

# STAR probes of fundamental QCD symmetries and novel collective phenomena in relativistic heavy ion collisions

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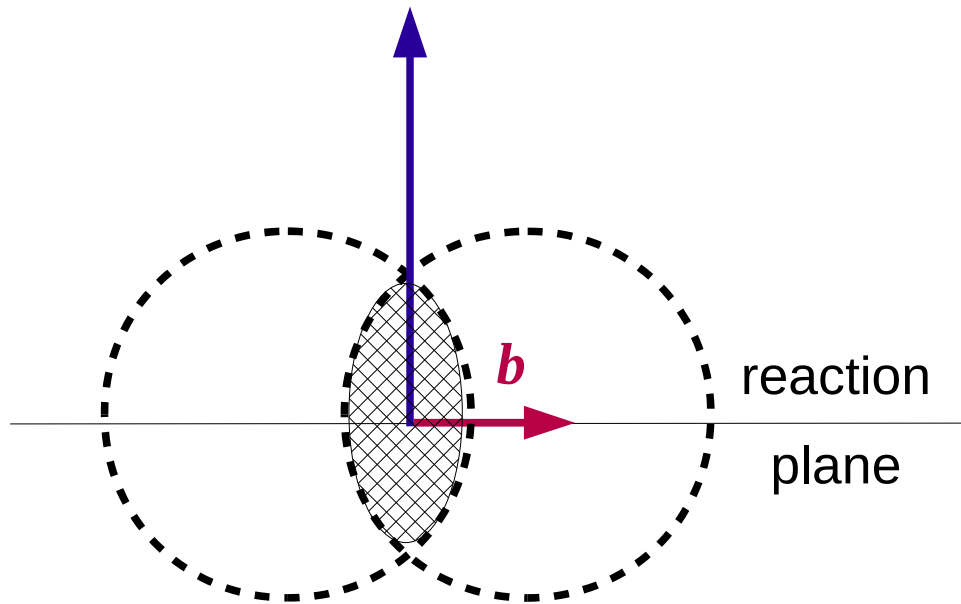
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GSI, Darmstadt, Germany

# Non-central relativistic heavy ion collision (HIC)

**B** - magnetic field

**L** - orbital momentum



**b** – impact parameter

Colliding nuclei are moving out-of-list

- Overlapped area:  
non-uniform particle density  
and pressure gradient

- Large orbital angular momentum:

$$\mathbf{L} \sim 10^5$$

Liang, Wang, PRL94:102301 (2005)

Liang, JPG34:323 (2007)

- Strong magnetic field:

$$\mathbf{B} \sim 10^{15} \text{ T} \quad (e\mathbf{B} \sim 10^4 \text{ MeV}^2)$$

$$(\mu_N \mathbf{B} \sim 100 \text{ MeV})$$

Rafelski, Müller PRL36:517 (1976)

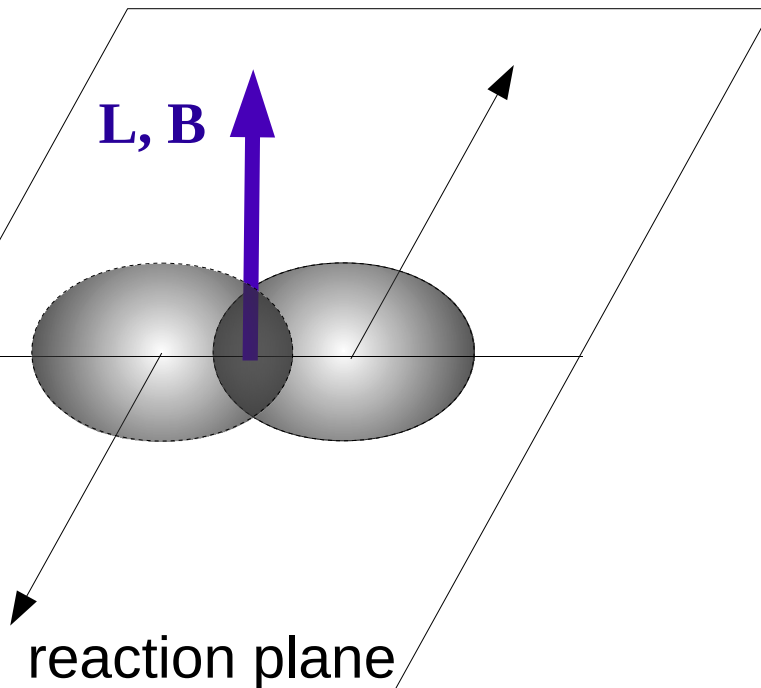
Kharzeev, PLB633:260 (2006)

Kharzeev, McLerran, Warringa  
NPA803:227 (2008)

# Particle production in HIC: asymmetries wrt. the reaction plane

**L** - orbital momentum

**B** - magnetic field



## **Anisotropic transverse flow**

Initial space anisotropy  
of the overlapped area  
evolves into momentum space

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## **Global polarization/spin alignment**

Preferential orientation of  
the spin of produced particles  
wrt. the system orbital momentum

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## **Local strong parity violation**

Charge separation along the  
magnetic field/orbital momentum

**Experimental observation of these effects** provide:

- Information on initial condition & evolution of the system created in HIC
- Insight on hadronization mechanism & origin of hadronic spin
- A probe of fundamental QCD symmetries

# Anisotropic flow

# Anisotropic transverse flow

Fourier decomposition of particle azimuthal distribution wrt. the reaction plane:

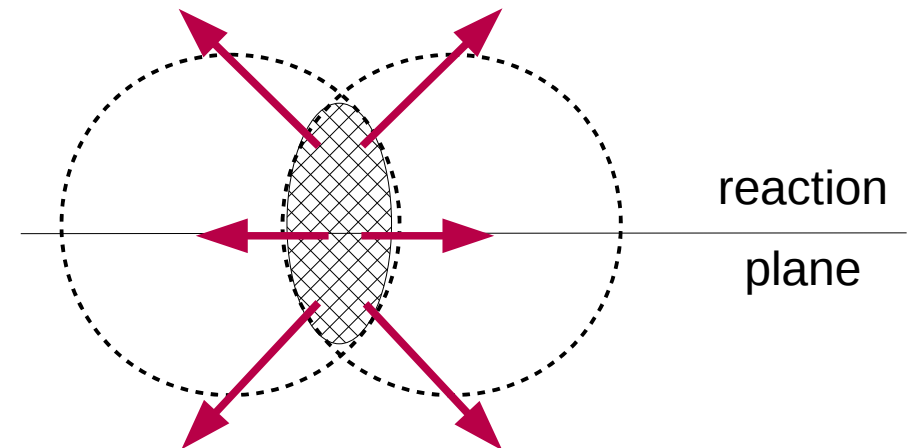
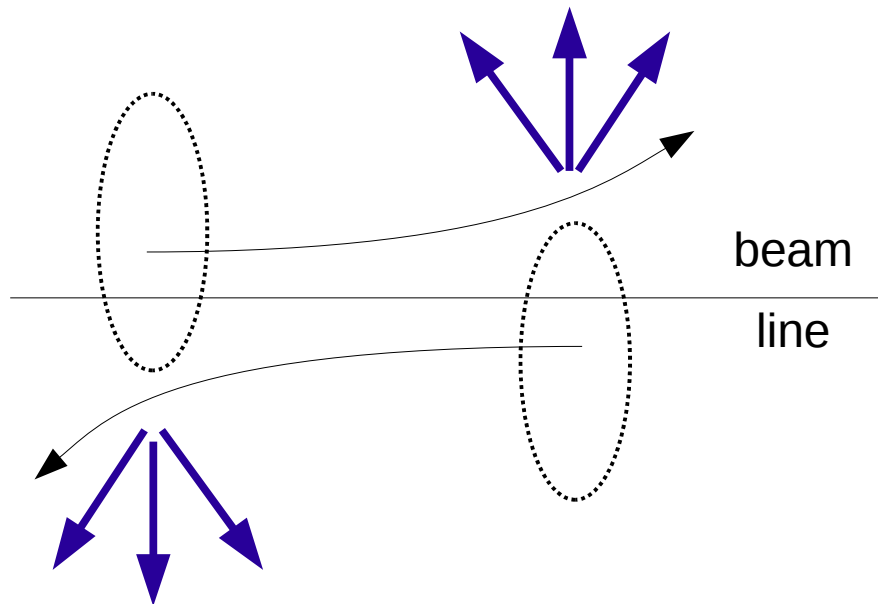
$$\frac{dN}{d\phi} \sim 1 + 2 \sum_{n=1} v_n \cos(n[\phi - \Psi_{RP}])$$

$\Psi_{RP}$  - reaction plane (RP) angle

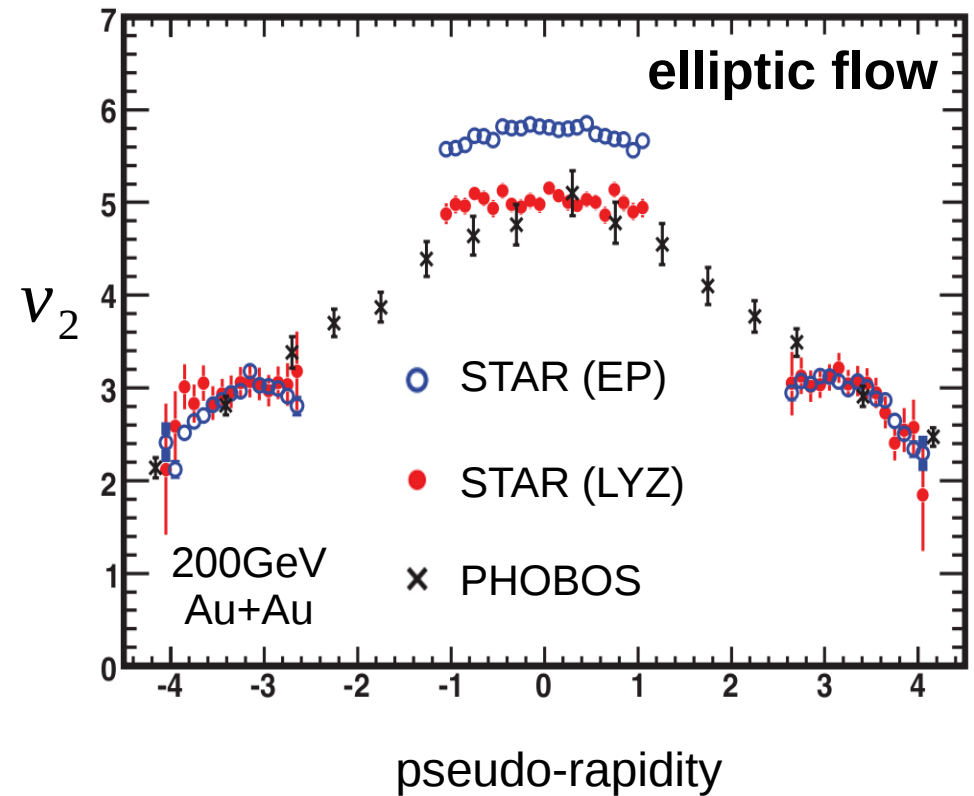
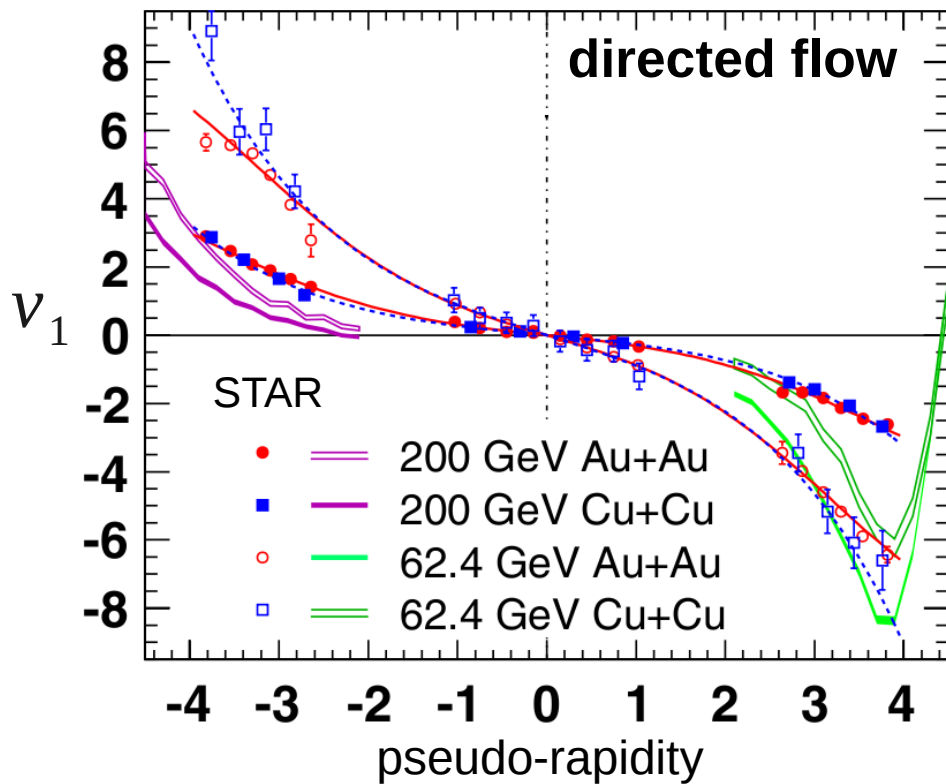
$\phi$  - particle azimuthal angle

**Directed flow:**  $v_1 = \langle \cos(\phi - \Psi_{RP}) \rangle$

**Elliptic flow:**  $v_2 = \langle \cos(2[\phi - \Psi_{RP}]) \rangle$



# Charged particle flow at RHIC



STAR papers as principal author:

