

**BM@N Analysis Note**  
**Production of  $p, d, t$  in**  
**3.2 A GeV argon-nucleus interactions**

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**Abstract**

Production of  $p, d, t$  in interactions of the argon beam with the kinetic energy 3.2 AGeV with the  $C, Al, Cu, Sn, Pb$  targets was studied with the BM@M detector at the Nuclotron. The analysis procedure is described in details. Results on  $p, d, t$  yields have been obtained and compared with model predictions and data available.

**Event reconstruction**

The track reconstruction method was based on the so-called “cellular automaton” approach [CBM1]. The tracks found were used to reconstruct primary and secondary vertices using the “KF-particle” formalism [CBM2].  $p, d, t$  were identified using the time of flight from the ToF detectors, the length of the trajectory and the momentum reconstructed in the central tracker. The  $p, d, t$  candidates should originate from the primary event vertex, correlate with hits in the CSC / DCH detectors and match hits in the ToF-400 / ToF-700 detectors. Herewith, the CSC (DCH) hits were used to confirm the quality of the tracks matched to ToF-400 (ToF-700) hits. Events were recorded with different conditions on the minimum number of fired channels in the barrel BD and multiplicity silicon SiMD trigger detectors, ranging from zero to 4.

Table 1a. Number of triggered events, beam fluxes and integrated luminosities collected in interactions of the argon beam of 3.2 AGeV with different targets (ToF-400 data sample).

Interactions, target thickness	Number of triggers / $10^6$	Integrated beam flux / $10^7$	Integrated luminosity / $10^{30} \text{ cm}^{-2}$
$Ar+C$ (2 mm)	9.5	9.1	2.06
$Ar+Al$ (3.33 mm)	24.1	11.5	2.30
$Ar+Cu$ (1.67 mm)	24.5	12.7	1.79
$Ar+Sn$ (2.57 mm)	23.8	11.6	1.11
$Ar+Pb$ (2.5 mm)	11.7	6.1	0.50

Table 1b. Number of triggered events, beam fluxes and integrated luminosities collected in interactions of the argon beam of 3.2 AGeV with different targets (ToF-700 data sample).

Interactions, target thickness	Number of triggers / $10^6$	Integrated beam flux / $10^7$	Integrated luminosity / $10^{30} \text{ cm}^{-2}$
$Ar+C$ (2 mm)	9.4	8.7	1.97
$Ar+Al$ (3.33 mm)	21.6	10.2	2.05
$Ar+Cu$ (1.67 mm)	21.0	11.3	1.60

<i>Ar+Sn</i> (2.57 mm)	19.0	9.5	0.91
<i>Ar+Pb</i> (2.5 mm)	9.7	4.9	0.40

26 ***p, d, t* selection criteria:**

- 27 • Each track has at least 4 hits in GEM detectors (6 detectors in total), where hit is a  
28 combination of two strip clusters on both readout sides (*X* and *X'* views) on each detector  
29 [GEMTDR]
- 30 • Tracks are originated from the primary event vertex, the deviation of the reconstructed  
31 vertex from the position of the target along the beam direction  $-3.4 < |Z_{\text{vertex}} - Z_0| < 1.7$  cm.  
32 A harder upper limit is aimed to remove background due to interactions in a scintillator  
33 counter behind the target.
- 34 • Distance of the closest approach of tracks from the vertex in the direction perpendicular  
35 to the beam at  $Z_{\text{vertex}}$ :  $\text{dca} < 1$  cm
- 36 •  $\chi^2 / \text{ndf}$  for tracks from the primary vertex  $< 3.5^2$
- 37 • Momentum range of positive tracks:  $p_{\text{pos}} > 0.5, 0.7$  GeV/*c* for analysis of the ToF-400 and  
38 ToF-700 data, respectively
- 39 • Correlation of extrapolated tracks with the CSC / DCH hits as well as with the ToF-400 /  
40 ToF-700 hits should be within  $\pm 2.5\sigma$  of the residual distributions.

41 **Event simulation:**

42 The Monte Carlo event samples of *Ar+A* collisions were produced with the DCM-SMM event  
43 generator. The passage of particles through the setup volume was simulated with the GEANT  
44 program integrated into the BmnRoot software framework. To properly describe the GEM  
45 detector response in the magnetic field, the microsimulation package Garfield++ was used. The  
46 package gives very detailed description of the processes inside the GEM detector, including the  
47 drift and diffusion of released electrons in electric and magnetic fields and the electron  
48 multiplication in GEM foils, so that the output signal from the readout plane can be reproduced.  
49 To speed up the simulation, dependencies of the Lorentz shifts and the charge distributions on  
50 the readout planes on the drift distance were parameterized and used in the GEM digitization part  
51 of the BmnRoot package. The details of the detector alignment, Lorentz shift corrections are  
52 described in the paper [DeuteronPaper]. Examples of experimental and Monte Carlo  
53 distributions of the distance of the closest approach of tracks to the vertex,  $\chi^2$  of reconstructed  
54 tracks, number of tracks reconstructed in the primary vertex, number of hits per track are  
55 presented in Fig.3a. The detector effects in simulation were controlled by reproducing the track  
56 reconstruction efficiency evaluated from data. Efficiency distributions in 3 Si and 6 GEM  
57 stations were measured with reconstructed experimental tracks. For each station they were  
58 estimated using the following approach:

- 59 1. Select good quality tracks with the number of hits per track (excluding the station under  
60 study) not less than *N*;
- 61 2. Check that track crosses the detector area, if yes, add one track to the denominator;
- 62 3. If there is a hit in the detector, which belongs to the track, add one track to the numerator;
- 63 4. Detector efficiency is equal to the ratio of number of tracks in numerator to number of  
64 tracks in denominator.

65 These efficiencies were applied to reduce the number of hits of tracks reconstructed in  
 66 simulation. Details of the adjustment of the simulated distributions to the data are described in  
 67 [NotePi+K+].

68 **Signals of  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  in experimental data:**

69 The mass squared spectrum of positive particles identified in ToF-400 and ToF-700 in  
 70 experimental events of  $Ar+A$  interactions are illustrated in Fig.10a and 10b, respectively.  
 71 Signals of  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  were extracted in windows of the mass squared from 0.4 to 1.5  $(\text{GeV}/c^2)^2$ , 2.4  
 72 to 4.8  $(\text{GeV}/c^2)^2$  and 6.6 to 9.6  $(\text{GeV}/c^2)^2$ , respectively. The precise widths of the mass squared  
 73 windows are dependent on the transverse momentum  $p_T$  and rapidity  $y_{lab}$ . Numbers of  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  were  
 74 taken from the content of the histogram bins within the corresponding mass squared windows.  
 75 The histograms were filled in the intervals of the transverse momentum  $p_T$  and rapidity  $y_{lab}$ . To  
 76 estimate the background in the  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  mass squared windows, the distributions were fitted to the  
 77 1st degree polynomial (linear fit). The  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  mass squared peak ranges were excluded from the  
 78 fit. The errors of the  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  signals include the uncertainty of the background subtraction. The  
 79 statistical errors were calculated according to the formula:  $sig=hist-bg$ ,  $err(stat)=\sqrt{hist+bg}$ ,  
 80 assuming the background uncertainty of  $\sqrt{bg}$ . Here  $hist$  and  $bg$  denote the histogram integral and  
 81 the background integral within the  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  mass squared windows. As examples, the data and  
 82 simulated spectra of the mass squared of *deuterons* identified in ToF-700 in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions  
 83 are shown in Fig.10c and 10d in bins of the rapidity  $y_{lab}$ . The data spectra of *tritons* identified in  
 84 ToF-700 are shown in Fig.10e in bins of the rapidity  $y_{lab}$ . Plots in Fig.10c-e illustrate the  
 85 background subtraction method using the linear fit. Bins with zero errors in the mass squared  
 86 peak ranges were excluded from the fit. The “mixed event” method reproduces smooth behavior  
 87 of the background and gives results consistent to the linear fit, The difference is found to be  
 88 within the background uncertainty of  $\sqrt{bg}$ .

89 Statistics of  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  reconstructed in ToF-400 and ToF-700 in  $Ar+C$ ,  $Ar+Al$ ,  $Ar+Cu$ ,  $Ar+Sn$ ,  
 90  $Ar+Pb$  interactions are summarized in Table 2. Number of reconstructed  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  in  $Ar+Sn$   
 91 interactions in bins of  $y_{lab}$  and  $p_T$  are shown in Fig. 11a (11b) for ToF-400 (ToF-700) data. In  
 92 Fig.11c-11e data spectra on  $y_{lab}$  and  $p_T$  for  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  identified in ToF-400 and ToF-700 are  
 93 compared with the simulated DCM-SMM spectra. The corresponding 2-dimensional ( $y_{lab}$ ,  $p_T$ )  
 94 data distributions for  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  identified in ToF-400 and ToF-700 are shown in Fig.11f and 11g.

95 Table 2. Statistics of  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  identified in ToF-400 and ToF-700 in argon-nucleus interactions.  
 96 The errors present statistical uncertainties.

Target	<i>ToF-400</i>				
	<i>C</i>	<i>Al</i>	<i>Cu</i>	<i>Sn</i>	<i>Pb</i>
Protons	237300±1100	787900±1800	750200±1500	643000±1300	373000±900
Deuterons	18900±340	71300±680	70100±550	64600±440	38100±300
Tritons	750±80	3970±150	3990±140	4170±120	2980±80
Target	<i>ToF-700</i>				

	<i>C</i>	<i>Al</i>	<i>Cu</i>	<i>Sn</i>	<i>Pb</i>
Protons	216100±1300	640400±1900	611100±1600	635100±1400	291700±900
Deuterons	31200±700	101200±1100	88300±730	91900±640	41800±380
Tritons	1180±120	4430±200	4560±170	6000±150	3190±90

97 ***p*, *d*, *t* reconstruction efficiency from simulation:**

98 The *p*, *d*, *t* reconstruction efficiency is the ratio of the number of reconstructed *p* / *d* / *t* to the  
99 number of generated ones in the intervals of ( $p_T, y$ ), where *y* is measured in the laboratory frame  
100 ( $y_{lab}$ ). The reconstruction efficiency can be decomposed into the following components:  $\epsilon_{rec} =$   
101  $\epsilon_{acc} \cdot \epsilon_{cuts}$ . The definition of every term is given in Table 4 and their determination procedure is as  
102 follows. After the event simulation and reconstruction the successfully reconstructed *p* / *d* / *t*  
103 were counted in the numerator  $N_{acc}$ . The detector acceptance was taken as  $N_{acc} / N_{gen}$ , where  $N_{gen}$   
104 is the total number of generated MC events. The number of *p* / *d* / *t* after applying kinematic and  
105 spatial cuts ( $N_{cuts}$ ) gave the “selection cuts” efficiency with respect to the number of accepted  
106 ones from above.

107 Table 4. Decomposition of the *p* / *d* / *t* reconstruction efficiency.

Reconstruction efficiency	$\epsilon_{rec} = \epsilon_{acc} \cdot \epsilon_{cuts}$
<i>p</i> / <i>d</i> / <i>t</i> geometrical acceptance in detectors	$\epsilon_{acc} = N_{acc}(y, p_T) / N_{gen}(y, p_T)$
Efficiency of reconstruction of <i>p</i> / <i>d</i> / <i>t</i> within the detector geometrical acceptance after applying kinematic and spatial cuts	$\epsilon_{cuts} = N_{cuts}(y, p_T) / N_{acc}(y, p_T)$

108 The actual values of the reconstruction efficiency  $\epsilon_{rec}$  calculated in the *y*,  $p_T$  bins and 2-  
109 dimensional (*y*,  $p_T$ ) bins are shown in Figs. 12a and 12b for *p*, *d*, *t* identified in ToF-400 and  
110 ToF-700 in *Ar*+*Sn* interactions.

111 **Trigger efficiency:**

112 The trigger efficiency  $\epsilon_{trig}$  depends on the number of fired channels in the BD (SiMD) detectors.  
113 It was calculated for events with reconstructed protons, deuterons, tritons using event samples  
114 recorded with an independent trigger based on the SiMD (BD) detectors. The BD and SiMD  
115 detectors cover different and non-overlapping regions of the BM@N acceptance, that is, they  
116 detect different collision products. For the BD trigger efficiency estimation, the following  
117 relation is used:  $\epsilon_{trig}(BD \geq m) = N(BD \geq m \wedge SiMD \geq n) / N(SiMD \geq n)$ , where *m* and *n* are the  
118 minimum number of fired channels in BD (*m* = 3, 4) and SiMD (*n* = 3, 4). A similar relation is  
119 used to evaluate the SiMD trigger efficiency. The BD (SiMD) trigger efficiency is averaged over  
120 all data with the different values of the minimum number of fired channels in SiMD (BD). The  
121 efficiency of the combined BD and SiMD triggers was calculated as the product of the  
122 efficiencies of the BD and SiMD triggers. The trigger efficiency evaluated in events with  
123 reconstructed protons, deuterons, tritons was found to be consistent.

124 The mean efficiency  $\varepsilon_{trig}$  of the BD and SiMD trigger detectors was measured in events with  
 125 reconstructed  $p / d / t$  produced in interactions of the argon beam with sets of data with the *C*, *Al*,  
 126 *Cu*, *Sn*, *Pb* targets. The results for the BD and SiMD detectors are given in Table 5a and 5b,  
 127 respectively. The dependence of the BD and SiMD trigger efficiency on the number of tracks  
 128 from the primary vertex for events with reconstructed  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  is presented in Fig.13a and 13b,  
 129 respectively. The systematic errors used in the analysis cover the differences in the  $p$ ,  $d$ ,  $t$  signals  
 130 obtained by using the mean values of the trigger efficiency values instead of the efficiency  
 131 dependences on the number of the vertex tracks and the Y position of the primary vertex.

132 Table 5a. Mean BD trigger efficiency evaluated for events with reconstructed  $p / d / t$  in  
 133 interactions of the argon beam with the *C*, *Al*, *Cu*, *Sn*, *Pb* targets.

Trigger / Target 3.2 AGeV $p/d/t$	<i>C</i>	<i>Al</i>	<i>Cu</i>	<i>Sn</i>	<i>Pb</i>
$\varepsilon_{trig}$ (BD)	0.54±0.03	0.86±0.01	0.93±0.01	0.95±0.01	0.95±0.01

134

135 Table 5b. Mean SiMD trigger efficiency evaluated for events with reconstructed  $p / d / t$  in  
 136 interactions of the argon beam with the *C*, *Al*, *Cu*, *Sn*, *Pb* targets.

Trigger / Target 3.2 AGeV $p/d/t$	<i>C</i>	<i>Al</i>	<i>Cu</i>	<i>Sn</i>	<i>Pb</i>
$\varepsilon_{trig}$ (SiMD)	0.13±0.03	0.20±0.02	0.34±0.02	0.44±0.01	0.52±0.01

137

138 **Luminosity uncertainty (see document [Lumi])**

139 **Selection of the centrality classes (see document [Centrality])**

140 **Evaluation of  $p / d / t$  cross sections and spectra:**

141 The differential cross sections  $d^2\sigma_{p,d,t}(y,p_T)/dydp_T$  and multiplicities  $d^2N_{p,d,t}(y,p_T)/dydp_T$  of  
 142 proton, deuteron, triton production in Ar+C, Al, Cu, Sn, Pb interactions are calculated using the  
 143 relations:

$$144 \quad d^2\sigma_{p,d,t}(y,p_T)/dydp_T = \Sigma [d^2n_{p,d,t}(y,p_T, N_{tr}) / (\varepsilon_{trig}(N_{tr}) dy dp_T)] \cdot 1 / (L \varepsilon_{rec}(y,p_T))$$

$$145 \quad d^2N_{p,d,t}(y,p_T)/dydp_T = d^2\sigma_{p,d,t}(y,p_T) / (\sigma_{inel} dydp_T) \quad (1)$$

146 where the sum is performed over bins of the number of tracks in the primary vertex,  $N_{tr}$ ,  $n_{p,d,t}(y,$   
 147  $p_T, N_{tr})$  is the number of reconstructed protons, deuterons, tritons in the intervals  $dy$  and  $dp_T$   
 148 (Fig.11f,g),  $\varepsilon_{trig}(N_{tr})$  is the track-dependent trigger efficiency (Fig.13a,b),  $\varepsilon_{rec}$  is the  
 149 reconstruction efficiency of protons, deuterons, tritons (Fig.12a,b),  $L$  is the luminosity (Table 1),  
 150 and  $\sigma_{inel}$  is the inelastic cross section for argon-nucleus interactions (Table 11).

