

# Theoretical developments in heavy ions

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XLI

International Conference  
on High Energy Physics  
Bologna (Italy)

6  
13 07 2022

Disclaimer... Impossible to cover all theory topics in heavy-ions. This is just a personal selection intended to form a coherent talk - previous ICHEP edition talks covered different subjects

# 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 $n_B$ ]**

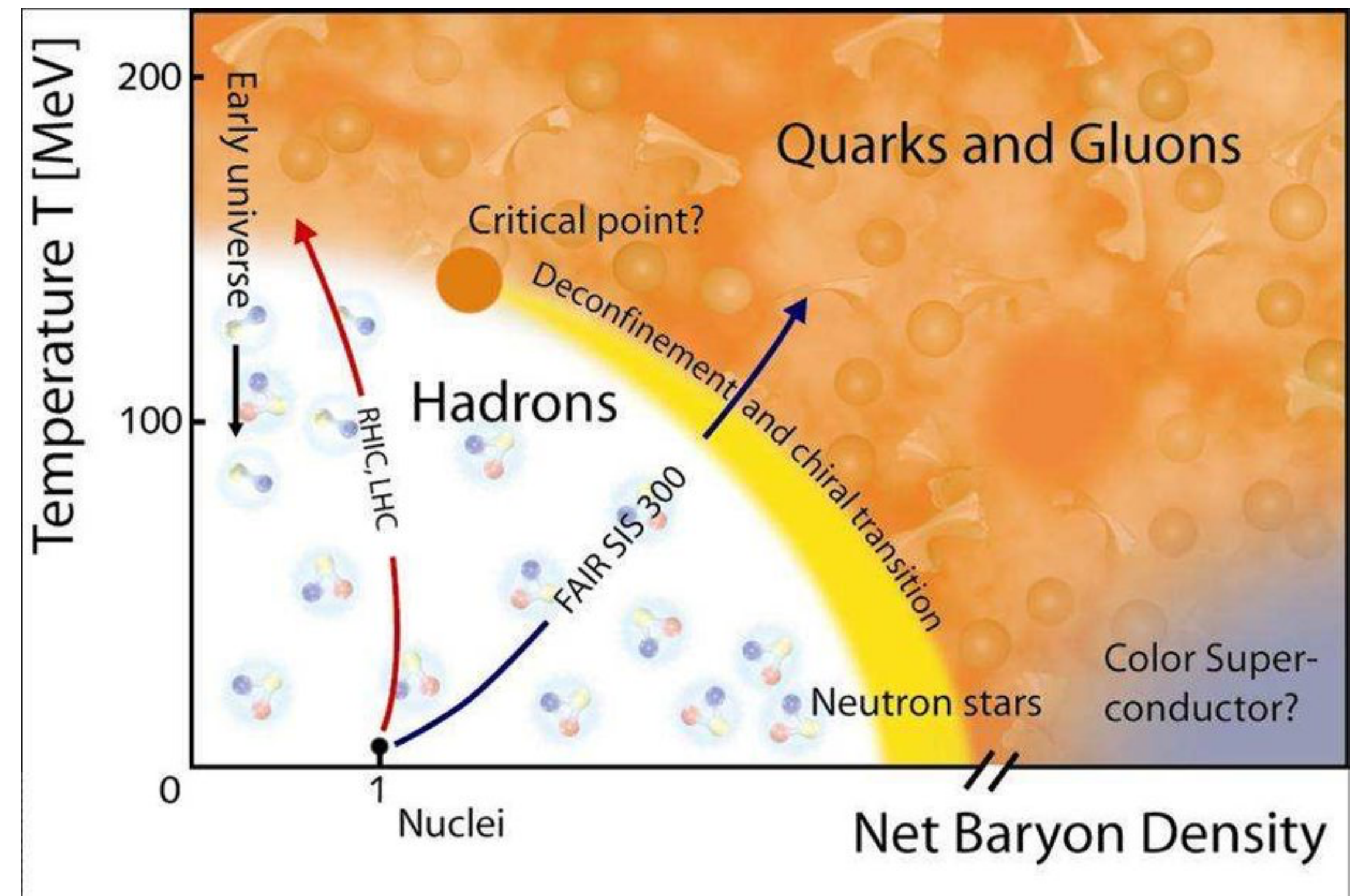
LHC — pp, pPb, PbPb, XeXe, (other lighter ions under study)  
RHIC — pp, dAu, AuAu, CuCu, UU,...

### **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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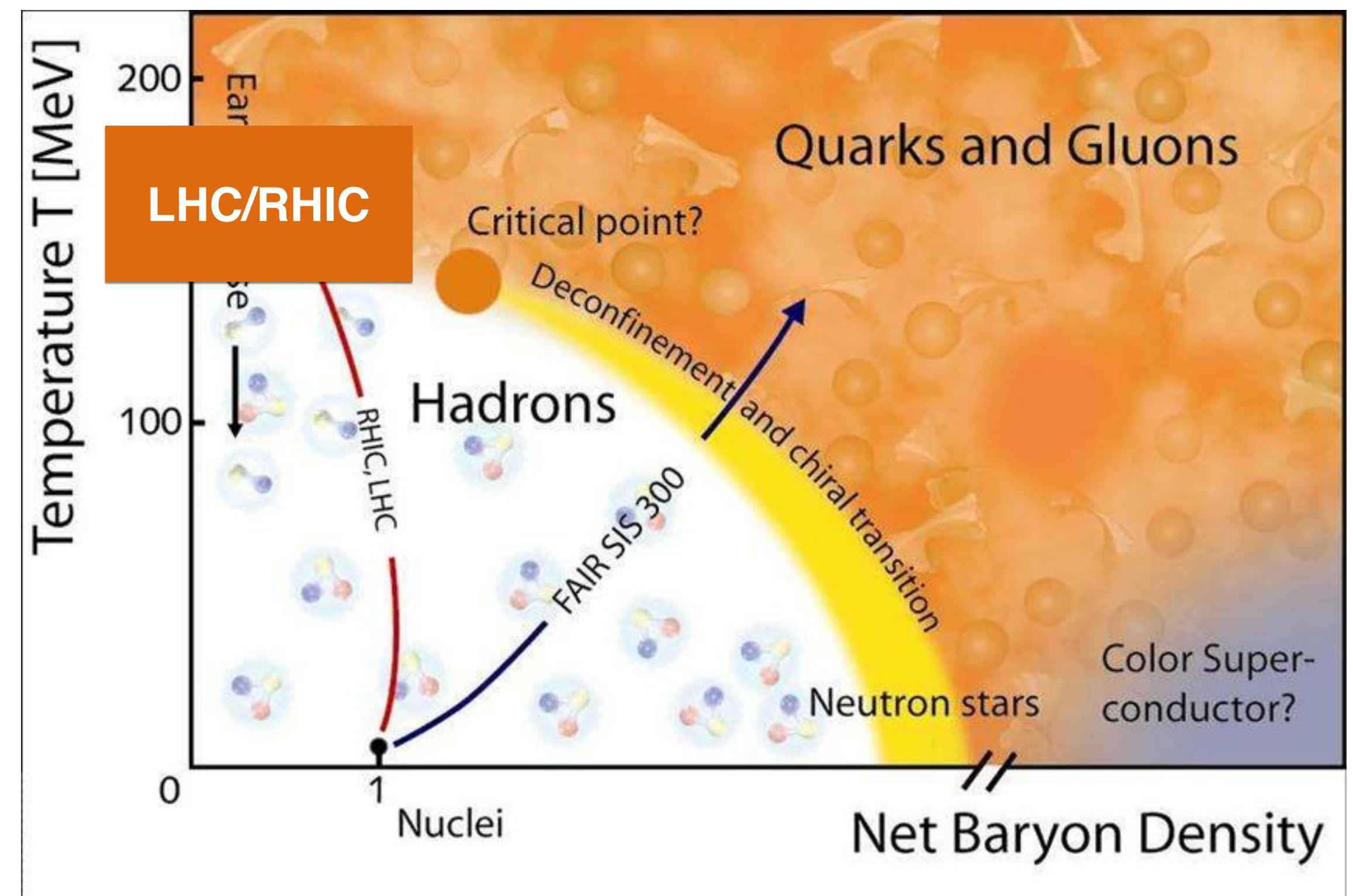
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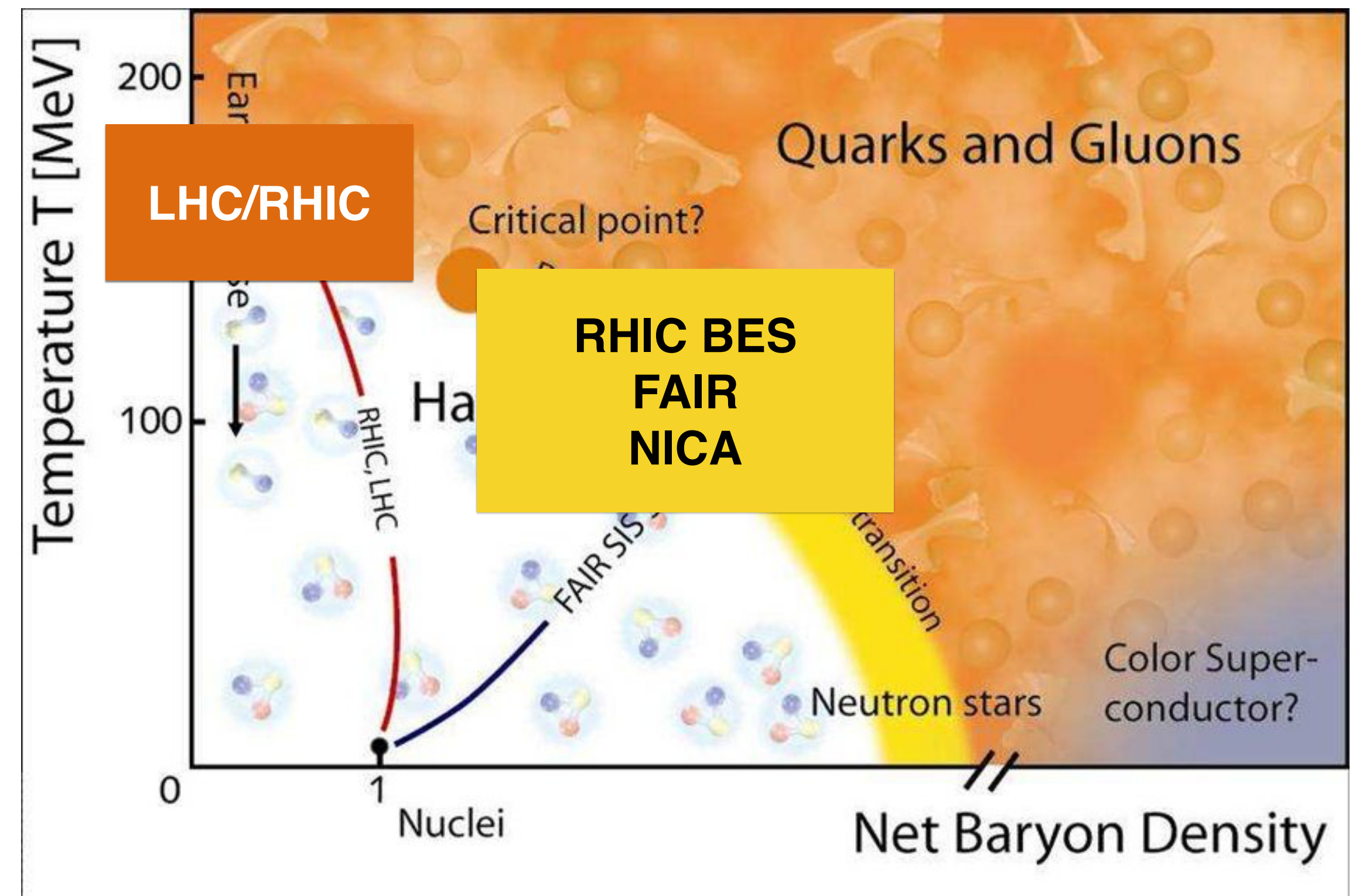
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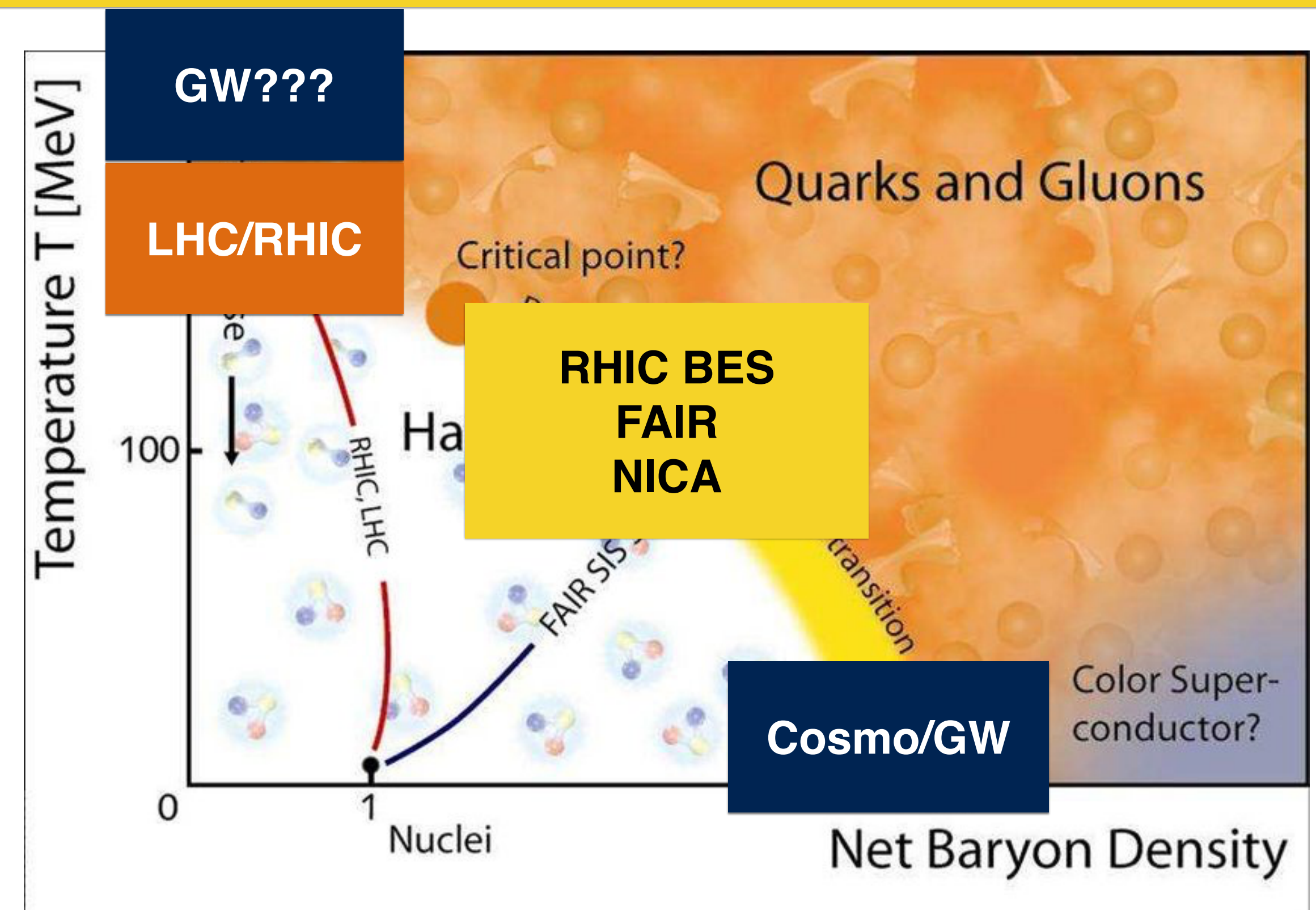
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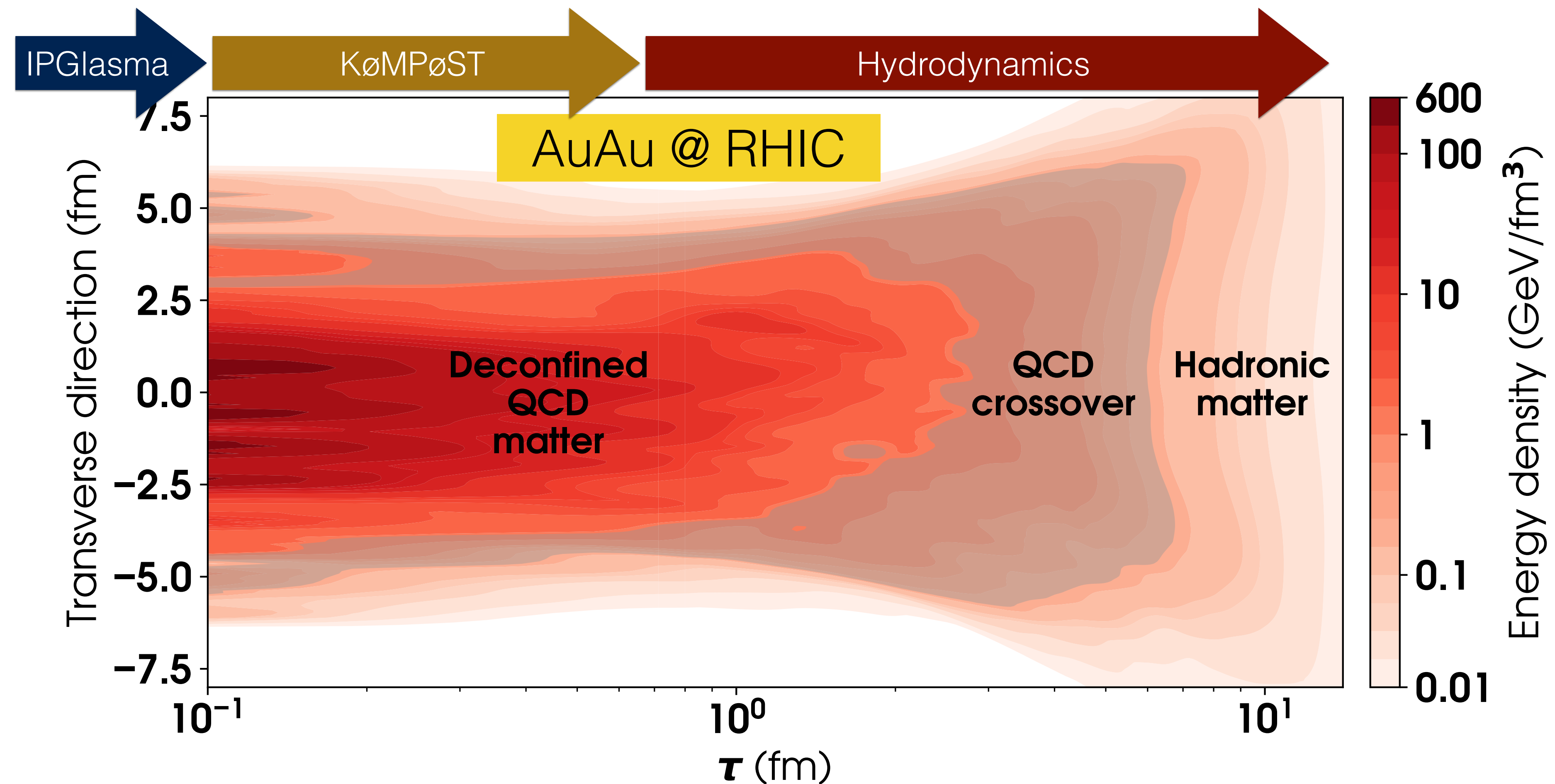


# (A possible) Time evolution of a HIC



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

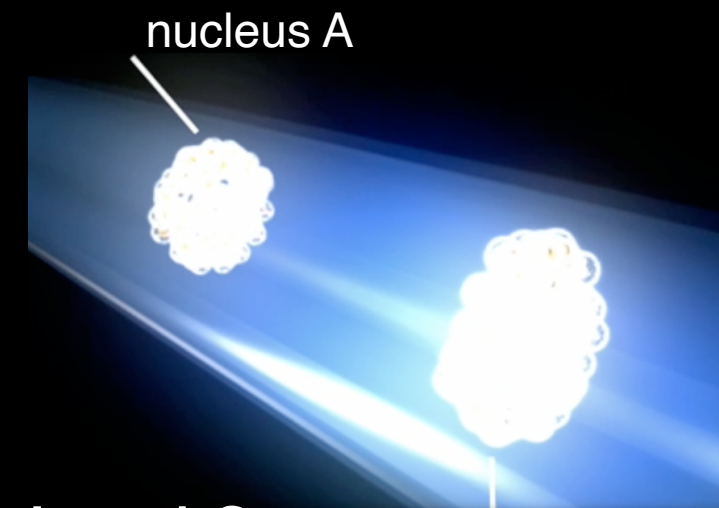
# (A possible) Time evolution of a HIC



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



# Questions accessible in HIC



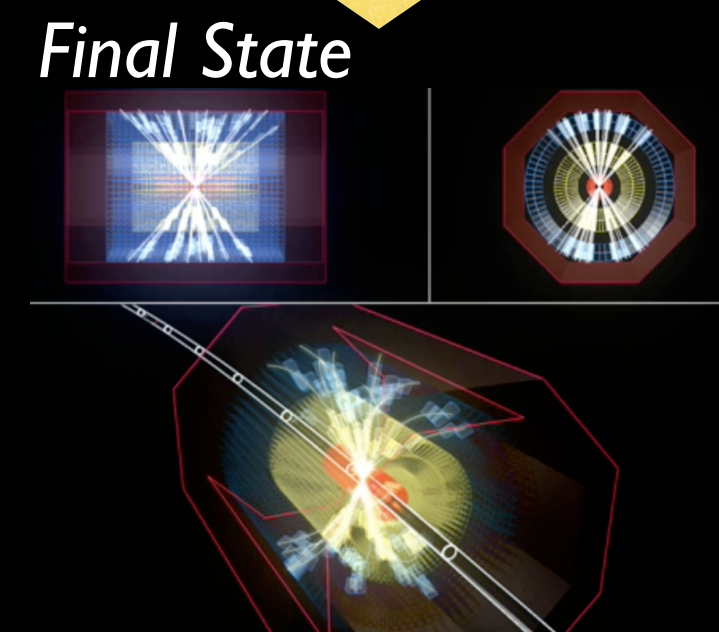
Initial State

## 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

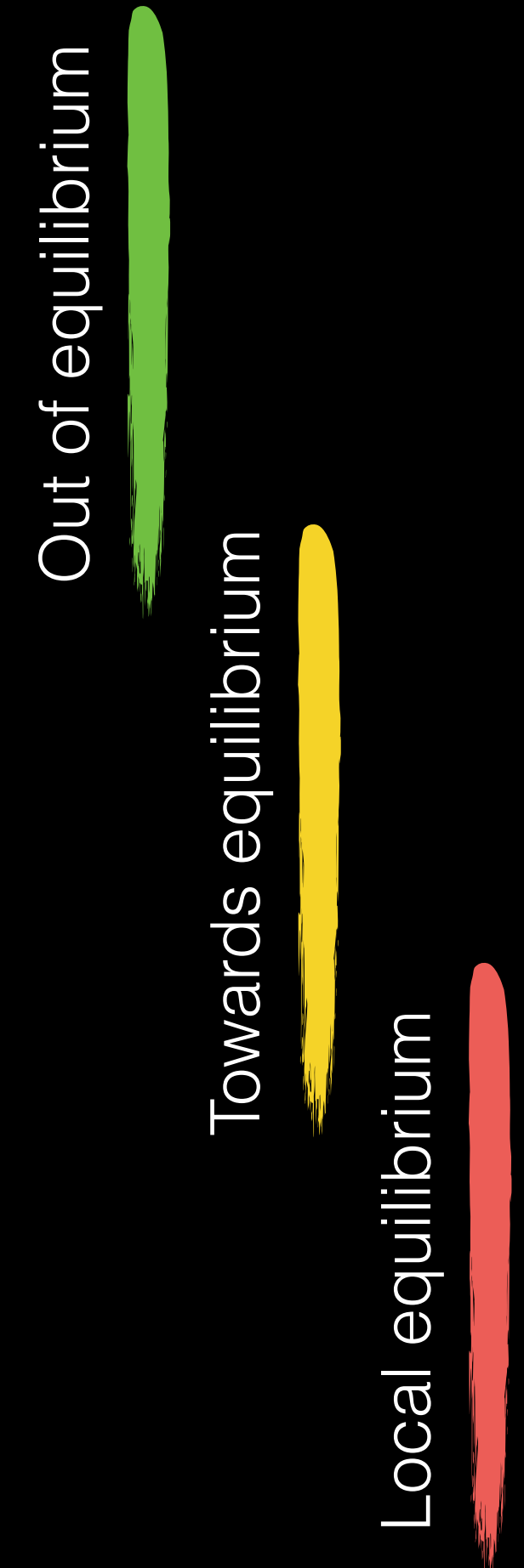
## What is the dynamics at the initial stages after the collision?

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

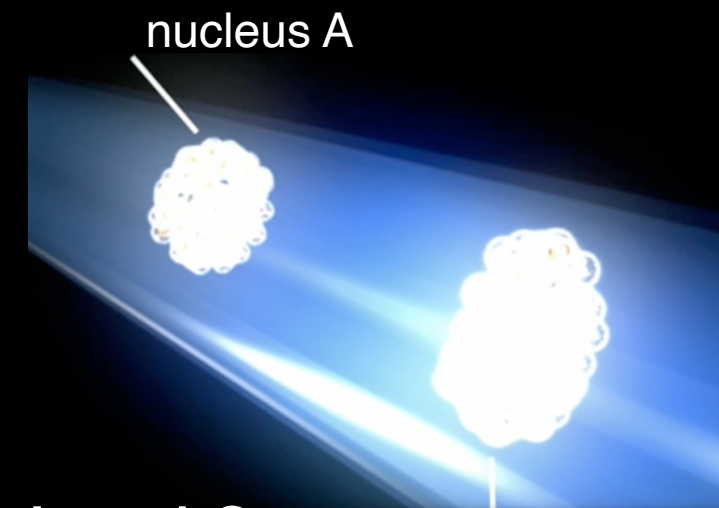


## What are the properties of the produced medium?

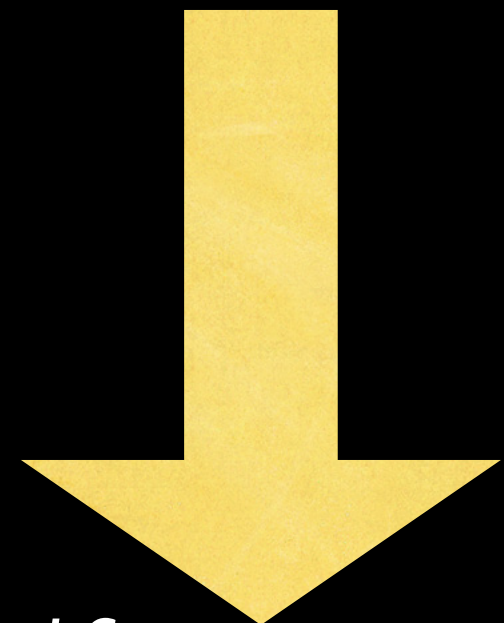
- identify signals to characterize the medium with well-controlled observables
- what are the building blocks and how they organize?
- is it strongly-coupled? quasiparticle description? phases?



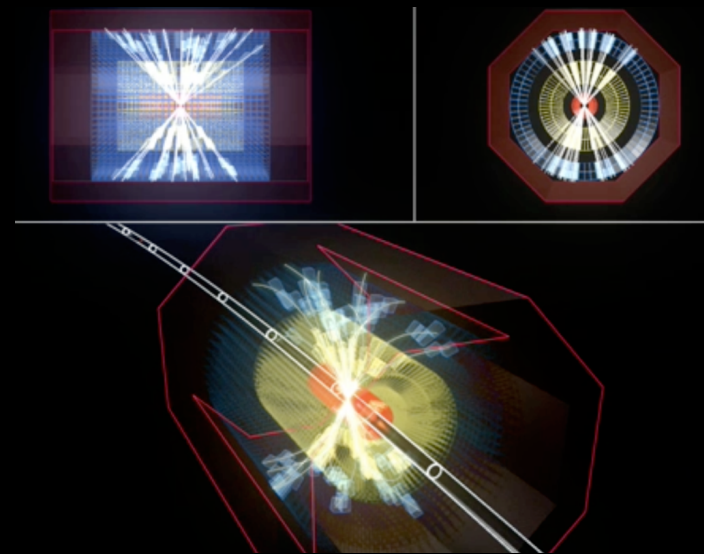
# Questions accessible in HIC



Initial State



Final State



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

## What is the structure of the colliding objects?

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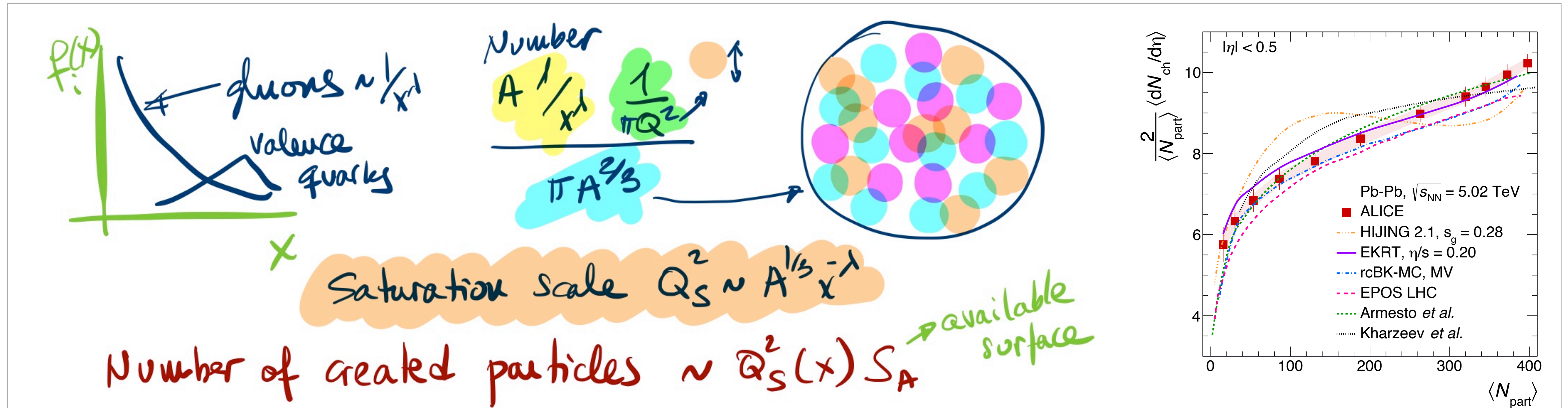
Out of equilibrium

Towards equilibrium

Local equilibrium



# Saturation - Color Glass Condensate



## Color Glass Condensate

Large occupation numbers - classical fields

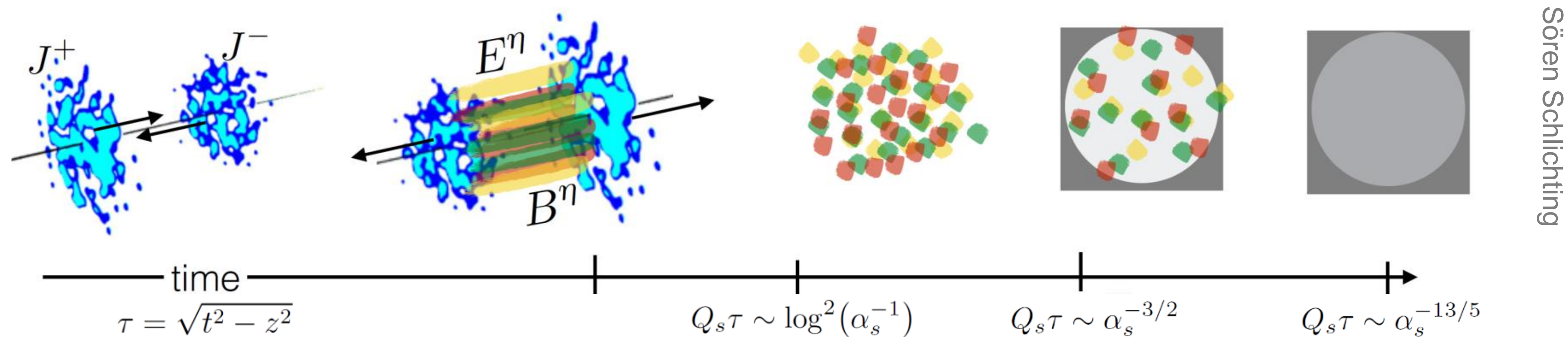
Quantum Corrections - evolution eqs.

**Color Glass Condensate provides a general framework to compute initial stages**

The diagram illustrates the initial stages of a heavy-ion collision. It shows two incoming nuclei, labeled  $J^+$  and  $J^-$ , represented as blue clouds of particles. Arrows indicate their paths. To the right, a central region shows the resulting color fields, labeled  $E^\eta$  and  $B^\eta$ , as yellow and green cylinders. Below the nuclei, the equation  $D_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = J^\nu$  is written.



# A picture for equilibration



**[Classical statistical/lattice gauge theory...]**

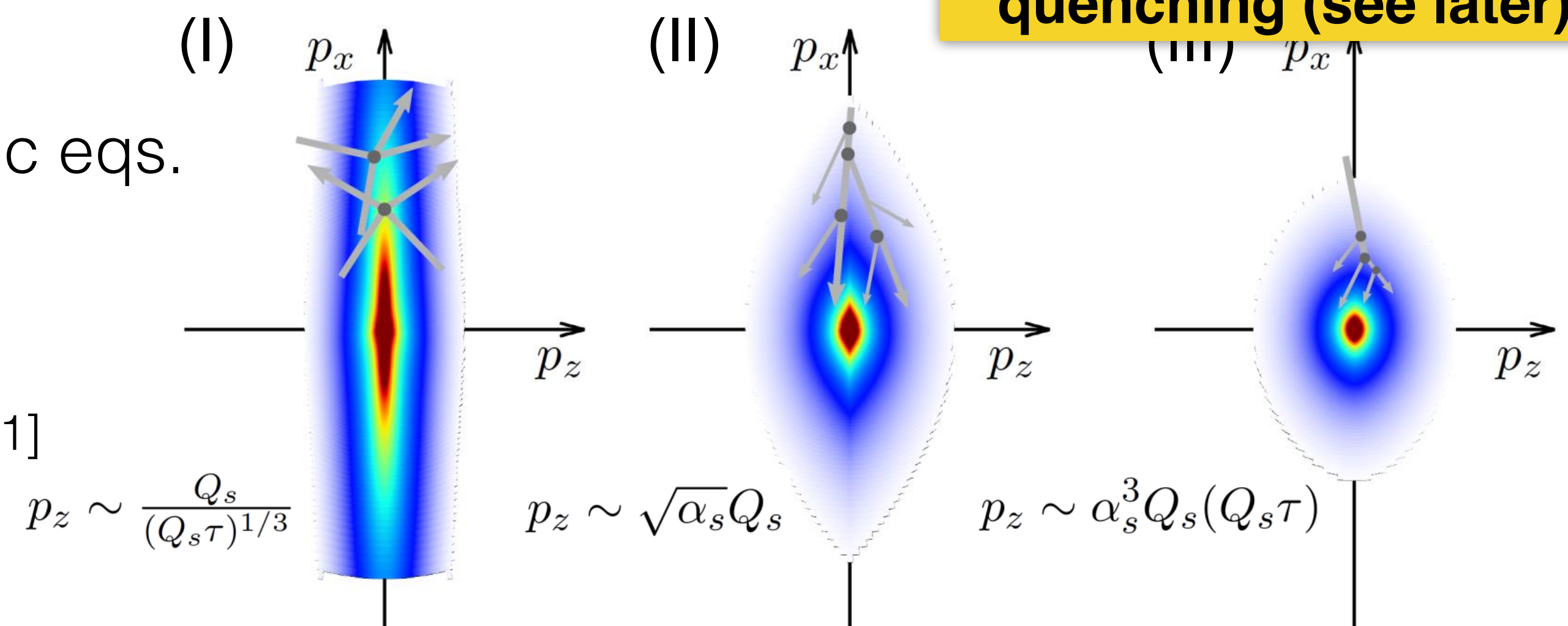
**Notice: similar to jet quenching (see later)**

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 ( $\sim 1$  fm or less)**

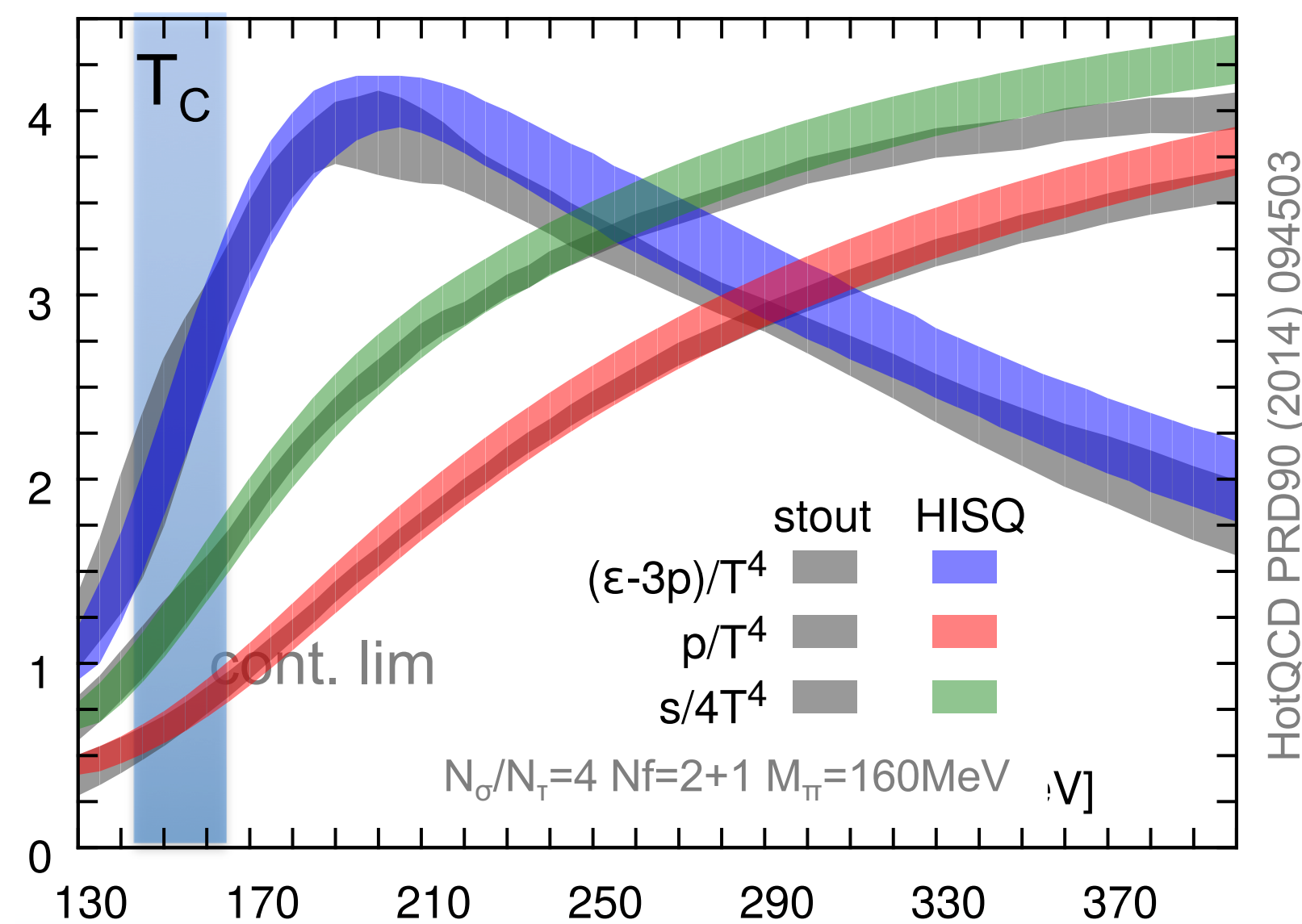
**Most of the theoretical progress in the last years:**

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

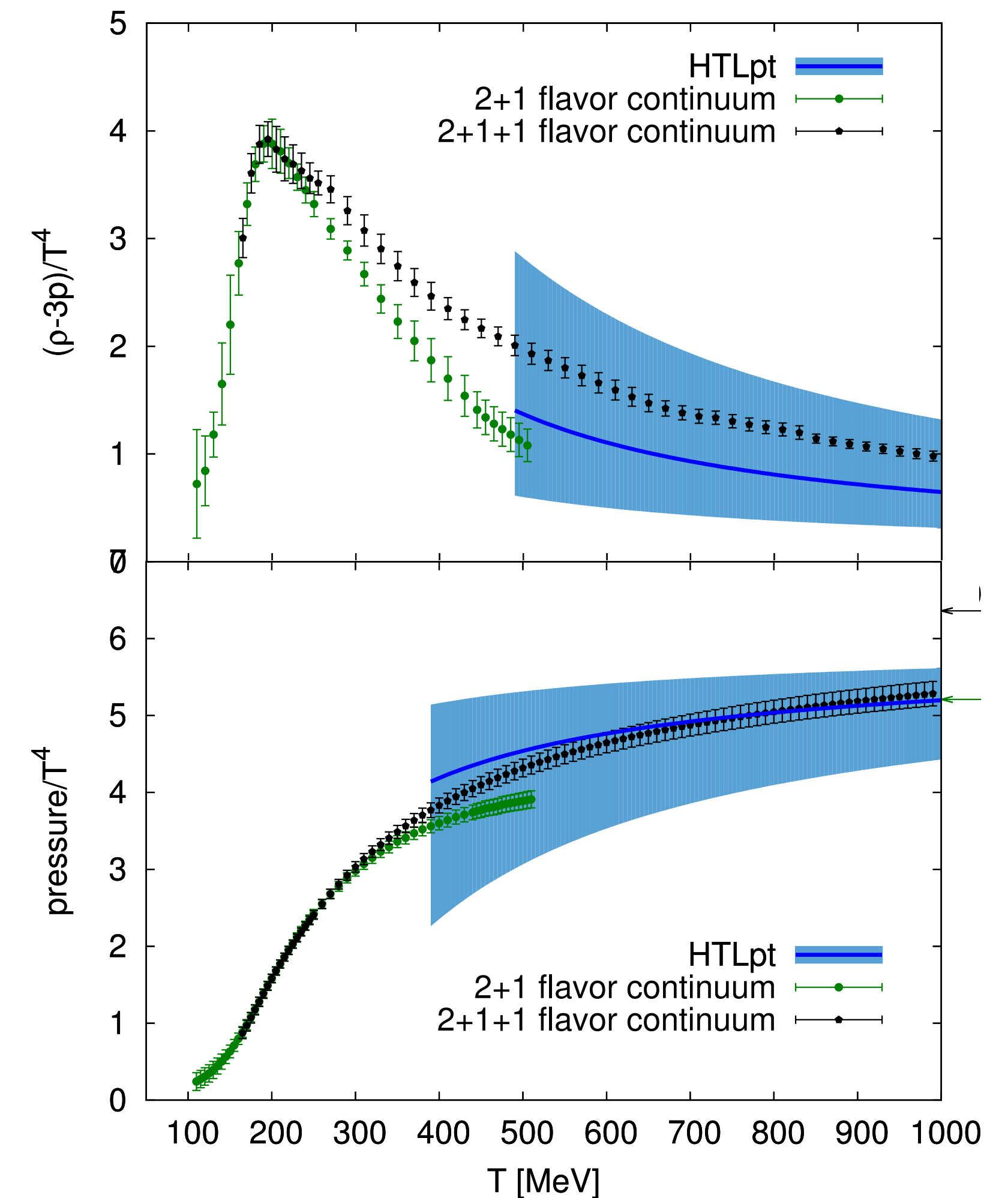


# EoS — high temperature

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]



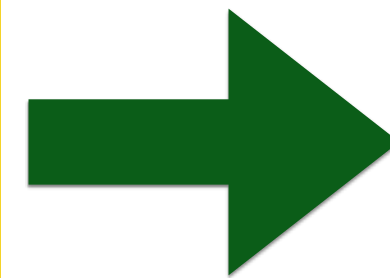
# Harmonics: the golden measurement

[simplified discussion]

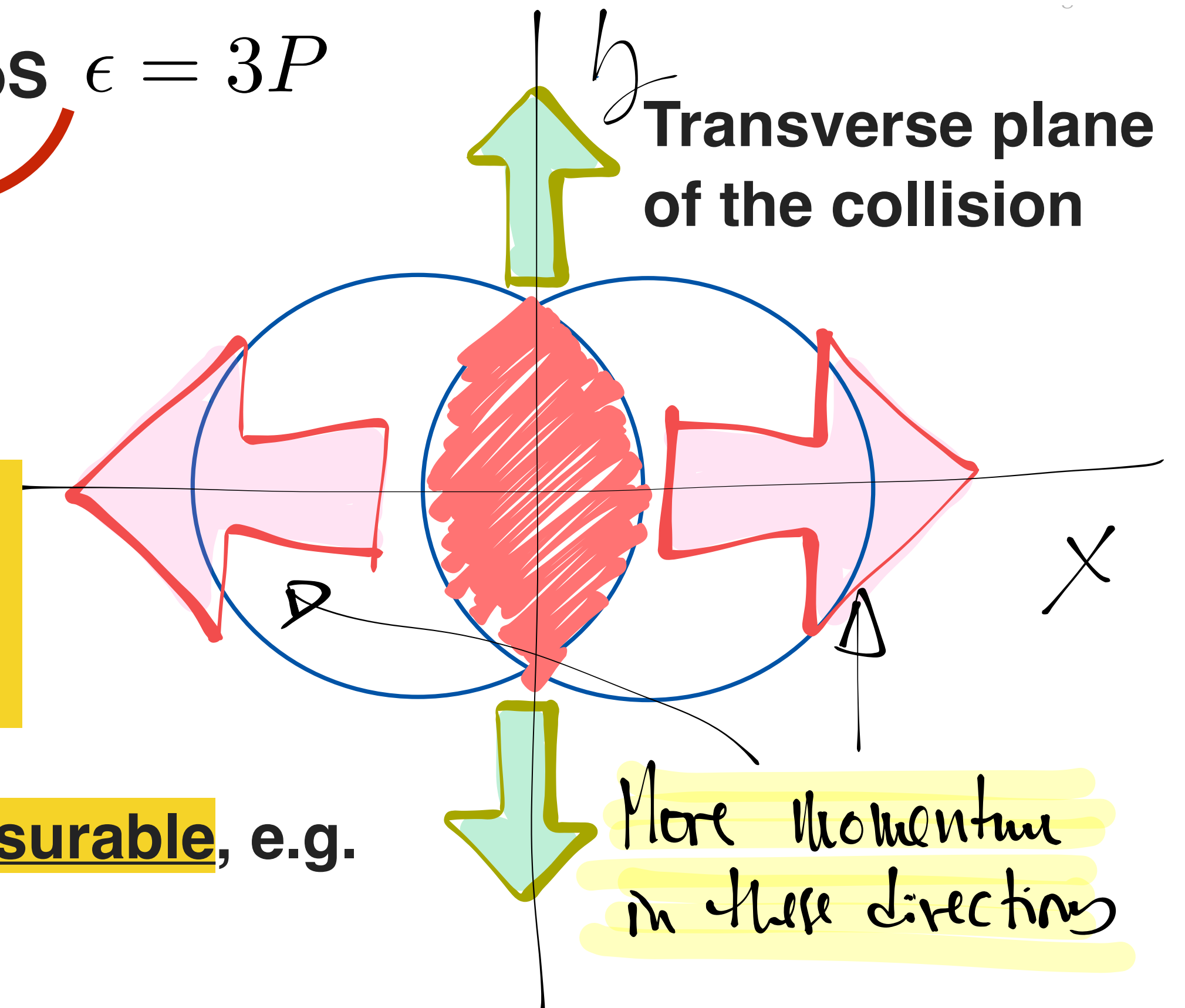
Remember the Euler eqs. — and use conformal EoS  $\epsilon = 3P$

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

Initial state  
spatial  
anisotropies



Final state  
momentum  
anisotropies



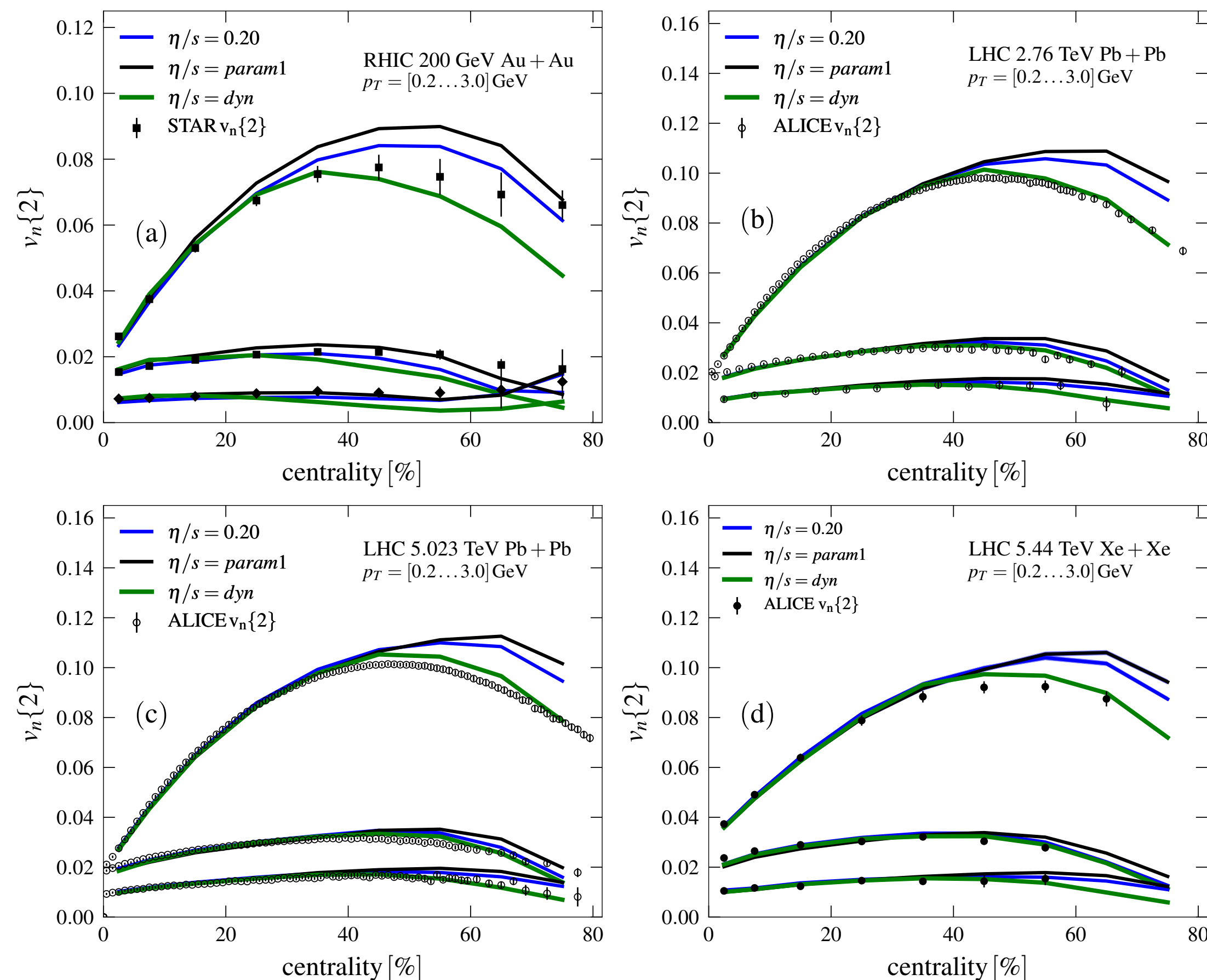
These final state momentum anisotropies are measurable, e.g.

$$\frac{dN}{d\phi} \propto 1 + 2v_2 \cos 2\phi$$

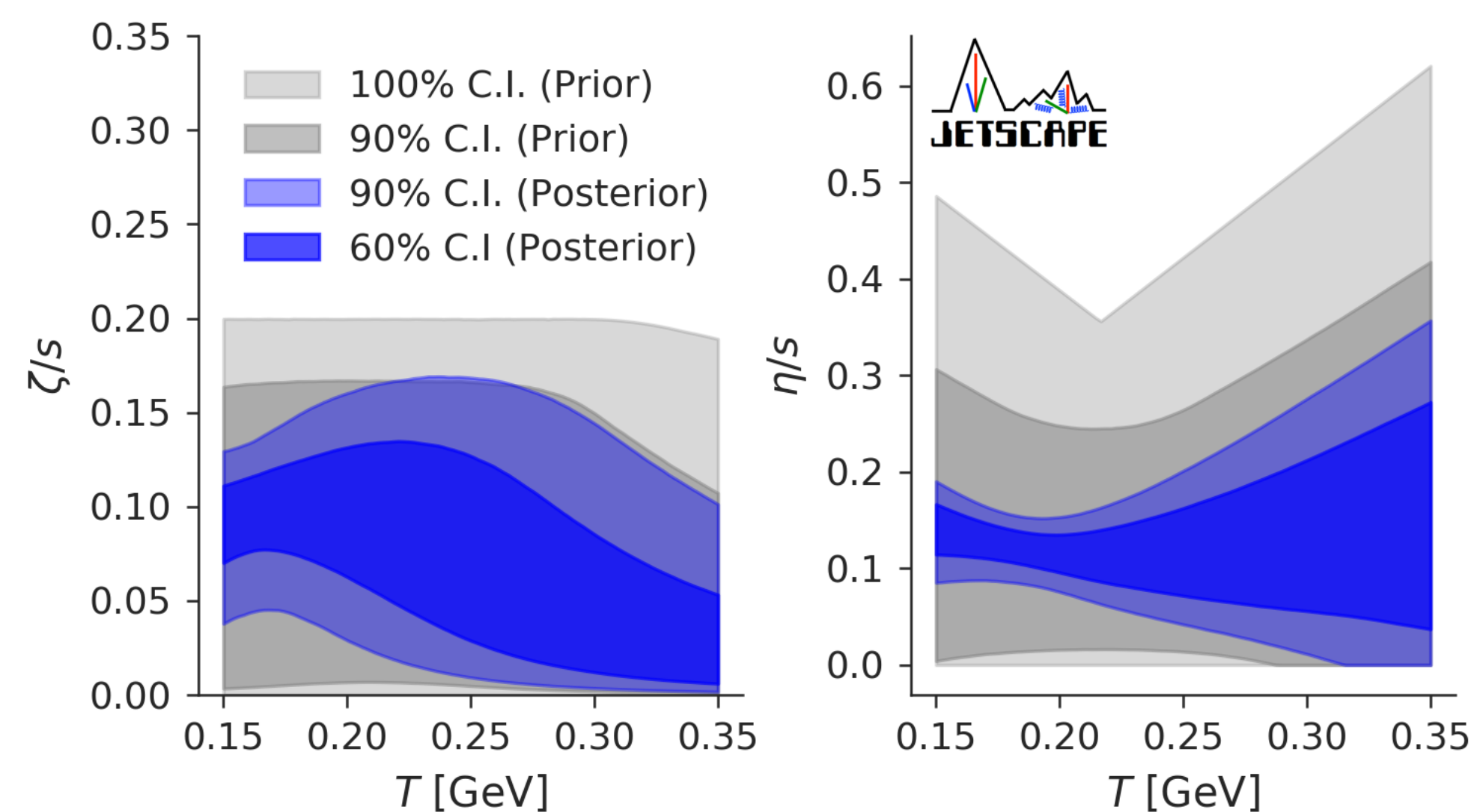
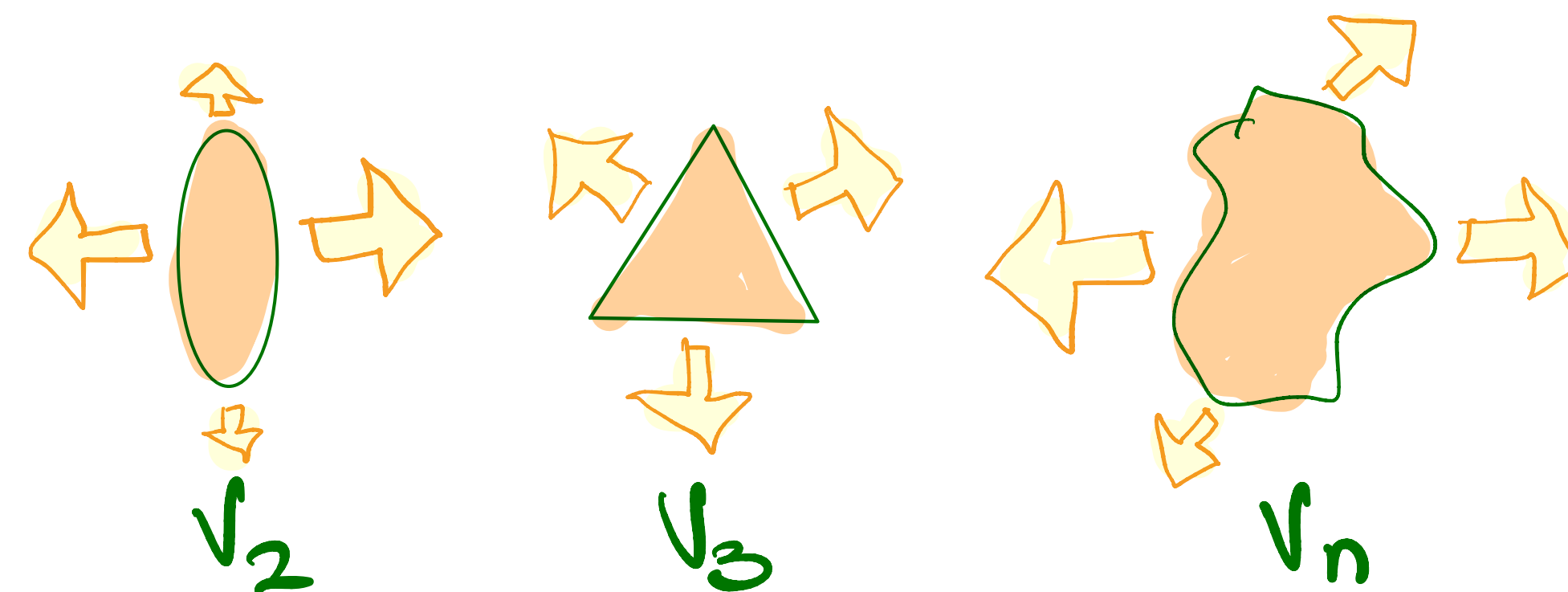
↳ Elliptic Flow

# Description of data and viscosity

[Hirvonen, Eskola, Niemi 2022]



Fluctuation in I.C. generate higher harmonics



[Everett et al. 2021]



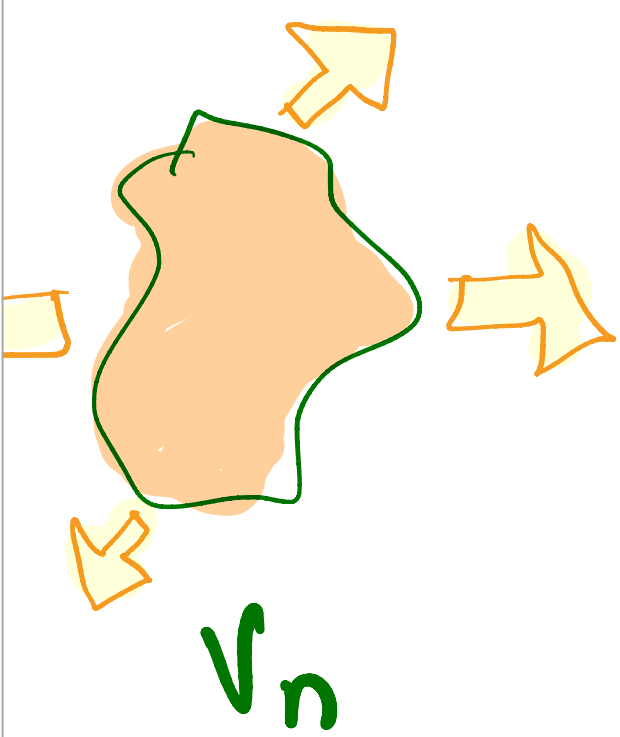
# Description of data and viscosity

Shengquan Tuo parallel 08/07

Do we see flow signals?

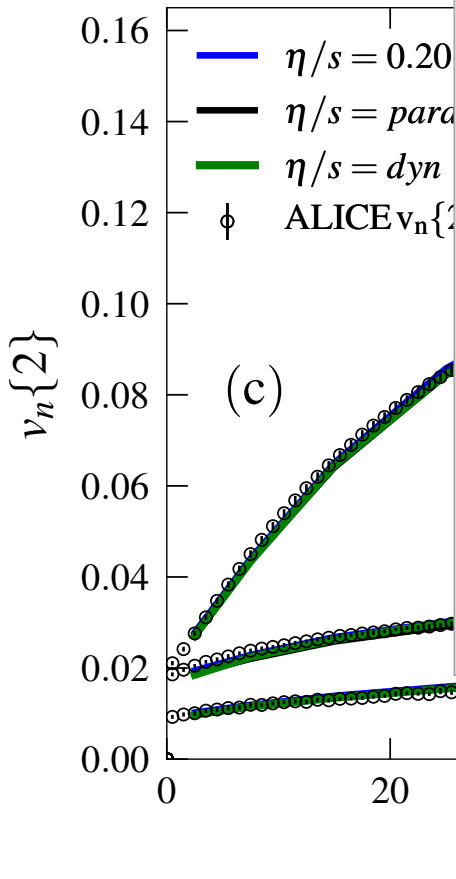
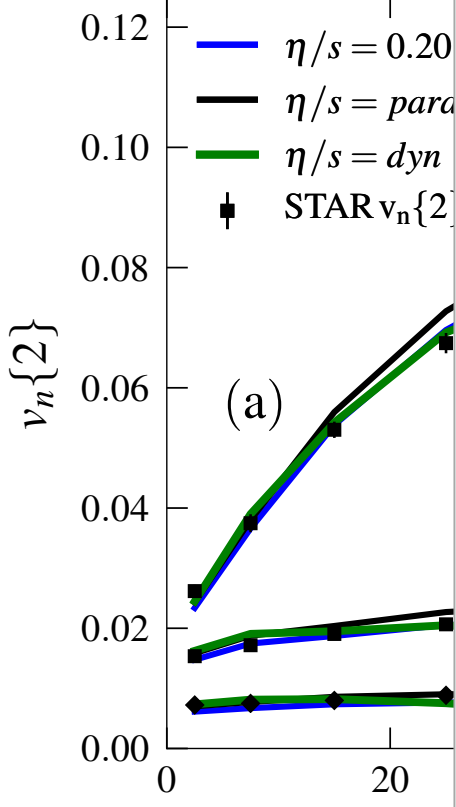
	Charged hadron	Strange	Prompt J/ψ	b→ J/ψ	Prompt D <sup>0</sup>	b→ D <sup>0</sup>	Y(1S/2S)	Dijet	Z boson
PbPb	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
pPb	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	No	No		
pp	Yes	Yes			Yes				

her harmonics



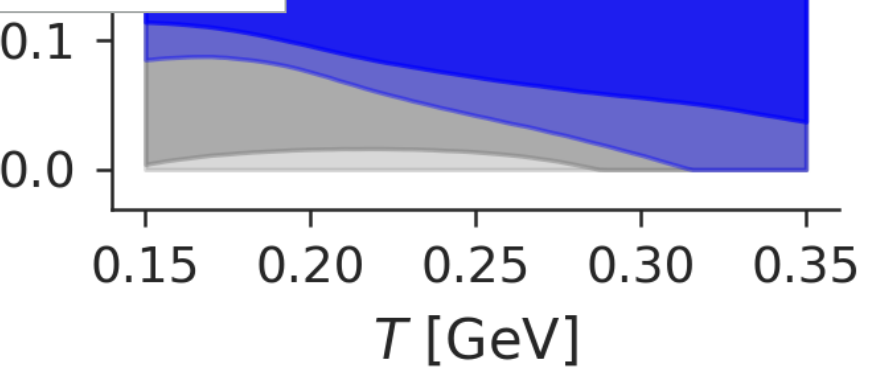
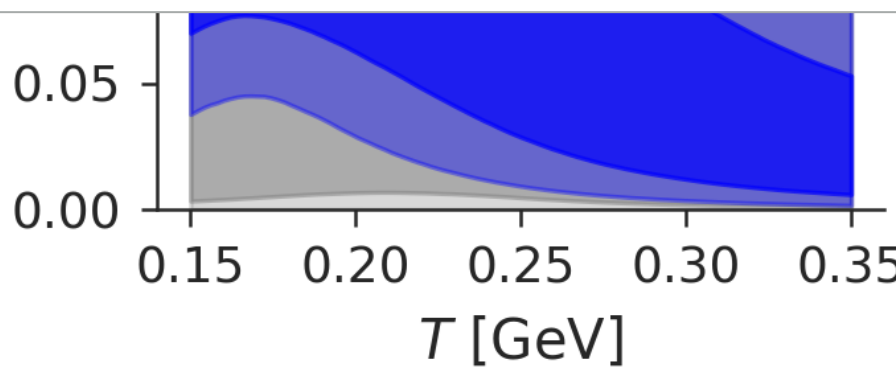
APE

[Everett et al. 2021]

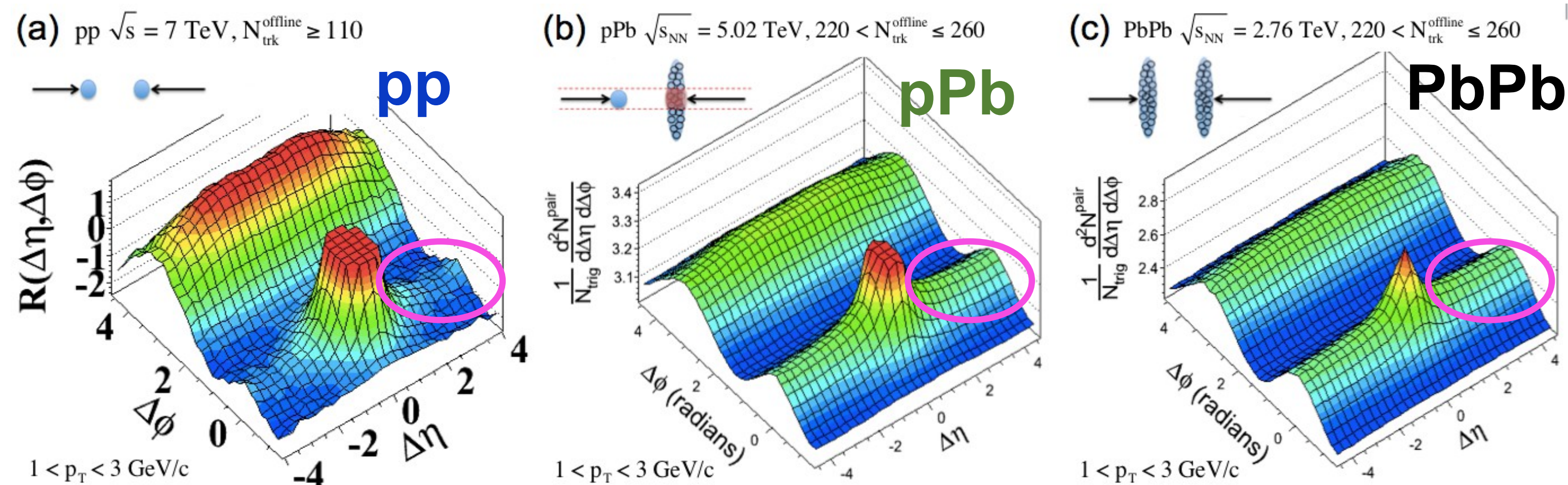


centrality [%]

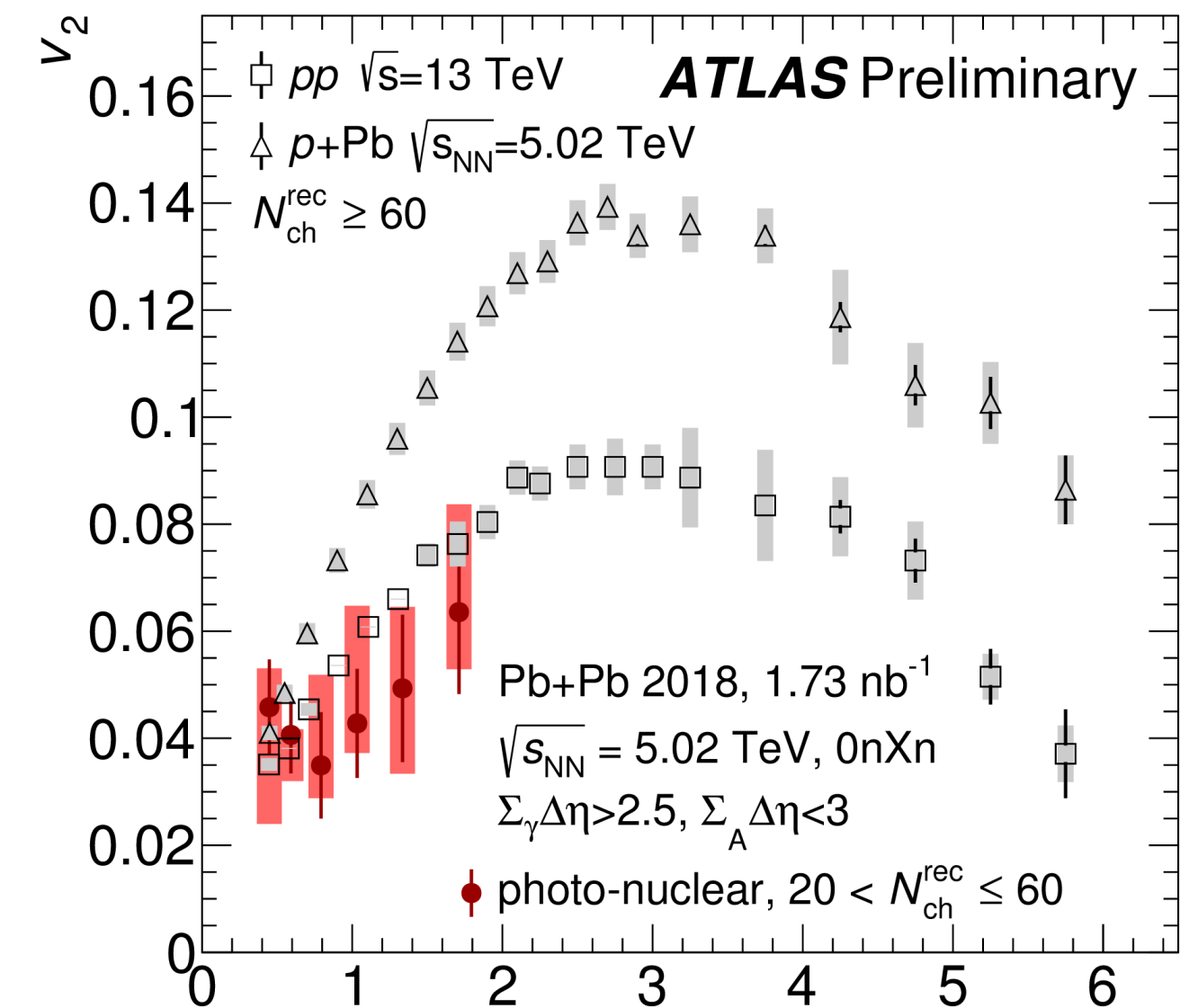
centrality [%]



# 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

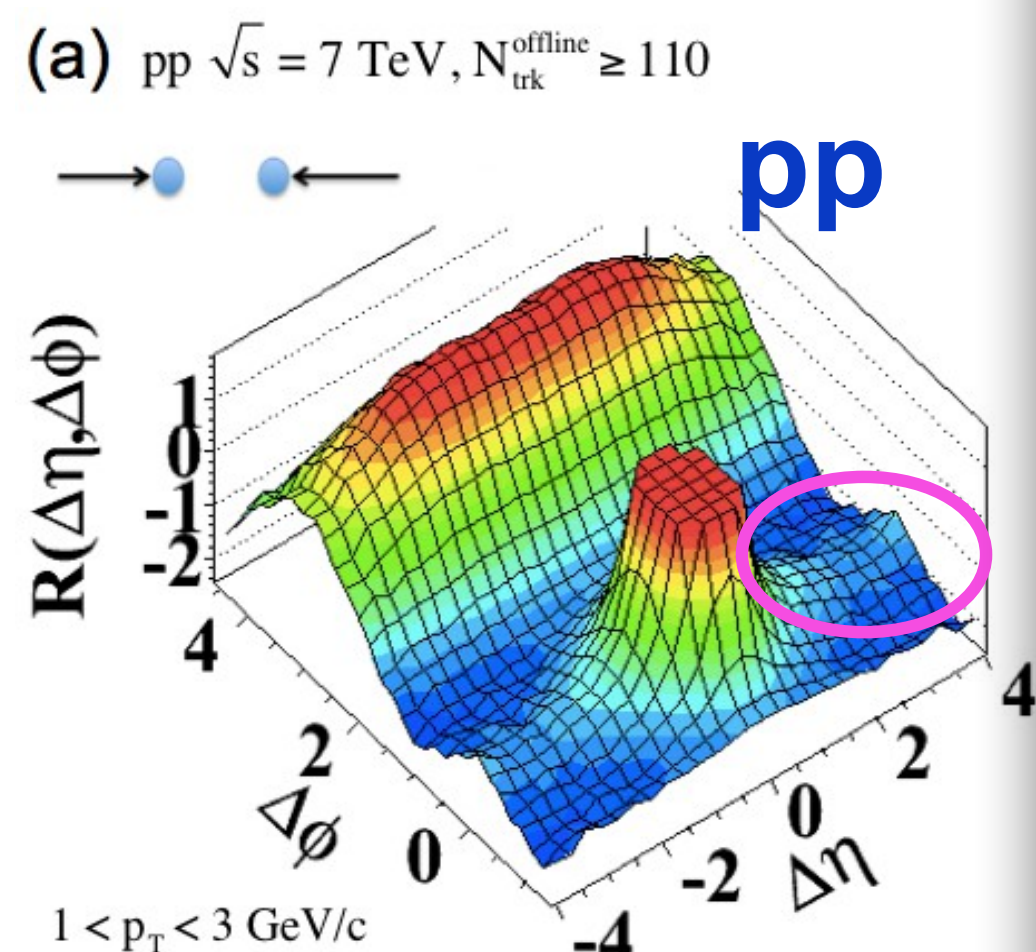
But time scales and occupancies in small systems are small

**For some classes of problems hydro equations have attractors**

[universal solutions, independent on initial conditions]



# Hydro works in all systems from small to large ??



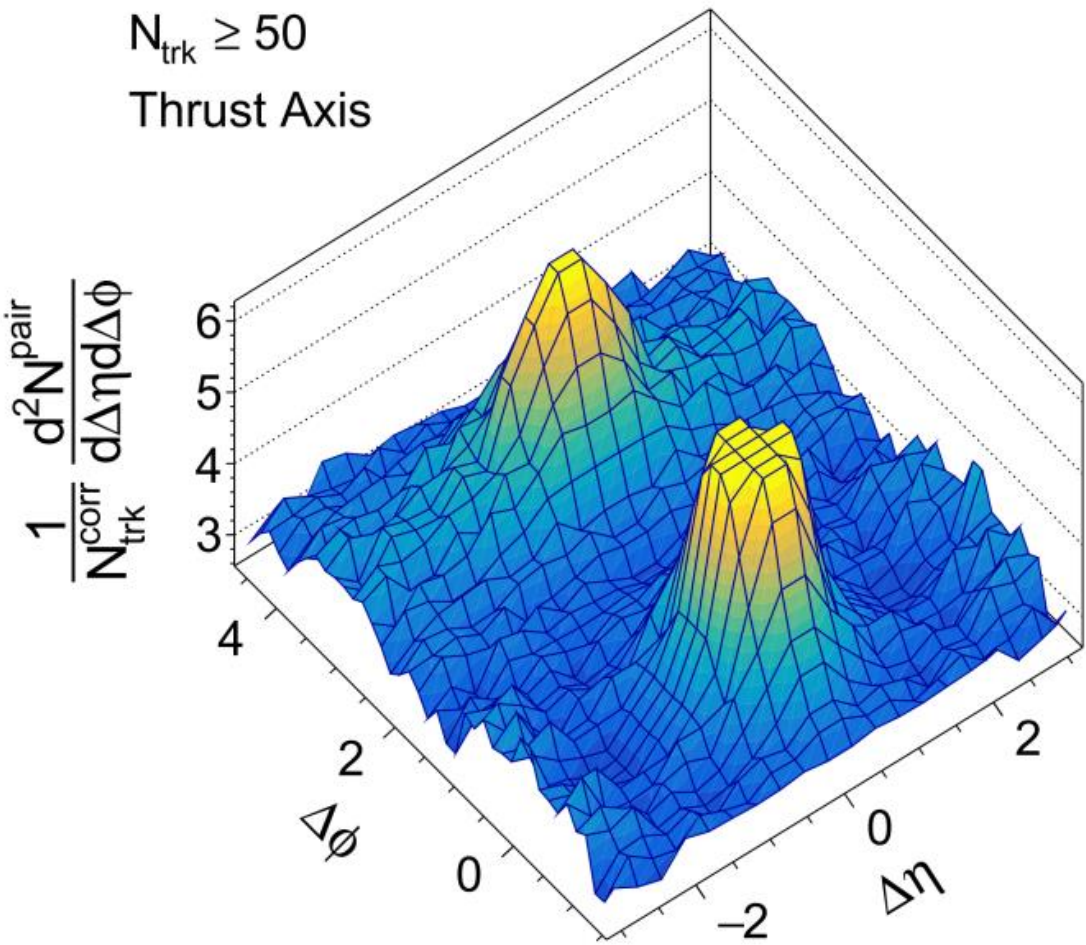
Hydro models able

Hydrodynamics se

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

Yen-Jie Lee Parallel 09/07

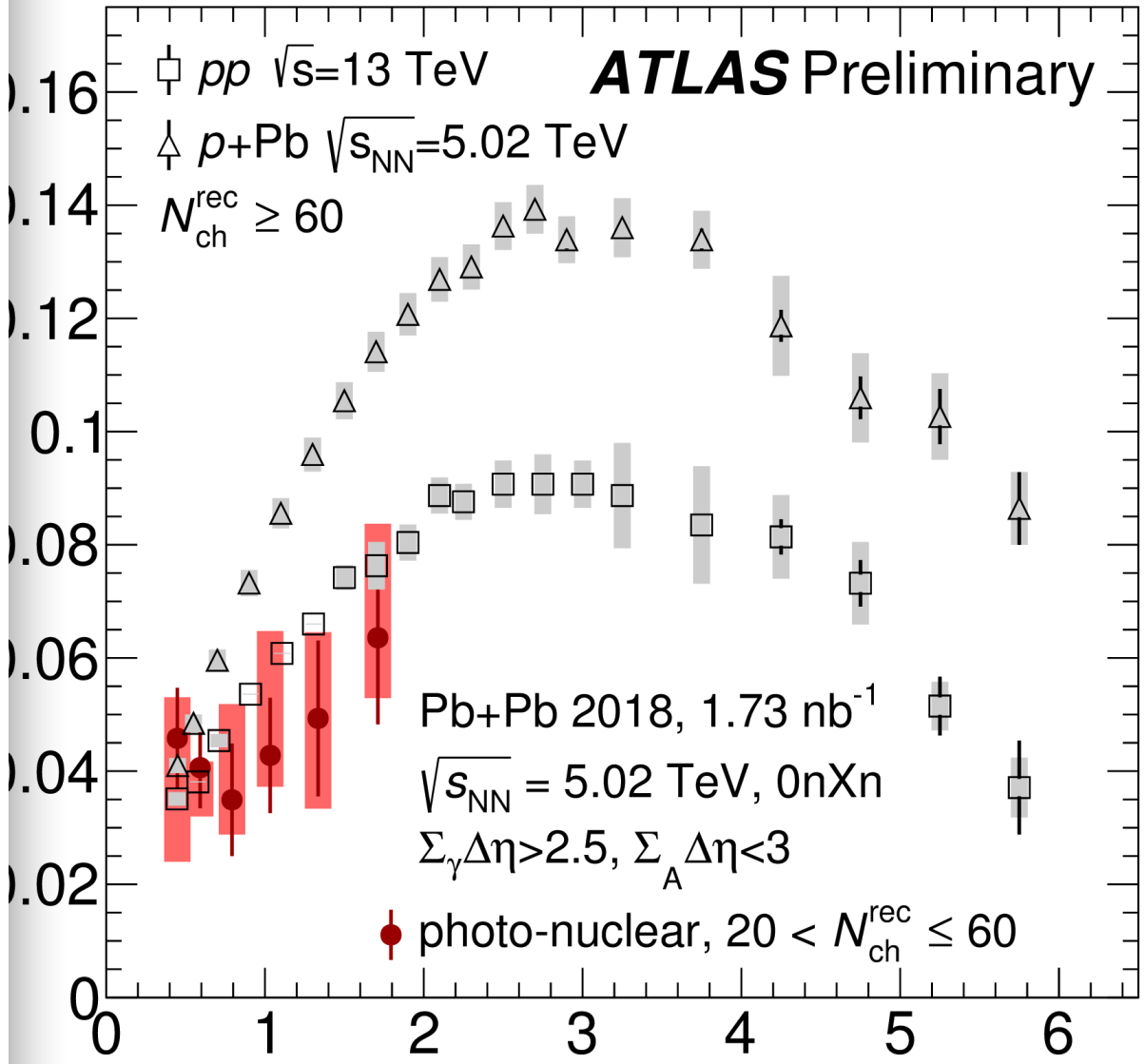
ALEPH  $e^+e^-$ ,  $\sqrt{s}=183\text{-}209 \text{ GeV}$   
 $N_{\text{trk}} \geq 50$   
Thrust Axis



What does it mean?

**For some classes of problems hydro equations have attractors**

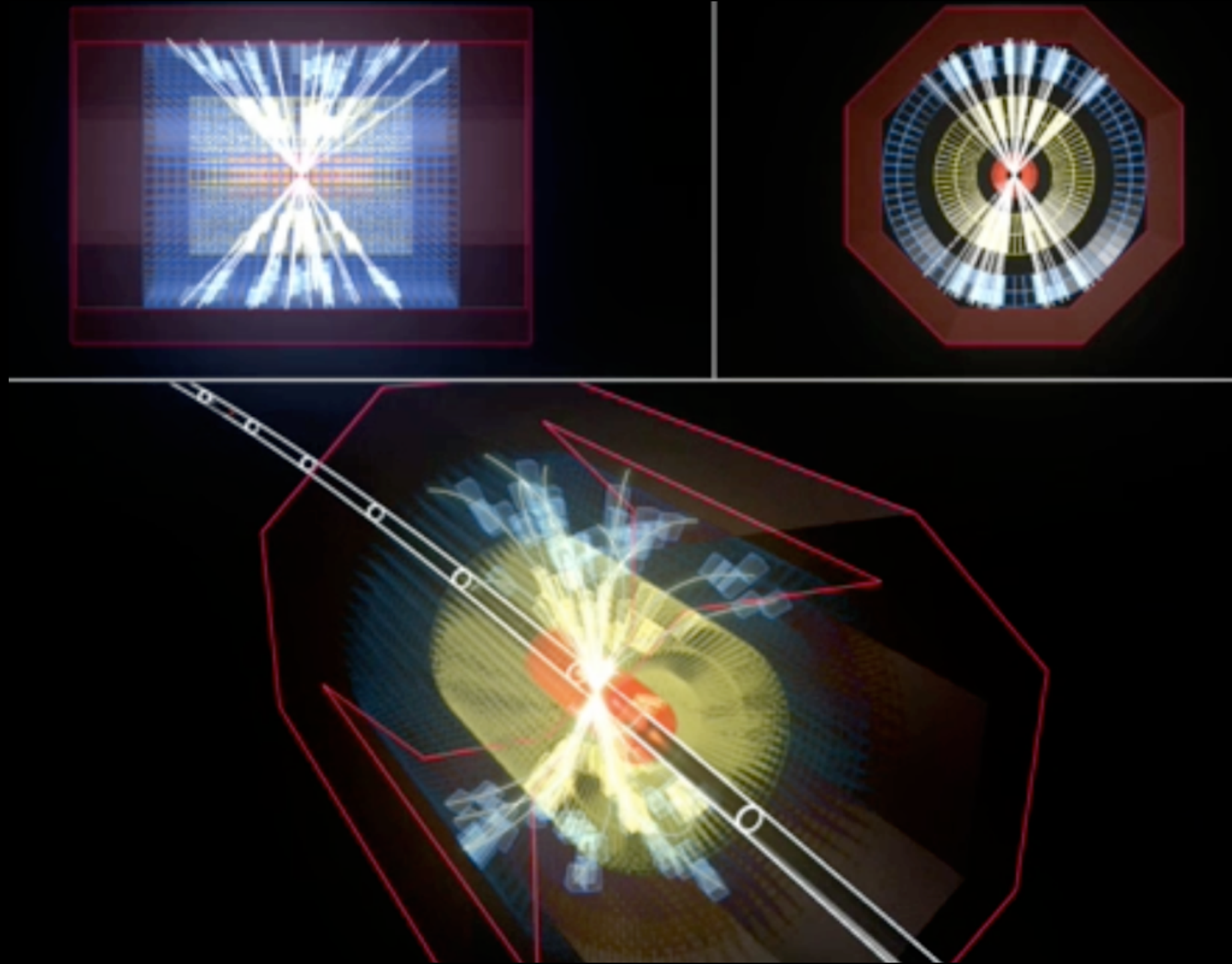
[universal solutions, independent on initial conditions]



large multiplicities



# HARD PROBES



$$\frac{d\sigma}{dP}^{AB \rightarrow X} \sim f_i^A(x_1, Q^2) \otimes f_j^B(x_2, Q^2) \otimes \frac{d\hat{\sigma}}{d\hat{t}}^{ij \rightarrow k} \otimes D_{k \rightarrow X}$$

Long distance

short dist.

PDFs

partonic cross section

Hadronization

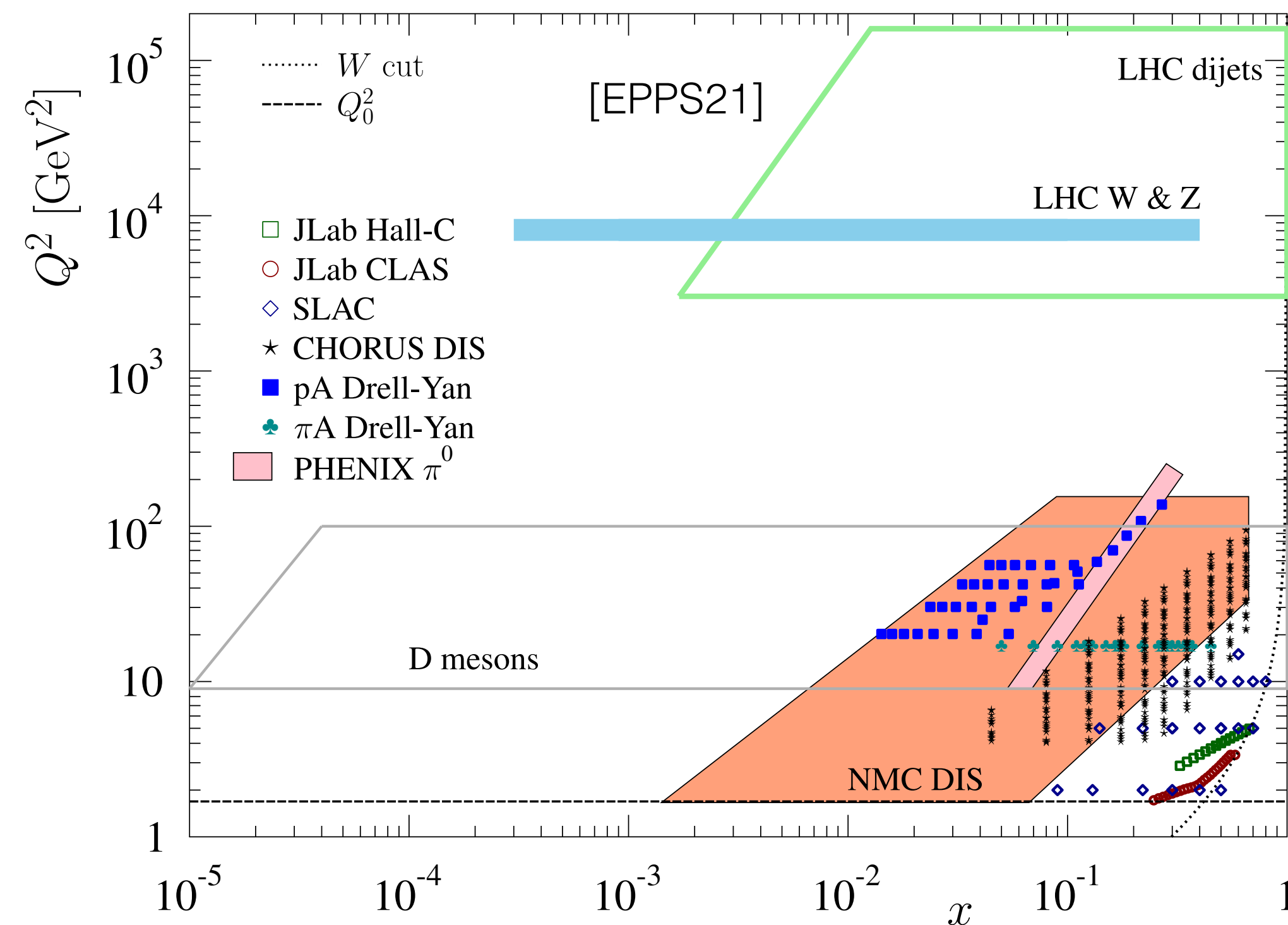
Modifications  $\rightarrow$  Measure QGP

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



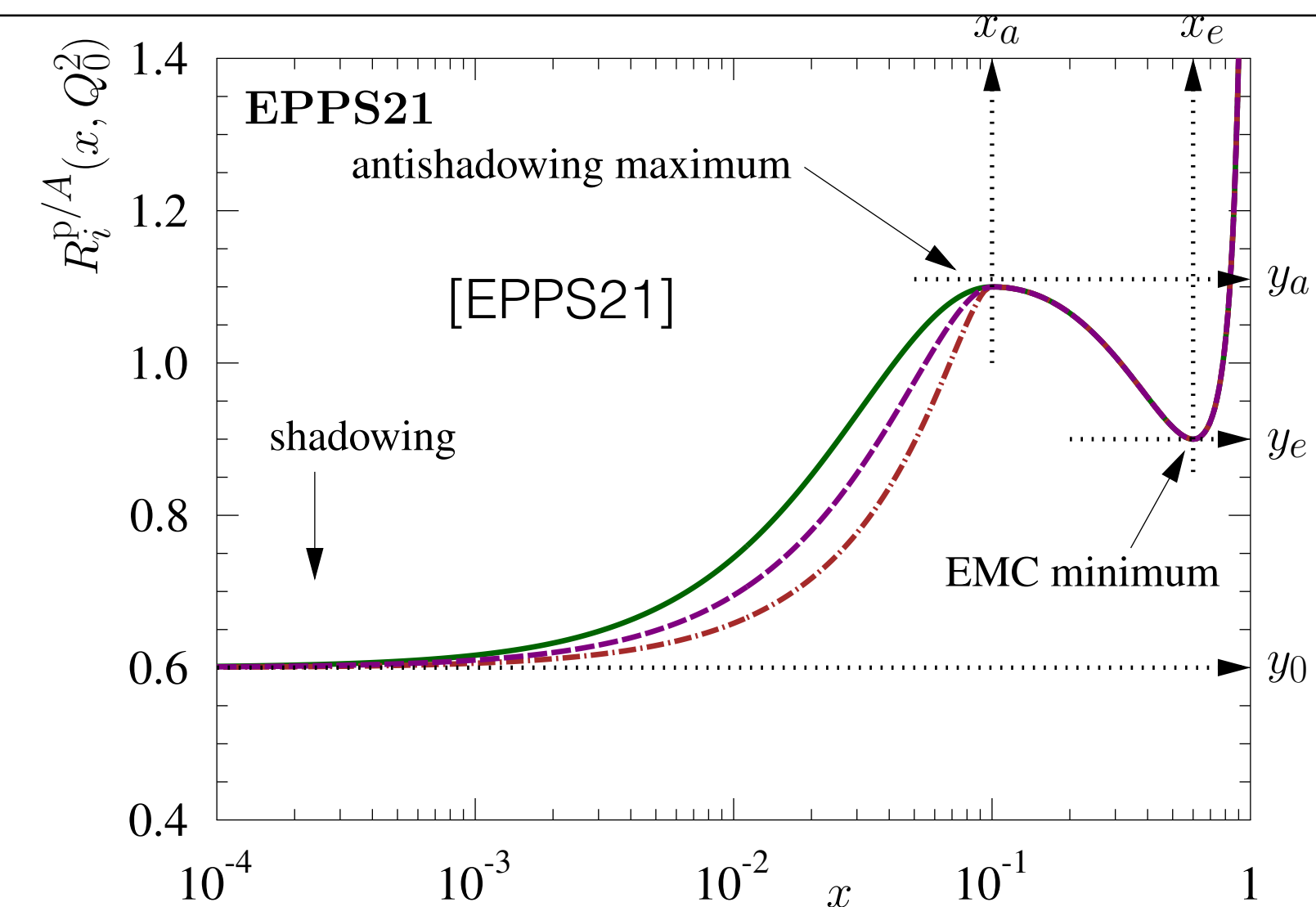
# Nuclear Parton Distribution Functions I

**Nuclear PDF analyses have remarkably improved with LHC proton-lead data - new sets**



Ratios with a free proton PDF set

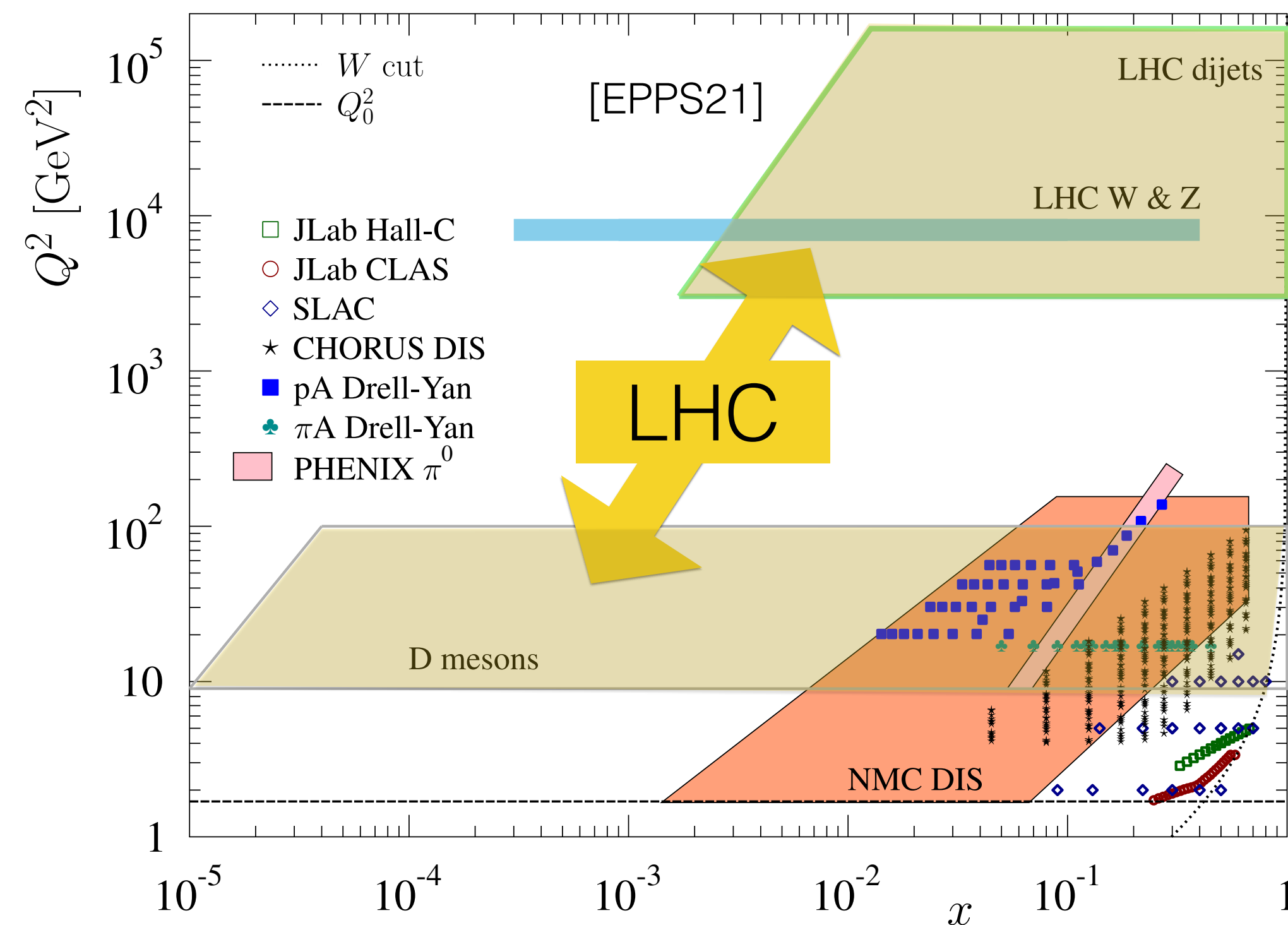
$$R_i^A(x, Q^2) = \frac{f_i^A(x, Q^2)}{f_i^p(x, Q^2)}$$



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

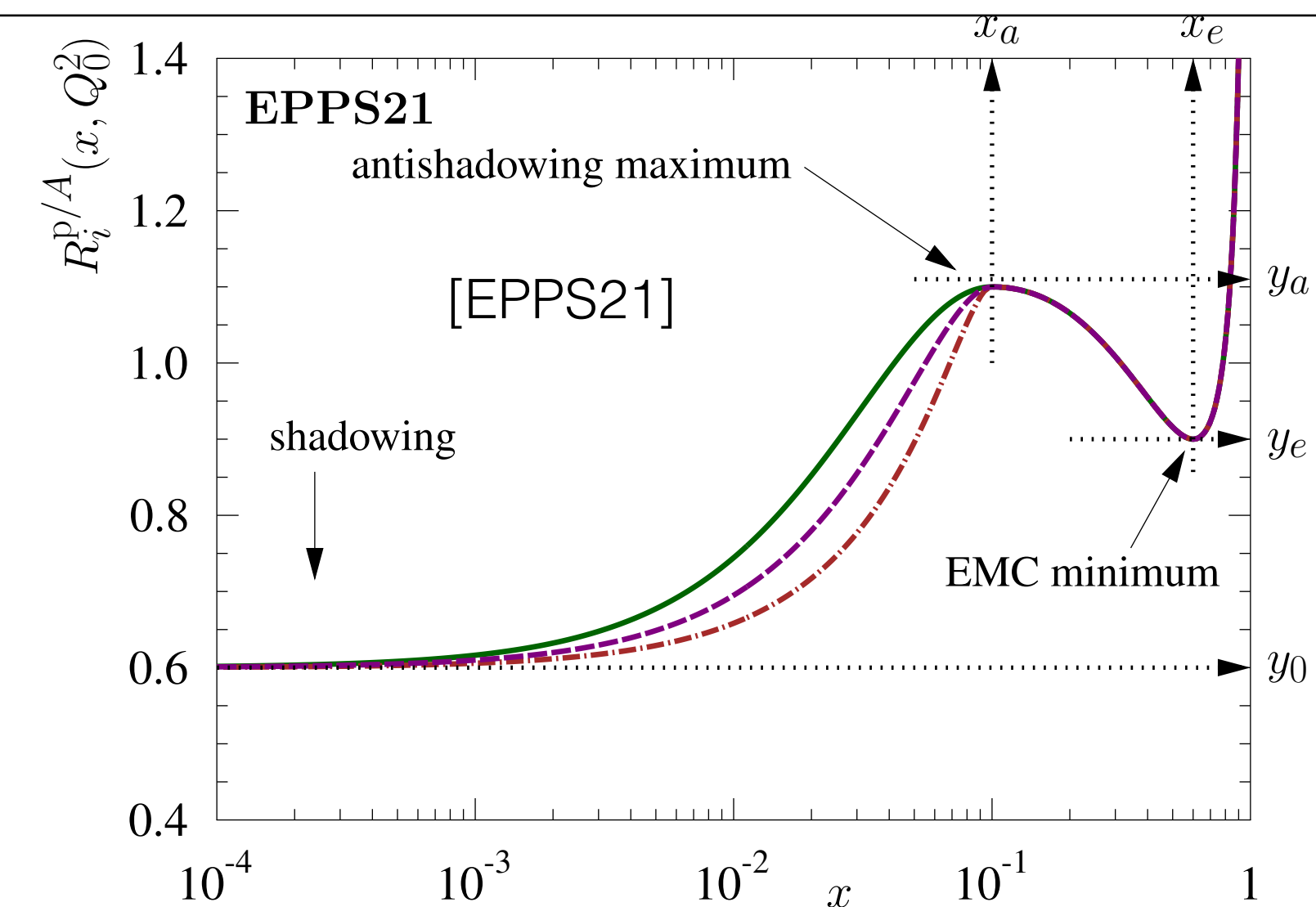
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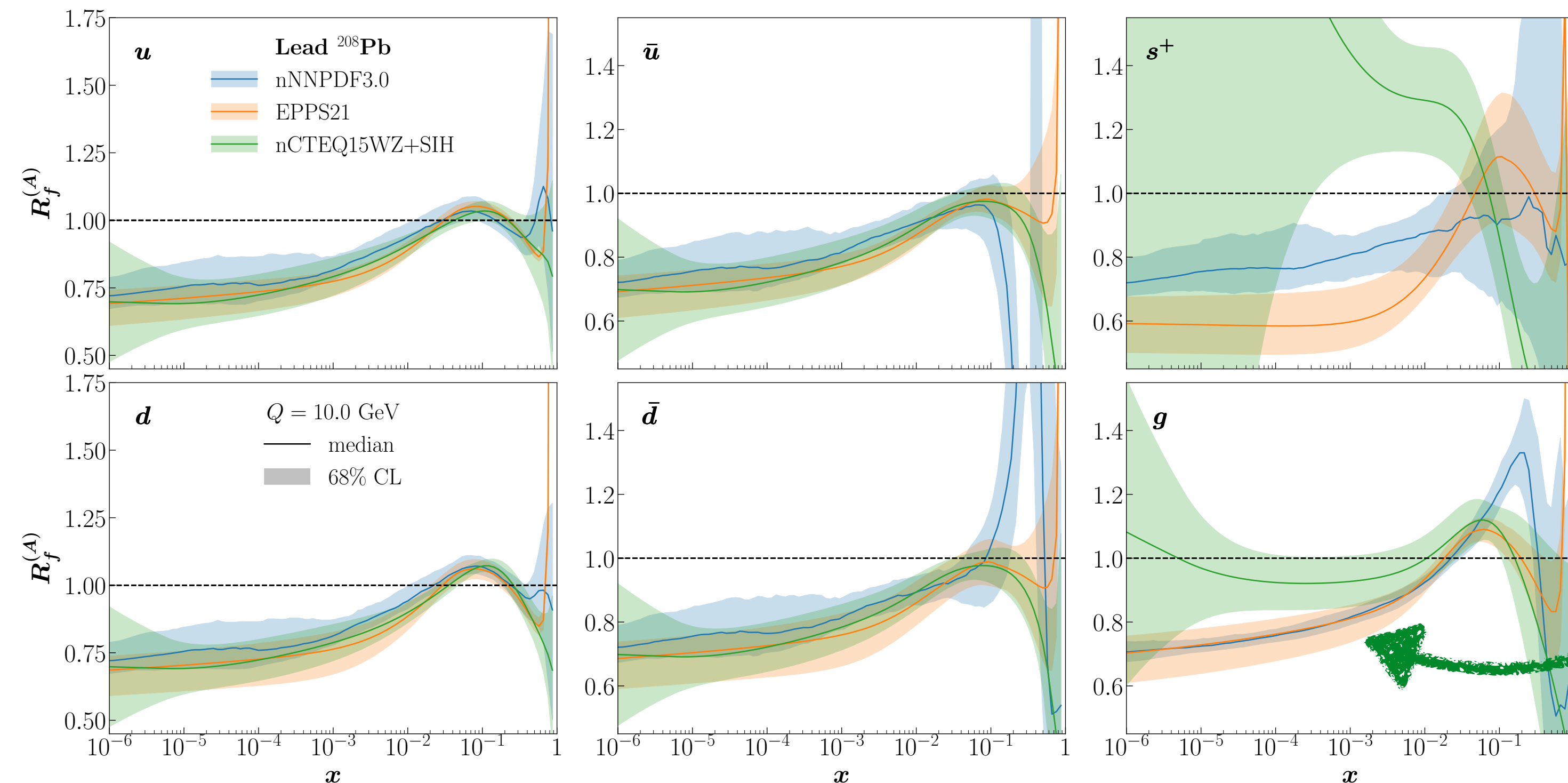


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# Nuclear Parton Distribution Functions I

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**Two new analyses  
EPPS21, nNNPDF3.0**

D's LHCb  
dijets CMS

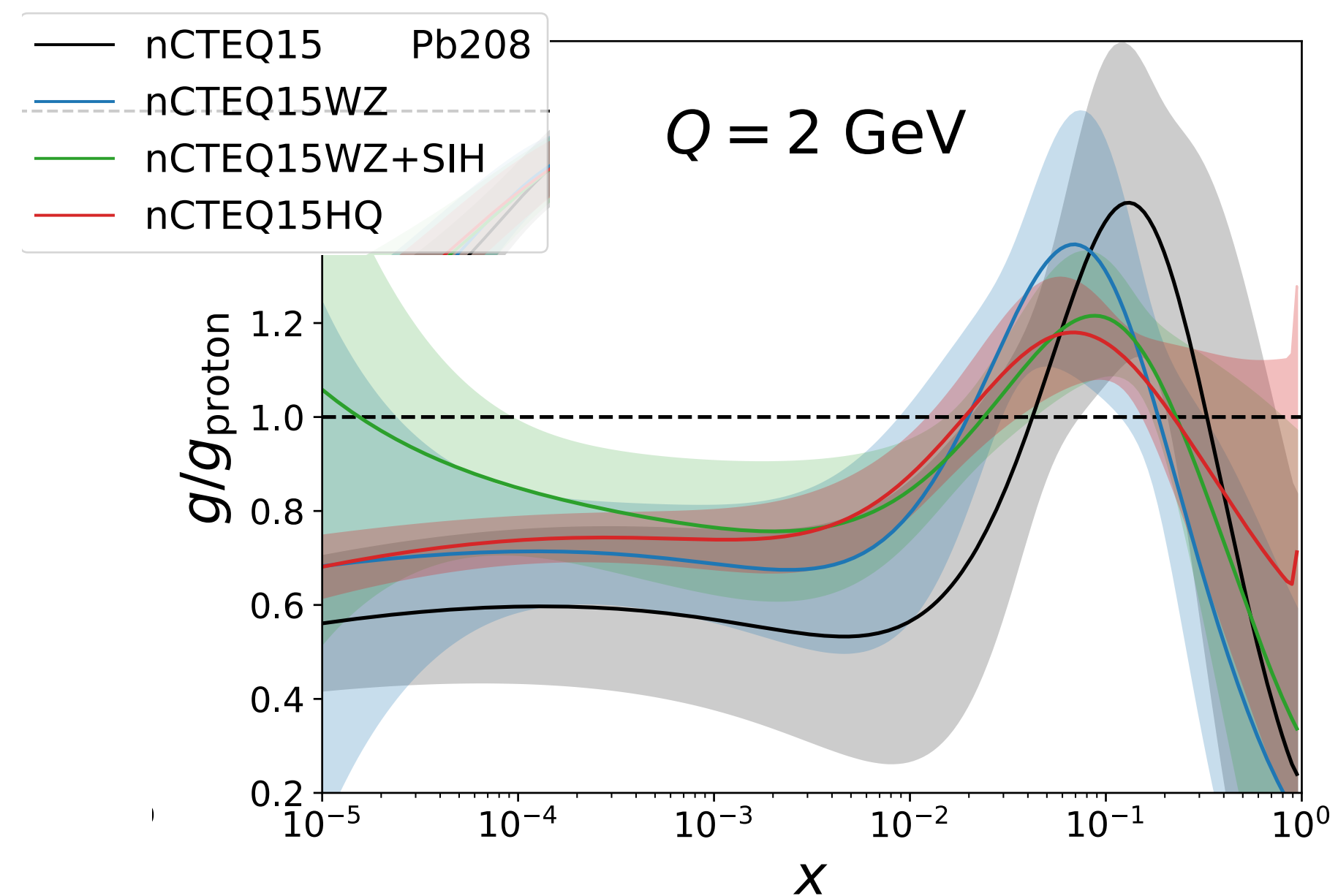
pPb

[Plot J. Rojo]

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

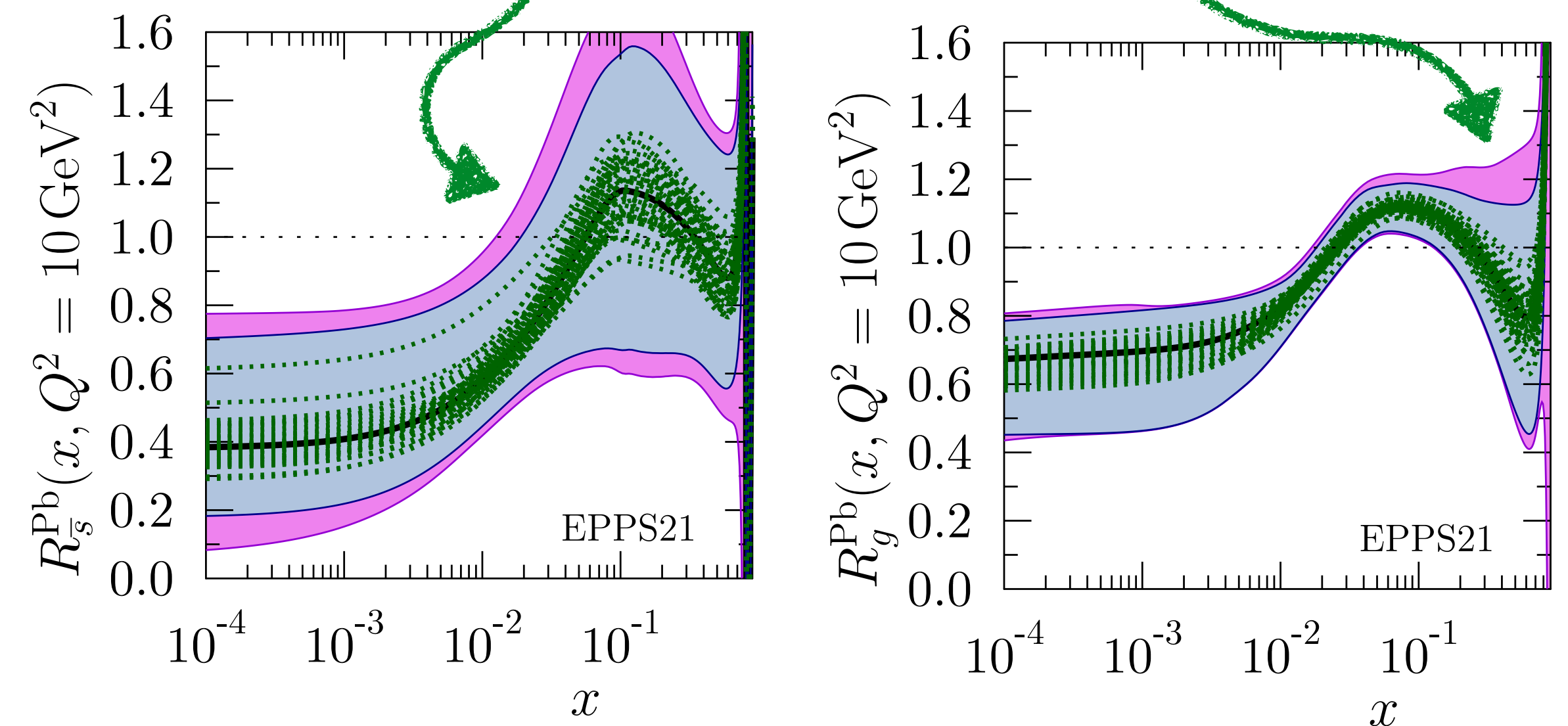
# Nuclear Parton Distribution Functions II

Michael Klasen Parallel 09/07  
LHCb HF data included in nCTEQ15



Gluons seem to be more similar to  
EPPS21 and nNNPDF

Uncertainties from proton PDFs



More precise data allows to check  
sensitivity to proton PDFs

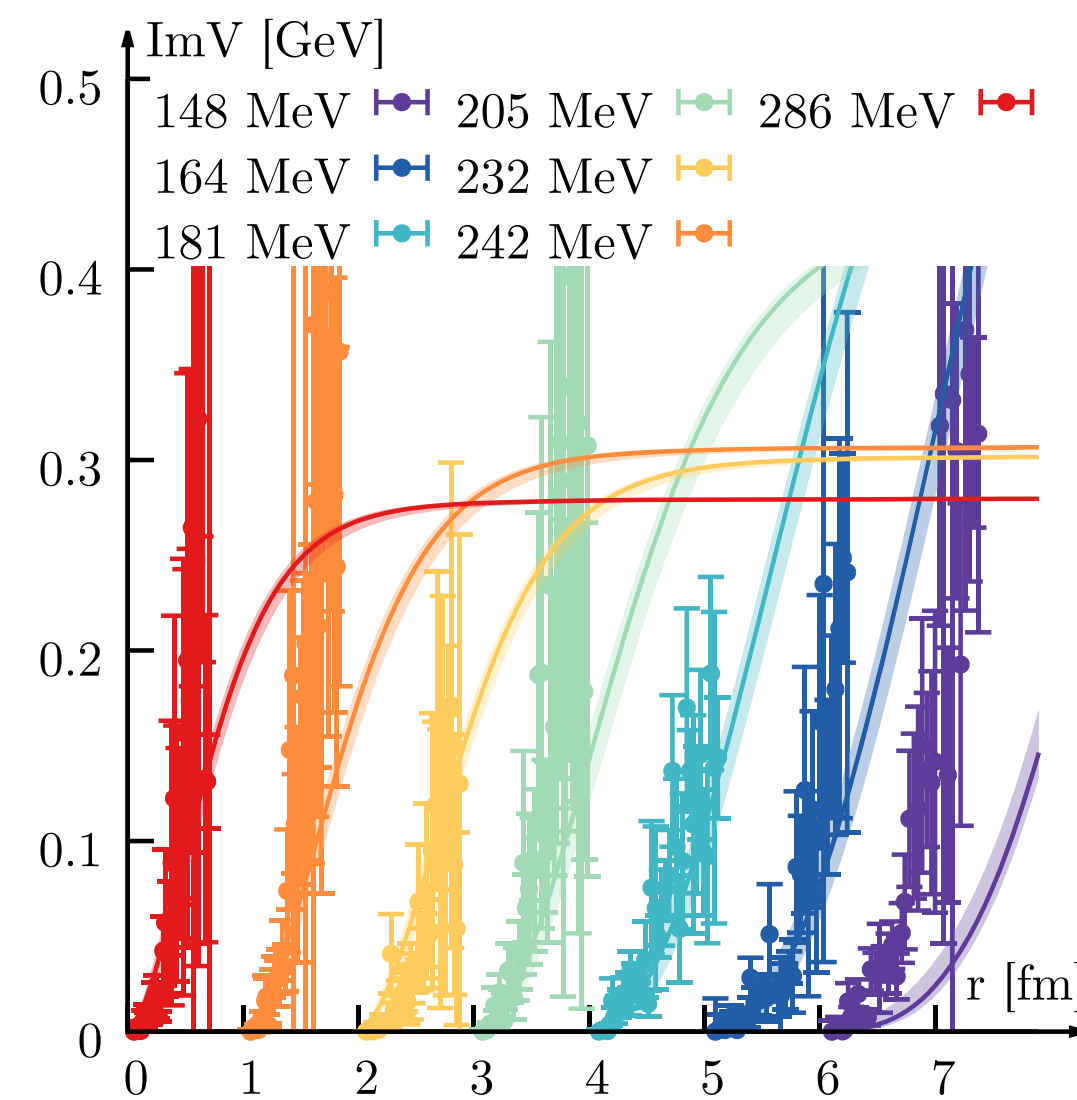
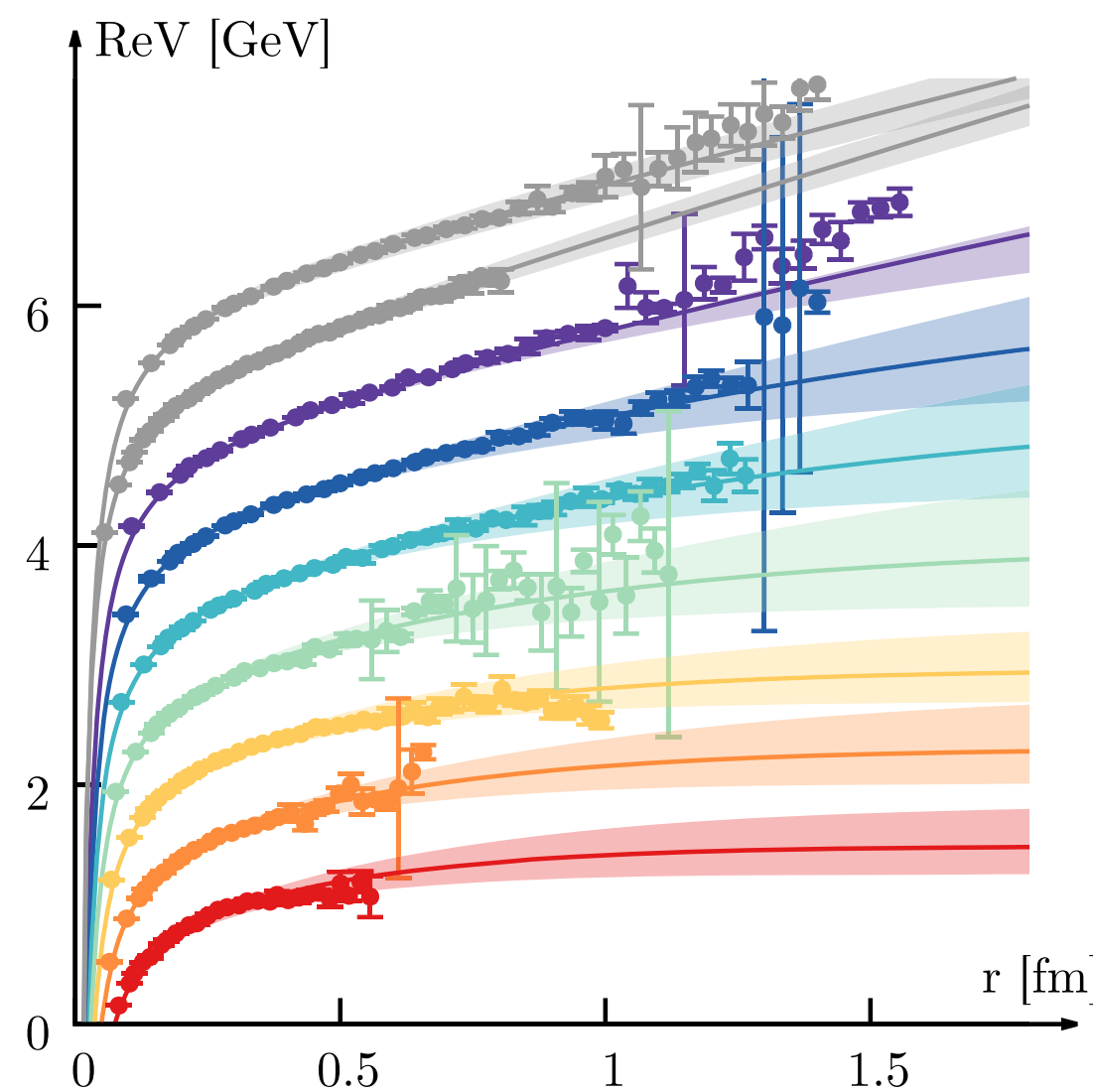
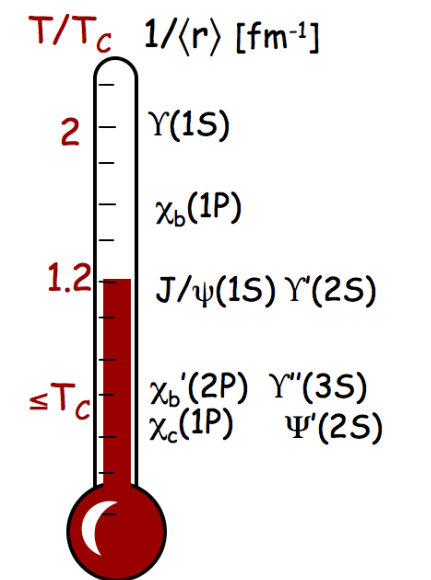
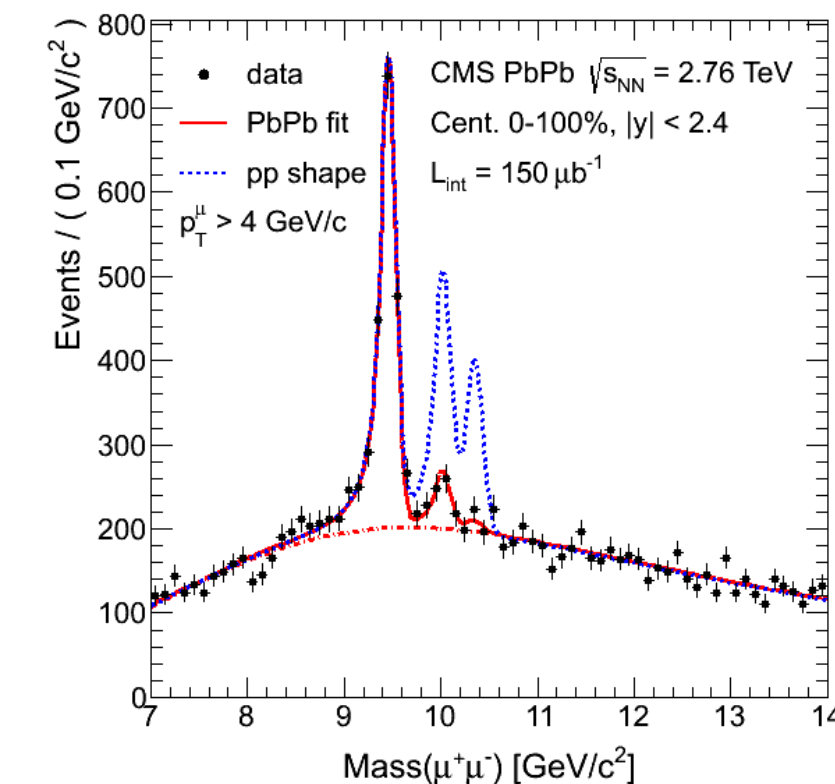
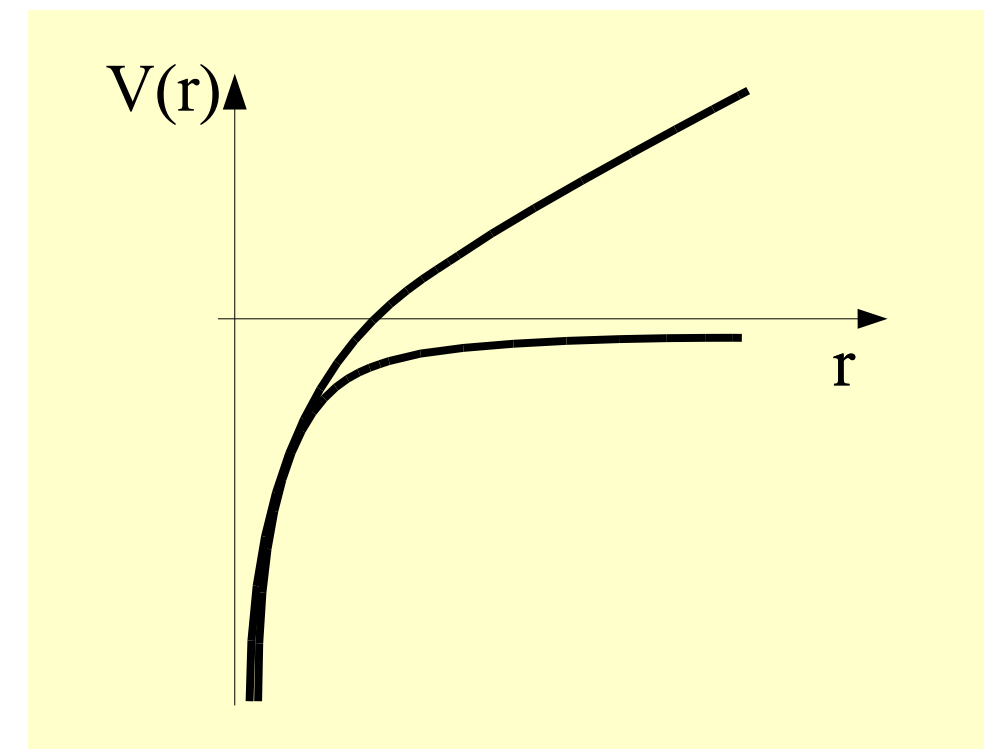
[Notice that most proton PDF sets include nuclear data  
from neutrino DIS]



# Quarkonia suppression

Simple intuitive picture [Matsui & Satz 1986]

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



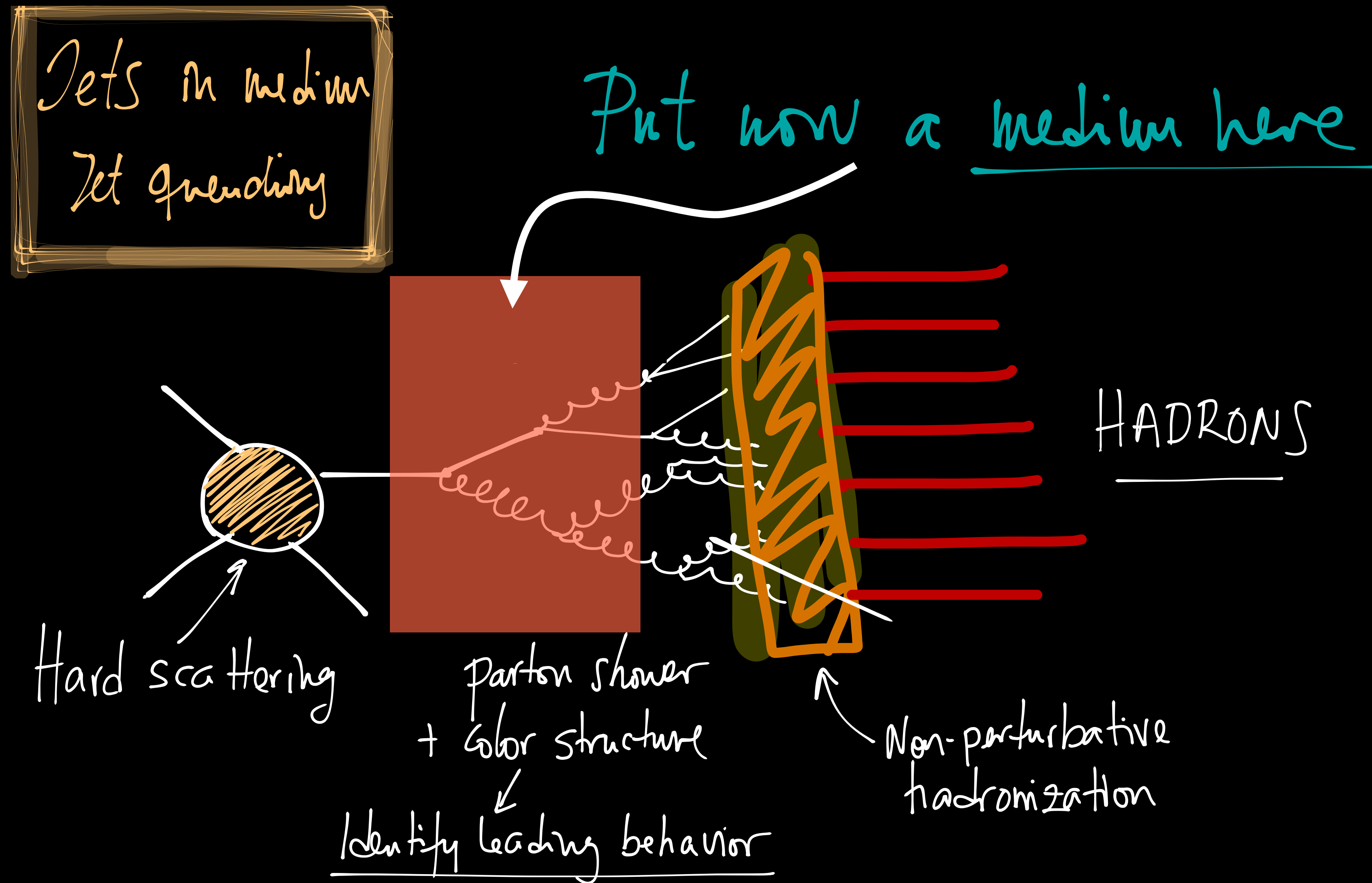
Dynamical picture:

- 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 ...]

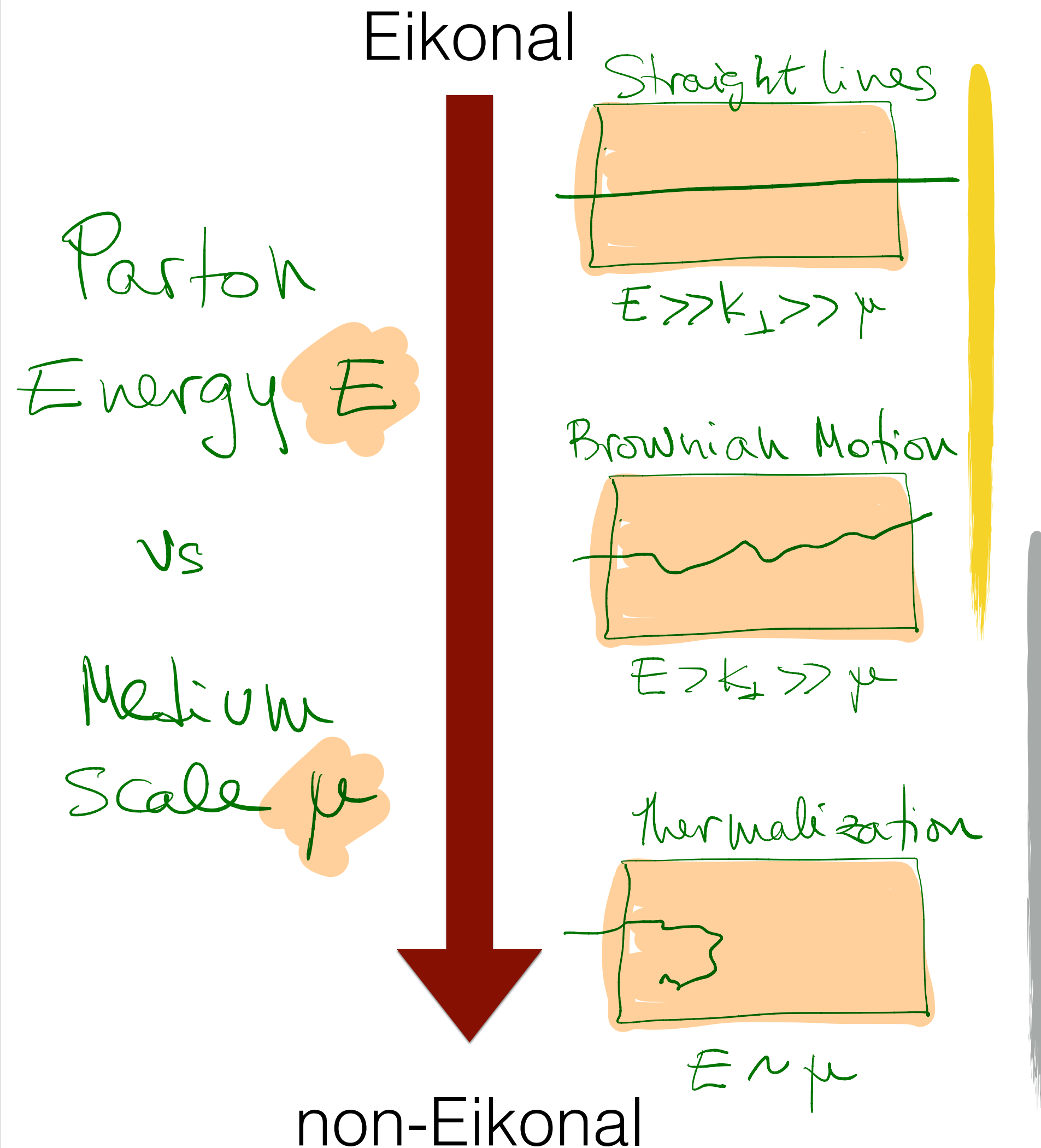
[Lafferty, Rothkopf 2020]



**Jets are extended objects - ideal to study space-time evolution**



# In-medium parton propagation

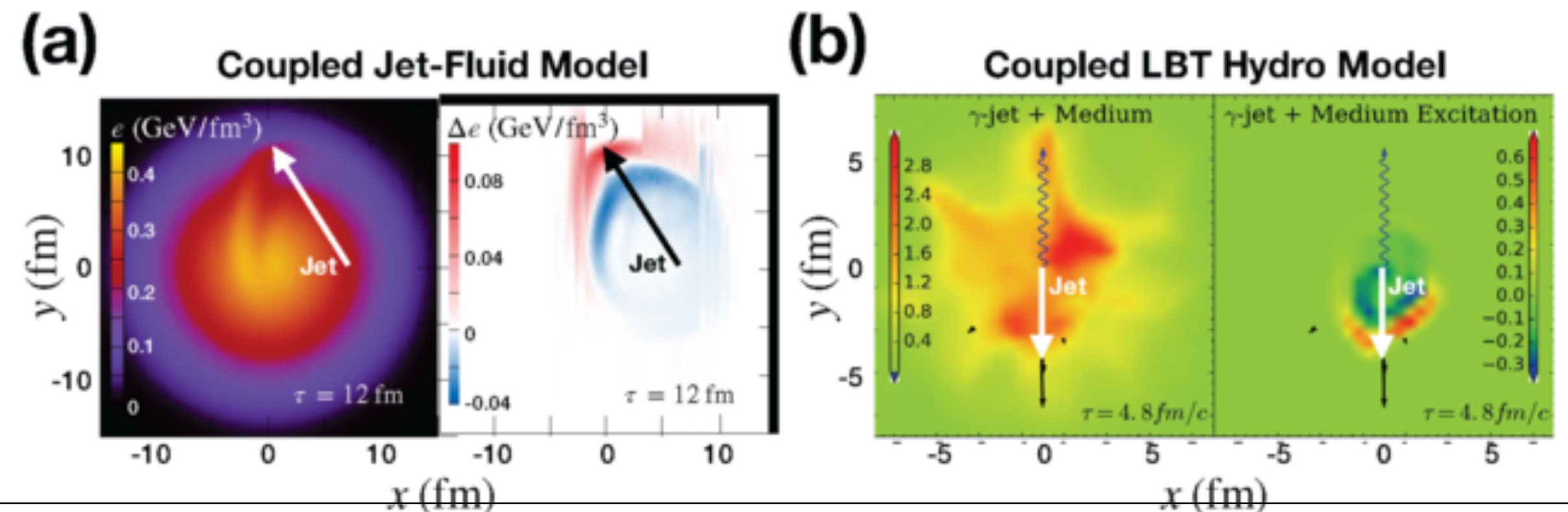


Medium is a background field: **color rotation**  
[Energy of the parton unmodified]

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

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

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



[Tachibana 2019]

# Intra-jet color coherence

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

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

$$\left| \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} \right|^2$$

$$\omega \frac{dN}{d\omega d\theta} \sim \alpha_s C_F \left[ R_q - 1 + R_{\bar{q}} - 1 \right]$$

**The QCD medium can break color coherence** - independent color rotation of  $q$  and  $q\bar{q}$

$$\left| \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} \right|^2$$

$$\omega \frac{dN}{d\omega d\theta} \sim \alpha_s C_F \left[ R_q - S_{q\bar{q}} + R_{\bar{q}} - S_{q\bar{q}} \right]$$

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

Survival probability  
 $\hat{q}$  - jet quenching parameter

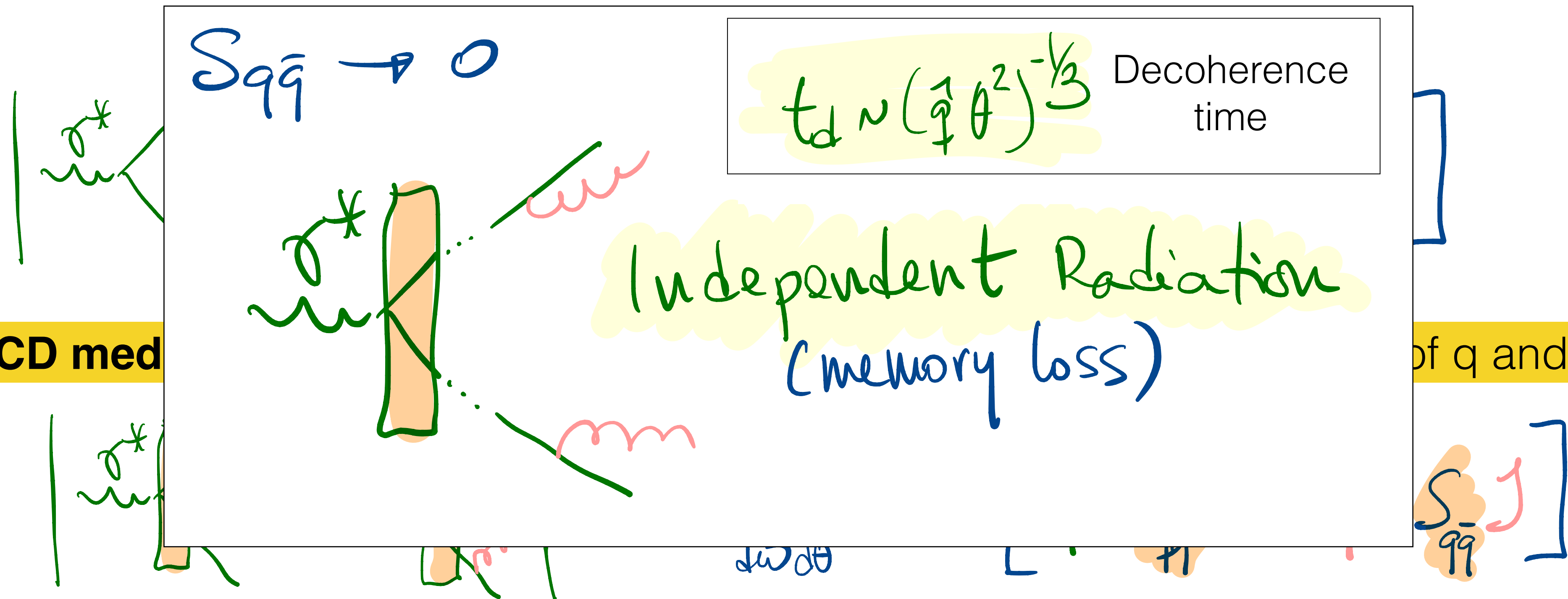


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[Mehtar-Tani, Salgado, Tywoniuk; Iancu, Casalderrey-Solana, ... 2010-]

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

**The QCD med**



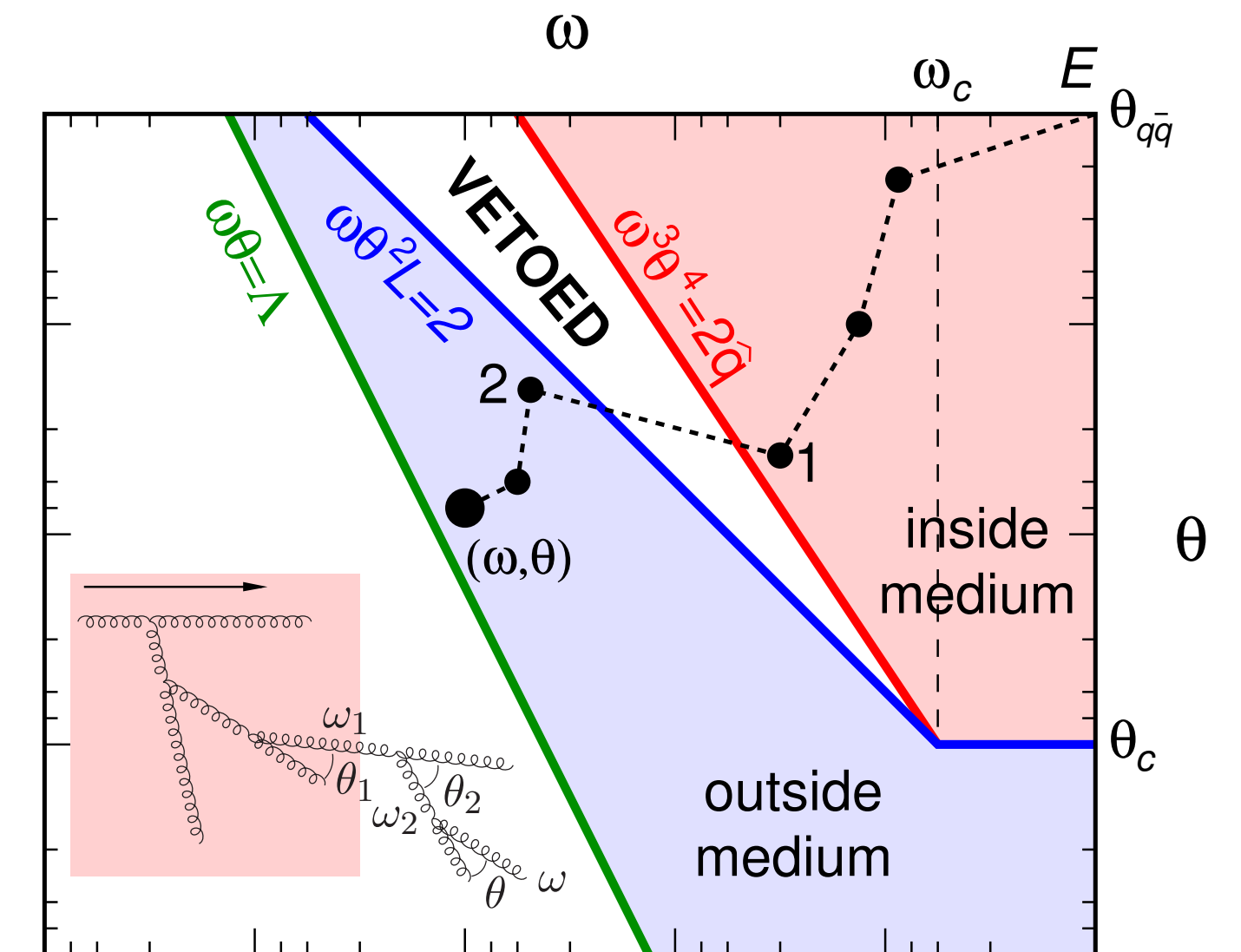
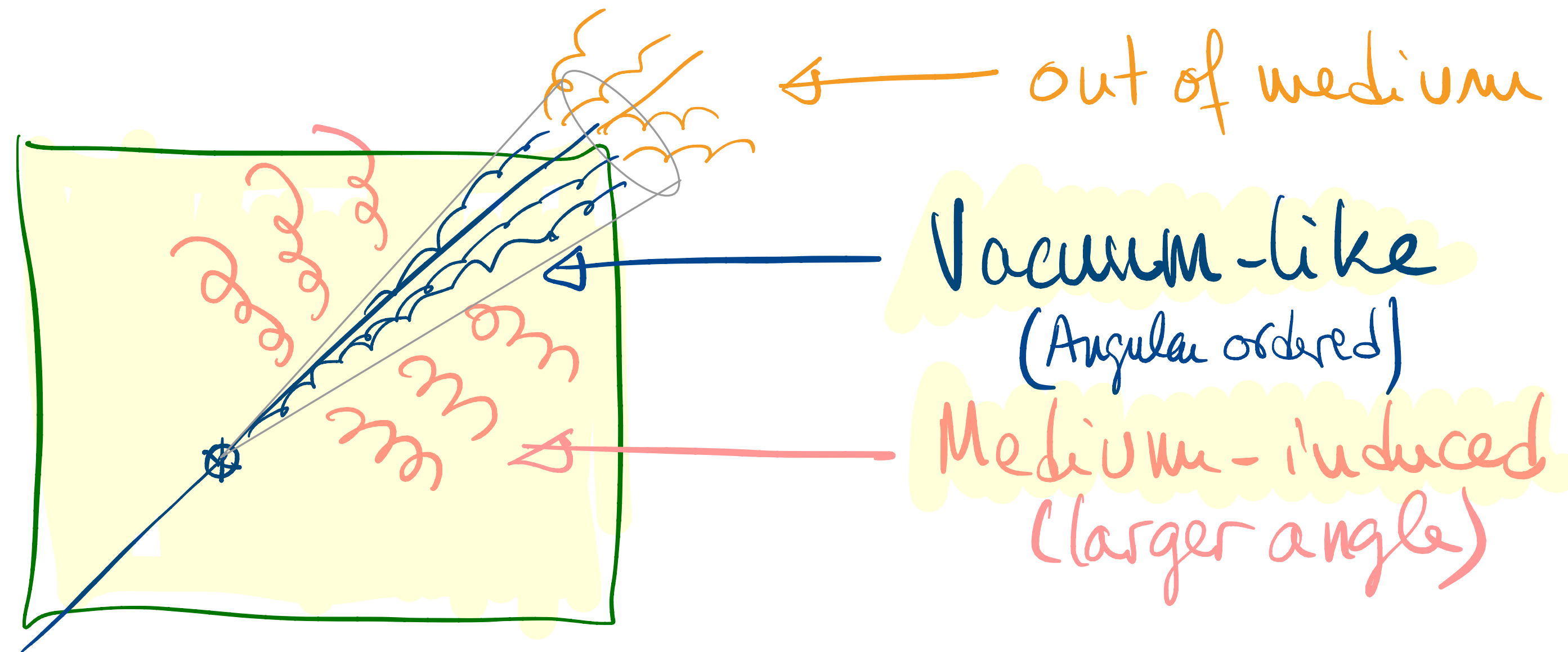
$$S(x_{\perp}, y_{\perp}) \equiv \frac{1}{N_c^2 - 1} \text{Tr} \langle W(x_{\perp}) W^{\dagger}(y_{\perp}) \rangle_{\text{med}} \simeq \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{4} \hat{q} \theta_{q\bar{q}}^2 L^3 \right\}$$

Survival probability  
 $\hat{q}$  - jet quenching parameter

# 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

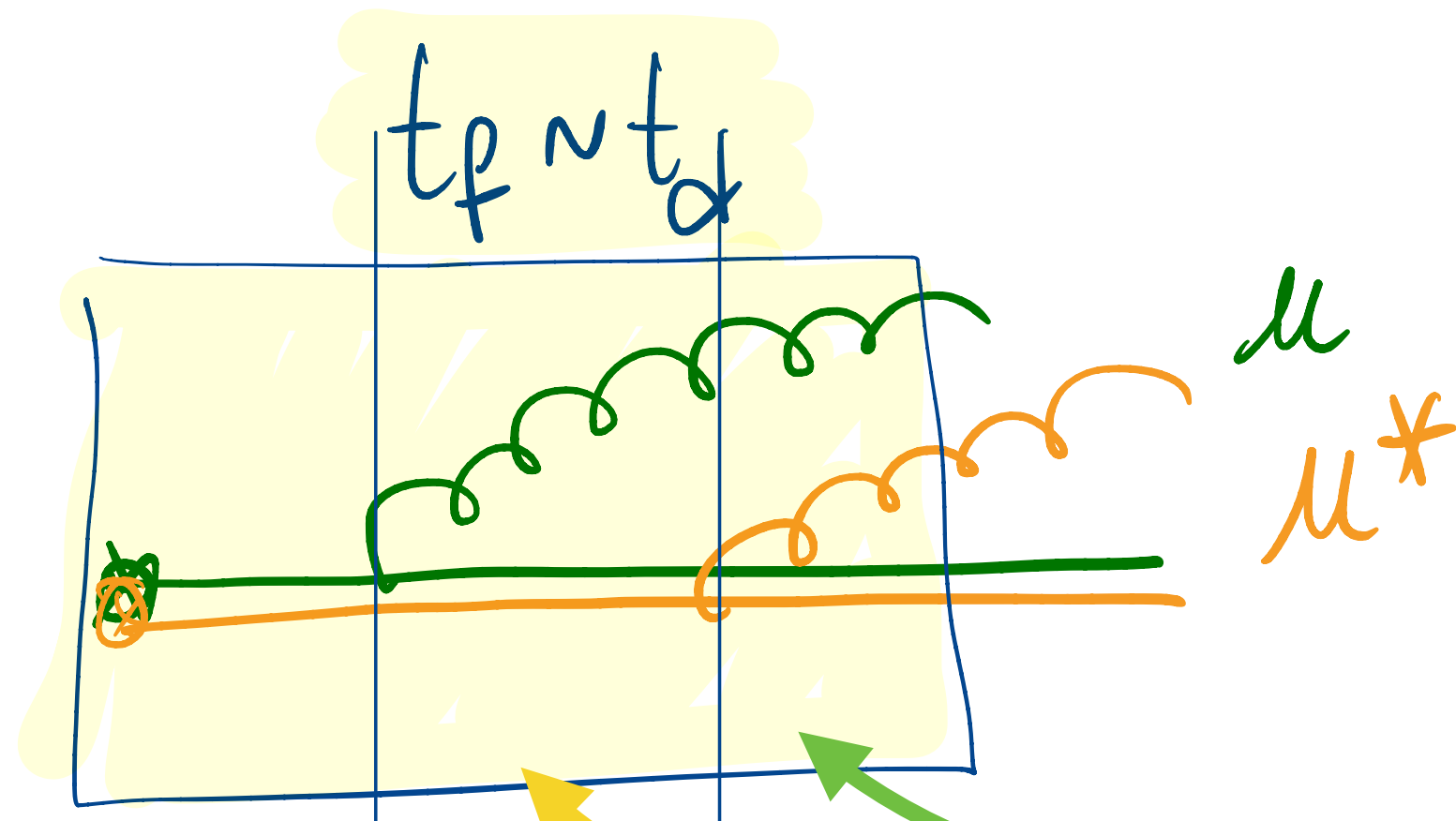
[Casalderrey-Solana, Mehtar-Tani, Salgado, Tywoniuk 2012]



# 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**



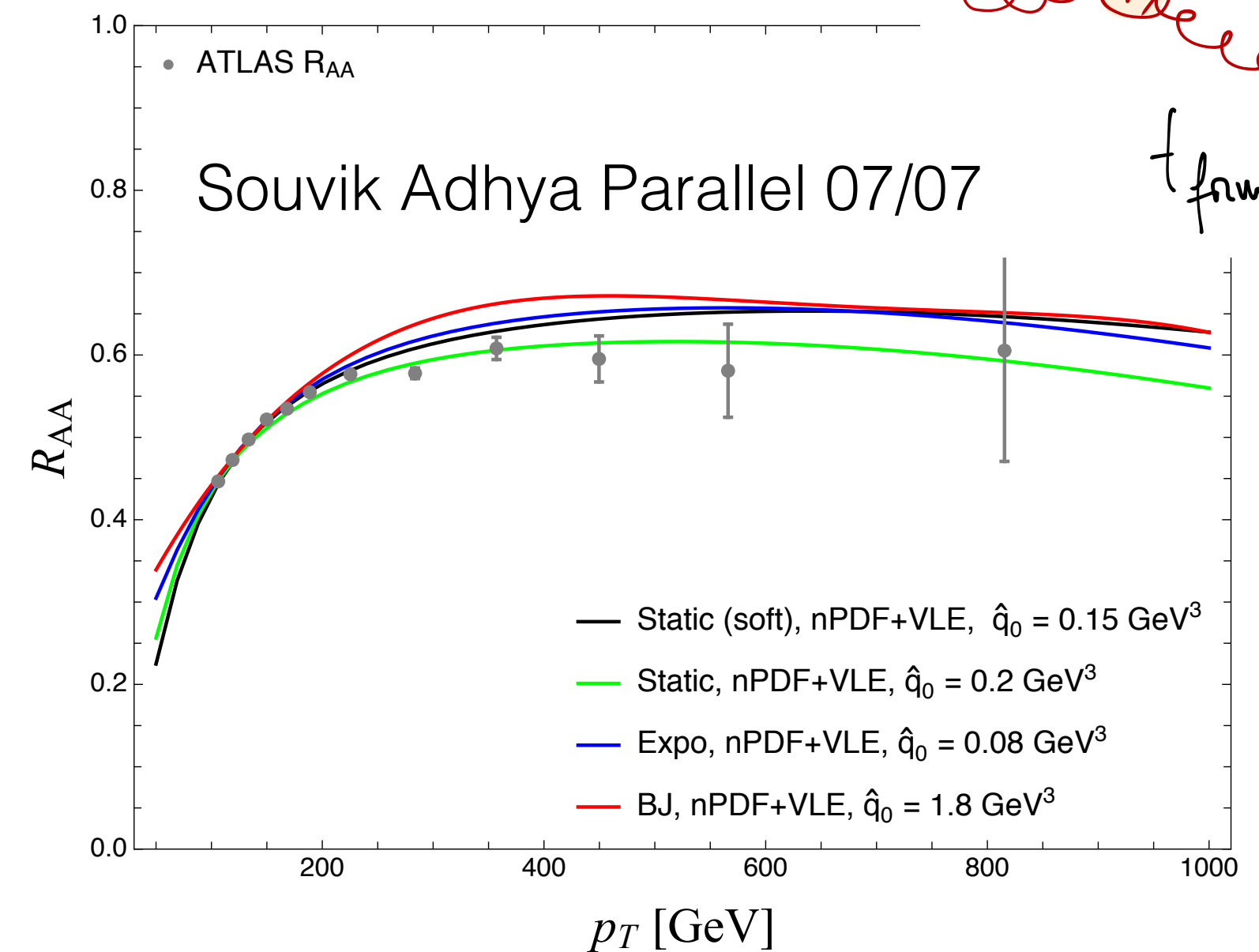
$$\omega \frac{dN}{d\omega d^2\mathbf{k}} \sim \frac{\alpha_s C_R}{\omega^2} \text{Re} \int_{t',t} \int_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q} \tilde{\mathcal{K}}(t', \mathbf{q}; t, \mathbf{p}) \mathcal{P}(L, \mathbf{k}; t', \mathbf{q})$$

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

Small  $t_f \ll L$ : democratic branching

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

Probabilistic treatment:  
**In-medium parton shower**

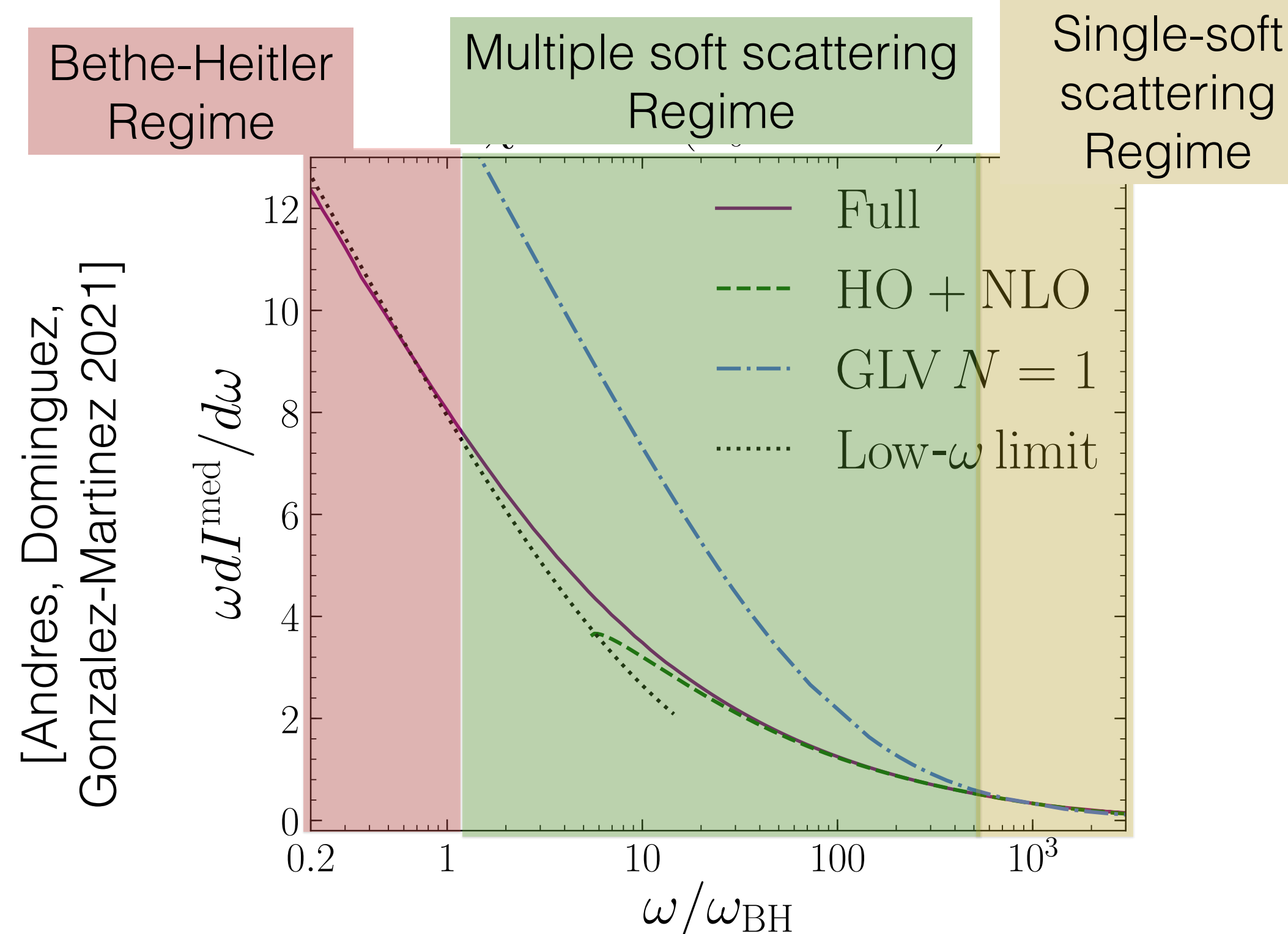
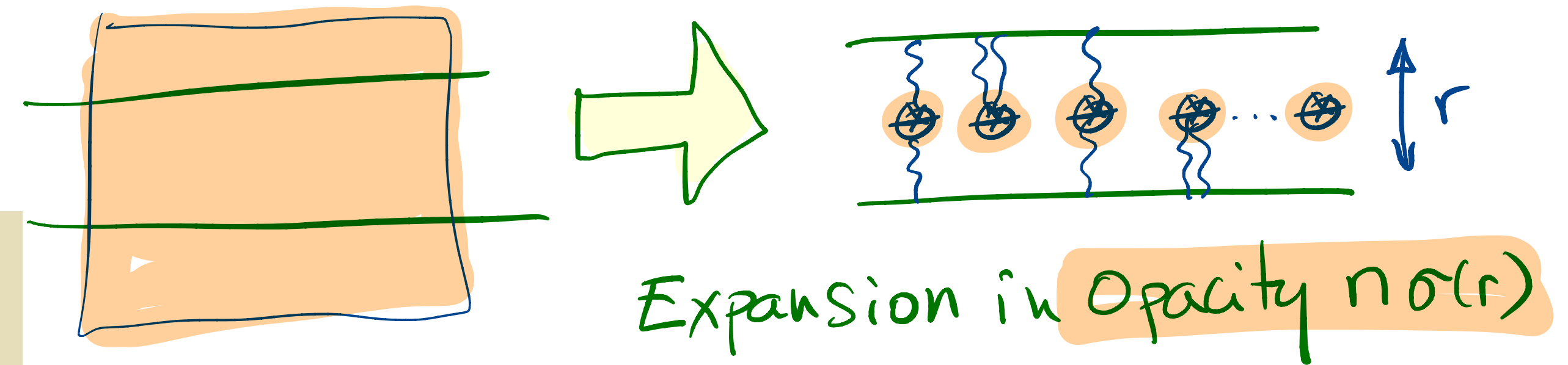


# Improving the resummation

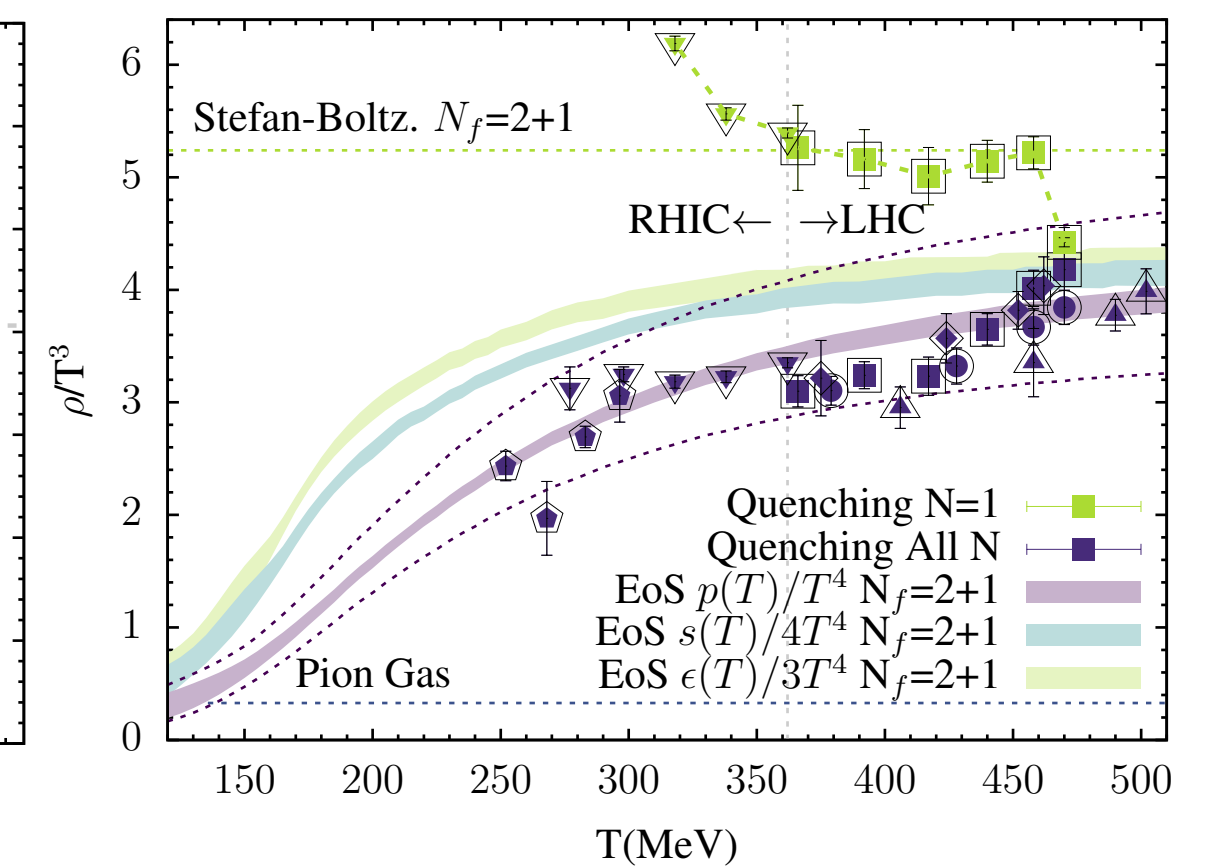
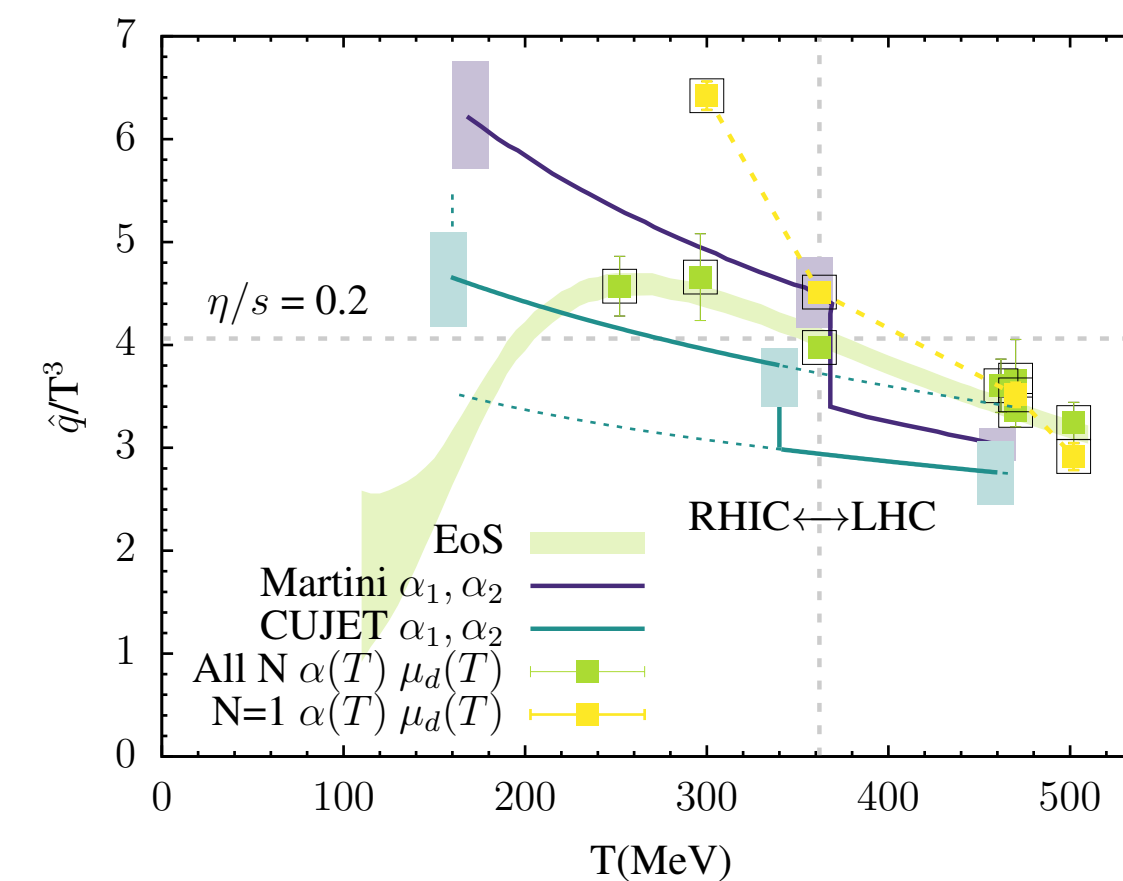
[Caron-Huot, Gale; Feal, Vazquez; Andres, Apolinario, Dominguez, Gonzalez-Martinez; Barata, Mehtar-Tani, Ontoso, Tywoniuk]

A lot of activity in the last 3-4 years to compute the gluon spectrum with a **correct resummation**

- **Perturbative tails**
- **Arbitrary number of scatterings**



[Andres, Dominguez, Gonzalez-Martinez 2021]



[Feal, Salgado, Vazquez 2019]

Essential for correct extraction of medium parameters

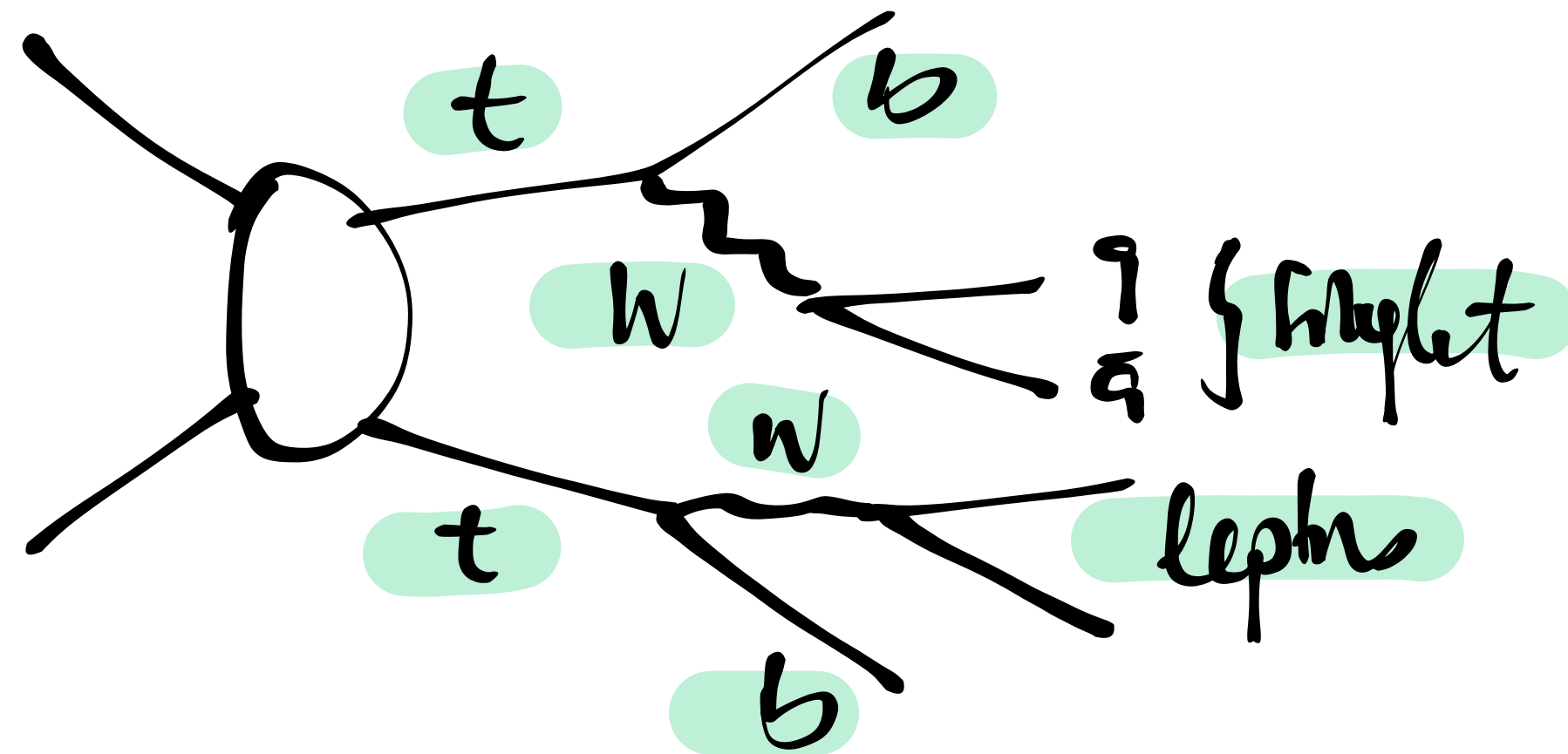


# A yoctosecond chronometer

[late times]

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

[Apolinario, Milhano, Salgado, Salam 2019]



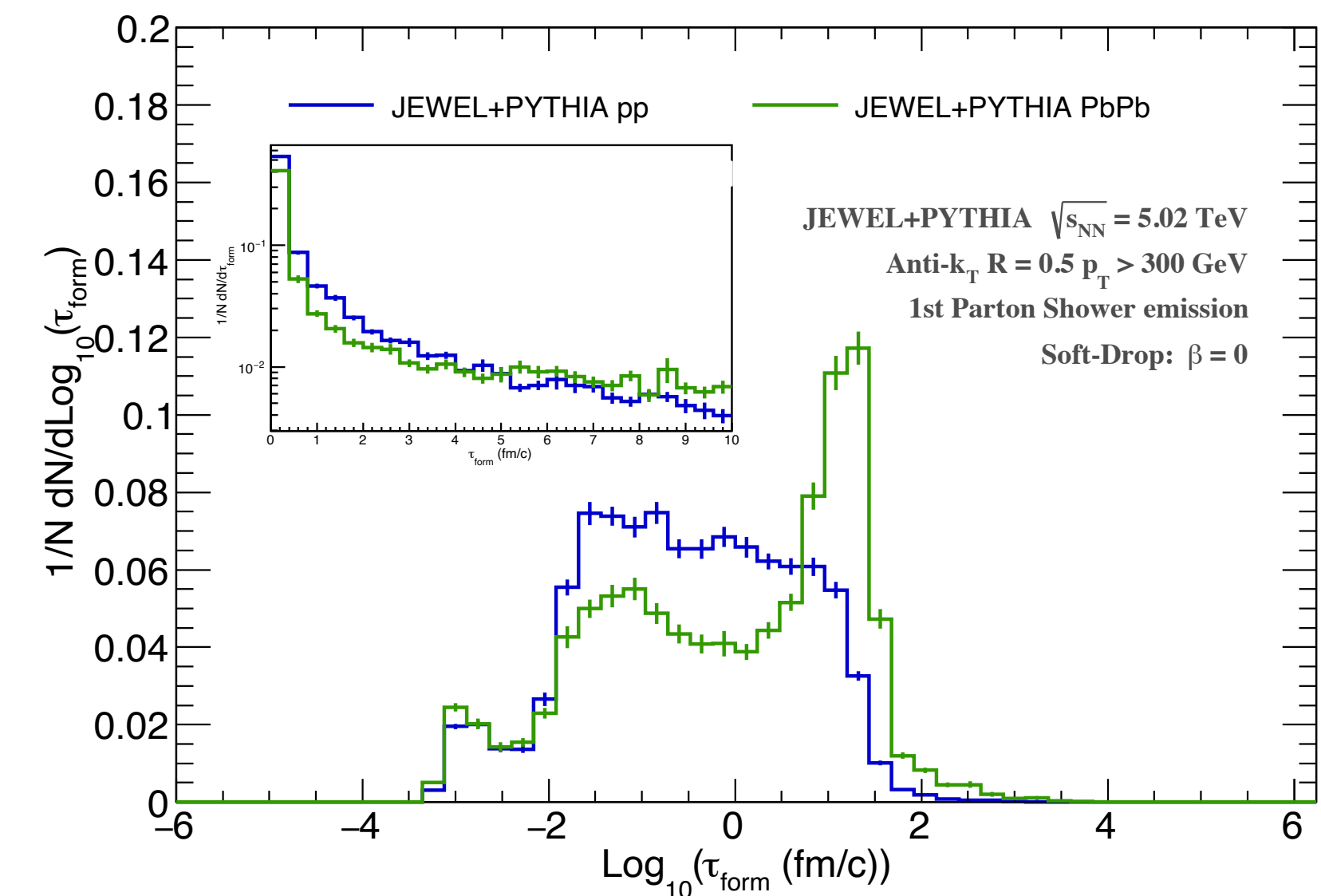
## Boosted tops

Difficult with LHC PbPb luminosity - lighter ions?

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

## New time reclustering algorithm

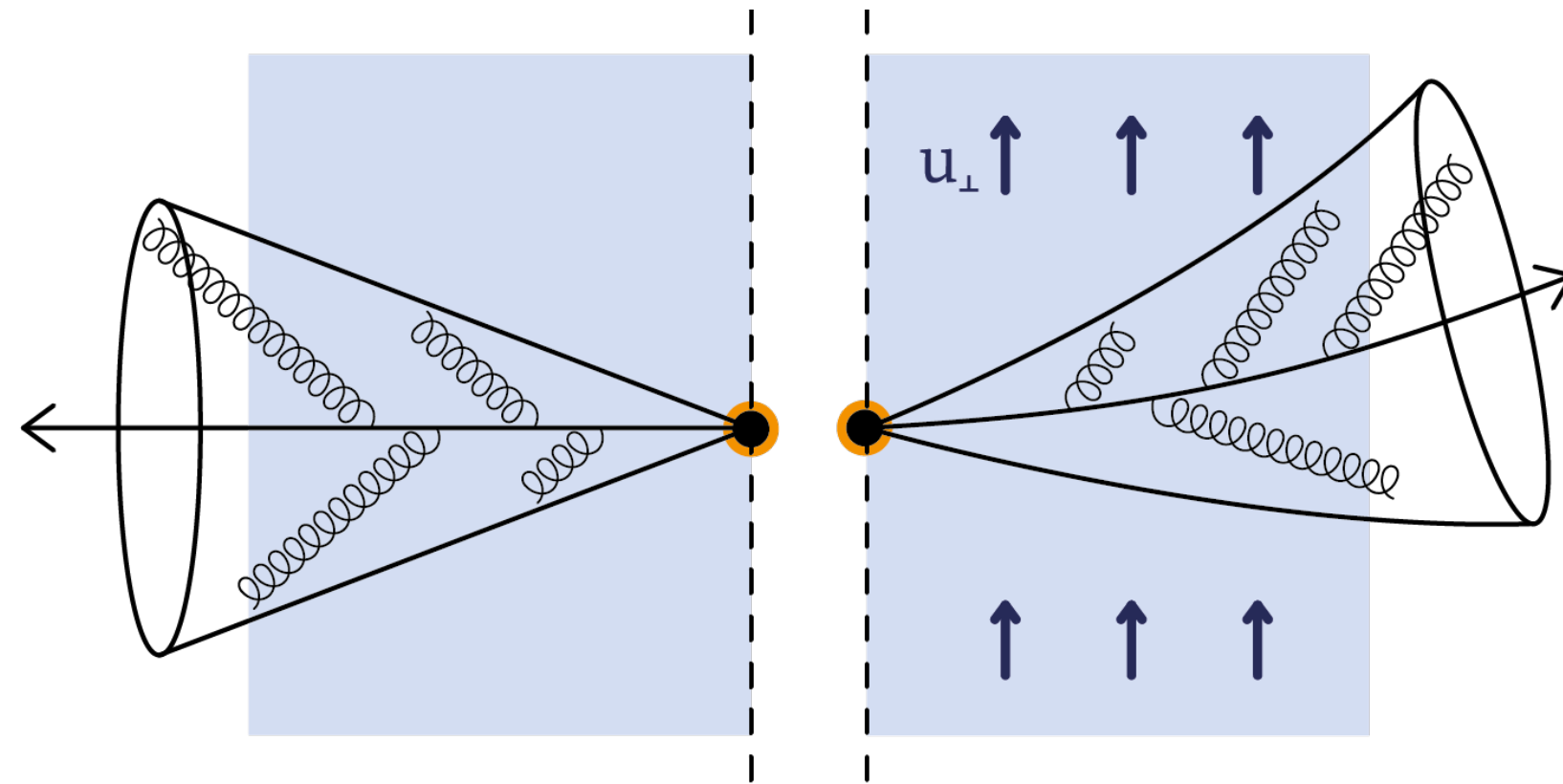
Very promising



[Apolinario, Cordeiro, Zapp 2021]

# Coupling to hydro

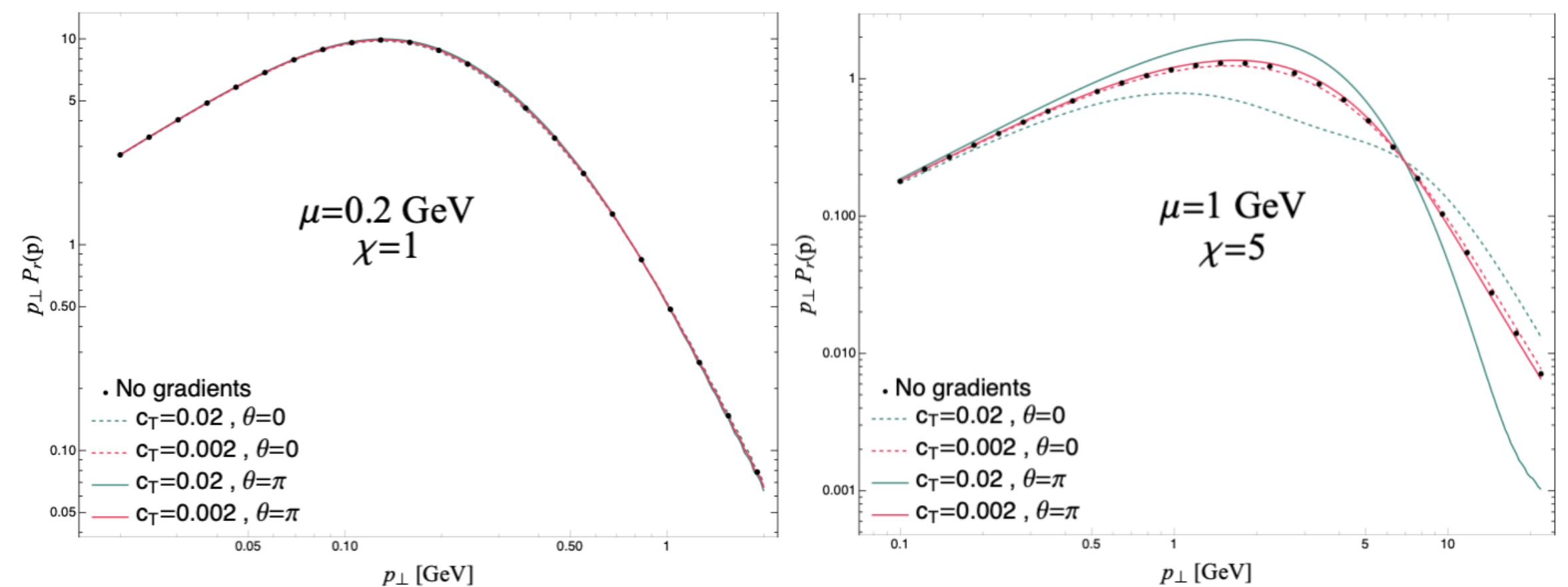
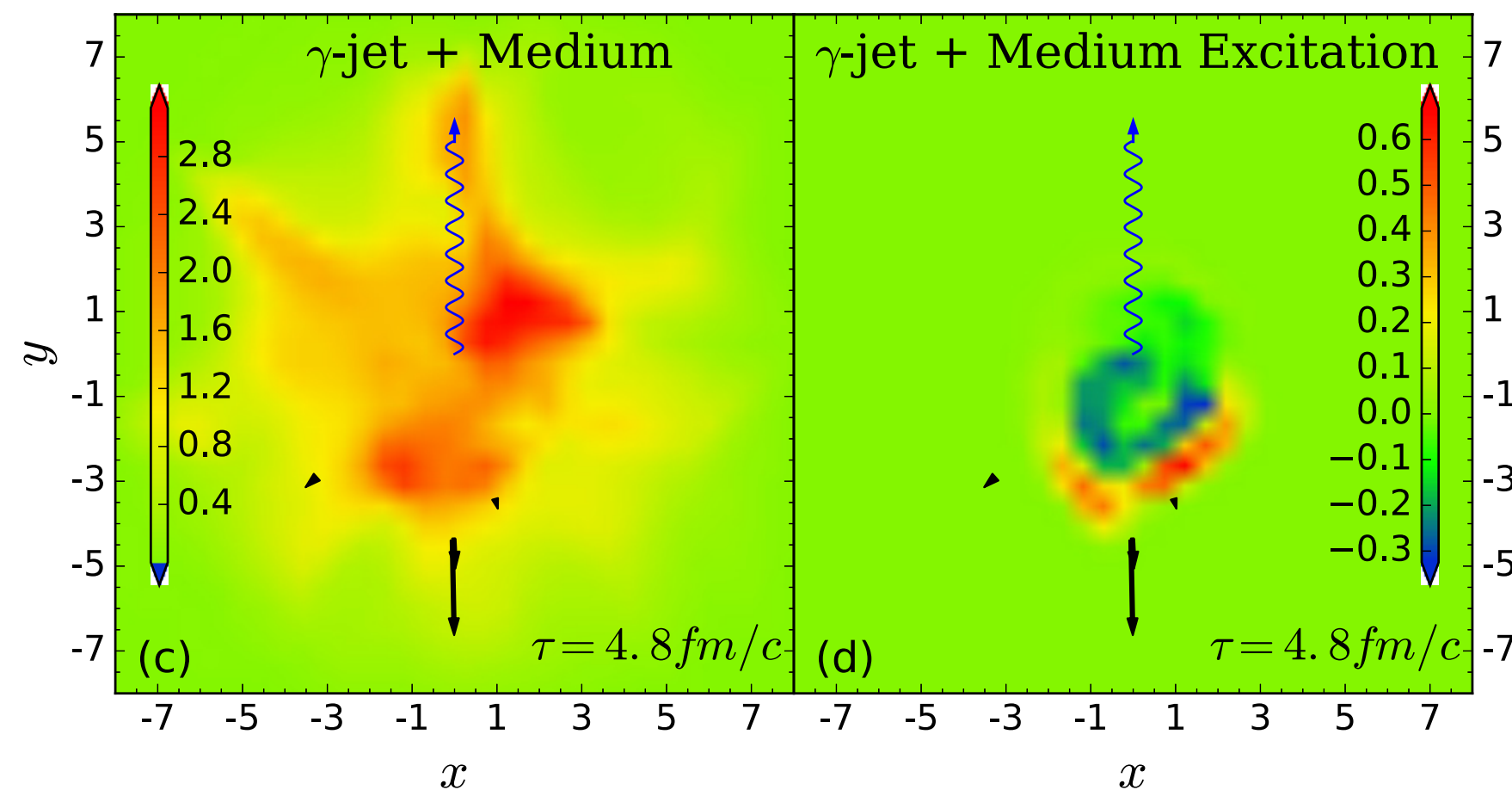
A more rigorous jet-medium coupling - include gradients and velocity fields in background field



[Sadofyev, Sievert, Vitev 2021; Antiporda, Bahder, Rahman, Sievert 2022; Barata, Sadofyev, Salgado 2022; Fu, Casalderrey, Wang 2022; Andres, Dominguez, Sadofyev, Salgado 2022; Ipp, Muller, Schuh 2022 — Previous: Armesto, Salgado, Wiedemann 2004]

$$gA^{a\lambda}(q) = u^\lambda v(q) \left[ \int d^2\mathbf{x} dz e^{-i(\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x} + q_z z)} \hat{\rho}^a(\mathbf{x}, z) \right] (2\pi) \delta(q^0 - \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{q})$$

[Chen, Cao, Luo, Pang, Wang 2018]





# 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**