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 $\pi^0 - \pi^0$  Azimuthal Correlations Comparisons Between PYTHIA and 2008 PHENIX Data<sup>1</sup> JOHN WHITE, Augustana Univ - Sioux Falls, PHENIX COLLABORATION — The Muon Piston Calorimeter Extension (MPC-Ex) is housed in front of the Muon Piston Calorimeter (MPC), a sub-detector of PHENIX at RHIC. Using the forward rapidity ( $3 < \eta < 3.8$ ) arm of the MPC-Ex we can measure the low-*x* portion of the nuclear wave function and the energy loss in cold nuclear matter using the 2016 *d*+Au run. However, there is no *p*+*p* baseline for the 2016 *d*+Au run. Using PYTHIA we can create a baseline to compare the 2016 run data. In order to assure the validity of the PYTHIA, we compare the simulation to 2008 *p*+*p* and *d*+Au  $\pi$ 0- $\pi$ 0 correlations measured by PHENIX.

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