



# Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering with CLAS12 at Jefferson Laboratory

Adam HOBART on behalf of CLAS Collaboration

Ադամ Աստծո սերը

[Joint 20th International Workshop on Hadron Structure and Spectroscopy and 5th workshop on Correlations in Partonic and Hadronic Interactions](#)

Yerevan, Armenia





# GPDs

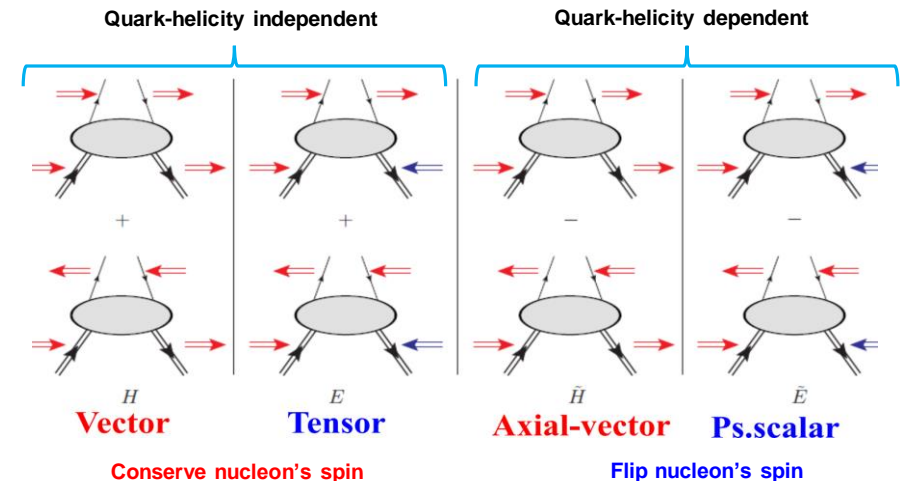
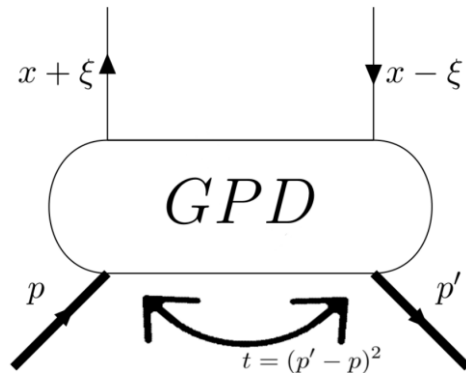
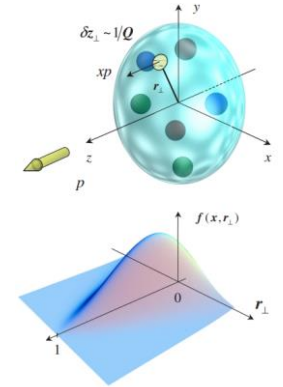
Belitsky, Radyushkin, Physics Reports, 2005

- QCD at low energies: non perturbative regime
  - Need **structure functions** to describe nucleon structure

## GPDs

Correlation of transverse position and longitudinal momentum of partons in the nucleon & the spin structure - through Ji's sum rule X. Ji, Phy.Rev.Lett.78,610(1997)

- GPDs can be accessed through **exclusive leptonproduction reactions**
- At leading order QCD, chiral-even (quark helicity is conserved), quark sector: 4 **GPDs** for each quark flavor  $H, \tilde{H}, E$  and  $\tilde{E}$
- GPDs depend on  $x, \xi$  and  $t = (p' - p)^2$





# Why are GPDs important?

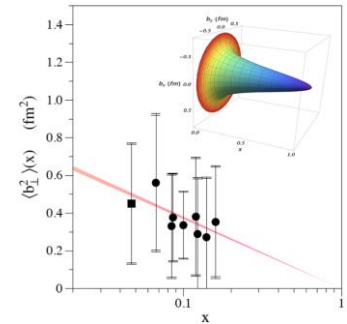
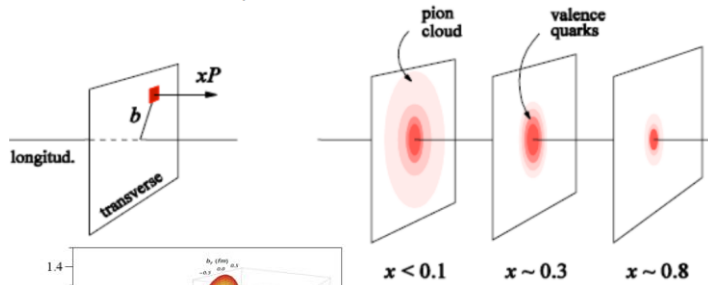
- GPDs: Fourier transforms of non-local, non-diagonal QCD operators

## Nucleon tomography

M. Burkardt, PRD 62, 71503 (2000)

$$q(x, b_{\perp}) = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{d^2 \Delta_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{i\Delta_{\perp} b_{\perp}} H(x, 0, -\Delta_{\perp}^2)$$

$$\Delta q(x, b_{\perp}) = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{d^2 \Delta_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{i\Delta_{\perp} b_{\perp}} \tilde{H}(x, 0, -\Delta_{\perp}^2)$$



R. Dupré, M. Guidal, M. Vanderhaeghen, PRD95, 011501 (2017)

## Quark angular momentum

X. Ji, Phys.Rev.Lett.78,610(1997)

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 x dx (H(x, \xi, t=0) + E(x, \xi, t=0)) = J = \frac{1}{2} \Delta\Sigma + \Delta L$$

Nucleon spin:  $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \Delta\Sigma + \Delta L + \Delta G$

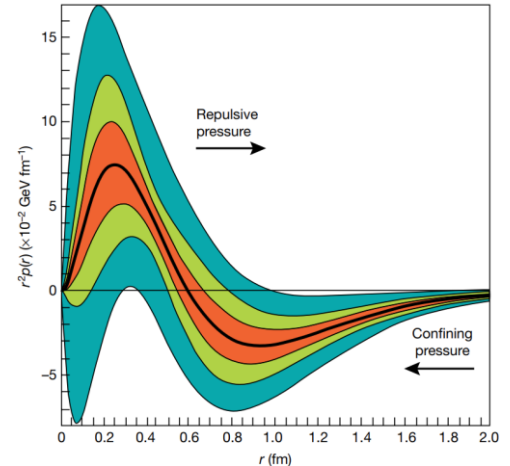
- The intrinsic spin of the quarks can not explain the origin of the spin of the nucleon (**nucleon Spin Crisis**)
- Intrinsic spin of the gluons
- GPDs: quantify the contribution of orbital angular momentum of quarks to the nucleon spin

## The pressure distribution inside proton

V. Burkert, L. Elouadrhiri, F.X. Girod, Nature 557, 396-399 (2018)

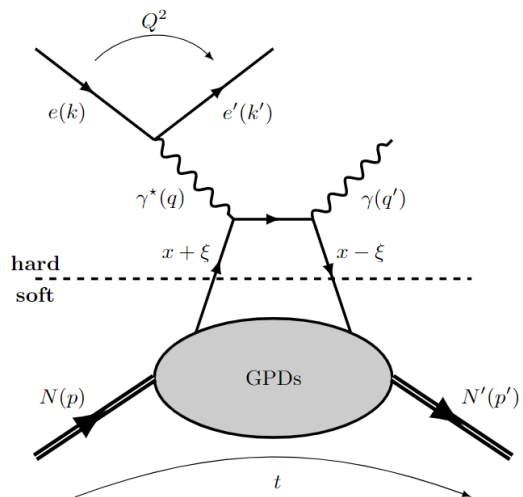
- Gravitational form factor

- $\int x H(x, \xi, t) dx = M_2(t) + \frac{4}{5} \xi^2 d_1(t)$
- $d_1(t) \propto \int \frac{j_0(r\sqrt{-t})}{2t} \rho(r) d^3r$





# Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering of leptons off nucleons



- DVCS allows access to 4 complex GPDs-related quantities:
  - Compton Form Factors  $(x, \xi, t)$  (CFFs)

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_q e_q^2 \left\{ i \pi [H^q(\xi, \xi, t) - H^q(-\xi, \xi, t)] + \mathcal{P} \int_{-1}^1 dx H^q(x, \xi, t) \left[ \frac{1}{\xi - x} - \frac{1}{\xi + x} \right] \right\}$$

- $x$  can not be accessed experimentally by DVCS: Models needed to map the  $x$  dependence

$$\sigma(eN \rightarrow eN\gamma) = \left[ \text{DVCS} + \text{Bethe-Heitler (BH)} \right]^2$$

BH is purely electromagnetic and parametrised by FFs

- Experimentally measured observables:
  - Sensitive to the **DVCS-BH interference part (linear in CFFs)**
    - Should have:** Beam polarized and/or target polarized
  - Access to a **combinations of CFFs**
    - The **separation of CFFs** requires the measurement of several observables
  - Depending on the target (**proton or neutron**): different **sensitivity to the CFFs (GPDs)**
    - The **flavor separation of GPDs** requires measurements on both nucleons

$$(H, E)_u(\xi, \xi, t) = \frac{9}{15} [4(H, E)_p(\xi, \xi, t) - (H, E)_n(\xi, \xi, t)]$$

$$(H, E)_d(\xi, \xi, t) = \frac{9}{15} [4(H, E)_n(\xi, \xi, t) - (H, E)_p(\xi, \xi, t)]$$



Belitsky, Müller, Kirner, Nuc. Phys. B 629 (2002)

Polarized beam, unpolarized target

$$\Delta\sigma_{LU} \sim \sin(\phi) \Im\{F_1 \mathbf{H} + \xi(F_1 + F_2) \tilde{\mathbf{H}} - k F_2 \mathbf{E} + \dots\}$$

