

Upgrade of the CMS muon detector Trigger timing: from Run3 to HL-LHC

Oliver Manzanilla Carretero (CIEMAT)

XVII CPAN DAYS. VALENCIA

19-21 noviembre 2025

Proyecto PID2023-148896NB-I00 financiado por:

Proyecto PID2023-147706NB-I00 financiado por:



MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN
Y UNIVERSIDADES



Cofinanciado por
la Unión Europea



AGENCIA
ESTATAL DE
INVESTIGACIÓN

Ciemat

Centro de Investigaciones
Energéticas, Medioambientales
y Tecnológicas



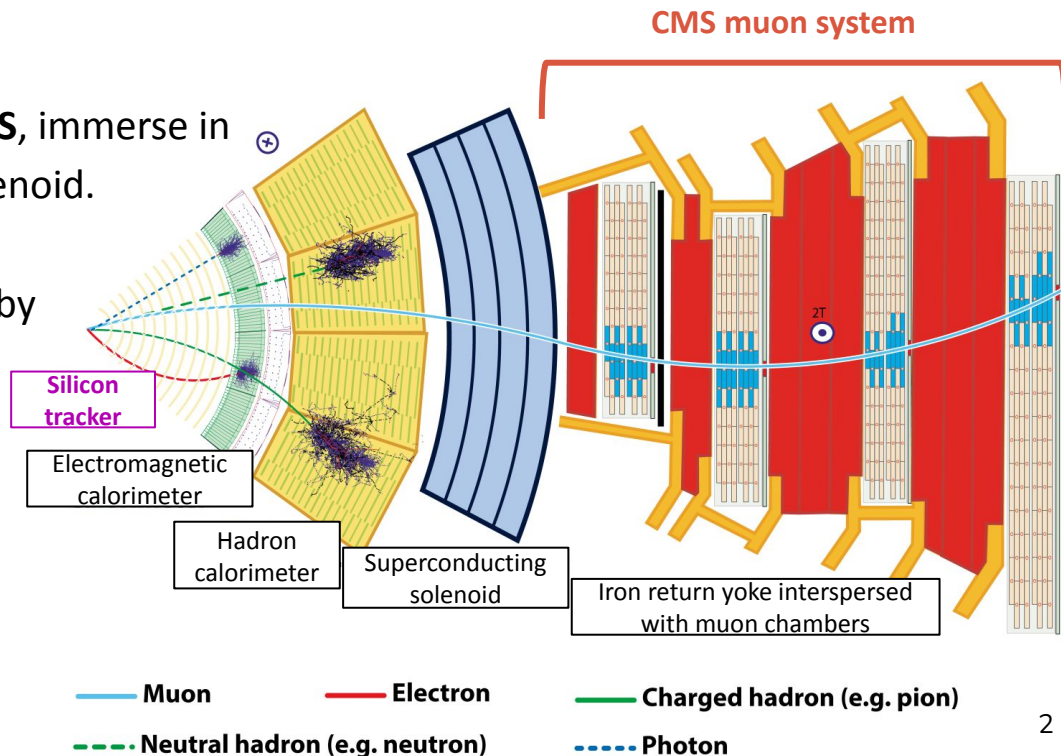
CMS muon system

The **CMS muon system** is built to identify muons and measure their momenta and contribute to the CMS trigger system.

It is located in the **outermost region of CMS**, immerse in the external **magnetic field** of the CMS solenoid.

In the barrel, each muon station is formed by two separate muon detection systems:

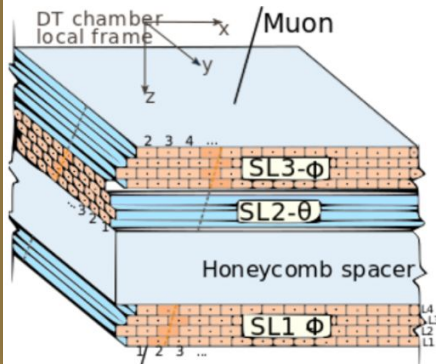
- The **drift tube (DT) system**.
- The **resistive plate chambers (RPC) system**.



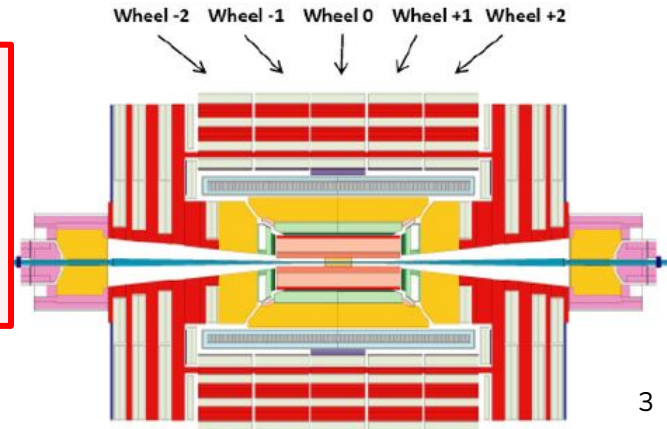
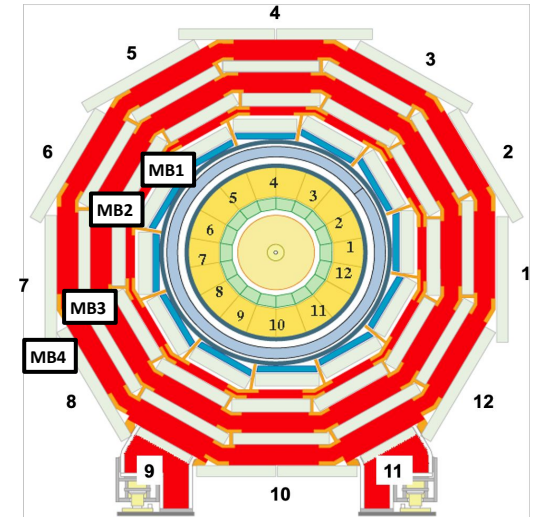
The CMS drift tube system

The **drift tube (DT) system** measures and identifies muon tracks.

- **250 DT chambers** arranged in 5 wheels and 12 sectors each, having 4 radial stations per sector: MB1, MB2, MB3 and MB4.
- Chambers are divided into **3 superlayers** (MB4 only 2), with 4 layers each, containing the drift cells which allows to measure the passage of muons with **superb spatial ($\sim 100 \mu\text{m}$)** and **time ($\sim 2 \text{ ns}$) resolution** in high quality offline reconstruction [[JINST 19 P05064](#)].



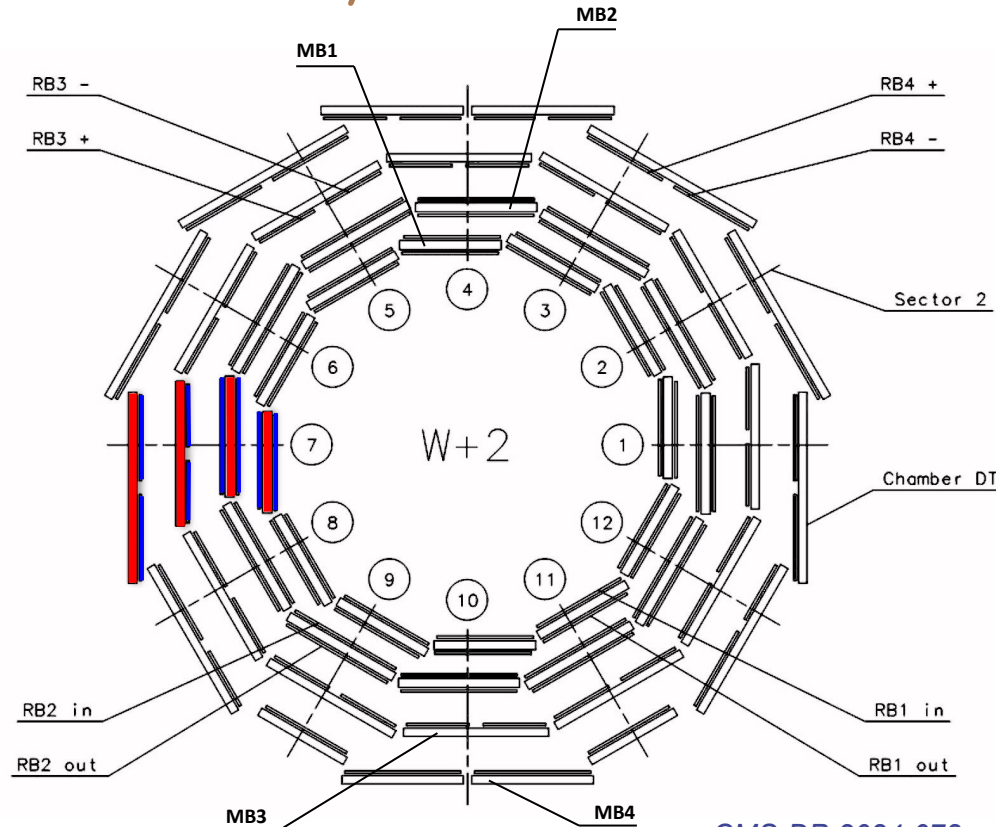
It also provides an **independent and efficient barrel muon trigger**, with a performance limited by Phase 1 on-detector electronics rough **time digitization 12.5 ns**.



The CMS resistive plate chamber system

The **resistive plate chamber (RPC)** system are fast gaseous detectors:

- **Excellent intrinsic online time resolution (~ 1.5 ns)** [[JINST 19 P05064](#)].
 - Hits are sampled every 25 ns, matching the LHC bunch spacing.
 - Complements DTs information during trigger.
- **480 RPCs (blue)** distributed among DTs **(red)** in 5 wheels and 12 sectors each, having 4 radial stations per sector: RB1, RB2, RB3 and RB4.



The CMS trigger system

CMS has a two-level trigger system to select the most interesting collisions in real time [[CMS-TRG-12-001](#)]:

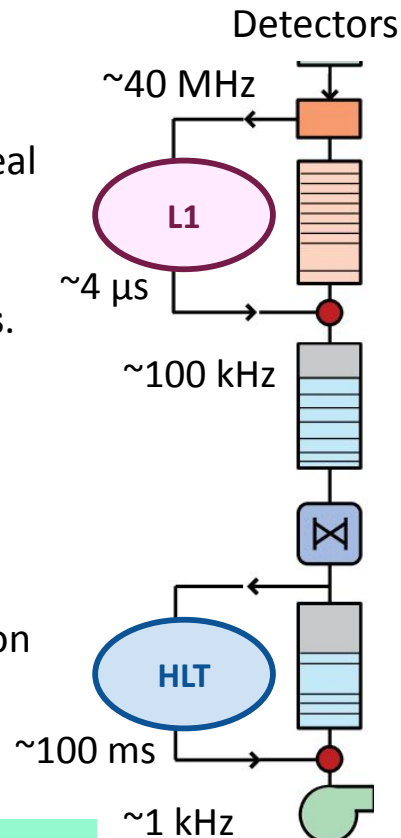
- **Level 1 (L1) trigger**

- based on information provided by the **muon system** and **calorimeters**.
 - **Trigger Primitives (TP)**.
- deliver its decision **$\sim 4 \mu\text{s}$ after the particle collision**.
- input rate $\sim 40 \text{ MHz}$ \rightarrow output rate $\sim 100 \text{ kHz}$.

