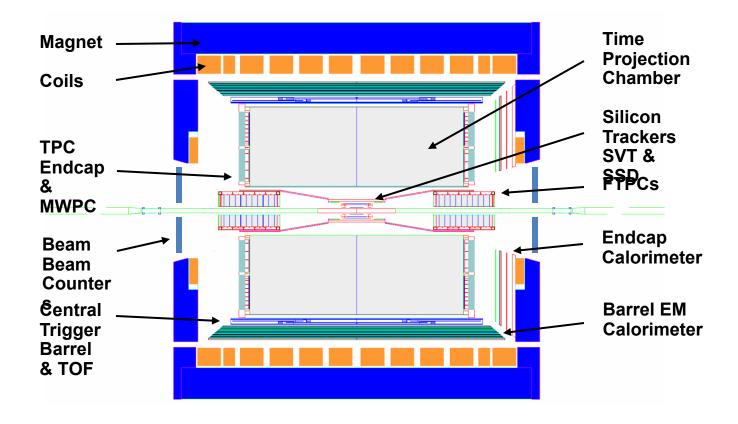
STAR Time projection Chamber and Heavy Flavor Tracker (HFT)

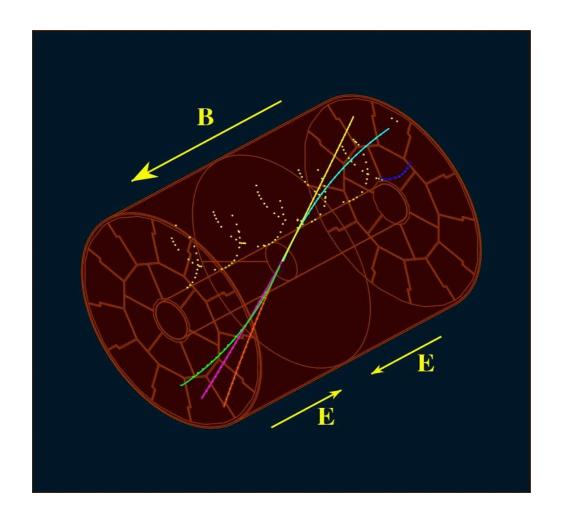
Flemming Videbæk Brookhaven National Lab

The STAR Detector at RHIC

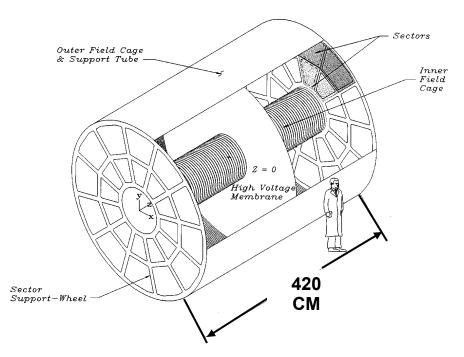


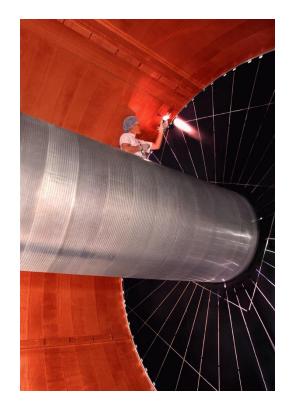
The central STAR detector with the TPC is the key element of STAR

Principles of TPC Operation



TPC: Principles of Operation





• Voltage: - 28 kV at the central membrane 135 V/cm over 210 cm drift path

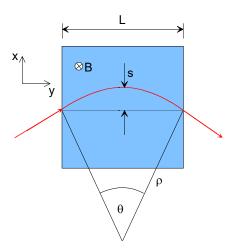
Secondary electrons, resulting from a primary track, drift in parallel and uniform electric and magnetic fields inside the TPC. These electrons are 'captured' as a function of time by a 2D readout system on the endcaps to form a 3D image.

The STAR Magnet

(room temperature Aluminum

coils)





A charged particle in a uniform field follows a (perfect) circular path

$$m\frac{d\overline{v}}{dt} = q\left(\overline{v} \times \overline{B}\right) \rightarrow \frac{mv^{2}}{\rho} = q\left|\overline{v} \times \overline{B}\right|$$
$$\frac{mv^{2}}{\rho} = q\left|\overline{v} \times \overline{B}\right| \rightarrow p_{T} = qB\rho$$

$$p_T (\text{GeV/c}) = 0.3B\rho \quad (\text{T} \cdot \text{m})$$

3D: The Time Projection Chamber

Time Projection Chamber → full 3-D track reconstruction STAR TPC

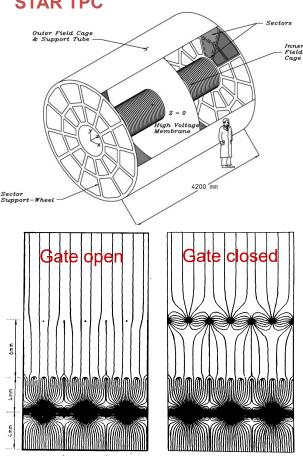
- x-y from wires and segmented cathode of MWPC
- z from drift time
- in addition dE/dx information (charge of ionization)

Diffusion significantly reduced by B-field.

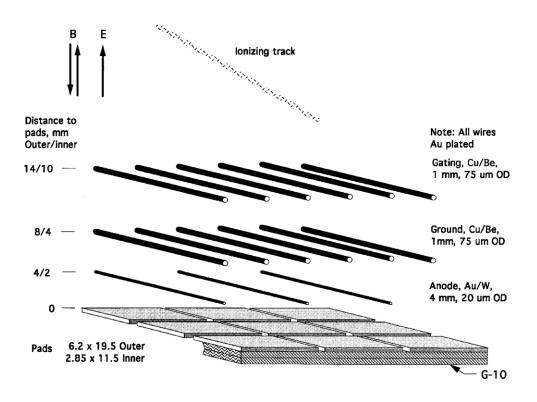
Requires precise knowledge of $v_D \rightarrow LASER$ calibration + p,T corrections

Drift over long distances \rightarrow very good gas quality required

Space charge problem from positive ions, drifting back to central membrane → use a gated grid



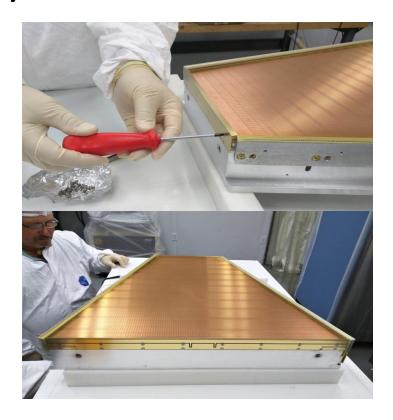
Sector Wire Geometry



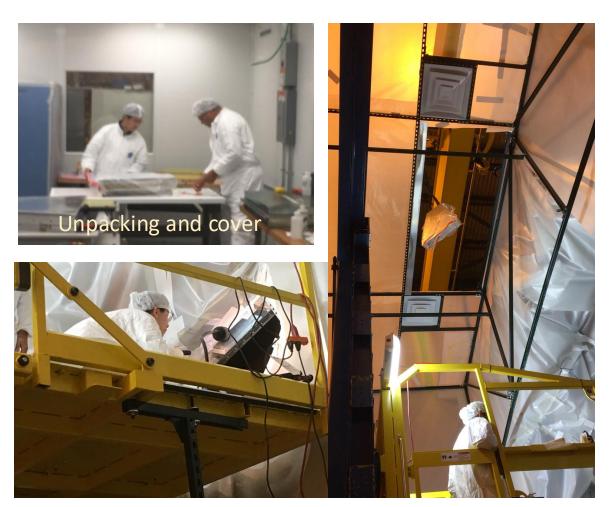
Blown up picture of sensitive area on readout chambers

