

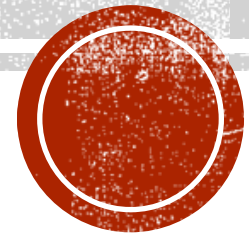
Polarized D at the EIC

Jan Vanek

University of New Hampshire

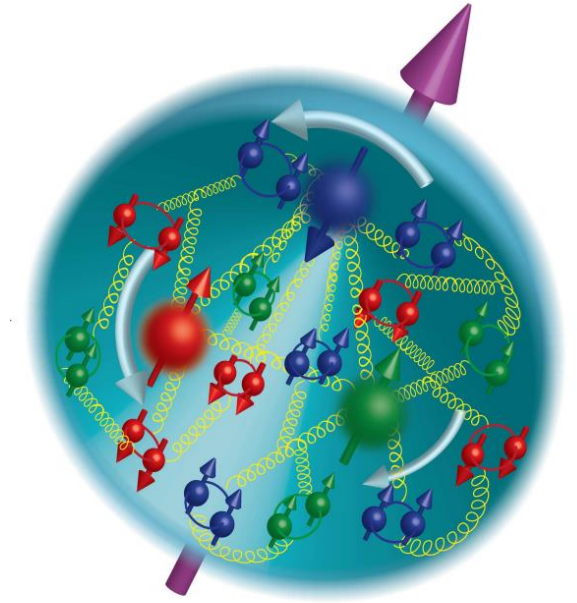
b1/Azz Tensor Collaboration, Jefferson Laboratory

10/14/2025



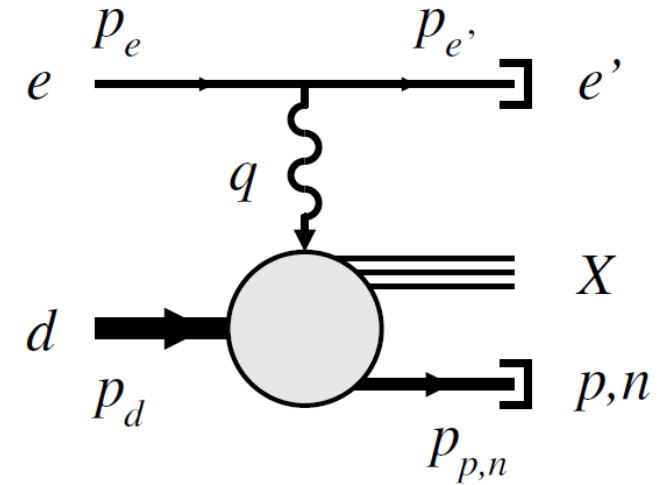
PHYSICS MOTIVATION

- Main motivation: Understanding of internal structure of nucleons
- Historically was studied via Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS) on protons
 - Relatively experimentally easy as we can accelerate electrons or protons
 - Structure functions and Parton Distribution Functions (PDFs) of proton reasonably well known
 - Despite long experimental efforts, still many open questions:
 - Spin structure of nucleons, Transverse and Generalized PDFs...
- We need also to need to measure **neutron internal structure** for full understanding of nucleon internal structure and QCD in general
 - Extraction of structure function F_2 of neutron
- Main challenges:
 - Neutrons are neutral and cannot be easily accelerated
 - Generally difficult to handle free neutrons



EXPERIMENTAL METHOD OVERVIEW

- Possible experimental solution: **Tagged DIS (TDIS)**
 - DIS on deuteron (d)
 - Measurement of the scattered electron and the spectator p or n
- **Challenges:**
 - Neutron is bound and not free, but we are interested in free n structure functions
 - Possible solution – pole extrapolation
 - Detection of the spectator p or n
 - Very difficult in fixed target experiments, as spectators have very low momentum and generally will stay in the target
 - Possible to measure at collider, such as the future Electron Ion Collider (EIC), as “target” is boosted
 - Still challenging, as spectators are very close to the hadron beam
- **Advantages:**
 - Straightforward, when spectators are successfully detected
 - Possible to measure p and cross-check with standard methods



