

# Experimental Signals of Low-x Saturation

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Topical Group on Hadron Physics

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# Overview

1. What is Saturation?

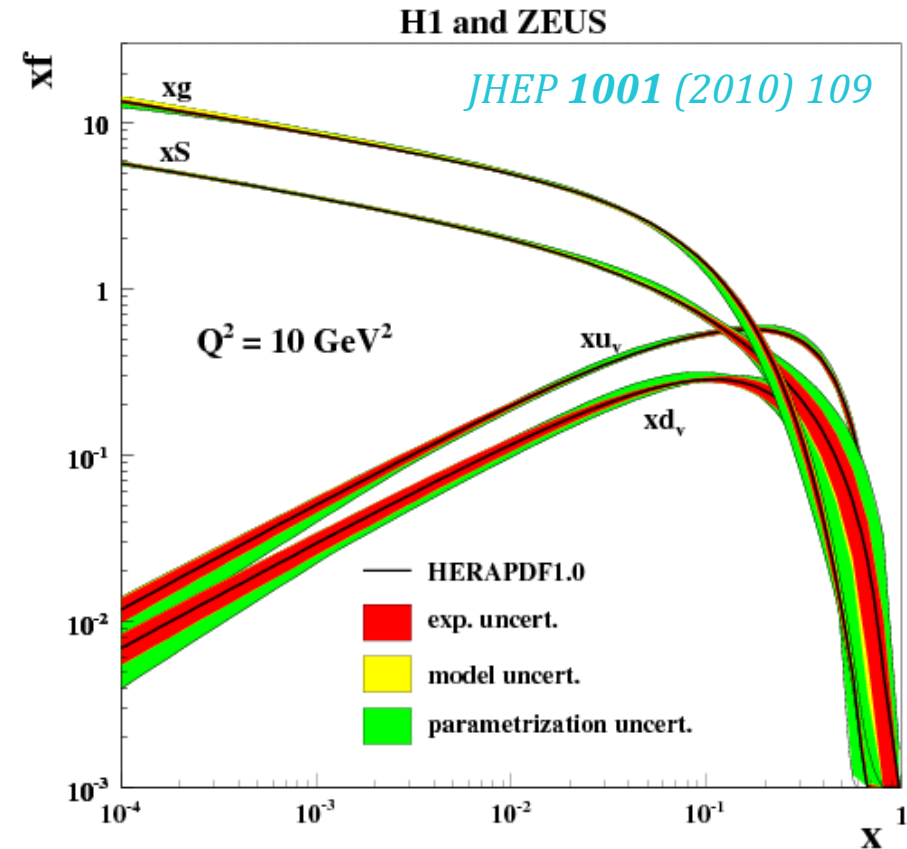
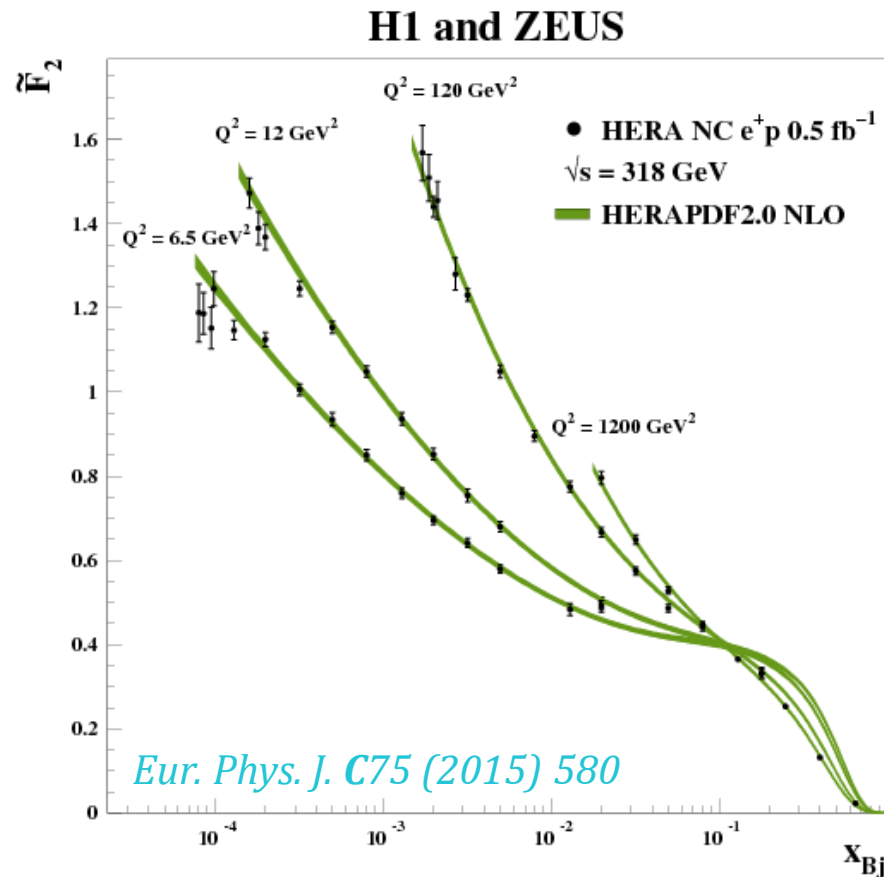
2. Potential Signals of Saturation

# Overview

1. What is Saturation?

2. Potential Signals of Saturation

# Unpolarized Structure Functions from HERA



- At HERA, the proton structure functions **increase strongly at small  $x$**
- Reflects a **power-law growth** of **gluon** and **sea quark densities**

# Non-Abelian Bremsstrahlung at High Energies

- At high energies, **QCD radiates soft gluons uniformly** around **mid-rapidity**
- Intrinsic feature of **non-Abelian** field theories

$$\frac{d\sigma^G}{dy} = \alpha_s \times (\text{const})$$

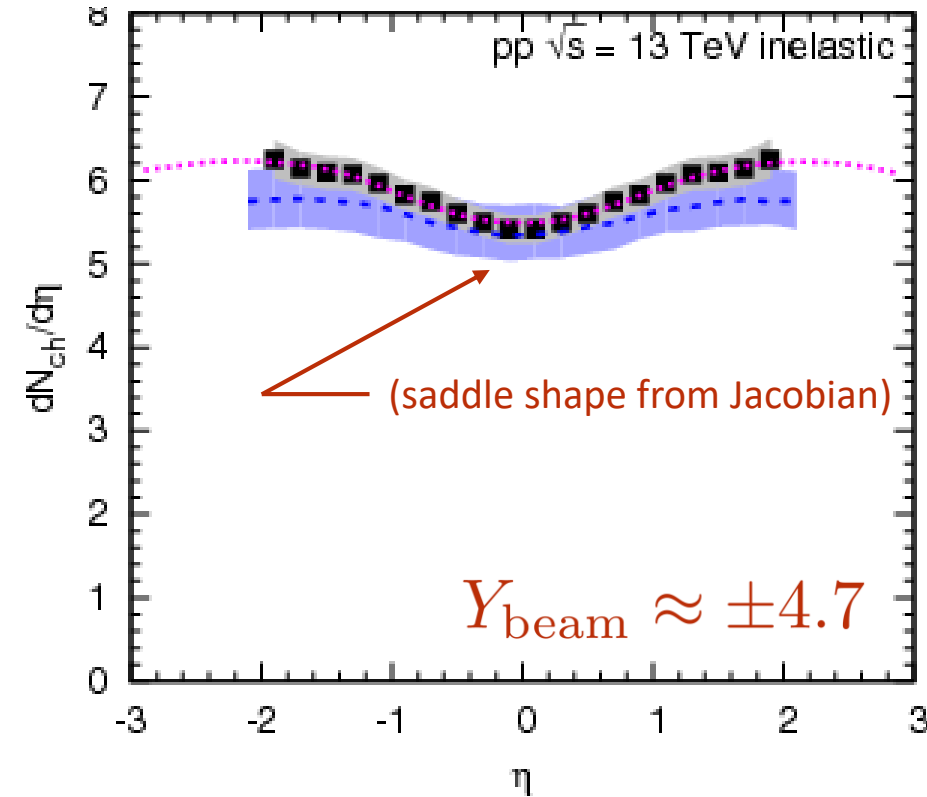
$$\frac{\sigma_{tot}^{(pp+G)}}{\sigma_{tot}^{(pp)}} \propto \alpha_s \Delta Y_{tot}$$

(small coupling)

(large phase space)

$$\Delta Y \sim \ln \frac{s}{\Lambda^2} \sim \ln \frac{1}{x}$$

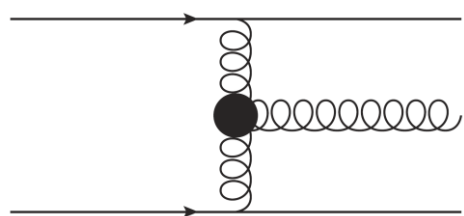
CMS Collaboration, Phys. Lett. B751 (2015) 143



