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Measurement of global polarization of Λ hyperons in Au+Au $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 7.2 GeV fixed-target collisions at RHIC-STAR experiment

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STAR

Introduction

✦In non-central collisions…

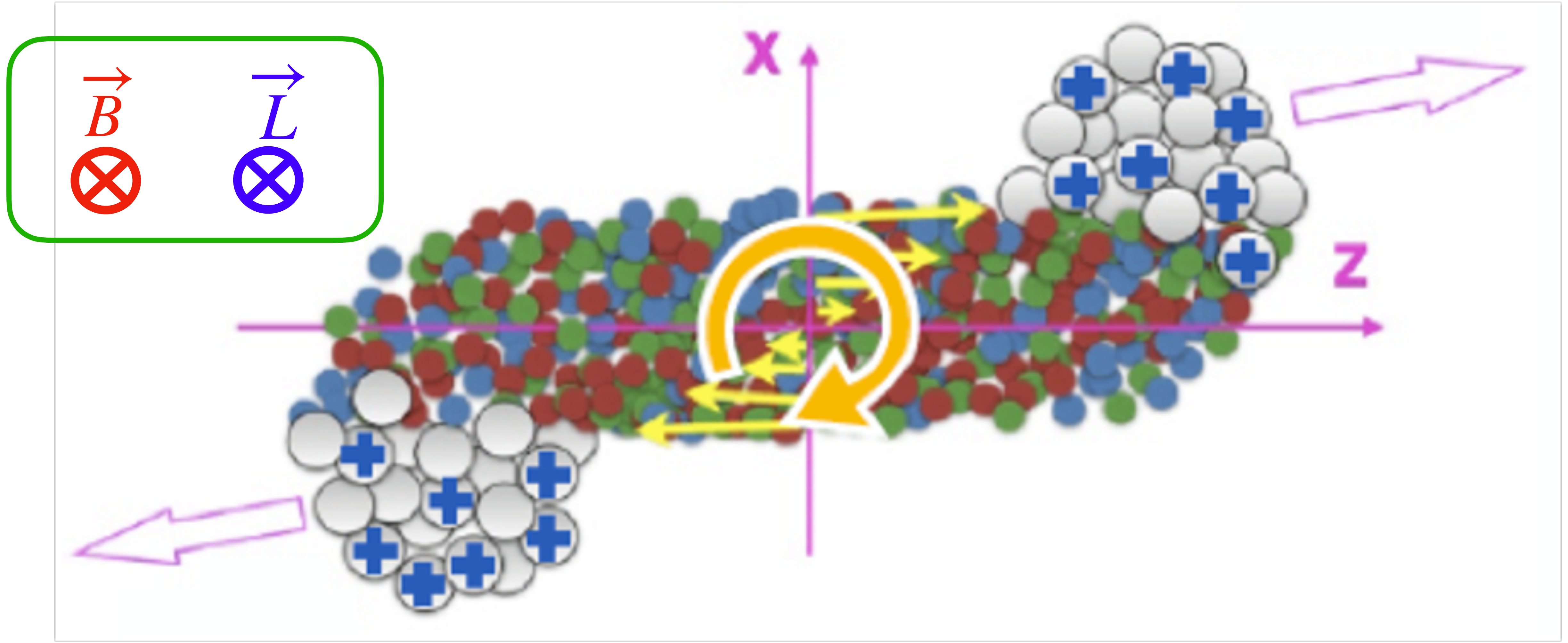
- The created matter should exhibit strong vorticity.

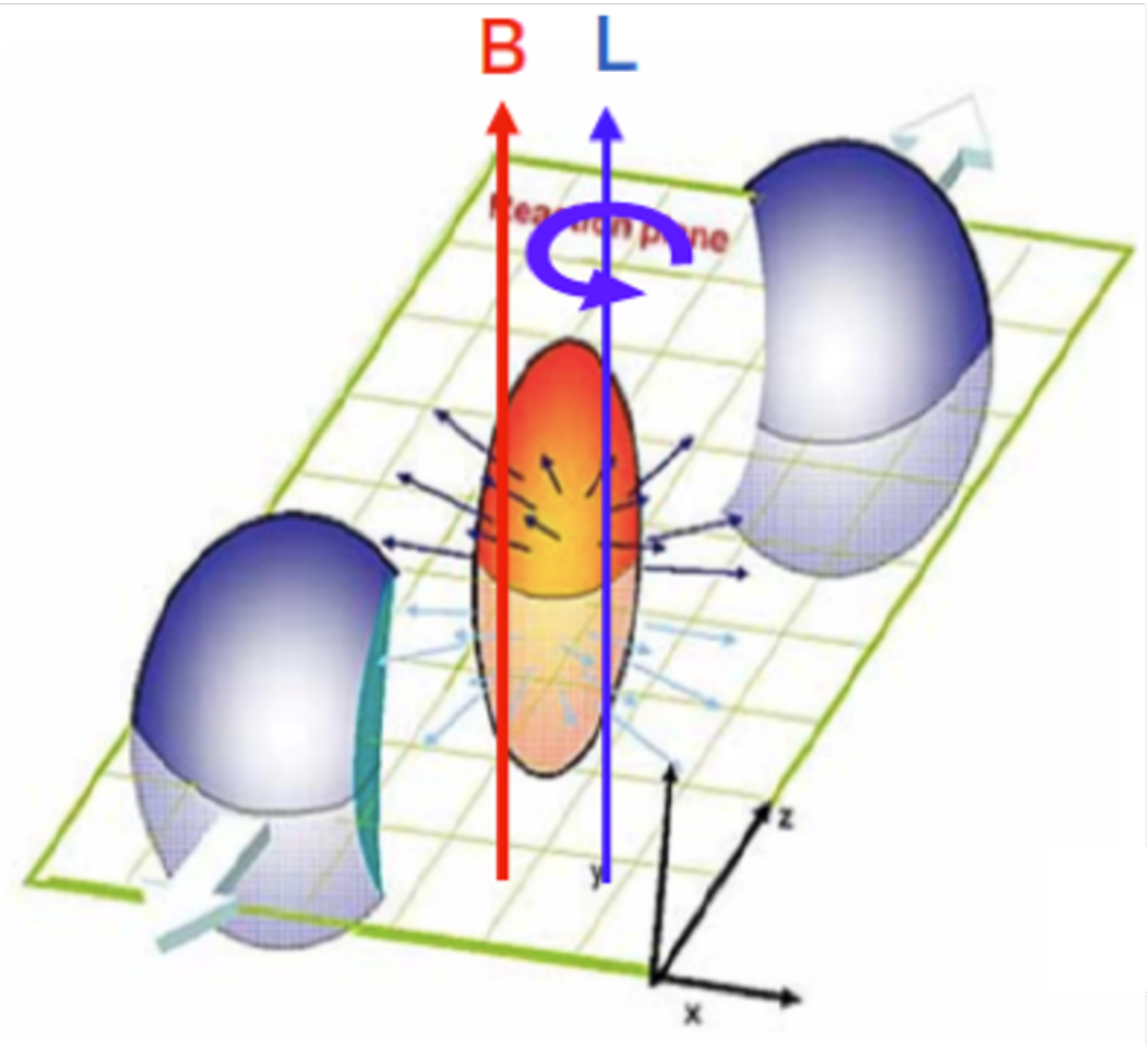
  -Z.-T.Liang and X.-N. Wang, PRL94, 102301

- The strong magnetic field would appear in the initial state.

  -D. Kharzeev, L. McLerran, and H. Warring, Nucl.Phys.A803, 227 (2008)

  -McLerran and Skokov, Nucl. Phys. A929, 184 (2014)



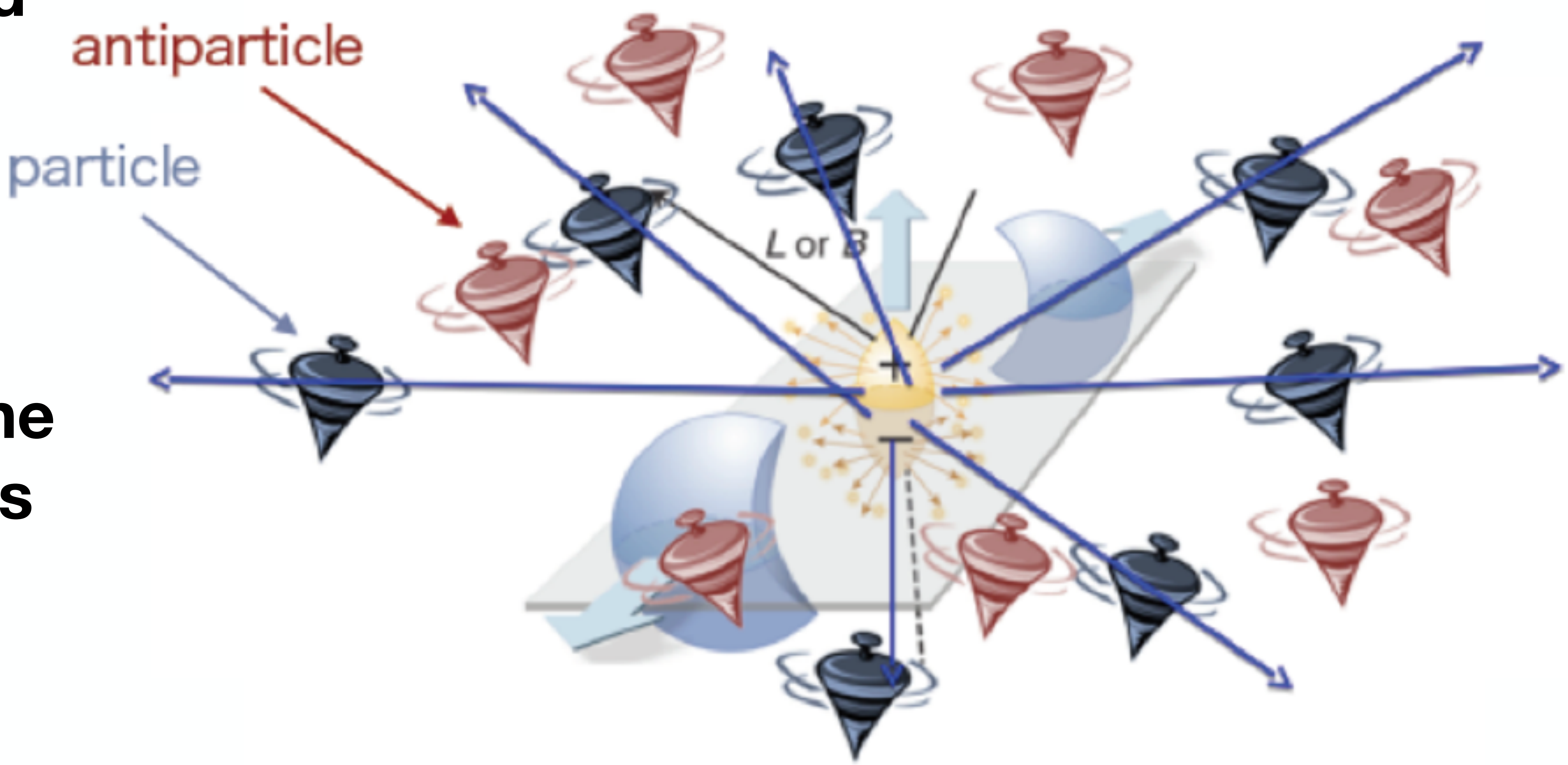


Global polarization

- Large angular momentum transfers to the spin degrees of freedom:
  - **Particle and anti-particle's spins are aligned with angular momentum.**

- Spin alignment by magnetic field:
  - **Particles and anti-particles get aligned in the opposite direction due to the opposite signs of their magnetic moments.**

✓ **Both are considered to contribute to the global polarization.**



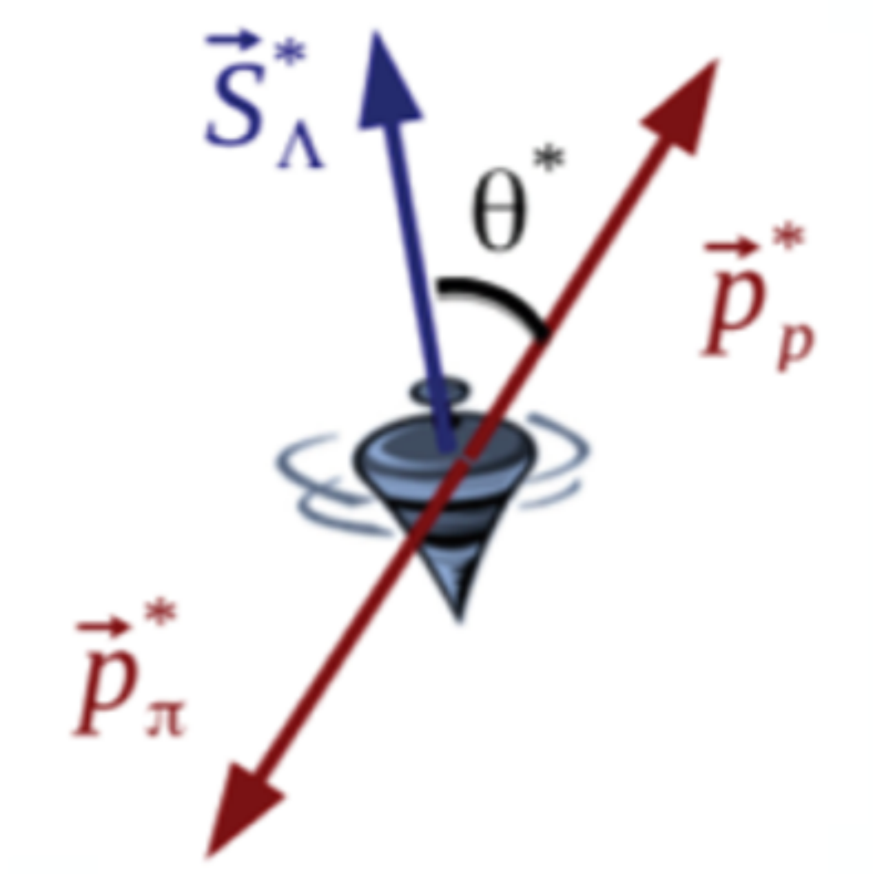
How to measure the global polarization?

✦Parity-violating decay of hyperon

- ▸Daughter proton preferentially decays along the Λ's spin (opposite for anti-Λ).

$$\Lambda \rightarrow p + \pi^-$$ (BR:63.9%, cτ~7.9cm)

- ▸Polarization can be measured via the distribution of the azimuthal angle of the daughter proton (in the hyperon rest frame).



