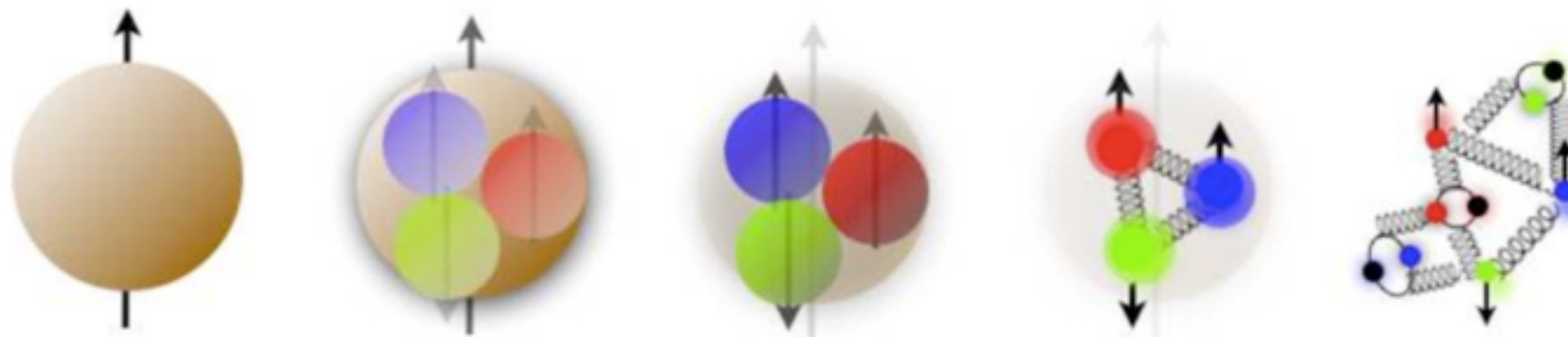


# Opportunities with polarized beams at RHIC / EIC



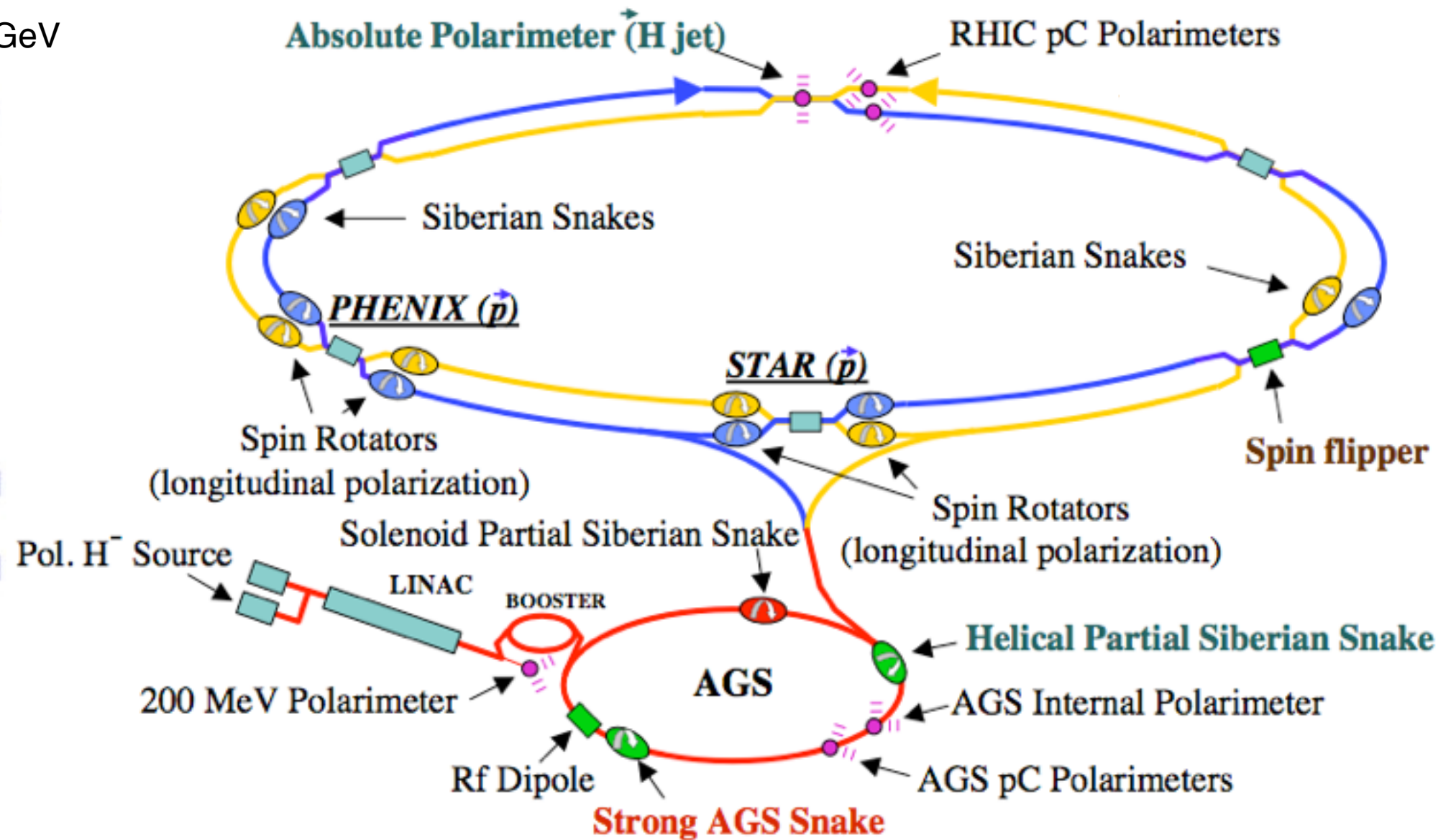
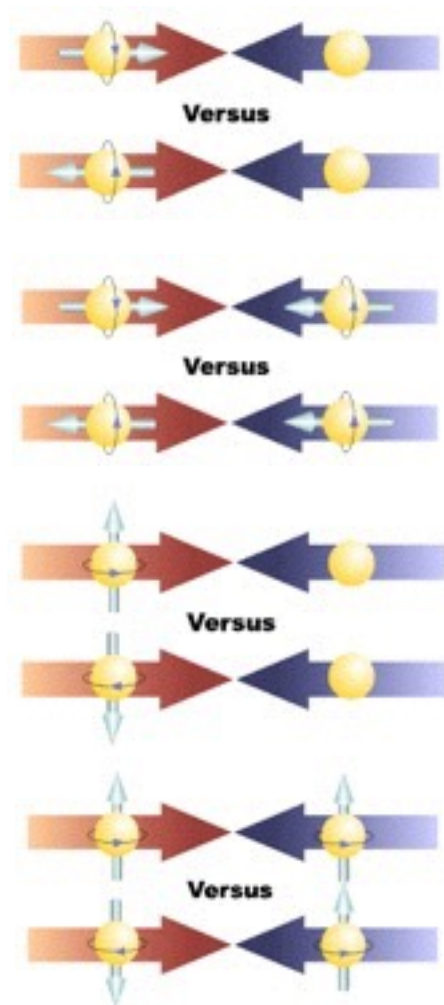
Ernst Sichtermann, LBL

- introduction to RHIC and its detectors,
- recent achievements, open questions,
- near-term opportunities, 2017 run
- completion of RHIC and transition to EIC

# RHIC - Polarized Proton-Proton Collider

Unique opportunities to study nucleon spin properties and spin in QCD,

$\sqrt{s} = 62, 200, \text{ and } 500 \text{ GeV}$



at hard (perturbative) scales with good systematic controls, e.g. from the  $\sim 100\text{ns}$  succession of beam bunches with alternating beam spin configurations.

# RHIC - Polarized Proton-Proton Collider

Unique opportunities to study nucleon spin properties and spin in QCD,

## Longitudinal data

## STAR

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

2005

2006

2009

2015

35 pb<sup>-1</sup>

50 pb<sup>-1</sup>

$\sqrt{s} = 500 \text{ GeV}$

2009

2011

2012

2013

400 pb<sup>-1</sup>

## Transverse data

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

2006

2008

2012

2015

38 pb<sup>-1</sup>

40 pb<sup>-1</sup>

$\sqrt{s} = 500 \text{ GeV}$

2011

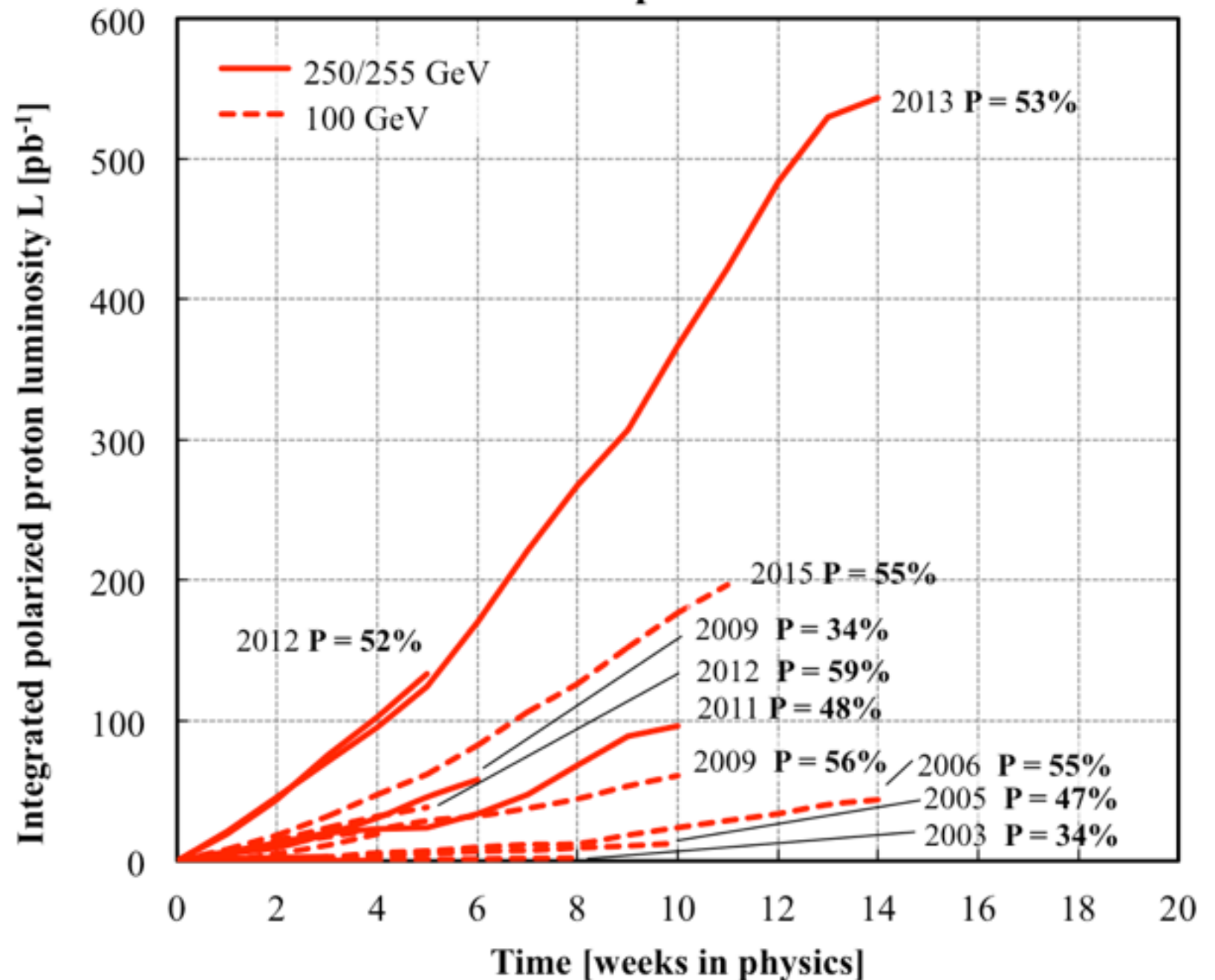
(2017)

25 pb<sup>-1</sup>

(400 pb<sup>-1</sup>)

50-60% polarization

## Polarized proton runs

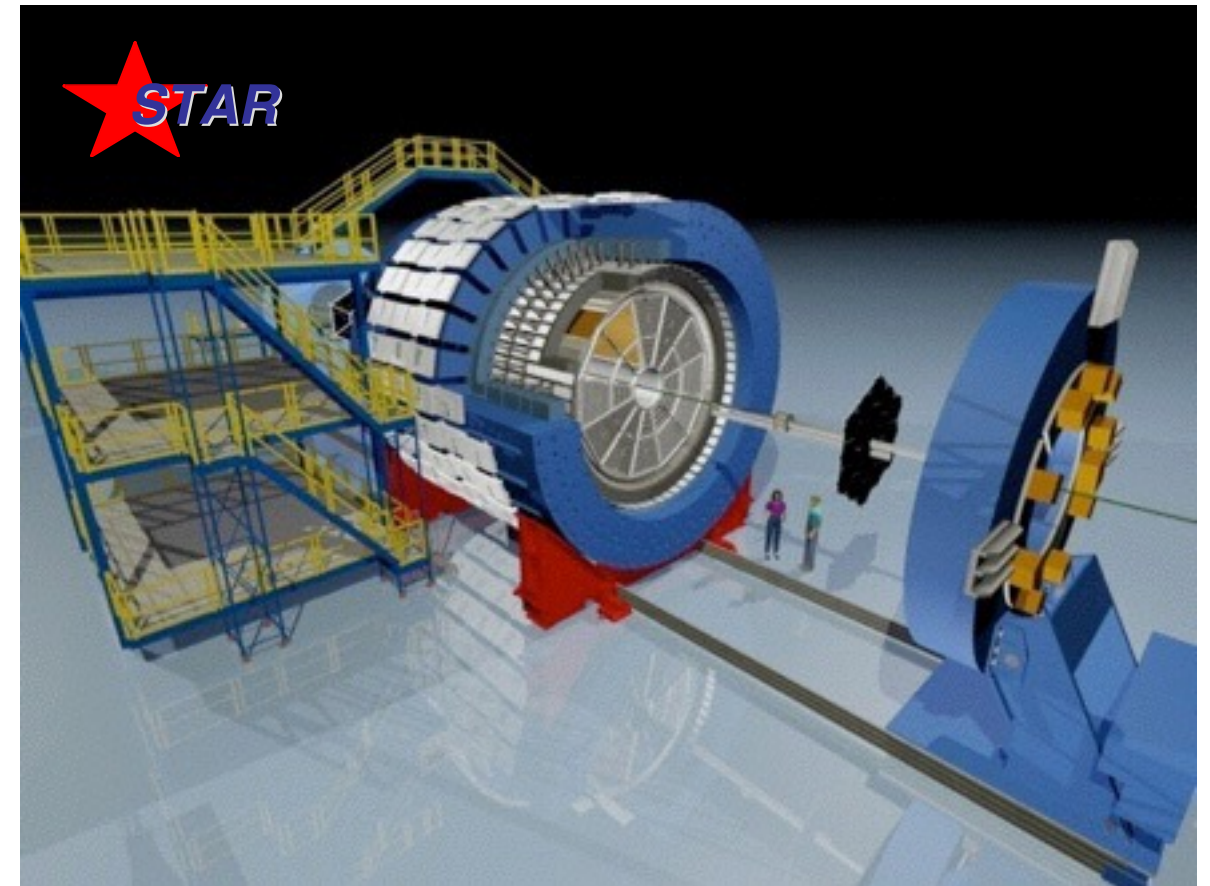




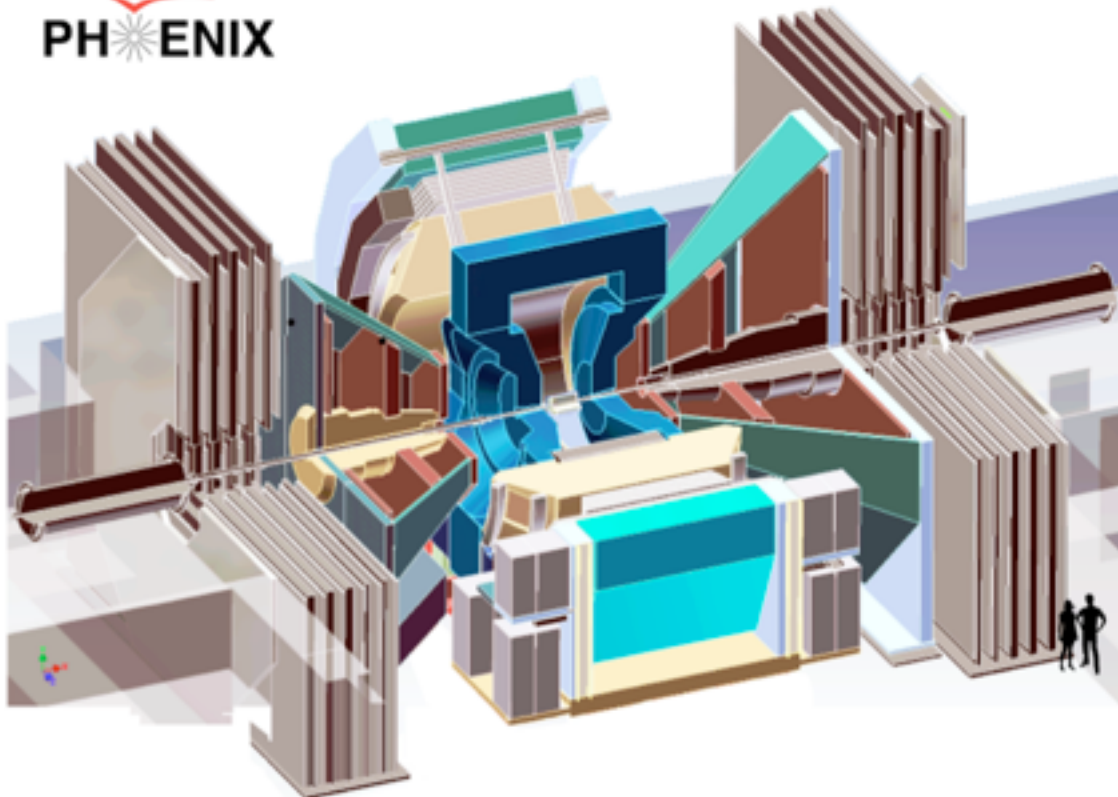
# RHIC - The Current Main Experiments

## STAR "DNA":

- large acceptance and low mass,
- full acceptance and PID for  $|\eta| < 1$ ,  $\Delta\phi \sim 2\pi$ ,
- complemented with forward E.M. calorimetry
- key strengths for jets and correlations
- ongoing upgrades: near-term FMS-PSD  
iTPC, EPD, ETOF  
FCS+FTS



## PHENIX

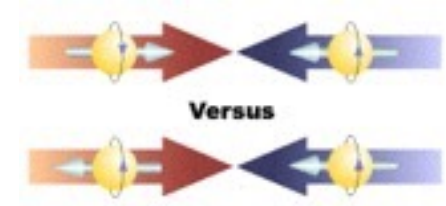


## PHENIX "DNA":

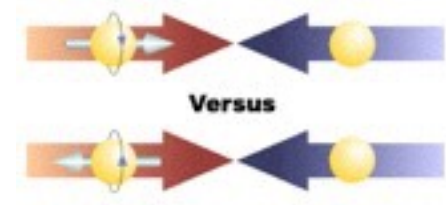
- high resolution and rate capabilities,
- central arms  $|\eta| < 0.35$ ,  $\Delta\phi \sim \pi$   
with key strengths for  $\pi^0$  and  $\eta$
- forward muon arms  $1.2 < |\eta| < 2.4$
- last run now, prepare transition to sPHENIX

# The RHIC Spin Physics Program - Key Questions

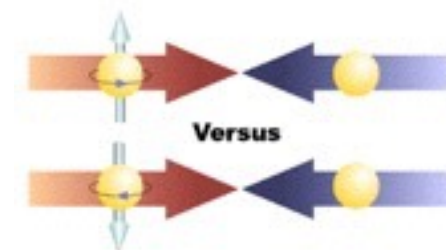
- *What is the polarization of gluons in the polarized proton?*



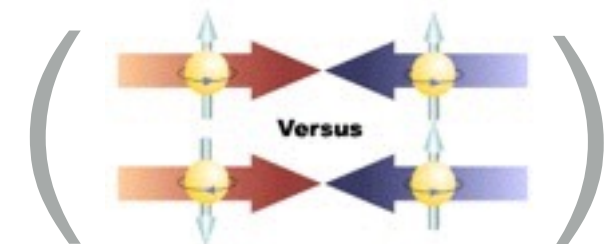
- *What is the polarization of the light quarks and anti-quarks?*



- *Does the Sivers' function change sign in proton-collisions compared to DIS?*



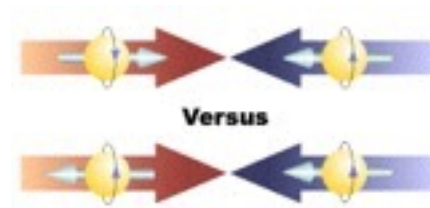
- *What are the quark transversity distributions?*



- *What is the origin of large forward  $A_N$ ?*

# The RHIC-Spin Program - Selected results, open questions

## Gluon Polarization



# Gluon Polarization at RHIC - Asymmetry $A_{LL}$

Measurement: 
$$A_{LL} = \frac{\sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow} - \sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow}}{\sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow} + \sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow}} \stackrel{?}{=} \sum_{f=q,g} \frac{\Delta f_1}{f_1} \otimes \frac{\Delta f_2}{f_2} \otimes \hat{a}_{LL} \otimes (\text{fragmentation functions})$$

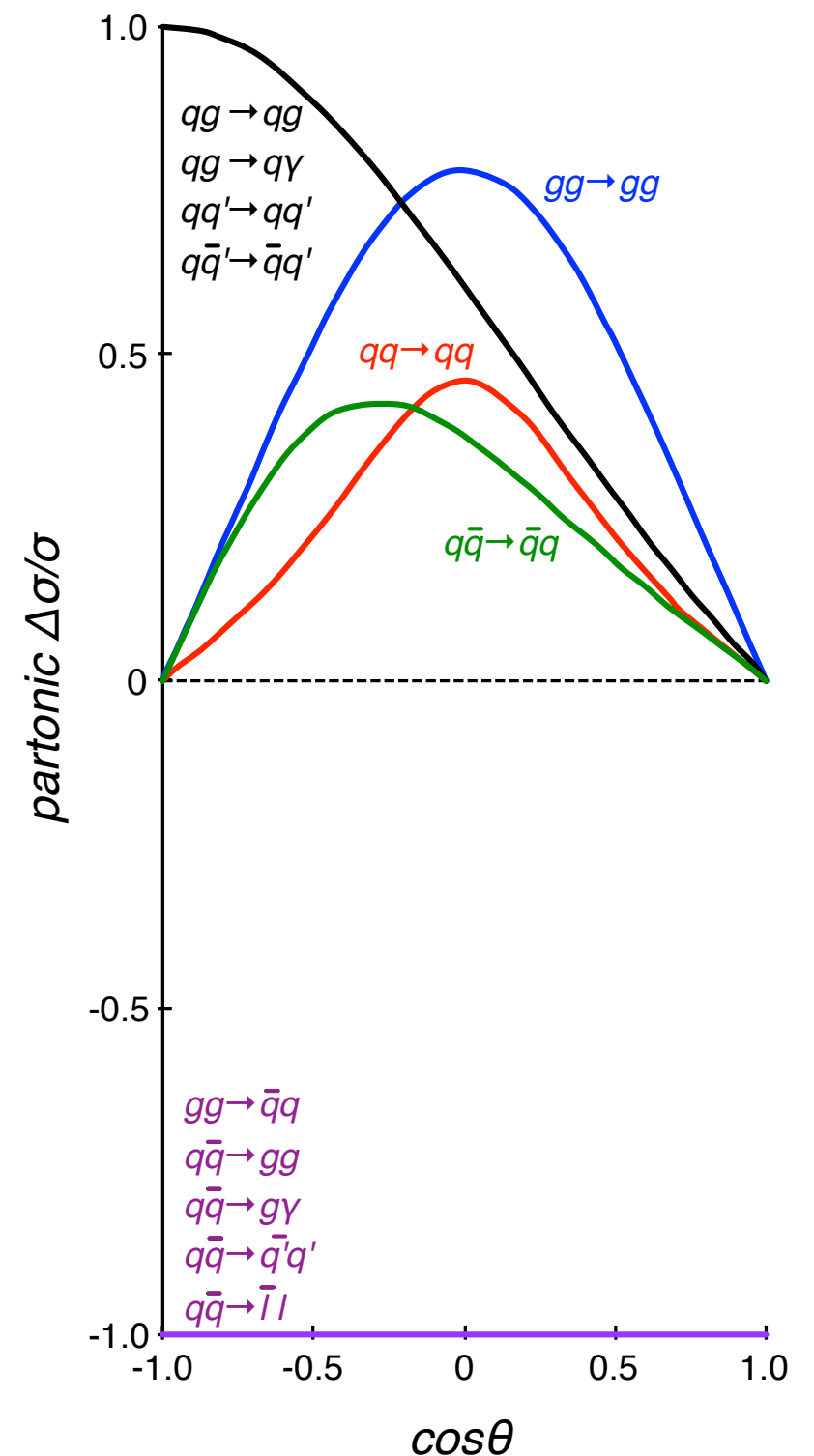
- Detect and reconstruct particle, jet,
- Extract beam-spin dependent yields,
- Measure relative luminosity, beam polarization
- Evaluate double beam-helicity asymmetry

## Advantages:

- High yields of neutral pions, jets at RHIC,
- Relatively straightforward triggering,
- Relatively simple reconstruction,
- Sizable partonic asymmetries

## Disadvantages:

- Contributions from several sub-processes,
- Wide  $x_g$  range sampled for each fixed  $p_T$
- $x_g, x_q \sim p_T/\sqrt{s} \cdot \exp(-\eta)$



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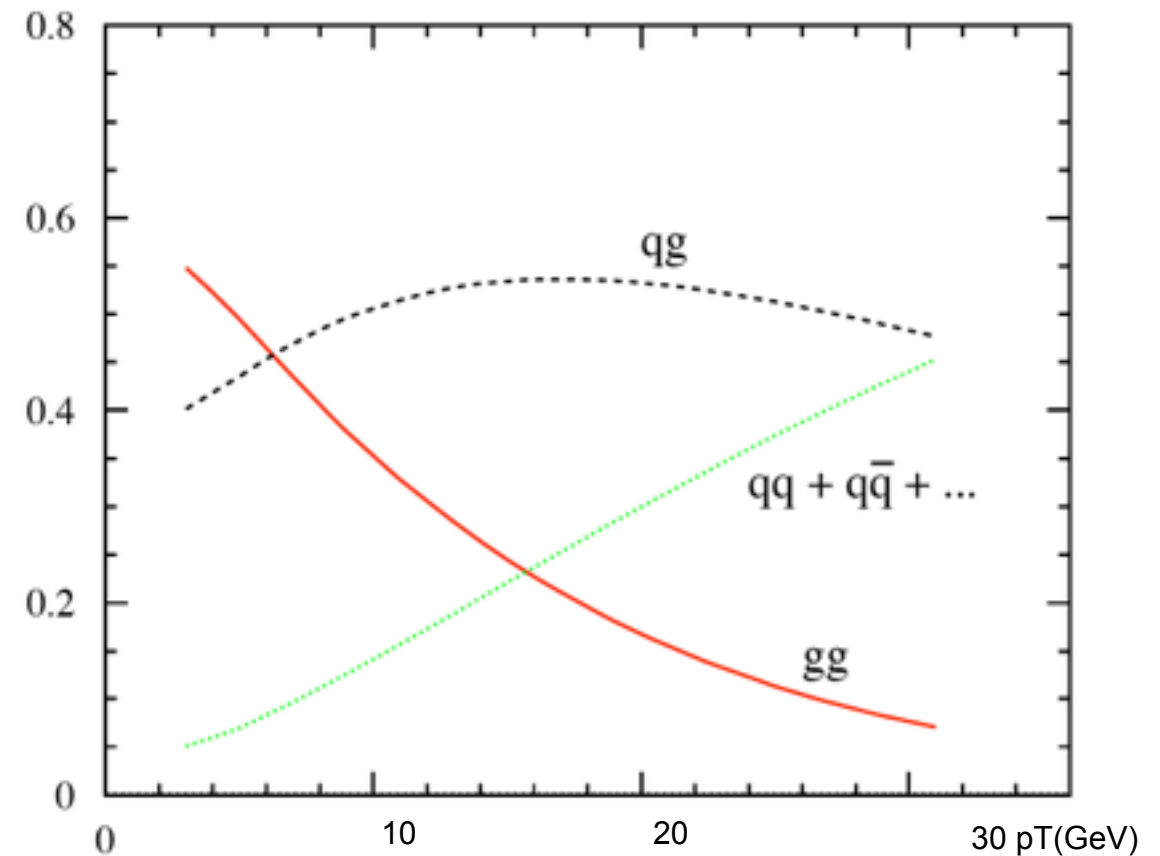
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*gluon-gluon* and *quark-gluon* scattering contributions dominate.



