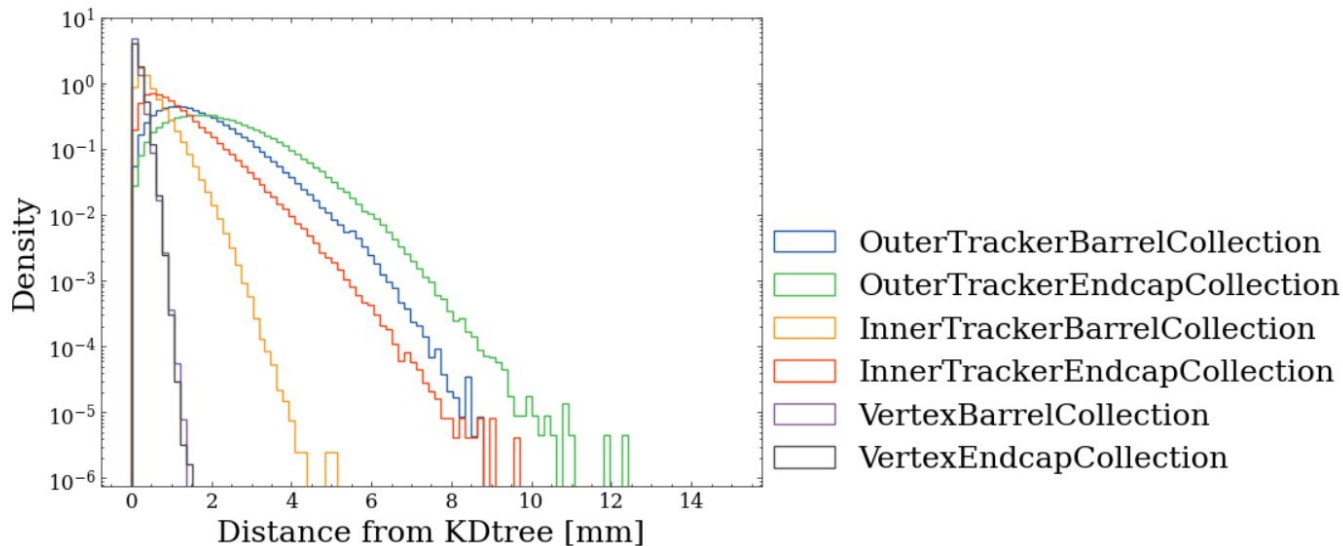
	Number of training samples	Mask pass rate
Outer Tracker Barrel Collection	3_280_678	47.0
Outer Tracker Endcap Collection	1_465_825	99.8
Inner Tracker Barrel Collection	3_926_196	68.2
Inner Tracker Endcap Collection	1_614_679	99.6
Vertex Barrel Collection	2_129_166	78.6
Vertex Endcap Collection	4_096_371	99.2

