

# Ultrapерipheral collisions: new insights on collectivity & baryons



Prithwish Tribedy  
(Brookhaven National Laboratory)



2024 RHIC/AGS ANNUAL USERS' MEETING

## A New Era of Discovery

Guided by the New Long Range Plan  
for Nuclear Science

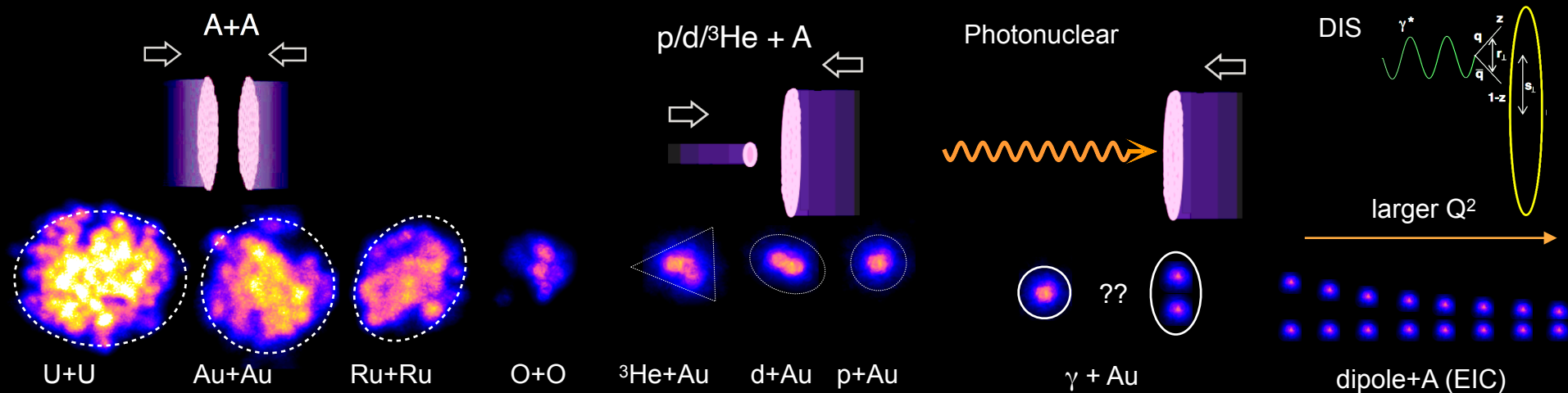
June 11–14, 2024



# Ultrapерipheral collisions: new insights on ~~collectivity~~ & baryons

Disclaimer: I've informed the organizers I will not be able to cover the collectivity part

See talk by Wenbin



RHIC system scan: using a target heavy ion to study the imprints of the shape of another  
 UPCs: continue the system scan to extreme & maybe image a photon?

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# New insights on baryons

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# 50 years of puzzles with baryon production in high energy collisions

1970s

1990s

2022-



String model with baryons:  
Topology; classical motion

X. Artru<sup>†</sup>



A possible description of baryon  
dynamics in dual and gauge  
theories

G.C. Rossi<sup>\*</sup>, G. Veneziano<sup>\*\*</sup>

Nuclear Physics A532 (1991) 351c–358c  
North-Holland, Amsterdam

NUCLEAR  
PHYSICS A

What can we learn from unpolarized and polarized  
electroproduction of fast baryons?

X. Artru<sup>\*</sup> and M. Mekhfi<sup>†</sup>



Physics Letters B

Volume 378, Issues 1–4, 20 June 1996, Pages 238–246

Can gluons trace baryon number? ☆



Physics Letters B

Volume 443, Issues 1–4, 10 December 1998, Pages 45–50

Baryon number transport via  
gluonic junctions

Stephen E. Vance<sup>a</sup>, Miklos Gyulassy<sup>a</sup>, Xin-Nian Wang<sup>b</sup>

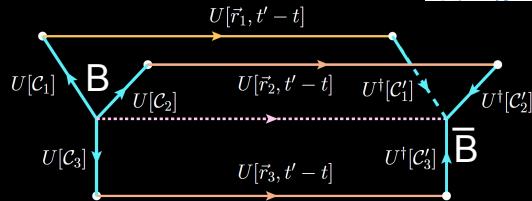
Antihyperon Enhancement through Baryon Junction Loops

Stephen E. Vance and Miklos Gyulassy  
Phys. Rev. L

Baryon junction loops and the baryon-meson anomaly at high  
energies

V. Topor Pop, M. Gyulassy, J. Barrette, C. Gale, X. N. Wang, and N. Xu  
Phys. Rev. C 70, 064906 – Published 21 December 2004

G. Veneziano, 1st workshop on  
baryon dynamics, SBU, 2024



Backward-angle ( $u$ -channel) production at an electron-ion collider

Daniel Cebra, Zachary Sweger, Xin Dong, Yuanjing Ji, and Spencer R. Klein  
Phys. Rev. C 106, 015204 – Published 15 July 2022

arXiv > hep-ph > arXiv:2205.05685

Search...

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High Energy Physics – Phenomenology

[Submitted on 12 May 2022 (v1), last revised 2 Dec 2023 (this version, v4)]

Search for baryon junctions in photonuclear  
processes and isobar collisions at RHIC

Nicole Lewis, Wendi Lv, Mason Alexander Ross, Chun Yuen Tsang, James  
Daniel Brandenburg, Zi-Wei Lin, Rongrong Ma, Zebo Tang, Prithwish  
Tribedy, Zhangbu Xu

arXiv > nucl-th > arXiv:2309.06445

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Nuclear Theory

[Submitted on 12 Sep 2023 (v1), last revised 20 Nov 2023 (this version, v2)]

Correlations of Baryon and Charge Stopping in  
Heavy Ion Collisions

Wendi Lv, Yang Li, Ziyang Li, Rongrong Ma, Zebo Tang, Prithwish Tribedy,  
Chun Yuen Tsang, Zhangbu Xu, Wangmei Zha

arXiv > hep-ph > arXiv:2312.15039

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High Energy Physics – Phenomenology

[Submitted on 22 Dec 2023]

Signatures of baryon junctions in semi-  
inclusive deep inelastic scattering

David Frenklakh, Dmitri E. Kharzeev, Wenliang Li

arXiv > nucl-th > arXiv:2312.12376

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Nuclear Theory

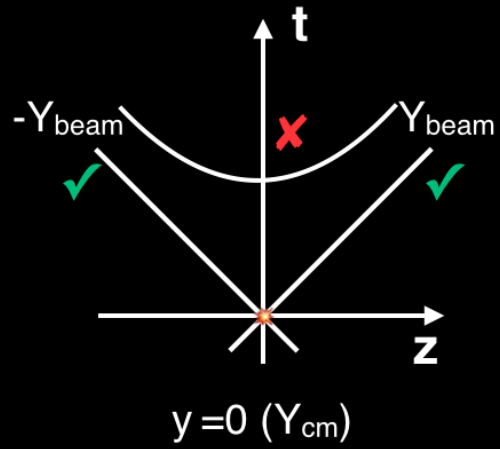
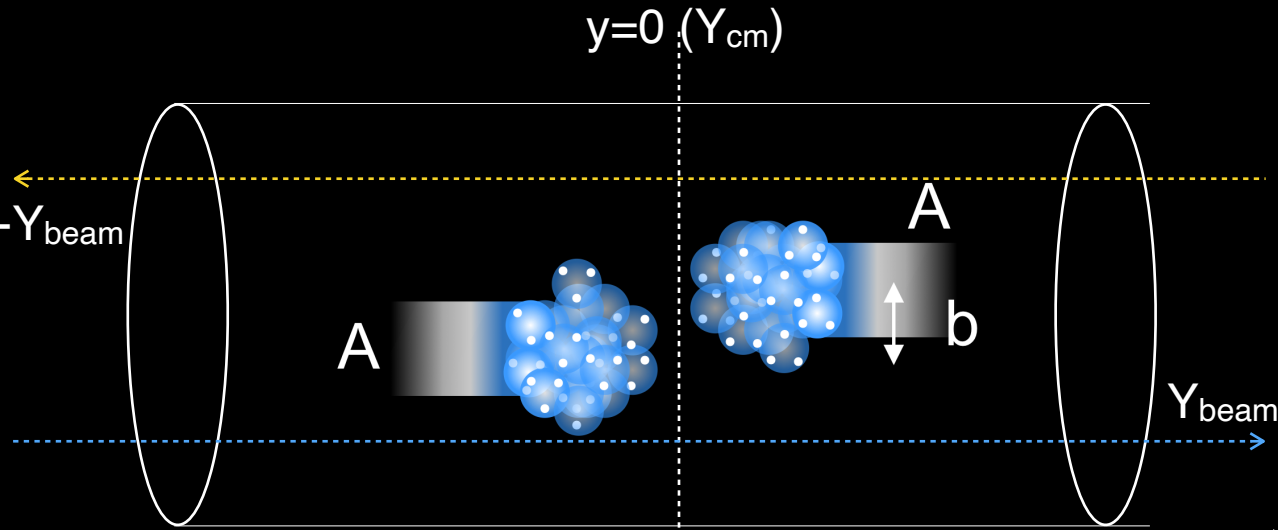
[Submitted on 19 Dec 2023]

Tracing baryon and electric charge  
transport in isobar collisions

Gregoire Pihan, Akihiko Monnai, Björn Schenke, Chun Shen

And many more...

# Puzzles with baryons appearing in the central rapidity



NOT here

We expect baryons here

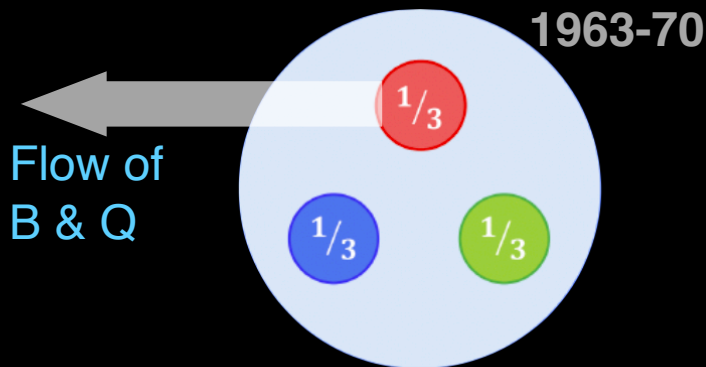
If baryon number flows with valence quarks, then they should end up near beam rapidity  $Y_{beam}$  and not near  $y=0$  or  $Y_{cm}$

# What traces the baryon number?

In particle physics, the **baryon number** is a **strictly conserved** additive **quantum number** of a **system**.

