

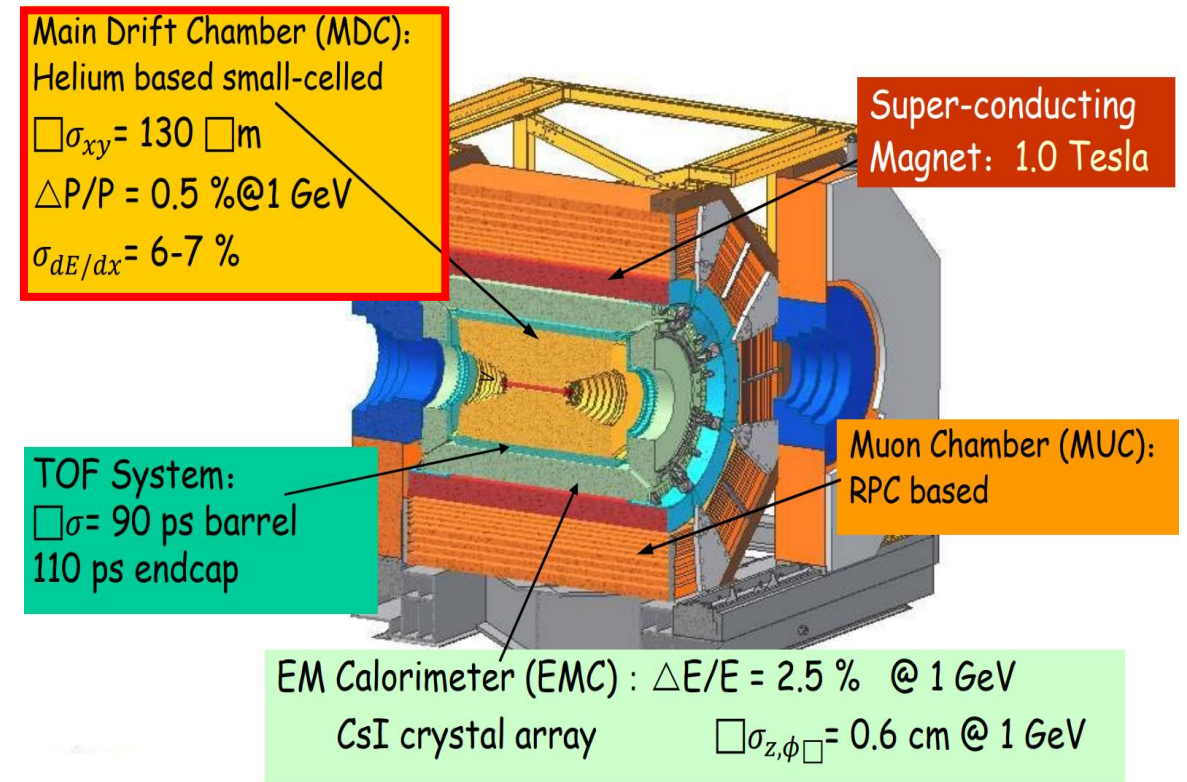
Track-based alignment of the BESIII tracker with cosmic-ray data

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Liang Sun (WHU), Dayong Wang (PKU), Minggang Zhao (NKU)**

July 23, 2025

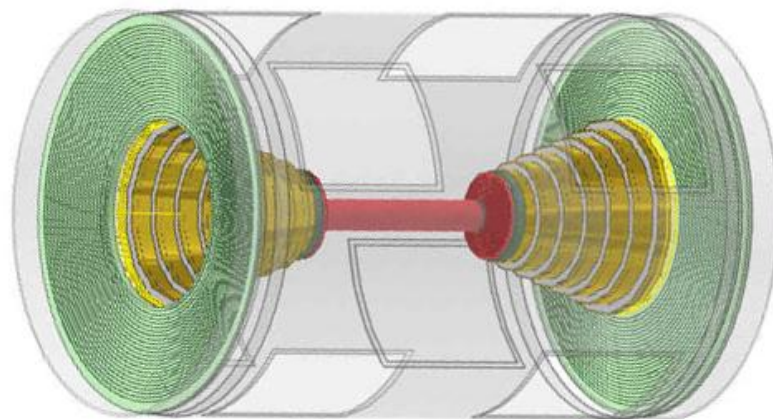
Beijing Spectrometer (BESIII) Experiment

- BESIII at the BEPCII accelerator is for the studies of hadron physics and τ -charm physics with the highest accuracy achieved until now
- The Multilayer Drift Chamber (MDC) used to measure the trajectory, momentum, and dE/dx of charged particles for particle identification (PID)

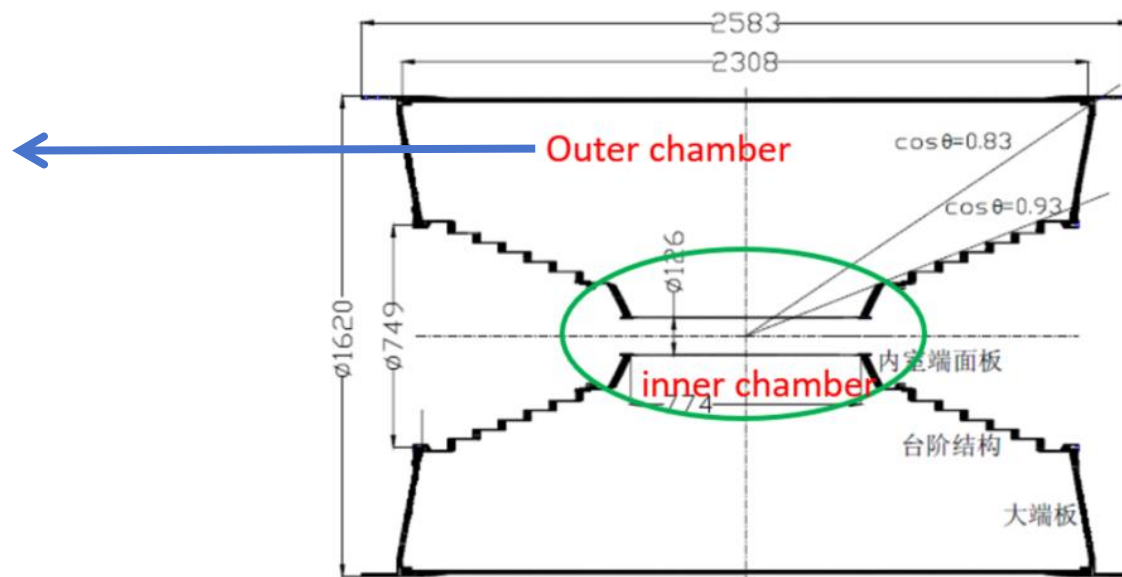
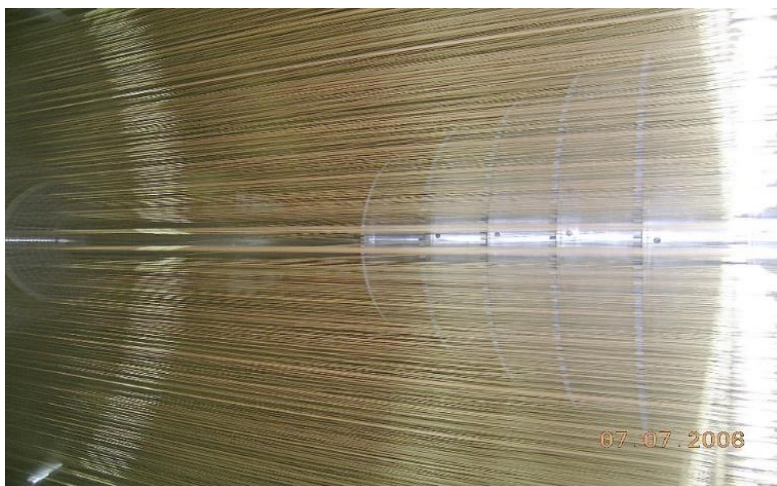


