

14 TH CONFERENCE ON THE  
INTERSECTIONS OF PARTICLE AND  
NUCLEAR PHYSICS (CIPANP 2022)

*Recent cold QCD results  
from PHENIX at RHIC*

Sookhyun Lee (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

on behalf of the PHENIX collaboration

*Conference on the Intersections of Particle and Nuclear Physics 2022*

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Sep 1, 2022



Sookhyun Lee, 2022

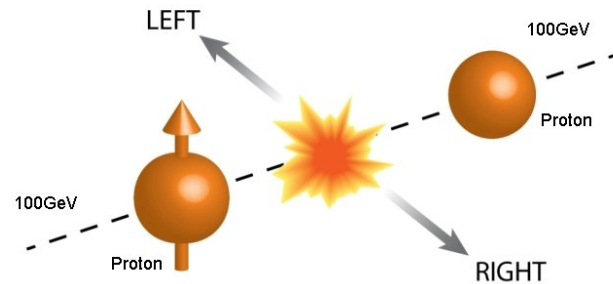
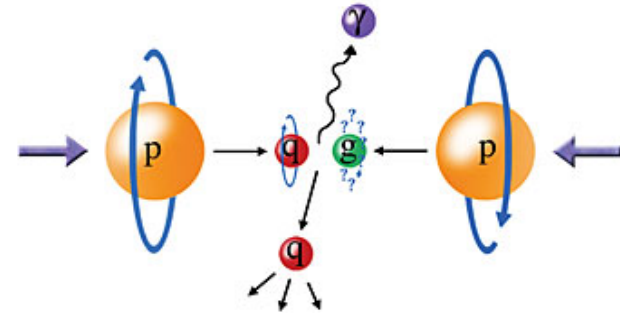


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



# Overview of PHENIX cold QCD results

- Gluon polarization - Longitudinal double spin asymmetry  $A_{LL}$ 
  - Direct photon  $\gamma$
  - Jets
- Nucleon-parton spin-momentum correlation
  - Transverse single spin asymmetry  $A_N$ 
    - Direct photon
    - $\pi^0$ ,  $\eta$  and  $\pi^\pm$
    - Open heavy flavor
- Forward neutron  $A_N$  in  $p + p$  and  $p + A$ .

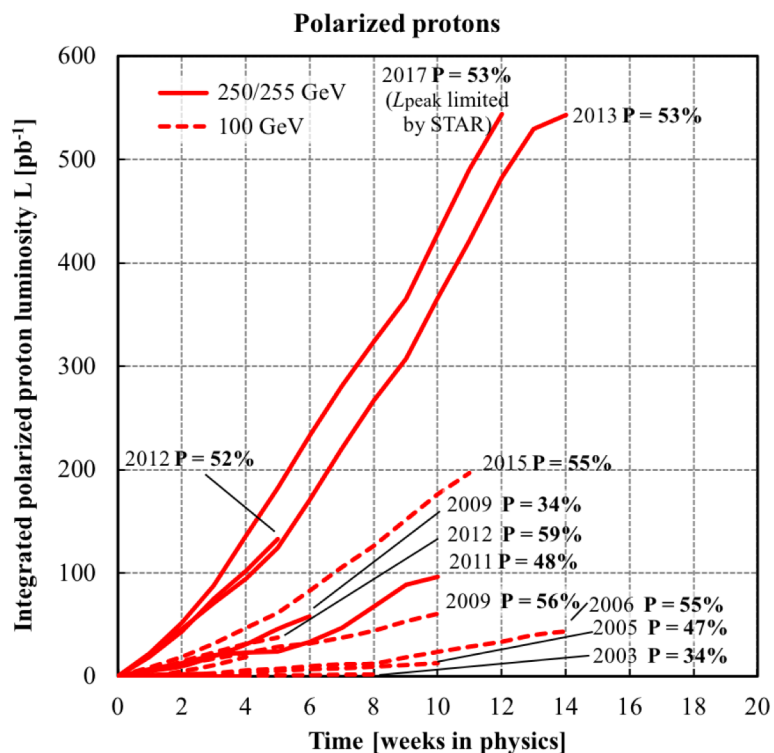
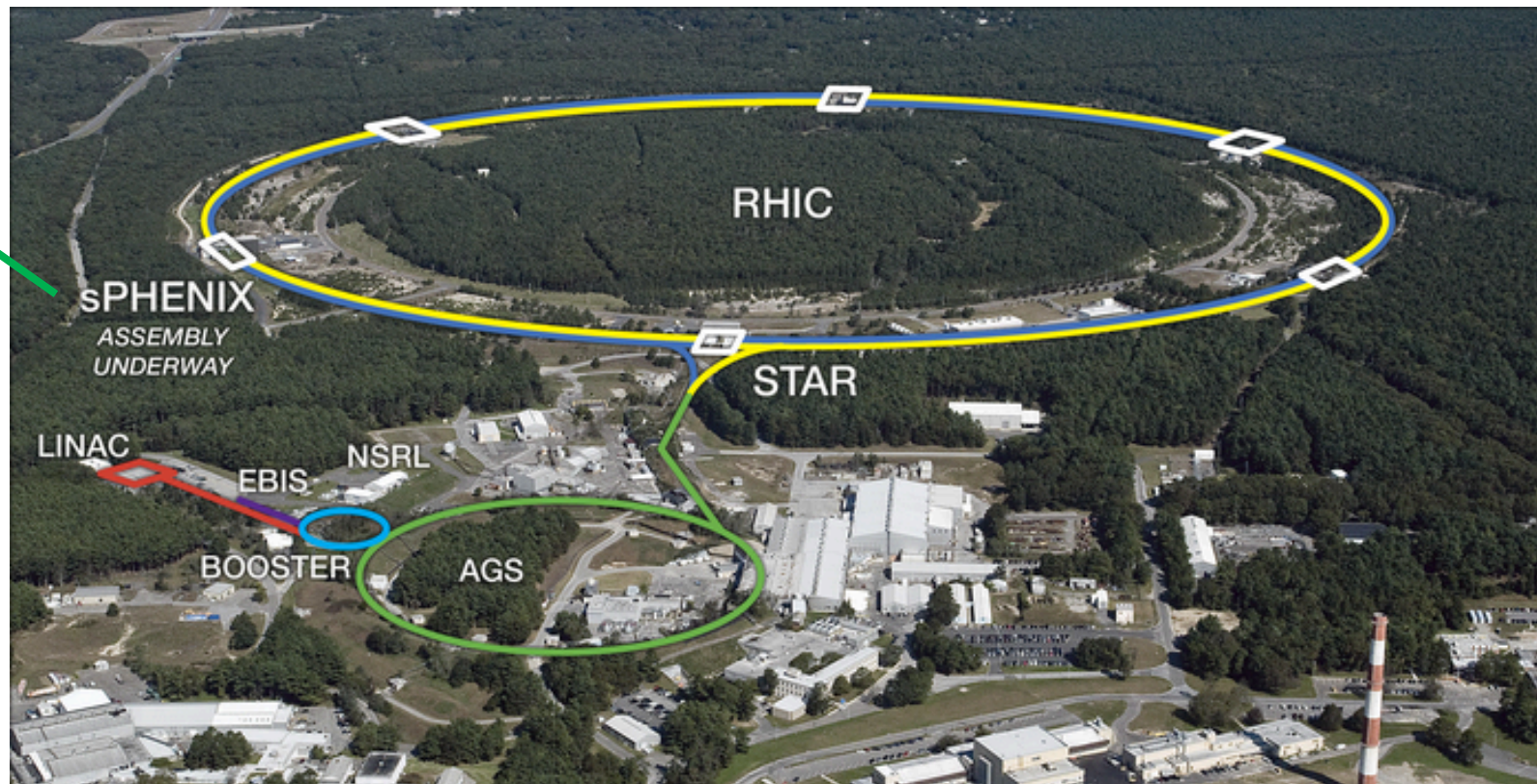




# Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider

PHENIX  
was here  
taking data  
until 2016

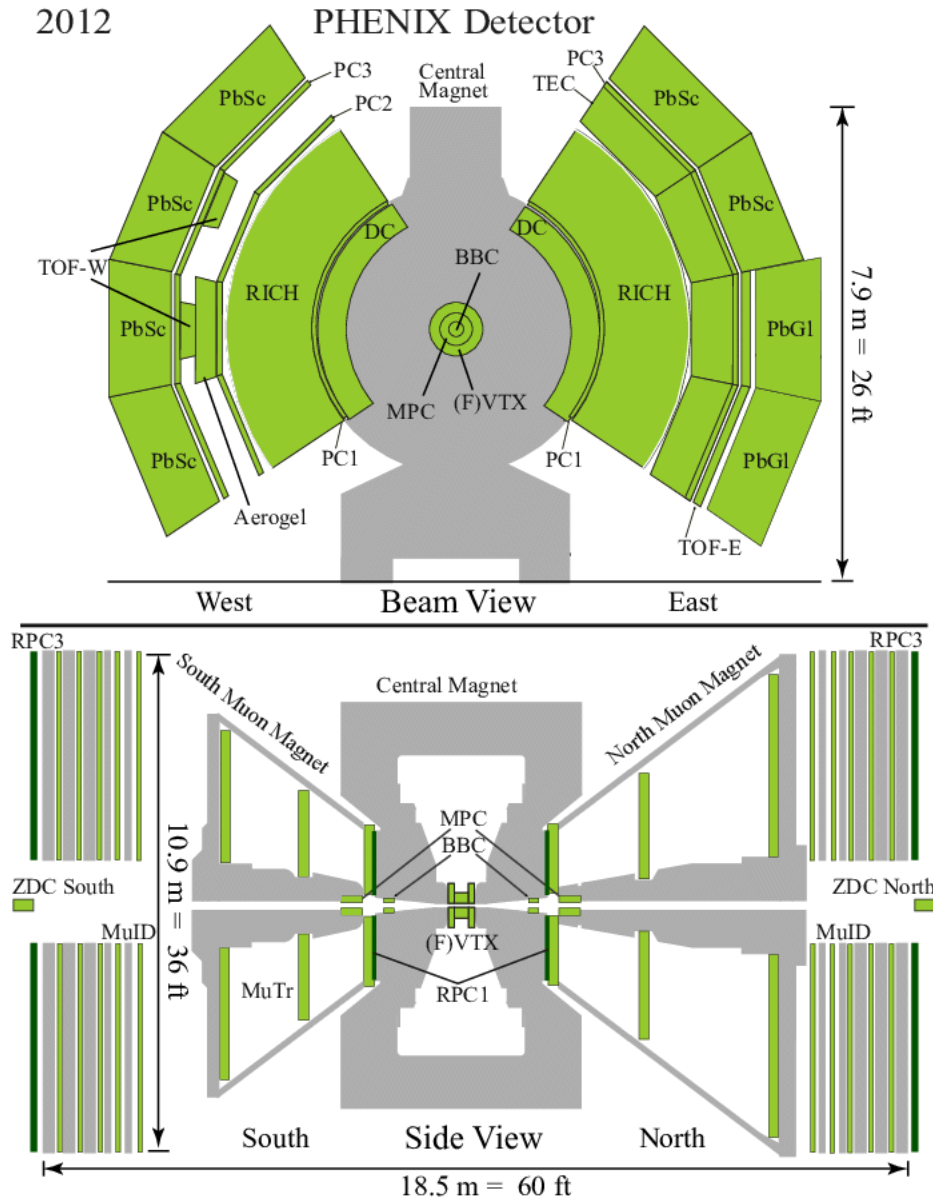
STAR  
polarized p+p  
running in 2022



- Located at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Long Island, NY.
- World's only polarized synchrotron collider.
- Spin patterns are predetermined for each bunch.



2012



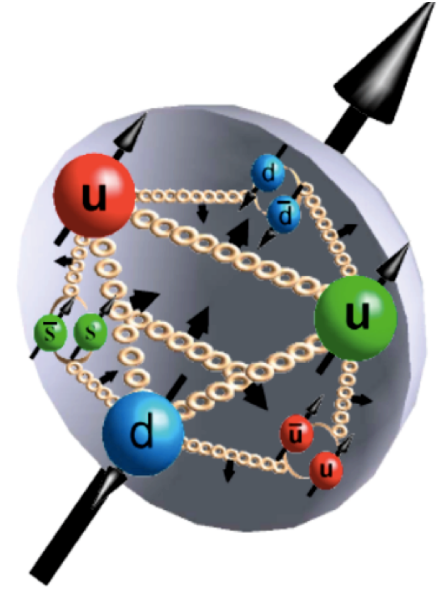
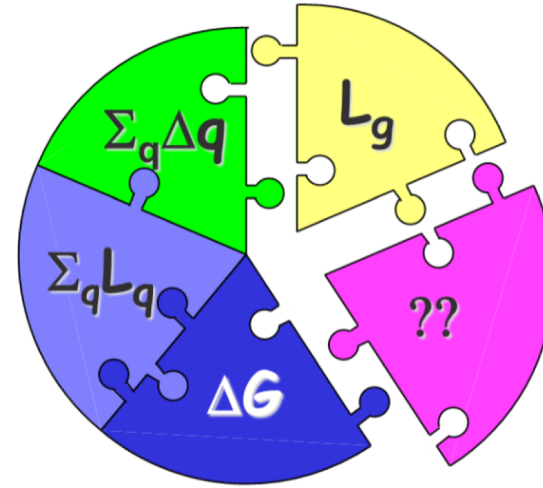
# The PHENIX detector

- Central Arm detectors
  - $|\eta| < 0.35$ ,  $2 \times \frac{\pi}{2}$  coverage for  $\phi$
  - EMCal, RICH, DC and PC
- Forward Arm detectors
  - $1.2 < \eta < 2.2$
  - MPC, FVTX, MuID, MuTr
- Luminosity counters
  - BBC ( $3 < |\eta| < 3.9$ ), ZDC ( $\eta > 6.8$ )

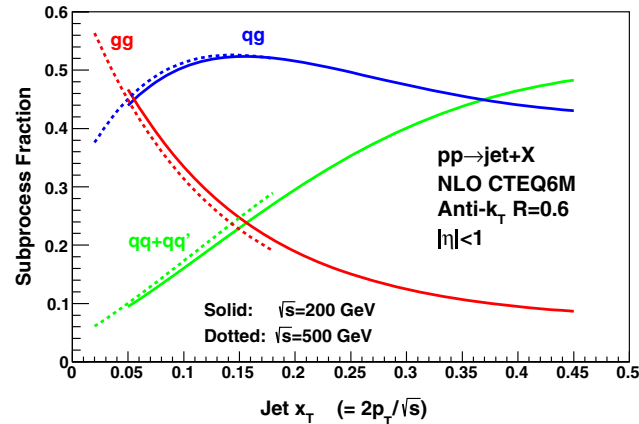
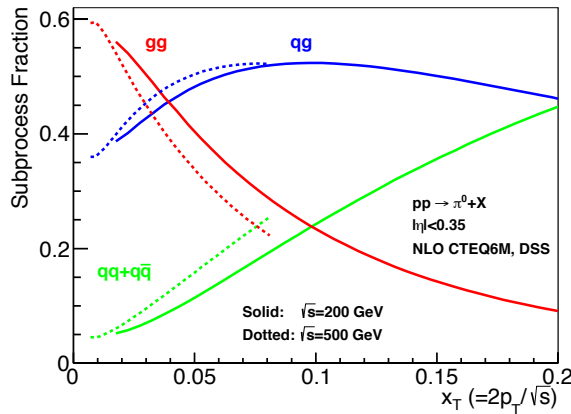


# $\Delta G$ - Gluon polarization

- In 80's, polarized DIS data showed  $\Delta\Sigma$  contribution to proton spin was only 30%.
- Polarized gluon PDF can be directly accessed via  $A_{LL}$  measurements in  $\vec{p} + \vec{p}$  collisions.
- RHIC kinematics for jets and hadrons - dominated by  $gg$  and  $qg$  at low  $x$ ; their  $A_{LL}$ 's sensitive to gluon polarization.



Phys. Rev. D **100** (2019) 052005



$$J_z = \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \Delta\Sigma + \Delta G + L$$

Longitudinal Double Spin Asymmetry

$$A_{LL} \equiv \frac{\sigma^{++} - \sigma^{+-}}{\sigma^{++} + \sigma^{+-}},$$

$++ (+-)$  : same-sign (opposite-sign) incoming proton helicity



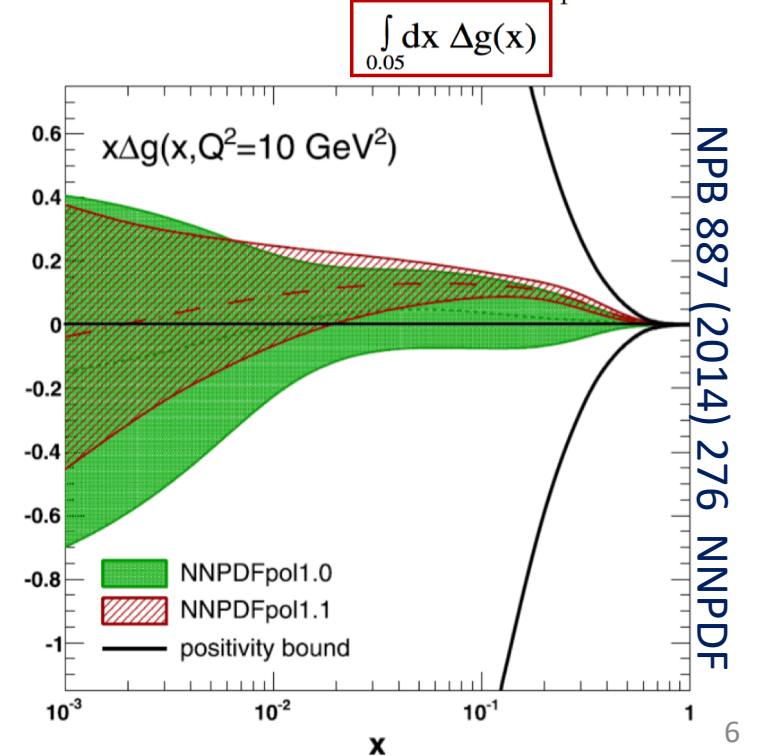
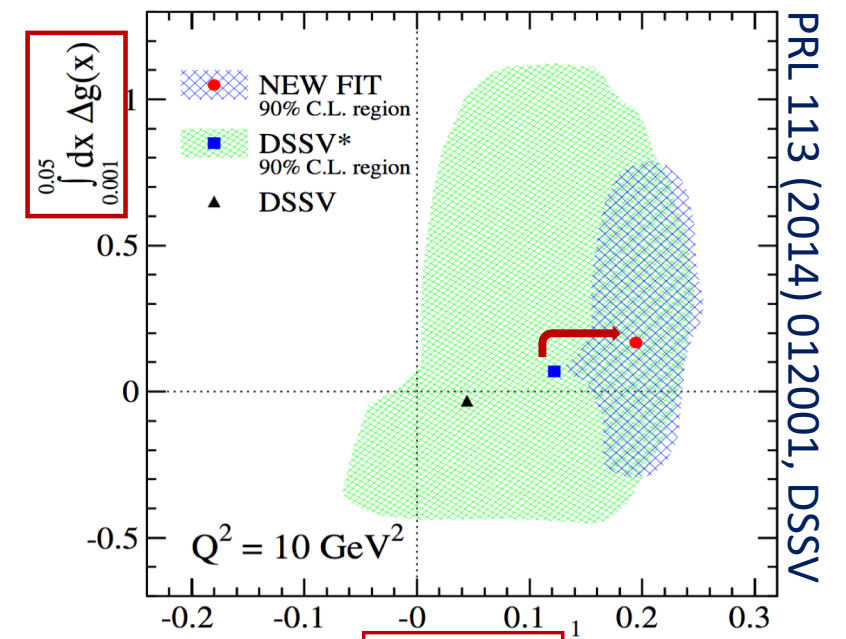
# Gluon helicity distributions

