## Understanding the Cosmic Ray Background

- Motivation maximize signal ( $\rho^o$  candidates) and minimize cosmic ray background
- Method systematic study of cuts to determine significant dependencies

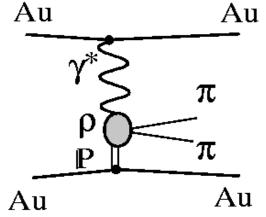
## Algorithm for Eliminating Background

- ullet Apply cuts to maximize cosmic ray background, minimize ho signal
- Estimate cosmic ray spectrum
- ullet Apply cuts to maximize ho signal, minimize cosmic ray background
- Estimate proportion of cosmic rays that escape cuts



## **Production Mechanisms**

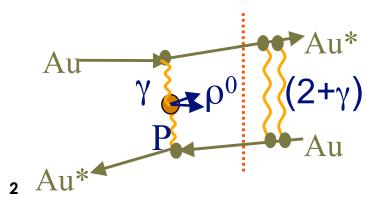




Exclusive ρ° Production - UPC Topology trigger

Courtesy of F. Meissner

$$\text{Au+Au} \rightarrow \text{Au*+Au*+}\rho^{\circ}$$



 $\rho^{\circ}$  Production With Coulomb Excitation - UPC Minbias trigger

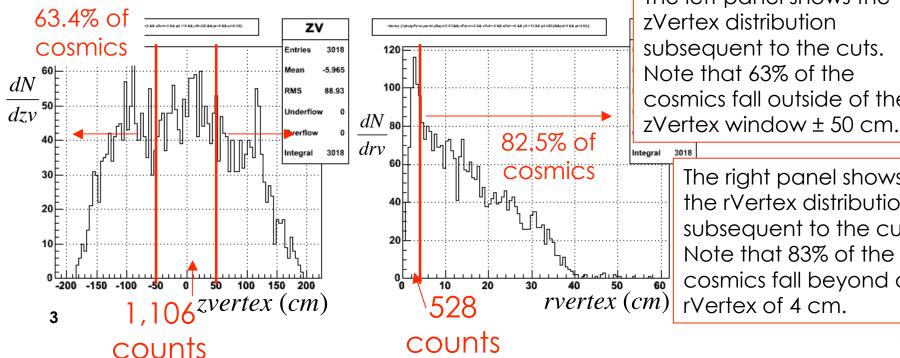


Topology

#### Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, p5 > 10 and p5!=20 (here is where I explain what p5 is), rapidity < 0.01, transverse momentum > 0 GeV & < 0.04 GeV

The main cuts selecting the cosmic candidates are the rapidity and  $p_{\tau}$ cuts. The cosmic rays are reconstructed with a rapidity of 0 and a low transverse momentum.



The left panel shows the cosmics fall outside of the

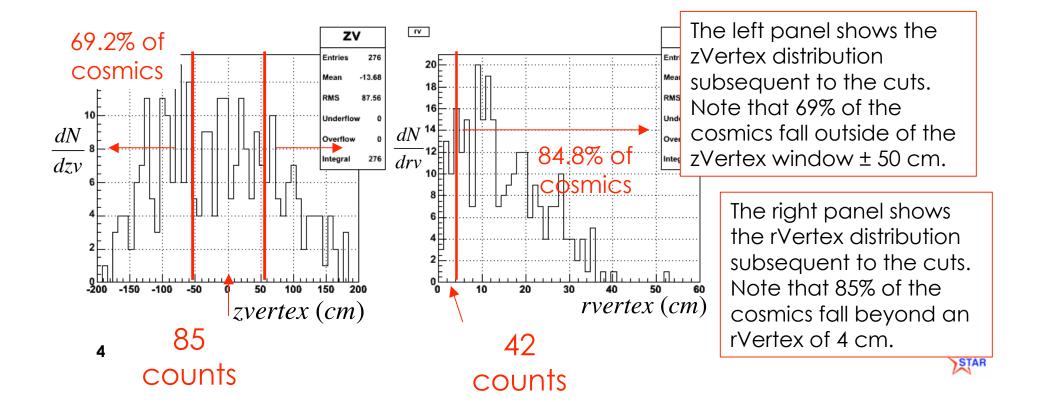
> The right panel shows the rVertex distribution subsequent to the cuts. Note that 83% of the cosmics fall beyond an

> > STAR

Minbias

Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, rapidity < 0.01, transverse momentum > 0 GeV & < 0.04 GeV