Picture of Chambers and pad plane (iTPC)

- The STAR TPC was upgraded in 2019 with improved chambers that increased acceptance and accuracy (Beam Energy Scan)
- Here pad plane and wire planes during final assembly



Actual installation







Electronics

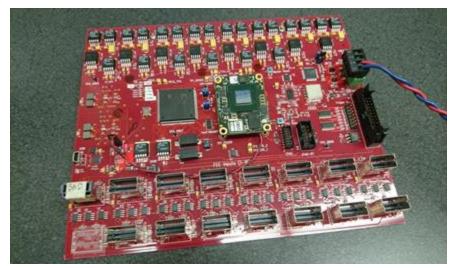
- Doubling #channels per FEE card. 2 SAMPA per FEE
- 55 FEEs per inner sector
- 16 FEEs per RD0
- 4 RDOs per inner sector





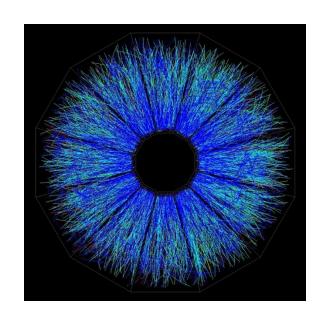
iFFE

Pre-production RDO-- installed

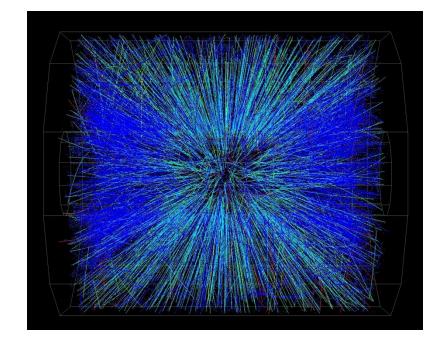


Readout Board

Au on Au Event at CM Energy ~ 130 GeV*A

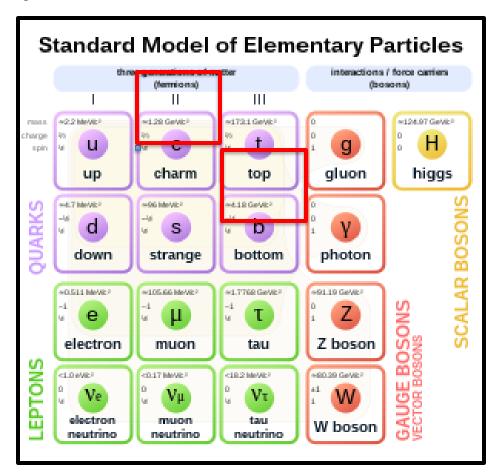


Data Taken June 25, 2000.



Physics Goal Heavy Flavor

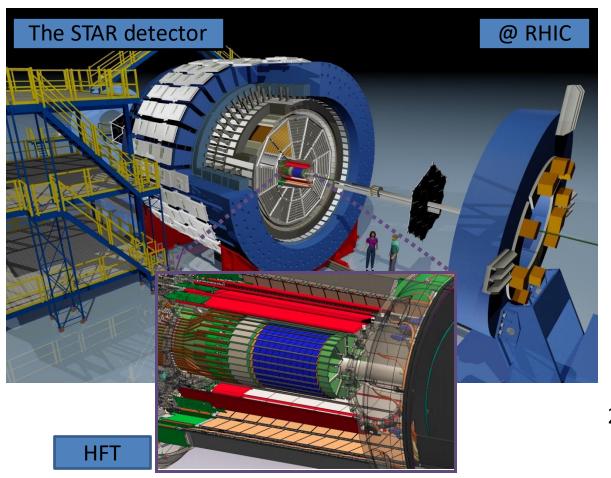
- Heavy quarks at RHIC
- Charm M~1280 MeV
- Bottom/beauty M~ 4180MeV
- Heavy quarks usually created in pairs c,c-bar b,b-bar
- Forms mesons, baryons that decays rather quickly with few mm.

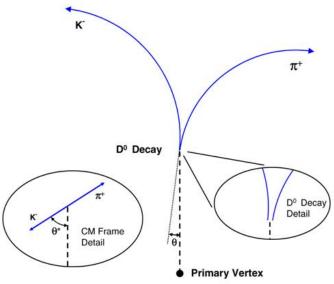


STAR HFT Physics Motivation

Extend the measurement capabilities in the *heavy flavor* domain, good probe to QGP:

• Direct topological reconstruction of charm hadrons (small $c\tau$ decays, e.g. $D^0 \to K \pi$)





Method: Resolve displaced vertices $(\sim 120 \mu m)$

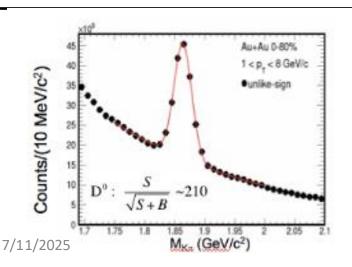
200 GeV Au+Au collisions @ RHIC

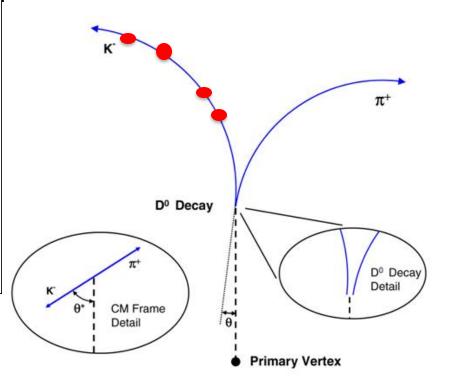
▶ $dN_{ch}/d\eta \sim 700$ in central events

7/11/2025 HFT - TPC nusteam 13

How are measurements done?

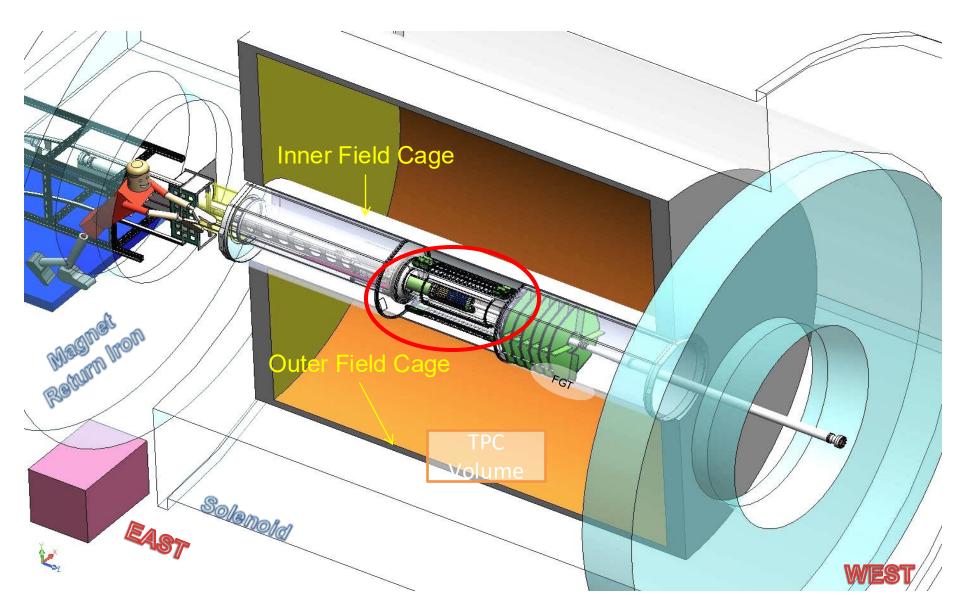
- Measure points on the tracks
- Determine momentum by fitting to a circle (helix)
- Project to primary vertex,
- Determine decay point and angles.
- From the momenta and masses of decay products calculate mass of decaying meson



