

Experimental Study of the QGP with Soft Probes and Vacuum Baseline



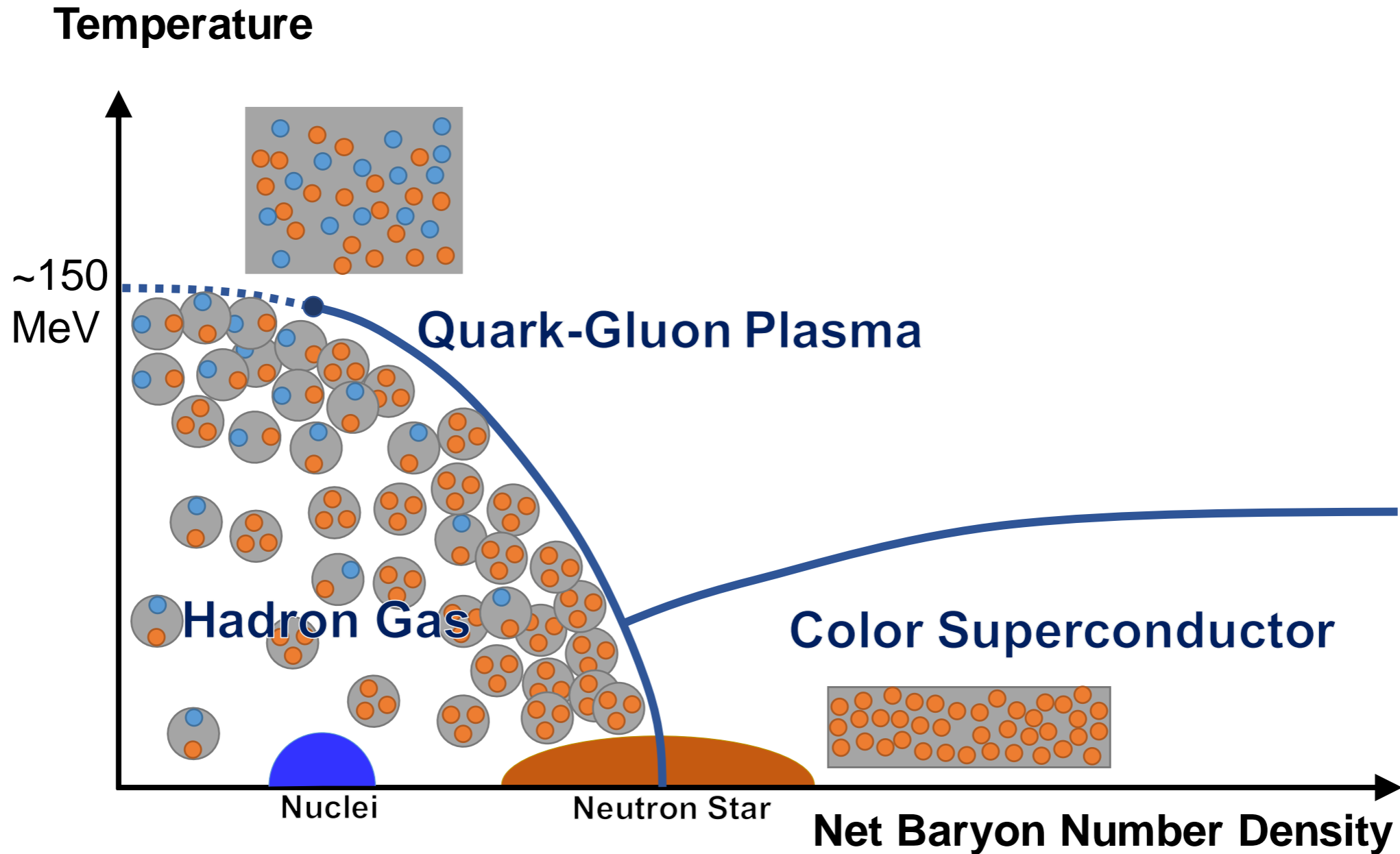
Yen-Jie Lee



National Nuclear Physics Summer School
Institute for Nuclear Theory, Seattle, Washington
6 July 2026

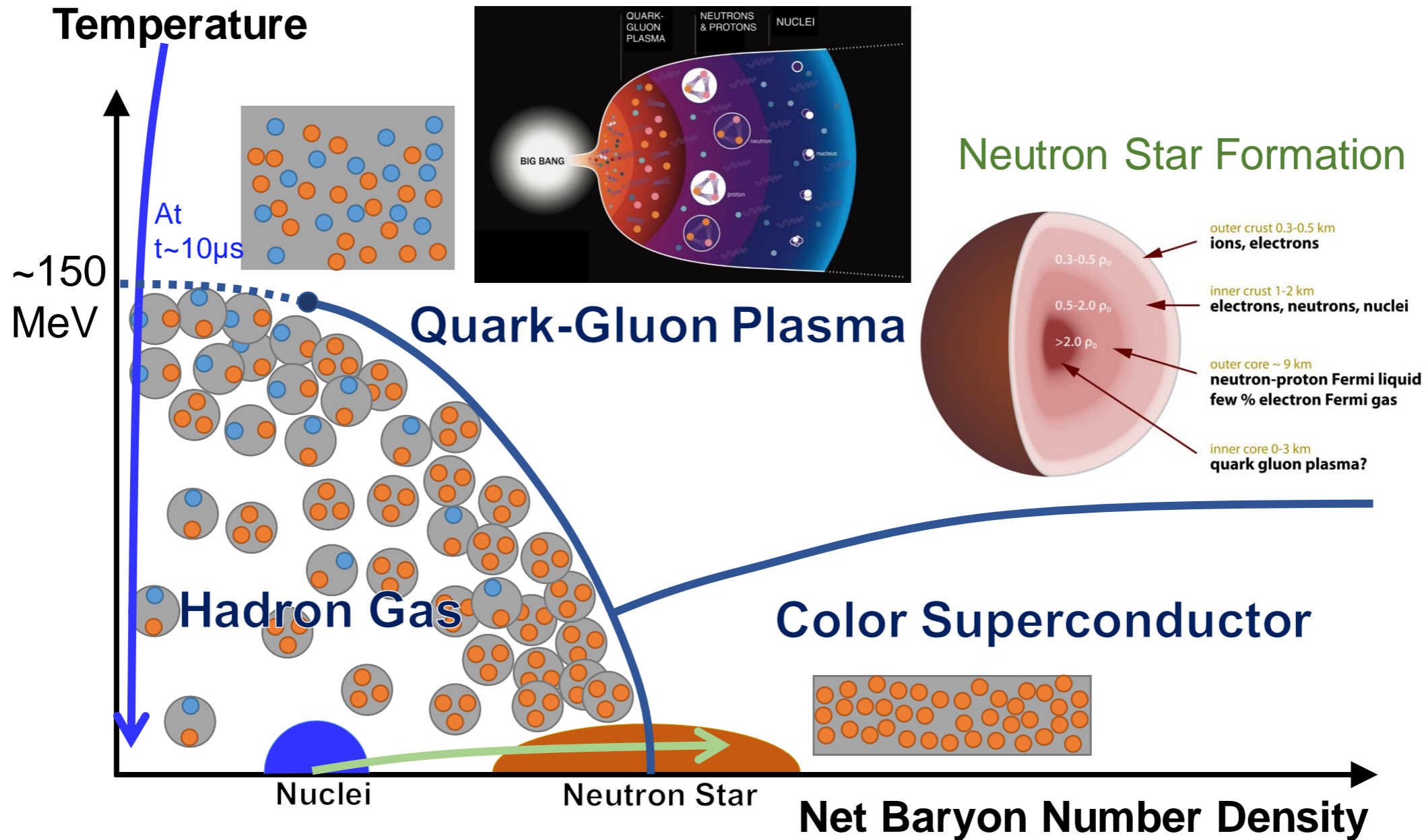


QCD Phase Diagram

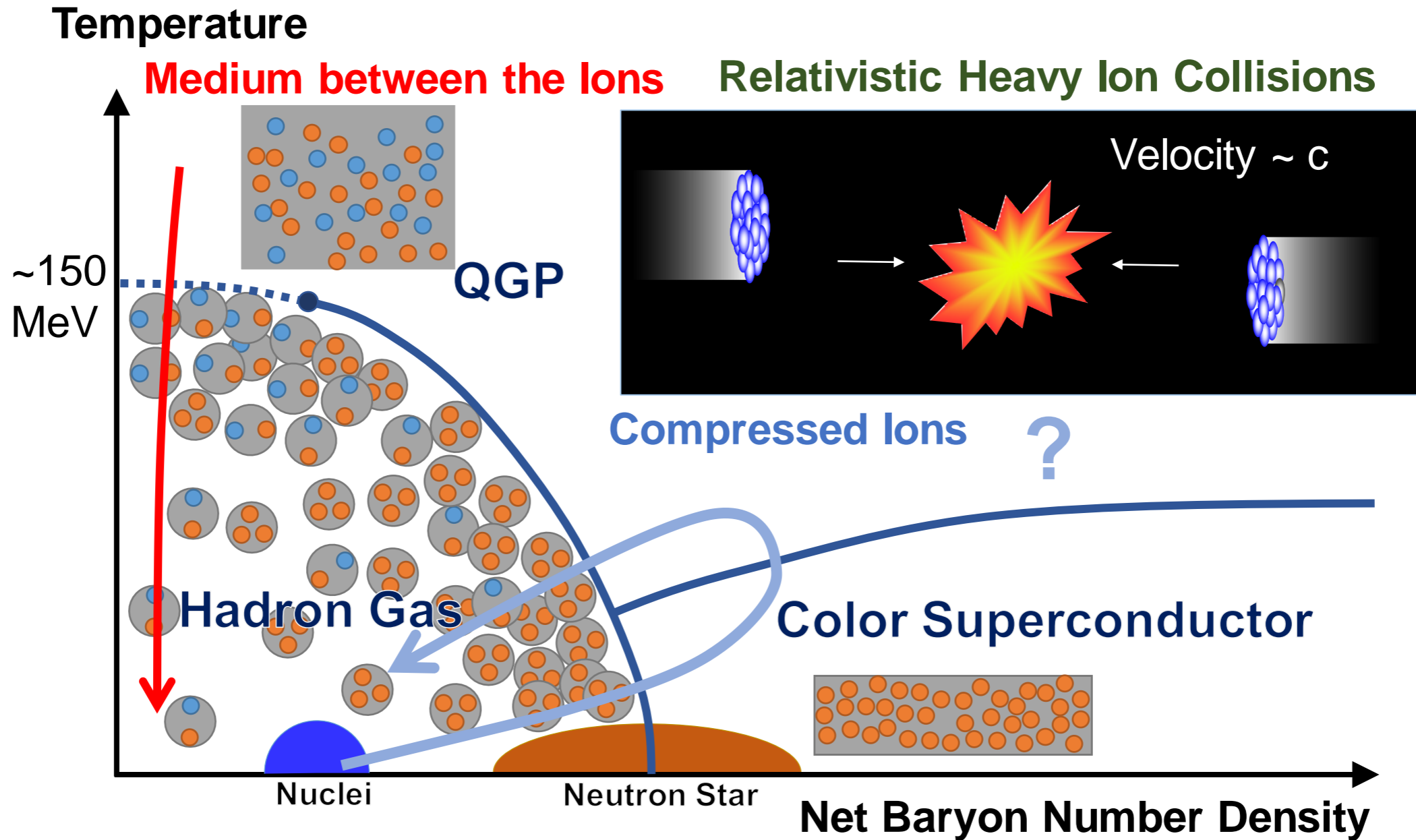


QCD Phase Diagram

Expansion of Early Universe

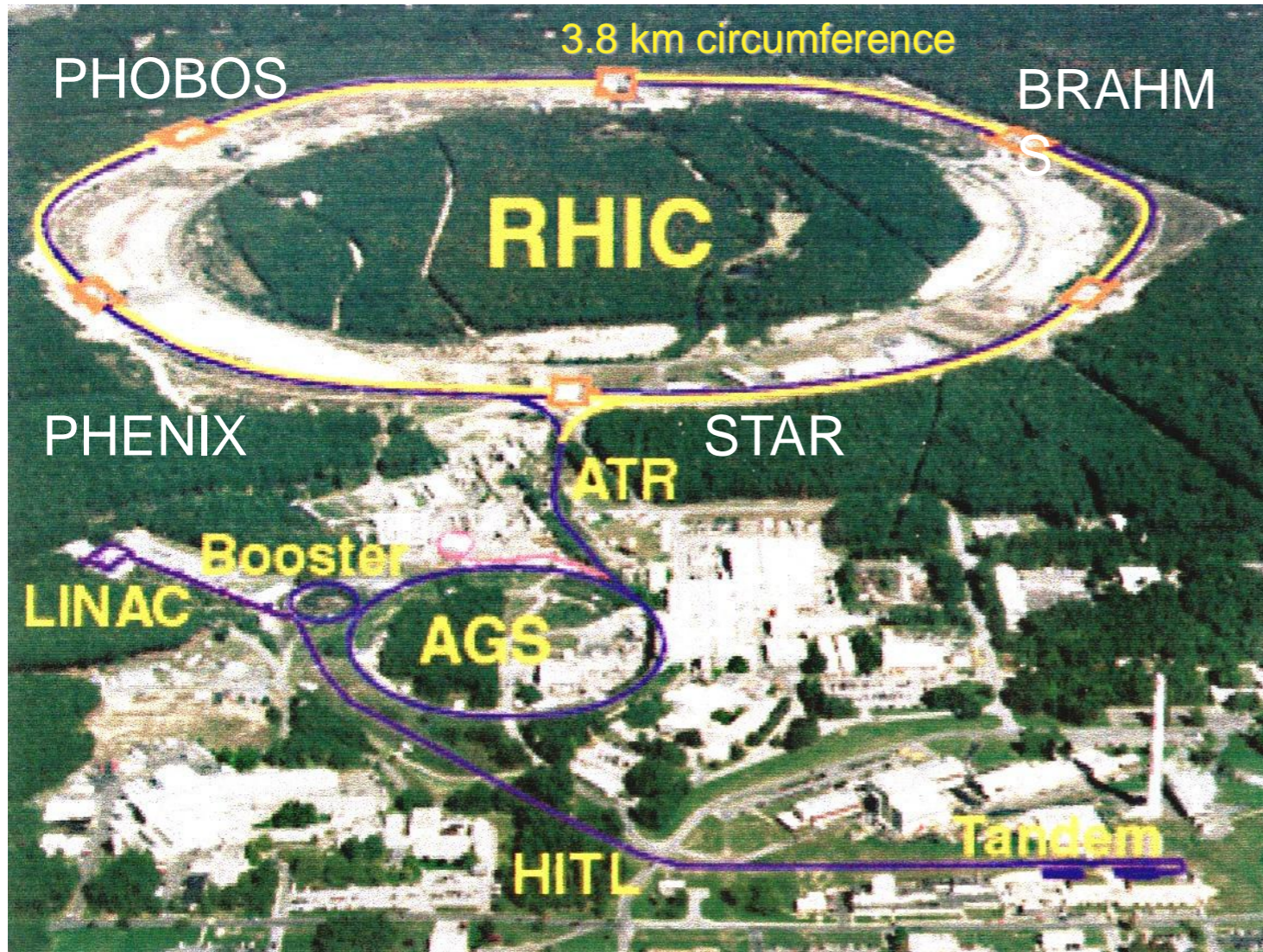


QCD Phase Diagram

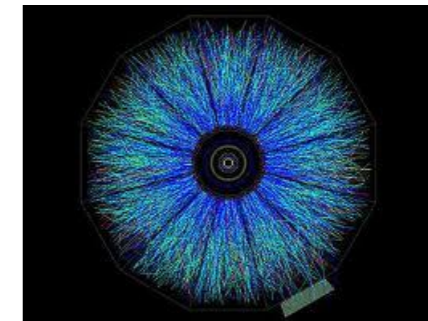


The First Dedicated Heavy Ion Collider

Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider



Au+Au
7.7 - 200 GeV



Since 2000~

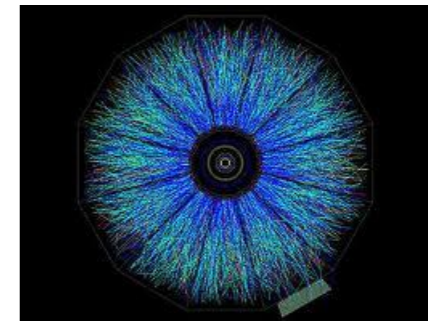


sPHENIX Data-Taking 2023-26

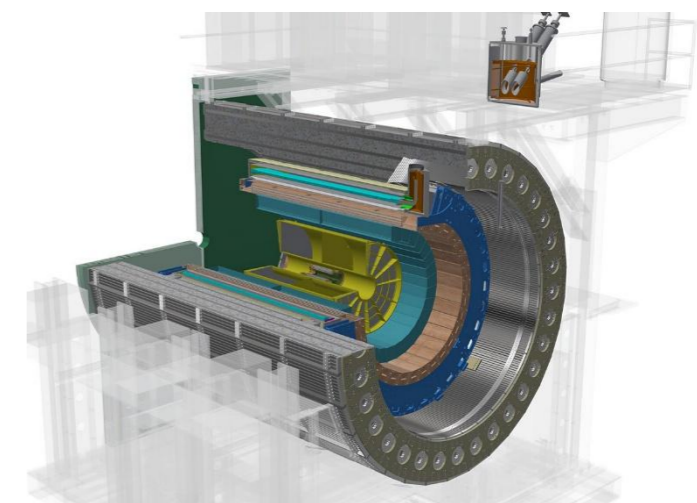
Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider



Au+Au
7.7 - 200 GeV

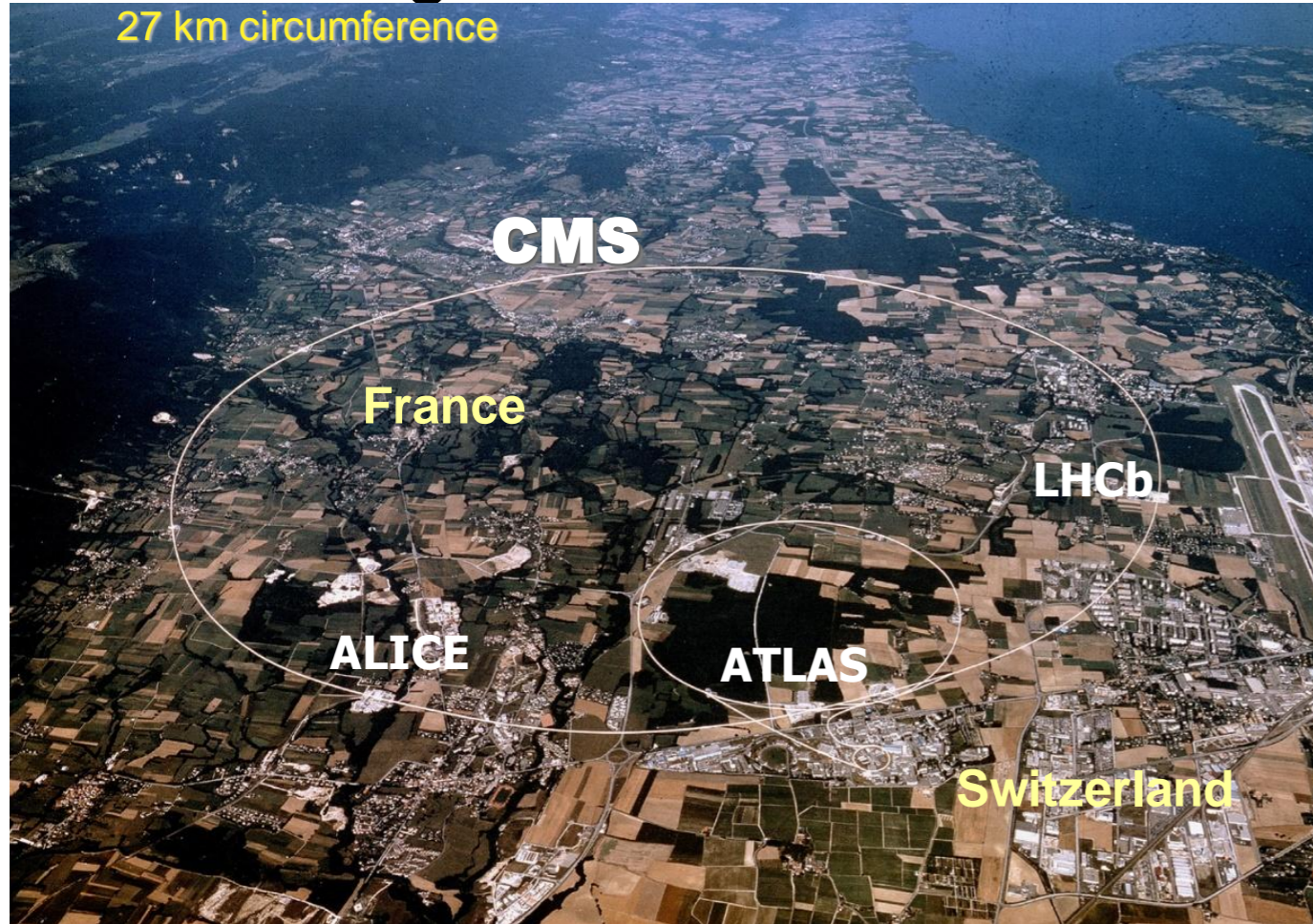


Since 2000~



High Energy (Temperature) Frontier

Large Hadron Collider



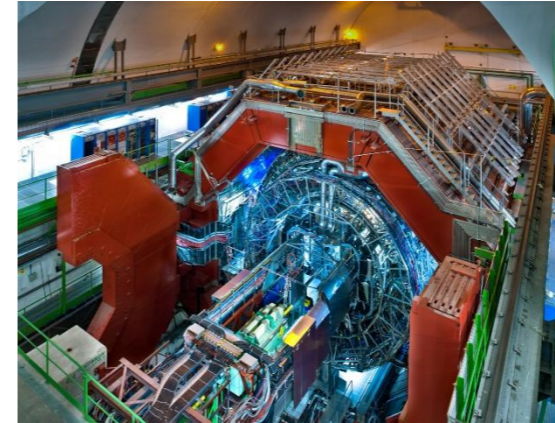
Lead-Lead (PbPb) collisions

2010-11: 2.76 TeV

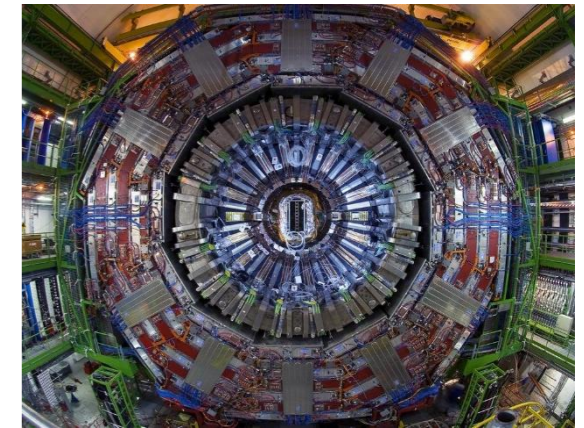
2015-18: 5.02 TeV

2022-26: 5.36 TeV

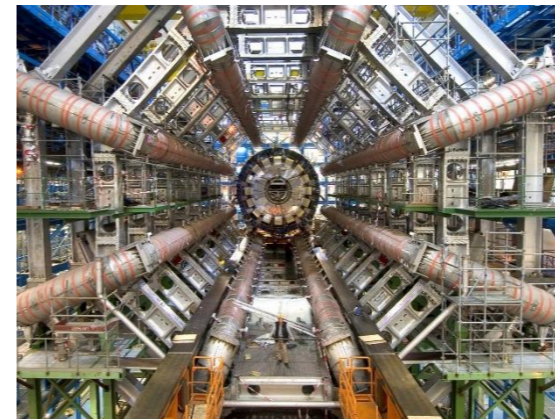
ALICE



CMS



ATLAS



LHCb



Also smaller system data:

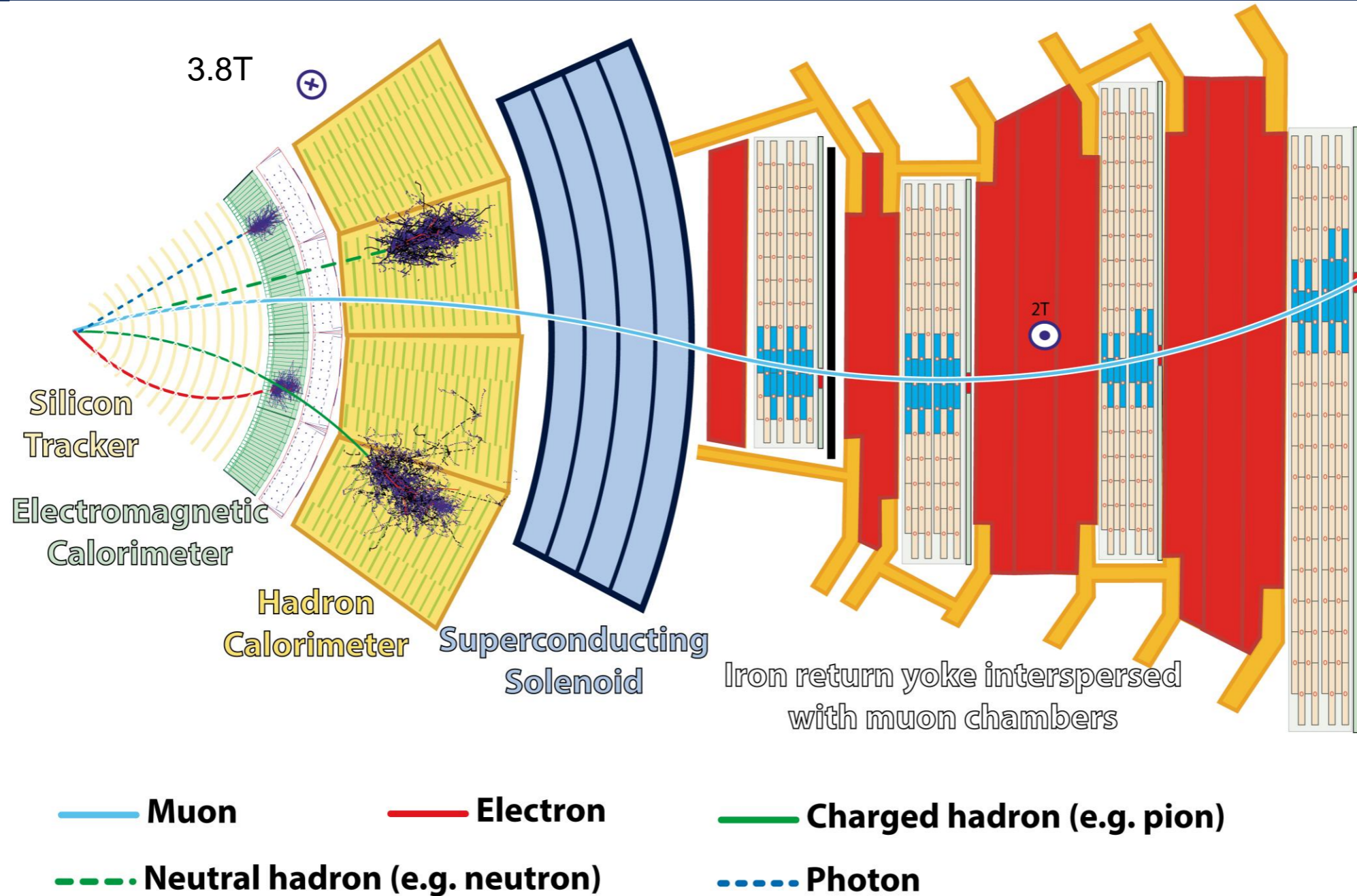
Proton-lead at 5.02 & 8.16 TeV

Xenon-Xenon at 5.44 TeV

Oxygen-Oxygen and **Neon-Neon** at 5.36 TeV

A flying mosquito has about 4 trillion electronvolts (4TeV) of energy

Particle Detection with CMS

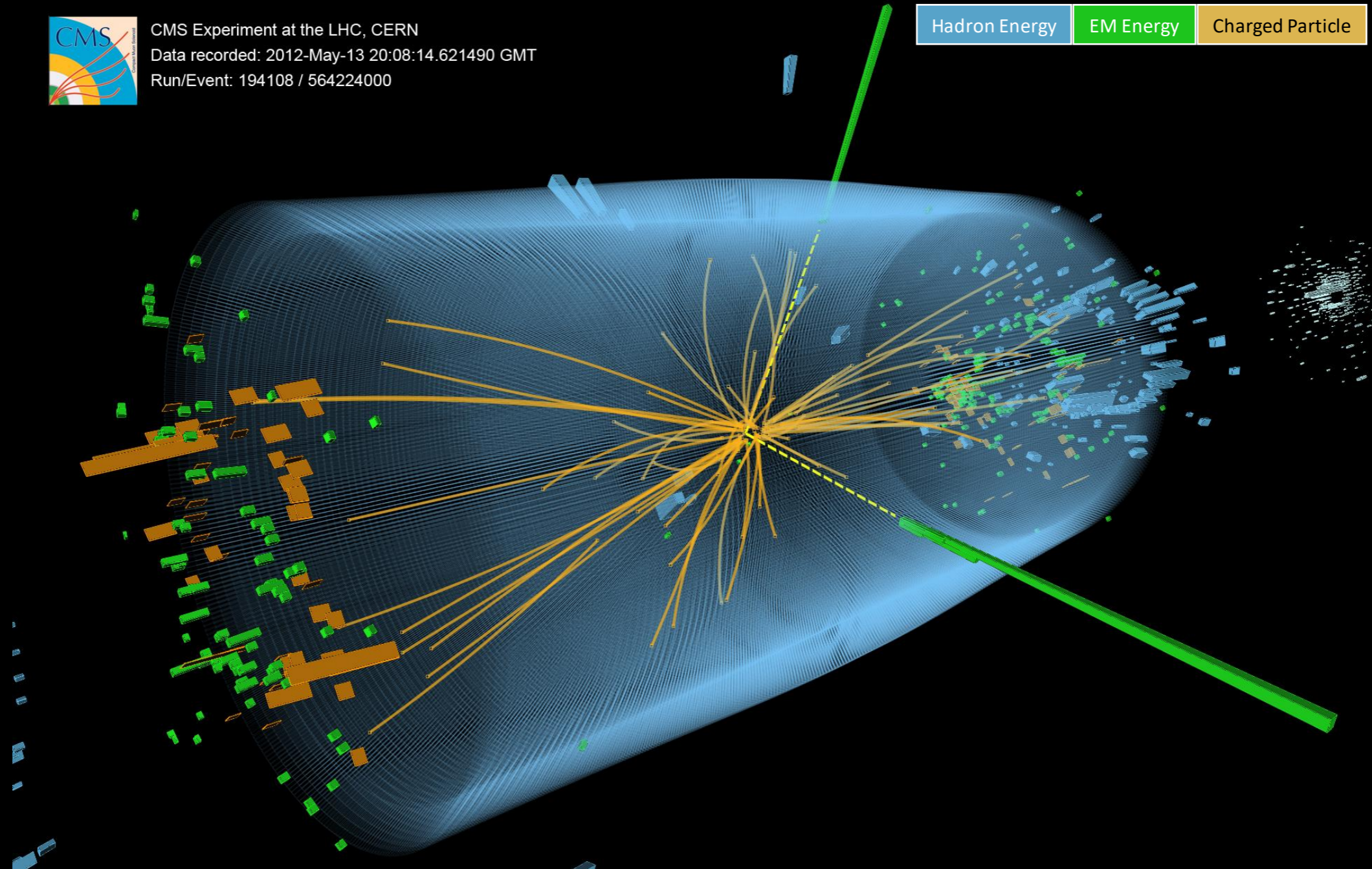


Proton-Proton Collision Recorded by CMS



CMS Experiment at the LHC, CERN
Data recorded: 2012-May-13 20:08:14.621490 GMT
Run/Event: 194108 / 564224000

Hadron Energy EM Energy Charged Particle



Lead-Lead Collision Recorded by CMS (2018)



CMS Experiment at the LHC, CERN

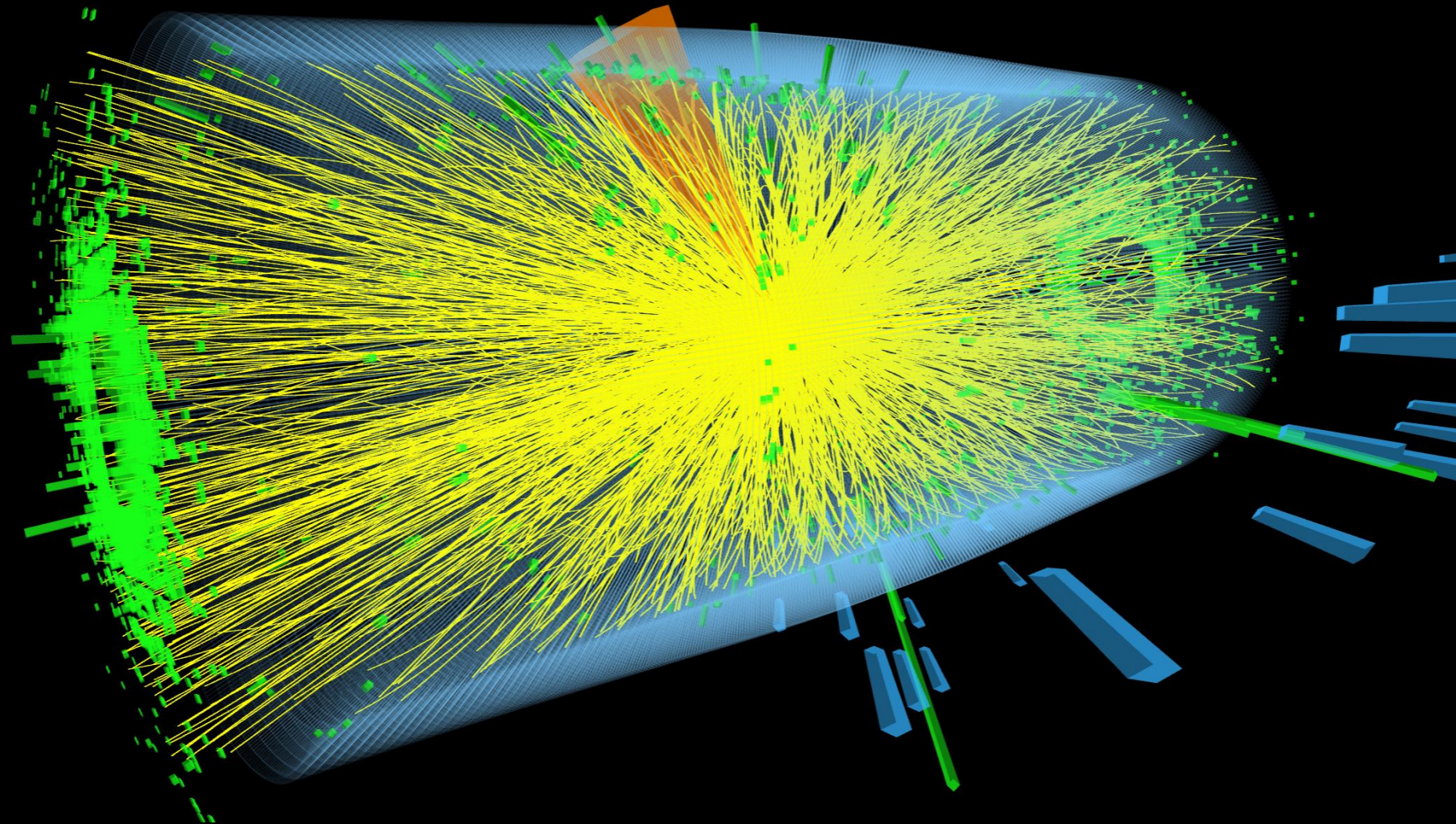
Data recorded: 2018-Nov-12 08:36:52.866176 GMT

Run / Event / LS: 326586 / 2491137 / 6

Hadron Energy

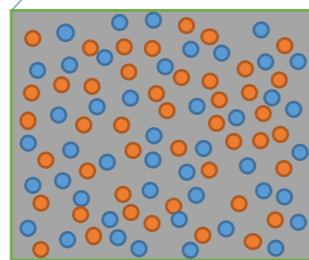
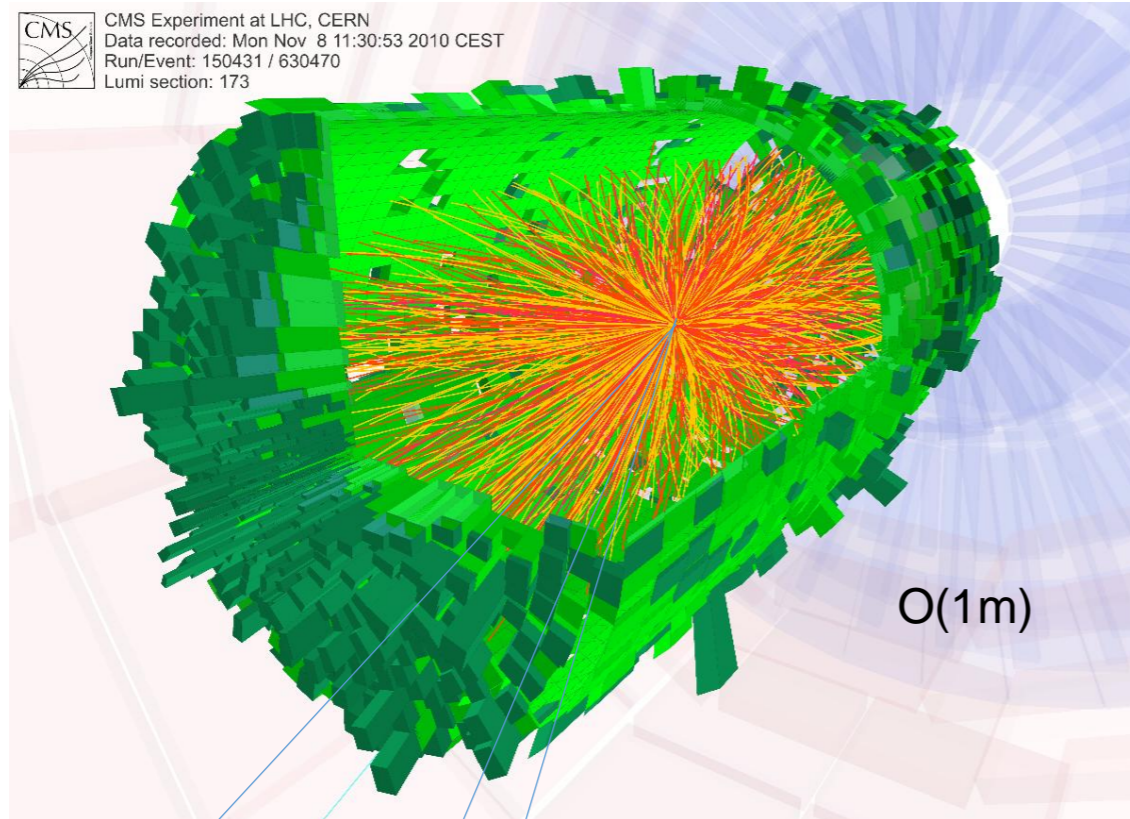
EM Energy

