

# Generalized Parton Distributions (GPD) from Timelike Compton Scattering (TCS)

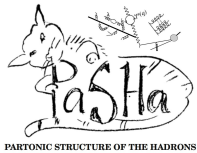
Gyang Chung

Department of Physics,  
Virginia Tech.

Blacksburg, VA, USA.

Contact: [gyangchung@vt.edu](mailto:gyangchung@vt.edu)

Date: June 13th, 2025. (@HUGS)



HAMPTON UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SUMMER PROGRAM

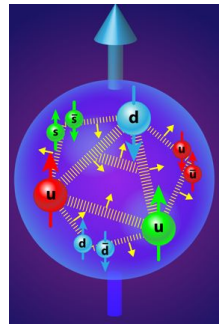
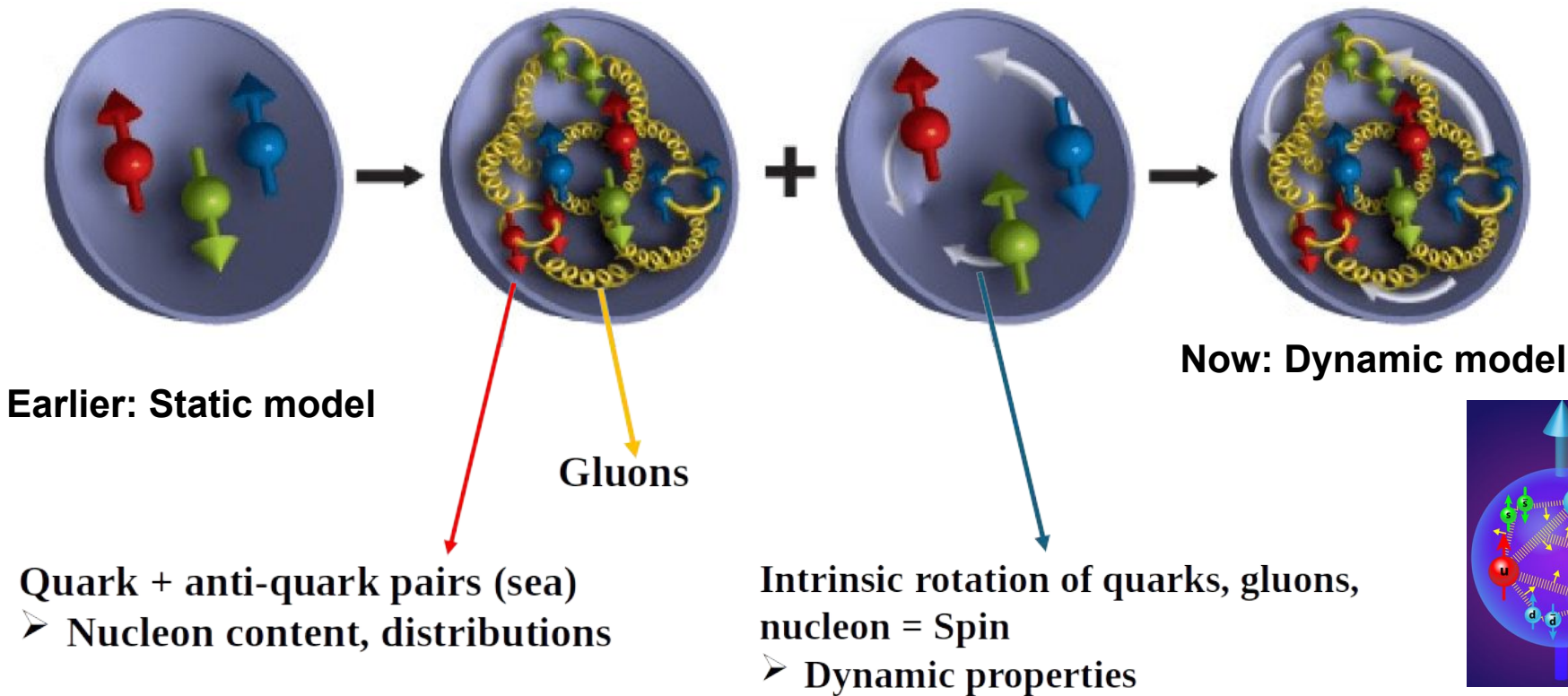


# ★ Outline

- Introduction on Nucleon structure
- Motivation for GPD studies
- Description of TCS
- Progress on Extracting TCS events.



Increase in complexity with time/years: *Nowadays the picture is more complex*

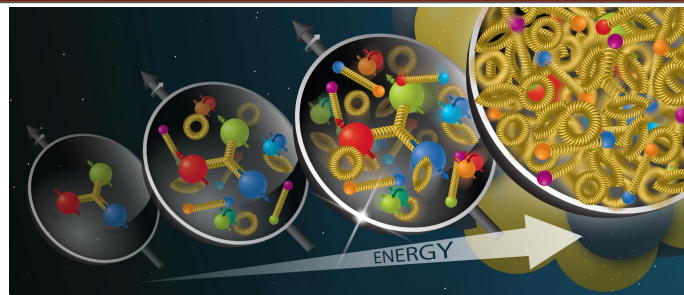




# Motivations for studying GPD's ?

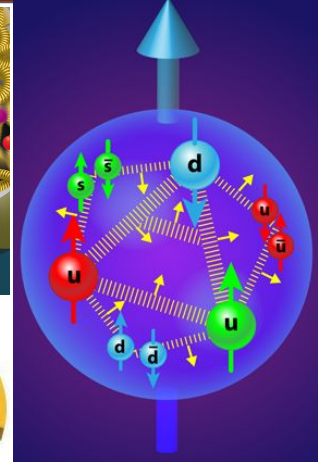
## Impact parameter distributions

(Burkardt, hep-ph/0005108 / ...)



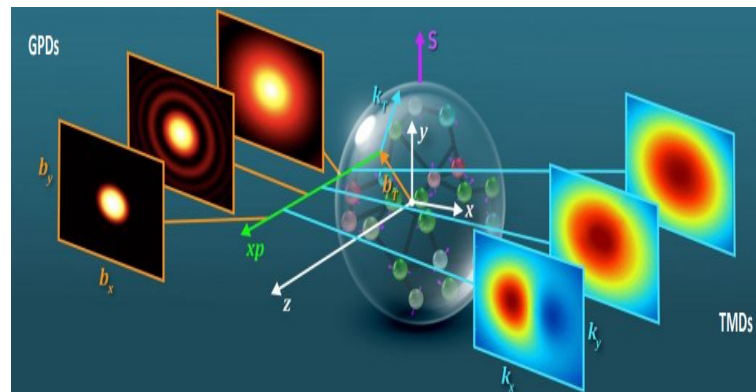
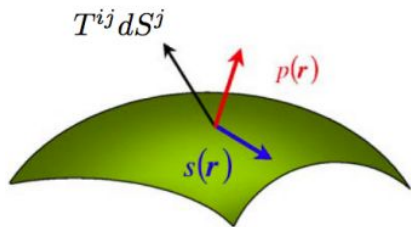
## Nucleon Spin: Spin & Orbital angular momentum (sum rule)