The complete detector is read upon receiving a Level-1 Accept (L1A) signal.

- **High Level Trigger (HLT)**

- use information from the **full detector**: tracker+calorimeters+muon system.
- **stricter identification and quality criteria**.
- input rate $\sim 100 \text{ kHz}$ \rightarrow output rate $\sim 1 \text{ kHz}$.



Protons beams
collide **every 25 ns**
(bunch-crossing, BX)



Trigger operation rules
**inhibit firing two next
consecutive BX**



**Trigger on an earlier BX can
lead to the loss of potentially
interesting collisions.**

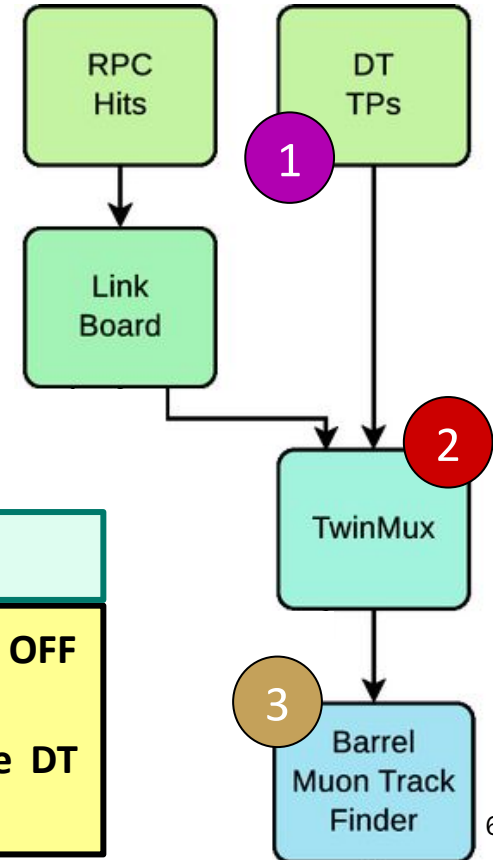
CMS Level-1 Barrel Muon Trigger in Phase 1

1. The **DT local trigger** builds trigger segments → **position and direction** + identify the **collision bunch-crossing (BX)**
2. The **TwinMux** tests the geometrical matching of RPC hit clusters with DT trigger segments
 - **improve BX identification** in each chamber → RPC excellent time resolution.
3. **Barrel Muon Track Finder (BMTF)**: requires **at least two TPs** in two different stations with the **same BX** to build a trigger track.

It is important a correct identification of the collision BX at TP level.

Over the CMS Run 3, **~30% of the CMS barrel RPCs are kept OFF** [[CMS-DP-2024-072](#)].

In regions where RPCs are OFF (or not properly working) → **the DT trigger timing is re-optimized to minimise prefiring.**



TP BX mis-ID

The **Trigger Primitive Bunch Crossing misidentification (TP BX mis-ID)** is defined to quantify both the performance of DTs and the role of RPCs in identifying BX:

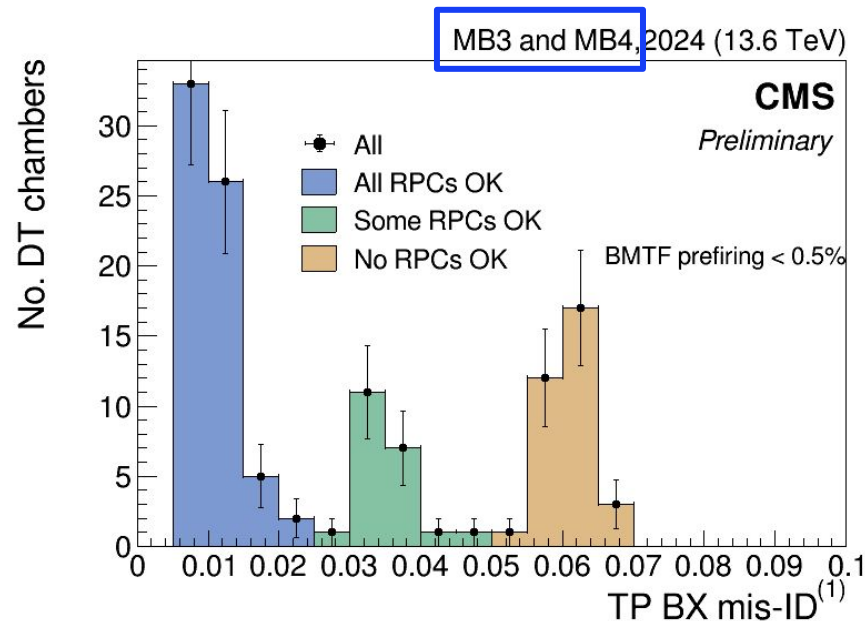
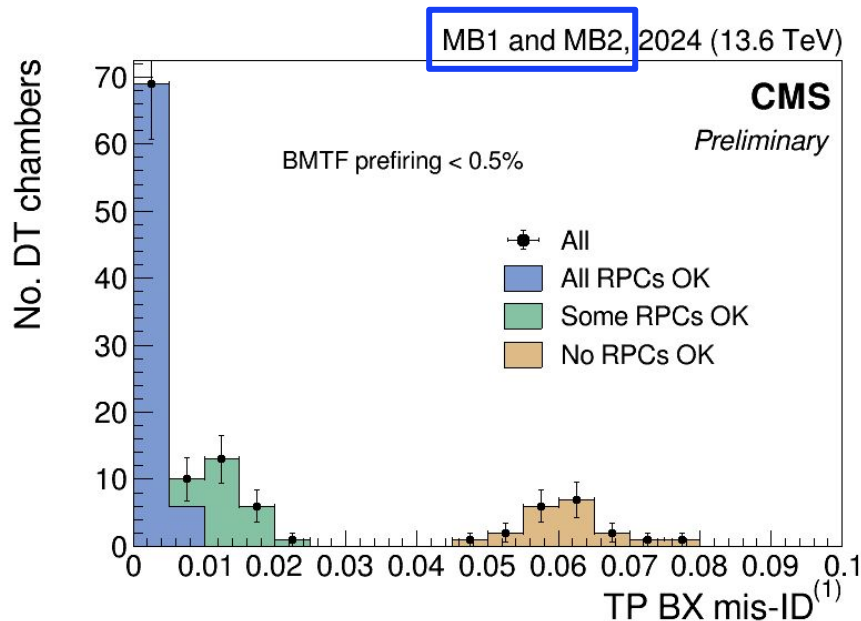
$$\text{TP BX mis-ID}^{(1)} = \frac{\text{TP (BX} = -1)}{\text{TP (BX} = 0)} \quad \text{TP BX mis-ID}^{(2)} = \frac{\text{TP (BX} = -2)}{\text{TP (BX} = 0)}$$

where TP(BX=0,-1,-2) are the number of TPs assigned to BX=0,-1,-2 respectively, BX=0 being the correct event bunch crossing.

- It is computed applying the *tag and probe* method [[CMS-DP-2025-008](#)].
 - Muons from Z boson decays.
 - The “Tag” muon: a well identified, high quality, triggered muon.
 - The “Probe” track: an unbiased track selected with loose criteria.
- With real data of Run3 and simulations for Phase 2.

TP BX mis-ID for 2024 data

Distribution of **TP BX mis-ID for BX = -1** for all 5 wheels and 12 sectors having 1 entry per DT chamber

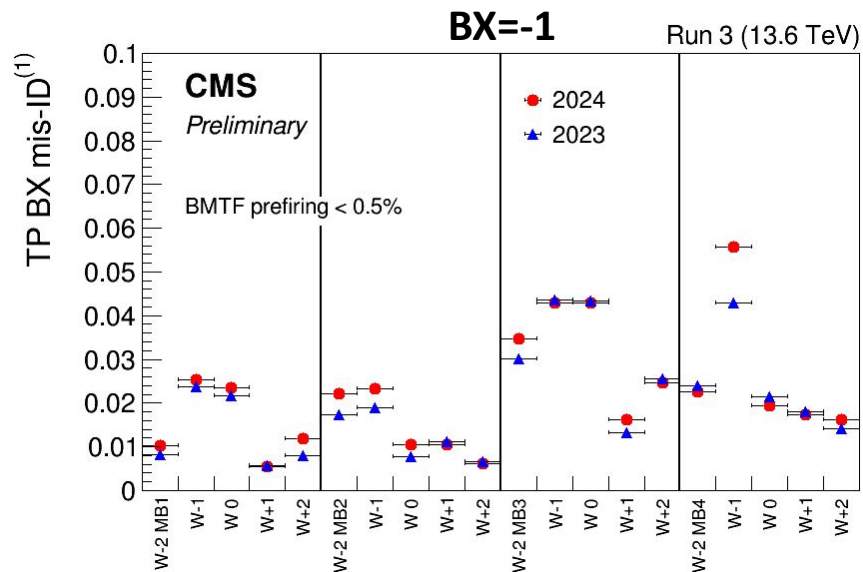


DT-only performance shows TP BX mis-ID ≈ 0.06 for BX=-1. Operational RPCs significantly reduce TP BX mis-ID.

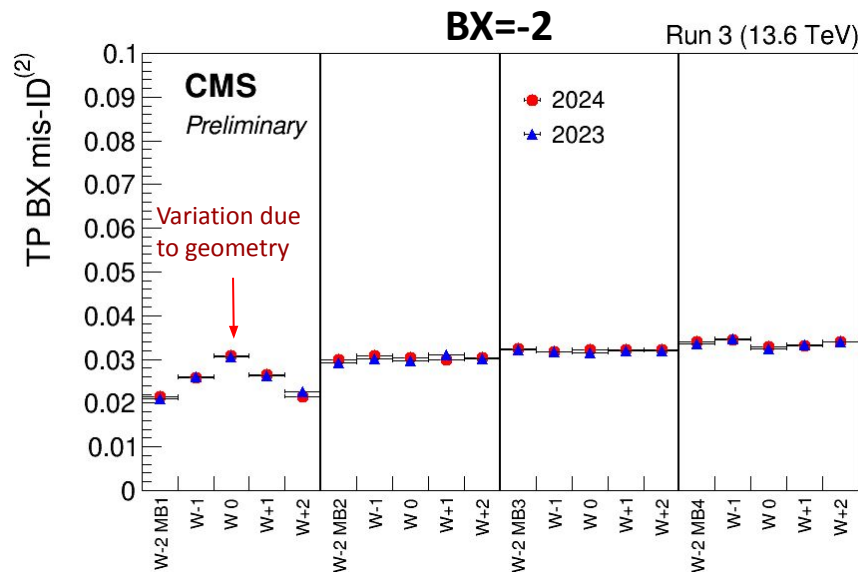
Based on TP BX mis-ID for BX=-1, it is **estimated BMTF prefiring < 0.5%**

Comparing 2023 and 2024 performance

Distribution of **TP BX mis-ID** per DT wheel/station ring, integrating over the 12 DT sectors.