151 The cross sections in  $(y, p_T)$  bins are calculated as weighted averaged of the results obtained with  
 152 ToF-400 and ToF-700 data taking into account the statistical errors ( $w \sim 1/\sigma^2$ ).

153 **Systematic uncertainties:**

154 Table 10 summarizes the mean values, averaged over  $p_T$ ,  $y$  and  $N_{tr}$ , of the systematic  
 155 uncertainties of the various factors of Eq. (1),  $n_{p,d,t}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{rec}$  and  $\varepsilon_{trig}$ . Details are given below,  
 156 including the uncertainty of the luminosity measurement. The model uncertainty of  $\sigma_{inel}$  is given  
 157 in Table 11. Several sources are considered for the evaluation of the systematic uncertainty of  
 158 the proton, deuteron, triton yield,  $n_{p,d,t}$  and the reconstruction efficiency  $\varepsilon_{rec}$ . The most significant

159 ones are discussed below. Some of them affect both the yield  $n_{p,d,t}$  and the reconstruction  
 160 efficiency,  $\epsilon_{rec}$ . For these cases the correlated effect is taken into account by the variations on the  
 161  $n_{p,d,t} / \epsilon_{rec}$  ratio:

- 162 • Systematic uncertainty of the central tracking detector efficiency: it is estimated from the  
 163 remaining difference in the number of track hits in the central detectors in the simulation  
 164 relative to the data (see Fig. 3a, low right plot) and found to be within 3%.
- 165 • Systematic uncertainty of the matching of central tracks to the CSC (DCH) hits and ToF-400  
 166 (ToF-700) hits: it is estimated from the remaining difference in the matching efficiency in the  
 167 simulation relative to the data and found to be within 5%.
- 168 • Systematic uncertainty of the reconstruction efficiency due to the remaining difference in the  
 169 X/Y distribution of primary vertices, the beam tilt and angular spread in the simulation  
 170 relative to the data.
- 171 • Systematic uncertainty of the background subtraction in the mass-squared  $M^2$  spectra of  
 172 identified particles: it is estimated as the background integral  $\sqrt{bg}$  from the fitting of the  $M^2$   
 173 spectra by a linear function. The latter is done in the  $M^2$  range with excluding the proton,  
 174 deuteron, triton windows (see section **Signals of  $p, d, t$  in experimental data**).
- 175 • Uncertainty of the centrality class selection estimated as a fraction of events migrated from  
 176 the centrality class 40-100% to the centrality class 0-40% and vice versa (see document  
 177 [Centrality]).

178 The total systematic uncertainty of the yield and reconstruction efficiency for the various  
 179 targets, calculated as the quadratic sum of these uncertainties, is listed in Table 10. The  
 180 luminosity is calculated from the beam flux  $\phi$  as given by the beam trigger (see section **Trigger**  
 181 **efficiency** and document [TriggerEff]) and the target thickness  $l$  using the relation:  $L = \phi\rho l$   
 182 where  $\rho$  is the target density expressed in atoms/cm<sup>3</sup>. The systematic uncertainty of the  
 183 luminosity is estimated from the fraction of the beam which can miss the target, determined from  
 184 the vertex positions, and found to be within 2%.

185 For the evaluation of the systematic uncertainty of the trigger efficiency  $\epsilon_{trig}$ , the following  
 186 sources are considered:

- 187 • The systematic uncertainty associated with the factorization assumption of the two trigger  
 188 factors, BD and SiMD, was estimated from the difference of  $\epsilon_{trig}$  evaluated as described in  
 189 section **Trigger efficiency**, with the result evaluated using the limited amount of events  
 190 registered with the beam trigger BT.
- 191 • To estimate a possible distortion of  $\epsilon_{trig}$  ( $BD \geq m$ ) due to the selection of events with the  
 192 hardware-set condition  $N(SiMD \geq n)$ ,  $\epsilon_{trig}$  was also evaluated using the events recorded with  
 193 the beam trigger BT. The difference between the results is treated as another source of  
 194 systematic uncertainty of the trigger efficiency.
- 195 • Variations of the trigger efficiency on the track multiplicity in the primary vertex and on the  
 196 X/Y vertex position.

197 The total systematic uncertainty of the trigger efficiency for the various targets, calculated as the  
 198 quadratic sum of these uncertainties, is listed in Table 10b.

199 The normalization uncertainty of the trigger efficiency is 28% for  $d, t$  detection in Ar+C  
 200 interactions and between 7.5% (Ar+Al) and 4% (Ar+Pb) for  $d, t$  detection in interactions of  
 201 argon with more heavy targets. The trigger efficiency uncertainty for  $p$  detection ranges between  
 202 4.5% (Ar+C) and 0.9% (Ar+Pb). The mean values of systematic uncertainties  $p, d, t$  yields in  
 203 Ar+C, Al, Cu, Sn, Pb interactions are summarized in Table 10.

204 Table 10. Systematic uncertainty of the  $p, d, t$  yields measured argon-nucleus interactions in  
 205 centrality ranges 0-40% and 40-100%.

Target Systematics	$p/d/t, 0-40\%$					Target	$p/d/t, 40-100\%$				
	C sys%	Al sys%	Cu sys%	Sn sys%	Pb sys%		C sys%	Al sys%	Cu sys%	Sn sys%	Pb sys%
Sys total	14	12	12	10	10		28	26	14	12	16
Norm (trigger + tracking + luminosity)	10	7	7	7	7		10	7	7	7	7

206

207 The cross sections for inelastic  $Ar+Al, Ar+Cu, Ar+Sn, Ar+Pb$  interactions are taken from the  
 208 predictions of the DCM-SMM model which are consistent with the results calculated by the  
 209 formula:  $\sigma_{inel} = \pi R_0^2 (A_P^{1/3} + A_T^{1/3})^2$ , where  $R_0 = 1.2$  fm is an effective nucleon radius,  $A_P$  and  $A_T$   
 210 are atomic numbers of the beam and target nucleus. The uncertainties for  $Ar+Al, Ar+Cu, Ar+Sn,$   
 211  $Ar+Pb$  inelastic cross sections are estimated by using the alternative formula:  $\sigma_{inel} = \pi R_0^2 (A_P^{1/3}$   
 212  $+ A_T^{1/3} - b)^2$  with  $R_0 = 1.46$  fm and  $b = 1.21$  [AngelovCC].

213 Table 11. Inelastic cross sections for argon-nucleus interactions.

Interaction	$Ar+C$	$Ar+Al$	$Ar+Cu$	$Ar+Sn$	$Ar+Pb$
Inelastic cross section, mb	1470±50	1860±50	2480±50	3140±50	3970±50

214 The yields of  $p / d / t$  in minimum bias  $Ar+C, Ar+Al, Ar+Cu, Ar+Sn, Ar+Pb$  interactions are  
 215 measured in the kinematic range on the transverse momentum of  $0.1 < p_T < 1.2$  GeV/c for  $p$   
 216 ( $0.15 < p_T < 1.45$  GeV/c for  $d$  and  $0.2 < p_T < 1.6$  GeV/c for  $t$ ) and the rapidity in the laboratory frame  
 217 of  $0.9 < y_{lab} < 2.5$  for  $p$  ( $0.7 < y_{lab} < 2.3$  for  $d$  and  $0.6 < y_{lab} < 2.0$  for  $t$ ). The rapidity of the beam-target  
 218 nucleon-nucleon CM system calculated for an interaction of the argon beam with the kinetic  
 219 energy of 3.2 GeV/nucleon with a fixed target is  $y_{CM}=1.08$ . The transformation of the  $y$   
 220 distribution to c.m.s. gives  $y^*=y_{lab}-y_{CM}$ . The differential  $y_{lab}$  spectra of  $p$  yields for centralities 0-  
 221 40% and 40-100% are presented in Figs. 15a and 15b, respectively. The corresponding  
 222 differential  $y_{lab}$  spectra of  $d$  and  $t$  yields are presented in Fig.15c-15f. Predictions of the DCM-  
 223 SMM model are shown for comparison. The corrected invariant differential  $p_T$  spectra of  $p, d, t$   
 224 yields for centralities 0-40% and 40-100% are presented in Fig. 16a-f. The measured spectra of  
 225 the  $p, d, t$  yields in  $p_T$  are parameterized by the form:  $1/m_T d^2Y/dm_T dy N m_T \exp(-(m_T-m)/T)$ ,  
 226 where  $m_T = \sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2}$  is the transverse mass of  $p, d, t$ . The normalization  $N$  and the inverse slope  
 227 parameter  $T$  are free parameters of the fit, interval  $dy$  corresponds to the measured  $y_{lab}$  range. In

228 Fig.17a-17c the inverse slopes  $T$  of the experimental invariant  $p_T$  spectra of  $p / d / t$  are  
 229 presented for intervals of rapidity  $y_{lab}$ . The experimental results are compared with predictions  
 230 of the DCM-SMM model.

231 **Summary**

232 Production of  $p, d, t$  in interactions of the argon beam with  $C, Al, Cu, Sn, Pb$  targets was studied  
 233 with the BM@N detector. The analysis procedure is described including details of the  $p, d, t$   
 234 reconstruction, efficiency and systematic uncertainty evaluation. First physics results are  
 235 presented on  $p, d, t$  yields in argon-nucleus interactions for centralities of 0-40% and 40-100% at  
 236 the beam kinetic energy of 3.2 AGeV. The results are compared with models of nucleus-nucleus  
 237 interactions.

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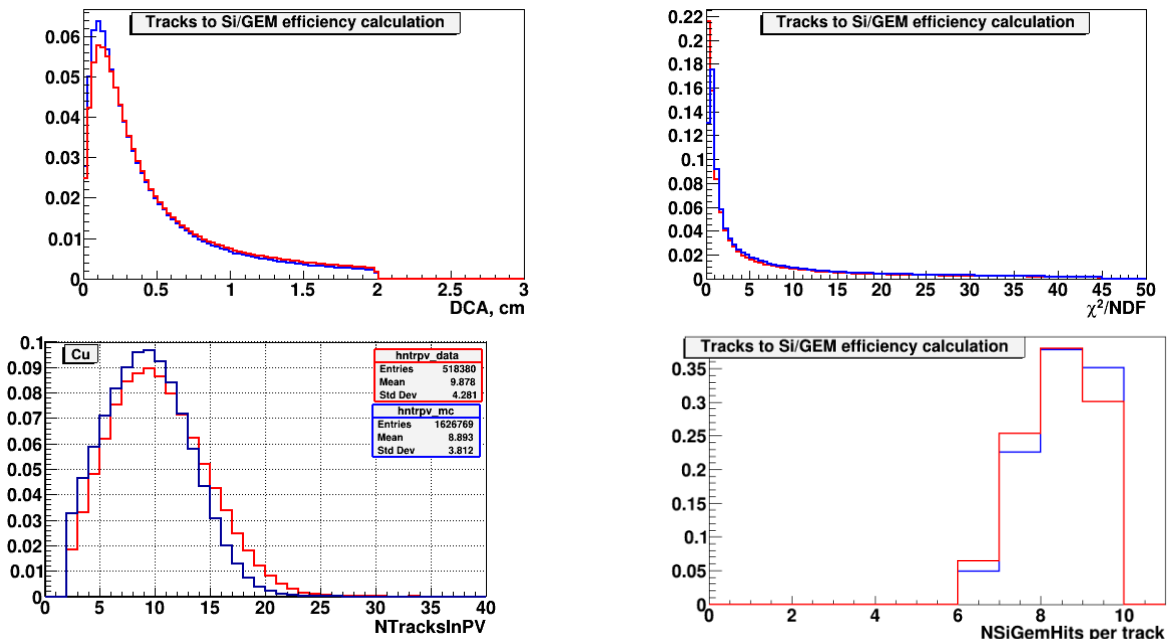




Fig.3a. *Ar+A* interactions at 3.2 AGeV argon beam energy: comparison of experimental distributions (red lines) and Monte Carlo GEANT distributions of events generated with the DCM-SMM model (blue lines): Distribution of the distance of the closest approach DCA between tracks and the vertex in the plane perpendicular to the beam direction;  $\chi^2$  of reconstructed tracks; number of tracks reconstructed in the primary vertex; number of hits per track reconstructed in 3 Si + 6 GEM detectors.

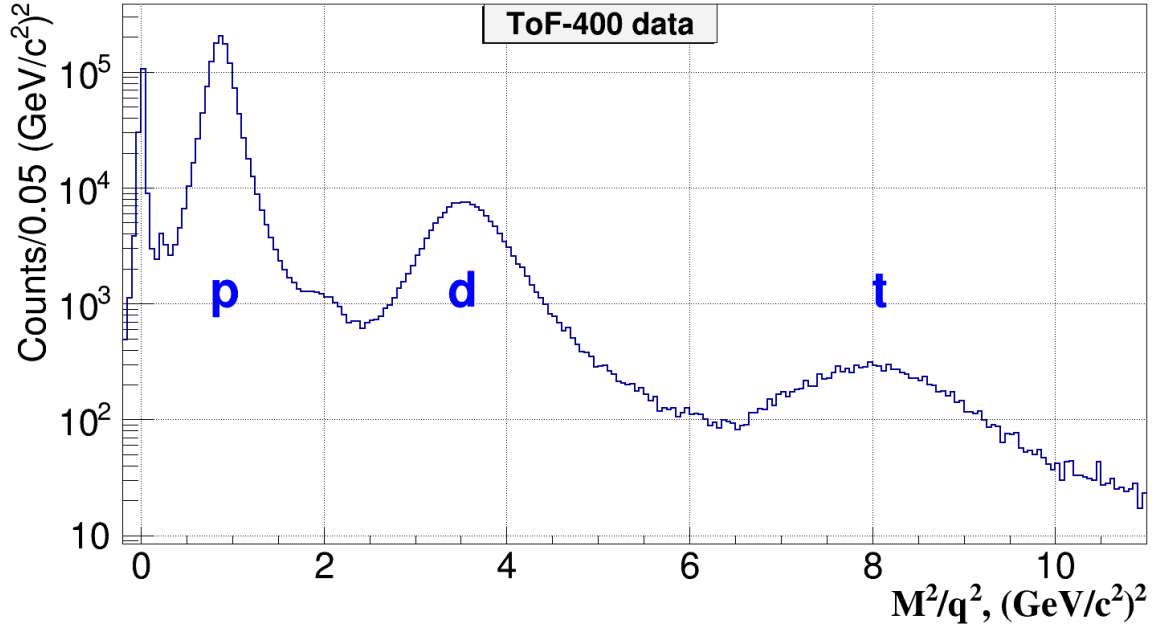


Fig. 10a. Data spectrum of mass squared of particles identified in ToF-400 in *Ar+A* interactions: signals of protons, deuterons and tritons are shown.