Network training specifications

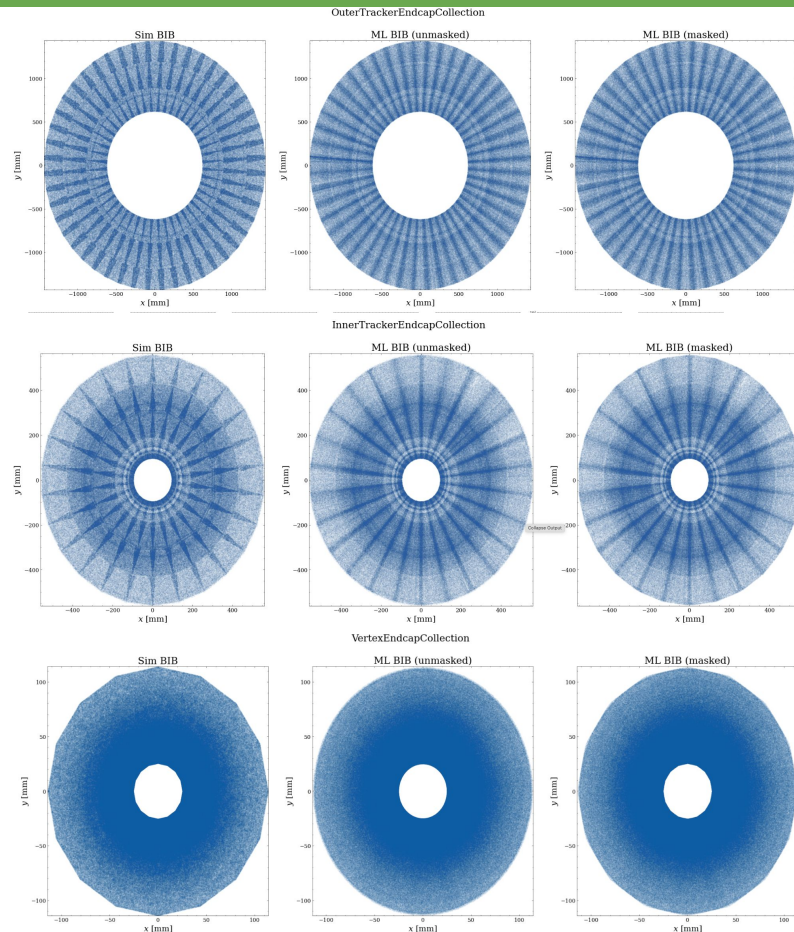
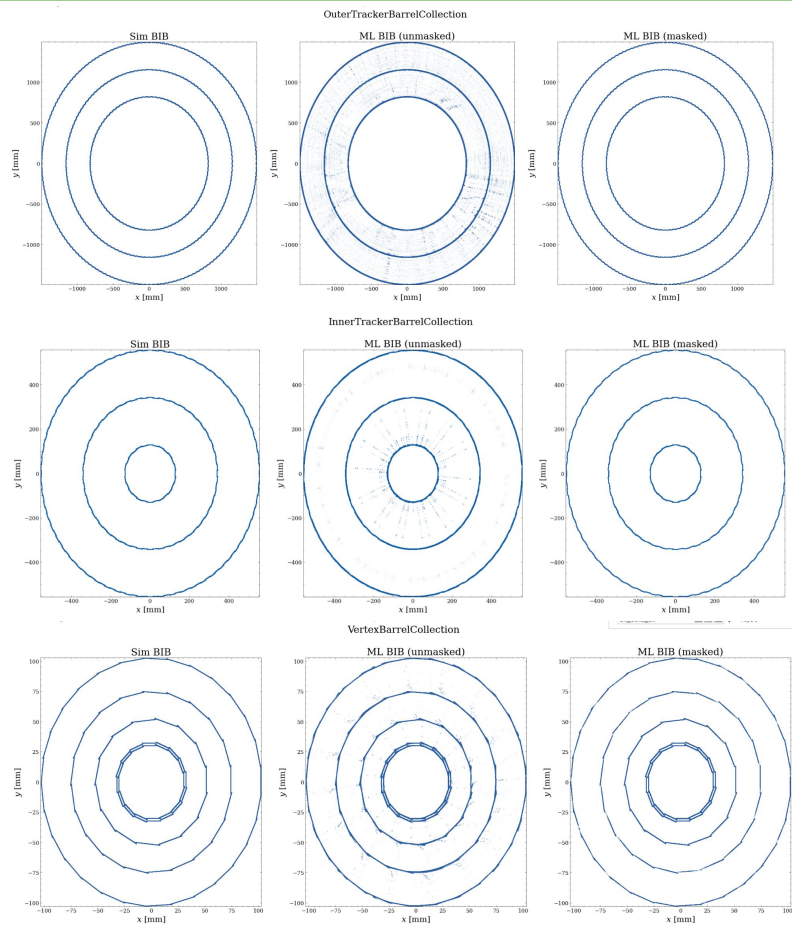
- ❖ NCSF with 5 transform blocks, each with 3 layers with 128 hidden features
- ❖ Network is implemented with the [zuko](#) package in PyTorch
- ❖ We train for 500 epochs with a batch size of 2048 and a learning rate of $1e-4$ (ADAM optimizer)

ML BIB processing: cell ID assignment

- ❖ ML BIB hits need a cell ID for digitization and reconstruction
- ❖ Ideally we could use a function that maps from $(x, y, z) \rightarrow \text{cell ID}$
 - This function seems to be implemented only for the calorimeter for LCIO processing
- ❖ Instead, we define a `scipy` KDTree in (x, y, z) from the Sim BIB, and we assign ML BIB hits the cell ID of the closest Sim BIB hit