- The year-on-year **differences** and differences within each data set are due to the **number of operational RPCs**.
- **BMTF prefiring < 0.5%**

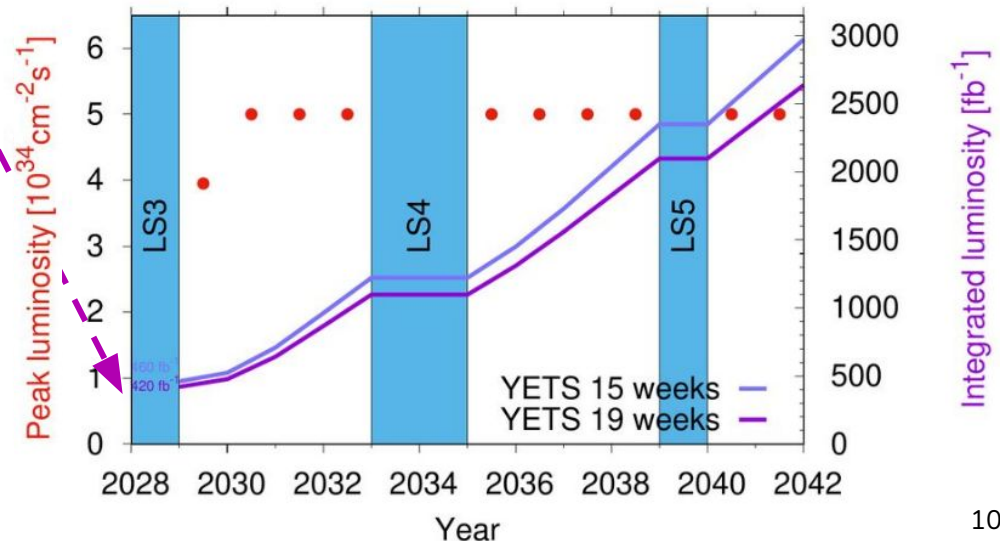
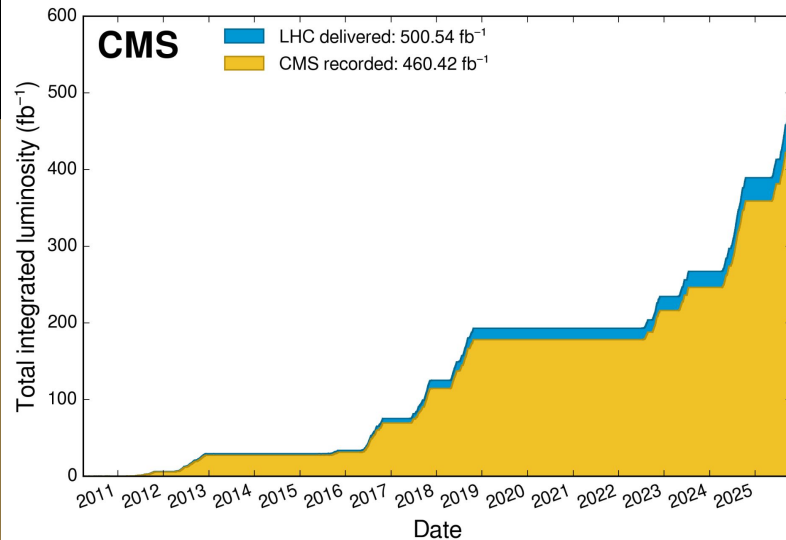


- **Independent of RPCs.**
- **Negligible contribution to prefiring**

HL-LHC and Phase-2

The increase in luminosity for the HL-LHC supposes a challenge to the current (*Phase 1*) DT trigger system:

- **Radiation effects** can damage the electronics.
- Phase 1 system allows a maximum trigger rate of ~ 300 kHz, while for the **HL-LHC a 750 kHz rate is expected**.



The CMS DT Phase 2 Upgrade

Phase 1

DT chamber

Replace **readout** and **trigger electronics**:

New **On-Board electronics for DT (OBDT)**:

- Time measurements implemented in FPGA.

New **Trigger logic system**:

- Sends all chamber hits to the trigger backend.
- Trigger primitive generation by Analytical Method (AM) designed by **CIEMAT+UAM**.

Phase 2

DT chamber

Minicrate 2
TDC on FPGA

OBDT

~8 GBT links

UXC

USC

Backend:
L1 processors
Readout
Pipeline

to L1

11

to FED/cDaq
@750kHz

to FED/cDaq
@ 100kHz

USC

UXC

to L1 MBTF

TwinMux

CuOF

CuOF

Minicrate
TDC Trig

uROS

Trigger Primitives in Phase 2

Analytical Method (AM) is the new DT Trigger Primitives Generation (TPG) algorithm implemented for Phase 2:

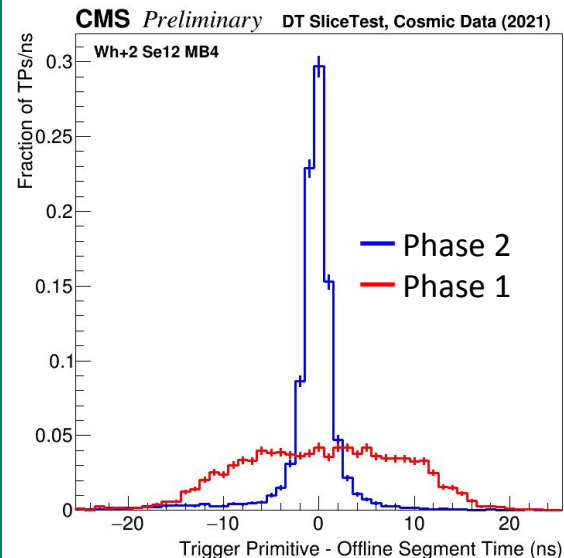
- It provides **excellent DT TPGs position and time resolution**, achieving ultimate performance (~ 20 urad and **~ 2.7 ns or even better** for high-quality TPs) [\[NIM A 1049, 2023, 168103\]](#)
 - Significant improvement compared to the **12.5 ns online** time granularity of **Phase 1 DT TPGs**.
 - Incorporating **RPC** in Phase 2 **improves up to 1.9 ns**, less relevant improvement than in Phase 1.

Online performance will be similar to current offline performance.

The new trigger logic allows to trigger at any BX!

Pre-trigger in Phase 2 should not be a concern!

Performance verified with cosmics and pp collision data!



Phase-2 Slice Test Demonstrator:

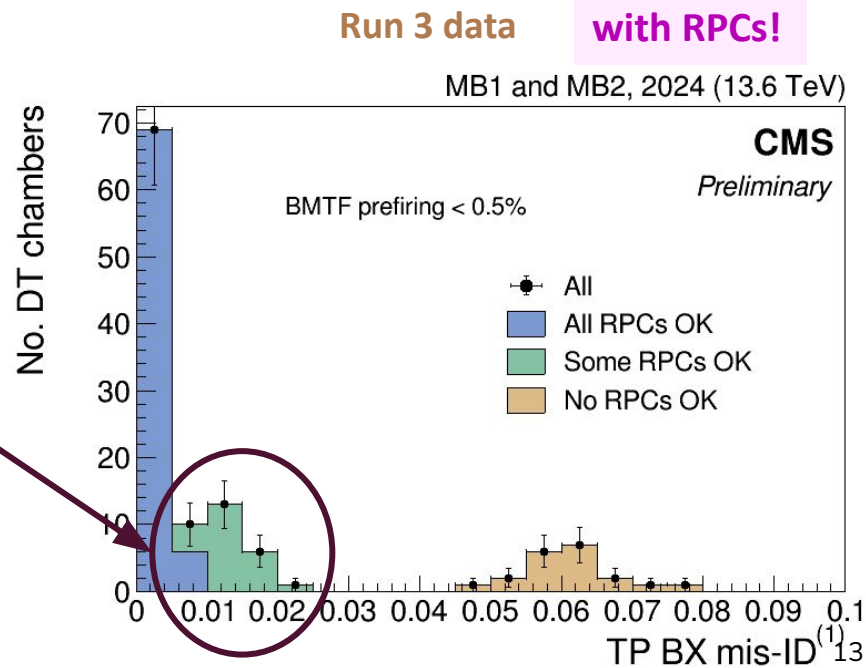
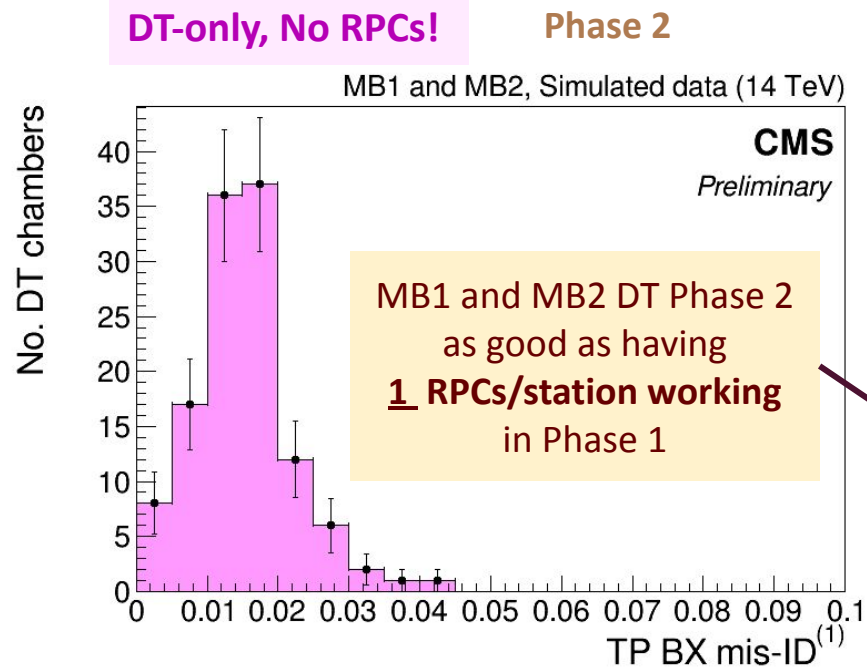
Prototypes Phase2 on-board electronics (OB DTs) operating in parallel with present system

- Installed in the DT sectors 1 and 12 at Wh+2.