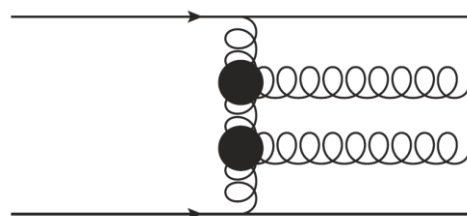
# A Large Phase Space for Soft Gluons

- Perturbation theory in pQCD relies on a **hierarchy of contributions**

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{LO} \\ \alpha_s \end{array} \gg \begin{array}{c} \text{NLO} \\ \alpha_s^2 \end{array} \gg \dots$$



$$\langle N_G \rangle_{LO} \sim \alpha_s \Delta Y$$

 $\gg$ 


$$\langle N_G \rangle_{NLO} \sim (\alpha_s \Delta Y)^2$$

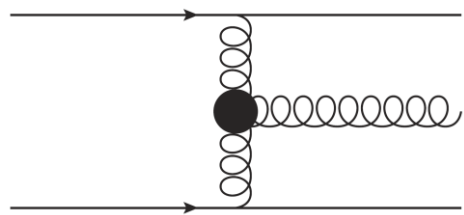
 $\gg \dots$ 

$$\langle N_g \rangle \ll 1$$

# A Large Phase Space for Soft Gluons

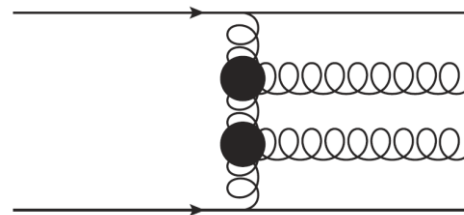
- Perturbation theory in pQCD relies on a **hierarchy of contributions**

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{LO} & \text{NLO} \\ (\alpha_s \Delta Y) \sim (\alpha_s \Delta Y)^2 \sim \dots \end{array}$$



$$\langle N_G \rangle_{LO} \sim \alpha_s \Delta Y$$

$\sim$



$$\langle N_G \rangle_{NLO} \sim (\alpha_s \Delta Y)^2$$

$\sim \dots$

$$\langle N_g \rangle \gtrsim 1$$

- At high energies (small  $x$ ), the **large logarithmic phase space enhances** the probability of **soft gluon radiation**

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta Y &\sim \ln \frac{1}{x} \\ \alpha_s \ln \frac{1}{x} &\sim \mathcal{O}(1) \end{aligned}$$

# The Small-x Gluon Cascade

- Recast the systematic enhancement as a **differential equation**

$$\frac{d\langle N_G \rangle}{dY} = \langle N_G \rangle \times \left[ \text{diagram of gluon splitting} \right]$$

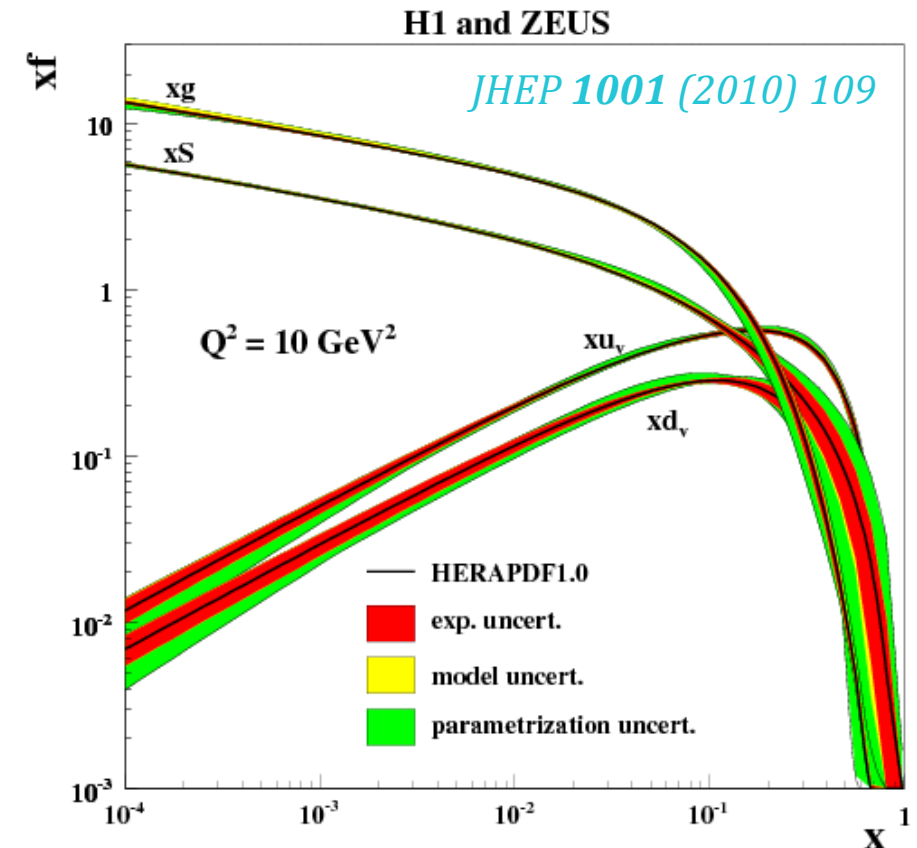
- **Power-law growth** of the **gluon density** at small  $x$

*Kuraev, Lipatov, and Fadin, Sov. Phys. JETP 45 (1977) 199*

*Balitsky and Lipatov, Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 28 (1978) 822*

$$\langle N_G \rangle \sim \left( \frac{1}{x} \right)^{(2.65 \alpha_s)}$$

“Pomeron Intercept”





# An Emergent Saturation Scale

- At **high enough densities**, gluon **recombination** competes with bremsstrahlung

*L. V. Gribov, E. M. Levin, and M. G. Ryskin, Phys. Rept. **100** (1983) 1*  
*A. H. Mueller and J. W. Qiu, Nucl. Phys. **B268** (1986) 427*

- Saturation** of the gluon density

$$\frac{d\langle N_G \rangle}{dY} = \langle N_G \rangle \times \left[ \text{diagram of gluon emission} \right] - \langle N_G \rangle^2 \left[ \text{diagram of gluon recombination} \right]$$

$$\frac{d\rho_G}{dY dQ^2} = \underbrace{\left( \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \right) \frac{\rho_G}{Q^2}}_{\text{bremsstrahlung}} - \underbrace{\left( \frac{\alpha_s^2 N_c \pi}{2C_F} \right) \left( \frac{\rho_G}{Q^2} \right)^2}_{\text{Equilibrium point: } Q_s^2}$$

- The **saturation momentum scale** grows with the density

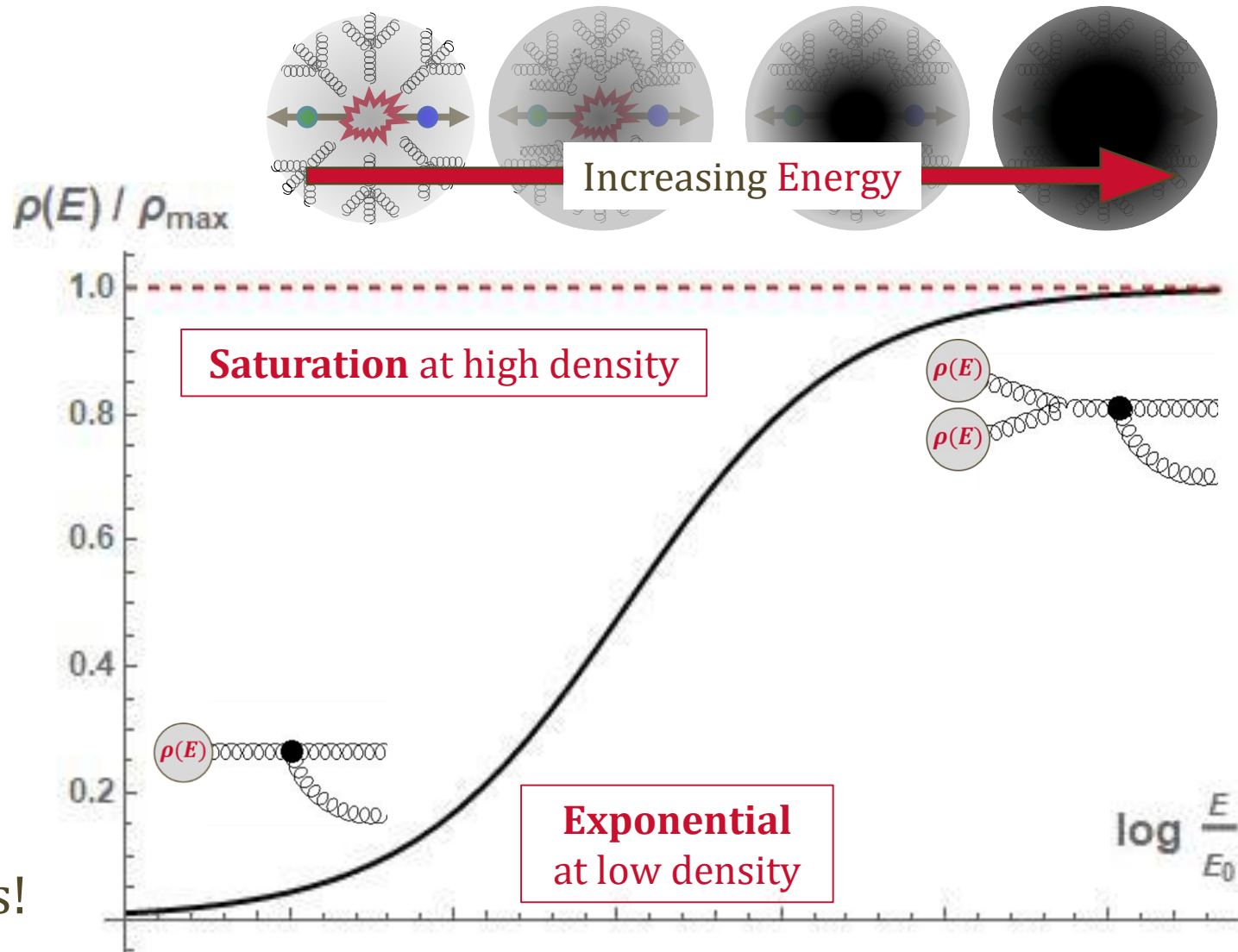
$$Q_s^2(Y) \sim \alpha_s \rho(Y)$$

# The Onset of the Nonlinear Regime

- Gluons have **nonlinear interactions**
- Naturally evolve toward a **maximum gluon density**

