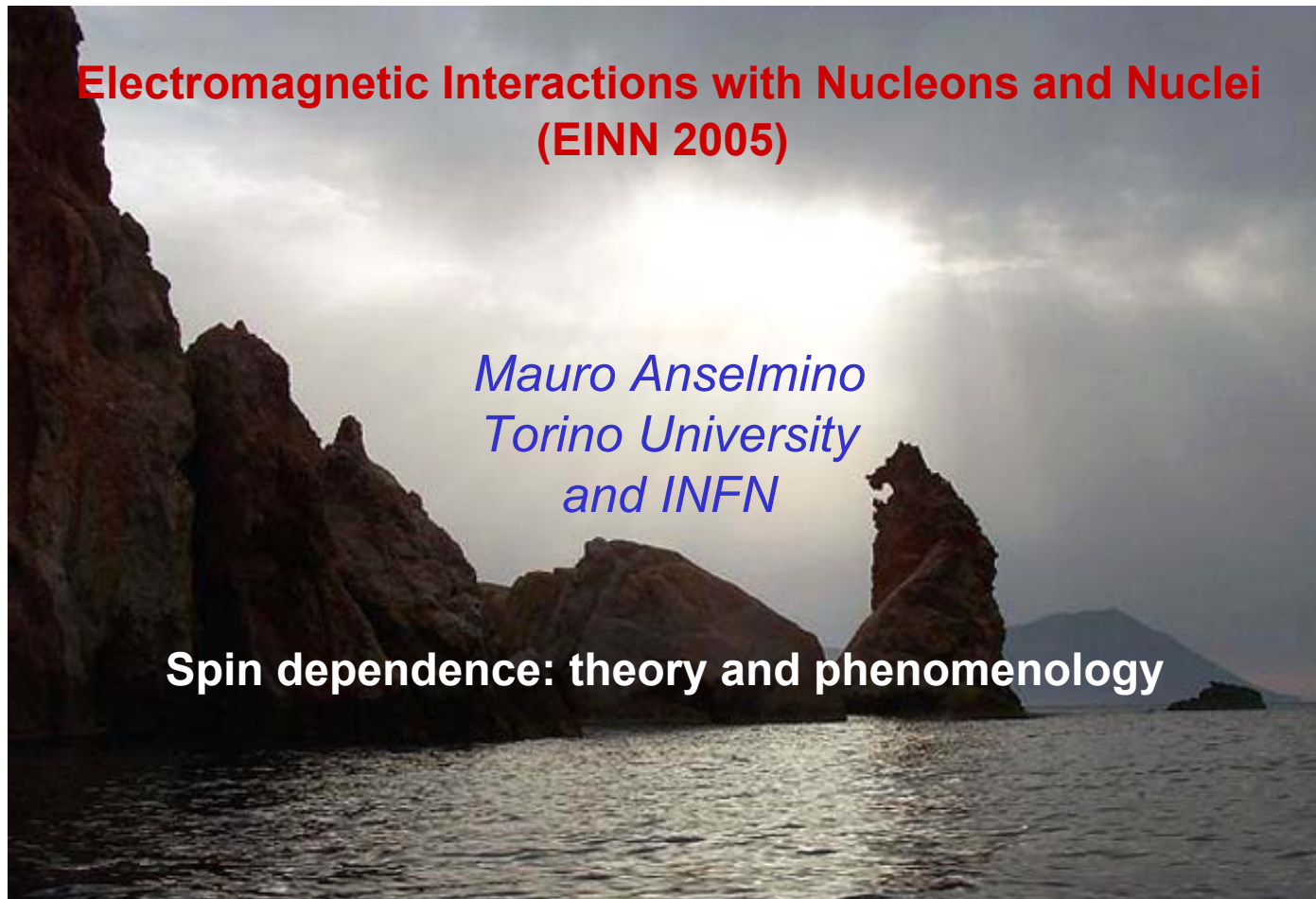


**6th European Research Conference
September 21-24, 2005 - Milos, Greece**



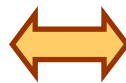
“Partonic spin cases”

Polarized DIS and helicity distributions,
spin carried by quarks and gluons?

Transversity distributions, unknown

Spin dependent, k_{\perp} unintegrated parton distributions:
fundamental spin- k_{\perp} correlations?

$$f_{a,s/p,S}(x, \vec{k}_{\perp}, Q^2)$$



Transverse single spin asymmetries

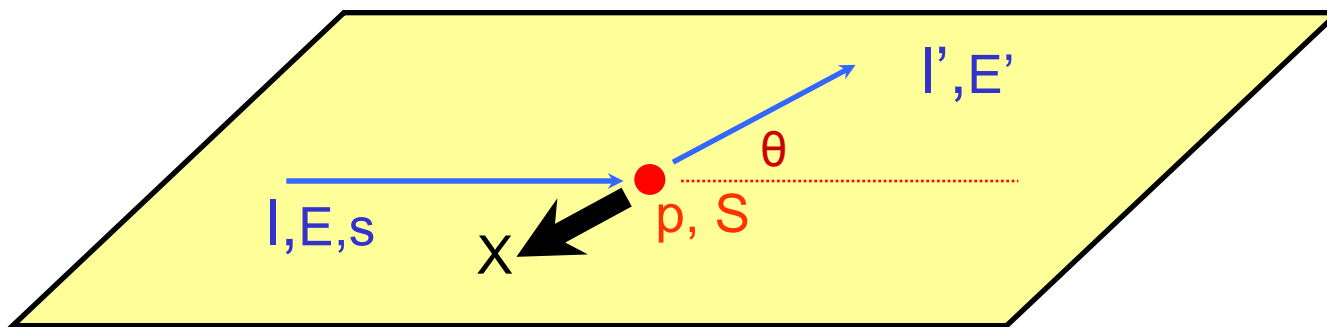
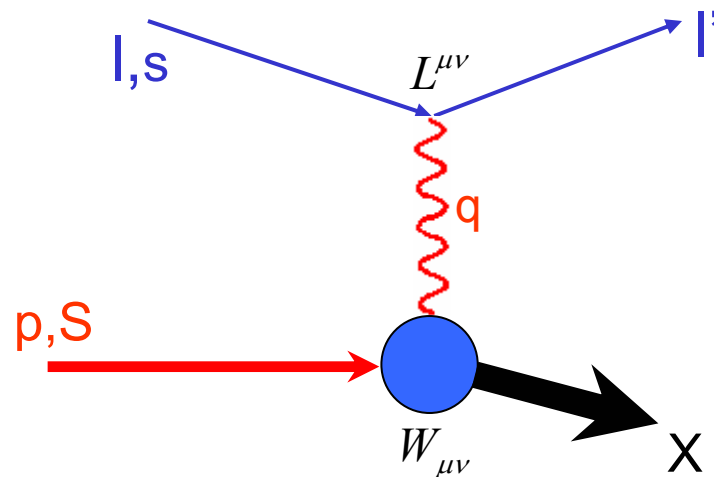
Polarized fragmentation functions

$$D_{h,S/a,s}(z, \vec{p}_{\perp}, Q^2)$$

What do we know, and how,
about the proton structure?

Main source of information is DIS

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega dE'} = \frac{\alpha^2}{2Mq^4} \frac{E'}{E} L^{\mu\nu} W_{\mu\nu}$$



parity conserving case (one photon exchange)

$$L^{\mu\nu}(l, l', s) = 2(l^\mu l'^\nu + l'^\mu l^\nu - g^{\mu\nu} l \cdot l') + 2im \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} s^\alpha (l - l')^\beta$$

$$W_{\mu\nu}(p, q, S) = \left(-g_{\mu\nu} + \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^2} \right) F_1(x, Q^2) + \frac{\hat{p}_\mu \hat{p}_\nu}{p \cdot q} F_2(x, Q^2) +$$

$$-i \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} q^\alpha \left[\frac{S^\beta}{p \cdot q} g_1(x, Q^2) + \frac{p \cdot q S^\beta - S \cdot q p^\beta}{(p \cdot q)^2} g_2(x, Q^2) \right]$$

measuring $d\sigma$ one extracts information on the structure functions F_1 , F_2 , g_1 and g_2

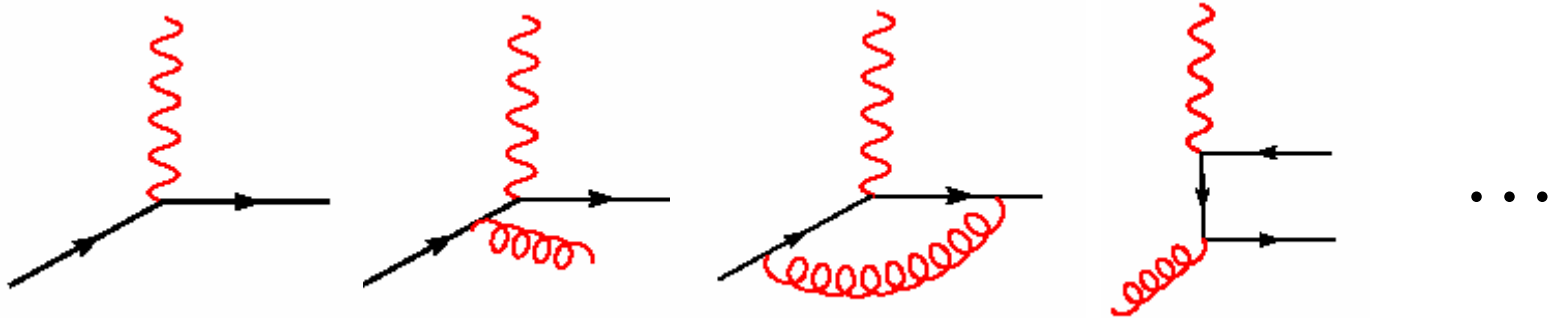
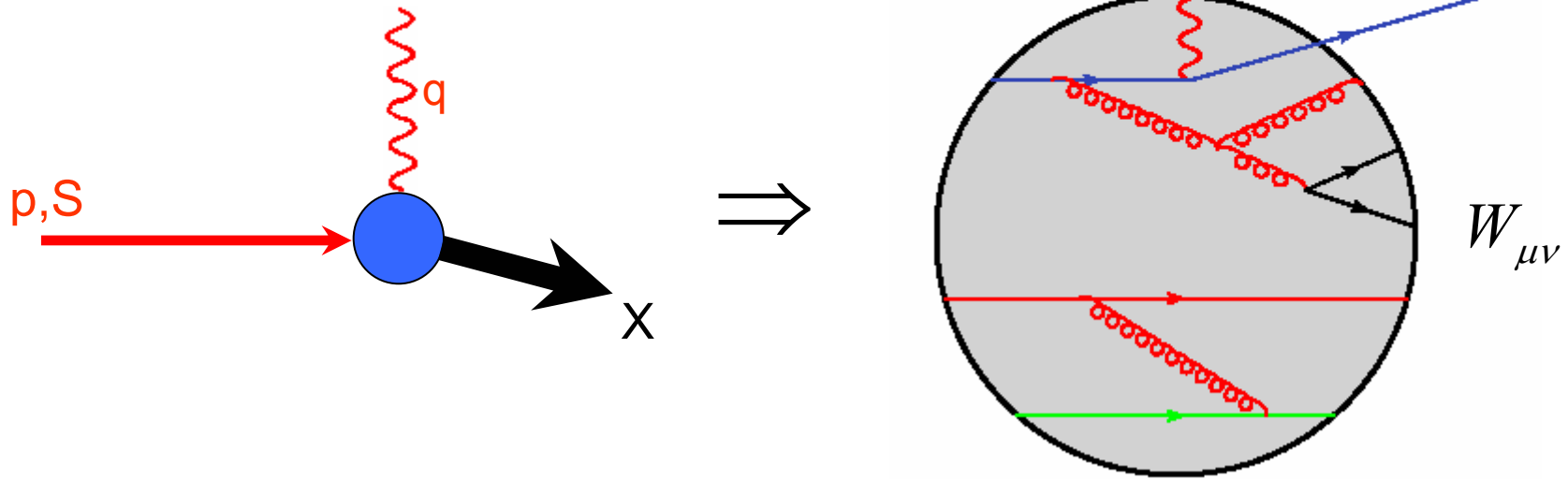
$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2p \cdot q} \quad \hat{p}_\mu = p_\mu - \frac{p \cdot q}{q^2} q_\mu$$

$F_{1,2}$ related to $q(x, Q^2)$, $g(x, Q^2)$ quark, gluon distributions

g_1 related to $\Delta q(x, Q^2)$, $\Delta g(x, Q^2)$ quark, gluon helicity distributions

$$q = q_+ + q_- \quad \Delta q = q_+ - q_- \quad g = g_+ + g_- \quad \Delta g = g_+ - g_-$$

QCD parton model



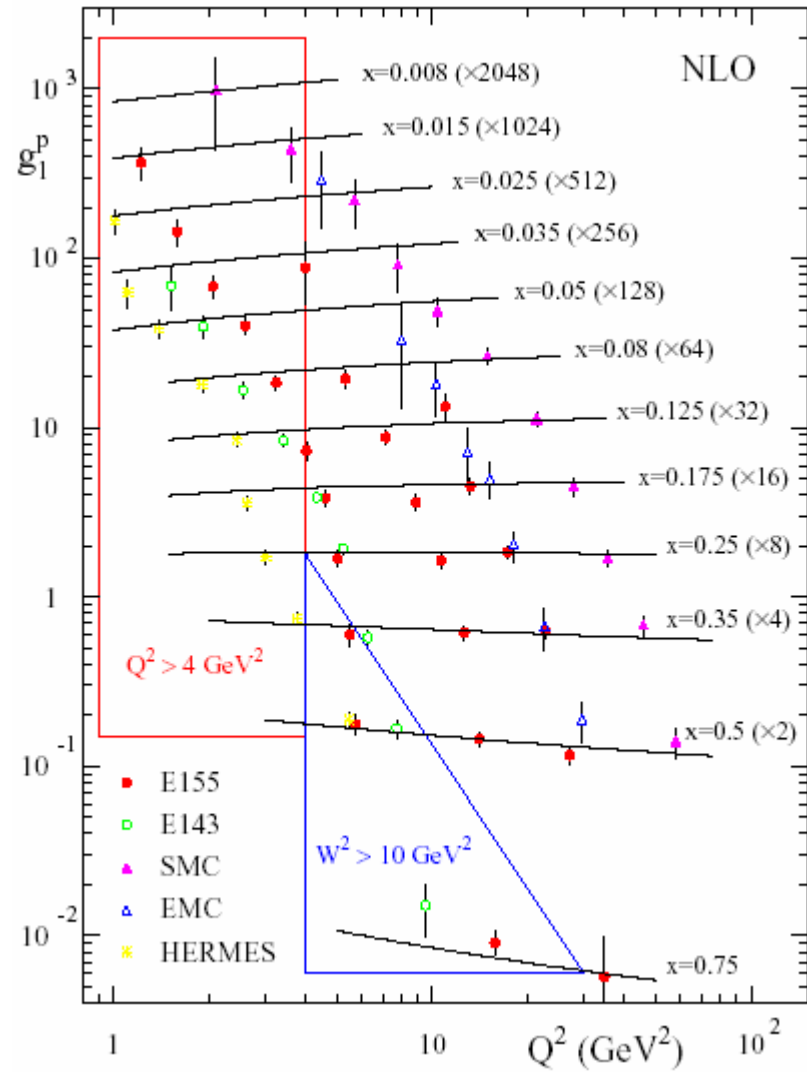
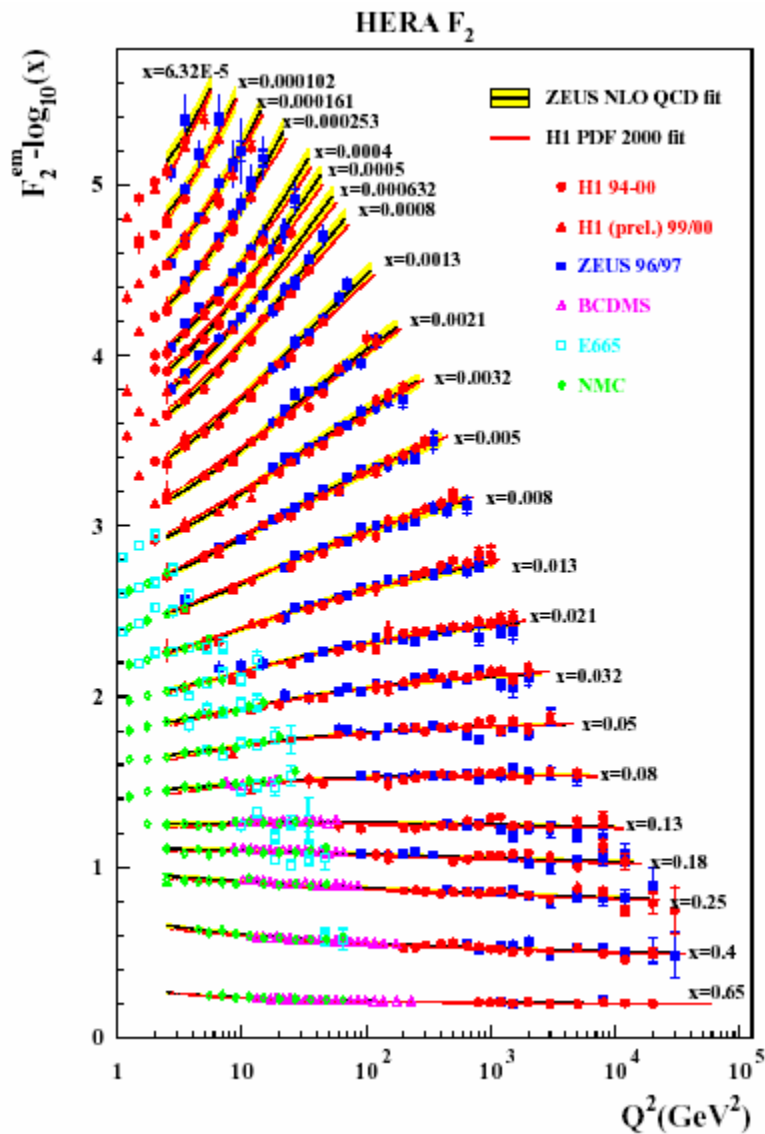
$$g_1(x, Q^2) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_q e_q^2 \left\{ \Delta C_q \otimes [\Delta q + \Delta \bar{q}] + \frac{1}{N_f} \Delta C_g \otimes \Delta g \right\}$$