[\[JINST 17 C10007\]](#)

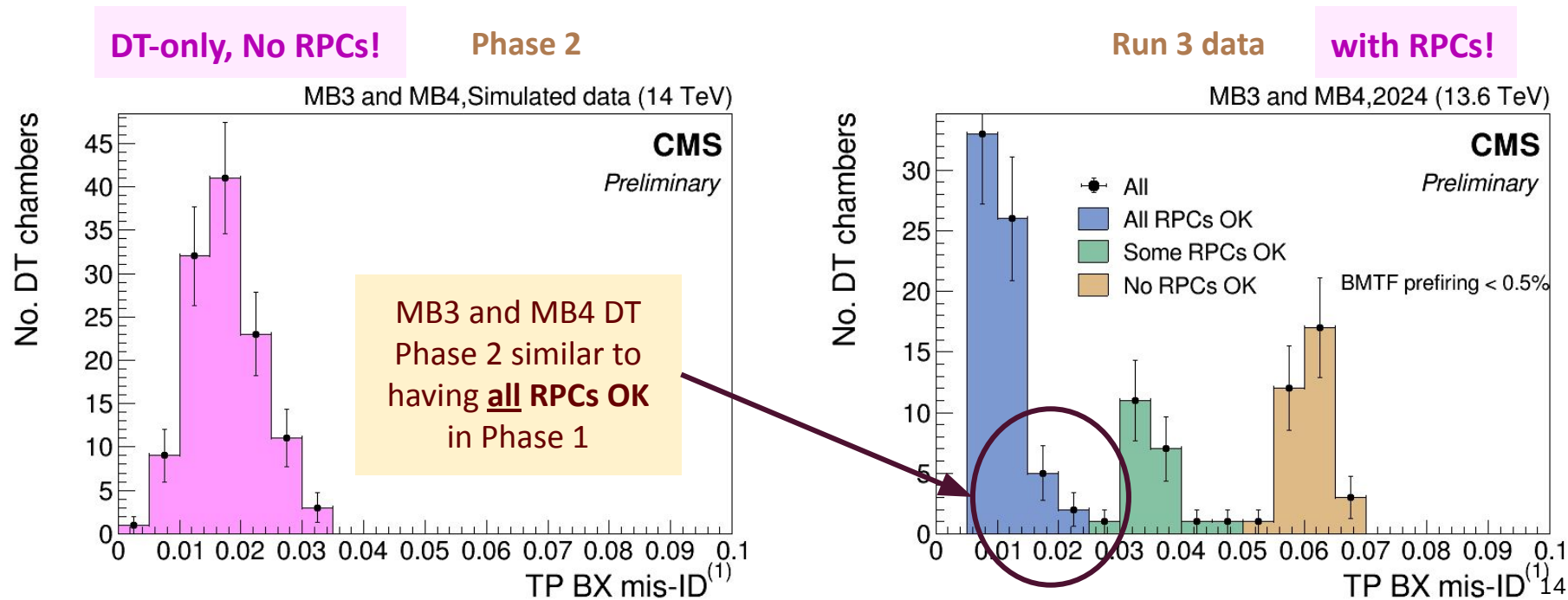
Phase 2 simulation vs Run 3 data: $BX=-1$, MB1, MB2

Distribution of **TP BX mis-ID** for $BX = -1$ for all 5 wheels and 12 sectors having 1 entry per DT chamber for stations **MB1 and MB2**



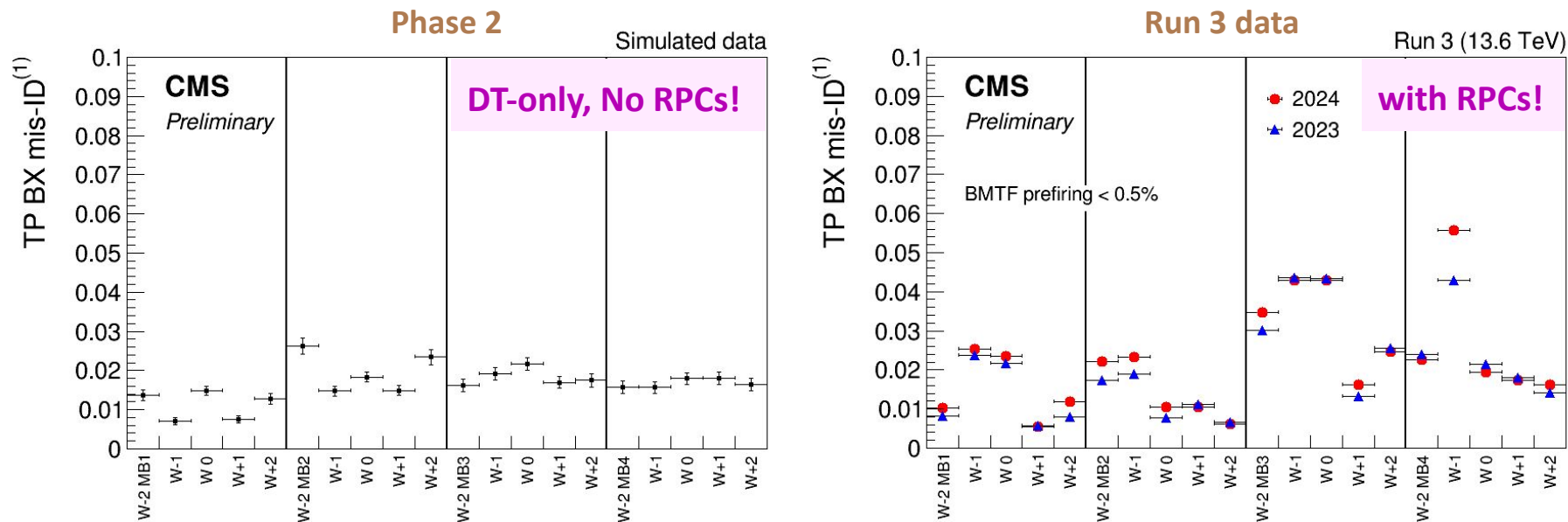
Phase 2 simulation vs Run 3 data: $BX=-1$, MB3, MB4

Distribution of **TP BX mis-ID** for $BX = -1$ for all 5 wheels and 12 sectors having 1 entry per DT chamber for stations **MB3 and MB4**



Phase 2 simulation vs Run 3 data: $BX=-1$, ALL

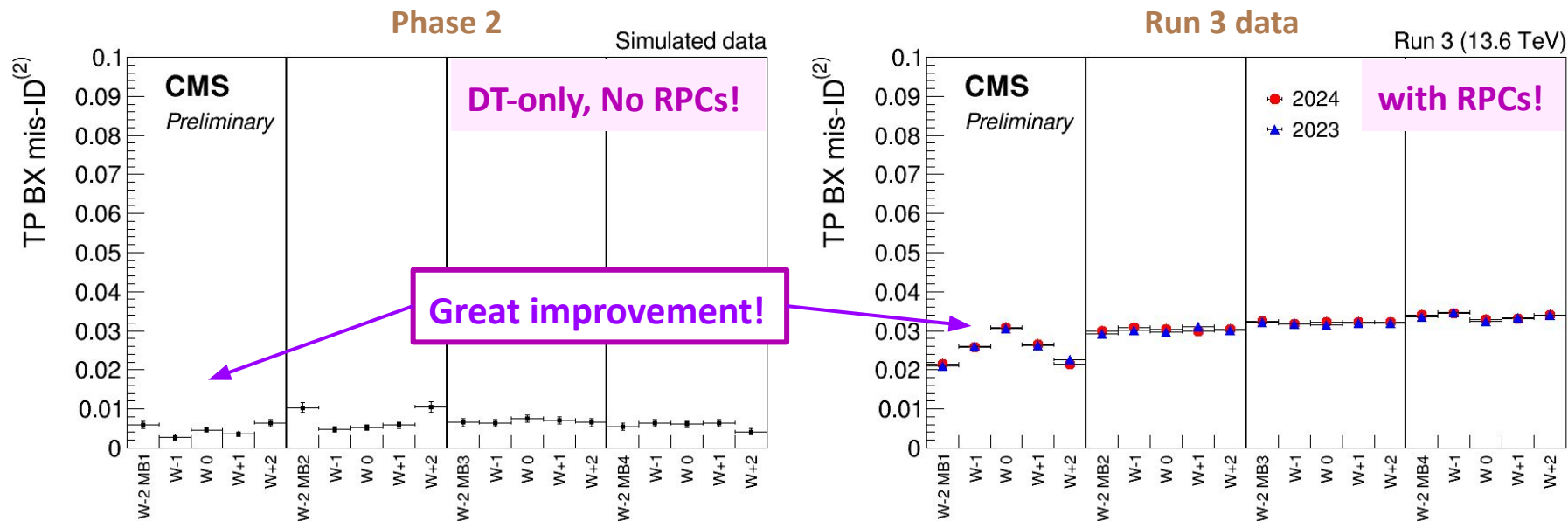
Distribution of **TP BX mis-ID** for $BX=-1$ per DT wheel/station ring, integrating over the 12 DT sectors.



The average improvement in TP BX mis-ID in Phase 2 suggest a lower pretrigger at the BMTF level in **Phase2 without RPCs** than currently in **Run 3 with RPCs**!

Phase 2 simulation vs Run 3 data: $BX=-2$, ALL

Distribution of **TP BX mis-ID for $BX=-2$** per DT wheel/station ring, integrating over the 12 DT sectors.



TP BX mis-ID at $BX=-2$ has greatly reduced with the new DT Trigger Primitive Generator algorithm!

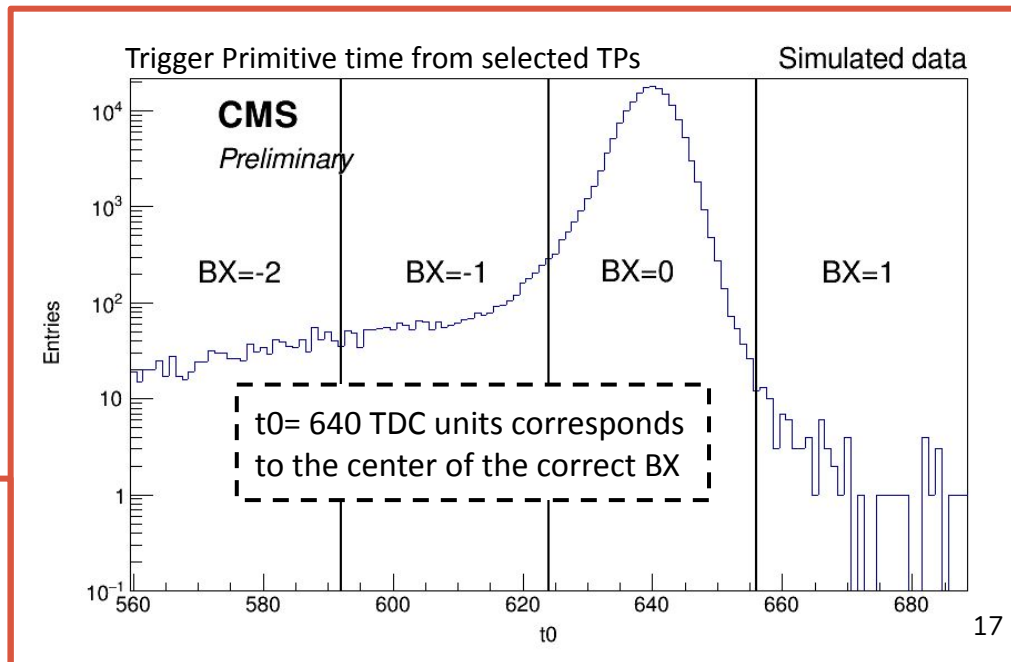
Trigger Synchronization: t_0 distribution

- **Phase 2** system allows to adjust the mean of the TP time (t_0) at will for each region of the acceptance (even wire by wire)
- An electronics calibration system based on charge injection allows to **control the electronics delays better than 1 ns.**
- Cosmics and Collision data allows to **adjust the position of this mean** from other instrumental effects (TOF, angle) **better than 1 ns** ([demonstrated in the slice test](#))

