

Heavy ion collisions at the LHC

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LI - International Meeting on Fundamental Physics
Benasque - September 2024

QCD and collectivity

Standard Model built/discovered looking for the **highest possible degree of simplicity**

All particle content and interactions of the Standard Model discovered using this principle
— greatest success of the reductionistic approach in Physics

Also very successful — **Complex systems with emerging behavior**

[Strongly-coupling many body systems; quantum entanglement with many d.o.f...]

Region of transition — largely unknown

QCD — rich dynamical content, with emerging dynamics
that happens at scales easy to reach in collider experiments

Best available tool to study the first levels of complexity

Equilibrium AND non-equilibrium dynamics

QCD phase diagram

QCD — rich dynamical content, with emerging dynamics
that happens at scales easy to reach in collider experiments — e.g. EoS

Experimental tools

High-energy heavy-ion coll. [high T , low n_B]

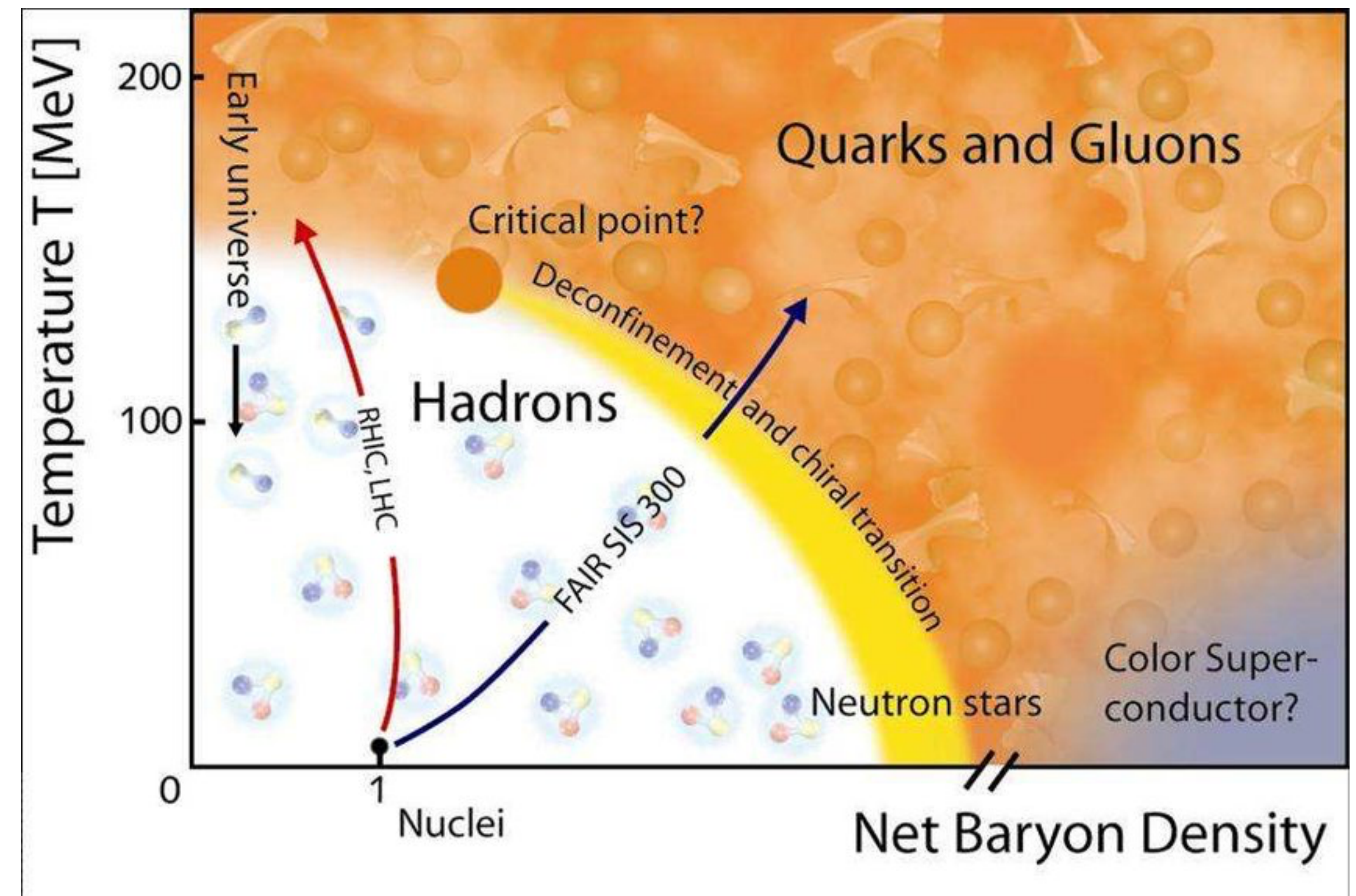
LHC — pp, pPb, PbPb, XeXe, (other lighter ions under study)
RHIC — pp, dAu, AuAu, CuCu, UU,...

Medium energies HIC [moderate T , high n_B]

RHIC Beam Energy Scan
FAIR at GSI
NICA at Dubna

Cosmological observations — notably GWs

Neutron star coalescence - **low T , high n_B**
Future — access to QCD transition in early Universe?



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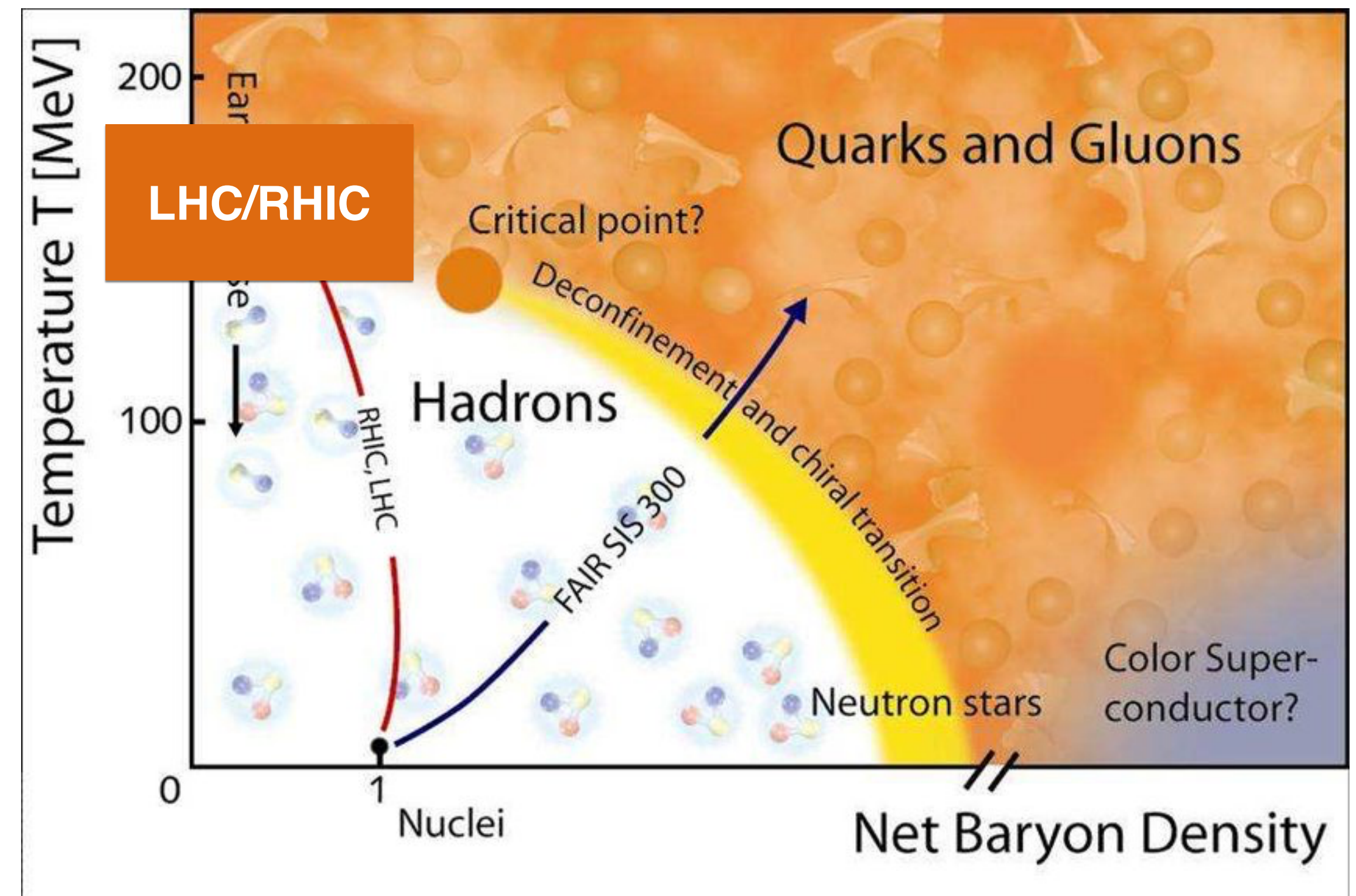
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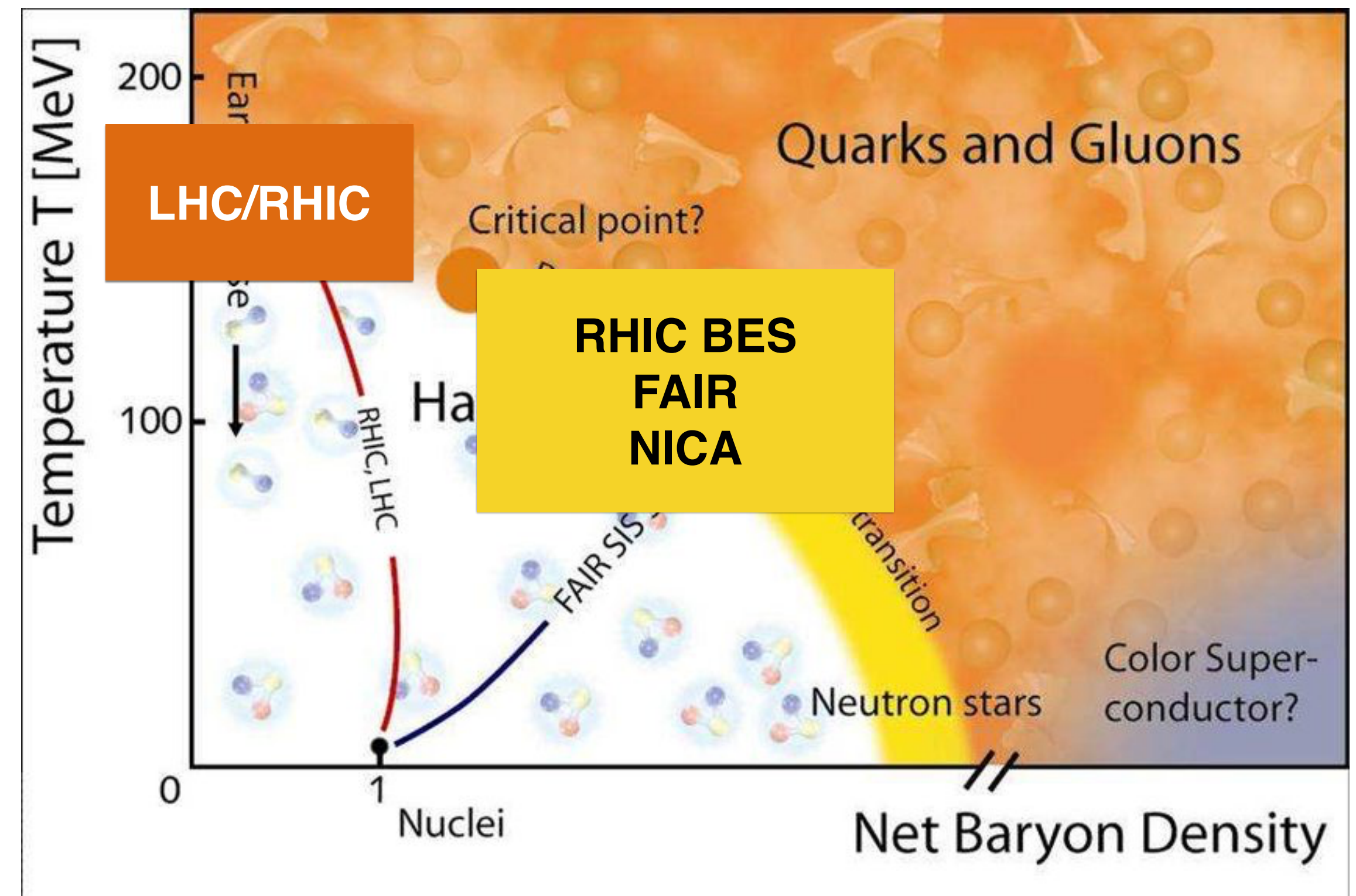
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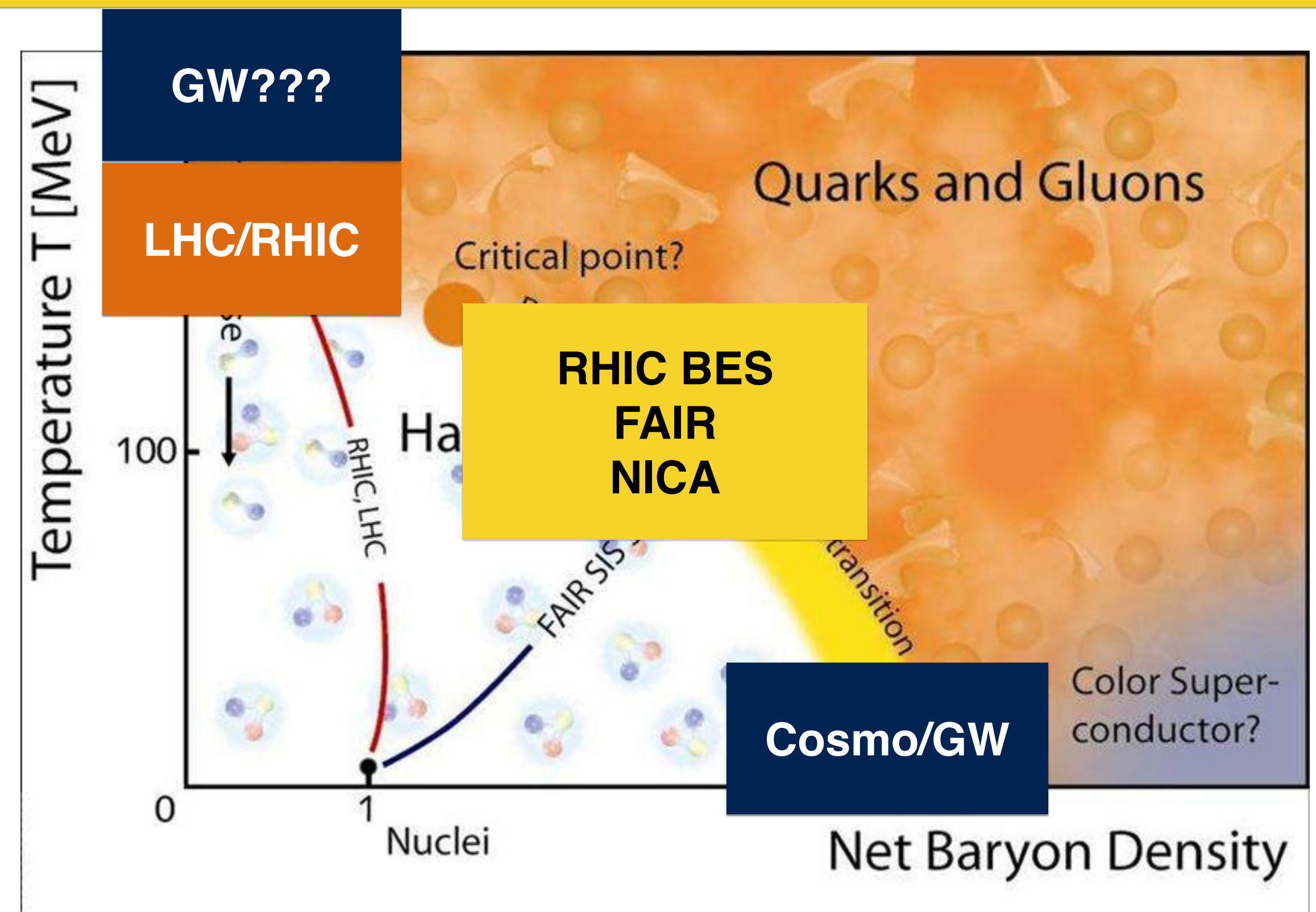
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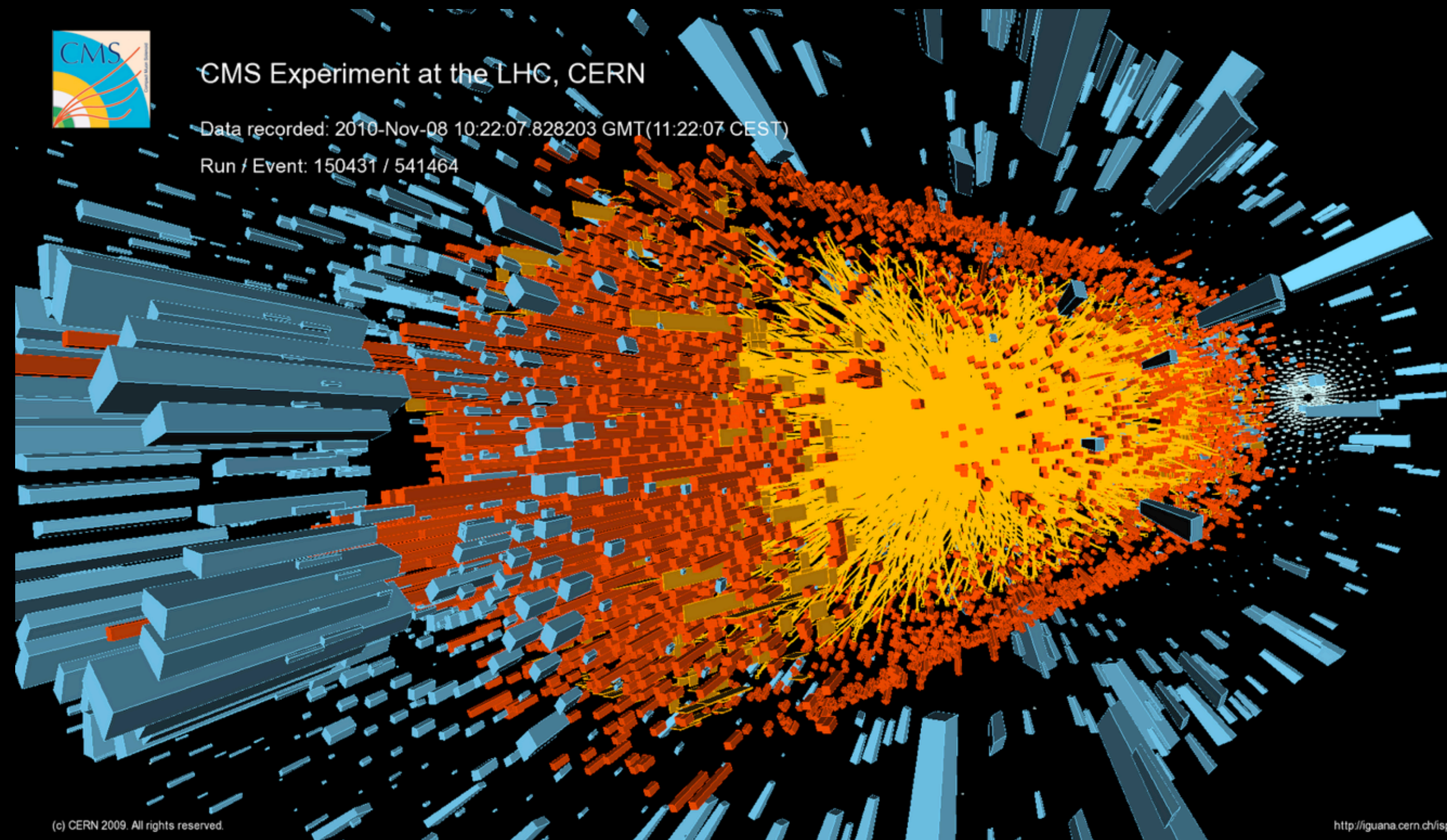
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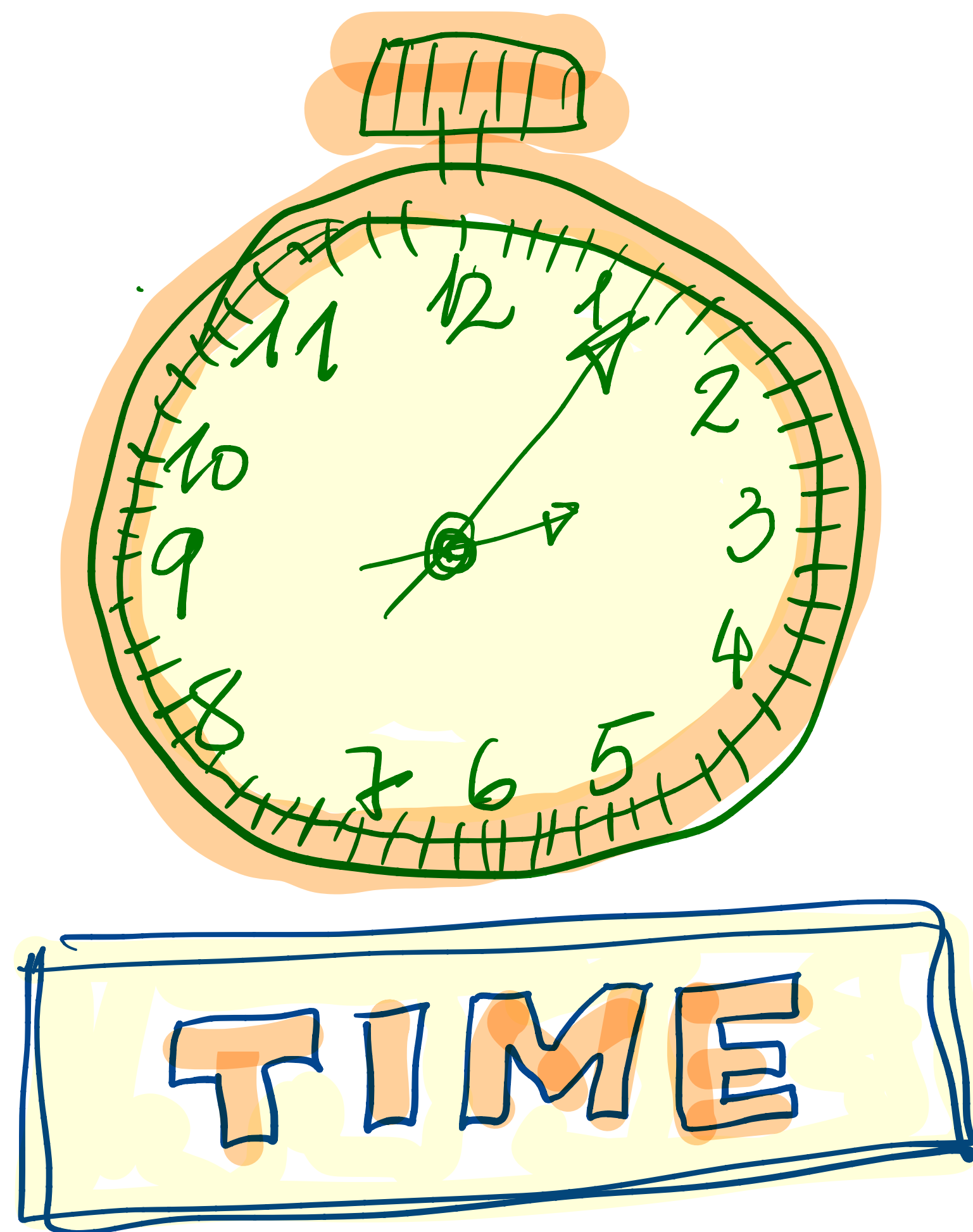
High energy heavy ion collisions:



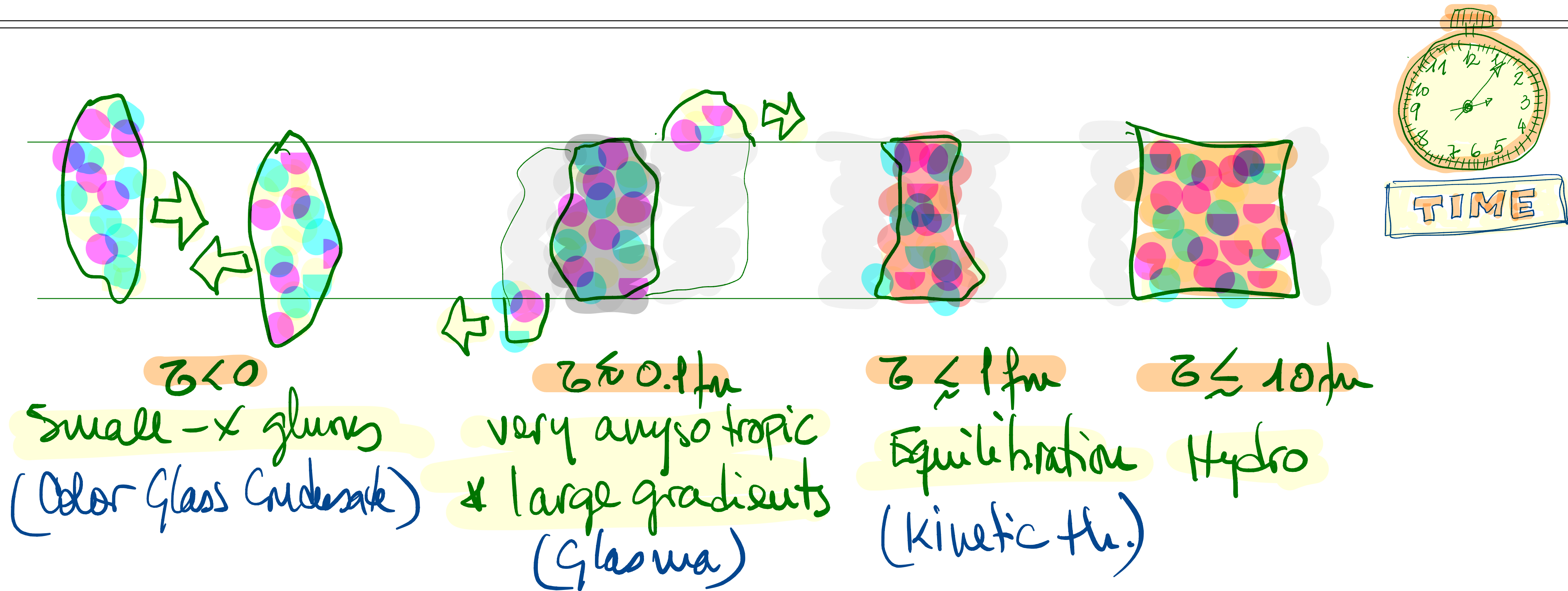
Produce "large" object
↳ Macroscopic in 3D scale
Collide heavy nuclei

How do we extract QGP properties from data?

But also...

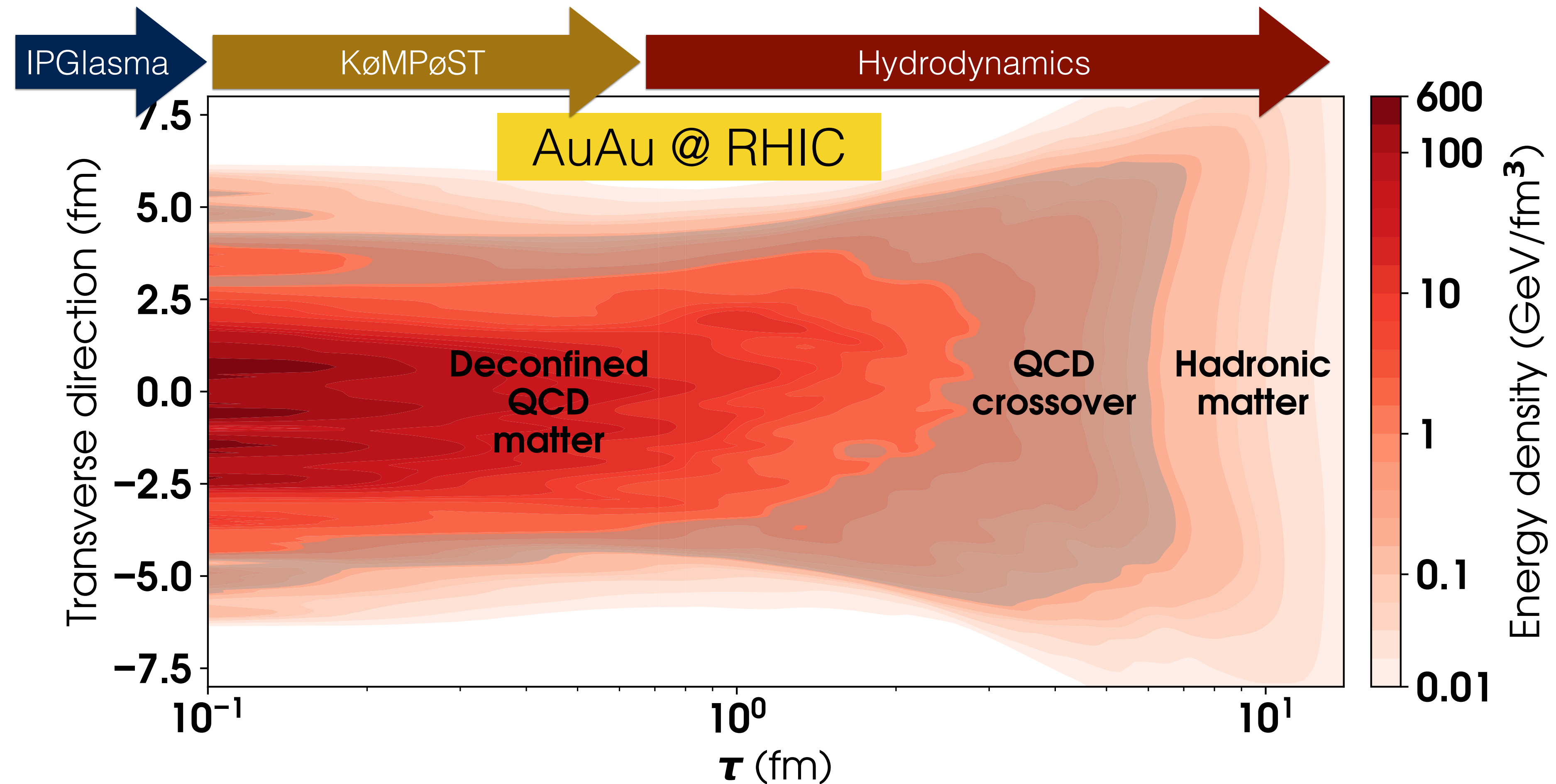


(A possible) Time evolution of a HIC



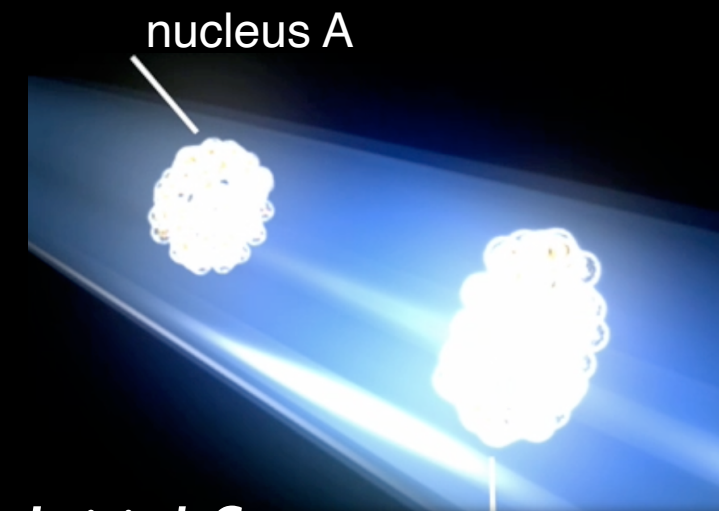
In contrast to usual HEP, **time and distance are relevant variables** in heavy-ion collisions
Building collectivity in extended (macroscopic) systems

(A possible) Time evolution of a HIC



[Jean-François Paquet - talk at Initial Stages 2021]

Questions accessible in HIC



Initial State

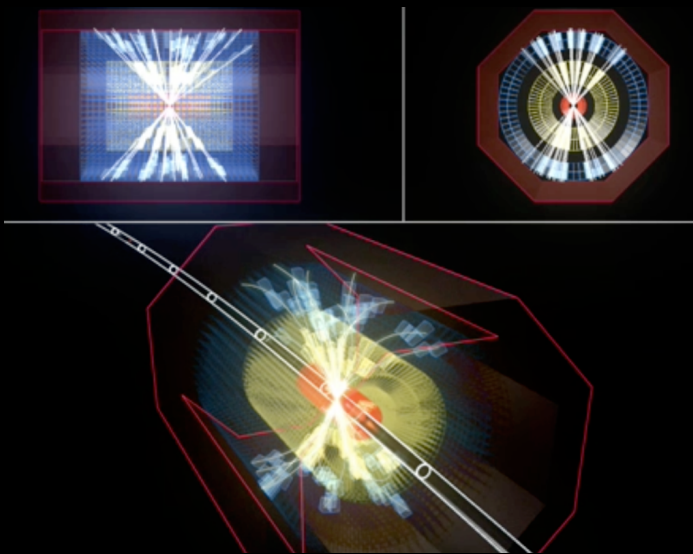
What is the structure of the colliding objects?

- Small-x region of the nuclear (hadron) wave function
- Fix out-of-equilibrium initial stages with well-controlled theoretical framework

What is the dynamics at the initial stages after the collision?

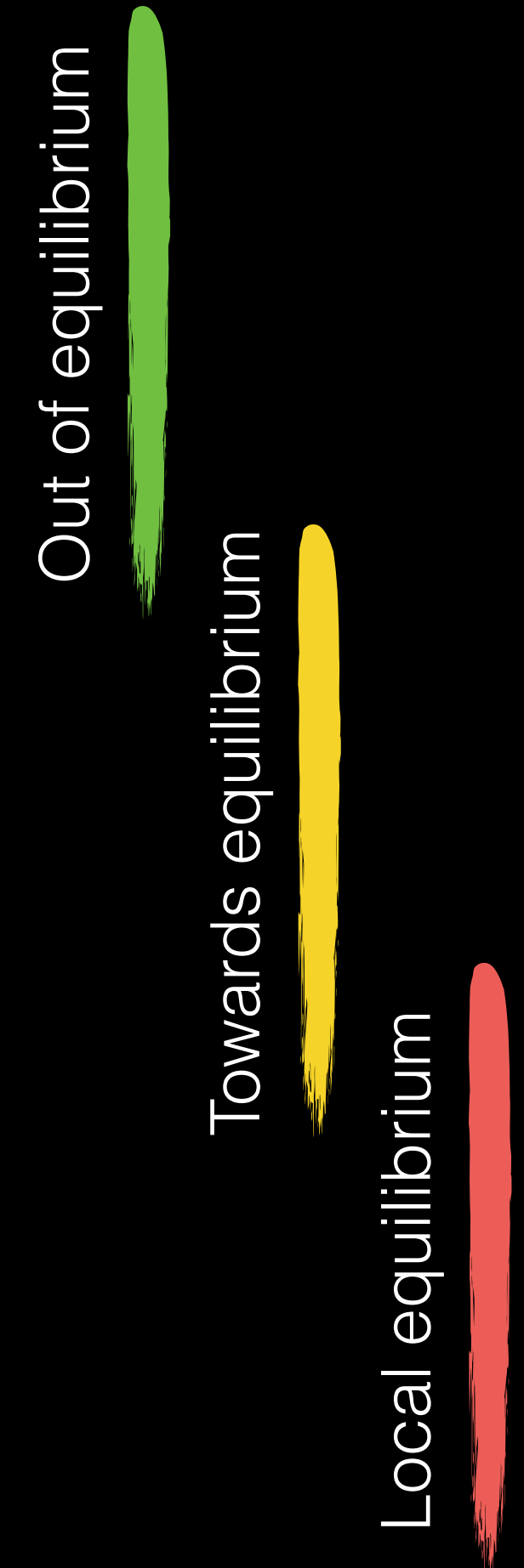
- Mechanism of isotropization/equilibration/thermalization — classical/quantum
- When/how/why hydrodynamics apply?

Final State

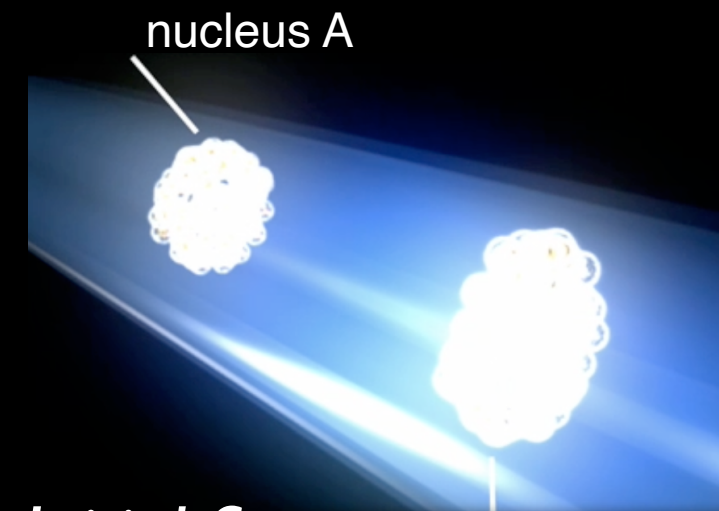


What are the properties of the produced medium?

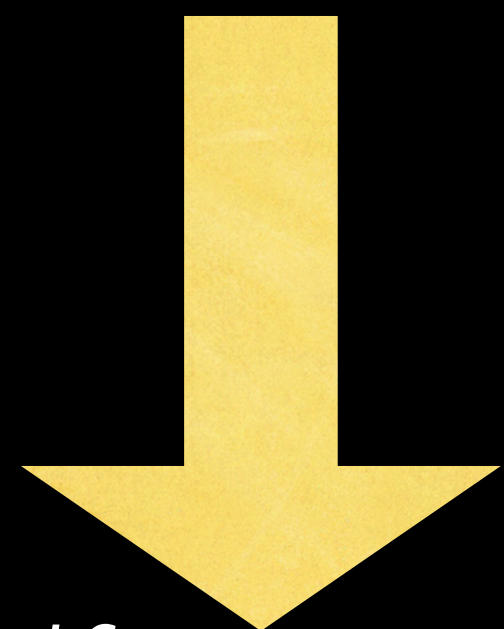
- identify signals to characterize the medium with well-controlled observables
- what are the building blocks and how they organize?
- is it strongly-coupled? quasiparticle description? phases?