Unpolarized beam, polarized target

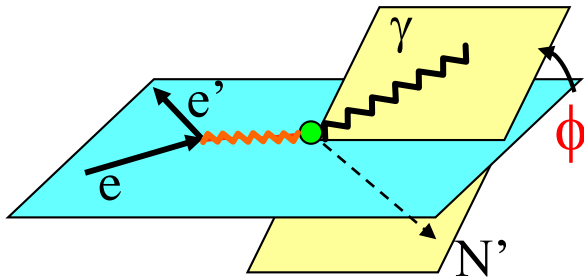
$$\Delta\sigma_{UL} \sim \sin(\phi) \Im\left\{F_1 \tilde{\mathbf{H}} + \xi(F_1 + F_2) \left(\mathbf{H} + \frac{x_b}{2} \mathbf{E}\right) - \xi k F_2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}}\right\}$$

polarized beam, longitudinal polarized target

$$\Delta\sigma_{LL} \sim (A + B \cos(\phi)) \Re\{F_1 \tilde{\mathbf{H}} + \xi(F_1 + F_2) \left(\mathbf{H} + \frac{x_b}{2} \mathbf{E}\right) + \dots\}$$

unpolarized beam, transverse polarized target

$$\Delta\sigma_{UT} \sim \cos(\phi) \sin(\phi_s - \phi) \Im\{k(F_2 \mathbf{H} - F_1 \mathbf{E}) + \dots\}$$



Different contributions from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  for the different nucleons

| Observable          | Proton   | Neutron                        |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| $\Delta\sigma_{LU}$ | $\Im\{\mathbf{H}_p, \tilde{\mathbf{H}}_p, E_p\}$ | $\Im\{H_n, \tilde{H}_n, E_n\}$ |
| $\Delta\sigma_{UL}$ | $\Im\{\mathbf{H}_p, \tilde{\mathbf{H}}_p\}$      | $\Im\{\mathbf{H}_n, E_n\}$     |
| $\Delta\sigma_{LL}$ | $\Re\{\mathbf{H}_p, \tilde{\mathbf{H}}_p\}$      | $\Re\{\mathbf{H}_n, E_n\}$     |
| $\Delta\sigma_{UT}$ | $\Im\{\mathbf{H}_p, E_p\}$                       | $\Im\{H_n\}$                   |

e.g. (in experiment) 
$$\Delta\sigma_{LU} = \frac{1}{Pol.} \times \frac{N^+ - N^-}{N^+ + N^-}$$



# Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering: physics observables and their link to CFFs

Different contributions from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  for the different nucleons

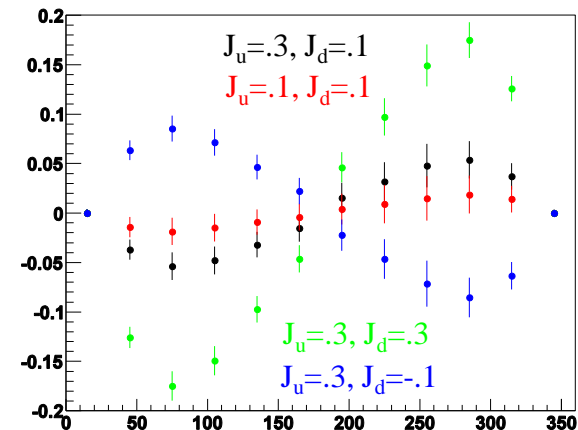
- **DVCS with an unpolarized deuterium target :**
- Scattering off neutron (nDVCS): GPD **E**
  - Determination of Ji sum rule
    - Contribution of orbital angular momentum of quarks to the nucleon spin

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 x dx (H(x, \xi, t=0) + E(x, \xi, t=0)) = J = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \Sigma + \Delta L$$

- Scattering off proton (pDVCS): GPD **H**
  - Quantify medium effects
    - Essential for the extraction of BSA of a “free” neutron (deconvoluting medium effect via comparison with DVCS on hydrogen target)
- The BSA for nDVCS:
  - is complementary to the TSA for pDVCS on transverse target, aiming at  $E$
  - depends strongly on the kinematics  $\rightarrow$  wide coverage needed
  - is smaller than for pDVCS  $\rightarrow$  more beam time needed to achieve reasonable statistics

| Observable          | Proton                         | Neutron                        |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $\Delta\sigma_{LU}$ | $\Im\{H_p, \tilde{H}_p, E_p\}$ | $\Im\{H_n, \tilde{H}_n, E_n\}$ |
| $\Delta\sigma_{UL}$ | $\Im\{H_p, \tilde{H}_p\}$      | $\Im\{H_n, E_n\}$              |
| $\Delta\sigma_{LL}$ | $\Re\{H_p, \tilde{H}_p\}$      | $\Re\{H_n, E_n\}$              |
| $\Delta\sigma_{UT}$ | $\Im\{H_p, E_p\}$              | $\Im\{H_n\}$                   |

Model predictions (VGG) for different values of quarks' angular momentum

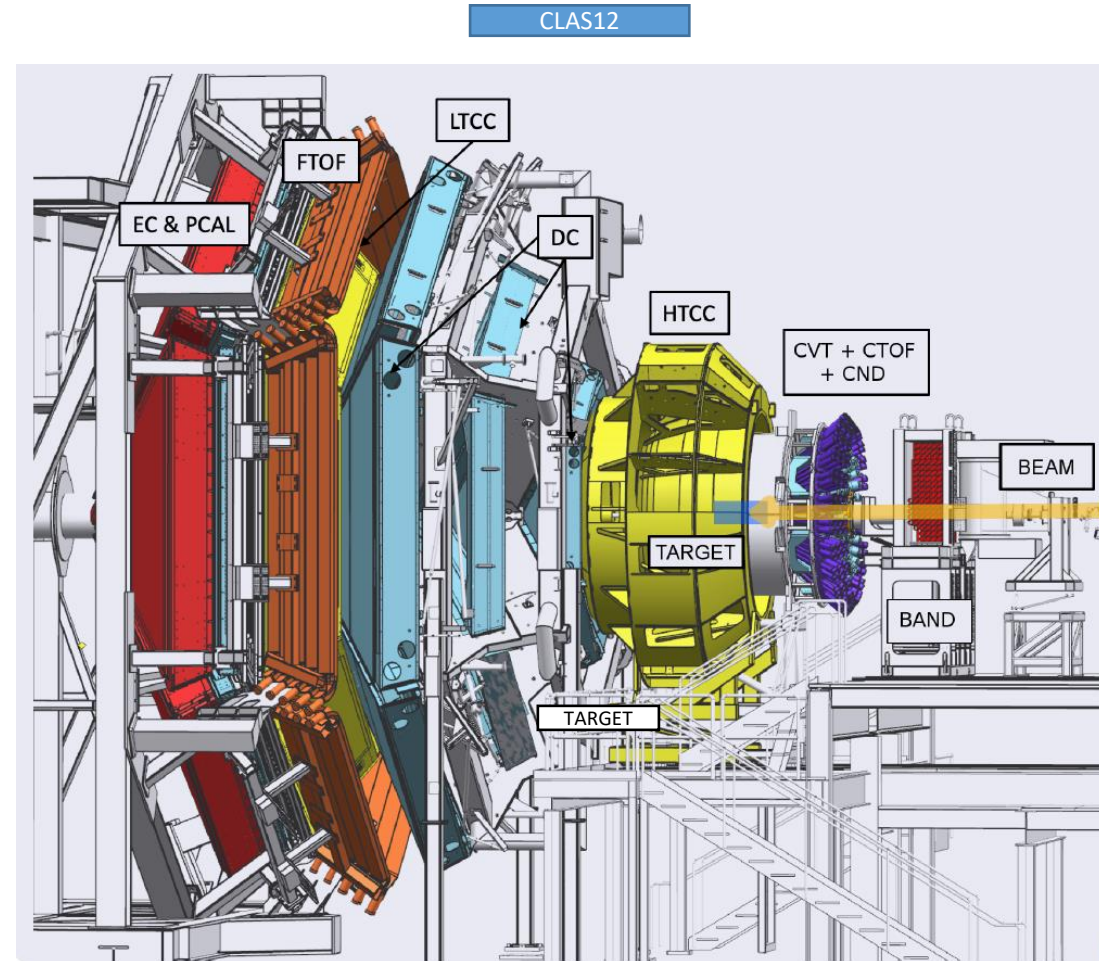
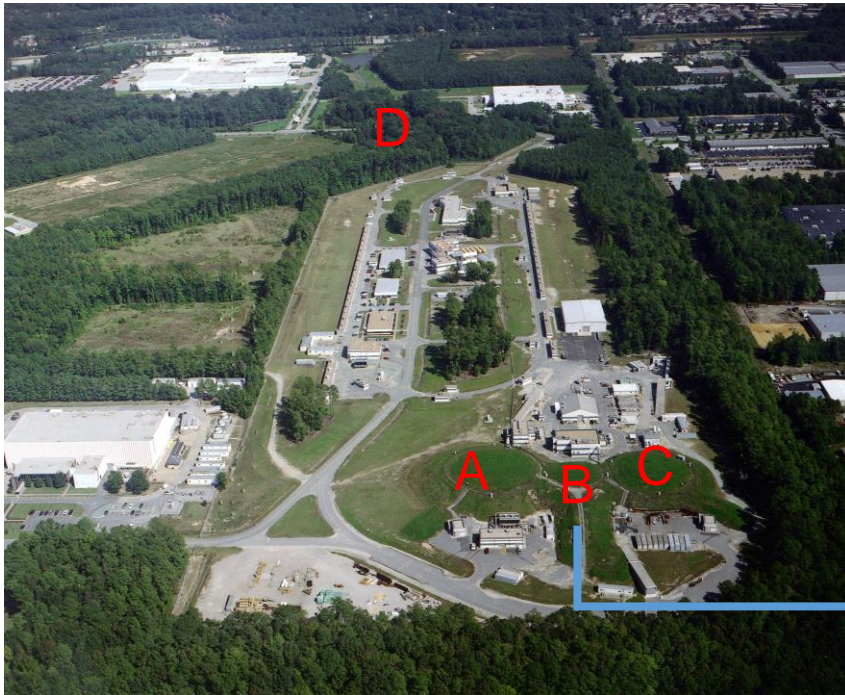




