

# Theory perspective on the EIC physics program

with focus on questions related to structure functions, parton evolution and inclusive diffraction

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*Anna Staśto, Synergies between the EIC and the LHC, Kraków, September 22, 2025*

# What is EIC ?

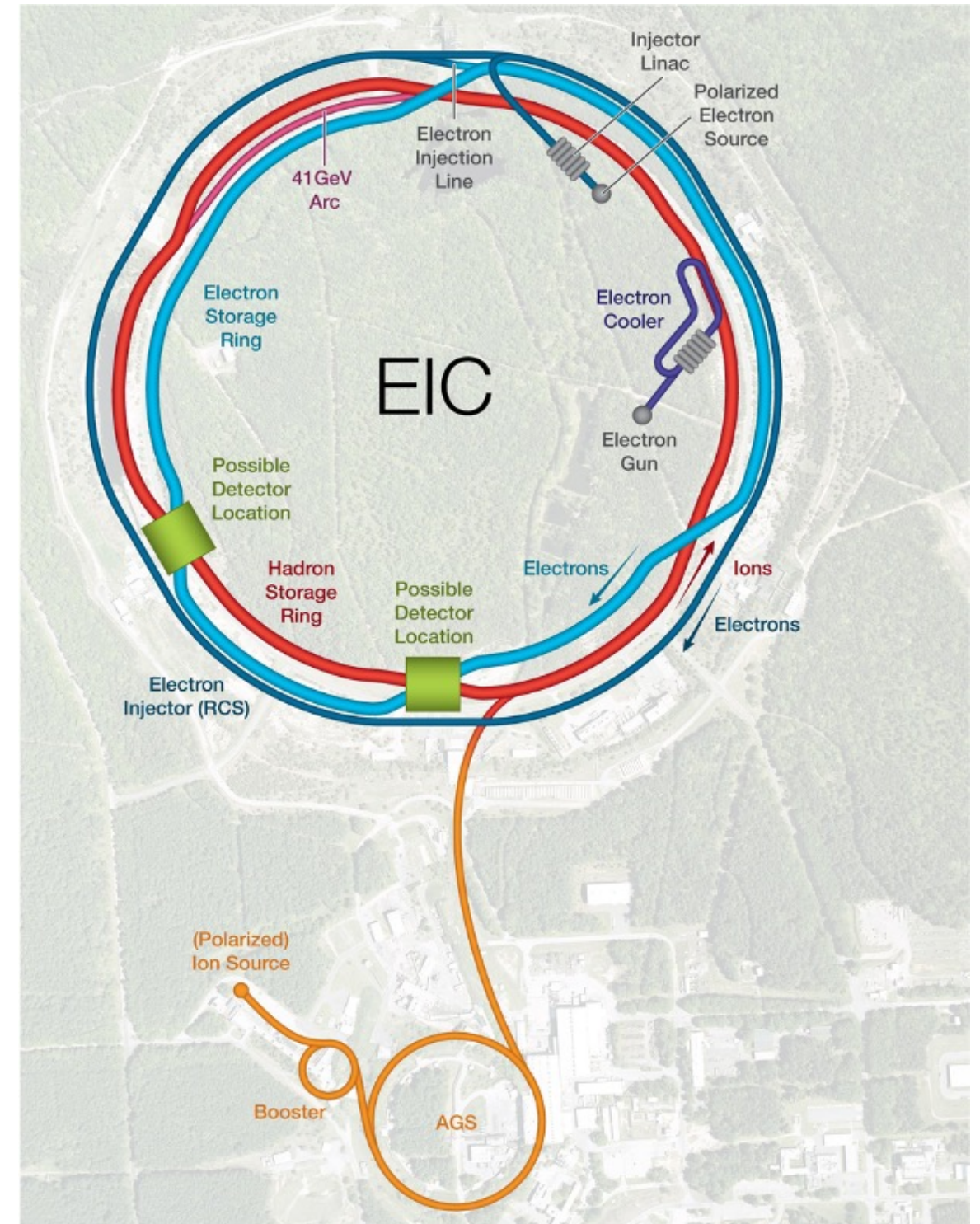
EIC: **E**lectron-**I**on **C**ollider facility that will be built at Brookhaven National Laboratory using and upgrading existing RHIC complex.

Partnership between BNL and Jefferson Lab.

## Capabilities of EIC

- **High luminosity**  $10^{33} - 10^{34} \text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$   
(100-1000 times more than HERA)
- **Variable** center of mass energies 20 -140 GeV
- Beams with different A: from **light nuclei (proton)** to the **heaviest nuclei (uranium)**
- **Polarized** electron and proton beams.  
Possibility of polarized light ions.
- Up to **two interaction** regions

*see talk by Rolf Ent*

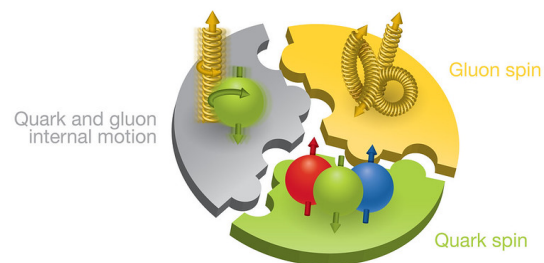




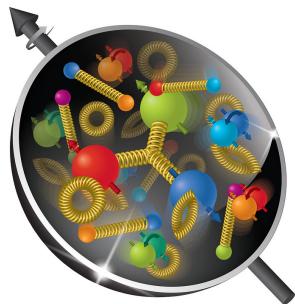
# Physics questions to be explored at EIC



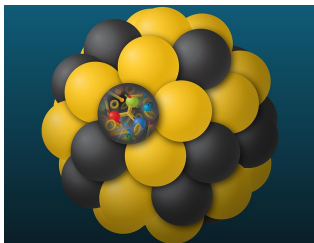
How does visible **mass** emerge from partons and their underlying interactions ?



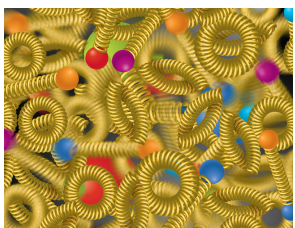
How **quark and gluon spins** and their orbital angular momentum combine in the proton **spin** ?



How are partons inside the nucleon **distributed** ?



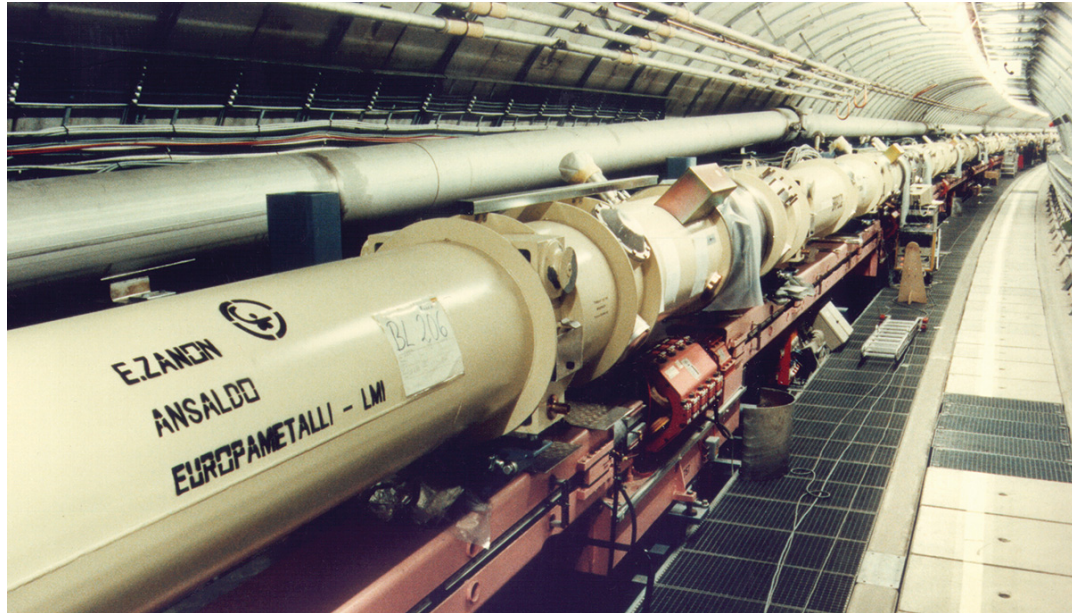
How do the quark-gluon interactions create **nuclear binding**? How do color-charged quarks and gluons, and colorless jets, **interact with a nuclear medium** ?



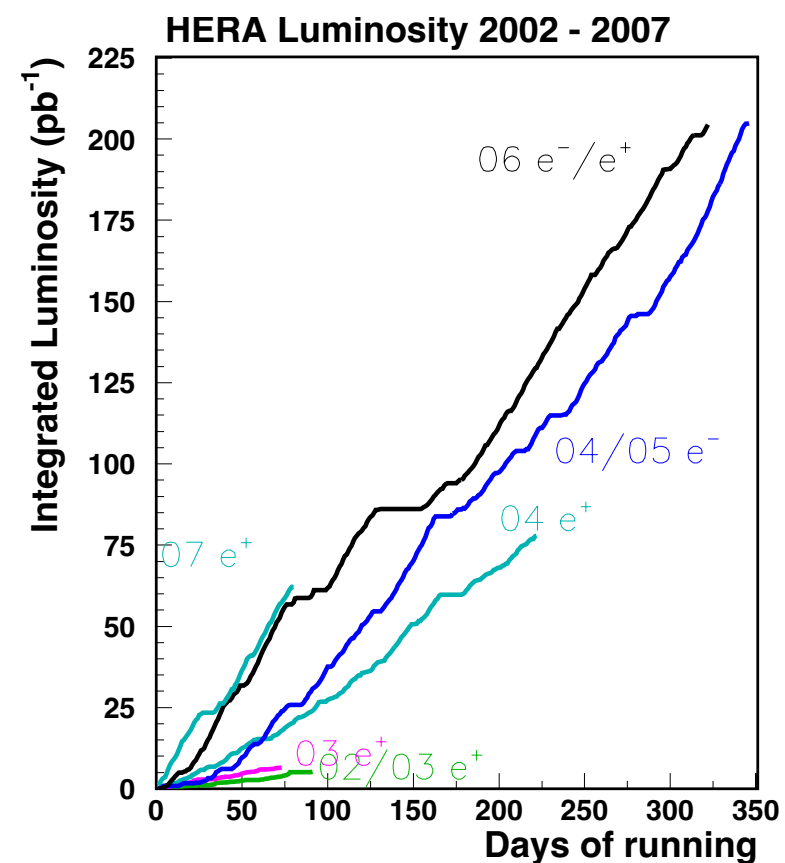
How does a **dense nuclear environment** affect the quark and gluon distributions? What happens to the **gluon density in nuclei** ? Does gluon density in a nucleus **saturate** at **high energies** ?



# First electron-proton collider: HERA



HERA Hamburg 1992-2007





# Theory predictions before HERA...

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 11

1 DECEMBER 1990

## Parton distributions at small $x$

J. Kwiecinski,\* A. D. Martin, and W. J. Stirling  
*Department of Physics, University of Durham, DH1 3LE, England*

R. G. Roberts  
*Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, OX11 0QX, England*  
(Received 24 July 1990)

We perform a next-to-leading-order QCD analysis of the recent data for deep-inelastic lepton-nucleon scattering and related processes, in which we pay particular attention to the forms of the parton distributions at very small  $x$ . We discuss in detail, and we incorporate in the analysis, the theoretical QCD results leading to the singular  $x^{-1/2}$ -type behavior of the gluon and sea-quark distributions, as well as the modifications due to shadowing effects. We find the QCD shadowing corrections are significant for  $x \lesssim 10^{-3}$  even though the parton distributions are below their saturation limit. We give predictions for the structure functions  $F_2$  and  $F_L$  accessible at the DESY  $ep$  collider HERA, and for  $W$  and  $Z$  production up to the energies of the CERN Large Hadron Collider and the Superconducting Super Collider. We discuss the possibility of experiments at these colliders probing the parton distributions in the very-small- $x$  region.

Physics Letters B 306 (1993) 145–150  
North-Holland

PHYSICS LETTERS B

## Parton distributions updated

A.D. Martin, W.J. Stirling  
*Department of Physics, University of Durham, Durham DH1 3LE, UK*

and

R.G. Roberts  
*Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot OX11 0QX, UK*

Received 12 March 1993; revised manuscript received 29 March 1993  
Editor: P.V. Landshoff

We refine our recent determination of parton distributions with the inclusion of the new published sets of precise muon and neutrino deep inelastic data. Deuteron screening effects are incorporated. The  $t\bar{t}$  cross section at the FNAL  $p\bar{p}$  collider is calculated.

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 3

1 FEBRUARY 1993

## New information on parton distributions

A. D. Martin and W. J. Stirling  
*Department of Physics, University of Durham, Durham DH1 3LE, England*

R. G. Roberts  
*Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot OX11 0QX, England*  
(Received 5 May 1992; revised manuscript received 28 August 1992)

Predictions based on:

- **DGLAP** evolution
- **BFKL** small  $x$  evolution
- **shadowing** corrections

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 9

1 MAY 1993

## QCD predictions for deep-inelastic structure functions at the DESY $ep$ collider HERA

A. J. Askew, J. Kwiecinski,\* A. D. Martin, and P. J. Sutton  
*Department of Physics, University of Durham, DH1 3LE, England*  
(Received 10 December 1992)

Perturbative QCD is used to predict the deep-inelastic electron-proton structure functions  $F_{T,L}(x, Q^2)$  in the small  $x$  region ( $x \sim 10^{-3}$ ) from an experimental knowledge of the behavior at larger  $x$ . Shadowing corrections are quantified.

# Before HERA: DGLAP fits

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 3

1 FEBRUARY 1993

## New information on parton distributions

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## DGLAP evolution

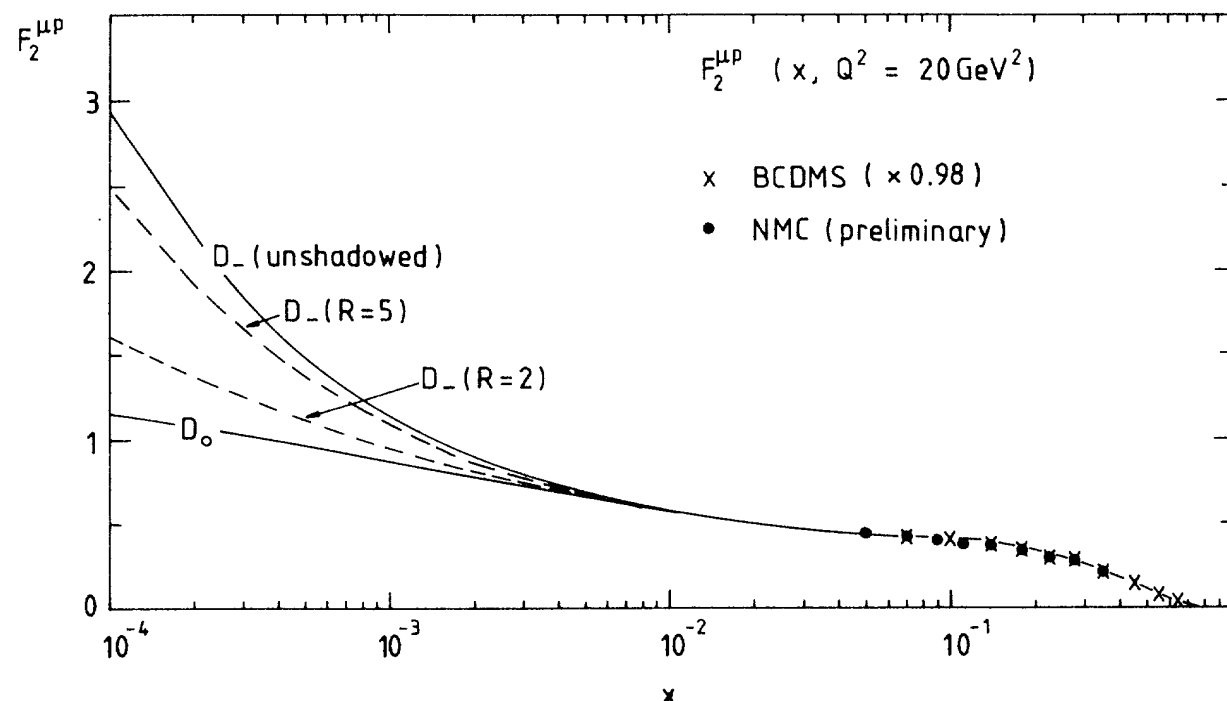
$$\mu^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu^2} \begin{pmatrix} q_i(x, \mu^2) \\ g(x, \mu^2) \end{pmatrix} = \sum_j \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} \begin{pmatrix} P_{q_i q_j} & P_{q_i g} \\ P_{g q_j} & P_{g g} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q_j(\frac{x}{z}, \mu^2) \\ g(\frac{x}{z}, \mu^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

## Initial conditions

$$xg(x, Q_0^2) = A_g x^{\delta_g} (1 + \gamma_g x)(1 - x)^{\eta_g}$$

$$\delta_g = 0 \quad D_0 \text{ fit}$$

$$\delta_g = -\frac{1}{2} \quad D_- \text{ fit}$$



Of course we can already make predictions for the very small- $x$  region based on extrapolations of our fits, but the major uncertainty arises from the assumed behavior of the gluon and sea-quark distributions. As a measure of this uncertainty we provide two possible sets of partons, one ( $D_0$ ) based on “finite” gluons and sea quarks as  $x \rightarrow 0$  and the other ( $D_-$ ) based on singular forms  $\sim x^{-\lambda}$  which have theoretical justification based on resumming soft gluon emissions. However this “Lipatov” gluon is almost certainly softened by some shadowing correction the size of which, in turn, is a matter of debate. We have therefore provided another two parton sets which choose either a conventional shadowing correction (with radius



# Beyond DGLAP evolution: nonlinear corrections

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 11

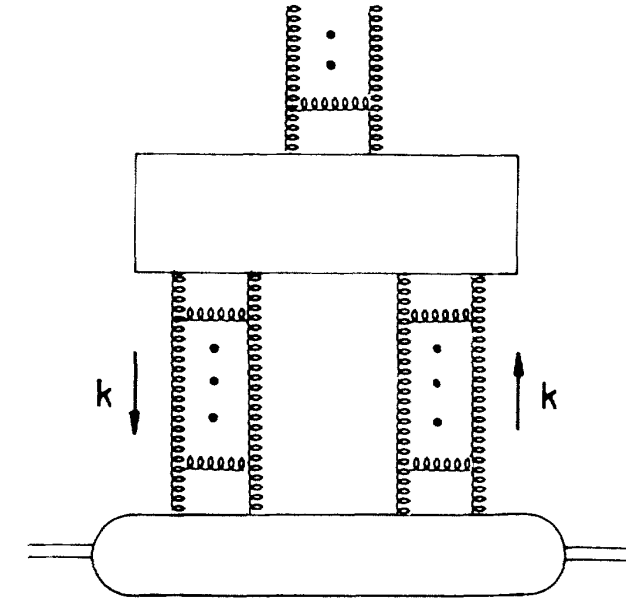
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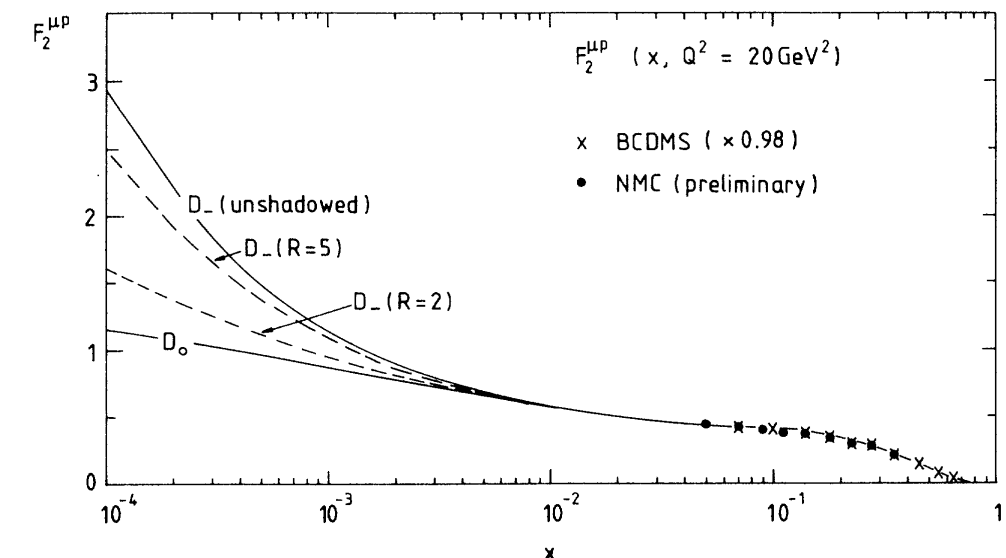
shadowing contribution to the evolution

linear terms: DGLAP evolution

$$Q^2 \frac{\partial(xg(x, Q^2))}{\partial Q^2} = P_{gg} \otimes g + P_{gq} \otimes q$$

R: characteristic size arising from the integral over 4-momentum flowing along the ladders

$$- \frac{81\alpha_s^2(Q^2)}{16R^2Q^2} \theta(x_0 - x) \times \int_x^{x_0} \frac{dx'}{x'} [x'g(x', Q^2)]^2,$$



Martin, Roberts, Stirling

# First HERA data

Physics Letters B 316 (1993) 412–426  
North-Holland

PHYSICS LETTERS B

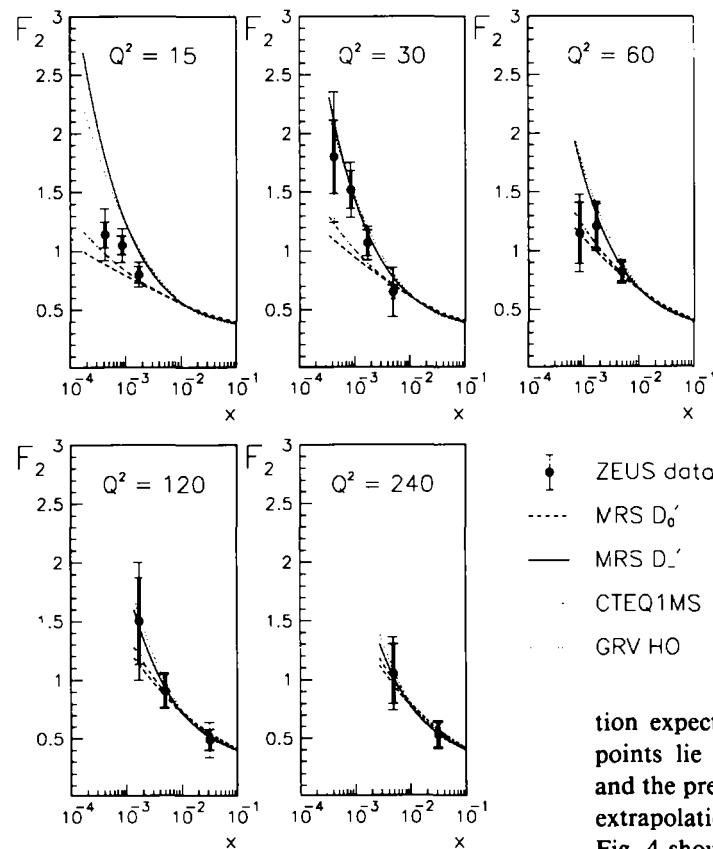
Nuclear Physics B407 (1993) 515–535  
North-Holland

NUCLEAR  
PHYSICS B

## Measurement of the proton structure function $F_2$ in $ep$ scattering at HERA

ZEUS Collaboration

This paper presents our first measurement of the  $F_2$  structure function in neutral-current, deep inelastic scattering using the ZEUS detector at HERA, the  $ep$  colliding beam facility at DESY. The data correspond to an integrated luminosity of  $24.7 \text{ nb}^{-1}$ . Results are presented for data in a range of  $Q^2$  from  $10 \text{ GeV}^2$  to  $4700 \text{ GeV}^2$  and Bjorken  $x$  down to  $3.0 \times 10^{-4}$ . The  $F_2$  structure function increases rapidly as  $x$  decreases.

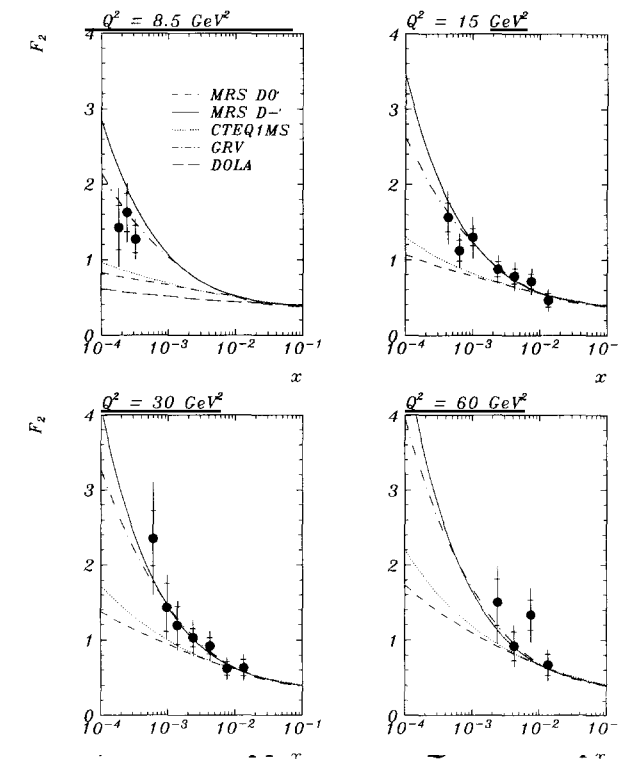


tion expectations. At the lowest  $Q^2$  value the data points lie below the MRS  $D_-'$  [6] extrapolations and the predictions of GRV(HO) [4], but above the extrapolations of MRS  $D_0'$  [6] and CTEQ1MS [5]. Fig. 4 shows the  $F_2$  structure function as a function of  $Q^2$  for fixed  $x$ . The data are in accord with the expected logarithmic violation of scaling.

## Measurement of the proton structure function $F_2(x, Q^2)$ in the low- $x$ region at HERA

H1 Collaboration

A measurement of the proton structure function  $F_2(x, Q^2)$  is presented with about 1000 neutral current deep inelastic scattering events for Bjorken  $x$  in the range  $x \simeq 10^{-2} - 10^{-4}$  and  $Q^2 > 5 \text{ GeV}^2$ . The measurement is based on an integrated luminosity of  $22.5 \text{ nb}^{-1}$  recorded by the H1 detector in the first year of HERA operation. The structure function  $F_2(x, Q^2)$  shows a significant rise with decreasing  $x$ .



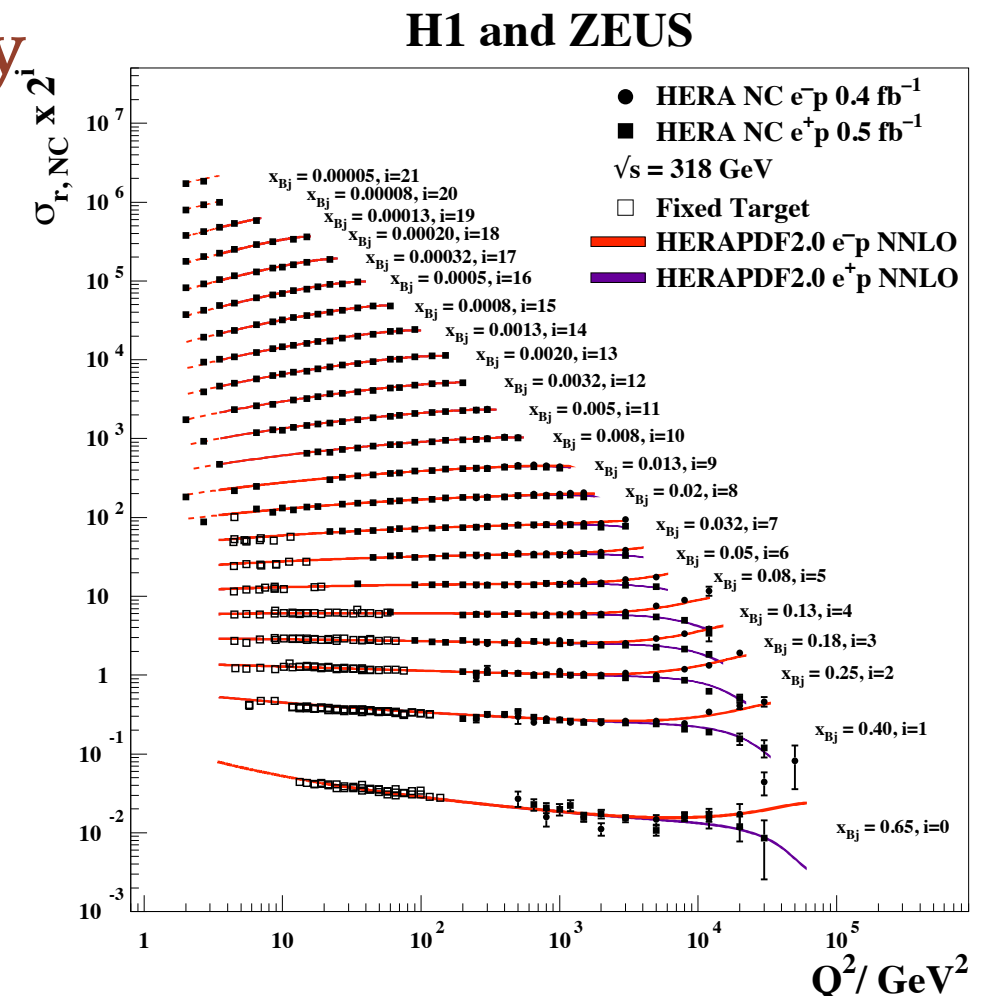
These parametrizations, which all describe the existing low-energy fixed-target data give  $F_2$  values at  $x \simeq 10^{-4}$  which differ by more than a factor 4. Our data are consistent with the GRV and also the MRSD- $'$  parametrizations. The present measurement narrows the possible range of parton densities at low  $x$  substantially, giving a much better basis to predict hard scattering processes at high-energy pp and heavy-ion colliders. Moreover, it gives guidelines for the development of a better theoretical description of the low- $x$  region.