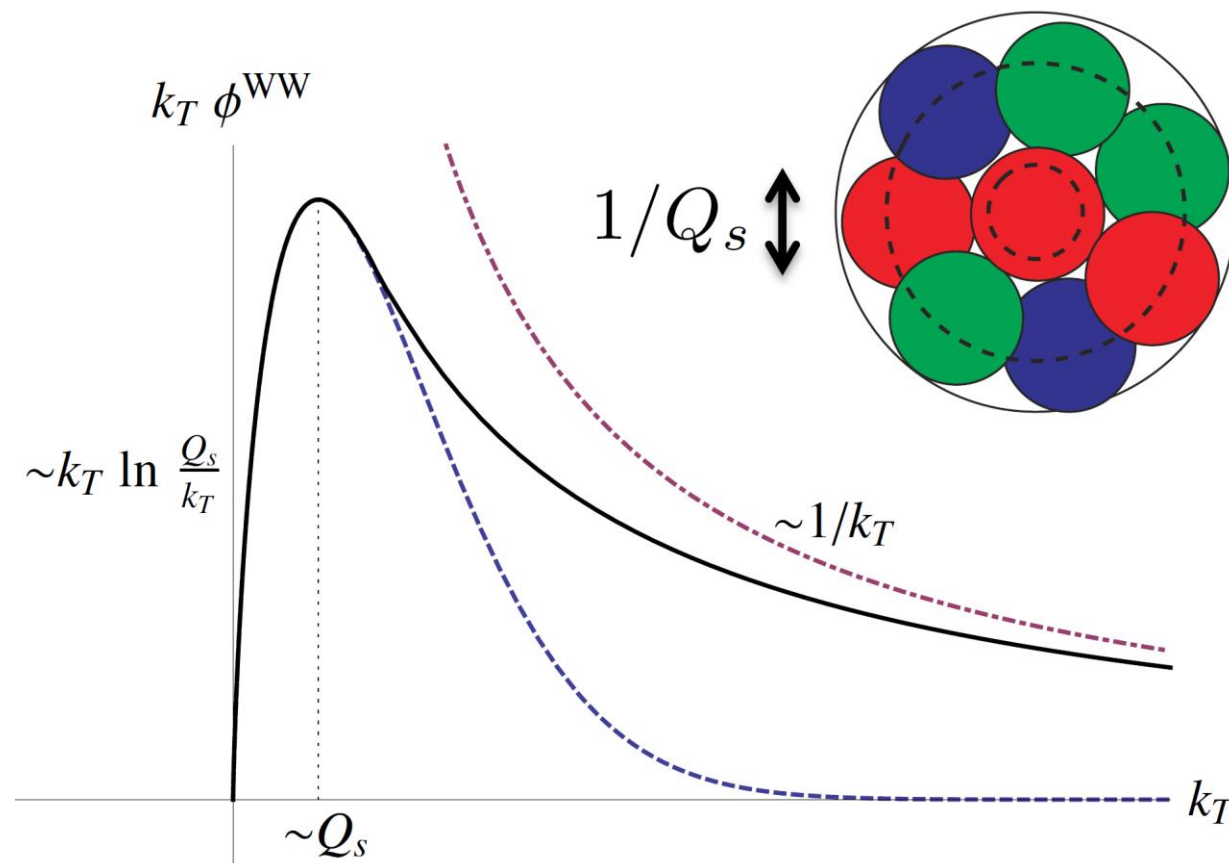
$$\rho_{max} = \frac{8 Q_s^2}{3 \pi^2 \alpha_s}$$
$$\approx 20 \text{ fm}^{-2} \sim 10^{31} \text{ m}^{-2}$$

- Simplify to **classical** equations!



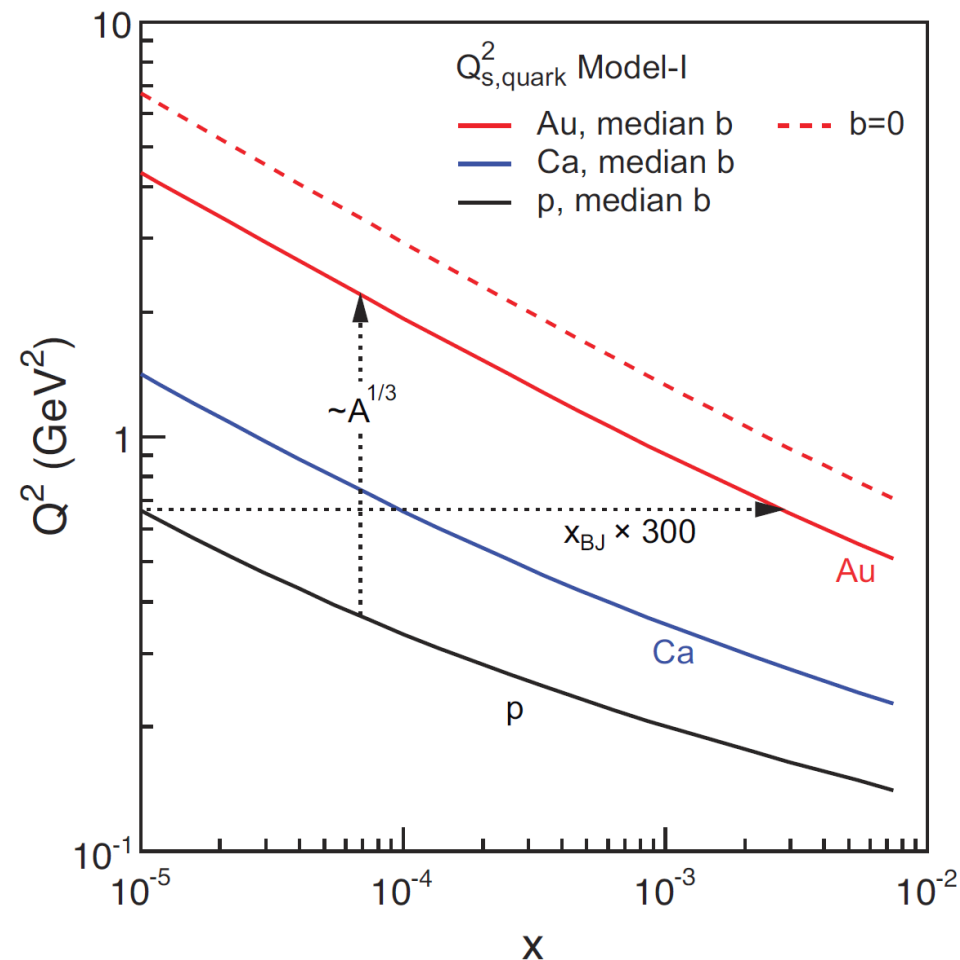
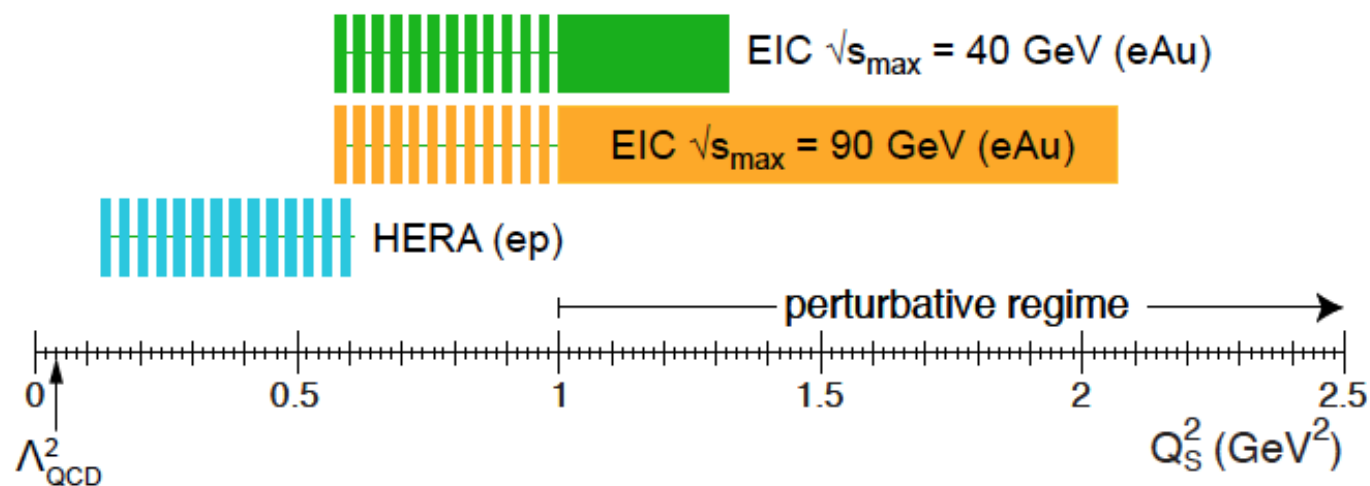
# The Perturbative High-Density Limit

- Parton transverse momentum distributions are **dynamically screened below  $Q_s$**
- If the **density is large enough** that  $Q_s$  becomes a (semi)hard scale, the dynamics become **perturbative**



# Discovery Potential at the EIC

- With high energies and heavy nuclei, a future **Electron-Ion Collider** may peek into this regime.