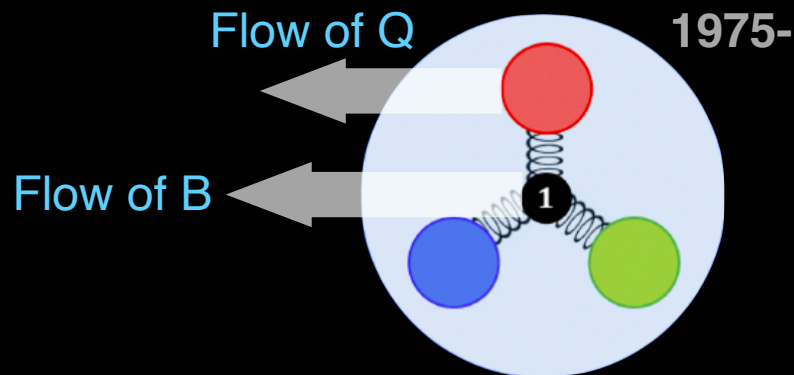
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proton>  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baryon>

Baryons, along with **mesons**, are **hadrons**, particles composed of **quarks**. Quarks have **baryon numbers** of  $B = \frac{1}{3}$  and antiquarks have baryon numbers of  $B = -\frac{1}{3}$ . The term "baryon" usually refers to *triquarks*—baryons made of three quarks ( $B = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = 1$ ).



In conventional picture, baryon number is assumed to be carried by the valence quarks each carrying  $1/3$

Goldberg and Y. Ne'eman, Nuovo Cimento 27 (1963) 1  
Gell-Mann, Zweig, 1964, SLAC 1970  
Review: hep-ph/9301246

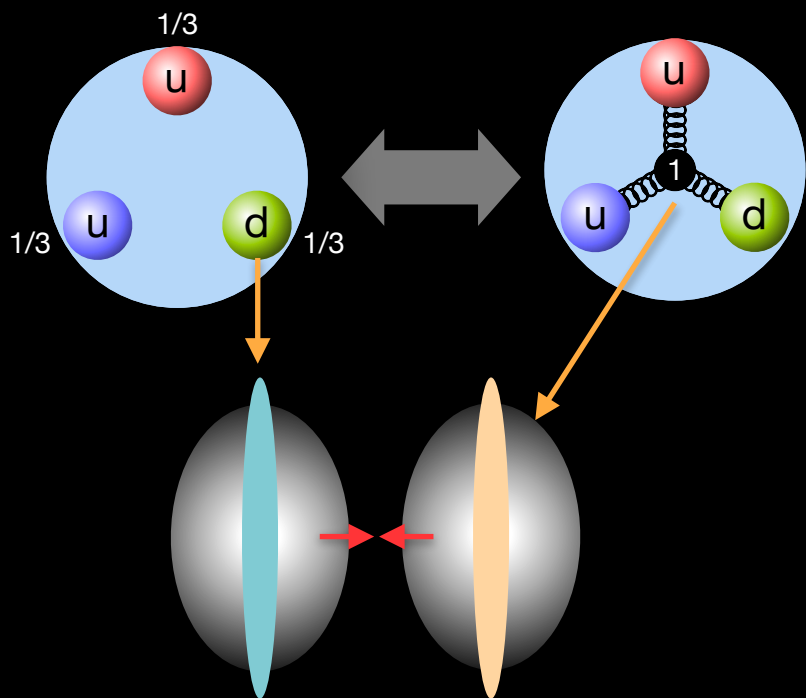


Baryon number may flow with the flow of the Y-shaped string junction (QCD topology)

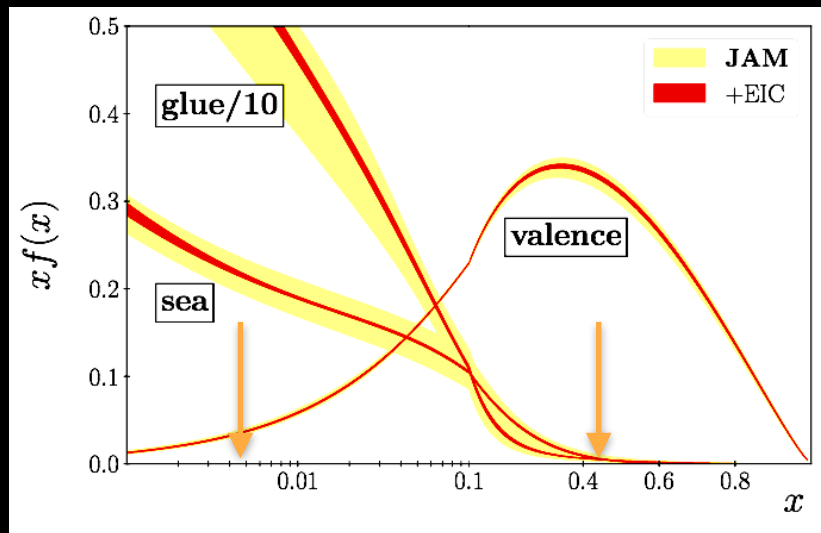
X. Artru, Nucl. Phys. B 85, 442-460 (1975), G.C. Rossi and G. Veneziano, Nucl. Phys. B123(1977) 507; Phys. Rep.63(1980) 149  
Kharzeev, Phys. Lett. B, 378 (1996) 238-246

No experiment has conclusively established either scenarios

# Quarks vs. gluonic junction tracing the baryon number



If junction traces the baryon number, means it is traced by small-x objects



$$t_{\text{coll}} \sim (x_V P)^{-1} = (1/3 \times 100)^{-1} \text{ GeV}^{-1} = 0.006 \text{ fm}$$

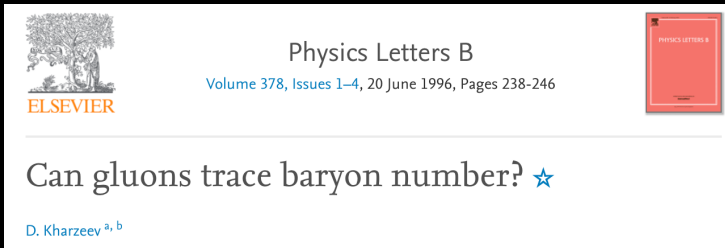
$$t_{\text{int}} \sim \mathcal{O}(1) \text{ fm}$$

Junction is made of infinite low-x gluons so they have enough time to be stopped

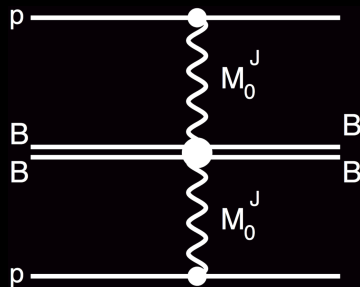
$$x_J \ll x_V \quad ((x_J P)^{-1} \gg (x_V P)^{-1})$$

# Gluonic junction as a carrier of baryon number

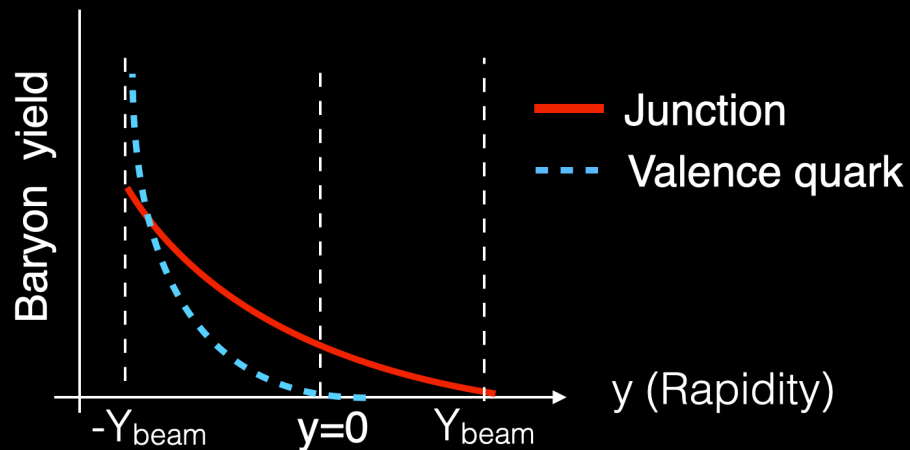
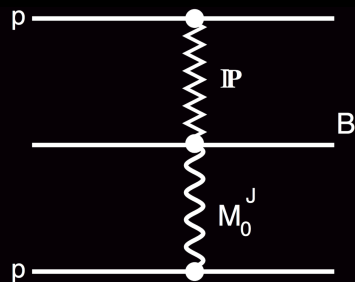
Kharzeev, Phys. Lett. B, 378 (1996) 238-246, Lewis et. al, arXiv:2205.05685



## Junction-Junction



## Junction-Pomeron



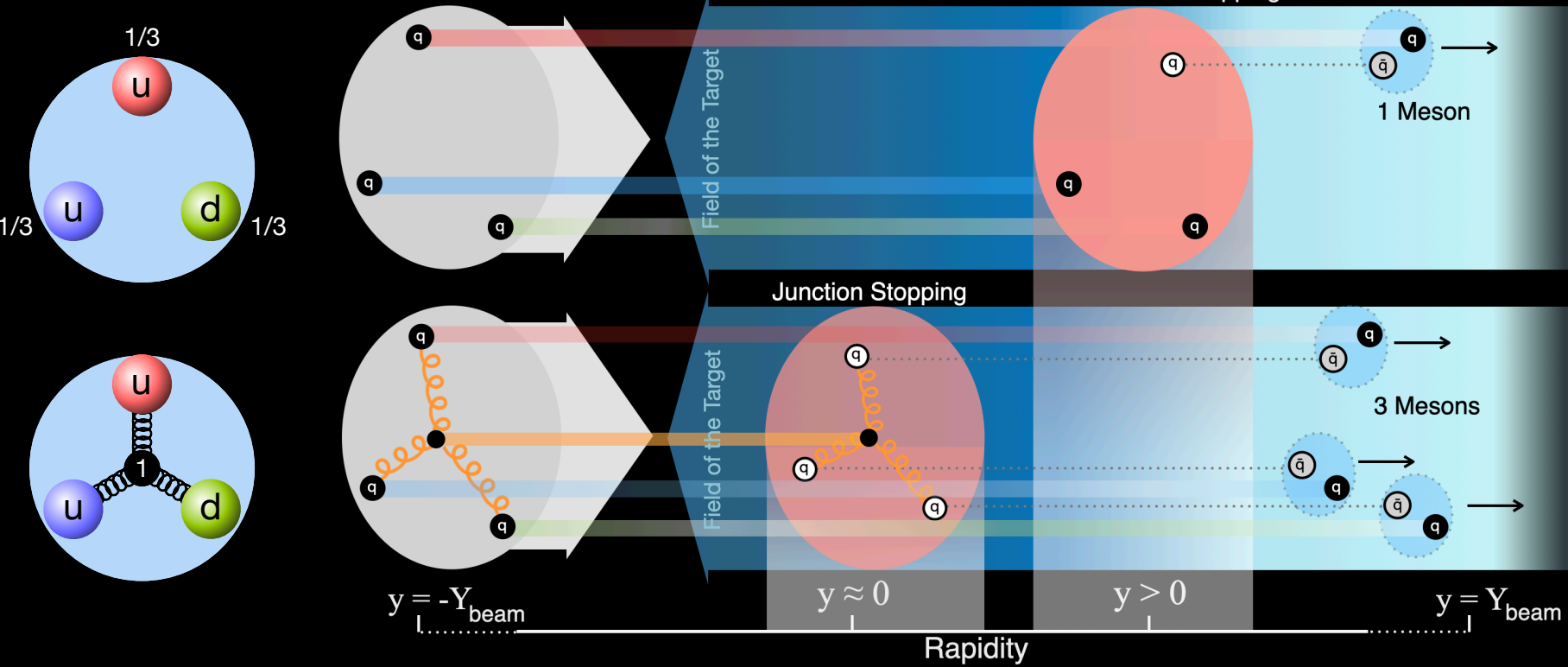
Baryon junction:  $e^{-\alpha_B(y-Y_{beam})}$   $0.42 \leq \alpha_B \leq 1$