✦Projection onto the transverse plane

$$P_H = \frac{8}{\pi\alpha_H}\frac{\langle \sin(\Psi_1 - \phi_p^*)\rangle}{Res(\Psi_1)}$$

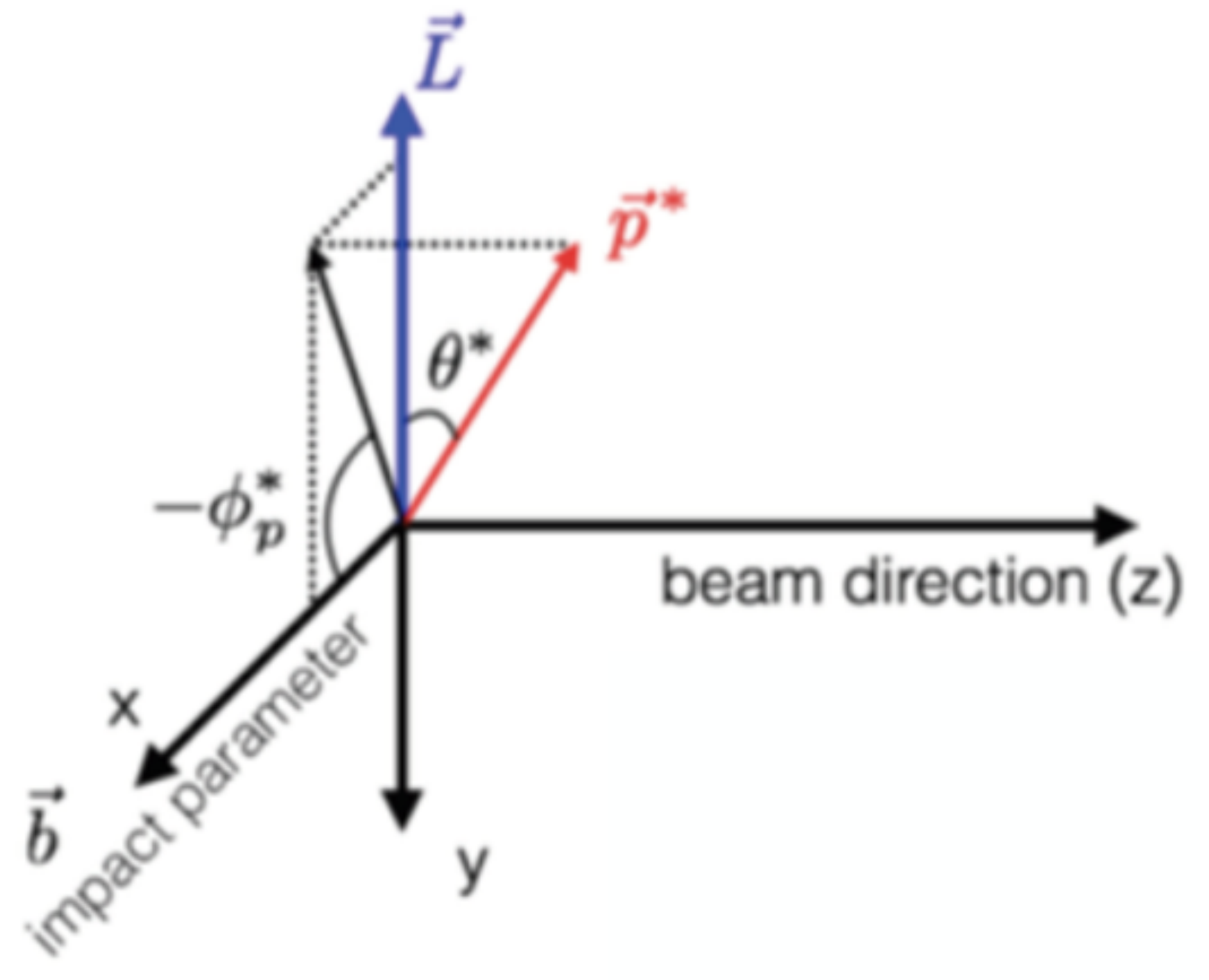
- STAR, PRC76, 024915(2007)

α_H : decay parameter ($\alpha_\Lambda = 0.732 \pm 0.014$)

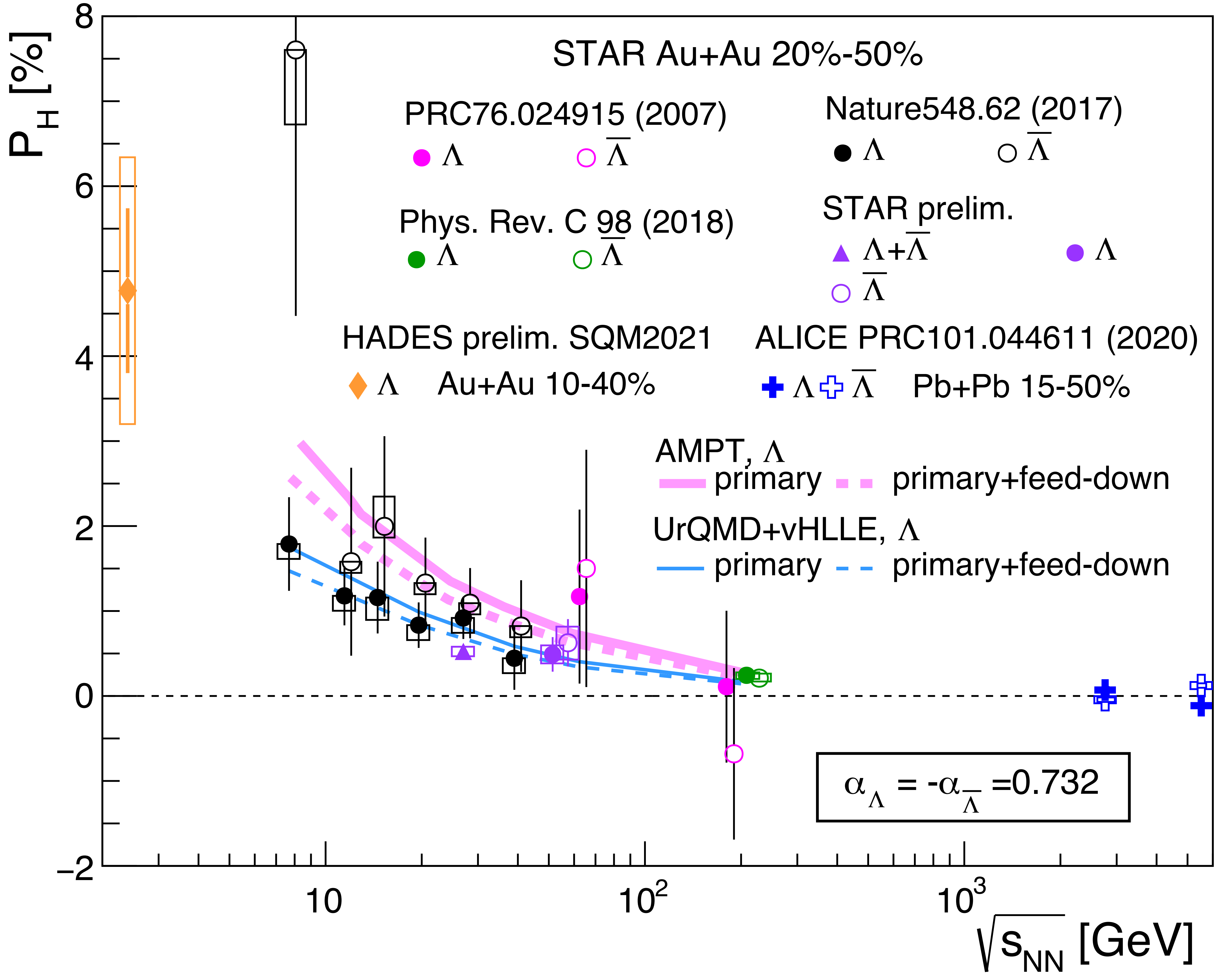
P.A. Zyla et al. (PDG), Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys.2020, 083C01 (2020).

Ψ_1 : 1^{st}-order event plane

ϕ_p^* : azimuthal angle of the daughter proton in the Λ's rest frame



Motivation

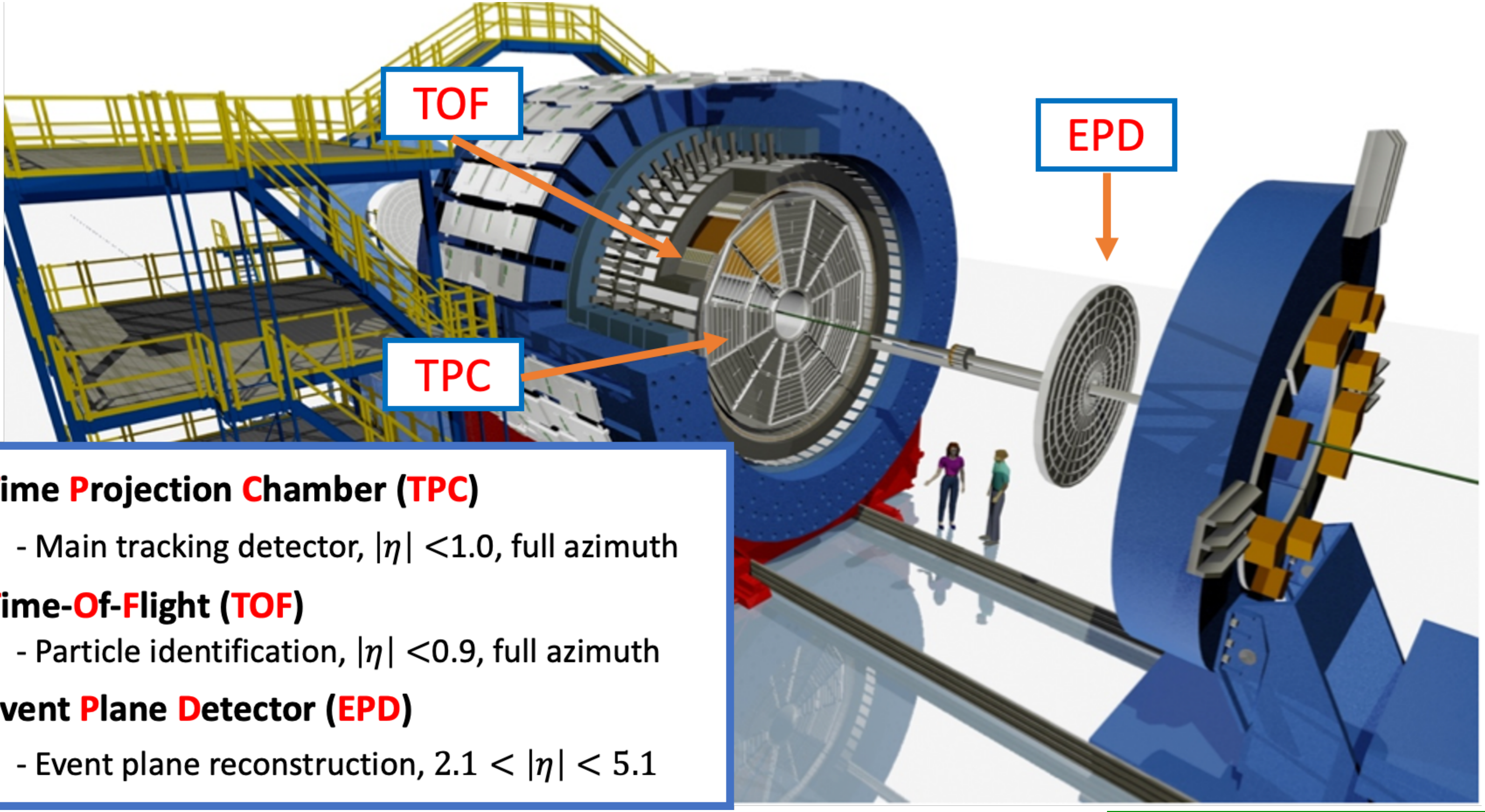


- **Λ global polarization has been measured from $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 2.4 GeV to 5.02 TeV.**
  - ✓Polarization increases toward lower collision energy.
  - ✓No significant difference between Λ and anti-Λ.

- New analysis of global polarization at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 7.2 GeV with fixed-target experiment.
  - ✓209M events at 7.2 GeV > 4M events at 7.7 GeV (BES I).

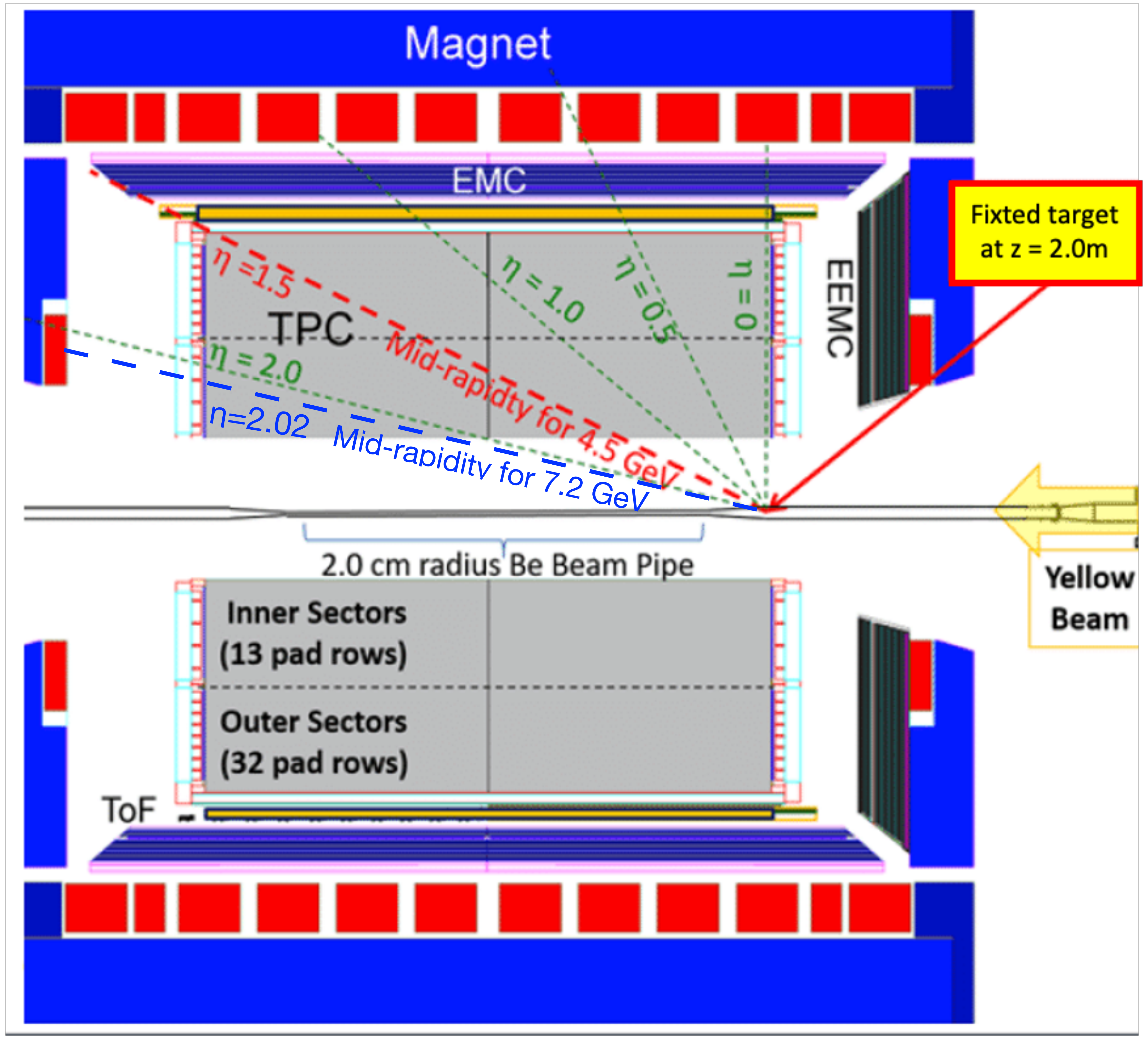
(Good minimum bias events)