A. Accardi et al., Eur. Phys. J. **A52** (2016)

# Overview

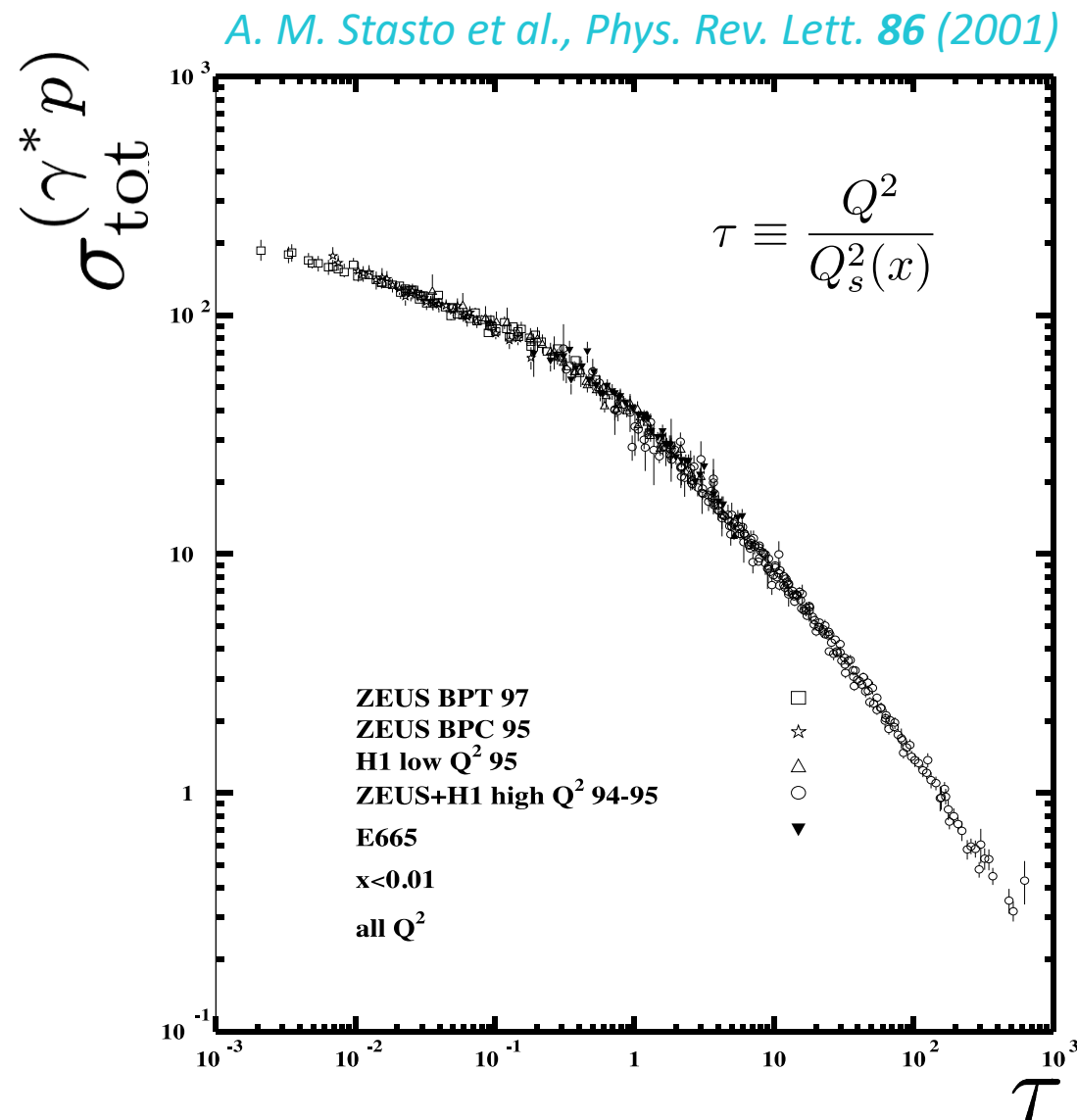
1. What is Saturation?

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# (Extended) Geometric Scaling

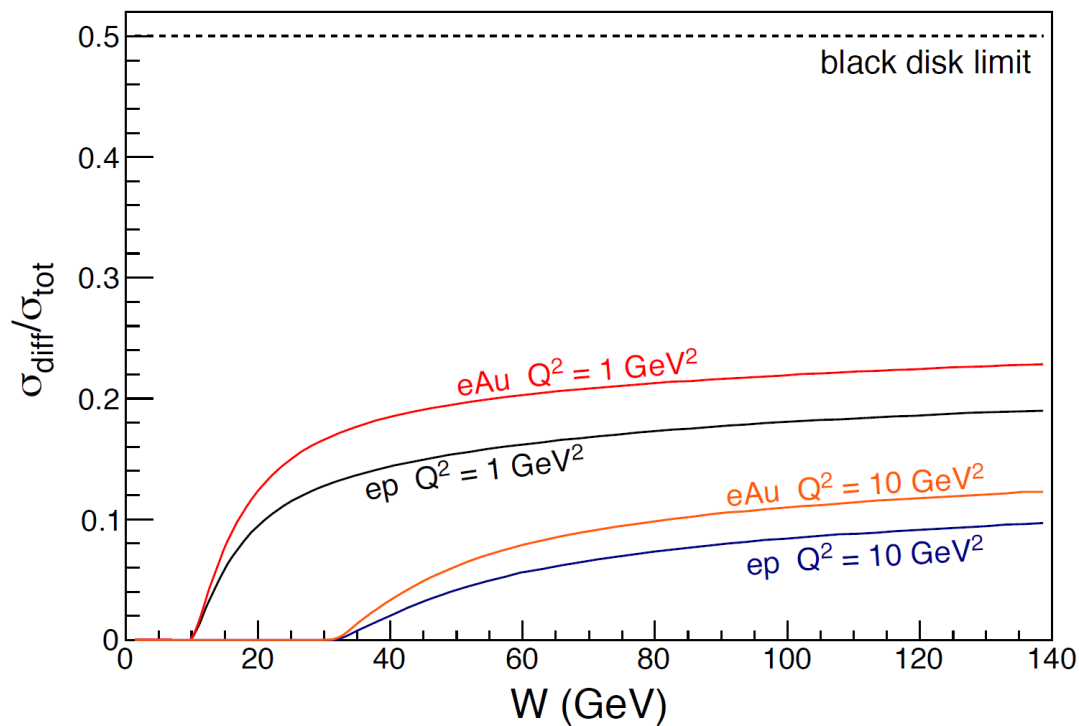
- **Geometric scaling:**

- structure functions depend only on  $\tau = Q/Q_s(x)$
- Signal of “pre”-saturation
- For  $x < 0.01$ , HERA data seems to exhibit geometric scaling



