Constraining the Sea Quark Distributions Through $W^{\pm}$ Cross Section Ratio Measurements at STAR

Matthew Posik
Temple University
for the STAR Collaboration

DNP 2017 Meeting
Pittsburg, PA
October 25-28 2017

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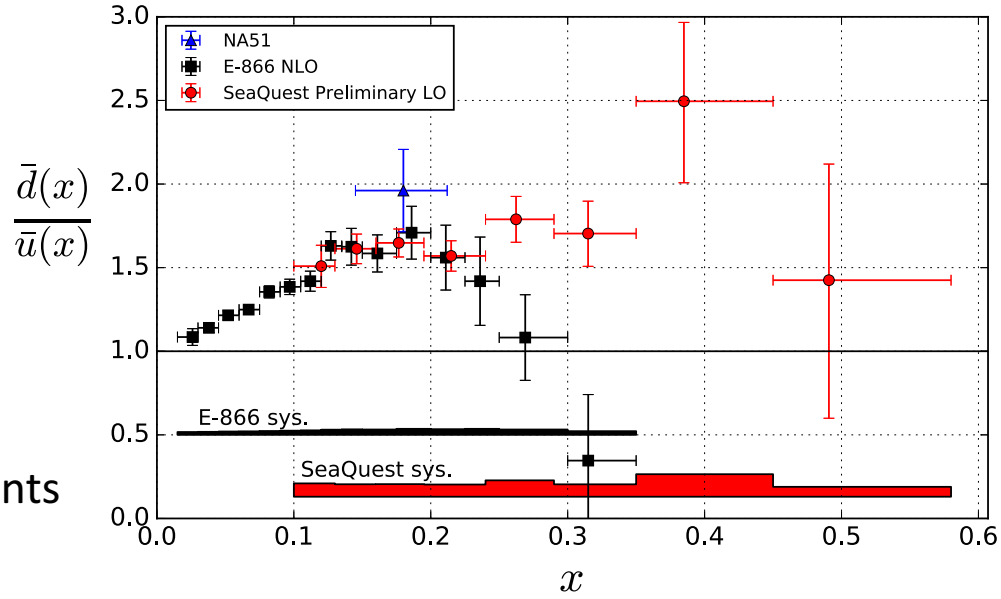
Motivation

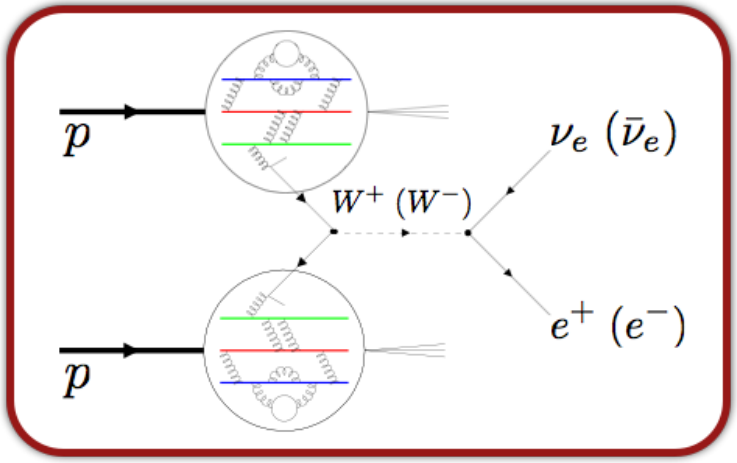
- Unpolarized **dbar/ubar** distribution can be probed via Drell-Yan production.
- **E-866** suggests a trend where the **dbar/ubar** ratio appears to be decreasing at large-x.

B. Kerns et al. (SeaQuest Collaboration), APS April Meeting 2016.

- The **preliminary SeaQuest** trend appears to level out at **higher x**. However preliminary data have large error bars at large-x. Still awaiting full statistical sample.
- More **direct** and **indirect** data are needed at **high-x** to help **constrain** the sea quark distributions.
- New measurements from different experiments can provide data at different **Q^2** and from different **scattering processes**.
  - This will allow for different **systematic effects** and also serve as a **cross check** of our understanding of the physics.



W Boson Production Through p+p Collisions



- **W bosons** are **sensitive** to **quark/anti-quark** distributions. They can be accessed via the W leptonic decay channels in **proton + proton** collisions
  - $u + \bar{d} \rightarrow W^+ \rightarrow e^+ + \nu$
  - $d + \bar{u} \rightarrow W^- \rightarrow e^- + \bar{\nu}$

