

# Spin Physics with Photon Beams

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For the A2@MAMI collaboration  
(Mainz-Germany)



## SUMMARY

➤ Physics motivations

- { Why (real) Photons ? Why Spin ?  
↓  
**Study of the nucleon internal structure**
- Determination of the  $N^*$  properties  $\gamma N \rightarrow N\pi, N\eta, N\pi\pi, \dots$
  - Determination of the proton polarizabilities  $\gamma N \rightarrow \gamma' N$

➤ Experimental set up (A2 tagged photon facility)

➤ Selected Results

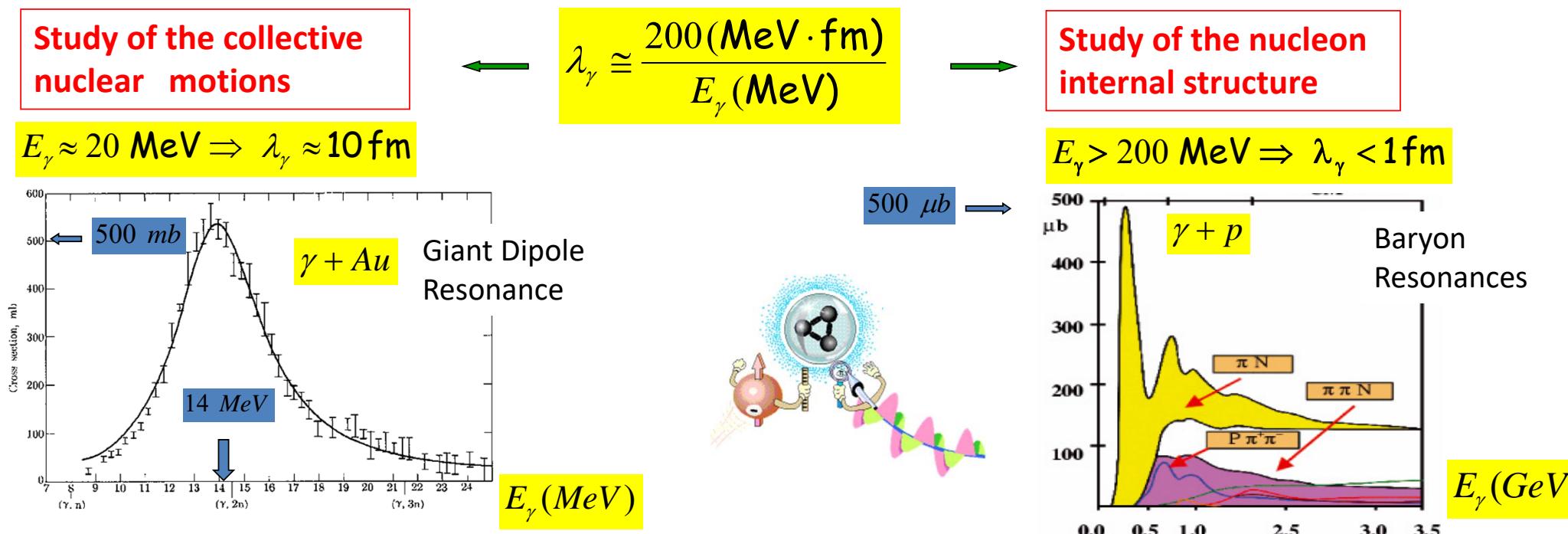
$$\vec{\gamma} \vec{p}(\vec{n}) \rightarrow \begin{cases} \pi N (\eta N) \\ \gamma' N \end{cases}$$

➤ Outlook

## Why photons ?

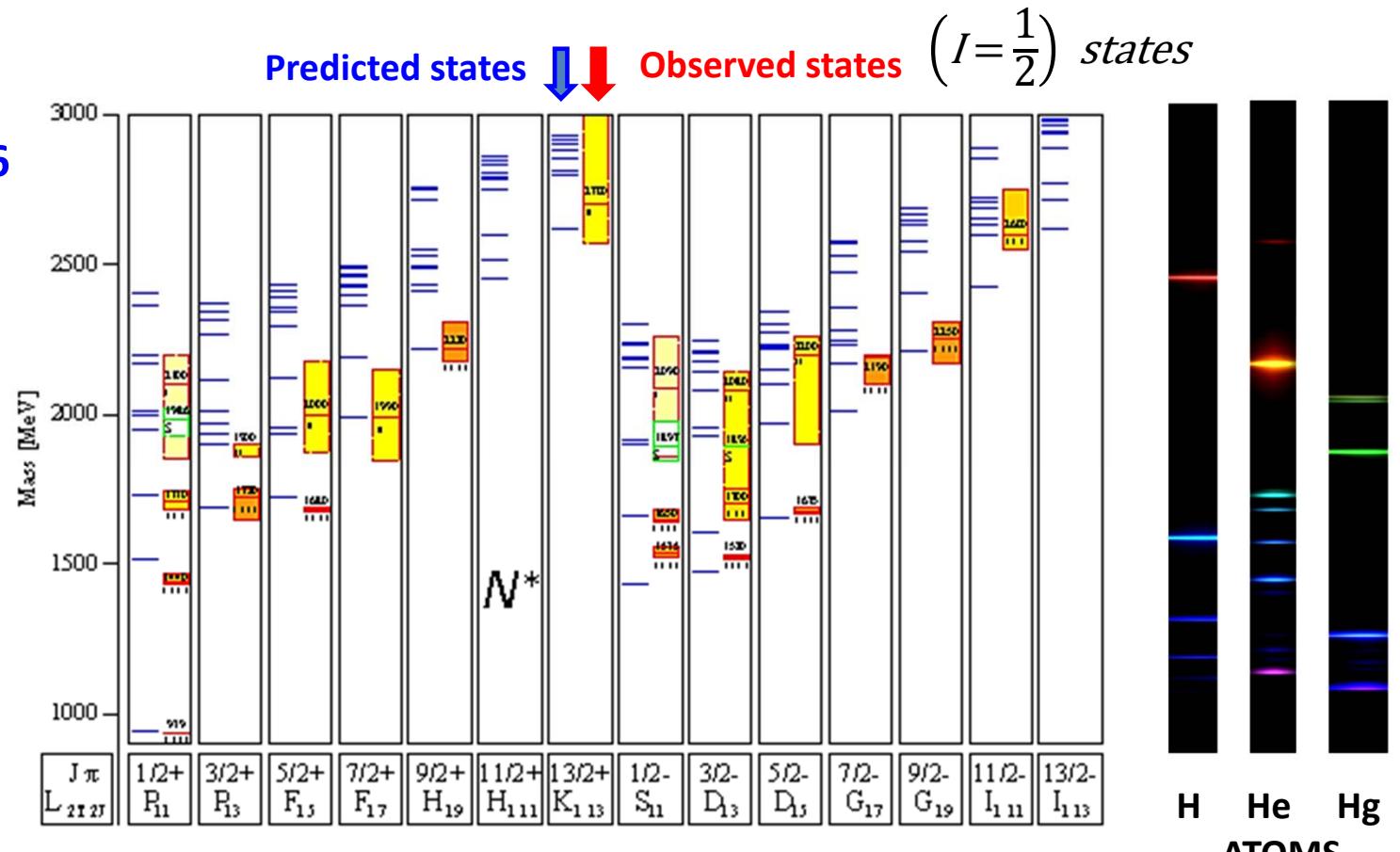
One powerful way of experimentally investigating the strongly interacting particles (**hadrons**) is to look at them, to probe them with a known particle, in particular the photon (no other is known as well)  
*(R.P.Feynman)*

The hadronic structure is explored with a resolution depending of the photon energy (wave length)



## How well do we understand the nucleon excitation spectrum ?

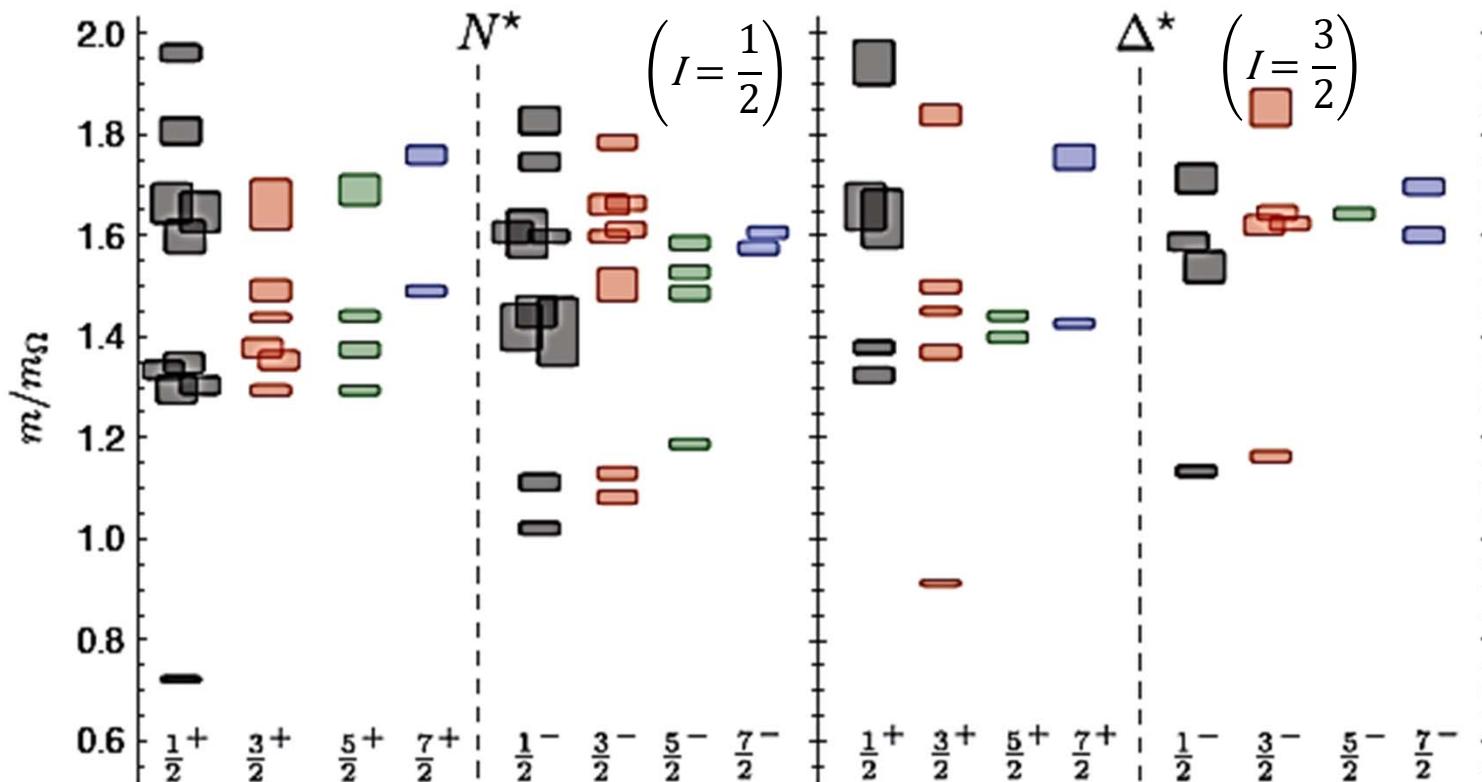
- many more resonances expected in quark models (all based on SU6 symmetry) or lattice QCD than seen experimentally
- What are the relevant degrees of freedom ?
- Most resonances observed in  $\pi N$  scattering but some resonances might not couple to  $\pi N$



CQM: U. Loering et al, EPJA 10, 395 (2001)

## A Lattice QCD model

Edwards et al, PRD 84 074508 (2011)



- Results for  $m_\pi = 396$  MeV
- State-of-the art methods still yield a (too) large number of states

## Why spin ?



Spin states	$\pm 1$	$\pm 1/2$	$0$	$\pm 1/2$
DoF	$2$	$x$	$2$	$x$

**8 matrix elements needed describe the scattering amplitude**

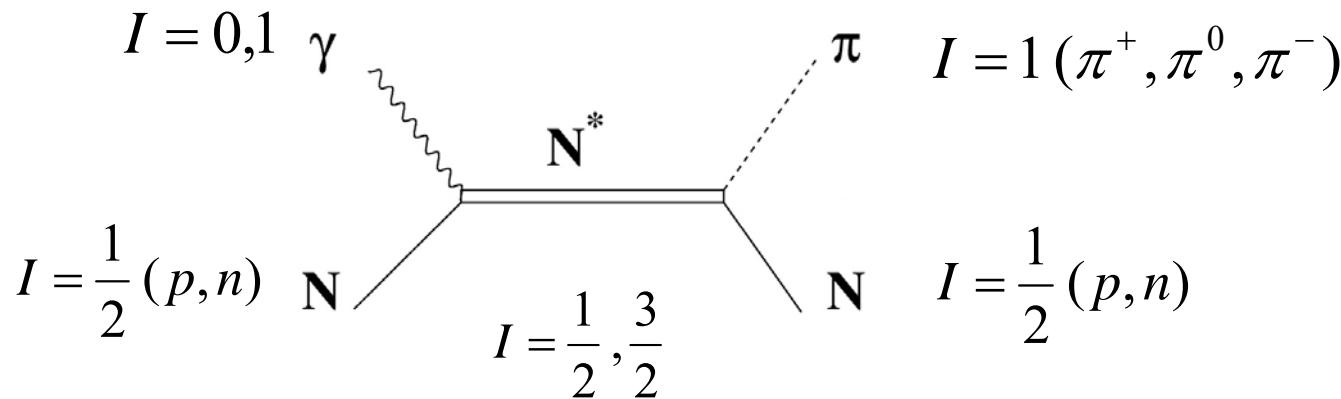
➤ Parity conservation  $\Rightarrow$  only 4 complex amplitudes are independent ( $F_1 \dots F_4$  CGLN amplitudes)

➤ 16 independent observables (at least 8 -well chosen-to be measured)

1 unpolarized observable    3 single polarization observables    12 double polarization observables

Photon polarization	Target polarization			Recoil nucleon polarization	Target and Recoil polarizations						
	X	Y	Z <sub>(beam)</sub>	X'	Y'	Z'	X'	X'	Z'	Z'	
							X	Z	X	Z	
unpolarized linear Circular	$\sigma$	-	T	-	-	P	-	$T_x$	$L_x$	$T_z$	$L_z$
	$\Sigma$	H	(-P)	G	$O_x$	(-T)	$O_x$	$(-L_z)$	$(T_z)$	$(L_x)$	$(-T_x)$
	-	F	-	E	$C_x$	-	$C_z$	-	-	-	-