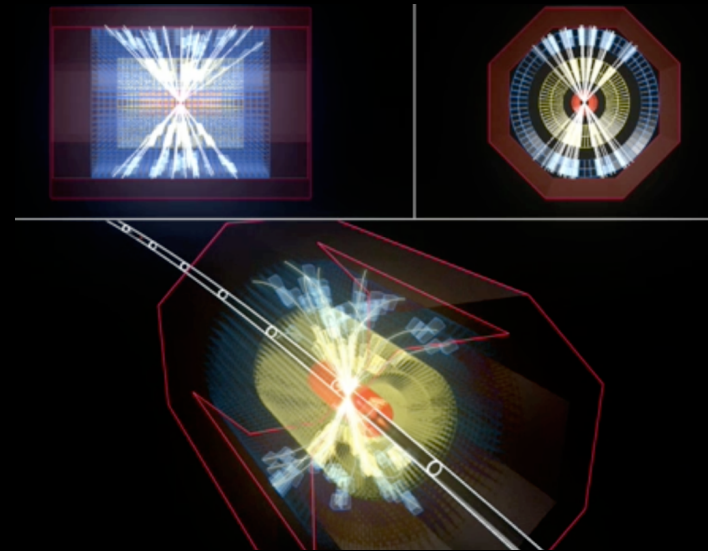
Questions accessible in HIC



Initial State



Final State



First ~ 5 yoctoseconds or $1.5\text{fm}/c$

What is the structure of the colliding objects?

- Small- x region of the nuclear (hadron) wave function
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What is the dynamics at the initial stages after the collision?

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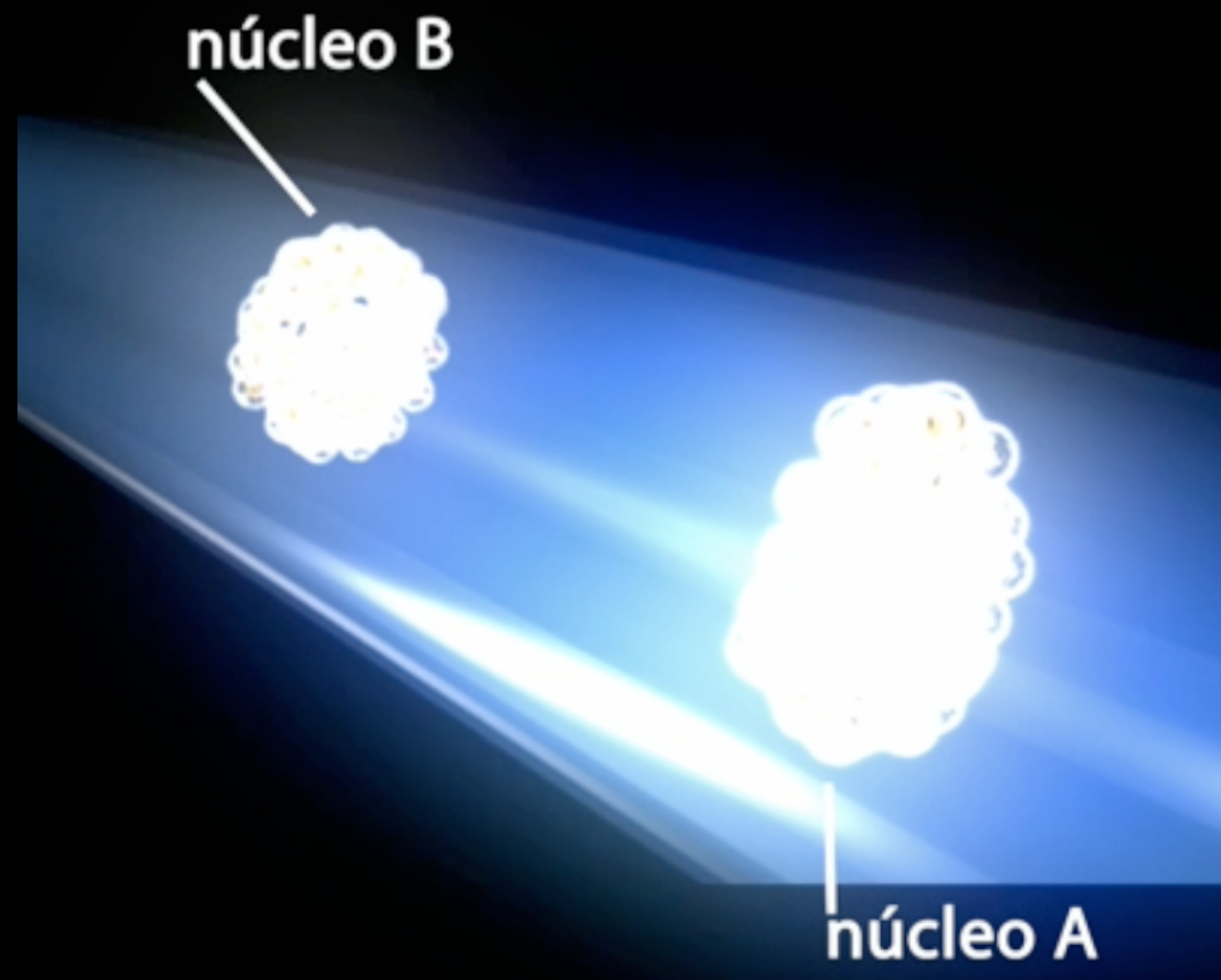
What are the properties of the produced medium?

- identify signals to characterize the medium with well-controlled observables
- what are the building blocks and how they organize?
- is it strongly-coupled? quasiparticle description? phases?

Out of equilibrium

Towards equilibrium

Local equilibrium



Initial state
Partonic densities
&
Multiparticle Production

Processes with large virtualities probe the inner part of the nucleons as usual — nuclear PDFs — **Dilute regime**

At smaller scales, however, the partons are densely packed — **Dense regime** — this regime **determines the production of the dense system**

“Dilute” regime - usual DGLAP

Nuclear PDFs extracted in DGLAP global fits - as usual proton PDFs

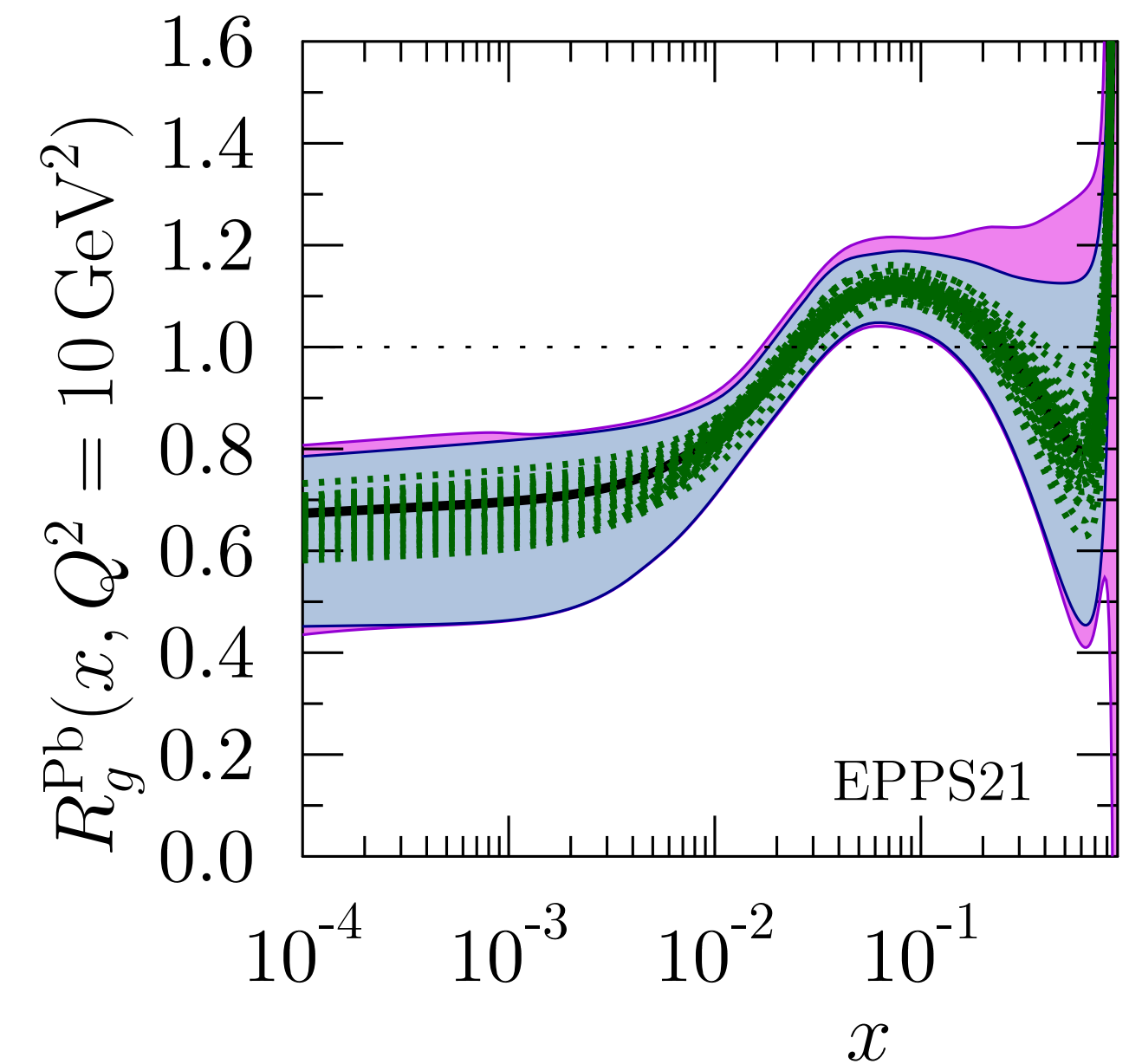
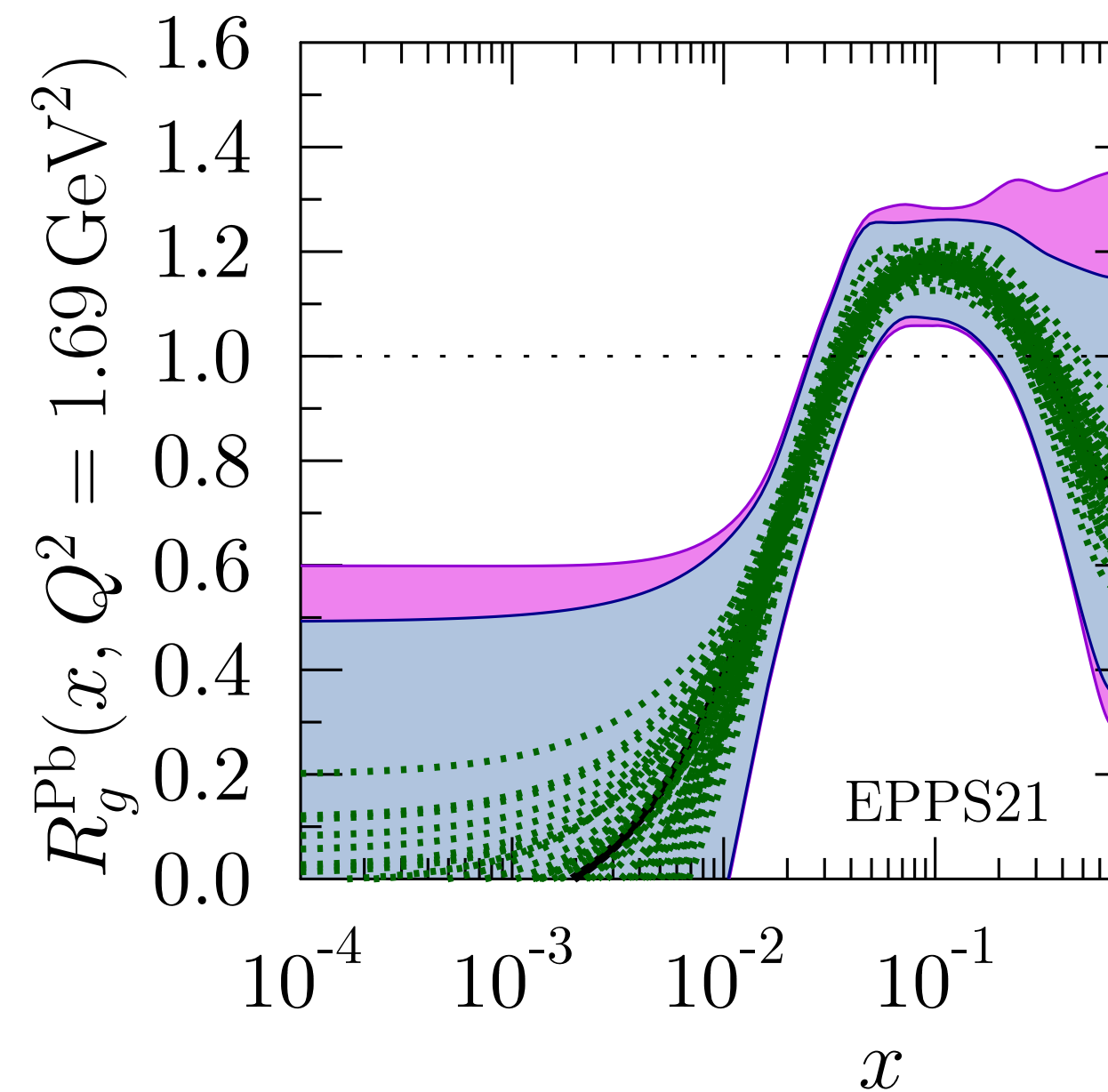
[Normally ratios w.r.t. proton PDFs fitted]

$$f_i^{p/A}(x, Q^2) = R_i^{p/A}(x, Q^2) f_i^p(x, Q^2).$$

$$\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \log \mu^2} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} [P_{qq} \otimes f_i + P_{qg} \otimes g]$$

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial \log \mu^2} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} [P_{gq} \otimes f + P_{gg} \otimes g]$$

[Fit I.C. with experimental data]



Excellent description of data (not shown) - universality of nuclear PDFs

“Dilute” regime - usual DGLAP

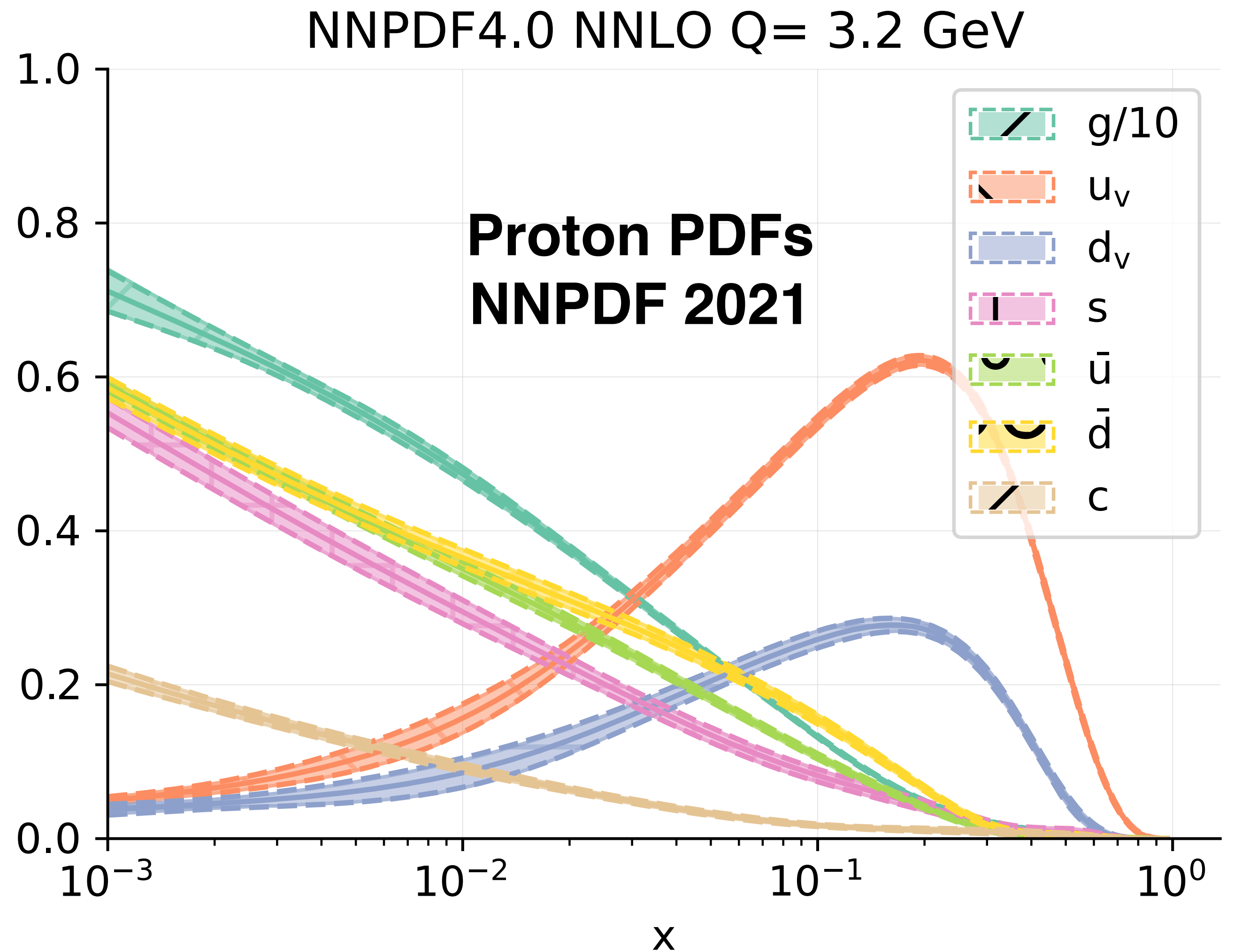
Nuclear PDFs extracted in DGLAP
 [Normally ratios w.r.t. proton PDFs]

$$\frac{\partial q_i}{\partial \log \mu^2} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} [P_{qq} \otimes q_i + P_{qg} \otimes g]$$

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial \log \mu^2} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} [P_{gg} \otimes g + P_{gq} \otimes q]$$

[Fit I.C. with experimental data]

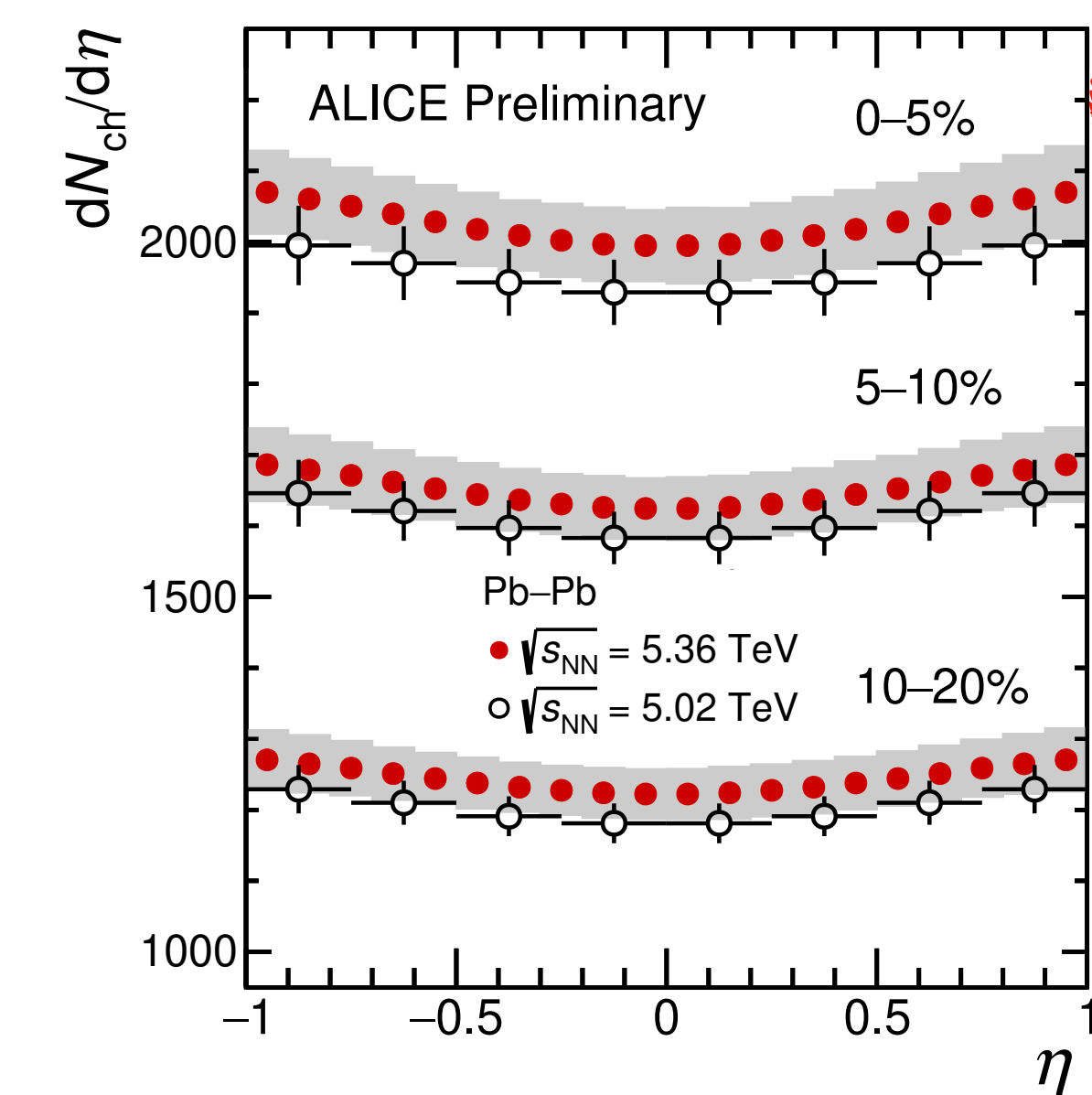
Excellent description of data



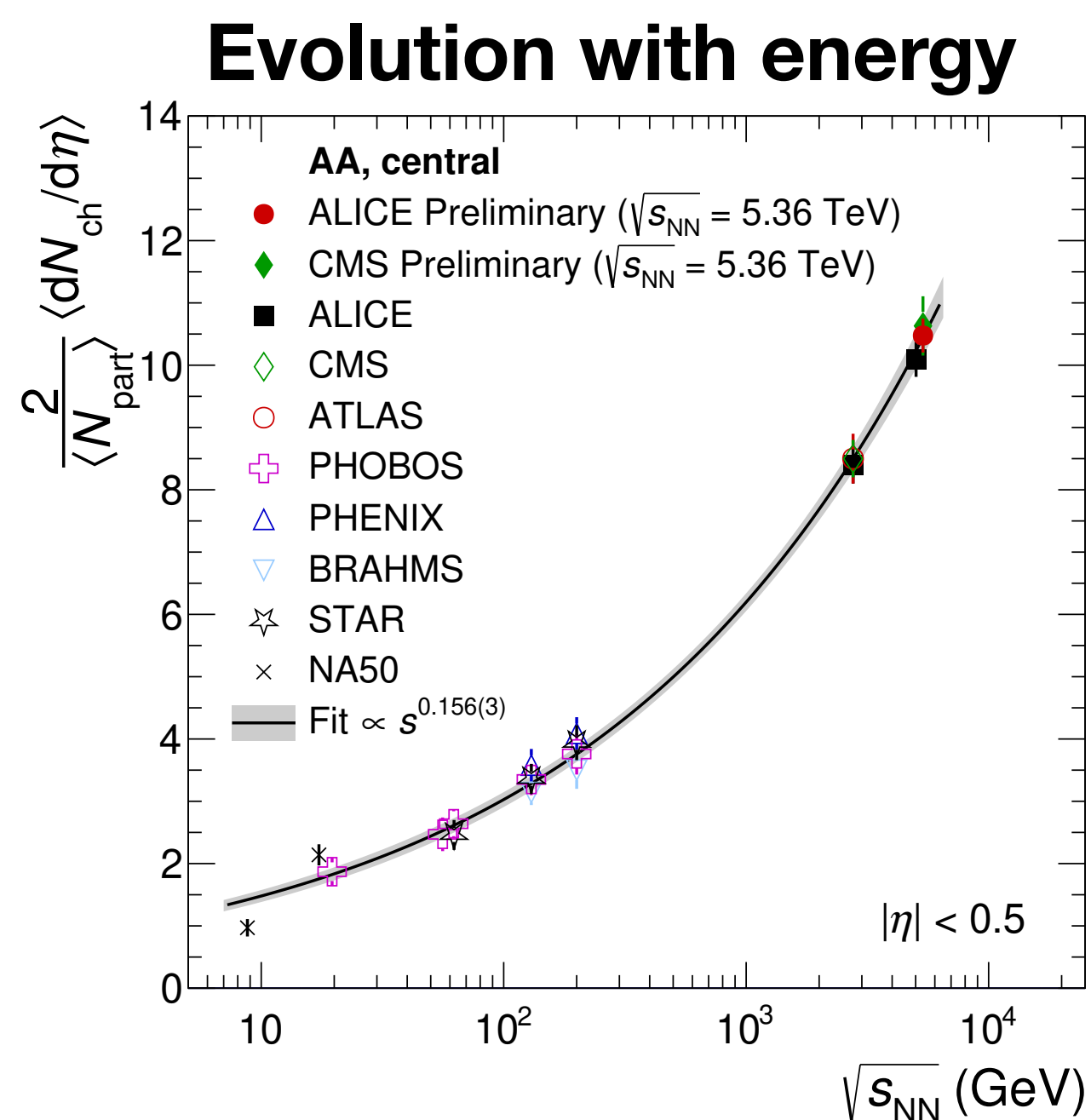
“Dense” regime - non-linear needed

Experimental data from ALICE in “centrality” and energy

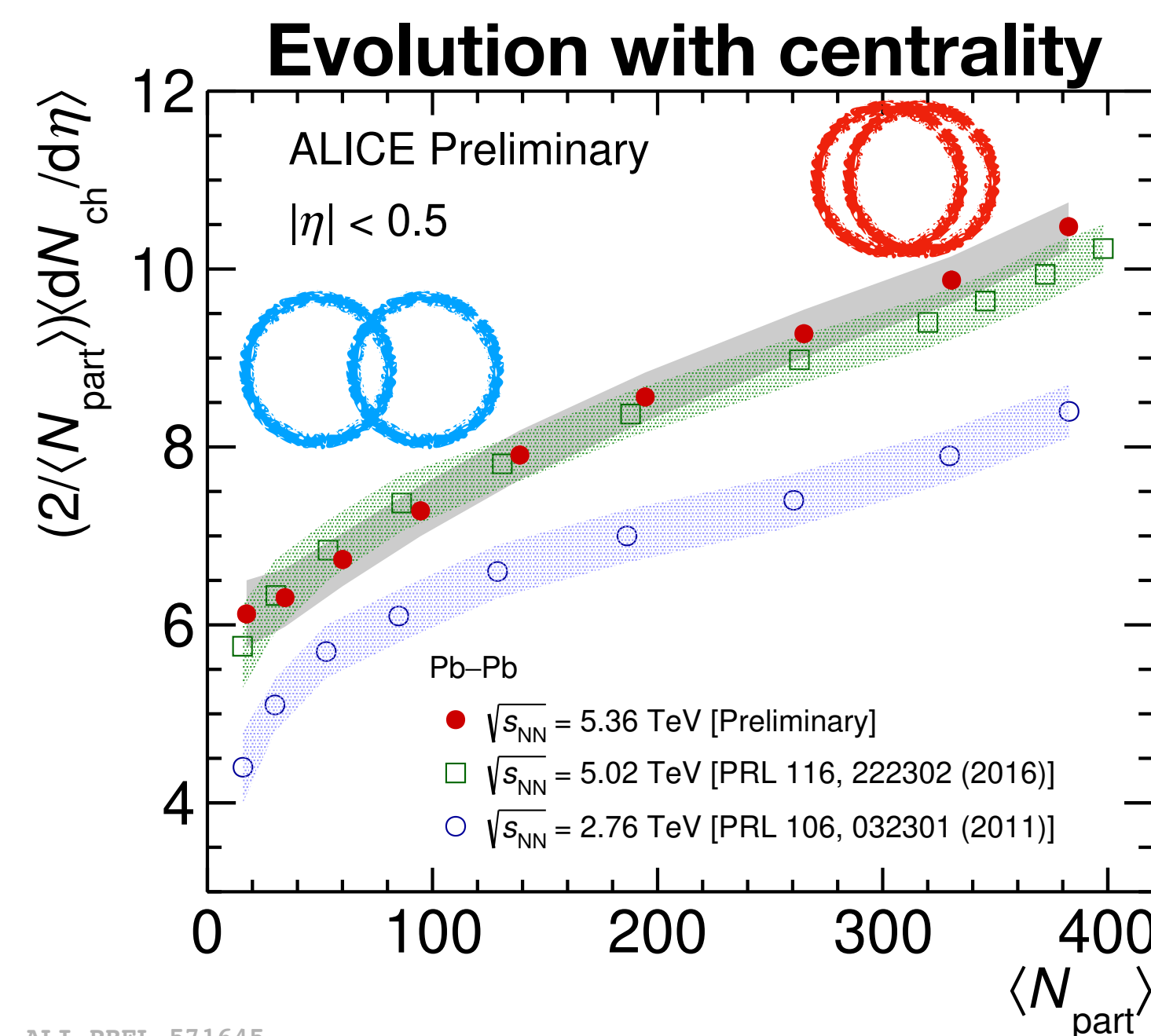
[N. Jacazio ICHEP2024]



ALI-PREL-571331



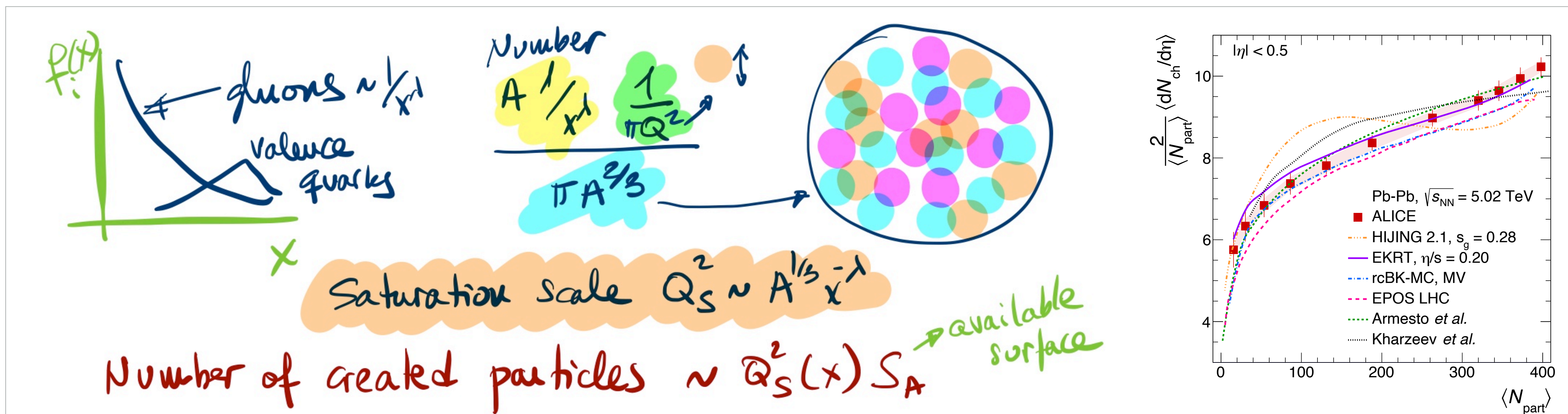
ALI-PREL-571650



ALI-PREL-571645

Huge multiplicities for central PbPb collisions

Saturation - Color Glass Condensate

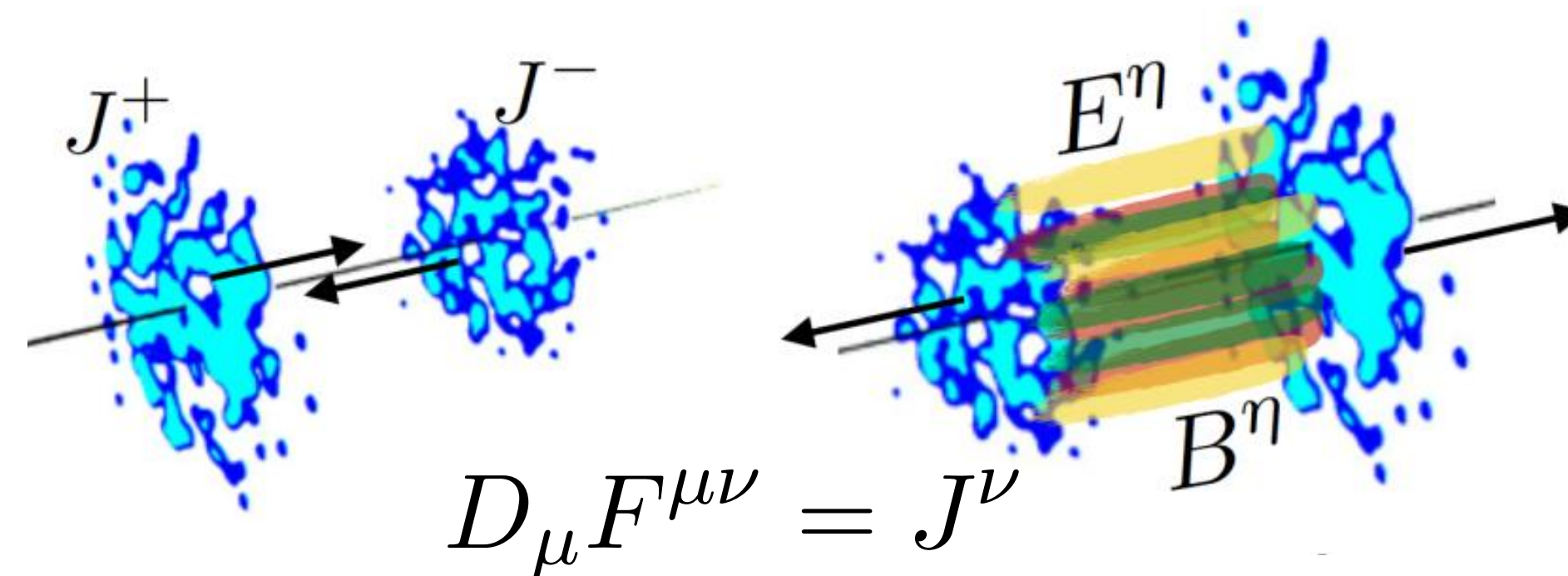


Color Glass Condensate

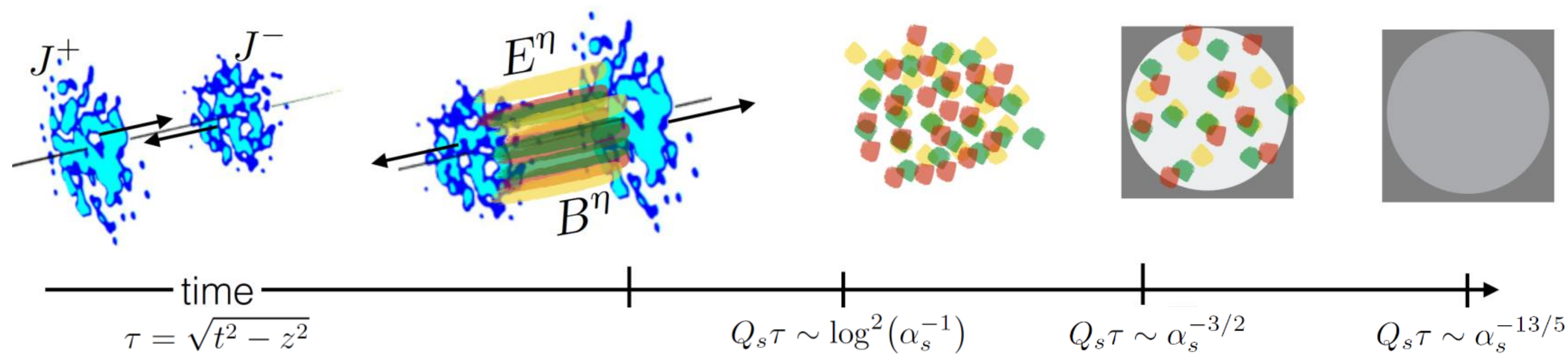
Large occupation numbers - classical fields

Quantum Corrections - evolution eqs.

Color Glass Condensate provides a general framework to compute initial stages



A picture for equilibration



Sören Schlichting

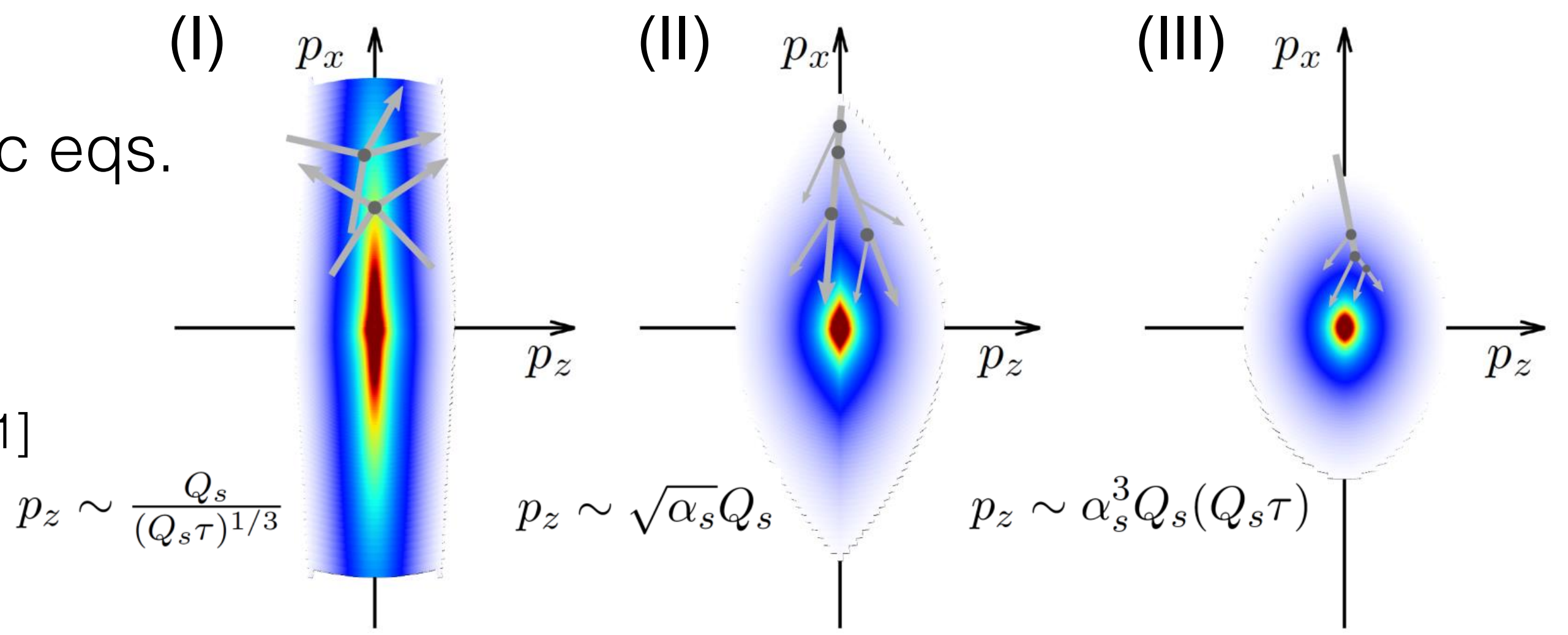
[Classical statistical/lattice gauge theory...]