(Ji, hep-ph/9603249)



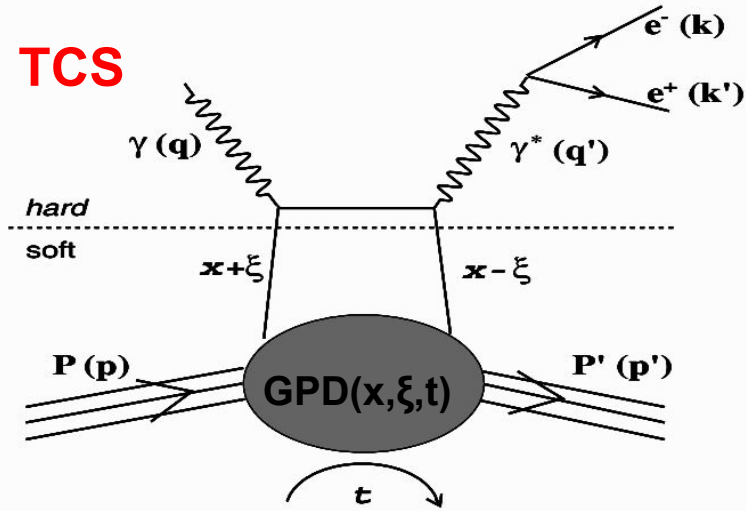
## Mechanical properties (pressure, shear) inside nucleon

(Polyakov, hep-ph/0210165 / Polyakov, Schweitzer, 1805.06596 / ..)



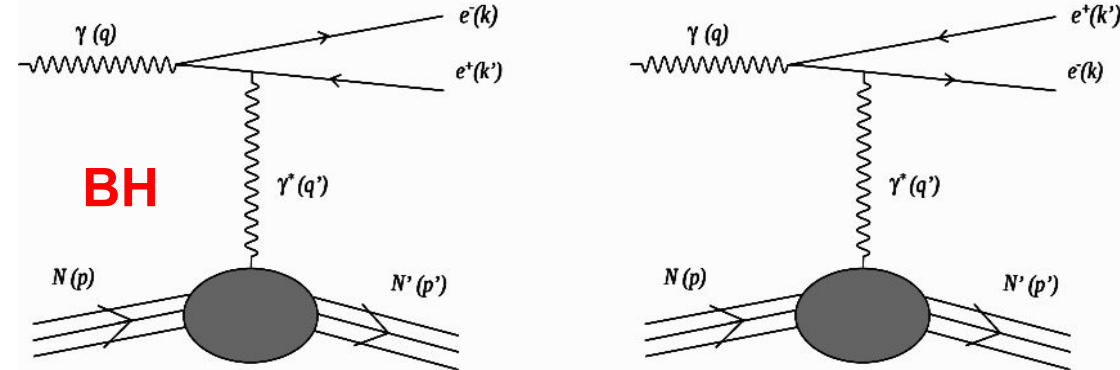
**Globally: To produce the tomographic image of the nucleon !!!**

**TCS**

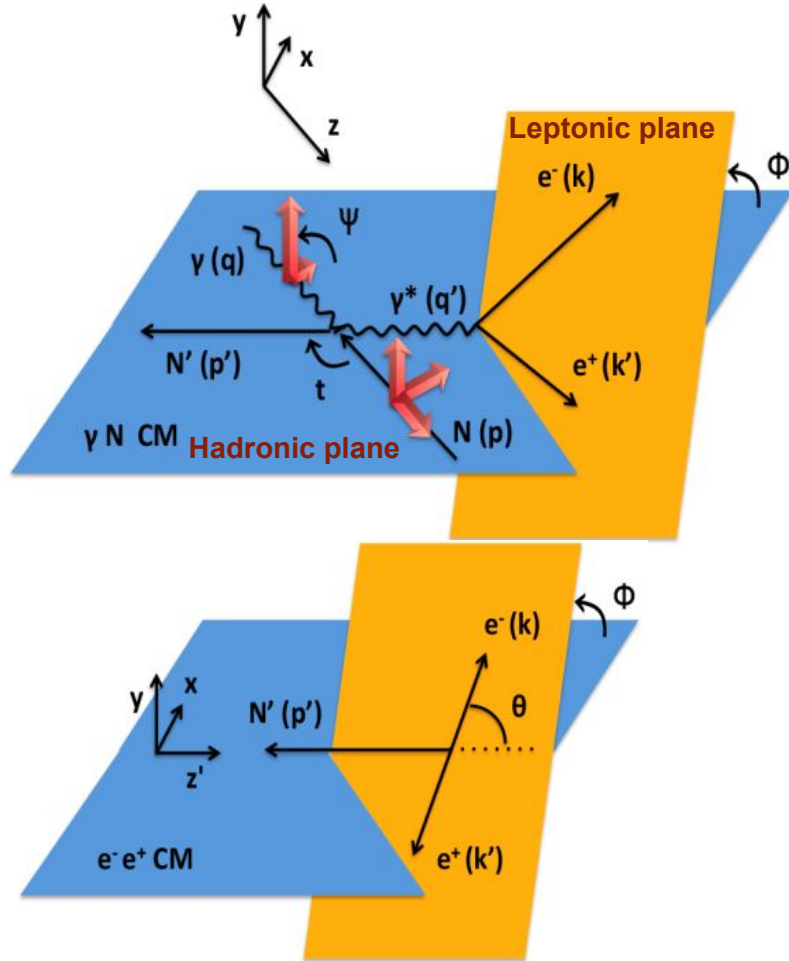


- $P = \frac{1}{2}(p + p')$  — Average proton momentum
- $\Delta = p' - p = q - q'$  — Momentum transfer
- $\bar{q} = \frac{1}{2}(q + q')$  — Average photon momentum
- $\xi = -\frac{\Delta \cdot \bar{q}}{2P \cdot \bar{q}} = -\frac{\Delta^+}{2P^+} = \frac{Q'^2}{2(s - m^2) + \Delta^2 - Q'^2}$  — Skewness:  
Fraction of longitudinal momentum transfer
- $x = \frac{k}{P}$  — Momentum fraction carried by an active quark

**BH**



# Description of TCS in a frame (Showing kinematics)



- $\psi$  — Beam polarization angle  
Angle between polarization vector of beam & hadronic plane.  
For spin asymmetry observables & polarization-dependent  $\sigma$  terms.
- $t = (p' - p)^2$  — Momentum transfer to the Nucleon
- $Q'^2 = (k + k')^2$  — Virtuality of the outgoing Photon
- $\phi$  — Azimuthal angle between Hadronic & Leptonic Planes  
Governs the interference between the TCS & BH processes.  
Angular modulations of the cross section.
- $\theta$  — Lepton polar angle in the dilepton rest frame  
Sensitive to the angular structure of the process.