- PHENIX and STAR midrapidity data from 2009  $\vec{p} + \vec{p}$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV have had a significant impact on understanding gluon polarization.
  - PHENIX  $\pi^0$  PRD 90 (2014) 012007
  - STAR inclusive jets PRL 115, (2015) 092002

- DSSV  $\int_{0.05}^1 \Delta g(x) dx = 0.20^{+0.06}_{-0.07}$

- NNPDF  $\int_{0.05}^1 \Delta g(x) dx = 0.17^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$

- With more data to be included (higher  $\sqrt{s}$ , forward measurements, more differential, diverse probes)
  - Dijets,  $\pi^\pm$  at 200 GeV in 2009 (STAR dijet impact study done in Phys. Rev. D **100** (2019) 114027)
  - Jets, dijets and  $\pi^0$  at 200 GeV in 2015
  - Jets, dijets,  $\pi^0$ ,  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $\gamma$  at 510 GeV in 2012 and 2013

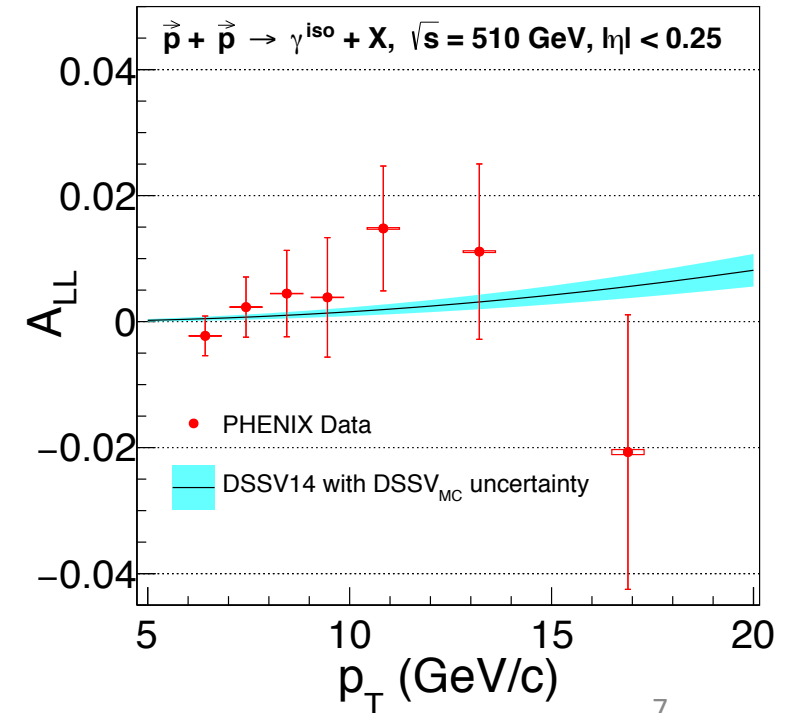
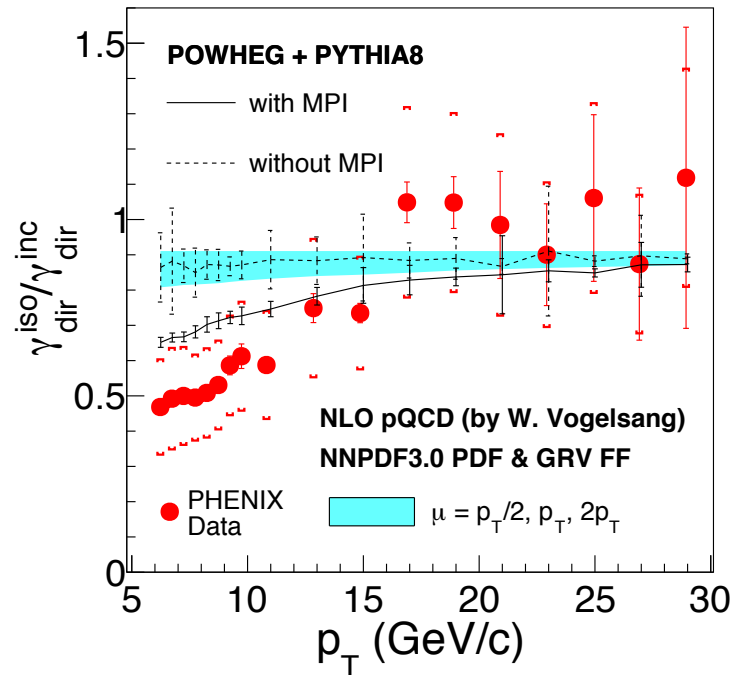
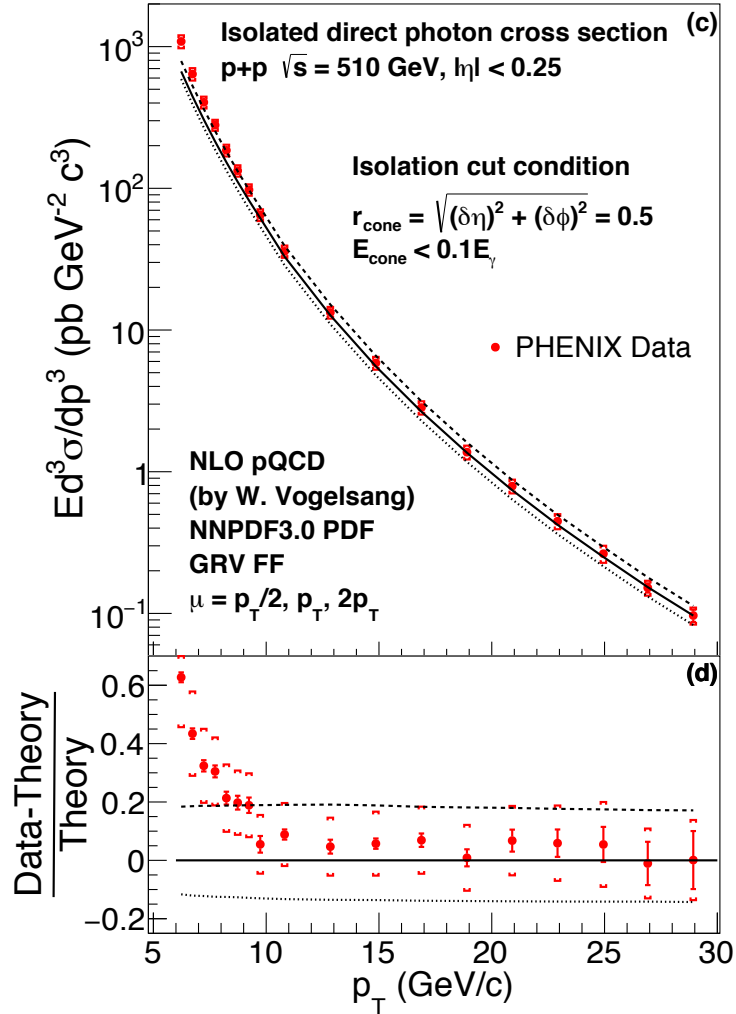




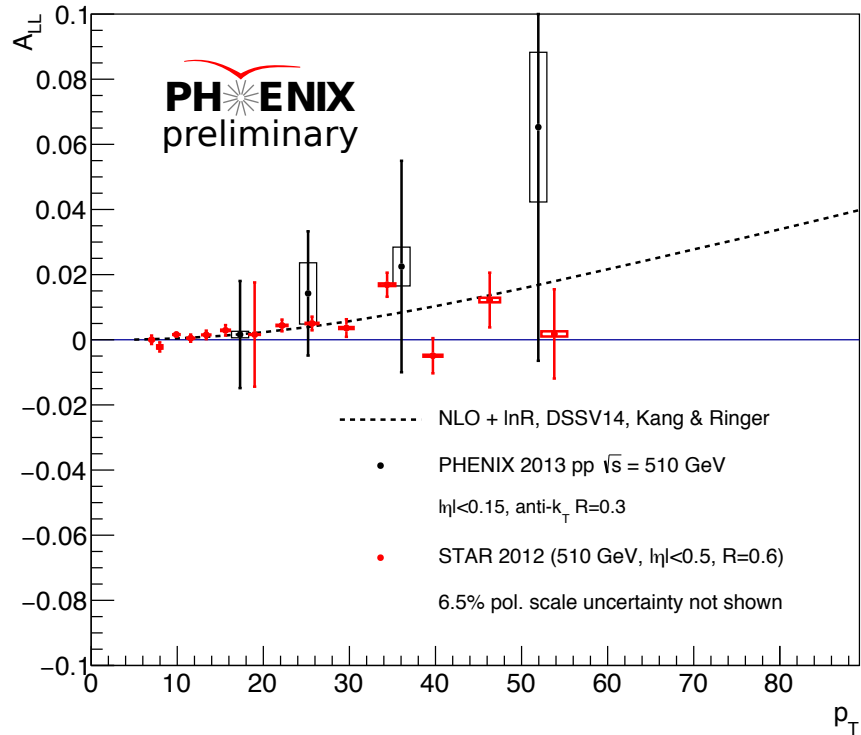
# Direct photon cross sections and $A_{LL}$

arXiv:2202.08158

- Theoretically golden channel to access gluon polarization; hard process predominantly  $qg$ , no fragmentation function.
- Statistically limited due to being EM process.
- Isolated production consistent with predictions from NLO pQCD + NNPDF3.0 + GRV FF.
- Inclusive production affected by multi-parton interactions (MPI).
- Measured asymmetries isolated photons consistent with global fit.



