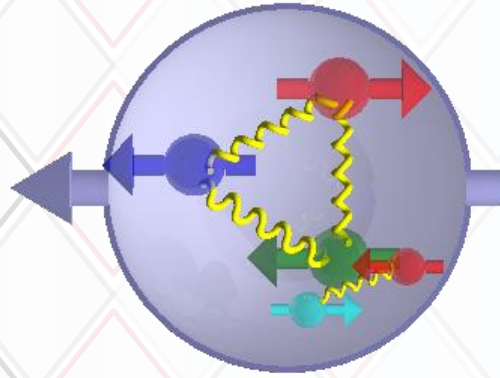




# Spin physics overview

**WWND 2024**  
**February 16**

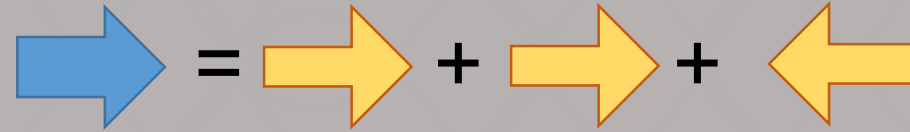
**Ralf Seidl (RIKEN)**



# Helicity PDFs, longitudinal spin

# The Spin sum rule

Naïve Quark Model picture: 3 valence quarks make up the spin of the nucleon:



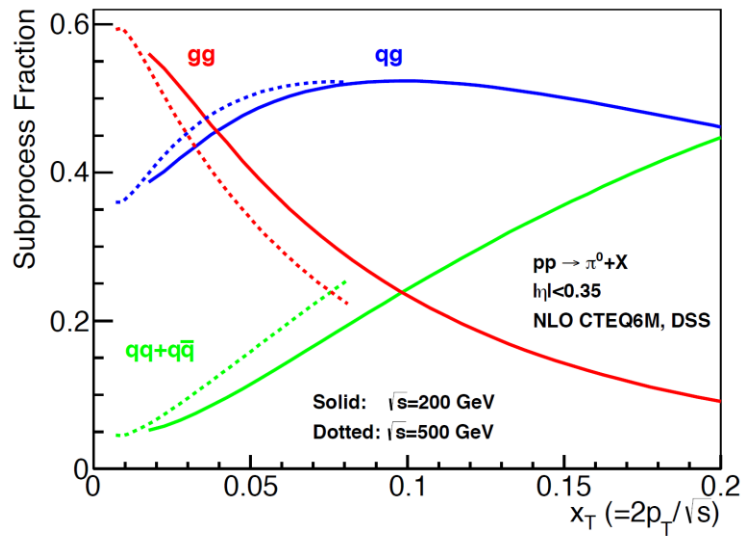
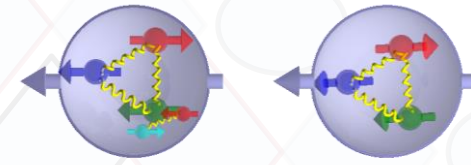
$$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \Delta\Sigma + \Delta G + L \quad \text{Jaffe, Manohar}$$

Quark spin      Gluon spin      Orbital angular momentum

$$\Delta\Sigma = \int dx \left[ (\Delta u(x) + \Delta \bar{u}(x)) + (\Delta d(x) + \Delta \bar{d}(x)) + (\Delta s(x) + \Delta \bar{s}(x)) \right]$$

- **Spin Crisis (1980s): Quark spin contributes only little**
- $\Delta\Sigma$  and  $\Delta G$  can be accessed in longitudinally polarized (SI)DIS and pp collisions (currently for  $x > 0.01$ )
- Where is the rest of the spin? Gluons? Lower momentum fractions? Orbital angular momentum?

# Hard processes at RHIC



- Most processes are dominated by gluon hard interactions at RHIC energies  
**→ Access to Gluon related spin and transverse spin effects!**
- Relative contributions different for different final states (flavor sensitivity)

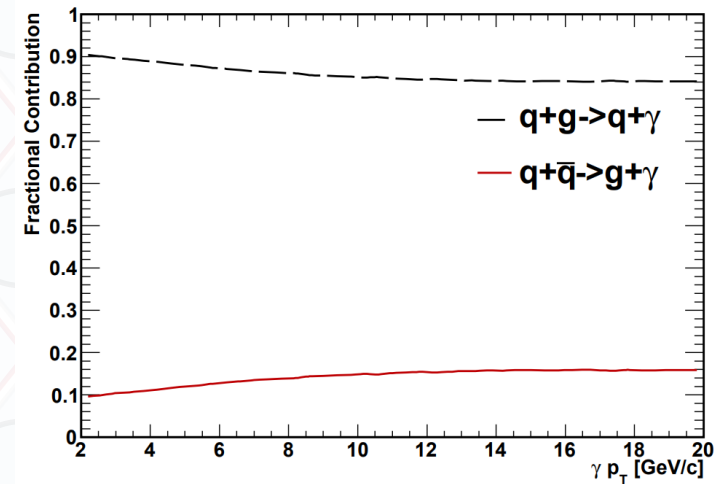
$p+p \rightarrow \text{pion}(s), \text{eta} + X$

$p+p \rightarrow \text{jet}(s) + X$

$p+p \rightarrow \gamma + X$

$p+p \rightarrow B, D, J/\psi + X$

LO Feynman diagram



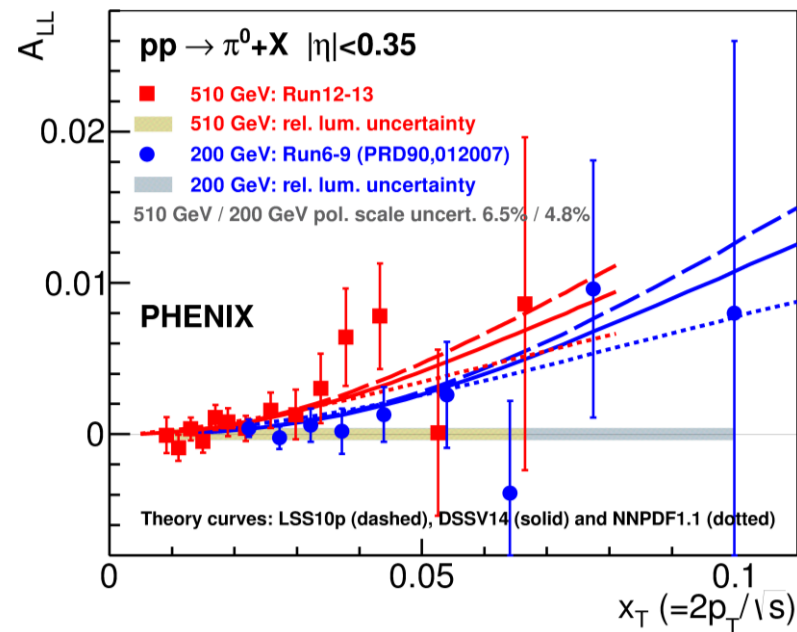
[Underwood`92](#) Direct photons as golden channel for RHIC spin physics



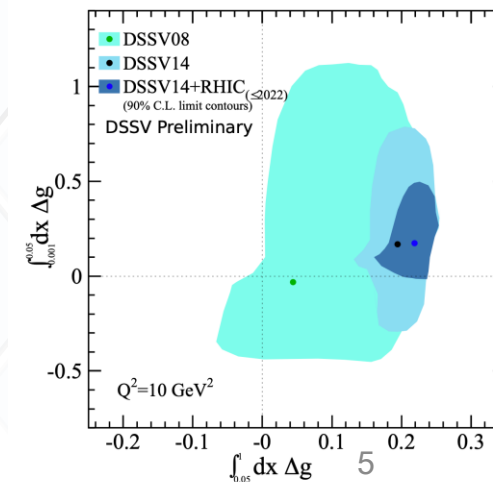
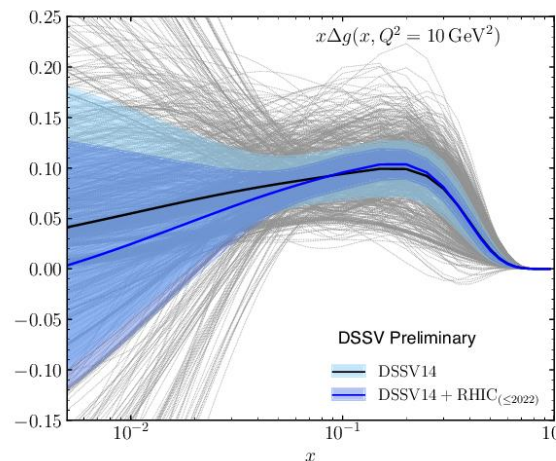
$$\Delta g(x)$$