# The CEBAF and CLAS at Jefferson Laboratory

## Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility

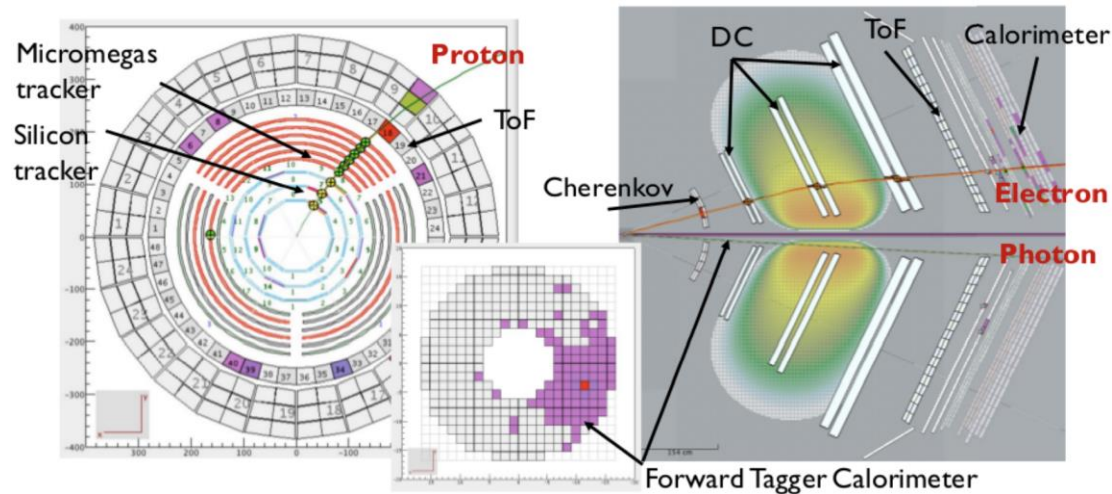
- Up to 12 GeV electrons
- Two anti-parallel linacs, with recirculating arcs on both ends
- 4 experimental halls





# CLAS12: DVCS with an unpolarized deuterium target

- A 10.6/10.4/10.2 GeV electron beam
  - With an average polarization of 86%
  - Scattering off an unpolarized Liquid Deuterium target of 5 cm length
- The exclusivity of the event is insured by:
  - **Electron detection**: Cerenkov detector, drift chambers and electromagnetic calorimeter
  - **Photon detection**: sampling calorimeter or a small PbWO<sub>4</sub>-calorimeter close to the beamline
  - **Proton detection**: Silicon and Micromegas detector OR **Neutron detection**: Central Neutron Detector
- For Neutron Detection:
  - Machine Learning techniques are applied to improve the Identification and reduce charged particle contamination

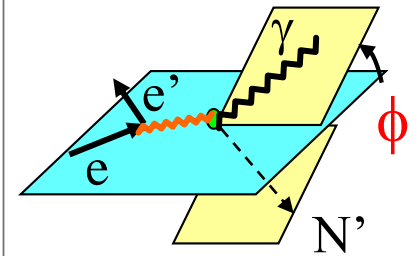
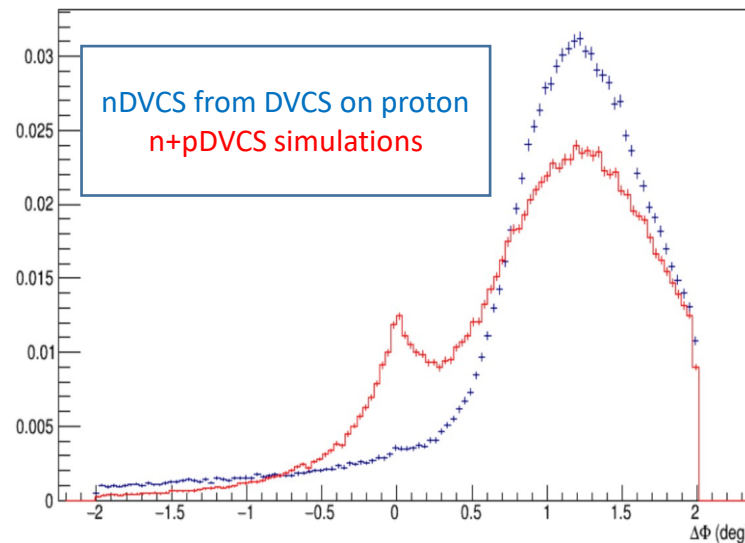
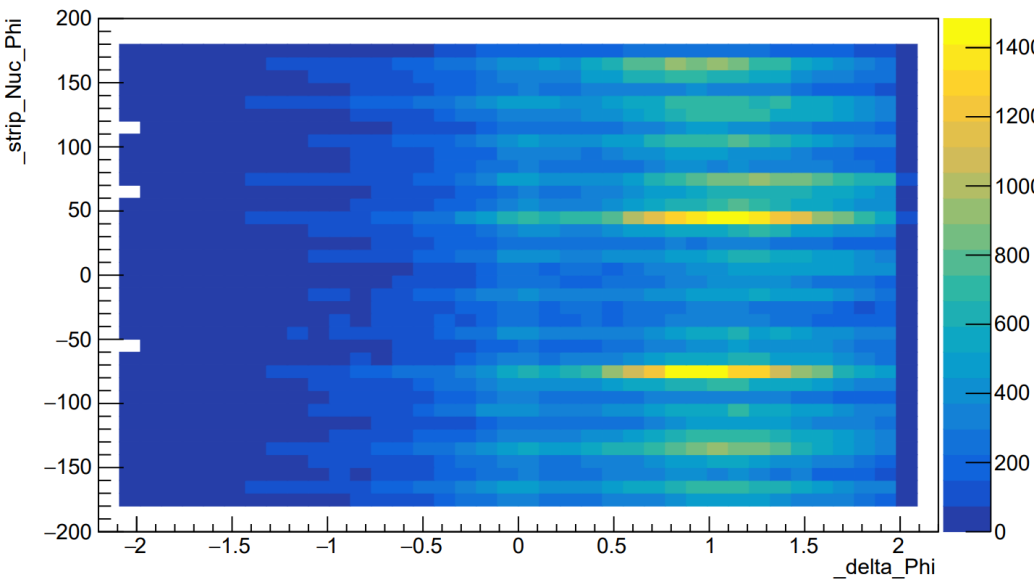






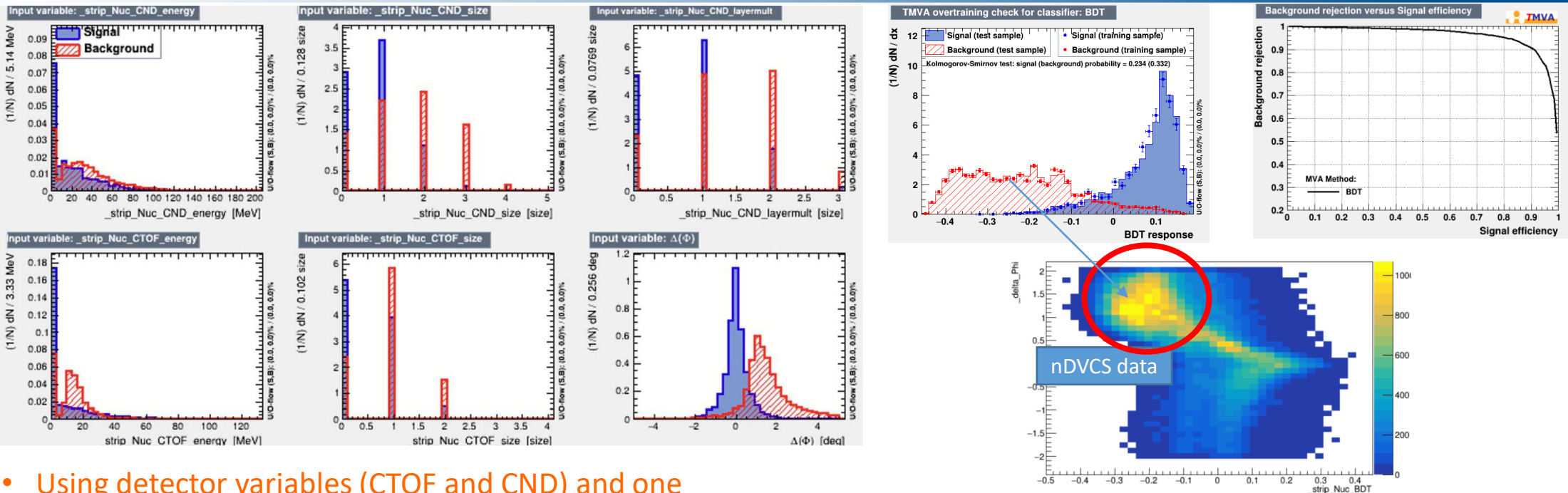
# Improving the neutron selection with ML techniques

- The tracking of the CVT is neither 100% efficient nor uniform
- In the dead regions of the CVT **protons** have no associated track and thus can be **misidentified as neutrons**
- Protons roughly account for more than **>40% contamination in the “nDVCS”** signal sample Current approach, based on Machine Learning & Multi-Variate Algorithms:
  - We reconstruct nDVCS from DVCS experiment on proton requiring neutron PID : **selected neutron are misidentified protons**
  - We use this sample to determine the characteristics of fake neutrons in low- and high-level reconstructed variables
  - Based on those characteristics we subtract the fake neutrons contamination from nDVCS
  - As a « signal » sample in the training of the ML we use  $ep \rightarrow en\pi^+$  events from DVCS experiment on proton

