



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of Science

# Synergies between the UPC and EIC program

Daniel Tapia Takaki

POETIC

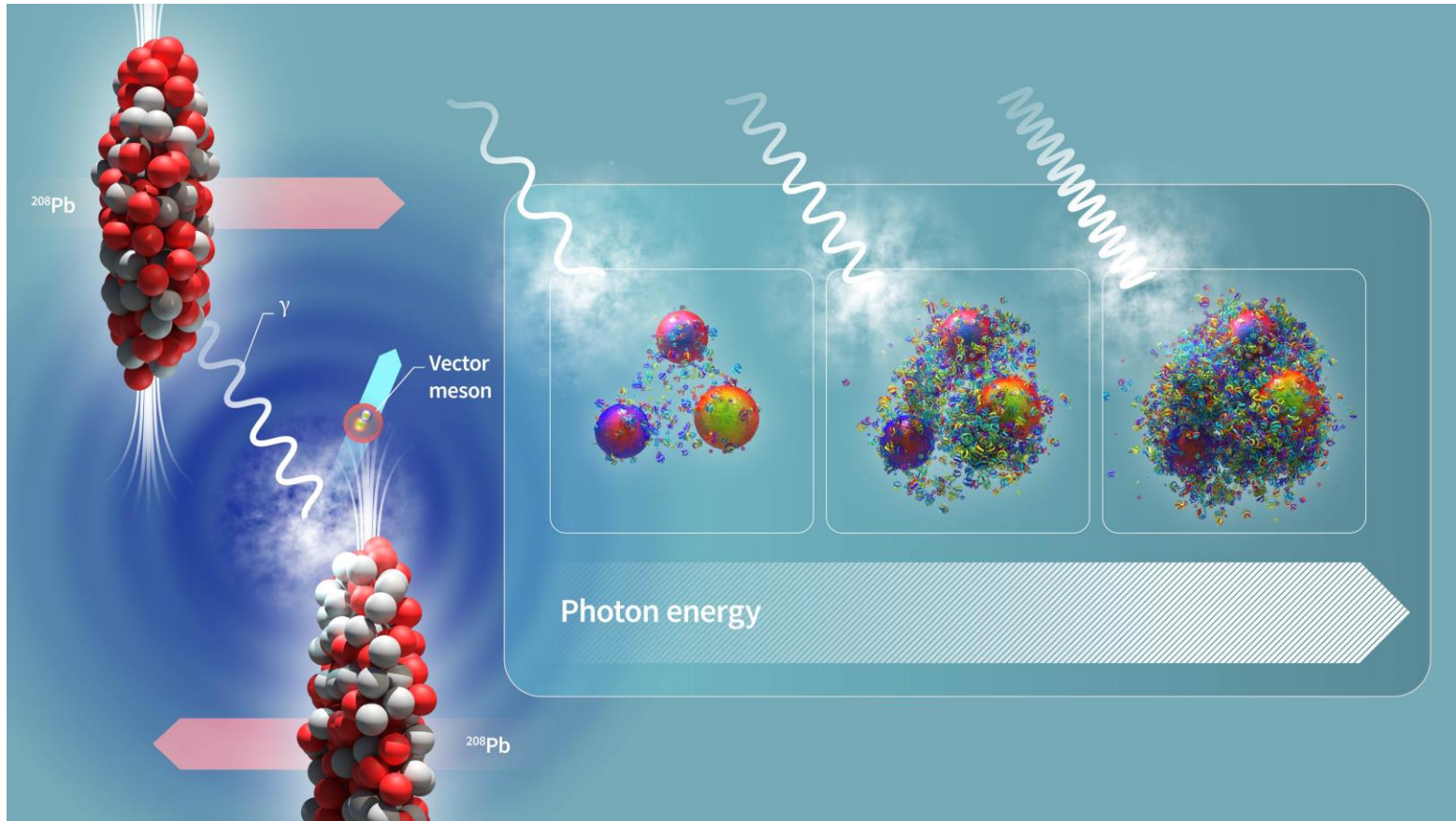
Miami, Florida

February 25, 2025



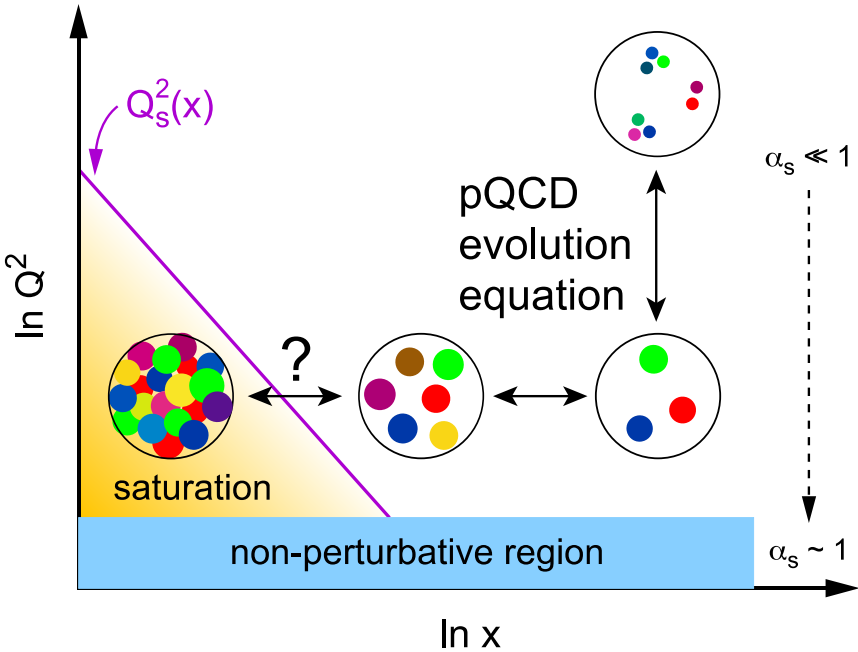
 **KU** THE UNIVERSITY OF  
KANSAS

# Ultra peripheral collisions (UPC)



# Gluon saturation matters

At high energies, or for heavy nuclei at lower energies, gluon saturation is predicted

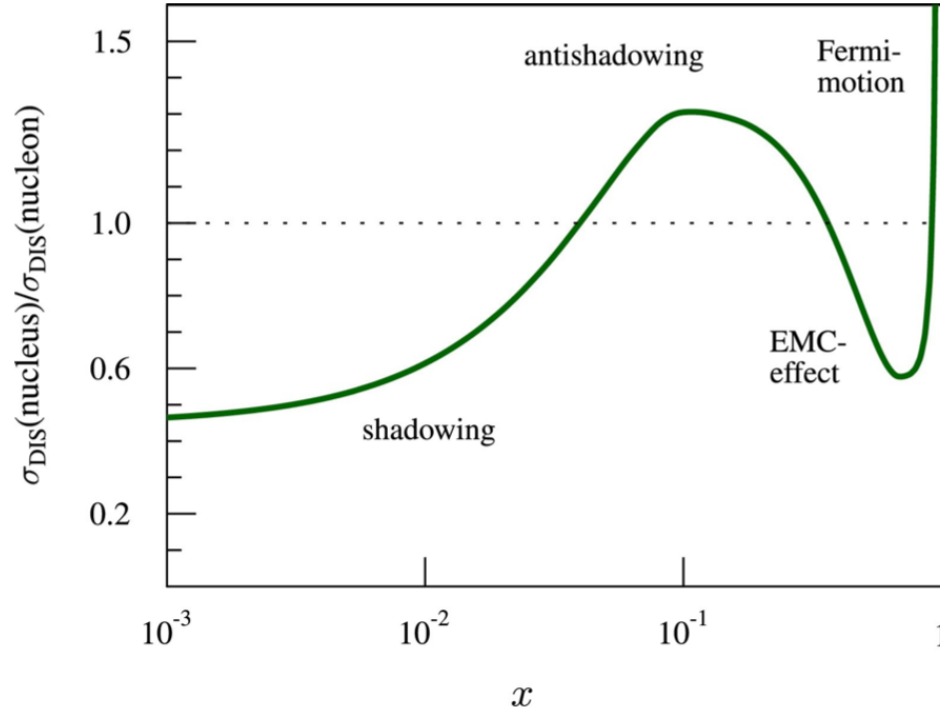


$$(Q_s^A)^2 \approx cQ_0^2 \left[ \frac{A}{x} \right]^{1/3}$$

- Non-linear QCD evolution equations introduced, but how is gluon saturation triggered?
- Experimental observables needed to map out the transition between the dilute and saturation regimes. The onset of saturation
- Can we determine experimentally the saturation scale ( $Q_s$ )?
- Is there a state of matter formed by gluon saturated matter with universal properties?

# Nuclear shadowing experimentally confirmed, but not fully understood

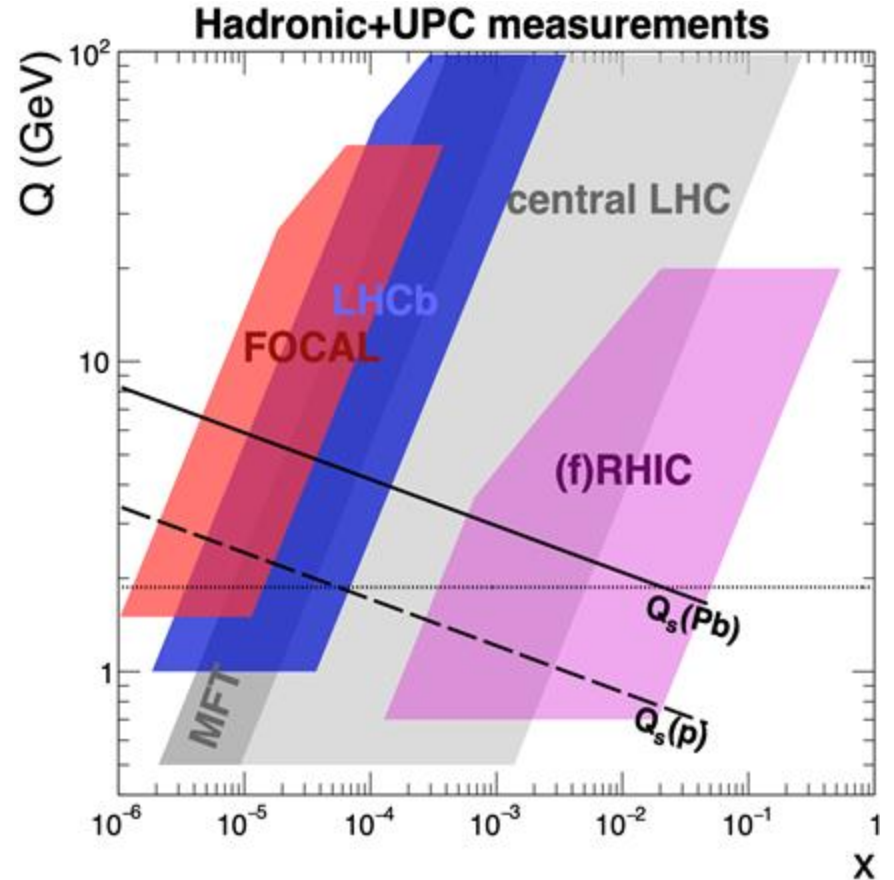
$$R = \frac{f_{i/A}}{A f_{i/p}} \approx \frac{\text{measured}}{\text{expected if no nuclear effects}}$$



- Experimental observation that parton distributions are different for protons and nuclei
- What's the mechanism responsible for shadowing? How is gluon saturation related?
- The knowledge of the initial state of nuclei also needed for understanding the QGP evolution

# Experimental program

- The Electron-Ion Collider will be a dedicated QCD machine with the **precision and control** capabilities for studying gluon saturation and shadowing in a systematic way like never before.
- The LHC explores the **high energy domain** for both hadronic and photon-induced reactions



# The LHC is the Large Photon Collider

- **Ultra Peripheral Collisions (UPC)** can explore a wide range of energies using almost real photons

$$k = \gamma M_V \exp(\pm, y)$$

Up to several TeV in  $\gamma p$

Up to  $\sim 700$  GeV/nucleon in  $\gamma A$

Up to  $\sim 150$  GeV in  $\gamma\gamma$  using UPC PbPb,

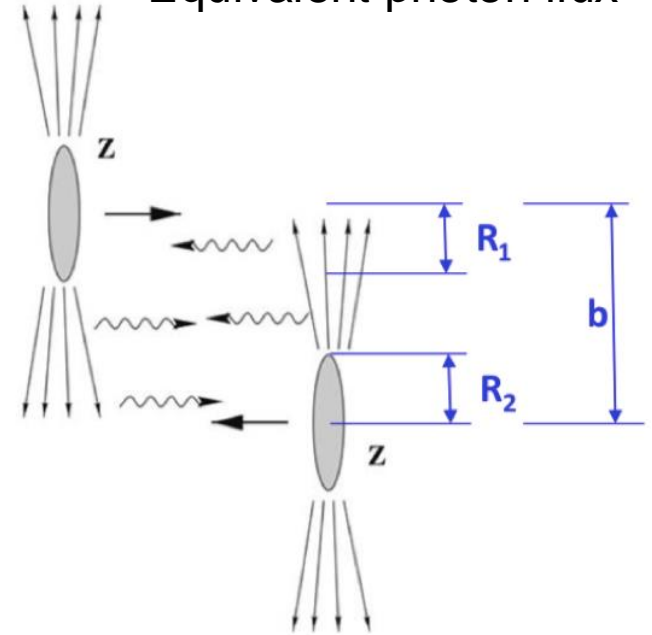
$\sim 4$  TeV in  $\gamma\gamma$  using UPC pp