$$C \otimes q \equiv \int_x^1 \frac{dy}{y} C\left(\frac{x}{y}, \alpha_s\right) q(y, Q^2)$$

$$\Delta C_i(x, \alpha_s) = \Delta C_i^0(x) + \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{2\pi} \Delta C_i^{(1)}(x) + \dots \quad \text{coefficient functions}$$

$$P_{ij}(x, \alpha_s) = P_{ij}^0(x) + \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{2\pi} P_{ij}^{(1)}(x) + \dots \quad \text{splitting functions}$$

$$\frac{d}{d \ln Q^2} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \Sigma \\ \Delta g \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{2\pi} \begin{pmatrix} P_{qq} & P_{qg} \\ P_{gq} & P_{gg} \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \Sigma \\ \Delta g \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{QCD evolution} \\ \left(\Delta \Sigma = \sum_q [\Delta q + \Delta \bar{q}] \right) \end{matrix}$$



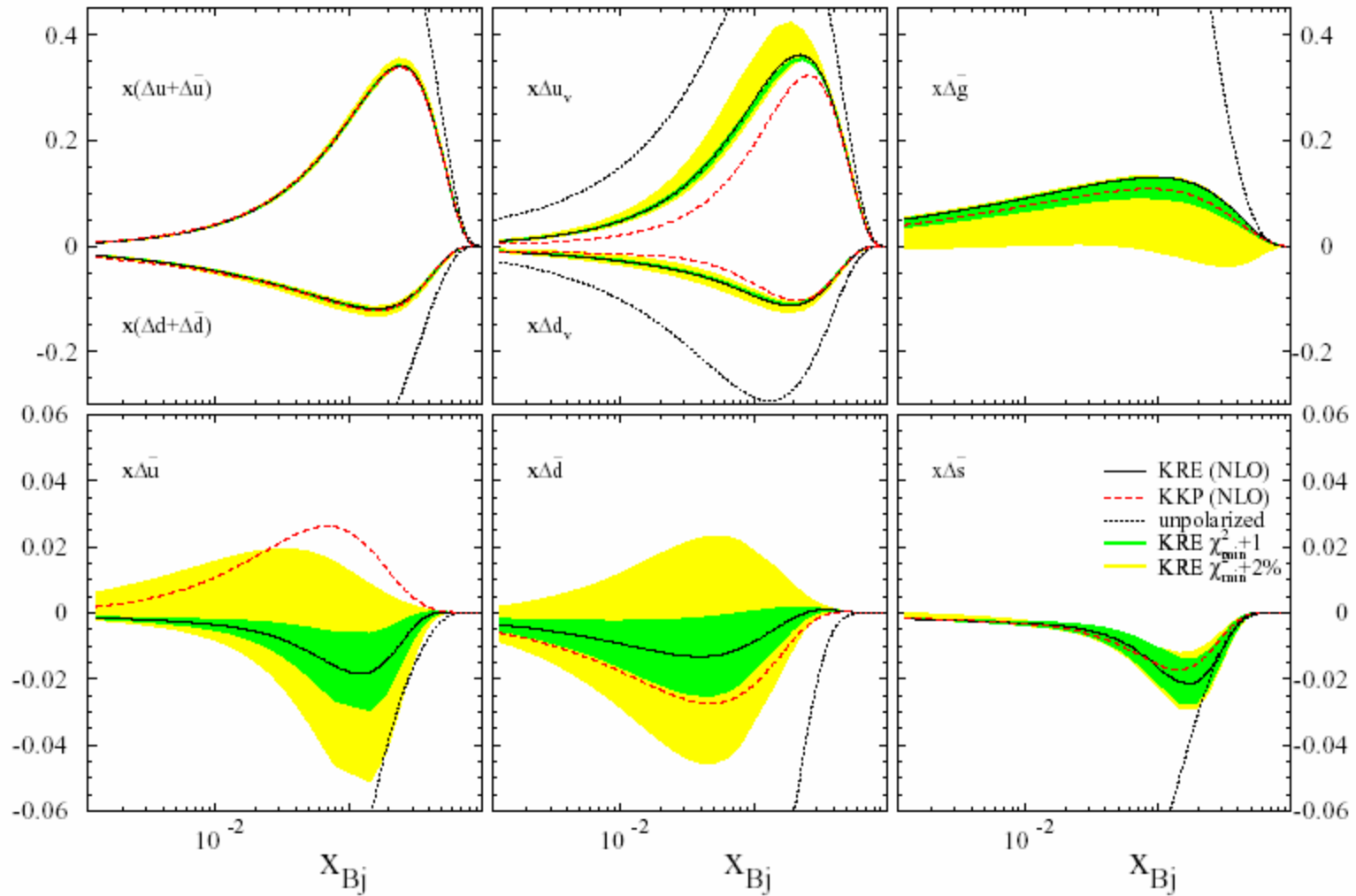


FIGURE 2. Parton densities at $Q^2 = 10 \text{ GeV}^2$, and the uncertainty bands corresponding to $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$ and $\Delta\chi^2 = 2\%$

Research Plan for Spin Physics at RHIC

February 11, 2005

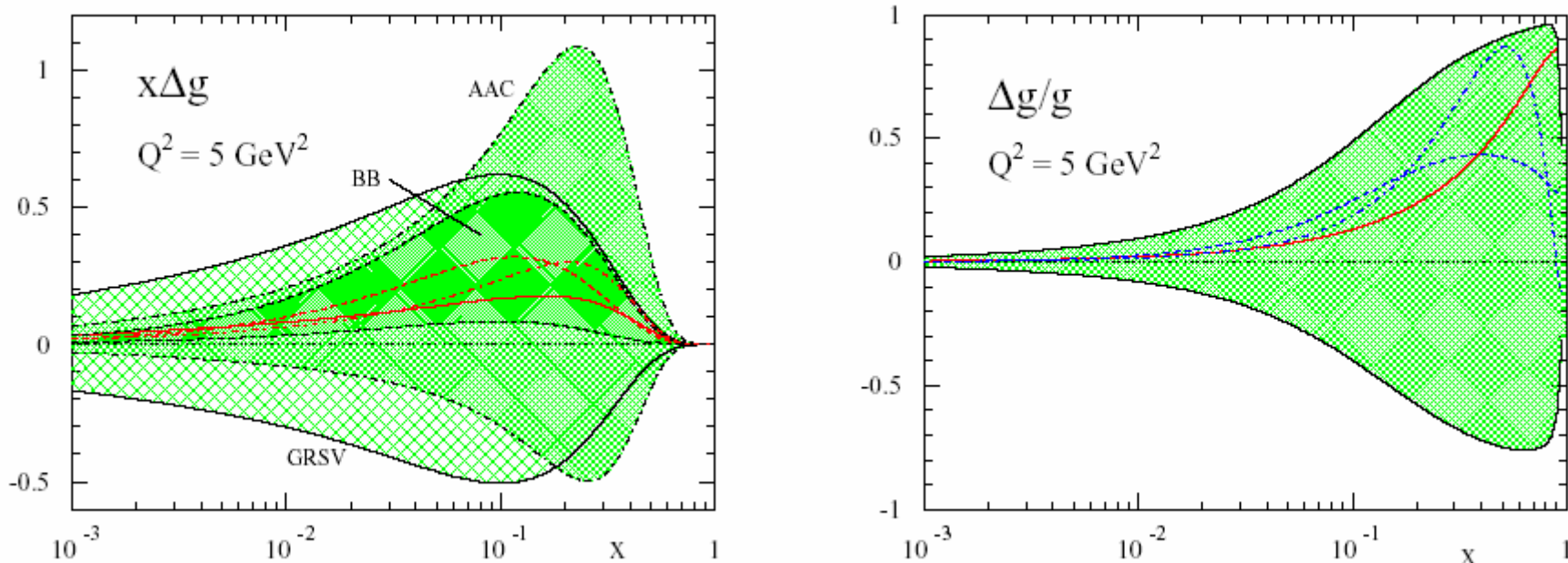


Figure 11: *Left: results for $\Delta g(x, Q^2 = 5 \text{ GeV}^2)$ from recent NLO analyses [1, 2, 36] of polarized DIS. The various bands indicate ranges in Δg that were deemed consistent with the scaling violations in polarized DIS in these analyses. The rather large differences among these bands partly result from differing theoretical assumptions in the extraction, for example, regarding the shape of $\Delta g(x)$ at the initial scale. Note that we show $x\Delta g$ as a function of $\log(x)$, in order to display the contributions from various x -regions to the integral of Δg . Right: the “net gluon polarization” $\Delta g(x, Q^2)/g(x, Q^2)$ at $Q^2 = 5 \text{ GeV}^2$, using Δg of [2] and its associated band, and the unpolarized gluon distribution of [82].*



$$\langle S_q \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \Delta\Sigma(x, Q^2) dx \cong 0.1$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = \langle S_q \rangle + \langle S_g \rangle + \langle L_q \rangle + \langle L_g \rangle$$

longitudinal spin sum rule,
not the whole story...

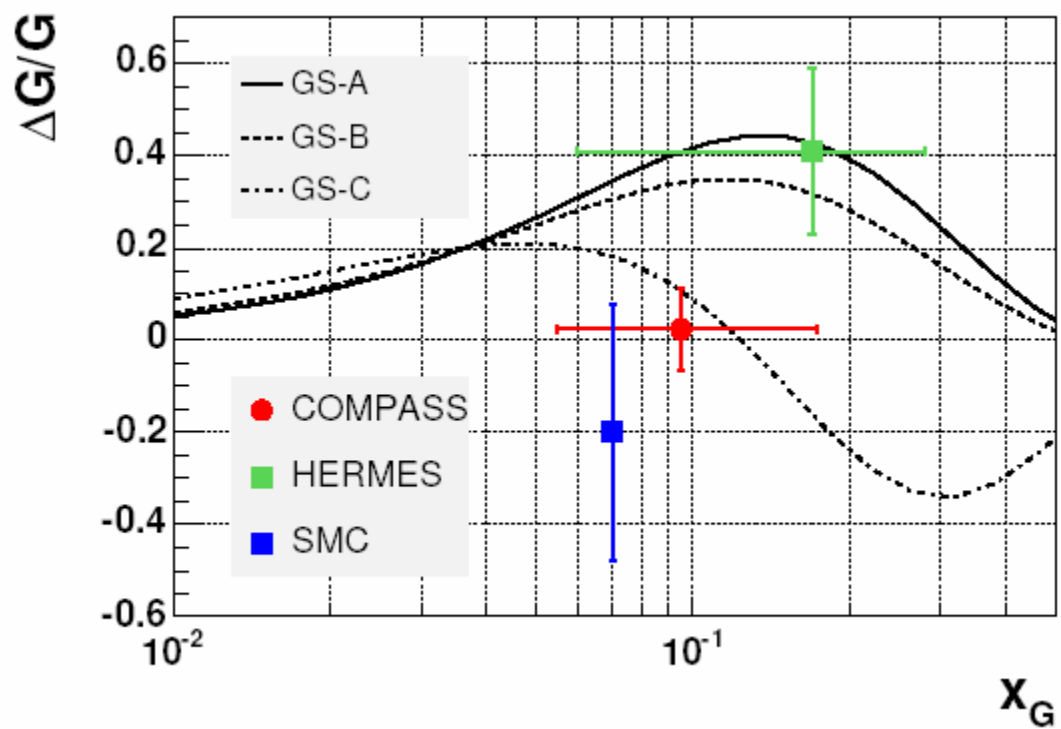
$$\left(\Delta\Sigma = \sum_q (\Delta q + \Delta\bar{q}) \quad \langle S_g \rangle(Q^2) = \int_0^1 \Delta g(x, Q^2) dx \right)$$

Direct measure of Δg needed

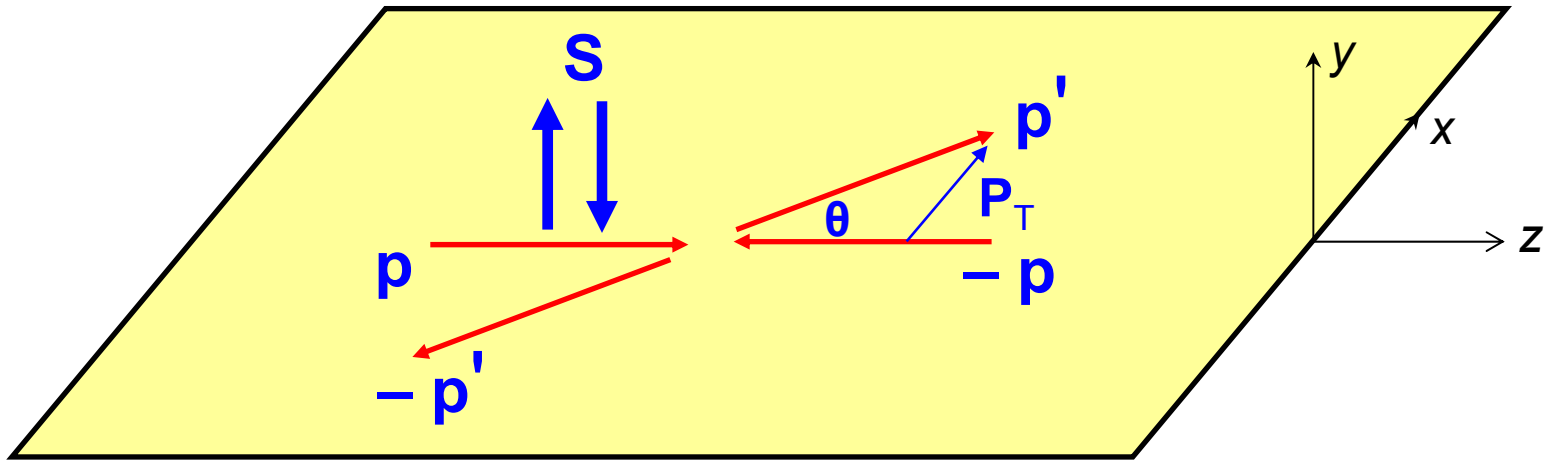
- large p_T di-hadron production in SIDIS, $\gamma^* g \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ F. Tassarotto
- high p_T pions and jets at RHIC, $gg \rightarrow gg, qg \rightarrow qg$
- direct photon production at RHIC, $qg \rightarrow q\gamma$
- charm production at RHIC, $gg \rightarrow c\bar{c}$