Time offset can be finely synchronized up to ~1 ns

Trigger Primitive time is measured in TDC
(Time-to-Digital Converter) units

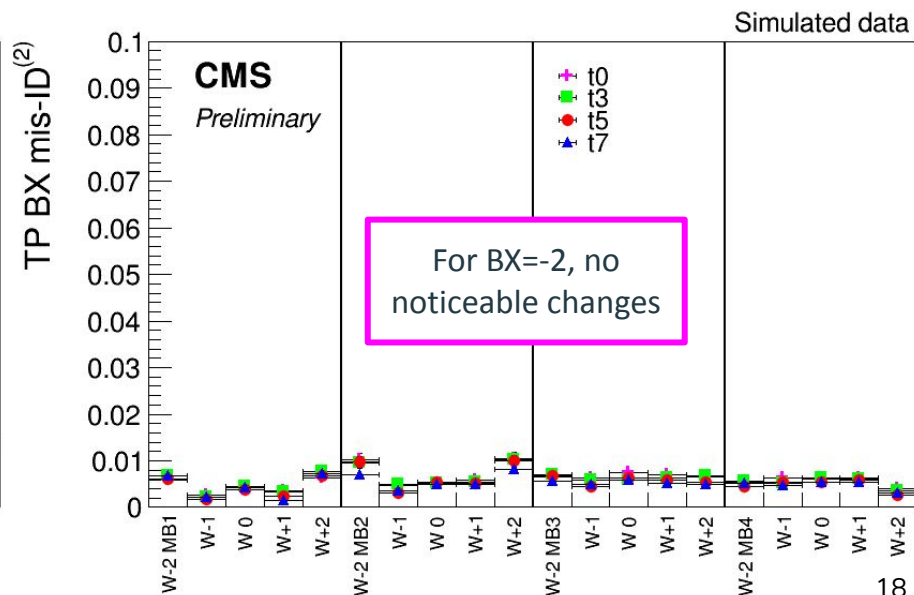
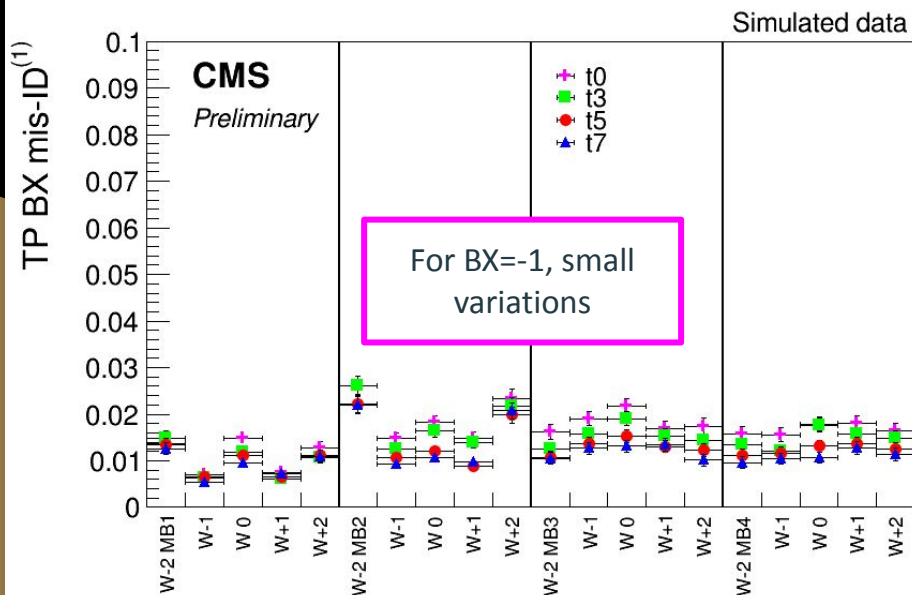
$$t(\text{ns}) = t(\text{TDC}) * 25/32$$



TP BX mis-ID dependence on t0 synchronization

Adding **global** time offset **delays** up to 7 TDC units \approx **5.5 ns** we find:

- A comfortable range of some ns does not substantially affect TP BX mis-ID.
- The synchronization can be optimized to minimize TP BX mis-ID (as it is done now).

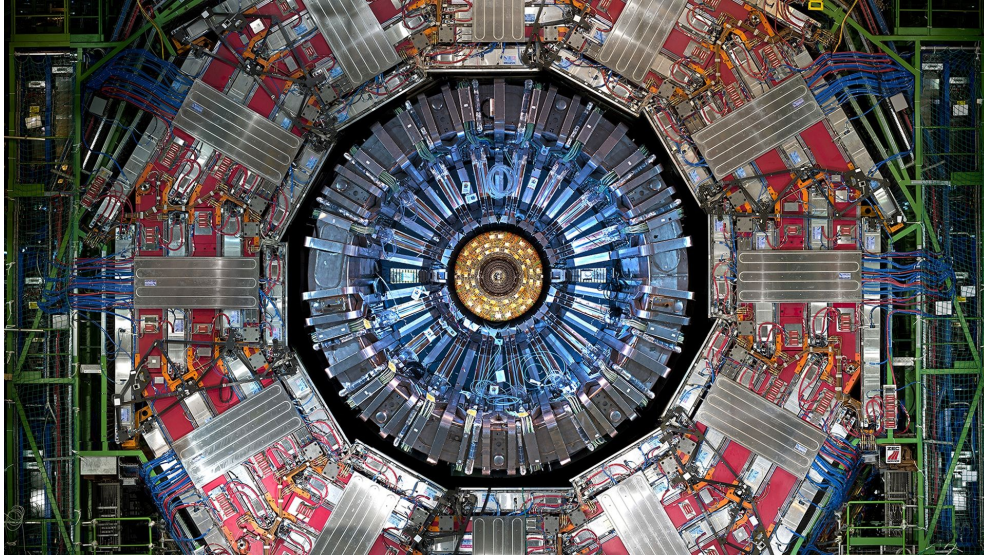


Summary

The upgrade of the CMS Drift Tube system will significantly improve the bunch crossing identification, making the barrel muon trigger more efficient.

- The new Analytical Method (AM) algorithm and Phase 2 readout electronics provide an excellent time resolution of ~ 2.7 ns or even better for high-quality TPs.
 - Online performance will be similar to current offline performance as demonstrated in the slice test with collisions and cosmic data.
- Phase 2 simulation results of TP BX mis-ID show DT-only performance comparable to or better than Run 3 performance with RPCs.
- It will be possible to optimize up to ~ 1 ns the DT trigger time synchronization for each readout channel to minimize TP BX mis-ID.

Backup



Computing TP BX mis-ID Following [CMS DP -2025/008](#)

We compute the **Trigger Primitive Bunch Crossing misidentification (TP BX mis-ID)** per DT chambers.

The study is performed applying the *tag and probe* method.

Tag and probe method: all possible pairs of “good” muons (common vertex, a large-enough p_T to fire the trigger and opposite charge) with an invariant mass in the 80 - 100 GeV range.

Tag muon: good quality (Tight Muon ID working point) and matched to an isolated trigger ^[*].

Probe track:

HLT not simulated in the MC sample!

- Probe in DT acceptance: $|\eta| < 1.2$
- Distance to the primary vertex: $|d_{xy}| < 0.2$ cm and $|d_z| < 0.5$ cm
- Number of valid pixel hits > 0
- Number of valid tracker layers > 5
- Relative track isolation (0.3 cone) ^[*] < 0.1

Requirements on the Tracker track as in the Tight Muon ID ^[*]

^[*] [JINST 13 \(2018\) P06015](#)

Computing TP BX mis-ID Following [CMS DP -2025/008](#)

To compute the TP BX mis-ID probability we consider the probes that have **at least one segment in two muon stations** consistent with the track projection from the Tracker to the Muon System (these are called *matched segments*).

- Within each DT chamber crossed by the probe extrapolation, we select the *matched segment* as the segment closest to the probe using $R = \sqrt{(\Delta\phi)^2 + (\Delta\eta)^2}$
- Next, within the same chamber, we find all possible TPs with Quality>2 (Phase 2 equivalent of NoSingleL) compatible with the matched segment, requiring $|\Delta x| < 10 \text{ cm}$, $|\Delta x| = |x_{\text{TP}} - x_{\text{seg}}|$.
- Finally, we get the bunch crossing of the TP with lowest BX

We compute the **TP BX mis-ID** as:

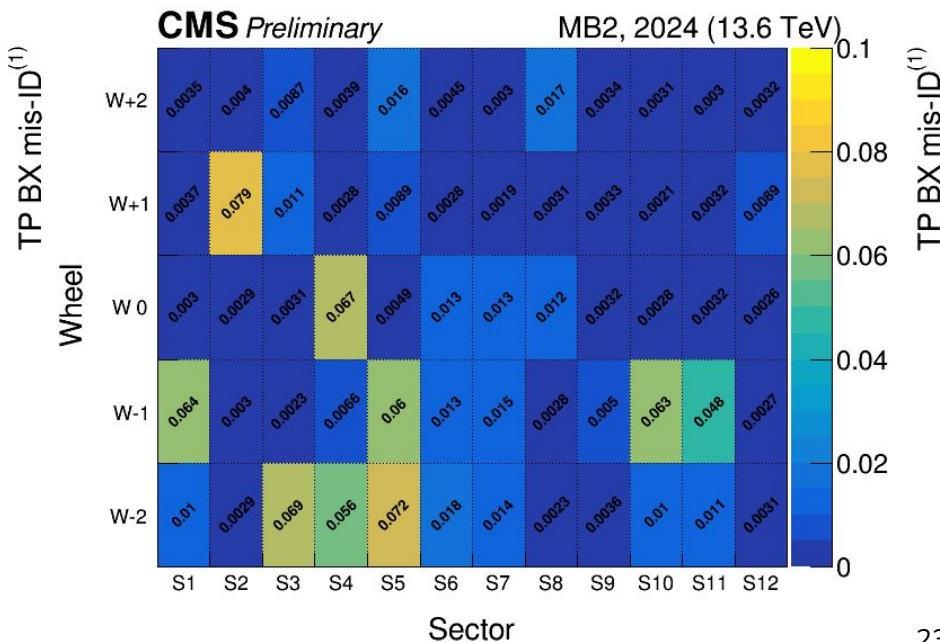
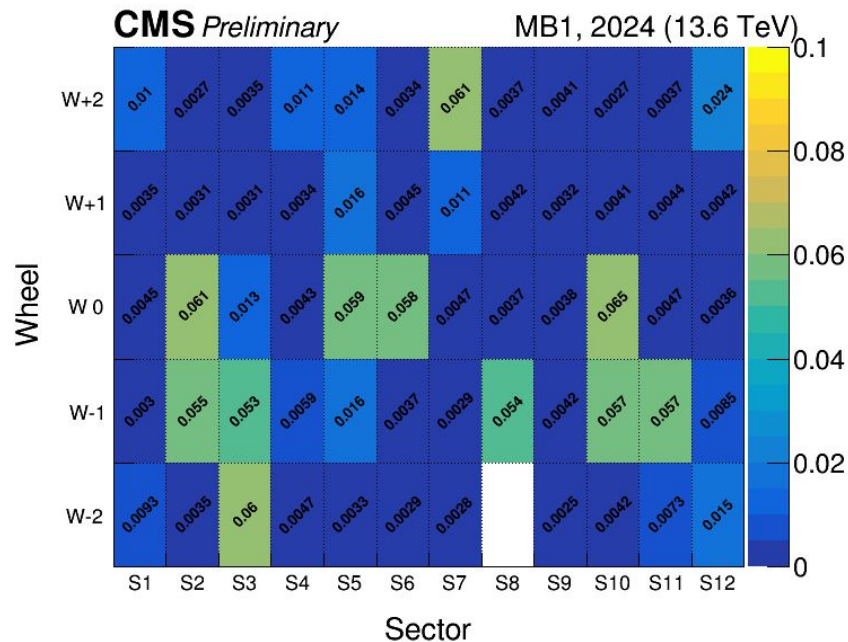
$$\text{TP BX mis-ID}^{(1)} = \frac{\text{TP (BX} = -1)}{\text{TP (BX} = 0)} \quad \text{TP BX mis-ID}^{(2)} = \frac{\text{TP (BX} = -2)}{\text{TP (BX} = 0)}$$

where TP(BX=0,-1,-2) are the number of TPs assigned to BX=0,-1,-2 respectively, BX=0 being the correct event bunch crossing.