# Gluon Polarization at RHIC - Asymmetry $A_{LL}$

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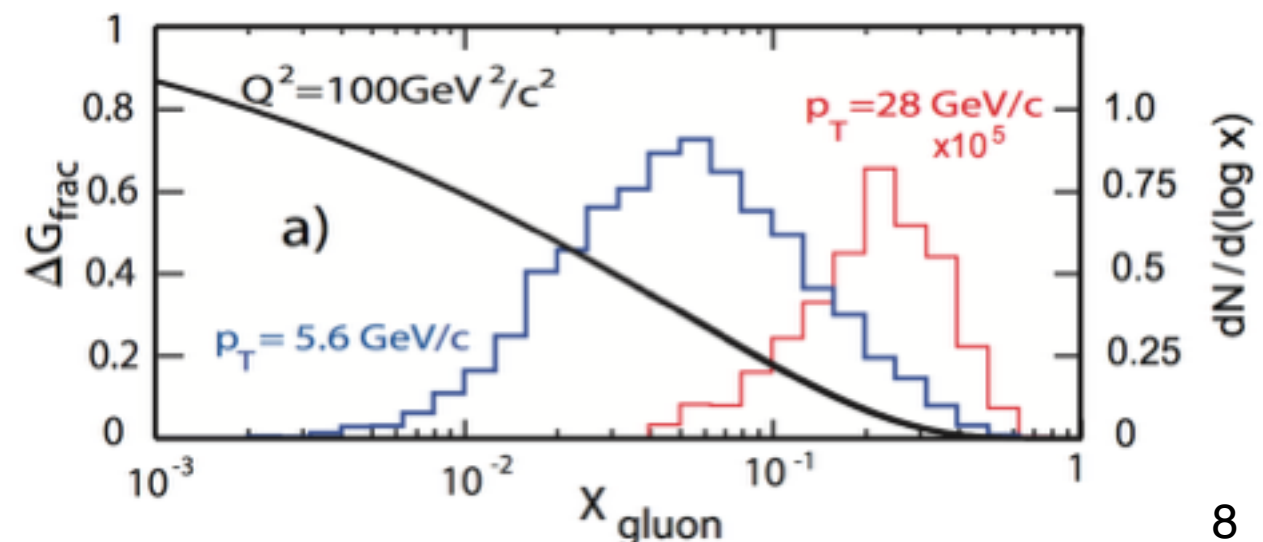
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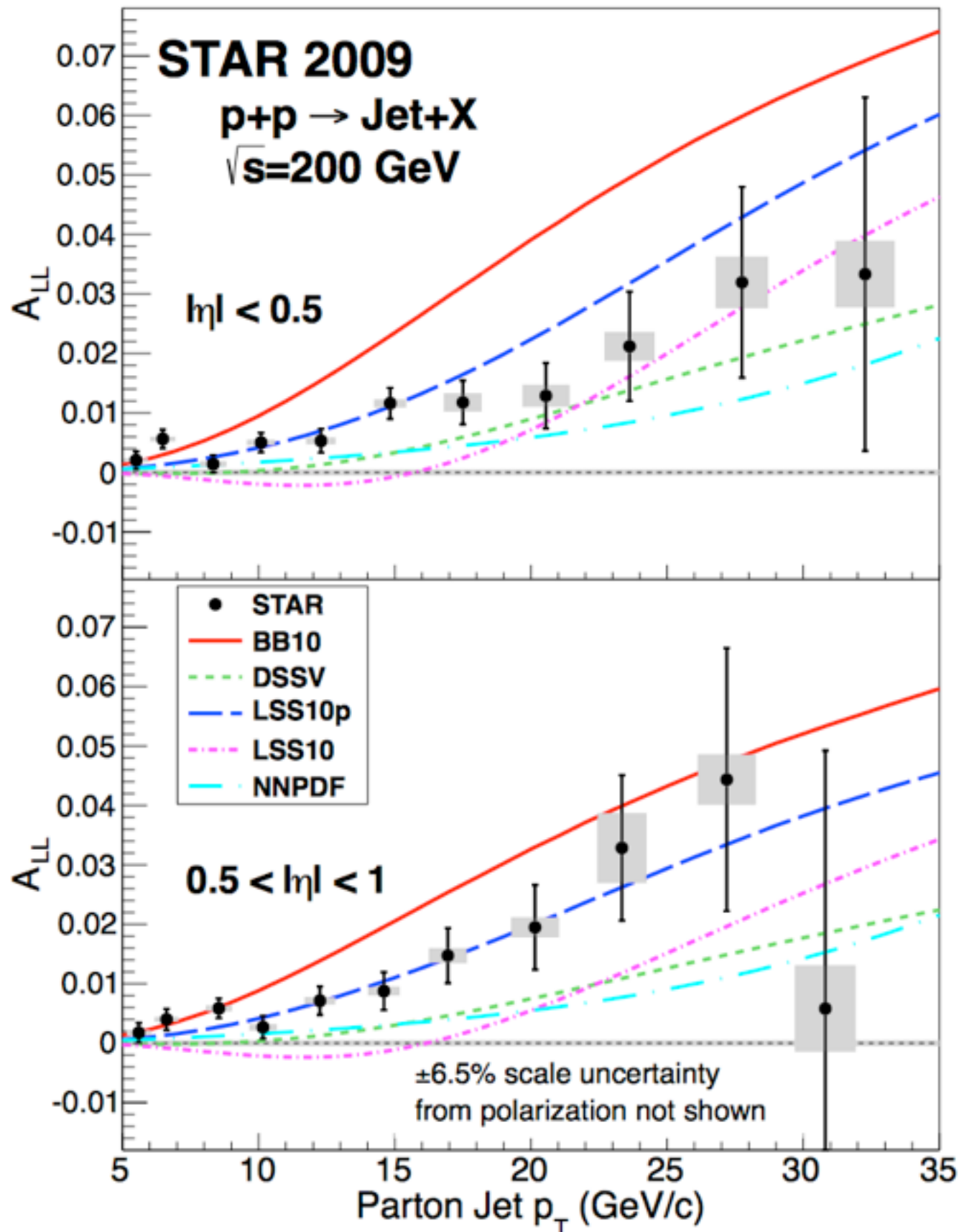
## Disadvantages:

- Contributions from several sub-processes,
- Wide  $x_g$  range sampled for each fixed  $p_T$
- $x_g, x_q \sim p_T/\sqrt{s} \cdot \exp(-\eta)$



# Glauon Polarization - *Precision* $A_{LL}$ from STAR

PRL 115 (2015) 092002



Significant advance:

about an order in precision,  
 two to three times the kinematic range,  
 compared to initial RHIC data,

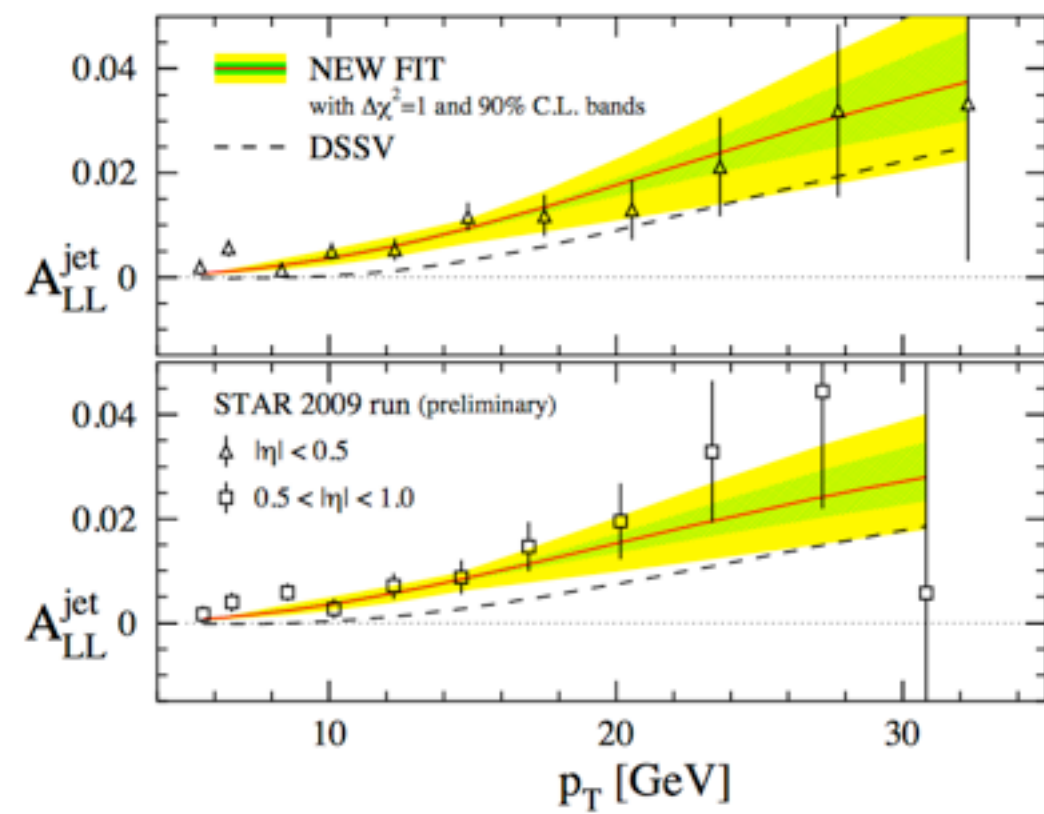
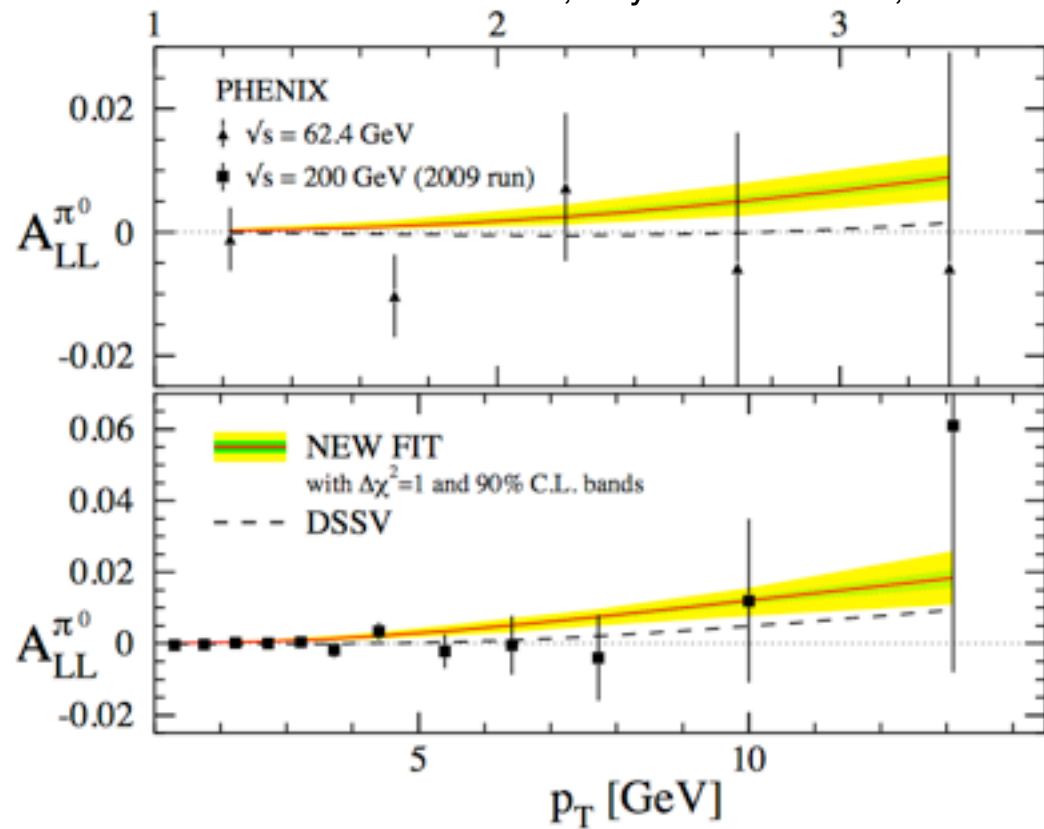
initial sensitivity to different  $x_g$  from  
 rapidity dependence,

$A_{LL}$  is positive for large  $p_T$ , indicative of  
*positive gluon polarization.*

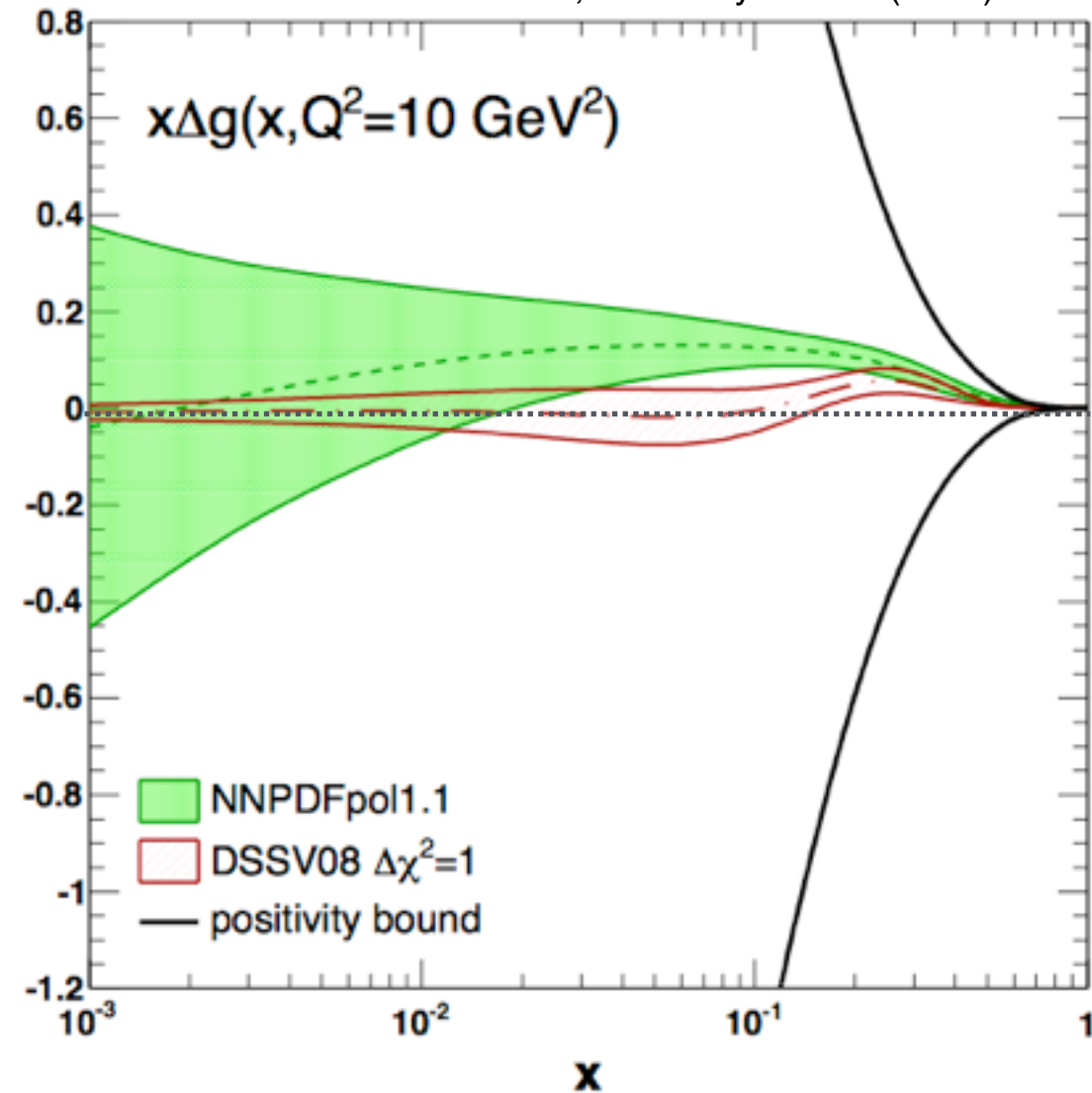
# Gluon Polarization - RHIC Impact

Both the DSSV and the NNPDF groups use RHIC data in their latest PDF fits,

DSSV, Phys.Rev.Lett. 113, 012001



NNPDF, Nucl. Phys. B887 (2014) 276



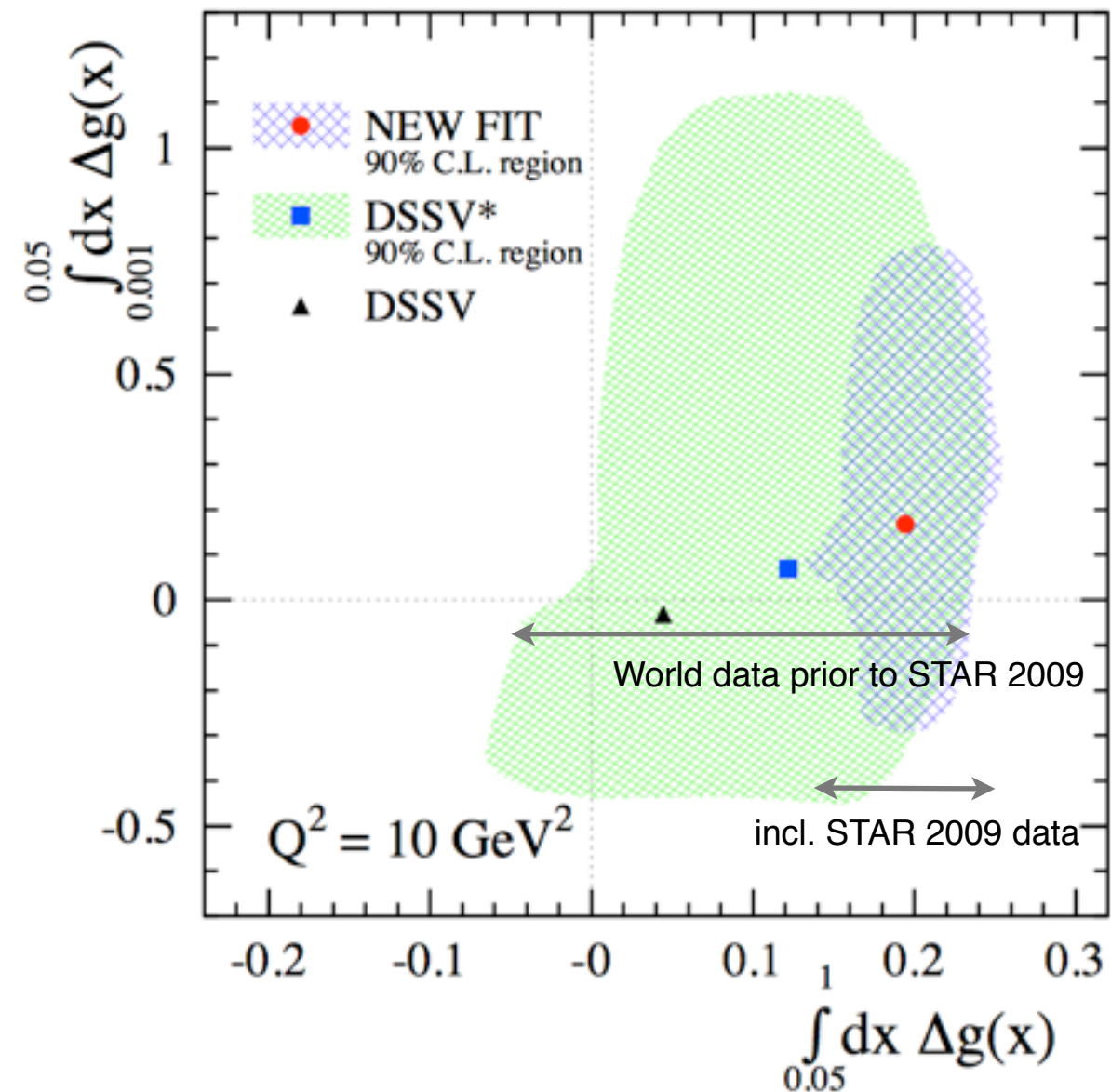
RHIC data, in particular on jets, currently drive the constraints on  $\Delta G$  in both fits,

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{DSSV: } 0.19^{+0.06}_{-0.05} & \text{at 90\% C.L. for } x > 0.05 \\ \text{NNPDF: } 0.23 \pm 0.07 & \text{for } 0.05 < x < 0.5 \end{array}$$

i.e. evidence for *positive gluon polarization in this kinematic range and at 10 GeV<sup>2</sup>*.

# Gluon Polarization - Status and what is next?

DSSV, Phys.Rev.Lett. 113, 012001



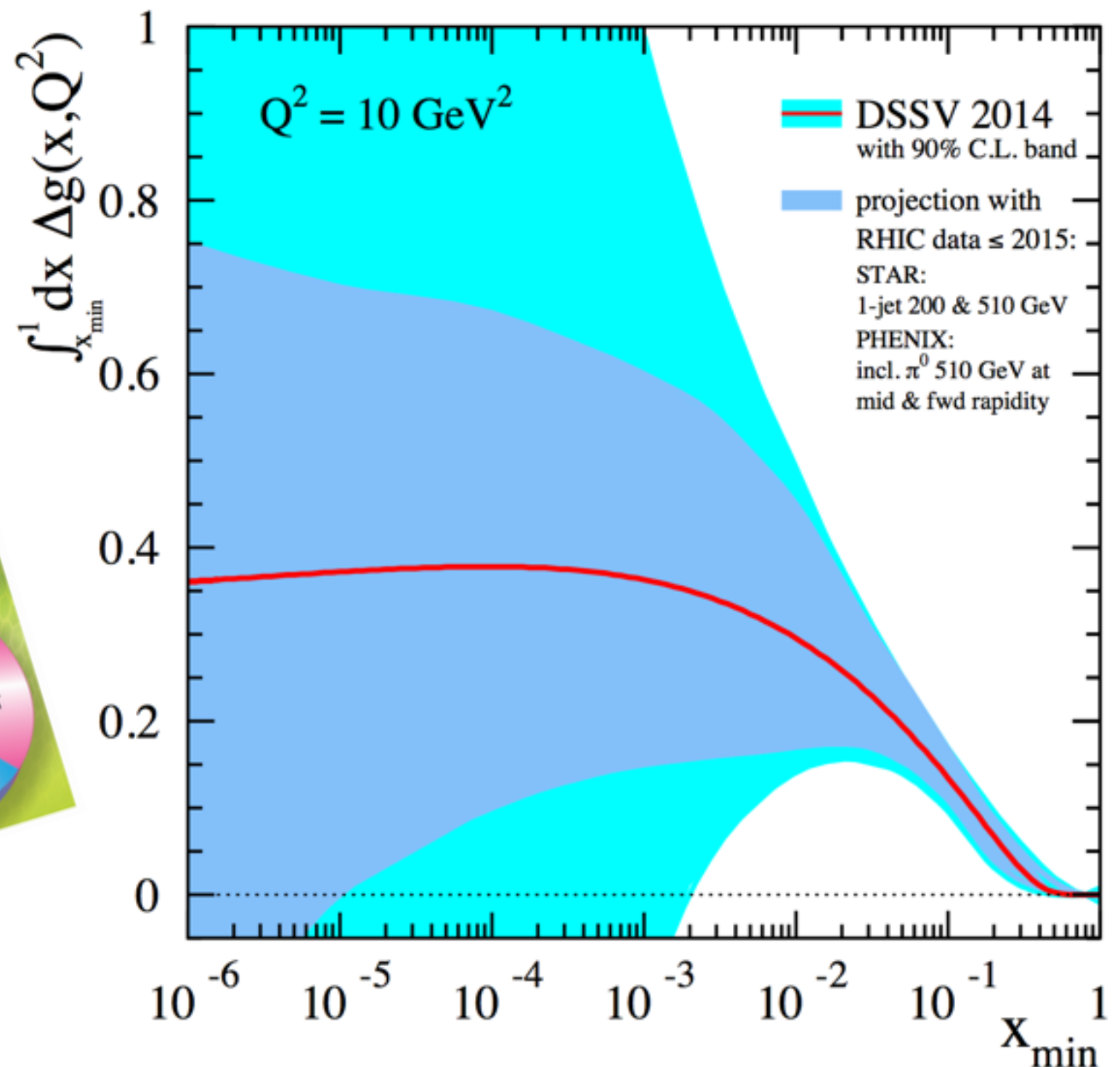
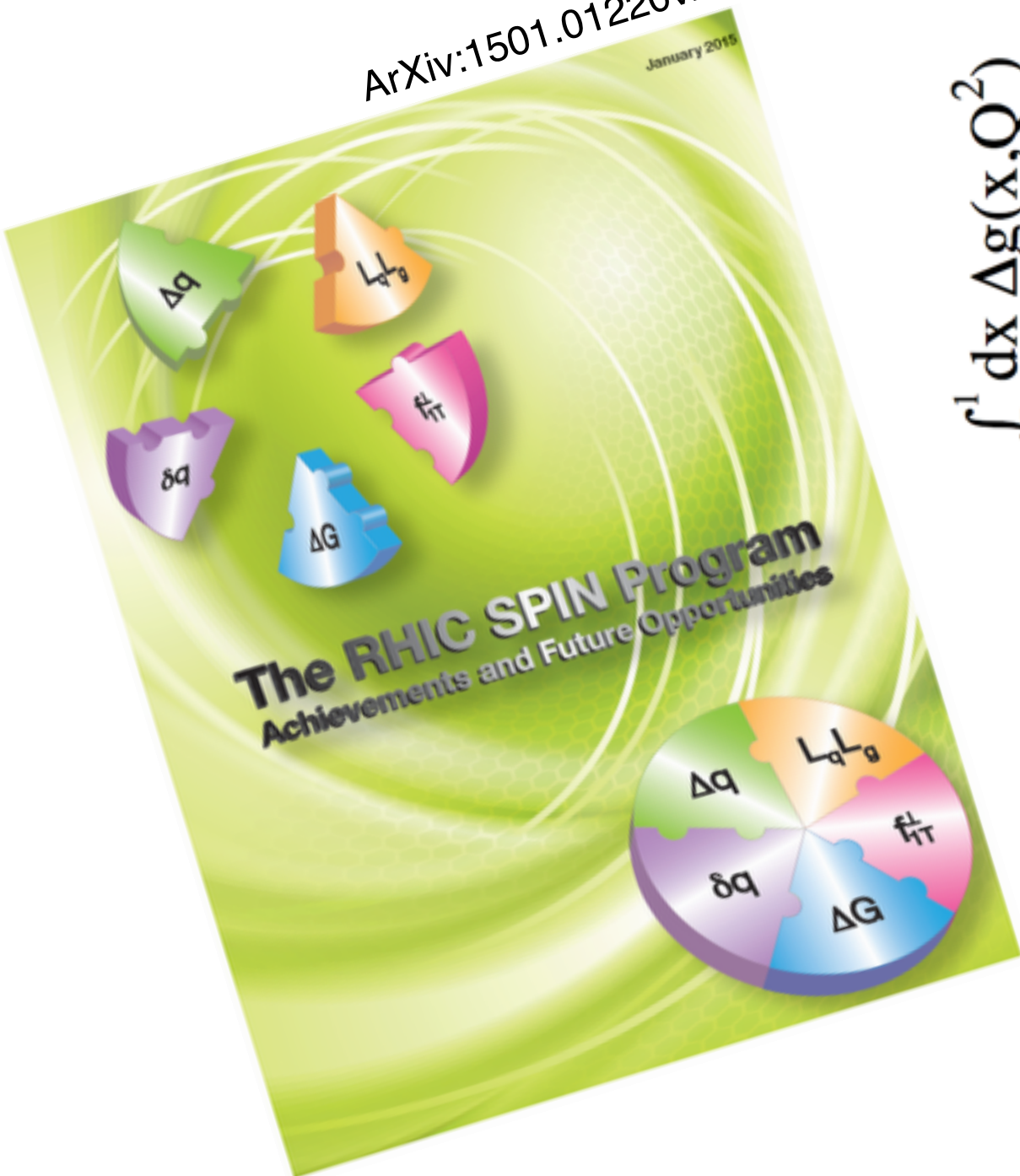
Extend sensitivity to *smaller*  $x_g$   
 $\sqrt{s} = 500 \text{ GeV}$  data,  $x_g \sim 1/\sqrt{s}$ ,  
 forward rapidity,  $x_g \sim \exp(-\eta)$ ,