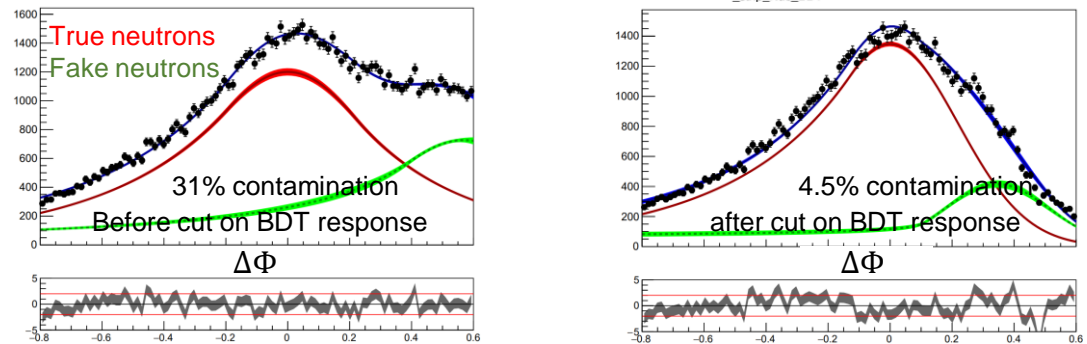




# Improving the neutron selection with ML techniques



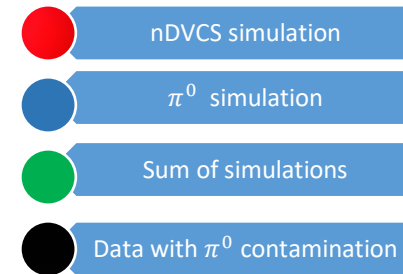
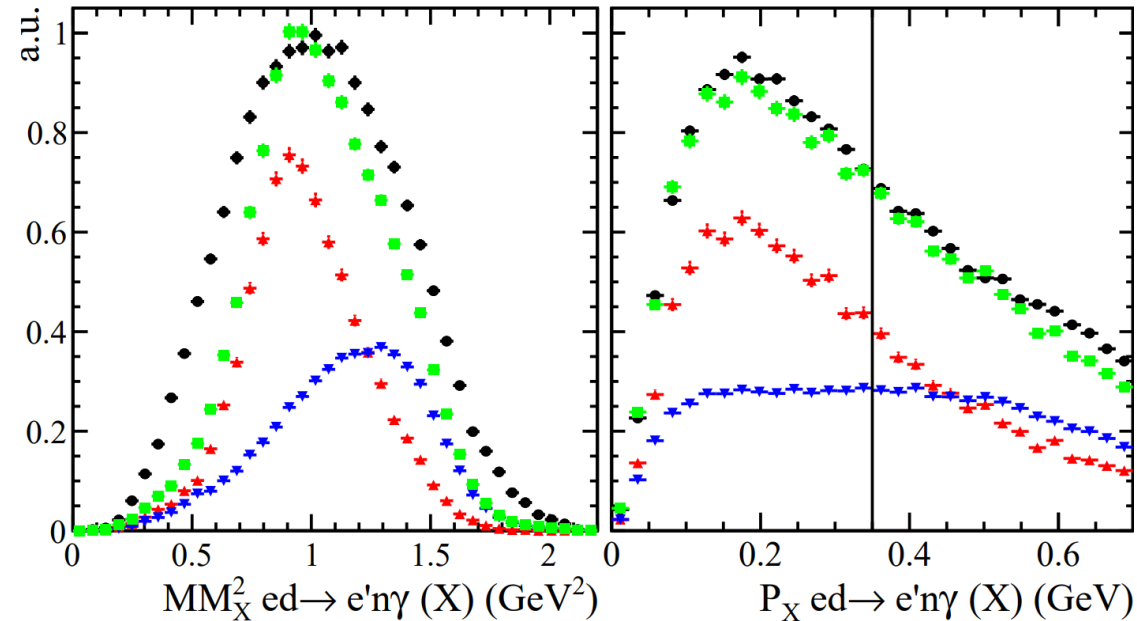
- Using detector variables (CTOF and CND) and one exclusivity variable ( $\Delta\Phi$ )
- Directly trained on data
- Better optimization of signal to background ratio than straight cuts
- Few percent irreducible contamination corrected for in the final BSA





# CLAS12: DVCS with an unpolarized deuterium target

- The nDVCS (pDVCS) final state is selected with the following exclusivity criteria: (N:nucleon)
  - Missing mass
    - $e d \rightarrow e N \gamma X$
    - $e N \rightarrow e N \gamma X$
    - $e N \rightarrow e N X$
  - Missing momentum
    - $e d \rightarrow e N \gamma X$
  - $\Delta\Phi, \Delta t, \theta(\gamma, X)$ 
    - Difference between two ways of calculating  $\Phi$  and  $t$
    - Cone angle between measured and reconstructed photon
- Exclusivity selection is optimized with a 4-D  $\chi^2$ -like distribution including  $\Delta\Phi, \Delta t, \theta(\gamma, X)$  and missing mass  $e N \rightarrow e N X$



$\pi^0$  background contamination is estimated using simulations



# $\pi^0$ background subtraction

- Subtraction using simulations of the background channel
  - Monte Carlo simulations:
    - GPD-based event generator for DVCS/ $\pi^0$  on deuterium
    - DVCS amplitude calculated according to the BKM formalism
    - Fermi-motion distribution evaluated according to Paris potential
- 1. Estimate the ratio of partially reconstructed  $eN \pi^0$  (1 photon) decay to fully reconstructed  $eN \pi^0$  decays in MC
- 2. This is done for each kinematic bin to minimize MC model dependence
- 3. Multiply this ratio by the number of reconstructed  $eN \pi^0$  in data to get the number of  $eN \pi^0$  (1 photon) in data
- 4. Subtract this number from DVCS reconstructed decays in data per each kinematical bin

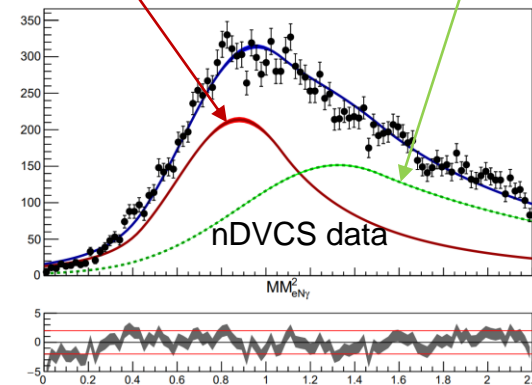
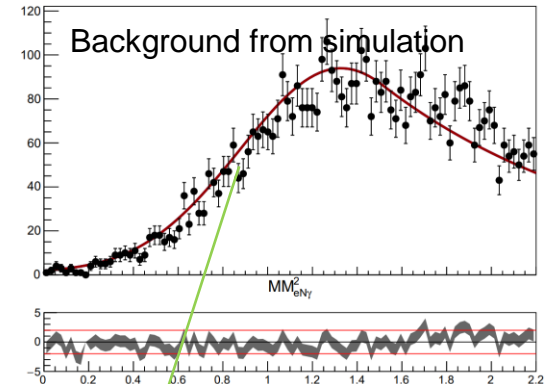
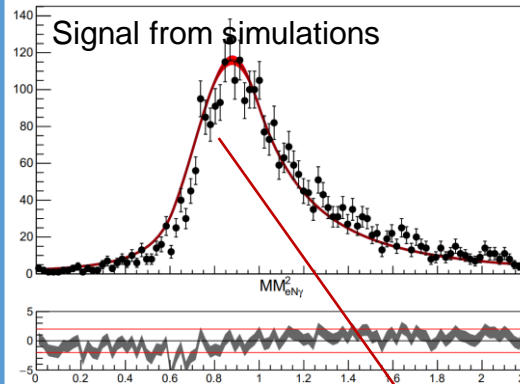
$$\text{Simulations: } R = \frac{N(eN\pi_{1\gamma}^0)}{N(eN\pi^0)}$$

$$\text{Data: } N(eN\pi_{1\gamma}^0) = R * N(eN\pi^0)$$

$$N(DVCS) = N(DVCS_{recon}) - N(eN\pi_{1\gamma}^0)$$

- $\pi^0$  background subtraction is also performed by statistical unfolding of contribution to the missing mass spectrum