2024: TP BX mis-ID map (BX -1): MB1 and MB2

[CMS-DP-2025-008](#)

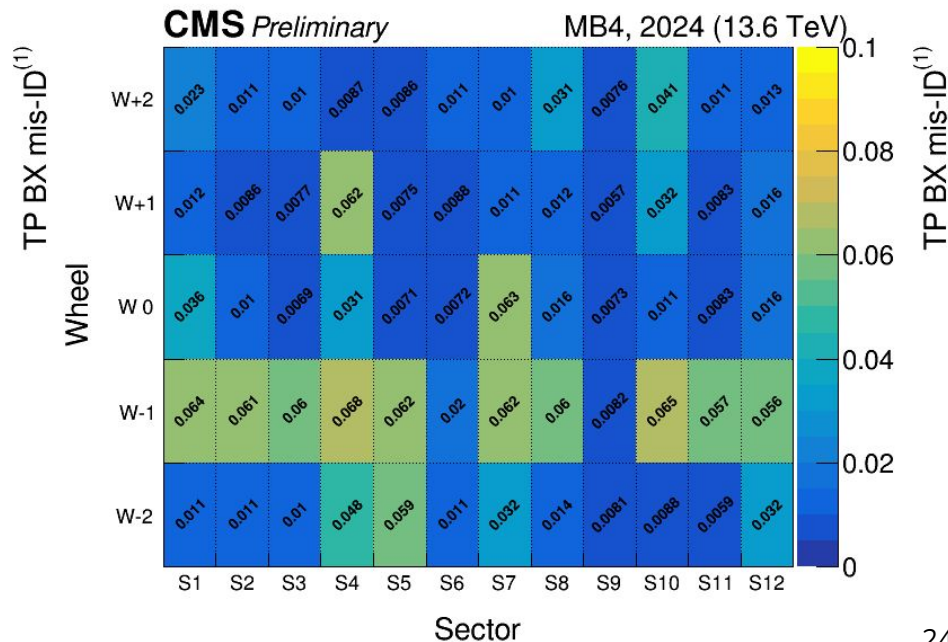
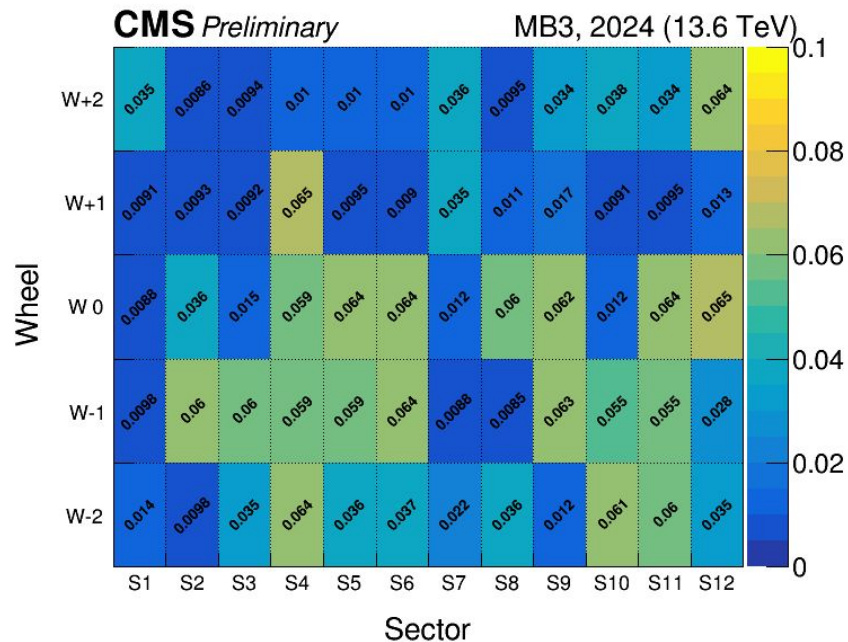
Bidimensional map of the **TP BX mis-ID** for **BX = -1** per DT muon chamber for all 5 wheels and 12 sectors in station **MB1** and **MB2**.



2024: TP BX mis-ID map (BX -1): MB3 and MB4

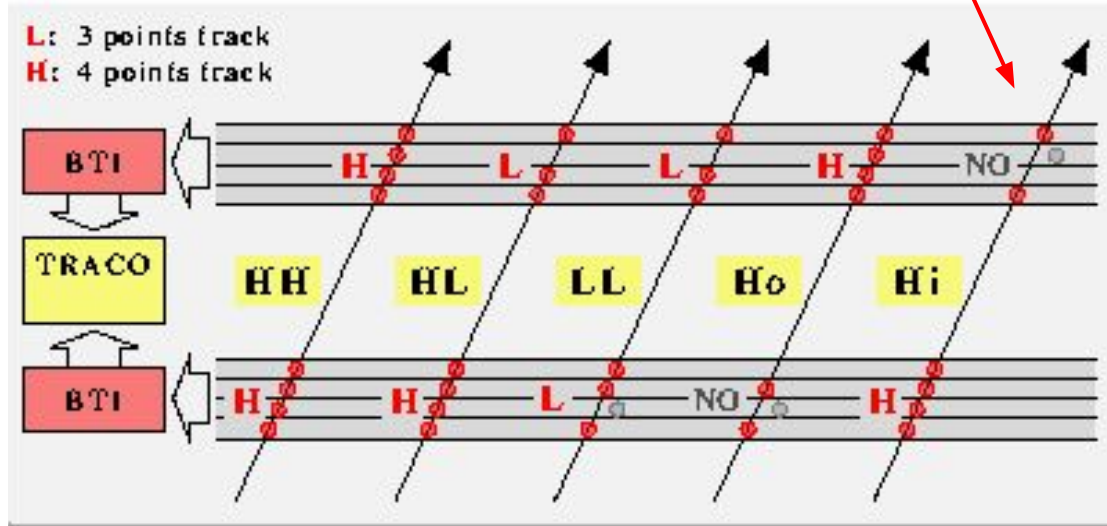
[CMS-DP-2025-008](#)

Bidimensional map of the **TP BX mis-ID** for **BX = -1** per DT muon chamber for all 5 wheels and 12 sectors in station **MB3** and **MB4**.



Trigger Primitive quality in Phase 1

At least 3 hits in a SL needed in Phase 1!



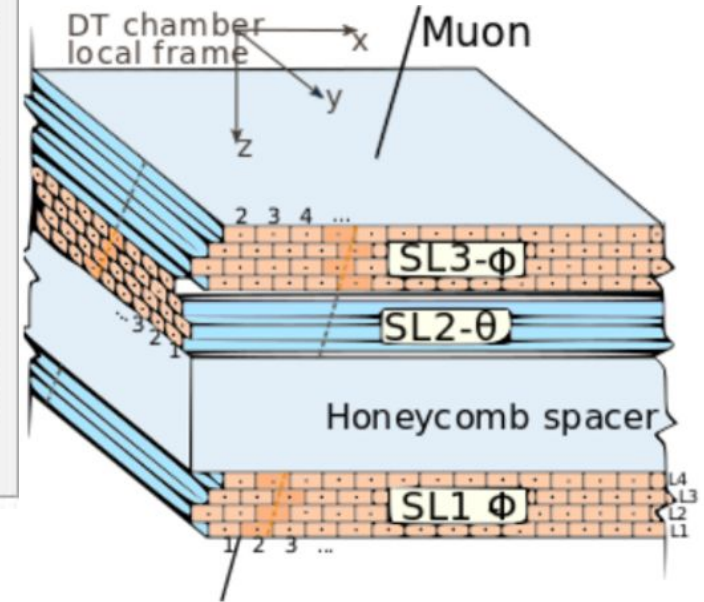
Phase 2
equivalent:

8

7

6

3

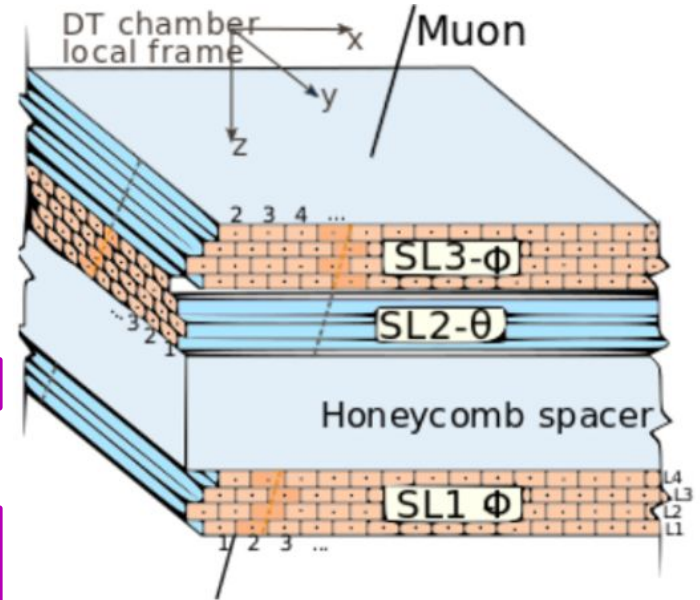


Trigger Primitive quality in Phase 2

Analytical Method (AM, the new TPG algorithm)
produce a quality flag depending on the number and
type of hits found in the SLs