The STAR detector



- **Time Projection Chamber (TPC)**
  - Main tracking detector, $|\eta| < 1.0$, full azimuth
- **Time-Of-Flight (TOF)**
  - Particle identification, $|\eta| < 0.9$, full azimuth
- **Event Plane Detector (EPD)**
  - Event plane reconstruction, $2.1 < |\eta| < 5.1$

STAR fixed-target program



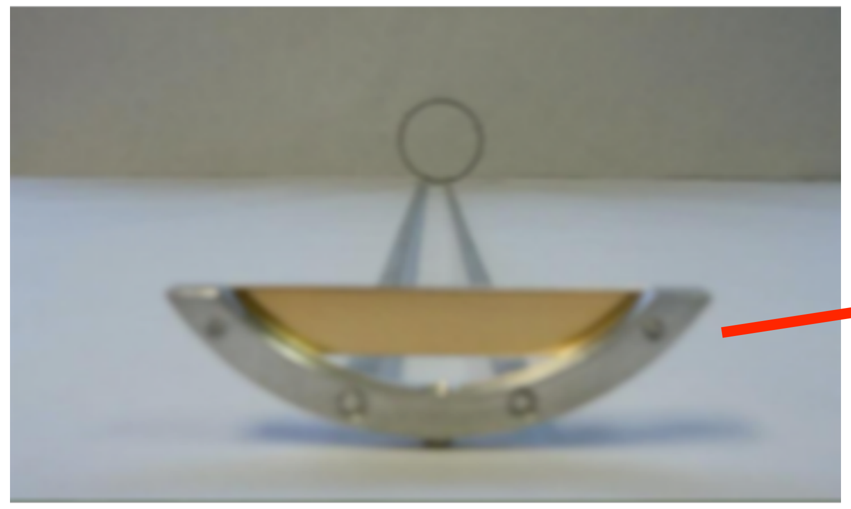
✓The gold target was installed inside the vacuum pipe at z = 2.0 m.

✓Target is 0.25 mm thick and ~1% interaction probability.

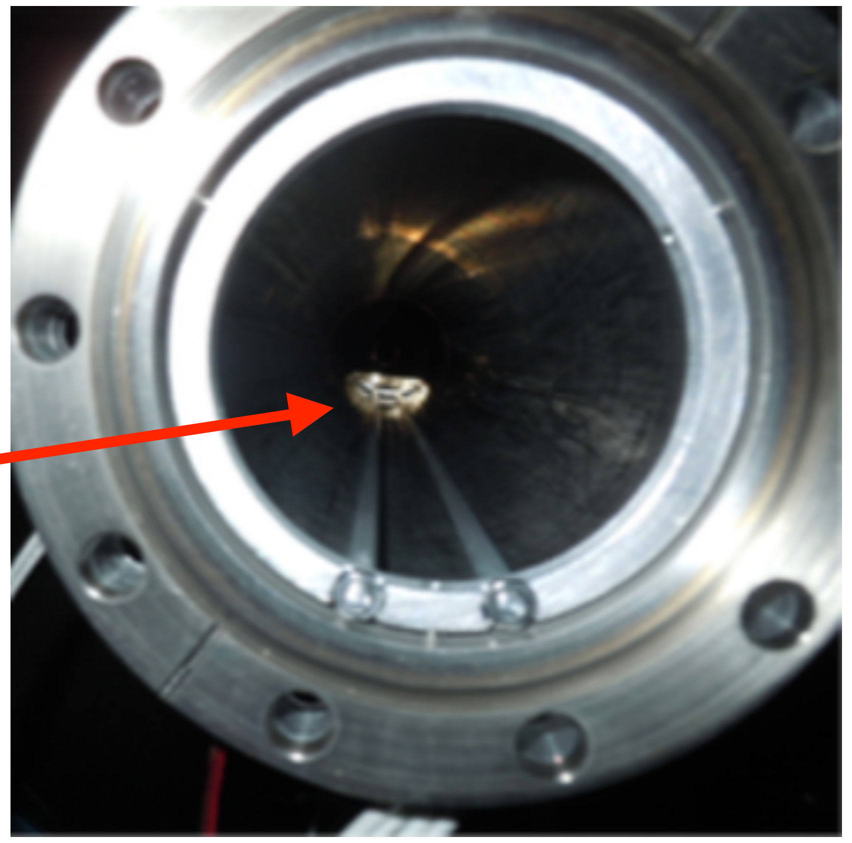
✓209M good minimum bias events for Au+Au with fixed-target experiment at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 7.2 GeV.

✓Mid-rapidity for 7.2 GeV is -2.02.

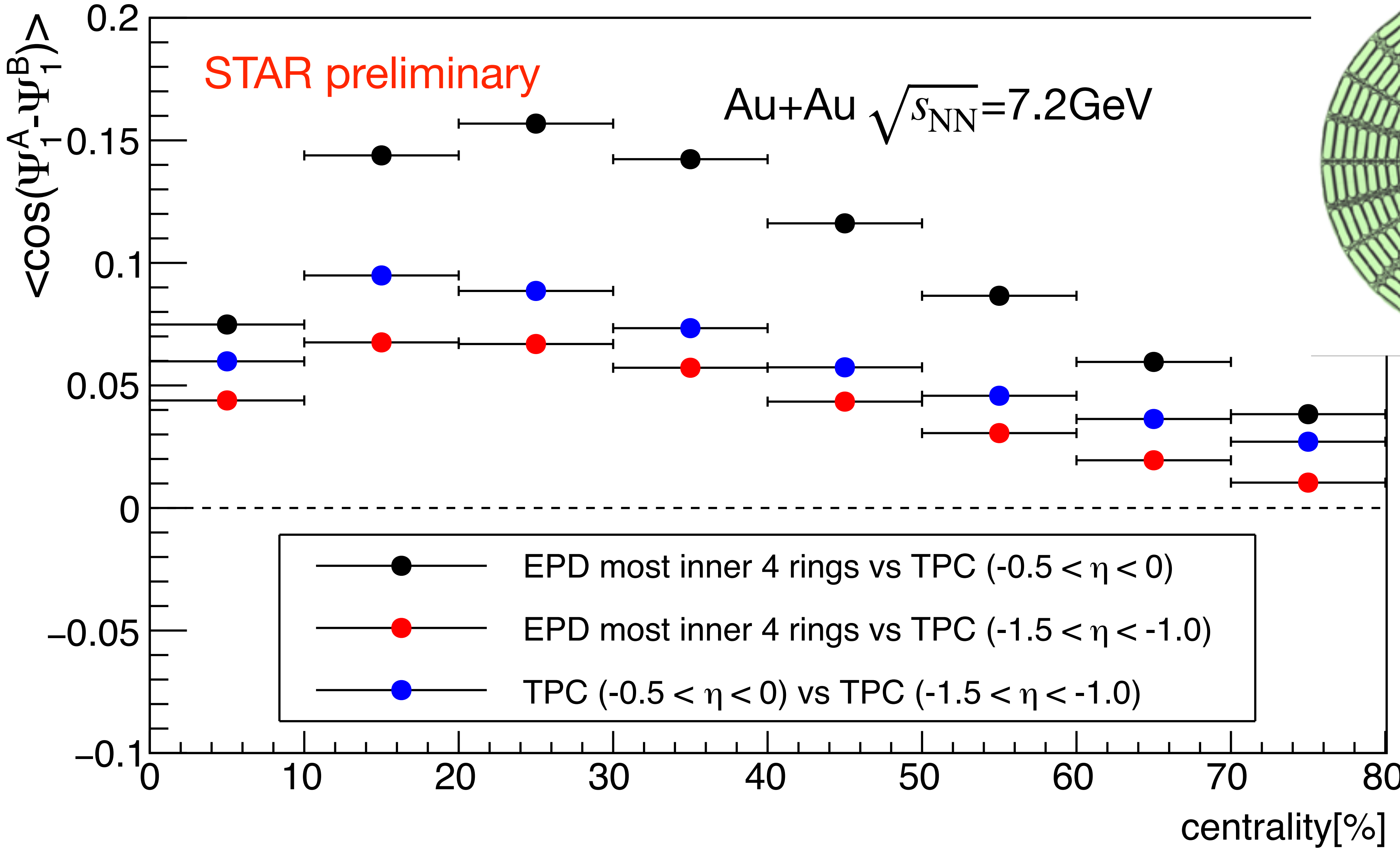
Fixed-target

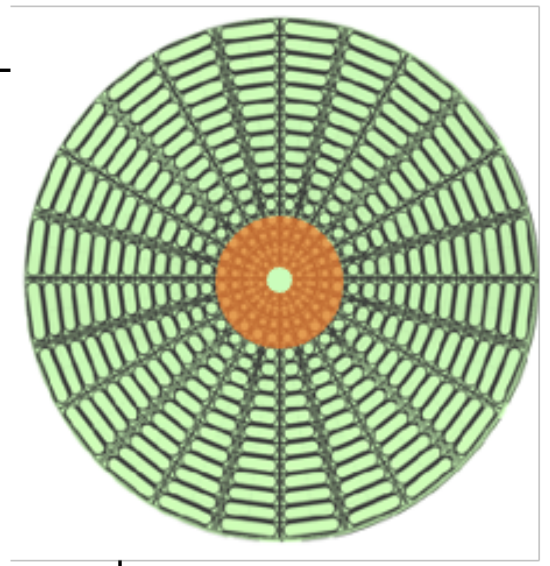


Beam pipe



Event plane correlation and resolution





NIM A968 (2020) 163970

arxiv:1912.05243

✓First-order event plane

$$\Psi_1 = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\sum w_i \sin(\phi_i)}{\sum w_i \cos(\phi_i)}\right)$$

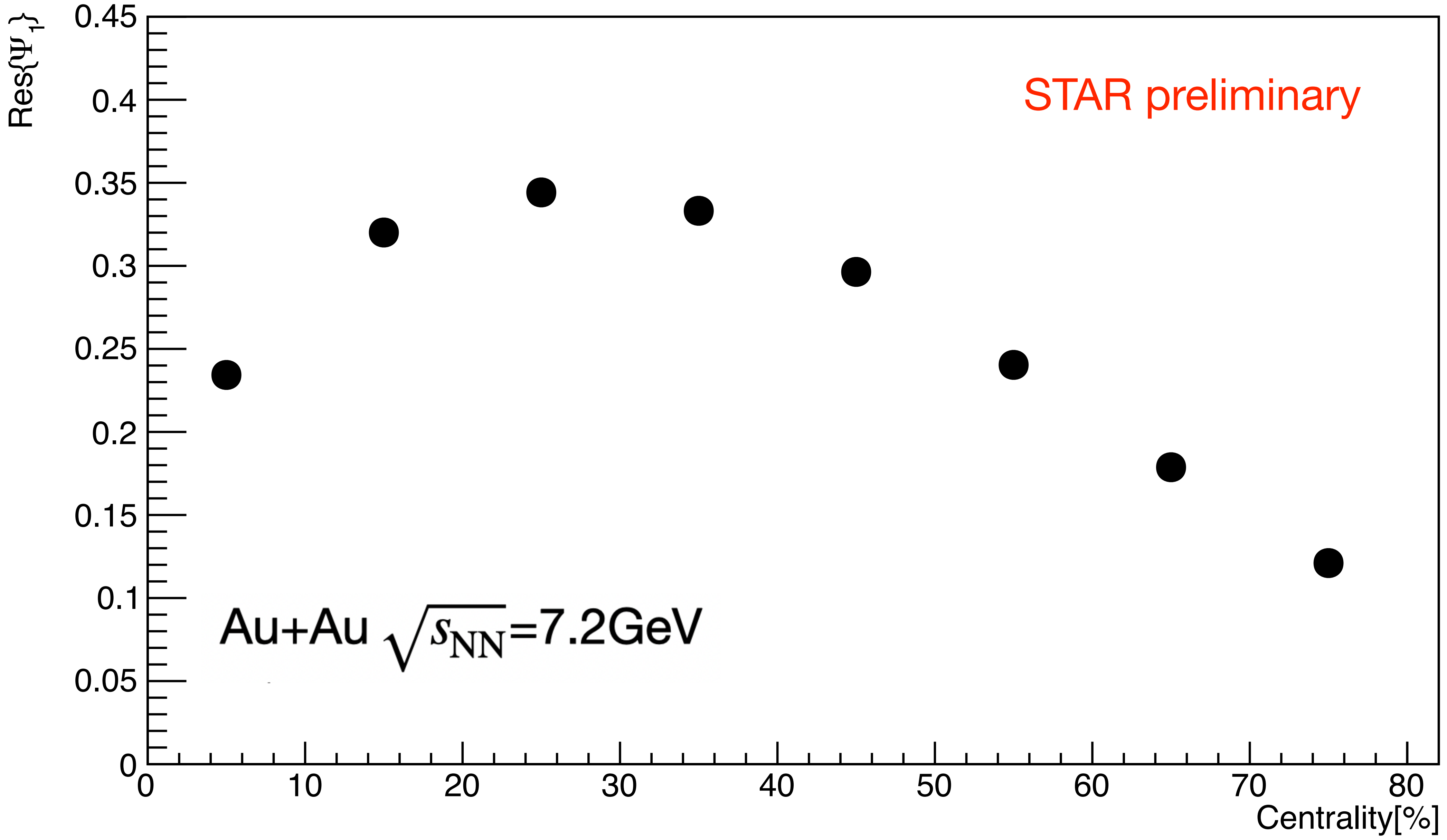
First,

$$w_i^{TPC} = \eta - y^{mid} \qquad w_i^{EPD} = \text{nMip}$$

Second,

$$w_i = \langle \cos(\phi^A - \Psi_1) \rangle$$ A : pion or proton

EPD most inner 4 rings



✓Event plane resolution was calculated by 3-subevent method.

$$\langle \cos([\Psi_1^A - \Psi_1^B]) \rangle = \langle \cos([\Psi_1^A - \Psi_1^{true}]) \rangle \langle \cos([\Psi_1^{true} - \Psi_1^B]) \rangle$$

$$= \sigma_n^A \sigma_n^B$$

$$Res(\Psi_1^A) = \sqrt{\frac{\langle \cos([\Psi_1^A - \Psi_1^B]) \rangle \langle \cos([\Psi_1^A - \Psi_1^C]) \rangle}{\langle \cos([\Psi_1^B - \Psi_1^C]) \rangle}}$$

A : EPD most inner 4 rings

B : TPC $(-0.5 < \eta < 0)$

C : TPC $(-1.5 < \eta < -1.0)$

A. M. Poskanzer and S. A. Voloshin, Phys. Rev. C 58, 1671 (1998).

Λ reconstruction

- Charged particles can be identified via specific ionization energy loss in the TPC and mass estimated from TOF.