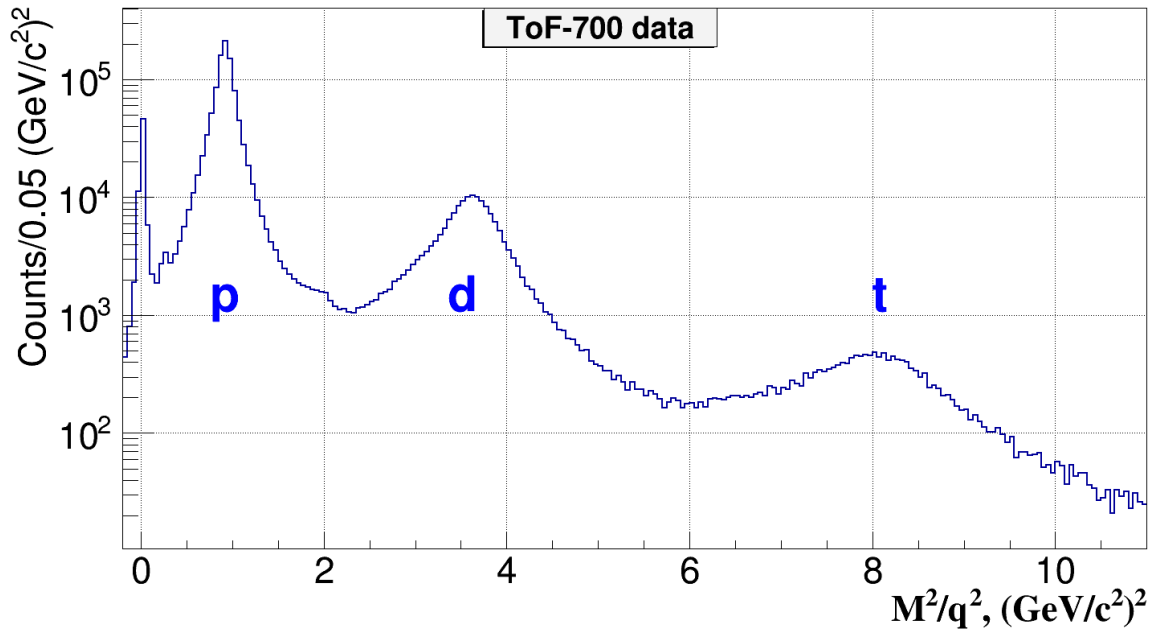


Fig. 10b. Data spectrum of mass squared of particles identified in ToF-700 in *Ar+A* interactions: signals of protons, deuterons and tritons are shown.

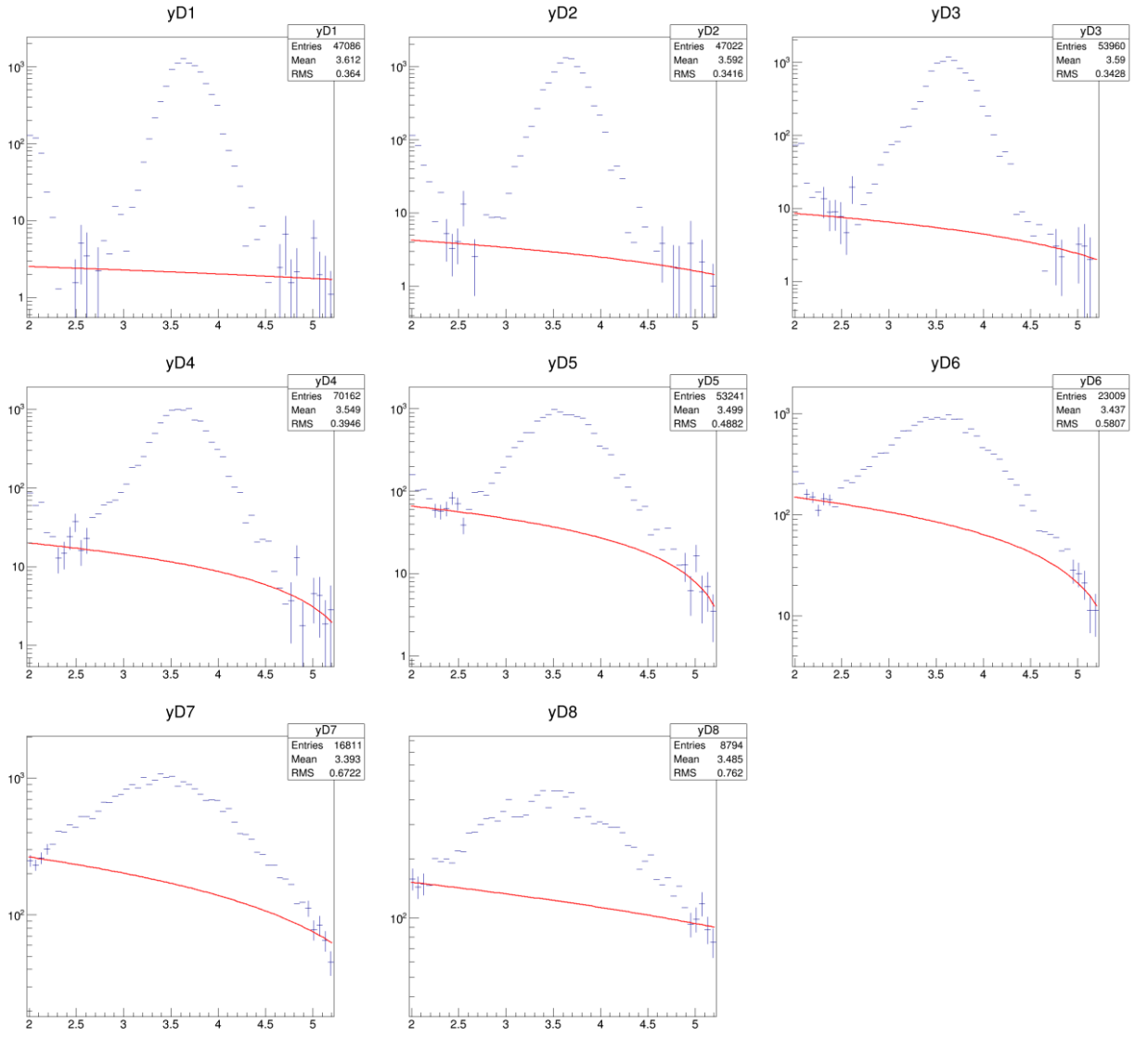
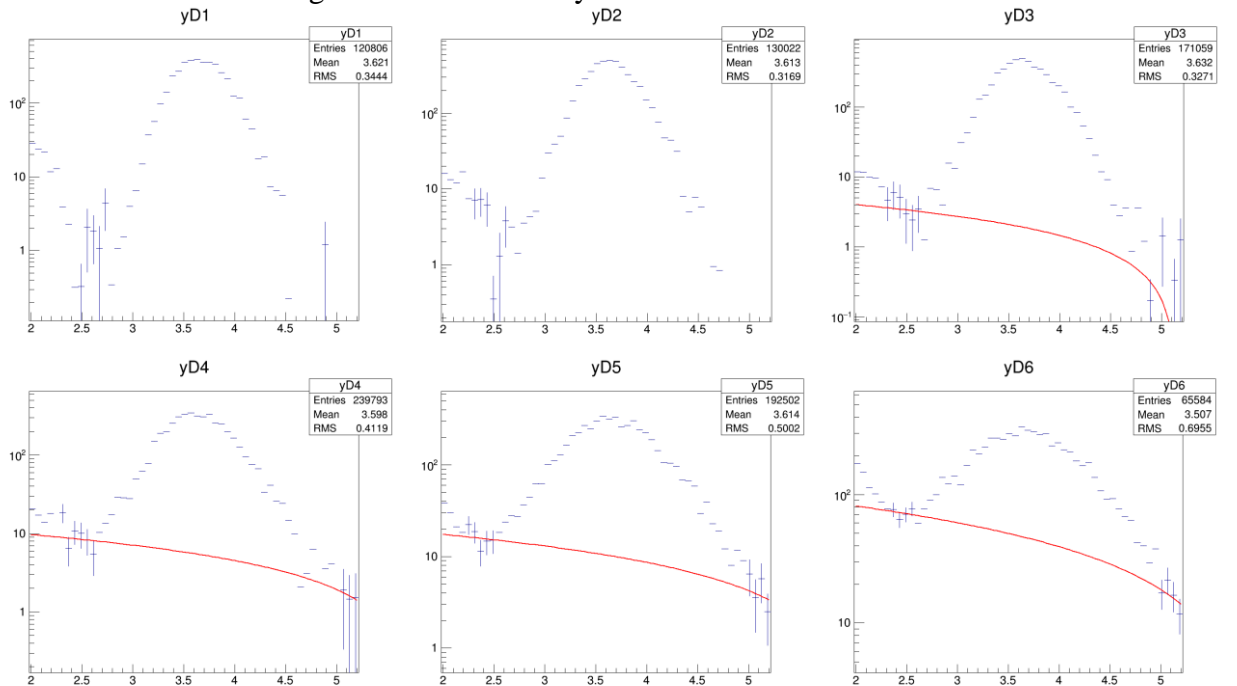


Fig. 10c. Data spectrum of mass squared in bins of  $y_{lab}$  of deuterons identified in ToF-700 in Ar+Sn interactions: background subtraction by the linear fit is described in the text.



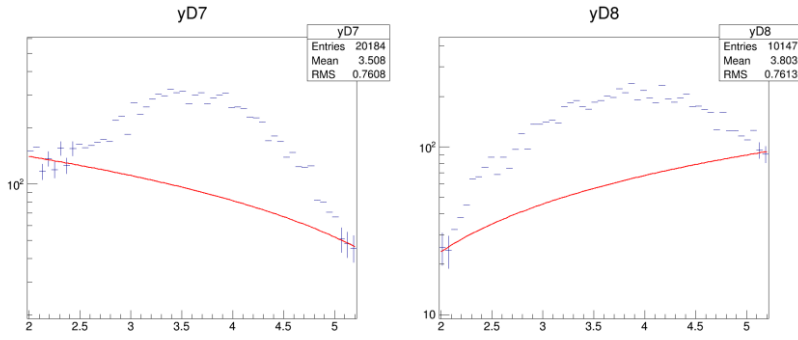


Fig. 10d. Simulated spectrum of mass squared in bins of  $y_{lab}$  of *deuterons* identified in ToF-700 in Ar+Sn interactions: background subtraction by the linear fit is described in the text.

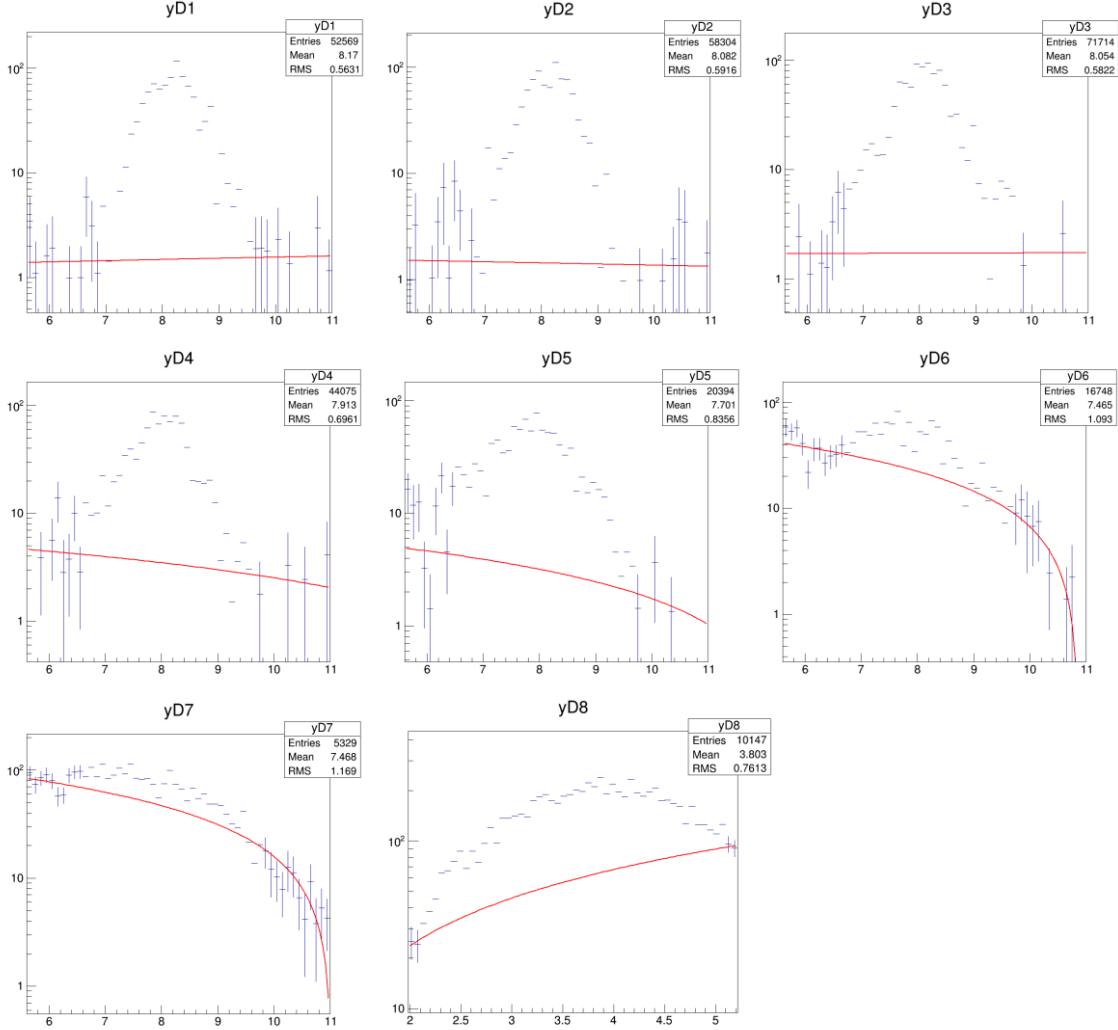


Fig. 10e. Data spectrum of mass squared in bins of  $y$  of *tritons* identified in ToF-700 in Ar+Sn interactions: background subtraction by the linear fit is described in the text.

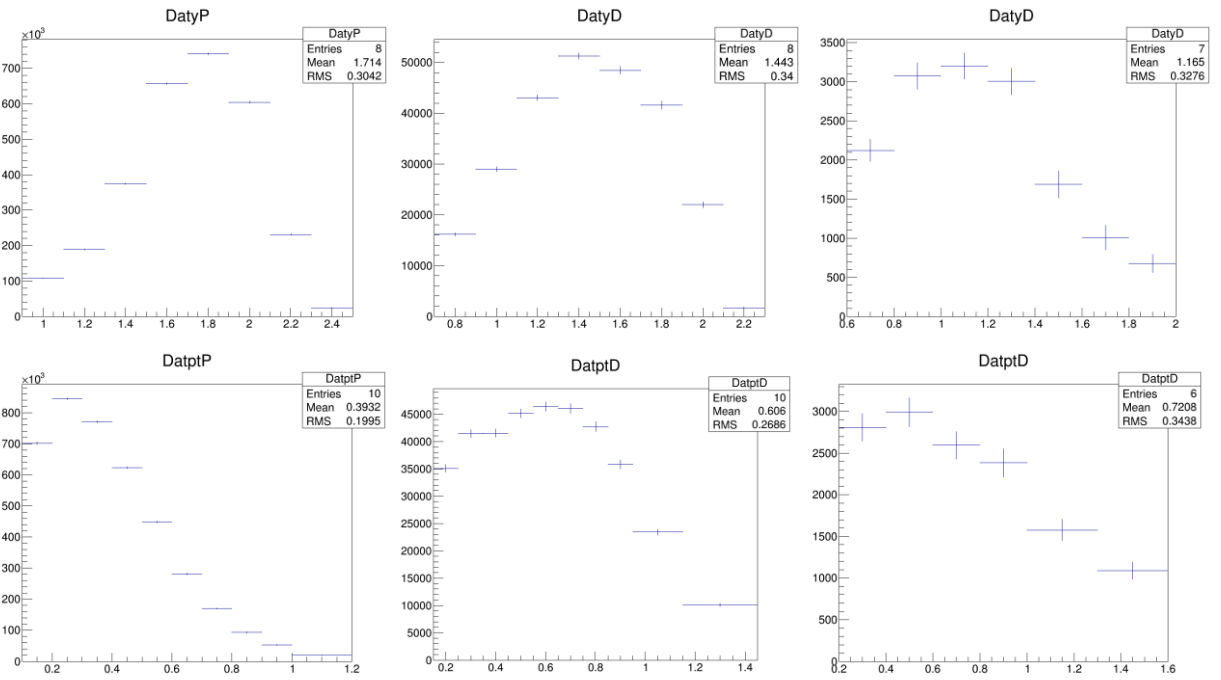


Fig.11a. Data spectrum of *protons* (left), *deuterons* (center), *tritons* (right) identified in ToF-400 in Ar+Sn interactions in bins of  $y_{lab}$  (upper plots) and  $p_T$  (lower plots).