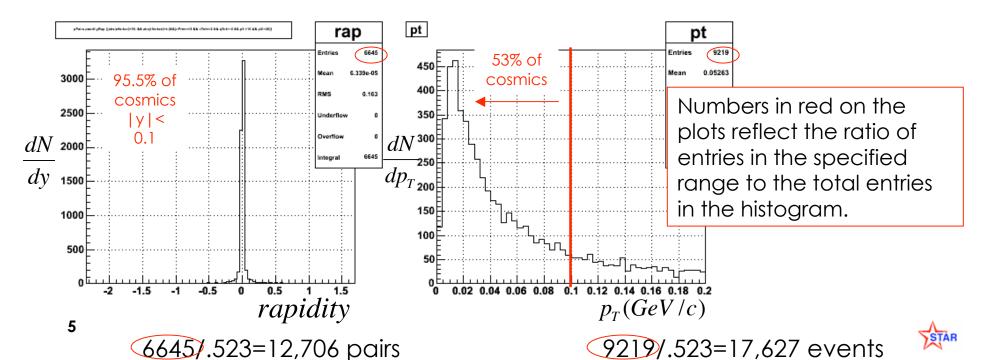
Topology

Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, p5 > 10 and p5!=20, |zVertex| > 50 cm, |rVertex| > 4 cm

Here we assume that cosmic rays will mainly fall outside of a zVertex of 50 cm and an rVertex of 4 cm.

Referring back to our rVertex and zVertex distributions on slide 3, we can see that the vertex cuts select (82.5%)(63.4%)=52.3% of cosmics.



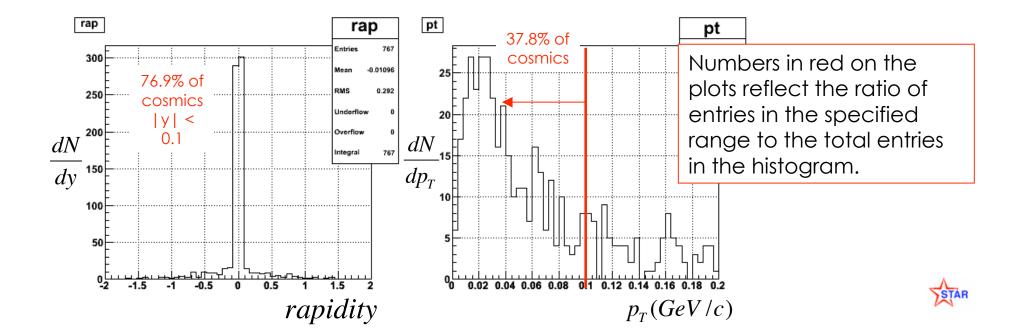
Minbias

Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, |zVertex| > 50 cm, |rVertex| > 4 cm

Here we assume that cosmic rays will mainly fall outside of a zVertex of 50 cm and an rVertex of 4 cm.

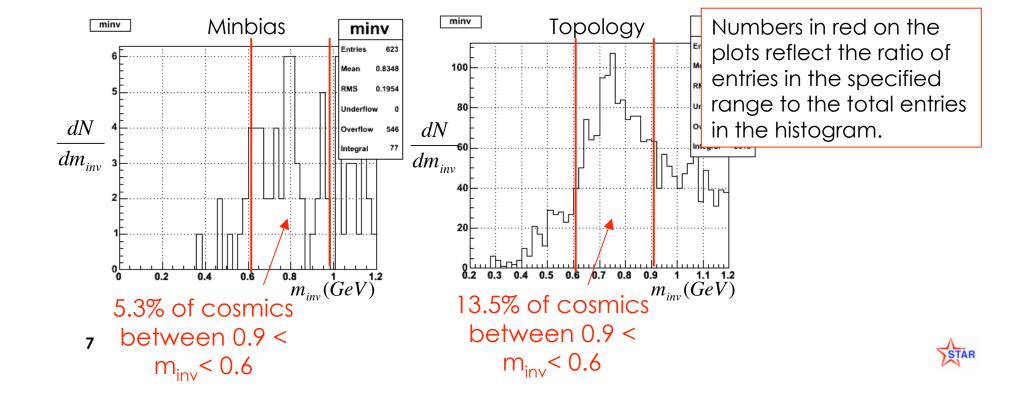
Referring back to our rVertex and zVertex distributions on slide 4, we can see that the cuts vertex cuts select (69.2%)(84.8%) = 58.7% of cosmics.



### Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, |rVertex| > 4 cm, rapidity < 0.01 (topology - p5 > 10 and p5!=20)

Since the mass of the  $\rho$  is ~ 0.770 GeV, the invariant mass cut used in the analysis is from 0.6 GeV to 0.9 GeV. This is the range indicated between the red lines in the histograms.



# Isolating p Candidates

#### Recall:

- •Motivation maximize signal (ρ° candidates) and minimize cosmic ray background
- Method systematic study of cuts to determine significant dependencies

## Algorithm for Eliminating Background

- $\checkmark$  Apply cuts to maximize cosmic ray background, minimize  $\rho$  signal
- ✓ Estimate cosmic ray spectrum
- $\rightarrow$  Apply cuts to maximize  $\rho$  signal, minimize cosmic ray background
- → Estimate proportion of cosmic rays that escape cuts

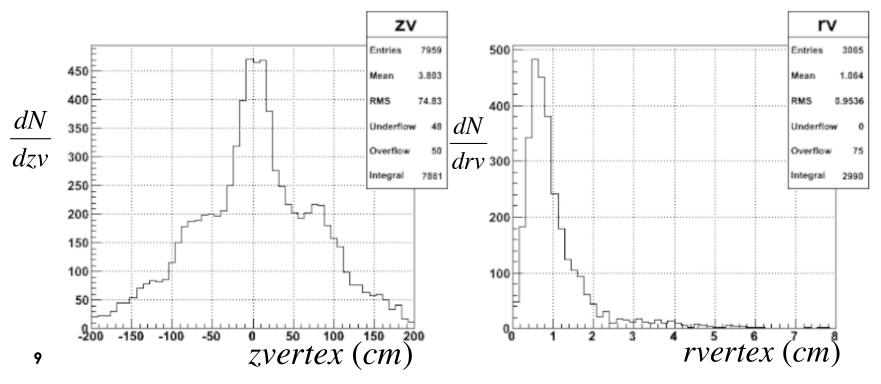


# Isolating p Candidates - vertex distributions

### Topology

### Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, rapidity > 0.1, transverse momentum > 0.1 GeV, p5 > 10 and p5!=20, (in addition for zVertex distribution | rVertex | < 4 cm and for rVertex distribution | zVertex | < 30)



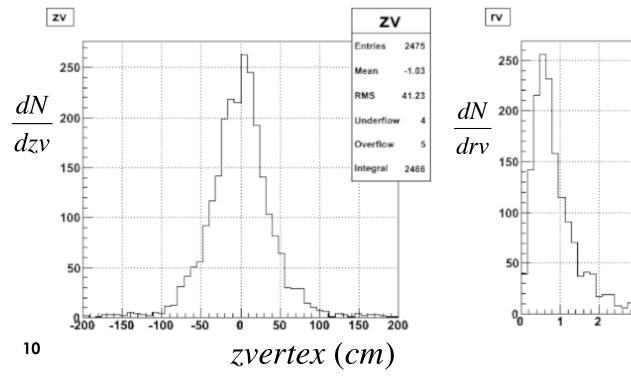


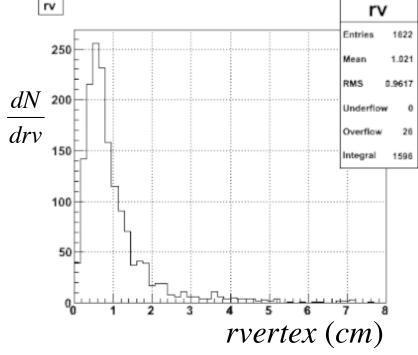
# Isolating $\rho$ Candidates - vertex distributions

### Minbias

Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, rapidity > 0.1, transverse momentum > 0.1 GeV, (in addition for zVertex distribution | rVertex | < 4 cm and for rVertex distribution | zVertex | < 30)