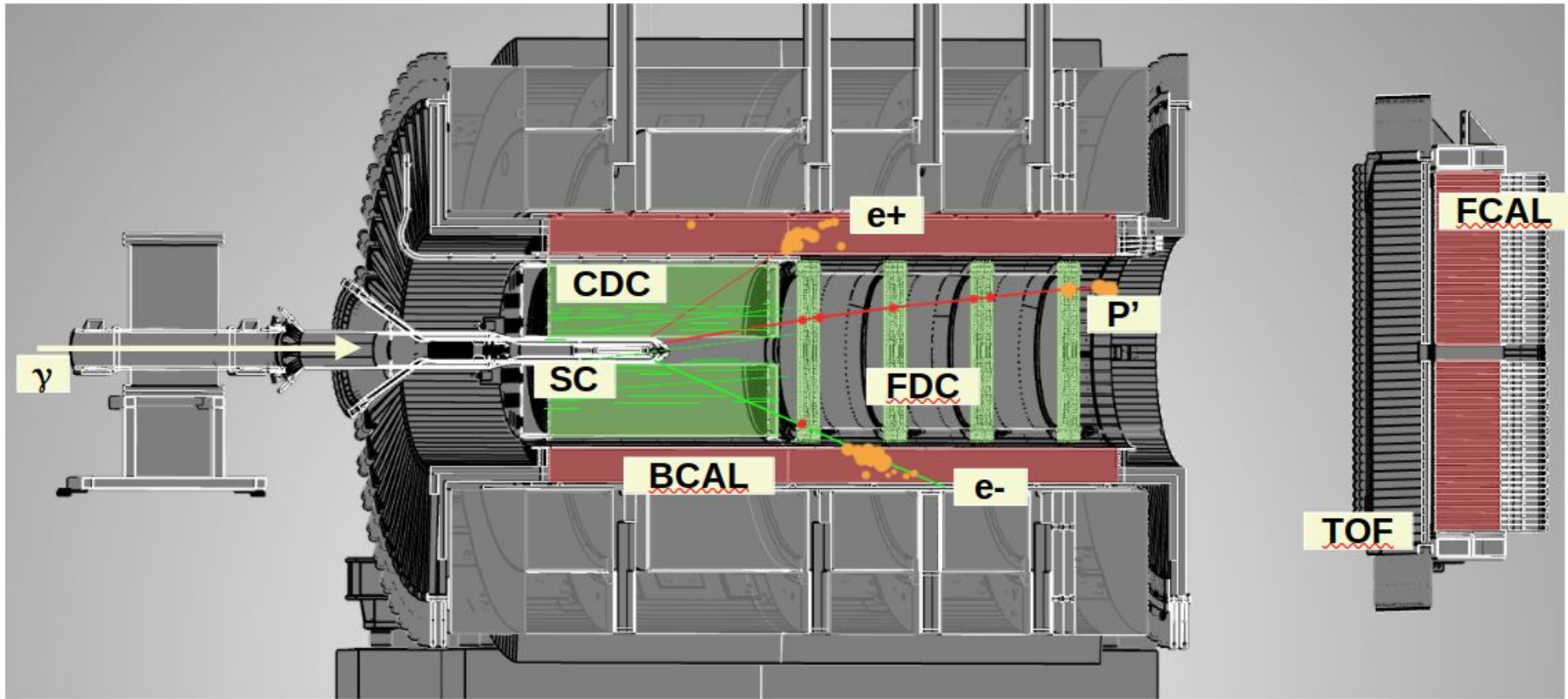
$$A_{IW}(\Psi) = \frac{\sigma(\Psi) - \sigma(\Psi + \pi/2)}{\sigma(\Psi) + \sigma(\Psi + \pi/2)}$$

Observables	GPD	Target	Beam	Experiments
Unpol. Cross sections vs $\Phi$	$\mathcal{R}(H), \mathcal{I}(H)$	Unpolarized (Lh2)	Unpolarized	Clas12, Solid(future), Unpol. TCS in Hall C
Cross sections vs $\Phi$	$\mathcal{I}(H), \mathcal{I}(\hat{H})$	Unpolarized (Lh2)	Circularly polarized	Clas12, Solid(future), Pol. TCS in Hall C
Cross sections vs $\Phi$ & $\Psi$	$\mathcal{R}(H), \text{D-term}$	Unpolarized (Lh2)	Linearly polarized	Possible with GlueX