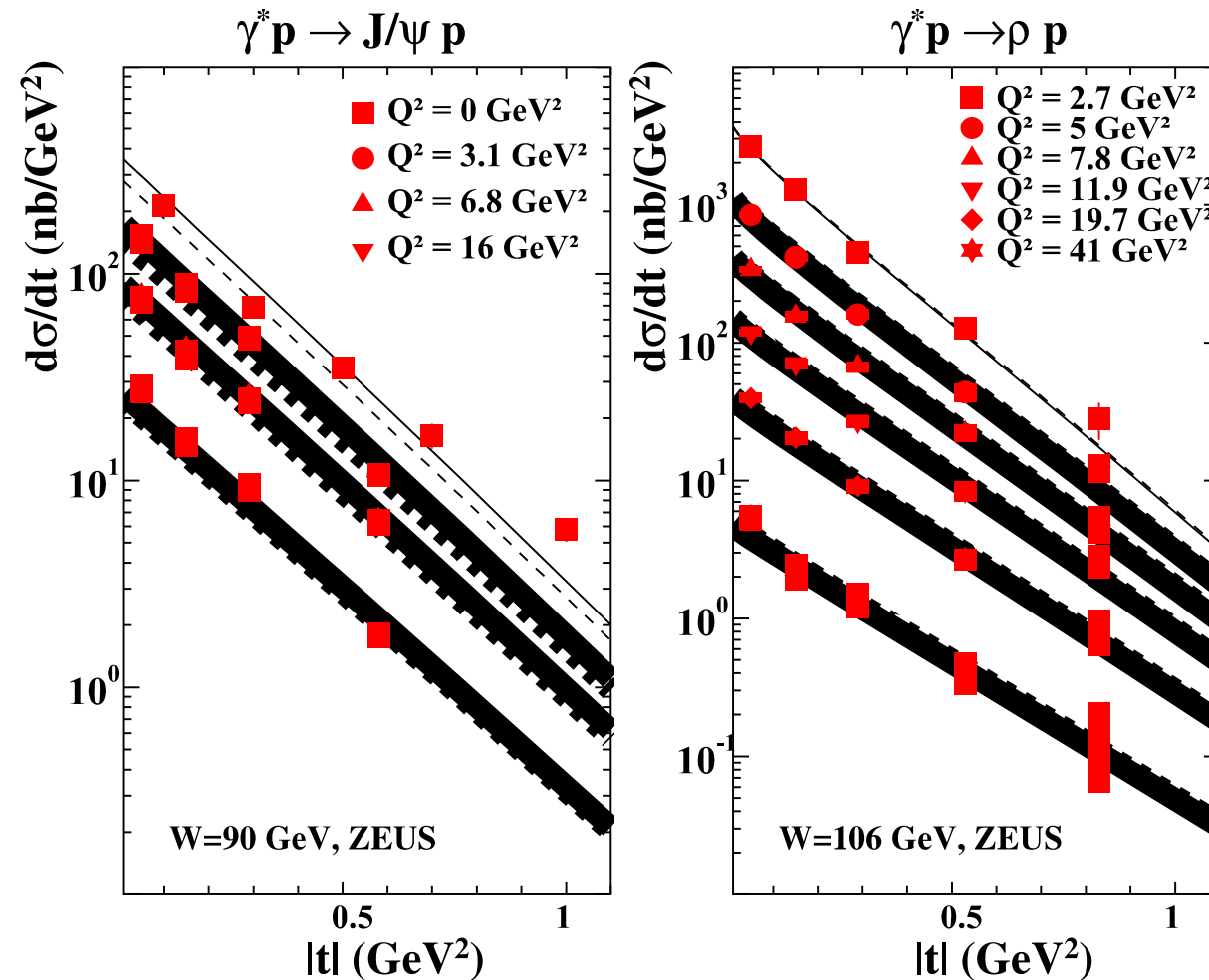
# Diffraction in ep and eA

A. Accardi et al., Eur. Phys. J. **A52** (2016)

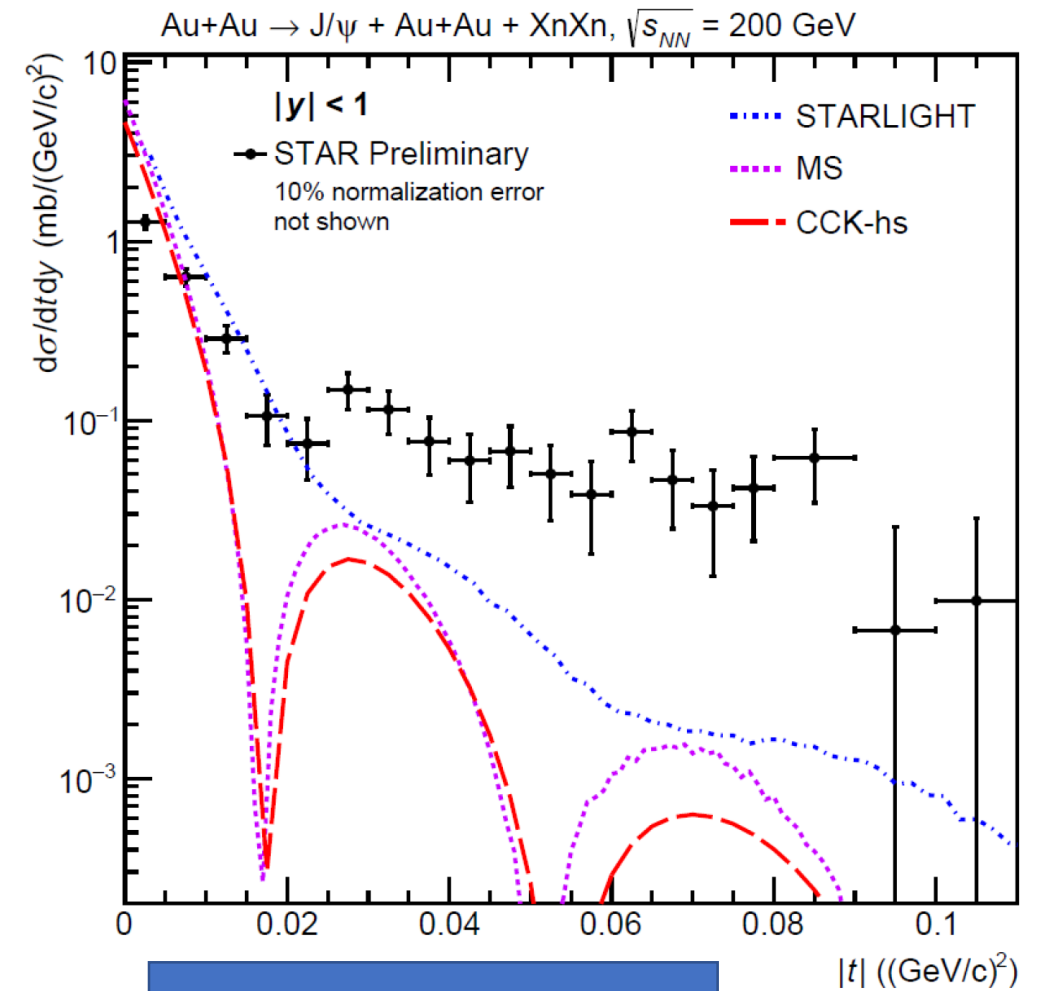
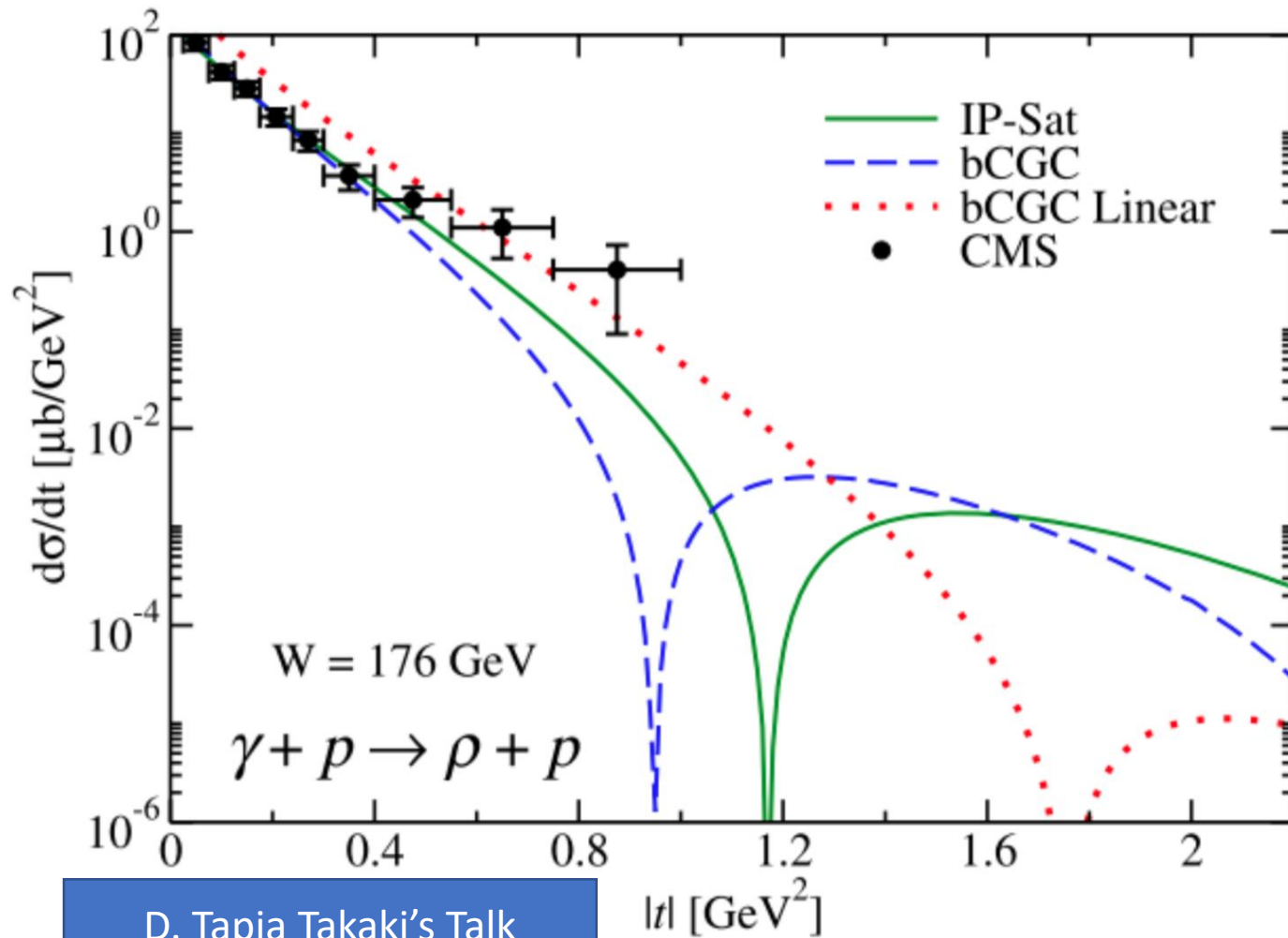


- Proportional to gluon density at amplitude level (GPD)