❖Proton

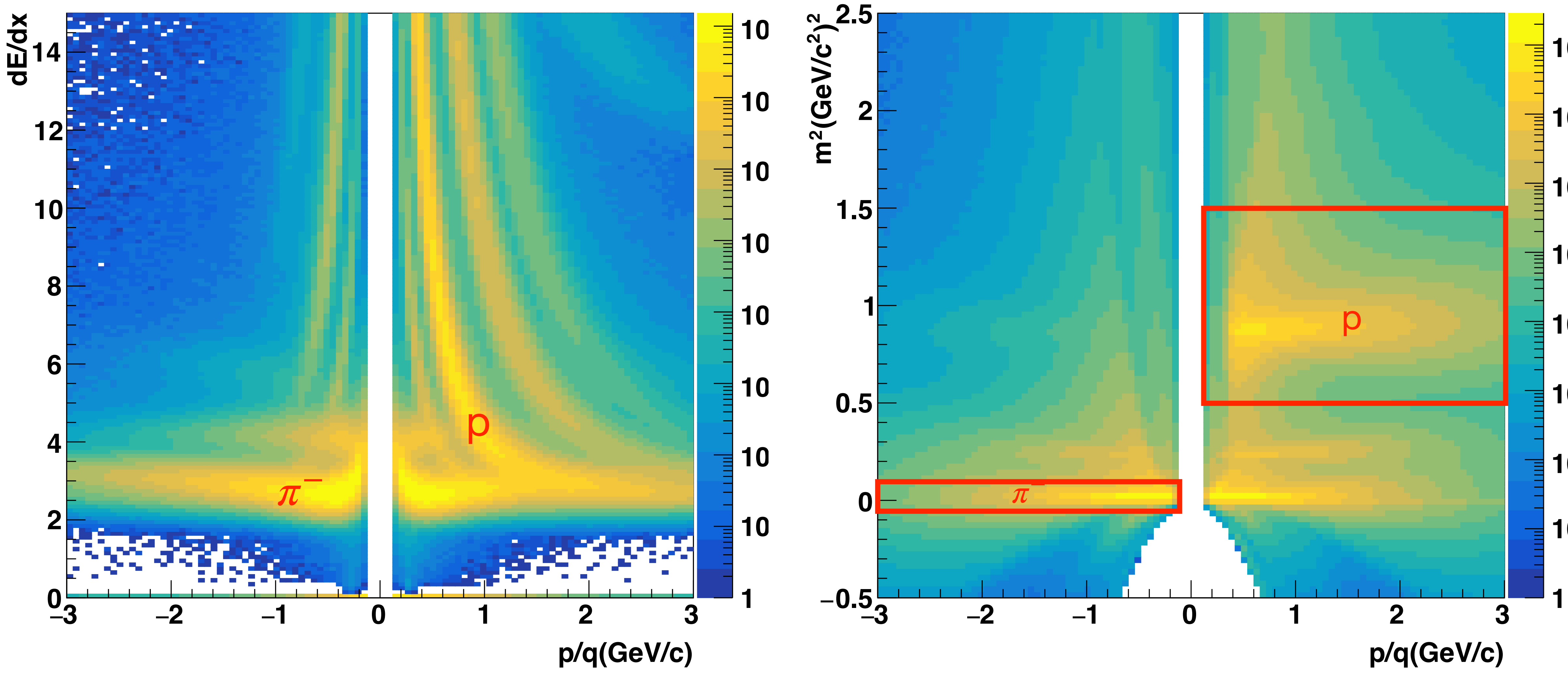
✓ $|n\sigma| < 3$

✓ $0.5 < m^2 < 1.5$ (GeV/c²)²

❖Pion

✓ $|n\sigma| < 3$

✓ $-0.06 < m^2 < 0.1$ (GeV/c²)²



❖Topological cut

✓p-DCA > 0.4 cm

✓π-DCA > 1.6 cm

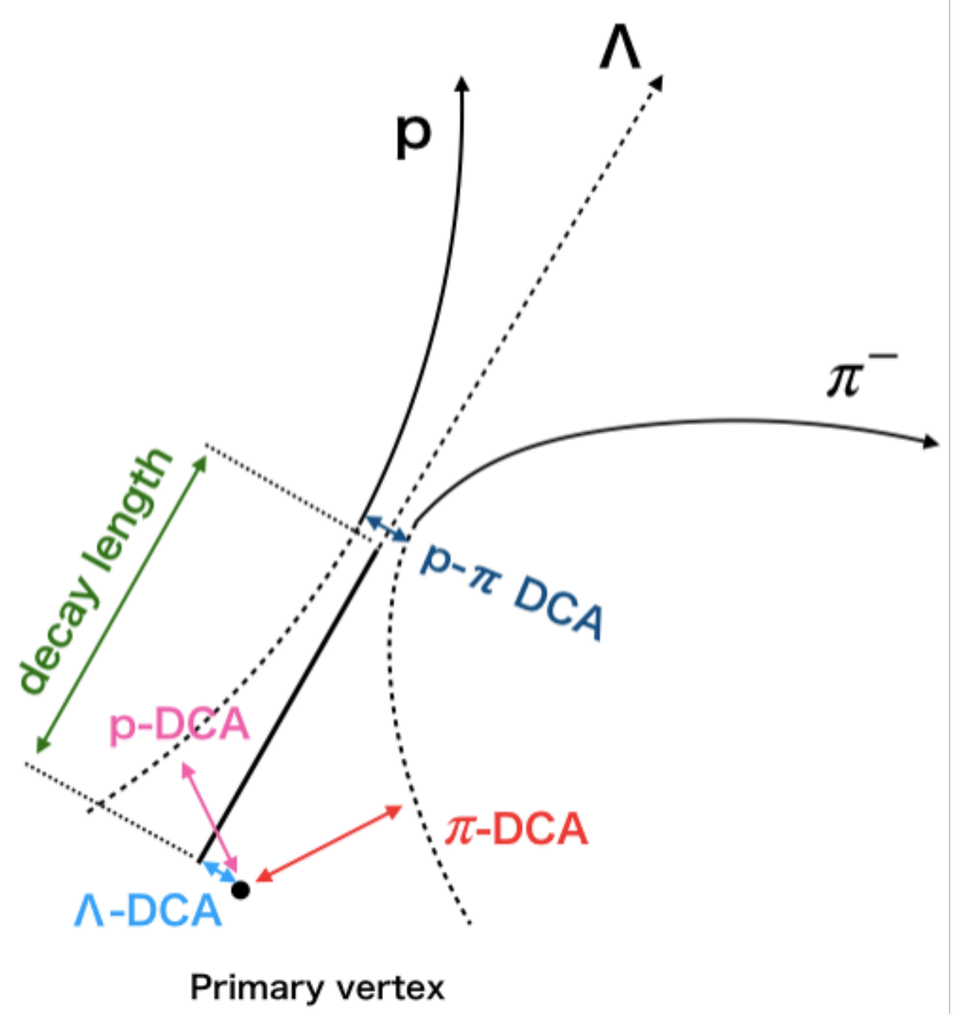
✓p-π DCA < 1.1 cm

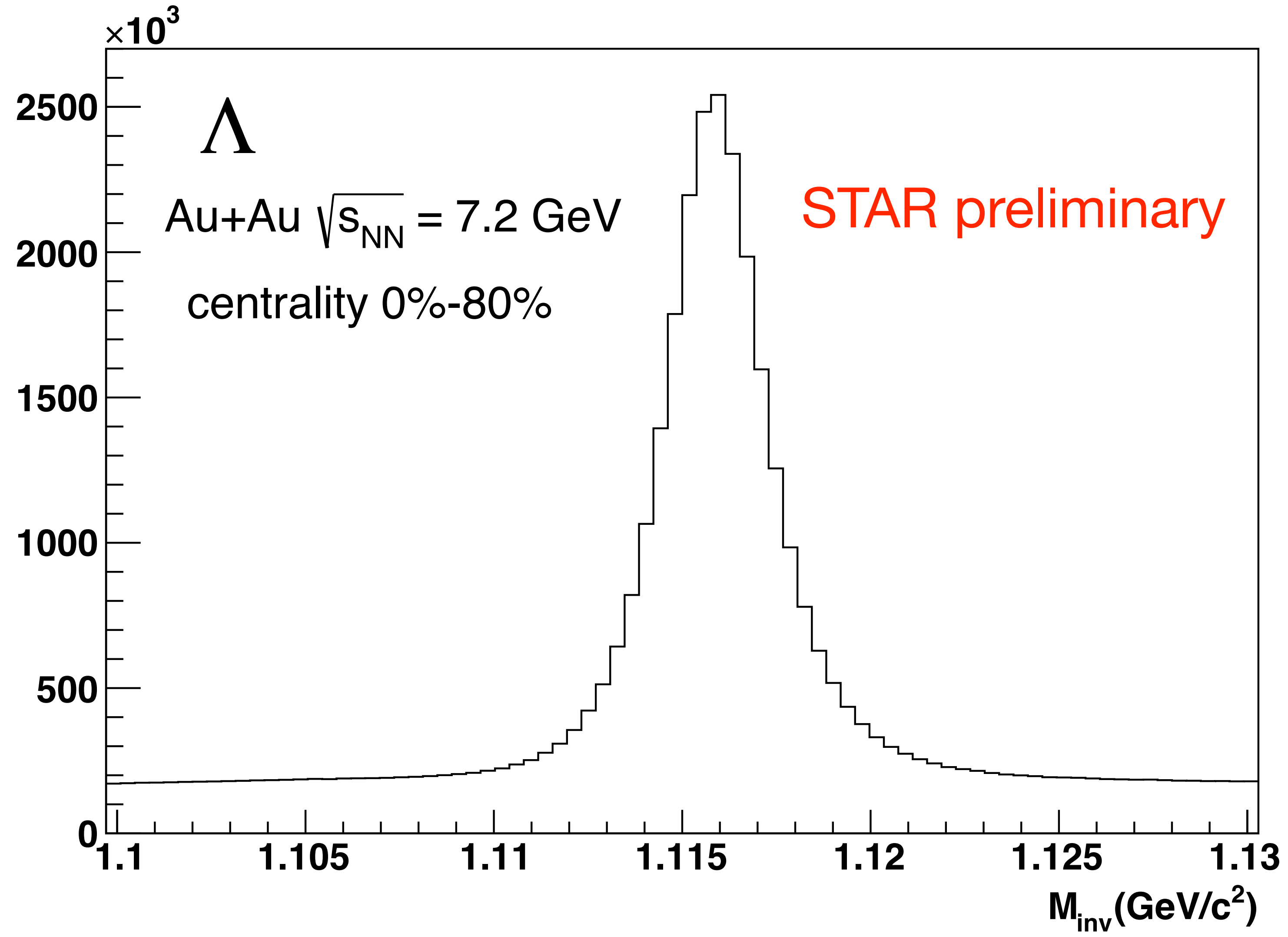
✓Λ-DCA < 0.8 cm

✓Decay length > 5.0 cm

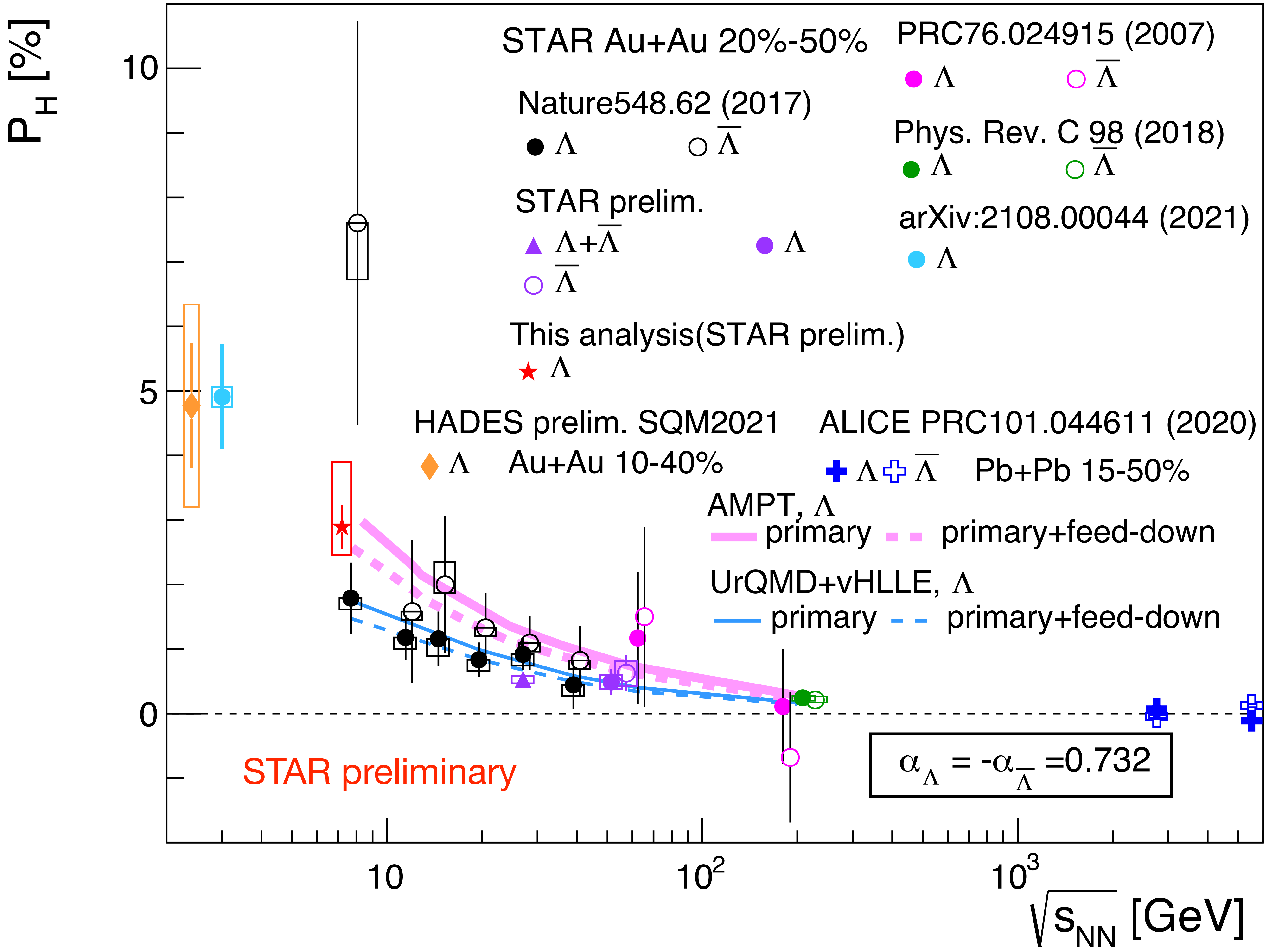
(Centrality 30-40%)

These values of topological cut are slightly tuned depending on centrality.





