

Two-Photon Exchange in DIS & SIDIS

Dave Gaskell, Tyler Hague, and **Michael Nycz**

Positron Working Group Workshop

March 25th 2025



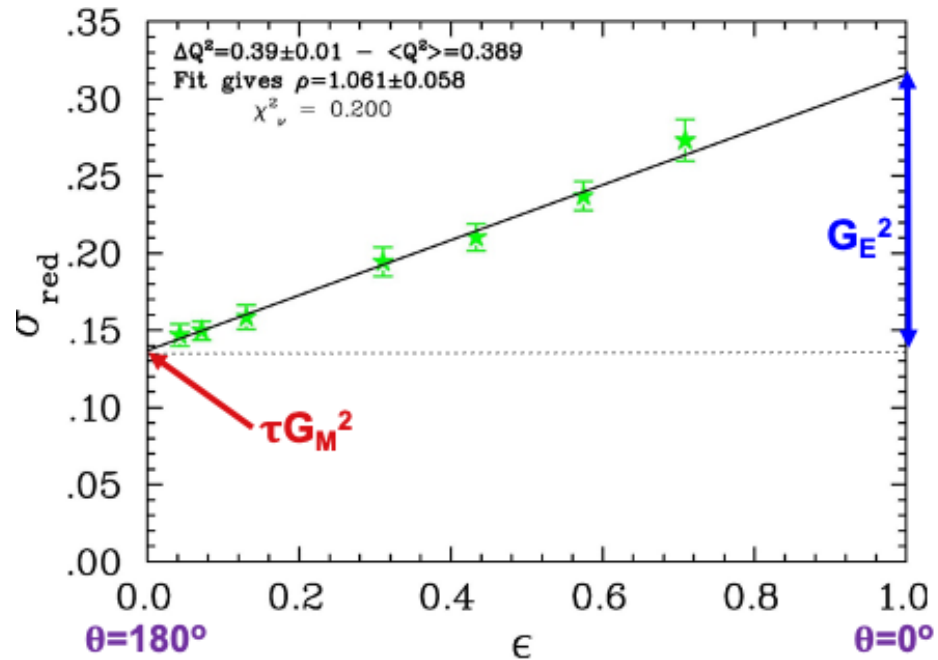
Outline

- Motivation I
 - Elastic Scattering
- Motivation II
 - Importance of studying TPE in Deep Inelastic Scattering & SIDIS
 - Summary of our current understanding of TPE in DIS & SIDIS
- Experimental Plan
 - Summary and Conclusion