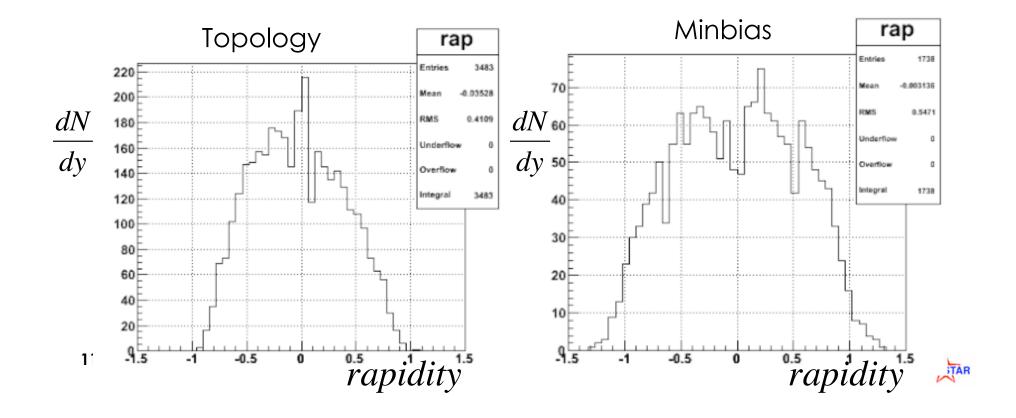




## Isolating $\rho$ Candidates - rapidity distributions

### Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, transverse momentum > 0.0 & < 0.1 GeV, |rVertex| < 4 cm, |zVertex| < 30, (topology - p5 > 10 and p5!=20)

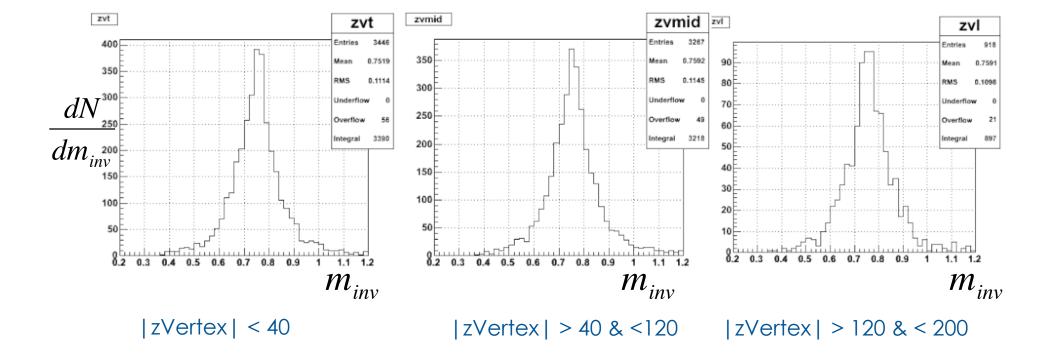


## 

### Topology

#### Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, p5 > 10 and p5 != 20, transverse momentum > 0.0 & < 0.1 GeV, rapidity > 0.025, | rVertex | < 2 cm



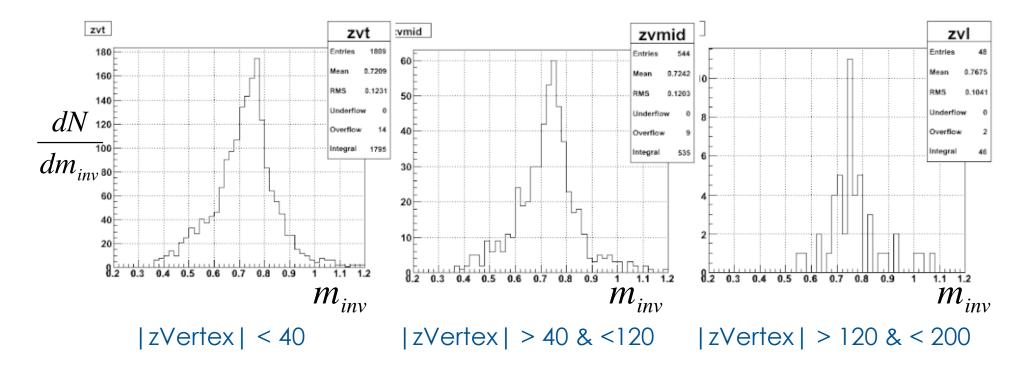


### Isolating $\rho$ Candidates - investigating zVertex dependence

### Minbias

### Cuts applied:

# of primary tracks = 2, total tracks = 2, total charge = 0, transverse momentum > 0.0 & < 0.1 GeV, rapidity > 0.025, | rVertex | < 2 cm





# Topology Summary

Cuts	Cosmics	Reals
Total in Data Set	12,706	9,035
zVertex < 30	22%	34%
y  > 0.1	4.5%	91.4%
rVertex < 8	30%	98%
$p_T < 0.1$	54%	95%
m <sub>inv</sub> in range	13.5%	100%
Candidates in Mass Peak	2.7	2614