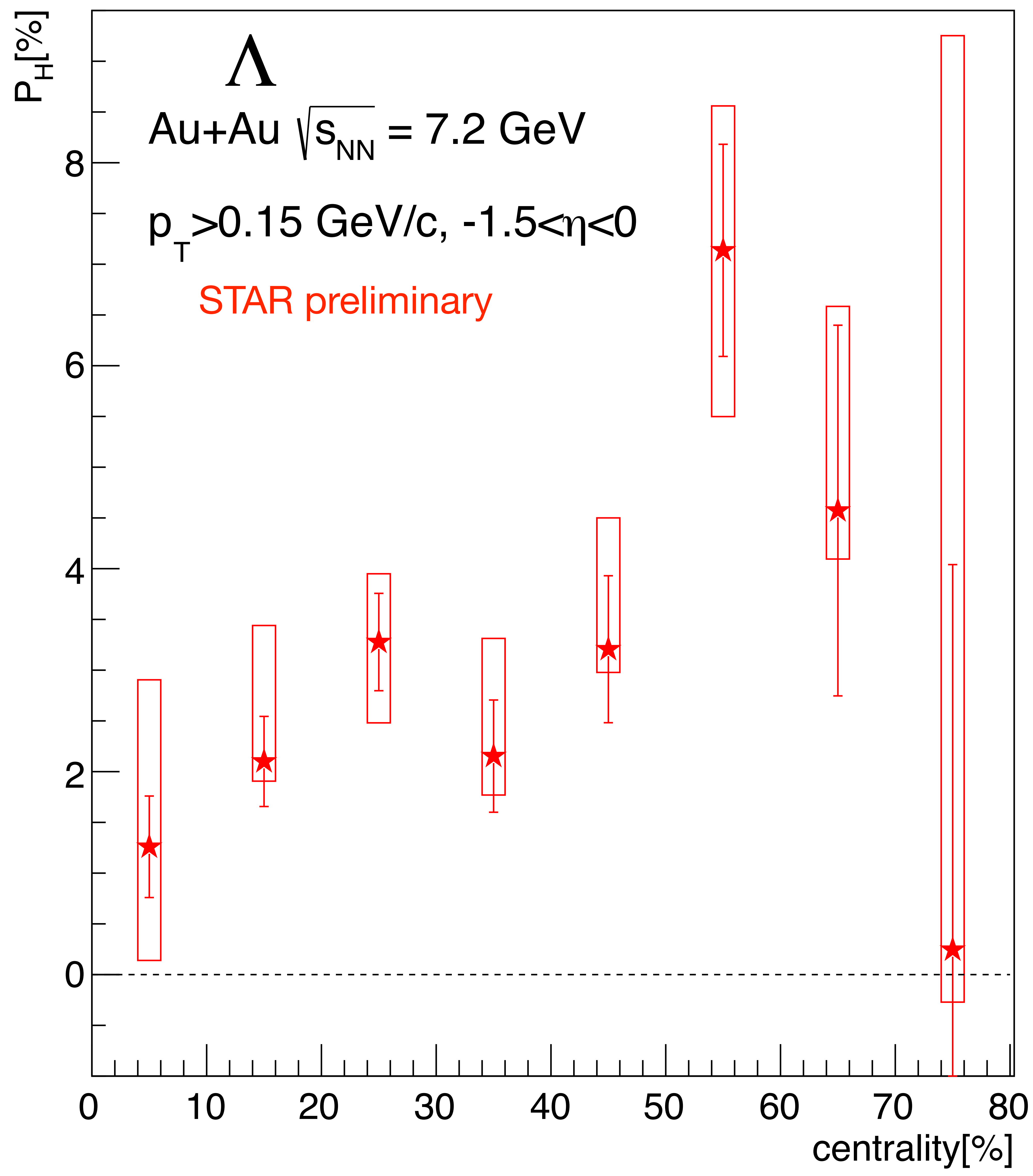
Collision energy dependence of P_H

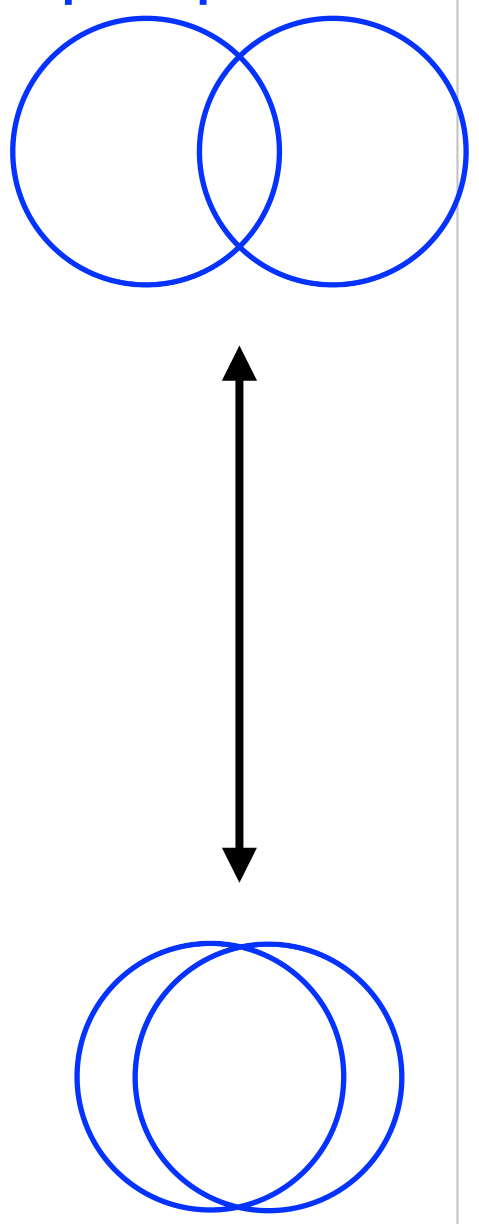


✓First measurements in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 3.0, 7.2 GeV.

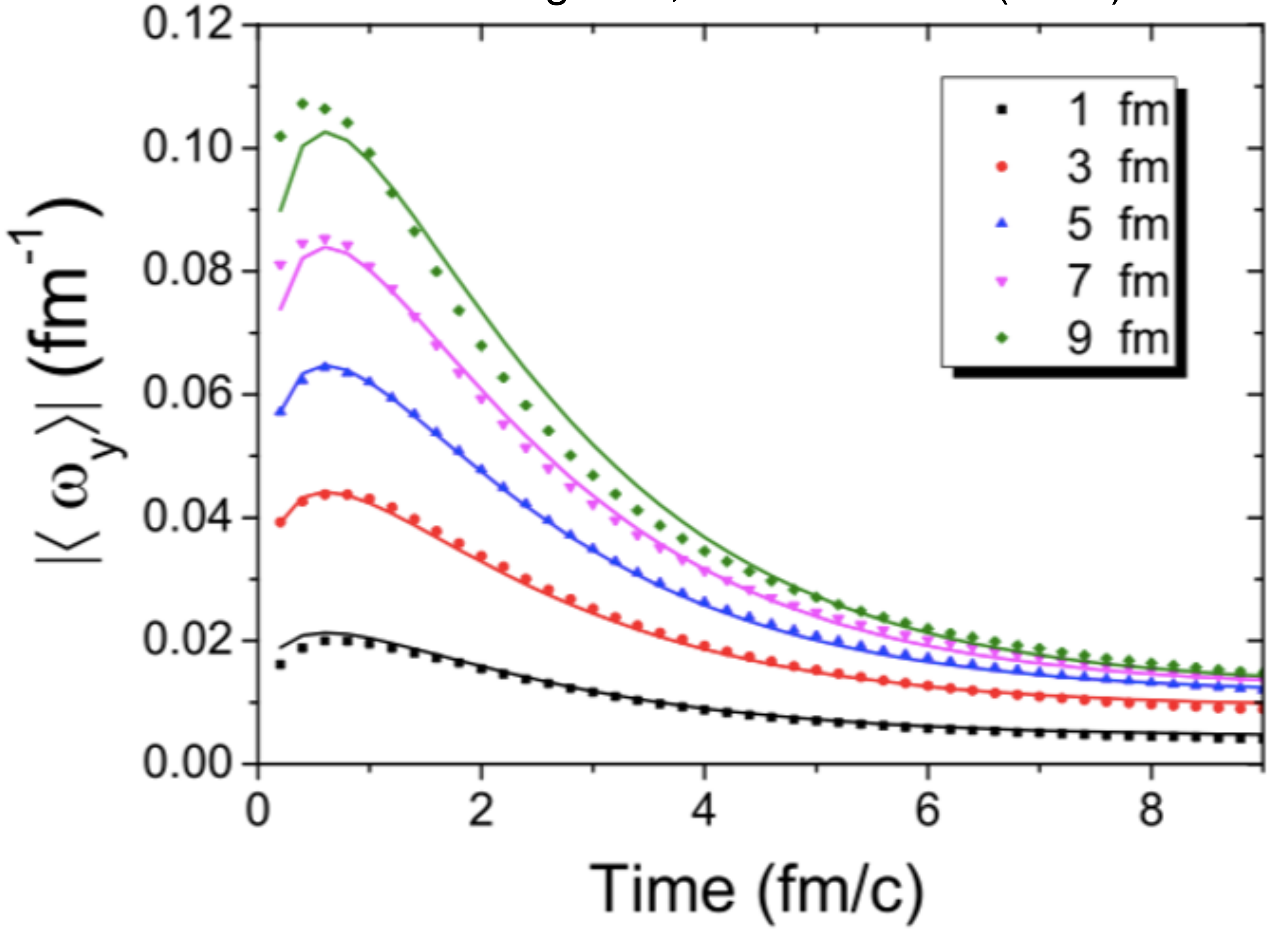
- Observed positive Λ global polarization!
- These results follows the global trend of the energy dependence.
  - Λ global polarization increases at lower collision energies.

Centrality dependence of P_H



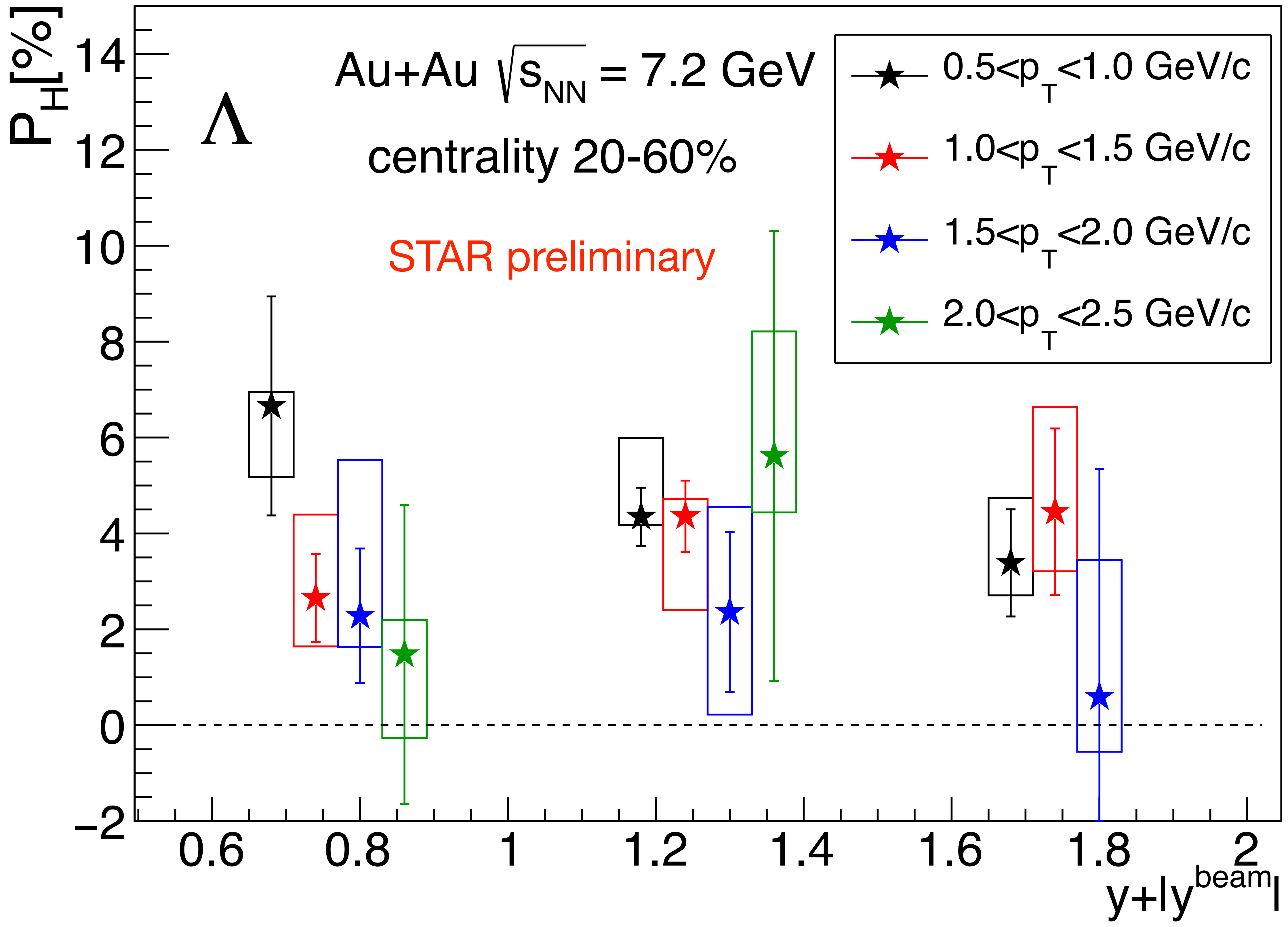


Jiang et al,PRC94 044910(2016)