Used now
in Run3

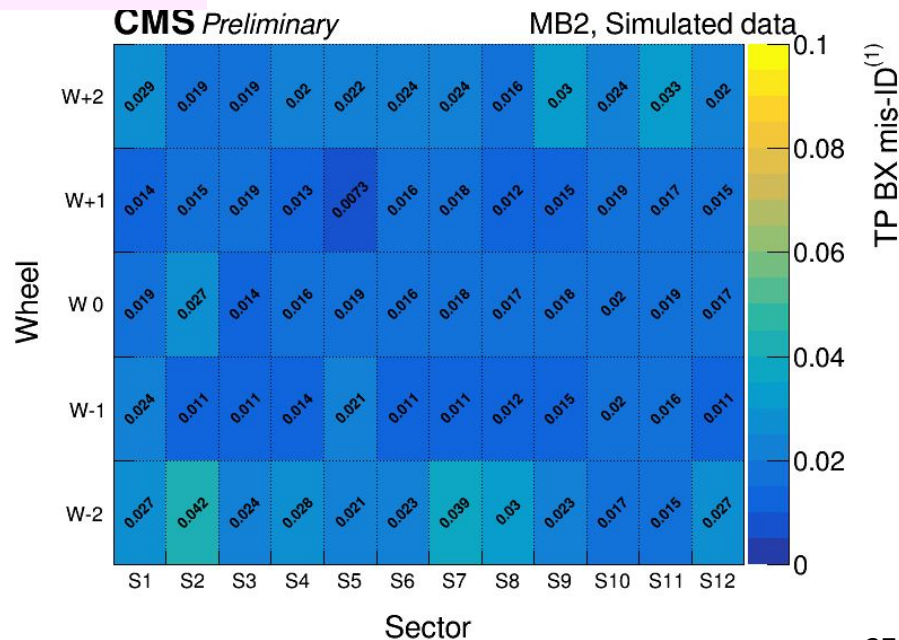
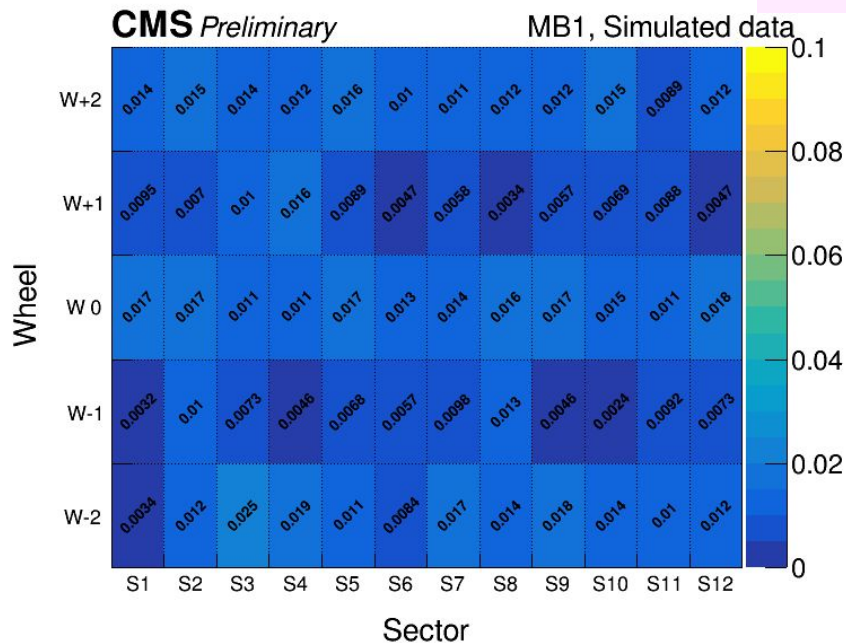
Quality	Description	Type
1	3 hit segment	uncorrelated
2	3+2 hit segment	confirmed
3	4 hit segment	uncorrelated
4	4+2 hit segment	confirmed
6	3+3 hit segment	correlated
7	4+3 hit segment	correlated
8	4+4 hit segment	correlated



Phase 2: TP BX mis-ID map (BX -1): MB1 and MB2

Bidimensional map of the **TP BX mis-ID** for **BX = -1** per DT muon chamber for all 5 wheels and 12 sectors in station **MB1** and **MB2**.

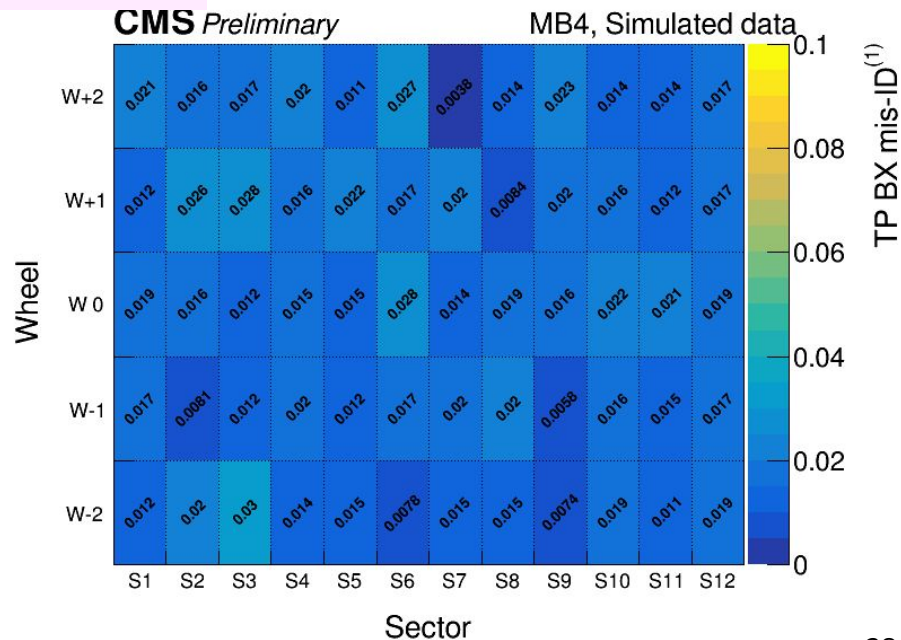
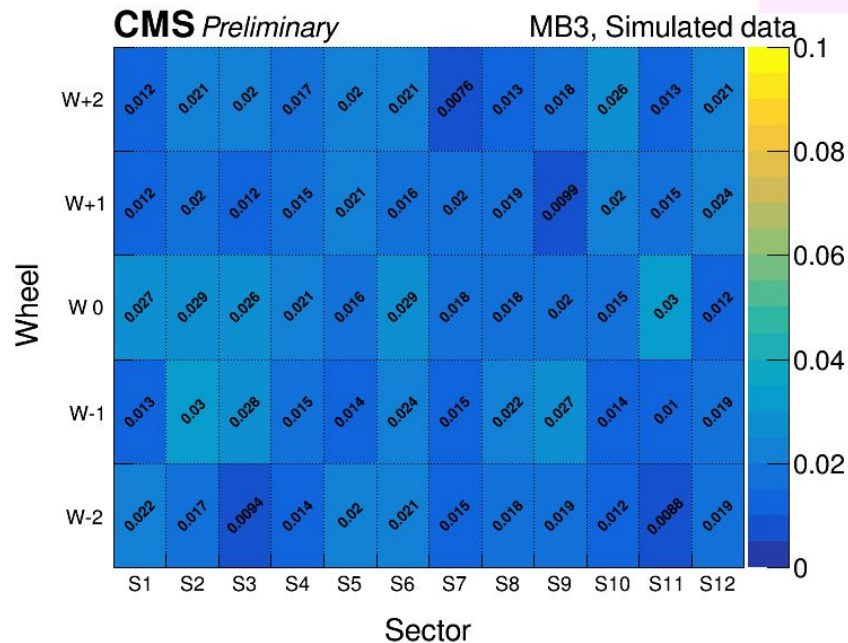
DT-only, No RPCs!



Phase 2: TP BX mis-ID map (BX -1): MB3 and MB4

Bidimensional map of the **TP BX mis-ID** for **BX = -1** per DT muon chamber for all 5 wheels and 12 sectors in station **MB3** and **MB4**.

DT-only, No RPCs!

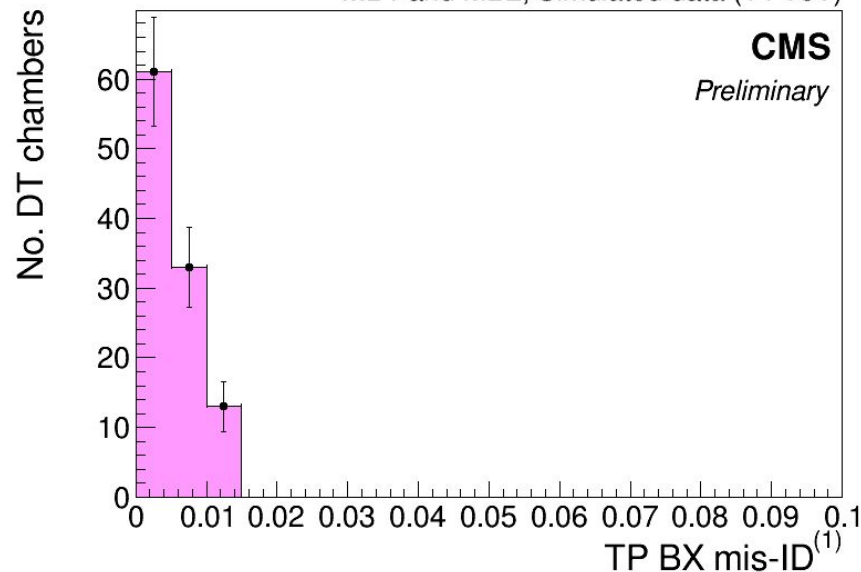


Phase 2 correlated TPs TP BX mis-ID: MB1 and MB2

Distribution of **TP BX mis-ID** for **BX = -1** for all 5 wheels and 12 sectors having 1 entry per DT chamber for stations MB1 and MB2

DT phase 2 correlated TPs

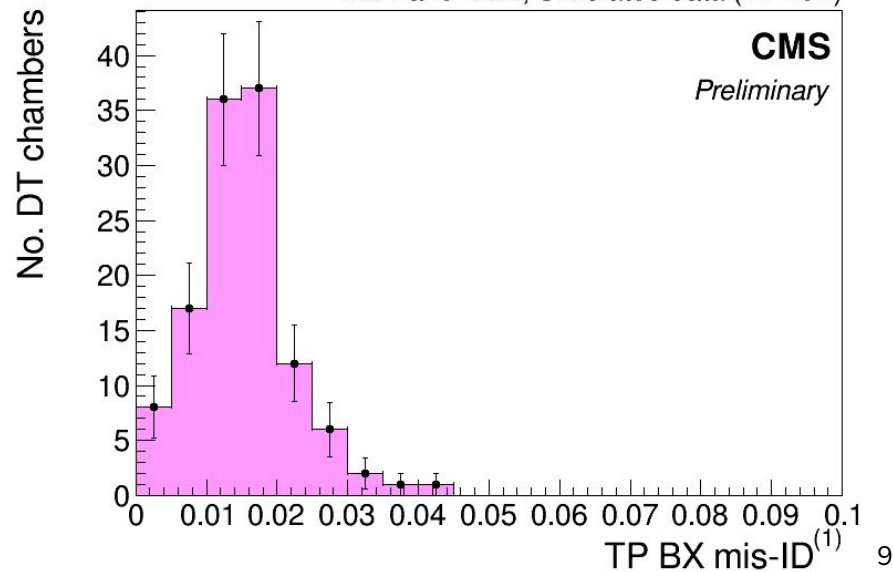
MB1 and MB2, Simulated data (14 TeV)



No RPCs!