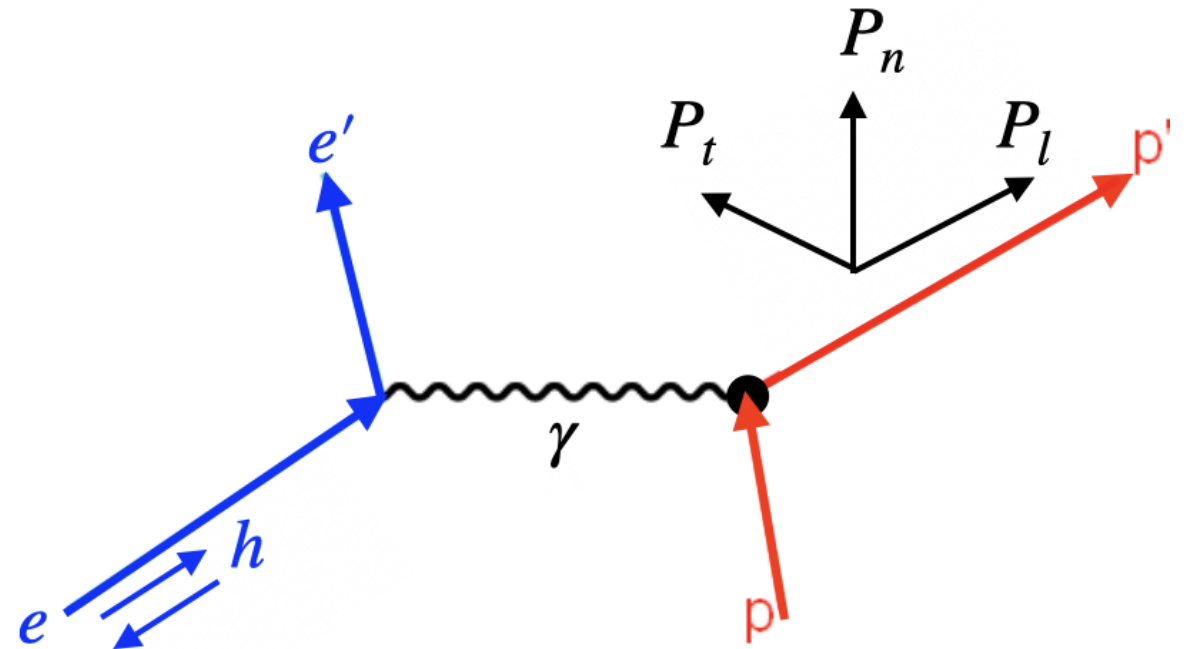
G_E/G_M

$$\sigma_R = d\sigma/d\Omega[\varepsilon(1 + \tau)/\sigma_{Mott}]$$

$$\sigma_R = \tau G_M^2(Q^2 + \varepsilon G_E^2)$$



$$\frac{G_E}{G_M} = -\frac{P_t E + E'}{P_l 2M} \tan\left(\theta_e/2\right)$$

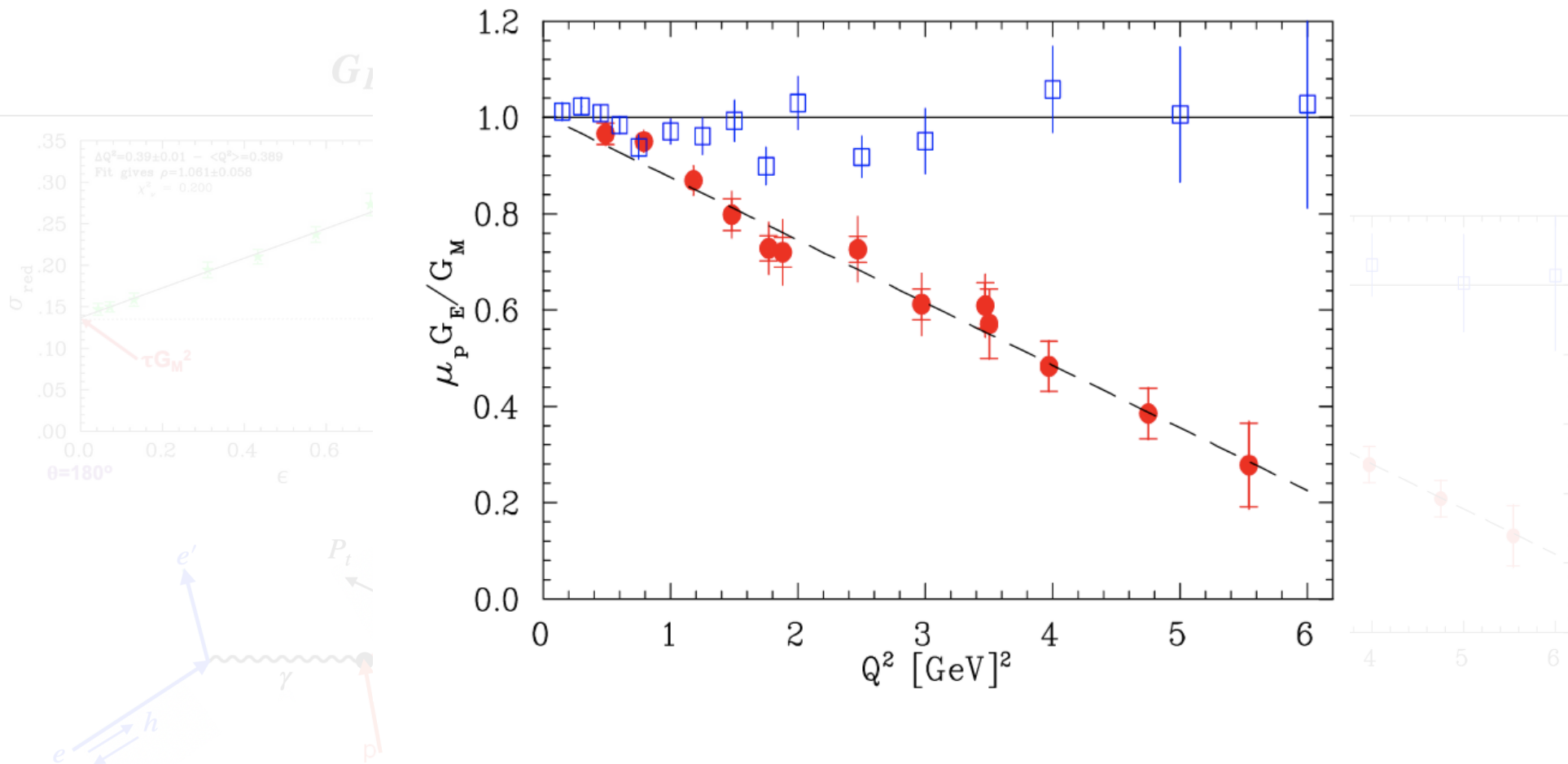


G_E/G_M

VOLUME 84, NUMBER 7

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

14 FEBRUARY 2000

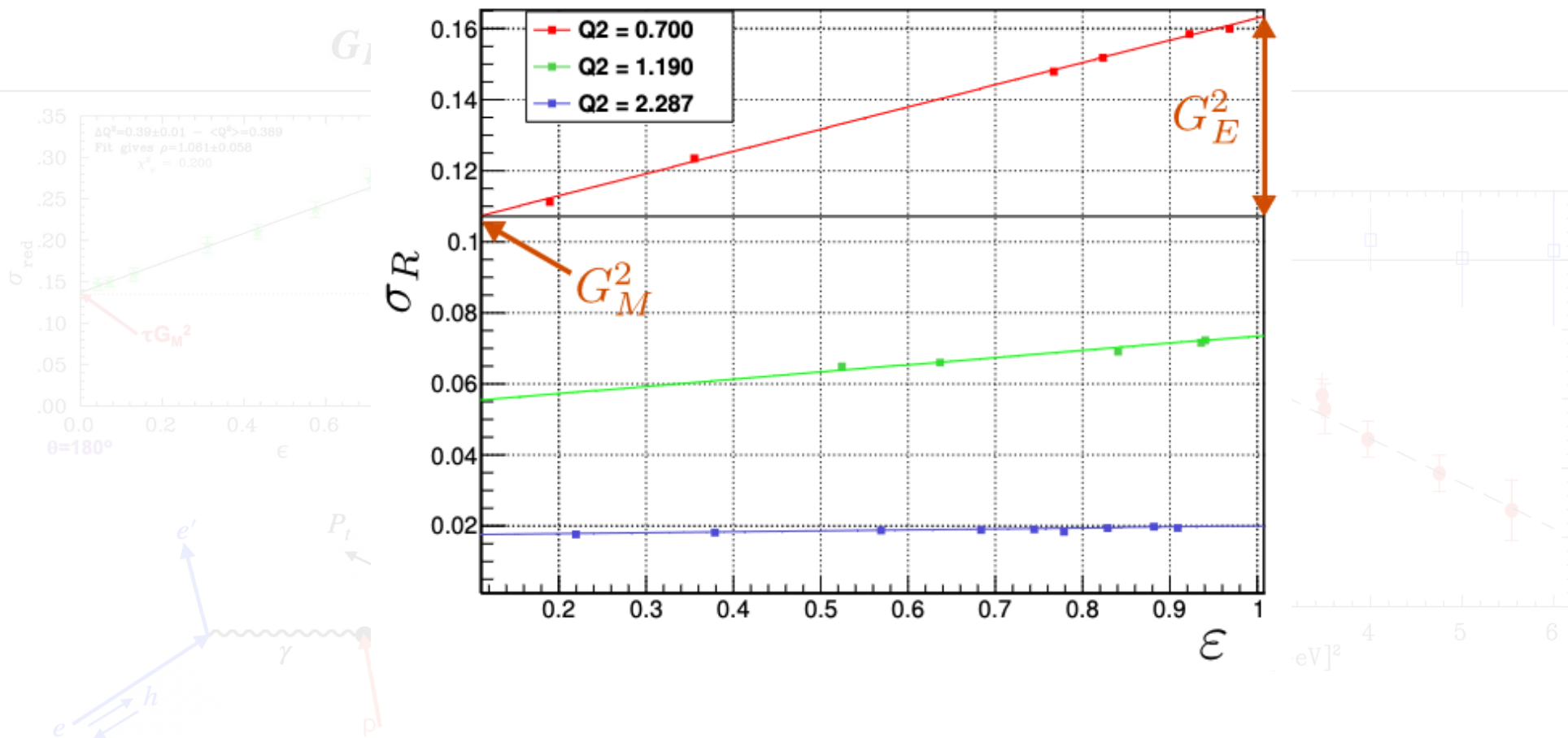


Two-Photon Exchange

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Elastic Two-Photon Exchange Measurements

Cross section ratio: $\frac{e^+}{e^-}$

$$R \equiv \frac{\sigma^+}{\sigma^-} = \frac{|M_{1\gamma} + M_{2\gamma}|^2}{|M_{1\gamma} - M_{2\gamma}|^2} \rightarrow R_{2\gamma} = 1 - 2\delta_{2\gamma}$$

or

Comparison of Super-Rosenbluth e^+ & e^- measurements

Sensitive to the **Real** part of TPE

Beam- and Target- Normal SSA

$$A_n \propto 2\text{Im}(M_{1\gamma}M_{2\gamma}^*)$$
$$A_n = \frac{\sigma^\uparrow - \sigma^\downarrow}{\sigma^\uparrow + \sigma^\downarrow}$$

- Asymmetry is 0 at Born level (Single-Photon)
- No restrictions for multi-photon exchange (TPE)

Sensitive to the **Imaginary** part of TPE

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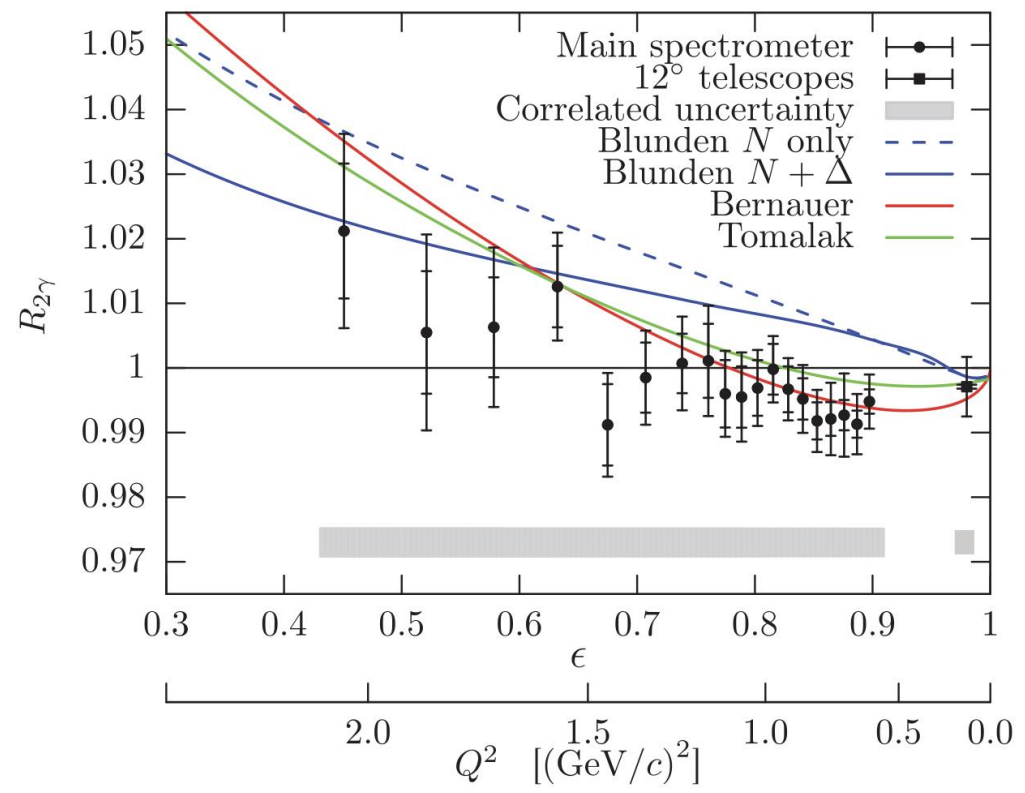
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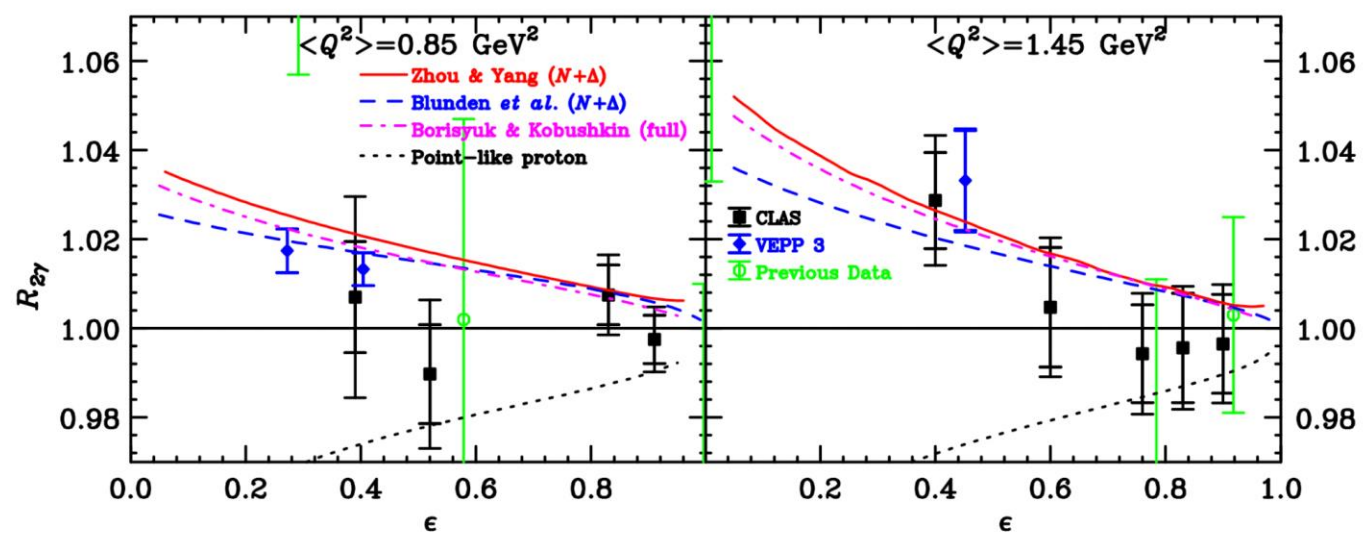
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Elastic Two-Photon Exchange Measurements: $\frac{e^+}{e^-}$