# Implications of HERA data

## HERA legacy

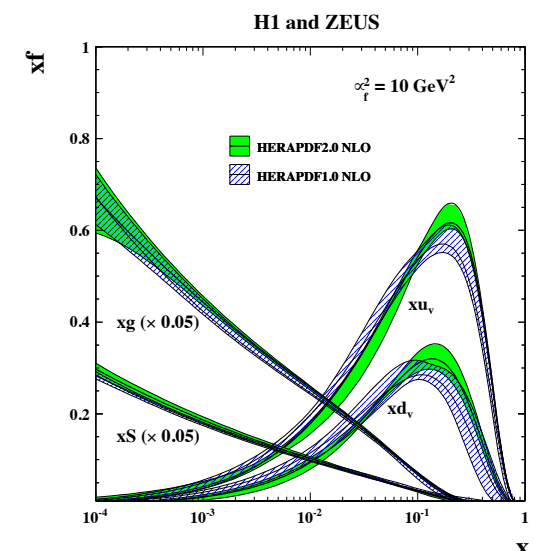
- HERA discovered steep rise of the structure function with decreasing  $x$
  - Scaling violations present
  - Predictions varied by factor 4 at small  $x$
  - Extreme scenarios (flat gluon and very singular gluon) were excluded
  - DGLAP works very well
  - uncertainties in PDFs reduced substantially
- but
- initial conditions in linear evolution can in principle mimic the other effects, like that of the non-linear evolution



What does it imply for EIC ?

EIC will measure **nuclear** structure functions with great precision

Can one pin down effects due to possible nonlinear evolution in nuclear parton densities ?



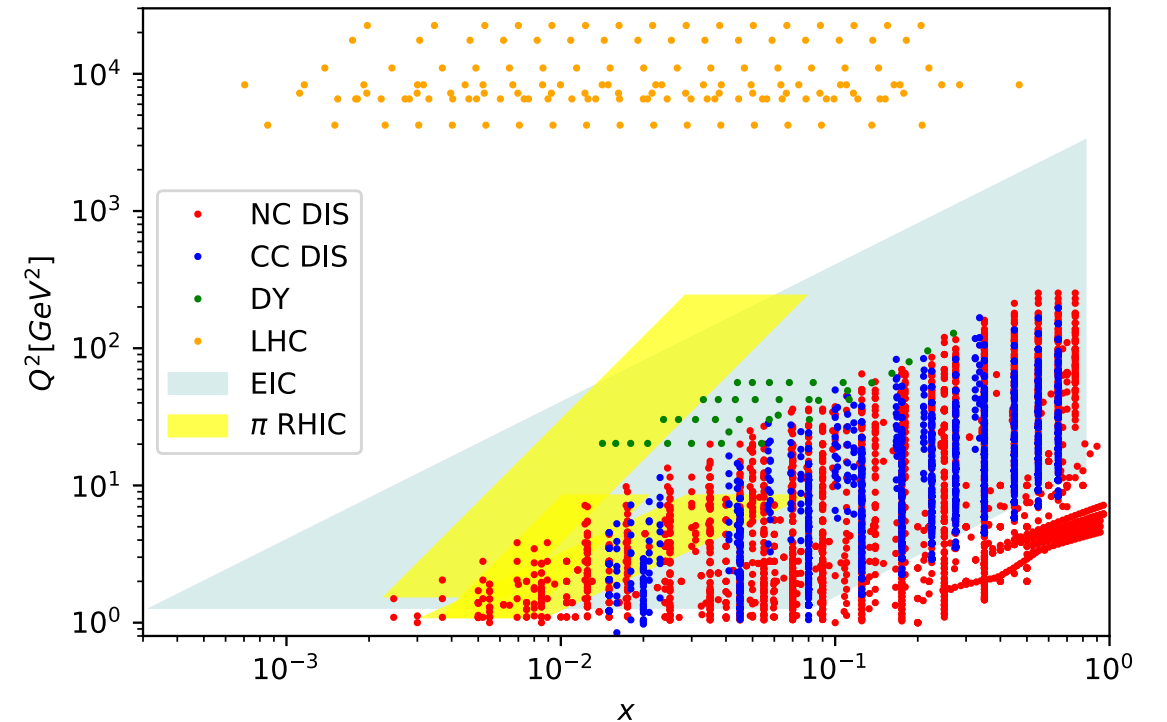
# Prospects at EIC : global structure of nuclei

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}^2}{xQ^4} Y_+ \sigma_r(x, Q^2)$$

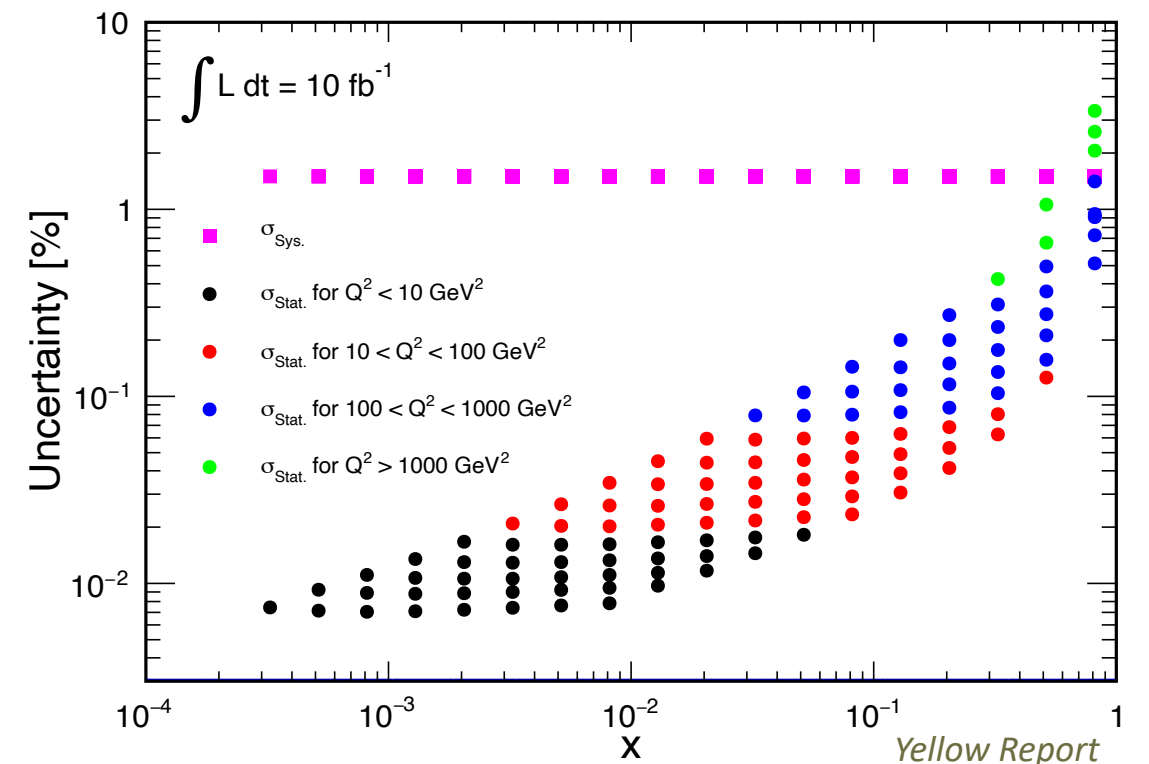
$$Y_+ = 1 + (1 - y)^2$$

$$\sigma_r(x, Q^2) = F_2(x, Q^2) - \frac{y^2}{Y_+} F_L(x, Q^2)$$

- Precise measurement of **nuclear structure functions** for wide range of nuclei and **wide kinematic range**
- Extraction of **nuclear PDFs** which are essential for understanding **nuclear structure**
- **Initial conditions for Quark-Gluon Plasma**
- Sys. uncertainties at most few %, stat. negligible
- Proton, deuteron and wide range nuclei structure function within **one facility**: reduction of uncertainties



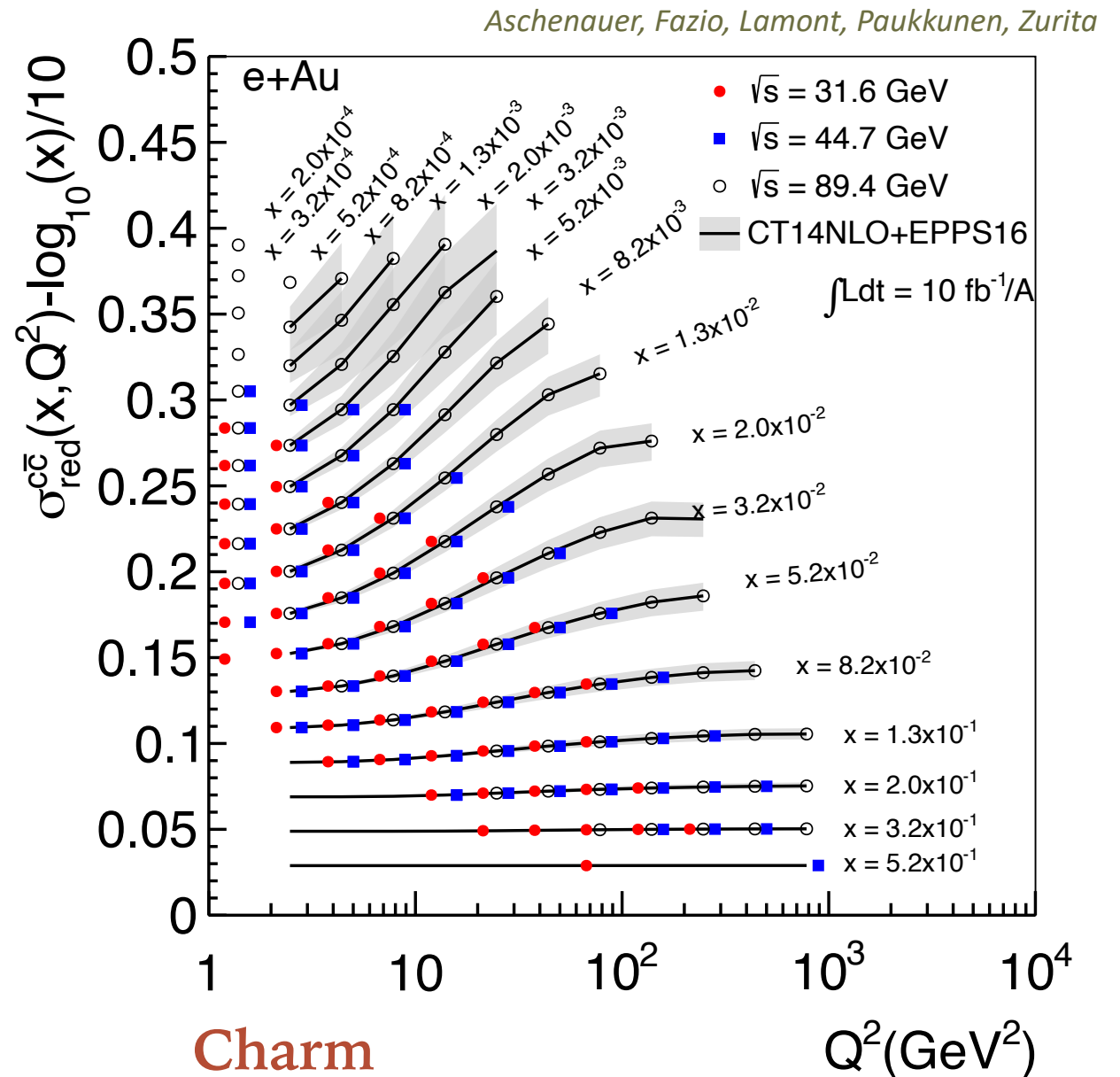
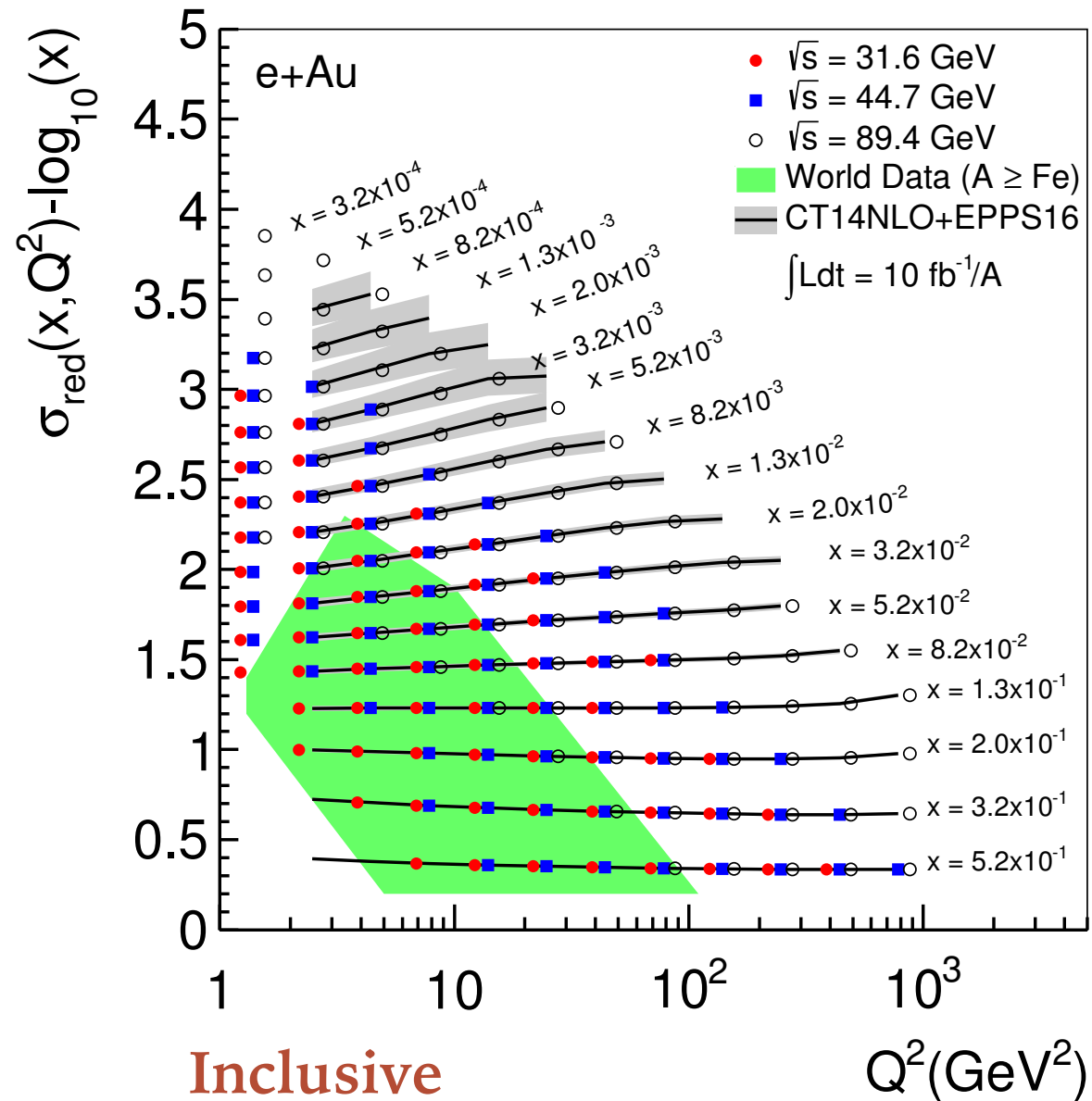
18x110 e-A N.C. Uncertainties



Yellow Report



# Global nuclear structure: structure functions



- Precision measurements of the reduced cross section
- Charm component in nuclei
- Errors much smaller than the uncertainties of QCD predictions

# Impact of EIC on nuclear PDFs

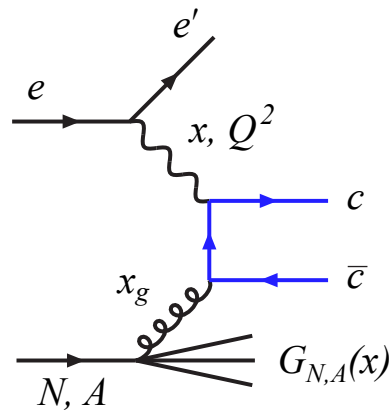
## Collinear factorization

$$F_{2,L}(x, Q^2) = \sum_j \int_x^1 dz C_{2,L}(Q/\mu, x/z; \alpha_s) f_j(z, \mu) + \dots$$

Nuclear modification in this framework:

**initial condition** at low scales, **linear evolution with scale**

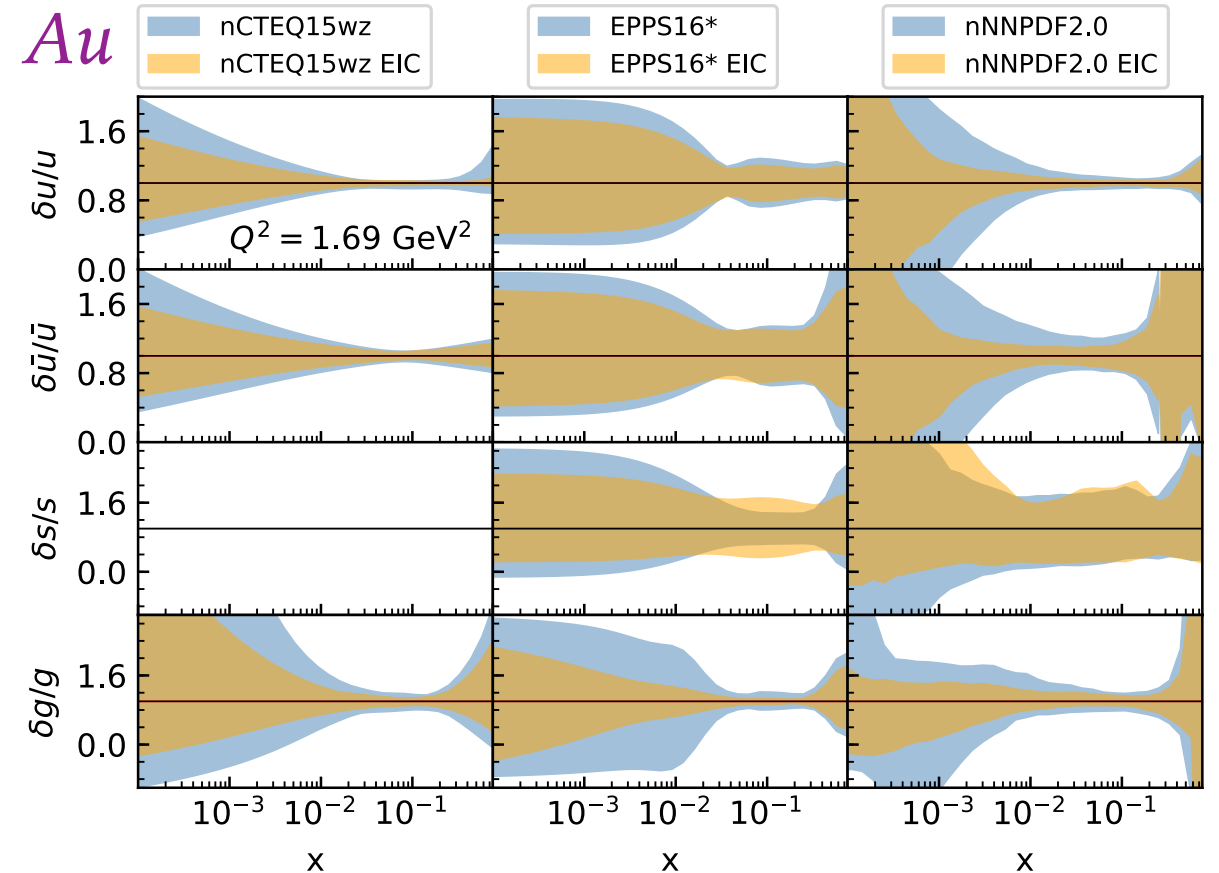
- Impact of **charm cross section** on the gluon PDF at high  $x$
- Charm is produced mainly in the photon-gluon fusion process
- Further constraints:  **$F_L$**



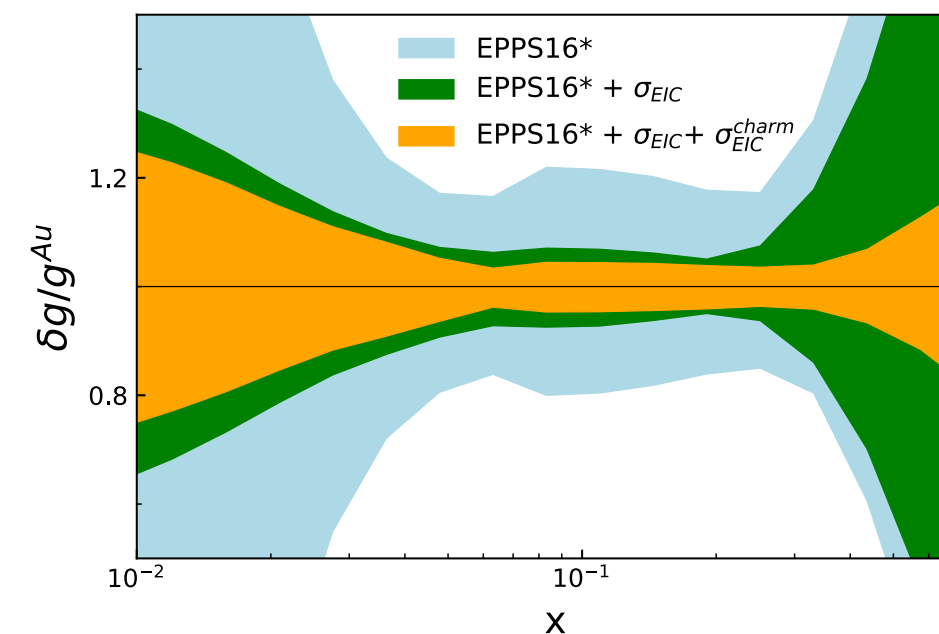
## DGLAP : linear evolution

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu^2} f_j(z, \mu) = \sum_k \int \frac{d\xi}{\xi} P_{jk}(\xi, \alpha_s) f_k(z/\xi, \mu)$$

Yellow Report

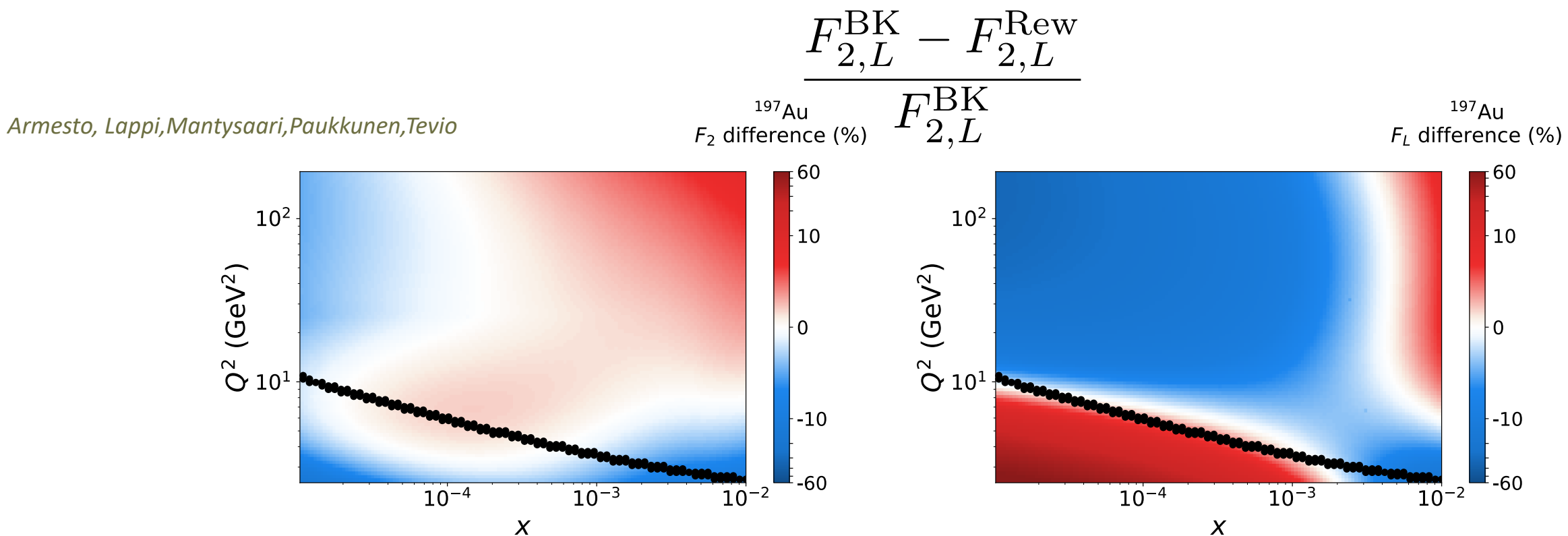


**Significant impact of EIC measurements on nuclear PDFs**



# Testing saturation through inclusive structure functions at EIC

Study differences in evolution between **linear DGLAP** evolution and **nonlinear** evolution with **saturation**  
**Matching** of both approaches in the region where saturation effects expected to be small  
 Quantify differences away from the matching region: **differences in evolution dynamics**



$$F_2 = C_2^q \otimes q + C_2^g \otimes g$$

$$F_L = C_L^q \otimes q + C_L^g \otimes g$$

Different weighting of quark and gluon in  $F_L, F_2$ . Independent constraint

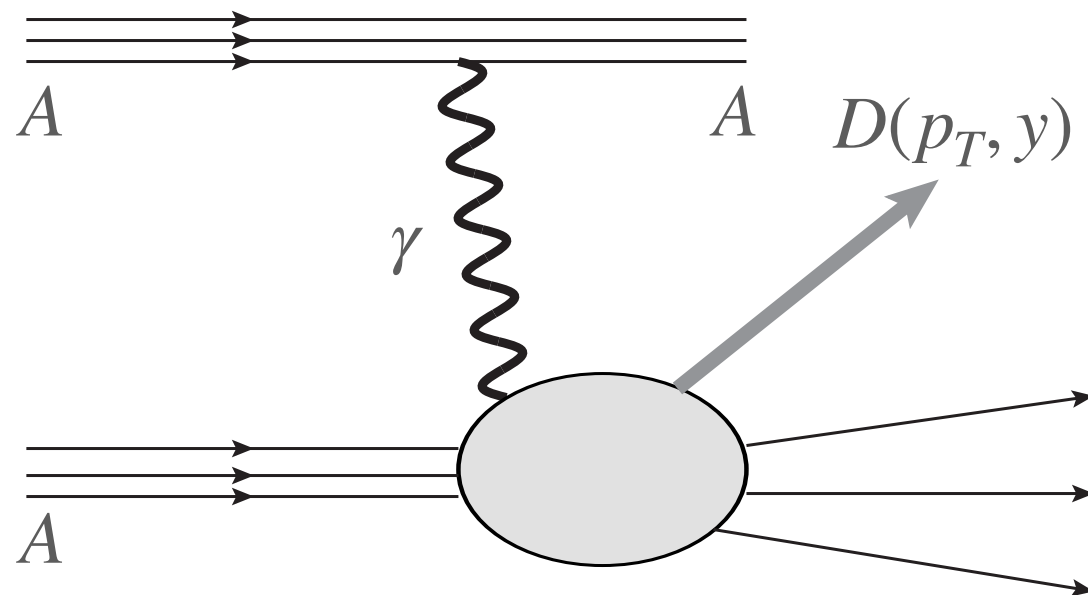
Heavy nucleus: difference between DGLAP and nonlinear are few % for  $F_2^A$  and up to 20% for  $F_L^A$