Small and large x behaviours, flavour decompositions, R. De Vita

large p_T di-hadron production in SIDIS



Transverse single spin asymmetries in elastic scattering



$$A_N = \frac{\sigma^\uparrow - \sigma^\downarrow}{\sigma^\uparrow + \sigma^\downarrow} \propto \vec{S} \cdot (\vec{p} \times \vec{P}_T) \propto \sin \theta$$

Example: $pp \rightarrow pp$ ➔

$$M_{++;++} \equiv \Phi_1$$

$$M_{--;++} \equiv \Phi_2$$

$$M_{+--;+-} \equiv \Phi_3$$

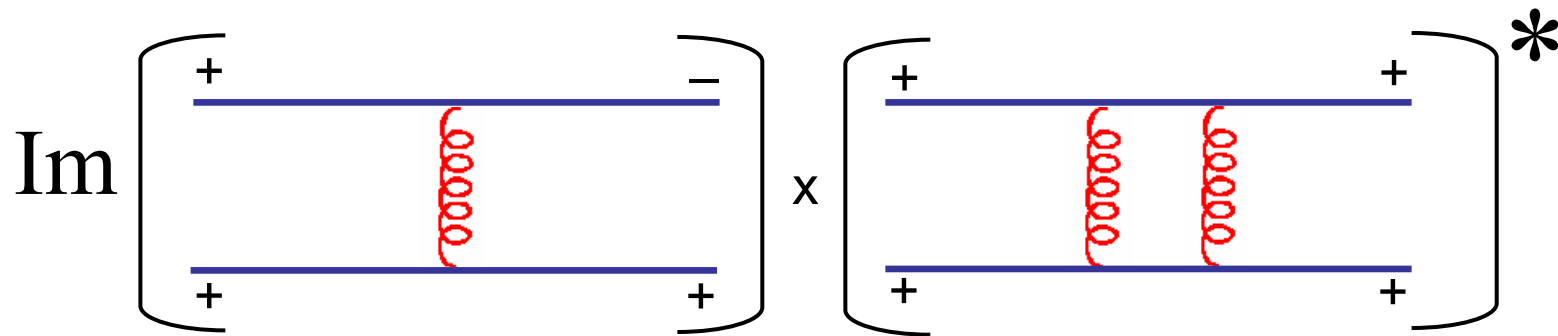
$$M_{-+;+-} \equiv \Phi_4$$

$$M_{-+;++} \equiv \Phi_5$$

5 independent helicity amplitudes

$$A_N \propto \text{Im} \left[\Phi_5 (\Phi_1 + \Phi_2 + \Phi_3 - \Phi_4)^* \right]$$

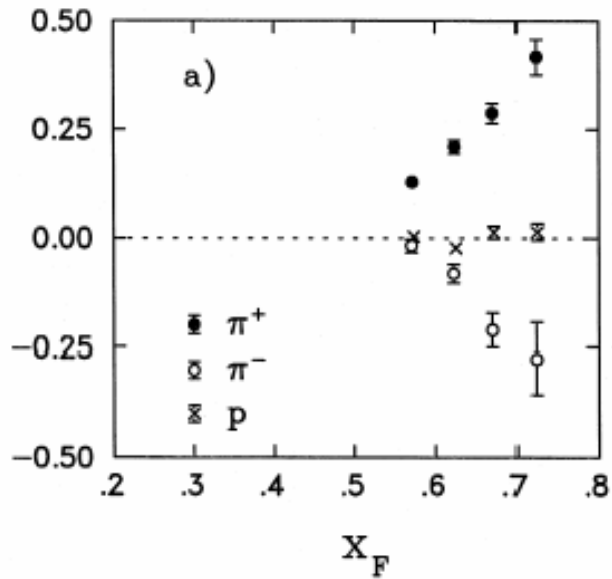
$A_N \neq 0$ needs helicity flip + relative phase



QED and QCD interactions conserve helicity, up to corrections $O(m_q / E)$

\longrightarrow $A_N \propto \frac{m_q}{E} \alpha_s$ at quark level

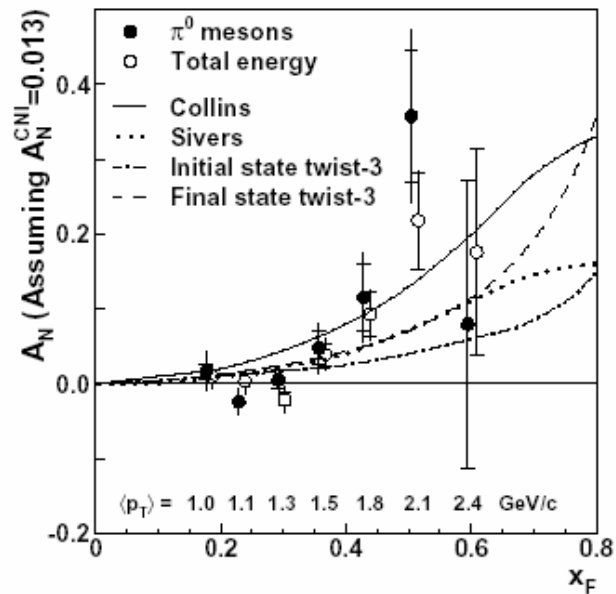
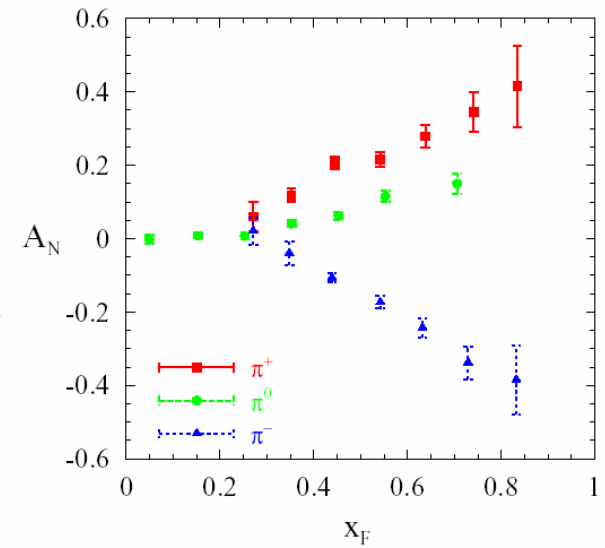
but large SSA observed at hadron level!



BNL-AGS $\sqrt{s} = 6.6 \text{ GeV}$
 $0.6 < p_T < 1.2$

$$p^\uparrow p \rightarrow \pi X$$

E704 $\sqrt{s} = 20 \text{ GeV}$
 $0.7 < p_T < 2.0$



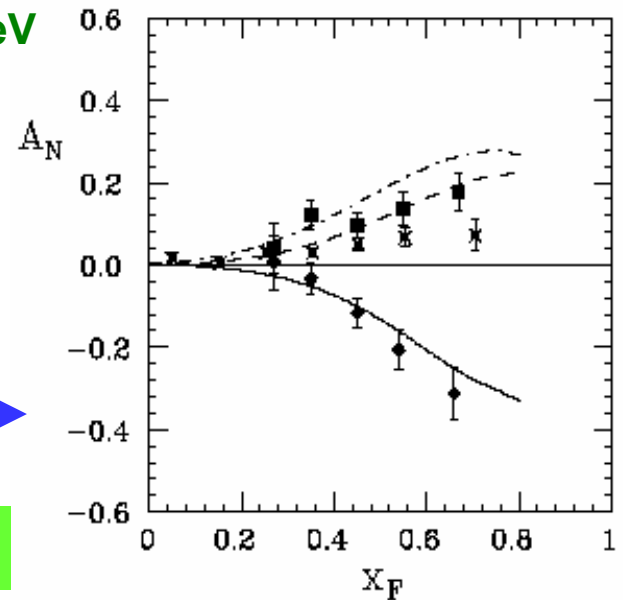
STAR-RHIC $\sqrt{s} = 200 \text{ GeV}$
 $1.1 < p_T < 2.5$

$$p^\uparrow p \rightarrow \pi^0 X$$

E704 $\sqrt{s} = 20 \text{ GeV}$
 $0.7 < p_T < 2.0$

$$\bar{p}^\uparrow p \rightarrow \pi X$$

SSA, $pp \rightarrow \pi X$



$$l N^\uparrow \rightarrow l \pi X$$

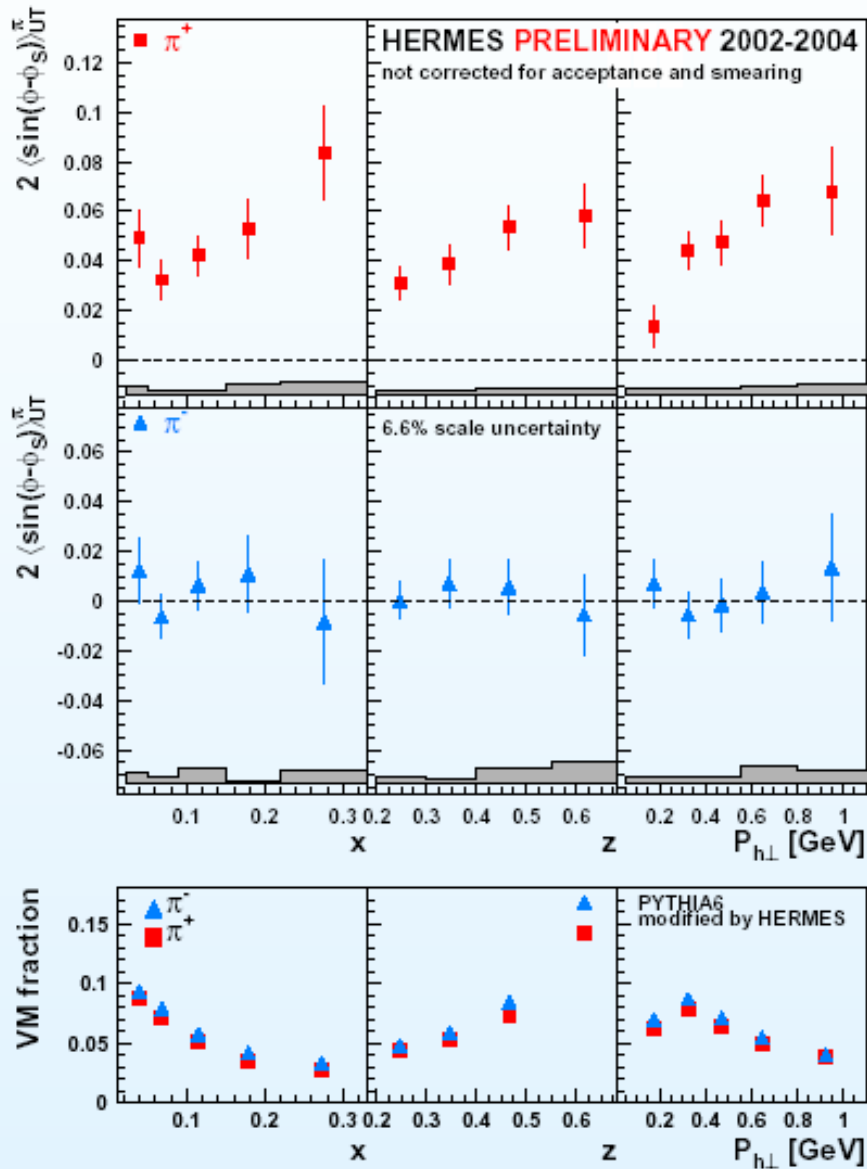
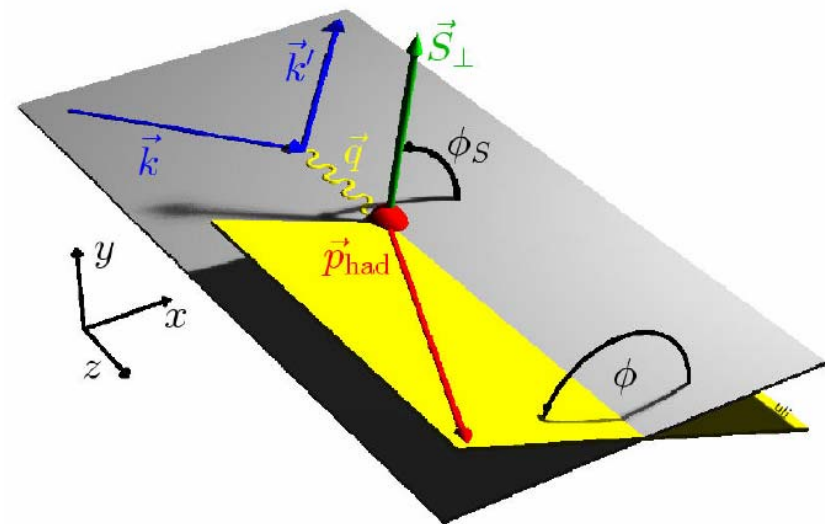


“Sivers moment”

$$A_N = \frac{d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow}{d\sigma^\uparrow + d\sigma^\downarrow}$$

$$2\langle \sin(\Phi - \Phi_S) \rangle = A_{UT}^{\sin(\Phi - \Phi_S)}$$

$$\equiv 2 \frac{\int d\Phi d\Phi_S (d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow) \sin(\Phi - \Phi_S)}{\int d\Phi d\Phi_S (d\sigma^\uparrow + d\sigma^\downarrow)}$$





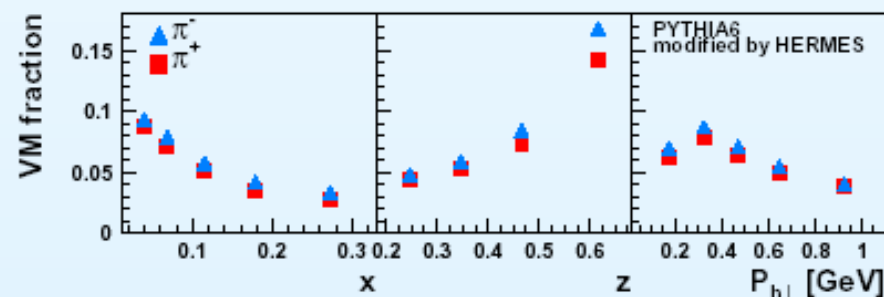
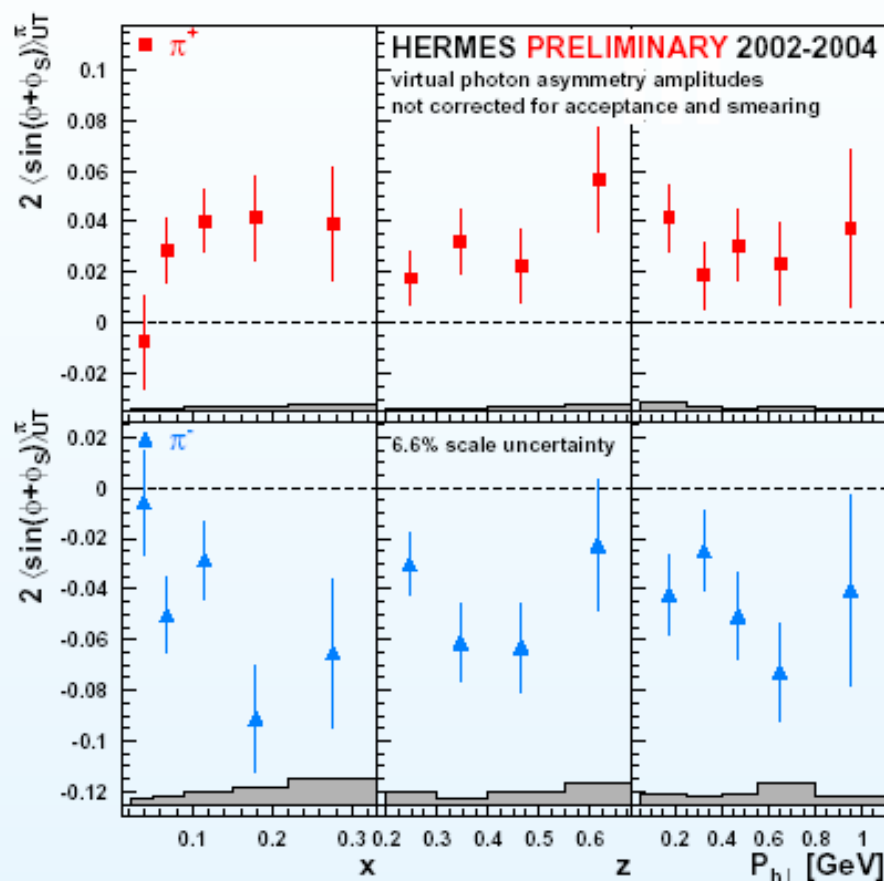
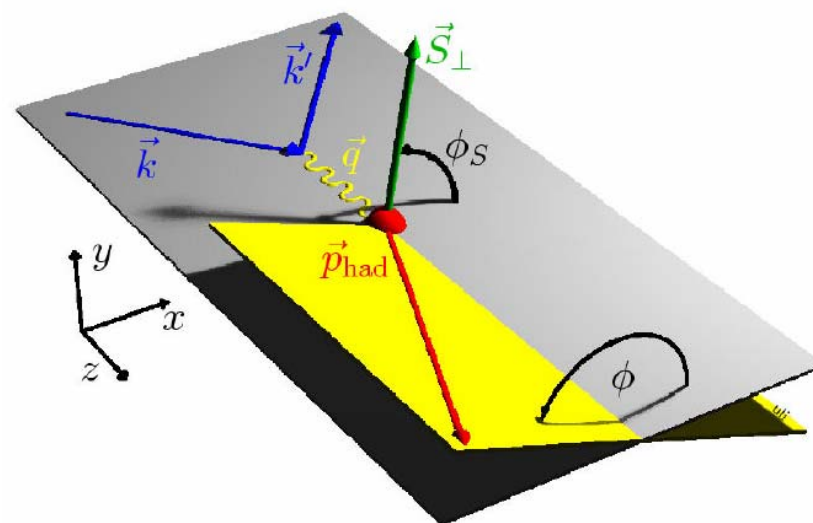
$$l N^\uparrow \rightarrow l \pi X$$

