Global polarization of Lambda hyperons in Au+Au Collisions at RHIC BES

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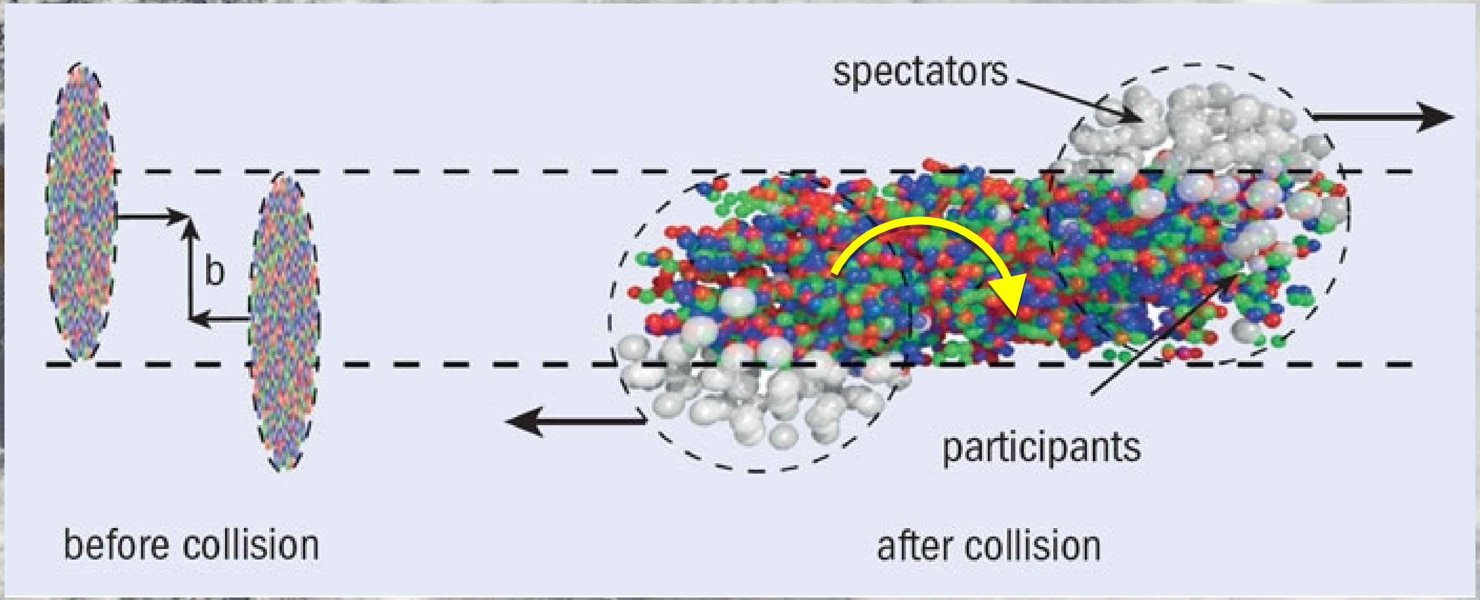
for the STAR Collaboration

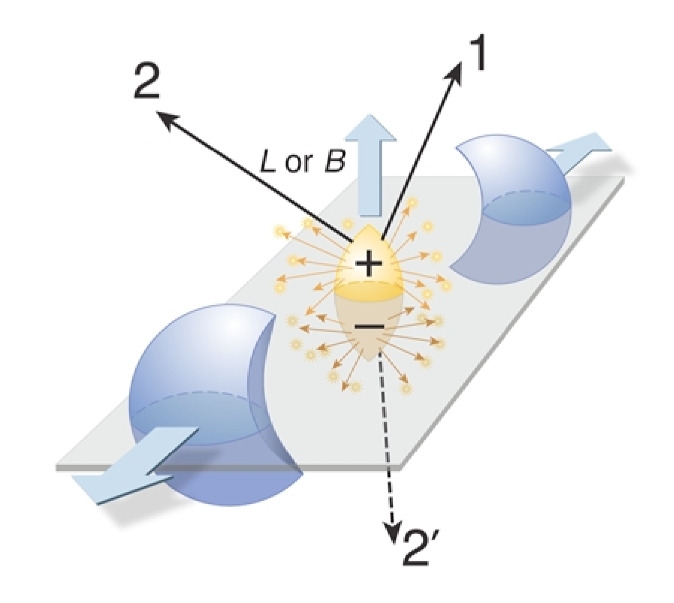
Outline

- Motivation
  - angular momentum and vorticity in heavy ion collisions
  - self-analyzing nature of Lambda decay

- Current analysis: STAR @ BES energies – preliminary results
  - Analysis details: acceptance, resolution correction
  - positive signals for Lambdas and AntiLambdas
  - consistency with previous STAR results

- Summary & Outlook





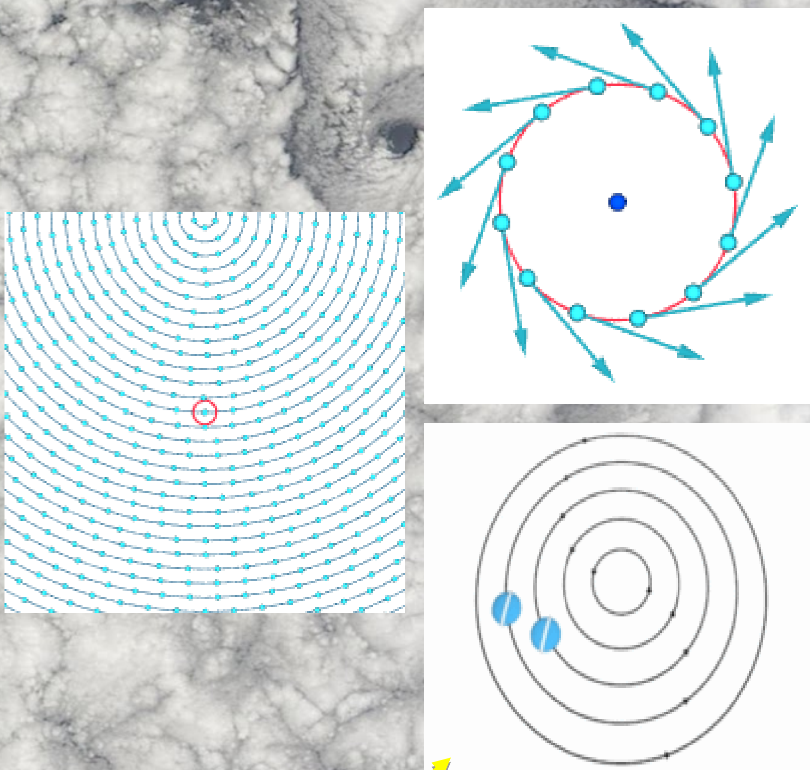
- $|L| \sim 10^5\ \hbar$ in non-central collisions
- Does angular momentum get distributed thermally?
- Does it generate a "spinning QGP?"
  - consequences?
- How does that affect fluid/transport?
  - Vorticity: $\vec{\omega} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}$
- How would it manifest itself in data?

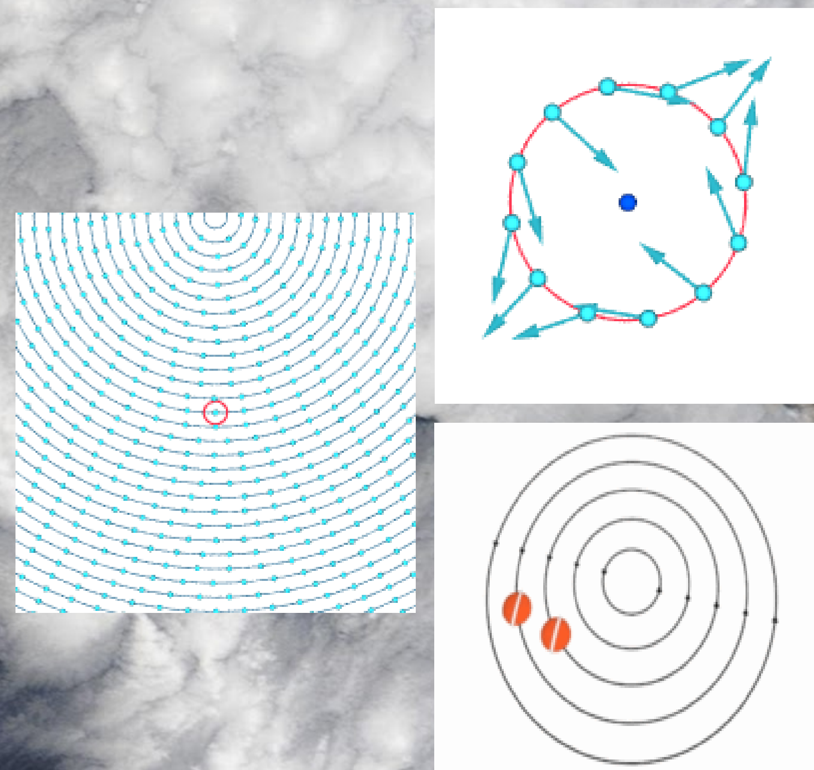
Rotational & Irrotational Vortices

Simplest vorticity: $\vec{\omega} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}$

Rigid-body-like vortex
$v \propto r$

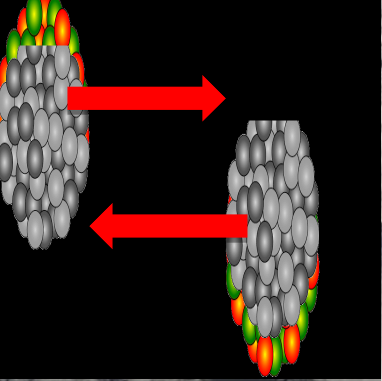
Irrotational vortex
$v \propto 1/r$

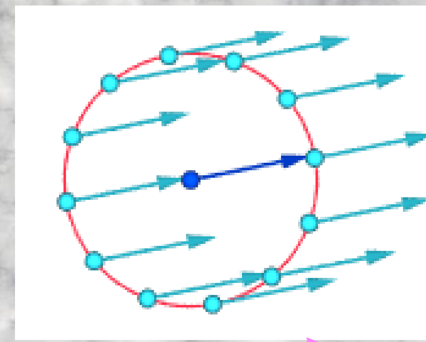


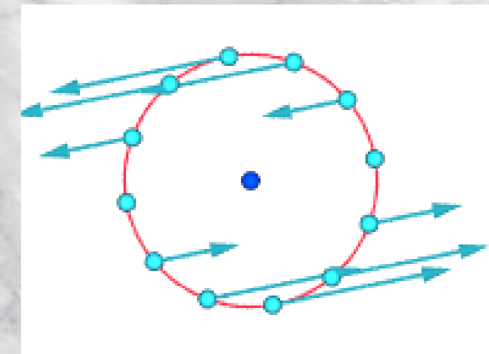


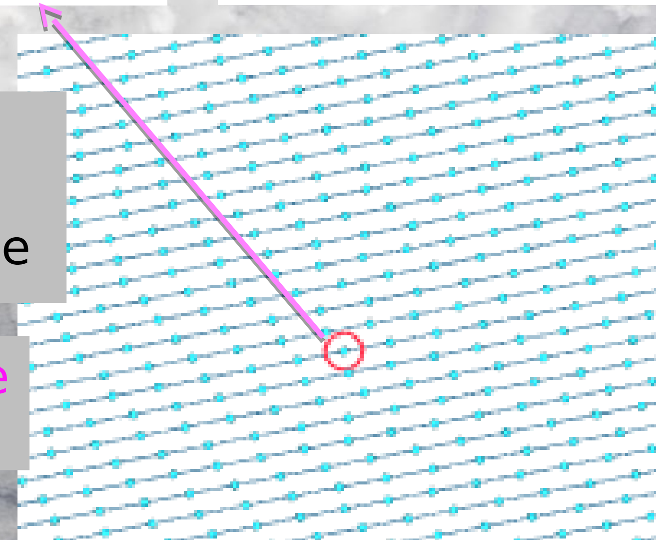
Like the moon, always the same side toward Earth