Donkey term

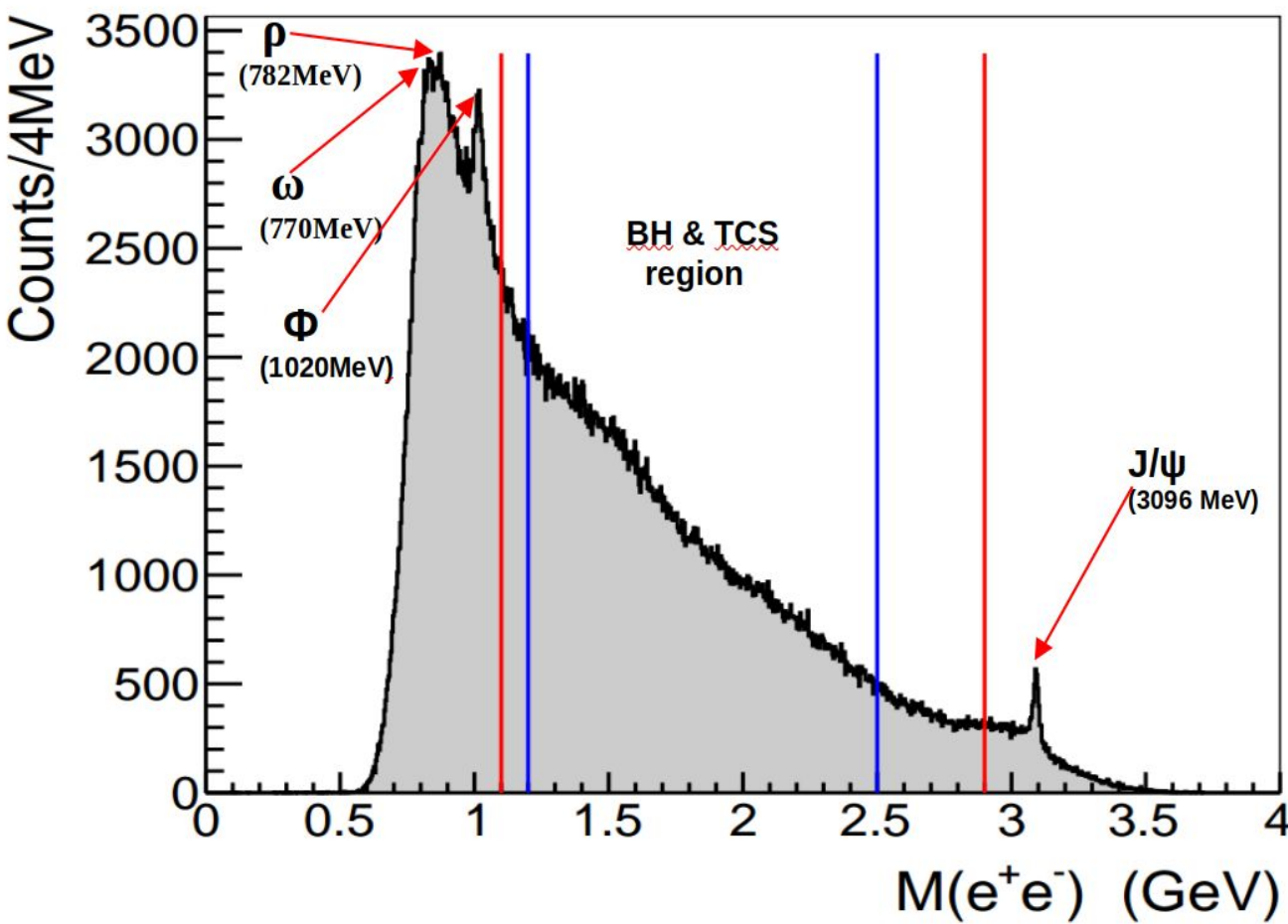






Select events with proton, electron and positron final states





BH & TCS region:

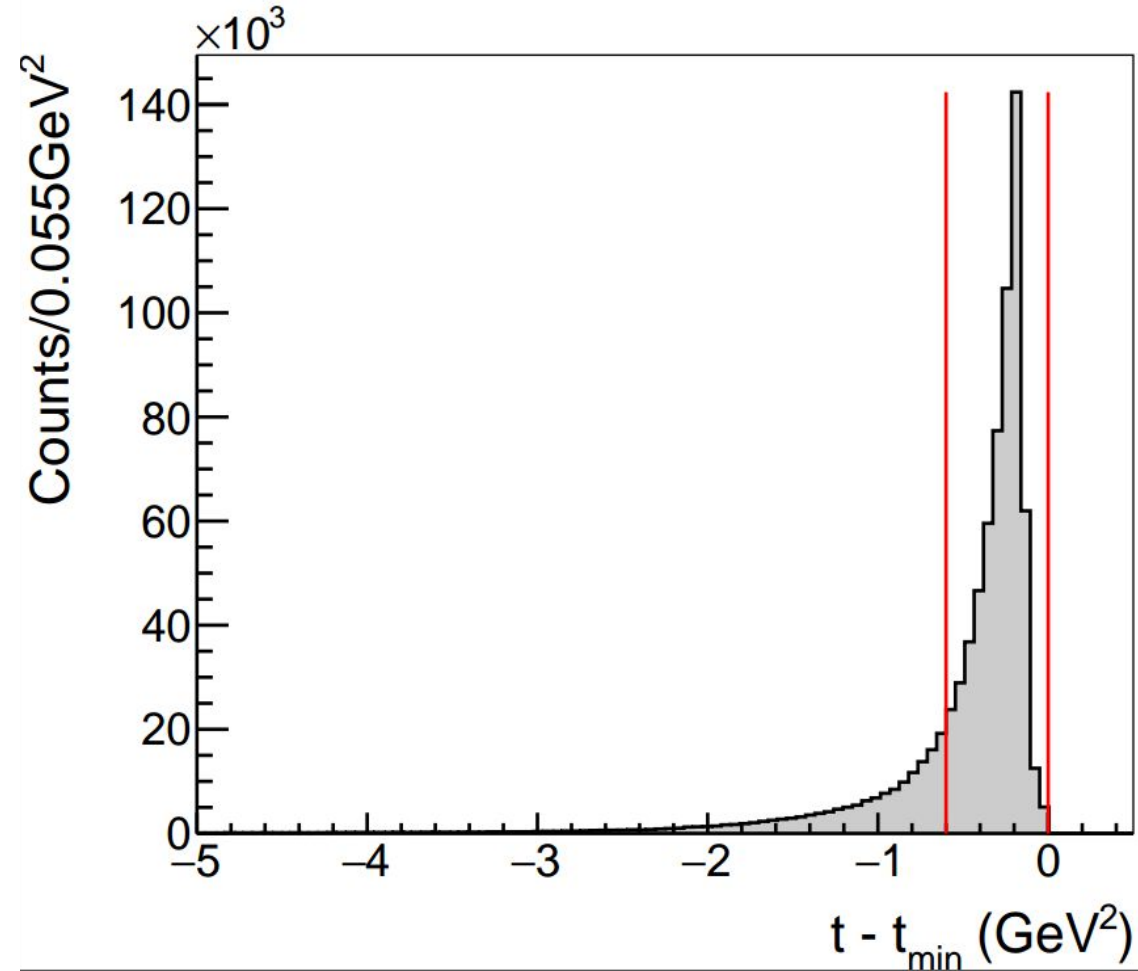
$$1.2 \leq M(e^+e^-) \leq 2.5 \text{ GeV}$$

Lies away from many meson resonances.

It's suitable for studies of GPDs.

**Note:** Some mesonic contributions still remain:  $\rho(1450)$ ,  $\rho(1700)$ , &  $\pi's$ .

**Planned update:** Cut to be shifted to  $1.1 \leq M(e^+e^-) \leq 2.9 \text{ GeV}$ .



The limit  $-t \rightarrow 0$  corresponds to **forward scattering**:  
Virtual & incident photon proceeds in the same direction.

**Hard scale** of TCS must satisfy the conditions:  
 $Q'^2 \gg m_p$  and  $Q'^2 \gg -t$   
for the GPD factorization to hold.