Charged Particle



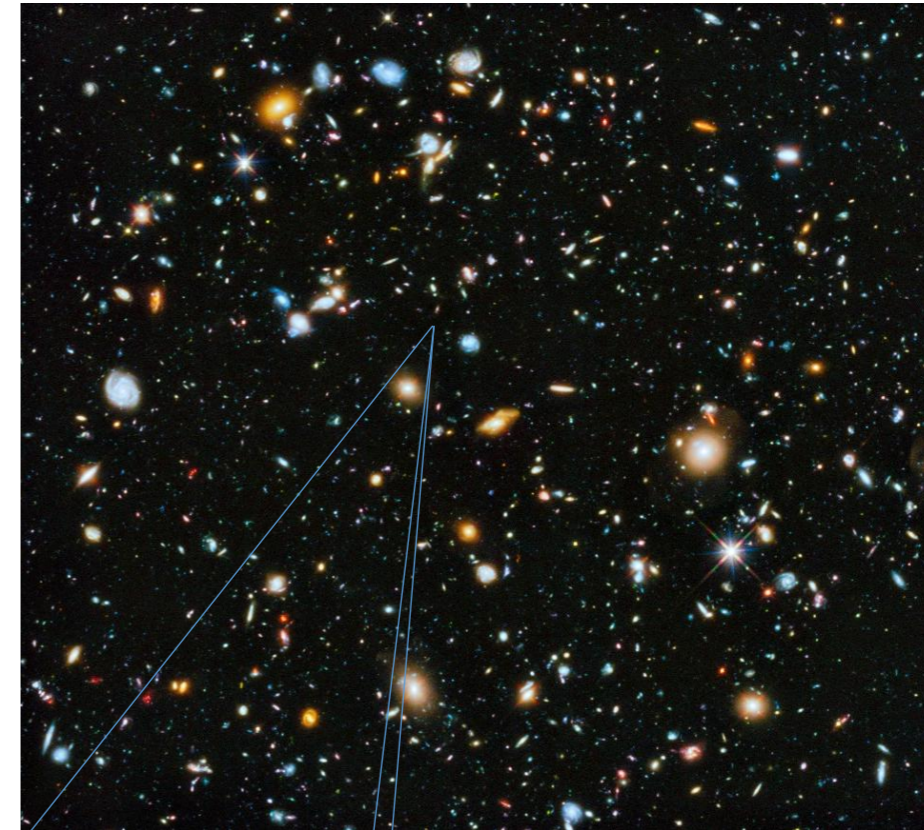
“Reconstruct” the QGP with Particle Detector

Size of the CMS detector



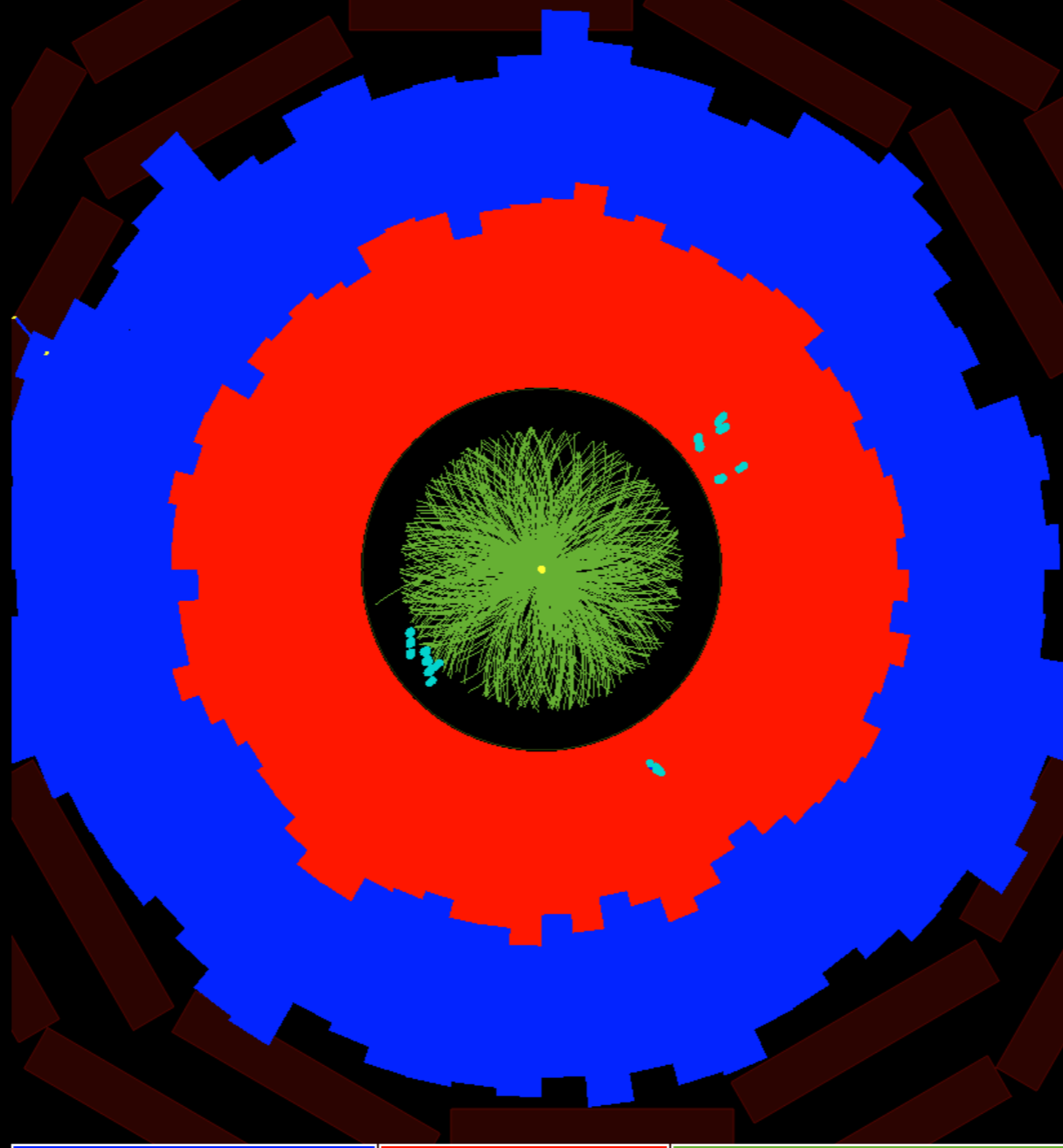
Inner Structure of QGP

Size of the Universe



Inner Structure of Our Solar System

CMS event display



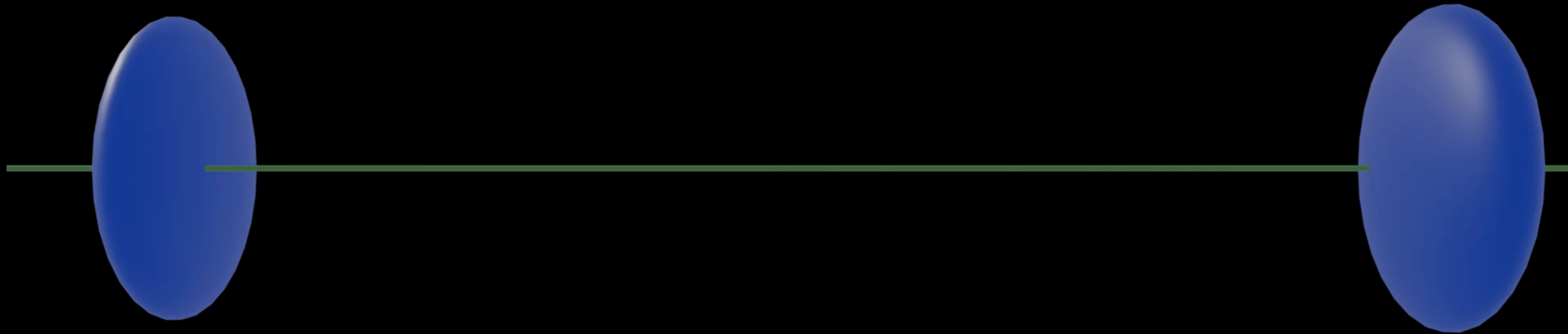
Hadron Energy

EM Energy

Charged Particle

Initial Shape Before Expansion

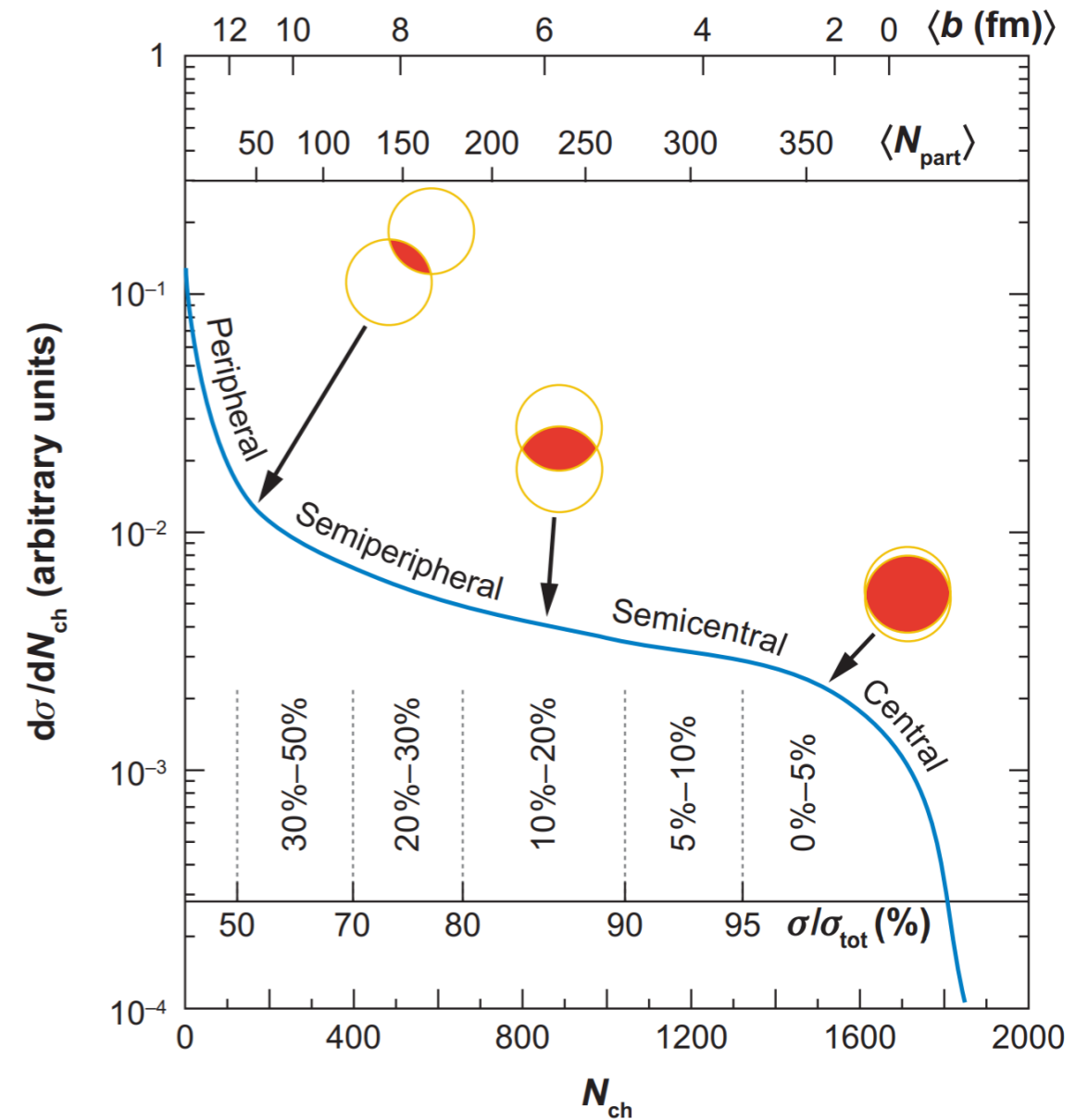
Initial azimuthal anisotropic shape



Animation from Jing Wang (MIT)

Centrality

- Need experimental access to the impact parameter \mathbf{b} of the collision
- Idea: use observables that change **monotonically with \mathbf{b}** , such as:
 - Forward calorimeter energy
 - Charged particle multiplicity (N_{ch}).
- Centrality classes: percentiles (fraction of total integral) of centrality distribution
- Convention:
 - 0% = “**most central**” (head-on!), $b \sim 0$ (high N_{ch})
 - 100% = **most peripheral** (low N_{ch})



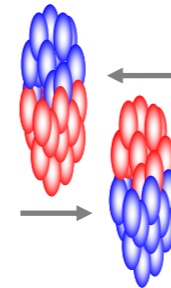
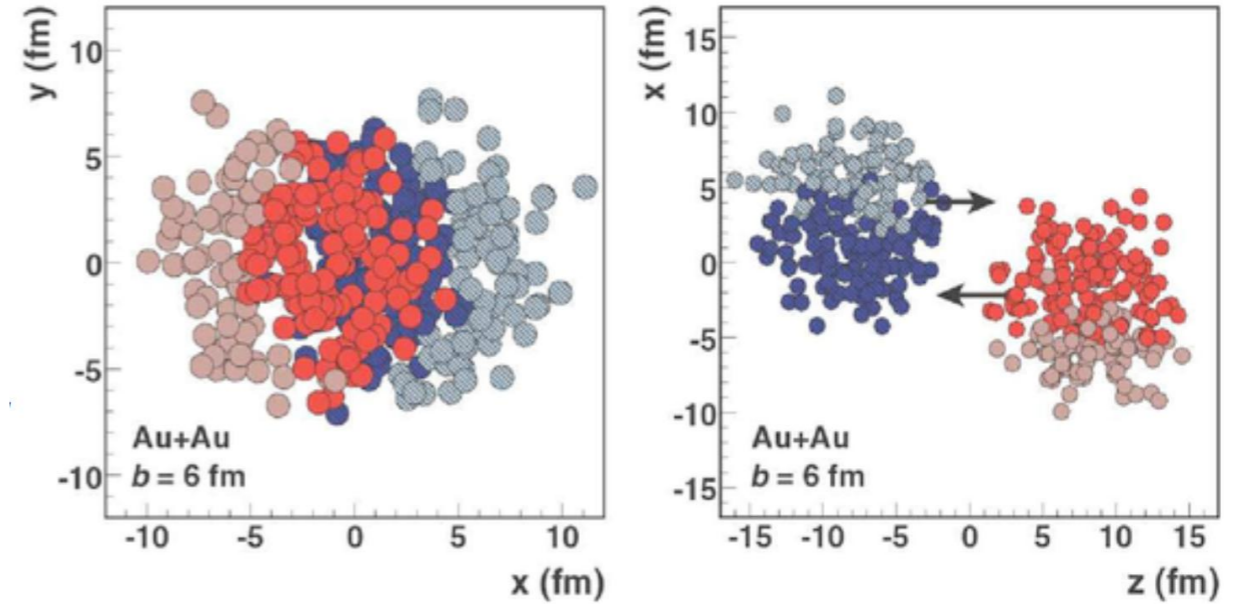
Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science, 57:205-243 (2007)

Monte-Carlo Glauber Model

- Randomly choose impact parameter b and nucleon distribution
- Sample the probability of nucleons to interact from interaction cross-section if they are separated by

$$d < \sqrt{\sigma_{NN}^{inel} / \pi}$$

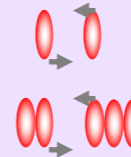
- Calculate the N_{part} and N_{coll}
- Map onto experimental centrality observables, such as forward calorimeter energy and particle multiplicity



N_{part} → Number of participating nucleons

N_{coll} → Number of binary scatterings

Example:



$$N_{part} = 2$$

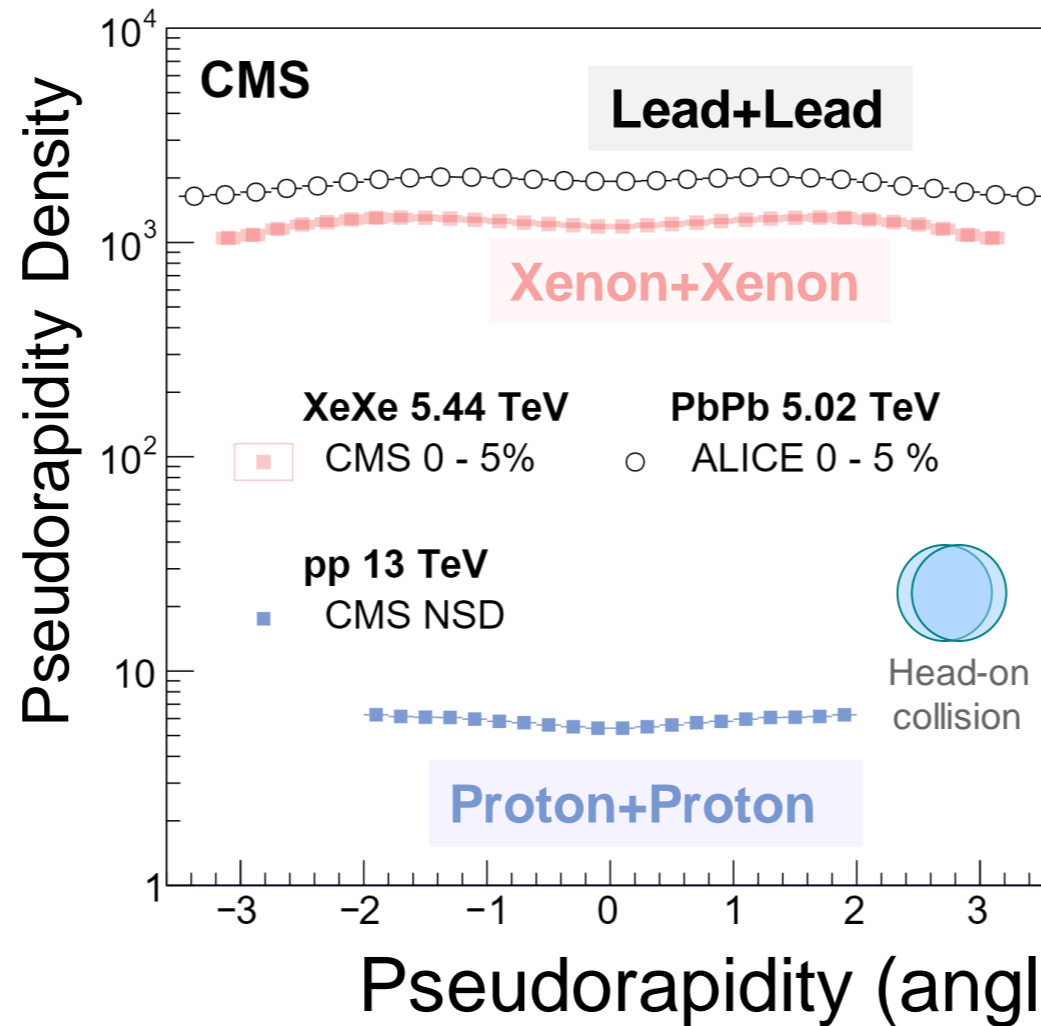
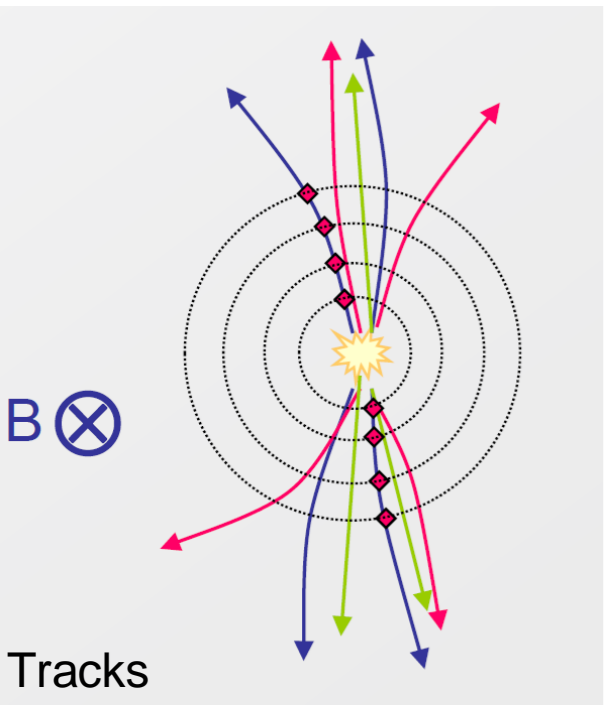
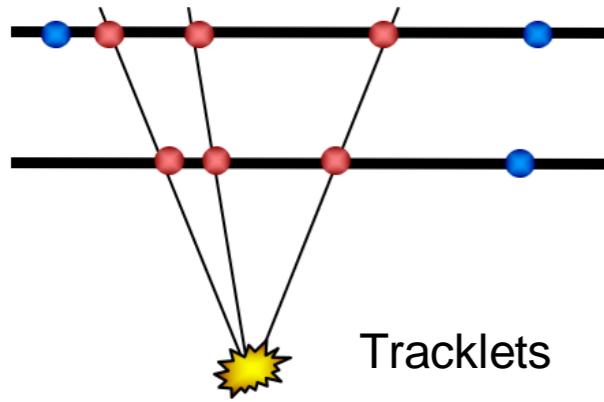
$$N_{coll} = 1$$

$$N_{part} = 5$$

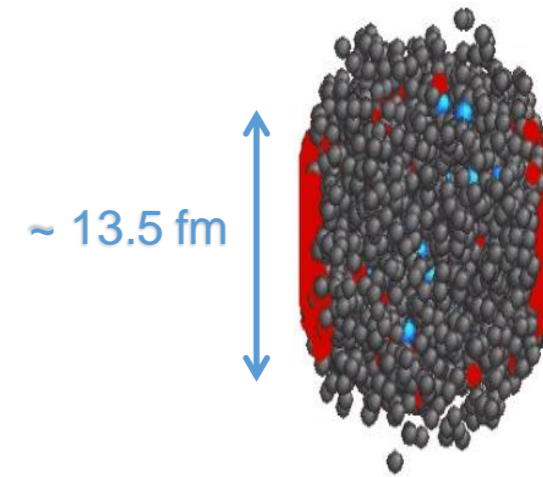
$$N_{coll} = 6$$

Density of the Quark Soup

Count the number of particles produced in **head-on** collisions.
 Particle density in **Lead+Lead** ~ **400x** of that in **Proton+Proton**



At time ~ 1 fm/c:



Energy density of the medium based on CMS $dE/d\eta \sim 2$ TeV:

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{A \cdot \tau_0} \left. \frac{dE_T}{dy} \right|_{y=0} \sim 13 \text{ GeV/fm}^3$$

> 20x denser than the proton!

At **early time** of the collision, the system cannot be described by hadrons

Rough Estimation of QGP Temperature

At $\tau_0 \sim 1 \text{ fm}/c$:

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{A \cdot \tau_0} \left. \frac{dE_T}{dy} \right|_{y=0} \approx 13 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3$$

$$\approx 0.1 \text{ GeV}^4 = 47.5 \times \frac{\pi^2}{30} T^4$$

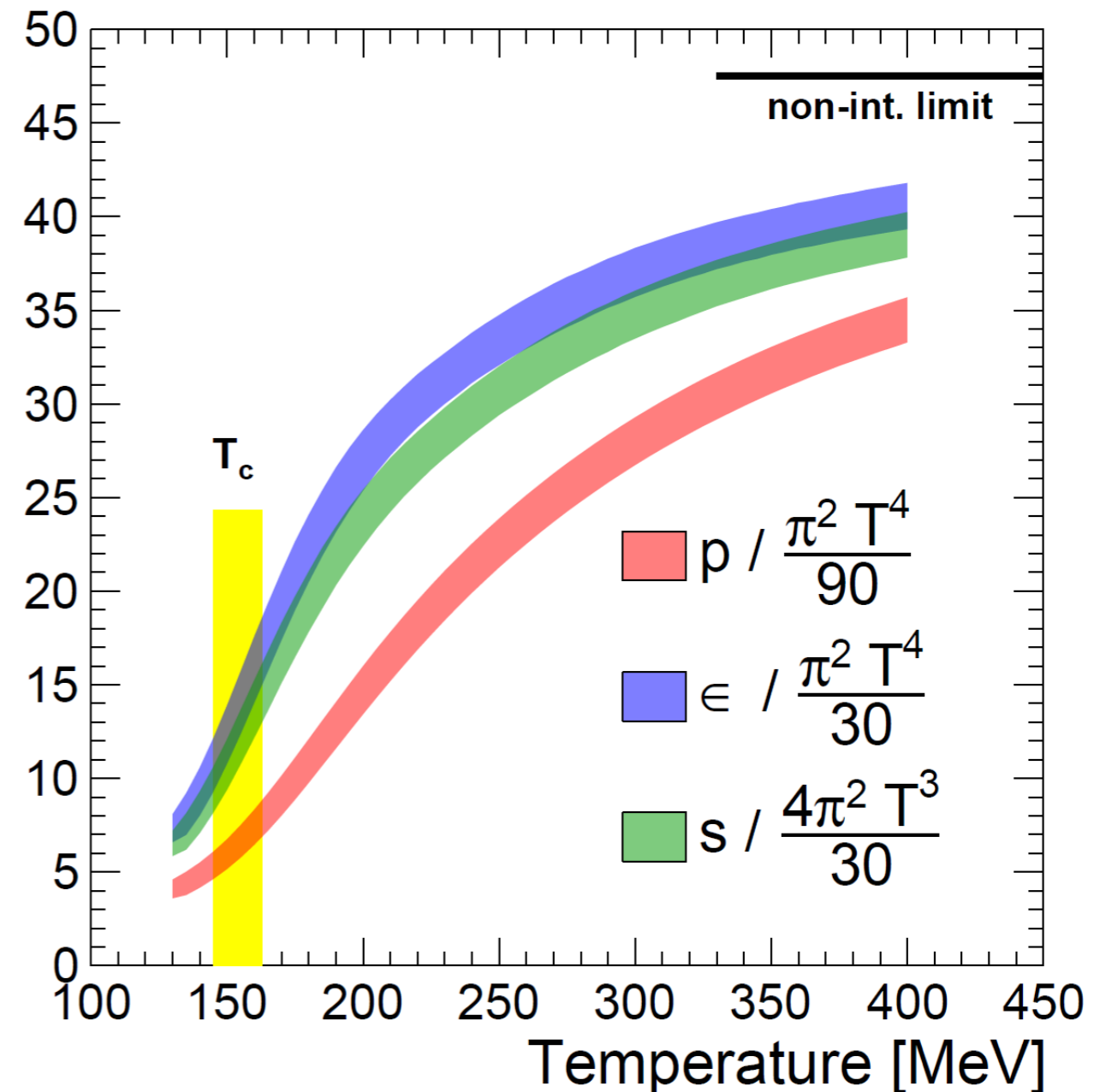
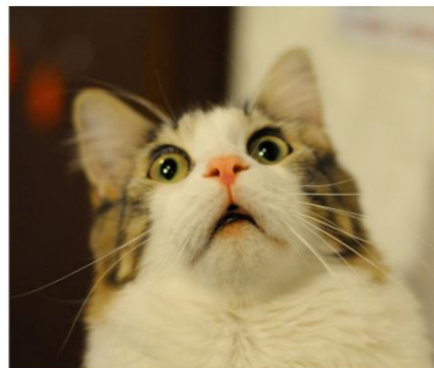
$1 \text{ fm}^{-1} = 0.1973 \text{ GeV}$

$$T \approx 0.283 \text{ GeV} = 283 \text{ MeV}$$

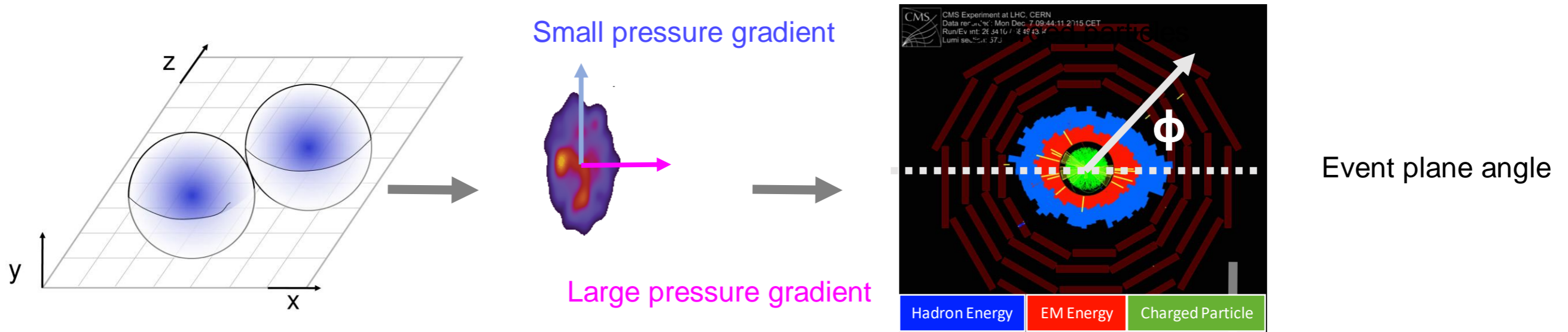
$$\approx 3.3 \times 10^{12} \text{ K}$$

!!!

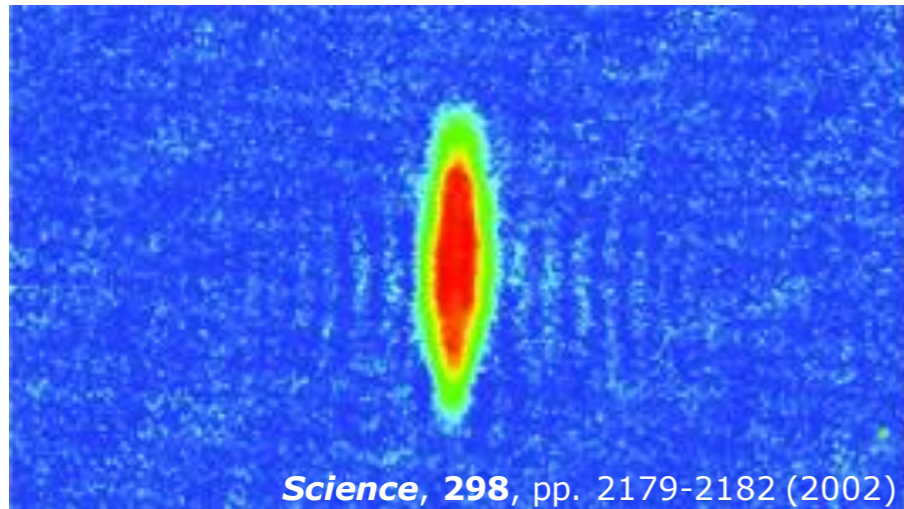
$1 \text{ GeV} = 1.16 \times 10^{13} \text{ K}$



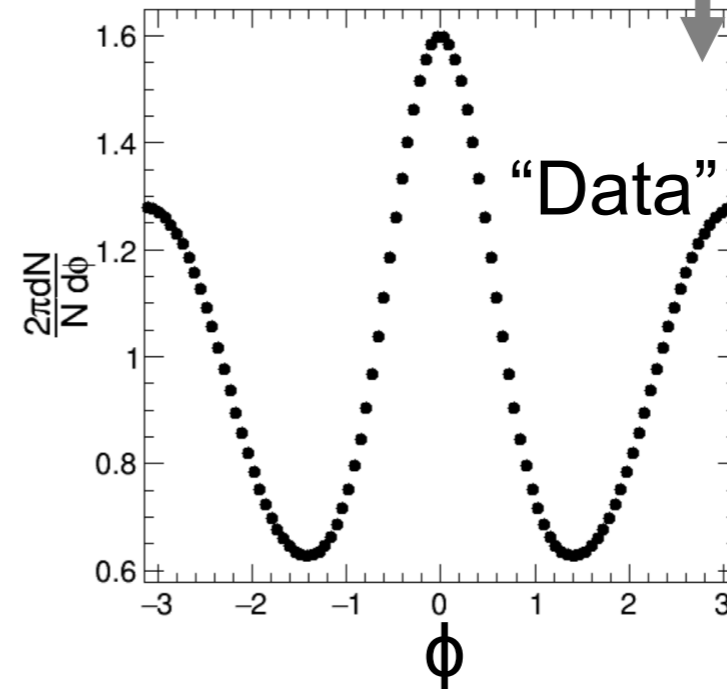
Pressure Driven Expansion of the Quark Soup



Expansion of **Ultra-cold atoms (Li-6)** released from laser trap



100 μs

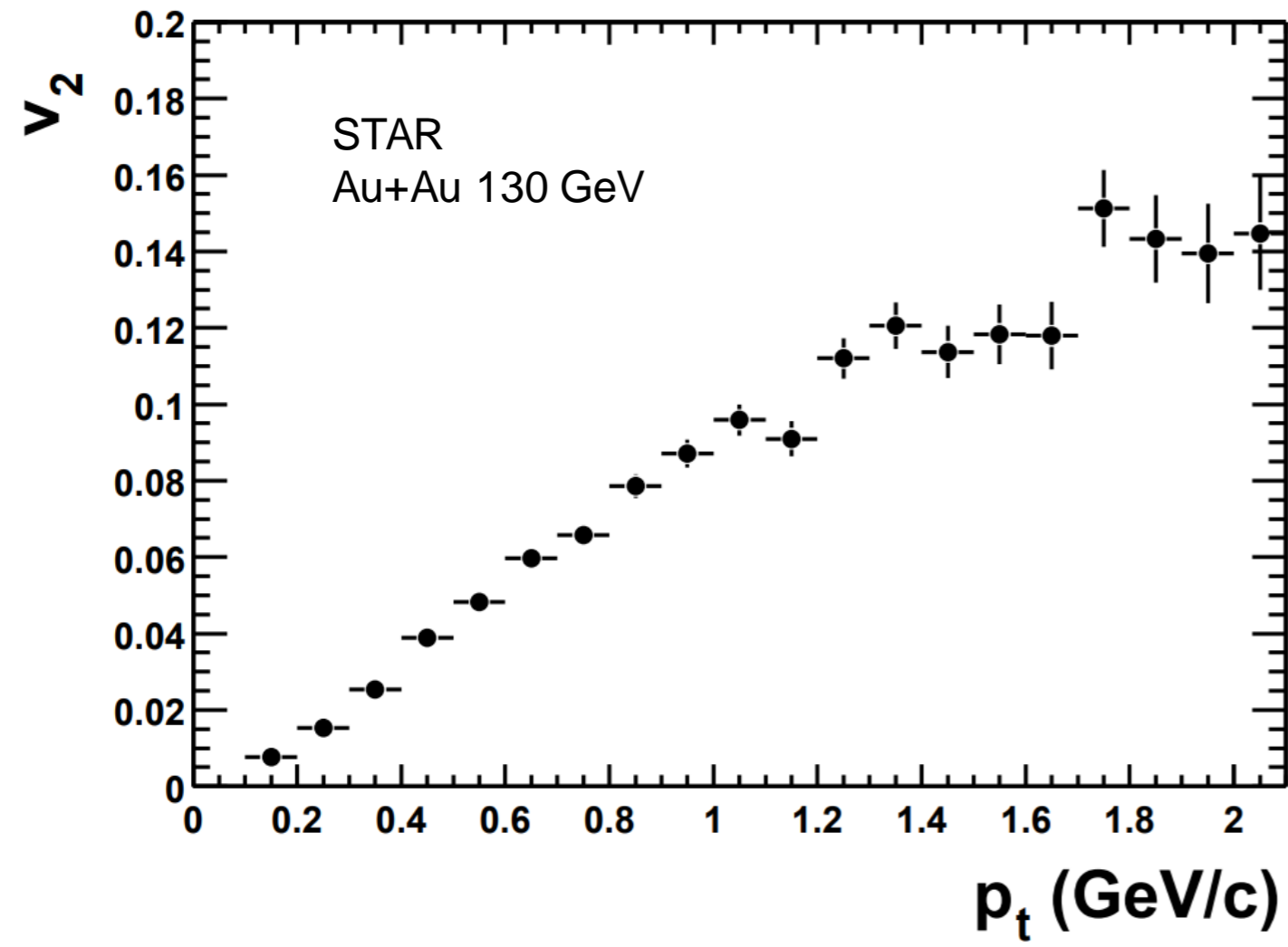


Particle Azimuth Angle Distribution

Collective motion is observed,
consistent with **early hydrodynamization!**

Elliptic Flow

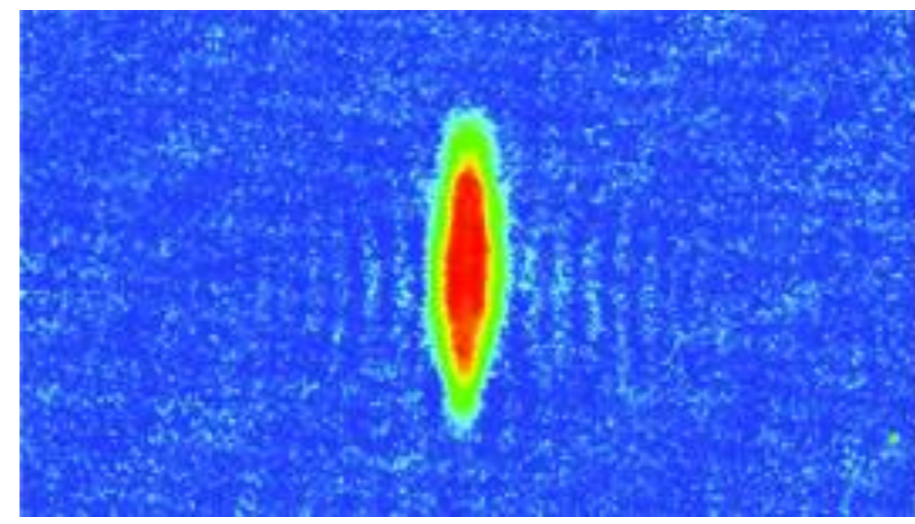
- The first result from **STAR** at RHIC
- The extracted v_2 increases with transverse momentum