## An additional complication: Isospin



✓  $N^*$  resonances are in states of definite isospin

**Empirical rule**

✓  $\pi N$  (strong) interaction conserves isospin but e.m. interactions do not conserve isospin

$$|\Delta I| \leq 1$$

$A^0$  isoscalar transition to  $I = 1/2$  and  $\Delta I = 0$

$A^{1/2}$  isovector transition to  $I = 1/2$  and  $|\Delta I| = 1$

$A^{3/2}$  isovector transition to  $I = 3/2$  and  $|\Delta I| = 1$

(at least) 3 different reactions have to be measured  $\Rightarrow$  experiments both on proton and neutron needed (no free neutron target)

$$A(\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^+ n) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} A^0 + \frac{1}{3} \sqrt{2} A^{1/2} - \frac{1}{3} \sqrt{2} A^{3/2}$$

$$A(\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^0 p) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} A^0 + \frac{1}{3} A^{1/2} + \frac{2}{3} A^{3/2}$$

$$A(\gamma n \rightarrow \pi^- p) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} A^0 - \frac{1}{3} \sqrt{2} A^{1/2} + \frac{1}{3} \sqrt{2} A^{3/2}$$

$$A(\gamma n \rightarrow \pi^0 n) = -\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} A^0 + \frac{1}{3} A^{1/2} + \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{2} A^{3/2}$$

## ► Partial Wave Analysis ( $l$ = pion angular momentum)

$$F_1 = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left( l M_{l+} + E_{l+} \right) P_{l+1}^{'\phantom{+}} + \left[ (l+1) M_{l-} + E_{l-} \right] P_{l-1}^{'\phantom{+}}$$

↓

multipoles

$$\sigma = |E_{0+}|^2 + |M_{1-}|^2 + 6|M_{1+}|^2 + 2|M_{1+}|^2 + \dots$$

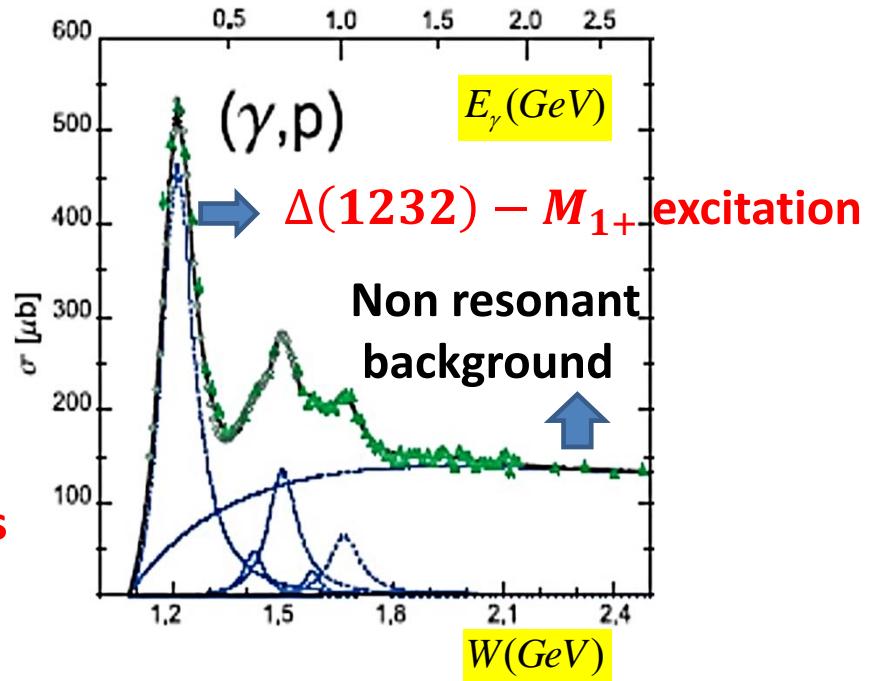
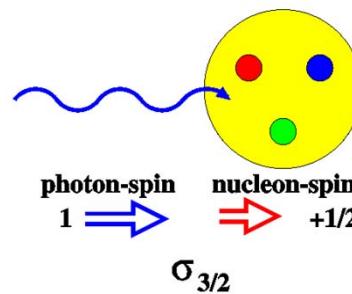
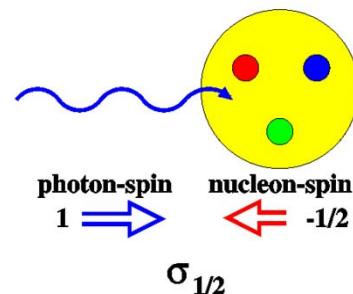
→

$$E = |E_{0+}|^2 + 3|E_{1+}|^2 - |M_{1+}|^2 + 6E_{1+}^* M_{1+} + \dots$$

Change of sign and interference terms between multipoles

**E Asymmetry**

$$E = \frac{\sigma_{1/2} - \sigma_{3/2}}{\sigma_{1/2} + \sigma_{3/2}} = \frac{\sigma_{1/2} - \sigma_{3/2}}{2 \cdot \sigma_{unpolarized}}$$



Absorption of circularly polarized photons by longitudinally polarized nucleons

## Why spin ?



**Spin states**     $\pm 1$     $\pm 1/2$                    $0$     $\pm 1/2$

**DoF**               $2 \times 2$                           $x 2$

**8 matrix elements needed describe  
the scattering amplitude**

- Parity conservation  $\Rightarrow$  only 4 complex amplitudes are independent ( $F_1 \dots F_4$  CGLN amplitudes)
- 16 independent observables (at least 8 -well chosen-to be measured  $\Rightarrow$  «complete experiment»)

1 unpolarized observable

3 single polarization observables

12 double polarization observables

Photon polarization		Target polarization	Recoil nucleon polarization	Target and Recoil polarizations	
		X    Y    Z <sub>(beam)</sub>	X'    Y'    Z'	X'    X'    Z'    Z' X    Z    X    Z	
unpolarized linear Circular					

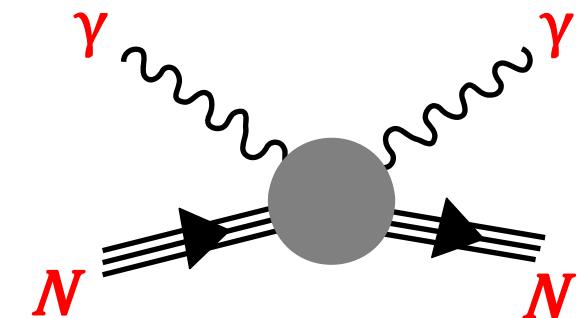
Measured or  
planned at A2



## Real Compton Scattering

Expansion of the Hamiltonian in incident photon energy ( $\omega$ )

- 0th order  $\rightarrow$  charge, mass
  - 1st order  $\rightarrow$  magnetic moment
  - 2nd order  $\rightarrow$  2 scalar polarizabilities (not well known)
- «point-like» nucleon  
(Born terms)



$$H_{eff}^{(2)} = -4\pi \left[ \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{E1} \vec{E}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \beta_{M1} \vec{H}^2 \right]$$

Baldin's sum rule:  $(\alpha_{E1} + \beta_{M1}) \sim$  known

From A2

- 3rd order  $\rightarrow$  4 spin (vector) polarizabilities only one direct measurement P. Martel et al, PRL 114, 112501 (2015)

$$H_{eff}^{(3)} = -4\pi \left[ \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{E1E1} \vec{\sigma} \cdot (\vec{E} \times \dot{\vec{E}}) + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{M1M1} \vec{\sigma} \cdot (\vec{H} \times \dot{\vec{H}}) \\ & - \gamma_{M1E2} E_{ij} \sigma_i H_j + \gamma_{E1M2} H_{ij} \sigma_i E_j \end{aligned} \right]$$

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} E_{ij} &= \frac{1}{2} (\nabla_i E_j + \nabla_j E_i) \\ H_{ij} &= \frac{1}{2} (\nabla_i H_j + \nabla_j H_i) \end{aligned}}$$

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \gamma_0 &= -\gamma_{E1E1} - \gamma_{E1M2} - \gamma_{M1M1} - \gamma_{M1E2} \\ \gamma_\pi &= -\gamma_{E1E1} - \gamma_{E1M2} + \gamma_{M1M1} + \gamma_{M1E2} \end{aligned}}$$

(not well known)

## Spin Polarizabilities: predicted and measured values



	K-mat.	HDPV	DPV	$L_x$	HB $\chi$ PT	B $\chi$ PT	A2 Experiment
$\gamma_{E1E1}$	-4.8	-4.3	-3.8	-3.7	$-1.1 \pm 1.8$ (th)	-3.3	$-3.5 \pm 1.2$
$\gamma_{M1M1}$	3.5	2.9	2.9	2.5	$2.2 \pm 0.5$ (st) $\pm 0.7$ (th)	3.0	$3.16 \pm 0.85$
$\gamma_{E1M2}$	-1.8	-0.02	0.5	1.2	$-0.4 \pm 0.4$ (th)	0.2	$-0.7 \pm 1.2$
$\gamma_{M1E2}$	1.1	2.2	1.6	1.2	$1.9 \pm 0.4$ (th)	1.1	$1.99 \pm 0.29$
$\gamma_0$	2.0	-0.8	-1.1	-1.2	-2.6	-1.0	$-1.01 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.1$
$\gamma_\pi$	11.2	9.4	7.8	6.1	5.6	7.2	$8.0 \pm 1.8$



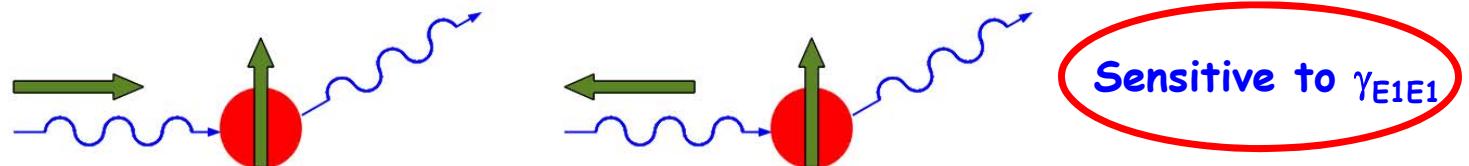
other data

- Spin polarizabilities in units of  $10^{-4}$  fm<sup>4</sup>
- K-matrix: calculation from Kondratyuk et al., Phys. Rev. C 64, 024005 (2001)
- HDPV, DPV: dispersion relation calculations, B.R. Holstein et al., Phys. Rev. C 61, 034316 (2000) and B. Pasquini et al., Phys. Rev. C 76, 015203 (2007), D. Drechsel et al., Phys. Rep. 378, 99 (2003)
- $L_x$  chiral lagrangian calculation, A.M. Gasparyan et al., Nucl. Phys. A 866, 79 (2011)
- HBPT and BPT are heavy baryon and covariant, respectively, chiral perturbation theory calculations, J.A. McGovern et al., Eur. Phys. J. A 49, 12 (2013), V. Lensky et al., Phys. Rev. C 89, 032202 (2014)

## Spin Polarizabilities: how can they be measured ?

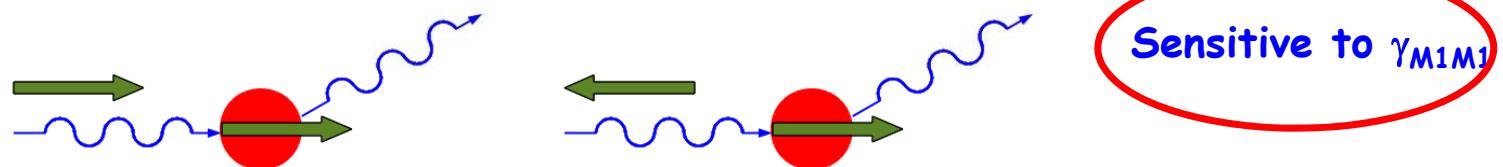
- Circularly polarized photons, transversely polarized protons.

$$\Sigma_{2x} = \frac{N_{+x}^R - N_{+x}^L}{N_{+x}^R + N_{+x}^L}$$



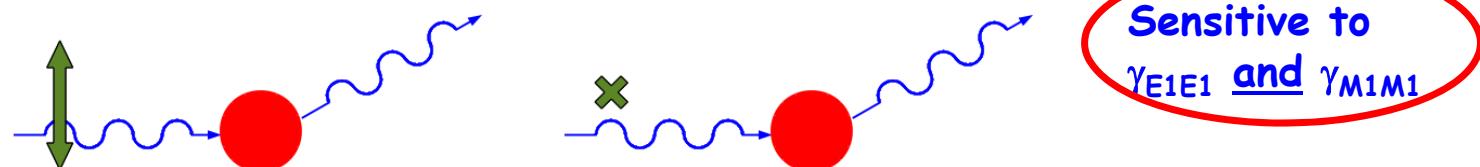
- Circularly polarized photons, longitudinally polarized protons.

$$\Sigma_{2z} = \frac{N_{+z}^R - N_{+z}^L}{N_{+z}^R + N_{+z}^L}$$



- Linearly polarized photons, unpolarized protons.