A. Rezaeian et al., Phys. Rev. **D87** (2013)



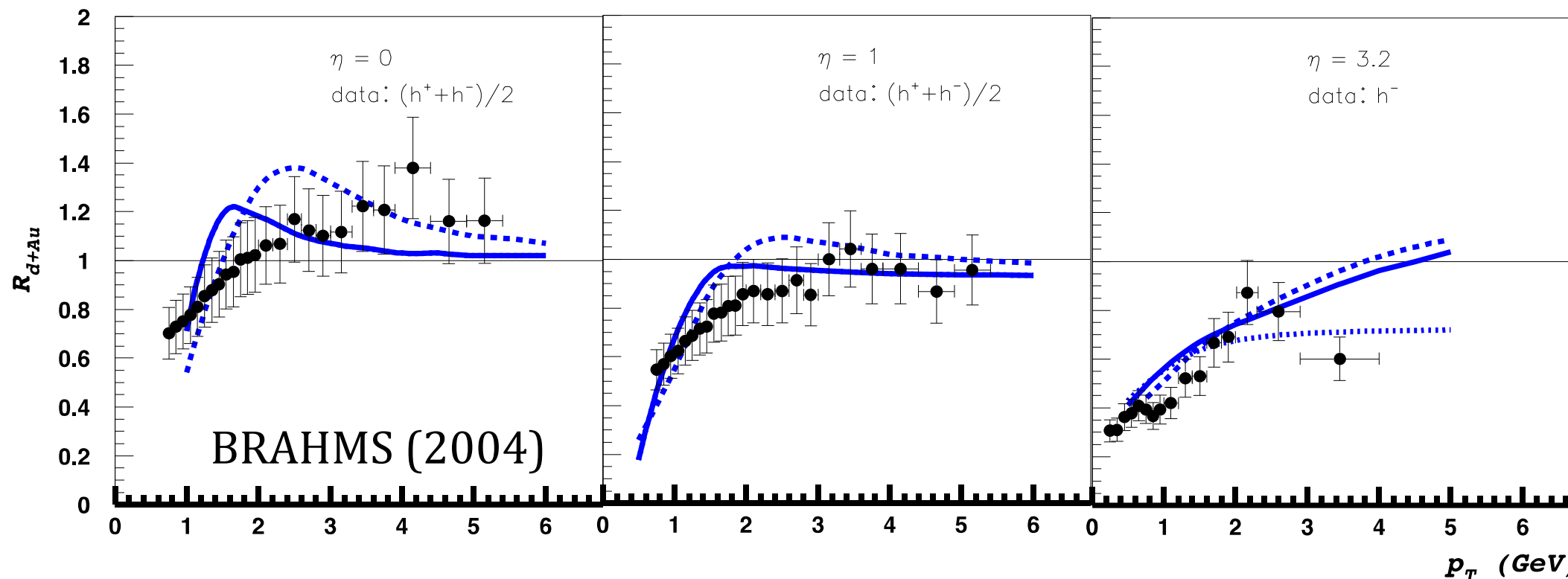
# Diffraction in Ultraperipheral Collisions





# The Cronin Peak in pA

*D. Kharzeev et al., Phys. Lett. B599 (2004)*

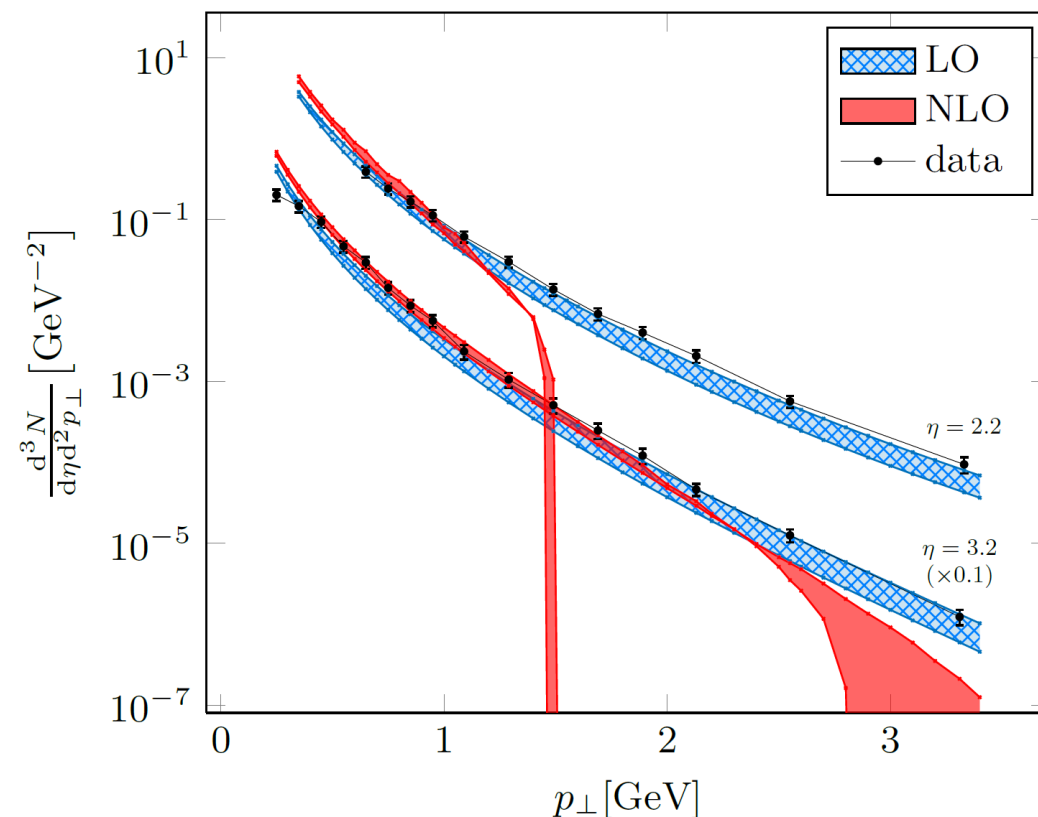
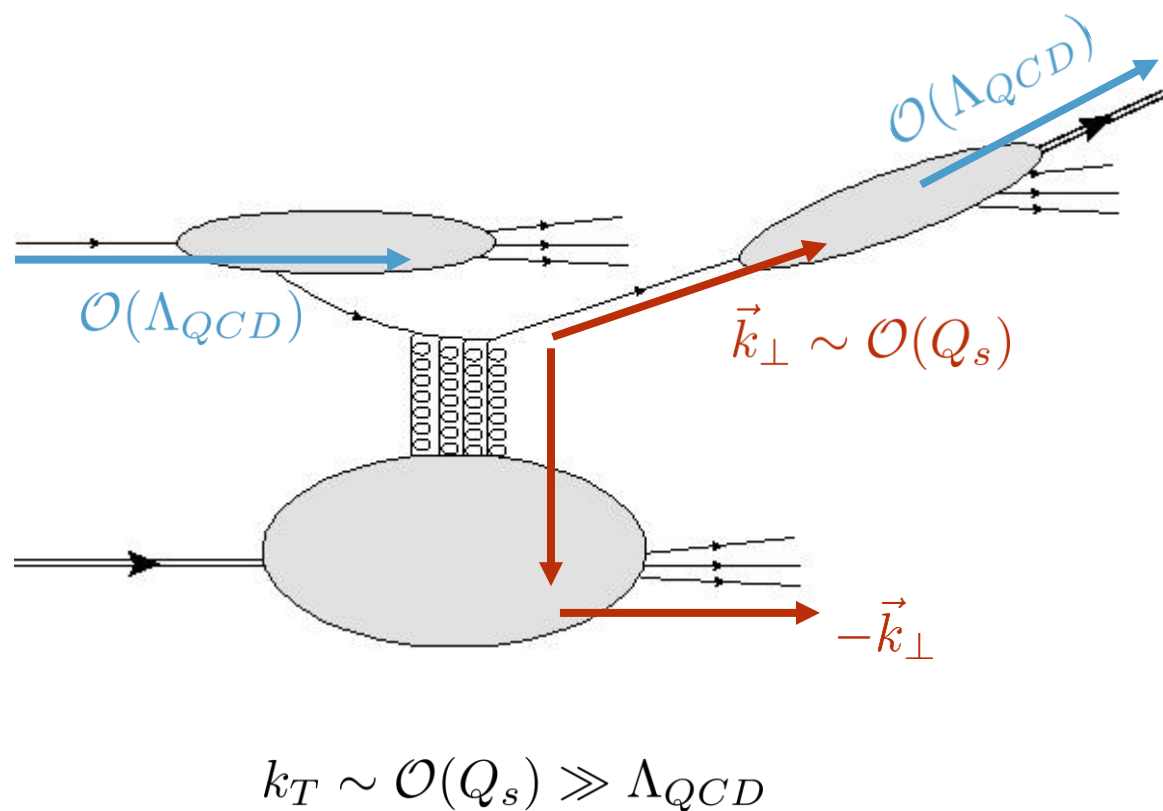


- Multiple scattering redistributes gluons to higher momenta: **Cronin enhancement**
  - **Nonlinear evolution destroys** the peak at forward rapidities

# Hybrid Factorization in pA

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{LO}}^{pA \rightarrow hX}}{d^2p_\perp dy_h} = \int_\tau^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} \left[ \sum_f x_p q_f(x_p) \mathcal{F}(k_\perp) D_{h/q}(z) + x_p g(x_p) \tilde{\mathcal{F}}(k_\perp) D_{h/g}(z) \right]$$