Evolution of boost-invariant system with kinetic eqs.

$$p^\mu \partial_\mu f(x, p) = \mathcal{C}_{2 \leftrightarrow 2}[f] + \mathcal{C}_{1 \leftrightarrow 2}[f]$$

[Bottom-up thermalization — Baier, Mueller, Schiff, Son 2001]

[Arnold, Moore, Yaffe 2001; Kurkela, Zhu 2015; Keegan, Kurkela, Mazeliauskas, Teaney 2016; Kurkela Mazeliauskas, Paquet, Schlichting, Teaney 2019...]



Hydrodynamics

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + p) u^\mu u^\nu - p g^{\mu\nu} + \text{viscosity corrections}$$

(+ Equation of State)

+ initial time
+ freeze-out temperature

Far from equilibrium initial state needs to equilibrate fast (~ 1 fm or less)

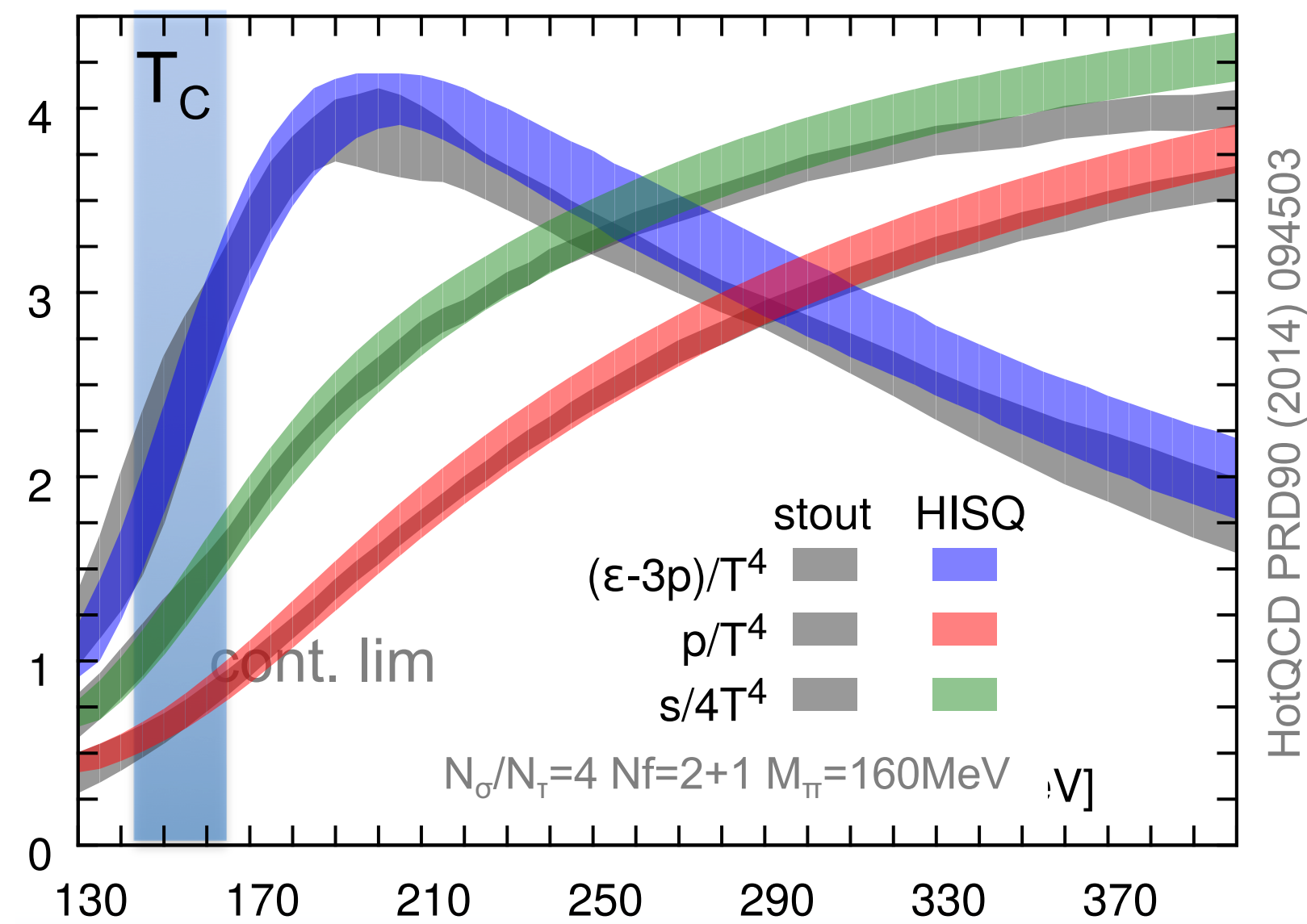
Most of the theoretical progress in the last years:

- Viscosity corrections and consistency
- Fluctuations in initial conditions
- Emergence of hydro from kinetic eqs, holography, etc...

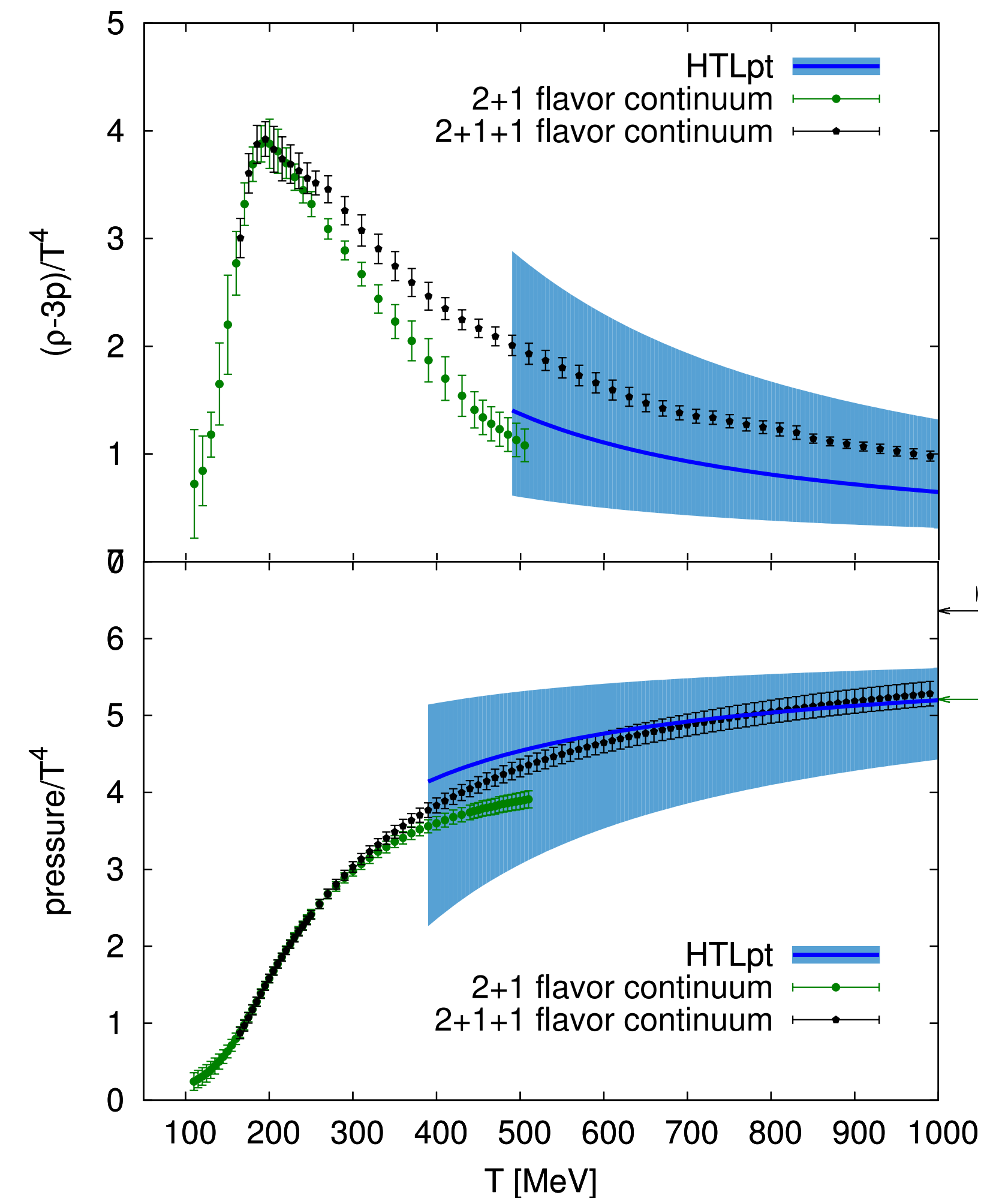


EoS — high temperature

Equation of state at $\mu_B=0$ is rather well known by lattice at moderate temperature — reasonably good matching with perturbative at $T \lesssim 1\text{GeV}$



[Included in hydro simulations]



[Borsanyi et al Nature 539 (2016) no.7627, 69-71]

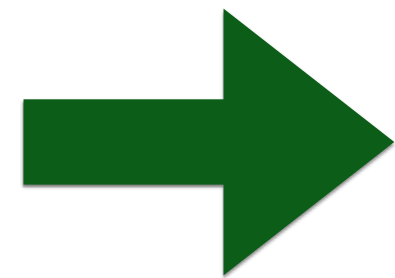
Harmonics: the golden measurement

[simplified discussion]

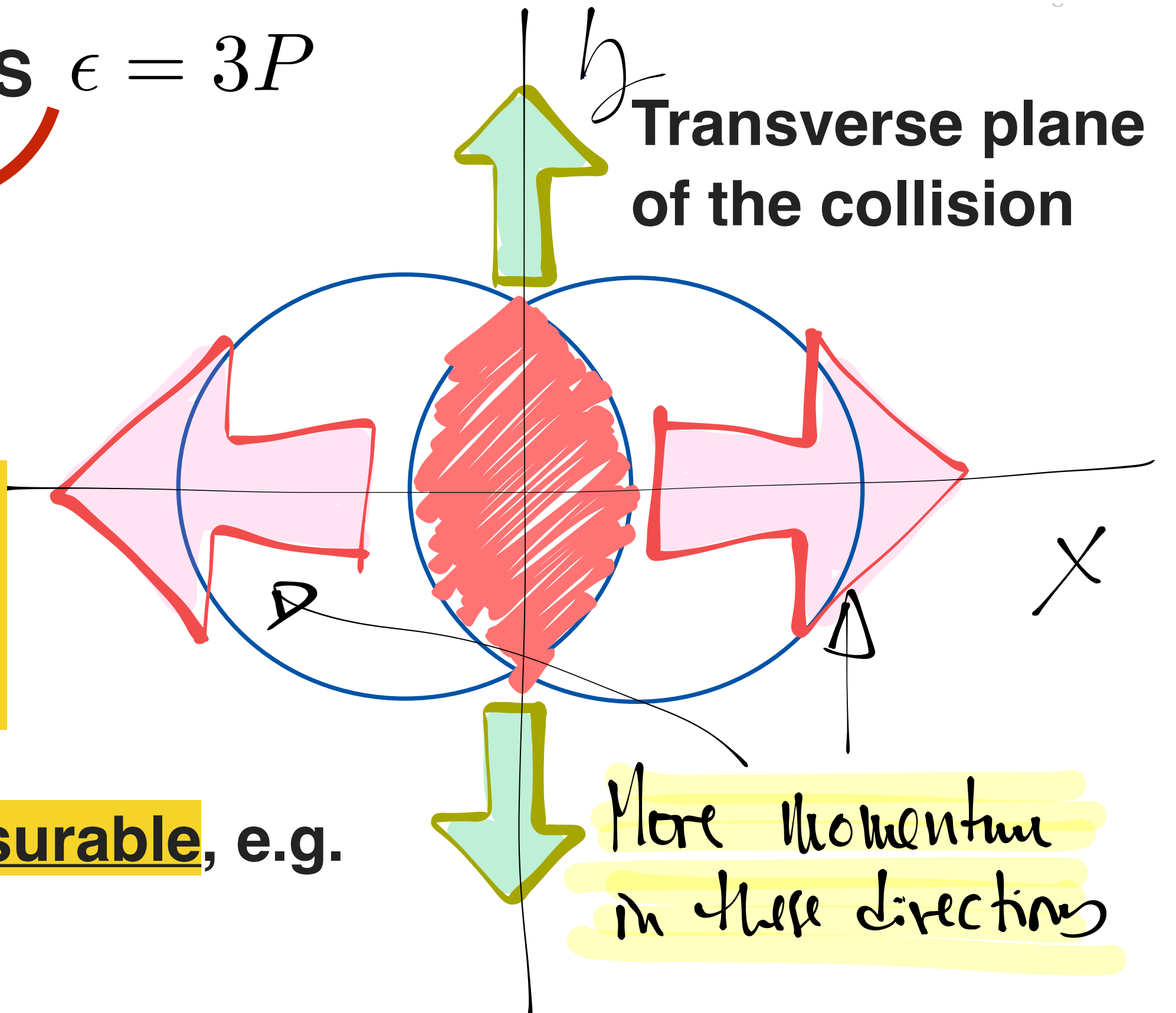
Remember the Euler eqs. – and use conformal EoS $\epsilon = 3P$

$$\frac{\partial \beta}{\partial t} = -\frac{c^2}{\epsilon + P} \nabla P \propto -\nabla \epsilon$$

Initial state
spatial
anisotropies



Final state
momentum
anisotropies



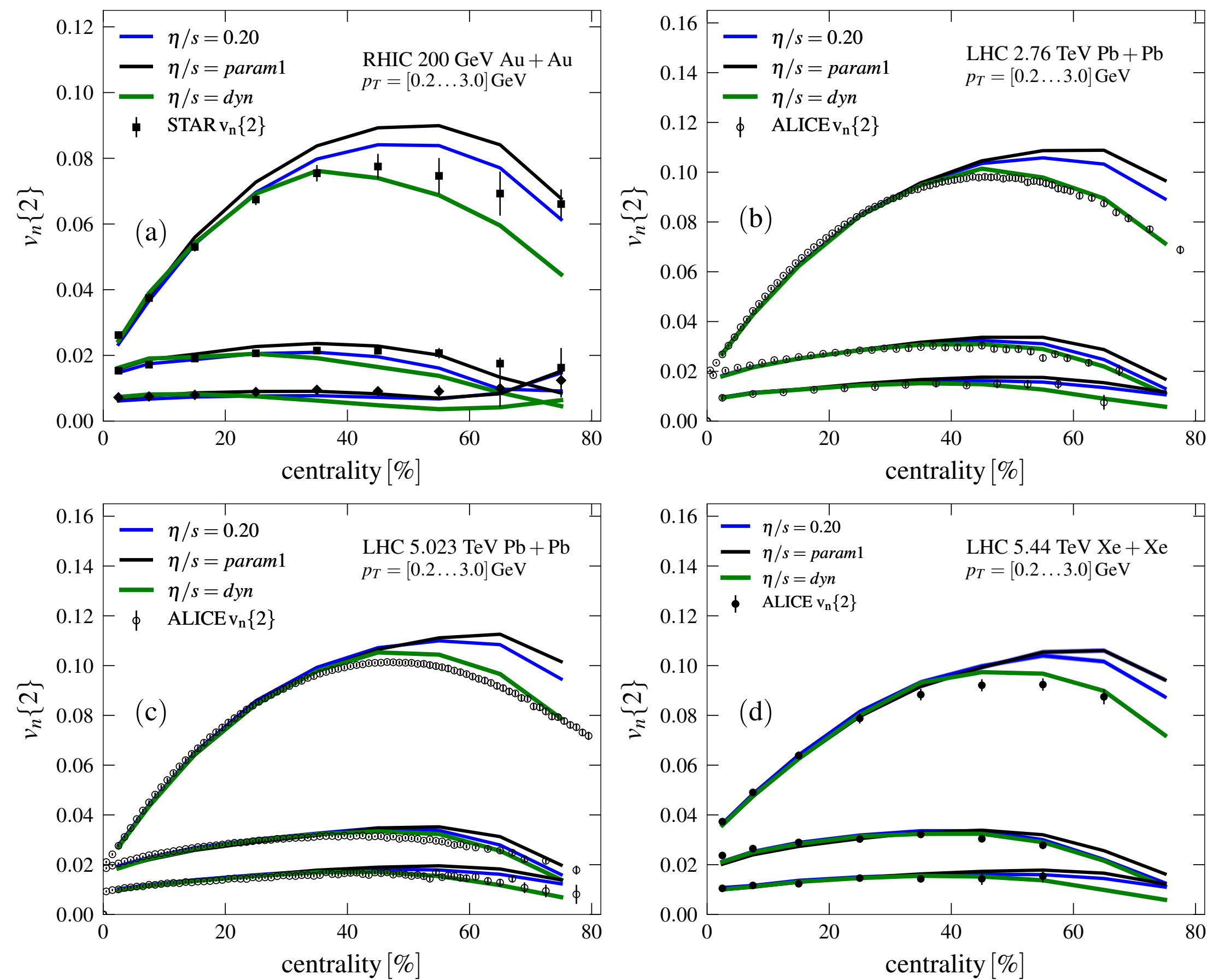
These final state momentum anisotropies are measurable, e.g.

$$\frac{dN}{d\phi} \propto 1 + 2 \sqrt{2} \cos 2\phi$$

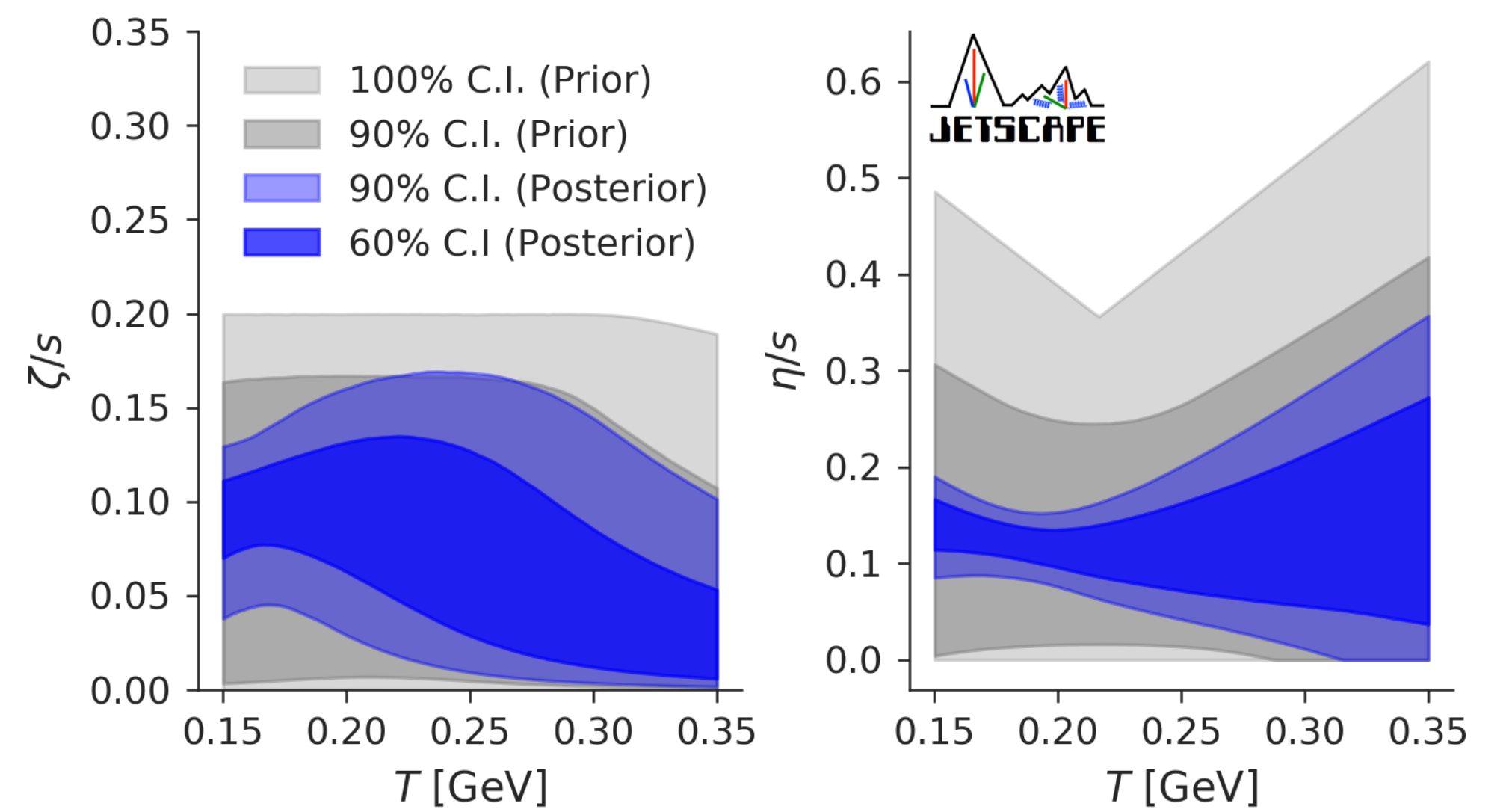
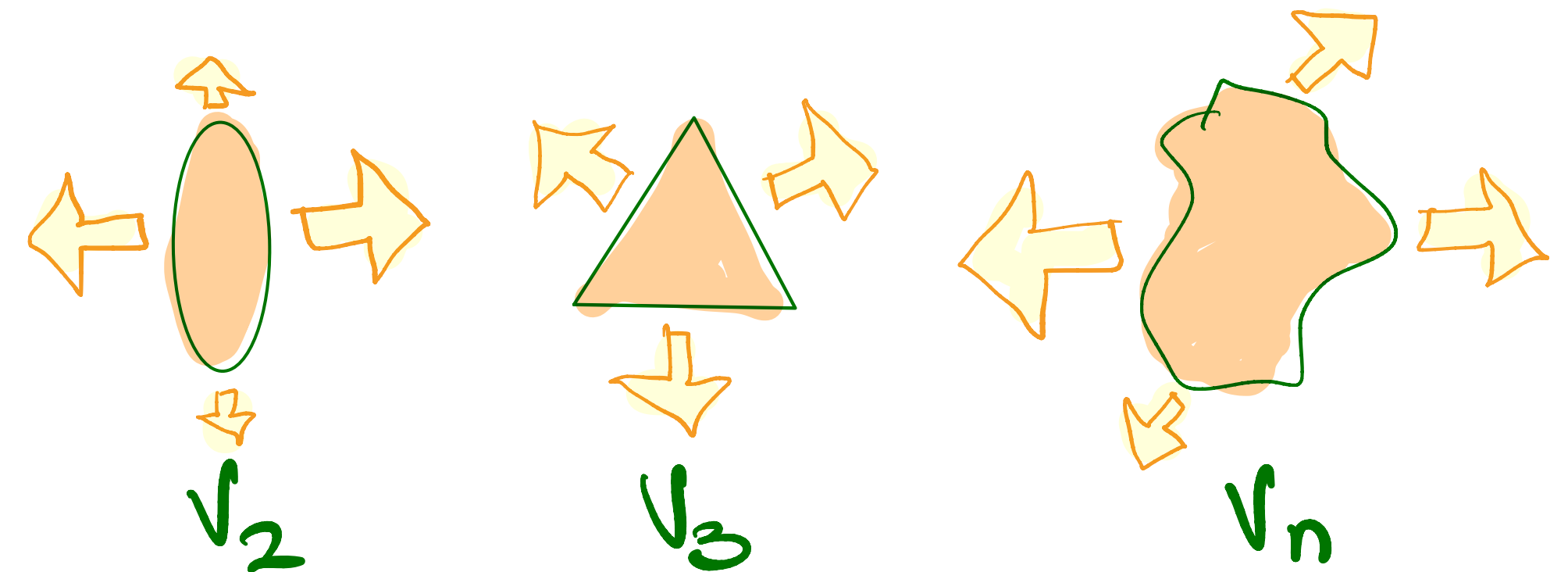
↳ Elliptic Flow

Description of data and viscosity

[Hirvonen, Eskola, Niemi 2022]



Fluctuation in I.C. generate higher harmonics



[Everett et al. 2021]

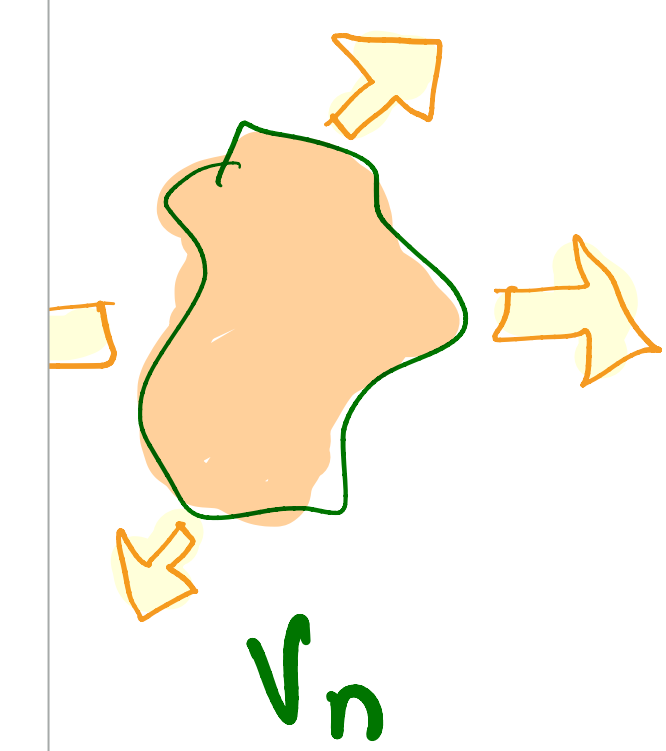
Description of data and viscosity

Shengquan Tuo parallel 08/07

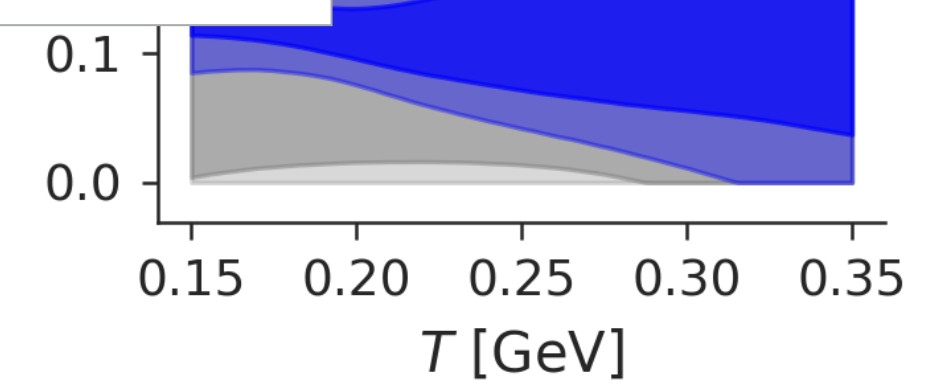
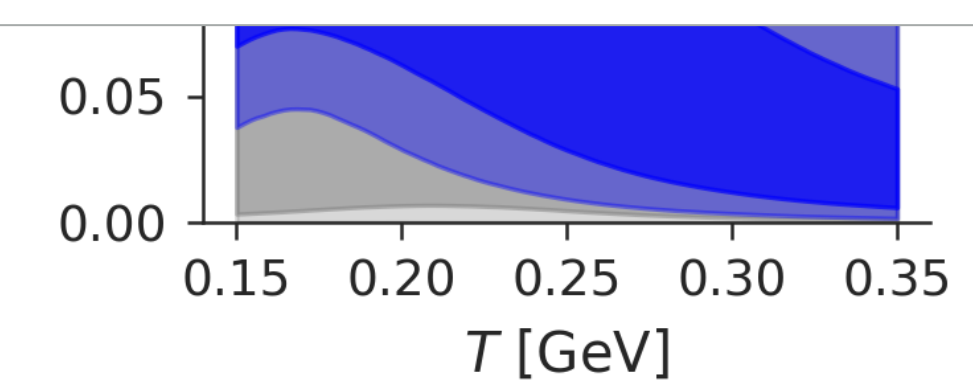
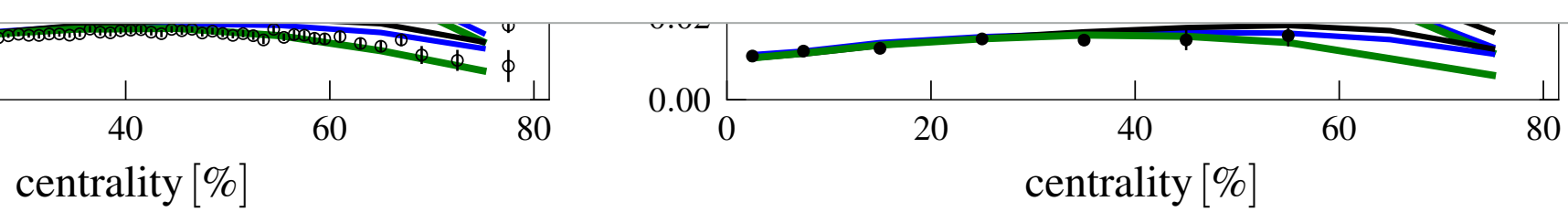
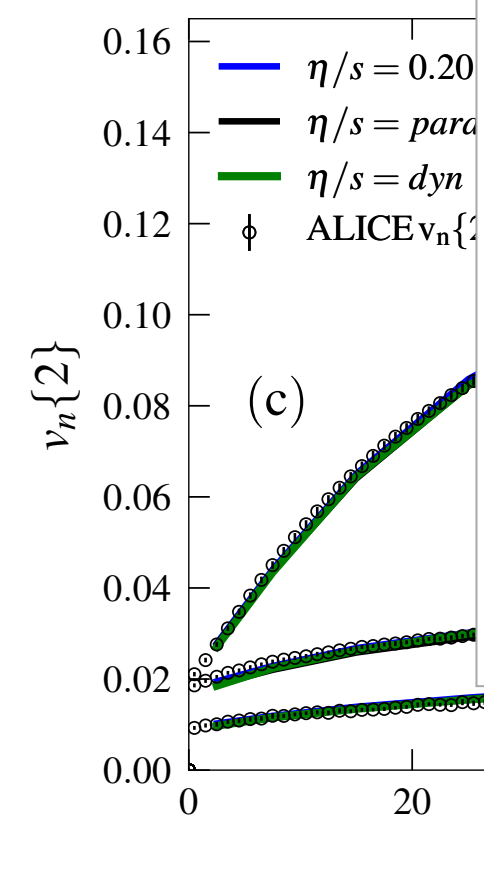
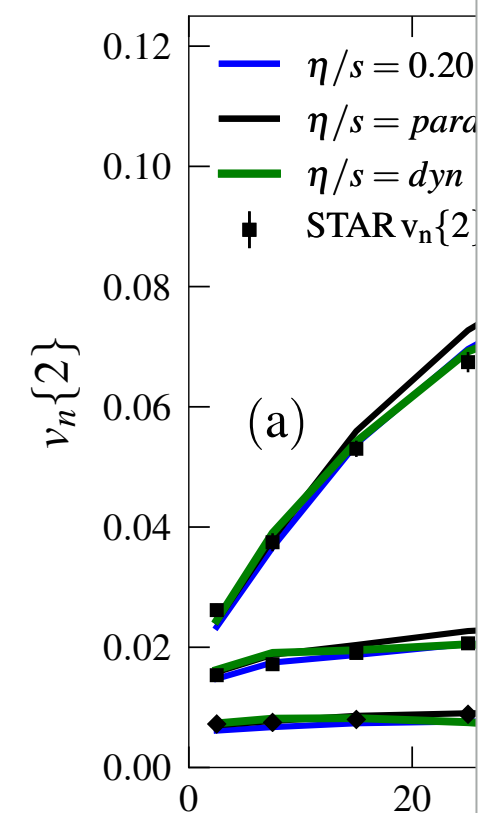
Do we see flow signals?

	Charged hadron	Strange	Prompt J/ψ	b → J/ψ	Prompt D ⁰	b → D ⁰	Y(1S/2S)	Dijet	Z boson
PbPb	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
pPb	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	No	No		
pp	Yes	Yes			Yes				

other harmonics

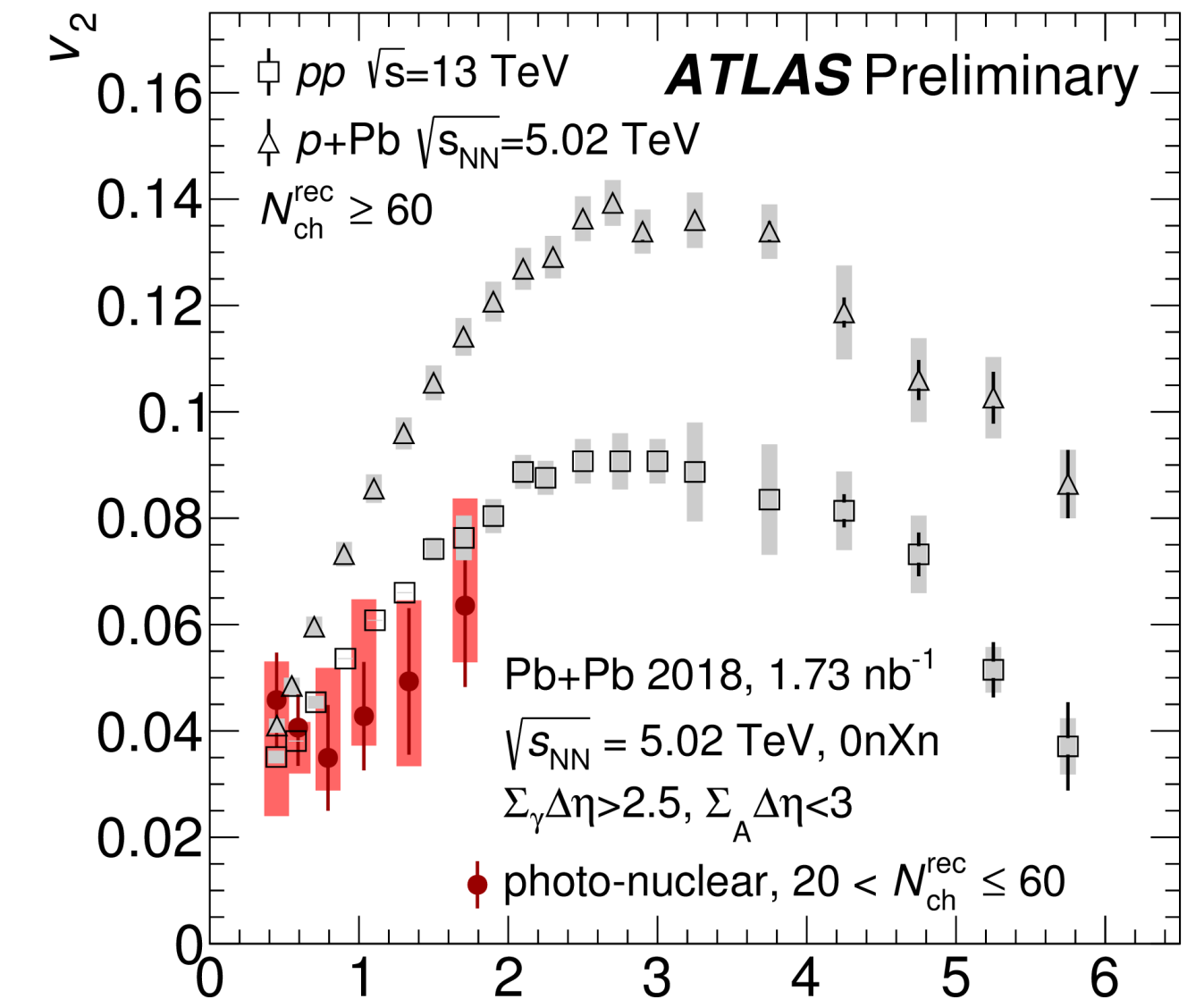
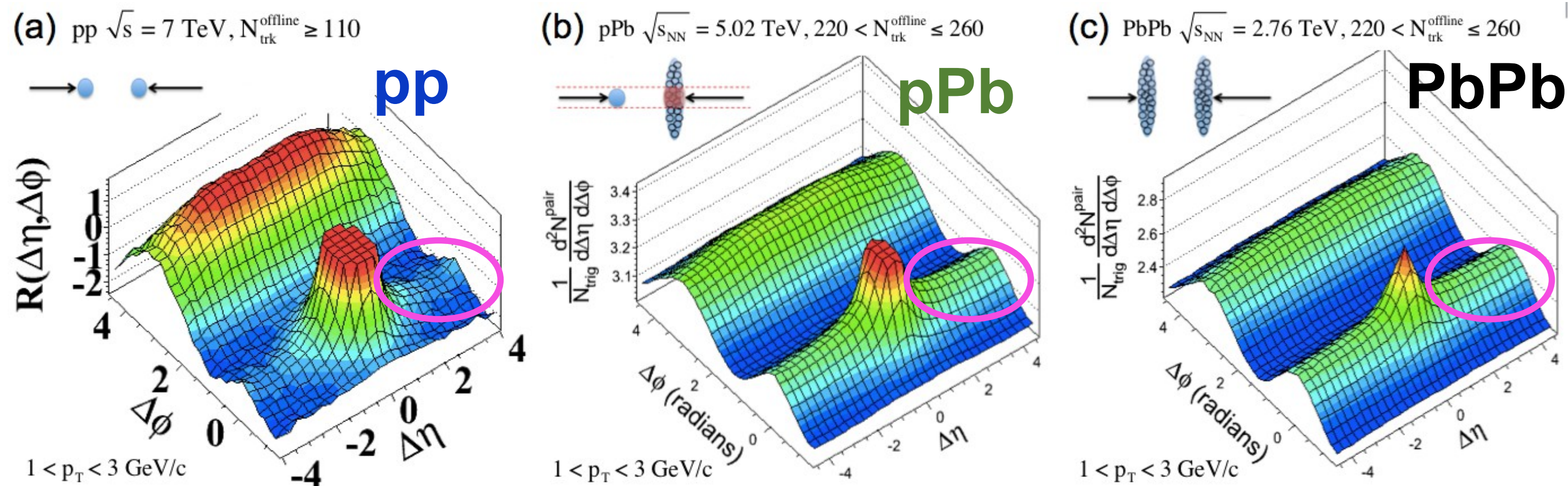


APE



[Everett et al. 2021]

Hydro works in all systems from small to large ??