PYTHIA 6 (Quarks):  $e^{-2.5(y-Y_{beam})}$

Regge theory can predict rapidity dependence of baryon stopping for junctions  
Larger transport to mid-rapidity for gluonic junction than valence quarks as baryon carrier



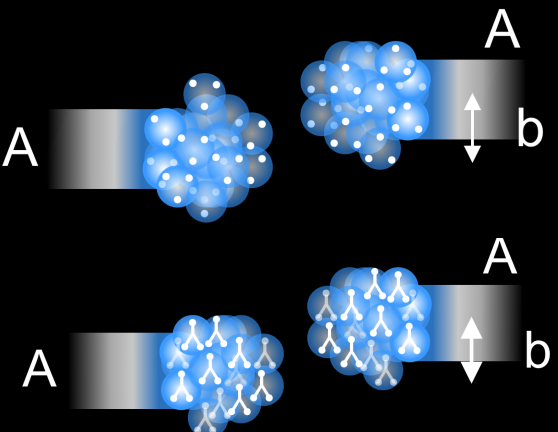
# How a baryon is transported at midrapidity?



Valence quarks: difficult to stop near  $y \sim 0$  & associated with electric charge stopping  
 Baryon junction: easier to stop near  $y \sim 0$  & NOT associated electric charge stopping

# Strategies for tracing the baryon carrier

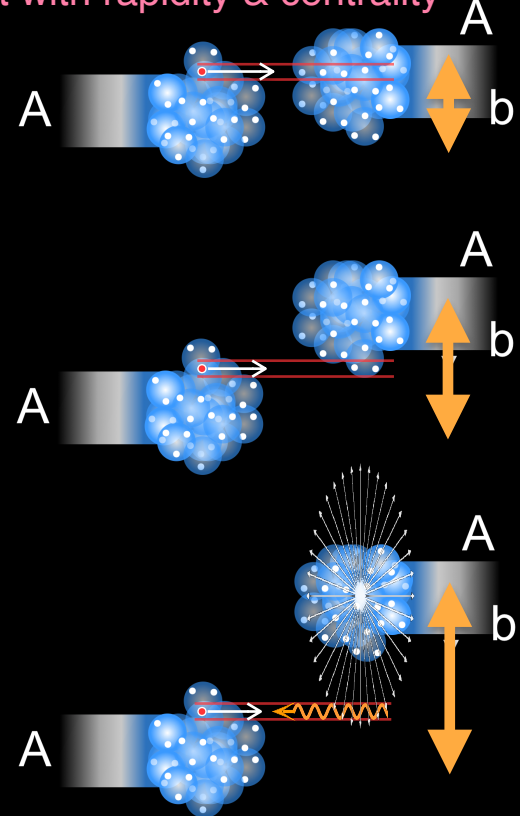
Check if charge and baryon are carried by the same object



Compare electric-charge with baryon transport

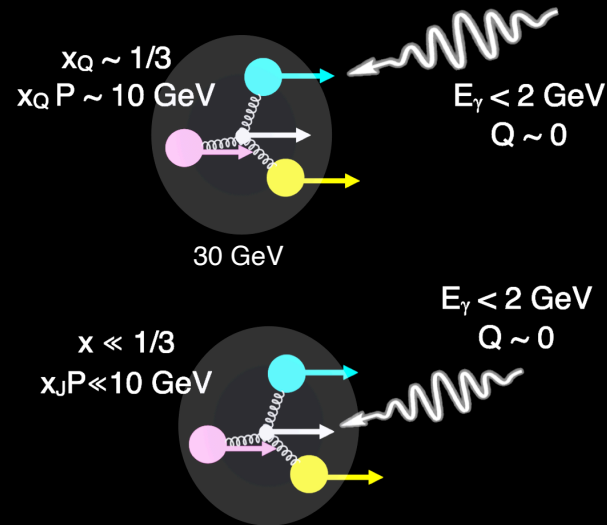
$$Q \leftrightarrow Z/A \times B$$

Test expectations for valence quark transport with rapidity & centrality



Centrality dependence of  $dN/dy(B)$  vs.  $y-Y_{beam}$

Test if the baryon carrier is a gluonic object by colliding with a photon of very small stopping power



Rapidity dependence of  $dN/dy(B)$  in  $\gamma+A$  collisions

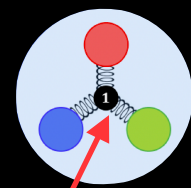
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# Baryon vs. electric charge transport & rapidity slope of baryon stopping

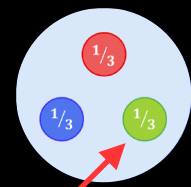
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# Measurements in isobar collisions: different carriers for Q & B?

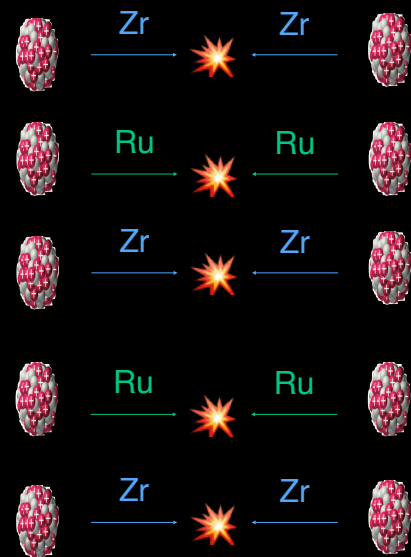
Talk by Rongrong Ma (Mon, 11 am)



$B=1,$   
 $Q=0$



$B=1/3$   
 $Q \neq 0$

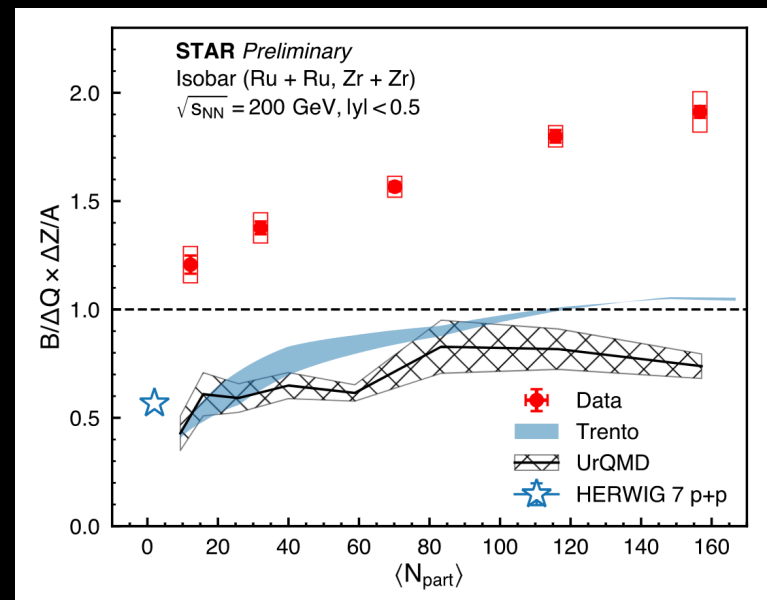


Zirconium:  
 $A=96$  (Total baryon)  
 $Z=40$  (Total charge)

Ruthenium:  
 $A=96$  (Total baryon)  
 $Z=44$  (Total charge)

Goal is to test:

$$\Delta Q \leftrightarrow \frac{\Delta Z}{A} \times B$$



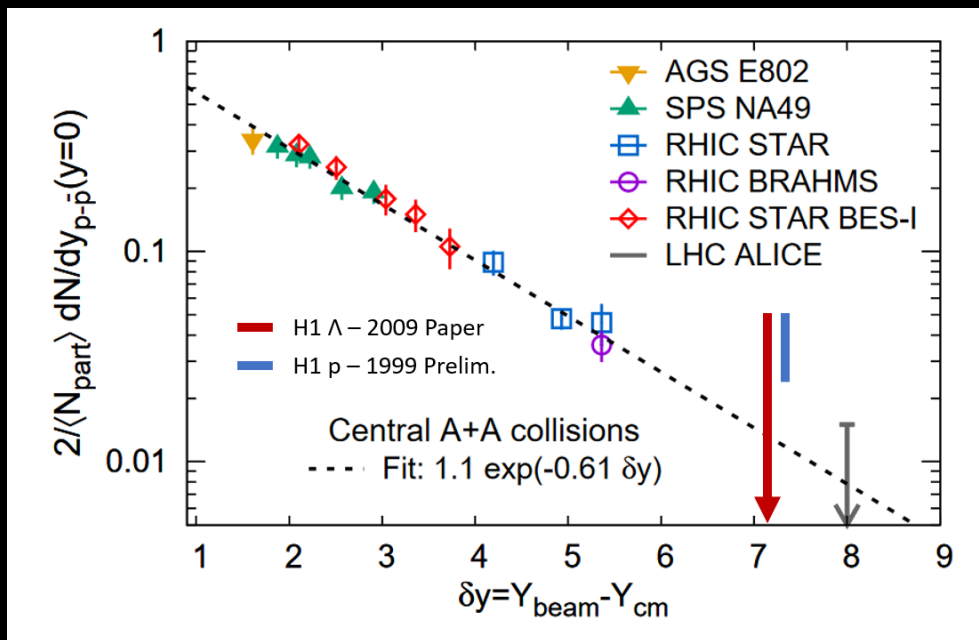
$$R_{2\pi} = \frac{(N_{\pi^+}/N_{\pi^-})^{Ru}}{(N_{\pi^+}/N_{\pi^-})^{Zr}}$$

$$\Delta Q = N_{\pi} \left[ (R_{2\pi} - 1) + \frac{N_K}{N_{\pi}} (R_{2K} - 1) + \frac{N_p}{N_{\pi}} (R_{2p} - 1) \right]$$