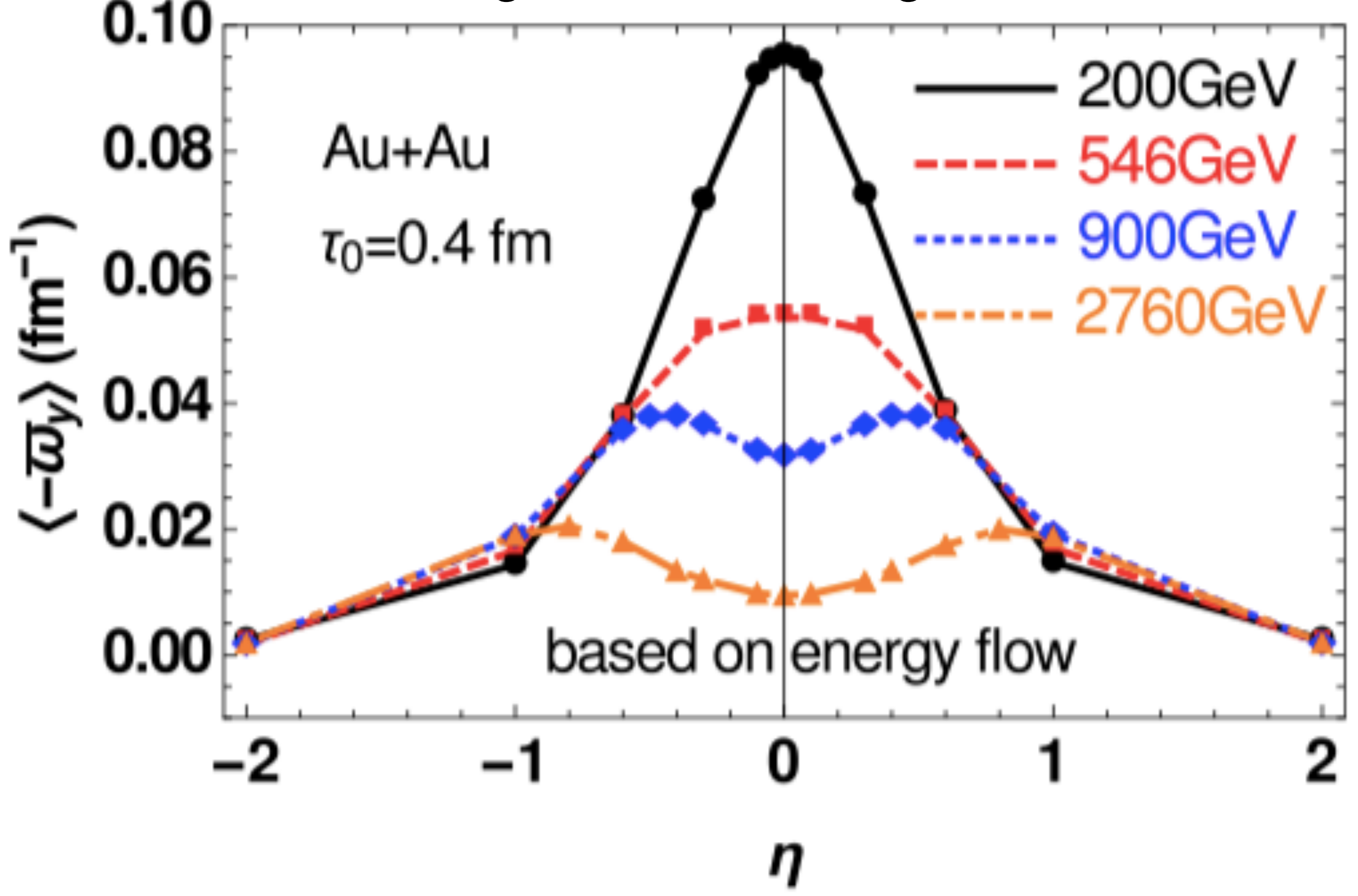


✓Polarization increases in more peripheral collisions.

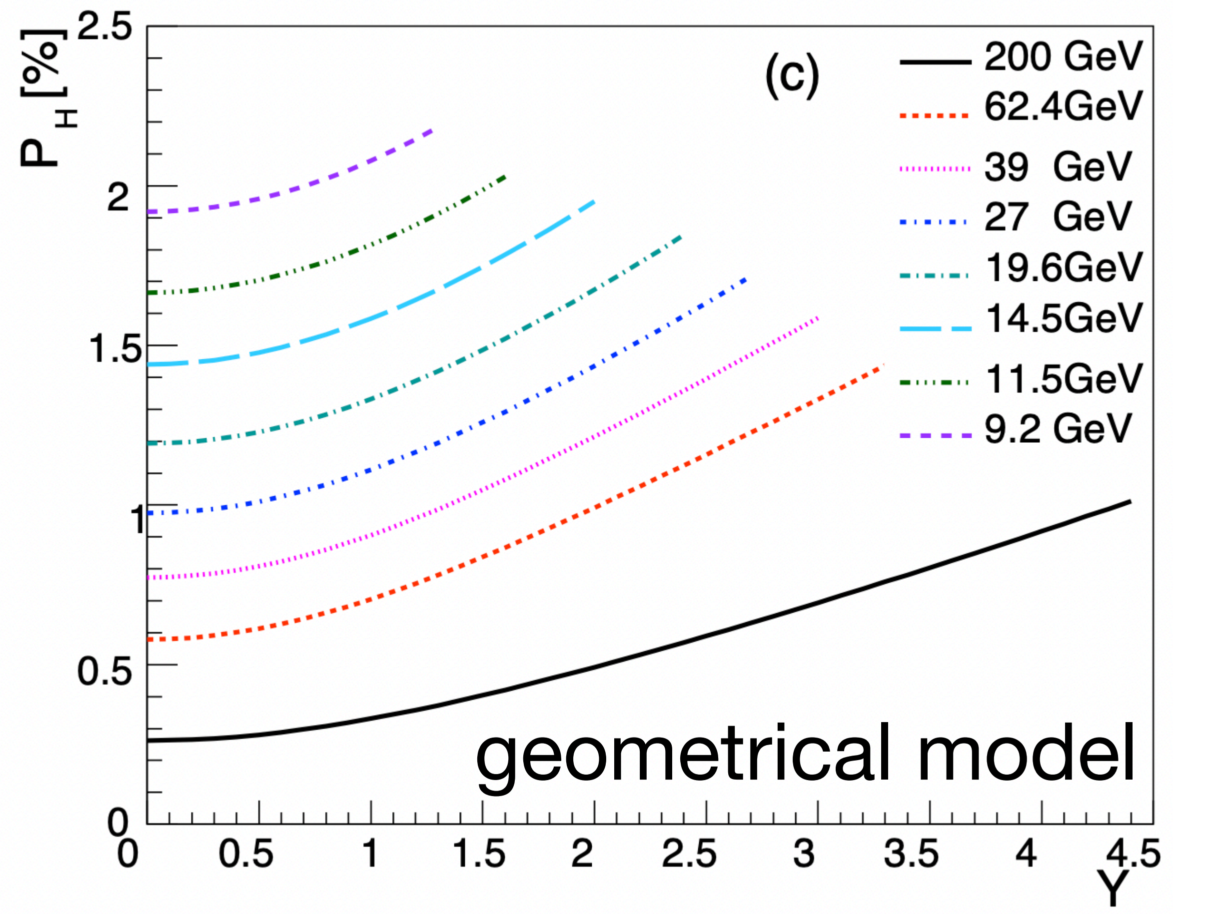
Rapidity dependence of P_H



W.-T.Deng and X.-G Huang:PRC93,064907



Z.T.Liang et al., Chin.Phys.C 45 (2021) 1, 014102



✓Polarization is expected to depend on rapidity but the prediction is different among models.

✓The result does not show significant rapidity dependence within our acceptance.

✓Polarization in large rapidity region can be explored in the future with iTPC and forward upgrade (2023+2025).

Transverse momentum dependence of P_H

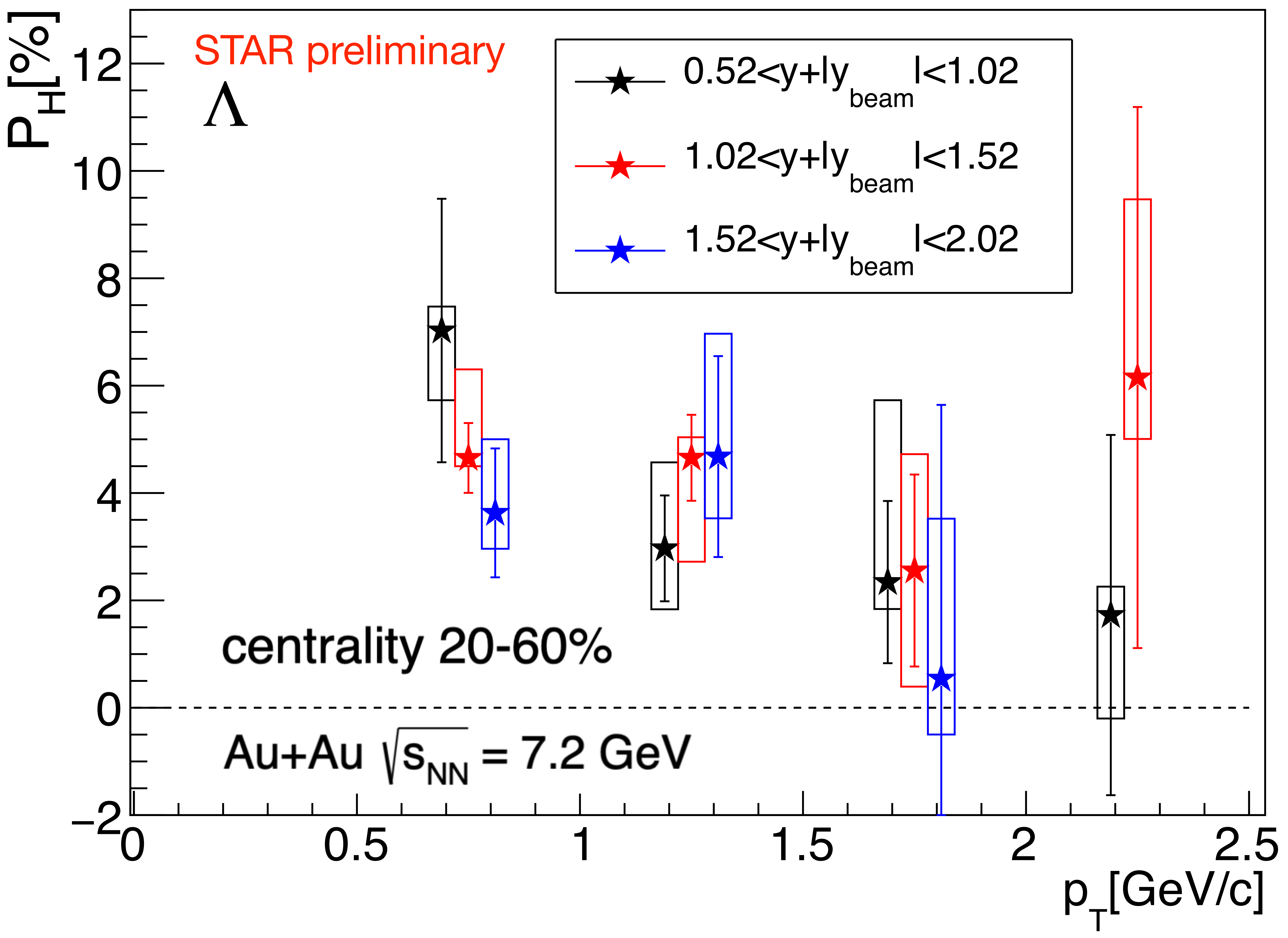
✓One might expect …

- decrease at low p_T due to the smearing effect caused by scattering at the later stage of the collisions.

- decrease at high p_T due to jet fragmentation.

J. Adams et al. (STAR), PRC98, 14910 (2018)

✓**No significant p_T dependence.**



Summary

Summary

✦**We presented Λ global polarization in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 7.2 GeV with fixed-target configuration.**

- Positive polarization is observed.
- Λ polarization increases at lower collision energies.
- Increasing trend towards peripheral collisions as expected.
- There are no significant rapidity and p_T dependences.

Outlook

- Measurement of anti-Λ polarization.

✓We completed the data taking of BES II + FXT.

- $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 7.2 GeV : 267M(now) → 267M + about 400M.