Directed flow:

**PRC** 73:034903 (2006)

**PRL** 101:252301 (2008)

Elliptic flow:

**PRC** 75:054906 (2007)

**PRC** 77:054901 (2008)

**arXiv**:1001.5052 (2010)

Method paper on acceptance effects:

Selyuzhenkov & Voloshin **PRC** 77:034904 (2008)

Strong collectivity at RHIC:

- Probe early stage of collision
- Test hydrodynamic predictions
- Quark Gluon Plasma signature

# Global polarization

# Global polarization and spin alignment in HIC

Orbital angular momentum

→  
spin-orbital  
transformation

preferential orientation of the  
spin of produced particles along  
the system orbital momentum

Liang&Wang **PRL94:102301** (2005)  
Voloshin **arXiv:nucl-th/0410089**

## Theory calculations

- Exclusive parton recombination:

$$P_{\Lambda, \bar{\Lambda}} = P_q \approx 0.3$$

Liang&Wang **PRL94:102301** (2005)  
erratum: 039901 (2006)

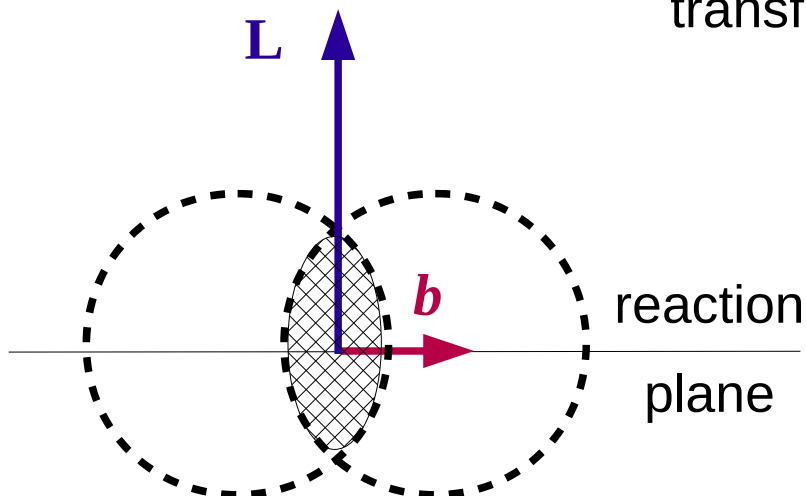
- HTL gluon propagator:

$$-0.03 < P_q < 0.15$$

Liang **JPG34:S323** (2007)

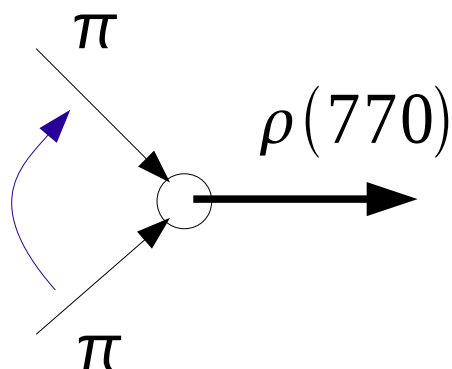
Sensitivity to:

- evolution of the system
- hadronization mechanism
- origin of hadronic spin



Relative orbital  
momentum

$$\vec{l}_{\pi\pi} \parallel \vec{L}$$



$$\vec{l}_{\pi\pi} \rightarrow \vec{J}_\rho \parallel \vec{L}$$



# Hyperon's global polarization

$$\frac{dN}{d \cos \theta^*} \sim 1 + \alpha_H P_H \cos \theta^*$$

Reconstruct hyperon spin via its weak, self-analyzing decay

$P_H$  - hyperon global polarization

$\theta^*$  - angle between the system orbital momentum and the hyperon decay baryon 3-momentum in the hyperon's rest frame

$\alpha_H$  - decay constant:  $\alpha_{\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})} = \pm 0.642$

## Observable

$$P_H = \frac{3}{\alpha_H} \langle \cos \theta^* \rangle$$

$\phi_p^*(\theta_p^*)$  - decay baryon azimuthal (polar) angle in hyperon's rest frame

Using angle relation:

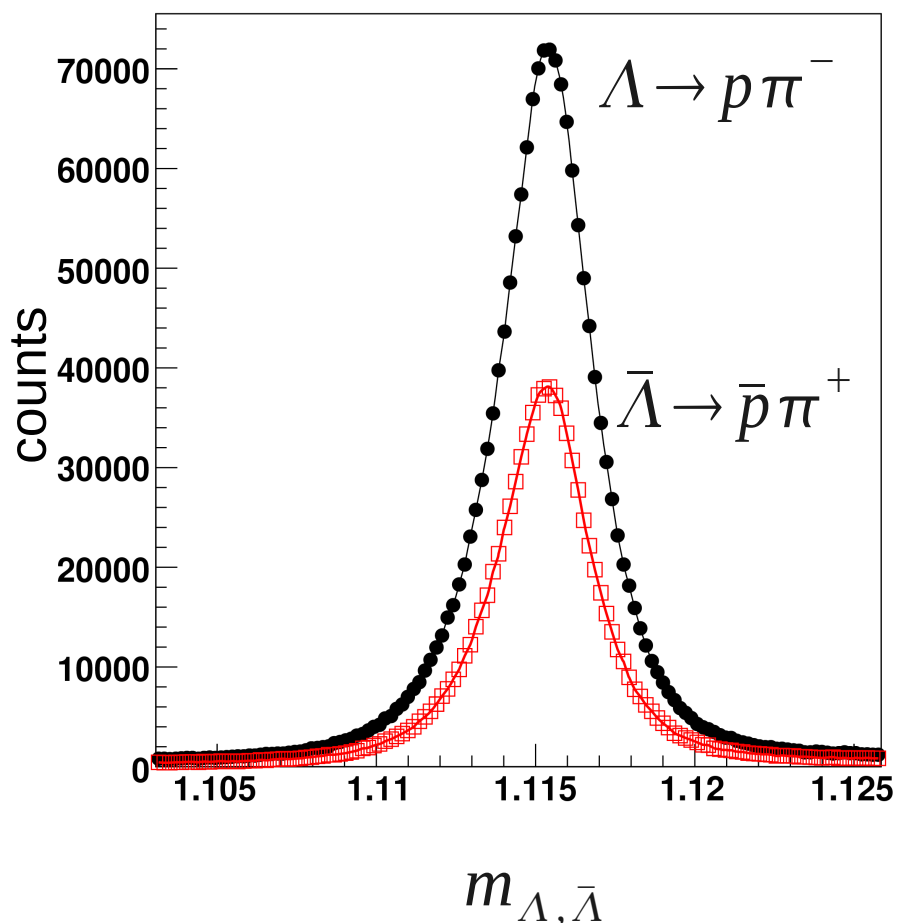
$$\cos \theta^* = \sin \theta_p^* \sin (\phi_p^* - \Psi_{RP})$$

$$P_H = \frac{8}{\pi \alpha_H} \langle \sin (\phi_p^* - \Psi_{RP}) \rangle$$

similar to directed flow observable  
→ anisotropic flow measurement technique!

# Global polarization: systematics study

62 GeV Au+Au

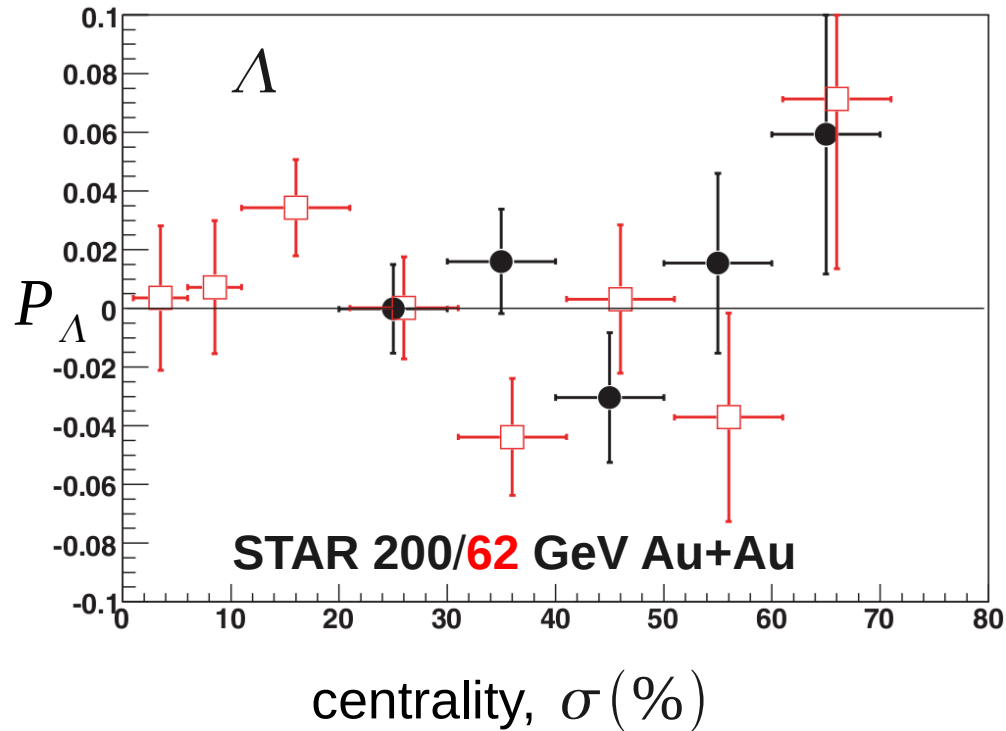


- Background,  $K_S^0$  contamination 8%
- Non uniform detector acceptance 20%
- Higher harmonics contribution 20%
- Reaction plane reconstruction 30%
- Spin precession 0.1%
- Multi-strange feed-down 15%
- $\Sigma^0$  feed-down 30%
- Decay parameter  $\alpha_{\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})}$  error 2%
- Hyperon directed flow contribution 1%
- Comparison between  $\bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\Lambda$  results
- Verify results with Monte-Carlo simulations

Overall (relative) systematic error: < factor of 2

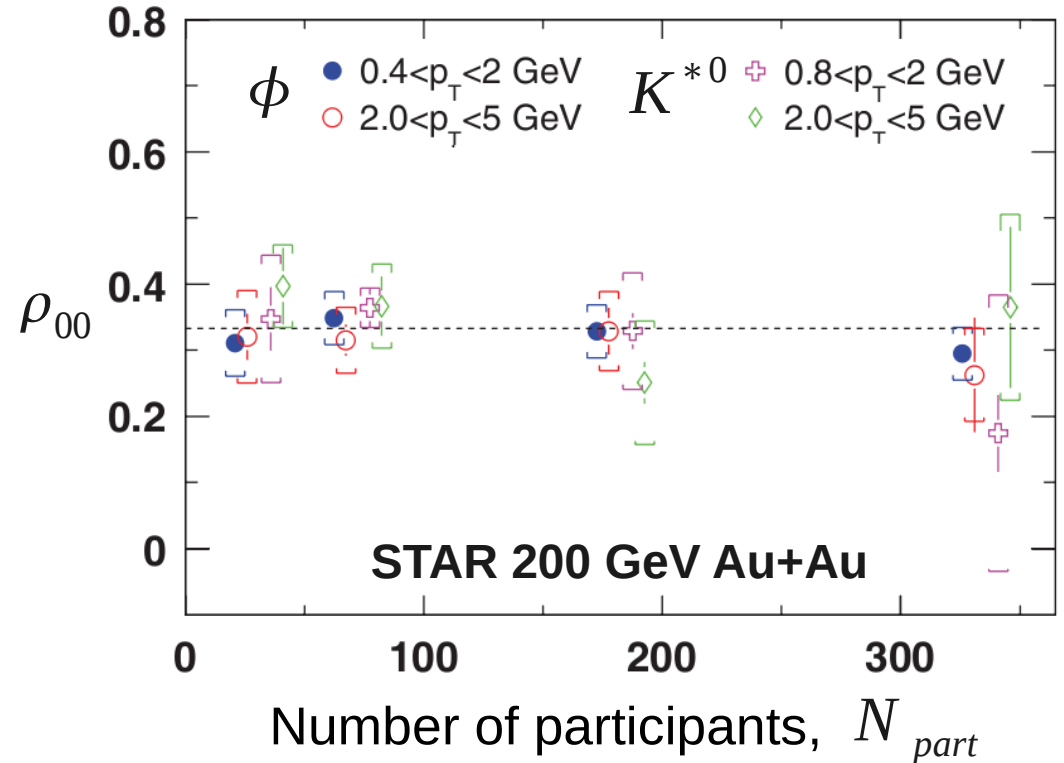
# STAR measurements of global polarization

Strange hyperon ( $\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}$ ) polarization



$$|P_{\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}}| < 0.02$$

Vector meson ( $\phi/K^{*0}$ ) spin alignment



$$|\rho_{00} - 1/3|_{\phi/K^{*0}} = 0.010 \pm (0.036/0.098)$$

STAR papers as principal author:

Polarization: **PRC** 76:024915 (2007)

Alignment: **PRC** 77:061902 (2008)

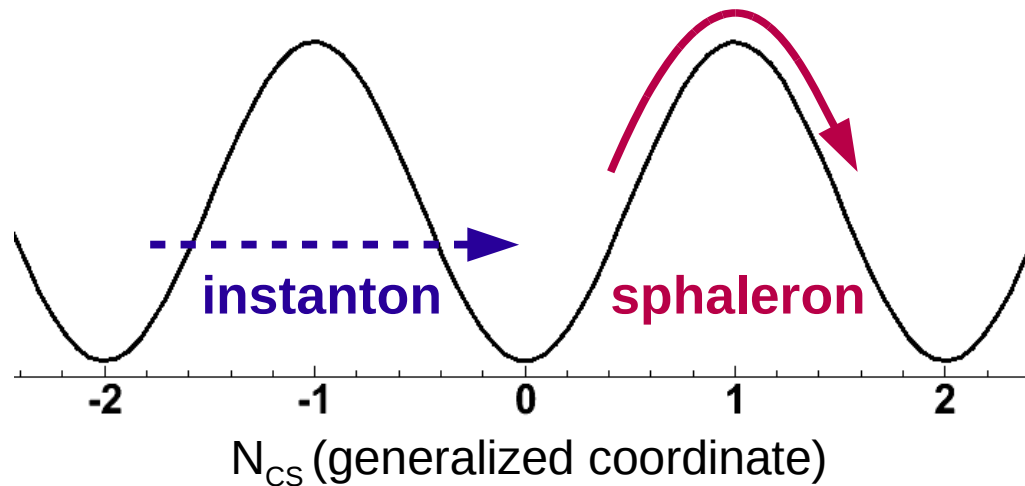
Consistent with no/small polarization:

→ No transformation of global orbital momentum into particle's spin?