Further *precision* from jet and neutral pion probes, and  
 from *complementary* probes



# Gluon Polarization - What to expect next?

ArXiv:1501.01220v2  
January 2015

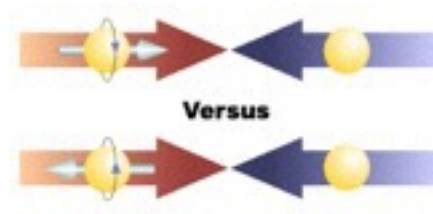


- additional constraints from correlated probes, e.g. di-jets, but *not* adtl. kin. coverage,
- longer term opportunity (2020+): EIC, *or (and?)*  
renewed  $\sqrt{s} = 500 \text{ GeV}$  operations with forward upgrade

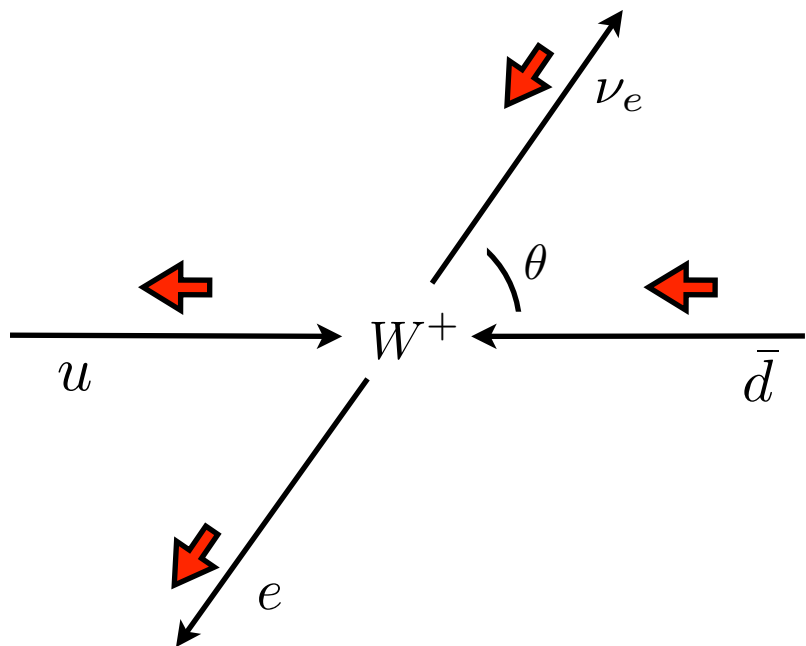


# The RHIC-Spin Program - Selected results, open questions

## Quark Polarization



# Quark Polarization at RHIC



$\sqrt{s} = 500$  GeV above W production threshold,

**Experiment Signature:**

large  $p_T$  lepton, missing  $E_T$

**Experiment Challenges:**

charge-ID at large  $|\text{rapidity}|$

electron/hadron discrimination

luminosity hungry!

$$\Delta\sigma^{\text{Born}}(\vec{p}p \rightarrow W^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e) \propto -\Delta u(x_a)\bar{d}(x_b)(1+\cos\theta)^2 + \Delta\bar{d}(x_a)u(x_b)(1-\cos\theta)^2$$

**Spin Measurements:**

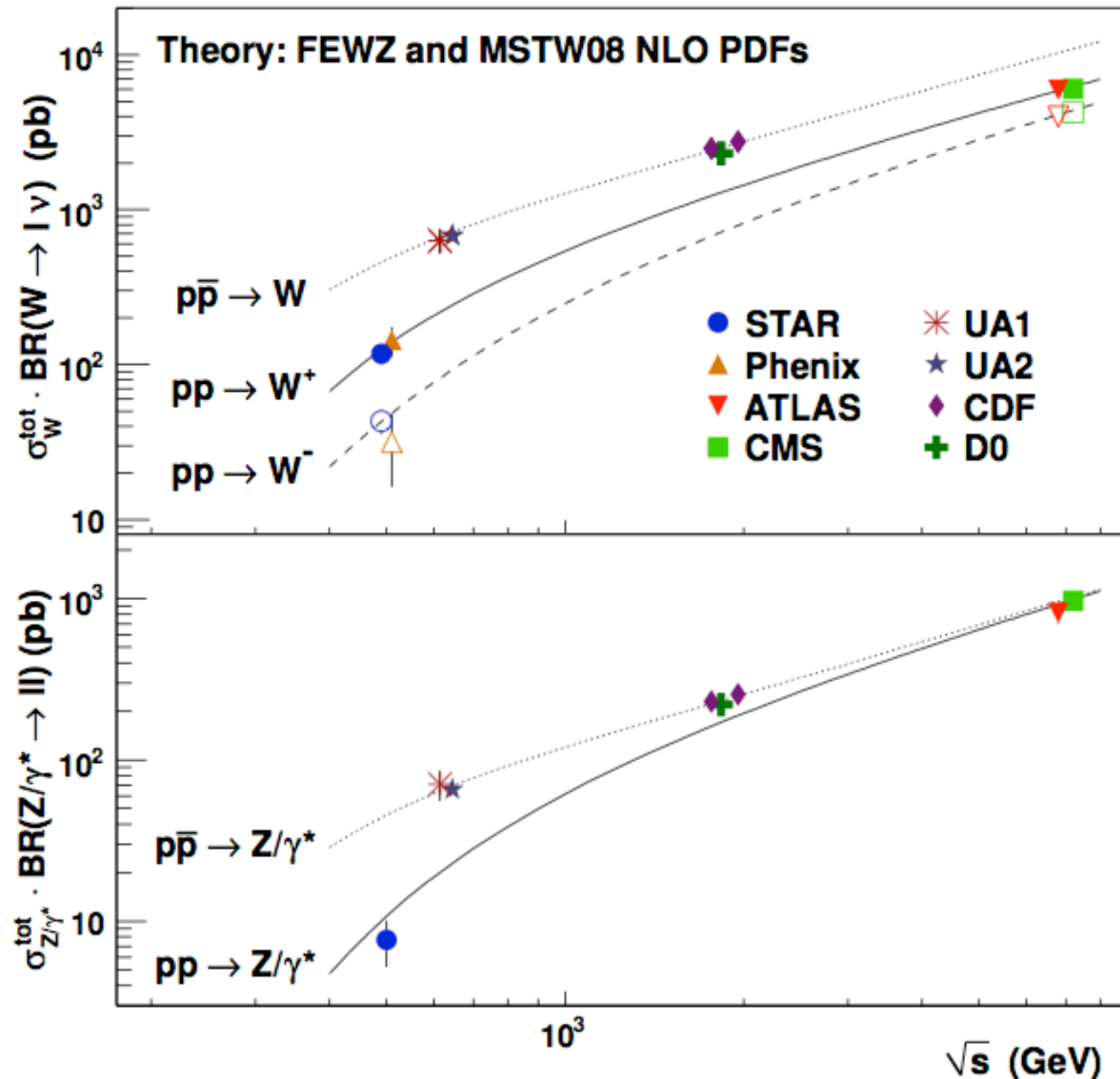
$$A_L(W^+) = \frac{-\Delta u(x_a)\bar{d}(x_b) + \Delta\bar{d}(x_a)u(x_b)}{u(x_a)\bar{d}(x_b) + \bar{d}(x_a)u(x_b)} = \begin{cases} -\frac{\Delta u(x_a)}{u(x_a)}, & x_a \rightarrow 1 \\ \frac{\Delta\bar{d}(x_a)}{\bar{d}(x_a)}, & x_b \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}$$

*Initial mid-rapidity data in 2009,*

$$A_L(W^-) = \begin{cases} -\frac{\Delta d(x_a)}{d(x_a)}, & x_a \rightarrow 1 \\ \frac{\Delta\bar{u}(x_a)}{\bar{u}(x_a)}, & x_b \rightarrow 1 \end{cases}$$

*Analysis tour-de-force for both experiments!*

# Quark Polarization at RHIC - Cross Sections



PHENIX: first  $W^+$  and  $W^-$  production cross sections in proton-proton collisions, Phys.Rev.Lett. **106** (2011) 062001,

STAR: Initial NC cross section at RHIC, confirmation of PHENIX CC cross section measurements, Phys. Rev. **D85** (2012).

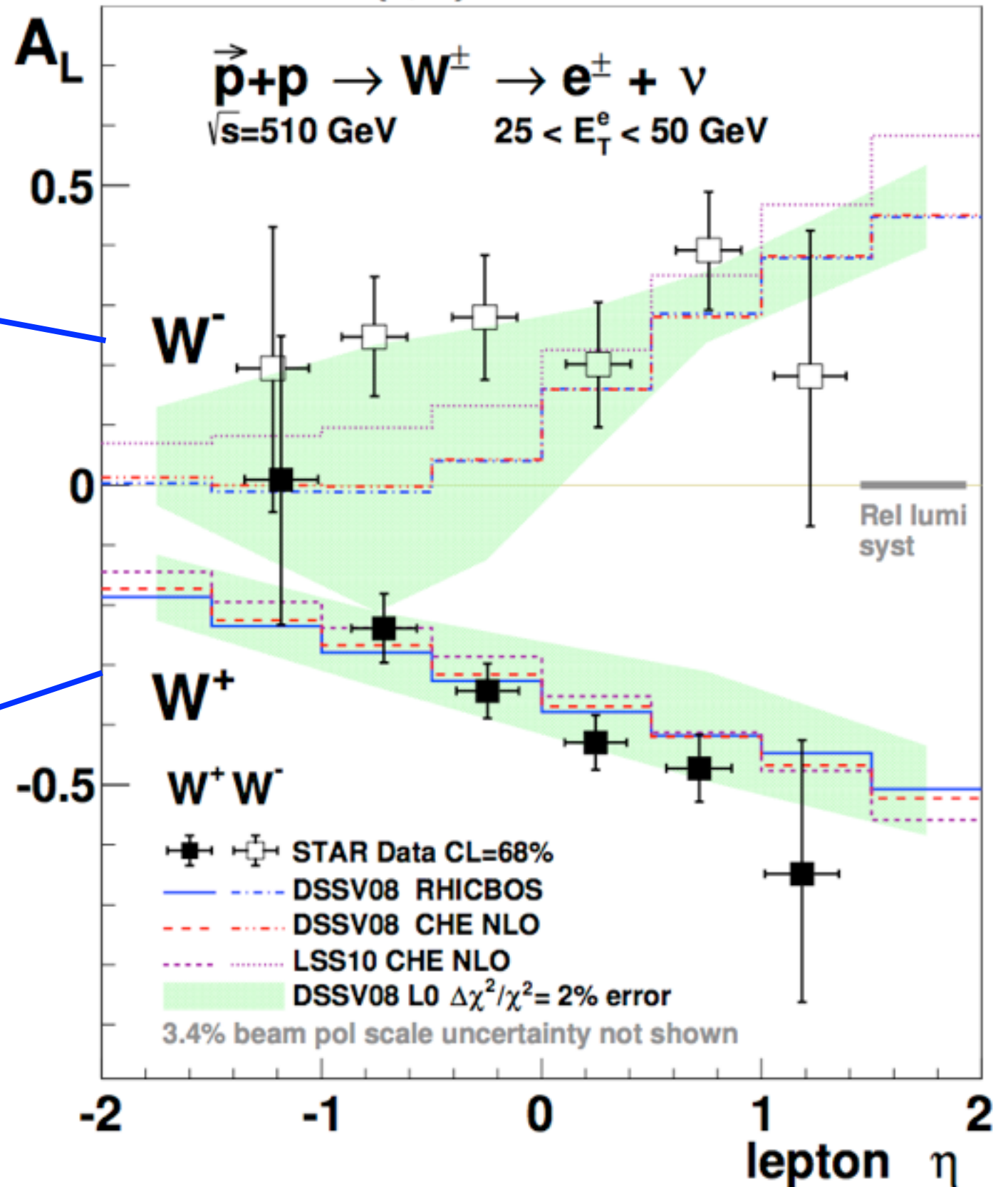
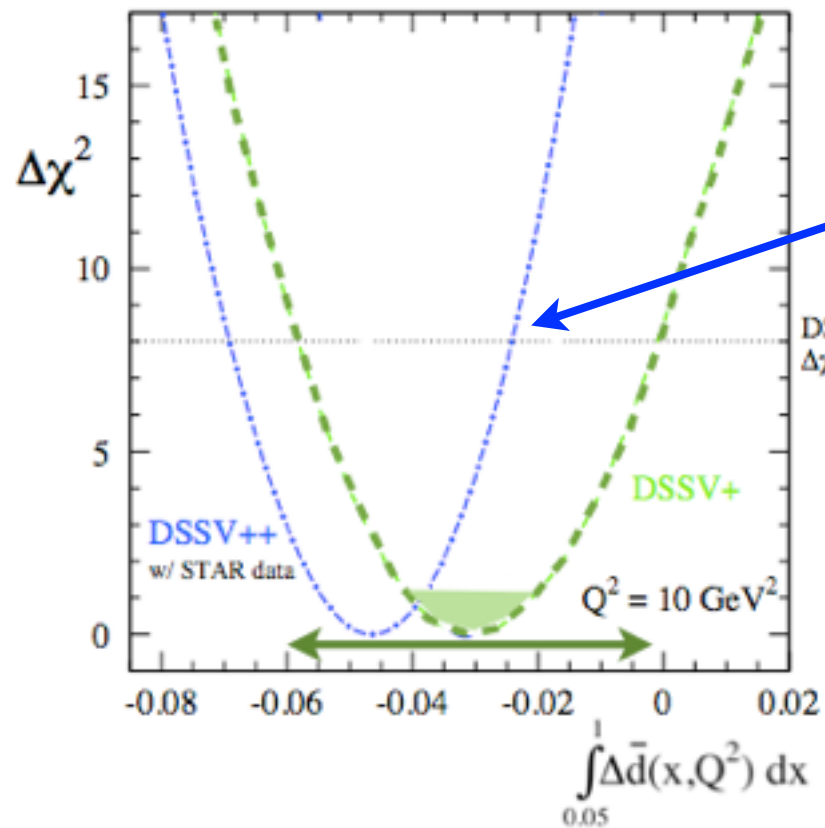
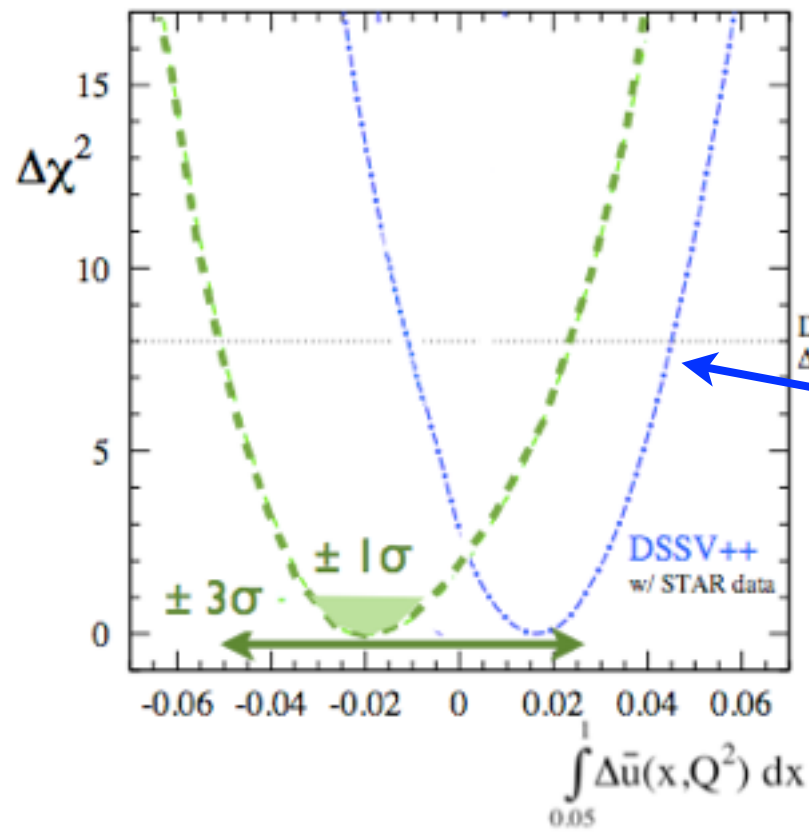
Data are well-described by NLO pQCD theory (FEWZ + MSTW08),

Support NLO pQCD interpretation of the asymmetry measurements,

Aside, future ratio measurements may provide insights in unpolarized light quark distributions

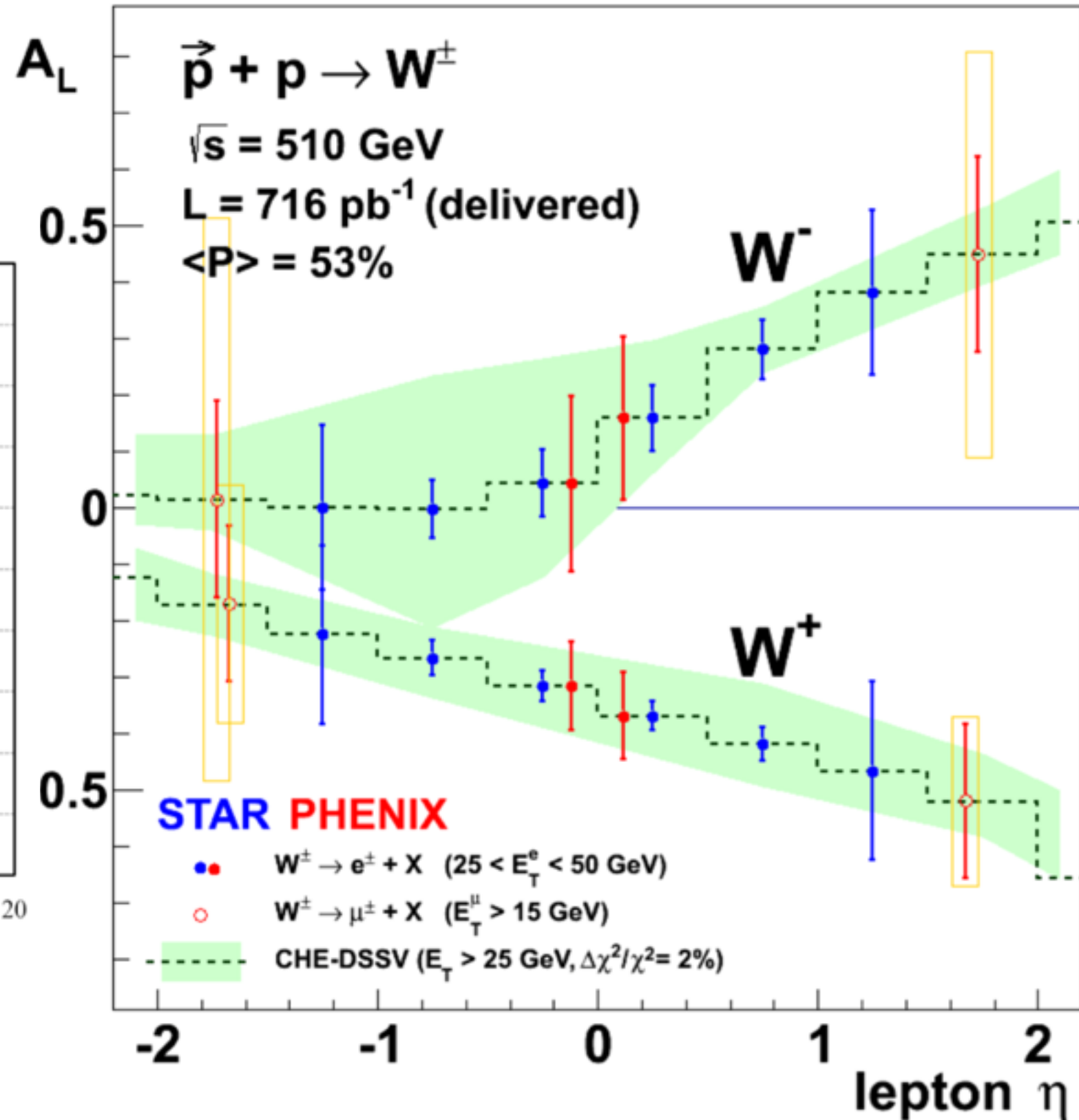
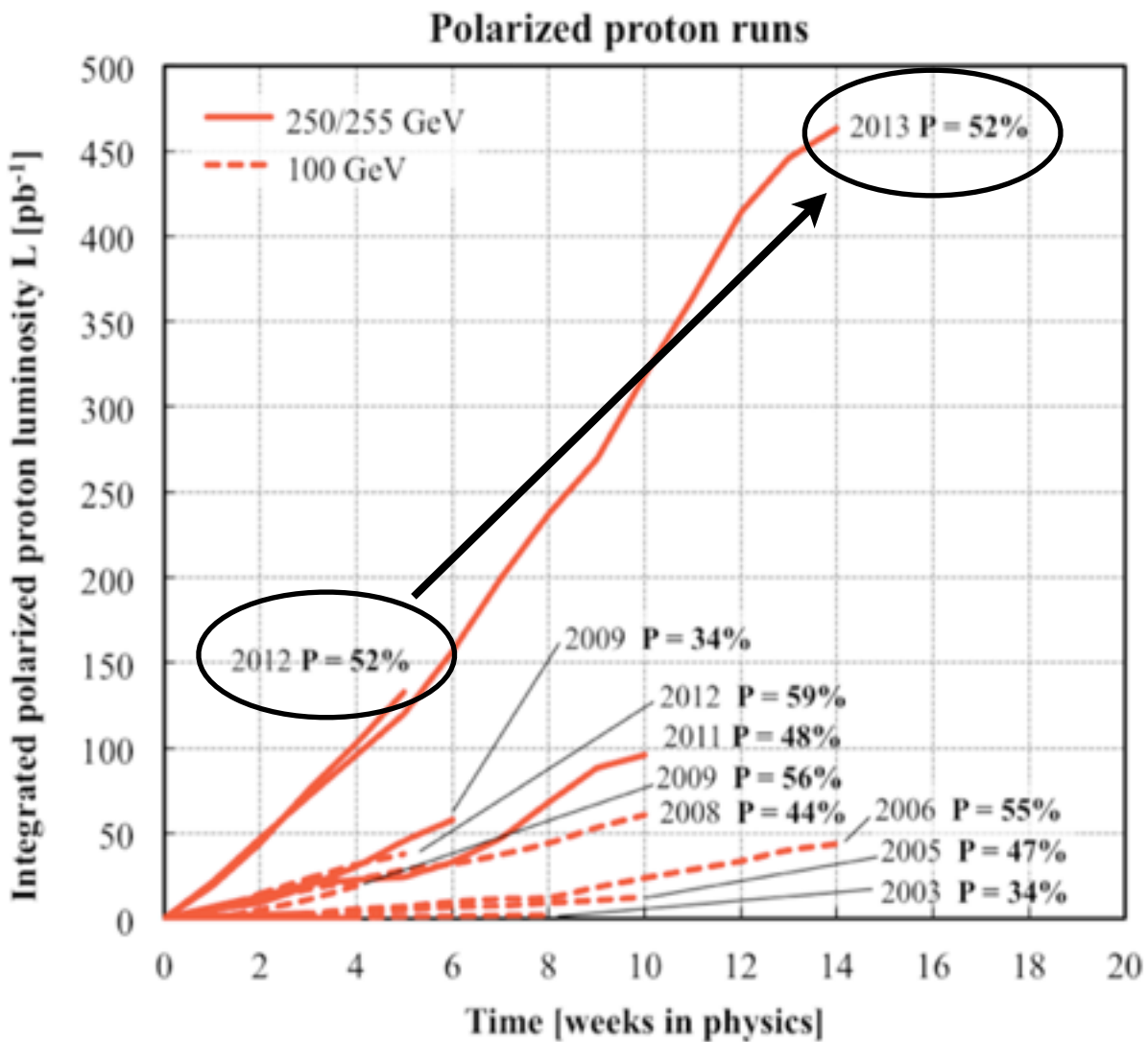
# Quark Polarization - *More Precise* $A_L$ from RHIC

Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 072301 (2014)



