

Fixed target at LHCb

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The LHCb detector

- LHCb is a general-purpose forward spectrometer, fully instrumented in $2 < \eta < 5$, and optimised for c and b hadron detection
- Excellent momentum resolution with VELO + tracking stations:

$$\sigma_p/p = 0.5 - 1.0 \% \quad (p \in [2, 200] \text{ GeV})$$

- Particle identification with RICH+CALO+MUON

$$\epsilon_\mu \sim 98 \% \text{ with } \epsilon_{\pi \rightarrow \mu} \lesssim 1 \%$$

- Low momentum muon trigger:

$$p_{T_\mu} > 1.75 \text{ GeV (2018)}$$

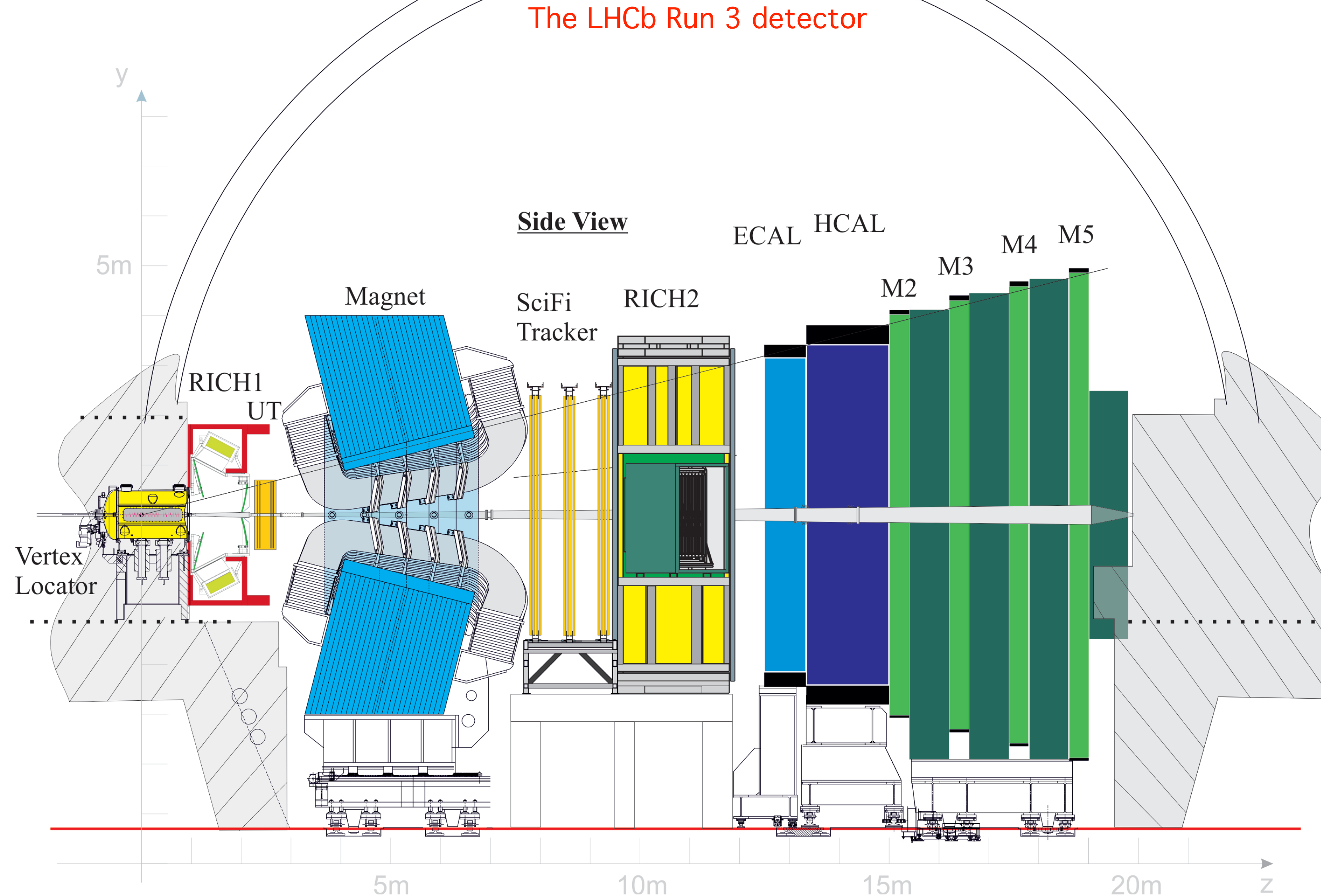
will be reduced thanks to the new fully-software trigger

- Major detector upgrades performed during LS2 for the Run 3 (5x luminosity)

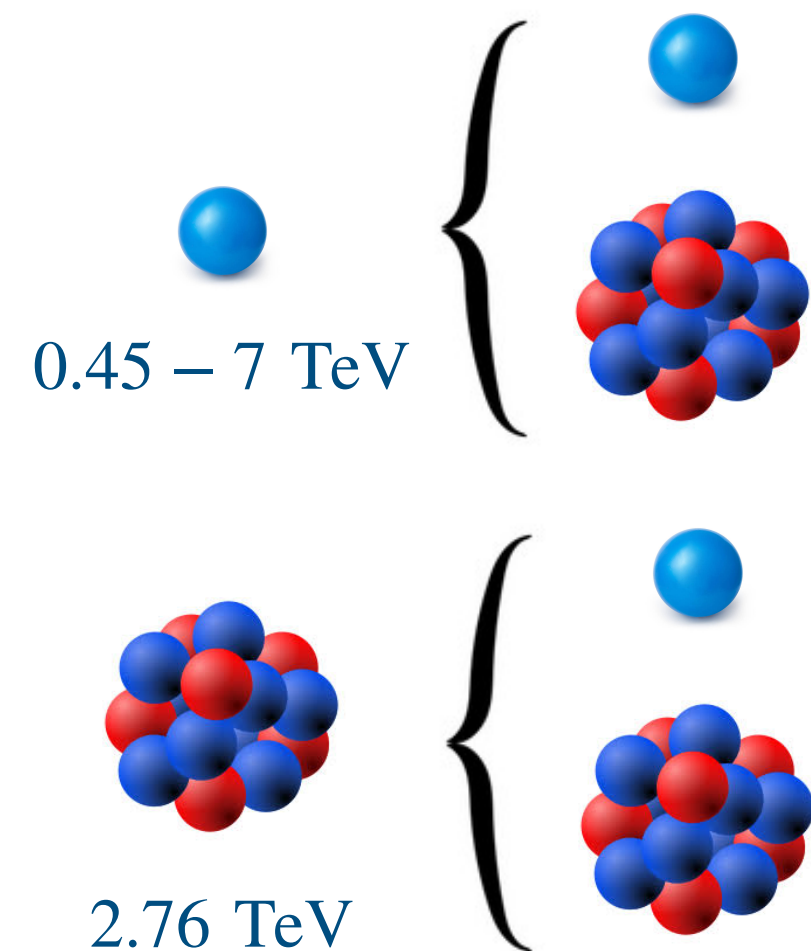
[[JINST 3 \(2008\) S08005](#)]