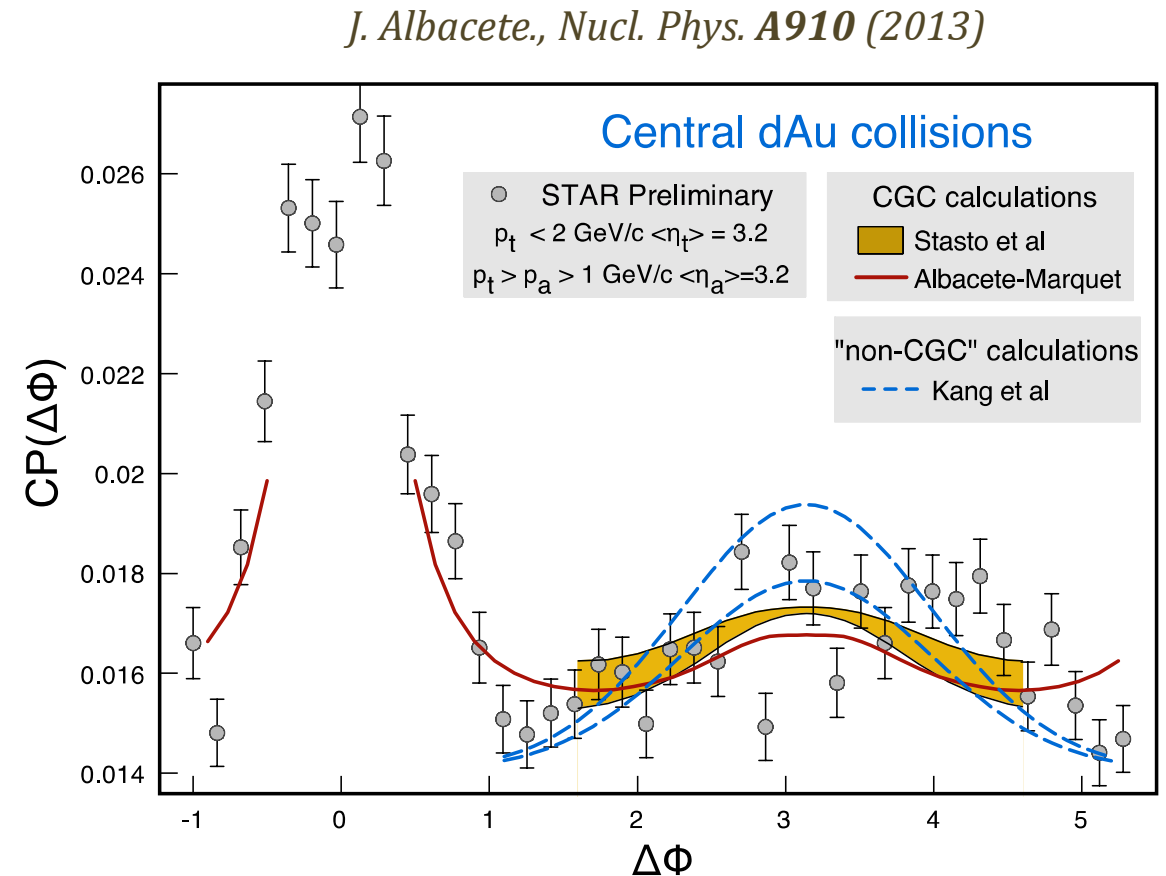
*G. Chirilli et al.,  
Phys. Rev. **D86** (2012)*



*A. Stasto et al., Phys. Rev. Lett **112** (2014)*

# Back to Back Correlations in pA

- For **dihadron production in  $pp$** , there is a pronounced **back to back peak** at  $\Delta\varphi \rightarrow \Delta\varphi + \pi$
- **Multiple scattering** from the medium **broadens and depletes** the back to back peak in  **$pA$**
- Natural in a saturation framework, but also **momentum broadening** in general



# Broadening in Jet Quenching

$$S^{(2)}(Y, X|\omega) = \int \mathcal{D}\mathbf{u}\mathcal{D}\mathbf{v} \exp \left\{ i\omega \int_{x^+}^{y^+} dt \dot{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{v}} - \frac{N_c n}{2} \int_{x^+}^{y^+} dt \sigma(\mathbf{u}) \right\}$$

$$S^{(3)}(Y, X|\omega) = \int \mathcal{D}\mathbf{r}_2 \mathcal{D}\mathbf{r}_1 \mathcal{D}\mathbf{r}_0 \exp \left\{ \frac{i}{2} \int_{x^+}^{y^+} dt (\omega_1 \dot{\mathbf{r}}_1^2 + \omega_2 \dot{\mathbf{r}}_2^2 - \omega_0 \dot{\mathbf{r}}_0^2) \right\} \\ \times \exp \left\{ -\frac{N_c n}{4} \int_{x^+}^{y^+} dt [\sigma(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_0) + \sigma(\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_0) + \sigma(\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1)] \right\}.$$

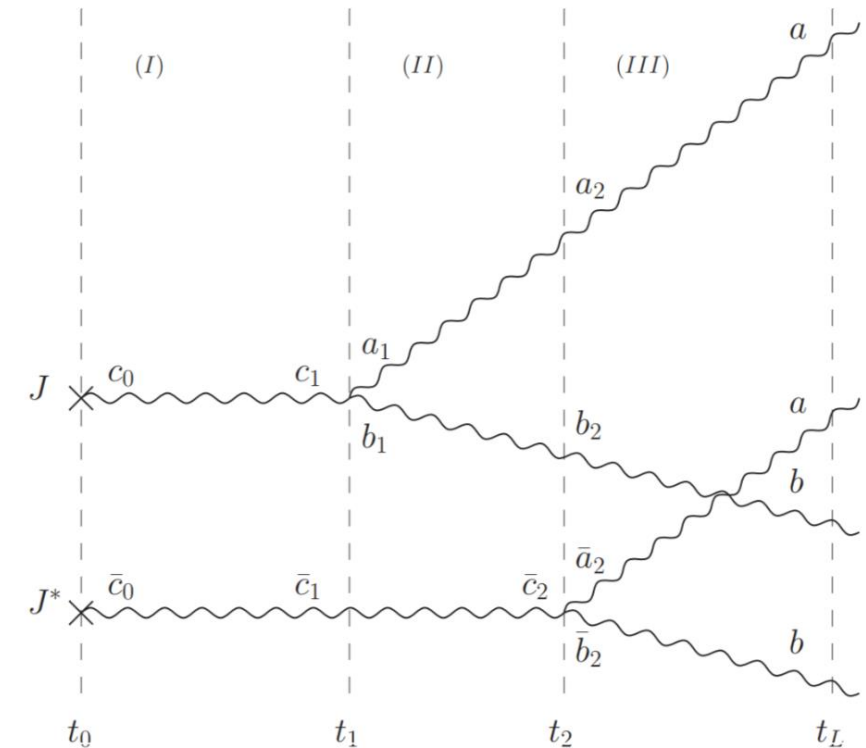
- **CGC Particle Production:**

- Controlled by **dipole scattering cross sections**

- The same amplitudes enter **jet quenching**

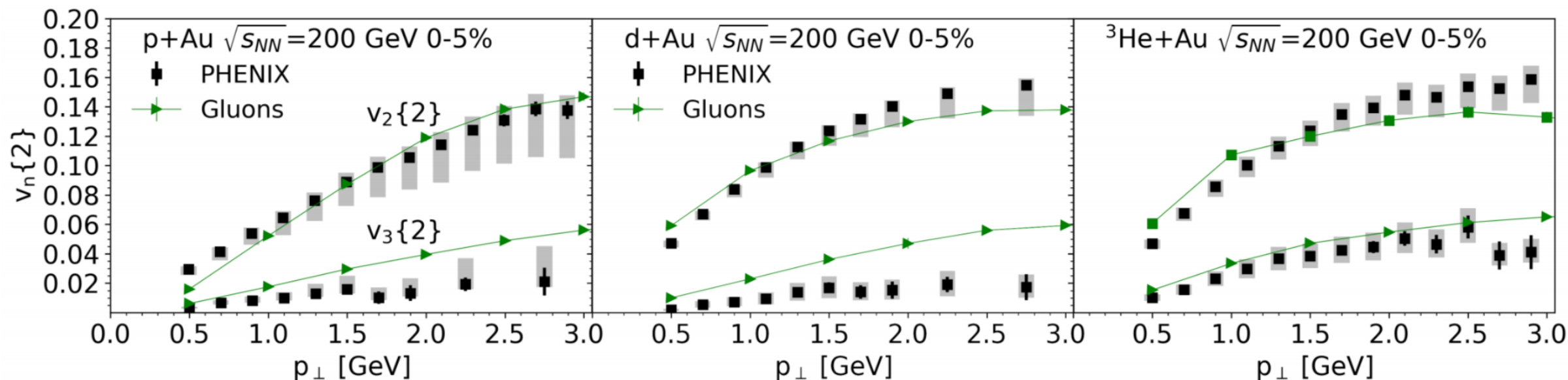
- Stimulated **radiation** from multiple scattering