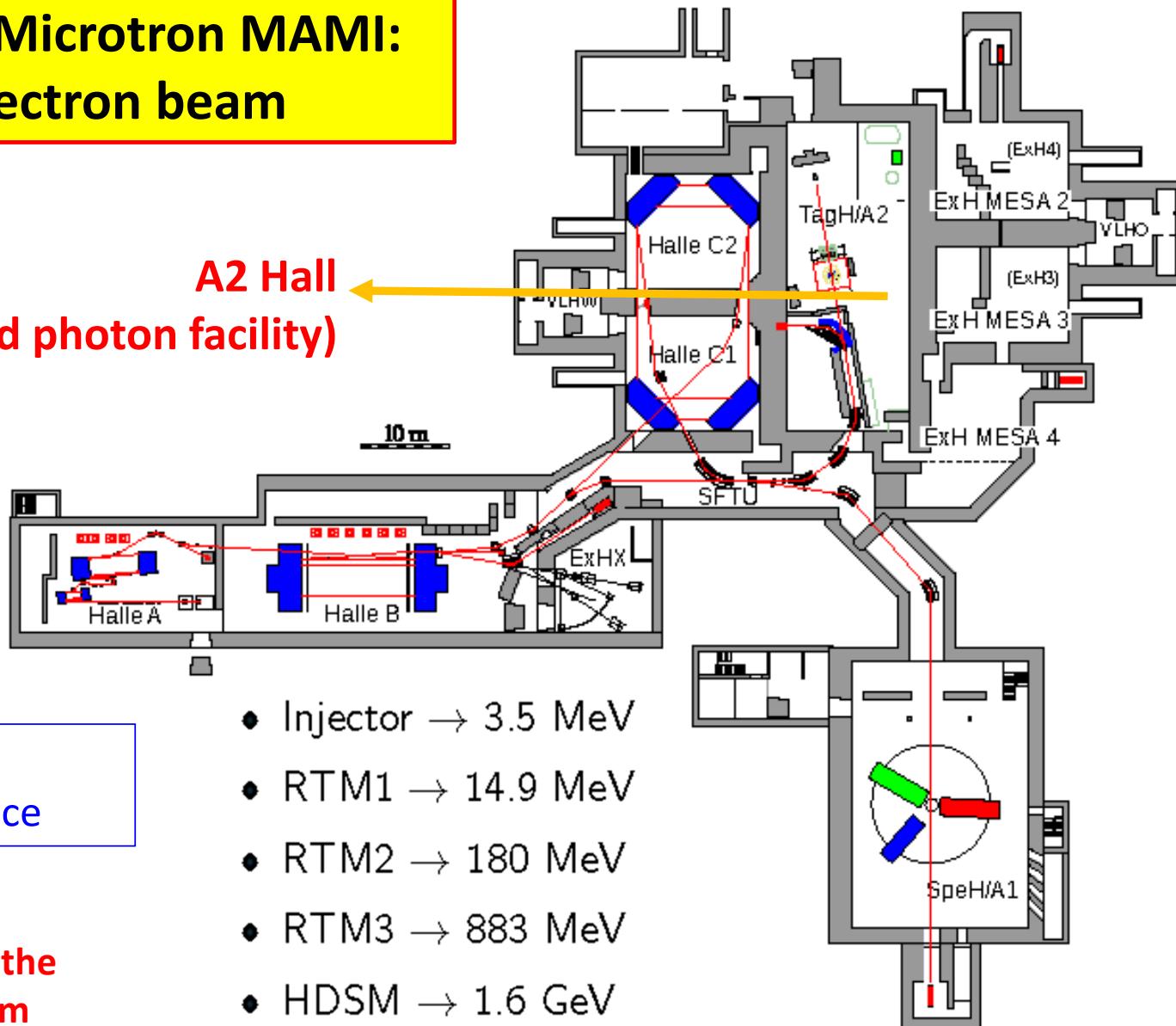
$$\Sigma_3 = \frac{N_{\parallel} - N_{\perp}}{N_{\parallel} + N_{\perp}}$$



## Experimental Set up

## Mainz Microtron MAMI: electron beam

A2 Hall  
(Tagged photon facility)

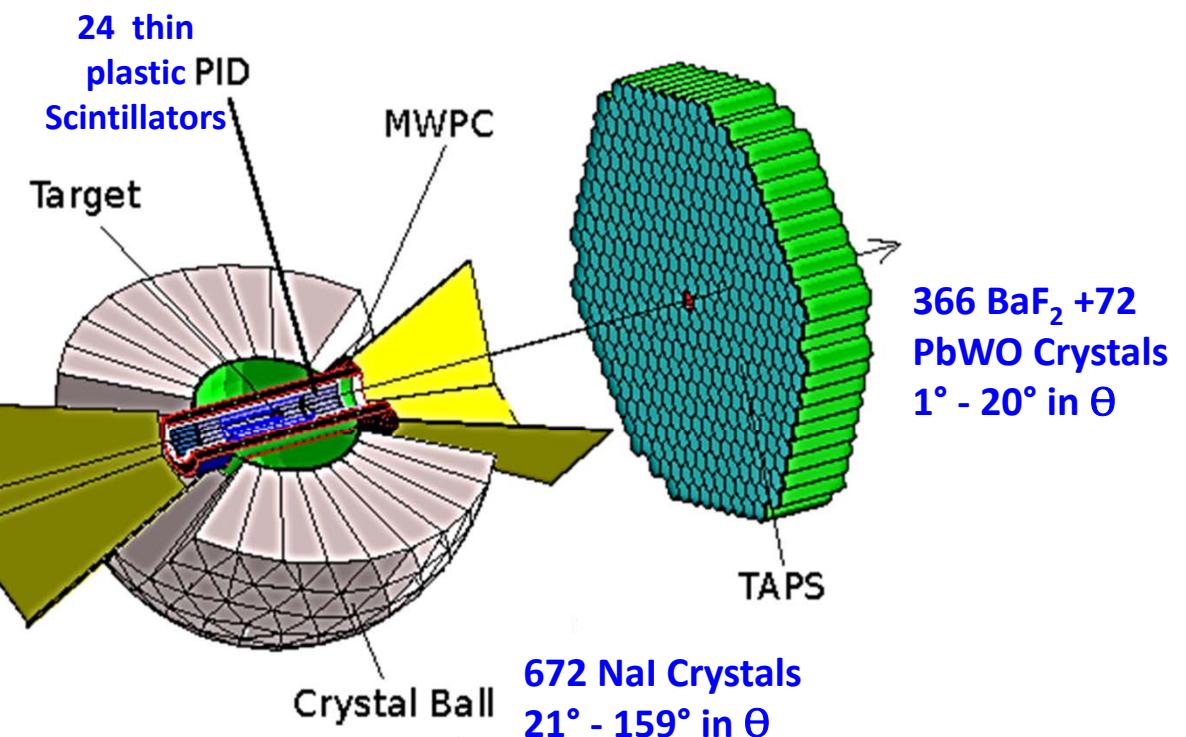
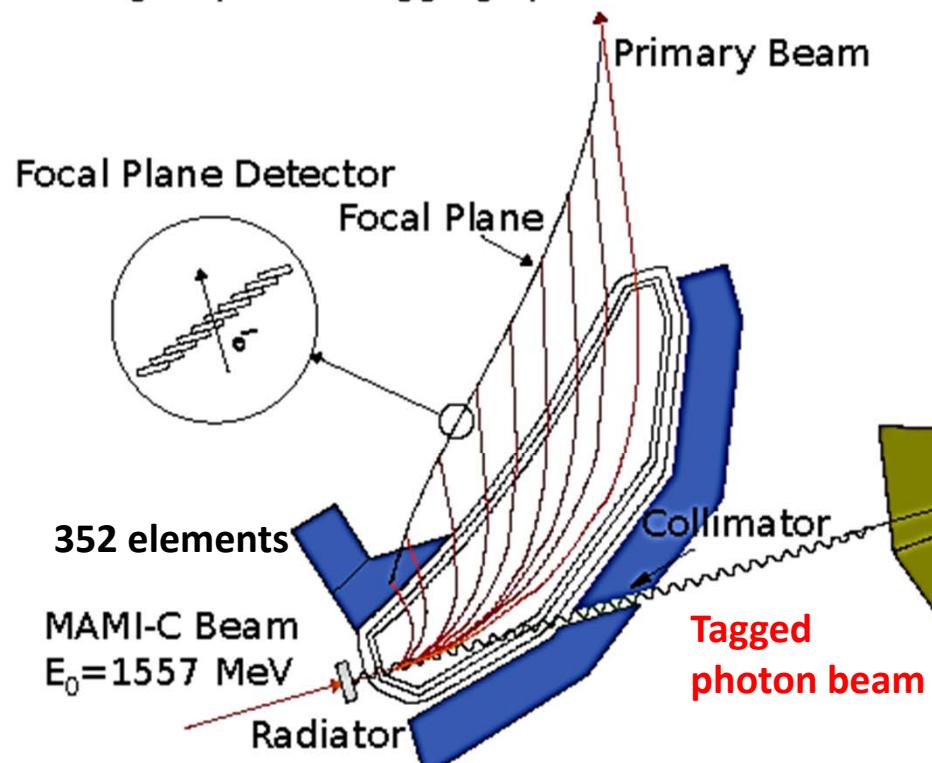


High stability  
Low beam divergence

Very good properties of the  
secondary photon beam

## A2@MAMI: Detector overview

Glasgow photon tagging spectrometer



Photon beam produced by bremsstrahlung and tagged by a magnetic spectrometer

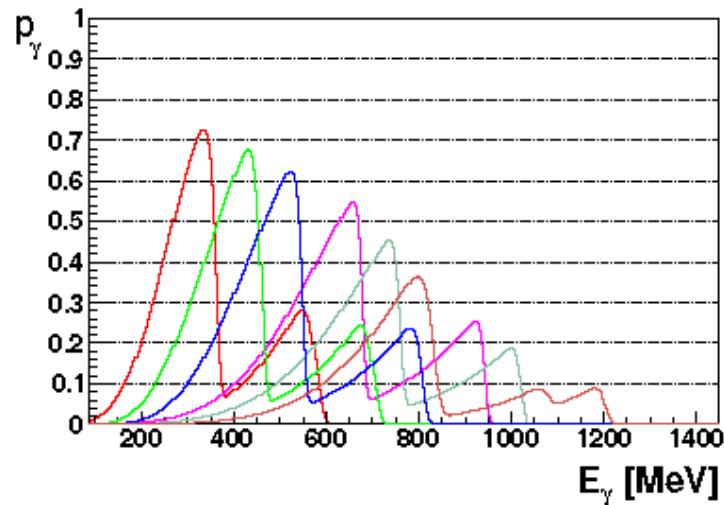
$$E_\gamma = E_0 - E_{e^-} \quad ; \quad \Delta E_\gamma = 2 - 4 \text{ MeV}$$

Nucleon polarimeter  
(graphite cylinder)  
also available

## Beam Polarization

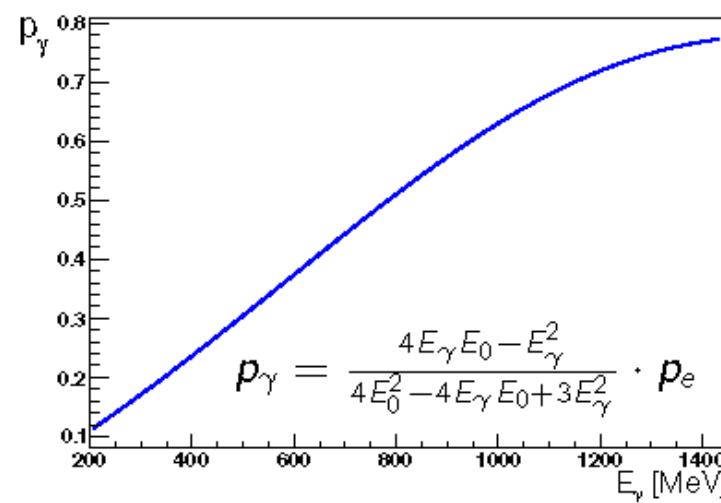
### Linearly polarized photons

- Diamond radiator needed
- Coherent Bremsstrahlung
- Coherent edges at  
350 MeV, 450 MeV, 550 MeV,  
650 MeV, 750 MeV, 850 MeV,



### Circularly polarized photons

- Longitudinally polarized electrons needed
- Helicity transfer to photon
- Mott/Moeller measurements:  
beam polarisation  $p_e \approx 75\text{-}85\%$



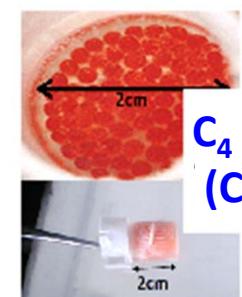
## Target Polarization

### Longitudinally and Transversally polarized protons/deuterons (Mainz-Dubna target)

- Polarized material: (deuterated) butanol (Bochum)
- Polarization via DNP process
- 70 GHz microwave irradiation at 2.5 T us used to transfer the electron polarization to p/d
- 3He/4He dilution cryostat at 25 mK and holding coil at 0.63 T
- Relaxation time  $\approx$  2000 hours
- $\approx 10^{23}$  polarized protons (deuterons) /cm<sup>2</sup>
- $P_{proton} \approx 90\%$  ;  $P_{deuteron} \approx 50\%$
- Carbon target needed for background studies



Butanol Target



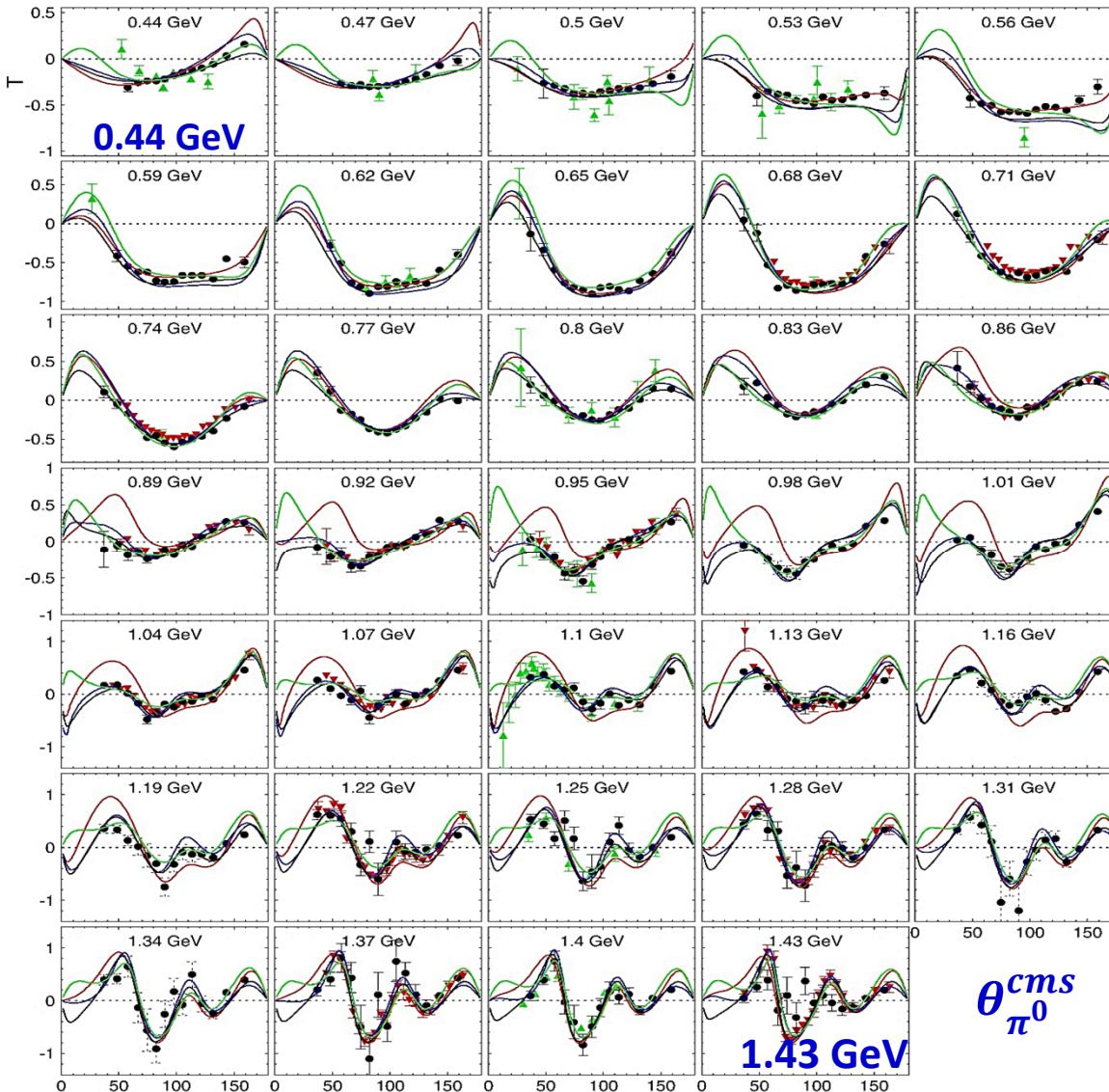
Carbon Target



Selected results

## T asymmetry for $\pi\pi^0$

Transverse target pol.  
Unpolarised beam



J. Annand et al., PRC 93, 055209 (2016)  
also F asymmetry data given in the same paper

(34 energy bins over a 1 GeV-wide photon beam range)