- **UPCs at the LHC probe the hadronic structure over broad and unique Bjoren  $x$  region**, yet the precision not compatible to DIS machines like the EIC

$$x = M_V/\gamma m_p \exp(\pm, y)$$

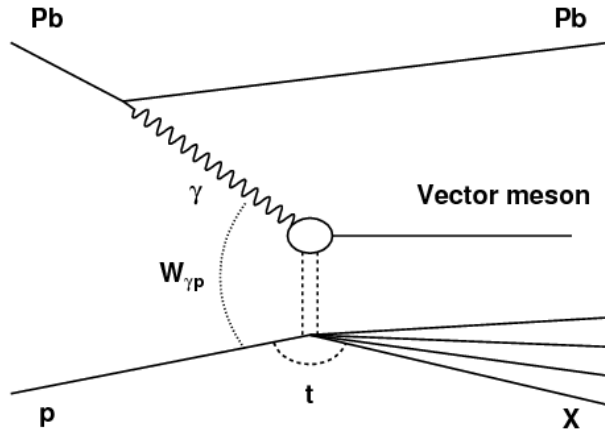
Interactions mediated by the EM interactions

Equivalent photon flux



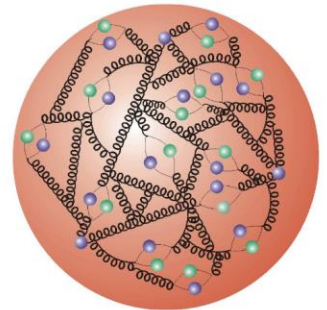
# Vector meson (VM) photoproduction in UPCs

$$W_{\gamma p}^2 = 2E_p M_{J/\psi} e^{\pm y}$$



- As in DIS, several reactions are possible in UPCs:
  - Exclusive photoproduction
  - Semi-exclusive photoproduction
  - Inclusive photoproduction

- By studying various VMs, it is possible to study the  $Q^2$  dependence
- In the dipole approach, the light VMs ( $\phi$ ,  $\rho^0$ ) are more sensitive to saturation because of the larger dipole, but pQCD methods not applicable



# Two-fold ambiguity on the photon direction in symmetric systems

$$W_{\gamma p}^2 = 2E_p M_{J/\psi} e^{\pm y}$$

Symmetric systems (pp, A-A) suffer from the two-fold ambiguity on the photon direction

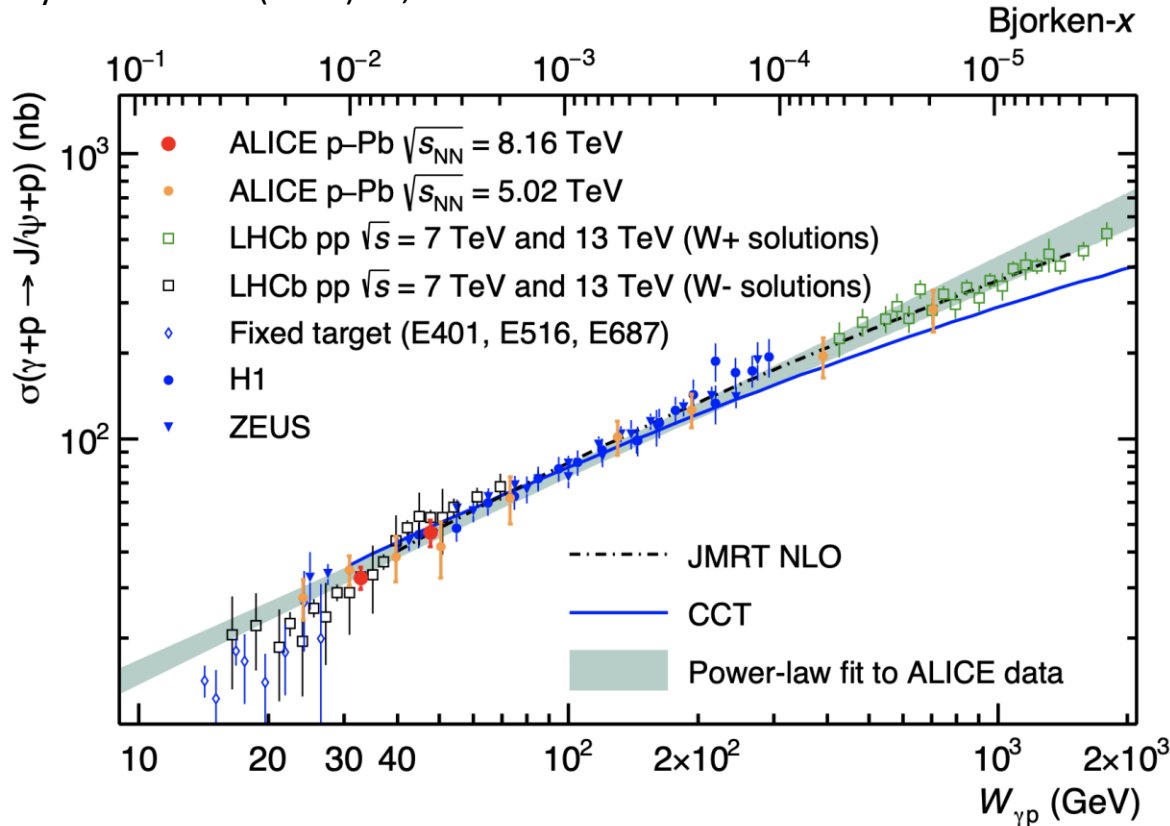
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy} = \overset{\text{Positive rapidity}}{n(+y)\sigma(\gamma p, +y)} + \overset{\text{Negative rapidity}}{n(-y)\sigma(\gamma p, -y)}$$

Only UPC asymmetric systems (p-Pb) analyses provide a model independent way of the energy dependence of  $\sigma(\gamma p)$



# Exclusive $J/\psi$ in UPC p-Pb (2023)

Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 11, 112004

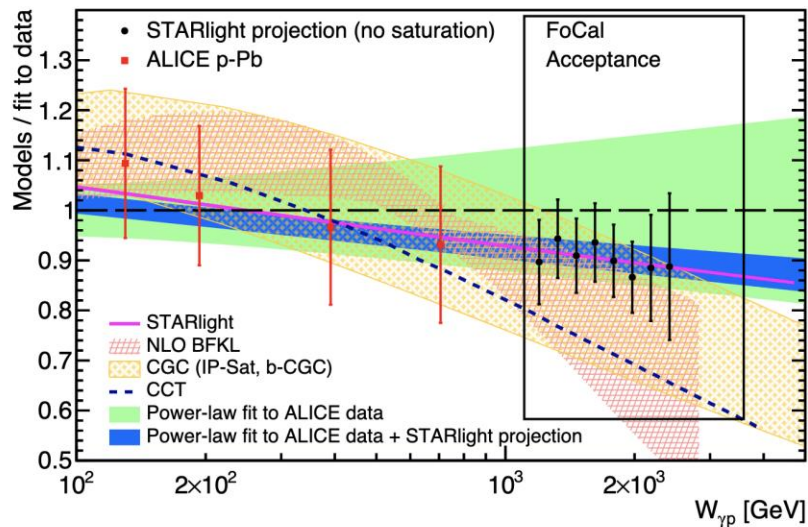


- No change in the behavior observed between HERA and LHC energies
- The highest energy point measured in a model-independent way is only up to 700 GeV in UPC p-Pb by ALICE

# Projections for exclusive J/ψ off protons

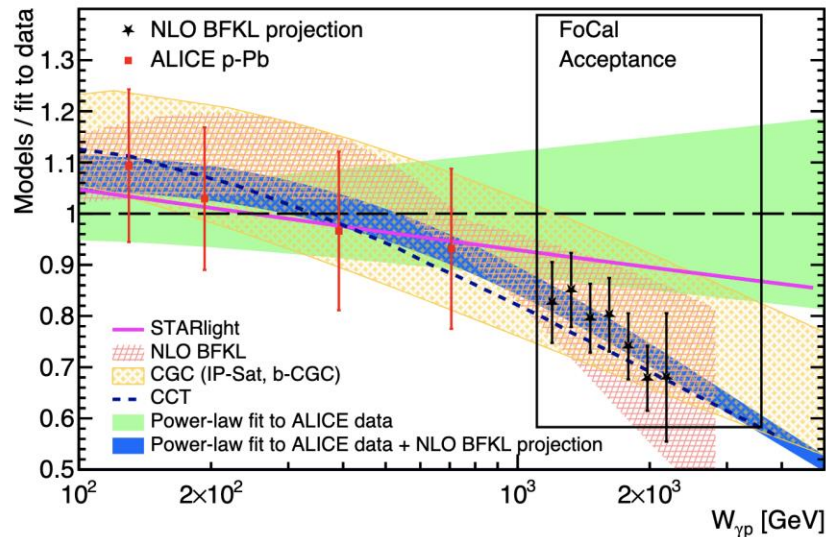
## Power-law behavior (STARlight)

UPC p-Pb  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 8.16$  TeV,  $150 \text{ nb}^{-1}$



## Broken power-law behavior (NLO BFKL)

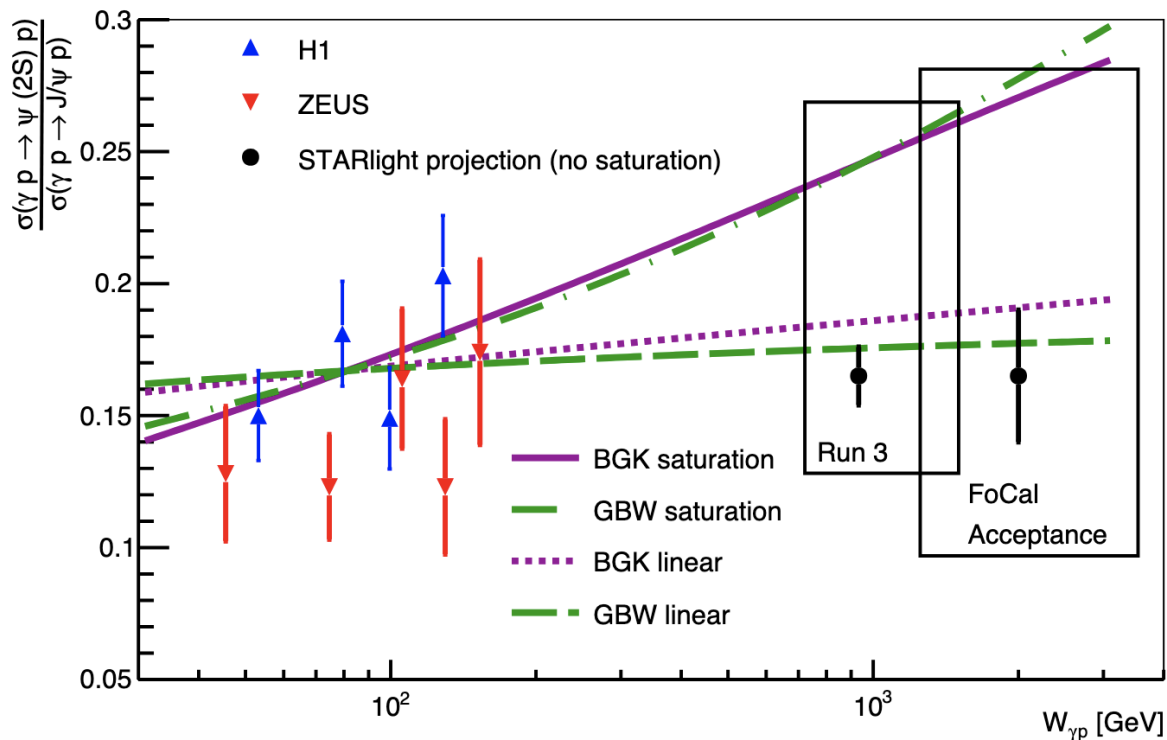
UPC p-Pb  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 8.16$  TeV,  $150 \text{ nb}^{-1}$



FoCal measurement would be sufficient to observe a deviation from a power law behavior, if exists

# Projections for exclusive $\psi(2S)$ and $J/\psi$ cross section ratio in $\gamma p$

UPC p-Pb  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 8.16$  TeV,  $150 \text{ nb}^{-1}$