A. Jentsch, Z. Tu, Ch. Weiss: [Phys. Rev. C 104, 065205.](#)

DEUTERON REDUCED CROSS SECTION

- Differential cross section on d can be written in terms of deuteron reduced cross ($\sigma_{red,d}$) section and photon flux:
 - $d\sigma_d = Flux(x, Q^2) \times \sigma_{red,d} \times \frac{dx}{2} dQ^2 \frac{d\phi_{e'}}{2\pi} [2(2\pi)^3]^{-1} \frac{d\alpha_p}{\alpha_p} \frac{dp_{pT}^2}{2} d\phi_p$
- We can get the n reduced cross section ($\sigma_{red,n}$) from the d reduced cross section and pole of d spectral function
 - $\sigma_{red,n} = \frac{\sigma_{red,d}(x, Q^2)}{[2(2\pi)^3] S_d(p_{pT}, \alpha_p) [pole]}$
 - And similarly for proton reduced cross section

- Light-cone momentum fraction:
 - $\alpha_p \equiv \frac{2p_p^+}{p_d^+} = \frac{2(E_p + p_{z,p})}{M_d}$
- Proton transfer momentum
 - $p_{pT} = \sqrt{p_{x,p}^2 + p_{y,p}^2}$

A. Jentsch, Z. Tu, C. Weiss: [Phys. Rev. C **104**, 065205.](#)
M. Strikman and C. Weiss: [Phys. Rev. C **97**, 035209.](#)
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 - And similarly for proton reduced cross section
- Scattered electron
- Spectator proton + struck deuteron
- Photon flux
- Light-cone momentum fraction:
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POLE EXTRAPOLATION METHOD

- $\sigma_{red,n} = \frac{\sigma_{red,d}(x, Q^2)}{[2(2\pi)^3]S_d(p_{pT}, \alpha_p)[pole]}$
- $\sigma_{red,n}$ at the pole corresponds to a free n
 - $p_{pT}^2 \rightarrow -\alpha_T^2$ which means negative (unphysical) p_{pT}^2
- Solution is to experimentally measure $\sigma_{red,n}$ as a function of p_{pT}^2 for small positive values and extrapolate to the pole
 - We are using DIS on bound n to extract F_2 of free n
- Same measurement can be done for p
 - Cross check with proton F_2 extracted with traditional method
 - Can be used to select optimal deuteron spectral function
- Deuteron spectral function
 - $S_d(p_{pT}, \alpha_p)[pole] = \frac{R}{(p_{pT}^2 + a_T^2)}$
 - Position of pole
 - $a_T^2 = m_N^2 - \alpha_p(2 - \alpha_p)\frac{M_d^2}{4}$
 - Residue of spectral function
 - $R = 2\alpha_p^2 m_N \Gamma^2(2 - \alpha_p)$