BESIII MDC

- 6792 cells in 43 cylindrical layers
 - Inner chamber: Layer 1~8
 - Outer chamber:
 - ✓ Layer 9~20 in six steps
 - ✓ Layer 21~43 fixed at big out endplates

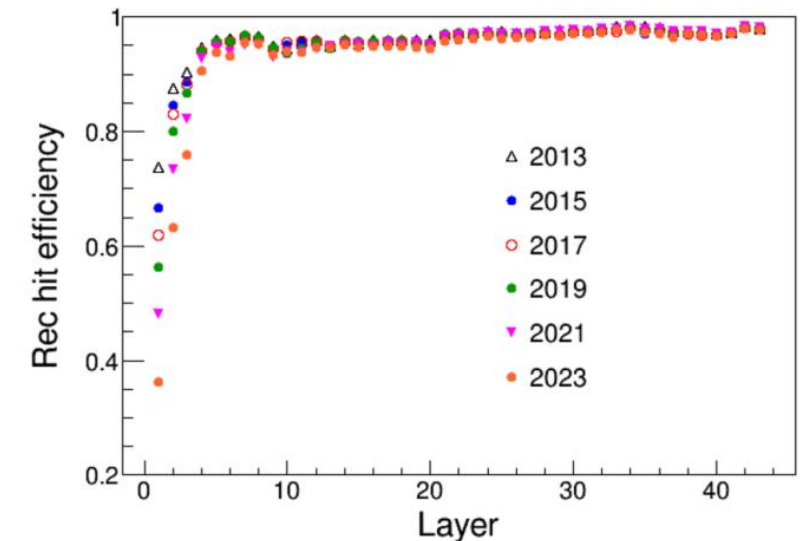
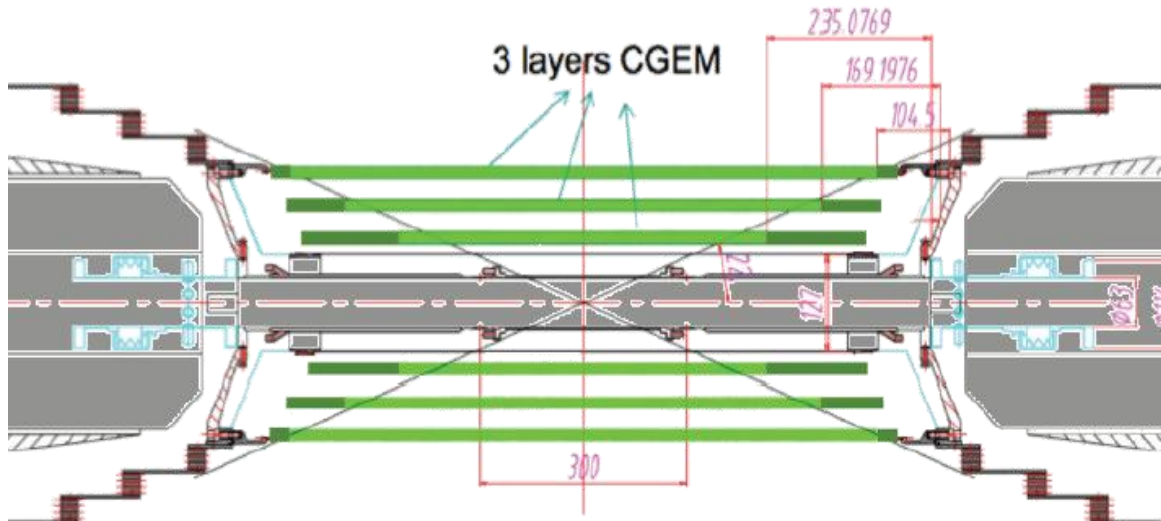
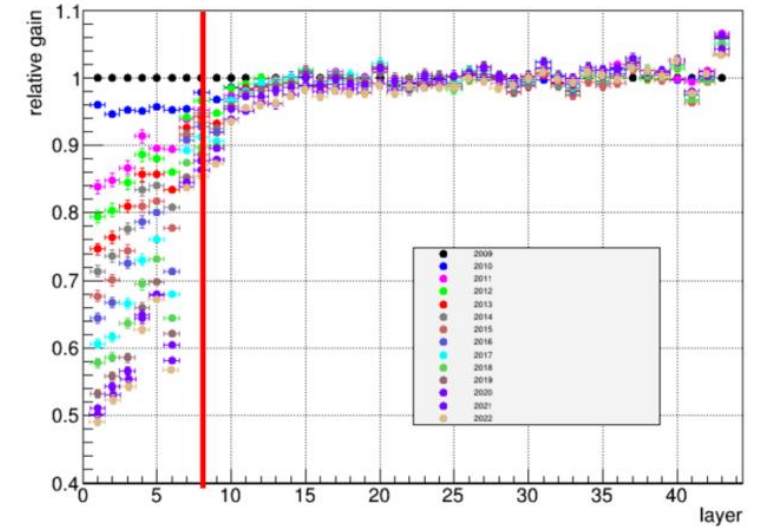


Outer
chamber



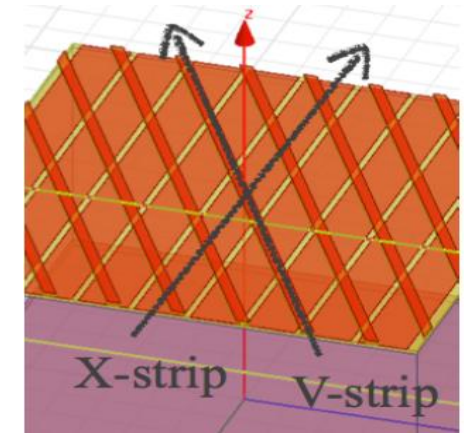
Upgrade of inner tracker

- Significant aging effect observed in the inner chamber
 - Gain decreases with time
 - Degradation of hit efficiency and spatial resolution year by year
- Inner chamber upgraded to **CGEM** (Cylindrical Gas Electron Multiplier) in 2024