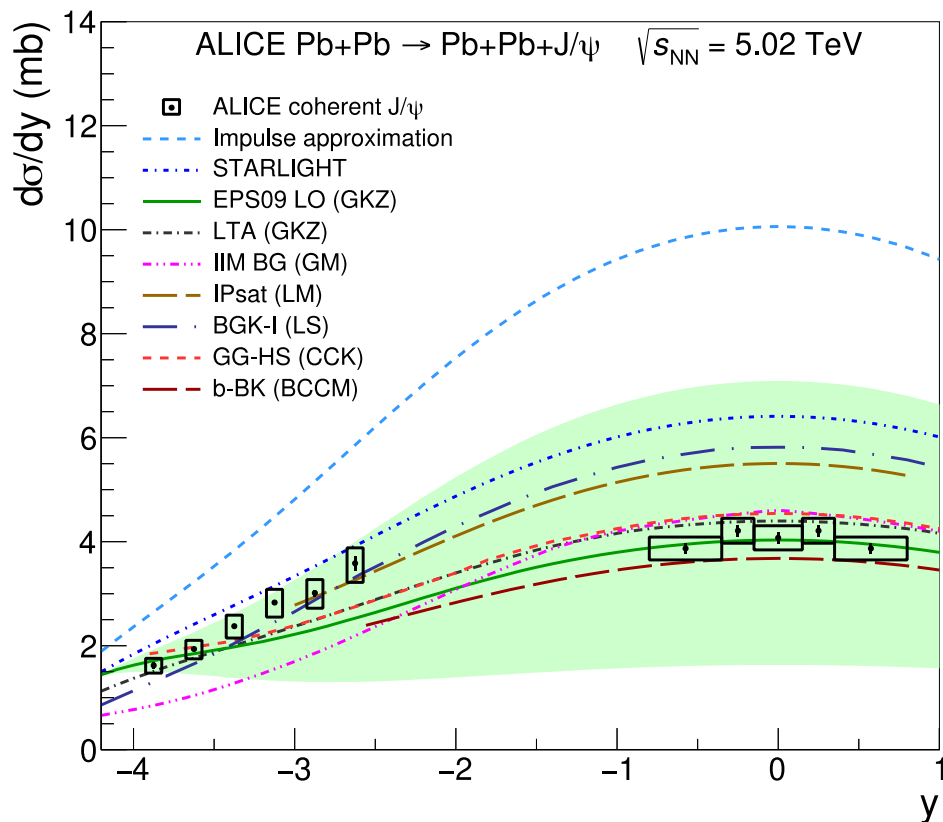
- Different wave functions and dipole sizes evolution result in great sensitivity to non-linear QCD effects
- No sensitivity at HERA, but expected at the LHC
- Projections here based on STARlight

- Confirmation of nuclear shadowing with Run 2 data
- No model can describe the rapidity dependence

$$W_{\gamma p}^2 = 2E_p M_{J/\psi} e^{\pm y}$$

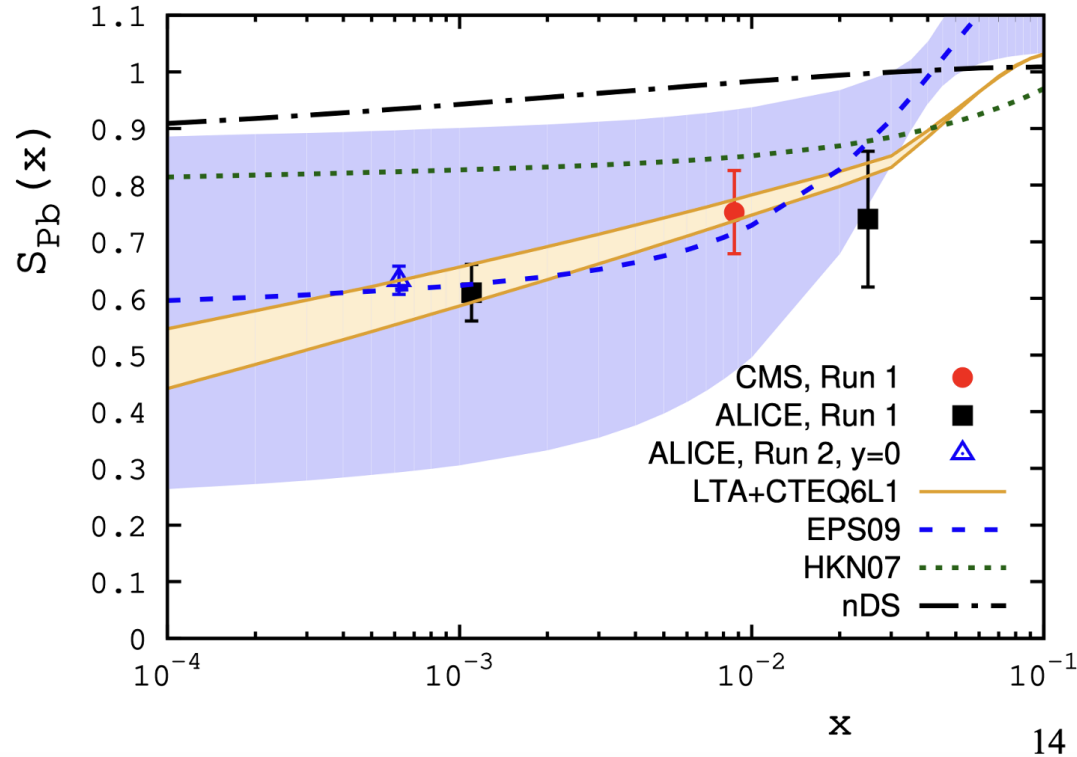
Mid-rapidity  $x \sim 10^{-3}$

Forward rapidity 95% at  $x \sim 10^{-2}$   
5% at  $x \sim 10^{-5}$



# Nuclear suppression factor for UPC $J/\psi$ : Comparing $\gamma\text{Pb}$ to $\gamma p$

V. Guzey et al. PLB 726 (2013)



An experimental definition, which can be linked to PDFs at LO

$$S_{Pb}(x) = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A}(W_{\gamma p})}{\sigma_{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A}^{\text{IA}}(W_{\gamma p})}} = \kappa_{A/N} \frac{xg_A(x, \mu^2)}{Axg_N(x, \mu^2)}$$

Run 1 data from ALICE was the first at indicating nuclear gluon shadowing at  $x \sim 10^{-3}$

Large scale NLO uncertainties should cancel in the  $S_{Pb}(x)$  ratio

ALICE results at  $y=0$  have no ambiguity on the photon energy

# Two-fold ambiguity on the photon direction in symmetric systems

$$W_{\gamma p}^2 = 2E_p M_{J/\psi} e^{\pm y}$$

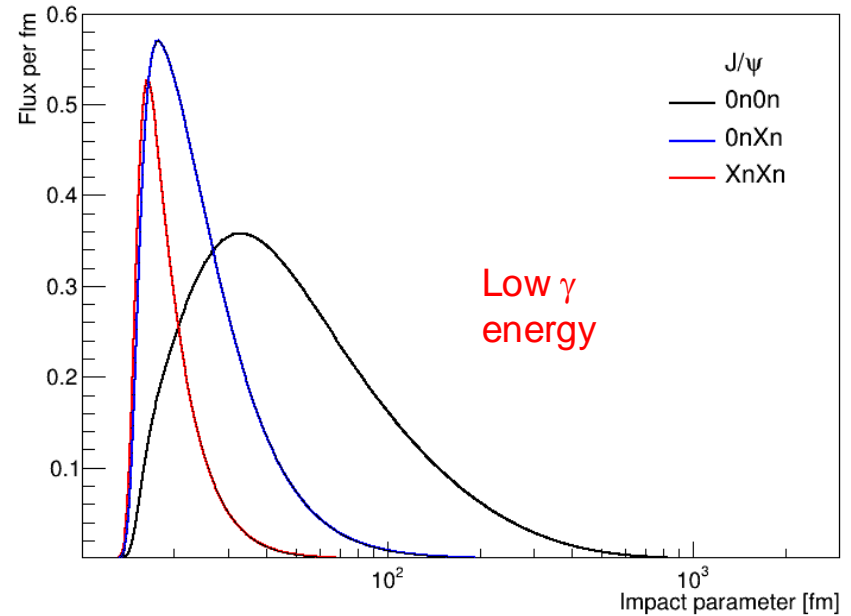
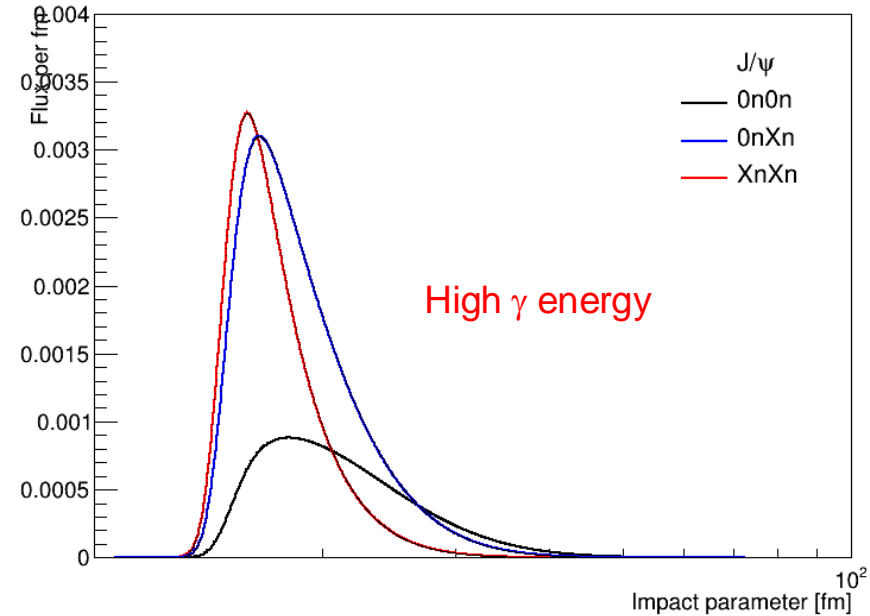
Symmetric systems (pp, A-A) suffer from the two-fold ambiguity on the photon direction

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy} = \overset{\text{Positive rapidity}}{n(+y)\sigma(\gamma p, +y)} + \overset{\text{Negative rapidity}}{n(-y)\sigma(\gamma p, -y)}$$

Analyses of UPC asymmetric systems (p-Pb) provide a model independent way to study the energy dependence of  $\sigma(\gamma p)$

# Impact parameter flux profile

Broz, Contreras and DTT, CPC 235 (2020) 107181



# Neutron-dependence of coherent $J/\psi$ in UPC Pb-Pb

The photon flux ( $n$ ) depends on the impact parameter

Decomposed in terms of neutron configurations emitted in the forward region

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy} = \frac{d\sigma(0n0n)}{dy} + 2\frac{d\sigma(0nXn)}{dy} + \frac{d\sigma(XnXn)}{dy}$$

Solving the linear equations resolves the two-fold ambiguity for VMs at  $y \neq 0$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy} = \overset{\text{Positive rapidity}}{n(+y)\sigma(\gamma p, +y)} + \overset{\text{Negative rapidity}}{n(-y)\sigma(\gamma p, -y)}$$

Guzey, Strikman, Zhalov, EPJC 74 (2014) 7, 2942



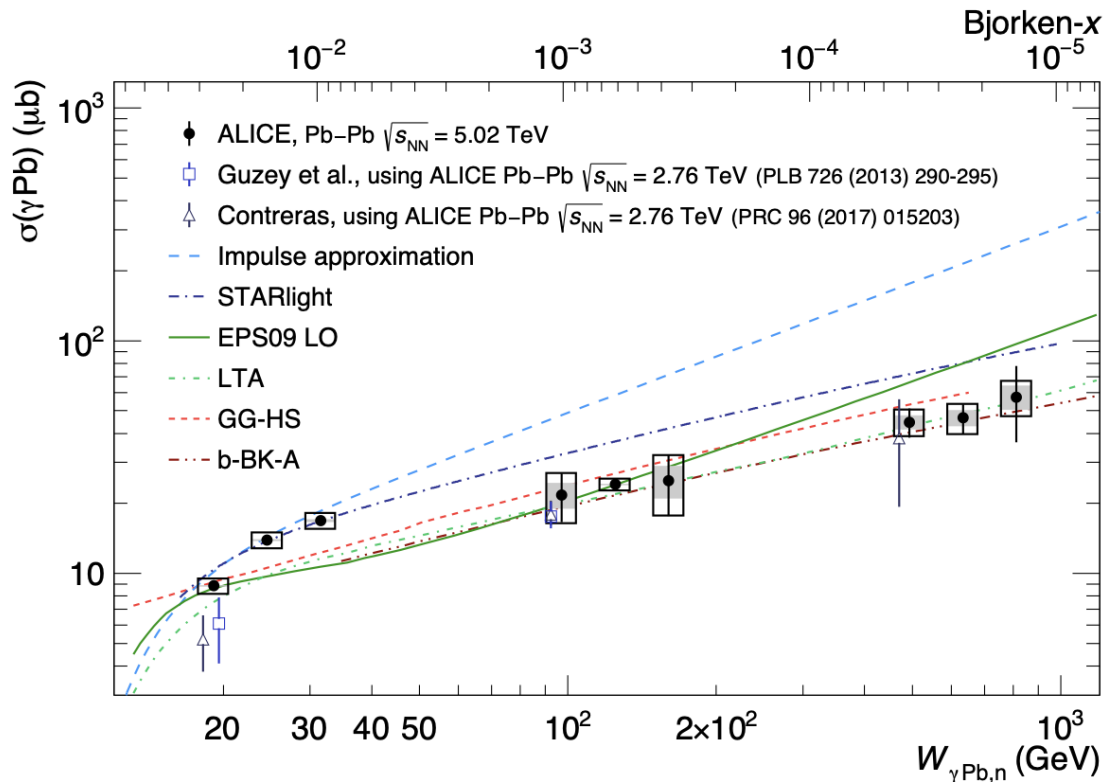
# Energy dependence of coherent $J/\psi$ in $\gamma$ Pb – ALICE Run 1 and Run 2 data