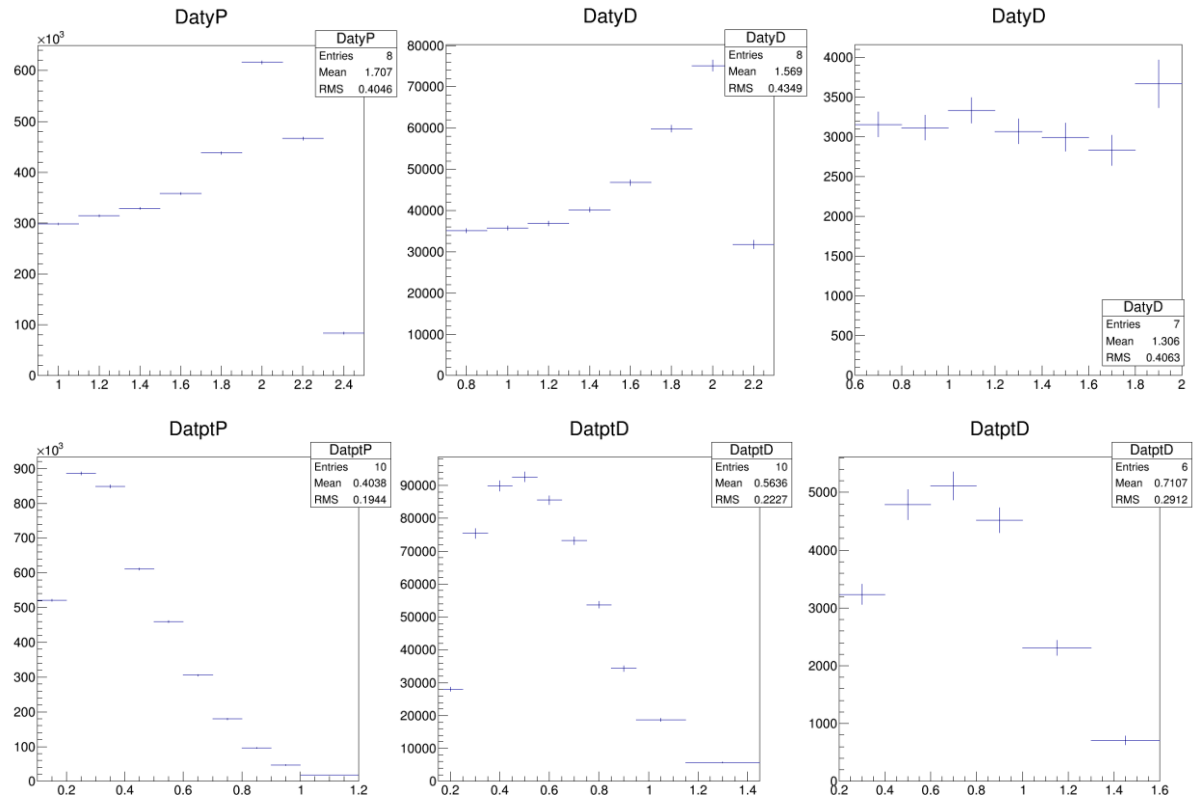
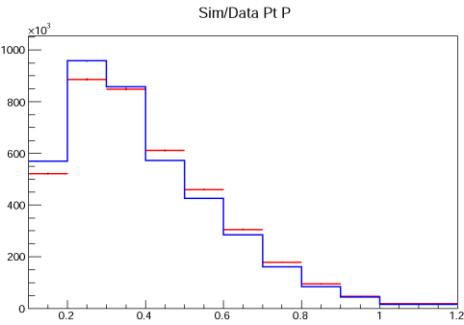
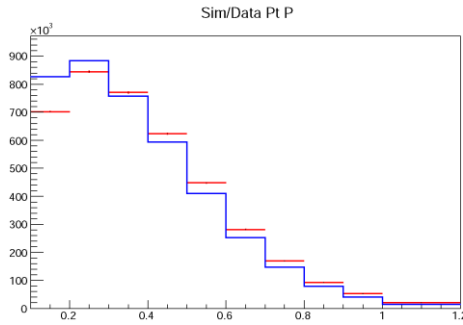
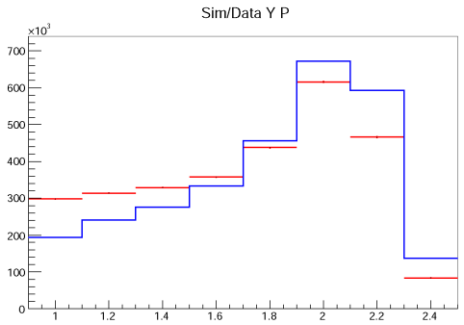
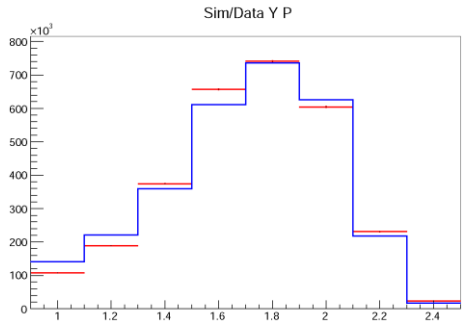


Fig.11b. Data spectrum of *protons* (left), *deuterons* (center), *tritons* (right) identified in ToF-700 in Ar+Sn interactions in bins of  $y_{lab}$  (upper plots) and  $p_T$  (lower plots).

ToF-400 Sim / Data proton  $y$  spectrum

ToF-700 Sim / Data proton  $y$  spectrum



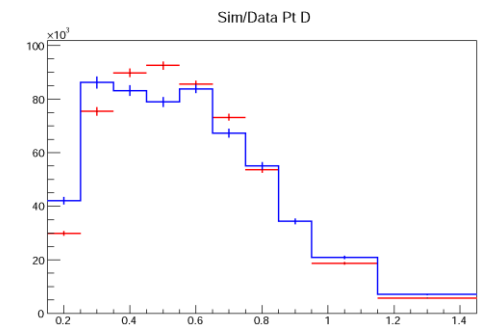
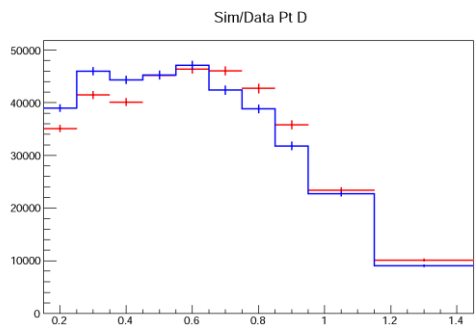
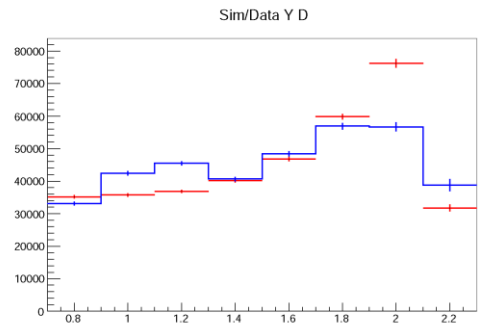
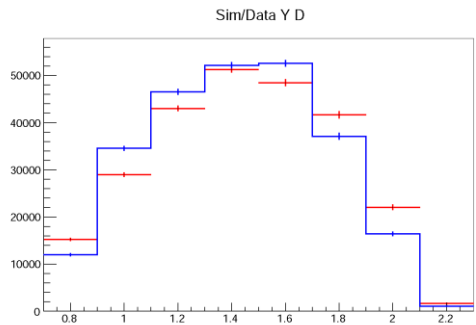
ToF-400 Sim / Data proton  $p_T$  spectrum

ToF-700 Sim / Data proton  $p_T$  spectrum

Fig.11c.  $y_{lab} / p_T$  spectra of protons (upper / lower plots) identified in ToF-400 (left plots) and ToF-700 (right plots) in Ar+Sn interactions. Data are shown as red histograms, DCM-SMM simulation – as blue histograms. Simulation histograms are normalized to the data.

ToF-400 Sim / Data deuteron  $y$  spectrum

ToF-700 Sim / Data deuteron  $y$  spectrum



ToF-400 Sim / Data deuteron  $p_T$  spectrum

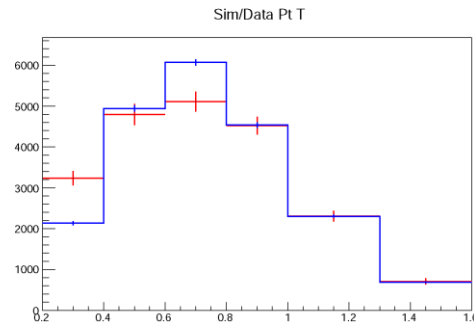
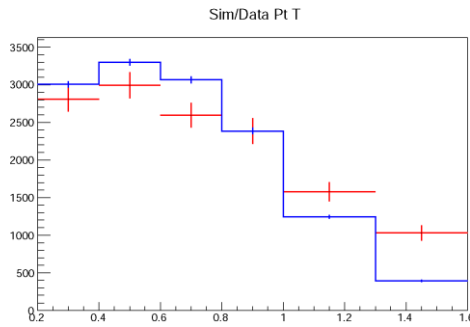
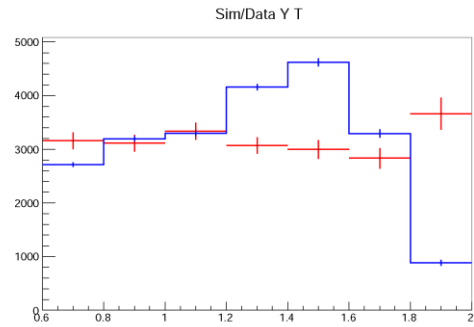
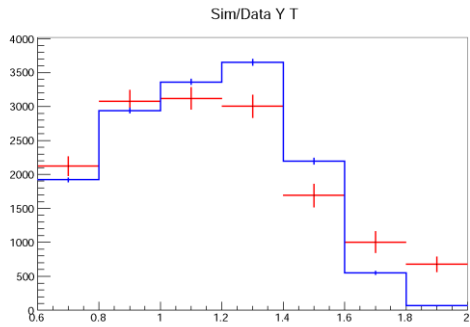
ToF-700 Sim / Data deuteron  $p_T$  spectrum

Fig.11d.  $y_{lab} / p_T$  spectra of deuterons (upper / lower plots) identified in ToF-400 (left plots) and

ToF-700 (right plots) in Ar+Sn interactions. Data are shown as red histograms, DCM-SMM simulation – as blue histograms. Simulation histograms are normalized to the data.

ToF-400 Sim / Data triton  $y$  spectrum

ToF-700 Sim / Data triton  $y$  spectrum



ToF-400 Sim / Data triton  $p_T$  spectrum

ToF-700 Sim / Data triton  $p_T$  spectrum

Fig.11e.  $y_{lab} / p_T$  spectra (upper / lower plots) of *tritons* identified in ToF-400 (left plots) and ToF-700 (right plots) in Ar+Sn interactions. Data are shown as red histograms, DCM-SMM simulation – as blue histograms. Simulation histograms are normalized to the data.

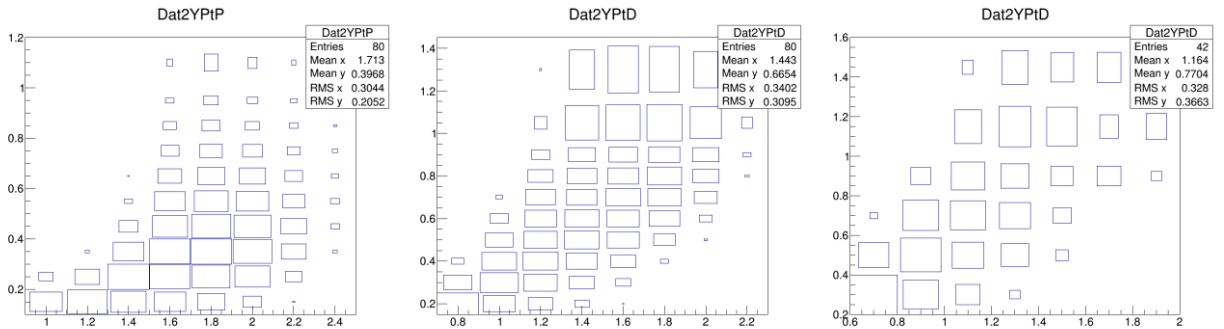


Fig.11f. Data 2-dimensional distribution of *protons* (left), *deuterons* (center), *tritons* (right) identified in ToF-400 in Ar+Sn interactions in bins of  $y_{lab}$  (horizontal axis) and  $p_T$  (vertical axis).

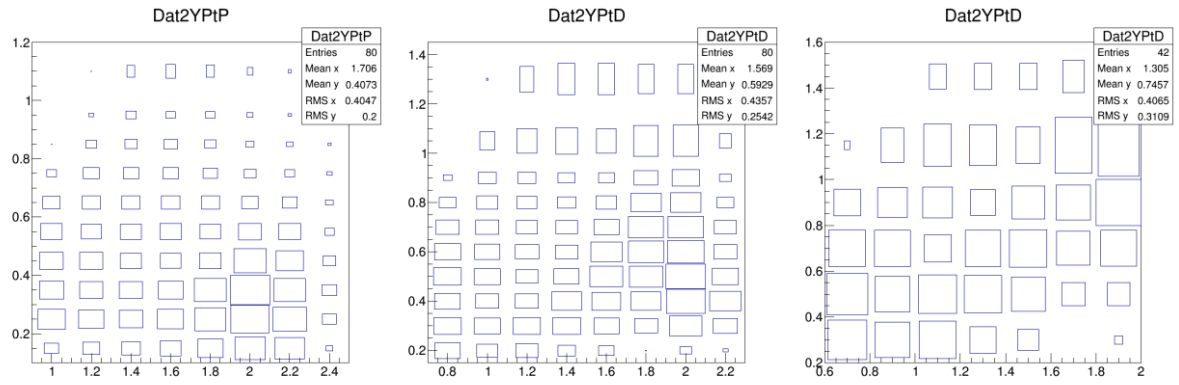


Fig.11g. Data 2-dimensional distribution of *protons* (left), *deuterons* (center), *tritons* (right) identified in ToF-700 in Ar+Sn interactions in bins of  $y_{lab}$  (horizontal axis) and  $p_T$  (vertical axis).