Data in the energy range 150 – 400 MeV will be also published

Black circles: A2 data  
Red triangle CBELSA (Bonn)  
Green Triangle Older points

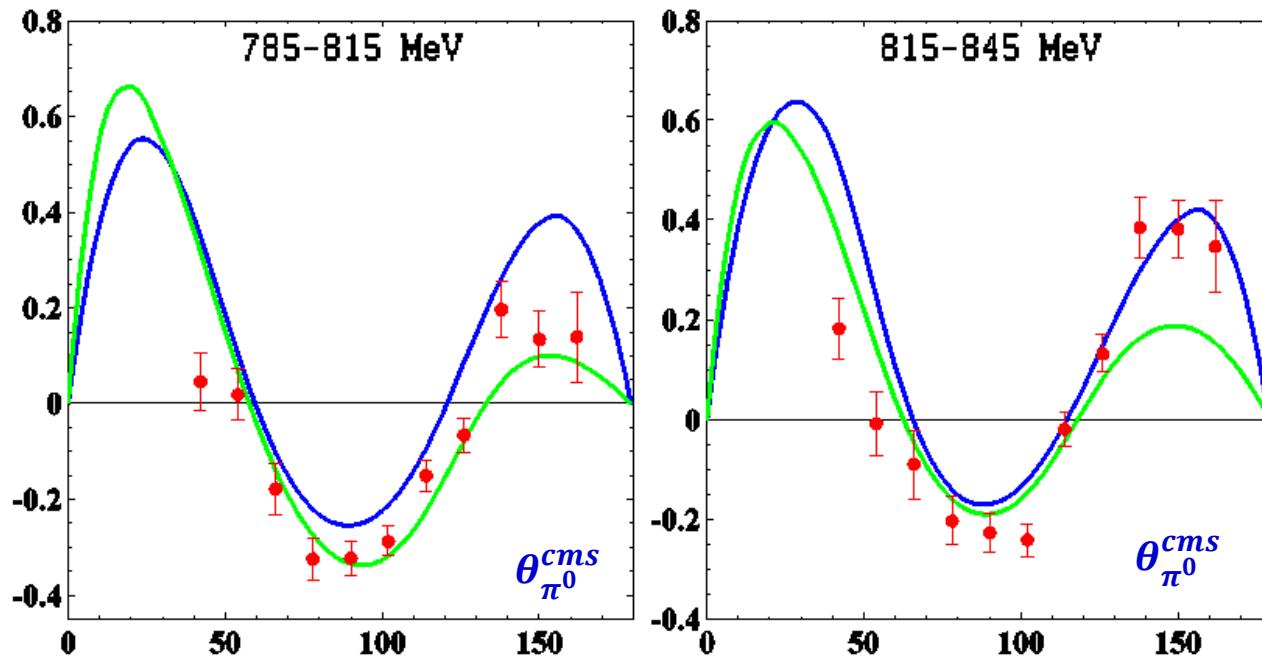
Red line: MAID 2007  
Blue line SAID PR15  
Green line JUBO2015-B  
Black line BG2014-2

PWA Analyses

## T asymmetry for $\pi\pi^0$

Transverse target pol.  
Unpolarised beam

$$T \approx \text{Im}(E_{0+}^*(E_{2-} + M_{2-}) - 6E_{2-}^*M_{2-})$$

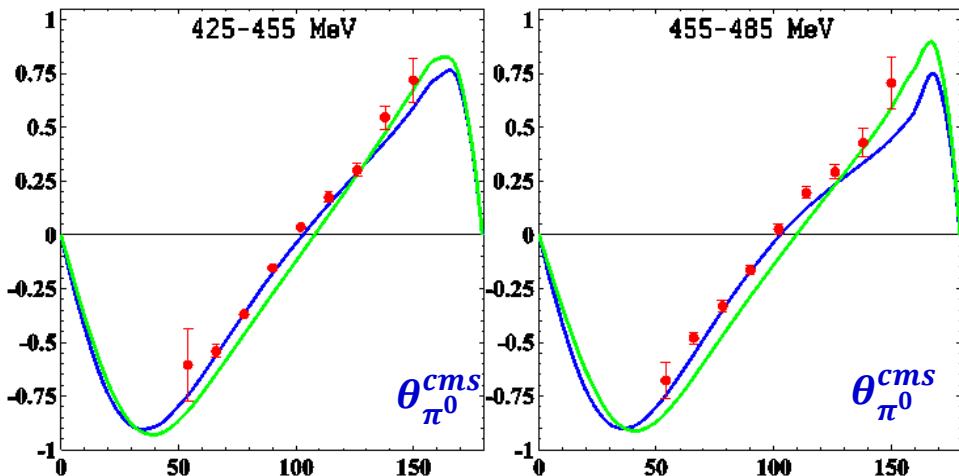


- A2 data      J. Annand et al., PRC 93, 055209 (2016)
- MAID 2007 (PWA pred)      – SAID-CM12 (PWA pred)

Strong D-wave contribution from  $D_{13}(1520)$

## F asymmetry for $p\pi^0$

Transverse target polar.  
Circular beam polarization



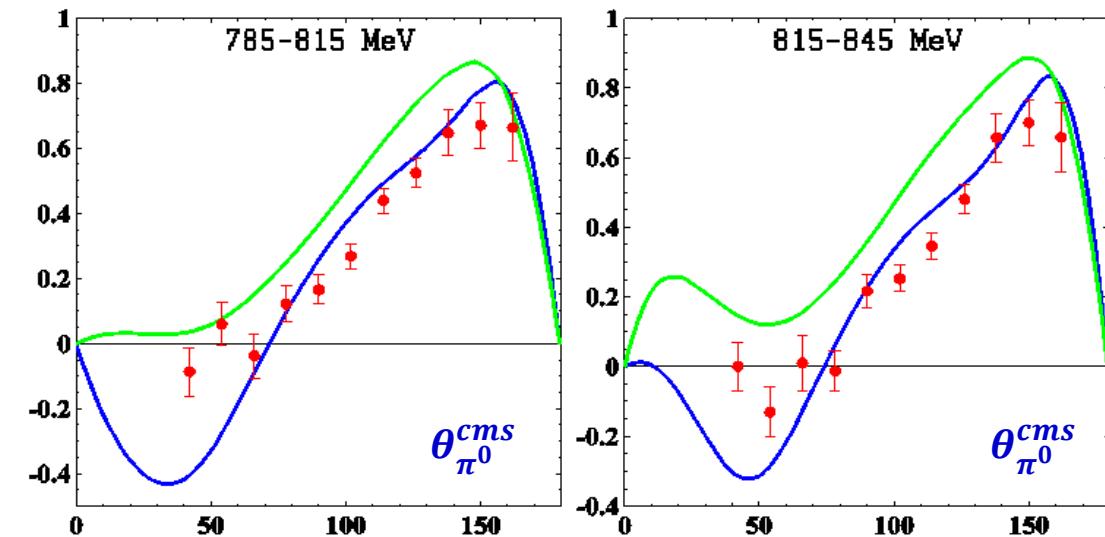
J. Annand et al., PRC 93, 055209 (2016)

$$F \approx -\sin(\vartheta) \cos(\vartheta) / M_{1+}/^2$$

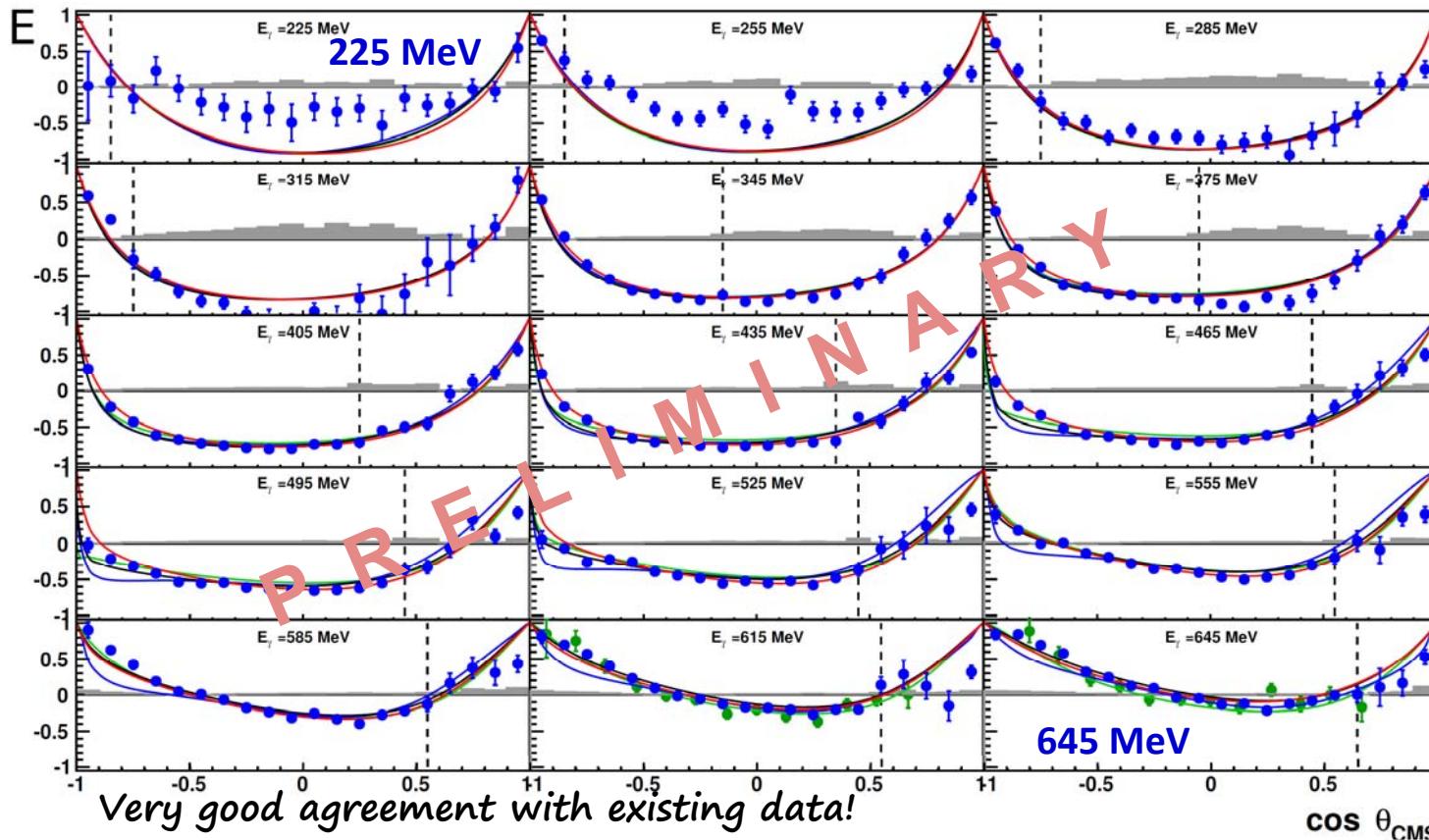
(well known)

$$F \approx \sin(\vartheta) \cos(\vartheta) \cdot (|E_{2-}|^2 - 3|M_{2-}|^2 + E_{0+}^*(E_{2-} + M_{2-}) - 2E_{2-}^*M_{2-})$$

- A2 data      J. Annand et al., PRC 93, 055209 (2016)
- MAID 2007 (PWA pred.)
- SAID-CM12 (PWA pred)



## E asymmetry for $p\pi^0$



Longitudinal target polar.  
Circular beam polarization

$\rightarrow$  small  $M_{1+}$

$$E \approx |M_{1+}|^2$$

(well known)

$$(\sigma_{1/2} - \sigma_{3/2})$$

Previously measured in  
Mainz by the GDH collab.

