## The p+A Program and Future Studies of Gluon Saturation at RHIC

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# **Gluon Saturation**



### **Gluons in Nuclei**



**Large uncertainties in the nuclear gluon PDF at low-x**: many important effects to disentangle – *shadowing, antishadowing, nonlinear QCD, saturation,* etc.

Important for fundamental understand of partonic processes in nuclei, *as well as* for the initial conditions at RHIC and the LHC.

# **The Big Questions**

- What is the gluon density in heavy nuclei in the RHIC kinematic range?
- What role does saturation play in determining this gluon density?
- What is the saturation scale Q<sub>s</sub>, and how does it depend on A and x?

# What do we know from d+Au?



# Why p+A instead of d+A?



high-x are large for the deuteron, which may necessitate d+p running for proper comparison.

#### ...and you can't polarize the deuteron at RHIC...

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0.1

0

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MIM PDF uncertainty

0.4

0.6

Х

0.8

1

0.2

# RHIC can do p+A!

#### New CAD study: C-A/AP/#447

p+A made easier by stochastic cooling!

Issue is aperture of the DX magnets at IP6,8 (beams in collision).

Allowing proper clearance for Au beam  $(3\sigma + 2mm)$ requires DX magnets at IP6,8 be moved by ~**1cm**.



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#### **The PHENIX MPC-EX Detector**



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#### **EPS09 Limits from Prompt Photons**



**Prompt photons in MPC-EX -> Precise Measurement of Gluons at Low-x** 

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# **STAR Near-Term Efforts**



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# **Polarized** p+A Collisions



### **TMD Gluon Distributions**



# **STAR/PHENIX Forward Upgrades**



## **Future Saturation Measurements**

#### • Forward-forward correlations:

- h-h and  $\pi^0$ - $\pi^0$  are straightforward experimentally
- $\gamma$ -h and  $\gamma$ - $\pi^0$  are easier to interpret
- jet-jet,  $\gamma$ -jet gives access to complete kinematics at LO
- J/ $\Psi$  Production at forward rapidity:
  - Complimentary measurement (gg fusion)



- Drell-Yan:
  - Complete kinematics:  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $Q^2$
  - True 2->1 process yields access to x<0.001</li>
  - Requires high luminosity (end of decade)

# Why RHIC?

- RHIC "straddles" Q<sub>sA</sub>
  - RHIC can make measurements both above and below the saturation scale (rapidity and centrality)
- RHIC can explore the dependence of the saturation scale on nuclear size
  - Flexibility of RHIC collider to run p+A with multiple A species
- Polarized p+A collisions offer a unique, fundamentally new observable
- Measurements at RHIC and the LHC and complementary!

# Summary

- The study of gluon saturation offers a window into the structure of matter:
  - Important to understand partonic processes on nuclei
  - Sets the initial conditions for HI collisions
  - Tantalizing hints in current RHIC data!
- Near-term detector upgrades will continue the success and open new approaches:
  - Prompt photons in the PHENIX MPC-EX
  - Jet correlations with STAR FMS+FHC
  - Polarized p+A collisions a unique opportunity
- PHENIX/STAR forward upgrades will enable critical new observables



# Outline

- Gluon Saturation
  - Why is it interesting?

#### What do we know from d+Au?

- Sampling of results from PHENIX and STAR (and BRAHMS)
- Why p+A instead of d+A?
- Near Term Efforts
  - PHENIX MPC-EX
  - STAR (FMS and FHC)
  - Polarized p+A: a unique capability

#### • The PHENIX and STAR Forward Upgrades

- Physics opportunities with upgrades
- Summary

# **Recent Results from the LHC**



#### **Prompt Photon Predictions**



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# **PHENIX Forward Upgrade**

#### Optimized for jets, photons and DY over a large range in rapidity (1.2< $\eta$ <4)



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# **STAR Forward Upgrade**



### PDF's