[JHEP 10 \(2023\) 119](#)

Confirmed Run 1 results.  
At low  $x$ , both shadowing  
and saturation models  
describe the data

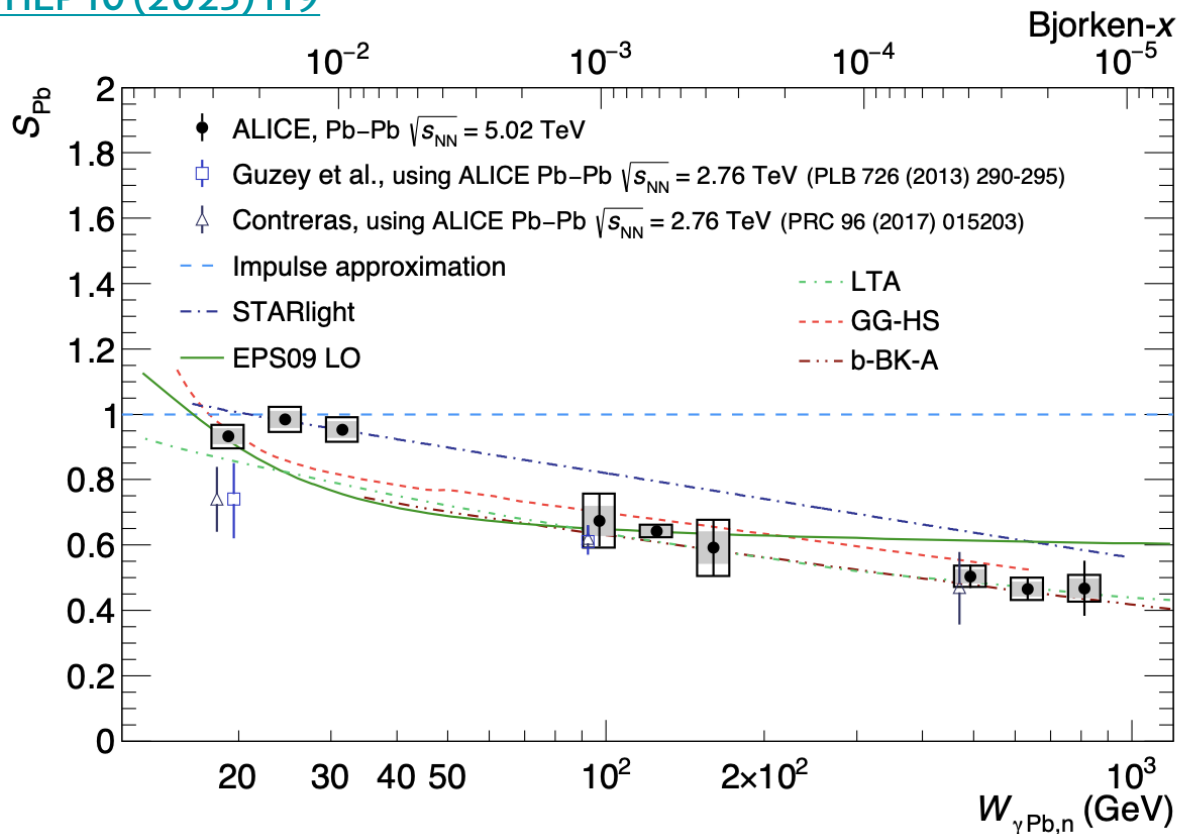
Energy dependence  
across the whole range  
not described by models

In a single experiment  
exploring (20,800) GeV  
in  $W_{\gamma\text{Pb}}$  and  $x$  from  $10^{-2}$   
to  $10^{-5}$



# Nuclear suppression factor – ALICE Run 1 and Run 2 data

JHEP 10 (2023) 119

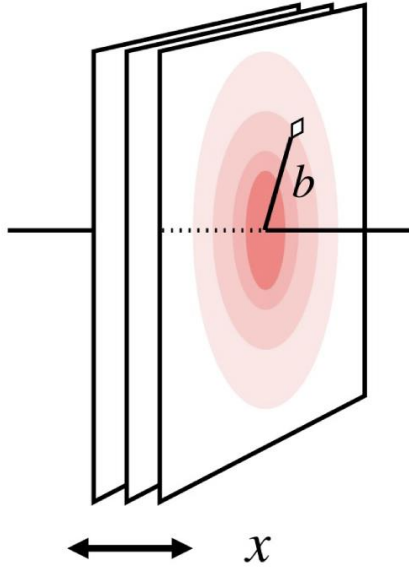


At low  $x$ , both shadowing and saturation models describe the data

[Confirmation that peripheral hadronic events can be used to extract the energy dependence.](#) Already explored down to  $x = 4.4 \times 10^{-5}$  using Run 1 data

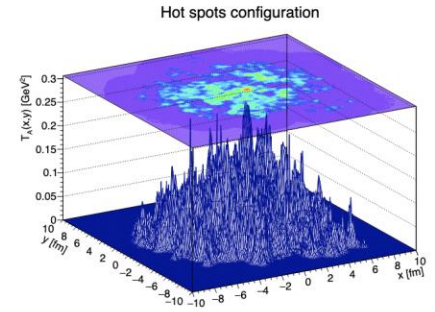
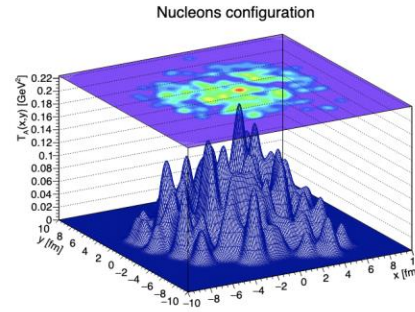
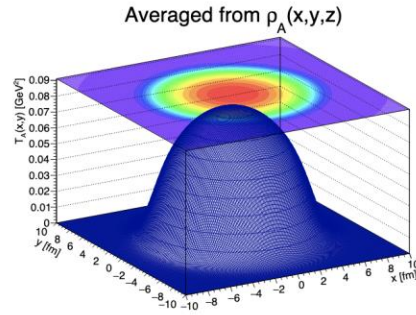
With the neutron-dependent analysis using Run 2 data, down to  $x = 1.1 \times 10^{-5}$ , Run 2

# Transverse profile of the target



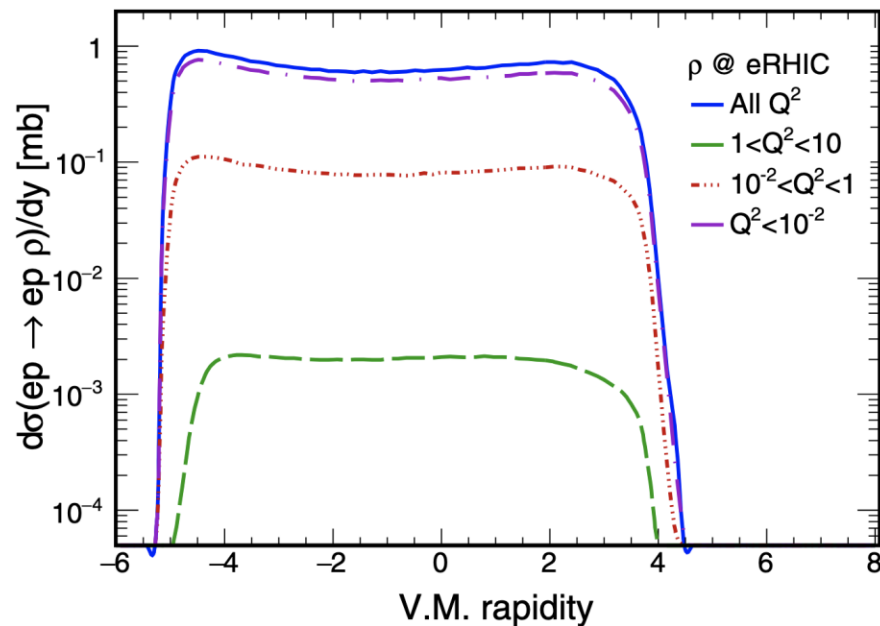
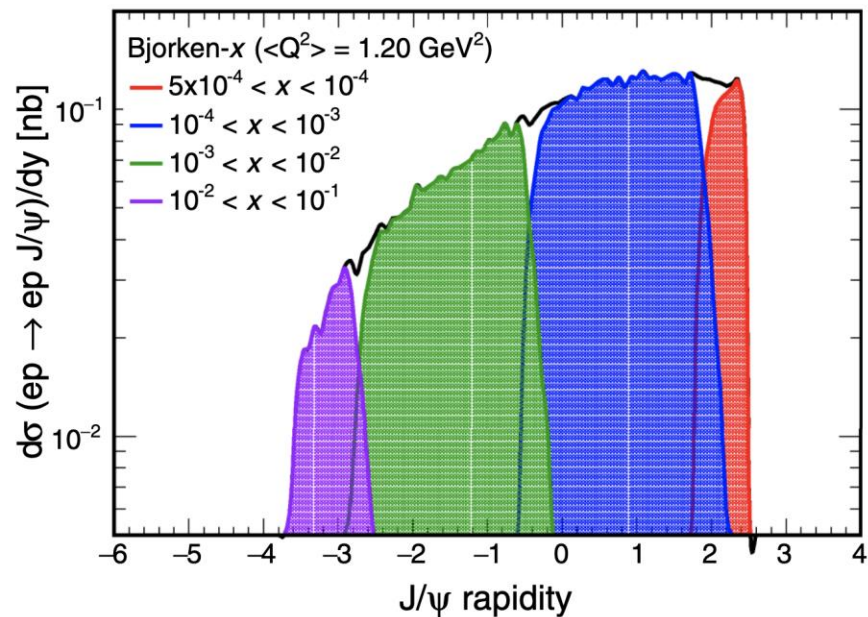
UPCs can probe the transverse profile of the target!

*Appearance and location of diffractive dips can be signatures of gluon saturation*

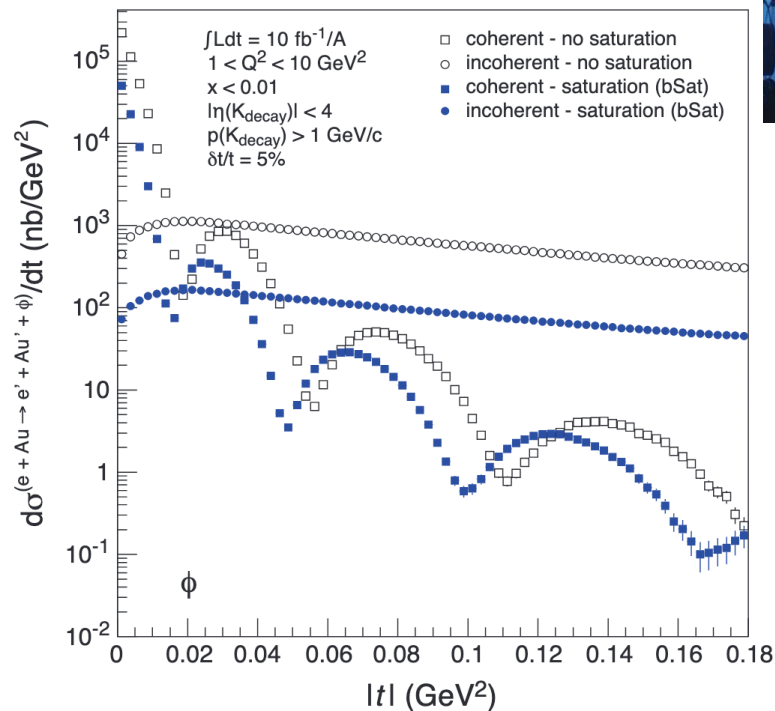
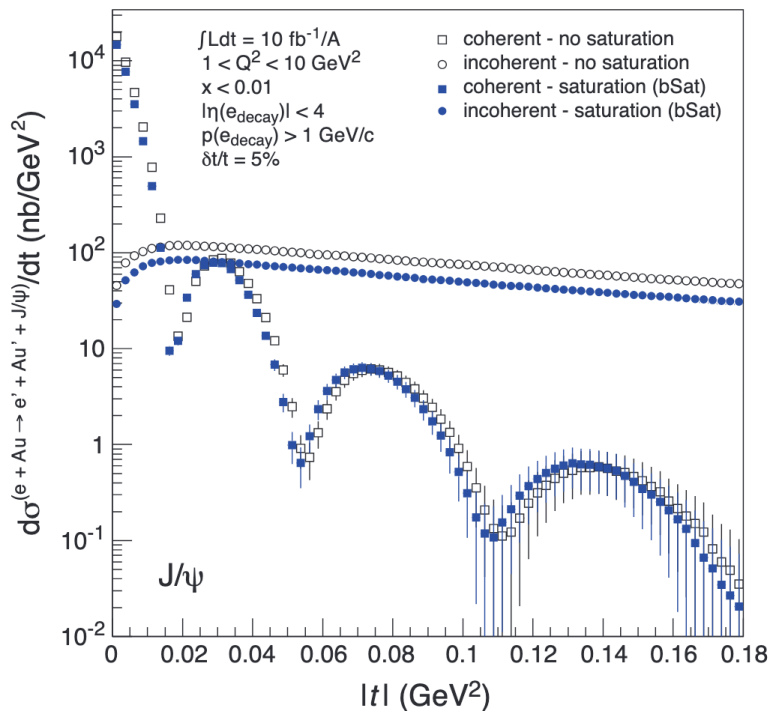
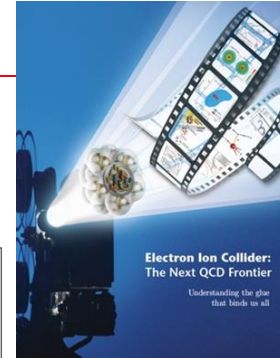