# Quark Polarization - Next Steps

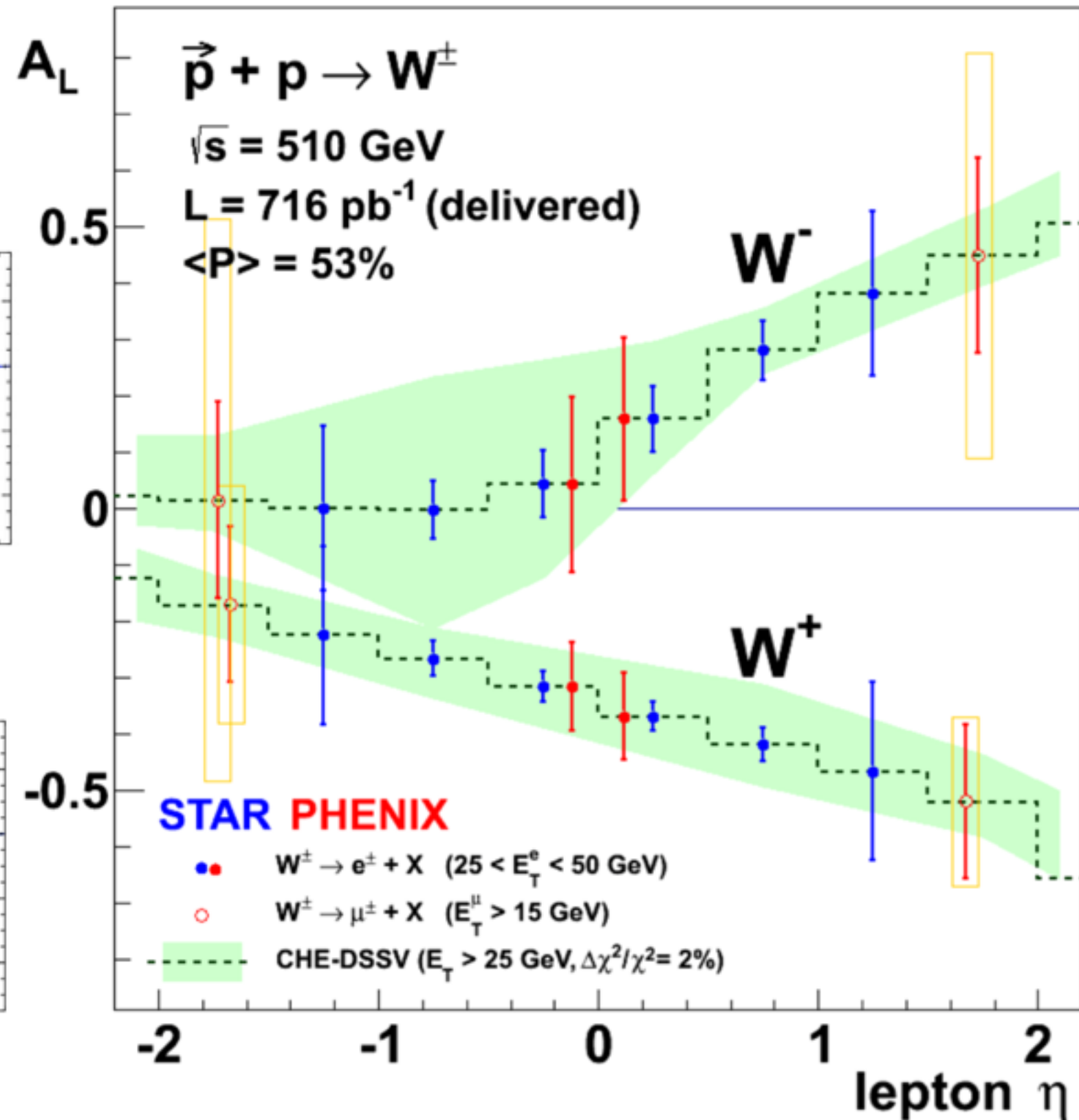
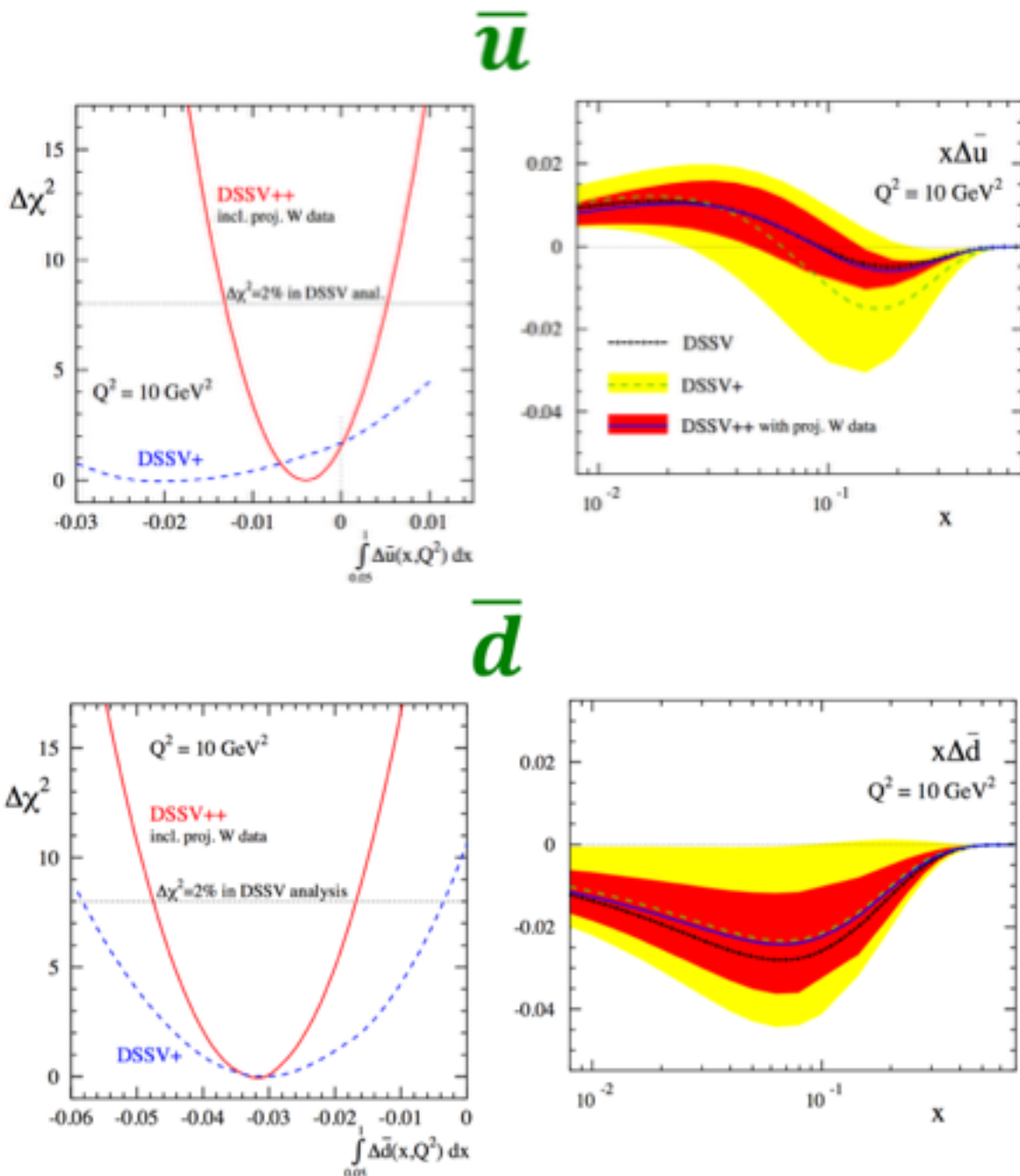
Anticipated uncertainties:





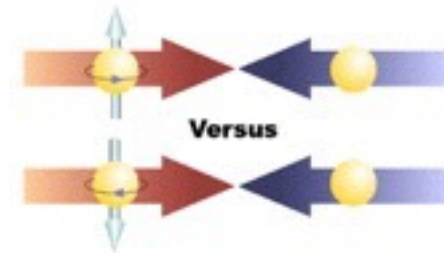
# Quark Polarization - Next Steps

Anticipated uncertainties, and their projected impact:



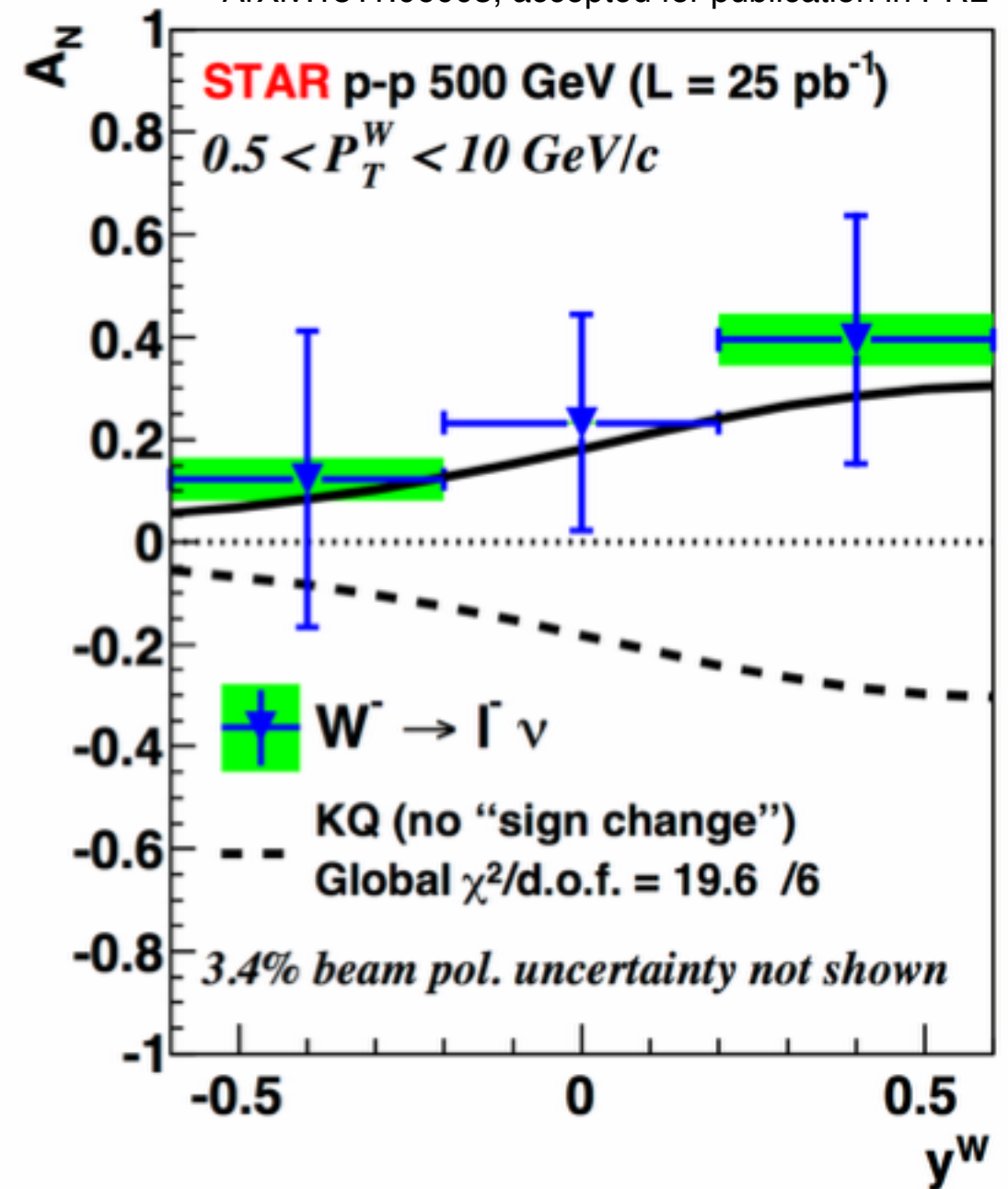
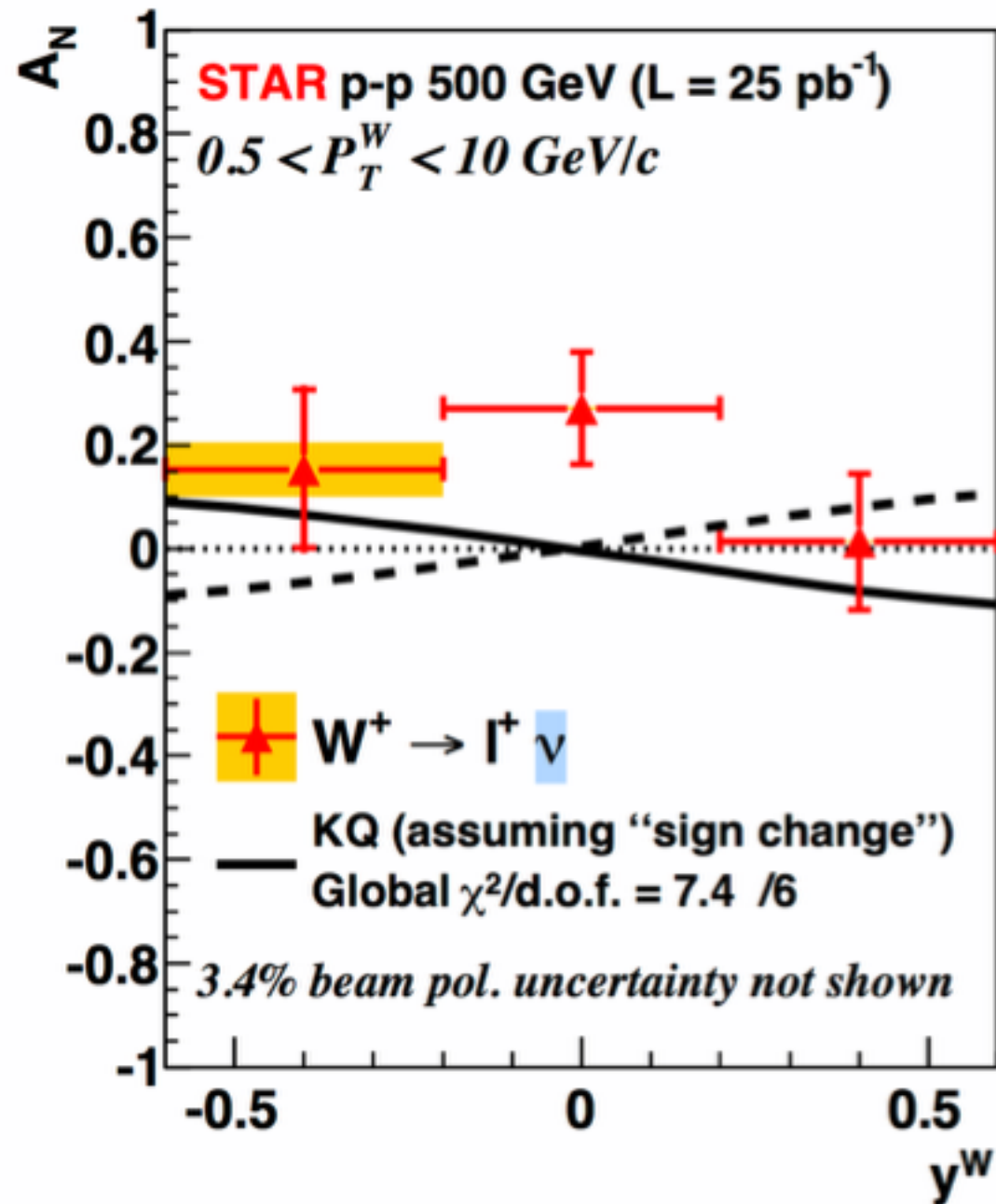
# The RHIC-Spin Program - Selected results, open questions

## Transverse Spin Phenomena: Sivers



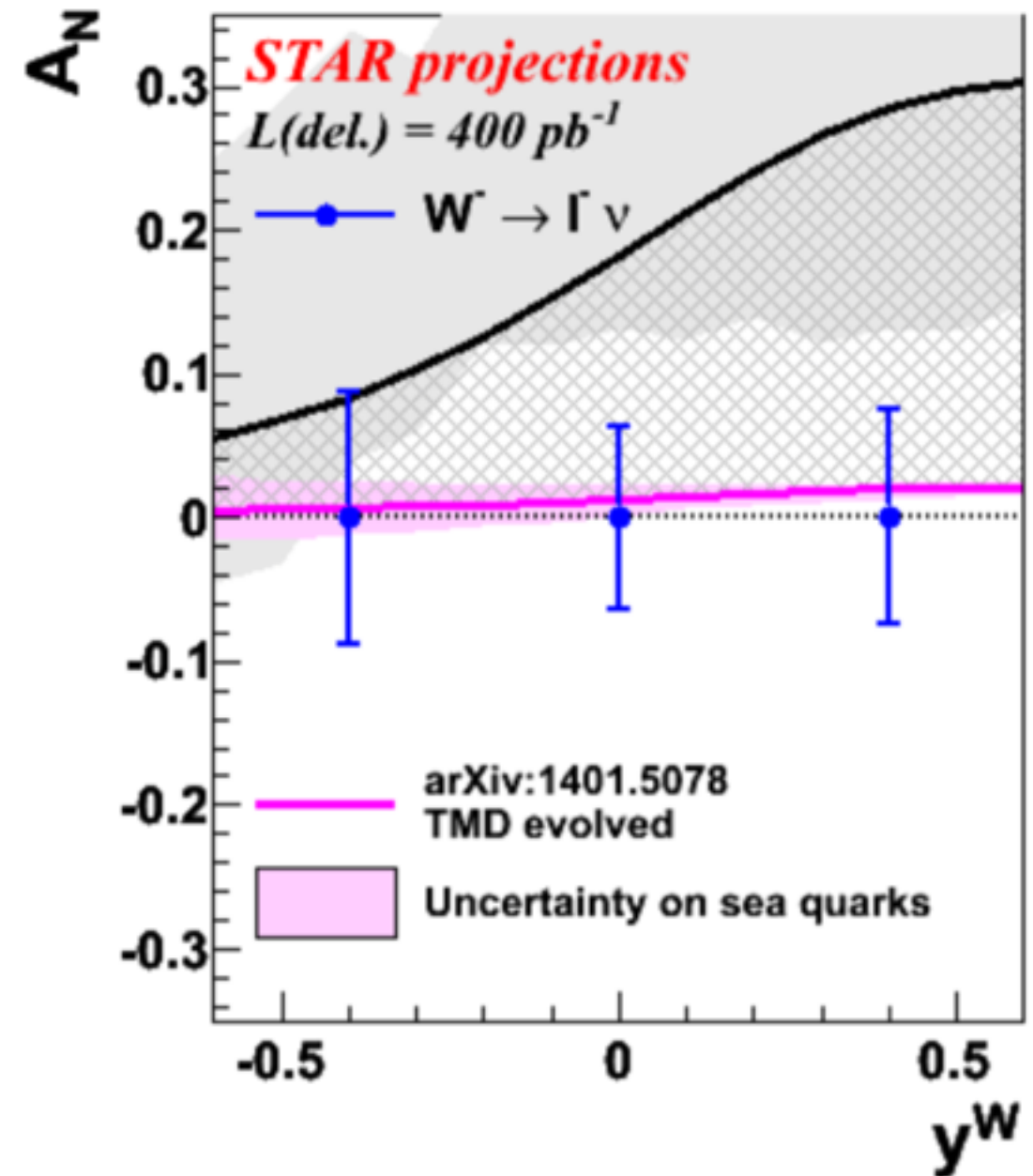
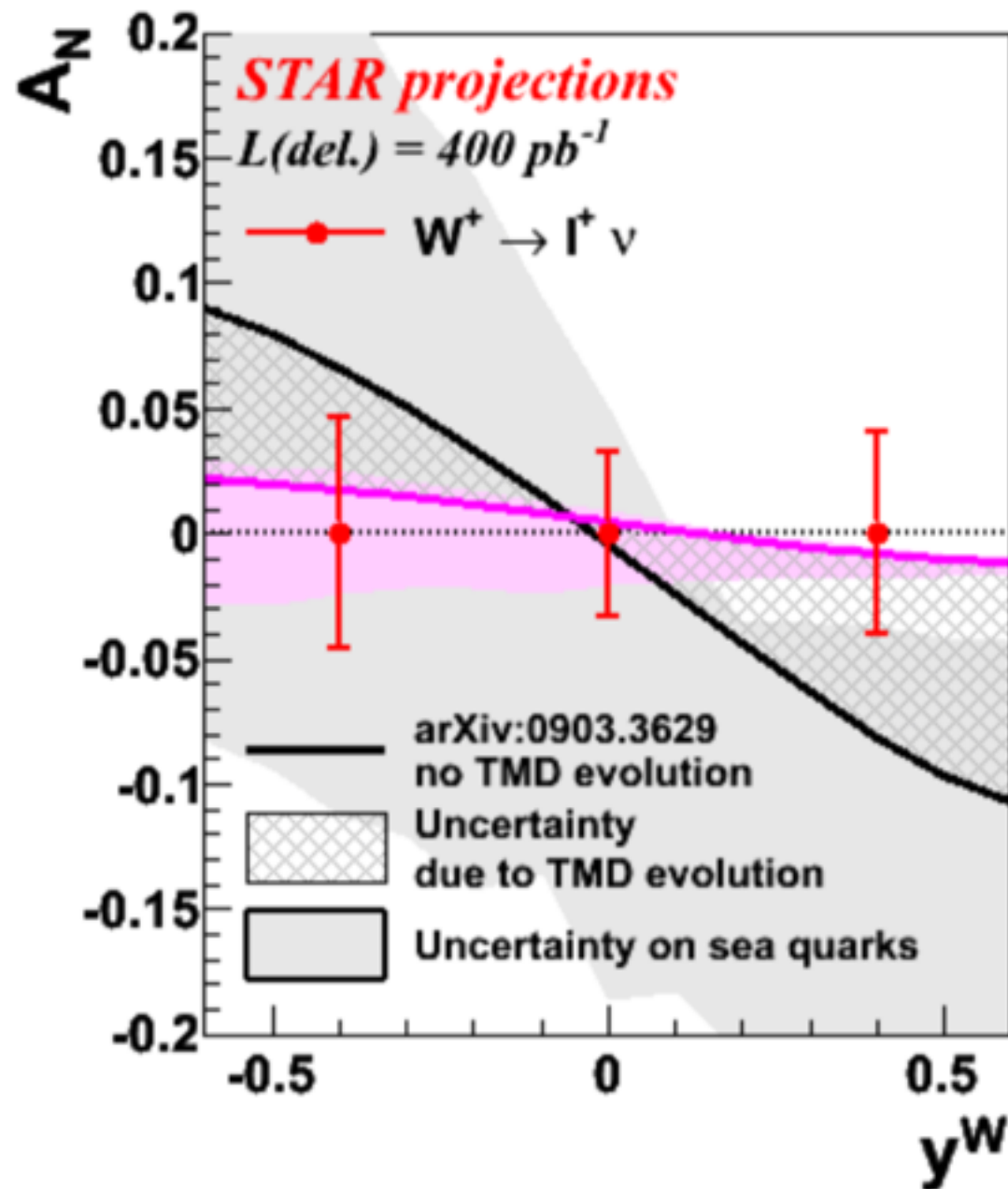
# STAR W $A_N$ - “The sign change”

ArXiv:1511.06003, accepted for publication in PRL



Calls for continued measurement; PAC approved, LRP supported, planned for 2017, Eagerly anticipate forward photon  $A_N$  from run-15;  $A_N$ DY has published forward jet  $A_N$ , Drell-Yan: initial measurement at RHIC in 2017 via the electron decay channel, using a post-shower (and UV) upgrade to the STAR forward EM Cal. (FMS), future measurements, in p+A, are drivers in forward upgrade LOI's.

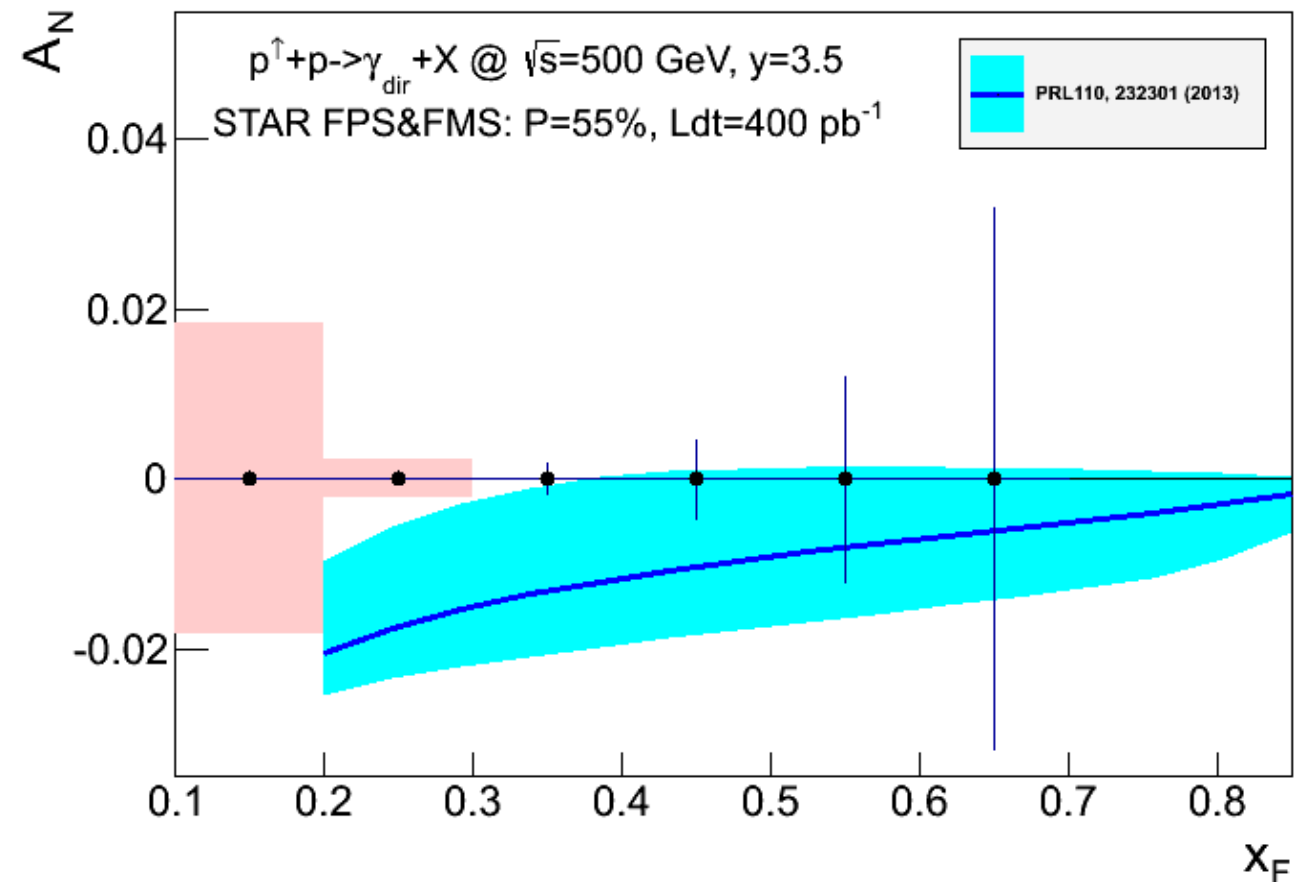
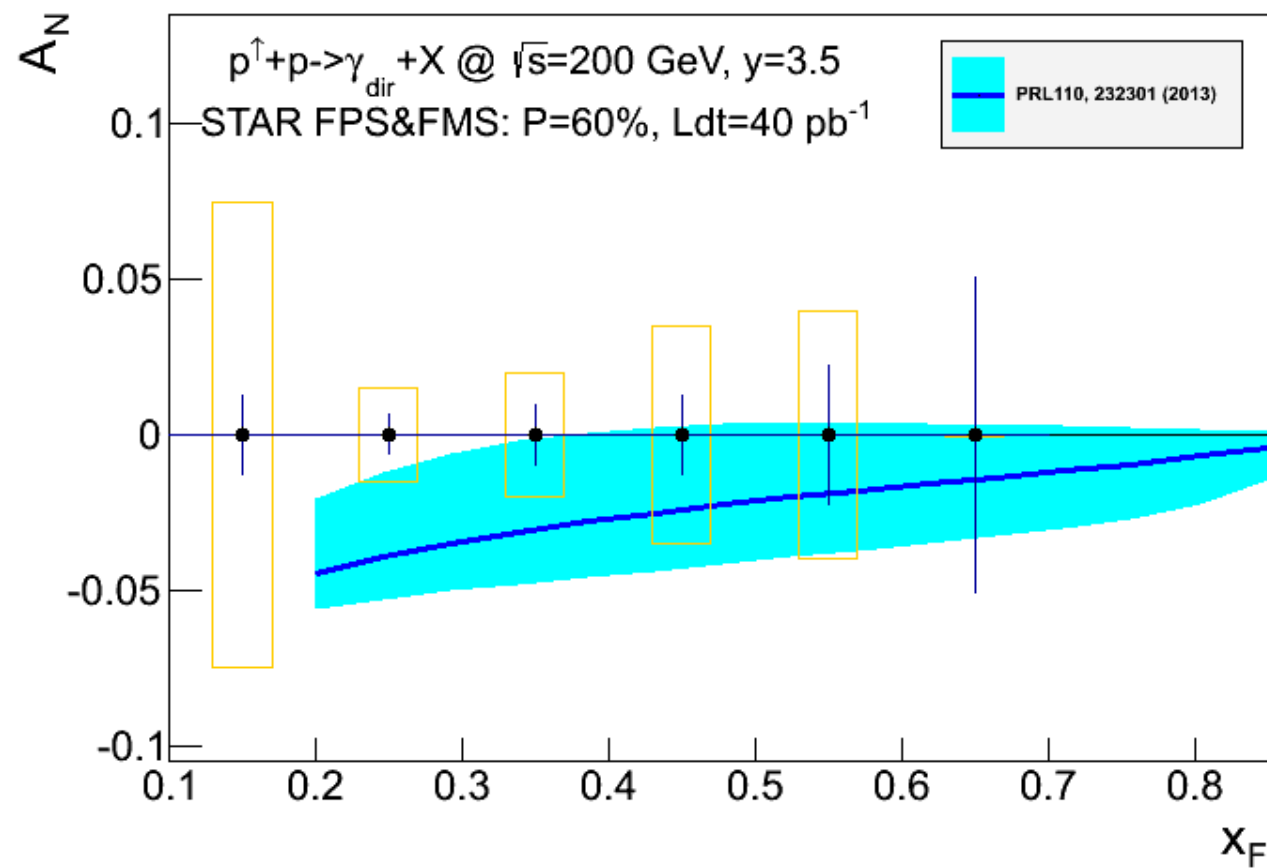
# STAR W $A_N$ - Prospects for 2017 Run



Lots of work ahead to turn these projections into actual results,

Ample other opportunities, for example  
 photons, Drell Yan, diffraction, mid-rapidity,  
 gradual upgrades to existing STAR forward instrumentation, RHICf@STAR,

# STAR photon $A_N$ - Prospects with 2017 Run

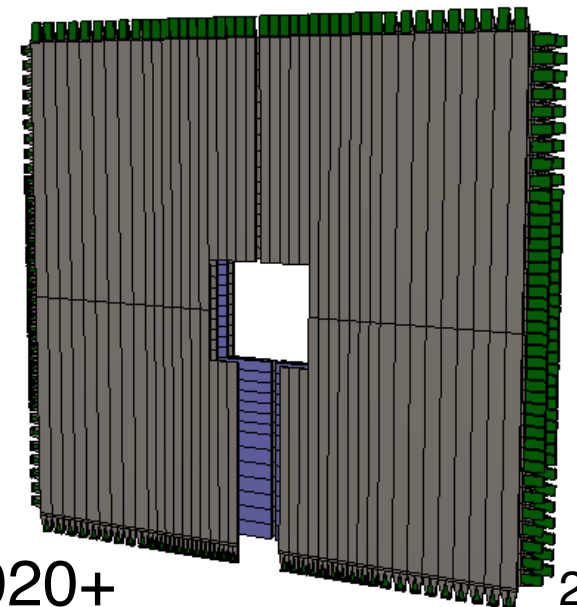


Measurement relies crucially on the now existing pre-shower to the FMS,

Sensitive to the “sign-change” in the twist-3 formalism,

light valence quarks, at relatively high- $x$ ,

twist-3 evolution, *not* TMD evolution.