B. S. Henderson et al. (OLYMPUS Collaboration)



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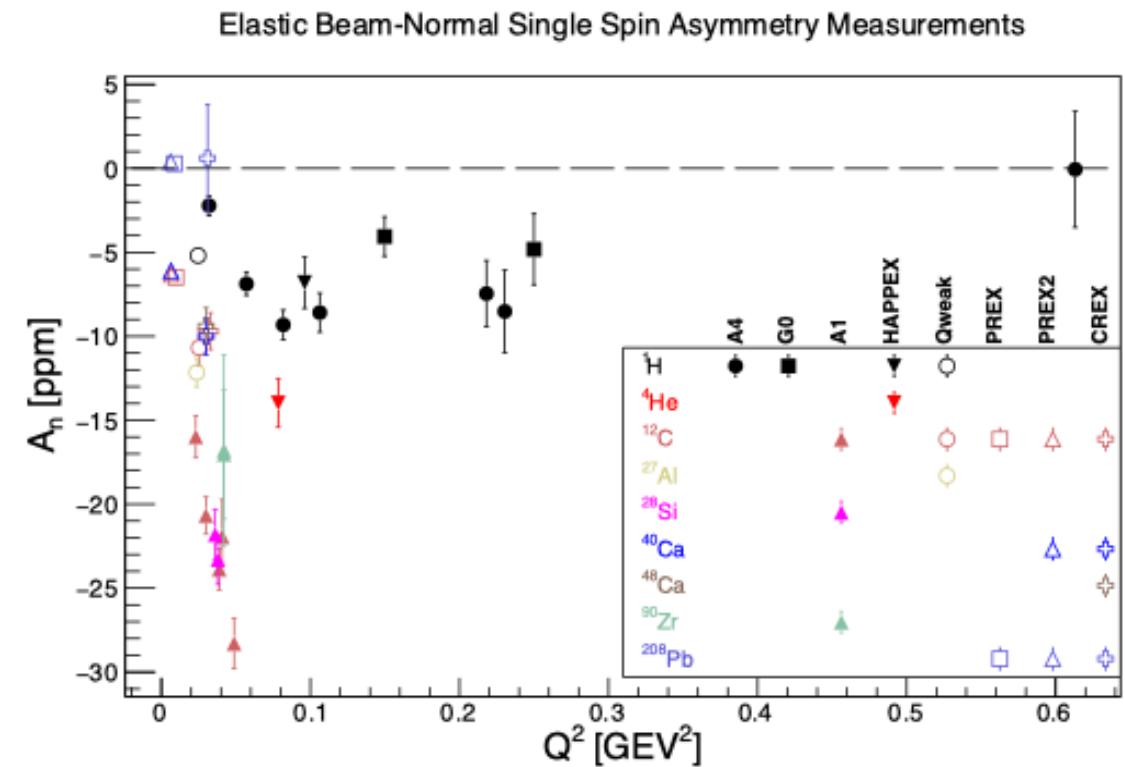
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- No restrictions for multi-photon exchange (TPE)

Sensitive to the **Imaginary** part of TPE

Elastic Two-Photon Exchange Measurements: BNSSA

- Large number of measurements for A_n
 - Non-zero asymmetry
 - Measured for range of light & heavy nuclei
- Measurements made in low Q^2 region
 - $Q^2 < 0.7 \text{ GeV}^2$



Summary from Elastic Scattering

- Large discrepancy between measurements of $\frac{G_E}{G_M}$
 - Discrepancy grows with Q^2
- Experimental
 - $\frac{e^+}{e^-}$ experiments – inconclusive
 - BNSSA – non-zero but cover a limited Q^2 range
- Theory
 - No consensus on size of the effect or the ε & Q^2 dependence

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Broad consensus: Two-Photon Exchange effects causing the discrepancy

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- Large discrepancy between measurements of $\frac{G_E}{G_M}$

- Discrepancy grows with Q^2

- Experimental

Would Two-Photon Exchange only be important for elastic scattering?

- BNSSA – non-zero but cover a limited Q^2 range

- Theory

- No consensus on size of the effect or the ε & Q^2 dependence



Broad consensus: Two-Photon Exchange effects causing the discrepancy

Two-Photon Exchange in DIS & SIDIS

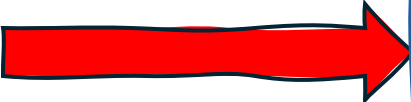
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- $\frac{G_E}{G_M}$ highlights the importance of understanding TPE effects in DIS & SIDIS

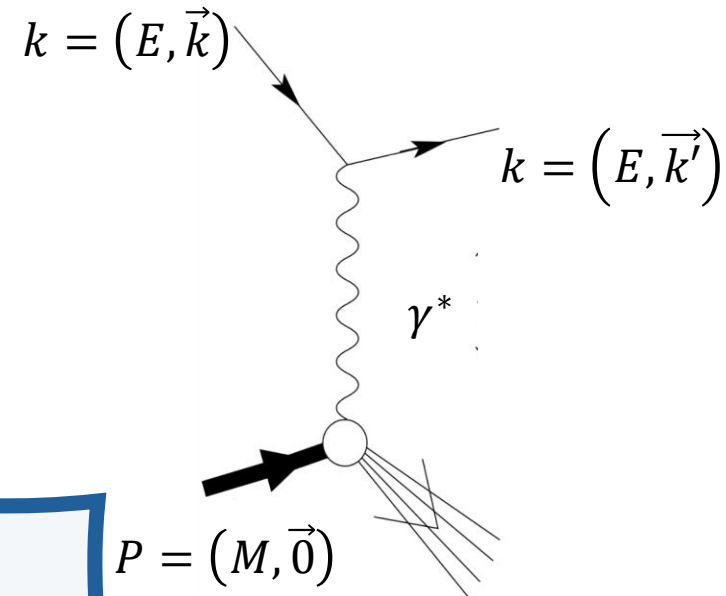
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$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega dE'} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4E^2 \sin^4\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)} \left[\frac{F_2(\nu, Q^2)}{\nu} \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) + \frac{2F_1(\nu, Q^2)}{M} \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right]$$

$$R = \frac{\sigma_L}{\sigma_T} = \frac{F_2 M}{F_1} \left[1 + \frac{\nu^2}{Q^2} \right]$$

- 
1. Cross section written in terms of F_2 & R
 2. R is assumed to be the same for all nuclei
 3. Allows to relate cross section ratio to structure function ratio
 - a. EMC effect



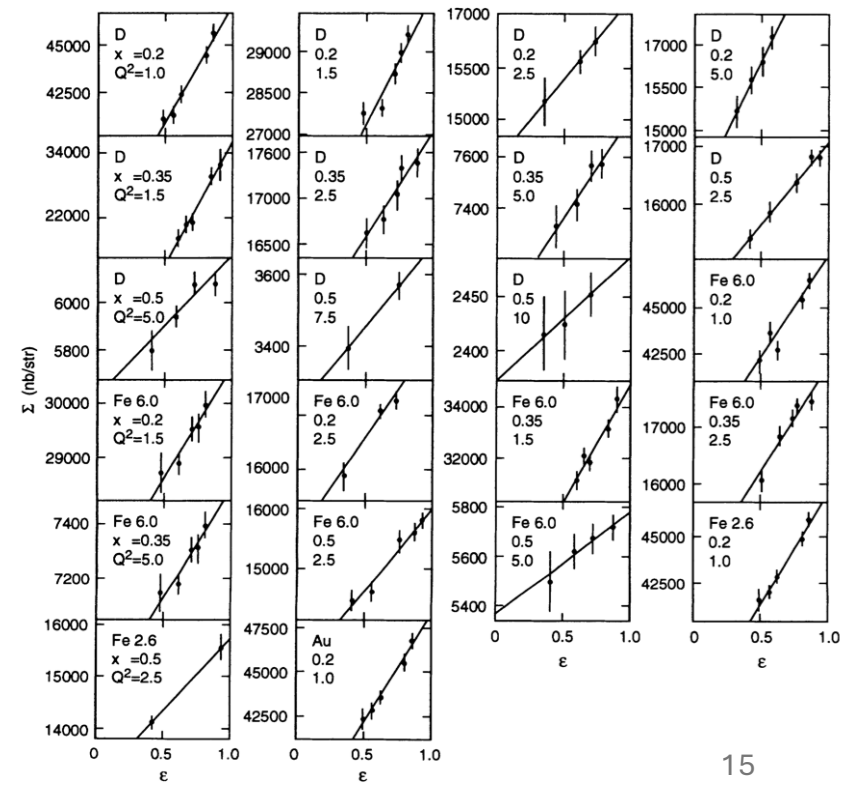
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- No corollary to polarization transfer in DIS or SIDIS
- $\frac{G_E}{G_M}$ highlights the importance of understanding TPE effects in DIS
 - Small effect can possibly have a large impact on
- Impact of TPE
 - L/T separations (Constant Q^2 and x bins)