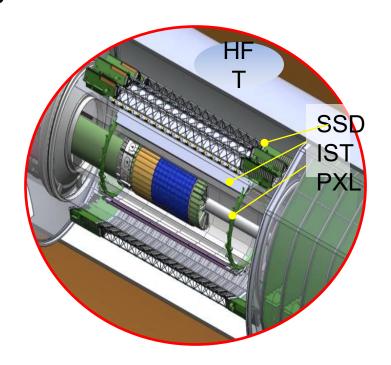


HFT - TPC nusteam 14

Heavy Flavor Tracker (HFT)



HFT was installed into STAR



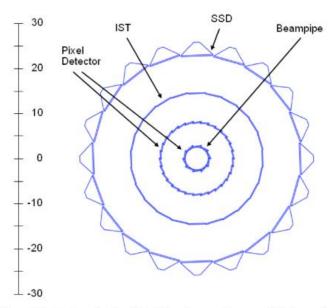
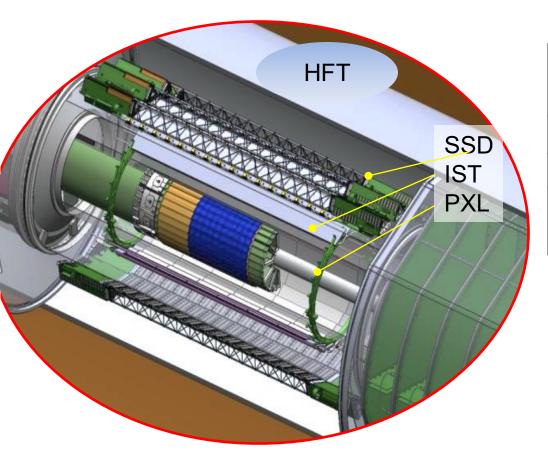


Figure 2.8 A schematic view of the Silicon detectors that surround the beam pipe.

Heavy Flavor Tracker (HFT)



Detector	Radius (cm)	Hit Resolution R/φ - Z (μm - μm)	Radiation length
SSD	22	20 / 740	1% X ₀
IST	14	170 / 1800	<1.5 %X ₀
PIXEL	8	12/ 12	~0.4 %X ₀
	2.5	12 / 12	~0.4% X ₀

PIXEL

- two layers
- 18.4x18.4 μm pixel pitch
- 10 sectors, delivering ultimate Pointing resolution that allows for direct topological identification of charm.
- Monolithic active pixel sensors (MAPS) technology

SSD

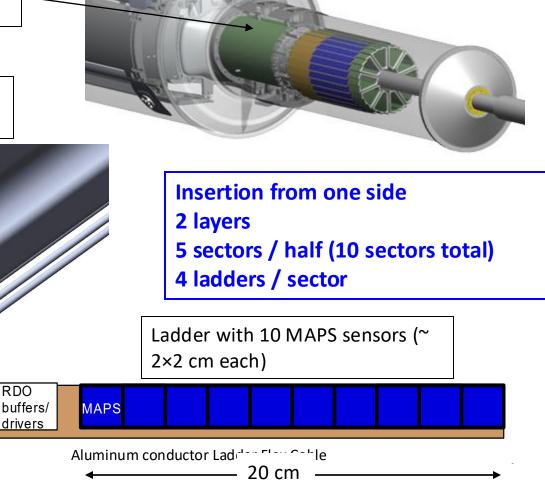
Existing single layer detector, double side strips (electronic upgrade)

<u>IST</u> One layer of silicon strips along the beam direction $(r-\phi)$, guiding tracks from the SSD to PIXEL detector.

PXL Detector Mechanical Design

Mechanical support with kinematic mounts (insertion side)

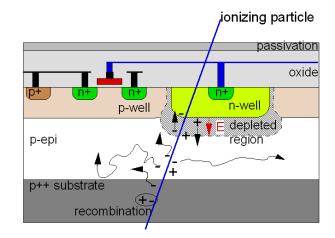
carbon fibre sector tubes ($\sim 200 \mu m$ thick)

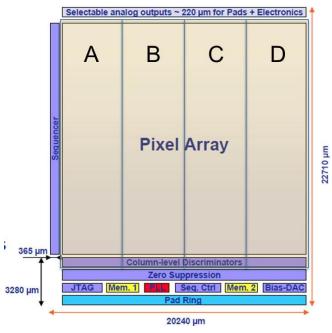


PXL Sensor

Monolithic Active Pixel Sensor technology *Ultimate-2:* third generation sensor developed for the PXL detector by the PICSEL group of IPHC, Strasbourg

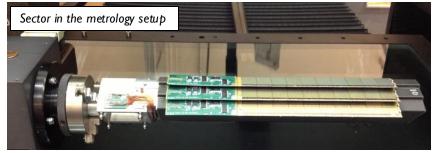
- High resistivity p-epi layer
 - Reduced charge collection time
 - Improved radiation hardness
 - 20 to 90 kRad / year 2*10¹¹ to 10¹² 1MeV n eq/cm²
- S/N ~ 30
- MIP Signal ~ 1000 e⁻¹
- 928 rows * 960 columns = ~1M pixel
- Rolling-shutter readout
 - connects row by row to end-of-column discriminators
 - 185.6 μs integration time
 - ~170 mW/cm² power dissipation
- Configurable via JTAG
- 2 LVDS data outputs @ 160 MHz

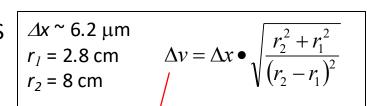




PXL Hit Position Resolution

- *Ultimate-2* sensor geometry
 - pixel size: 20.7 μm X 20.7 μm ~6 μm geometrical resolution
 - 3-pixel av. cluster size ~3.7 μm resolution on center-of-mass
- Position stability
 - Vibration at air cooling full flow: ~5 μm RMS
 - Stable displacement at full air flow: ~30 μm
 - Stable displacement at power on: ~5 μm
- Global hit resolution: $\Delta x \sim 6.2 \mu m$



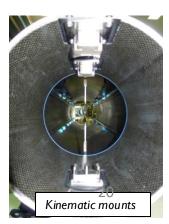


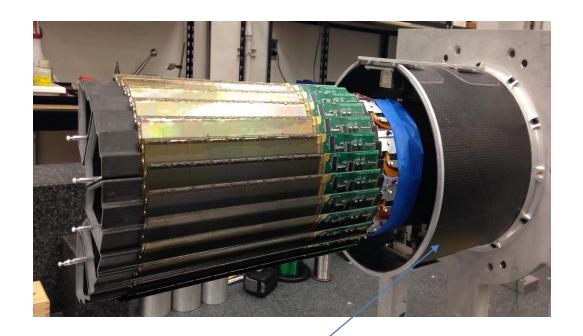
HFT DCA pointing resolution:

- (10⊕ 24/p) µm
- Metrology survey
 - 3D pixel positions fully mapped and related to kinematic mounts

- Novel insertion approach
 - Inserted along rails and locked into a kinematic mount inside the support structure
 - Capability to fully replace PXL within 12 hour





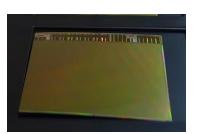


duplicate, truncated PXL support tube with kinematic mounts

- After assembling sectors in a half shell sector tooling balls measured with touch probe relative to kinematic mount coordinate frame
- Since the shells are supported the same way in the CMM and in the STAR installation the relative pixel position mapping is not disturbed

PXL Material Budget

- Thinned Sensor
 - 50 μ m
 - 0.068% X_0
- Flex Cable
 - Aluminum-Kapton
 - two 32 μm-thick Al layers
 - 0.128% X_0
 - Copper version \rightarrow 0.232%



