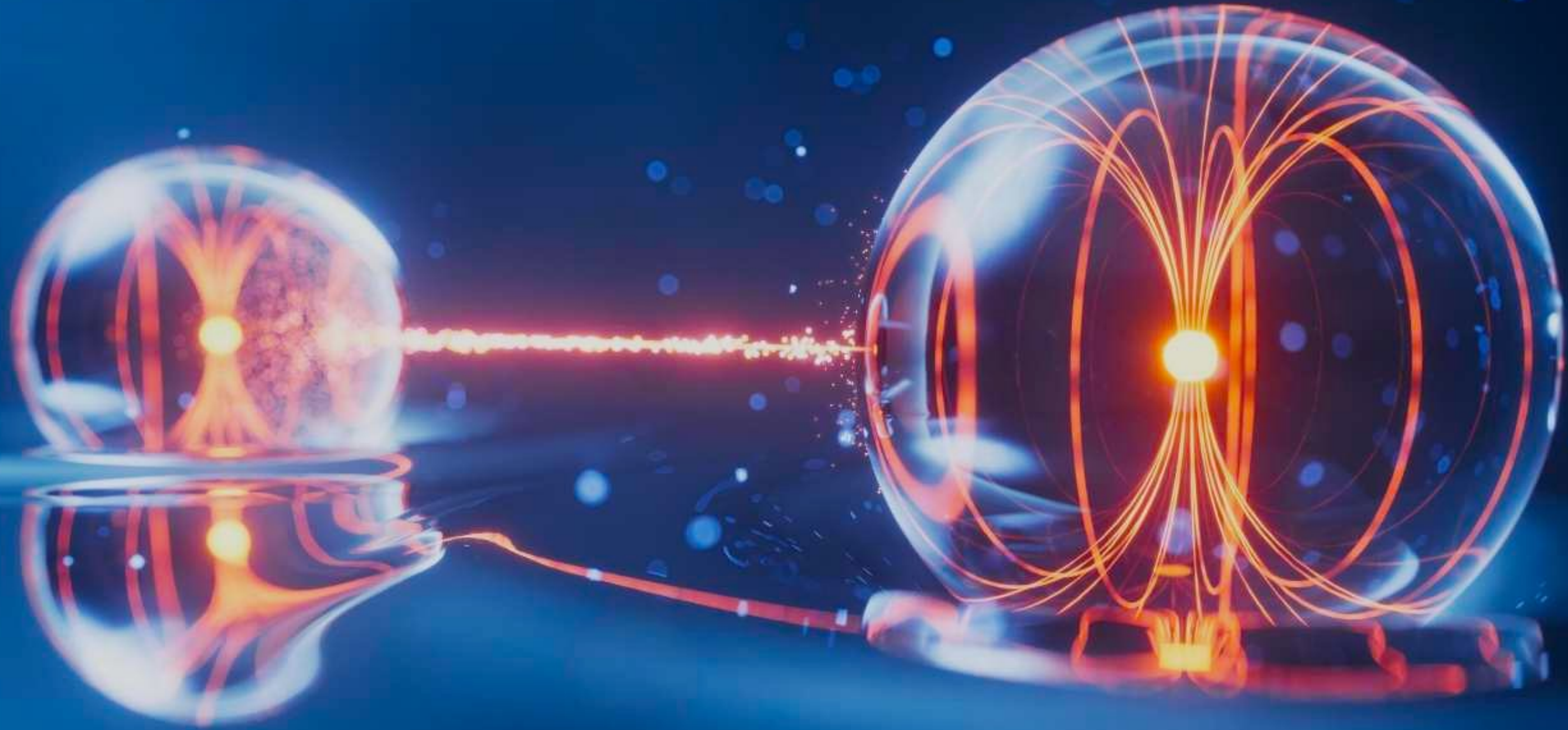
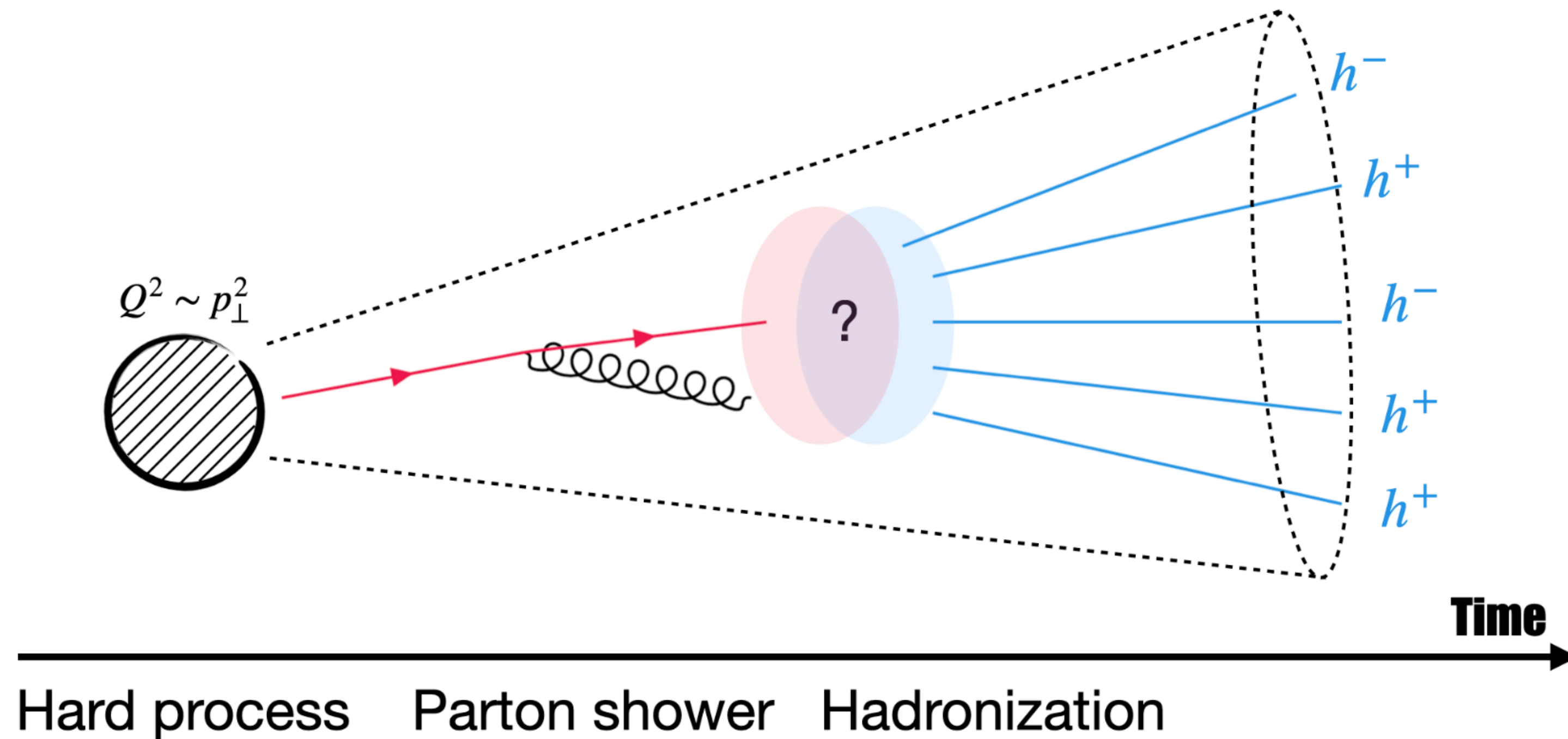


Entanglement as a Probe of Hadronization



Jets Probe QCD Dynamics Across Multiple Time Scales



- Hard process in ep or pp collisions: $Q^2 \sim p_{\perp}^2$
- Jet evolution from parton shower to hadronization
- Observable: **hadron multiplicity distribution** $P(N)$

Jet Production in Proton-Proton Collisions

$$\frac{d\sigma_{pp \rightarrow (h, jet) + X}}{dp_{\perp}^{jet} d\eta^{jet} dz} = \sum_{i,j,k} \mathcal{H}_{ij \rightarrow k} \otimes f_i \otimes f_j \otimes D_k^h(z)$$

- Quark- or gluon-initiated jet from gg , qq or qg
- The hadron's momentum fraction within a jet: $z = p_{\perp}^i / p_{\perp}^{jet}$
- Fragmentation Functions (FFs) are universal and non-perturbative

