Measurement of J/ψ polarization and spin alignment in Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions at $\sqrt{S_{NN}}$= 200 GeV at STAR

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For the STAR Collaboration

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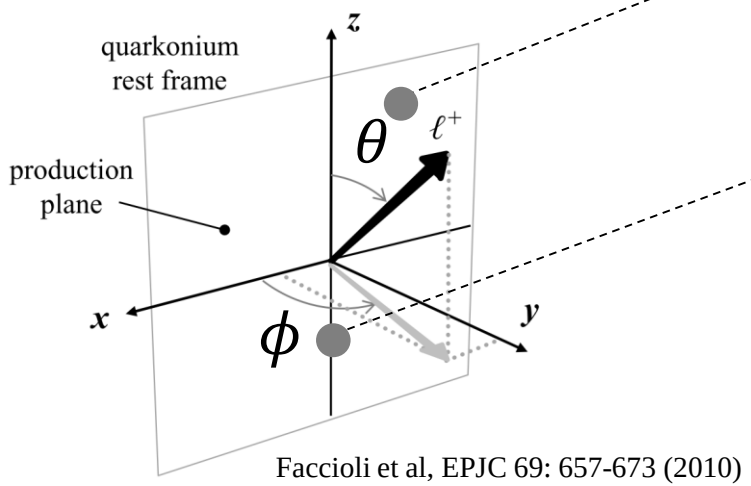
Outline

- Introduction and motivation
- J/ψ polarization in Helicity frame and Collins-Soper frame
- J/ψ global spin alignment
- Summary

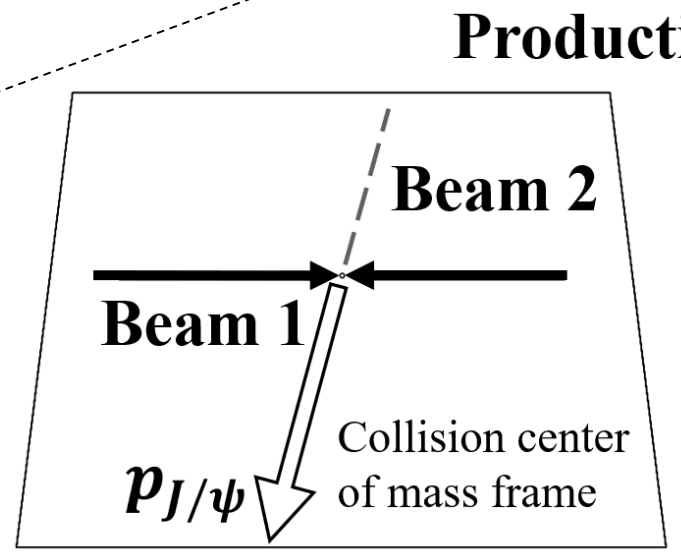
J/ψ polarization

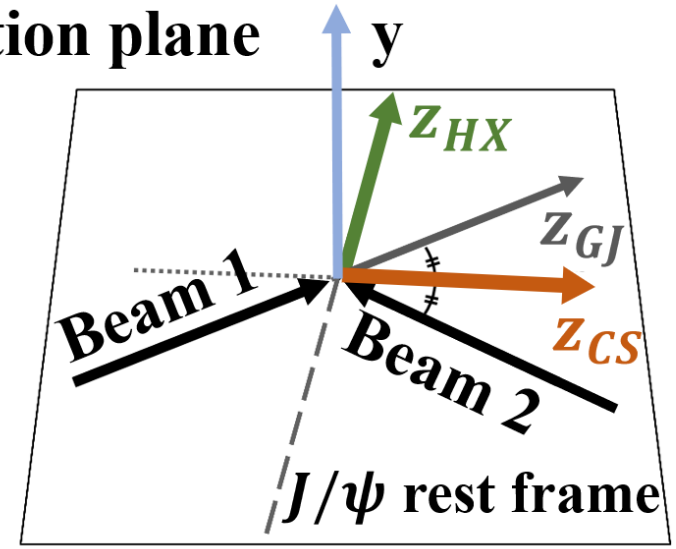
✓ **Angular distribution of the decayed leptons:**

$$W(cos\theta, \phi) \propto 1 + \lambda_\theta \cos^2\theta + \lambda_\phi \sin^2\theta cos2\phi + \lambda_{\theta\phi} sin2\theta cos\phi$$



Faccioli et al, EPJC 69: 657-673 (2010)





➢ Definition of the z-axis:

Helicity frame (HX): J/ψ momentum direction

Collins-Soper frame (CS): bisector of angle between beams

J/ψ polarization

✓ Angular distribution of the decayed leptons:

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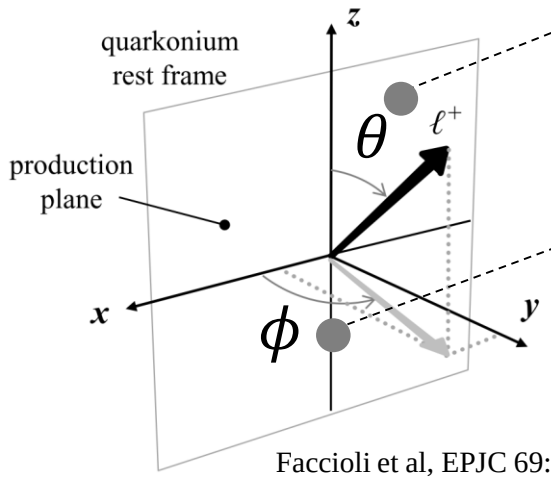

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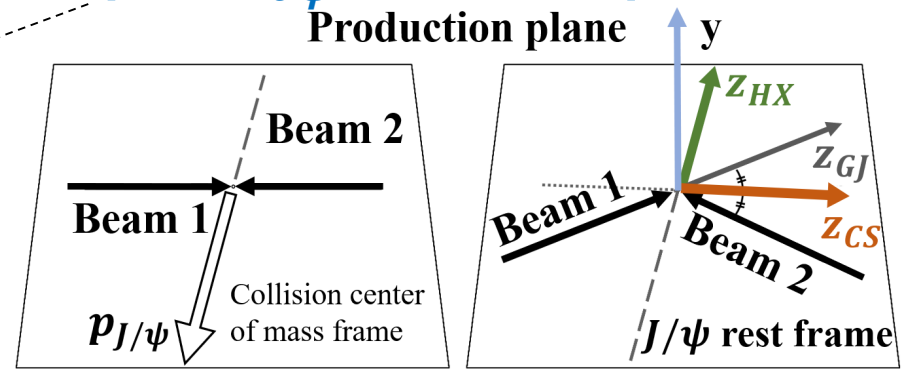

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Helicity frame (HX): J/ψ momentum direction

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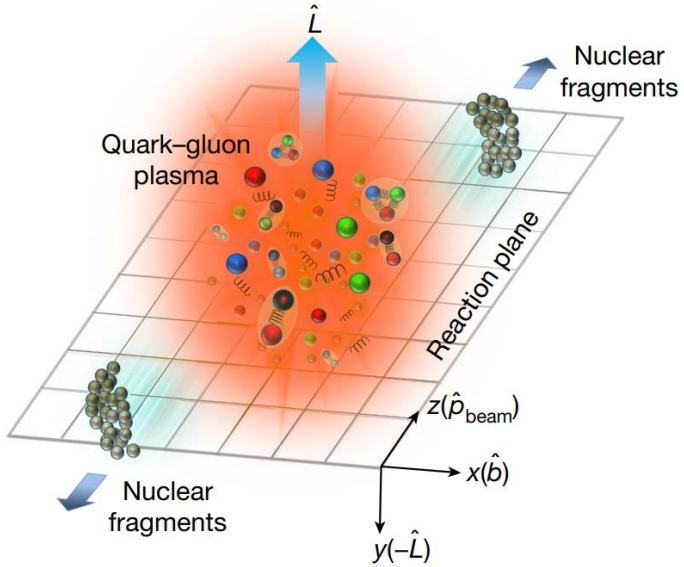
Event plane: axis orthogonal to reaction plane



STAR, Nature 614, 244-248 (2023)

J/ψ polarization

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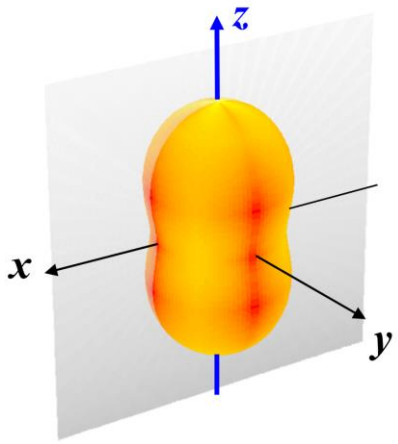
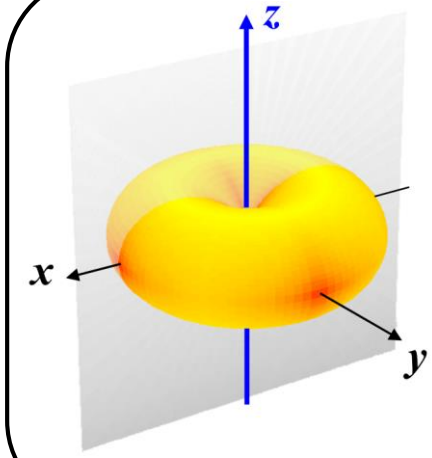