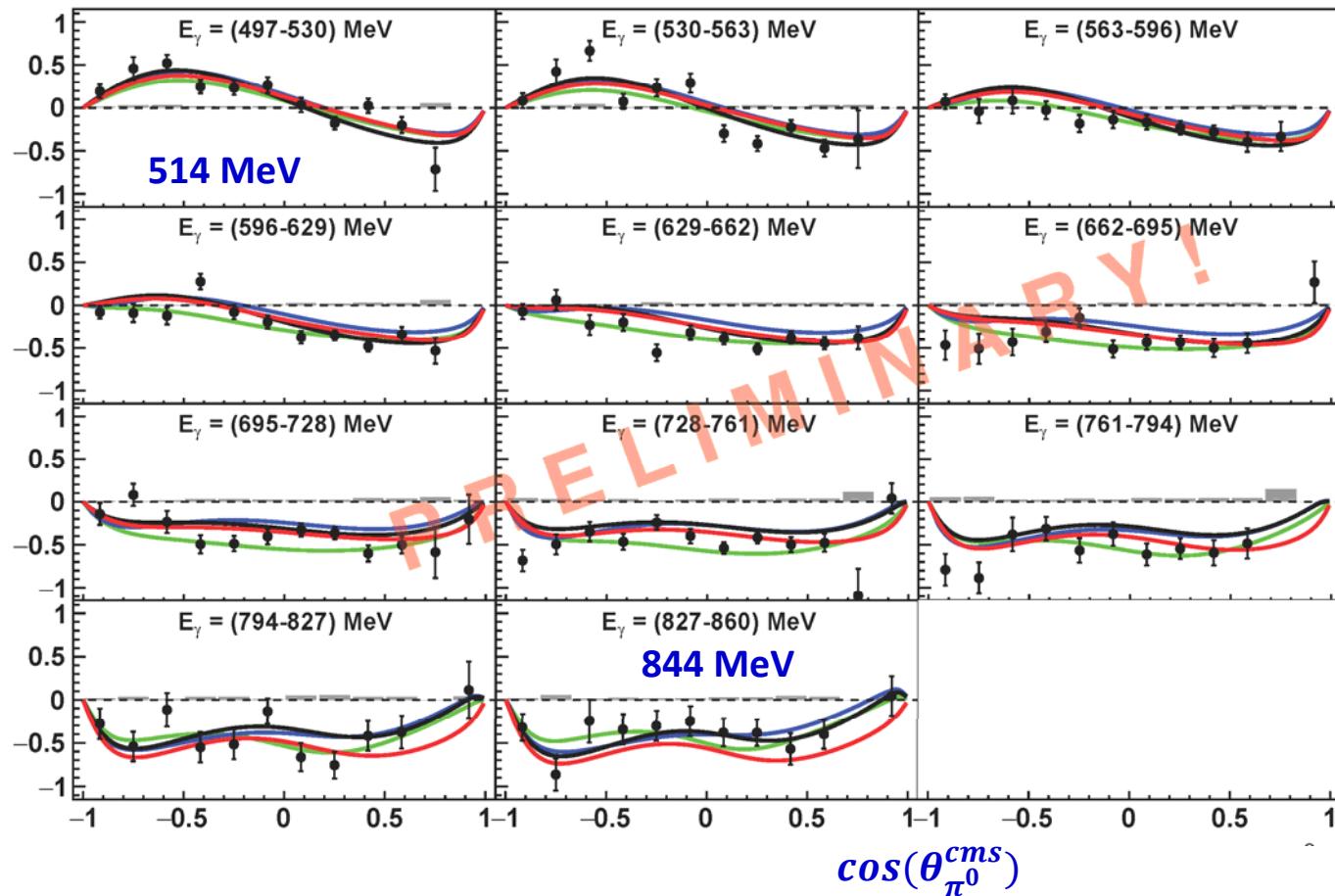
- M. Gottschall et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 112 (2014) 012003
  - BnGa\_2014\_02 (PWA fit)
  - BnGa\_2014\_01 (PWA fit)
  - MAID 2007 (PWA pred.)
  - SAID-CM12 (PWA pred)

Measured energy range  
225 MeV – 645 MeV

## G asymmetry for $n\pi^+$

Longitudinal target polar.  
Linear beam polarization

G



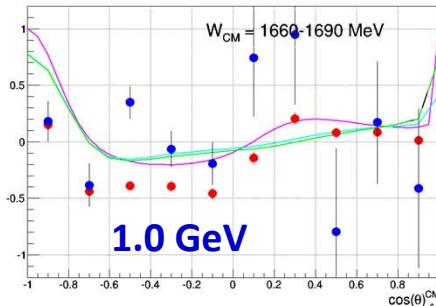
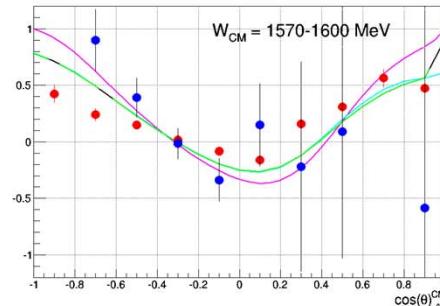
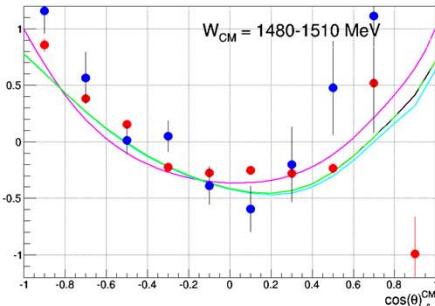
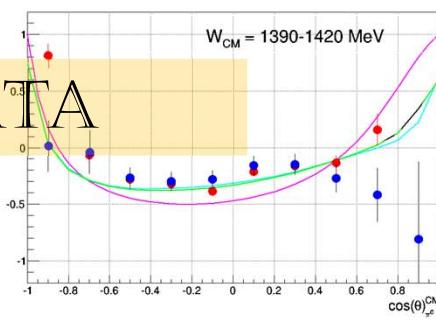
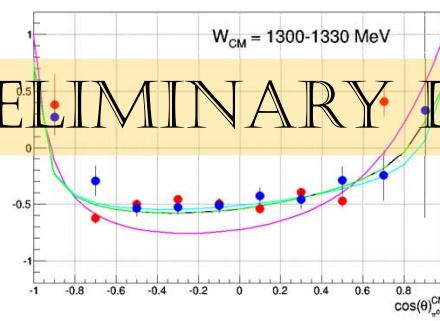
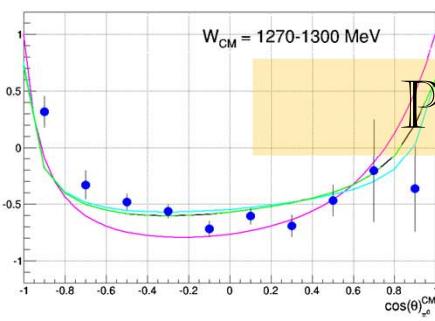
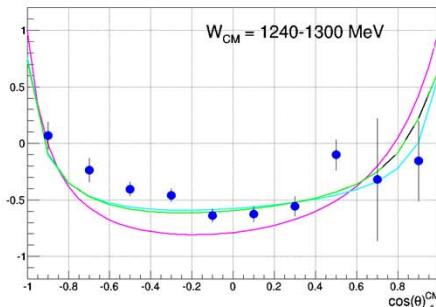
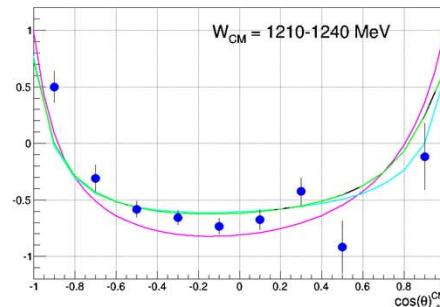
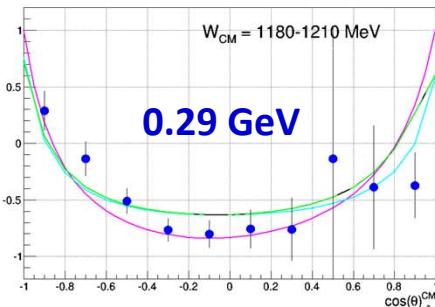
$$G \approx \text{Im } M_{1^-} \cdot \text{Re } M_{1^+}$$

- sensitive to the  $M_{1^-}$  partial wave
- **sensitive to P11(1440)**  
(Roper resonance)

- BnGa\_2014\_02 (PWA fit)
- MAID 2007 (PWA pred.)
- BnGa\_2014\_01 (PWA fit)
- SAID-CM12 (PWA pred)

# E asymmetry for $n\pi^0$

deuteron target



$\cos(\theta_{\pi^0}^{cms})$

Longitudinal target polar.  
Circular beam polarization

- A2 Preliminary data

- A2 Published data

M.Dieterle et al.,  
PLB 770, 523 (2017)

MAID 2007  
(Free neutron)

Deuteron nuclear model:  
A. Fix et al,  
PRC 72 064005 (2005)

MAID + IA

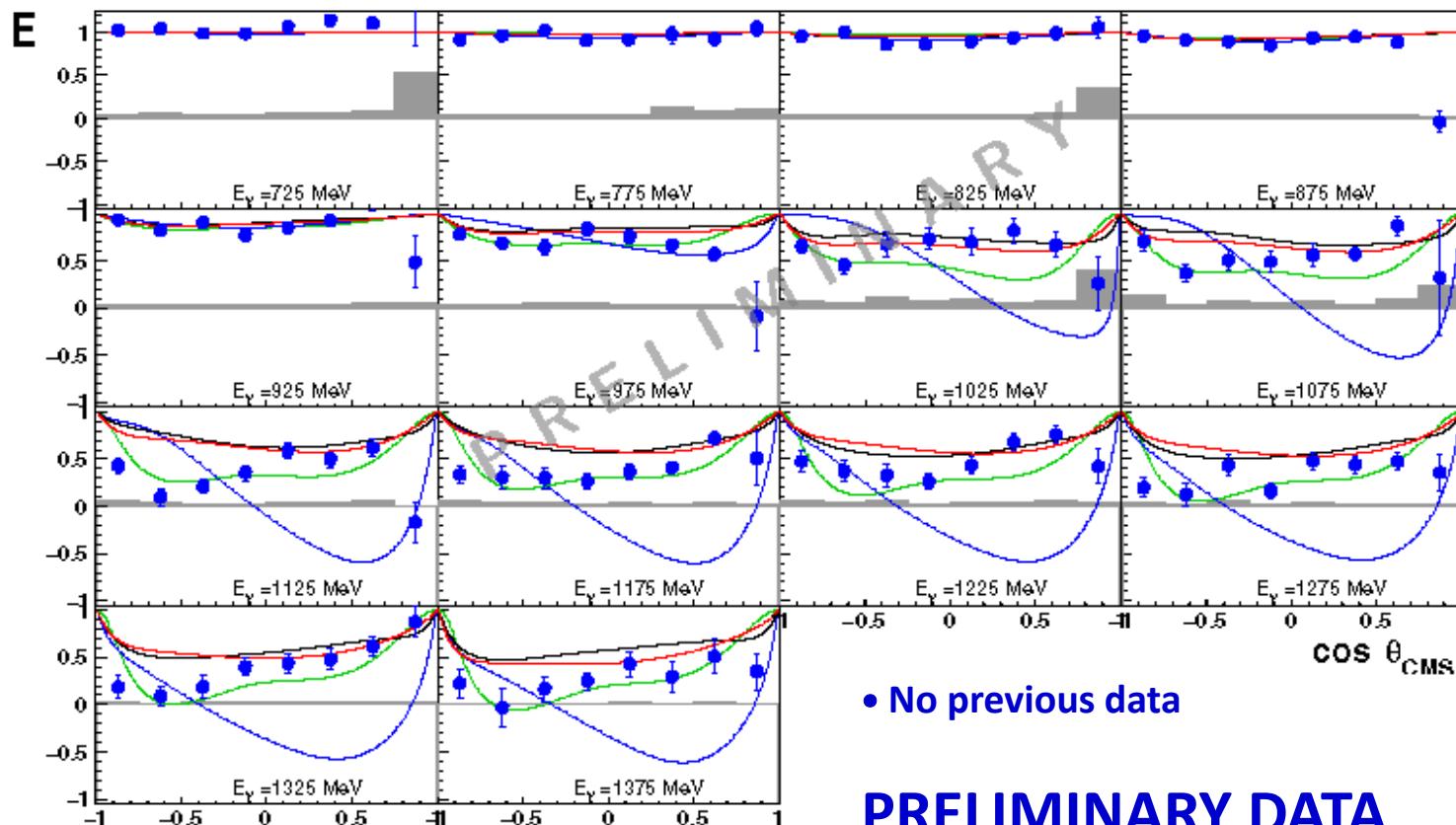
MAID + IA +FSI



Nuclear effects are small

## E asymmetry for p $\eta$

$\eta$  meson ( $I=S=0$ ) can be used as isospin filter to isolate a part of the total resonance spectrum



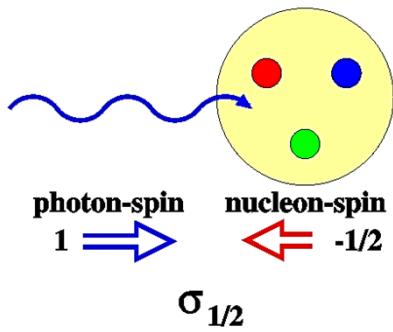
$$E = \frac{\sigma_{1/2} - \sigma_{3/2}}{\sigma_{1/2} + \sigma_{3/2}}$$

$$E = +|E_{0+}|^2 + 3|E_{1+}|^2 - |M_{1+}|^2 + \dots$$

- JuBo2016-3.1 (FIT)
- SAID GE09 (PRED)
- BnGa 2014-01 (PRED)
- BnGa 2014-02 (PRED)

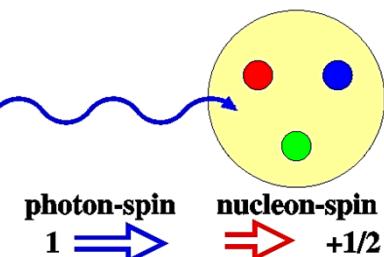
## $\gamma N \rightarrow N\eta$ helicity dependent cross-section