# Glueon spin: To higher energies and lower x

- Nonzero gluon polarization established with RHIC  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV data
- RHIC 510 GeV data (>2011) confirmed it in workhorse (jet, pion) measurements
- Extend access to lower x by higher energy (now  $\sim 10^{-2}$ )



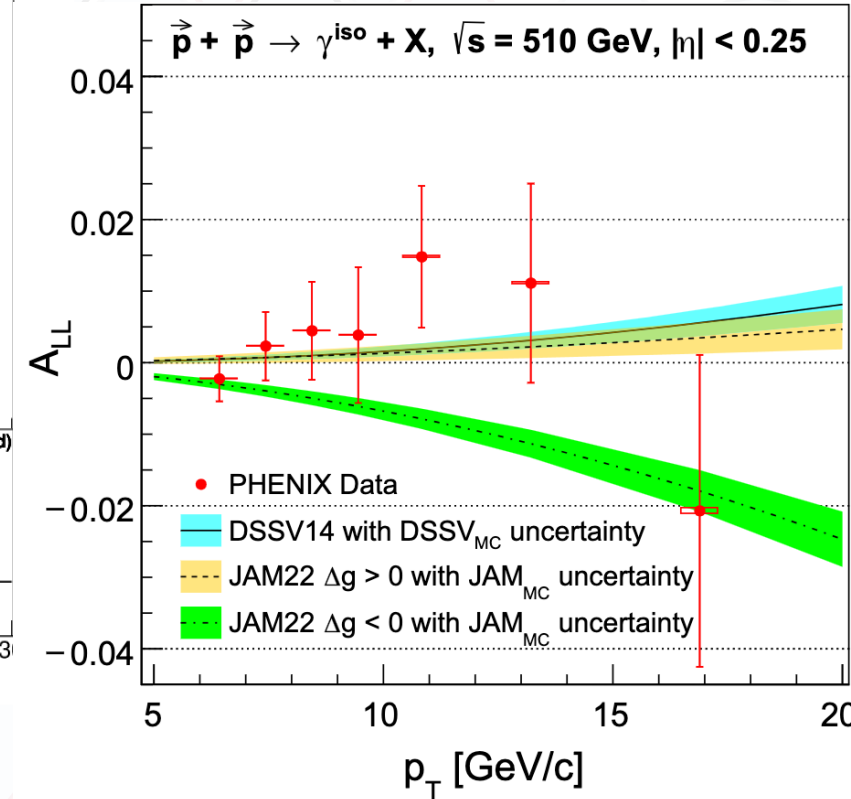
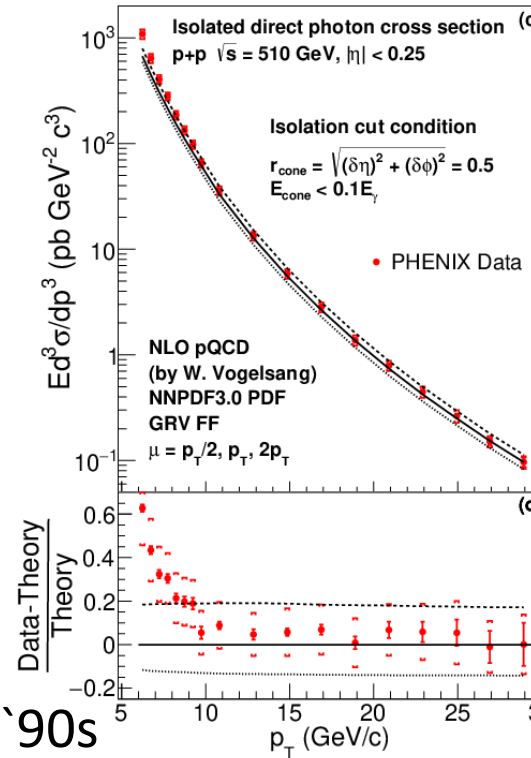
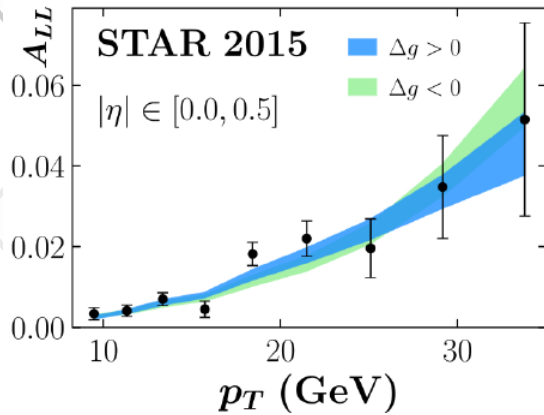
[PRD 93 \(2016\) 011501](#)



# First direct photon xsec and $A_{LL}$ at 510 GeV

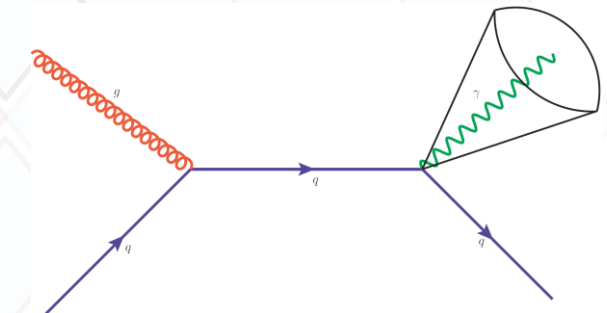
[PRL 130 \(2023\) 251901](#)

JAM: ambiguity\* of gluon spin sign?  
[PRD 105 \(2022\) 074022](#)



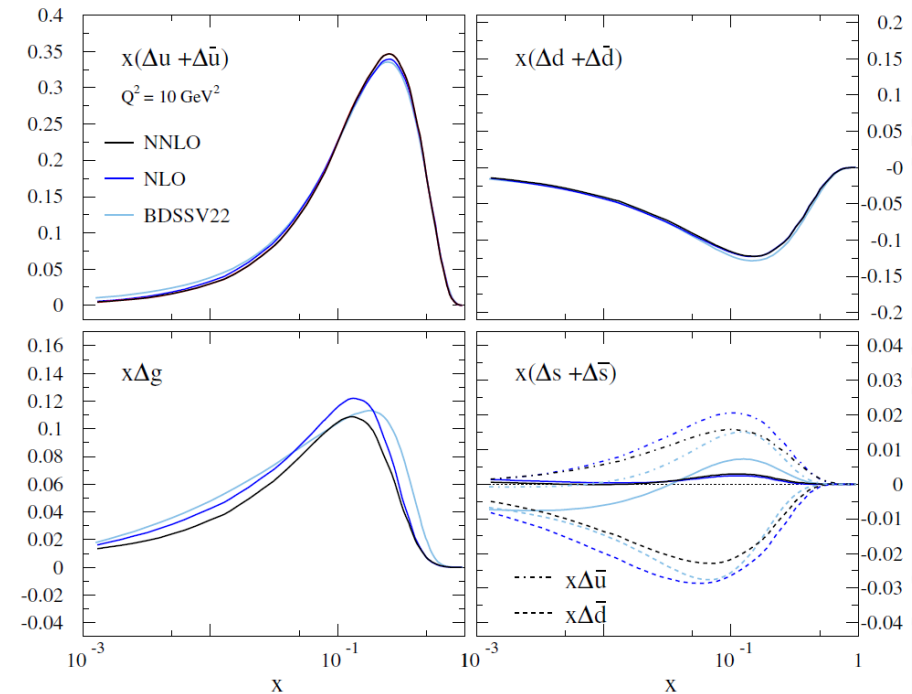
- Part of initial RHIC-Spin suggestions in the '90s
- Theoretically, the Golden channel to access gluon polarization as hard interaction mostly q-g
- Since EM process, statistically limited but consistent with global fit results
- Clear preference for positive gluon polarization in measured range