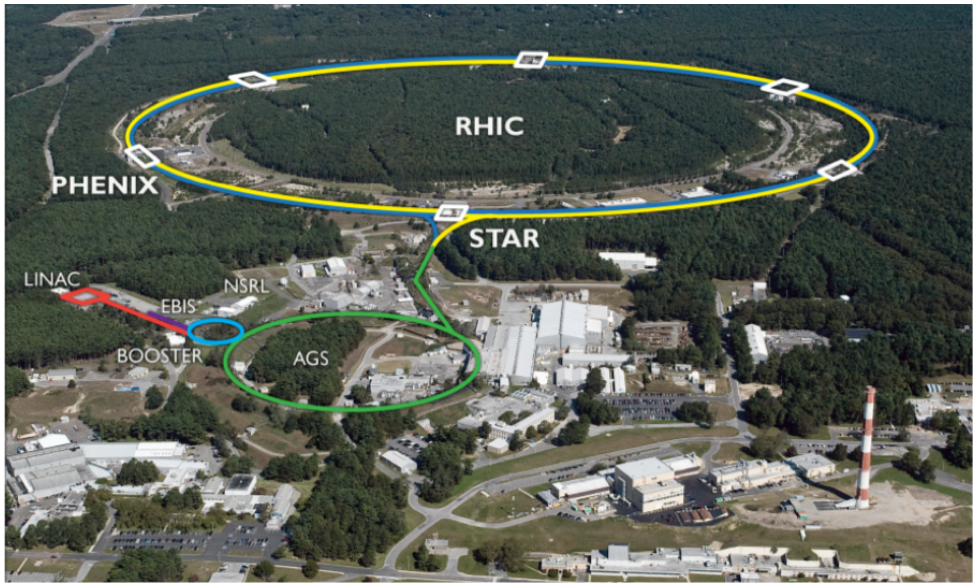
- The **charged W cross-section ratio**
  - is proportional (at LO) to the **dbar/ubar** ratio
  - can be used to **constrain** the **sea quark distributions**

$$\frac{\sigma_{W^+}}{\sigma_{W^-}} \approx \frac{u(x_1)\,\bar{d}(x_2) + \bar{d}(x_1)u(x_2)}{\bar{u}(x_1)d(x_2) + \bar{u}(x_2)d(x_1)}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_{W^+}}{\sigma_{W^-}} = \left(\frac{N_O^+ - N_B^+}{N_O^- - N_B^-}\right)\left(\frac{\epsilon^-}{\epsilon^+}\right)$$

- +/- is positron/electron from W leptonic decay
- N_O is number of observed W events
- N_B is number of background events
- ε is the measured W efficiency

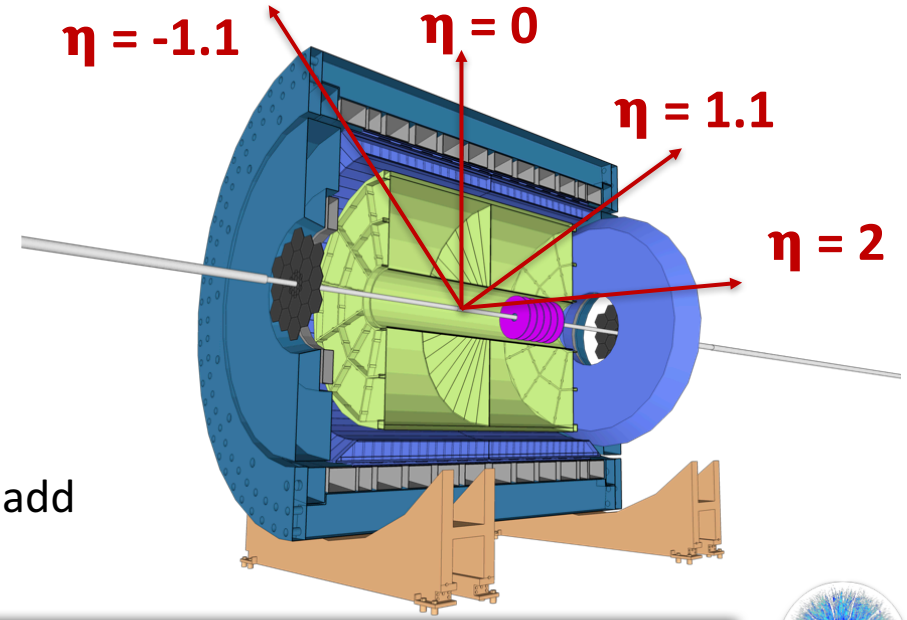
Solenoidal Tracker At RHIC



p+p production runs at $\sqrt{s}$ = 500/510 GeV

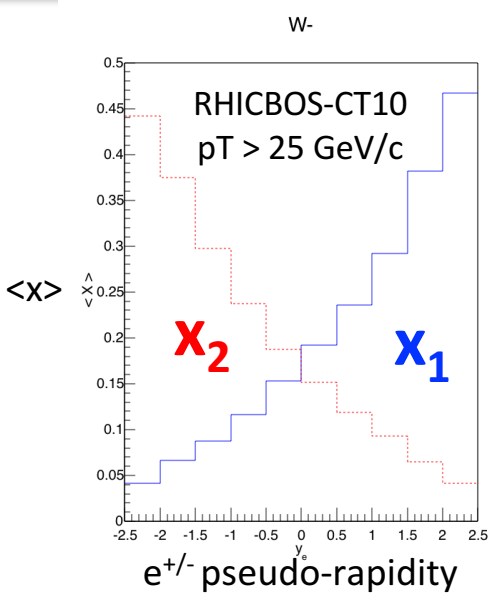
Year	~Luminosity (pb^{-1})
2011	25
2012	75
2013	250
2017	350
Combined	**700**