# Exclusive VM at the acceptance

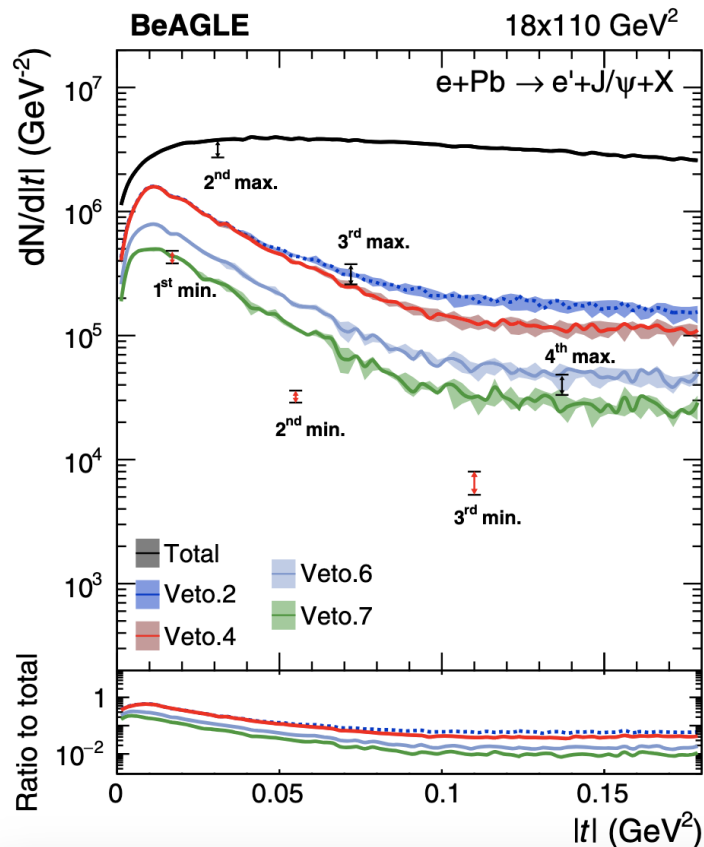
S. Klein and M. Lomnitz  
Phys. Rev. C **99**, 105203 (2019)



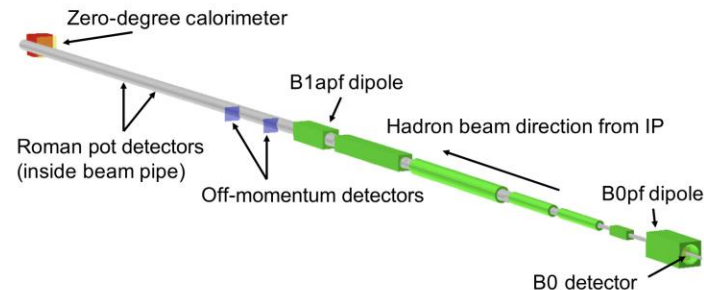
Flipped rapidity convention used



# Coherent $J/\psi$ selection at ePIC, vetoing incoherent production



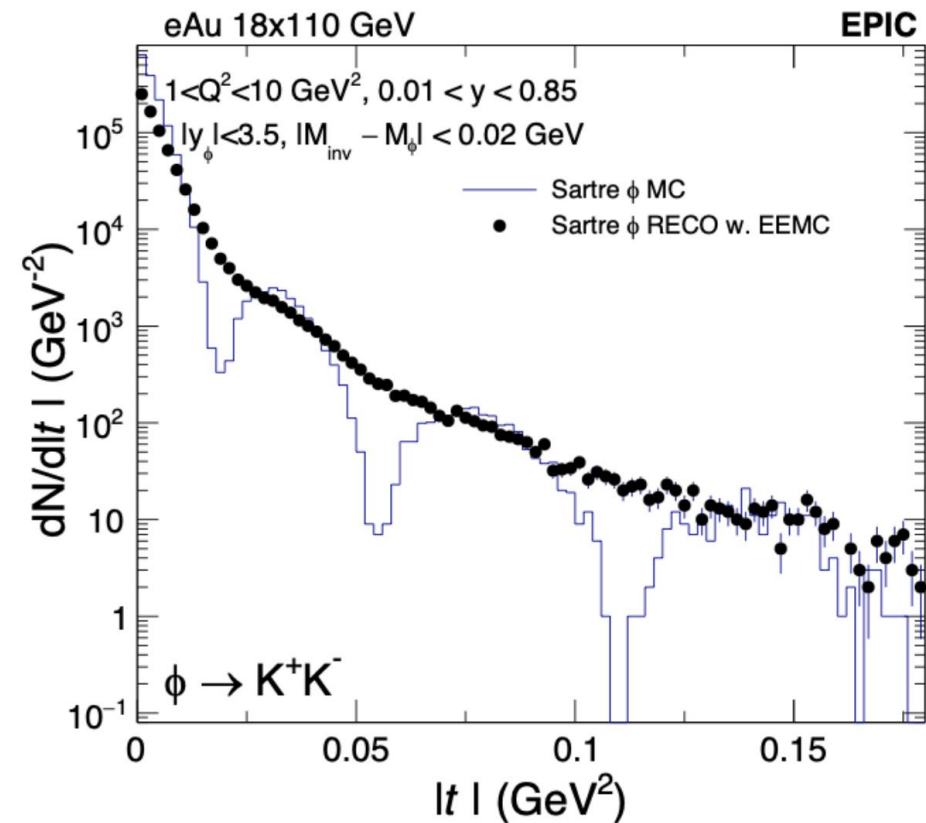
W. Chang *et al.*, Phys. Rev. D **104**, 114030 (2021)



- Veto.1: no activity other than  $e^-$  and  $J/\psi$  in the main detector ( $|\eta| < 4.0$  and  $p_T > 100 \text{ MeV}/c$ ).
- Veto.2: veto.1 and no neutron in ZDC.
- Veto.3: veto.2 and no proton in RP.
- Veto.4: veto.3 and no proton in OMDs.
- Veto.5: veto.4 and no proton in B0.
- Veto.6: veto.5 and no photon in B0.
- Veto.7: veto.6 and no photon with  $E > 50 \text{ MeV}$  in ZDC.

**Forward instrumentation and modeling crucial**

# Coherent $\phi(1020)$ electroproduction

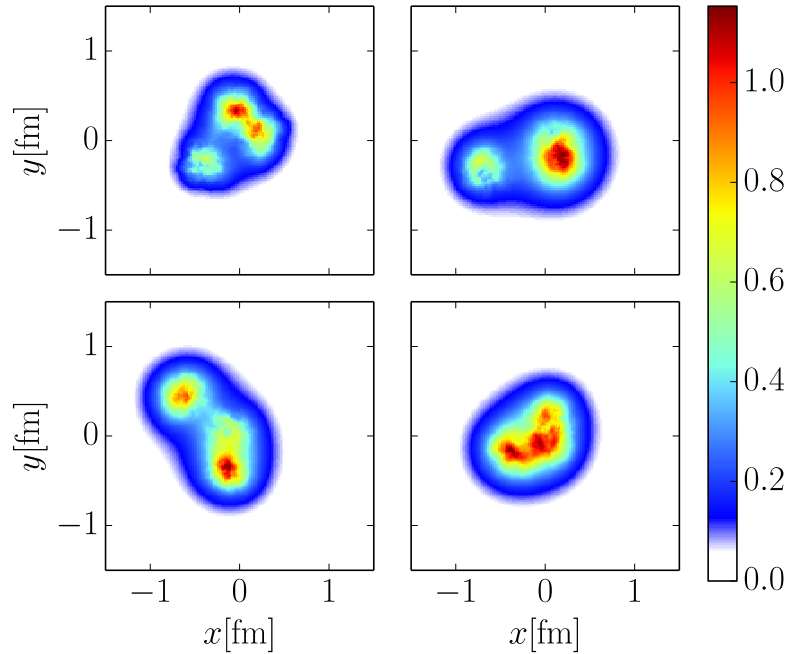


**Sensitivity to gluon saturation**

**FF instrumentation and modeling crucial**

# Incoherent $J/\psi$ and comparison to HERA data

H. Mäntysaari & B. Schenke

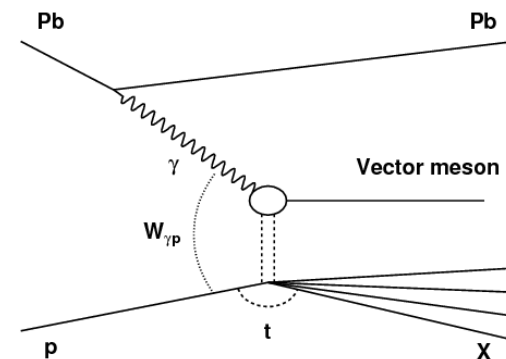
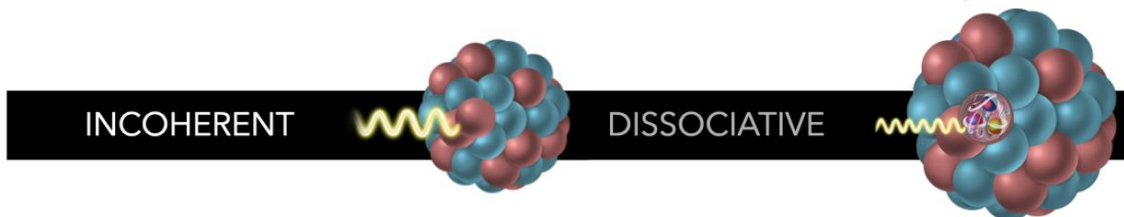


Examples of proton density profiles at  $x \sim 10^{-3}$





$$\left. \frac{d\sigma^{\gamma^*H \rightarrow VH}}{d|t|} \right|_{T,L} = \frac{(R_g^{T,L})^2}{16\pi} |\langle \mathcal{A}_{T,L} \rangle|^2$$

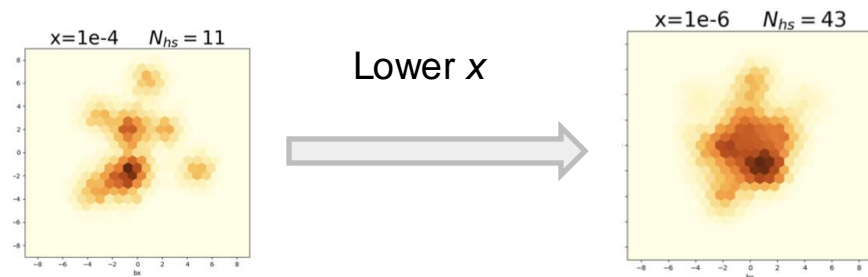
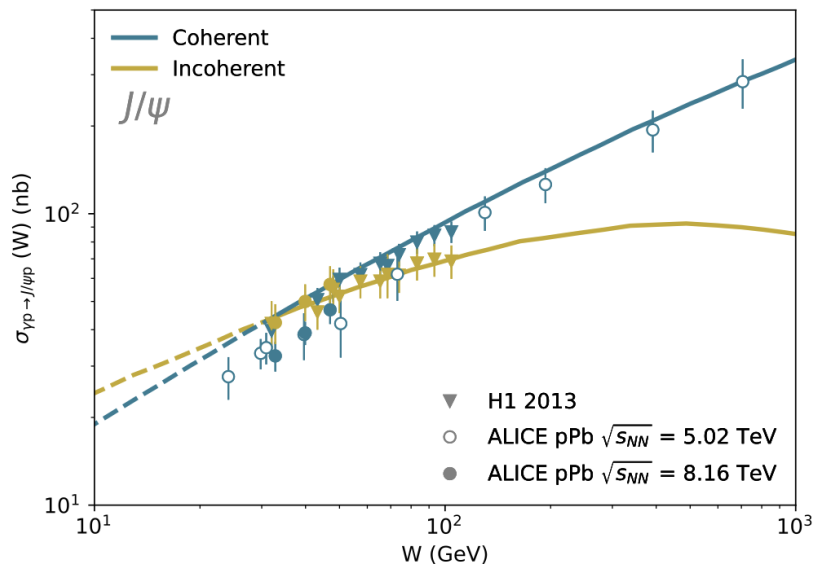


*J. Cepila, G. Contreras and DTT Phys. Lett. B 766 (2017) 186-191*

In the hot spot model, the increase in gluon distribution with decreasing Bjorken- $x$  is described by the energy-dependent evolution of the number of hot spots

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma^{\gamma^*p \rightarrow VY}}{d|t|} \right|_{T,L} = \frac{(R_g^{T,L})^2}{16\pi} (|\langle \mathcal{A}_{T,L} \rangle|^2 - |\langle \mathcal{A}_{T,L} \rangle|^2)$$