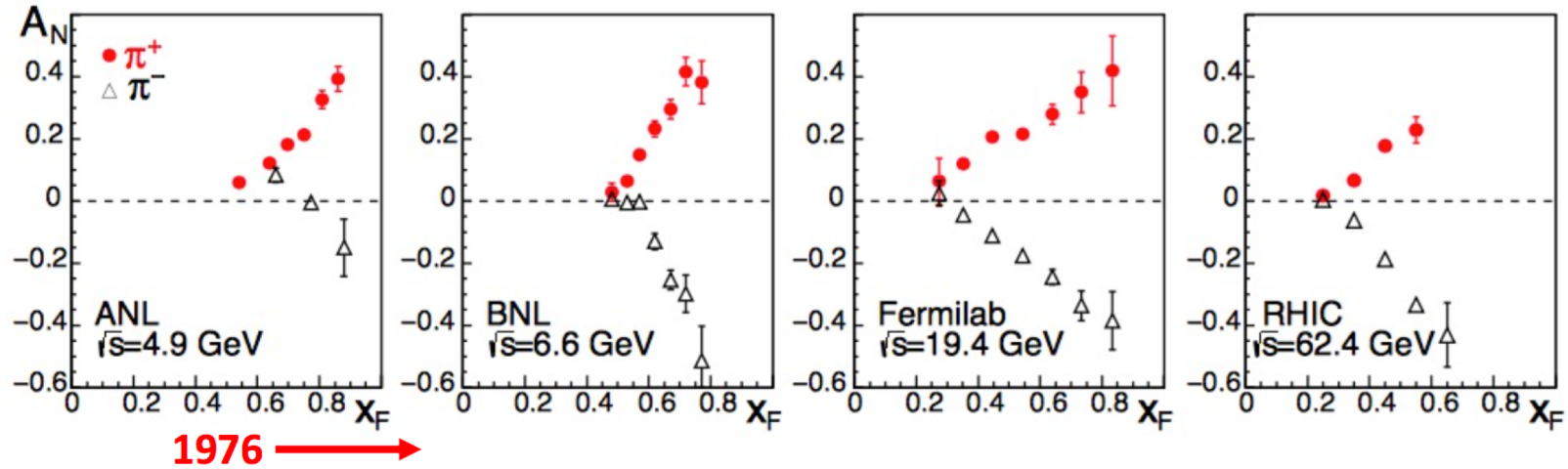
# Jet $A_{LL}$ at 510 GeV



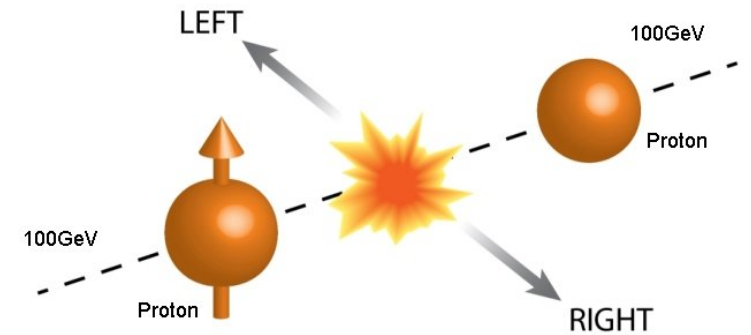
- PHENIX jet measurements limited by acceptance, smaller jet radius of  $R = 0.3$ .
- Measured asymmetries consistent with nonzero gluon polarization findings based on STAR Jet and PHENIX  $\pi^0 A_{LL}$  results.



# Transverse structure of proton



$$x_F = \frac{2p_z}{\sqrt{s}}$$



## Transverse Single Spin Asymmetry (TSSA)

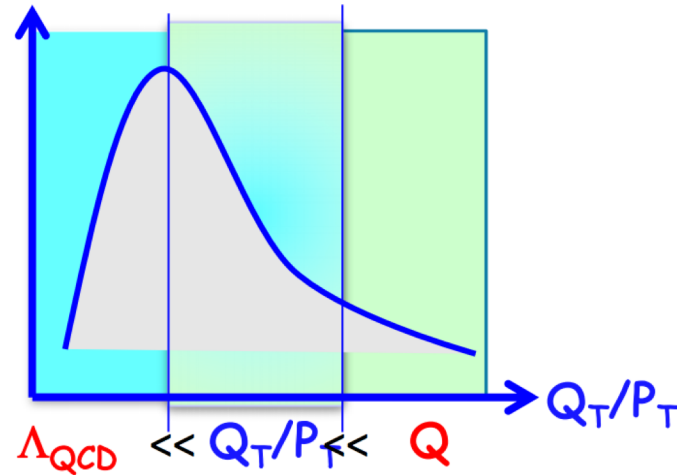
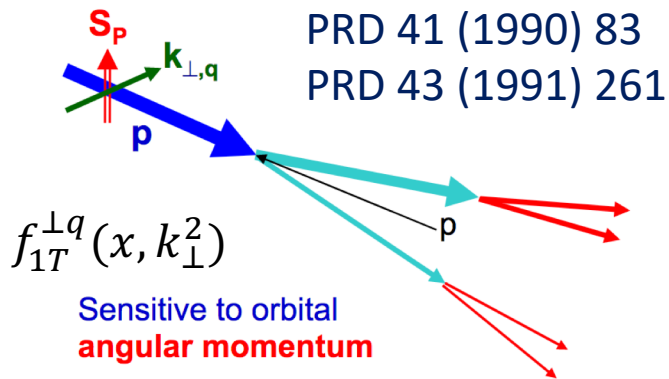
$$A_N \equiv \frac{\sigma^{\uparrow 0} - \sigma^{\downarrow 0}}{\sigma^{\uparrow 0} + \sigma^{\downarrow 0}}$$

$\uparrow$  or  $\downarrow$  : proton transverse spin states.

# TMD

- Requires 2 scales:
  - Hard scale  $Q$
  - Soft scale  $p_T \ll Q$
- Suitable for
  - SIDIS, DY, W/Z and hadrons in jets

e.g. **Sivers Fn:**

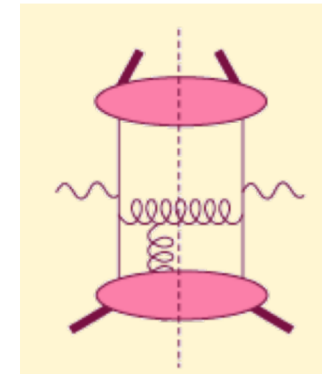


$$T_{q,F}(x, x) = \frac{1}{M_p} \int d^2\vec{k}_{\perp} \vec{k}_{\perp}^2 q_T(x, k_{\perp})$$

Nucl. Phys. B **667** (2003) 201  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **97** (2006) 082002

# Collinear Twist-3

- Only require single scale
  - Hard scale:  $p_T \sim Q$
- Suitable for
  - Inclusive  $\pi^0$ , jet,  $\gamma$  and  $\Lambda$



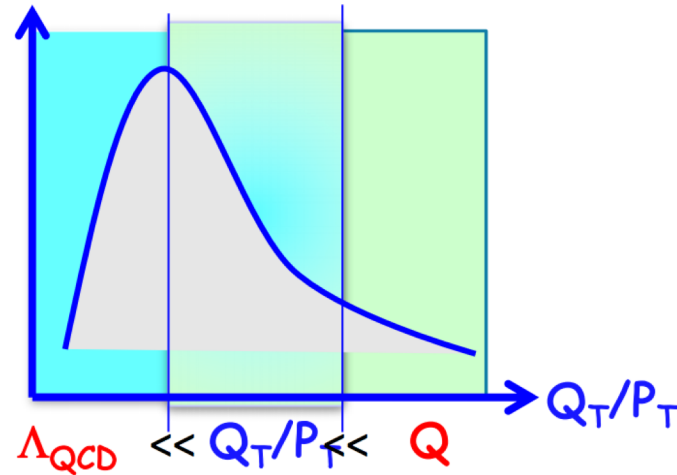
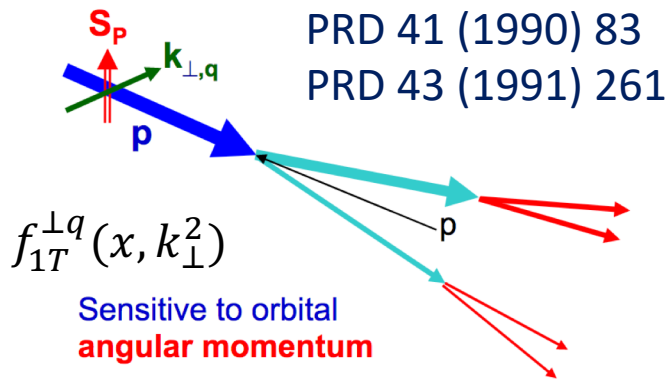
**Efremov, Teryaev;**  
**Sterman, Qiu**  $qgq$  correlator