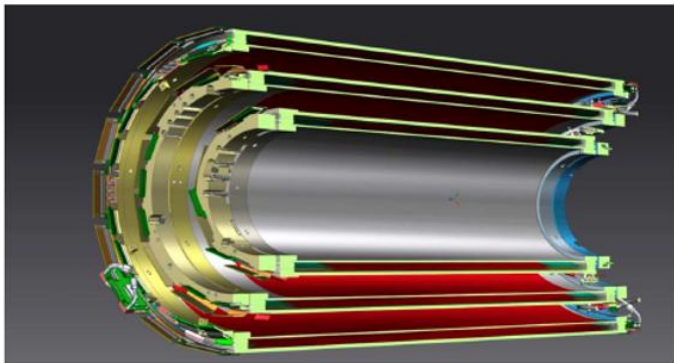


CGEM Inner Tracker

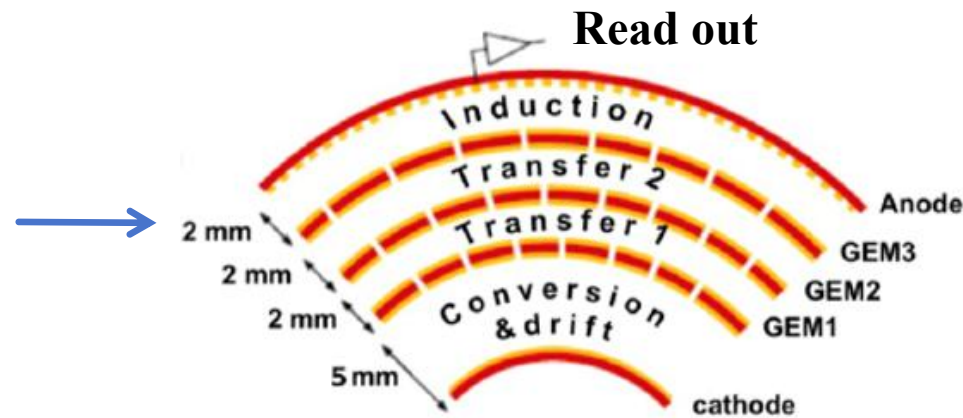
- CGEM structure (5 sheets of 3 layers)
 - Layer1 (1 sheet); Layer2 (2 sheets); Layer3 (2 sheets)
- Each layer consists of
 - Cathode
 - GEM1, GEM2, GEM3
 - Anode
 - Readout
- Readout: X strips and V strips



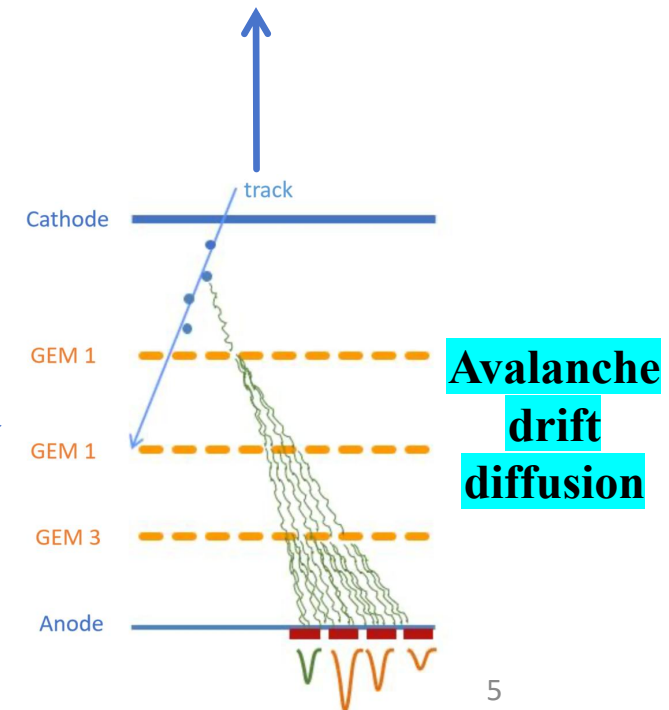
**Anode
readout
strips**



Structure of CGEM

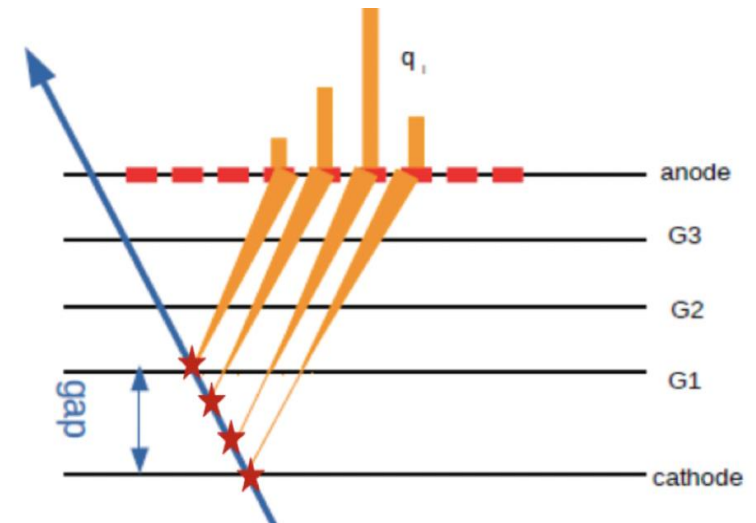
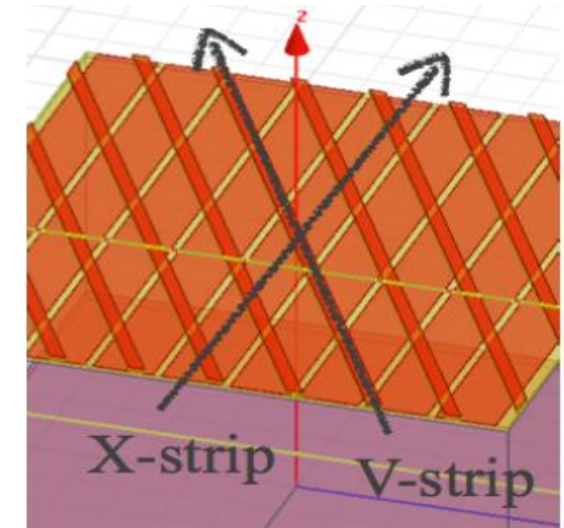