**Longitudinal structure function can provide good sensitivity at EIC**

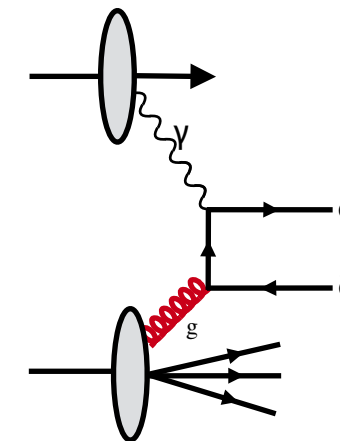
# Nuclear PDF information from LHC

Complementary information about nuclear PDFs from LHC

Example: photoproduction of open charm in UPC

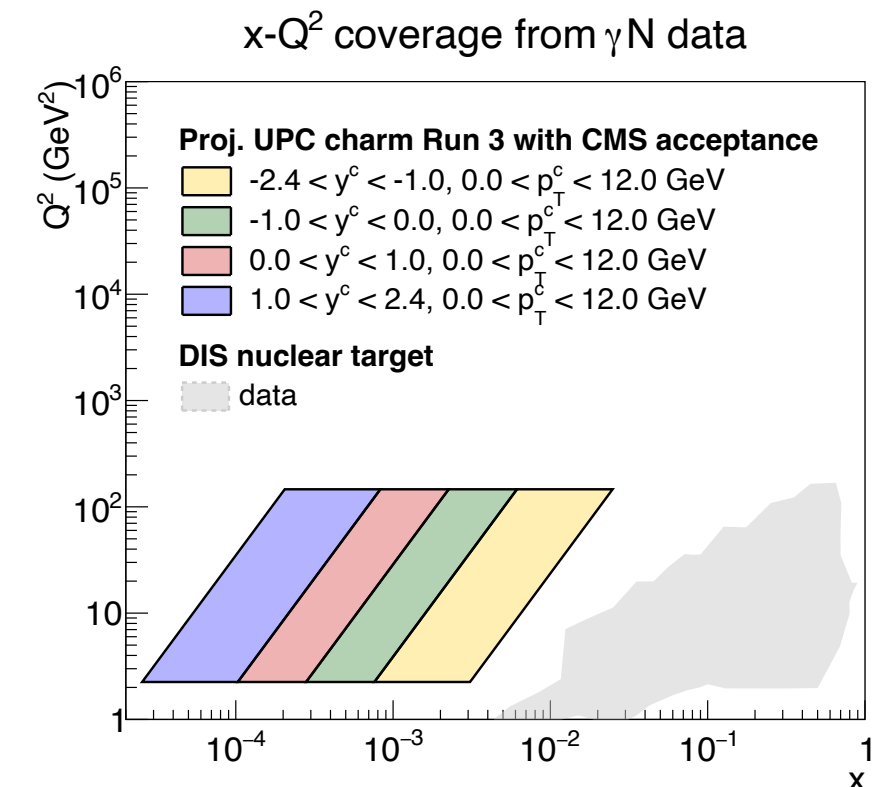


$$A A \rightarrow A D X$$



- Advantage: access to **wide range of scales** :  

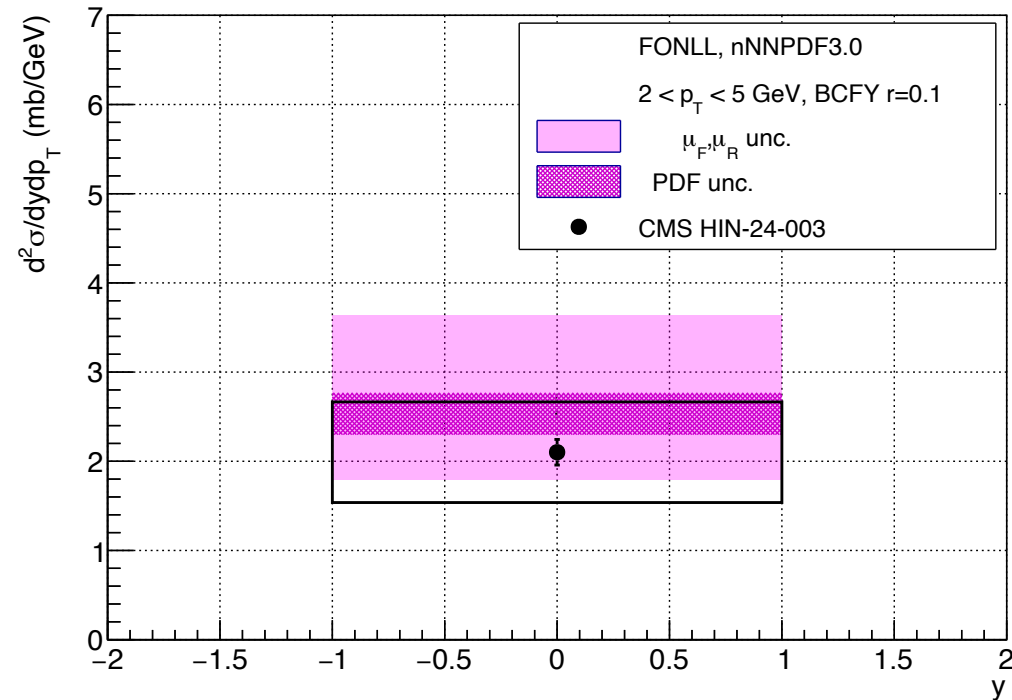
$$m_T = \sqrt{p_T^2 + m_c^2}$$
- Inclusive<sup>(\*)</sup> process: test of **factorization** and **universality** of PDFs
- **Charm** produced mainly in  **$\gamma g$  fusion**
- Sensitive to the **nuclear gluon density: nuclear modification**
- Tests of parton evolution: **DGLAP** vs **BFKL** vs **CGC** ...





# Comparison of FONLL with CMS data on $D^0$

Cacciari, Innocenti, AS



Cross section: FONLL (collinear fixed order NLO+logarithmic resummation)

nPDF: nNNPDF

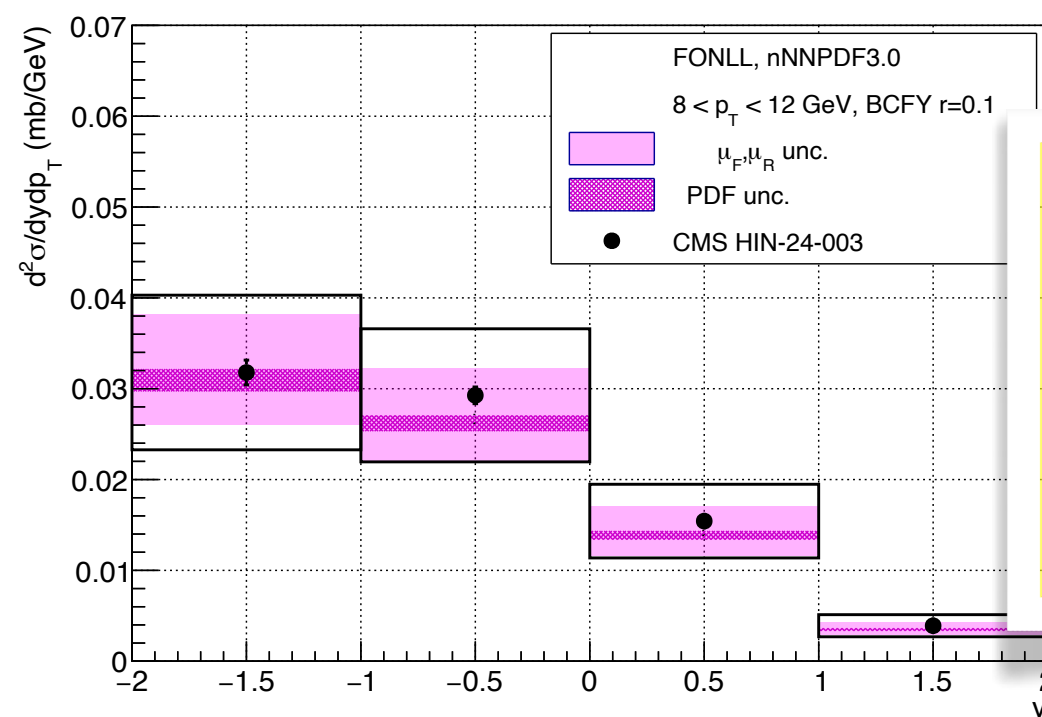
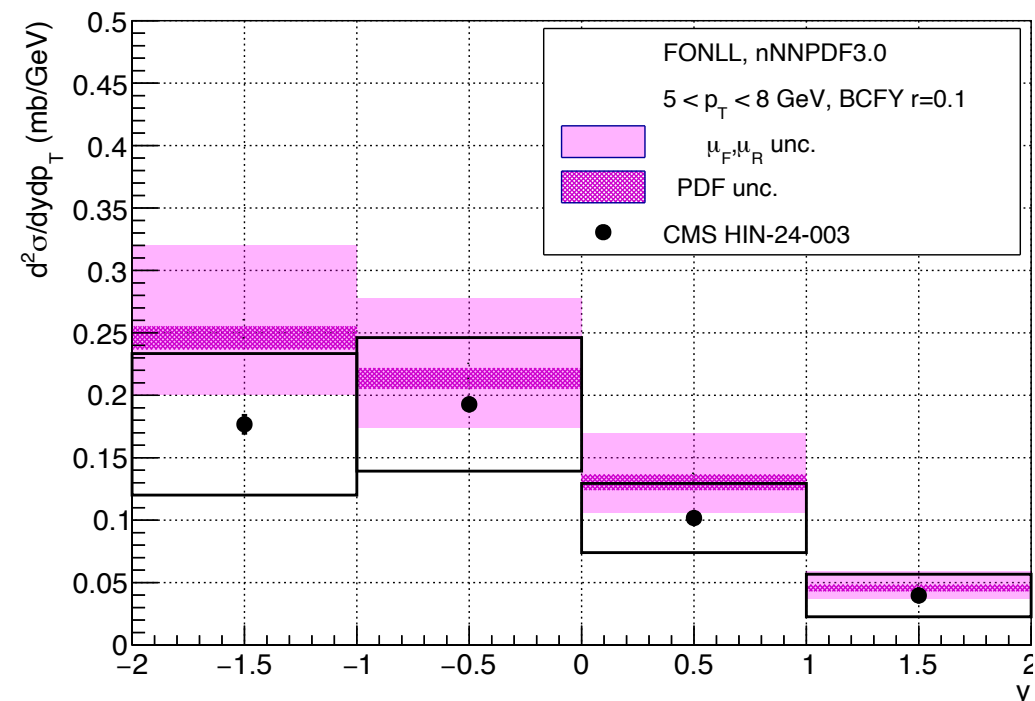
Fragmentation: BCFY,  $r=0.1$

Lighter bands/lines

Scale variation:  $\mu_f/m_T, \mu_r/m_T(0.5,1,2), \frac{1}{2} \leq \mu_f/\mu_r \leq 2$

Darker/smaller bands: PDF uncertainty

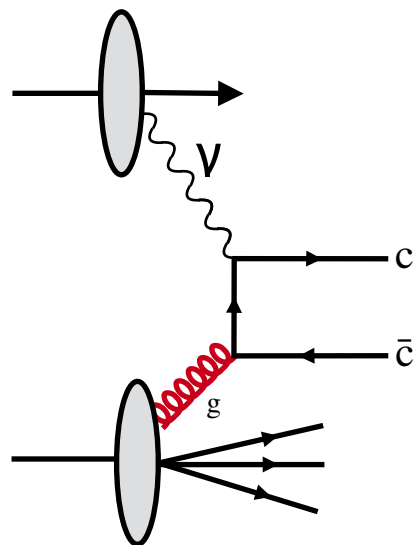
$m_c = 1.5$  GeV



Comparison of FONLL with CMS data

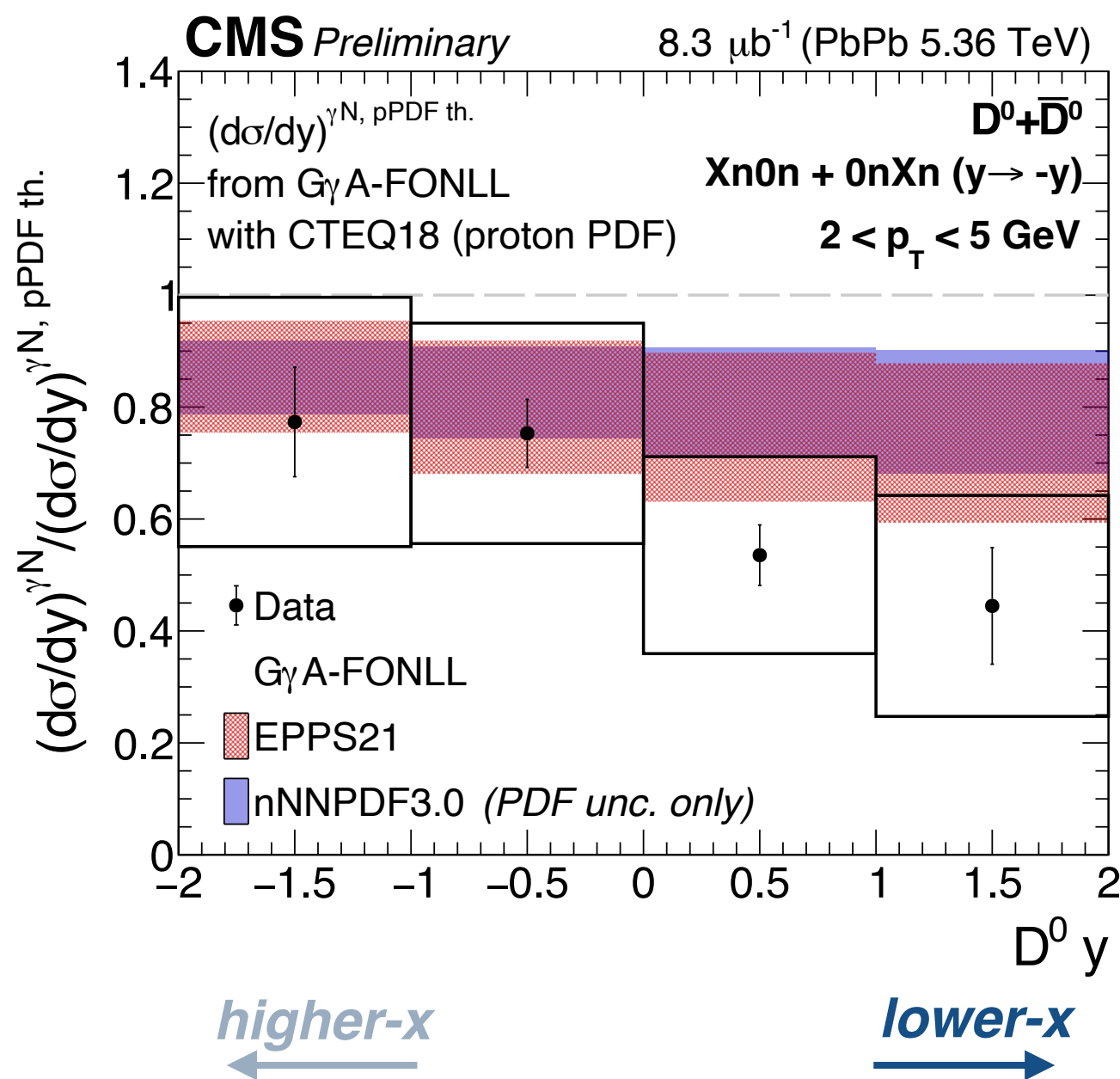
Reasonable agreement within the theoretical/experimental uncertainties

# y-differential measurement of $D^0$ UPC production



$p_T$  (2-12 GeV)  
 $y$  (-2 to 2)

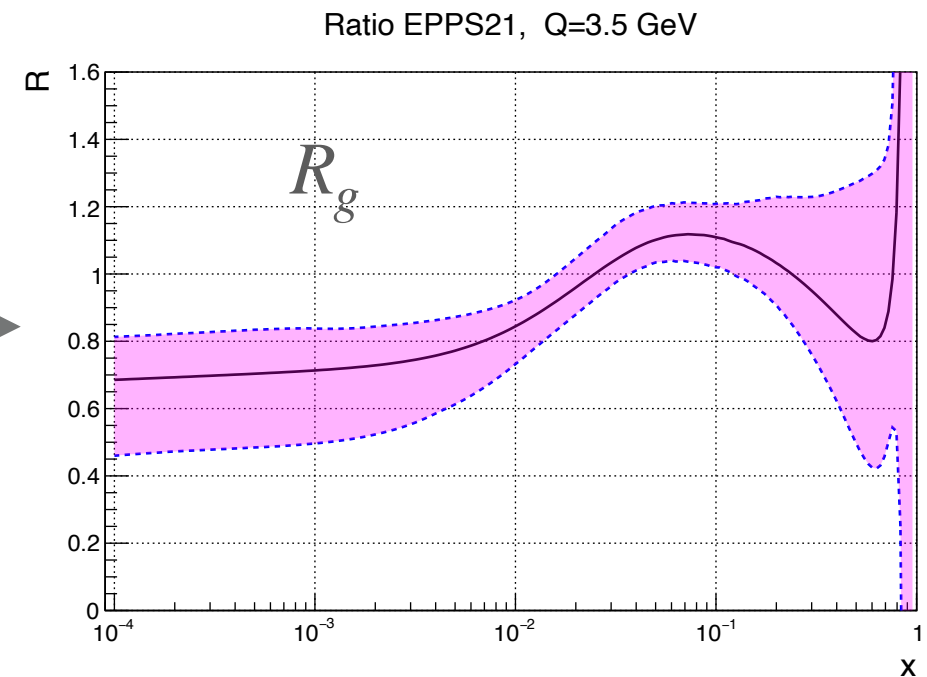
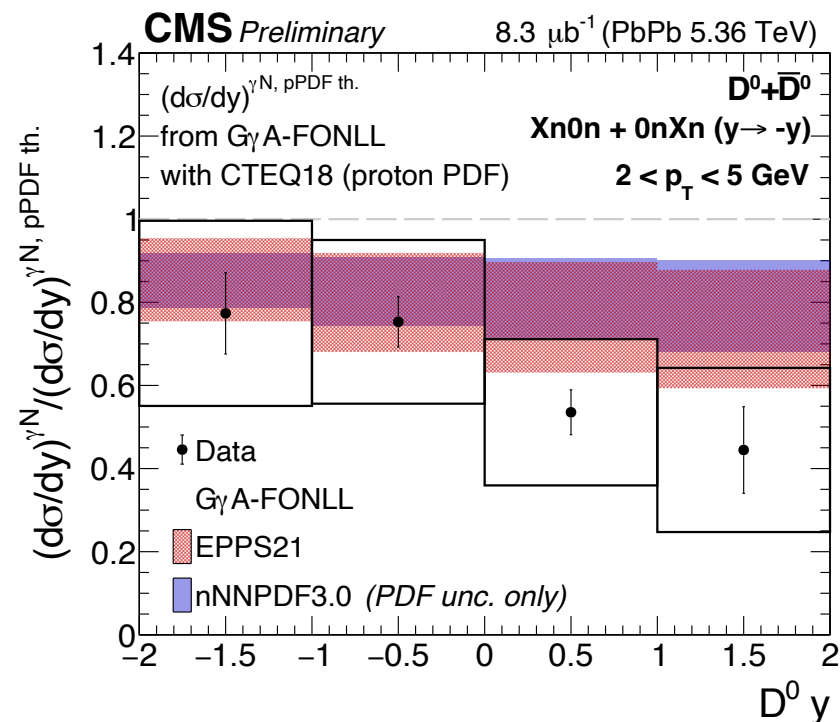
## Ratio to $G_\gamma$ A-FONLL with proton PDFs



**Sensitivity to nPDF  
 down to  $\sim 10^{-4}$  at low  $Q^2$**

*Indication of more  
 suppression at low  $x$  ?*

# Implications of LHC data on nuclear gluon density



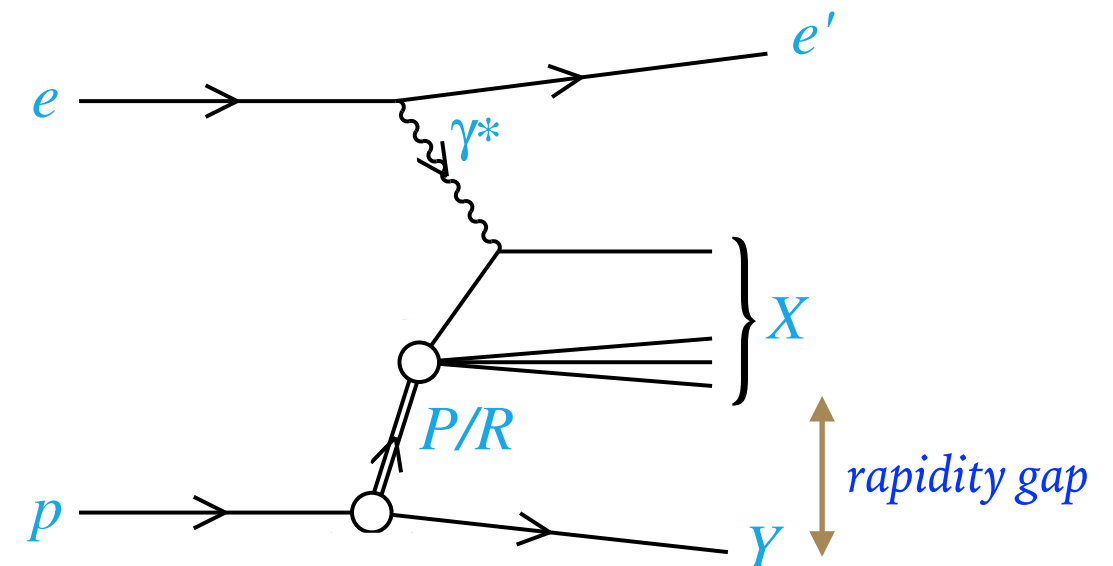
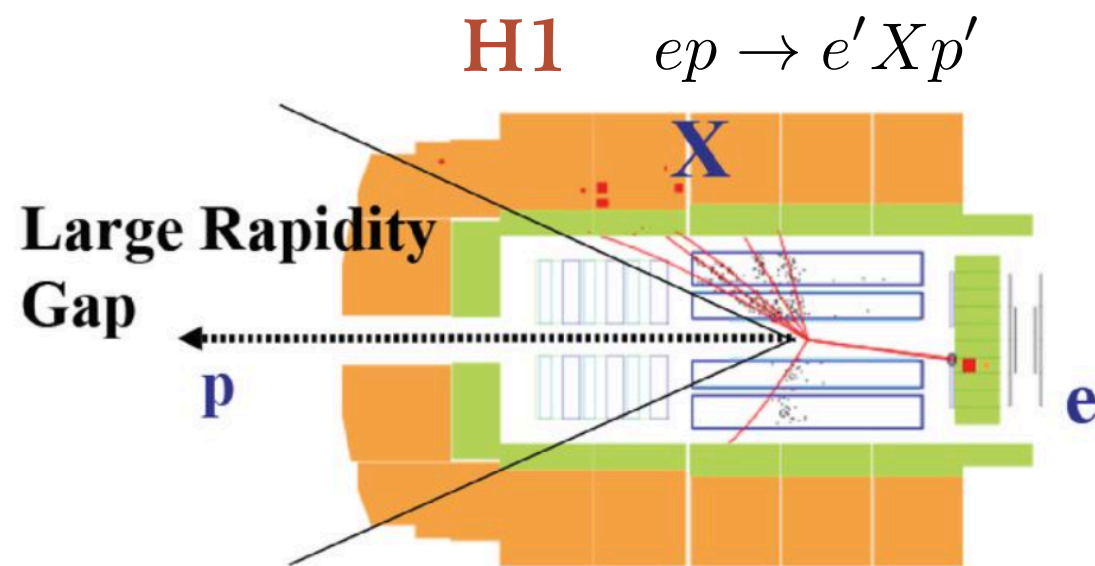
- Do CMS data imply the need for more **suppression** of the nuclear gluon density at low  $x$  ?
- Which modelling: **DGLAP** initial conditions, **leading twist shadowing**, or **non-linear evolution** ?
- Additional complications:
  - LHC UPC measurement not entirely inclusive: **0nXn** selection
  - Need to include **electromagnetic dissociation factor** (0.8-0.4 for CMS kinematics)
  - Part of **coherent diffraction** is rejected
  - Sensitivity to modeling of the **photon flux** from nucleus

**Measurements at EIC from eA collisions are necessary to pin down gluon density in nuclei**

**Importance of measurements of  $F_L$  to provide additional constraint**

# Diffraction in DIS

- Diffractive characterized by the **rapidity gap**: no activity in part of the detector
- At HERA in electron-proton collisions: about **10% events** diffractive
- Interpretation of diffraction : need **colorless** exchange



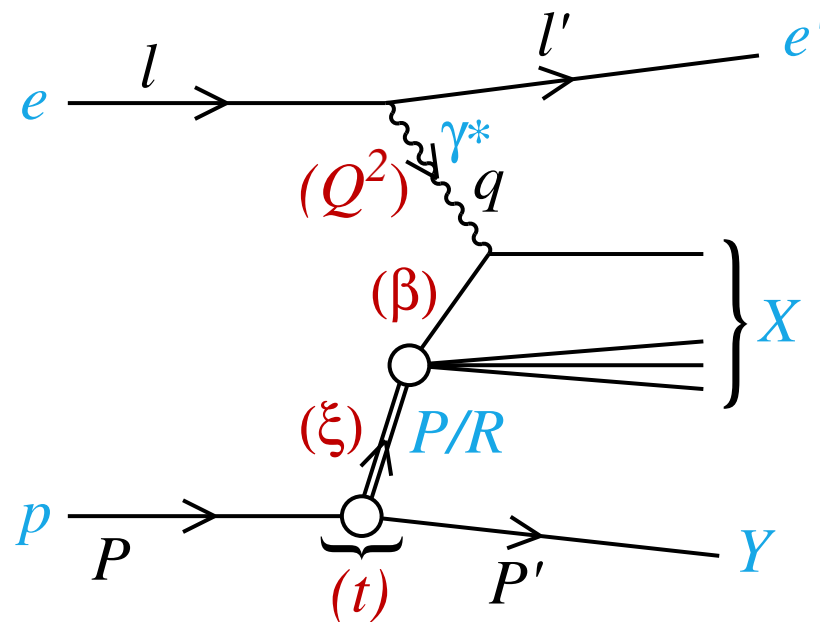
## Questions:

- What is the nature of this exchange ? Partonic composition ?
- One, two, or more exchanges ? Pomeron  $\mathbb{P}$ , Reggeon  $\mathbb{R}$  ?
- Evolution ? Relation to saturation, higher twists ?
- Energy, momentum transfer dependence ?
- What is the fraction of coherent/incoherent diffraction on nuclei ?