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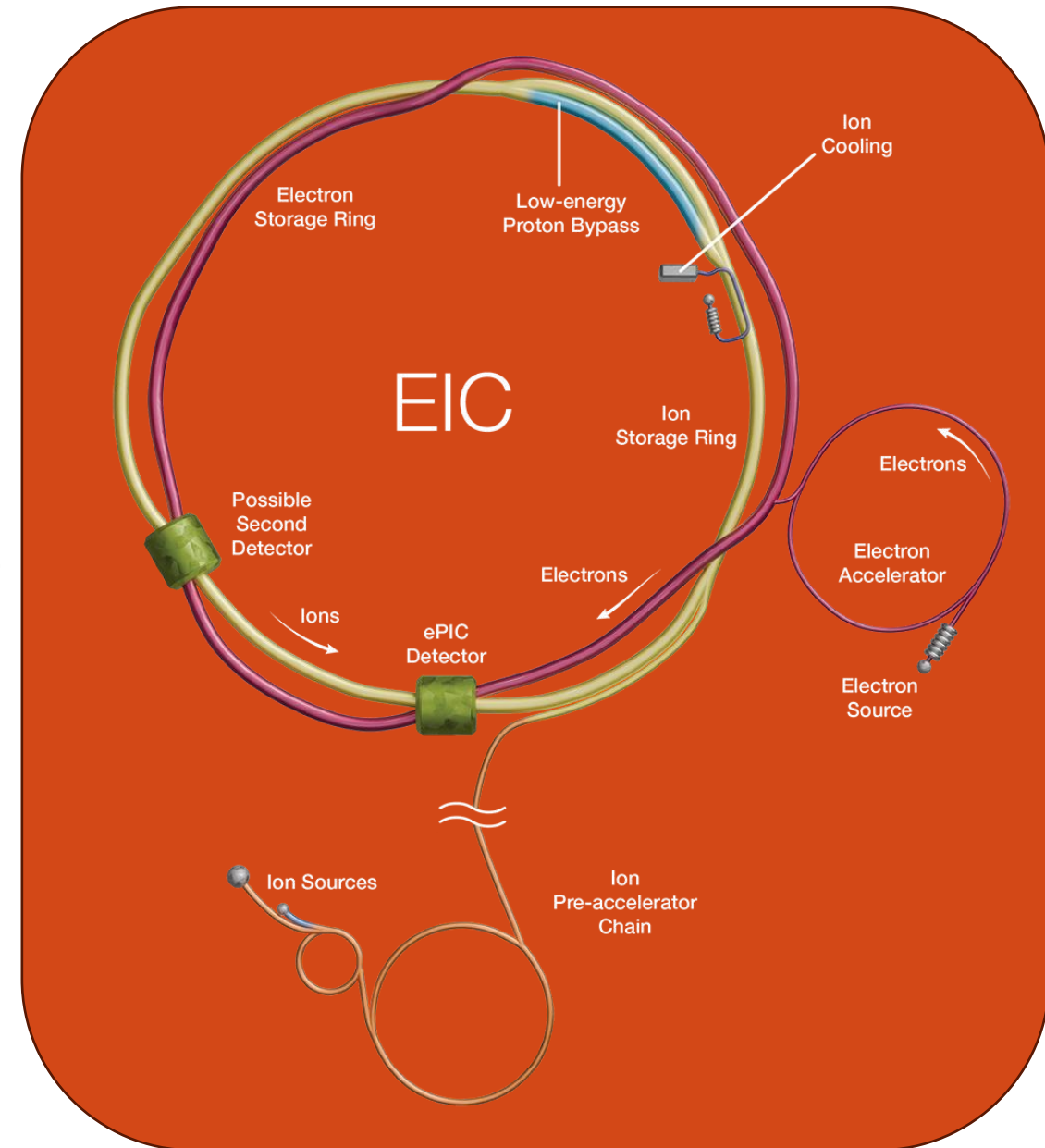
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- Same measurement can be done for p
 - Cross check with proton F_2 extracted with traditional method
 - Can be used to select optimal deuteron spectral function
- We can measure/calculate this