[[IJMP A 30, 1530022 \(2015\)](#)]

[[Comput Softw Big Sci 6, 1 \(2022\)](#)]



Fixed-target physics at LHCb



pp/pA collisions, 7 TeV beam:

$$\sqrt{s} = \sqrt{2m_N E_p} = 115 \text{ GeV}$$

$$2 \leq y_{lab} \leq 5 \rightarrow -3.0 \leq y_{CMS} \leq 0$$

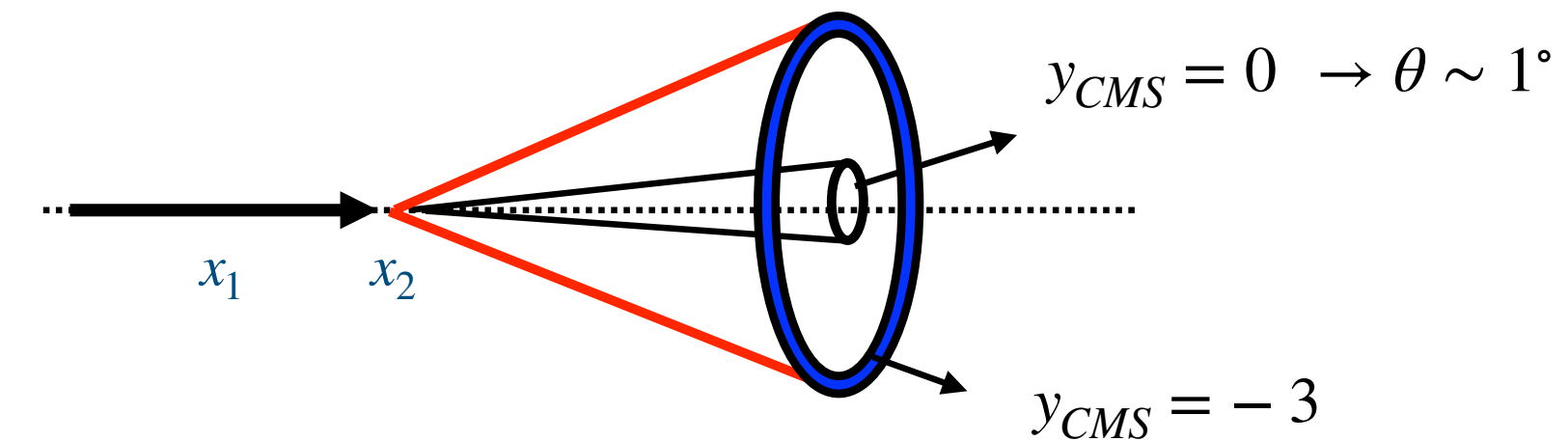
AA collisions, 2.76 TeV beam:

$$\sqrt{s_{NN}} \simeq 72 \text{ GeV}$$

$$y_{lab} = 4.3 \rightarrow y_{CMS} = 0$$

1: beam, 2: target

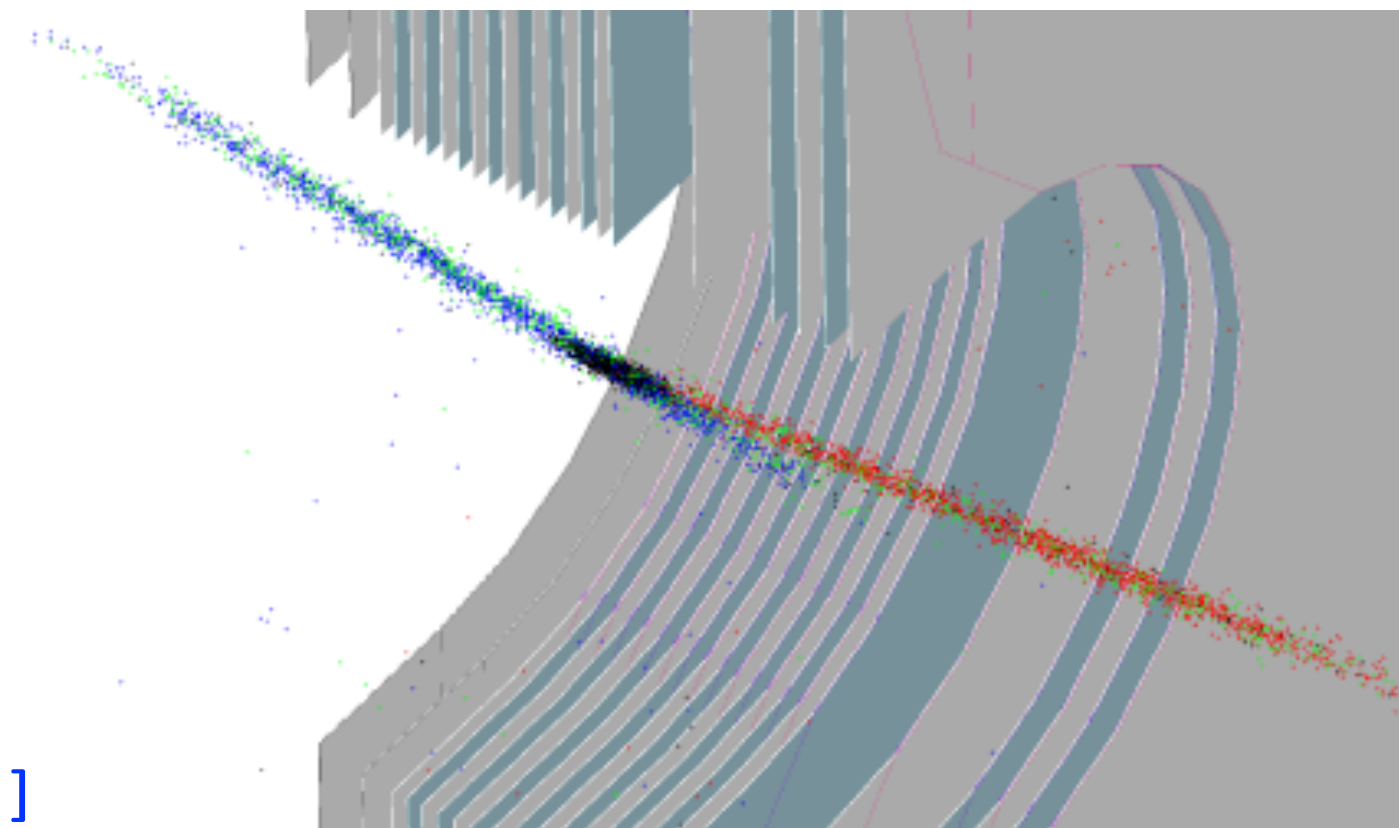
Large CM boost : large x_2 values ($x_F < 0$) and small x_1