# Diffractive kinematics in DIS

## Standard DIS variables:



electron-proton  
cms energy squared:

$$s = (l + P)^2$$

photon-proton  
cms energy squared:

$$W^2 = (q + P)^2$$

inelasticity

$$y = \frac{P \cdot q}{P \cdot l}$$

Bjorken x

$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2P \cdot q} = \frac{Q^2}{ys} = \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + W^2}$$

(minus) photon virtuality

$$Q^2 = -q^2$$

$$x = \xi \beta$$

## Diffractive DIS variables:

$$\xi = x_{IP} = \frac{x}{\beta} = \frac{Q^2 + M_X^2 - t}{Q^2 + W^2}$$

momentum fraction of the  
Pomeron w.r.t hadron

$$\beta = \frac{Q^2}{2(P - P') \cdot q} = \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + M_X^2 - t}$$

momentum fraction of parton  
w.r.t Pomeron

$$t = (P' - P)^2$$

4-momentum transfer squared

# Diffractive cross section, structure functions

Diffractive cross section depends on 4 variables ( $\xi, \beta, Q^2, t$ ):

$$\frac{d^4\sigma^D}{d\xi d\beta dQ^2 dt} = \frac{2\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}^2}{\beta Q^4} Y_+ \sigma_r^{\text{D}(4)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2, t)$$

where  $Y_+ = 1 + (1 - y)^2$

**Reduced** cross section depends on two **structure functions**:

$$\sigma_r^{\text{D}(4)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2, t) = F_2^{\text{D}(4)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2, t) - \frac{y^2}{Y_+} F_L^{\text{D}(4)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2, t)$$

Upon integration over  $t$ :

$$F_{2,L}^{\text{D}(3)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2) = \int_{-\infty}^0 dt F_{2,L}^{\text{D}(4)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2, t)$$

$$\sigma_r^{\text{D}(3)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2) = F_2^{\text{D}(3)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2) - \frac{y^2}{Y_+} F_L^{\text{D}(3)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2)$$

When  $y \ll 1$

$$\sigma_r^{\text{D}(4,3)} \simeq F_2^{\text{D}(4,3)}$$

Dimensions:

$$[\sigma_r^{\text{D}(4)}] = \text{GeV}^{-2}$$

$$\sigma_r^{\text{D}(3)} \quad \text{Dimensionless}$$

# Diffraction at HERA: importance of 'Reggeon'

$\xi \sigma_r^{D(4)} \simeq \xi F_2^{D(4)}$  vs  $\xi$  for fixed  
 $|t| = 0.25 \text{ GeV}^2$  in bins of  $\beta, Q^2$

Described by two contributions:

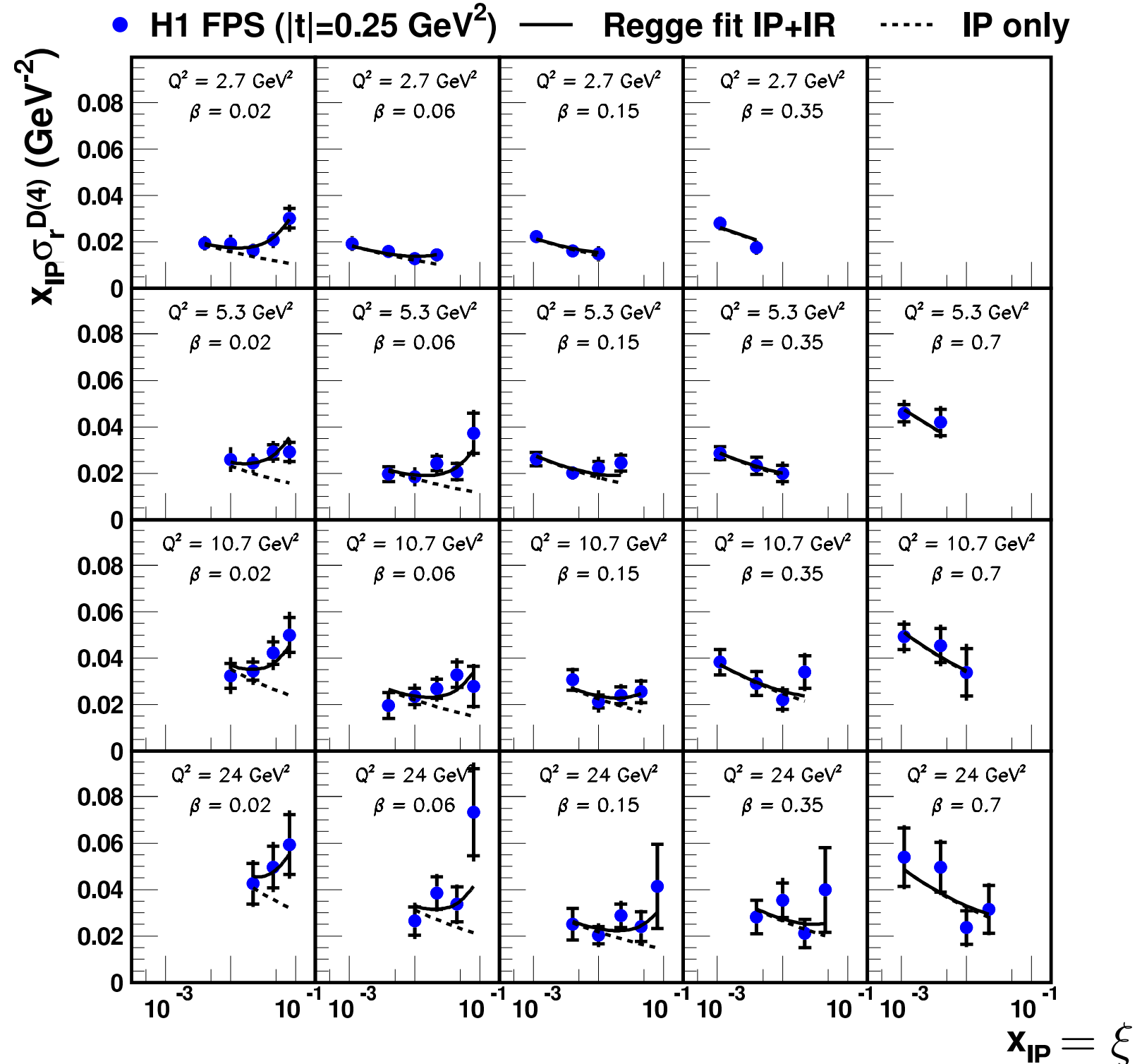
Leading 'Pomeron' at low  $\xi$

$$\xi f_{IP} \sim \xi^{-0.22}$$

Subleading 'Reggeon' at high  $\xi$

$$\xi f_{IR} \sim \xi^{1.0}$$

Subleading terms poorly  
 constrained





# Diffraction at EIC

## EIC complementarity to HERA

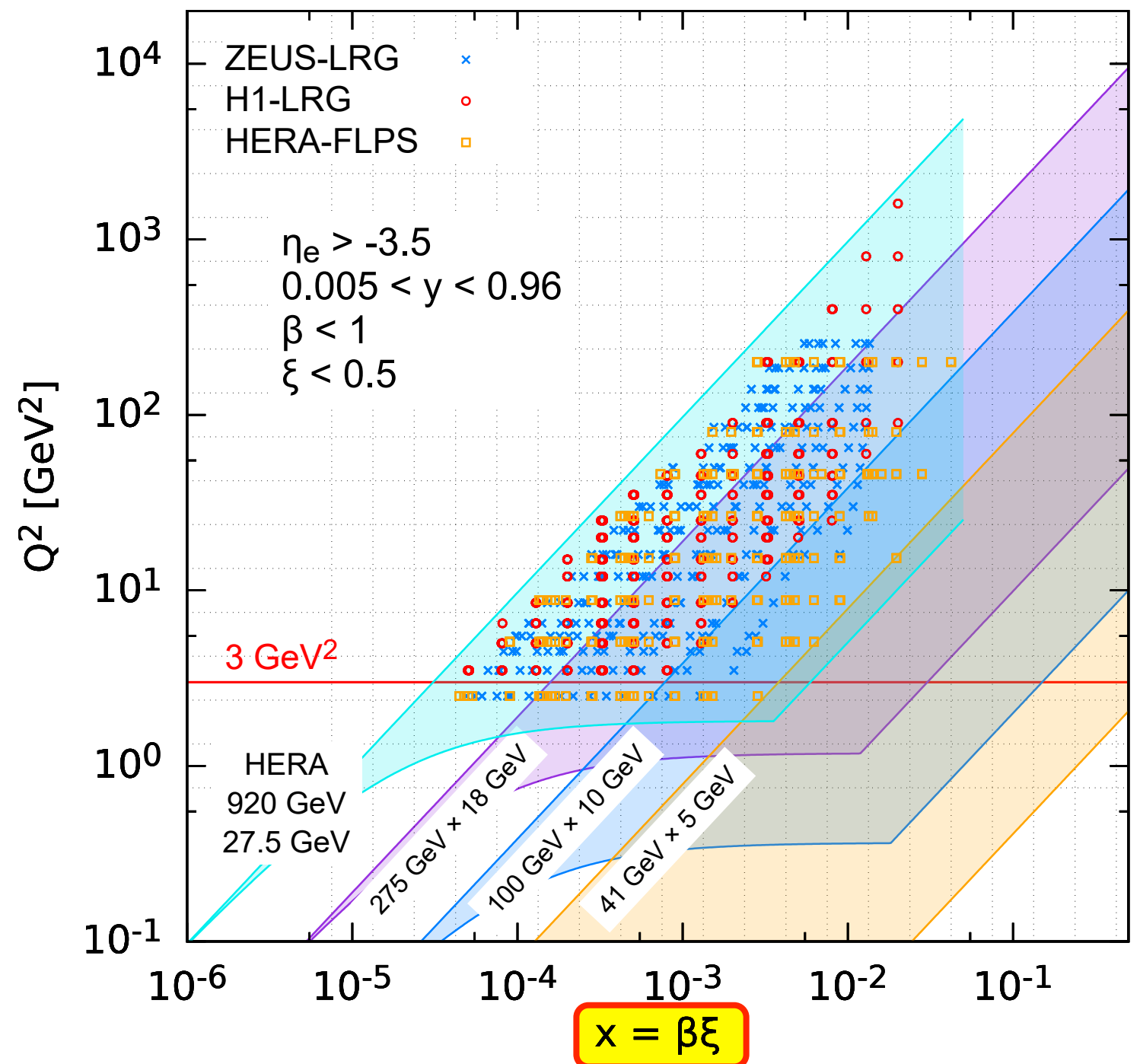
Large  $x \rightarrow$  Large  $\xi$  : constraints on subleading (Reggeon) exchange

Large  $x \rightarrow$  Large  $\beta$  : constraints on large  $z$  region of DPDFs

At EIC use **forward tagging** instrumentation to detect forward protons and study diffraction

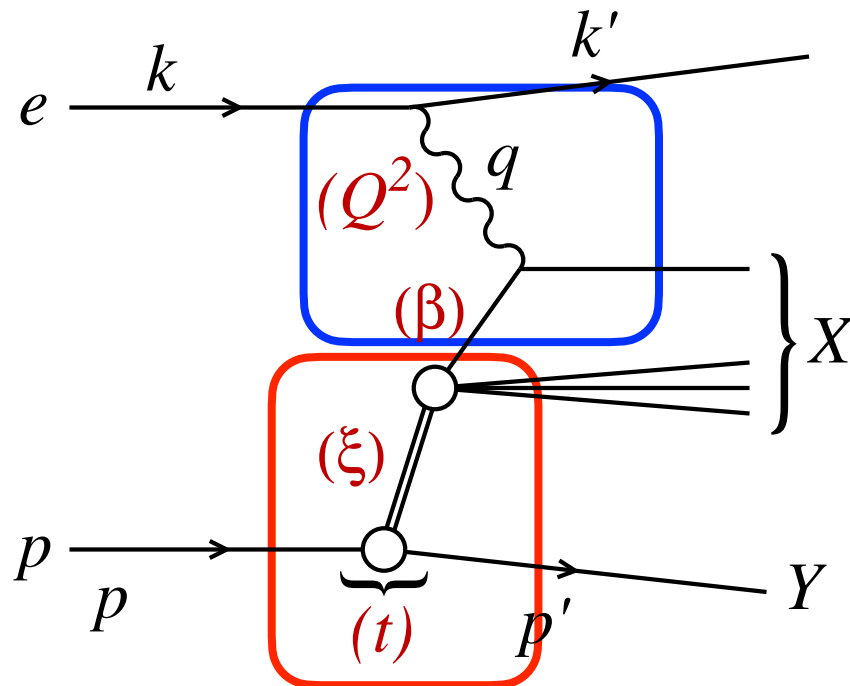
*Only selected energy scenarios at EIC shown*

## EIC 3 scenarios - HERA



# Collinear factorization for diffraction

Use the collinear factorization for the description of HERA and pseudodata simulation



Collins

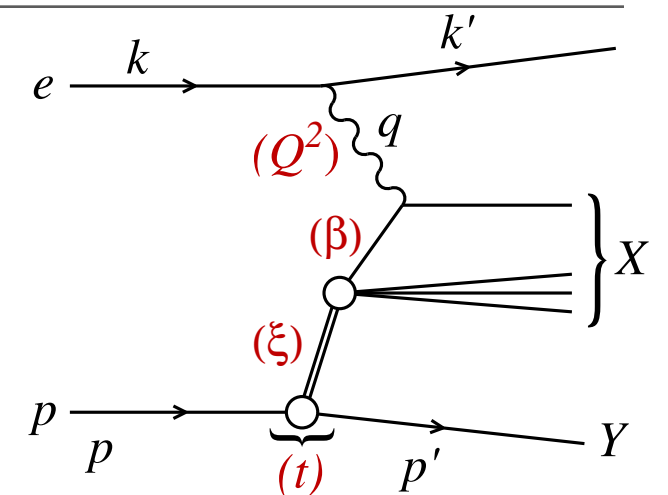
Collinear factorization in diffractive DIS

$$F_{2/L}^{D(4)}(\beta, \xi, Q^2, t) = \sum_i \int_{\beta}^1 \frac{dz}{z} C_{2/L,i} \left( \frac{\beta}{z}, Q^2 \right) f_i^D(z, \xi, Q^2, t)$$

- Diffractive cross section can be factorized into the convolution of the perturbatively calculable **partonic cross sections** and **diffractive parton distributions (DPDFs)**
- Partonic cross sections are the **same as in the inclusive DIS**
- The DPDFs are non-perturbative objects, but evolved perturbatively with **DGLAP**

# Model for diffractive structure functions

- Parametrization of the DPDFs as in H1 and ZEUS analysis
- **Regge factorization** assumed
- $(\beta(\text{or } z), Q^2)$  dependence in parton distribution of diffractive exchange factorized from flux factors with  $(t, \xi)$  dependence
- Dominant term '**Pomeron**', at low  $\xi$
- At higher  $\xi$  additional exchanges '**Reggeons**' need to be included



$$f_i^{D(4)}(z, \xi, Q^2, t) = \underbrace{f_{IP}^p(\xi, t)}_{\text{Pomeron}} f_i^{IP}(z, Q^2) + \underbrace{f_{IR}^p(\xi, t)}_{\text{Reggeon}} f_i^{IR}(z, Q^2)$$

Regge type flux:

$$f_{IP,IR}^p(\xi, t) = A_{IP,IR} \frac{e^{B_{IP,IR}t}}{\xi^{2\alpha_{IP,IR}(t)-1}}$$

Trajectory:

$$\alpha_{IP,IR}(t) = \alpha_{IP,IR}(0) + \alpha'_{IP,IR} t.$$

For t-integrated case

$$f_i^{D(3)}(z, \xi, Q^2) = \phi_{IP}^p(\xi) f_i^{IP}(z, Q^2) + \phi_{IR}^p(\xi) f_i^{IR}(z, Q^2)$$

Integrated flux:

$$\phi_{IP,IR}^p(\xi) = \int dt f_{IP,IR}^p(\xi, t)$$

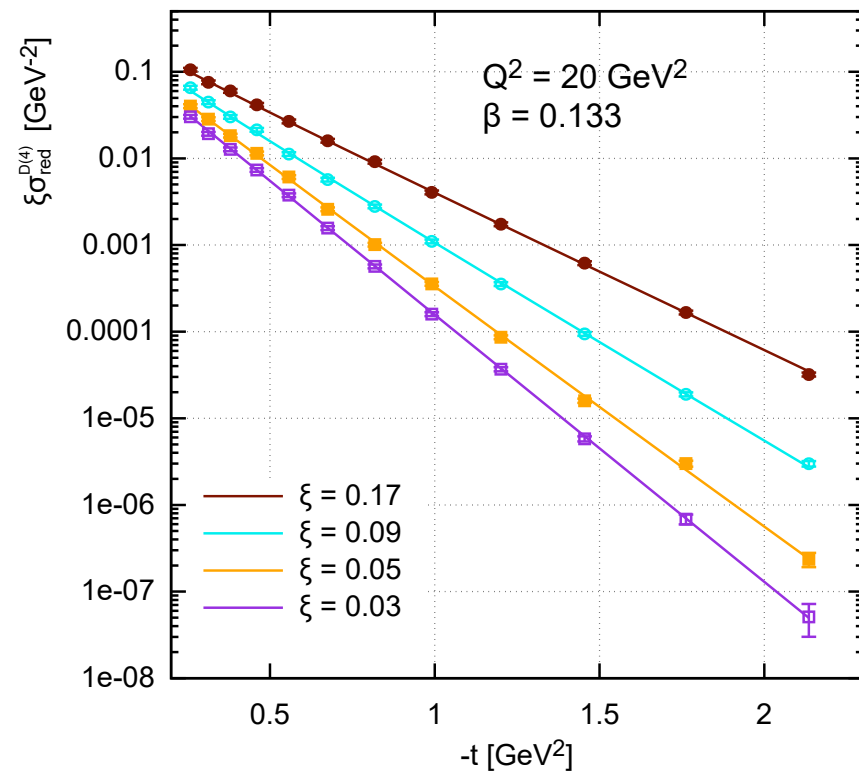
Pomeron PDFs obtained via NLO DGLAP evolution starting at initial scale  $\mu_0^2 = 1.8 \text{ GeV}^2$

$$z f_i(z, \mu_0^2) = A_i z^{B_i} (1 - z)^{C_i} \quad i=q,g$$

Reggeon PDFs taken from the GRV fits to the pion structure function (**could also be determined at EIC!**)



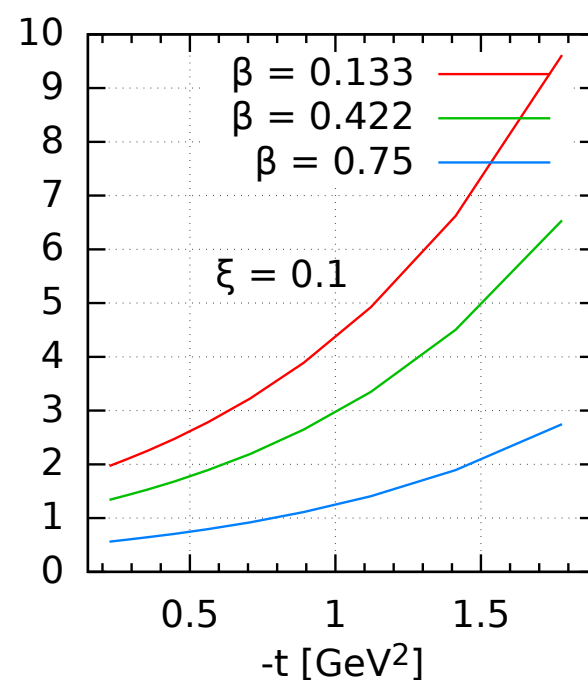
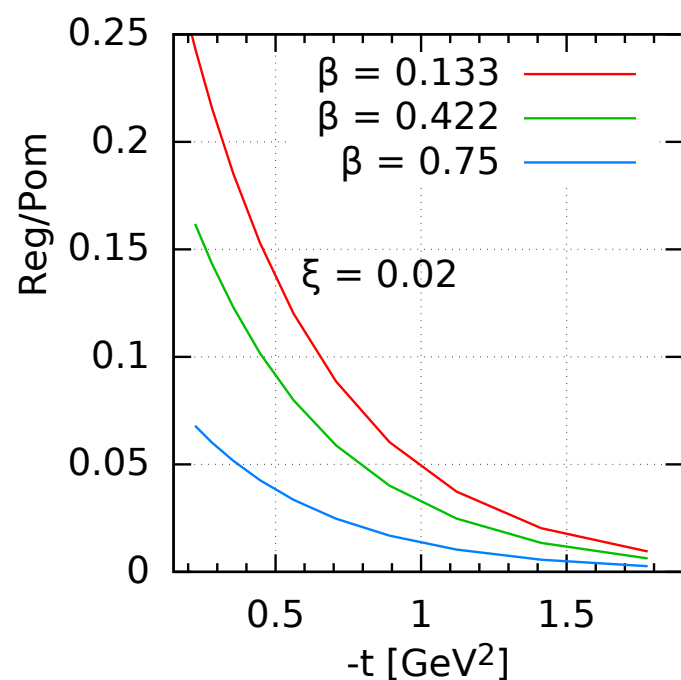
# Reggeon and Pomeron component in cross section at EIC



$ep \rightarrow epX$

## 4D cross section pseudodata

- Changing  $t$  slope as transitioning from Pomeron to Reggeon dominated region
- $\sigma_r^D$  slowly varying with  $Q^2$



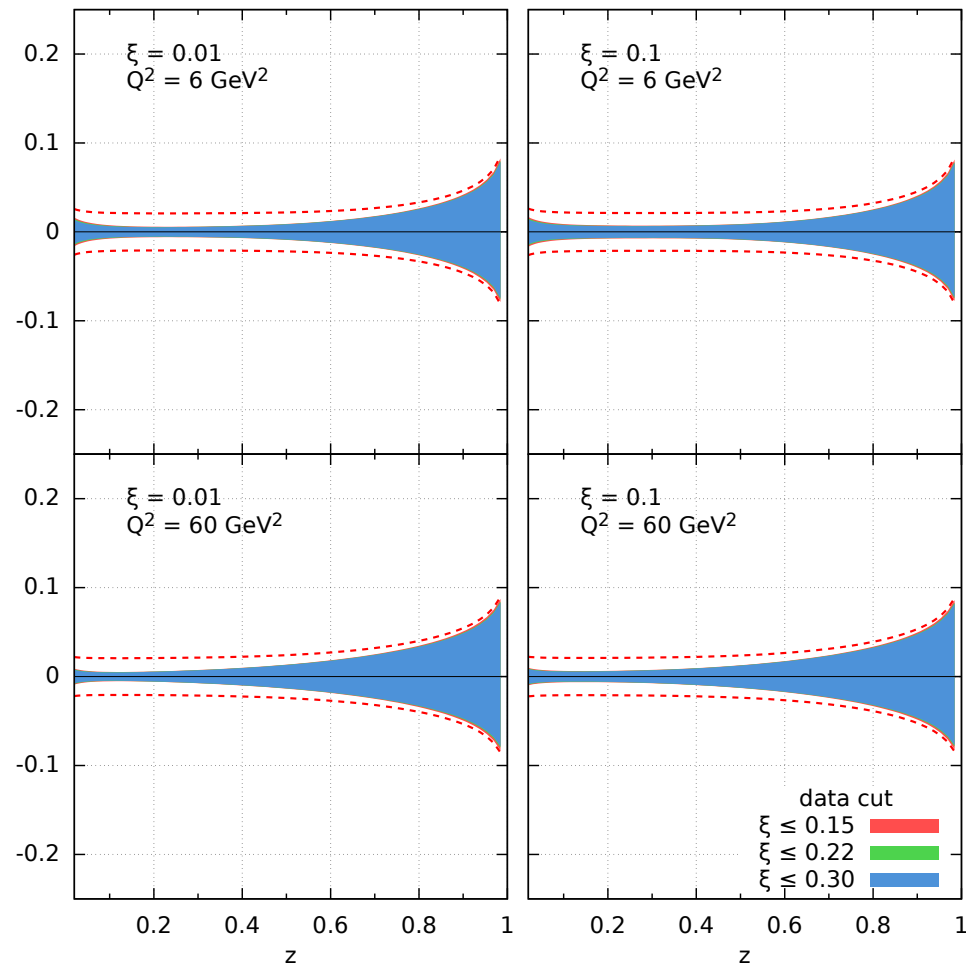
## $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{P}$ ratio vs $-t$ for $\xi = 0.01, 0.1$

- Change of ratio for small vs large  $\xi$  as a function of  $-t$ : different slope
- $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{P} < 1$  for small  $\xi \sim 0.02$
- $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{P} > 1$  for larger  $\xi \geq 0.1$  : not accessible at HERA

# Uncertainties of diffractive PDFs: Pomeron

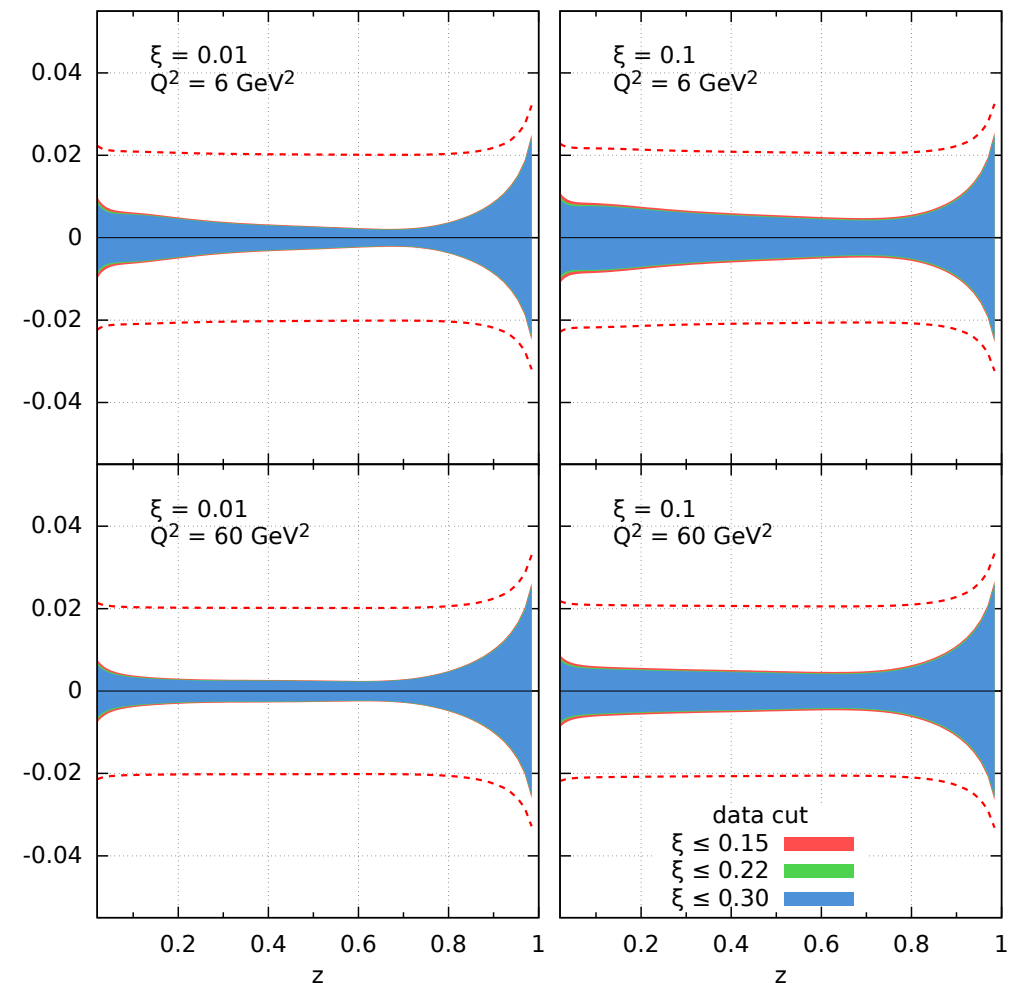
## Pomeron gluon

Pomeron gluon data cut:  $t \geq -1.5 \text{ GeV}^2$



## Pomeron quark

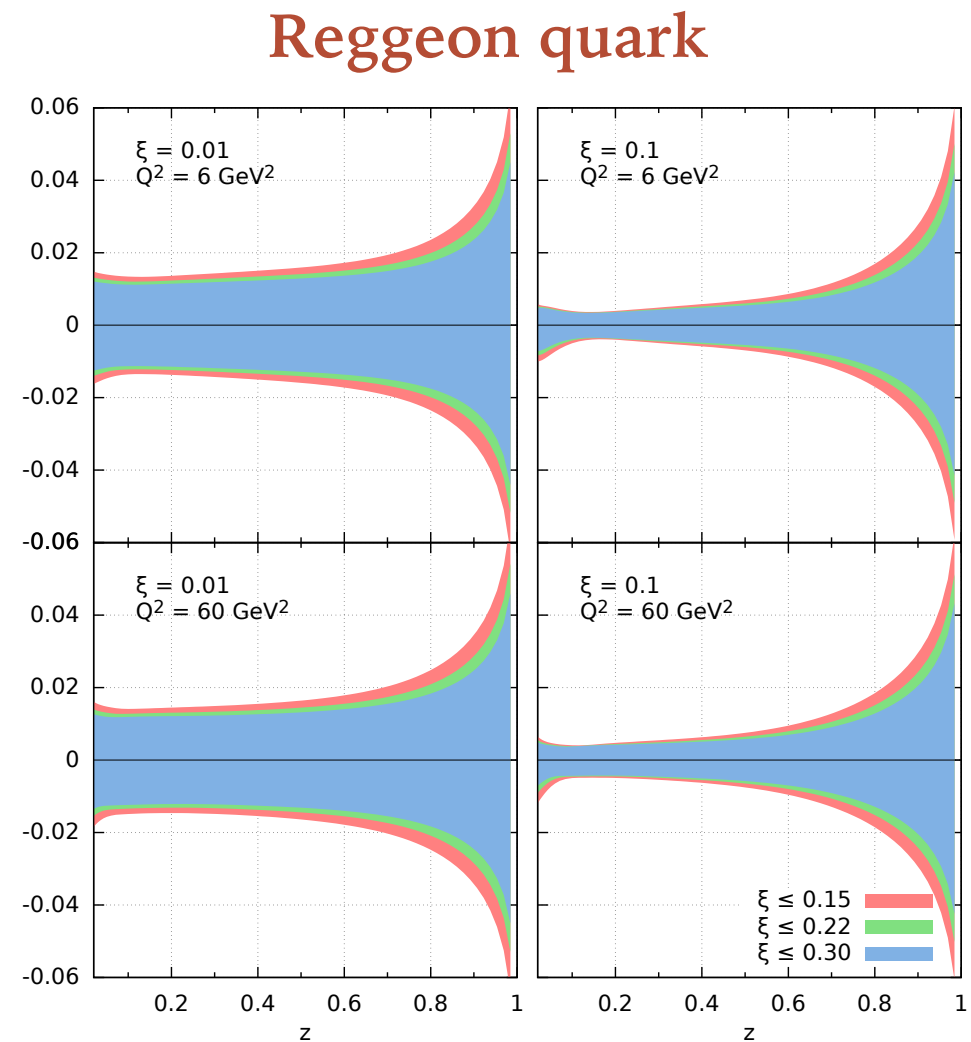
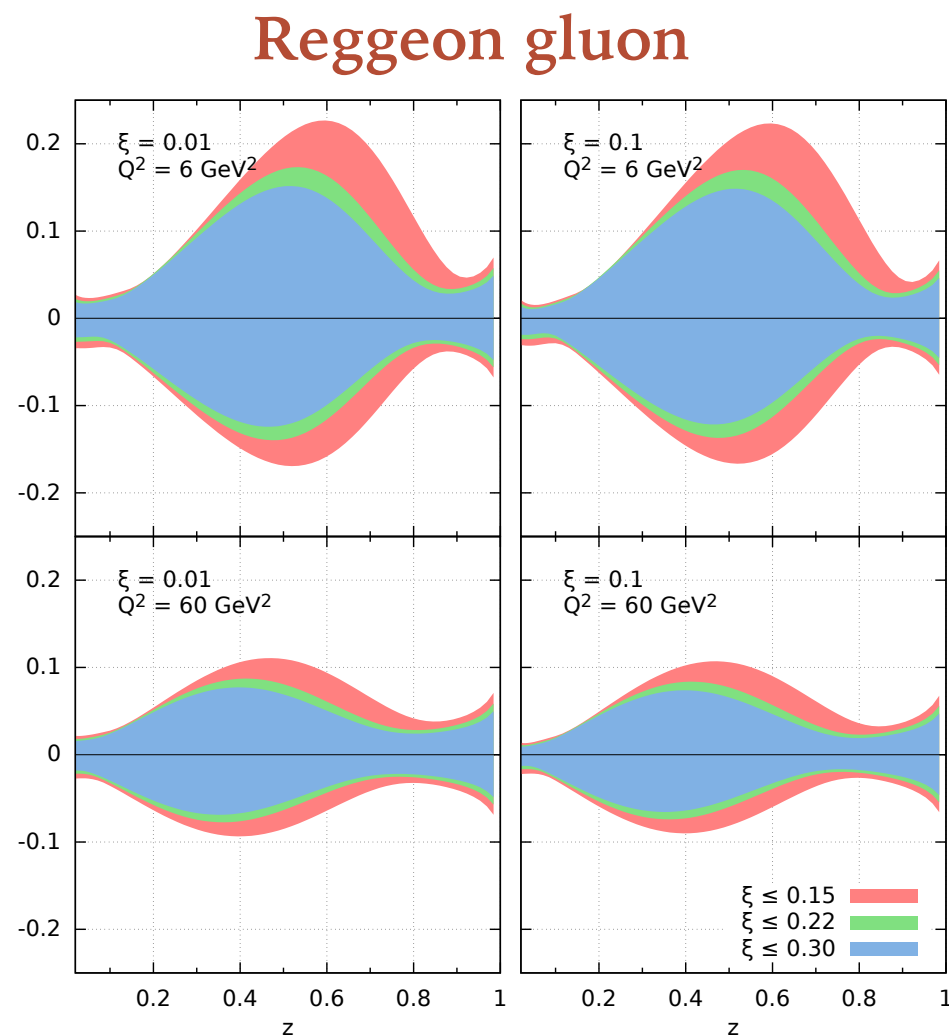
Pomeron quark data cut:  $t \geq -1.5 \text{ GeV}^2$



linear horizontal scale  
note different vertical scale for  
gluons and quarks

- relative uncertainty
- <few % or better in most regions
- larger uncertainty for gluon at large  $z$  (and also small  $z$ )
- normalization error at 2% is dominant at most regions (dashed red)