*J.-P. Blaizot et al., JHEP **1301** (2013)*



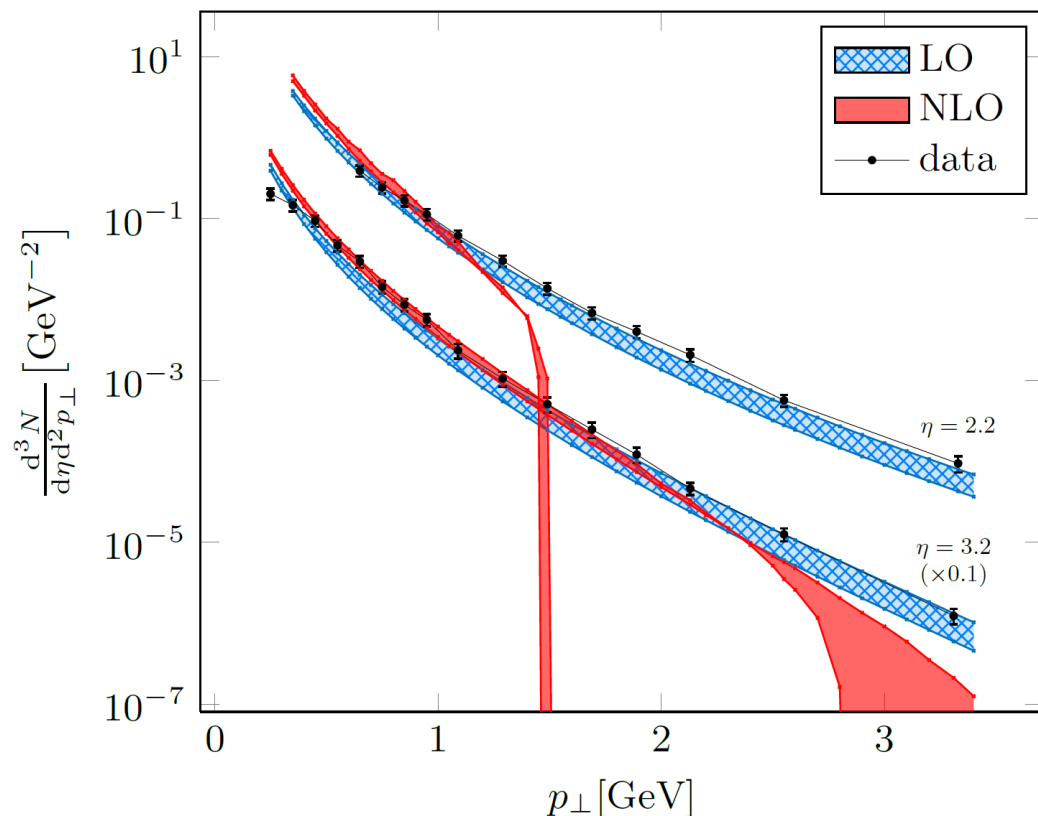
# Multiparticle Correlations in pA / aA

Mace et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **121** (2018), and arXiv:1901.10506

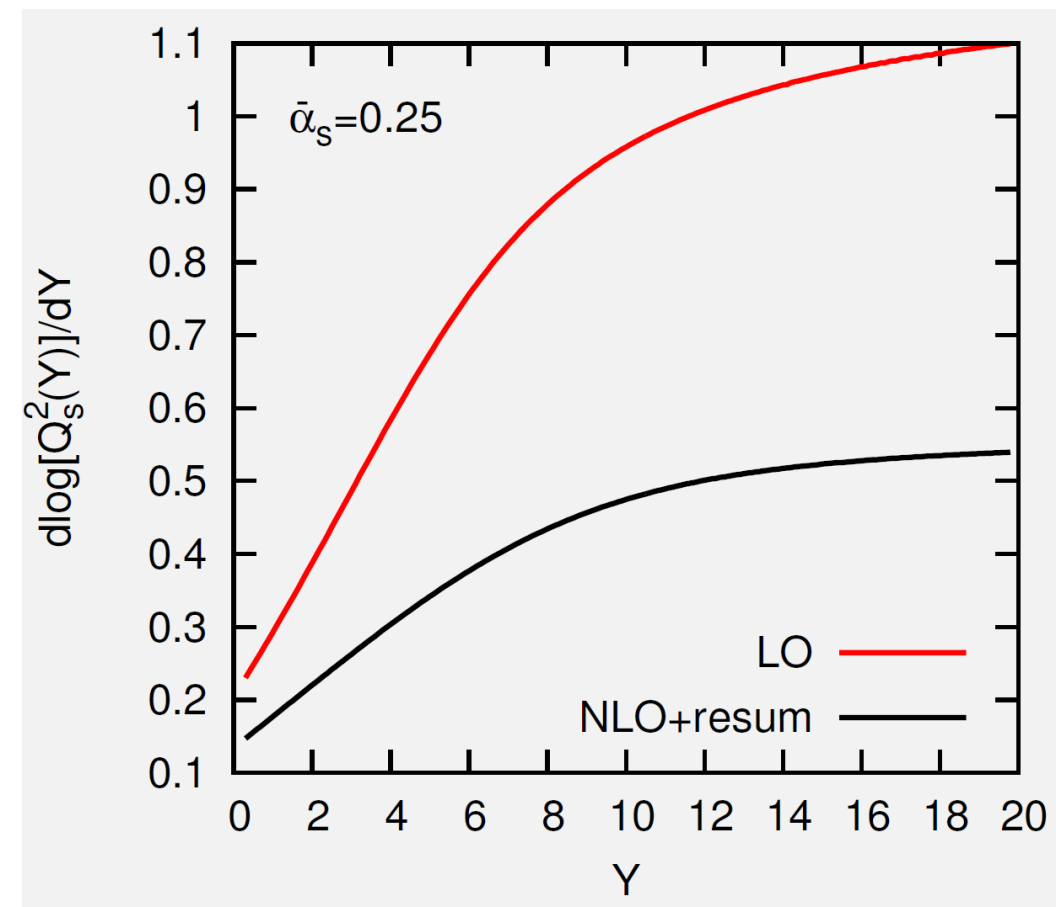


- **Two-particle correlations** produced in small systems collisions
  - Correlations arise from scattering in **anisotropic color domains**

# Advancing the Theory: NLO BK



*A. Stasto et al., Phys. Rev. Lett* **112** (2014)

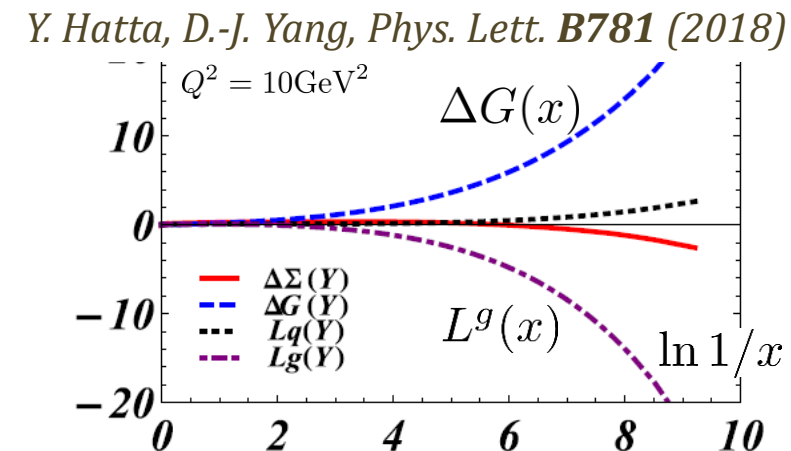
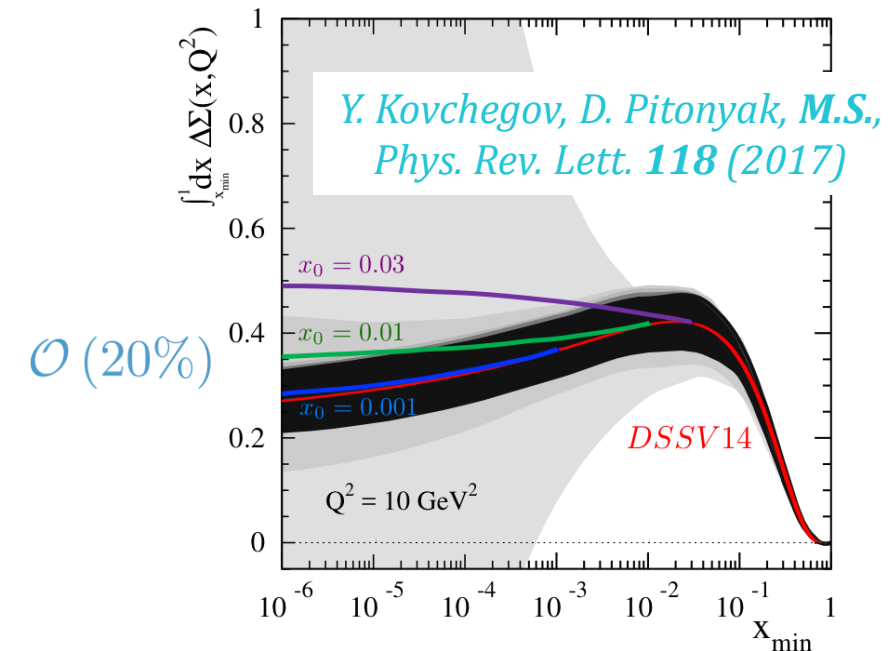


*B. Ducloue et al., arXiv: 1902.06637*

- Evolution equations at NLO introduce **double logarithms**
  - ***NLL'* Resummation**

# Connection to Spin at Small x

- Small-x evolution of quark / gluon polarization
  - Also **double logarithmic**
  - Leads to enhancement of total spin contributions
- One approach: Light-Front Wave Functions
  - **Convergent** at small x
  - **O(20%)** enhancement
- Another approach: Infrared Evolution Equations
  - **Power-law growth** at small x
  - Total spin terms are apparently divergent
  - **Regulated** by nonlinear **saturation** corrections?



# Overview

1. What is Saturation?

2.

Concluding Perspective



# Saturation as a Fundamental Test of the Standard Model

- Power-law growth of the structure functions would **violate unitarity** if it continued
- **Saturation** is the mechanism by which **unitarity is restored** at high energies
  - QCD is a well-defined theory up to **infinite energies** and **infinite  $Q^2$**  (**UV complete**)
- ❖ *“Saturation is a non-negotiable property of QCD”*  
– *N. Armesto*
- The same **non-Abelian** nature which gives **asymptotic freedom** also gives **saturation**
  - Fundamental test of quantum field theory