M. Pivk and F.R. Le Diberder, NIMA 555 1 2005

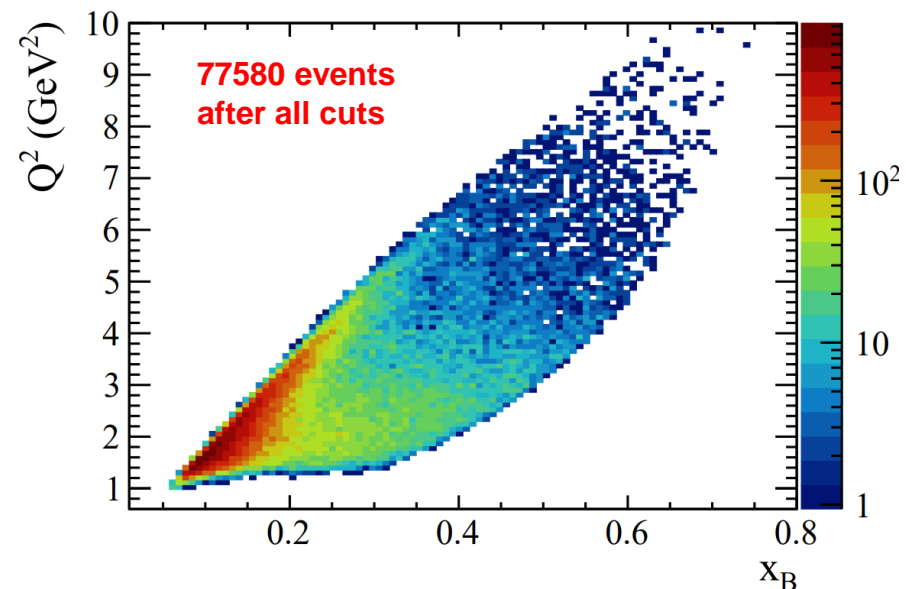
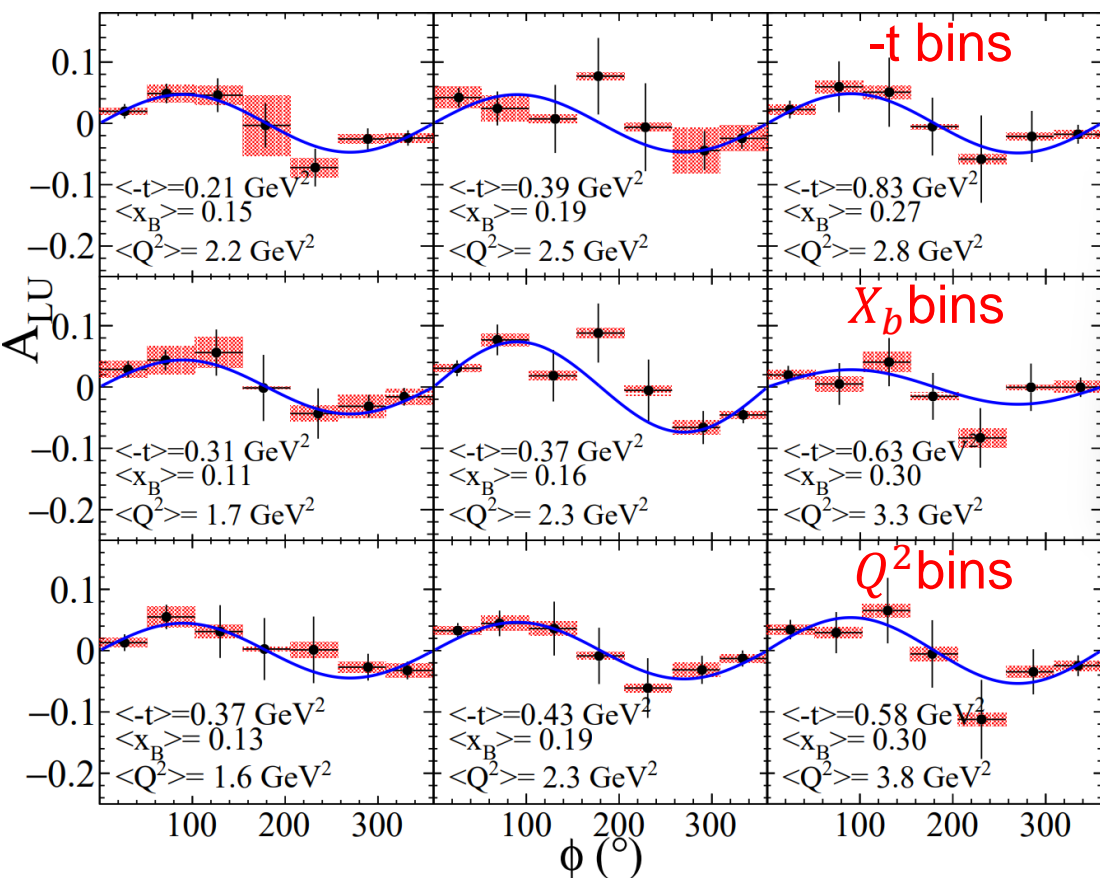


The difference between the estimations of background from both methods is considered as a systematic



# CLAS12: nDVCS with an unpolarized deuterium target

## First-time measurement of nDVCS with detection of the active neutron

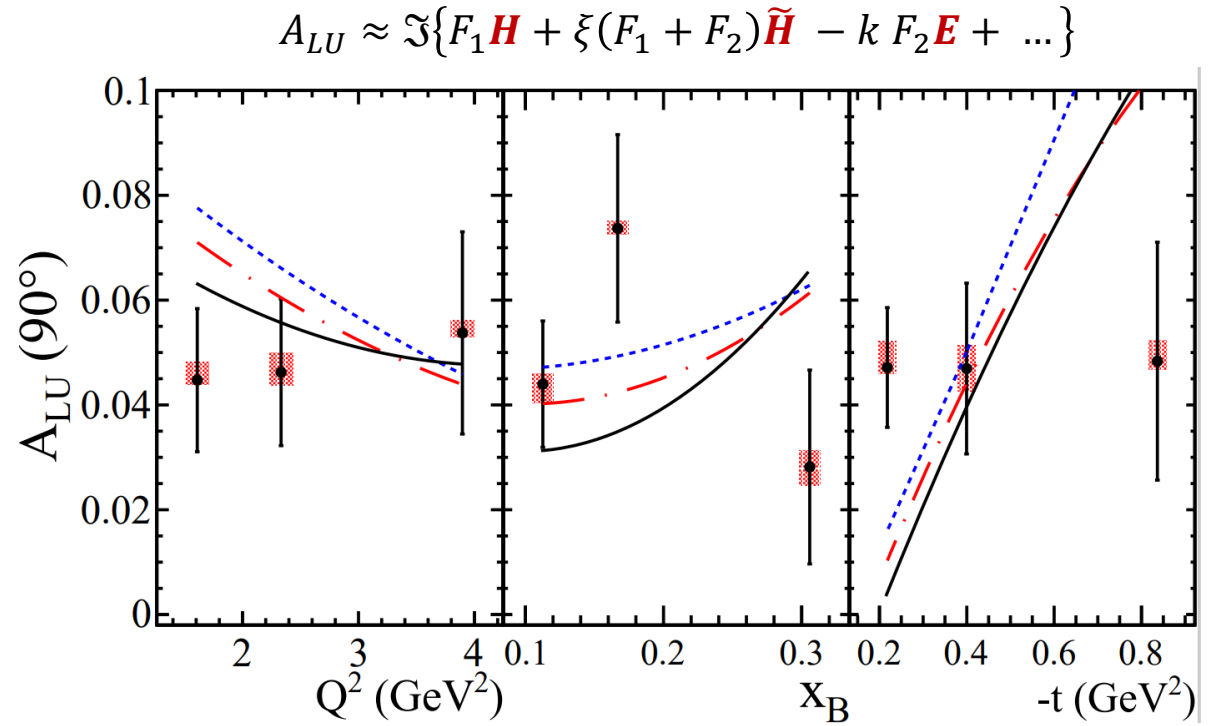


- Compared to the previous experiment, CLAS12 provides :
  - The possibility to scan the BSA of nDVCS on a wide phase space
  - The possibility to reach the high  $Q^2$  high  $x_b$  region of the phase space
  - Exclusive measurement with the detection of the active neutron
- Hall A @ JLAB: one measured kinematical point at  $Q^2=1.9$  GeV<sup>2</sup> and  $x_b=0.36$



# CLAS12: nDVCS with an unpolarized deuterium target

- Observation of positive BSA for nDVCS
- Systematic errors include:
  - Error due to beam polarization
  - Error due to selection cuts
  - Error due to residual proton contamination
  - Error due to merging of data sets with different energies
- Statistics is expected to double with remaining scheduled beam time and improvements with reconstruction software



VGG model predictions  
giving the smallest  $\chi^2$

Ju = 0.35 Jd= 0.05  
Ju = -0.2 Jd= 0.15  
Ju = -0.45 Jd= 0.2

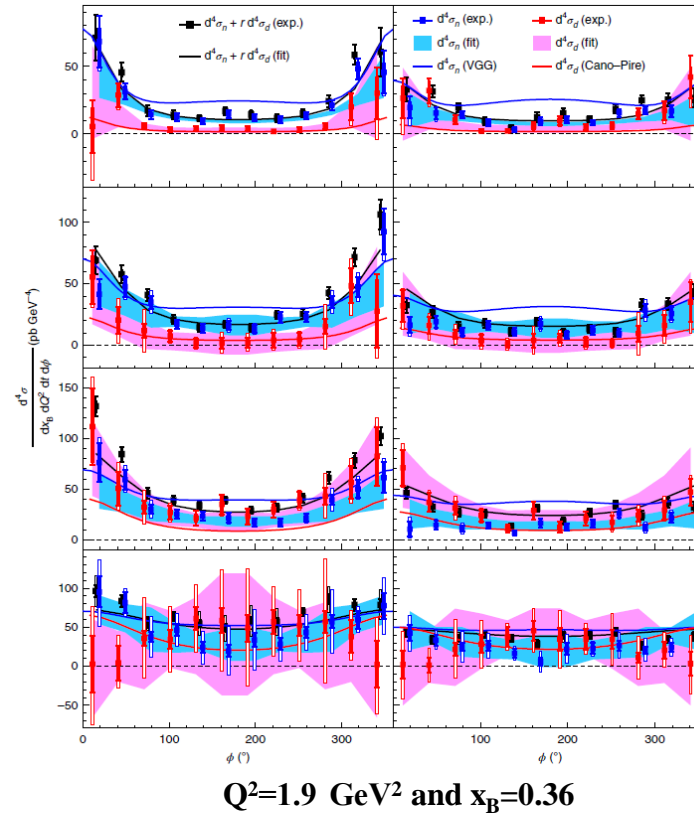
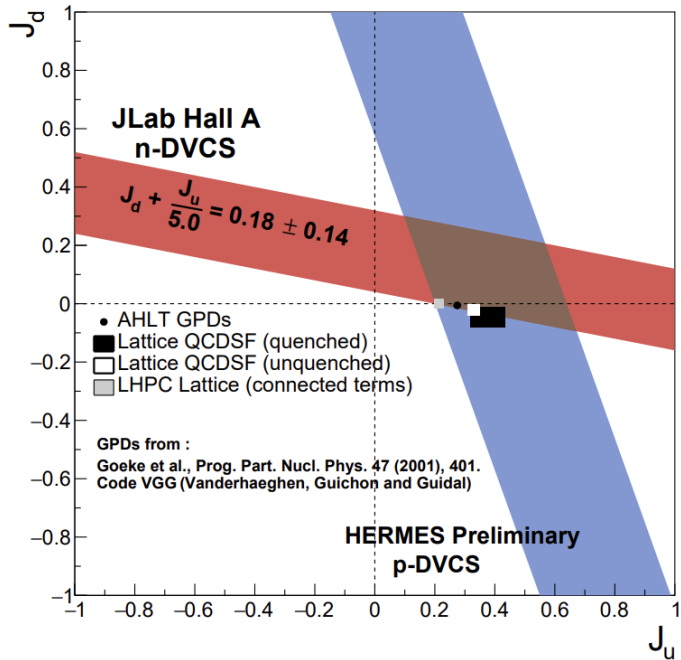
M. Vanderhaeghen, P.A.M. Guichon, and M. Guidal, PRD 60, 094017 (1999)