- External input from model/experiment
- Deuteron spectral function
 - $S_d(p_{pT}, \alpha_p)[pole] = \frac{R}{(p_{pT}^2 + a_T^2)}$
 - Position of pole
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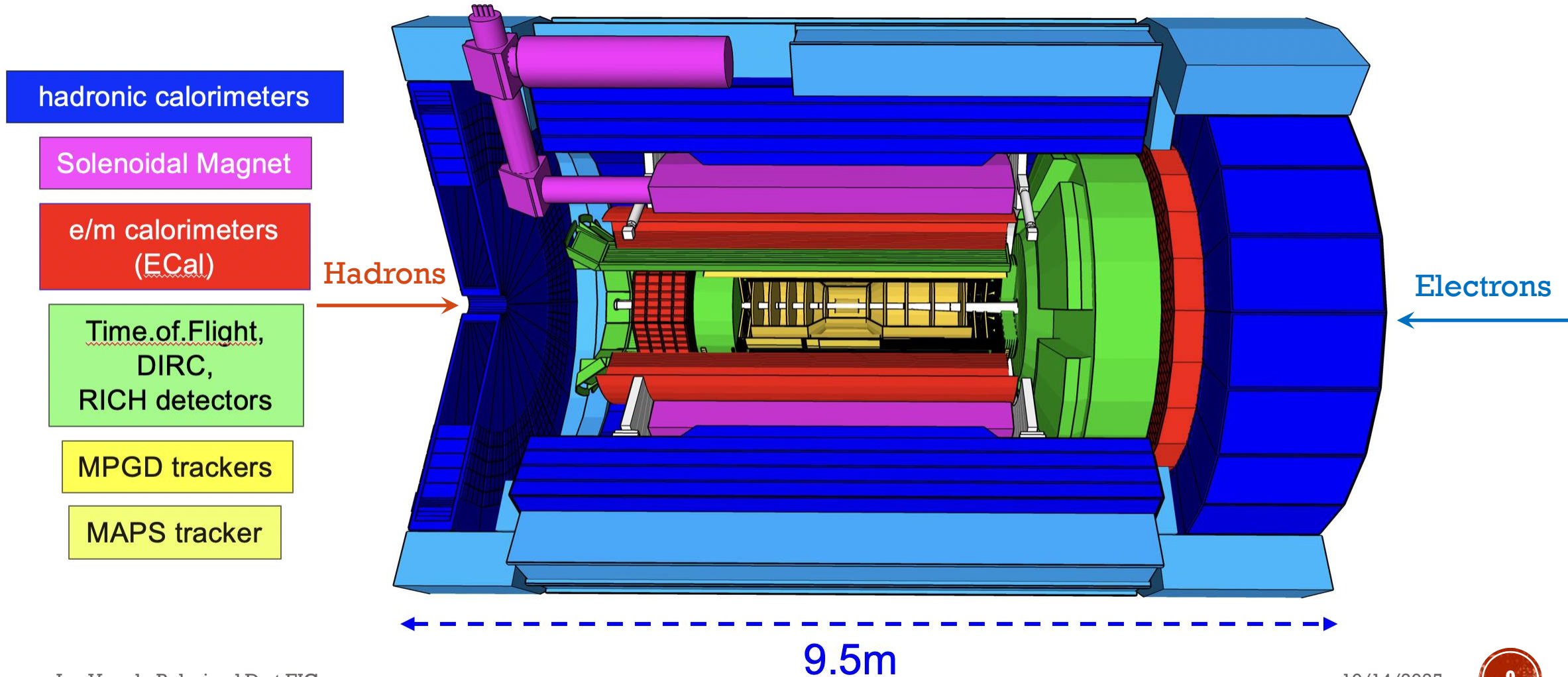
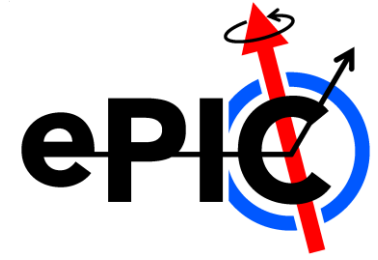
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ELECTRON-ION COLLIDER

- Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) will be built in Brookhaven National Laboratory in the place of current Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC)
- Hadron ring:
 - Upgrade of one of the existing RHIC rings
 - Possibility to accelerate wide range of hadrons
 - Protons, light nuclei (d , ^3He ...), heavy nuclei (^{197}Au , ^{238}U ...)
 - Protons and some light nuclei can be polarized
 - Large range of energies
 - From 41 GeV to 275 GeV for protons
- Electron ring:
 - Longitudinally polarized electrons
 - Continuous operation
 - One electron bunch replaced every second
 - Wide range of energies
 - From 8 GeV to 18 GeV



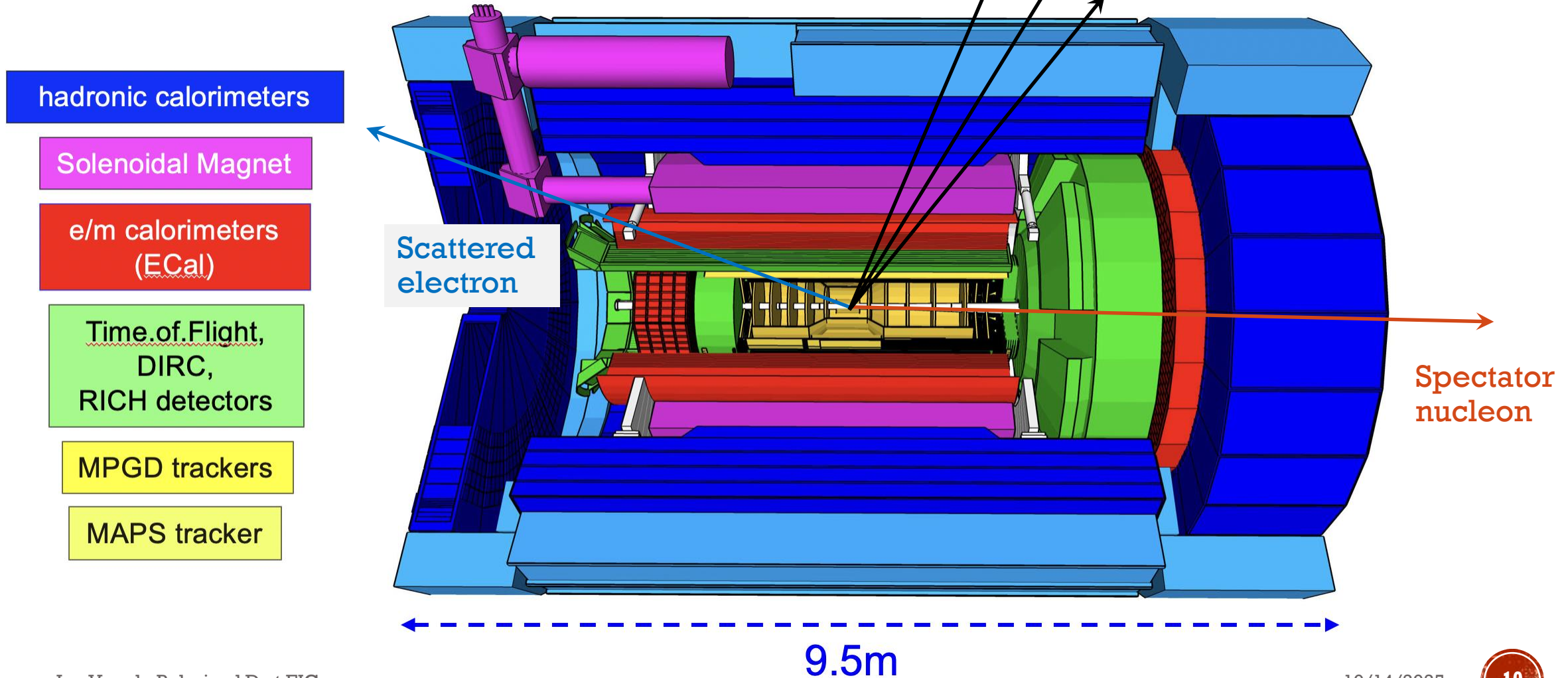
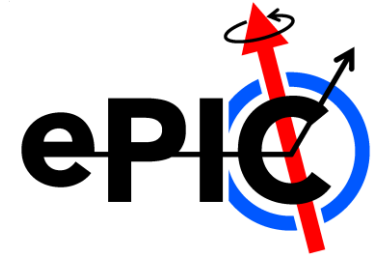
ePIC DETECTOR



ePIC DETECTOR

- What do we need for TDIS?

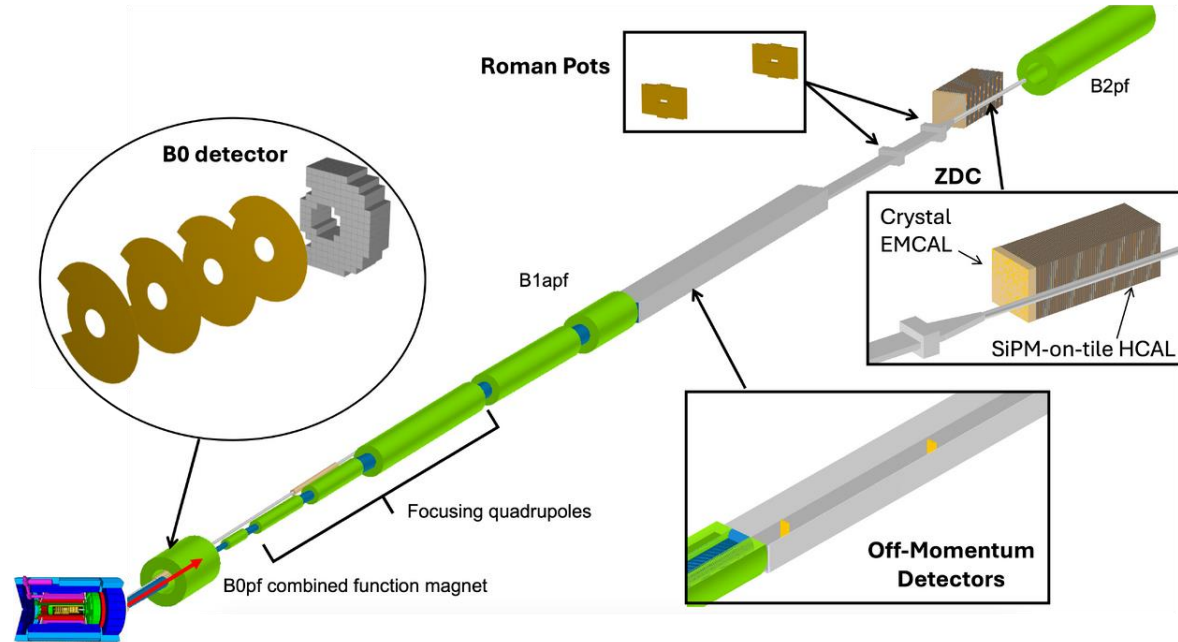
- Scattered electron
 - Central barrel detectors
- Spectator nucleon
 - Far-forward detectors