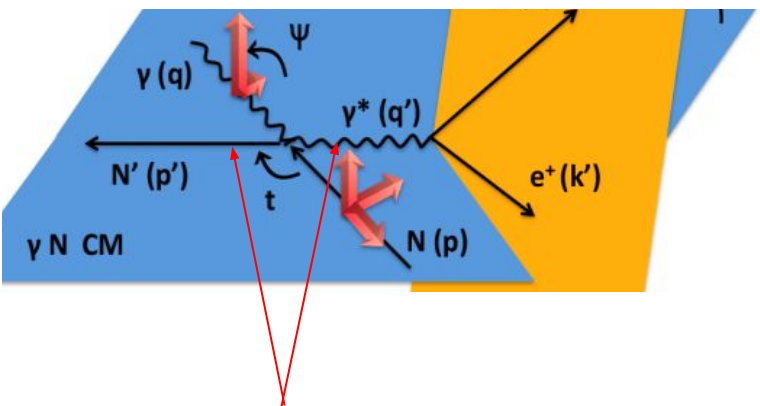
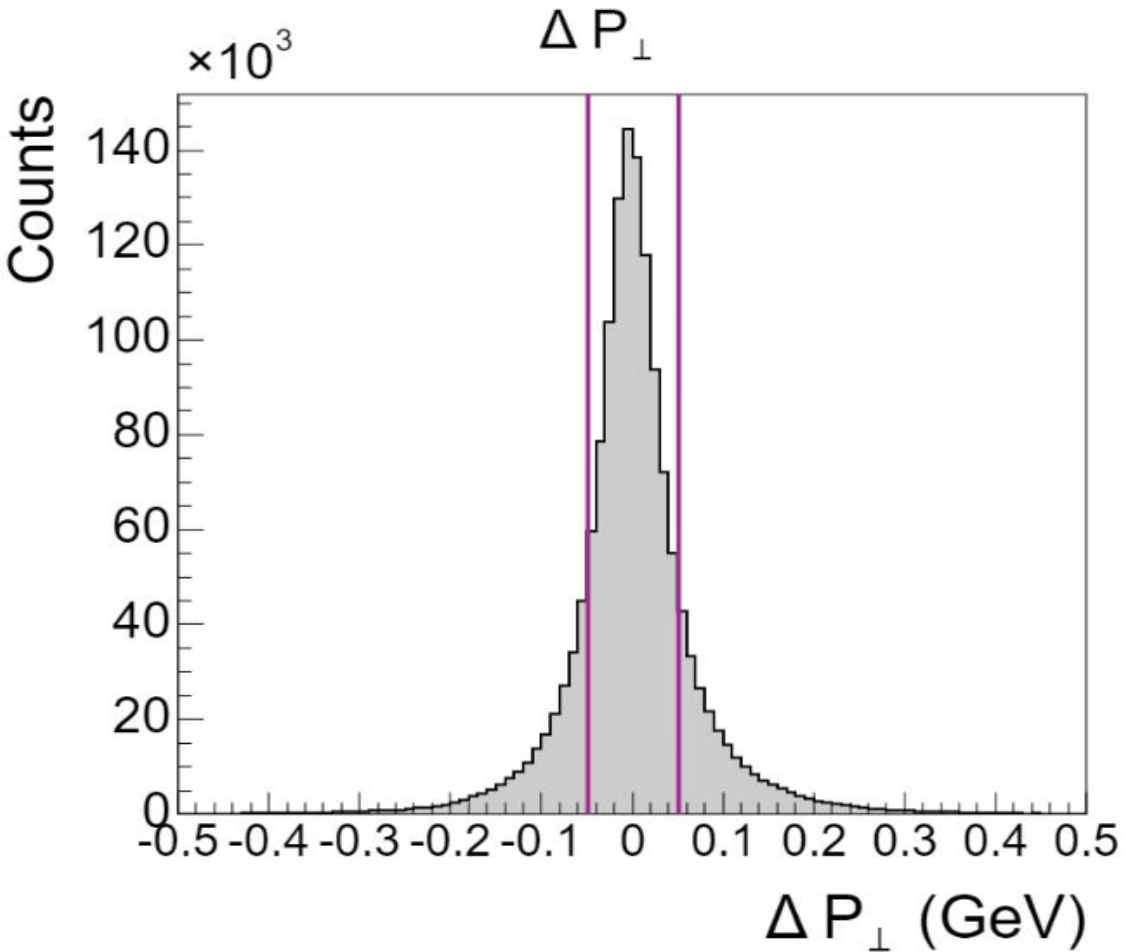
As  $-t$  increases, the **validity of the factorization**  
& **leading-twist approximations** diminishes.

$$t - t_{\min} = 2 \cdot |\vec{p}| \cdot |\vec{p}'| \cdot (\cos \theta - 1)$$

$t_{\min}$  occurs at  $\theta = 0$ .

$\vec{p}, \vec{p}'$ : target & detected protons'  
momentum 3-vectors

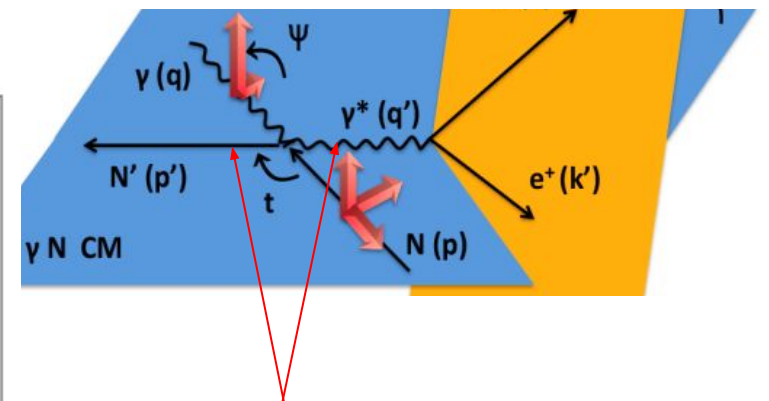
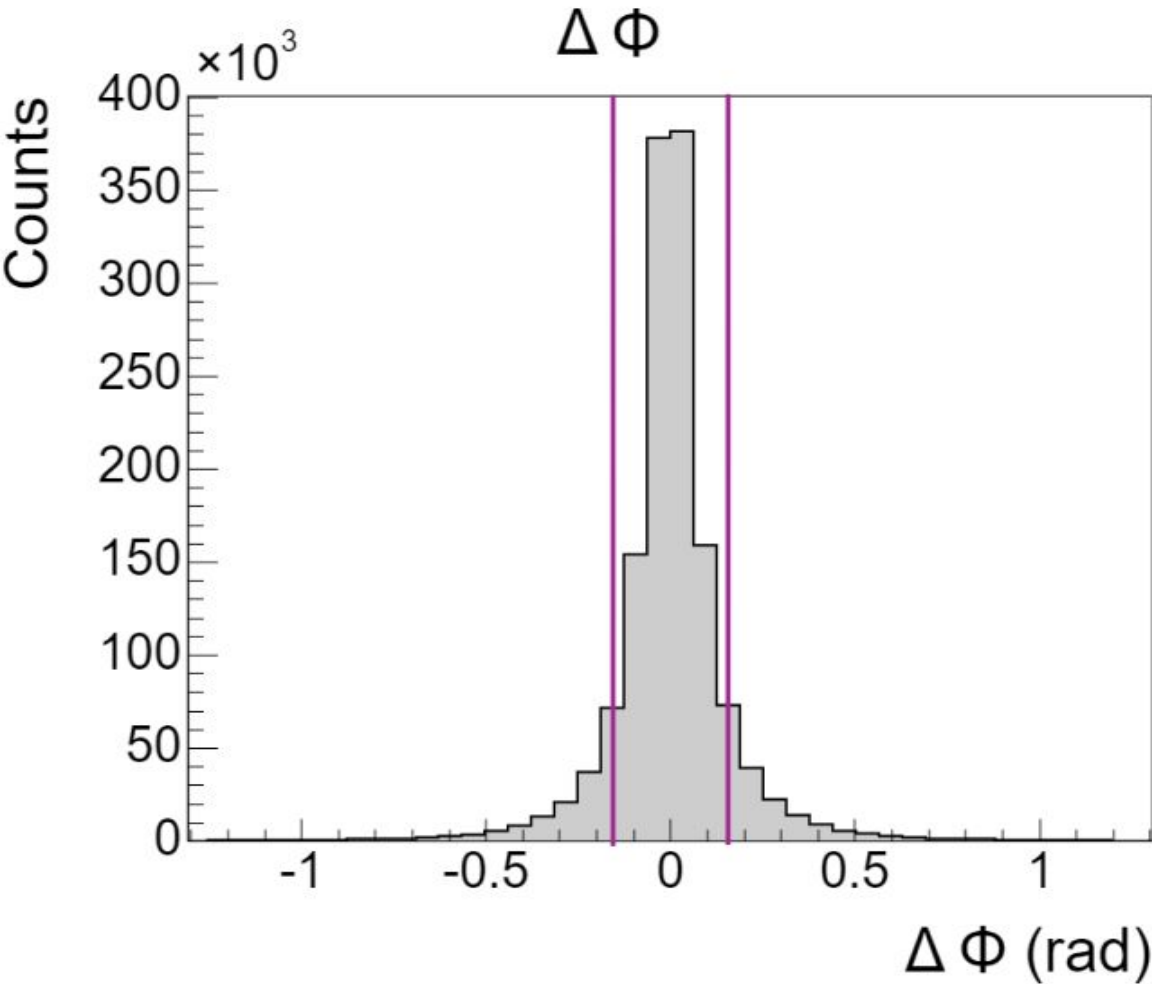
$$-0.6 \text{ GeV}^2 \leq t - t_{\min} \leq 0$$