# Local strong parity violation

# Chiral symmetry breaking and P-violation

QCD vacuum (gluonic field energy) is periodic vs. Chern-Simons number,  $N_{CS}$ :



Localized in space & time solutions.  
Transitions between different vacua  
via **tunneling/go-over-barrier**

Quark interaction changes chirality,  
which is a P and T odd transition

P/CP invariance are (globally)  
preserved in strong interactions.

Evidence from neutron EDM  
(electric dipole moment) experiments:

Pospelov, Ritz, PRL83:2526 (1999)  
Baker *et al.*, PRL97:131801 (2006)

$$\theta < 10^{-10}$$

If  $\theta \neq 0$ , then QCD vacuum  
breaks P and CP symmetry.

**but:**

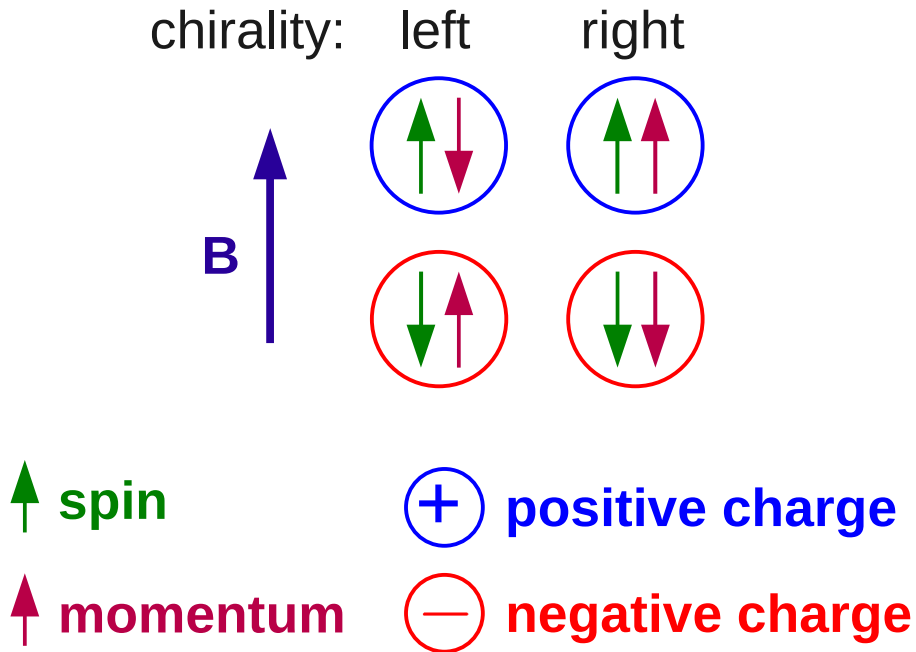
In HIC formation of (local) metastable  
P-odd domains is not forbidden.

T.D. Lee, PRD8:1226 (1973)  
Morley, Schmidt, Z.Phys.C26:627 (1985)  
Kharzeev, Pisarski, Tytgat, PRL81:512 (1998)  
Kharzeev, Pisarski, PRD61:111901 (2000)

Voloshin, PRC62:044901 (2000)  
Kharzeev, Krasnitz, Venugopalan, PLB545:298 (2002)  
Finch, Chikanian, Longacre,  
Sandweiss, Thomas, PRC65:014908(2002)

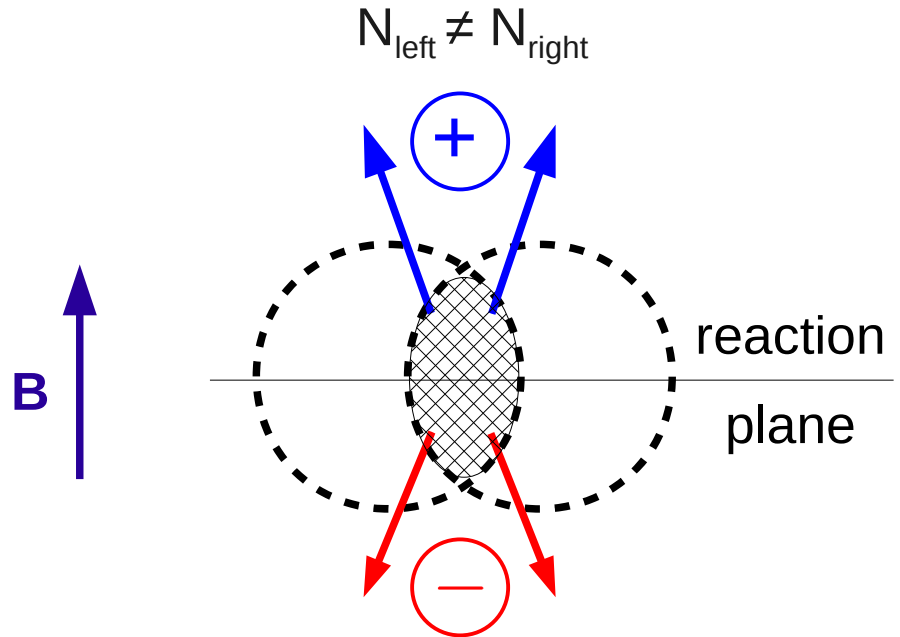
# Charge separation in HIC

Magnetic field aligns quark spins along or opposite to its direction



Right-handed quark momentum is opposite to the left-handed one

Vacuum transitions produce local excess of left/right handed quarks:



Induced electric field (parallel to B):

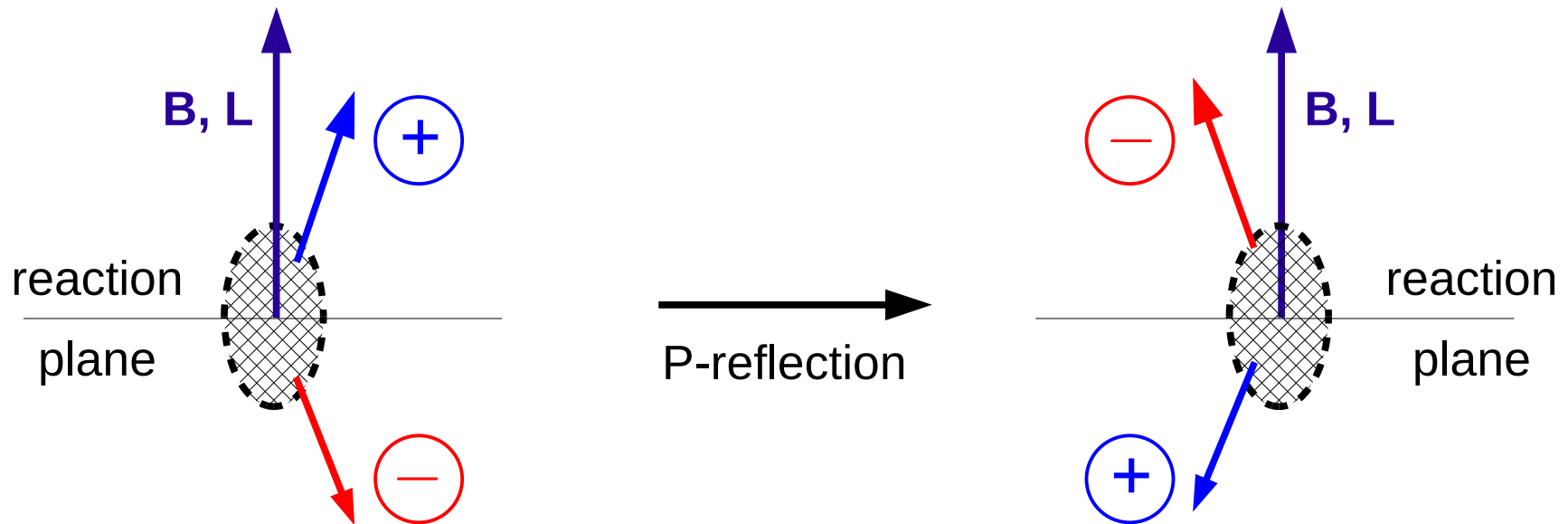
$$E \sim \theta \cdot B$$

Positive and negative charges moving opposite to each other

→ charge separation in a finite volume

Kharzeev, PLB633:260 (2006)  
 Kharzeev, Zhitnitsky, NPA797:67 (2007)  
 Kharzeev, McLerran, Warringa, NPA803:227 (2008)  
 Fukushima, Kharzeev, Waringa, PRD 78:074033 (2008)

# Why charge asymmetry wrt. the reaction plane is P-violation?



Coordinate/momentum (vectors):

$$\vec{r} \rightarrow -\vec{r} \quad \vec{p} \rightarrow -\vec{p}$$

Orbital momentum/magnetic field  
(pseudo-vectors):

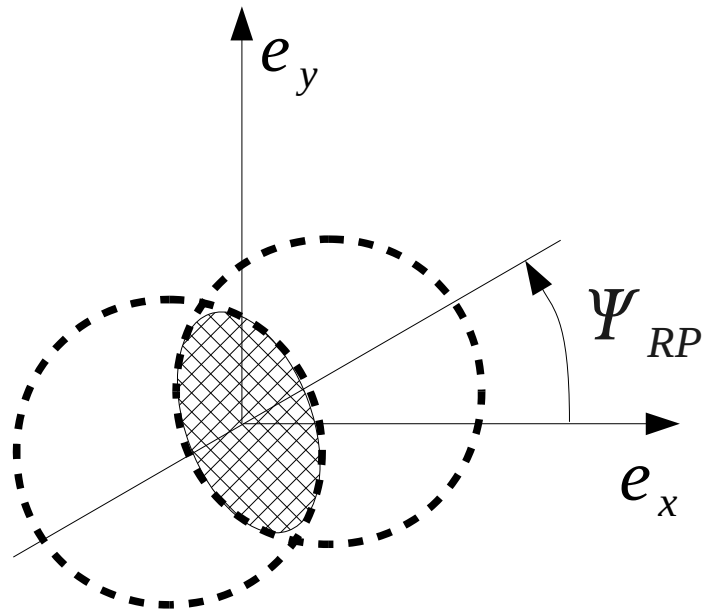
$$\vec{L} \rightarrow \vec{L} \quad \vec{B} \rightarrow \vec{B}$$

**Experimental observable**



# Azimuthal distribution in case of P-violation

$$\frac{dN_{\pm}}{d\phi} \sim 1 + 2 \sum_{i=1} v_n \cos(n \Delta \phi) + 2 a_{1,\pm} \sin \Delta \phi + \dots$$



$\Psi_{RP}$  reaction plane (RP) angle

$\Delta \phi = \phi - \Psi_{RP}$  particle azimuth relative to RP

$v_n$   $n$ -harmonic anisotropic transverse flow.  
 $n=1$  – directed flow,  $n=2$  - elliptic flow

$a_{\pm}$  asymmetry in charged particle production  
 (consider only first harmonic)

$e_z$  beam direction (out of sheet)

$e_x e_y e_z$  laboratory frame axes

Predicted asymmetry is about 1%  
 for mid-central collisions

→ within an experimental reach

Kharzeev, PLB633:260 (2006)

# Observable

- Charge asymmetry is too small to be observed in a single event

- Asymmetry fluctuates event by event.