Structure of each layer



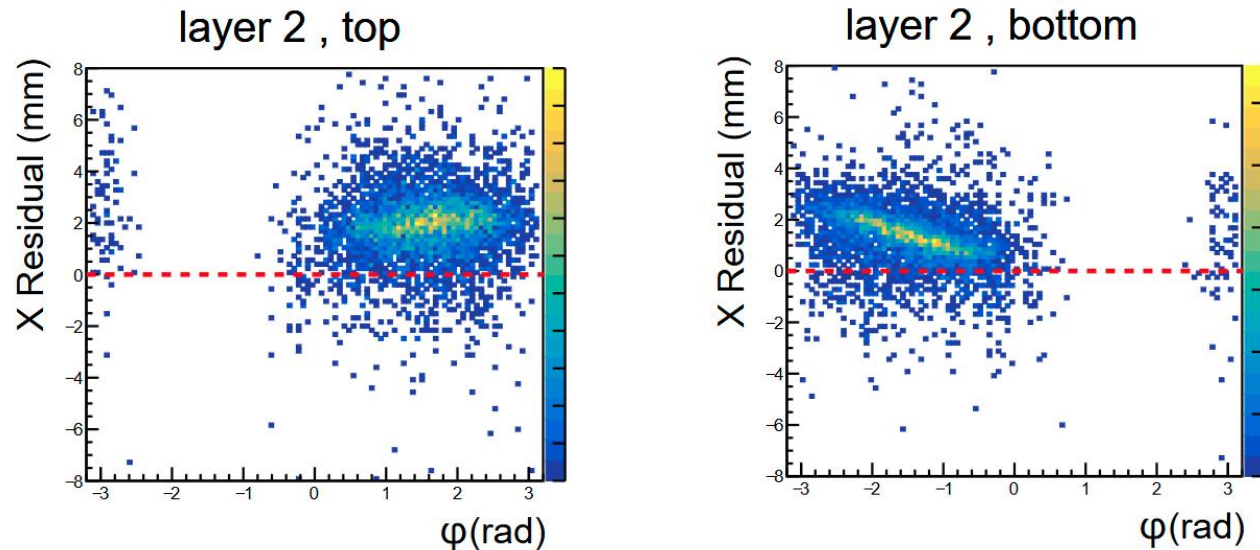
Readout strip and cluster reconstruction

- Readout structure
 - X strips parallel to the Z-axis
 - V strips have an angle with Z-axis around 30 - 40 degrees
 - Combine signals on both X and V strips to reconstruct the **2D cluster**
- Cluster reconstruction method
 - Charge Centroid (CC): applied to the current alignment
 - ✓ For track direction close to the ionization electrons drifting
 - Micro-TPC method
 - ✓ For track direction very different from the ionization electrons drifting



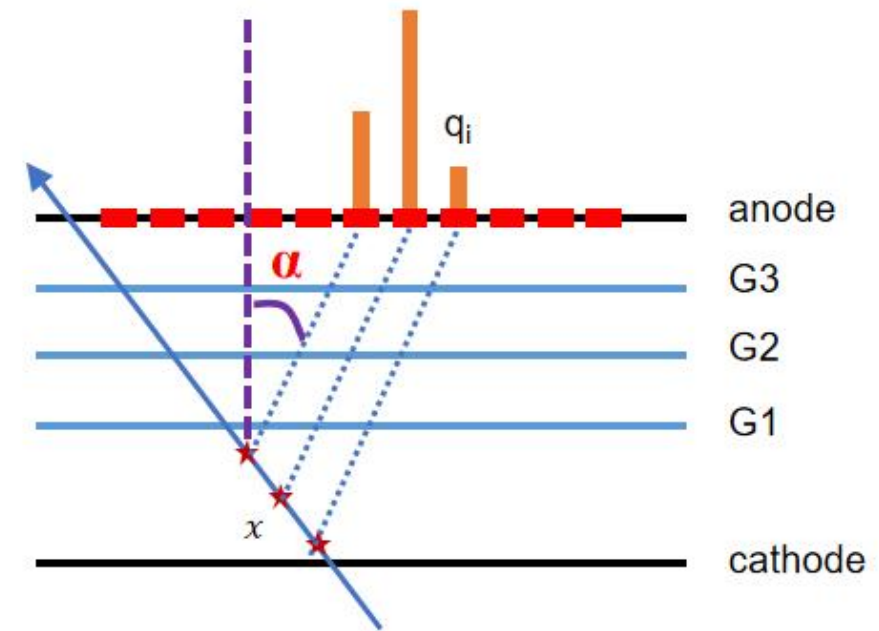
Mechanical imperfection during upgrade

- During the upgrade, the displacement between the CGEM and MDC could exceed 1 mm
- Relative displacement between different CGEM layers, especially in z could be more than 1mm
 - [Refer to A.Q. Guo, L.H. Wu et al., NIM A 1050 \(2023\)](#)
- Significant misalignment effect observed in the cosmic-ray data analysis
- Track-based alignment is essential for track reconstruction



Strategy of Alignment

- **Step I:** Preliminary alignment, especially for estimating the rotation around z of CGEM, with cosmic-ray data without magnetic field
 - Strong correlation between Lorentz angle and rotation of the cylinder around z (both cause a shift of clusters in φ)
- **Step II:** Preliminary calibration of the Lorentz angle combining the cosmic-ray data with magnetic field
- **Step III:** Precise alignment combining cosmic-ray and collision data, based on preliminary results from cosmic-ray data

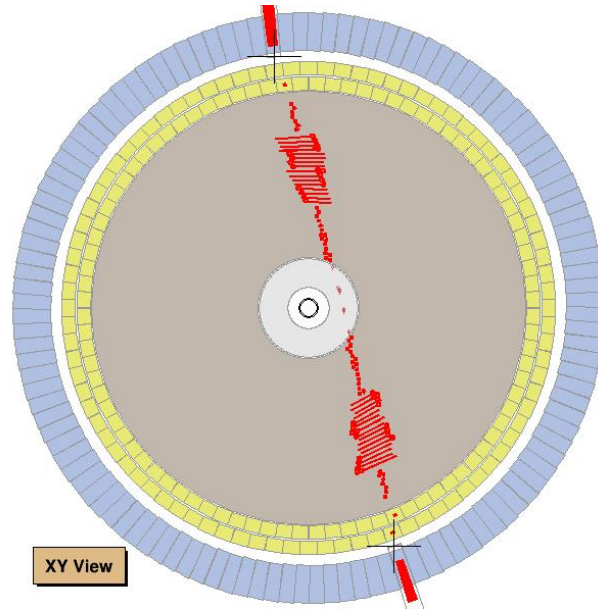


$$B = 0, \alpha = 0$$

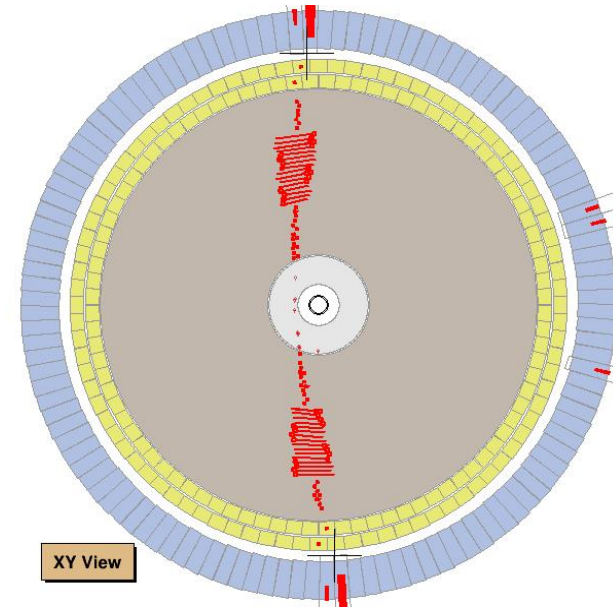
$$B \neq 0, \alpha \neq 0$$

Cosmic-ray data sample

- Cosmic-ray data with and without magnetic field (taken in March and April, 2025)



