Stony Brook University PHENIX UCLA

Measurement of Direct Photon Cross Section and Double Helicity Asymmetry at $\sqrt{s} = 510$ GeV in $\vec{p} + \vec{p}$ Collisions at PHENIX

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This work was done while as a graduate student at Stony Brook University

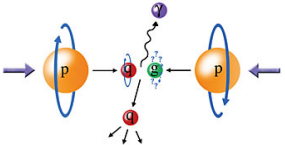
25th International Spin Symposium

September 26, 2023

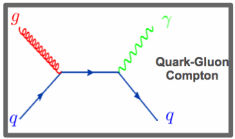
Outline

1. Motivations
2. Experimental setup
3. Direct photon cross section
4. Direct photon double helicity asymmetry
5. Summary

Direct photon as the "golden" channel



$$A_{LL}^{pp\to\gamma X} \sim \frac{\Delta q(x_q)}{q(x_q)} \cdot \frac{\Delta g(x_g)}{g(x_g)} \cdot a_{LL}^{qg\to\gamma q}$$



- $A_{LL} = \frac{\Delta\sigma}{\sigma} = \frac{\sigma_{++} - \sigma_{+-}}{\sigma_{++} + \sigma_{+-}}$
- Little fragmentation contributions

- "Golden" channel
- Linear in Δg: probe the sign of gluon spin

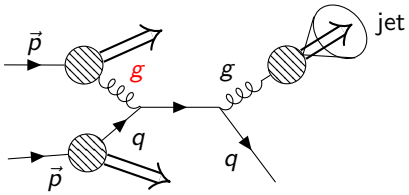
Challenges in the direct photon measurement:

- Low statistics
- π^0 decay photon merging at high p_T in the EMCal detector

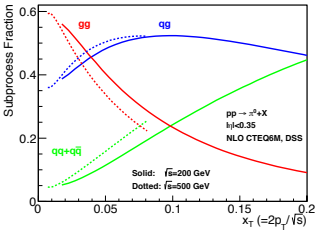
Advantages at PHENIX with RHIC running period of year 2013:

- The largest integrated luminosity (155 pb^{-1}) in $\vec{p} + \vec{p}$
- EMCal with fine granularity to separate π^0 decay photons up to p_T of 12 GeV/c, and a shower profile analysis extends the γ/π^0 discrimination to 30 GeV/c

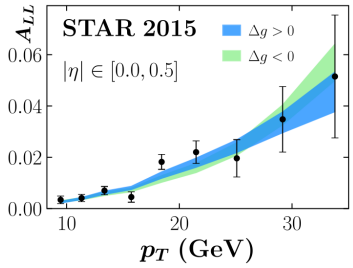
Jet and charged pion productions



Jet production

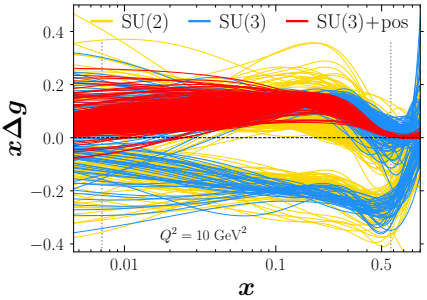


- Fragmentation introducing syst. err.
- Both quark-gluon and gluon-gluon scattering
- Unable to decide the sign of Δg
- Right fig.: Jet A_{LL} [PRD 105, 074022 (2022)]