Collider mode data at BES II

Beam Energy (GeV/nucleon)	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	μ_B (MeV)	Number Events Requested (Recorded)	Date Collected
13.5	27	156	(560 M)	Run-18
9.8	19.6	206	400 M (582 M)	Run-19
7.3	14.6	262	300 M (324 M)	Run-19
5.75	11.5	316	230 M (235 M)	Run-20
4.59	9.2	373	160 M (162 M)	Run-20+20b
3.85	7.7	420	100 M (100 M)	Run-21

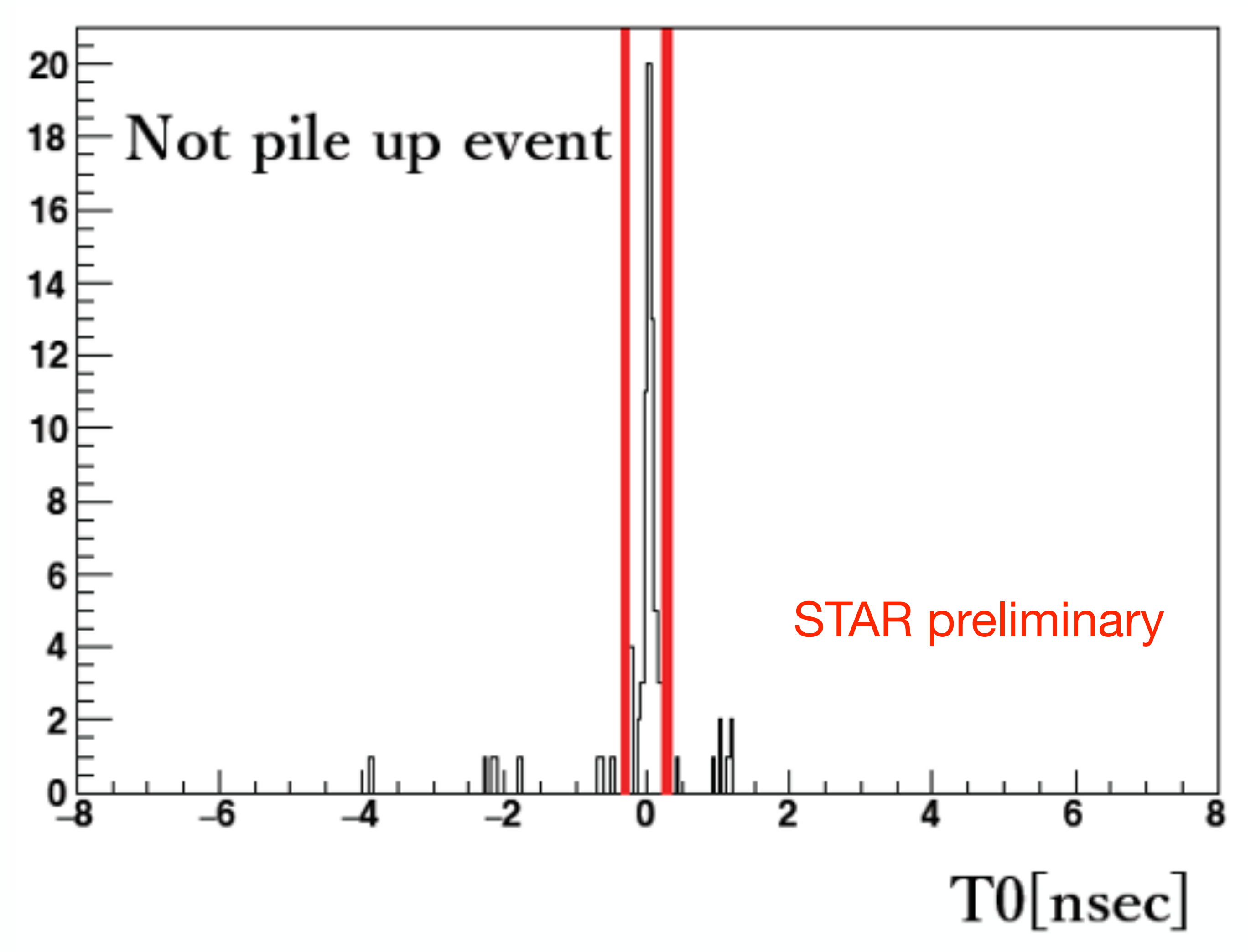
Fixed-target mode data at BES II

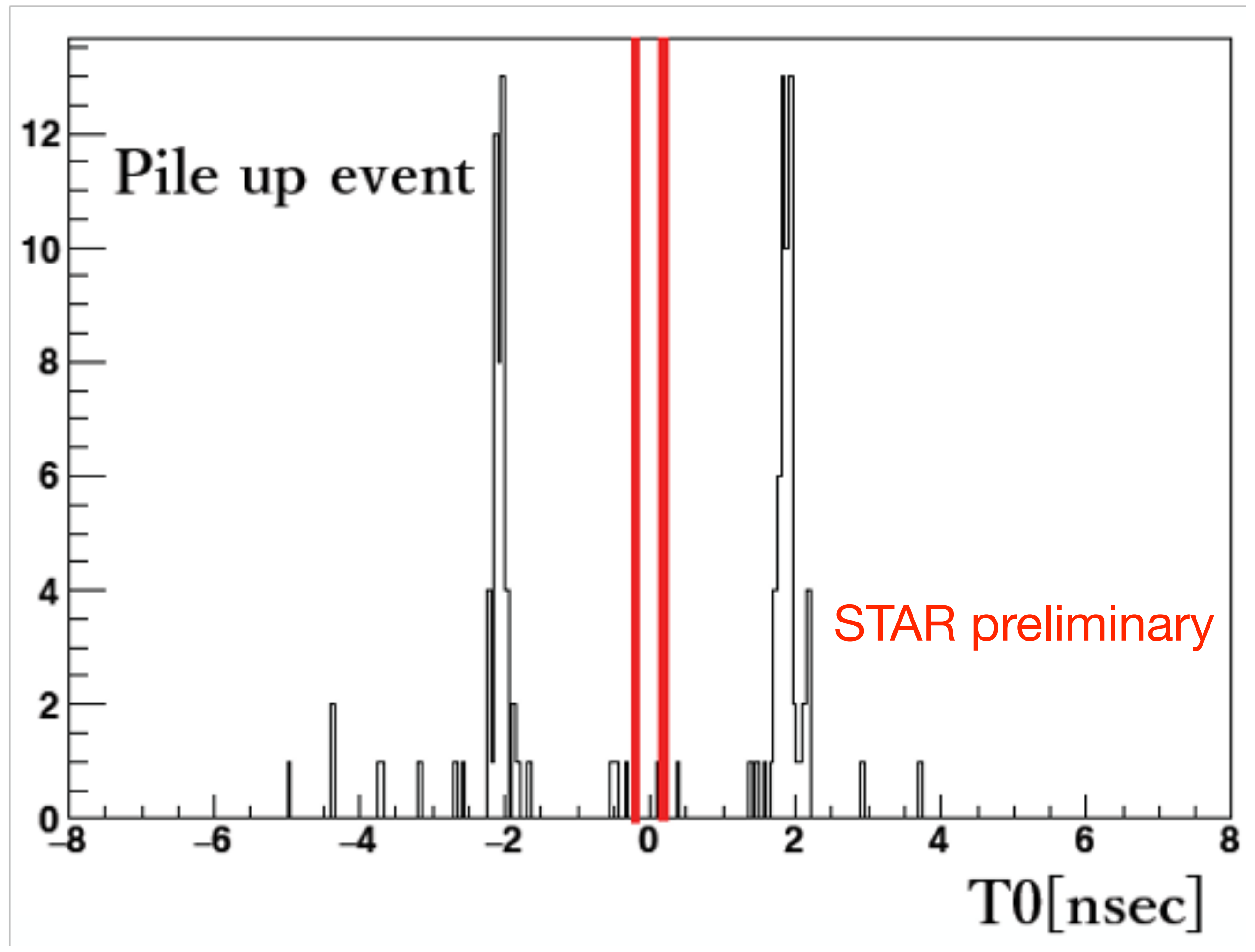
Beam Energy (GeV/nucleon)	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	μ_B (MeV)	Run Time	Number Events Requested (Recorded)	Date Collected
31.2	7.7 (FXT)	420	0.5+1.1 days	100 M (50 M+112 M)	Run-19+20
19.5	6.2 (FXT)	487	1.4 days	100 M (118 M)	Run-20
13.5	5.2 (FXT)	541	1.0 day	100 M (103 M)	Run-20
9.8	4.5 (FXT)	589	0.9 days	100 M (108 M)	Run-20
7.3	3.9 (FXT)	633	1.1 days	100 M (117 M)	Run-20
5.75	3.5 (FXT)	666	0.9 days	100 M (116 M)	Run-20
4.59	3.2 (FXT)	699	2.0 days	100 M (200 M)	Run-19
3.85	3.0 (FXT)	721	4.6 days	100 M (259 M)	Run-18

Back up

Pile up rejection

✓Pile up events are removed using TOF start timing(T0).



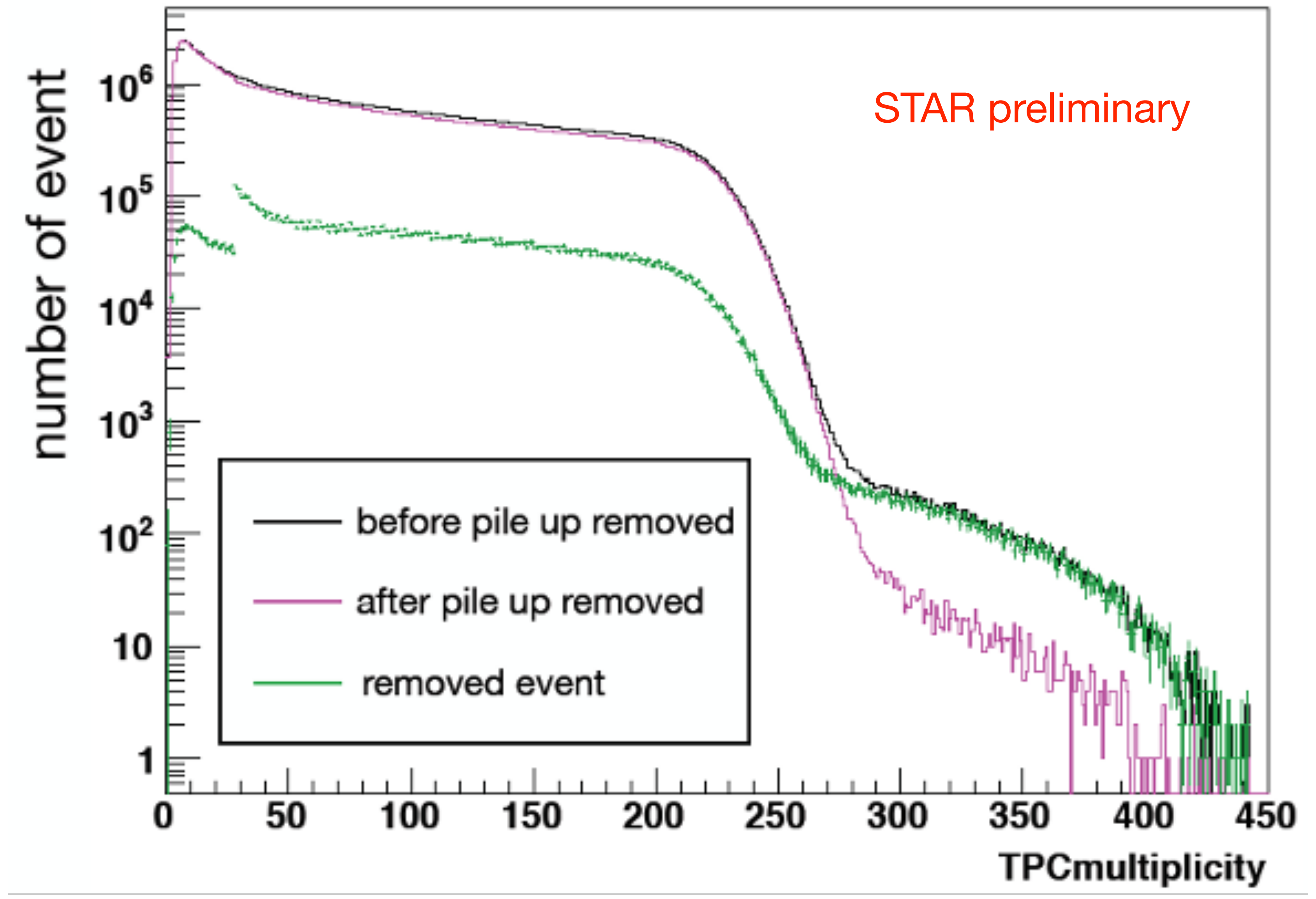


T0 = the average of Time of Flight
- Time of Flight of each particle

Step1 : Count number of pion and proton with T0 from -0.3 to 0.3 [nsec].

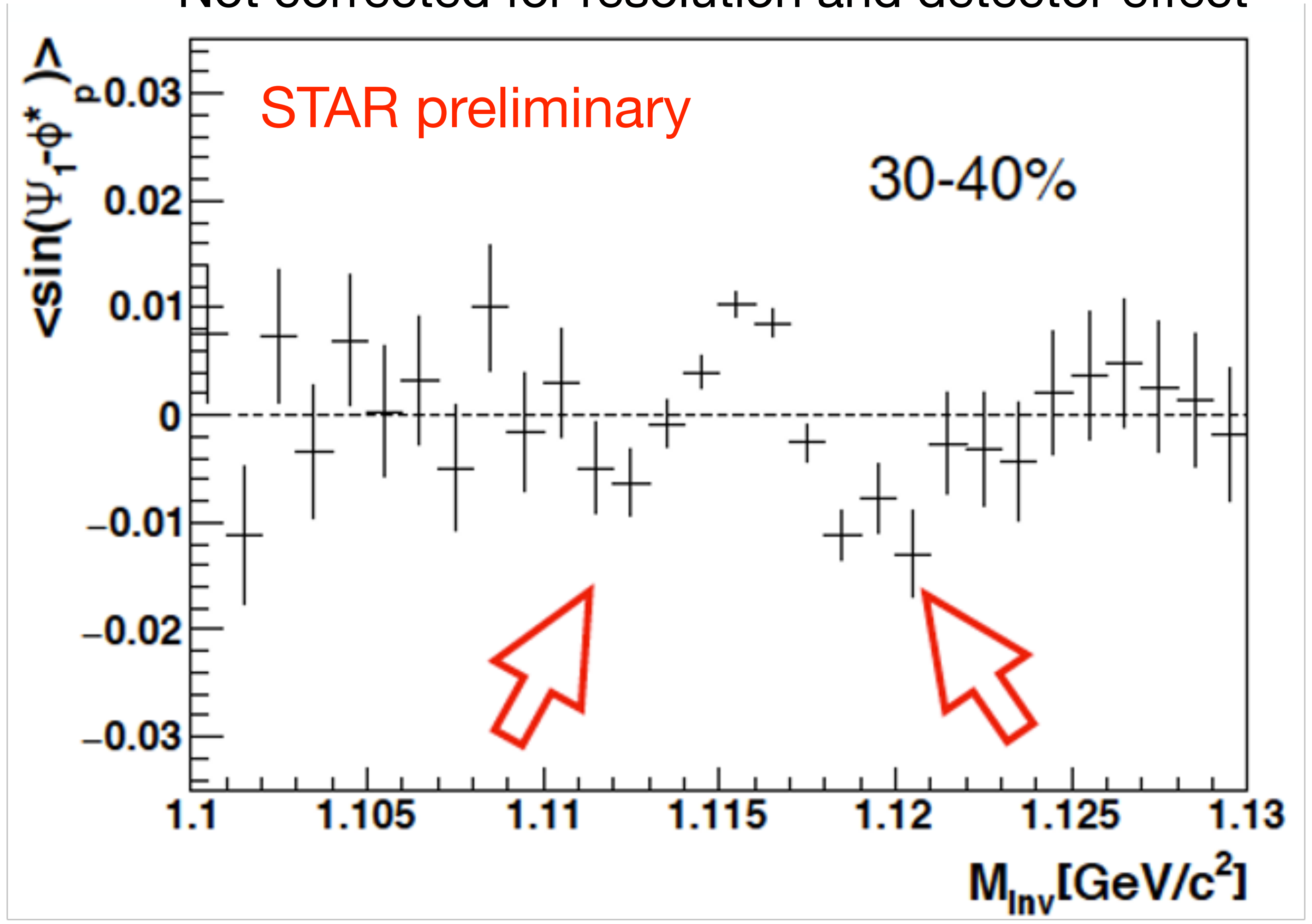
Step2 : The event where the number of pion and proton is far from average are removed as pile up events in each multiplicity bin.