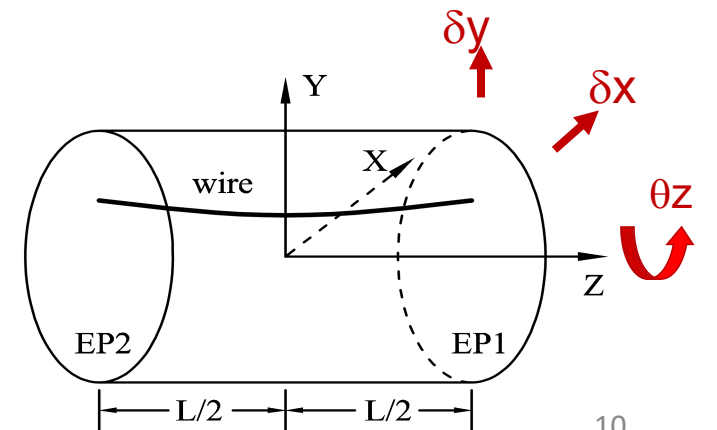
Without Magnetic field



With Magnetic field

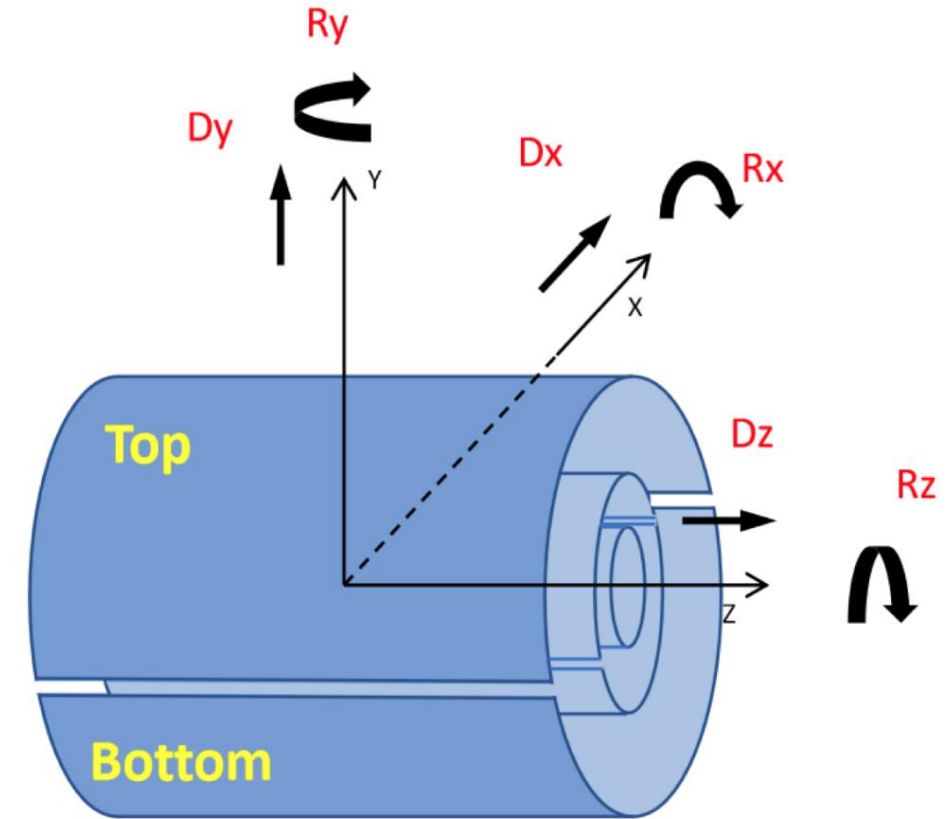
Alignment parameters of MDC

- 6 steps + 1 outer endplate for each side
- 6 degrees of freedom for each component
 - Translation in x, y and z (D_x , D_y , D_z)
 - Rotation in x, y and z (R_x , R_y , R_z)
- Some degrees of freedom constrained to guarantee the stability and avoid weak modes
 - R_x , R_y , D_z
- **42** alignment parameters in total



Alignment parameters of CGEM

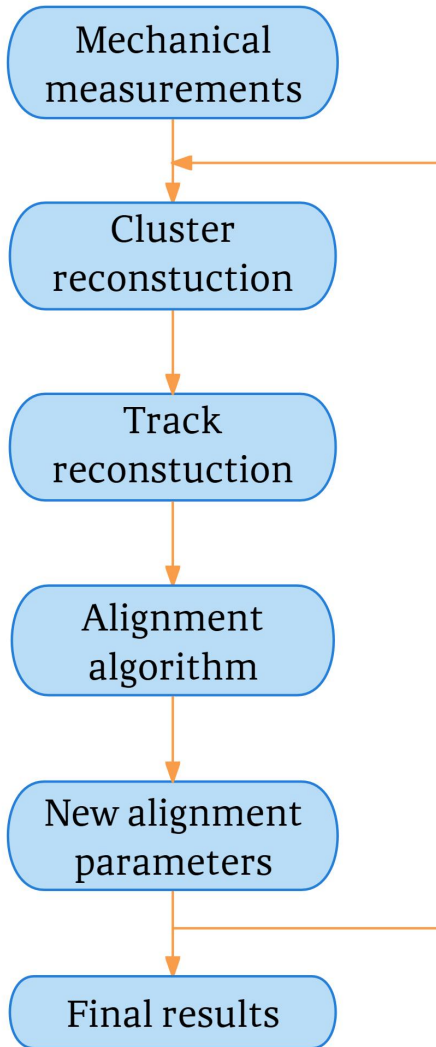
- 3 layers (5 sheets)
 - 2 sheets in layer 2 and 3
- 6 degrees of freedom for each component
 - Translation in x, y and z (D_x , D_y , D_z)
 - Rotation in x, y and z (R_x , R_y , R_z)
- 30 alignment parameters in total