- Curved sensor
- ▶ 40-60% yield after thinning, dicing and probe testing



- Carbon fiber supports
 - 125 μm stiffener
 - 250 μm sector tube
 - 0.193% X_0

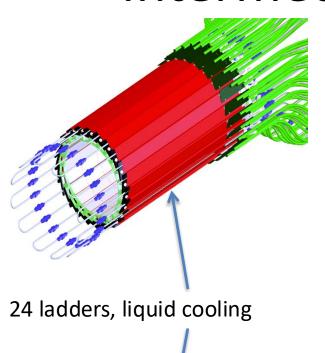


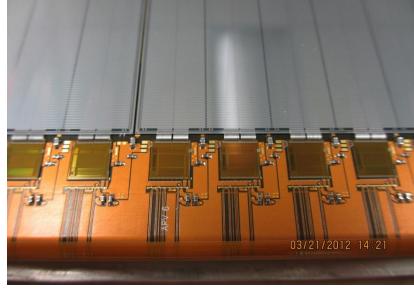
- Cooling
 - Air cooling: negligible contribution
 - Total material budget on inner layer: 0.388% X₀

 $(0.492\% X_0 \text{ for the Cu conductor version})$

HFT DCA pointing resolution: $(10 \oplus 24/p) \mu m$

Intermediate Si Tracker





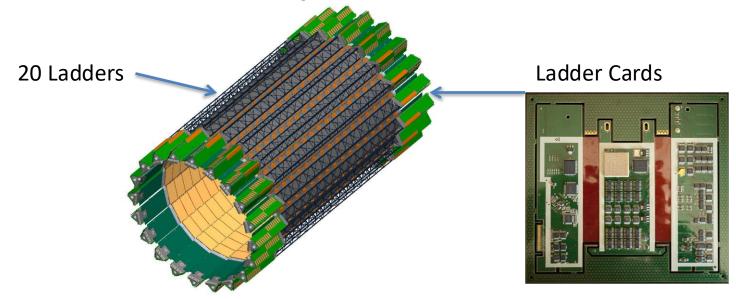
Details of wire bonding

Prototype Ladder

S:N > 20:1

>99.9% live and functioning channels

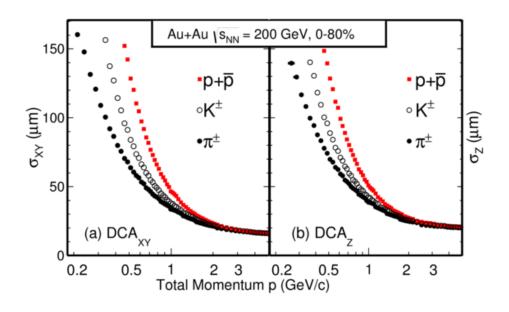
Silicon Strip Detector (SSD)

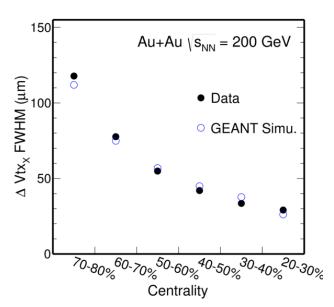


- The ladders and Si-sensors was from existing detector
- Upgrade readout system with new ladder cards on detector, RDO cards, and cooling system

HFT performance

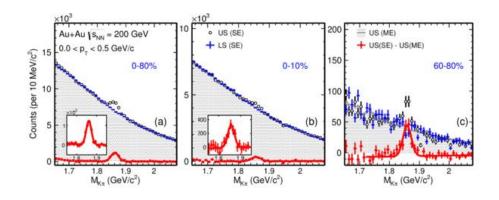
- Pointing resolution was determined in Au+Au collisions at 200 GeV in transverse plane and longitudinal. Measurements are in agreement with expectations.
- Important also to take into account the vertex resolution vs. centrality, particular for the most peripheral collisions

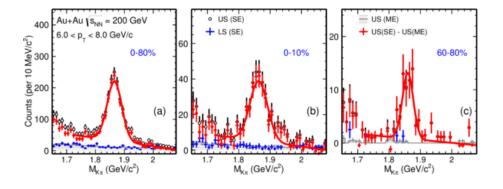




D⁰ spectra

- We have achieved very good significance for D⁰
- Low p_T is difficult due to the pileup and miss matched hit points





Physics of the Heavy Flavor Tracker at STAR

- Direct HF hadron measurements (p+p and Au+Au)
 - (1) Heavy-quark cross sections: $D^{0\pm*}$, D_S , Λ_C , B, ...
 - (2) Both spectra (R_{AA} , R_{CP}) and v_2 in a wide p_T region: 0.5 10 GeV/c
 - (3) Charm hadron correlation functions, heavy flavor jets
 - (4) Full spectrum of the heavy quark hadron decay electrons
- Physics
 - (1) Measure heavy-quark hadron v_2 , heavy-quark collectivity, to study the medium properties e.g. light-quark thermalization
 - (2) Measure heavy-quark energy loss to study pQCD in hot/dense medium e.g. energy loss mechanism
 - (3) Analyze hadro-chemistry including heavy flavors

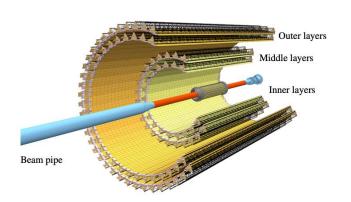
Timeline

- R&D 2003- LBL with IHPC, Strasbourg for MAPS sensors
- 2008 Project start; 2010-2014 construction
- 2013 Commissioning run
- 2014-16 Physics
 - 14: AuAu
 - -15: pp
 - 16: AuAu dAu
- 2017 Removed from STAR and in storage
- 2014-2023 Physics analysis and papers

Next Generation MAPS

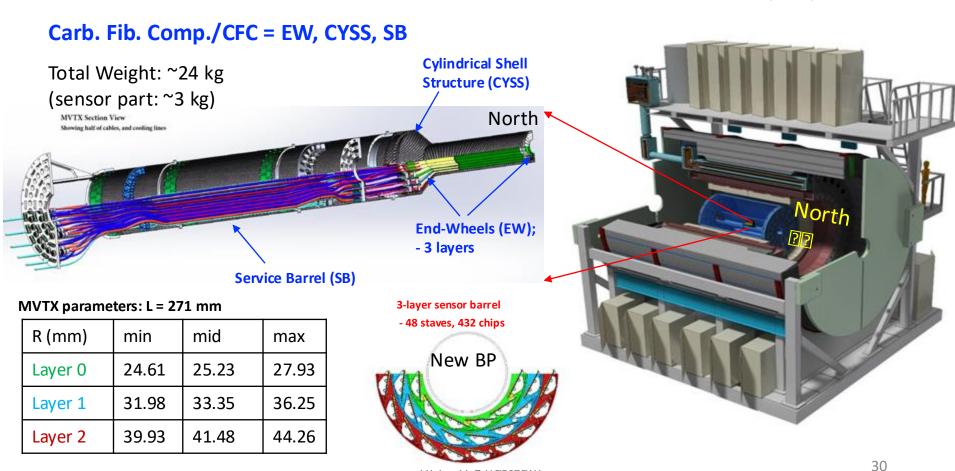
- For the upgrade of the ALICE detector in the current RUN-3 at LHC, the collaboration developed a next generation MAPS sensors
 - Faster readout time (~5 micro sec)
 - Better radiation hardness
 - Pixels size 30*30 micron

See e.g. https://arxiv.org/pdf/2111.08301.pdf





MVTX - sPHENIX Inner Most Detector for HF physics



7/11/2025

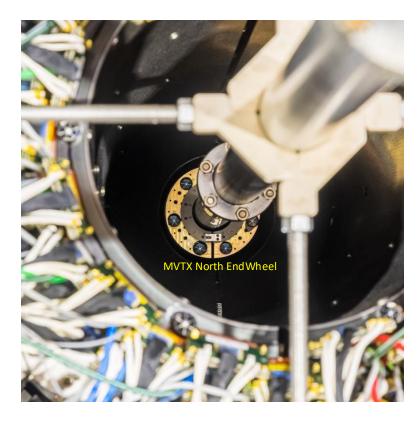
sPHENIX MVTX Photos

Viewed from South right before the installation: One can clearly see the service lines inside the Service Barrel (SB):