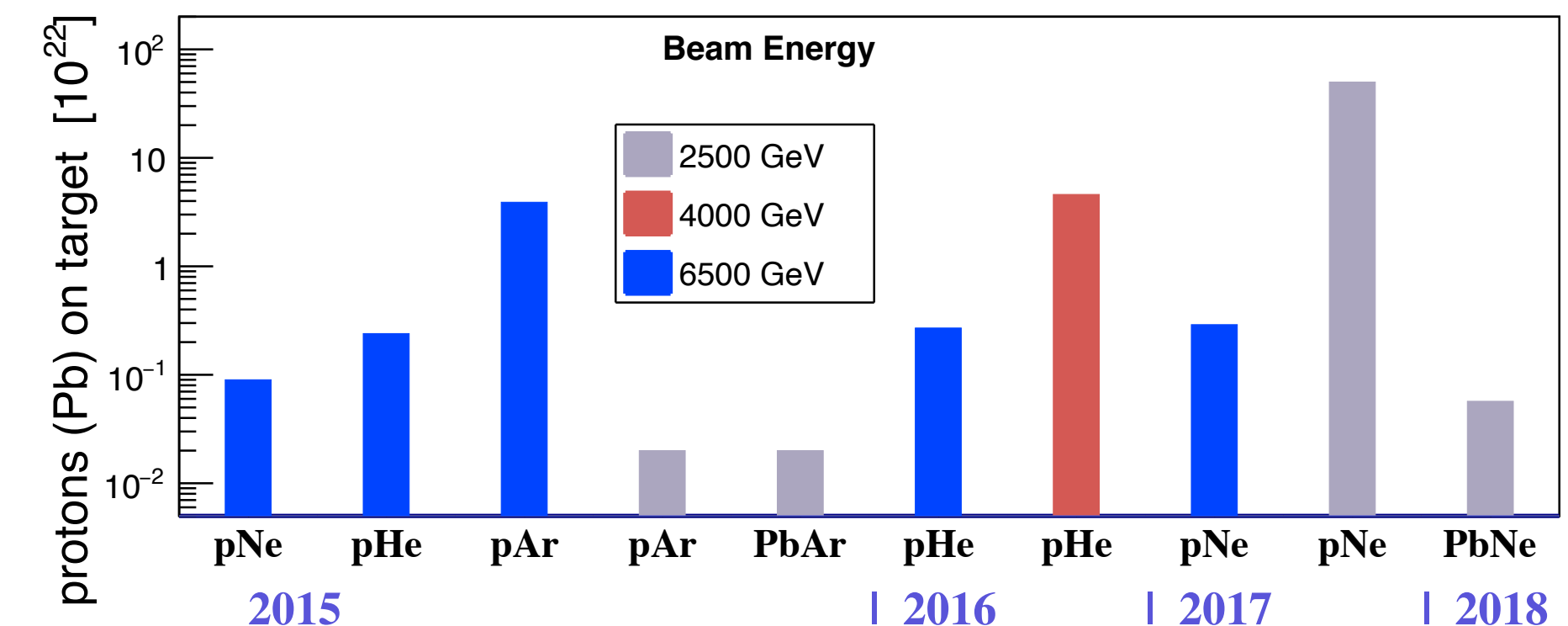
$$\gamma = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2m_p} \sim 60$$

- The LHCb fixed-target physics program started with **SMOG** (System for Measuring the Overlap with Gas) in 2015
- Inject nobles gases into the VELO (± 20 m in the beam pipe)
- Trigger on beam-empty collisions: turns LHCb into an FT experiment!
- Two new results shown at SQM22 \rightarrow [\[here\]](#)