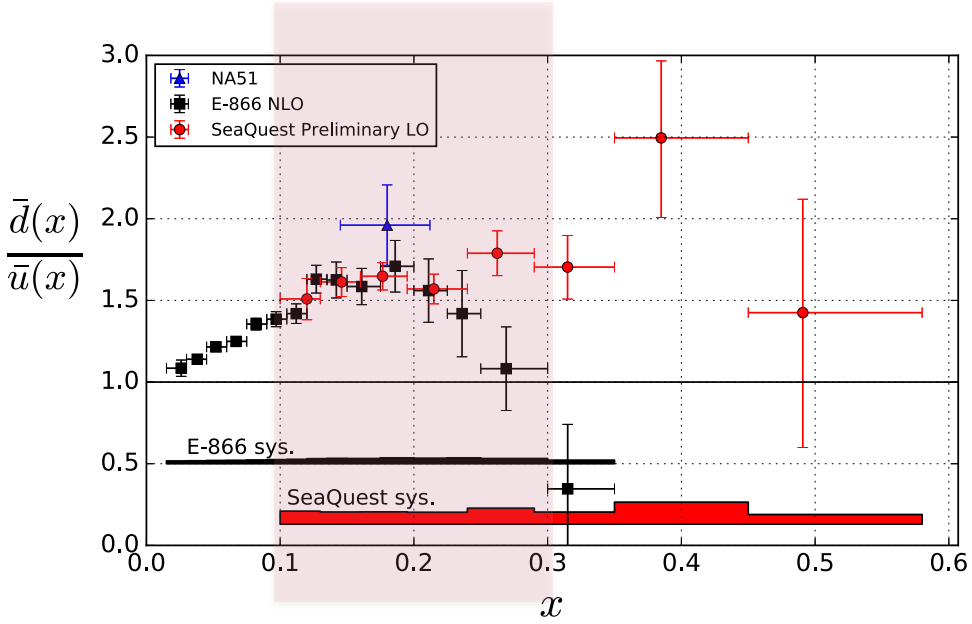
- **Calorimetry system** with 2π coverage
  - Barrel electromagnetic calorimeter (**BEMC**), $-1 < \eta < 1$
  - Endcap electromagnetic calorimeter (**EEMC**), $1.1 < \eta < 2$
- Time projection chamber (**TPC**), $|\eta| < 1.3$
- The **2017** (transverse p+p $\sqrt{s}$ = 510 GeV) run will add ~**350 pb^{-1}** more data



STAR Kinematics

- Approximate kinematic range at STAR **mid-rapidity** (**TPC + BEMC**)
  - ➢ $0.1 < x < 0.3$ for $-1 < \eta < 1$
- For collision energies of $\sqrt{s}$ = 500 GeV and $\eta = 0$, ($x_1 \approx x_2$)
  - ➢ $x = M_W/\sqrt{s} = 0.16$





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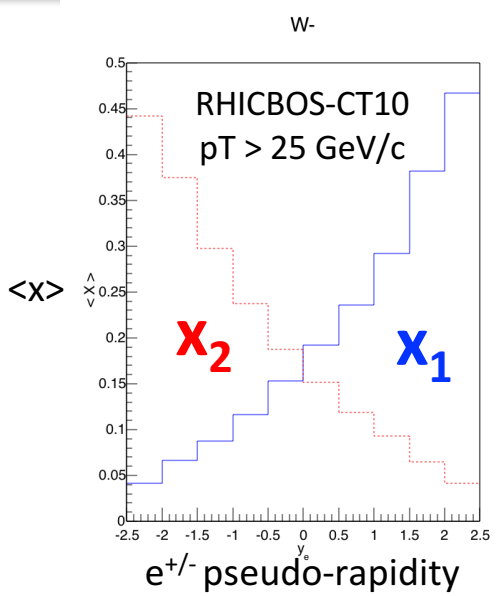
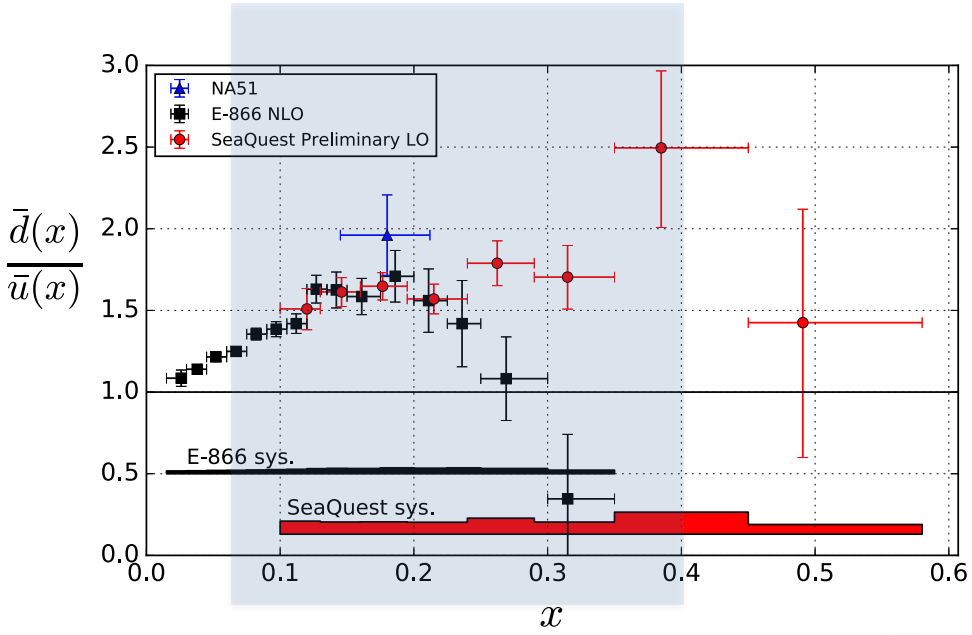
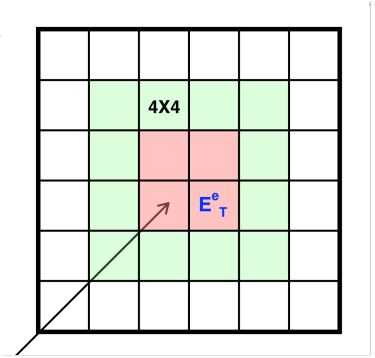
  - ➢ $x = M_W/\sqrt{s} = 0.16$
- In STAR the **EEMC** could be used to obtain a more forward eta-bin (**$1.1 < \eta < 2$**) which would extend the x reach of STAR
  - ➢ $0.06 < x < 0.4$ for $-2 < \eta < 2$
- Analysis of this **forward EEMC** eta-bin is currently underway