Blue: data cable, Green: Cooling air, Red/Black/White: LV power



Viewed from North after installation

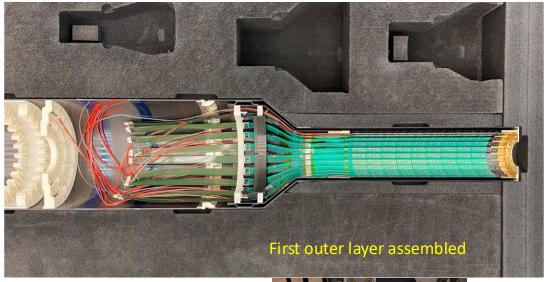




512 rows (~1.5cm) Pixel size: 28 um x 27um

1024 columns (~3cm)











- MAPS detector has matured a lot, and next generations with be used at eRHIC in EPIC detector and at another upgrade to ALICE
- TPC are used at collider experiments and also in neutrino physics experiments

More questions?

ideas to explore

- What are the applications for MAPS in current and planned experiments?
- Radiation damage is important to understand at RHIC, LHC, and space. How are this being investigated?
- Where does radiation have a positive impact?
- Where has Nuclear Physics impacted society with inventions and applications?

Info on PXL detector mechanics and construction

- NIM Article
 - -arXiv 1710.02176
 - -NIM A97(2018) 60
- Howard Wieman
 - -HFT PXL mechanics
 - Forum on Tracking Detector Mechanics
 - 30 June-2 July 2014 at DESY, Hamburg
 - https://indico.cern.ch/event/287285/contributions/1640694/attachments/534386/736809/PXL_mechanics.pdf



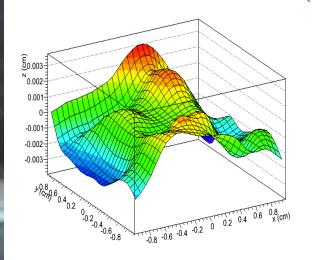
Spatial mapping of the pixels

Pixel locations determined with CMM equipment to within 10 μm prior to installation in STAR

Programmed CMM Measurement method#:

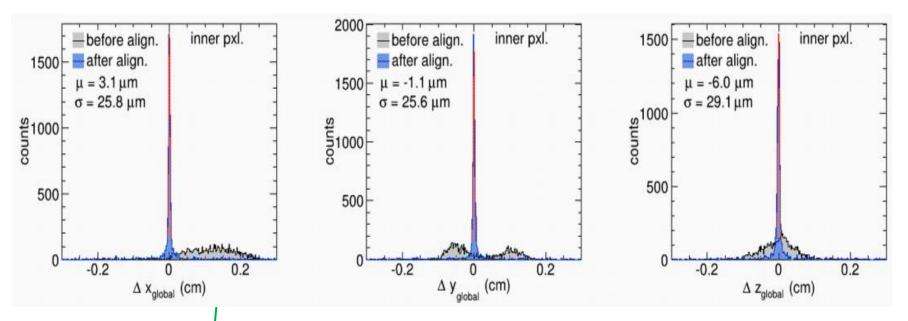
- All pixels located on a sector with respect to 3 sector tooling balls
 - 2 Lithography points on the chips measured with optical head
 - Chip surface profile measured with 11 x 11 point pattern using a Feather Probe*. Using a touch probe permits picking up over hung surfaces

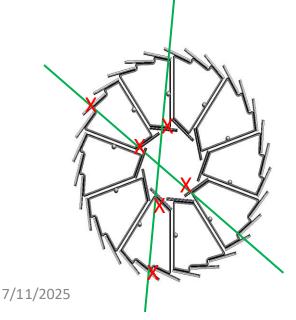
PXL sensor surface profile from survey: \pm 30 μ m > PXL hit error. and the chip to chip surface deviation along the ladder surface is still larger, but all of this is then corrected with the spatial map Parametriuzed by 5*5 spline fct



Full sector measurement takes ~ 8 hours

Final operating pointing performance in STAR





Cosmic ray result

Excellent half to half pointing, sub 30 μm But after half to half alignment which was required to correct poor reproducibility of kinematic mount seating

Check alignment with very low luminosity

AuAu also

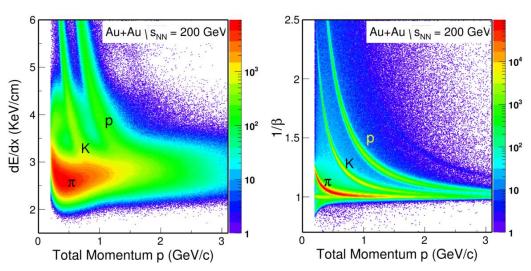
HFT - TPC nusteam

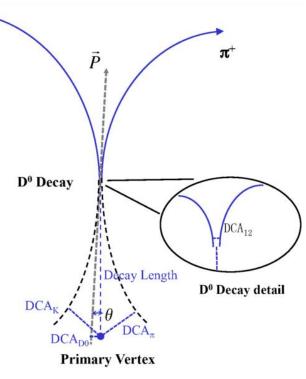
D⁰ reconstruction

K-

 Use topological variables

Use particle ID





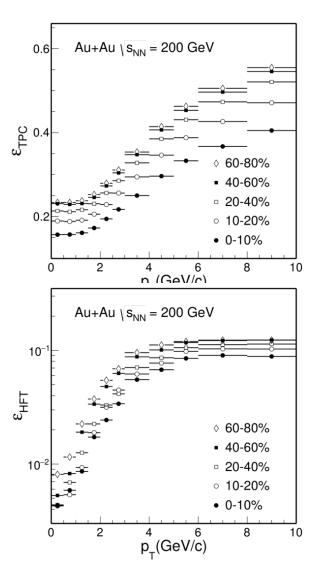
Grid Leak Walls checked



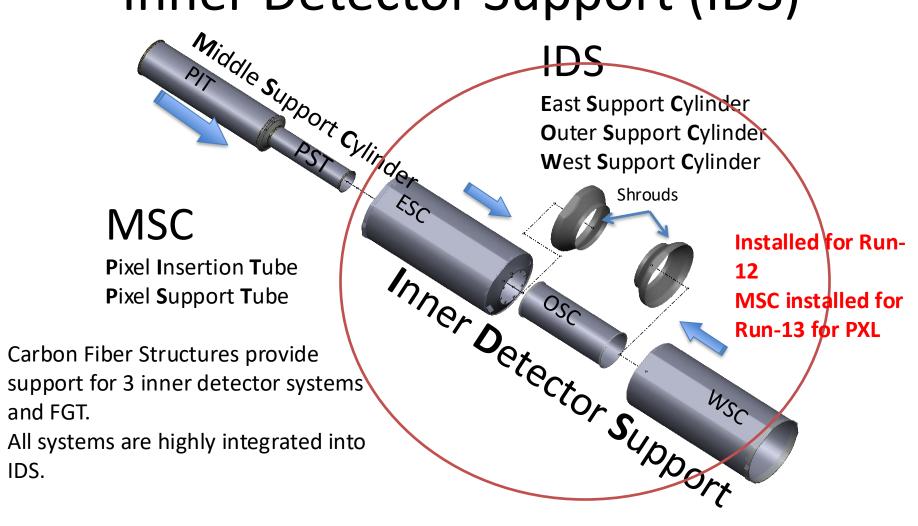
- The narrow end uses a simple brass wall to terminate the array of wires
 - Ground Potential
 - No bias required
 - Anode wires > 10 mm away
- The wide end uses a G10 PCB board to terminate the array
 - Inside wall is grounded to the strongback.
 - Anode wires > 10 mm away
 - Outside wall is used to suck ions off the Anode wires of the outer sector
 - No shield wall on outer
 - So requires ~750 volts (DC) to suck ions across the gap
 - Outer Sector Anode wires > 2 cm away
 - 3 Pads & 3 voltages (-115 V, ~750 V & ground)