[DOE Science Highlight](#)



# Status of global Helicity fits

- First preliminary NNLO global fit of all recent DIS/SIDIS and RHIC data by BDSSV group
- Good understanding of helicities down to  $x$  of 0.01 with sizeable gluon spin contribution
- Lower  $x$  reach will be the goal of the EIC





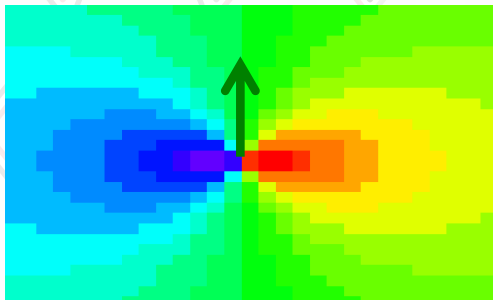
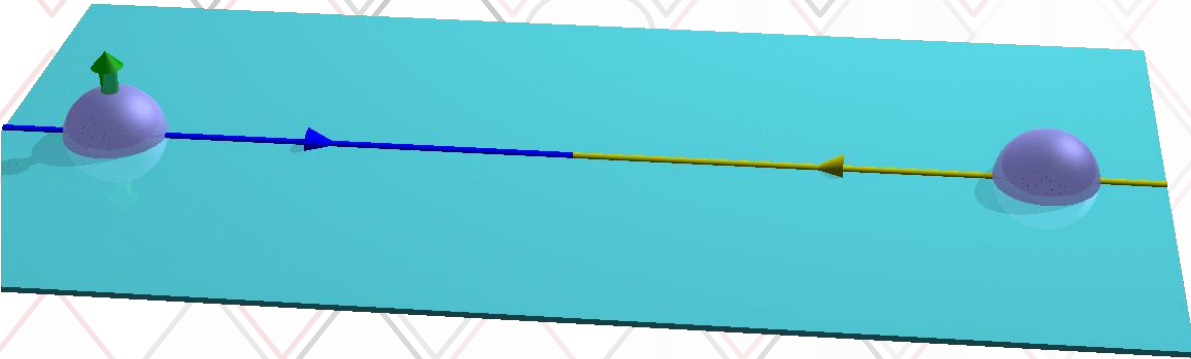
# Transverse Single spin asymmetries (TSSAs)

- Left-Right asymmetries :

$$A_N = \frac{1}{P} \frac{N^L - N^R}{N^L + N^R}$$

- Relative to the polarized proton spin direction **more** particles get produced to the **left** than to the **right** wrt. spin direction
- The cross section is spin (and azimuthal angle) dependent
- Initially expected to be zero in perturbative QCD (helicity-flip of nearly massless quarks) - G. L. Kane, J. Pumplin, and W. Repko *PRL***41**, 1689 (1978):

$$A_N \propto \frac{m_q \alpha_S}{P_T} \approx 0.001$$

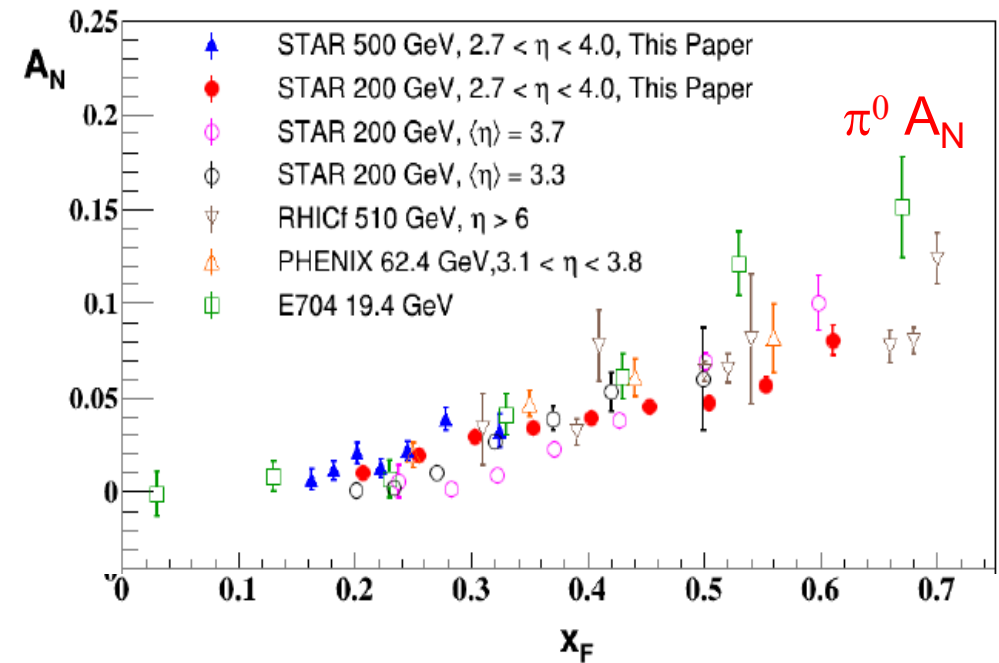




# Transverse single spin asymmetries (TSSA)

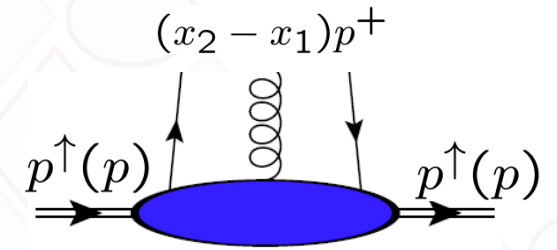
- Large left-right asymmetries  $A_N$  seen in polarized p+p collisions from low energies up to RHIC energies at **forward** rapidities
- Both **initial state** and **final state** effects can contribute in forward pion asymmetries
- Both effects described via higher-twist correlations, but those are related to TMD moments (especially quark, gluon Sivers, Collins FF)

$$A_N = \frac{1}{P} \frac{N^\uparrow - N^\downarrow}{N^\uparrow + N^\downarrow}$$

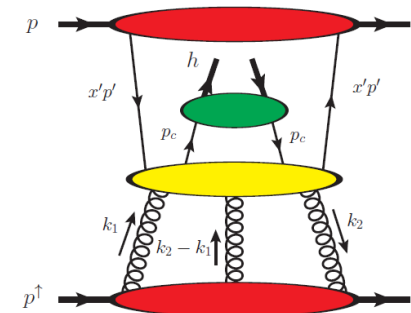


# TSSAs at RHIC → Quark-gluon dynamics!

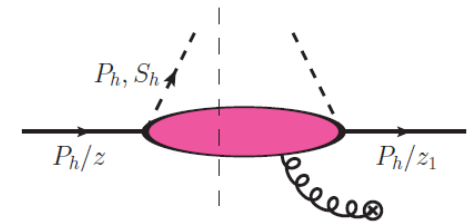
- Sivers and Collins effects rely on an explicitly **transverse momentum dependent** (TMD) framework where two scales are observed: high scale (typically  $Q^2$ ) and intermediate scale (transverse momentum  $P_T \ll Q^2$ )
- In inclusive pp measurements usually only one, hard scale accessible (transverse momentum  $P_T$ )
  - requires **higher Twist**, collinear framework, contributions are multi-parton correlators (both in initial state and final state)
- Both frameworks found to be related via moments over intrinsic transverse momenta



q-g correlation ( $\leftrightarrow$  quark Sivers)



g-g correlation (trigluon  $\leftrightarrow$  gluon Sivers)



q-g FF correlation ( $\leftrightarrow$  Collins)