Difference between Scattered proton & Virtual gamma Transverse Momentum

$$\Delta P_{\perp} = \vec{P}_{p'\perp} - \vec{P}_{\gamma^*\perp}$$

cut:  $|\Delta P_{\perp}| \leq 0.05 \text{ GeV}$



Difference in angles between  
Scattered proton & Virtual gamma

$$\Delta \Phi = \phi_{\vec{p}_{p'}} - \phi_{\vec{p}_{\gamma^*}}$$

cut:  $|\Delta \Phi| \leq 0.15 \text{ rad}$



*One has made some progress in suppressing mesons events in the  $e^+e^-$  final states by:*

- 1: Selecting regions with less resonance peaks
- 2: Selecting only relevant  $-t$  values
- 3: Applying kinematic constraints



Thanks!!!  
@HUGS





# Backup: Motivations for studying GPD's ?

**Impact parameter distributions** (Burkardt, hep-ph/0005108 / ...)

$$GPD(x, \xi=0, \Delta_T) \leftrightarrow f(x, b_T); \leftrightarrow \text{is } \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{T}.$$

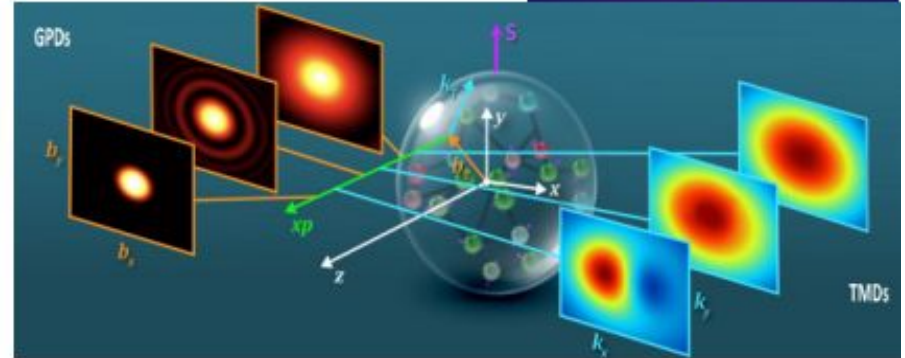
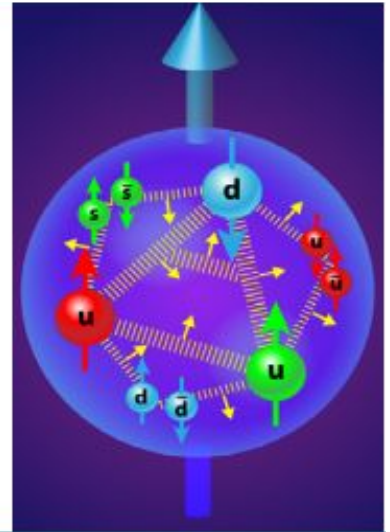
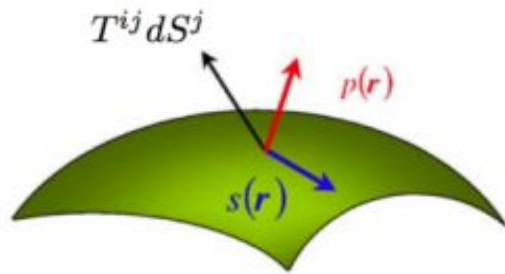
**Nucleon Spin: Spin sum rule and orbital angular momentum**

(Ji, hep-ph/9603249)

$$\mathcal{J}_q = \int_{-1}^1 d\mathbf{x} \, \mathbf{x} \cdot (\mathbf{H}_q + \mathbf{E}_q) |_{t=0} \quad \mathcal{J}_g = \int_0^1 d\mathbf{x} \cdot (\mathbf{H}_g + \mathbf{E}_g) |_{t=0}$$

**Mechanical properties (pressure, shear) inside nucleon** (Polyakov,

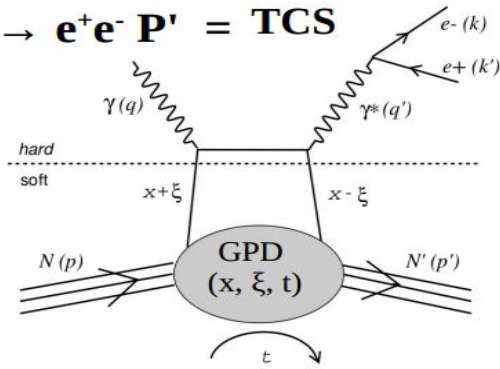
hep-ph/0210165 / Polyakov, Schweitzer, 1805.06596 / ..)



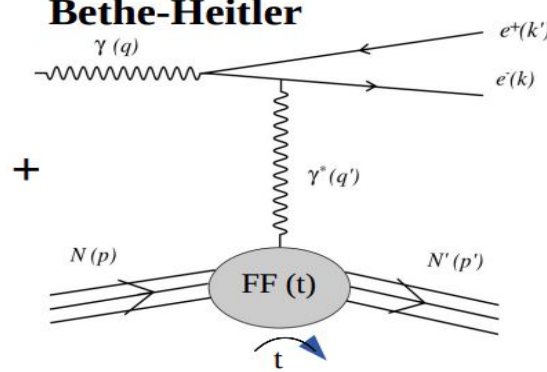
**Globally; To produce the tomographic image of the nucleon !!!**

# Backup: Accessing real GPD H

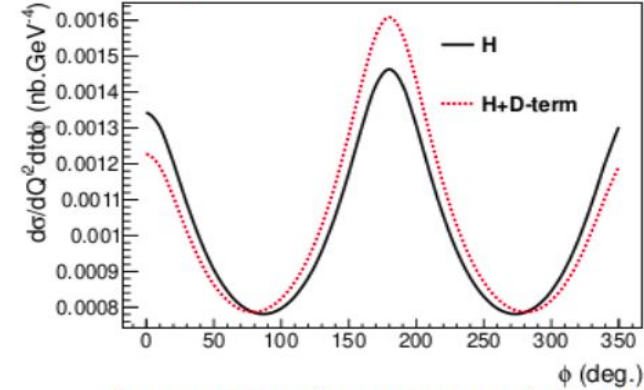
$$\gamma P \rightarrow e^+ e^- P' = \text{TCS}$$