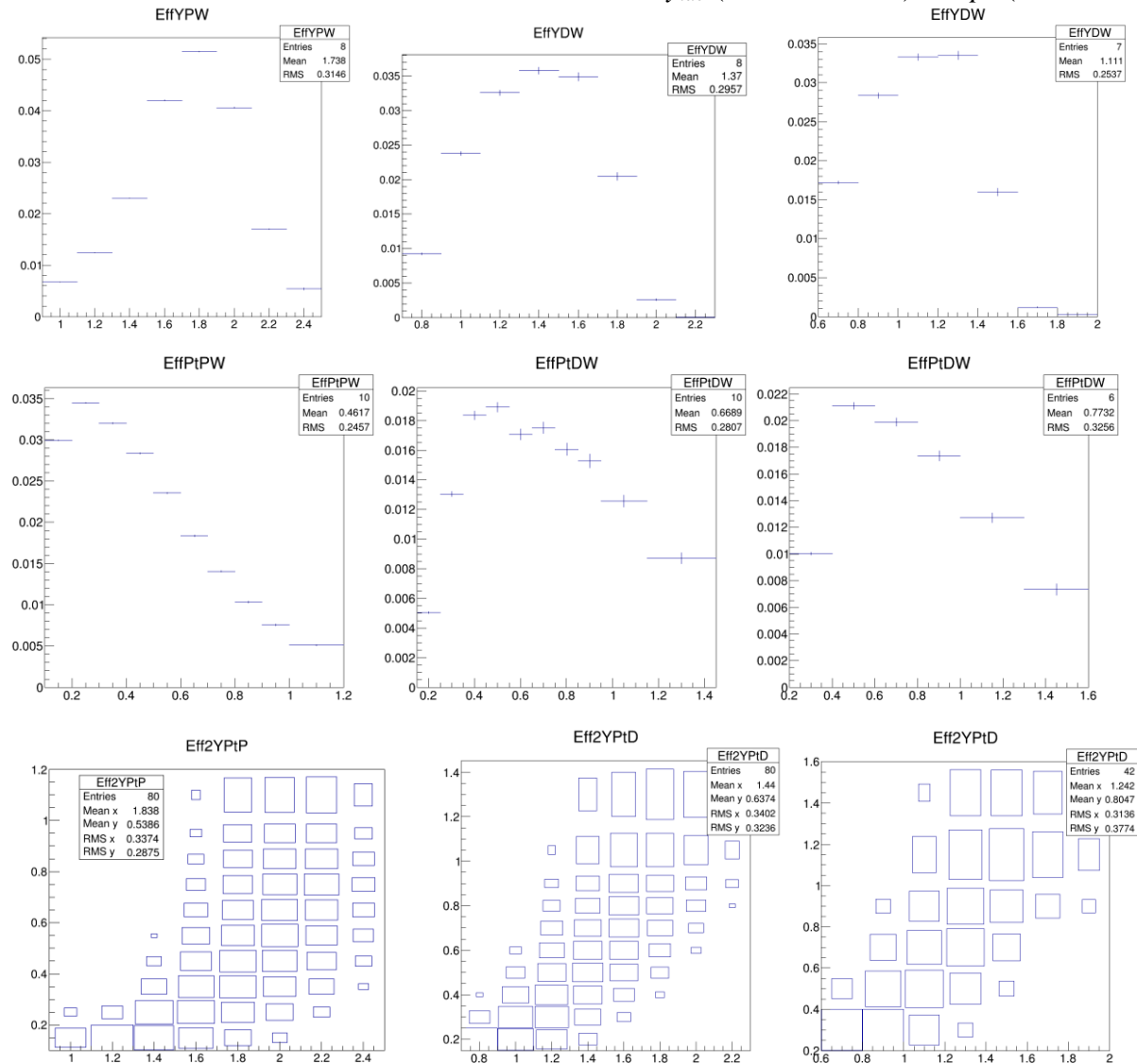


Fig.12a. Reconstruction efficiency for *protons* (left), *deuterons* (center), *tritons* (right) in bins of rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in the laboratory system (upper plots), transverse momentum  $p_T$  (center plots) and  $(y_{lab}, p_T)$  – lower plots. Results are shown for particles identified in ToF-400 in Ar+Sn interactions.

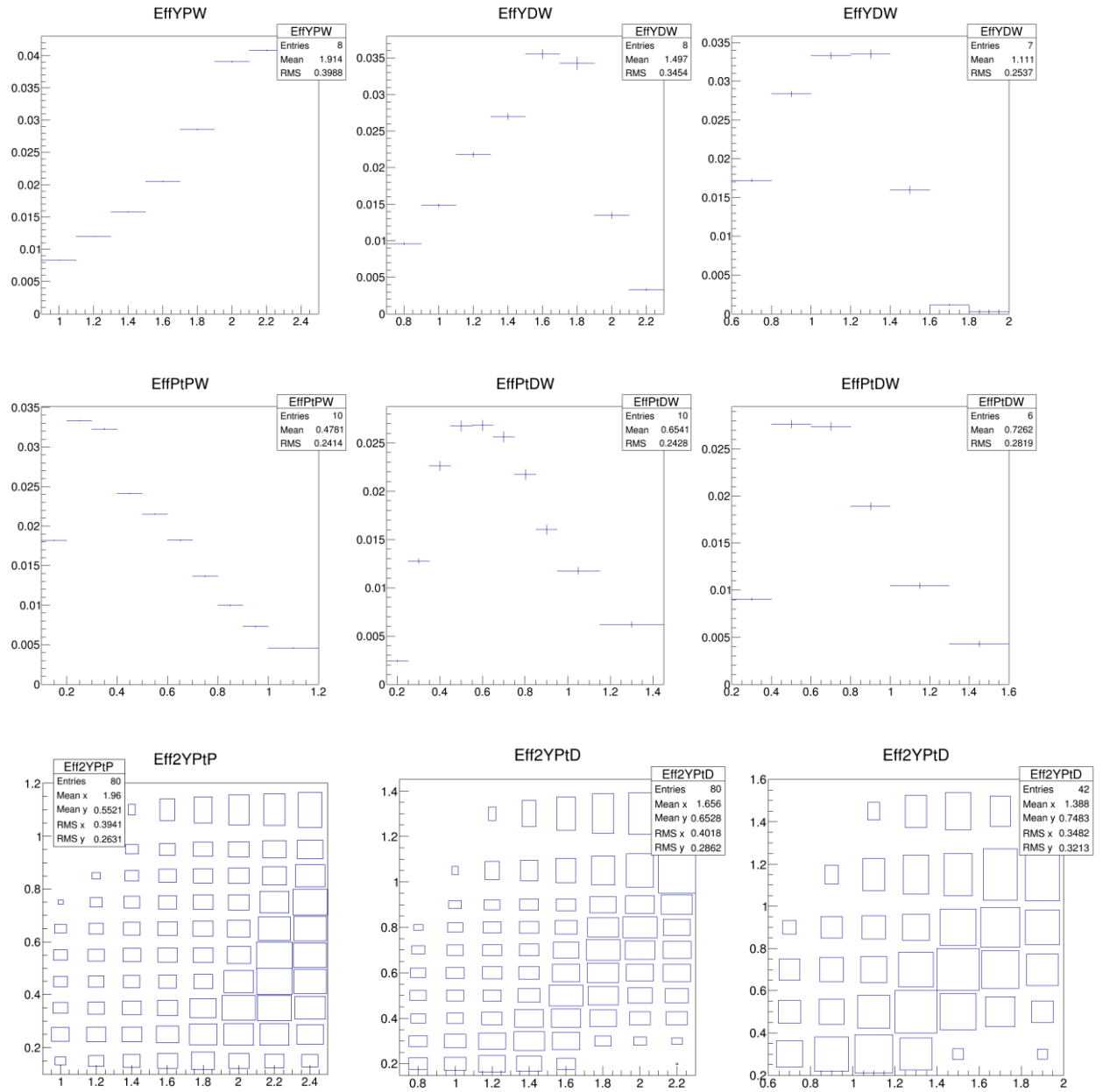


Fig.12b. Reconstruction efficiency for *protons* (left), *deuterons* (center), *tritons* (right) in bins of rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in the laboratory system (upper plots), transverse momentum  $p_T$  (center plots) and  $(y, p_T)$  - lower plots. Results are shown for particles identified in ToF-700 in Ar+Sn interactions.



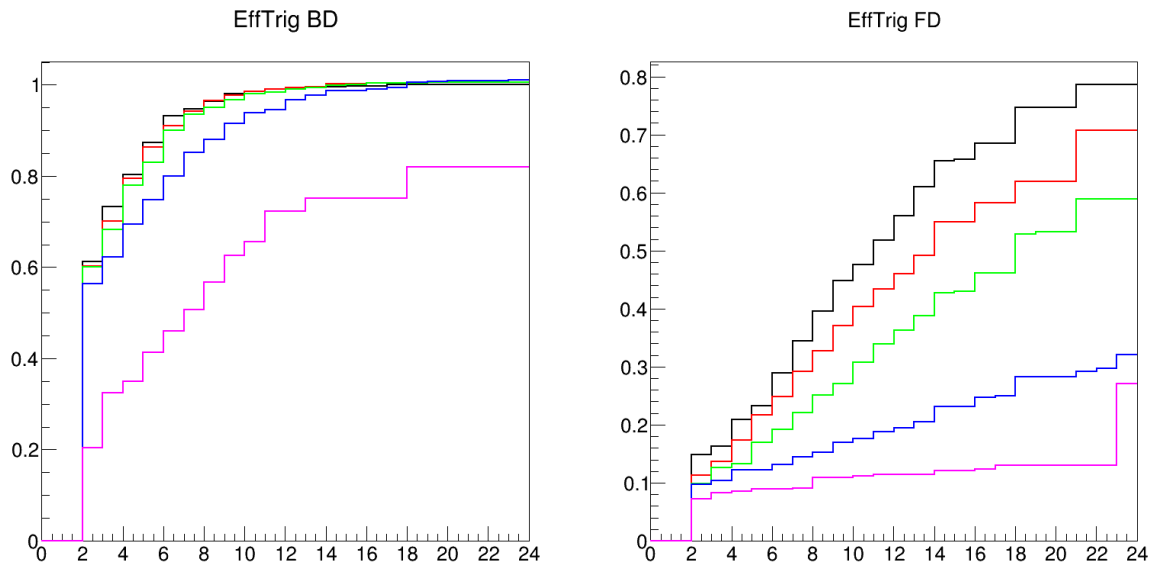


Fig.13a. BD (left plot) and SiMD (right) trigger efficiency in dependence on the number of tracks from the primary vertex calculated for interactions of the argon beam with the *C*(magenta), *Al*(blue), *Cu*(green), *Sn*(red), *Pb*(black) targets.

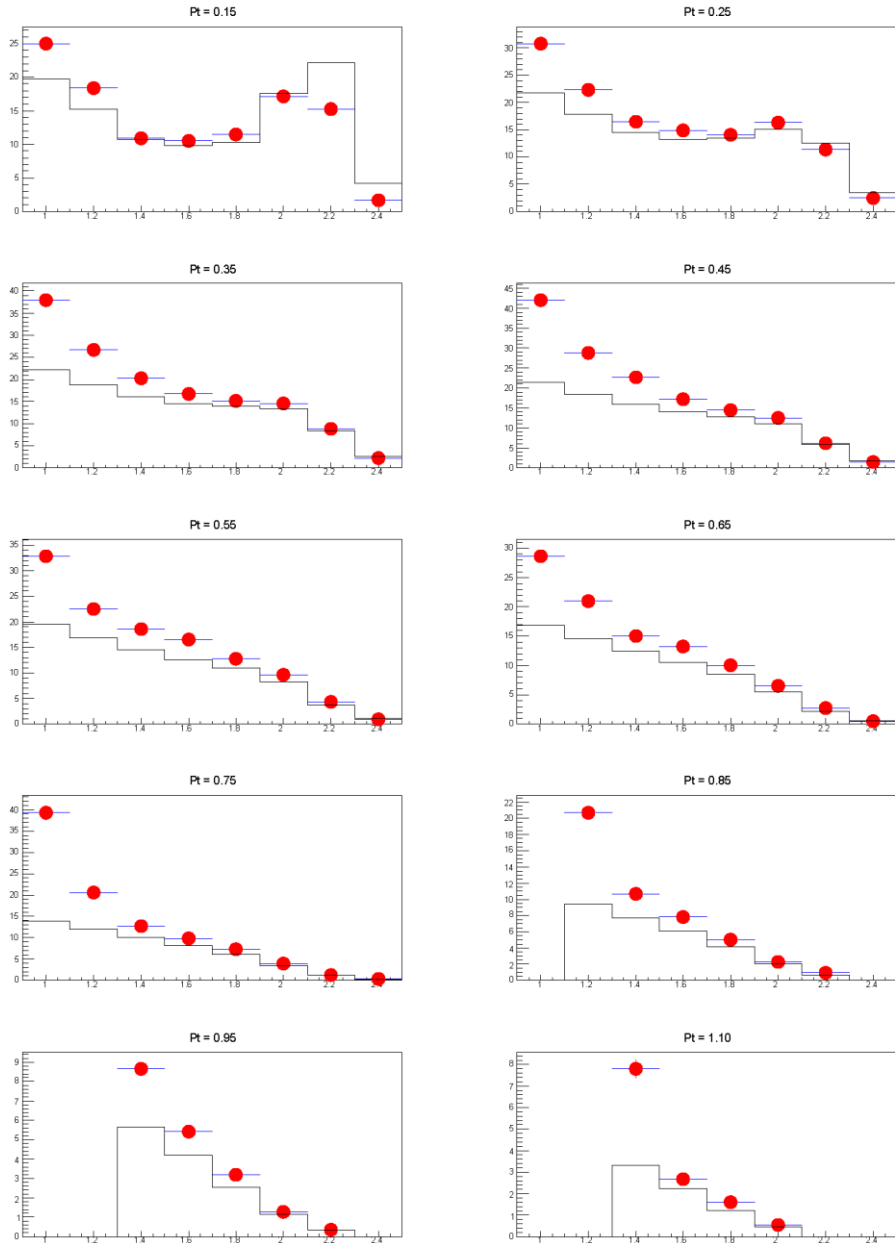


Fig15a. Reconstructed  $y_{lab}$  spectra (yields) of *protons* in *Ar+Sn* interactions with centrality 0-40%. The error bars represent the statistical errors, the boxes show the systematic errors. Predictions of the DCM-SMM model are shown as histograms.

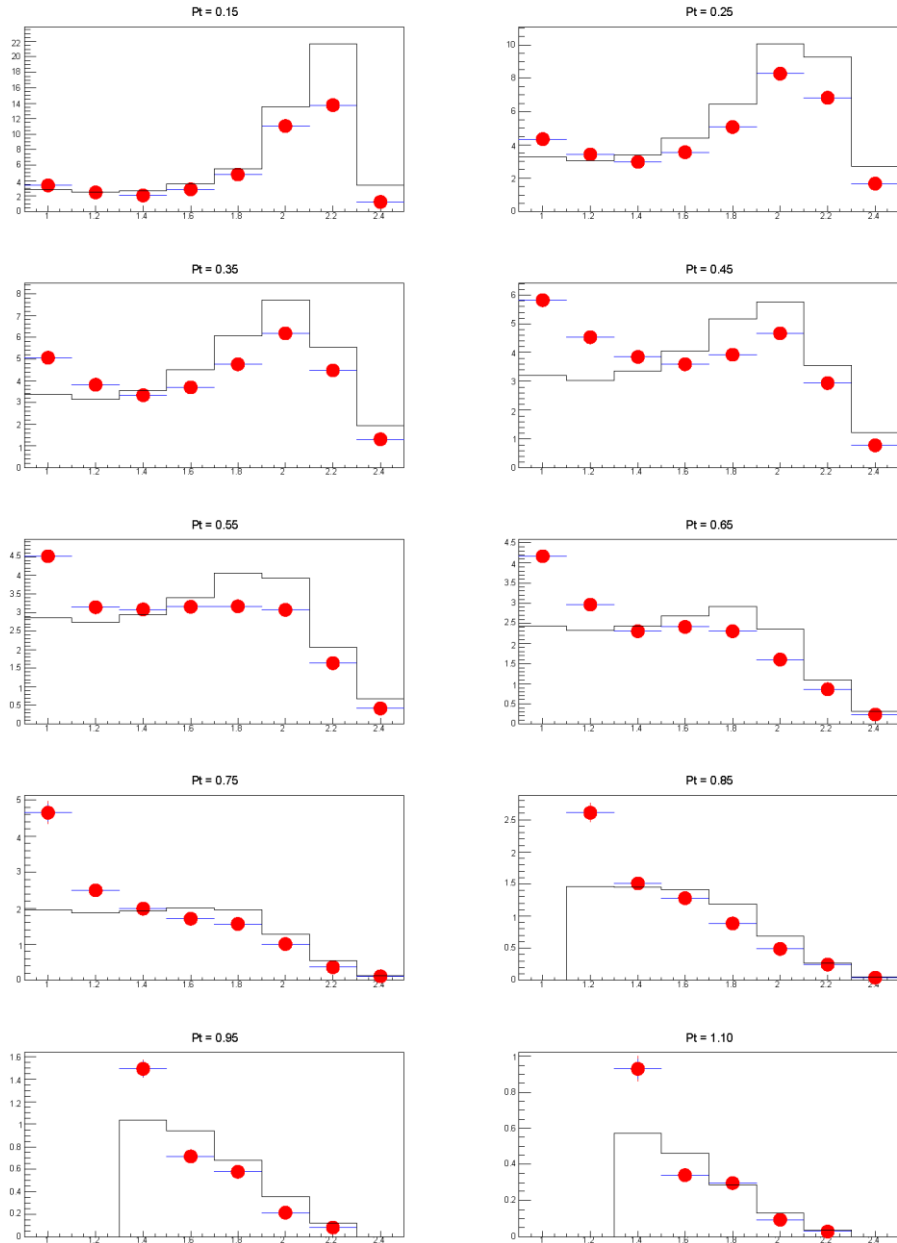


Fig15b. Reconstructed  $y$  spectra (yields) of *protons* in *Ar+Sn* interactions with centrality 40-100%. The error bars represent the statistical errors, the boxes show the systematic errors. Predictions of the DCM-SMM model are shown as histograms.