$$\frac{dN}{d\Omega} \propto 1 + \cos^2\theta$$

Transverse polarization

$$|J/\psi\rangle = |1, +1\rangle \text{ or } |1, -1\rangle$$



$$\frac{dN}{d\Omega} \propto 1 - \cos^2\theta$$

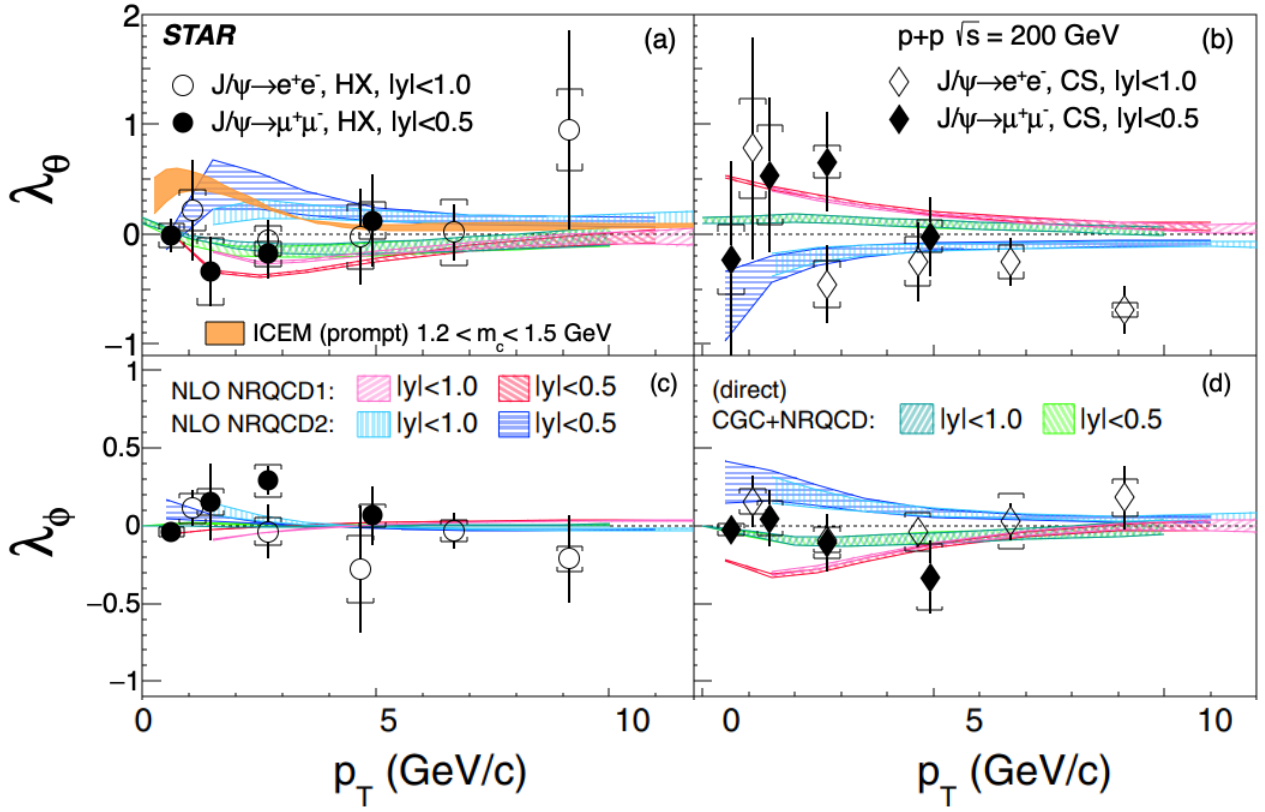
Longitudinal polarization

$$|J/\psi\rangle = |1, 0\rangle$$

Faccioli et al, EPJC 69: 657–67 (2010)

Motivation: pp collisions

- **J/ψ polarization can be used to study production mechanism in pp collisions**
  - colour-singlet vs colour-octet vs gluon fragmentation Faccioli et al, EPJC 69: 657–67 (2010)
- **Feed down also plays a role**
  - Prompt J/ψ = **Direct$^{60\%}$ + feed down$^{40\%}$**
  - Non-prompt: b-hadron decay



STAR PRD 102, 092009 (2020)

- No sizeable polarization for inclusive J/ψ in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV

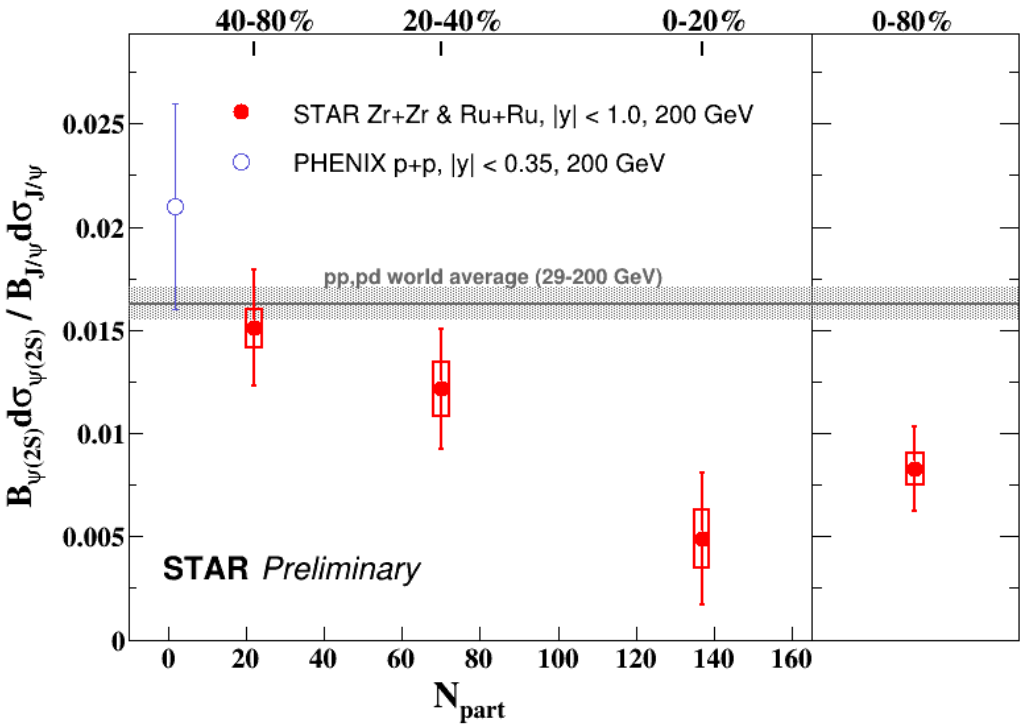
Could the inclusive J/ψ polarization be different in heavy-ion collisions?

Motivation: heavy-ion collisions

- QGP affects the polarization of J/ψ ?

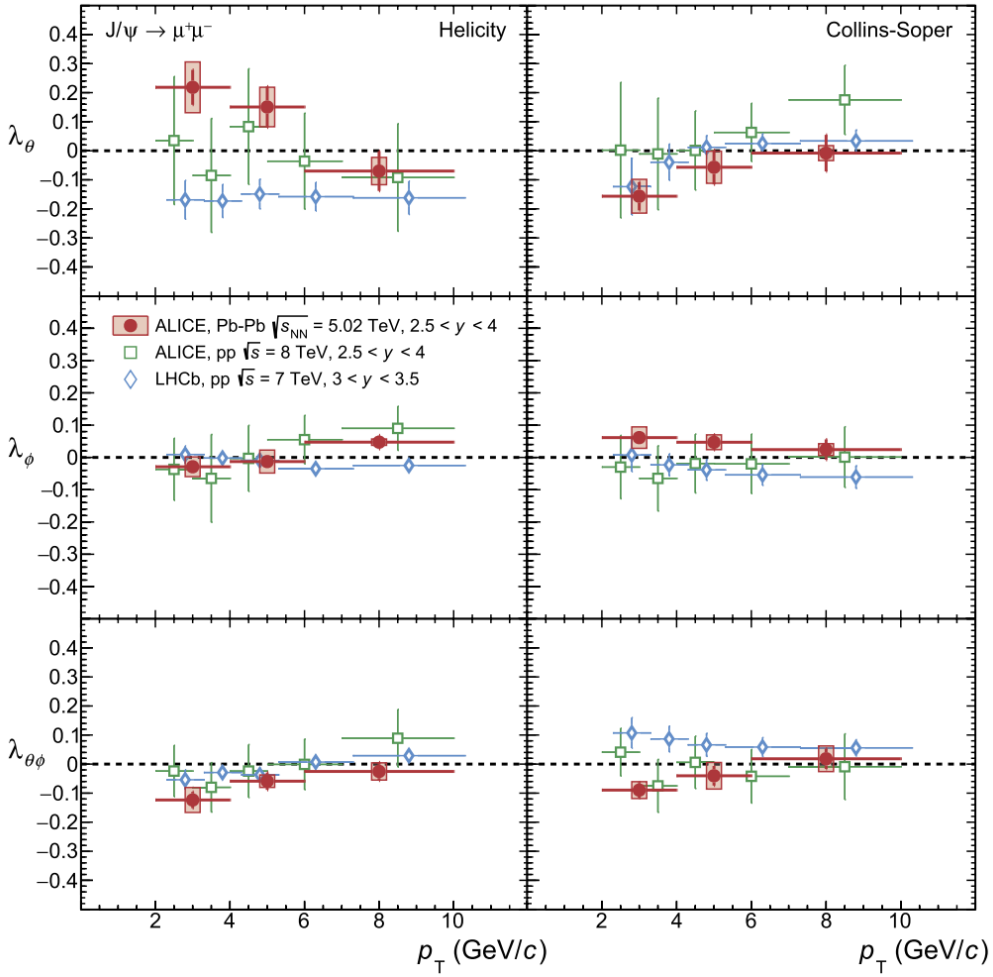
"Theoretical prediction: J/ψ polarization at small p_T, and find that it translates into the asymmetry of the $e^+e^-(\mu^+\mu^-)$ angular distribution $\boldsymbol{W(\theta) = 1 + \lambda_\theta \cos^2\theta}$, **with** $\boldsymbol{\lambda_\theta \cong 0.35 - 0.4}$."