*Phys. Lett. B* 852 (2024) 138613



$$\left. \frac{d\sigma^{\gamma^* p \rightarrow VY}}{d|t|} \right|_{T,L} = \frac{(R_g^{T,L})^2}{16\pi} (\langle |\mathcal{A}_{T,L}|^2 \rangle - |\langle \mathcal{A}_{T,L} \rangle|^2)$$

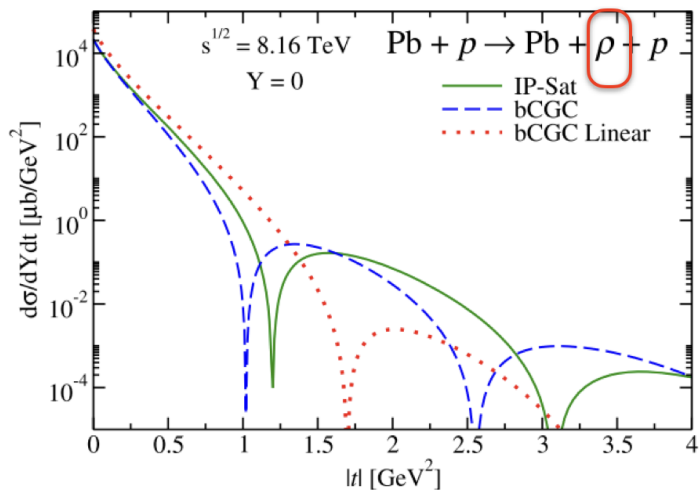
In the hot spot model, the increase of large hot spots within the proton reaches a point of significant overlap, and the resulting uniformity reduces both the variance and the dissociative cross section

*Phys. Lett. B* 766 (2017) 186-191

# Transverse profile of the target

V. Goncalves, et al.  
Phys. Lett. B791 (2019) 299-304

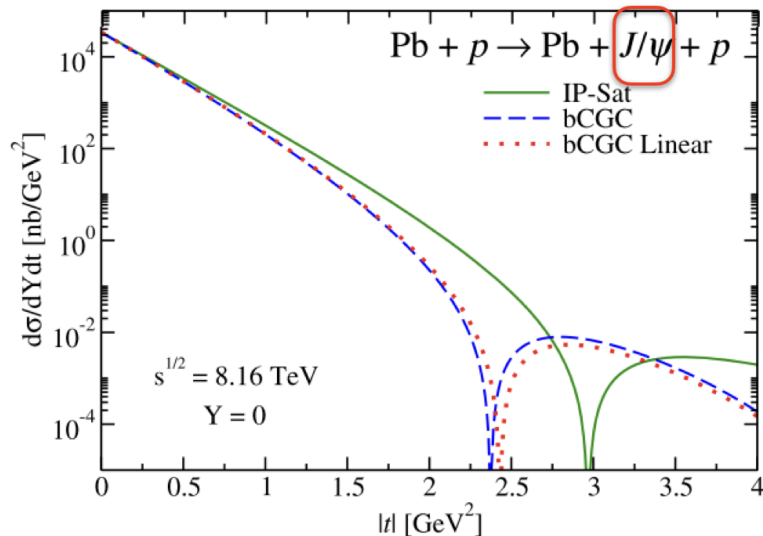
## Signature of gluon saturation



*Study of  $\rho^0$  is very promising  
since diffractive dips  
expected at lower  $t$  values*

**Location of the Diffractive dips:  
Different for IP-Sat and bCGC**

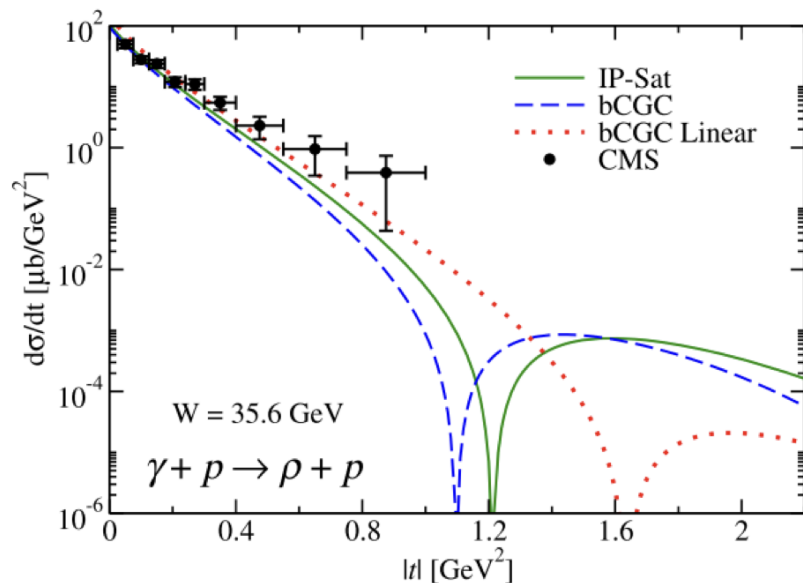
**Energy dependence of the  
 $t$ -distribution: onset of gluon saturation**



# t-dependence measurement of UPC $\rho^0$

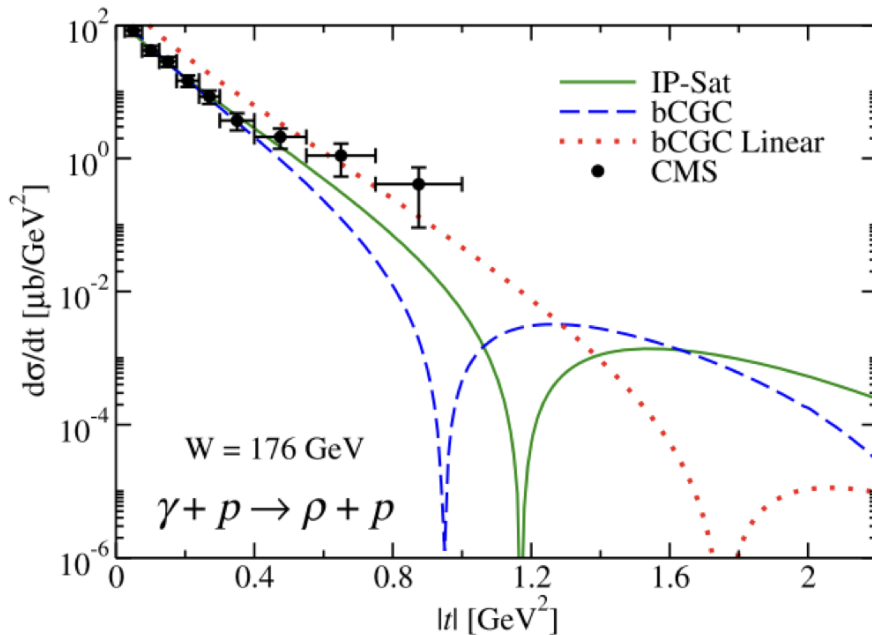
V. Goncalves, et al.  
Phys. Lett. B791 (2019) 299-304

## 36 GeV



Similar studies could also be done for Pb targets, but energies are lower and also challenging in UPCs

## 176 GeV

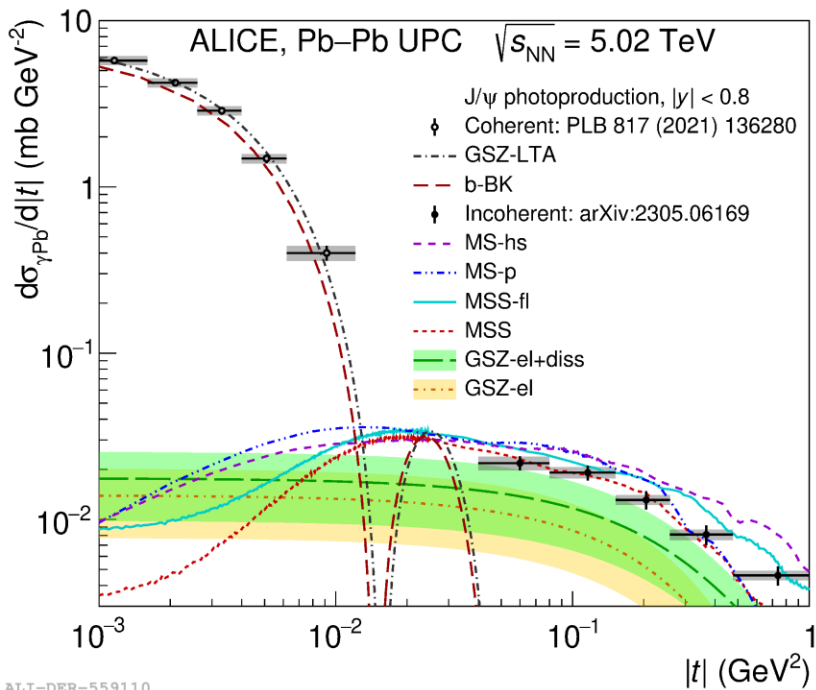
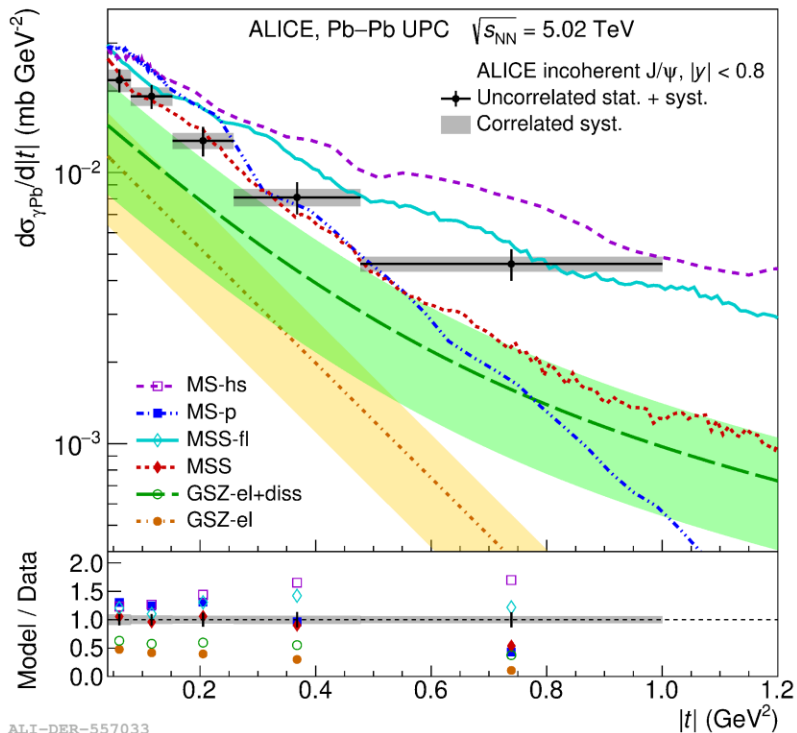


# t-dependence of coherent and incoherent $J/\psi$ in UPC Pb-Pb

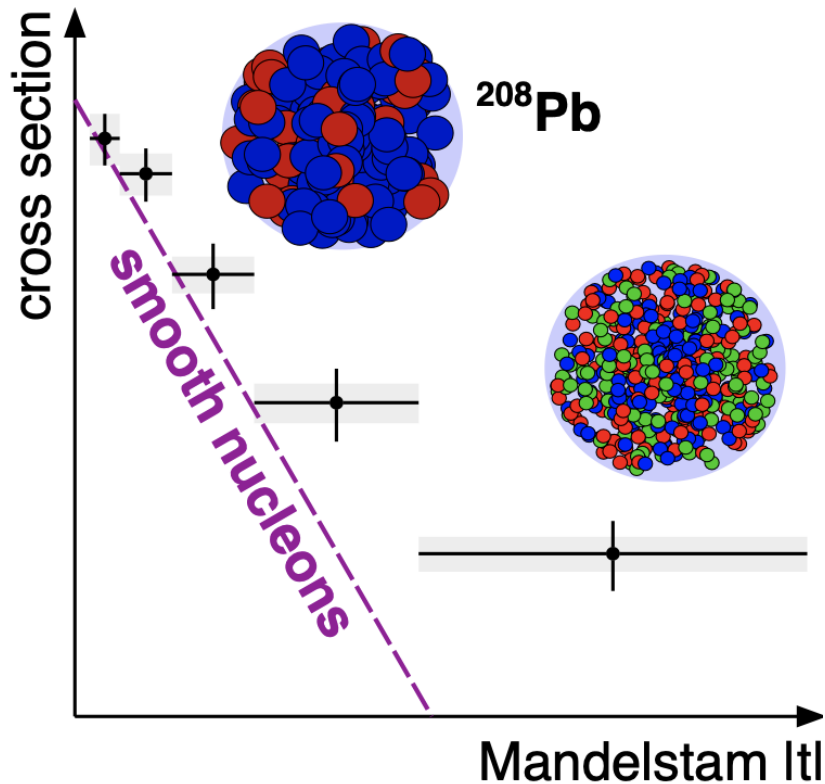
First measurement of the  $|t|$ -dependence of incoherent  $J/\psi$  photonuclear production

*Phys.Rev.Lett.* 132 (2024) 16, 162302

Probing for gluonic "hot spots" in Pb using UPCs for the first time!