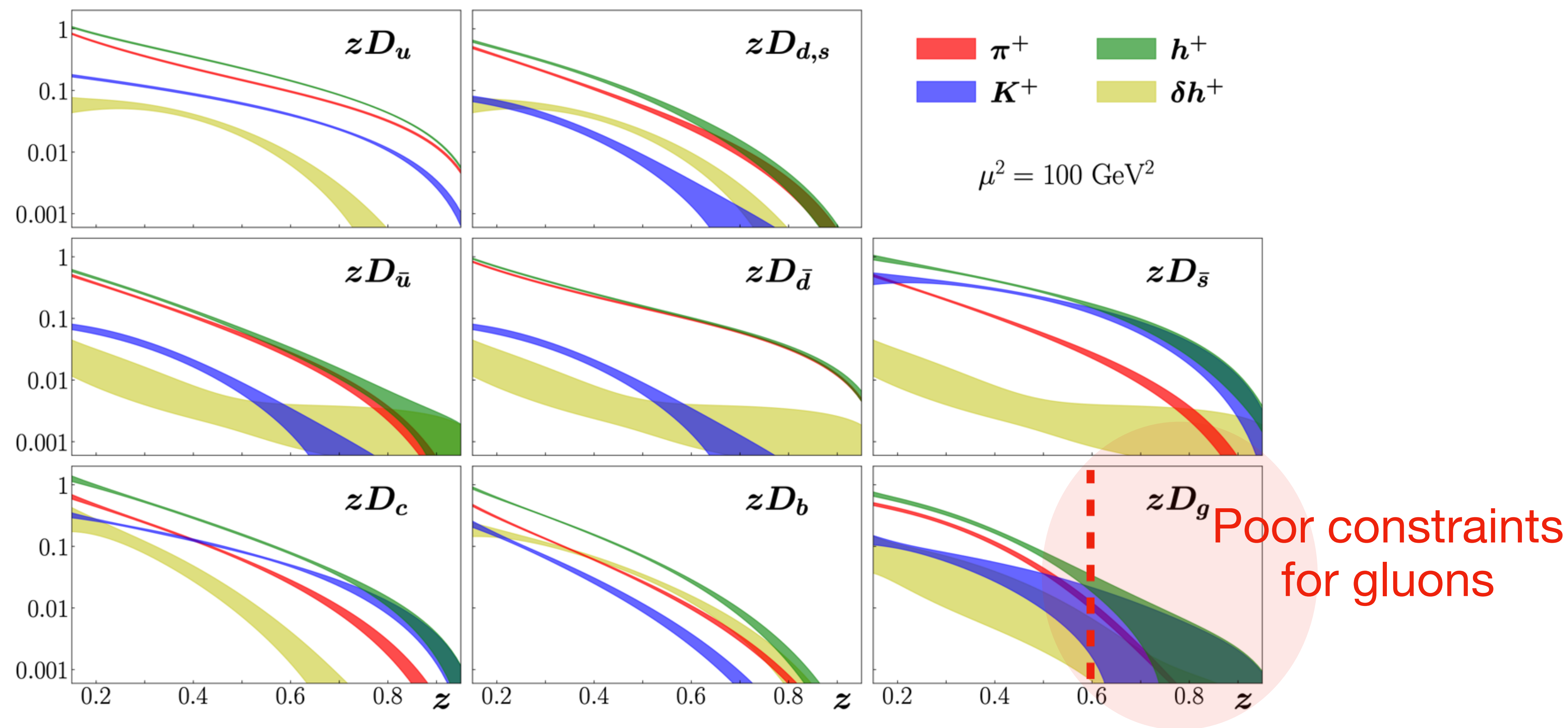
FFs are extracted using a global QCD fit

Fragmentation Functions

JAM and NNFF use different methods / datasets to extract FFs

- **NNFF** : Neural network–based fitting
 - ⇒ using Single Inclusive Annihilation (SIA) and LHC data
- **JAM** : Parametrization with genetic algorithm optimization
 - ⇒ using SIA and SIDIS data

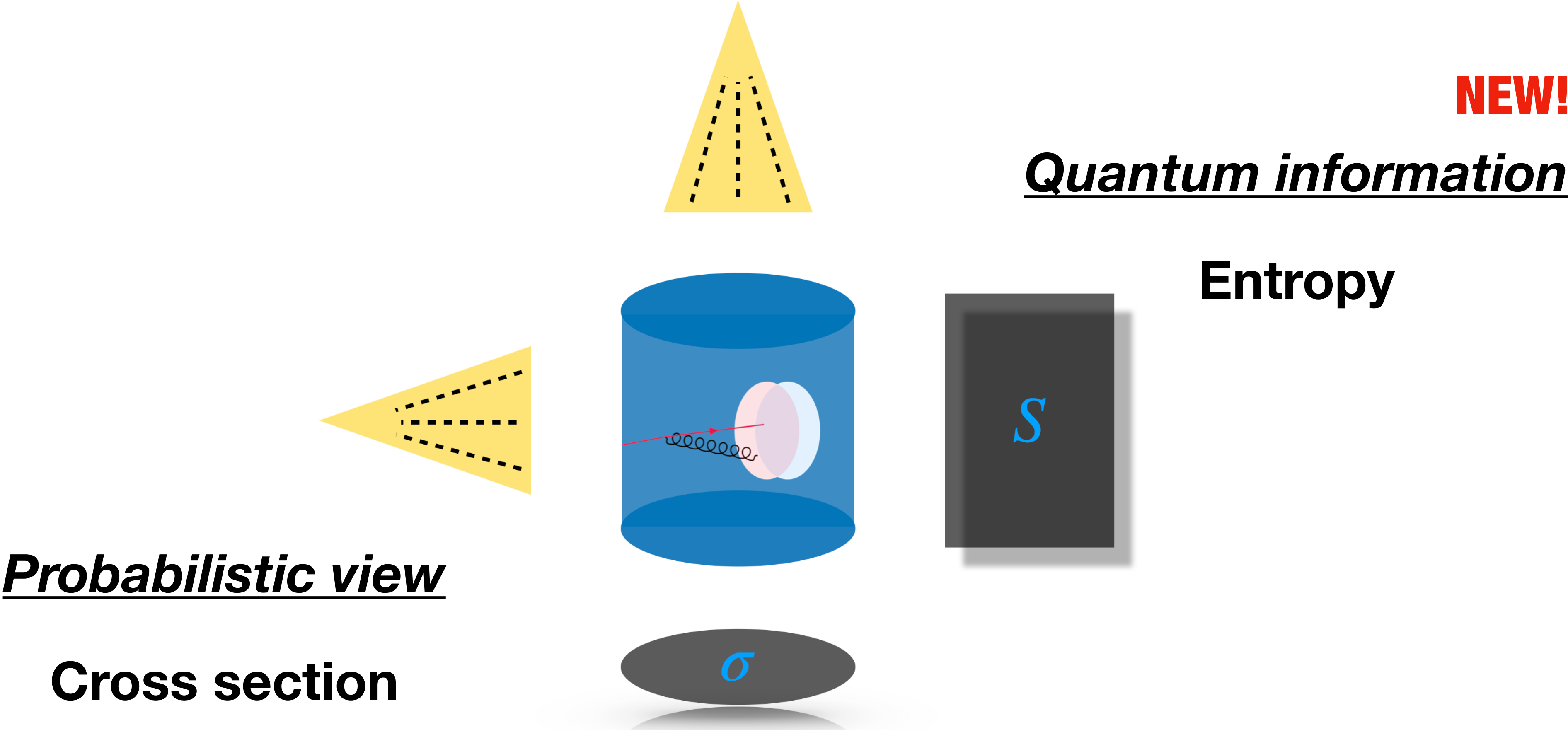
Fragmentation Functions: JAM



- FF of the sum of hadrons are available

Hadronization in the Spotlight

Can we describe the same phenomenon from different perspectives?



Entanglement Principle

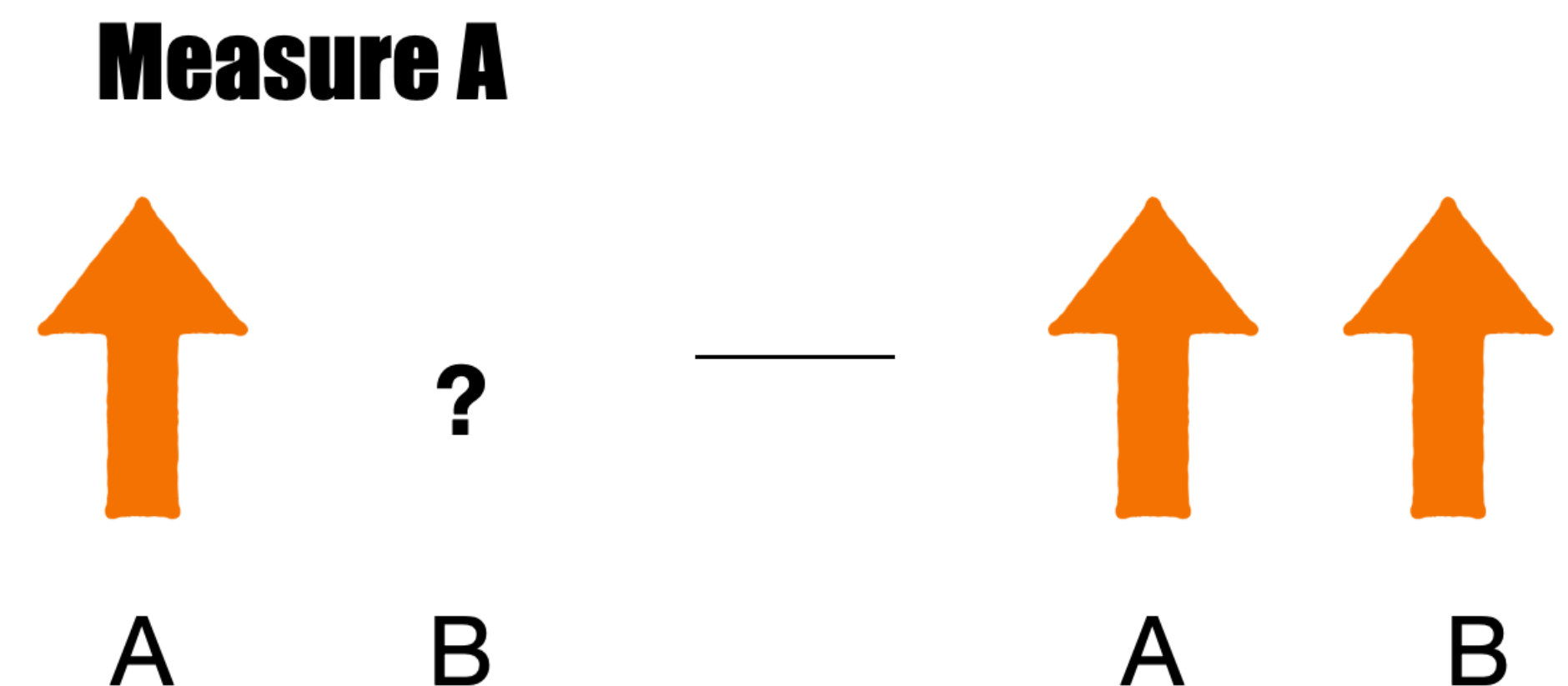
Entanglement is a key feature of quantum mechanics
It represents **non-local correlations** between **subsystems**