P-odd observable yields zero:

$$\langle a_{\pm} \rangle = \langle \sin(\phi_{\pm} - \Psi_{RP}) \rangle = 0$$

- Study P-even correlations:  $\langle a_{\alpha} a_{\beta} \rangle$  ( $\alpha, \beta = \pm$ )

Measure the difference between **in-plane** and **out-of-plane** correlations:

$$\langle \cos(\phi_{\alpha} + \phi_{\beta} - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle$$

Voloshin PRC70:057901 (2004)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \langle \cos \Delta \phi_{\alpha} \cos \Delta \phi_{\beta} \rangle - \langle \sin \Delta \phi_{\alpha} \sin \Delta \phi_{\beta} \rangle = \\
 &= \left[ \langle v_{1,\alpha} v_{1,\beta} \rangle + Bg^{(in)} \right] - \left[ \langle a_{\alpha} a_{\beta} \rangle + Bg^{(out)} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

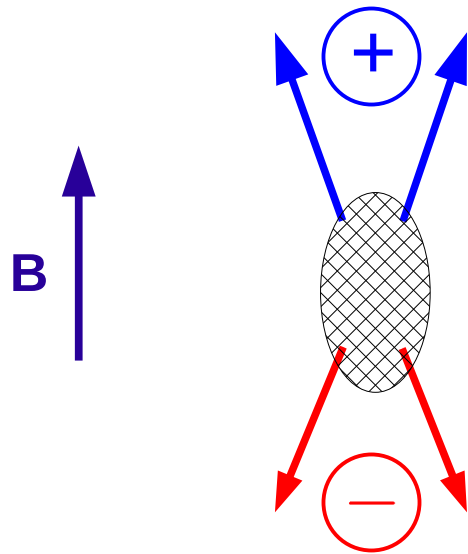
$\Delta \phi_{\alpha,\beta} = \phi_{\alpha,\beta} - \Psi_{RP}$

- Large RP-independent background correlations cancel out in  $Bg^{(in)} - Bg^{(out)}$   
 $Bg^{(in)}$  ( $Bg^{(out)}$ ) denotes in- (out-of) plane background correlations
- RP-dependent (P-even) backgrounds contribute:
  - $Bg^{(in)} - Bg^{(out)}$  term
  - $\langle v_{1,\alpha} v_{1,\beta} \rangle$ : directed flow (zero in symmetric rapidity range) + flow fluctuations

# Medium effects on charge correlations

## P-odd domain formation (no medium)

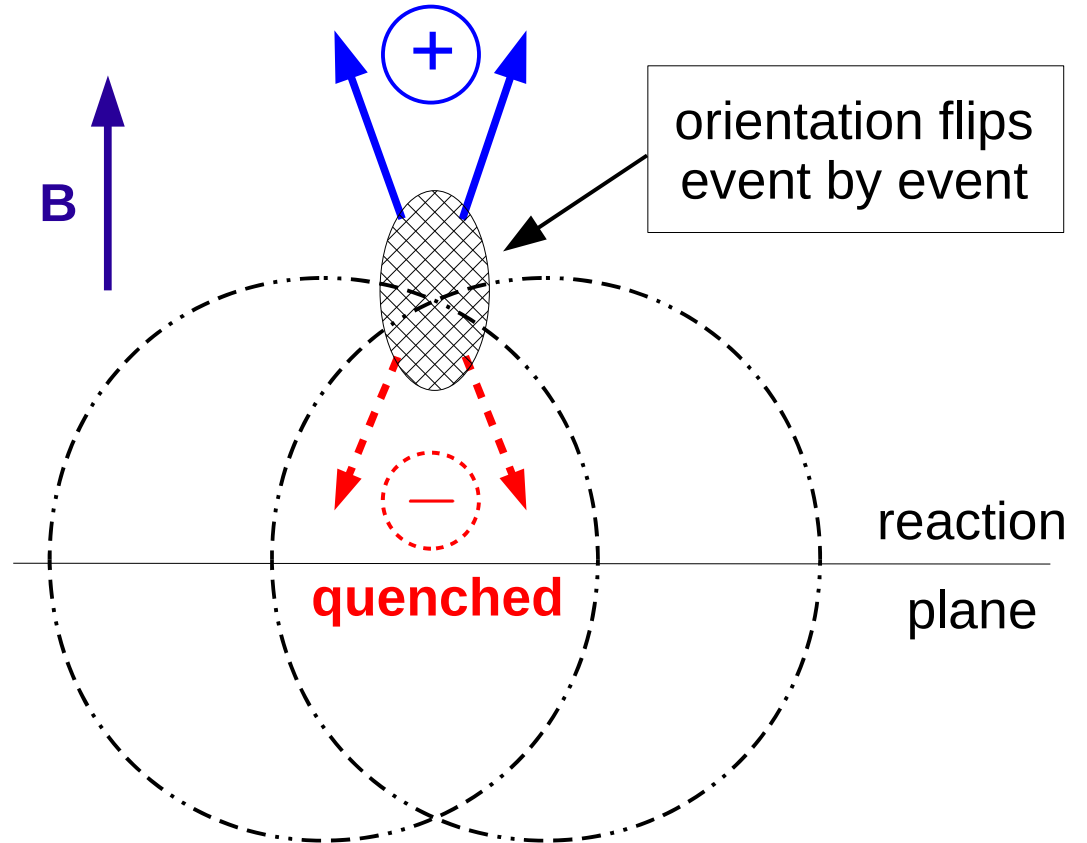
$$a_+ = -a_-$$



$$\langle a_+^2 \rangle = \langle a_-^2 \rangle > 0$$

$$\langle a_+ a_- \rangle = -\langle a_+^2 \rangle$$

## Quenching in medium



$$\langle a_+^2 \rangle = \langle a_-^2 \rangle > 0$$

$$\langle a_+ a_- \rangle \ll -\langle a_+^2 \rangle$$

# Expectations for charge correlations

- Magnitude:  $a_{\pm} = \pm \frac{4}{\pi} \frac{Q}{N_{\pm}}$   
 $Q = N_R - N_L$  - topological charge ( $Q = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$ )  
 $N_{\pm}$  - charged particle multiplicity  $\langle Q \rangle \sim \sqrt{N_{\pm}}$

For midcentral Au+Au collisions (1 P-odd domain/collision):  
 $N_{\pm} \sim 100$  per unit of rapidity  $\rightarrow a_{\pm} \sim 1\%$

$$\langle a_{\alpha} a_{\beta} \rangle \sim 10^{-4}$$

- Correlation width in rapidity: about one unit
- Localized at  $p_t < 1$  GeV/c (non-perturbative effect)
- Proportional to the magnetic field:  $a_{\pm} \sim B$
- Stronger opposite-sign signal for a smaller colliding system (atomic number)

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Kharzeev, PLB633:260 (2006)  
Kharzeev, Zhitnitsky, NPA797:67 (2007)  
Kharzeev, McLerran, Warringa, NPA803:227 (2008)  
Fukushima, Kharzeev, Warringa, PRD78:074033 (2008)

# Measurement technique

- Goal: 2-particle correlations wrt. the reaction plane (RP):

$$\langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle$$

- In experiment RP is unknown  
→ estimated from azimuthal distribution of produced particles:

$$\langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\phi_c) \rangle / v_{2,c}$$

$v_{2,c}$  - elliptic flow of  $c$ -particle

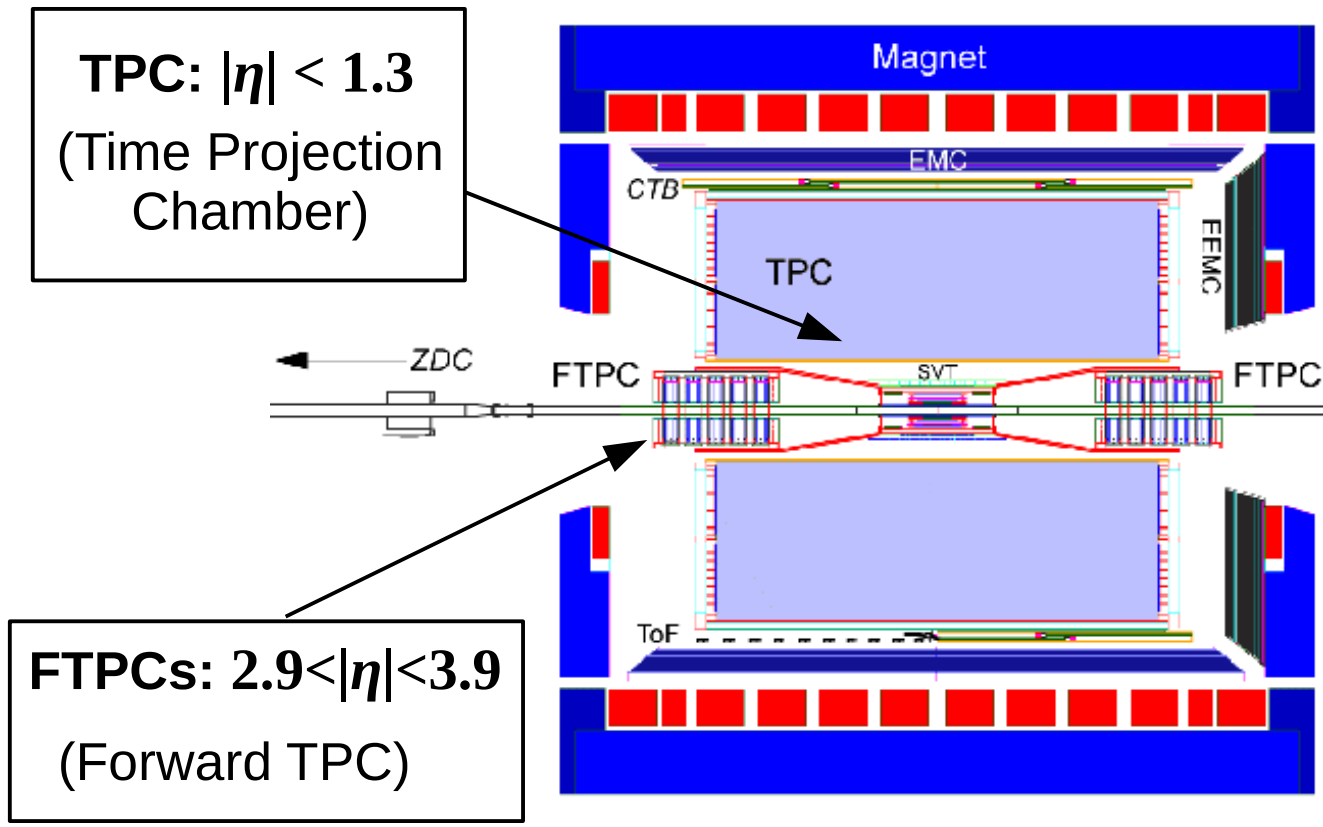
Implies:  $c$  and  $(\alpha, \beta)$  particles are correlated only via RP  
→ validity needs to be tested experimentally

- Measuring (mixed harmonics) **3-particle azimuthal correlations:**

$$\langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\phi_c) \rangle = -\langle a_\alpha a_\beta \rangle v_{2,c} + [\text{non-parity correlations}]$$

# **STAR probes of P-violation**

# The STAR experiment



**TPC:  $|\eta| < 1.3$**   
(Time Projection Chamber)

**FTPCs:  $2.9 < |\eta| < 3.9$**   
(Forward TPC)

**ZDC SMDs:**  
recoil neutrons at **beam rapidity**  
  
(Zero Degree Calorimeter - Shower Maximum Detector)

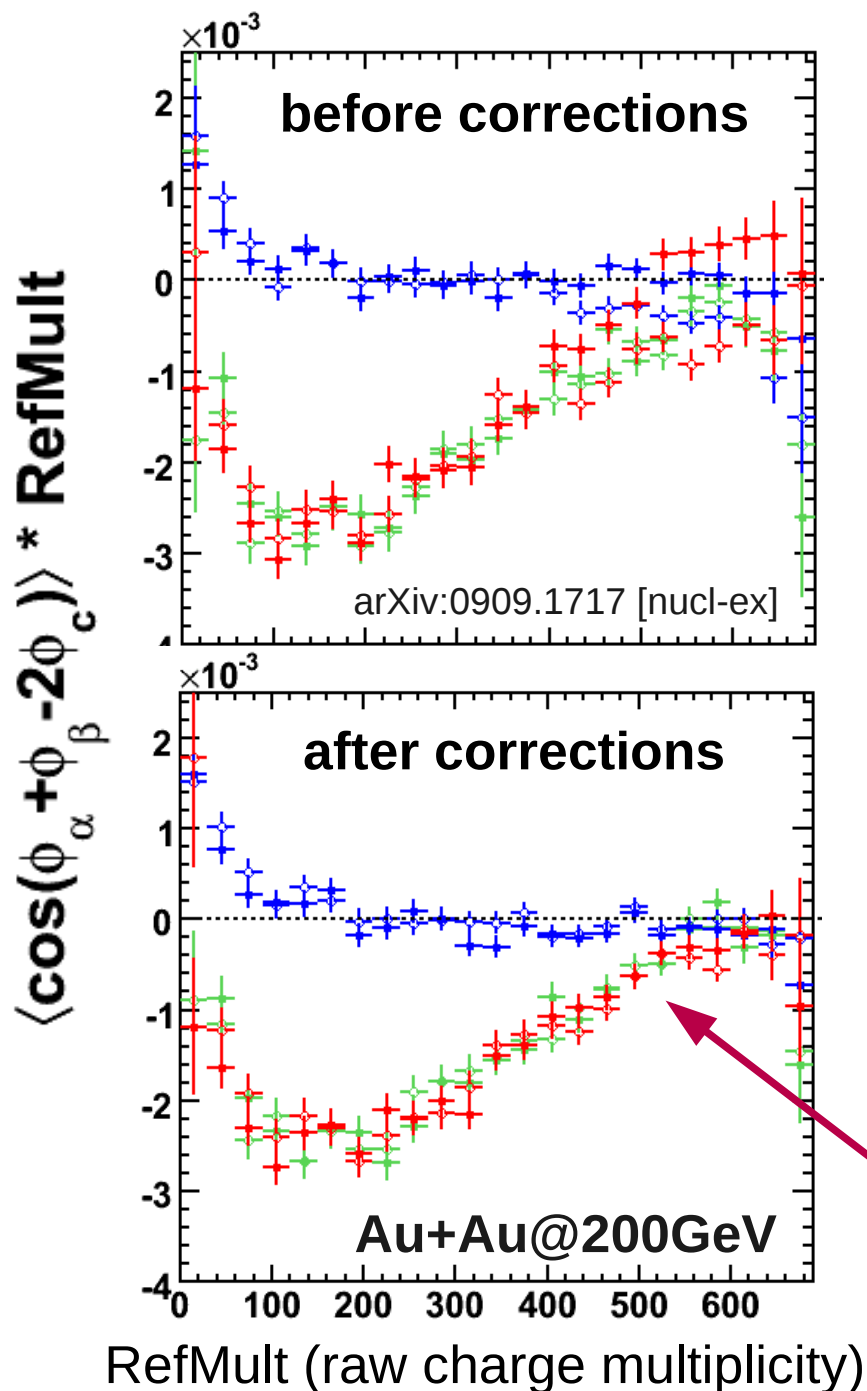
**Charged particle cuts:**  
  
Pseudo-rapidity  
 **$|\eta| < 1$**   
  
Transverse momentum  
 **$0.15 < p_t < 2$  GeV/c**

RP reconstruction with TPC, FTPCs and ZDC SMDs

Data from RHIC running in year 2004/2005

System	Energy, $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	Events
Au+Au	200 / 62 GeV	10.6 / 7 M
Cu+Cu	200 / 62 GeV	30 / 19 M