ePIC DETECTOR — FAR FORWARD

- Far-forward detector system for ePIC is designed to capture spectator hadrons which are very close to the beam

Detector	Hadron	Acceptance [mrad]
B0 Tracker	p	5.5-20.0
Off-momentum det.	p	0.0-5.0
Roman Pots	p	0.0-5.0
Zero Degree Calorimeter	n	0.0-4.0



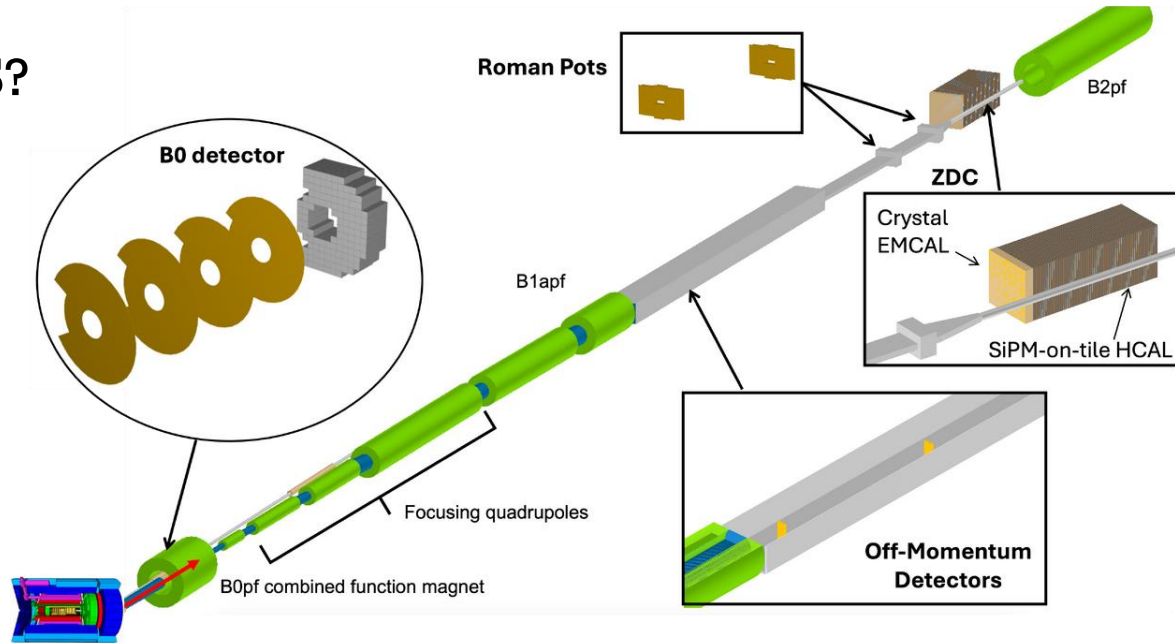
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- What do we need for TDIS?