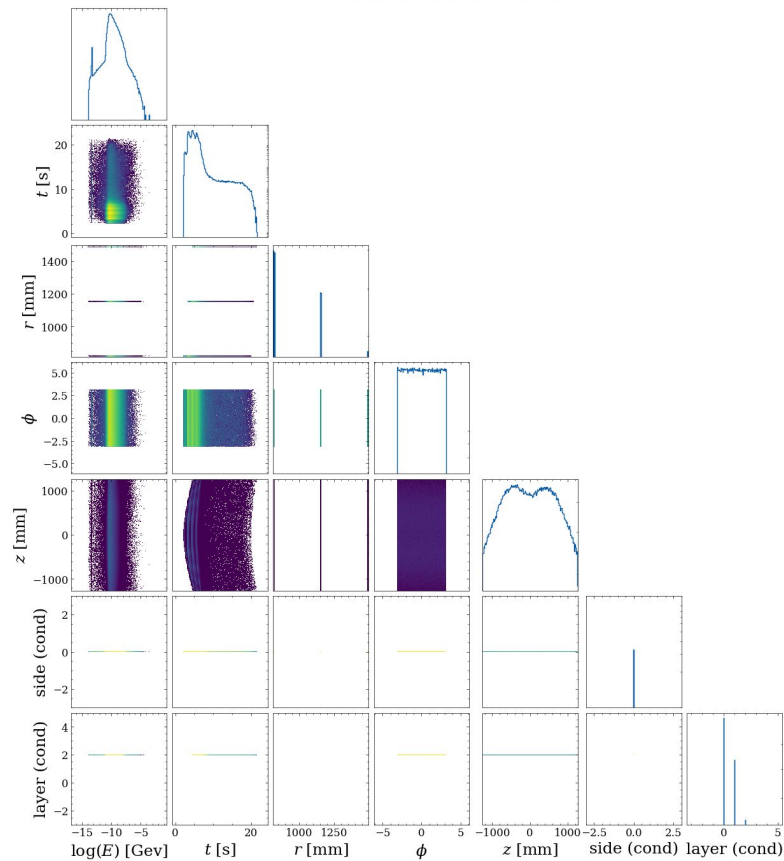


Effect of masking in the x-y plane

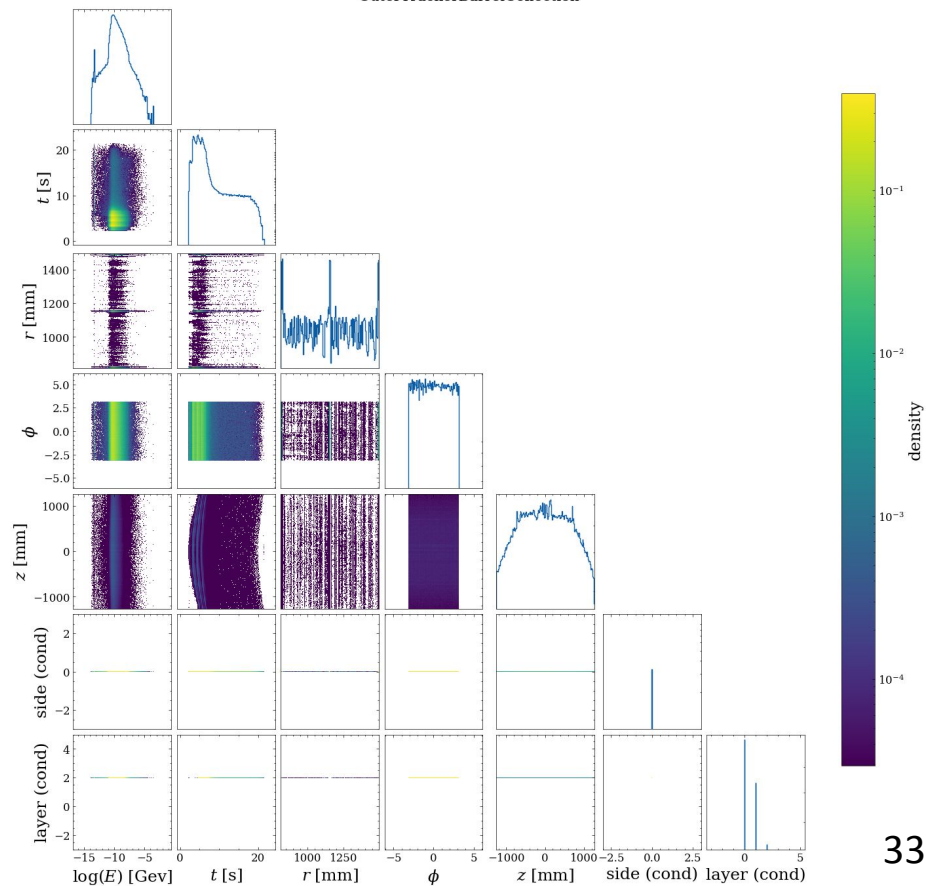


Corner plots: Outer Tracker Barrel Collection

Sim BIB
OuterTrackerBarrelCollection

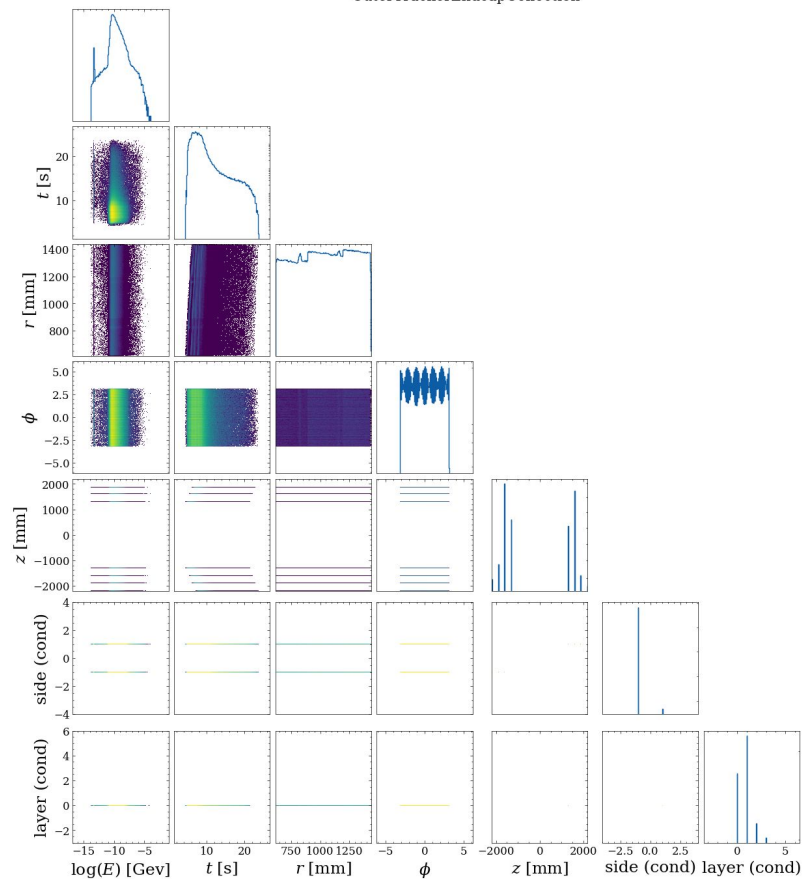


ML BIB