Some words on efficiency

- We have applied two methods to evaluate efficiencies
- Fast simulation data driven to replicate multi dimensional basic observables
- Geant embedding with displaced geometries
- Methods agrees well

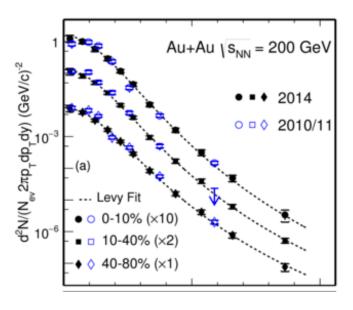


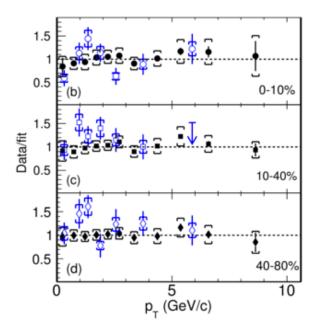
Inner Detector Support (IDS)



D⁰ spectra

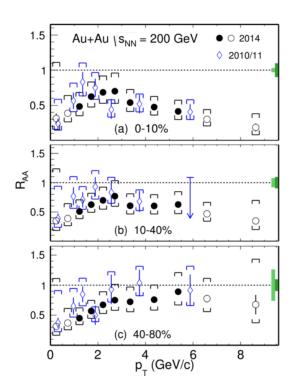
- Precise measurements extends to low p_T and non-central collisions. Data from 2014
- Results consistent with 2010/11 TPC only analysis
- Data from submitted paper: arXiv 1812.10224

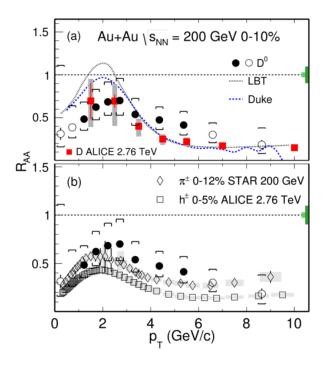




$D^0 R_{AA}$

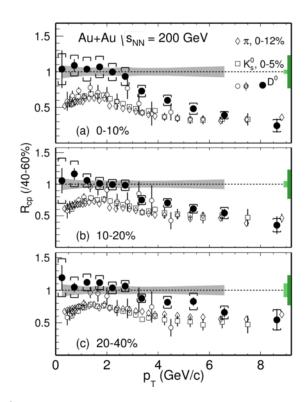
- $R_{AA} < 1$ for 0-10% for all p_T
- Suppression at high p_T increases for more central collisions
- Same trends as at LHC and for light mesons

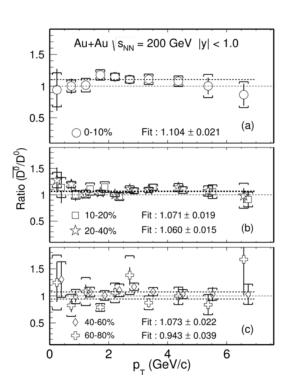




$D^0 R_{CP}$

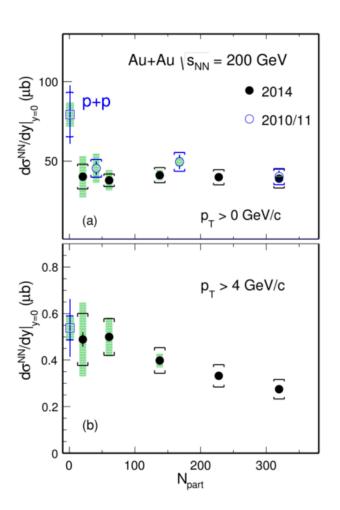
- Significant suppression at high p_T
- Matches theoretical calculations
- D⁰-bar/D⁰ slightly greater than one
 - Possible due to slight baryon asymmetry at RHIC





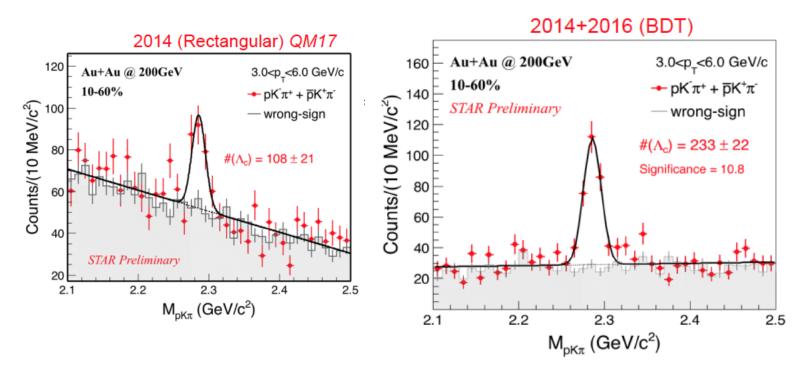
D⁰ cross section

 Total D⁰ cross section is nearly independent of centrality, and smaller than in p+p. For $p_T > 4$ GeV/c it decreases with centrality



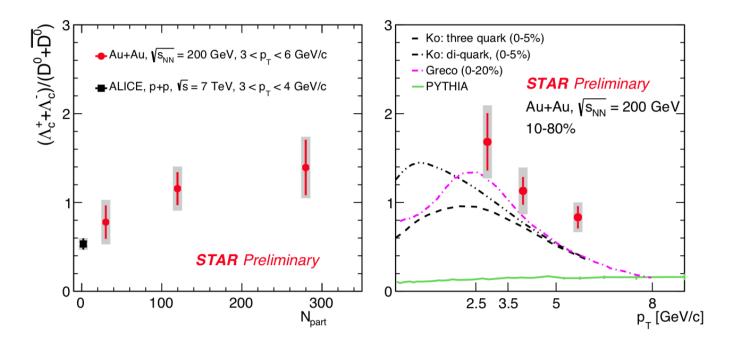
Λ_c reconstruction

- More than 50% improvement in signal significance with TMVA methods
- Includes 2016 dataset



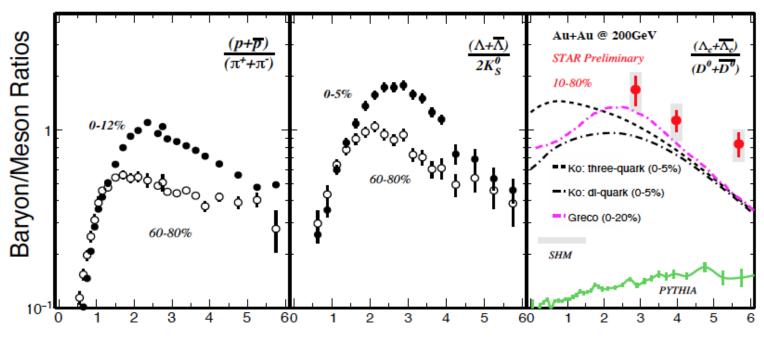
Λ_c/D^0 centrality dependence

- Λ_c enhancement increases towards more central Au+Au collisions
- Large contribution to total charm cross sections in HI