# TMD

- Requires 2 scales:
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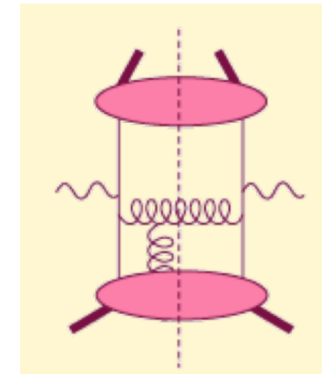
Nucl. Phys. B **667** (2003) 201  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **97** (2006) 082002

*Similar relation holds for **gluon Sivers Fn** and **ggg correlator**.*

Sookhyun Lee CIPANP 2022

# Collinear Twist-3

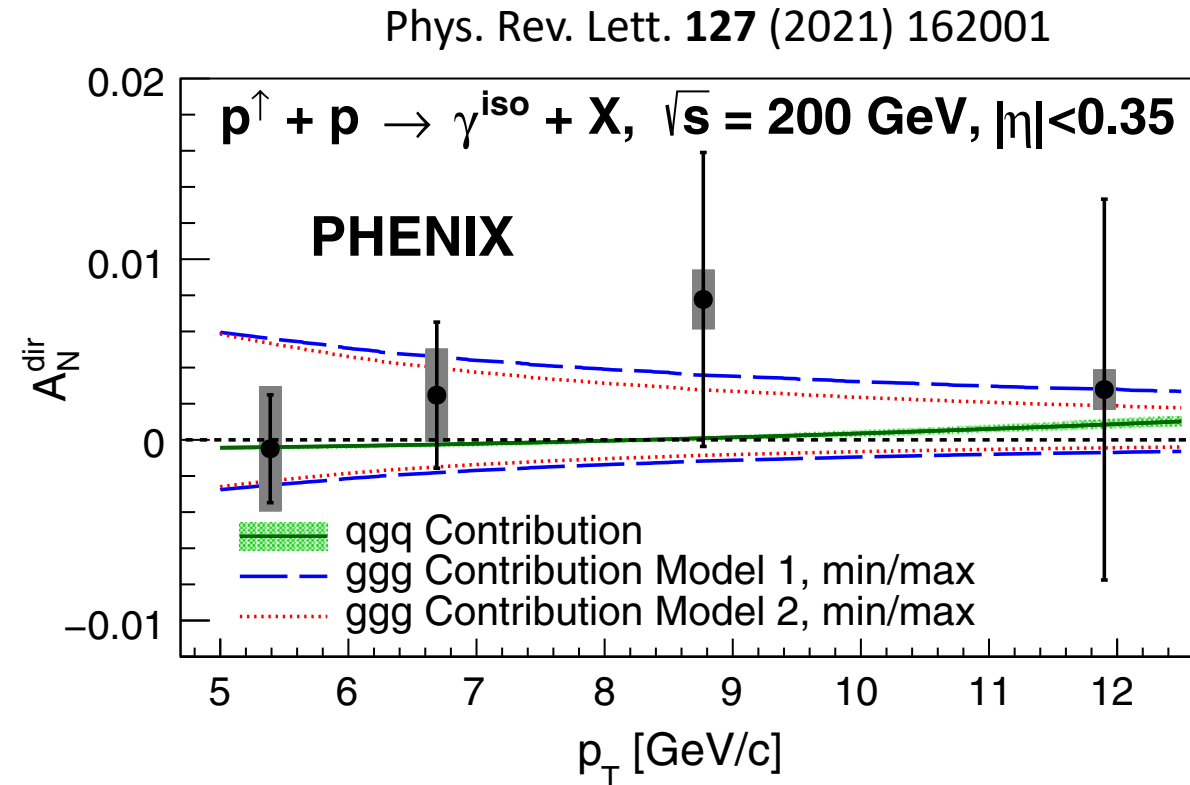
- Only require single scale
  - Hard scale:  $p_T \sim Q$
- Suitable for
  - Inclusive  $\pi^0$ , jet,  $\gamma$  and  $\Lambda$



**Efremov, Teryaev;**  
**Sterman, Qiu**  $qqg$  correlator

# Direct photon $A_N$

- First direct photon  $A_N$
- Measured asymmetry consistent with zero.
- Sensitive to transverse gluon structure inside proton
  - Direct photon production predominantly from QCD Compton scattering.
  - Small contribution from  $qgq$  correlation function predicted at midrapidity.
- Clean probe for extraction of trigluon correlator and sensitive to gluon Sivers fn.

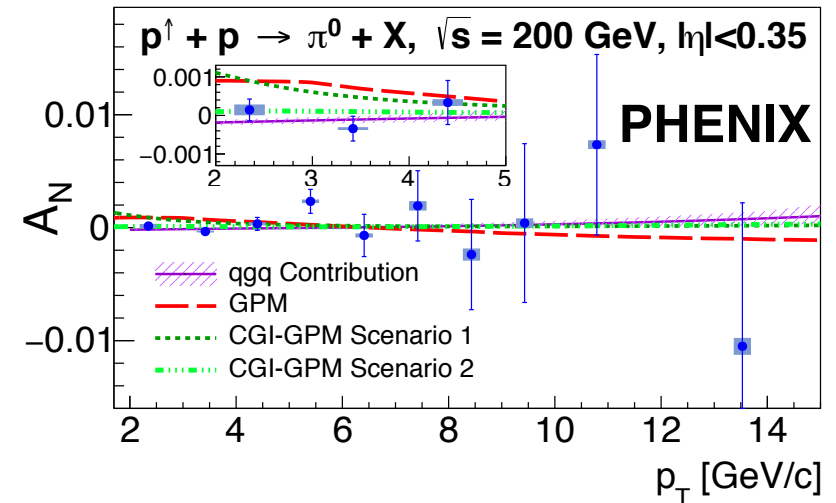
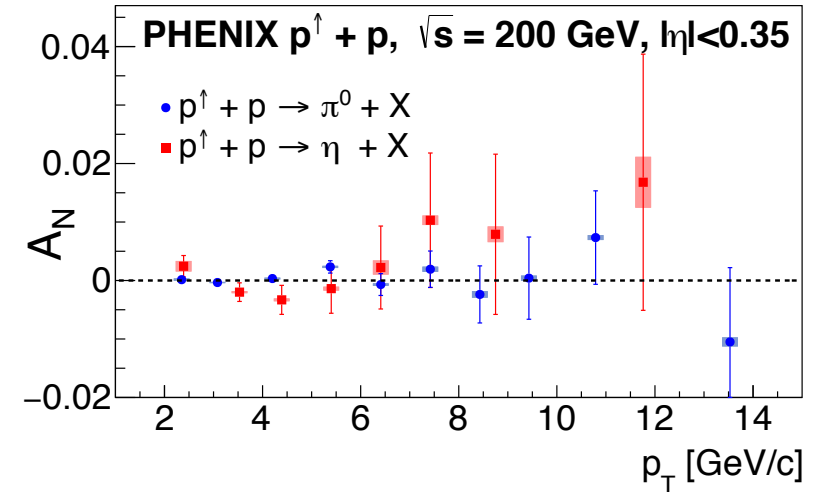




# $\pi^0$ and $\eta$ $A_N$

- Improved statistical precision to sub-percent level.
- Measured asymmetries consistent with zero and with previous measurements.
- $A_N(\pi^0)$  vs.  $A_N(\eta)$ : no evidence of differences due to strangeness, isospin or mass.
- Small contribution from  $qgq$  correlator predicted at midrapidity by JAM Collaboration.
- Moderately sensitive to trigluon correlator and gluon Sivers fn.
- CPI-GPM scenario 1 and 2 maximize (minimize) previously measured open heavy flavor  $A_N$  generated by *gluon Sivers* Fn within statistical uncertainties.

Phys. Rev. D **103** (2021) 052009

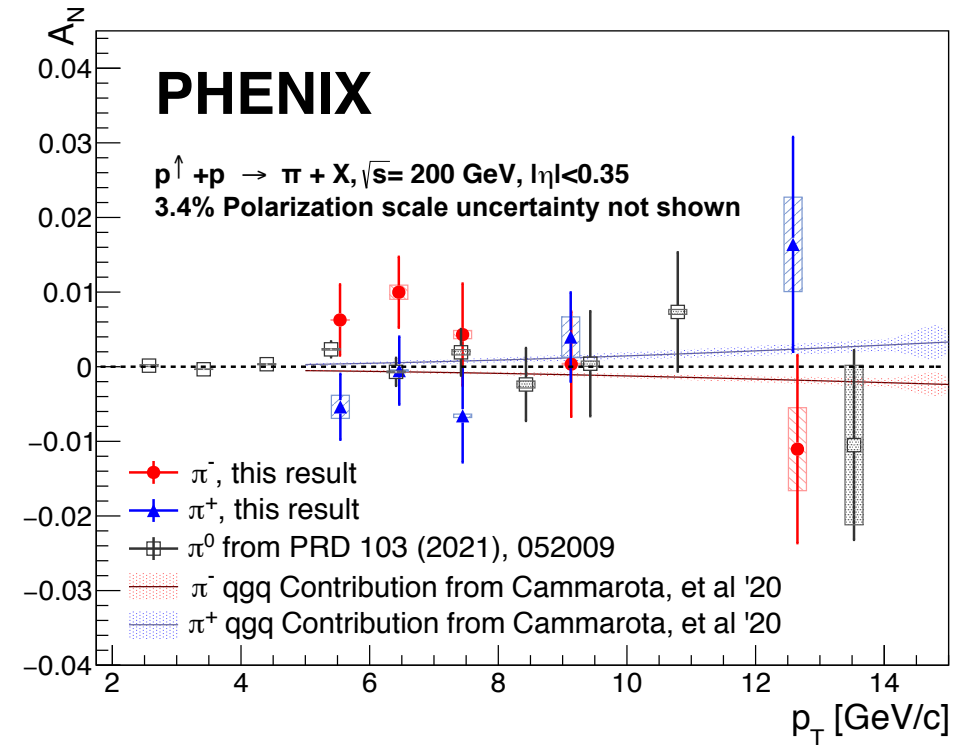


GPM: Generalized parton model.