- helicity component  $1/2$

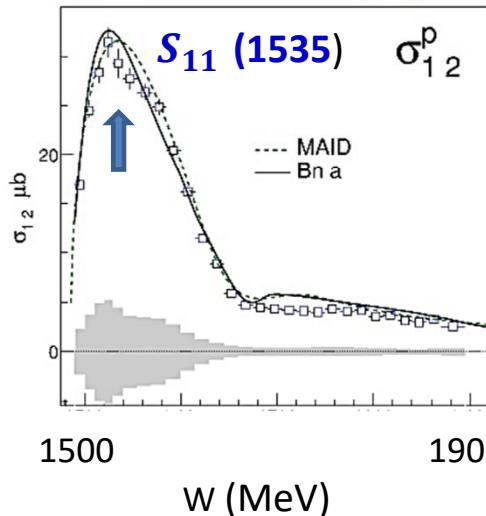


$$\sigma_{1/2} ; \sigma_{3/2}$$

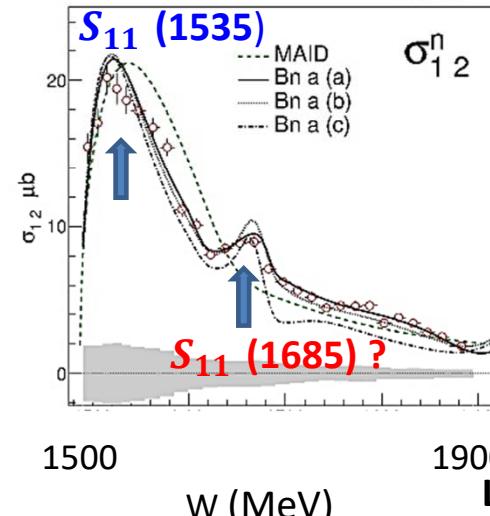
- helicity component  $3/2$



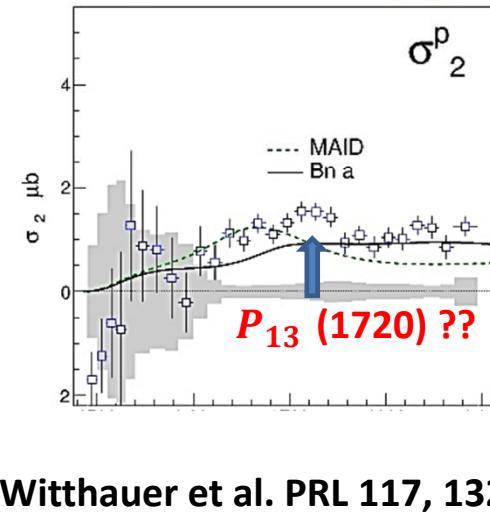
- proton -  $\sigma_{1/2}$



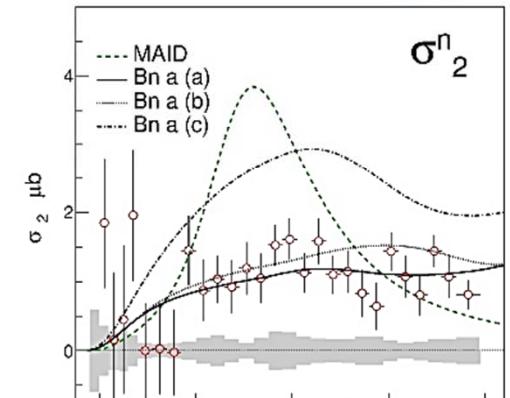
- neutron -  $\sigma_{1/2}$



- proton -  $\sigma_{3/2}$



- neutron -  $\sigma_{3/2}$



# Is all this useful for anything ?

Eur. Phys. J. A (2016) 52: 284  
DOI 10.1140/epja/i2016-16284-9

THE EUROPEAN  
PHYSICAL JOURNAL A

Regular Article – Experimental Physics

A. Anisovich et al. EPJA 52, 2284 (2016)

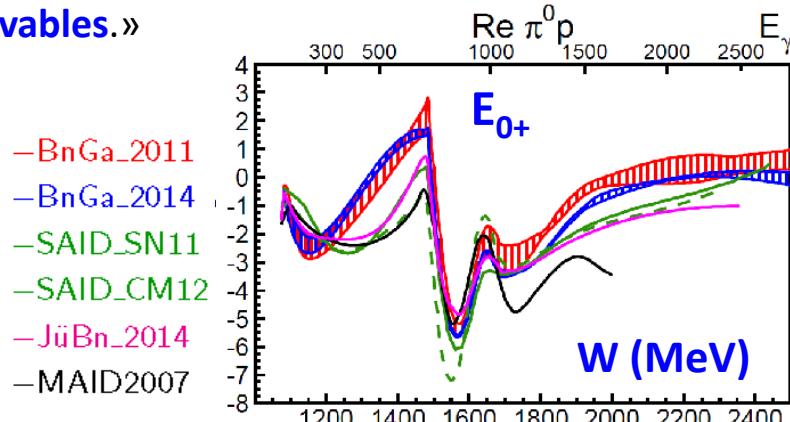
## The impact of new polarization data from Bonn, Mainz and Jefferson Laboratory on $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi N$ multipoles

A.V. Anisovich<sup>1,2</sup>, R. Beck<sup>1,a</sup>, M. Döring<sup>3,4</sup>, M. Gottschall<sup>1</sup>, J. Hartmann<sup>1</sup>, V. Kashevarov<sup>5</sup>, E. Klemp<sup>1</sup>, Ulf-G. Meißner<sup>1,6,7</sup>, V. Nikonov<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Ostrick<sup>5</sup>, D. Rönchen<sup>1,6,b</sup>, A. Sarantsev<sup>1,2</sup>, I. Strakovsky<sup>3</sup>, A. Thiel<sup>1</sup>, L. Tiator<sup>5</sup>, U. Thoma<sup>1</sup>, R. Workman<sup>3</sup>, and Y. Wunderlich<sup>1</sup>

«We find that the new data force the multipoles to get closer to each other, the variance is reduced by about a factor of two.

Even more important seems to be that the multipoles converge to similar values in the region of leading resonances while the “background” and the contribution of higher-mass resonances remain less constrained by the new data.....

High-lying, broad resonances require precise data due to many non-vanishing partial waves, motivating further experimental effort. **The task on the experimental side will require more precise data, in particular more precise data on polarization observables.»**



BnGa: Without  
polarization observables  
BnGa: With polarization  
observables

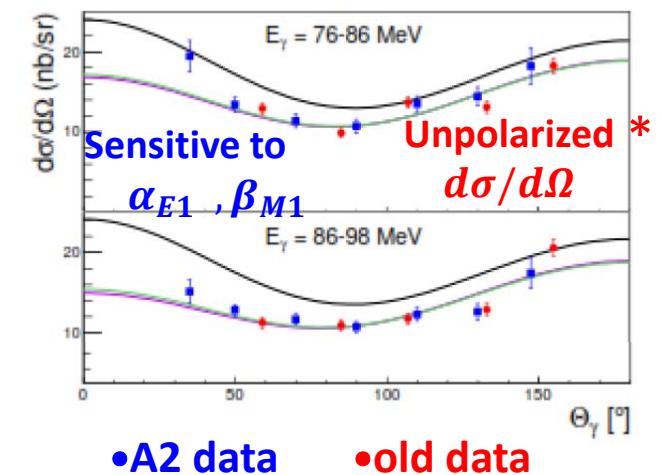
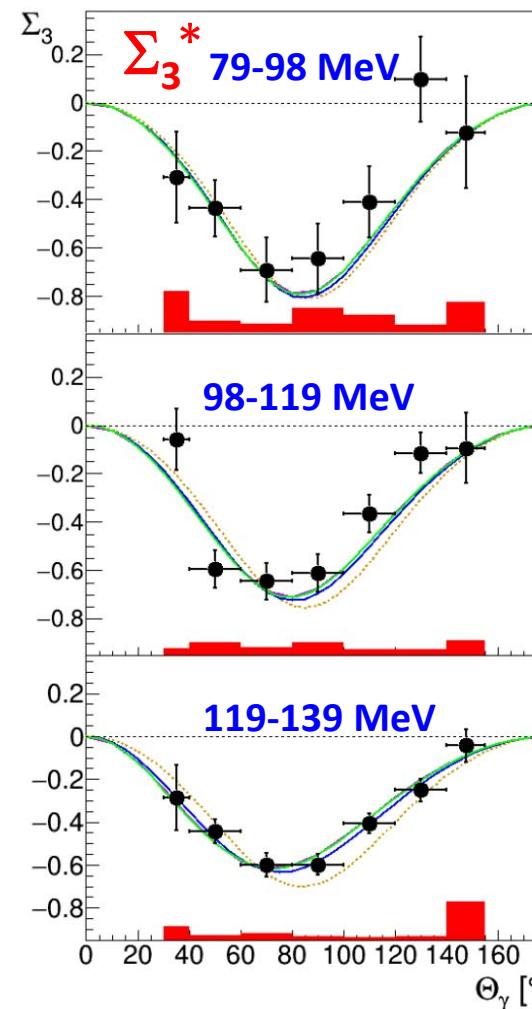
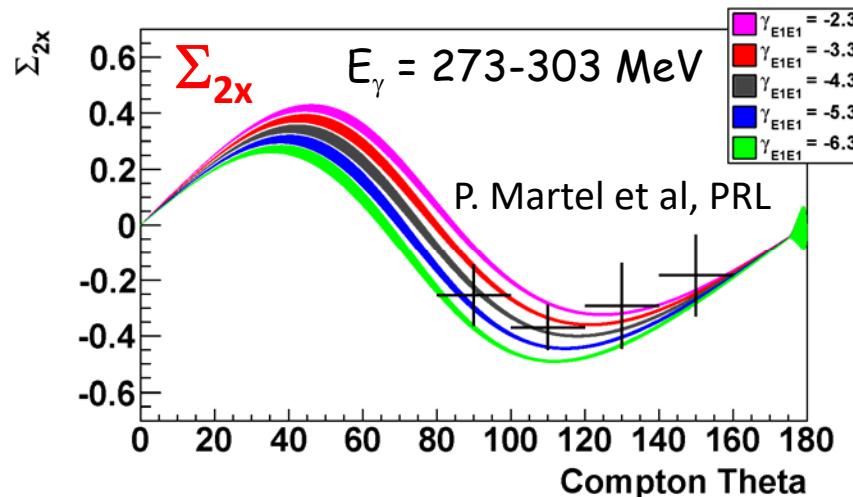
J. Hartmann et al.,  
Phys. Lett. B 748, 212-220 (2015)

YES, but ....

Discrepancies between the  
different PW analyses exist.  
Inclusion of more polarization  
observables will converge all  
analyses to the same solution

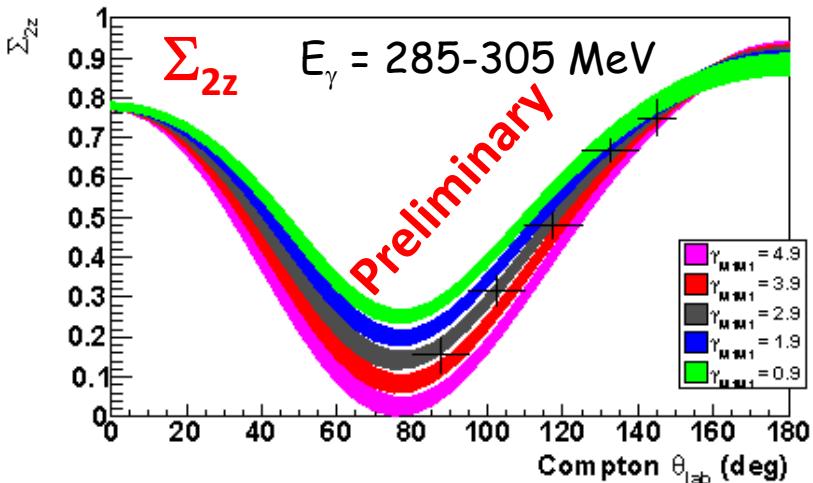
# (Un)Polarized Compton Scattering

V. Sokhoyan et al., EPJA 53, 14 (2017)



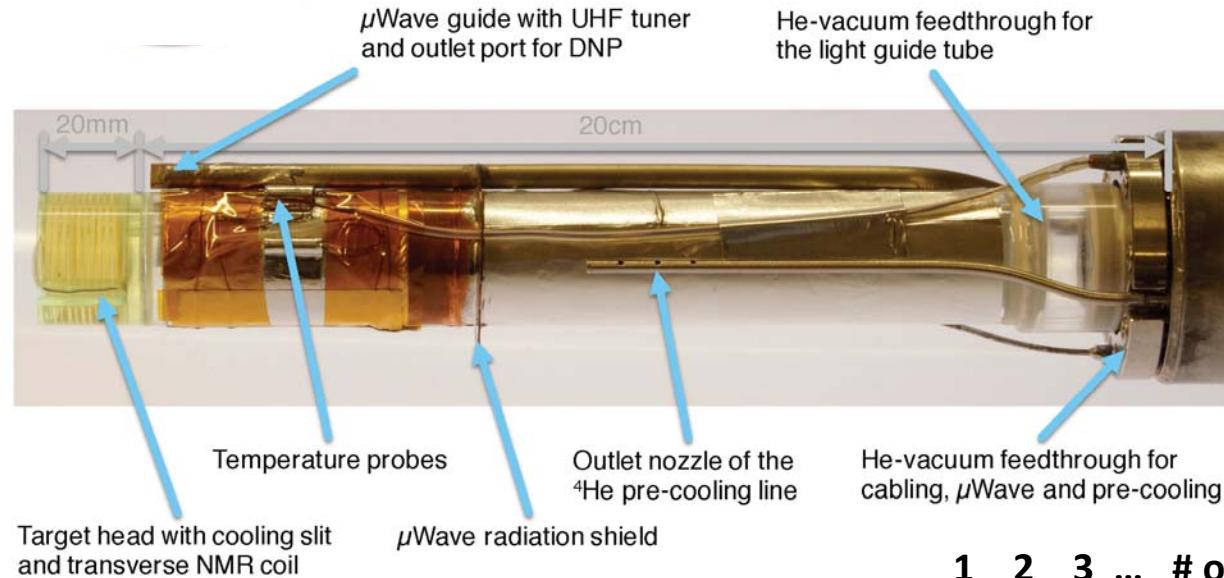
$\downarrow$

First simultaneous fit of all 6 polarizabilities using all 4 observables  
(our dream: error on spin polarizabilities -at least- halved)