# Single spin asymmetry contributions in p+p

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_N &\approx \sum_{a,b,c} \overset{\text{pol proton PDF*}}{\phi_{a/A}^{(3)}(x_1, x_2, s)} \otimes \overset{\text{unpol proton PDF*}}{\phi_{b/B}(x')} \otimes \overset{\text{FS particle FF*}}{D_{c \rightarrow C}(z)} \\
 &+ \sum_{a,b,c} \delta q_{a/A}(x, s) \otimes \phi_{b/B}^{(3)}(x'_1, x'_2) \otimes D_{c \rightarrow C}(z) \\
 &+ \sum_{a,b,c} \delta q_{a/A}(x, s) \otimes \phi_{b/B}(x') \otimes D_{c \rightarrow C}^{(3)}(z_1, z_2)
 \end{aligned}$$

a,b/c initial/final parton flavors  
 A,B/C initial/final hadron/particle types

*Efremov, Teryaev Phys.Lett.B 348 (1995) 577*

*Qiu, Sterman Phys.Rev.D 59 (1999) 014004*

*Kanazawa, Koike Phys.Lett.B 478 (2000) 121-126*

*Metz, Pitonyak Phys.Lett.B 723 (2013) 365-370*

• Generally three pieces to p+p single transverse spin asymmetries:

- **Twist three correlation functions** (quarks or gluons) in polarized proton  $\leftrightarrow$  Sivers function
- **Twist three correlation function in unpolarized proton** (with transversity)  $\leftrightarrow$  Boer Mulders function
- **Twist three correlation in fragmentation**  $\leftrightarrow$  Collins function

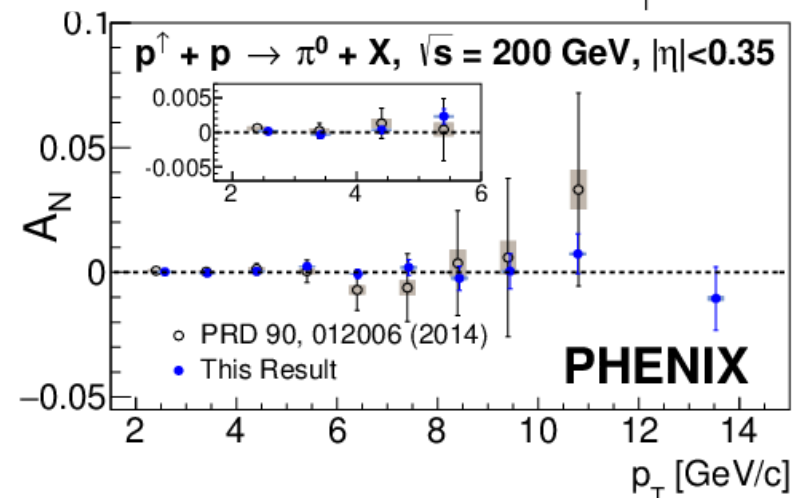
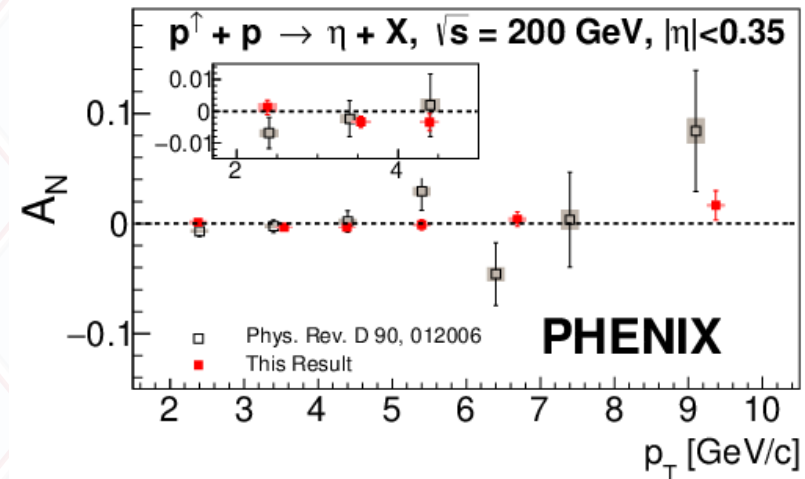
$\rightarrow$  Different final states single out different contributions (via hard processes)



# Updated precision for central $A_N$ s

[PRD 103 \(2021\) 052009](#)

- Substantial updates for  $\pi^0$  and  $\eta$  single spin asymmetries at central rapidity
- Possible effects pushed below the 1% level
- sensitive to quark-gluon and tri-gluon correlation functions in initial and final state effects

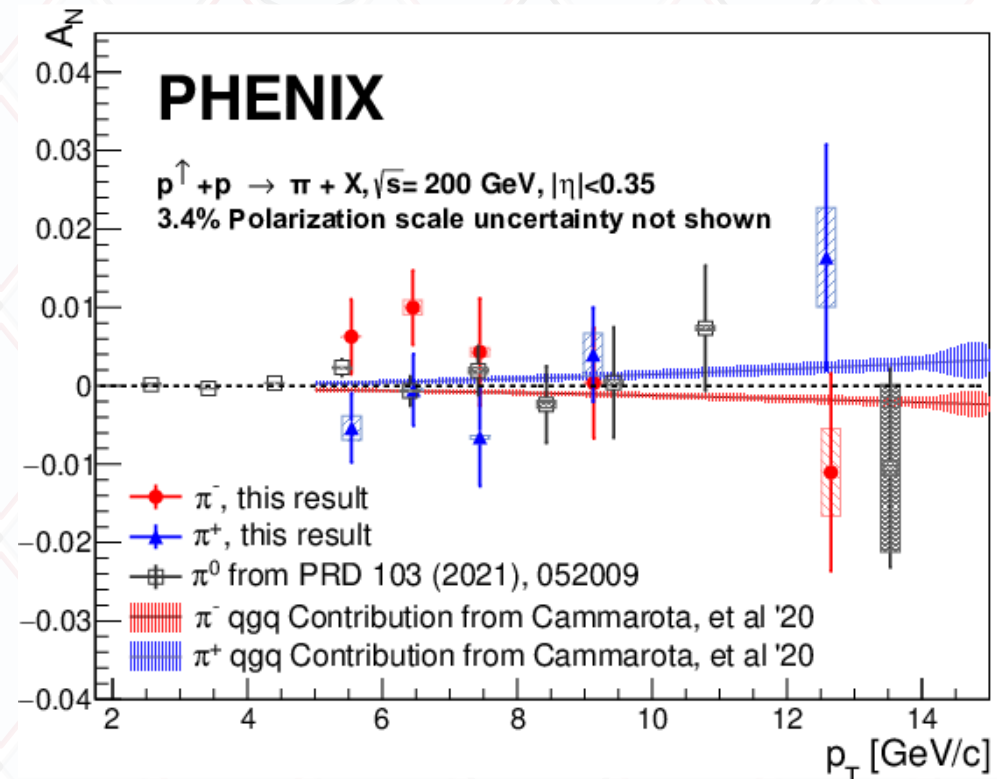




# Charged pion $A_N$ s at mid-rapidity

- Charged pion  $A_N$  consistent with zero and  $\pi^0$  results for each charge
- But indication of differences between charges seen  $\rightarrow$  could be an indication of flavor dependent effect in initial (up vs down quarks) or final state ( $u \rightarrow \pi^+$  vs  $u \rightarrow \pi^-$ )