Hydro models able to describe the harmonics from these data

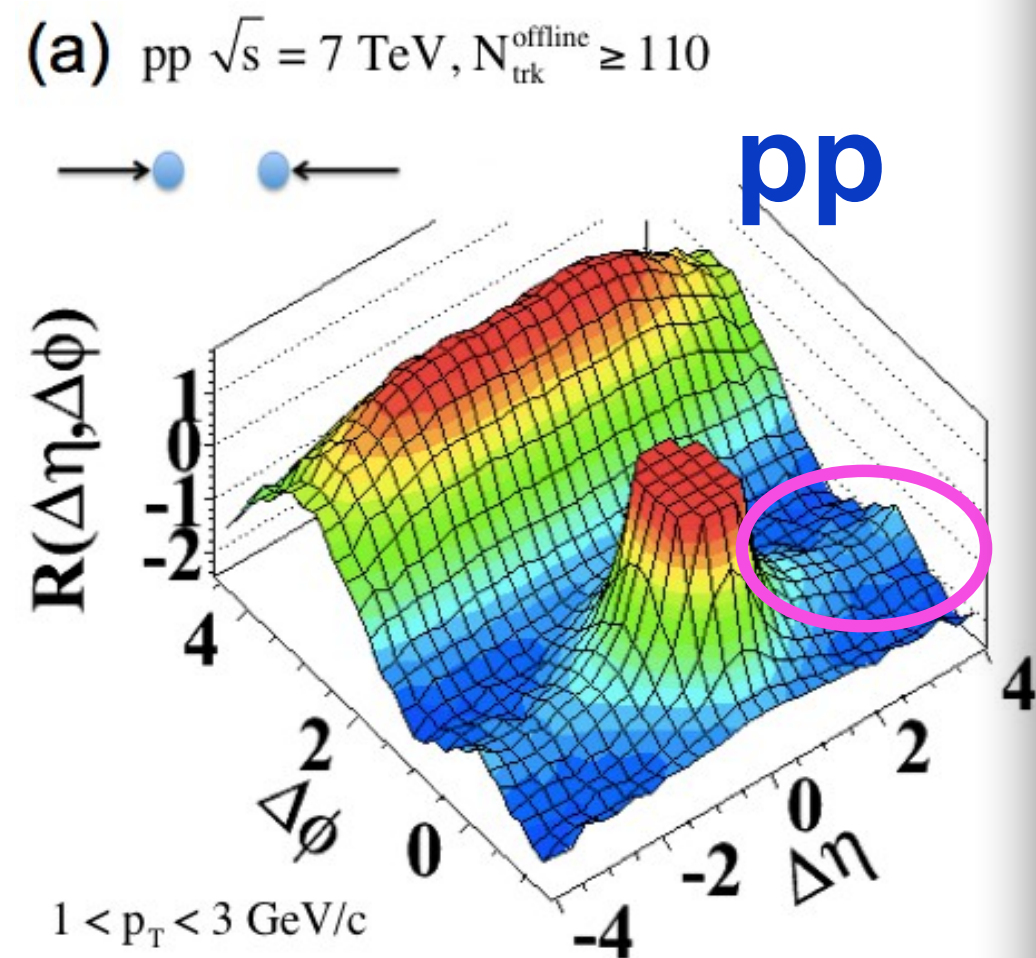
Hydrodynamics seem to work (too) well in all colliding systems for large multiplicities

But time scales and occupancies in small systems are small

For some classes of problems hydro equations have attractors

[universal solutions, independent on initial conditions]

Hydro works in all systems from small to large ??



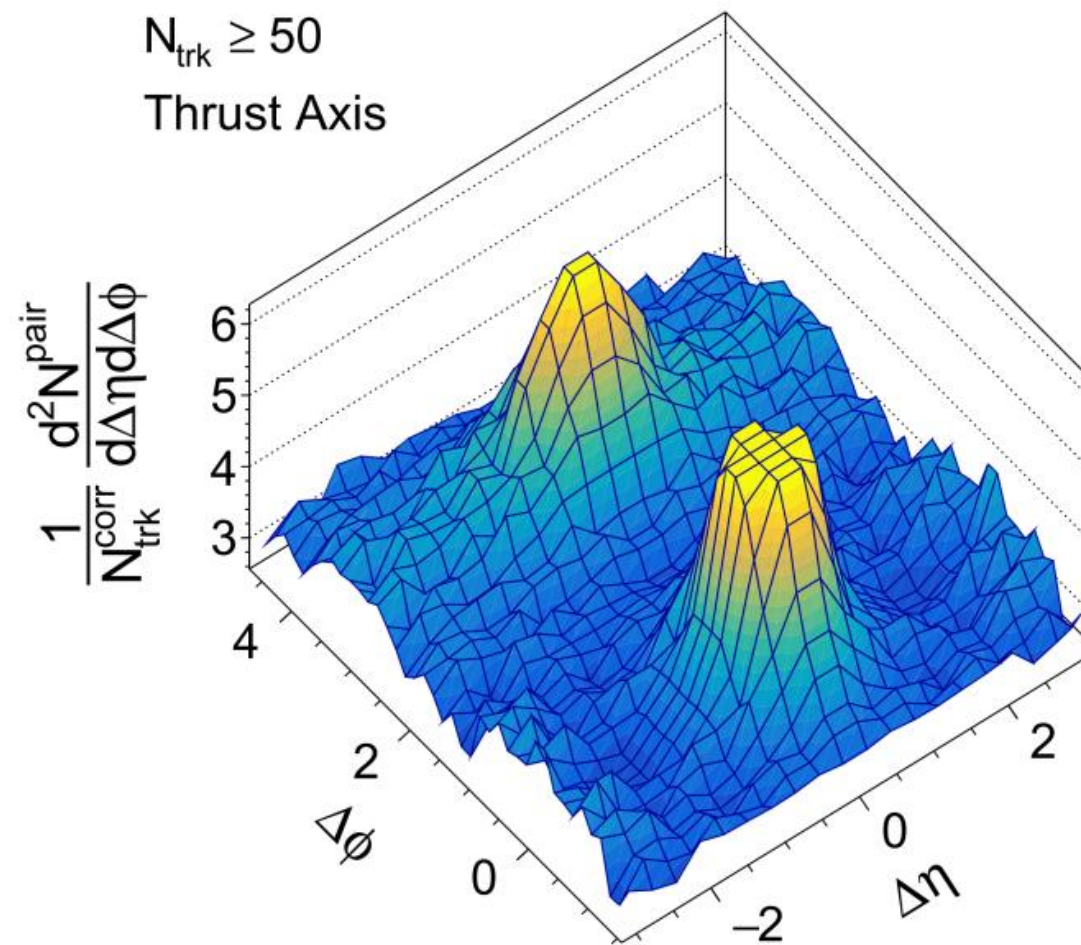
Hydro models able

Hydrodynamics se

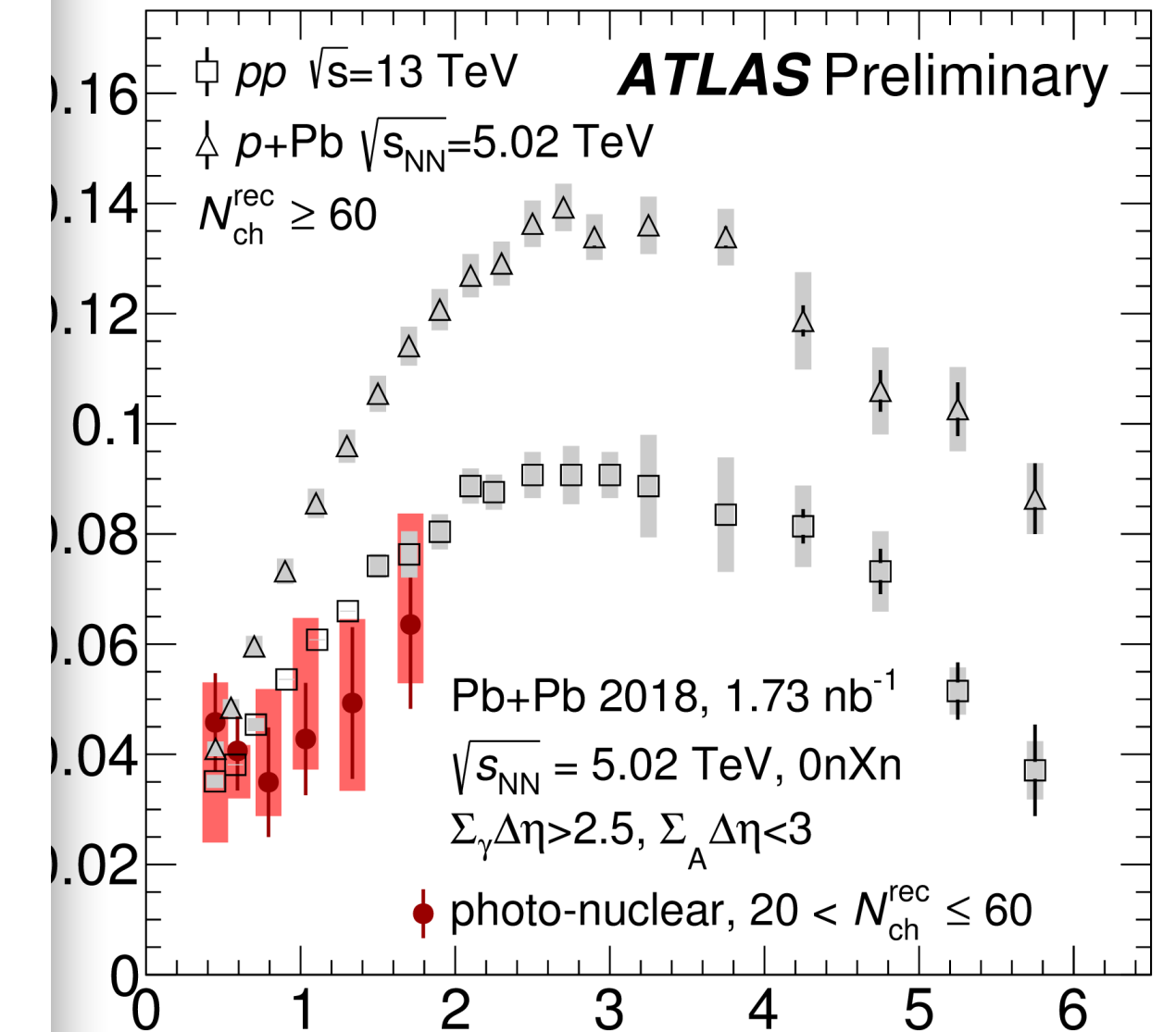
Yen-Jie Lee Parallel 09/07

Hits of a ridge in (reanalysed) high multiplicity ALEPH data?

ALEPH e^+e^- , $\sqrt{s}=183\text{-}209 \text{ GeV}$
 $N_{\text{trk}} \geq 50$
 Thrust Axis



What does it mean?

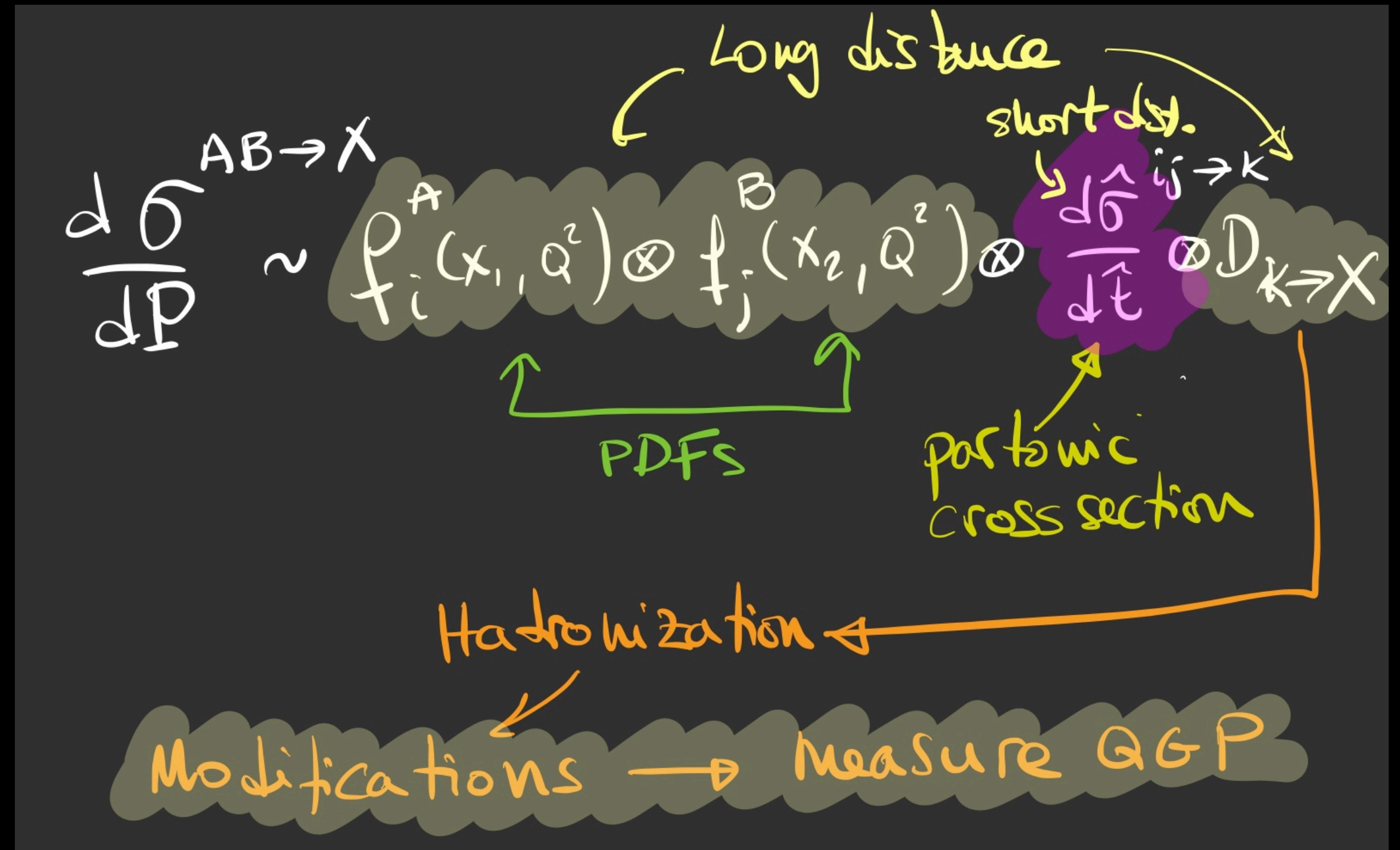
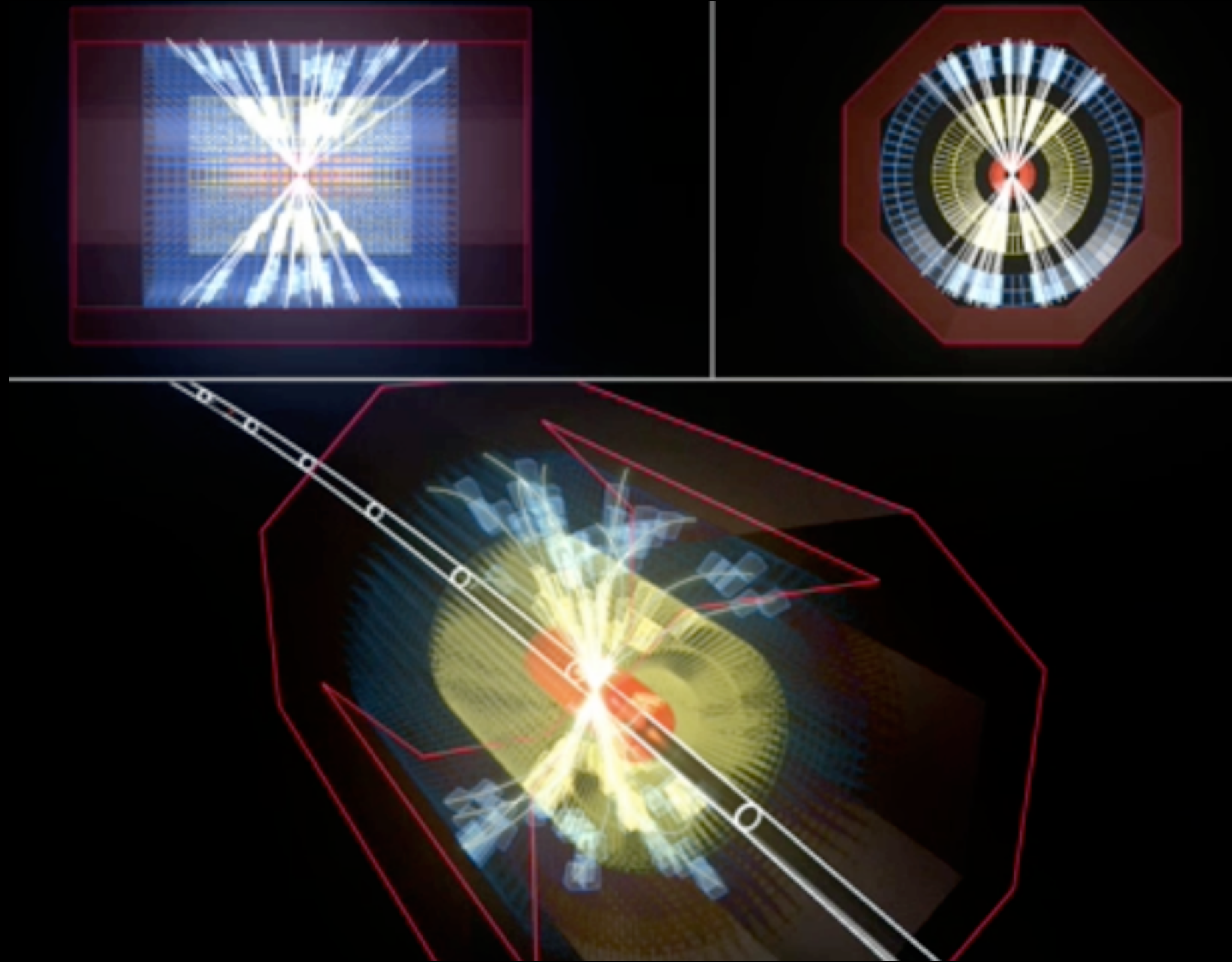


large multiplicities

For some classes of problems hydro equations have attractors

[universal solutions, independent on initial conditions]

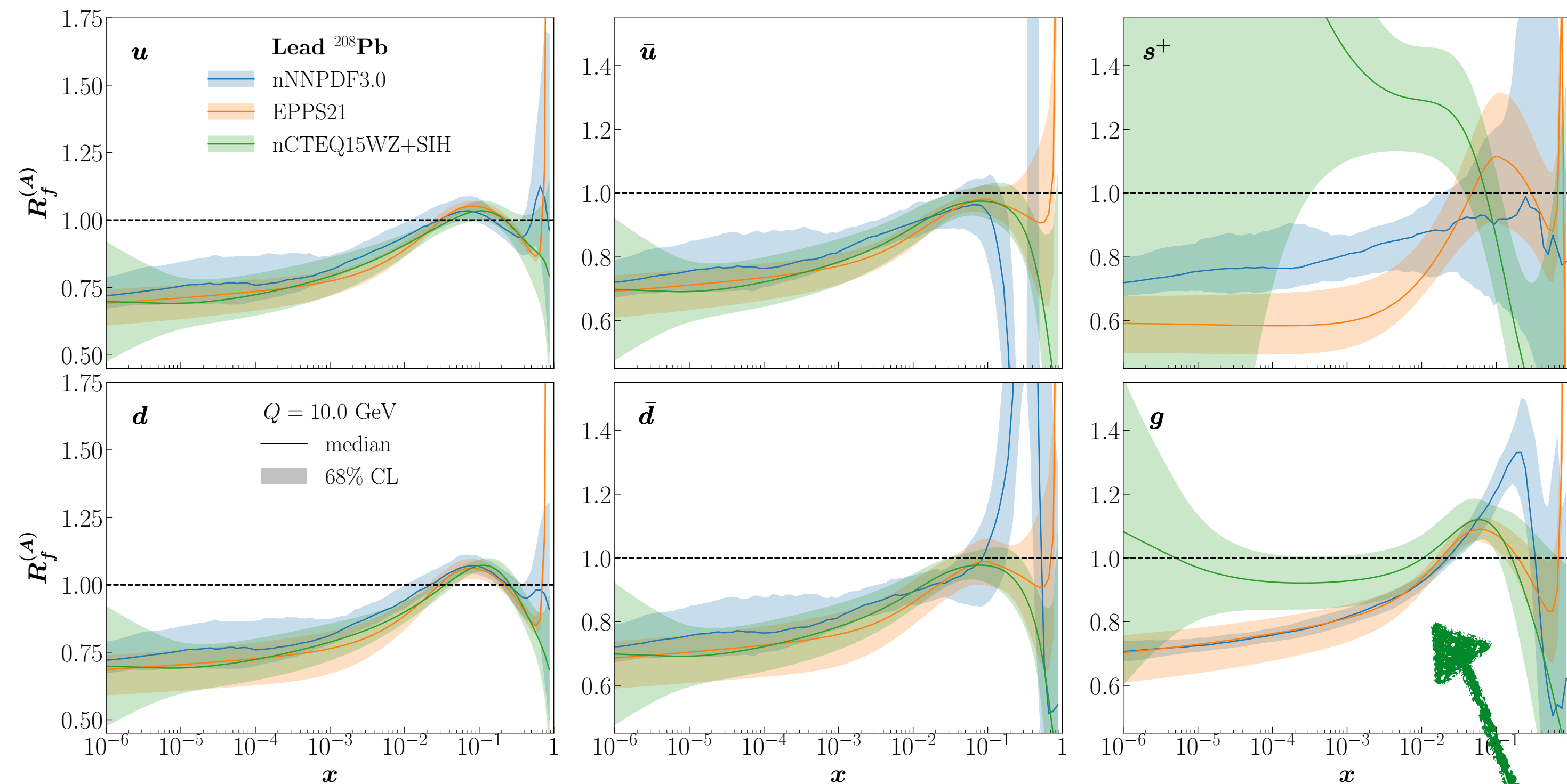
HARD PROBES



- Jet quenching
- Quarkonia suppression
- Open heavy flavor
- EW probes

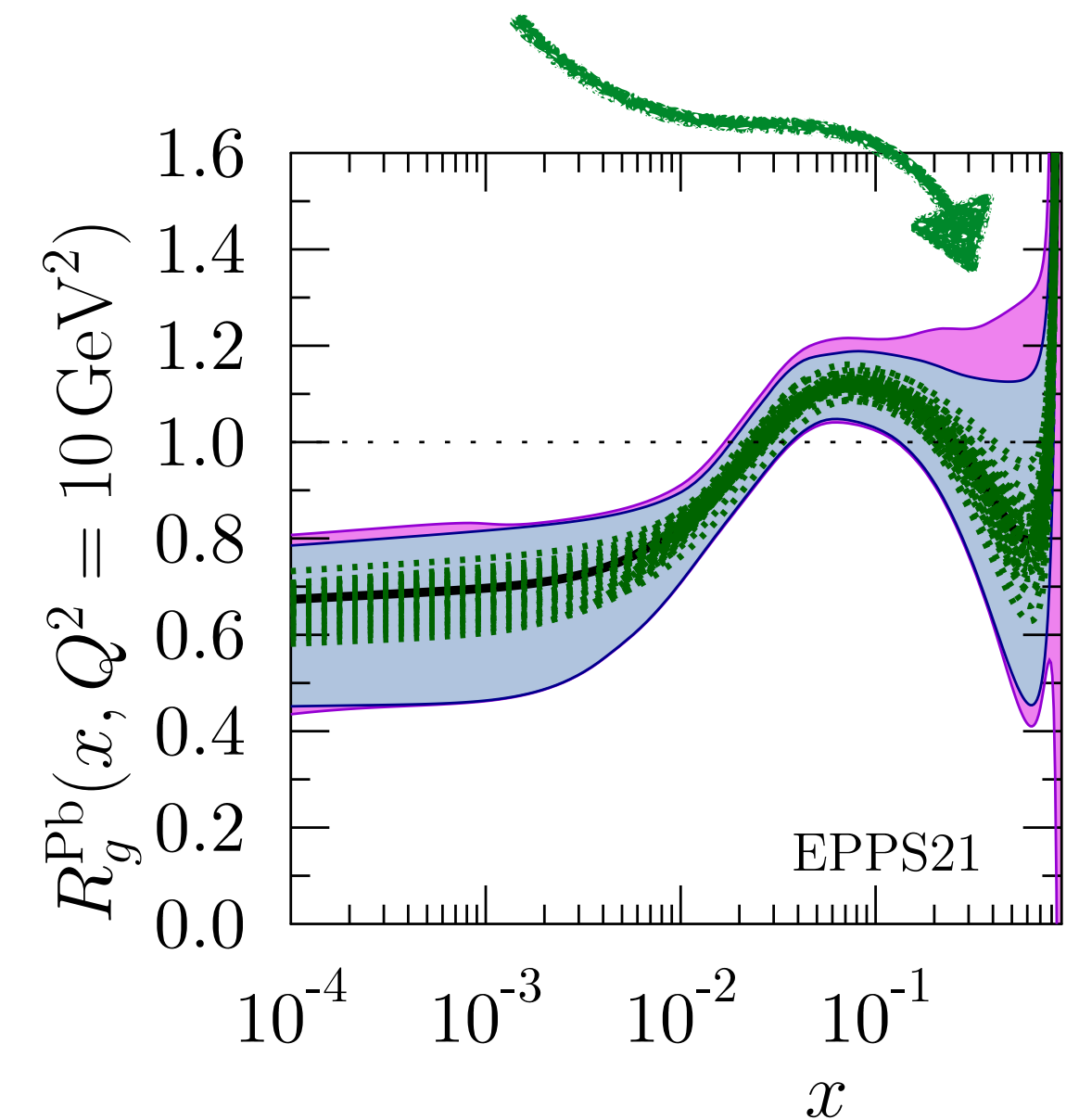
Nuclear Parton Distribution Functions II

Two new analyses EPPS21, nNNPDF3.0 Proton PDF uncertainties



[Plot J. Rojo]

[Several different teams: EPPS, nNNPDF, nCTEQ, TUJU, DSSZ, HKN, KA]

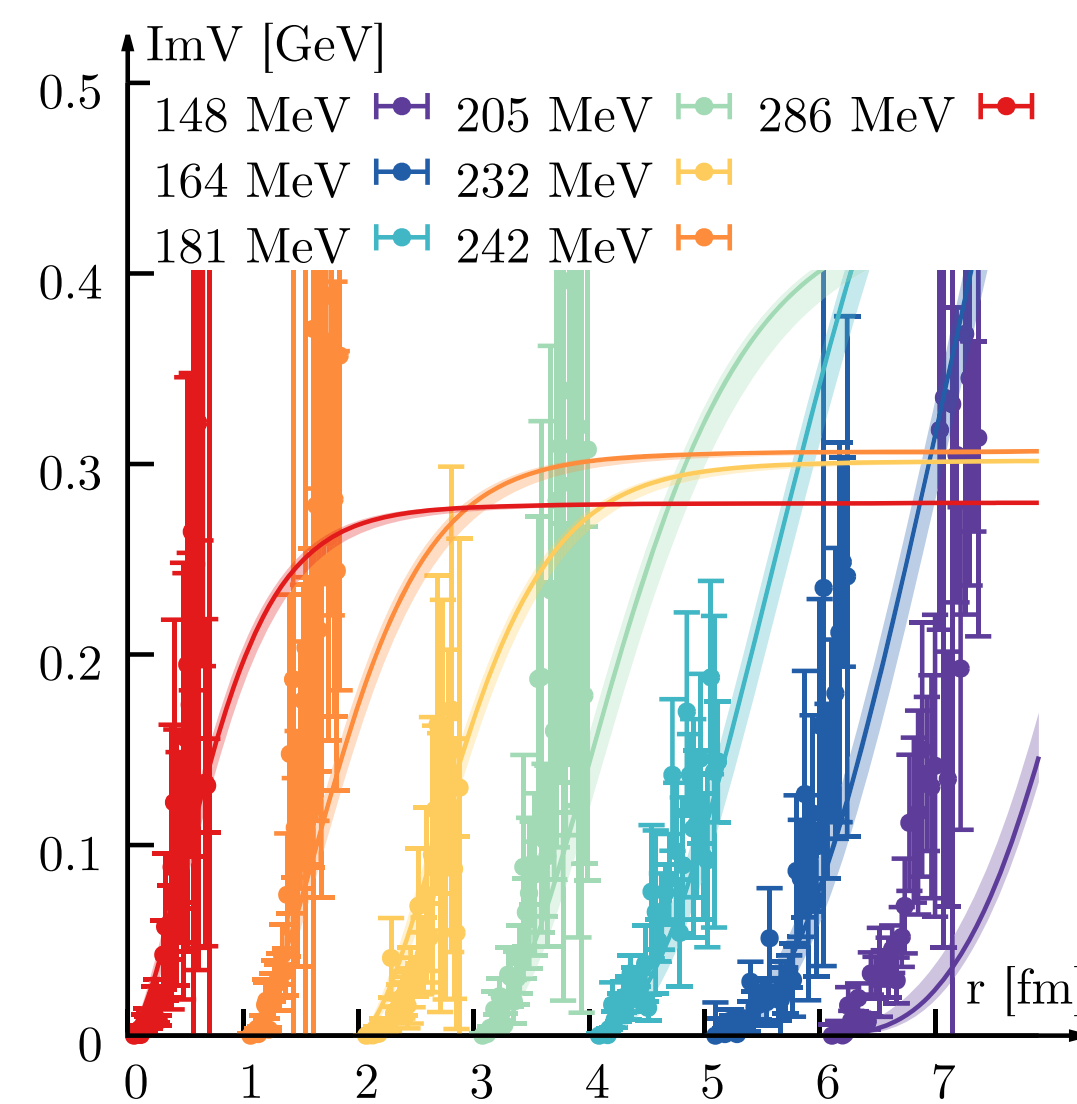
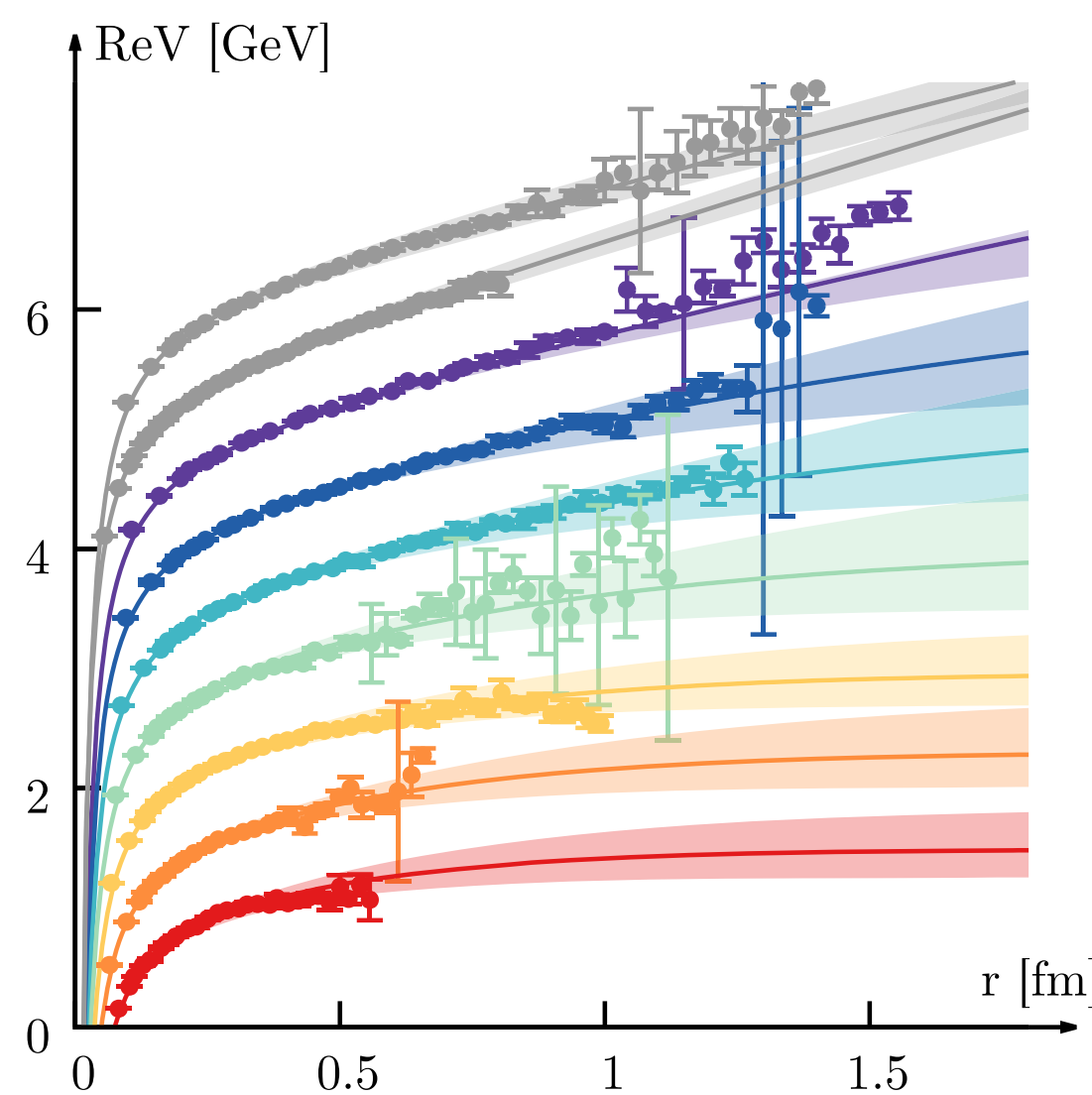
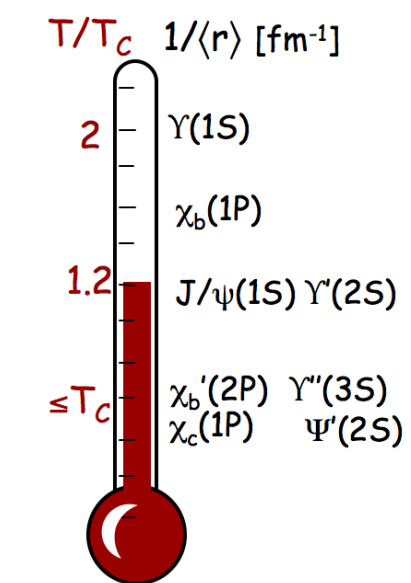
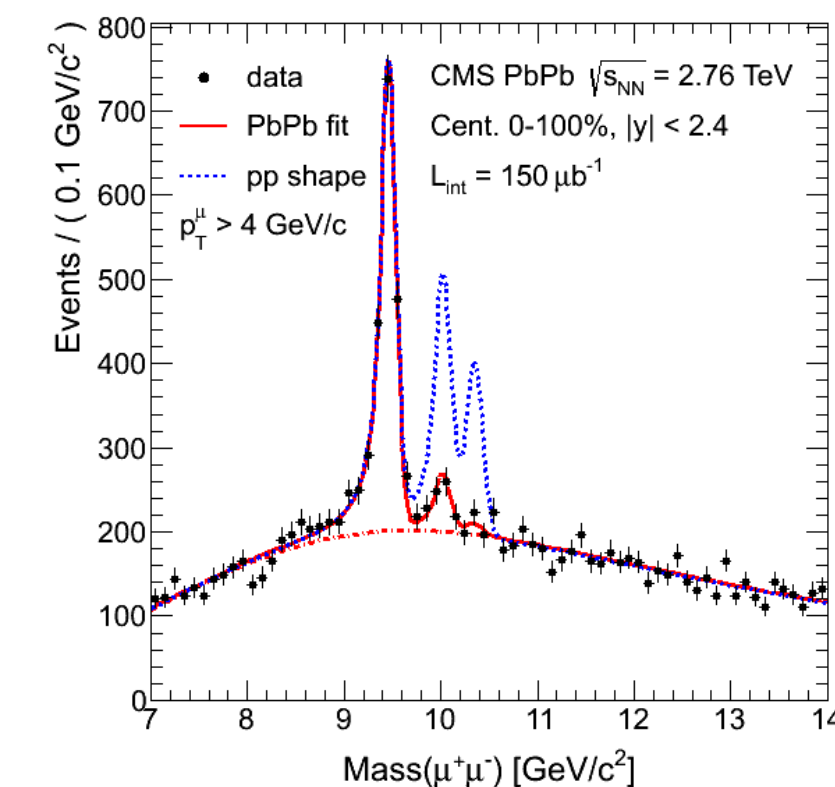
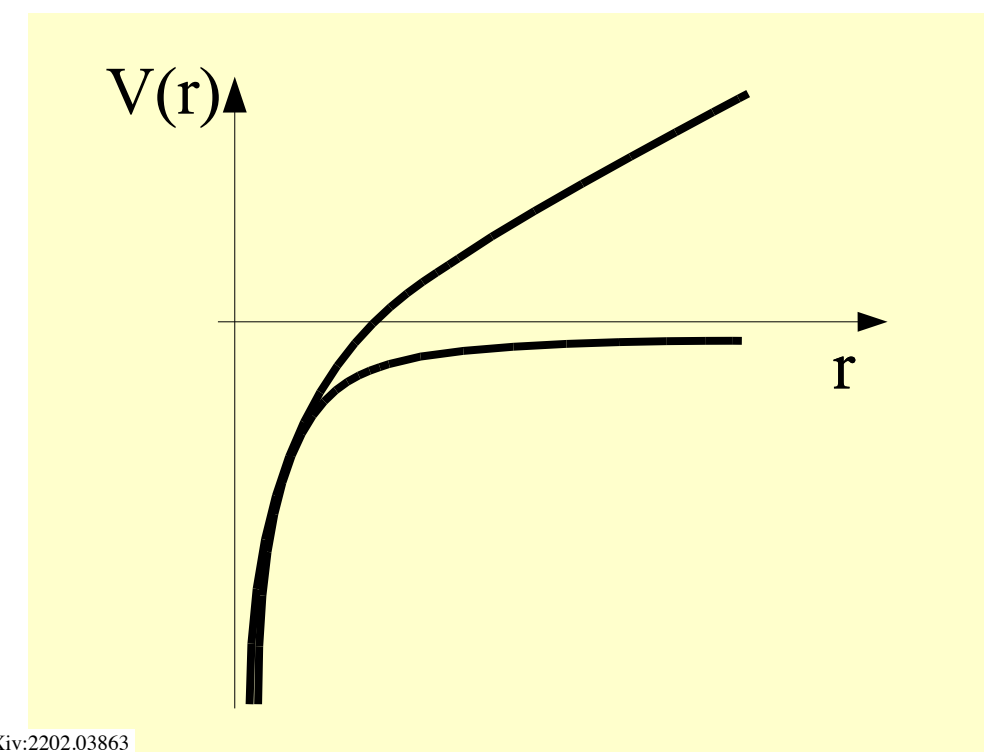


D's LHCb
 dijets CMS
 pPb

Quarkonia suppression

Simple intuitive picture [Matsui & Satz 1986]

- ▶ Potential screened at high-T
- ▶ Quarkonia suppressed
- ▶ Sequential suppression of excited states
- ▶ **Quarkonia as a thermometer**



Dynamical picture:

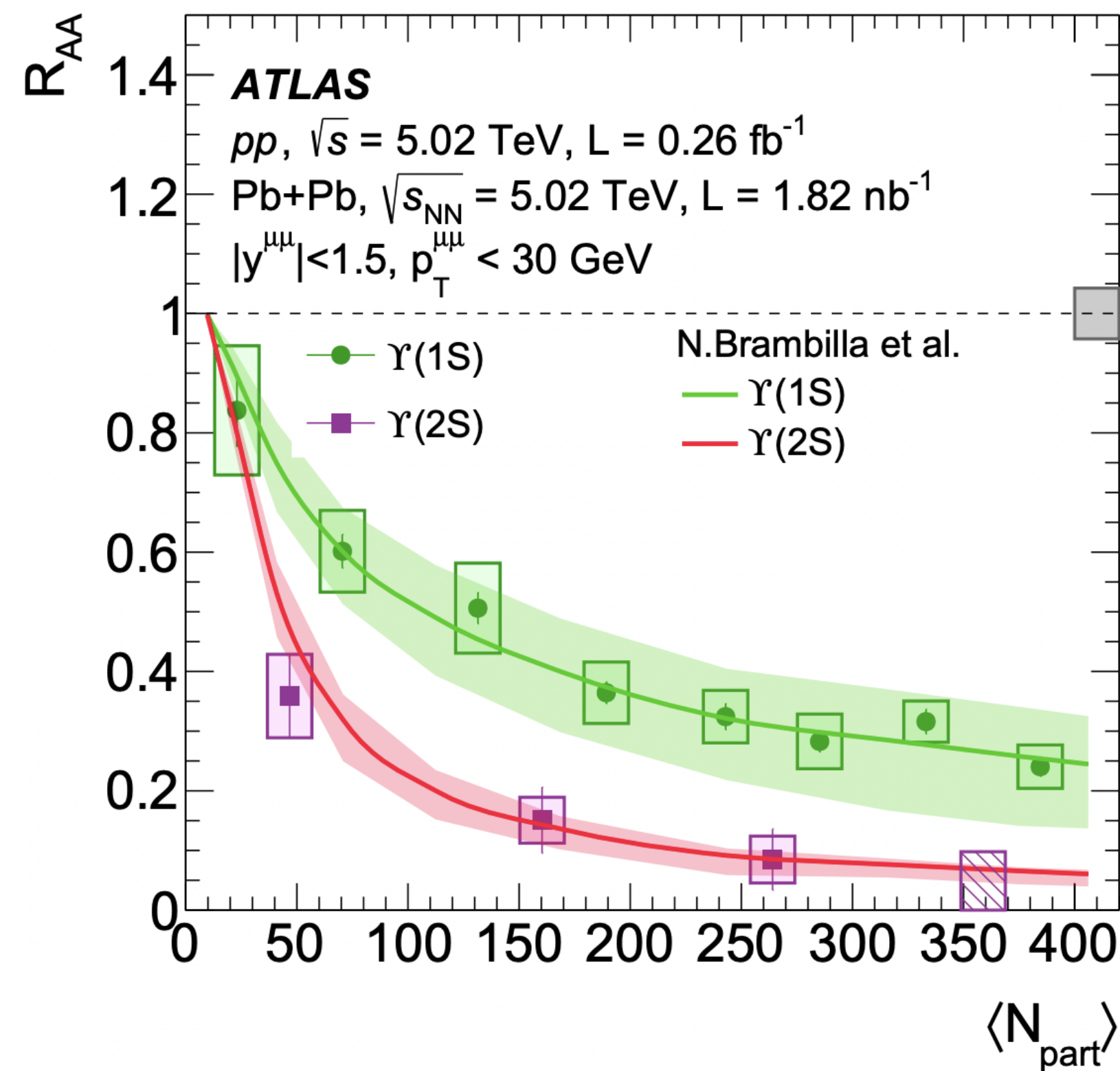
- ▶ different effects:
 - ◆ screening / rescattering / recombination
- ▶ Induced transition between quarkonia states

Quarkonia as an open quantum system

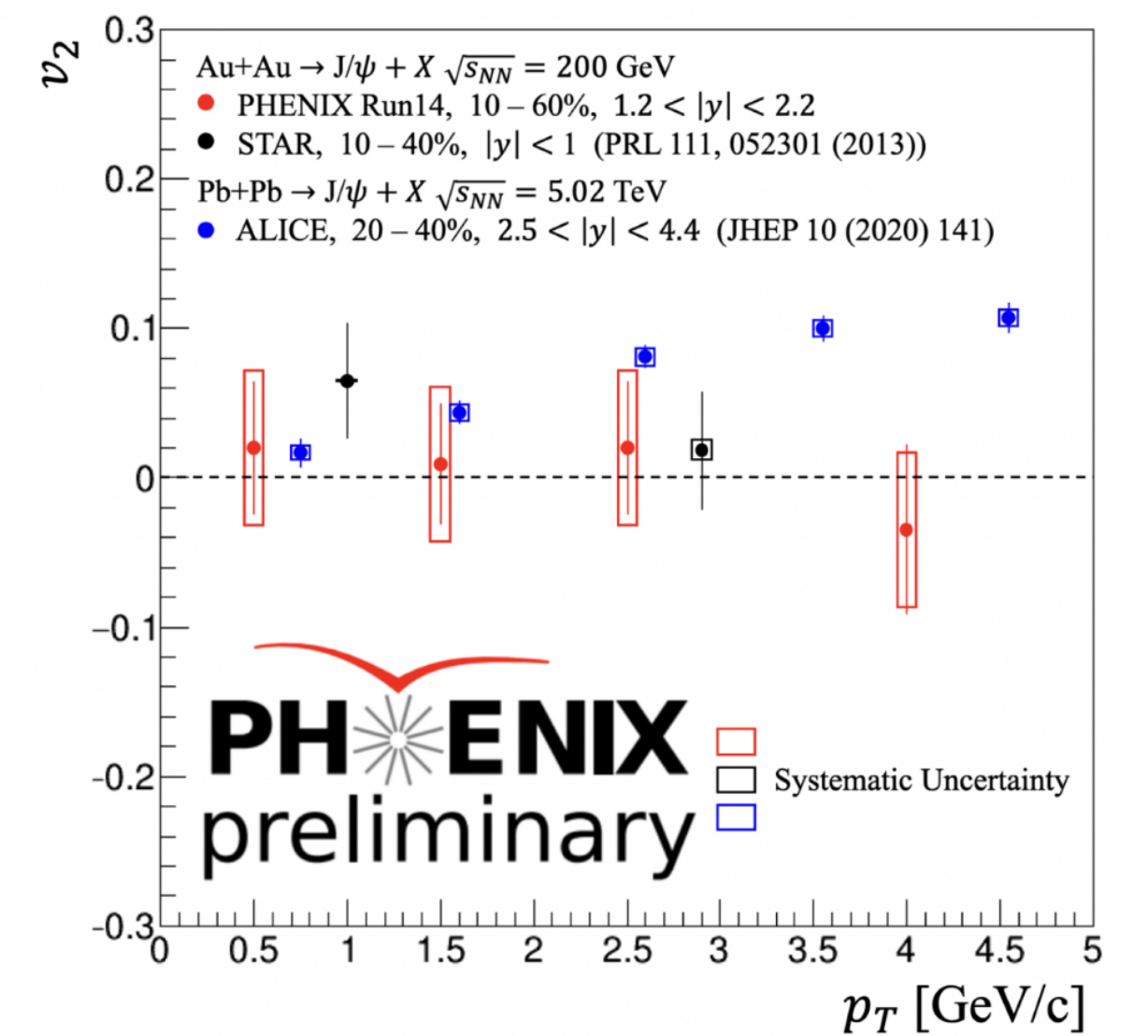
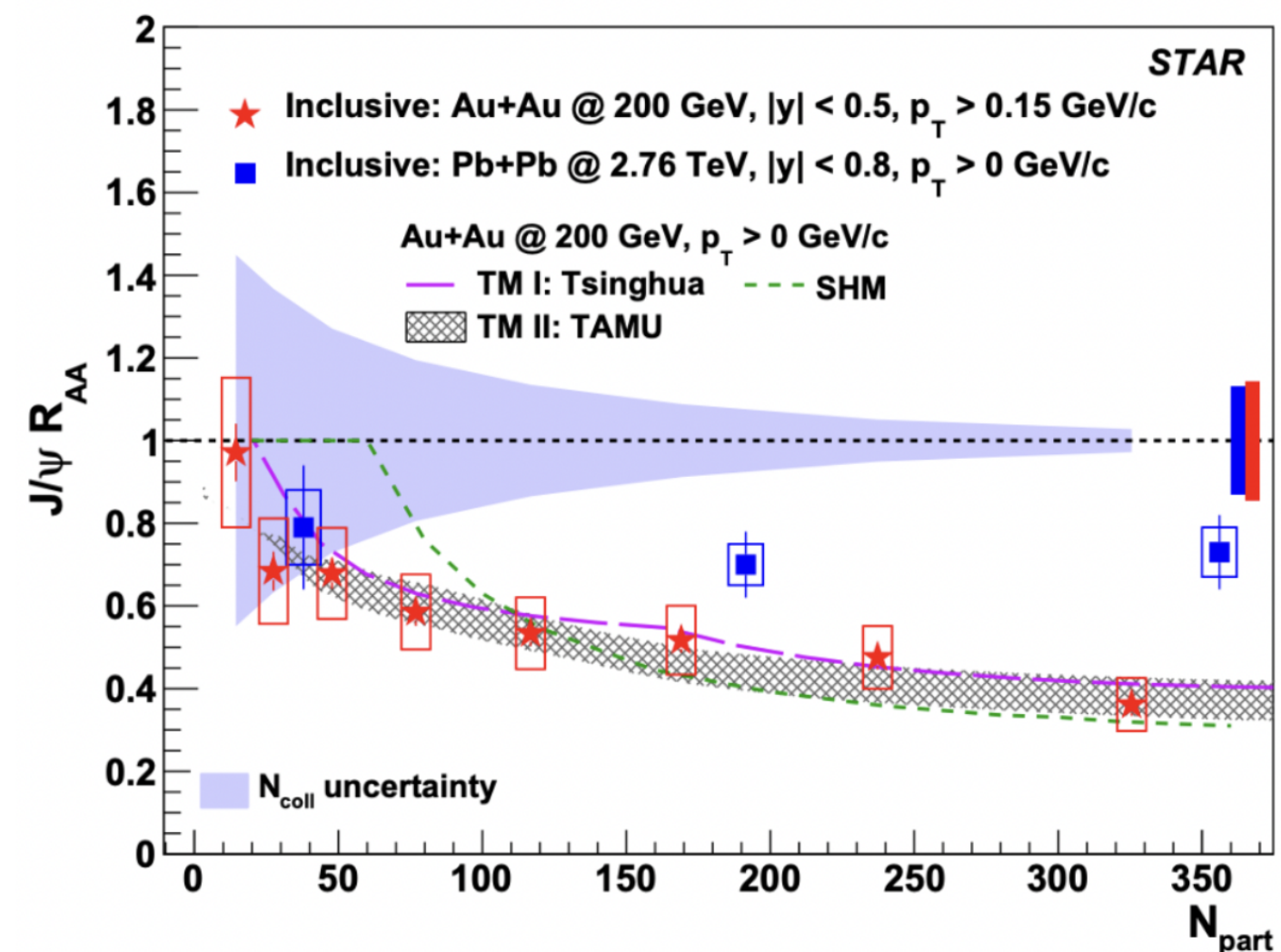
[Bambrilla, Soto, Escobedo, Vairo, Ghiglieri, Petreczky, Strickland, Blaizot, Rothkopf, Kaczmarek, Asakawa, Katz, Gossiaux, Kajimoto, Akamatsu, Borghini ...]

[Lafferty, Rothkopf 2020]

Quarkonia suppression



Bottomonia
 sequential suppression



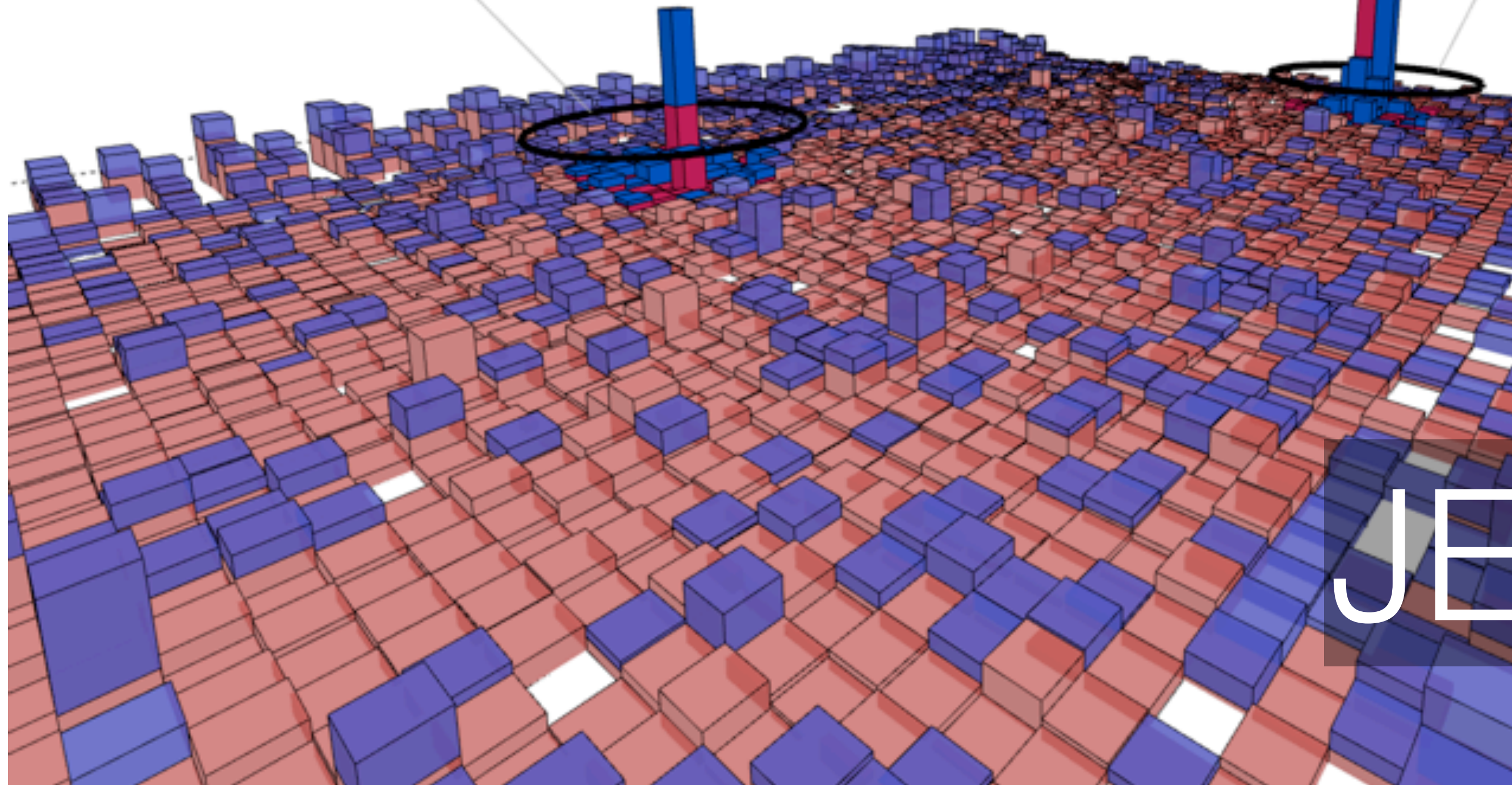
Charmonia

Mass is small enough so that many charm quarks are produced and almost thermalize.
 Charmonia is “regenerated”



CMS Experiment at LHC, CERN
Data recorded: Sun Nov 14 19:31:39 2010 CEST
Run/Event: 151076 / 1328520
Lumi section: 249

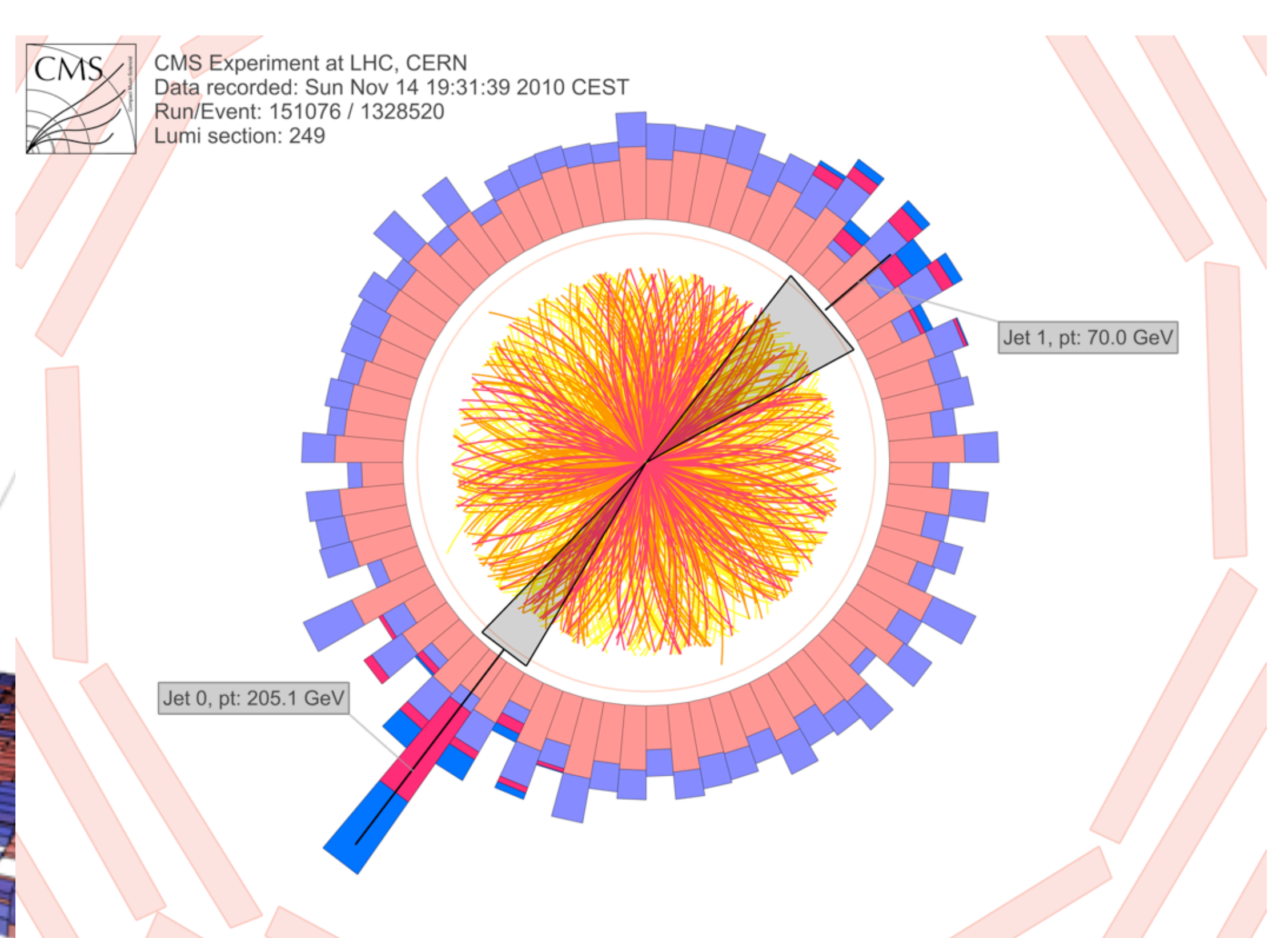
Jet 1, pt: 70.0 GeV



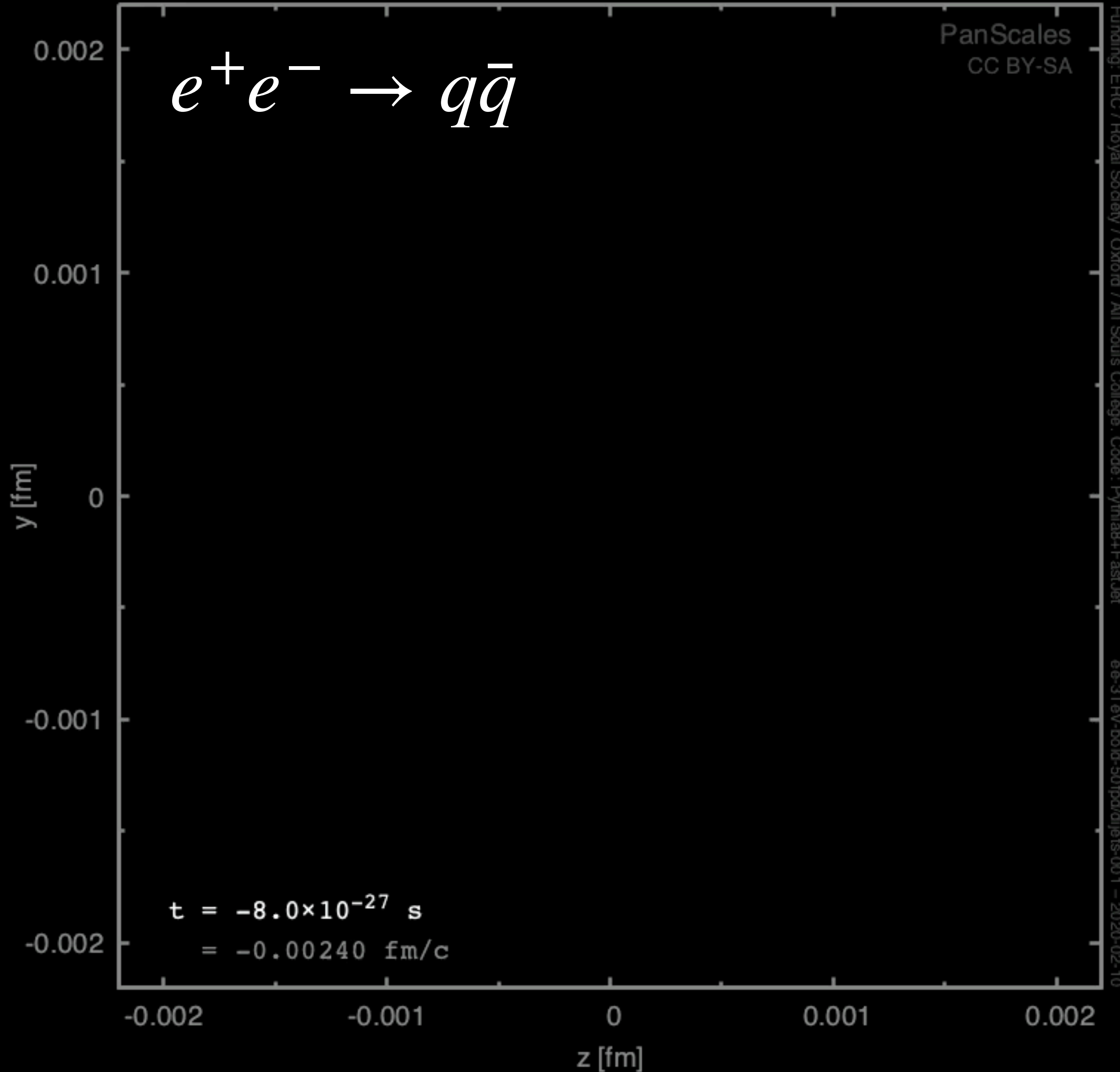
CMS Experiment at LHC, CERN
Data recorded: Sun Nov 14 19:31:39 2010 CEST
Run/Event: 151076 / 1328520
Lumi section: 249

Jet 0, pt: 205.1 GeV

Jet 1, pt: 70.0 GeV



JET QUENCHING

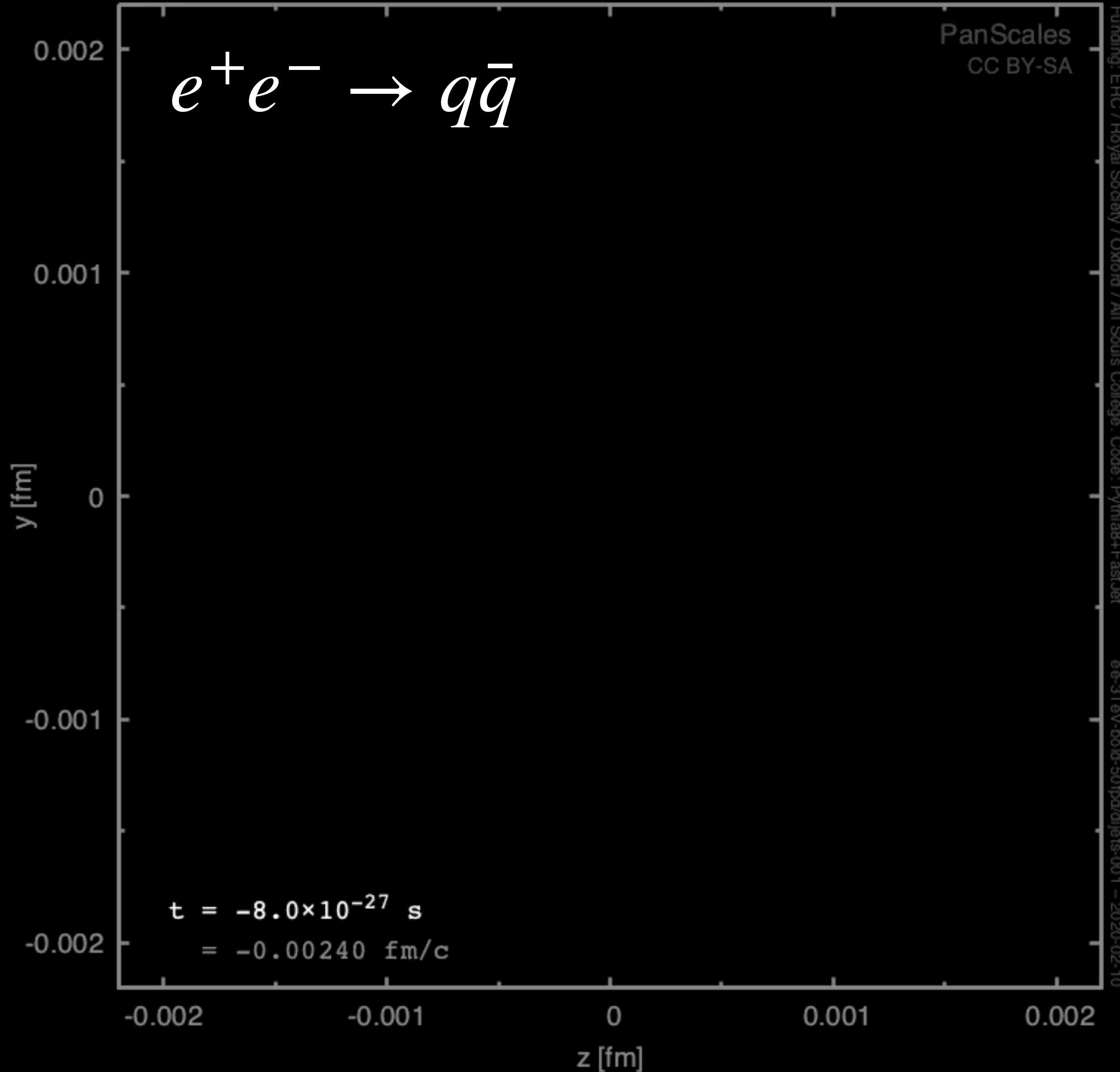


JETS

3TeV e^+e^- events

Initial particles in yellow
Intermediate particles in blue
Final particles in red

[Simulation of the events are produced with Pythia 8 times estimated by clustering algorithm - see details in the web page]

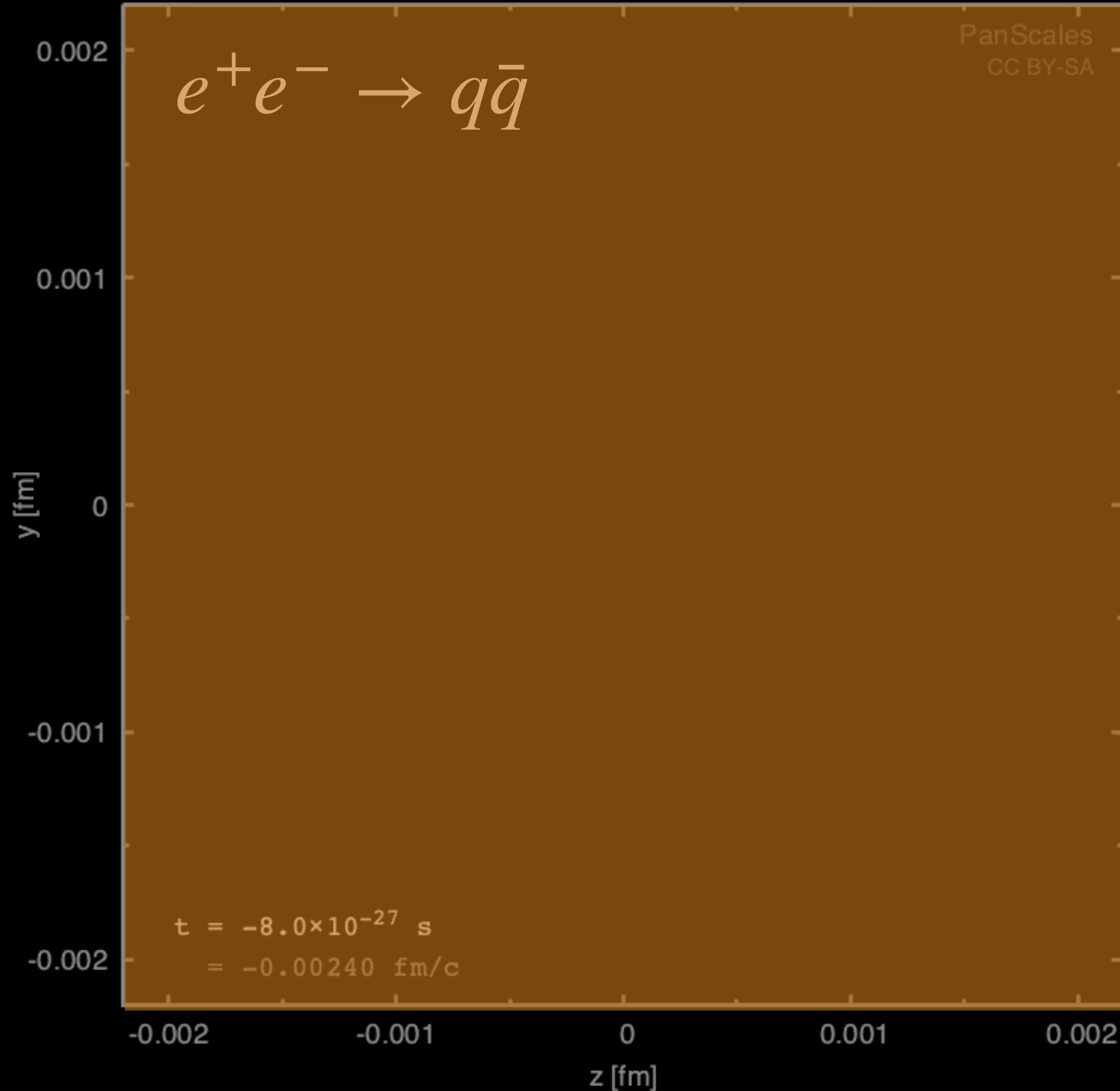


JETS

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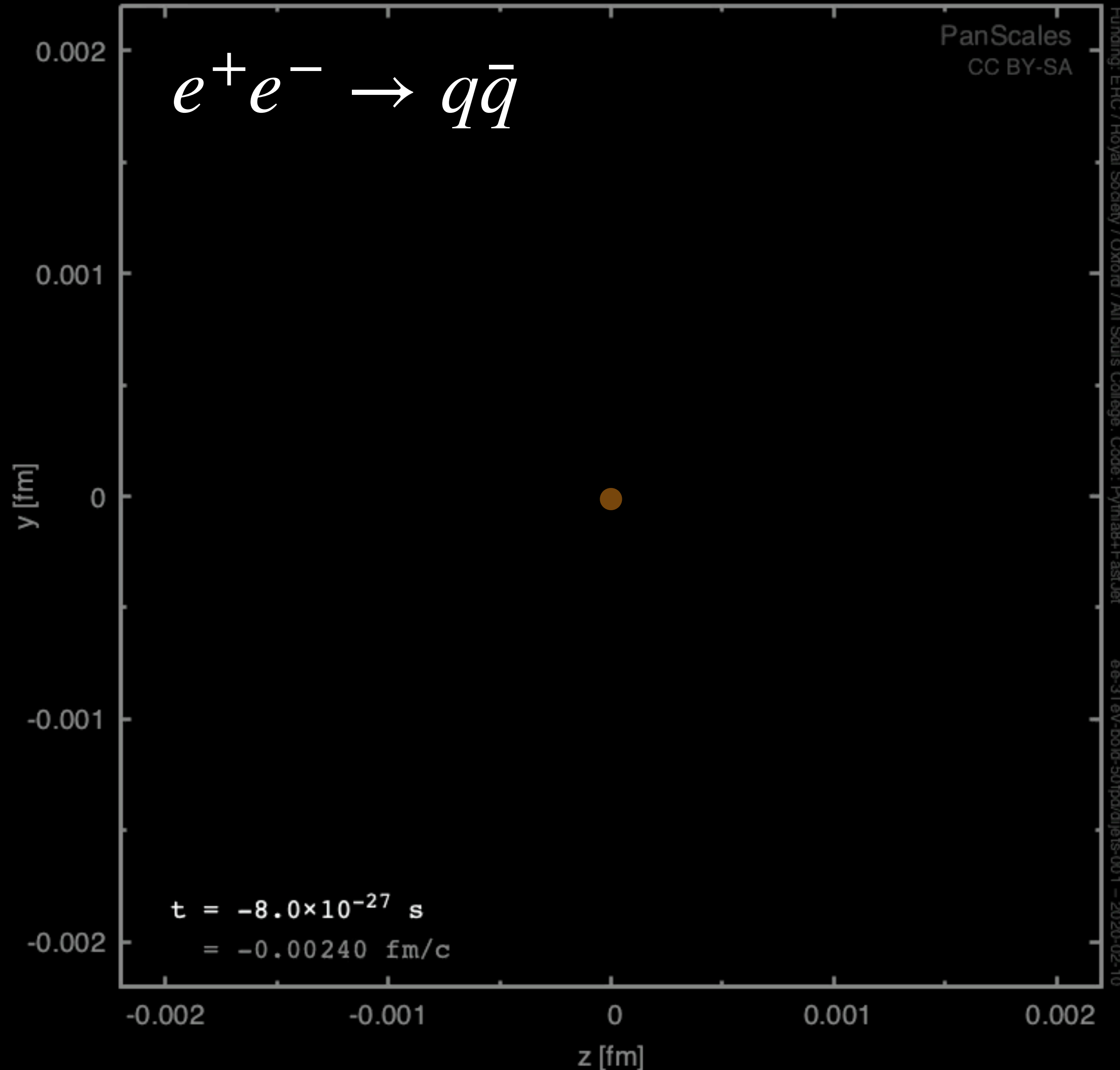


A QCD jet evolving in the medium

The size of the medium is ~10fm

Most of the jet evolution happens **inside the medium**

Most of the structure decided in the **initial times**



A QCD jet evolving in the medium

The size of the medium is ~10fm

Most of the jet evolution happens **inside the medium**

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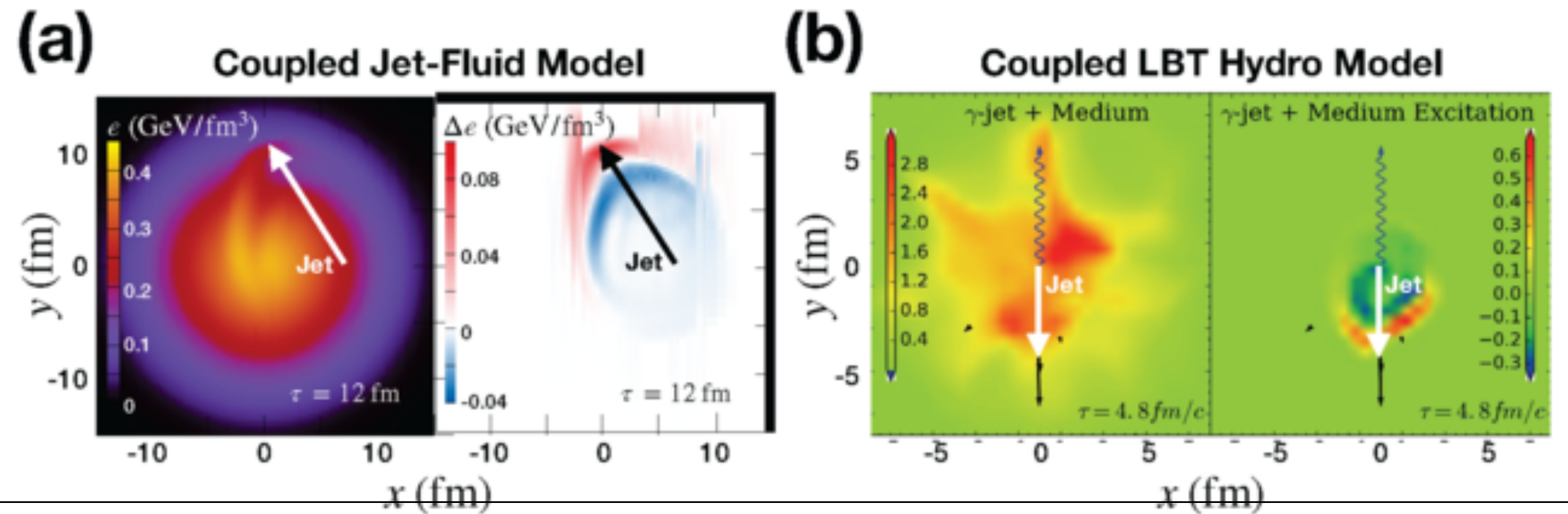
In-medium parton propagation

Medium is a background field: **color rotation**
 [Energy of the parton unmodified]

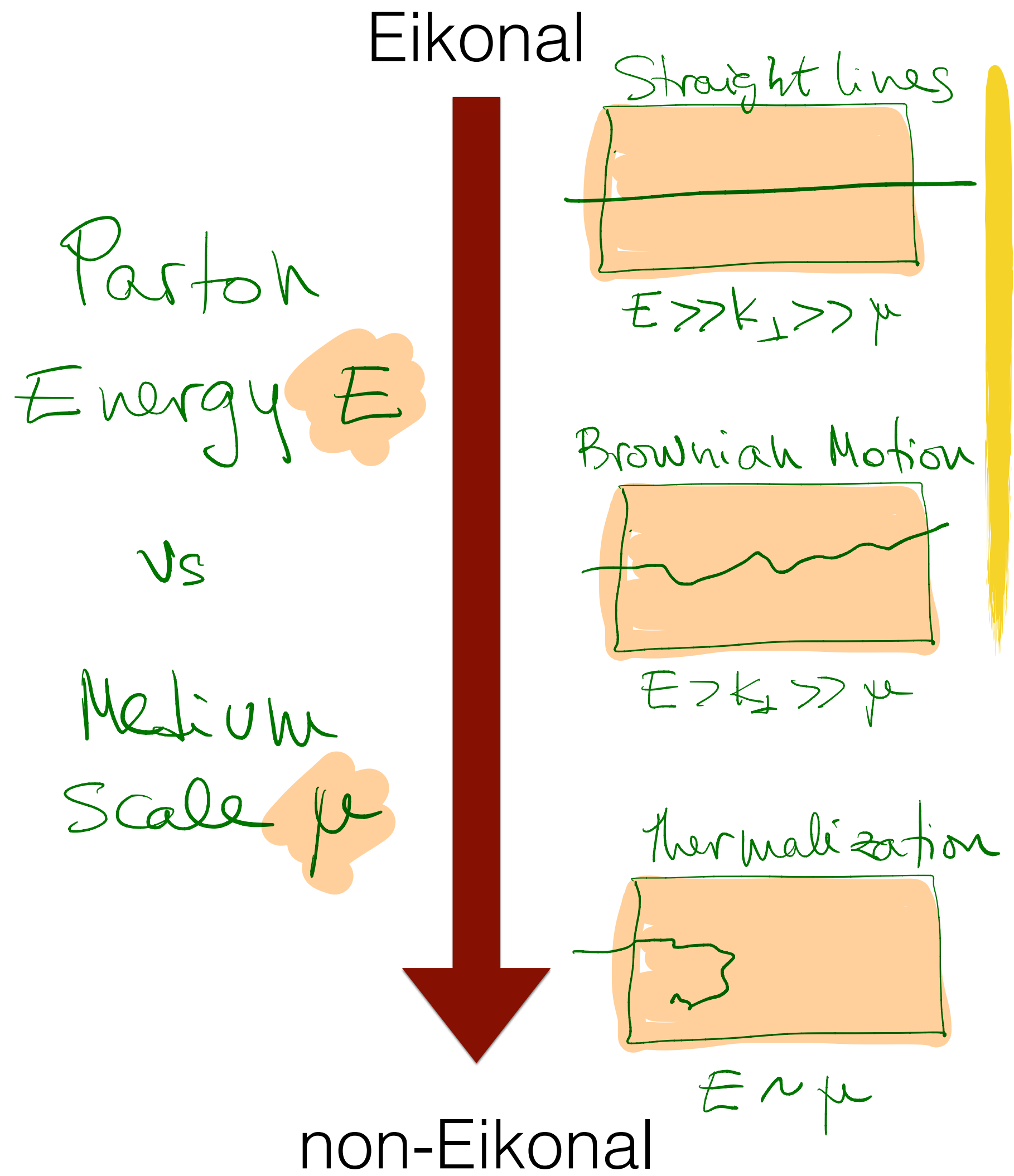
$$W(x_{\perp}) = \mathcal{P} \exp \left\{ ig \int d\xi n \cdot A(\xi, x_{\perp}) \right\}$$

$$G(x_{\perp}; y_{\perp}) = \mathcal{P} \int \mathcal{D}\mathbf{r} \exp \left\{ i \frac{E}{2} \int d\xi \left[\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\xi} \right]^2 + ig \int d\xi n \cdot A(\xi, \mathbf{r}) \right\}$$

Medium is **dynamical**
 [Energy exchanged with the medium]

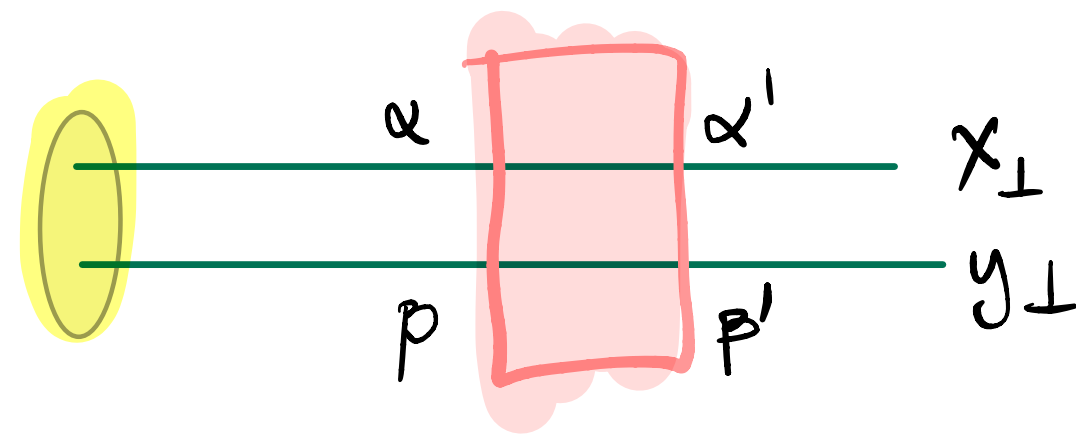


[Tachibana 2019]



Scattering amplitudes

Color dipole - The simplest configuration



Background field
color rotation

S-Matrix

$$|\alpha'\beta'\rangle = S_{\alpha'\beta'\alpha\beta} |\alpha\beta\rangle = W_{\alpha\alpha'}(x_{\perp}) W_{\beta\beta'}^{\dagger}(y_{\perp}) |\alpha\beta\rangle$$

Survival Probability

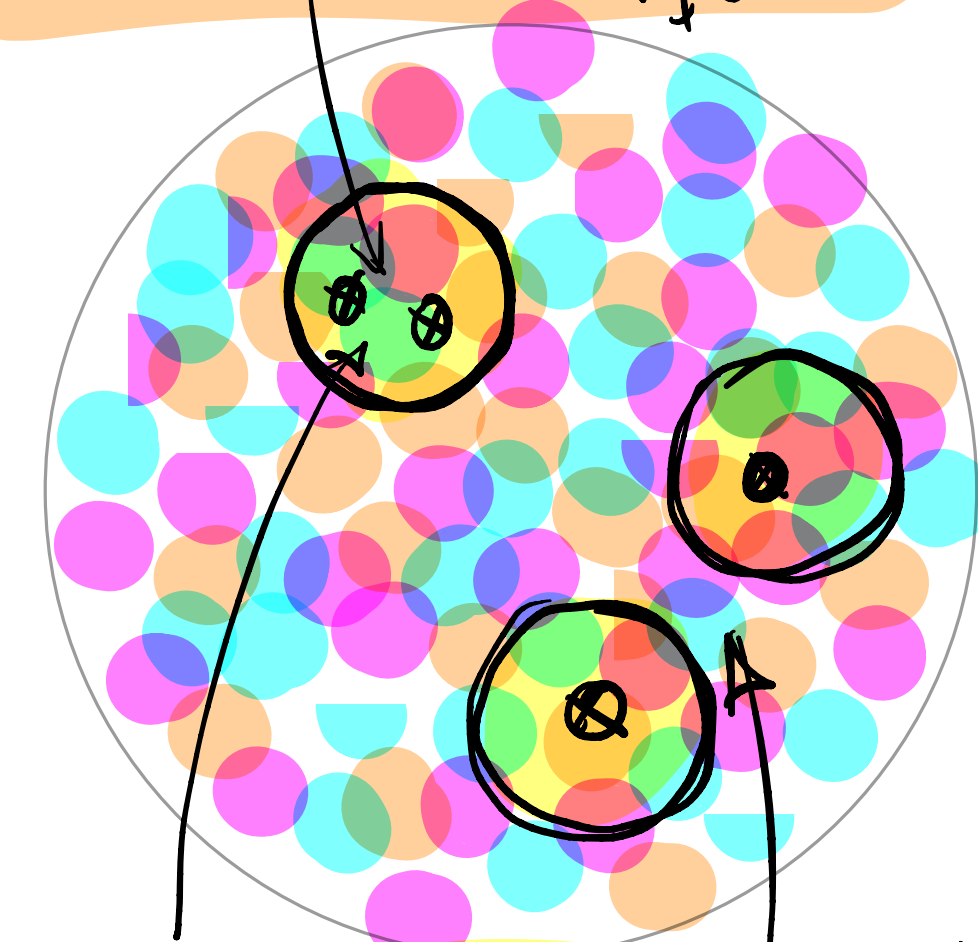
$$S(x_{\perp}, y_{\perp}) = \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} [W(x_{\perp}) W^{\dagger}(y_{\perp})]$$

Average over configurations $\frac{1}{N_c} \langle \text{tr} (W(x_{\perp}) W^{\dagger}(y_{\perp})) \rangle_{med}$

A useful picture: color domains in transverse plane

Correlation length

$$\lambda_{cs} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{q_t}}$$



correlated

uncorrelated

Intra-jet color coherence

[Mehtar-Tani, Salgado, Tywoniuk; Iancu, Casalderrey-Solana, ... 2010-]

QCD antenna - classical calculation including color coherence [*angular ordering*]

$$\left| \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} \right|^2 \quad \omega \frac{dN}{d\omega d\theta} \sim \alpha_s C_F [R_q - J + R_{\bar{q}} - J]$$

The QCD medium can break color coherence - independent color rotation of q and q bar

$$\left| \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} \right|^2 \quad \omega \frac{dN}{d\omega d\theta} \sim \alpha_s C_F [R_q - S_{q\bar{q}} J + R_{\bar{q}} - S_{q\bar{q}} J]$$

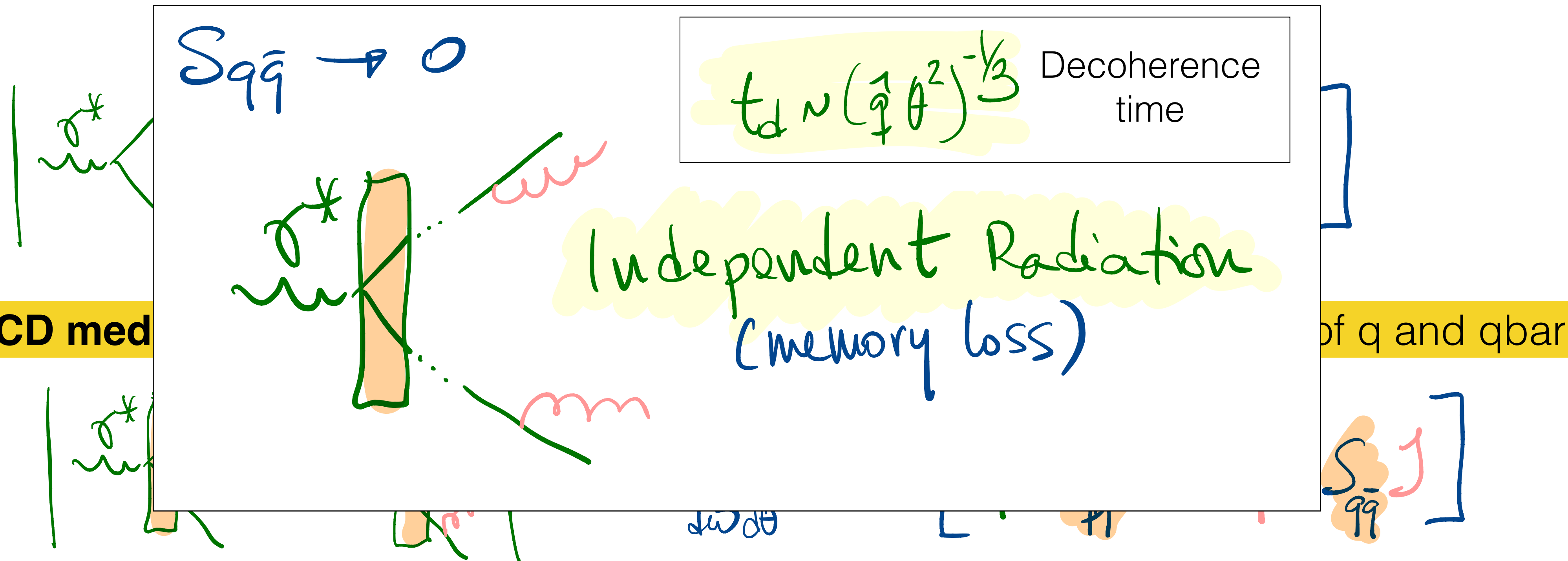
$$S(x_{\perp}, y_{\perp}) \equiv \frac{1}{N_c^2 - 1} \text{Tr} \langle W(x_{\perp}) W^{\dagger}(y_{\perp}) \rangle_{\text{med}} \simeq \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{4} \hat{q} \theta_{q\bar{q}}^2 L^3 \right\}$$

Survival probability
 \hat{q} - jet quenching parameter

Intra-jet color coherence

[Mehtar-Tani, Salgado, Tywoniuk; Iancu, Casalderrey-Solana, ... 2010-]

QCD antenna - classical calculation including color coherence [*angular ordering*]



The QCD med

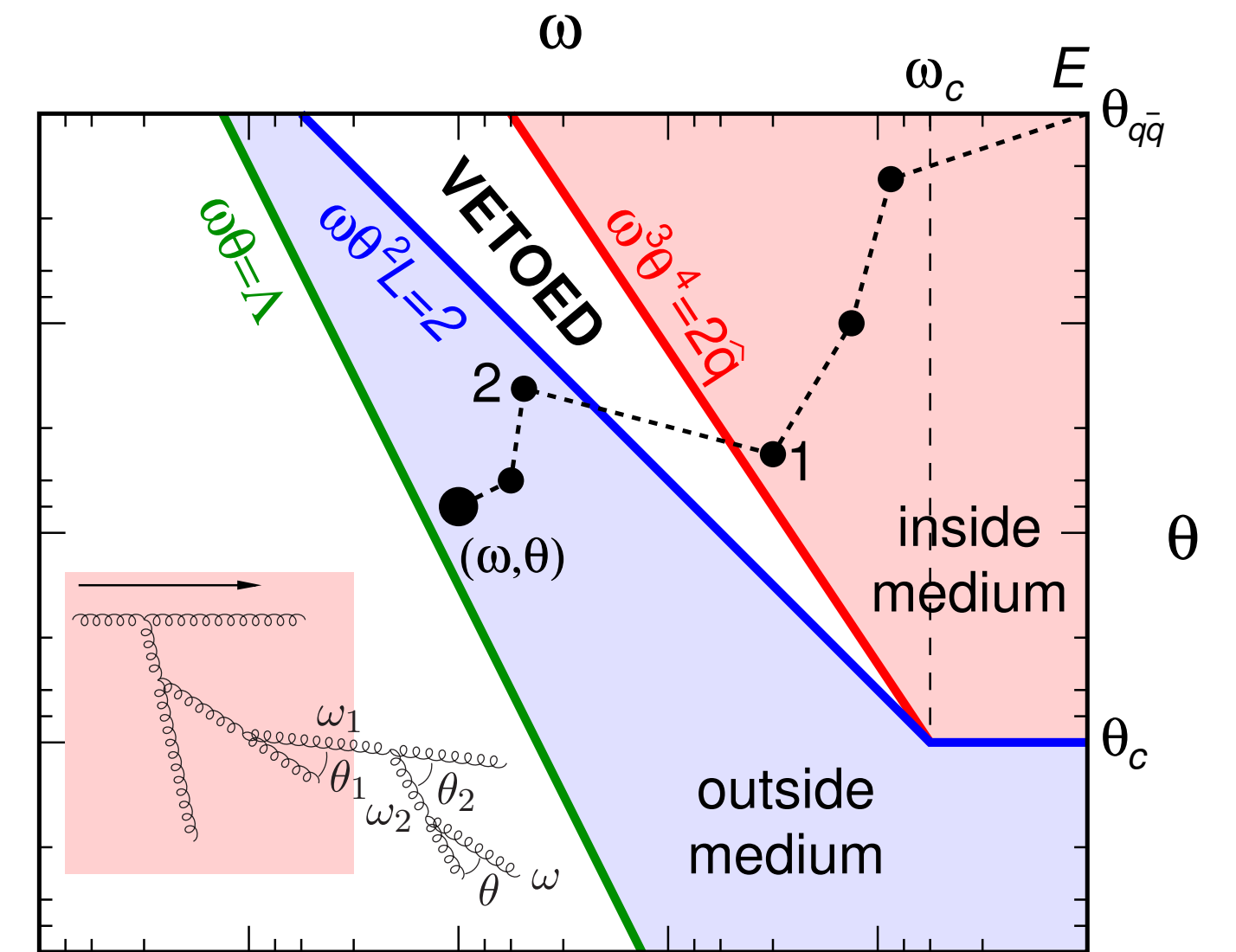
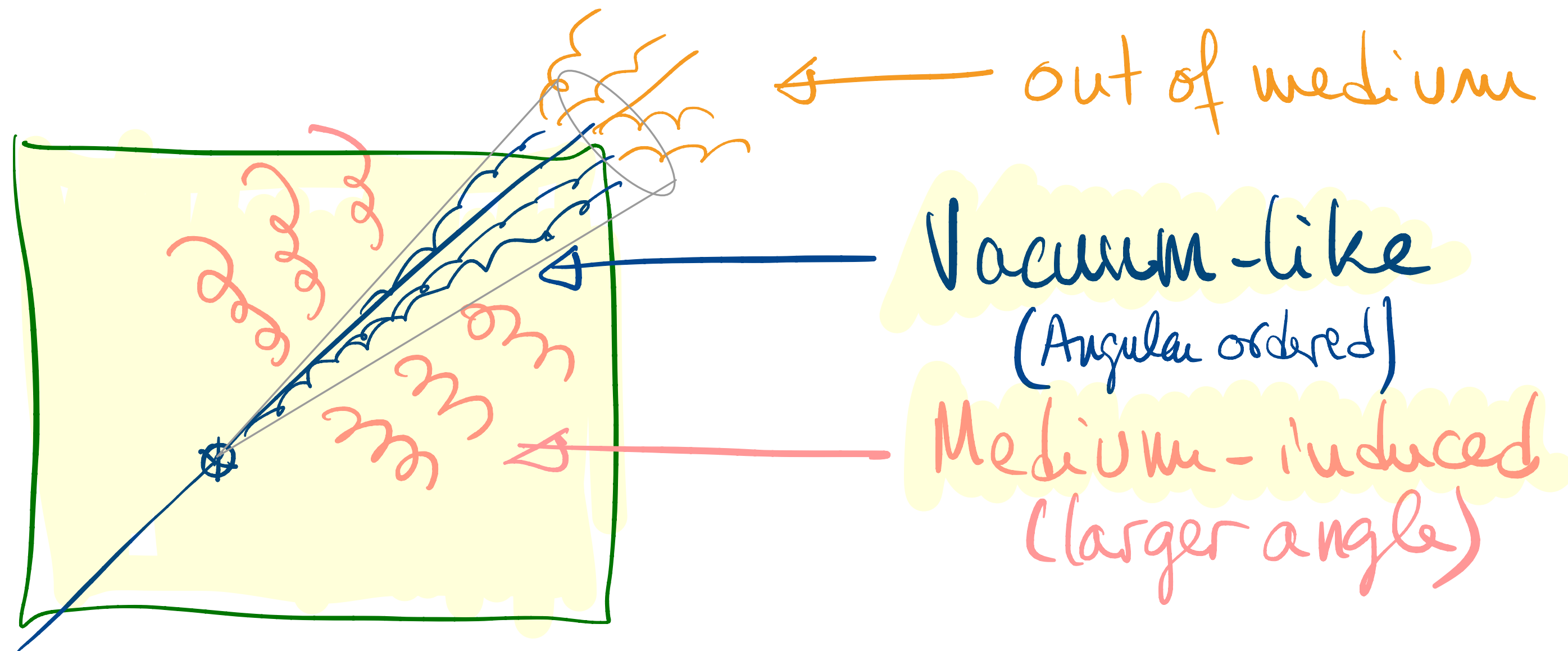
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Survival probability
 \hat{q} - jet quenching parameter

Vacuum-like emissions

Hard splittings with small formation time $t_f \ll t_d$ cannot be resolved by the medium

First hard splitting + DLA — **most of the cascade is vacuum-like** (with energy loss on top)



[Caucal, Iancu, Mueller, Soyez 2018]

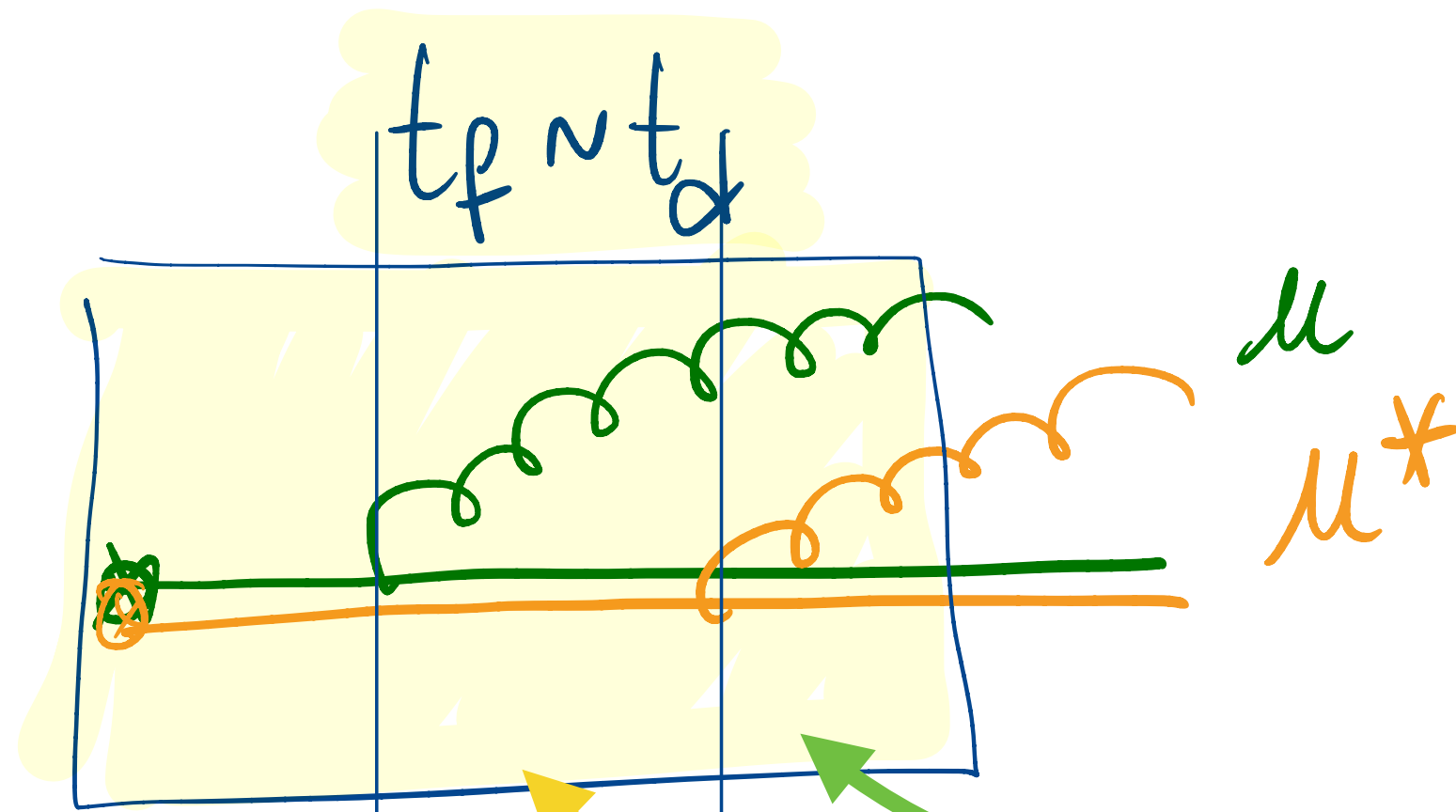
Color coherent sub-jets provide organizational principle for in-medium cascade

[Casalderrey-Solana, Mehtar-Tani, Salgado, Tywoniuk 2012]

Medium-induced radiation

[Zakharov, Baier, Dokshitzer, Mueller, Peigne, Schiff, Wiedemann, Gyulassy, Levai, Vitev, and many others... starting in the mid-90's]

For fluctuation with $t_f \sim t_d$ the gluon is resolved: **medium-induced radiation**



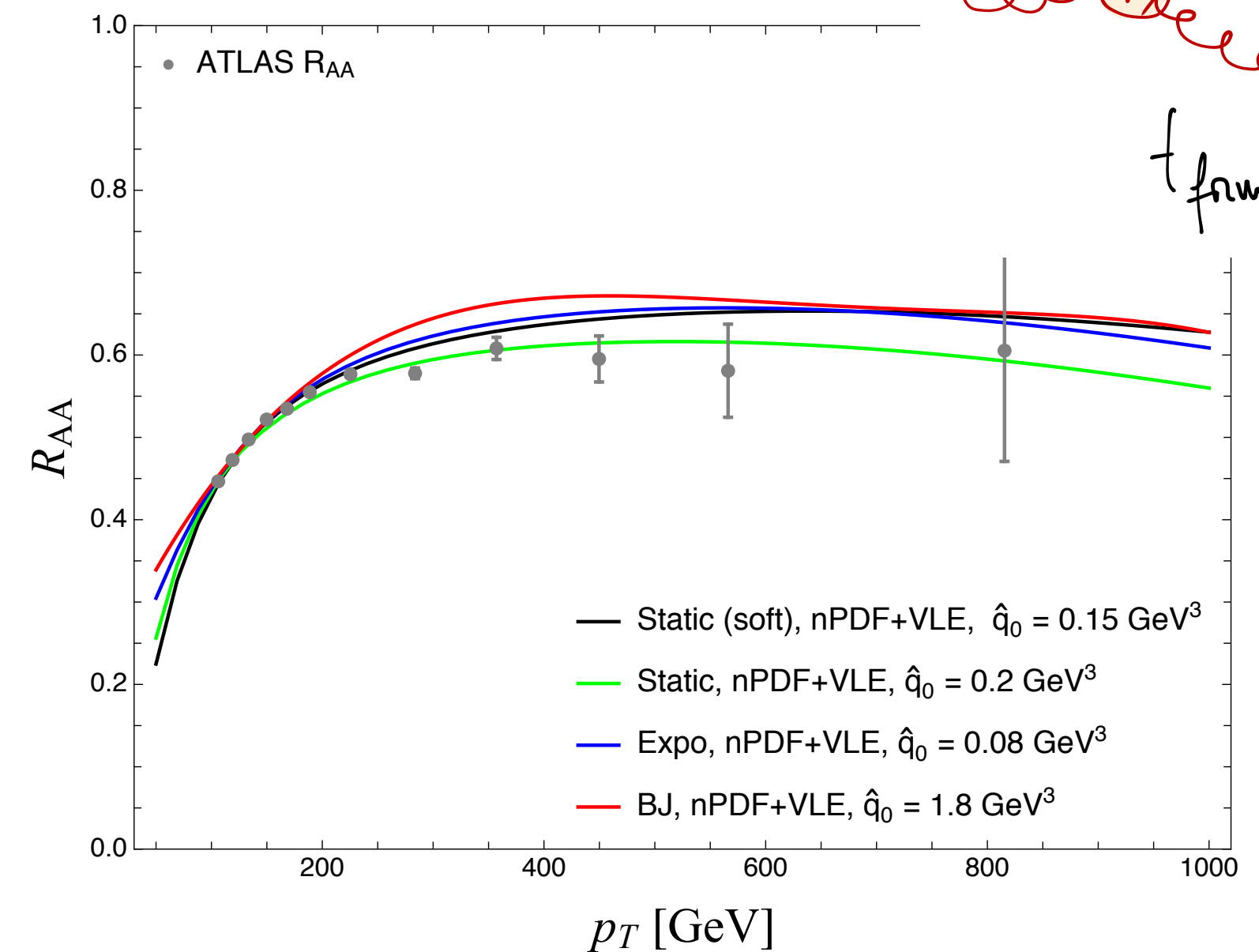
$$\omega \frac{dN}{d\omega d^2\mathbf{k}} \sim \frac{\alpha_s C_R}{\omega^2} \text{Re} \int_{t', t} \int_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q} \tilde{\mathcal{K}}(t', \mathbf{q}; t, \mathbf{p}) \mathcal{P}(L, \mathbf{k}; t', \mathbf{q})$$

$$\mathcal{K}(t', \mathbf{z}; t, \mathbf{y}) = \int \mathcal{D}\mathbf{r} \exp \left[\int_t^{t'} ds \left(\frac{i\omega}{2} \dot{\mathbf{r}}^2 - \frac{1}{2} n(s) \sigma(\mathbf{r}) \right) \right]$$

$t_f \sim t_d \ll L$: democratic branching

[Balizot, Dominguez, Iancu, Mehtar-Tani 2013; Jeon, Moore 2005]

Probabilistic treatment:
In-medium parton shower

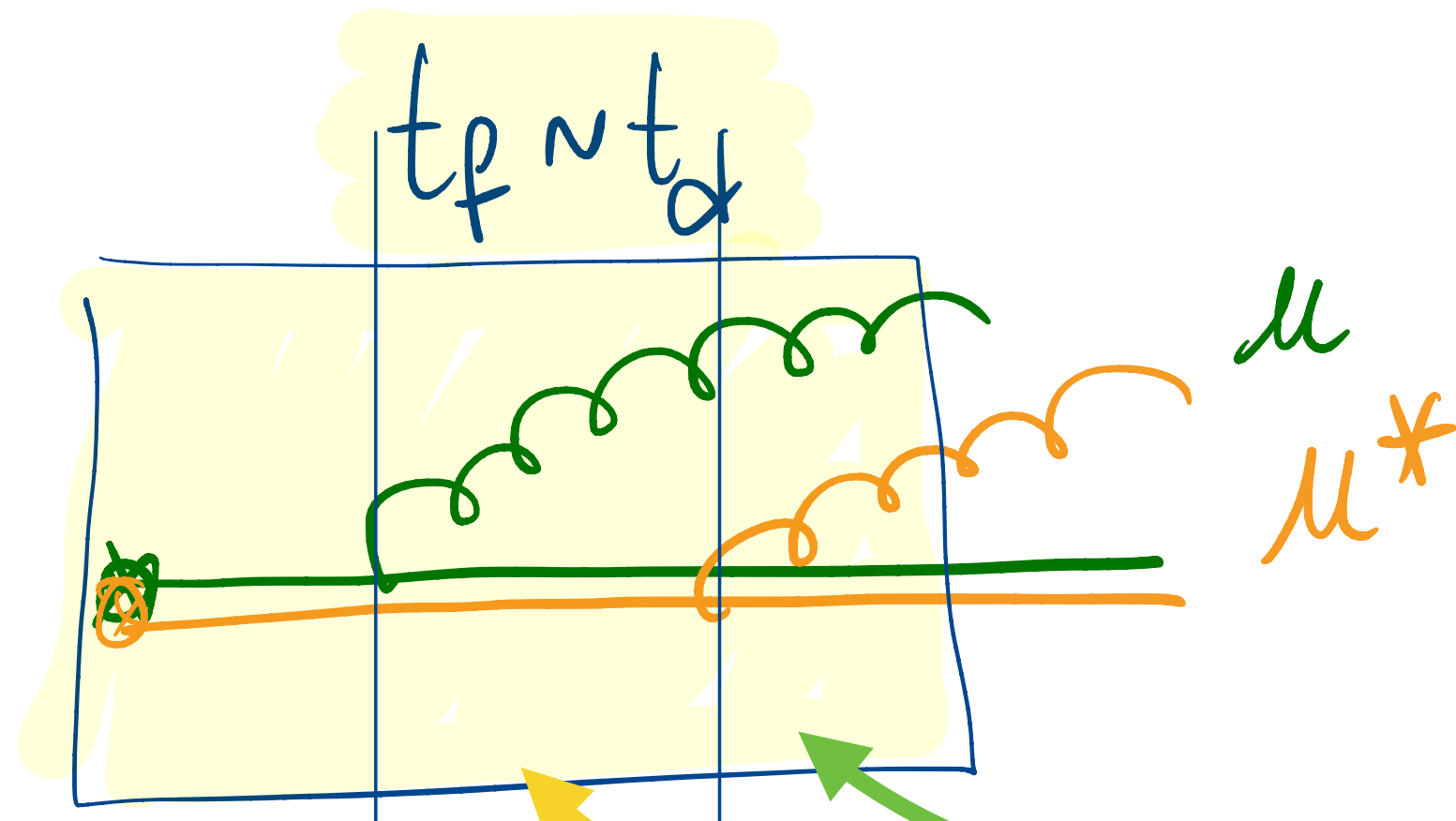


[Adhya, Salgado, Spousta, Tywoniuk 2022]

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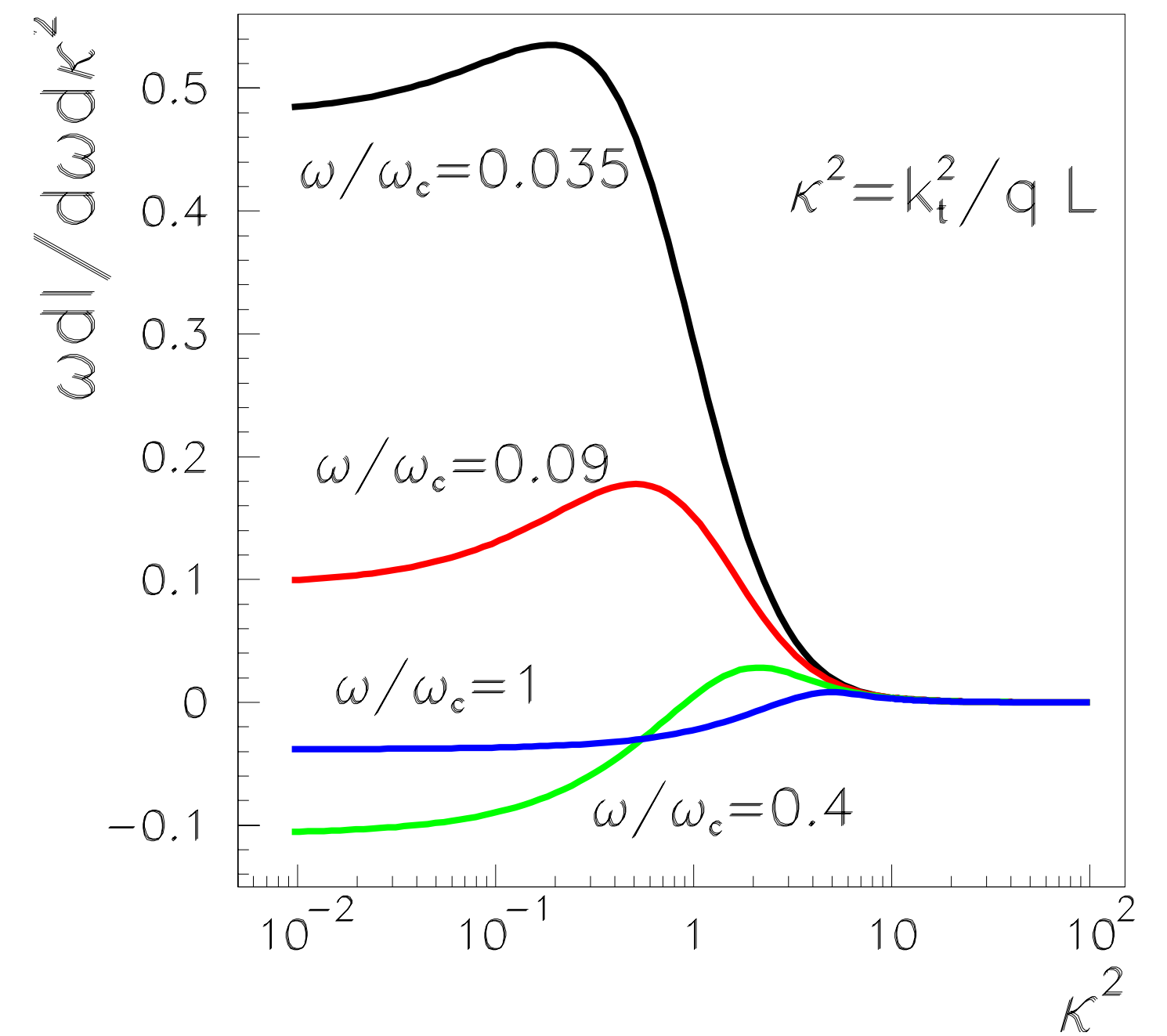
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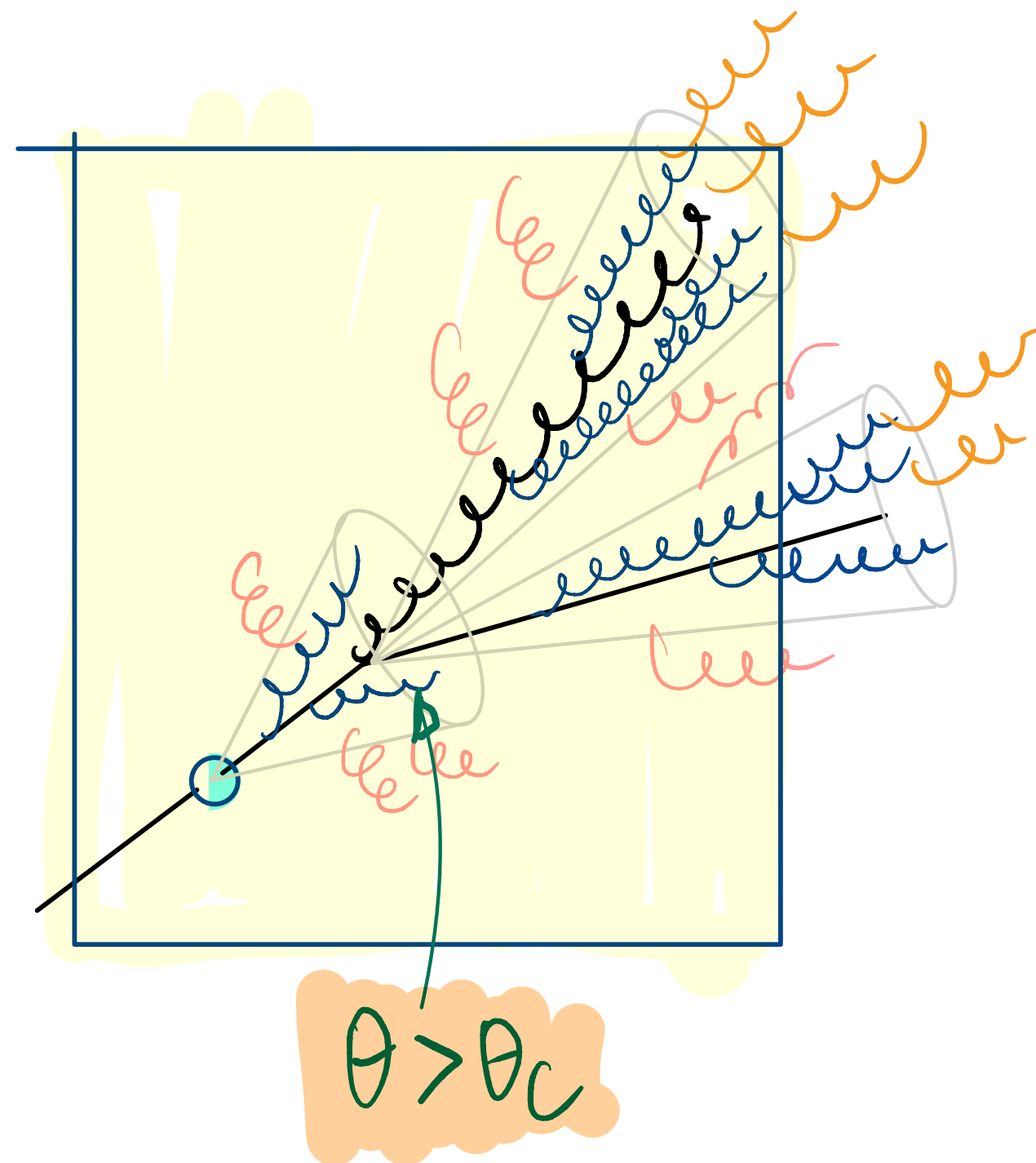
For fluctuation with $t_f > t_d$
LPM suppression



A picture of in-medium jets

[Casalderrey-Solana, Mehtar-Tani, Salgado, Tywoniuk 2012]

Color coherence provides a clean picture of parton shower in medium
 Medium induced radiation by **subjects** defined by resolution scale of the medium



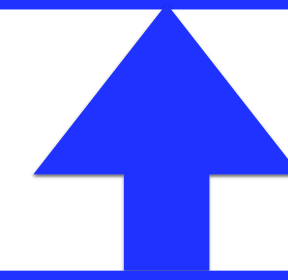
$$S(r_\perp) = e^{-\frac{1}{4} \int dt \hat{q} r^2(t)}$$

$$r(t) = \theta t \Rightarrow \theta_c \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\hat{q} t^3}}$$

Resolution power

$$\Lambda_\perp \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\hat{q} t}} \equiv \frac{1}{Q_s}$$

Inner core of the jet
 (subject) is mildly modified
 Medium-induced radiation
 at **large angles**

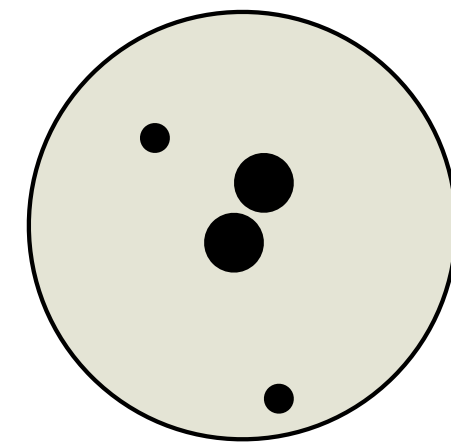


In agreement with
 experimental findings

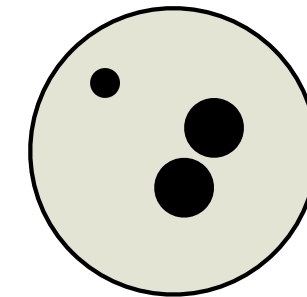
Subjects are effective emitters

Jet substructure

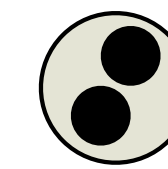
Softdrop



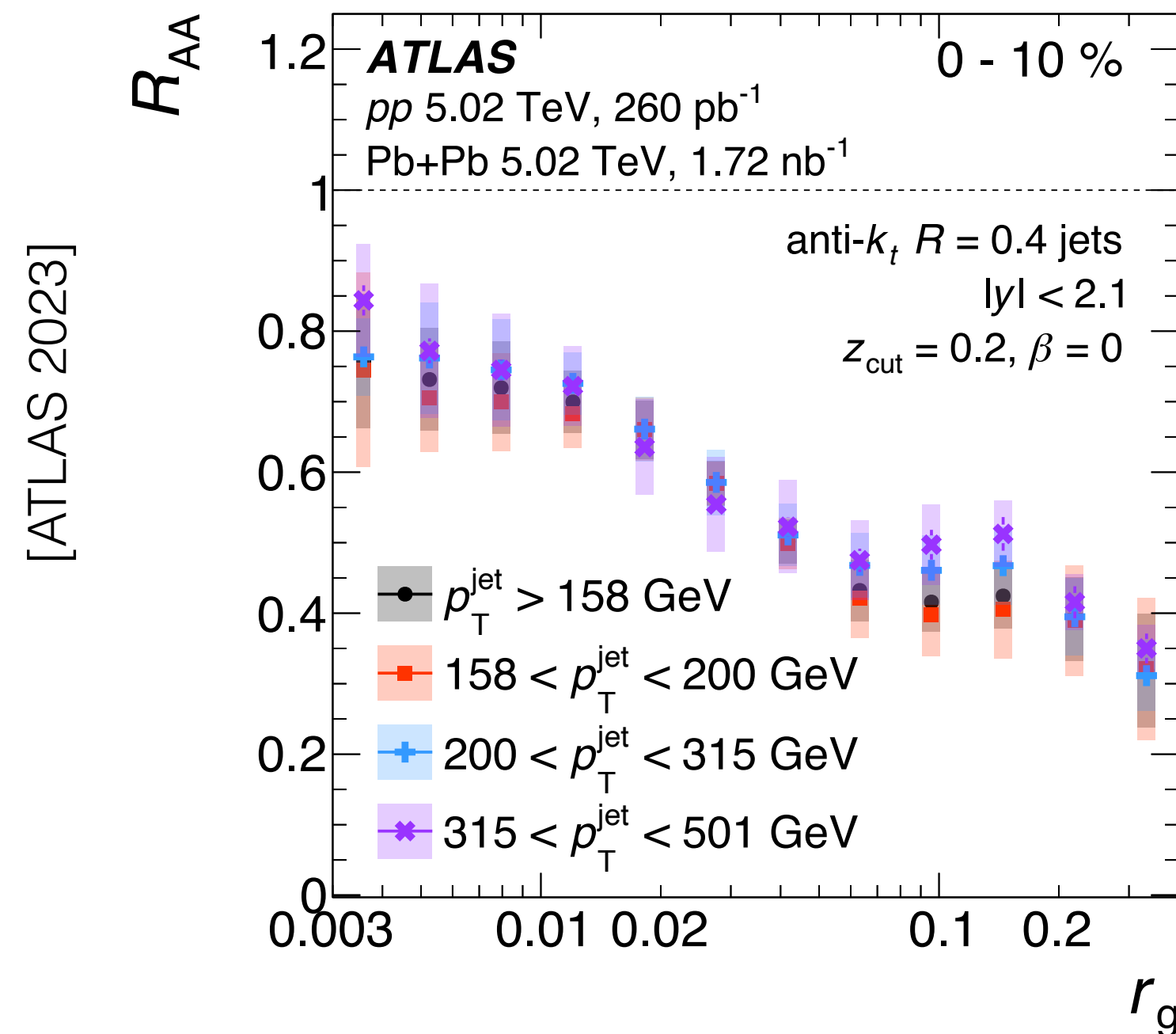
decluster &
discard soft junk



repeat until
find hard struct



[Dasgupta, Fregoso, Marzani,
Salam 2013]
[Fig from G Salam]



Interpretation in terms of color coherence

Smaller angle r_g

- ▶ Subjet has a small number of effective emitters - smaller suppression

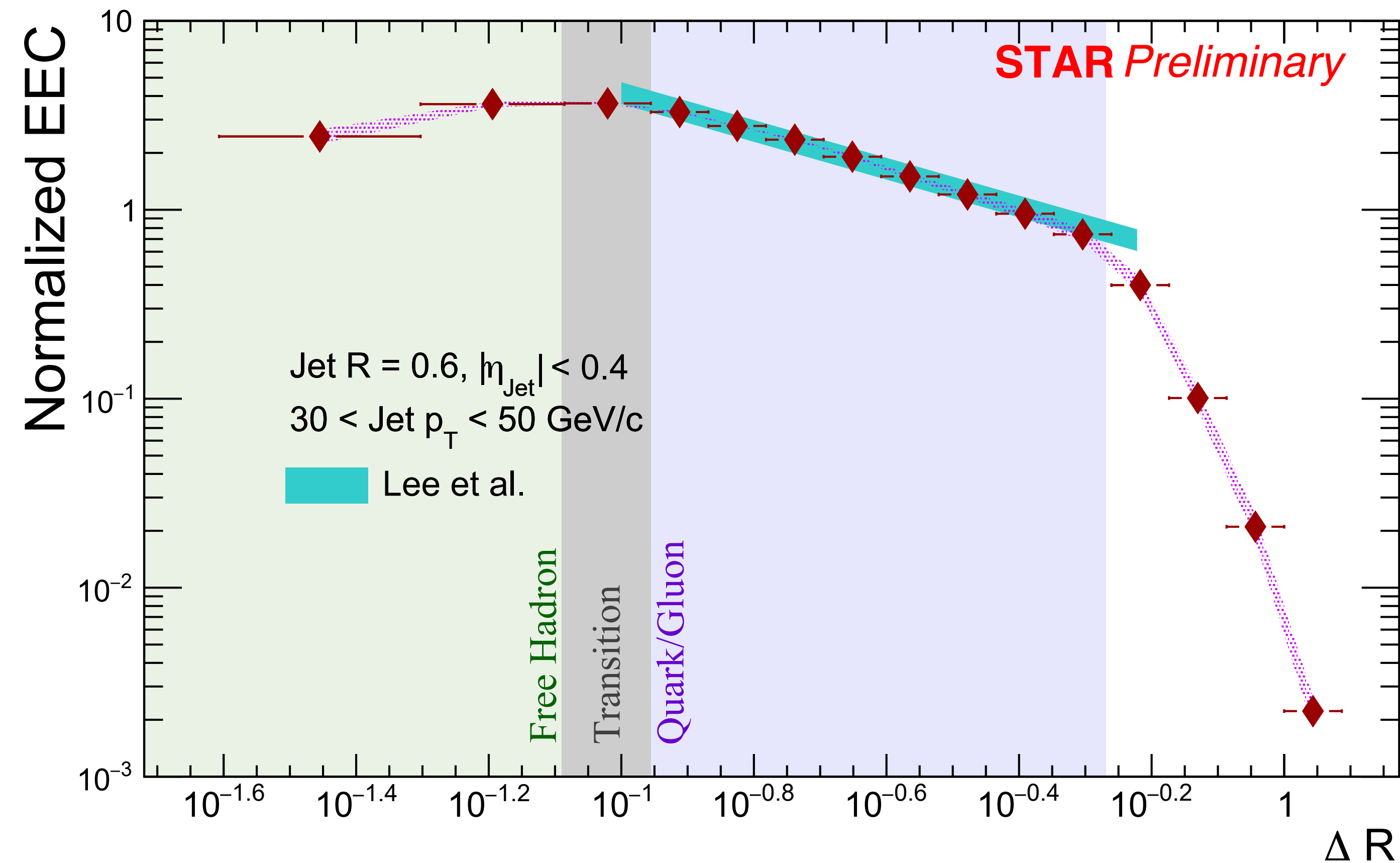
Larger angle r_g

- ▶ Subjet has a larger number of effective emitters - larger suppression

Energy-Energy Correlators

$$\frac{\langle \mathcal{E}^n(\mathbf{n}_1) \mathcal{E}^n(\mathbf{n}_2) \rangle}{Q^{2n}} = \frac{1}{\sigma} \sum_{ij} \int \frac{d\sigma_{ij}}{d\mathbf{n}_i d\mathbf{n}_j} \frac{E_i^n E_j^n}{Q^{2n}} \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{n}_i - \mathbf{n}_1) \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{n}_j - \mathbf{n}_2)$$

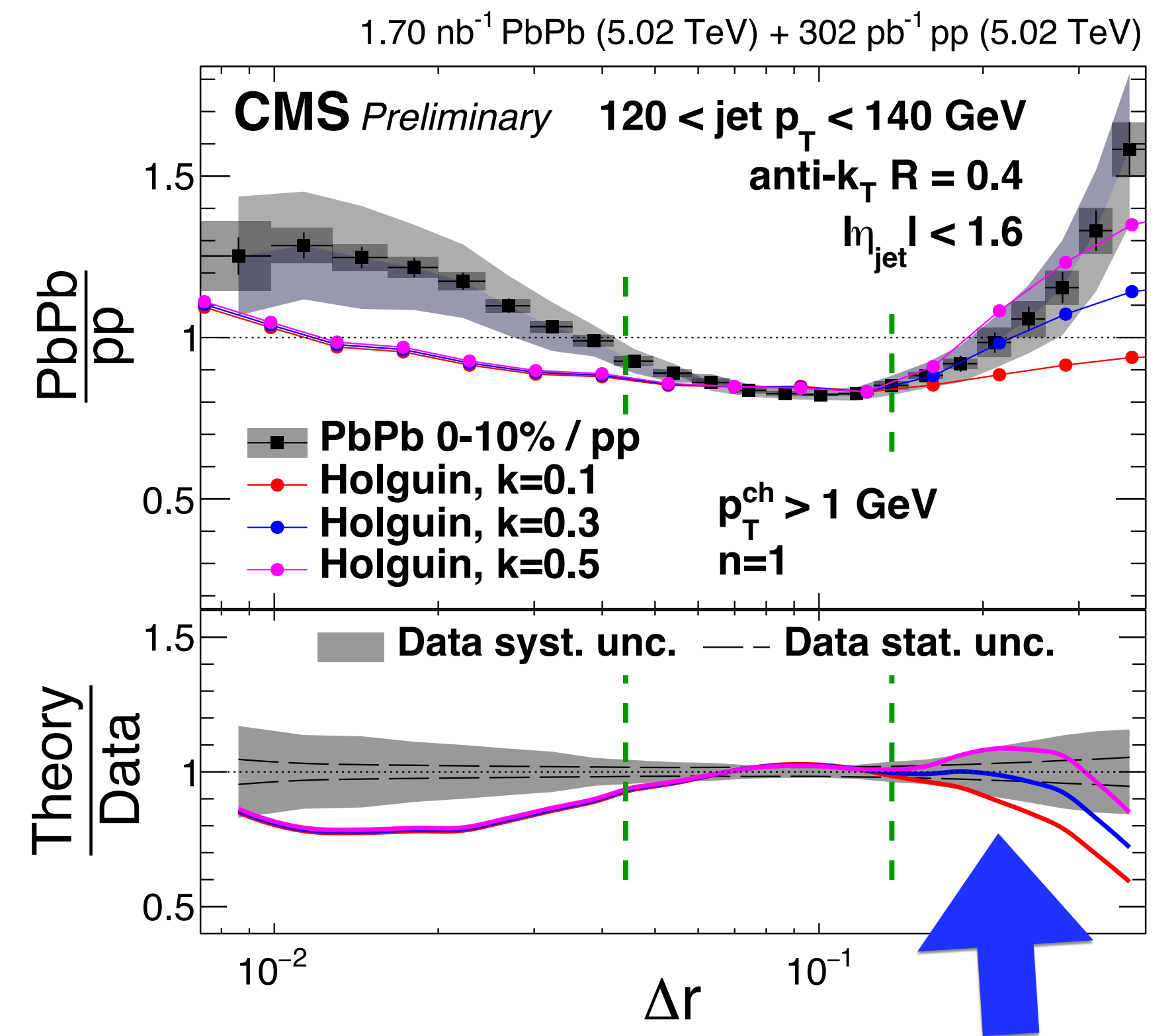
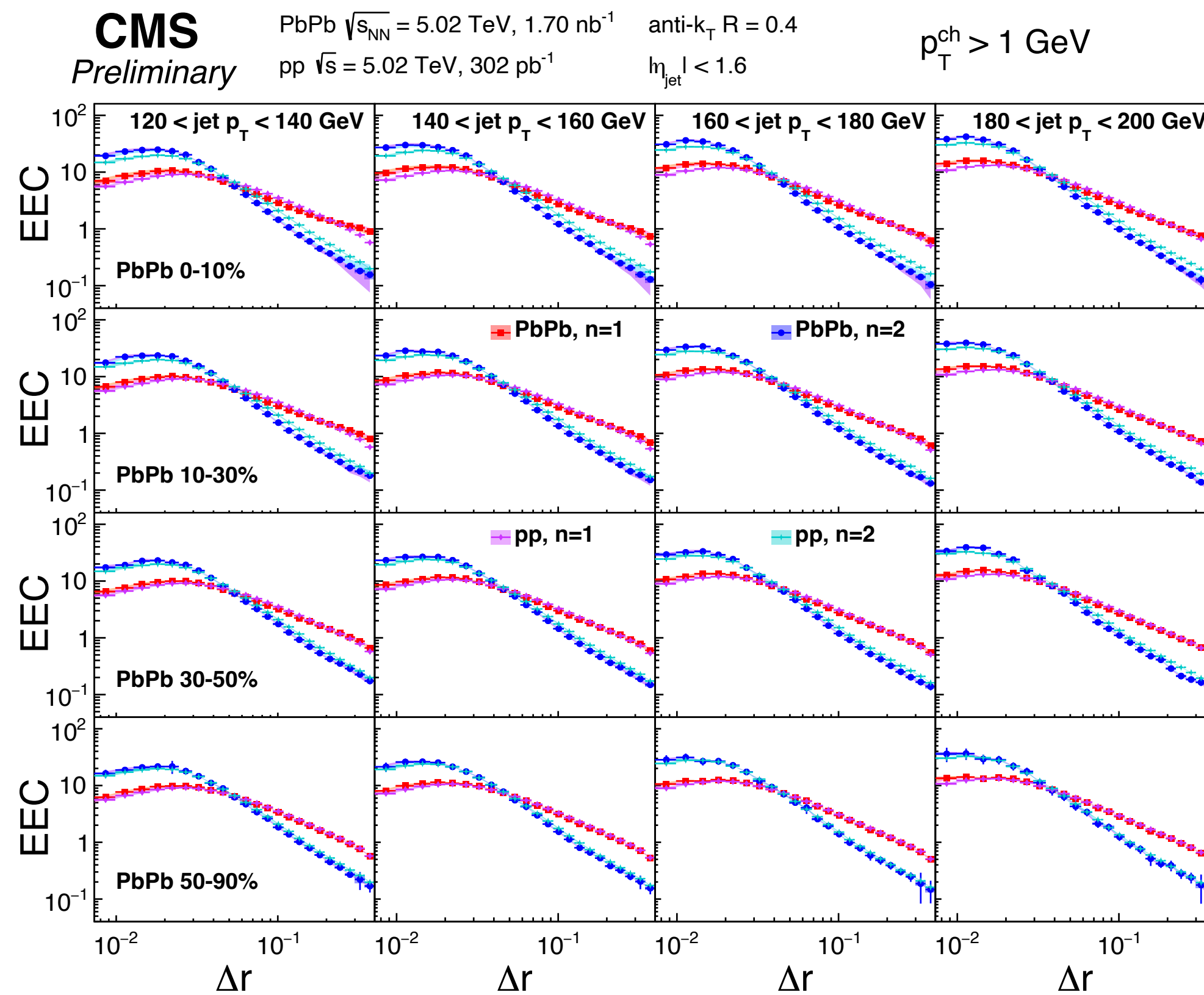
CMS-PAS-HIN-23-004



Energy-Energy Correlators

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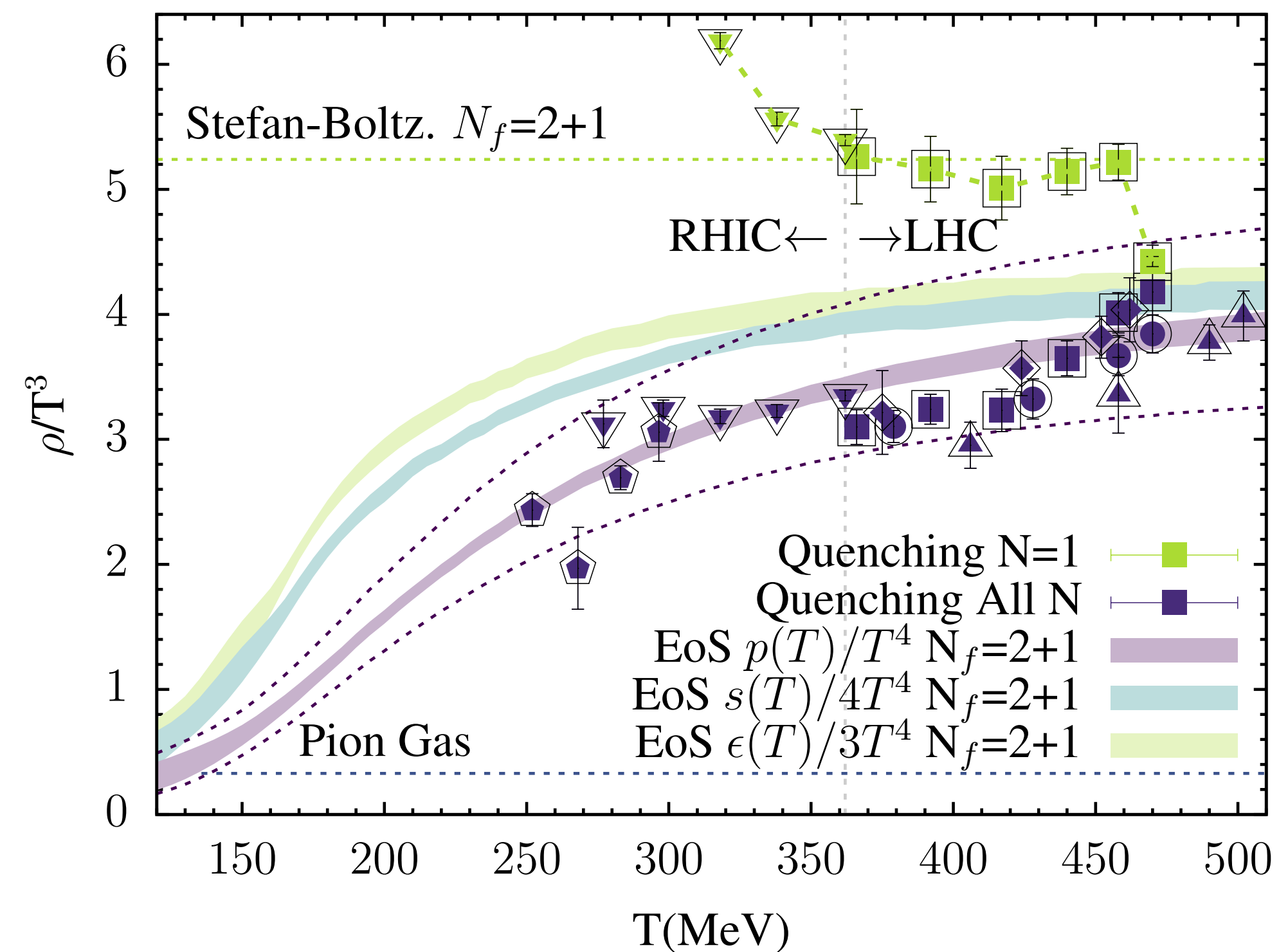
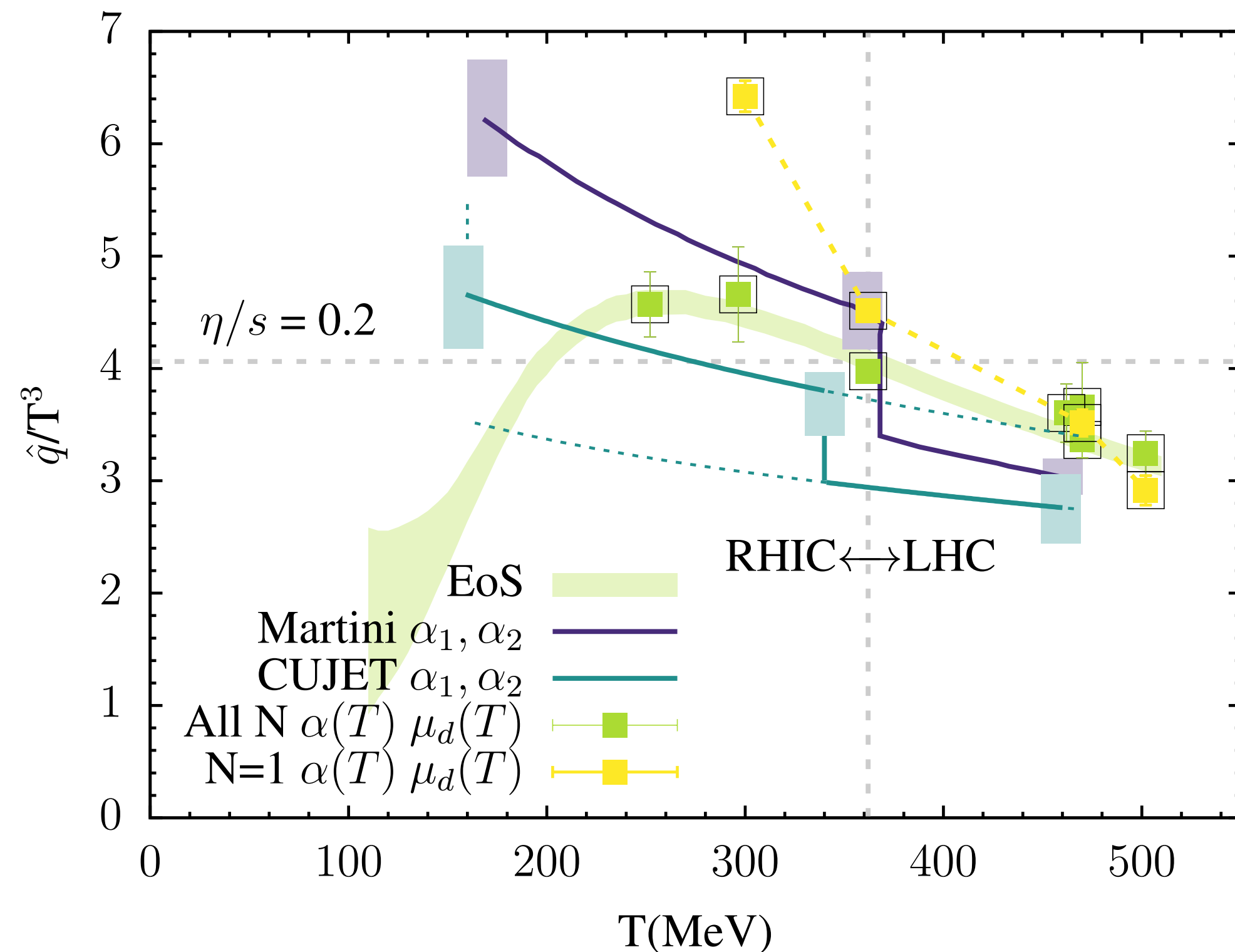
CMS-PAS-HIN-23-004



Color coherence

Jet quenching parameter

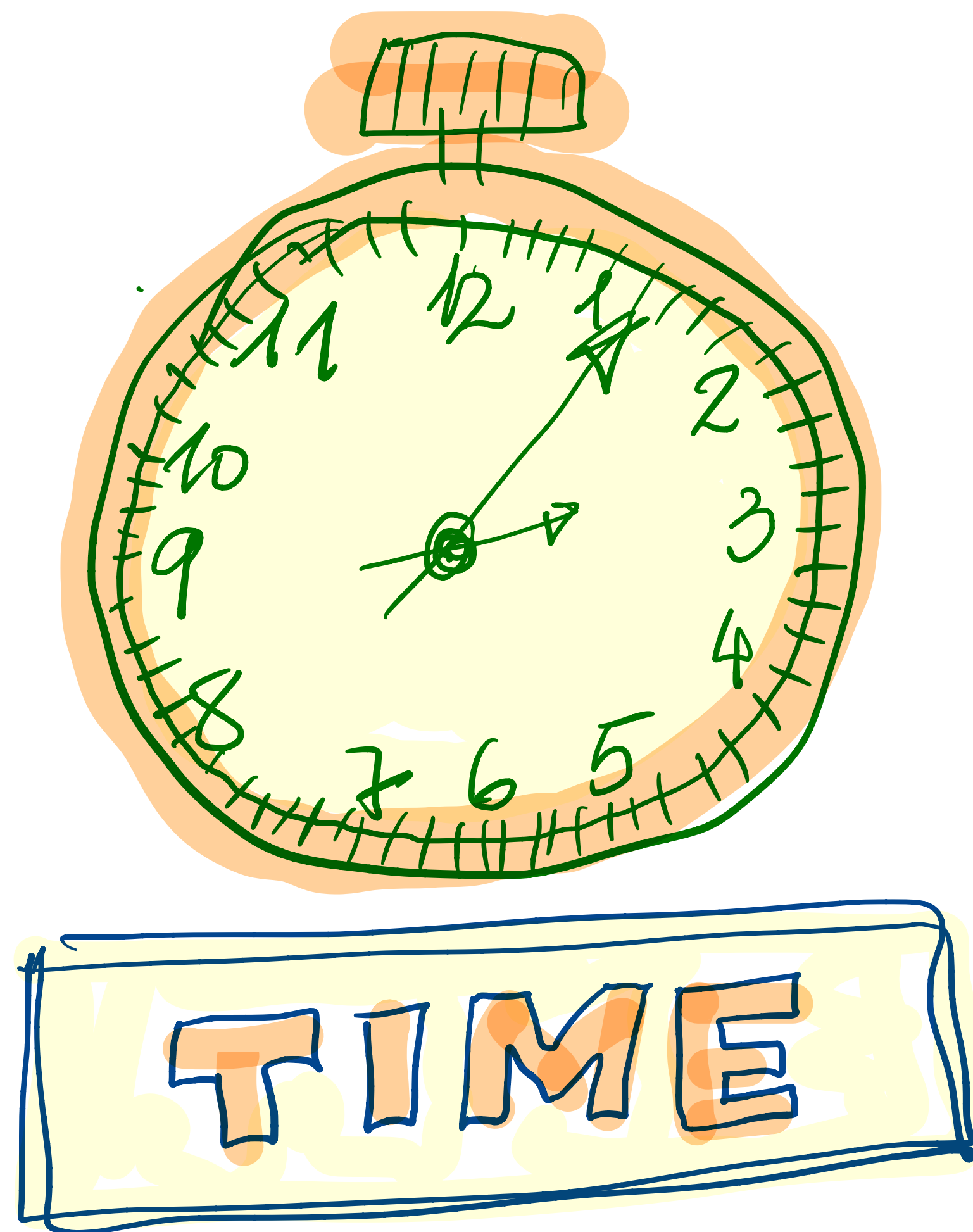
Information about the medium properties usually encoded in the jet quenching parameter \hat{q}



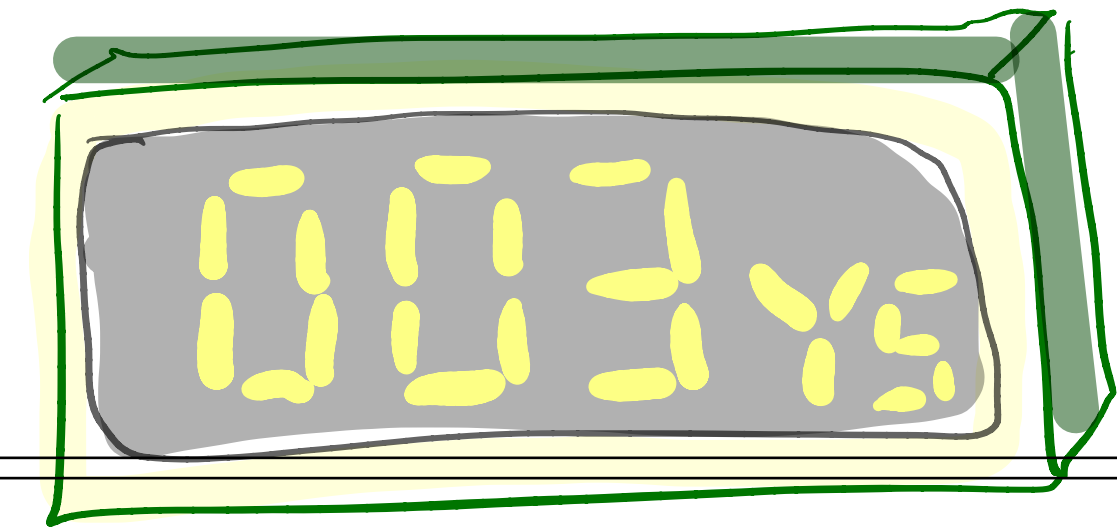
[Feal, Salgado, Vazquez 2019]

Agreement with cross sections from thermal-QCD — resummation of multiple scatterings needed

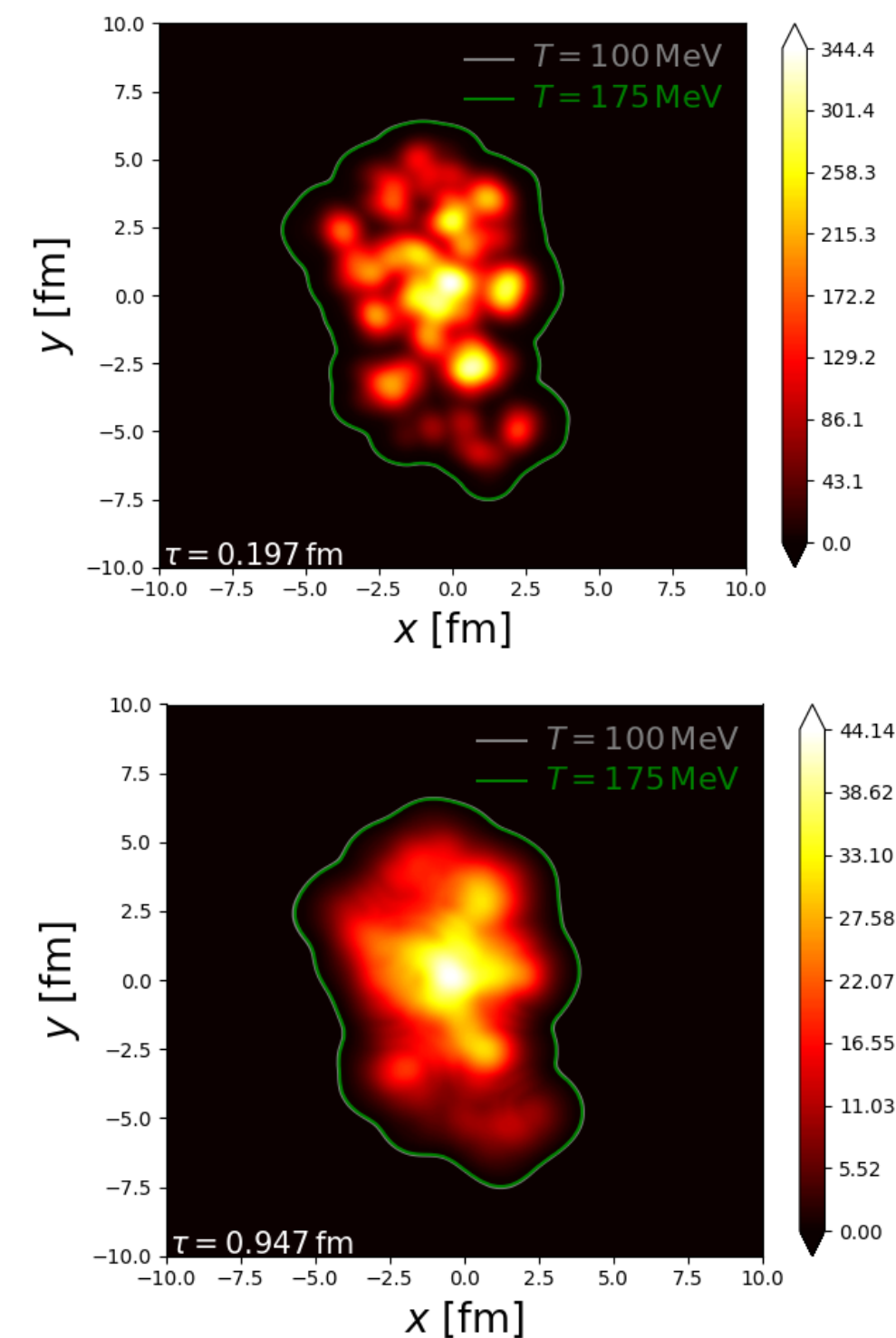
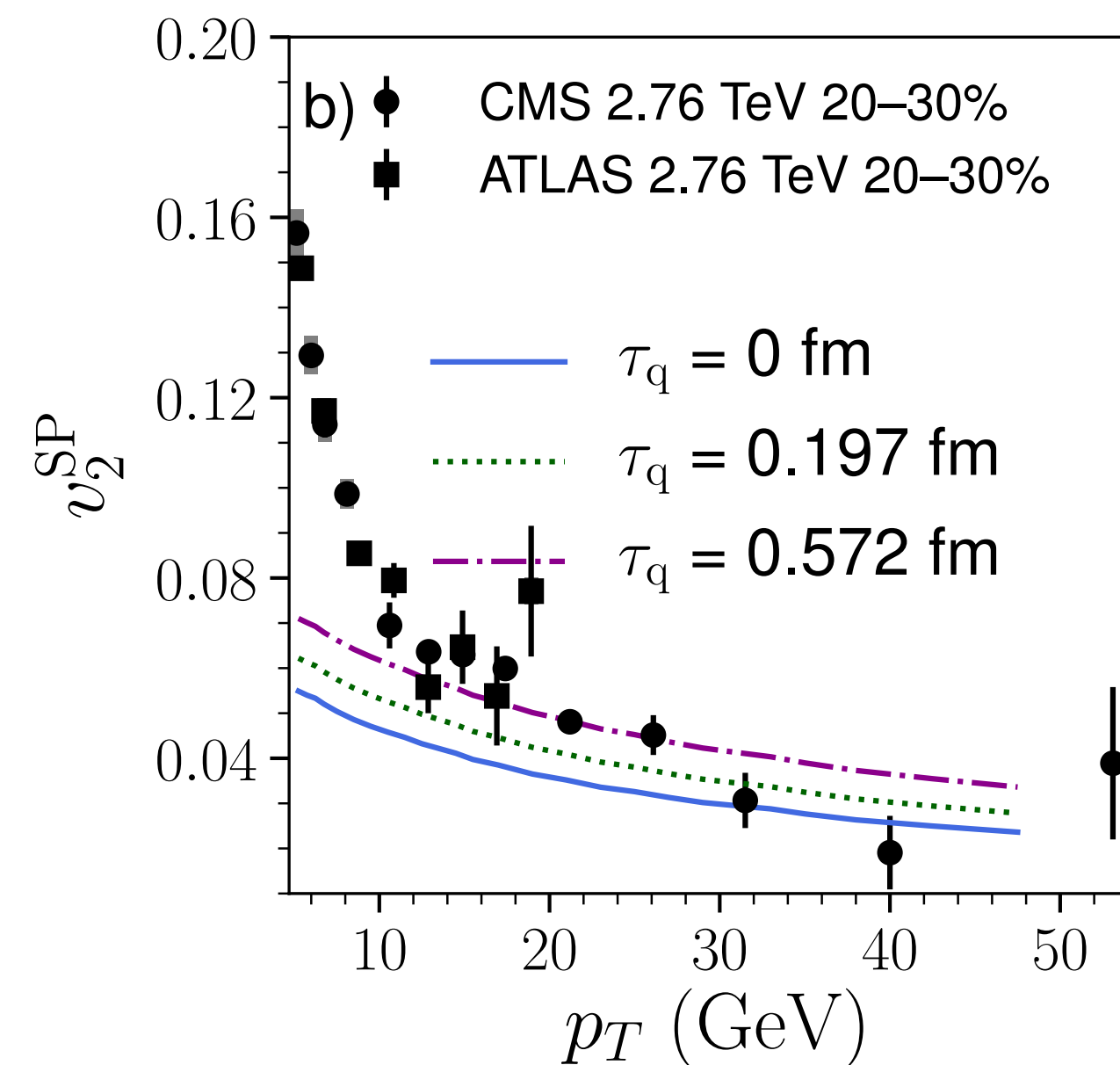
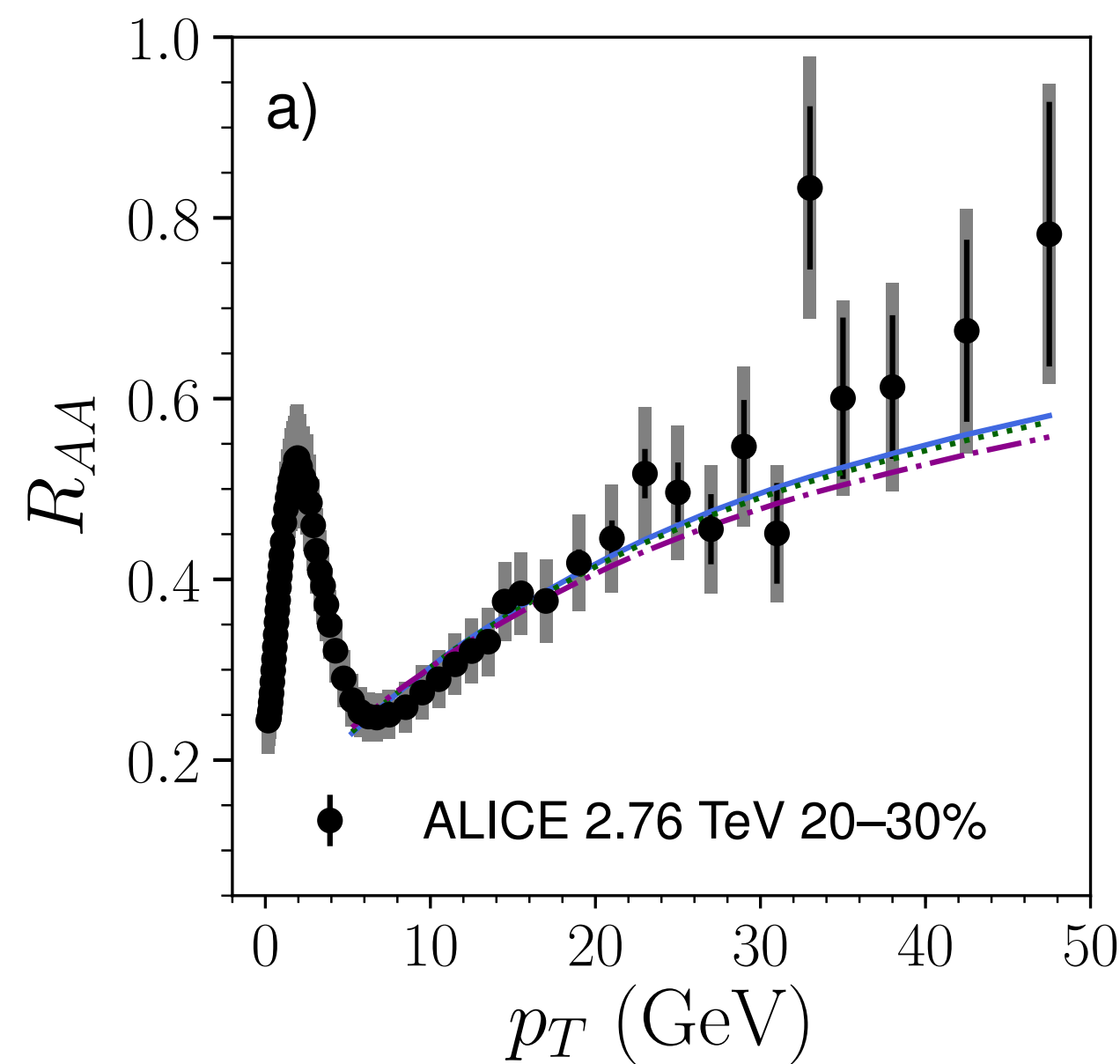
But also...



First ~3ys...



Main question - can we access the initial stages with jet quenching?



Initial stages (thermalisation period) affect jet quenching -
Opens completely new possibilities - study early times with jet observables

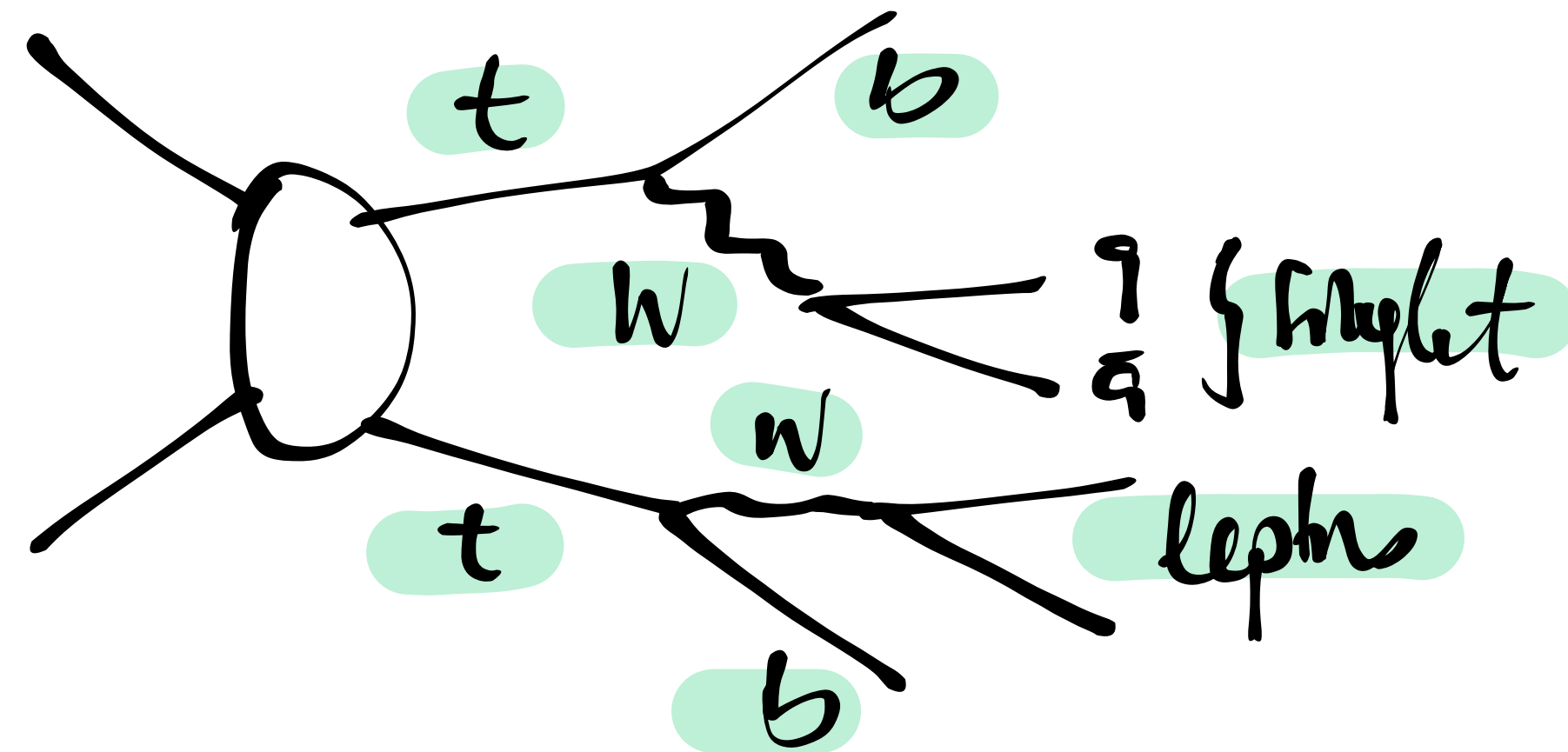
[Andres, Armesto, Niemi, Paatelainen, Salgado 2019]

A yoctosecond chronometer

[late times]

Can we **more directly measure the space-time** development with jet observables?

[Apolinario, Milhano, Salgado, Salam 2019]



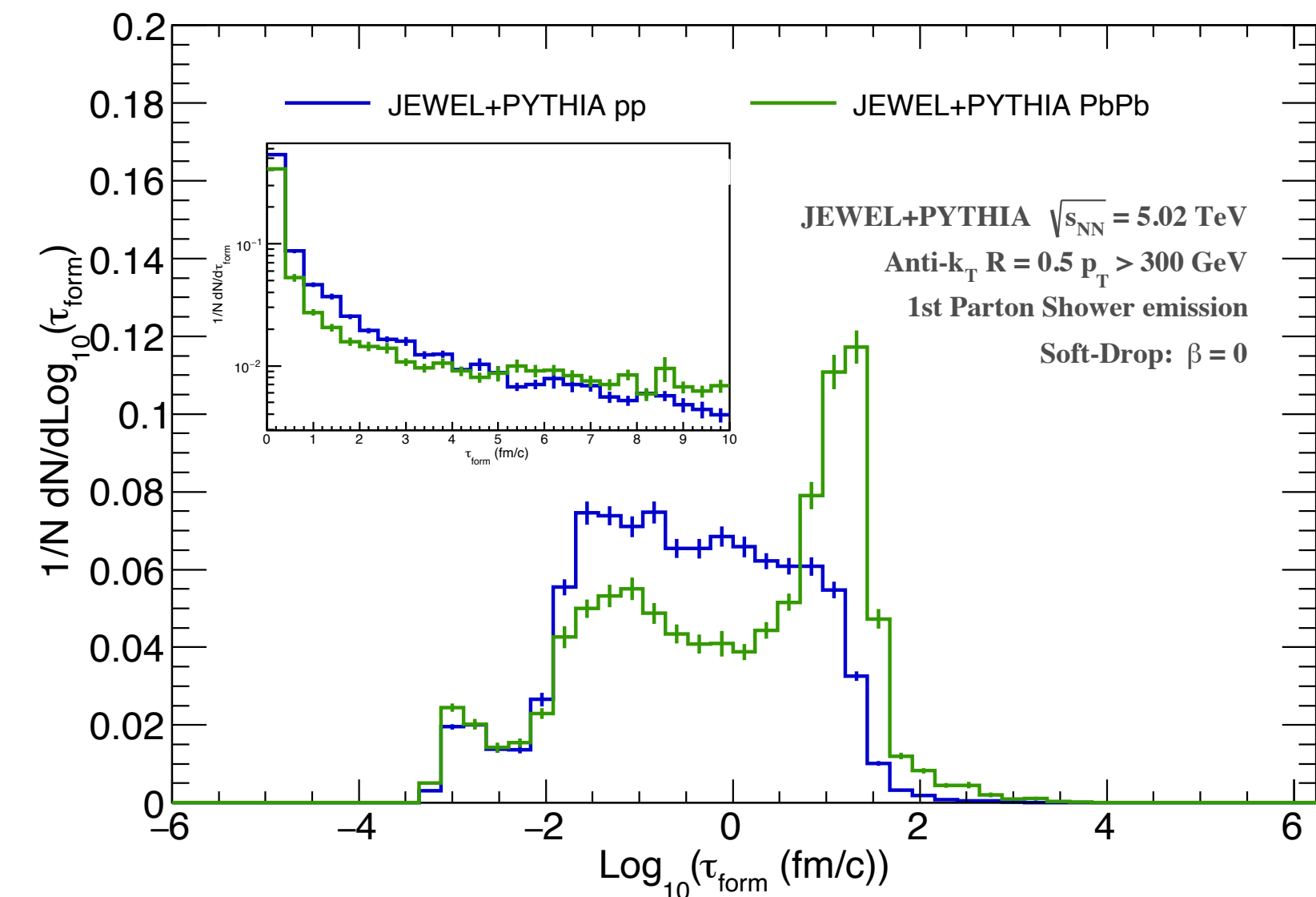
Boosted tops

Difficult with LHC PbPb luminosity - lighter ions?

Charm/Bottom quarks? [Attems, et al 2022]

New time reclustering algorithm

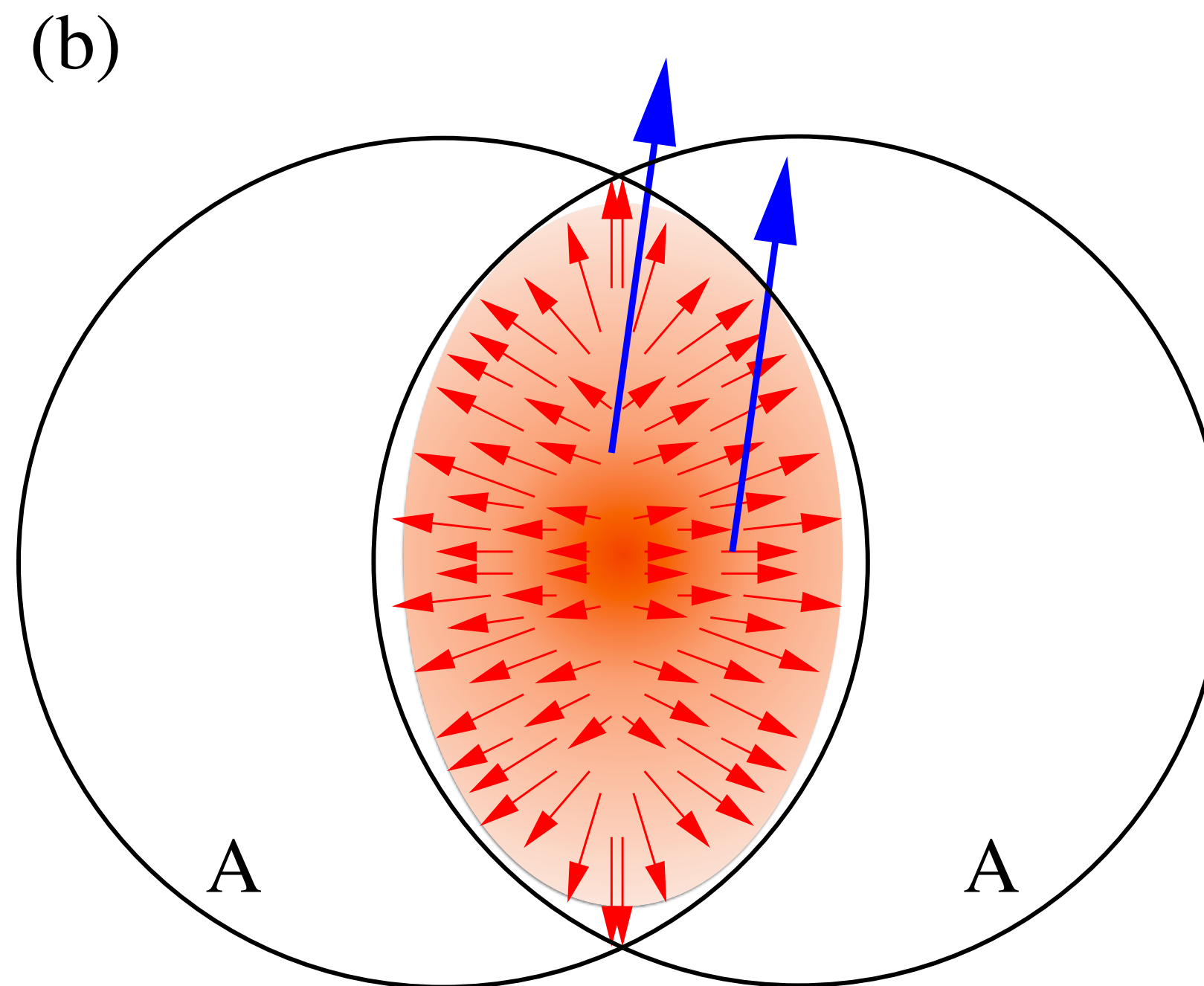
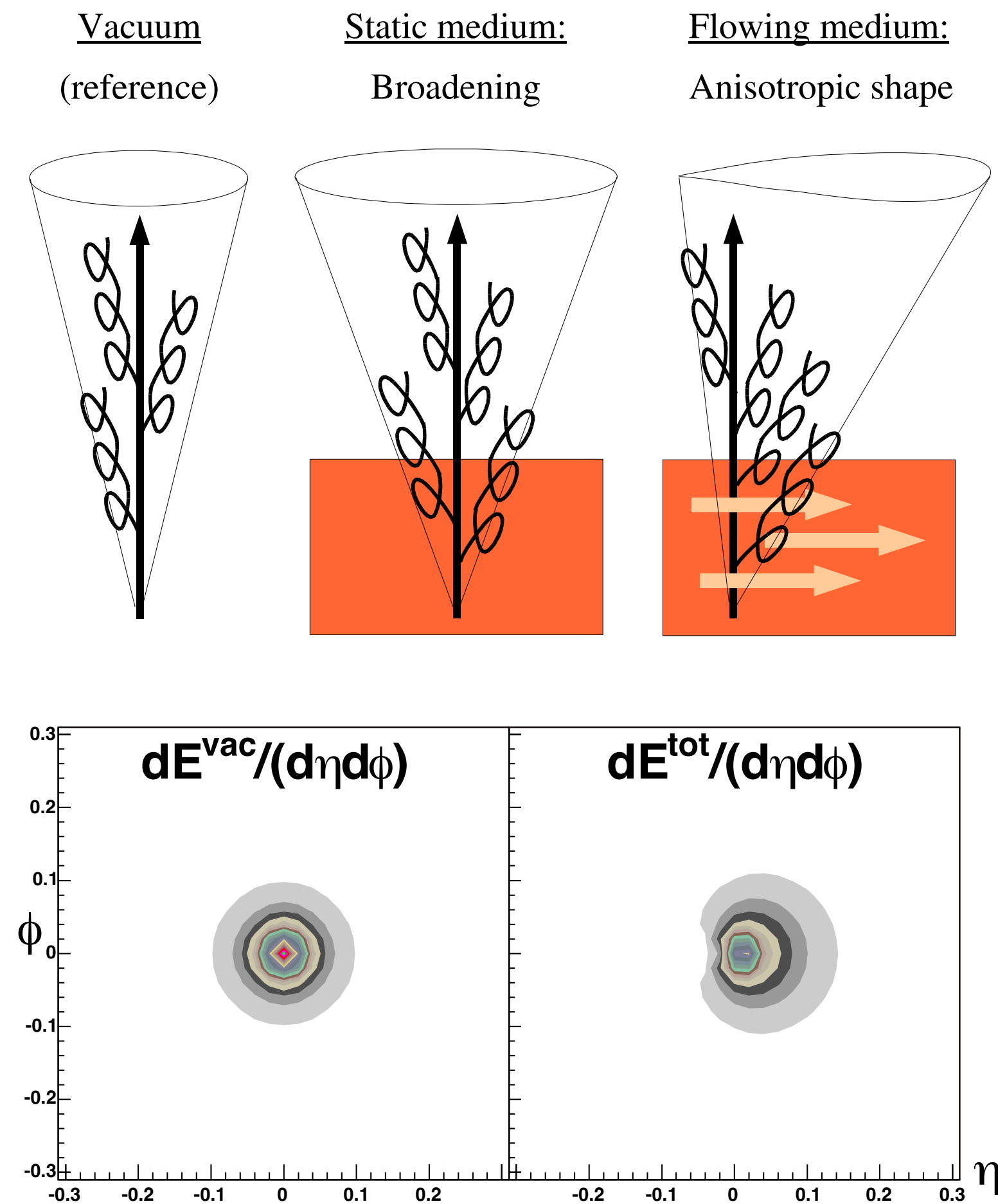
Very promising



[Apolinario, Cordeiro, Zapp 2021]

Coupling jet-hydro

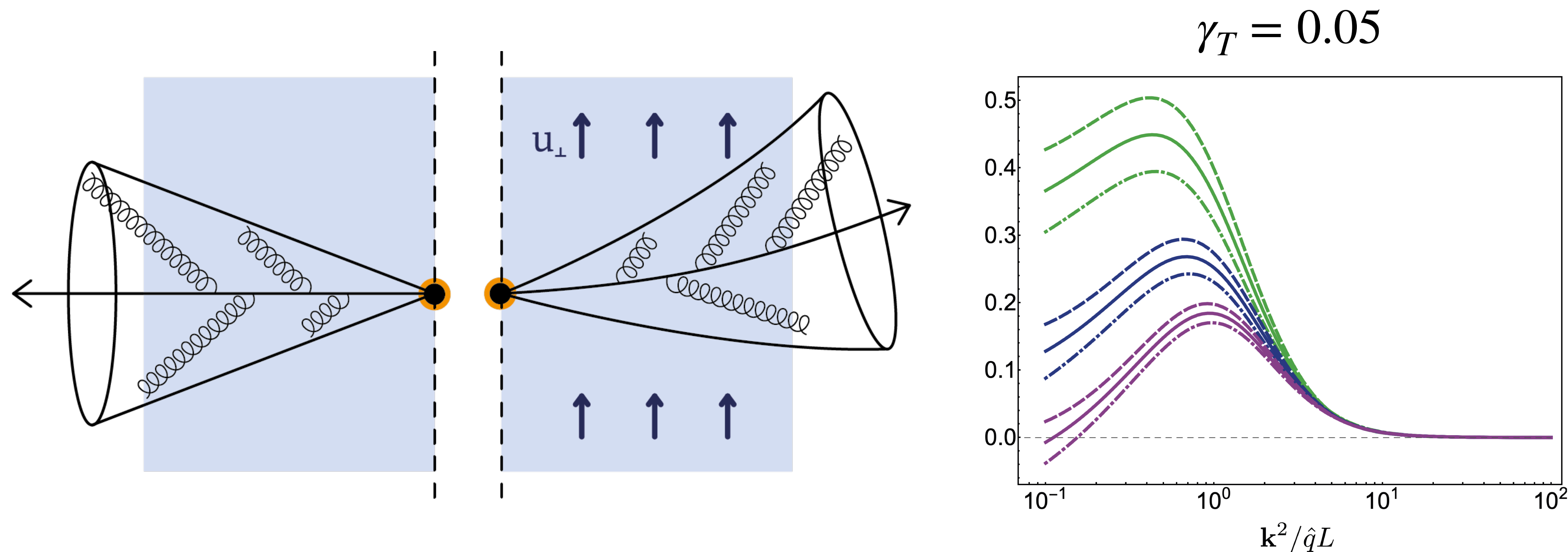
[Armesto, Salgado, Wiedemann 2004]



What is the effect of the velocity fields and the (density/temperature) gradients in jet quenching observables?

Anisotropic radiation

Radiation follows the anisotropies (gradients and/or flow)



[Barata, Mayo, Sadofyev, Salgado 2022]

Where the gradient parameter $\gamma_T = |\nabla T/T^2|$

To be confirmed experimentally - direct measurement of velocity fields!

Conclusions

QCD provides a very powerful laboratory to understand how the first levels of complexity emerge from a fundamental (and non-abelian) theory

- **QCD has a rich dynamical content well within experimental reach**
- Branches to other very active fields in Physics, including Cosmology or Condense Matter where equilibration, role of quantum entanglement, etc...

Impressive progress in several theoretical areas of heavy ion collisions

- Initial stages, parton saturation and thermalization
- Hydrodynamics
- Hard Probes: jet quenching and quarkonia (also heavy-flavor)
- ... **and connections between them**

New data from LHC and RHIC

- Continuous progress on the characterization of the QGP and Yoctosecond Chronometer
- **Completely new opportunities — initial stages / small systems — directly access time evolution**



Acknowledgements



Cofinanciado pola
Unión Europea



Fondos Europeos



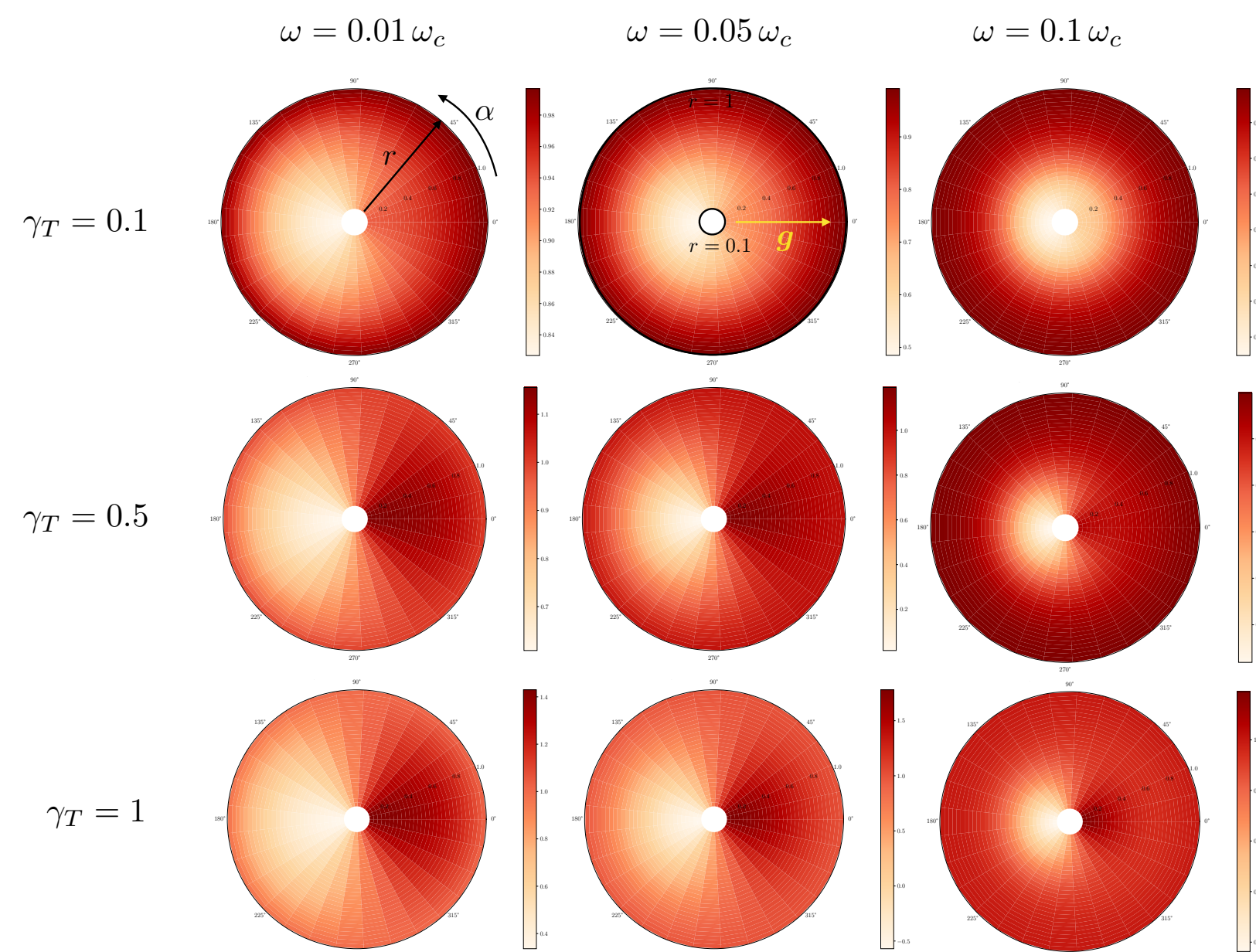
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



EXCELENCIA
MARÍA
DE MAEZTU
2024-2029

Anisotropic jet angular distributions

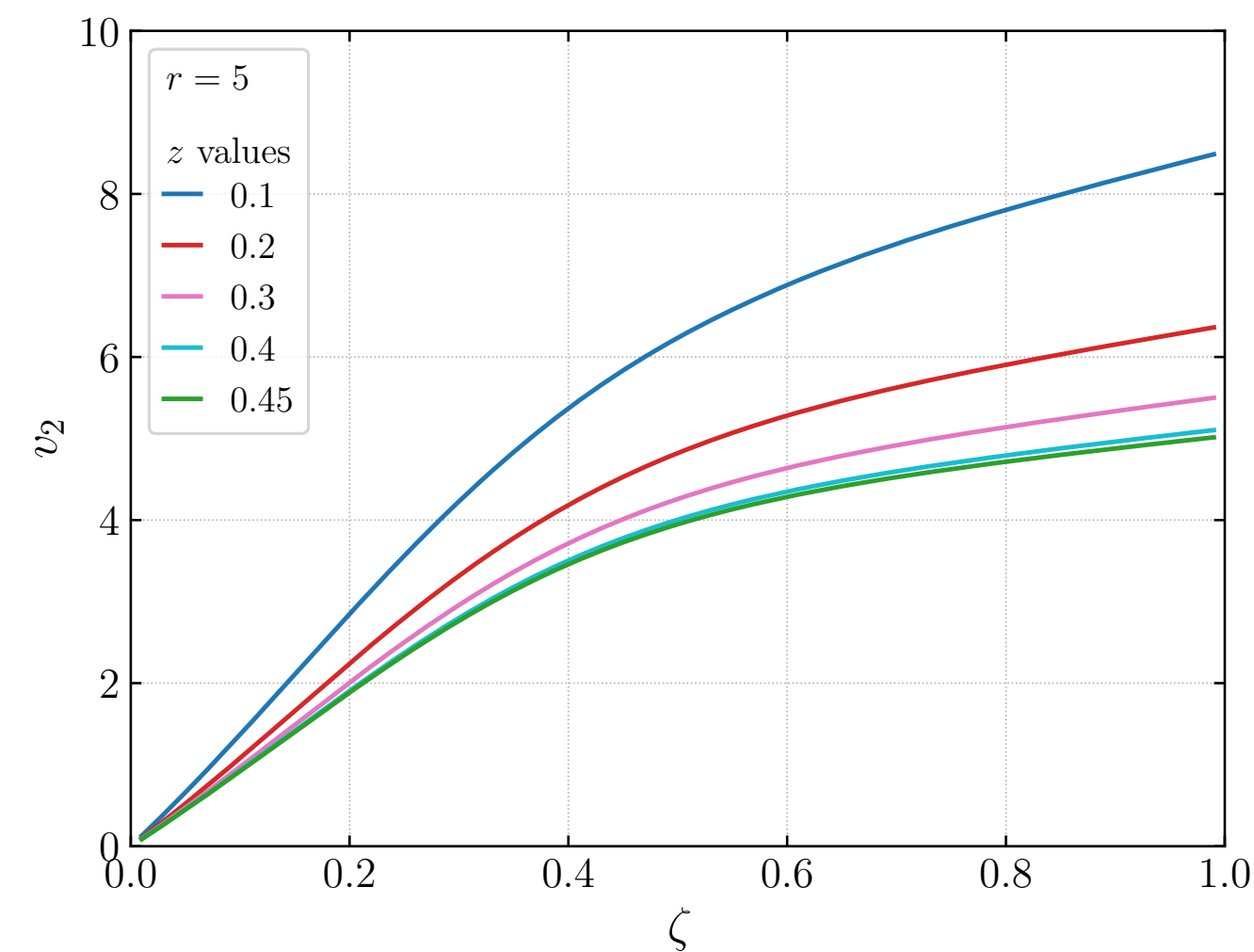
Jet shapes



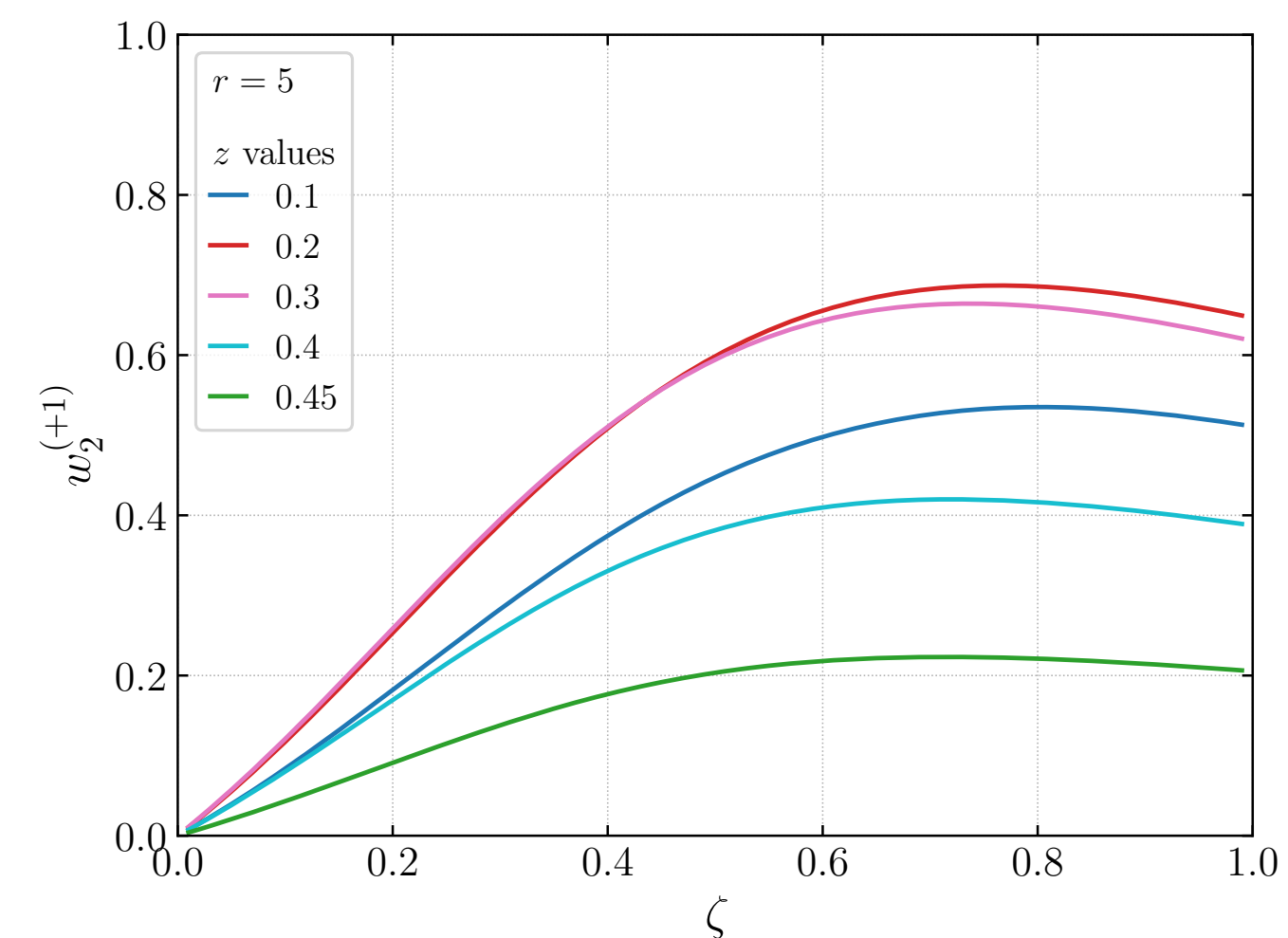
[Barata, Milhano, Sadofyev 2023]

Intra-jet v_2 (and w_2)

[Barata, Salgado, Silva 2024]



v_2 large due to jet anisotropy



w_2 correction due to spin in a $q\bar{q}$ antenna