OuterTrackerBarrelCollection

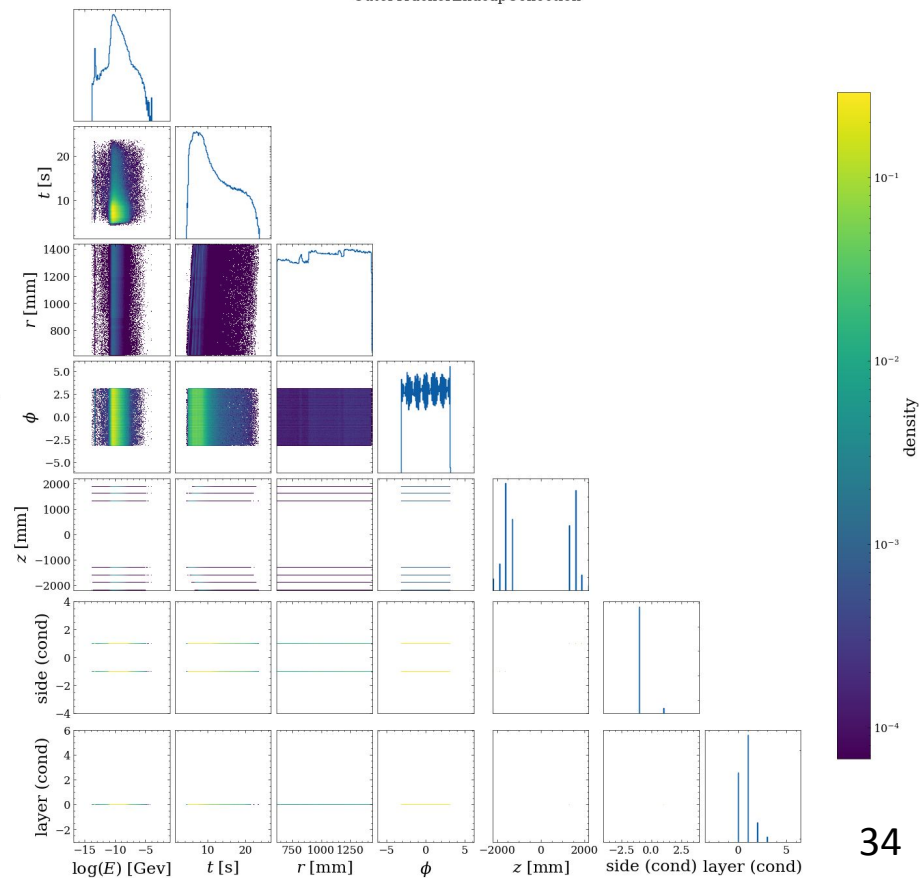


Corner plots: Outer Tracker Endcap Collection

Sim BIB
OuterTrackerEndcapCollection

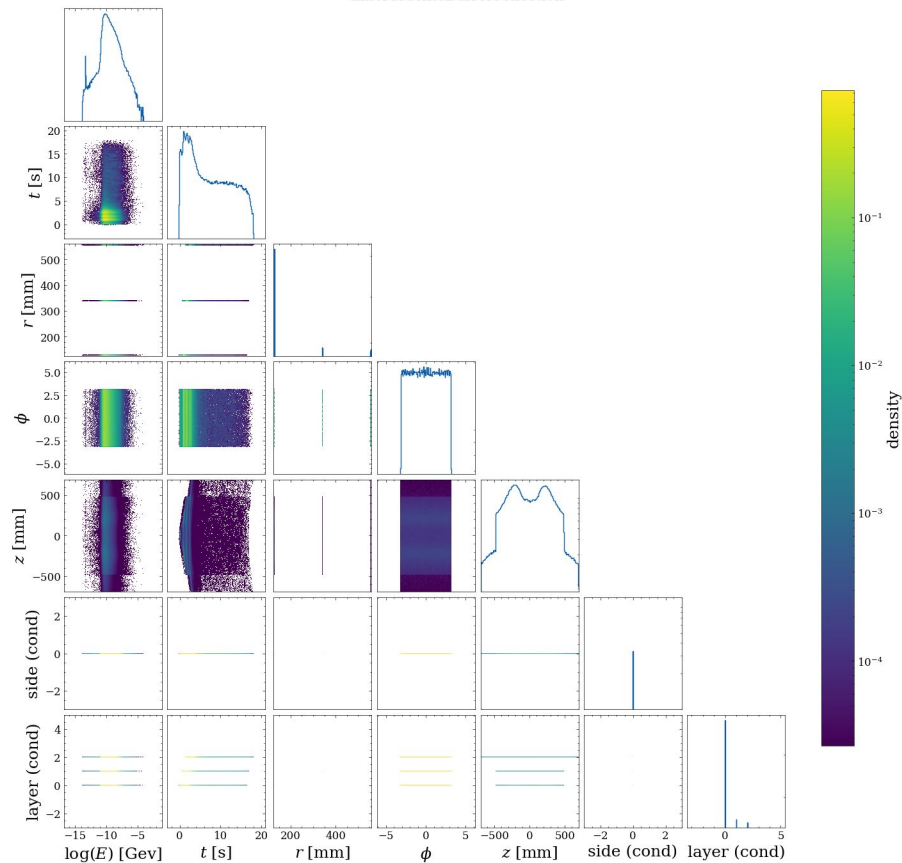


ML BIB
OuterTrackerEndcapCollection