Notice the rotation, or lack thereof, in the fluid elements









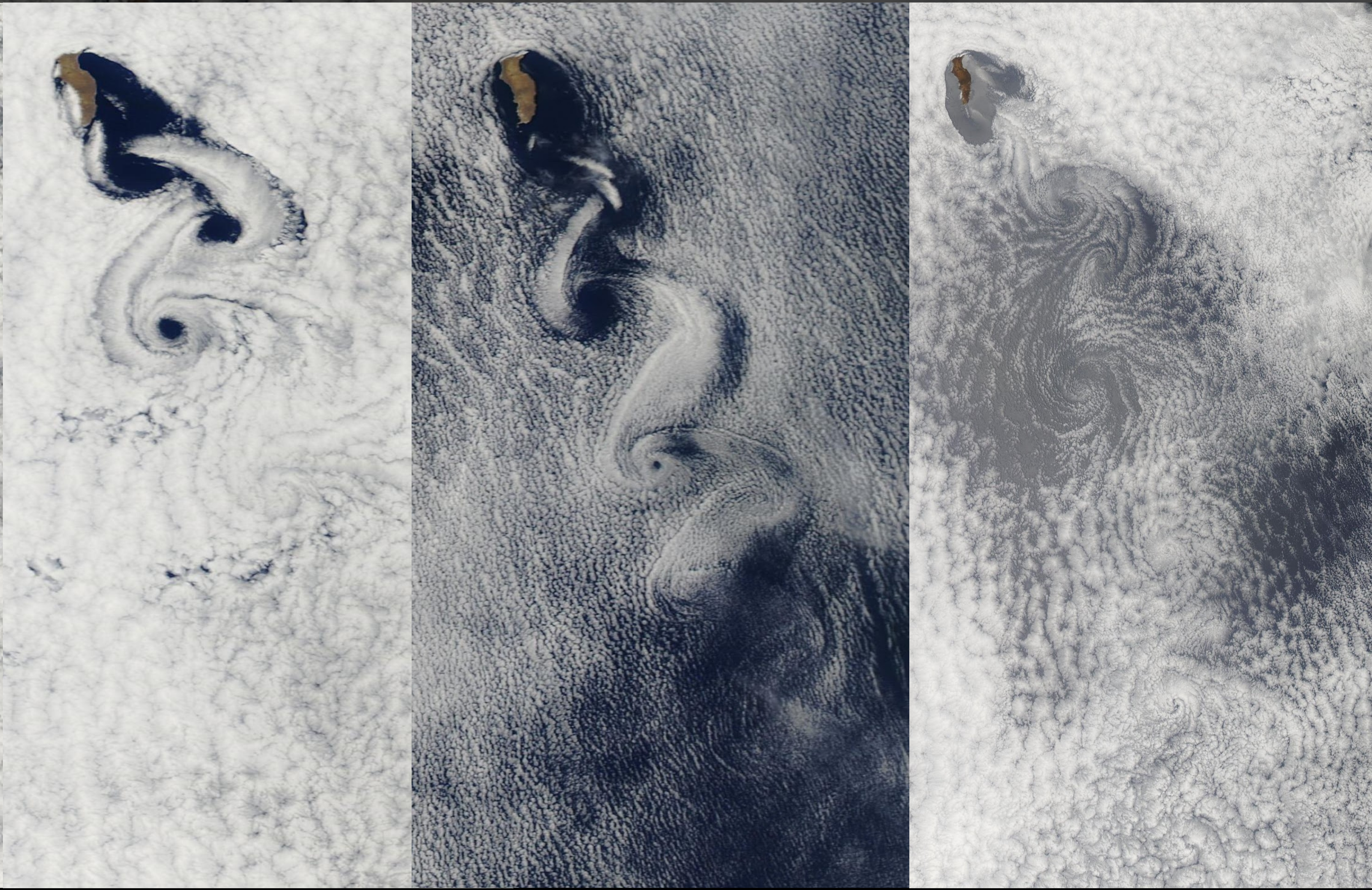
Localized vortex generation via baryon stopping

Viscosity dissipates vorticity to fluid at larger scale

Vorticity – fundamental sub-femtoscopic structure of the “perfect fluid” and its generation

Calculations behind the “perfect fluid” story neglect
angular momentum & vorticity altogether.
Problem?

Cloud vortex formation around Guadeloupe

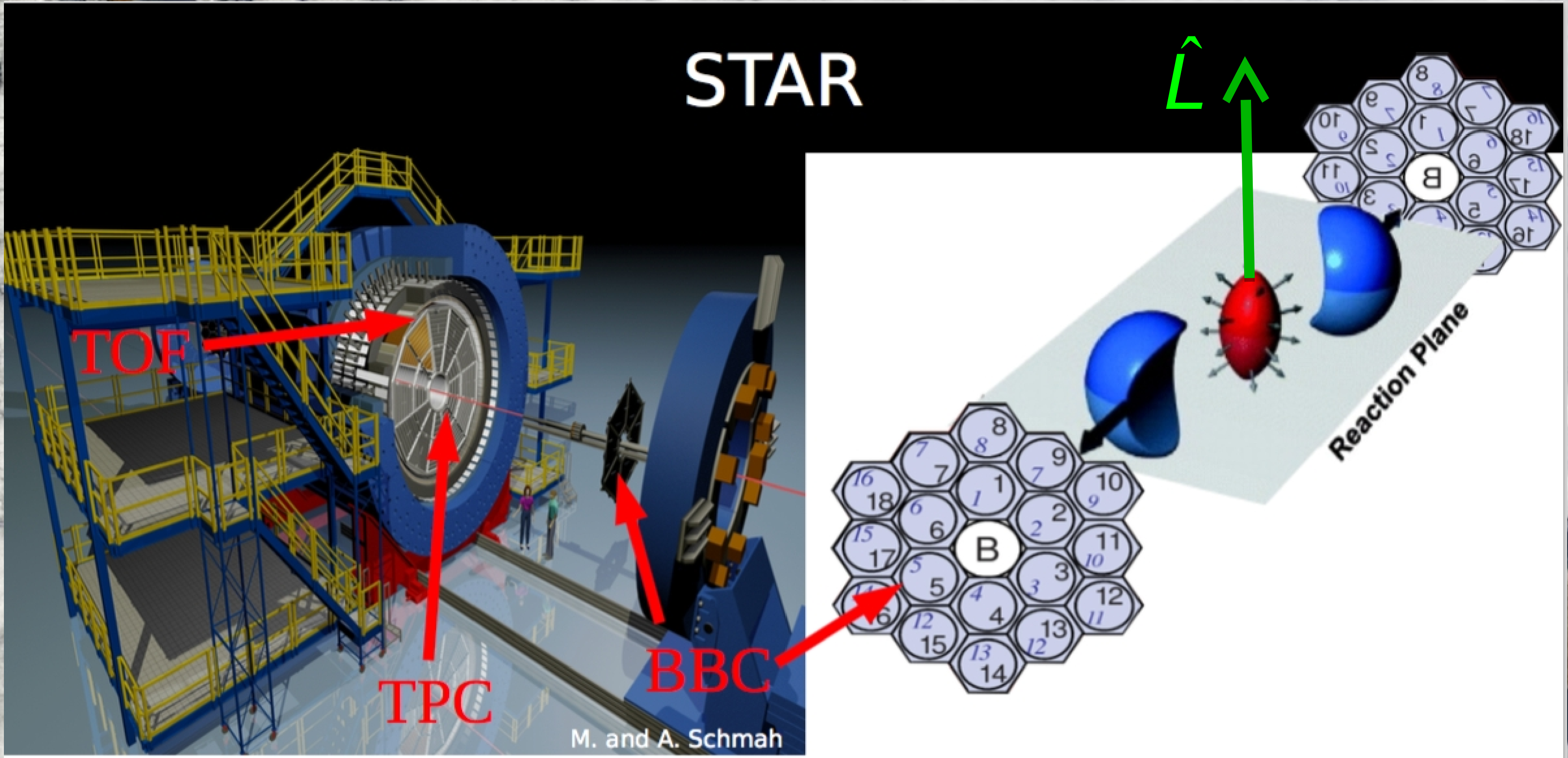


Connection to experiment

- Fluid vorticity may generate **global polarization (alignment of spin with collision system angular momentum) of emitted particles**
  - Betz, Gyulassy, Torrieri PRC76 044901 (2007)
  - Becattini et al., PRC88 034905 (2013)
  - Becattini et al., JPhys 509 012055-5 (2014) (SQM2013)
  - Csernai et al., JPhys 012054-5 (2014) (SQM2013)
  - Grossi JPhys 527 012015-5 (2014) (XIV Conf. Th. Physics)
  - Becattini et al. arxiv:1501.04468

- Similar conclusions based on QCD spin-orbit coupling (non-hydro picture)
  - Voloshin arxiv:nucl-th/0410089
  - Liang and Wang, PRL94 102301 (2005); PRL96 039901(E) (2006)
  - Liang and Wang, PLB629 20 (2005)

Analysis approach



- Study Au+Au collision in the BES:

7.7, 11.5, 14.5, 19.6, 27, 39 GeV

- Tracking is performed by the TPC
- PID is done using the TPC + TOF

- BBC detects participants to determine first order event plane

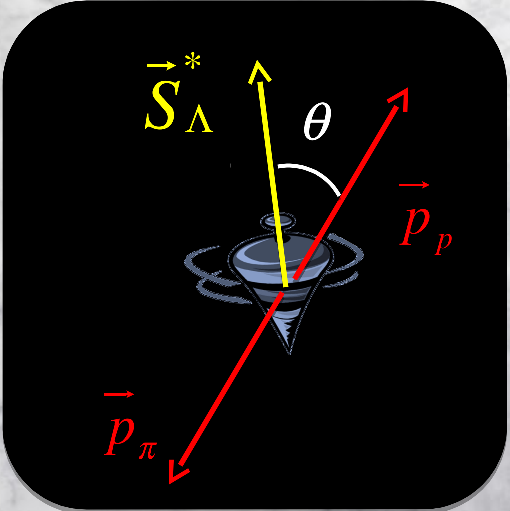
→ estimate of direction of angular momentum $\hat{L}$

Analysis approach

Lambdas are "self-analyzing"

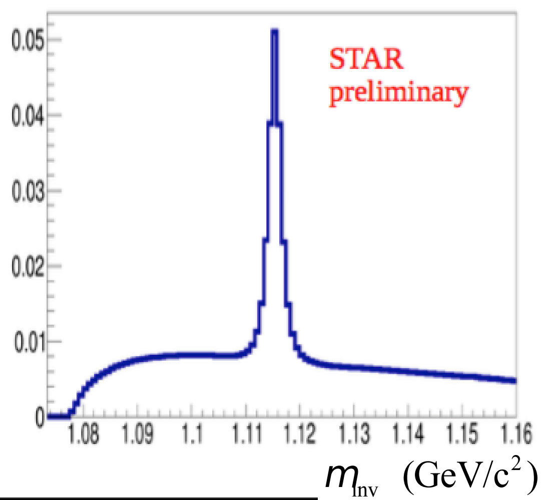
- Reveal polarization by preferentially emitting daughter proton in spin direction
- For AntiLambdas spin is opposite anti-proton direction

