

Nuclear matter in all these states

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QCD meeting



Proton-proton collisions

At large momentum transfer in pp, scale $Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \approx 200 \text{ MeV}$

$$pp \rightarrow \gamma^*/Z^0 \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^- + X \text{ (Drell-Yan)}$$

Factorization of cross section = approximation

$$\frac{d\sigma_{pp}}{dydQ} = \sum_{ij} \int dx_1 f_i^p(x_1, \mu) \int dx_2 f_j^p(x_2, \mu) \frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ij}(x_1, x_2, \mu')}{dydQ} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\Lambda_p^n}{Q^n}\right)$$

- $\hat{\sigma}_{ij}$: partonic cross section calculable in perturbation theory
- x_1, x_2 : fraction of momentum carried by the parton in proton
- $f_{i,j}$: Parton Distribution Function (PDF), *universal* non perturbative

Cross section in pA collisions assuming collinear factorization

$$\frac{d\sigma_{pA}}{dydQ} = \sum_{i,j} \int dx_1 f_i^p(x_1, \mu) \int dx_2 f_j^A(x_2, \mu) \frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ij}(x_1, x_2, \mu')}{dydQ} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\Lambda_A^n}{Q^n}\right)$$

- Probing the PDF of a nucleus (without nuclear effects)

$$f_i^A = Zf_i^p + (A - Z)f_i^n$$

$$\sigma_{pA} = Z\sigma_{pp} + (A - Z)\sigma_{pn} \approx A\sigma_{pp}$$

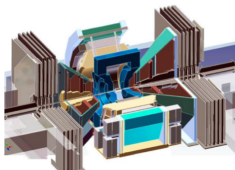
Investigate nuclear effects via:

$$R_{pA} \equiv \frac{1}{A} \frac{d\sigma_{pA}}{d\sigma_{pp}} \approx 1$$

A transitional experiment...

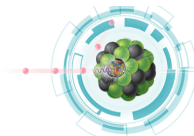
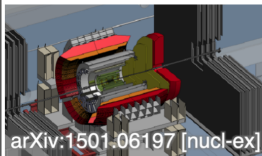
PHENIX

- pp, pA, and AA data;
- **QGP, Hadron Physics, CNM;**
- 170+ physics papers with 24k citations;
- Last run in this form 2016.

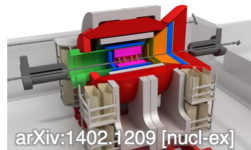


sPHENIX

- pp, pA, and AA data;
- **Jet and beauty quarkonia physics;**
- **Drell-Yan with forward tracking.**



- ep and eA, with several nuclei;
- Transition PHENIX to EIC;
- **Large coverage of tracking, calorimetry and PID.**



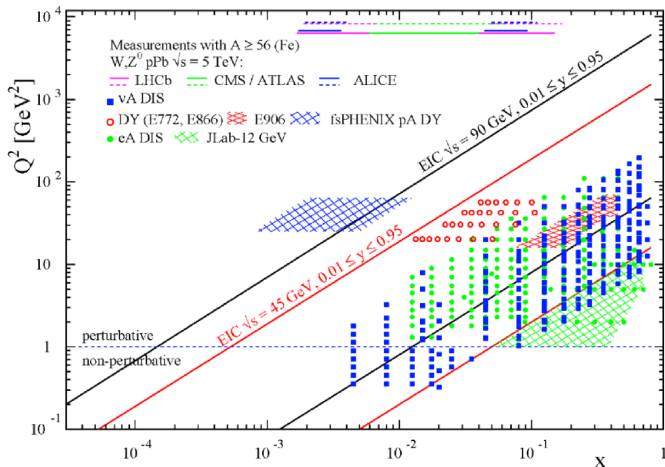
2000

2017 - 2022

After 2025

Time

Drell-Yan at sPHENIX



- Forward trackings → **access to small- x** ;
- Probe $x \sim 10^{-2}$ to 10^{-3} ;
- **Complementary measurements from fixed targets to LHC.**