- A pure state $|\psi\rangle$ of a bipartite system $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B}$ is entangled if it **cannot** be written as a tensor product:

$$|\psi\rangle \neq |\phi_a\rangle \otimes |\chi_b\rangle$$

- Example: Bell state**

$$|\Phi^+\rangle = (1/\sqrt{2}) (|00\rangle + |11\rangle)$$



Maximum Entanglement Principle

The most entangled states maximize the entanglement entropy

- **Von Neumann entropy** for a bipartite state:

$$S_A = -\text{Tr}(\rho_A \log \rho_A), \quad \rho_A = \text{Tr}_B(|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|)$$

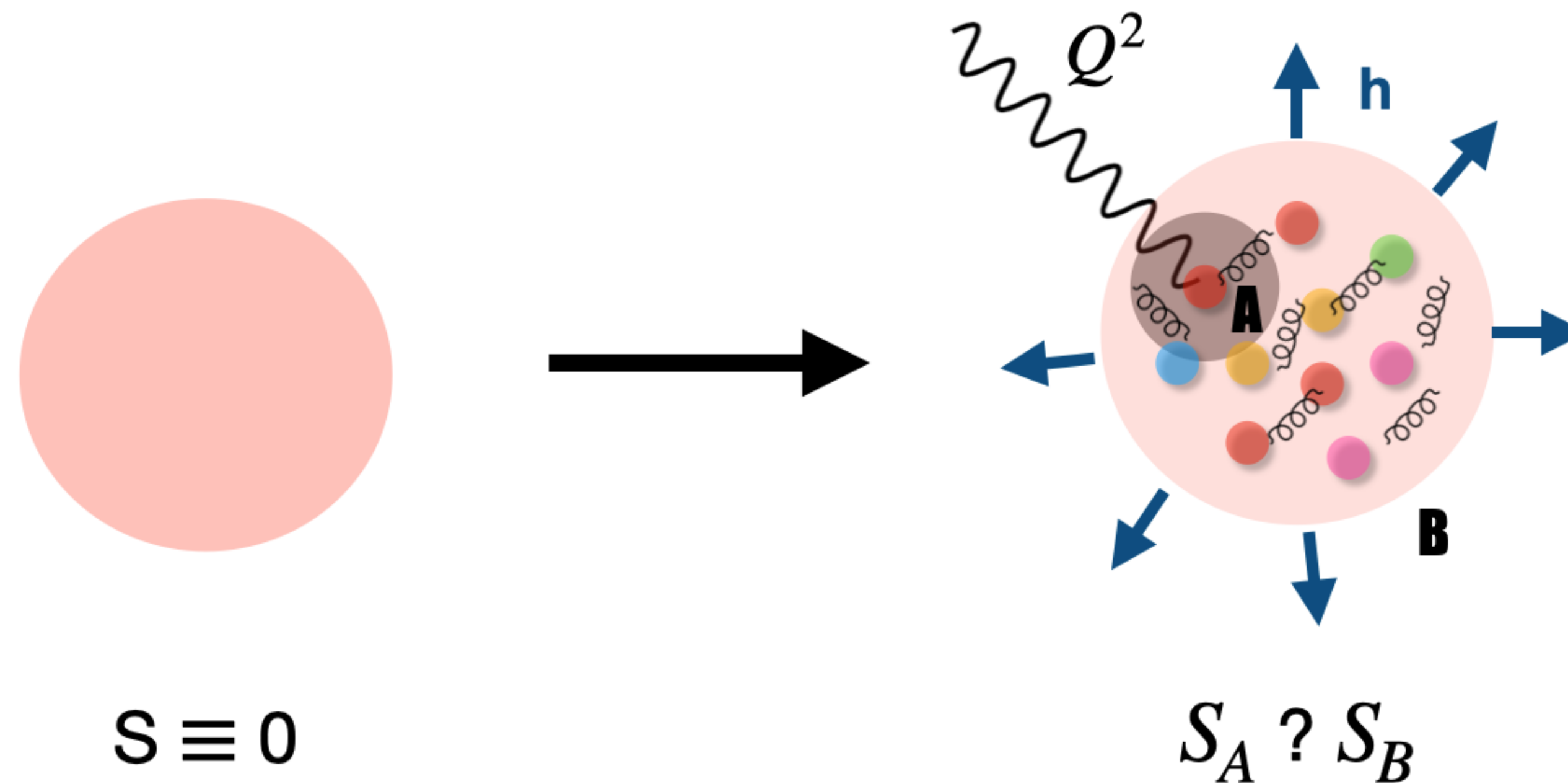
- **Bell state entropy:**

$$\rho_A = \frac{1}{2}I \Rightarrow S_A = \log 2$$

Strong condition for maximum entanglement: $S_A = S_B$

Recent Developments in High-Energy Collisions

Deep-Inelastic Scattering (DIS) : $ep \rightarrow e + h^\pm + X$



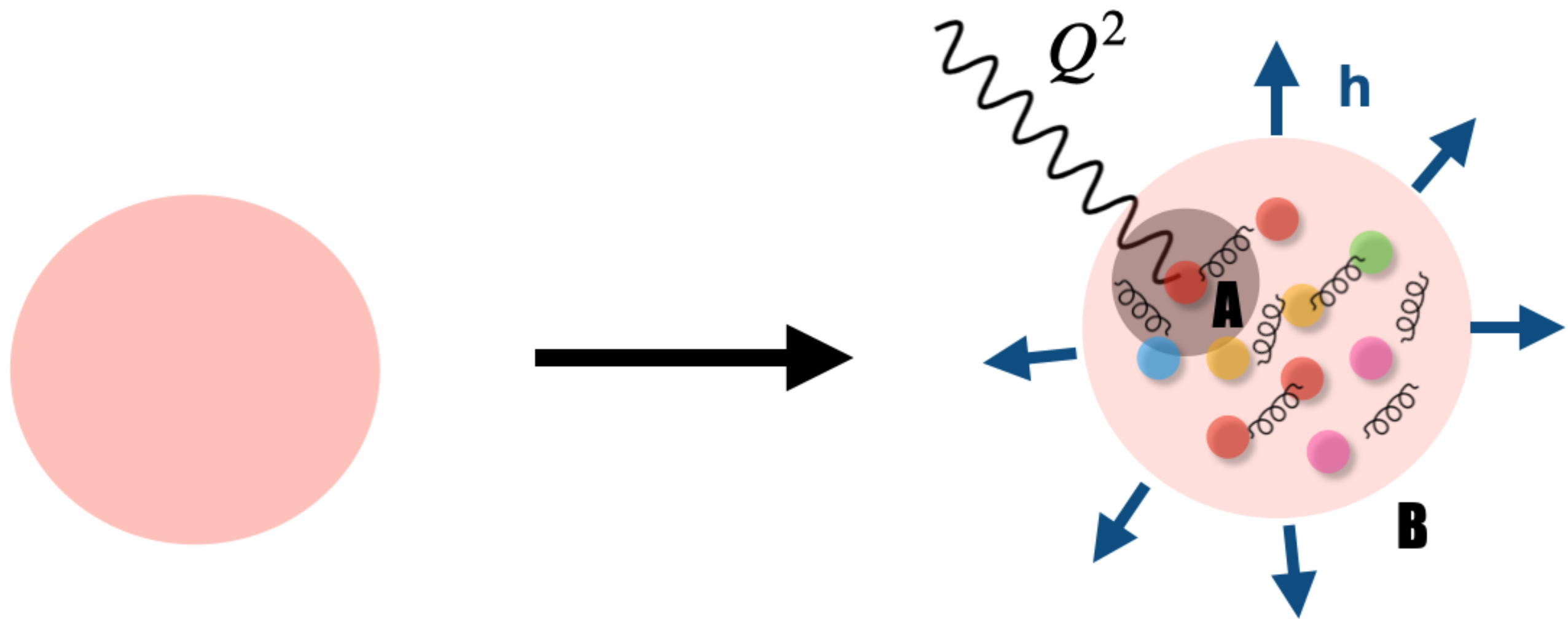
- Entanglement entropy relations: $S_A \sim \log [xG(x)]$; $S_B = - \sum P(N) \log P(N)$