B. L. Ioffe and D. E. Kharzeev, PRC 68, 061902(R) (2003)



- Modification of J/ψ feed-down fractions due to larger $\psi(2s)$ and χ_c suppression in the QGP

Current LHC measurements



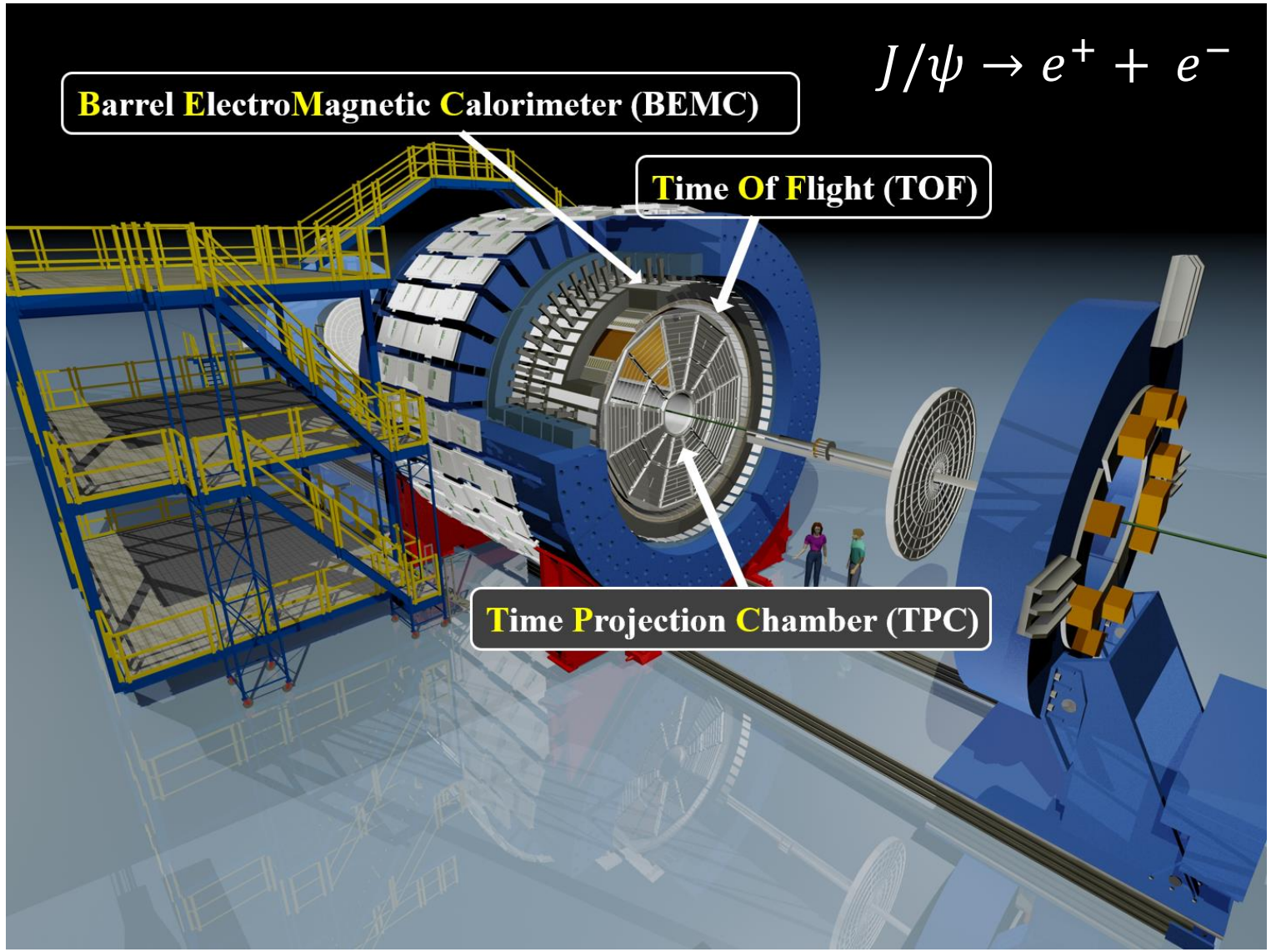
ALICE PLB 815 136146 (2021)

- Hint of non-zero J/ψ polarization at LHC
  - λ_θ shows a 2σ deviation w.r.t zero in HX for $2 < p_T < 4$ GeV/c
  - Regenerated J/ψ is expected to have zero polarization ⟹ dilute polarization signal

ALICE PLB 815 136146 (2021)

- Is J/ψ polarize at the **RHIC energy**?
  - Smaller regeneration contribution
  - Different rapidity range
  - …

The Solenoid Tracker At RHIC (STAR)



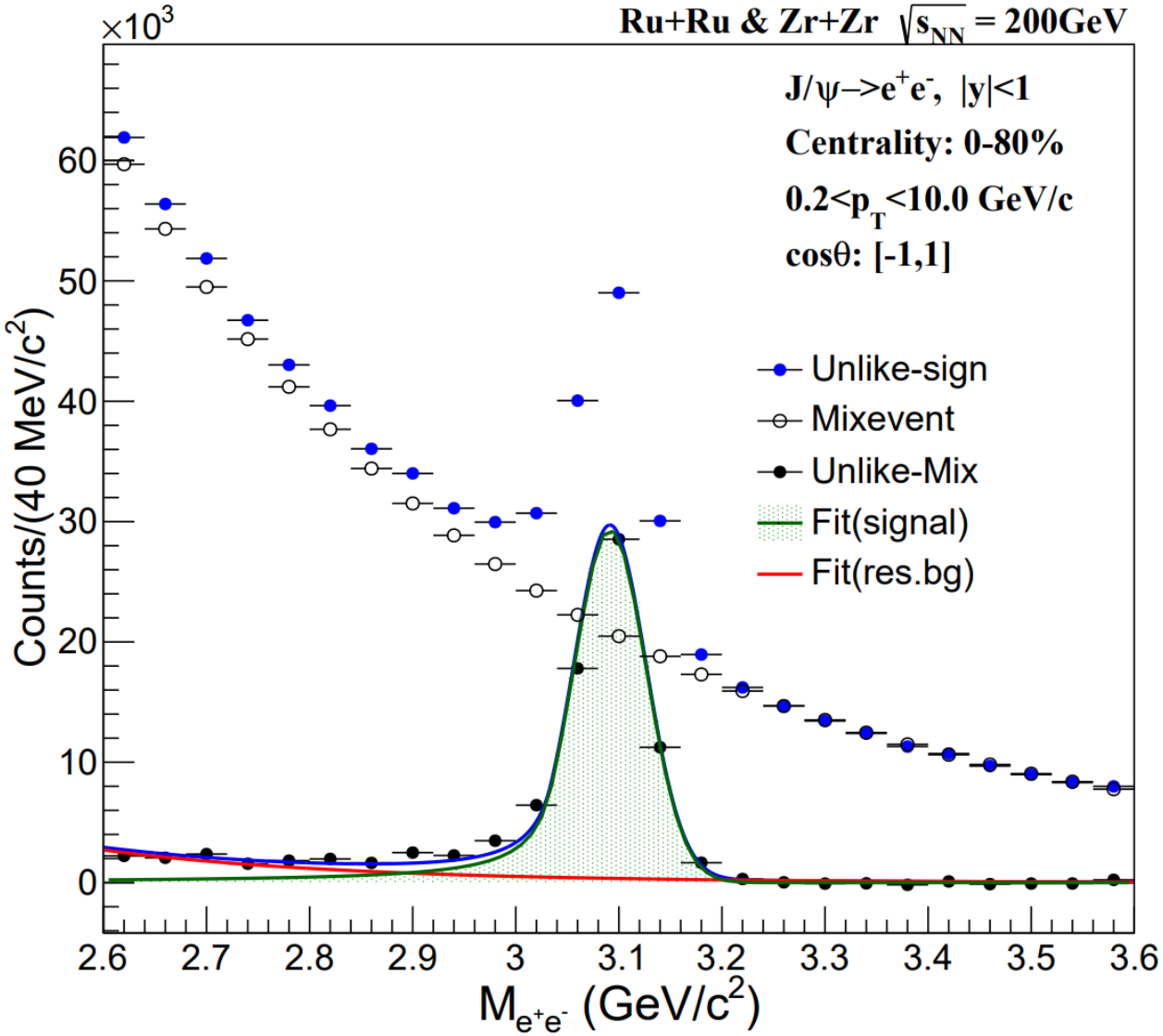
- TPC: -1< η <1

  Tracking, momentum and energy loss
- TOF: -1< η <1

  Time of flight, particle identification
- BEMC: -1< η <1

  Identification of high-p_T electrons

Analysis procedure: signal extraction



1. **Signal extraction**

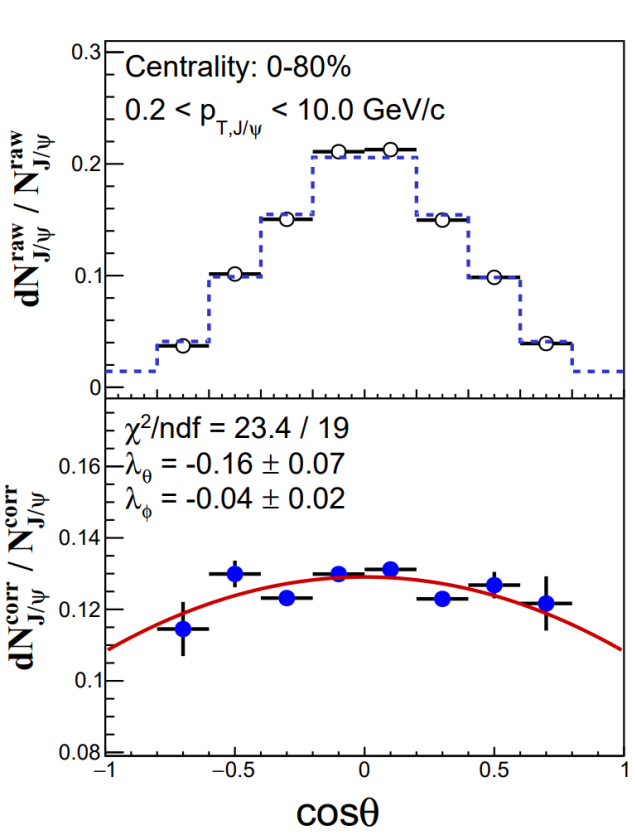
- Decay channel : $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+e^-$, |y|<1
- Combinatorial background: mixed-event technique
- Residual background: an exponential function
- J/ψ yields extracted as a function of cosθ and ϕ separately

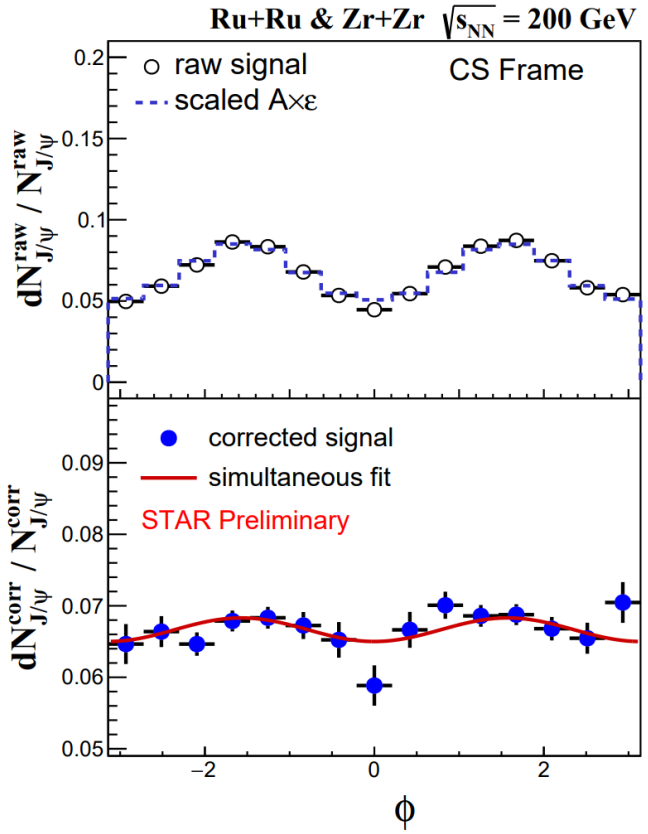
Analysis procedure: extract polarization