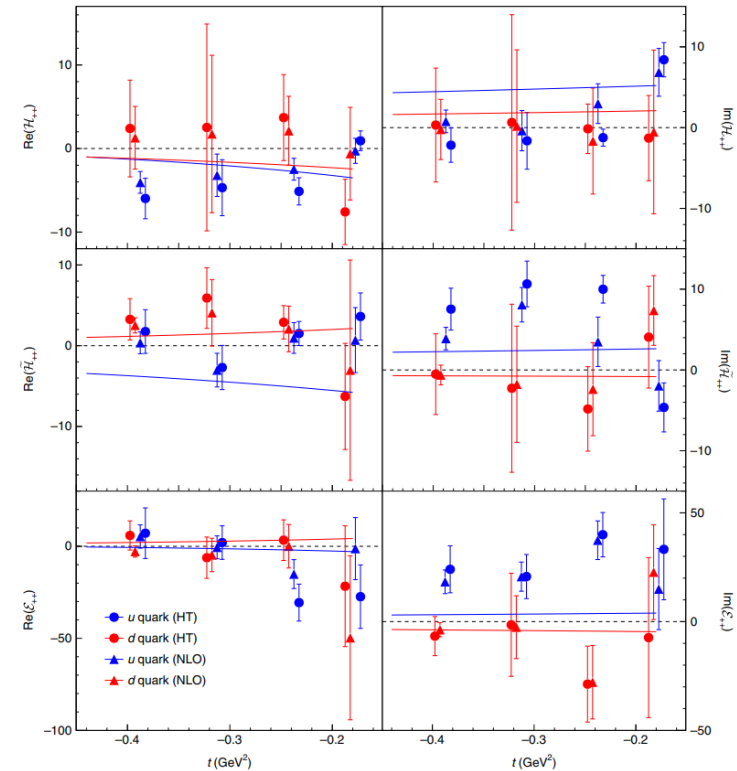
# Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering with an unpolarized deuterium target

- Previous pioneering measurement of nDVCS ( Jlab Hall A @ 6 GeV)
  - Beam-energy « Rosenbluth » separation of nDVCS CS using an LD2 target and two different beam energies
  - First observation of non-zero nDVCS CS
- No neutron detection

$$D(e, e'\gamma)X - H(e, e'\gamma)X = n(e, e'\gamma)n + d(e, e'\gamma)d + \dots$$



+data from: Mazouz, M. et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 242501 (2007).



Benali, M., Desnaut, C., Mazouz, M. et al. Nat. Phys. 16, 191–198 (2020)

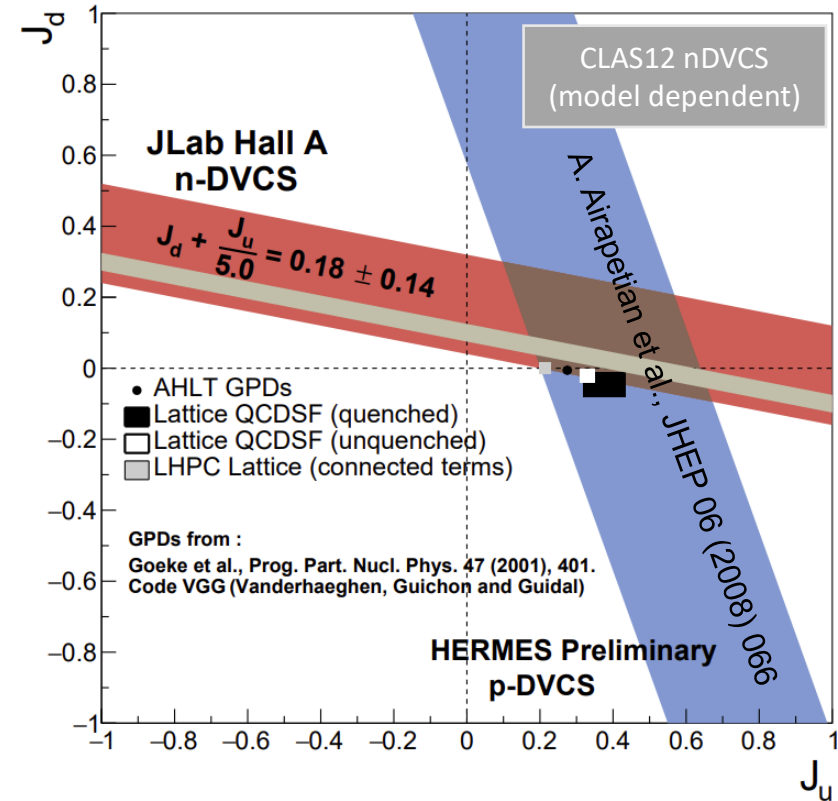






# Impact of nDVCS data

- **Model-dependant extraction of  $J_u$  and  $J_d$** 
  - Use VGG model (PRD 60, 094017 (1999)) and generate a set of values for  $J_u$  and  $J_d$
  - Look for the 1 standard deviation error ellipse: defined as  $\chi^2 - \chi_{min}^2 = 1$
- **Compatible with limits set before by pioneering Hall A measurement**
- **Compatible with Lattice QCD predictions**
- **Shortcomings:**
  - none of the considered sets of  $J_u$  and  $J_d$  reproduce correctly the distributions
  - VGG has problems in reproducing proton data
- **Closest-to-truth model-dependent representation of data.**

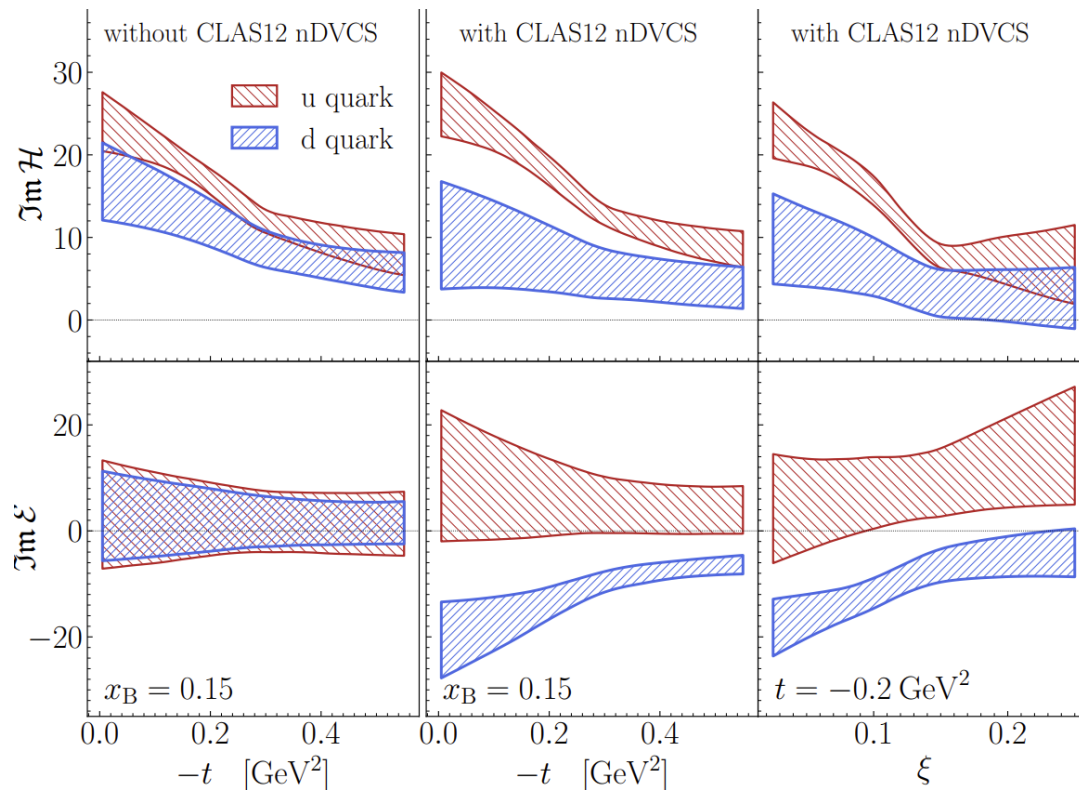




# Today on CFF extraction and flavor separation!

- Global fits of CFF using neural networks (model-independent)
  - K. Kumericki et al., JHEP 07, 073531 (2011); M. Cuic, K. Kumericki, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 533 125, 232005 (2020).
- Data used:
  - CLAS6 and HERMES pDVCS observables
  - CLAS12 pDVCS BSA and nDVCS BSA
- Same extraction method applied to nDVCS Hall-A data, only separation for  $\text{Im}H$

Clear quark-flavor separation of both  $\text{Im}H$  and  $\text{Im}E$  thanks to CLAS12 nDVCS data