PRL 86 (2001) 402

$$\frac{2\pi}{N} \frac{dN}{d\phi} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2v_n \cos[n(\phi - \Psi_n)]$$

Expansion of **Ultra-cold atoms (Li-6)** released from laser trap

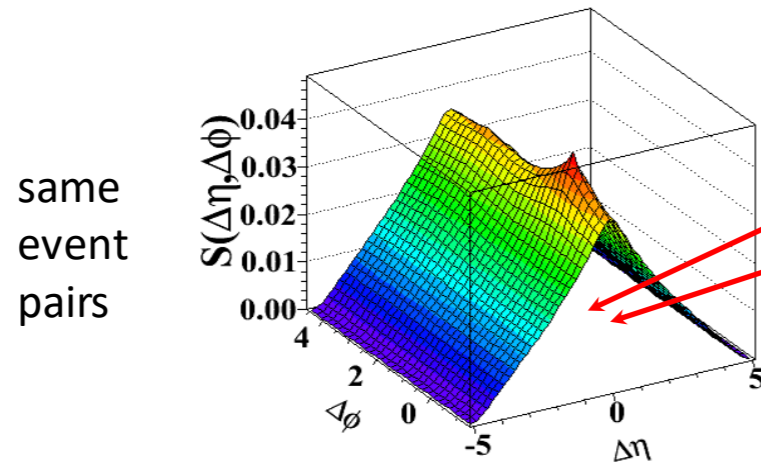


100 μ s



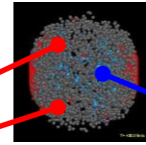
Two-Particle Correlation Function

Signal pair distribution:

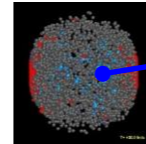


Beam Axis

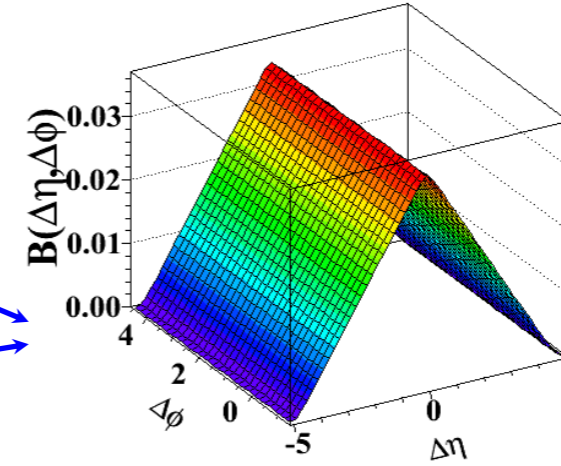
Event 1



Event 2



Background pair distribution:



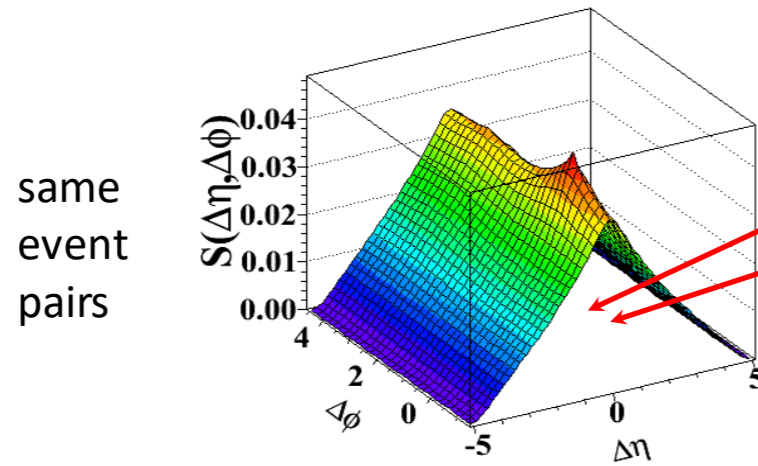
$$S(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) = \frac{1}{N_{trig}} \frac{d^2 N^{same}}{d\Delta\eta d\Delta\phi}$$

$$B(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) = \frac{1}{N_{trig}} \frac{d^2 N^{mix}}{d\Delta\eta d\Delta\phi}$$

$$\Delta\eta = \eta_1 - \eta_2$$
$$\Delta\phi = \phi_1 - \phi_2$$

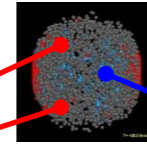
Two-Particle Correlation Function

Signal pair distribution:

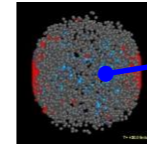


Beam Axis

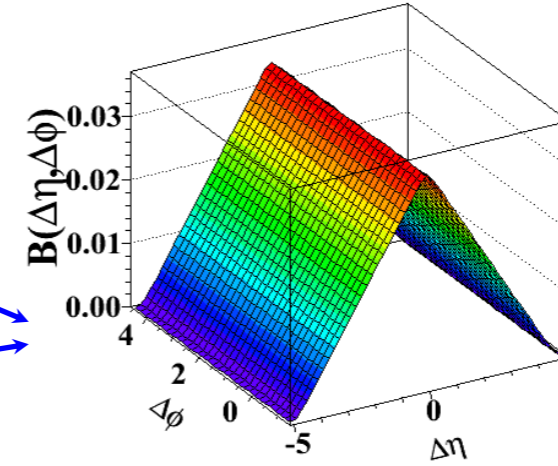
Event 1



Event 2



Background pair distribution:



mixed event pairs

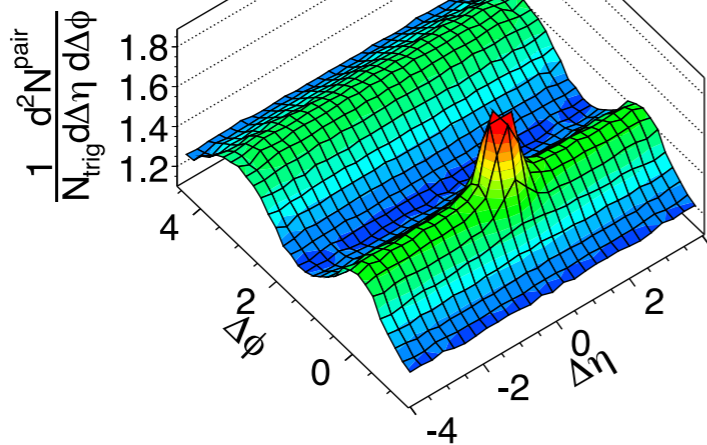
$$S(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) = \frac{1}{N_{trig}} \frac{d^2 N^{same}}{d\Delta\eta d\Delta\phi}$$

$$B(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) = \frac{1}{N_{trig}} \frac{d^2 N^{mix}}{d\Delta\eta d\Delta\phi}$$

CMS Preliminary
PbPb $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV

35-40%

PbPb

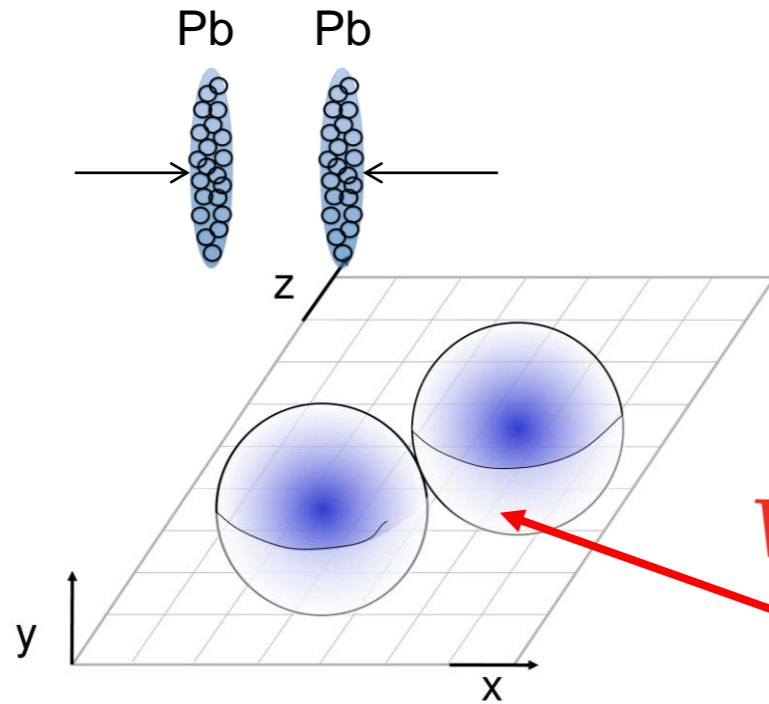


$\Delta\eta = \eta_1 - \eta_2$
 $\Delta\phi = \phi_1 - \phi_2$

Associated hadron yield per trigger:

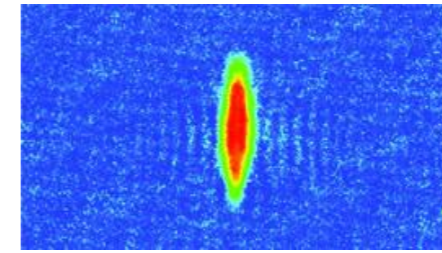
$$\frac{1}{N_{trig}} \frac{d^2 N^{pair}}{d\Delta\eta d\Delta\phi} = B(0,0) \times \frac{S(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi)}{B(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi)}$$

Understanding the Correlation Function

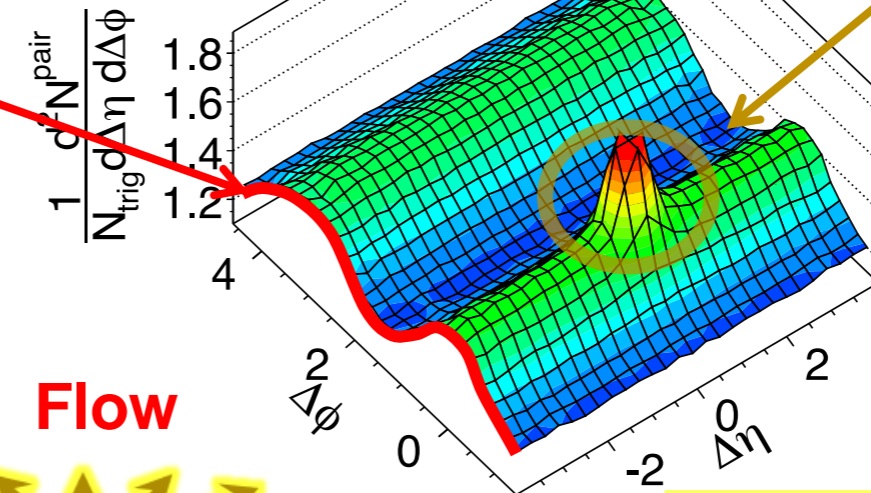


Pb Pb 35-40% centrality

CMS PbPb 2.76 TeV



$$V_{2\Delta} \cos(2\Delta\phi)$$



Jet

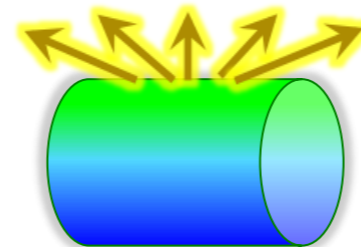
Particle azimuthal distributions:

$$dN/d\phi \propto 1 + \sum 2V_n \cos(n(\phi - \phi_0))$$

Assuming factorization

$$v_n = \sqrt{V_{n\Delta}}$$

Flow

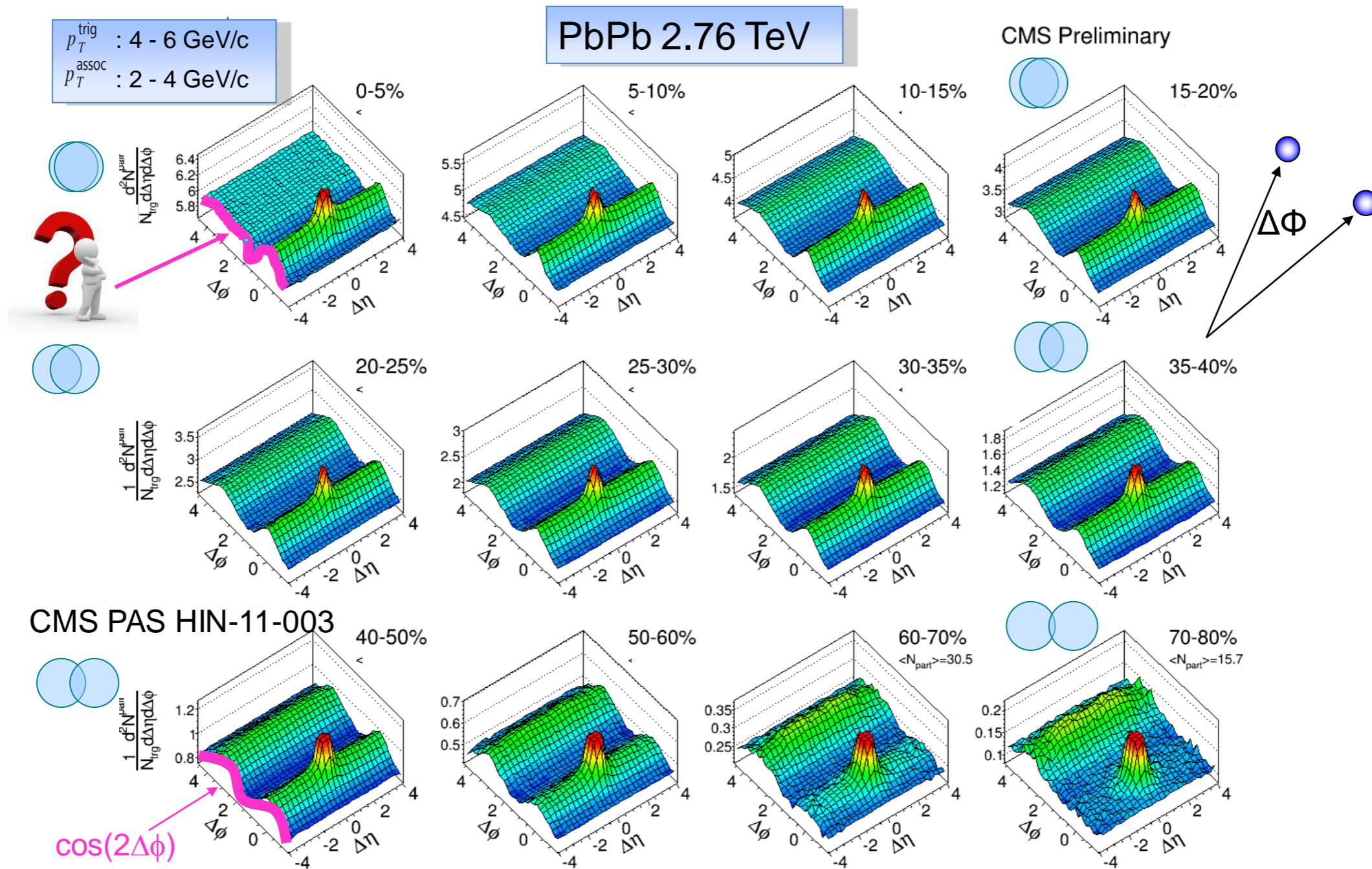


EPJC 72 (2012) 2012

p_T^{trig} : 4–6 GeV/c

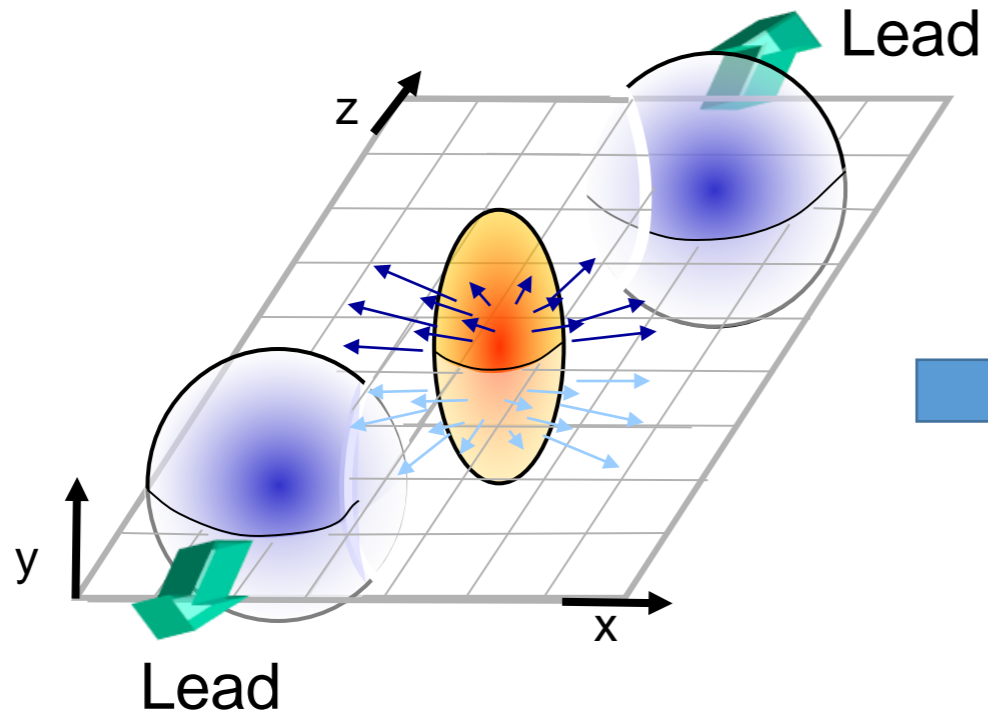
p_T^{assoc} : 2–4 GeV/c

Two-Particle Angular Correlation in PbPb vs Centrality

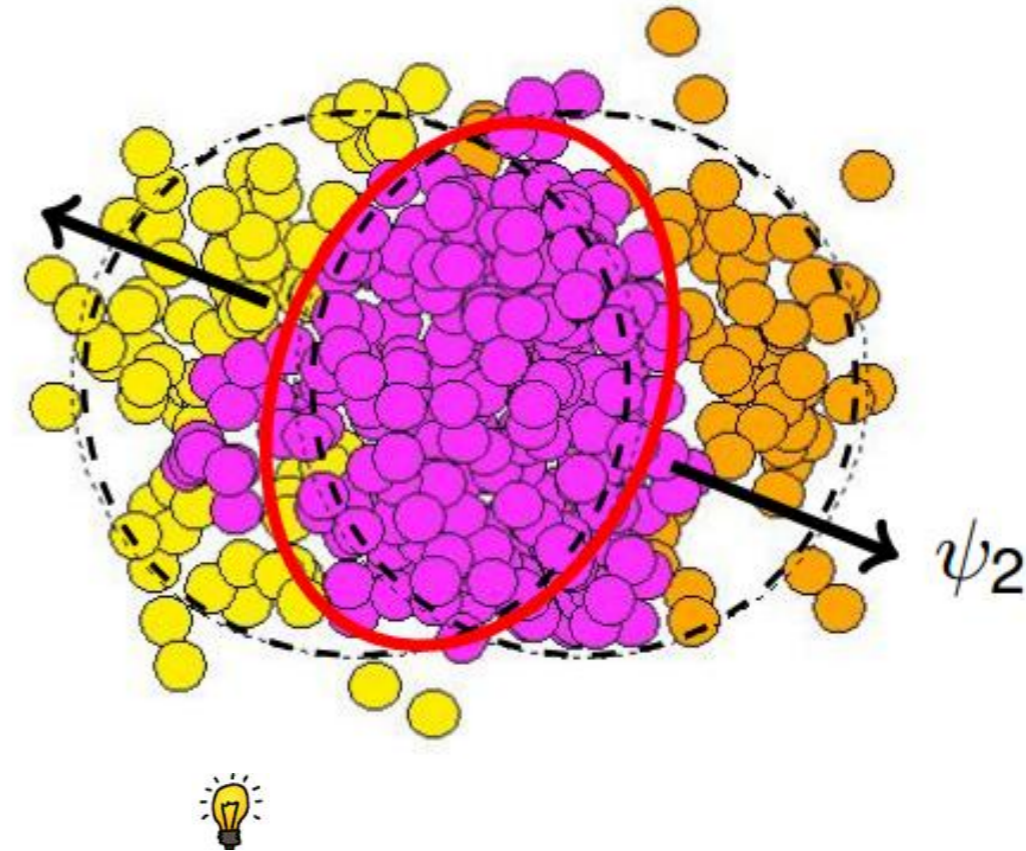


Initial Condition of the Collision

“Classic view”



“Modern view”

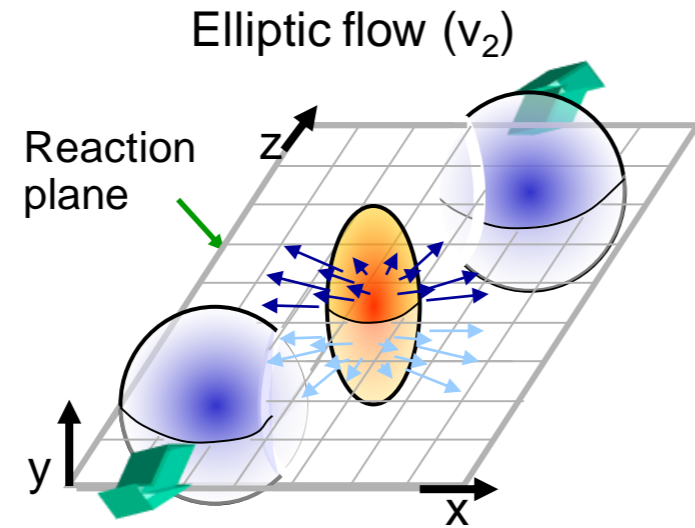


B. Alver & G. Roland

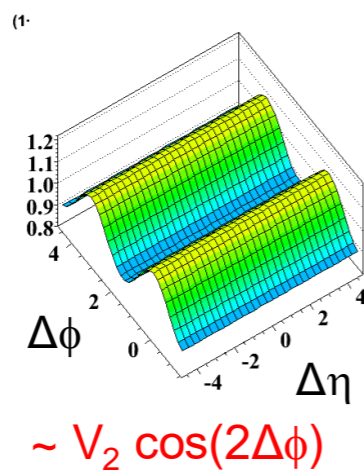
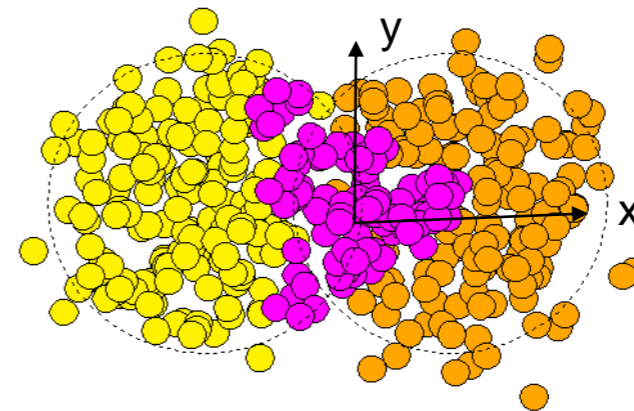
*Phys. Rev. C*81:054905, 2010

Origin of the Ridge Structure

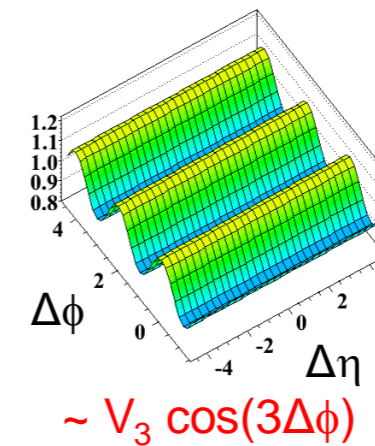
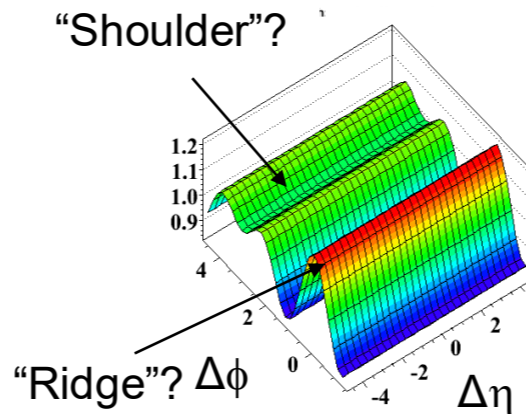
It was now understood that the ridge may be induced by higher order flow terms ($v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5, \dots$)



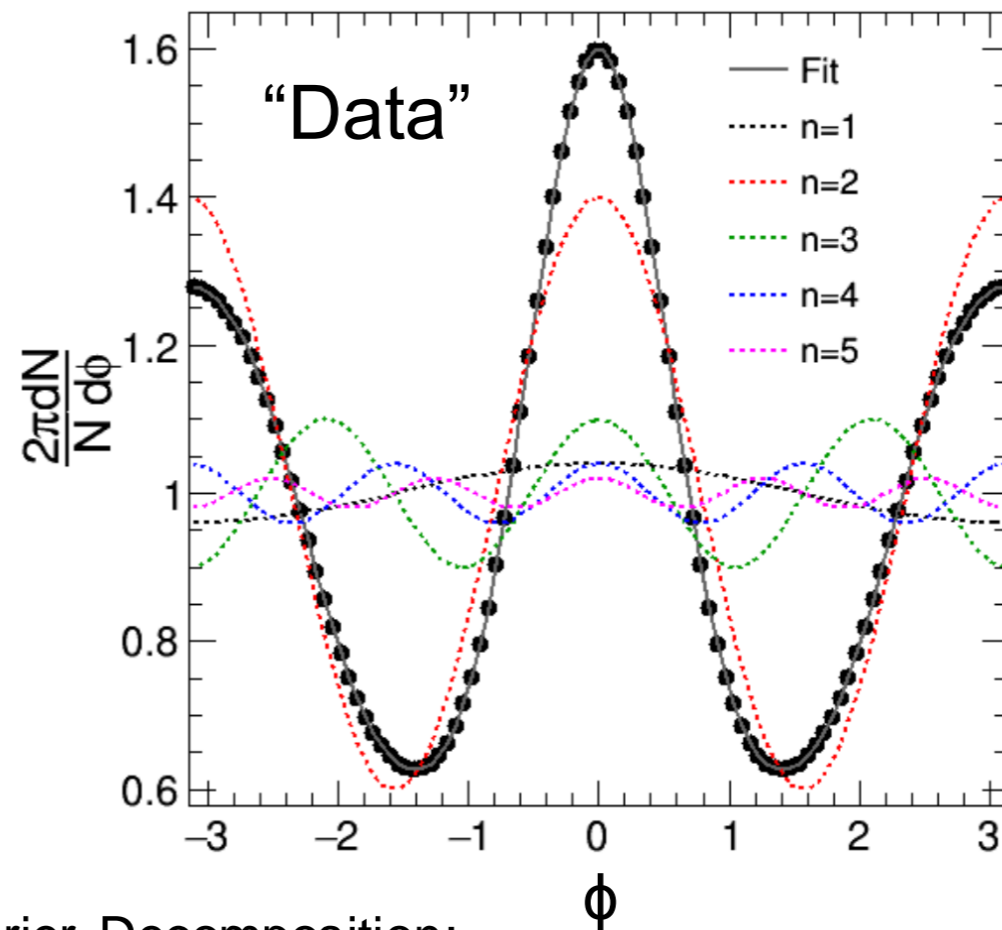
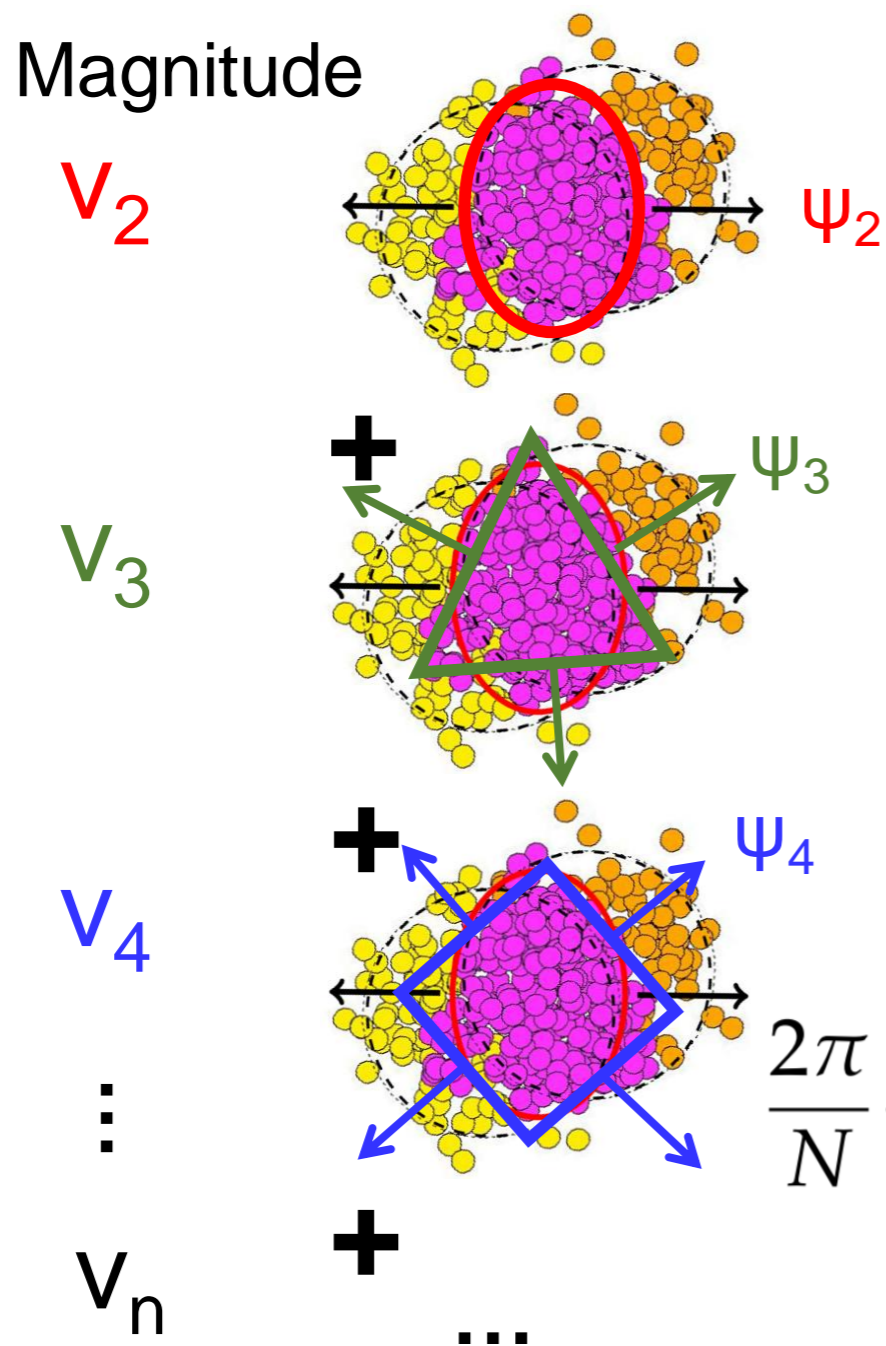
Triangular flow (v_3) from event-by-event fluctuation



Add V_2 and V_3 together



Particle Azimuthal Anisotropy



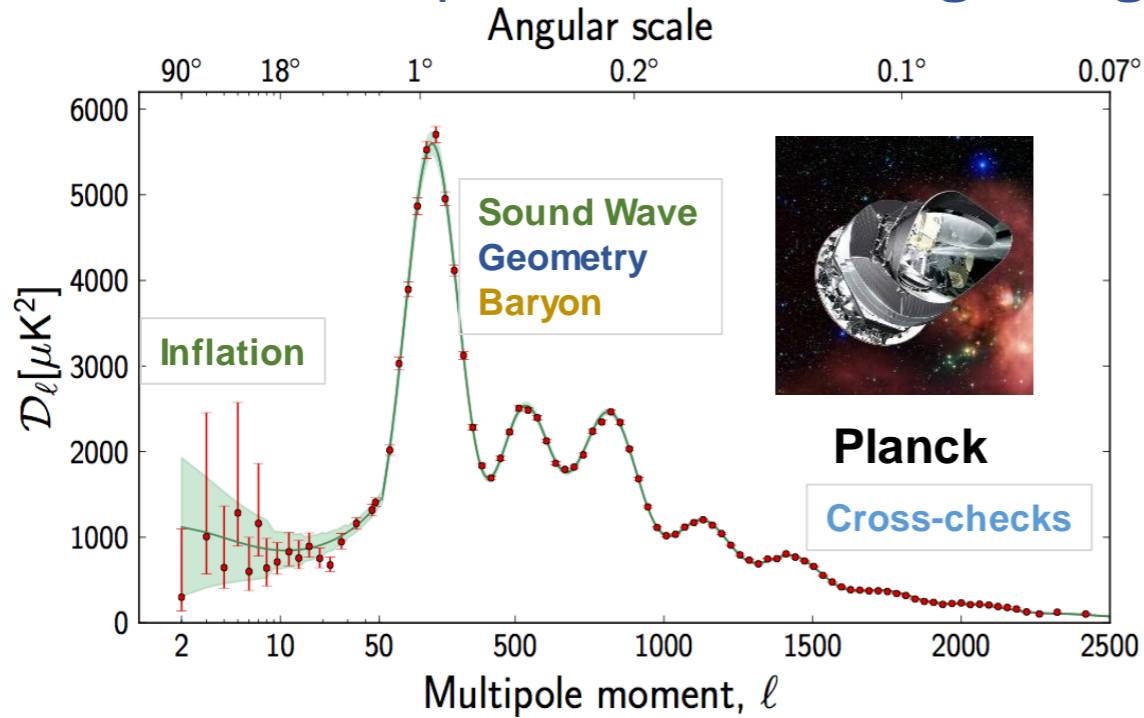
Fourier Decomposition:

$$\frac{2\pi}{N} \frac{dN}{d\phi} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2v_n \cos[n(\phi - \Psi_n)]$$

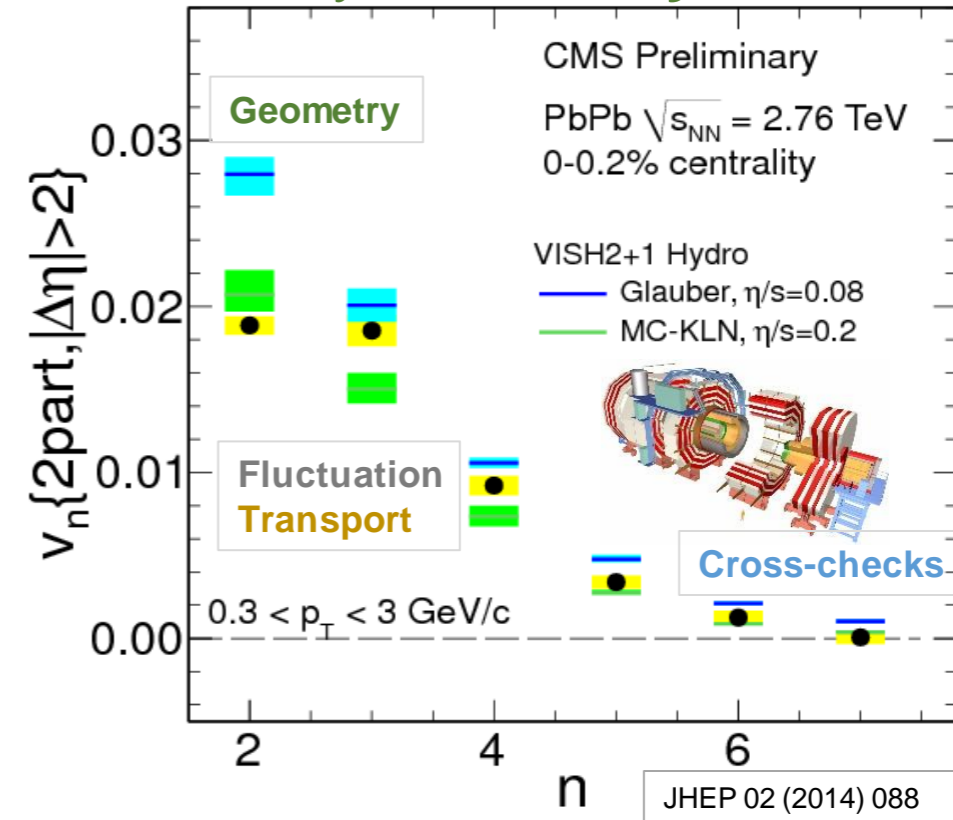
Alver and Roland (MITHIG)
 “Collision geometry fluctuation”
 PRC82 (2010) 039903

Density Fluctuation

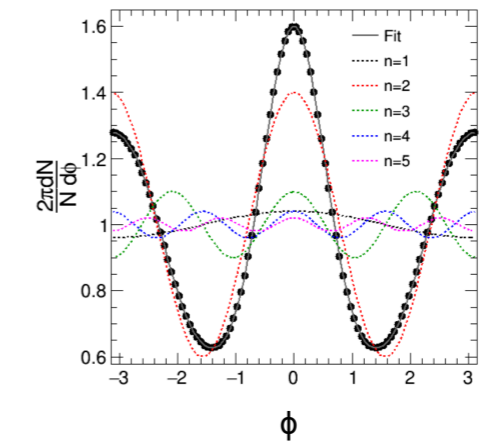
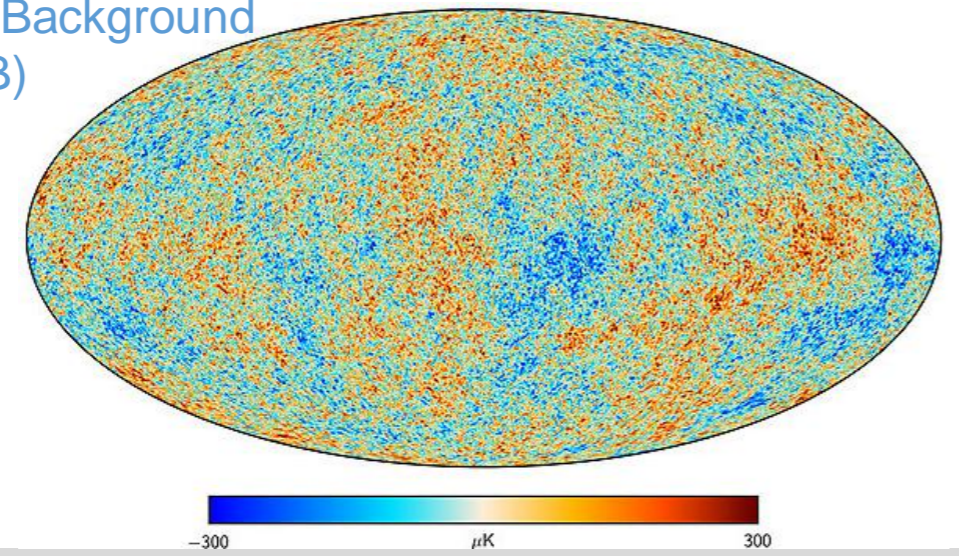
Power spectrum of the Big Bang