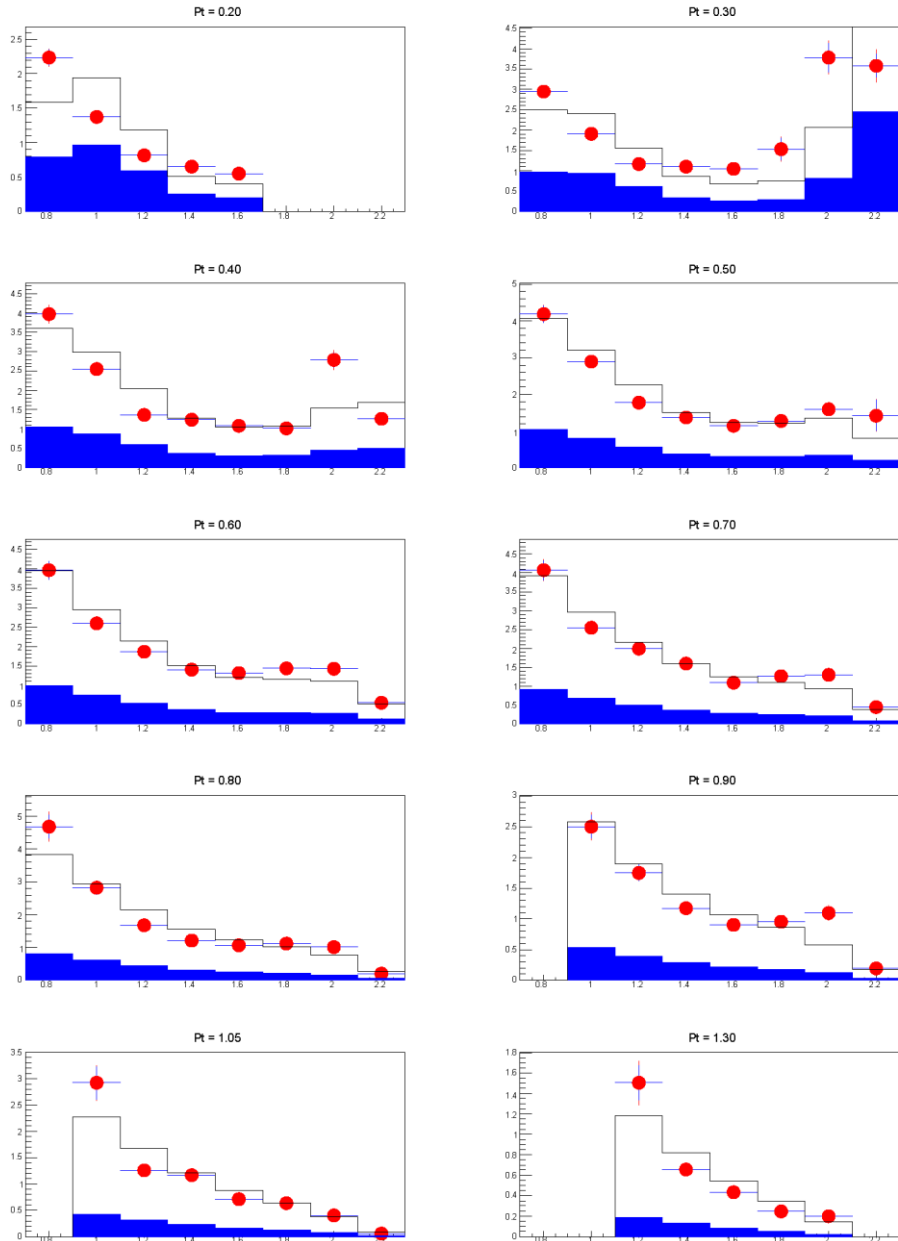


Fig15c. Reconstructed  $y_{lab}$  spectra (yields) of *deuterons* in *Ar+Sn* interactions with centrality 0-40%. The error bars represent the statistical errors, the boxes show the systematic errors. Predictions of the DCM-SMM are shown as filled histograms. Model spectra normalized to the data are presented as open histogram s.

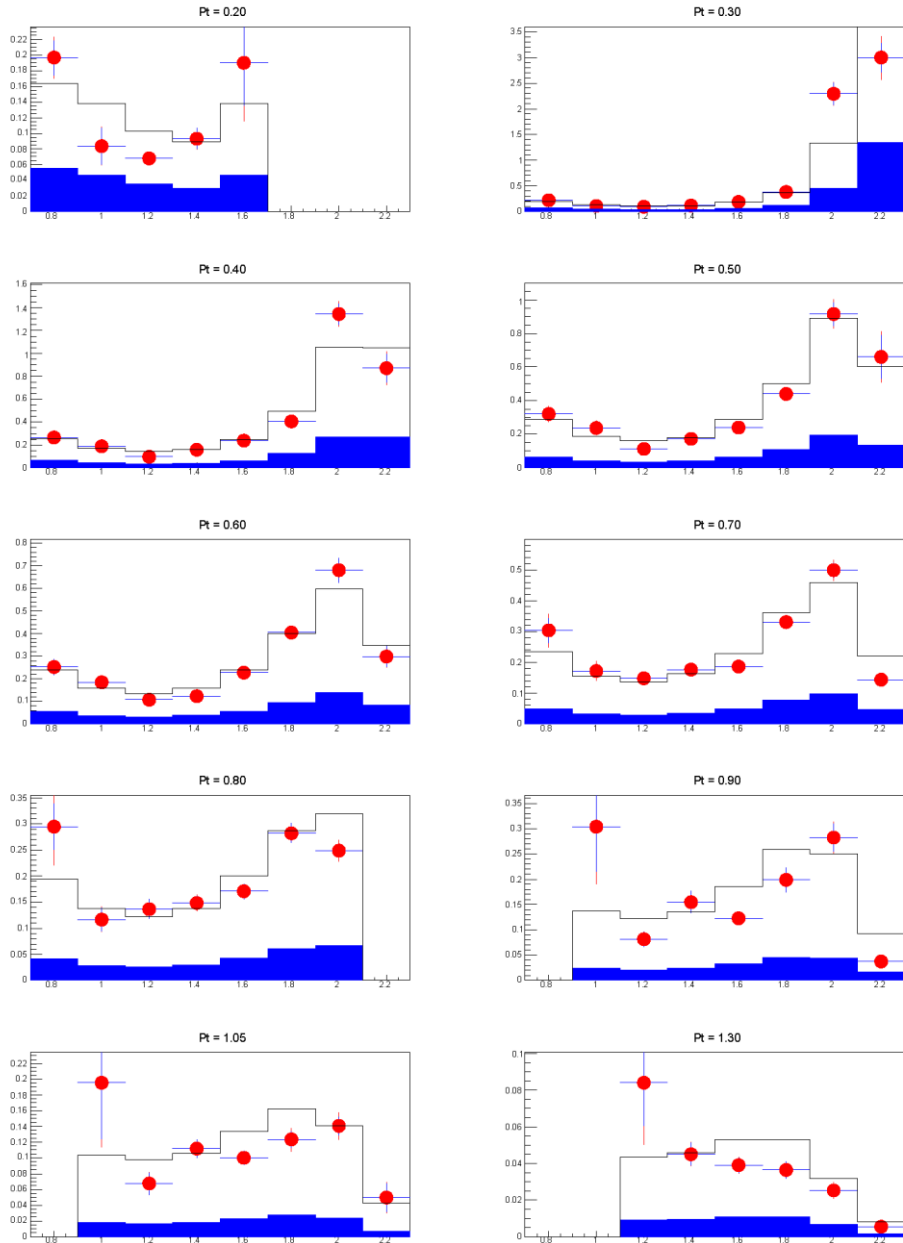


Fig15d. Reconstructed  $y_{lab}$  spectra (yields) of *deuterons* in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with centrality 40-100%. The error bars represent the statistical errors, the boxes show the systematic errors. Predictions of the DCM-SMM model are shown as filled histograms. Model spectra normalized to the data are presented as open histograms.

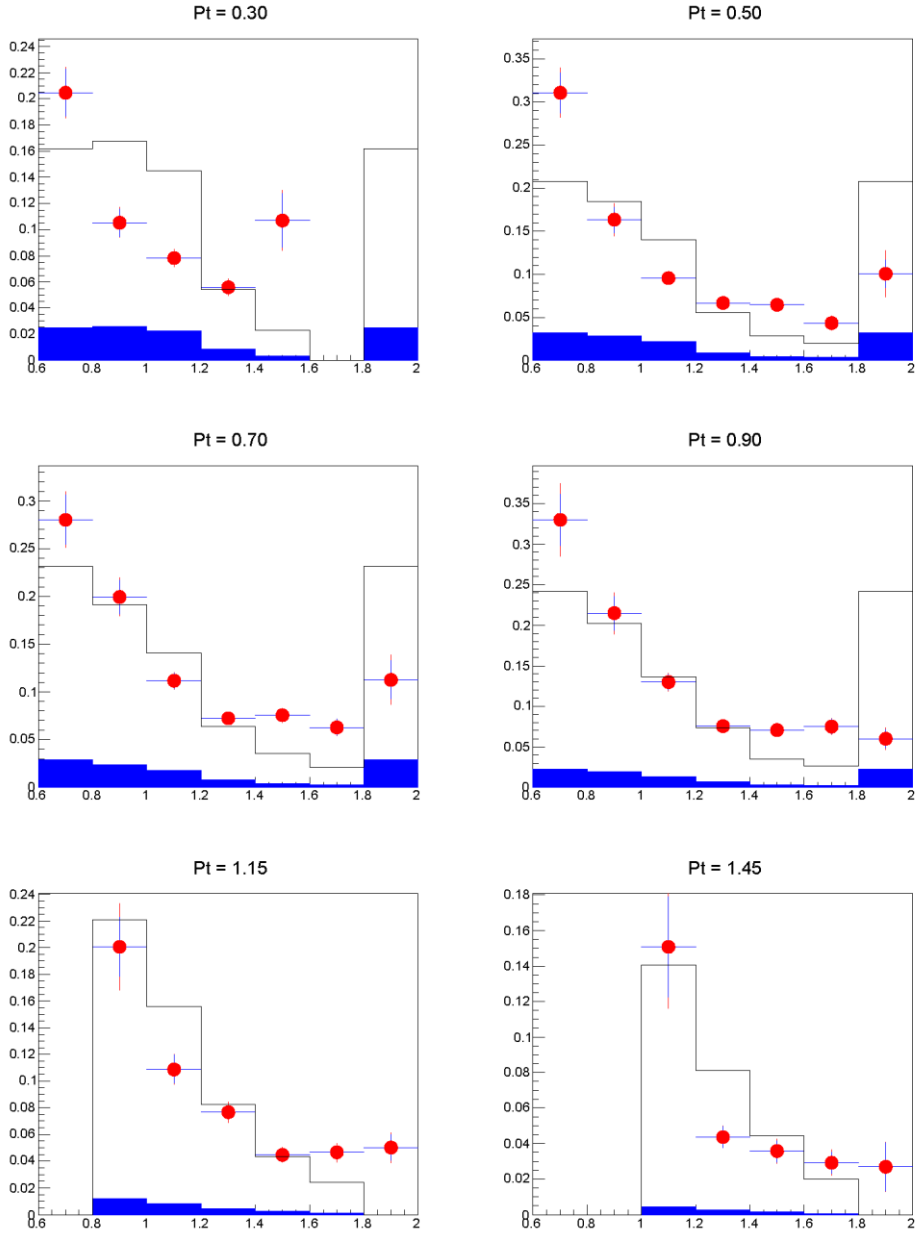


Fig15e. Reconstructed  $y_{lab}$  spectra (yields) of *tritons* in *Ar+Sn* interactions with centrality 0-40%. The error bars represent the statistical errors, the boxes show the systematic errors. Predictions of the DCM-SMM model are shown as filled histograms. Model spectra normalized to the data are presented as open histograms.

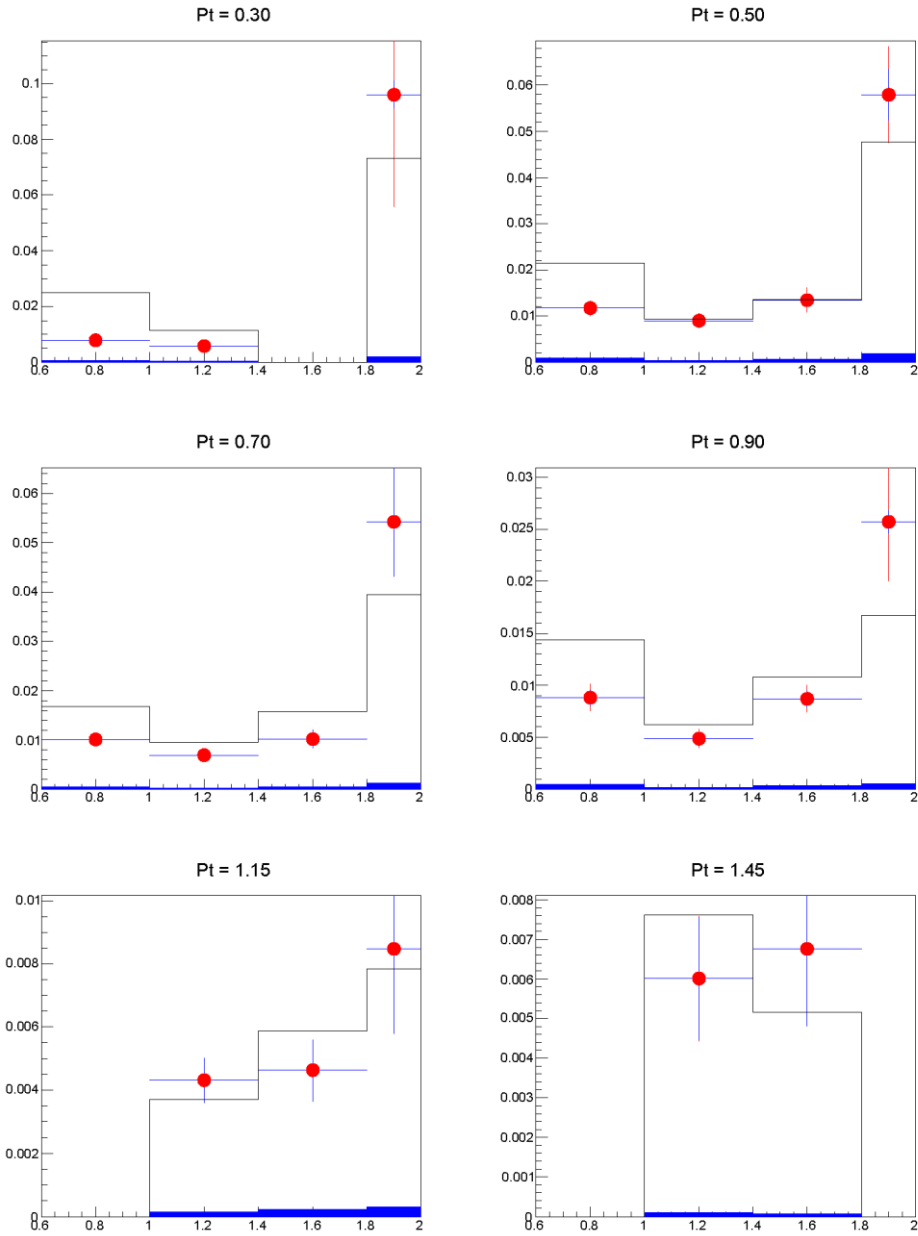


Fig15f. Reconstructed  $y_{lab}$  spectra (yields) of *tritons* in *Ar+Sn* interactions with centrality 40-100%. The error bars represent the statistical errors, the boxes show the systematic errors. Predictions of the DCM-SMM model are shown as filled histograms. Model spectra normalized to the data are presented as open histograms.