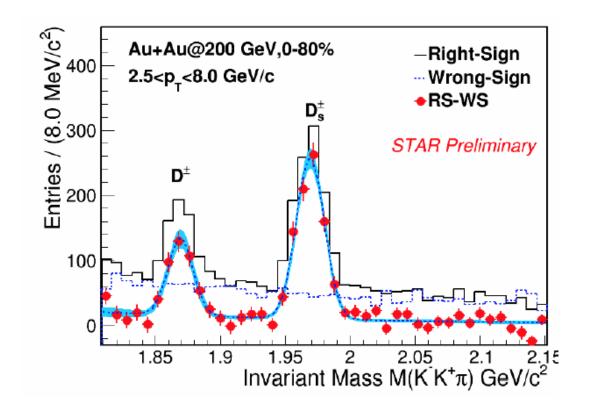
Λ_c/D^0 p_T dependence

- Significant enhancement of Λ_c/D^0 compared to p+p.
- Comparable with light flavor B-to-M ratios
- Consistent with charm quark hadronization via coalescence



Strange Charmed quarks

- □ Reconstruct D_s^{\pm} via $D_s^{\pm} \rightarrow \phi(1020) + \pi^{\pm} \rightarrow K^+K^-\pi^{\pm}$ decay channel
- □ Reconstruct D[±] via D[±] $\rightarrow \phi(1020) + \pi^{\pm} \rightarrow K^{+}K^{-}\pi^{\pm}$ decay channel



Total charm cross section

- D^0 yields measured down to $p_T=0$ GeV/c
- For D⁺⁻, D_s Levy fits to measured spectra for extrapolation
- For Λ_c three model fits to data are used and included in systematics

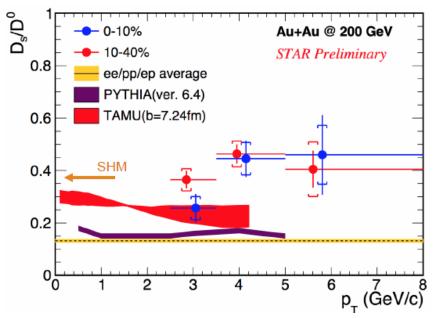
Charm Hadron		Cross Section dσ/dy (μb)
AuAu 200 GeV (10-40%)	D^0	41 ± 1 ± 5
	$D^{^{+}}$	18 ± 1 ± 3
	D_s^+	15 ± 1 ± 5
	Λ_c^+	78 ± 13 ± 28 *
	Total	152 ± 13 ± 29
pp 200 GeV	Total	130 ± 30 ± 26

^{*} derived using Λ_c^+/D^0 ratio in 10-80%

Total charm cross section is consistent with p+p values Redistributed on meson and baryons

D_s, D⁰ enhancement

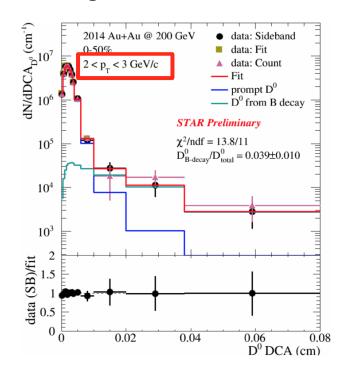
- Strong enhancement of D_s/D⁰ observed in central A+A w.r.t fragmentation baseline
- ->Strangeness enhancement and coalescence
- Enhancement larger than model, particular at high p_⊤

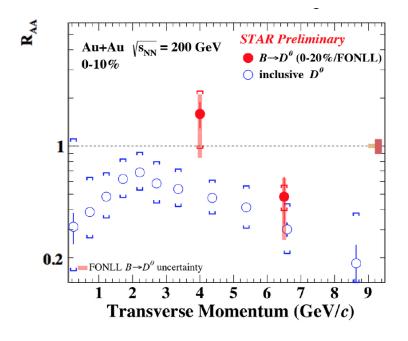


ep/pp/ep avg: M Lisovyi, et. al. EPJ C 76, 397 (2016) TAMU: H. Min et al. PRL 110, 112301 (2013) SHM: A. Andronic et al., PLB 571 (2003) 36

Non prompt D⁰, B-decay

- Strong interaction of charm with the medium.
- What about bottom?
- R_{AA} of non-prompt D⁰ extracted.
- Improved signal significance using BDT
- Will get results form combined data set

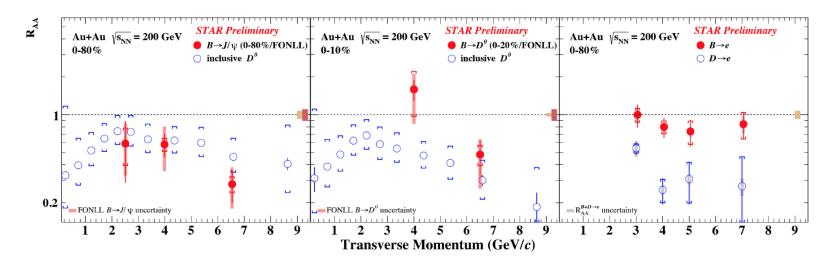




B study from different channels

Strong suppression for $B \rightarrow J/\psi$ and D^0 at high p_T . Indication of less suppression for $B \rightarrow e$ than $D \rightarrow e$ (~2 σ): consistent with $\Delta E_c > \Delta E_b$

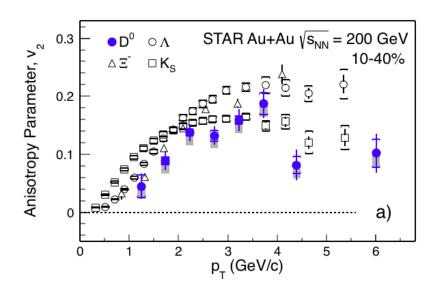
Measurements with improved precision are on the way

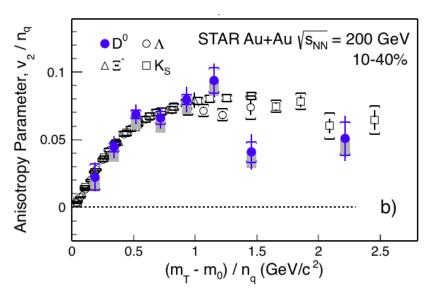


Note: R_{AA} references (data vs. theory) are different for these comparisons. The decay kinematics needs to be unfolded for different channels.

D⁰ Elliptic Flow

- Published D⁰ v₂ from 2014 dataset
- Clear mass ordering for $p_T < 2 \text{ GeV/c}$
- Follows NCQ scaling in mid-central (10-40%) collisions

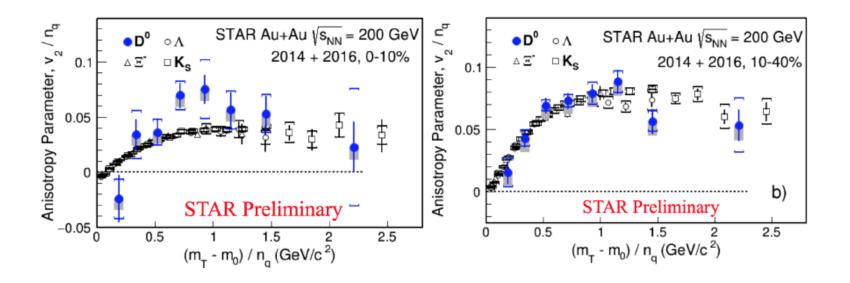




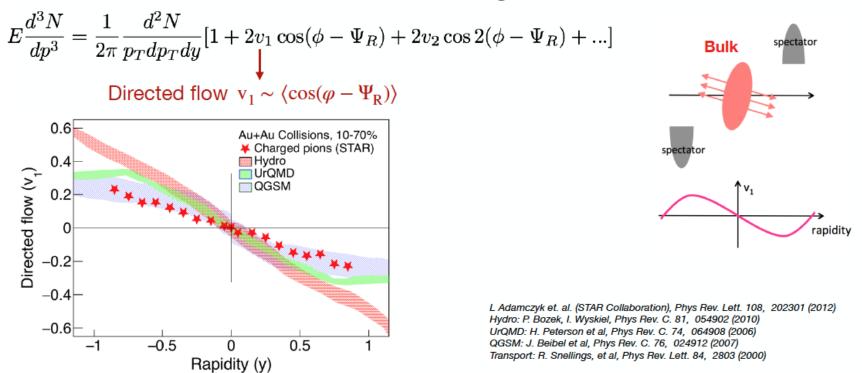
Phys.Rev.Lett 118, 212301 (2017)