E. Cummins, Weak Interactions (McGraw-Hill, 1973)



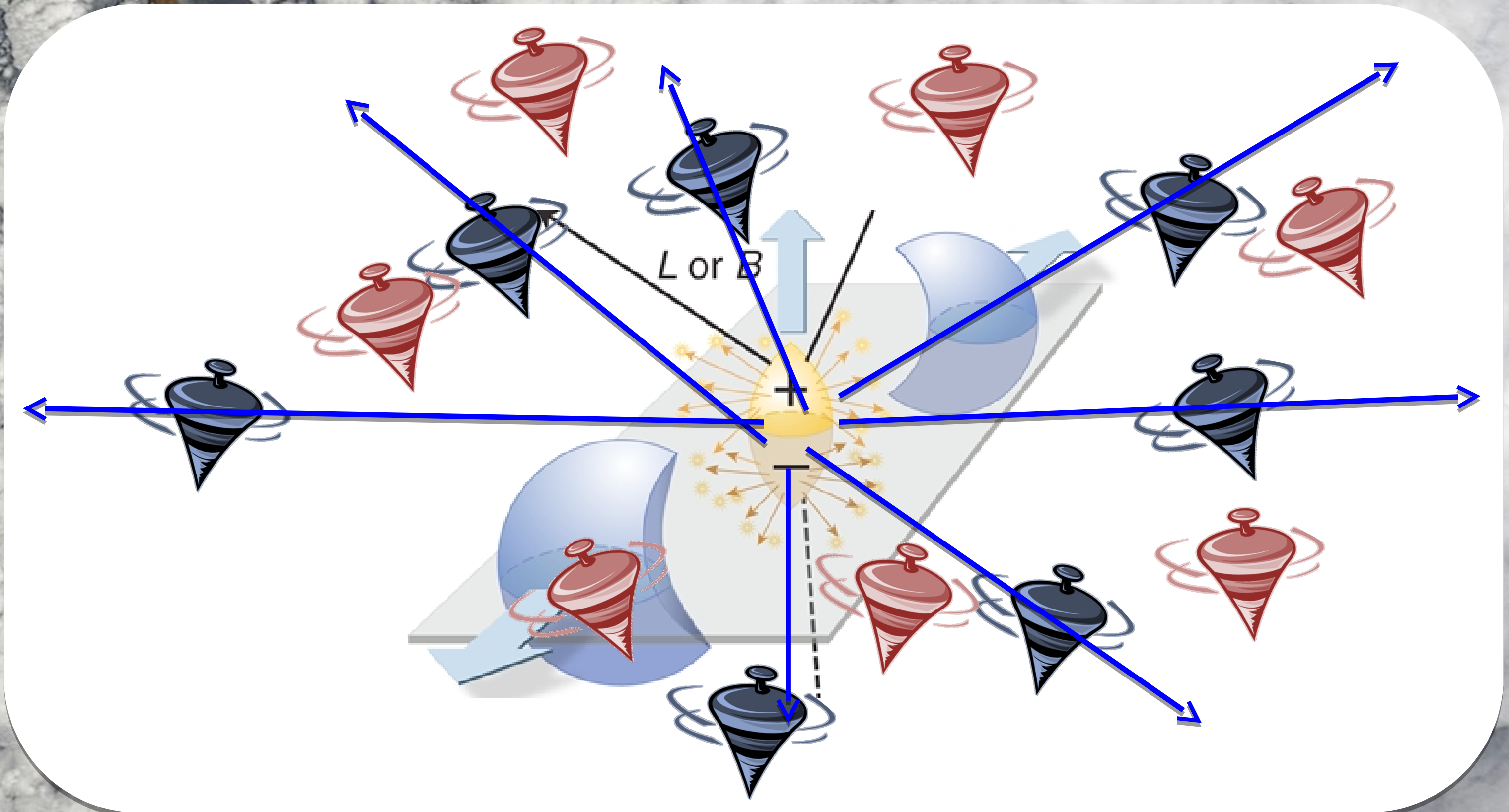
- Basic track cuts
  - If proton has ToF: $0.5\,(GeV/c^2)^2 < m^2_{ToF} < 1.5\,(GeV/c^2)^2$ and TPC $|n_\sigma| < 3$
  - If pion has ToF: $(0.017 - 0.013\frac{p}{GeV/c})(GeV/c^2)^2 < m^2_{ToF} < 0.04\,(GeV/c^2)^2$ and TPC $|n_\sigma| < 3$
- Lambda topological cuts:
  - daughter DCA < 1cm, $1.108\,GeV/c^2 < m_{\text{inv}} < 1.122\,GeV/c^2$

lengths in cm	Both have ToF	Proton has ToF	Pion has ToF	Neither has ToF
Proton DCA	0.1	0.15	0.5	0.6
Pion DCA	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.7
Lambda DCA	1.3	1.2	0.75	0.75
Lambda Decay Length	2	2.5	3.5	4



Topological cuts optimized to maximize yield significance

Contributors to Global Polarization



- Vortical or QCD spin-orbit: Lambda and AntiLambda spins aligned with L
  - Sigma feed-down tends to dampen the effect

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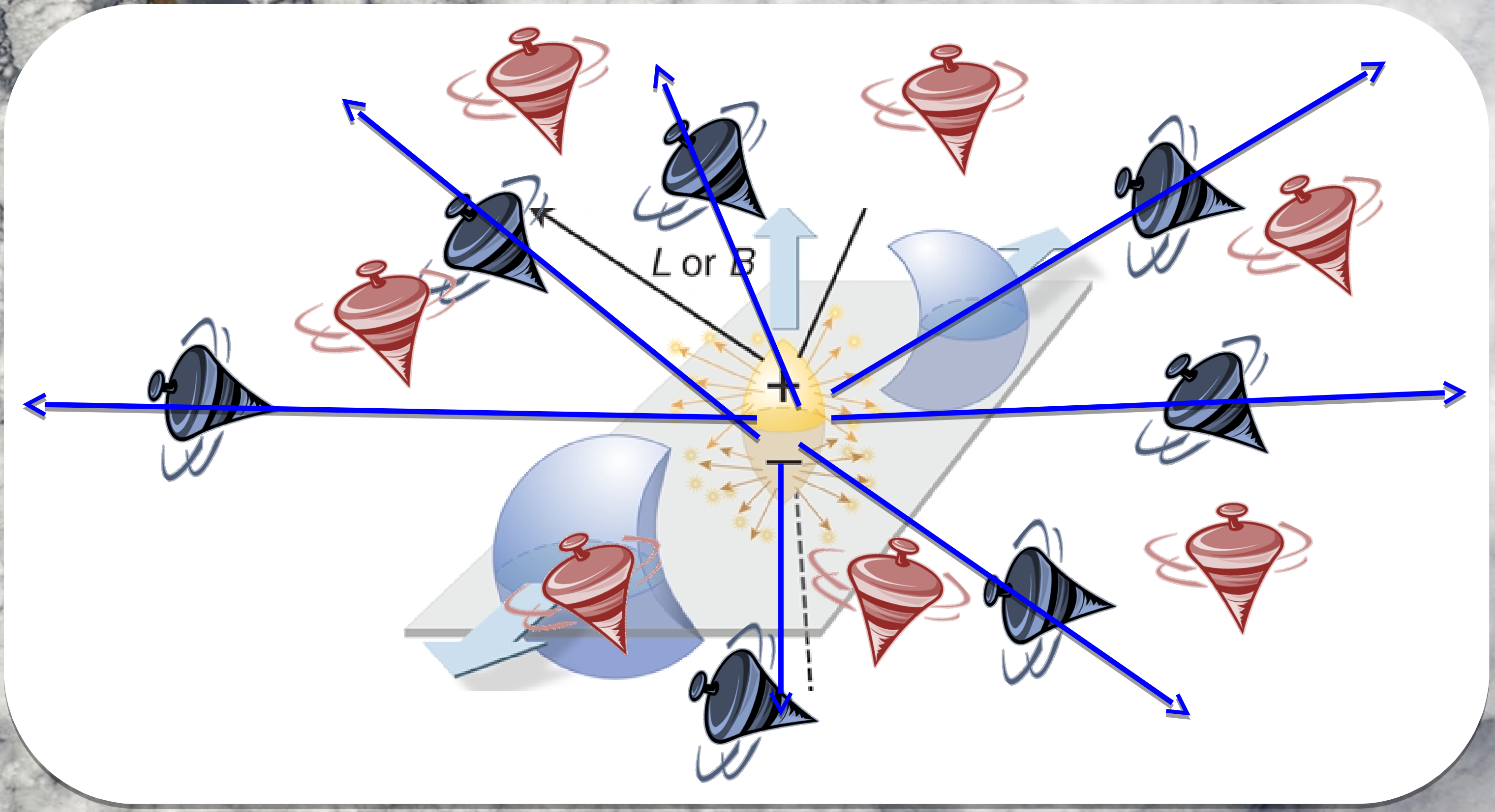


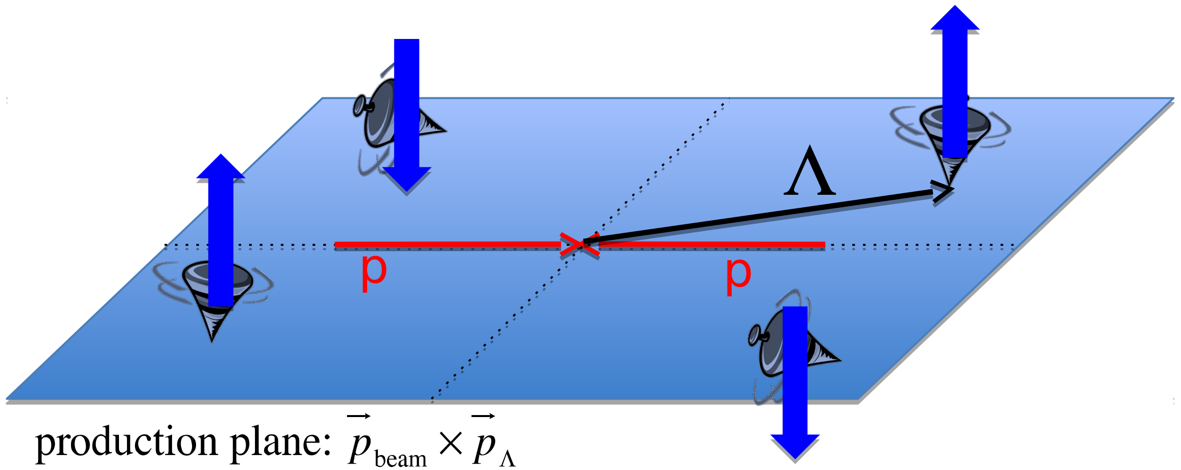
Both may contribute

- Vortical or QCD spin-orbit: Lambda and AntiLambda spins aligned with L
  - Sigma feed-down tends to dampen the effect
- (electro)magnetic coupling: Lamdas *anti*-aligned, and AntiLambdas aligned
  - Sigma feed-down goes in same direction as the effect on primaries

Contributors to Global Polarization

Known effect in p+p collisions [e.g. Bunce et al, PRL 36 1113 (1976)]

- Lambda polarization at *forward* rapidity relative to *production plane*



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Not global

- Polarization w/ *production* plane: No integrated effect at midrapidity for Lambda
  - also, would polarize perpendicular to L for out-of-plane particles – tested (big errors)

How to quantify the effect?