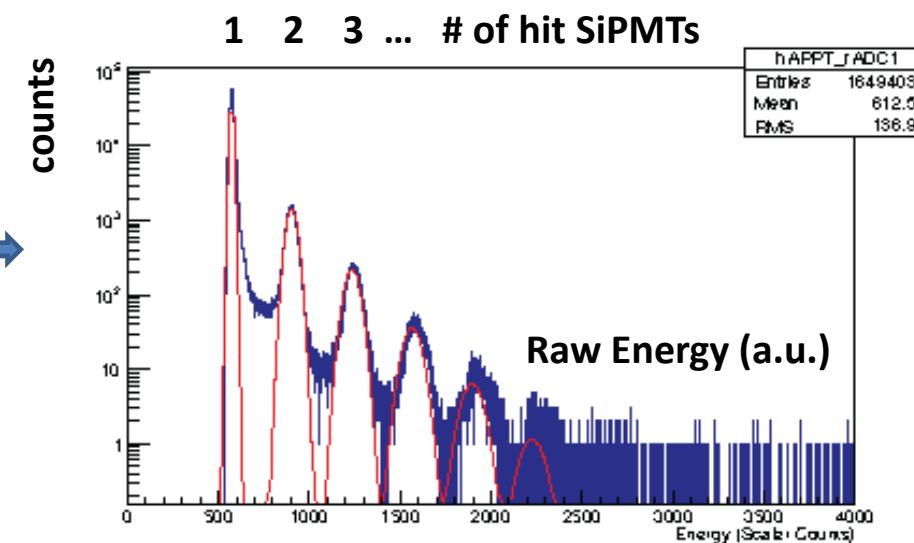
## The near future: an active and polarized target

Thin slices of  
polarized (doped)  
scintillator material  
( $T = 30 \text{ mK}$ )



M. Biroth et al, PoS PSTP2015 (2016) 005

- First beam test successful (some physics results will also be published)
- A relevant improvement (especially for Compton scattering) in the accessible polar angular and photon energy range
- Data takings planned next year



## Conclusions

- Rutherford discovered the proton in 1917 and since 1933 (Stern-Gerlach experiment) we know that it is not an elementary particle
- **Understanding the proton (neutron) internal structure is a very severe challenge both on the theoretical and on the experimental side**
- The joint effort of several laboratories (Mainz, Bonn, JLAB, ...) and the technological development in polarized beam and target techniques can solve some long-standing problems (how many baryon resonances are there?, accurate determination of the polarizabilities, ...)
- **The A2 collaboration is an important player of this game: many published data, many more to come and to be collected.**

### A2 Collaboration

≈ 80 researchers

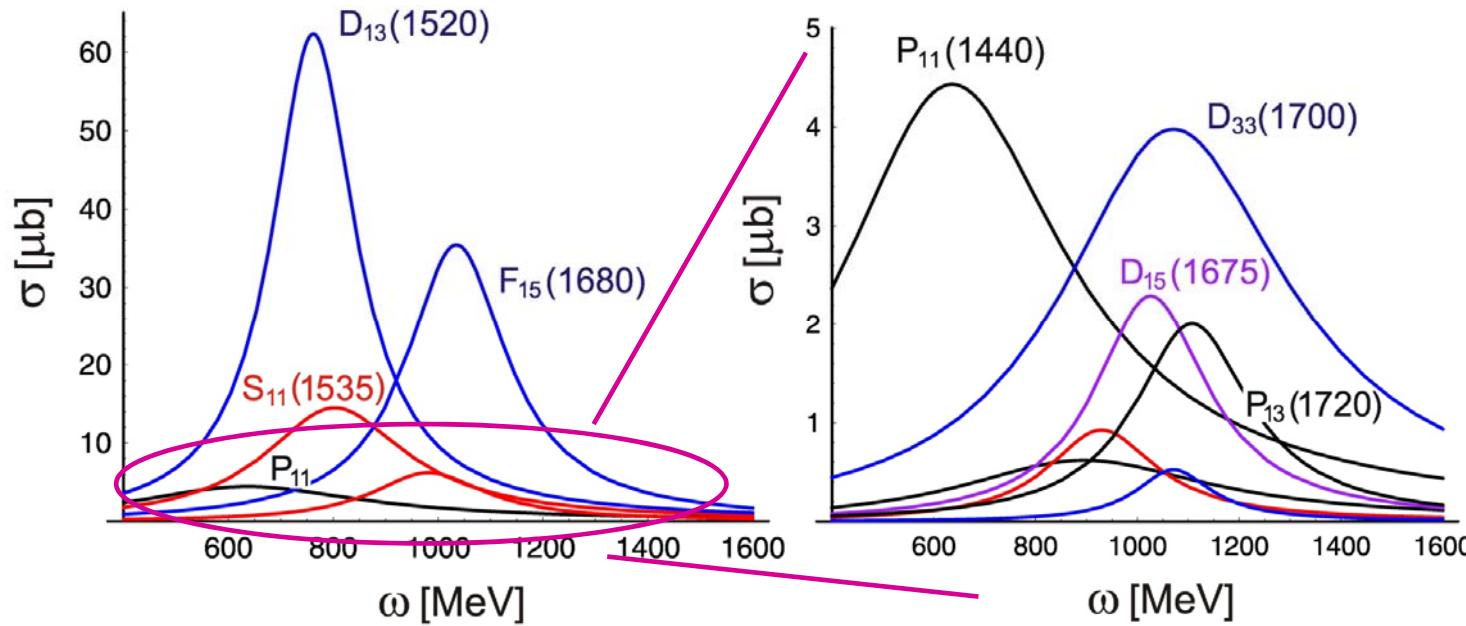
### Participating Institutions

Europe: Universities of Mainz, Basel, Bochum, Bonn, Glasgow, Giessen, York, INFN-Pavia, INR-Moscow, JINR-Dubna, RBI-Zagreb; Israel: University of Jerusalem

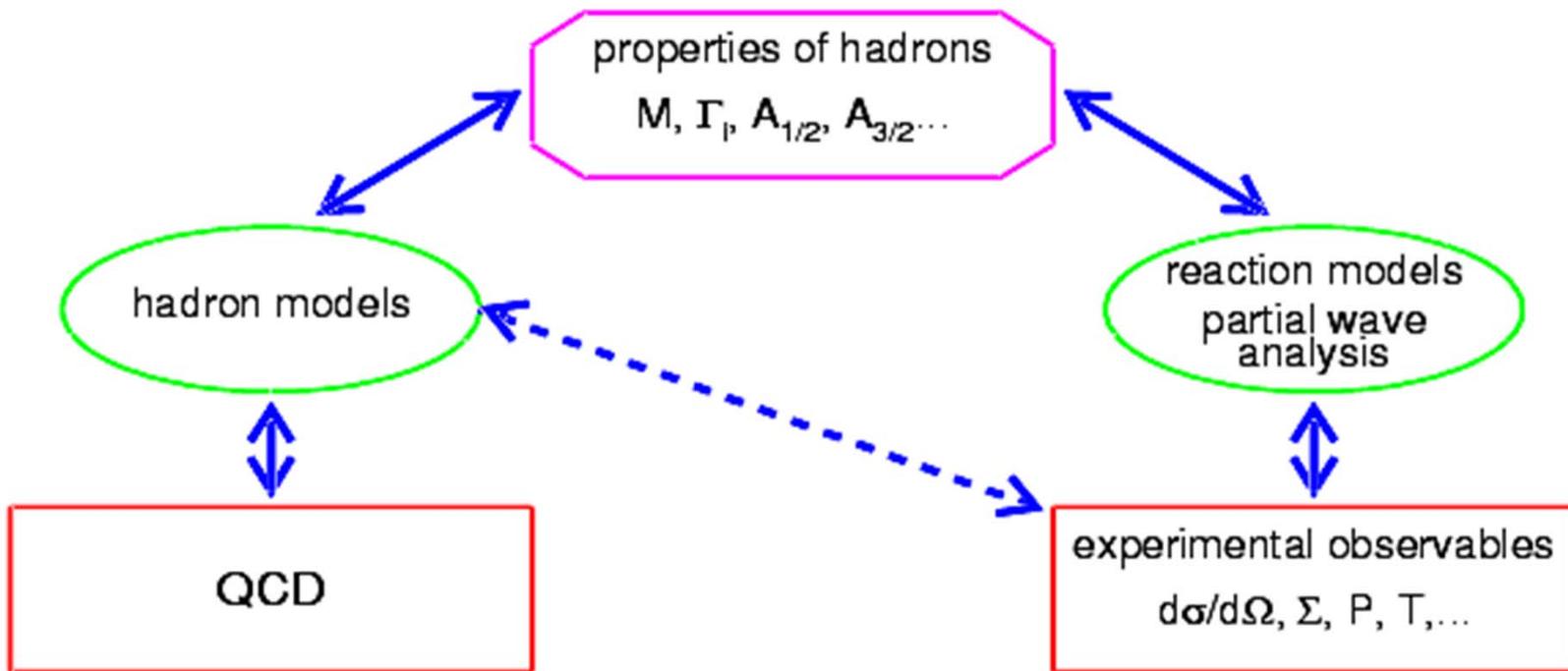
North-America: Universities of Mount-Allison (Canada), Regina (Canada), Saint Mary's (Canada), Washington-DC (USA), Kent-OH (USA), Amherst-MASS (USA), Los Angeles (USA).

You Want more...

**total photoabsorption  
in the 2nd and 3rd resonance regions** (MAID model)

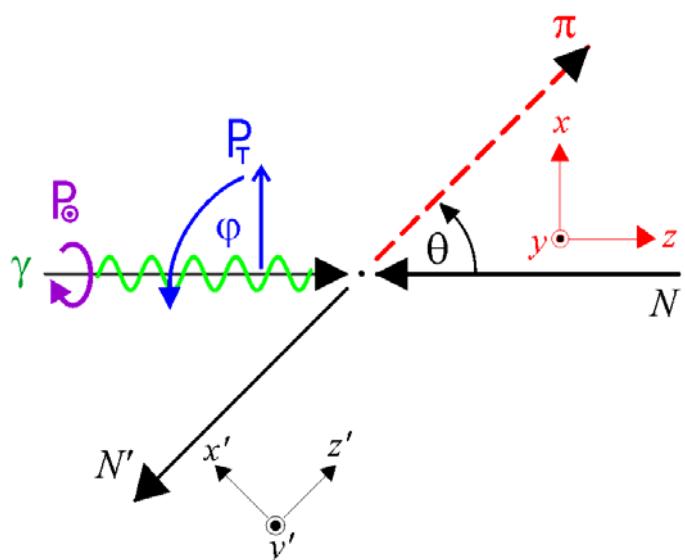


**Polarization observables are necessary to disentangle the broad and overlapping resonances at higher excitation energies and to separate resonant mechanisms from non-resonant background**



- polarized photons and polarized target

16 polarization observables  
in photoproduction  
of pseudoscalar mesons  
 $\pi, \eta, \eta', K$



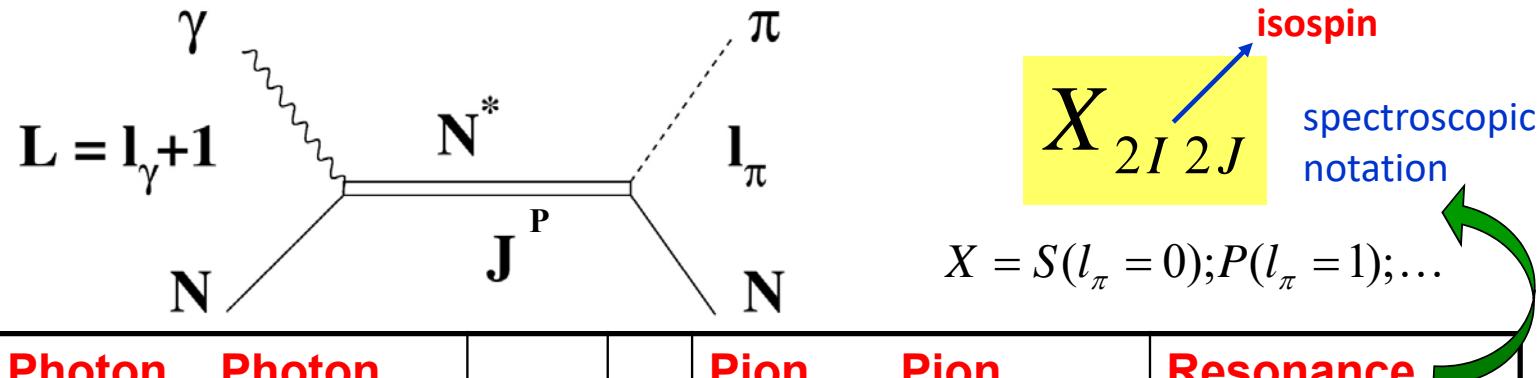
- polarized photons and recoil polarization

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \sigma_0 [ 1 - P_T \Sigma \cos 2\phi + P_x (-P_T H \sin 2\phi + P_\odot F) - P_y (-T + P_T P \cos 2\phi) - P_z (-P_T G \sin 2\phi + P_\odot E) ]$$

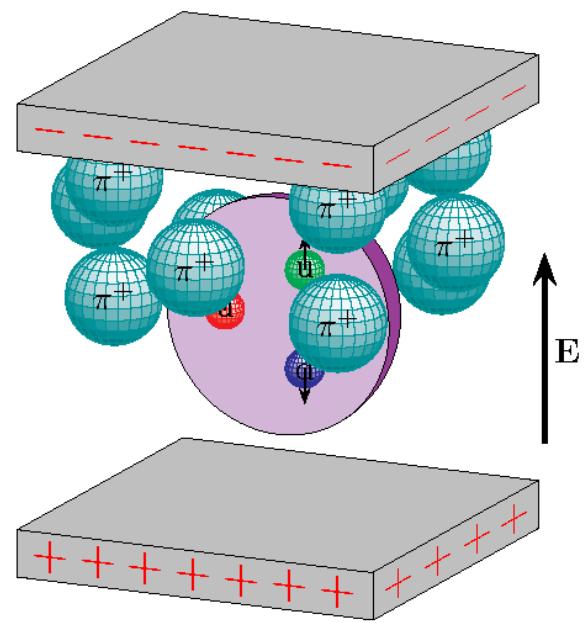
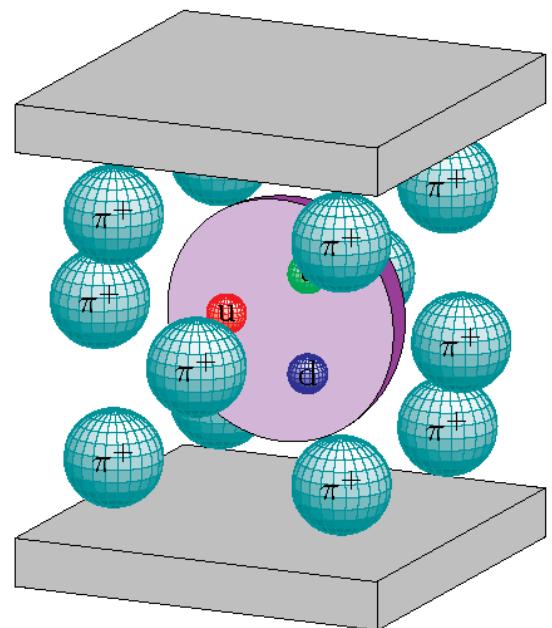
- polarized target and recoil polarization