Luminosity expected at sPHENIX

Year	Species	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ [GeV]	Cryo Weeks	Physics Weeks	Rec. Lum. $ z < 10$ cm	Samp. Lum. $ z < 10$ cm
2023	Au+Au	200	24 (28)	9 (13)	3.7 (5.7) nb ⁻¹	4.5 (6.9) nb ⁻¹
2024	$p^\uparrow p^\uparrow$	200	24 (28)	12 (16)	0.3 (0.4) pb ⁻¹ [5 kHz] 4.5 (6.2) pb ⁻¹ [10%-str]	45 (62) pb ⁻¹
2024	$p^\uparrow + \text{Au}$	200	–	5	0.003 pb ⁻¹ [5 kHz] 0.01 pb ⁻¹ [10%-str]	0.11 pb ⁻¹
2025	Au+Au	200	24 (28)	20.5 (24.5)	13 (15) nb ⁻¹	21 (25) nb ⁻¹

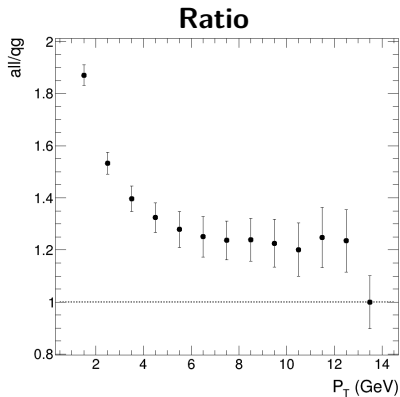
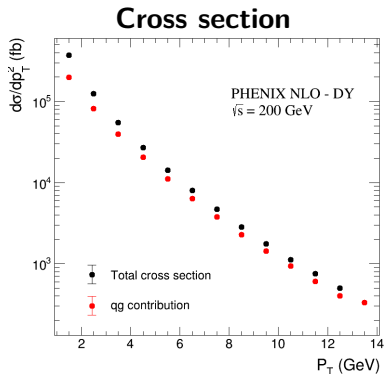
- **2024 (p+p p+Au):**

Commissioning and p+p reference data and p+Au cold QCD;

- **2025 (Au+Au):**

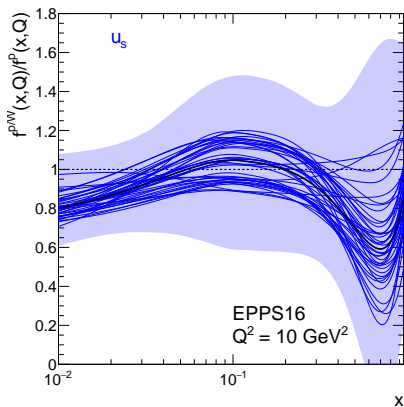
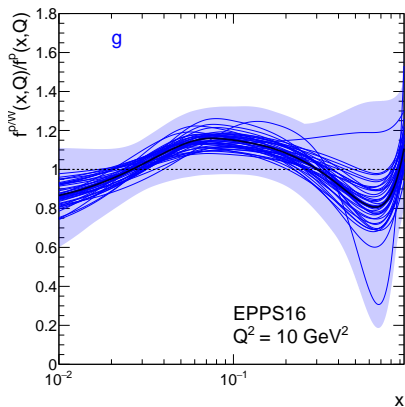
Large statistics data collection for jets and heavy flavor observables.

DY at NLO - $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV - pp collisions



- At NLO: $q\bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma^*$ and $qg \rightarrow \gamma^*q + X$;
- qg contribution becomes significant at $p_{\perp} \sim 4$ GeV;
- $\sim 80\%$ of qg contribution for $4 \lesssim p_{\perp} \lesssim 15$ GeV.

nPDF (EPPS16)



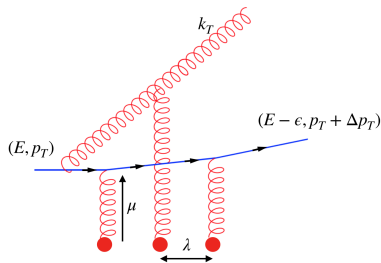
- $\sigma^{\text{DY}} \propto (u^p \bar{u}^A + u^A \bar{u}^p)$ for $p_\perp < M$;
- $\sigma^{\text{DY}} \propto (q^p g^A + q^A g^p)$ for $4 \lesssim p_\perp \lesssim 15 \text{ GeV}$;
- **Huge uncertainties**, especially in EMC/shadowing regions;
- Reduce others nPDF uncertainties thanks to DGLAP evolution.