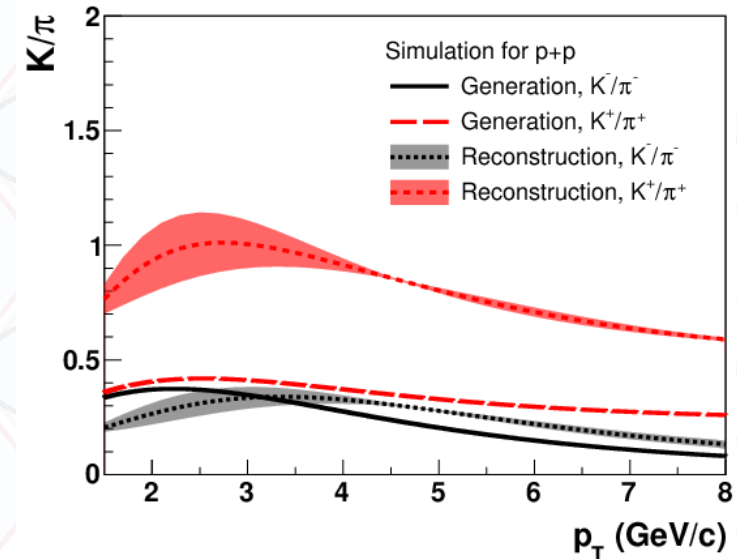
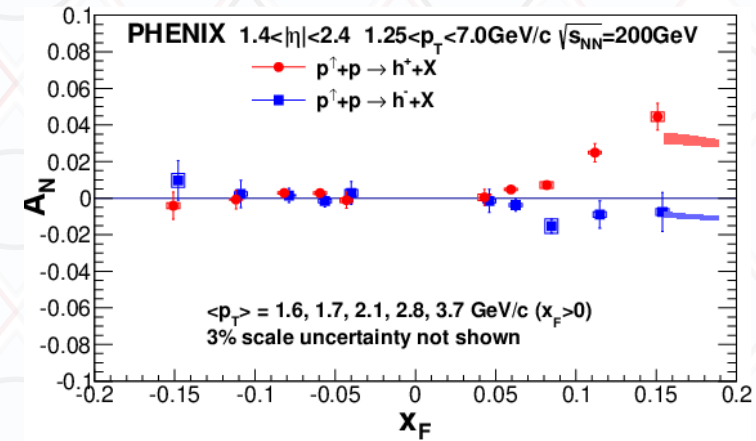
[PRD 105 \(2022\) 032003](#)



# Forward charged hadron $A_n$ s

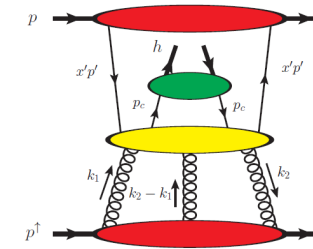
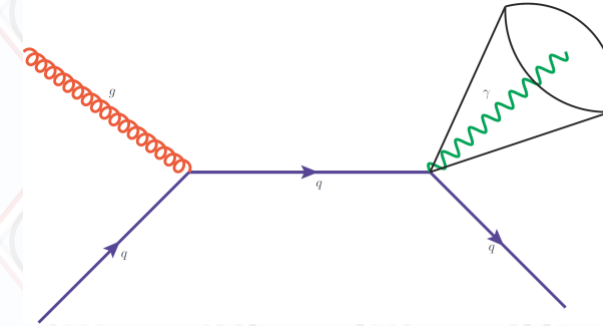
- Also more detailed forward ( $1.4 < \eta < 2.4$ ) charged hadrons
- For proton collisions sizeable positive asymmetries for  $h^+$ , slightly negative for  $h^-$
- $h^-$  results expected due to mix of pions (negative) and kaons (positive)
- Negative kaons are enhanced due to the absorbing material

[PRD 108 \(2023\) 072016](#)



# Direct photon measurements: the golden channel

- As photon interacts only electromagnetically there are **no final state** effects → only **probe initial state effects**
- Hard process contributions strongly favor quark-gluon interaction (very little quark-quark contributions)
- **Excellent probe of the tri-gluon correlator**
- But EM interaction costs you  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_{EM}}}$  → statistically difficult



- Also not all photons produced directly → need to understand and measure Background and its asymmetry

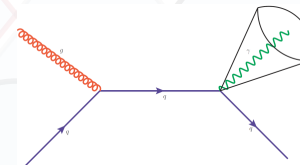
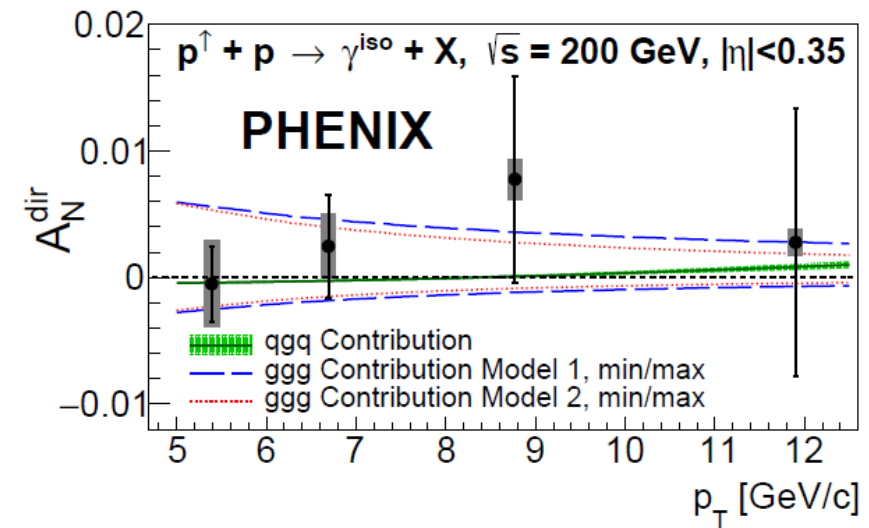
# First direct photon $A_N$ s

- **First direct photon**  $A_N$  extracted at RHIC
- Mostly sensitive to initial state effects (no fragmentation)  $\rightarrow$  quark-gluon and gluon-gluon correlation functions
- Power to constrain gluon-gluon correlation function well, since quark impact expected to be small

RIKEN Press release: [https://www.riken.jp/press/2021/20211015\\_1/index.html](https://www.riken.jp/press/2021/20211015_1/index.html)

BNL Press release: <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=119077>

[PRL 127 \(2021\) 162001](#)

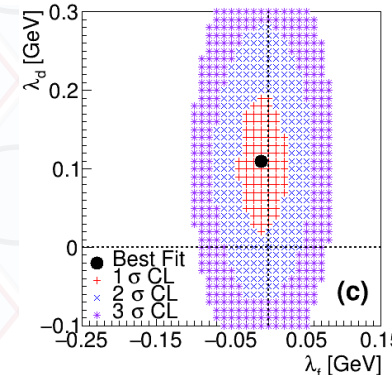
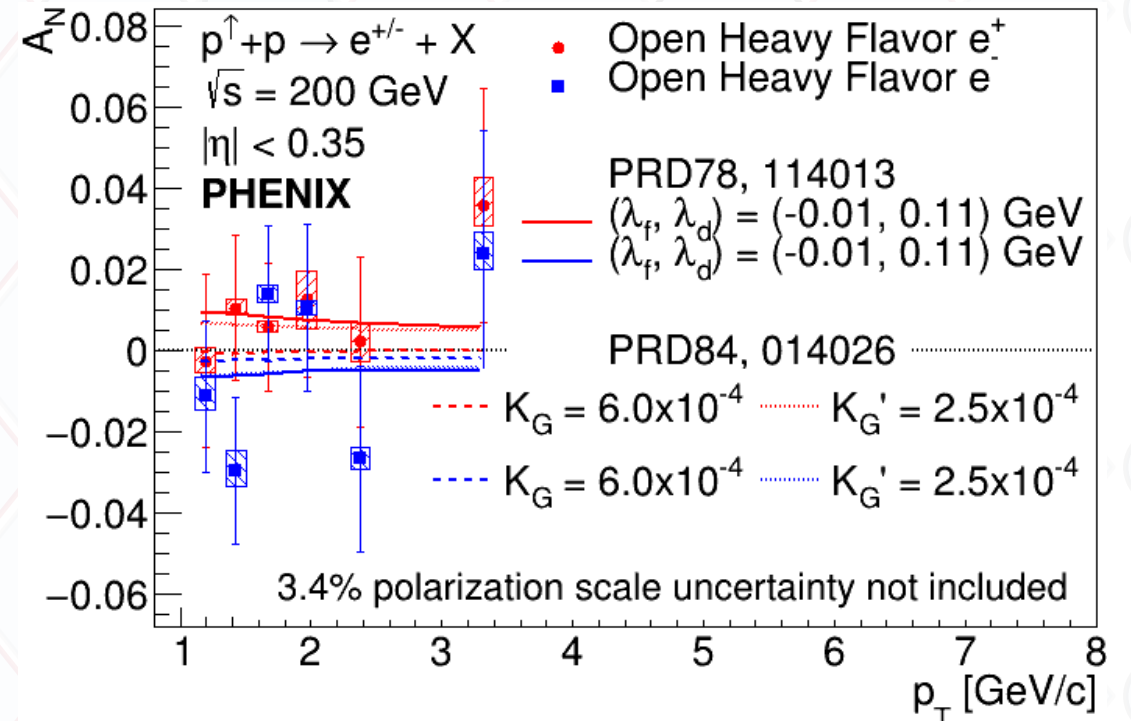