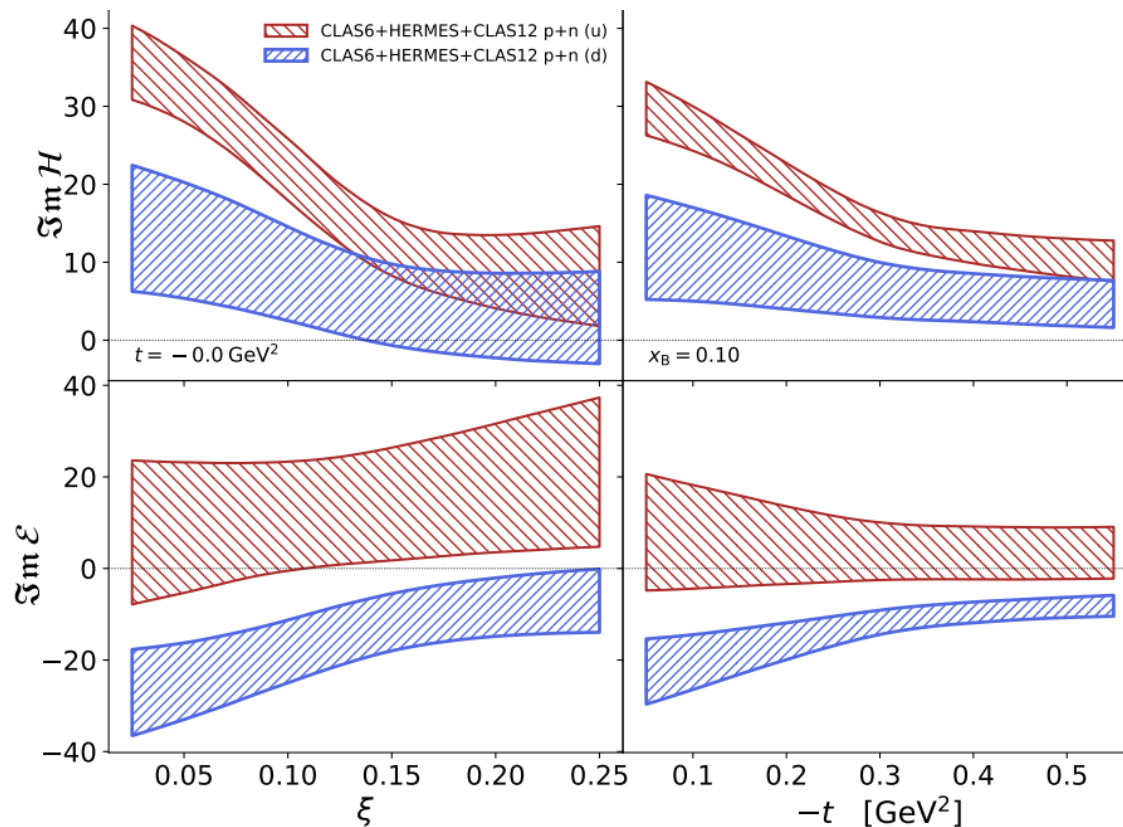


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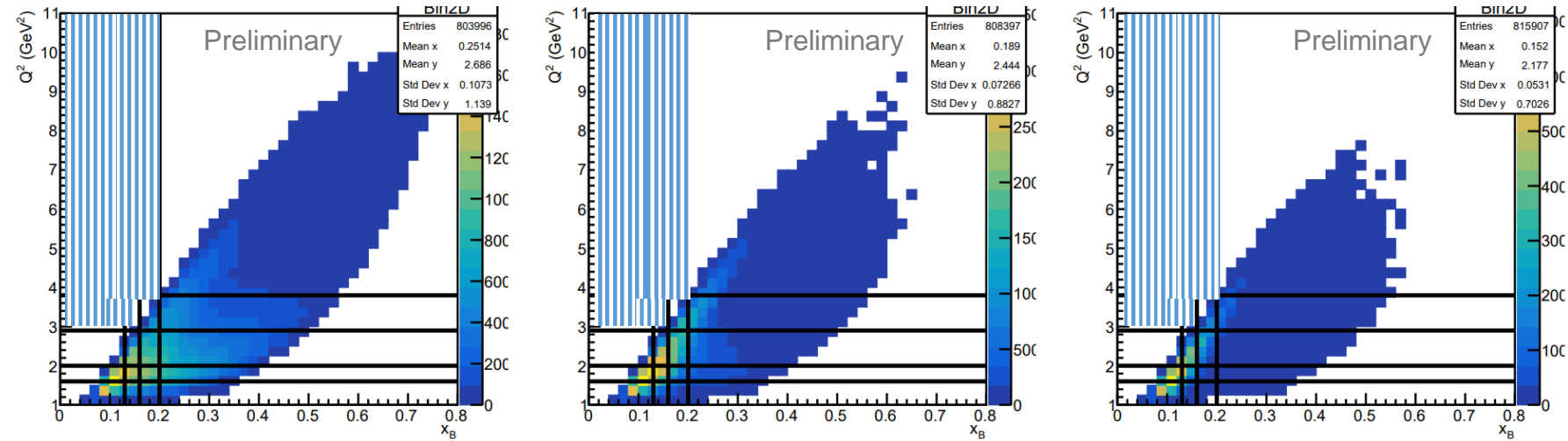
Results extrapolated to  $t=0 \text{ GeV}^2$





# CLAS12: pDVCS with an unpolarized deuterium target

## First-time measurement of incoherent pDVCS on deuteron



Bin numbering starts from left to right and from bottom up

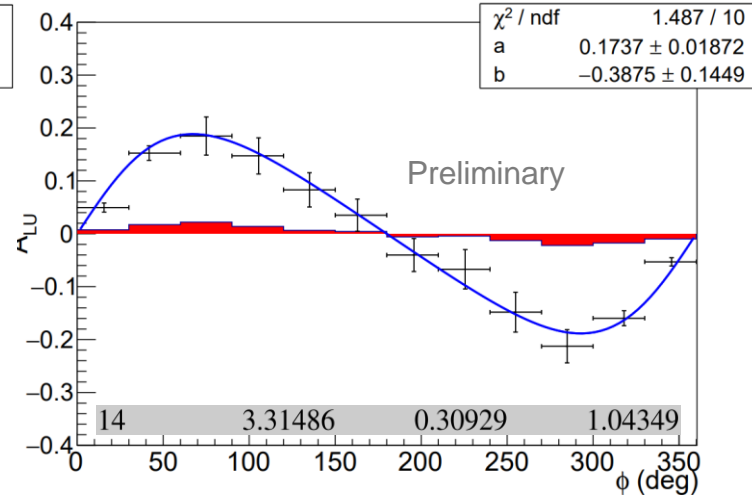
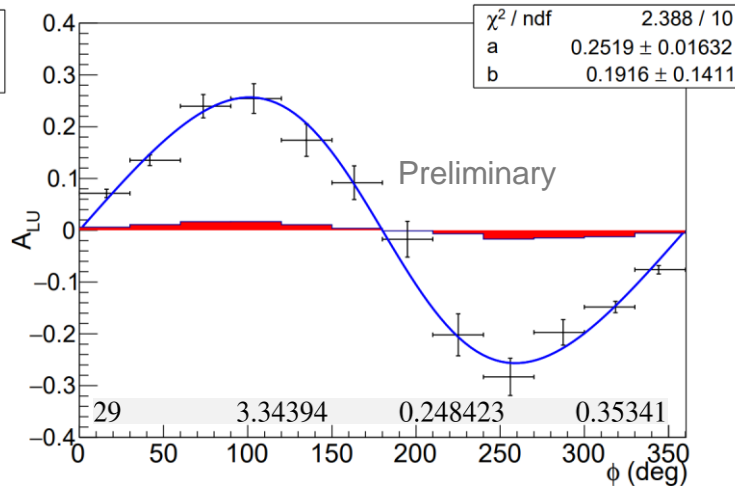
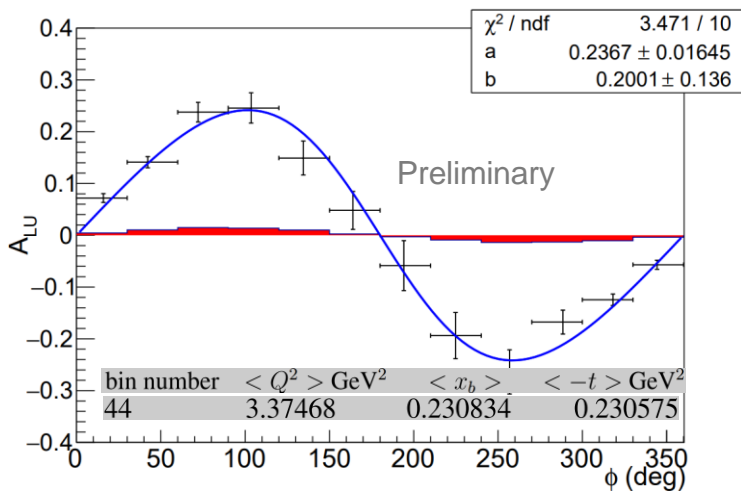
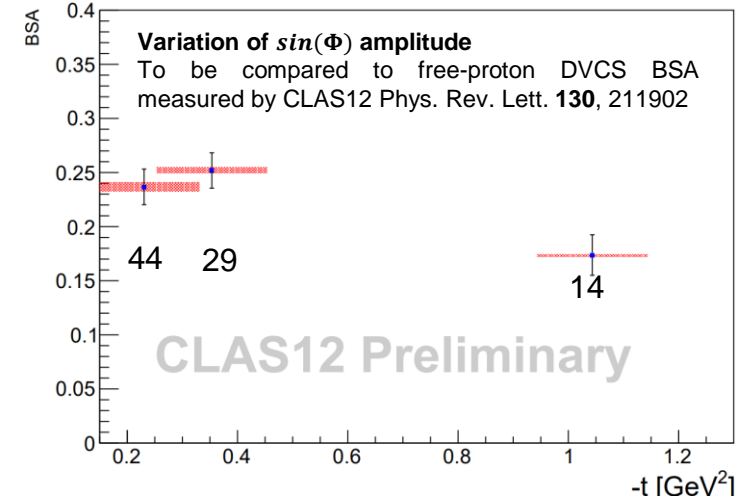
- Complementary to previous experiment on proton target:
  - Quantify medium effects on GPDs