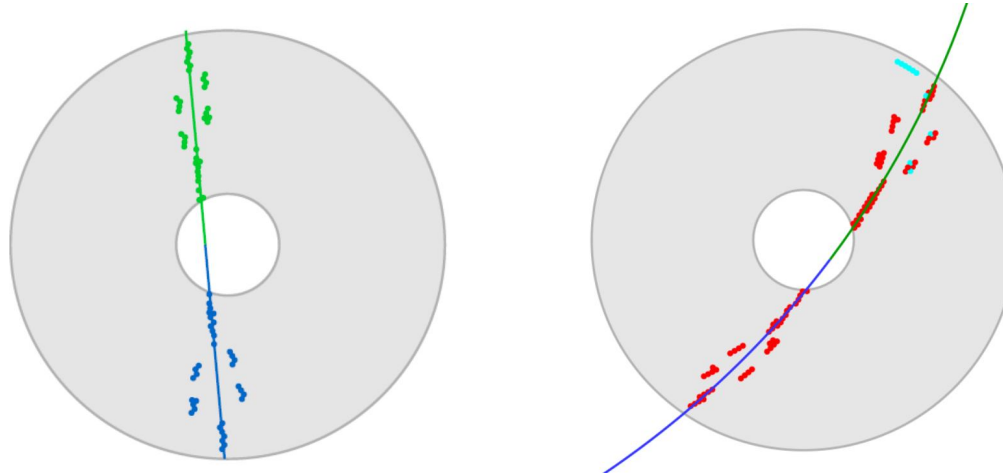
Constraints of alignment parameters

- Choose the outer endplates of MDC as reference
 - The average displacement of both outer endplates fixed
- For cosmic-ray data, D_y of each component fixed due to lack of horizontal tracks
- Each cylinder of CGEM assumed as rigid body, deformation not considered at the first stage

Workflow



- CGEM cluster reconstruction
- Track reconstruction: [Refer to Yaxuan's talk in the morning session](#)
 - Hough Transform method for track reconstruction without magnetic field
 - Legendre Transform method for track reconstruction with magnetic field



Alignment method

- Millepede method:

- ① Residual (measured value - fitted value)
- ② Constructing the Chi-Square of least square method
- ③ Minimize Chi-Square and construct parameter equations.
- ④ Solve the equation to get the estimation of alignment parameters

$$d_{track} = f(\mathbf{p}^{local}; \mathbf{a}^{global})$$

$$r_{ki} = d_{meas}^{(k,i)} - d_{track}^{(k,i)}$$

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{data\ sets} \left(\sum_{events} \left(\sum_{tracks} \left(\sum_{hits} w_{ki} r_{ki}^2 \right) \right) \right)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} C & \cdots & H_k & \cdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ H_k^T & 0 & \Gamma_k & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & 0 & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{p}_k \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b} \\ \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{\beta}_k \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

Alignment results

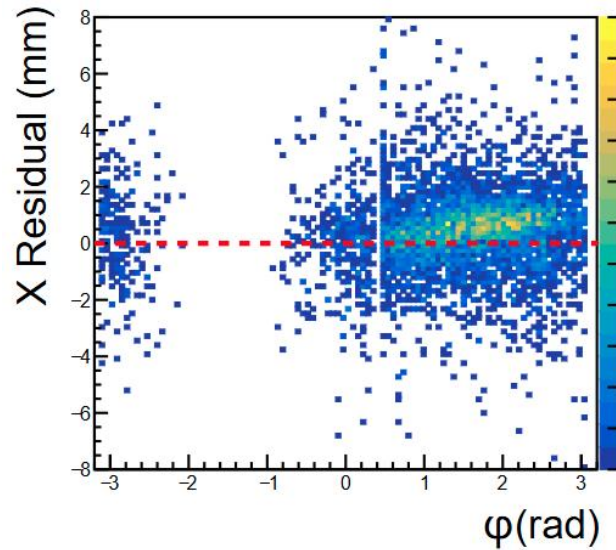
- First attempts to align CGEM+ODC using cosmic-ray
 - Preliminary results of cosmic-ray data without magnetic field
 - Alignment of cosmic-ray data with magnetic field ongoing

X residual vs ϕ

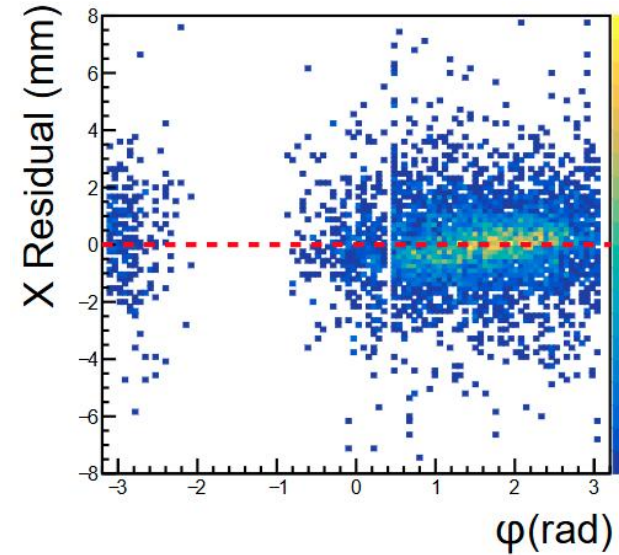
Preliminary Result

Layer 2, Top

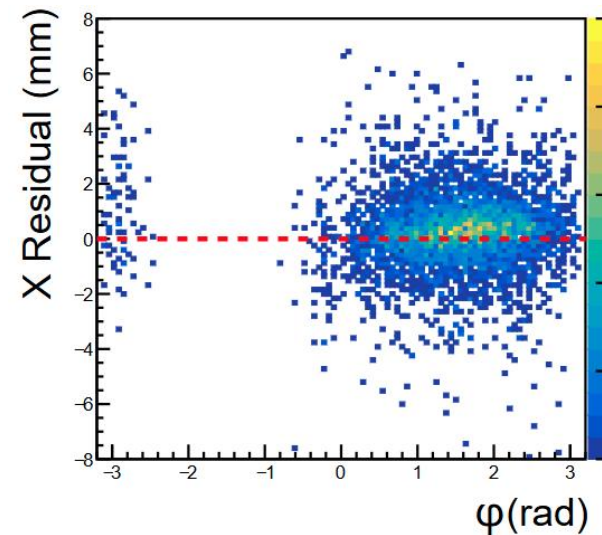
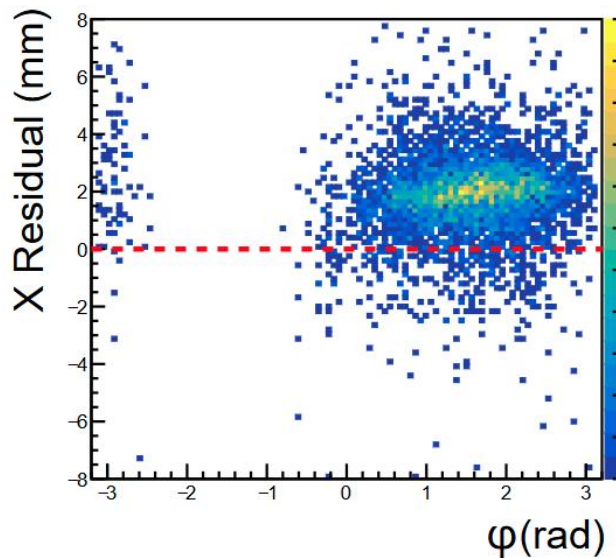
Before Alignment