From A_{LL} to Δg

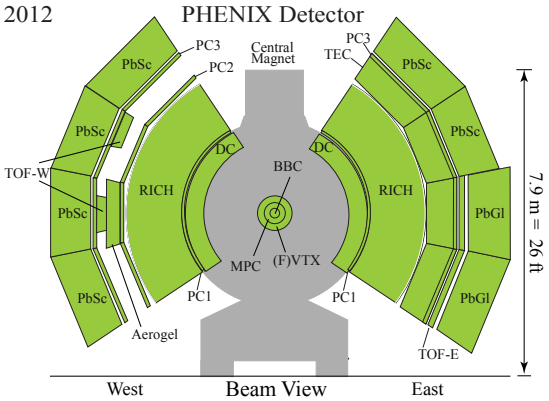
- Existing RHIC data mainly probe $0.05 < x_g < 0.2$
- PHENIX π^0 A_{LL} at 510 GeV confirms a nonzero Δg and extend x_g to 0.01
- STAR jet data clearly imply a polarization of gluons in this range
- Existing inclusive DIS and p+p jet A_{LL} data cannot decide the sign of Δg
- Direct photon is good at separating $\Delta g > 0$ and $\Delta g < 0$
- First published direct photon A_{LL} result [PRL 130, 251901 (2023)]



PRD 105, 074022 (2022)
No SIDIS or RHIC pion data

PHENIX detector

- Pseudorapidity $|\eta| < 0.35$
- Azimuthal angle ϕ: π radians coverage
- Electromagnetic Calorimeter (EMCal):
  - primary detector for photons
- EMCal trigger:
  - Select high energy photons
- Drift Chamber (DC):
  - Measure charged particle momenta
  - Charge veto criteria.



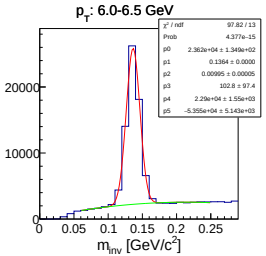
Direct photon signal extraction

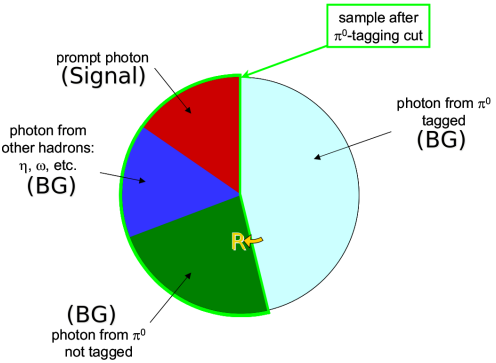
Source of direct photon:

- Compton scattering: $g + q \rightarrow \gamma + q$
- Annihilation: $q + \bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma + g$
- Parton fragmentation to photon
- Quark bremsstrahlung

Source of direct photon background:

- Decay photons from mesons (π^0, η, ω, η')

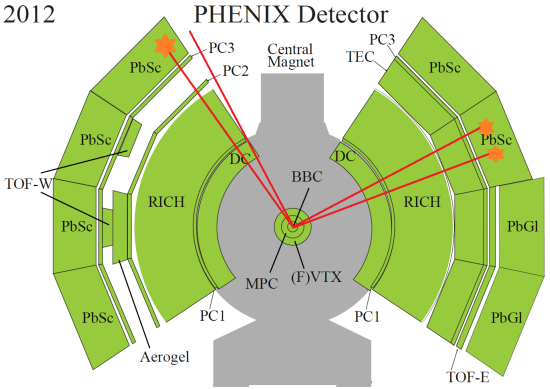




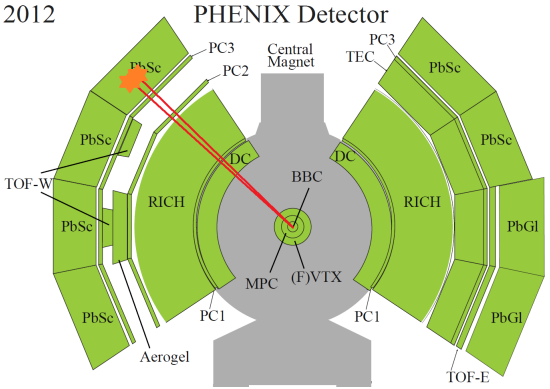
Yield of direct photon:

- $N_{dir} = N_{total} - (1 + A)(1 + R)N_{\pi^0}$
  - R: π^0 one photon missing ratio
  - A: Other hadrons' to π^0's photon ratio

Contamination of direct photon sample

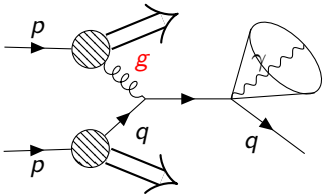


Missing partner of the decay photon
Acceptance limitations



Merging of the decay photons
Resolution limitations

Identifying direct photon through isolation

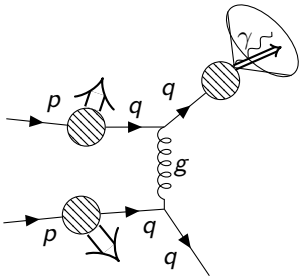


$$r_{\text{cone}} = \sqrt{(\delta\eta)^2 + (\delta\phi)^2} = 0.5$$

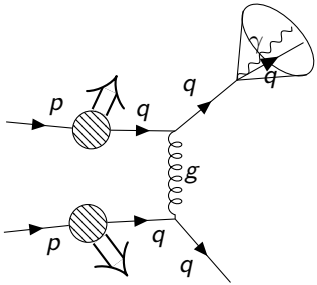
Isolation cut requirement:

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

Quark-gluon Compton scattering: Easy to pass isolation cut



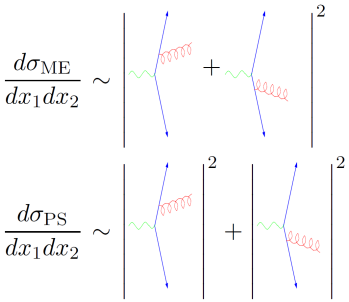
Fragmentation: Hard to pass isolation cut

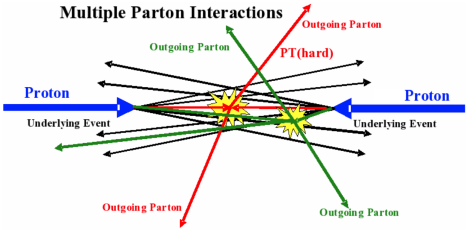


Bremsstrahlung: Hard to pass isolation cut

POWHEG + PYTHIA8 for xsec

- Parton shower (PS) in PYTHIA8: leading log; no interference
- Matrix element (ME) at NLO in POWHEG: with interference
- NLO output (ME) of POWHEG as input (PS) of PYTHIA8
- Overlapping between ME and PS is vetoed in PYTHIA8





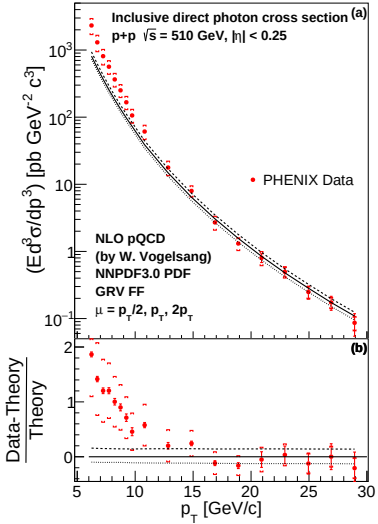
- Multiparton interactions (MPI) in PYTHIA8:

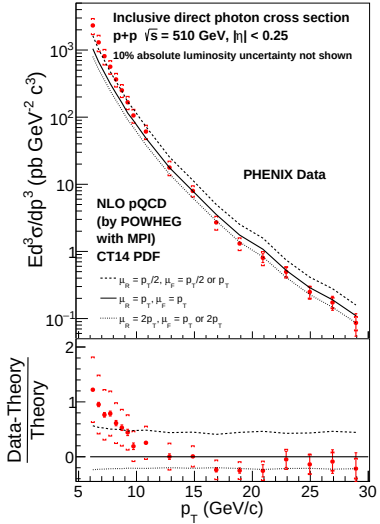
$$\frac{d\mathcal{P}_{\rm MPI}}{dp_\perp} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{\rm ND}} \frac{d\sigma_{2\to 2}}{dp_\perp} \exp\left(- \int_{p_\perp}^{p_{\perp i-1}} \frac{1}{\sigma_{\rm ND}} \frac{d\sigma_{2\to 2}}{dp'_\perp} dp'_\perp \right)$$