Transport properties of cold nuclear matter

Definition

$$\hat{q} \equiv \frac{\mu^2}{\lambda} = \frac{d\Delta p_{\perp}^2}{dL}$$

- λ is the parton mean free path in the medium;
- μ the typical momentum transferred during 1 soft collision;
- Δp_{\perp}^2 the transverse momentum exchanged between the propagating parton and the medium.



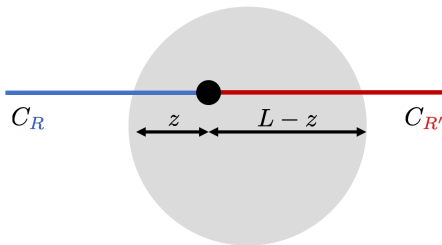
Drell-Yan: a clean probe of the saturation scale I

[Arleo, Naïm, JHEP07(2020)220]

p_{\perp} spectra: an observable to probe transport properties

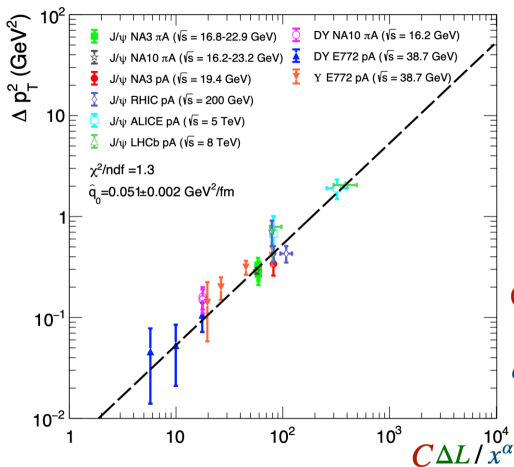
$$\Delta p_{\perp}^2 = \langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle_{\text{hA}} - \langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle_{\text{hp}} = \frac{C_R + C_{R'}}{2N_c} (\hat{q}_A L_A - \hat{q}_P L_P)$$

Low energy picture when $t_{\text{hard}} \lesssim L$:



- Drell-Yan: $C_q + 0 = 4/3$;
- Quarkonia (octet) in pA: $C_g + C_{[Q\bar{Q}]_8} = 3 + 3$.