Constraining this evolution is one of the motivations for running in 2020+

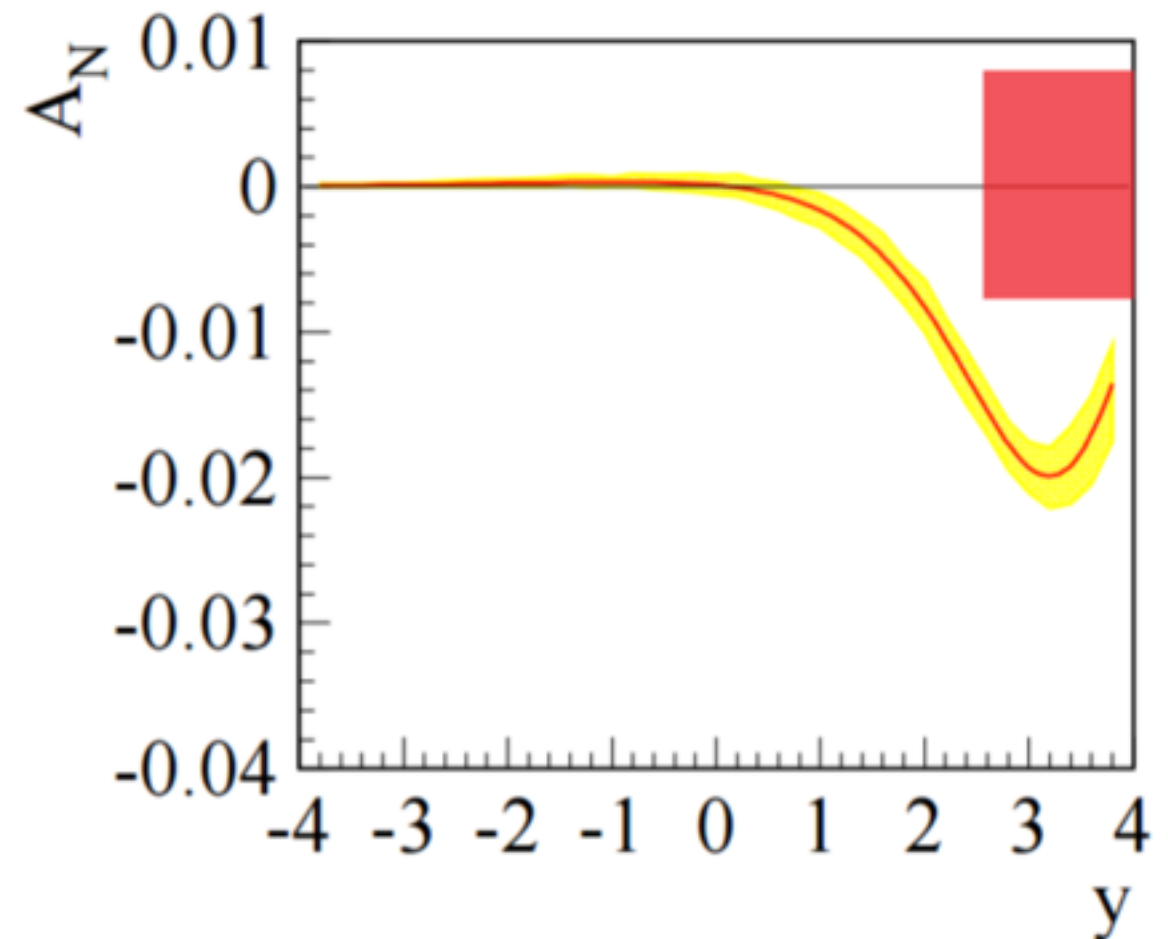
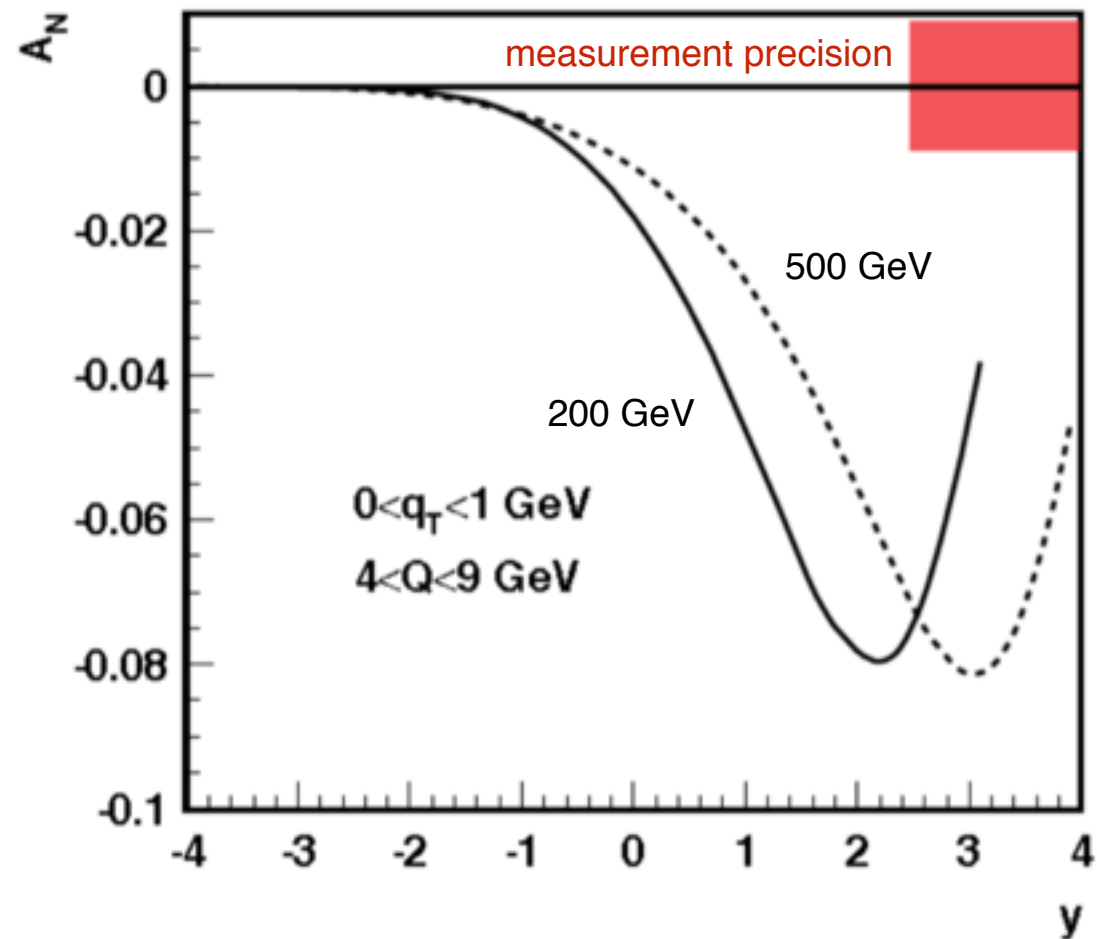


# STAR Drell-Yan - Prospects for 2017 Run

No TMD evolution

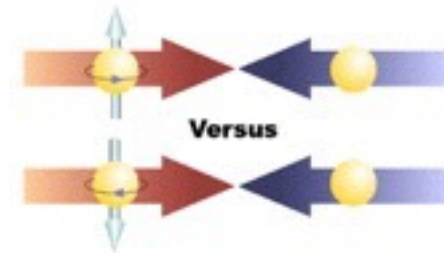
With TMD evolution

Z.B. Kang et al, ArXiv:1401.5078



# The RHIC-Spin Program - Selected results, open questions

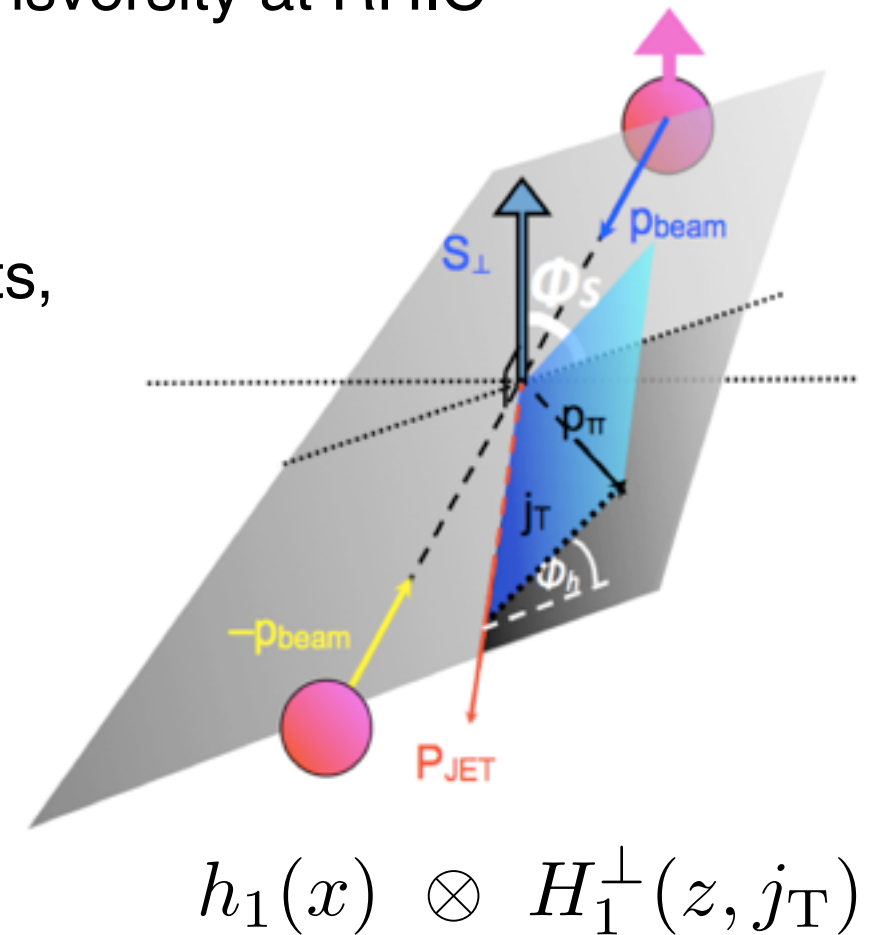
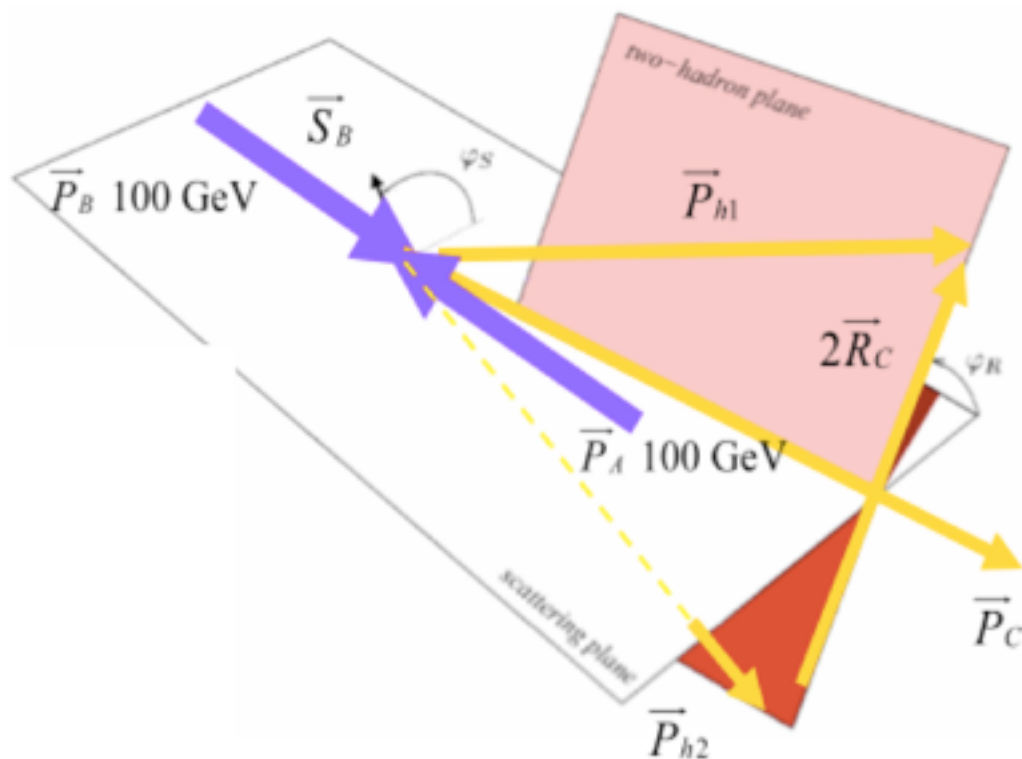
## Transverse Spin Phenomena: Collins



# Quark Transversity at RHIC

At least two methods can provide sensitivity to quark transversity at RHIC

1. spin-dependent modulation of hadron yields within jets,

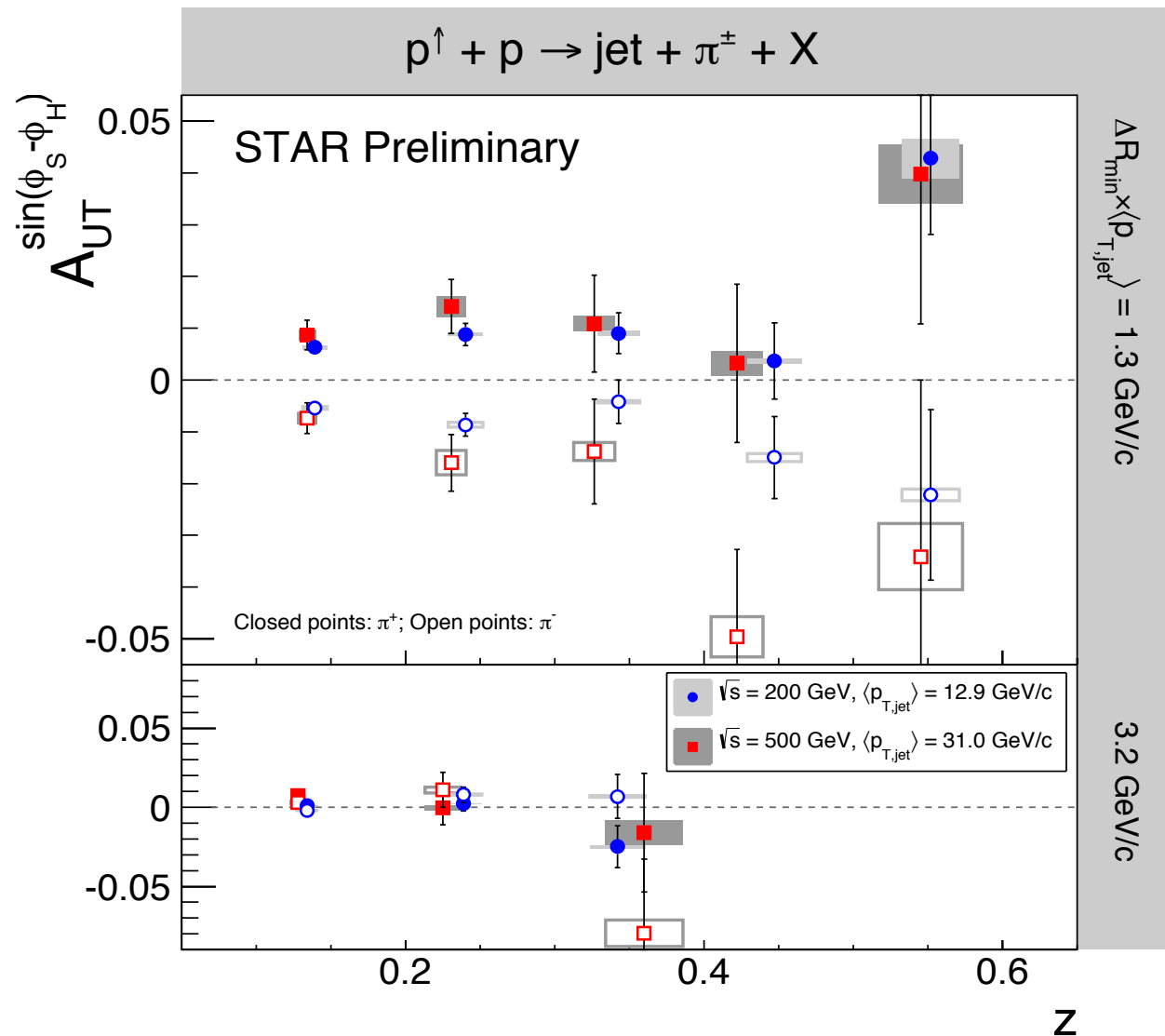


2. di-hadron correlation measurements couple transversity with interference-fragmentation.

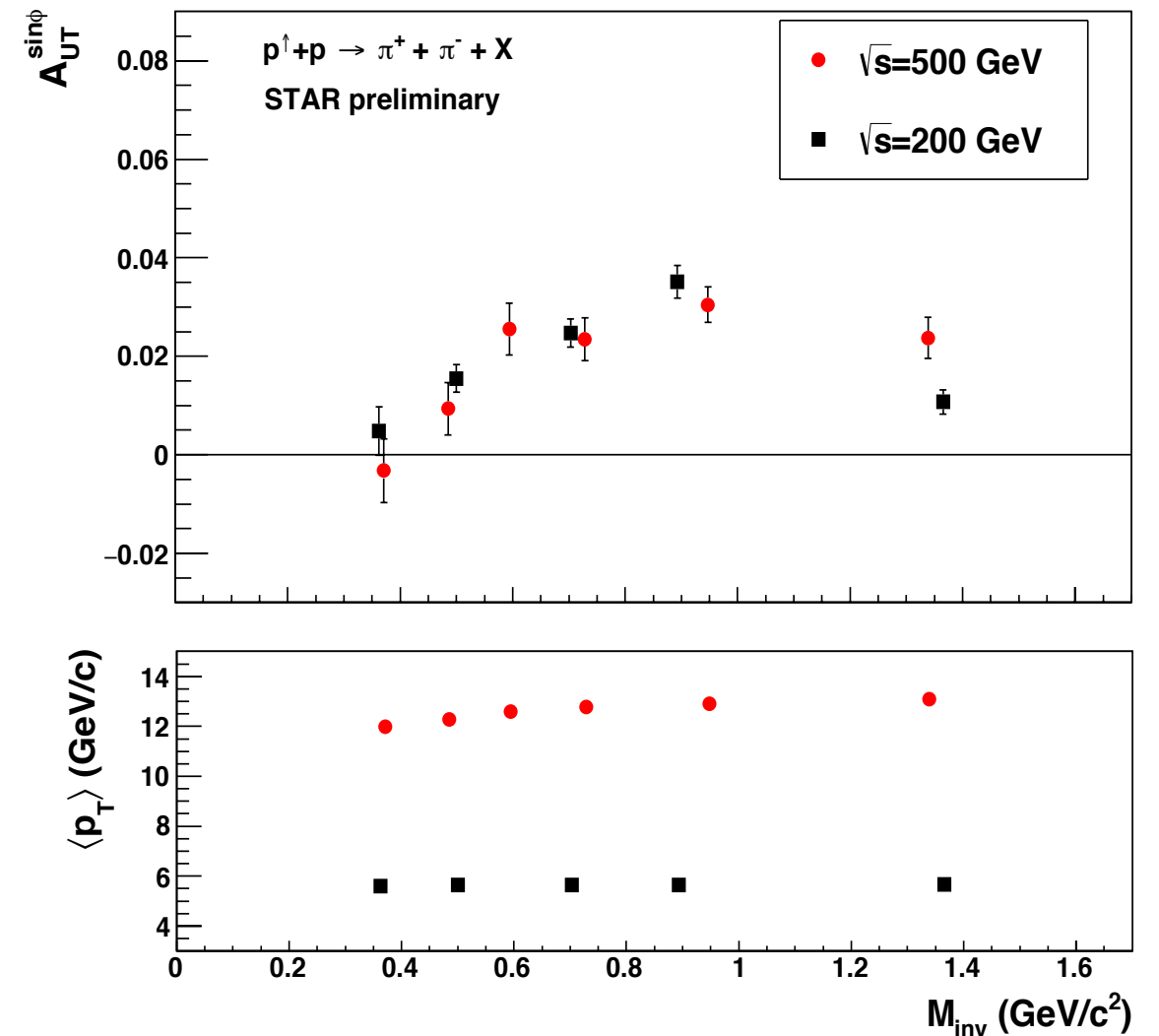
Both methods have been pursued and have delivered initial results...

# STAR $A_{UT}$ - Quark Transversity and Fragmentation

azimuthal modulation within the jet



interference fragmentation



Sensitivity to quark transversity and *polarized* fragmentation,

200 and 500 GeV results are similar; is TMD evolution in FF small?

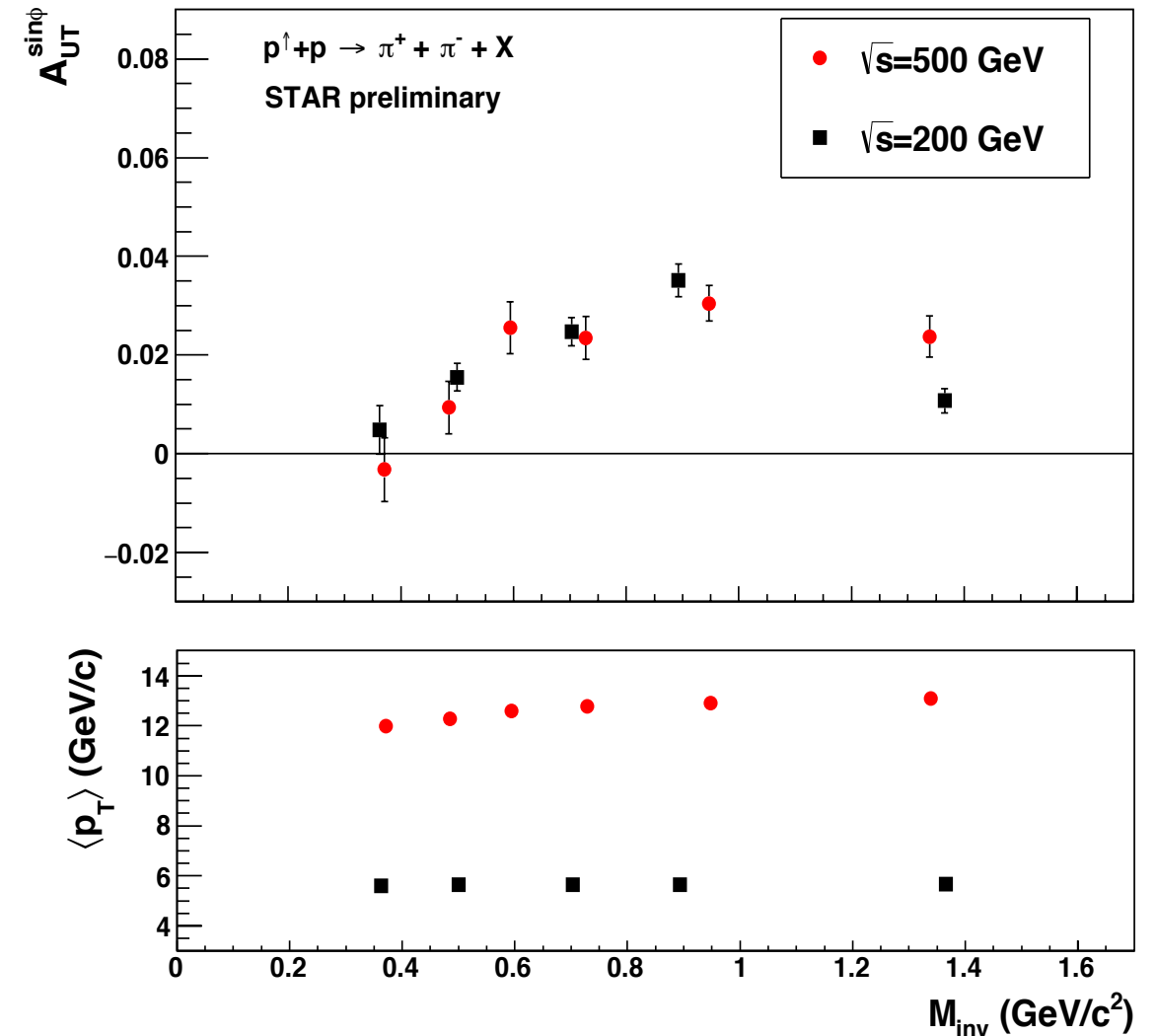
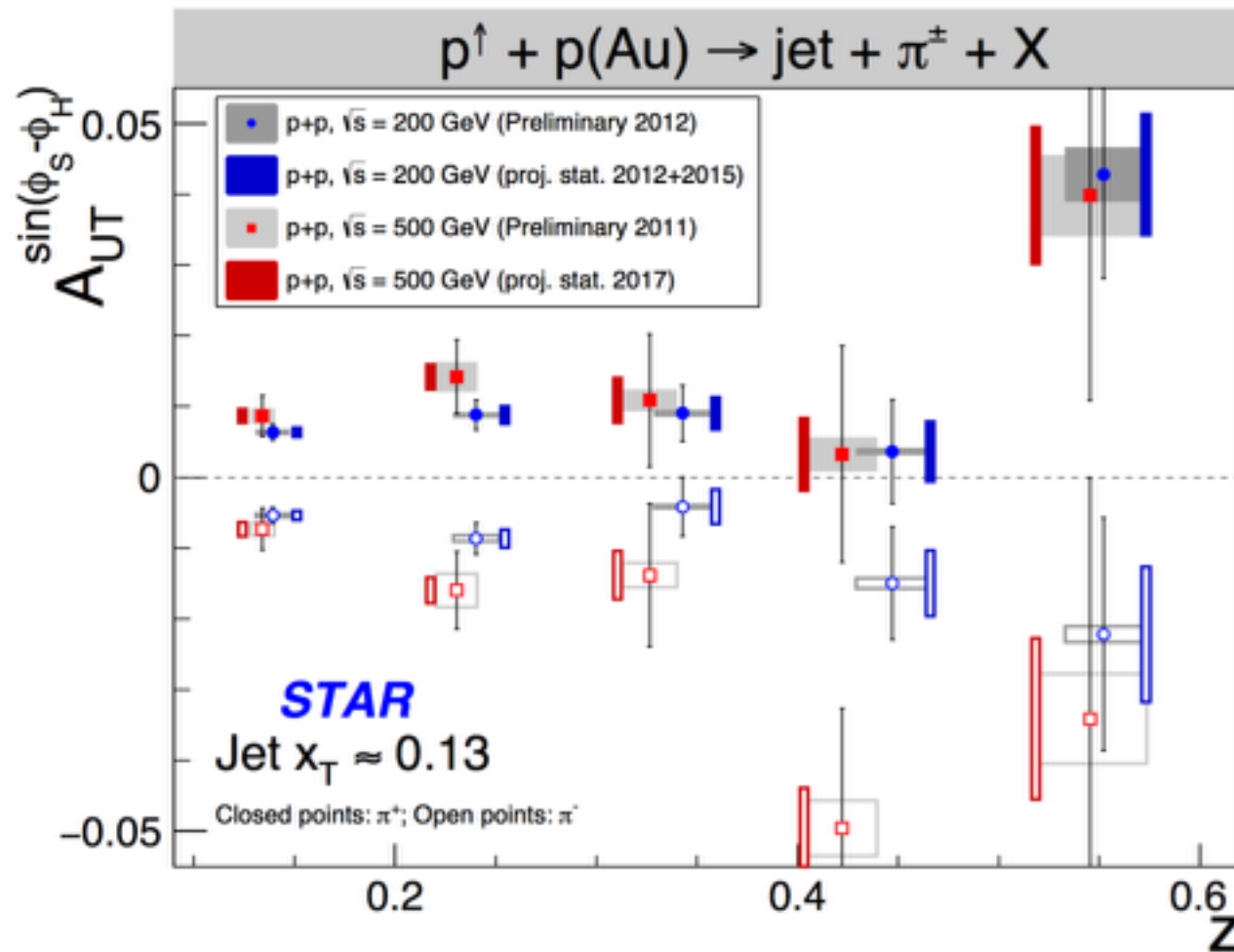
Non-zero observations open a path to nuclear modification of polarized fragmentation, first analyses in progress,

Particle-identification key to further surprises? Theoretical/phenomenological input sought.