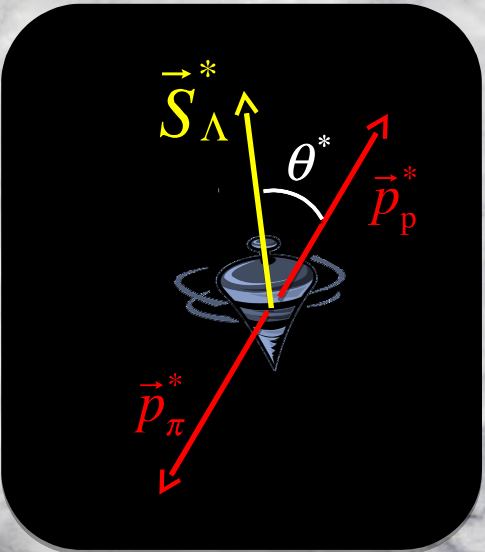
For an ensemble of Λs with polarization $\vec{P}$:

$$\frac{dW}{d\Omega^*} = \frac{1}{4\pi}\left(1+\alpha\vec{P}\cdot\hat{p}_p^*\right) = \frac{1}{4\pi}\left(1+\alpha P\cos\theta^*\right)$$

$\alpha = 0.642$ [measured]

$\hat{p}_p^*$ is daughter proton momentum direction *in Λ frame*
*note this is opposite for $\bar{\Lambda}$

$0 < |\vec{P}| < 1: \quad \vec{P} = \frac{3}{\alpha}\overline{\hat{p}}_p^*$



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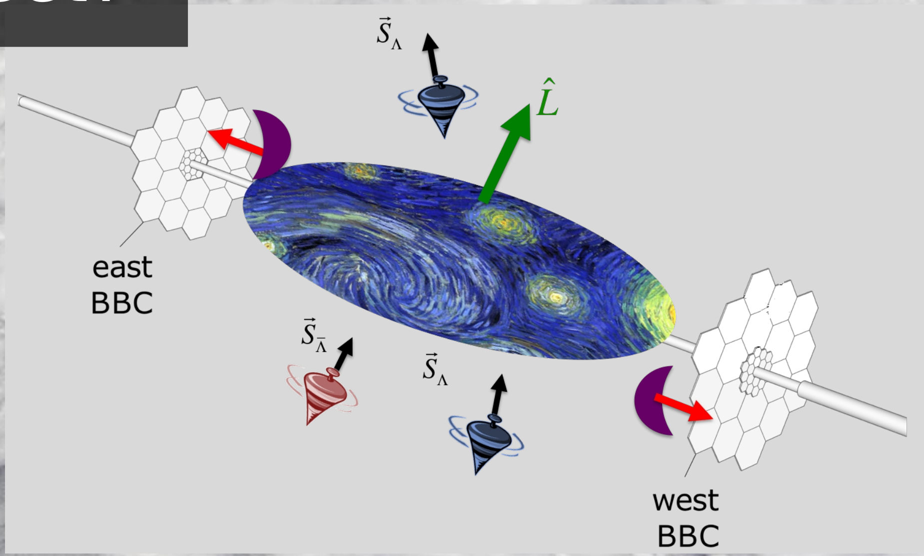

Dynamic heavy ion collision may produce several "ensembles" $\rightarrow$ $\vec{P}$ may depend on $\vec{\beta}_\Lambda$

Models [Beccatini, Csernai, Liang, Wang, others] predict various dependence on p_T, ϕ

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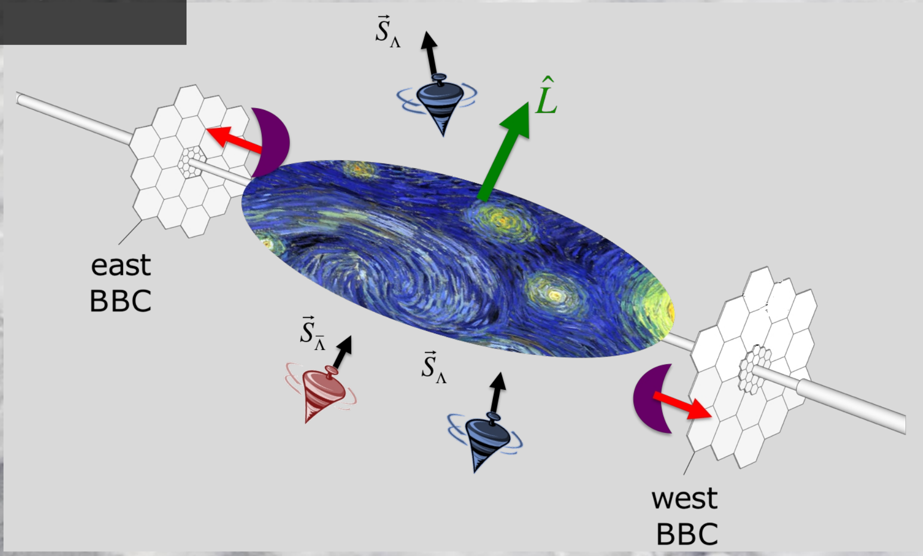

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Symmetry: $|y|<1,\ 0<\phi<2\pi \ \rightarrow\ \vec{P}_{\mathrm{ave}} \parallel \hat{L}$

Statistics-limited experiment: we report acceptance-integrated polarization, $P_{\mathrm{ave}} \equiv \int d\vec{\beta}_\Lambda \frac{dN}{d\vec{\beta}_\Lambda}\vec{P}\left(\vec{\beta}_\Lambda\right)\cdot\hat{L}$

$P_{\mathrm{ave}} = \frac{8}{\pi\alpha}\frac{\langle\sin(\phi_{\mathrm{p}}^* - \Psi_{\mathrm{EP}}^{(1)})\rangle}{R_{\mathrm{EP}}^{(1)}}$ where the average is performed over events and Λs

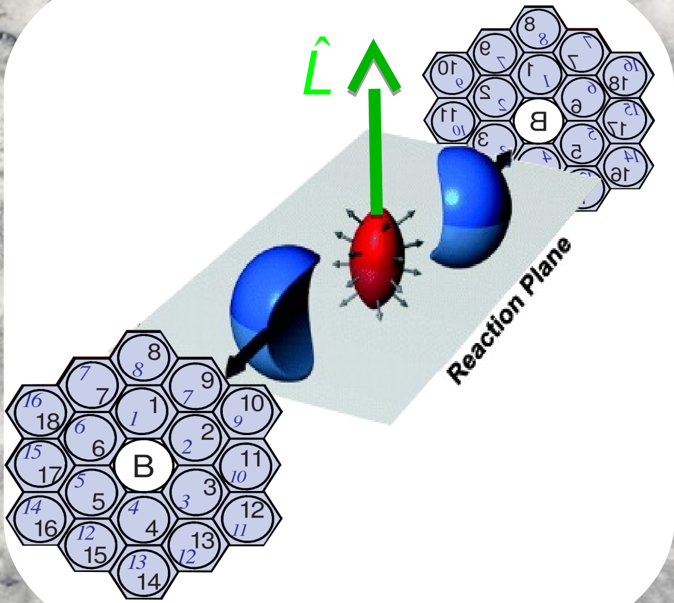
$\Psi_{\mathrm{EP}}^{(1)}$ is the first-order event plane (found with BBCs)

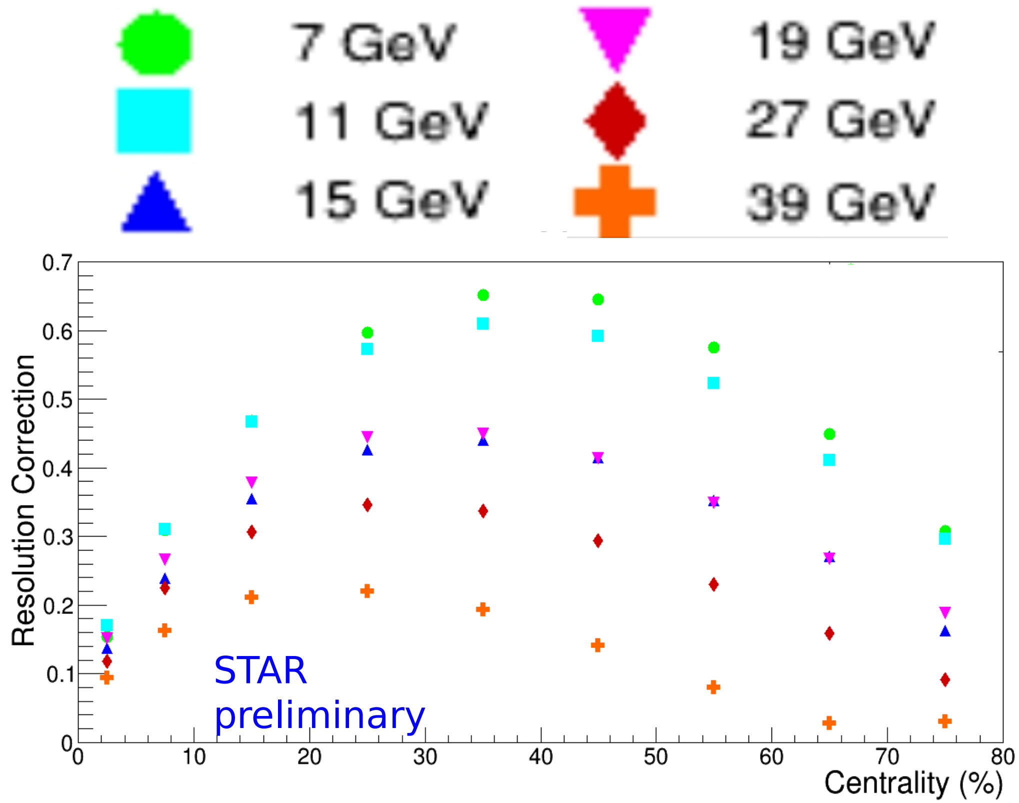
$R_{\mathrm{EP}}^{(1)}$ is the first-order event plane resolution (same as v_1 analysis)

STAR, PR**C76** 024915 (2007)

Correcting for reaction-plane resolution

$$R_{\mathrm{EP}}^{(1)} = \langle \cos \Delta\psi \rangle = \langle \cos(\Psi_{\mathrm{RP}} - \Psi_{EP}^{(1)}) \rangle$$





$$P_{\mathrm{ave}} = \frac{8}{\pi\alpha} \frac{\langle \sin(\phi_{\mathrm{p}}^{*} - \Psi_{\mathrm{EP}}^{(1)}) \rangle}{R_{\mathrm{EP}}^{(1)}}$$

Topologically-dependent efficiency

Spin-orientation-dependent efficiency (!)

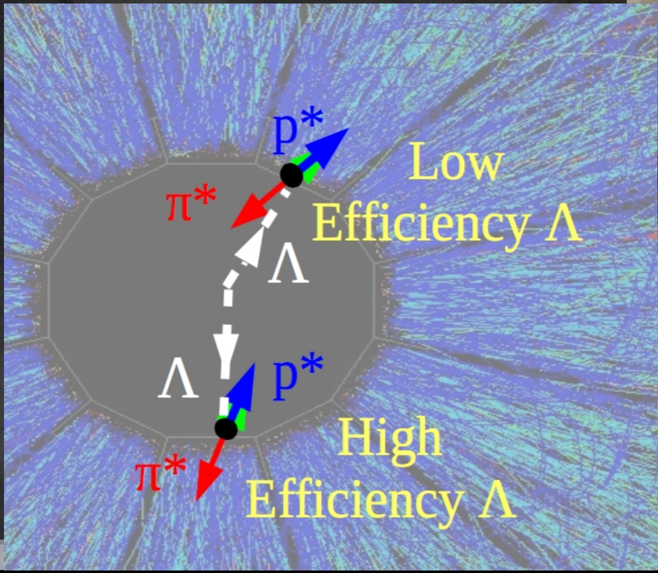
Daughter proton & pion have equal-magnitude momentum in Lambda frame, but not in STAR frame

$$\left.\frac{R_\pi}{R_p} = \frac{\left|\vec{p}_{T,\pi}\right|}{\left|\vec{p}_{T,p}\right|} \sim \frac{m_\pi}{m_p} \sim \frac{1}{7}\right\} \rightarrow \pi \text{ tracking drives } \Lambda \text{ efficiency}$$

pion emitted backward in Lambda c.m., → tight curl, large DCA (distance to collision vertex)