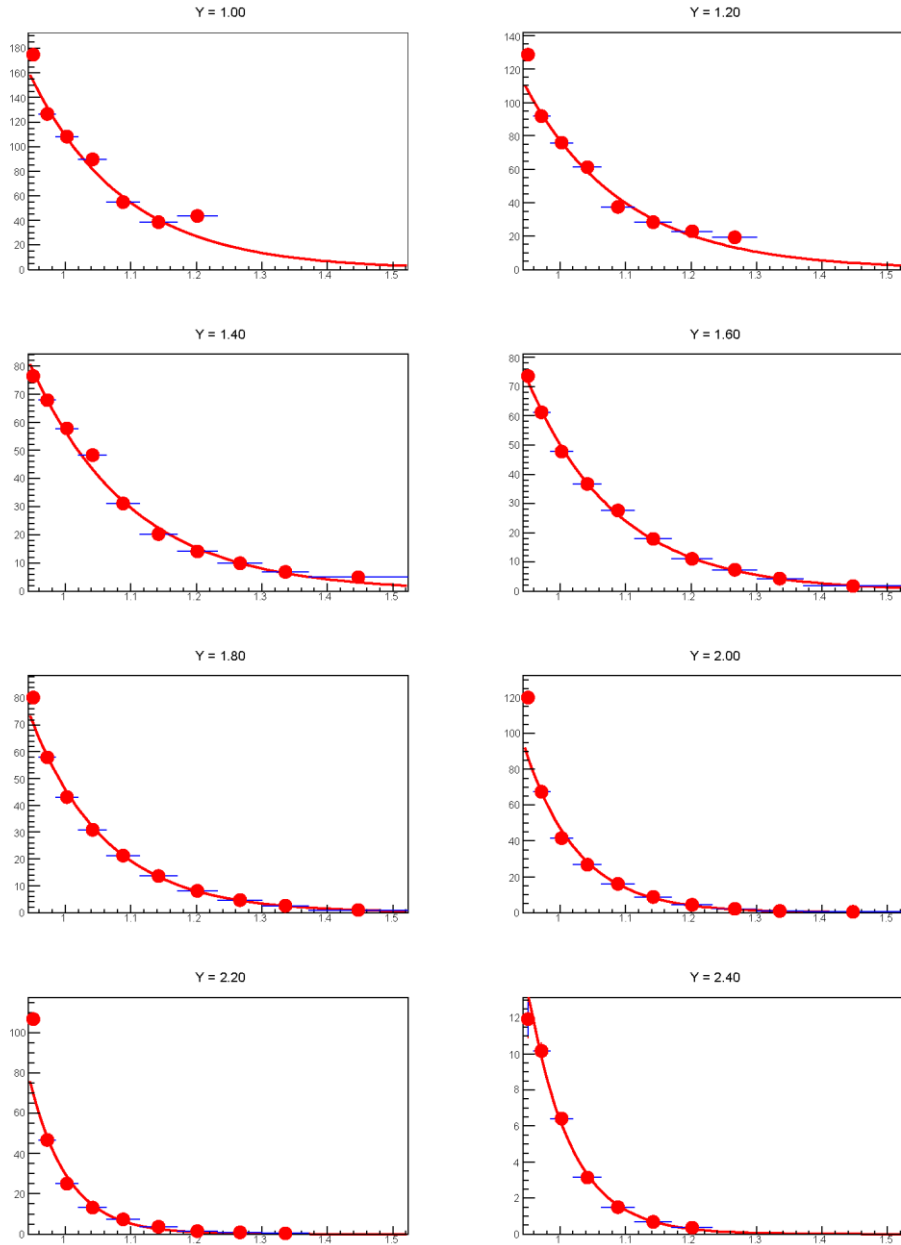


Fig.16a. Reconstructed invariant transverse momentum  $p_T$  spectra of *protons* measured in bins of rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with the centrality 0-40%. Results of the fit described in the text are shown as colored lines.



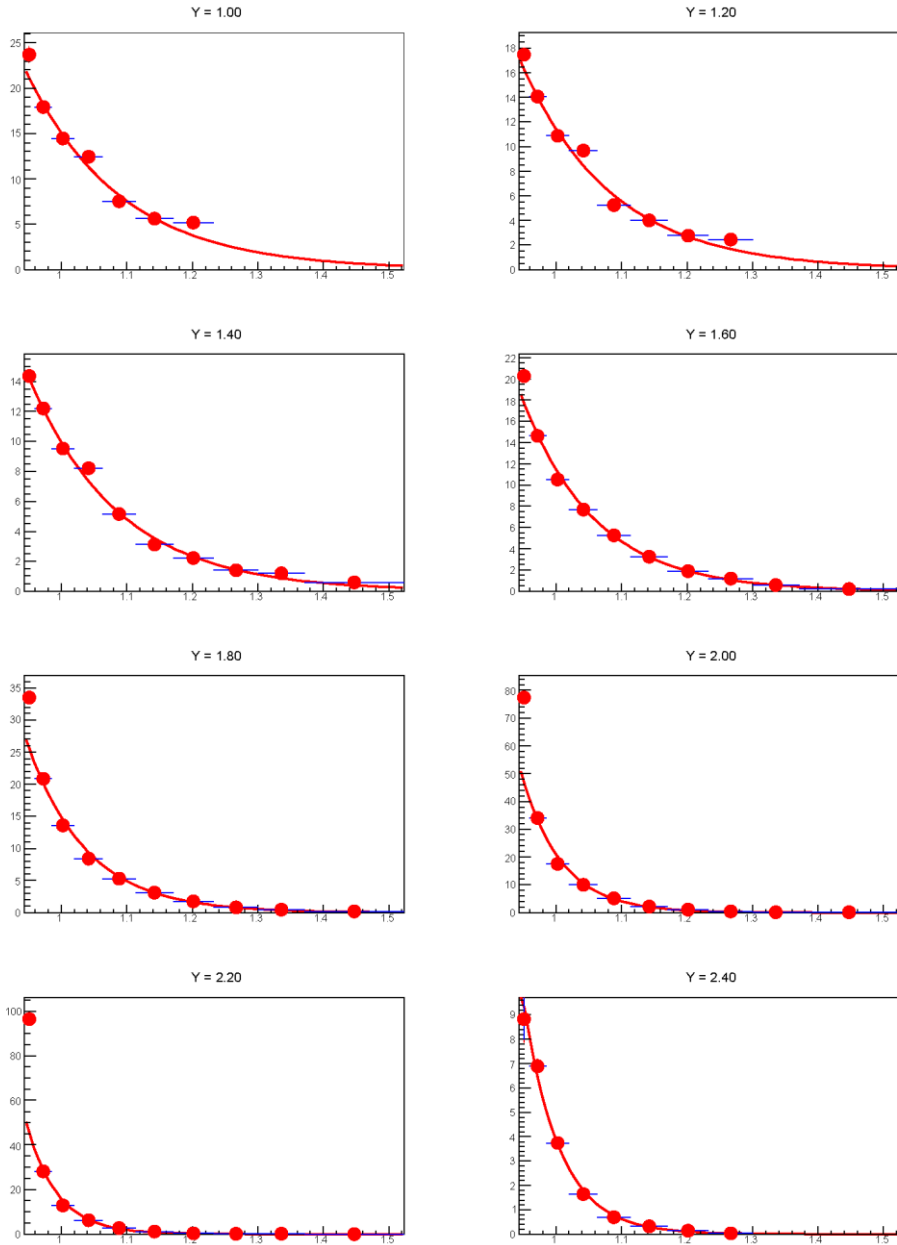


Fig.16b. Reconstructed invariant transverse momentum  $p_T$  spectra of *protons* measured in bins of rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with the centrality 40-100%. Results of the fit described in the text are shown as colored lines.

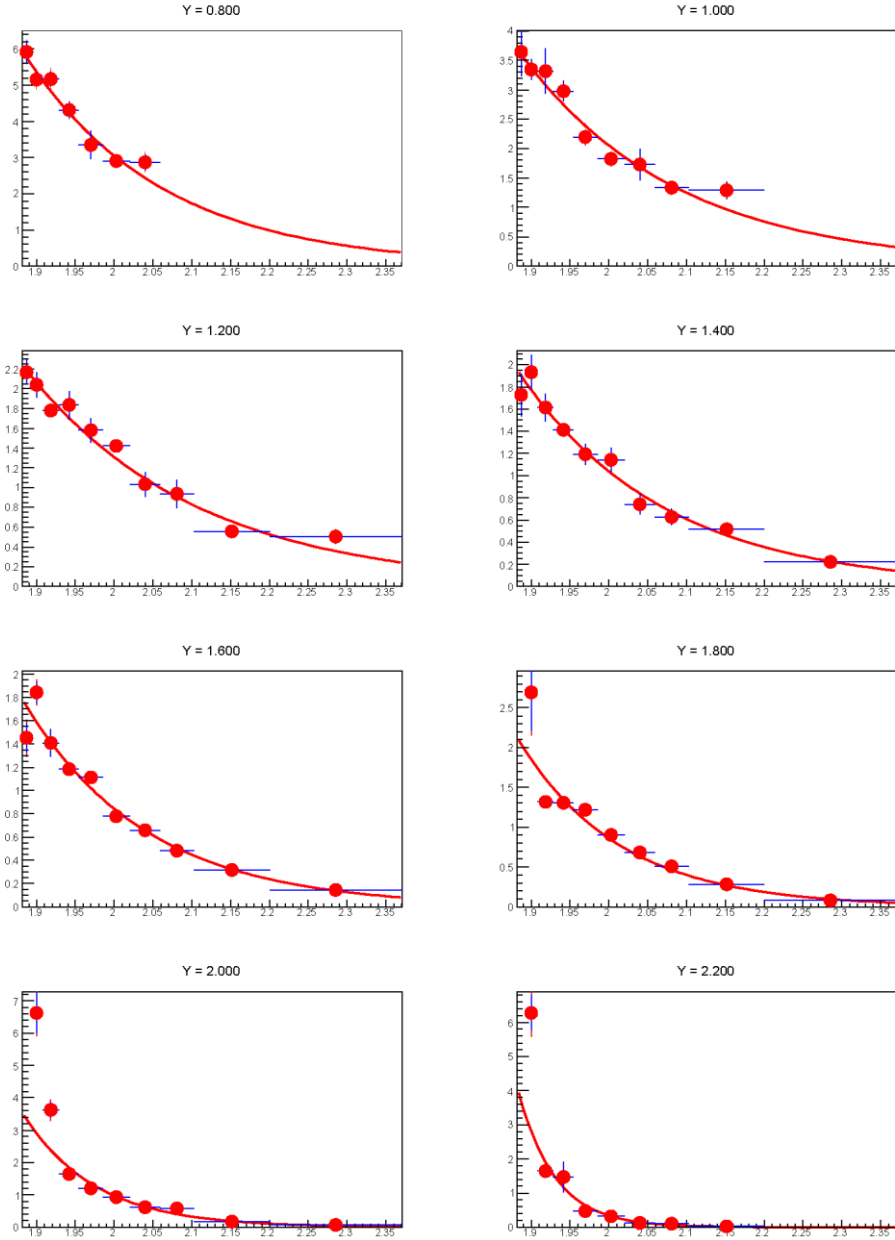


Fig.16c. Reconstructed invariant transverse momentum  $p_T$  spectra of *deuterons* measured in bins of rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with the centrality 0-40% . Results of the fit described in the text are shown as colored lines.

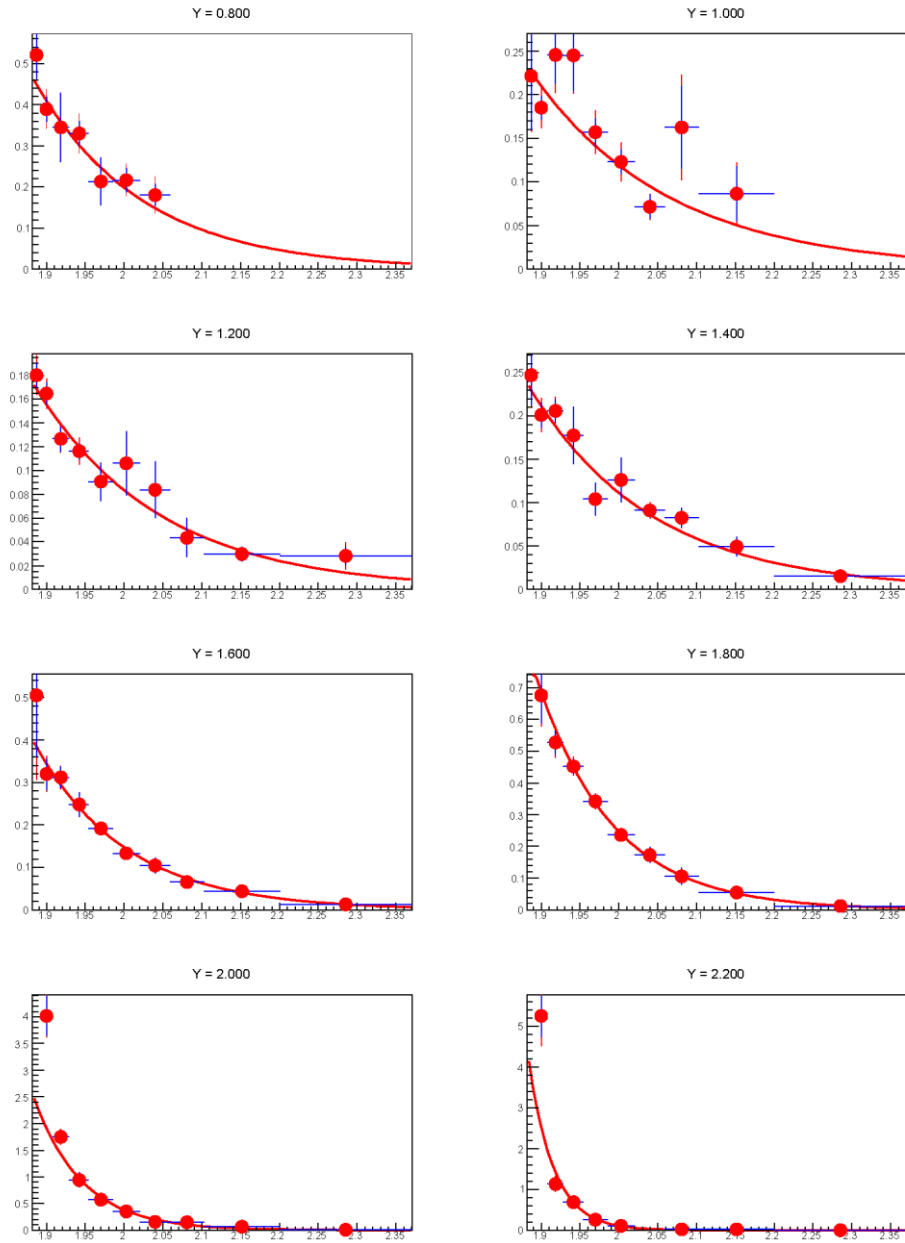


Fig.16d. Reconstructed invariant transverse momentum  $p_T$  spectra of *deuterons* measured in bins of rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with the centrality 40-100% . Results of the fit described in the text are shown as colored lines.