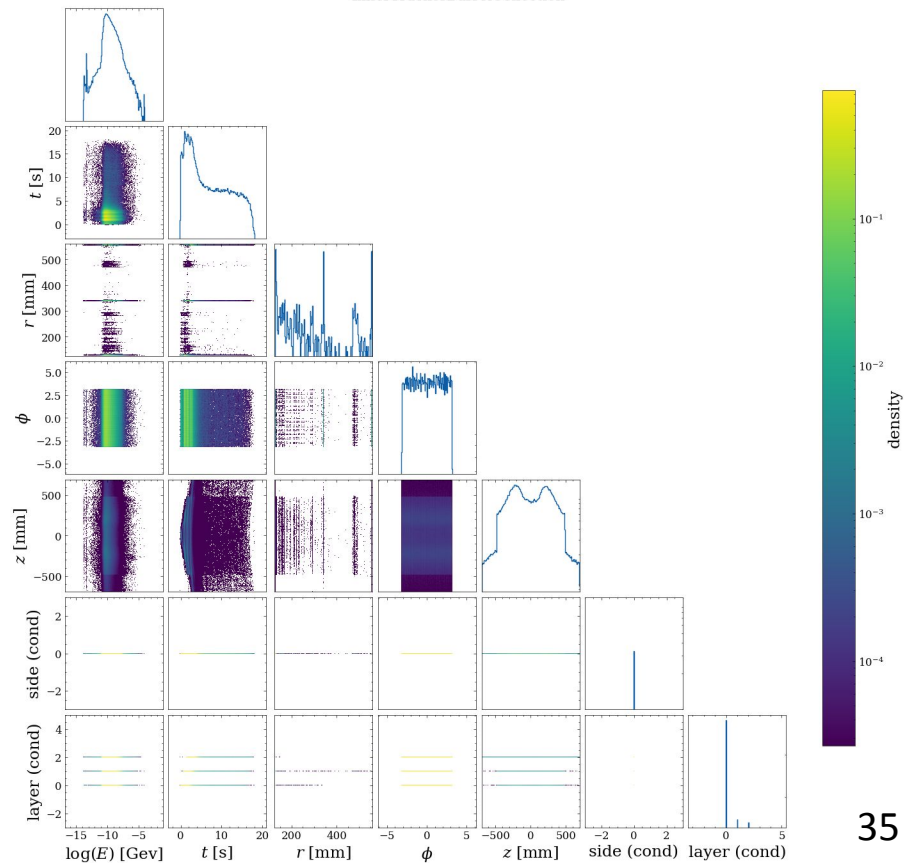


Corner plots: Inner Tracker Barrel Collection

Sim BIB
InnerTrackerBarrelCollection

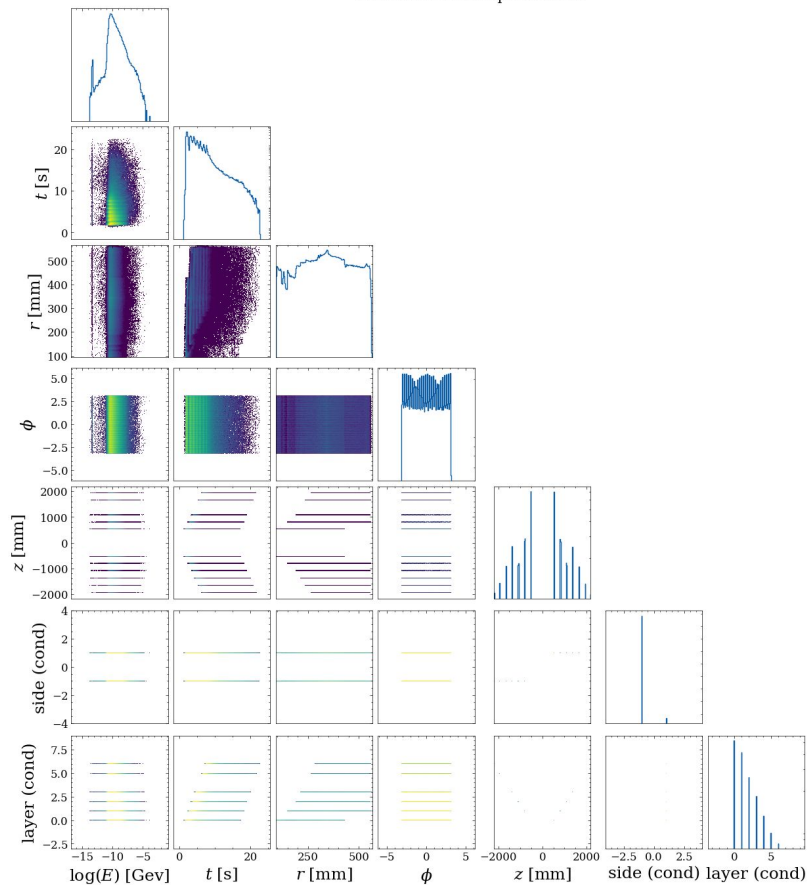


ML BIB
InnerTrackerBarrelCollection

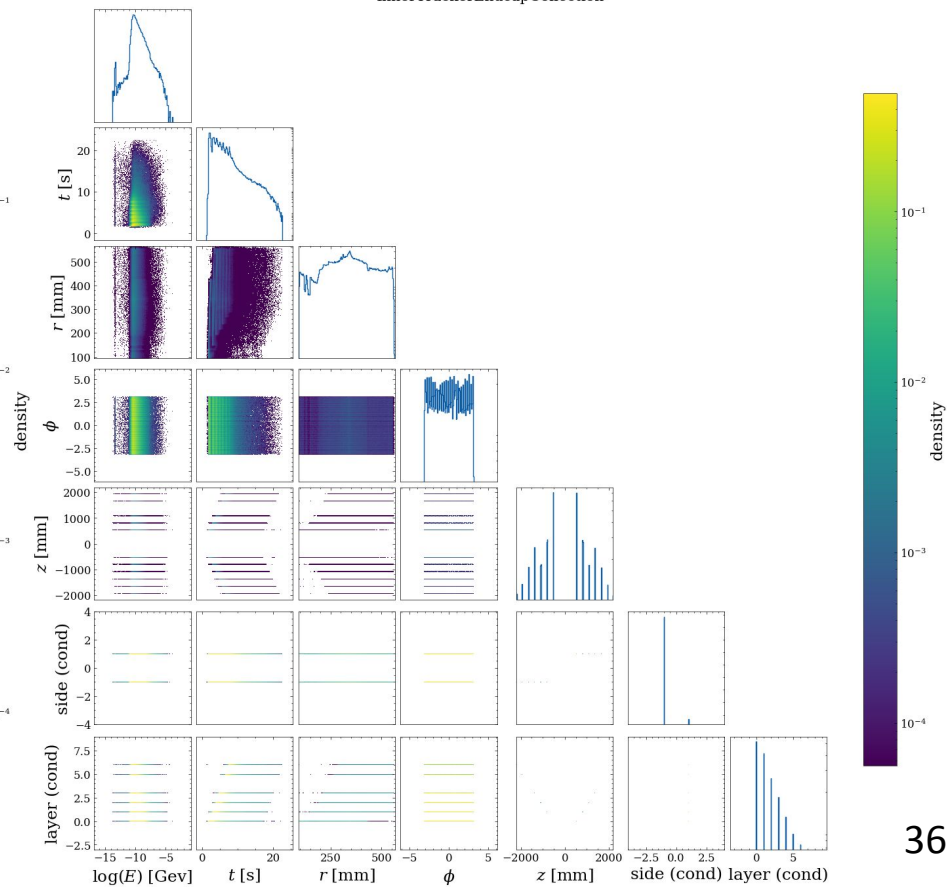