# Uncertainties of diffractive PDFs: Reggeon



- $<2\%$  or better in most regions for quark except at large  $z$
- Larger uncertainty for Reggeon gluon which is much smaller than Pomeron gluon
- Mild sensitivity to the cut on  $\xi$  for gluon, quark less sensitive
- Minimal sensitivity to the cut on  $t$ , dense vs sparse binning, lower luminosity  $\mathcal{L} = 10 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

**EIC can constrain Reggeon at similar level of precision as the Pomeron even when restricting data to  $|t| \leq 0.5 \text{ GeV}^2$  and  $\xi_{\text{max}} \simeq 0.15 \div 0.2$**



# Diffraction in ep/eA: longitudinal structure function

$F_L^D$  diffractive longitudinal structure function

$$\sigma_r^{D(3)} = F_2^{D(3)} - \frac{y^2}{Y_+} F_L^{D(3)}$$

$F_L^D$  vanishes in the parton model, similarly to inclusive case

Gets non-vanishing contributions in QCD

As in inclusive case, particularly sensitive to the diffractive **gluon density**

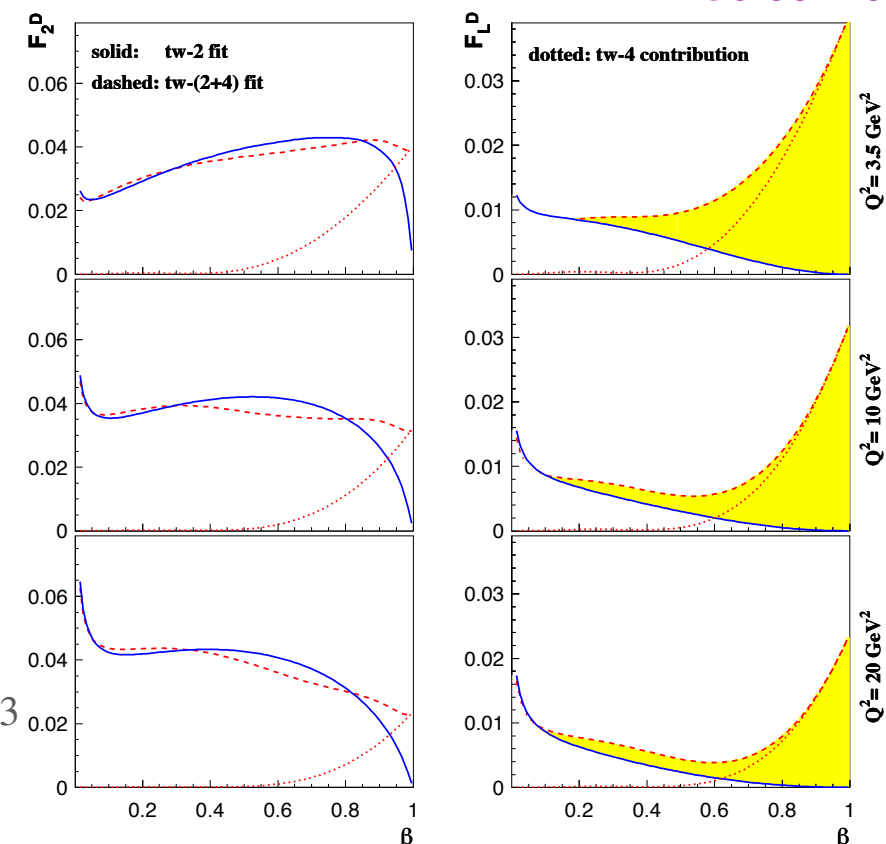
Expected large **higher twists**, provides test of the **non-linear, saturation phenomena**

Golec-Biernat, Łuszczak

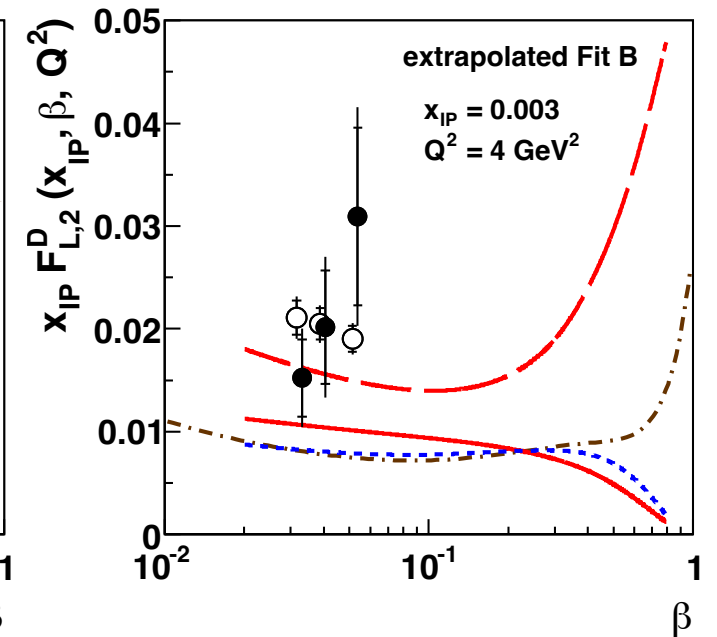
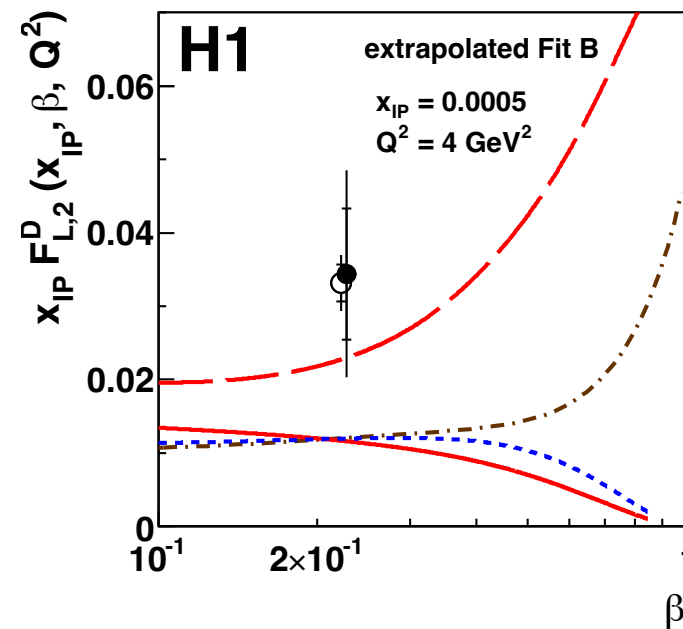
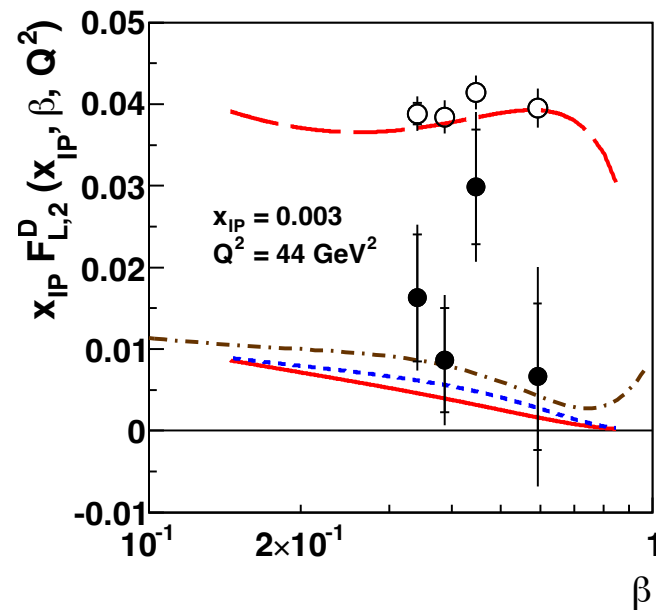
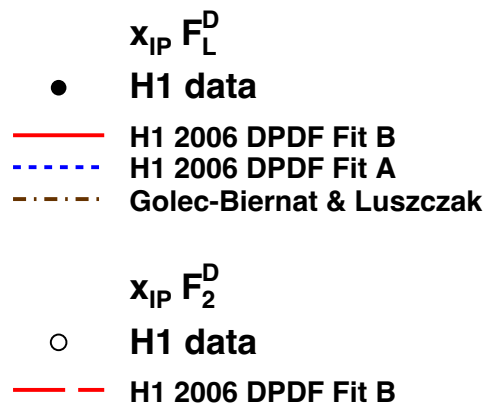
Theoretical studies indicate important role of twist 4 contributions to  $F_L^D$

$F_2^D$  affected less by higher twists

$$x_{\mathbb{P}} \equiv \xi = 10^{-3}$$



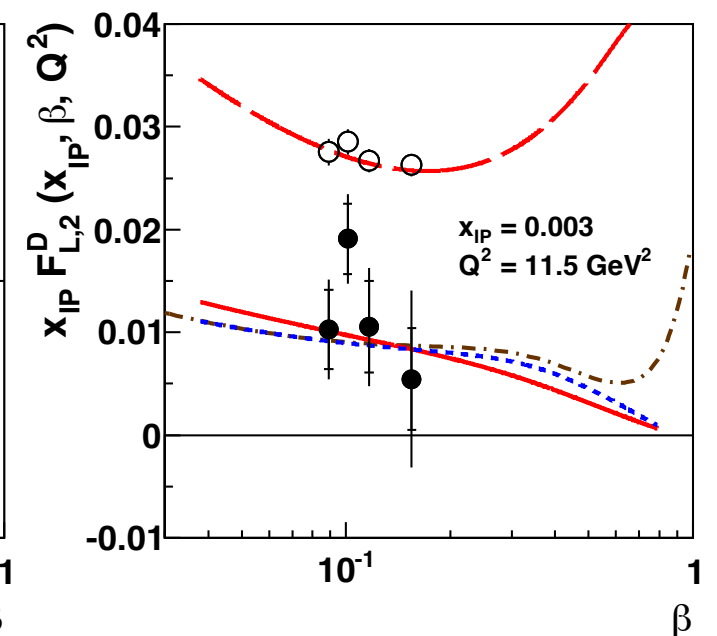
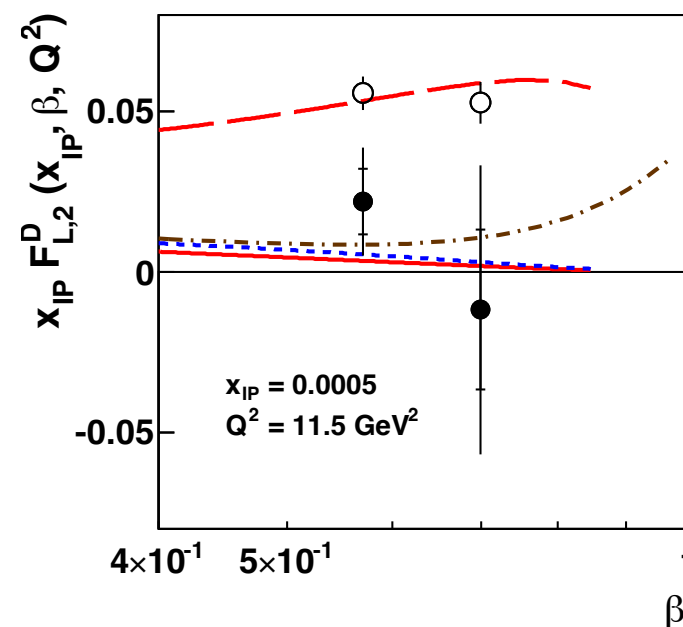
# $F_L^{D(3)}$ at HERA



## H1 conclusions:

Measurements of  $\sigma_r^D$  consistent with predictions from the models

Extracted  $F_L^D$  has a tendency to be higher than the predictions, though compatible with model predictions within errors



Overall:  $0 < F_L^D < F_2^D$

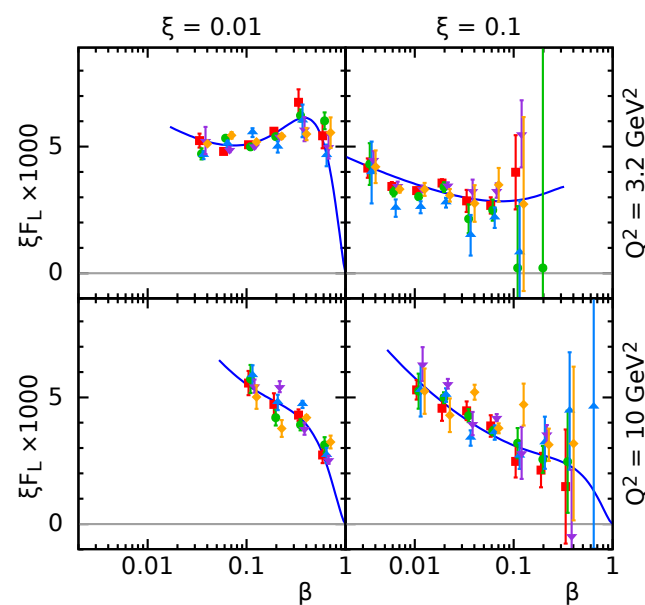
# Diffraction in ep/eA: longitudinal structure function

## Simulations for the EIC of $F_L^D$

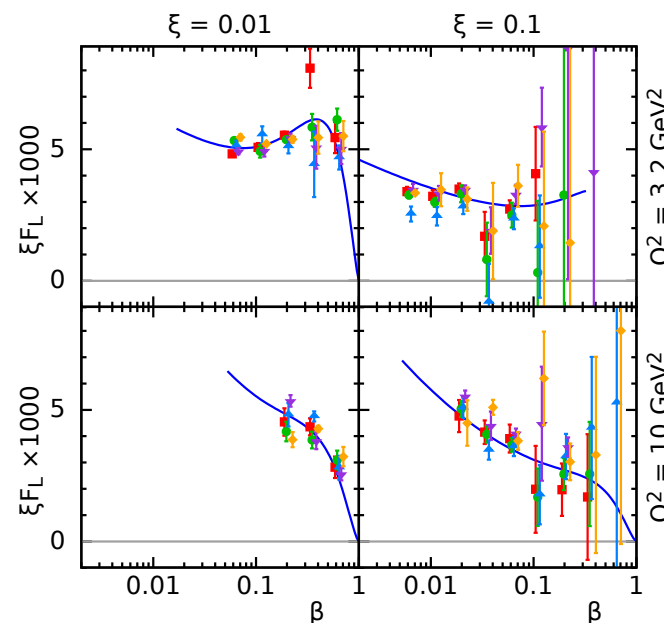
Cross section generation from ZEUS-SJ diffractive PDFs evolved with DGLAP  
Assumed  $\delta_{\text{sys}}=1\text{-}2\%$ , extrapolated from HERA 2% uncorrelated systematics;  
normalization/correlated systematics negligible effect on extraction of  $F_L^D$   
 $\delta_{\text{stat}}$  from  $10 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  integrated luminosity; Several random samples are generated

		$E_p$ [GeV]					
		41	100	120	165	180	275
$E_e$ [GeV]	5	29	45	49	57	60	74
	10	40	63	69	81	85	105
	18	54	85	93	109	114	141

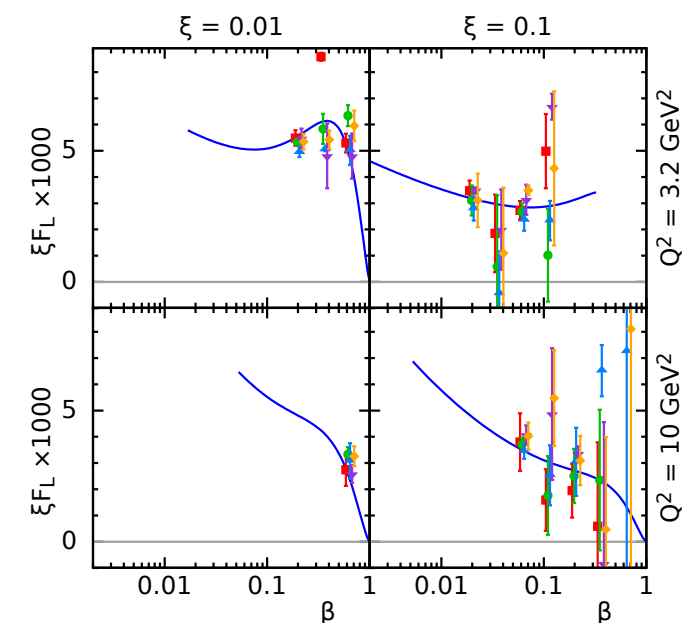
*Armesto, Newman, Slominski, AS*



17 energies



9 energies



5 energies

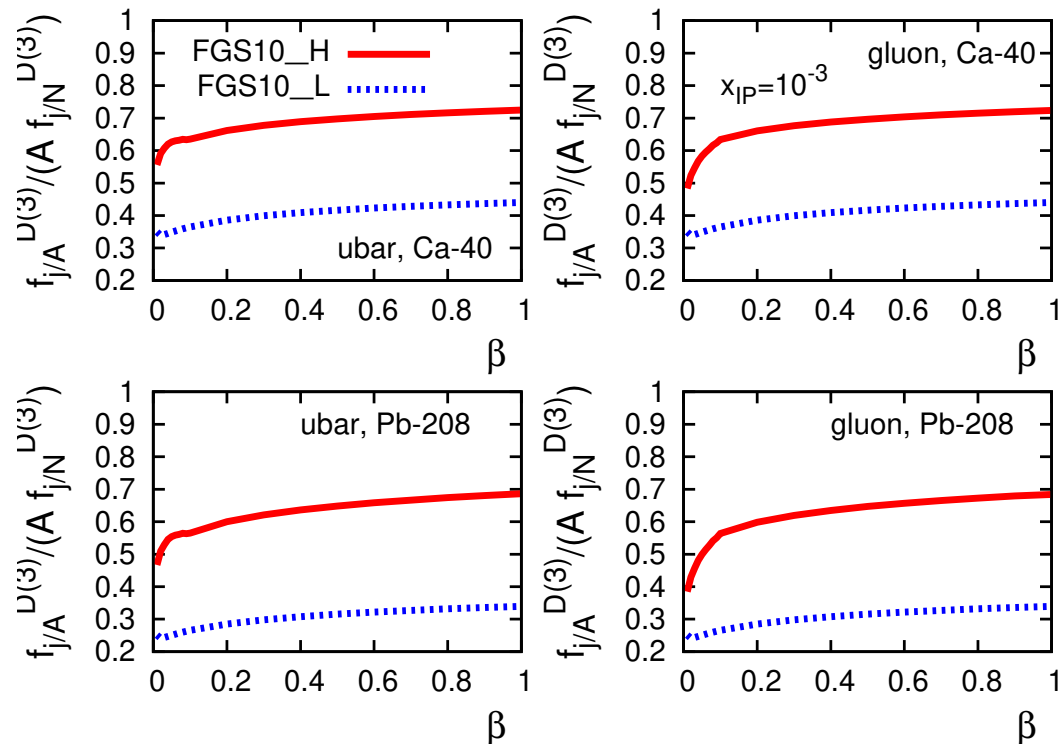
Small differences between S-17 and S-9, small reduction to range and increase in uncertainties.  
More pronounced reduction in range and higher uncertainties in S-5.

**An extraction of  $F_L^D$  possible with EIC-favored set of 5 energy combinations**

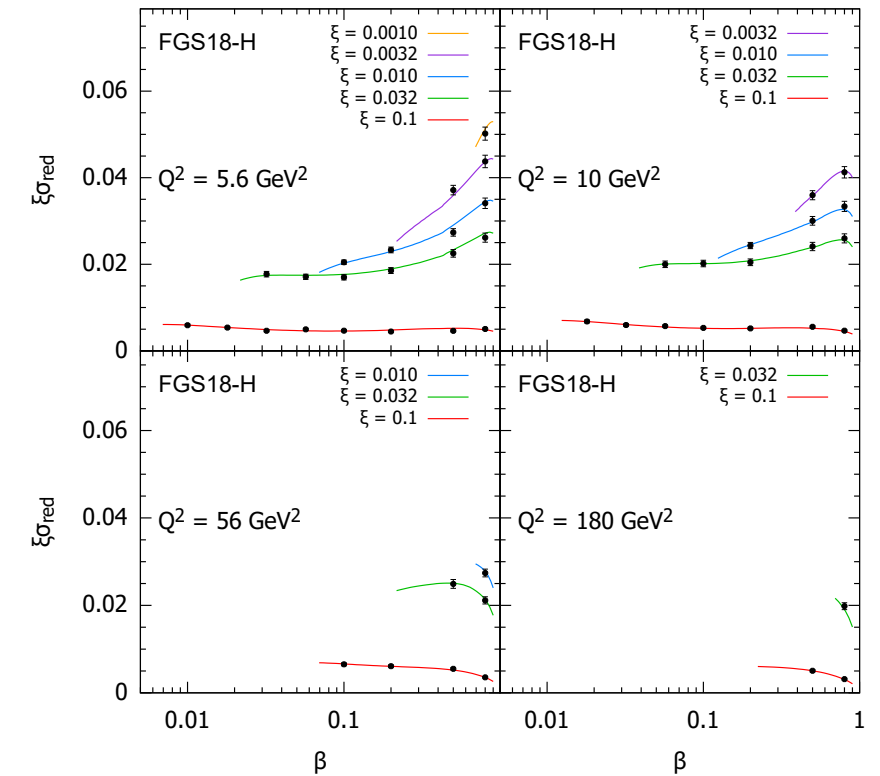
# Inclusive diffraction at EIC: nuclei

- Extraction of **nuclear diffractive parton distributions** would be possible for the first time
- Diffractive to inclusive ratio and the ratio of diffraction in nuclei to that in protons are **sensitive probes to different models**

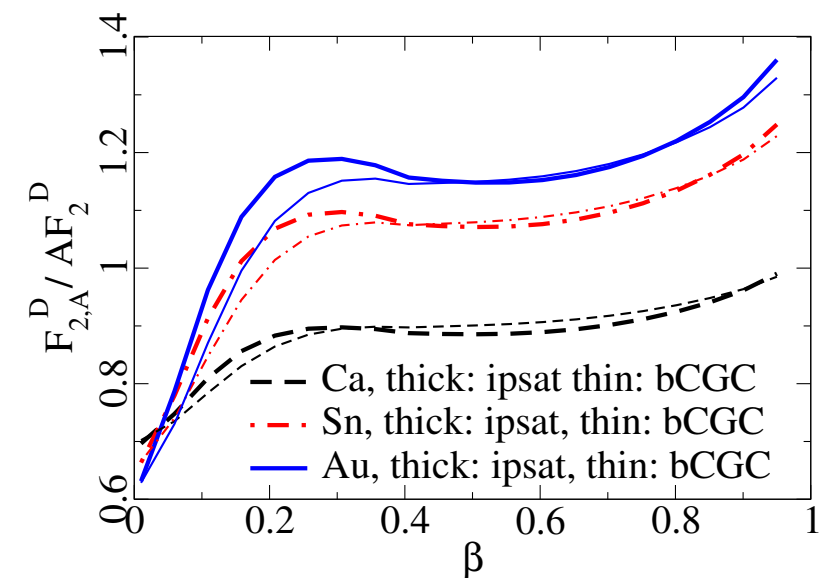
## Nuclear ratio in LT shadowing : suppression



e-Au  $E_{Au}/A = 100$  GeV,  $E_e = 21$  GeV,  $L = 2$  fb $^{-1}$



## Nuclear ratio in saturation model: enhancement



Yellow Report



# Summary

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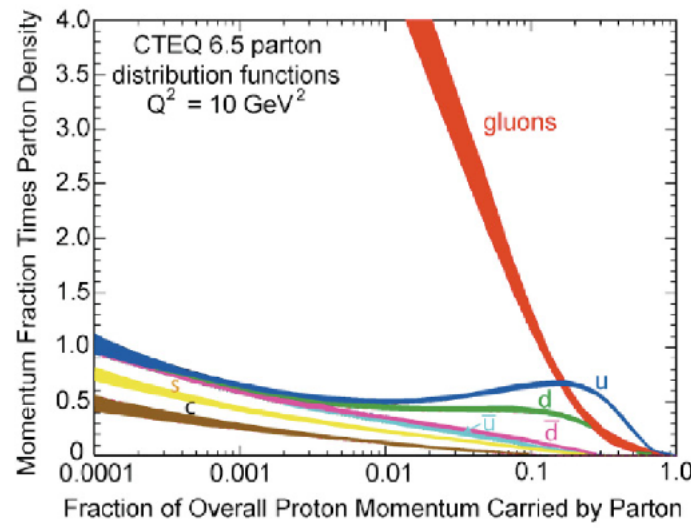
**Electron Ion Collider** : high energy, high luminosity, polarized, electron-proton and electron-ion collider, funded by DoE, will be built in this decade and start operating in 2030's

- **Precision tool** which will address most profound unanswered questions in QCD
- Will provide first DIS collider data for the structure functions in nuclei
- Opportunity for reducing nuclear PDF uncertainties. Challenge remains: disentangle initial conditions in linear evolution and possible nonlinear evolution effects
- Longitudinal structure function can help, if measured with high precision
- Inclusive diffraction: can provide insight into the nature of the colorless exchange(s)
- EIC is in a unique position to measure Reggeon contribution with high precision
- Opportunity to measure longitudinal structure function in diffraction: sensitivity to higher twists
- First ever measurement of the diffraction in nuclei. This may be one of the best processes to test saturation (wide variation of the models)

# Backup

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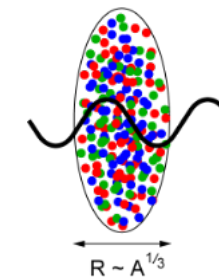
# Studying saturation at EIC with nuclei



Does the rise of **gluon**  $xg(x, Q^2)$  get **tamed**?