# Heavy Flavor electron $A_N$ s

[PRD 107 \(2023\) 052012.](#)

- Almost only gluon related, no final state effects  $\rightarrow$  tri-gluon correlation
- Potential to constrain parameter ranges in D meson  $A_N$  theory calculations: [PRD78, 114013](#) (Z.B. Kang, J.W. Qiu, W. Vogelsang, F. Yuan)
- Comparison or charges provides further sensitivity



$A_N(p^\uparrow + p \rightarrow \text{HF}(e^{+/-}) + X)$

$\sqrt{s} = 200 \text{ GeV}$

$|\eta| < 0.35$

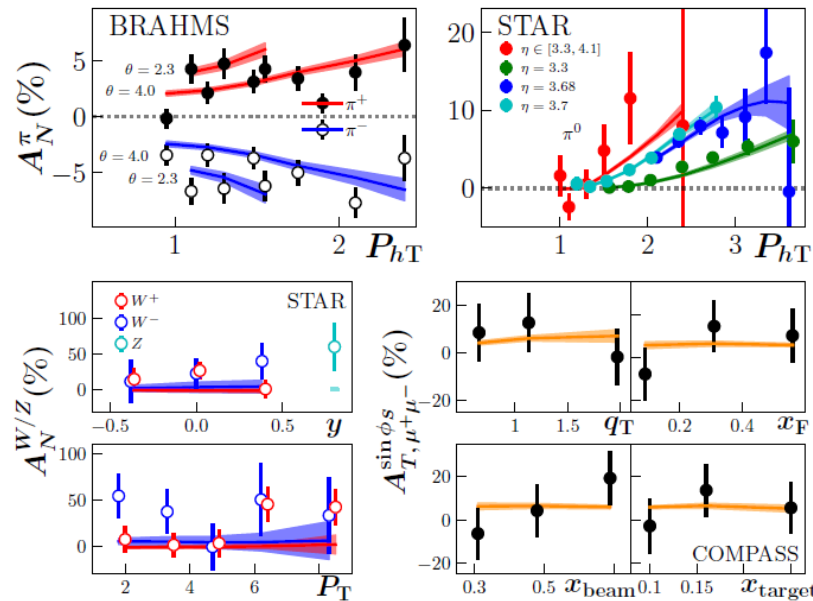
**PHENIX**

Theory: PRD78, 114013

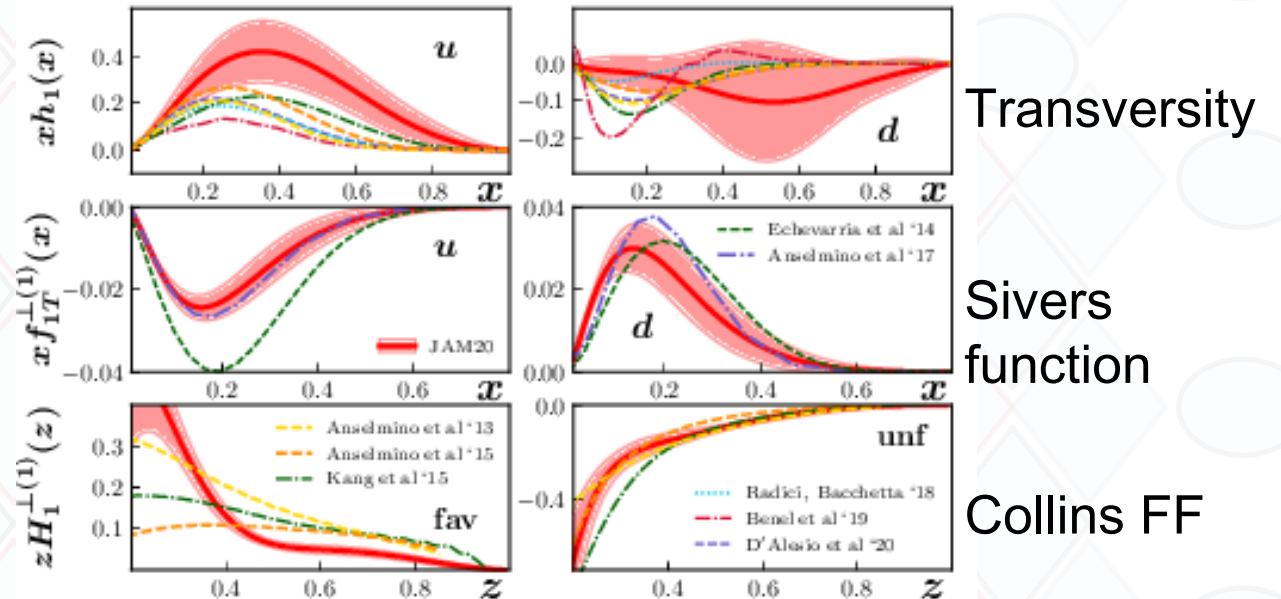
$A_N^{D^0/\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow e^{+/-}}(\lambda_f, \lambda_d)$

# Where to go from here? Global fits on transverse quark-gluon structure

[Camarrota et al, PRD 102 \(2020\) 054002](#)



RHIC, SIDIS, DY included

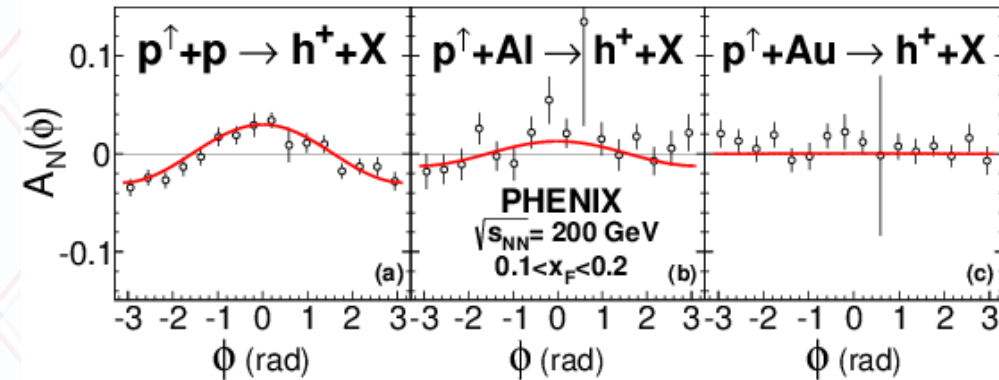


- Recent central rapidity PHENIX results ( $\pi, \eta$ , Heavy flavor electrons, direct photons) **NOT** yet included
- Impact on gluon Siverson function (tri-gluon correlator) expected