- Off-momentum detector
 - Protons with $\sim 1/2$ of beam energy
- ZDC
 - Spectator neutrons



SIMULATION TOOLS

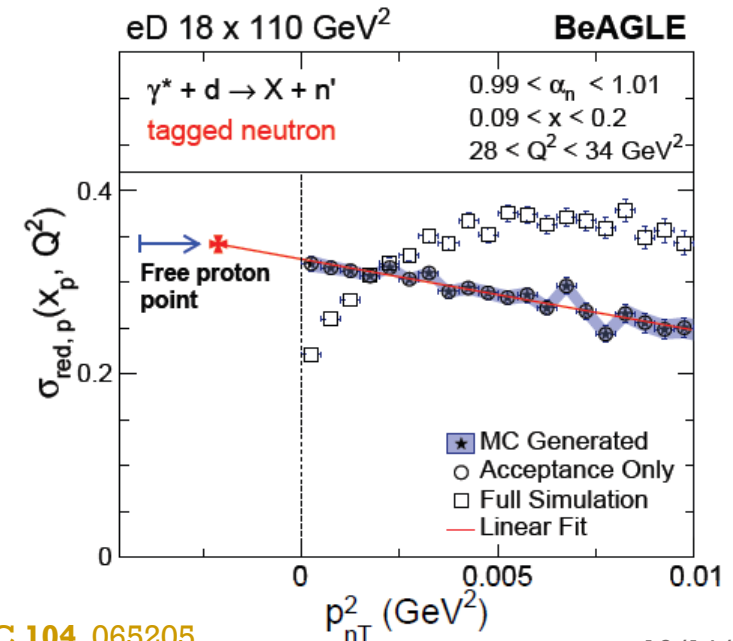
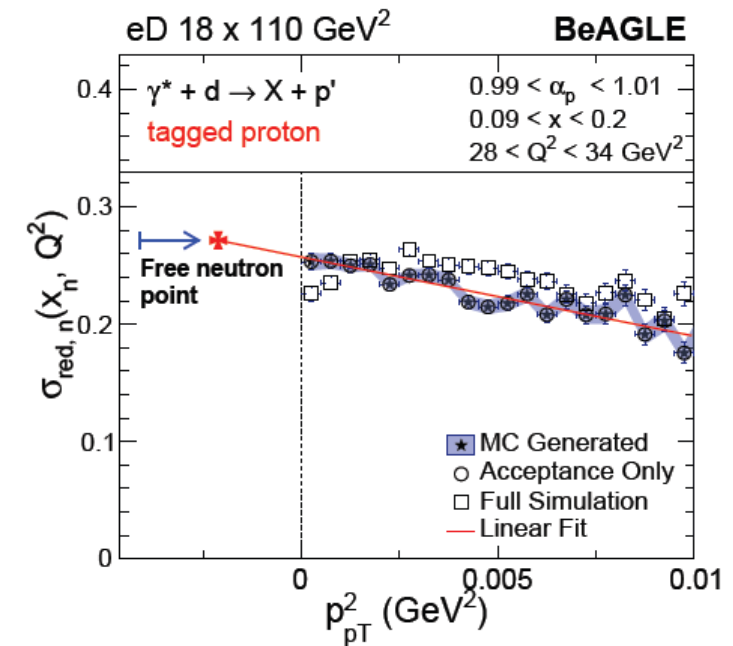
- **Event generator: BeAGLE**
 - Benchmark **eA** Generator for **LE**ptoproduction
 - Key parts for deuteron simulation – PYTHIA 6.4 and deuteron light-front spectral function
- **Detector simulations:** Full simulation using GEANT4
- **Reconstruction:** Transport matrix to calculate spectator momentum at interaction point from momentum at the detector
 - Currently tuned only to spectators with energy very close to $1/2$ of beam energy



Wan Chang, Elke-Caroline Aschenauer, Mark D. Baker, Alexander Jentsch, Jeong-Hun Lee, Zhoudunming Tu, Zhongbao Yin, and Liang Zheng: [Phys. Rev. D **106**, 012007](#).