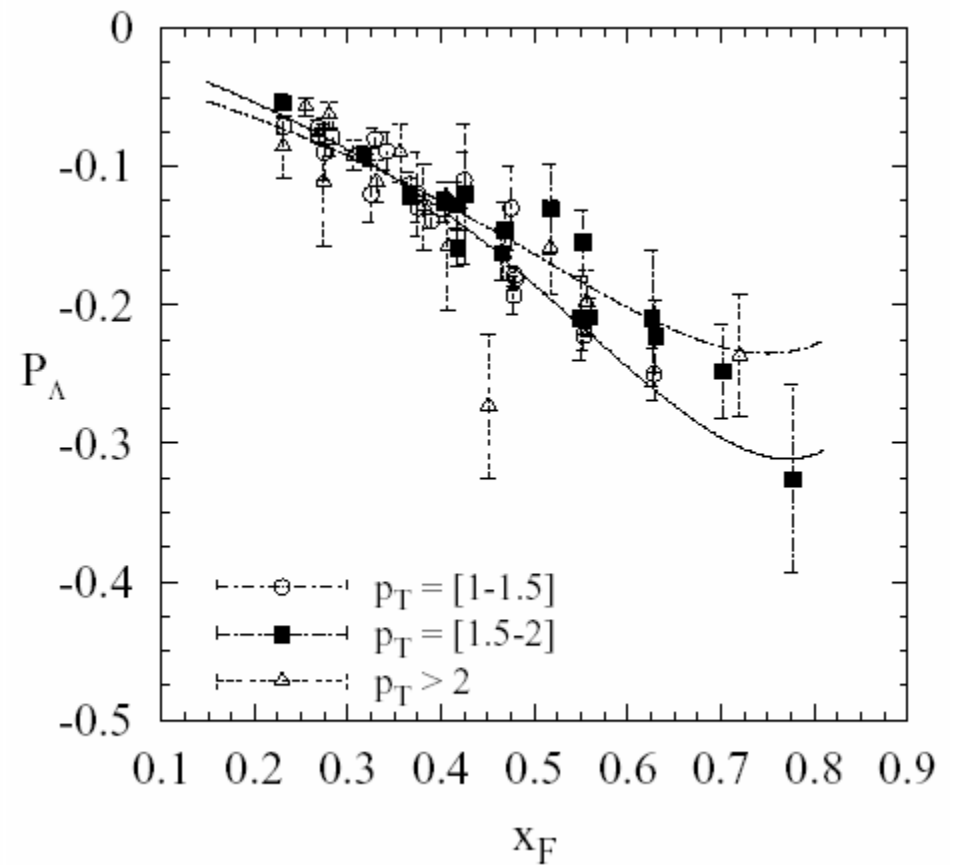
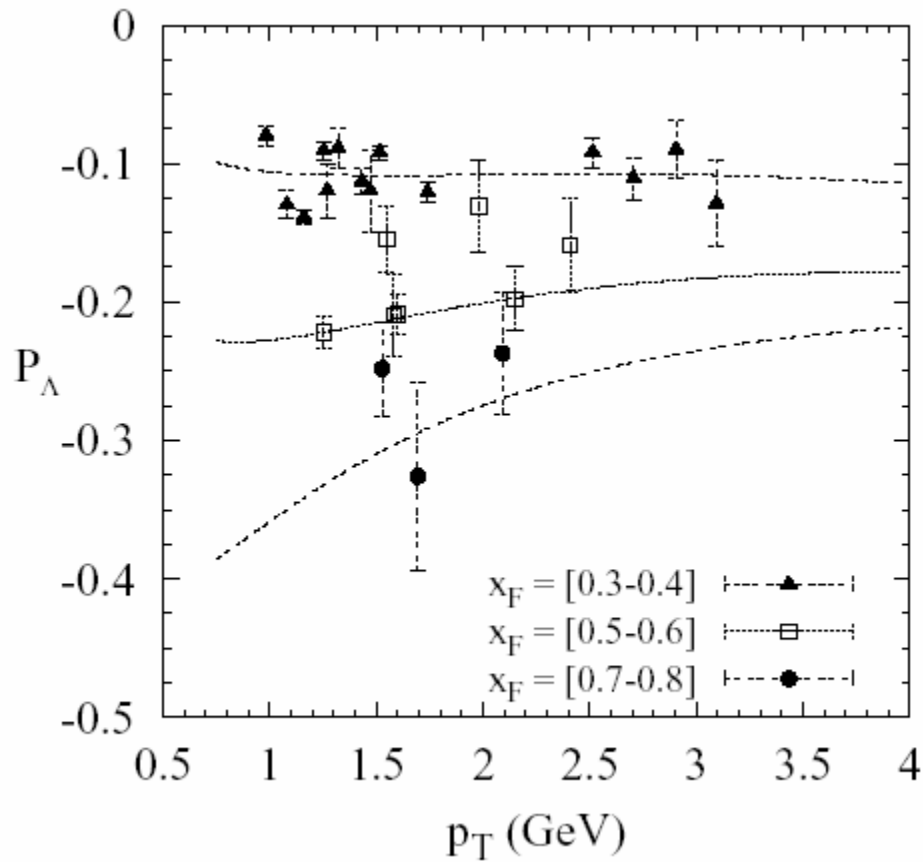
“Collins moment”

$$A_N = \frac{d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow}{d\sigma^\uparrow + d\sigma^\downarrow}$$

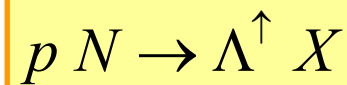
$$2\langle \sin(\Phi + \Phi_S) \rangle = A_{UT}^{\sin(\Phi + \Phi_S)}$$

$$\equiv 2 \frac{\int d\Phi d\Phi_S (d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow) \sin(\Phi + \Phi_S)}{\int d\Phi d\Phi_S (d\sigma^\uparrow + d\sigma^\downarrow)}$$

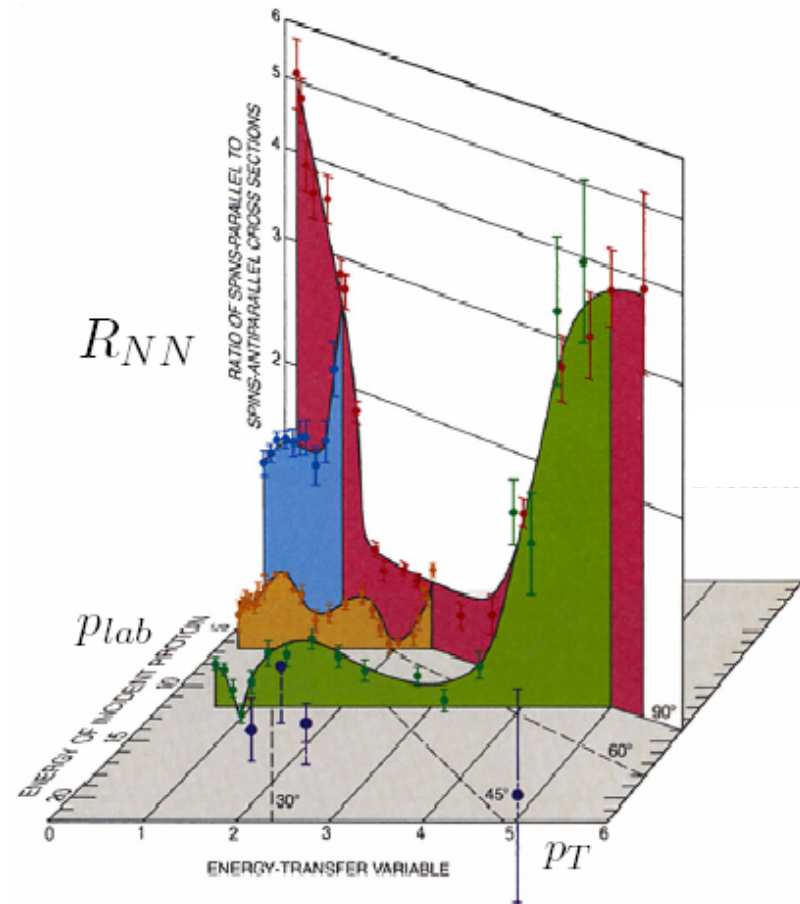
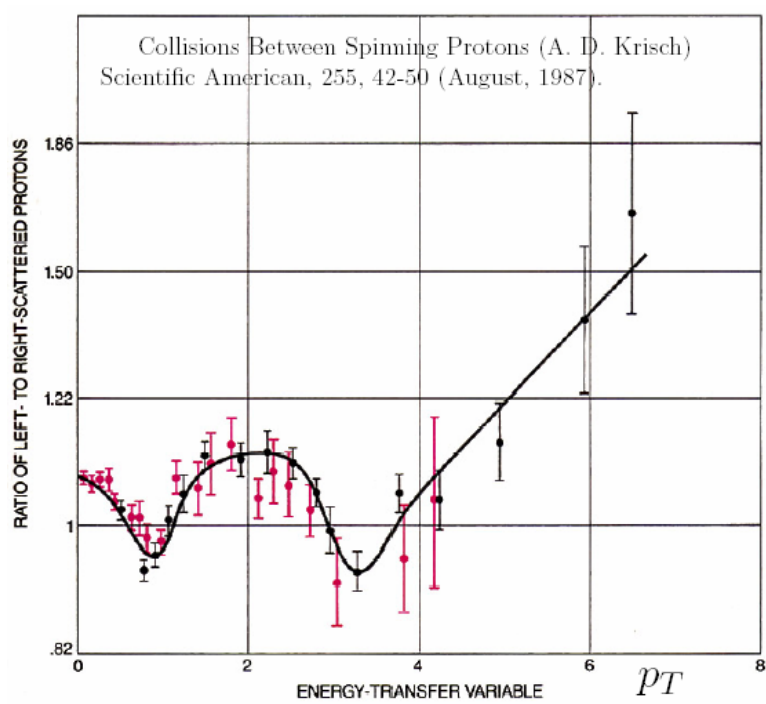
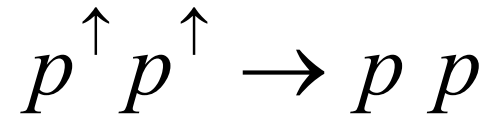
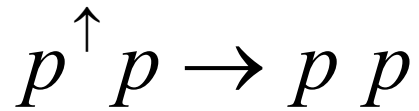




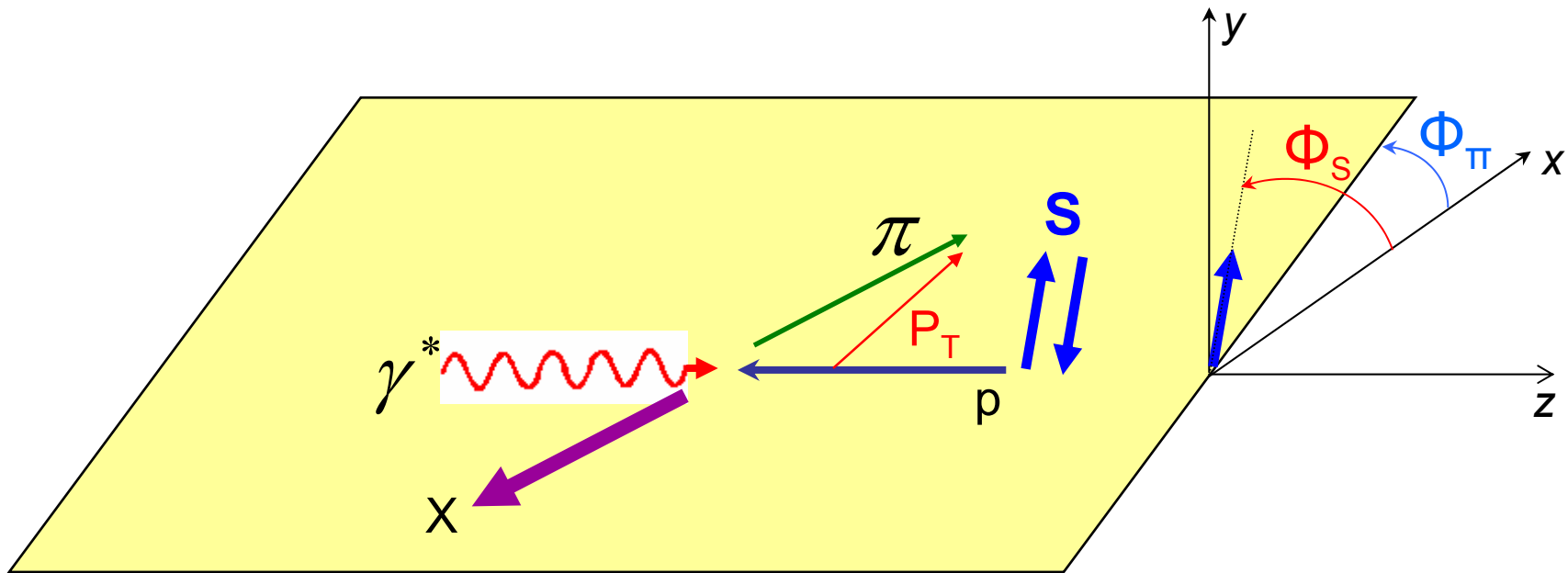
Transverse Λ polarization in unpolarized p-Be scattering at Fermilab