| bin number | $\langle Q^2 \rangle$ GeV <sup>2</sup> | $\langle x_b \rangle$ | $\langle -t \rangle$ GeV <sup>2</sup> |
|------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1          | 1.43794                                | 0.10069               | 0.767361                              |
| 2          | 1.48186                                | 0.144366              | 0.844629                              |
| 3          | 1.4914                                 | 0.178824              | 0.87073                               |
| 4          | 1.50756                                | 0.2373                | 0.851789                              |
| 5          | 1.76792                                | 0.114657              | 0.777427                              |
| 6          | 1.8051                                 | 0.144373              | 0.825599                              |
| 7          | 1.80447                                | 0.179402              | 0.863781                              |
| 8          | 1.81536                                | 0.258406              | 0.923301                              |
| 9          | 2.0849                                 | 0.124705              | 0.764681                              |
| 10         | 2.26532                                | 0.146577              | 0.793068                              |
| 11         | 2.4122                                 | 0.179697              | 0.827414                              |
| 12         | 2.43479                                | 0.287563              | 1.00085                               |
| 13         | 3.0799                                 | 0.188297              | 0.790217                              |
| 14         | 3.31486                                | 0.30929               | 1.04349                               |
| 15         | 4.83889                                | 0.380624              | 1.228                                 |
| 16         | 1.43915                                | 0.100179              | 0.356721                              |
| 17         | 1.49262                                | 0.142616              | 0.362959                              |
| 18         | 1.4954                                 | 0.176071              | 0.350067                              |
| 19         | 1.50509                                | 0.249393              | 0.309281                              |
| 20         | 1.77057                                | 0.114679              | 0.34701                               |
| 21         | 1.81394                                | 0.143668              | 0.348841                              |
| 22         | 1.82669                                | 0.175209              | 0.355866                              |
| 23         | 1.81383                                | 0.263491              | 0.318227                              |
| 24         | 2.08646                                | 0.124711              | 0.342502                              |
| 25         | 2.26728                                | 0.146758              | 0.340636                              |
| 26         | 2.46209                                | 0.17752               | 0.348786                              |
| 27         | 2.45997                                | 0.26518               | 0.340427                              |
| 28         | 3.08043                                | 0.188274              | 0.334151                              |
| 29         | 3.34394                                | 0.248423              | 0.35341                               |
| 30         | 4.46623                                | 0.295696              | 0.370628                              |
| 31         | 1.43626                                | 0.0986234             | 0.200339                              |
| 32         | 1.50515                                | 0.13983               | 0.218898                              |
| 33         | 1.49559                                | 0.17749               | 0.195675                              |
| 34         | 1.50618                                | 0.241843              | 0.211988                              |
| 35         | 1.77032                                | 0.114665              | 0.198266                              |
| 36         | 1.83854                                | 0.140417              | 0.212787                              |
| 37         | 1.82375                                | 0.176723              | 0.20719                               |
| 38         | 1.81611                                | 0.248591              | 0.216637                              |
| 39         | 2.08516                                | 0.124803              | 0.198108                              |
| 40         | 2.27128                                | 0.145977              | 0.203877                              |
| 41         | 2.55103                                | 0.174046              | 0.21458                               |
| 42         | 2.44112                                | 0.256179              | 0.228055                              |
| 43         | 3.07532                                | 0.187944              | 0.210093                              |
| 44         | 3.37468                                | 0.230834              | 0.230575                              |
| 45         | 4.30035                                | 0.274016              | 0.247191                              |



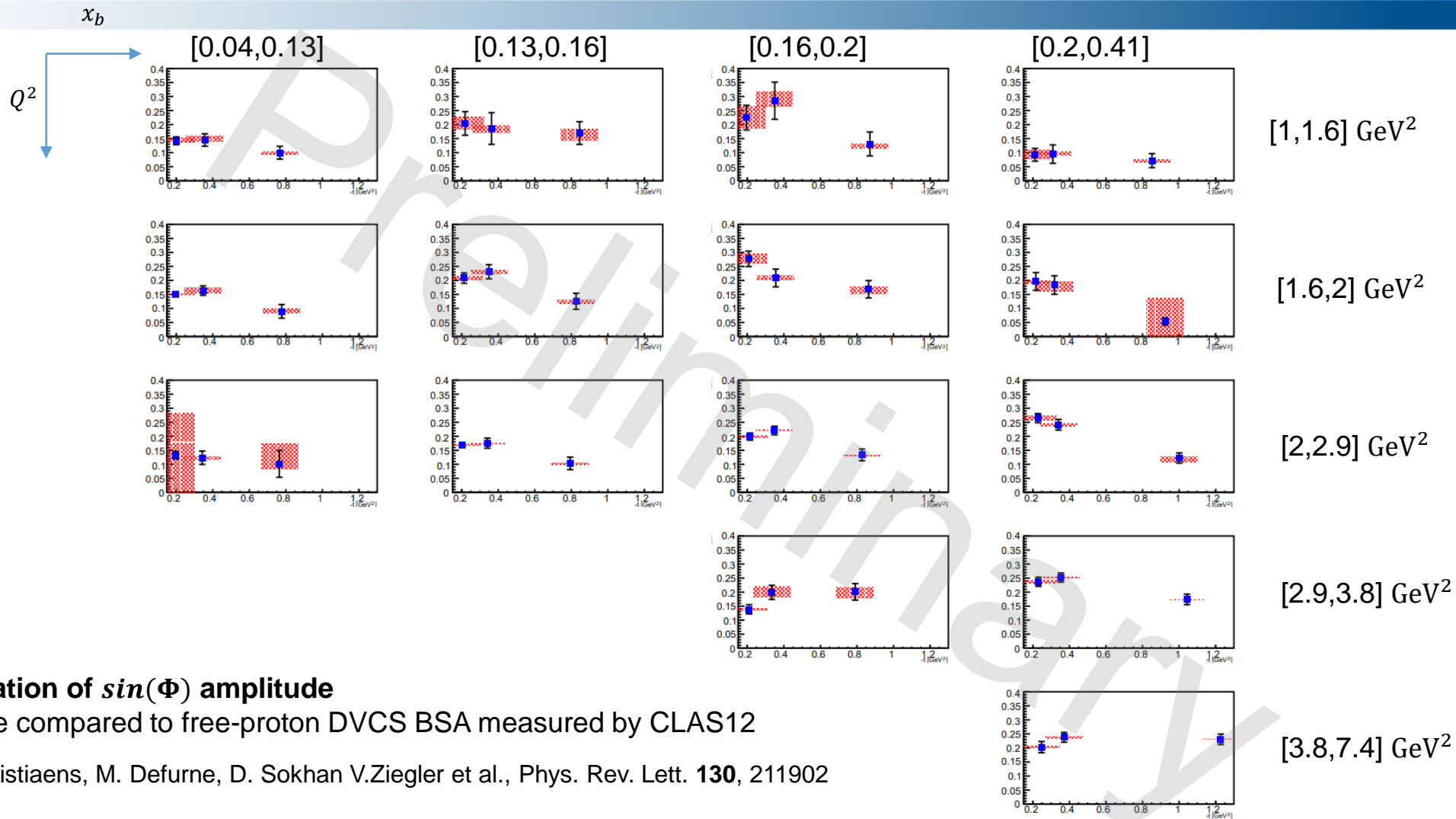
# CLAS12: pDVCS with an unpolarized deuterium target

- Systematic errors include:
  - Error due to beam polarization
  - Error due to selection cuts
  - Error due to merging of data sets with different energies
- Statistics is expected to triple with remaining scheduled beam time and improvements with reconstruction software





# CLAS12: pDVCS with an unpolarized deuterium target



## Variation of $\sin(\Phi)$ amplitude

To be compared to free-proton DVCS BSA measured by CLAS12

G. Christiaens, M. Defurne, D. Sokhan V.Ziegler et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 211902



## Summary

- GPDs are powerful tool to explore the structure of the nucleons and nuclei
  - Nucleon tomography, quark angular momentum, distribution of forces in the nucleon
- Exclusive reactions can provide important information on nucleon structure
  - DVCS via the extraction of GPDs
- CLAS12 offers a wide kinematical reach over which the GPDs dependence on different kinematical variables can be scanned
  - Data to add constraints on GPDs in unexplored regions of the phase space
  - Possibilities to measure new observables using different experimental configurations
    - Flavor separation of GPDs
- Promising results from incoherent DVCS on deuteron (n and p channels) from CLAS12 data
  - First BSA measurement from neutron-DVCS with tagged neutron
  - First measurement of BSA for proton-DVCS with deuterium target
    - To be compared to free-proton DVCS BSA measured by CLAS12

G. Christiaens, M. Defurne, D. Sokhan V.Ziegler et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130 (21) 211902 (2023)



# Conclusions and outlook

- The beam -spin asymmetry for nDVCS is a precious tool to constrain the GPD E and for quark -flavor separation of GPDs
- CLAS12 measured the BSA for nDVCS with detected neutron for the first time
- The first ~43% of the experiment ran in 2019 -2020 at Jlab
- A small but clear BSA was extracted
- Comparison with a model allows to put model-dependent constraints on  $J_d$
- The data, together with the proton DVCS data, allow the quark -flavor separation of  $\text{Im}H$  and  $\text{Im}E$
- An article is ready for submission to PRL

arXiv:2406.15539

1 First Measurement of Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering on the Neutron with  
 2 Detection of the Active Neutron

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