- $\sigma_{\rm ND} \simeq \sigma_{\rm BBC}$ is the nondiffractive xsec

Inclusive xsec at 510 GeV

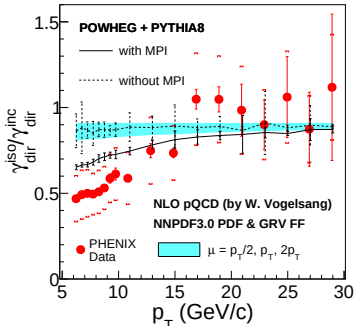
- PRL 130, 251901 (2023)
- NLO pQCD underestimates the data by a factor of $\sim$3 at low p_T
- POWHEG + PYTHIY8 with MPI and parton shower gives better description of data

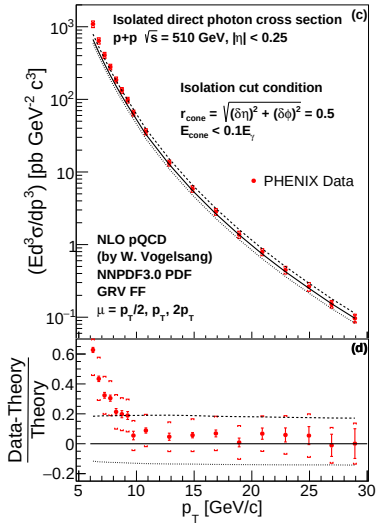




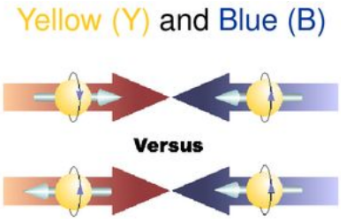
Isolated xsec at 510 GeV

- PRL 130, 251901 (2023)
- Cross section consistent with NLO pQCD
- MPI is important to explain the data/theory discrepancy at low p_T
- Constrain unpolarized gluon density function





Double helicity asymmetry A_{LL}



$$A_{LL} = \frac{\Delta\sigma}{\sigma} = \frac{\sigma_{++} + \sigma_{--} - \sigma_{+-} - \sigma_{-+}}{\sigma_{++} + \sigma_{--} + \sigma_{+-} + \sigma_{-+}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{P_B P_Y} \frac{N_{++} - RN_{+-}}{N_{++} + RN_{+-}}, \quad R = \frac{L_{++}}{L_{+-}}$$

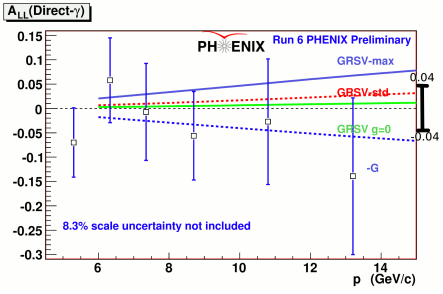
$$A_{LL}^{\text{dir}} = \frac{A_{LL}^{\text{total}} - r_{\pi^0} A_{LL}^{\pi^0} - r_h A_{LL}^{h}}{1 - r_{\pi^0} - r_h}$$

Measured in a run-by-run basis
Separated for 4 spin patterns
Separated for even and odd crossings
4 spin patterns $\times$ 2 crossings $=$ 8 groups