STAR data: stronger baryon vs net-electric charge transport at mid-rapidity: hints different carriers for baryon & electric charge

# Rapidity distribution of baryon production:

Lewis et al., arXiv:2205.05685 Henry Klest (SBU) HERA data



Fit to global data on central A+A:

$$\frac{2}{N_{\text{part}}} \left. \frac{dN_{p-\bar{p}}}{dy} \right|_{A+A} = N_B e^{-\alpha_B (Y_{\text{beam}} - Y_{\text{cm}})}$$

$$\alpha_B = 0.61 \pm 0.03$$

Predictions from Regge theory & baryon junction picture:

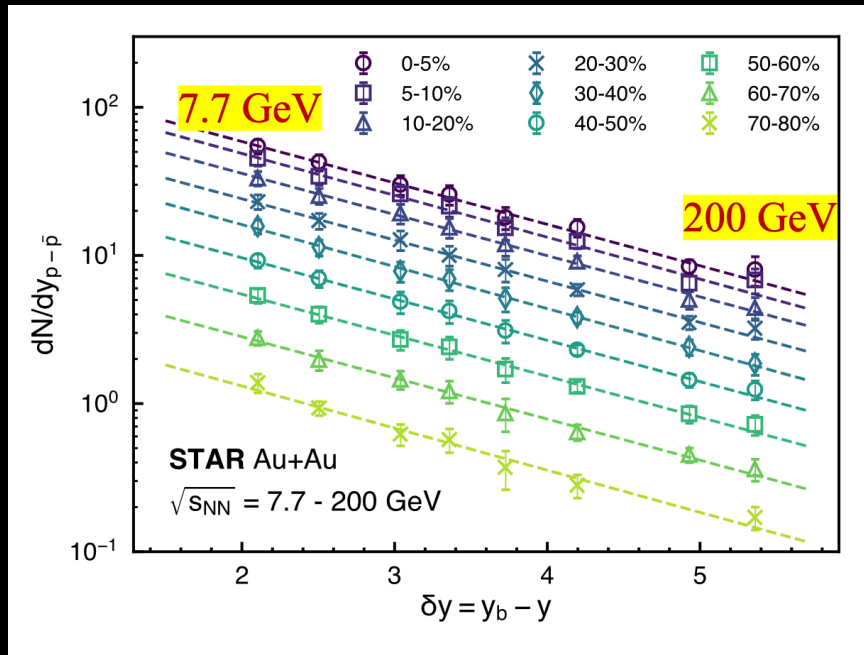
$$0.42 \leq \alpha_B \leq 1$$

Midrapidity baryon density slope is consistent with baryon junction prediction

# Rapidity distribution of baryon production: Global data

STAR data: N. Lewis, et. al.,  
arXiv:2205.05685, BRAHMS+NA49:  
F. Videbaek, 1st workshop on  
baryon dynamics, SBU, 2024

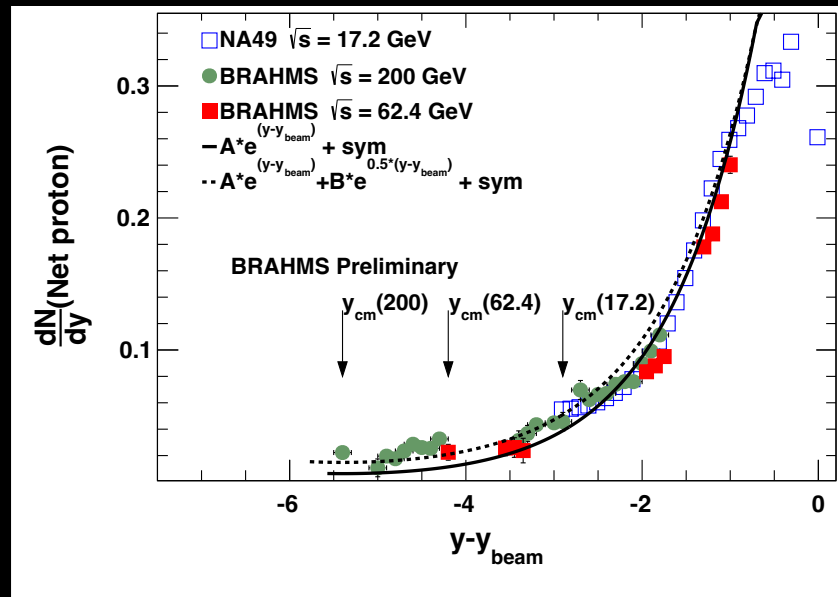
## Baryon transport with rapidity loss ( $y - Y_{\text{beam}}$ )



Exponential with slope  $0.63 \pm 0.2$ , no change with centrality for  $2 < Y_{\text{beam}} < 5.5$

Rapidity slope of baryon density: centrality independent, depends on  $|y - Y_{\text{beam}}|$  range

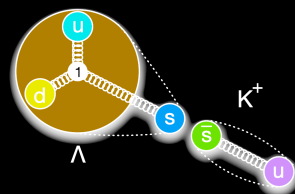
## BRAHMS + NA49 data (wider $y - Y_{\text{beam}}$ )



At higher energy rapidity slope closer to  $\sim 0.5$   
lower energy ( $|y - Y_{\text{beam}}| < 2$ ) rapidity slope  $\sim 1$

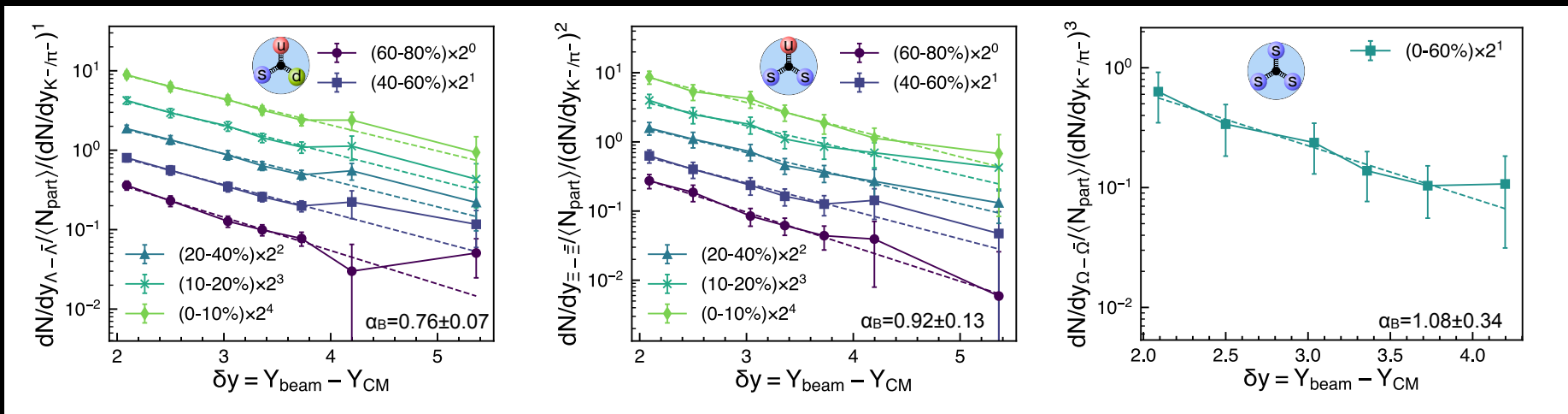
# Rapidity distribution of strange baryons

Strange baryon production requires replacing incoming quark(s) in p & n through  $s\bar{s}$  production



STAR data for BES-I:  
 G. Agakishiev Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 062301 (2007), 108, 072301 (2012), J. Adam Phys. Rev. C 102, 034909 (2020), Adamczyk et al, Phys. Rev. C 96, 044904 (2017), T. Sang, 1st workshop on baryon dynamics, SBU, 2024

More details: <https://indico.cfnsbu.physics.sunysb.edu/event/113/contributions/750/>



Net yield is scaled by  $(\bar{K}/\pi)^n$  to compensate for difficulty in “n” s-quark production  
 Exponential slope for different net-strange baryons ( $\Lambda, \Xi, \Omega$ ) seem similar to net-proton

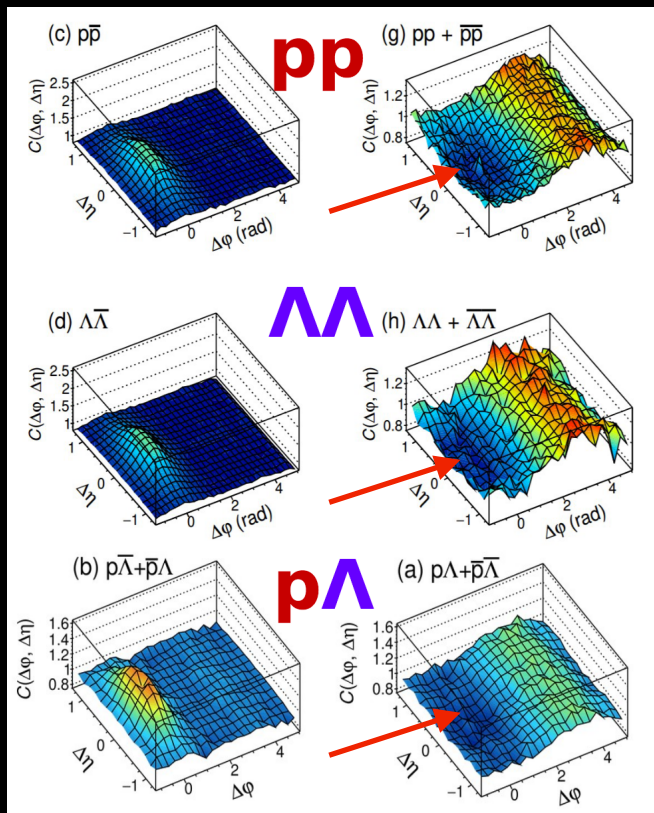
Rapidity slope of baryon density has no strong flavor dependence