Drell-Yan: a clean of probe the saturation scale II



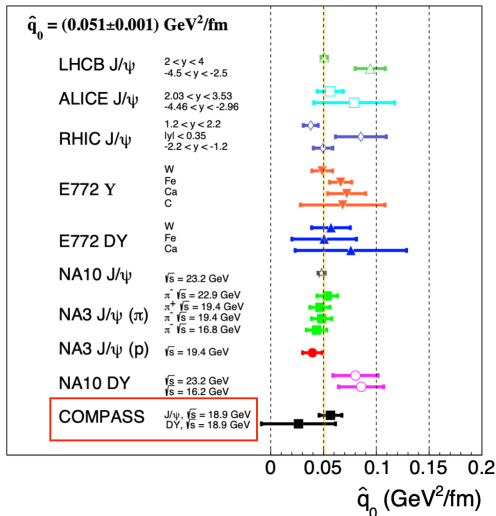
Color state

Nuclei

$$\hat{q}(x) \propto xG(x) \propto 1/x^\alpha$$

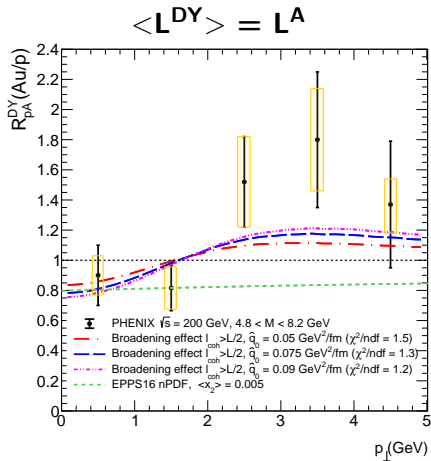
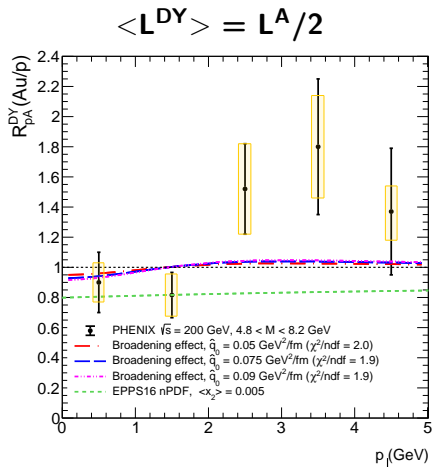
- Simple model used at high energy $\hat{q}(x) \propto \hat{q}_0 \times x^{-0.25}$;
- Extraction of $\hat{q}_0 = 0.051 \pm 0.02$ GeV²/fm.

Extraction of the transport coefficient



- New (strong?) constraint from Drell-Yan data at sPHENIX.

Drell-Yan at PHENIX experiment - $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV



- Probe the coherence length between low and high energy picture;
- Need to have better statistics to conclude.

Drell-Yan analysis at sPHENIX

Processes:

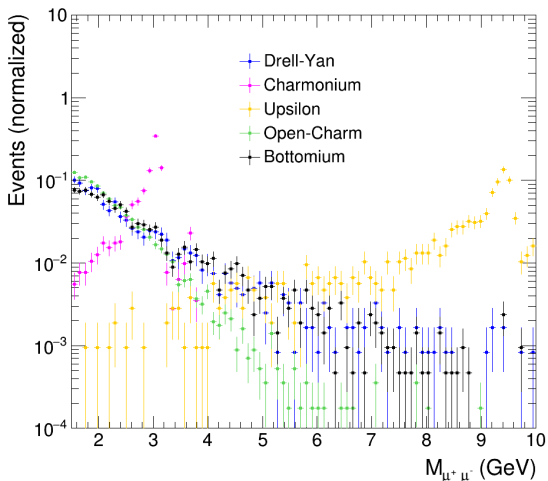
- Charmonium (J/ψ , ψ')
- Bottomonium (Υ)
- Open-Charm (D mesons)
- Bottom (B mesons)
- **Drell-Yan**

Procedure:

- **Simulate all QCD processes** in sPHENIX softwares and identify the contribution of each other in HMDY region;
- **Fit the mass spectrum** with the following function:

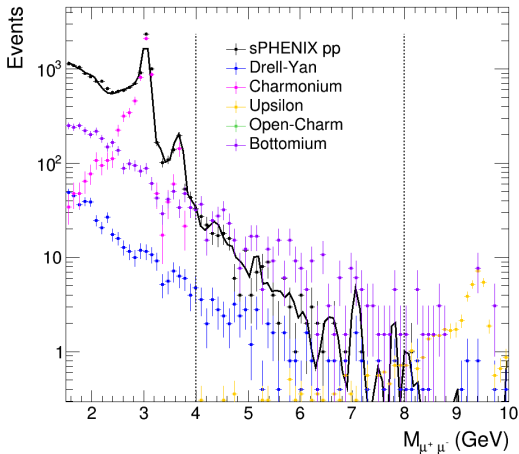
$$f(M)_{\text{fit}} = \alpha_1 f(M)_{\text{MC}}^{\text{Charmonium}} + \alpha_2 f(M)_{\text{MC}}^{\text{DY}} + \alpha_3 f(M)_{\text{MC}}^{\text{OC}} + \alpha_4 f(M)_{\text{MC}}^{\text{Bottom}} + \alpha_5 f(M)_{\text{MC}}^{\text{Bottomium}}$$