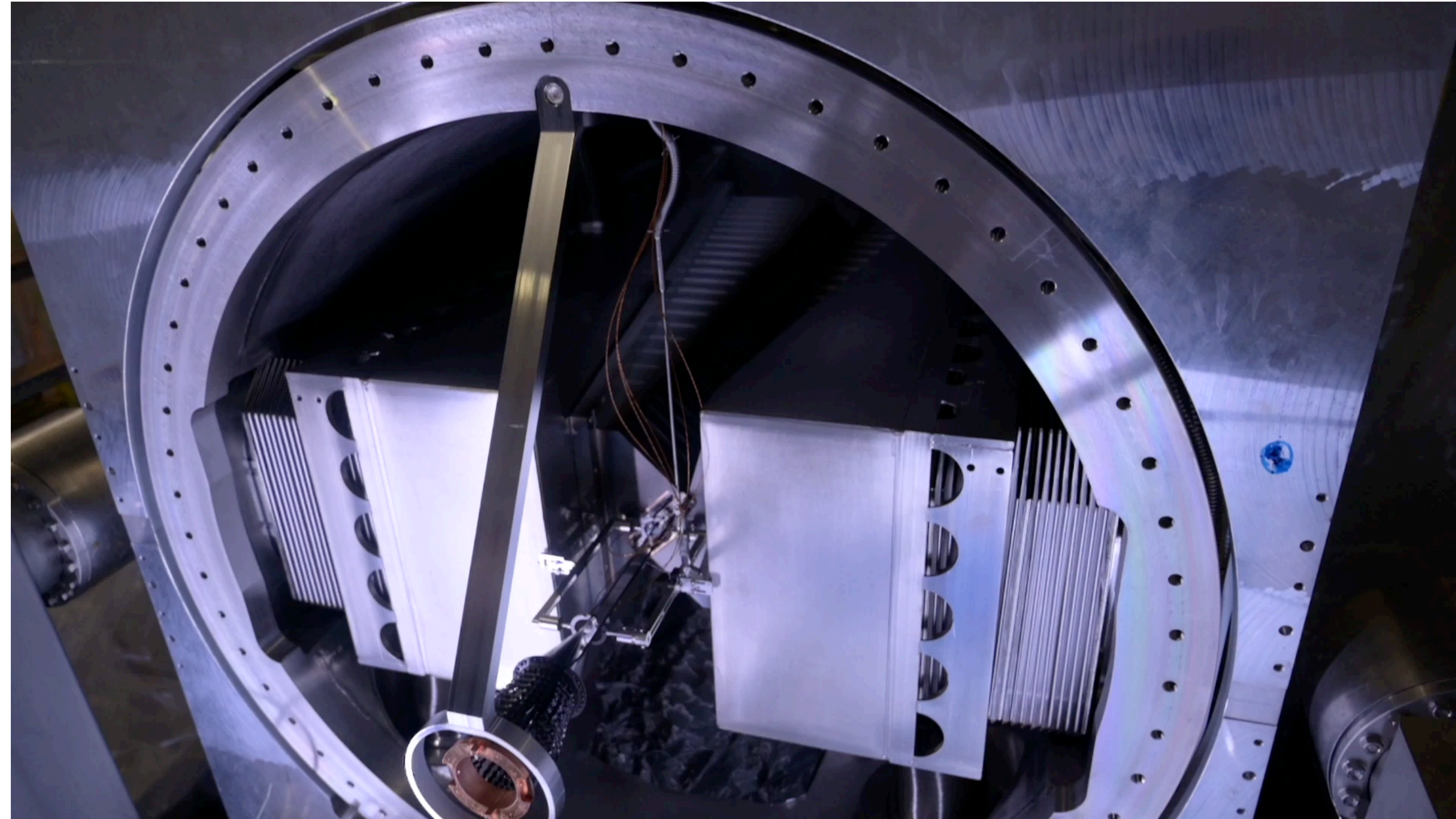
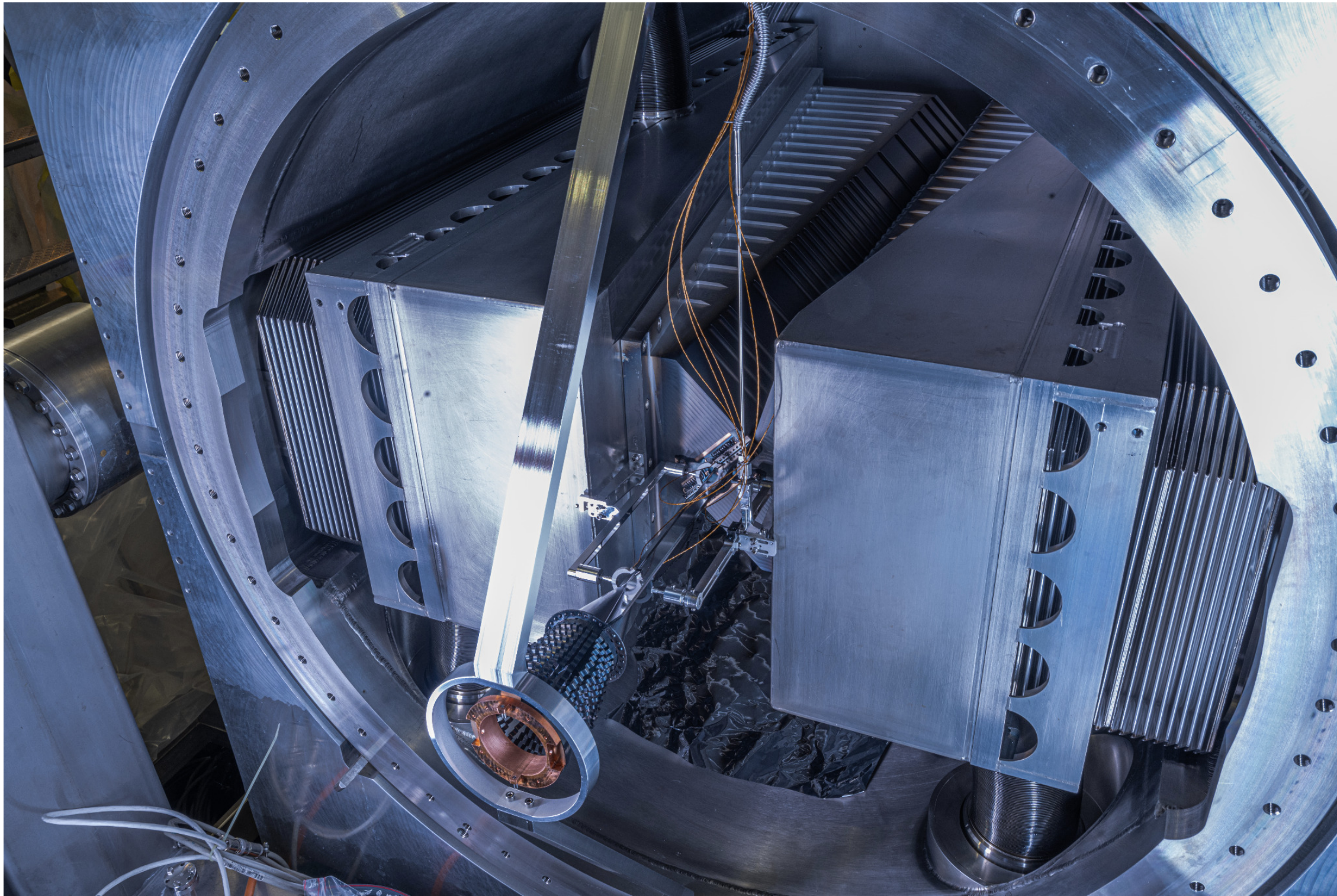
[JINST 9 (2014) P12005]



- SMOG data samples:



The SMOG2 gas storage cell



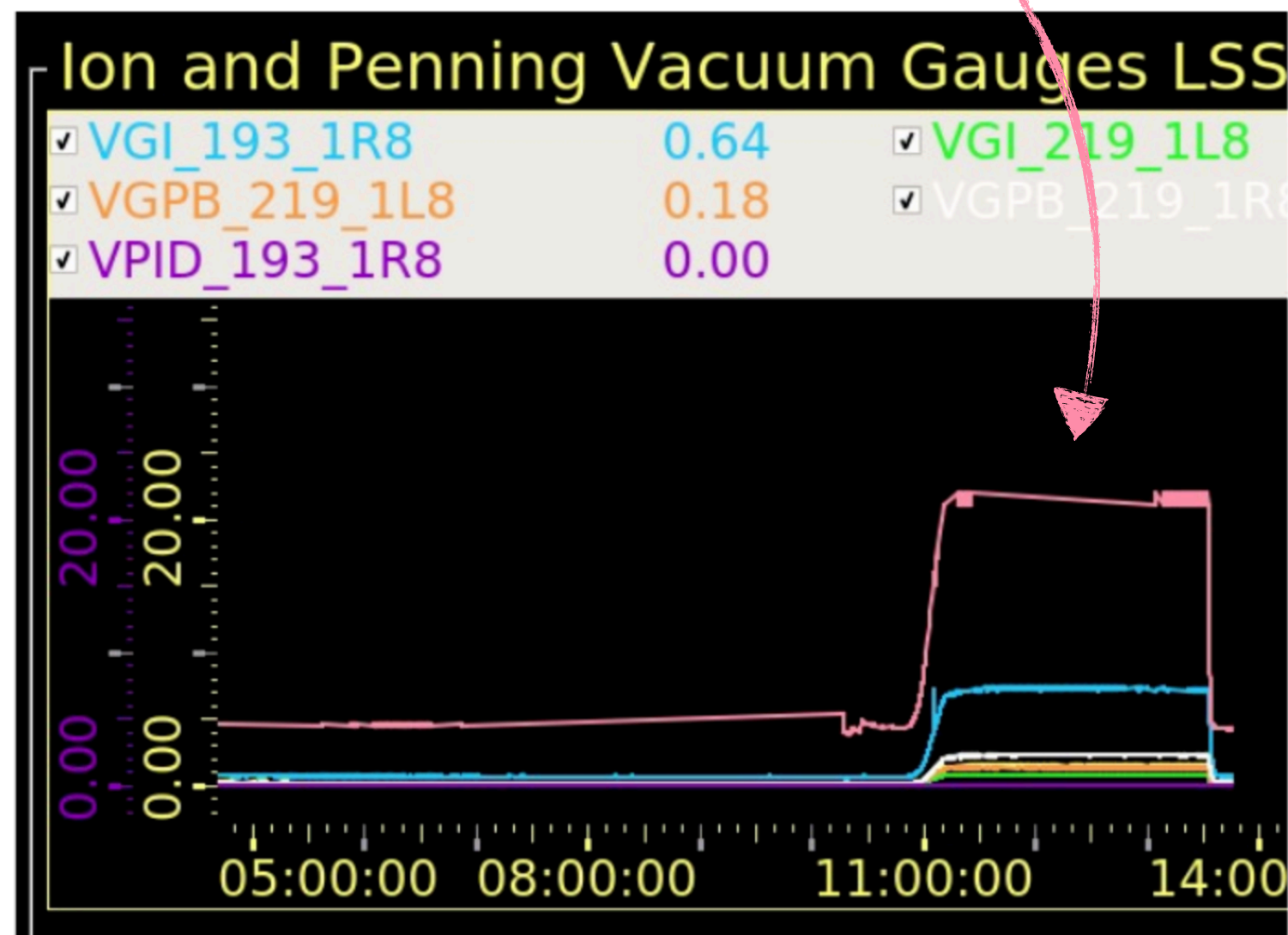
- SMOG2 storage cell installed in 2020
- Openable cell which follows the movement of the VELO (closed when the beam is stable)
- Boosts the gas density by 8 – 35 X wrt SMOG
- Negligible impact on the beam lifetime: $\tau_{beam-gas}^{p-H_2} \sim 2000 \text{ days}$, $\tau_{beam-gas}^{Pb-Ar} \sim 500 \text{ h}$
- Equipped with temperature probes: luminosity measurement at $\sim 1 \%$