# B- $\bar{B}$ correlation: Flavor independence

Talk by Adam Kisiel WPCF 2022

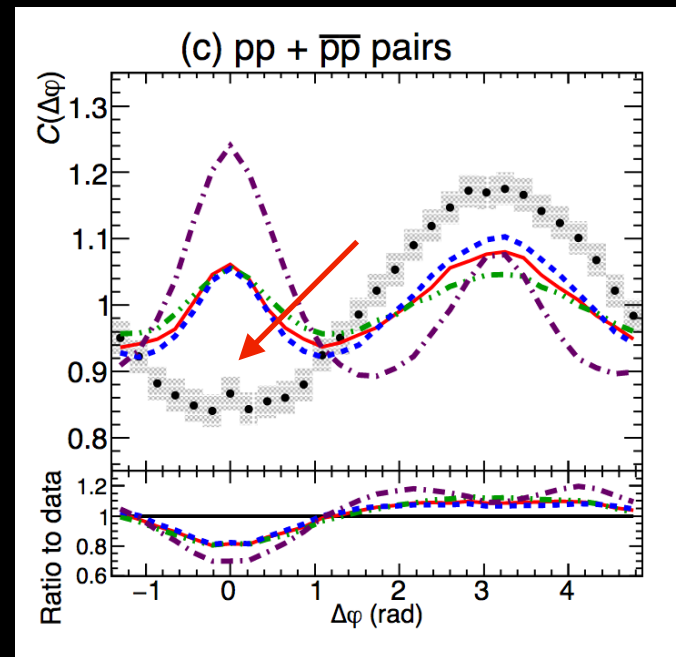
Baryon-baryon correlation functions in p+p collisions at 7 TeV

ALICE Collb. Eur. Phys. J. C77 (2017) 8, 569



Two baryons are not produced in close proximity

Effect does not depend on charge or strangeness content – purely baryon effect



MC-models can't explain despite a lot of effort

Baryon-anti-baryon correlations nearly flavor independent



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# Baryon transport in photon-induced process

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# Using photon-induced processes to identify the baryon carrier

Nuclear Physics A532 (1991) 351c-358c  
 North-Holland, Amsterdam

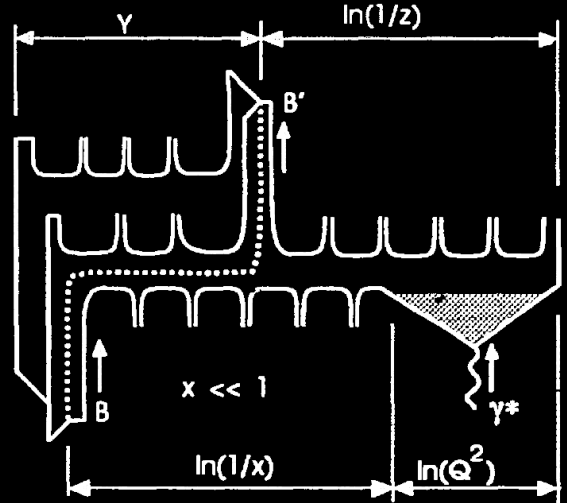
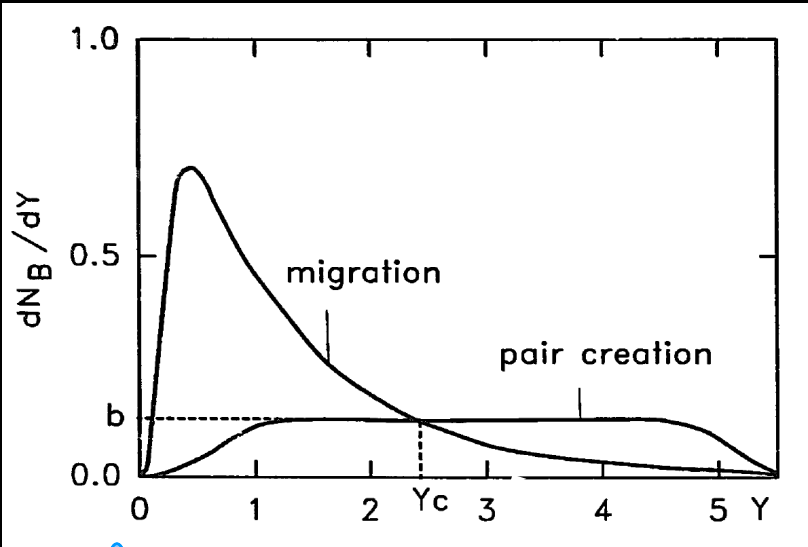
NUCLEAR  
 PHYSICS A

What can we learn from unpolarized and polarized electroproduction of fast baryons?

X. Artru<sup>a</sup> and M. Mekhfi<sup>b</sup>

Photon is a baryon-free projectile, baryon distribution in  $\gamma+p/A \rightarrow$  cleanest way to identify baryon carrier

$$dN_B/dY \simeq \beta (2p \cdot p' / m^2)^{-\beta} \simeq \beta \exp(-\beta Y)$$



Rapidity asymmetry from colliding a source of photon at various energies on baryon  $\rightarrow$  reveal the junction-like structure of a baryon

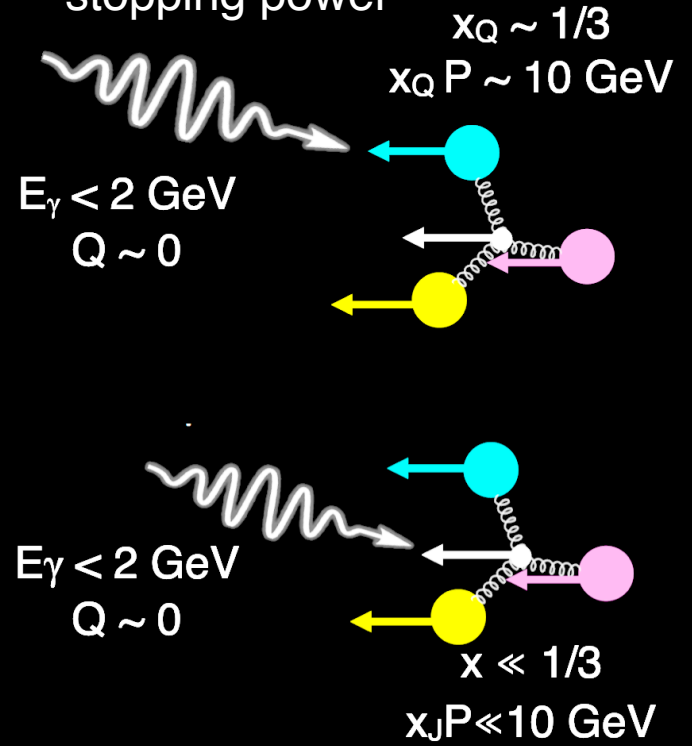
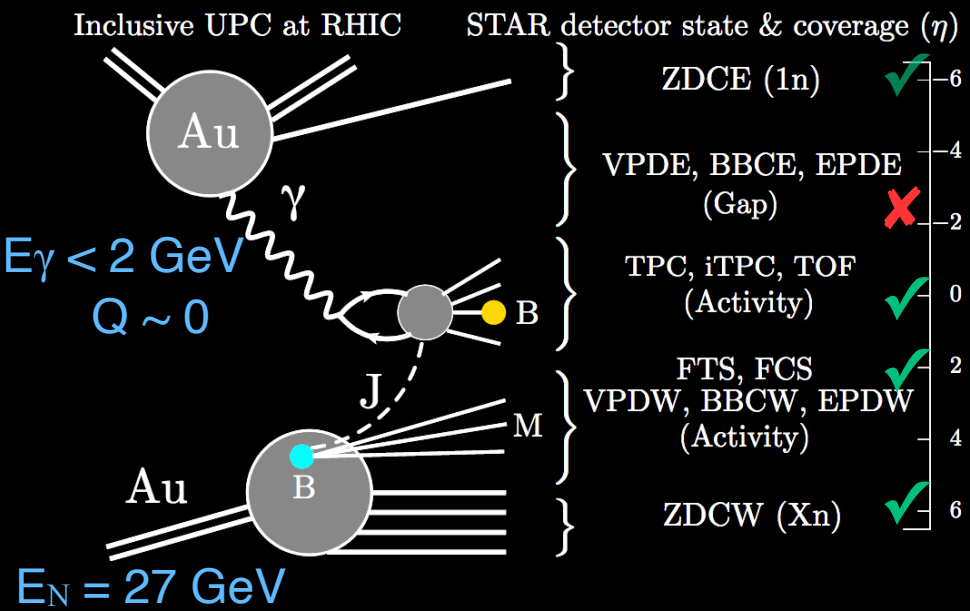


# Probing baryon structure with photon-induced processes

Fig: Lewis et. al, arXiv: 2205.05685, Sweger, CA EIC consortia meet

We trigger on  $\gamma$ +Au events in Ultra-peripheral collisions of Au+Au at 54.4 GeV  
 Approximate  $\gamma$ +Au  $\sqrt{s_{\gamma N}} \sim 10$  GeV

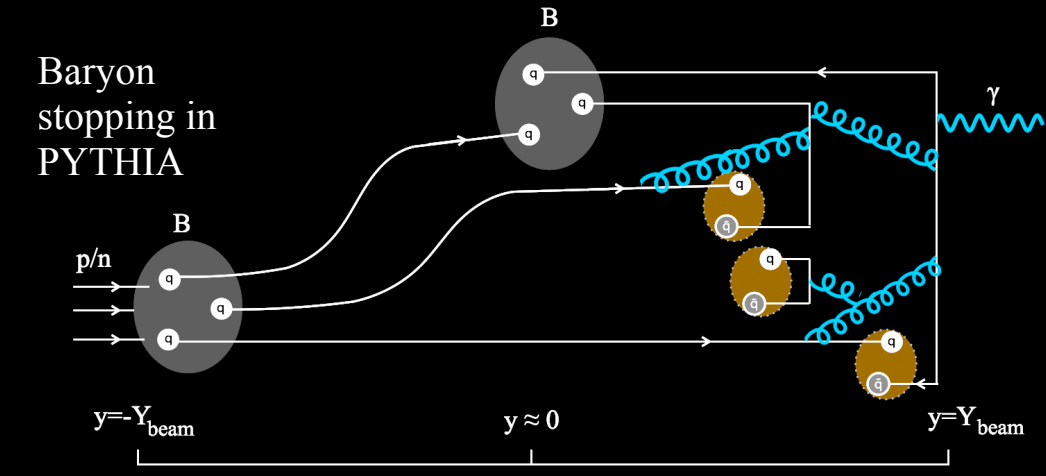
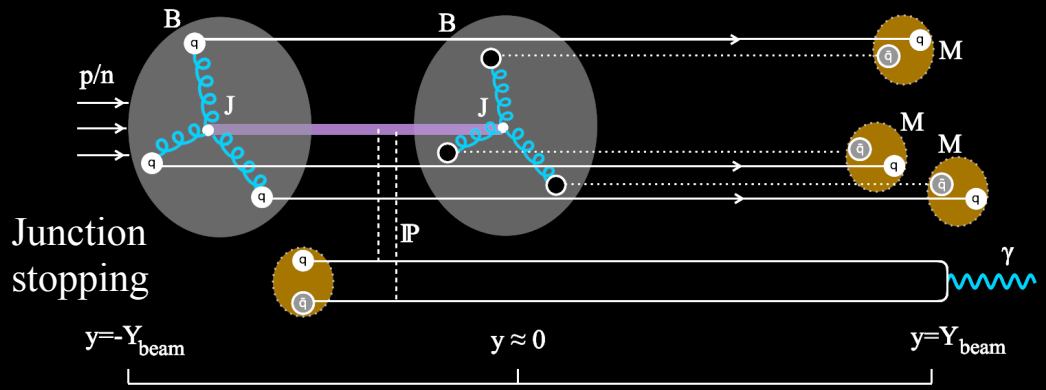
UPC photons have very low stopping power