Fourier analysis of many little bangs

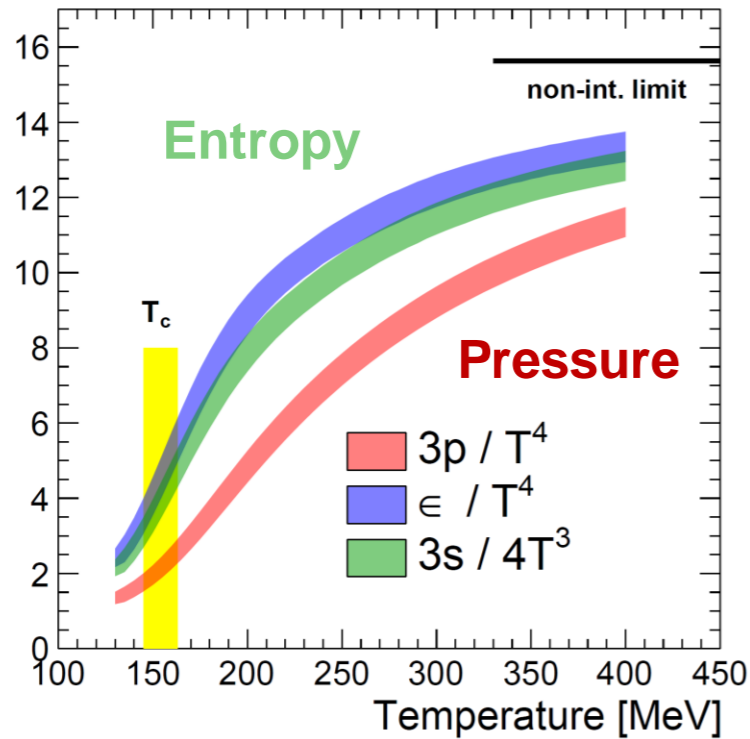


Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)



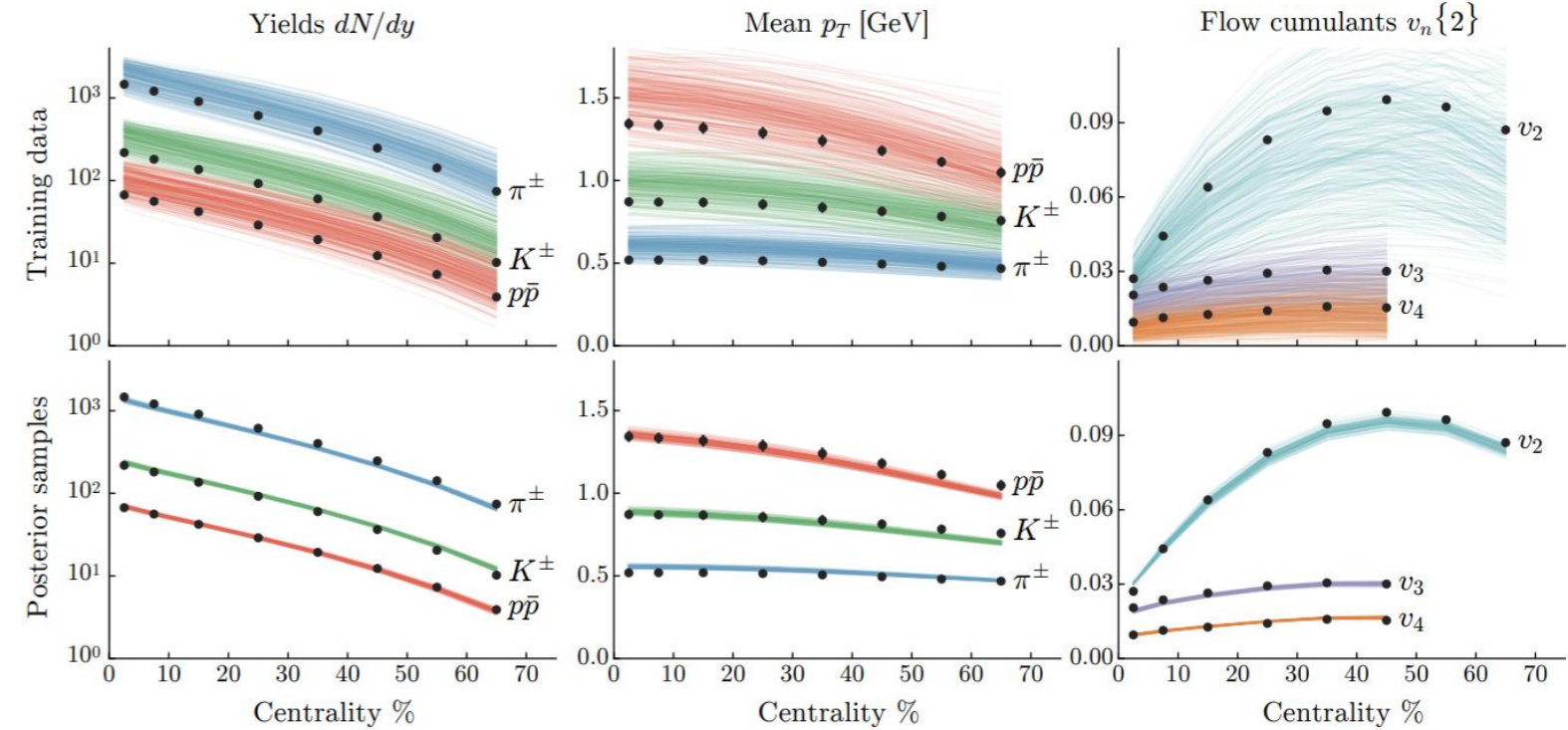
Quark Gluon Plasma (QGP)

Relativistic Hydrodynamics Calculations



HotQCD Collaboration
PRD90 (2014) 094503

Lattice QCD based
Equation of State



Output (from Global fit)
Medium Properties

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \varepsilon u_\mu u_\nu + p[\varepsilon] \Delta_{\mu\nu} - \eta[\varepsilon] \sigma_{\mu\nu} - \zeta[\varepsilon] \Delta_{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu u^\mu + \mathcal{O}(\partial^2),$$

$$\sigma_{\mu\nu} = \Delta_{\mu\alpha} \Delta_{\nu\beta} (\nabla^\alpha u^\beta + \nabla^\beta u^\alpha) - \frac{2}{3} \Delta_{\mu\nu} \Delta_{\alpha\beta} \nabla^\alpha u^\beta,$$

$$\Delta_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + u_\mu u_\nu,$$

hydrodynamic evolution equations, $\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$



ALICE

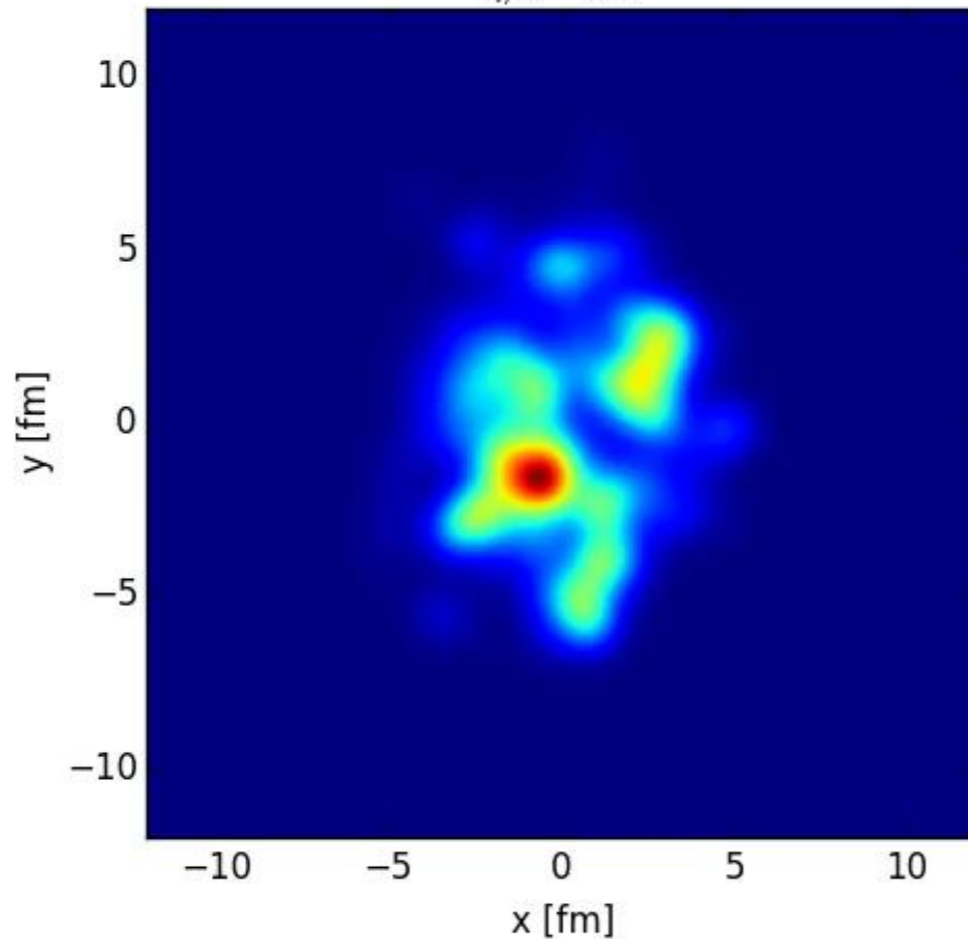
Example:
PRC 94 (2016) 2, 024907

Effect of Shear Viscosity in Simulation

Ideal hydrodynamics

$$\eta/s = 0$$

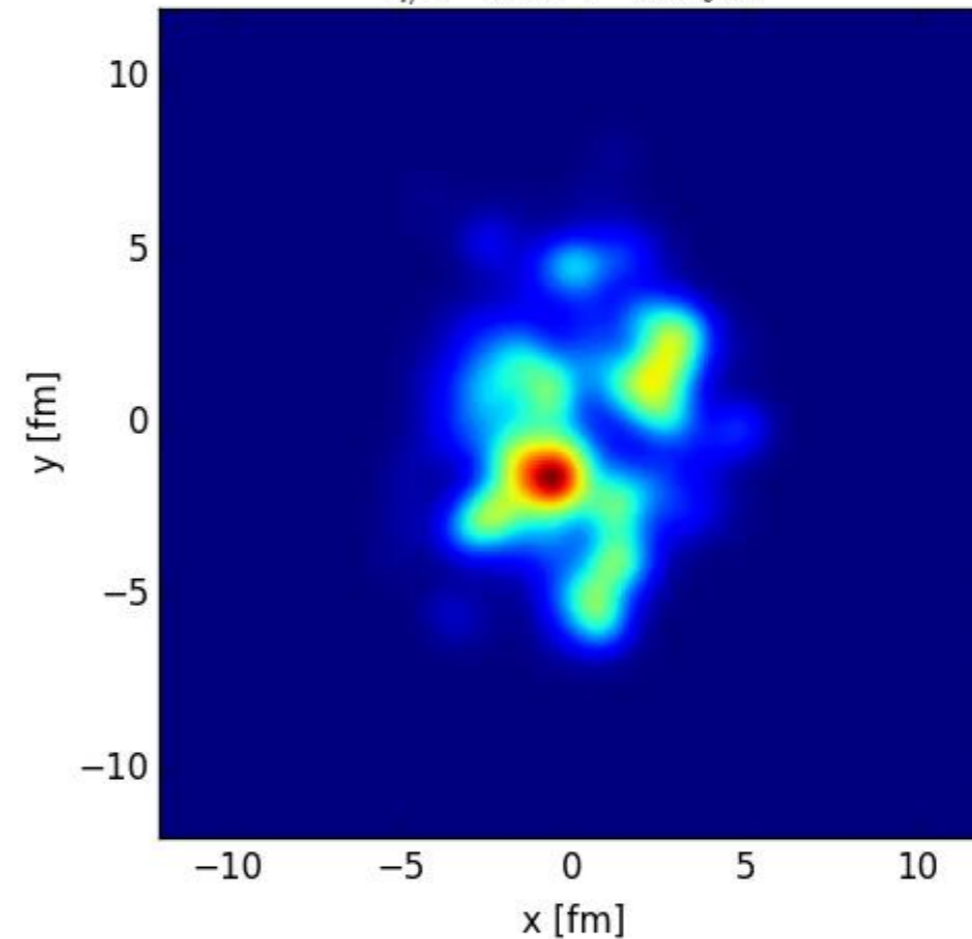
$$\eta/s = 0.0$$



Viscous hydrodynamics

$$\eta/s = 0.08$$

$$\eta/s = 0.08 \quad \tau = 0.2 \text{ fm}$$



Animation from L. G. Peng

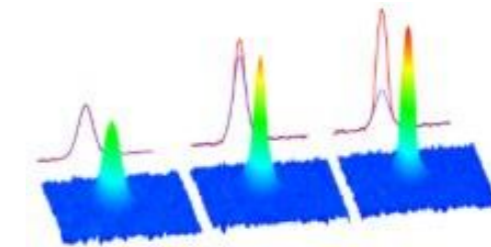
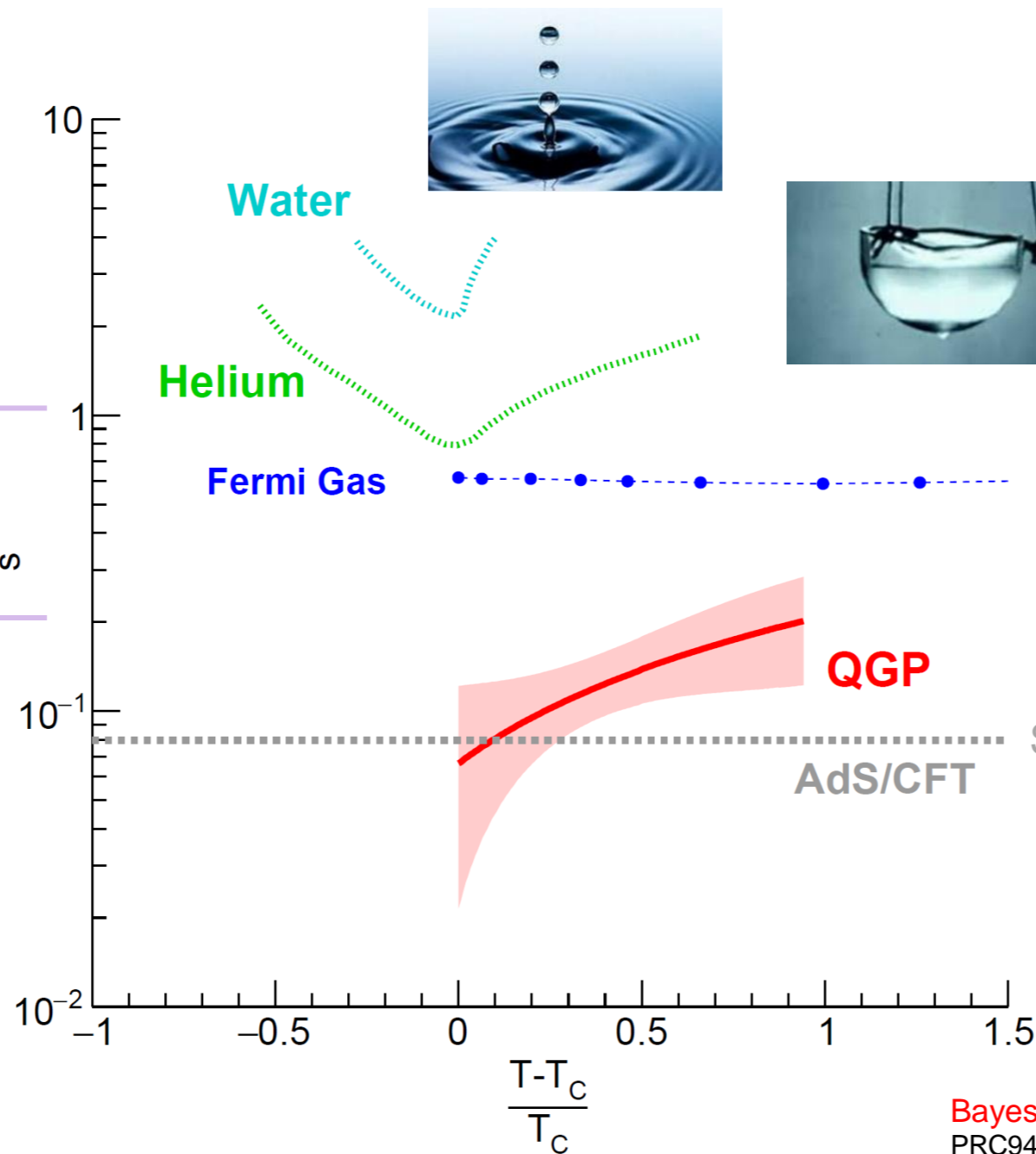
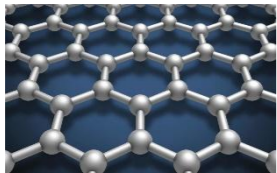
Near Perfect Fluid

Shear viscosity to entropy ratio



Electron fluid in Graphene

PRL103,025301 (2019)



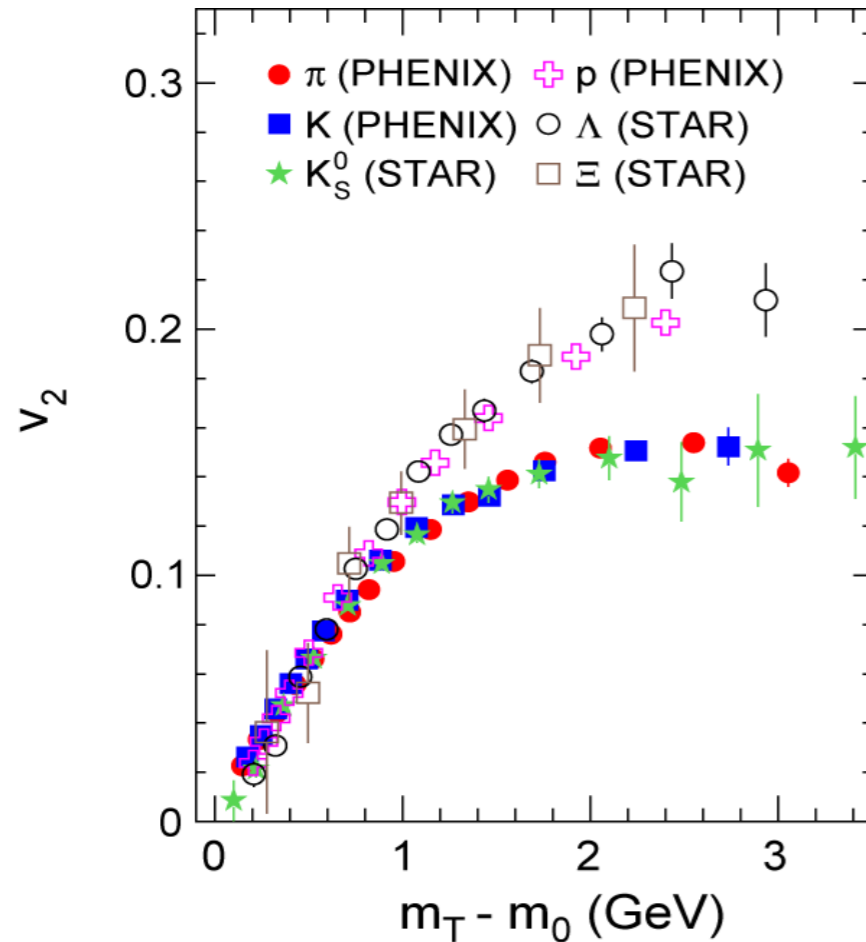
MIT cold atom group

Calculation from
Annals Phys.326:770-796,2011

Bayesian Analysis on Data (Duke)
PRC94 (2016) no.2, 024907

Evidence for Partonic Degrees of Freedom

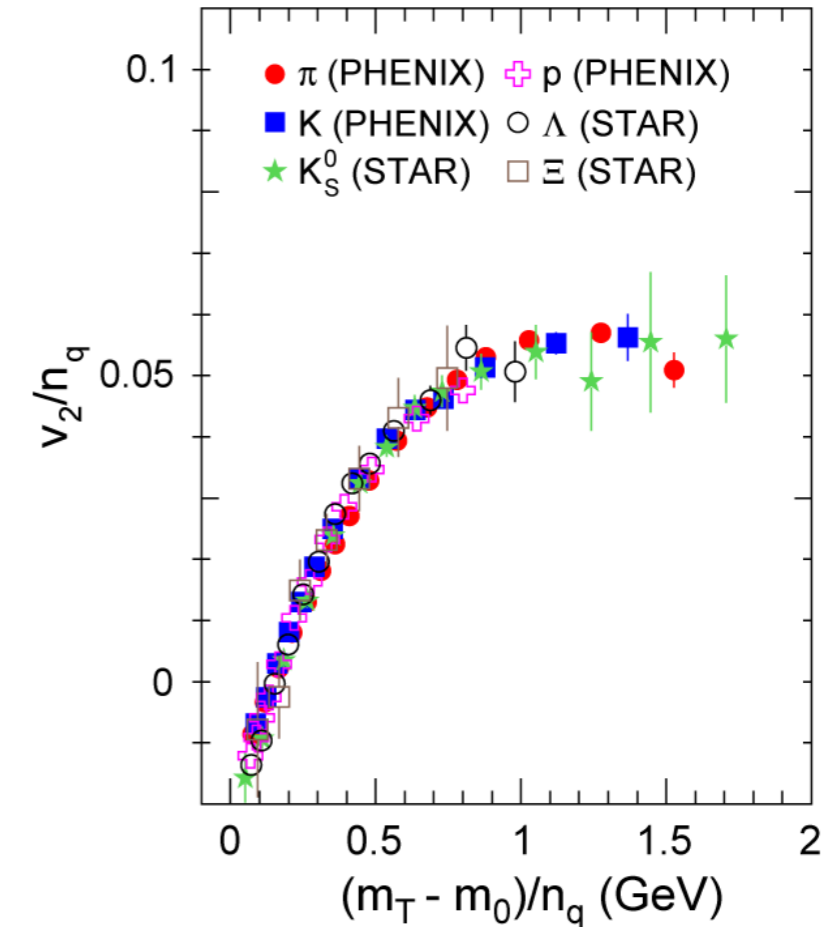
- Suppose elliptic flow is **additive** and the flow is approximately **built at the partonic level**.
- The observed flow pattern in $v_2(m_T)$ could become simple at the parton level!



$$m_T \rightarrow m_T/n$$

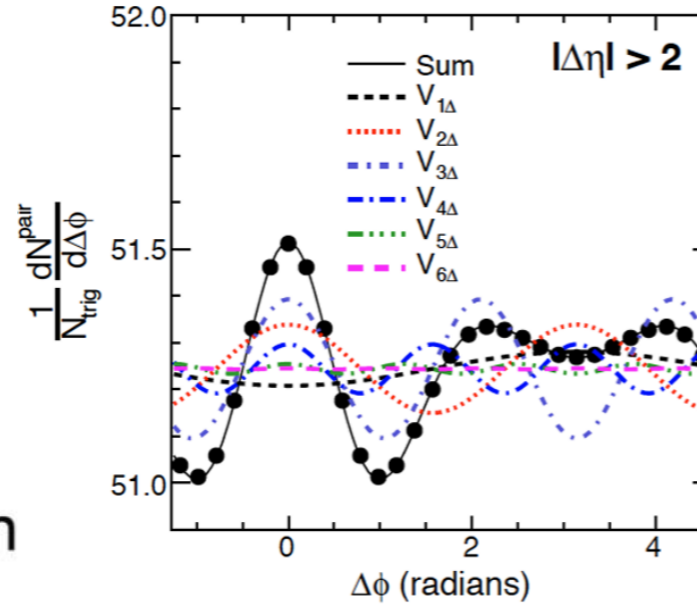
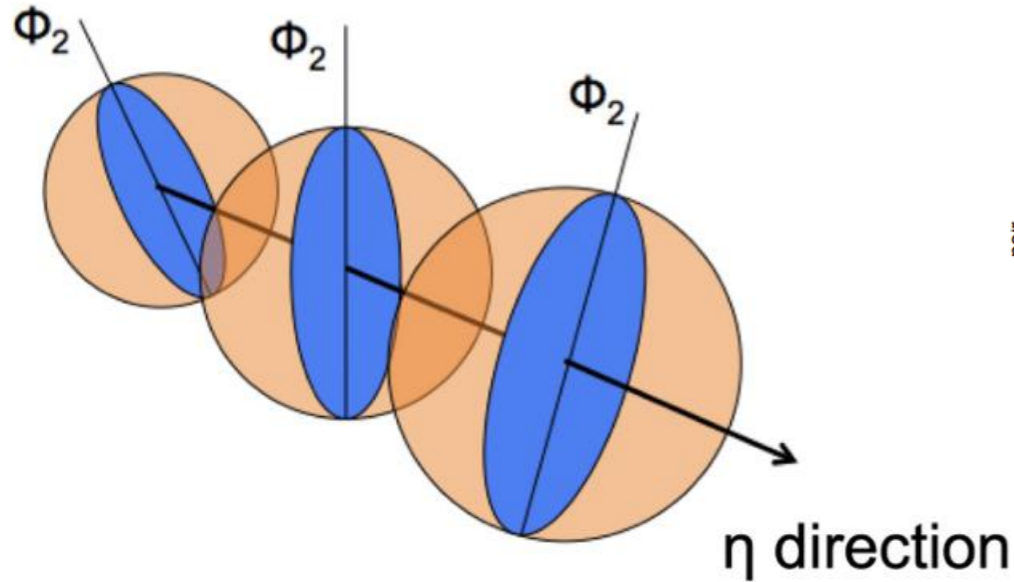
$$v_2 \rightarrow v_2/n$$

n = number of quarks
in the hadron



Scaling behavior: Constituents of QGP are partons

3D Structure of QGP



Long-range correlations ($|\Delta\eta|>2$)

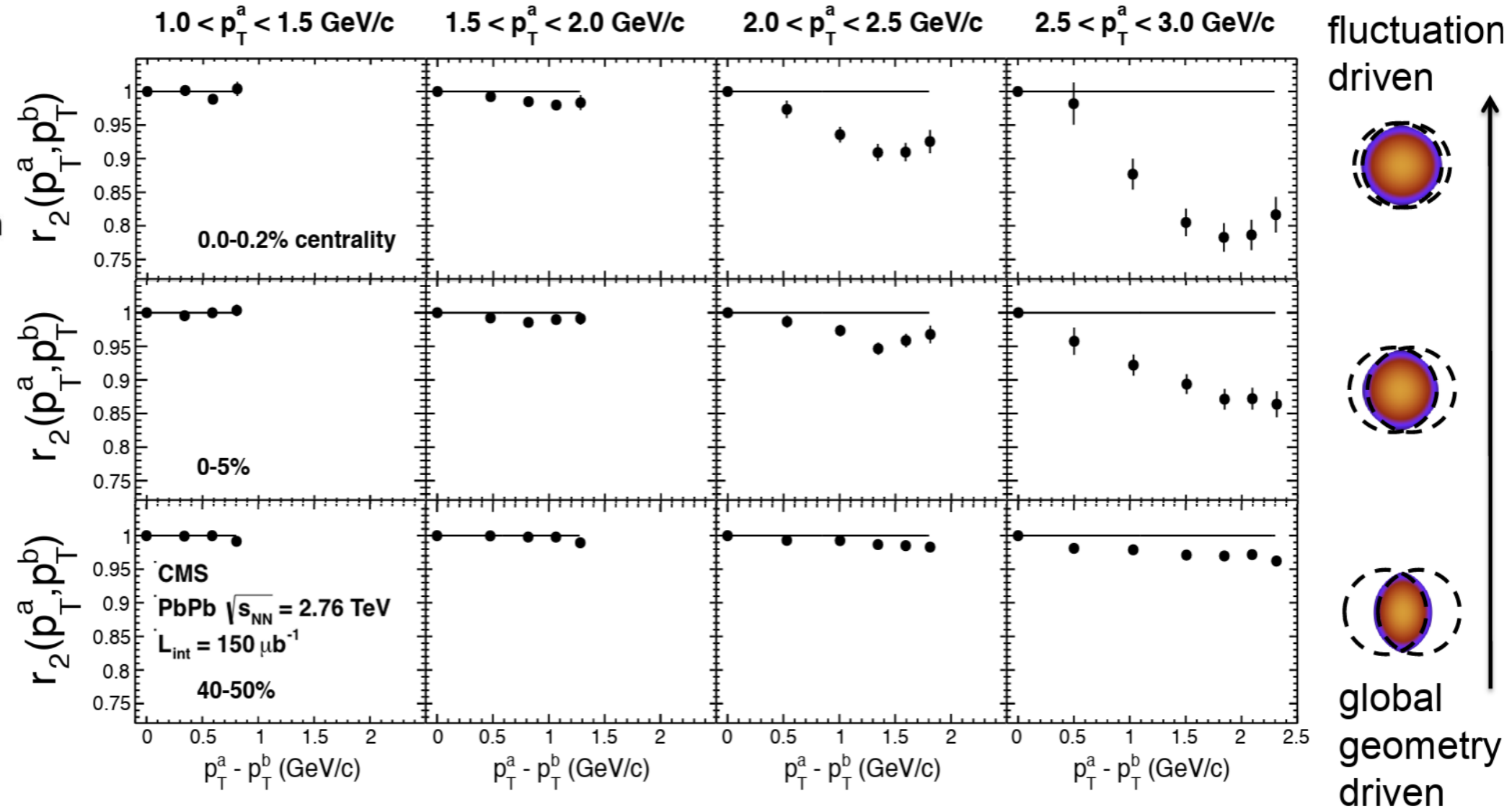
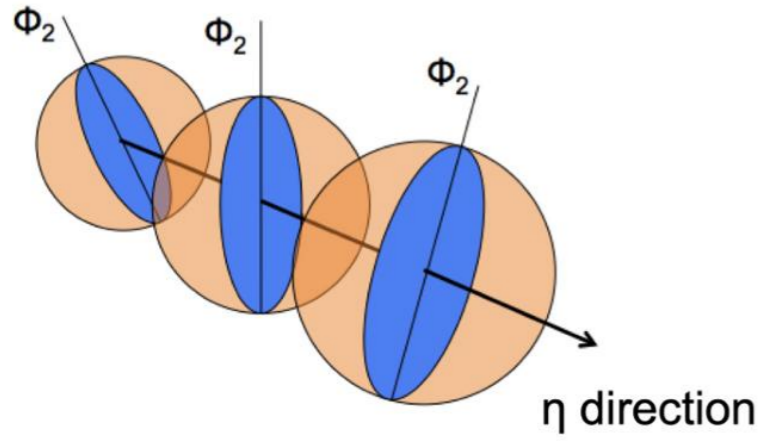
$$\frac{dN^{pair}}{d\Delta\phi} \sim 1 + 2 \sum_n V_{n\Delta}(p_T^a, p_T^b) \cos(n\Delta\phi)$$

$$r_n \equiv \frac{V_{n\Delta}(p_T^a, p_T^b)}{\sqrt{V_{n\Delta}(p_T^a, p_T^a)} \sqrt{V_{n\Delta}(p_T^b, p_T^b)}} \sim \left\langle \cos[n(\Psi_n(p_T^a) - \Psi_n(p_T^b))] \right\rangle$$

event-averaged observable

($r_n = 1$ if Ψ_n is independent of p_T ; Otherwise, $r_n < 1$)

3D Structure of QGP

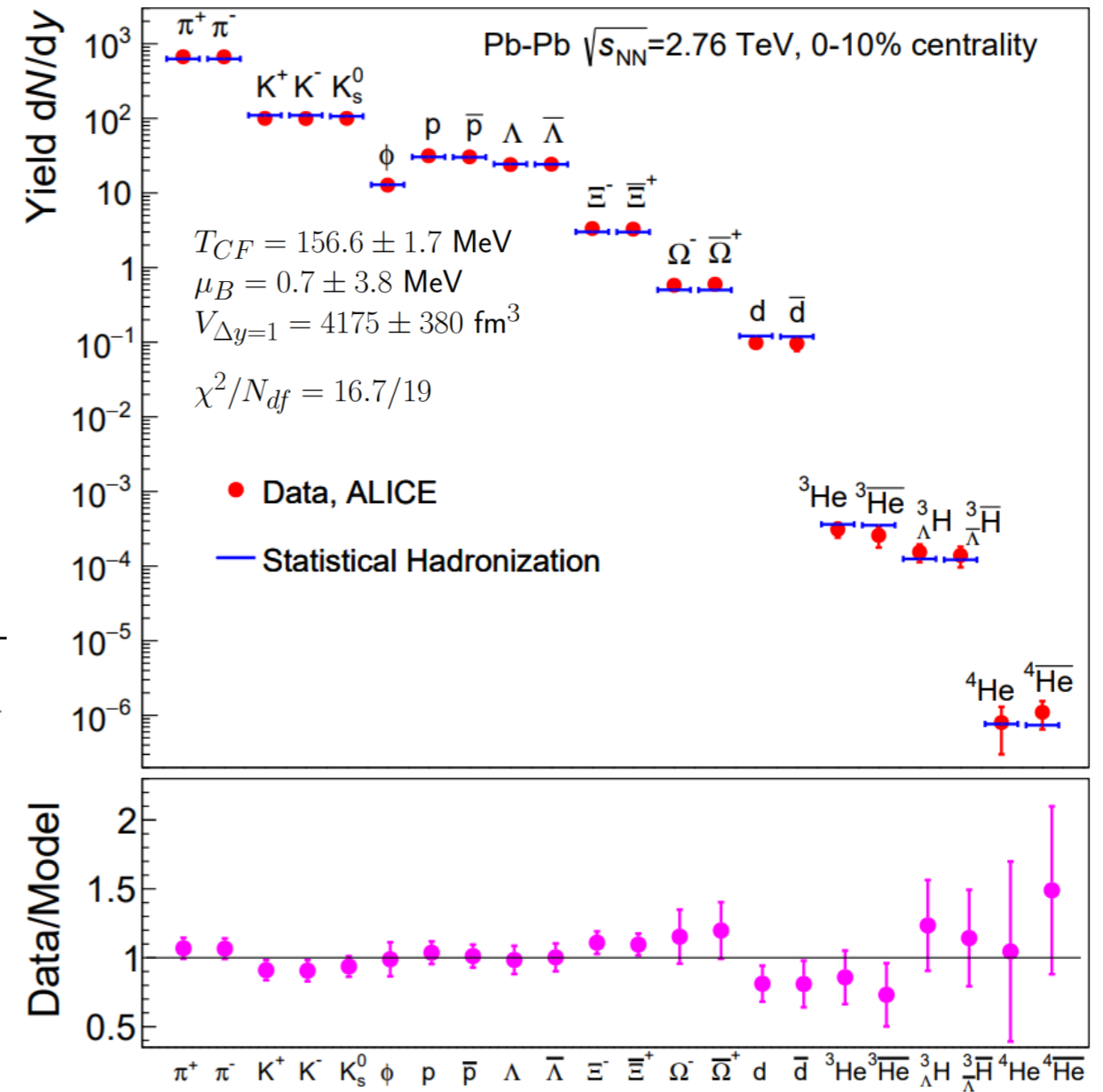


Chemical Freeze-out: Statistical Hadronization

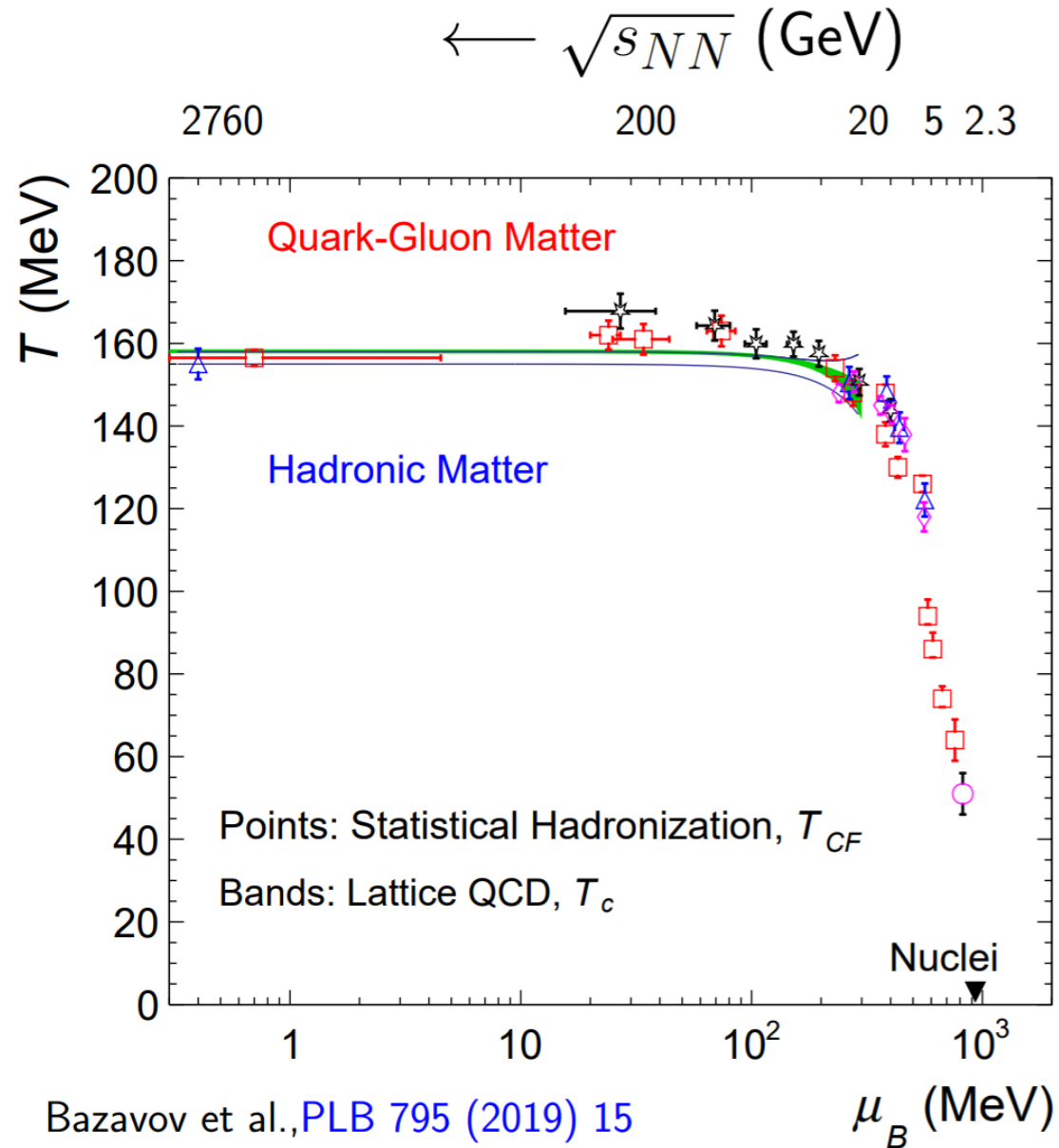
- Hadronization process is non-perturbative
- In e^+e^- and pp : string fragmentation
- Postulate: QGP cools into an equilibrated gas of hadrons
- Particle abundance produced in QGP could be described by calculation with partition function

$$n = \int N(E) d^3p \quad \text{and} \quad N(E) = \frac{D}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{E-\mu}{T}} \pm 1}$$