# Detector effects



Acceptance corrections (re-centering):

$$\sin n\phi \rightarrow \sin n\phi - \langle \sin n\phi \rangle$$

$$\cos n\phi \rightarrow \cos n\phi - \langle \cos n\phi \rangle$$

Poskanzer, Voloshin, PRC58:1671 (1998)

Borghini, Dinh, Ollitrault, PRC66:014905 (2002)

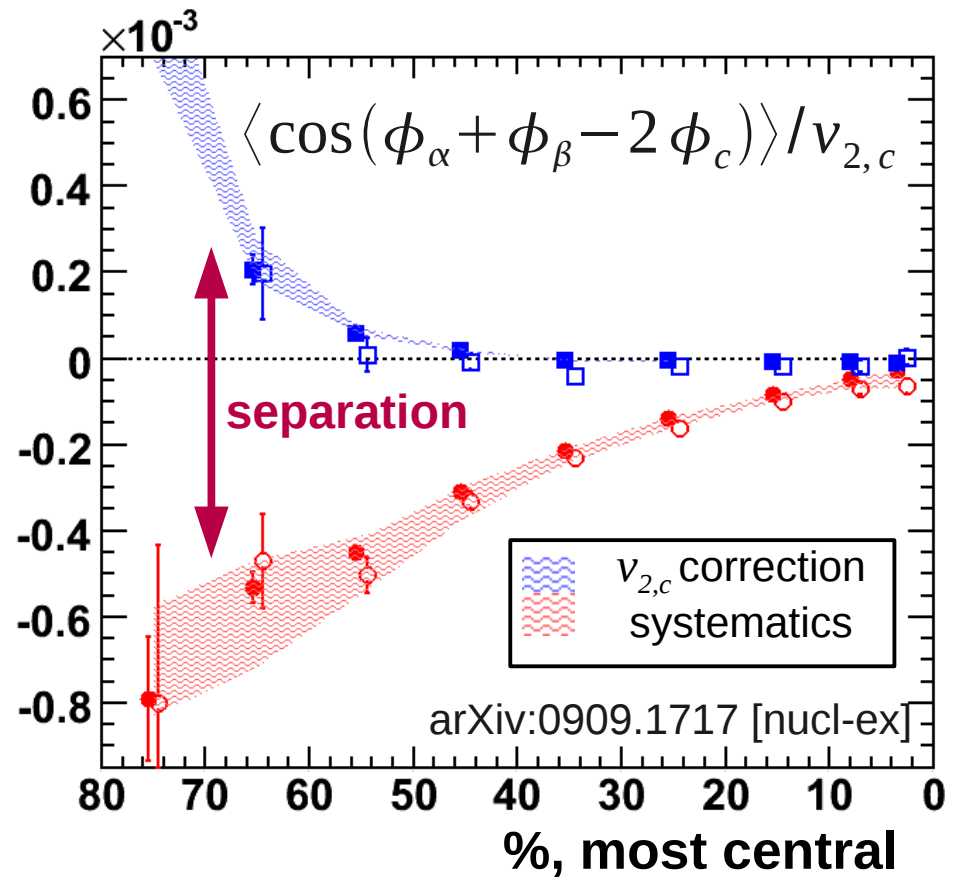
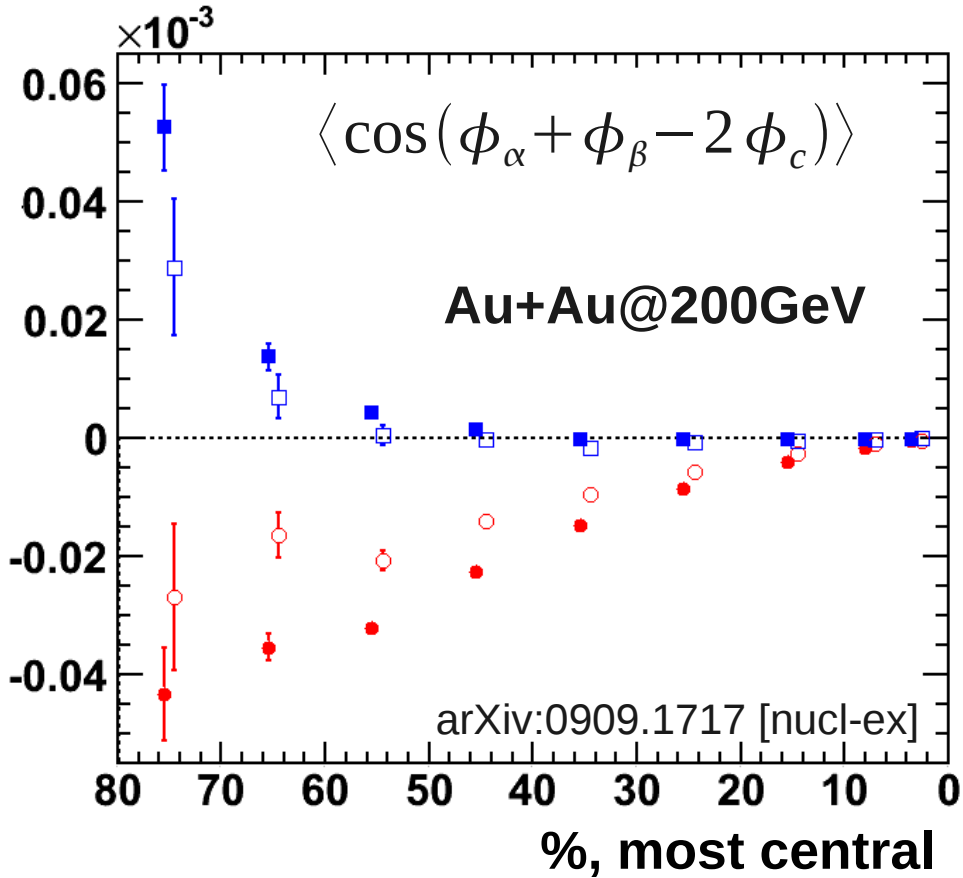
Selyuzhenkov, Voloshin, PRC77:034904 (2008)

symbol	$(\alpha, \beta)$ charges	c-particle
	opposite sign, + -	positive
	same sign, ++	
	same sign, --	
	opposite sign, + -	negative
	same sign, ++	
	same sign, --	

- After corrections: consistent results for all charge combinations
- Conclude from a number of tests:
  - detector effects are not responsible for observed correlations.



# Testing sensitivity to 2-particle correlations wrt. RP

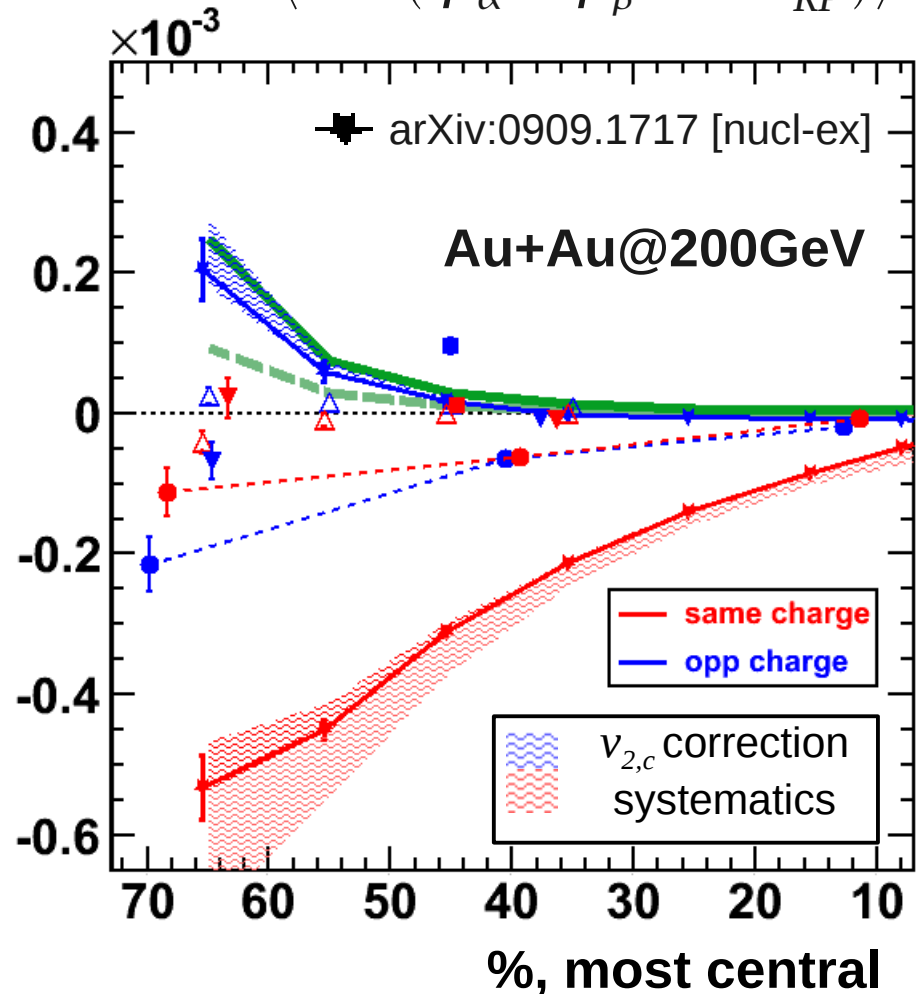


symbol	$(\alpha, \beta)$ charges	c-particle
●	same sign	$ \eta  < 1.0$ (TPC)
■	opposite sign	$ \eta  < 1.0$ (TPC)
○	same sign	$2.9 <  \eta  < 3.9$ (FTPCs)
□	opposite sign	$2.9 <  \eta  < 3.9$ (FTPCs)

- $v_{2,c}$  correction gives consistent result with TPC/FTPC c-particle (similarly ZDC-SMD)  
 → Probing 2-particle correlations wrt. RP
- Same- and opposite-sign correlations consistent with P-violation

# Modeling physics backgrounds

$$\langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\phi_c) \rangle / v_{2,c}$$



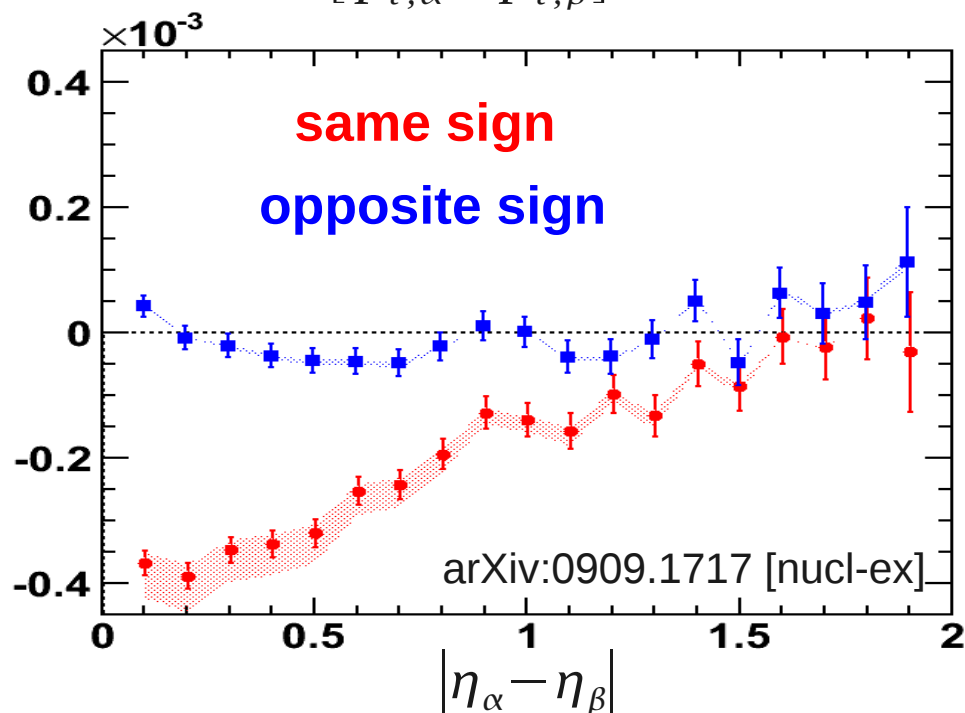
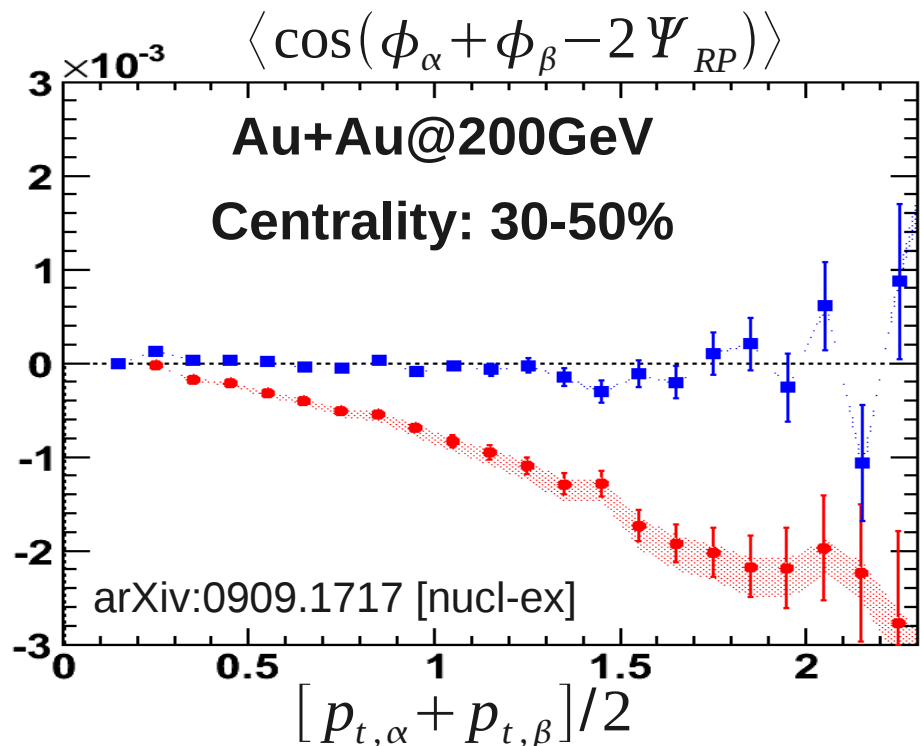
Note: cluster production is not well modeled by event generators

symbol	model	c-particle
▼	<b>HIJING</b>	true reaction plane
△	<b>HIJING + <math>v_2</math></b>	
●	<b>UrQMD</b>	
■	<b>MEVSIM</b>	
— opposite — same	<b>HIJING 3-particle correlations</b>	$ \eta  < 1.0$