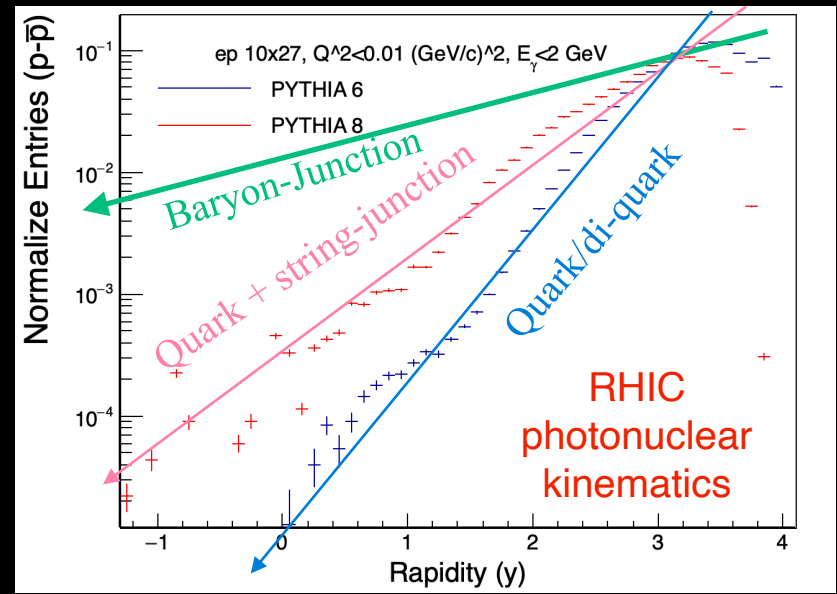
Search for non-zero net-baryon in photon-ion collisions near central-rapidity

# Probing baryon structure with photon-induced processes

Lewis et. al, arXiv:2205.05685  
 Dumitru, CFNS workshop on  
 target fragmentation, 2022



PYTHIA 6: Quark carries baryon  
 PYTHIA 8: Quark + mimic string-junction

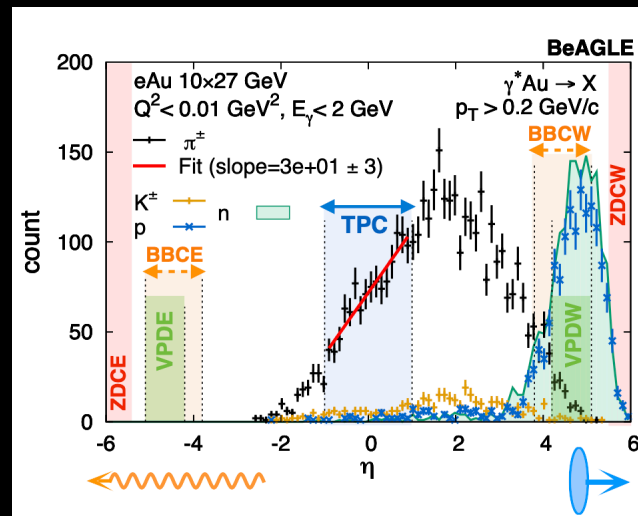
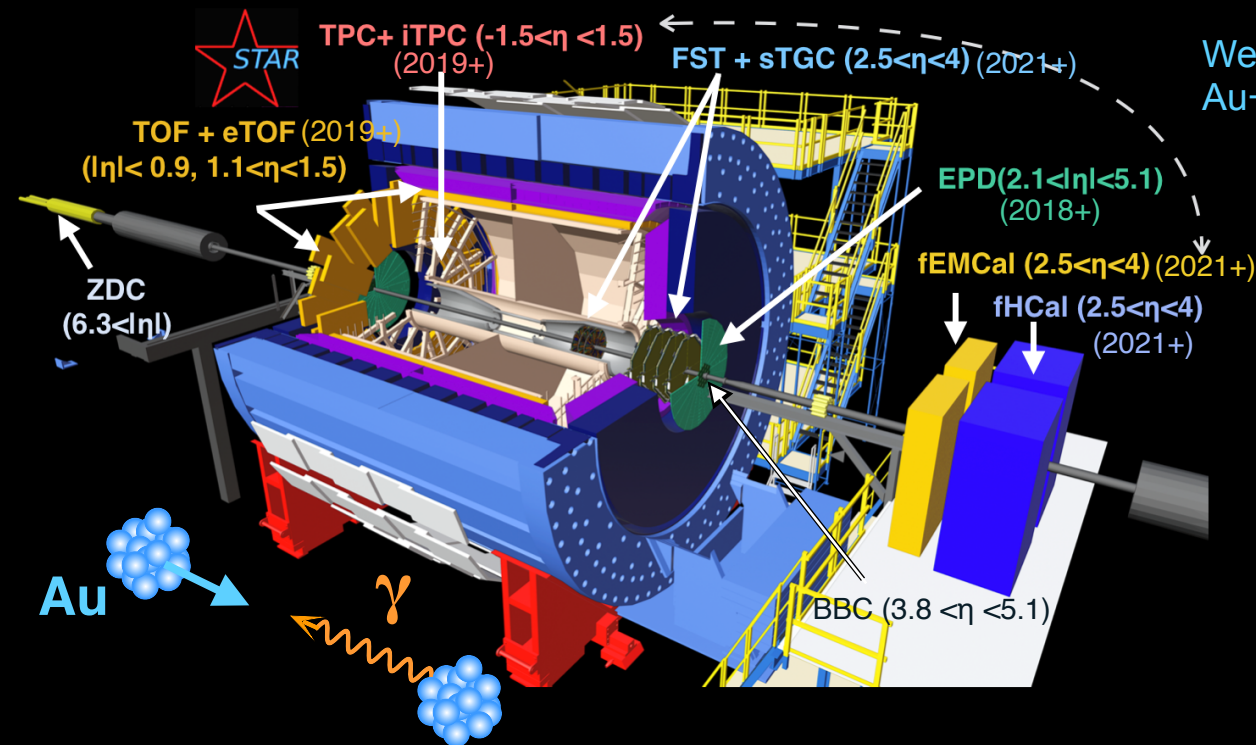


Models with various different carriers predict different rapidity dependence of net-proton yield

# Triggering inclusive photon-induced processes by the STAR detector

Lewis et. al, arXiv: 2205.05685, BeAGLE:  
W. Chang, et al PRD 106, 012007 (2022)

We trigger  $\gamma$ +Au events in ultra-peripheral Au+Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 54.4$  GeV



Use characteristic asymmetric particle production to trigger inclusive  $\gamma$ +Au events with help of:

- Beam-Beam counter (BBC),
- Zero-Degree Calorimeter (ZDC),
- Vertex Position Detector (VPD)

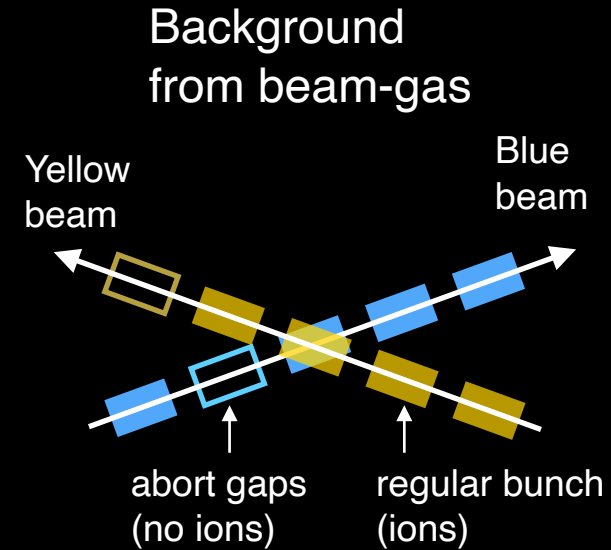
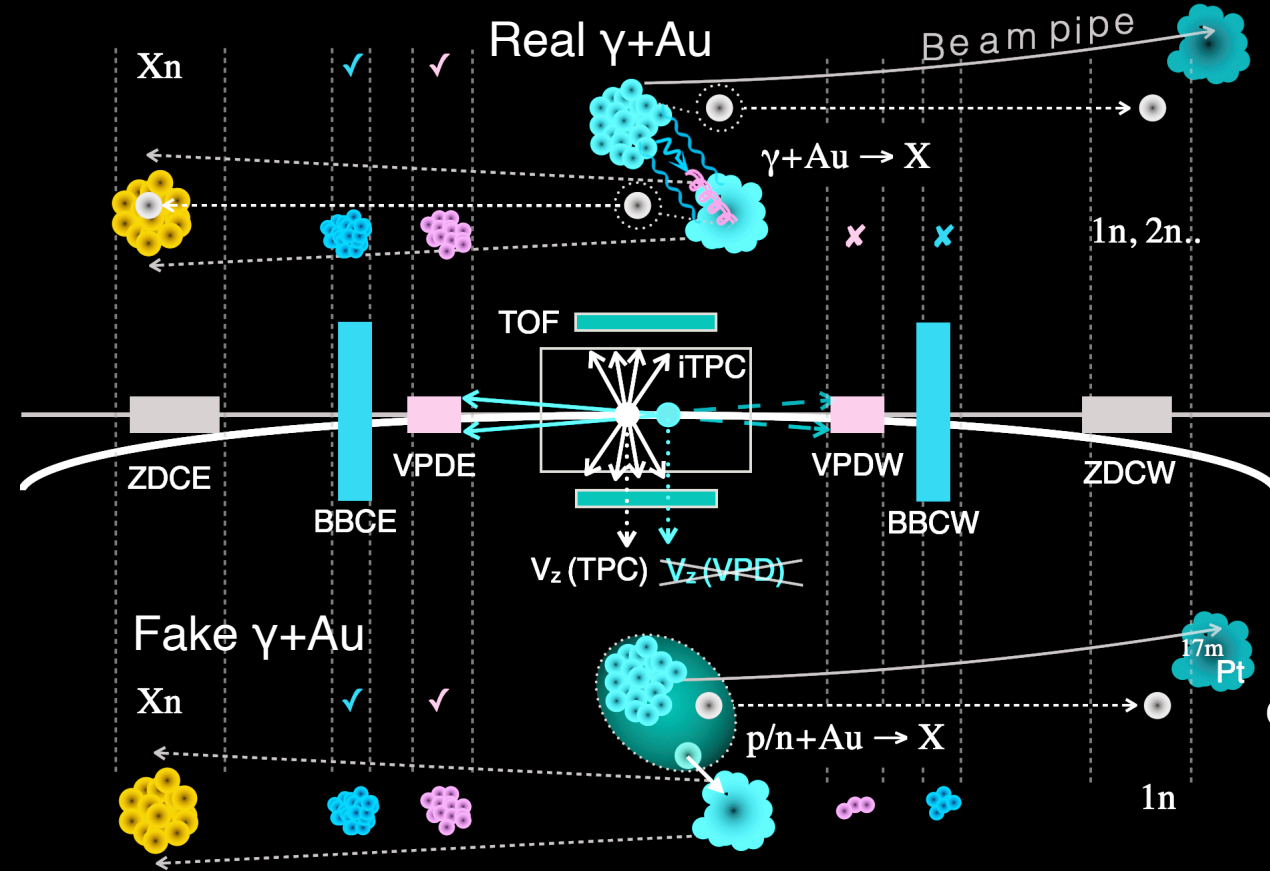
Time Projection Chamber (TPC)

