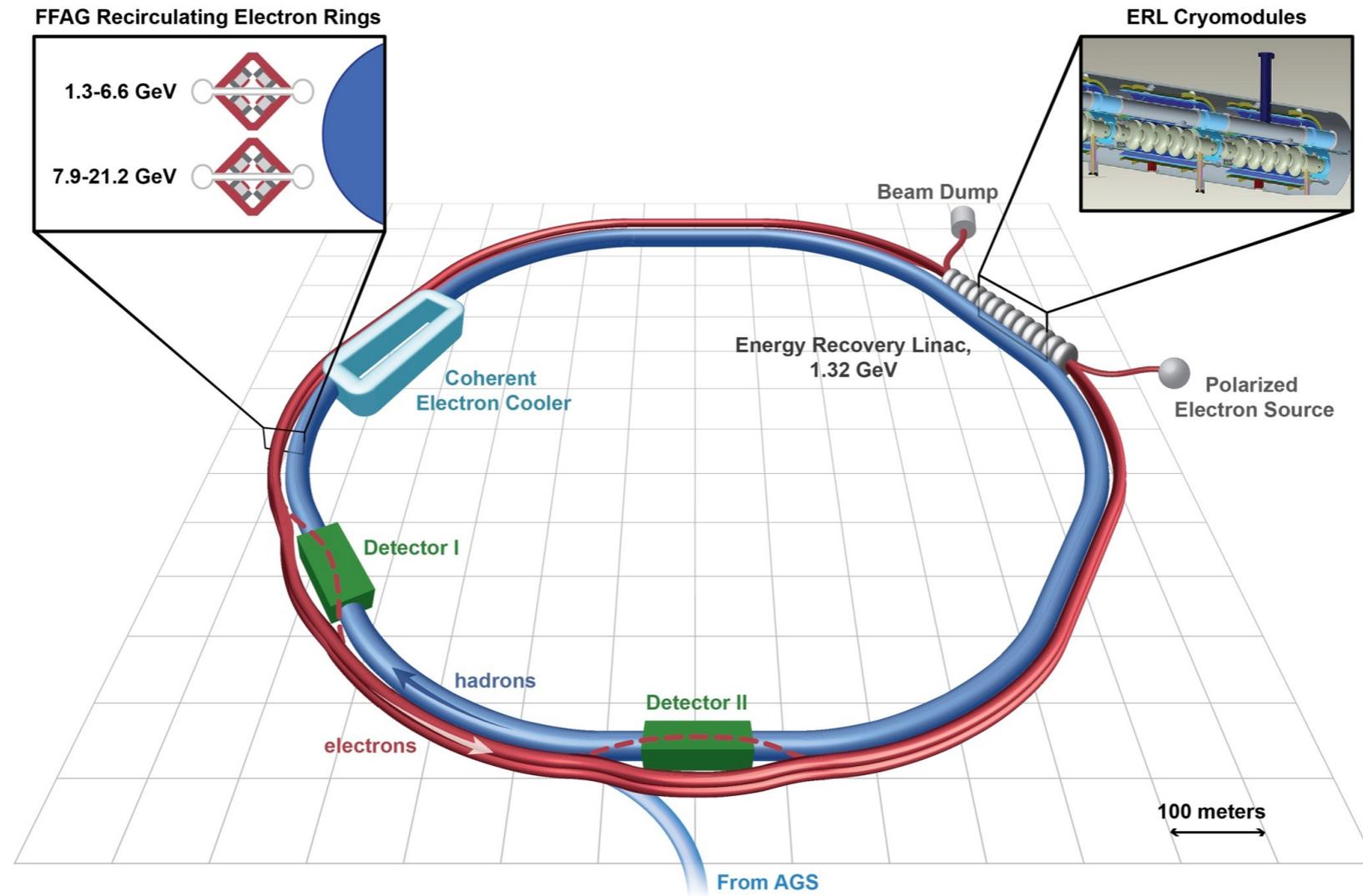


# The experimental future of e+A physics at an EIC



Matthew A. C. Lamont  
BNL

# Fundamental questions of QCD

- Confinement, chiral symmetry breaking, quantitative understanding of hadron masses, structure of the nucleon and the nucleus
- QCD under extreme conditions:
  - finite  $T$  (heavy ions, early Universe)
  - finite  $\mu_B$  (neutron stars)
  - high energy QCD asymptotics

# Fundamental questions of QCD at an EIC

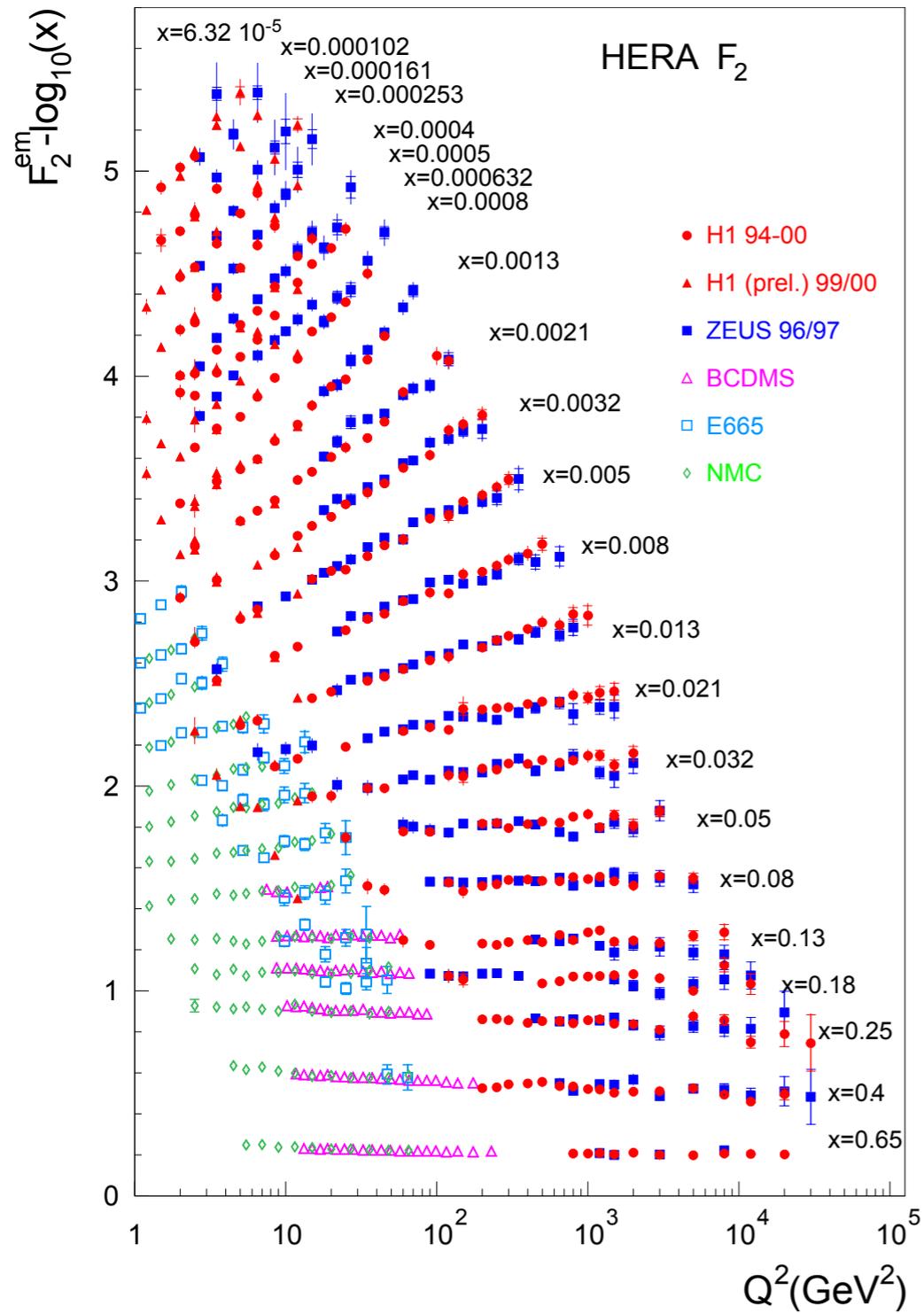
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# What did we learn from e+p collisions at HERA?

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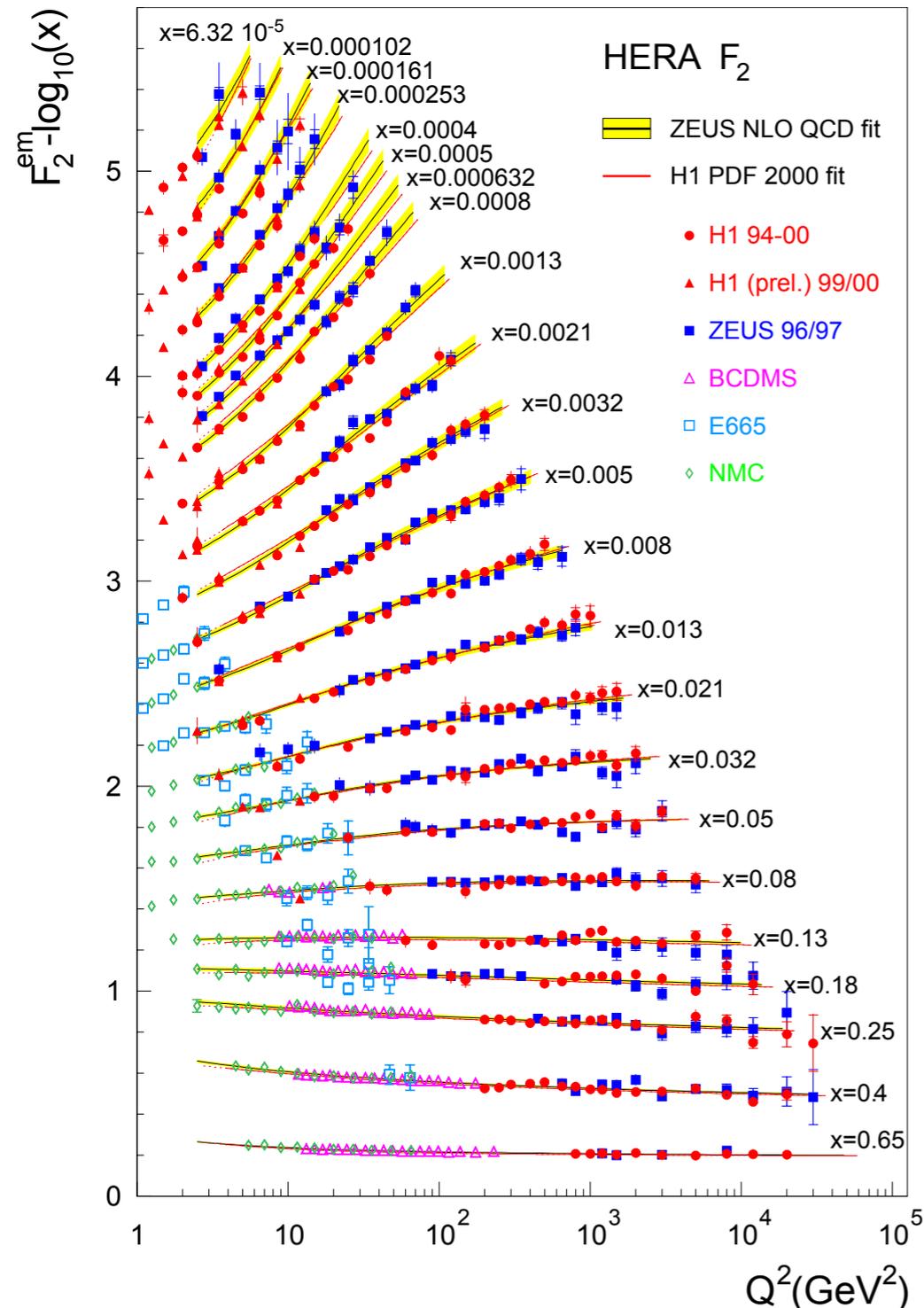
quark+anti-quark  
momentum distributions

gluon momentum  
distribution



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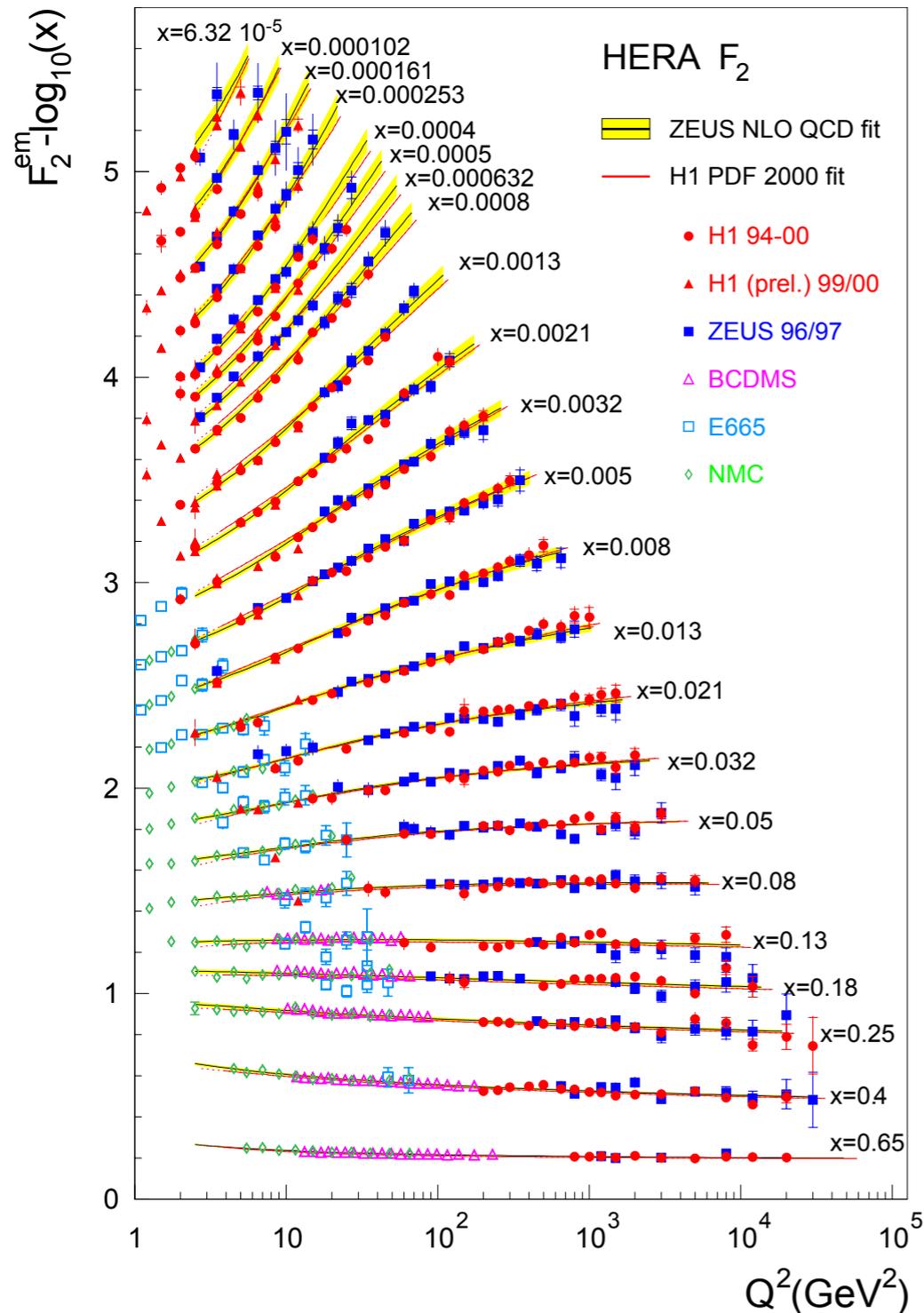
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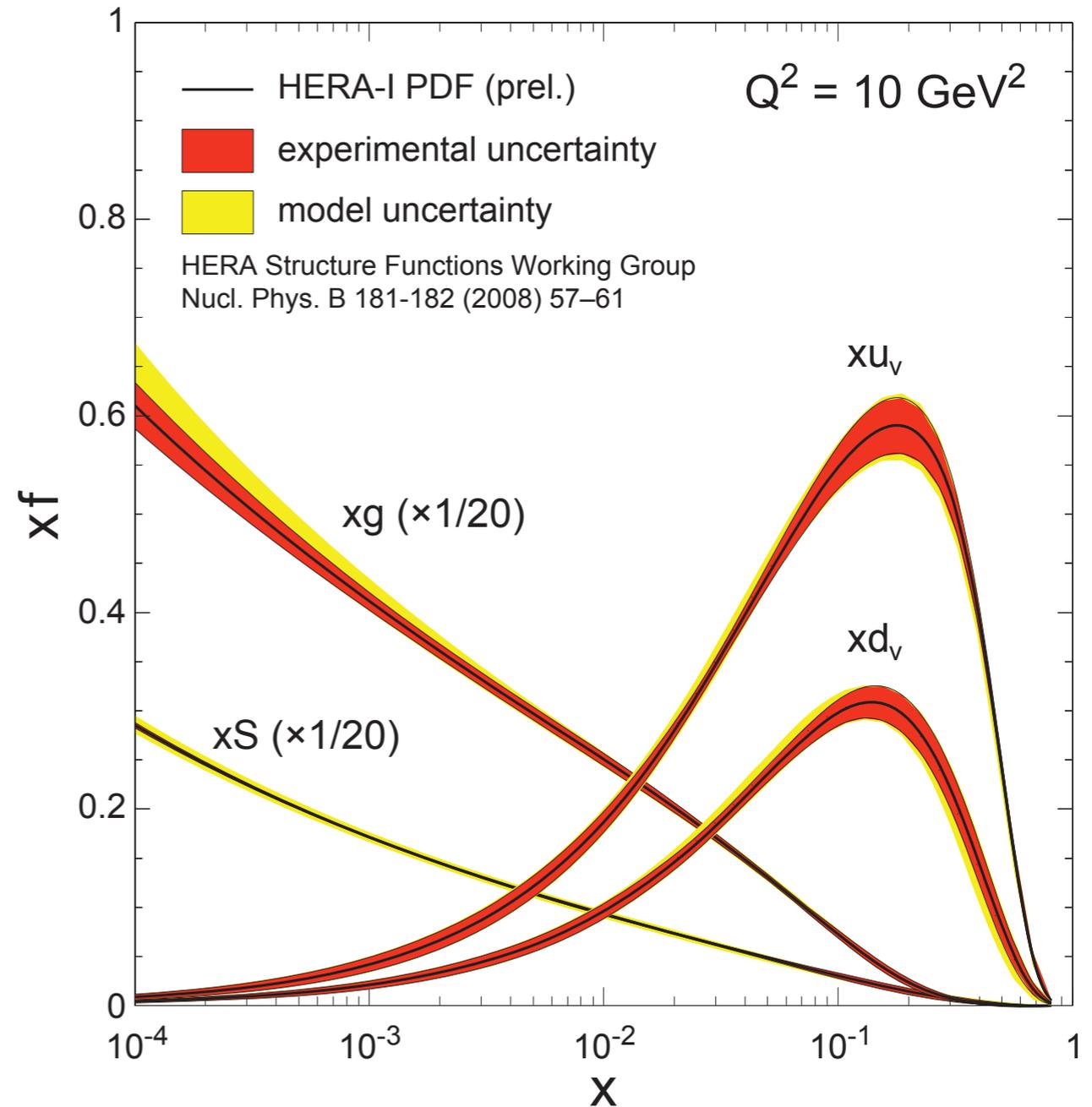
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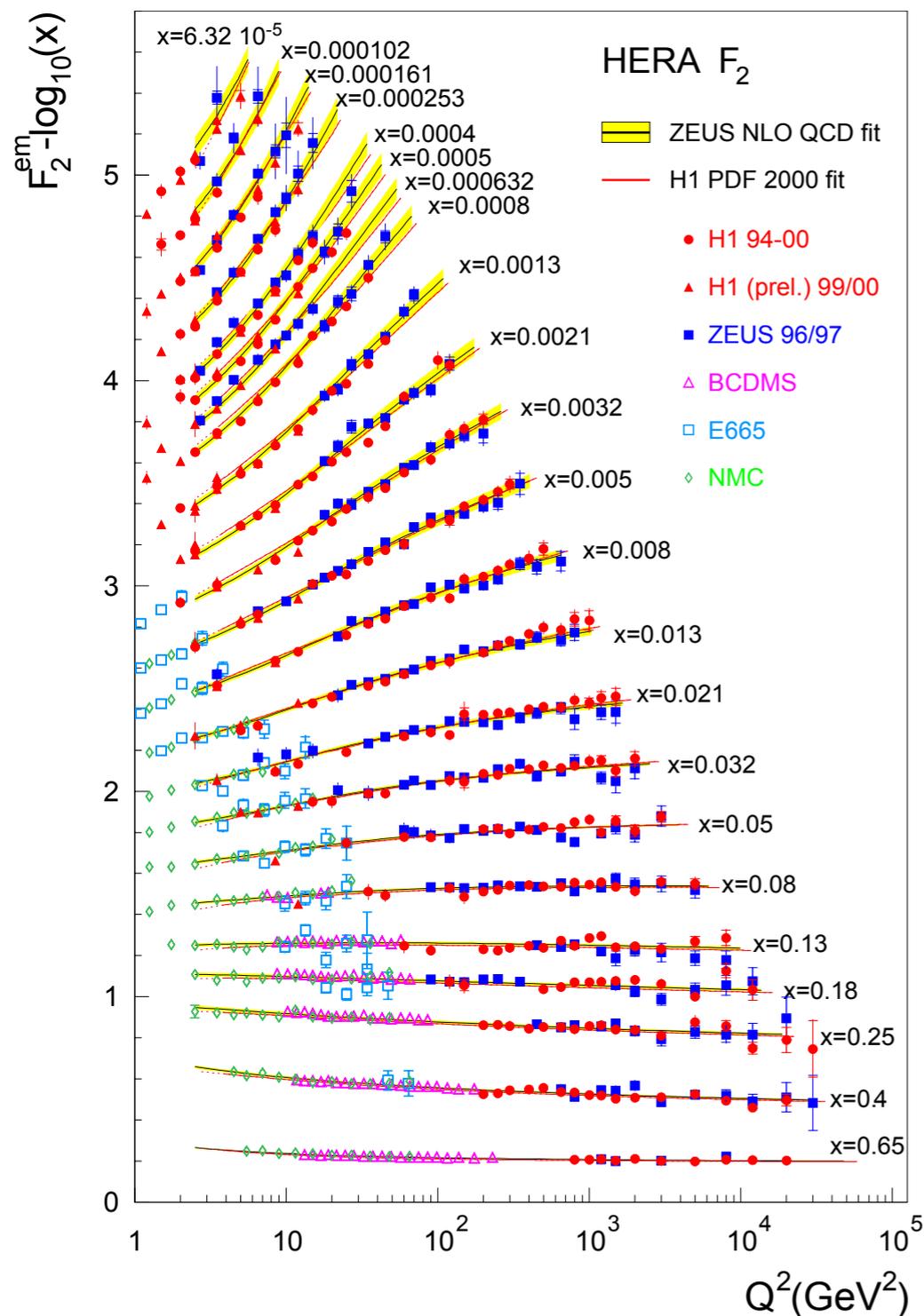


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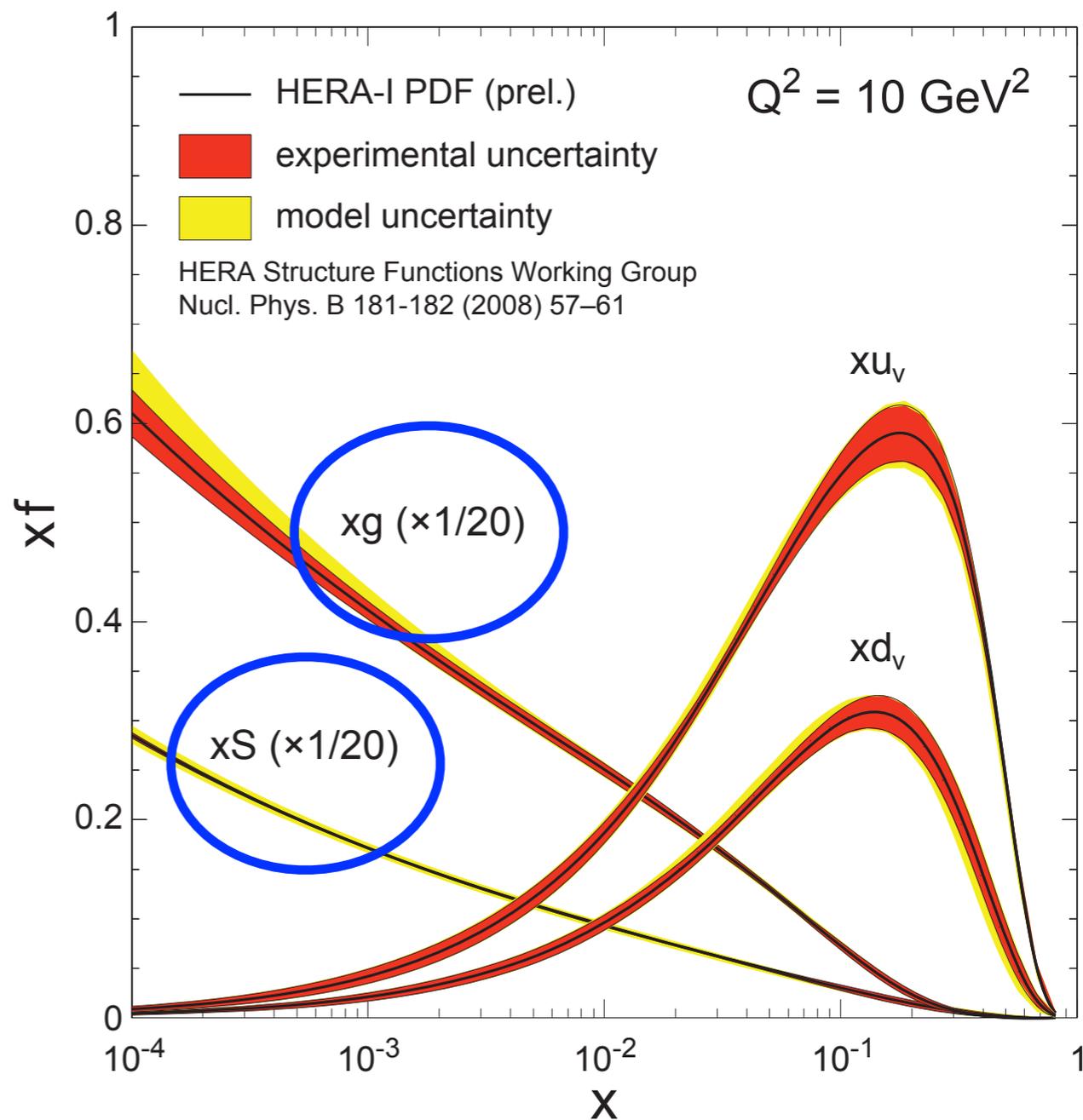


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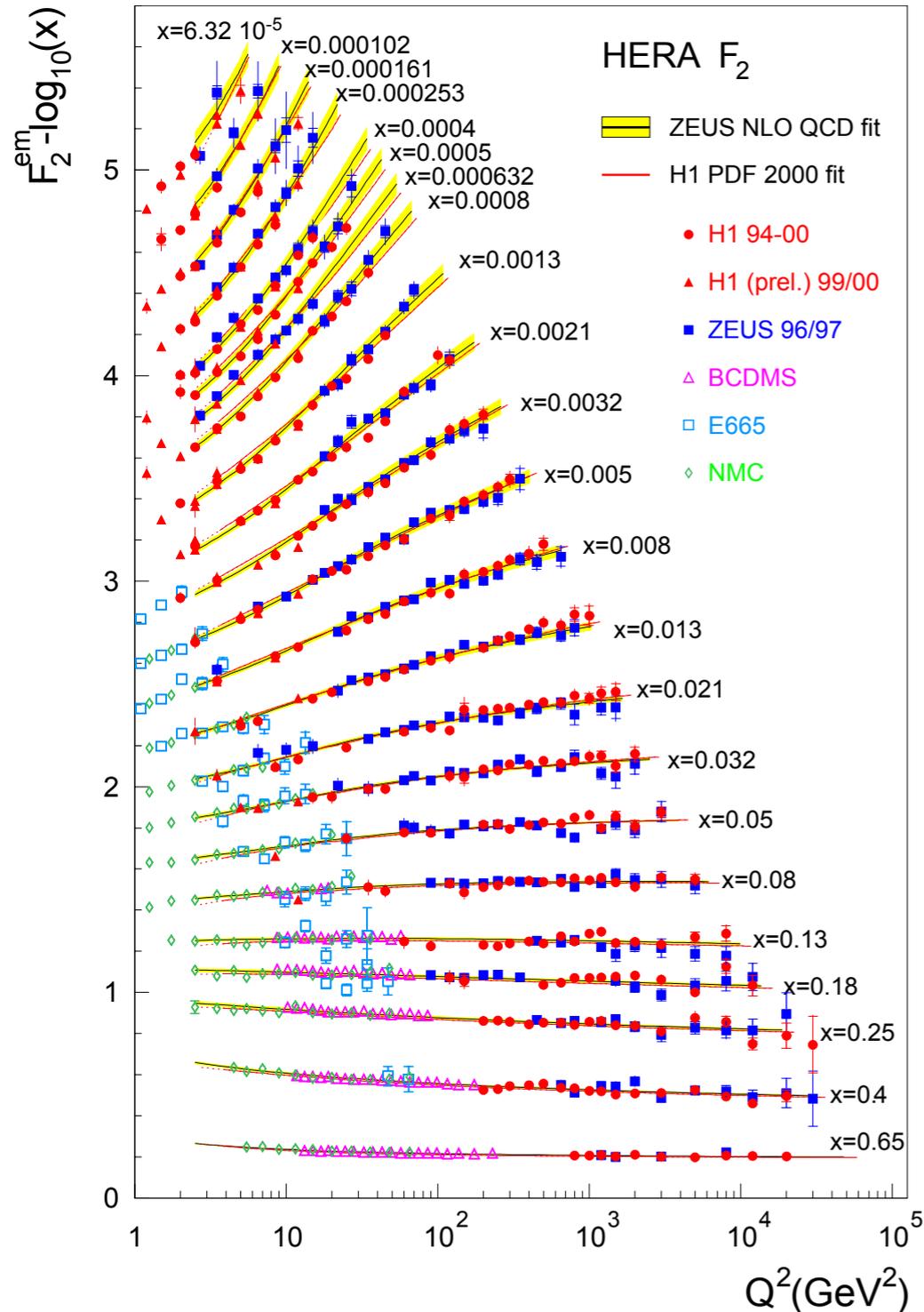


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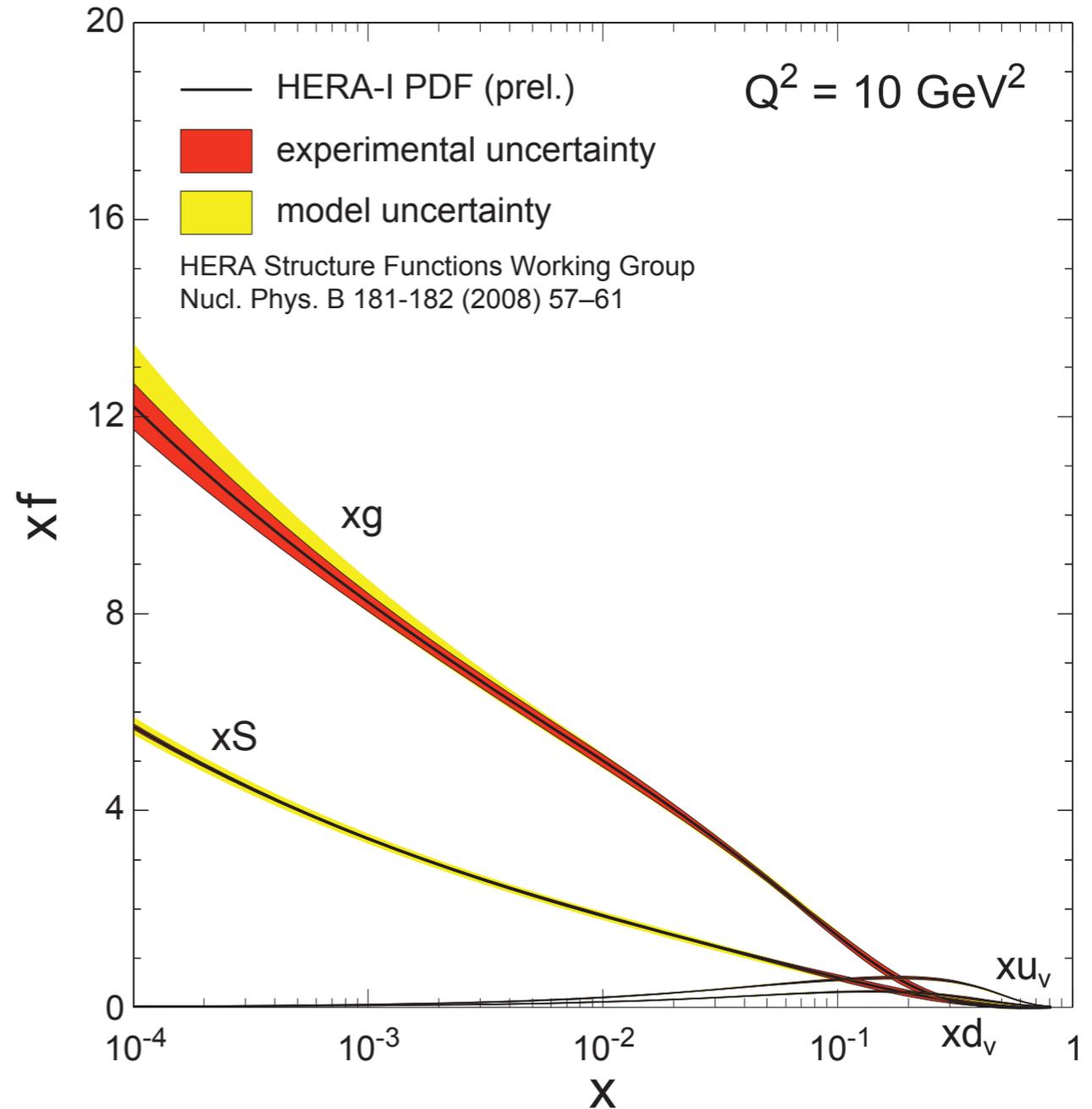


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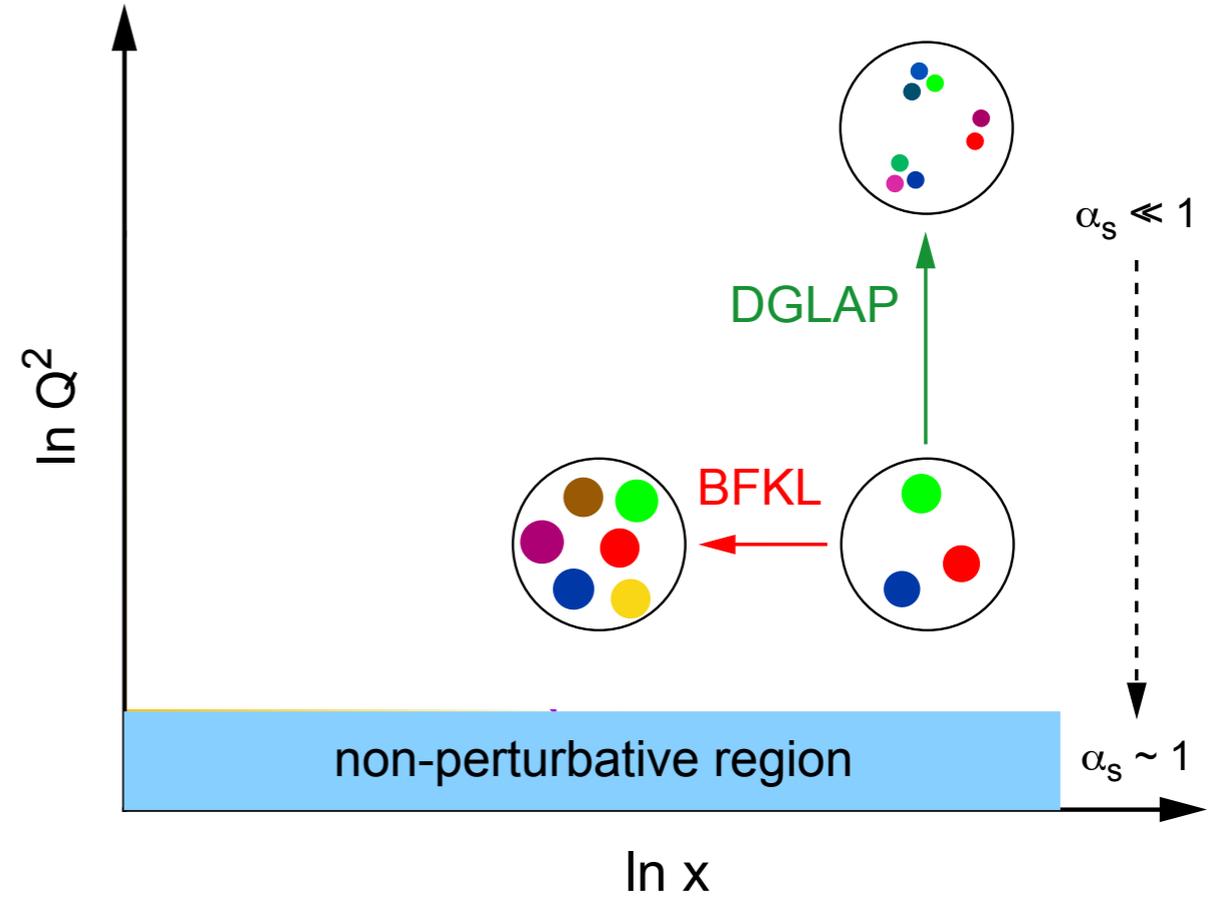
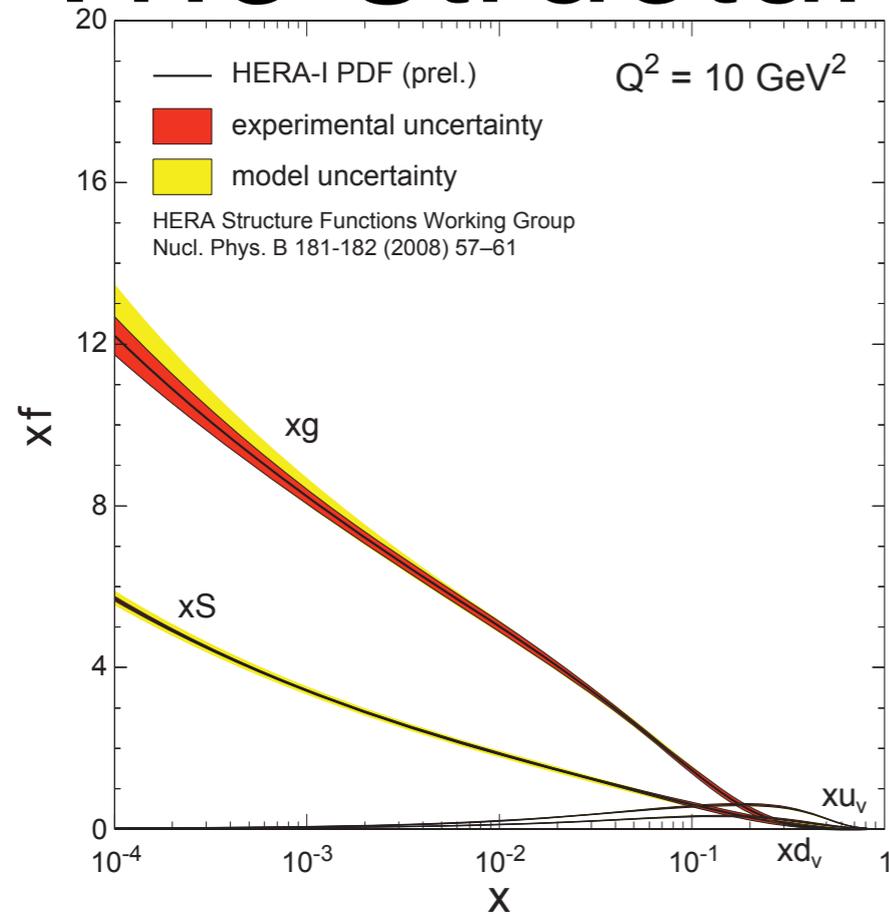
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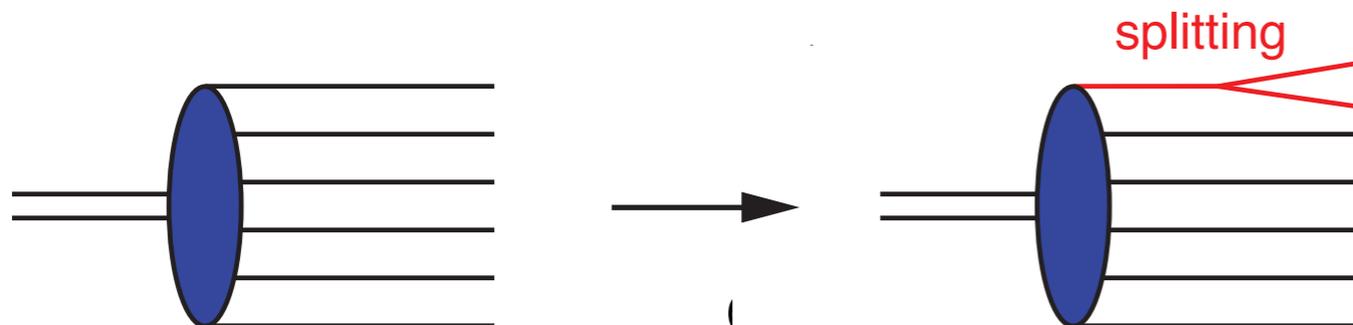
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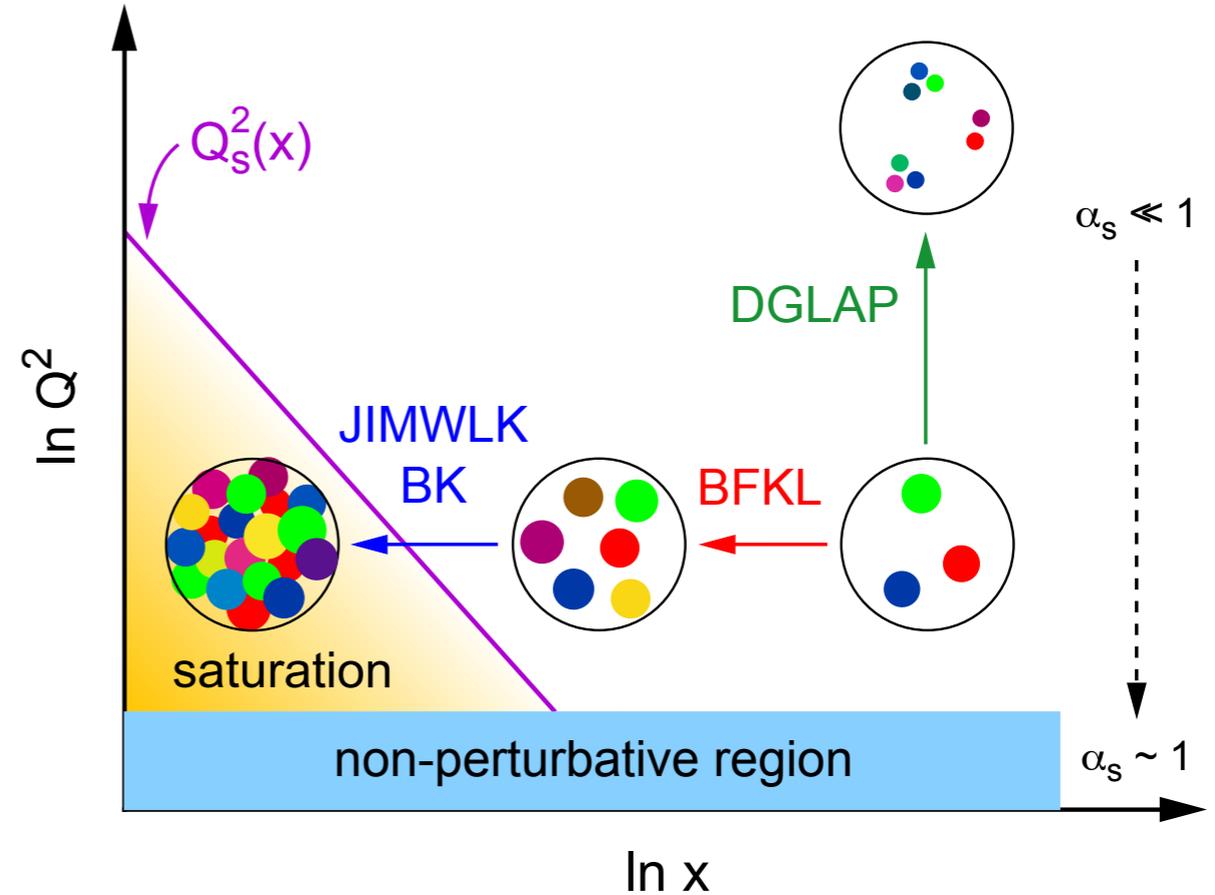
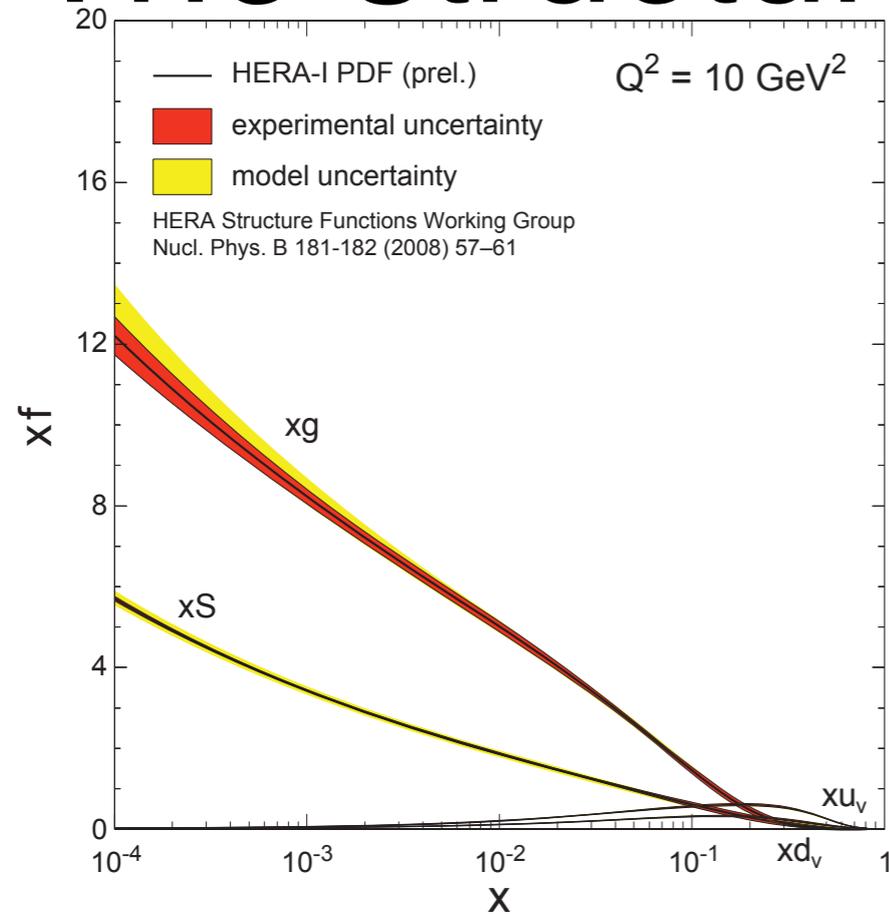
# The structure of matter at small-x



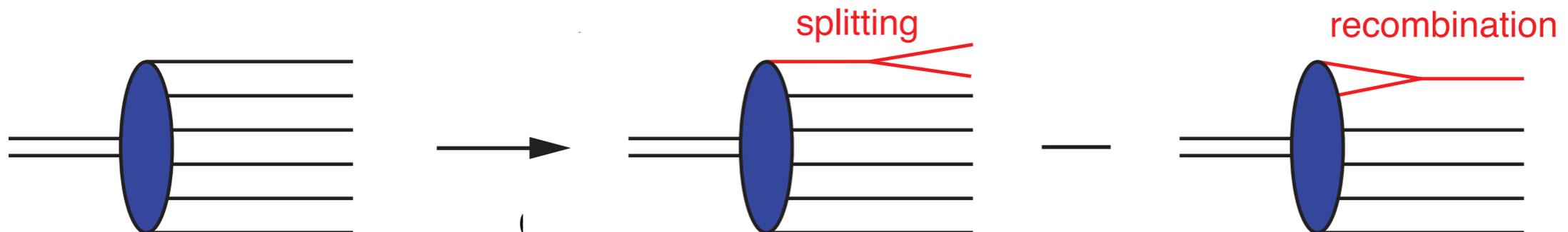
- Gluons dominate the PDFs at small- to intermediate- $x$  ( $x < 0.1$ )
  - Rapid rise in gluons described naturally by linear pQCD evolution equations



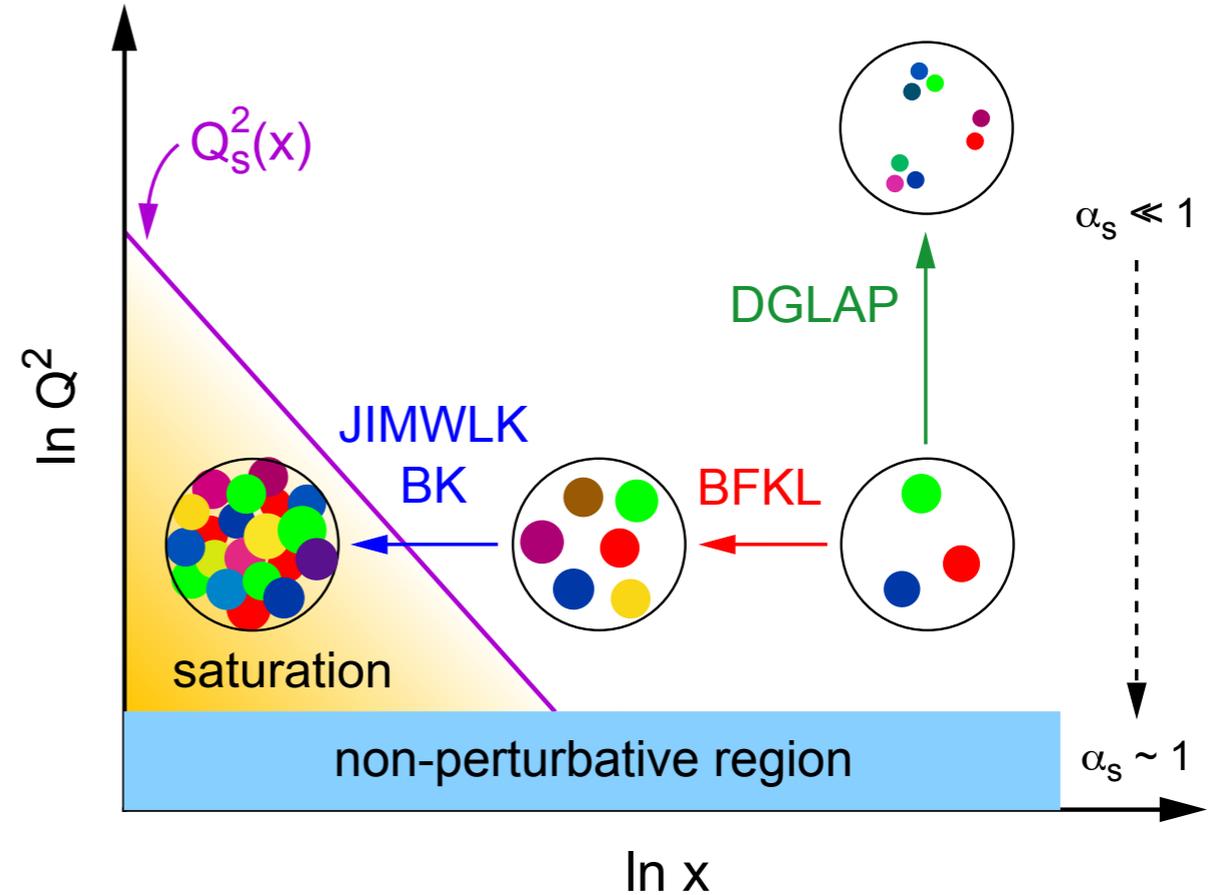
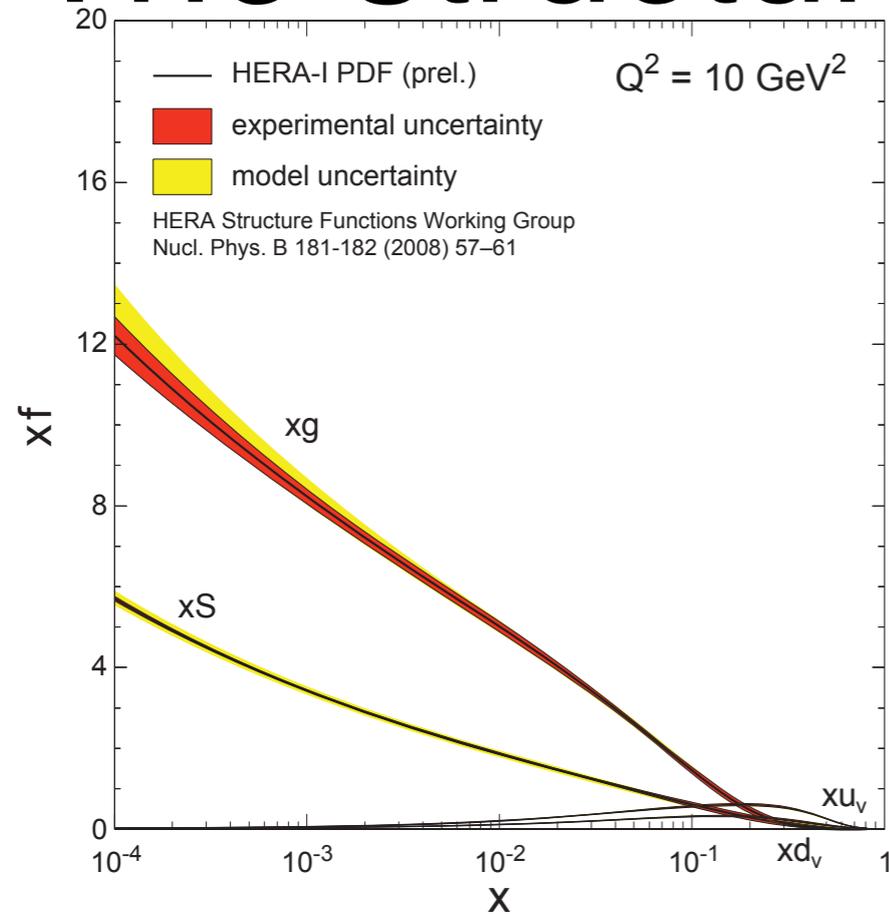
# The structure of matter at small-x



- Gluons dominate the PDFs at small- to intermediate-x ( $x < 0.1$ )
  - Rapid rise in gluons described naturally by linear pQCD evolution equations
  - This rise cannot increase forever - limits on the cross-section
    - non-linear pQCD evolution equations provide a natural way to tame this growth and lead to a saturation of gluons, characterised by the saturation scale  $Q_s^2(x)$



# The structure of matter at small-x

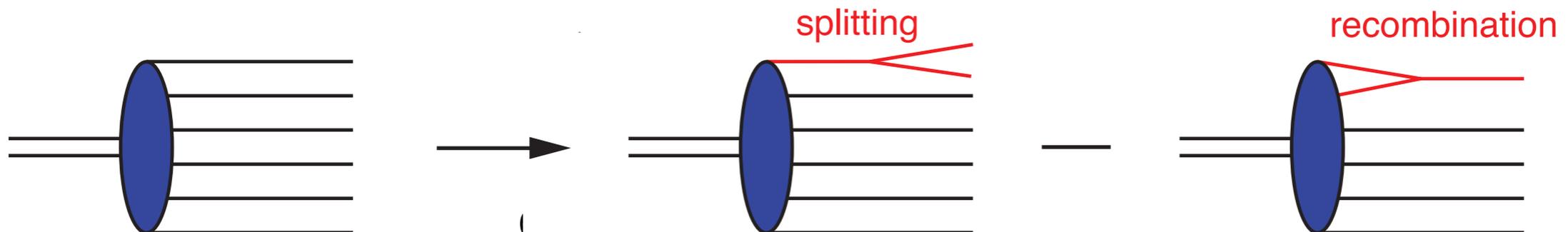


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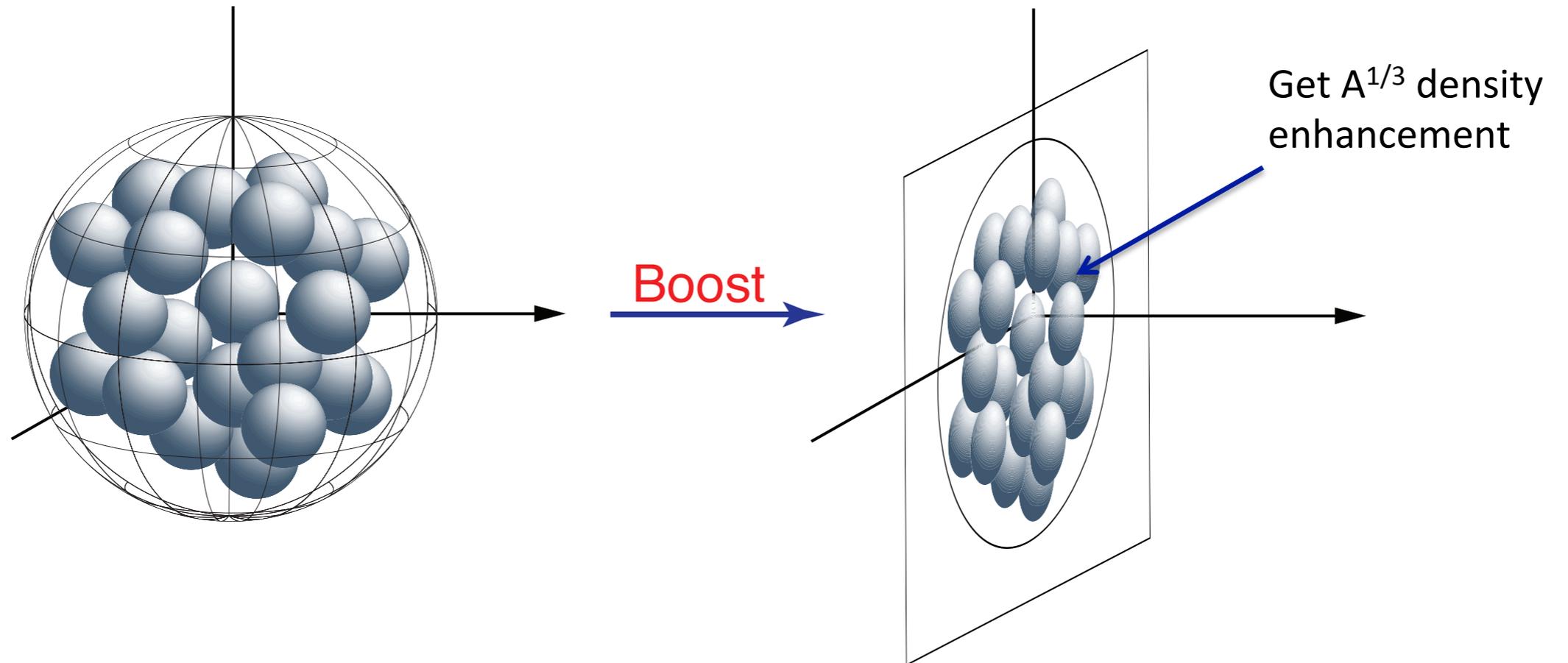
**however - only tantalising hints of saturation in the gluon density from measurements at HERA -> too small an x**

**How can this be observed at eRHIC?**

*saturation of gluons, characterised by the saturation scale  $Q_s(x)$*



# McLerran-Venugopalan Model



- Large gluon density gives a large momentum (saturation) scale,  $Q_s^2$ .  $Q_s^2 \sim \# \text{gluons per unit density} \sim A^{1/3}$
- For  $Q_s \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , theory is weak coupling ( $\alpha_s(Q_s^2) \ll 1$ ) and the leading gluon field is classical

# High energy QCD: saturation physics

- The non-linear BK/JIMWLK equations and the MV model lead to a large internal momentum scale  $Q_s$  which grows with both decreasing  $x$ , increasing energy  $s$  ( $\lambda \sim 0.3$ ) and increasing atomic number  $A$

$$Q_s^2 \sim A^{1/3} \left( \frac{1}{x} \right)^\lambda$$

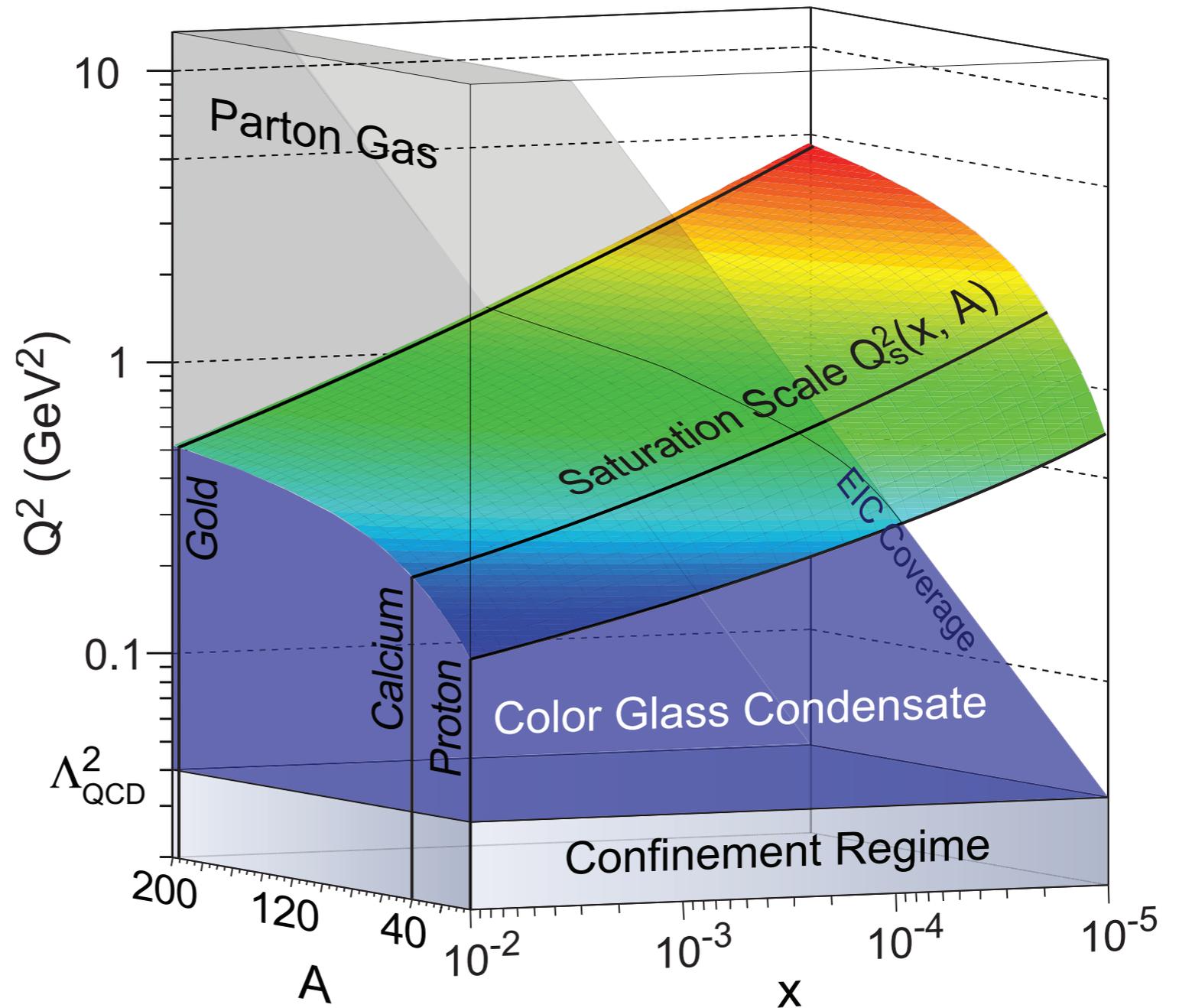
- such that:

$$\alpha_s = \alpha_s(Q_s) \ll 1$$

- We can calculate total cross-sections, parton multiplicities, correlations... from first principles
- Bottom line:
  - Coupling is weak, Feynman diagrams work
  - But: the system is dense and physics is nonlinear!

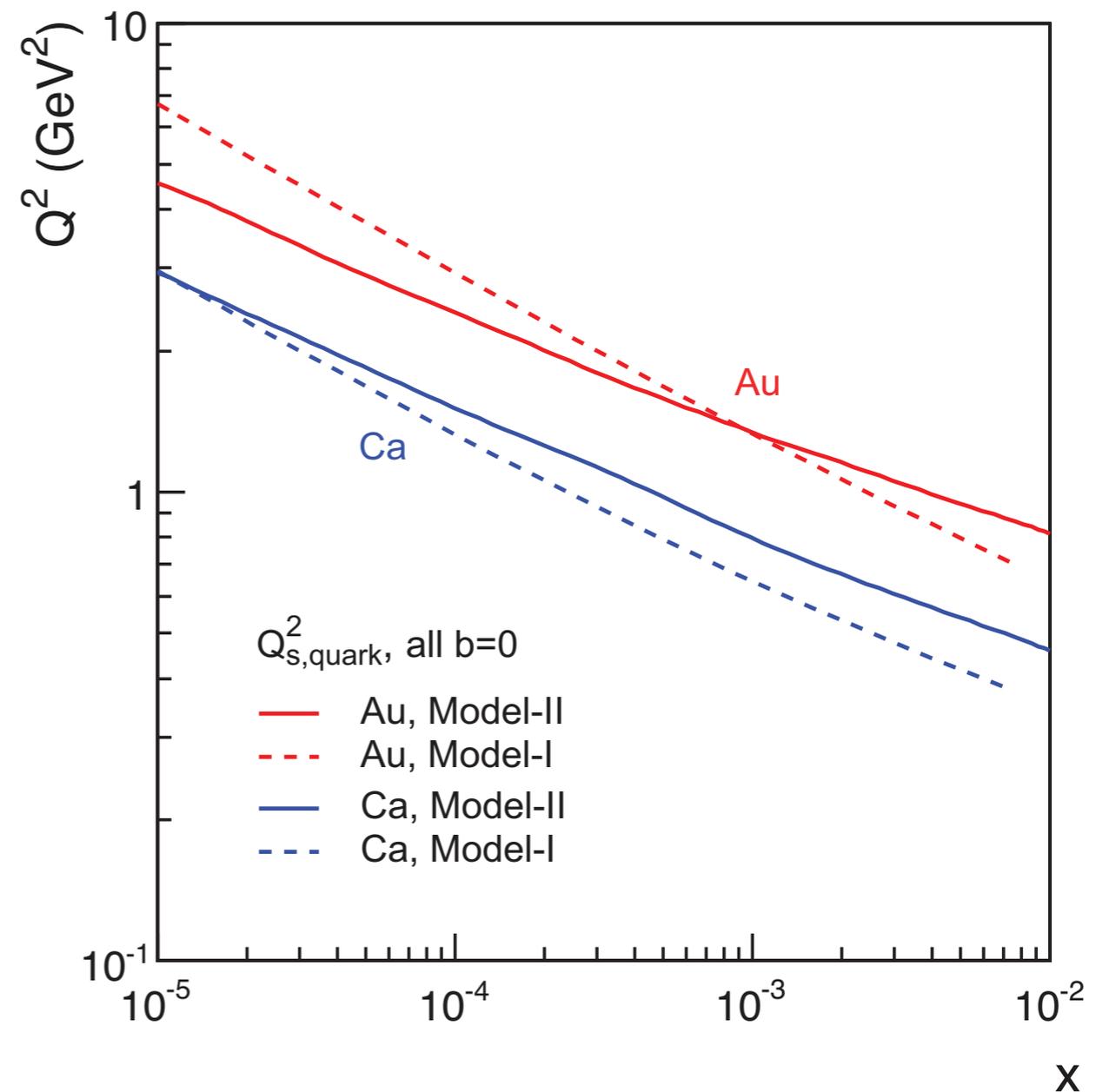
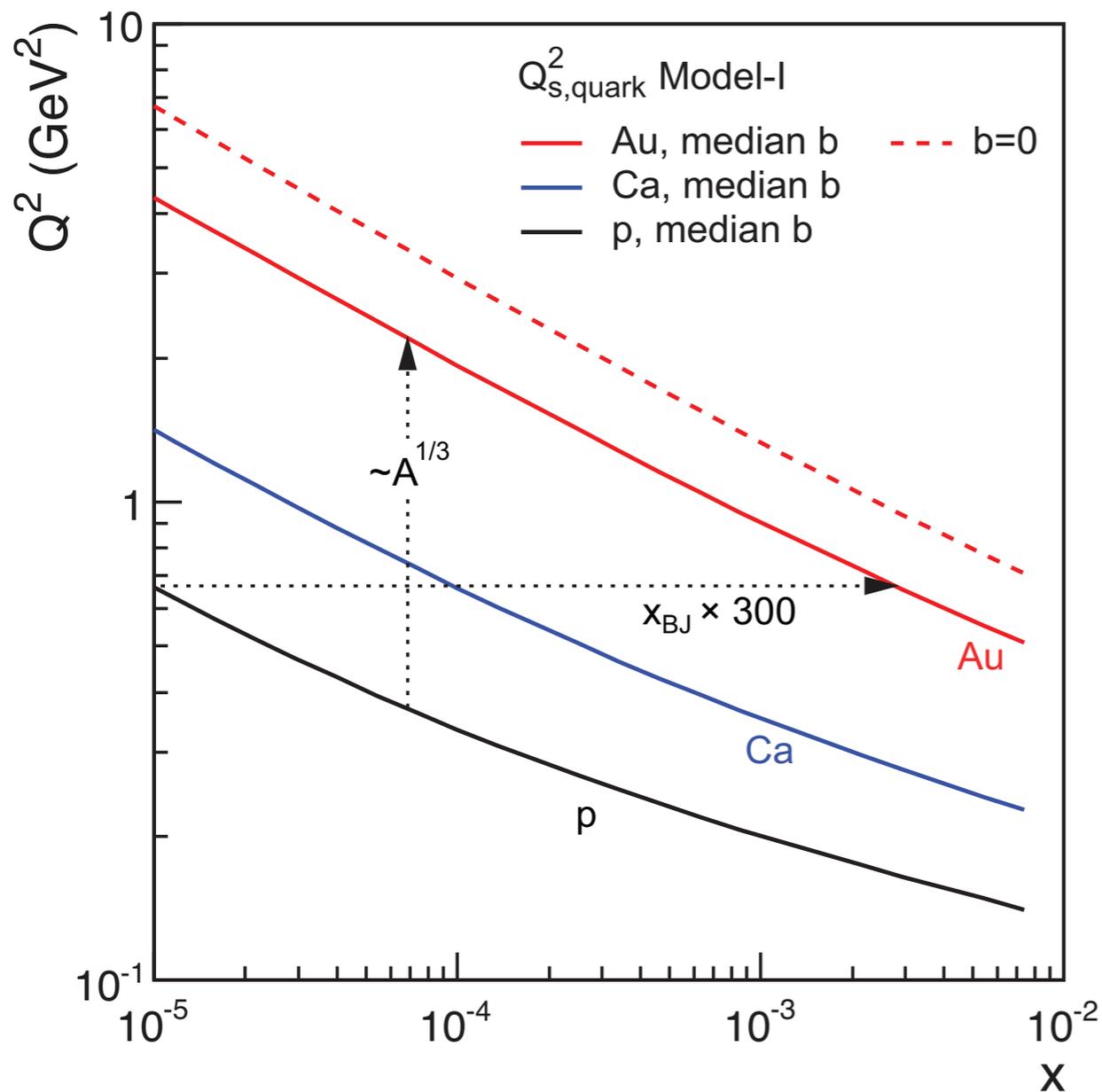
# High energy QCD: saturation physics

$$Q_s^2 \sim \left( \frac{A}{x} \right)^{1/3}$$



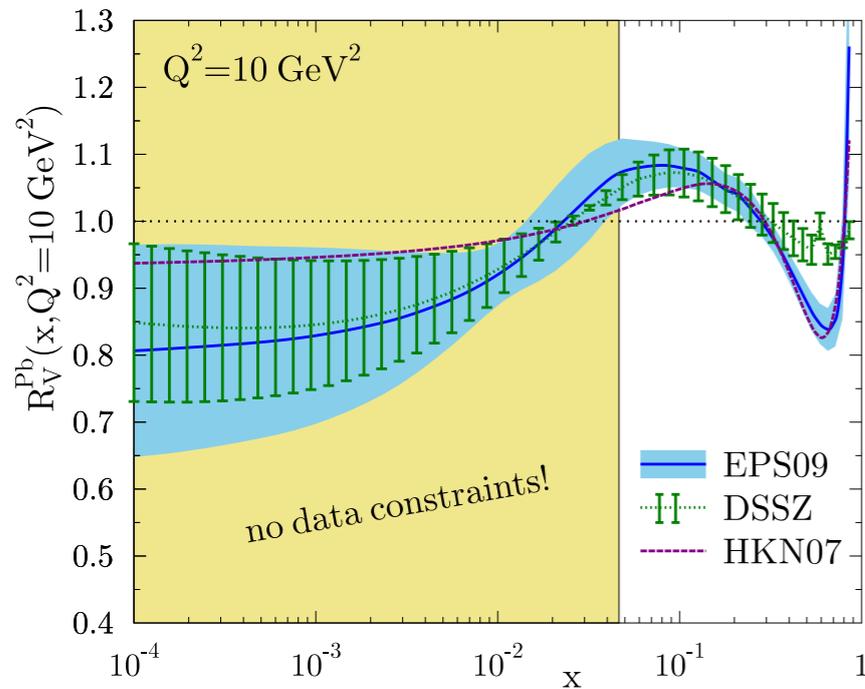
# Nuclear “oomph” effect

Pocket formula:  $Q_s^2(x) \sim A^{1/3} \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^\lambda \sim \left(\frac{A}{x}\right)^{1/3}$

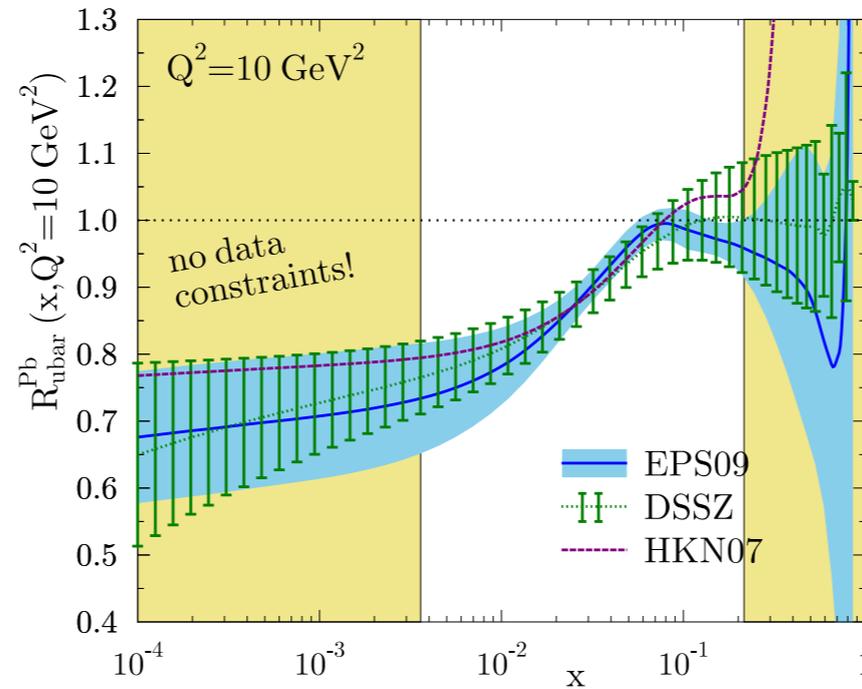


# What do we know about the structure of nuclei?

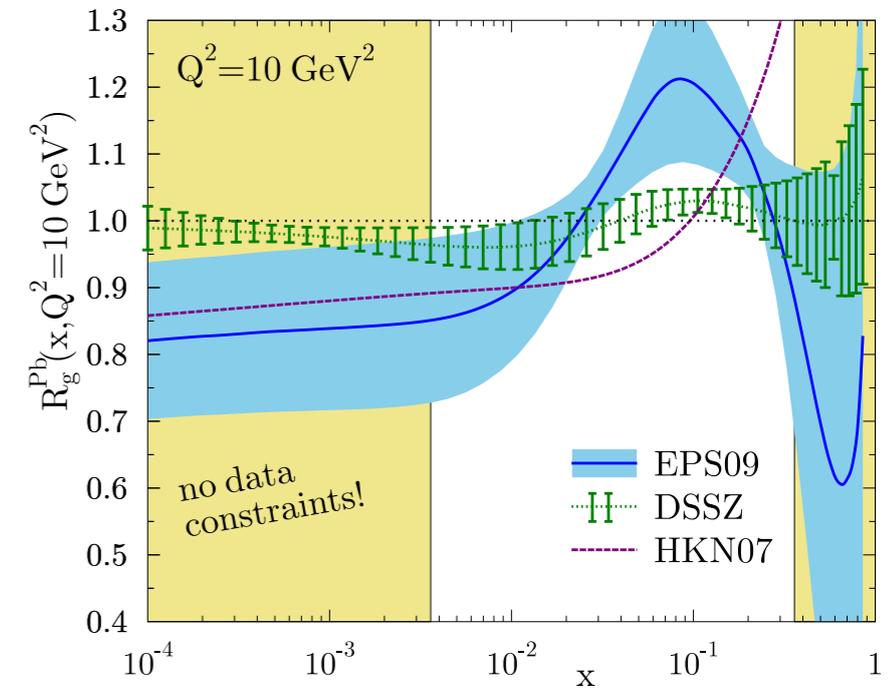
## $R_V^{\text{Pb}}$



## $R_S^{\text{Pb}}$



## $R_g^{\text{Pb}}$

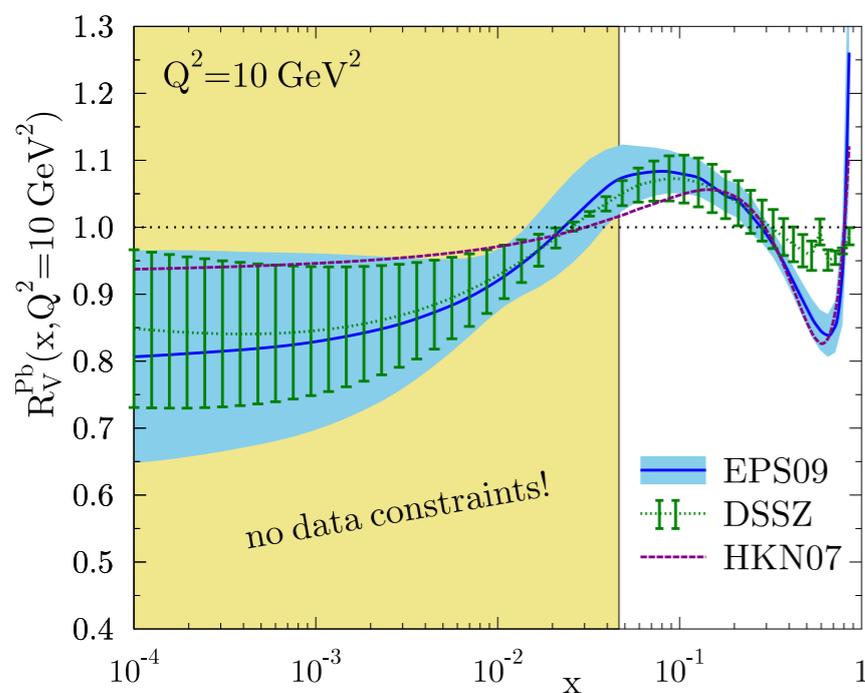


H. Paukkunen

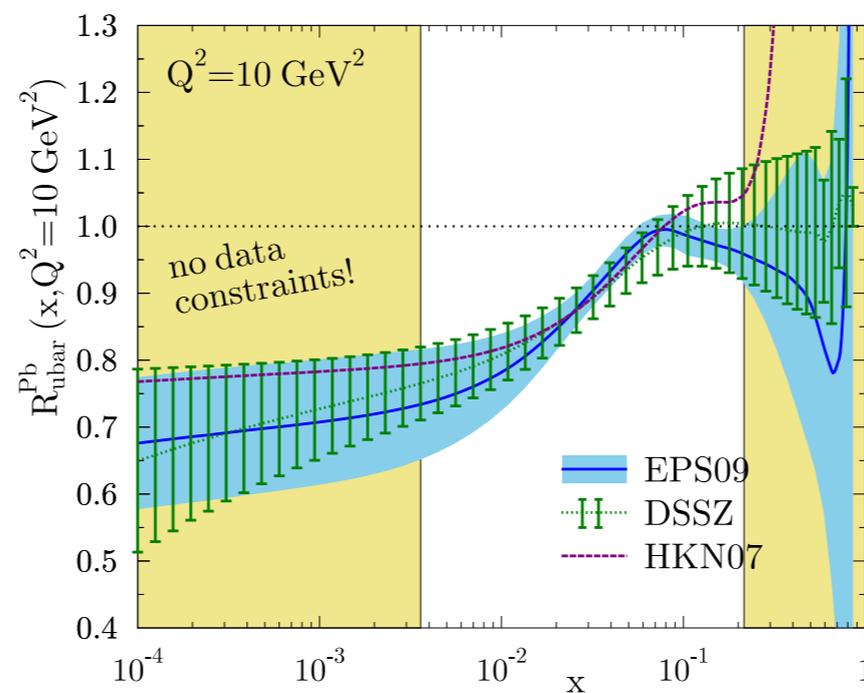
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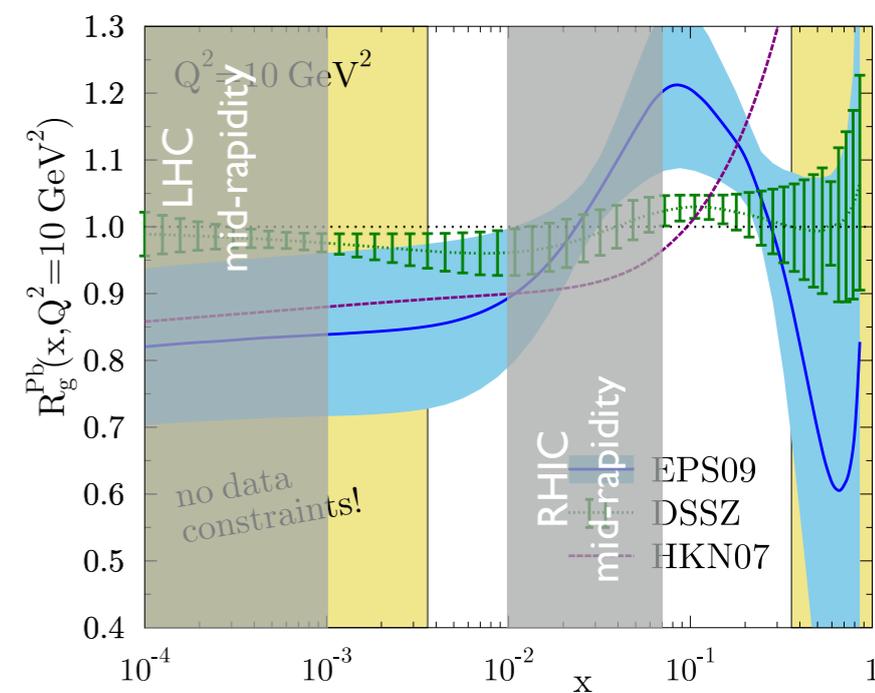
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Large discrepancies exist in the gluon distributions from models for mid-rapidity LHC and forward RHIC rapidities, even for  $Q^2 = 10 \text{ GeV}^2$

# Fundamental questions to be answered in e+A

Nucleus  
serves as:

- What is the fundamental quark-gluon structure of light and heavy nuclei?

Object of  
interest

- Can we experimentally find and explore a novel universal regime of strongly correlated QCD dynamics?

- What is the role of saturated strong gluon fields? What are the degrees of freedom in this strongly interacting regime?

Amplifier of  
physical  
phenomena

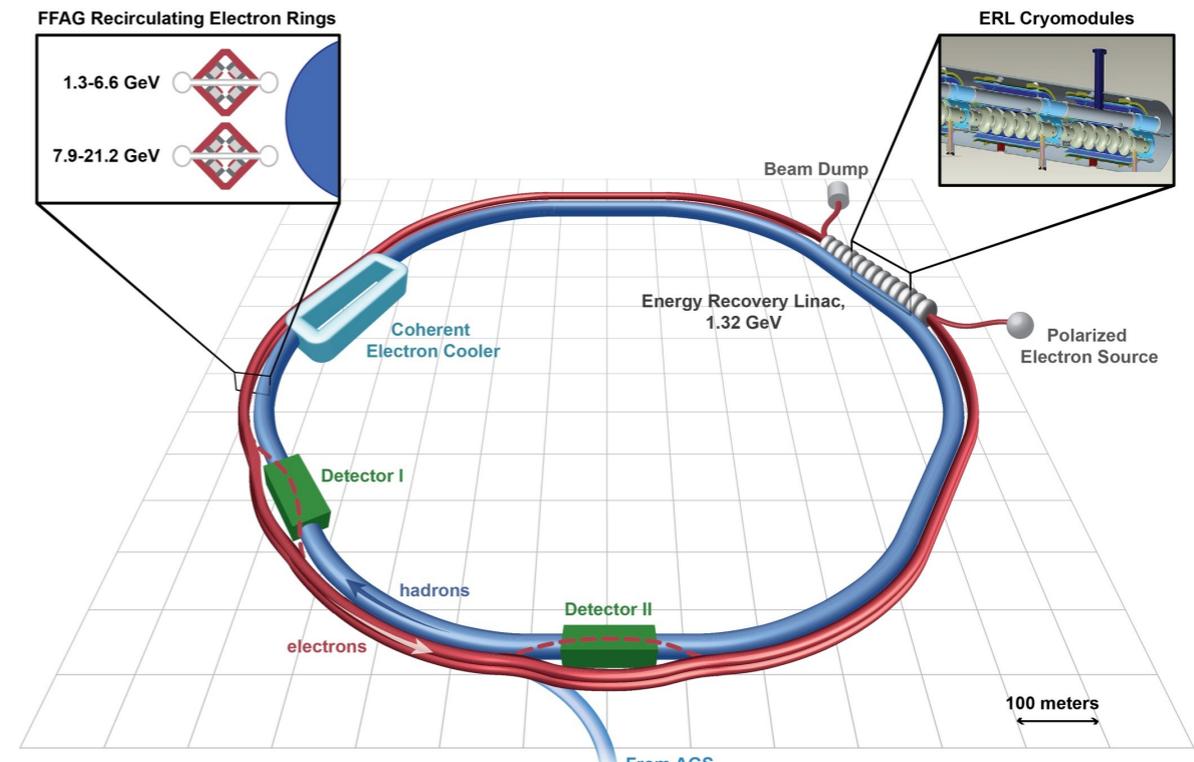
- Can the nuclear colour filter provide novel insight into propagation, attenuation and hadronization of coloured probes?

Analyzer of  
physical  
phenomena

# The realization of an Electron-Ion Collider

- eRHIC (BNL) [arXiv:1409.1633](https://arxiv.org/abs/1409.1633)

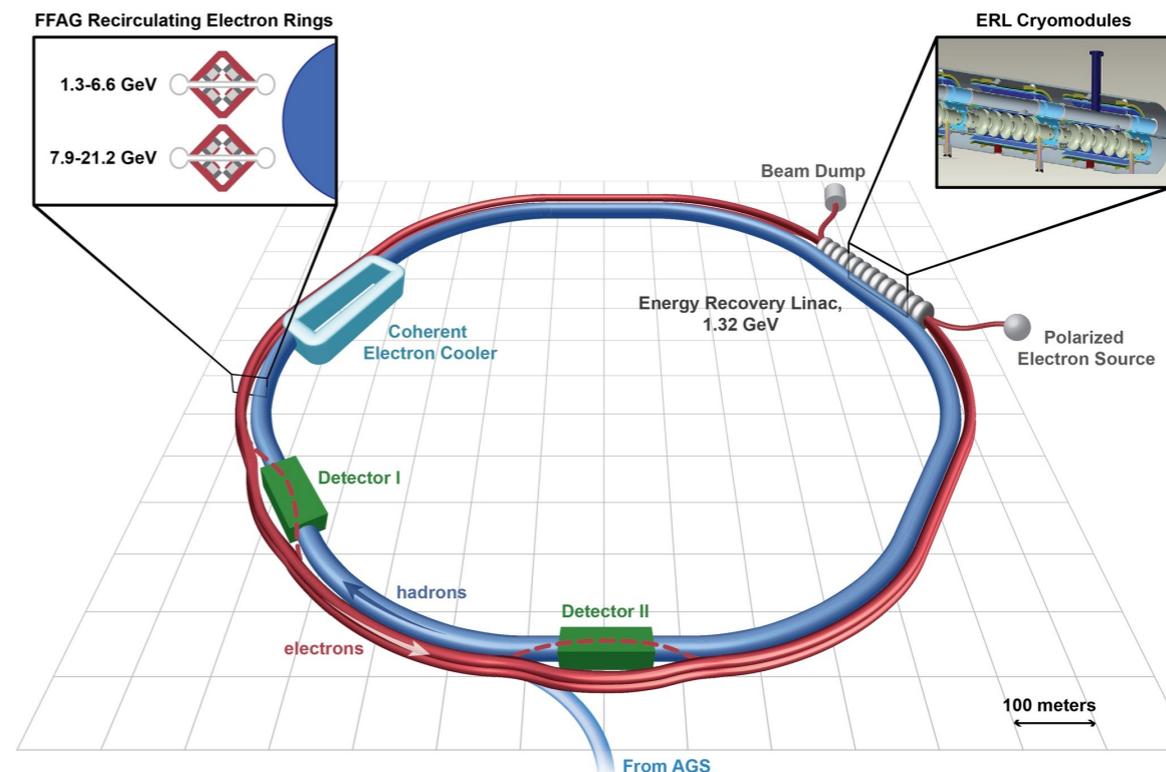
- Add ERL+FFAG recirculating e rings to RHIC facility
- Electrons: 6.3 → 15.9 & 21.2 GeV
- Ions: up to 100 GeV/A
- $\sqrt{s} \approx 20 \rightarrow 93$  GeV
- $L \approx 1.7 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} / \text{A}$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 80$  GeV



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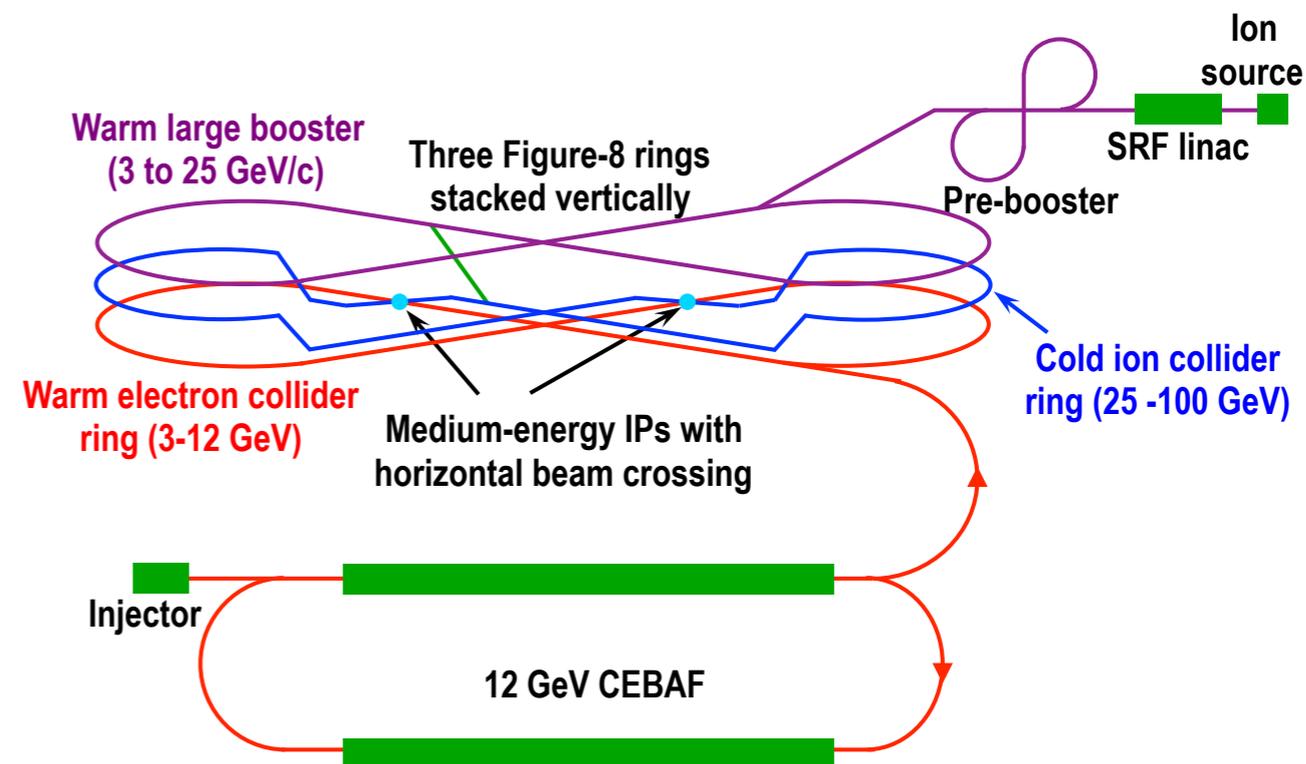
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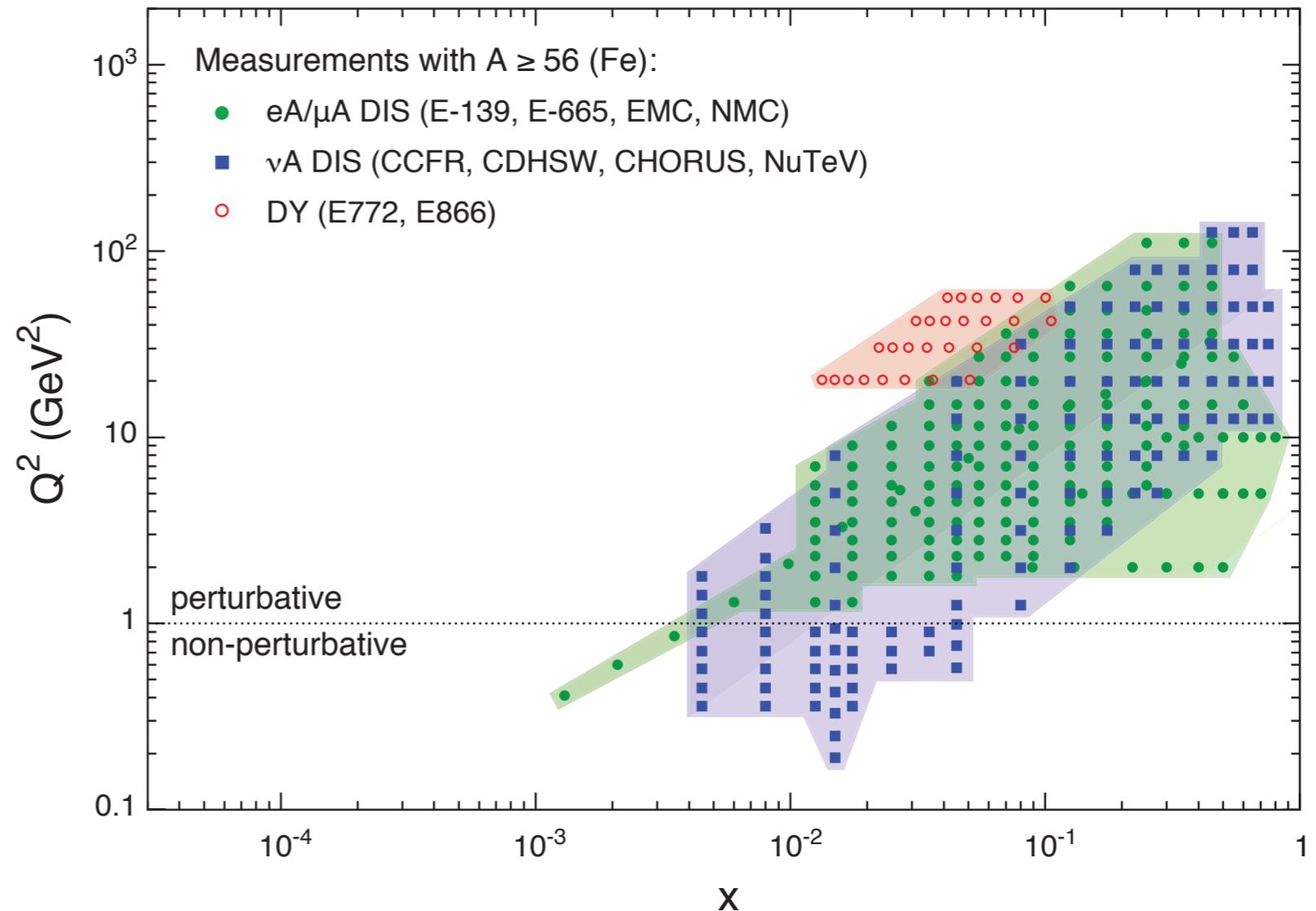
- **MEIC (JLAB)** [arXiv:1209.0757](https://arxiv.org/abs/1209.0757)

- Add a Figure-of-8 ring-ring collider to CEBAF
- Electrons: **3 → 12 GeV**
- Ions: **12 → 40 GeV/A**
- $\sqrt{s} \approx 11 \rightarrow 45 \text{ GeV}$
- $L \approx 2.4 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} / \text{A}$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 22 \text{ GeV}$



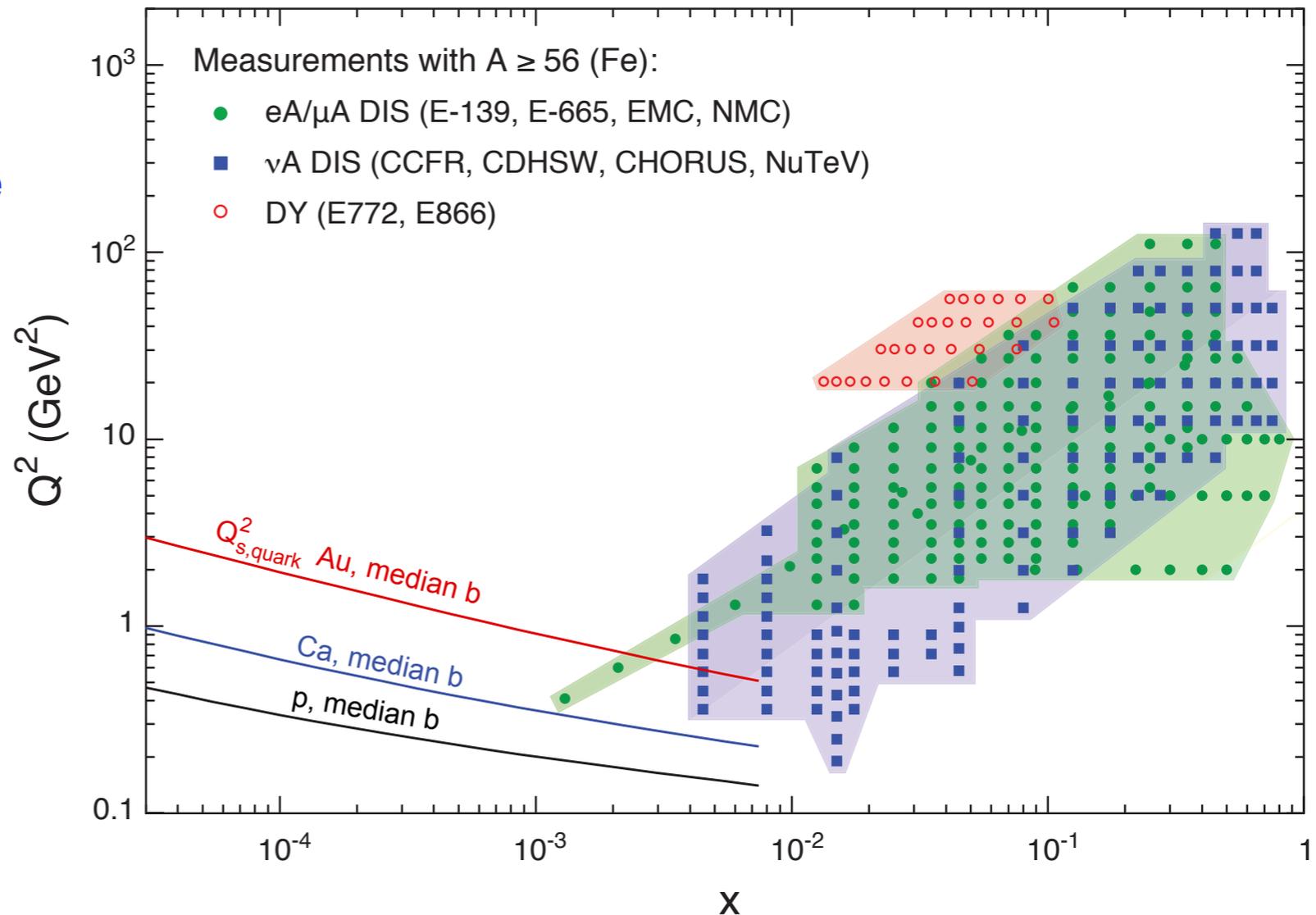
# The landscape of e+A collisions

- Existing data is sparse - typically low energy and low A
- Not a large coverage in  $(x, Q^2)$  phase-space (unlike e+p)



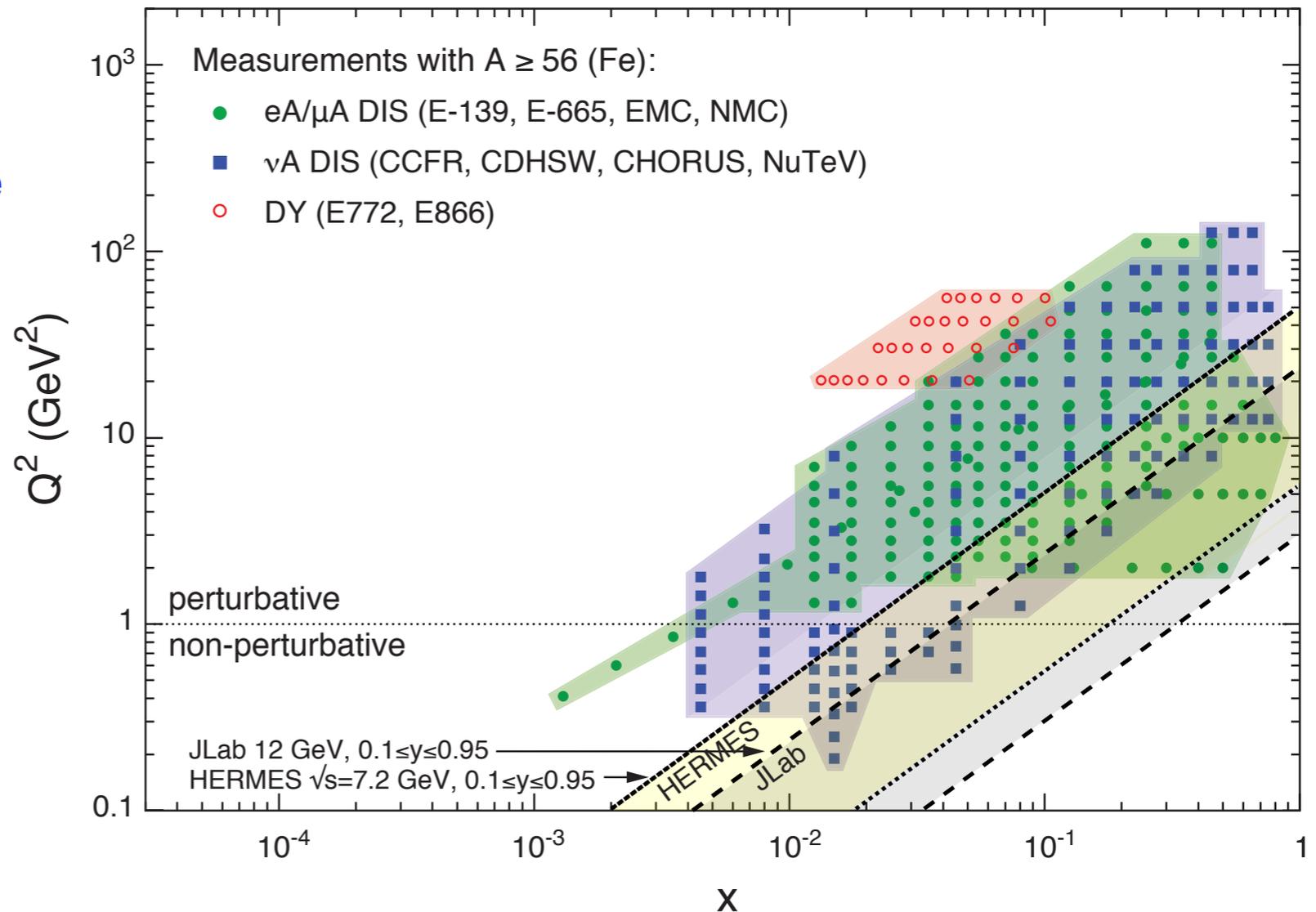
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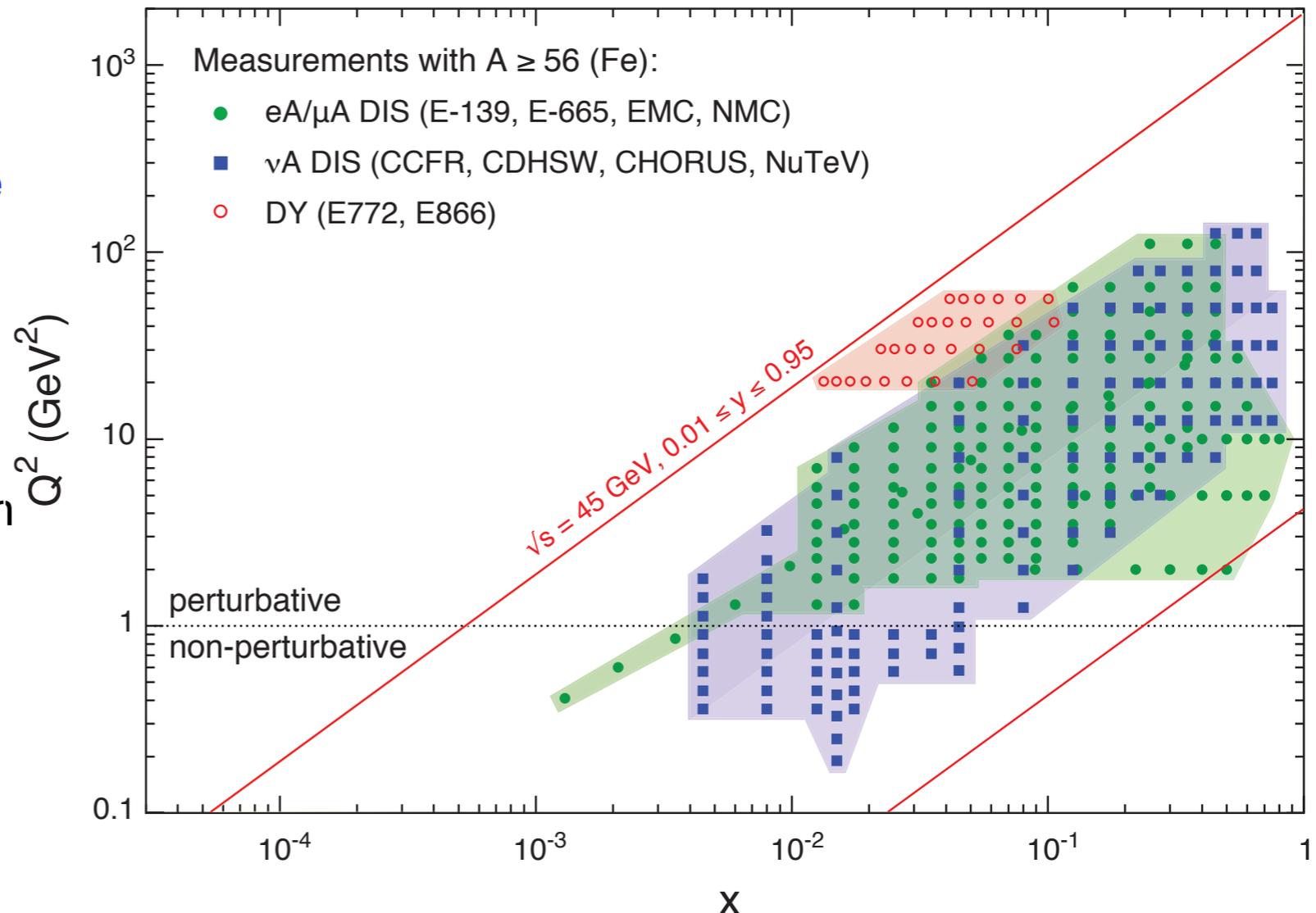
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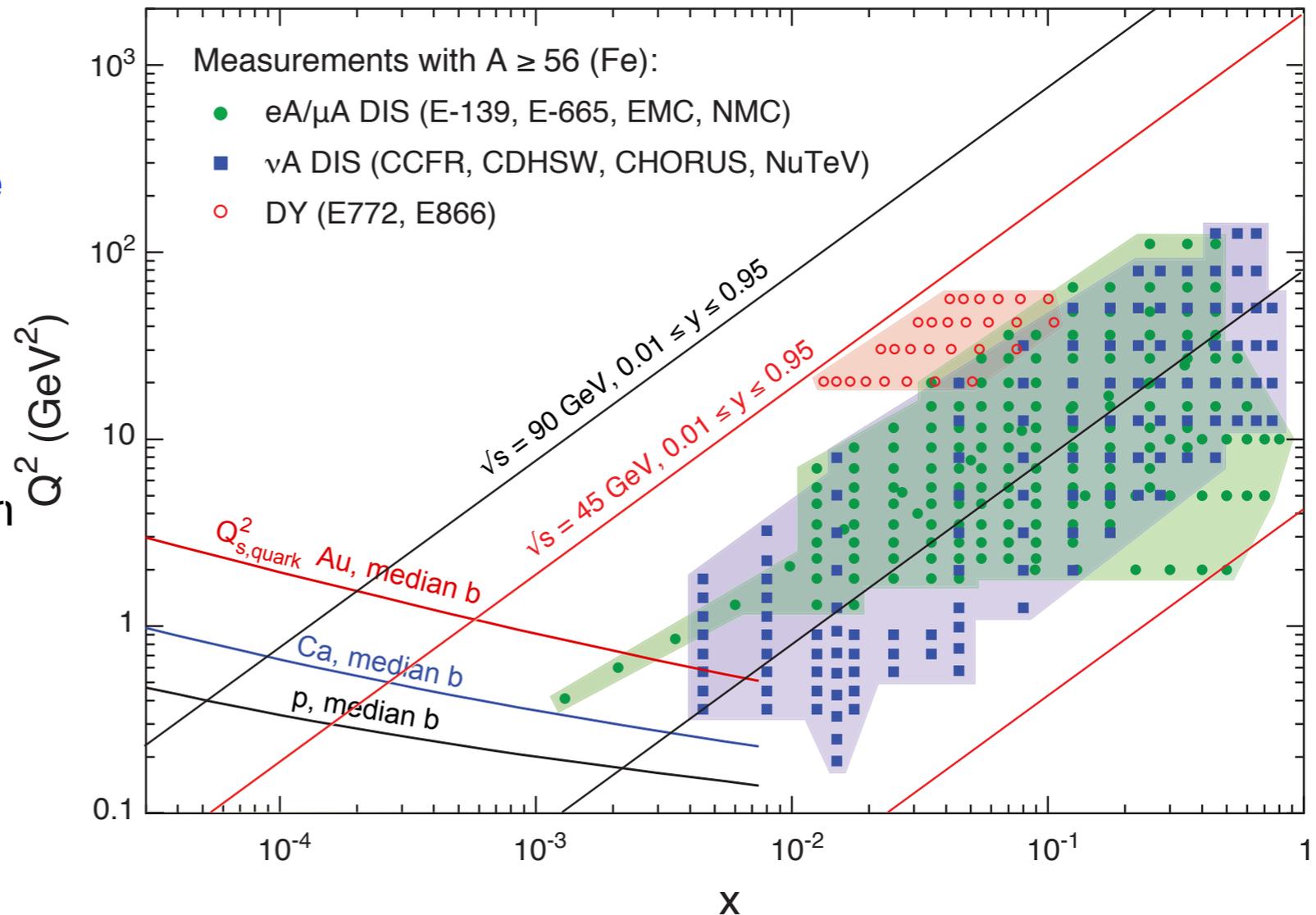
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  - A low-energy EIC, with  $\sqrt{s}=45$  GeV/A (e.g. 5x100 GeV) goes some way to this whilst also maintaining the ability to study high-x phenomena
  - However, we really need higher energies to explore low-x in detail e.g. 20x100 GeV  $\rightarrow \sqrt{s} = 90$  GeV/A



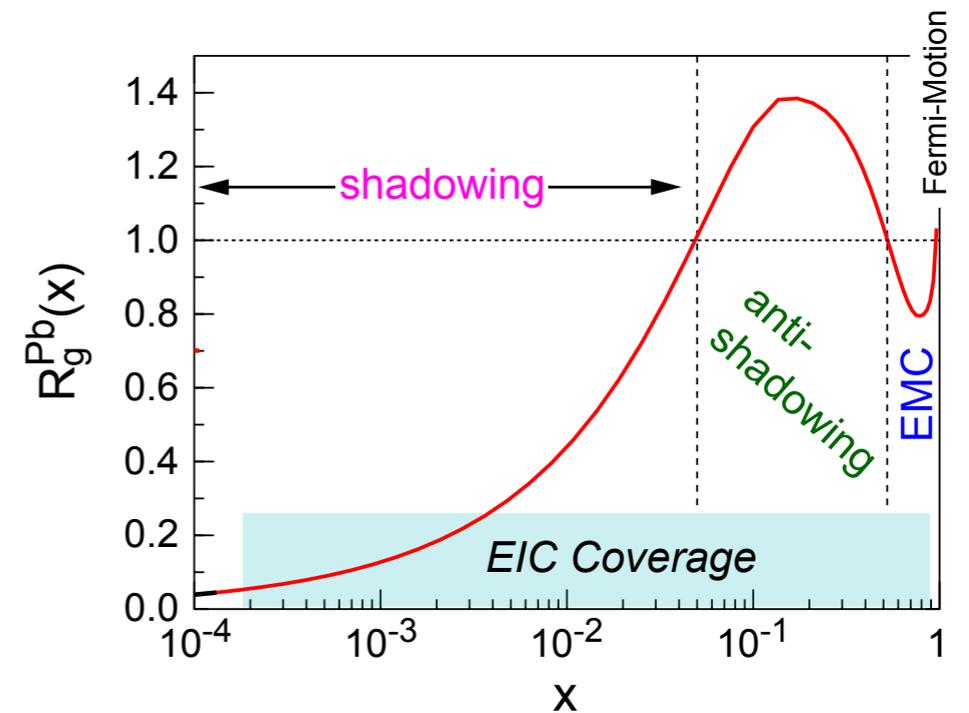
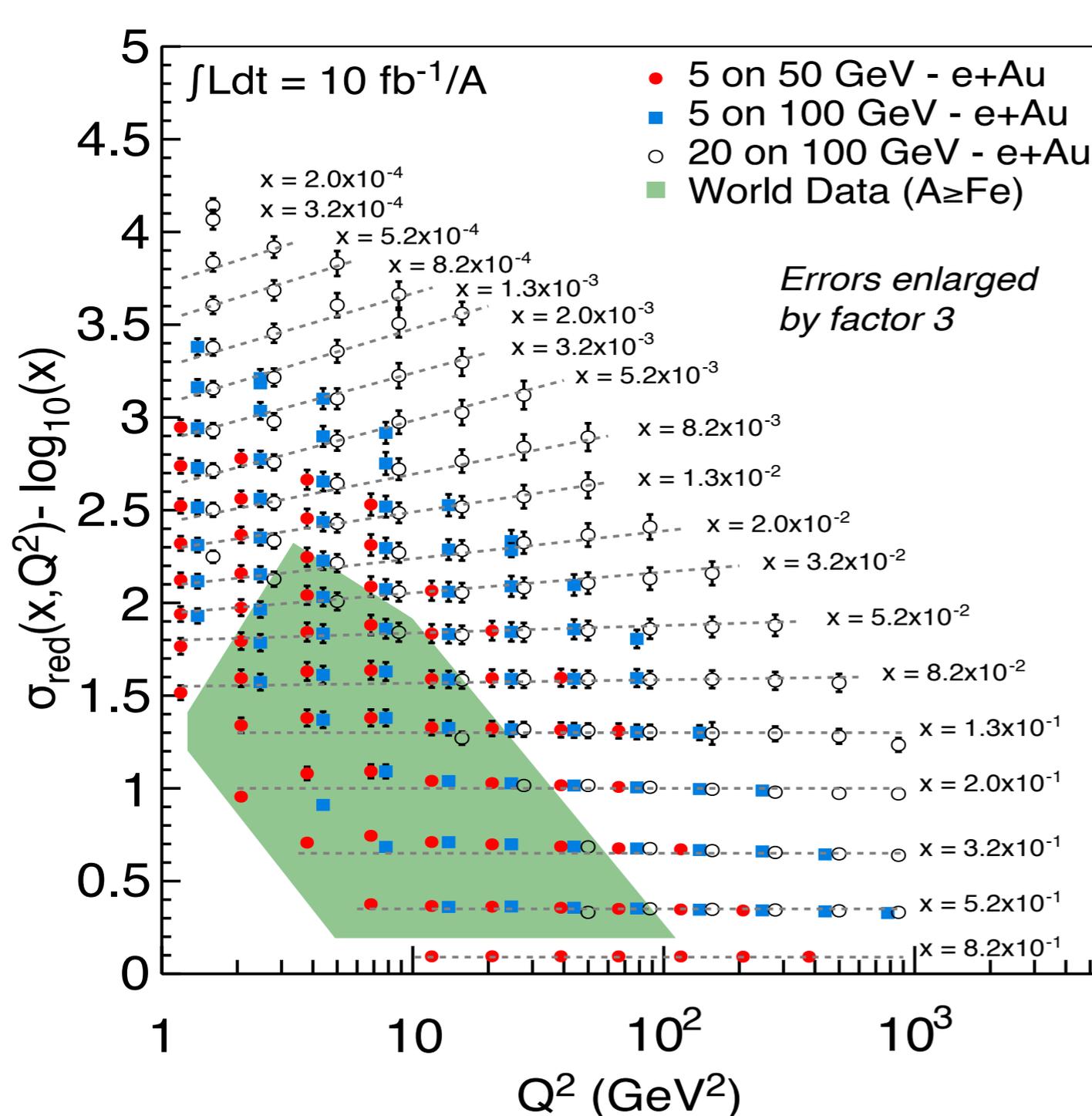
# Inclusive nDIS - Structure functions $F_2^A$ and $F_L^A$

$$\sigma_r = \left( \frac{d^2\sigma}{dx dQ^2} \right) \frac{xQ^4}{2\pi\alpha^2[1 + (1 - y)^2]} = F_2(x, Q^2) - \frac{y^2}{1 + (1 - y)^2} F_L(x, Q^2)$$

- The reduced cross-section can be written in terms of structure functions:
- $F_2(x, Q^2)$ : A measure of the momentum distribution of quarks and anti-quarks
- $F_L(x, Q^2)$ : A measure of the momentum distribution of gluons
- $F_2(x, Q^2)$  and  $F_L(x, Q^2)$  are benchmark measurements - theory/models have to be able to describe the structure functions and their evolution

# Inclusive nDIS - Structure functions $F_2^A$ and $F_L^A$

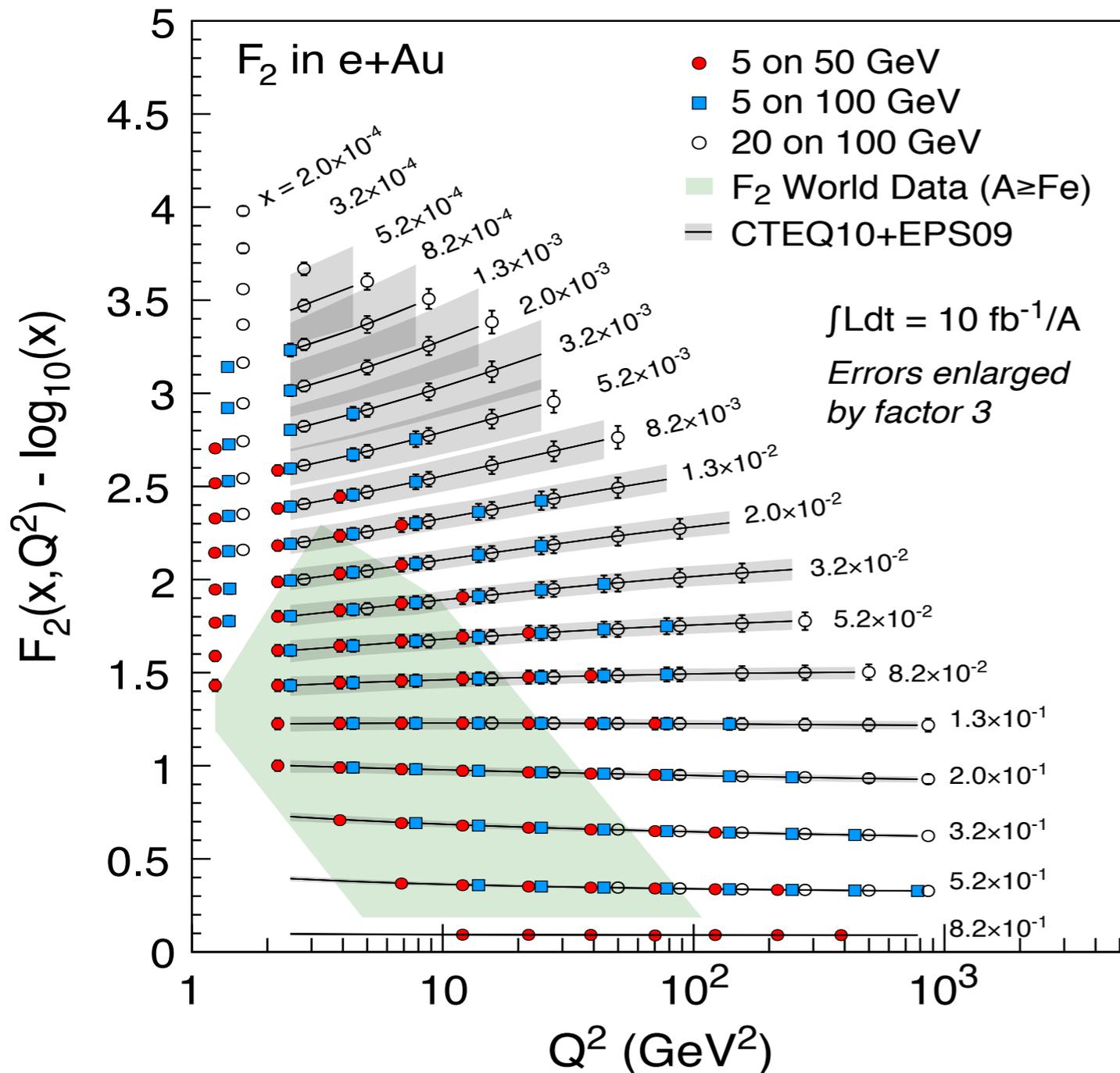
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- Use Pythia + EPS09 to generate data
- Generate  $10^7$  events, then scale to  $10 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ 
  - Statistical uncertainty is negligible
- Assume a **realistic 3% systematic uncertainty**
- Points offset in  $Q^2$  for different energies for visibility

# Inclusive nDIS - $F_2^A$ Structure Function

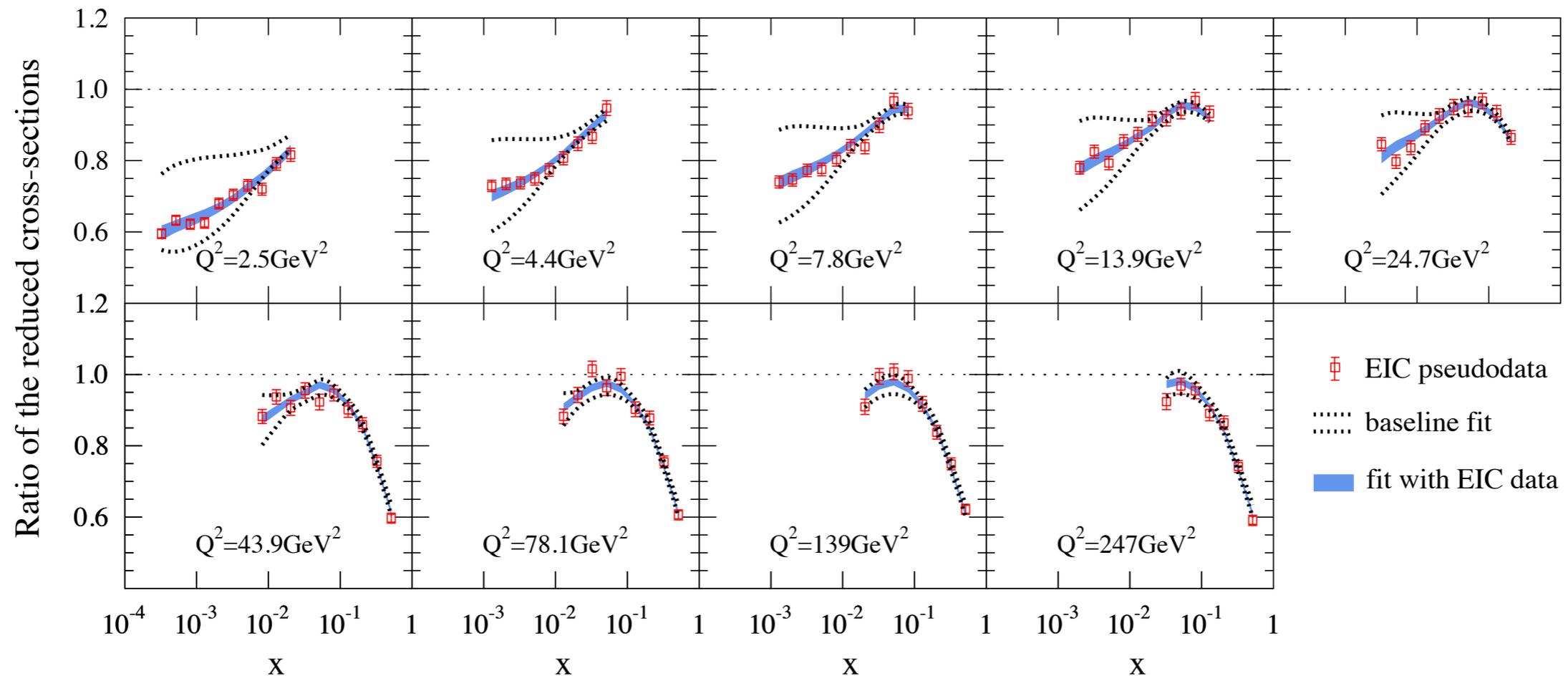
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- Use HERMES method to calculate  $F_2$  from  $\sigma_r$
- The pseudo-data is scaled to the EPS09 calculation
  - Errors on pseudo-data and EPS09 are scaled for visibility
- At higher  $x$ , uncertainties on EPS09 and pseudo-data are negligible
- At smaller  $x$ , pseudo-data uncertainties are much smaller than EPS09

# Effect of EIC psuedo-data on EPS09

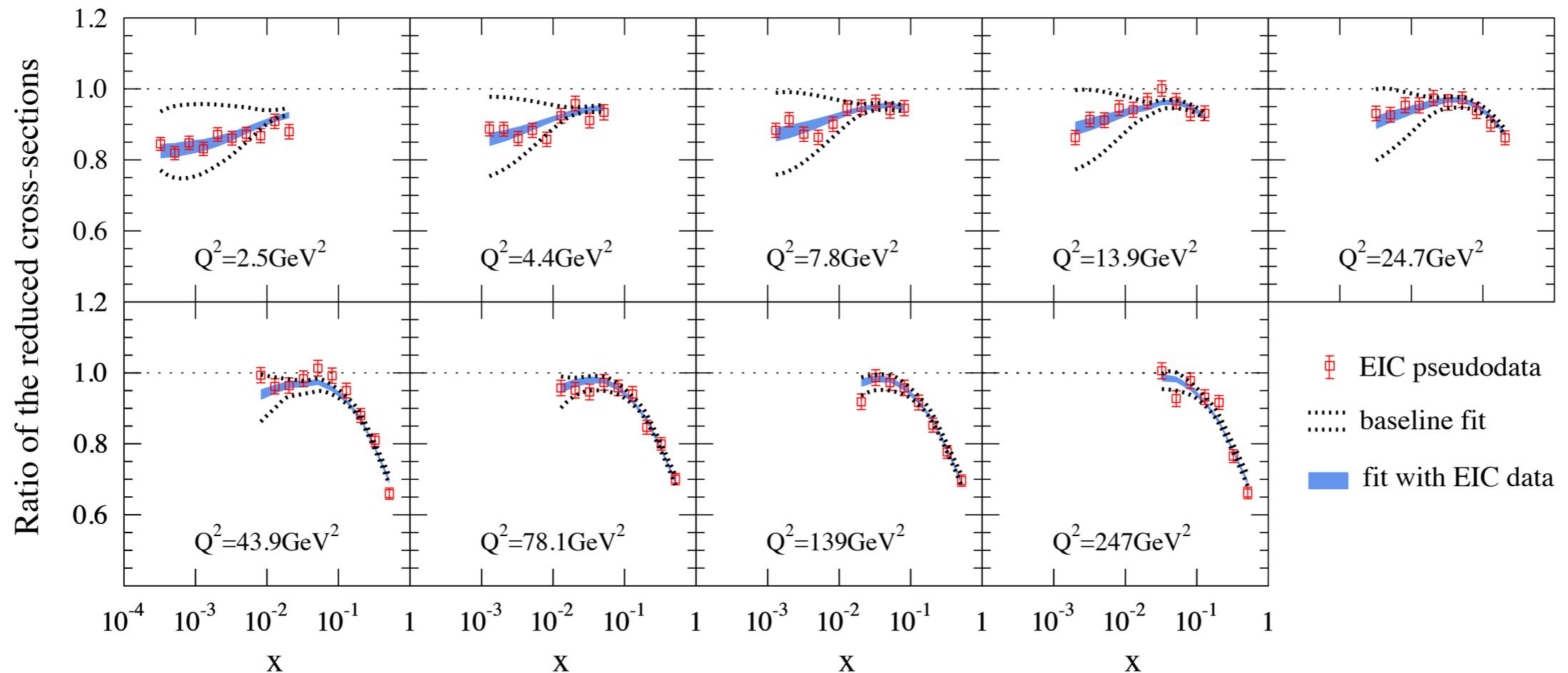
eAu/ep 20+100GeV



- Ratio of reduced cross-sections,  $e+Au/e+p$
- Large reduction in the cross-sections at low- $Q^2$ 
  - low- $x$  and low- $Q^2$  is dominated by gluons and sea-quarks
- High- $Q^2$  is well constrained with existing data

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  - low- $x$  and low- $Q^2$  is dominated by gluons and sea-quarks
- High- $Q^2$  is well constrained with existing data
- The  $A$ -dependence of eRHIC allows us to constrain smaller nuclei such as Carbon, which has uncertainties almost as large as Au!

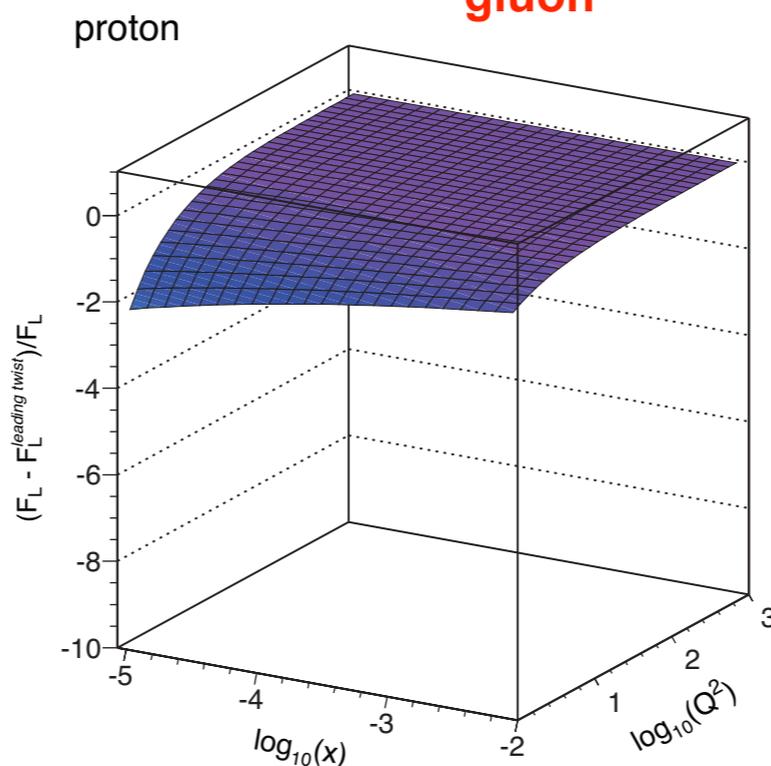
# Saturation effects in the proton and nucleus

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{eA \rightarrow eX}}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{xQ^4} \left[ \left(1 - y + \frac{y^2}{2}\right) F_2(x, Q^2) - \frac{y^2}{2} F_L(x, Q^2) \right]$$

quark+anti-quark gluon

Measure of non-linear effects in the  $F_L$  structure function

Dipole model (J. Bartels *et al.*)



- Plotting this distribution coming out of saturation inspired GBW model
  - p: small effect only starting to come in at small-x and small  $Q^2$

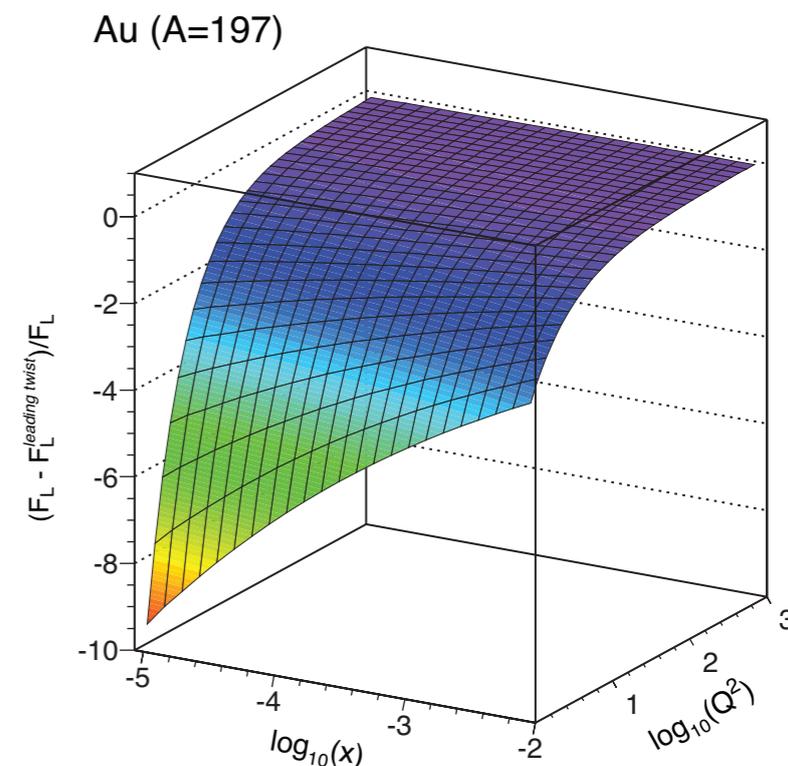
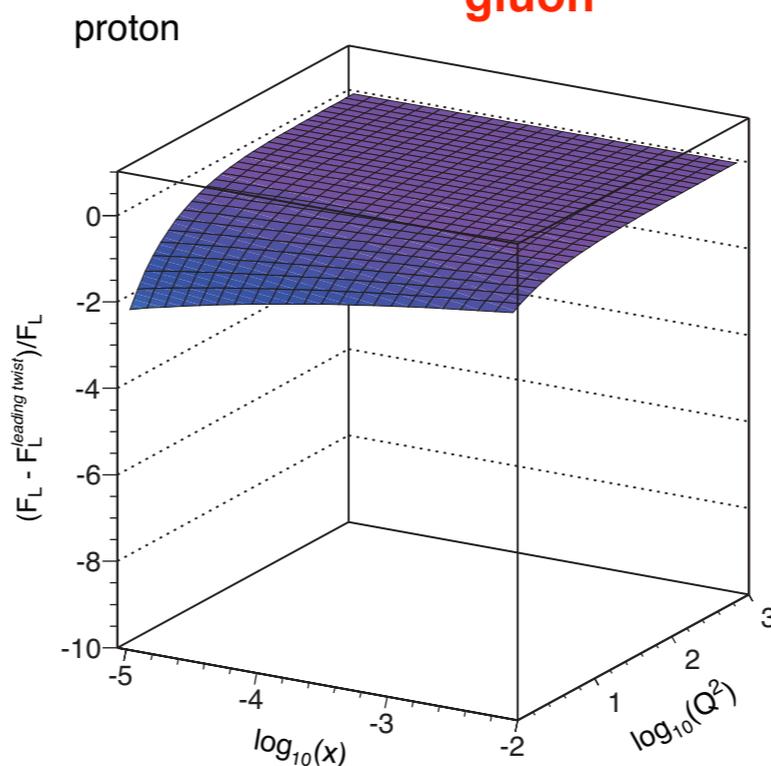
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- Au: much larger effects are visible

- nuclear “oomph” effects well manifested in the  $F_L$  structure function

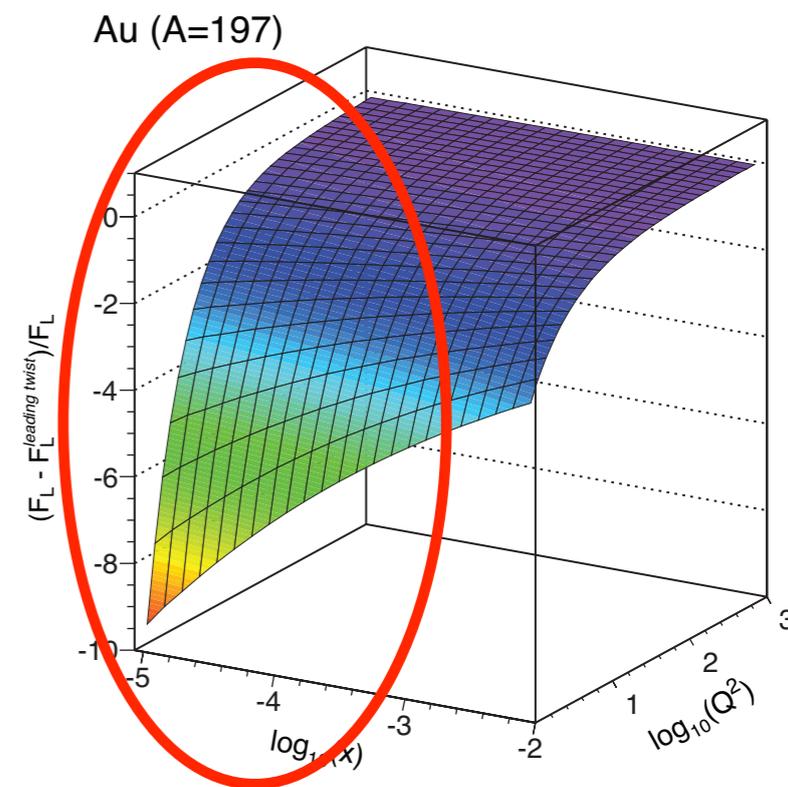
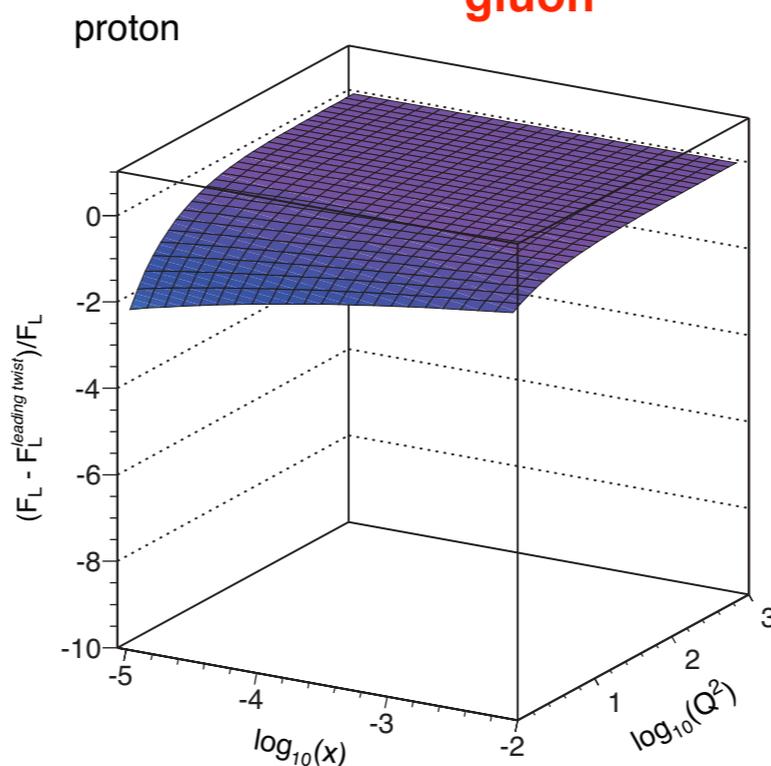
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# Feasibility study:

$$\sigma_r(x, Q^2) = F_2^A(x, Q^2) - \frac{y^2}{Y_+} F_L^A(x, Q^2)$$

$Q^2 = 1.389 \text{ GeV}^2$

## Strategies:

slope of  $y^2/Y_+$  for different  $s$  at fixed  $x$  &  $Q^2$

## e+Au:

20x50 -  $A \int L dt = 2 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

20x75 -  $A \int L dt = 4 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

20x100 -  $A \int L dt = 4 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

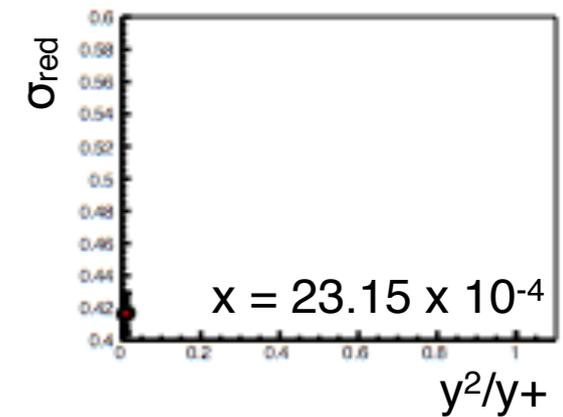
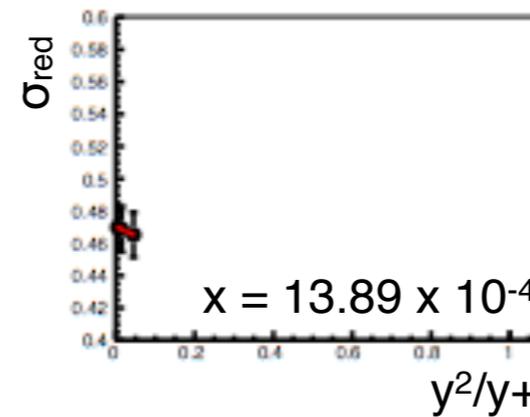
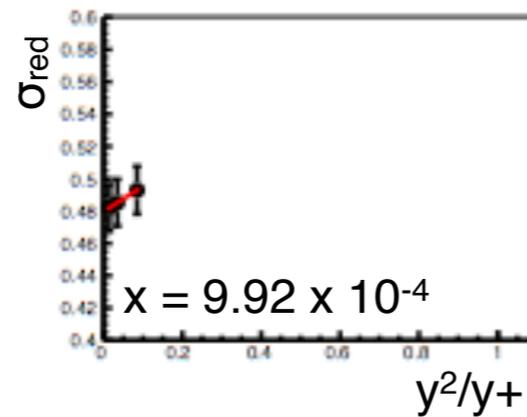
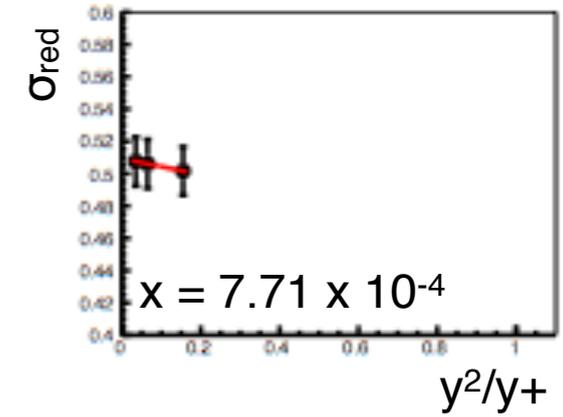
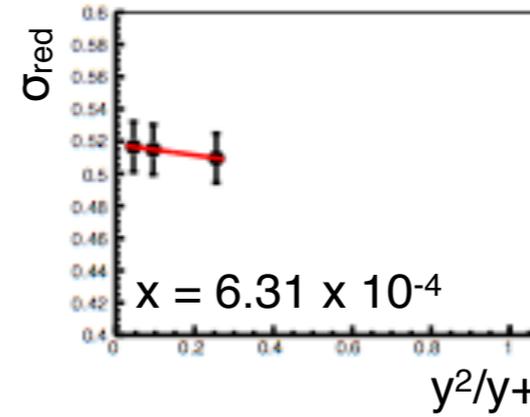
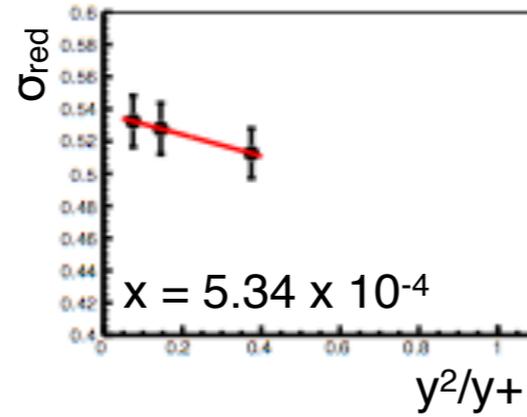
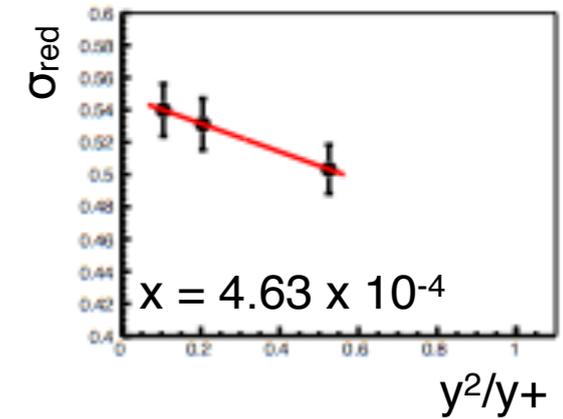
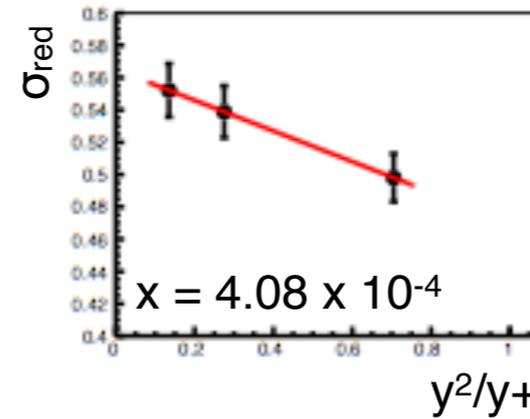
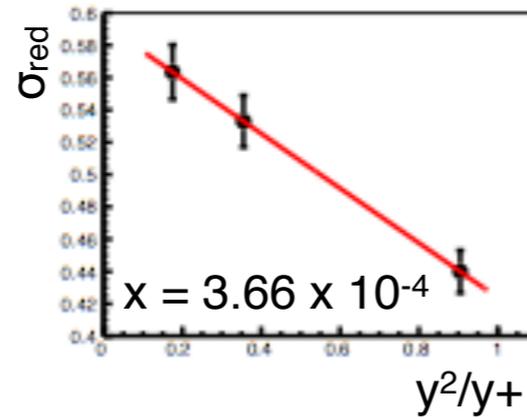
running combined

~6 months total running

(50% eff)

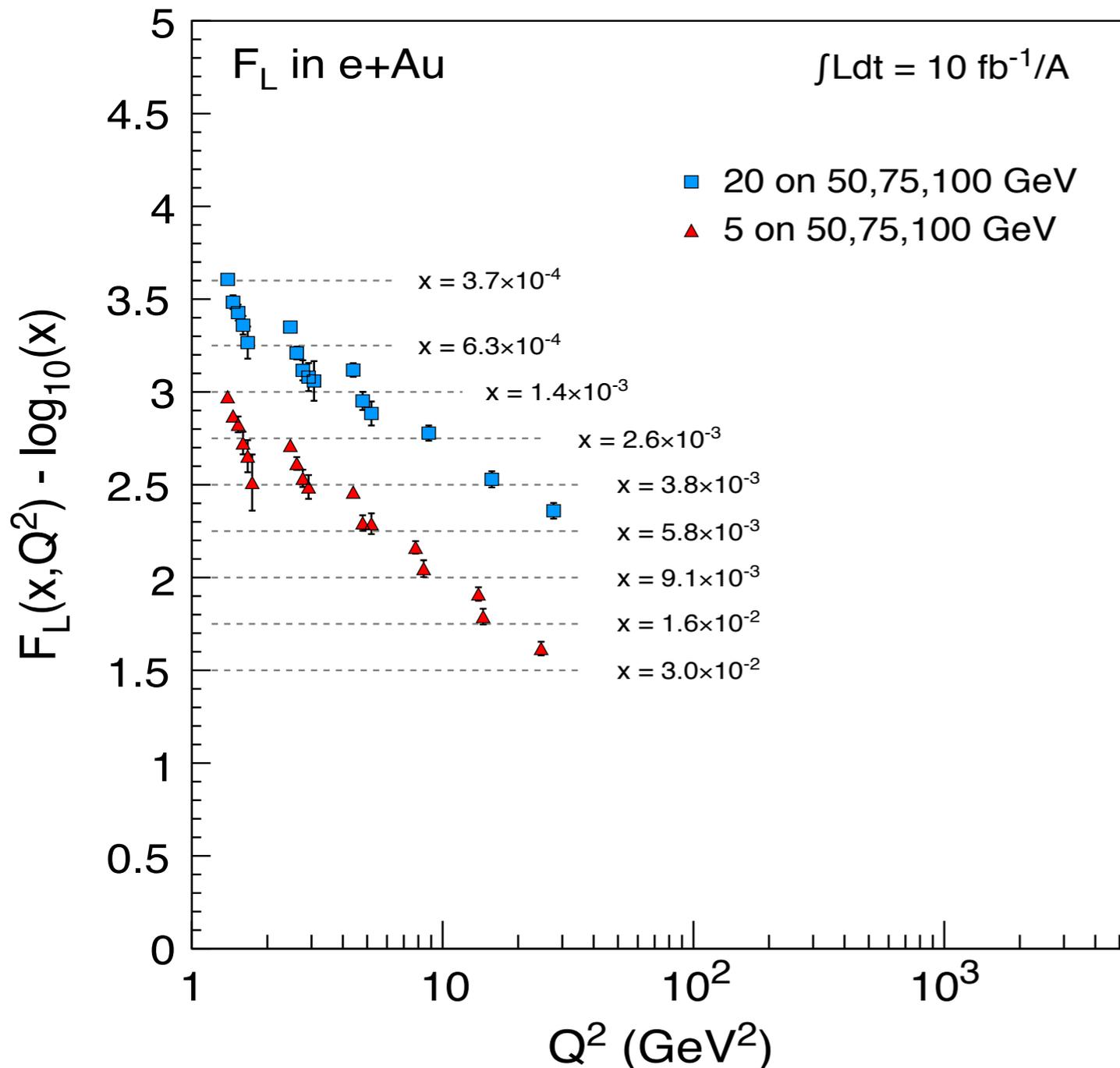
statistical errors are swamped by the 3% systematic errors

Will be dominated by systematics, but would need a full detector simulation in order to estimate them



# Inclusive nDIS - $F_L^A$ Structure Function

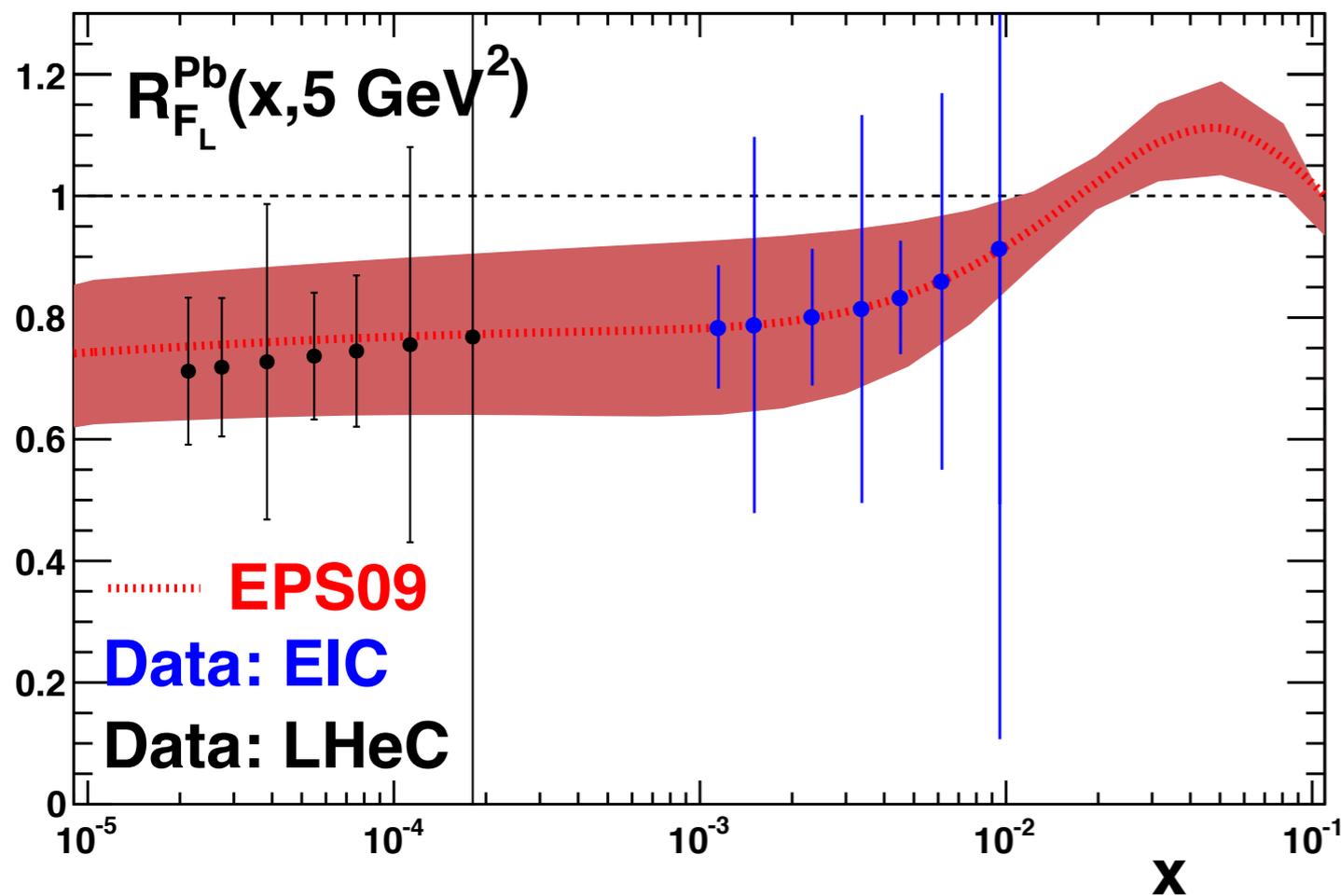
$$\sigma_r = \left( \frac{d^2\sigma}{dx dQ^2} \right) \frac{xQ^4}{2\pi\alpha^2 [1 + (1-y)^2]} = F_2(x, Q^2) - \frac{y^2}{1 + (1-y)^2} F_L(x, Q^2)$$



- The measurement of  $F_L$  however is a different beast
- Require data from 3 different energies in each  $x, Q^2$  bin
  - Use Rosenbluth Separation technique to extract  $F_L$
- Much larger uncertainties and much smaller acceptance than the  $F_2$  measurement

# Inclusive nDIS - $F_L^A$ Structure Function

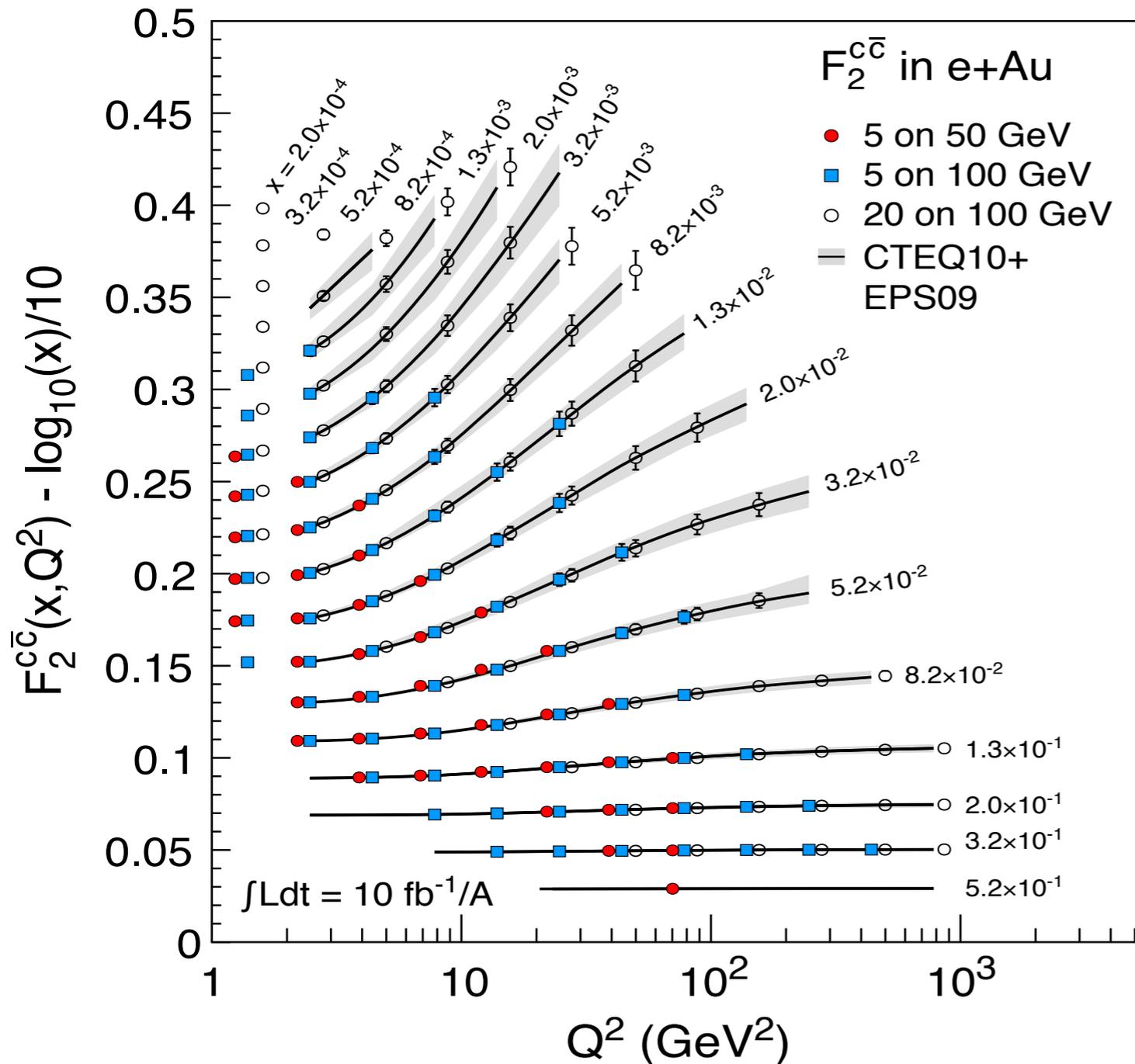
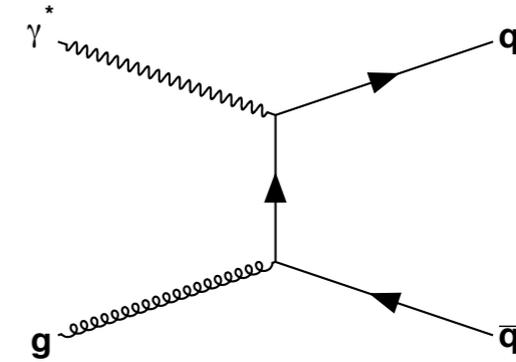
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- Much larger uncertainties and much smaller acceptance than the  $F_2$  measurement
- Good complementarity with  $F_L$  measurement at LHeC
  - Both measurements are limited by their uncertainties and  $\sigma_r$  is the best way to constrain the nuclear PDFs

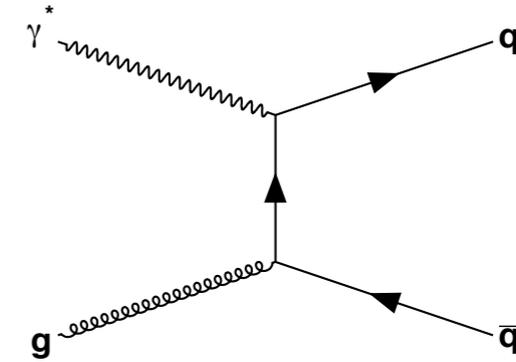
Plot taken from LHeC CDR,  
courtesy of N. Armesto

# Inclusive nDIS - $F_2^{c,A}$ Structure Function



- $F_2^c$  only driven by photon-gluon fusion (PGF)
- As  $F_L$  is a difficult measurement,  $F_2^c$  may be the way forward
  - Larger uncertainties than  $F_2$  but smaller than  $F_L$
  - Statistics are not an issue
- At low  $x$ , uncertainties are smaller than EPS09
  - Will provide some constraints. How much needs to be evaluated

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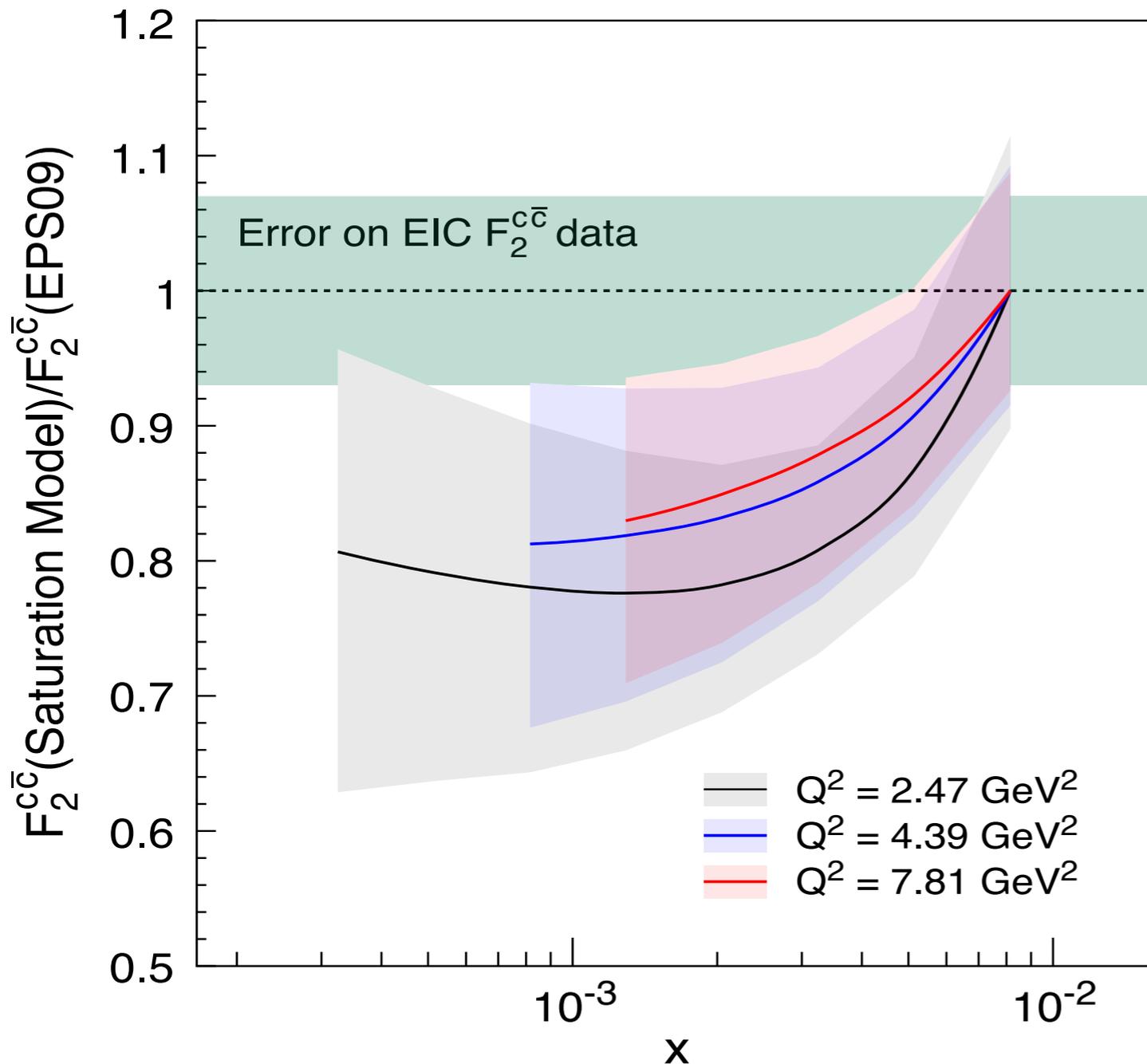
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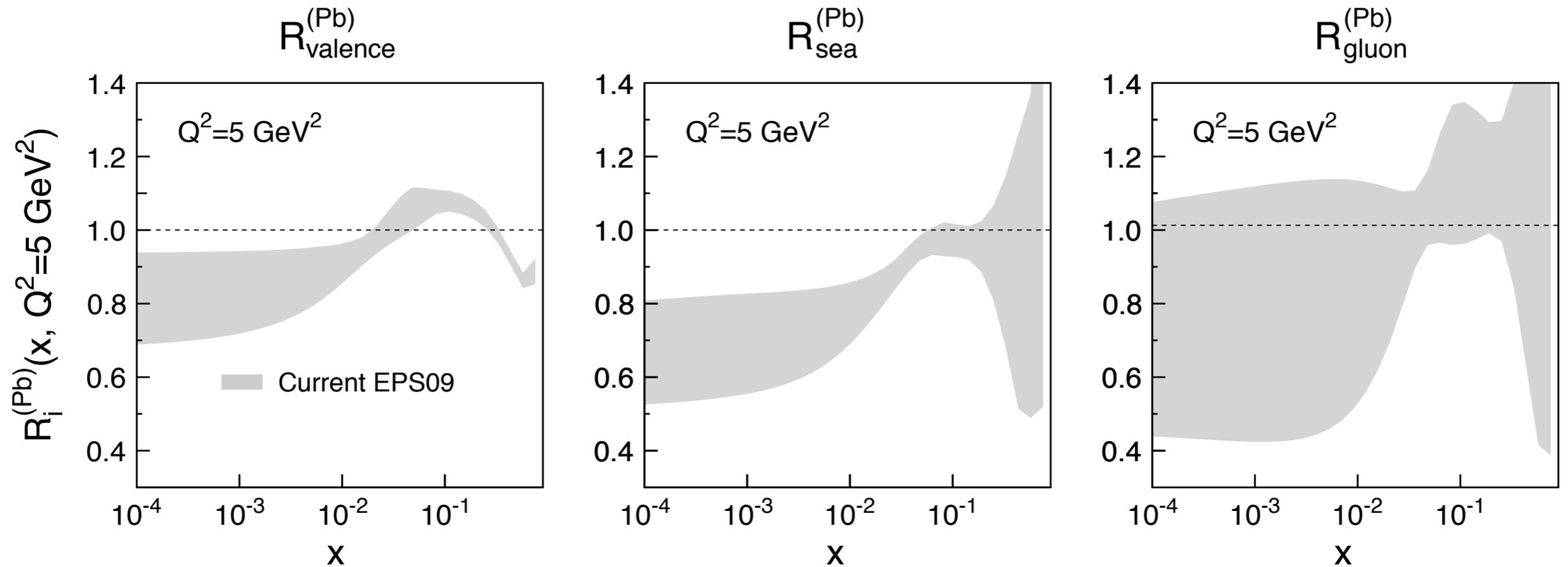
→ Will provide some constraints. How much needs to be evaluated

- Can provide access to differences between models

→ Ratio of rcBK to EPS09 shows the possible discriminatory power of this measurement

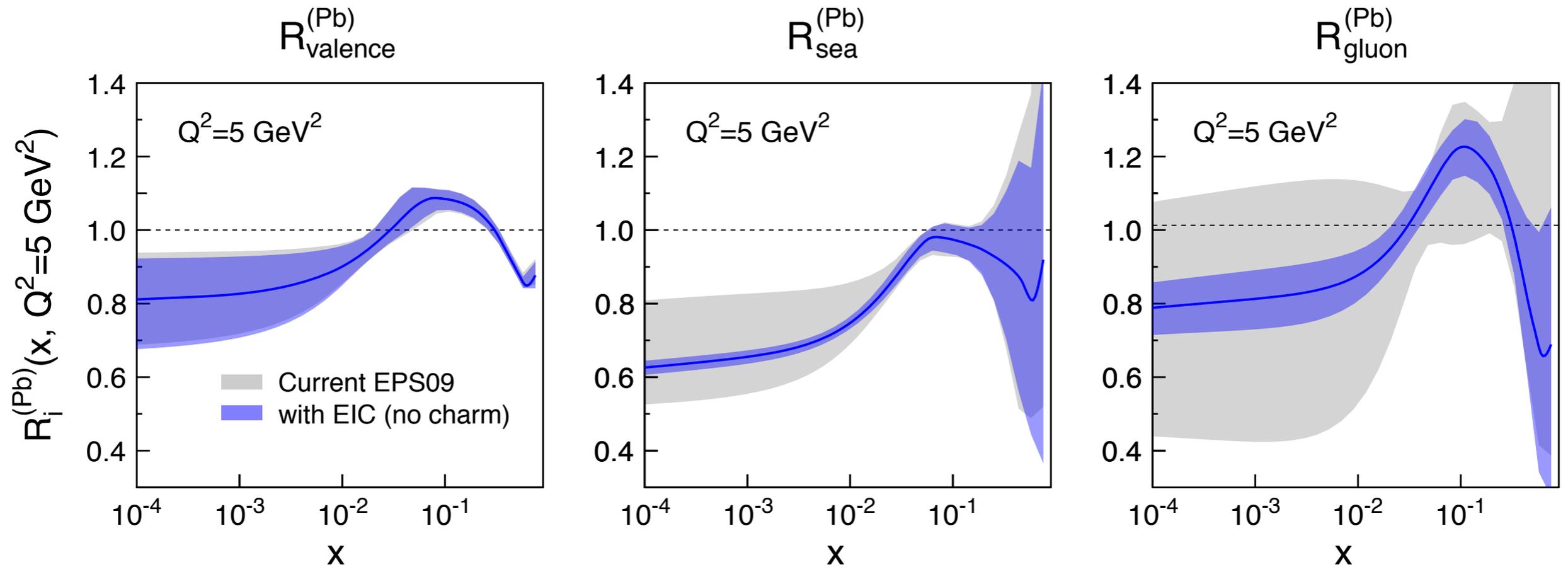


# Effect of EIC pseudo-data on EPS09 fits



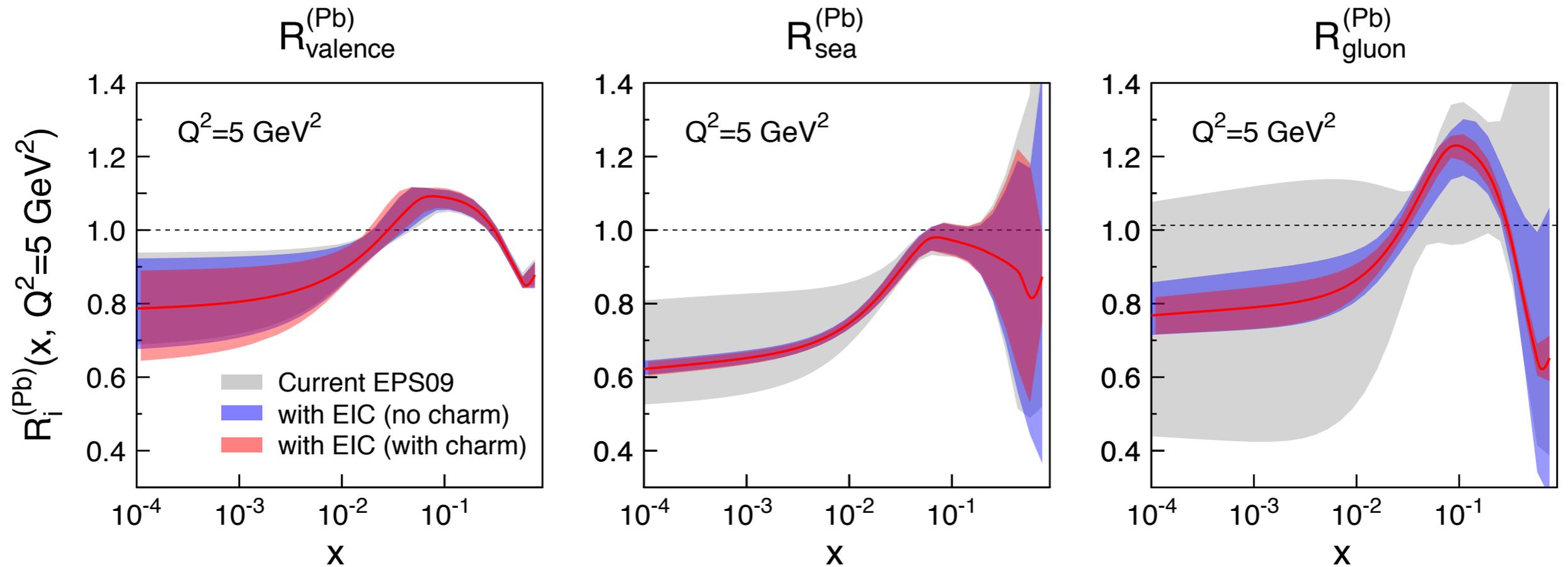
- Ratio of reduced cross-sections,  $e+\text{Au}/e+p$
- Without EIC pseudo-data, large uncertainties, especially for sea quarks and gluons

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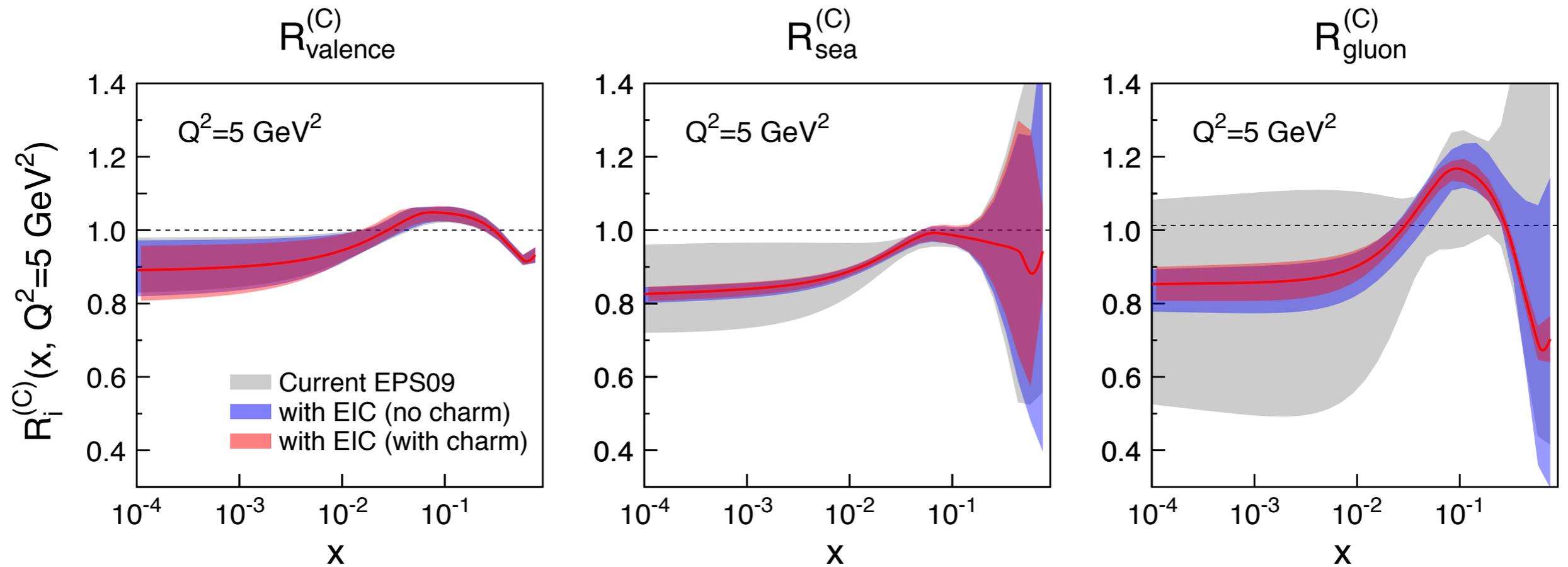
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- Fitting the charm pseudo-data has a dramatic effect at high- $x$ 
  - Something the LHC, for example, will not be able to address

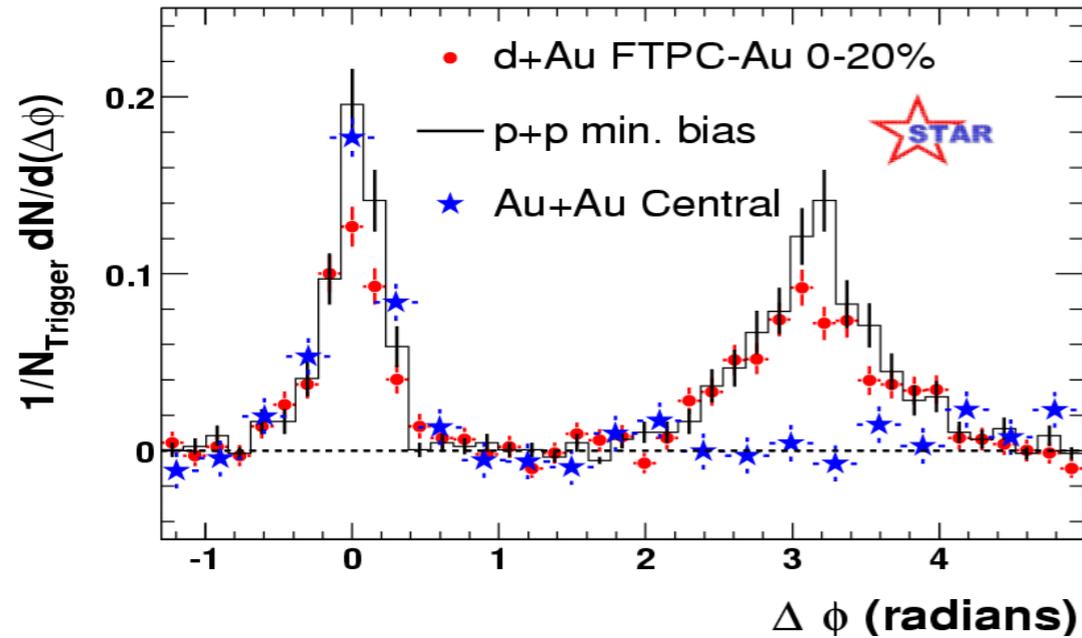
# Effect of EIC pseudo-data on EPS09 fits



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# di-hadron angular correlations in d+A

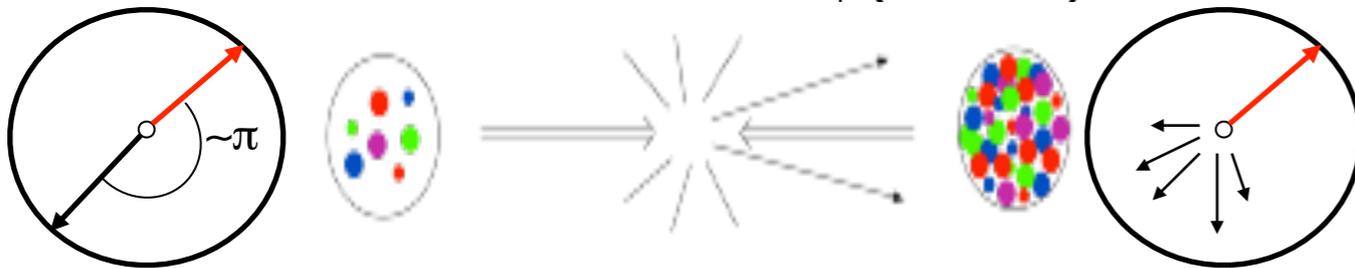
comparisons between d+Au  $\rightarrow h_1 h_2 X$  (or p +Au  $\rightarrow h_1 h_2 X$ ) and p+p  $\rightarrow h_1 h_2 X$



- At  $y=0$ , suppression of away-side jet is observed in A+A collisions
- No suppression in p+p or d+A

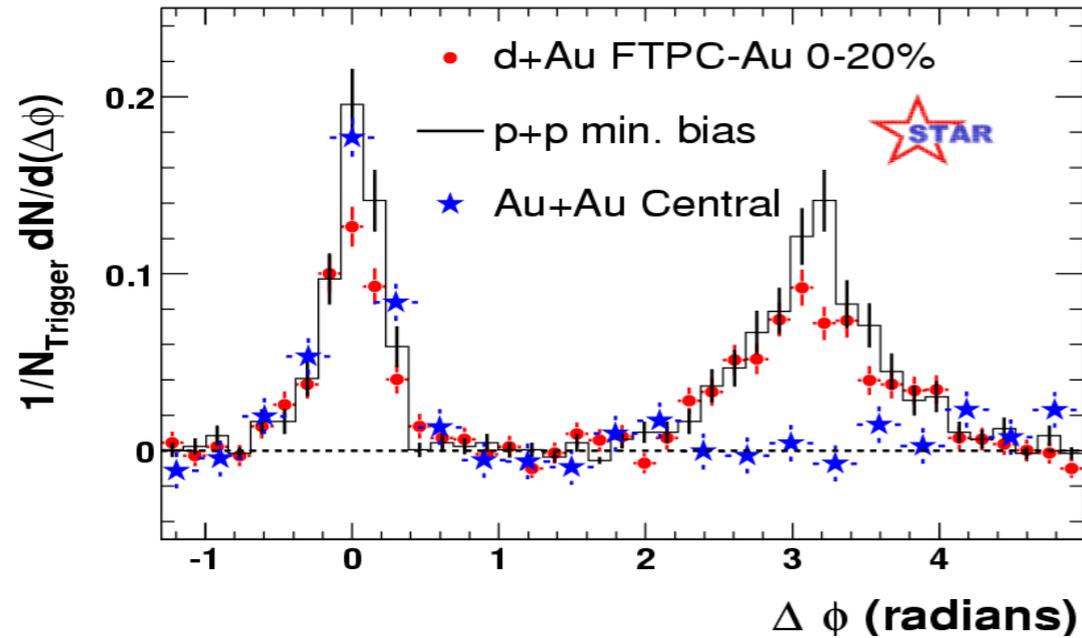
$\rightarrow x \sim 10^{-2}$

$$x_A = \frac{k_1 e^{-y_1} + k_2 e^{-y_2}}{\sqrt{s}} \ll 1$$



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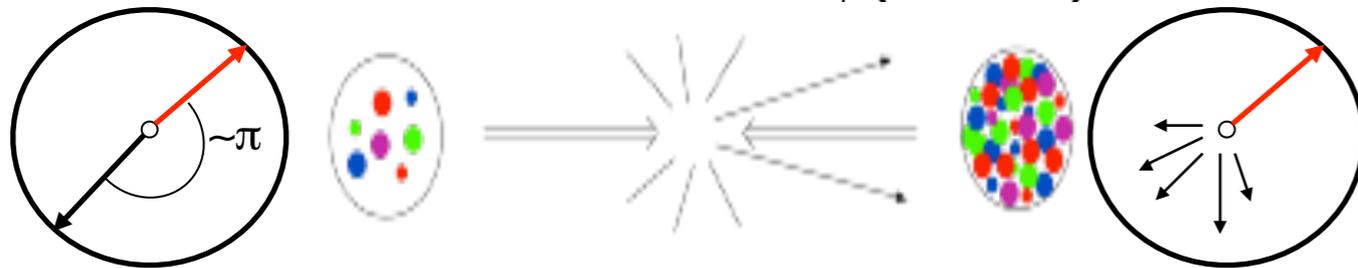


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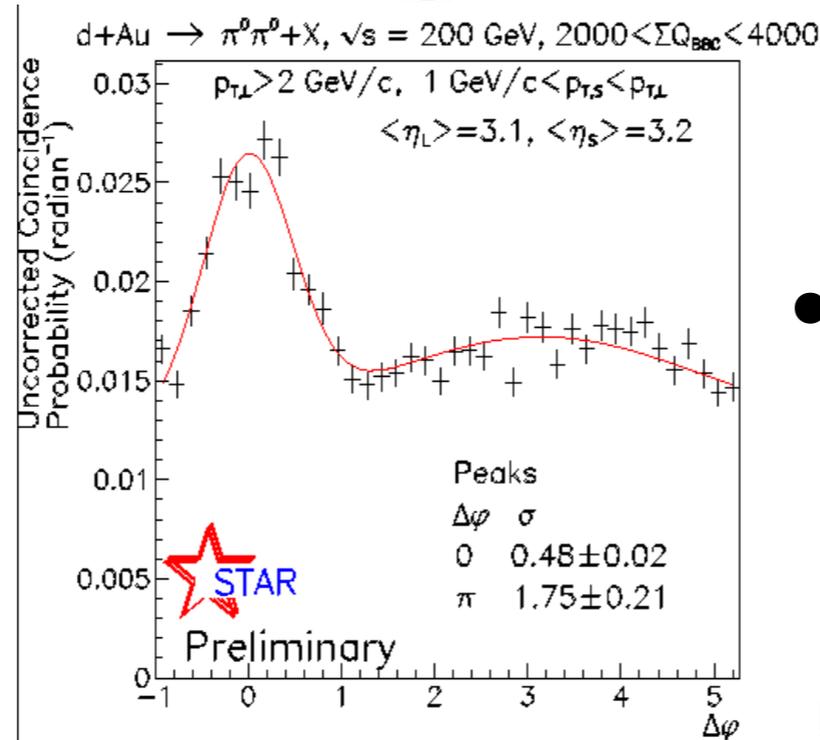
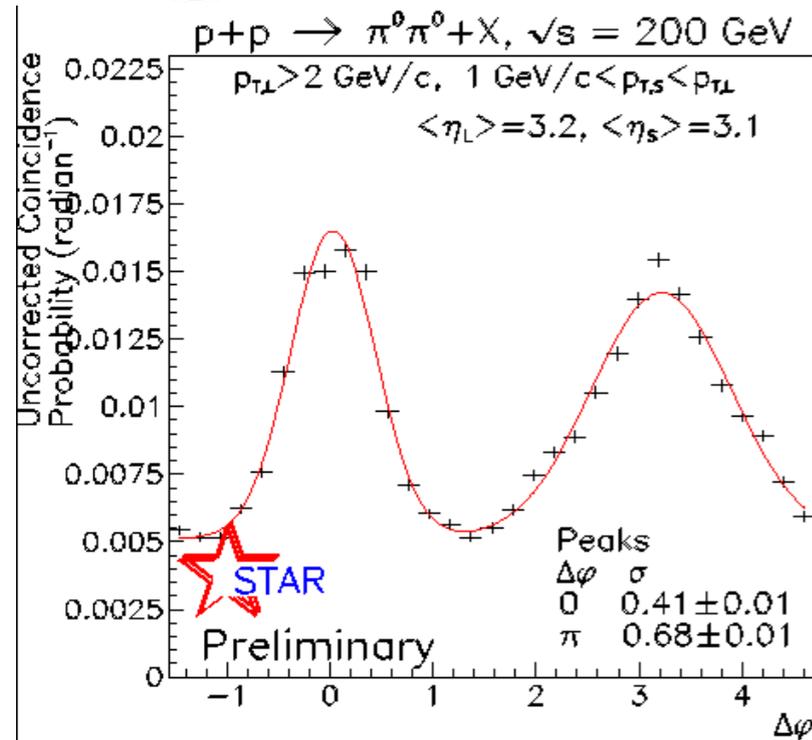
$$x_A = \frac{k_1 e^{-y_1} + k_2 e^{-y_2}}{\sqrt{s}} \ll 1$$



- However, at forward rapidities ( $y \sim 3.1$ ), an away-side suppression is observed in d+Au

- Away-side peak also much wider in d+Au compared to p+p

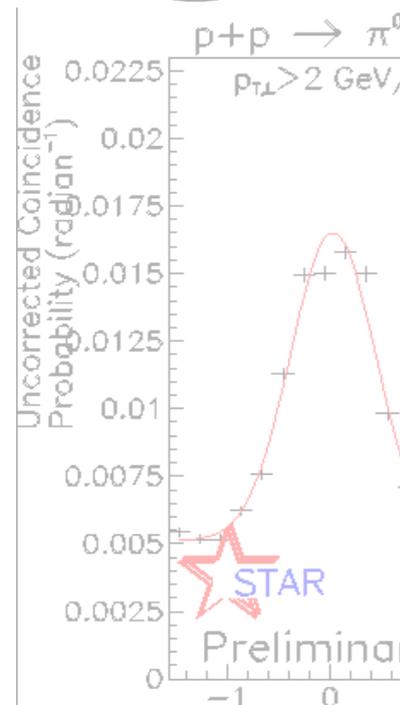
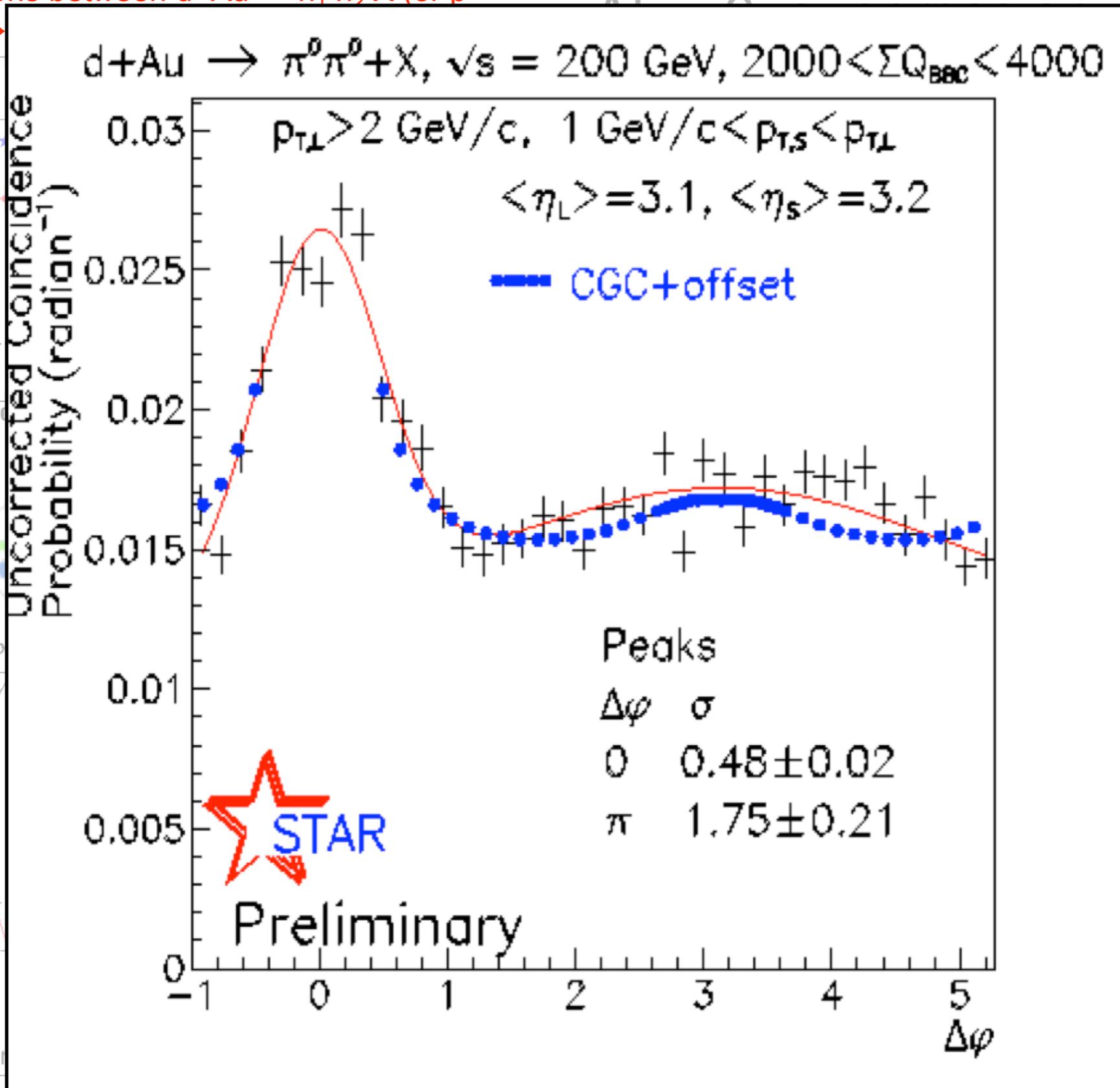
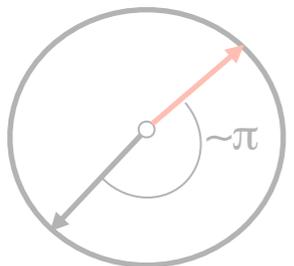
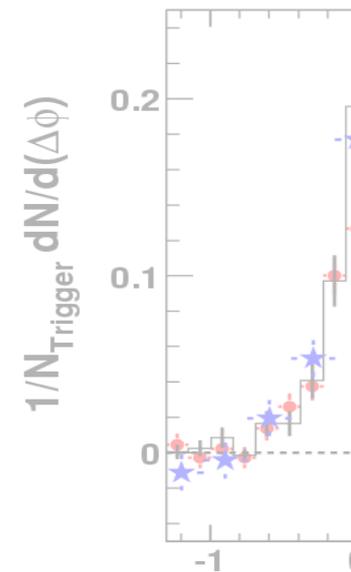
$$\rightarrow x \sim 10^{-3}$$



# di-hadron angular correlations in d+Au

comparisons between d+Au  $\rightarrow$   $h_1, h_2, X$  (or p)

+Au  $\rightarrow$



of away-side collisions

p or d+Au

$$\frac{e^{-y_1} + k_2 e^{-y_2}}{\sqrt{s}} \ll 1$$

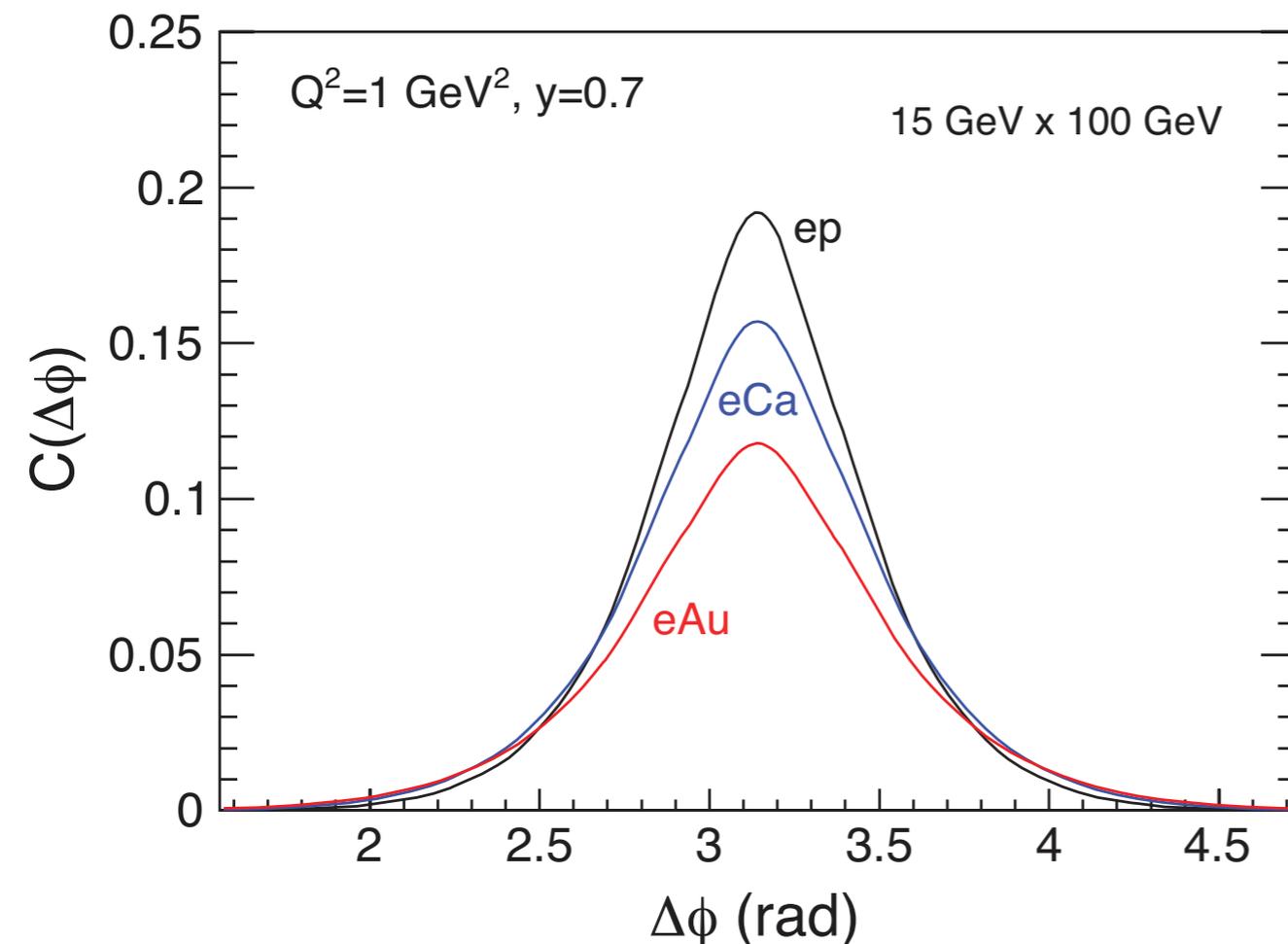
forward  
 $\sim 3.1$ ), an  
 suppression is  
 d+Au

peak also much  
 Au compared to

# di-hadron correlations in e+A

Never been measured - we expect to see the same effect in e+A as in d+A

- At small-x, multi-gluon distributions are as important as single-gluon distributions and they contribute to di-hadron correlations



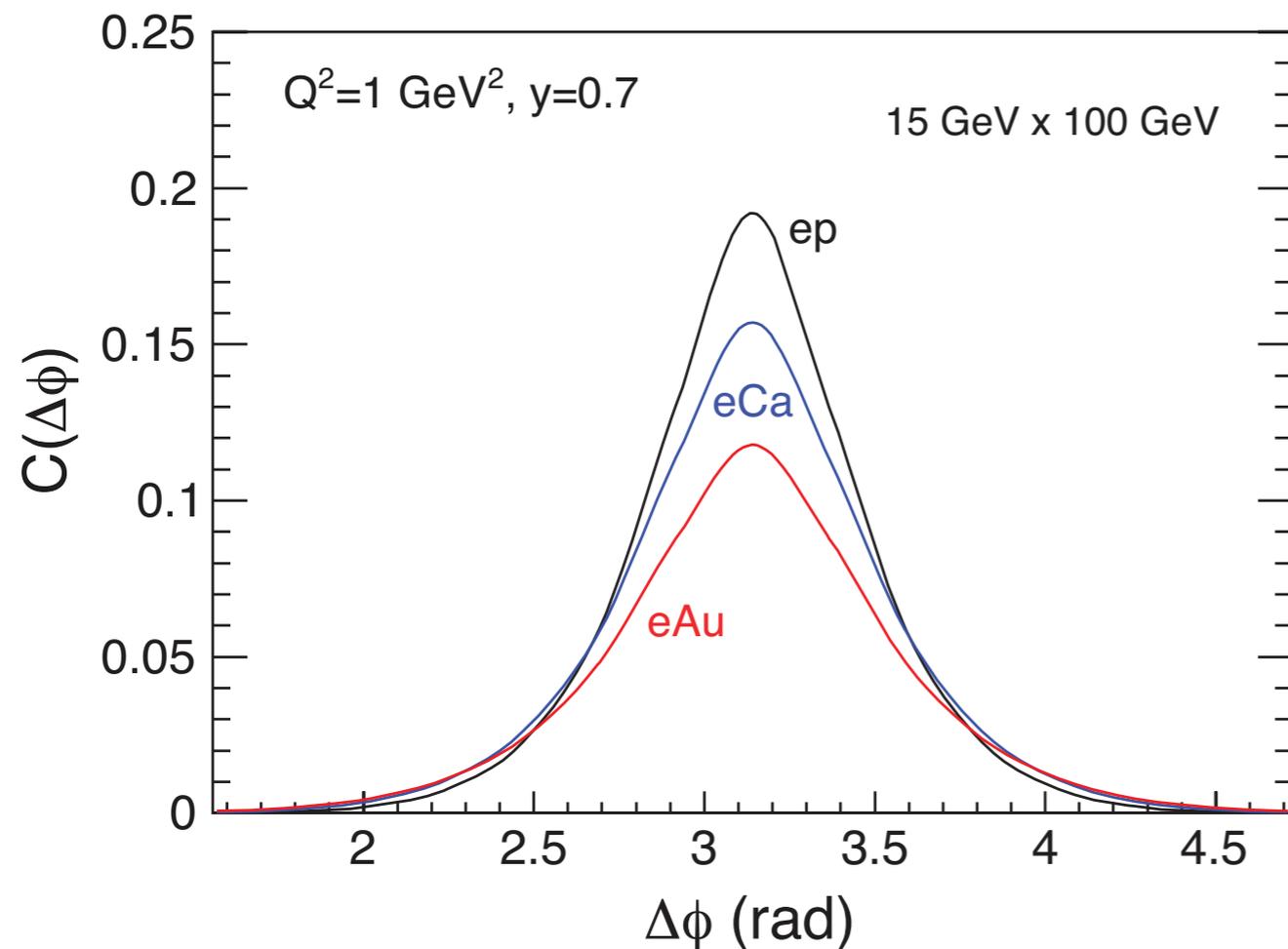
Dominguez et al. PRD83, 105005 (2011),  
PRL 106, 022301 (2011)

- The non-linear evolution of multi-gluon distributions is different from that of single-gluon distributions and it is **equally important** that we understand it
- The d+Au RHIC data is therefore subject to many uncertainties
  - these correlations in e+A can help to constrain them better

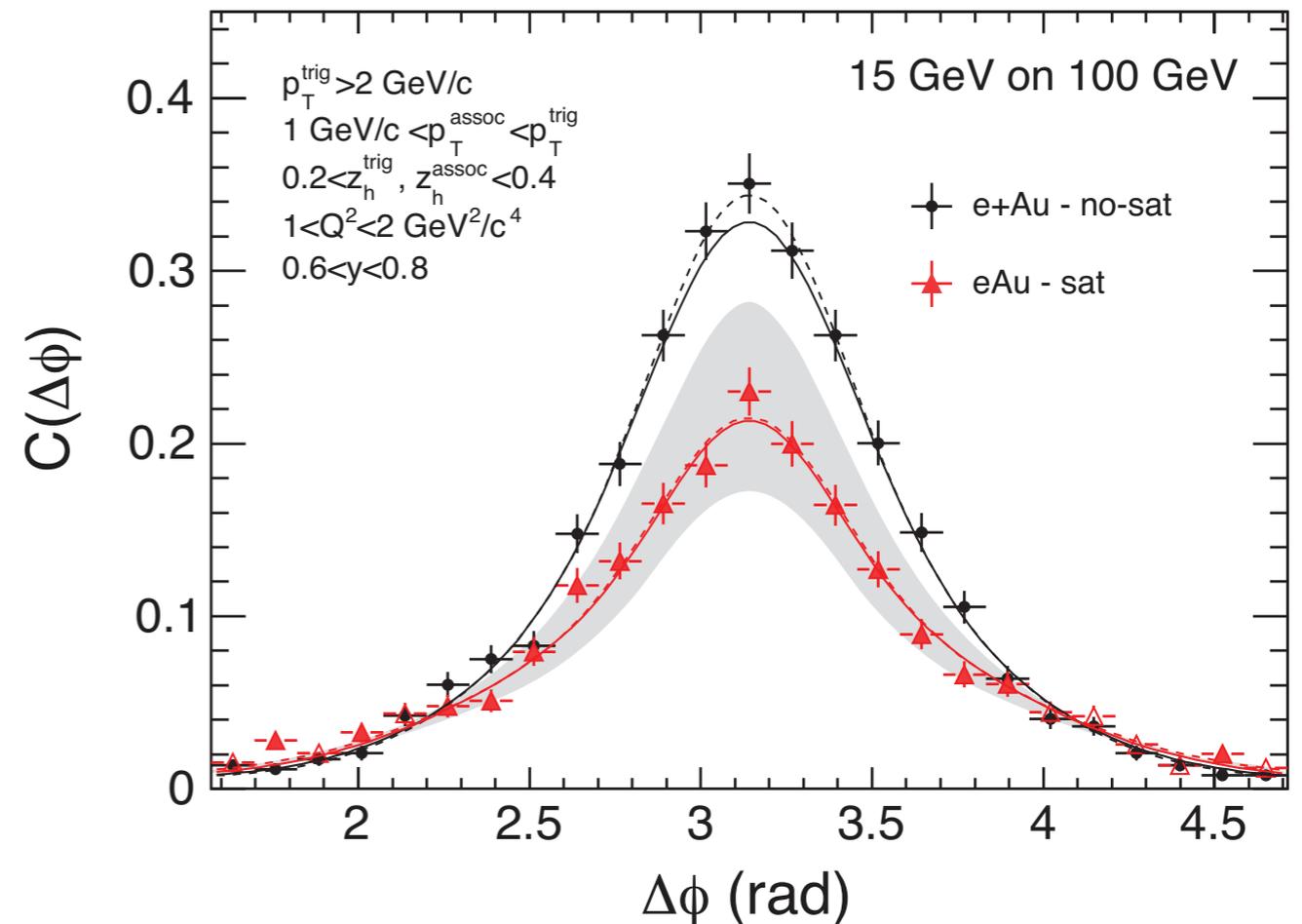
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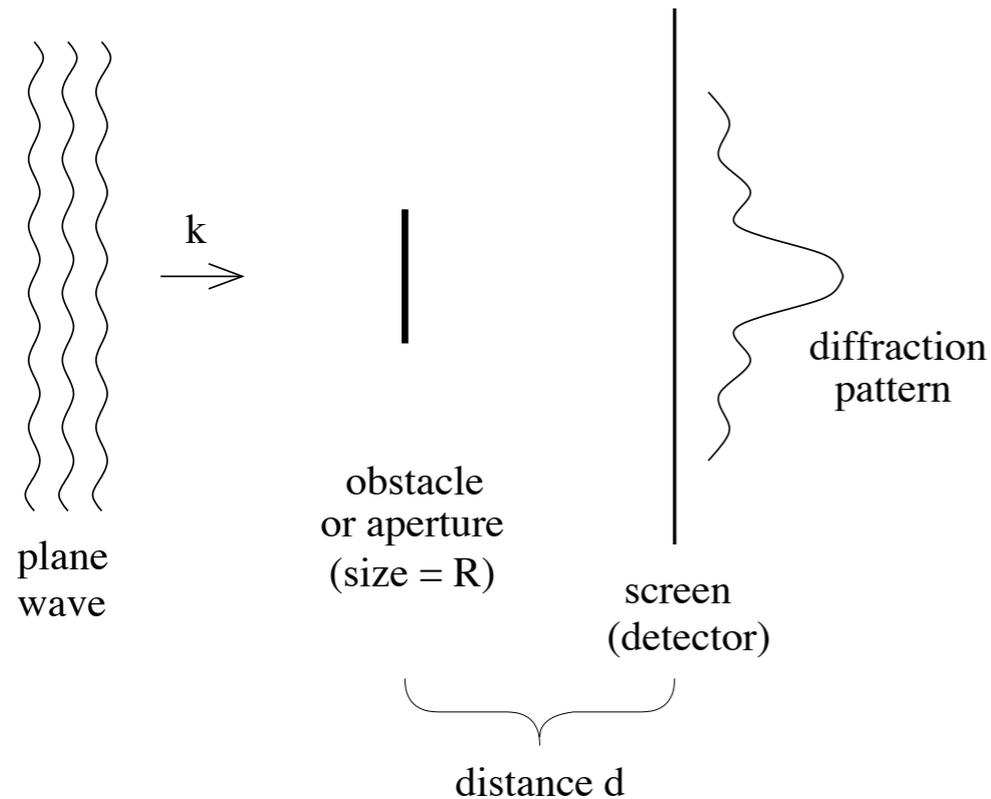
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Zheng et al., PRD89 (2014) 074037

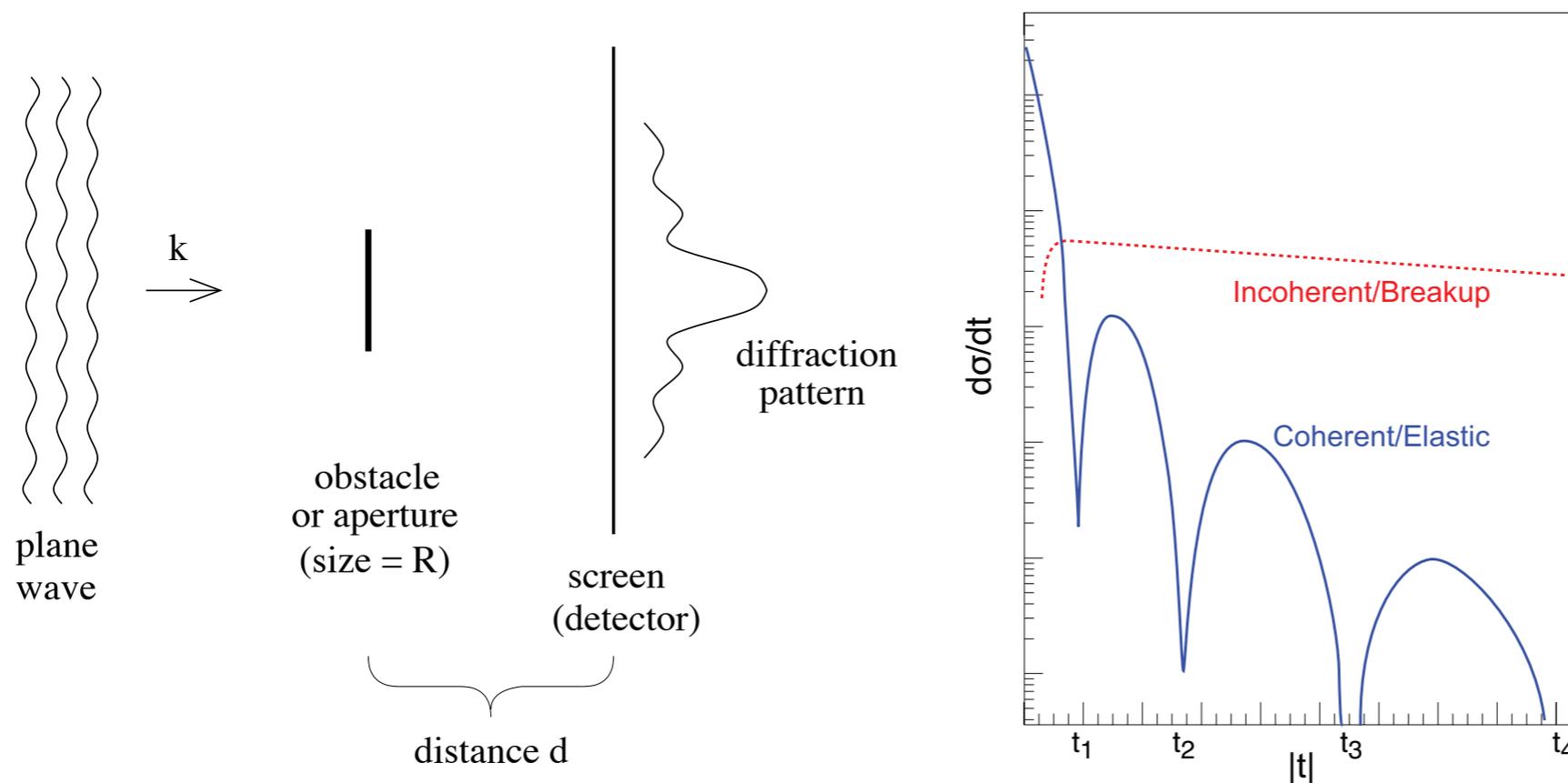
Pythia+DPMJet+Fluka+EPS09+E-loss

# Diffraction in nuclei



- The diffraction pattern contains information about the size ( $R$ ) of the obstacle and about the optical “blackness”
- In optics, diffraction is studied as a function of  $\theta$

# Diffraction in nuclei

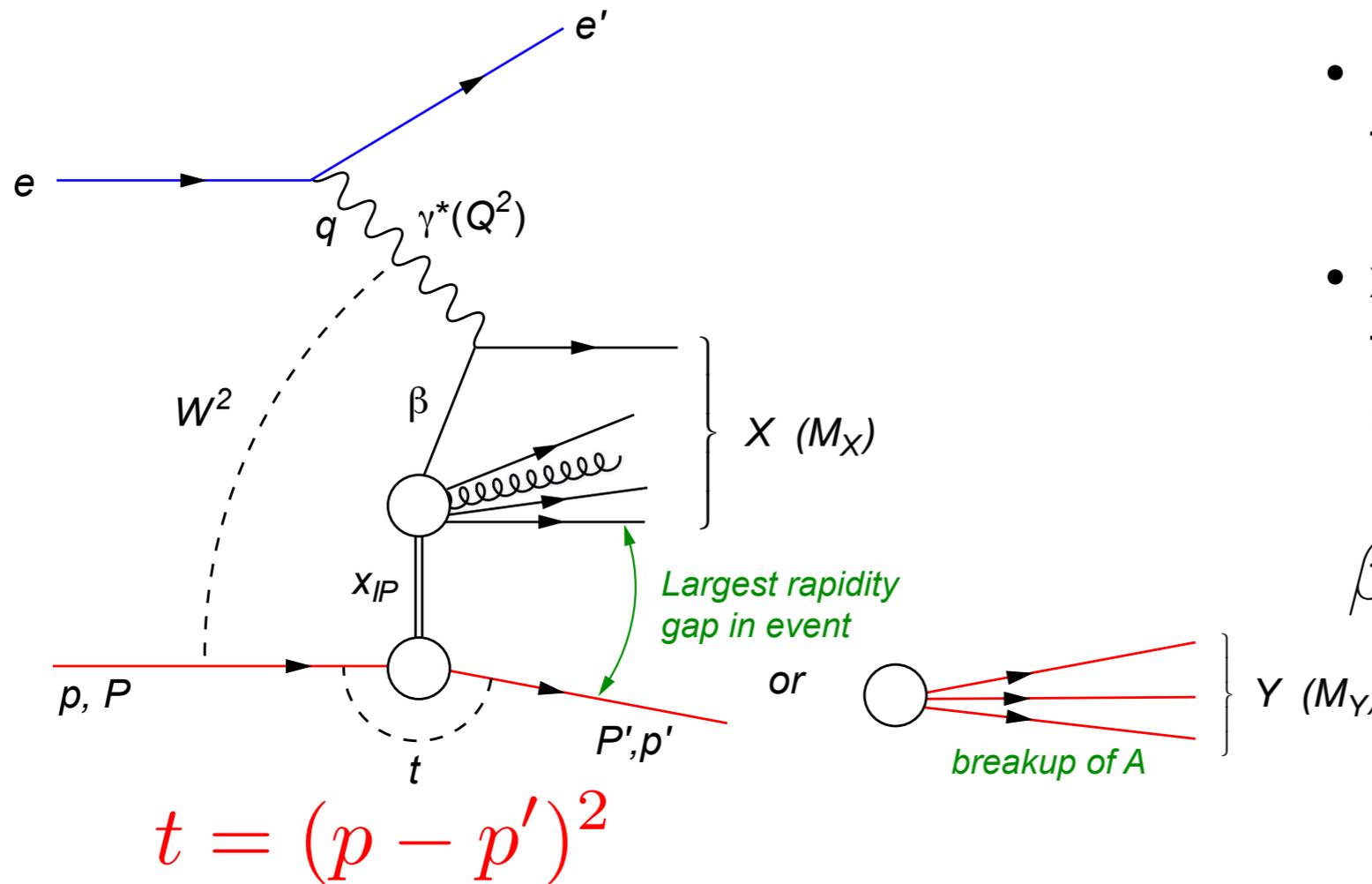


Coherent diffraction:  
nuclei stays intact

Incoherent diffraction:  
nuclei breaks up,  
nucleons stays intact

- The diffraction pattern contains information about the size ( $R$ ) of the obstacle and about the optical “blackness”
- In optics, diffraction is studied as a function of  $\theta$
- In high energy scattering, an analogous measurement can be made in terms of the Mandelstam variable  $t$  ( $t = k\sin\theta$ )

# Exclusive processes in e+A - diffraction



- $\beta$  is the momentum fraction of the struck parton w.r.t. the Pomeron
- $x_{IP} = x/\beta$ : momentum fraction of the exchanged object (Pomeron) w.r.t. the hadron

$$\beta = \frac{x}{x_{IP}} = \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + M_X^2 - t}$$

## • Detecting diffractive events:

- ➔ Rapidity gap
  - Required a hermetic detector
- ➔ Discriminating between coherent and incoherent
  - Roman Pots (e+p)
  - detect neutrons in the ZDC (eAu)

# Diffraction cross-section

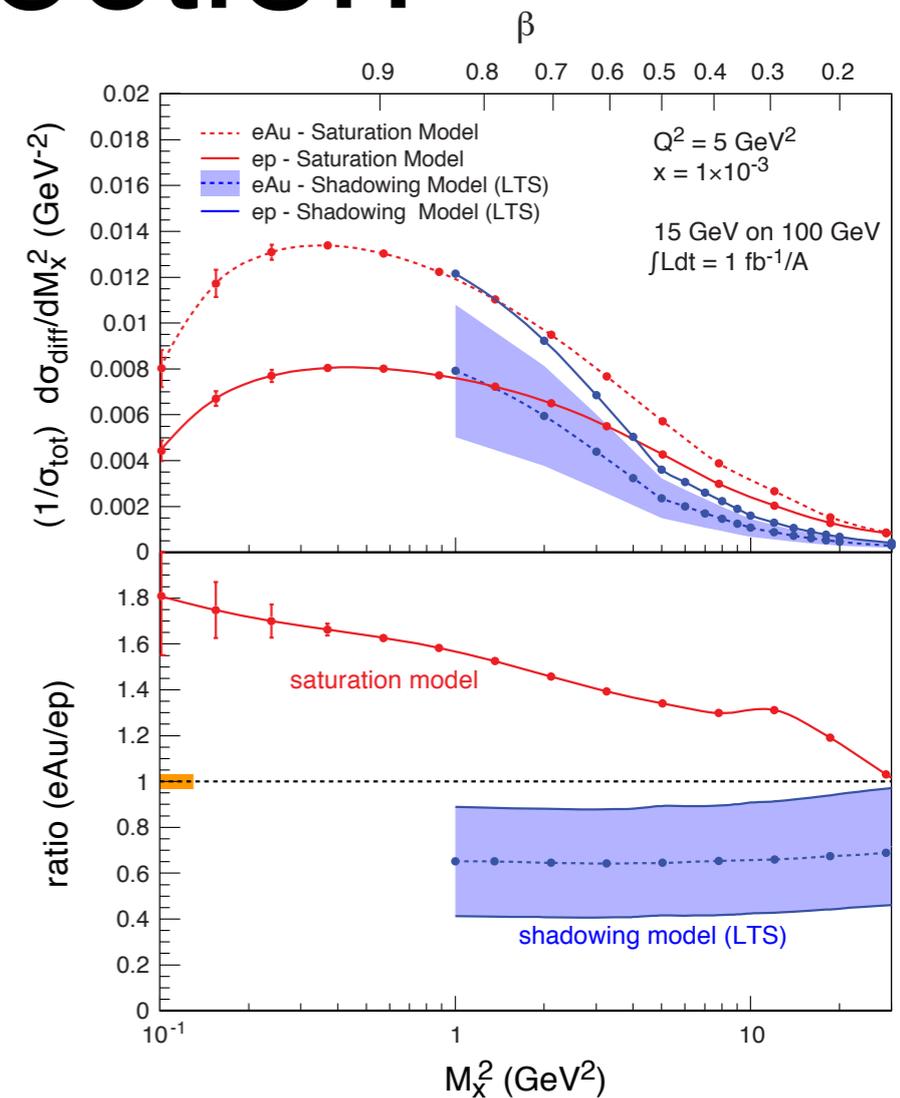
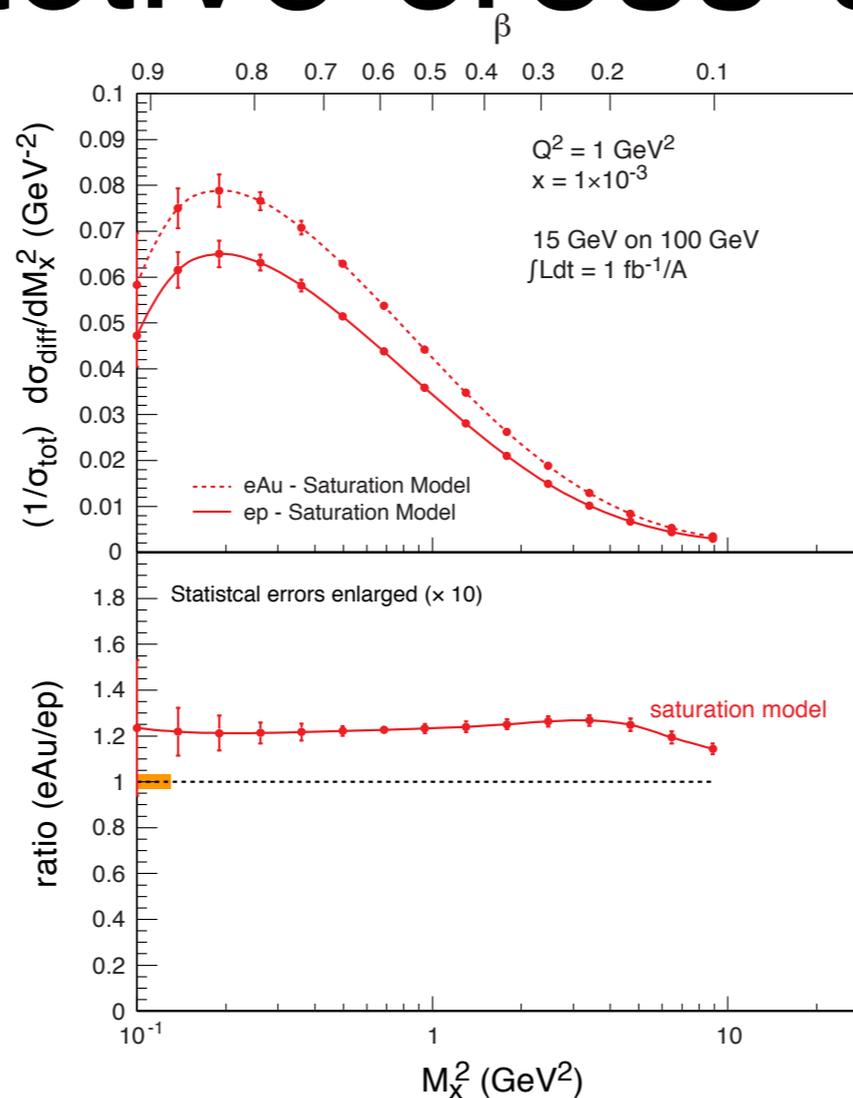
At HERA, in e+p, the diffractive cross-section was  $\sim 15\%$  of the total cross-section

Predictions for e+A collisions at an EIC have this even higher

# Diffractive cross-section

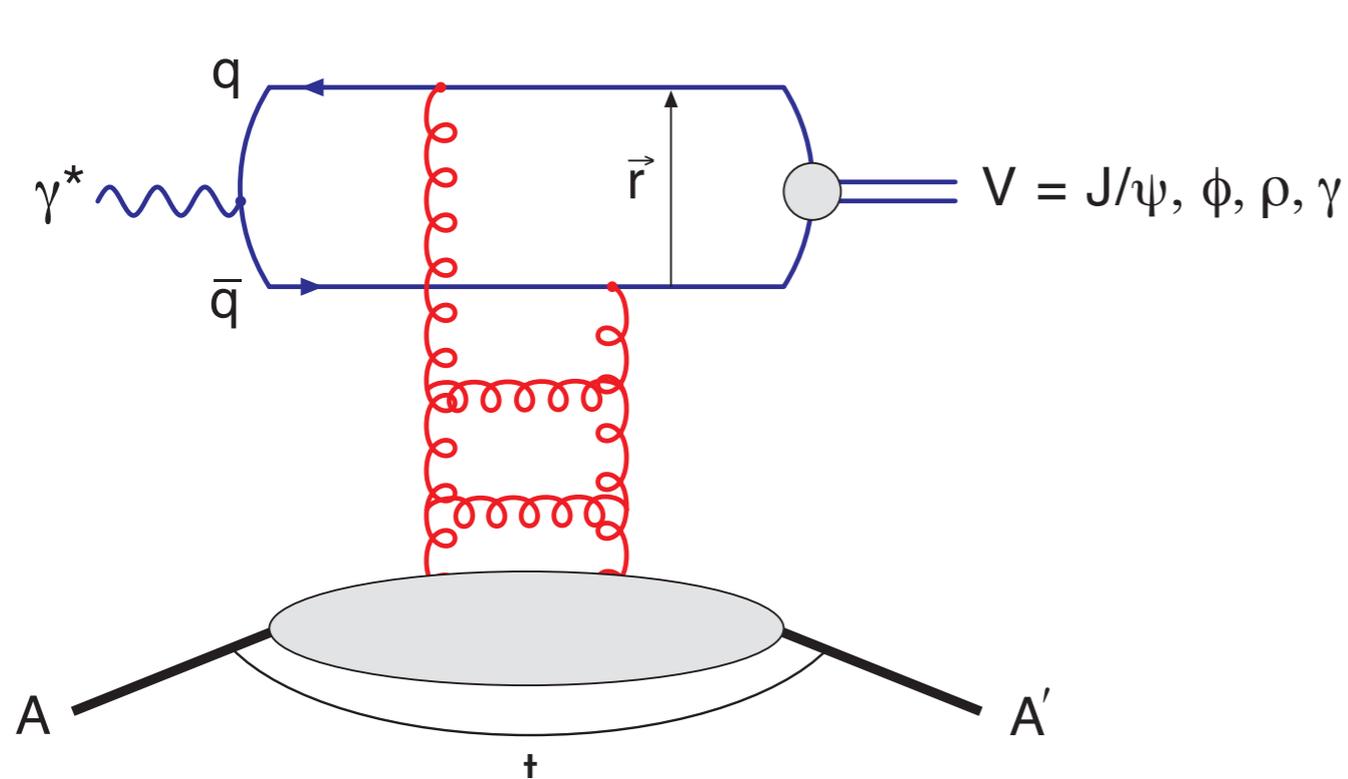
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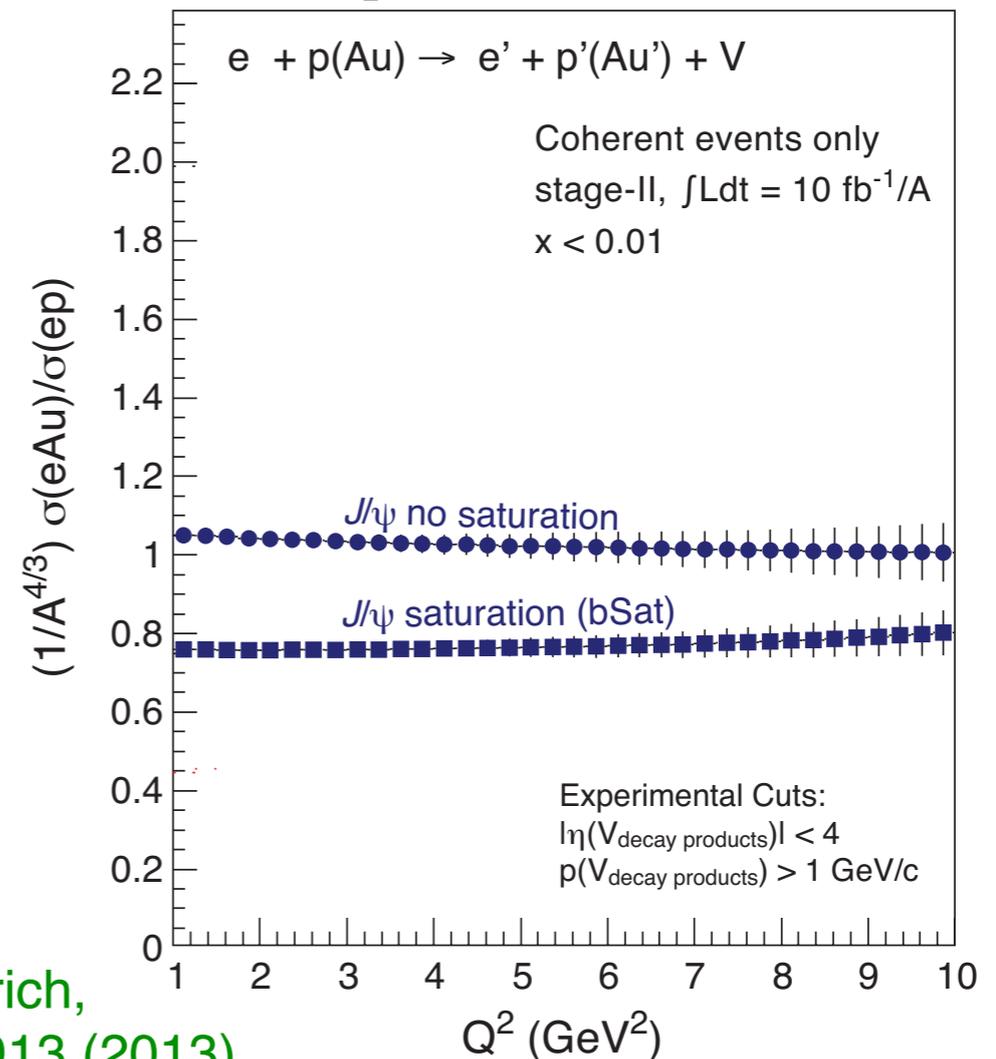
- For  $Q^2 = 1 \text{ GeV}^2$  and  $x = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ , saturation models predict this to be about 25%
- This increases at higher  $Q^2$  (and the same  $x$ ), but non-saturation models have a smaller ratio than in e+p
- This is easy to check  $\rightarrow$  a “day 1” measurement

# Exclusive vector meson production



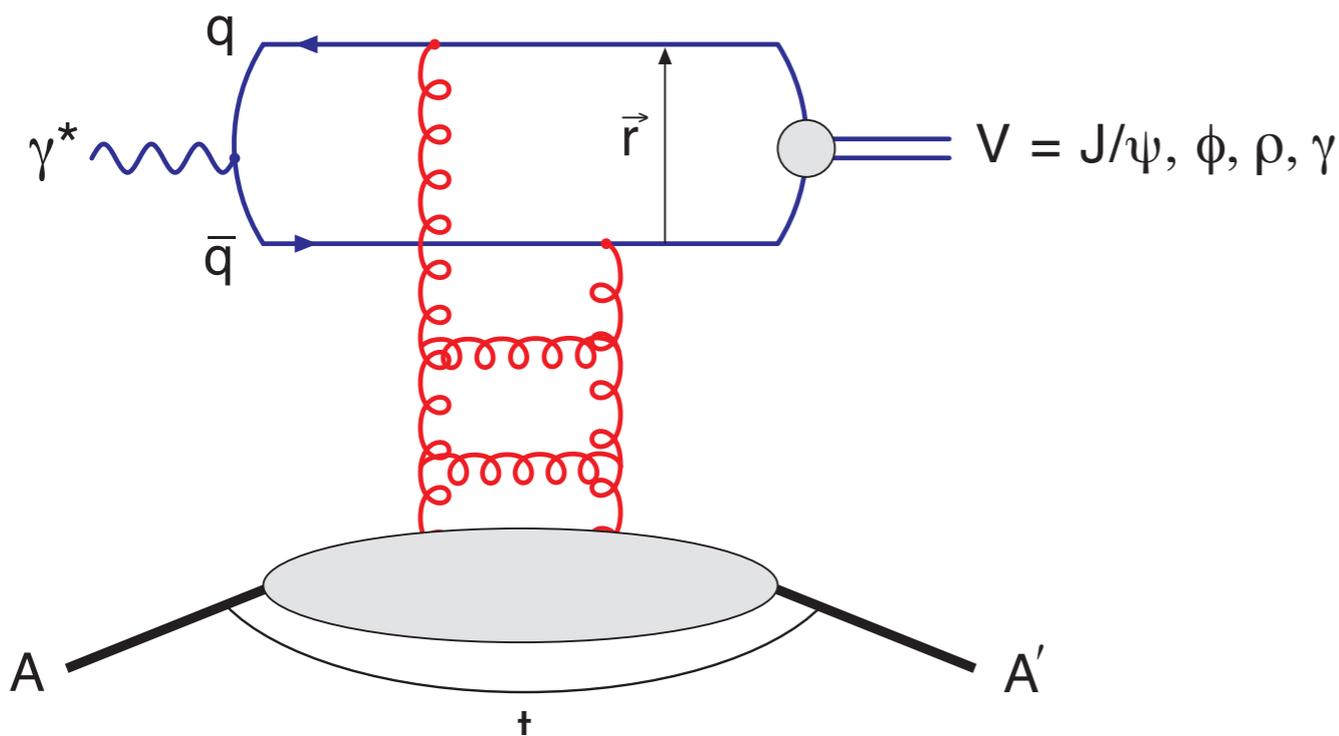
$$d\sigma \propto g(x)^2$$

Sartre: Toll, Ullrich,  
Phys.Rev. C87, 024913 (2013)



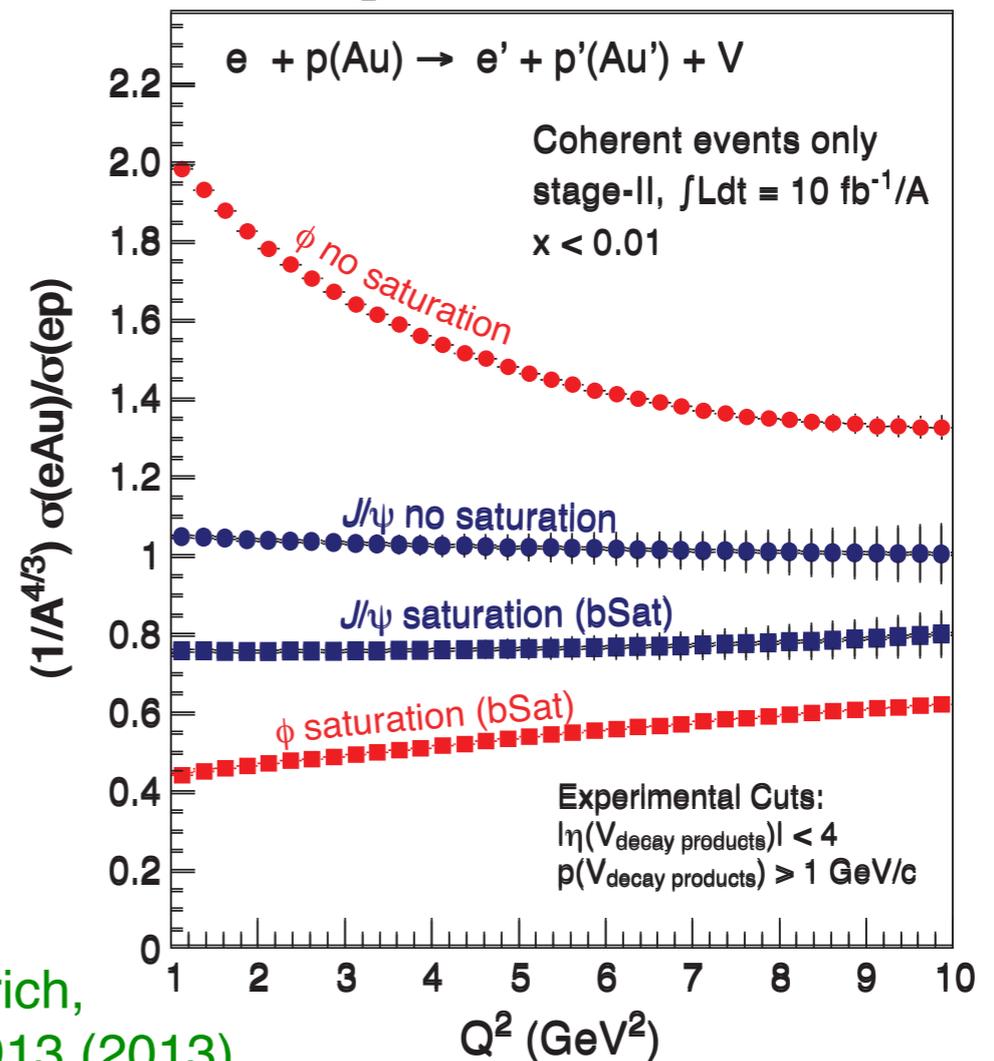
- Exclusive vector meson production is most sensitive to the gluon distribution
  - ➔ colour-neutral exchange of gluons
- J/ψ shows some difference between saturation and no-saturation

# Exclusive vector meson production



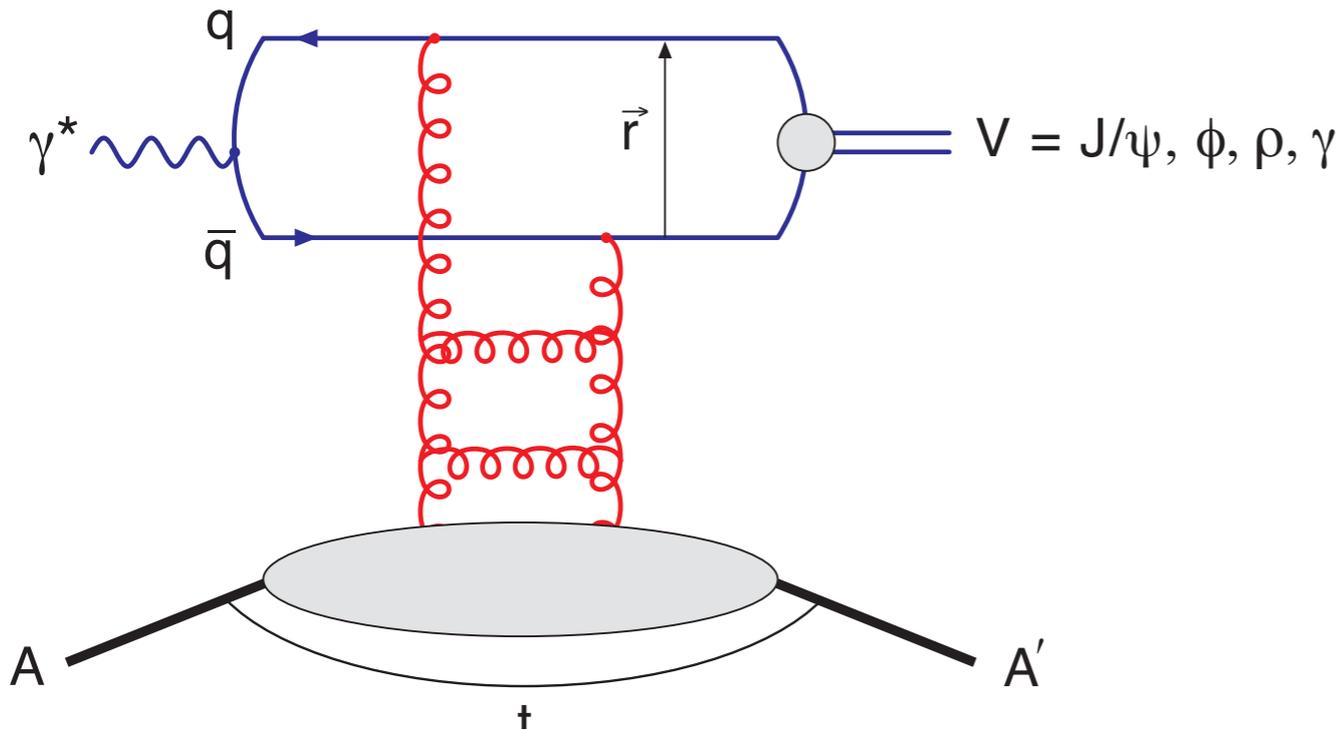
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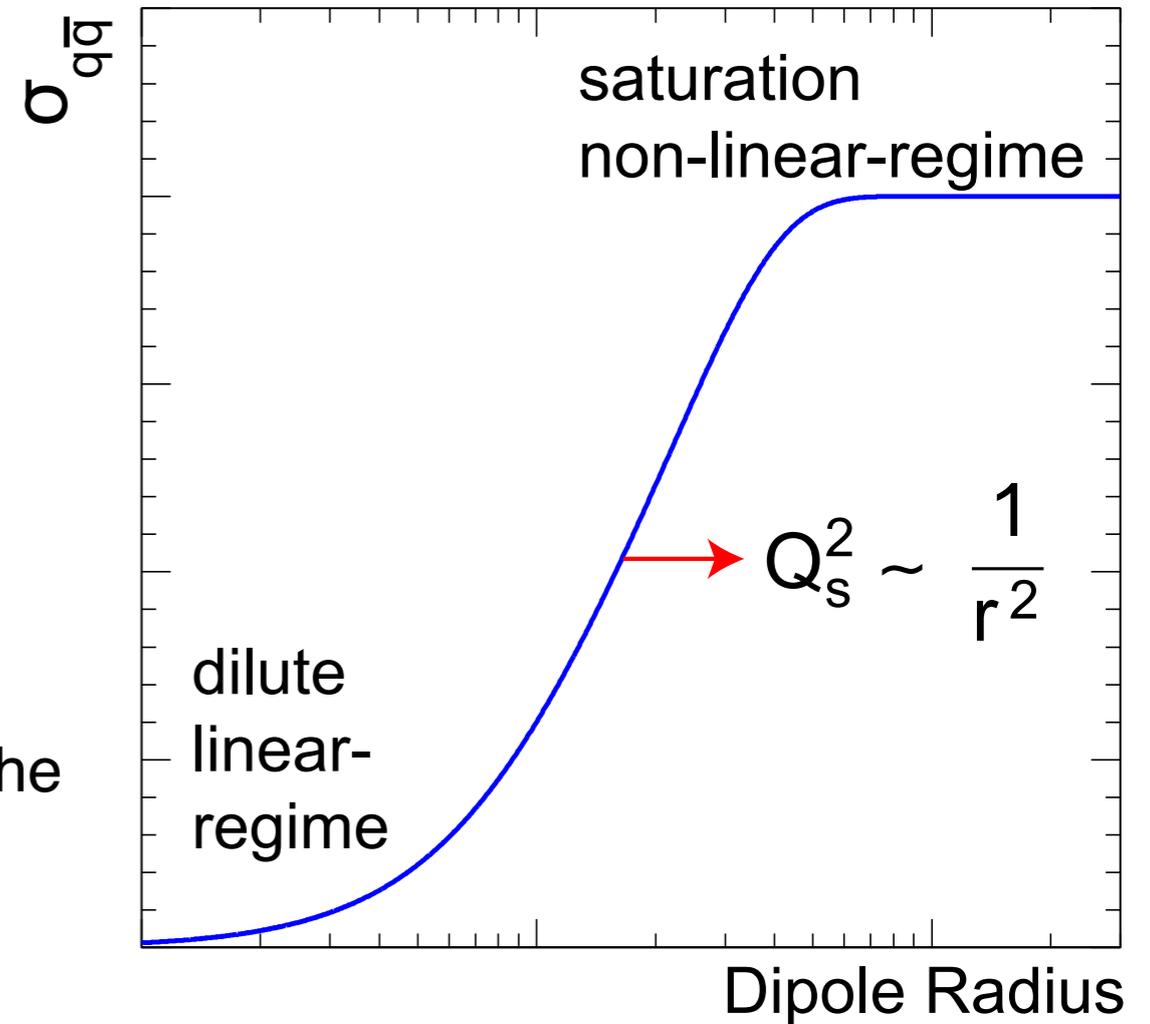
- Exclusive vector meson production is most sensitive to the gluon distribution
  - ➔ colour-neutral exchange of gluons
- $J/\psi$  shows some difference between saturation and no-saturation
- $\phi$  shows a much larger difference

# J/ψ vs φ - Saturation effects

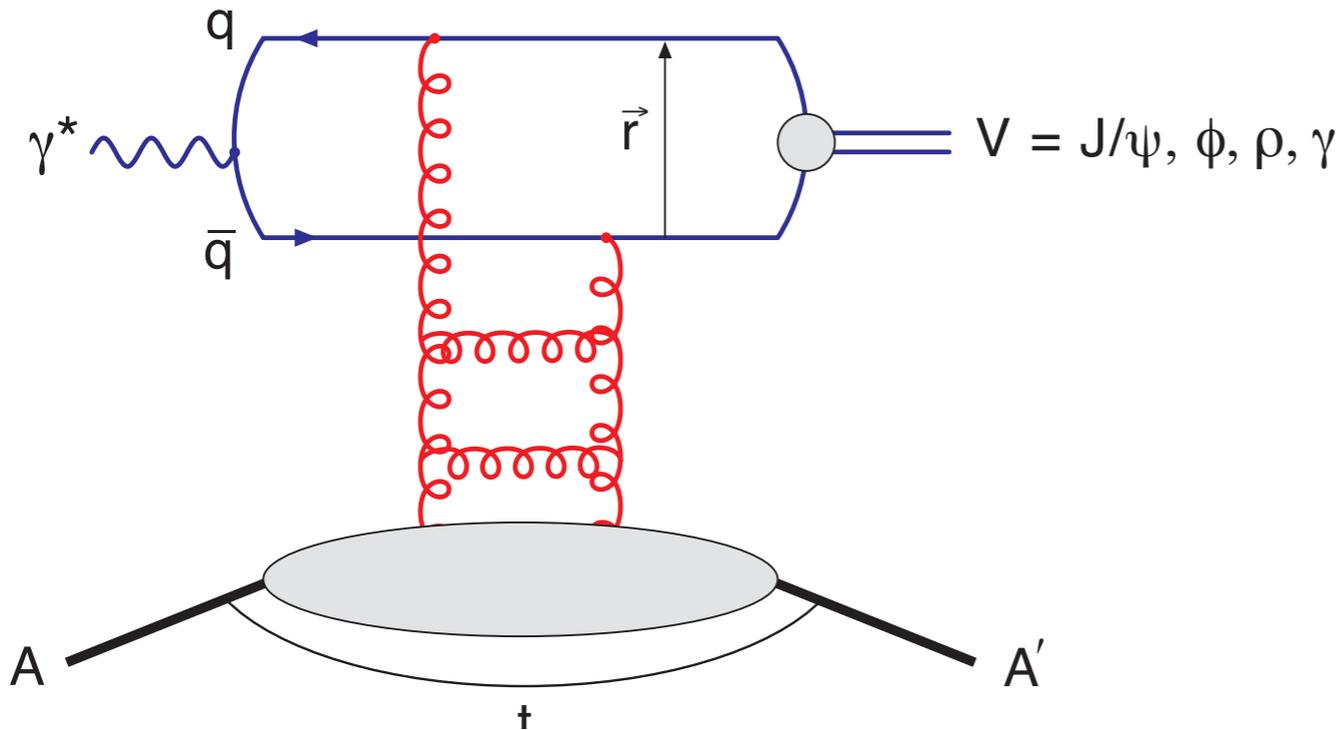


$$d\sigma \propto g(x)^2$$

- Dipole cross-section is saturated as it approaches the black-disk limit

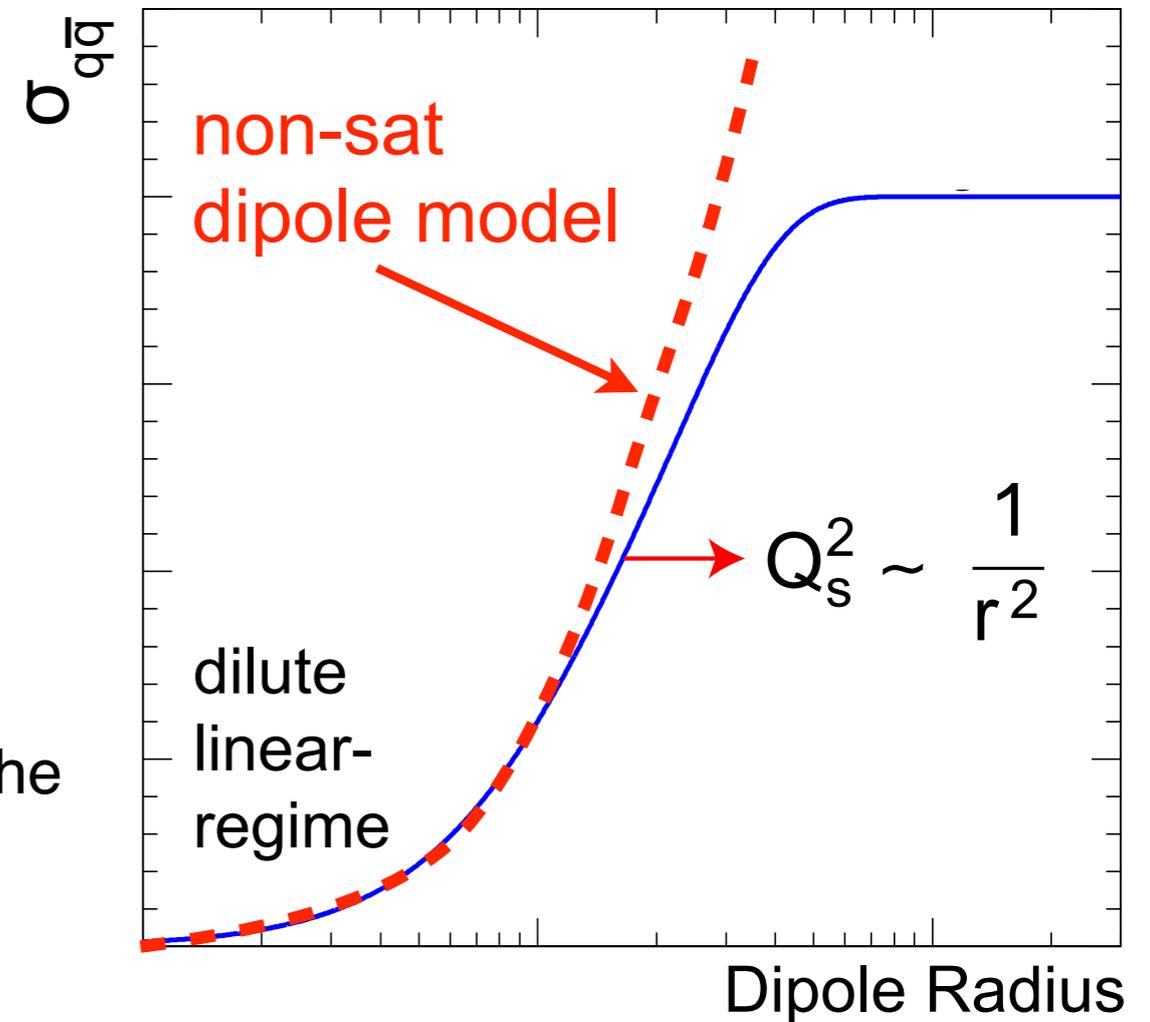


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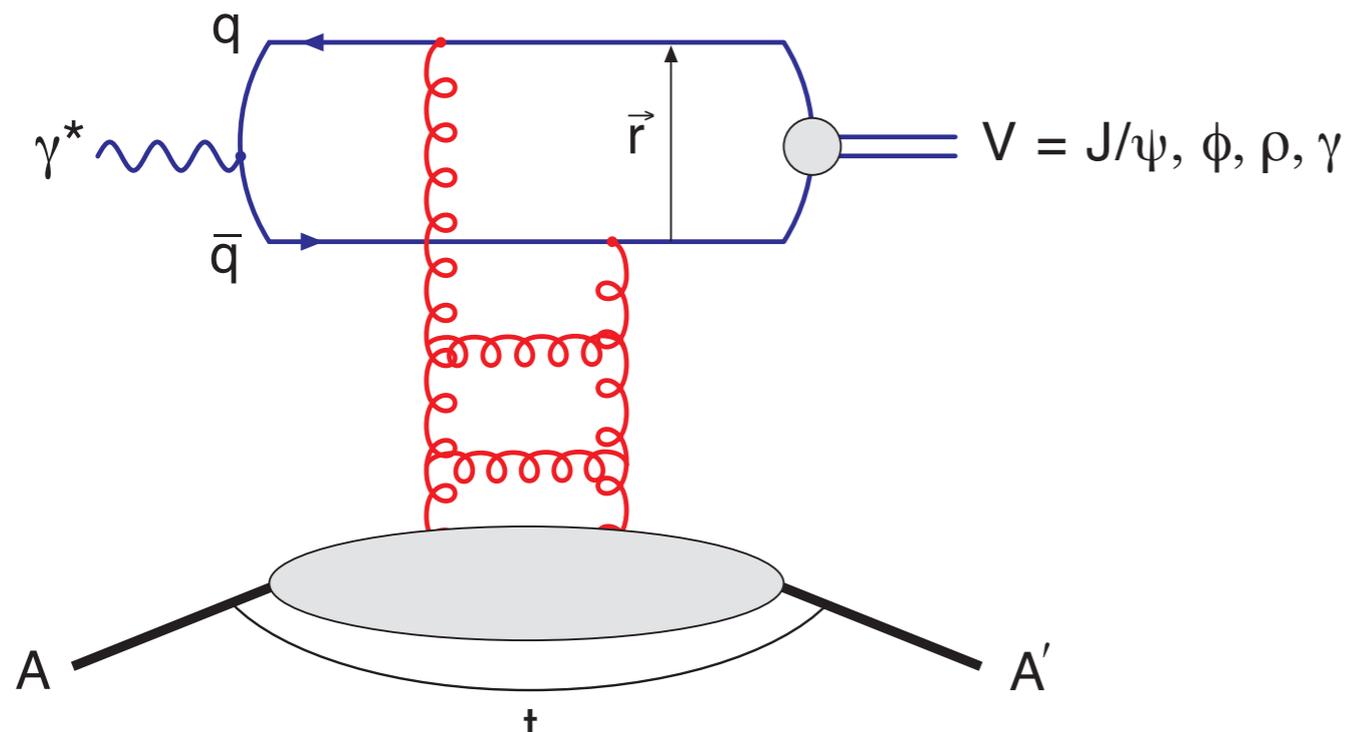


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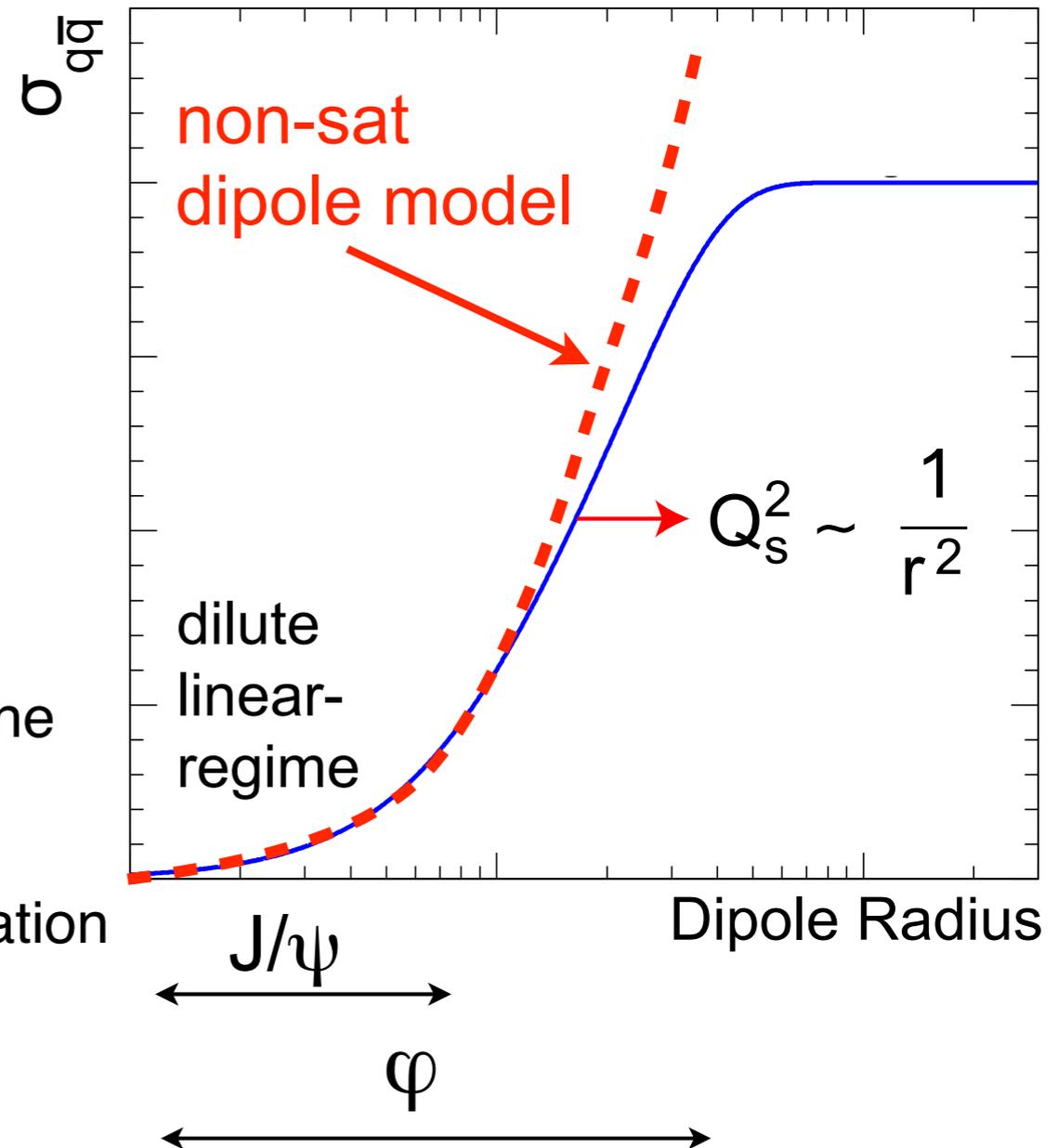
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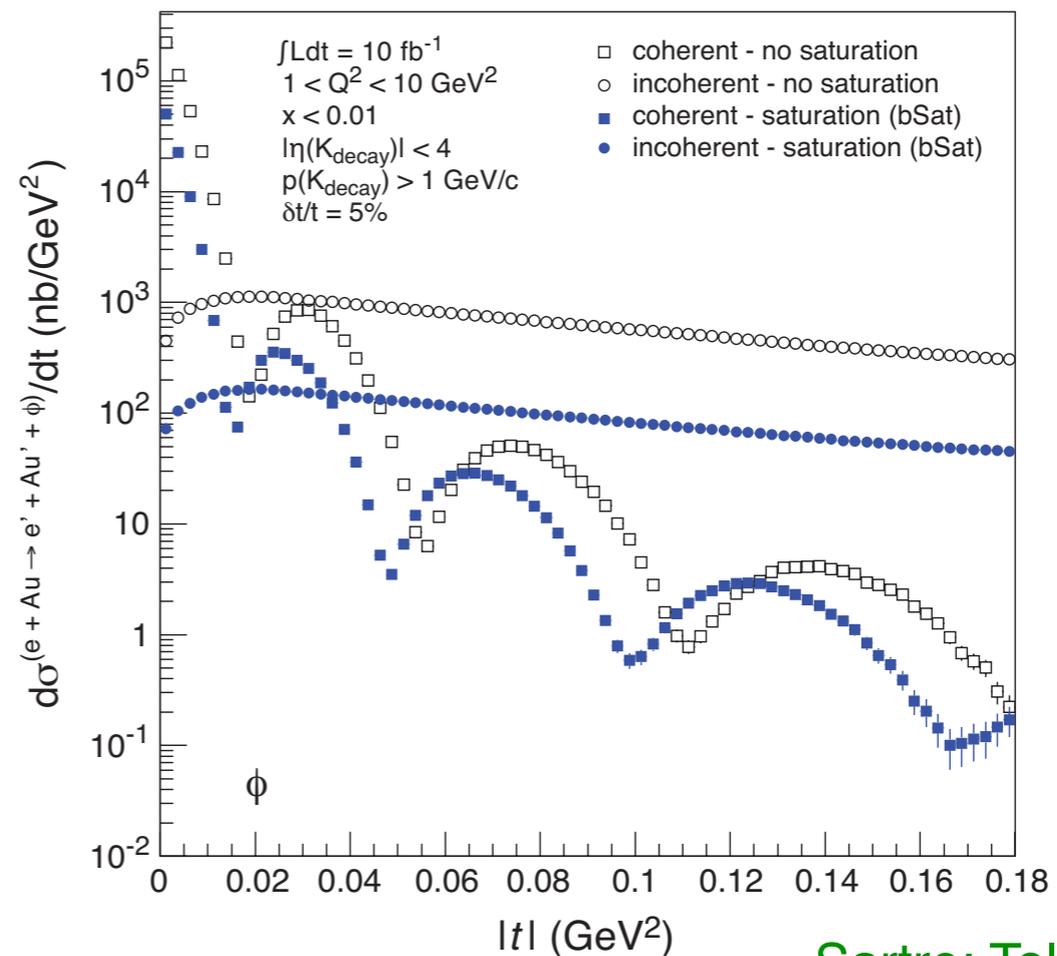
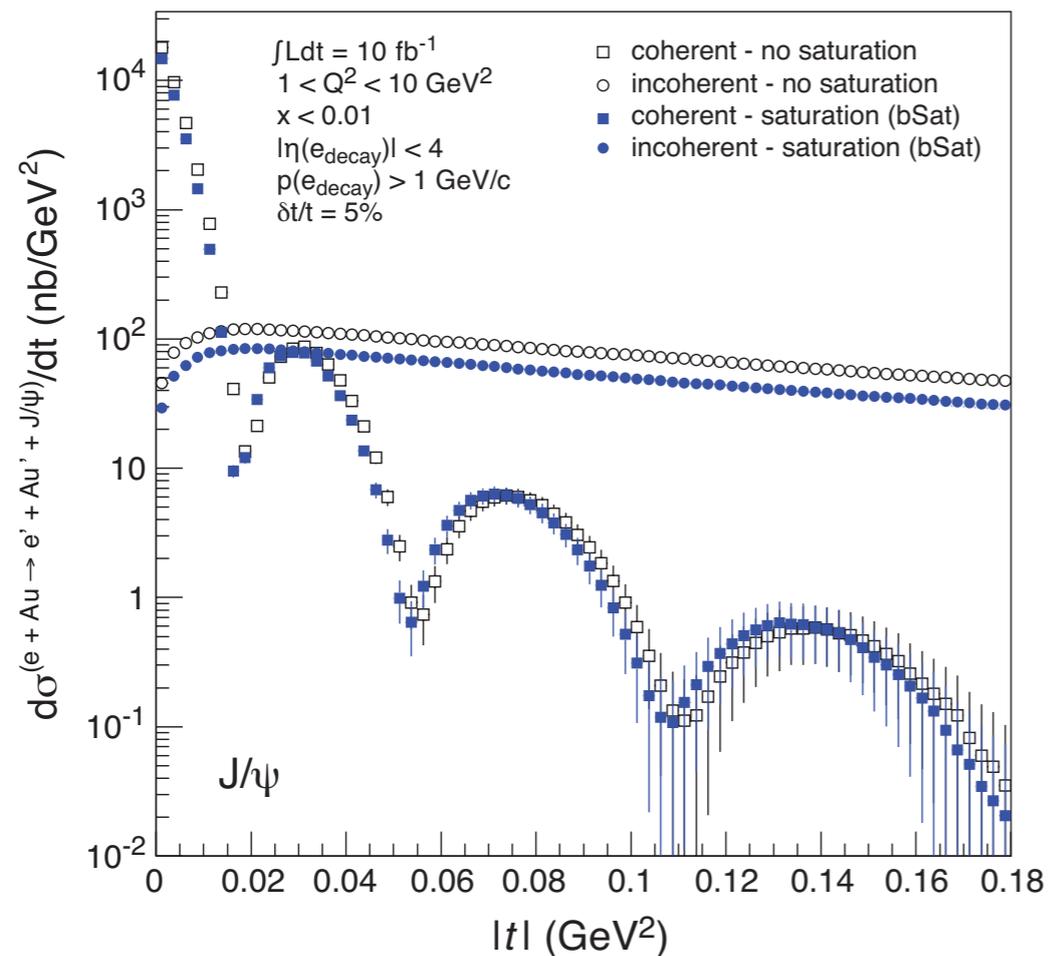
$$d\sigma \propto g(x)^2$$

- Dipole cross-section is saturated as it approaches the black-disk limit
- J/ψ has a small radius - not much affected by saturation
- φ shows a much larger difference

➔ wave function for φ is larger and hence more sensitive to saturation effects



# Exclusive Vector Meson Production in e+A



Sartre: Toll, Ullrich,  
Phys.Rev. C87, 024913 (2013)

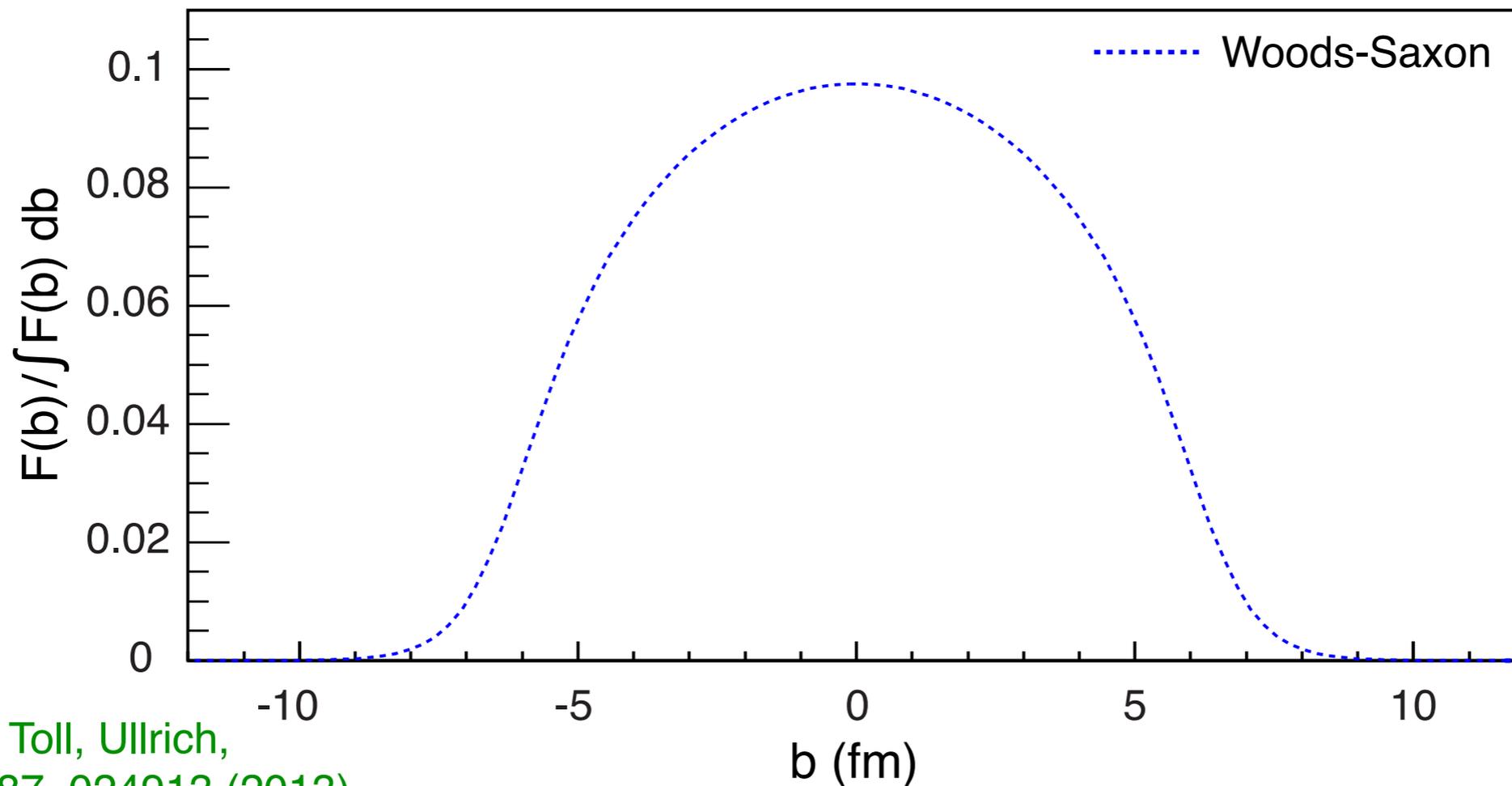
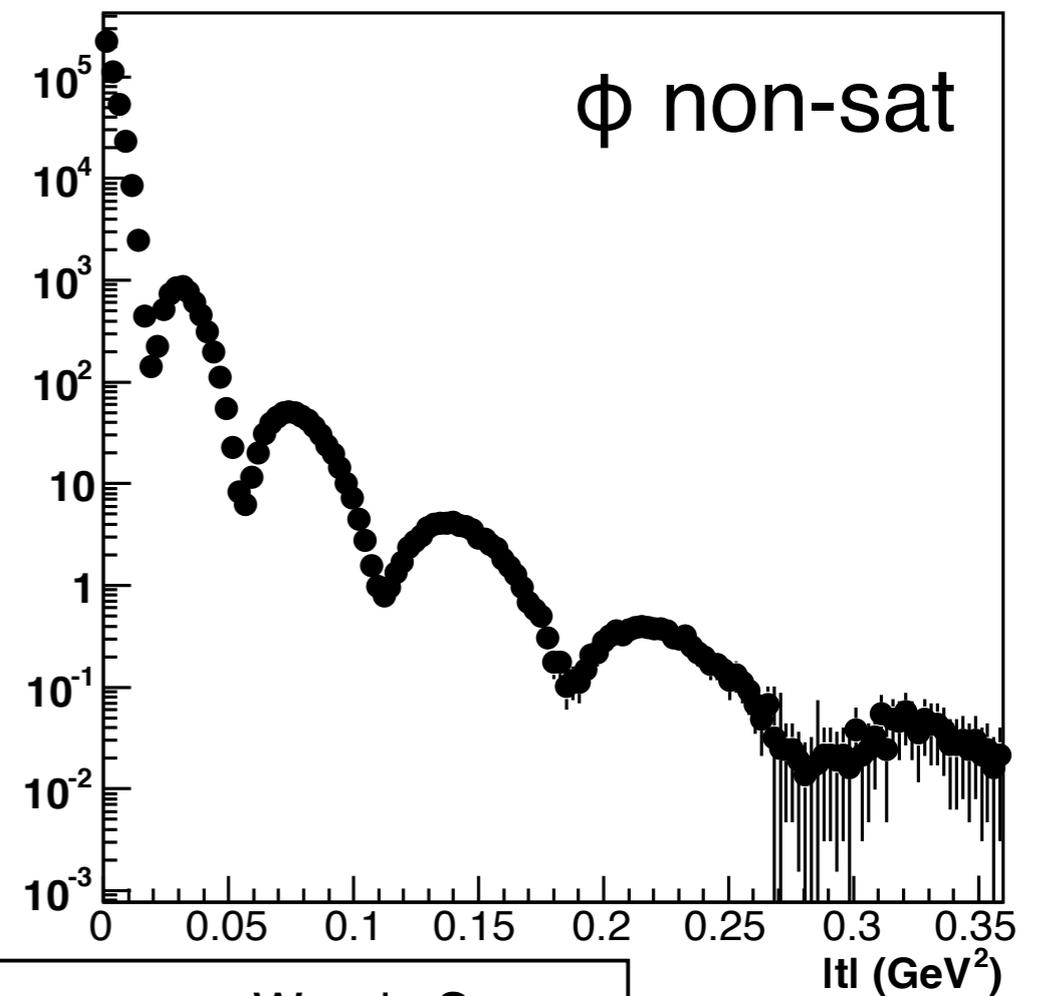
- Low- $t$ : coherent diffraction dominates - gluon density
  - High- $t$ : incoherent diffraction dominates - gluon correlations
- ➔ Need good breakup detection efficiency to discriminate between the two scenarios
- unlike protons, forward spectrometer won't work for heavy ions
    - measure emitted neutrons in a ZDC
  - rapidity gap with absence of break-up fragments sufficient to identify coherent events

# Finding the source...

- Take the  $d\sigma/dt$  distribution and perform a Fourier Transform to extract the  $b$ -distribution of the gluons

$$F(b) \sim \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} d\Delta \Delta J_0(\Delta b) \sqrt{\frac{d\sigma}{dt}}$$

$t = \Delta^2/(1-x) \approx \Delta^2$  (for small  $x$ )

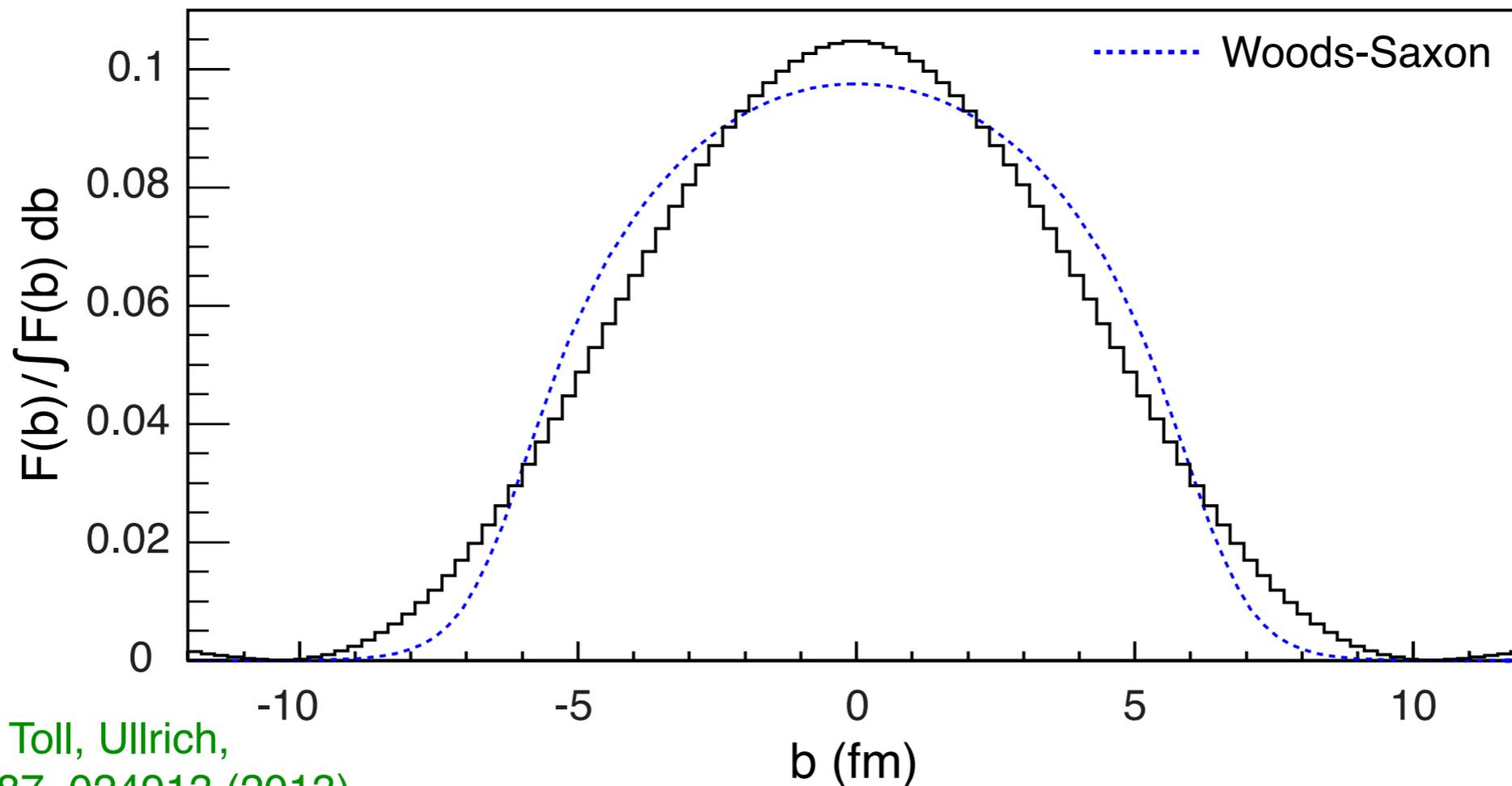
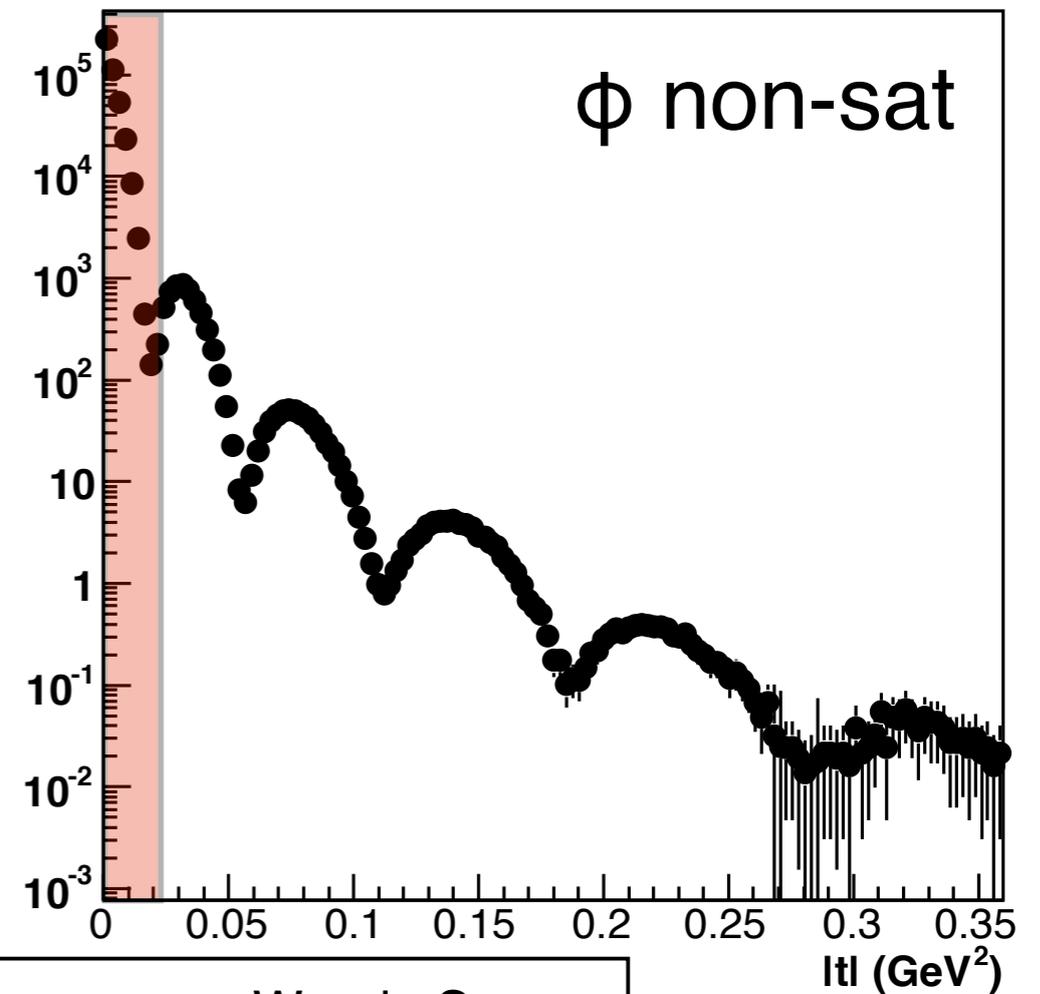


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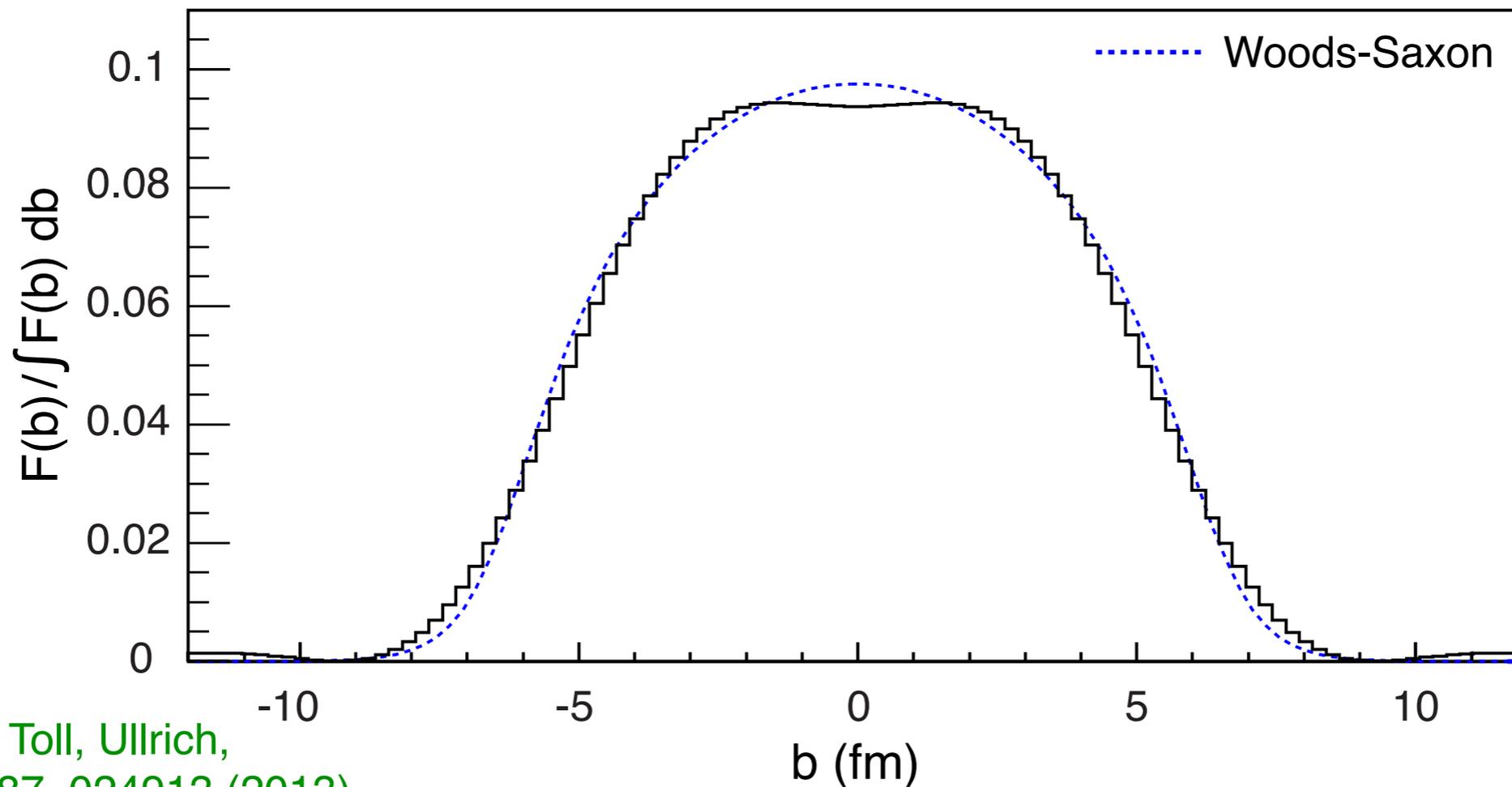
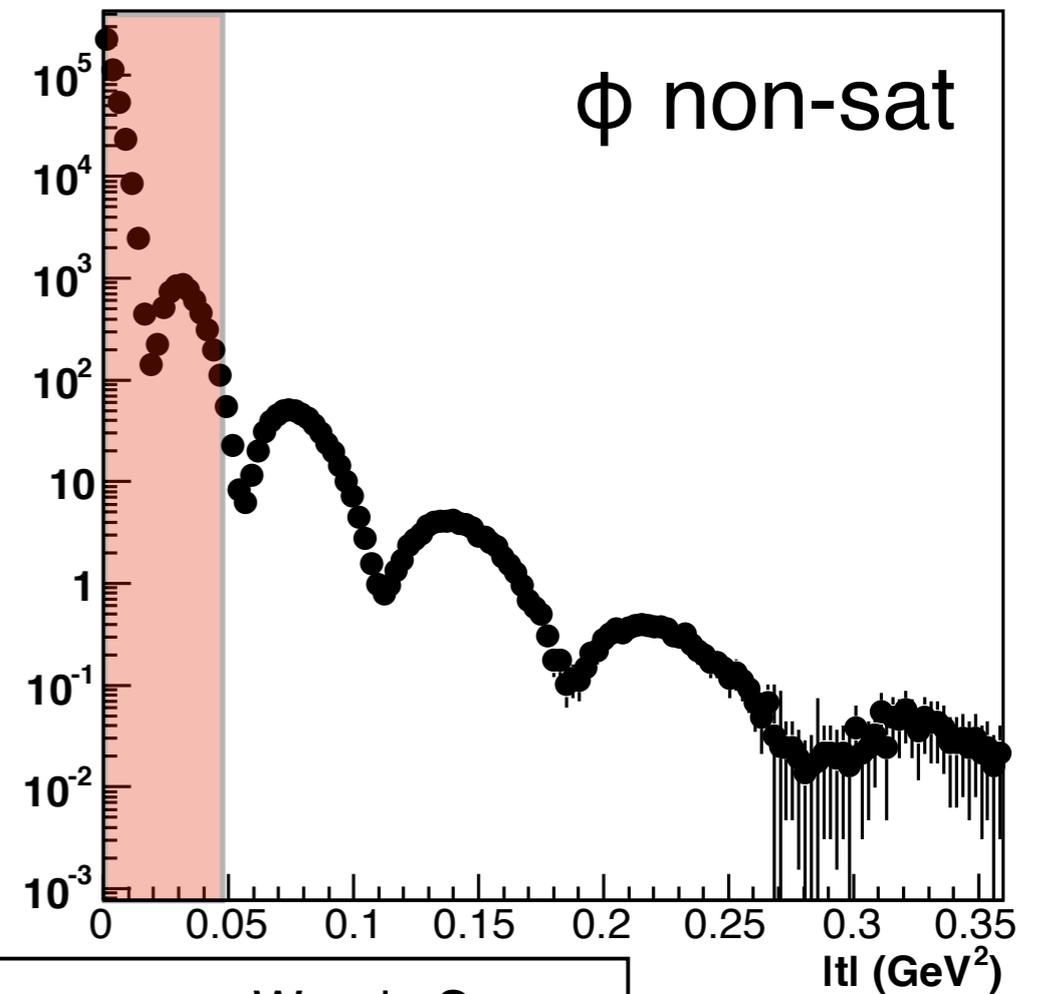


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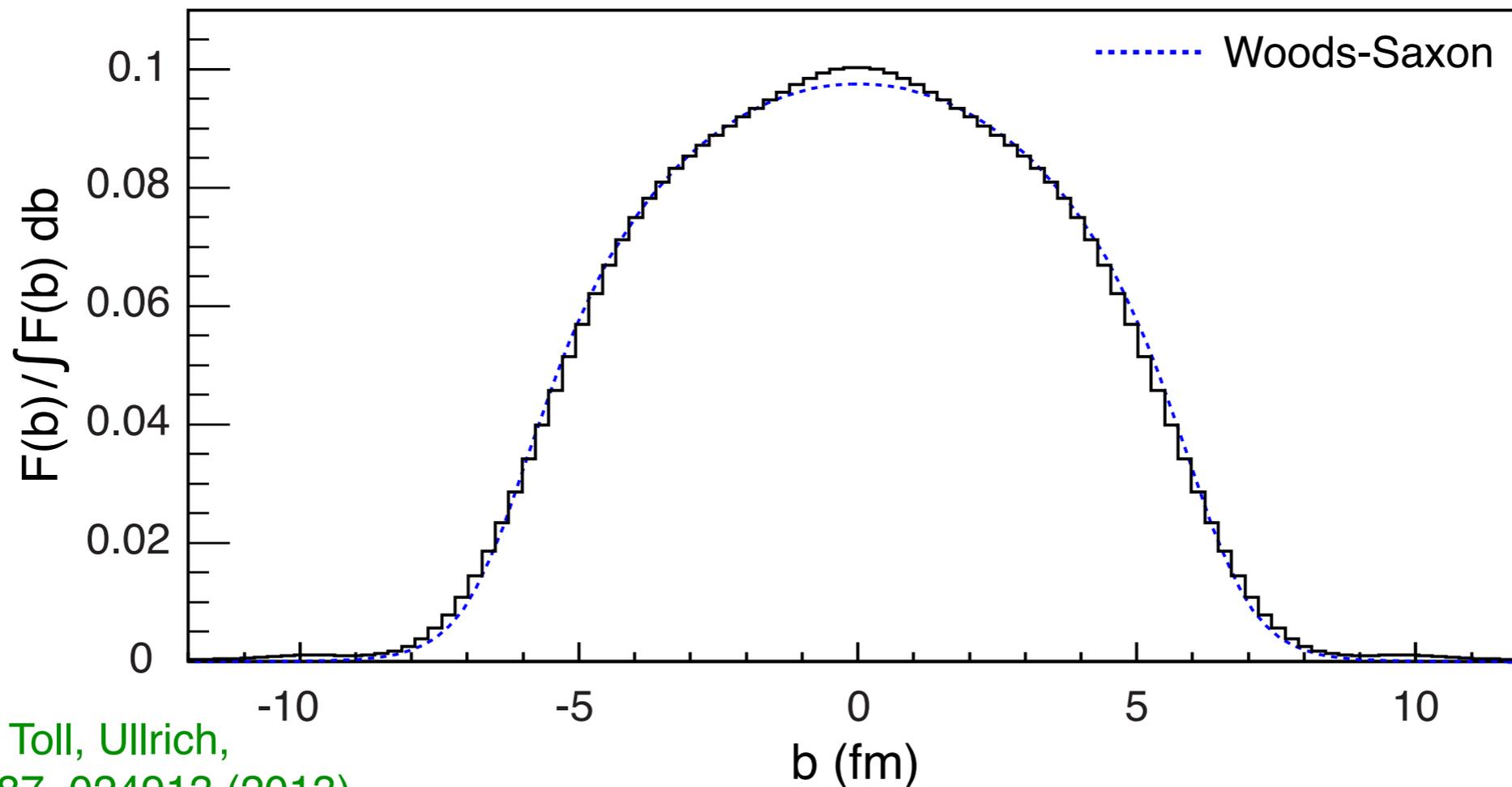
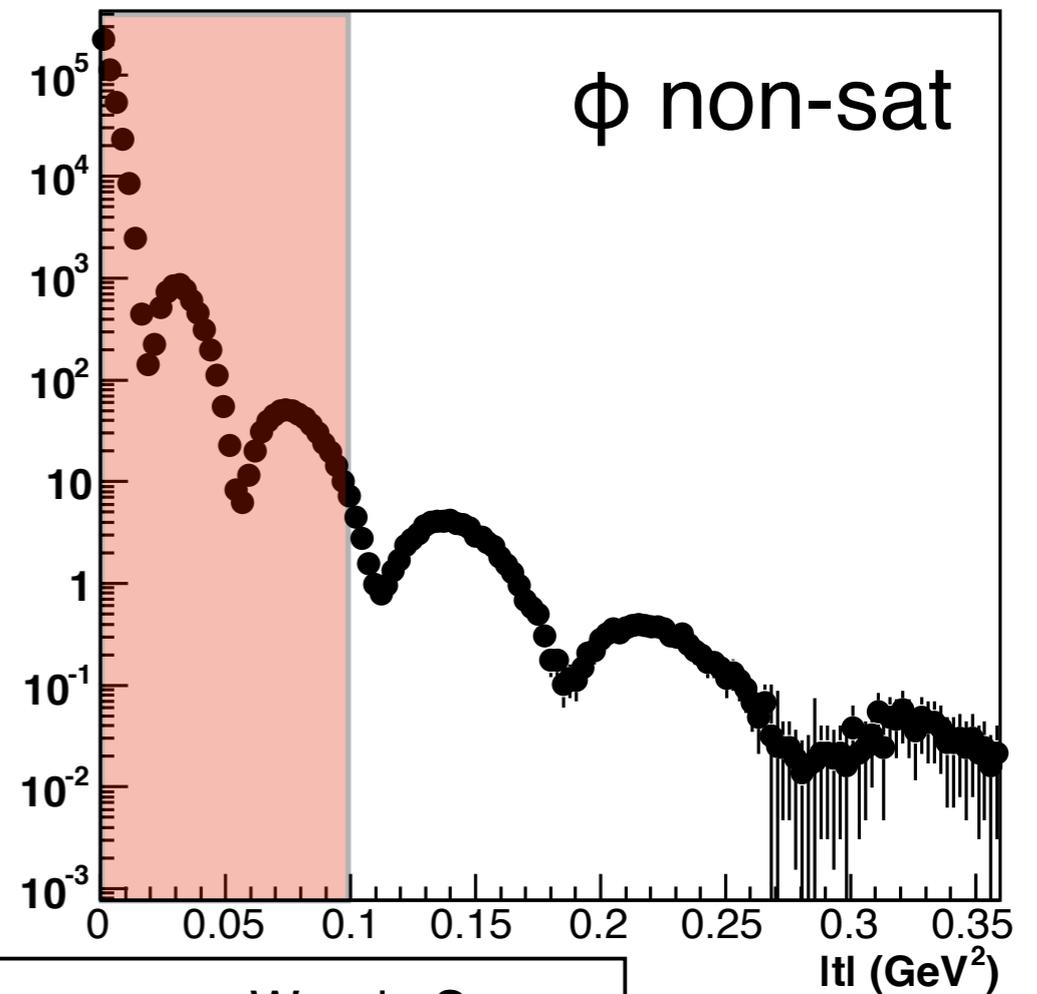


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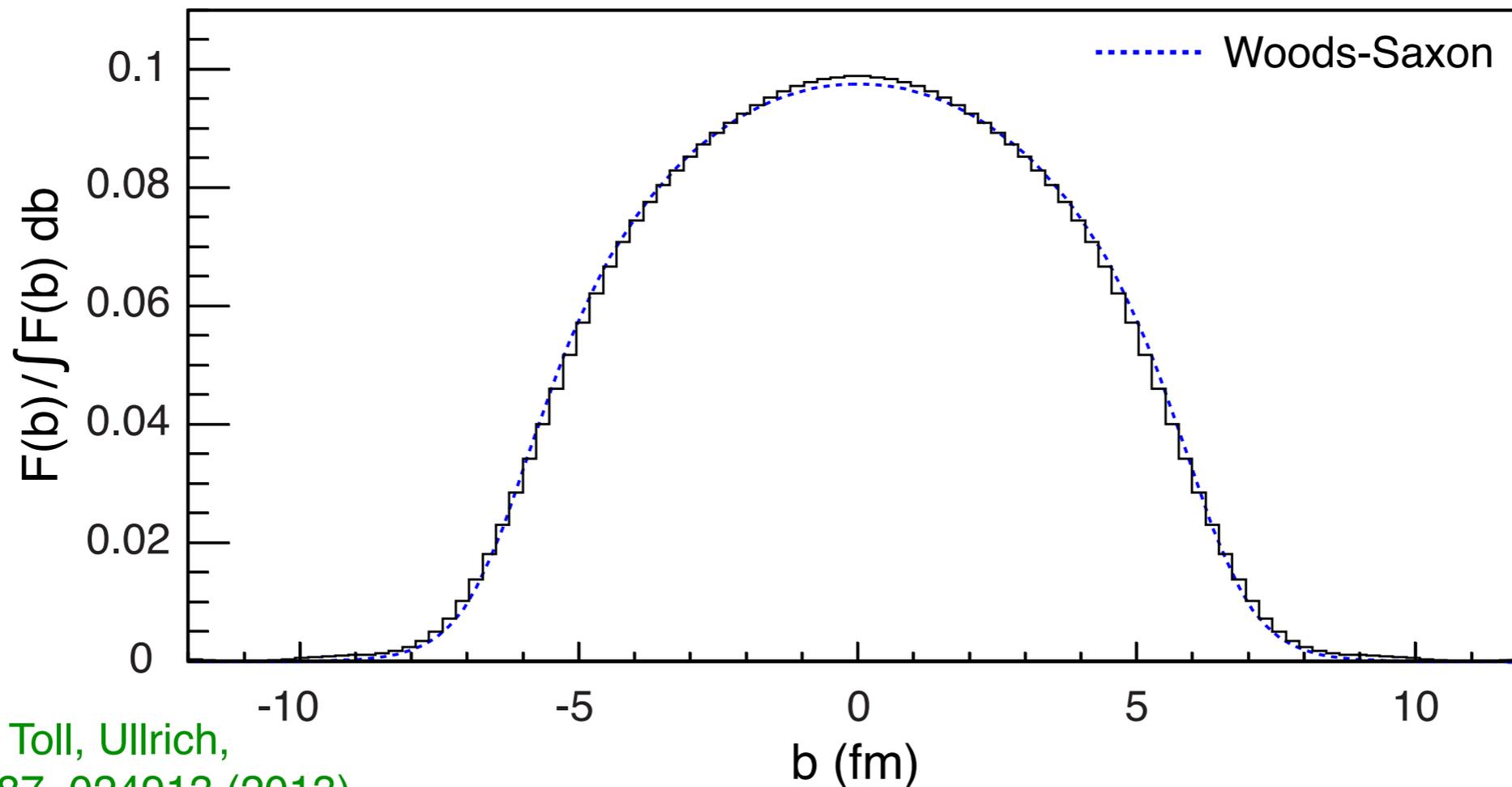
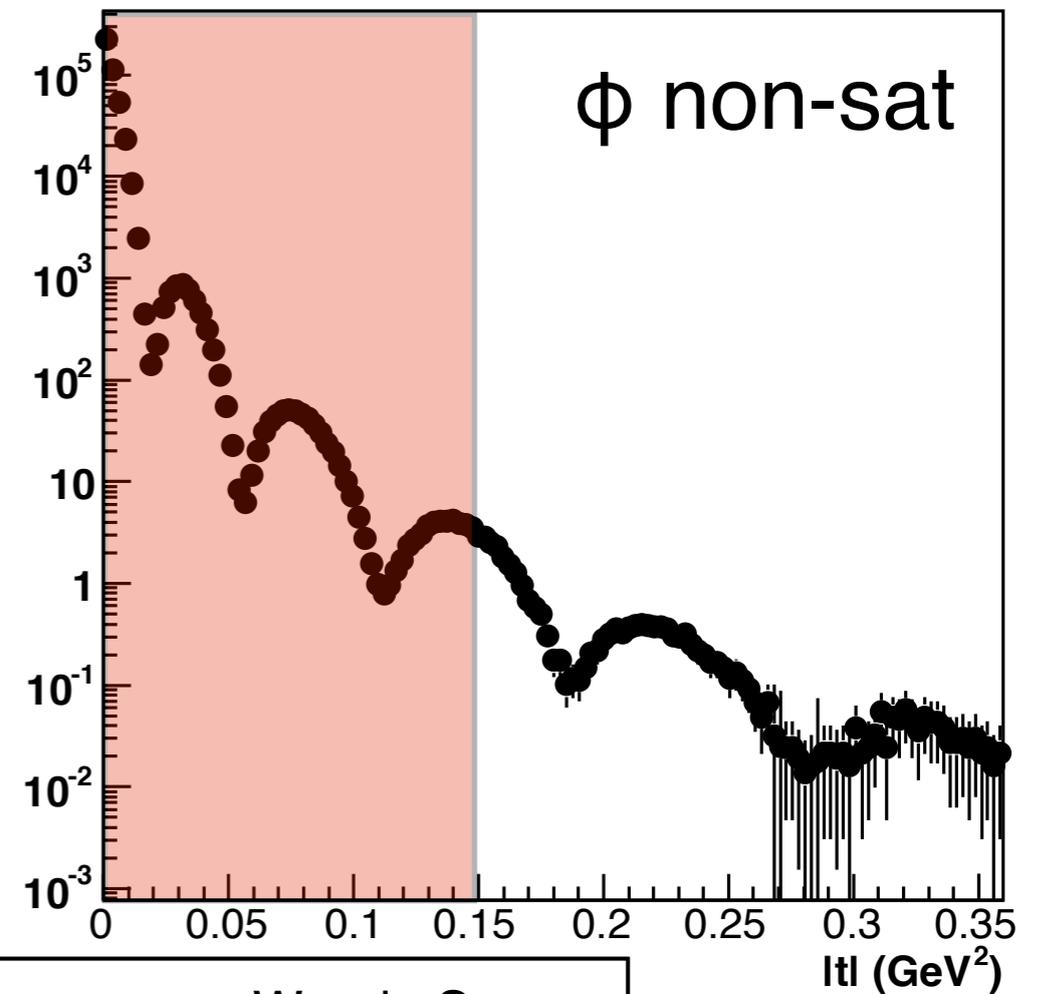


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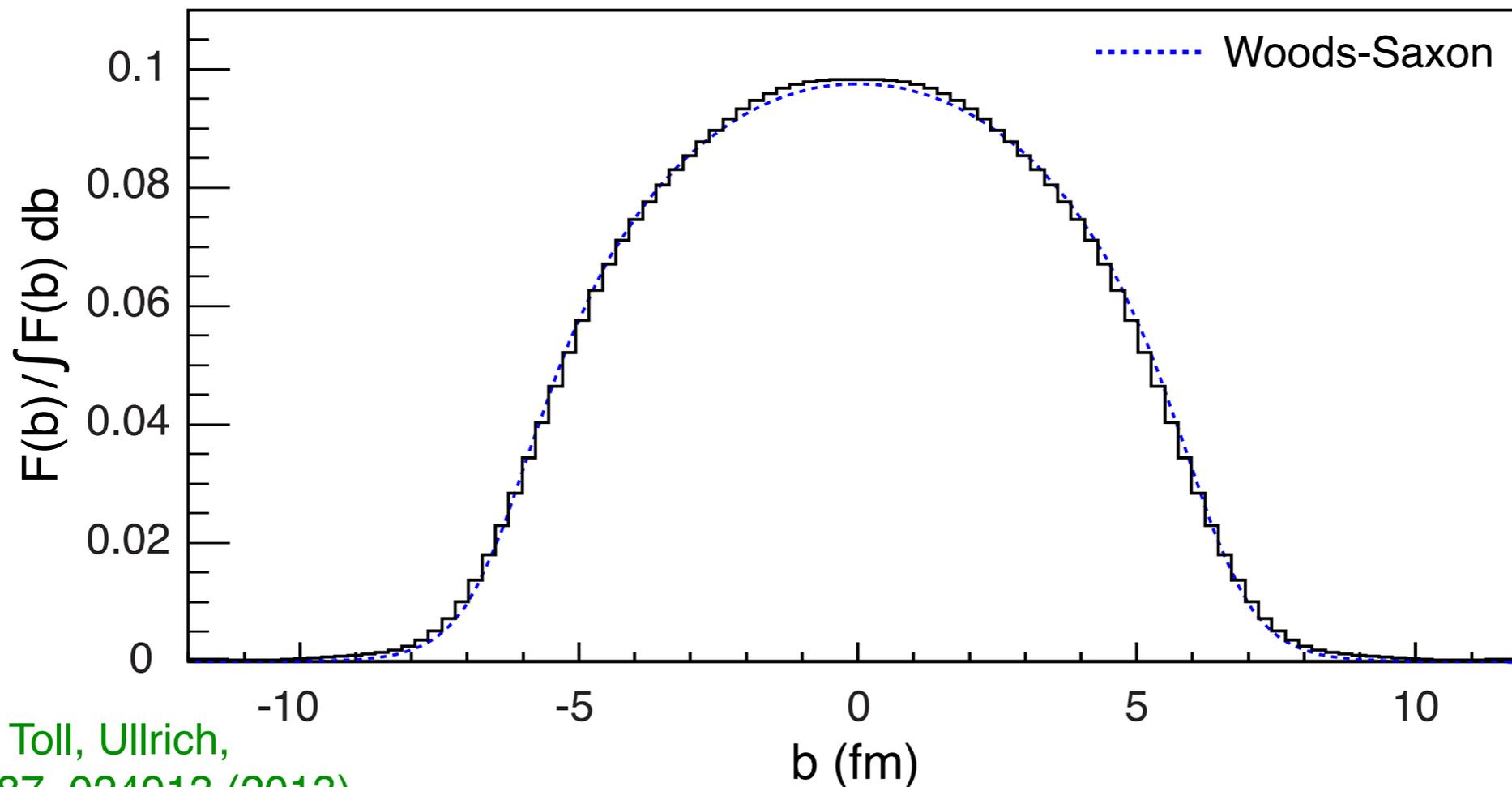
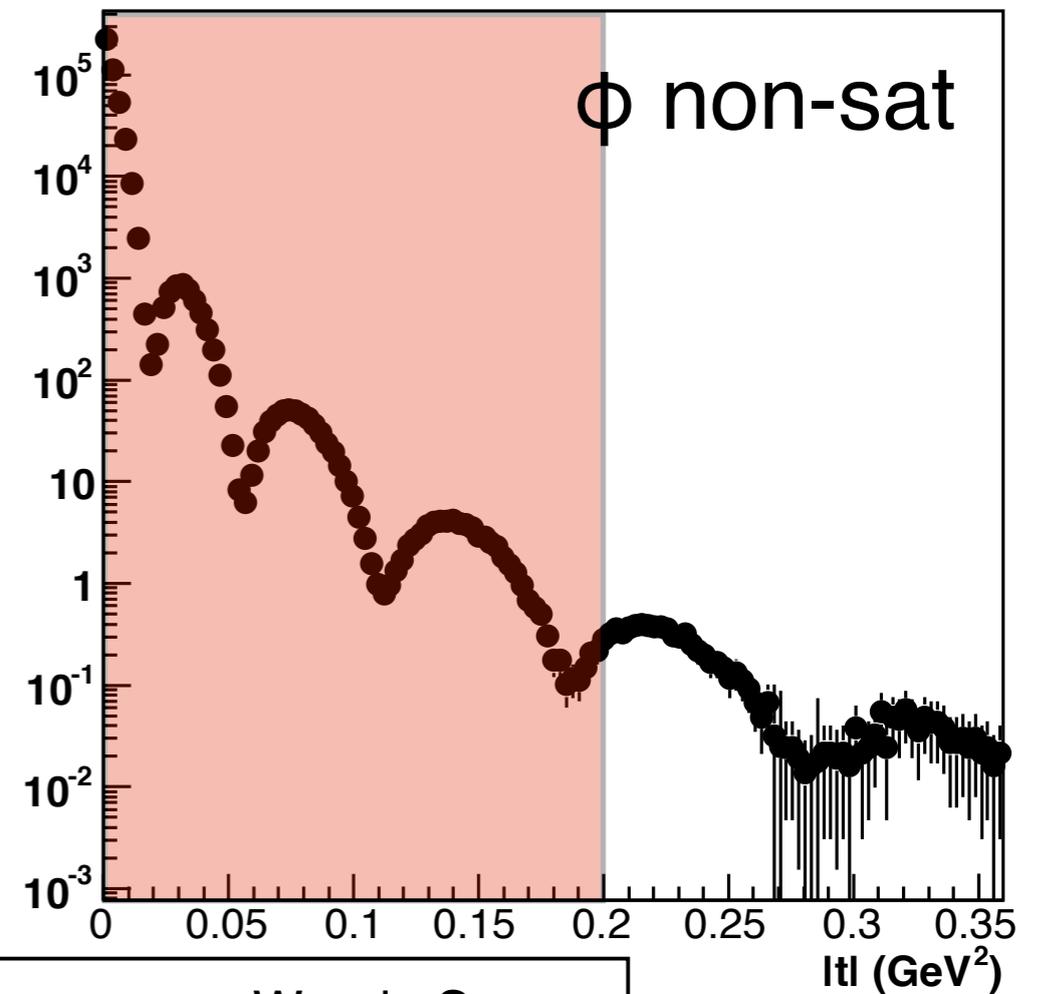


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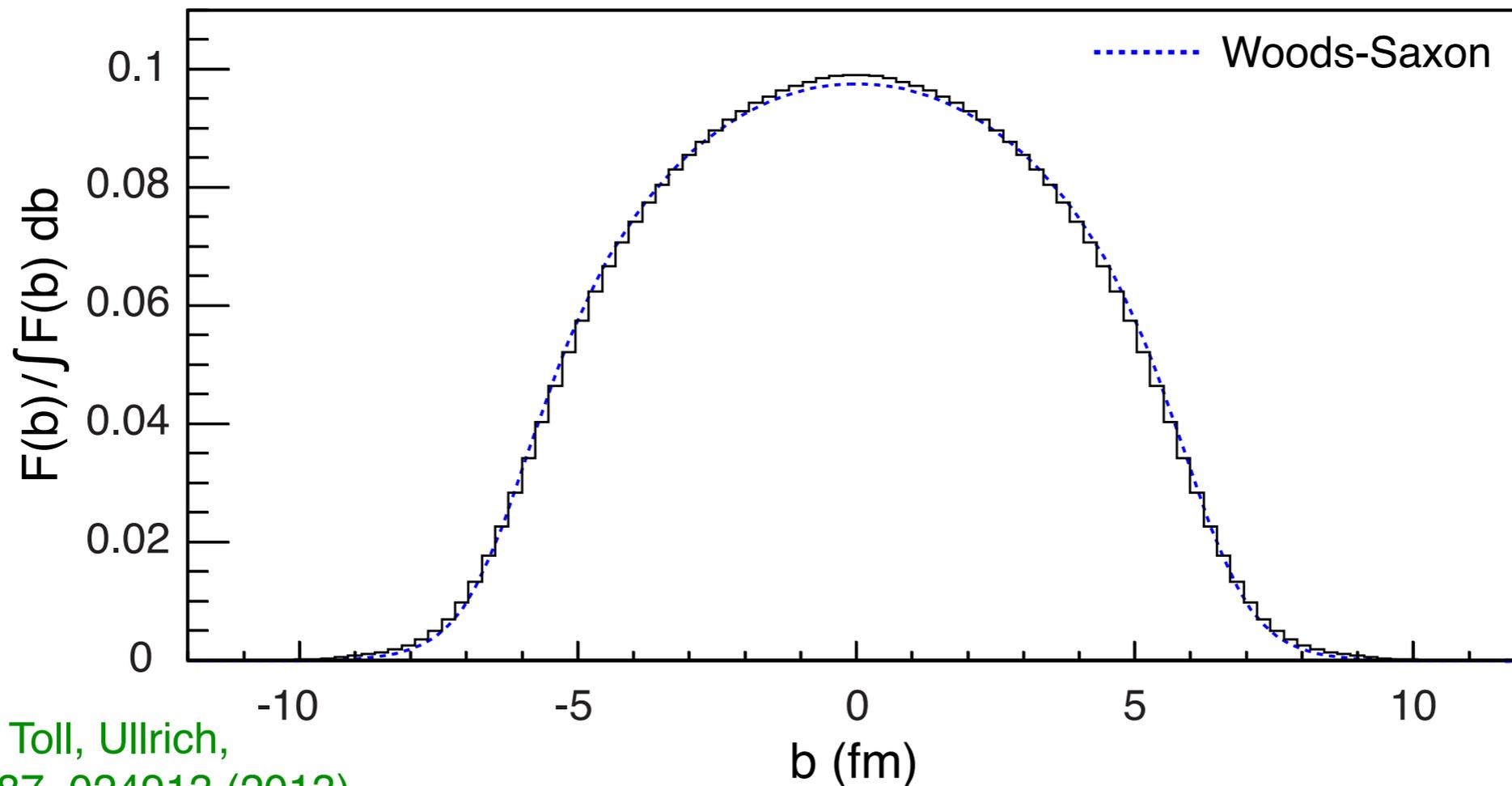
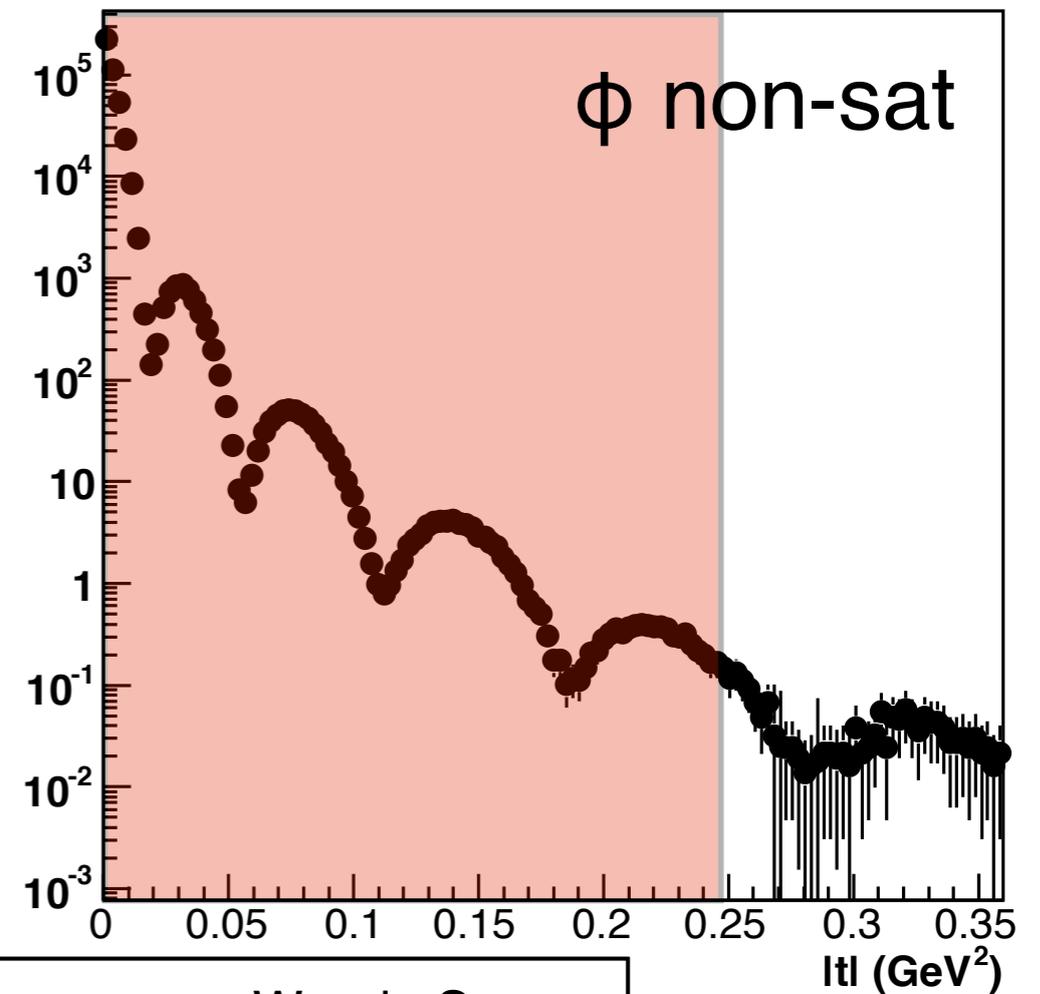


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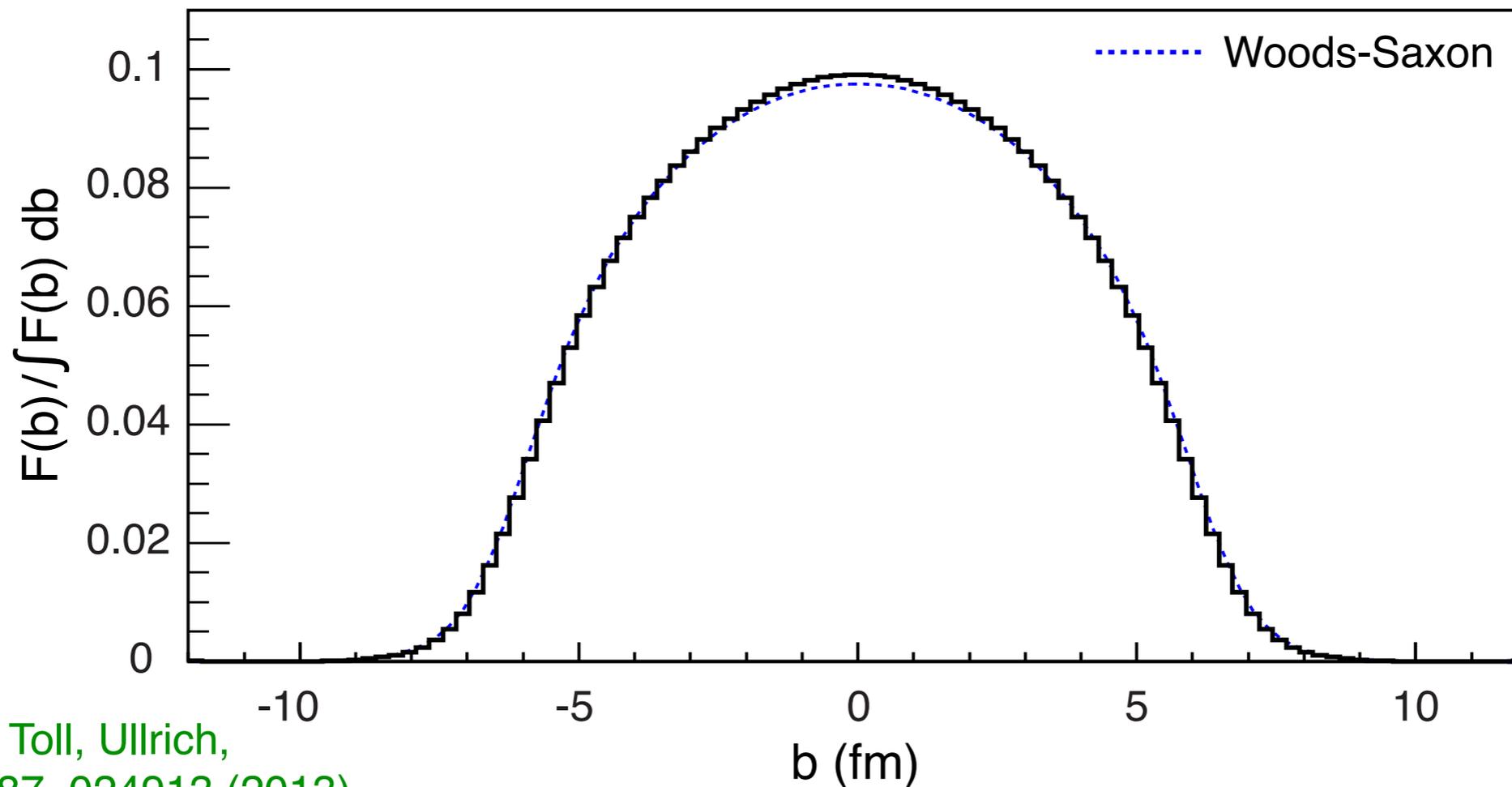
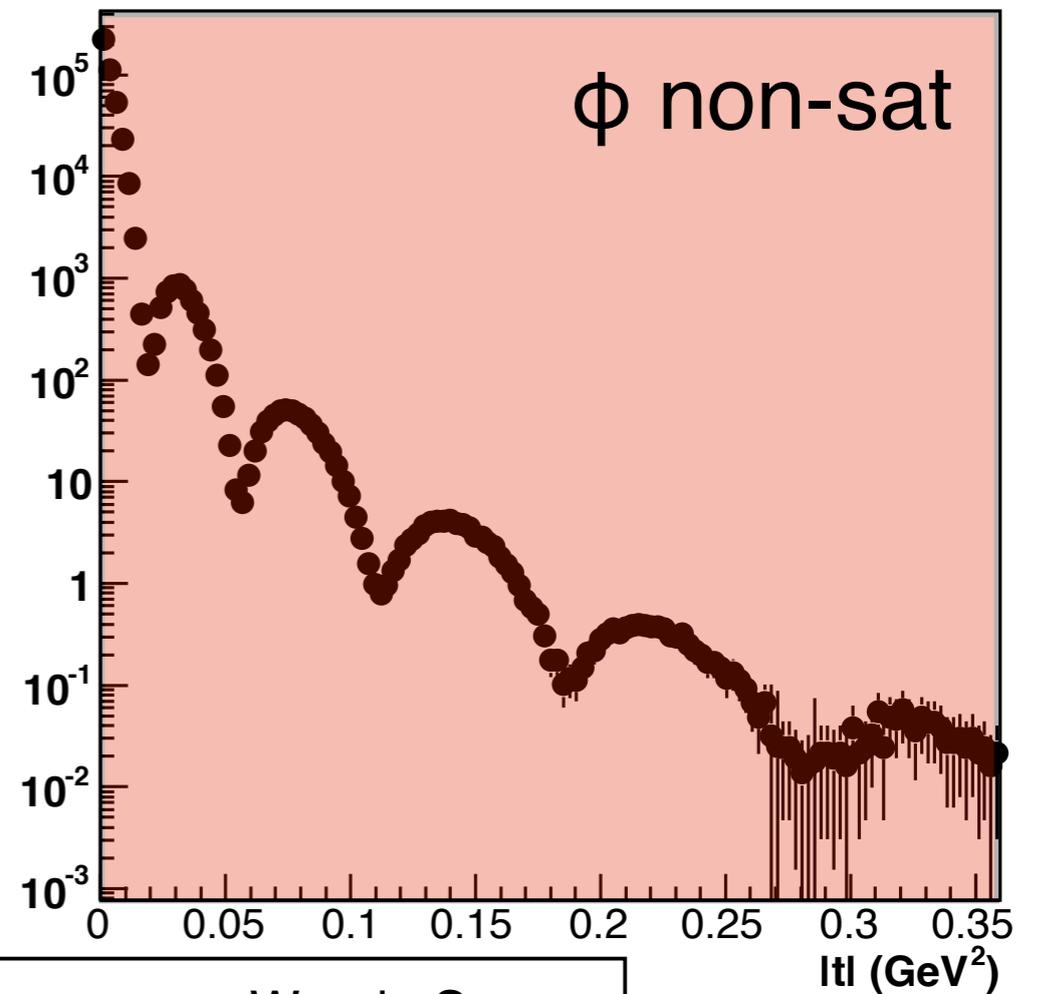


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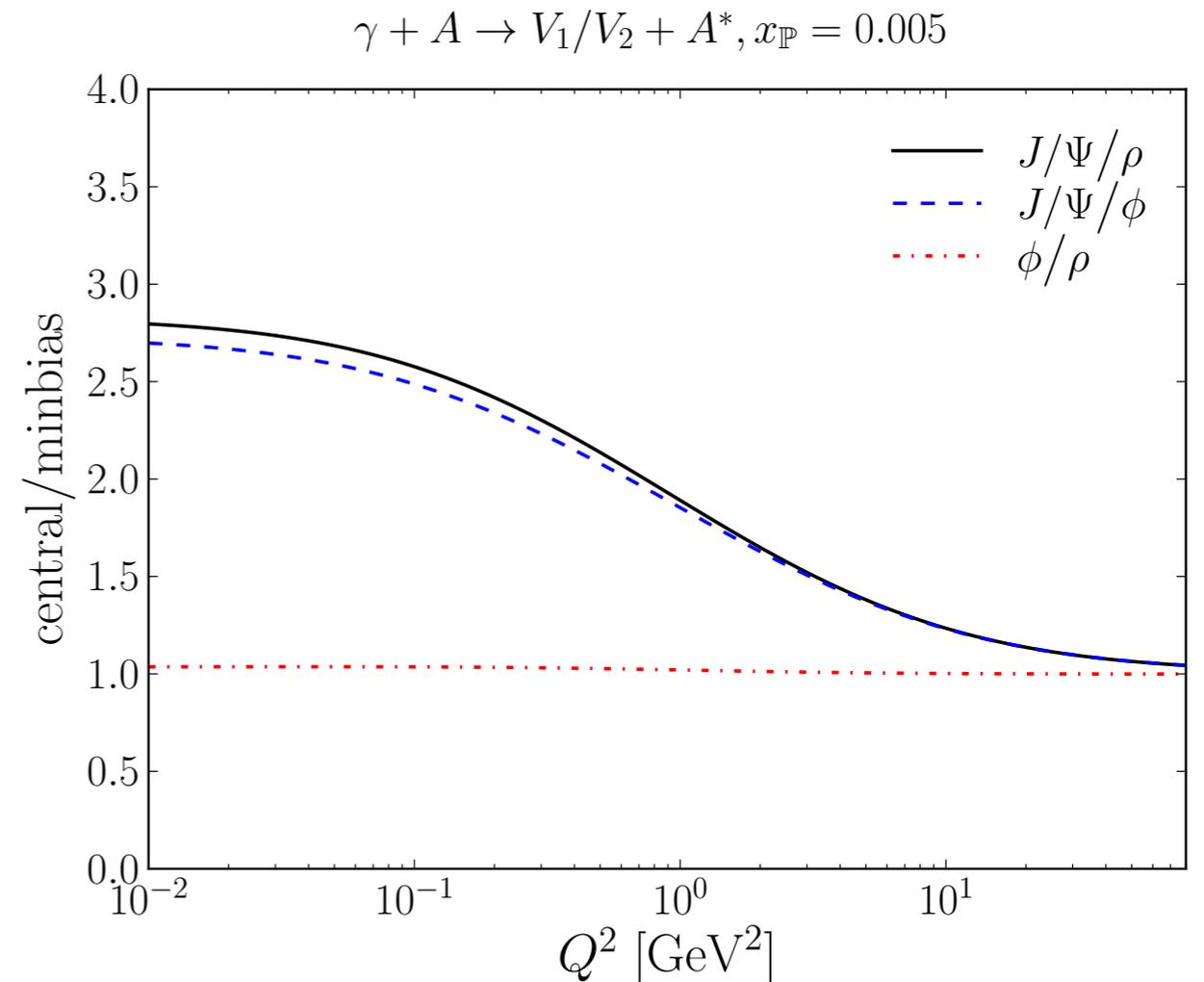


# Centrality Determination in e+A collisions

- A recent paper by Lappi, Mäntysaari and Venugopalan shows that the centrality of an e+A collisions can be calculated by measuring the “ballistic” protons knocked out of the nucleus
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  - Measured in Roman Pot detectors downstream of the interaction
  - Multiplicity of ballistic protons is a measure of collision centrality
- Although the  $\rho$  and  $\phi$  wave-functions are large and hence insensitive to collision centrality, the small wave-function of the  $J/\psi$  is sensitive to this
  - The ratio of the  $J/\psi$  cross-sections in central/minbias collisions is proportional to the ratio of the saturation scale,  $Q_s$ , in central to minbias collisions..
  - The ratio of  $J/\psi$  to  $\rho$  or  $\phi$  shows a strong enhancement at low  $Q^2$



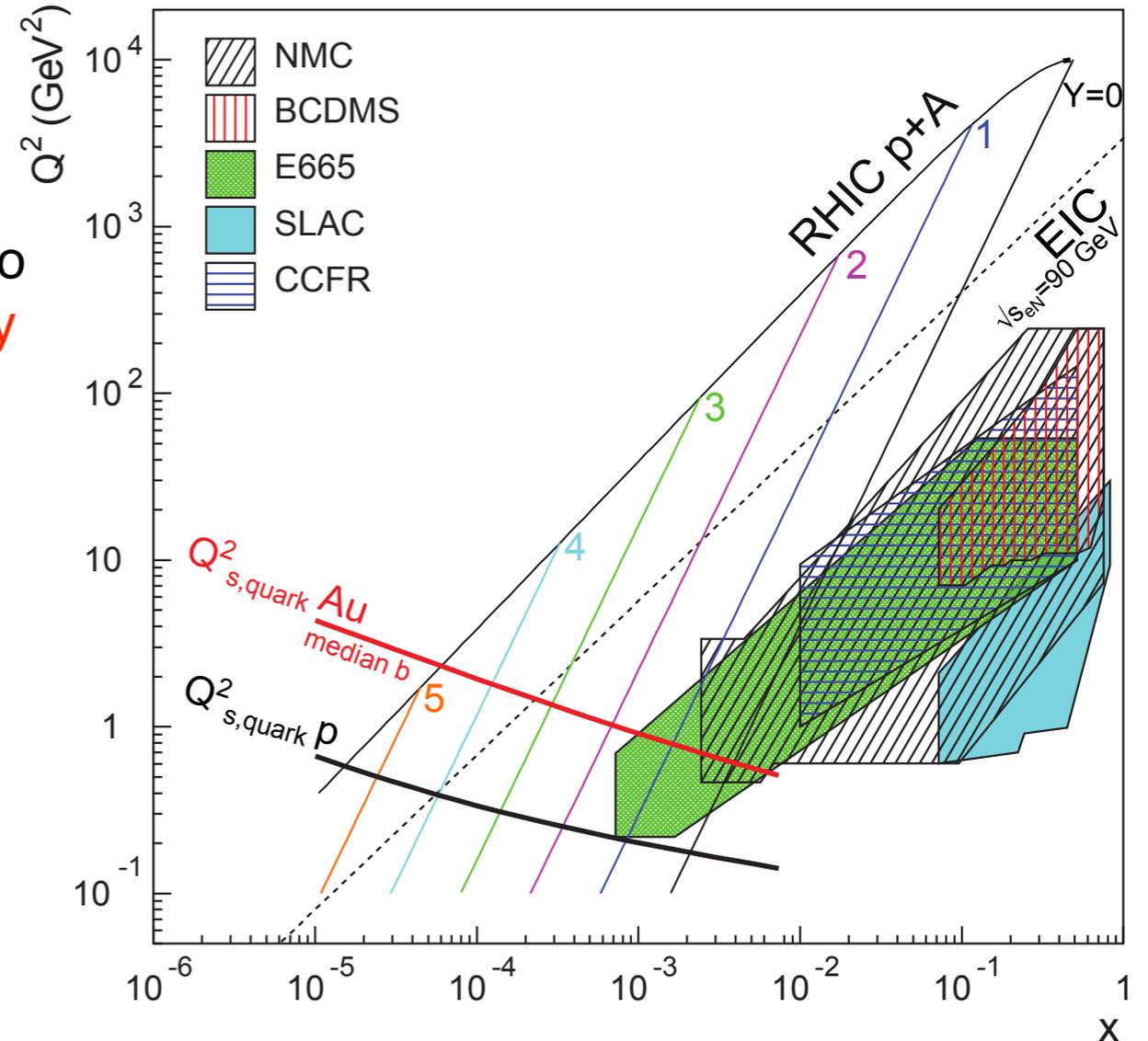
Lappi, Mäntysaari and Venugopalan - ArXiv:1411.0887

# Why $e+A$ collisions and not $p+A$ ?

- $e+A$  and  $p+A$  provide excellent information on properties of gluons in the nuclear wave functions
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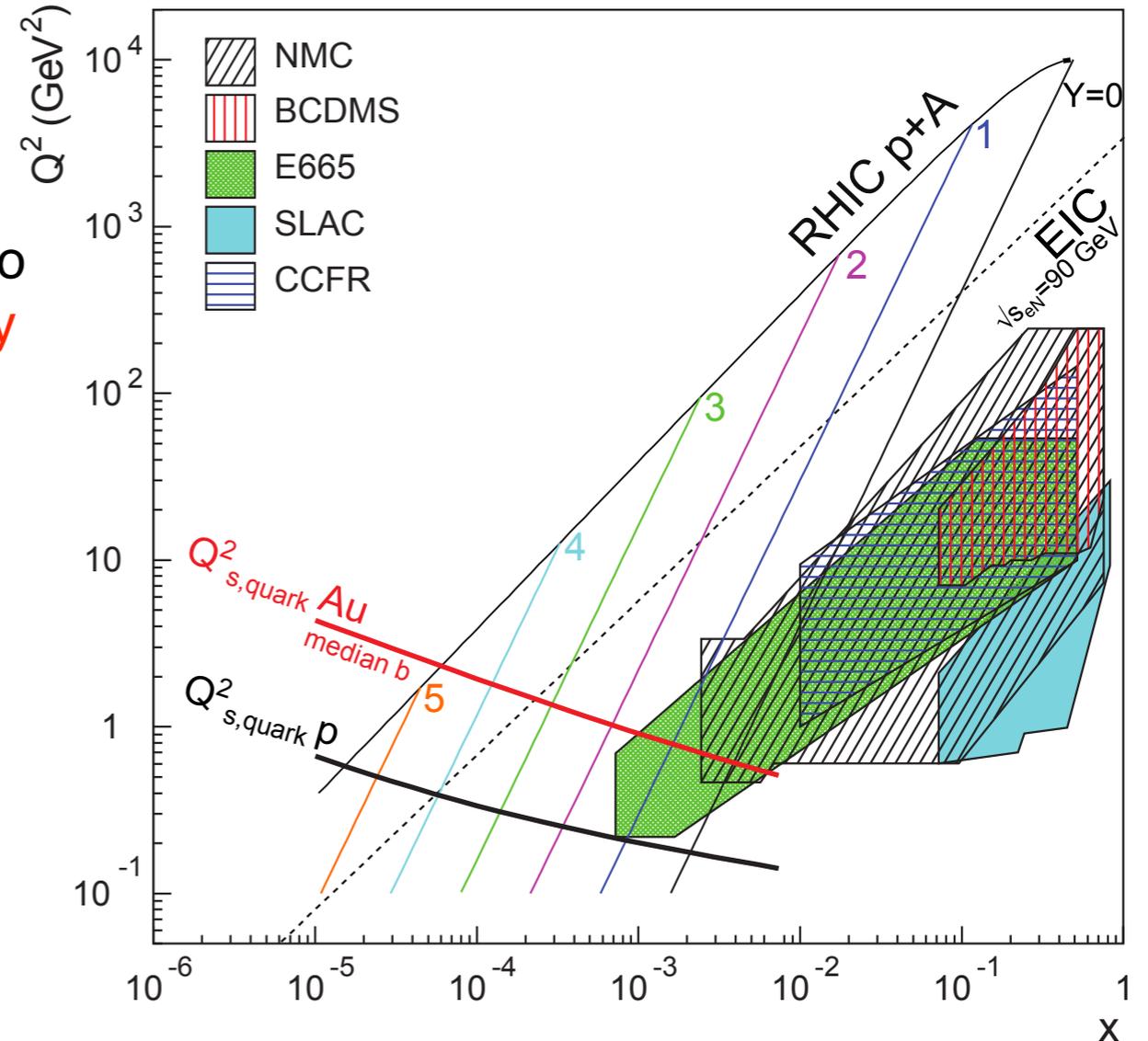
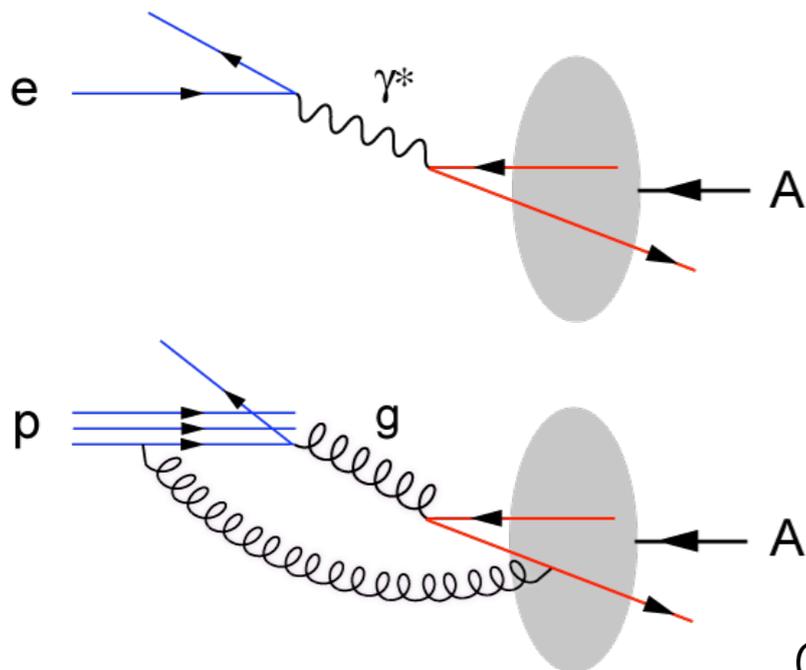
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## • Issues:

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- ➔ multiple colour interactions in p+A
- ➔ p+A lacks the direct access to  $(x, Q^2)$



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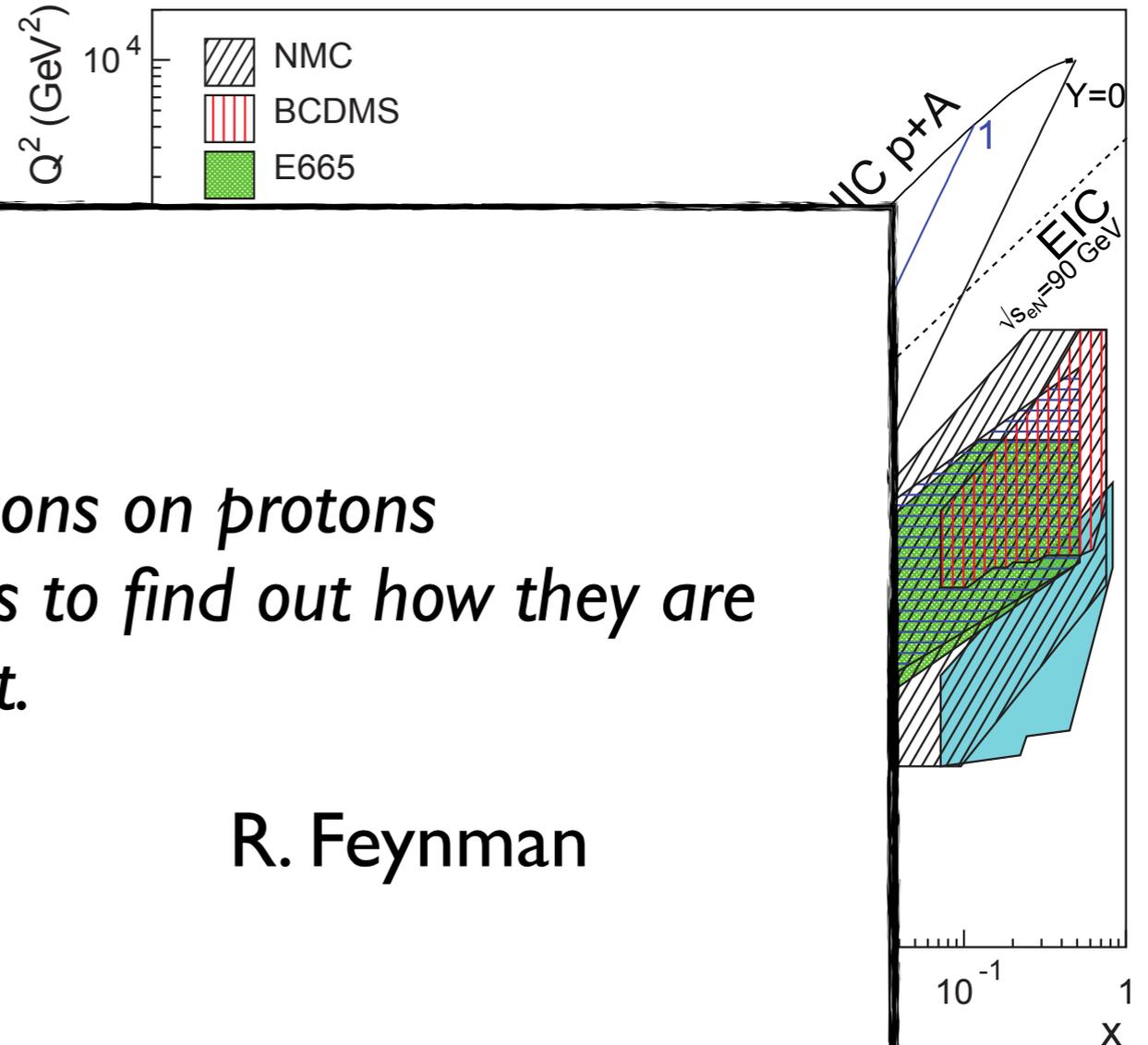
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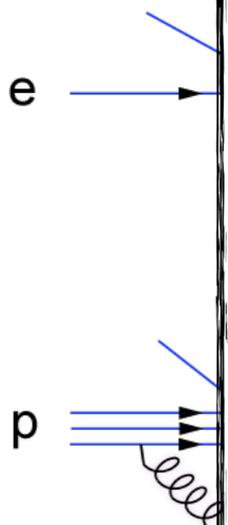
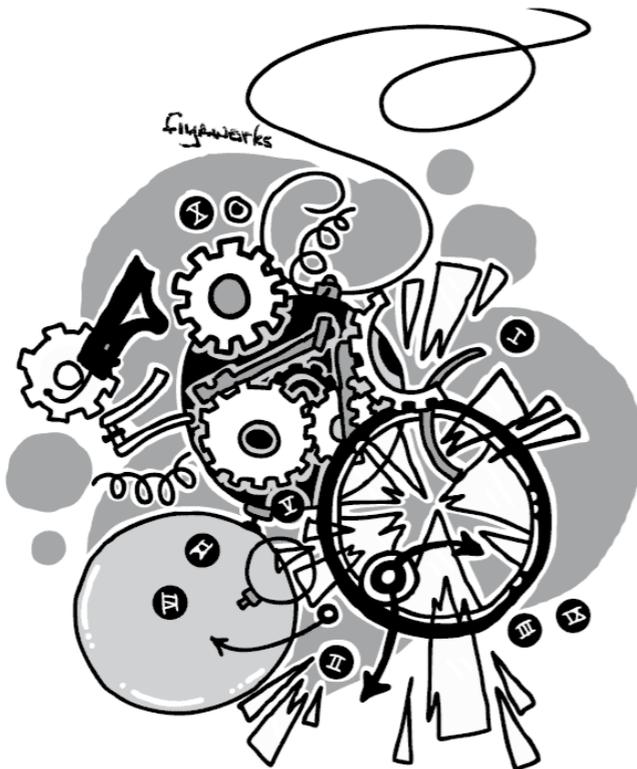
- Issues:

- p+A collisions are messy
- multiple scattering
- p+A lacks precision



*Scattering of protons on protons is like colliding Swiss watches to find out how they are built.*

R. Feynman



HIC will probe  $x$  than forward

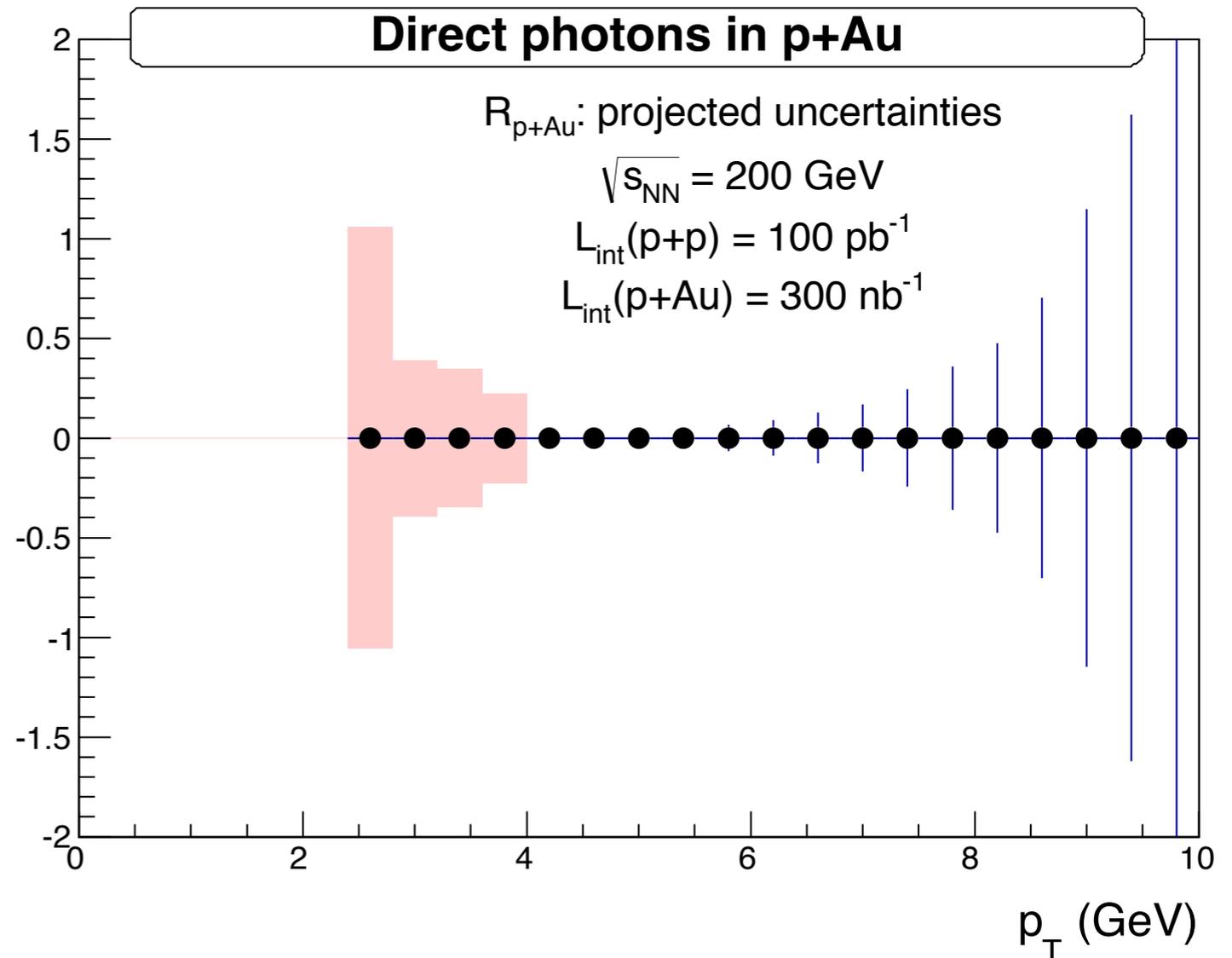
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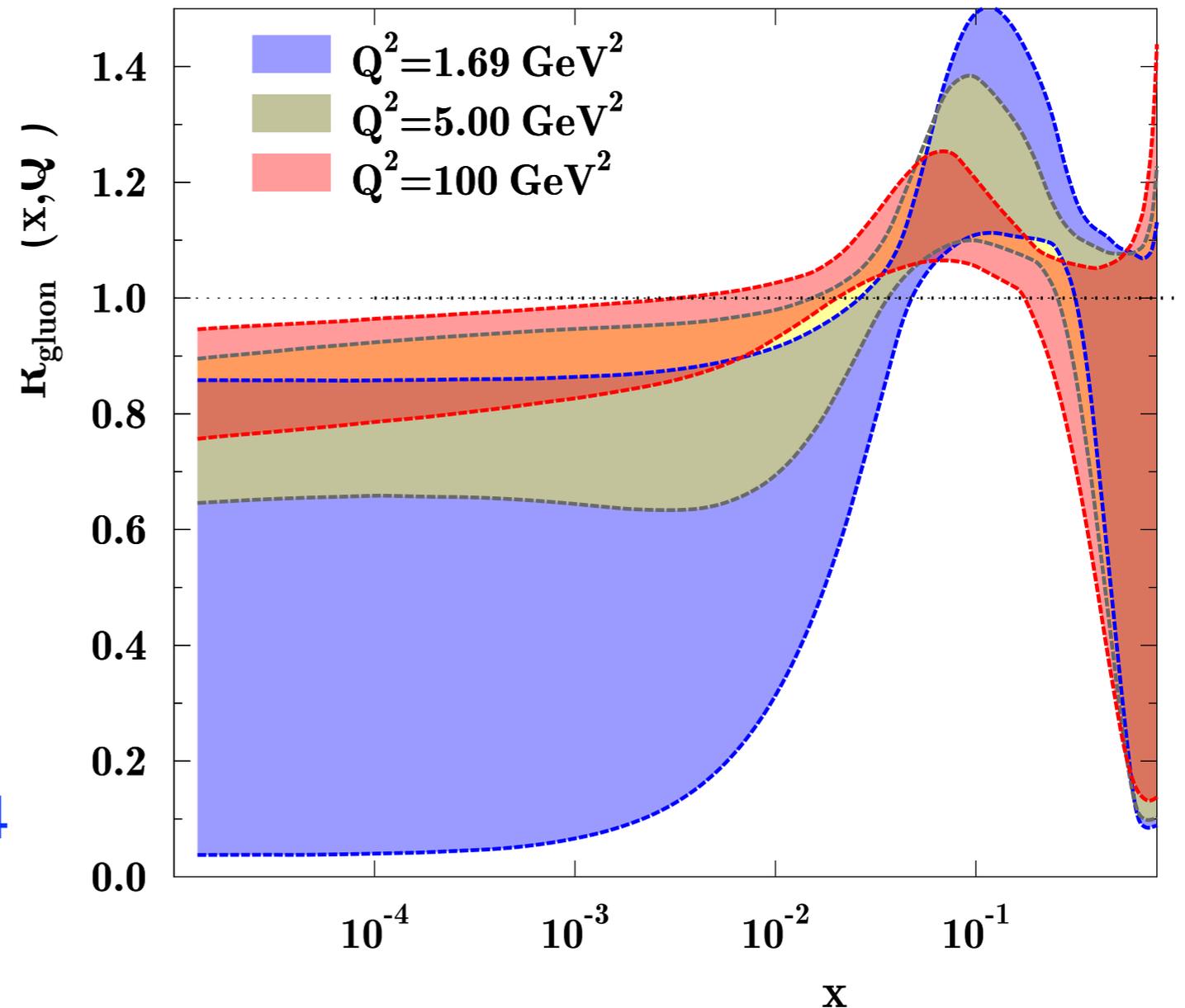
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A polarized p+p and p+A program for the next years - The STAR Collaboration

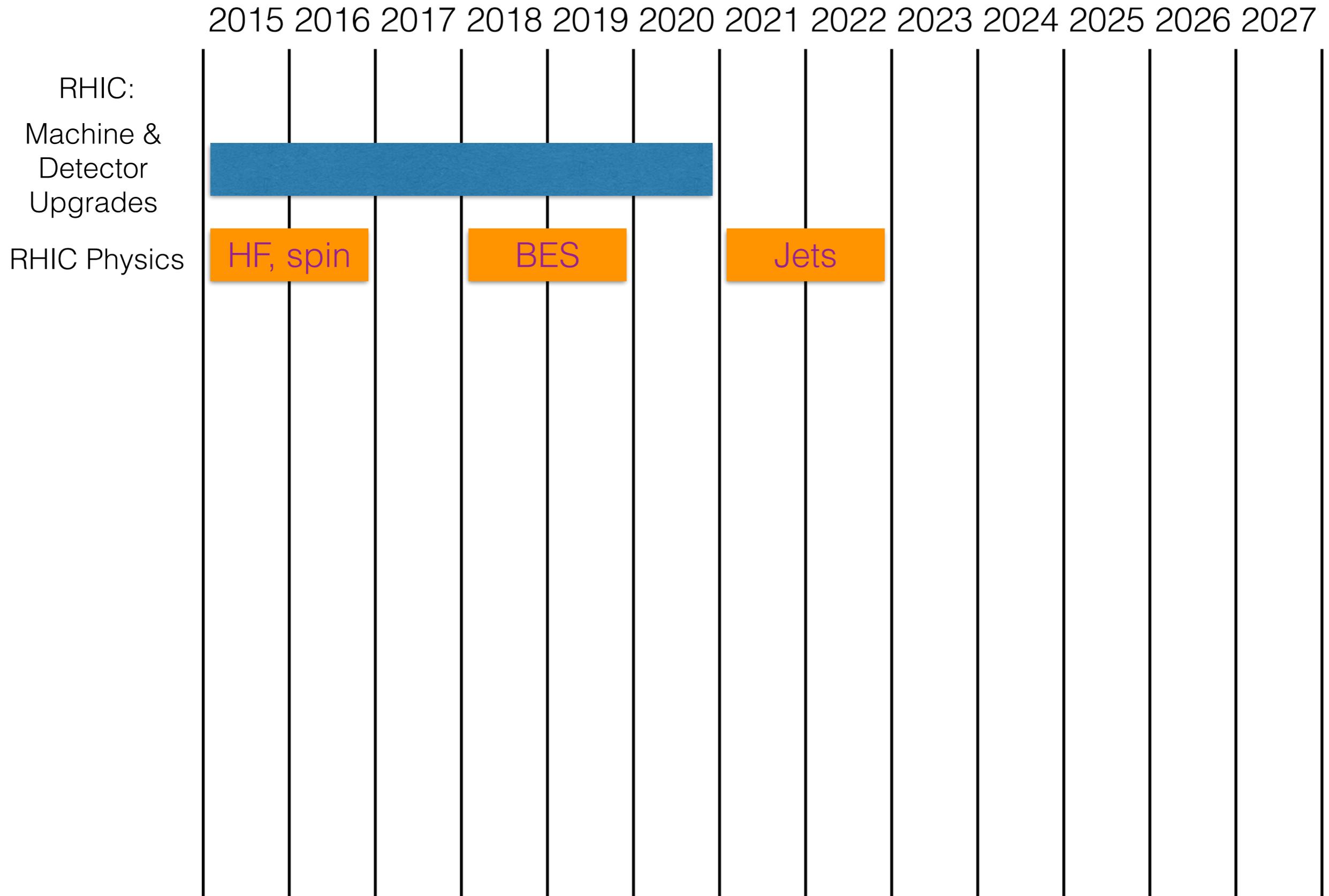
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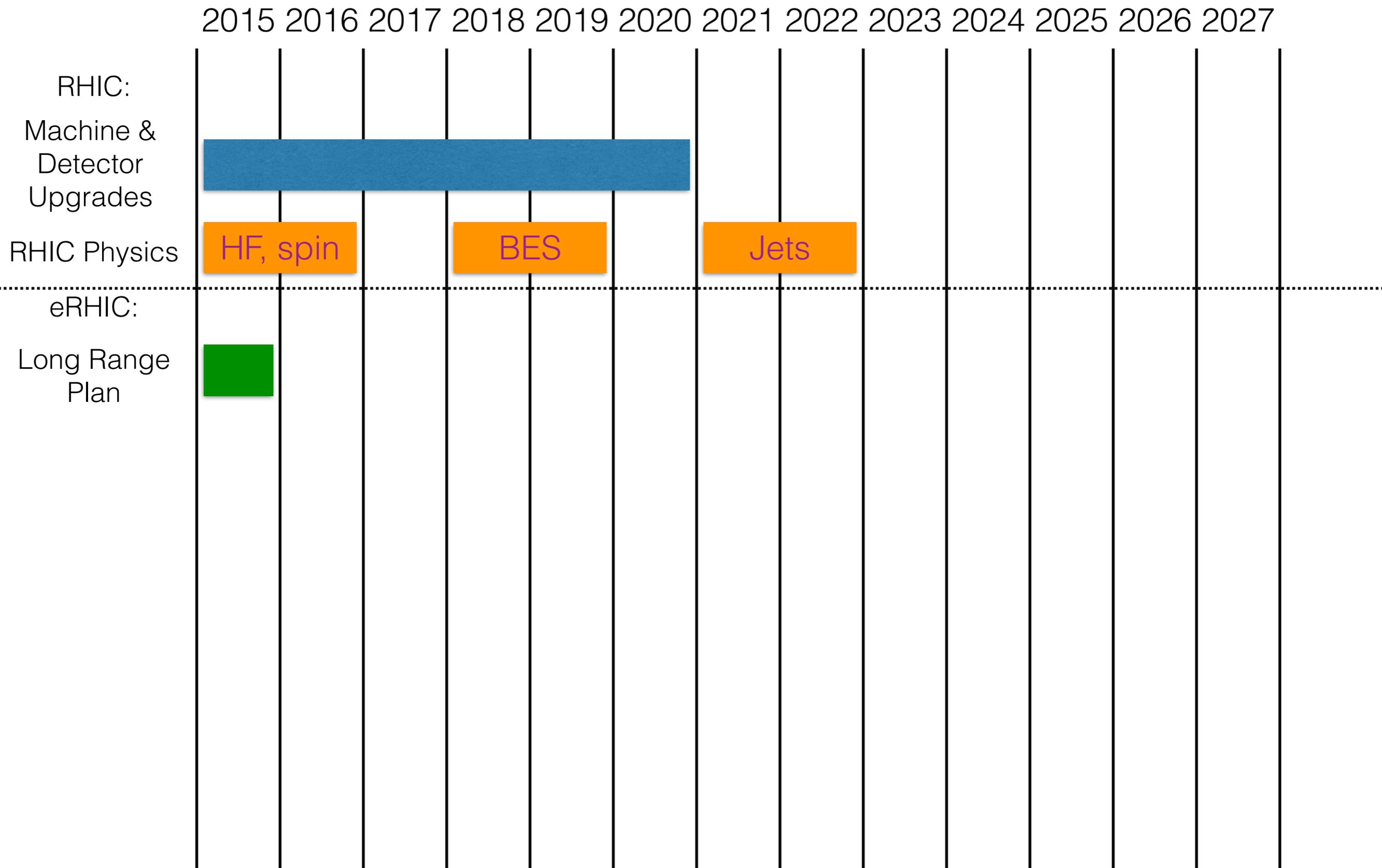


EPS09 - H. Paukkunen

# Timescale of eRHIC construction

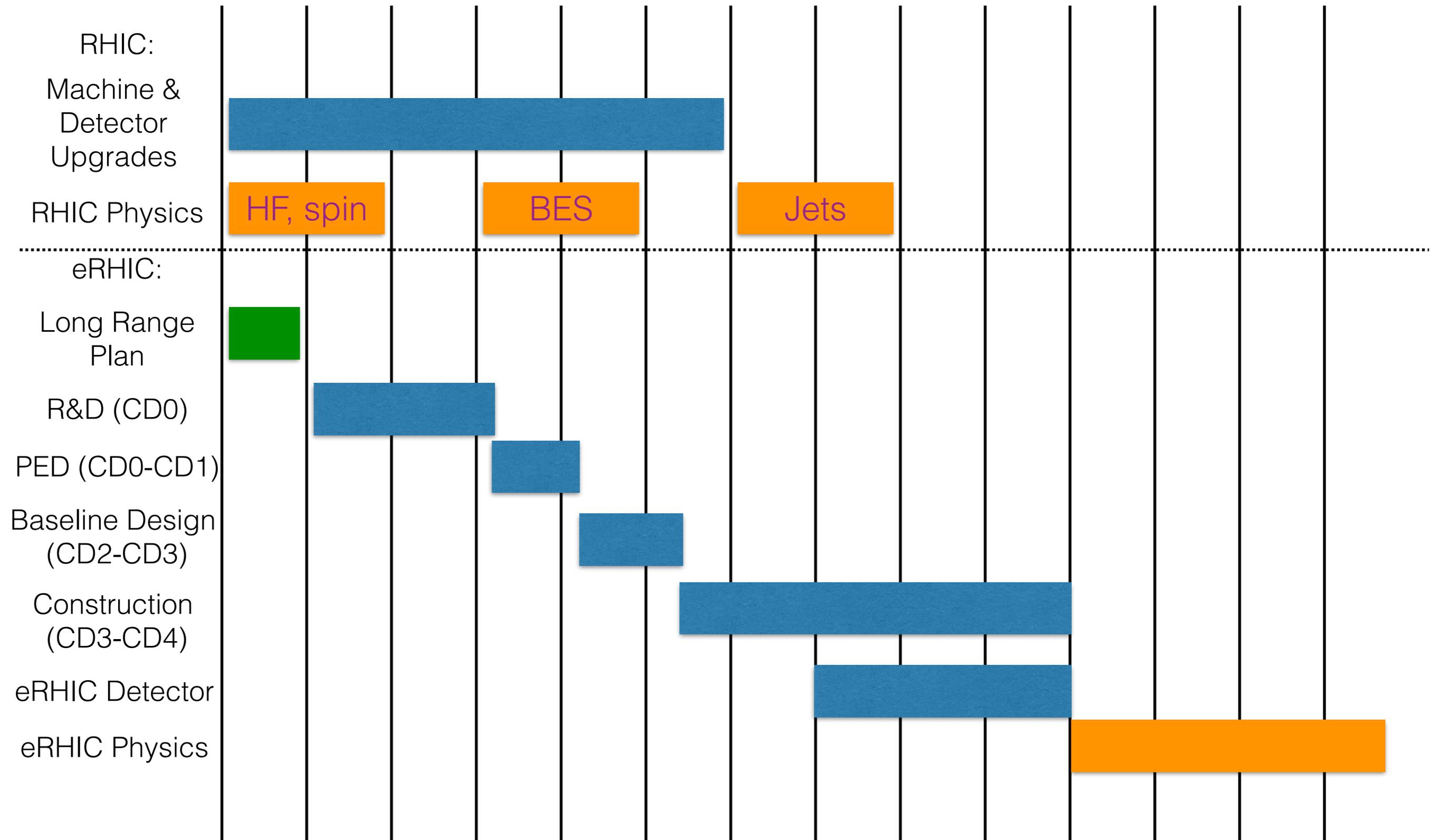


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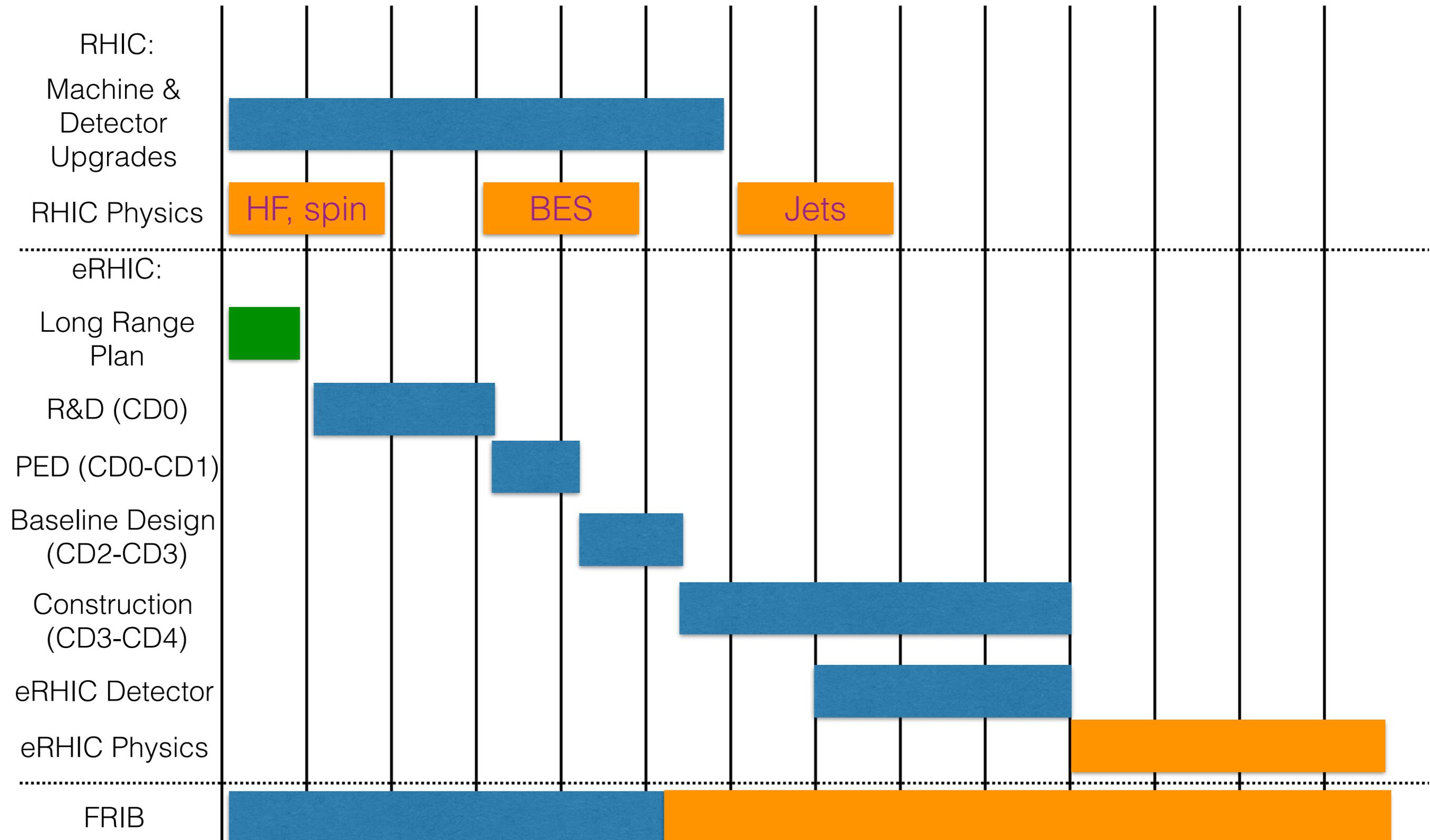
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# Summary and Conclusions

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  - **Low-x - structure functions**: Measure the properties of gluons where saturation is the dominant governing phenomena
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**entire science programme is uniquely tied to a  
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