- Conserved quantum number, such as baryon number gives a chemical potential μ_B
- Temperature at the freeze-out could be extracted



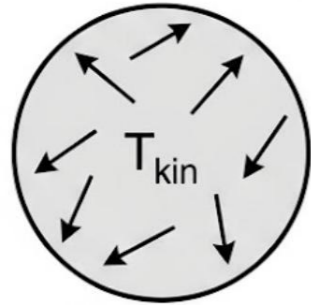
QGP Phase Diagram from Stat Hadronization Model



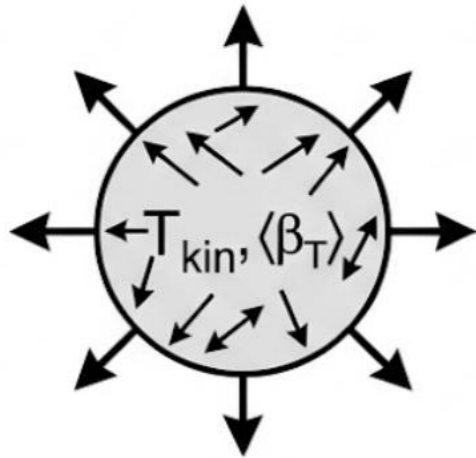
Bazavov et al., [PLB 795 \(2019\) 15](#)
 Borsanyi et al., [PLB 370 \(2014\) 99](#)

- Extracted result from LHC: remarkable coincidence with Lattice QCD results
 - At LHC, baryon chemical potential $\mu_B \sim 0$: produced matter and anti-matter as in the Early Universe
- At lower collision energy: more matter from beam remnants of the colliding nuclei, larger μ_B
- Critical point: not established; search continues at large μ_B and low collision energy

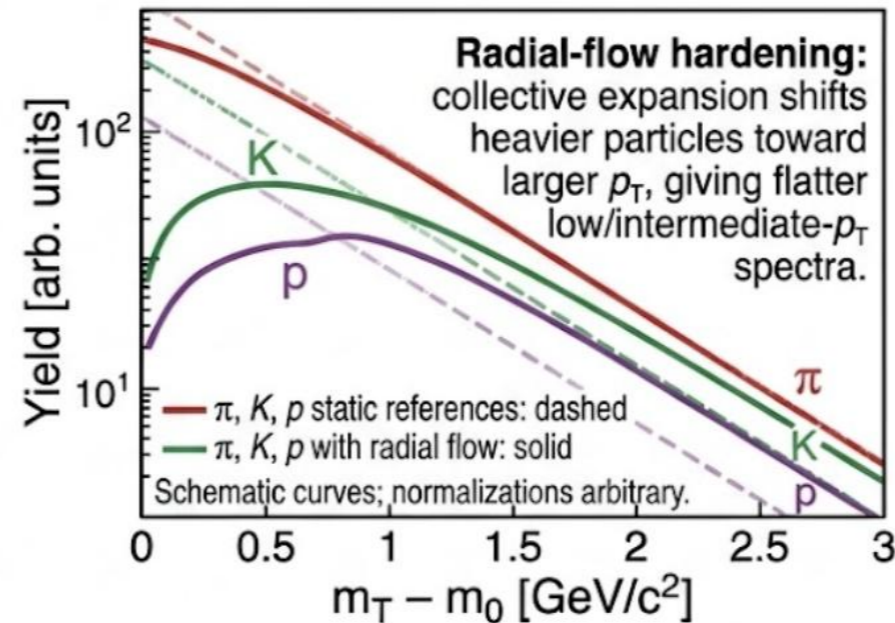
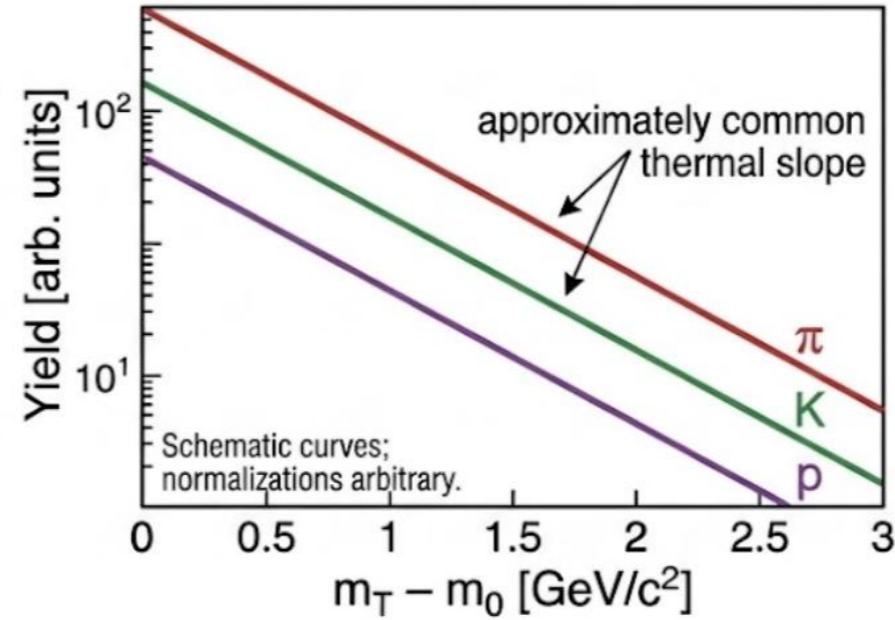
Kinematics after Last Elastic Scattering



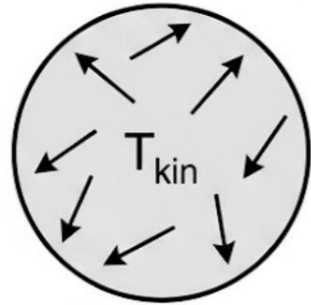
Static thermal source



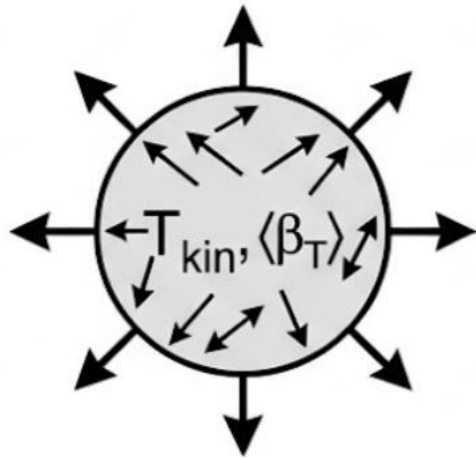
Explosive source: radial collective flow superimposed on the thermal motion



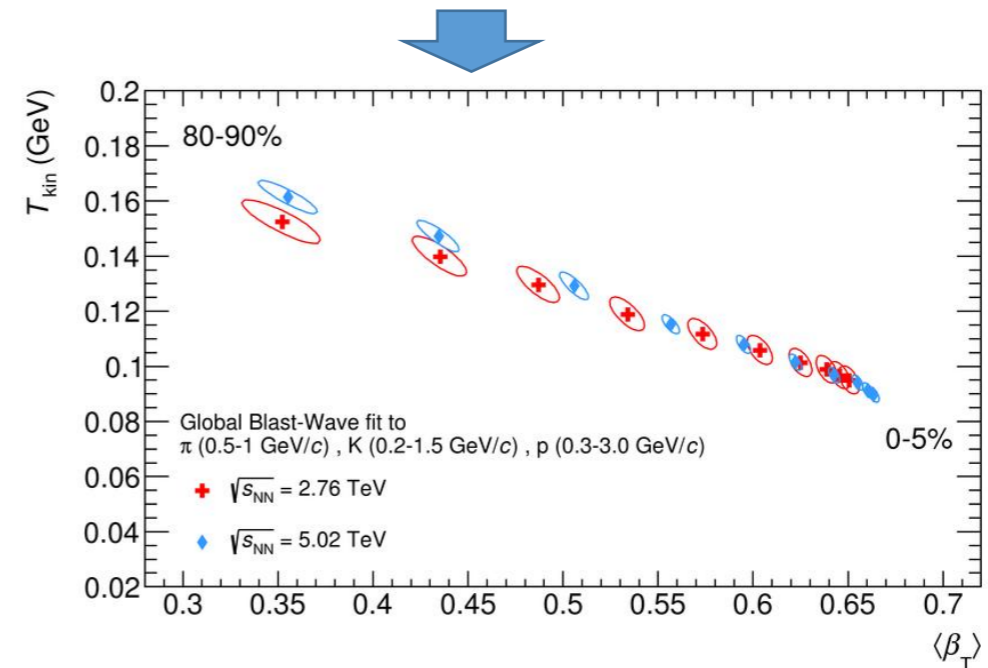
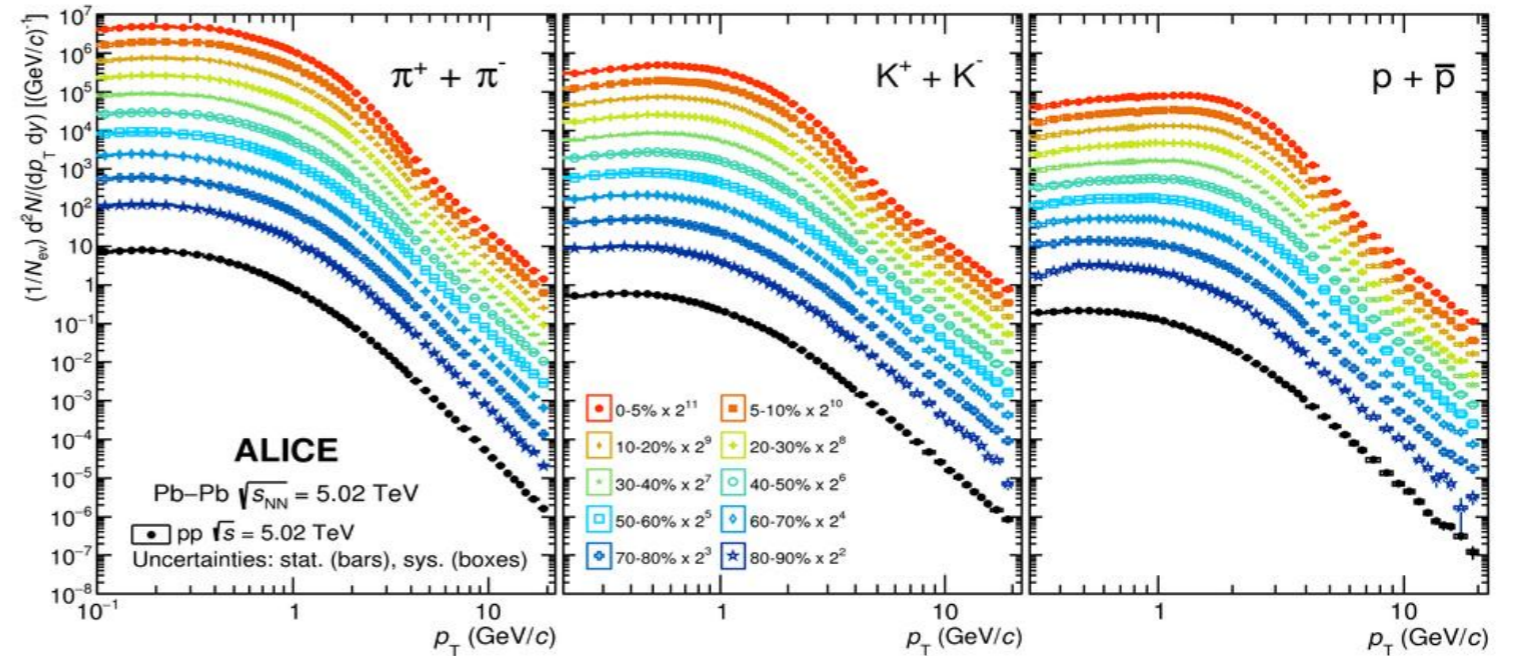
Kinematics after Last Elastic Scattering



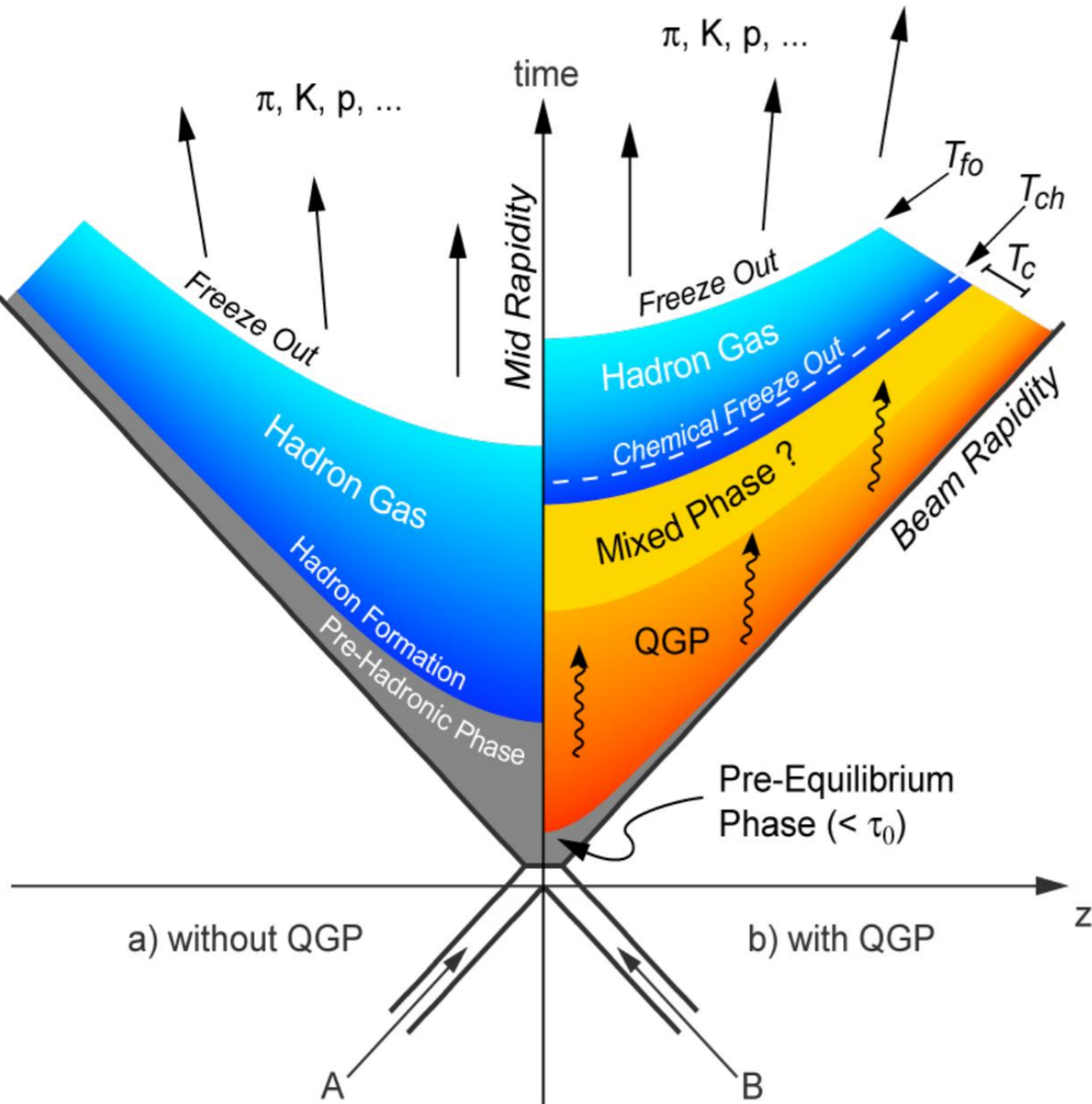
Static thermal source



Explosive source: radial collective flow superimposed on the thermal motion



Relativistic Heavy Ion Collision Timeline



- **Chemical freeze-out: ($T_{ch} \leq T_c$):**
 - Inelastic scattering stops
 - Particle species abundances become fixed
- **Kinetic freeze-out: ($T_{fo} \leq T_{ch}$):**
 - Elastic scattering ceases
 - Momentum spectra and flow patterns become fixed

Summary from the Soft Probes

- Heavy-ion collisions create energy densities and temperatures far above the hadronic regime, producing a deconfined QGP.
- The QGP exhibits quark and gluon degrees of freedom and rapidly hydrodynamizes.
- Bulk observables show that the QGP flows like an almost “perfect” liquid with very small η/s .
- Hadronization and hadronic final-state interactions remain essential for connecting the QGP to measured particles.
- From RHIC to LHC energies, bulk QGP signatures evolve smoothly, supporting a consistent picture of QGP formation.
- At lower collision energies, the system becomes increasingly baryon rich and hadron dominated; no conclusive evidence for a QCD Critical Point has been found yet.

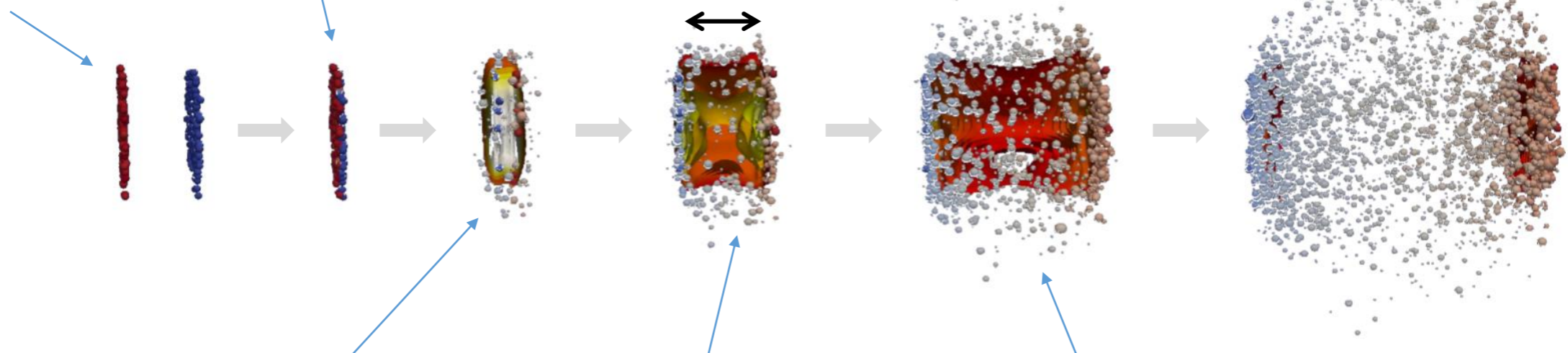
Open Questions

What are the initial conditions of the collision?

What is the longitudinal structure of the QGP?

What's the hadronization mechanism with QGP?

nPDF and initial EM field



How does the system move toward hydrodynamization?

What are the transport properties of the QGP?
How does QGP respond to hard probes?
What are the inner workings of QGP at various length scales?

What is the in-medium color force?

Visualization taken from Jonah E. Bernhard
arXiv:1804.06469

Probe the Quark Soup!

- How does the strongly interacting medium emerge from an asymptotic free theory?

Start from “un-thermalized” objects and see how they are thermalized in the Quark Soup

- Can we see quasi-particles (at some point, quarks and gluons) in the Quark-Gluon Plasma? What is the structure of QGP probed at different length scales?

“QGP Rutherford Experiment” and HQ Diffusion

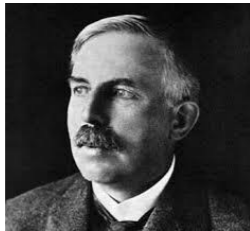
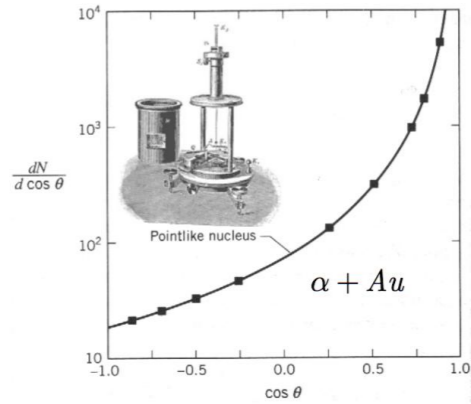
- What are the transport properties of the medium?

Study how Colored Probes are modified by QGP
Study how QGP respond to Colored Probes

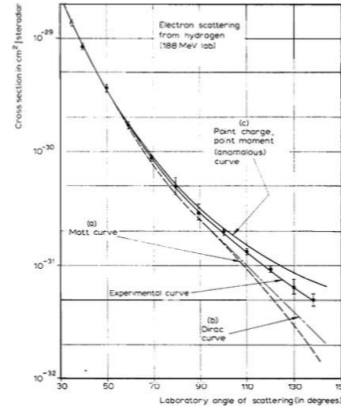


Hard Probes

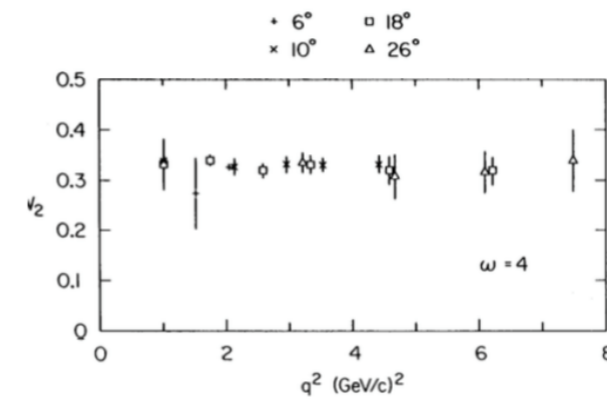
Atoms → Nuclei



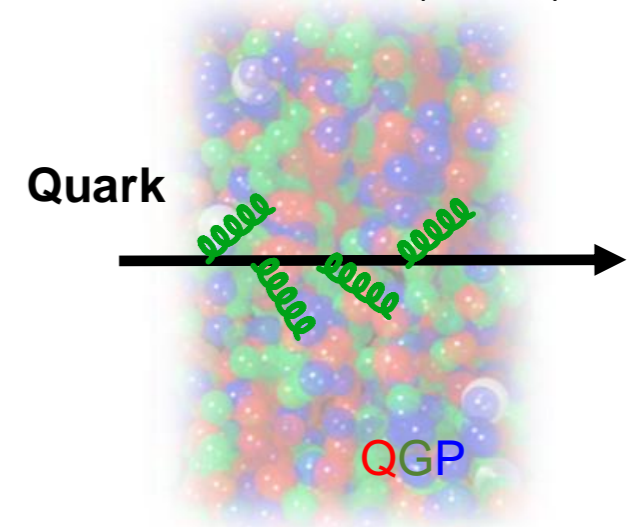
Nuclei → Nucleons



Nucleons → Quarks



Lifetime $O(10^{-24}s)$



James Bjorken (1982)

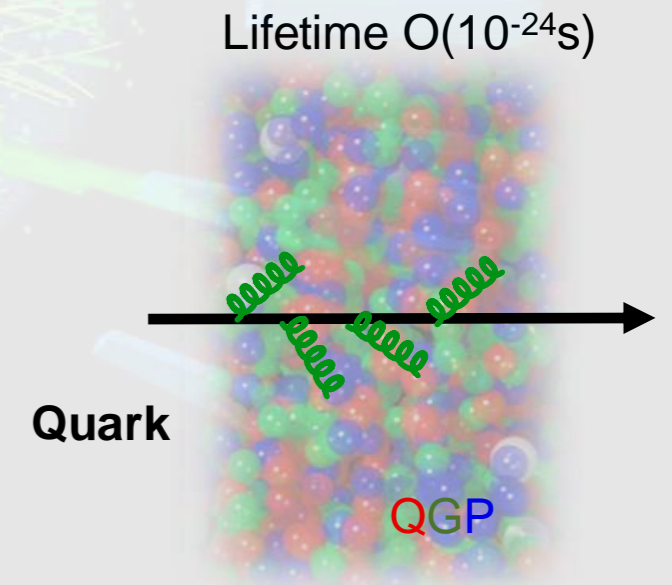
FERMILAB-PUB-82-059-T

Jet Quenching

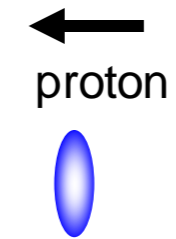
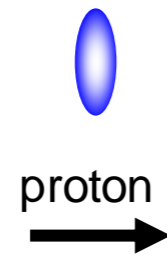
One use **Energetic Quarks** to reveal QGP structure at various length scales

The Advantage of Hard Probes

- Momentum scale is well above QCD scale $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \sim 200 \text{ MeV}$
 - Described by perturbative methods (pQCD), calculations can be tested with pp scattering
- They are produced early: sensitive to full evolution of QGP
- Sensitive to short wave-length behavior of the medium
 - Transverse resolution of a radiated quanta: $\lambda \sim \frac{1}{Q} \ll 1 \text{ fm}$
 - Example: $Q=100 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow \lambda=0.05 \text{ fm}$
- Long relaxation time: “memory” of their initial conditions at production



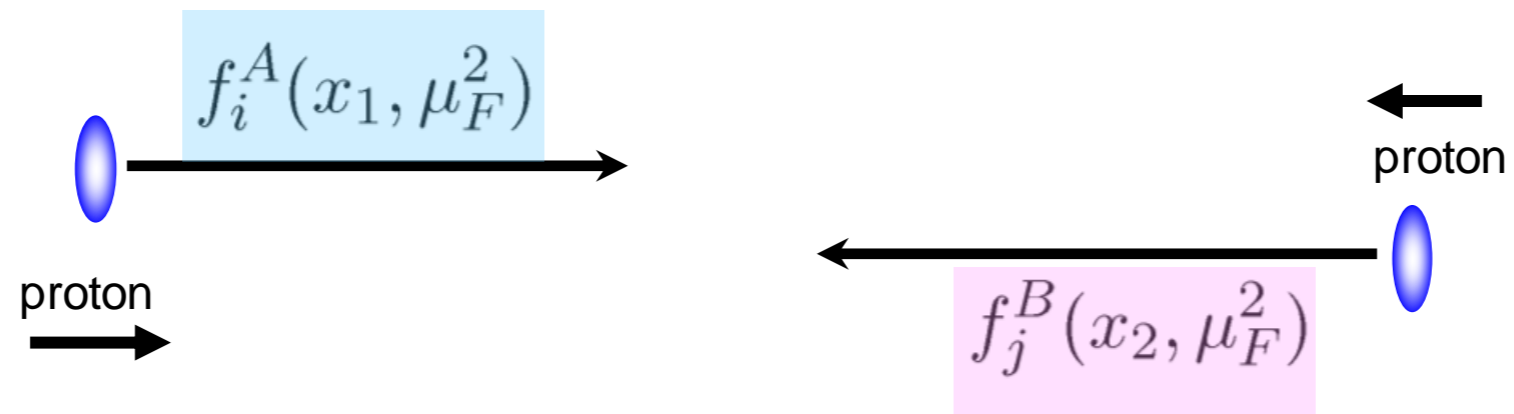
Factorization



Factorization

$$\sigma^{AB \rightarrow kl} \sim f_i^A(x_1, \mu_F^2) \otimes f_j^B(x_2, \mu_F^2) \otimes \hat{\sigma}^{ij \rightarrow kl}$$

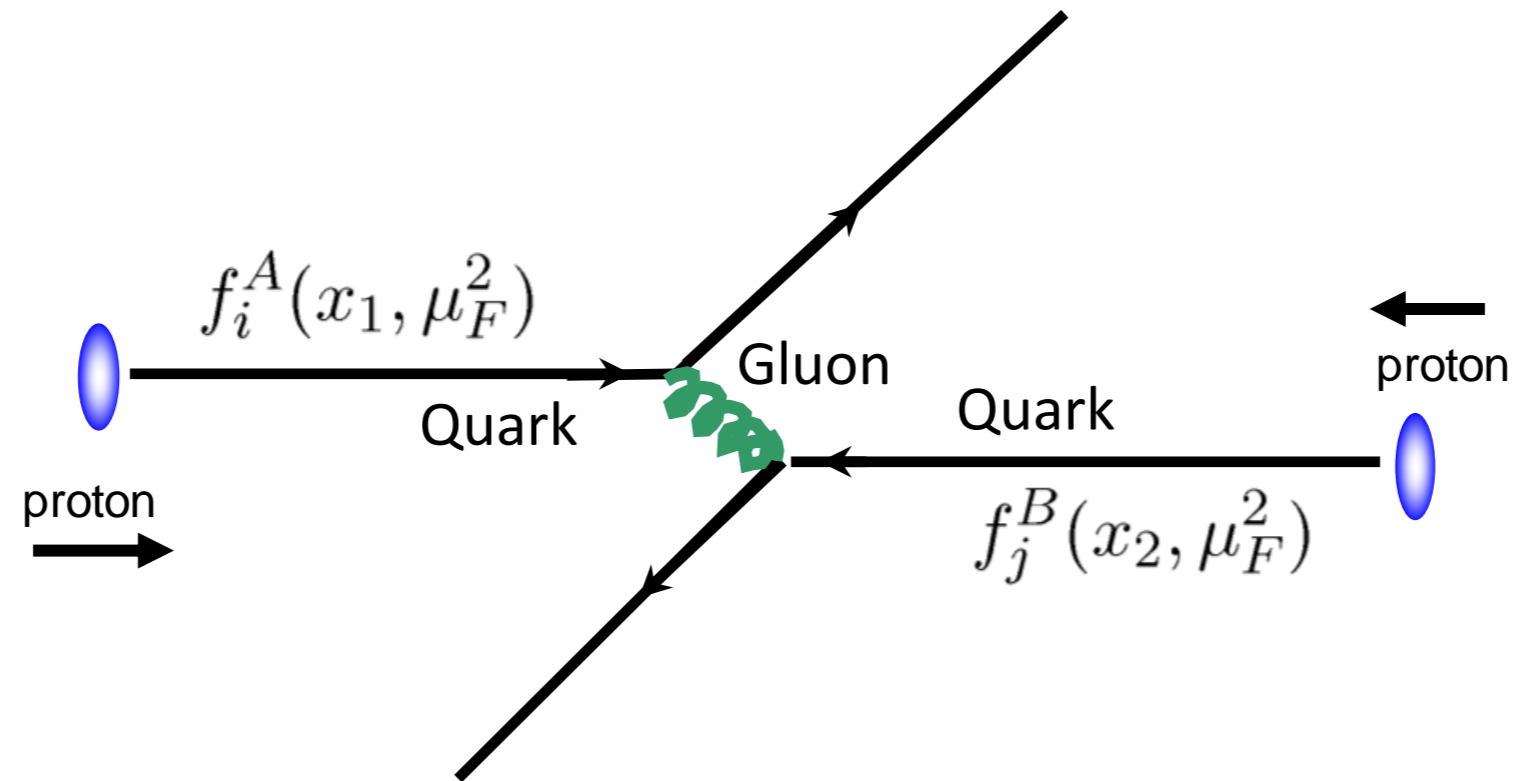
Parton Distribution Function (PDF)



Factorization

$$\sigma^{AB \rightarrow kl} \sim f_i^A(x_1, \mu_F^2) \otimes f_j^B(x_2, \mu_F^2) \otimes \hat{\sigma}^{ij \rightarrow kl}$$

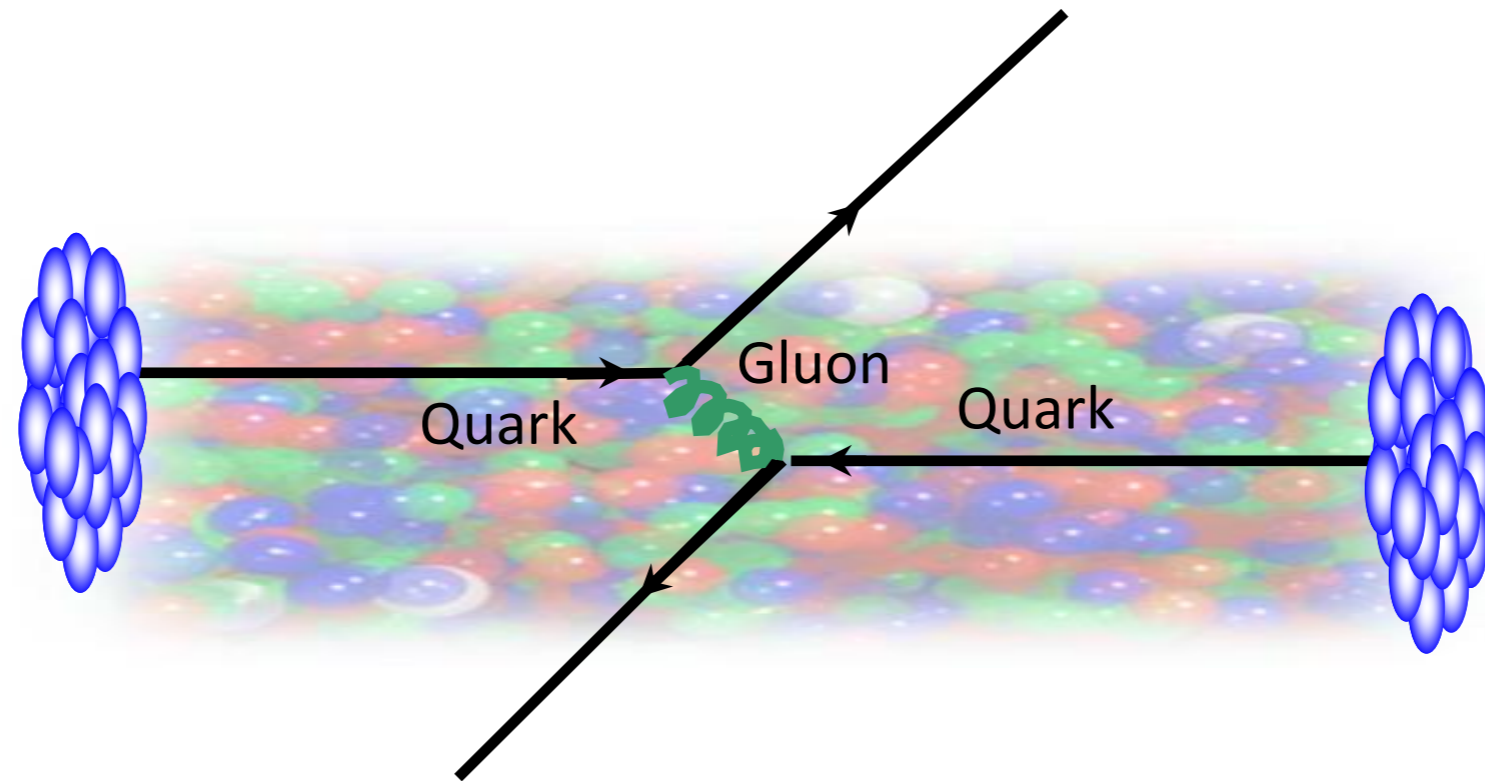
Parton Distribution Function (PDF) Cross-section of 2→2 process



Factorization in AA collisions

$$\sigma^{AB \rightarrow kl} \sim f_i^A(x_1, \mu_F^2) \otimes f_j^B(x_2, \mu_F^2) \otimes \hat{\sigma}^{ij \rightarrow kl}$$

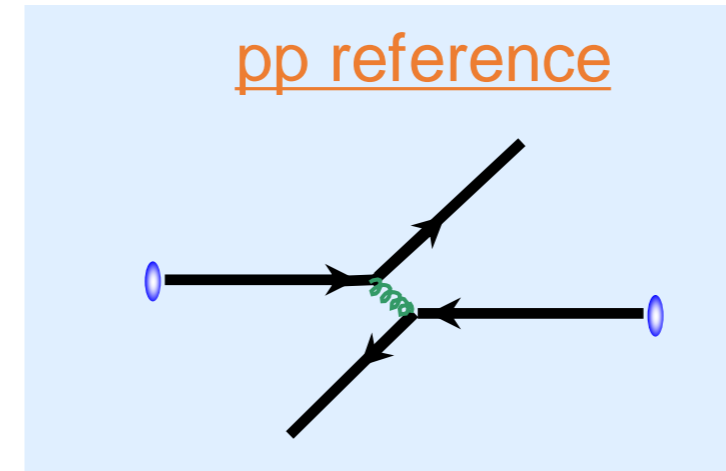
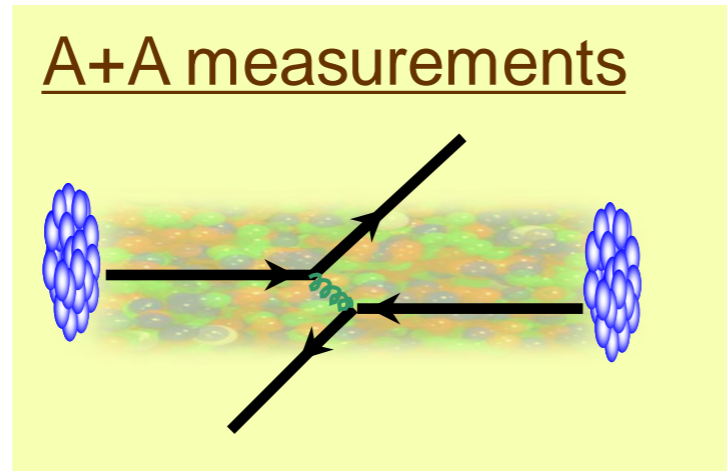
Nuclear Parton Distribution Function (nPDF) Cross-section of 2→2 process



How do we extract the medium effect in A+A collisions?