After Alignment



Layer 3, Top



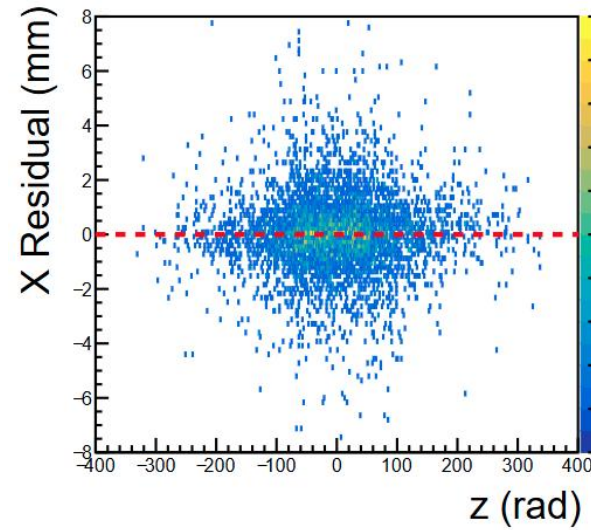
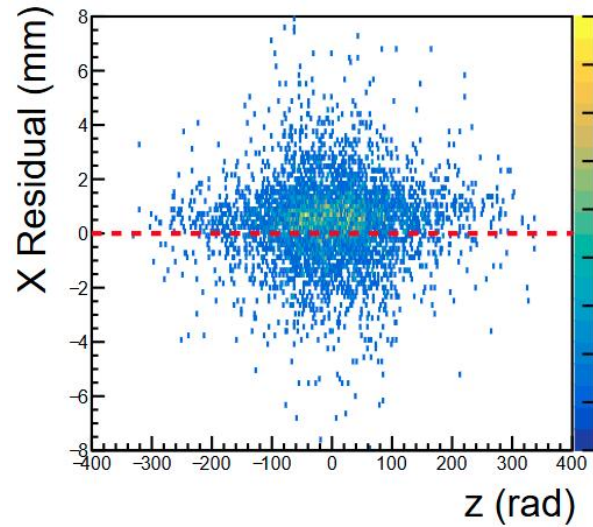
X residual vs z

Preliminary Result

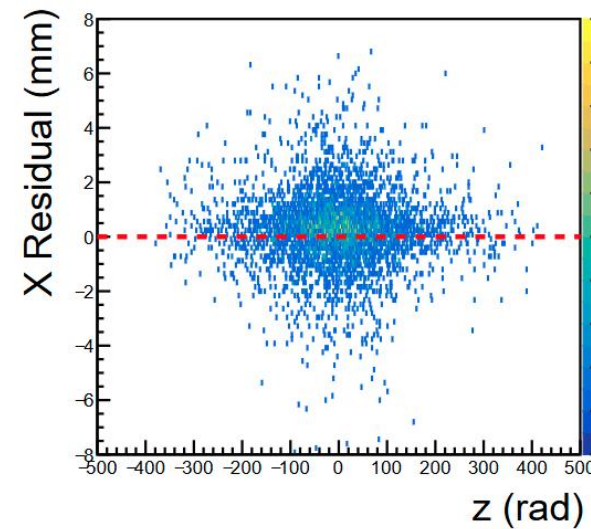
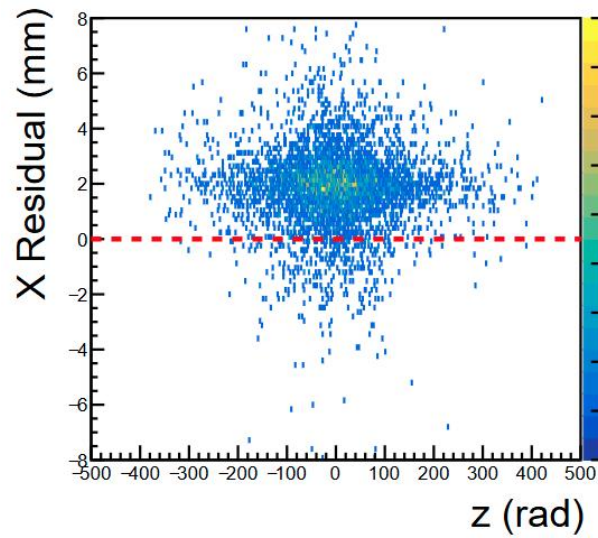
Before Alignment

After Alignment

Layer 2, Top



Layer 3, Top



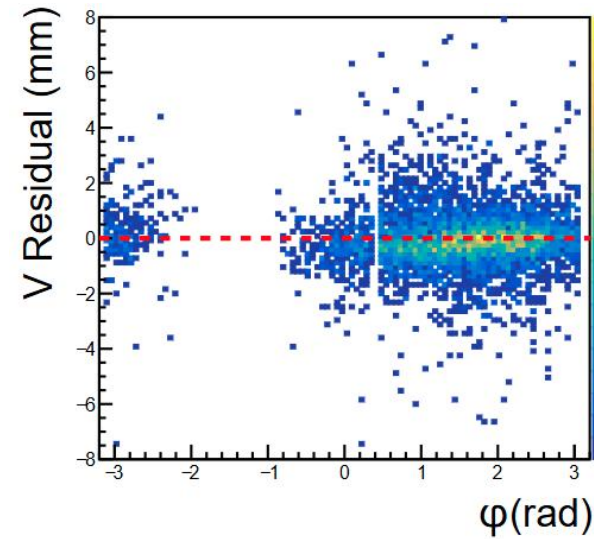
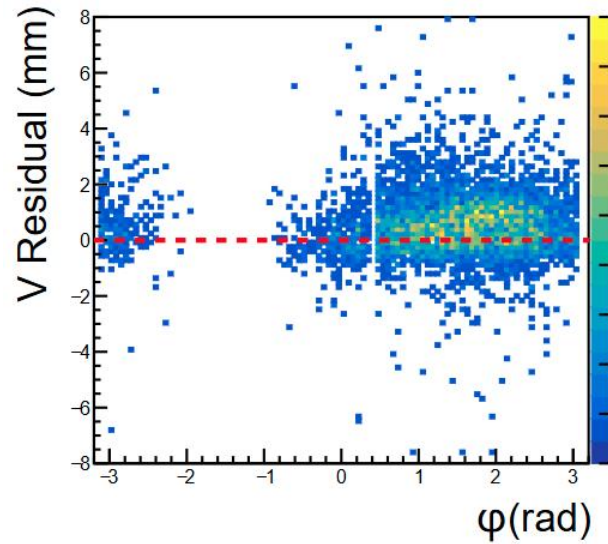
V residual vs φ