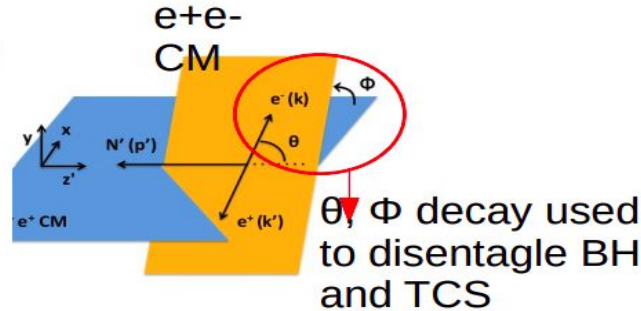
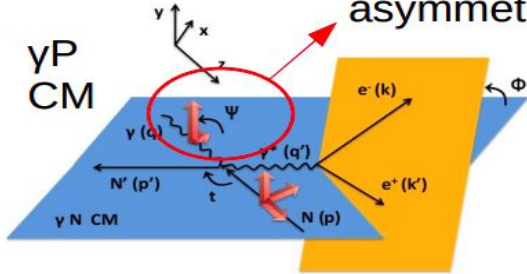
**Bethe-Heitler**



unpolarized x-sec vs  $\phi$

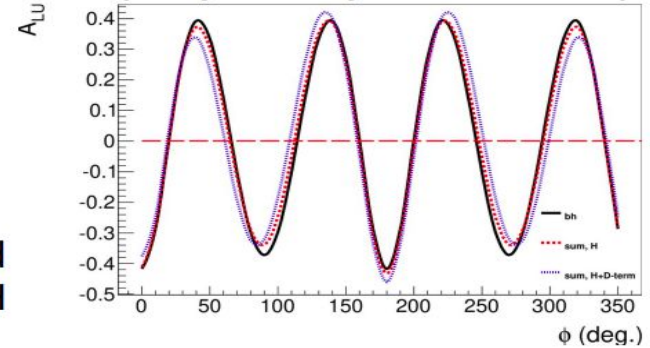


$\psi$  angle photon polarization (taking asymmetry or moment)



$\theta, \phi$  decay used to disentangle BH and TCS

$\psi$  asymmetry moment vs  $\phi$



Goal: photon's polarization asymmetries, sensitive to real part of amplitude (CFFs) and D-term



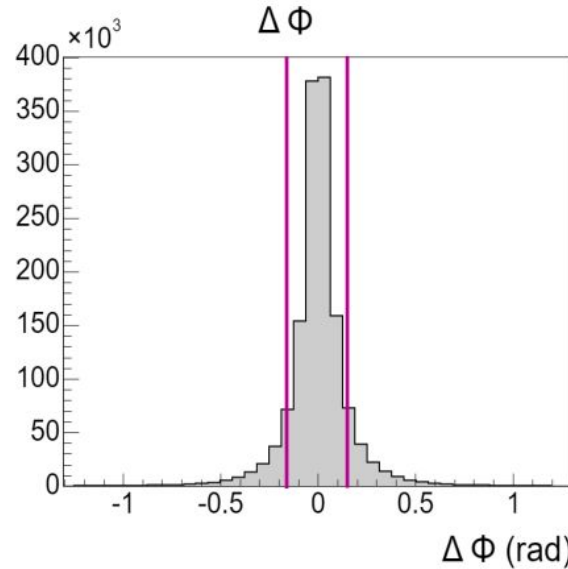
## Exclusivity Selection

We have added two new cuts for optimal TCS selection and background reduction.

Difference in  $\phi$  angles &  $P_{\perp}$  between Scattered proton ( $p'$ ) & Virtual gamma ( $\gamma^*$ )

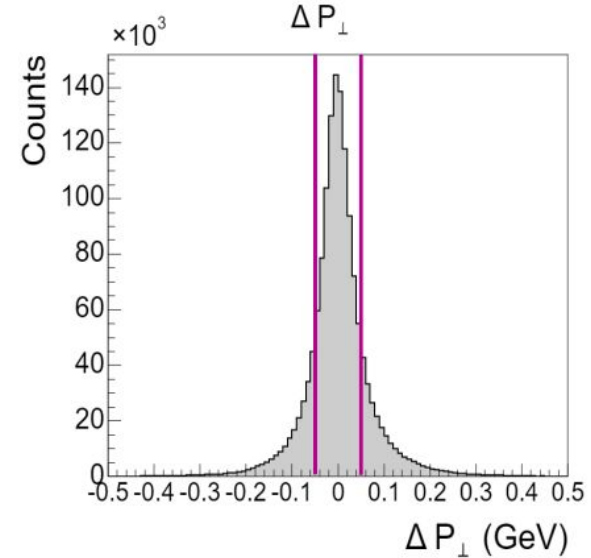
Quantity	Bethe-Heitler (BH) Cut
$E_{\gamma}$	8.2 – 11.44 GeV
$M(e^+e^-)$	1.2 – 2.5 GeV
$t$	$abs(t - t_{min}) < 0.6 GeV^2$
$e^+, e^- p/E$	$\pm\sigma, 3.5 - 4.5\sigma$ for $\pi$
$e^+, e^- BCAL_{pre} \sin\theta$	$< 0.03 GeV$
proton $p$	$> 0.4 GeV$
$e^+, e^- p$	$> 0.4 GeV$
all $\theta$	$> 2^\circ$
$abs(M_{miss}^2)$	$< 0.04 GeV^2^*$
Kin. fit $\chi^2$	$< 5000$

Previous BH cuts  $abs(M_{miss}^2) < 0.25$  was use.