- Track reconstruction
- Identify particles using  $dE/dx$

Time-Of-Flight detector (TOF)

- Extend particle identification to high  $p_T$
- Pile-up rejection

# Triggering inclusive photon-induced processes by the STAR detector

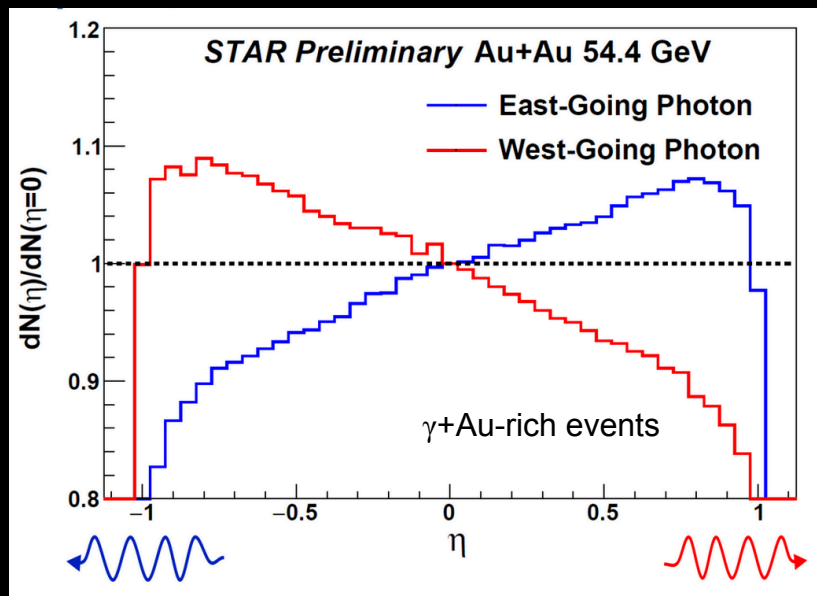


We estimate background contamination from peripheral heavy-ion collisions and beam-gas events

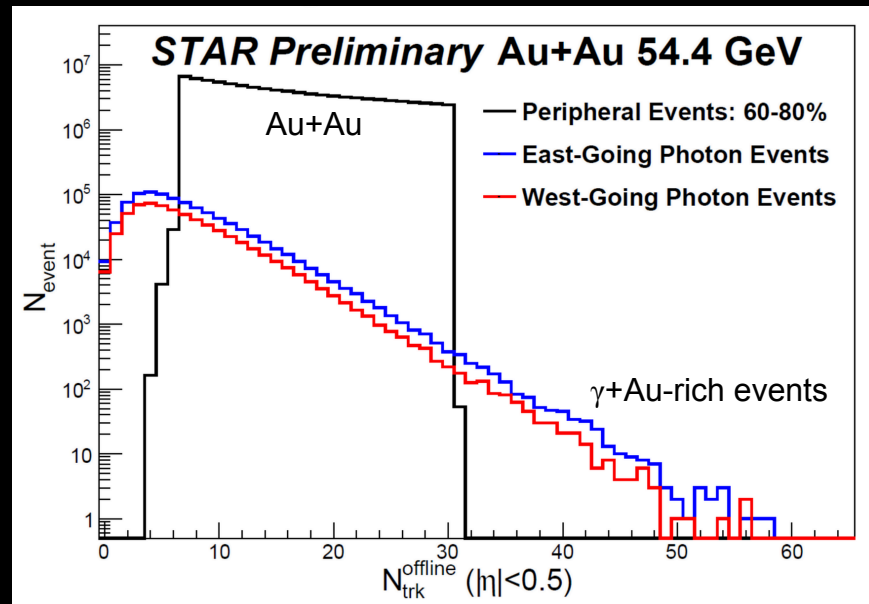
**$1nXn$  conditions on ZDCs largely suppress beam-gas background**

# Results: characteristic features of $\gamma$ +Au events

Model calculations:  
Lewis et. al, arXiv: 2205.05685



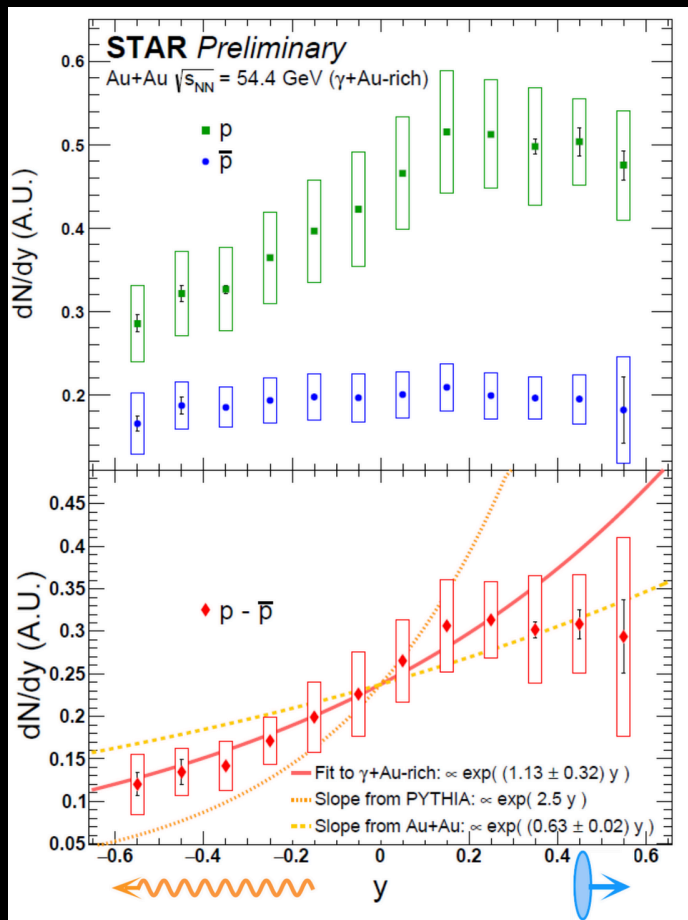
$\gamma$ +Au events produce rapidity asymmetry that is expected from model predictions



Most photonuclear events have low multiplicity, consistent with very peripheral Au+Au collisions

Bulk features of  $\gamma$ +Au events are consistent with expectations from models

# Results: Rapidity distribution of net-proton in $\gamma$ +Au events



$p$  and net-proton  $dN/dy$  with  $y$  described by an exponential with slope:  $1.13 \pm 0.32$

Anti-proton distribution is near constant with  $y$

Compared Au+Au slope:  $0.63 \pm 0.02$  ( $2 < Y_{\text{beam}} < 5.5$ )

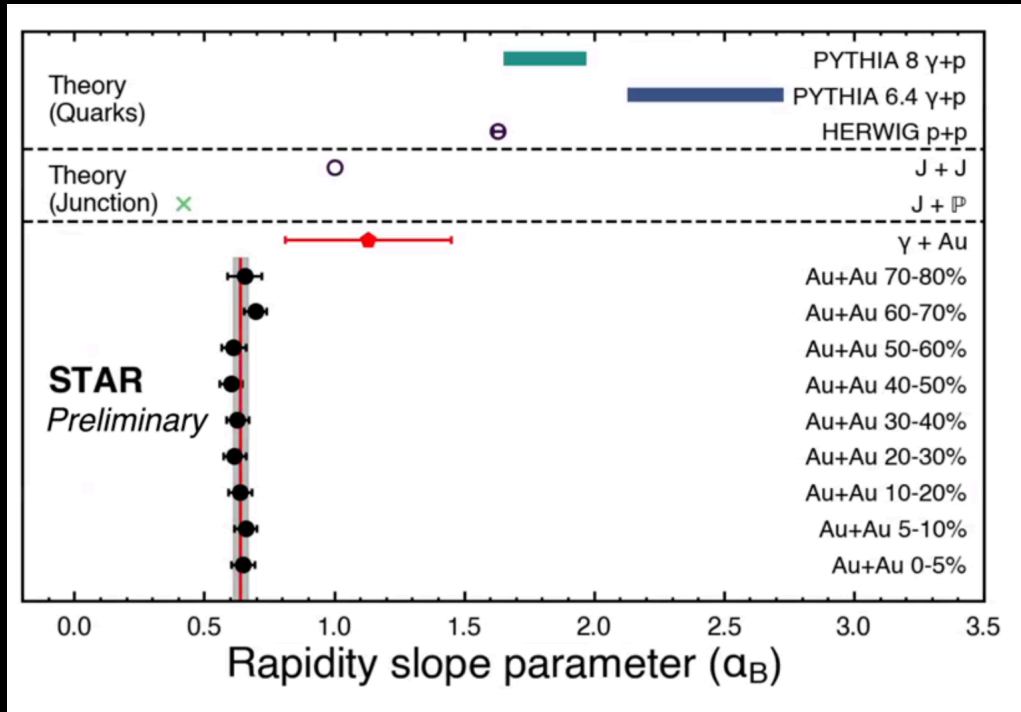
Compared to PYTHIA, which does not include a baryon junction mechanism, predicts a slope of 2.5

Exponential slope of rapidity dependence of net-proton lower than PYTHIA predictions



# Rapidity slope of net-proton: Global data

X. Artru, M. Mekhfi, Nucl. Phys. A 532 (1991) 351  
 BRAHMS+NA49: Videbaek, 1st workshop on  
 baryon dynamics, SBU 2024



Au+Au slope same for all centrality

Slope  $\gamma+Au \gtrsim$  Slope Au+Au:

Closer to the fit to BRAHMS + NA49  
 data slope to  $\sim 1$  for  $Y_{\text{beam}} < 2$   
 (NA49 energy  $\sim 17$  GeV closer to  
 $\gamma+Au$  cm energy  $\sim 10$  GeV)

Slope has  $Y_{\text{beam}}$  (energy) dependence  
 $\alpha_B = \alpha_B (|y - Y_{\text{beam}}|)$