“The largest spin effect ever seen by any human”, S. Brodsky, Como 2005



Transverse single spin asymmetries in SIDIS

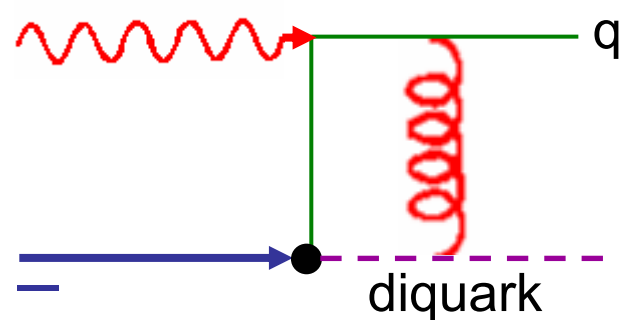
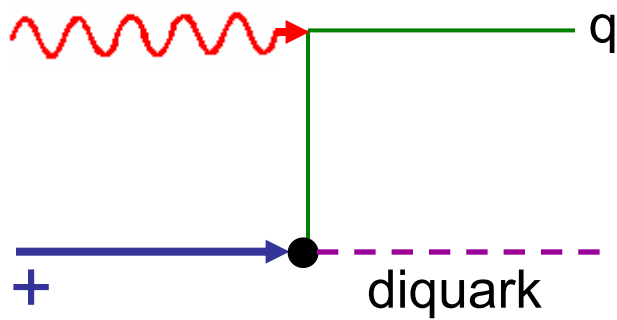
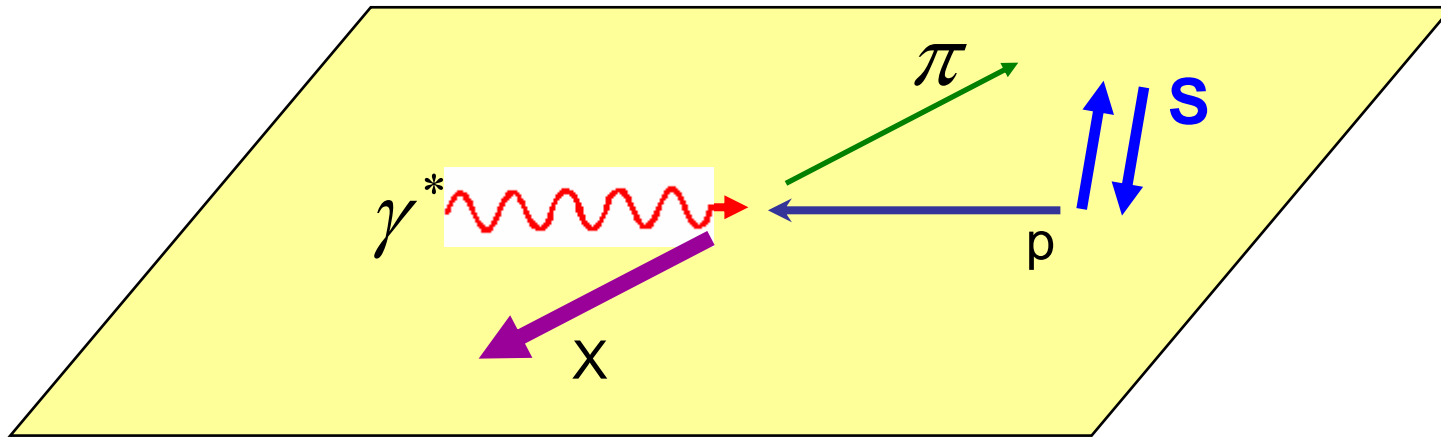


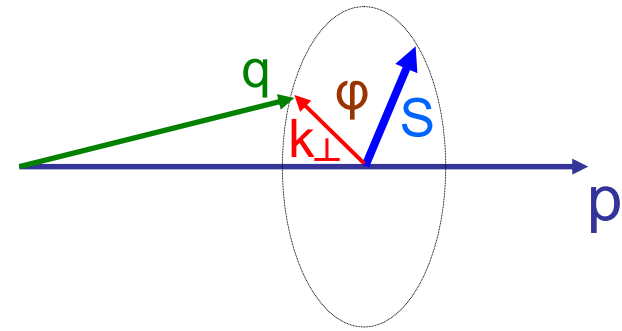
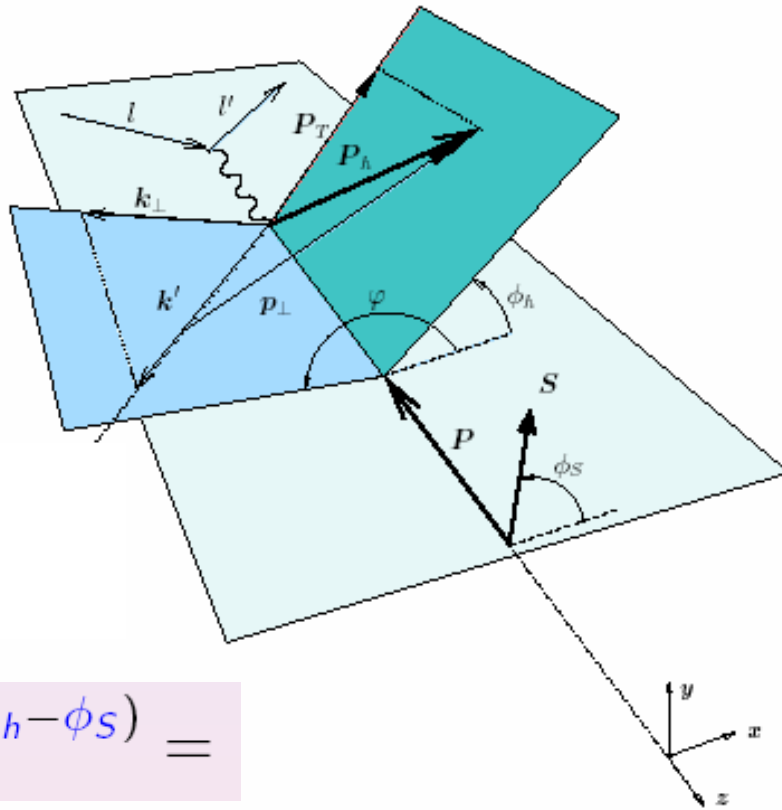
$$A_N \propto \vec{S} \cdot (\vec{p} \times \vec{P}_T) \propto P_T \sin(\Phi_\pi - \Phi_S)$$

need k_\perp dependent quark distribution in $p^\uparrow \Rightarrow$ Sivers mechanism
 or p_\perp dependent fragmentation of polarized quark \Rightarrow Collins mechanism

(talk by G. Schnell)

Brodsky, Hwang, Schmidt model for Sivers function





$$f_{q/p^\uparrow}(x, \vec{k}_\perp) = f_{q/p}(x, k_\perp) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^N f_{q/p^\uparrow}(x, k_\perp) \vec{S} \cdot (\hat{p} \times \hat{k}_\perp)$$

Sivers asymmetry in SIDIS

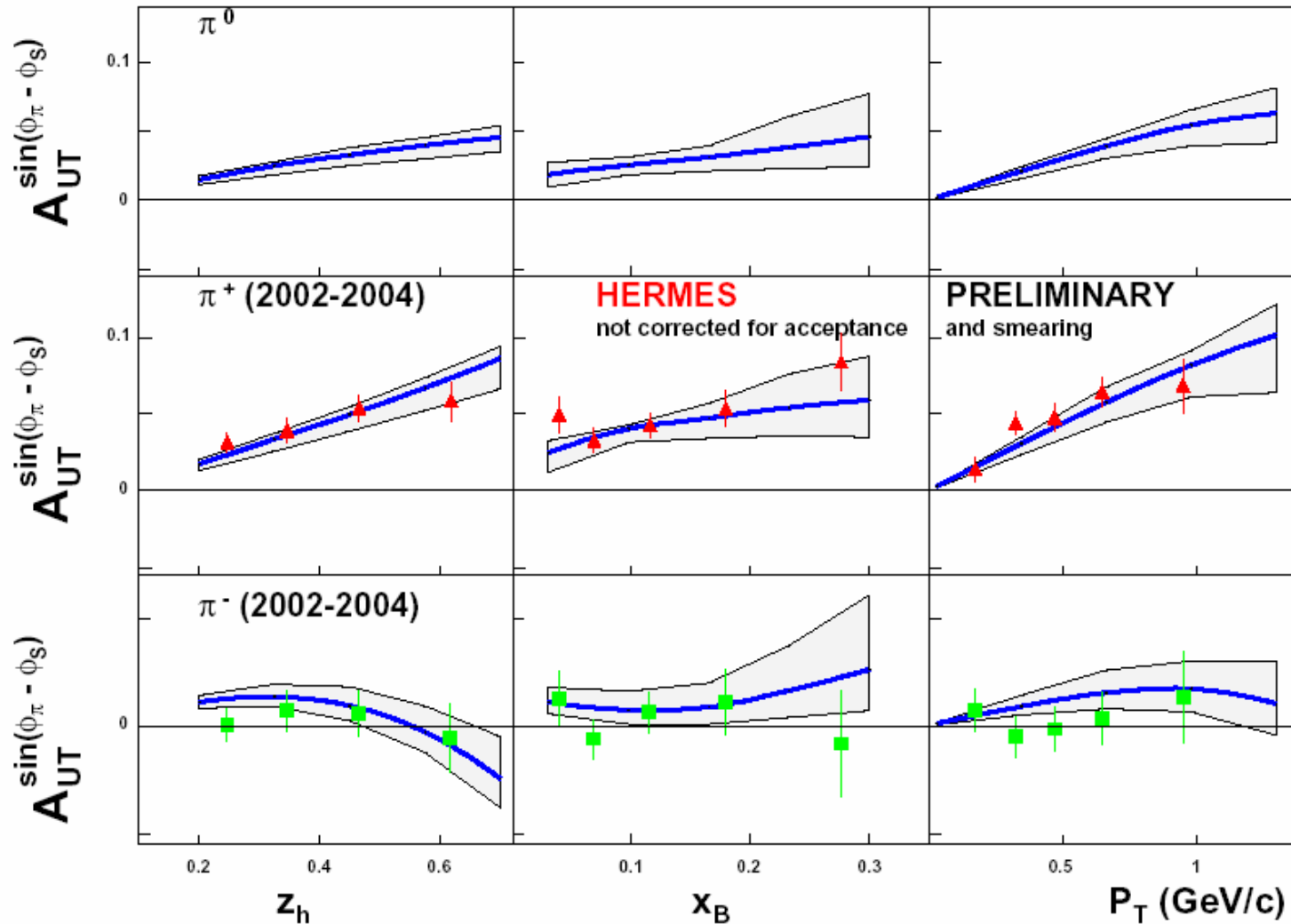
$$\mathbf{p}_\perp = \mathbf{P}_T - z \mathbf{k}_\perp + \mathcal{O}(k_\perp^2/Q^2)$$

$$A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_h - \phi_S)} =$$

$$\frac{\int_q d\{\phi_h \phi_S \mathbf{k}_\perp\} \Delta^N f_{q/p^\uparrow}(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp) \sin(\varphi - \phi_S) \frac{d\hat{\sigma}^{lq \rightarrow lq}}{dQ^2} J \frac{z}{z_h} D_q^h(z, \mathbf{p}_\perp) \sin(\phi_h - \phi_S)}{2\pi \int_q d\phi_h d^2 \mathbf{k}_\perp f_q(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp) \frac{d\hat{\sigma}^{lq \rightarrow lq}}{dQ^2} J \frac{z}{z_h} D_q^h(z, \mathbf{p}_\perp)}$$

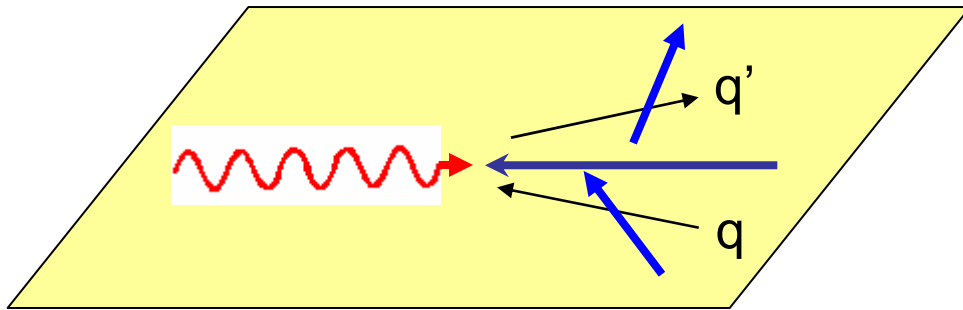
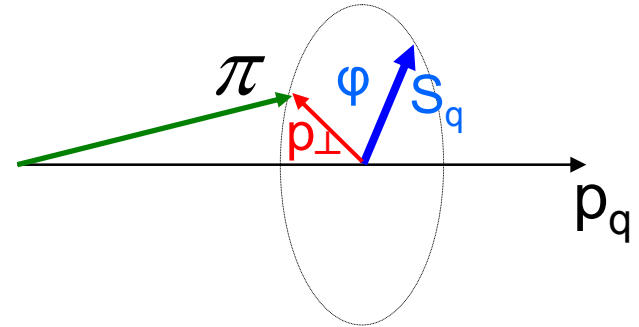


M.A. M. Boglione, U. D'Alesio, A. Kotzinian, F. Murgia, A. Prokudin
hep-ph/0501196 (PRD 71, 074006) and hep-ph/0507181



Collins mechanism for SSA

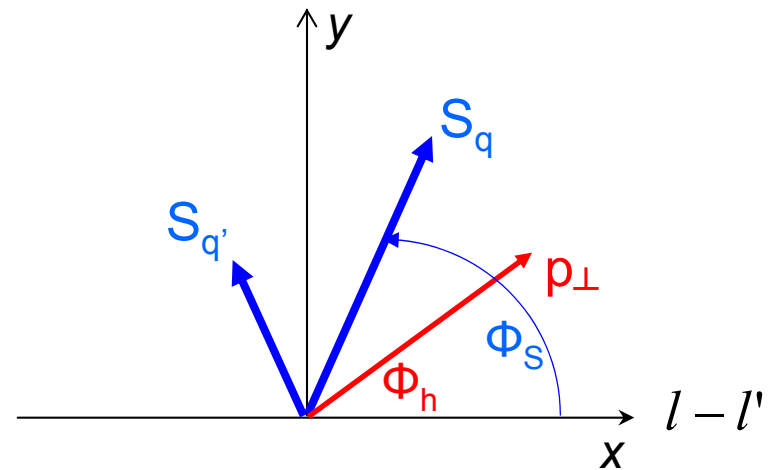
Asymmetry in the fragmentation of a transversely polarized quark
(Fundamental QCD property? D. Sivers)



initial q spin is transferred to final q', which fragments

$$D_{h/q^\uparrow}(z, \vec{p}_\perp) = D_{h/q}(z, p_\perp) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^N D_{h/q^\uparrow}(z, p_\perp) \vec{S}_q \cdot (\hat{p}_q \times \hat{p}_\perp)$$

$$\vec{S}_{q'} \cdot (\hat{p}_{q'} \times \hat{p}_\perp) \propto \sin(\Phi_h + \Phi_S)$$



neglecting intrinsic motion in partonic distributions:

$$A_N^h = \frac{d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow}{d\sigma^\uparrow + d\sigma^\downarrow} =$$