Recent Developments in High-Energy Collisions

Deep-Inelastic Scattering (DIS) : $ep \rightarrow e + h^\pm + X$

Multiplicity of hadrons

$$S_B = - \sum P(N) \log P(N)$$



$$S \equiv 0$$

$$S_A \sim \log [xG(x)]$$

Maximum entanglement condition : $S_A = S_B$

First demonstration of maximum entanglement experimentally

Recent studies

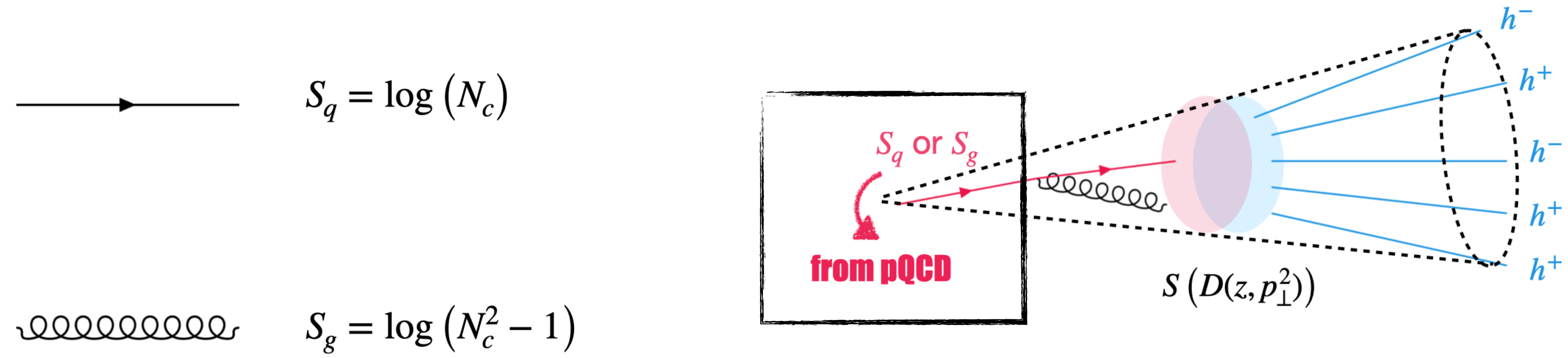
Kharzeev & Levin: [1702.03489](#)

Tu, Kharzeev & Ullrich: [1904.11974](#)

Hentschinski, Kharzeev, Kutak & Tu
[2305.03069](#), [2408.01259](#)

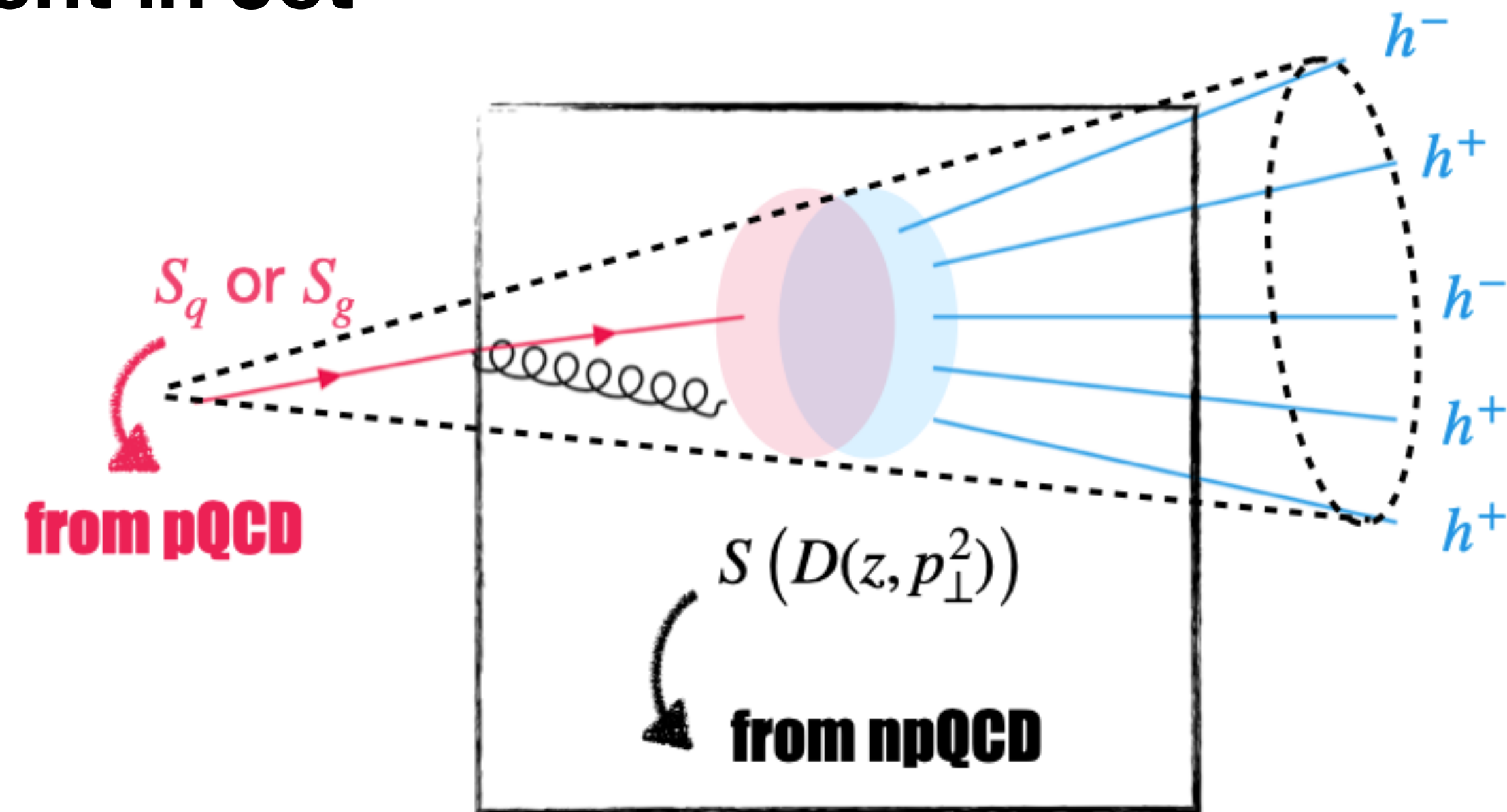
Maximum Entanglement in Jet

- Jet initiated by an entangled quark/gluon pair
- A jet is not a pure quantum state



Gluon jets have higher maximal entanglement entropy than quark jets

Maximum Entanglement in Jet



- Derived from **maximal entanglement in the proton**: $S_A \sim \log [xG(x, Q^2)]$
- By crossing symmetry, **applies to fragmentation**: $S_A \sim \log [D(z, p_\perp^2)]$

Crossing symmetry: relates PDFs and FFs, e.g., $f_{i/p}(x) \longleftrightarrow D_{j/h}(z)$