# t-dependence of incoherent $J/\psi$ in UPC Pb-Pb

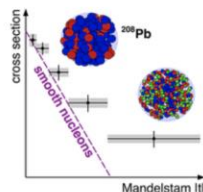


Editors' Suggestion

## First Measurement of the $|t|$ Dependence of Incoherent $J/\psi$ Photonuclear Production

S. Acharya *et al.* (ALICE Collaboration)

Phys. Rev. Lett. **132**, 162302 (2024) – Published 19 April 2024

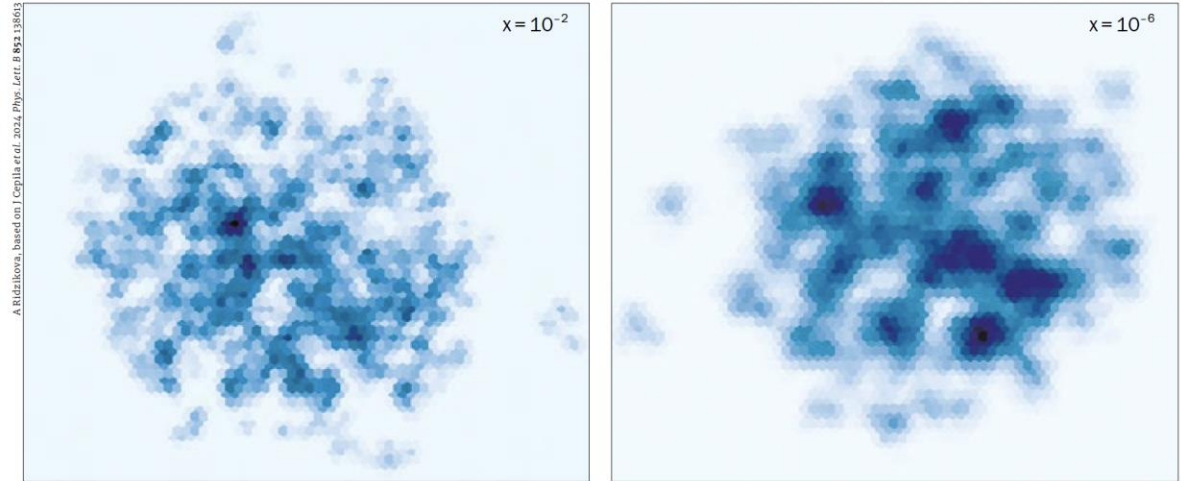
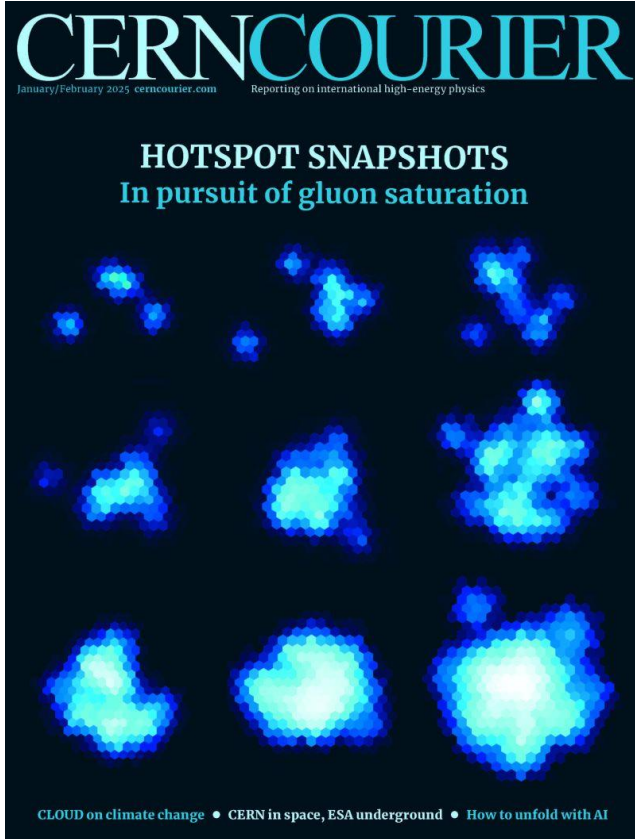


The first experimental measurement of the incoherent photonuclear production of  $J/\psi$  in ultraperipheral heavy-ion collisions is better explained by the presence of subnuclear quantum fluctuations of the gluon field.

[Show Abstract +](#)

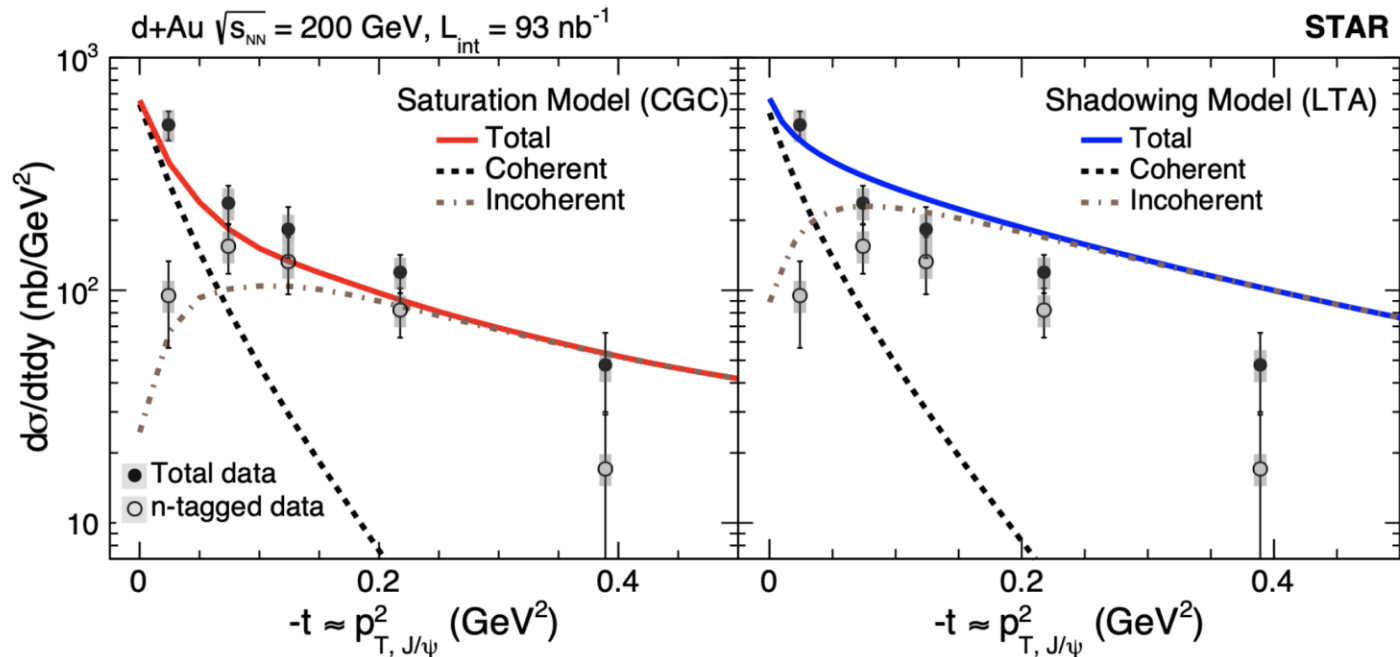
# Gluonic hot spots

J. Cepila et al. 2024 Phys. Lett. B 852 138613



**Hotspot snapshots** Simulations of the transverse density of gluons in lead nuclei at Bjorken  $x$  of  $10^{-2}$  (left) and  $10^{-6}$  (right). The distributions are 10 times broader than for protons and span almost 15 fm. The number of gluonic hotspots increases from 1,400 to 12,000 as  $x$  drops by a factor of 10,000, from left to right.

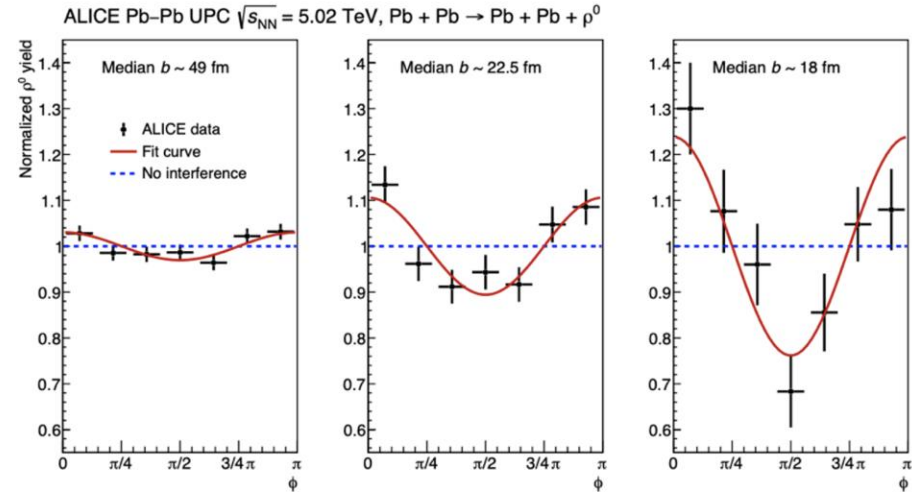
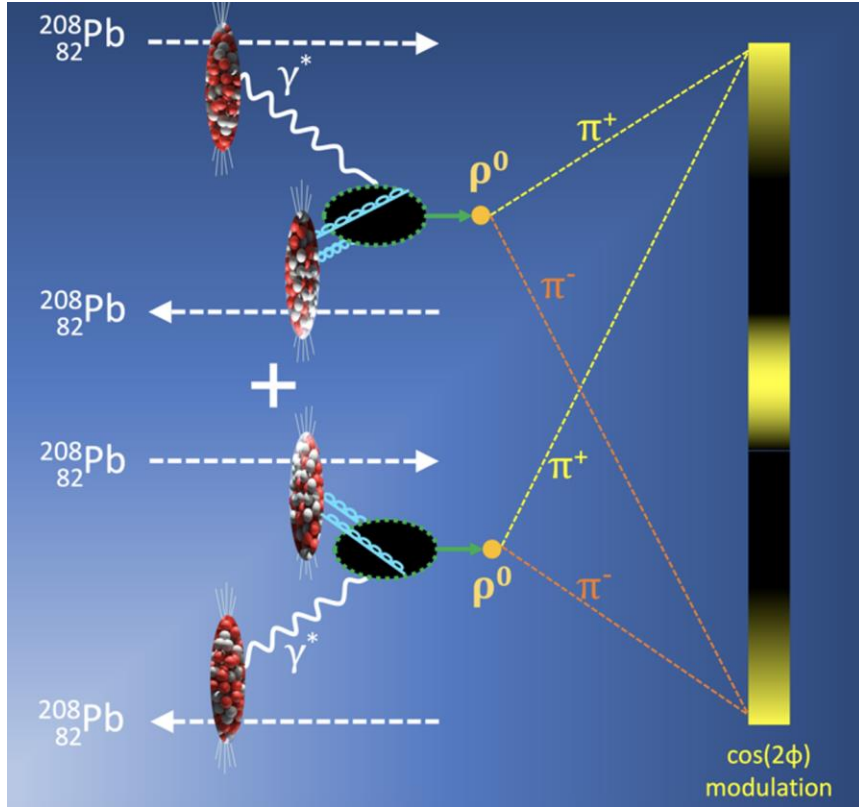
# Incoherent $J/\psi$ in UPC d+Au



As expected, no additional component expected at lower energies with limited luminosities.  
At the EIC the high high luminosities is very promising



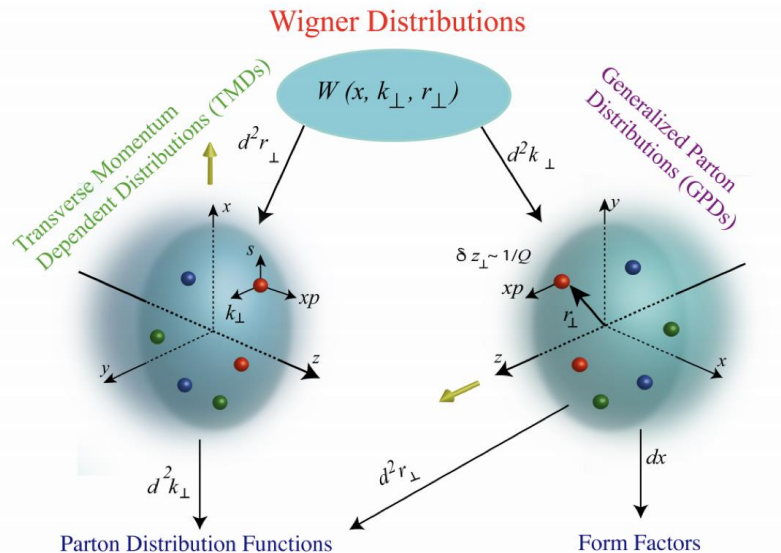
# A femtometer scale double-slit experiment



STAR has an active program here.