# STAR $A_{UT}$ - Quark Transversity and Fragmentation

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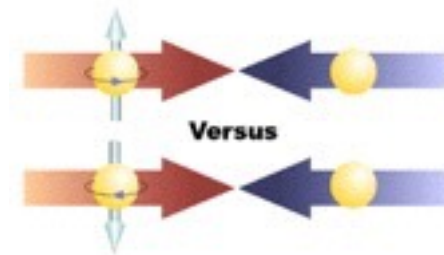
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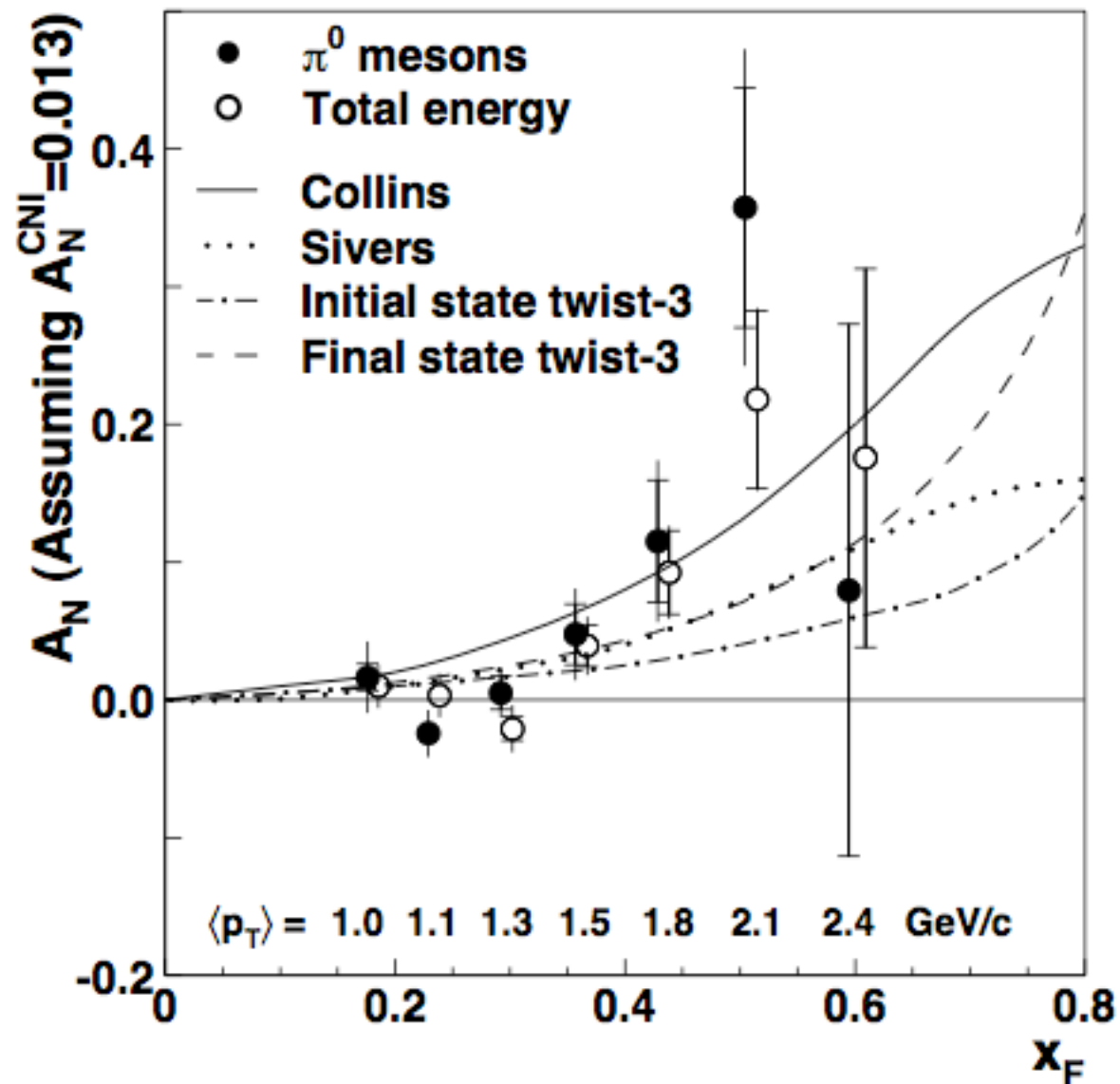
# The RHIC-Spin Program - Selected results, open questions

## Transverse Spin Phenomena: large $A_N$

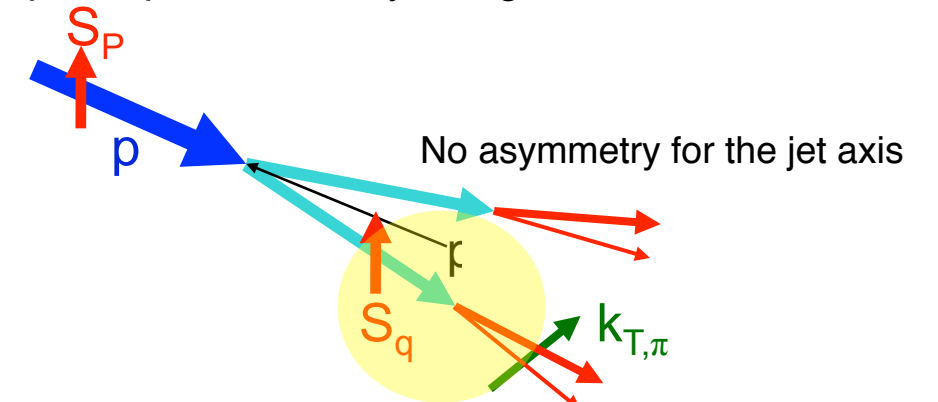


# STAR neutral pion $A_N$ - a continuing puzzle since E704

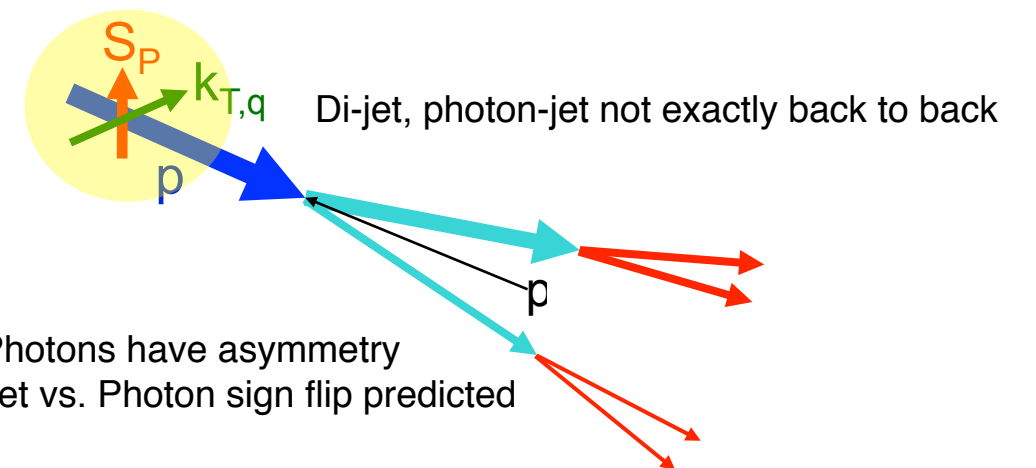
J. Adams et al, PRL 92, 171801 (2004)



• **Collins effect:** asymmetry comes from the transversity and the spin dependence of jet fragmentation.



• **Sivers effect:** asymmetry comes from spin-correlated  $k_T$  in the initial parton distribution

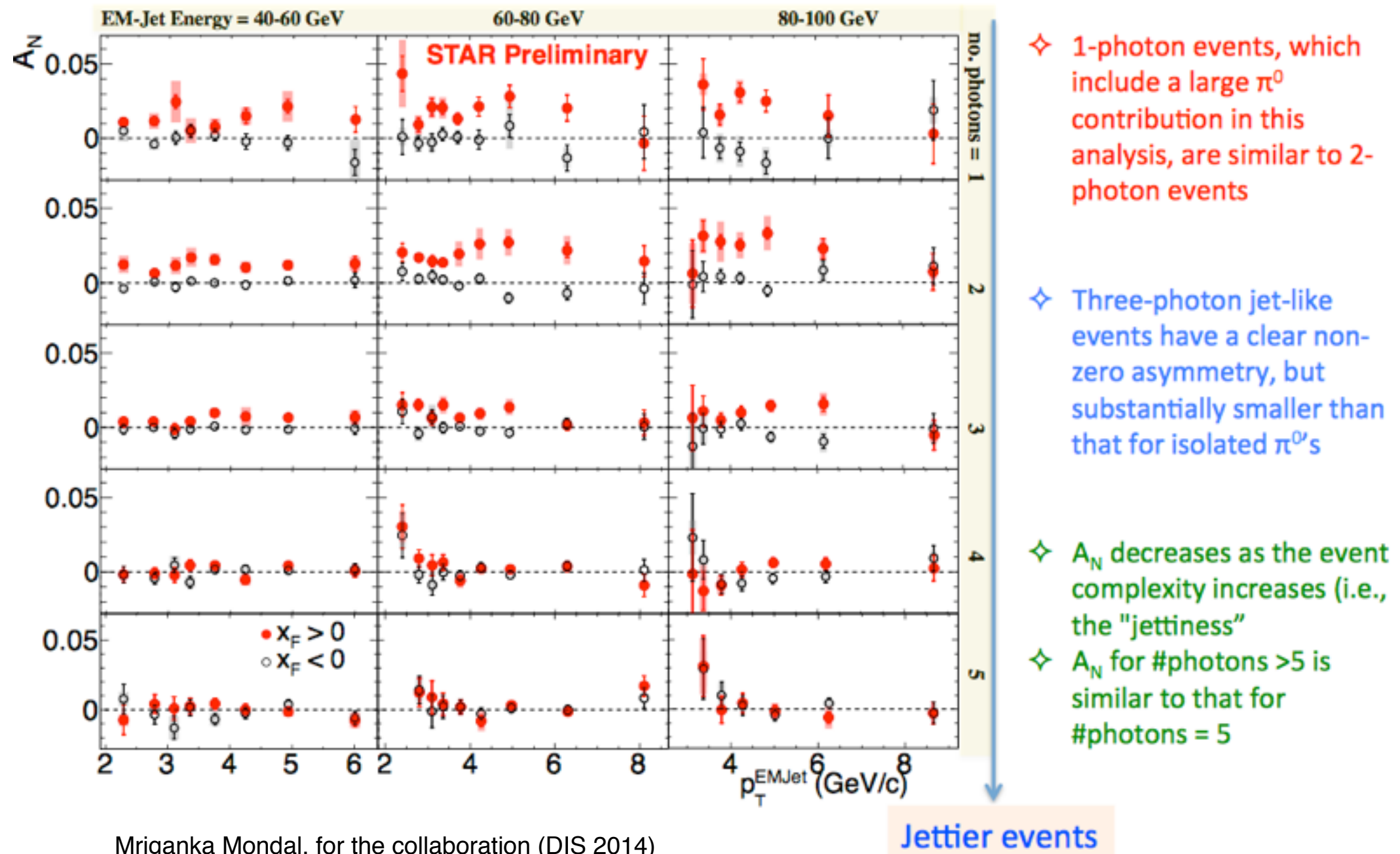


What causes this?

An experimental handle beyond collinear twist-2 perturbative QCD?

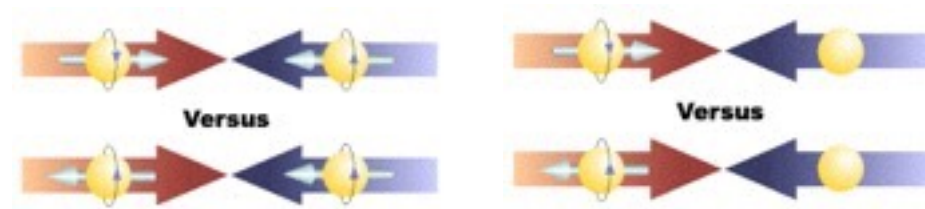
# STAR neutral pion $A_N$ - a continuing puzzle since E704

The puzzle continues...

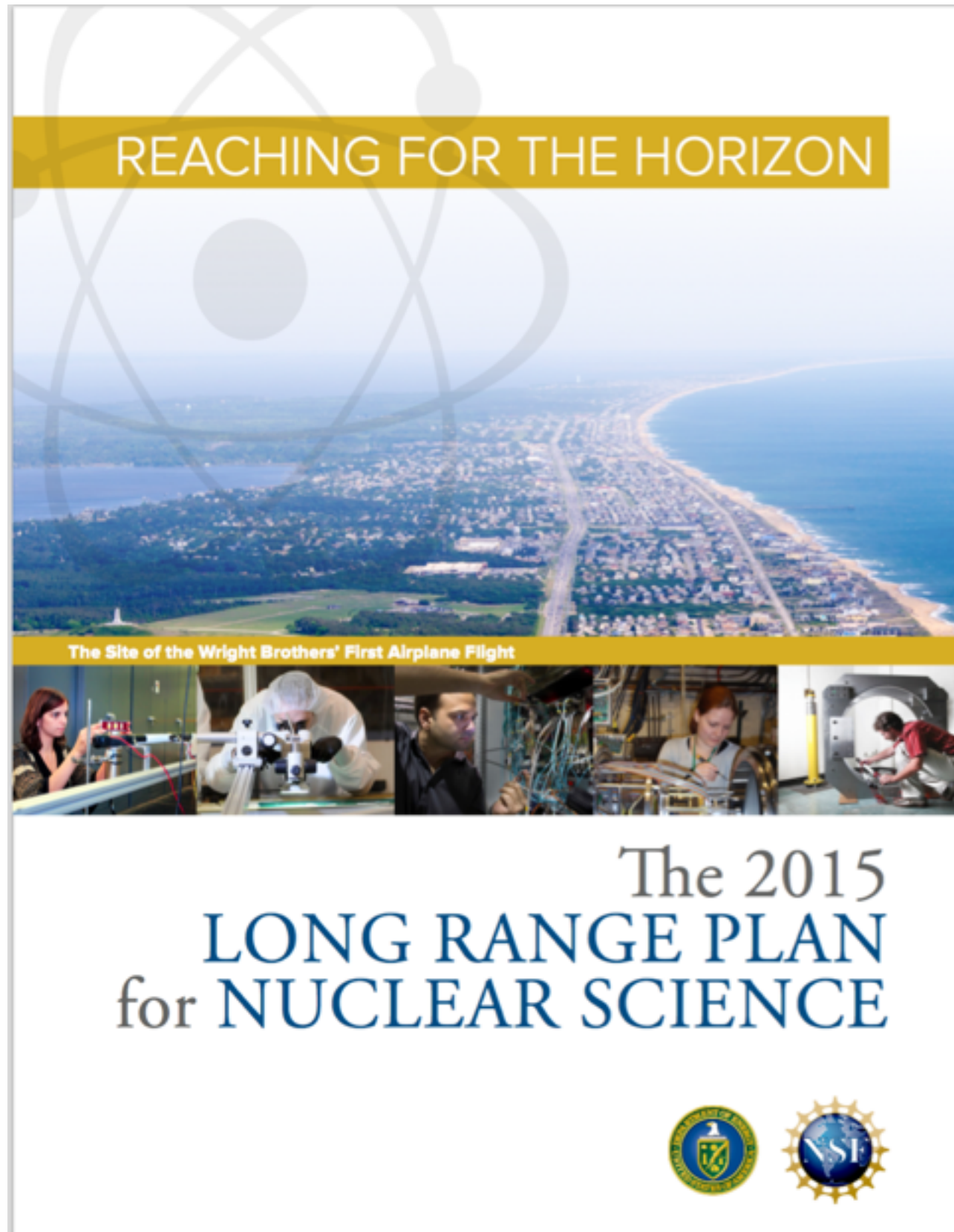


and points to a need for qualitatively new instrumentation and measurements, Low-multiplicity observation, consistent with a diffractive production mechanism, STAR Roman Pots (now) directly measure diffractive  $A_N$ . Initial analyses in progress. 26

# Completion of RHIC and transition to EIC



# Completion of RHIC and transition to EIC



## RECOMMENDATION I

The progress achieved under the guidance of the 2007 Long Range Plan has reinforced U.S. world leadership in nuclear science. The highest priority in this 2015 Plan is to **capitalize on the investments made**.

## RECOMMENDATION II

We recommend the timely development and deployment of a U.S.-led **ton-scale neutrinoless double beta decay experiment**.

## RECOMMENDATION III

We recommend a **high-energy high-luminosity polarized EIC** as the highest priority for new facility construction following the completion of FRIB. [Q3 FY22]

## RECOMMENDATION IV

We recommend increasing investment in **small-scale and mid-scale projects and initiatives** that enable **forefront research at universities and laboratories**.

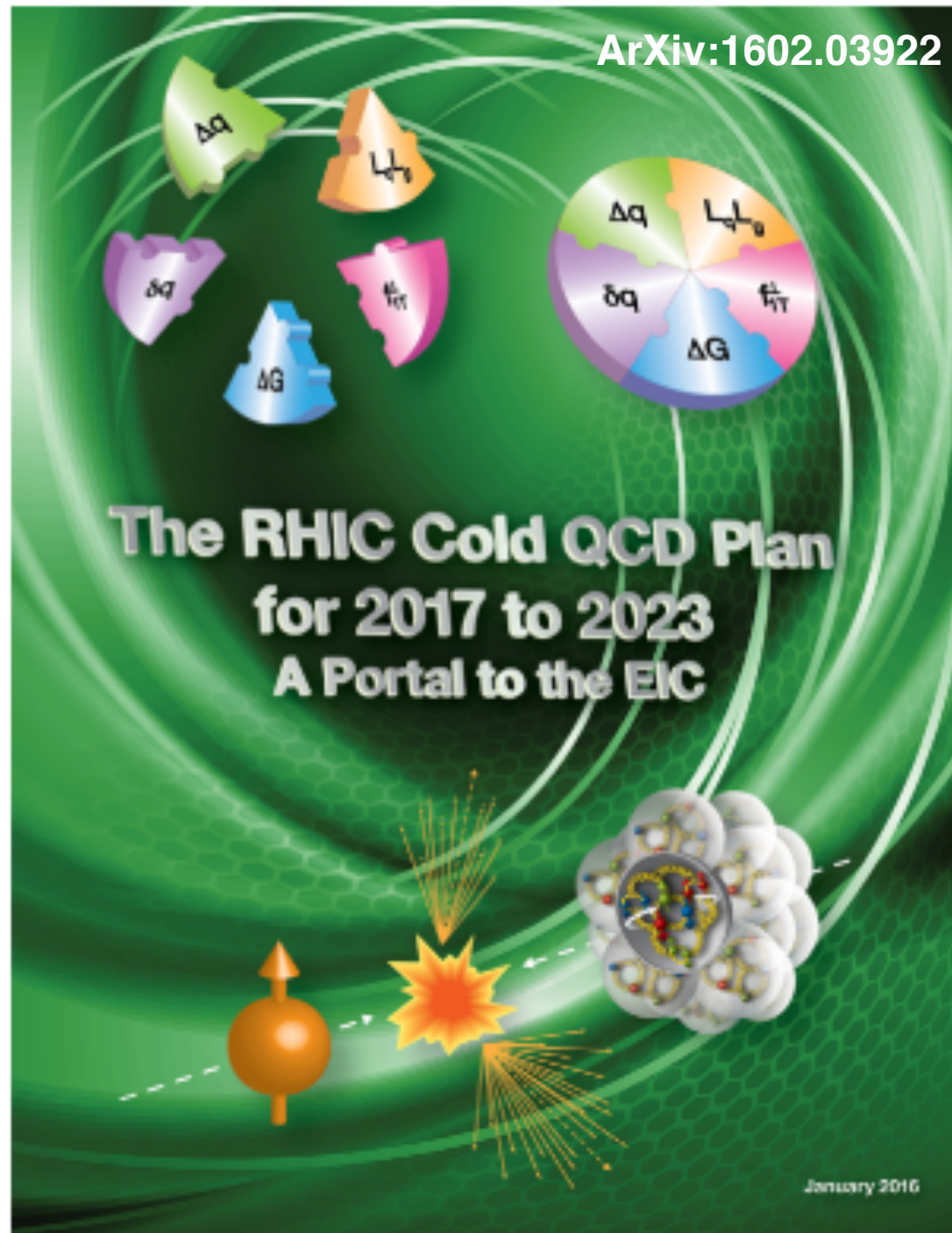


# BNL-ALD Berndt Mueller to STAR - January 2016

## Proposed run schedule for RHIC

Years	Beam Species and Energies	Science Goals	New Systems Commissioned
2016	High statistics Au+Au d+Au energy scan	Complete heavy flavor program First measurement of $\Lambda_c$ Collectivity in small systems	Coherent e-cooling test I
2017	High statistics Pol. p+p at 510 GeV	Transverse spin physics	Coherent e-cooling test II
2018	No Run		Low energy e-cooling upgrade
2019-20	7.7-20 GeV Au+Au (BES-2)	Search for QCD critical point and onset of deconfinement	STAR iTPC upgrade EPD upgrade
2021	No Run		sPHENIX installation
2022-23	200 GeV Au+Au with upgraded detectors Pol. p+p, p+Au at 200 GeV	Jet, di-jet, $\gamma$ -jet probes of parton transport and energy loss mechanism Color screening for different quarkonia	sPHENIX
2024---	No Runs		Transition to eRHIC

# Completion of RHIC and transition to EIC



Requested by DOE Office of Science Nuclear Physics in Summer 2015,

Approach:

- emphasize measurements that can *only* be done at a polarized proton collider,
- relate to EIC,
- emphasize flexibility of RHIC for new explorations, e.g. polarized nuclear FF,
- propose only *modest* upgrades,

Universality, factorization focused.