One typical way is to compare **A+A data** to **pp reference** measurement

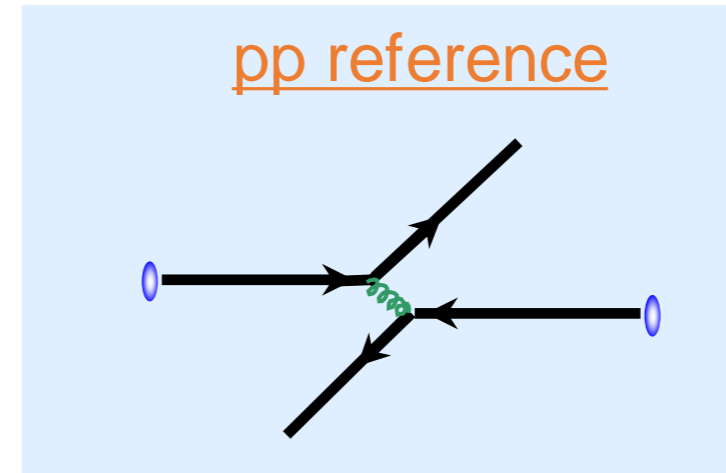
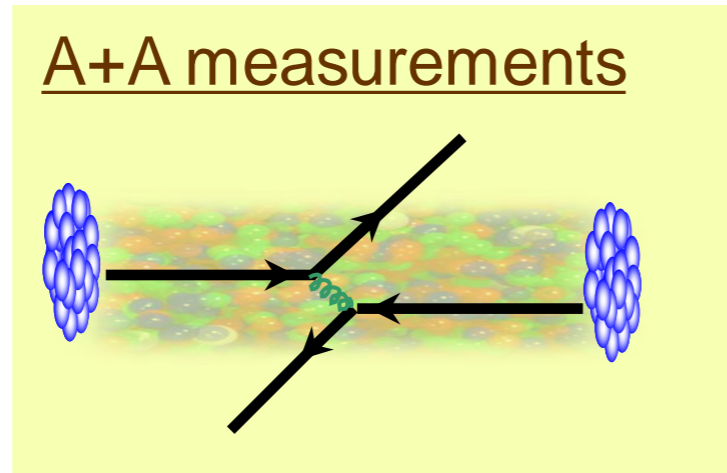
See for instance review from
D. d'Enterria and C. Loizides
Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 71 (2021) 315-44



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Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 71 (2021) 315-44



'Nuclear modification factors'

$$R_{AA} = \frac{\sigma_{pp}^{inel}}{N_{coll}} \frac{d^2 N_{AA} / dp_T d\eta}{d^2 \sigma_{pp} / dp_T d\eta} \sim \frac{\text{"QCD Medium"}}{\text{"QCD Vacuum"}}$$

$R_{AA} > 1$ (enhancement)
 $R_{AA} = 1$ (no modification)
 $R_{AA} < 1$ (suppression)

$N_{coll} \rightarrow$ Averaged number of binary scatterings

Can also be written as $1/T_{AA}$

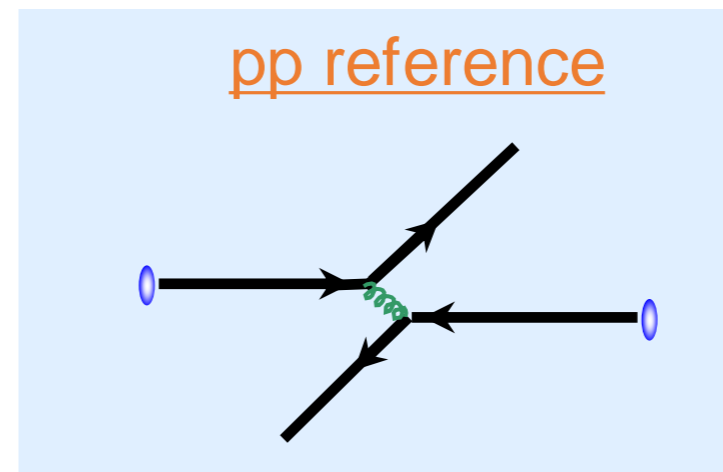
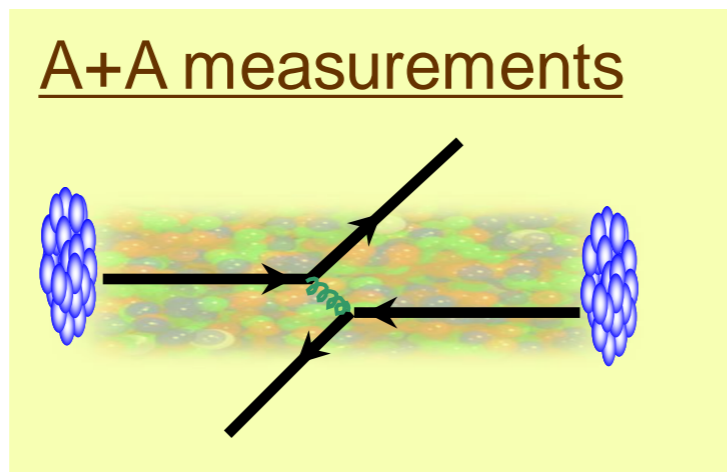
$$T_{AA} = \frac{N_{coll}}{\sigma_{pp}^{inel}}$$

"NN equivalent integrated luminosity per A+A collision"
Reduces the uncertainty from pp inclusive cross-section

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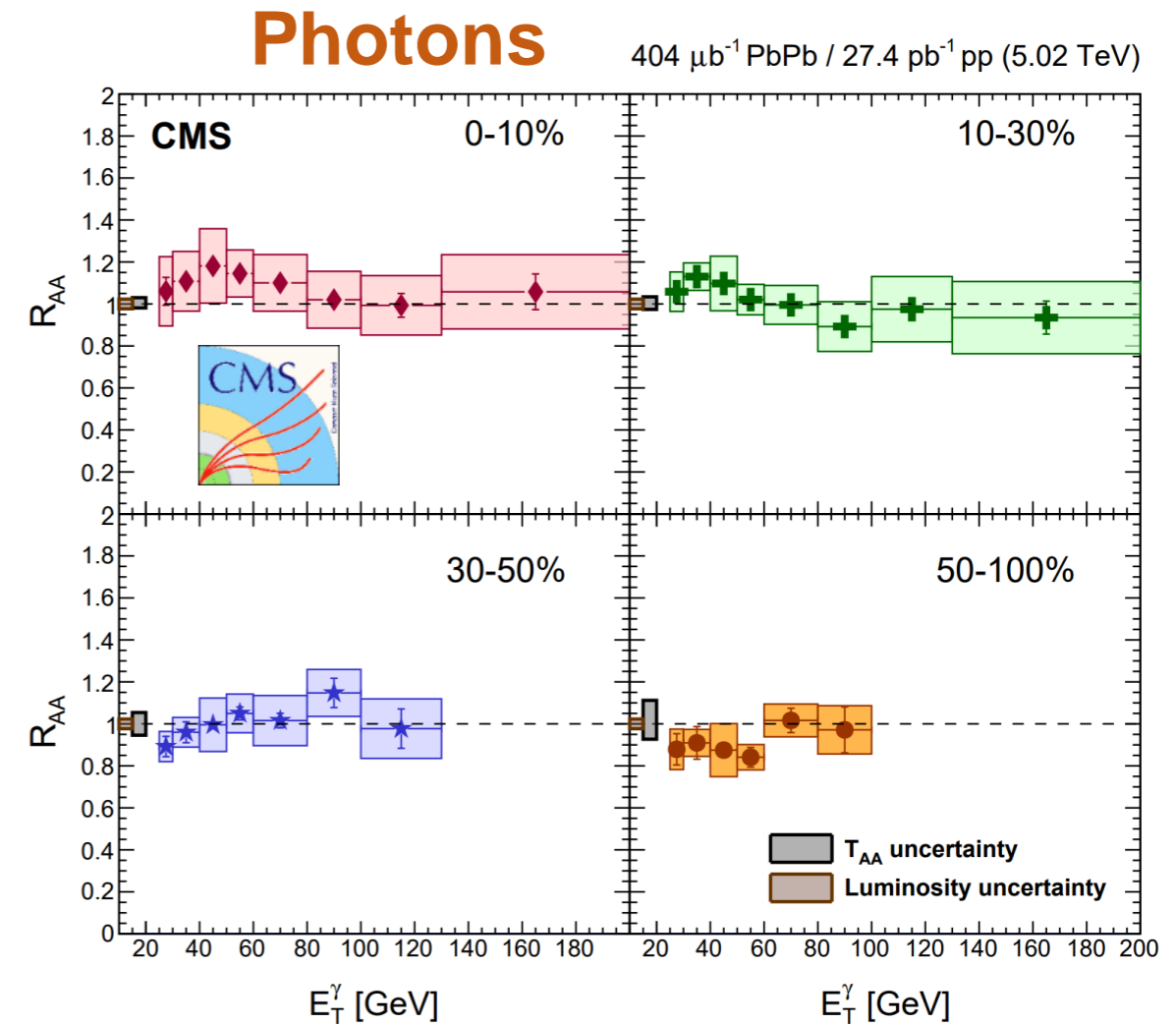
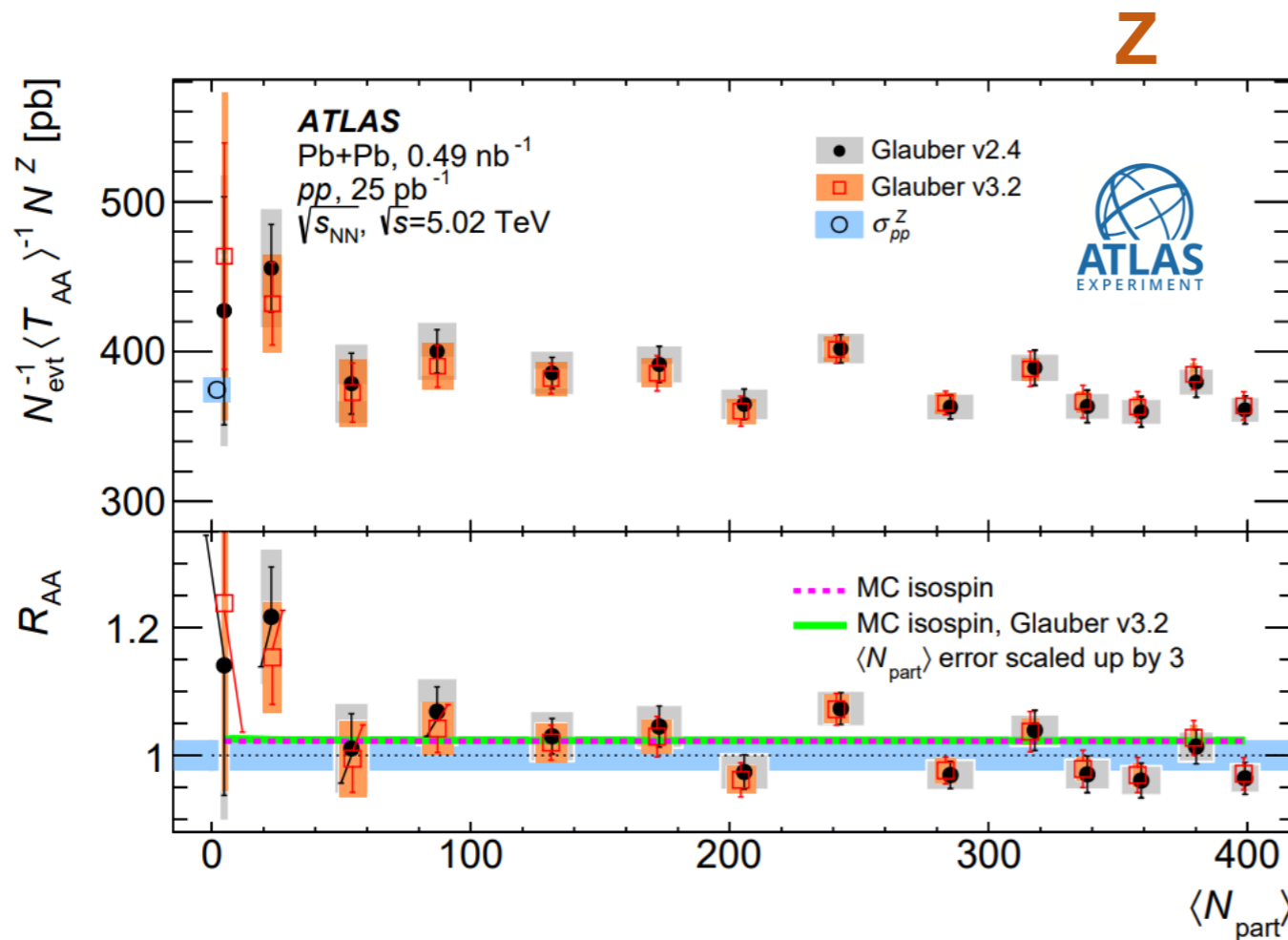
Questions: **How do we know the Glauber model calculation of N_{coll} is correct?**



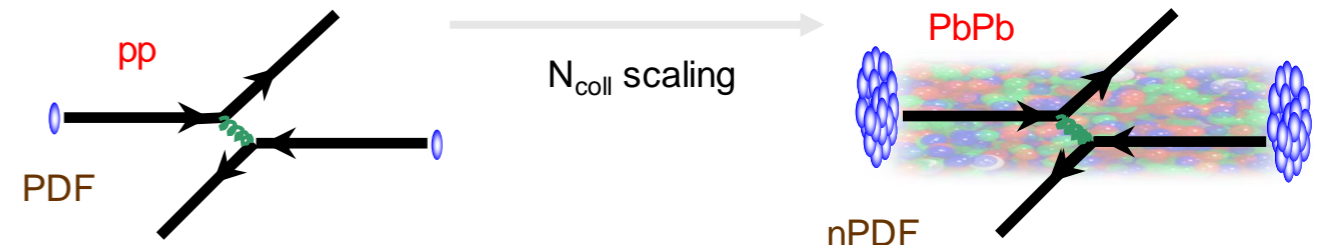
Is the nuclear PDF modified with respect to nucleon PDF?

\longrightarrow Motivates the studies of electroweak probes and jets in pA

Example: Photon R_{AA}

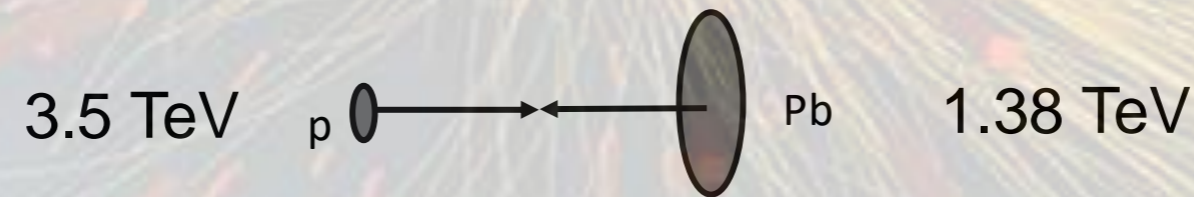


- Electroweak probes do not interact strongly with QGP
- Confirm N_{coll} scaling of hard scattering
- High precision W, Z and isolated photon measurements: constraint nPDF



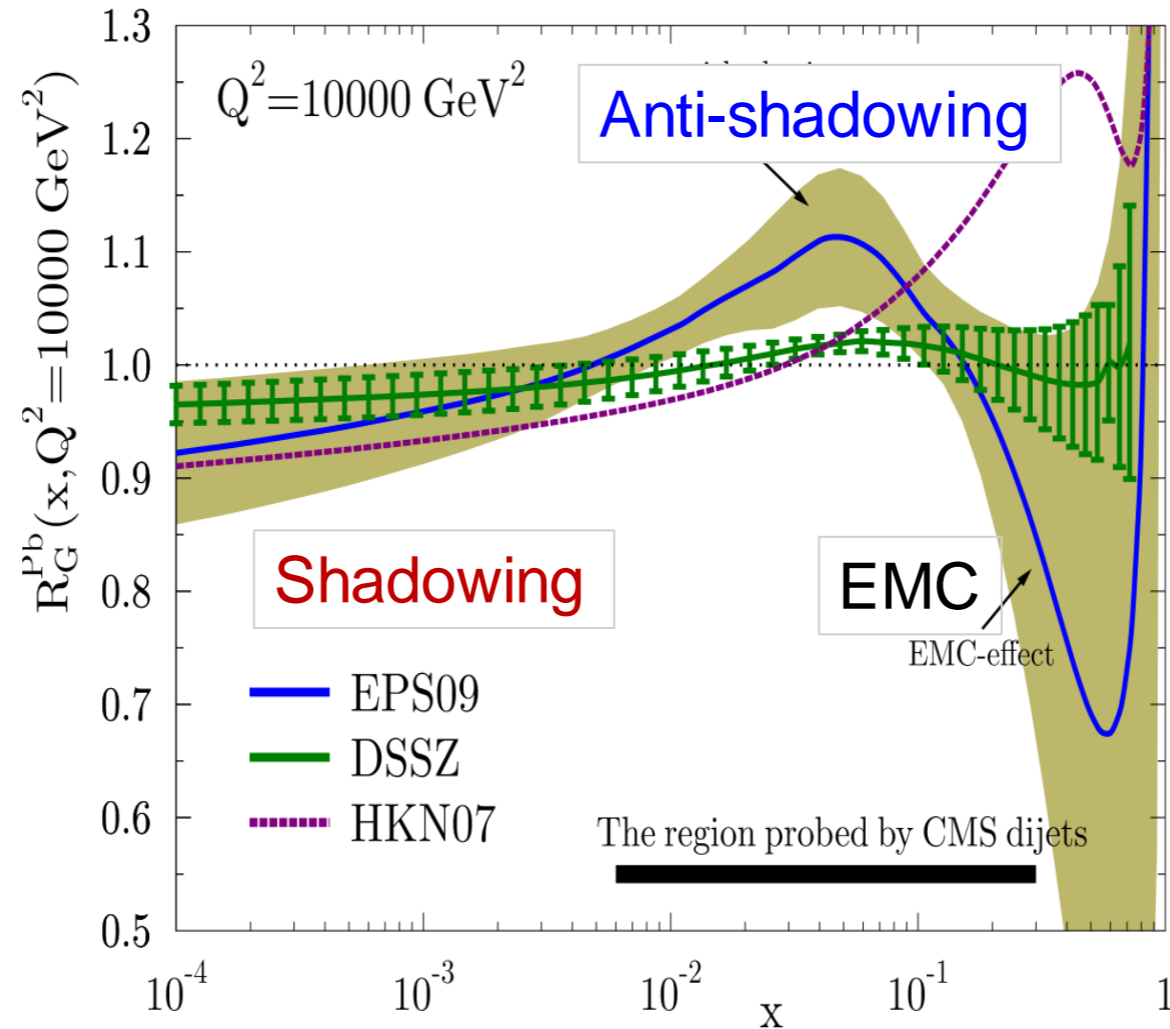
Nuclear Parton Distribution Function

Jet and Heavy Quark for constraining the nuclear parton distribution function



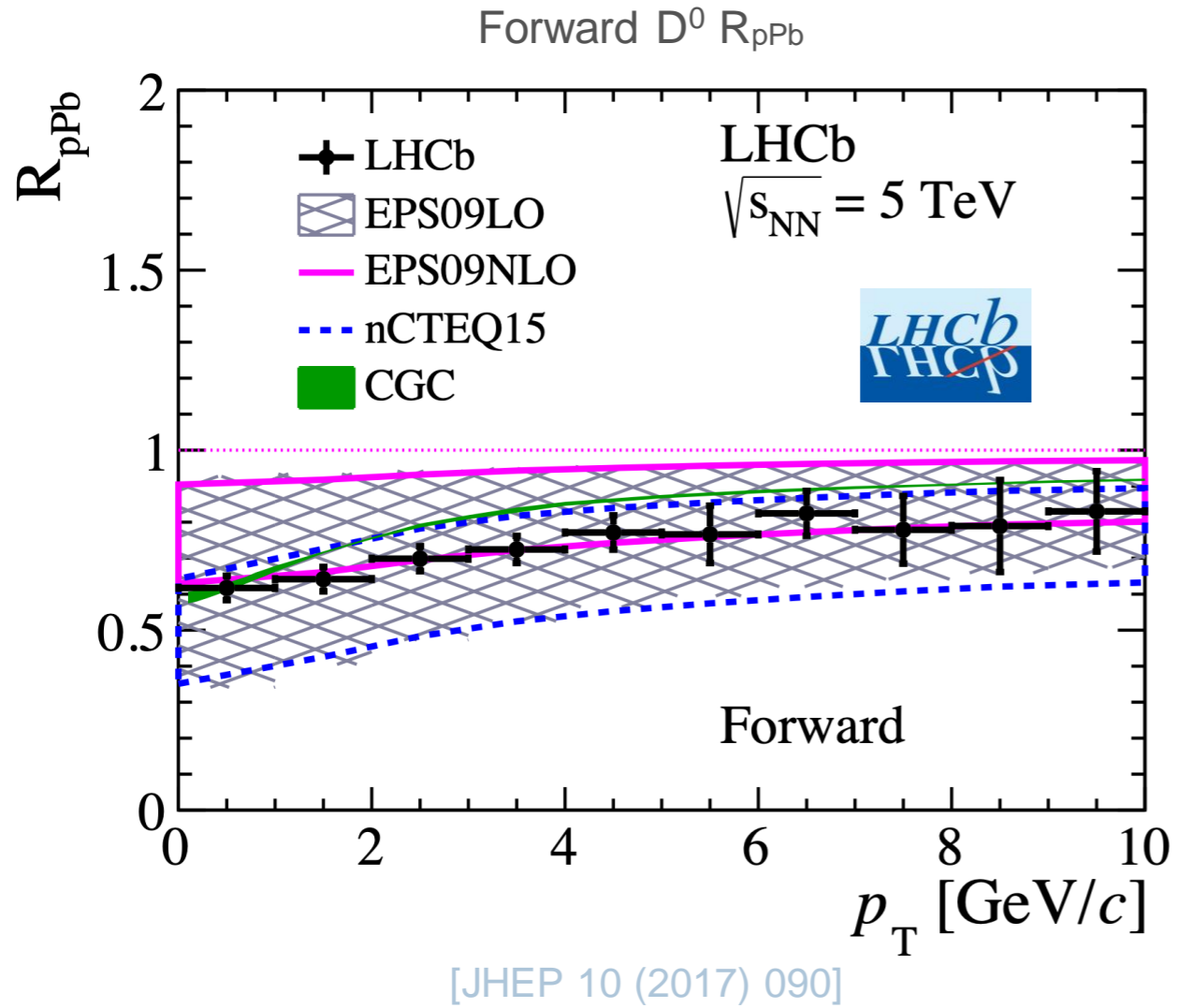
nPDF modification at large Q^2

$$R = \frac{nPDF}{PDF}$$

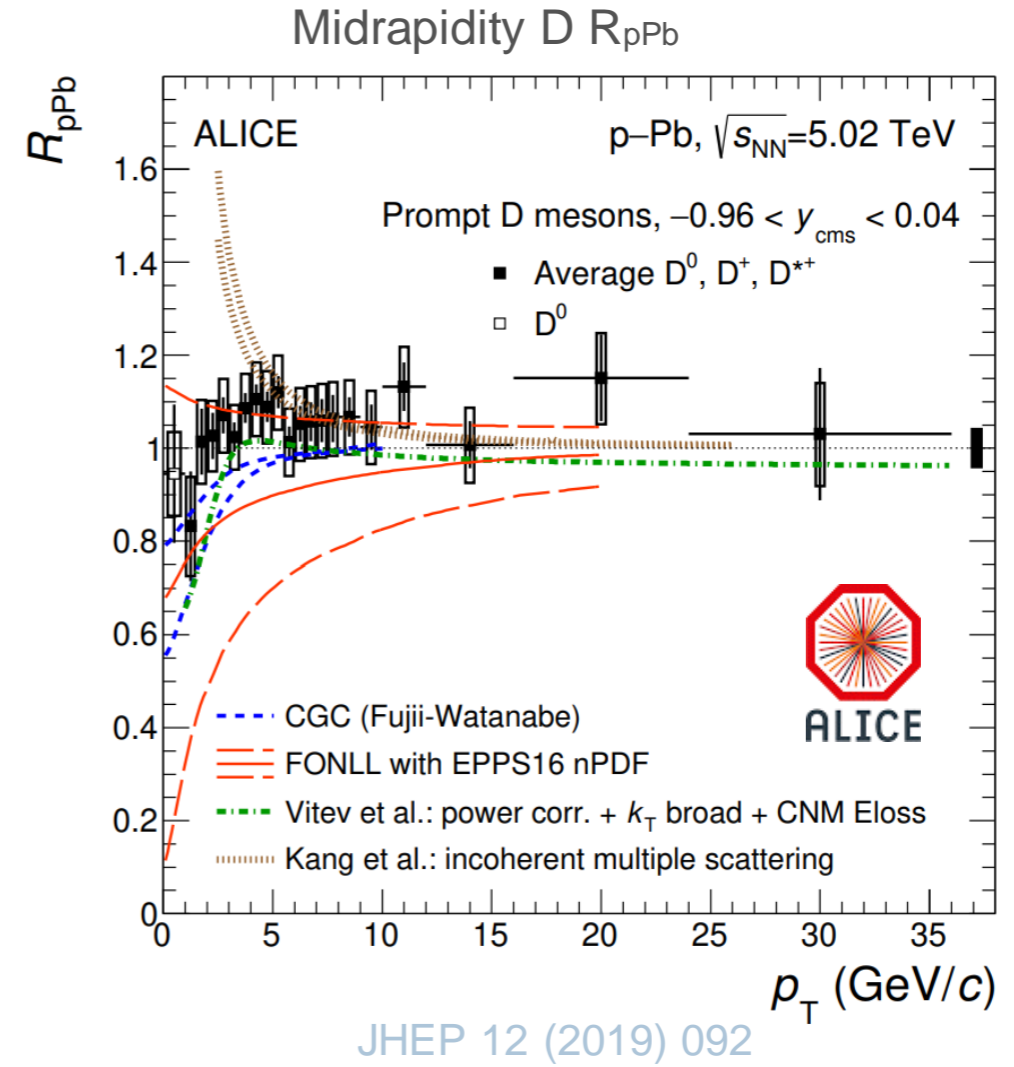


Nuclear modification of hard scattering involving large momentum transfer due to PDF is small (at the order of 10%)

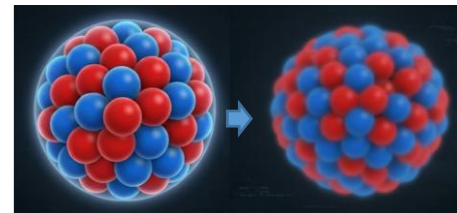
Initial Production Nuclear PDF with D^0 R_{pPb}



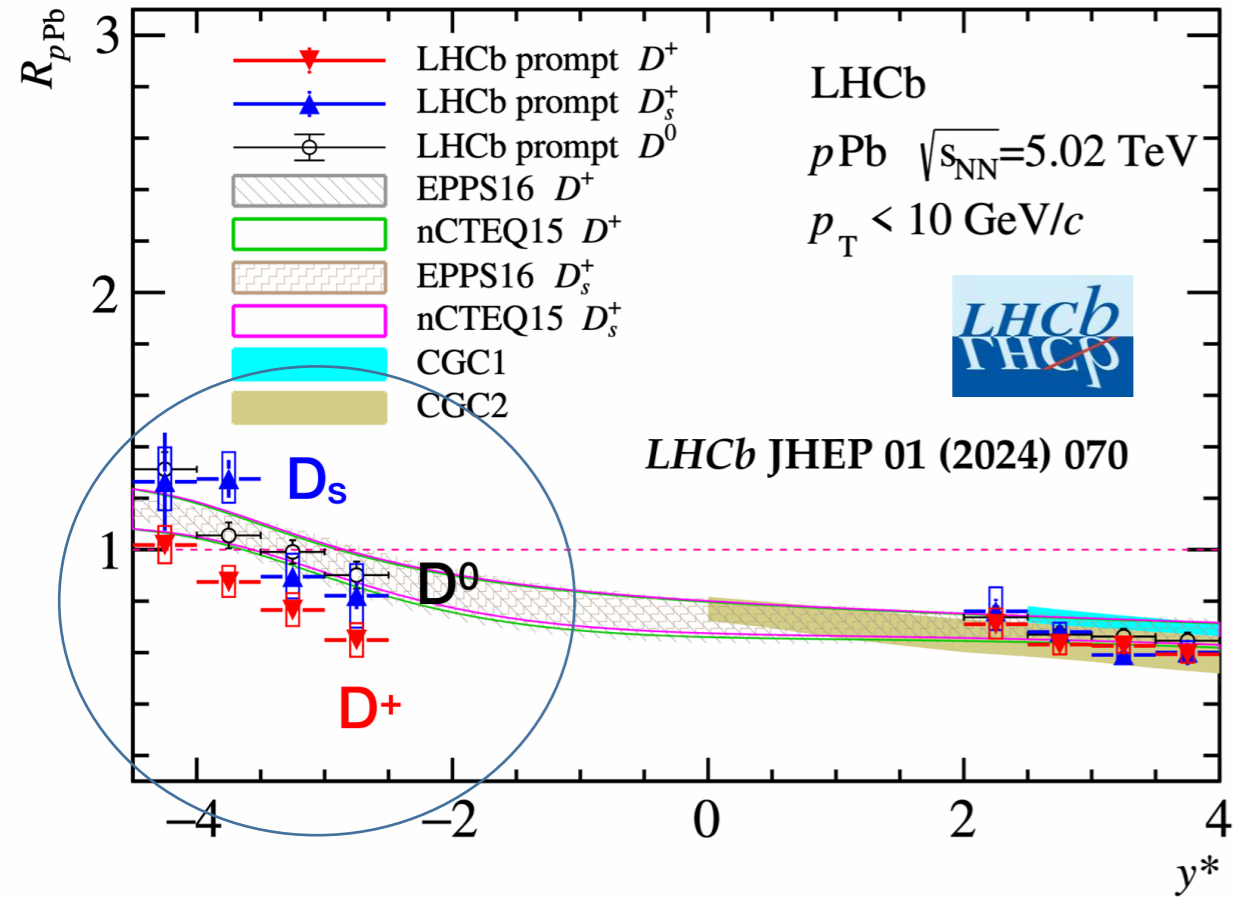
Significant suppression of D^0 in the forward region
 Larger suppression at low D^0 p_T from LHCb



Prompt D in the mid-rapidity:
 Consistent with unity within uncertainty



Initial Production Nuclear PDF with D^0 R_{pPb}

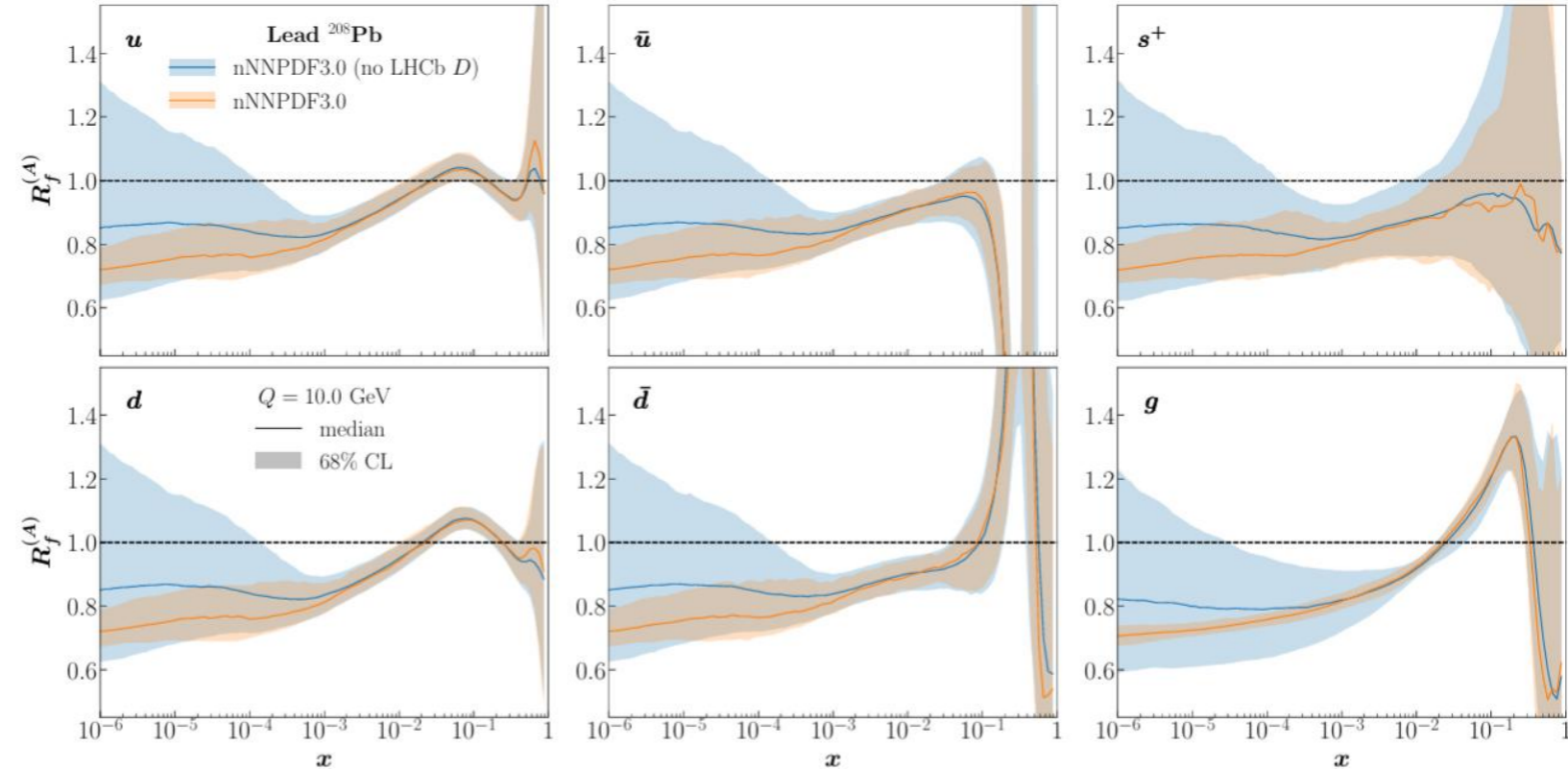


Significant **hadronization effects** may present in the experimental data

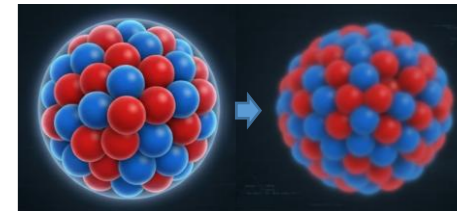
Backward region R_{pPb} : (high x region)

$$D_s \geq D^0 \geq D^+$$

nPDF analyses should proceed with caution!