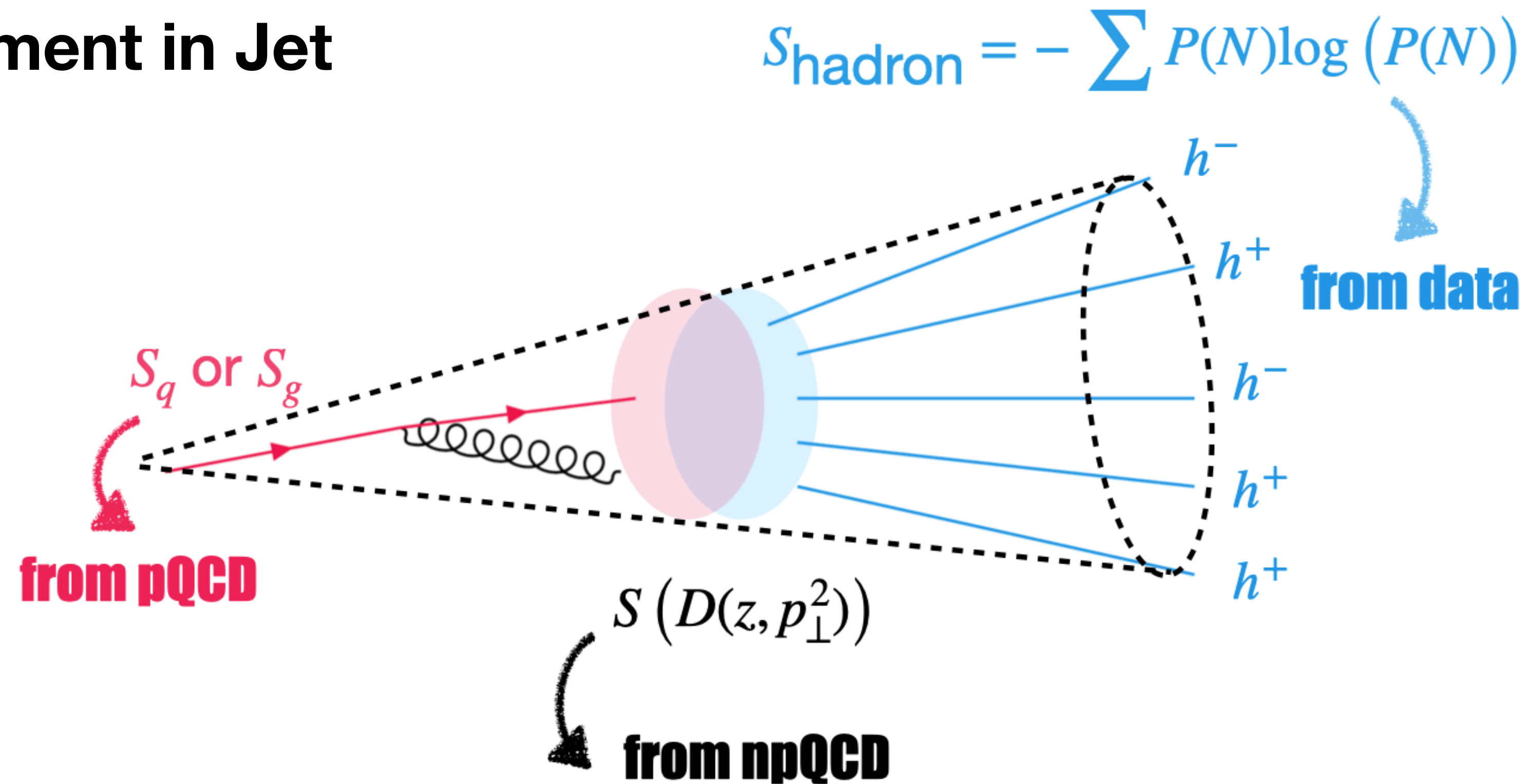
Maximum Entanglement in Jet

The model:

$$S_{FF} = S_{q/g} + \log \left[\int_{z_{min}(p_{\perp}^{jet})}^1 D(z, p_{\perp}^h) dz \right]$$

- The **entanglement entropy of the partonic jet**, $S_{q/g}$
⇒ which depends on the **quark or gluon origin**
- The integral represents the FF: **parton-to-hadron transition**
⇒ from JAM and NNPDF
- The lower limit z_{min} depends on the jet's transverse momentum
⇒ ensuring **only relevant fragmentation processes are included**

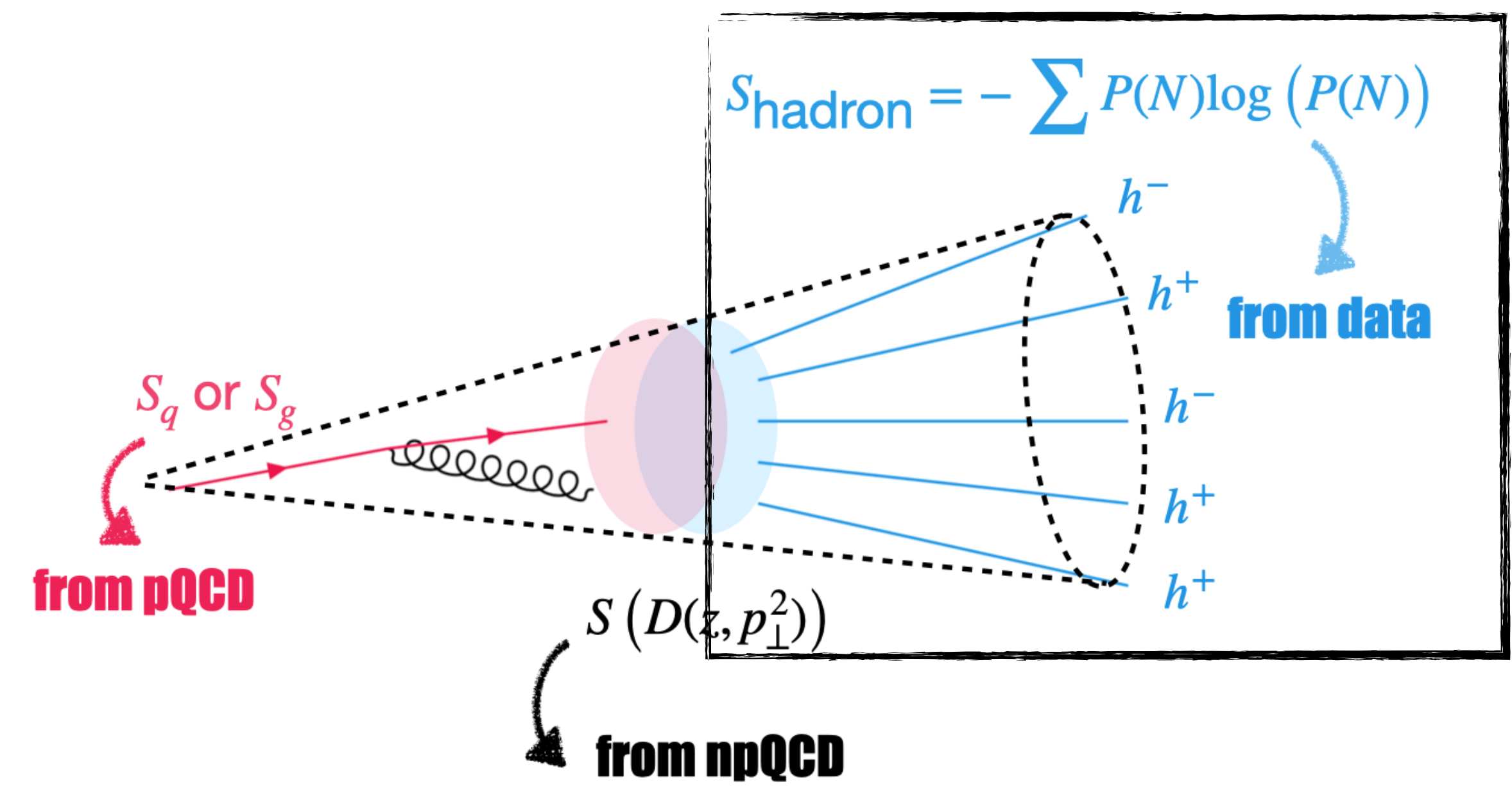
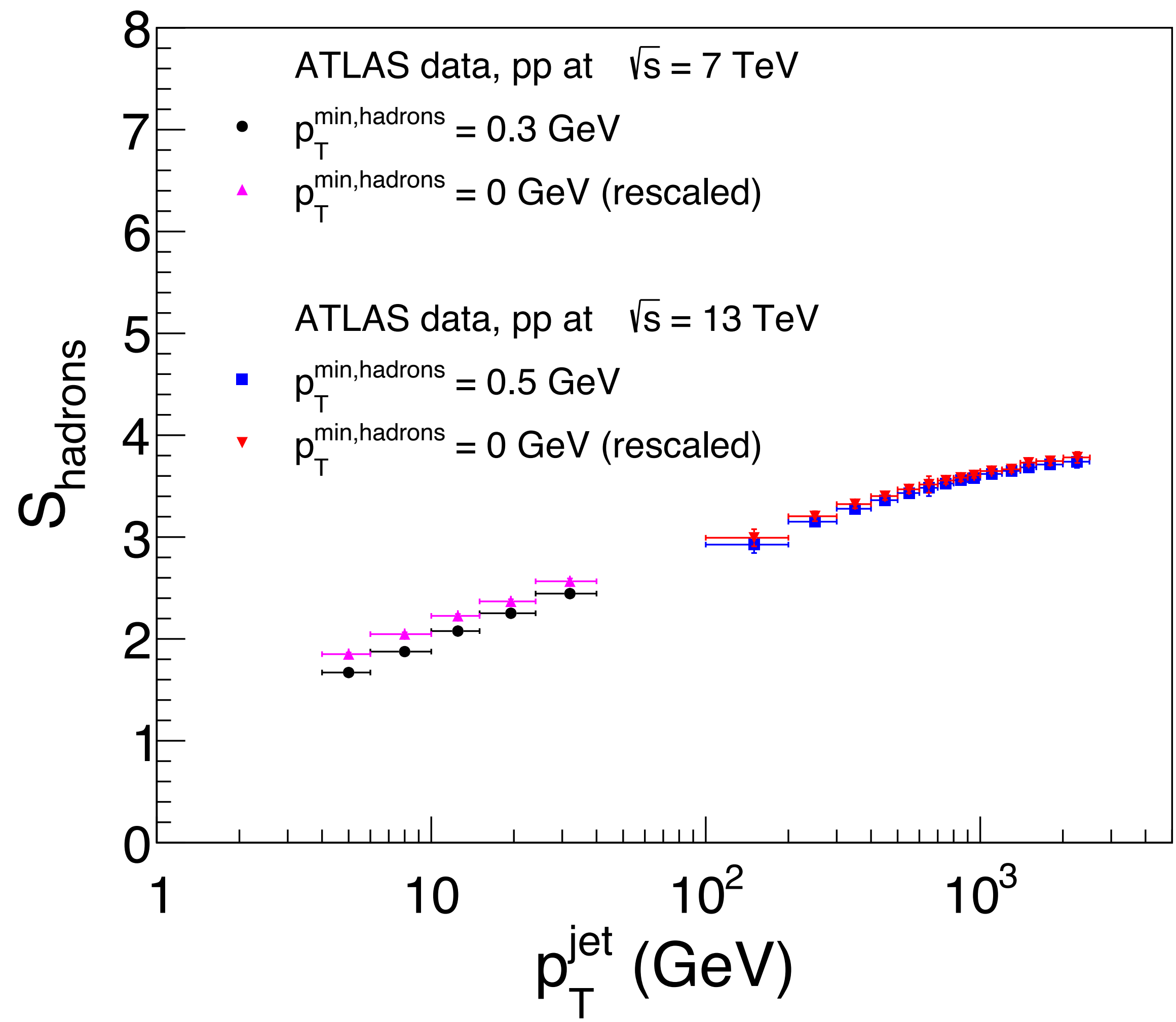
Maximum Entanglement in Jet