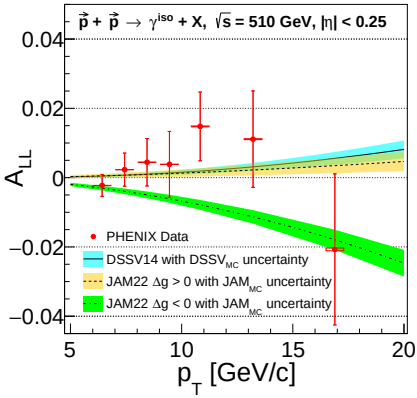
Crossing:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Blue:	+	+	−	−	+	+	−	−
Yellow:	+	+	+	+	−	−	−	−

Direct photon A_{LL} [PRL 130, 251901]

- Consistent with DSSV14
- $\chi^2(\Delta g > 0) = 4.7$
- $\chi^2(\Delta g < 0) = 12.6$
- Neg. sol. disfavored at $\sim 2.8\sigma$
- Much smaller uncertainty



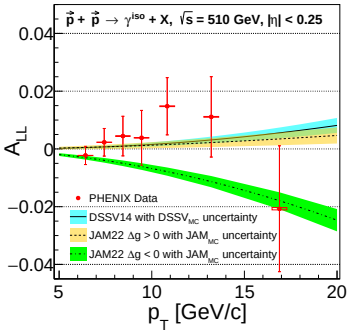
Not published [Bennett, PhD thesis (2009)]

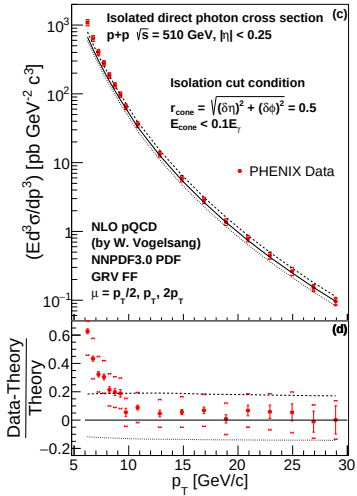


Code for JAM curves from W. Vogelsang
JAM PDF from [PRD 106, L031502 (2022)]

Summary [PRL 130, 251901 (2023)]

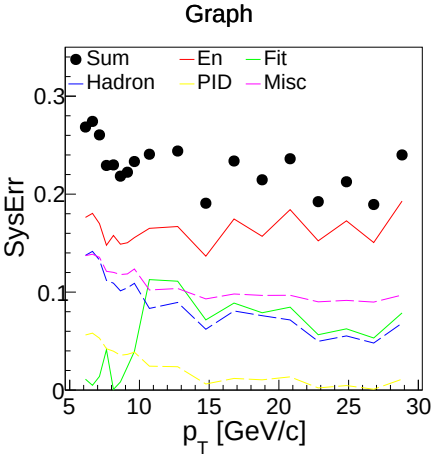
- Gluon spin is important for proton spin decomposition
- Direct photons have little fragmentation contributions
- Clearly favor the positive gluon spin contribution
- First direct photon xsec and A_{LL} at 510 GeV