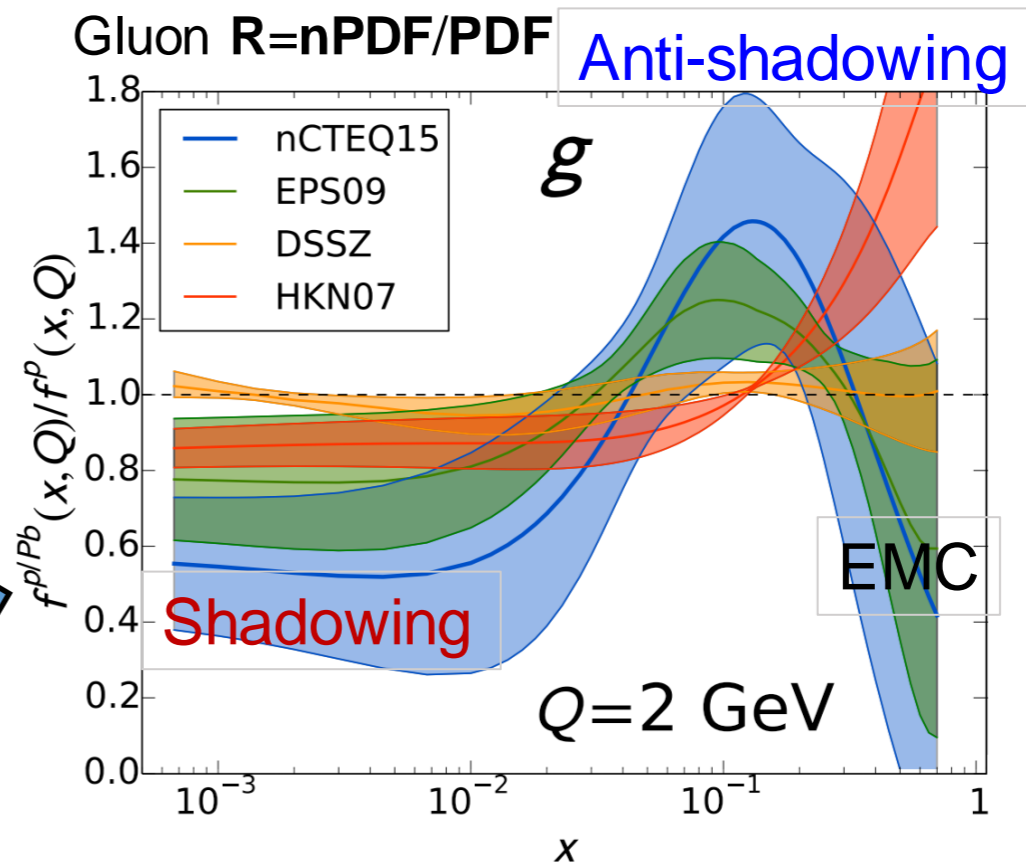
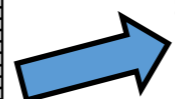
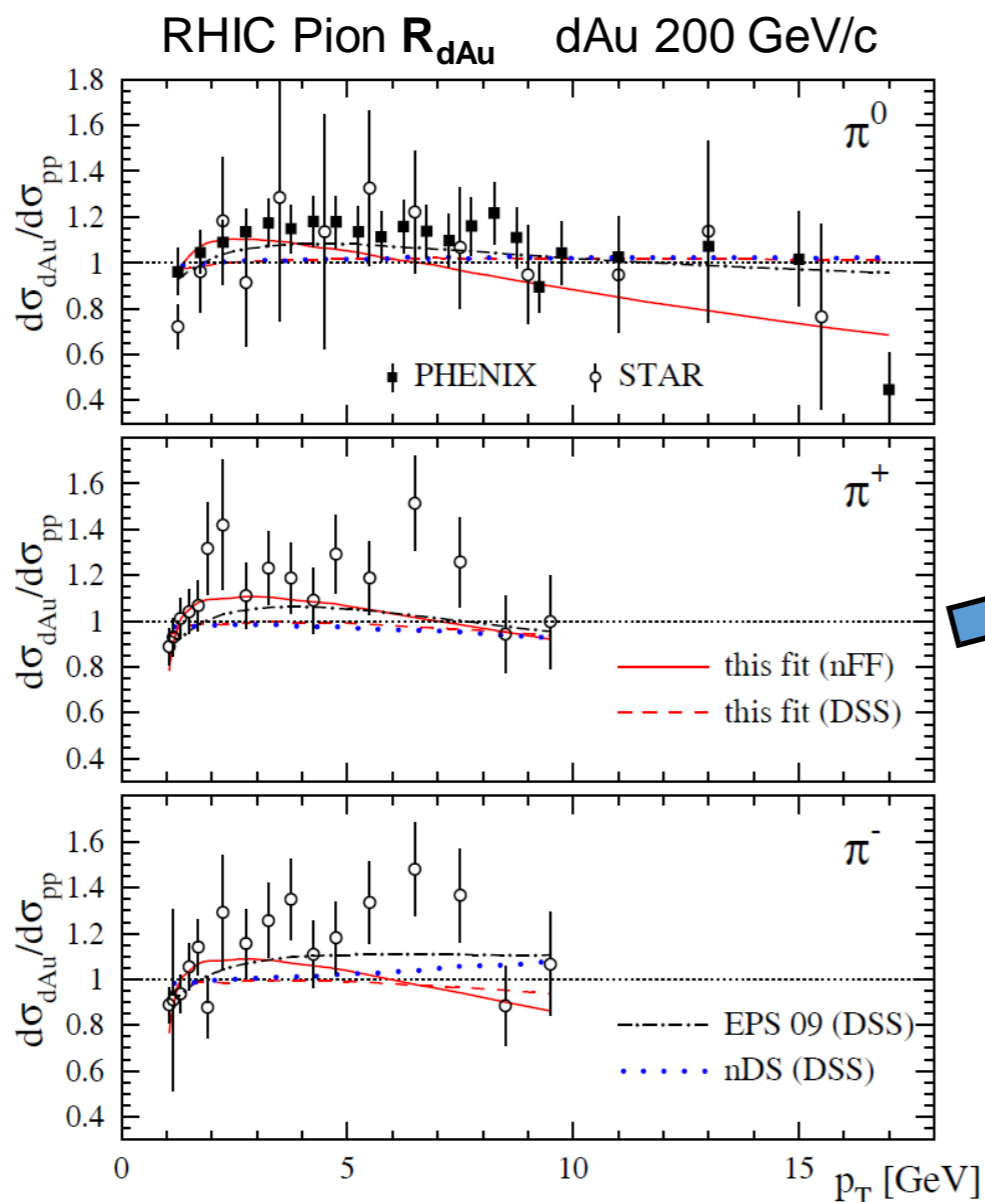


Strong constraints on gluon PDF at **low x** from **LHCb D^0** and CMS dijet at intermediate to high x in pPb collisions in NNPDF3.0 (shown), EPPS21 and nCTEQ25



Different Interpretation of the Pion Data

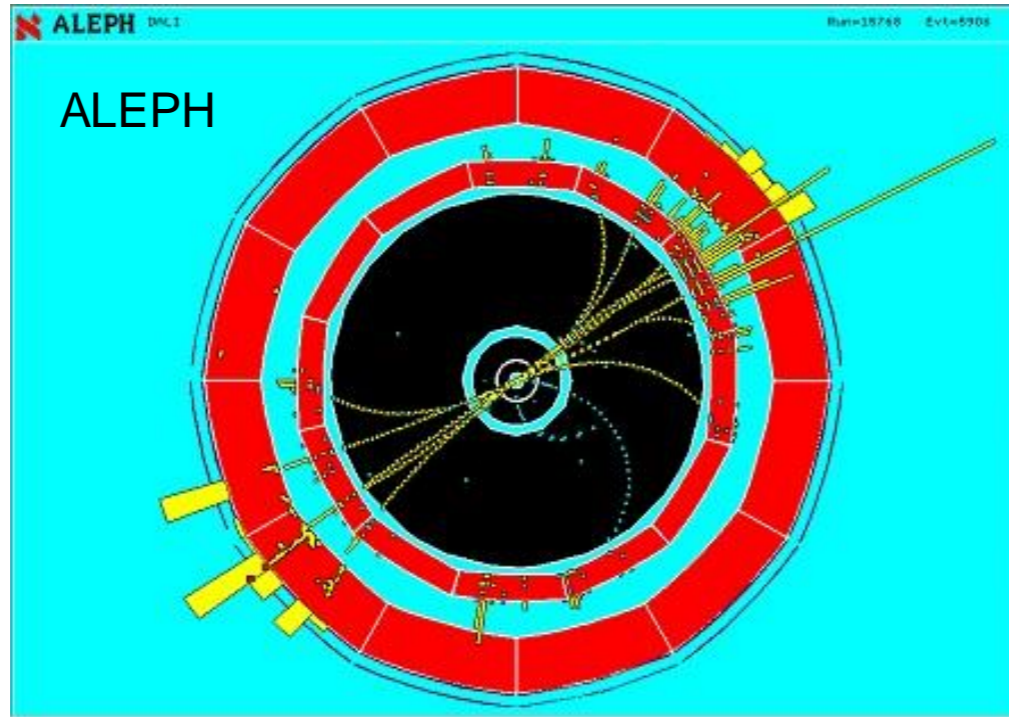
Hadron observables: sensitive to possible modifications of **fragmentation function** and **hadronization** → **Different interpretation of the data!**



- **EPS09 & nCTEQ15:** hint of **anti-shadowing** and **EMC effect** of gluon nPDF
- **DSSZ:** modification of parton-to-pion fragmentation function in heavy ion collisions and no gluon anti-shadowing

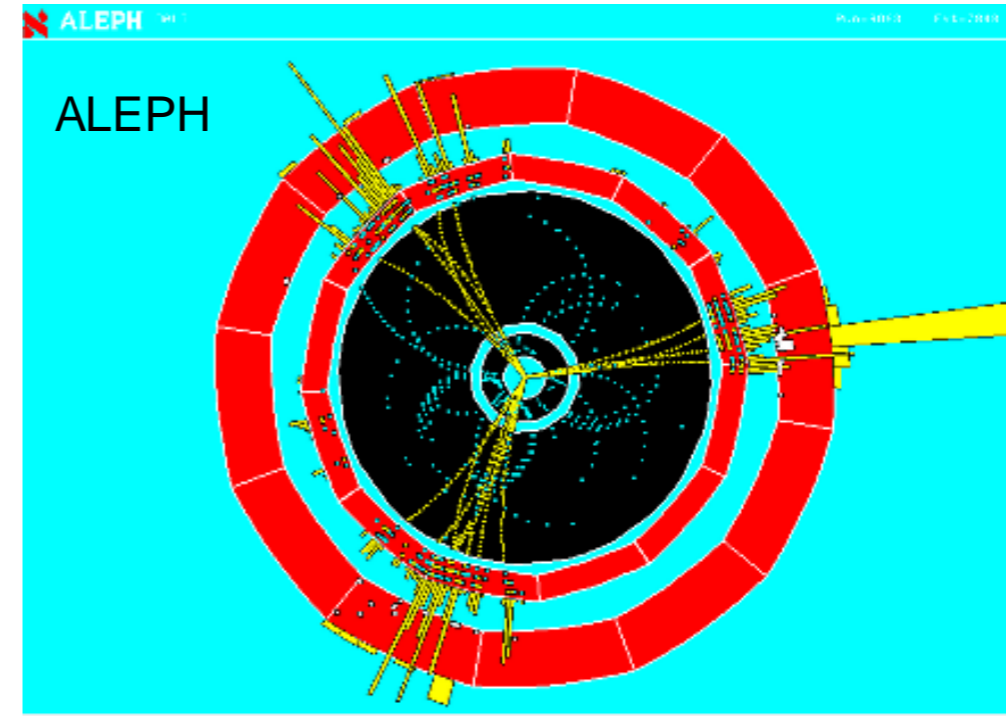
Detecting Quarks and Gluons in e^+e^- collisions

Dijet event



$$e^+ + e^- \rightarrow q + \bar{q}$$

Trijet event

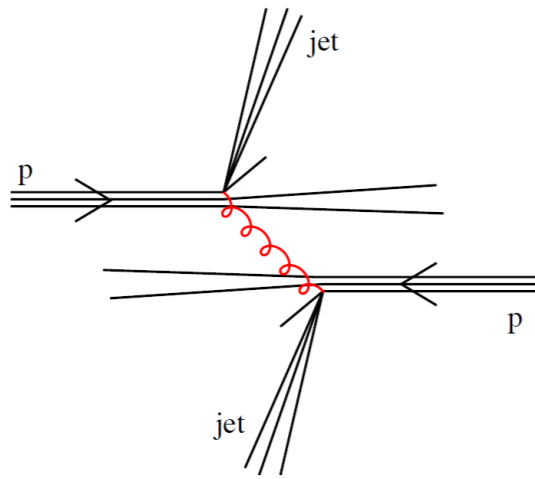


$$e^+ + e^- \rightarrow q + \bar{q} + g$$

Jets (defined by jet clustering algorithm)
are used as a proxy of **quarks** and **gluons**

Anti- k_T algorithm

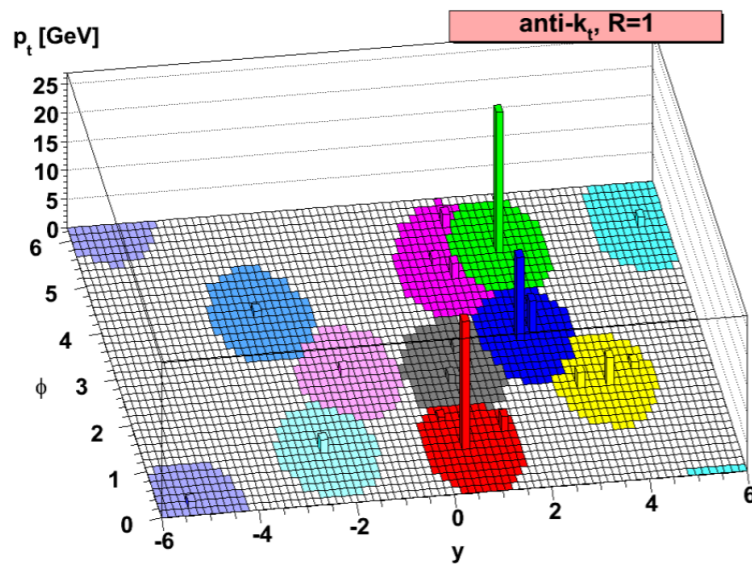
From Gavin Salam



PP event

$$d_{ij} = \min \left(\frac{1}{k_{ti}^2}, \frac{1}{k_{tj}^2} \right) \frac{\Delta R_{ij}^2}{R^2}, \quad d_{iB} = \frac{1}{k_{ti}^2}$$

$$\Delta R_{ij}^2 = (y_i - y_j)^2 + (\phi_i - \phi_j)^2$$

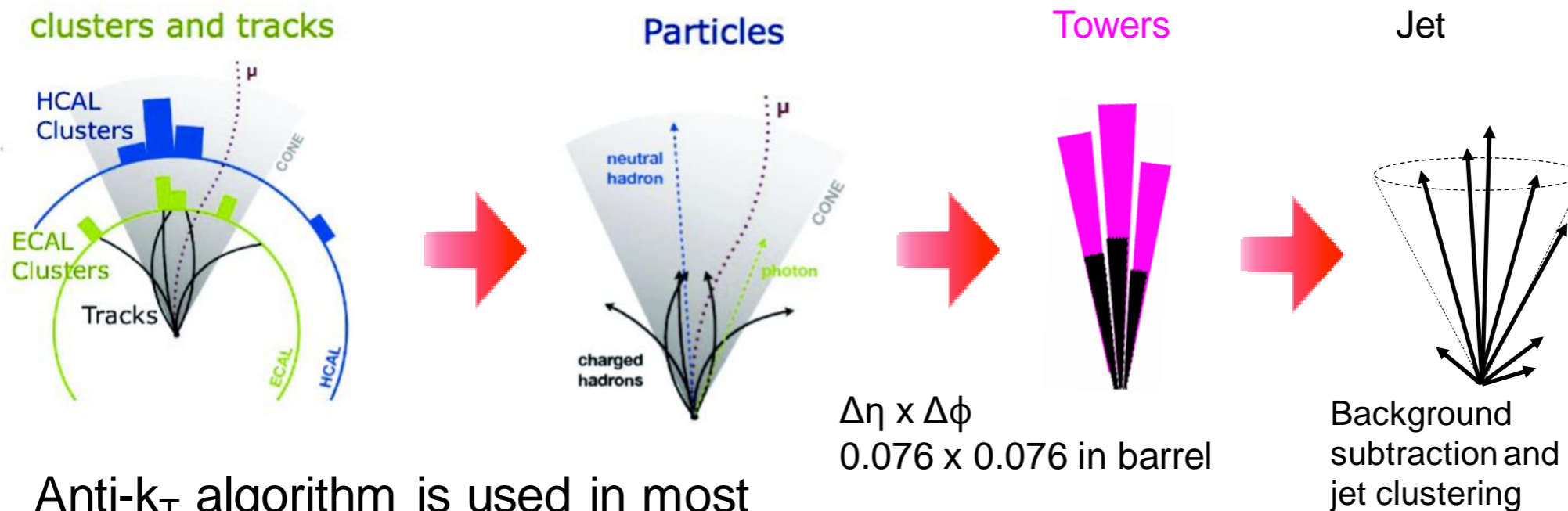


- ▶ 1. Find smallest of d_{ij} , d_{iB}
2. if ij , recombine them
3. if iB , call i a jet and remove from list of particles
4. repeat from step 1 until no particles left.

Cacciari, GPS & Soyez, '08

Clustering start from high p_T particles. Clustered shape has circular shape.
Now commonly used in the analysis of heavy ion collision

Jet Composition

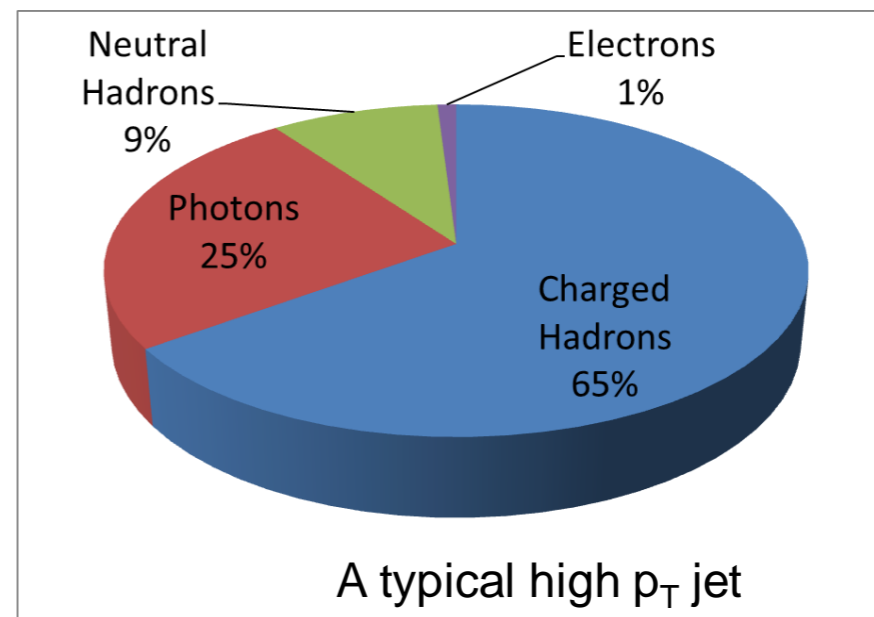


Anti- k_T algorithm is used in most CMS publication

On average, charged hadrons carry 65% of the jet momentum

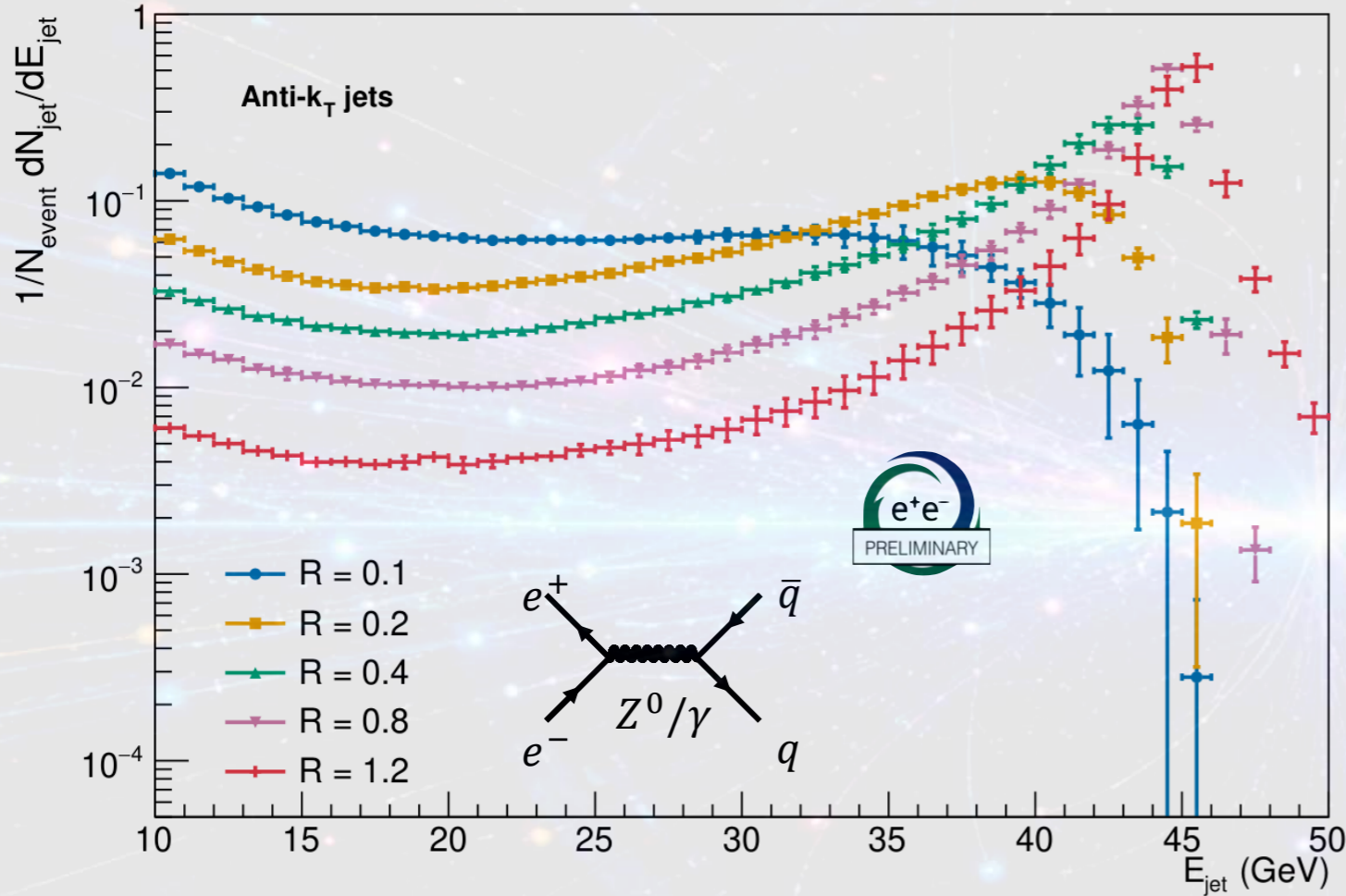
Measure the known part
Correct the rest by MC simulation

Optimize the use of calorimeter and tracker
Example: "Particle Flow" in CMS



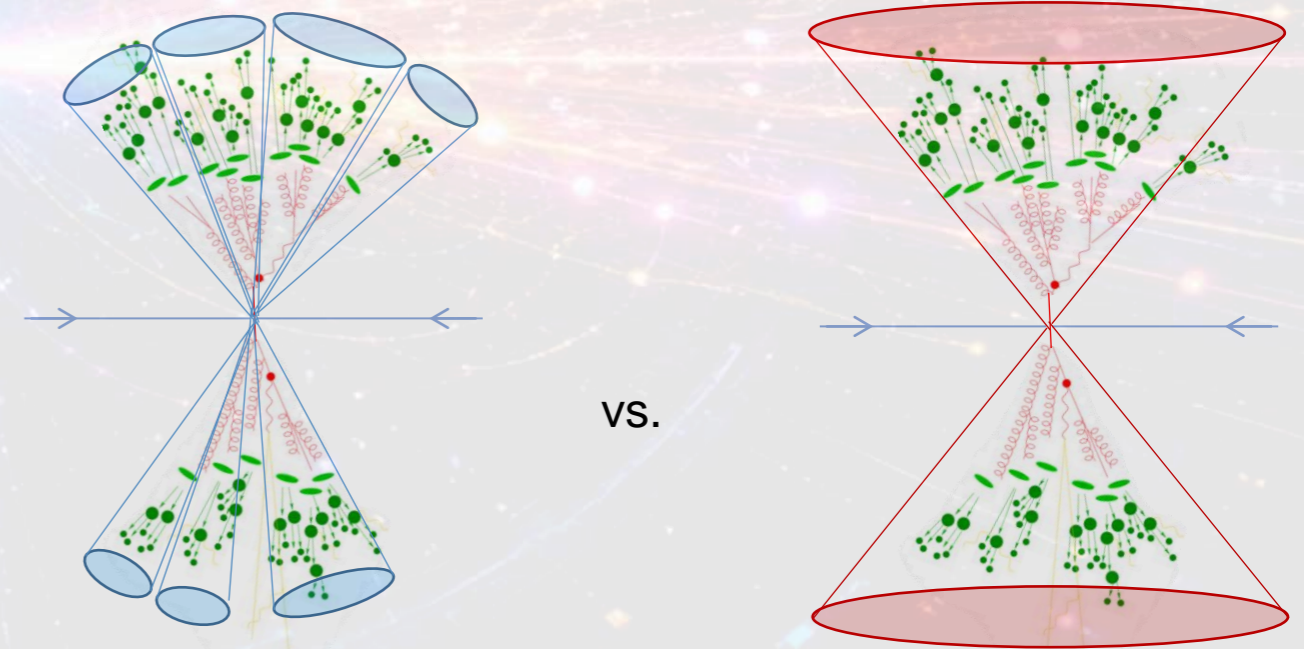
Inclusive Jet Spectra: Scanning the Parton Shower

ALEPH Archived Data 1994, e^+e^- $\sqrt{s} = 91.2$ GeV



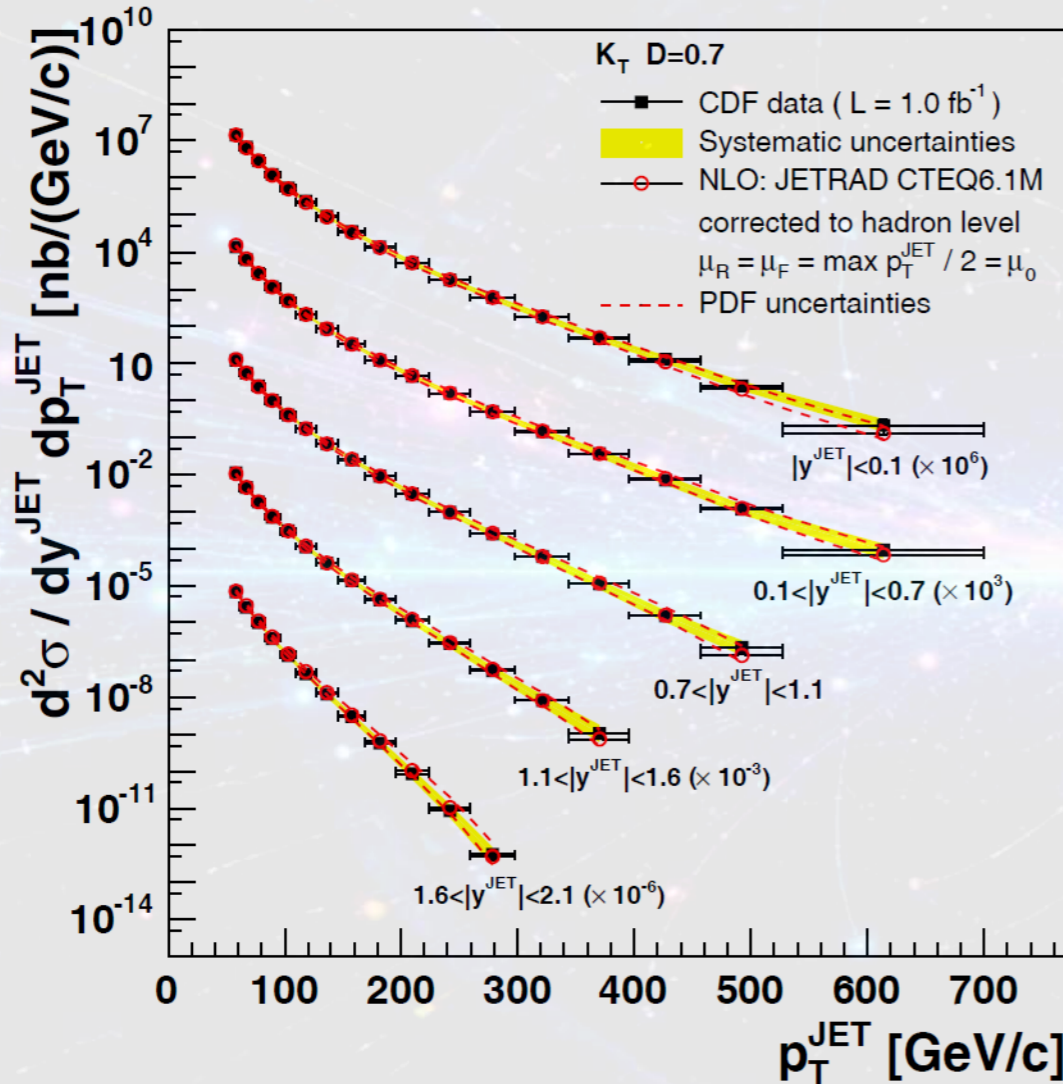
$R \downarrow$ resolves radiation \rightarrow $R \uparrow$ rebuilds the $m_Z/2$ peak

- **New preliminary radius scan:** fully corrected energy spectra for R values from 0.1 to 1.2
- **Small R resolves the shower:** radiation is split into many narrow, lower-energy jets; the 45.6 GeV peak softens and moves to lower energy.
- **Large R captures the hemisphere:** radiation recombines into one jet near $E_{\text{jet}} \approx m_Z/2 \approx 45.6$ GeV.

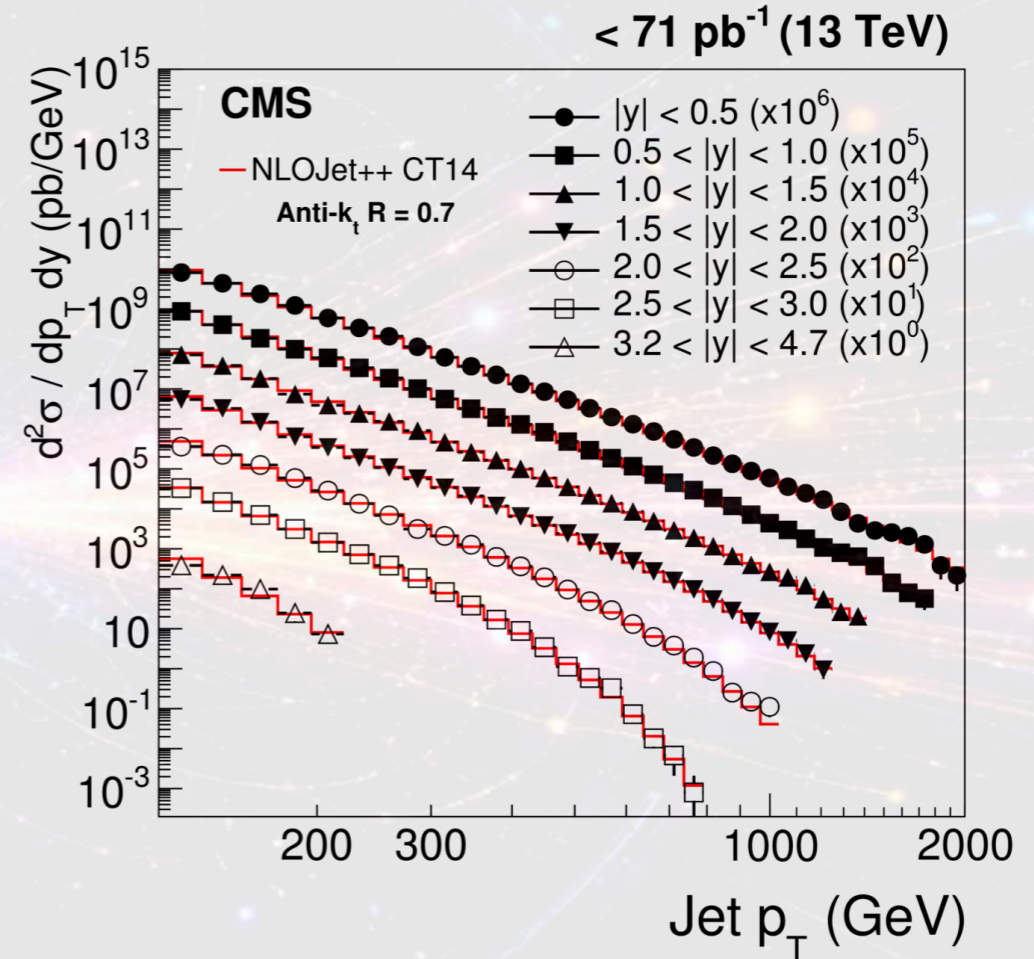


Jet Spectra in pp(bar) collisions

ppbar 1.96 TeV



pp 13TeV

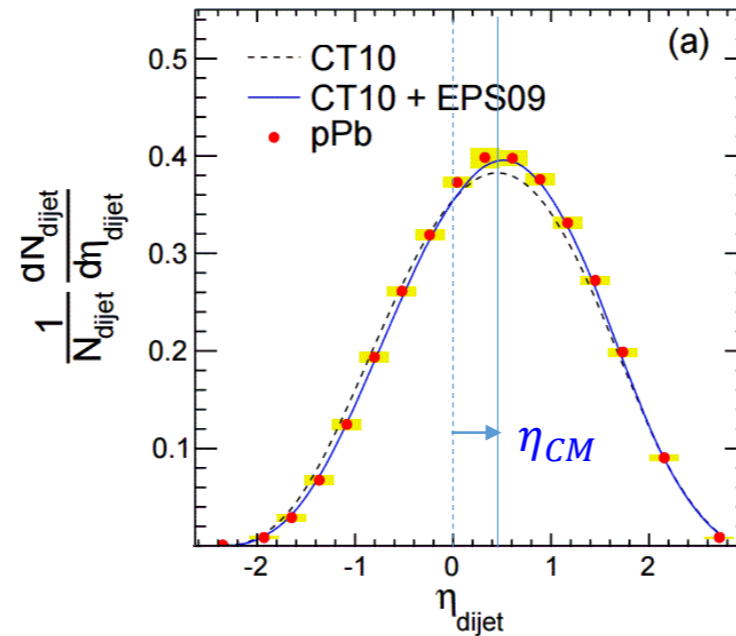


Jet spectra with large R parameter from proton-(anti-)proton collisions are well understood. Consistent with NLO calculations.

Dijet pseudorapidity in the LAB Frame

Idea: Angular distributions of high p_T dijets

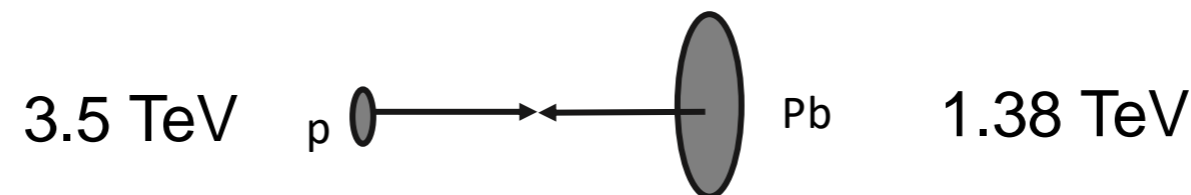
CMS pPb 35 nb⁻¹
 $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV
 $p_{T,1} > 120$ GeV/c
 $p_{T,2} > 30$ GeV/c
 $\Delta\phi_{1,2} > 2\pi/3$
 All $E_T^{4 < |\eta| < 5.2}$



$$\eta_{dijet} = \frac{\eta_1 + \eta_2}{2}$$

$$\propto 0.5 \log\left(\frac{x_p}{x_{Pb}}\right) + \eta_{CM}$$

- Jets: Less sensitive to fragmentation functions and hadronization effects
- Can be calculated with pQCD with small theoretical uncertainties
- Normalized distribution: lead to smaller theoretical and experimental uncertainties



Distribution shift to positive value due to asymmetric proton and lead ion beam energy

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Dijet pseudorapidity in the LAB Frame



Idea: Angular distributions of high p_T dijets

CMS pPb 35 nb⁻¹

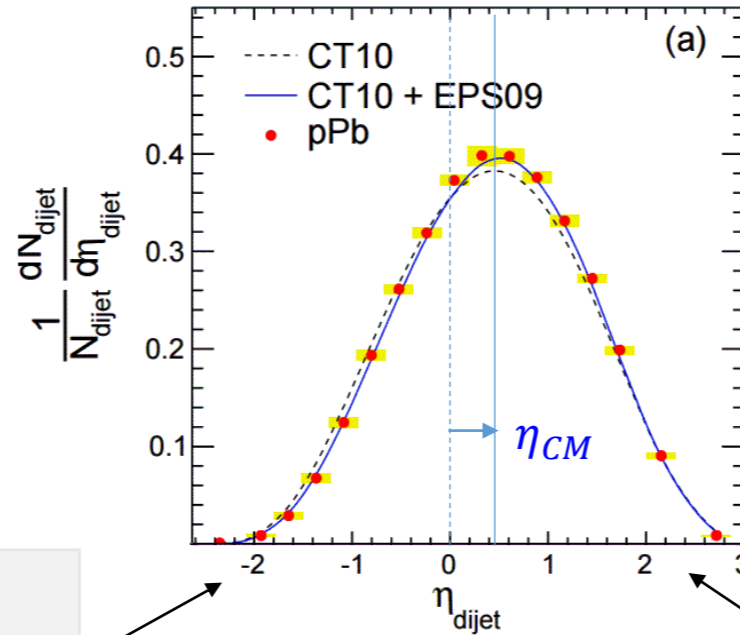
$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV

$p_{T,1} > 120$ GeV/c

$p_{T,2} > 30$ GeV/c

$\Delta\phi_{1,2} > 2\pi/3$

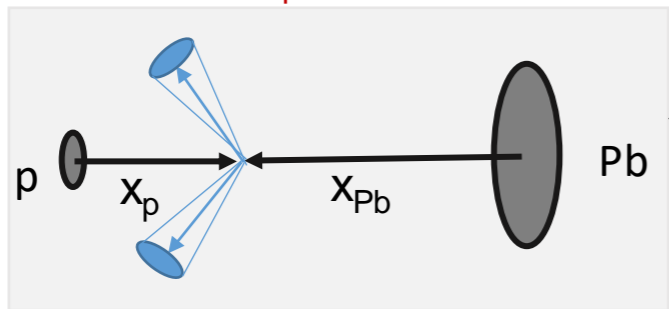
All $E_T^{4<|\eta|<5.2}$



$$\eta_{dijet} = \frac{\eta_1 + \eta_2}{2}$$

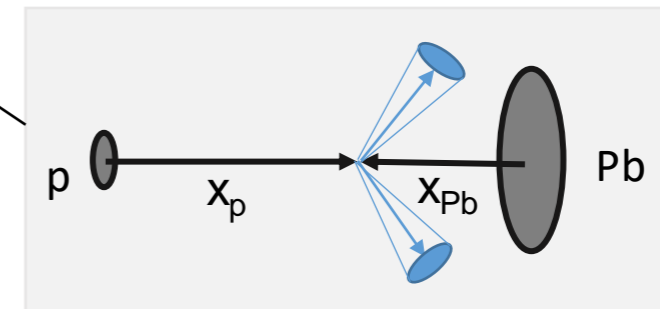
$$\propto 0.5 \log\left(\frac{x_p}{x_{Pb}}\right) + \eta_{CM}$$

$x_p < x_{Pb}$



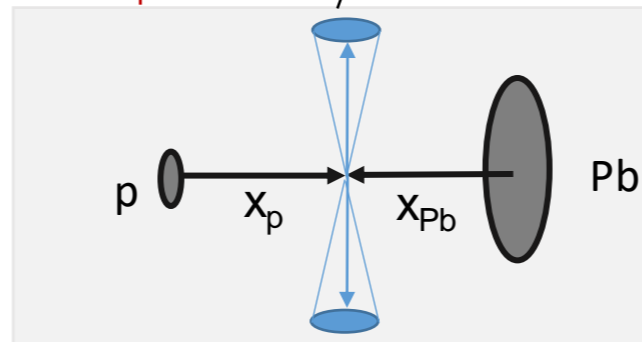
Sensitive to EMC effect

$x_p > x_{Pb}$



Sensitive to shadowing

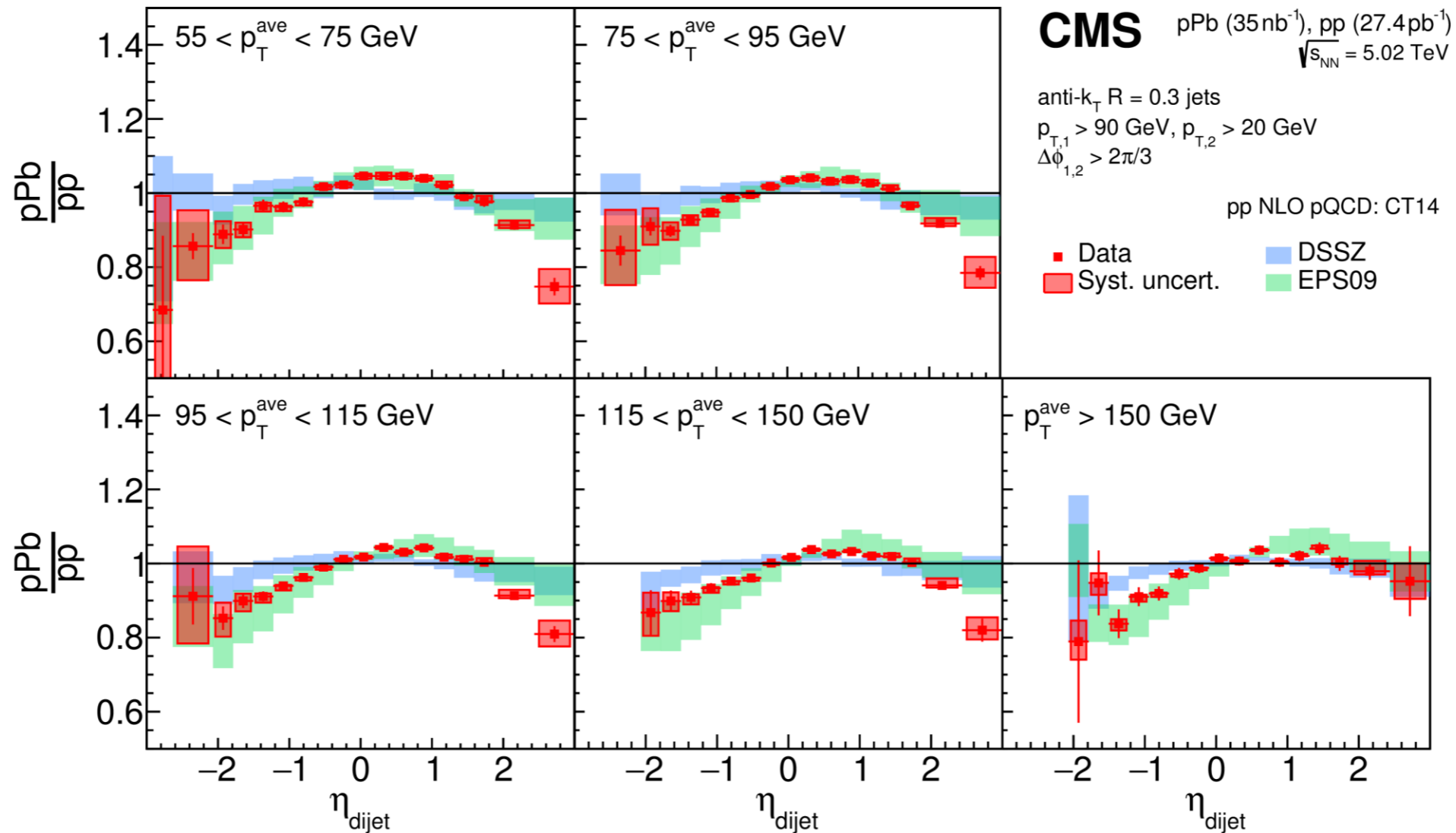
$x_p \sim x_{Pb}$



Sensitive to anti-shadowing

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Dijet Pseudorapidity in pPb vs. pp



- **EPS09**: hint of **anti-shadowing** and **EMC effect** of gluon nPDF
- **DSSZ**: modification of parton-to-pion fragmentation function in heavy ion collisions and no gluon anti-shadowing

Summary: Vacuum Baseline

- Electroweak boson data and proton-lead data were used to provide additional constraints on the nuclear parton distribution function
- Dijet reduce fragmentation ambiguity and provide sensitivity to nuclear gluon PDFs
- We have learned a lot about the QGP and the initial state of the heavy ion collisions from the Soft Probes
- Next: We will probe the Quark Gluon Plasma with fast moving hard probes.