‣ **About 90% pile up events would be removed.**



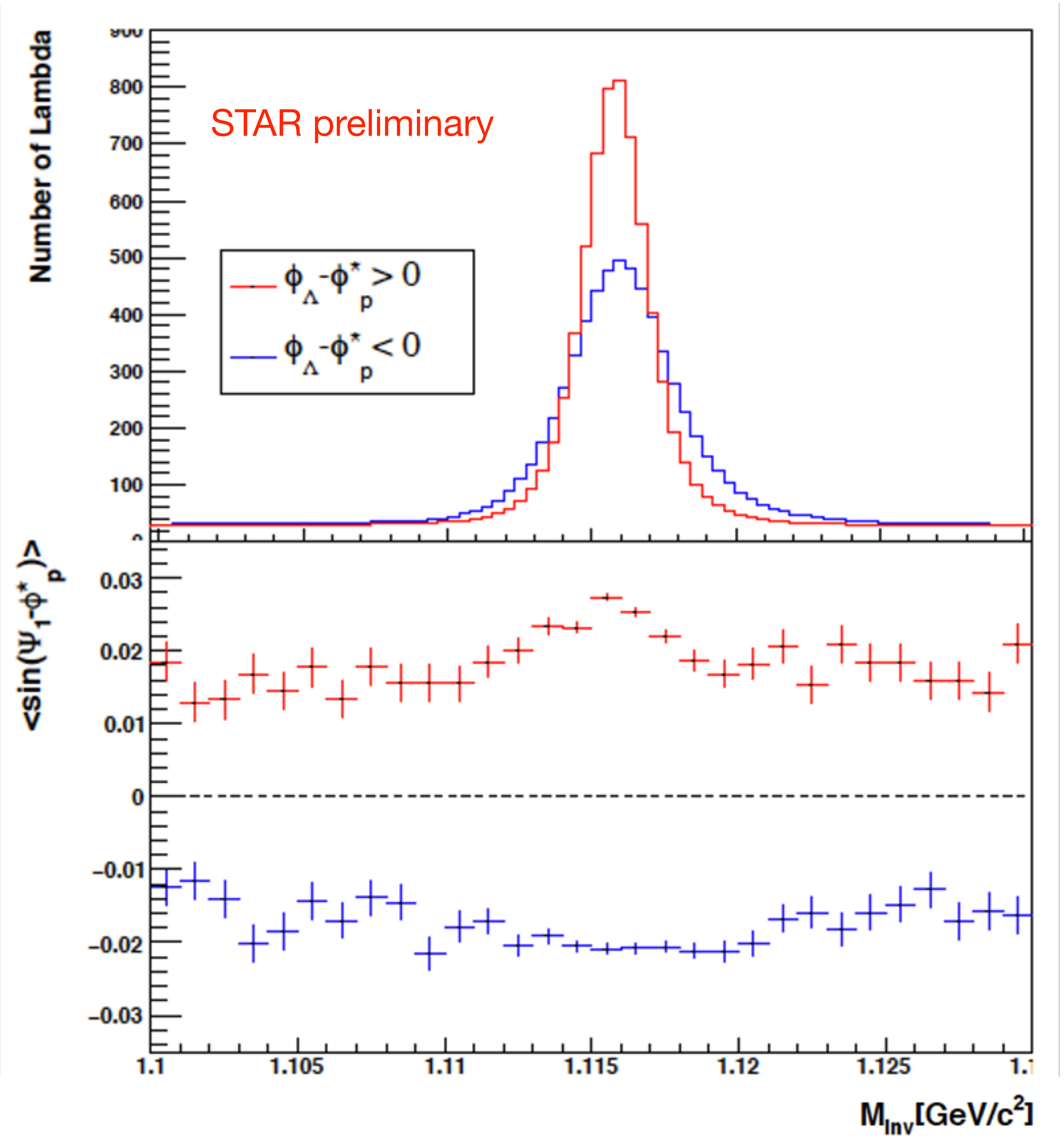
Extract the polarization signal

Not corrected for resolution and detector effect



✓Observed polarization is more sharply peaked near Λ mass and it dips on the sides mass peak.

The width of the invariant mass depends on the daughter's azimuthal emission angle relative to the Λ.



Discussed in more detail ; arxiv: 2108.00044

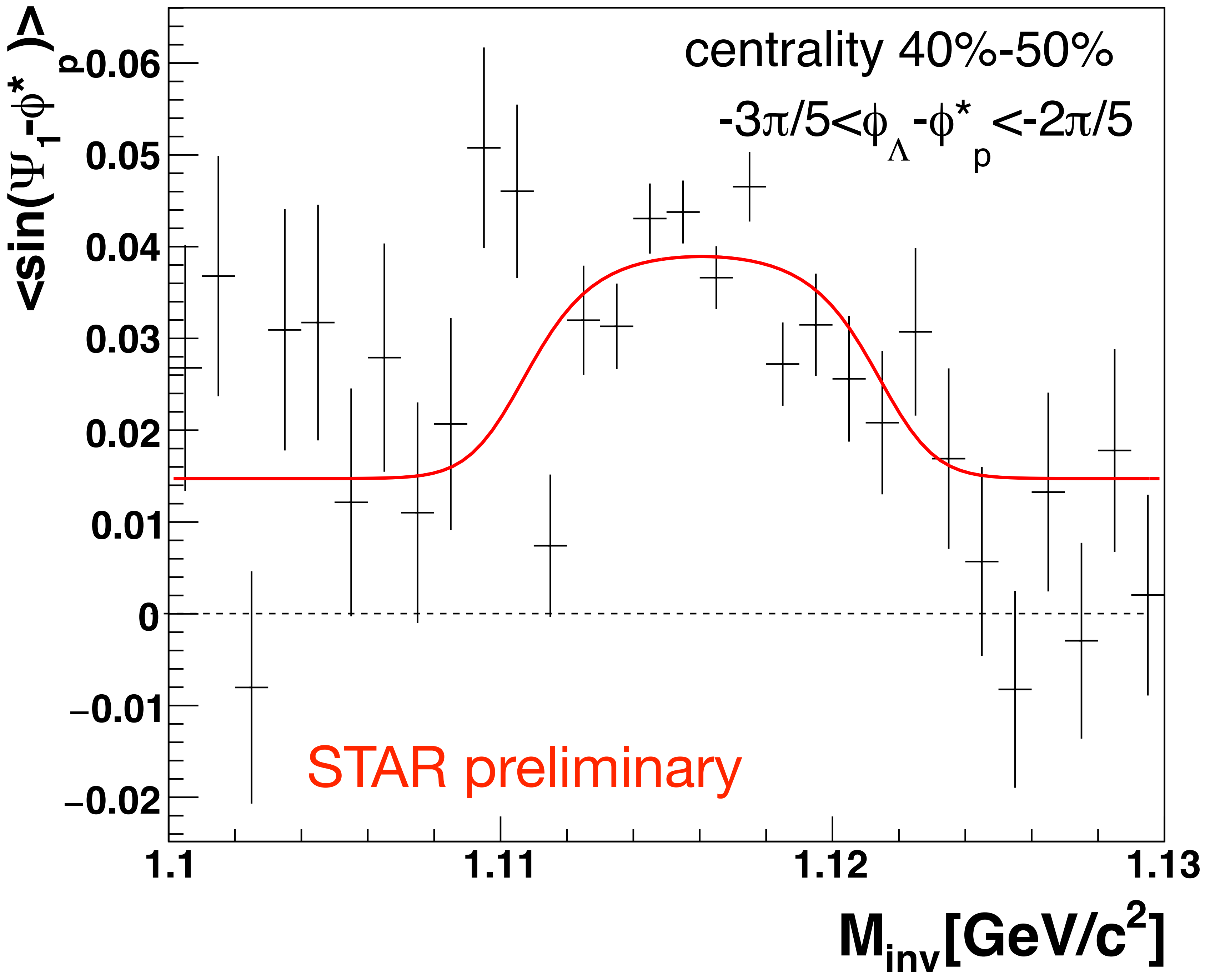
Extract the polarization signal

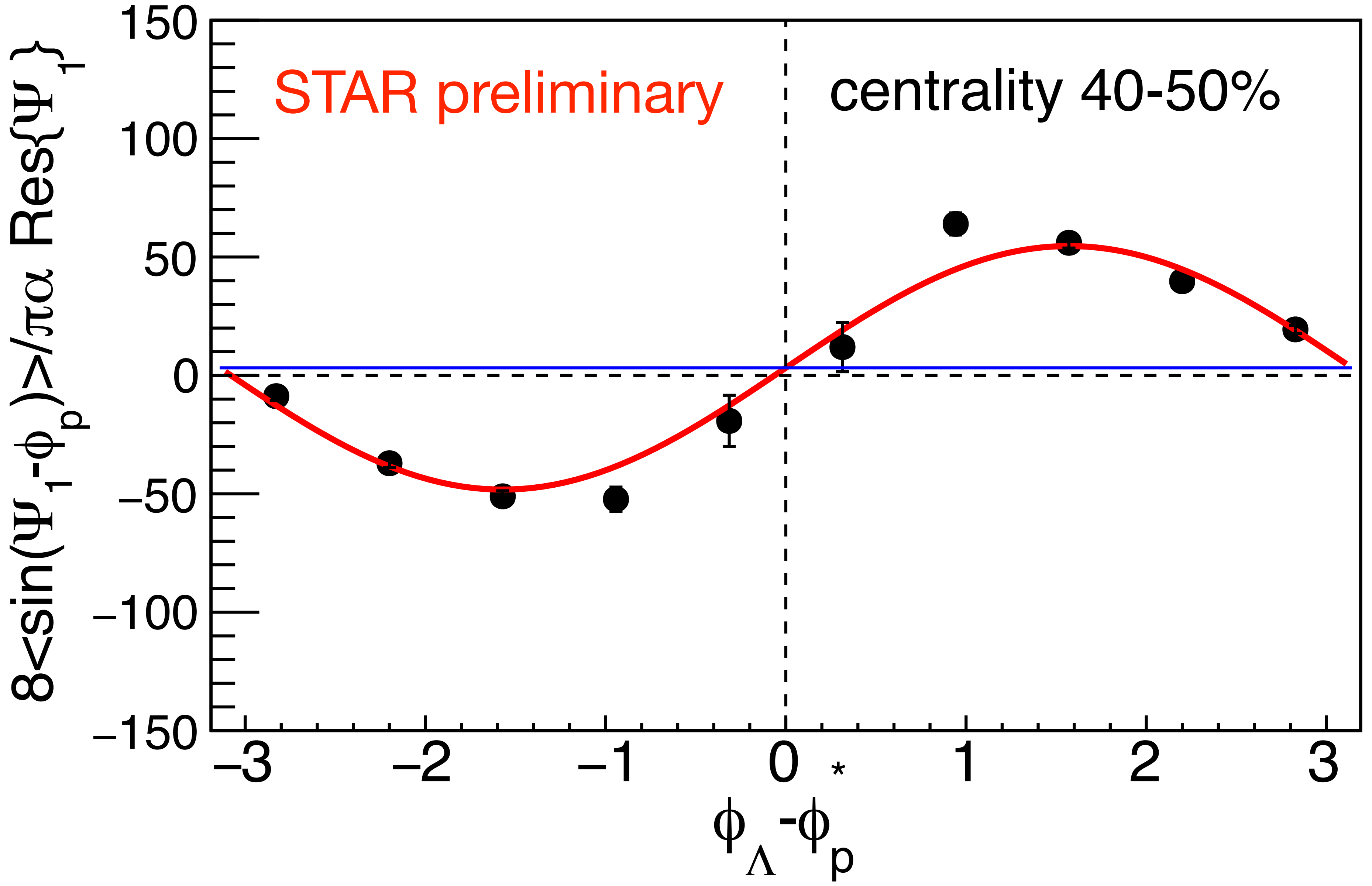
✓Calculate polarization each $\phi_\Lambda - \phi_p^*$ bin.

- Invariant mass method
  - The data was fitted with the following formula.

$$\langle \sin(\Delta\phi)\rangle^{\mathrm{obs}} = (1 - f^{\mathrm{Bg}}(M_{inv}))\langle \sin(\Delta\phi)\rangle^{\mathrm{Sg}} + f^{\mathrm{Bg}}(M_{inv})\langle \sin(\Delta\phi)\rangle^{\mathrm{Bg}}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \Delta\phi = \Psi_1 - \phi_p^* \\ f^{Bg}(M_{inv}) = f(M_{inv}^{Bg})/f(M_{inv}^{obs}) \end{array}\right.$$





✓Observed polarization is described as follows.

$$\frac{8}{\pi\alpha_H}\frac{1}{R^1{}_{EP}}\left\langle \sin\left(\Psi_1 - \phi^*{}_p\right)\right\rangle^{Sg} = P_\Lambda{}^{true} + c v_1 \sin\left(\phi_\Lambda - \phi^*{}_p\right)$$

Systematic uncertainty

✓Different topological cut(~1.6%)

- Ten different cuts are applied.

✓Method comparison for extracting polarization signal (~17.0%)

- Invariant mass method
- Event plane method

✓Background assumption for polarization in the invariant mass method(~0.4%)

✓Uncertainty from decay parameter α_H(~3.2%)

✓Cumulant correction(~3.8%)

✓Efficiency correction(~8.2%)