2. Acceptance × efficiency correction

- **Iterative procedure**: tuning of J/ψ polarization in simulation according to data

3. Polarization parameters extraction: simultaneously fit the corrected yield distributions



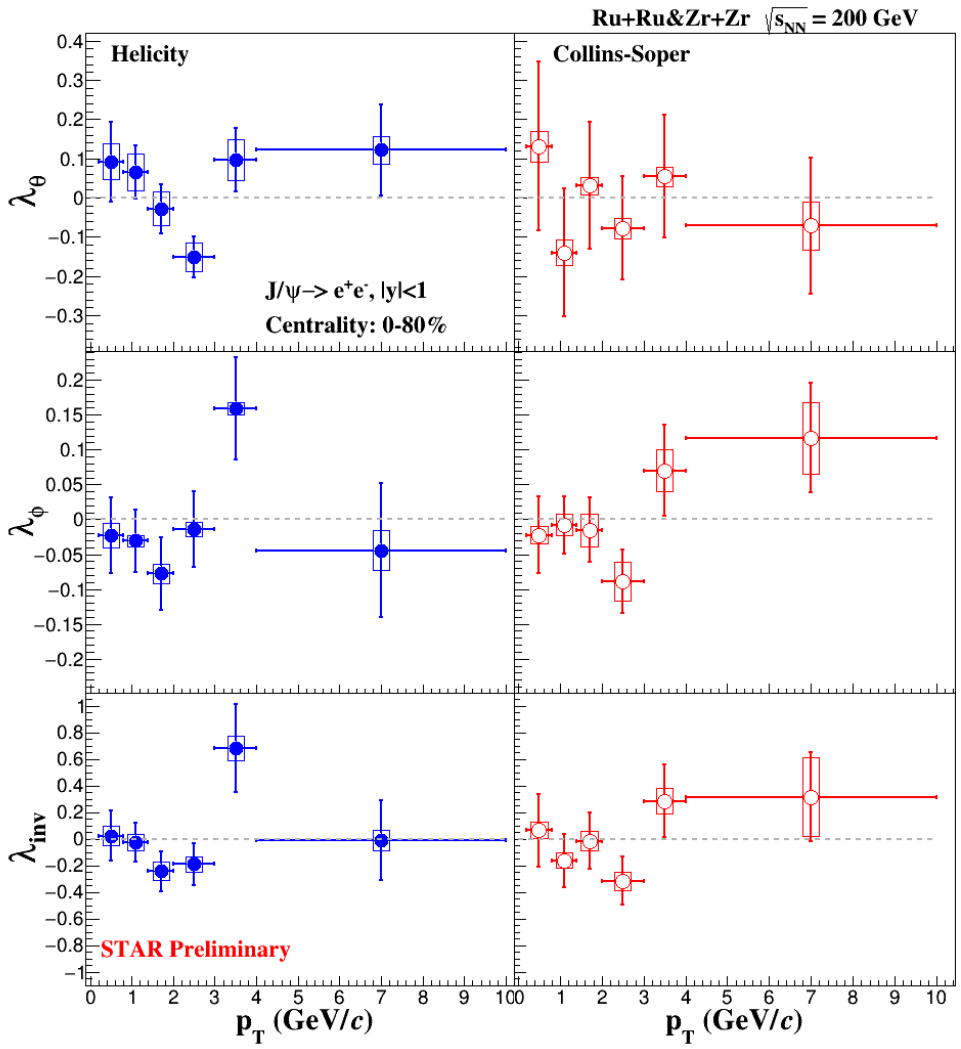


➢ **Simultaneously fit** angular distribution **and extract polarization parameters**

$$W(\theta) = 3 \times \frac{1+\lambda_\theta \cos^2\theta}{2\times(3+\lambda_\theta)}$$

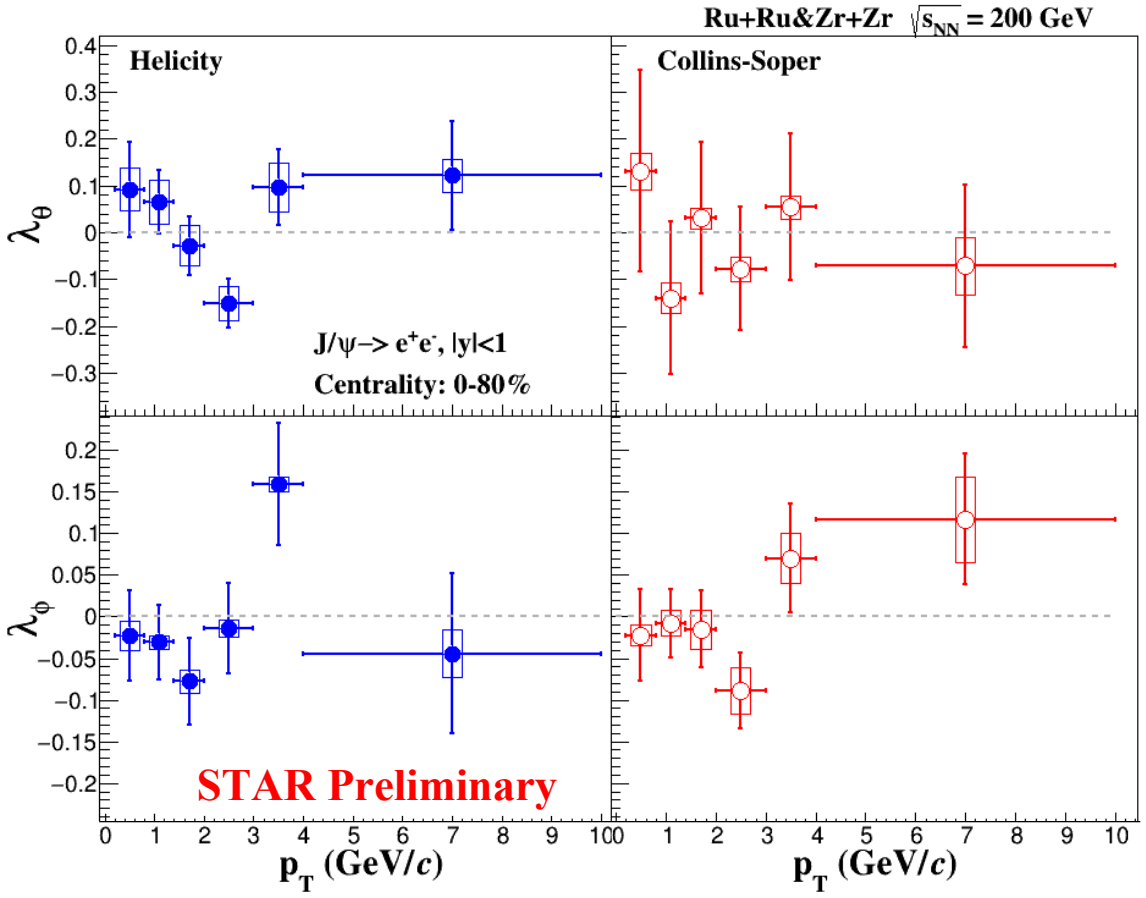
$$W(\phi) = \frac{2\times\lambda_\phi}{(3+\lambda_\theta)\times 2\pi} cos2\phi$$