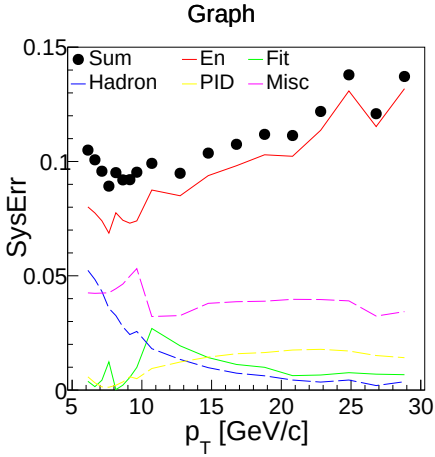


Backup

Systematic uncertainties of cross sections

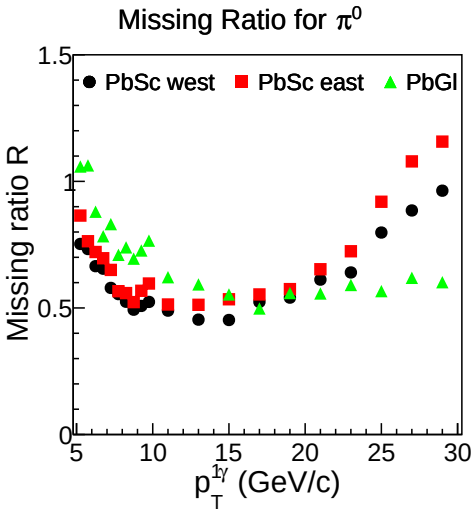


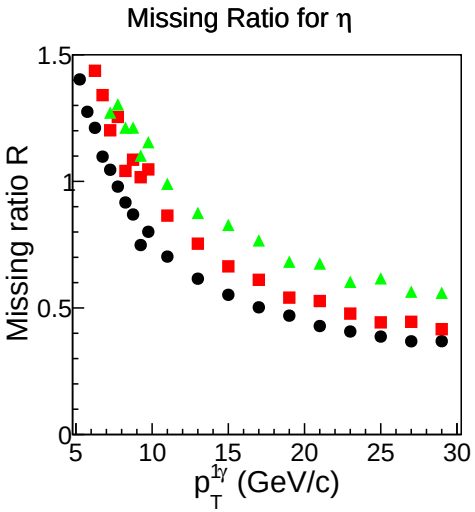
Inclusive cross section



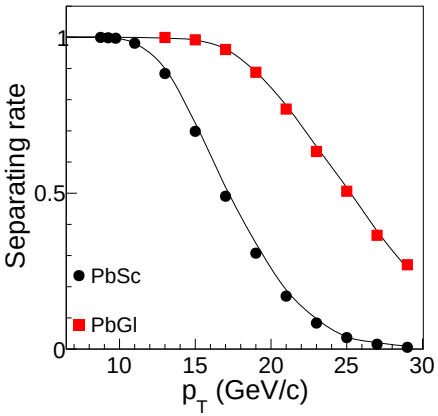
Isolated cross section

π^0 and η missing ratios

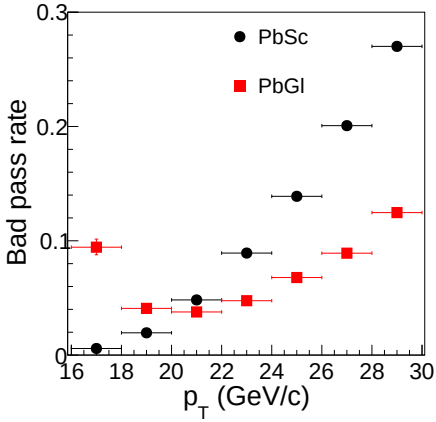




π^0 decay photon separating rate

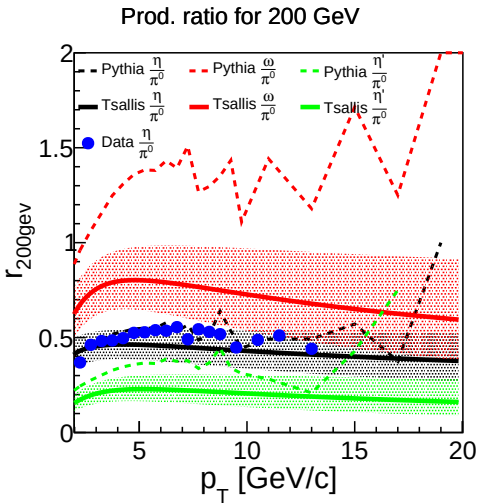


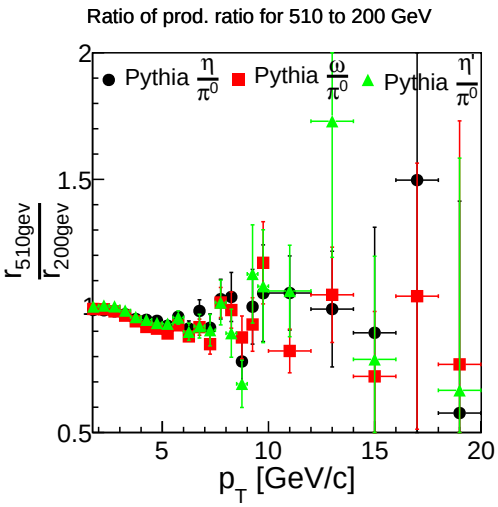
Two-photon separating rate



Merged-photon passing criteria rate

Other meson production rate



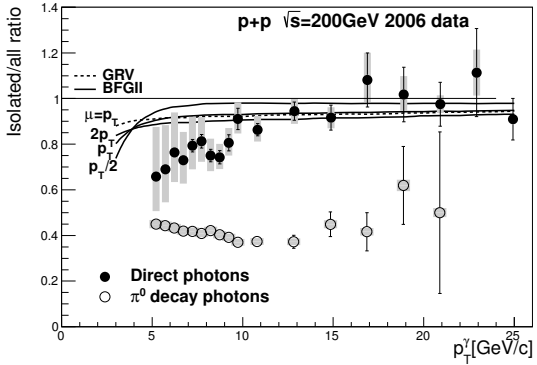


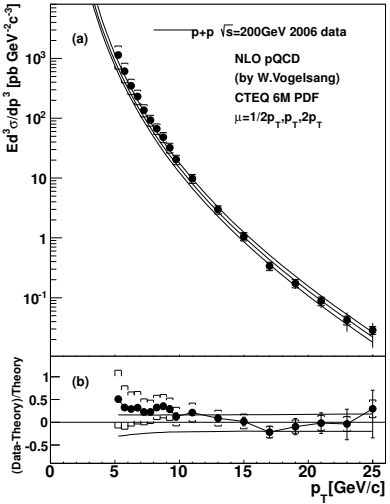
Other meson decay photon ratios

Particle	Production ratio	Branching ratio	γ ratio