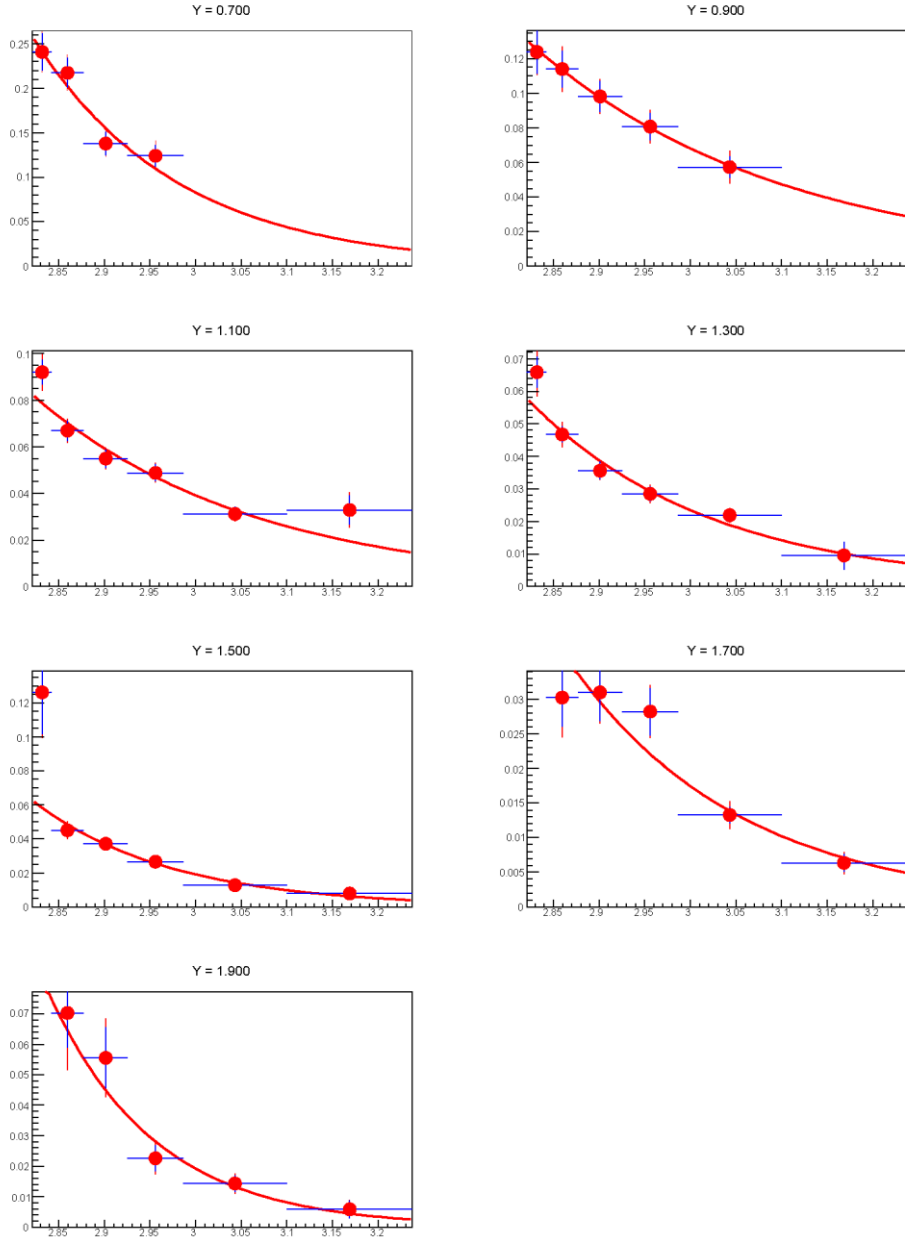


Fig.16e. Reconstructed invariant transverse momentum  $p_T$  spectra of *tritons* measured in bins of rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with the centrality 0-40%. Results of the fit described in the text are shown as colored lines.

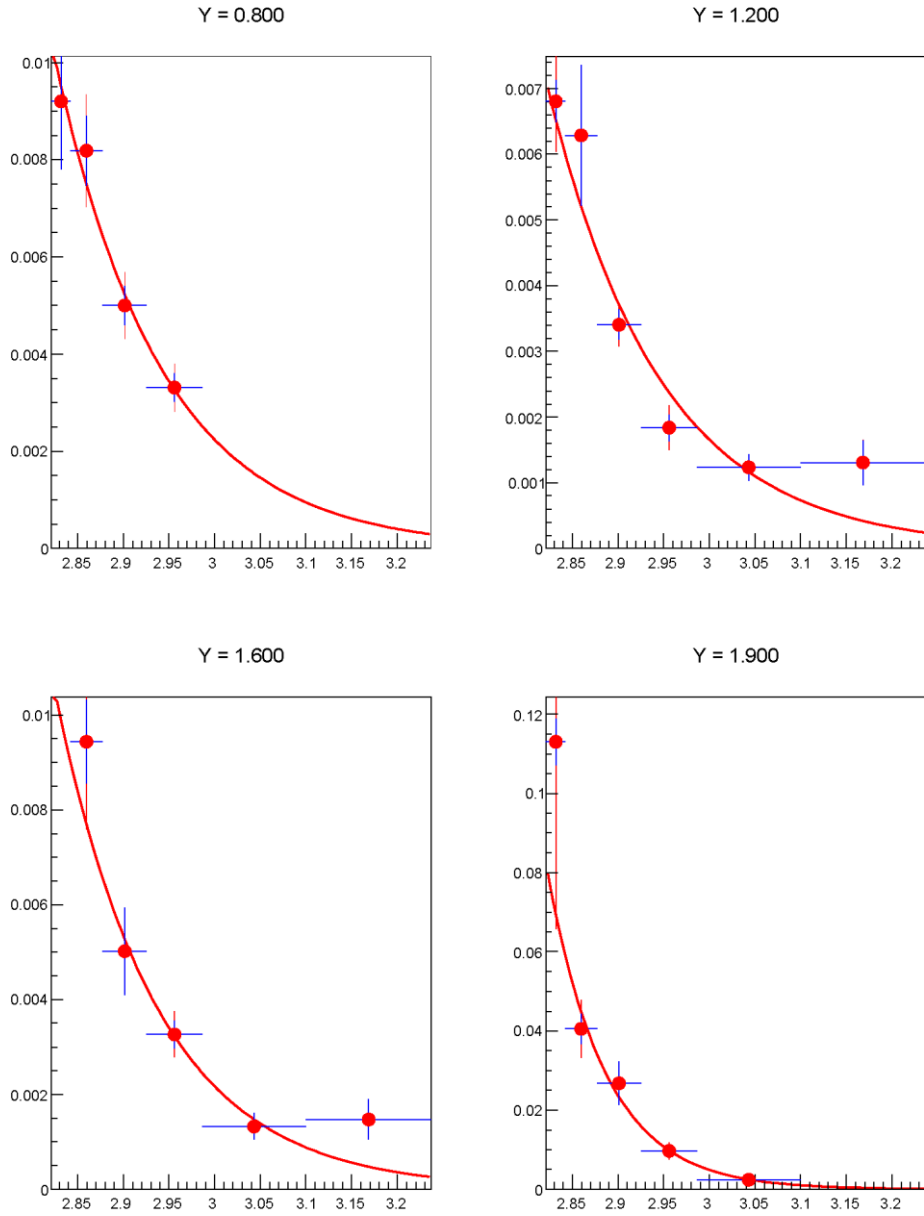
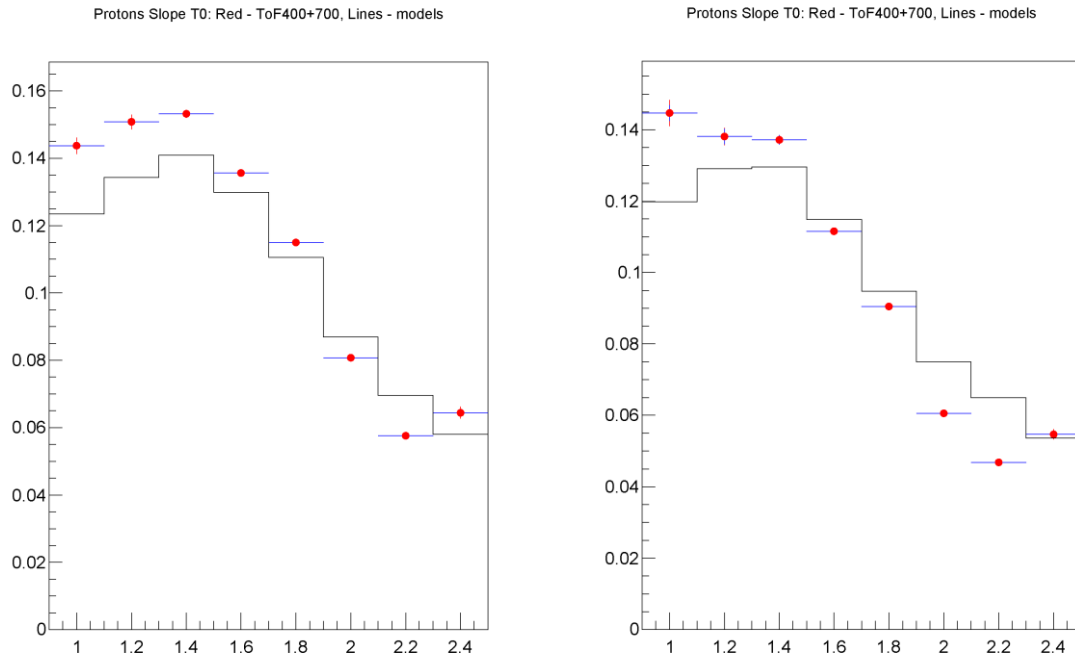
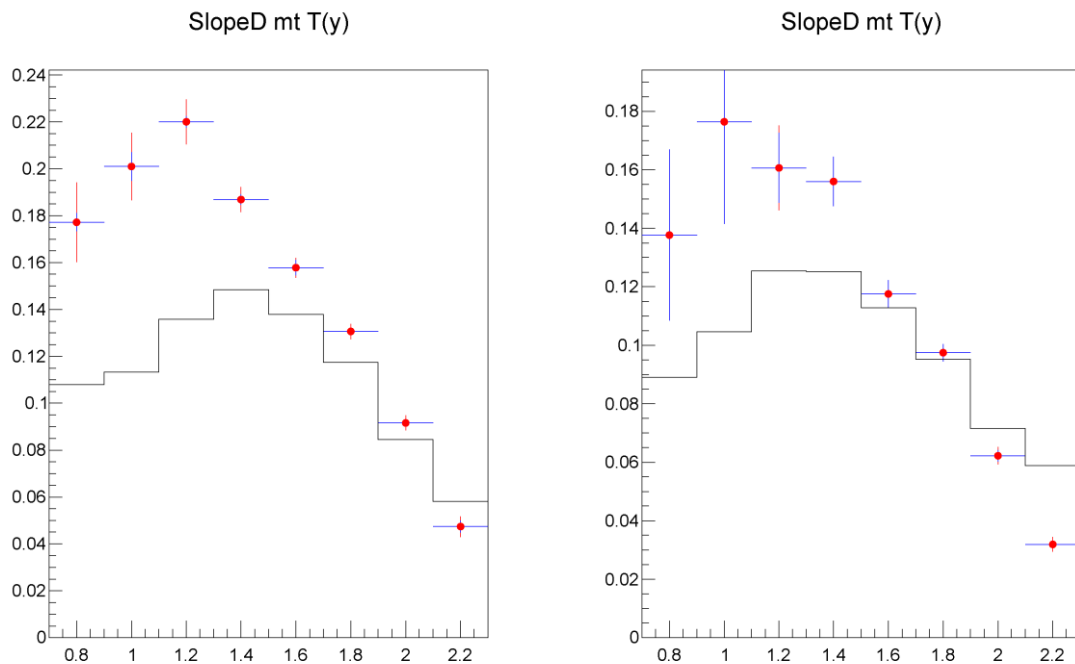


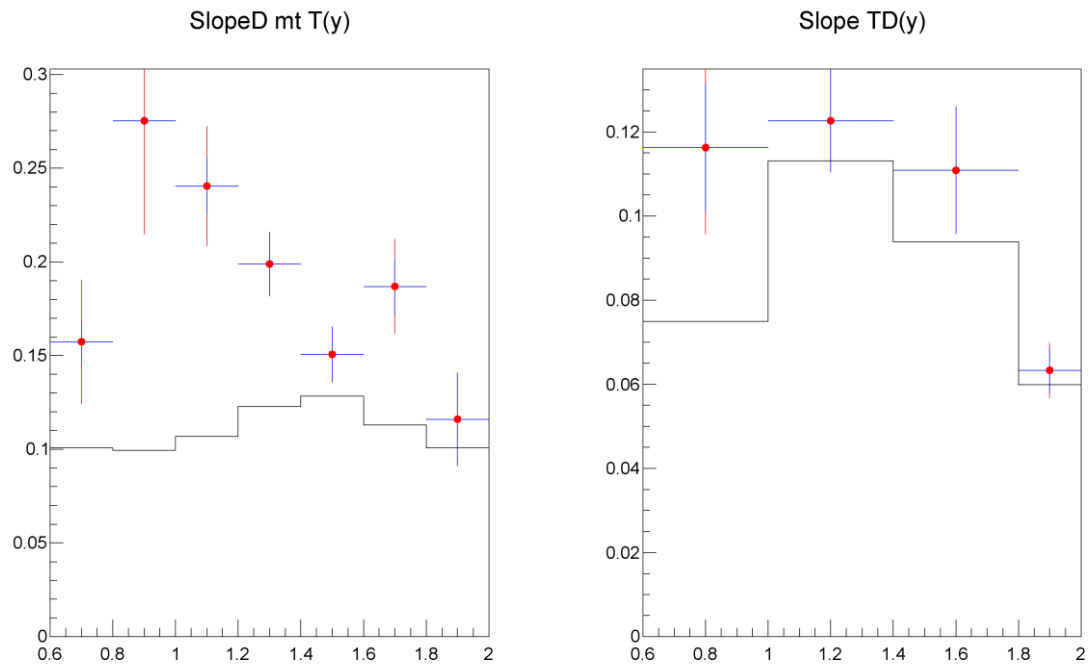
Fig.16f. Reconstructed invariant transverse momentum  $p_T$  spectra of *tritons* measured in bins of rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with the centrality 40-100%. Results of the fit described in the text are shown as colored lines.



258 Fig17a. Inverse slope parameter  $T_0$  of the *proton* invariant  $p_T$  spectra measured in dependence  
 259 on rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with centrality 0-40% (left plot) and 40-100% (right plot).  
 260 The error bars represent the statistical errors, the boxes show the systematic errors. Predictions of  
 261 the DCM-SMM model are shown as a histogram.



262  
 263 Fig17b. Inverse slope parameter  $T_0$  of the *deuteron* invariant  $p_T$  spectra measured in dependence  
 264 on rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with centrality 0-40% (left plot) and 40-100% (right plot).  
 265 The error bars represent the statistical errors, the boxes show the systematic errors. Predictions of  
 266 the DCM-SMM model are shown as a histogram.  
 267



268  
 269 Fig17c. Inverse slope parameter  $T_0$  of the *triton* invariant  $p_T$  spectra measured in dependence on  
 270 rapidity  $y_{lab}$  in  $Ar+Sn$  interactions with centrality 0-40% (left plot) and 40-100% (right plot). The  
 271 error bars represent the statistical errors, the boxes show the systematic errors. Predictions of the  
 272 DCM-SMM model are shown as a histogram.  
 273