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE'} = \Gamma[\sigma_T(x, Q^2) + \varepsilon\sigma_L(x, Q^2)]$$

$$R = \frac{\sigma_L(x, Q^2)}{\sigma_T(x, Q^2)}$$

- TPE effects
- ε dependent ?
 - At large Q^2 ?



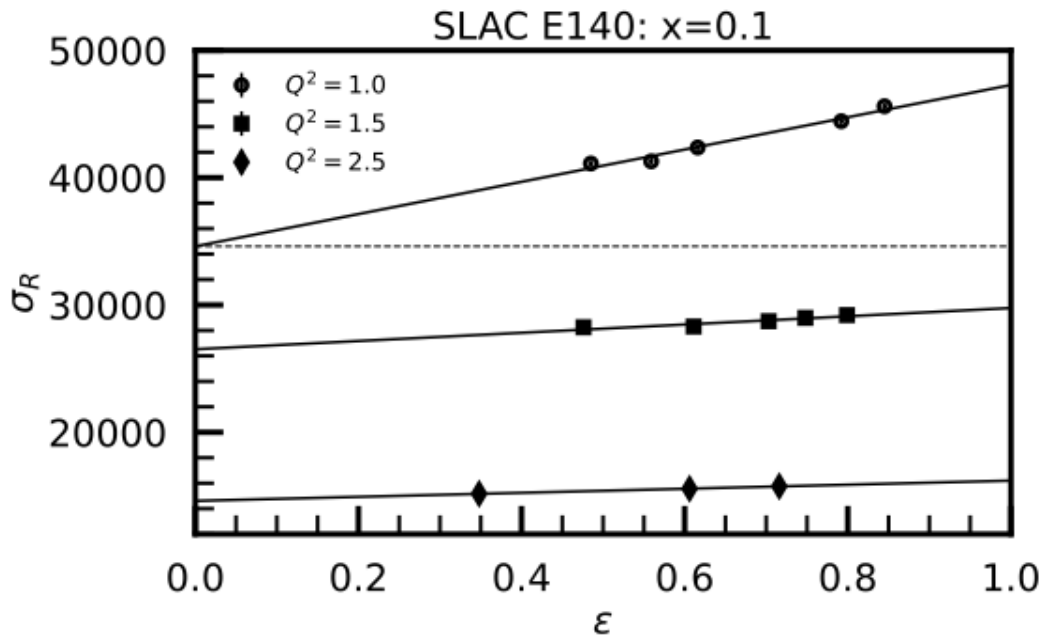
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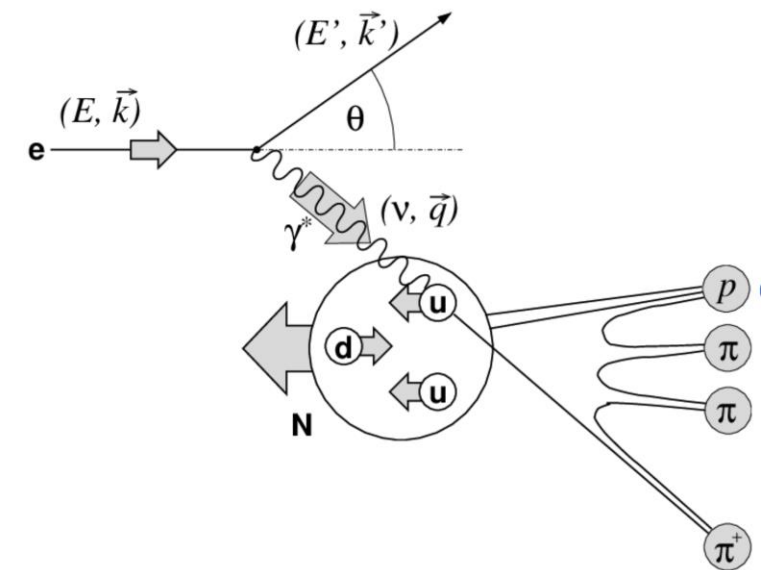
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Two-Photon Exchange in DIS & SIDIS

- No corollary to polarization transfer in DIS or SIDIS
- Elastic measurements highlight importance of understanding TPE effects in both
 - Small effect can possibly have a large impact on
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 - L/T separations: Pion electroproduction cross section

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega_\pi dM_x} = \frac{d\sigma_T}{d\Omega_\pi dM_x} + \varepsilon \frac{d\sigma_L}{d\Omega_\pi dM_x} + \varepsilon \frac{d\sigma_{TT}}{d\Omega_\pi dM_x} \cos 2\varphi_{pq} + \sqrt{2\varepsilon(1+\varepsilon)} \frac{d\sigma_{LT}}{d\Omega_\pi dM_x} \cos\varphi_{pq}$$



$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2P \cdot q}, \quad y = \frac{P \cdot q}{P \cdot l}, \quad z = \frac{P \cdot P_h}{P \cdot q}, \quad Q^2 = -q^2.$$

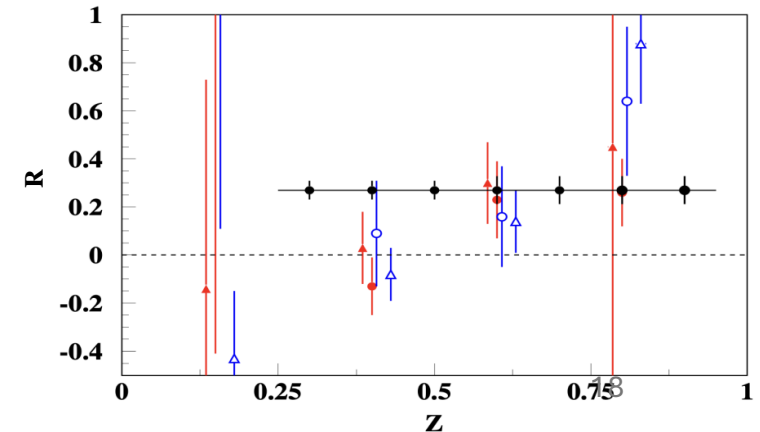
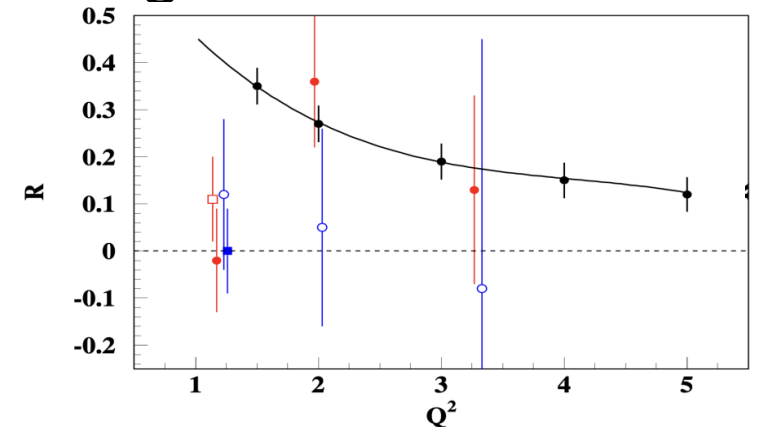
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- R_{SIDIS} is assumed to be the same as R_{DIS} ($R_{SIDIS} = R_{DIS}$)
- Possible z & p_t -dependence of R_{SIDIS} ?
- $R_{SIDIS}^{\pi^+} = R_{SIDIS}^{\pi^-}$?

Impact of TPE?