# $\pi^\pm A_N$

- First charged pion  $A_N$ .
- Difference between  $\pi^+$  and  $\pi^-$  at  $2\sigma$  deviation level.
- $A_N(\pi^\pm)$  vs.  $A_N(\pi^0)$ : Charge average of charged pion asymmetries consistent with neutral pion asymmetries.
- Provide different flavor sensitivities than neutral particles via fragmentation functions; hard process dominated by  $qg$  scattering at high  $p_T$ .
- Increasing  $qgq$  contribution predicted with hard scale and opposite sign for oppositely charged  $\pi$ 's (which was seen cancelled in  $\pi^0 A_N$ ).
- Can provide additional information on  $qgq$  correlators and constrain trigluon correlators.

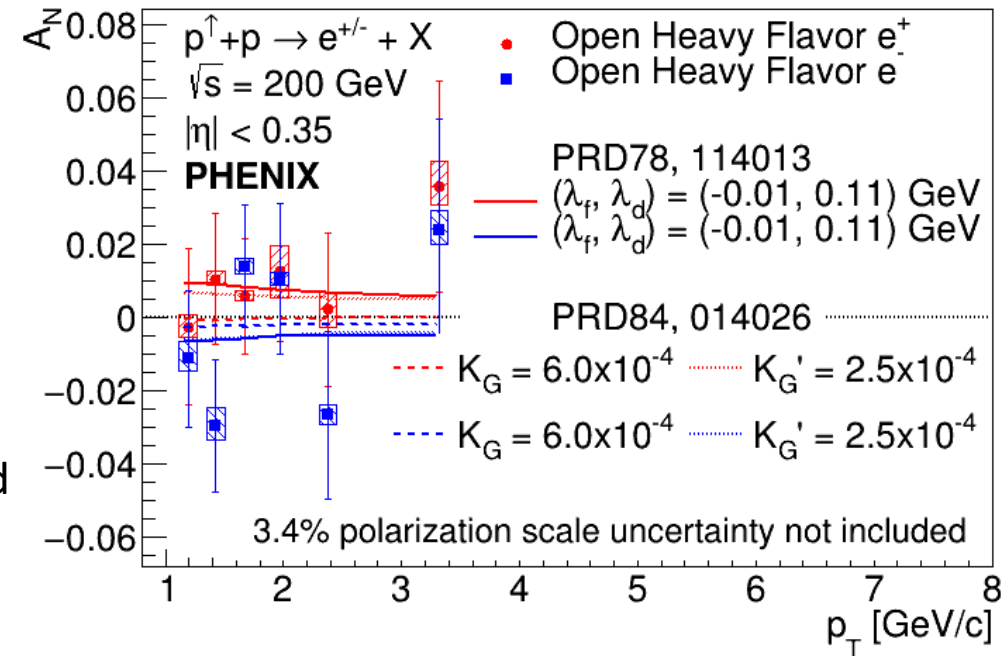
Phys. Rev. D **105** (2022) 032003





# Open heavy flavor $A_N$

- Charge separated  $e^+$  and  $e^-$   $A_N$ .
- Measured asymmetries consistent with zero.
- Most sensitive probe of trigluon correlator;  $gg \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$  dominance relative to  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$ .
- Model calculations provided by two groups rely on normalizing symmetric and antisymmetric trigluon correlators  $T_G^{(f,d)}$  to unpolarized gluon PDF.
- First quantitative extraction of trigluon correlators.



## Best fit results:

*PRD78, 114013 Kang-Qiu-Vogelsang-Yuan*

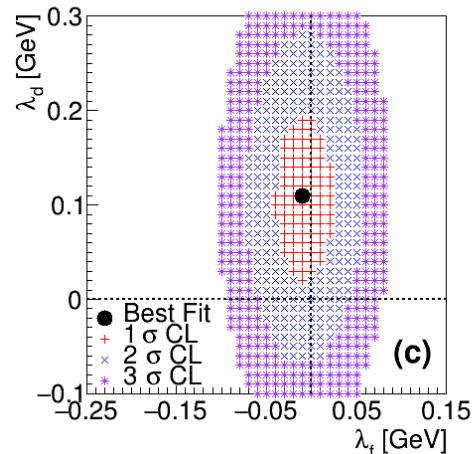
$$\lambda_f = -0.01 \pm 0.03 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\lambda_d = 0.11 \pm 0.09 \text{ GeV}$$

*PRD84, 014026 Koike-Yosida model*

$$K_G = 6.0 \times 10^{-4} (+0.0014 -0.0017)$$

$$K_{G'} = 2.5 \times 10^{-4} (\pm 0.00025)$$



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

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

$$|\eta| < 0.35$$

**PHENIX**

Theory: PRD78, 114013

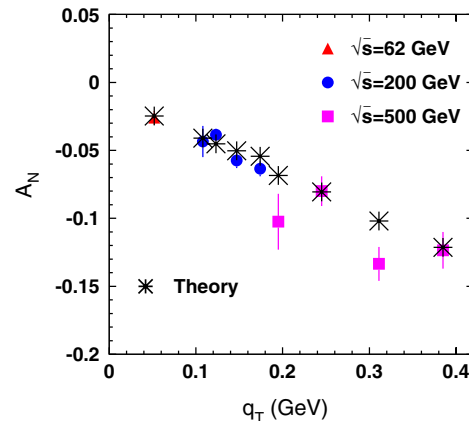
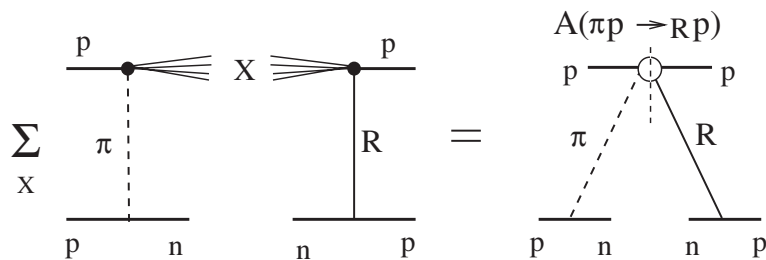
$$A_N^{D^0/\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow e^{+/-}}(\lambda_f, \lambda_d)$$

$$T_G^{(f,d)}(x, x) = \lambda_{f,d} G(x)$$

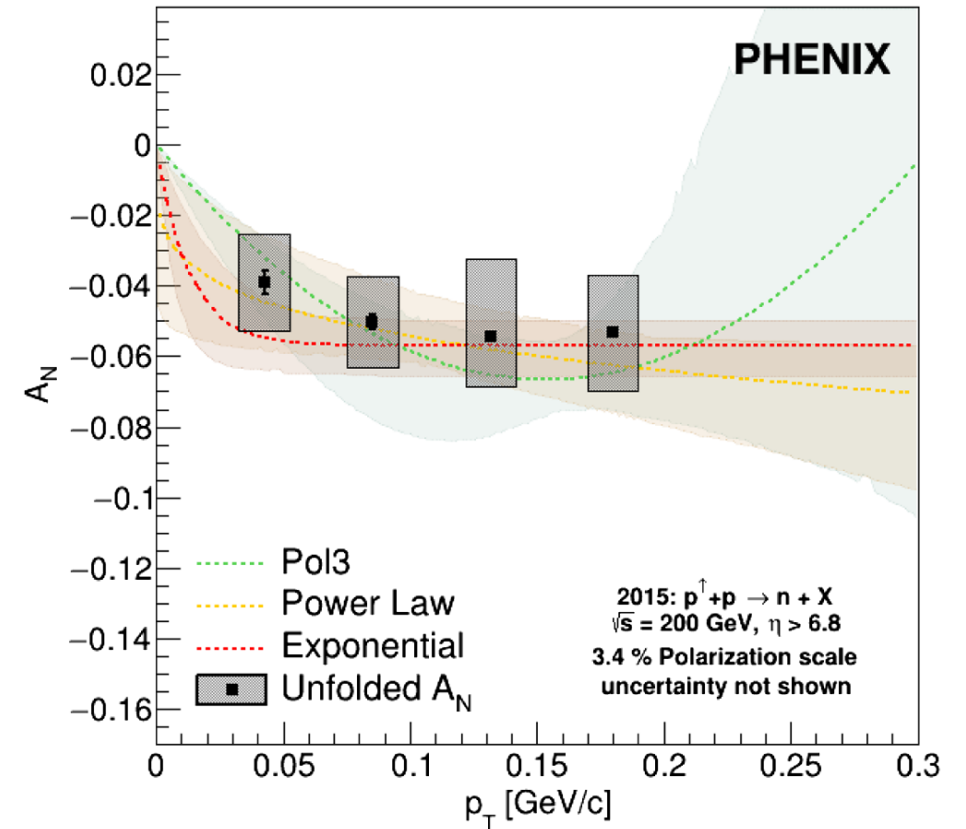
# Forward neutron $A_N$ in p+p

- Hadronic interactions based model:
  - Interference between amplitudes with  $\pi$  and Reggeon exchange proposed to be dominant source of asymmetries in  $p_T < 0.2$  GeV.
  - Negative  $A_N$  and linear dependence with  $p_T$  predicted by  $\pi$ -R interference; not sufficient to describe data