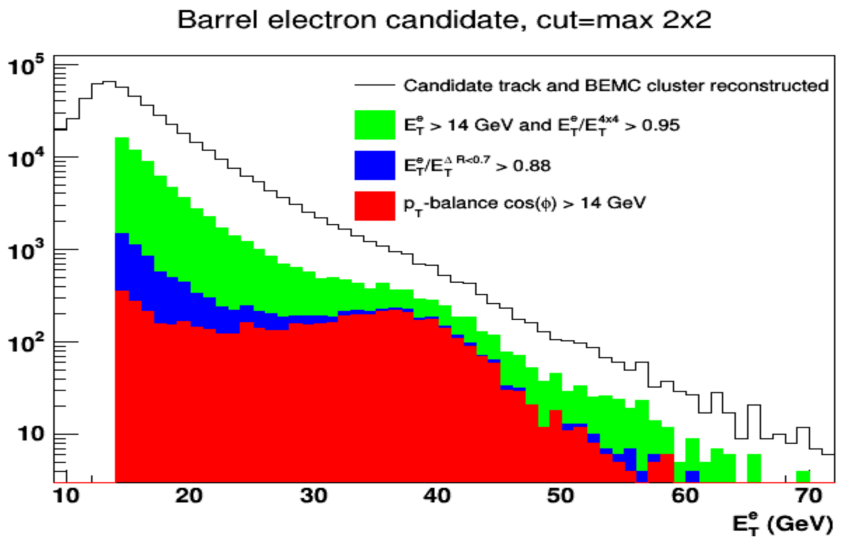


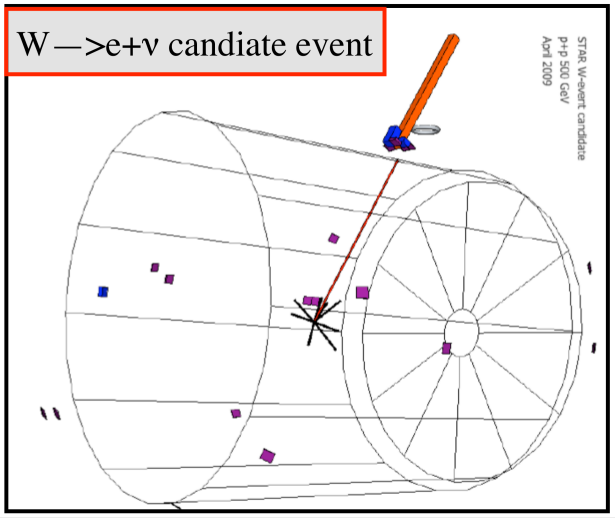
Selecting W Candidates

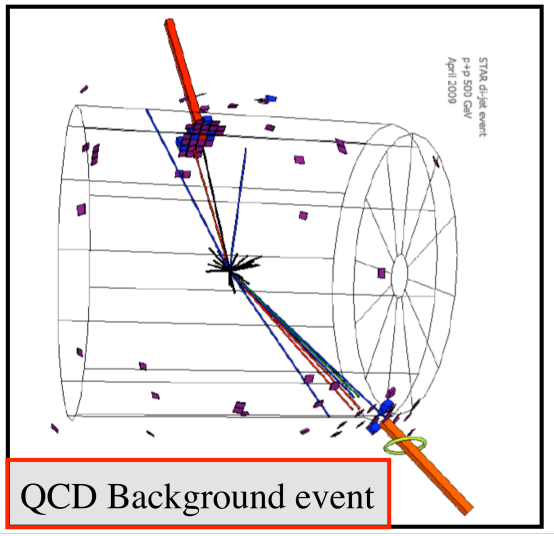
- Mid-rapidity STAR W selection criteria
  - **Match p_T > 10 GeV/c track to BEMC cluster**
  - **Isolation ratio 1 / Isolation ratio 2**
  - **p_T-balance cut**
  - **Leads to good charge discrimination**