**HIJING +  $v_2$** : added flow “afterburner”  
**MEVSIM**: resonances with realistic flow

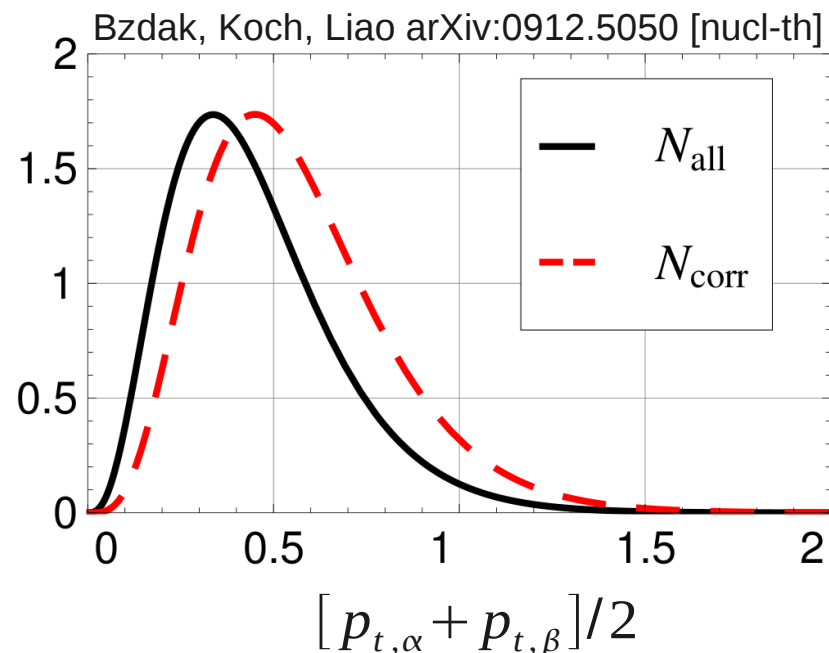
- Non-zero background correlations, but different from observed signal
- HIJING produce data-like opposite-sign 3-particle correlations:
  - opposite-sign signal can be diluted by effects not related to RP orientation

# Pseudo-rapidity and transverse momentum dependence



**Transverse momenta dependence:**  
→ the signal extends to higher  $p_t$ ?

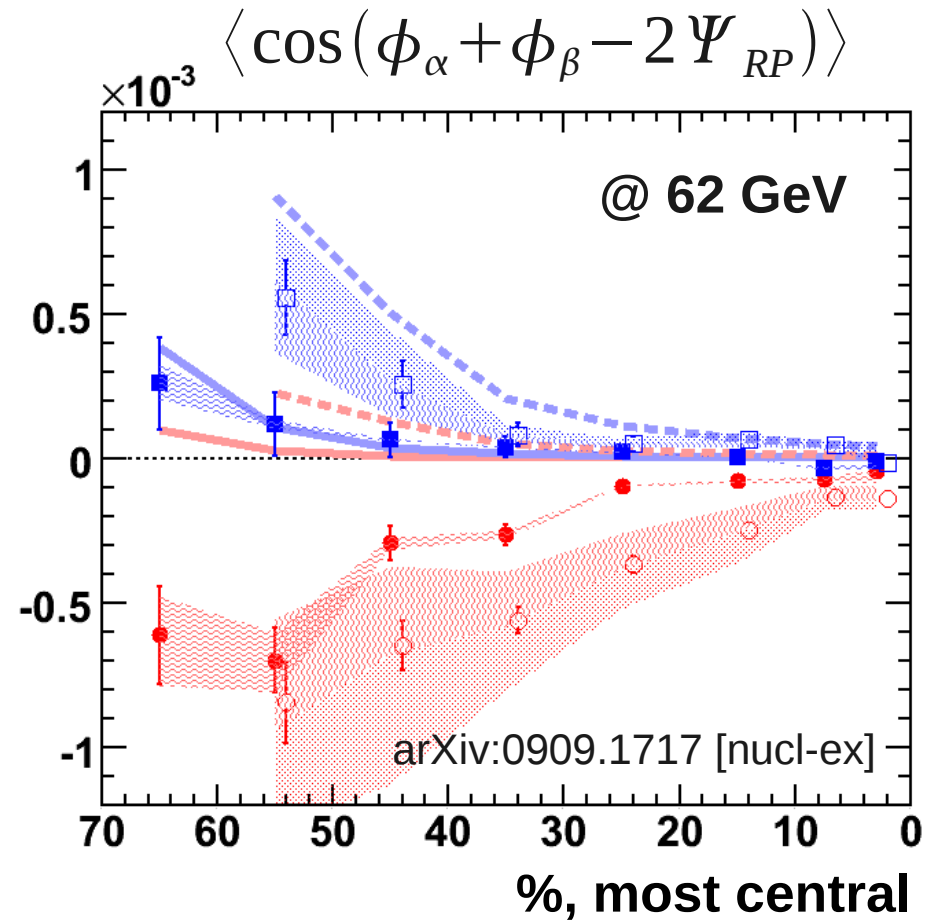
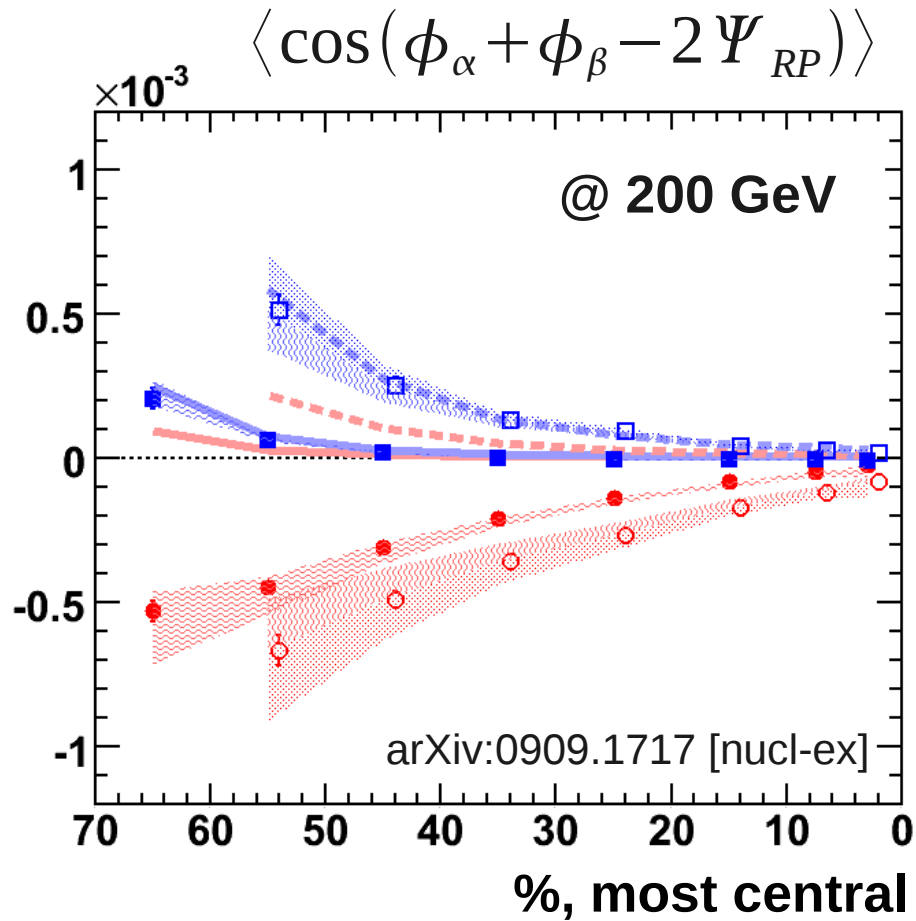
$$\langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle = N_{corr} / N_{all}$$



**Pseudo-rapidity dependence:**  
→ typical “hadronic” width

pt and eta dependence  
consistent with P-violation

# Energy and system size dependence



Au+Au	Cu+Cu	$\alpha$ and $\beta$ charges
		<b>same sign</b>
		<b>opposite sign</b>
		3-particle HIJING

$v_{2,c}$  correction systematics

Opposite sign correlations:

Stronger for a smaller (Cu+Cu) system.  
In agreement with P-violation,  
but large uncertainties due to possible  
RP-independent correlations

# Summary

(from STAR@RHIC to ALICE@LHC)

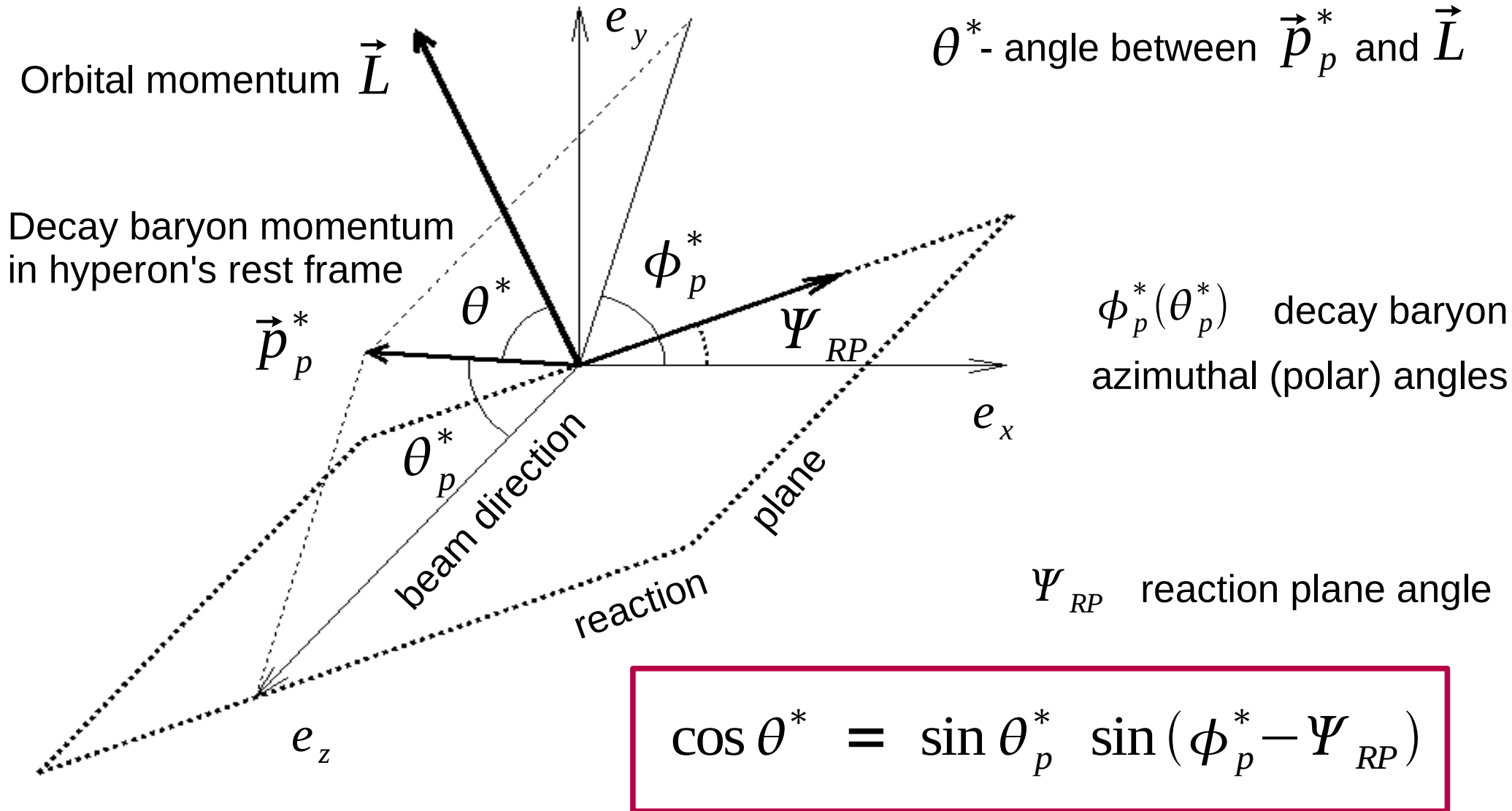
- **Collectivity at RHIC:** strong elliptic/directed flow as QGP evidence
  - study QGP properties in greater details at LHC
- **Orbital momentum in non-central collisions:** STAR sees no polarization,  $< 2\%$   
Still a question how this momentum is re-distributed among produced particles:
  - better statistics, different regime at LHC
- **Local P-violation** predicted to lead to charge separation wrt. the reaction plane
  - STAR measurements with P-even observable reveal non-zero signal:
    - Can not be described with existing background models
    - Qualitatively agrees with predictions for local P-violation