Backup Slides




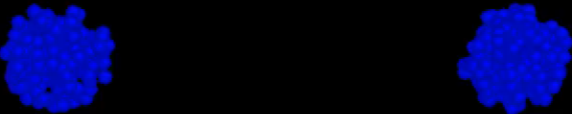
Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions (Simulation)

MIT Heavy Ion Event Display: Pb+Pb 5.02 TeV

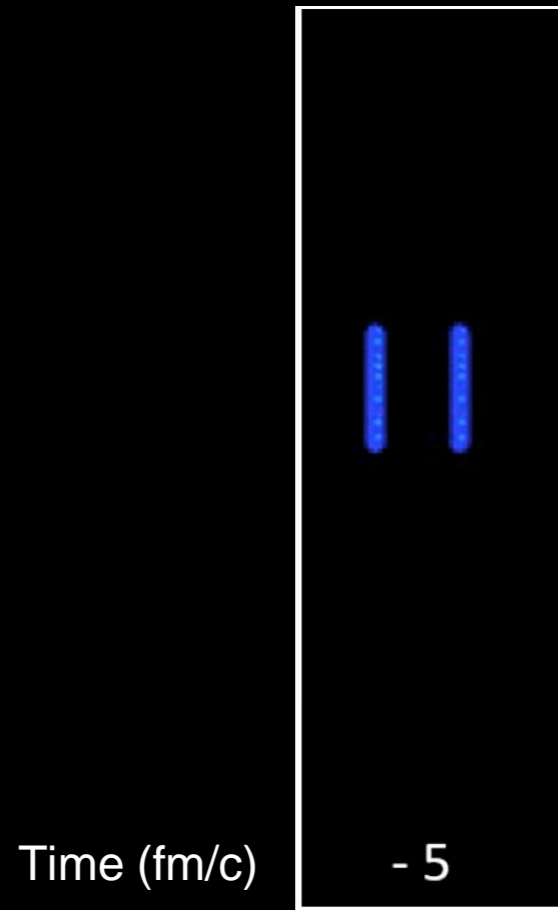
 **Quark Gluon Plasma**

 **Baryons** 

 **Mesons** 



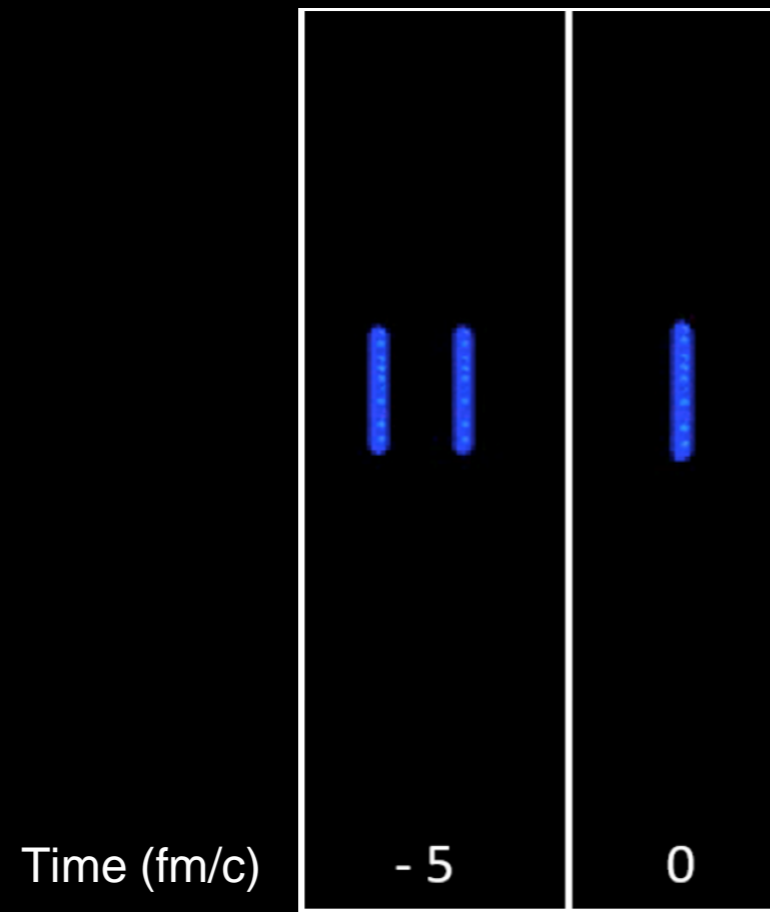
Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions



Two Lorentz-Contracted Nuclei, described at high energy as dense sheets of quarks, gluons and color fields

Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions

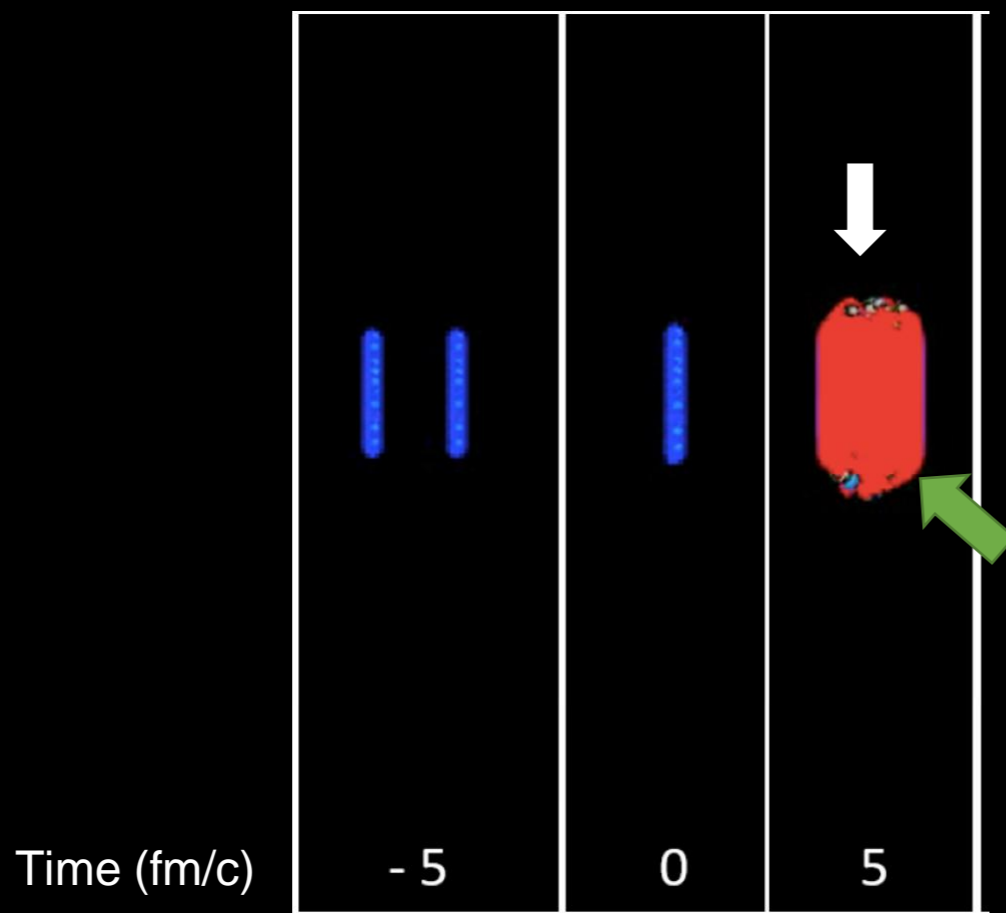
Collision! Highest energy density state. A huge number of soft (low momentum transfer) scatterings/interaction.



Two Lorentz-Contracted Nuclei, described at high energy as dense sheets of quarks, gluons and color fields

Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions

Collision! Highest energy density state. A huge number of soft (low momentum transfer) scatterings/interaction.



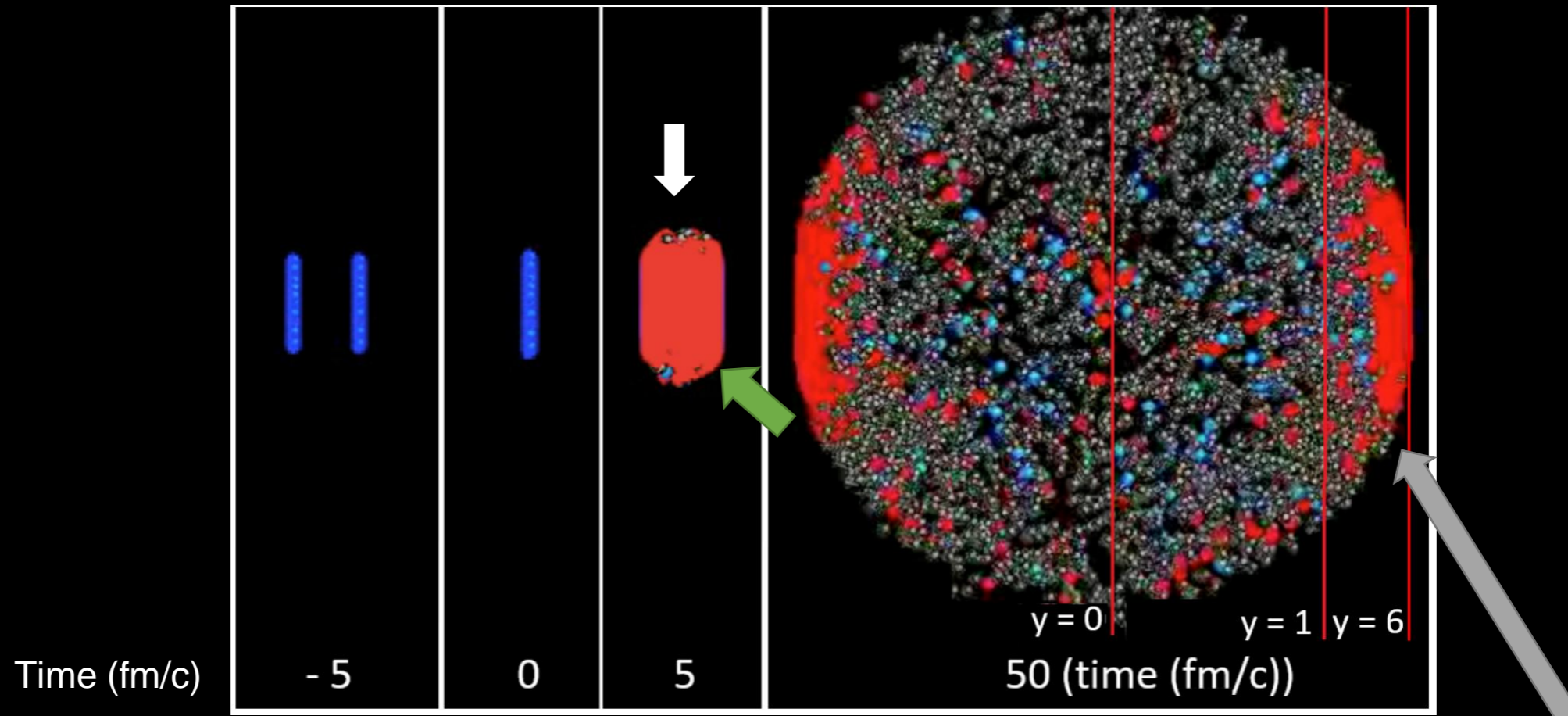
Two Lorentz-Contracted Nuclei, described at high energy as dense sheets of quarks, gluons and color fields

Midrapidity: hydrodynamized QGP with very small baryon doping (μ_B)
Forward: newly produced baryon-rich matter with larger μ_B and less equilibration

Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions

Collision! Highest energy density state. A huge number of soft (low momentum transfer) scatterings/interaction.

Bulk QGP hadronization differs from fragmentation-dominated hadronization in e^+e^- or pp collisions



Time (fm/c)

- 5

0

5

50 (time (fm/c))
y = 0 | y = 1 | y = 6

Two Lorentz-Contracted Nuclei, described at high energy as dense sheets of quarks, gluons and color fields

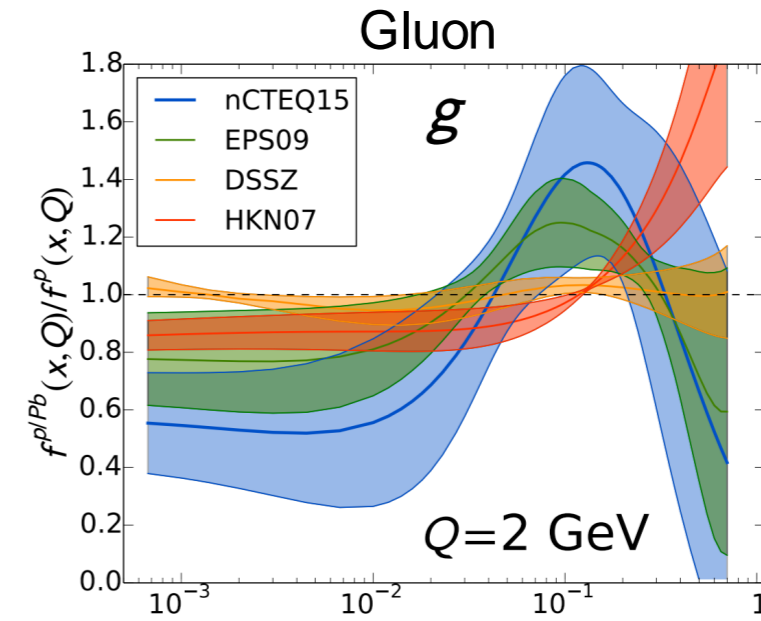
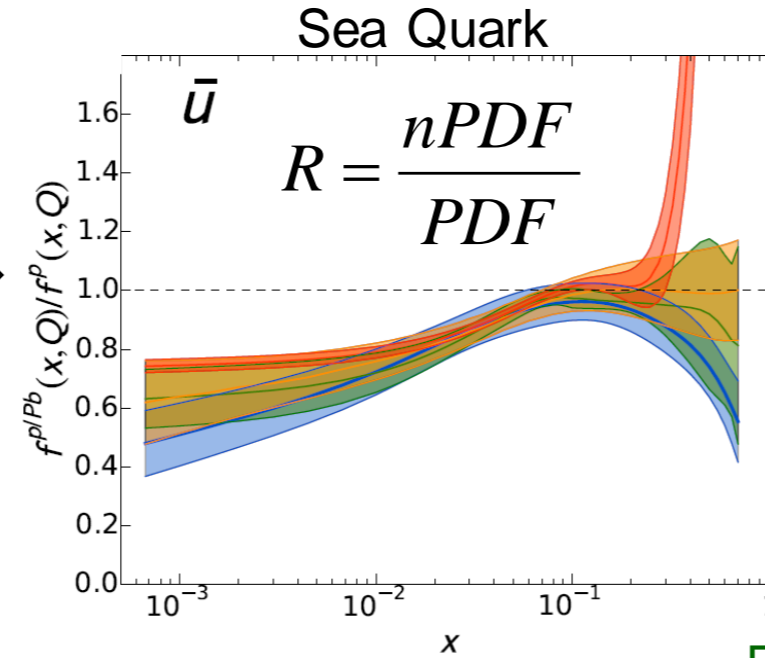
Midrapidity: hydrodynamized QGP with very small baryon doping (μ_B)
Forward: newly produced baryon-rich matter with larger μ_B and less equilibration

Participant baryons can lose $\sim 85\%$ of the momentum and appear at forward rapidity, creating a baryon-rich matter with larger μ_B .

Parton Distribution Function

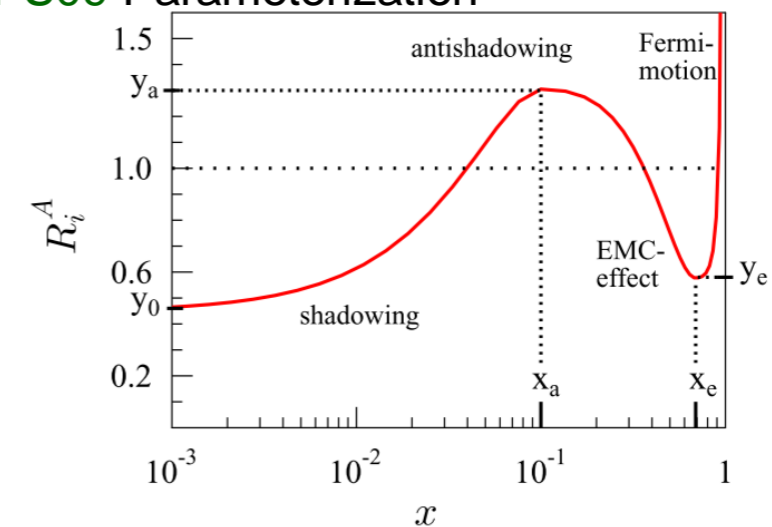
Nuclear Parton Distribution Functions (nPDF)

- Deep Inelastic Scattering Data
- Drell-Yan Data
- RHIC Pion Data



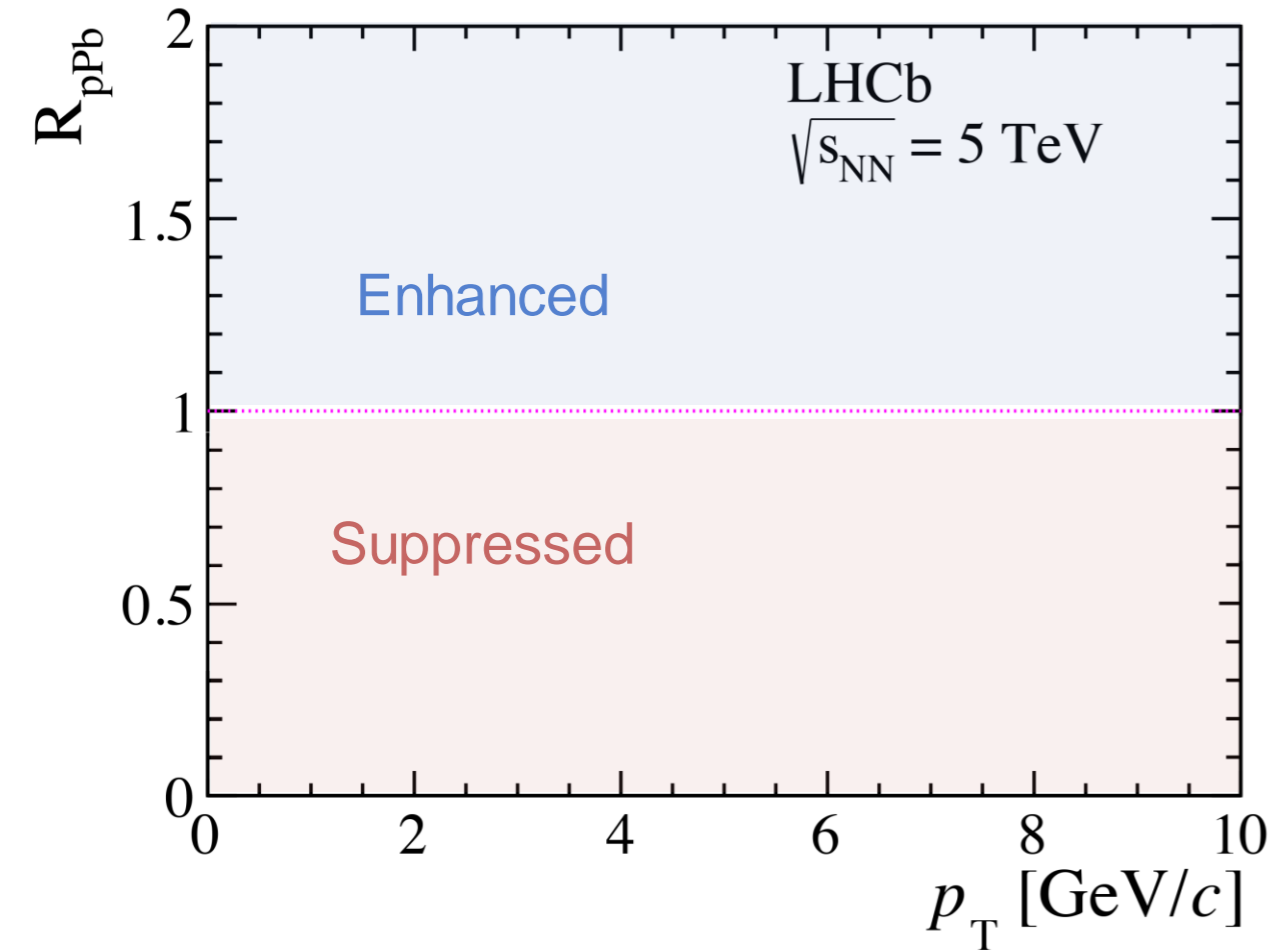
EPS09 Parameterization

	Q^2 cutoff	DIS	DY	PHENIX Pion	STAR Pion
HKN07	1	V	V		
EPS09	1.69	V	V	V	
DSSZ	1	V	V	V	V
nCTEQ15	4	V	V	V	V



EPPS16: with LHC pPb data (W,Z, jets)

Initial Production Nuclear Modification



Is initial production in A - A collisions just **superposition of nucleon-nucleon** collisions?

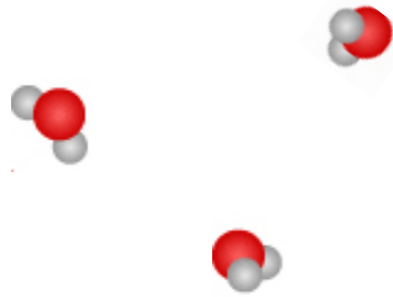
- p - A collisions to test these kind of effects
 - ▶ Ion as collision particles
 - ▶ No medium effect expected
- Observable of **particle yield modification** in pA collisions compared to pp

$$R_{pA} = \frac{d\sigma_{pA}/dp_T \leftarrow pA}{Ad\sigma_{pp}/dp_T \leftarrow pp}$$

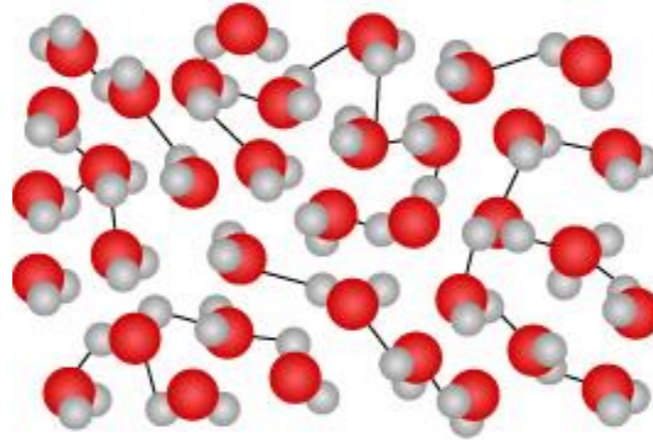
- ▶ R_{pA} should be **1** in the naive picture above

Phases of QED (Electrons and Nuclei) Matter

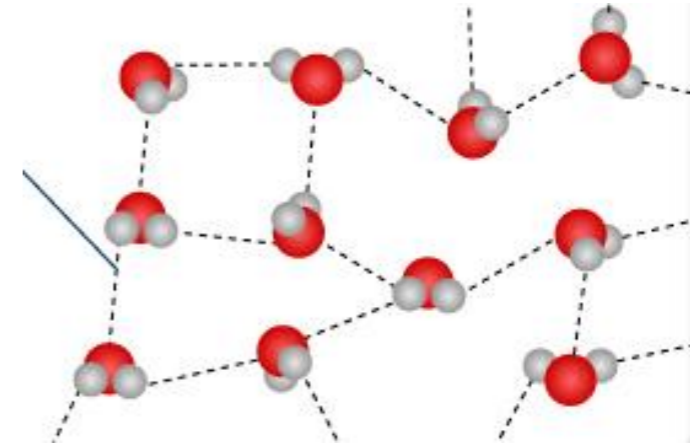
Vapor



Water

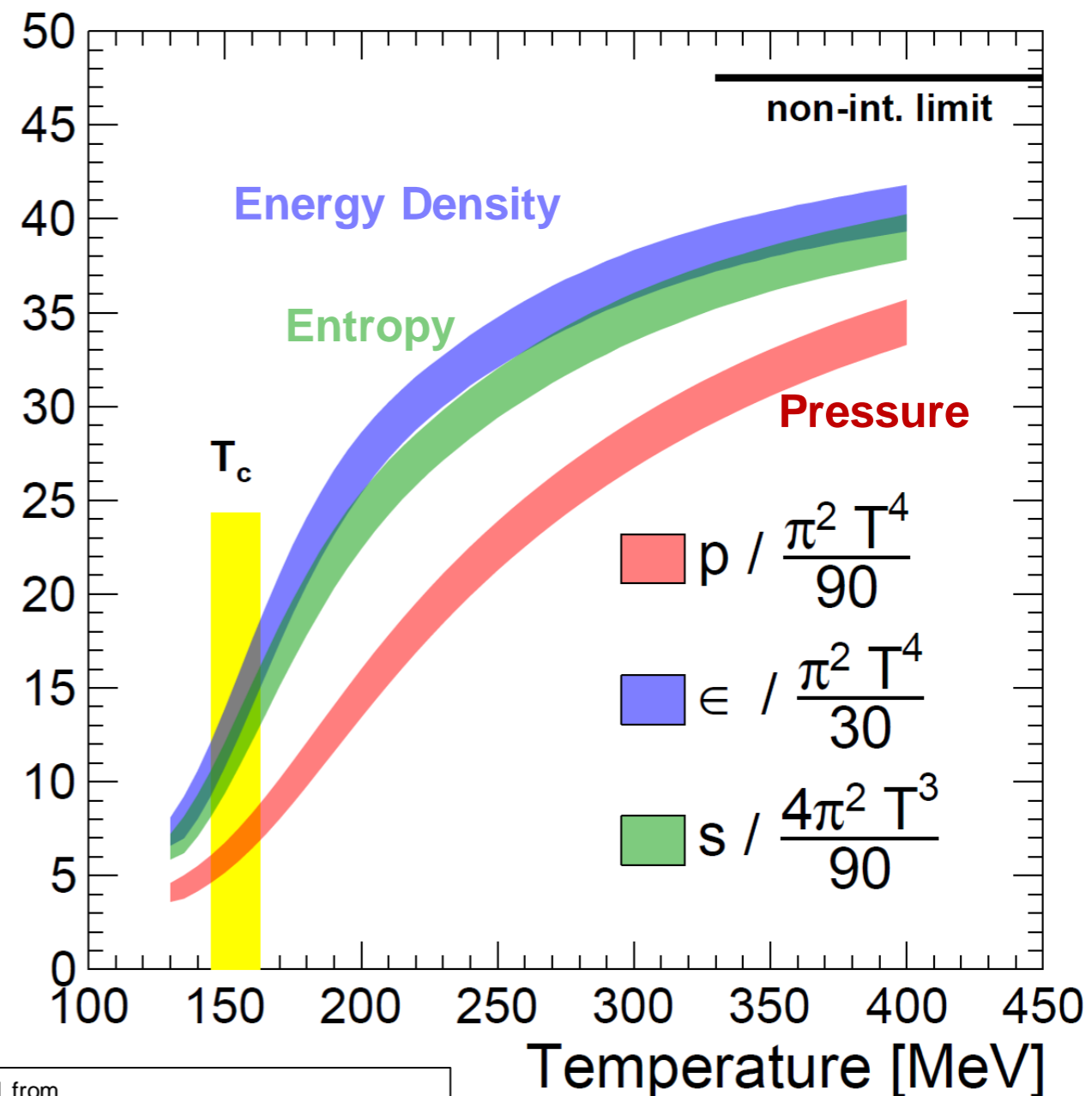


Ice



Lattice QCD Equation of State

- Solve the QCD equation of state on a discrete space-time lattice
- Reliable for zero net baryon density!
- Indeed, we see a rapid increase in the degrees of freedom!!!
- Predicts a speed of sound $c_s \approx 0.4 - 0.55$

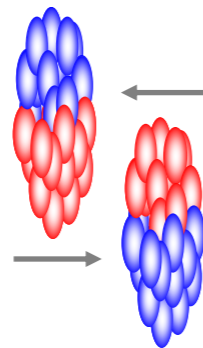
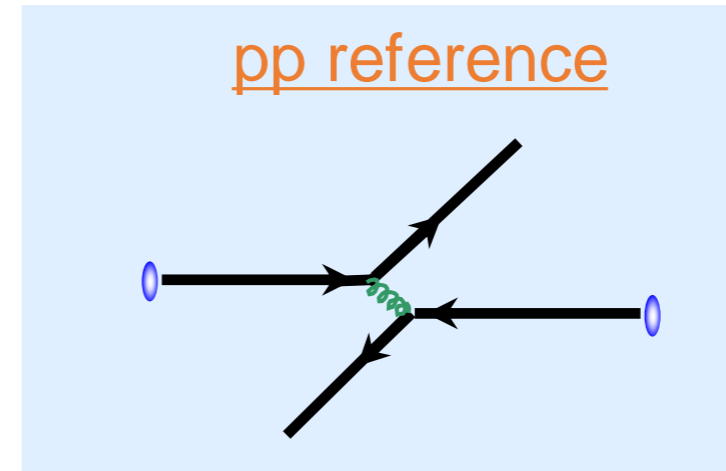
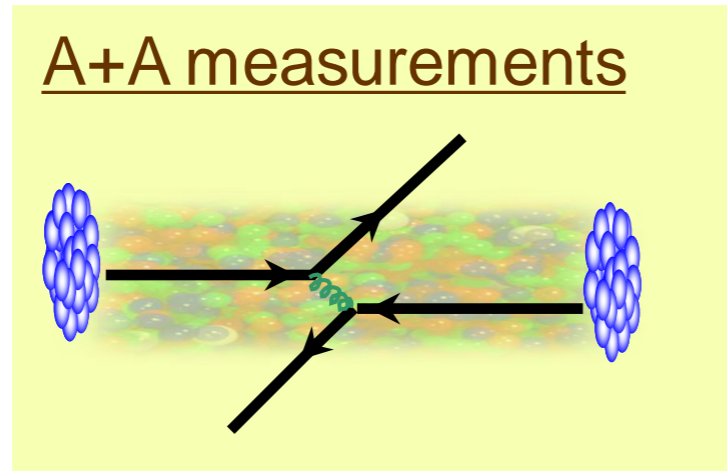



Replotted from
HotQCD Collaboration PRD90 (2014) 094503

How do we extract the medium effect in A+A collisions?

One typical way is to compare **A+A data** to **pp reference** measurement

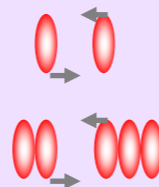
See for instance review from
D. d'Enterria and C. Loizides
Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 71 (2021) 315-44



$N_{\text{part}} \rightarrow$ Number of participating nucleons 

$N_{\text{coll}} \rightarrow$ Number of binary scatterings 

Example:

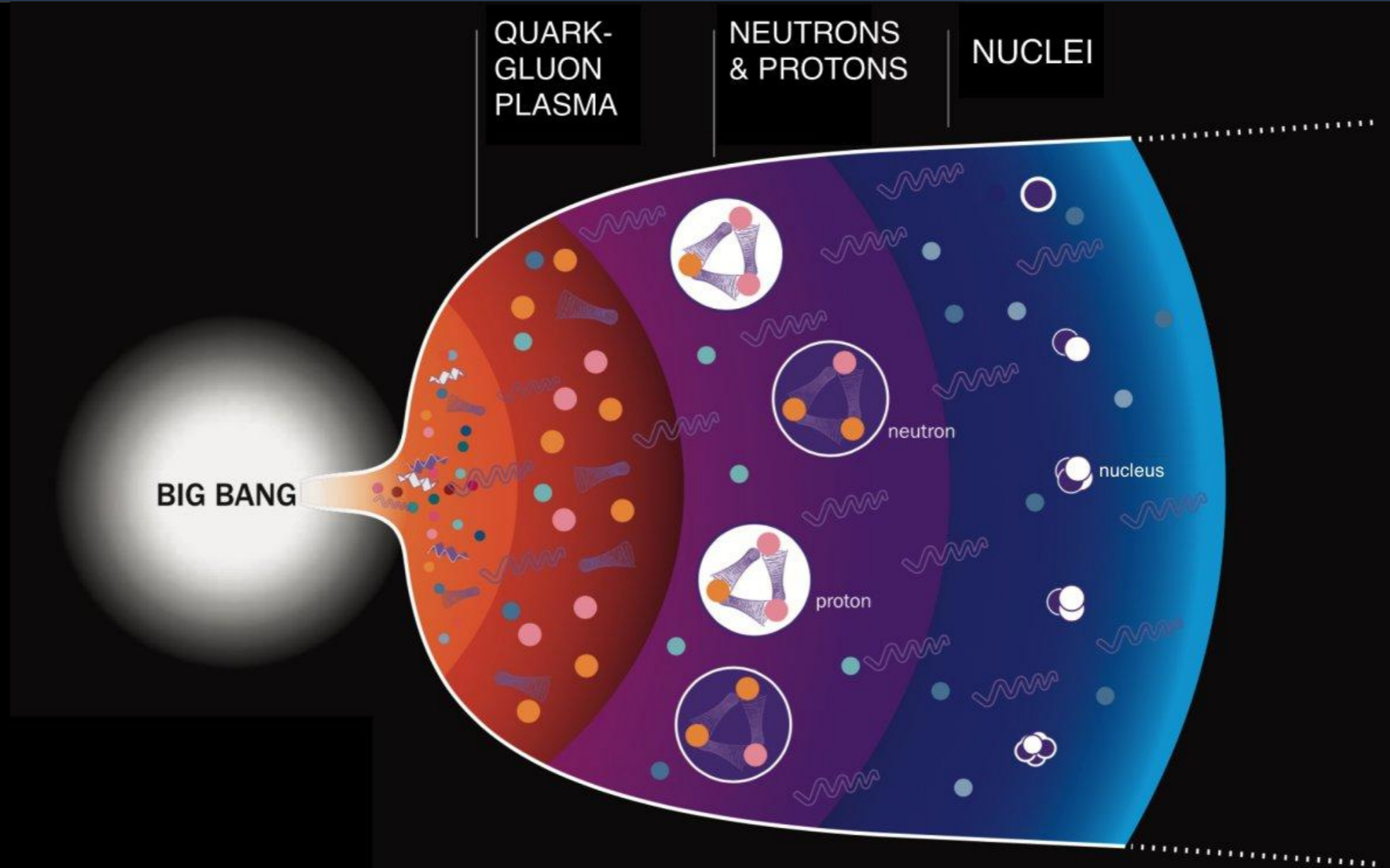


$$N_{\text{part}} = 2 \quad N_{\text{coll}} = 1$$



$$N_{\text{part}} = 5 \quad N_{\text{coll}} = 6$$

Evolution of the Early Universe



The early universe passed through a quark-gluon plasma stage microseconds after the Big Bang; heavy ion collisions recreate tiny versions of that epoch.

First Order Transition in Matter

Frozen Soap Bubble

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKxYMIHZoE&feature=youtu.be>

High Density Quantum Chromodynamics in Cosmology

A first-order QCD phase transition would create clumps of baryon-rich and baryon-poor regions, potentially altering the abundance of light elements