Corner plots: Inner Tracker Endcap Collection

Sim BIB
InnerTrackerEndcapCollection

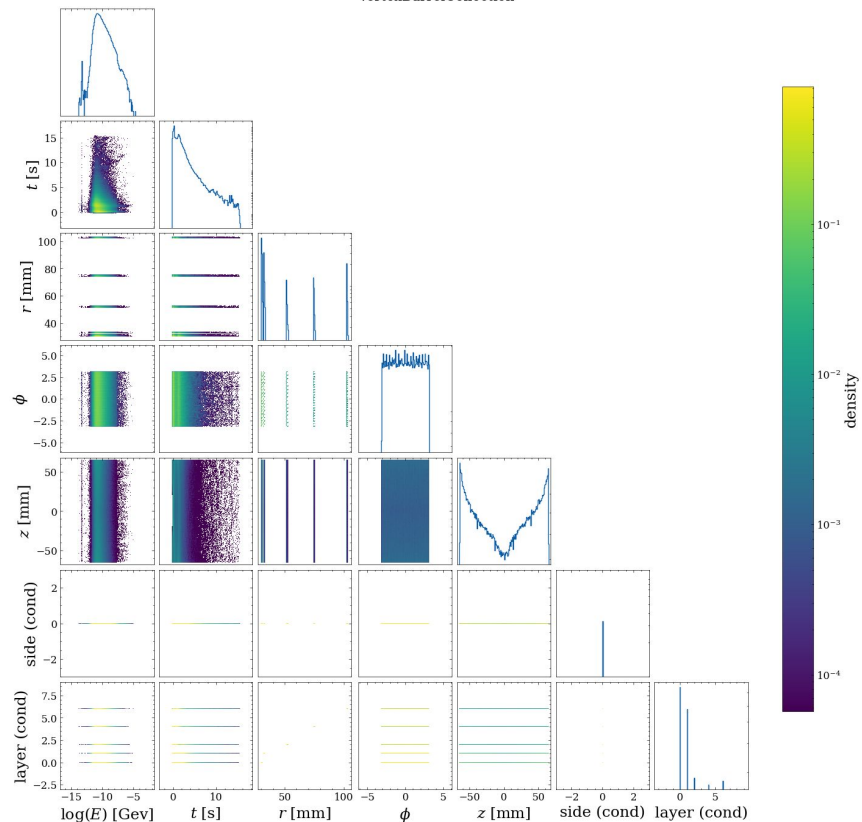


ML BIB
InnerTrackerEndcapCollection

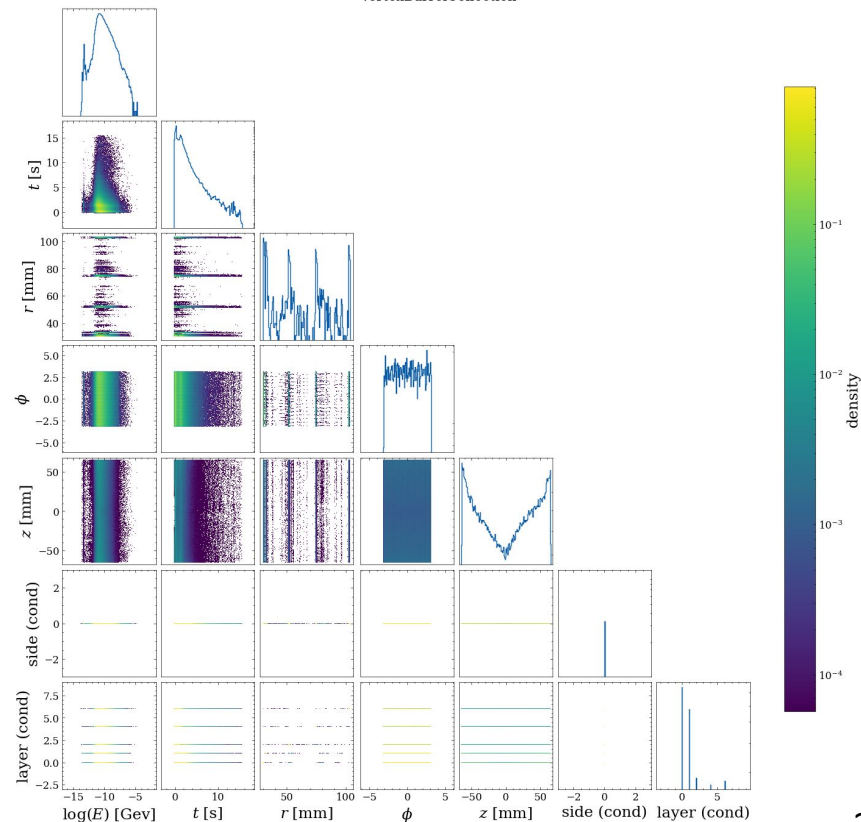


Corner plots: Vertex Barrel Collection

Sim BIB
VertexBarrelCollection

