

sPHENIX heavy flavor physics prospects at RHIC

sPHENIX is a cutting-edge experiment at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), focused on heavy-flavor and jet physics. It performs unprecedentedly high-precision measurements in 200 GeV p+p and Au+Au collisions. The sPHENIX tracking system includes the Monolithic Active Pixel Sensor (MAPS)-based Vertex Detector (MVTX), Intermediate Silicon Tracker (INTT), Time Projection Chamber (TPC), and TPC outer tracker (TPOT), all operating together in a hybrid of full streaming (MVTX and INTT) and extended triggered readout mode (TPC and TPOT). Additionally, sPHENIX features a large-acceptance calorimeter system, which introduces the first barrel hadronic calorimeter at RHIC. This advanced system facilitates the exploration of Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP) properties through high-statistics, unbiased data samples, including fully reconstructed heavy-flavor hadrons and jets with exceptional precision. In the 2024 run, sPHENIX has been fully commissioned, collecting 100 billion unbiased p+p collisions and a further sample of minimum-bias Au+Au collisions. In this talk, we will present the progress toward the first heavy-flavor physics results at sPHENIX, and performance projections for the entire heavy flavor physics program.