D⁰ Elliptic Flow

- $D^0 v_2$ measurements extended to 0-10% centrality with combined 2014 and 2016 data set
- Significant flow observed



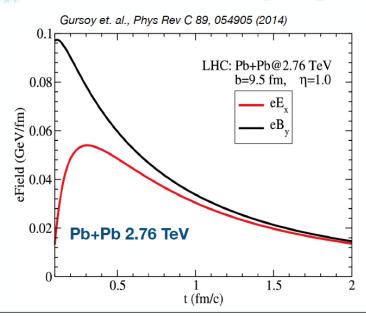
Directed flow in heavy-ion collisions

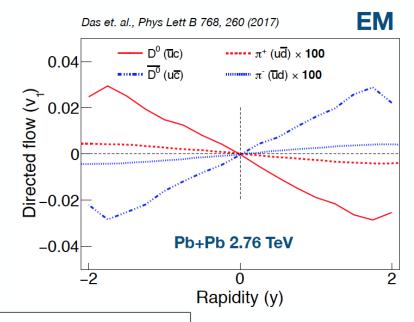


- Charged pions exhibit negative v₁ slope ("anti-flow") near mid-rapidity
- Models with hadronic physics or with baryon stopping and space momentum correlation can qualitatively explain "anti-flow" shape
- In hydro calculations with initially tilted bulk, the "anti-flow" shape is reproduced
- However, the sensitivity of the charged particle v₁(y) to the tilt parameter is not very strong

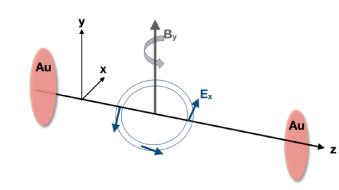
STAR

Heavy quark v₁ from EM field



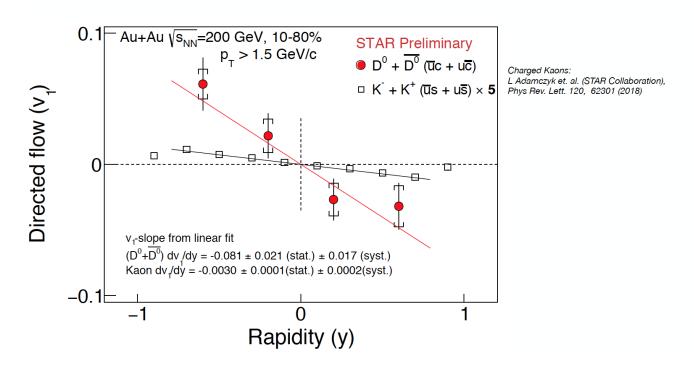


- Incoming charged particles can produce an enormously large EM field
- Due to early production of heavy quarks (τ_{CQ}~0.1 fm/c), positive and negative charm quarks can get deflected by the initial EM force
- Model calculation demonstrates that such initial EM field can induce opposite v₁ for charm and anti-charm quarks
- The magnitude of induced v₁ of charm hadrons can be order of magnitude larger than that of the light flavor hadrons



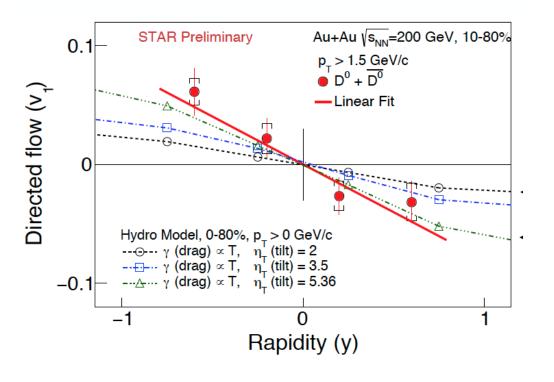
 D^0 and $\overline{D}{}^0$ v_1 can offer insight into the early time EM fields

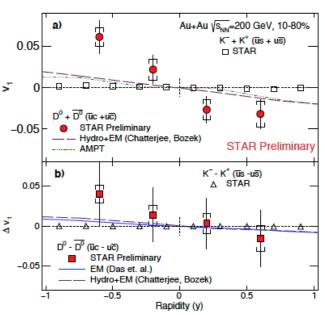
D^0 directed flow (v_1)



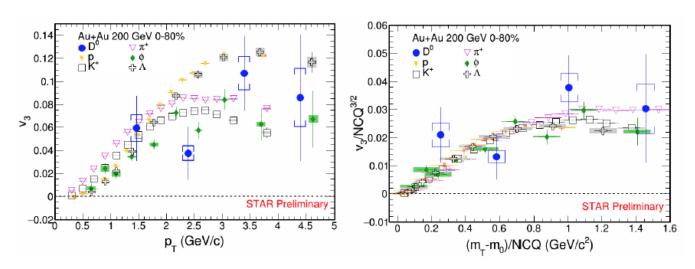
First evidence for non-zero v1 for D's

Much larger than K+-K
May imply effect of strong EM fields in collision system





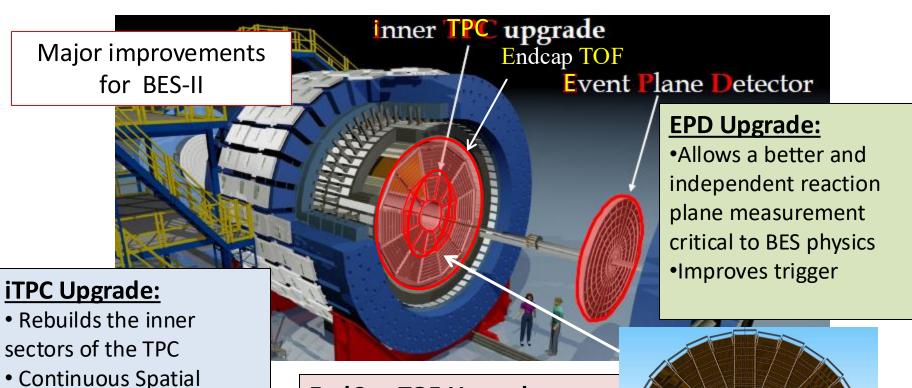
- ☐ First D⁰ v₃ measurement at STAR
- ☐ Large non-zero D⁰ v₃
 - → Strong collective behavior
- Consistent with the NCQ scaling (empirical m_T scaling)
 - → Charm quarks may have acquired similar flow as light quarks
- Need more statistics to draw a solid conclusion



Summary

- The HFT upgrade was overall successfully and has hopefully lead the way for future high resolution vertex detectors (ALICE ITS, sPHENIX, EIC)
- Strong Modification of charm hadron spectra and hadro chemistry in AA collisions as witnessed by the different observations
 - Total charm cross section is conserved.
 - Substantial energy loss , coalescence
 - Gain significant flow & may have achieved thermal equilibrium in medium (v_2)
 - Observed non-zero directed flow
- Indication for suppression at high p_T for B->D⁰,... measurements
- Thanks to the many STAR collaborators that has worked on HFT construction and analysis over the years

The STAR Upgrades and BES Phase II



EndCap TOF Upgrade:

Coverage • PID at $\eta = 1.1$ to 1.5 • Improves dE/dx Provided by CBM-FAIR Phase-• Extends η coverage from 1.0 to 1.5 • Lowers p_T cut-in from 125 MeV/c to 60 MeV/c

All detectors now in place for BES II