DIS Two-Photon Exchange Measurements



Ratio of $\frac{\nu W_2^+}{\nu W_2^-}$ in μ^- and μ^+ scattering

Sensitive to the **Real** part of TPE

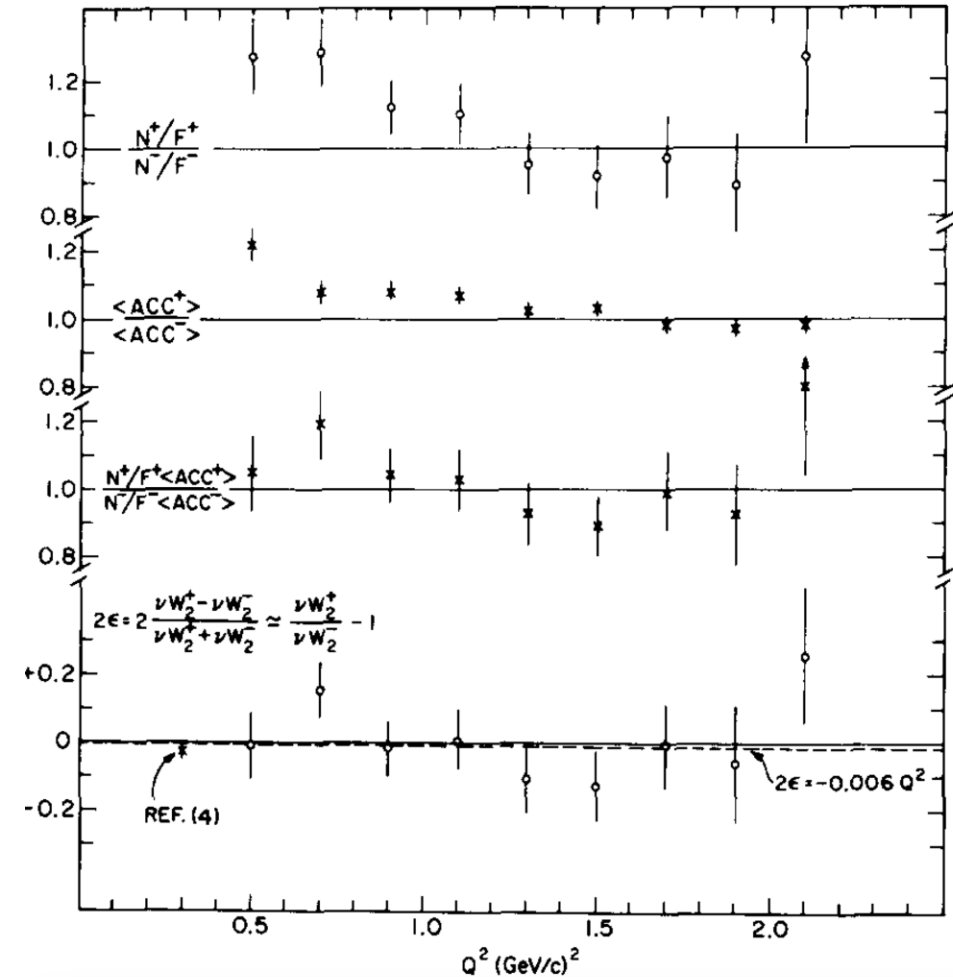
$$A_n \propto 2\text{Im}(M_{1\gamma}M_{2\gamma}^*)$$

Beam- and **Target**- Normal SSA

Sensitive to the **Imaginary** part of TPE

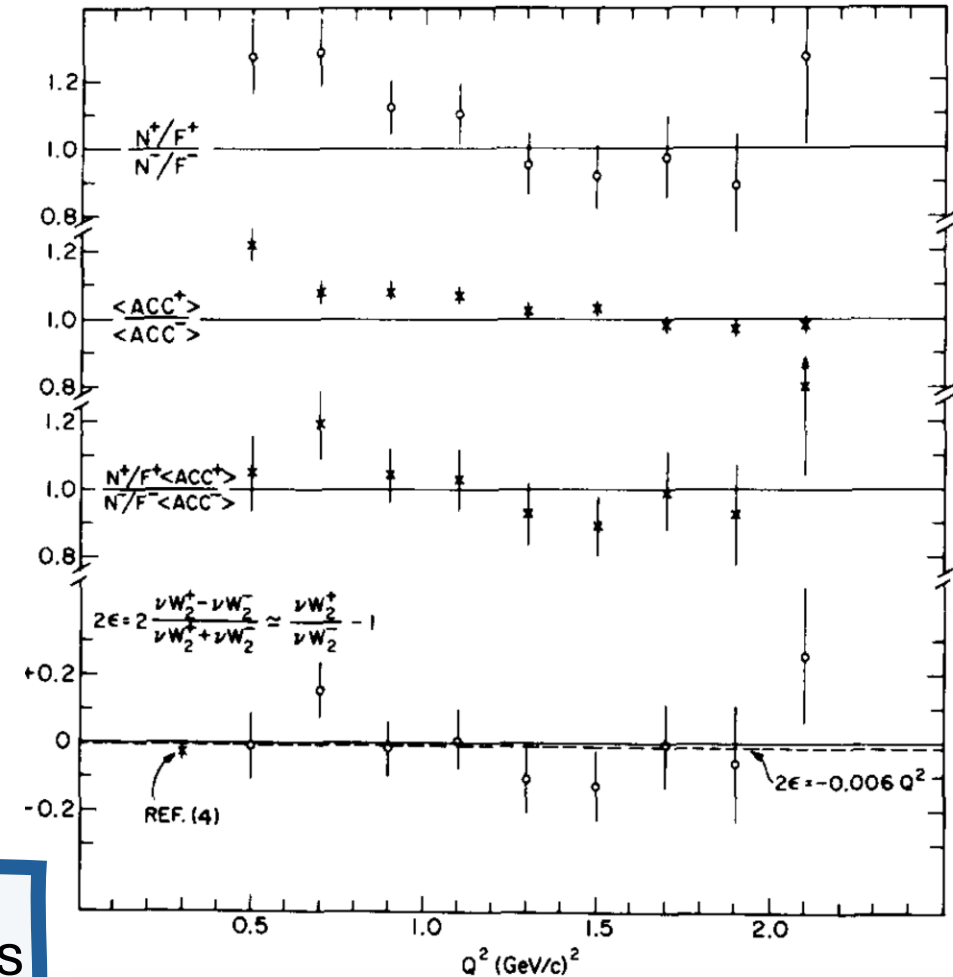
Measurements of TPE in DIS

- Brookhaven AGS
 - DIS μ^+ and μ^- scattering
 - Beryllium target
 - Q^2 range: 0.5 – 2.1 (GeV/c)²
- Measured: νW_2^+ , νW_2^- (Assumed R=0.18)
 - $\epsilon(Q^2, \nu) = (\nu W_2^+ - \nu W_2^-) / (\nu W_2^+ + \nu W_2^-)$
- Conclusion: at $\langle Q^2 \rangle = 1.09$ (GeV/c)²
 - “Contribution of two-photon exchange is less than 1.7% of the inelastic amplitude”



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A 1.7 effect could have a large effect in LT separations

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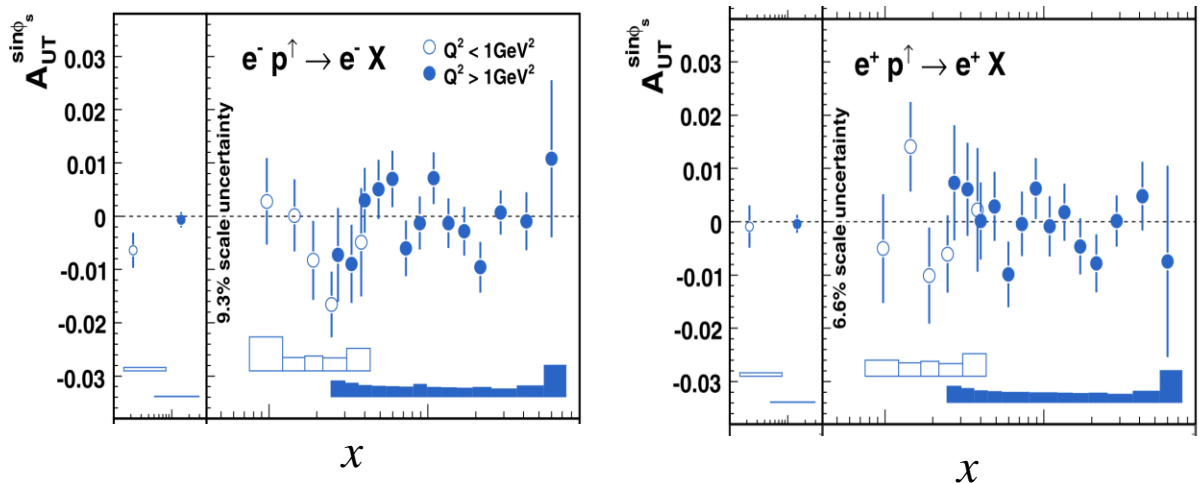
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Beam- and **Target**- Normal SSA