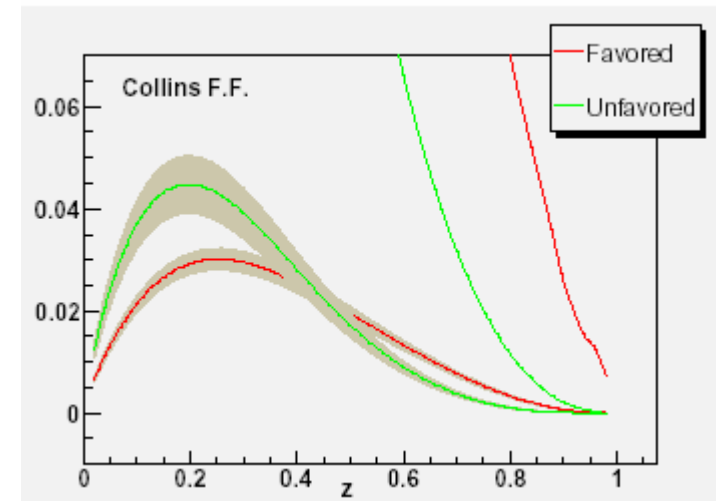
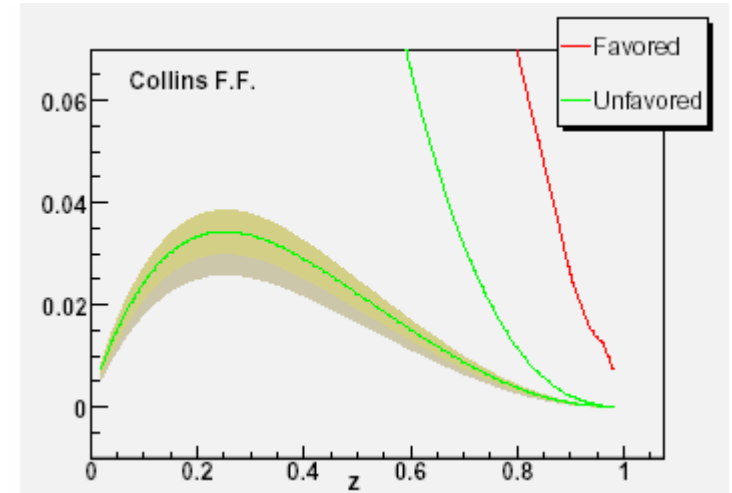
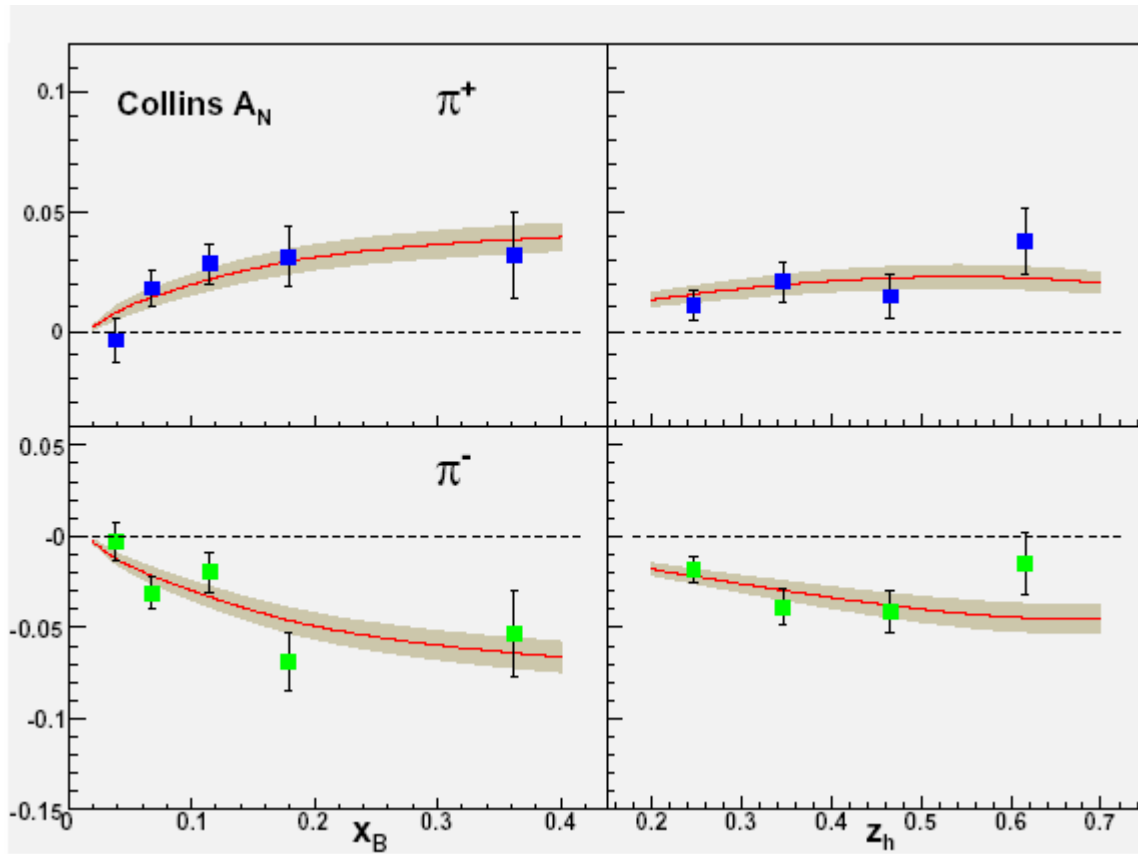
$$\frac{\sum_q \int e_q^2 h_{1q}(x) (1-y)/(xy^2) \Delta^N D_{h/q^\uparrow}(z, p_\perp)}{\sum_q \int e_q^2 f_{q/p}(x) [1 + (1-y)^2]/(xy^2) D_{q/p}(z, p_\perp)} \sin(\Phi_h + \Phi_S)$$

transversity Collins function

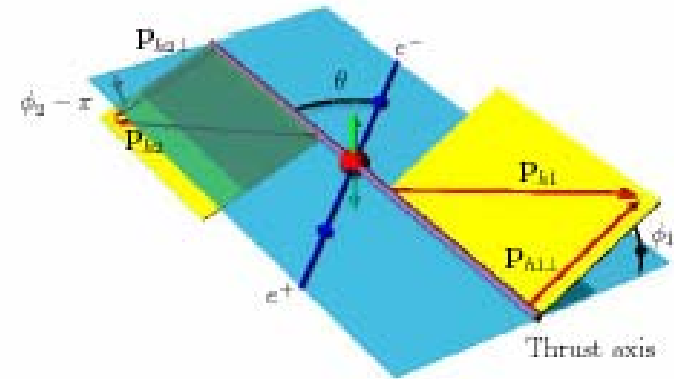
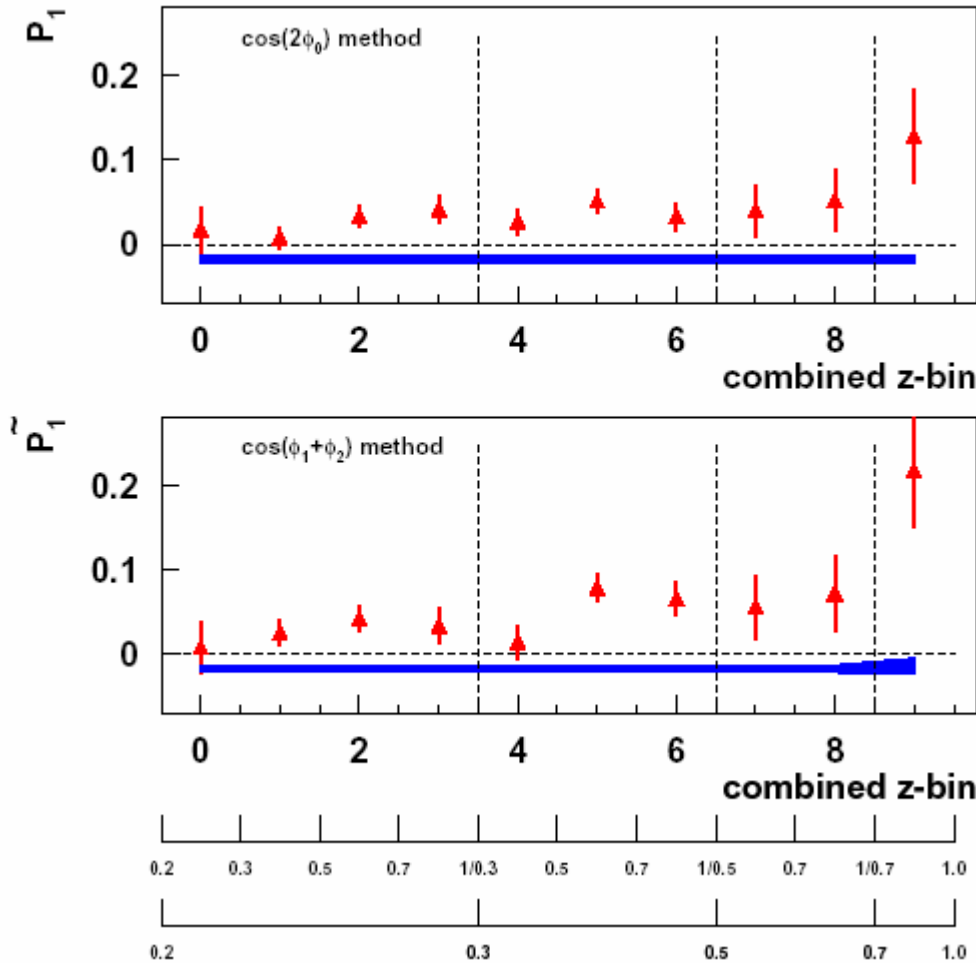
$$A_{UT}^{\sin(\Phi_h + \Phi_S)} \equiv 2 \frac{\int d\Phi_h d\Phi_S [d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow] \sin(\Phi_h + \Phi_S)}{\int d\Phi_h d\Phi_S [d\sigma^\uparrow + d\sigma^\downarrow]}$$

First extraction of Collins functions from HERMES data:
 W. Vogelsang and F. Yuan (assuming Soffer-saturated h_1)

fit to HERMES data on $A_{UT}^{\sin(\Phi_h + \Phi_S)}$



Extraction of Collins functions from HERMES + BELLE data

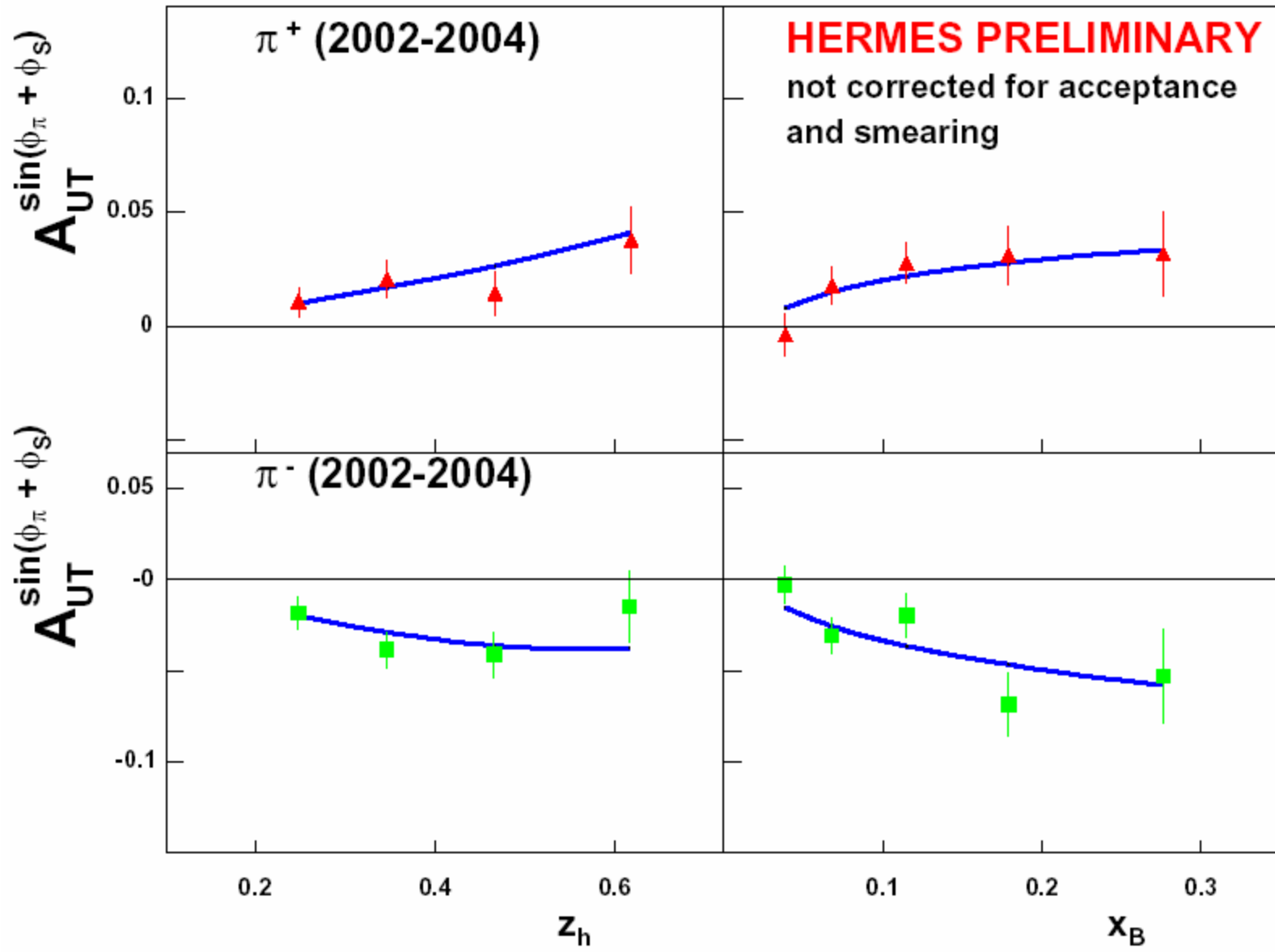


P₁ depends on

$$\frac{\Delta_N D^{(1)}(z_1) \Delta_N D^{(1)}(z_2)}{D(z_1) D(z_2)}$$

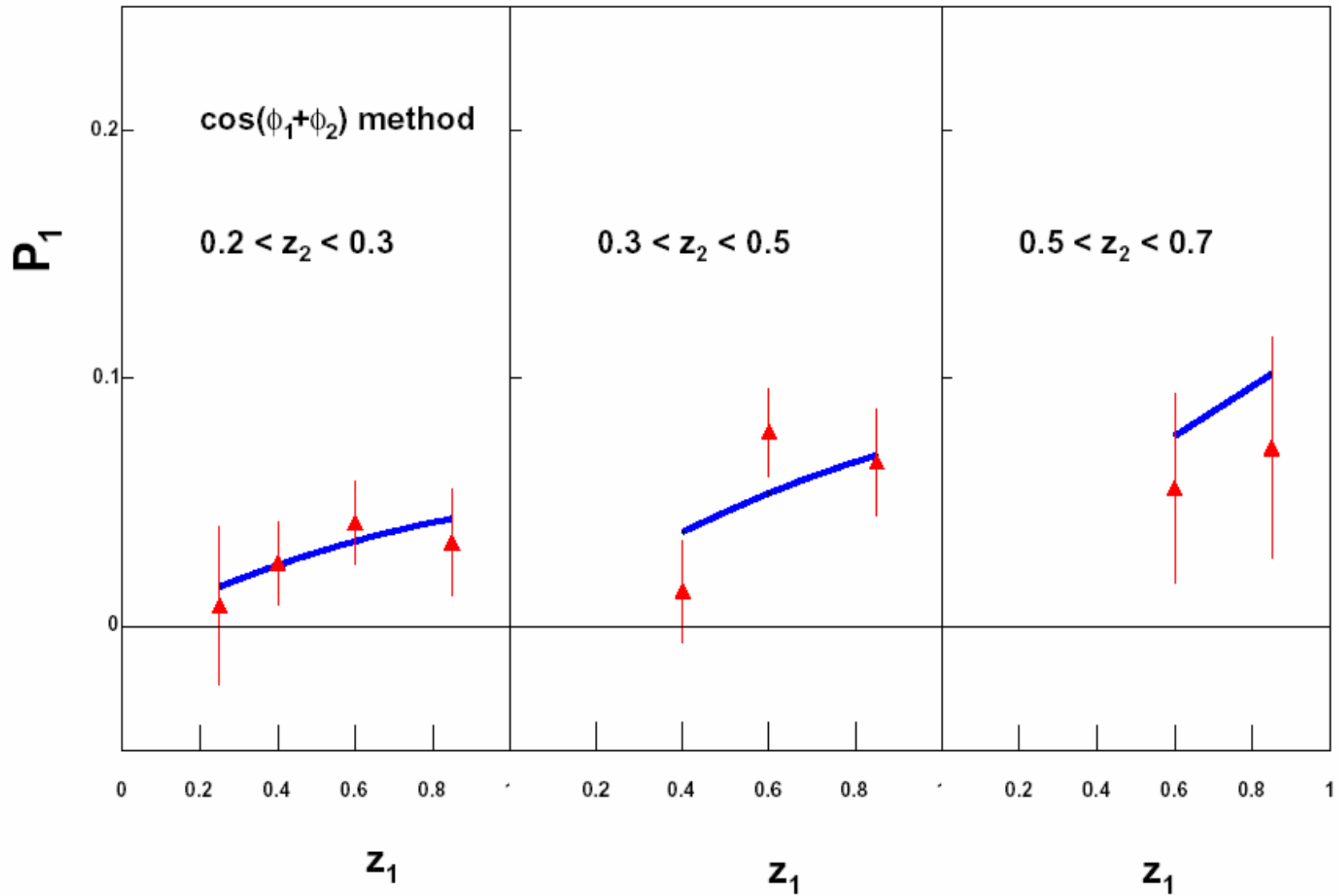
correlation, event by event, between the spin of q and \bar{q} , that is between the two azimuthal distributions of pions inside the jets