Detailed calculations for P-violating signal and backgrounds are needed:  
→ New results from LHC will put more constraints on theory predictions for both possible signal and background correlations

- **ALICE is ideal detector for correlation studies** wrt. to the reaction plane:
  - Due to similarity between ALICE and STAR experiments the existing measurement techniques and wide experience acquired at RHIC are easily adoptable at LHC

# Backup slides

# Global polarization. Angles: definition and notations



Observable for the global polarization

$$P_H(\vec{L}, \vec{p}_H) = P_H(\phi_H - \Psi_{RP}, \eta^H, p_t^H)$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_H^{(n)} \cos[2n(\phi_H - \Psi_{RP})]$$

$$P_H \equiv P_H^{(0)} = \frac{8}{\pi \alpha_H} \langle \sin(\phi_p^* - \Psi_{RP}) \rangle$$

$\phi_p^*$  decay baryon azimuthal angle  
in hyperon's rest frame

$\langle \dots \rangle$  - averaging over all  
reaction plane orientations and  
decay baryon 3-momentum directions  
in the hyperon's rest frame

## measurement technique: two particle correlations

Need to know direction of the orbital momentum

Given by the 1-st order EP, which is defined by directed flow  
Event plane from particles measured with the Forward TPCs

$$P_H = \frac{8}{\pi \alpha_H} \frac{\langle \sin(\phi_p^* - \Psi_{EP}^{(1)}) \rangle}{R_{EP}^{(1)}}$$

$\Psi_{EP}^{(1)}$  1<sup>st</sup> order event plane angle

$R_{EP}^{(1)}$  1<sup>st</sup> order event plane resolution

$\phi_p^*$  decay baryon azimuthal angle  
in the hyperon's rest frame



## Detector acceptance effects

Acceptance effects can bias the global polarization signal

Due to detector acceptance higher harmonics ( $P_H^{(n)}, n > 0$ ) can contribute

$$\frac{8}{\alpha_H \pi} \langle \sin(\phi_p^* - \Psi_{RP}) \rangle = \frac{4}{\pi} \overline{\sin \theta_p^*} P_H^{(0)} - \frac{2}{\pi} \overline{\sin \theta_p^* \cos[2(\phi_H - \phi_p^*)]} P_H^{(2)}$$

Overall scale correction

Perfect acceptance  $A_0 = 1$

$$A_0 = \frac{2}{\pi} \overline{\sin \theta_p^*} = \frac{4}{\pi} \int \frac{d\Omega_p^*}{4\pi} \frac{d\phi_H}{2\pi} A(\vec{p}_H, \vec{p}^*) \sin \theta_p^*$$

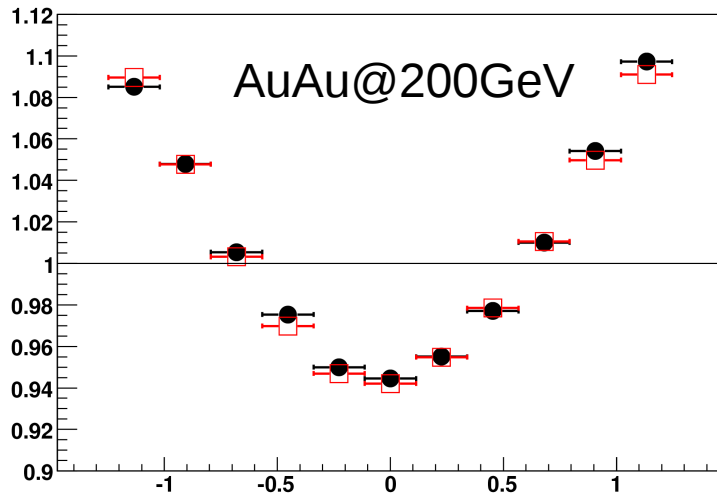
Higher harmonics (n=2) admixture

Perfect acceptance  $A_2 = 0$

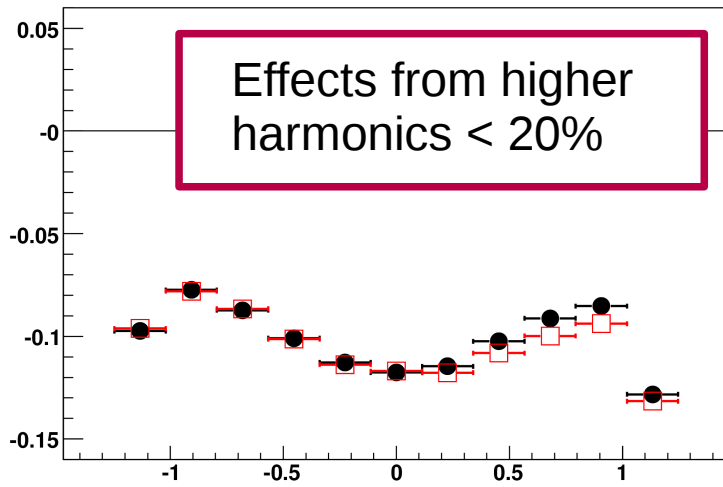
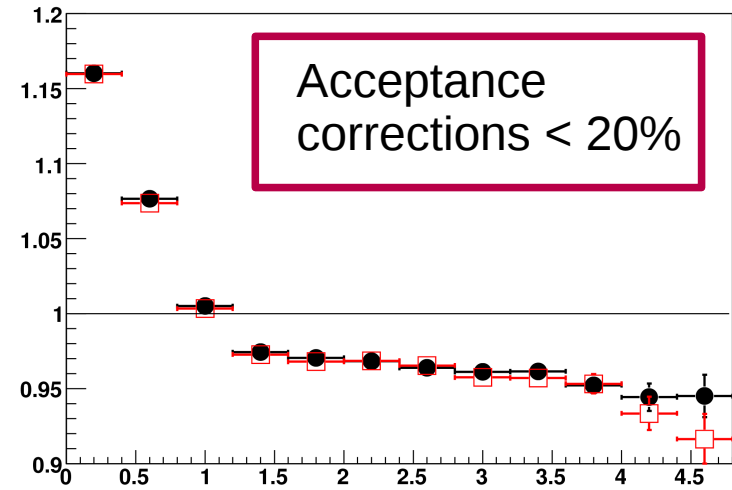
$$A_2 = \frac{2}{\pi} \overline{\sin \theta_p^* \cos[2(\phi_H - \phi_p^*)]}$$

$A_0, A_2$  can be calculated directly from the data

# Acceptance corrections ( $A_0$ ) and contribution from higher harmonics ( $A_2$ )

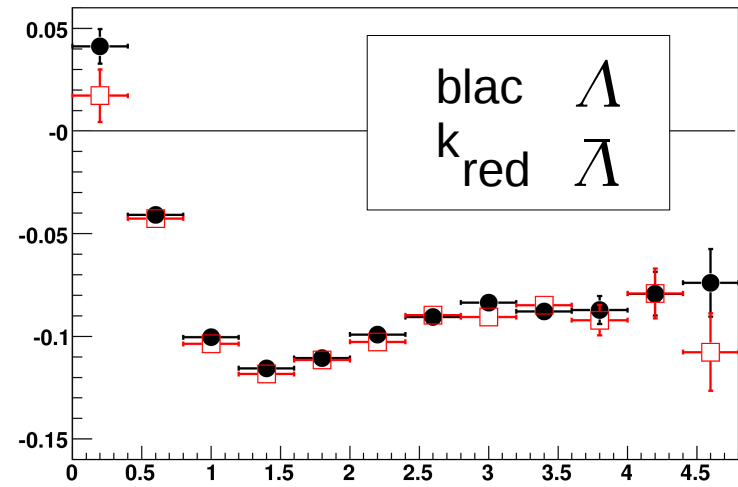


$A_0$



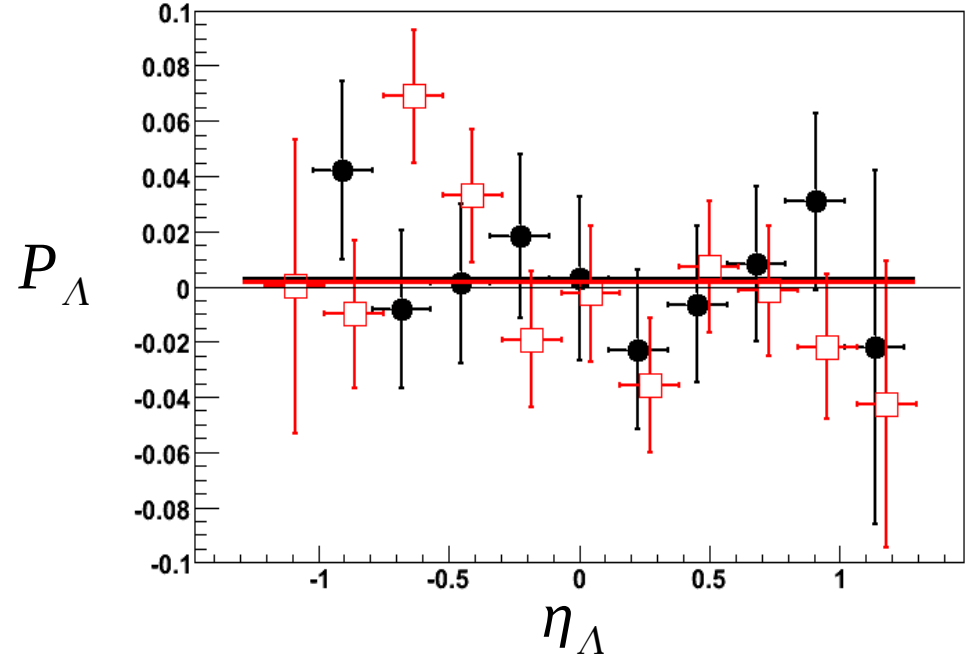
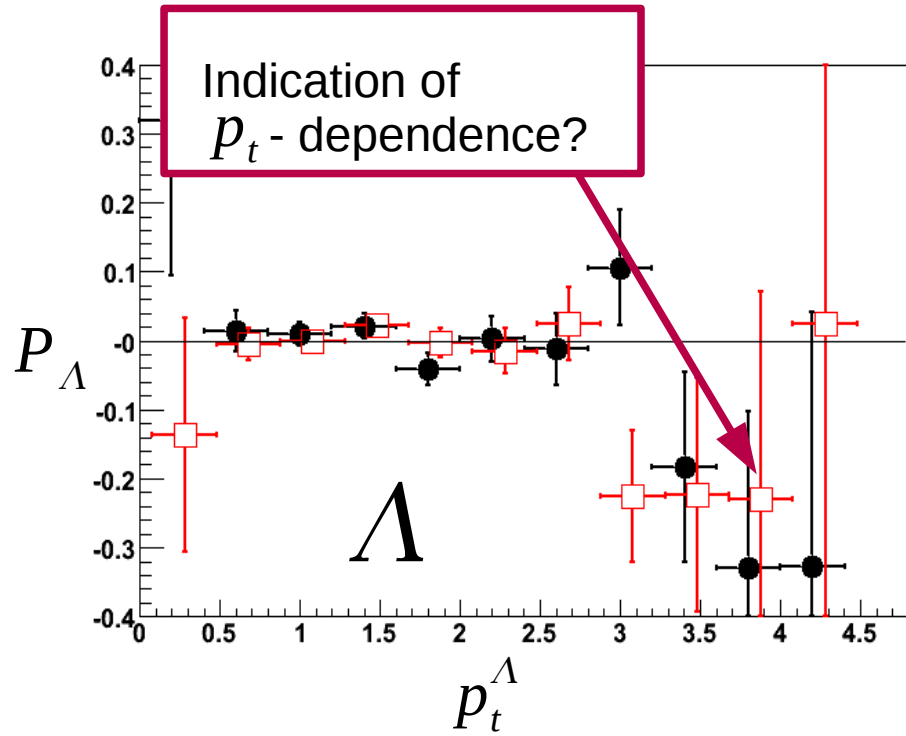
$\eta^{\Lambda, \bar{\Lambda}}$

$A_2$



$p_t^{\Lambda, \bar{\Lambda}}$

# Lambda global polarization vs transverse momentum & eta



Global polarization is zero  
for small Lambda  $p_t$

No theory predictions for  $p_t$   
dependence at the moment

AuAu@200GeV (20-70%)

$$P_\Lambda = (2.6 \pm 9.5) \times 10^{-3}$$

AuAu@62GeV (0-80%)

$$P_\Lambda = (1.9 \pm 8.0) \times 10^{-3}$$

$\bar{\Lambda}$  results are in agreement  
with those for  $\Lambda$  hyperon

# Backup slides: parity

Publications as principal author:

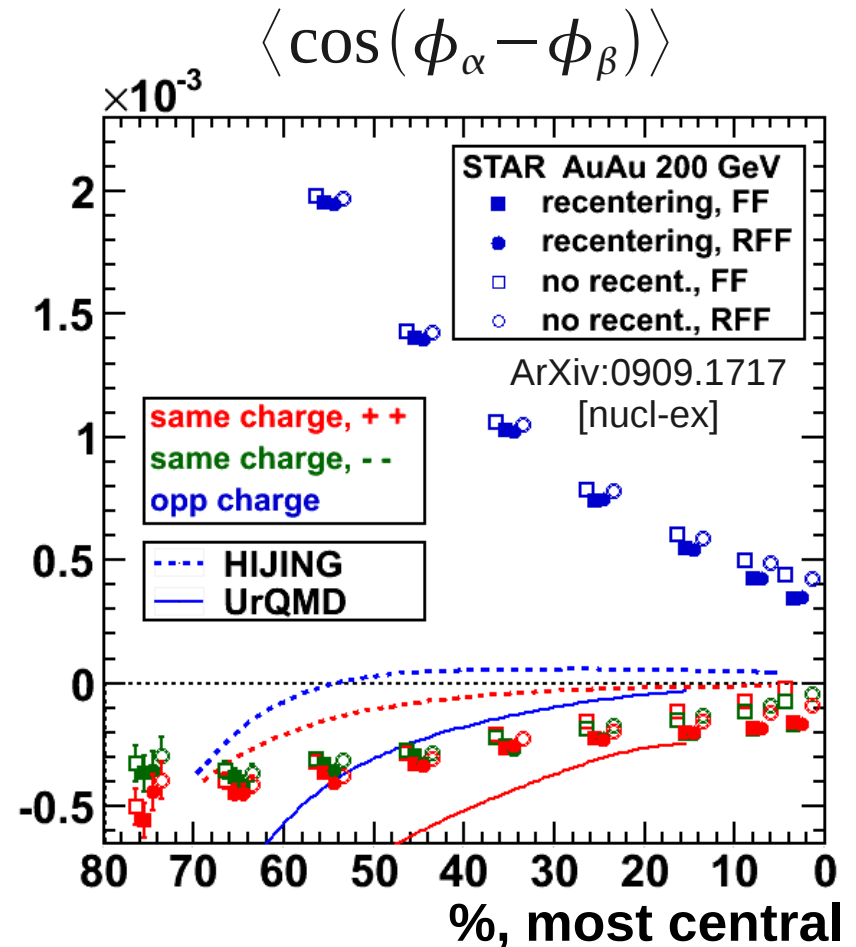
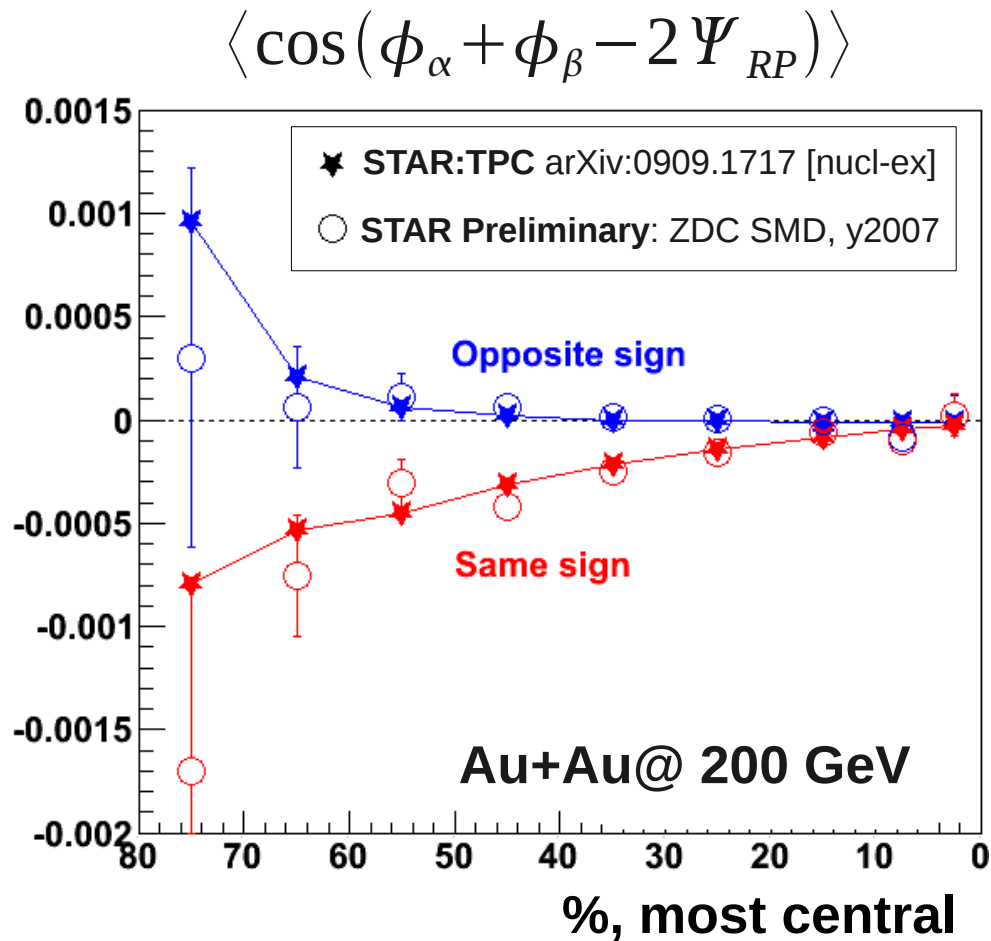
I.S. for STAR: **RRP** 58:049 (2006)

I.S. for STAR: **arXiv**:0910.0464 (2009)

STAR: **PRL** 103:251601 (2009)

STAR: **arXiv**:0909.1717 (2009) to **PRC**

# Results with ZDC SMD and two particle correlations



Correlations with (first harmonic) ZDC-SMD event plane from recent 2007 data yield similar result to TPC/FTPC

$$\langle \cos(\phi_\alpha - \phi_\beta) \rangle =$$

$$= \langle \cos \Delta \phi_\alpha \cos \Delta \phi_\beta \rangle + \langle \sin \Delta \phi_\alpha \sin \Delta \phi_\beta \rangle$$

$$\Delta \phi_{\alpha,\beta} = \phi_{\alpha,\beta} - \Psi_{RP}$$

# Physics backgrounds

## Reaction plane (RP) dependent:

- Directed flow (vanishes in symmetric eta-range), flow fluctuations:

$$\langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\phi_c) \rangle_{flow} = \langle v_{1,\alpha} v_{1,\beta} \rangle v_{2,c}$$

- Global polarization (zero from measurement)
- RP dependent fragmentation (“flowing clusters”):

$$\langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle_{clust} = A_{clust} \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\phi_{clust}) \rangle_{clust} v_{2,clust}$$

## RP independent 3-particle correlations:

Can be removed by better RP determination

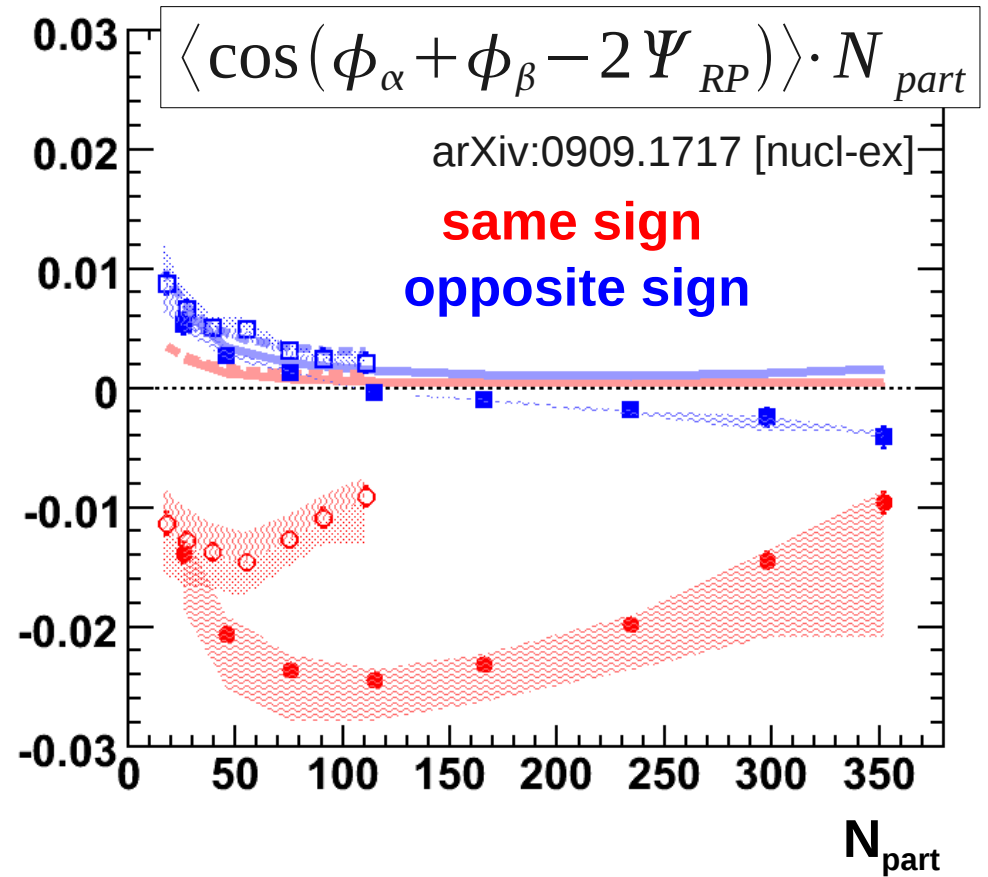
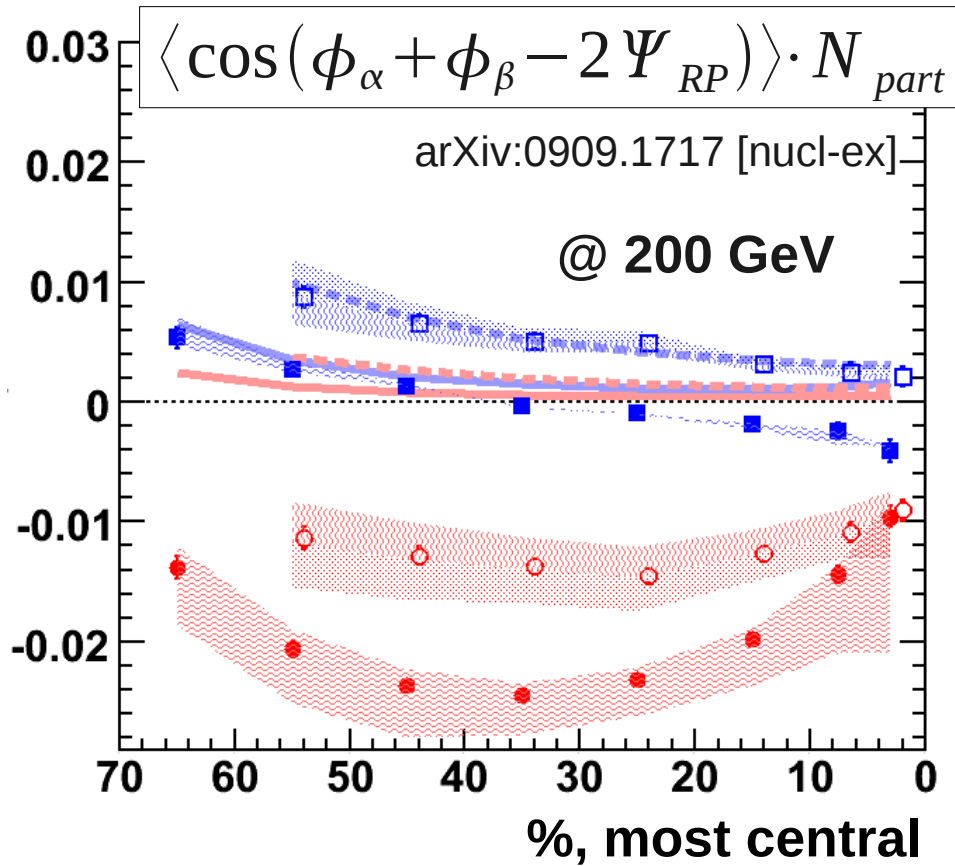
Different multiplicity scaling ( $1/N_{ch}^2$ ) compared to P-violation

- Jet fragmentation, resonances, multi-particle clusters
- HBT, Coulomb effects, etc.

# Detector effects study

- Track momenta distortions due to the charge buildup in the TPC at high accelerator luminosity
  - *Results for low/high luminosity runs are consistent*
- Dependence on reconstructed position of the collision vertex
  - *No vertex dependence found*
- Displacement of track hits when it passes the TPC central membrane
  - *Results from different half-barrels of the TPC are consistent*
- Feed-down effects from non-primary tracks (i.e. resonance decay daughters)
  - *Results for  $dca < 1\text{ cm}$  and  $dca < 3\text{ cm}$  are consistent*
- Electron contribution checked via  $dE/dx$  cut
  - *Effect is negligible*
- Studied a correlator similar to parity observable
  - *but with the reaction plane angle rotated by  $\pi/4$*
- Variation depending on the charge of the third particle used to reconstruct the reaction plane and changes of the STAR magnetic field polarity
  - *Variations does not change the observed signal*

# Charge correlations and $N_{part}$ scaling @200GeV



Correlations multiplied by  $N_{part}$  to remove dilution in more central collisions

Au+Au	Cu+Cu	$\alpha$ and $\beta$ charges
		<span style="color: red;">same sign</span>
		<span style="color: blue;">opposite sign</span>
		3-particle HIJING

Opp-sign correlations scale with  $N_{part}$

Same sign signal is suggestive of correlations with the reaction plane

Stronger opposite charge correlations in Cu+Cu at the same  $N_{part}$