DT phase 2 TPs

MB1 and MB2, Simulated data (14 TeV)

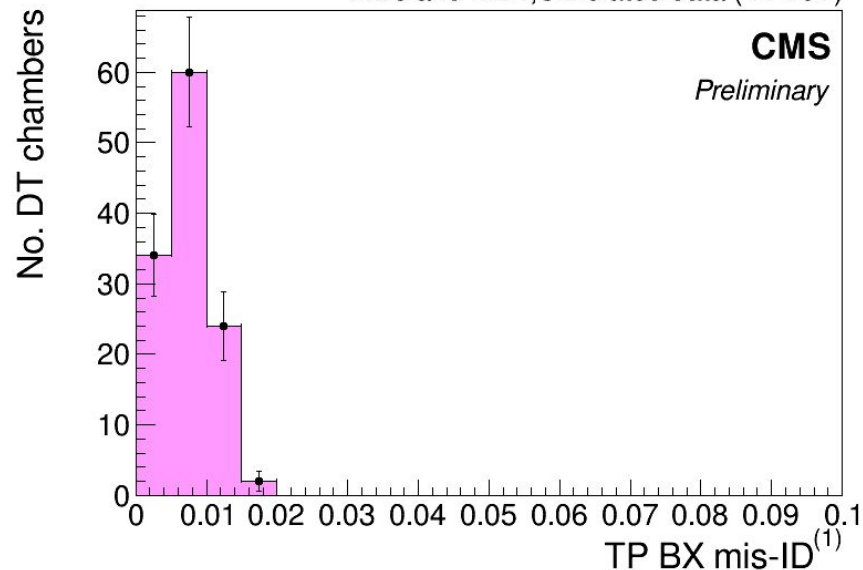


Phase 2 correlated TPs TP BX mis-ID: MB3 and MB4

Distribution of **TP BX mis-ID** for **BX = -1** for all 5 wheels and 12 sectors having 1 entry per DT chamber for stations MB3 and MB4

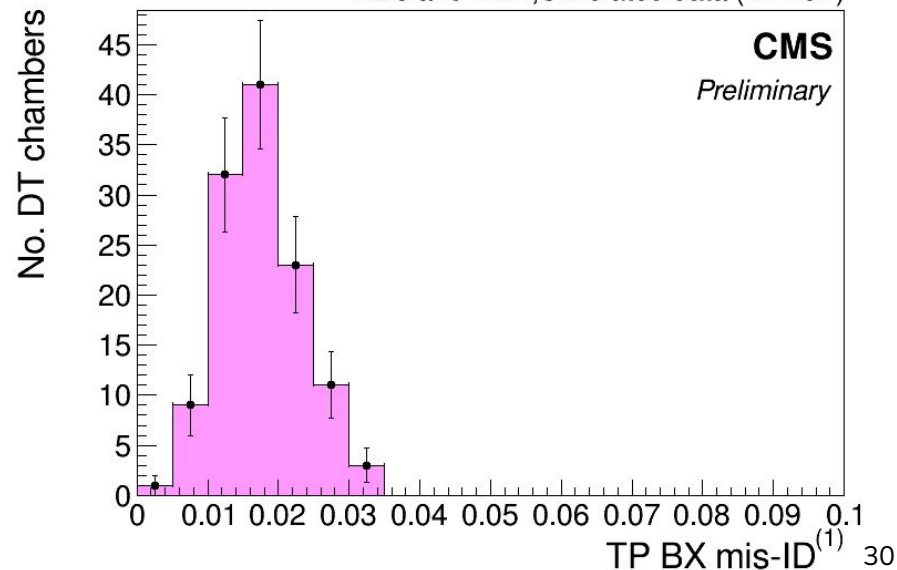
DT phase 2 correlated TPs

MB3 and MB4, Simulated data (14 TeV)



DT phase 2 TPs

MB3 and MB4, Simulated data (14 TeV)



Phase 2 correlated TPs TP BX mis-ID

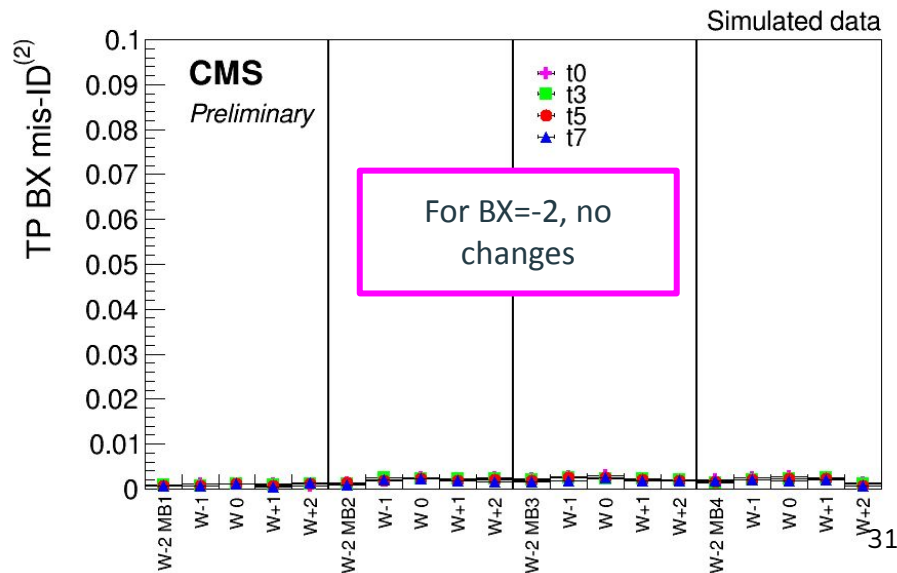
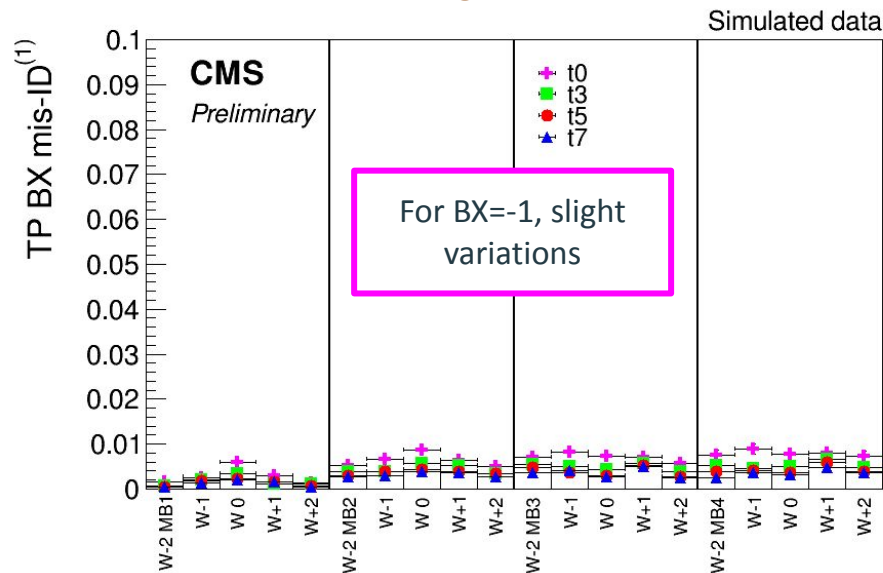
Adding **global** time offset **delays** up to 7 TDCs ≈ 5.5 ns we find:

- Correlated TPs are less sensitive to time offset delays.
- For BX=-2 there is no effect!

For BX=-1

No RPCs!

For BX=-2



Slice Test

HL-LHC DT electronics front-end and back-end prototypes operating in parallel with present system

[\[CMS-DP-2024-090\]](#):

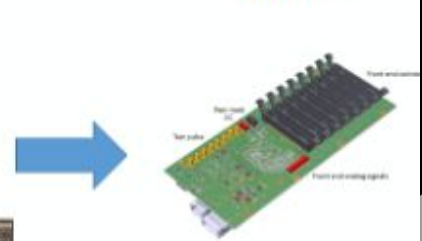
- Installed in the DT sectors 1 and 12 at Wh+2.
- Front-end signal fed both to the Phase 1 and Phase 2 electronics.
- One of the backend boards (the AB7) runs the Analytical Method (AM) firmware.
 - Generates the trigger primitives

Operating regularly during Long Shutdown 2, including cosmics at 3.8 T and now during Run 3 collisions [\[CMS DP -2022/059\]](#).

Phase 1 front-end:
Minicrate



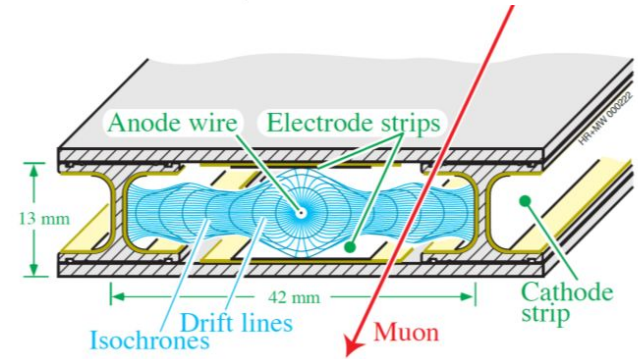
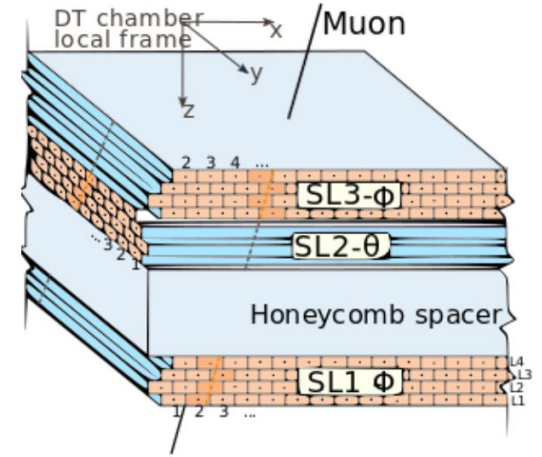
Phase 2 front-end:
OBDTs



DTs

Tubes are gas-filled cells with a thin central wire (anode). When a **muon** passes through a drift cell:

1. It ionizes the gas, creating electrons and ions.
2. Electrons drift slowly toward the central wire due to the electric field.
3. The **drift time** is measured → gives the distance of the muon from the wire.
4. Multiple layers allow reconstruction of the muon's **position** and **track angle** with high precision.

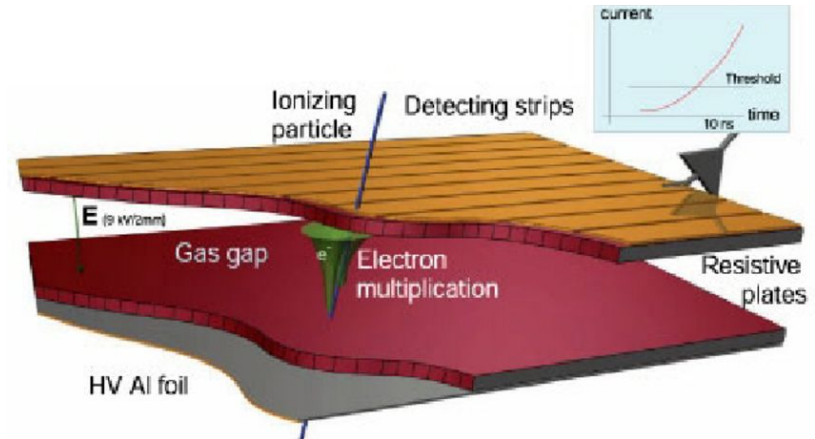
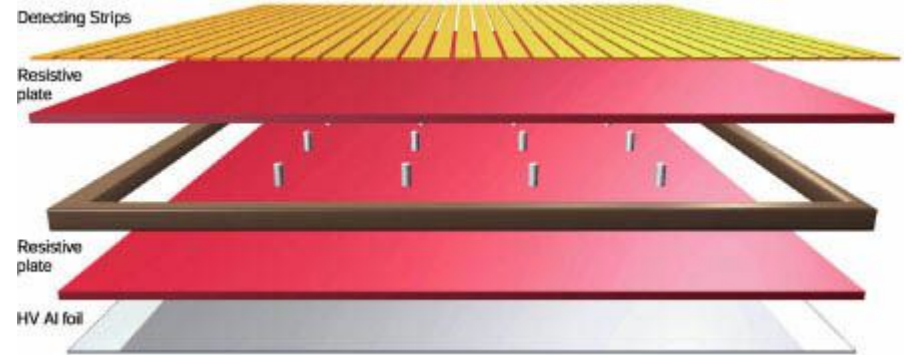


RPCs

RPCs consist of two resistive plates separated by a thin gas gap under a strong electric field.

When a muon passes through the chamber,:

1. The gas gets ionized.
2. causing a cascade of electron.
3. The cascade is collected by external metallic strips, delivering a fast electrical signal.



L1T scheme