→ much-reduced efficiency

→ higher efficiency to find negative-helicity Lambdas



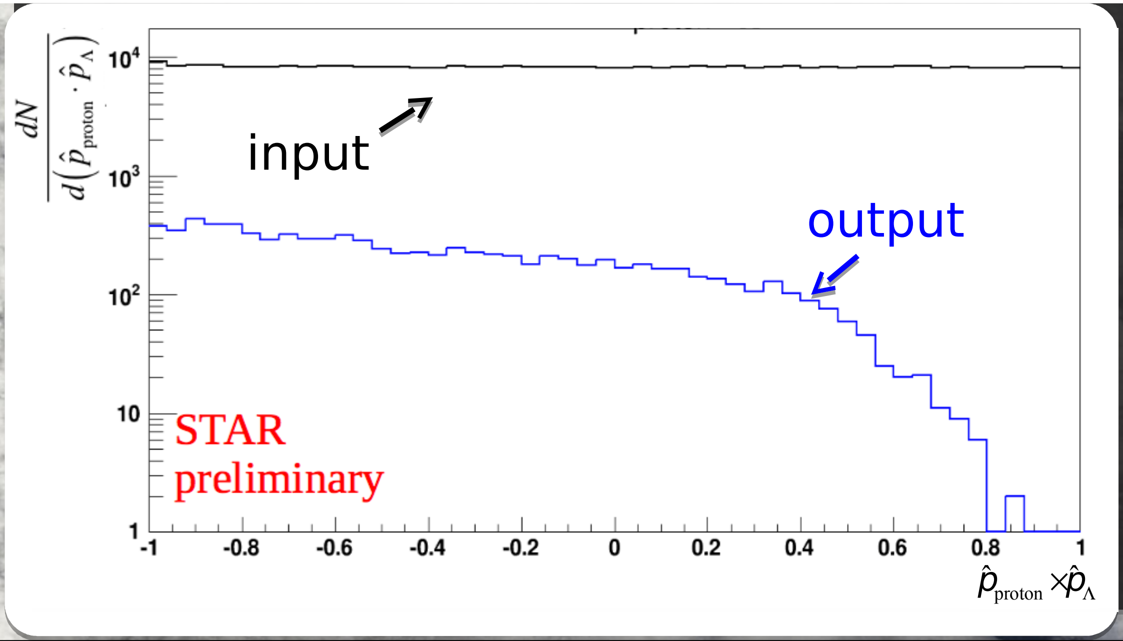
Topologically-dependent efficiency

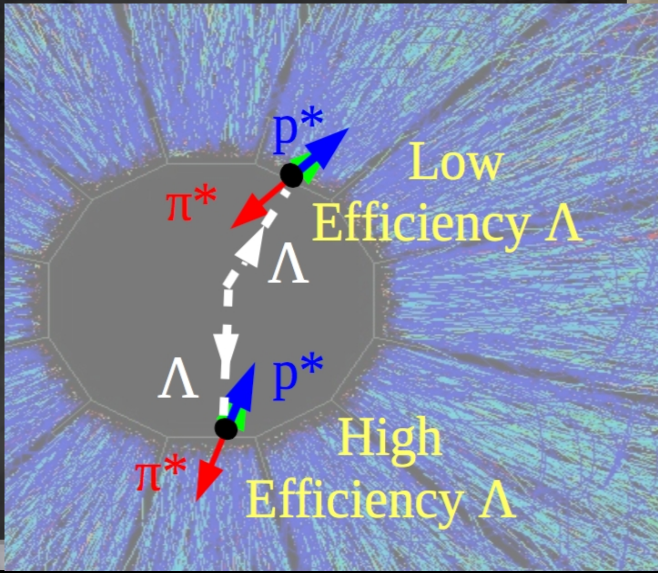
Spin-orientation-dependent efficiency (!)

- Same effect seen in embedding/GEANT simulations
- p_T-dependent
- not correlated with RP
- explicitly cancels when summing regions separated by 180 degrees

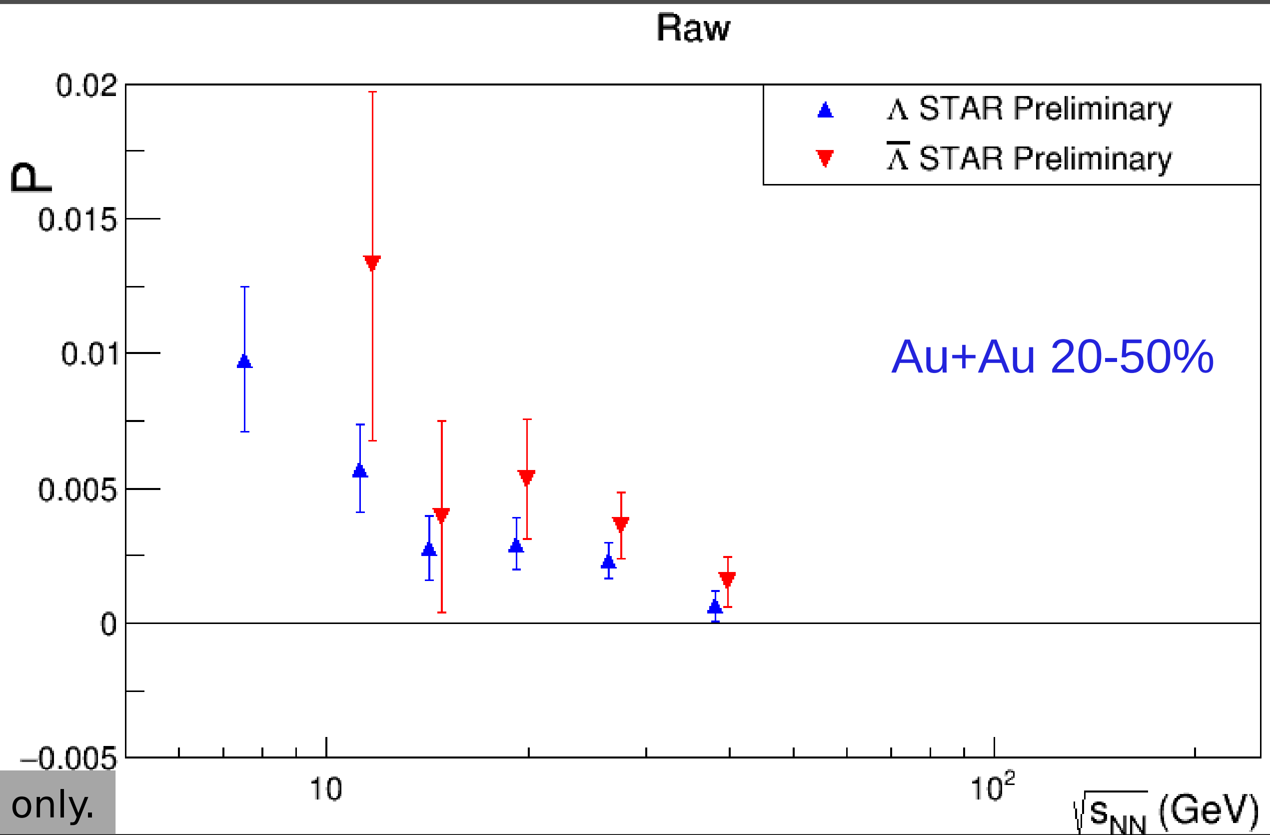
effect does not affect P_{ave}

HIJING events through simulated STAR detector & tracking





Preliminary results – uncorrected for RP resolution



statistical errors only.

- First clear positive signal of global polarization in heavy ion collisions!

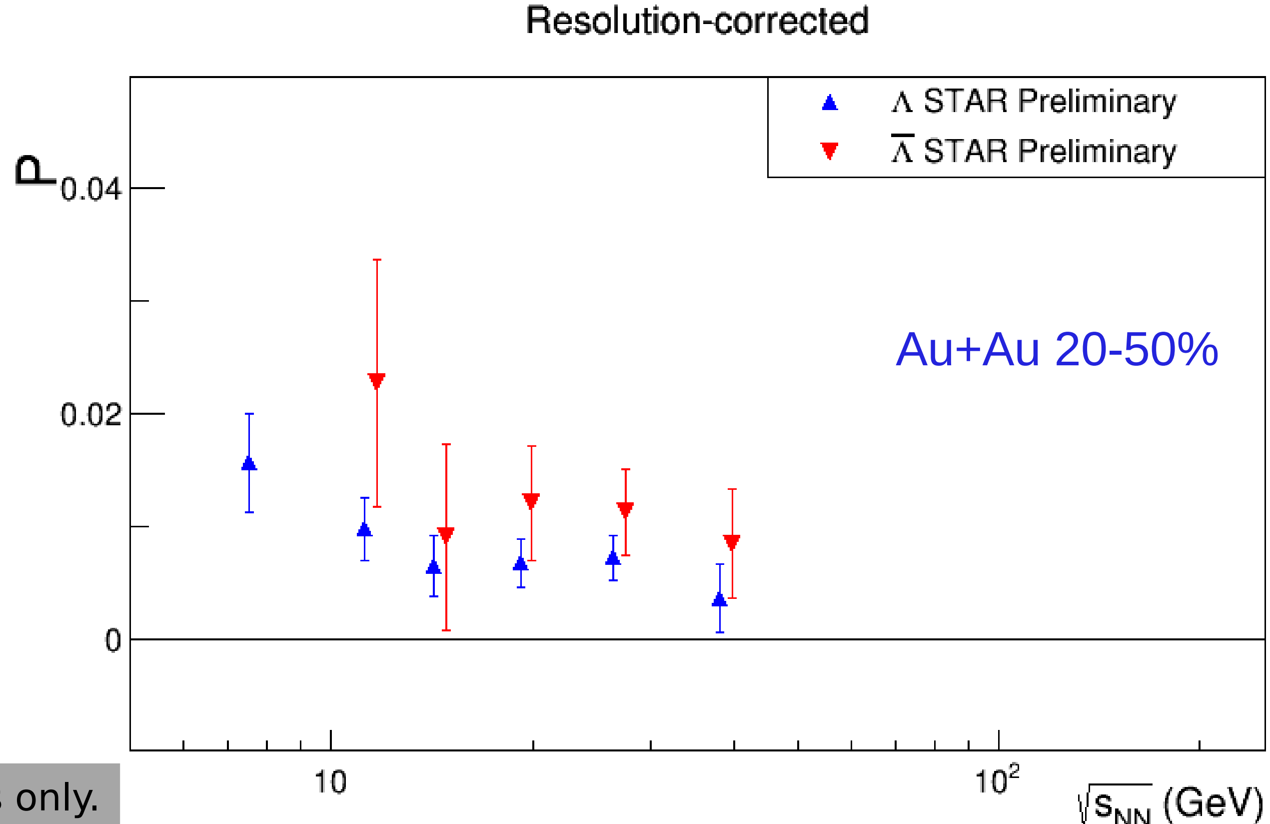
$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	7.7	11.5	14.5	19.6	27	39
Λ	3.6σ	3.5σ	2.4σ	3.1σ	3.5σ	1.1σ
anti-Λ	-	2.1σ	1.1σ	2.4σ	2.9σ	1.6σ

Marginal significance for *one* energy.

Ensemble & trend adds confidence.

- Both Lambdas and AntiLambdas show positive polarization → vorticity and/or spin-orbit
  - increased AntiLambdas polarization could arise from (electro)magnetic contribution, but errorbars...
- Signal falls with energy – physics or simply loss of resolution?