$$\Delta \Phi = \phi_{\vec{p}_{p'}} - \phi_{\vec{p}_{\gamma^*}}$$

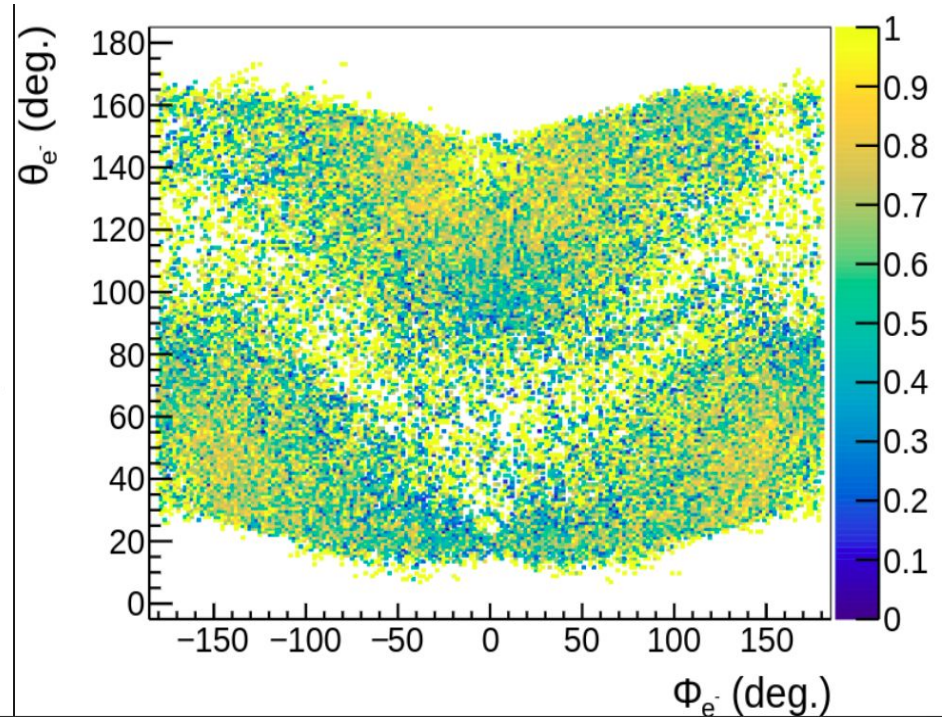
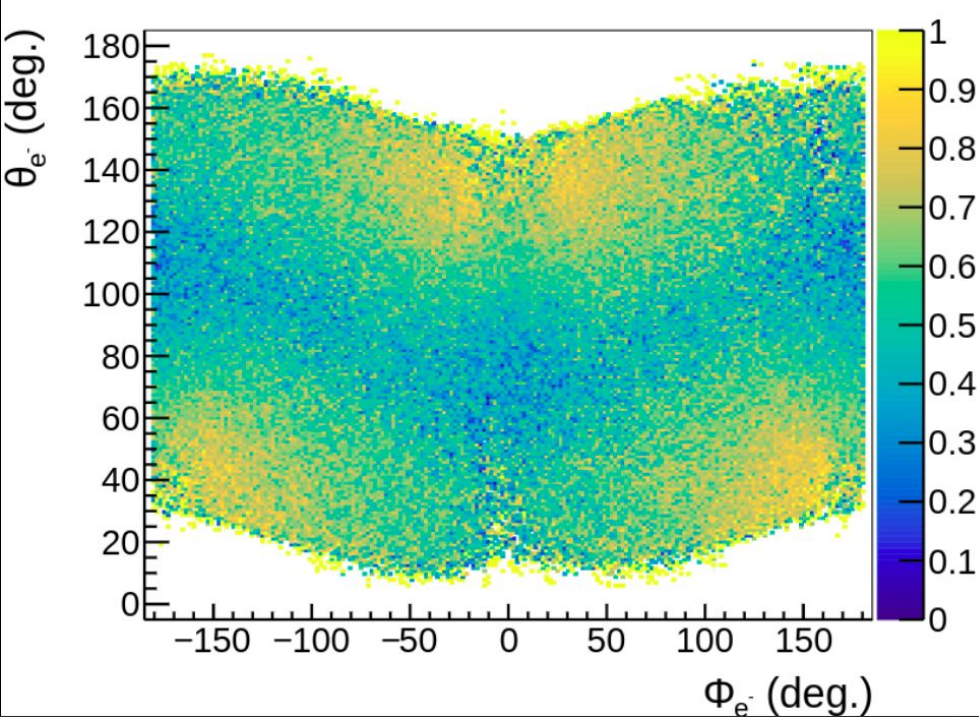
cut:  $|\Delta \Phi| \leq 0.15 \text{ rad}$



$$\Delta P_{\perp} = \vec{P}_{p'\perp} - \vec{P}_{\gamma^*\perp}$$

cut:  $|\Delta P_{\perp}| \leq 0.05 \text{ GeV}$

# Backup: Ratio plots with hard exclusive cuts results



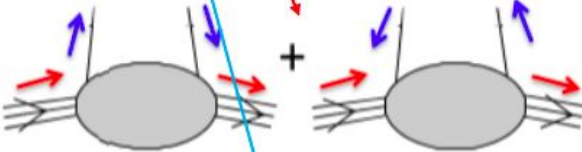
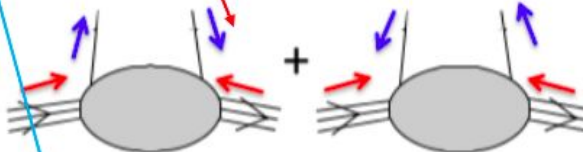
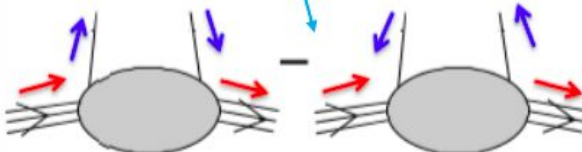
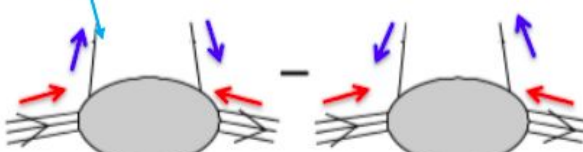




# Backup: Ji decomposition of GPDs

$$H^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}(-g_{\mu\nu})_{\perp} \int_{-1}^1 dx \left( \frac{1}{x-\xi-i\epsilon} + \frac{1}{x+\xi+i\epsilon} \right) \left( \underbrace{H(x, \xi, t)}_{\text{Vector}} \bar{u}(p') \gamma^{\alpha} n_{\alpha} u(p) + \underbrace{E(x, \xi, t)}_{\text{Tensor}} \bar{u}(p') i\sigma^{\alpha\beta} n_{\alpha} \frac{\Delta_{\beta}}{2m} u(p) \right) \\ - \frac{i}{2}(\epsilon_{\nu\mu})_{\perp} \int_{-1}^1 dx \left( \frac{1}{x-\xi-i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{x+\xi+i\epsilon} \right) \left( \underbrace{\tilde{H}(x, \xi, t)}_{\text{Axial-Vector}} \bar{u}(p') \gamma^{\alpha} n_{\alpha} \gamma_5 u(p) + \underbrace{\tilde{E}(x, \xi, t)}_{\text{Pseudo-scalar}} \bar{u}(p') \gamma_5 \frac{\Delta \cdot n}{2m} u(p) \right)$$

**Note:**  
The blue part of the equation is the **Quark loop part** & The black part is the **Nucleon structure**

<div>↗ Quark Spin</div> <div>↘ Nucleon Spin</div>	Without nucleon Spin flip	With nucleon Spin flip
<b>Unpolarized GPDs</b>	 <p>“Vector” <math>H</math></p>	 <p>“Tensor” <math>E</math></p>
<b>Polarized GPDs</b>	 <p>“Axial-Vector” <math>\tilde{H}</math></p>	 <p>“Pseudo-scalar” <math>\tilde{E}</math></p>