Fits to HERMES Collins data, preliminary results

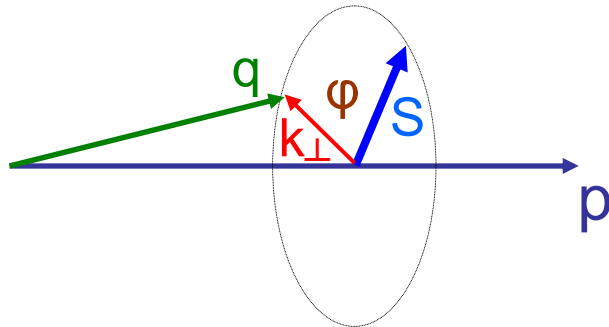


Fits to BELLE Collins data, preliminary results

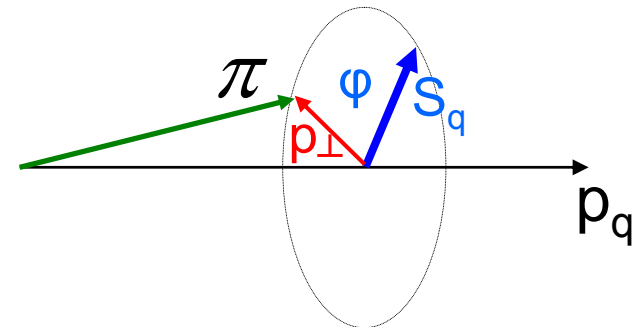
M.A, M. Boglione, U. D'Alesio, A. Kotzinian, F. Murgia, A. Prokudin, in preparation



spin- k_{\perp} correlations – Trento conventions



Sivers function



Collins function

$$f_{q/p\uparrow}(x, \vec{k}_{\perp}) = f_{q/p}(x, k_{\perp}) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^N f_{q/p\uparrow}(x, k_{\perp}) \vec{S} \cdot (\hat{p} \times \hat{k}_{\perp})$$

$$D_{h/q\uparrow}(z, \vec{p}_{\perp}) = D_{h/q}(z, p_{\perp}) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^N D_{h/q\uparrow}(z, p_{\perp}) \vec{S}_q \cdot (\hat{p}_q \times \hat{p}_{\perp})$$

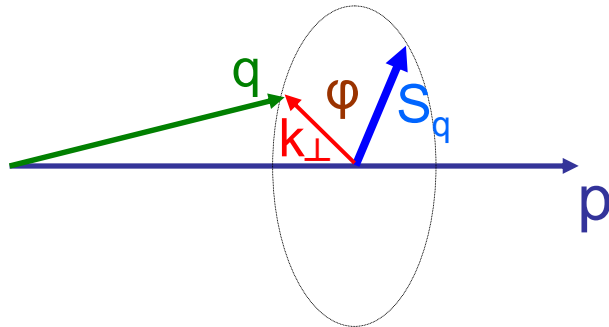
Amsterdam group notations

$$\Delta^N f_{q/p\uparrow} = -\frac{2k_{\perp}}{M} f_{1T}^{\perp q}$$

$$\Delta^N D_{h/q\uparrow} = 2 \frac{p_{\perp}}{z M_h} H_1^{\perp q}$$

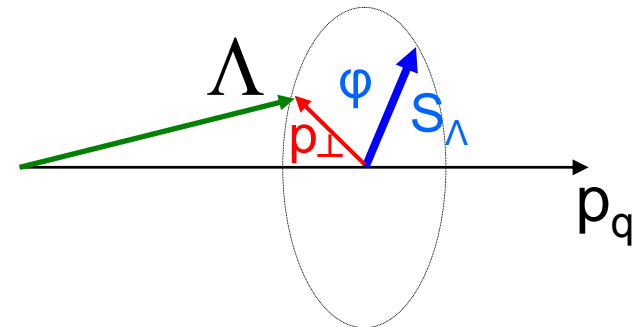
$$f_{1T}^{\perp q} \Big|_{SIDIS} = -f_{1T}^{\perp q} \Big|_{D-Y}$$

spin- k_{\perp} correlations



Boer-Mulders function

$$f_{q^{\uparrow}/p}(x, \vec{k}_{\perp}) = \frac{1}{2} f_{q/p}(x, k_{\perp}) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^N f_{q^{\uparrow}/p}(x, k_{\perp}) \vec{S}_q \cdot (\hat{p} \times \hat{k}_{\perp})$$



polarizing f.f.

$$D_{\Lambda^{\uparrow}/q}(z, \vec{p}_{\perp}) = \frac{1}{2} D_{h/q}(z, p_{\perp}) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta^N D_{\Lambda^{\uparrow}/q}(z, p_{\perp}) \vec{S}_{\Lambda} \cdot (\hat{p}_q \times \hat{p}_{\perp})$$

Amsterdam group notations

$$\Delta^N f_{q^{\uparrow}/p} = -\frac{k_{\perp}}{M} h_1^{\perp q}$$

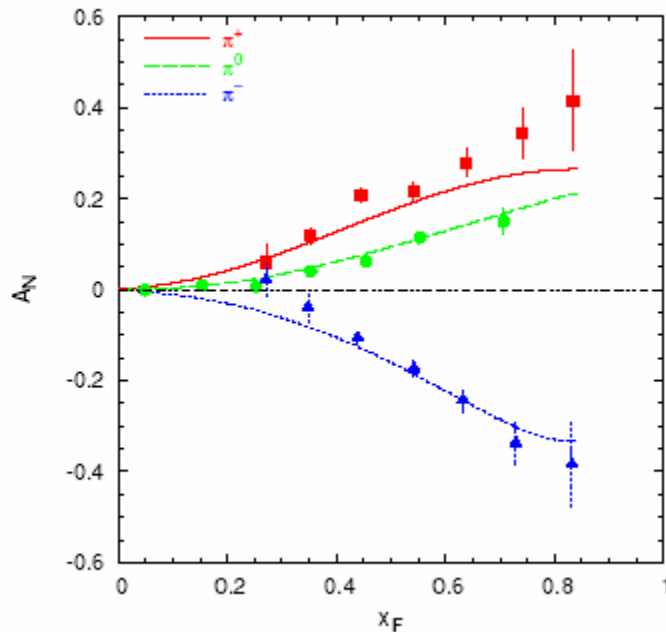
$$\Delta^N D_{\Lambda^{\uparrow}/q} = \frac{p_{\perp}}{z M_{\Lambda}} D_{1T}^{\perp q}$$

SSA in $p\uparrow p \rightarrow \pi X$

$$d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow \simeq \Delta^N f_{a/p^\uparrow} \otimes f_{b/p} \otimes d\hat{\sigma} \otimes D_{\pi/c} \quad \text{“Sivers effect”}$$

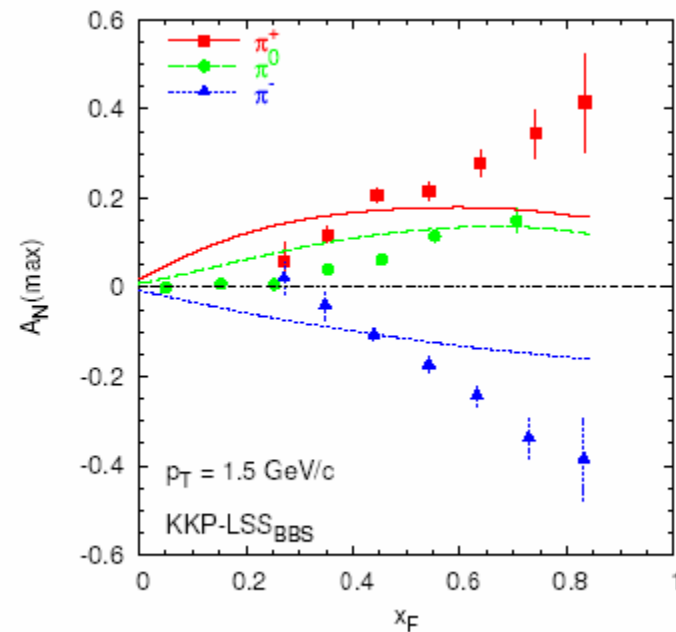
$$+ h_{1a} \otimes f_{b/p} \otimes d\Delta\hat{\sigma} \otimes \Delta^N D_{\pi/c^\uparrow} \quad \text{“Collins effect”}$$

E704 data, $E = 200$ GeV



fit to A_N with Sivers effects alone

U. D'Alesio, F. Murgia



maximized value of A_N with Collins effects alone

M.A, M. Boglione, U. D'Alesio, E. Leader, F. Murgia

Parton distributions

$q, \Delta q$ and h_1 (or $\delta q, \Delta_T q$) are fundamental leading-twist quark distributions

$q = q_+ + q_-$ quark distribution – well known

$\Delta q = q_+ - q_-$ quark helicity distribution – known

$\Delta_T q = q_\uparrow - q_\downarrow$ transversity distribution – unknown

$g = g_+ + g_-$ gluon distribution ~ known

$\Delta g = g_+ - g_-$ gluon helicity distribution – poorly known

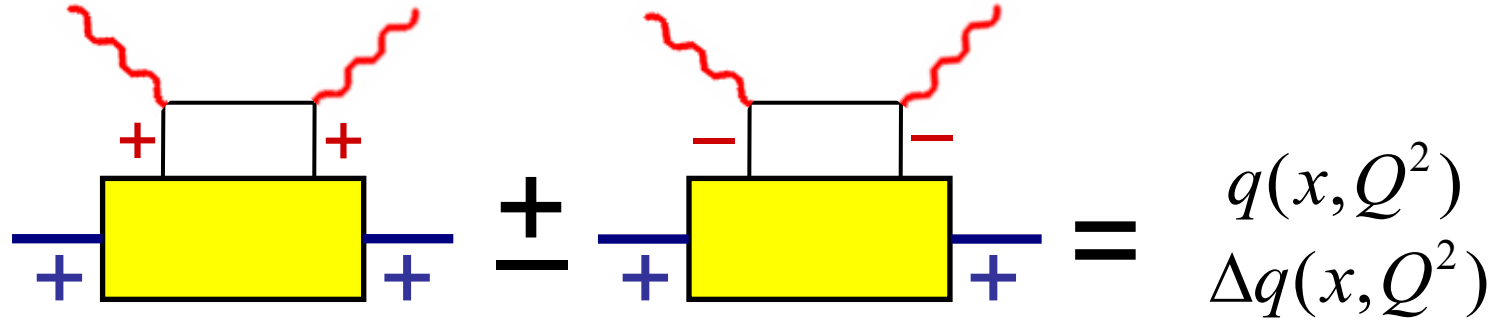
all equally important

Δq related to $\bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q$ → chiral-even

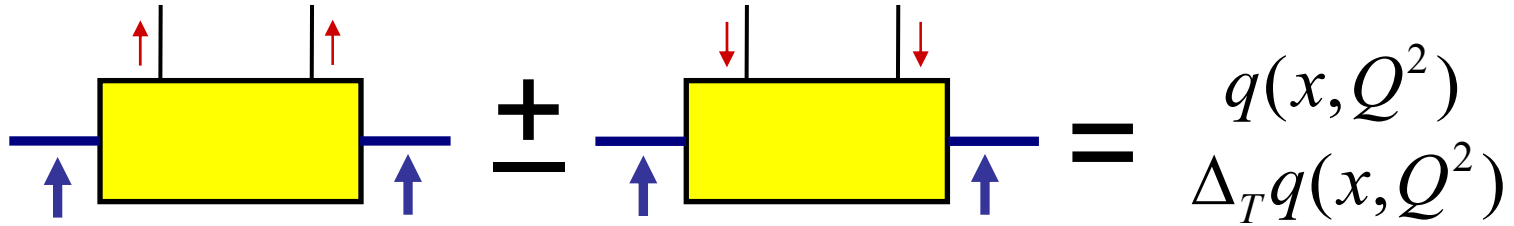
$\Delta_T q$ related to $\bar{q} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma_5 q$ → chiral-odd

$$2 |\Delta_T q| \leq q + \Delta q$$

positivity bound


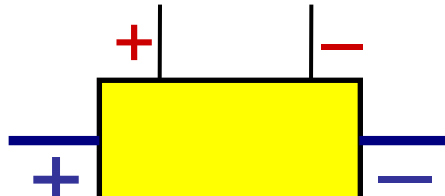


$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{red wavy line} \\ \text{+} \end{array} \\
 \begin{array}{c} \text{+} \\ \text{+} \end{array} \\
 \text{+} \\
 \text{+}
 \end{array}
 +
 \begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{red wavy line} \\ \text{-} \end{array} \\
 \begin{array}{c} \text{-} \\ \text{-} \end{array} \\
 \text{+} \\
 \text{+}
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{l}
 q(x, Q^2) \\
 \Delta q(x, Q^2)
 \end{array}$$

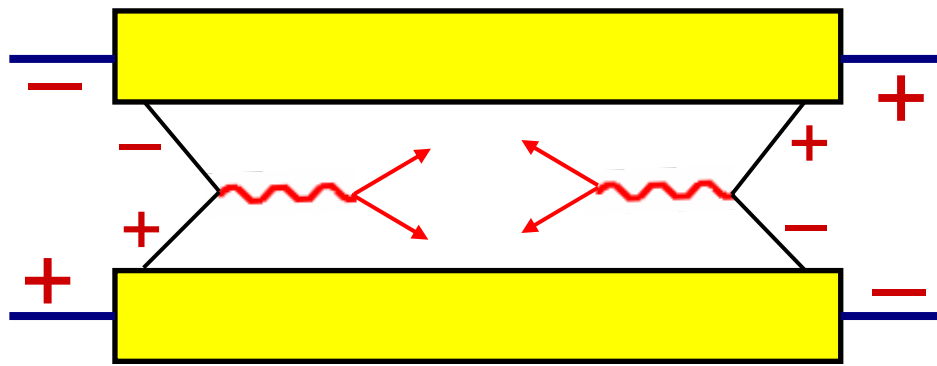


$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{red arrow up} \\ \text{+} \end{array} \\
 \begin{array}{c} \text{+} \\ \text{+} \end{array} \\
 \text{+} \\
 \text{+}
 \end{array}
 +
 \begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{red arrow down} \\ \text{-} \end{array} \\
 \begin{array}{c} \text{-} \\ \text{-} \end{array} \\
 \text{+} \\
 \text{+}
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{l}
 q(x, Q^2) \\
 \Delta_T q(x, Q^2)
 \end{array}$$

in helicity basis $\uparrow\downarrow = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+\rangle \pm i|-\rangle)$

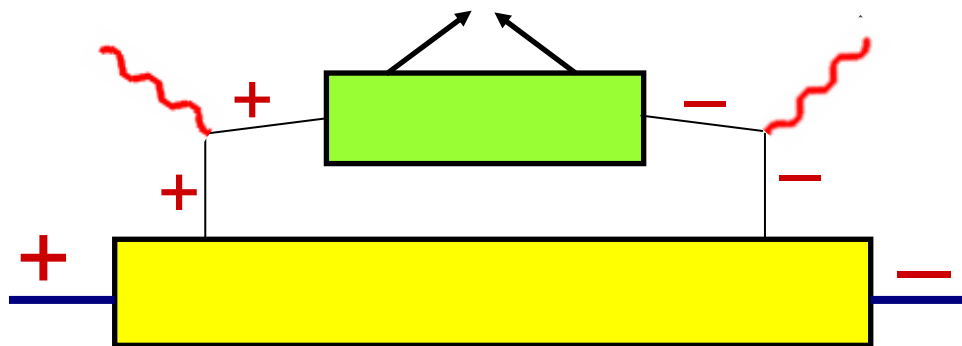

 $h_1(x, Q^2) =$

decouples from DIS
(no quark helicity flip)

h_1 must couple to another chiral-odd function. For example:
 D-Y, $pp \rightarrow l^+l^- X$, and SIDIS, $lp \rightarrow l\pi X$, processes



$h_1 \times h_1$

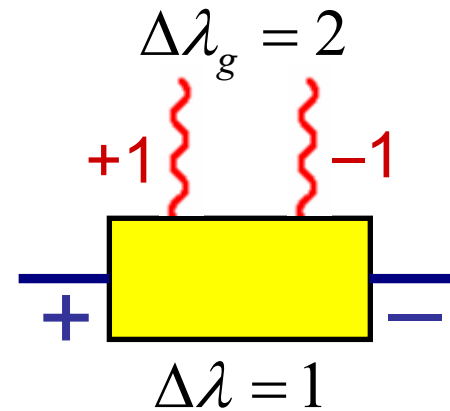
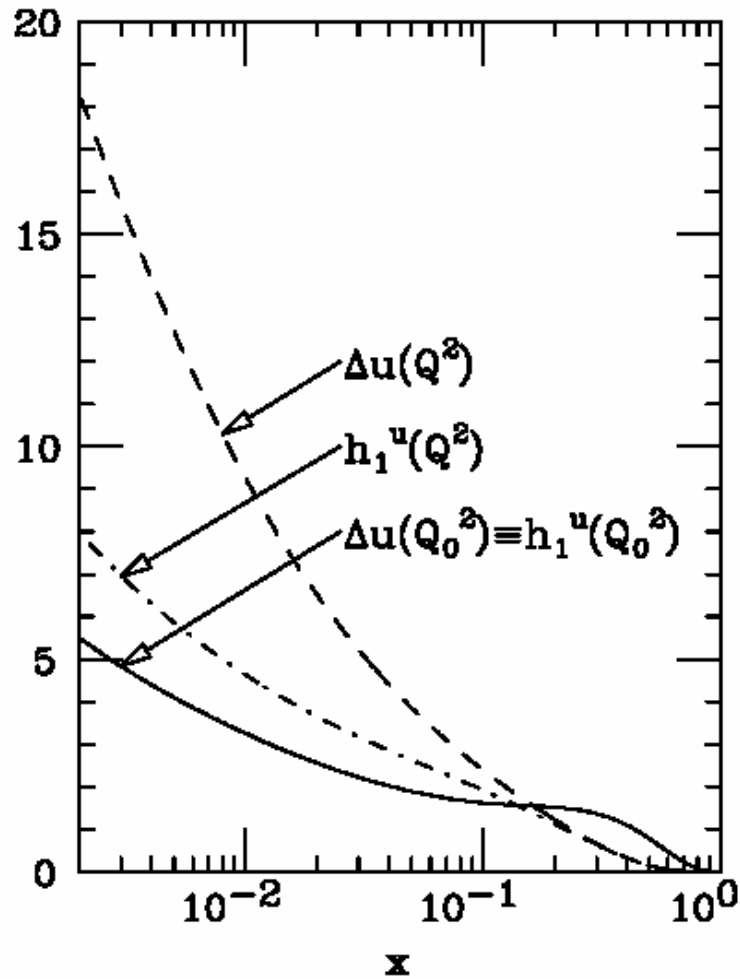
J. Ralston and D.Soper, 1979
 J. Cortes, B. Pire, J. Ralston,
 1992