Preliminary results – corrected for RP resolution



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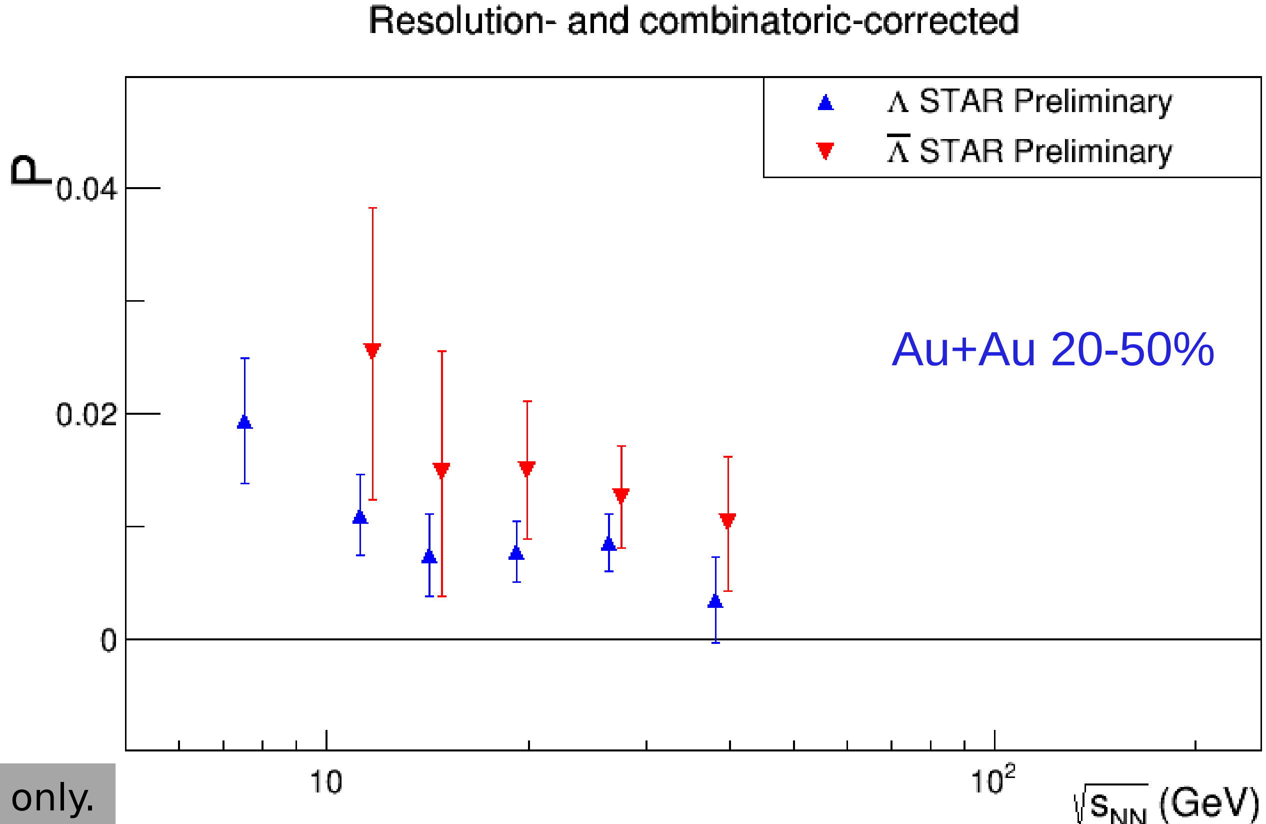
- Resolution Correction in centrality bins

Corrected for RP resolution & combinatoric background



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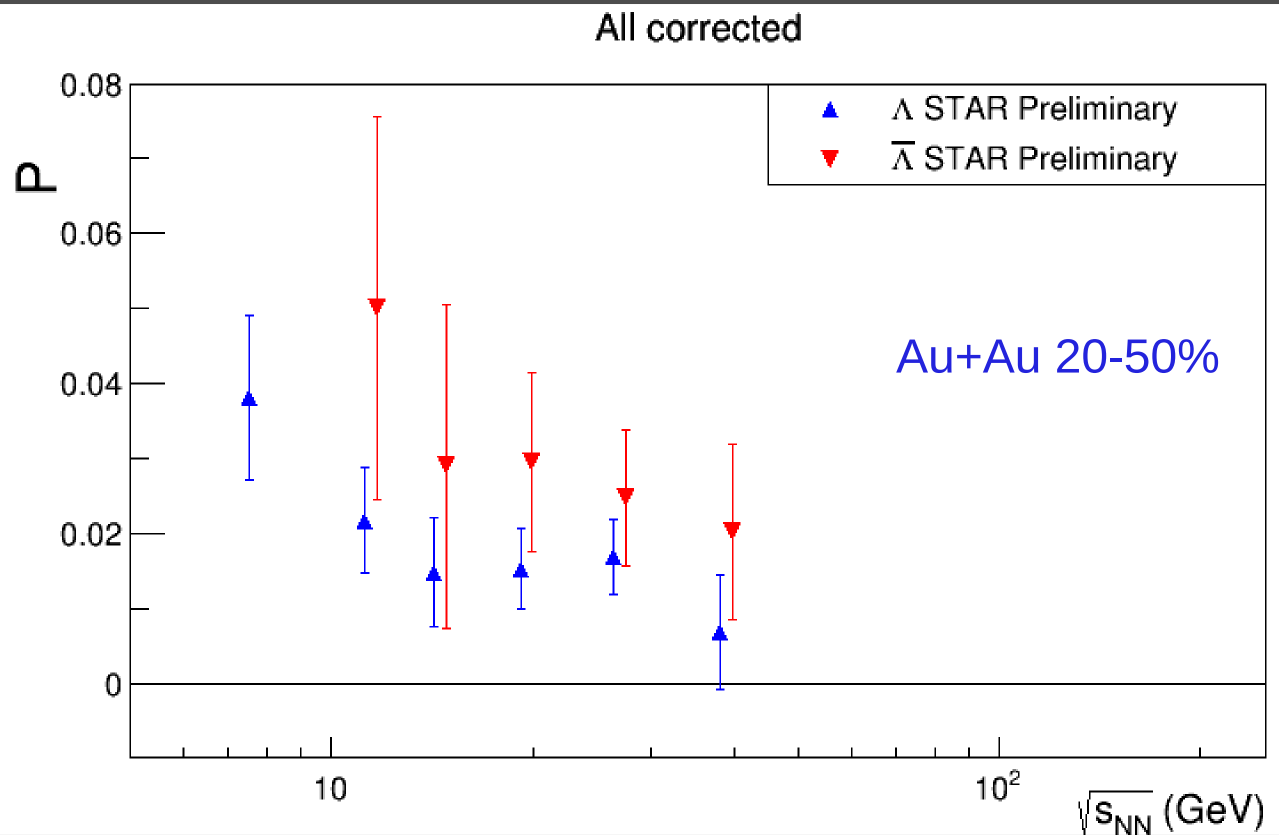
- Subtracting residual effect from combinatoric background below mass peak

Corrected RP res & combinatoric bkgrnd & feed-down



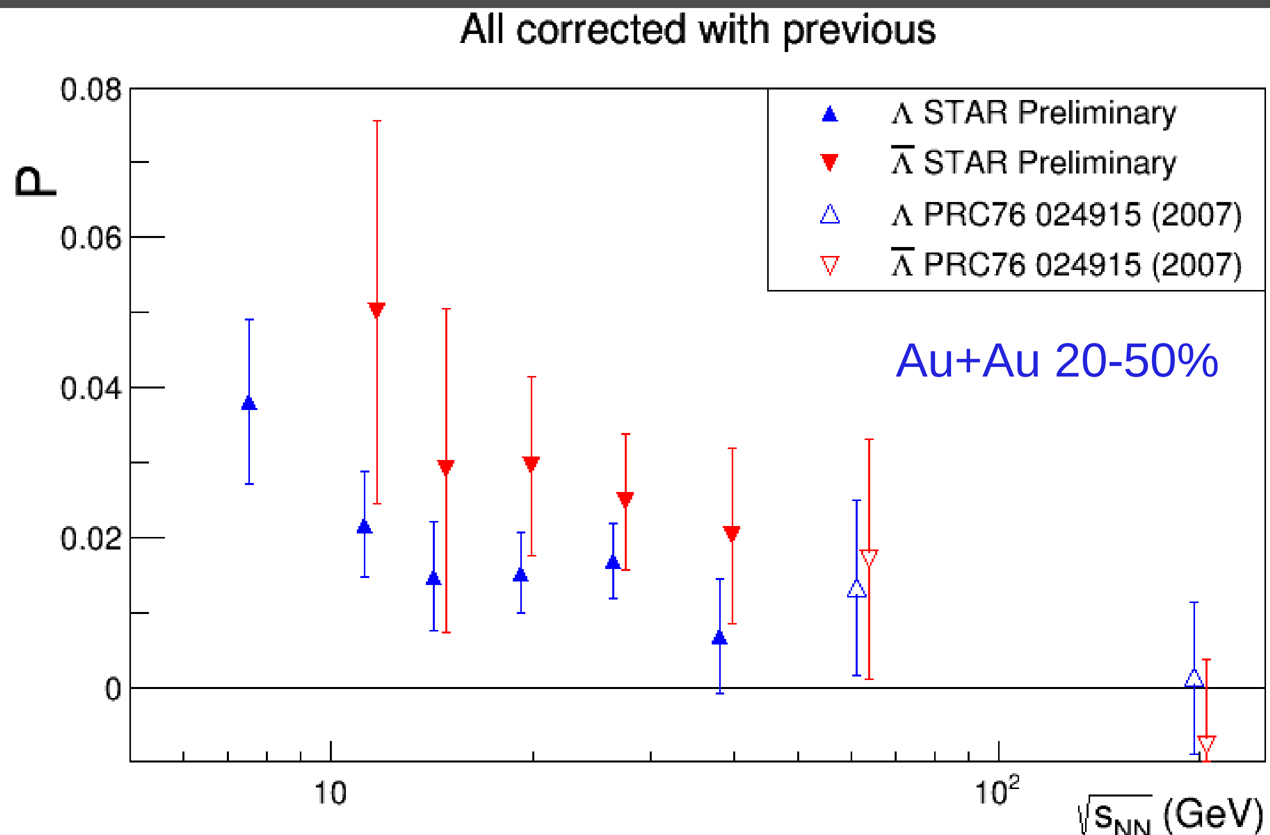
- Subtracting residual effect from combinatoric background below mass peak
- Correcting for feed-down from Sigma0

$$\underbrace{\Sigma^0}_{\frac{1}{2}^+} \rightarrow \underbrace{\Lambda}_{\frac{1}{2}^+} + \underbrace{\gamma}_{1^-}$$

$$(\text{p-wave decay})$$

- A significant fraction (~30%) of our Lambdas are actually feed-down from Sigma0
- The daughter Lambda tends to have spin direction opposite that of the parent Sigma