Phys. Rev. D **84** (2011) 114012



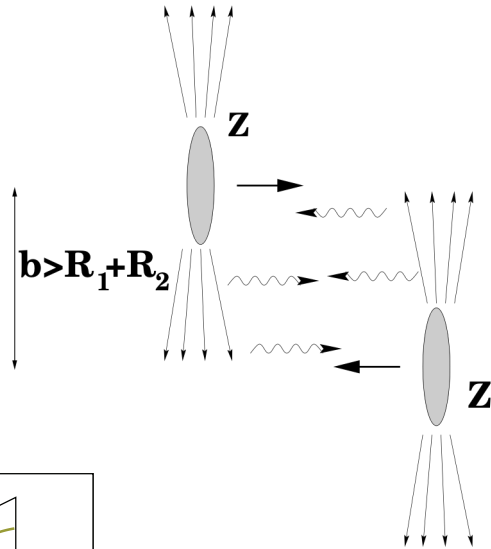
Phys. Rev. D **103** (2021) 032007



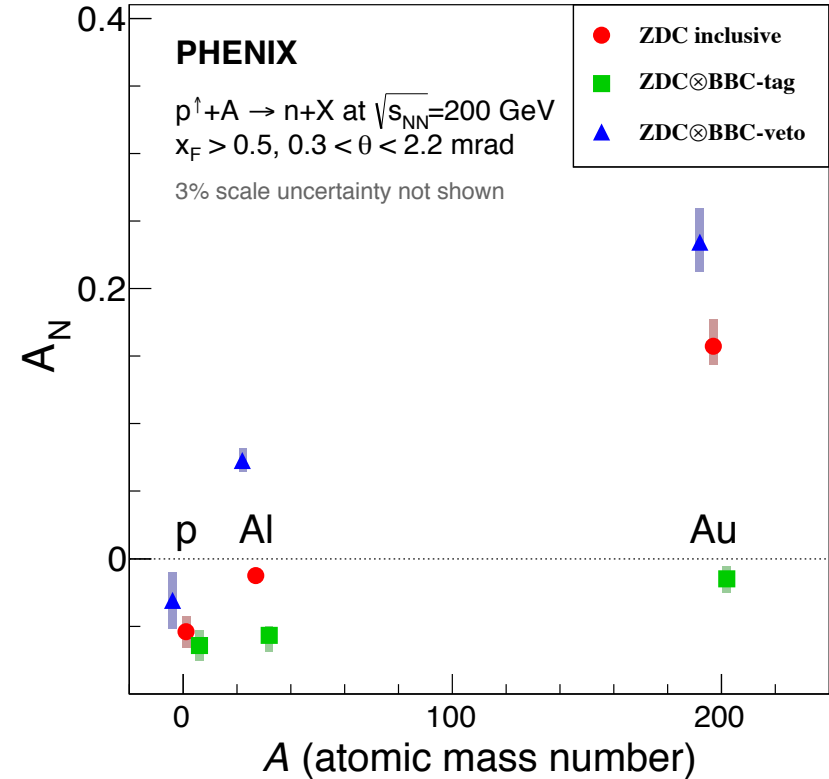
# Forward neutron $A_N$ in p+A

- Ultra Peripheral Collision (UPC)
  - Positive  $A_N$  with  $Z^2$  dependence due to EM interaction.

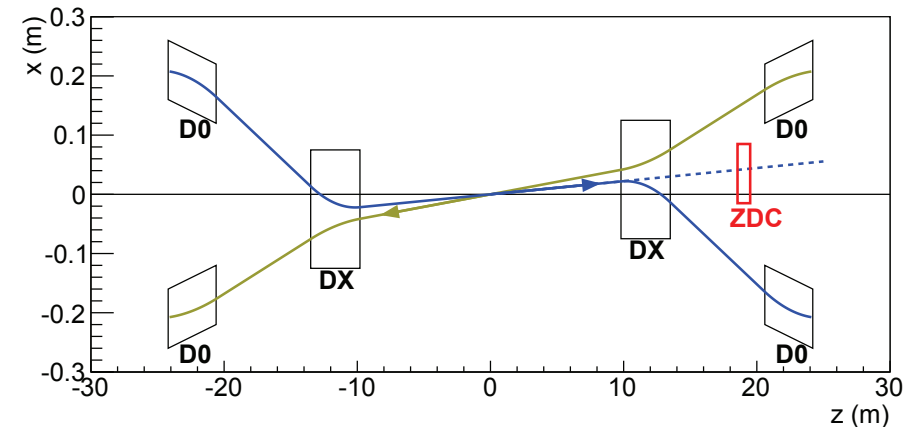
Phys. Rept. **163** (1988) 299



Phys. Rev. Lett. **120** (2018) 022001



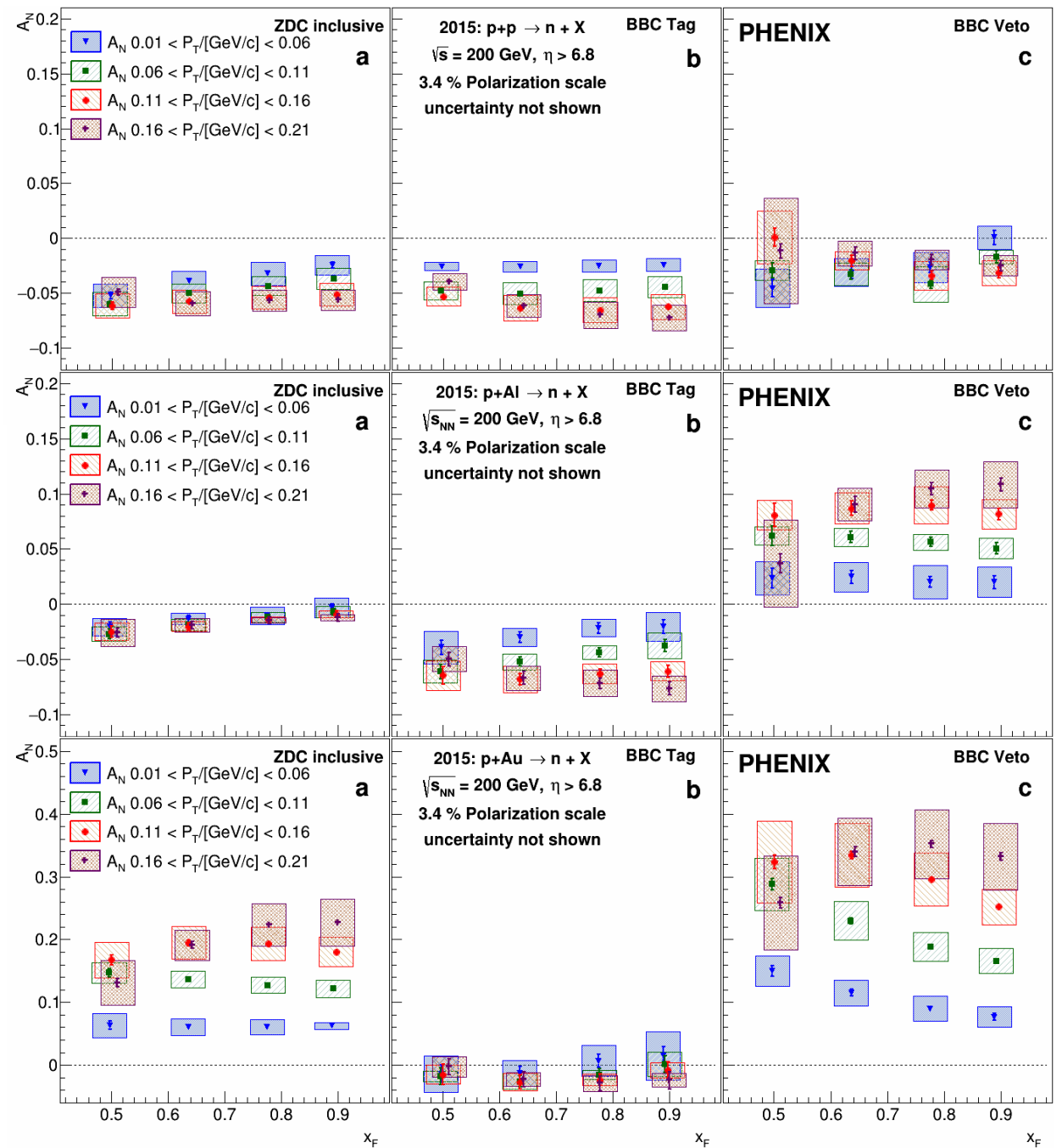
- Selection of two mutually exclusive event types:
  - ZDC ⊗ BBC- tag ( $N \cap S$ ): hadronic interactions.
  - ZDC ⊗ BBC- veto ( $\bar{N} \cap \bar{S}$ ): UPC interactions.





# Forward neutron $A_N$ in p+A

- $p_T$  and  $x_F$  dependence.
- $A_N$  stays negative and approaches zero in hadronic interaction enhanced data.
- Nuclear dependence of  $A_N$  amplified in UPC enhanced data.