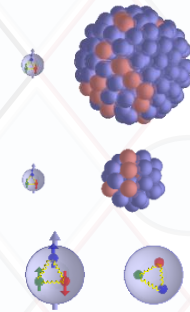
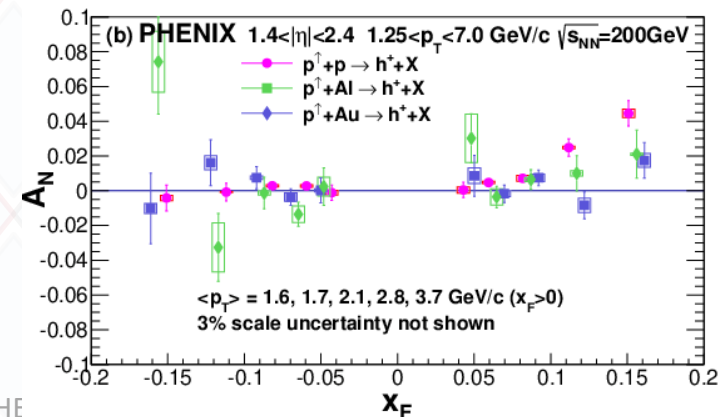
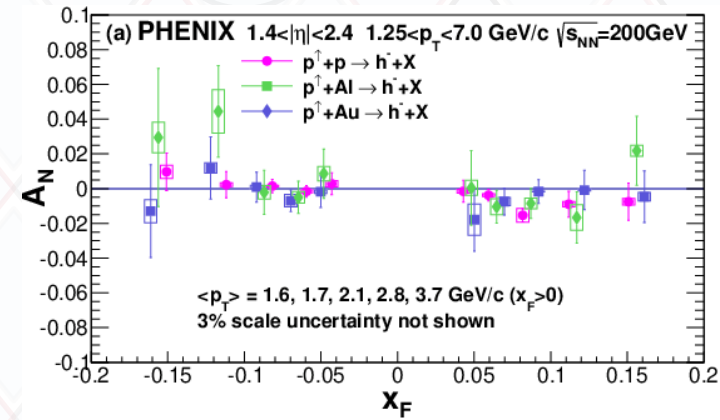
# A dependence of $A_N$ s

- Asymmetries consistent with  $A^{1/3}$  dependence as (initially) predicted by some CGC related nuclear effects (Hatta`17)
- No A dependence is ruled out
- Also consistent with suppression with increasing number of binary collisions
- **However, probed x and scale too large for expected CGC effects!** (S.Benic and Y.Hatta, PRD99, 094012 - Twist-3 fragmentation + gluon saturation)

Phys.Rev.Lett. 123 (2019) 122001



PRD 108 (2023) 072016

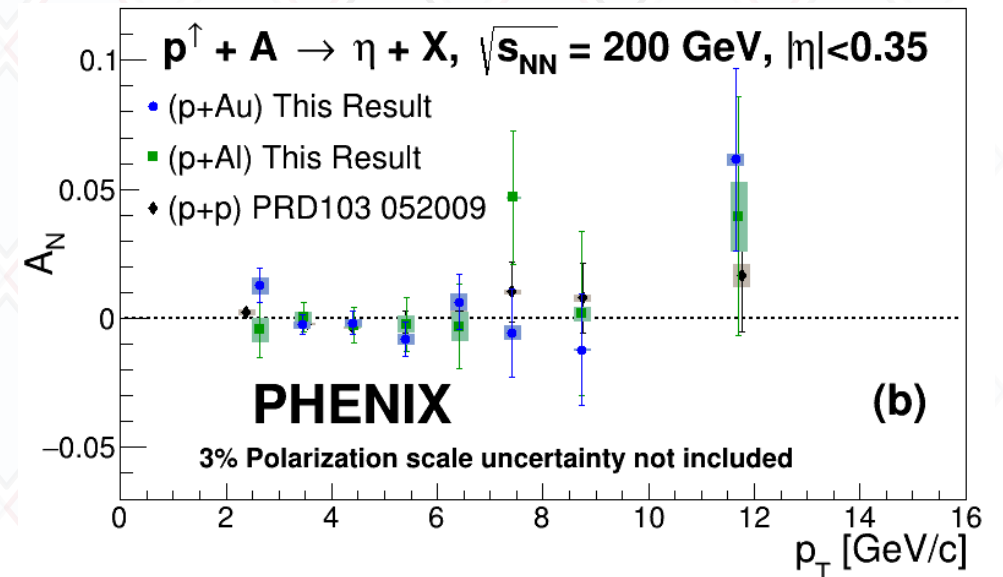
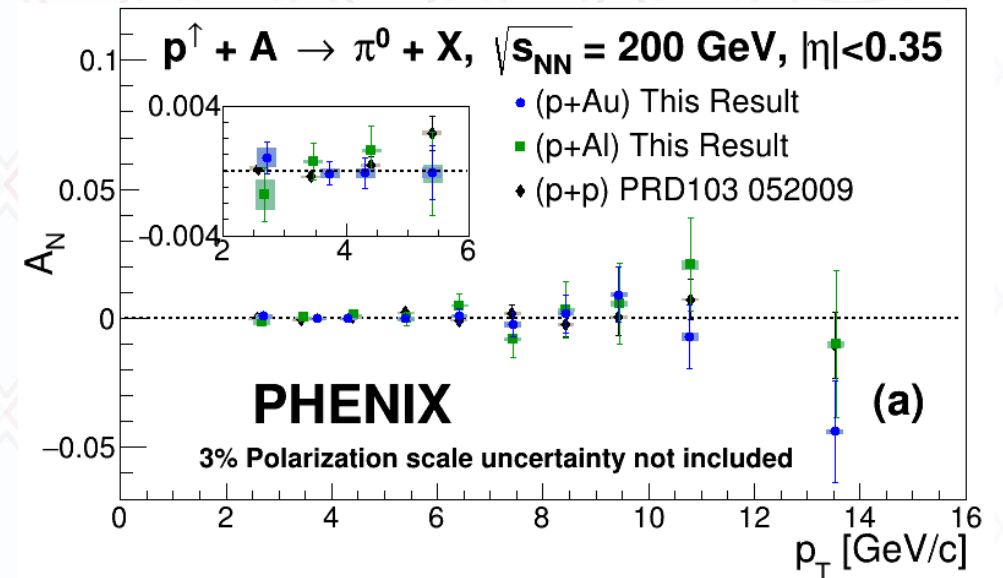




# Also central pA asymmetries

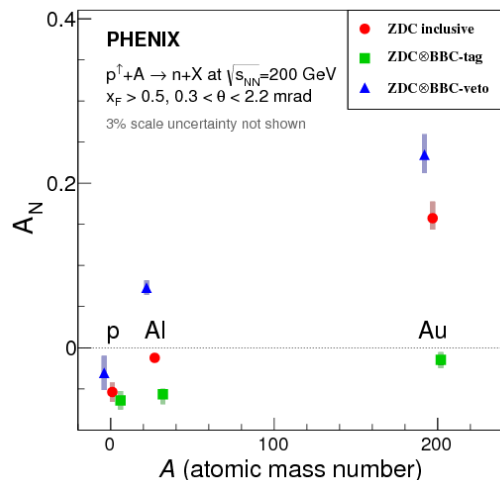
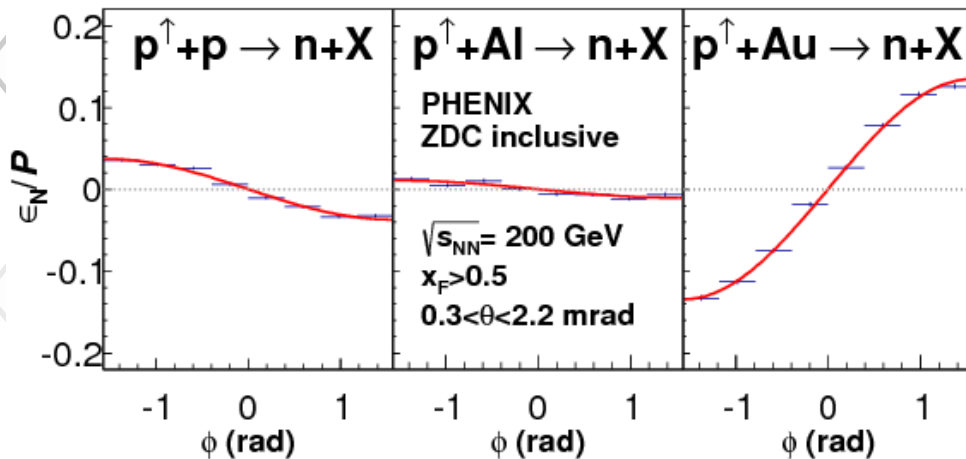
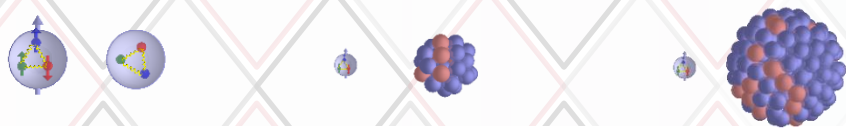
- Recently also neutral pion and eta results obtained from p+Al and p+Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s}$  200 GeV
- A dependence of central rapidities consistent with zero
- Not surprising since p+p asymmetries have previously been found to be zero within less than a percent