Corrected RP res & combinatoric bkgrnd & feed-down



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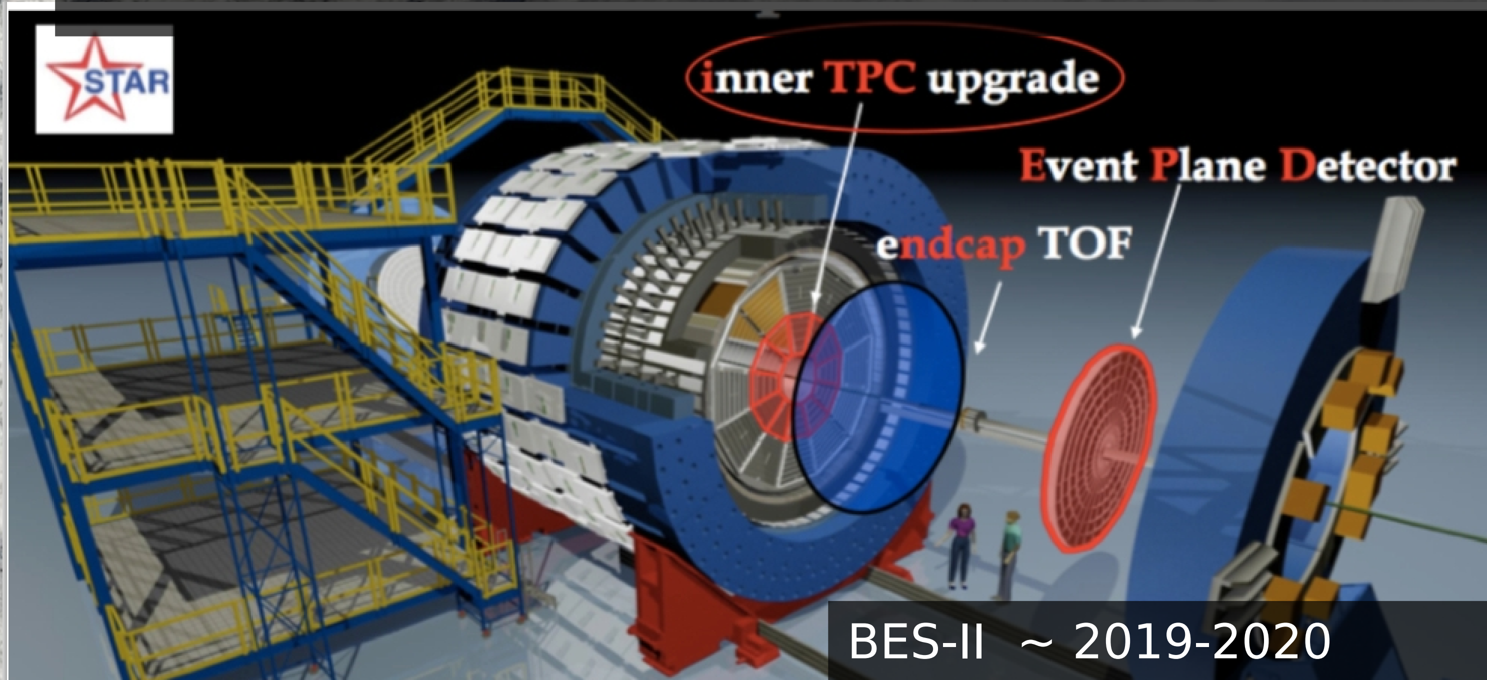
- previous STAR results (corrected for sign) continue systematics

Summary

- Large angular momentum in noncentral heavy ion collisions may be partially transferred to the hot fireball at midrapidity
  - thermalization: if angular momentum is distributed thermally, spin states will be preferentially occupied
  - In a hydro scenario, achieved through vorticity generated by shear viscosity
  - At a microscopic level, may be due to QCD spin-orbit coupling
- Global hyperon polarization probes this (largely unexplored) physics
- STAR has seen the first positive signal of global hyperon polarization
  - 2.5σ to 3.5σ signal for Λ's at each energy below 39 GeV
  - previous STAR "null result" appears to fall in line with systematics!
  - falls with energy – driving physics?
  - hint of larger signal for antibaryons – additional magnetic effect?
- higher statistics & resolution in BES-II will allow important differential studies
  - centrality, p_T, phi, directional mapping

BES-II: 2019-2020



$\sqrt{S_{NN}}$ (GeV)	5.0	7.7	9.1	11.5	13.0	14.5	19.6
μ_B (MeV)	550	420	370	315	290	250	205
BES I (MEvts)	---	4.3	---	11.7	---	24	36
Rate(MEvts/ day)		0.25		1.7		2.4	4.5
BES I $\mathcal{L}$ (1×10^{25}/cm^{2}sec)		0.13		1.5		2.1	4.0
BES II (MEvts)		100	160	230	250	300	400
eCooling (Factor)	2	3	4	6	8	11	15
Beam Time (weeks)		**14**	**9.5**	**5.0**	**3.0**	**2.5**	**3.0**

BES-II ~ 2019-2020

- Collider (e-cooling) & detector upgrades
- Finer-grained measurements
  - what drives energy dependence of P?
- Increase statistics by order of magnitude
  - stat. errorbars reduced by ~3
- Improve avg 1st-order RP resolution by 2x
  - stat. errorbars reduced by another ~2

END

Effect of (Anti)Sigma feed-down

$$\underbrace{\Sigma^0}_{\frac{1}{2}^+} \rightarrow \underbrace{\Lambda}_{\frac{1}{2}^+} + \underbrace{\gamma}_{1^-}$$

(p-wave decay)

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Scenario 1: spin of all primary particles $\left(\Lambda,\Sigma^0,\bar{\Lambda},\bar{\Sigma}^0\right)$ aligned with $\vec{J}_{\text{system}}$, due to vorticity (or whatever):

$\Rightarrow$ primary Λ $\left(\text{and } \bar{\Lambda}\right)$ aligned with $\vec{J}_{\text{system}}$, but secondary Λ $\left(\text{and } \bar{\Lambda}\right)$ aligned against $\vec{J}_{\text{system}}$

Thus, for vorticity-induced polarization, **feed-down tends to damp the signal**.
STAR's 2004 paper estimated < 30% damping effect

Scenario 2: polarization through coupling of particle magnetic moment to B-field of the system

$$\vec{\mu}_{\Lambda} = \left(-0.613\mu_N\right)\vec{S}_{\Lambda} \;\Rightarrow\; \vec{S}_{\Lambda[\text{primary}]} \text{ will be antialigned with } \vec{J}_{\text{system}} \quad \left(\vec{S}_{\Lambda[\text{primary}]} \,||\, -\vec{J}_{\text{system}}\right)$$

$$\vec{\mu}_{\Sigma^0} = \left(+0.79\mu_N\right)\vec{S}_{\Sigma^0} \;\Rightarrow\; \vec{S}_{\Sigma^0} \text{ will be aligned with } \vec{J}_{\text{system}} \quad \left(\vec{S}_{\Sigma^0} \,||\, +\vec{J}_{\text{system}}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{ daughter } \Lambda\text{'s will be antialigned with } \vec{J}_{\text{system}} \quad \left(\vec{S}_{\Lambda[\text{secondary}]} \,||\, -\vec{J}_{\text{system}}\right)$$

Similar argument for the antiparticles, where both the primary and secondary $\bar{\Lambda}$ align with $\vec{J}_{\text{system}}$

Thus, for magnetic-coupling-induced polarization, **feed-down goes in the same direction as the signal from primary Lambdas.**

Effect of (Anti)Sigma feed-down

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$$\text{(p-wave decay)}$$

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under assumption that Σ^0 polarizes as Λ does:

$$P_{\text{primary }\Lambda} = \frac{1 + N_{\Sigma^0} / N_{\text{prim }\Lambda}}{1 - \frac{1}{3} N_{\Sigma^0} / N_{\text{prim }\Lambda}} P_{\text{measured }\Lambda} \equiv \mathrm{K}_{\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \Lambda} P_{\text{measured }\Lambda}$$

model	N[Sigma0]/N[Lambda]	K[Sigma0->Lambda]
"isospin effect" (COSY-11) (*)	1/3	1.5
THERMUS with, w/o resonances (*)	0.36-0.67	1.5-2.2
"Coalescence" (*)	0.2-1.0 (1.0?)	1.3-3
Chemical equilibrium with T=150 MeV	**0.59**	**2**
STAR estimate from p-Lambda paper	0.73	2.3
(*) G. Van Buren (STAR) nucl-ex/0412034		

Used here

Conservative range: 1.5-2.5

Previous STAR result

Phys RevC **76**, 024915 (2007)
concluded null signal

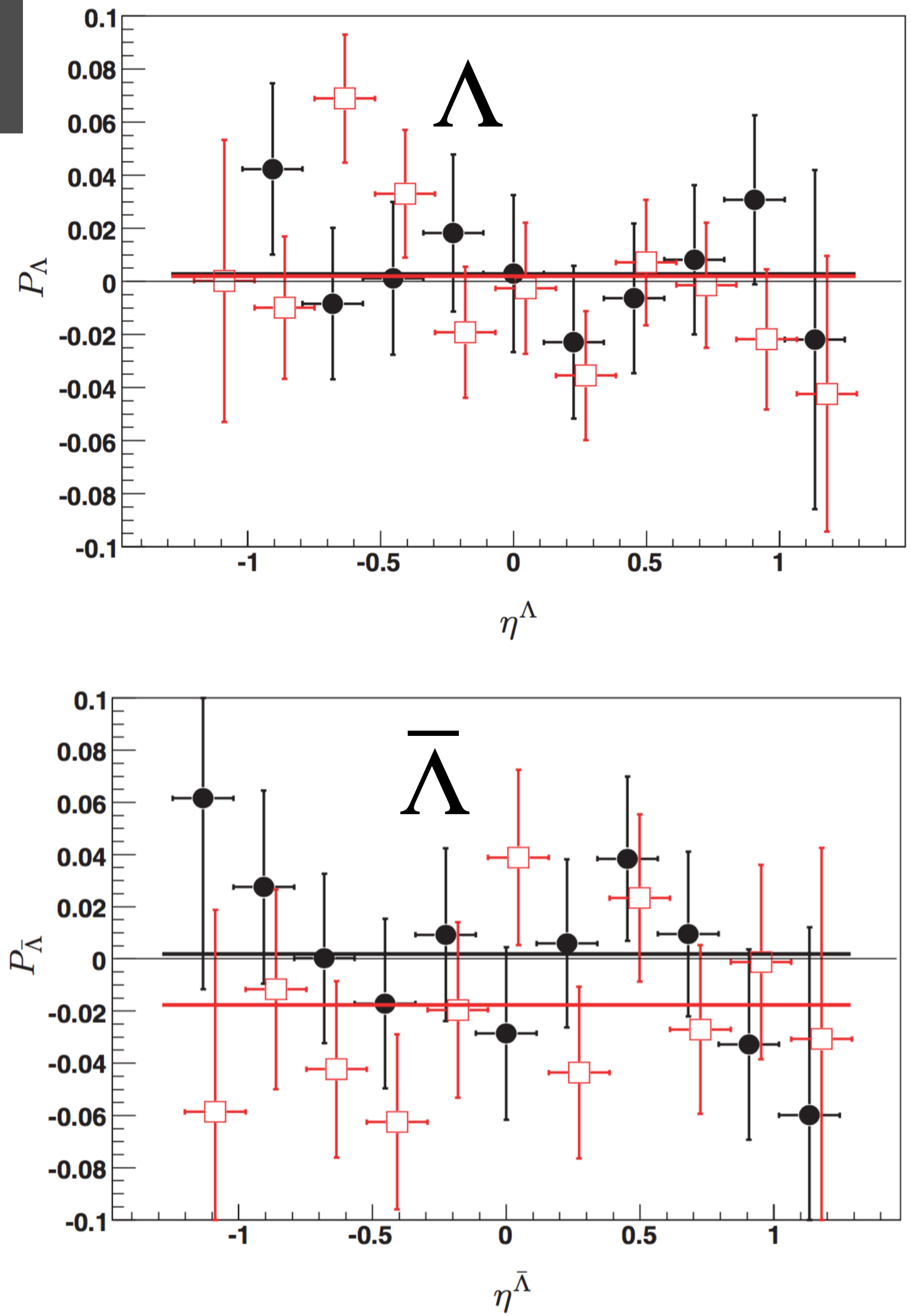
$$\left\langle \vec{\bar{S}}_{\Lambda}^{*} \cdot \hat{L} \right\rangle = -\frac{1}{2} "P_{\Lambda}"$$

oops

200 GeV

62.4 GeV

A 1.7-sigma signal seen for Anti-Lambdas at 62.4 GeV?