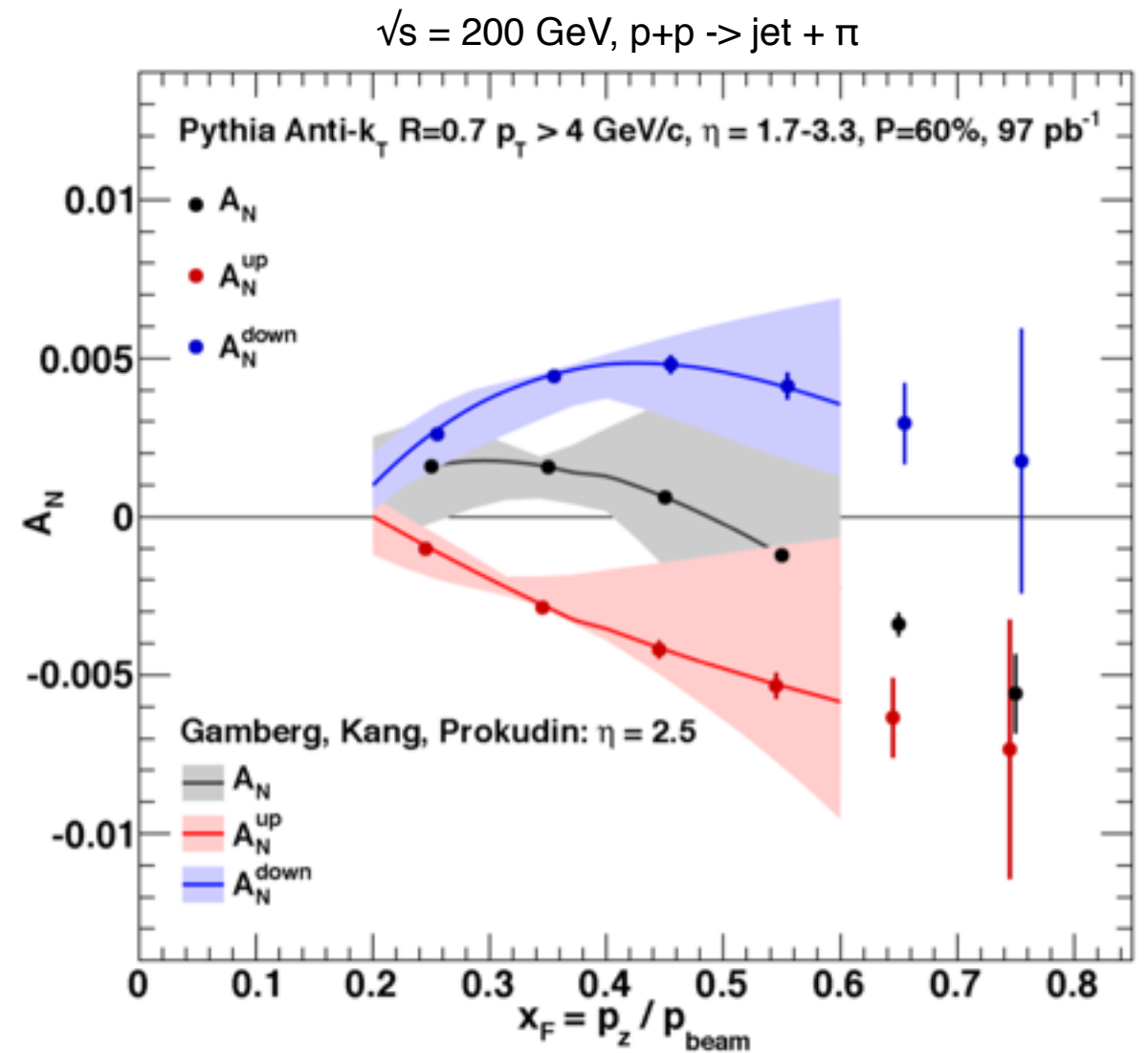
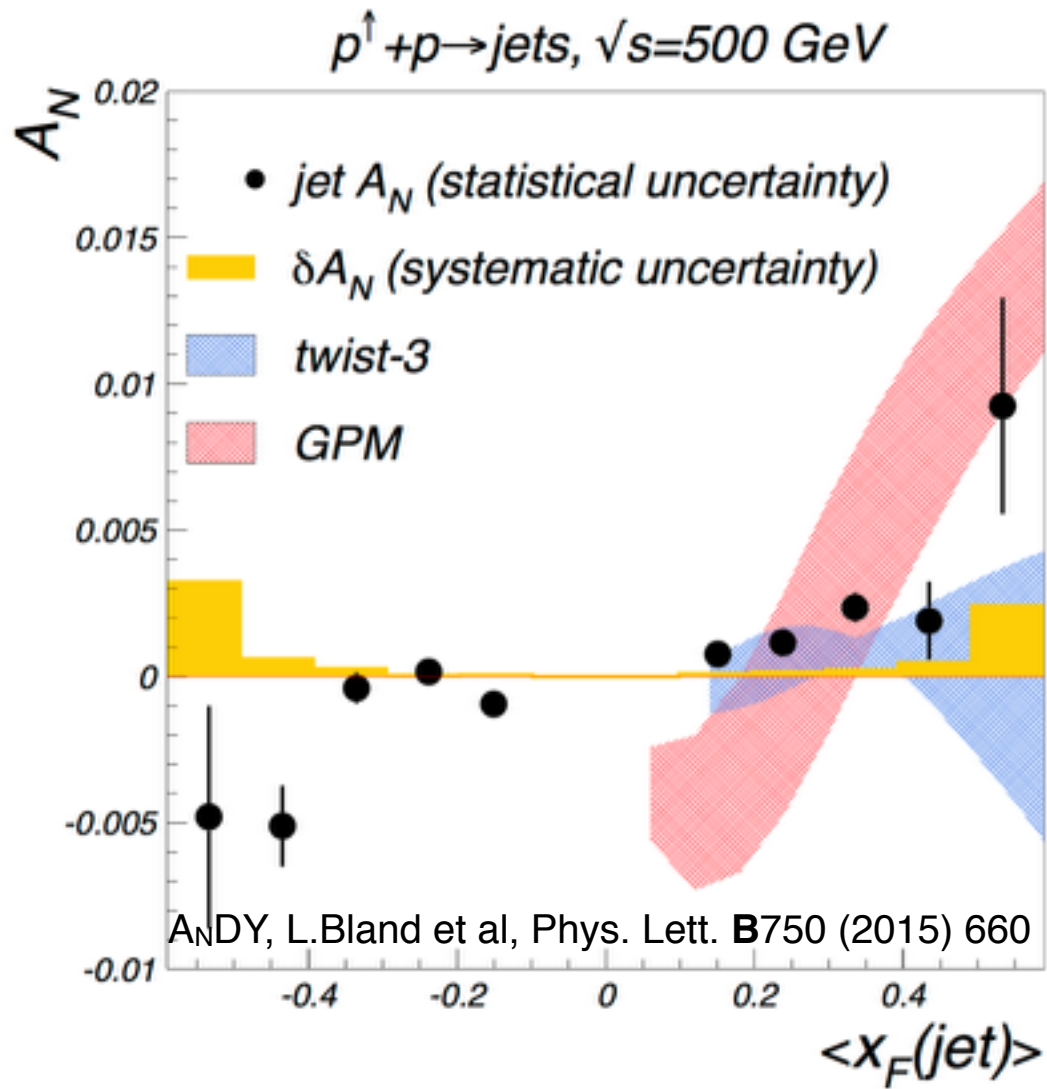


# RHIC Cold QCD Plan in One Slide

	Year	$\sqrt{s}$ (GeV)	Delivered Luminosity	Scientific Goals	Observable	Required Upgrade
Scheduled RHIC running	2017	p <sup>+</sup> p @ 510	400 pb <sup>-1</sup> 12 weeks	Sensitive to Sivers effect non-universality through TMDs and Twist-3 $T_{q,F}(x,x)$ Sensitive to sea quark Sivers or ETQS function Evolution in TMD and Twist-3 formalism  Transversity, Collins FF, linearly pol. Gluons, Gluon Sivers in Twist-3  First look at GPD $Eg$	$A_N$ for $\gamma$ , $W^\pm$ , $Z^0$ , DY  $A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_s-2\phi_h)}$ $A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_s-\phi_h)}$ modulations of $h^\pm$ in jets, $A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_s)}$ for jets  $A_{UT}$ for J/ $\Psi$ in UPC	$A_N^{DY}$ : Postshower to FMS@STAR  <b>None</b>  <b>None</b>
	2023	p <sup>+</sup> p @ 200	300 pb <sup>-1</sup> 8 weeks	subprocess driving the large $A_N$ at high $x_F$ and $\eta$  evolution of ETQS fct. properties and nature of the diffractive exchange in p+p collisions.	$A_N$ for charged hadrons and flavor enhanced jets  $A_N$ for $\gamma$ $A_N$ for diffractive events	Yes Forward instrum.  <b>None</b> <b>None</b>
	2023	p <sup>+</sup> Au @ 200	1.8 pb <sup>-1</sup> 8 weeks	What is the nature of the initial state and hadronization in nuclear collisions  Nuclear dependence of TMDs and nFF  Clear signatures for Saturation	$R_{pAu}$ direct photons and DY  $A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_s-\phi_h)}$ modulations of $h^\pm$ in jets, nuclear FF  Dihadrons, $\gamma$ -jet, h-jet, diffraction	$R_{pAu}(DY)$ : Yes Forward instrum.  <b>None</b>  Yes Forward instrum.
	2023	p <sup>+</sup> Al @ 200	12.6 pb <sup>-1</sup> 8 weeks	A-dependence of nPDF,  A-dependence of TMDs and nFF  A-dependence for Saturation	$R_{pAl}$ : direct photons and DY  $A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_s-\phi_h)}$ modulations of $h^\pm$ in jets, nuclear FF  Dihadrons, $\gamma$ -jet, h-jet, diffraction	$R_{pAl}(DY)$ : Yes Forward instrum.  <b>None</b>  Yes Forward instrum.
Potential future running	202X	p <sup>+</sup> p @ 510	1.1 fb <sup>-1</sup> 10 weeks	TMDs at low and high $x$  quantitative comparisons of the validity and the limits of factorization and universality in lepton-proton and proton-proton collisions	$A_{UT}$ for Collins observables, i.e. hadron in jet modulations at $\eta > 1$ and mid-rapidity observables as in 2017 run	Yes Forward instrum.  <b>None</b>
	202X	$\bar{p}\bar{p}$ @ 510	1.1 fb <sup>-1</sup> 10 weeks	$\Delta g(x)$ at small $x$	$A_{LL}$ for jets, di-jets, h/ $\gamma$ -jets at $\eta > 1$	Yes Forward instrum.

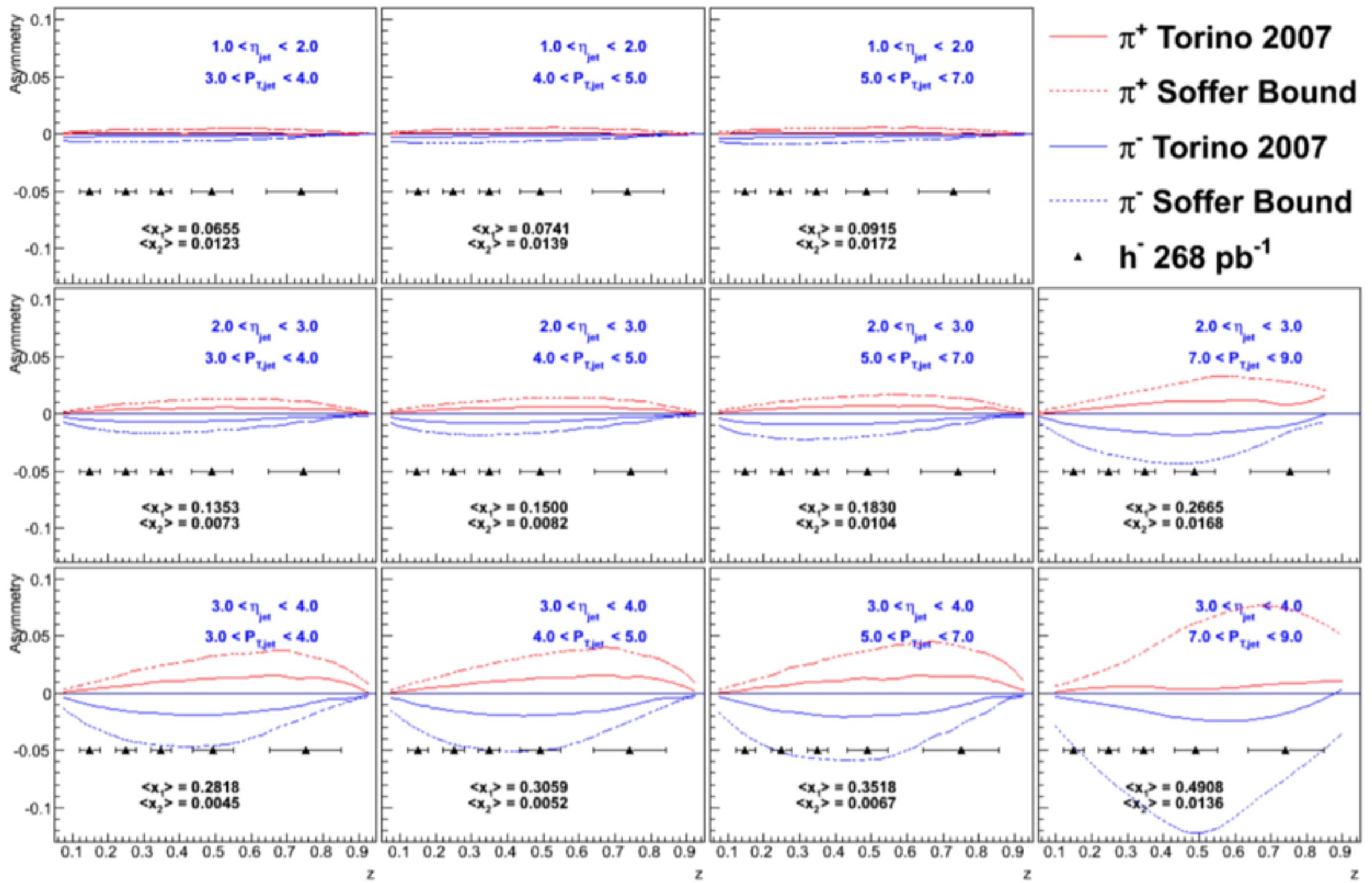
Table 1-2: Summary of the Cold QCD physics program proposed in the years 2017 and 2023 and if an additional 500 GeV run would become possible.

# RHIC Cold QCD Plan - p+p highlights



Pursue possible Twist-3 origin of forward  $A_N$  with improved photon  $A_N$  measurements, and charged-pion enhanced jets.

# RHIC Cold QCD Plan - p+p highlights, $\sqrt{s} = 500$ GeV

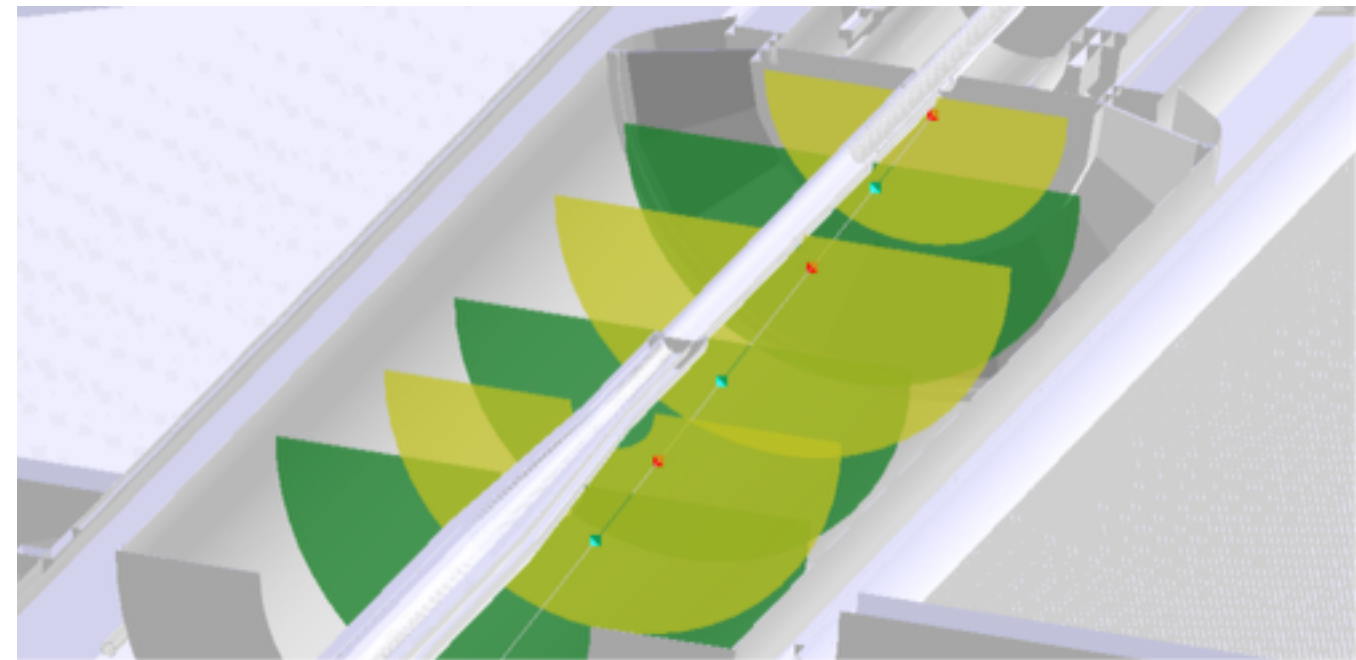
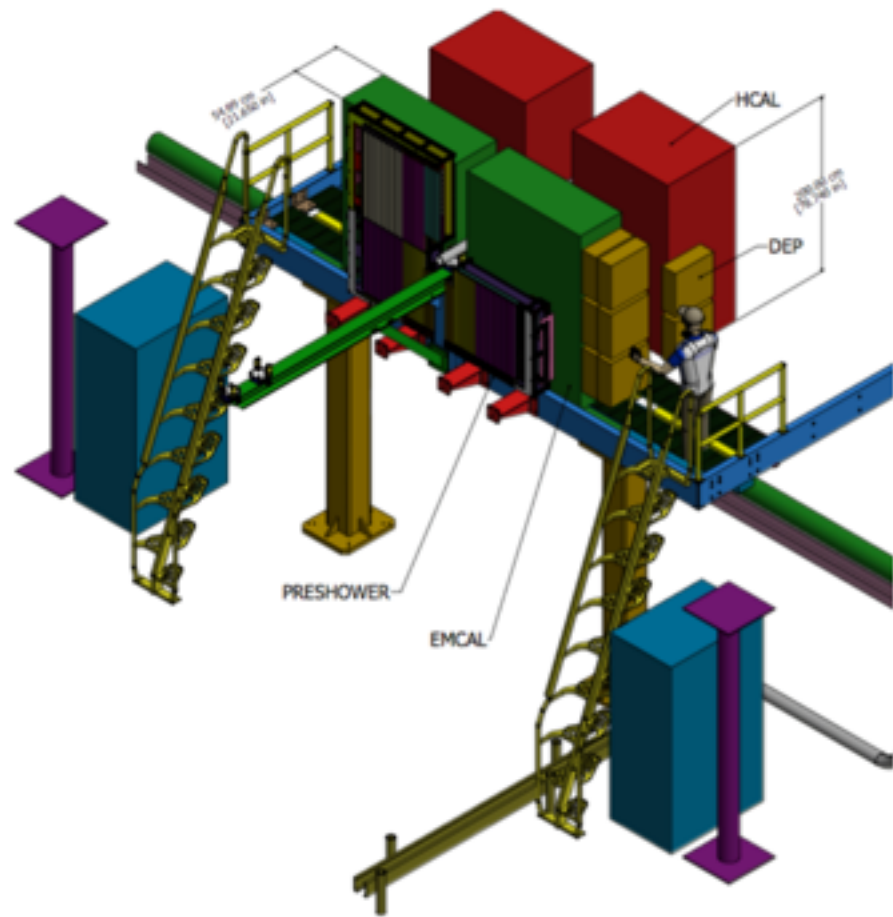


Large-x Collins asymmetries.



# RHIC Cold QCD Plan - STAR Forward Detector Upgrade

Ensure jet capability ( $\sqrt{s} = 500$  GeV), charge-sign discrimination, Drell-Yan, “modest” cost



was: W-powder EM-cal

now: re-use PHENIX eCAL

new HICAL, based on  
STAR-EIC R&D

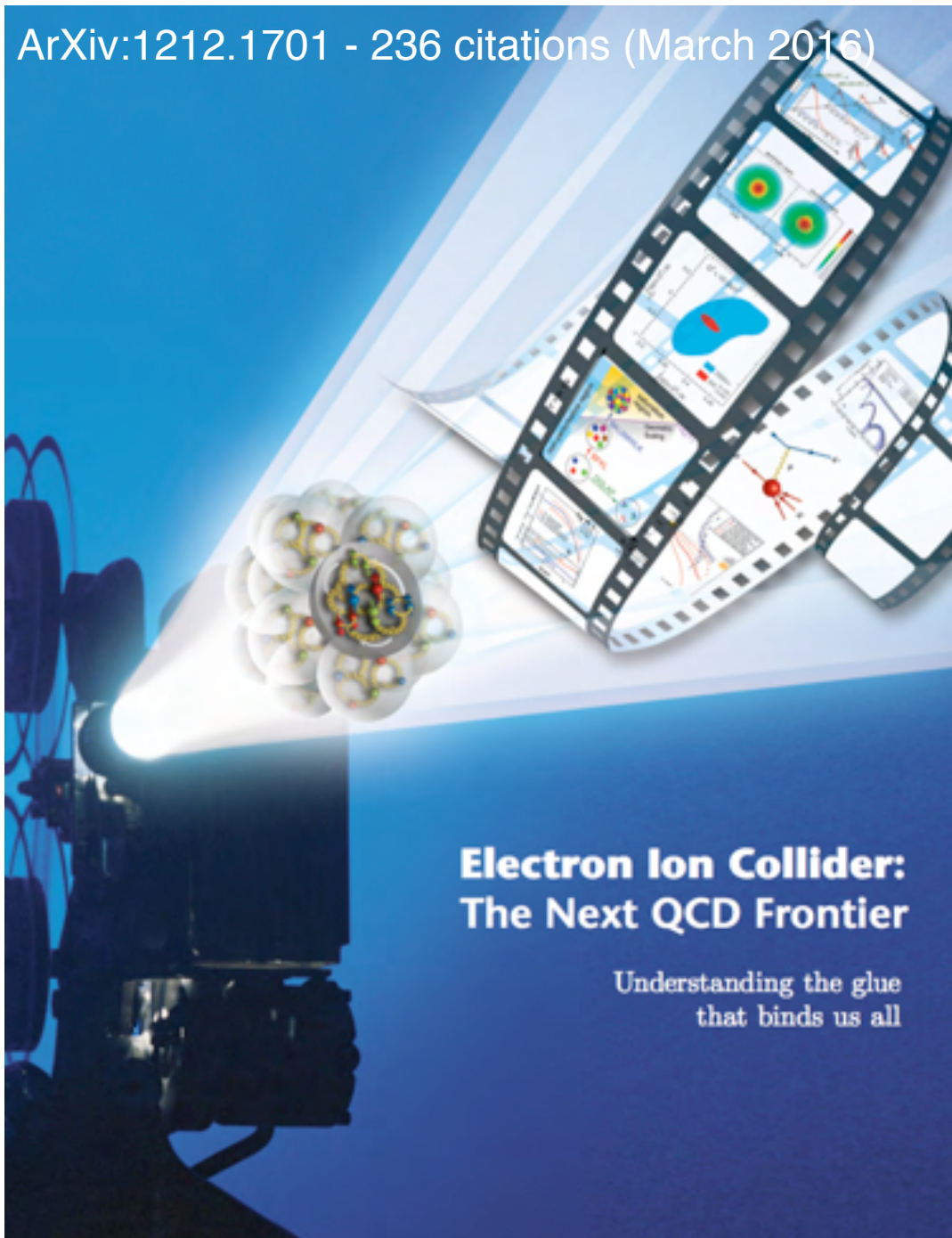
4-6 Si-strip disks, or pixels

8-10 GEM layers have been  
considered as well

Forward upgrade to sPHENIX is conceptually similar; only *one* will be realized (imho).

**EIC**

# U.S.-based Electron Ion Collider



## *Overall Editors:*

A. Deshpande (Stony Brook), Z-E. Meziani (Temple), J. Qiu (BNL)

## *Gluon Saturation in e+A:*

T. Ullrich (BNL) and Y. Kovchegov (Ohio State)

## *Nucleon spin structure (inclusive e+N):*

E. Sichterhmann (LBNL) and W. Vogelsang (Tübingen)

## *GPD's and exclusive reactions:*

M. Diehl (DESY) and F. Sabatie (Saclay)

## *TMD's and hadronization and SIDIS:*

H. Gao (Duke) and F. Yuan (LBNL)

## *Parton Propagation in Nuclear Medium:*

W. Brooks (TSFM) and J. Qiu(BNL)

## *Electroweak physics:*

K. Kumar (U Mass) and M. Ramsey-Musolf (Wisconsin)

## *Accelerator design and challenges:*

A. Hutton (JLab) and T. Roser (BNL)

## *Detector design and challenges:*

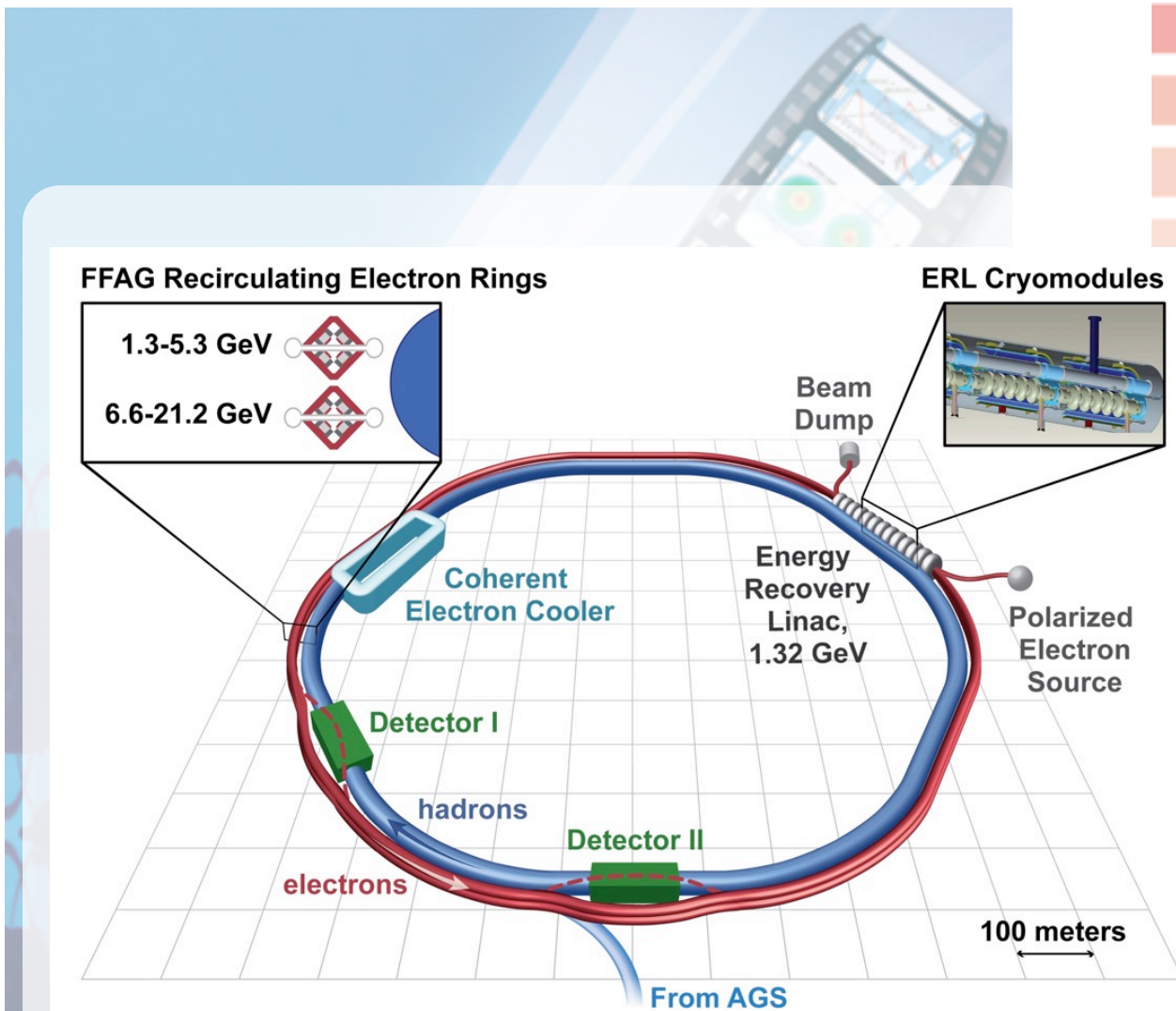
E. Aschenauer (BNL) and T. Horn (CUA)

## *Senior Advisors:*

A. Mueller (Columbia) and R. Holt (ANL)

*Successful thanks to many other co-authors and contributions*

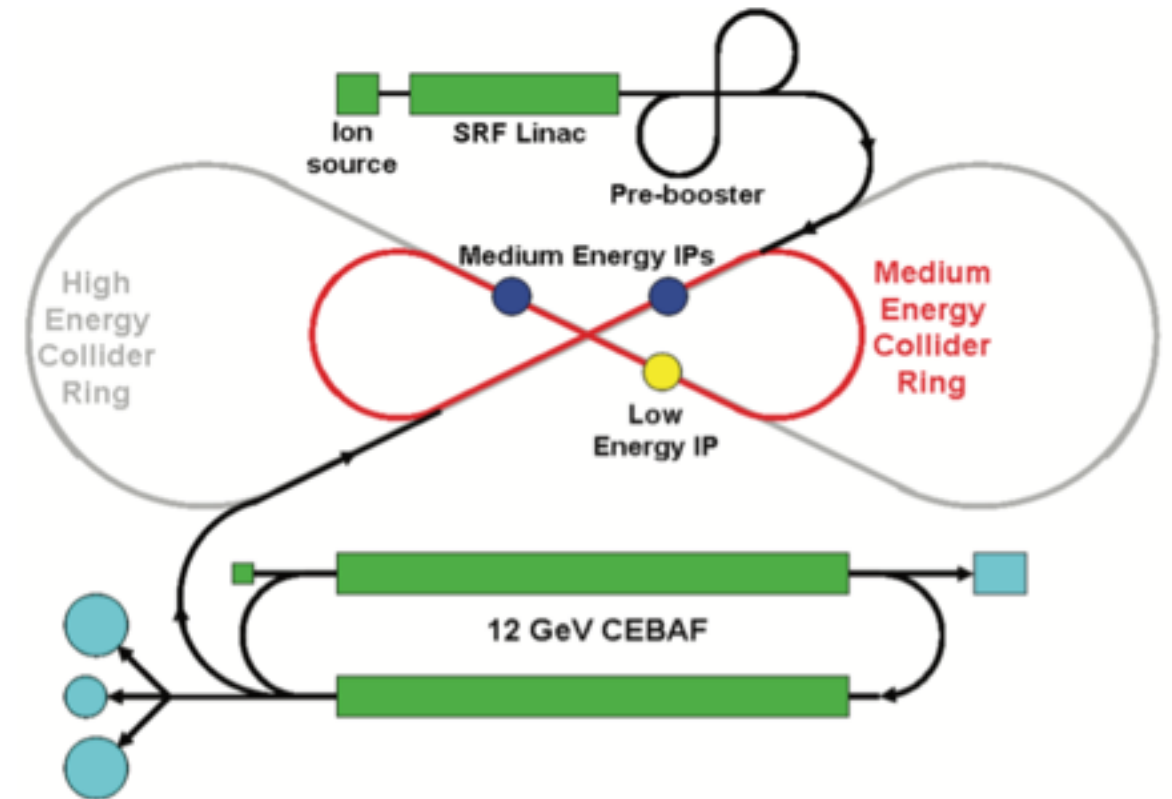
# U.S.-based Electron Ion Collider



coherent contributions from many nucleons effectively amplify the gluon density being probed.