*PRD 107 (2023) 112004*

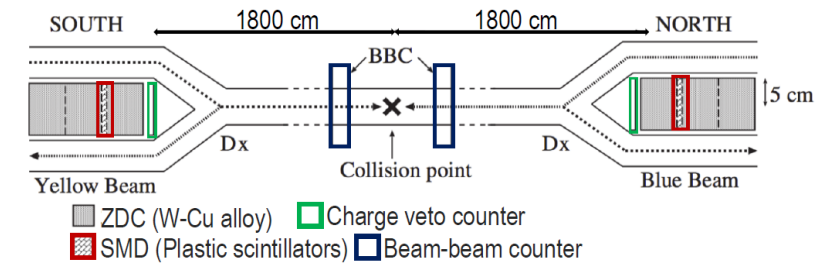




# neutron asymmetries from p+p to p+A



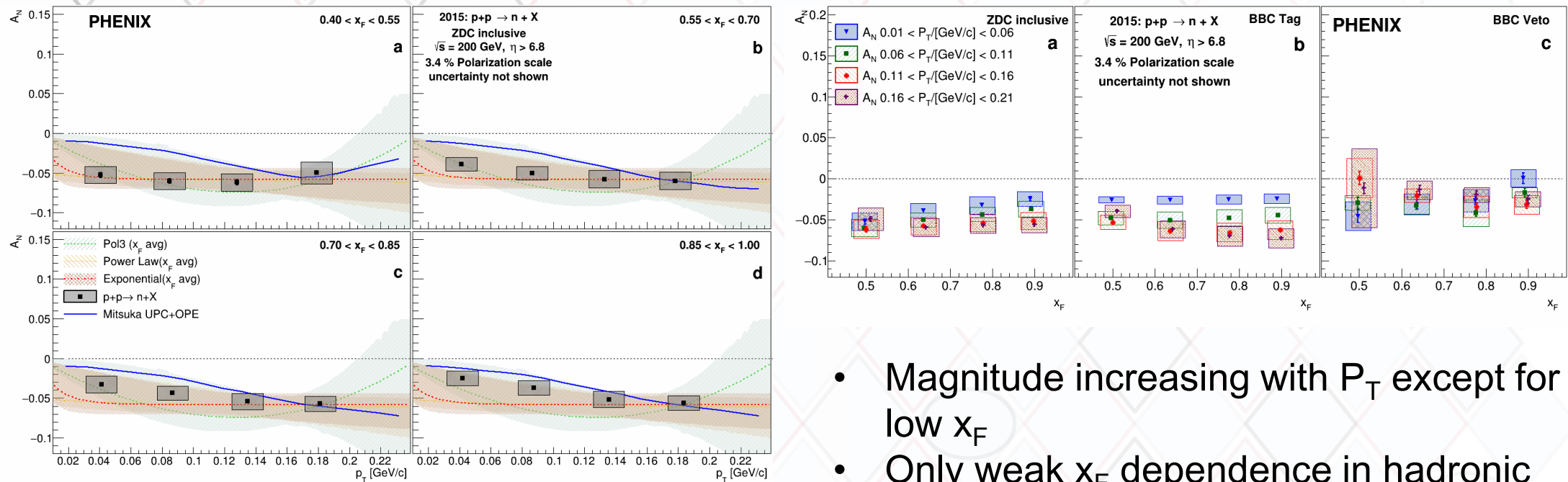
[PRL 120 \(2018\), 022001](#)



- Unexpectedly large A dependence in neutron asymmetries, sign change
  - OPE model does not predict such a change in asymmetries
  - Coincidence with charged particle activity in forward and backward region (BBC) enhances hard interactions → **asymmetries stay negative**
  - Veto enhances UPC contribution → **p+Al asymmetries already positive**
- study also the actual  $x_F$  and  $P_T$  dependence for actual interplay

# Inclusive neutron asymmetries in p+p

[PRD 105 \(2022\) 032004](#)

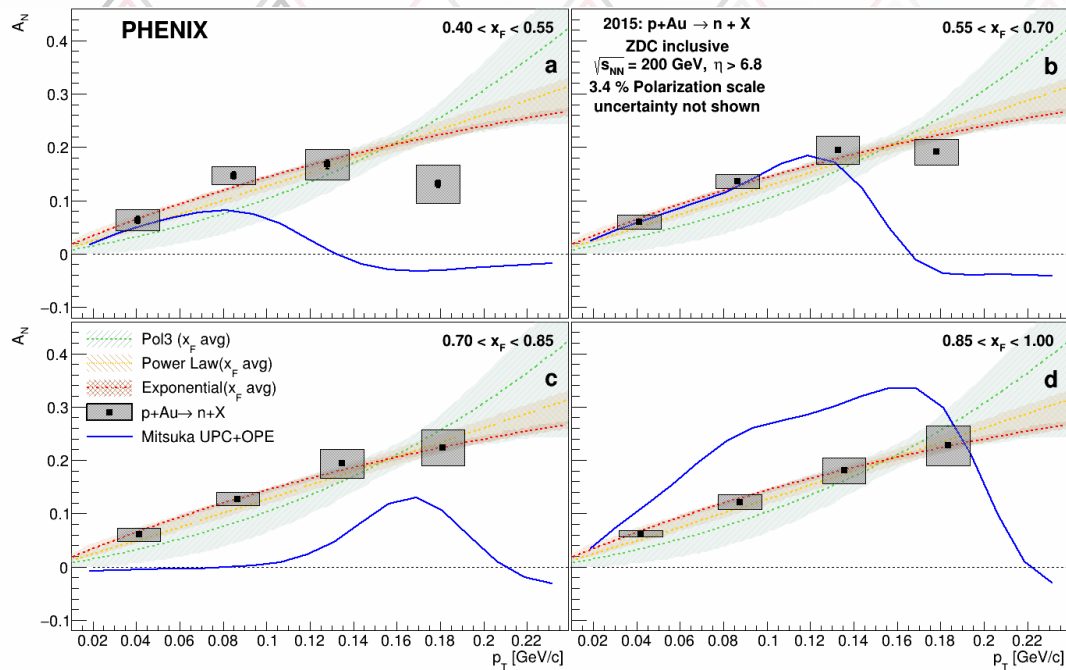


Dashed areas: best parameterizations of  $x_F$  integrated asymmetries using Pol3, Power law or Exponential

- Magnitude increasing with  $P_T$  except for low  $x_F$
- Only weak  $x_F$  dependence in hadronic events, slightly larger in BBC vetoed events
- Comparable to (OPE dominated) model curves

# Very forward neutron asymmetries in p+Au

[PRD 105 \(2022\) 032004](#)



- Large, increasing asymmetries seen with likely a hint of decrease at high  $P_T$  for lower  $x_F$
- Roughly similar behavior in model seen but details shifted – possibly due to inclusion of single pion resonances only

Model calculations:

[Mitsuka PRC95 \(2017\) 044908](#) +

[Kopeliovich et al: PRD 84 \(2011\) 114012](#) (OPE)



# Summary

- Longitudinal spin measurements from PHENIX for various final states
- “Golden Channel” direct photon  $A_{LL}$  to clearly provide sign of gluon spin contribution
- Improved measurements for transverse spin asymmetries in p+p collisions will provide more information about quark-gluon and tri-gluon correlations
- nontrivial A dependence in inclusive hadron asymmetries
- Far forward neutron asymmetries with A dependence through UPC contribution, now also  $x_F$  and  $p_T$  dependence
- Also, new sPHENIX results expected from 2024 run