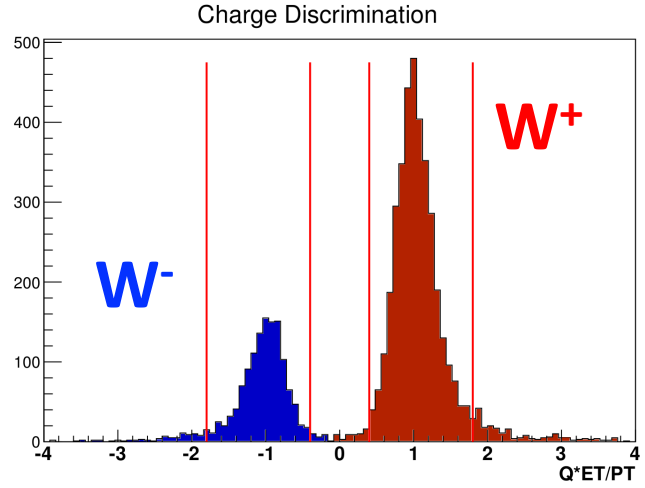


TPC track extrapolated to BEMC tower grid

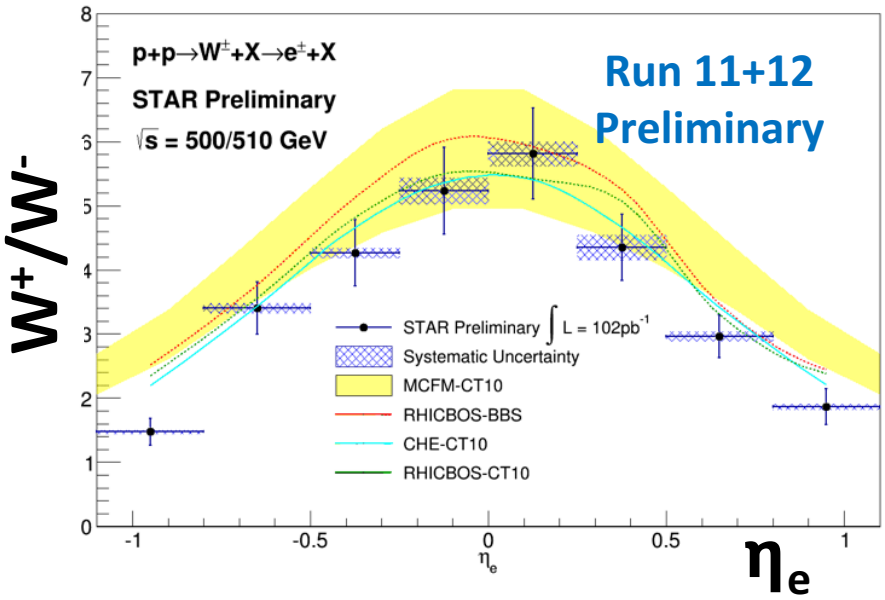


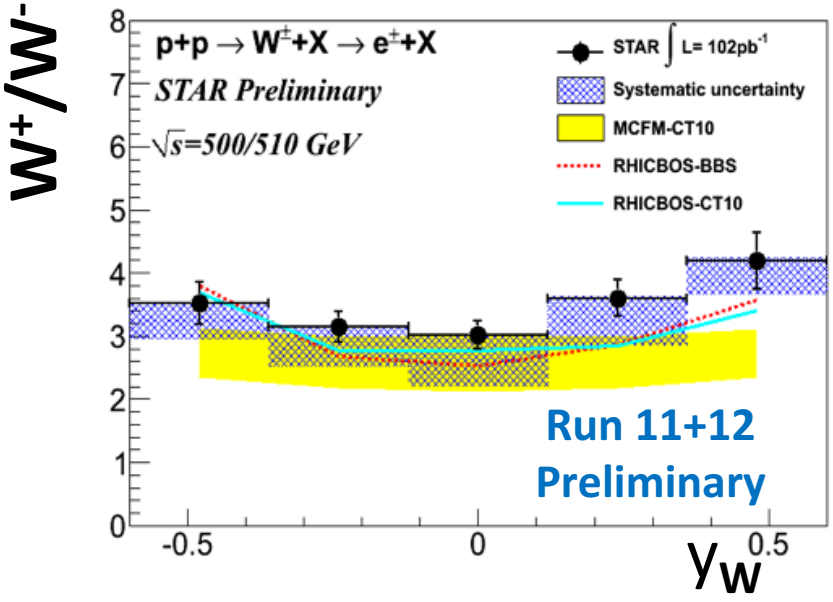






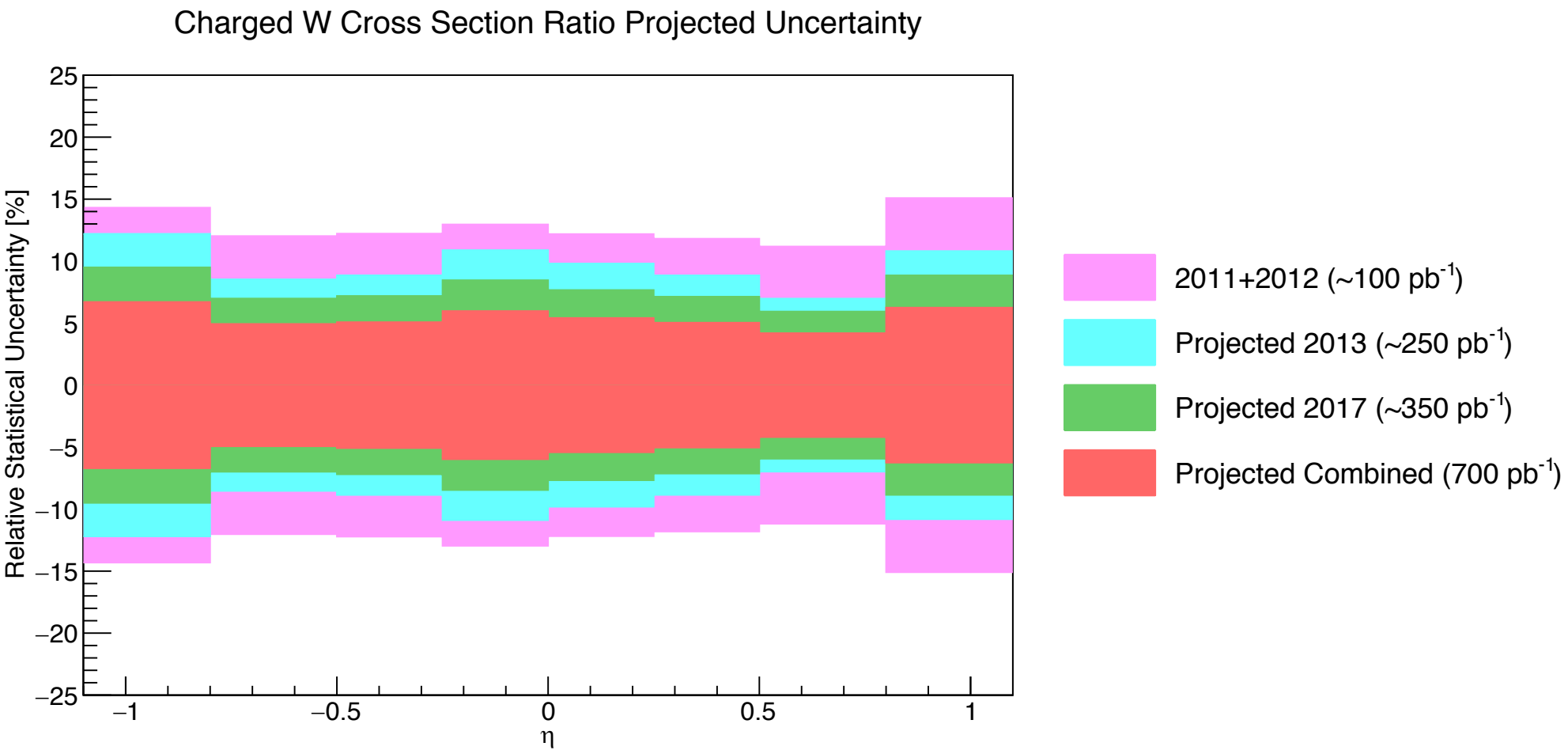
Charged W Cross Section Ratios





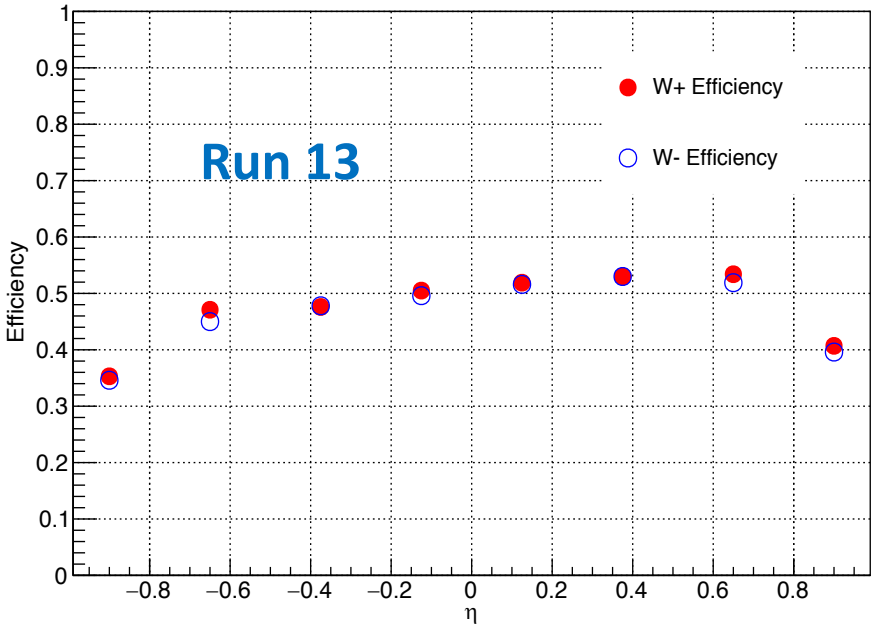
- **Run 11 + 12 preliminary result (~100 pb^{-1})**
- **Run 13** will add **~ 250 pb^{-1}**
- STAR **Run 17** is expected to add **~ 350 pb^{-1}** more data
- **Charge W cross-section ratio** vs. **lepton pseudo-rapidity** precision is dominated by statistics.
- The **W boson rapidity** can now also be reconstructed at STAR via its recoil (used for run 11 transverse single-spin asymmetry measurement, **Phys.Rev.Lett. 116 (2016)**).