$\frac{\eta}{\pi^0}$	0.5 ± 0.1	$\frac{\mathrm{Br}(\eta \to 2\gamma \vert \pi^+\pi^-\gamma)}{\mathrm{Br}(\pi^0 \to 2\gamma)} = \frac{39.4+4.2/2}{98.8}$	0.21 ± 0.04
$\frac{\omega}{\pi^0}$	0.8 ± 0.3	$\frac{\mathrm{Br}(\omega \to \pi^0\gamma)}{\mathrm{Br}(\pi^0 \to 2\gamma)} = \frac{8.4/2}{98.8}$	0.034 ± 0.013
$\frac{\eta'}{\pi^0}$	0.2 ± 0.1	$\frac{\mathrm{Br}(\eta' \to \rho^0\gamma \vert \omega\gamma \vert 2\gamma)}{\mathrm{Br}(\pi^0 \to 2\gamma)} = \frac{28.9/2+2.6/2+2.2}{98.8}$	0.036 ± 0.018
Sum	-	-	0.28 ± 0.05

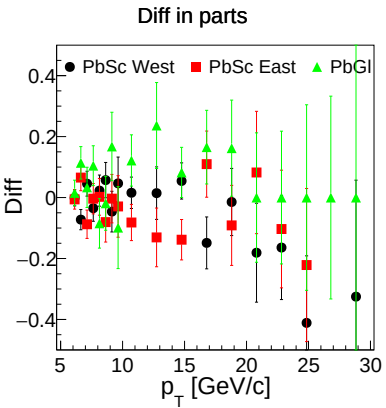
Previous inclusive xsec at 200 GeV

- Cross section consistent with NLO pQCD
- NLO pQCD overestimates isolated/inclusive ratio
- PHENIX, PRD 86, 072008 (2012)