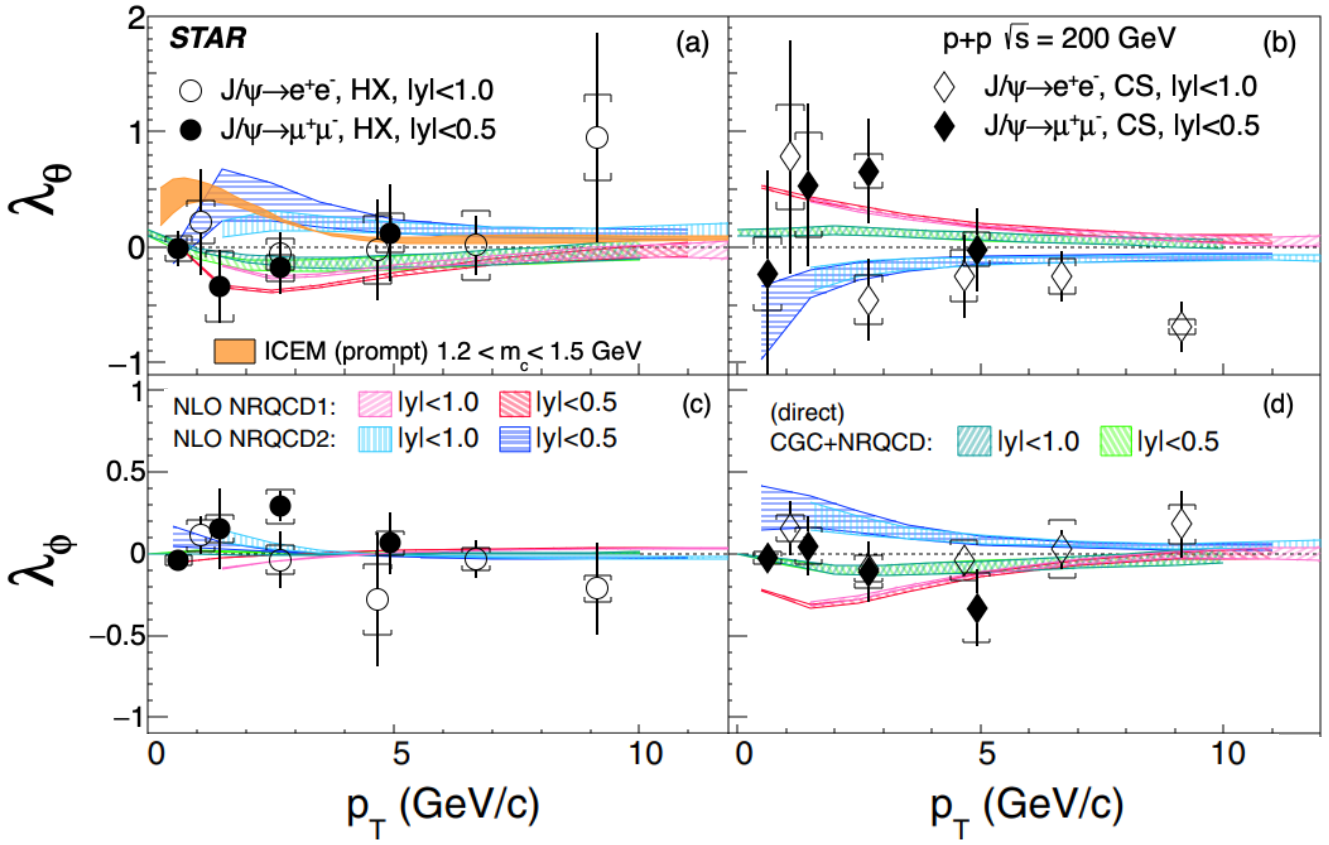
Transverse momentum dependence



- J/ψ polarization vs p_T:
  - $\lambda_\theta, \lambda_\phi$ are consistent with zero in HX and CS frames
  - **Hint of a non-trivial p_T dependence** in the HX frame but overall no significant p_T dependence in either HX and CS
- Frame invariant quantity $\boldsymbol{\lambda_{inv} = \frac{\lambda_\theta + 3\lambda_\phi}{1-\lambda_\phi}}$
- λ_{inv} are consistent between HX and CS frames

J/ψ polarization: Isobar vs pp





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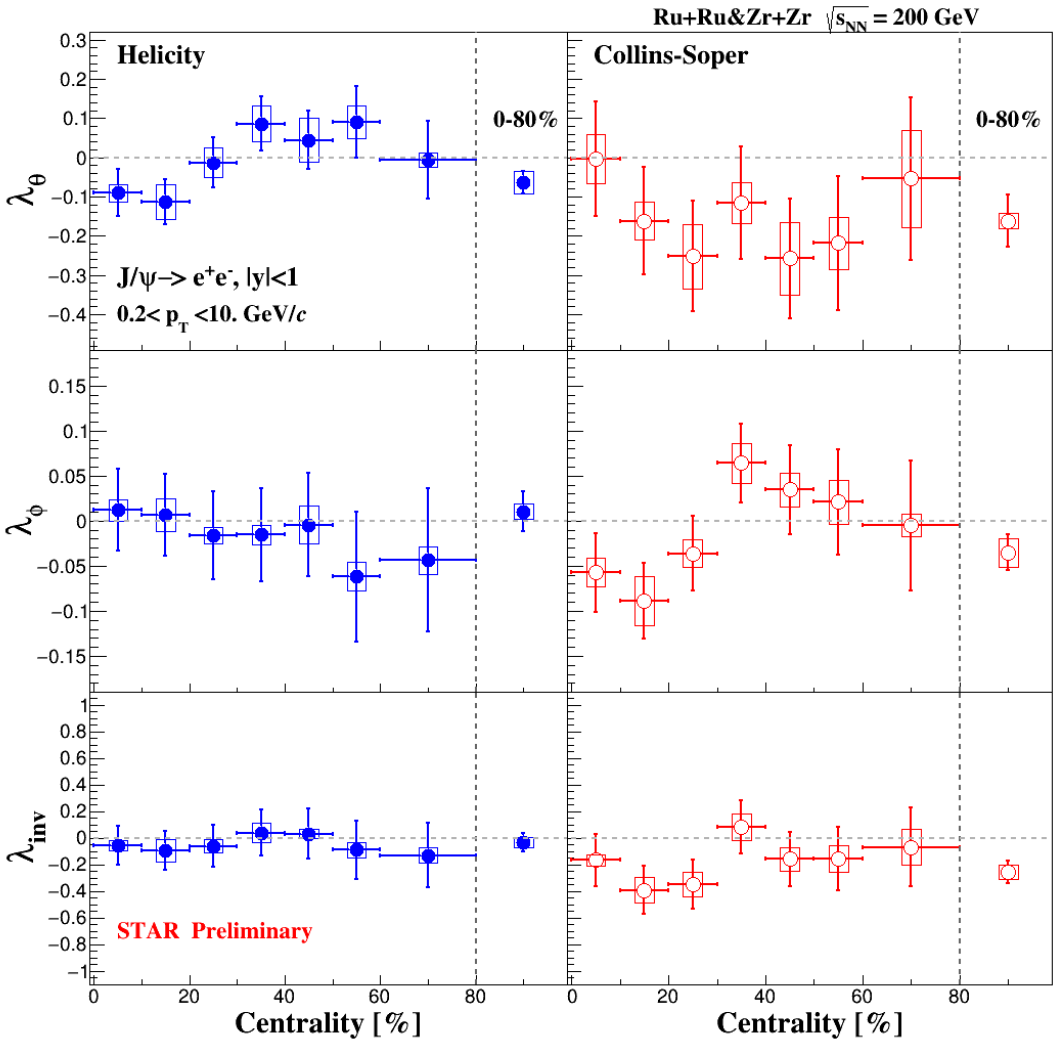
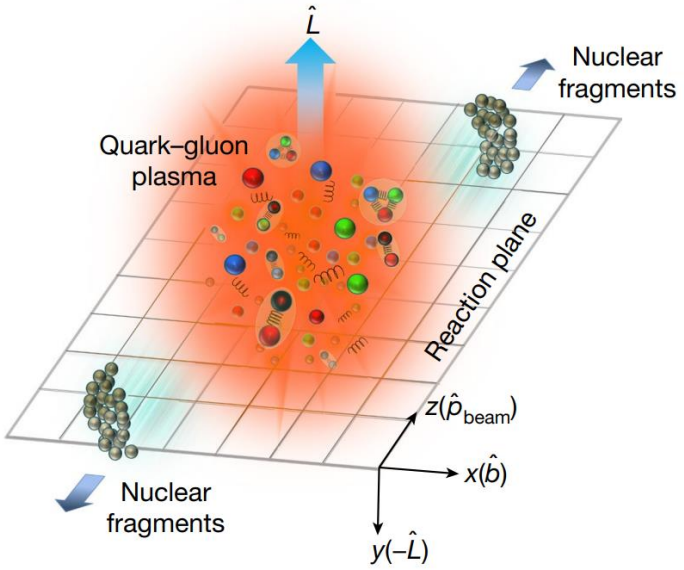
- λ_θ and λ_ϕ in isobar and pp collisions are consistent with zero within uncertainties

Centrality dependence



- No significant dependence of λ_θ, λ_ϕ from central to peripheral event
- λ_{inv} are consistent between HX and CS frames

J/ψ global spin alignment measurement



STAR, Nature 614, 244-248 (2023)

Angular momentum direction ⊥ reaction plane (lab frame)

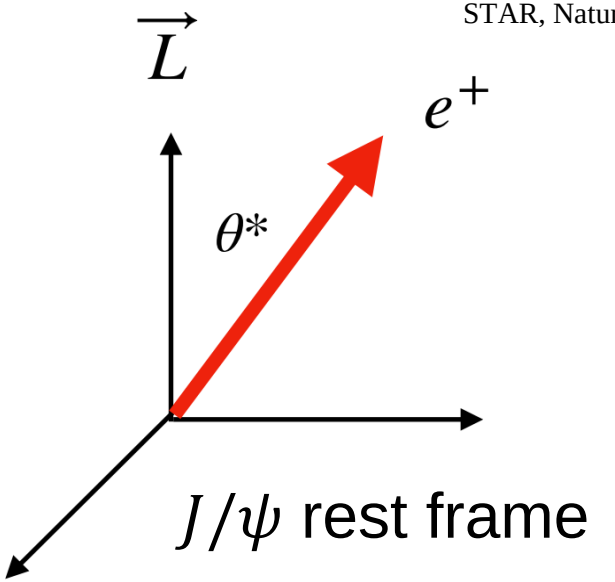
~estimated by event plane (EP)

The relationship between polarization parameter and polarization density matrix element

$$\lambda_\theta = \frac{1-3\rho_{00}}{1+\rho_{00}}$$

Faccioli et al, EPJC 69:657-673 (2010)

$$\frac{dN}{dcos\theta^*} \propto (1+\rho_{00}) + (1-3\rho_{00})\, cos^2\,\theta$$