- Work is ongoing to improve the systematic uncertainty associated with the reconstructed **W boson rapidity**.

STAR W Statistical Impact



Run 13 Analysis Update

- **W+/W- vs. Lepton Rapidity** update:
  - W selection cuts were optimized for 2013 data set to maximize W signal and W statistics.
  - W statistical increase of ~ 10%.
  - Background and efficiency analysis completed.
  - Extending measurement to EEMC ($1.1 \leq \eta \leq 2.0$)(ongoing)
- **W+/W- vs. Boson Rapidity** now underway
- Investigating 2011-2012 with 2013 optimized W selection cuts.
- Other related quantities of interest being computed:
  - W/Z cross section ratio
  - W charge asymmetry

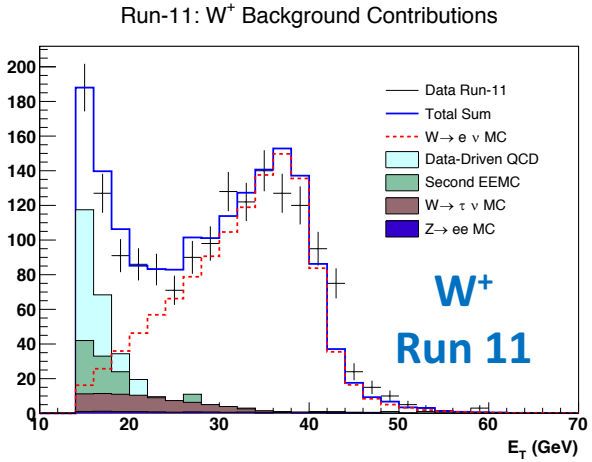


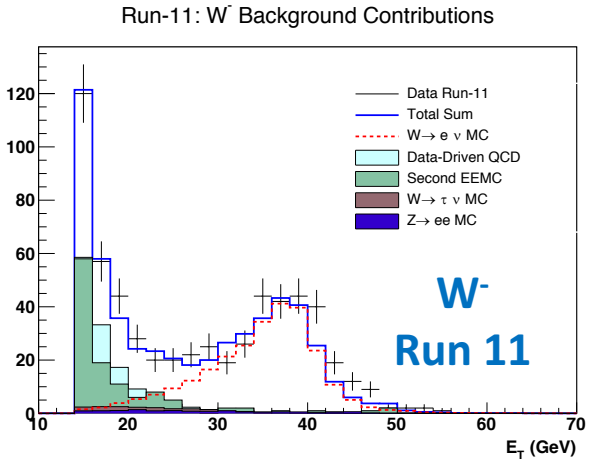
Summary

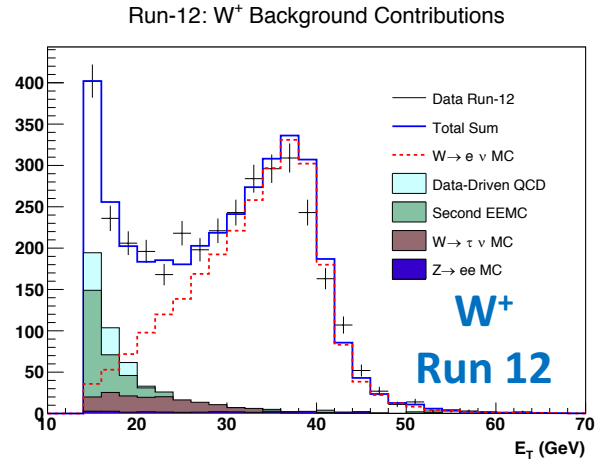
- **STAR** measured **cross-section ratio** using W production
  - A **complementary** measurement to **SeaQuest** and **E-866**
  - Should help further **constrain** the **sea quark PDFs**
- **Preliminary results** of measured cross-section ratios using **Run 11 and 12** data sets have been released as a function of **lepton pseudo-rapidity** and **W boson rapidity**
- **2013** data set **(~250 pb^{-1}**)to be included into the cross-section ratio measurement soon
- More **forward eta-bin (1.1 – 2.0)** looking to be added to the cross section ratio via the electromagnetic endcap, along with other related quantities of interest.
- Long 510 GeV **run in 2017** at transverse spin polarization of about **350 pb^{-1}** should further **improve** the charged W cross-section ratio precision.