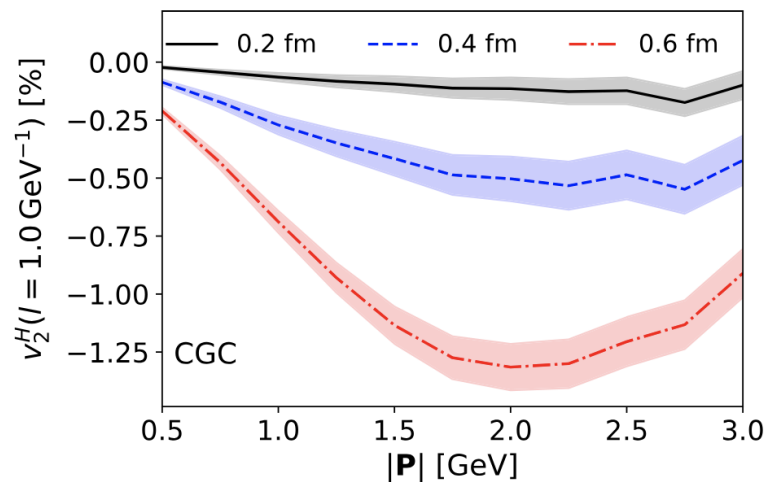
In ALICE, first measurement in terms of impact parameter dependence

# Diffractive dijets

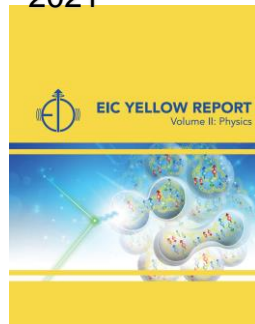


H. Mantysaari, N. Mueller, B. Schenke  
 Phys. Rev. D 99 (7) (2019) 074004

Original idea the effect was a percent level. Several theory groups studied it



2021



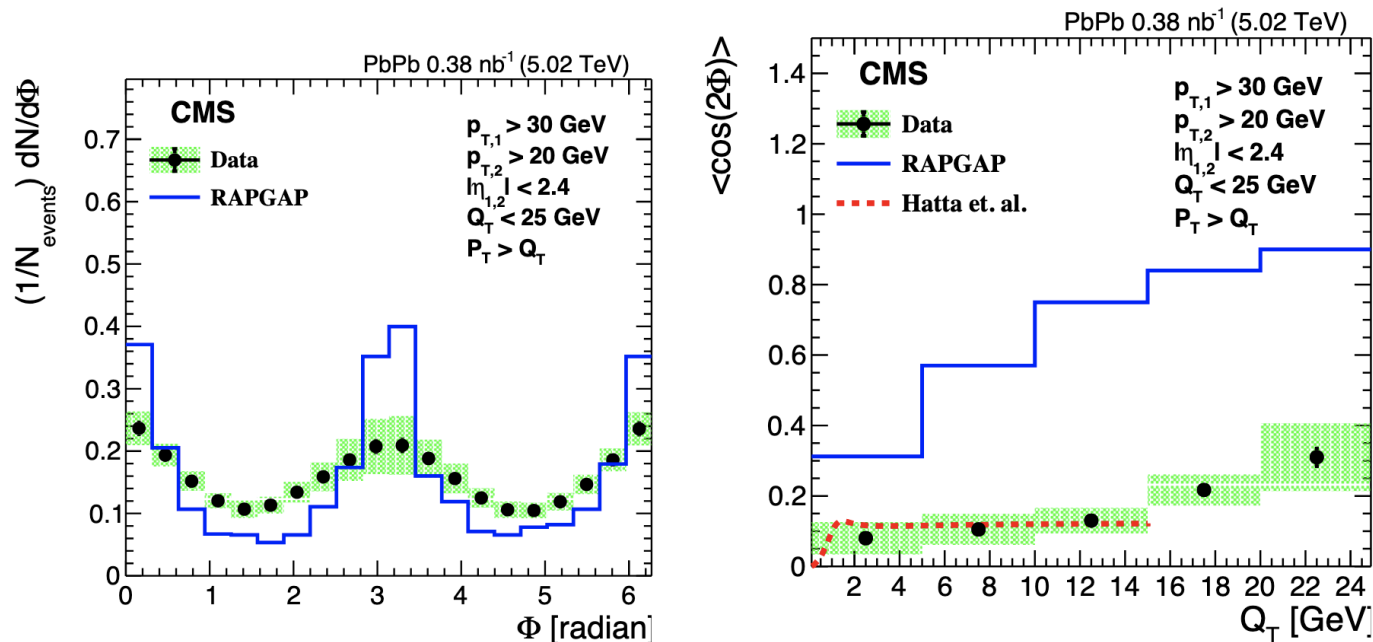
# Azimuthal correlations of exclusive dijets

Another example of synergies with EIC,  
testing and strengthening the science opportunities

Several new theory ideas for the EIC resulted from this  
work

*CMS Collaboration*

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 131 (2023) 5, 051901



# Summary

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- The UPC program and the EIC have strong synergies, offering complementary insights into fundamental physics.
- While UPCs probe the energy frontier, the EIC focuses on the luminosity and precision frontier.
- Existing synergies between the two programs demonstrate mutual benefits, with improved modeling, playing a crucial role in refining high-luminosity EIC measurements.
- These connections are also valuable for shaping discussions on the early science goals of the EIC.
- Additionally, a "multi-messenger program" may be necessary to fully explore certain observables.

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Thanks!

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# Run 3 data analysis: Inelastic $\gamma$ +Pb $\rightarrow$ X events

## Experimental signatures for inelastic photonuclear interactions:

1) There is a rapidity gap on the side of the photon-emitting nucleus  $\rightarrow$  main experimental signature

2) The photon energy  $\ll$  beam energy  $\rightarrow$  particle production is shifted in rapidity to the side of the target nucleus

Phys. Rev C 66 (2002) 044906

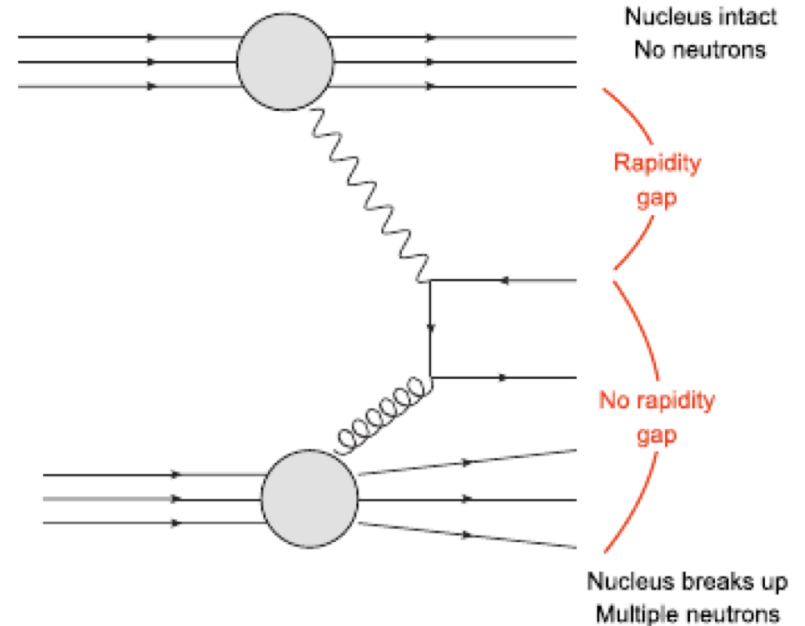
Total cross sections in Pb+Pb @  $\sqrt{s} = 5.5$  TeV

$$\sigma(\text{Pb+Pb} \rightarrow \text{Pb+ccbar+X}) = 2b$$

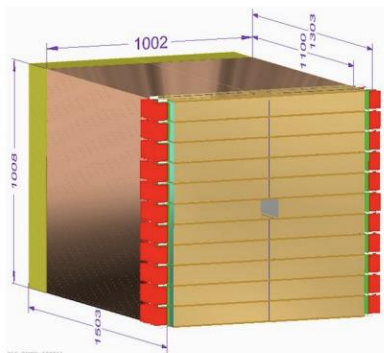
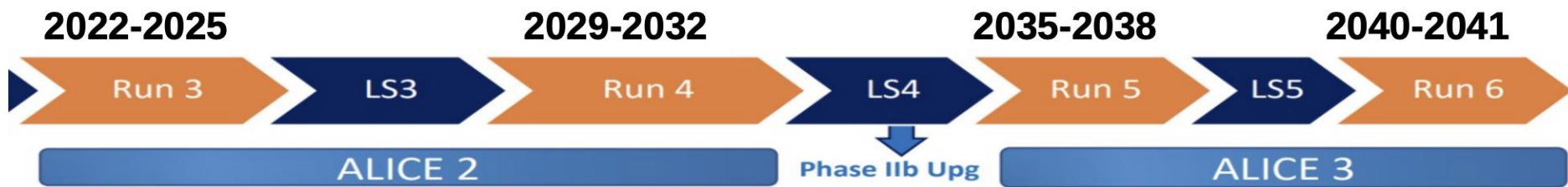
$$\sigma(\text{Pb+Pb} \rightarrow \text{Pb} + \text{bbbar} + \text{X}) = 830 \mu\text{b}$$

Direct production: a bare photon interacts with a parton in the target

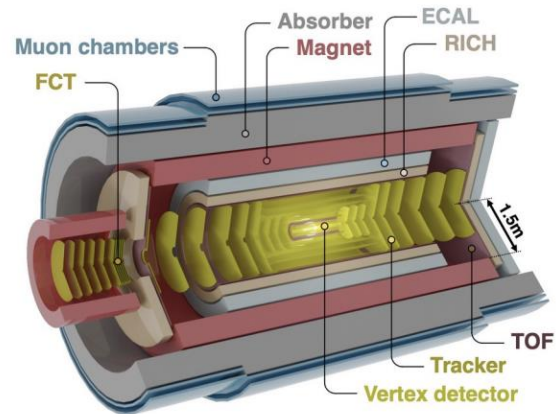
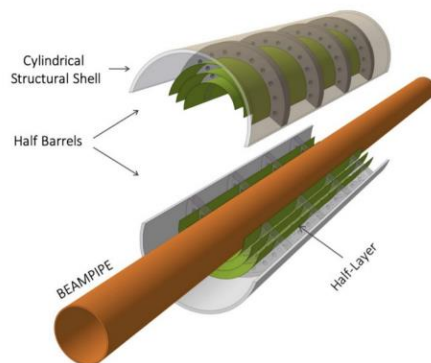
Resolved production: the photon fluctuates to vector meson which interacts inelastically with the target



# CERN LHC and ALICE timeline



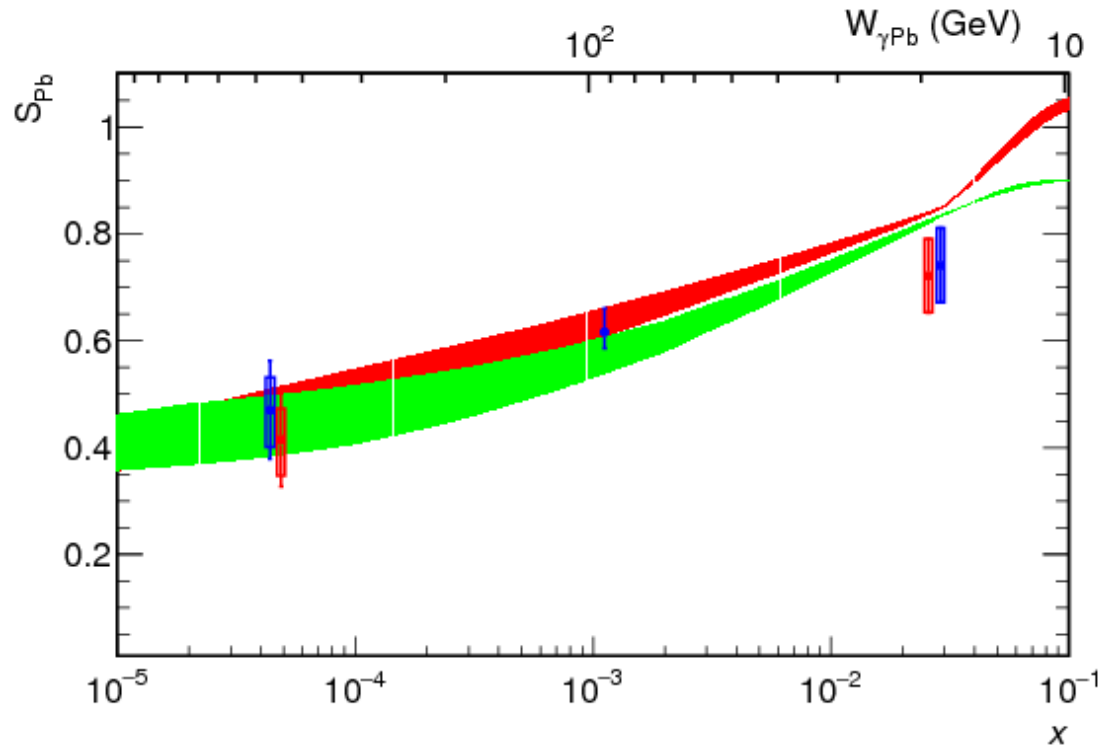
FoCal and ITS3



ALICE3

# Nuclear suppression factor for peripheral (not UPC) J/ψ

J.G. Contreras, *Phys. Rev. C* 96 (2017) 1, 015203



Run 1 data from ALICE observed Coherent-like J/ψ from peripheral hadronic PbPb events. Process later confirmed by STAR

The photon flux depends on the impact parameter, these peripheral J/ψ explore  $\gamma P$  energies beyond coherent J/ψ at the same  $y$  interval at the same cms energy

Sensitivity to  $x \sim 10^{-5}$