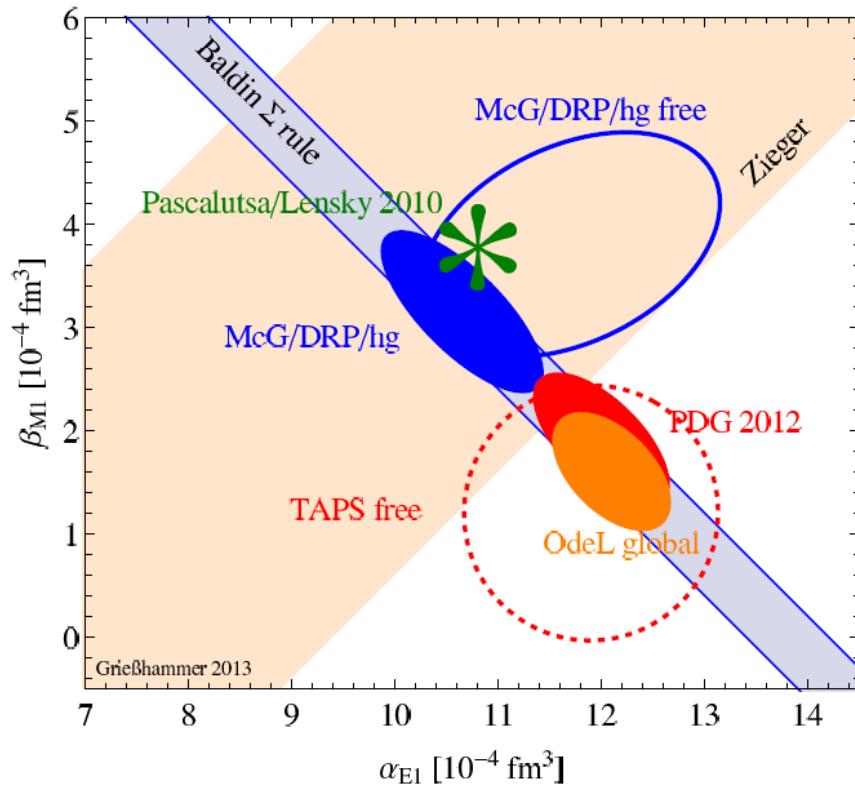
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \sigma_0 [ 1 + P_{y'} P + P_x (P_{x'} T_{x'} + P_{z'} T_{z'}) + P_y (T + P_{y'} \Sigma) - P_z (P_{x'} L_{x'} - P_{z'} L_{z'}) ]$$

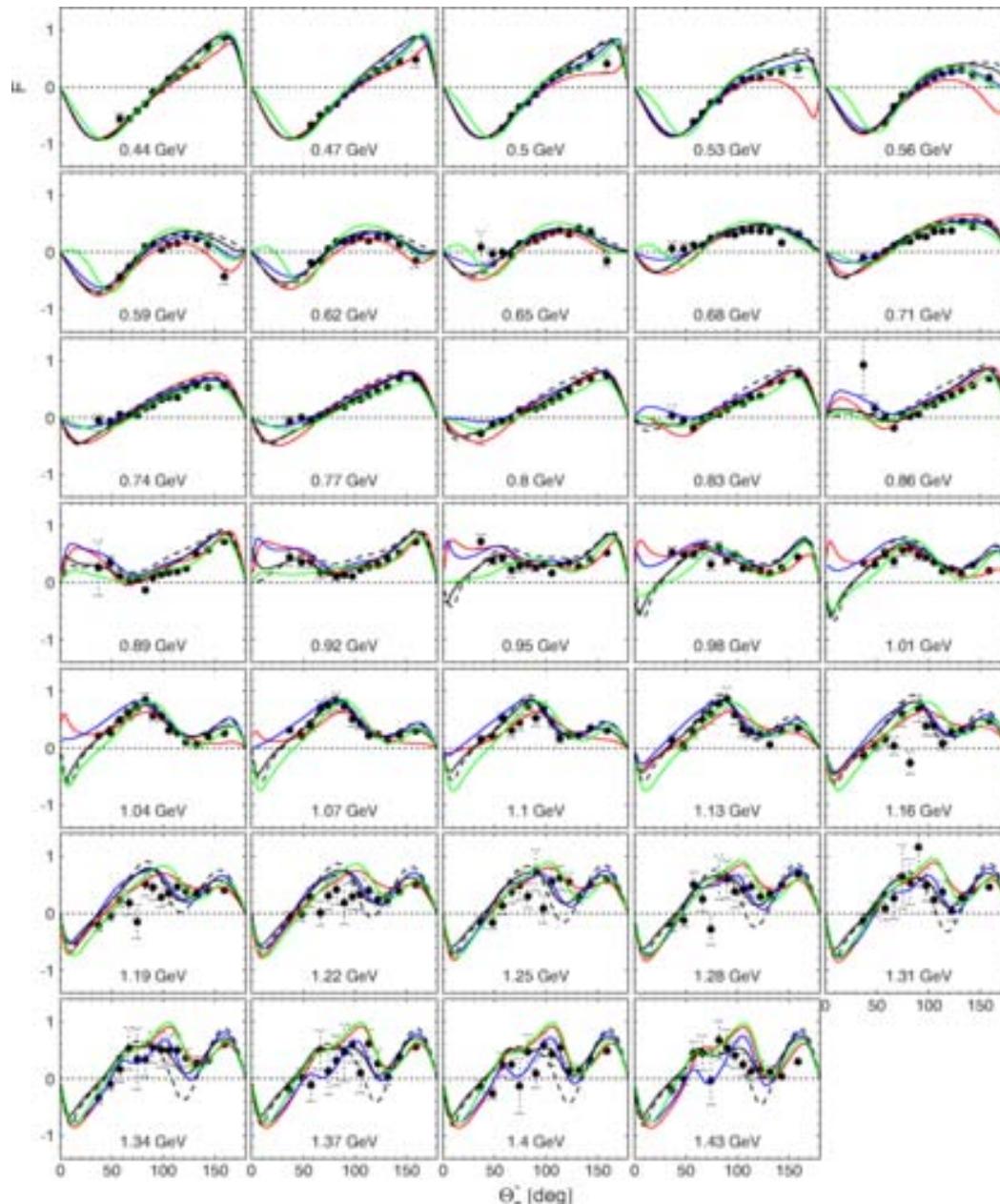
## Connection between resonances and multipoles



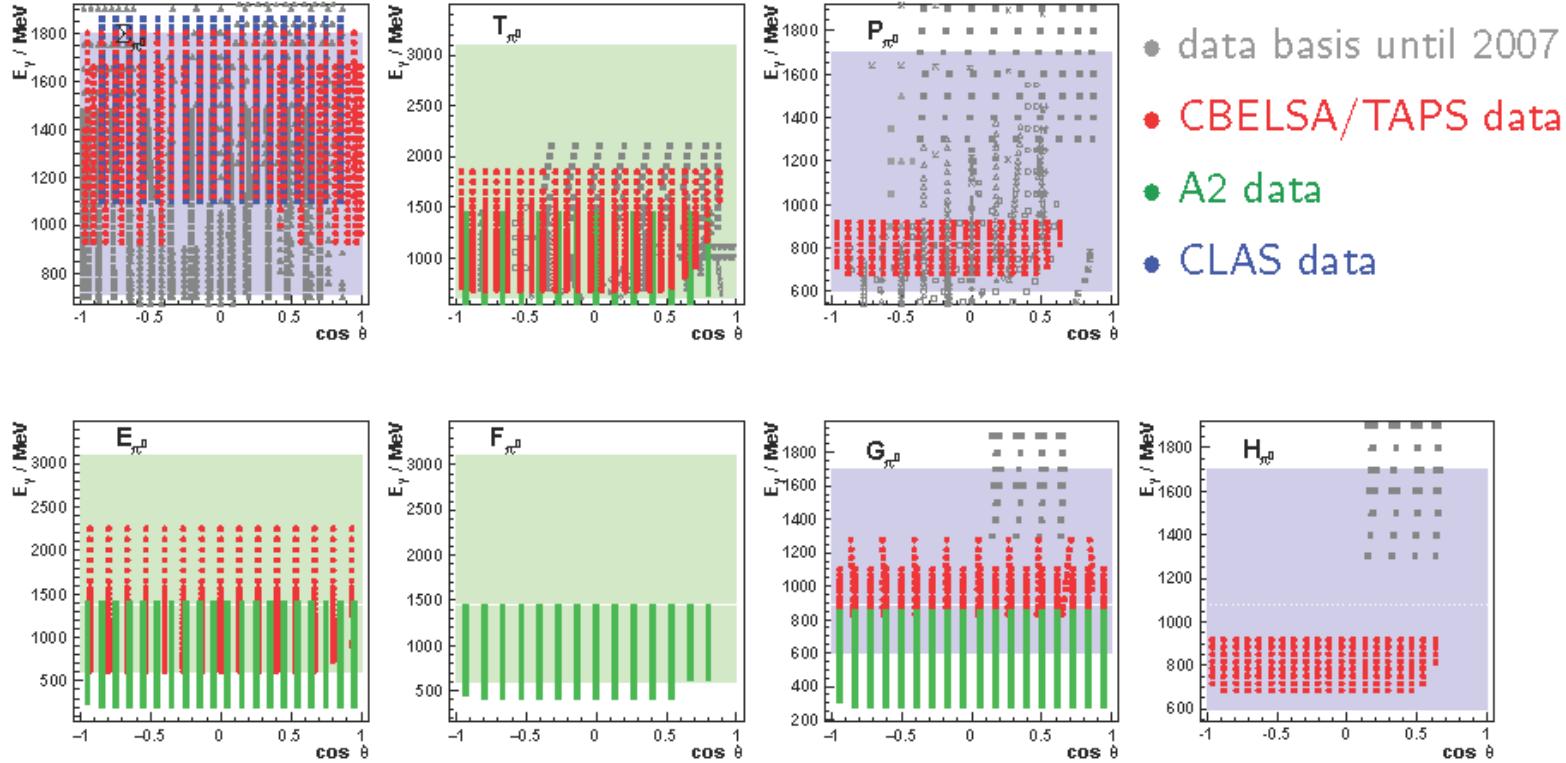
Photon L	Photon Multipole	J	P	Pion $I_\pi$	Pion Multipole	Resonance
1	E1	1/2	-	0	$E_{0+}$	$S_{11}$
		3/2	-	2	$E_{2-}$	$D_{13}$
	M1	1/2	+	1	$M_{1-}$	$P_{11}$
		3/2	+	1	$M_{1+}$	$P_{33}$
2	E2	3/2	+	1	$E_{1+}$	$P_{33}$
		5/2	+	3	$E_{3-}$	$F_{15}$
	M2	3/2	-	2	$M_{2-}$	$D_{13}$
		5/2	-	2	$M_{2+}$	$D_{15}$







F asymmetry  $\pi^0$



#### CBELSA/TAPS publications:

- G: A. Thiel et al., PRL 109 (2012) 102001  
 E: M. Gottschall et al., PRL 112 (2014) 012003  
 T,P,H: J. Hartmann et al., PRL 113 (2014) 062001  
 $\Sigma$ : F. Afzal et al. (preliminary)

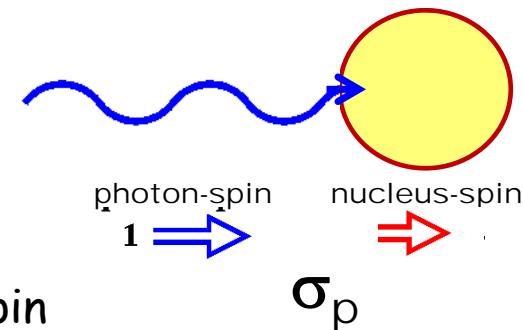
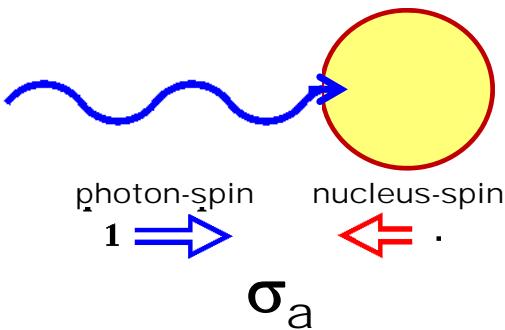
#### A2 publications:

- $\sigma$ : P. Adlarson, Phys. Rev. C 92, 024617 (2015)  
 T,F: J.R.M. Annand et al., Phys. Rev. C 93, 055209 (2016)  
 $E$ : F. Afzal et al. (preliminary)  
 $G$ : K. Spieker et al. (preliminary)



## Experimental verification of the GDH sum rule

- Proposed in 1966 by Gerasimov-Drell-Hearn
- Prediction on the absorption of circularly polarized photons by longitudinally polarized nucleons/nuclei



$$I_{GDH} = \int_{v_{thr}}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_p(E_\gamma) - \sigma_a(E_\gamma)}{v} dv = 4\pi^2 S \frac{e^2}{M^2 k^2}$$

Anomalous magnetic moment

$$v_{thr} = \begin{cases} \pi \text{ production threshold (nucleon)} \\ \text{photodisintegration threshold (nuclei)} \end{cases}$$

## GDH sum rule:

- ✓ Fundamental check of our knowledge of the  $\gamma N$  interaction

The only "weak" hypothesis is the assumption that Compton scattering  $\gamma N \rightarrow \gamma' N'$  becomes spin independent when  $v \rightarrow \infty$   
A violation of this assumption can not be easily explained

- ✓ Important comparison for photoreaction models
- ✓ Helicity dependence of partial channels (pion photoproduction) is an essential tool for the study of the baryon resonances (interference terms between different electromagnetic multipoles)
- ✓ Valid for any system with  $k \neq 0$  ( $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^3\text{He}$ ). "Link" between nuclear and nucleon degrees of freedom

## Experimental status