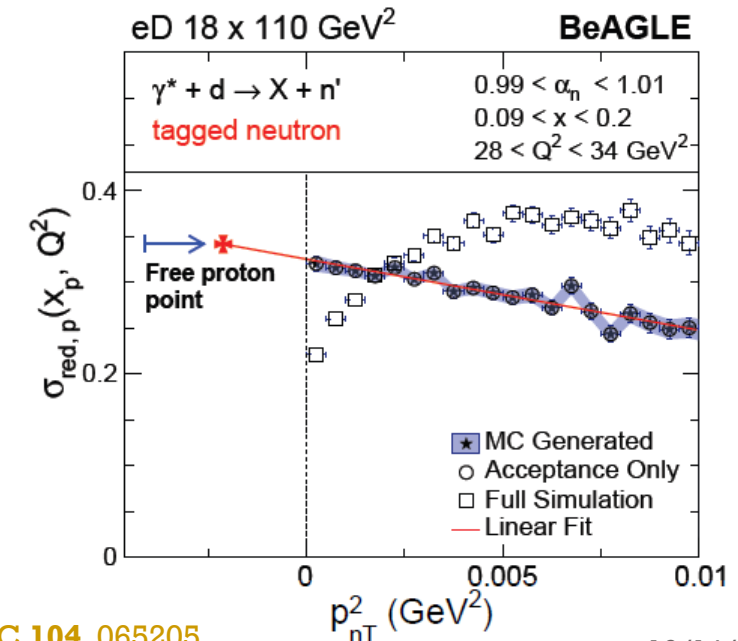
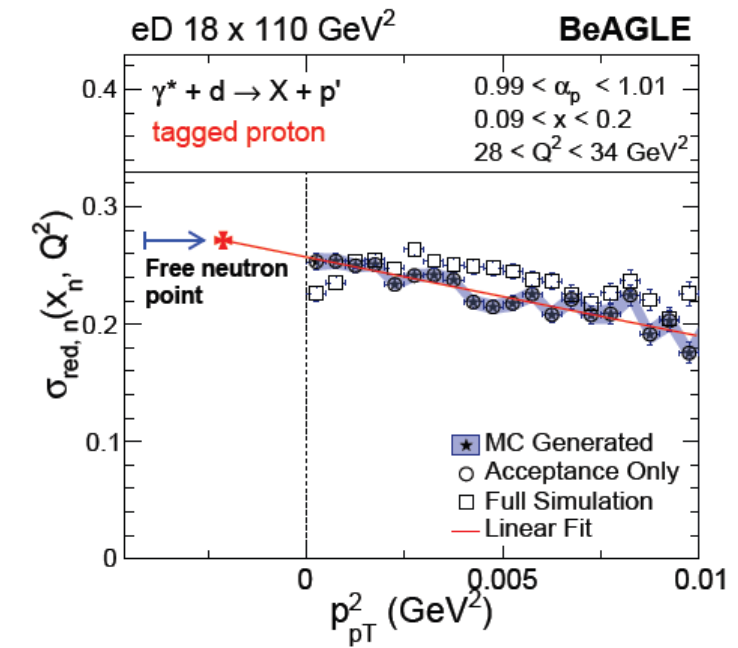
CURRENT RESULTS

- Reduced cross section of n (top) and p (bottom) extracted from MC eD collisions at $18 \times 110 \text{ GeV}^2$
 - MC Generated
 - True MC level information, without any acceptance effects
 - Acceptance only
 - Only detector acceptance is considered
 - Here basically identical to true MC as for the class of true MC events used, all spectator n and p hit the corresponding far-forward detector and efficiency is assumed to be 100%
 - Full Simulation
 - All detector and efficiency effect are considered
- Pole extrapolation
 - Fit to the true MC as a proof of concept
 - Works well for true MC
 - More challenging for full simulation



FUTURE PLANS

- New iteration of the presented study is being developed
 - Added full simulation of ePIC central barrel for electron reconstruction
 - Full integration of the whole simulation + reconstruction framework into ePIC simulation environment
 - Reconstruction of full kinematic range of spectator nucleons
- My involvement
 - Validation and checks of the new setup and cross-checks with the original results
 - Developing methods of signal extraction from Full Simulation level information
 - May require full unfolding procedure to correct for all efficiency and acceptance effects



SUMMARY

- Future EIC will allow measurement of internal structure of neutron via measurement of Tagged DIS on deuterons
 - Measurement of scattered electron and spectator p
- Method can be validated by measurement of structure functions of proton and compare to traditional methods for proton
- Method was validated using a simulation framework combining BeAGLE event generator with detector acceptance
- New version of simulation framework which is fully integrated into ePIC simulation environment is being developed
 - My main involvement is validation of the new simulation setup



**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENTION**