

# AFTER @ LHC

A Fixed-Target Experiment using the proton and lead LHC beams

**Jean-Philippe Lansberg**

IPN Orsay, Université Paris-Sud

May 10-11, 2012

**SPRING 2012 AFTER Meeting**

LPSC, Grenoble



**AFTER @ LHC**

with the support of F. Fleuret (LLR), S.J. Brodsky (SLAC), C. Hadjidakis (IPN), R. Araldi (Torino), V. Chambert (IPN), J.P. Didelez (IPN), B. Genolini (IPN), E.G. Ferreira (USC), A. Rakotozafindrabe (CEA), P. Rosier (IPN), E. Scomparin (Torino), and U.I. Uggerhøj (Aarhus)

# Part I

## A fixed-target experiment using the LHC beam(s): generalities

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- Nominal LHC lumi for PbPb  $0.5 \text{ nb}^{-1}$

## Part II

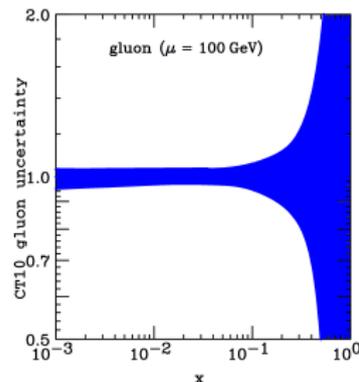
# AFTER: a couple of flagships measurements

# Key studies

- **Gluon distribution** at high and ultra-high  $x_B$  in the

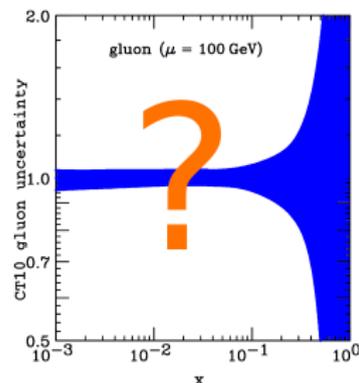
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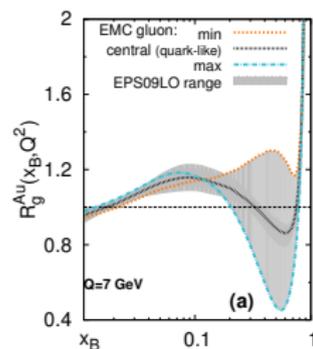
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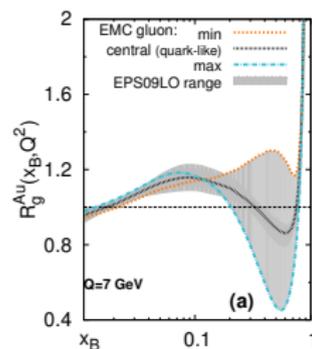


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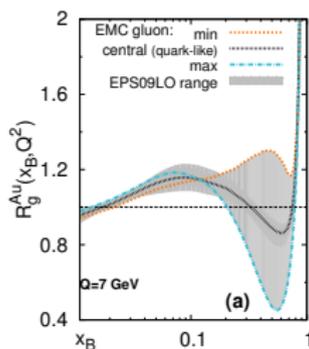


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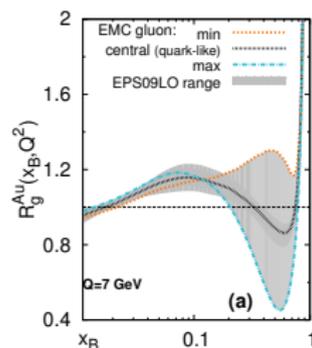


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- “high”  $P_T$  **jets** (we should access  $P_T \in [20, 40]$  GeV)

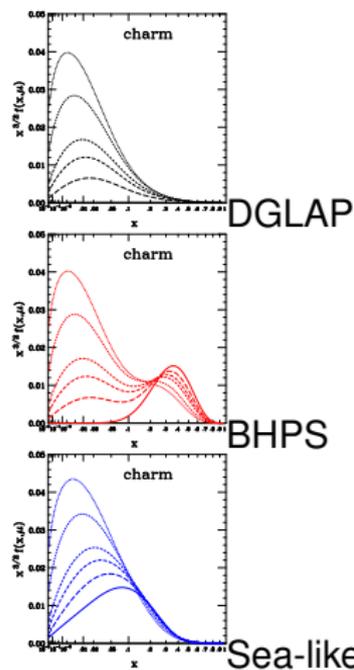


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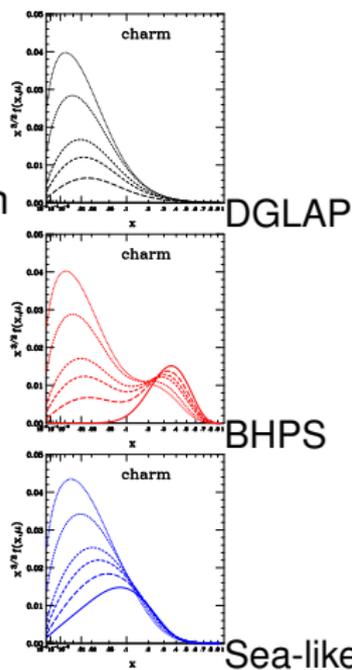
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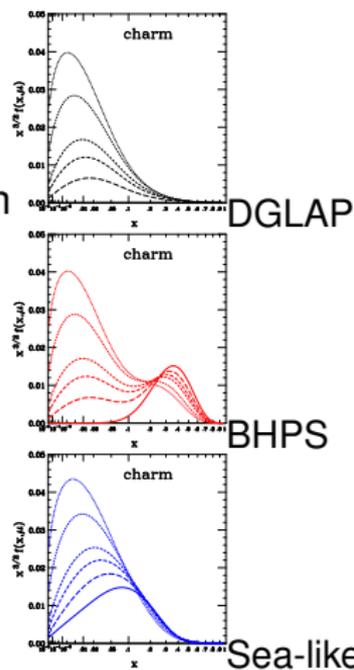


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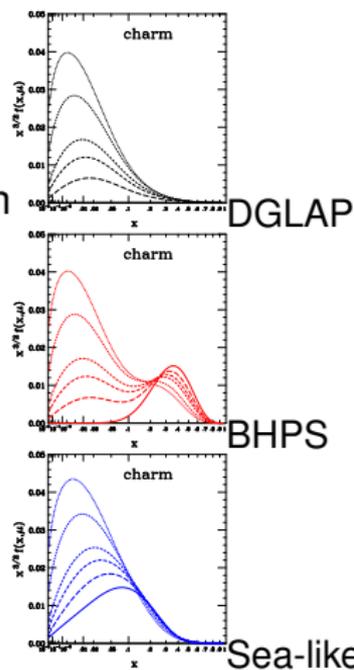
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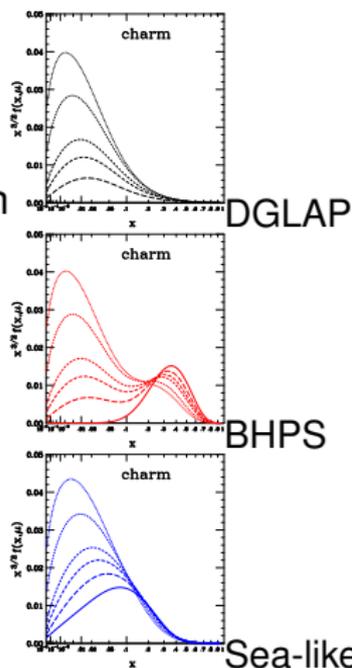
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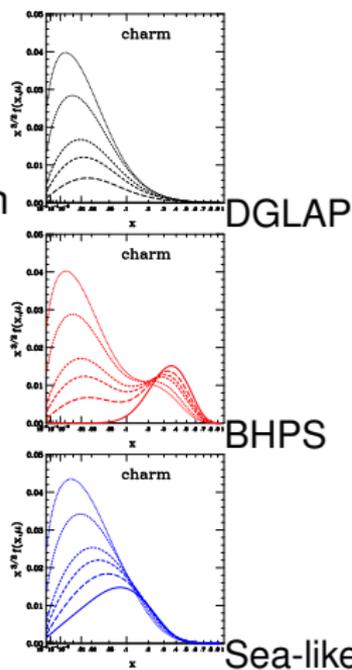
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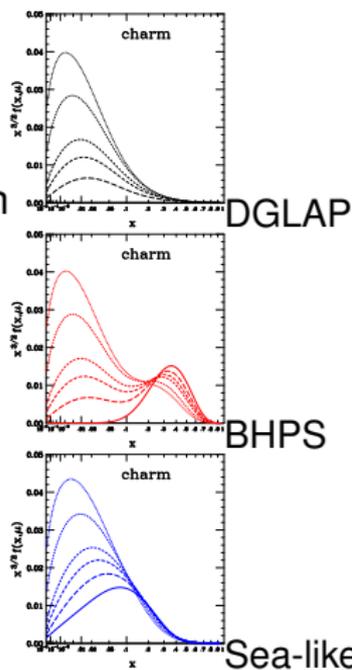
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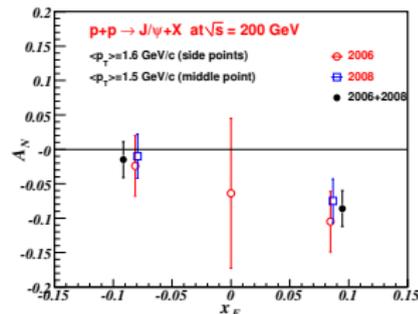
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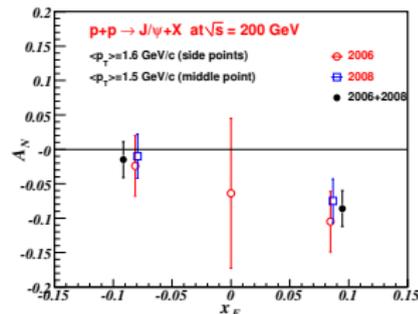
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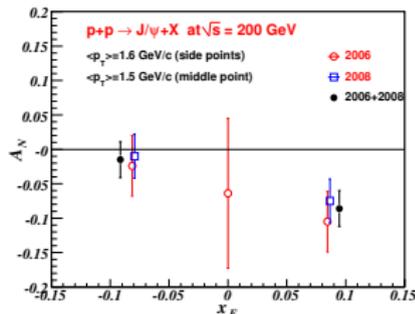
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(A. Bacchetta, *et al.* Phys. Rev. Lett. 99 (2007) 212002)

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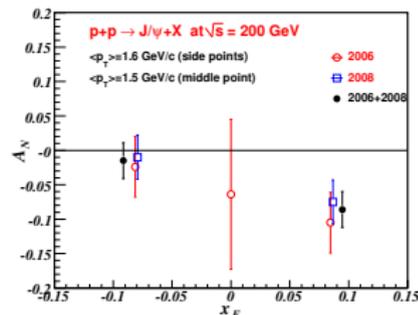
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- the target-rapidity region corresponds to **high  $x^\uparrow$**

where the  $k_T$ -spin correlation is the largest



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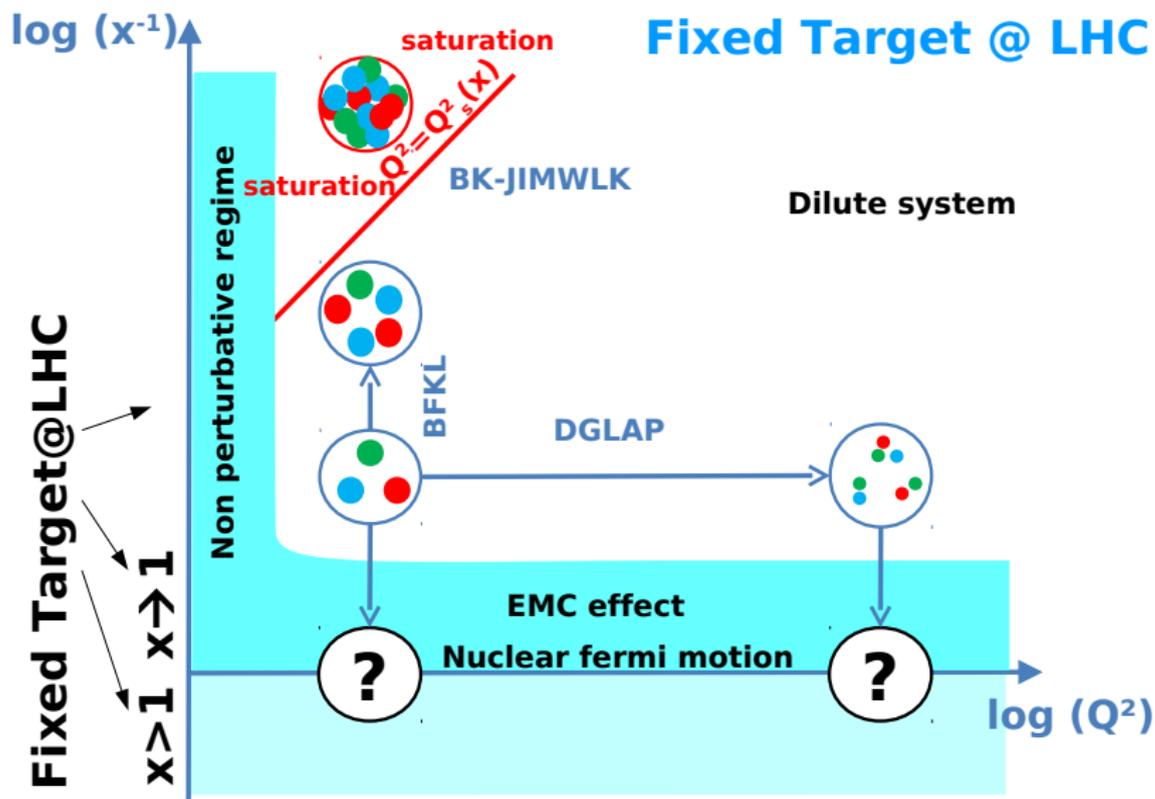
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- **Multiply heavy baryons**: discovery potential ?
- Very forward (backward) physics:
  - semi-diffractive events
  - Ultra-peripheral collisions, etc.

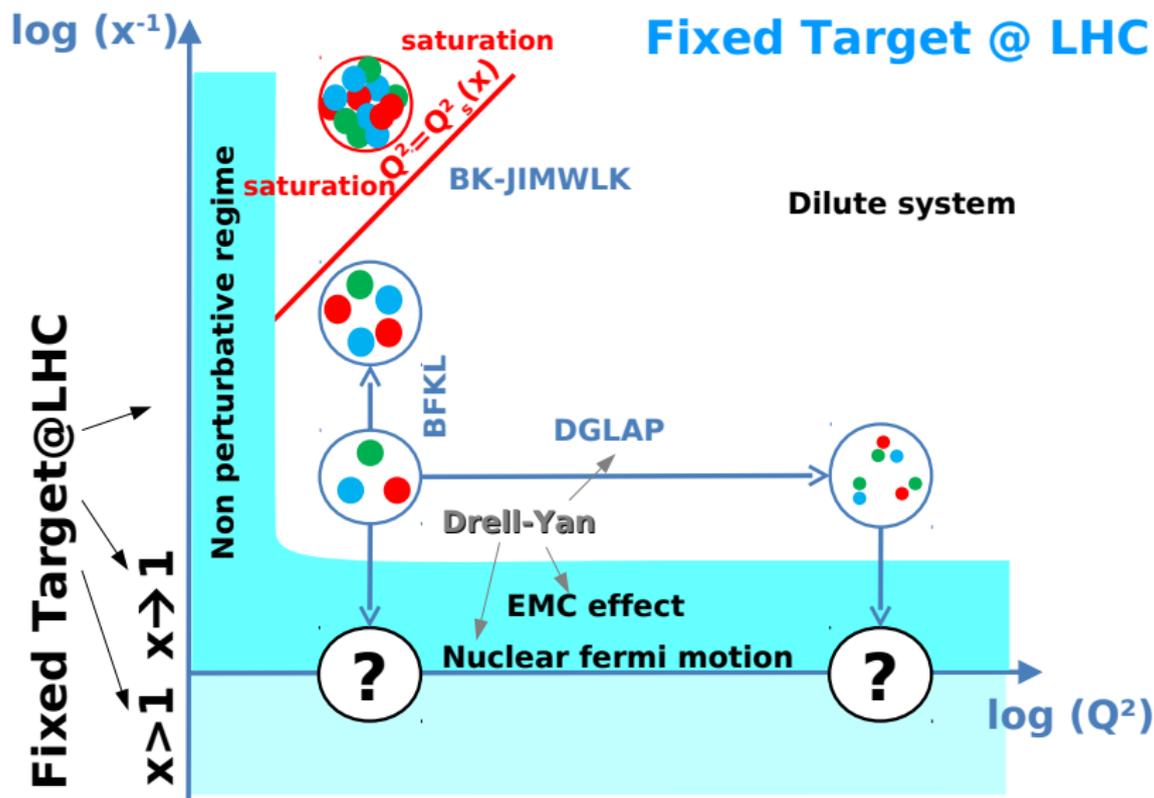
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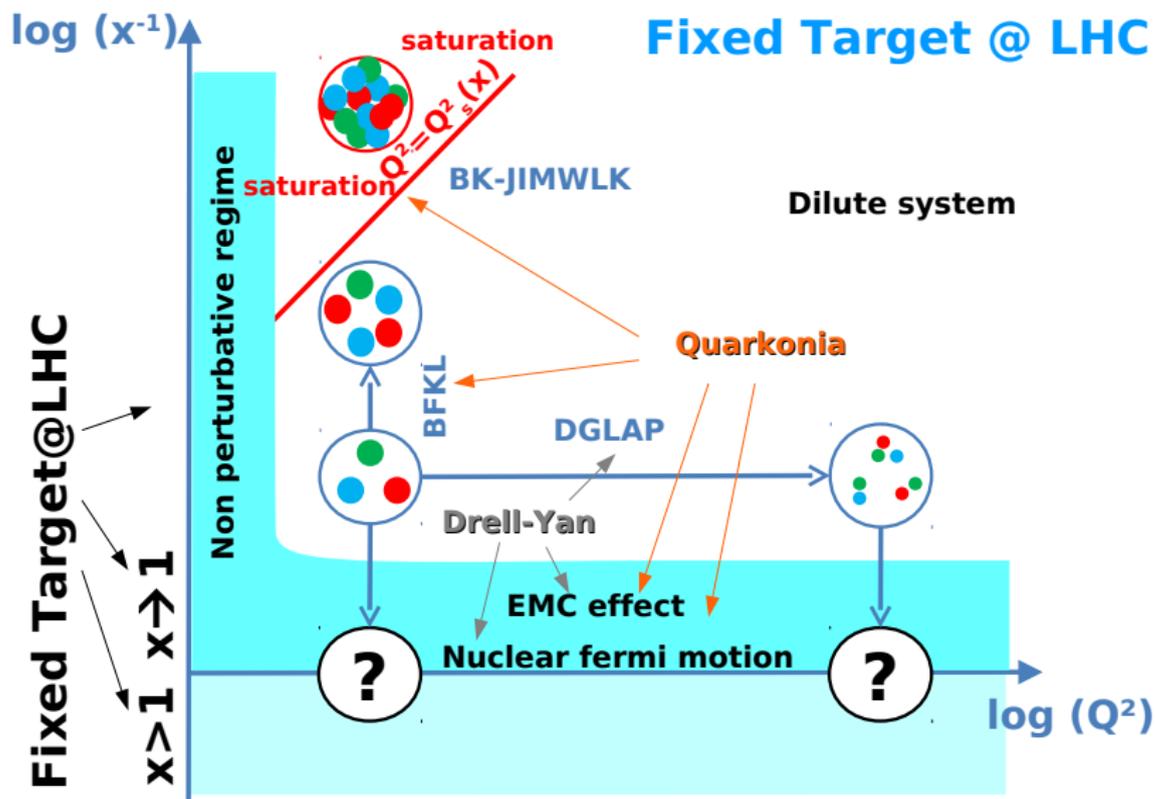
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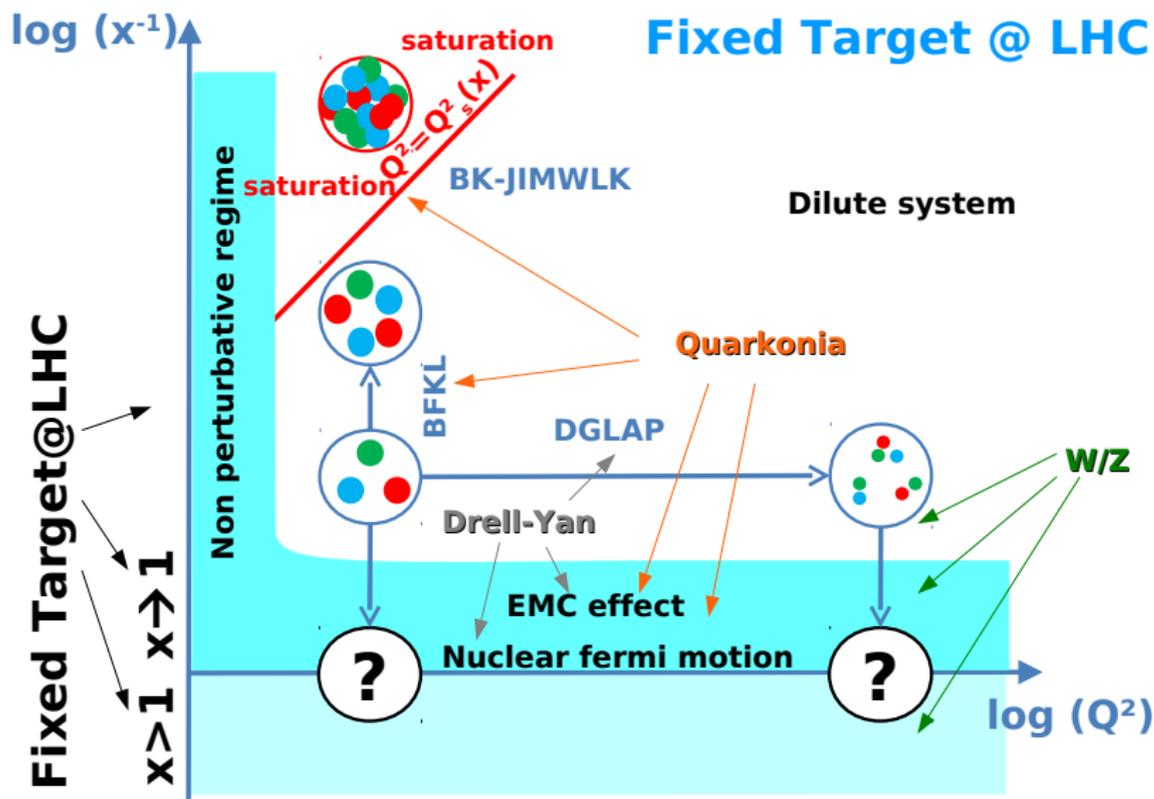
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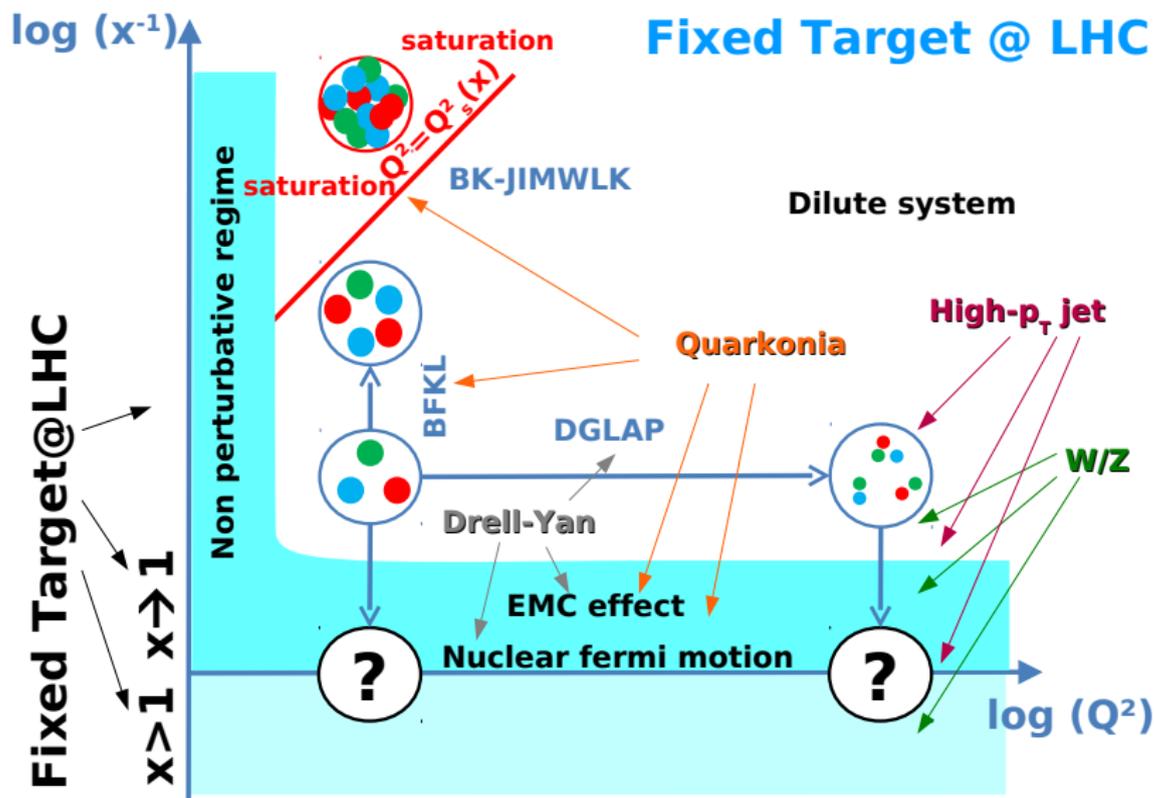
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## Physics Opportunities of a Fixed-Target Experiment using the LHC Beams

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<sup>3</sup>IPNO, Université Paris-Sud, CNRS/IN2P3, 91406 Orsay, France

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### Abstract

We outline the many physics opportunities offered by a multi-purpose fixed-target experiment using the proton and lead-ion beams of the LHC extracted by a bent crystal. In a proton run with the LHC 7-TeV beam, one can analyze  $pp$ ,  $pd$  and  $pA$  collisions at center-of-mass energy  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \simeq 115$  GeV and even higher using the Fermi-motion of the nucleons in a nuclear target. In a lead run with a 2.76 TeV-per-nucleon beam,  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$  is as high as 72 GeV. Bent crystals can be used to extract about  $5 \times 10^8$  protons/sec; the integrated luminosity over a year would reach  $0.5 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  on a typical 1 cm-long target without nuclear species limitation. We emphasize that such an extraction mode does not alter the performance of the collider experiments at the LHC. By instrumenting the target-rapidity region, gluon and heavy-quark distributions of the proton and the neutron can be accessed at large  $x$  and even at  $x$  larger than unity in the nuclear case. Single diffractive physics and, for the first time, the large negative- $x_F$  domain can be accessed. The nuclear target-species versatility provides a unique opportunity to study nuclear matter versus the features of the hot and dense matter formed in heavy-ion collisions, including the formation of the Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP), which can be studied in  $PbA$  collisions over the full range of target rapidities with a large variety of nuclei. The polarization of hydrogen and nuclear targets allows an ambitious spin program, including measurements of the QCD lensing effects which underlie the Sivers single-spin asymmetry, the study of transversity distributions and possibly of polarized parton distributions. We also emphasize the potential offered by  $pA$  ultra-peripheral collisions where the nucleus target  $A$  is used as a coherent photon source, mimicking photoproduction processes in  $ep$  collisions. Finally, we note that  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons can be produced and detected in a fixed-target experiment and in their threshold domain for the first time, providing new ways to probe the partonic content of the proton and the nucleus.

**Keywords:** LHC beam, fixed-target experiment

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# More details in arxiv:1202.6585

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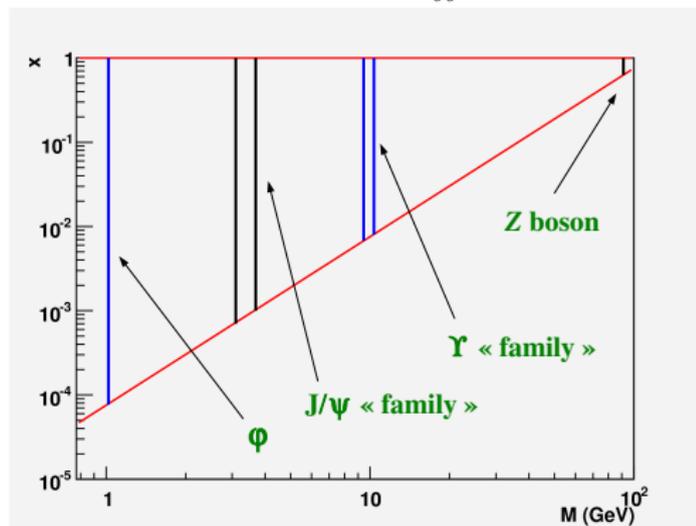
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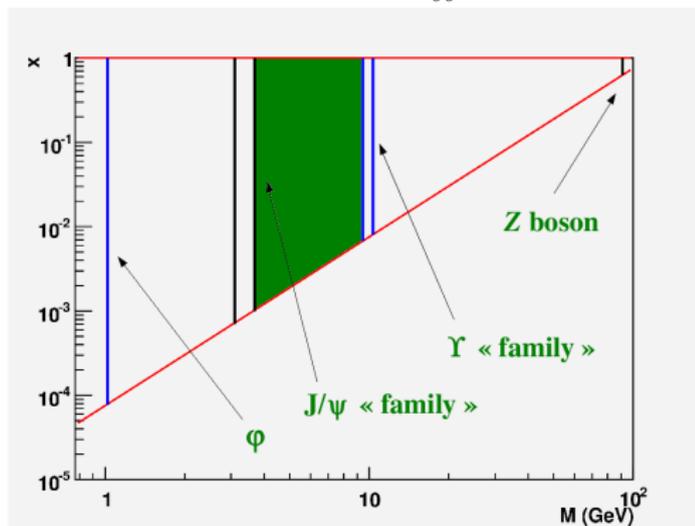
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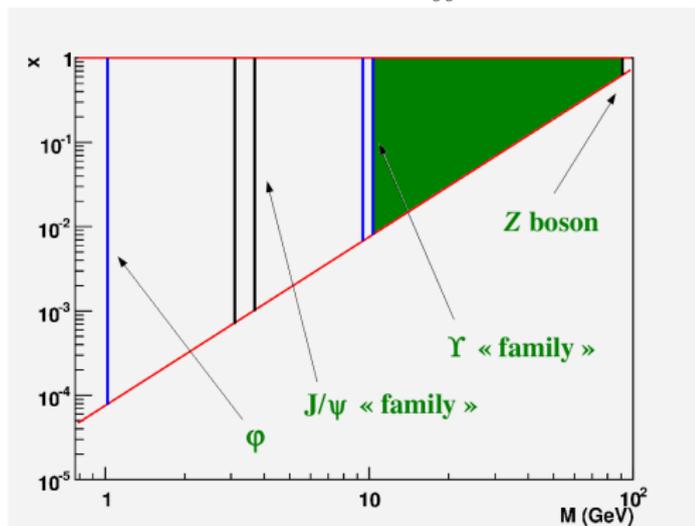
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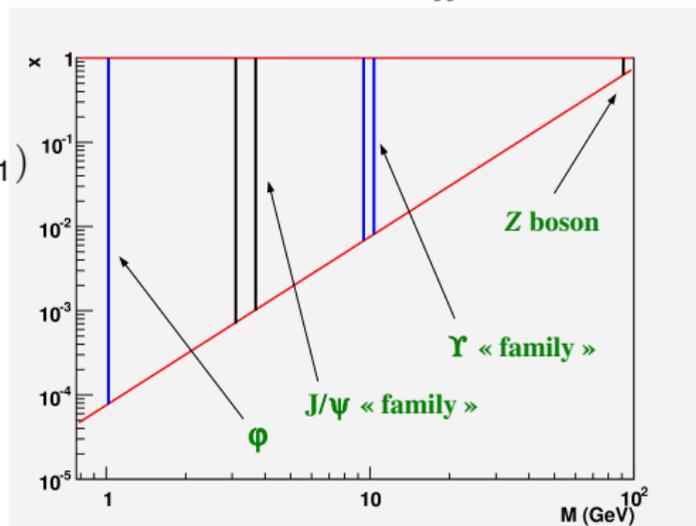
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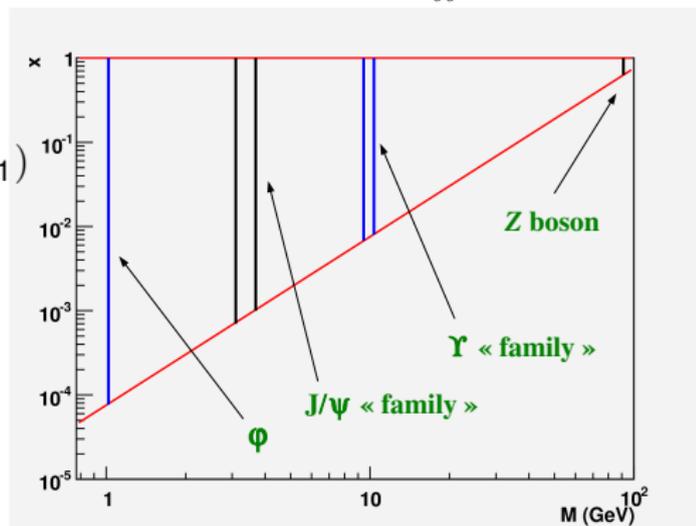
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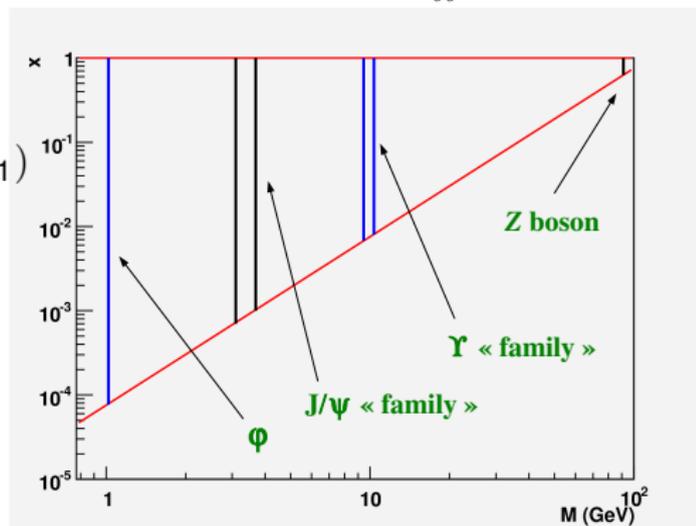
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→ To do: to look at the rates to see how competitive this will be

## Part III

# Conclusion and outlooks

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- A wealth of possible measurements:  
DY, Open  $b/c$ , jet correlation, UPC... (not mentioning secondary beams)