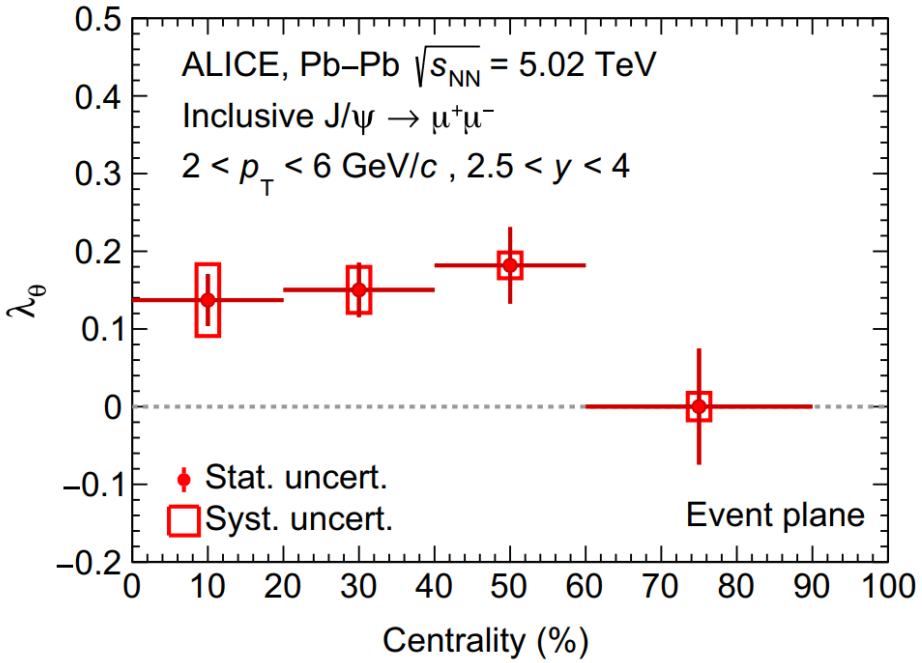


$\rho_{00} = 1/3$ ➜ absence of spin alignment

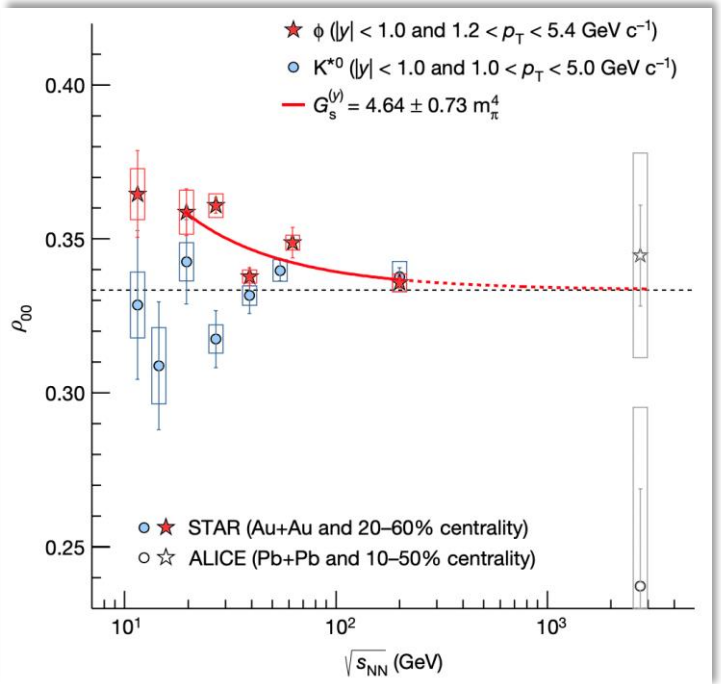
$\rho_{00} \neq 1/3$ ➜ spin alignment

J/ψ global spin alignment

- ϕ meson $\rho_{00} > 1/3$ at RHIC
- Might be caused by strange quark strong force field
- Similar effect expected for regenerated J/ψ



Alice PRL 131 4, 042303 (2023)



STAR, Nature 614, 244-248 (2023)

- J/ψ $\rho_{00} < 1/3$ at LHC forward rapidity
  - Spin alignment signal up to 60% centrality
- Consistent with regeneration of polarized charm quarks
  - Spin-orbital momentum coupling

Z.-T. Liang and X.-N. Wang, PLB 629, 20 (2005)

J/ψ global spin alignment

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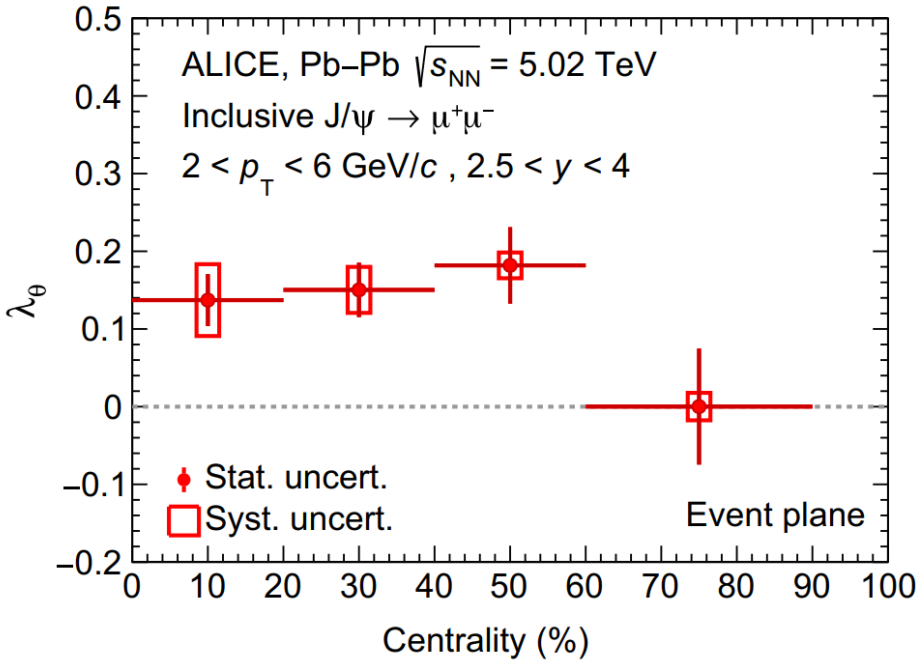

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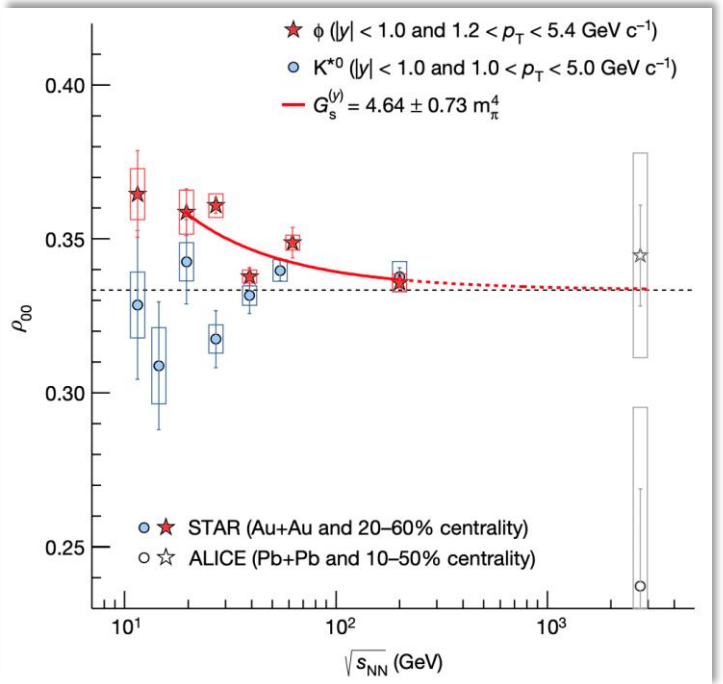
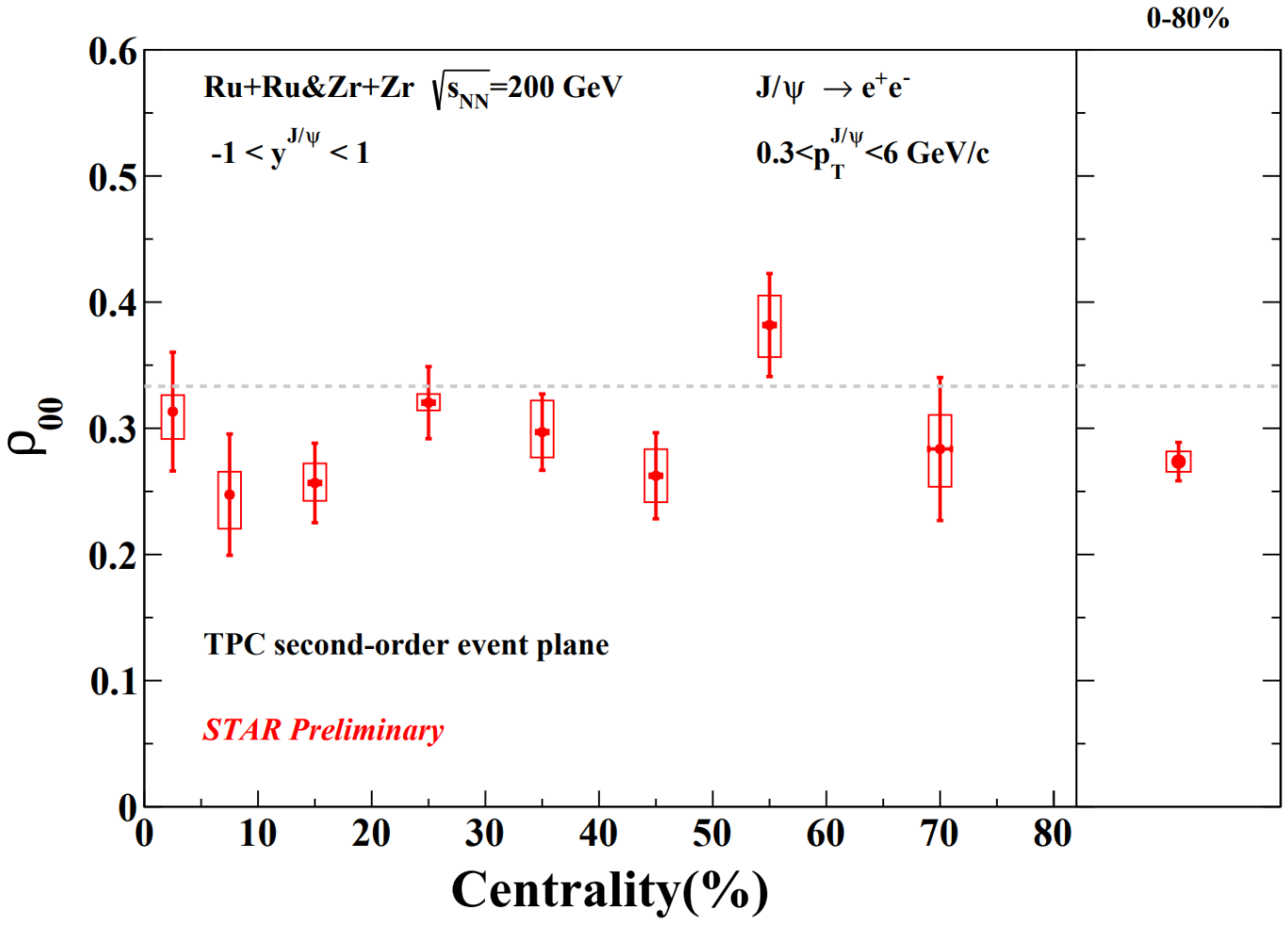


STAR, Nature 614, 244-248 (2023)

How about J/ψ spin alignment at RHIC energy?