- The partonic jet flavor is determined by pQCD
- Hadronization is described by fragmentation functions (FF)

Maximal entanglement condition : $S_{\text{FF}} = S_{\text{hadrons}}$

Charged-Hadrons Multiplicity in Jet

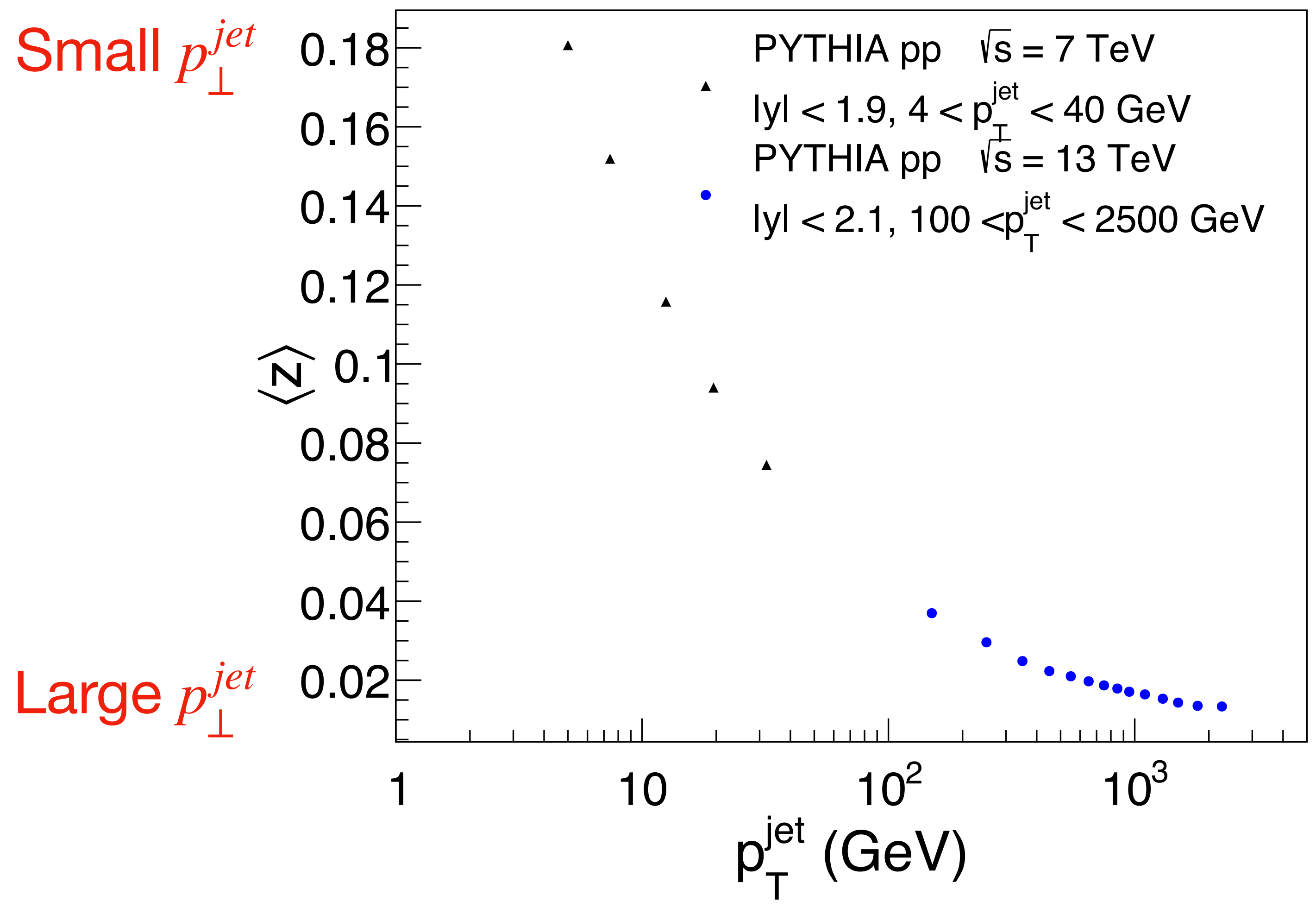


The large $p_{\perp}^{\text{jet}}$ probes a wide z phase space

$$z \propto 1/p_{\perp}^{\text{jet}}$$

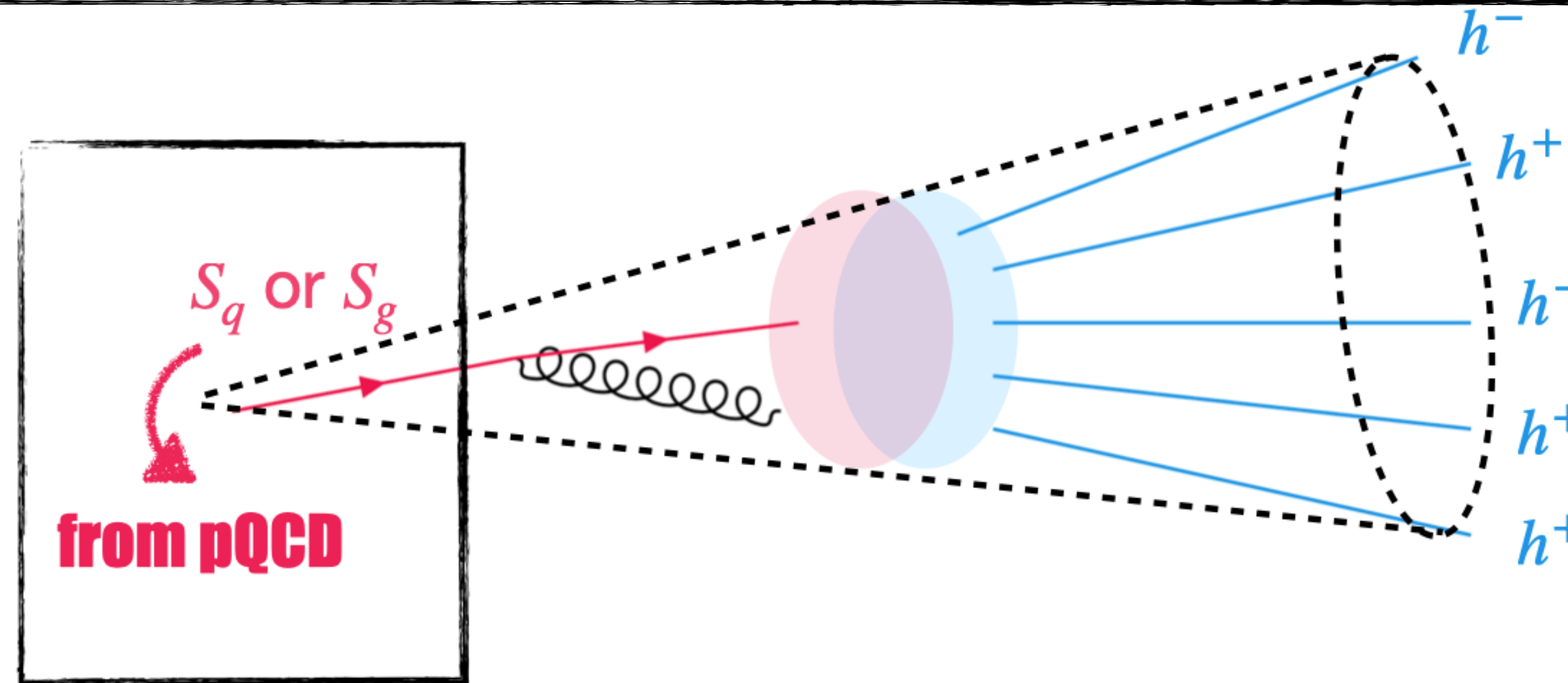
Charged-Hadrons Multiplicity in Jet

Experimental data are published as a function of $p_{\perp}^{jet}$ instead of z



Parton-Initiated Jet

The processes $qq \rightarrow qq$, $gg \rightarrow gg$, and $gq \rightarrow gq$ evolve with $p_{\perp}^{jet}$