Sensitive to the **Imaginary** part of TPE

Target-Normal Single Spin Asymmetry

Polarized proton target

- Measured with both e^- & e^+

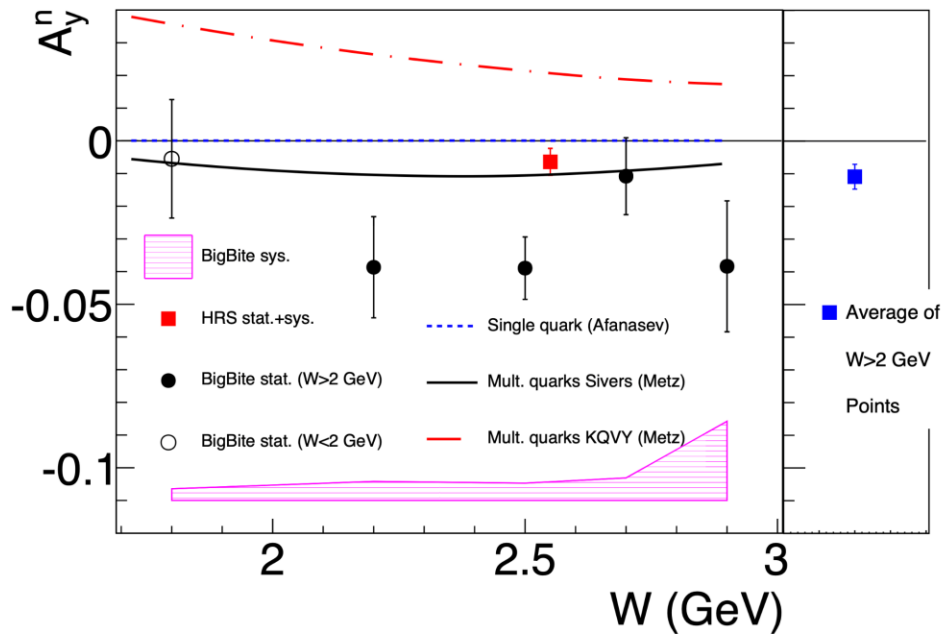


A. Airapetian et al Phys. Lett. B (2010)

$0.6 - 0.9 \pm (1.50 - 3.97) \times 10^{-3}$
(consistent with 0)

Polarized Helium-3

TNSSA of the Neutron



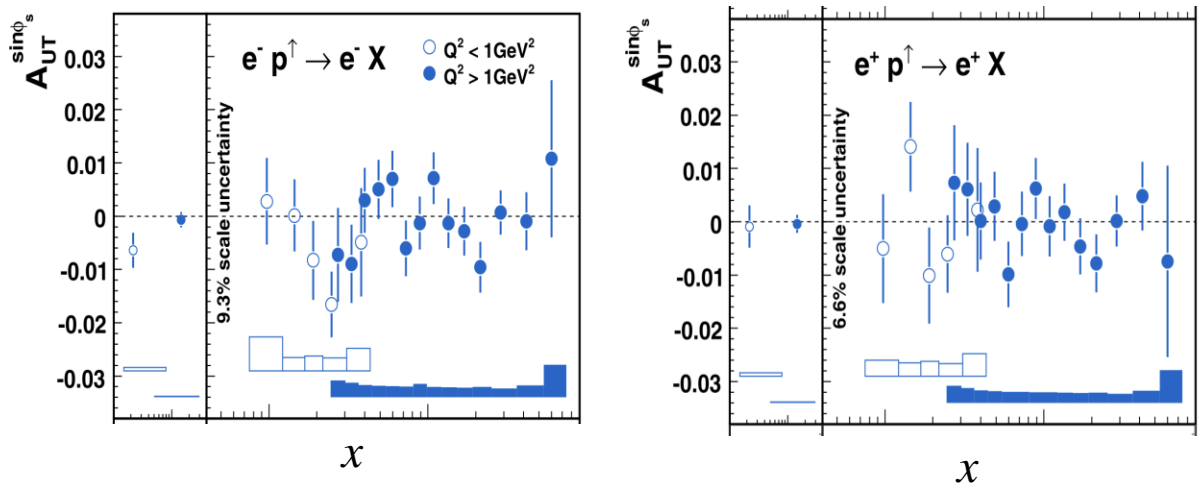
J. Katich et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 113 (2014)

$A_y = (-1.09 \pm 0.38) \times 10^{-2}$
Non-zero: 2.89σ

Target-Normal Single Spin Asymmetry

Polarized proton target

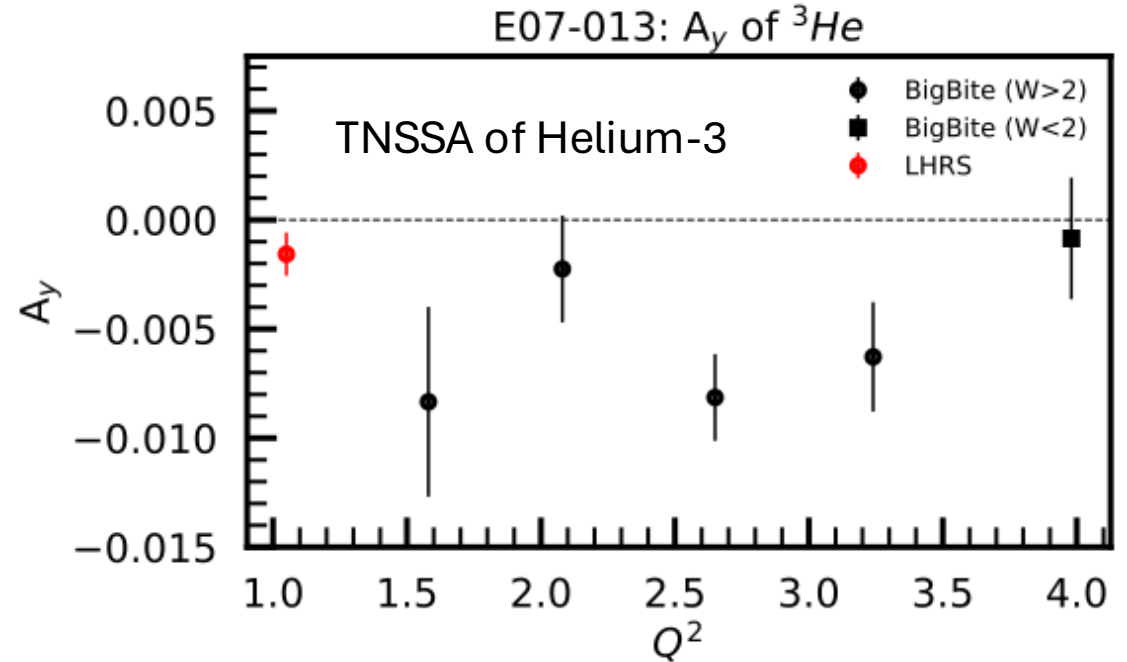
- Measured with both e^- & e^+



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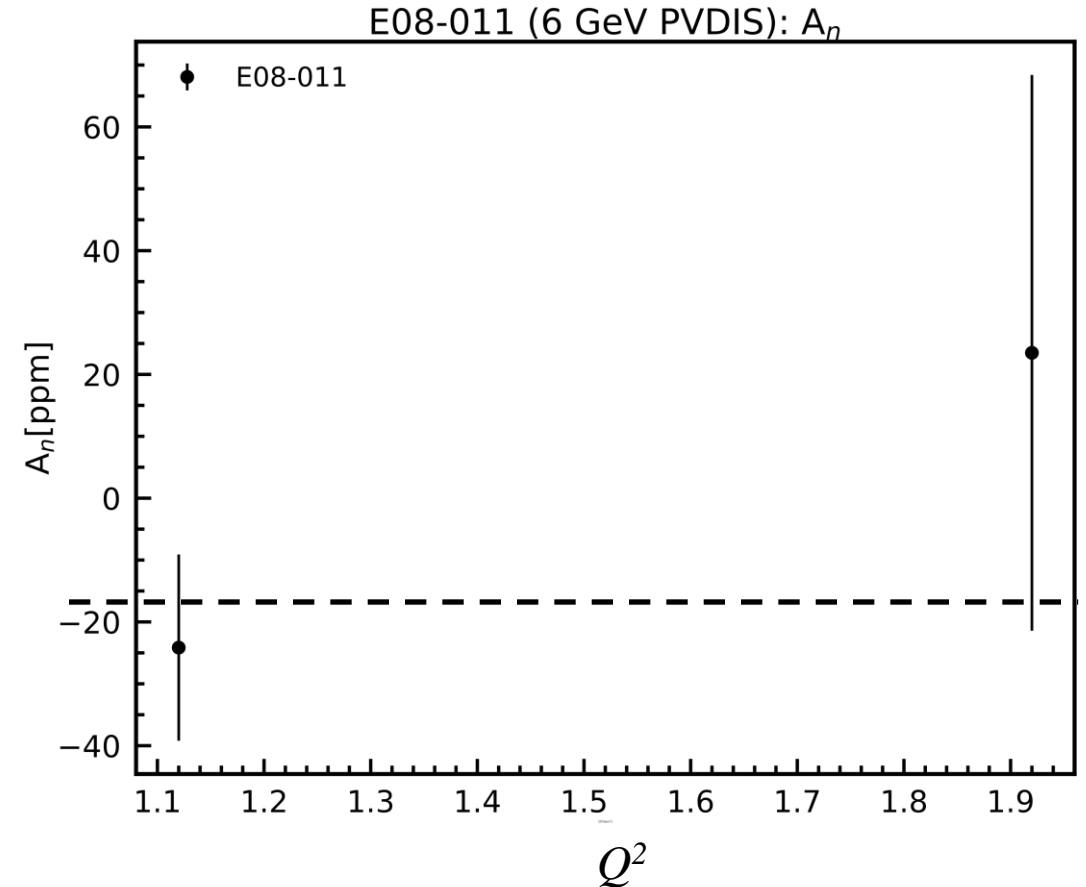