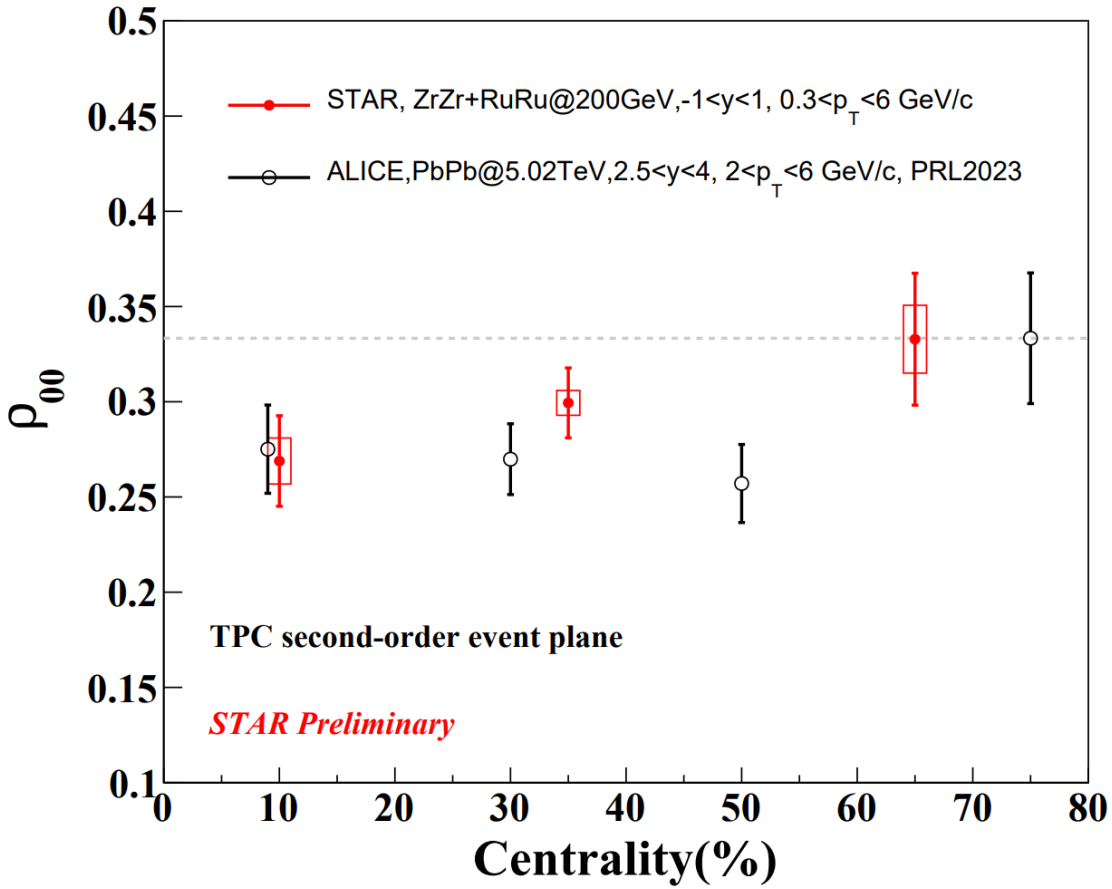
- Smaller regeneration than LHC

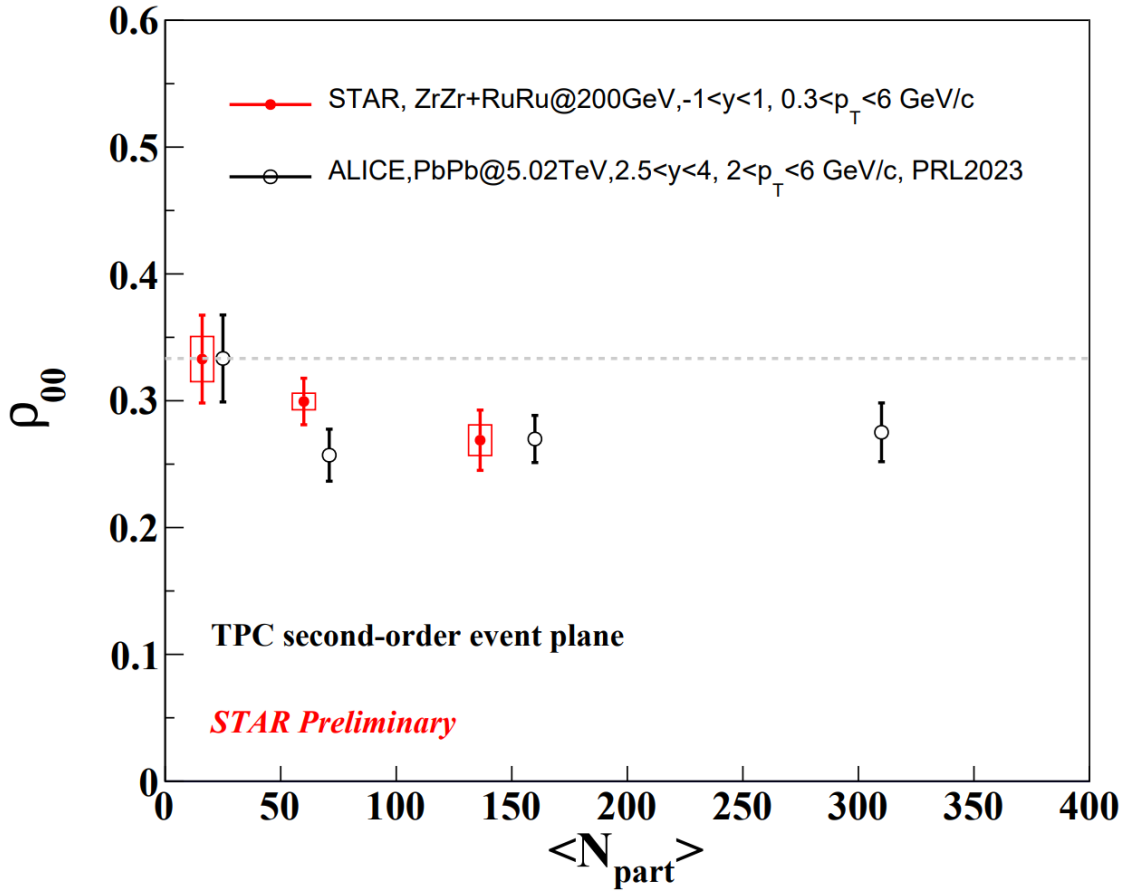
J/ψ global spin alignment: centrality dependence



- First measurement of ρ_{00} using second-order event plane at RHIC
- ρ_{00} lower than 1/3 with a **significance of 3.5 σ** for p_T from 0.3 to 6 GeV/c and 0-80% centrality
- No significant centrality dependence within uncertainty.

J/ψ global spin alignment: RHIC vs LHC





- The ρ_{00} at RHIC energy is comparable to LHC results, despite of very different collision energy, systems and rapidity

Summary

First measurement of J/ψ polarization and spin alignment with respect to TPC event-plane in heavy-ion collisions at RHIC

- **J/ψ polarization**
  - $\lambda_\theta, \lambda_\phi$ consistent with zero in HX and CS frames
  - No significant centrality and p_T dependence
- **J/ψ global spin alignment**
  - ρ_{00} lower than 1/3 with a **significance of 3.5 σ** for p_T from 0.3 to 6 GeV/c and 0-80% centrality
  - Similar ρ_{00} values at RHIC and LHC, despite of very different collision energies, systems and rapidity

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First measurement of J/ψ polarization and spin alignment with respect to TPC event-plane in heavy-ion collisions at RHIC