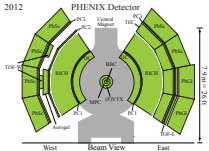


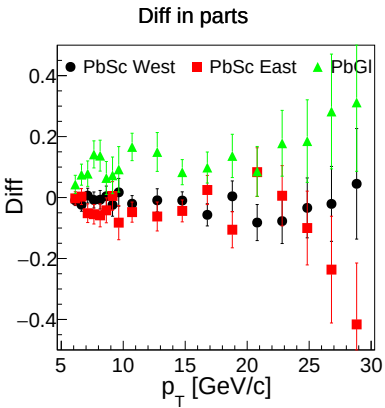


Cross check between three EMCal subsystems (PbScW, PbScE, PbGl)



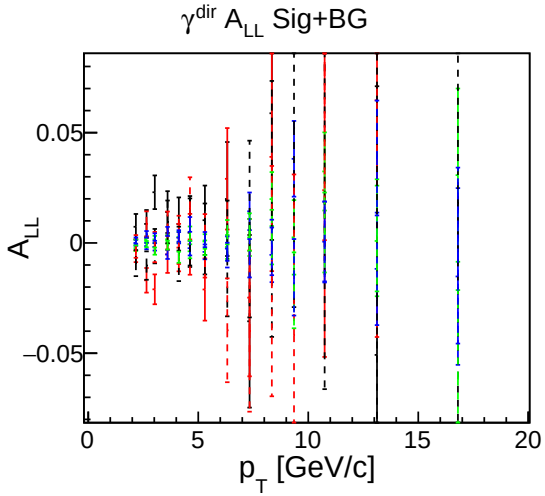
Inclusive cross section





Isolated cross sections

Cross check between the 8 groups

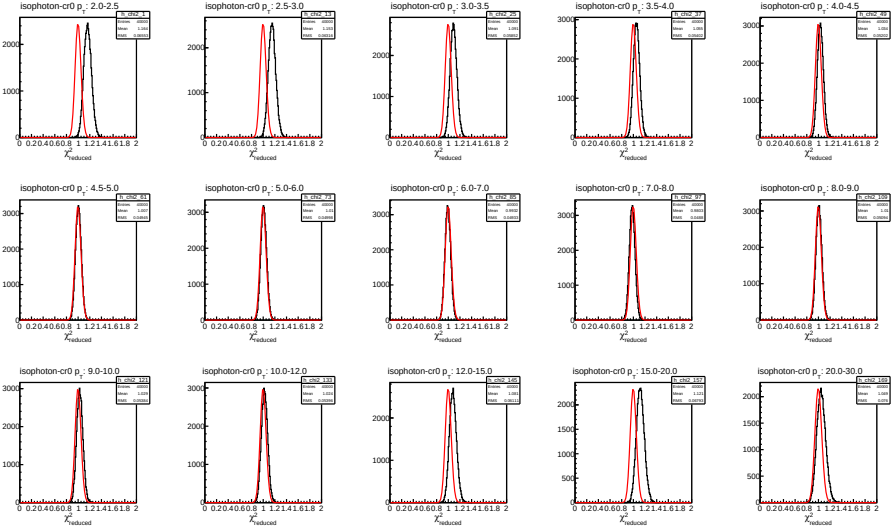


8 colors for the 8 groups

$$F = \frac{\text{between-group variabilty}}{\text{within-group variabilty}}$$

p_T [GeV]	F	p
2-2.5	1.125	0.3445
2.5-3	3.452	0.001132
3-3.5	4.174	0.0001452
3.5-4	2.546	0.01316
4-4.5	1.545	0.1477
4.5-5	1.501	0.1624
5-6	0.6462	0.7178
6-7	1.047	0.3962
7-8	0.9306	0.4815
8-9	0.6235	0.7369
9-10	1.434	0.1875
10-12	0.8384	0.5553
12-15	0.7312	0.6455
15-20	0.812	0.5773

Bunch shuffling results



A_L cross checks