Reproduced from

J. Katich et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 113 (2014)

Beam-Normal Single Spin Asymmetry

- E08-011
 - 6 GeV parity-violating asymmetry (PVDIS)
- Beam-Normal SSA potential background (dilution) to PVDIS asymmetry
- Large uncertainty

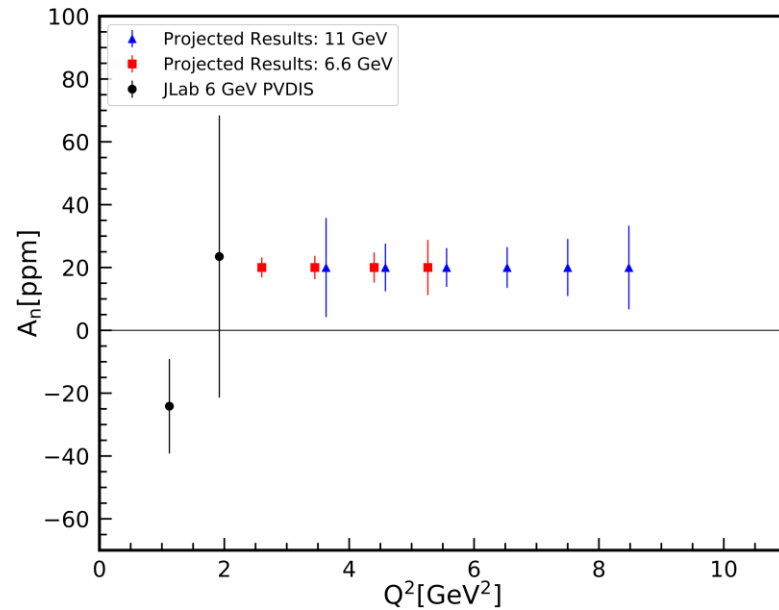


[D. Wang et al., Phys. Rev. C 91 \(2014\)](#)

Future Measurements

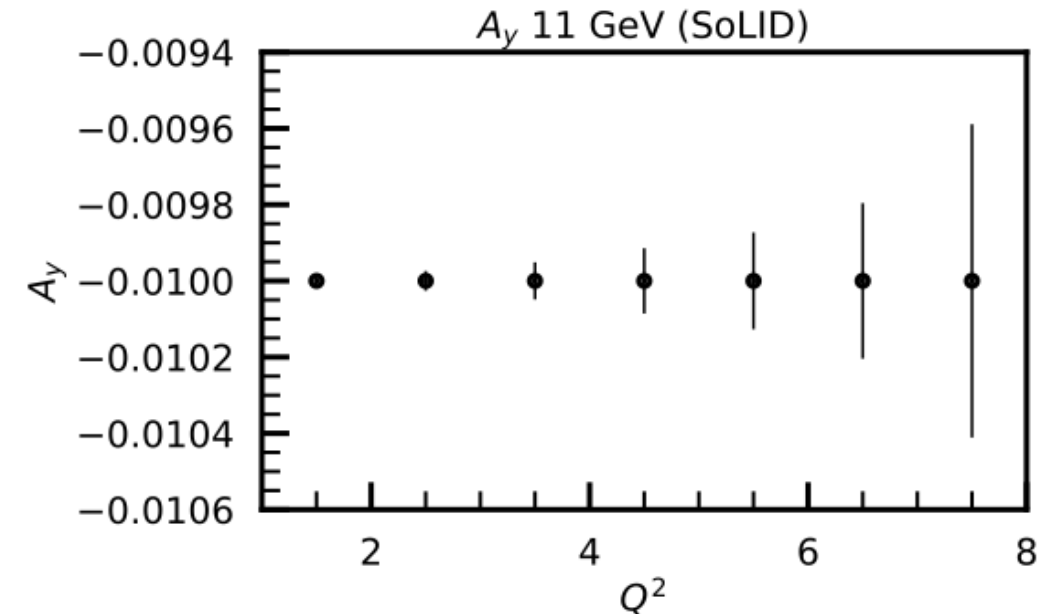
BNSSA with SoLID

- Will combine each setting separately into single Q^2 bins
- $A_n = A_{\text{measured}} \pm 2.06 \text{ ppm} : 6.6 \text{ GeV}$
- $A_n = A_{\text{measured}} \pm 3.80 \text{ ppm} : 11 \text{ GeV}$