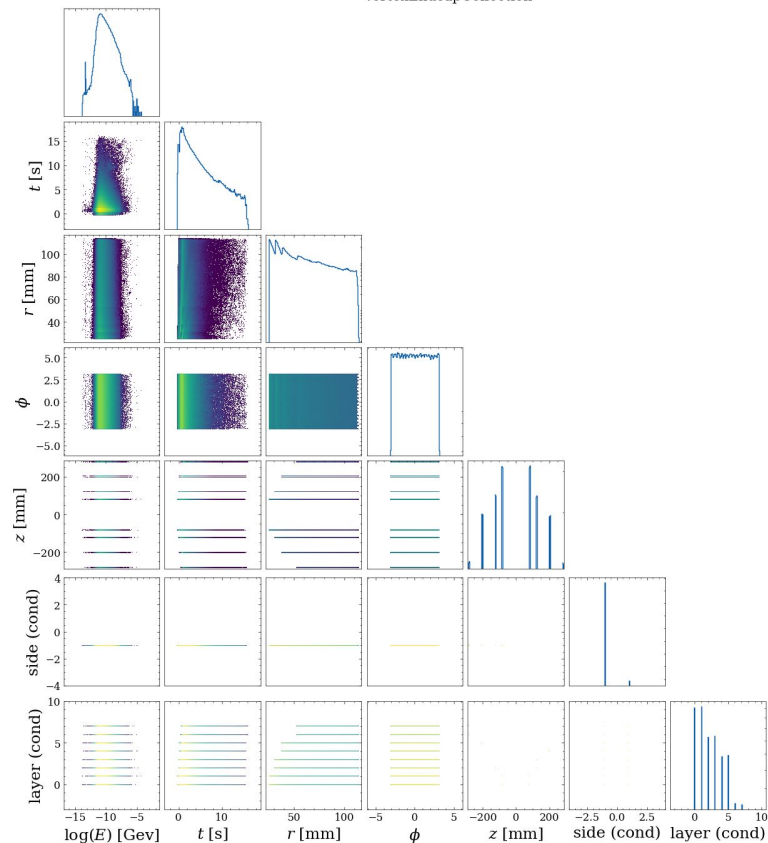


ML BIB
VertexBarrelCollection

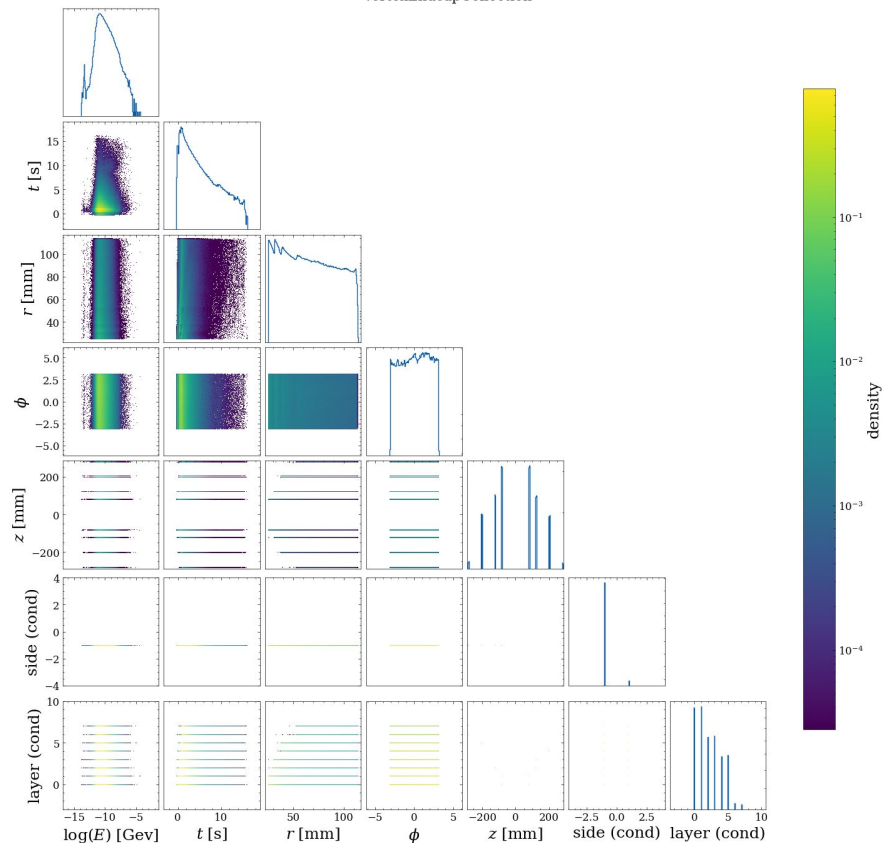


Corner plots: Vertex Endcap Collection

Sim BIB
VertexEndcapCollection

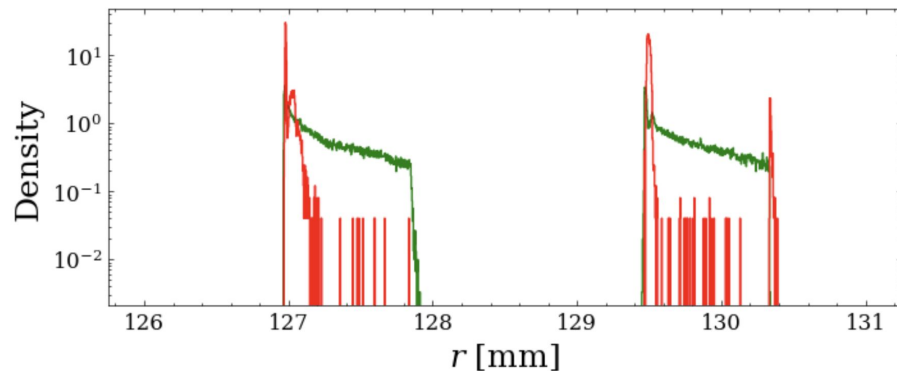