Important to understand for initial conditions in heavy ion collisions

Probe interacts **coherently** with nucleons

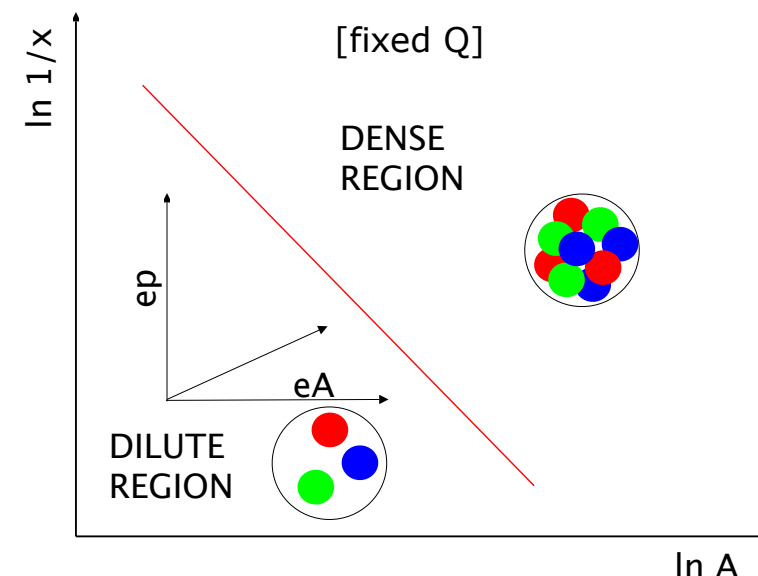
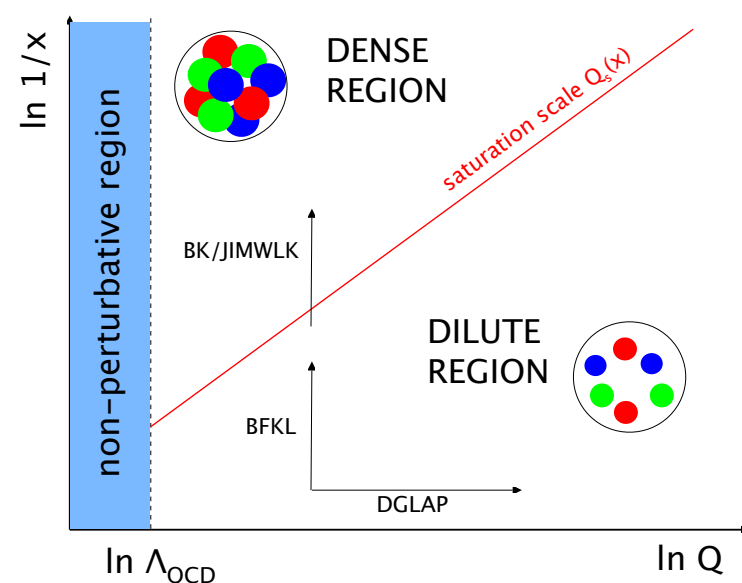


QCD at high energy (low  $x$ ) and/or high density (large  $A$ ) predicts **saturation** of gluons

Effective theory of QCD at high energy/density:

**Color Glass Condensate CGC** McLerran, Venugopalan,...

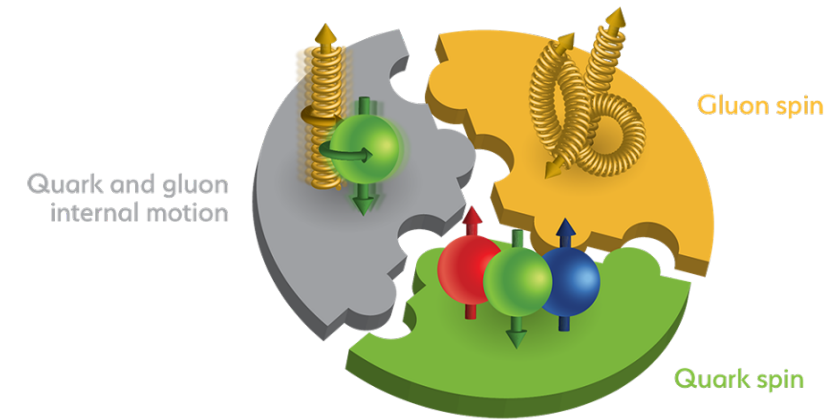
$$Q_s^2(x, A) \sim \frac{A^{1/3}}{x^\lambda}$$



**Nuclei provide enhancement of the density : opportunities to test saturation at EIC**

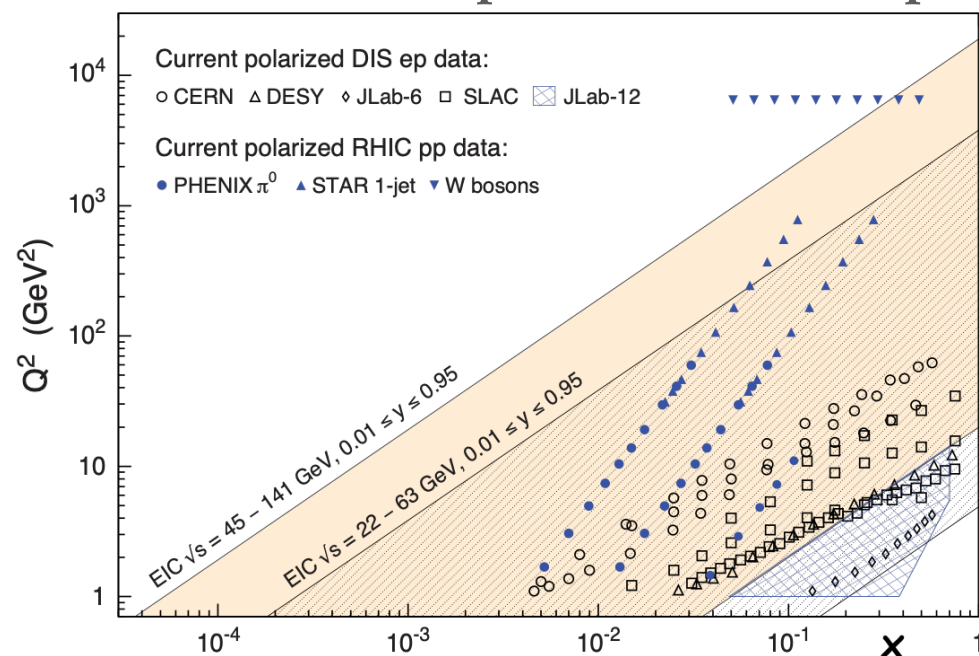
# Proton spin

- **Spin** is fundamental property of particles. All elementary particles except Higgs carry non-zero spin.
- Proton spin cannot be explained within static picture.
- It depends on the intrinsic properties and interactions of quarks and gluons



$$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 dx \overset{\text{quark spin}}{\Delta\Sigma(x, Q^2)} + \int_0^1 dx \overset{\text{gluon spin}}{\Delta G(x, Q^2)} + \int_0^1 dx \overset{\text{orbital angular momentum}}{\left( \sum_q L_q + L_g \right)}$$

## EIC kinematic plane vs current polarized data

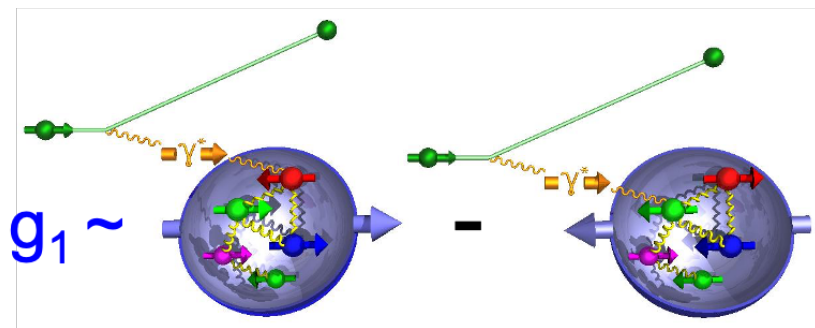


- EIC extends range in  $(x, Q^2)$  by 1-2 orders of magnitude for polarized measurements.
- Possibilities for precision measurement of **structure function  $g_1$** , **gluon** contribution to proton spin, **quark** contribution, **strange** quark contribution also accessible, **polarized deuterons** allow for measurement of  $g_1$  in a neutron



# Proton spin

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{d^2\sigma^{\rightarrow\rightarrow}}{dx dQ^2} - \frac{d^2\sigma^{\rightarrow\leftarrow}}{dx dQ^2} \right] \simeq \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4} y(2-y) g_1(x, Q^2)$$



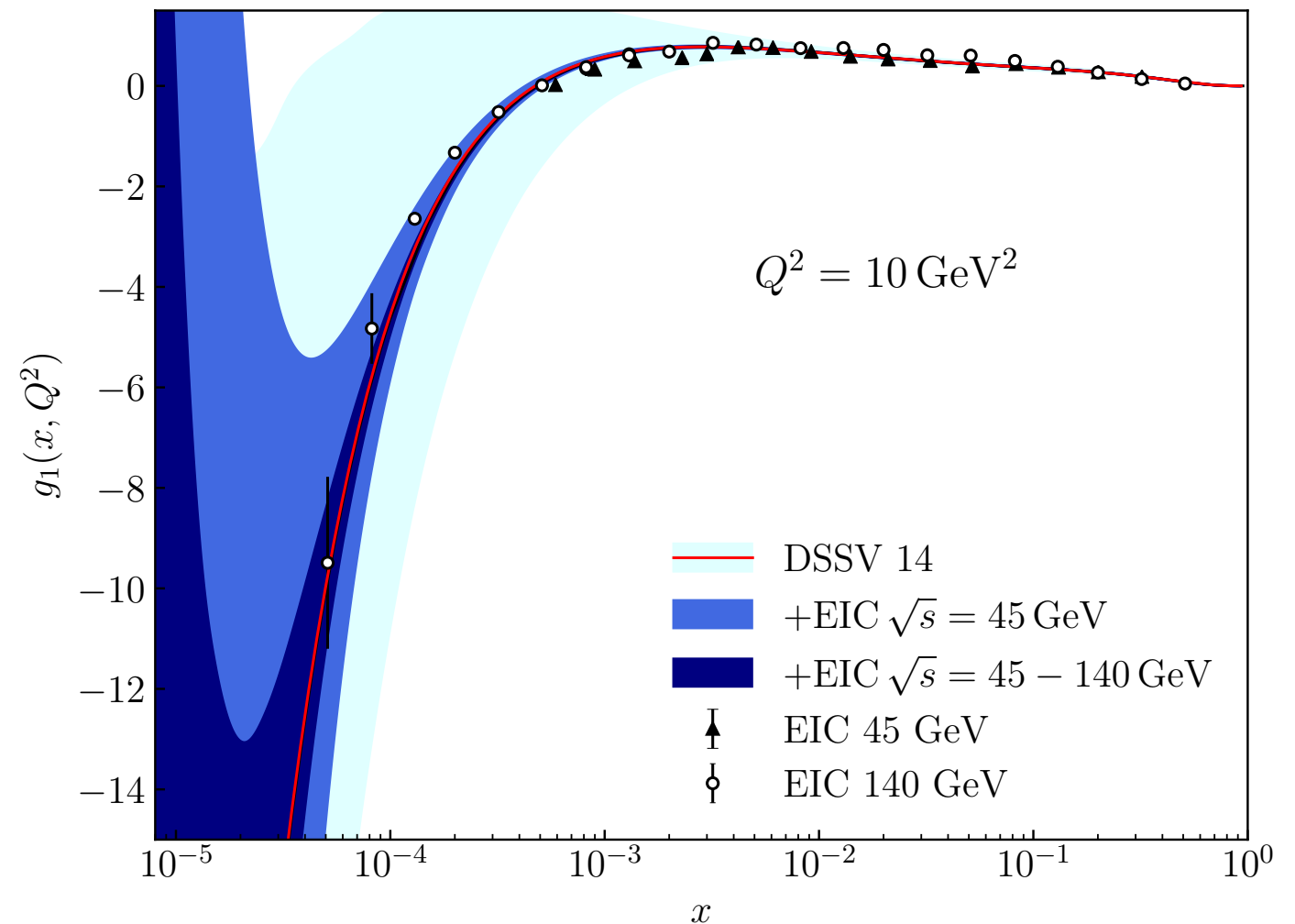
**Quark** contribution: integral over of  $g_1$  over  $x$  from 0 to 1

Sensitive to **gluon** contribution  $\Delta g$  at higher orders: drive the scaling violations.

$$\frac{dg_1(x, Q^2)}{d \log Q^2} \sim \Delta g$$

Current **uncertainties** for  $g_1$  as a function of  $x$  for fixed  $Q^2$

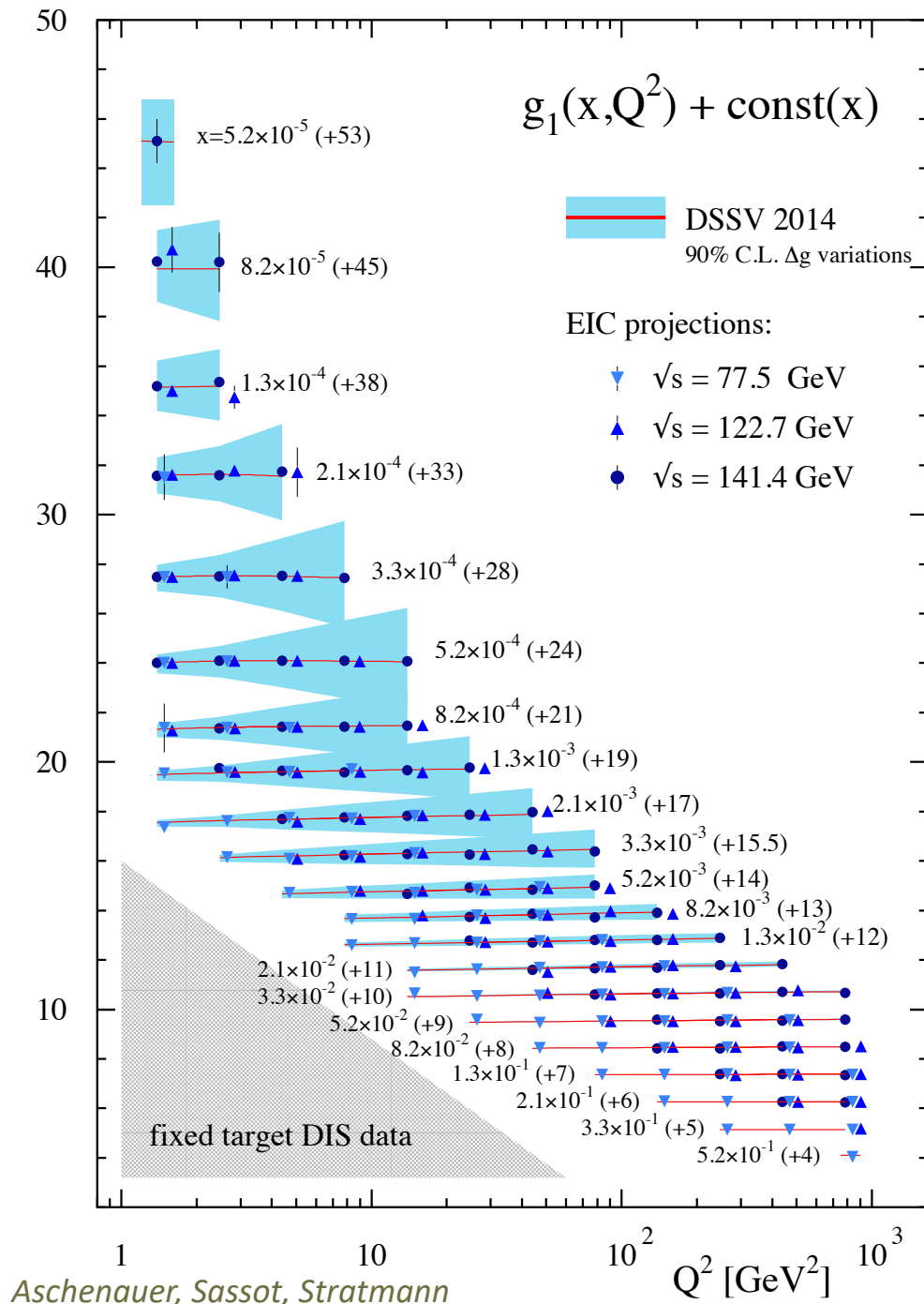
EIC projections leads to greatly reduced **uncertainties**



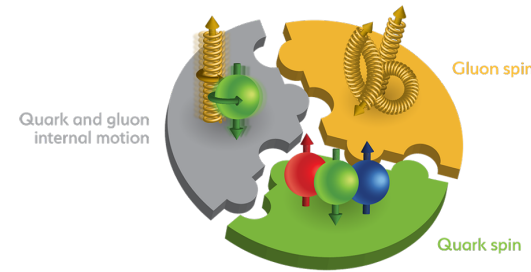
Borsa, Lucero, Sassot, Aschenauer, Nunes

# Proton spin: constraints on the OAM

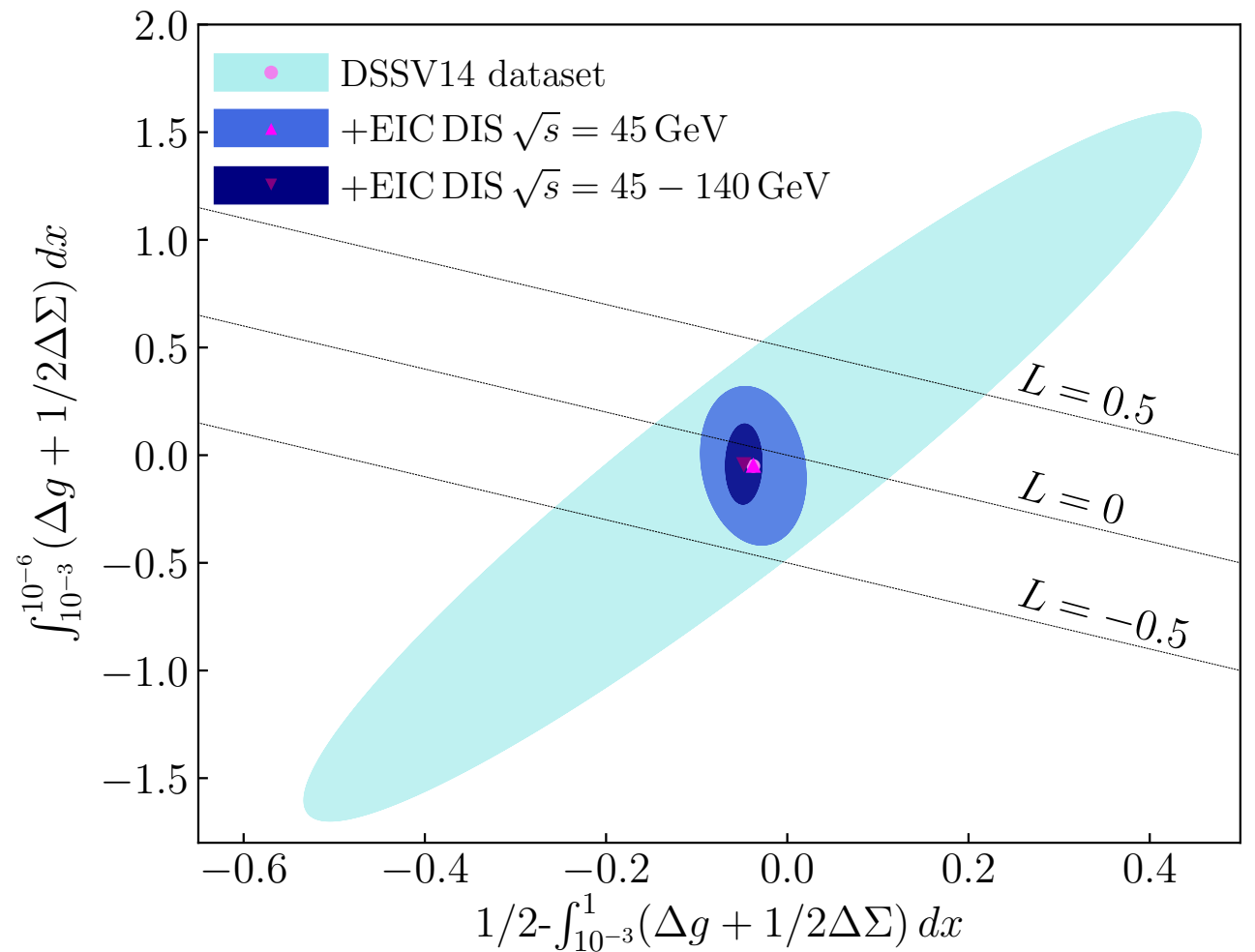
## EIC projections over range of $x$ and $Q^2$



- Insight into quark and gluon contribution to proton spin.
- By subtracting these contributions one can constrain the parton **orbital angular momentum** contribution  $L_q + L_g$ .

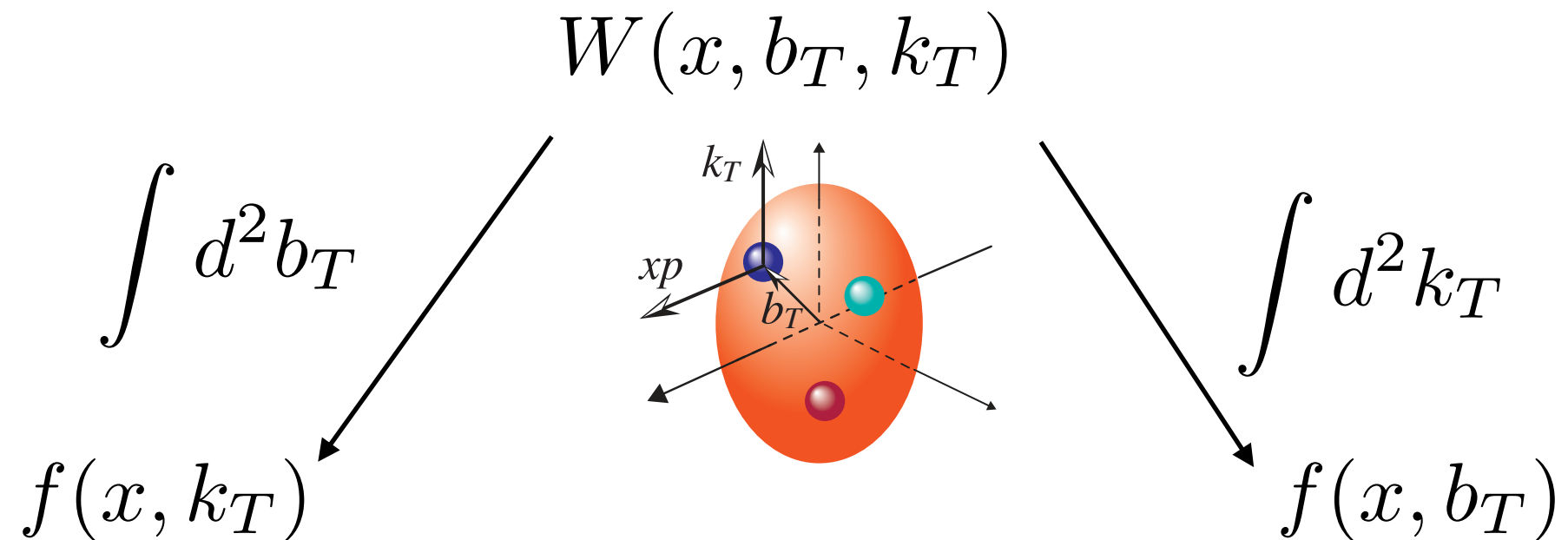


Borsa, Lucero, Sassot, Aschenauer, Nunes

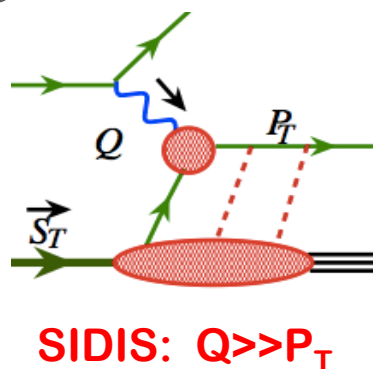


# From 1D to 3D: imaging of nucleon

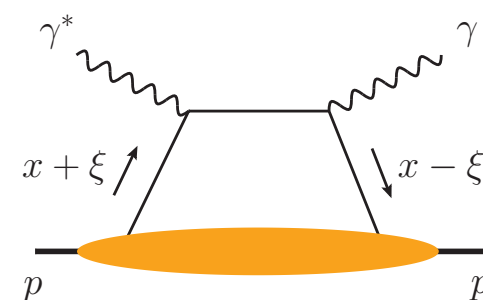
- Integrated PDFs provide only distribution of partons in the **longitudinal momentum fraction**
- More detailed information : **Wigner** function



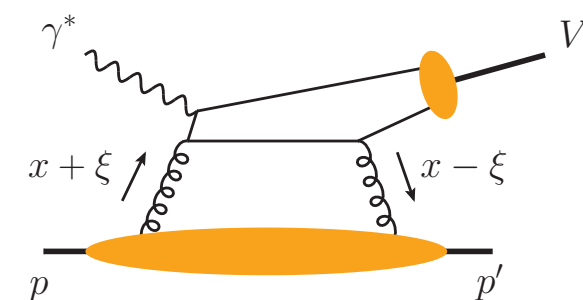
**Transverse Momentum Dependent (TMDs)**,  
measured from semi-inclusive DIS, also spin  
dependent at EIC



**Generalized Parton Densities (GPDs)** from  
exclusive scattering, also spin dependent at EIC



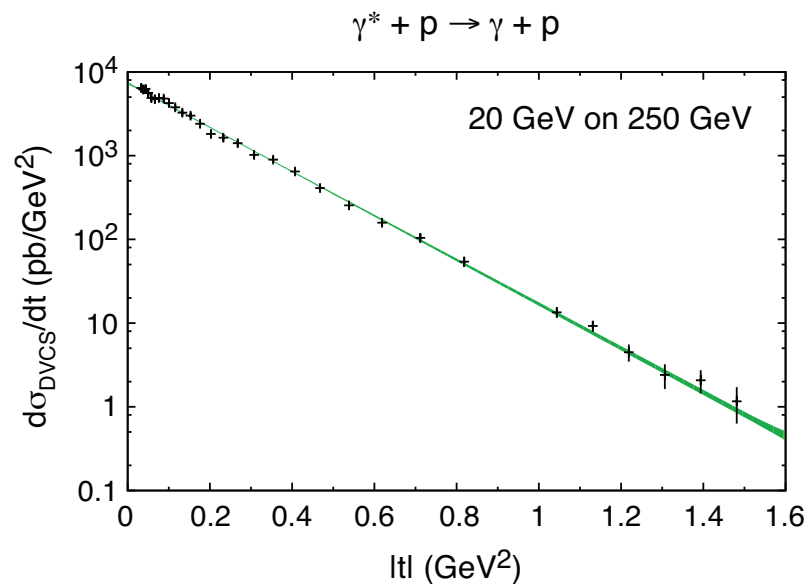
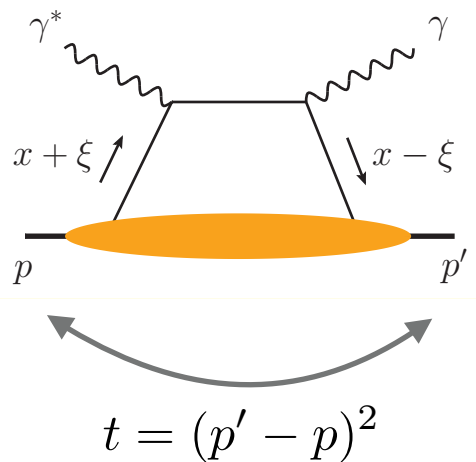
Deeply Virtual  
Compton Scattering