Preliminary Result

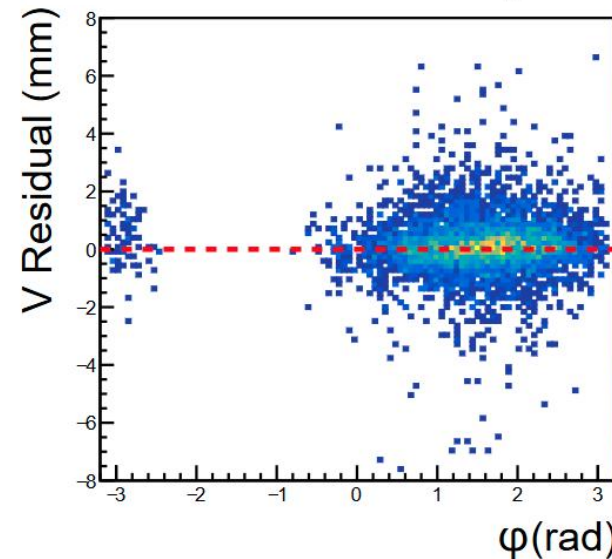
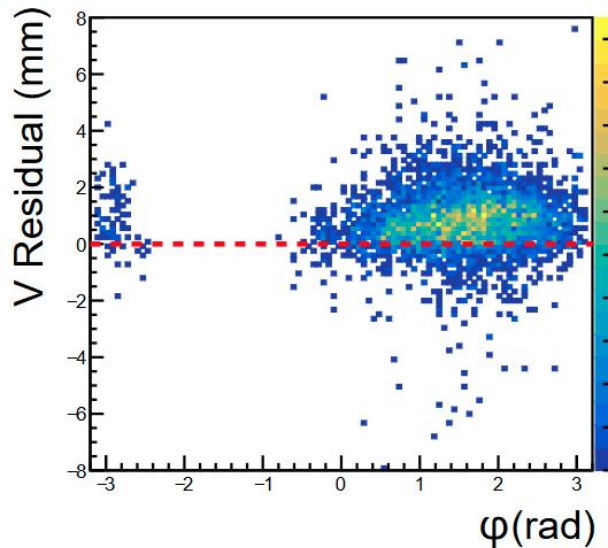
Before Alignment

After Alignment

Layer 2, Top



Layer 3, Top



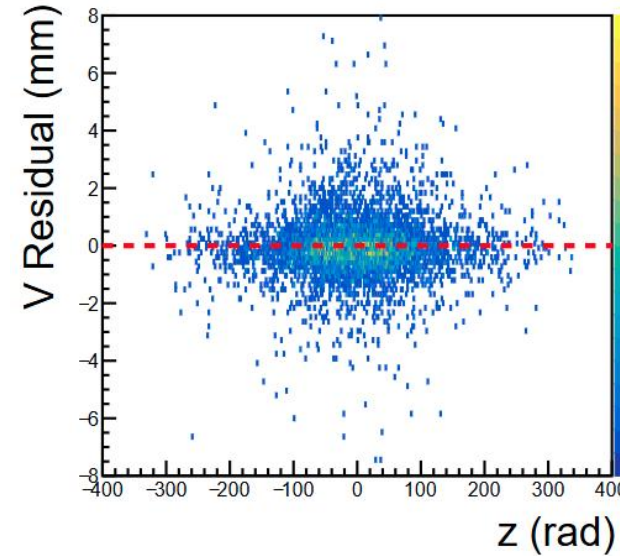
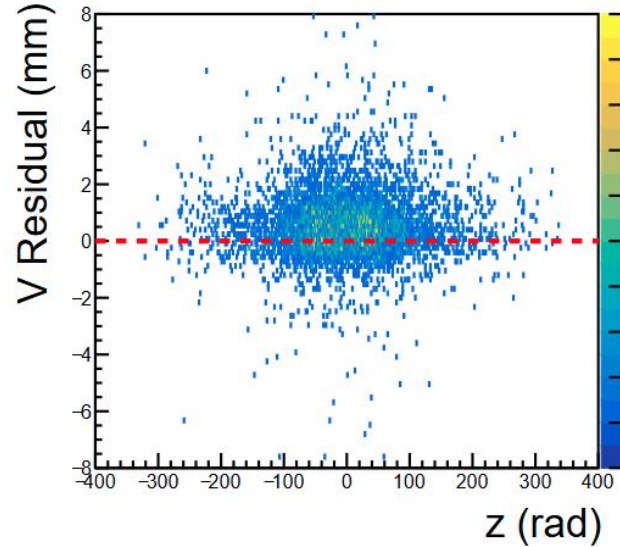
V residual vs z

Preliminary Result

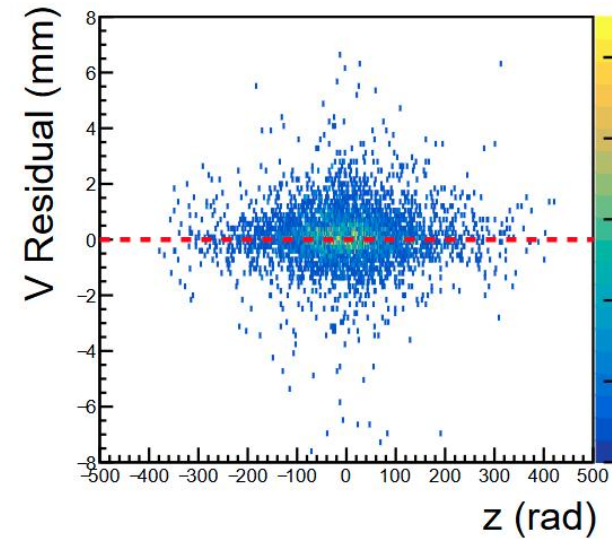
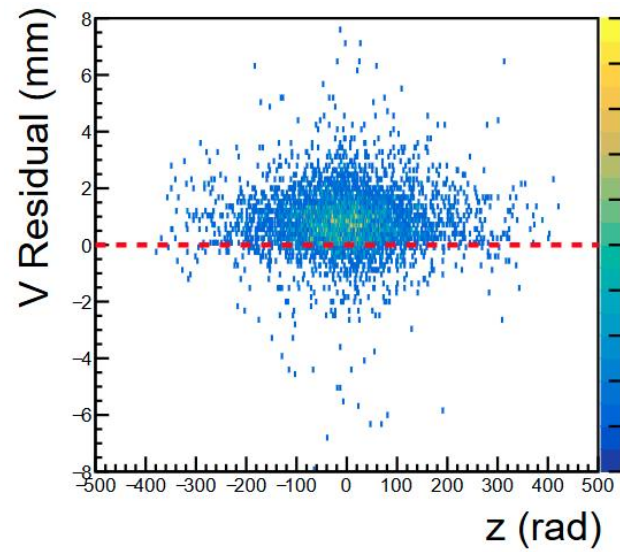
Before Alignment

After Alignment

Layer 2, Top



Layer 3, Top



Summary

- Significant misalignment effect in tracking observed after inner tracker upgrade
- First attempts to align CGEM+ODC using cosmic-ray (with/without magnetic field) are underway

Thanks!

Back up

Misalignment effect

- Mechanical imperfection during the detector construction and assembly can cause the bias of track reconstruction and degradation of momentum resolution