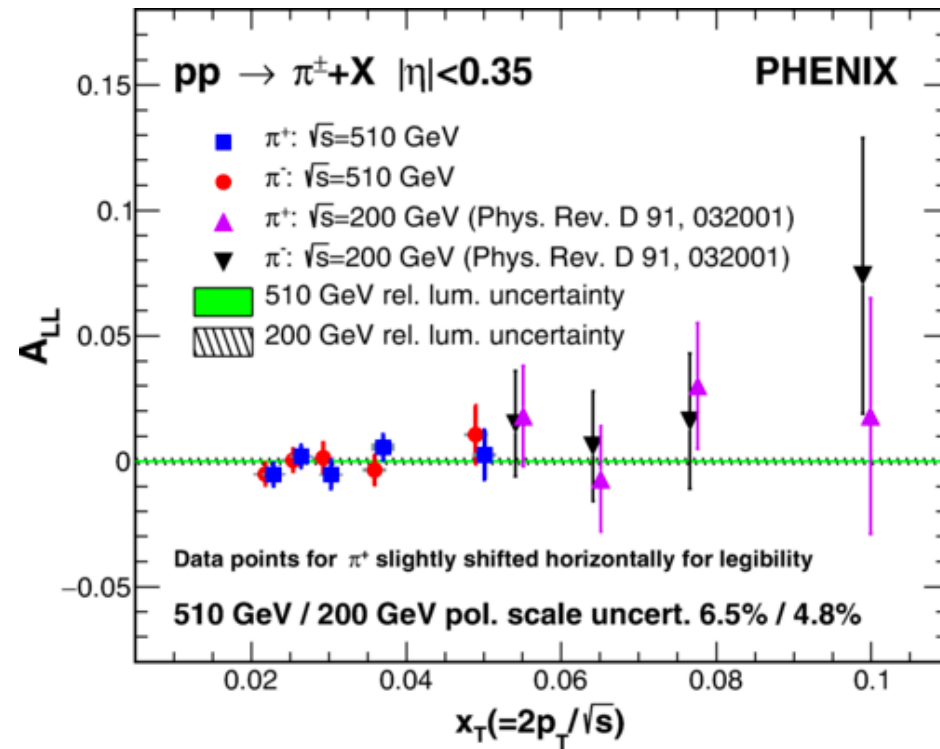
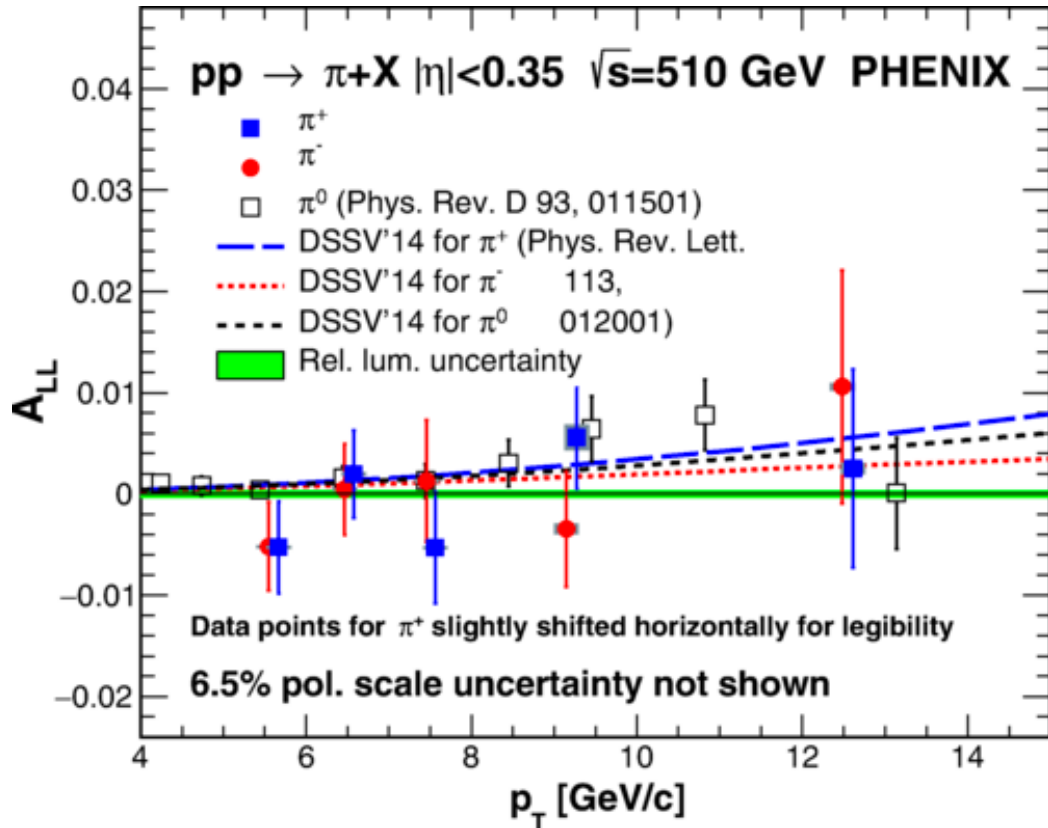
# Summary

- ❑ PHENIX measured first direct photon cross sections and  $A_{LL}$ . Theoretically favorable, but statistically limited. Isolated production and asymmetries consistent with NLO predictions.
- ❑ A set of new TSSA measurements sensitive to  $qgq$  and trigluon correlators;
  - ❑ Direct photon, open heavy flavor measurements most clean and sensitive to  $qgq$  correlators. First quantitative estimations obtained using OHF measurements.
  - ❑ Neutral hadrons moderately sensitive to trigluon correlators with suppressed  $qgq$  contribution expected.
  - ❑ Charged  $\pi^\pm$  asymmetries provide more information on  $qgq$  correlators that is cancelled between opposite charges in neutral hadrons.
- ❑ Forward neutron TSSA measurements revealed different mechanisms in generating asymmetries in the forward region; Hadronic interactions results in mostly negative asymmetries and show little to no nuclear dependence while UPC interactions show positive asymmetries and strong nuclear dependence.

Thank you!

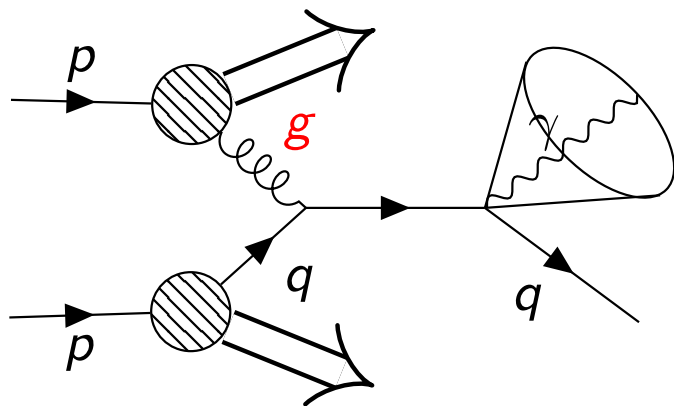


# Charged pion $A_{LL}$

 Phys. Rev. D **102** (2020) 032001


- Lower  $x$  reach compared to previously published 200 GeV  $A_{LL}$  data.
- Ideally sign of  $\Delta g(x)$  visible in charge ordering of pion  $A_{LL}$ s.
- Statistics limited due to EM shower based trigger, but important input for global fits.

# Identifying direct photon through isolation

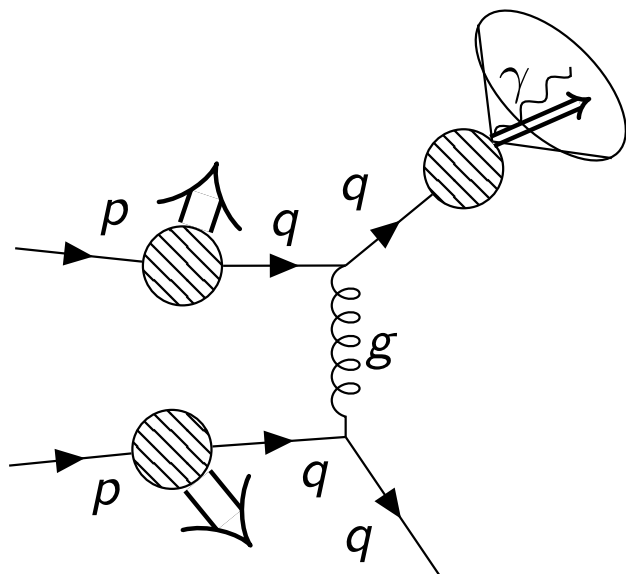


$$r_{cone} = \sqrt{(\delta\eta)^2 + (\delta\phi)^2} = 0.5$$

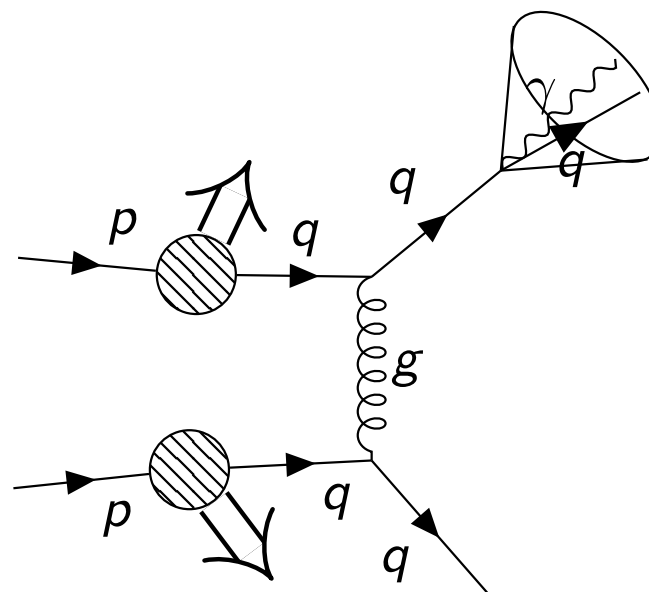
Isolation cut requirement:

$$\sum E_{in\ cone} < 0.1 E_\gamma$$

Quark-gluon Compton scattering: Easy to pass isolation cut



Fragmentation:  
Hard to pass  
isolation cut



Bremsstrahlung:  
Hard to pass  
isolation cut