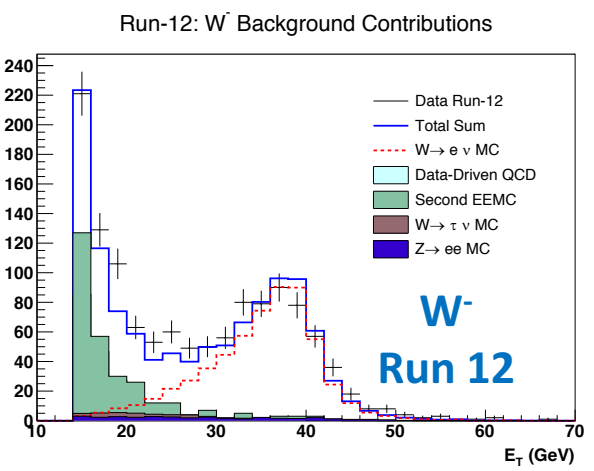
Mid-Rapidity $W^{+/-}$ Backgrounds

- **Data-driven QCD** backgrounds satisfy $e^{+/-}$ isolation cuts
- **Second EEMC backgrounds** result from backward ("Jet") at non-existing calorimeter coverage for $-2 < \eta < -1.1$
- **Second EEMC backgrounds** are estimated from EEMC located at $1.1 < \eta < 2$
- **Electro-weak background** from Z decay is done with PYTHIA/MC simulations.
- Small background contribution from Z decay.

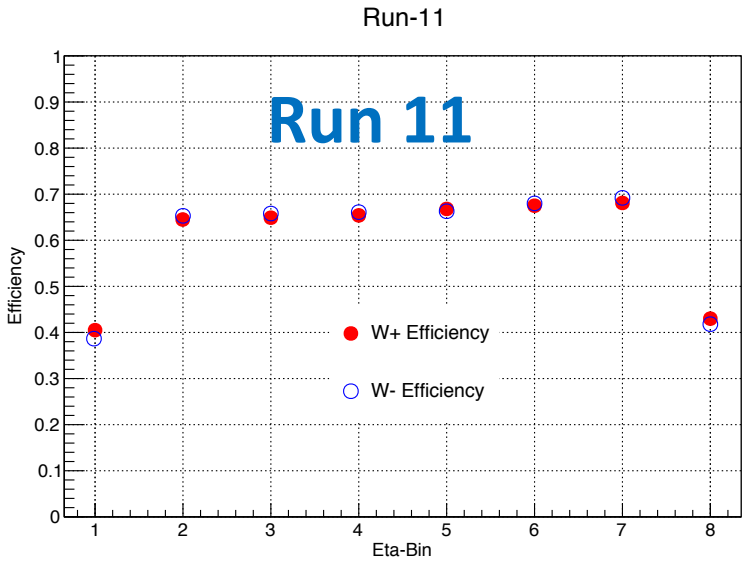


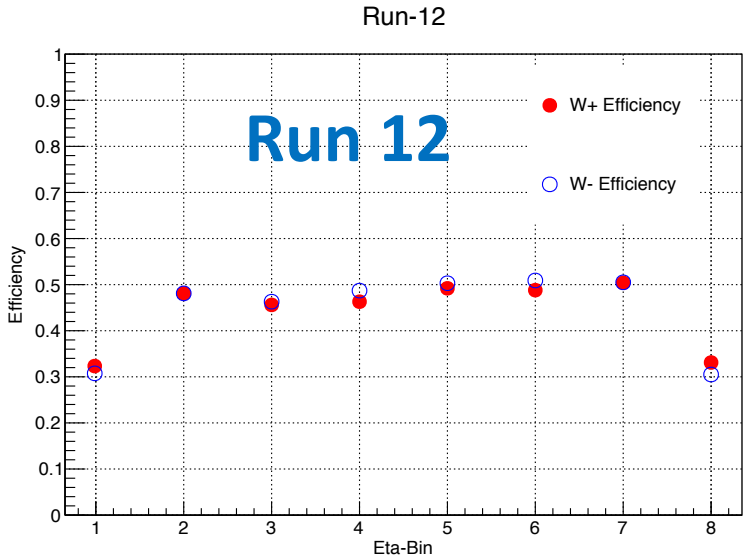






$W^{+/-}$ Efficiencies (Runs 11 and 12)





- **2012** running had lower $W^{+/-}$ efficiencies due to **higher luminosity** running.
- This lead to **more pile-up** in the TPC, which resulted in **less efficient** track reconstruction.
- **Minimal charge dependence** leads to small contribution to the charged W cross-section ratio