Thanks for your listening

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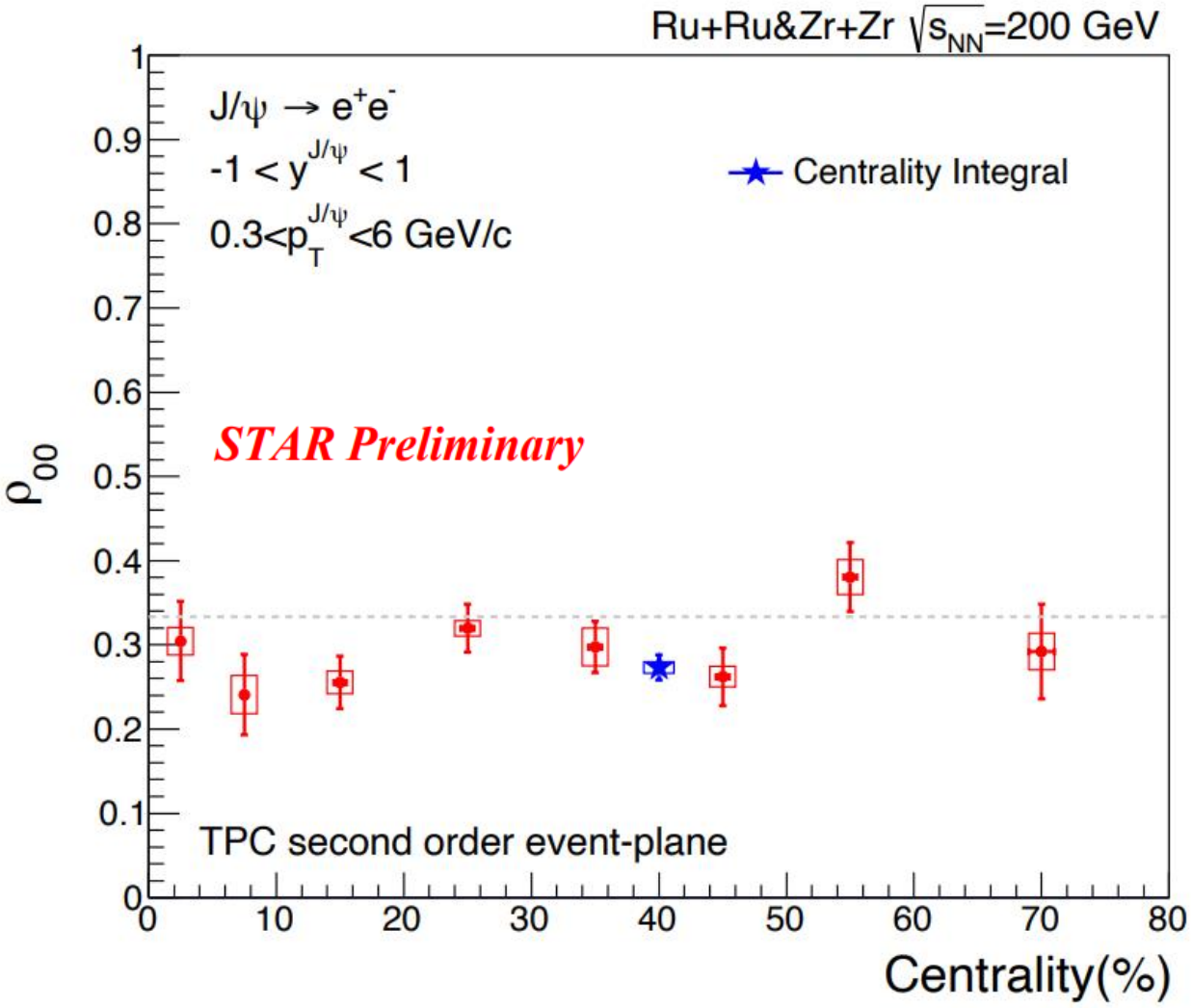
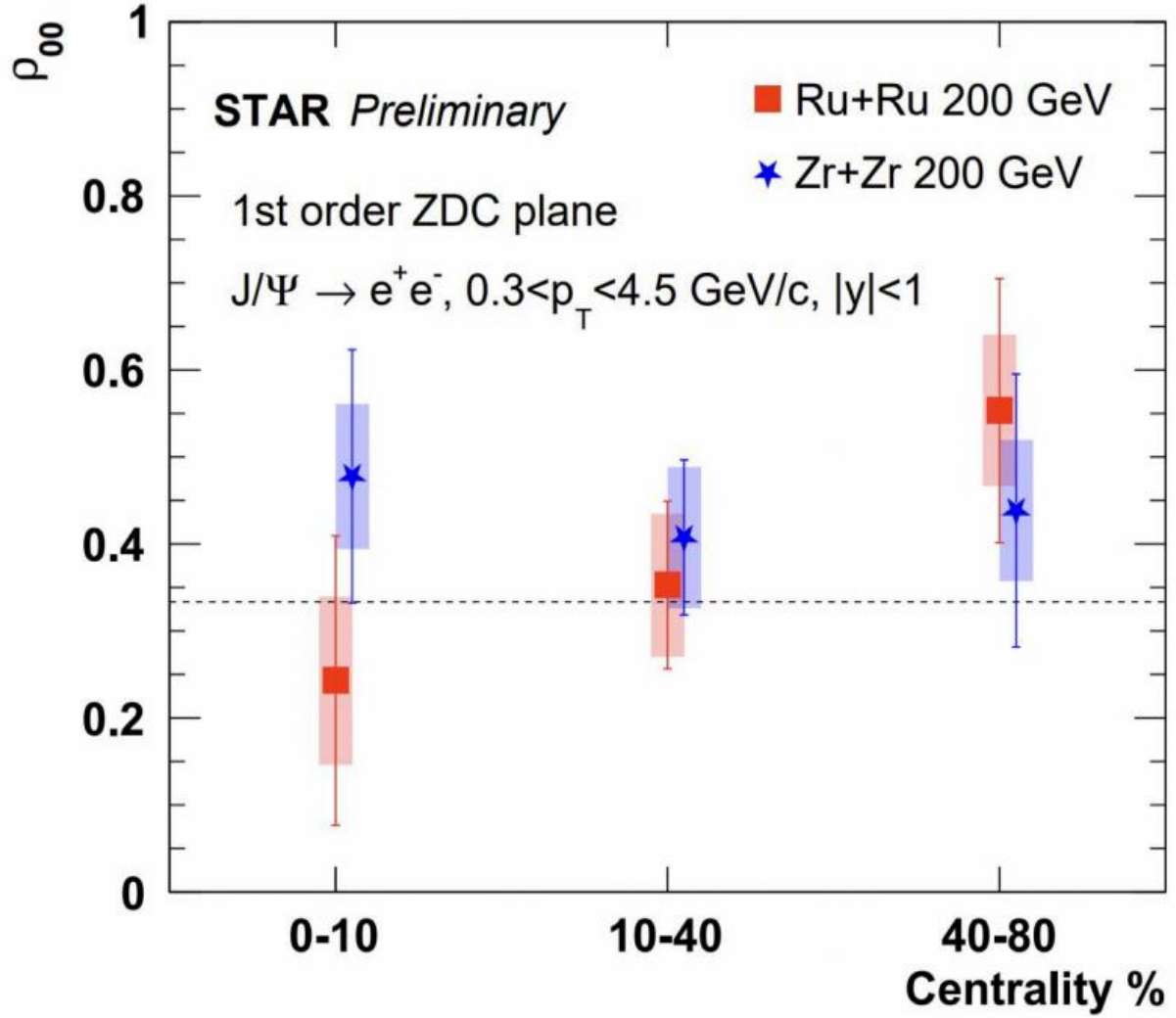
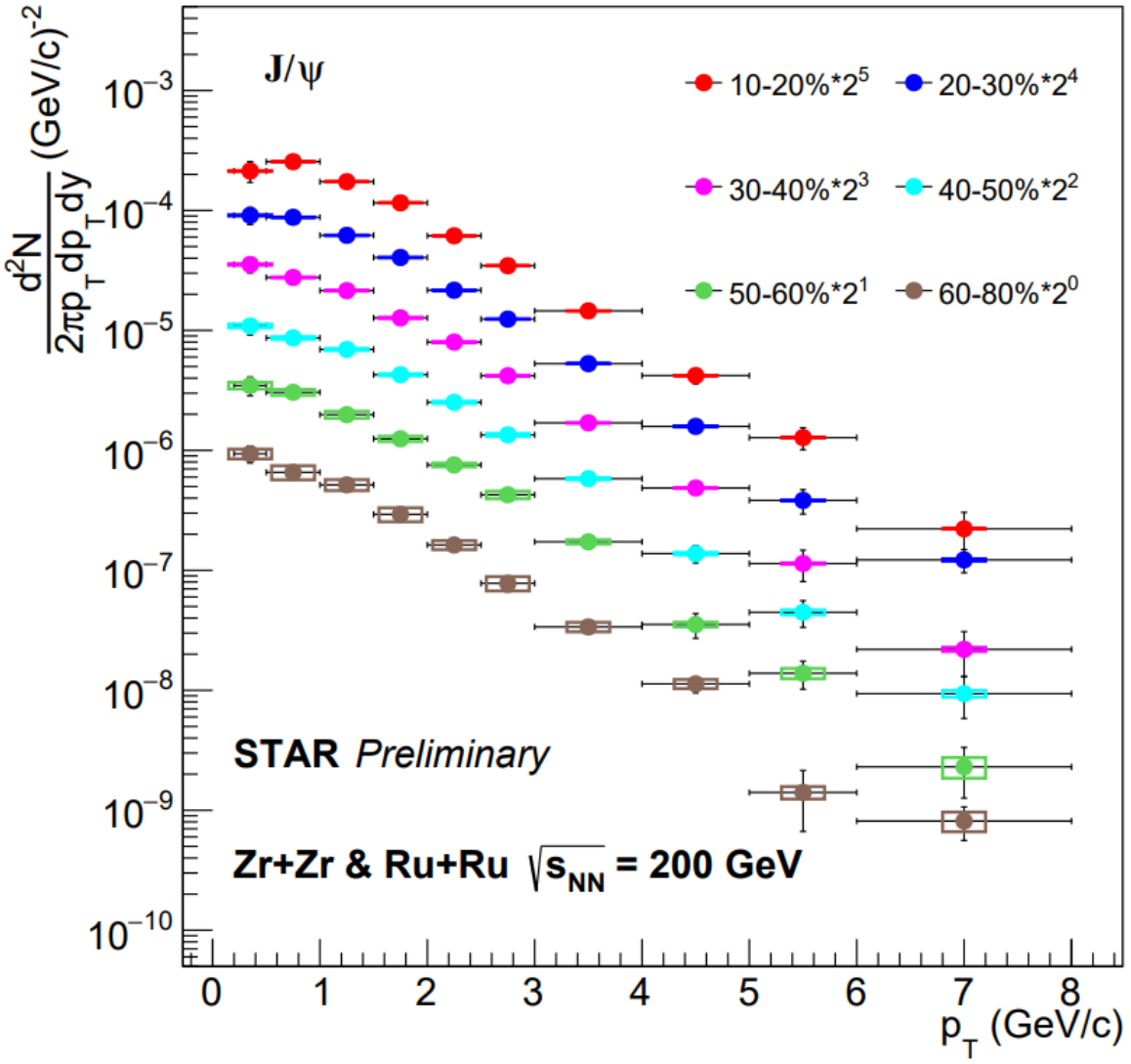
Back up

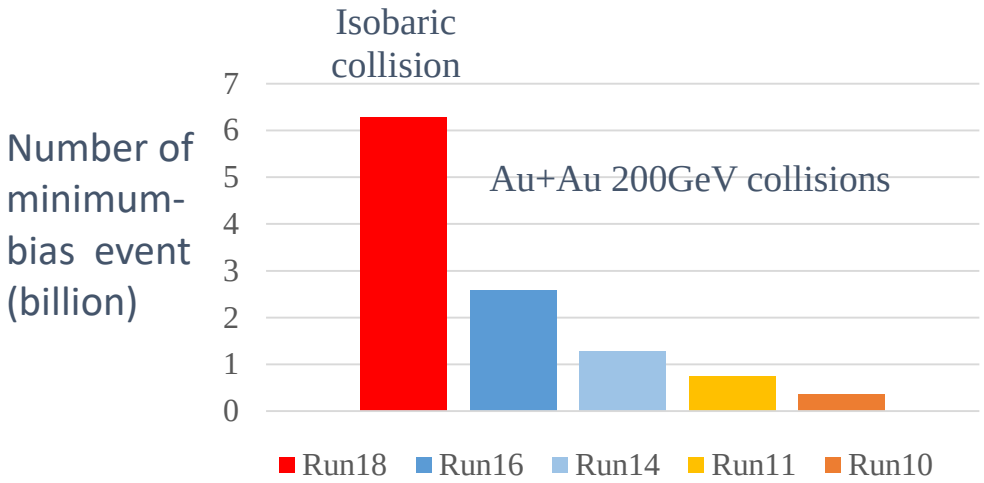
ρ_{00}^{obs} vs centrality





p_T spectrum





Credit： Wangmei Zha

- Data sample: (Isobar data)

Ru+Ru & Zr+Zr collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV

- **Isobar data** is the most accurate and highest statistical measurement of RHIC

Random event-plane