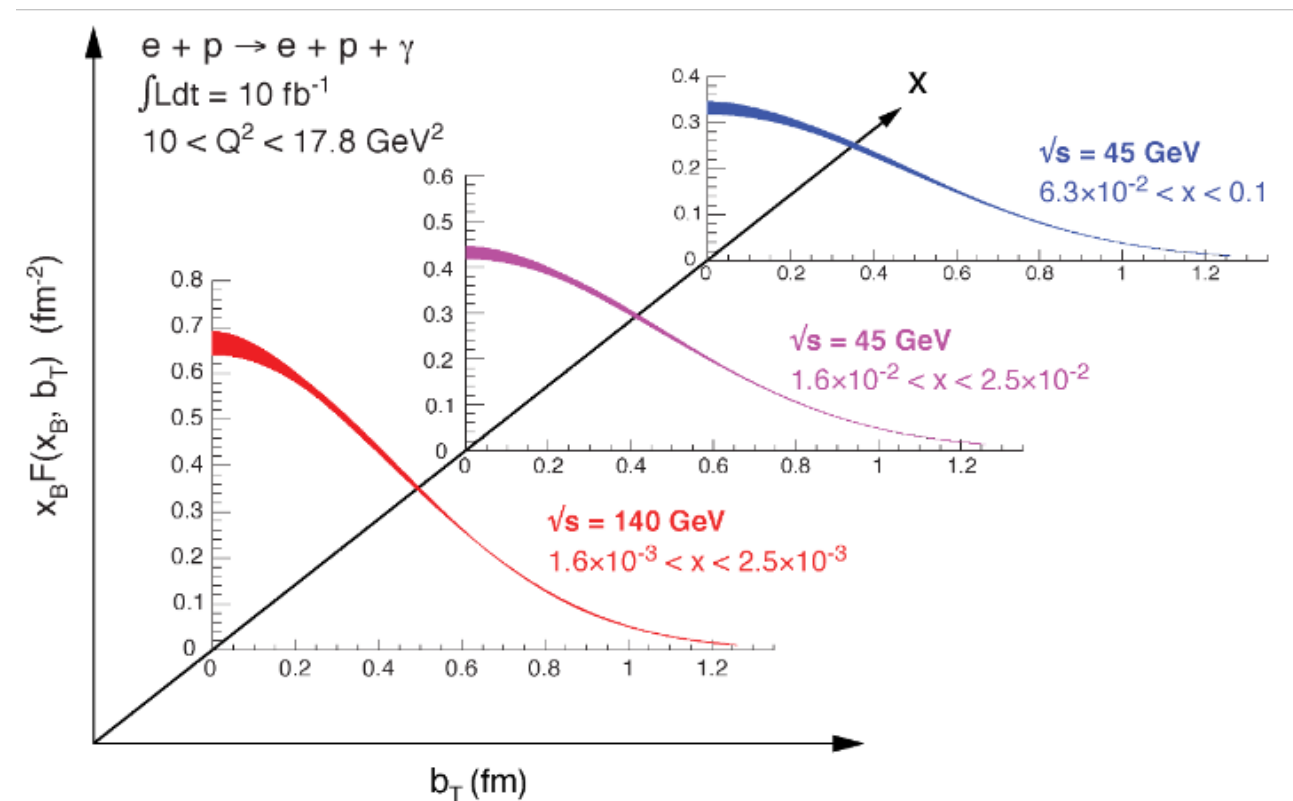
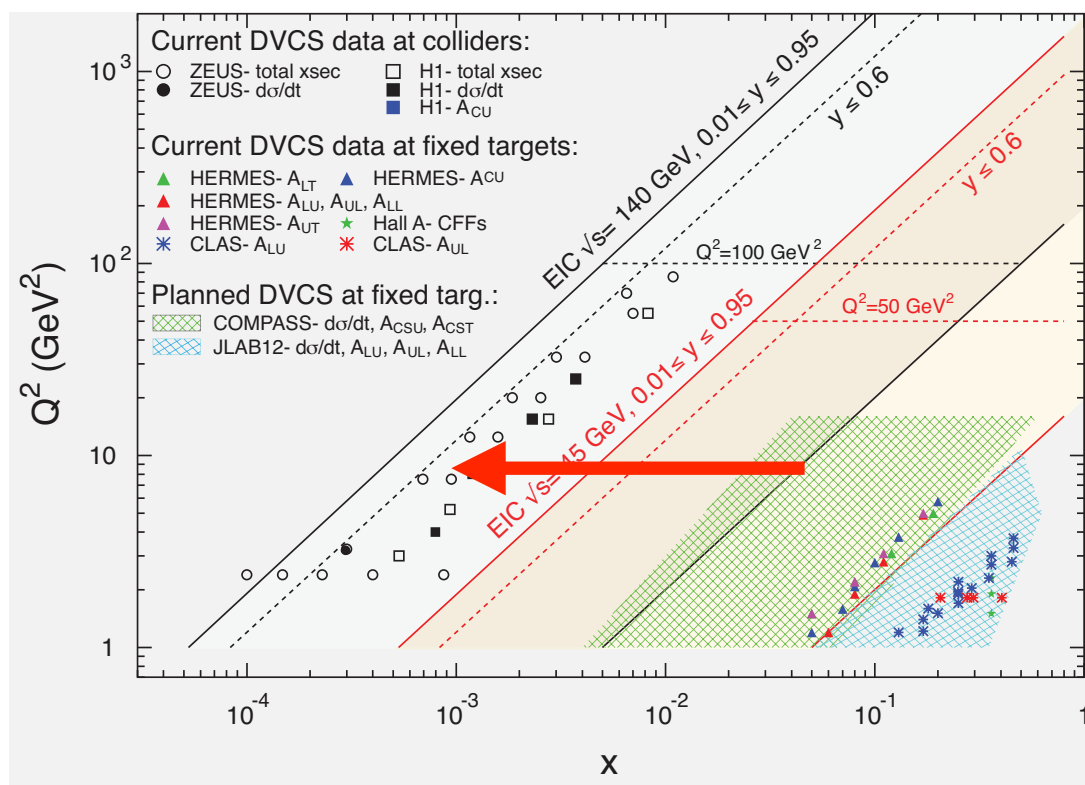
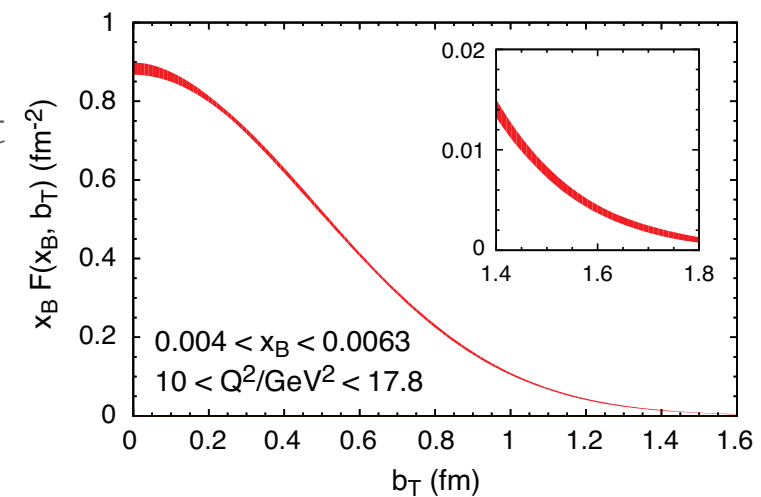
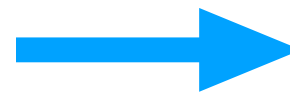
Elastic Vector Meson  
production

# Imaging of nucleon: quarks

## DVCS Quark information



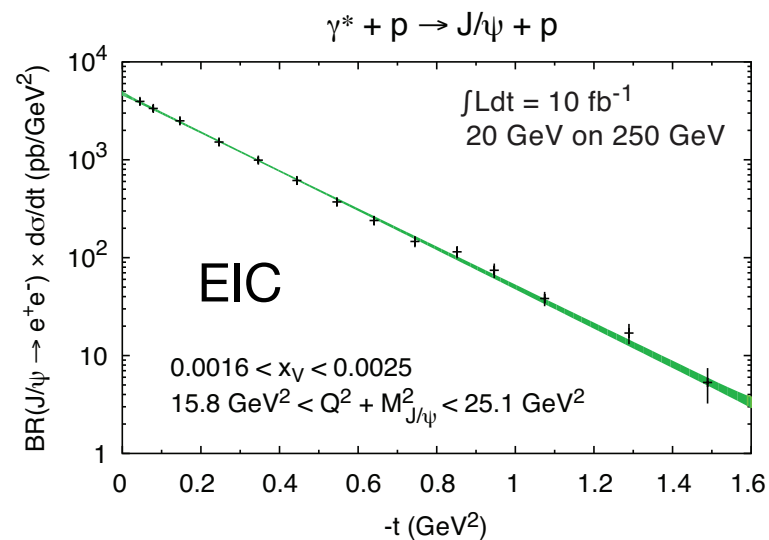
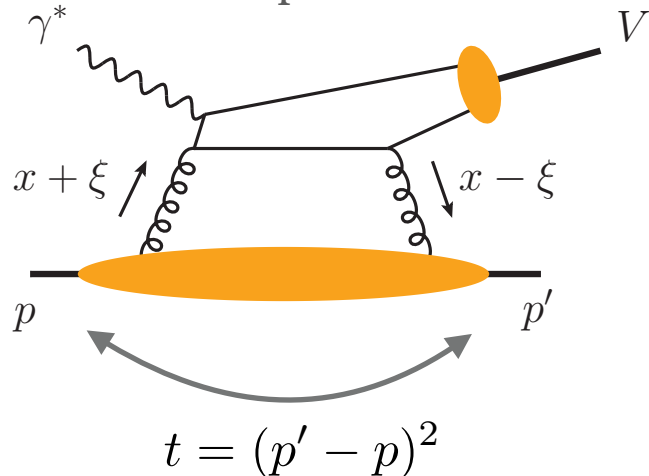
**Fourier transform** in  $t$   
provides spatial  
distribution of quarks



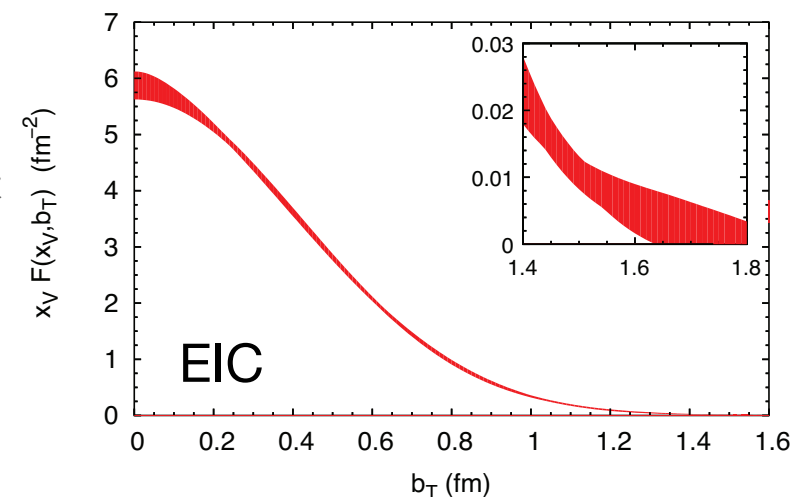


# Imaging of nucleon: gluons

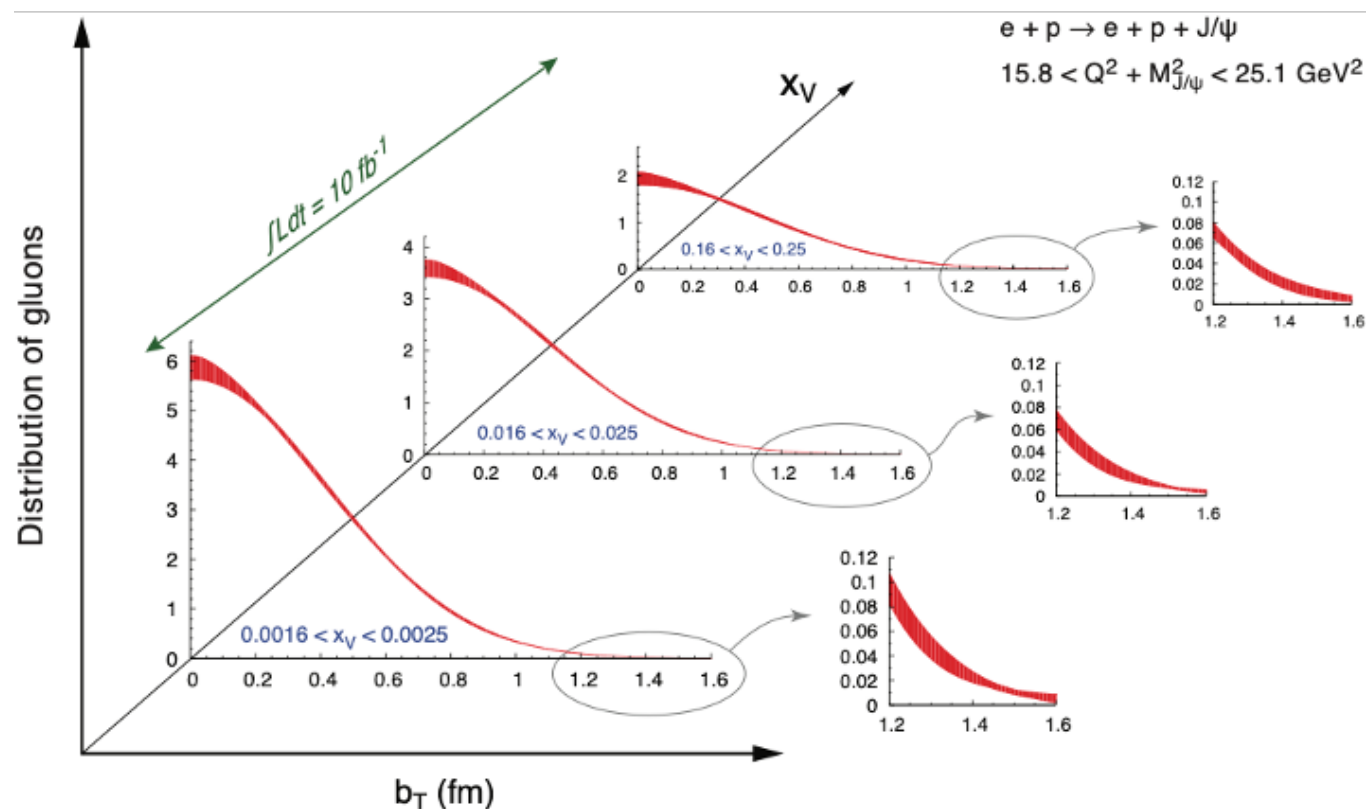
Elastic Diffractive Vector  
Meson production



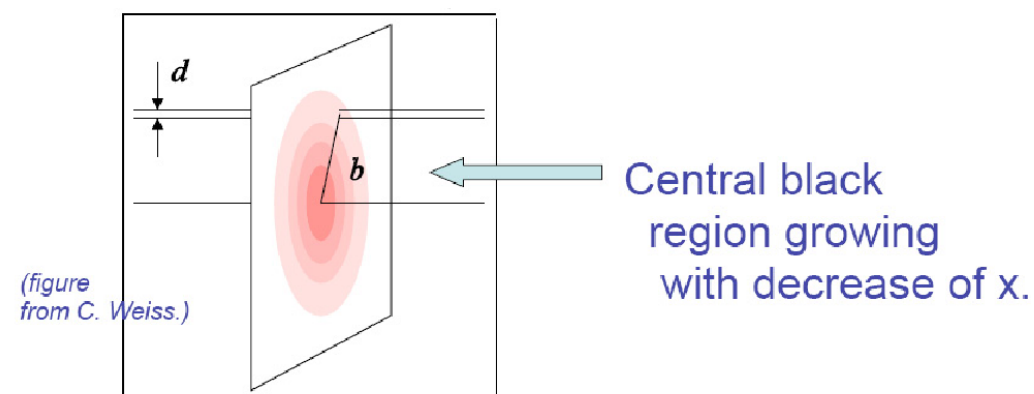
Fourier transform in  $t$   
provides spatial  
distribution of gluons  
inside the nucleon



Extracted profiles for different  $x$

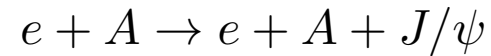


- Large  $|t|$  probes small  $b$  : large density.
- Ideal for estimating the ‘blackness’ of the interaction: parton saturation

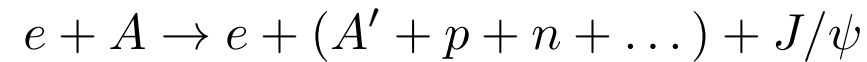


# Imaging of nucleus

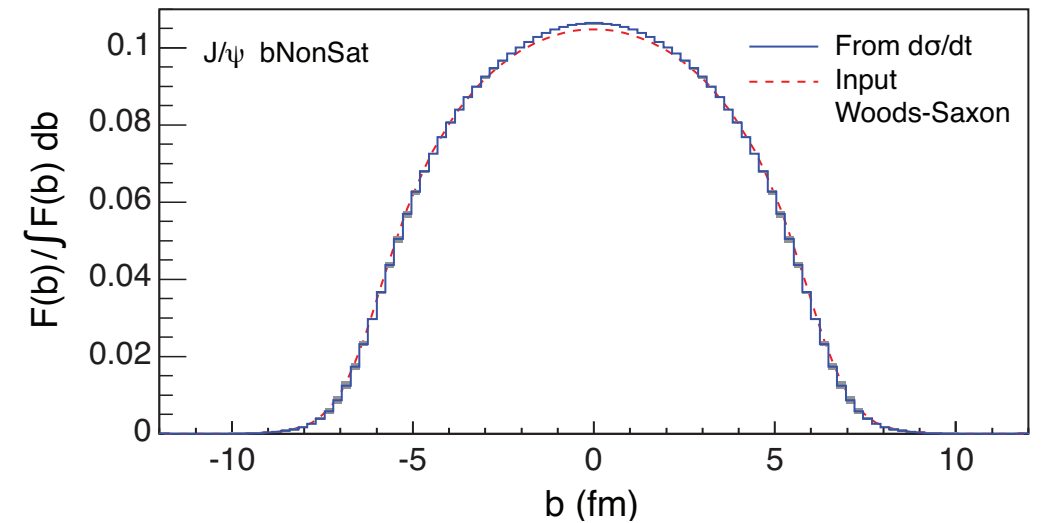
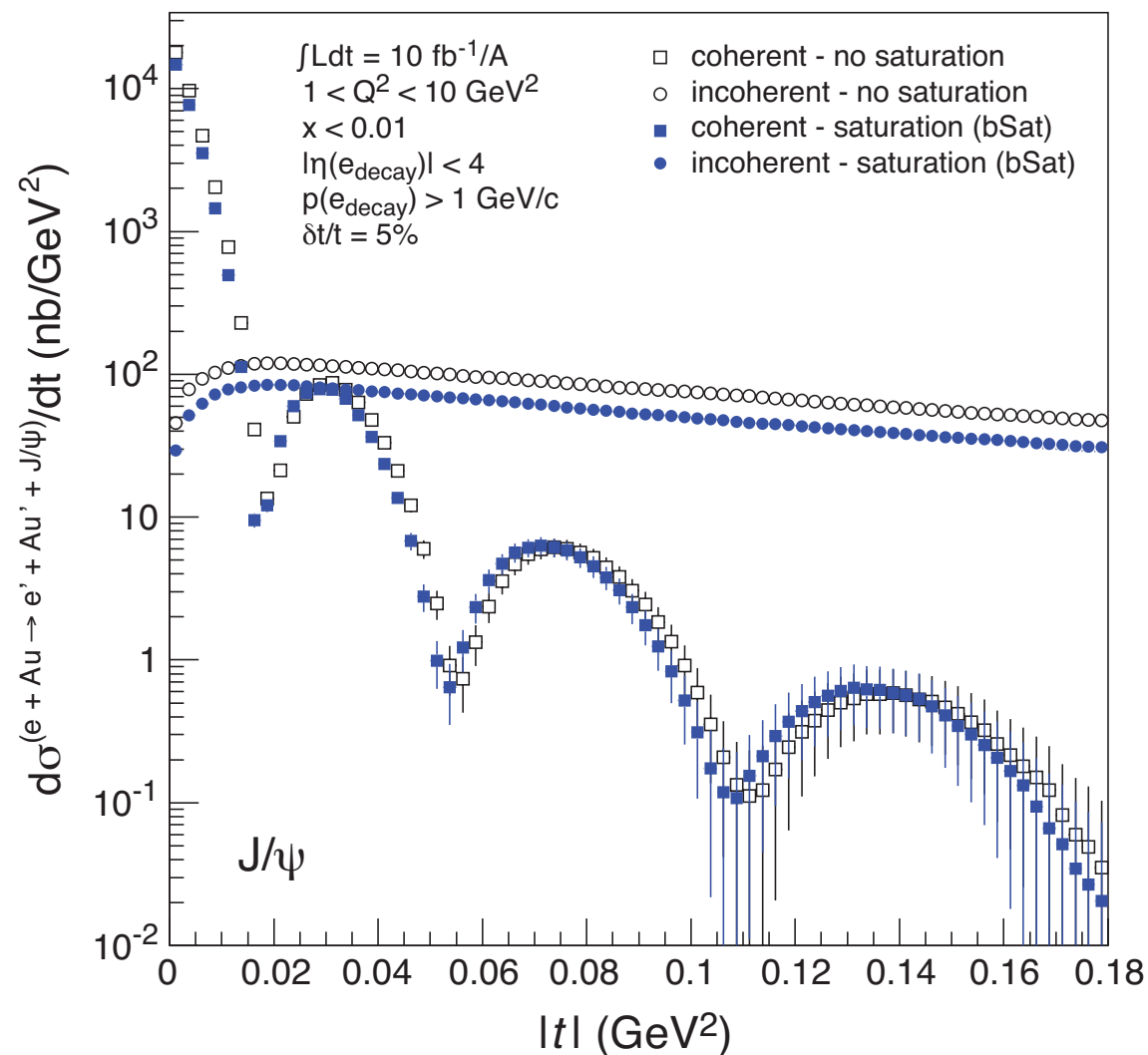
EIC, White paper



coherent: nucleus stays intact



incoherent: nucleus breaks up



$$t = -\Delta^2 \quad F(b) = \int_0^\infty \frac{\Delta d\Delta}{2\pi} J_0(\Delta b) \sqrt{\frac{d\sigma_{\text{coherent}}}{dt}}$$

- Coherent: characteristic ‘dips’ in  $t$ -distribution. Sensitive to average geometry. Fourier transform: density profile
- Position of dips depends on density profile, non-linear effects, correlations
- Incoherent cross section provides information about lumpiness of the source (fluctuations)
- Experimentally very challenging (resolving dips) *see talk by Michael Pitt*
- Prospects for this process with **deuteron** and **light ions**: probing shadowing in a more controlled environment, separate **double**, **triple** scattering; spectator **tagging** on deuteron allows to study **SRC** and role of **gluons**

# Passage of color charges through cold nuclear matter

- Modern theories of QCD in matter (such as SCET<sub>G</sub> and NRQCD<sub>G</sub>) have enabled novel understanding of parton showers on matter. Capabilities to calculate higher order and resummed calculations in reactions with nuclei
- EIC will provide important input on **hadronization** mechanism in eA
- Different scenarios: **parton evolution in medium** or **hadron absorption**



Parton energy loss and in-medium fragmentation function modification

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu^2} \tilde{D}^{h/i}(x, \mu) = \sum_j \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} \tilde{D}^{h/j}\left(\frac{x}{z}, \mu\right) \left( P_{ji}(z, \alpha_s(\mu)) + P_{ji}^{\text{med}}(z, \mu) \right)$$

$$R_{eA}^h(p_T, \eta, z) = \frac{\frac{N^h(p_T, \eta, z)}{N^{\text{inc}}(p_T, \eta)}|_{\text{e+Au}}}{\frac{N^h(p_T, \eta, z)}{N^{\text{inc}}(p_T, \eta)}|_{\text{e+p}}}$$

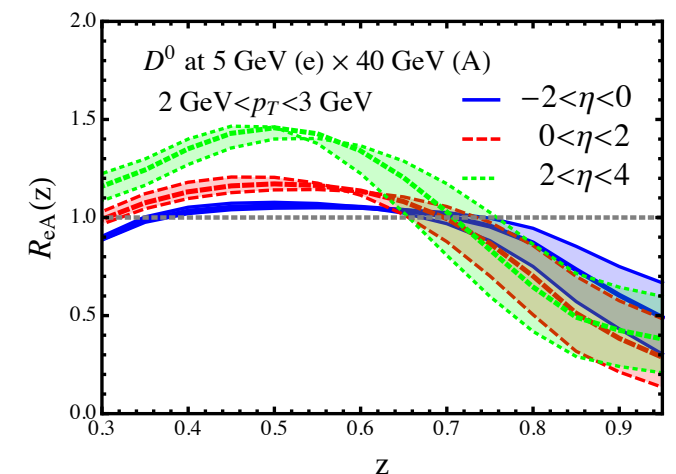
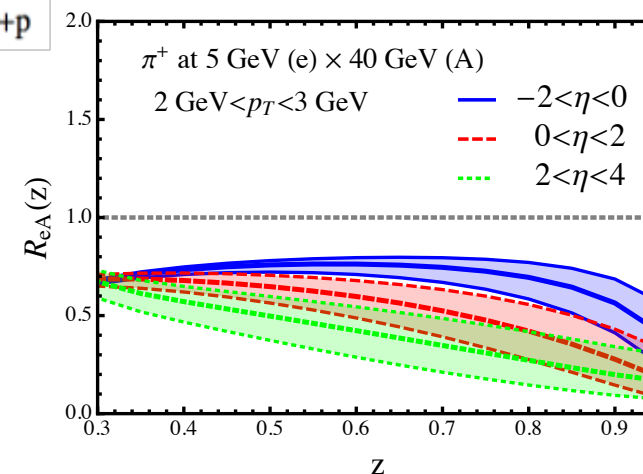
Modification (e+A vs e+p) of light vs heavy mesons vs the fragmentation fraction  $z$

*Li, Liu, Vitev*

Constrain the space-time picture of hadronization.