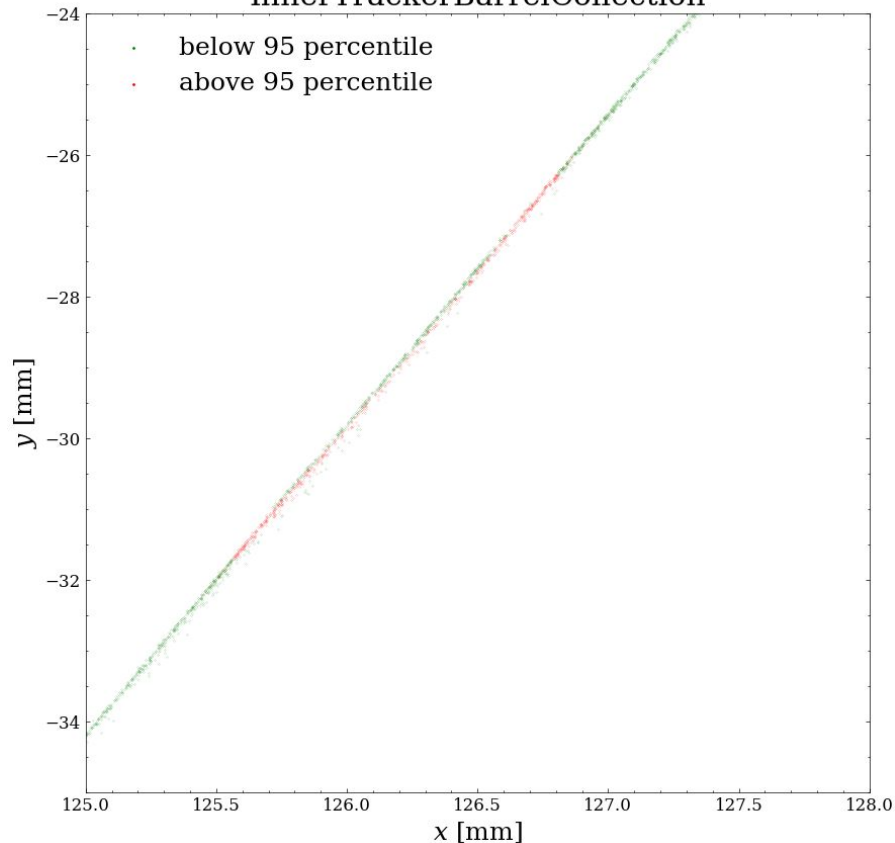


ML BIB
VertexEndcapCollection



Deep dive: why is r so poorly modeled in the barrels?

InnerTrackerBarrelCollection



The most “anomalous” (i.e. non Sim BIB-like) hits are at the edges of the sensitive layers of the barrel modules