x10 faster

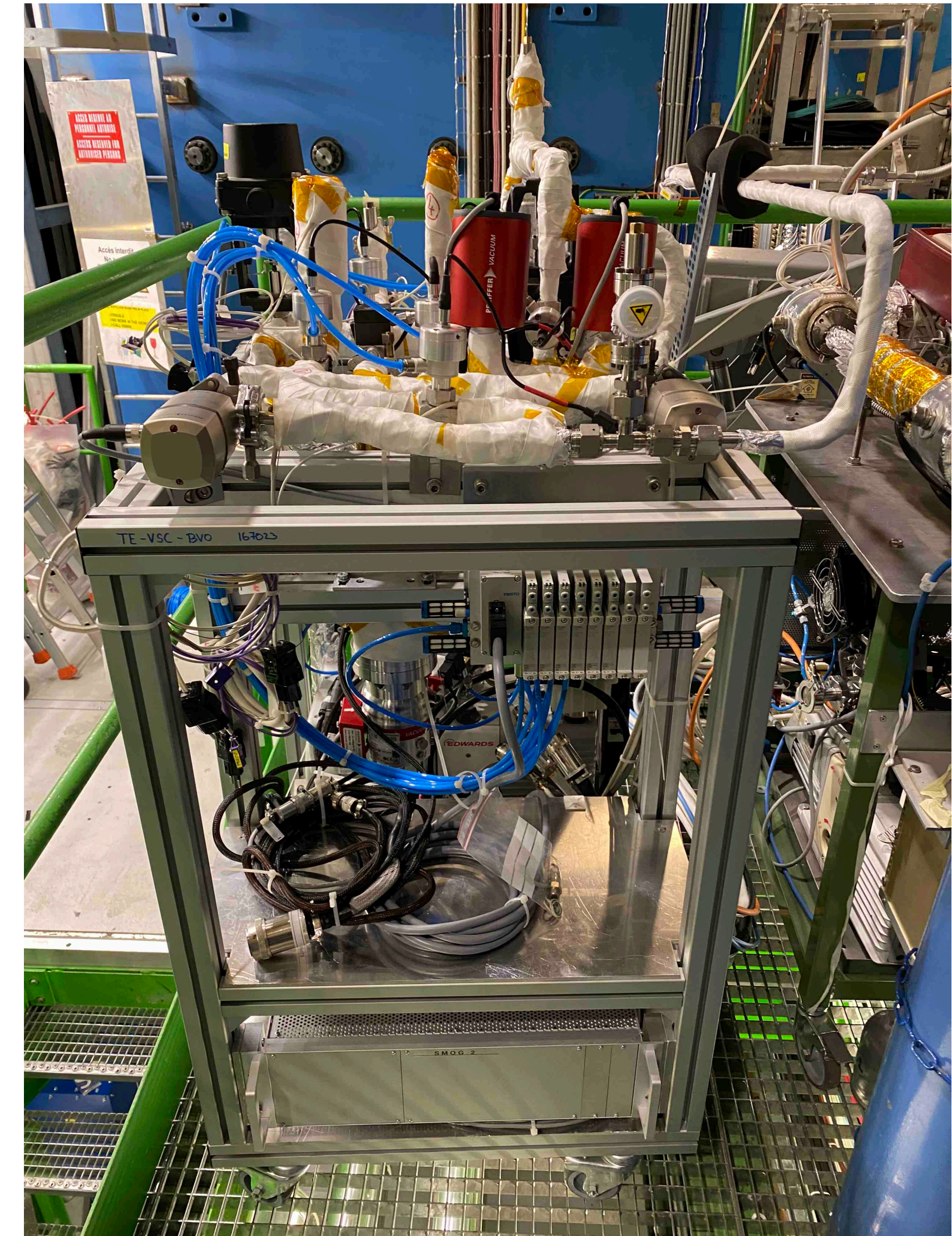
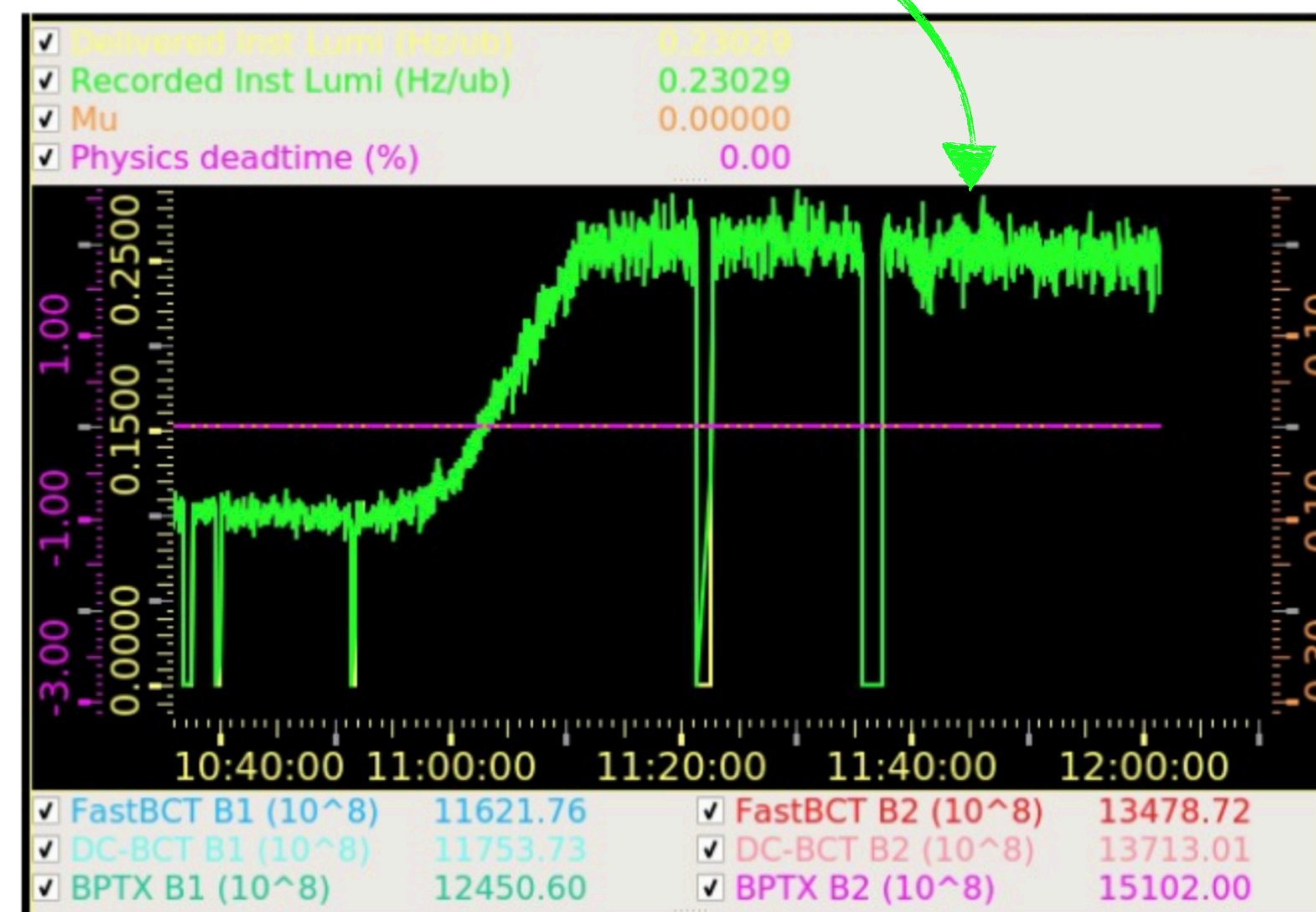
First SMOG2 operations

- Gas Feed System installed on 03/2022
- The cell can be filled with: He, Ne, Ar
- Under evaluation: H₂, D₂, N₂, O₂, Kr, Xe
- First Neon injections tested successfully with beam!