The EIC was designated in the 2007 Nuclear Physics Long Range Plan as "embodying the vision for reaching the next QCD

ence programs in the U.S. established at both the CEBAF accelerator at JLab and RHIC at BNL in dramatic and fundamentally important ways. The most intellectually pressing questions that an EIC will address that relate to our detailed and fundamental understand-

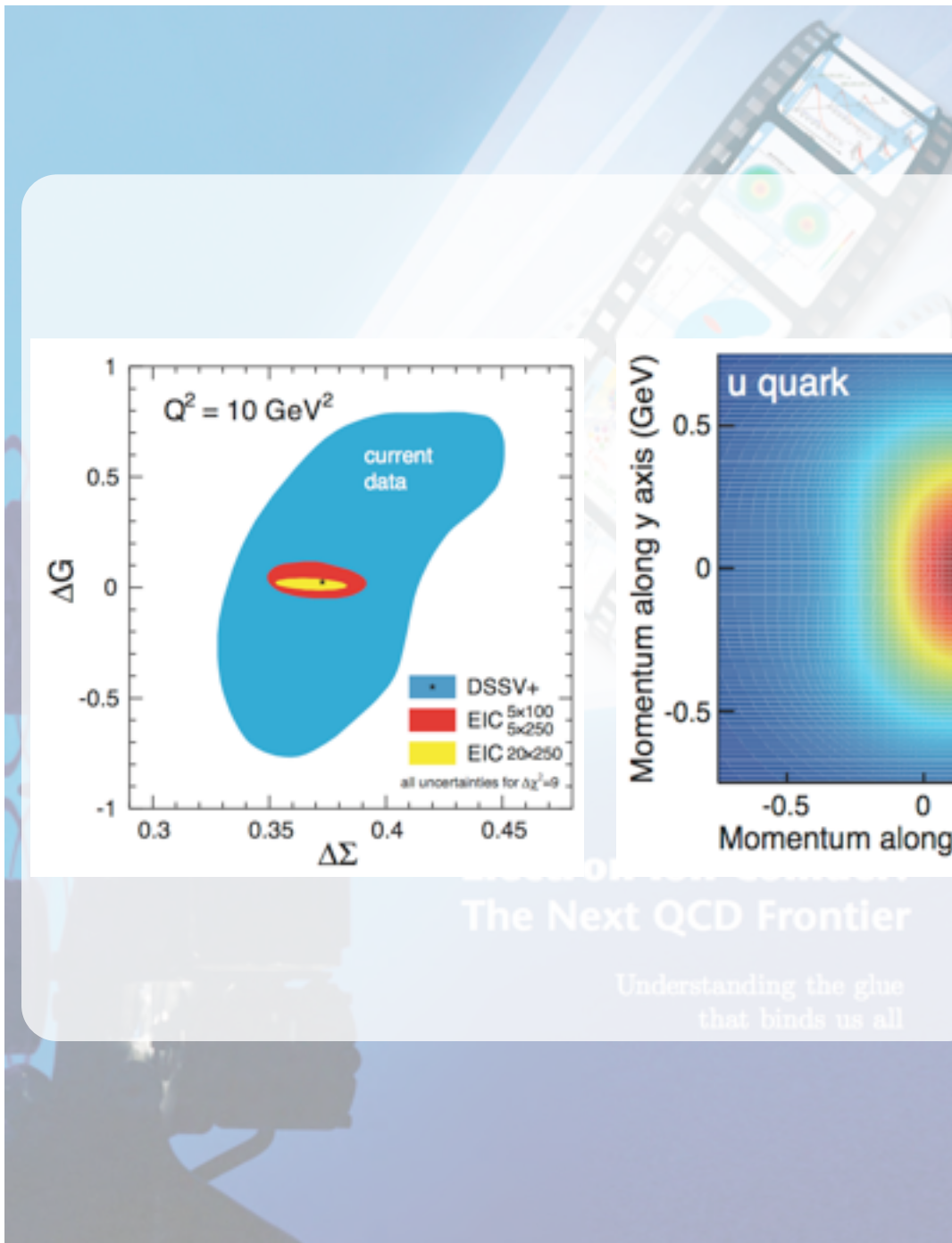


The EIC would be distinguished from all past, current, and contemplated facilities around the world by being at the intensity frontier with a versatile range of kinematics and beam polarizations, as well as beam species, allowing the above questions to be tackled at one facility. In particular, the EIC design exceeds the capabilities of HERA, the only electron-proton collider

to date, by adding a) polarized proton and light-ion beams; b) a wide variety of heavy-ion beams; c) two to three orders of magnitude increase in luminosity to facilitate tomographic imaging; and d) wide energy variability to enhance the sensitivity to gluon distributions. Achieving these challenging technical improvements in a single facility will extend U.S. leadership in accelerator sci-



# U.S.-based Electron Ion Collider



$Q^2 = 10 \text{ GeV}^2$

$\Delta G$

current data

DSSV+

EIC  $5 \times 100$   
 $5 \times 250$

EIC  $20 \times 250$

all uncertainties for  $\Delta \Sigma^2 = 9$

$\Delta \Sigma$

u quark

Momentum along y axis (GeV)

Momentum along x axis (GeV)

The Next QCD Frontier

Understanding the glue that binds us all

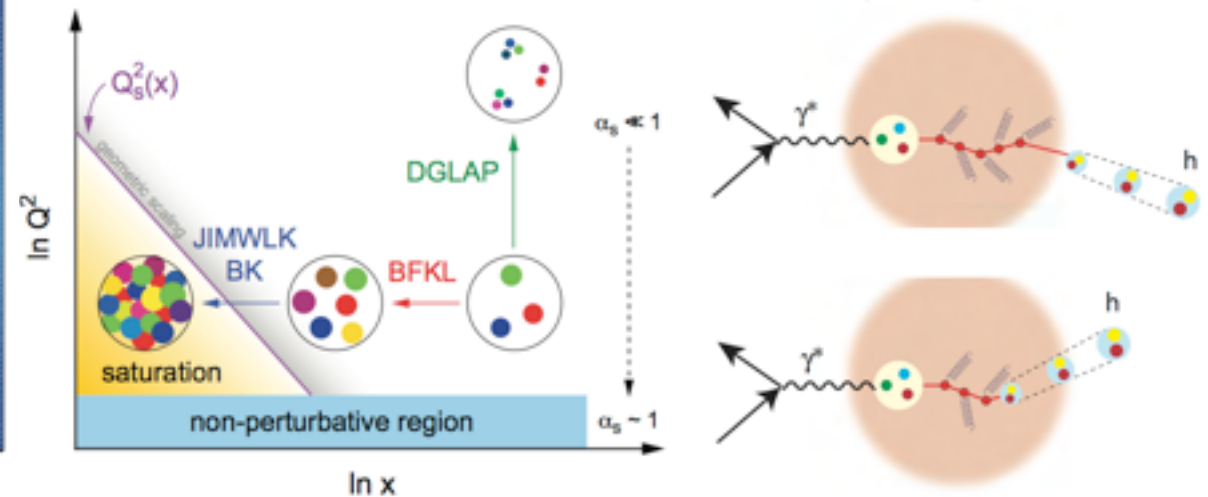


coherent contributions from many nucleons effectively amplify the gluon density being probed.

The EIC was designated in the 2007 Nuclear Physics Long Range Plan as "embodying the vision for reaching the next QCD frontier" [1]. It would extend the QCD sci-

ence programs in the U.S. established at both the CEBAF accelerator at JLab and RHIC at BNL in dramatic and fundamentally important ways. The most intellectually pressing questions that an EIC will address that relate to our detailed and fundamental understanding of QCD in this frontier environment are:

- How are the sea quarks and gluons, and their spins, distributed in space and momentum inside the nucleon? How are these quark and gluon distributions correlated with overall nucleon properties, such as spin direction? What is the role of the orbital motion of sea quarks and gluons in building the nucleon spin?
- Where does the saturation of gluon densities set in? Is there a simple boundary



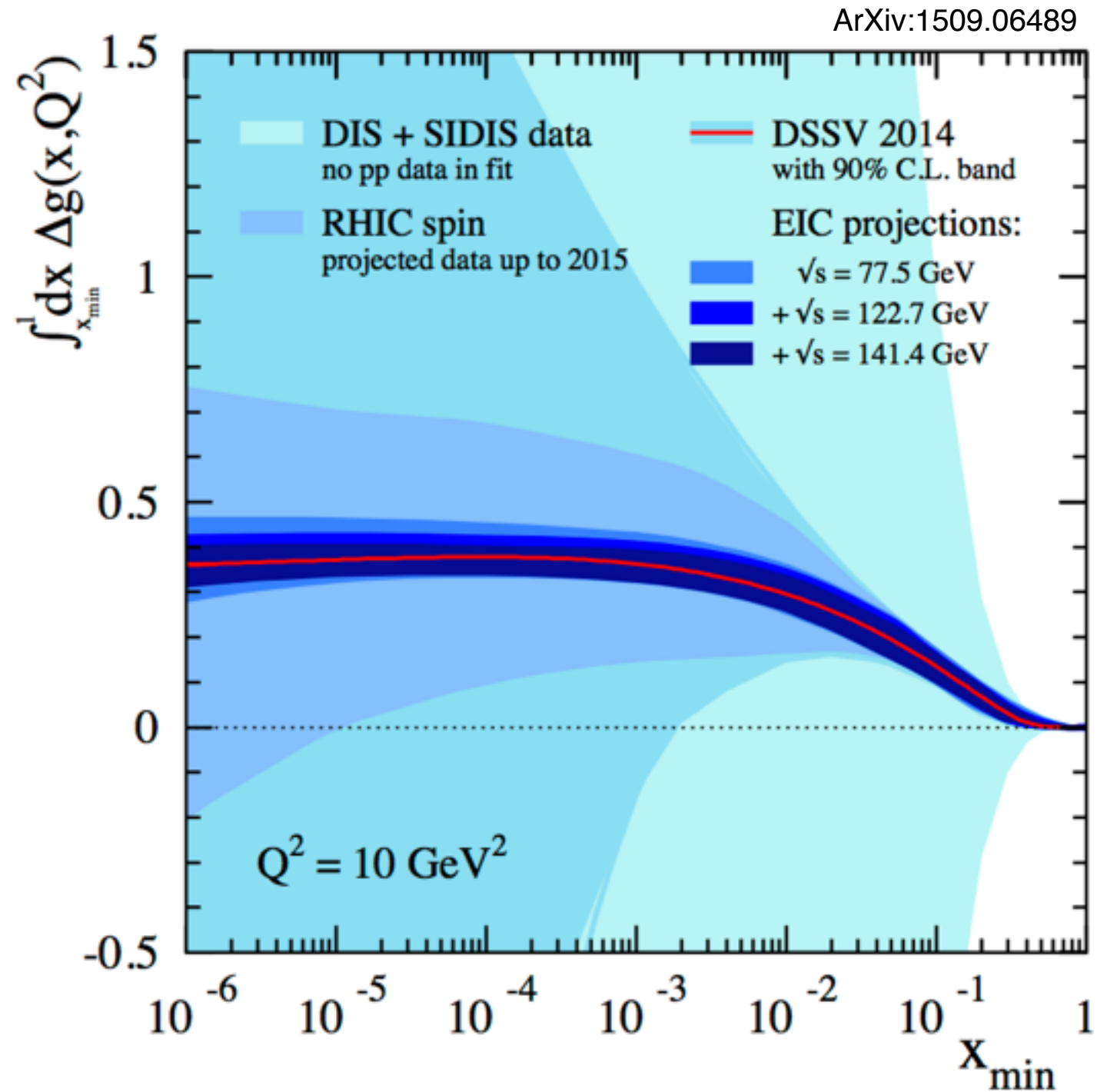
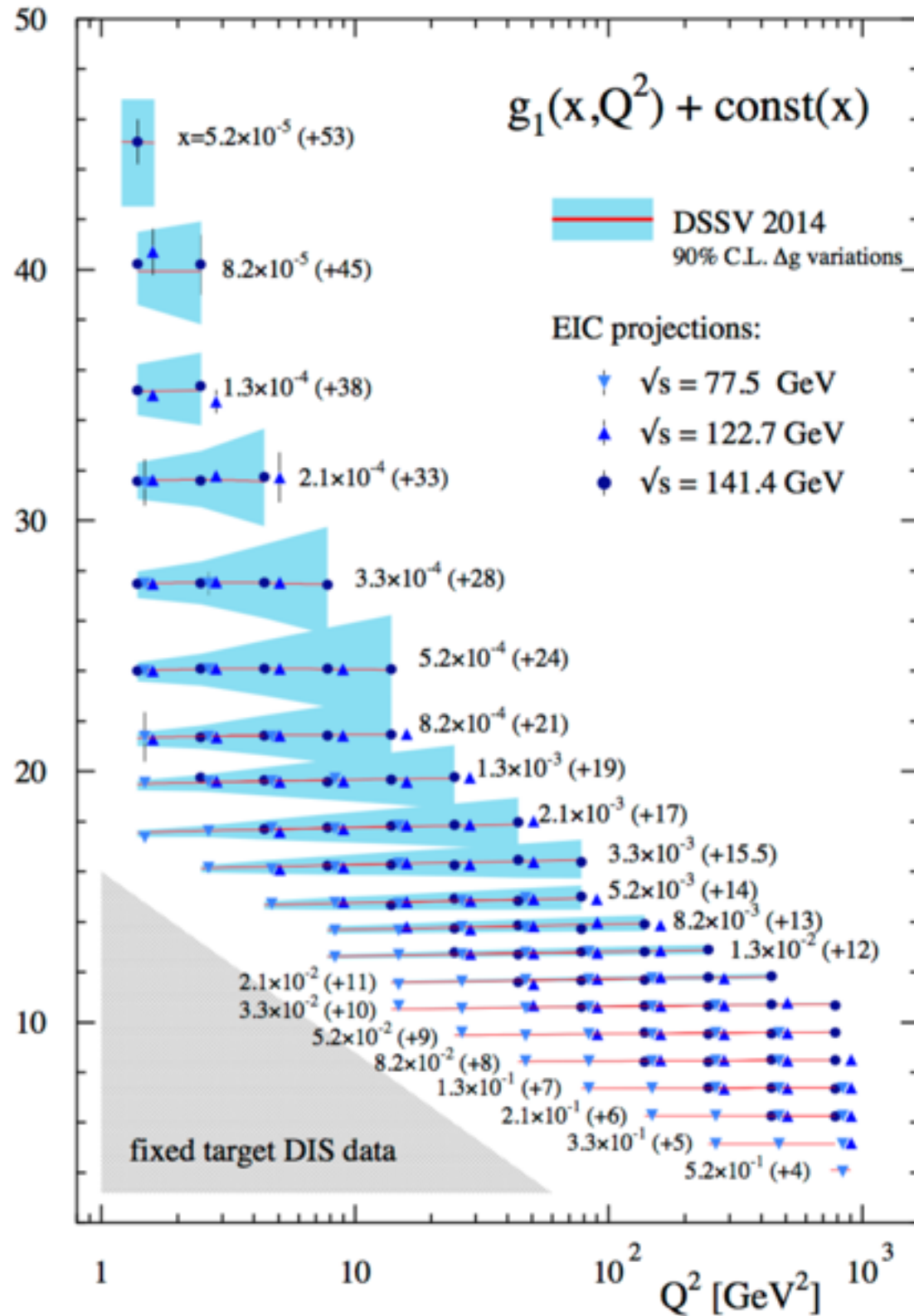
- correlations of sea quark and gluon distributions with the nucleon spin;
- Heavy ion beams are needed to provide precocious access to the regime of saturated gluon densities and offer a precise dial in the study of propagation-length for color charges in nuclear matter.

The EIC would be distinguished from all past, current, and contemplated facilities around the world by being at the intensity frontier with a versatile range of kinematics and beam polarizations, as well as beam species, allowing the above questions to be tackled at one facility. In particular, the EIC design exceeds the capabilities of HERA, the only electron-proton collider

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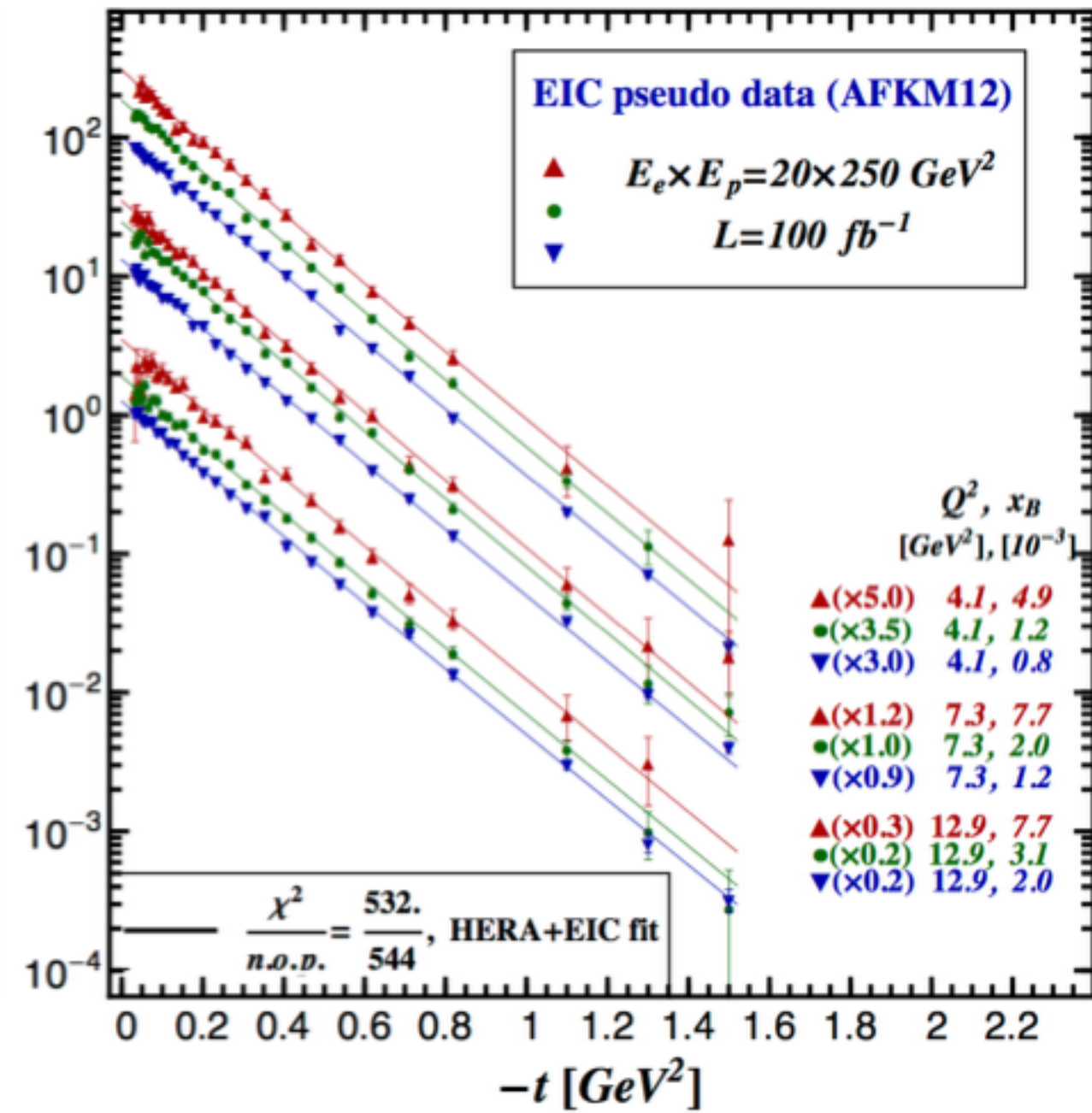
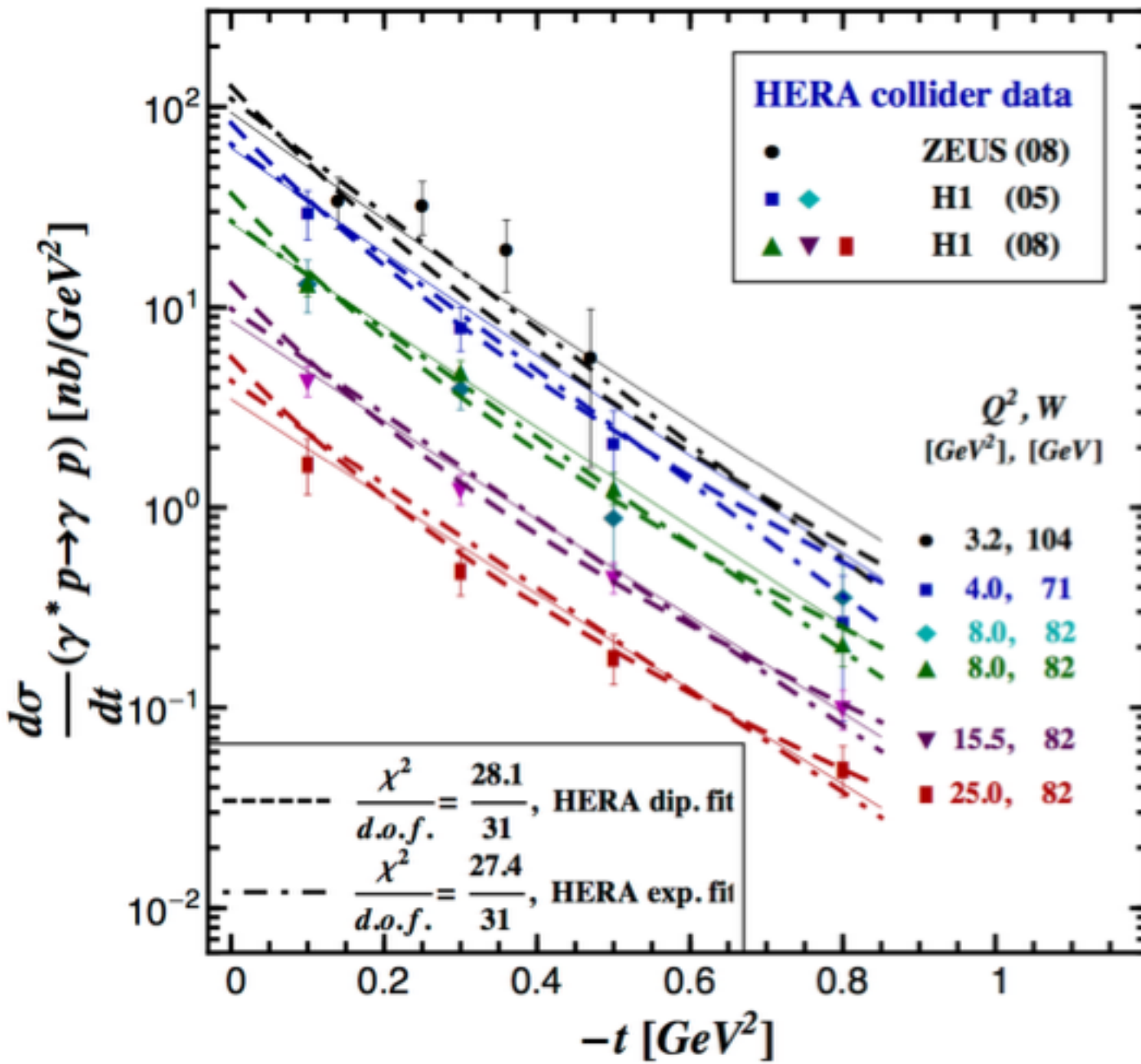


# U.S.-based Electron Ion Collider



No competition, really.

# U.S.-based Electron Ion Collider



No competition, really.

# U.S.-based Electron Ion Collider - Reality Check

## What Aspect Are We Working On Now?

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We continue to work on whether the number of future electron ion colliders will be 1 or 0.

*Two slides from Dr. Tim Hallman, Associate Director for Nuclear Physics at the DOE Office of Science, at the recent EIC User Group meeting at Berkeley.*

(The first possibility is of course highly anticipated based on QCD science and future mission need for the field)

## Outlook

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Our work continues...

Independent Vetting of Science Case

R&D & Design Refinement to Reduce Risk and \$\$

Decision on when to go for CD0, Mission Need

Mechanism for determining "Best Value" to the United States

*This was the most upbeat talk on EIC I have seen from this office in the past 10 years or so.*

# Closing Comments

U.S. EIC is *not* a done deal, but the prospects are better than ever;

- positive recommendation in the 2015 Long Range Plan for U.S. Nuclear Physics,
- independent science review by the National Academy of Sciences is starting,
- discussion is moving from “science case” to “next steps”:
  - reduce (uncertainty in) cost estimate,
  - establish “mission need”,
  - site selection,

*“An EIC is envisioned to start construction after FRIB construction is completed and to be operational by the end of the 2020s.”* (2015 Long Range Plan, resource section).

RHIC spin:

- 2017 run is (now) firmly rooted in the BNL facility plan,
- next opportunity will be concurrent with *high-luminosity*  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV p+p and p+A heavy-ion reference data taking in 2023; case articulated for both
- “modest” instrument upgrades thinkable; most likely forward calorimetry and tracking, limited or no particle-identification,
- strong case for renewed  $\sqrt{s} = 500$  GeV, but not currently part of the facility plan.