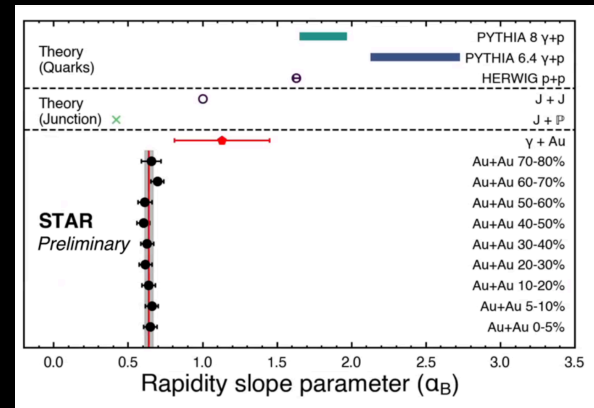
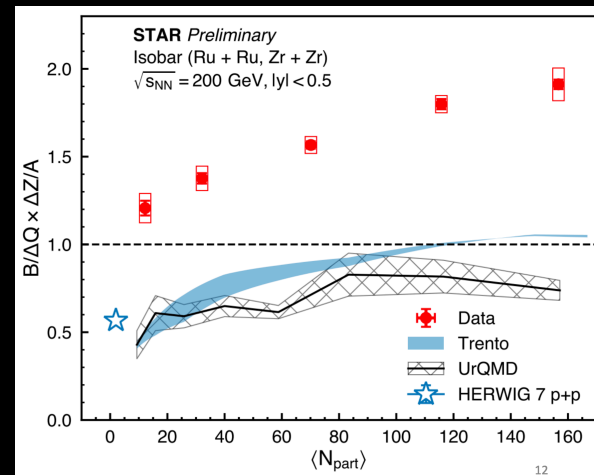
Consistent with Regge theory  
 baryon-junction prediction but  
 smaller than PYTHIA/HERWIG

Rapidity dependence of net-proton in  $\gamma+Au$  collisions compatible with junction picture

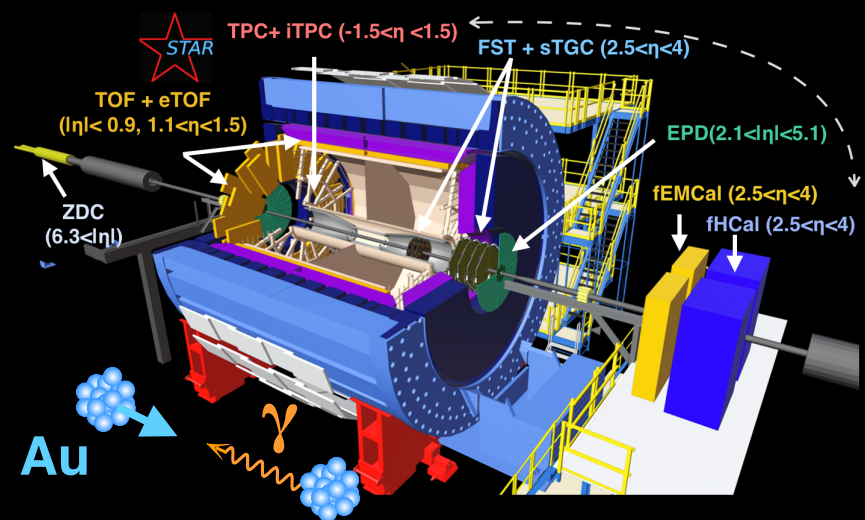
# Summary

- Baryon number carrier and transport are of fundamental interest:
- STAR@RHIC advantage: BES & Isobar program, low- $p_T$  PID capability, triggering capability for inclusive  $\gamma$ +Au events with low photons energy
- Three approaches to test the carrier of baryon number & transport:
  - Isobar data: **less electric-charge transport than baryon transport**
  - Au+Au BES/global data: exponential rapidity dependence with slope showing **no centrality dependence, flavor blind**
  - **Significant net-proton in  $\gamma$ +Au at midrapidity: exponential rapidity slope compatible with prediction of Regge theory on baryon junction**
- **Quark-based models fail to provide simultaneous description of all features of STAR data, seems to be viable in baryon junction picture**

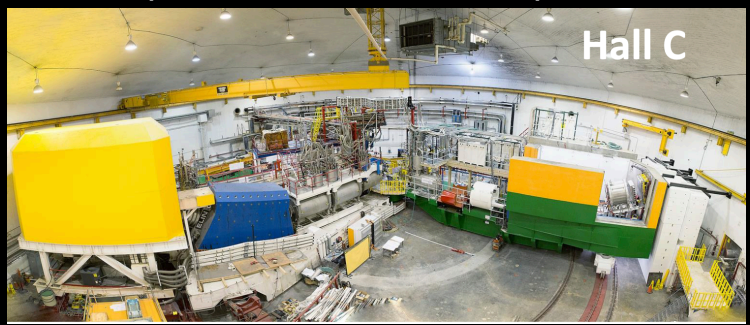
Outlook: Future RHIC, EIC, other experiments can further probe baryon carrier and transport mechanisms with controlled photon/ion kinematics



# Future experiments on baryon carrier search

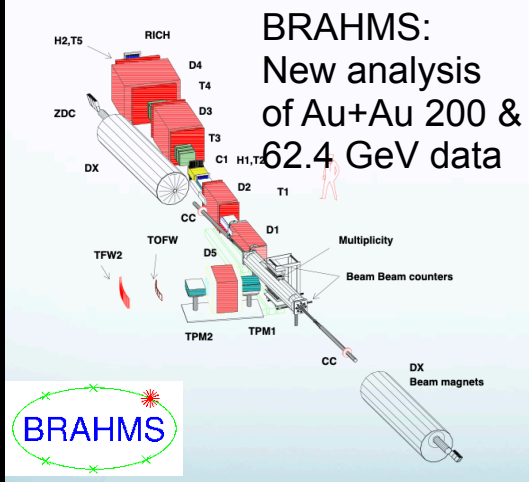
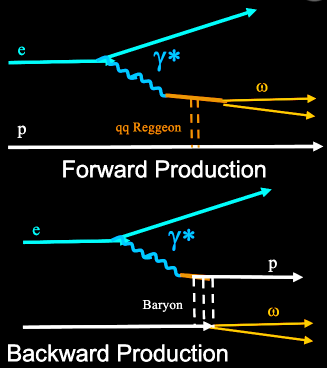
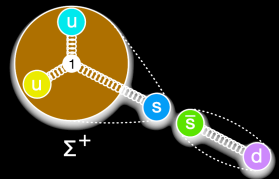


JLab e+p, u-channel backward production



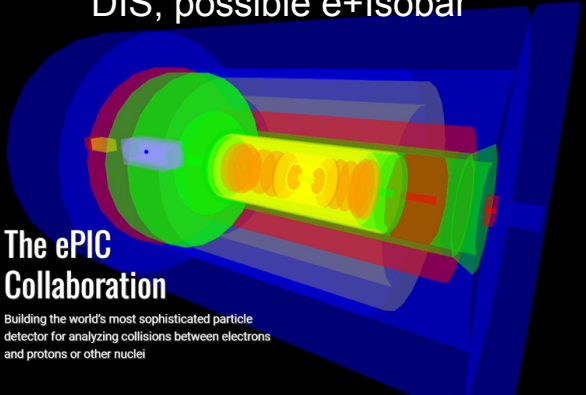
Hall C

STAR: RHIC Run 23-25  
 high statistics  $\gamma$ +Au collisions using Au+Au 200 GeV UPC, p/d/He3+Au, strange baryon production



BRAHMS:  
 New analysis of Au+Au 200 & 62.4 GeV data

HERA & EIC: Baryon spectra in DIS, possible e+Isobar



The ePIC Collaboration

Building the world's most sophisticated particle detector for analyzing collisions between electrons and protons or other nuclei

Recent dedicated workshop on baryon dynamics

<https://indico.cfnsbu.physics.sunysb.edu/event/113/>



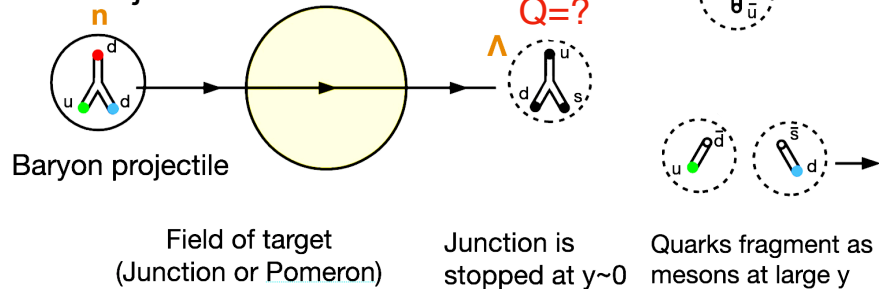
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# Backup slides

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# B/Q=A/Z for valence quarks, what about junction ?

B/Q=A/Z for quarks but not for junction



The junction is flavor-blind, so when it is stopped, it will acquire any three quarks from vacuum

If a junction (flavor-blind) is stopped, we can estimate how much electric charge will be stopped depends on no. of flavors

No of flavors	Quarks	Combinations $\binom{n+r-1}{r}$	$\langle Q \rangle$	$\langle B \rangle$
2	u d	4	1/2	1
3	u d s	10	0	1
4	u d s c	20	1/2	1
5	u d s c b	35	1/5	1
6	u d s c b t	56	1/2	1

$B/Q \geq 2$   
(Independent of A/Z)

## No of flavors: 2

$$(u)(2/3) + (u)(2/3) + (u)(2/3) = 2$$

$$(u)(2/3) + (u)(2/3) + (d)(-1/3) = 1$$

$$(u)(2/3) + (d)(-1/3) + (d)(-1/3) = 0$$

$$(d)(-1/3) + (d)(-1/3) + (d)(-1/3) = -1$$

## No of flavors: 3

$$(u)(2/3) + (u)(2/3) + (u)(2/3) = 2$$

$$(u)(2/3) + (u)(2/3) + (d)(-1/3) = 1$$

$$(u)(2/3) + (u)(2/3) + (s)(-1/3) = 1$$

$$(u)(2/3) + (d)(-1/3) + (d)(-1/3) = 0$$

$$(u)(2/3) + (d)(-1/3) + (s)(-1/3) = 0$$

$$(u)(2/3) + (s)(-1/3) + (s)(-1/3) = 0$$

$$(d)(-1/3) + (d)(-1/3) + (d)(-1/3) = -1$$

$$(d)(-1/3) + (d)(-1/3) + (s)(-1/3) = -1$$

$$(d)(-1/3) + (s)(-1/3) + (s)(-1/3) = -1$$

$$(s)(-1/3) + (s)(-1/3) + (s)(-1/3) = -1$$

# Stopping power in $\gamma$ +Au and photon energy dependence