TNSSA with SoLID

1. NH₃ (polarized proton)
2. ³He (polarized neutron)

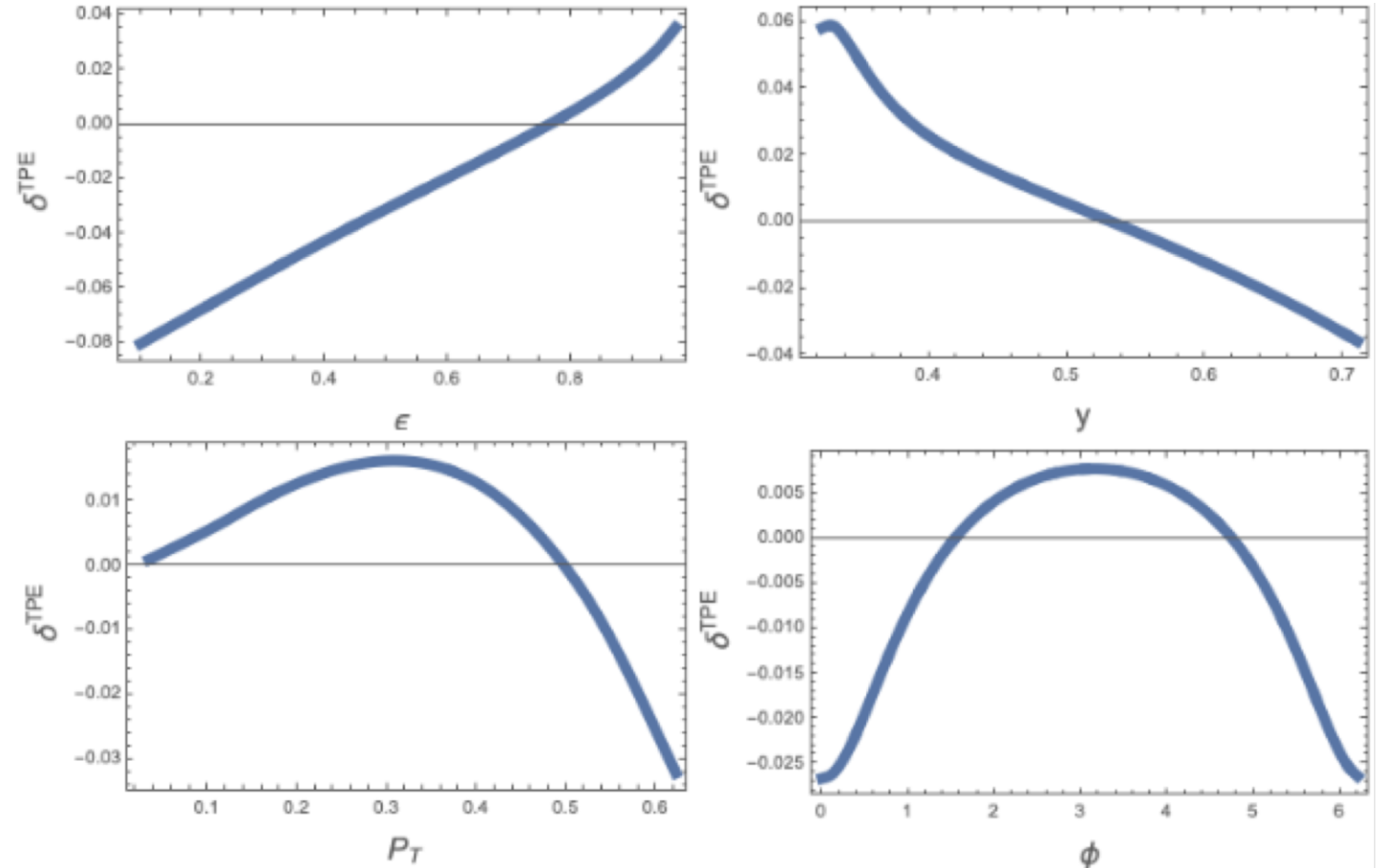


Two-Photon Exchange Measurements in SIDIS

Theoretical Predictions for TPE in SIDIS

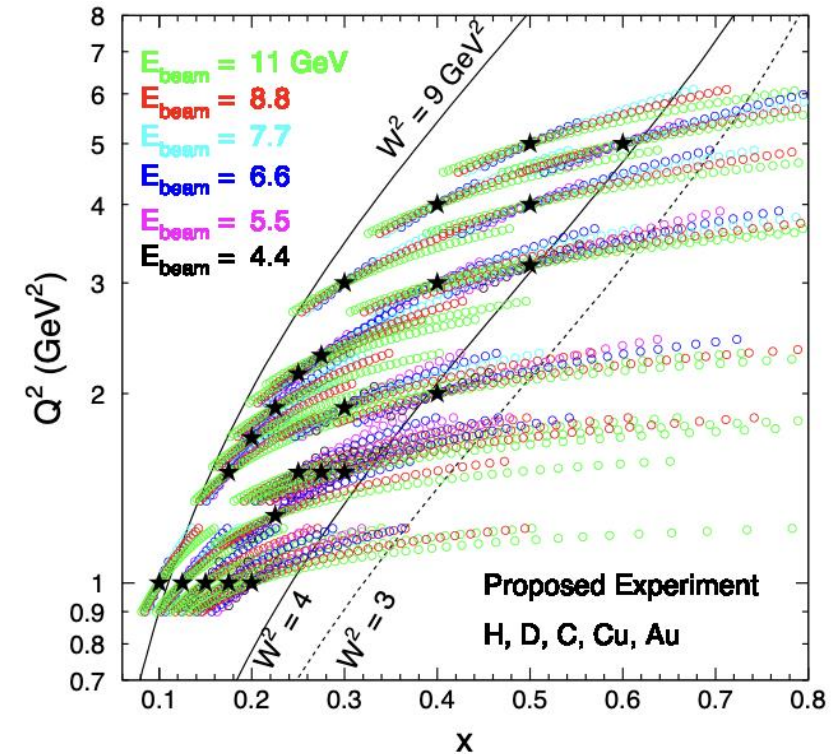
Andrei Afanasev & Stinson Lee

- $E_{\text{beam}} = 10.6 \text{ GeV}$
- $Q^2 = 2.5 \text{ GeV}^2$
- $y < 0.7$
- $X = 0.31$
- $Z = 0.5$



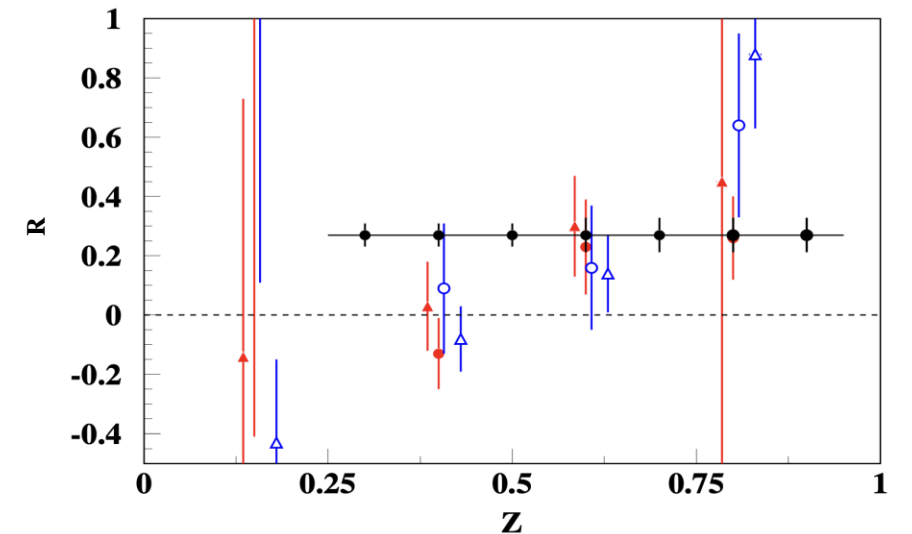
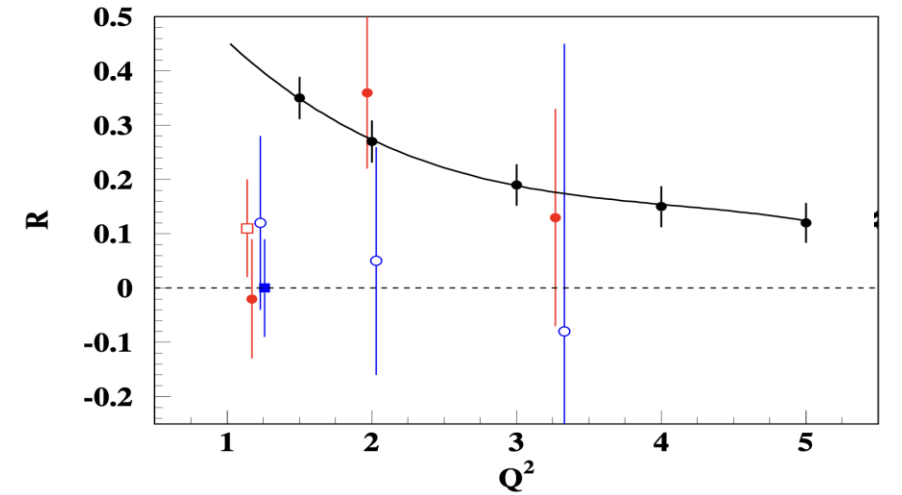
E12-14-002

- Precision Measurements and Studies of a Possible Nuclear Dependence of $R = \frac{\sigma_L}{\sigma_T}$
 - Nuclear R_{DIS}
- Approved experiment / scheduled to begin FY 2026



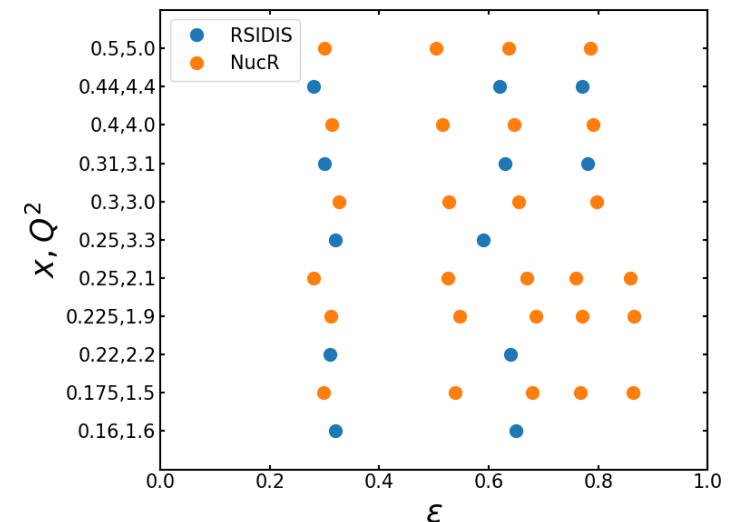
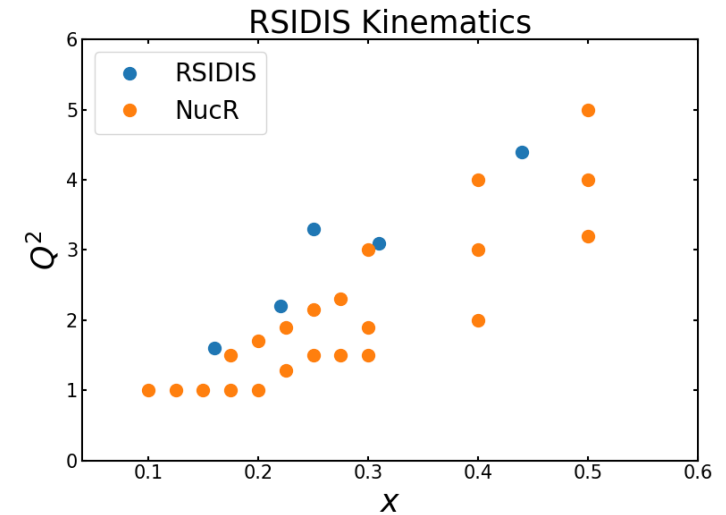
E12-06-104

- Measurement of the Ratio $R = \frac{\sigma_L}{\sigma_T}$ in Semi-Inclusive Deep-Inelastic Scattering
- Approved experiment / scheduled to begin FY 2025



Comparing Kinematics

- Can utilize kinematics from approved experiments E12-14-002 (R_{DIS}) & E12-06-104 (R_{SIDIS})
- Finalizing/optimizing in order to collect data for DIS & SIDIS concurrently
- Proposed positron experiment would leverage the synergy with the electron measurements



Summary and Outlook

- Limited experimental measurements in DIS
 - Non-zero A_y (TNSSA)
 - None in SIDIS
- Several approved DIS experiments to measure Beam- & Target-Normal SSA
- Approved experiments to measure R_{DIS} & R_{SIDIS}
 - Improve radiative corrections
 - Allow for more precise L/T separation
- Utilize kinematics of upcoming R_{DIS} and R_{SIDIS} experiments to design experiment
 - Maximize impact
 - Collect data at overlapping kinematics
- Theoretical predictions for SIDIS TPE (maybe DIS)
 - Andrei Afanasev
- Plan to submit proposal to measure TPE in both DIS & SIDIS in Hall C to PAC53