Mass Purity Correction

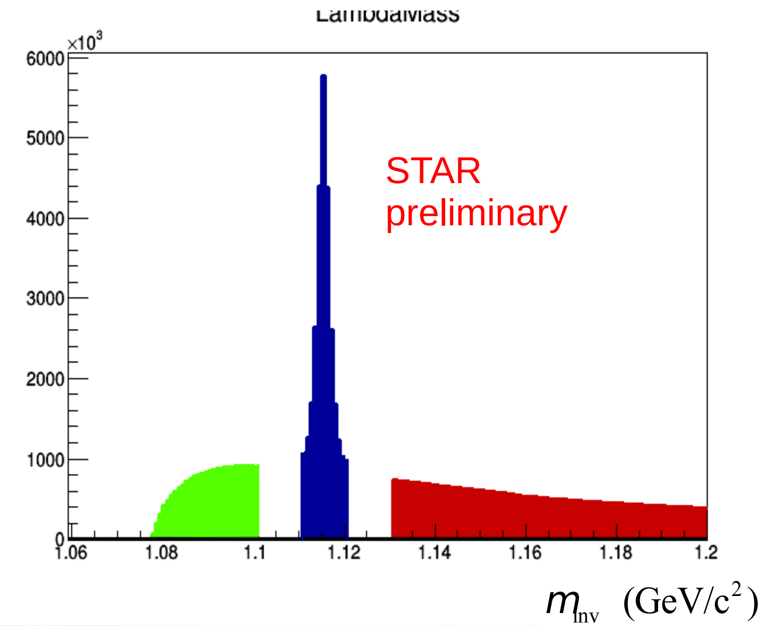
- Effect: overall scale up
- Correction based on the fact that not all "Lambdas" in the mass peak are real

$$\langle \hat{S}^{*} \cdot \hat{L} \rangle_{\text{On Peak}} = \frac{S \langle \sin(\Psi_1 - \varphi_p^{*}) \rangle_{\Lambda} - B \langle \sin(\Psi_1 - \varphi_p^{*}) \rangle_{\text{Off Peak}}}{S+B}$$

$$\langle \hat{S}^{*} \cdot \hat{L} \rangle_{\Lambda} = \frac{S+B}{S} \langle \sin(\Psi_1 - \varphi_p^{*}) \rangle_{\text{On Peak}} - \frac{B}{S} \langle \sin(\Psi_1 - \varphi_p^{*}) \rangle_{\text{Off Peak}}$$

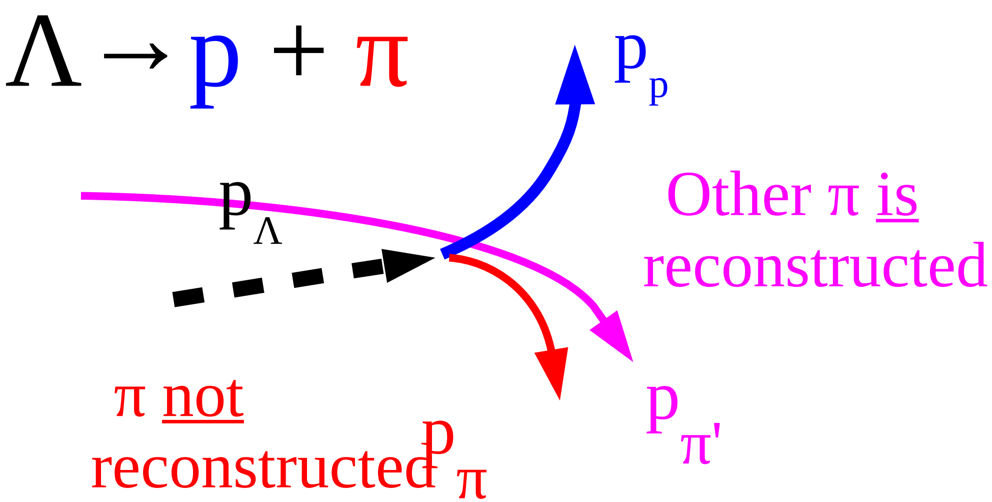
- We measure the signal on peak, but we want to know the underlying signal for the Lambdas

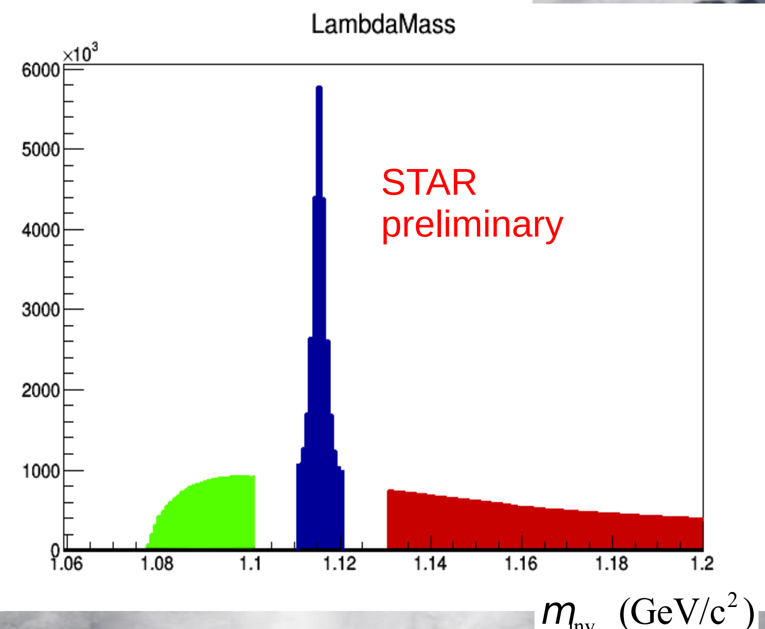
- Much like flow we can subtract off any signal we see off peak



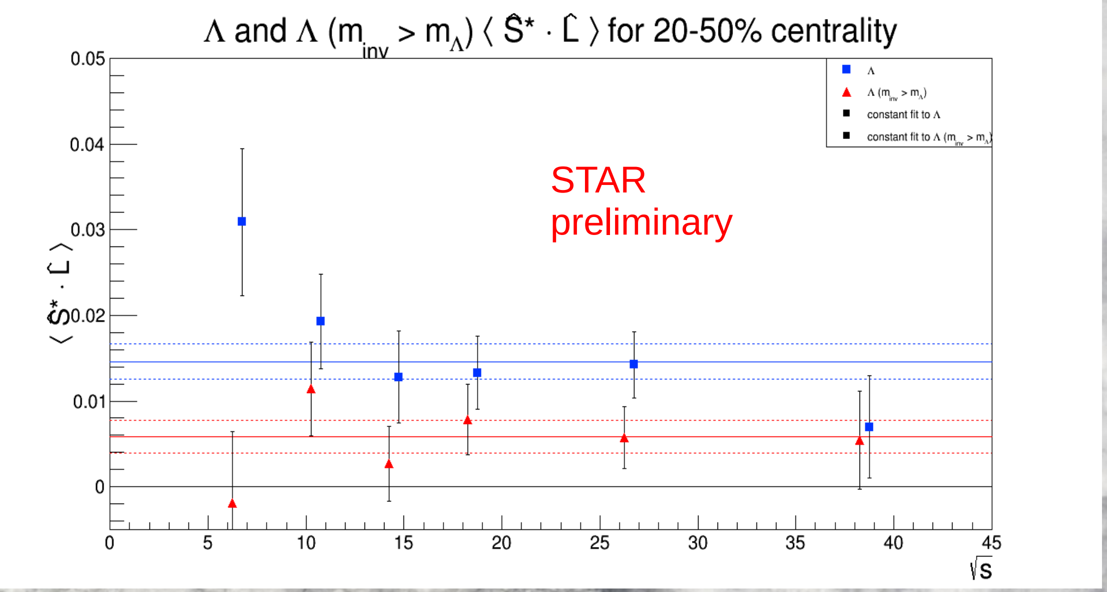
Where does $\langle \sin(\Psi_1 - \varphi_p^*) \rangle_{\text{Off Peak}} \neq 0$ come from?

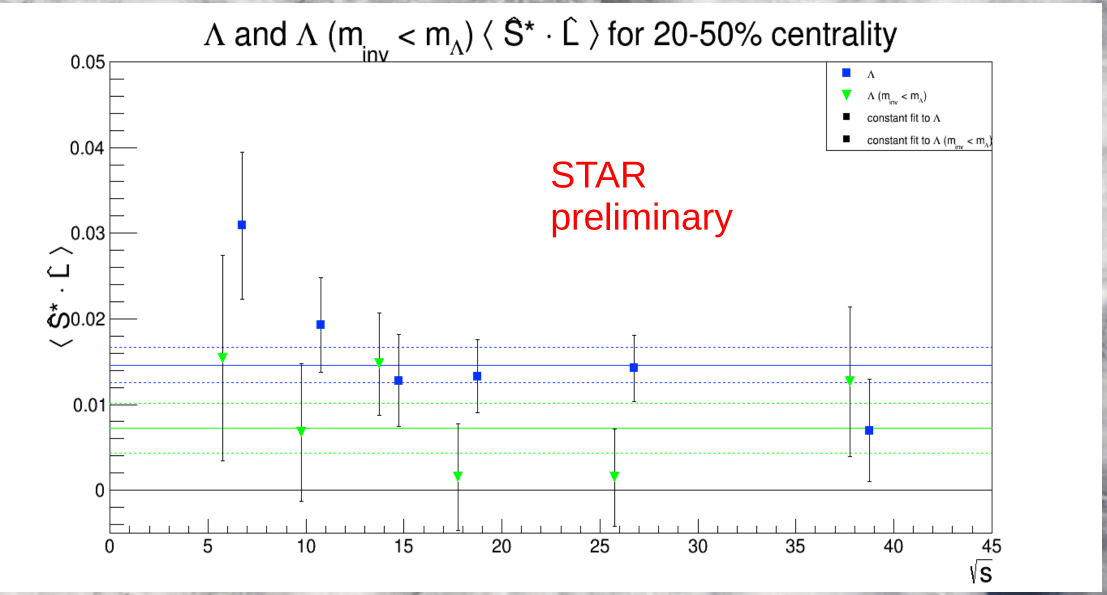
- Formalism works but does it make sense?
- Primary protons and pions should have no signal
- Few non-Lambda sources for non-primary protons
- Perhaps off mass signals come from orphan protons



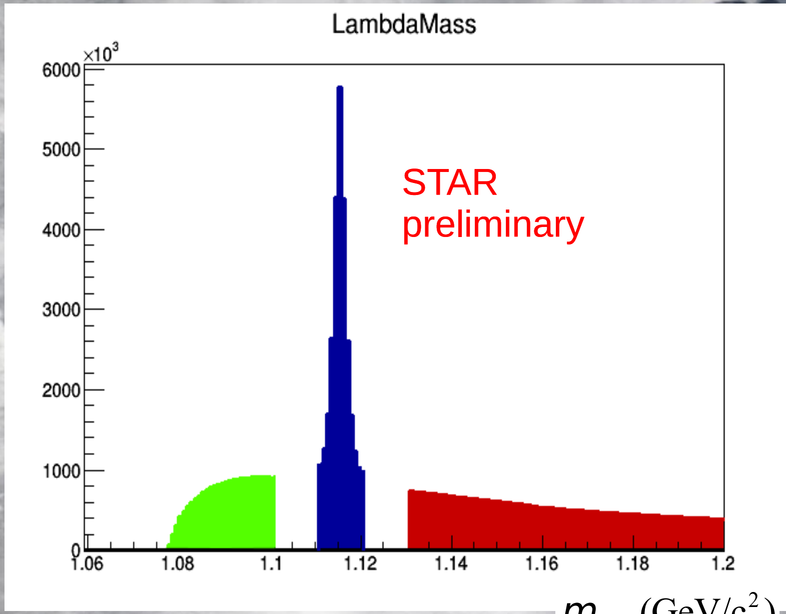


Mass Purity Correction: Lambda





- Linear fit to on peak: Signal/Error = 7.00
- Linear fit to high mass: Signal/Error = 3.03
- Linear fit to low mass: Signal/Error = 2.52



m_{inv} (GeV/c^2)