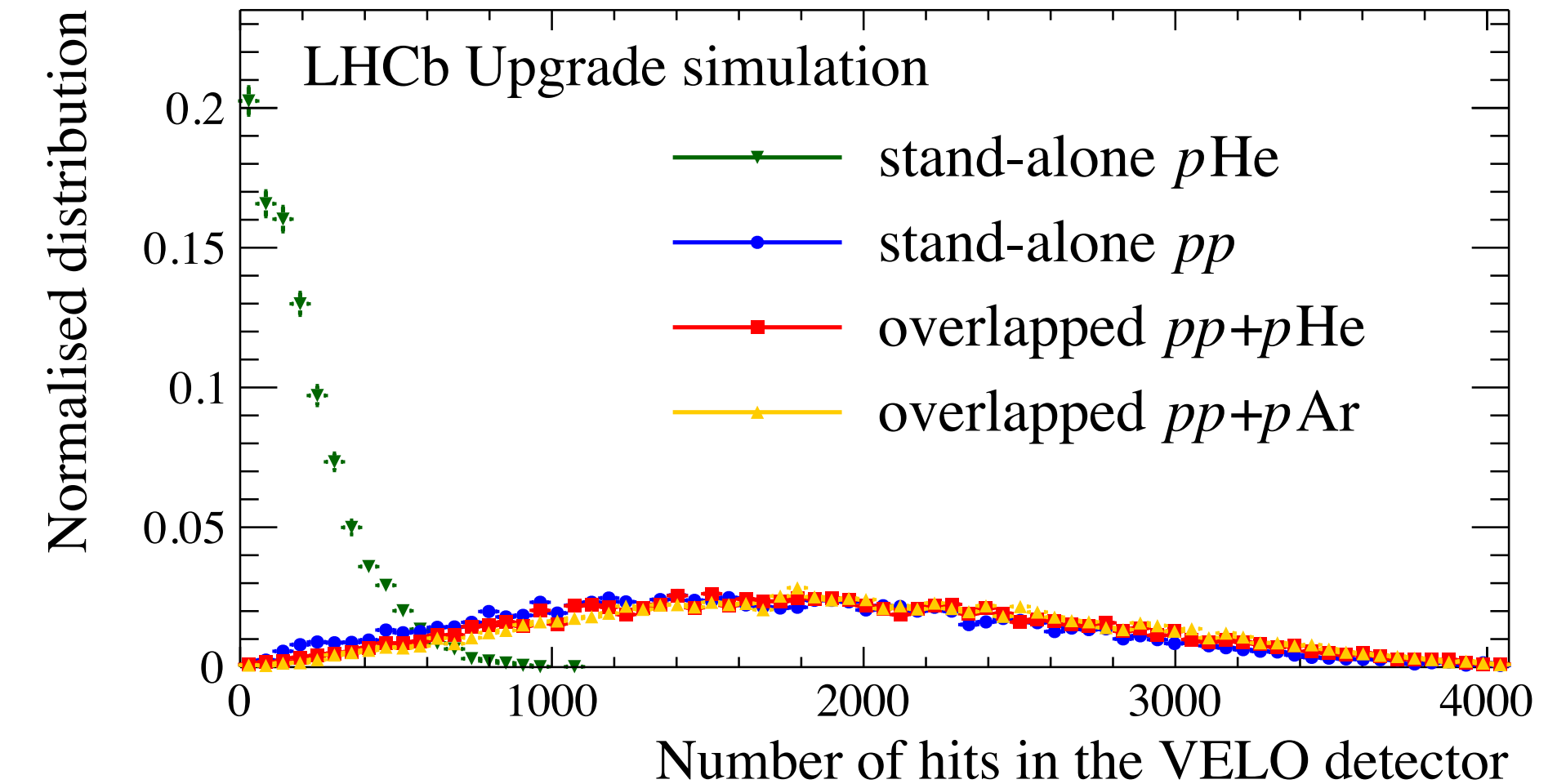
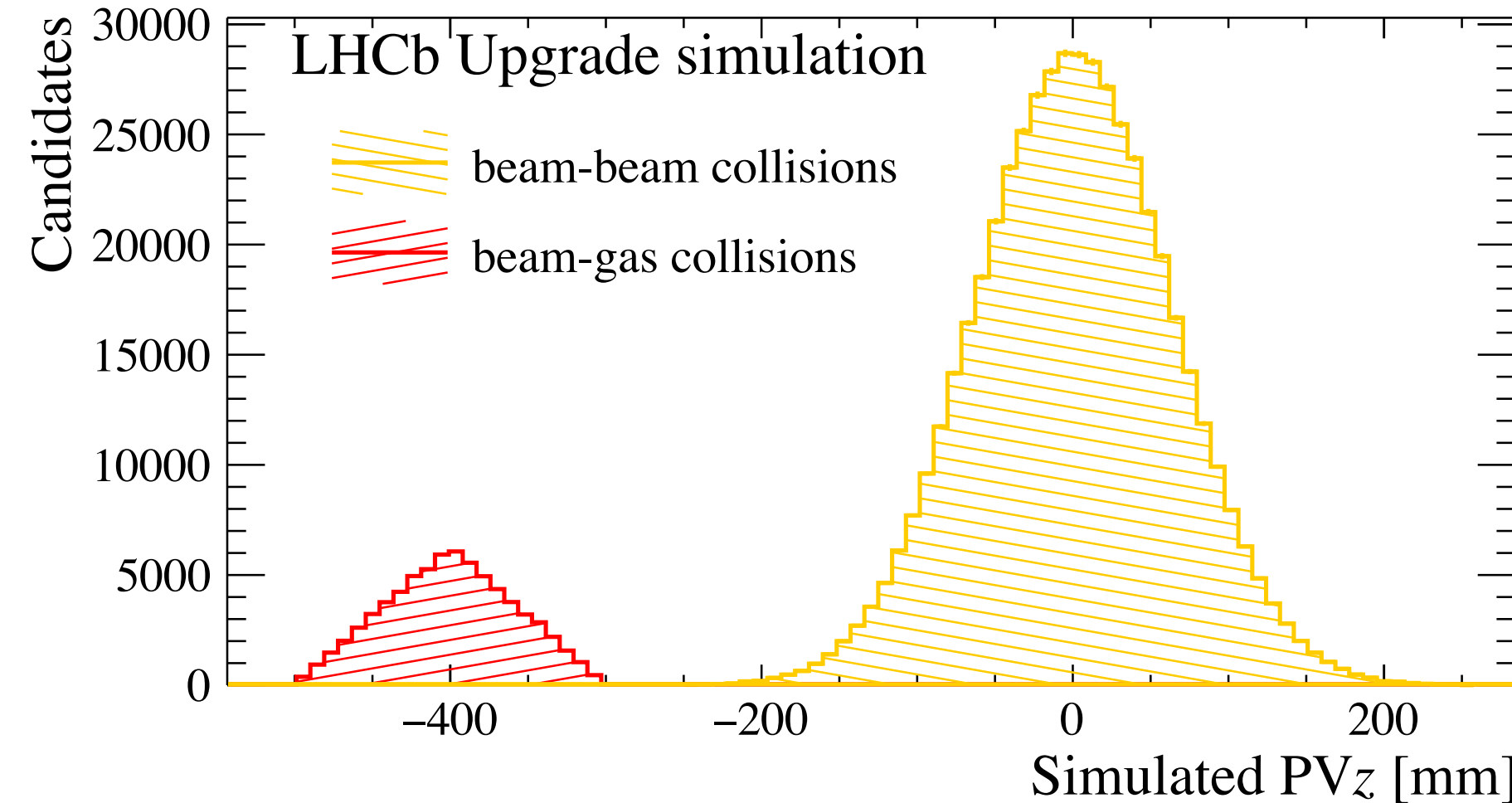
- Pressure increase observed in the beam-pipe is fast & stable