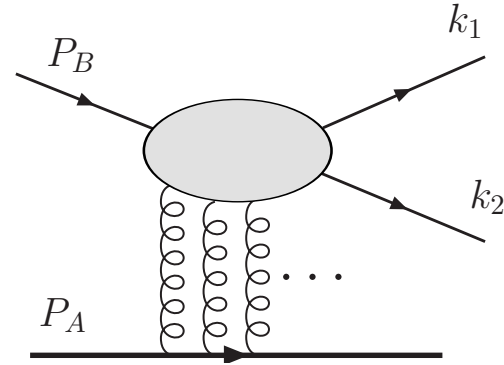
Differentiate **energy loss** and **hadron absorption** models (based on ability to measure heavy flavors)

**Lower energy** beams better for this process



# Testing saturation through (de)correlations of hadrons

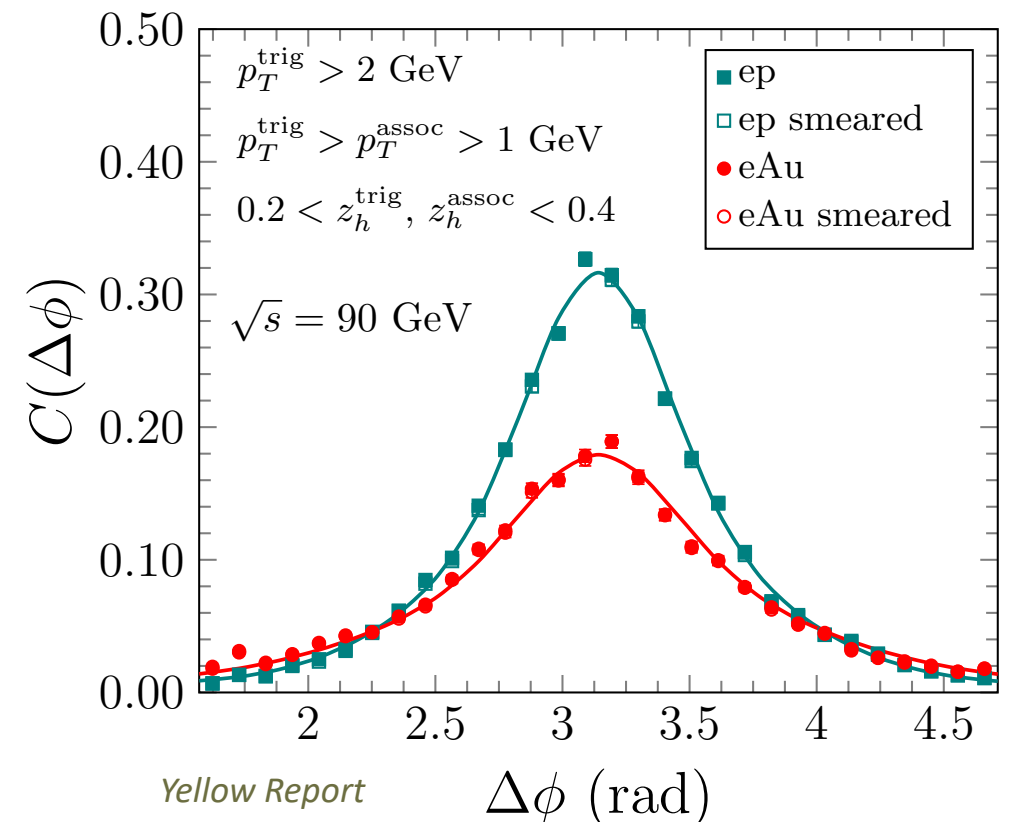
Azimuthal (de)correlations of two hadrons (dijets) in DIS in eA: direct test of the **Weizsacker-Williams unintegrated gluon distribution**



$$C(\Delta\phi) = \frac{1}{\frac{d\sigma_{\text{SIDIS}}^{\gamma^* + A \rightarrow h_1 + X}}{dz_{h1}}} \frac{d\sigma_{\text{tot}}^{\gamma^* + A \rightarrow h_1 + h_2 + X}}{dz_{h1} dz_{h2} d\Delta\phi}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\gamma^* + A \rightarrow h_1 + h_2 + X}}{dz_{h1} dz_{h2} d^2p_{h1T} d^2p_{h2T}} \sim \mathcal{F}(x_g, q_T) \otimes \mathcal{H}(z_q, k_{1T}, k_{2T}) \otimes D_q(z_{h1}/z_q, p_{1T}) \otimes D_q(z_{h2}/z_q, p_{2T})$$

- Clear differences between the ep and eA: **suppression** of the correlation peak in **eA** due to **saturation** effects (including the **Sudakov resummation**)
- Further observables: azimuthal correlations of dihadrons/dijets in diffraction, photon+jet/dijet.
- Possibility to test various **CGC correlators**

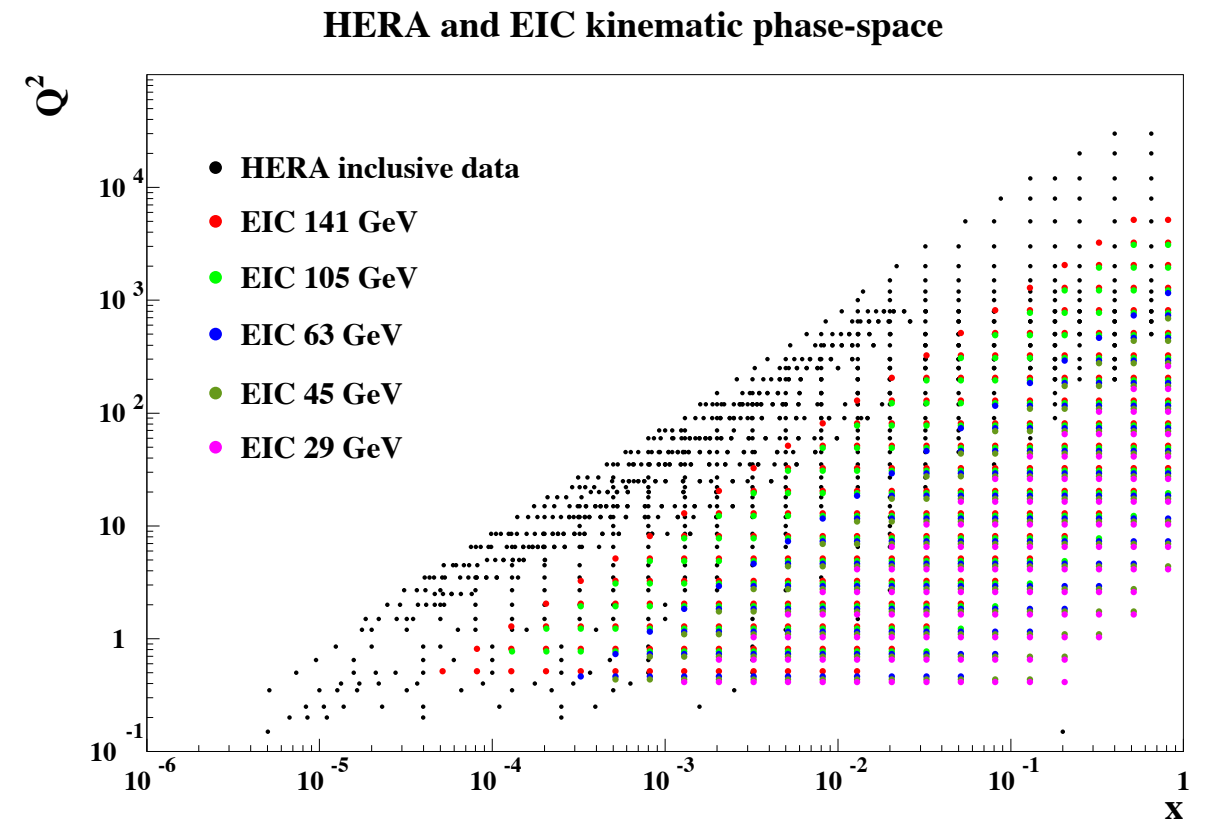
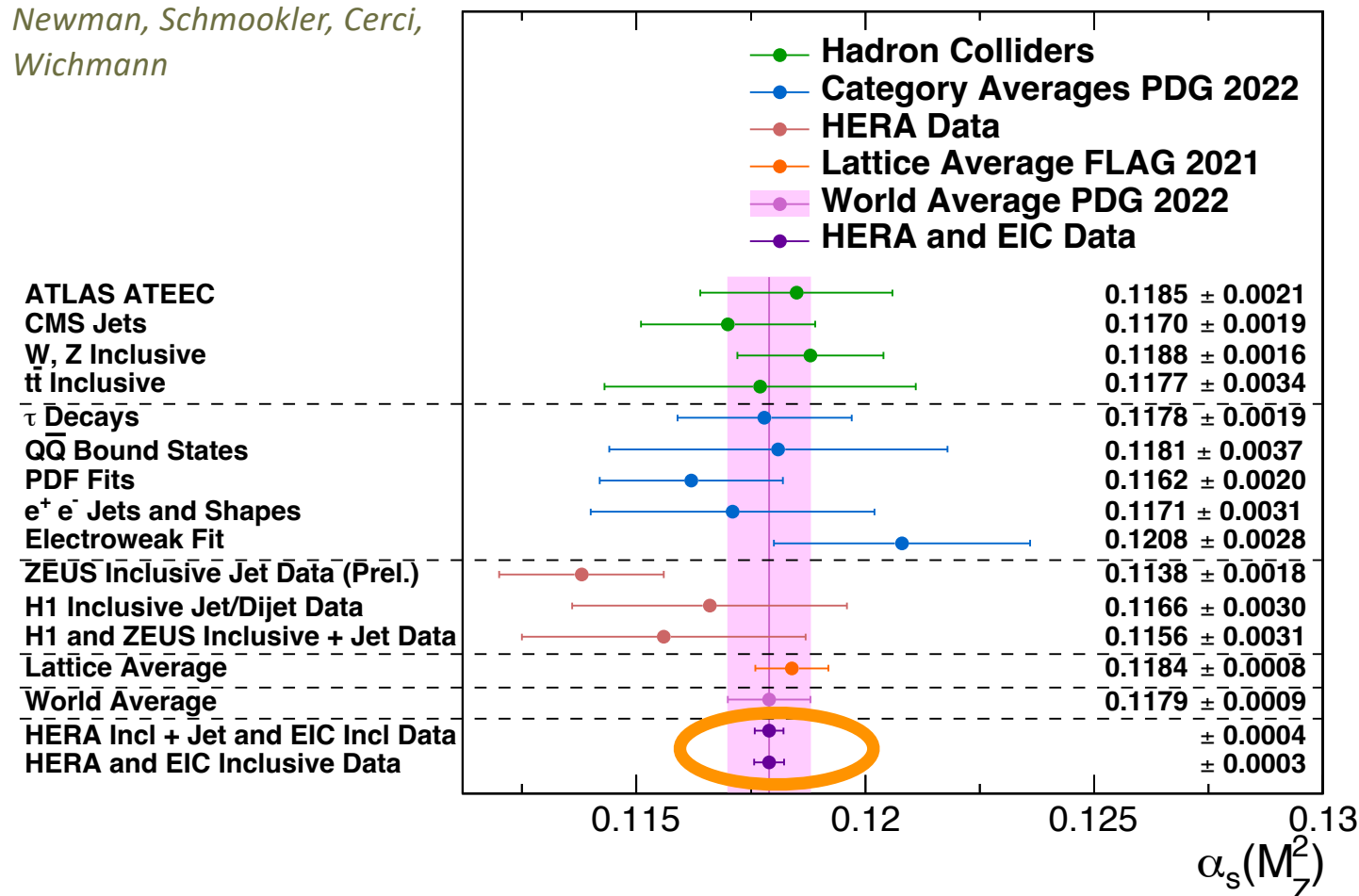




# Extraction of $\alpha_s$ from HERA and EIC

- Inclusive DIS cross section sensitive to  $\alpha_s$
- Need to know with **high precision**,  $\alpha_s$  essential for **SM** calculations, and for constraints on **BSM**
- EIC complementary to HERA

Cerci, Demiroglu, Deshpande,  
Newman, Schmookler, Cerci,  
Wichmann



HERA inclusive (or inclusive + jets) + EIC inclusive data allows for **determination of  $\alpha_s$**  with **unprecedented precision :  $\leq 0.3\%$**

$$\alpha_s(M_Z^2) = 0.1161 \pm 0.0003 \text{ (exp)} \\ \pm 0.0001 \text{ (model + param)} \pm^{+0.0002}_{-0.0001} \text{ (scale)}$$

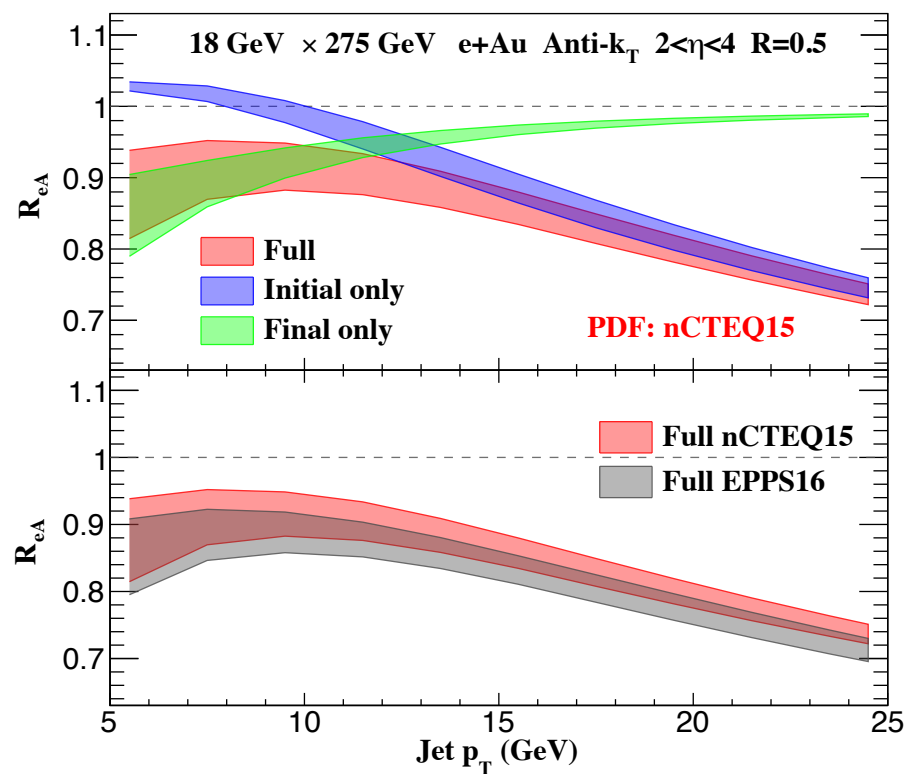
# Jets as probes of cold nuclear matter

Jets emerged as a premier diagnostic tool for **hot** nuclear matter at RHIC and LHC

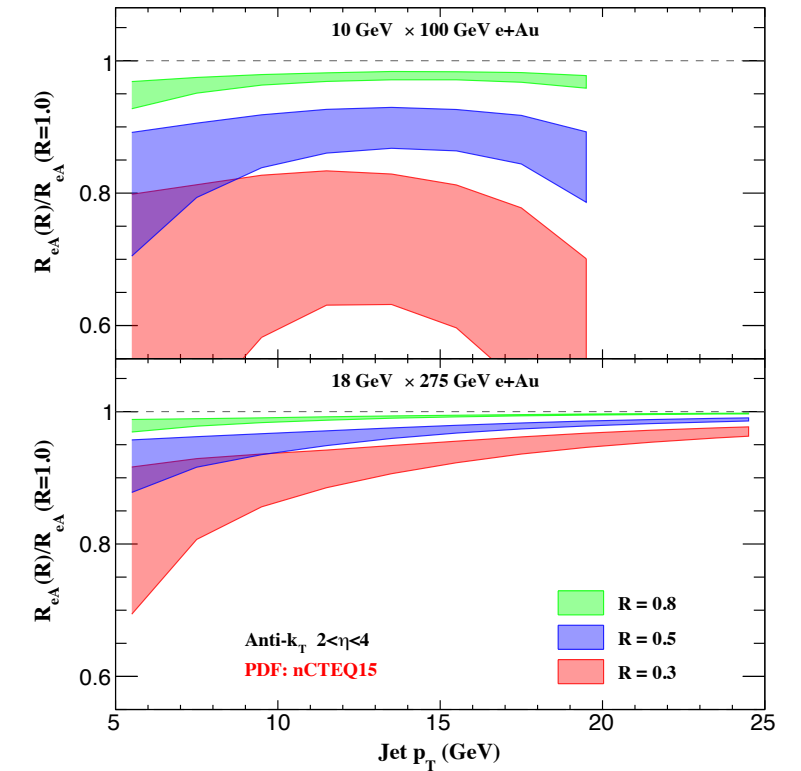
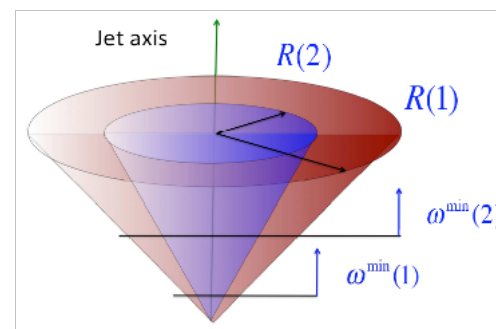
Also excellent probes for **cold** nuclear matter. Using jets, elucidate the properties of in-medium parton showers.

$$d\sigma \sim \underset{\text{initial}}{\overset{\text{PDF}}{f_a(z, \mu)}} \otimes \underset{\text{partonic cross section}}{H_{ab}(x, z; p_T, \eta)} \otimes \underset{\text{final}}{\overset{\text{jet function}}{J_b(z, \mu, R)}}$$

Yellow Report



- IS (large and small  $p_T$ ) vs FS (small  $p_T$ ) contributions to nuclear ratio
- Small nPDF effects
- Ratios with different jet cone allow to separate parton shower effects



Li, Vitev

- Pioneer jet **substructure** studies with heavy quark initiated jets performed in a EIC regime very different from the one probed in heavy ion collisions *Li, Liu, Vitev*
- Pave the way to a qualitatively new level of understanding of the role of **heavy quark mass**

# Parametrisation for fitting the pseudodata: full 4D fit $\mathbb{P}$ + $\mathbb{R}$

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- Treat the Pomeron and Reggeon contributions as symmetrically as possible
- Light quark separation not possible with only inclusive NC fits
- For both  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  fit the gluon and the sum of quarks
- Generic parametrization at  $Q_0^2 = 1.8 \text{ GeV}^2$  :

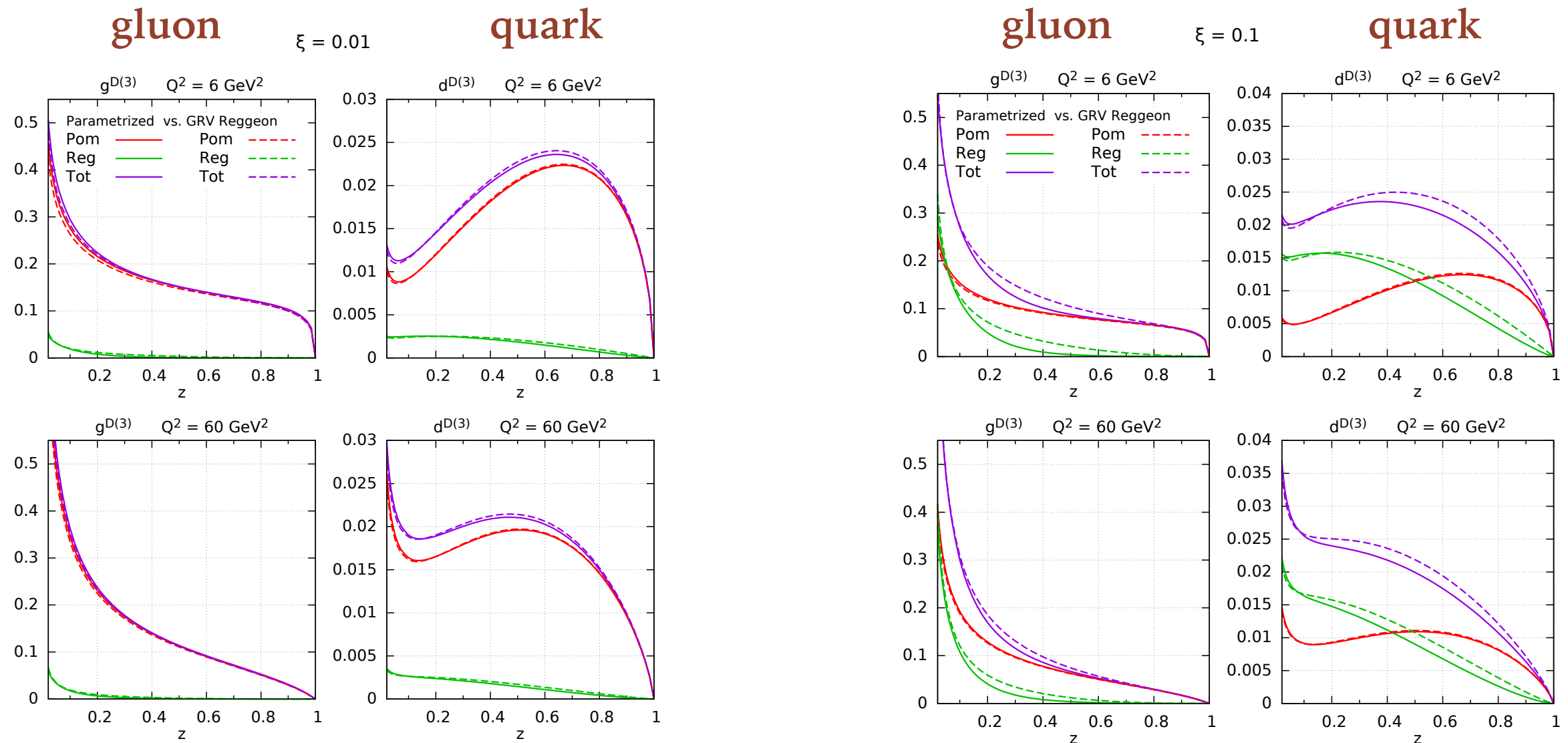
$$f_k^{(m)}(x, Q_0^2) = A_k^{(m)} x^{B_k^{(m)}} (1-x)^{C_k^{(m)}} (1 + D_k^{(m)} x^{E_k^{(m)}})$$

where  $k = q, g$  and  $m = \mathbb{P}, \mathbb{R}$

- Following sensitivity studies a suitable choice is:
  - $f_q^{\mathbb{P}}$  has A,B,C parameters
  - $f_g^{\mathbb{P}}$  has A,B,C parameters
  - $f_q^{\mathbb{R}}$  has A,B,C,D parameters
  - $f_g^{\mathbb{R}}$  has A,B,C parameters
- In addition fit for the parameters of the fluxes for  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$ :  $\alpha(0), \alpha', B$

$$\frac{e^{B^{(m)}t}}{\xi^{2\alpha^{(m)}(t)-1}} \quad \alpha^{(m)}(t) = \alpha^{(m)}(0) + \alpha'^{(m)}t$$

# Recovering the Pomeron and Reggeon inputs

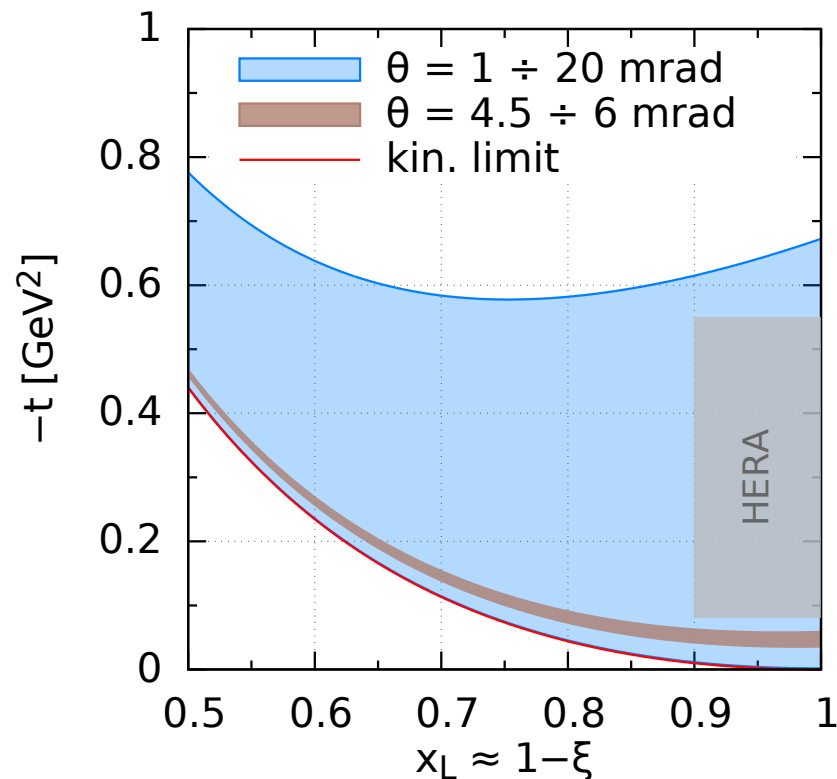
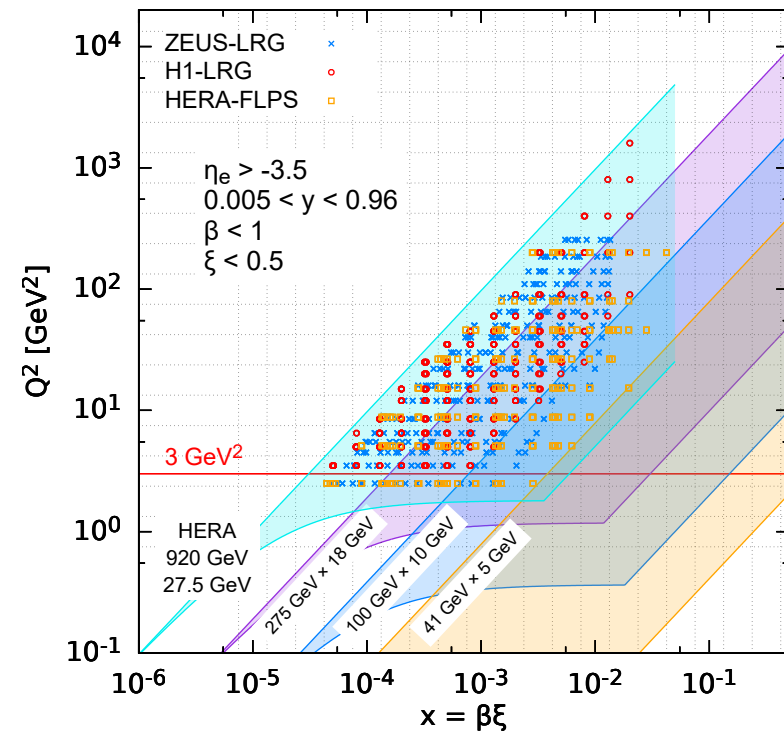


Fit results with free Reggeon parametrization (solid) made to the pseudodata based on the GRV pion structure function (dashed)

**Reggeon** reproduced reasonably well

**Pomeron** reproduced almost perfectly

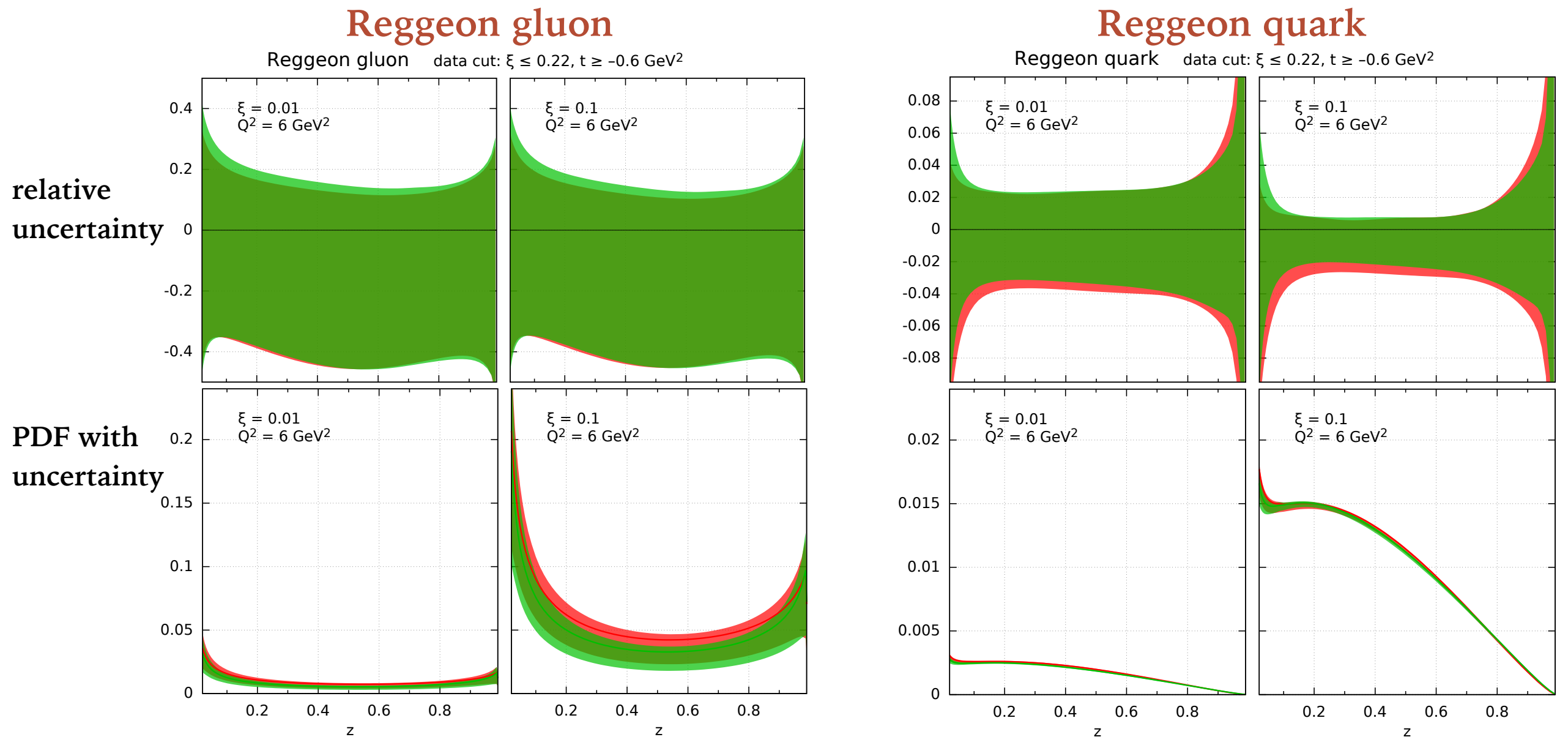
# Low energy scenario: 5 GeV x 41 GeV



- Low energy scenario:  
 $E_e = 5 \text{ GeV} \times E_p = 41 \text{ GeV}$
- Kinematics restricted:
  - $\xi \geq 0.01$  , by cms energy
  - $t \geq -0.6 \text{ GeV}^2$ , forward detector acceptance
- Reggeon dominated
- Fix Pomeron from HERA and fit only Reggeon
- Luminosity  $\mathcal{L} = 10 \text{ fb}^{-1}$



# Low energy: Reggeon DPDFs and uncertainties



- Quark Reggeon constrained very well
- Larger uncertainty for Reggeon gluon which is much smaller than Pomeron gluon
- Two bands indicate sensitivity to two Monte Carlo samples: small variation

**Low energy data at EIC can already determine Reggeon**