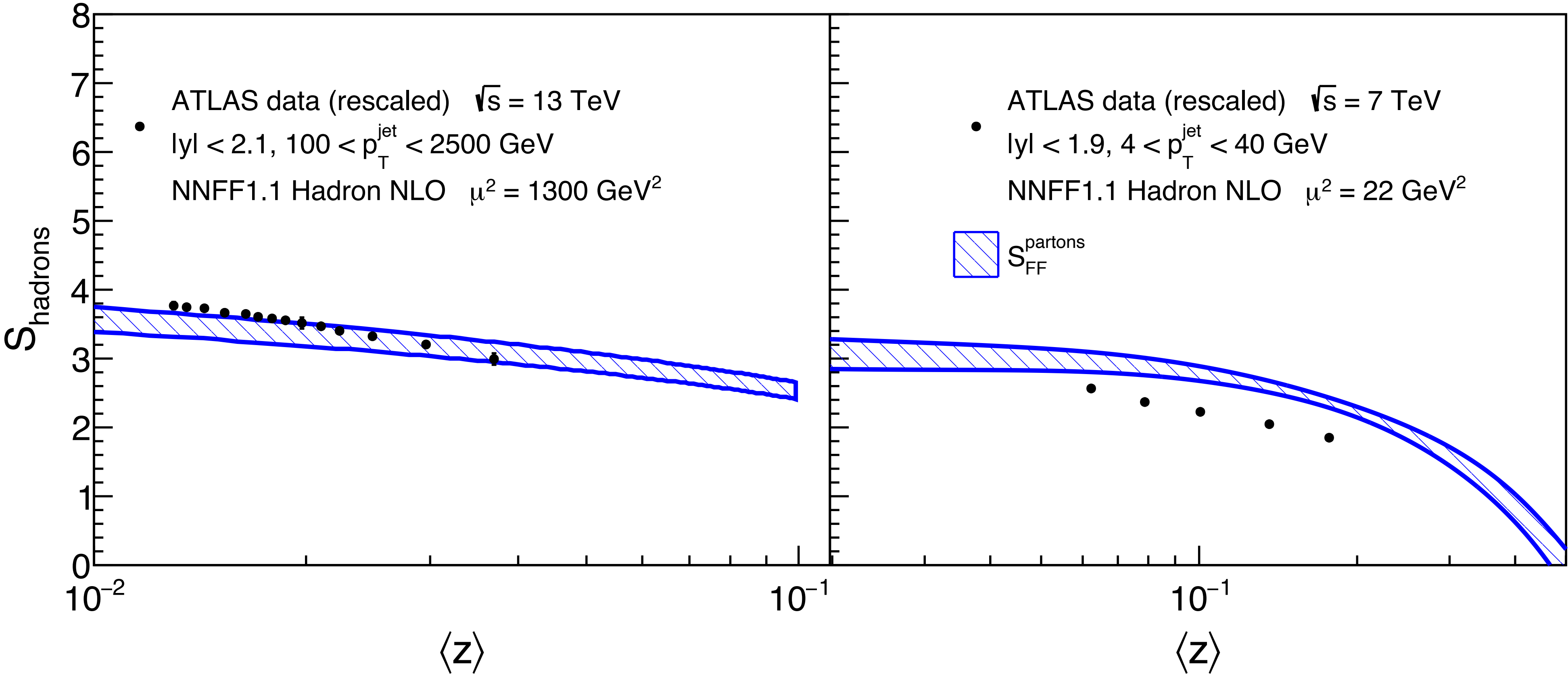


- At large $p_{\perp}^{jet}$, large Bjorken- x : $x \sim 2p_{\perp}^{jet}/\sqrt{s}$, $gq \rightarrow gq$ process dominates