$h_1 \times$ Collins
 function

J. Collins, 1993

No gluon contribution to h_1
 → simple Q^2 evolution

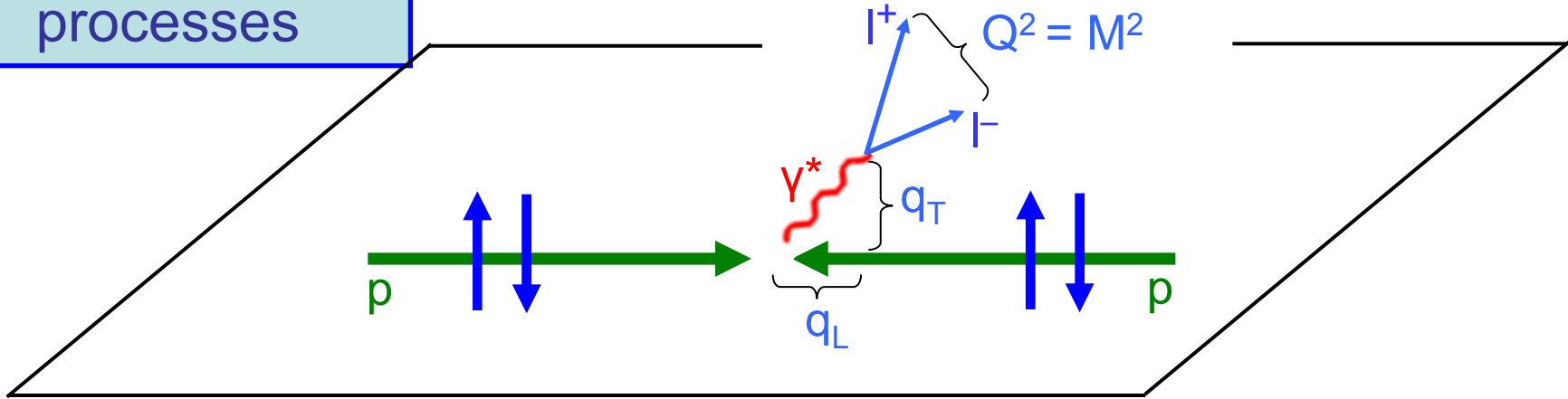


$$Q^2 = 25 \text{ GeV}^2$$

$$Q_0^2 = 0.23 \text{ GeV}^2$$

V. Barone, T. Calarco, A. Drago

h_1 in Drell-Yan processes



Elementary LO interaction:

$$q\bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma^* \rightarrow l^+l^-$$

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dM^2 dx_F} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{9M^2 s} \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2} \sum_a e_a^2 [q_a(x_1)\bar{q}_a(x_2) + \bar{q}_a(x_1)q_a(x_2)]$$

$$x_F = x_1 - x_2 \quad x_1 x_2 = M^2 / s \equiv \tau \quad x_F = 2q_L / \sqrt{s}$$

3 planes: plane \perp polarization vectors,
 p - γ^* plane, l^+l^- γ^* plane



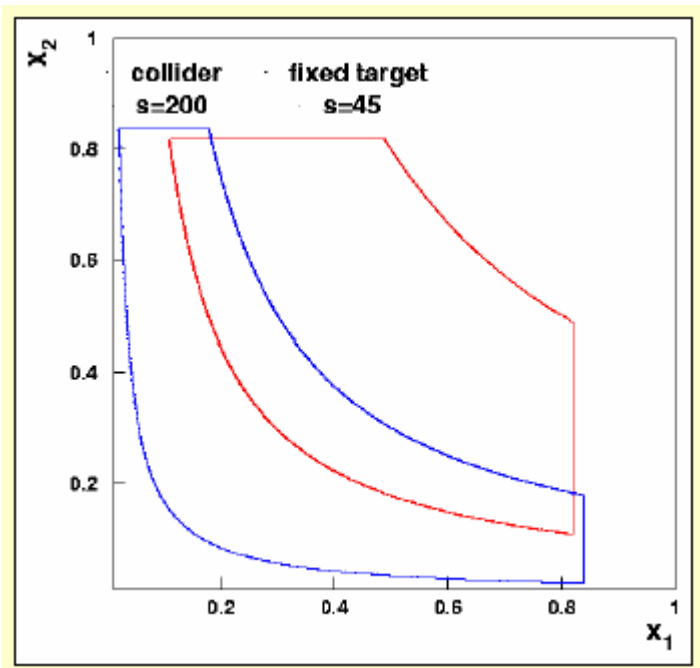
plenty of spin effects

h_1 from $p^\uparrow \bar{p}^\uparrow \rightarrow l^+ l^- X$ at GSI

$$A_{TT} = \hat{a}_{TT} \frac{\sum_q e_q^2 [h_{1q}(x_1)h_{1q}(x_2) + h_{1\bar{q}}(x_1)h_{1\bar{q}}(x_2)]}{\sum_q e_q^2 [q(x_1)q(x_2) + \bar{q}(x_1)\bar{q}(x_2)]} \approx \hat{a}_{TT} \frac{h_{1u}(x_1)h_{1u}(x_2)}{u(x_1)u(x_2)}$$

large x_1, x_2

GSI energies: $s = 30 - 210 \text{ GeV}^2$ $M \geq 2 \text{ GeV}^2$

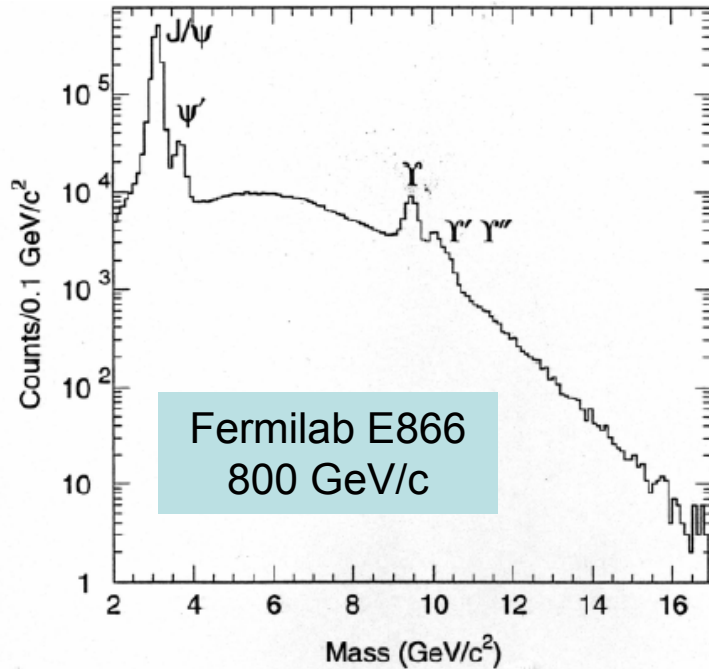


one measures h_1 in the quark valence region: A_{TT} is estimated to be large, between 0.2 and 0.4

PAX proposal: hep-ex/0505054

$s = 210 \text{ GeV}^2$ is best energy (talk by P. Reimer at workshop)

Energy for Drell-Yan processes



"safe region": $M \geq M_{J/\Psi}$



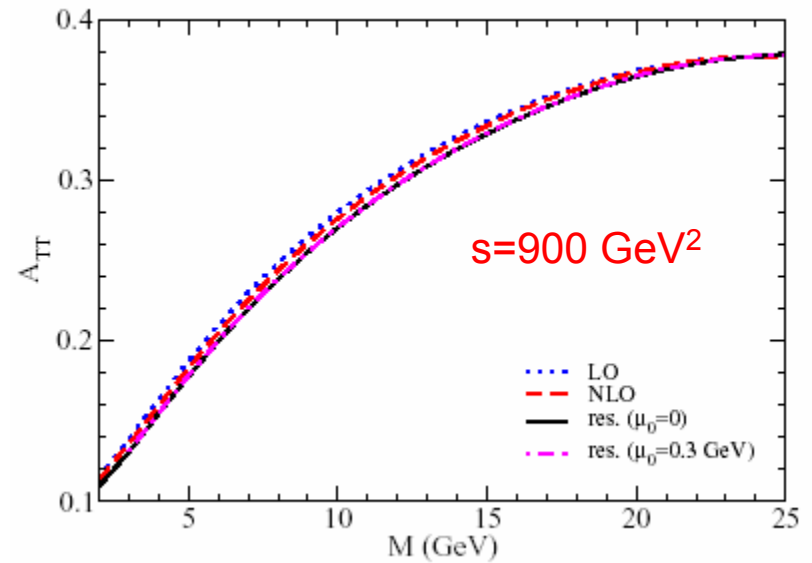
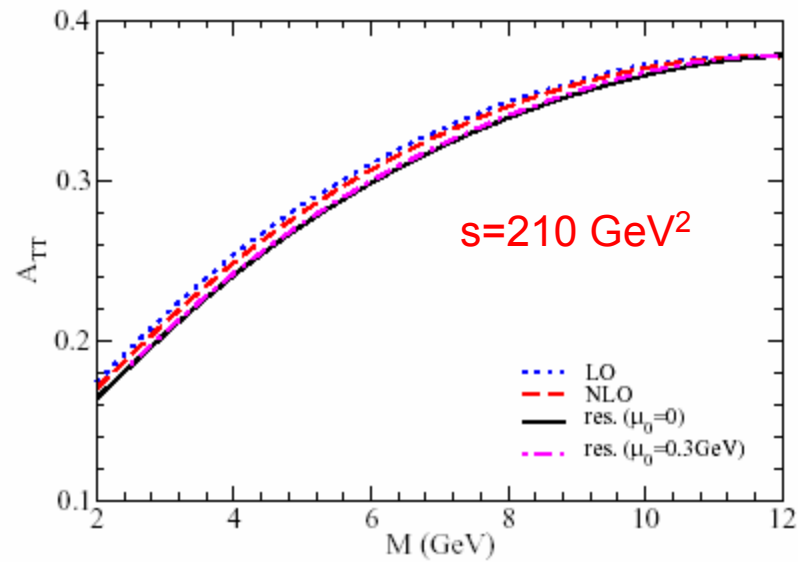
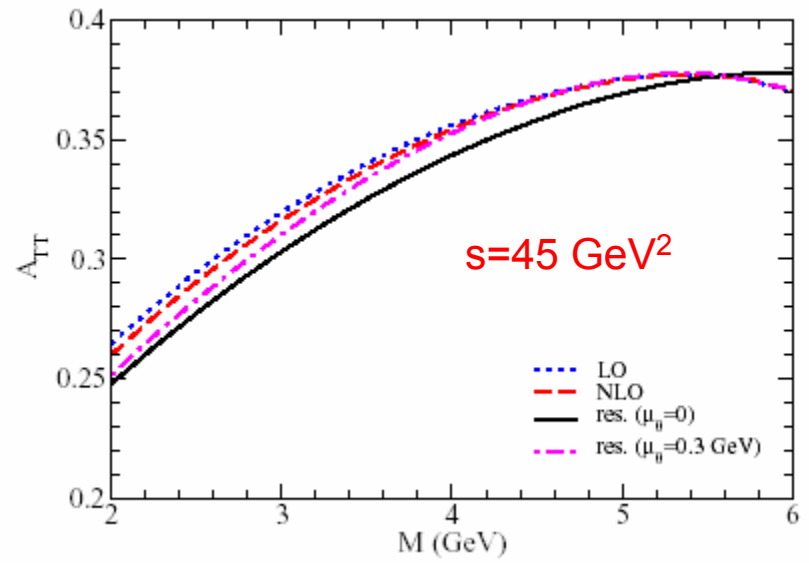
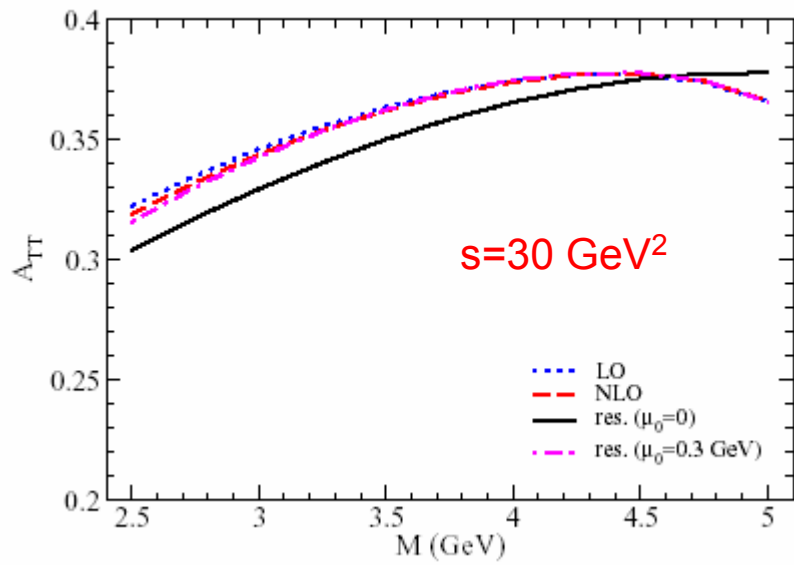
$$\tau \geq \frac{M^2_{J/\Psi}}{S}$$

QCD corrections might be very large at smaller values of M :

yes, for cross-sections, not for A_{TT}
K-factor almost spin-independent

H. Shimizu, G. Sterman, W. Vogelsang and H. Yokoya, hep-ph/0503270

V. Barone et al., in preparation



Alternative accesses to transversity

Inclusive Λ production and measure of Λ polarization

$$P_\Lambda \propto h_1(x) \otimes \Delta_T D(z) \quad (\text{transverse fragmentation function})$$

Two pion production: $I p^\uparrow \rightarrow \pi \pi X$

$$d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow \propto h_1(x) \otimes \delta q_I(z, p_\perp) \quad (\text{interference fragmentation function})$$

Vector meson production: $I p^\uparrow \rightarrow \rho X$

$$\rho_{10}(V) \propto h_1(x) \otimes D_{1,0}^{+,-}(z, p_\perp) \quad (\text{generalized fragmentation function})$$

Inclusive hadronic production: $p p^\uparrow \rightarrow \pi X$

$$d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow \propto h_1(x) \otimes \Delta^N D_{\pi/q^\uparrow}(z, p_\perp) \quad (\text{problematic})$$

Single Spin Asymmetry in D-Y processes

$$d\sigma^\uparrow - d\sigma^\downarrow \propto h_1(x) \otimes h_1^\perp(z, p_\perp) \quad (\text{Boer-Mulders function})$$

The spin story goes on

Polarization data has often been the graveyard of fashionable theories. If theorists had their way, they might just ban such measurements altogether out of self-protection.

J.D. Bjorken
St. Croix, 1987

Spin is one of the most fundamental concepts in physics, deeply rooted in Poincare invariance and hence in the structure of space-time itself. All elementary particles we know today carry spin, among them the particles that are subject to the strong interactions, the spin-1/2 quarks and the spin-1 gluons. Spin, therefore, plays a central role also in our theory of the strong interactions, Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD), and to understand spin phenomena in QCD will help to understand QCD itself.

RHIC proposal
2005