Simulation by using sPHENIX software



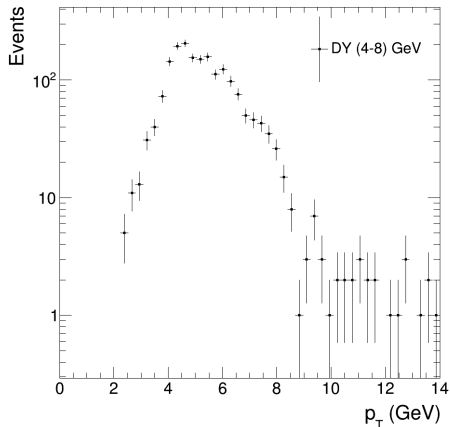
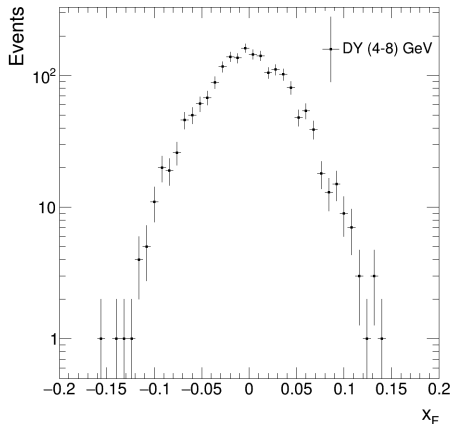
- **Very close shape** from DY, Bottomium and OC contributions;
- Bottom is **less steeper** compared to OC, especially at $M \gtrsim 4$ GeV;
- **Tail from charmonium/bottomium at low mass:** QED radiation.

Invariant mass reconstruction



- **Improve the stat.** (according to sPHENIX luminosity): **in progress**;
- Not enough data to constrain large mass, cross section low;
- $\sigma_{OC} > \sigma_{Bottom} > \sigma_{DY}$ at $M \sim 2$ GeV.

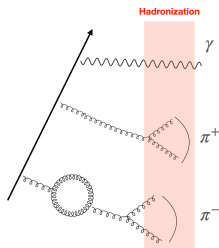
Drell-Yan - Kinematic phase space



- Probe mainly high p_T : **good for gluons!**
- When $M \sim p_T$, $x_{1/2} \sim \sqrt{M^2 + p_T^2} e^{\pm y} / \sqrt{s}$;
- At forward: $x \sim 10^{-3} - 10^{-2}$, shadowing region.

Internal jet structure

- Access the **dynamics of hadronization**;
- Charge-energy **correlation for Leading and Next-to-Leading particles**.



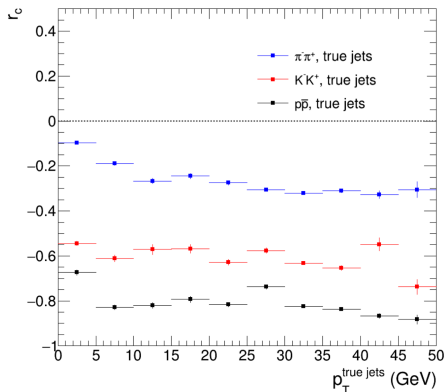
Observable:

$$r_c(X) = \frac{d\sigma_{h_1 h_2}/dX - d\sigma_{h_1 \bar{h}_2}/dX}{d\sigma_{h_1 h_2}/dX + d\sigma_{h_1 \bar{h}_2}/dX}$$

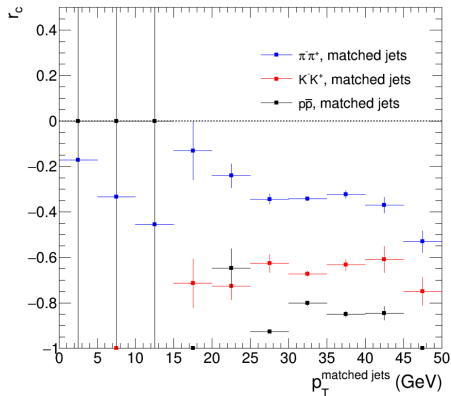
where $h_1, h_2 \in (\pi^\pm, K^\pm, p)$

Jet structure at sPHENIX II

True jets



Matched jets



- Significant differences in r_c observed for various flavor combinations.

Drell-Yan at sPHENIX

- Background extraction depends on the mastery of Open-Charm and Open-Bottom contributions;
- Clean process to study cold nuclear matter effects (gluon nPDF, broadening, saturations scale).

Not only DY ... use the mass spectrum fit to study the Upsilon suppression (mass dependence of energy loss).

Internal jet structure at sPHENIX

- Significant differences in r_c observed for various flavor combinations;
- Possible to check the formation time calculation;
- Essential to have a good PID for the flavor-tagged measurements (EIC).