S_{FF} depends on quark and gluon jet

Data-Model Comparison

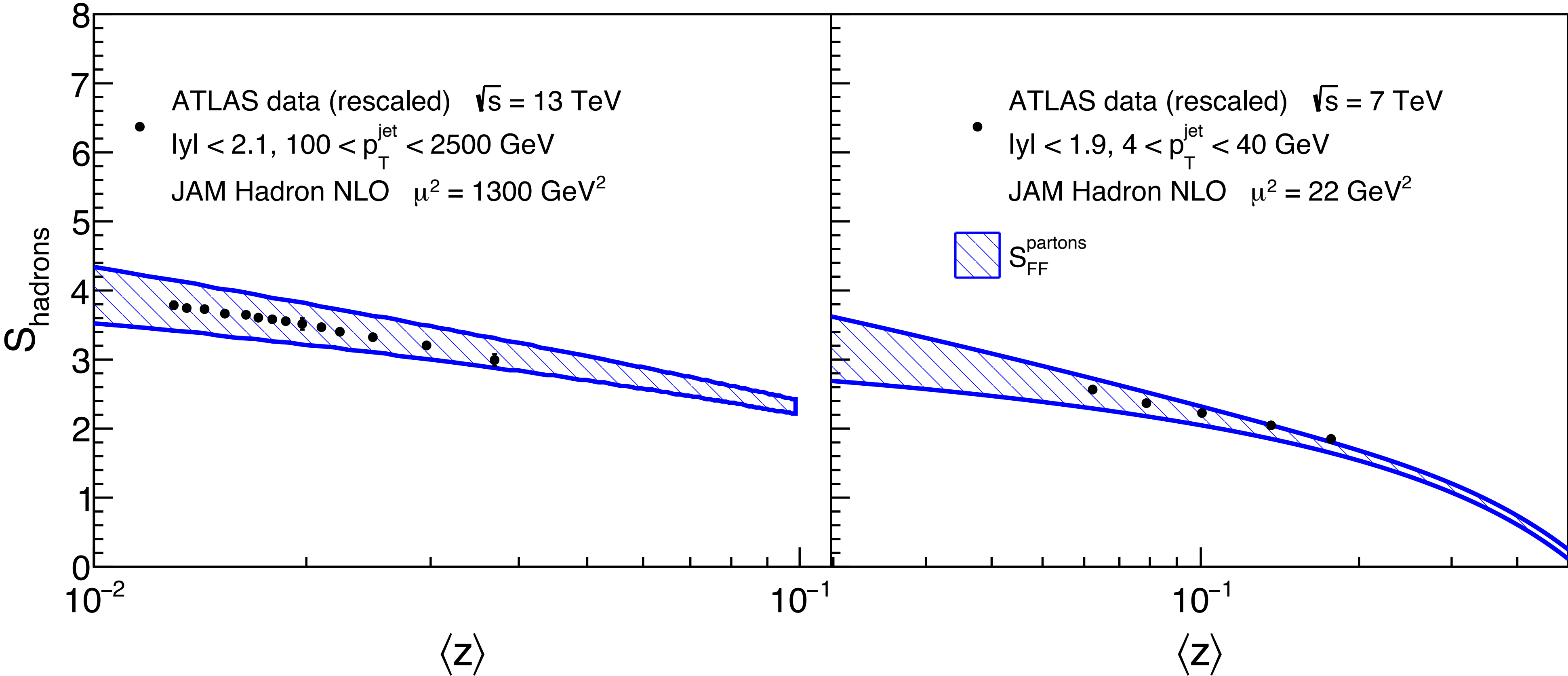
Testing: S_{FF} ? $S_{hadrons}$



Excellent agreement between data and the model using **NNFF**

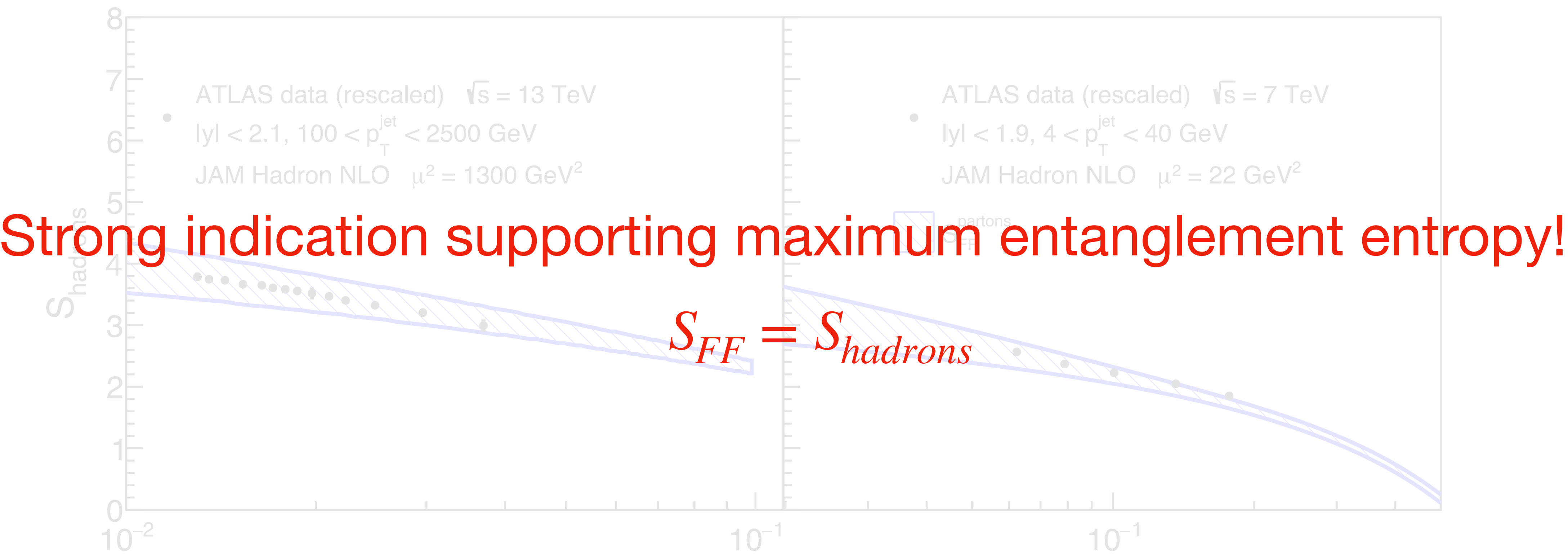
Data-Model Comparison

Testing: S_{FF} ? $S_{hadrons}$



Remarkable agreement between data and the model using **JAM**

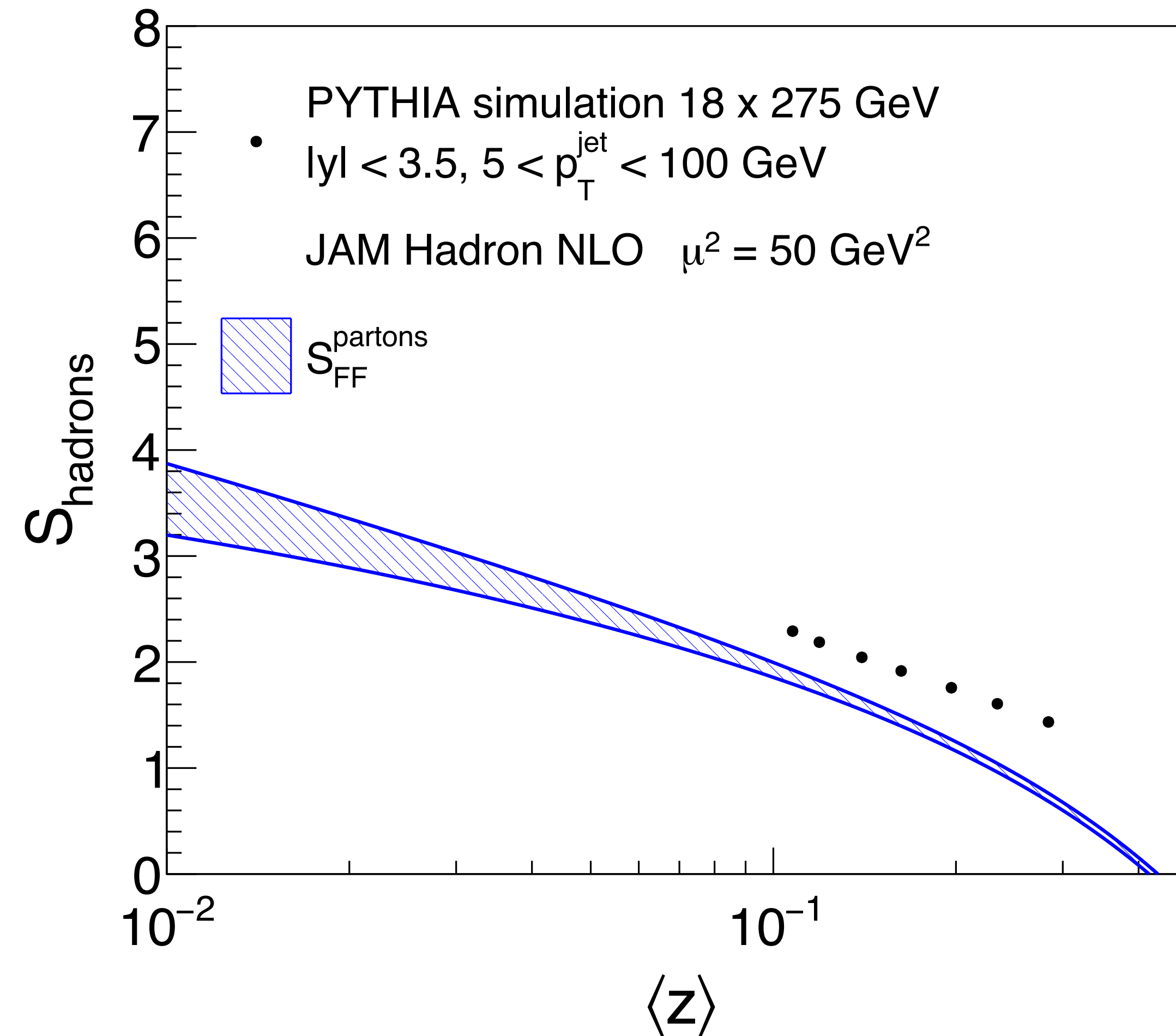
Data-Model Comparison



Excellent agreement between data and the model using **NNFF**

Remarkable agreement between data and the model using **JAM**

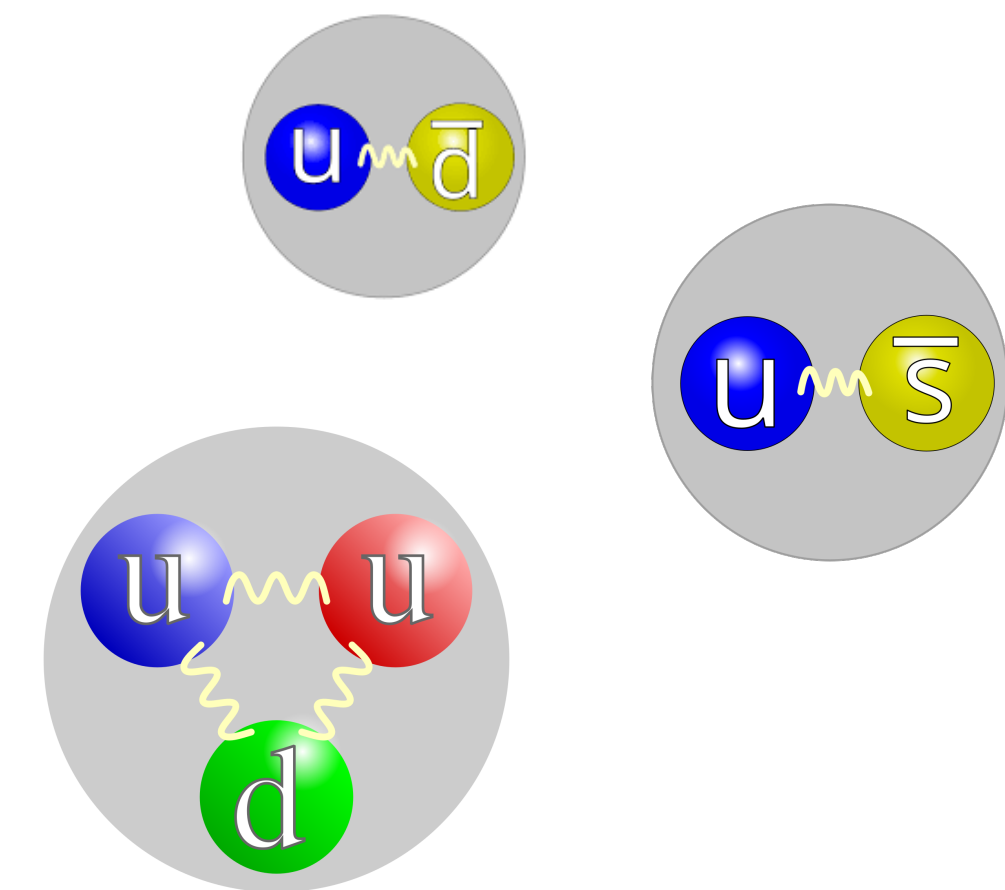
EIC Predictions



- Charged hadron multiplicity is overestimated in PYTHIA
- Future EIC data will provide key insights for $z \gtrsim 0.3$

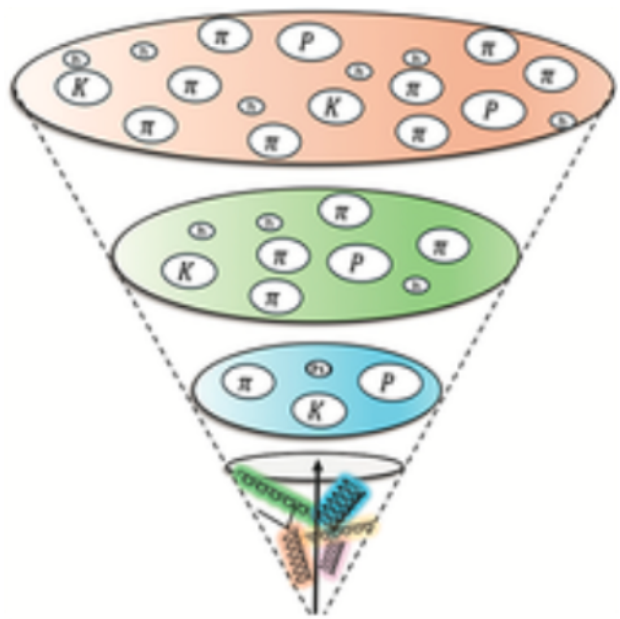
Conclusion

- **New approach to hadronization based on quantum entanglement**
- **Excellent agreement between data and model**
- New method for **studying hadronization**
- At EIC, calculate $S_{hadrons}$ for pion, kaon, and proton
- Concept extendable to **eA/pA data**
- Study the impact of **nuclear medium on entropy**
- Future measurements: P(N) vs z directly



**Maximum entanglement entropy as a (simple) bridge between
pQCD and npQCD**

Editor's suggestion



EDITORS' SUGGESTION

Entanglement as a Probe of Hadronization

Jaydeep Datta, Abhay Deshpande, Dmitri E. Kharzeev, Charles Joseph Naim, and Zhoudunming Tu

Phys. Rev. Lett. **134**, 111902 (2025) - Published 19 March, 2025

The entropy of hadrons produced within highly energetic jets can be related to the fragmentation function if the initial quarks and gluons in the jets are maximally entangled.



BNL highlight