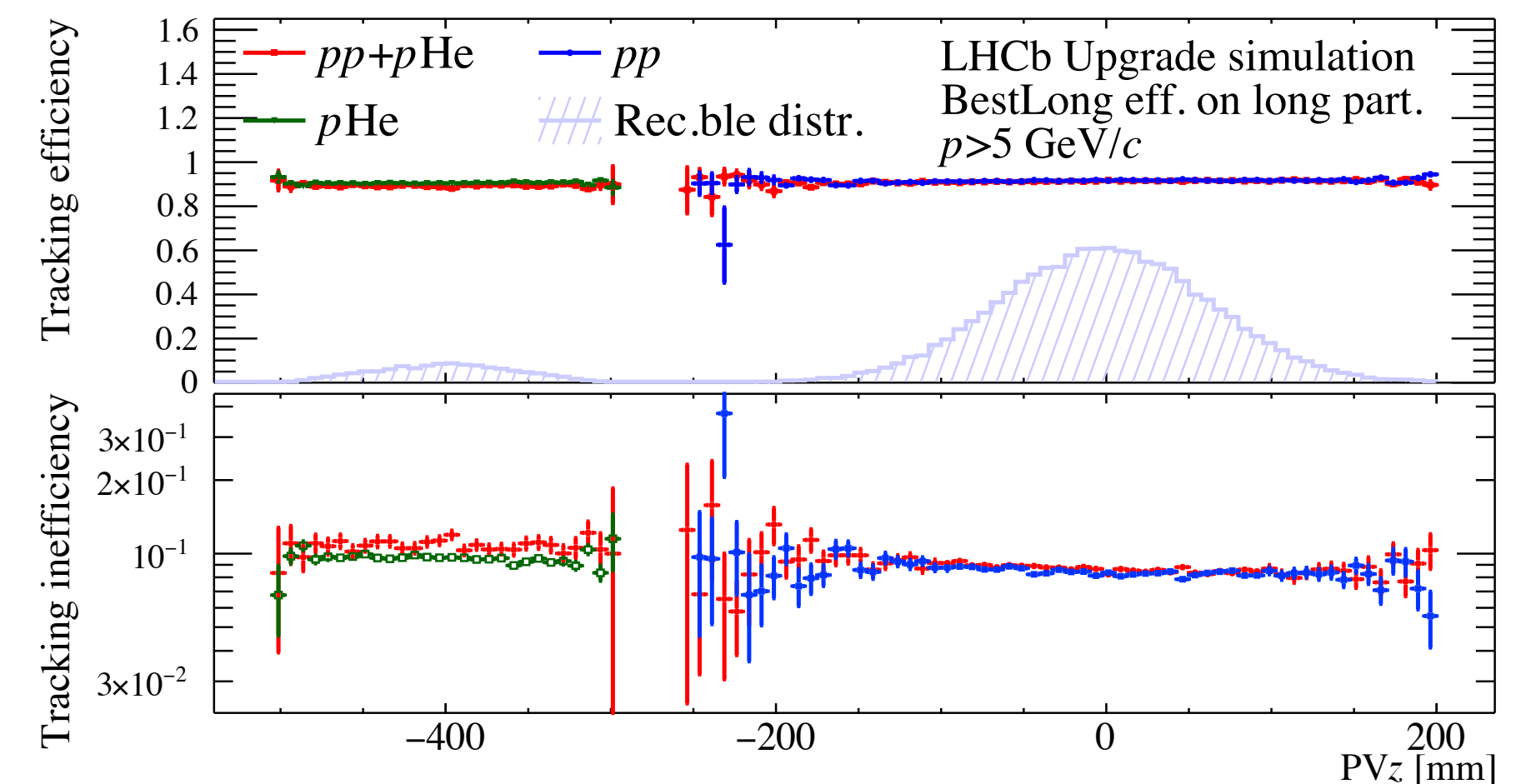
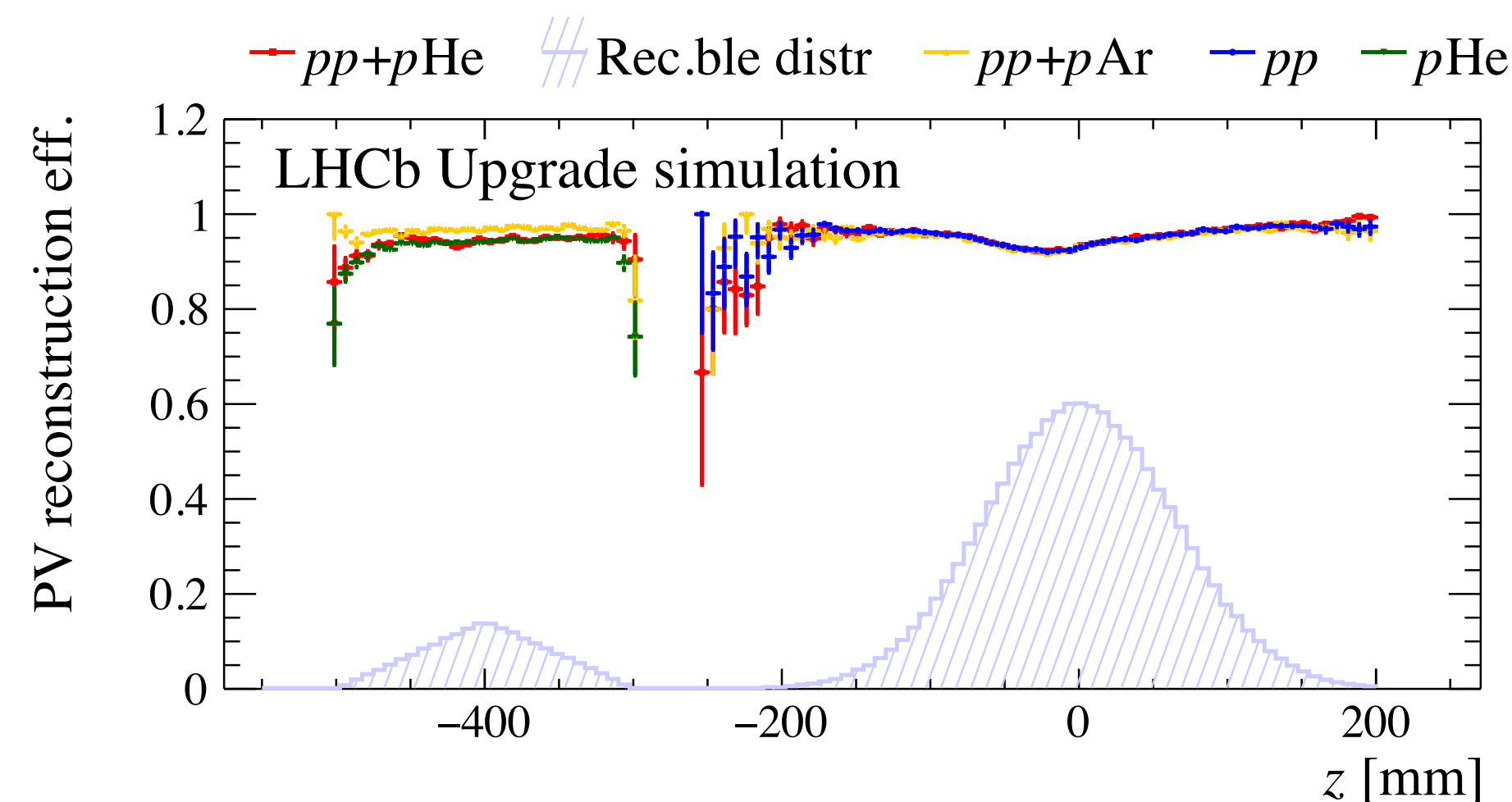
- Increased activity observed with the new luminometer (Plume)



1. Beam-beam and beam-gas interaction regions are well detached
2. Negligible increase of multiplicity: small impact in the LHCb reconstruction sequence



3. Full reconstruction efficiency (vertex & tracking) retained in the beam-gas region



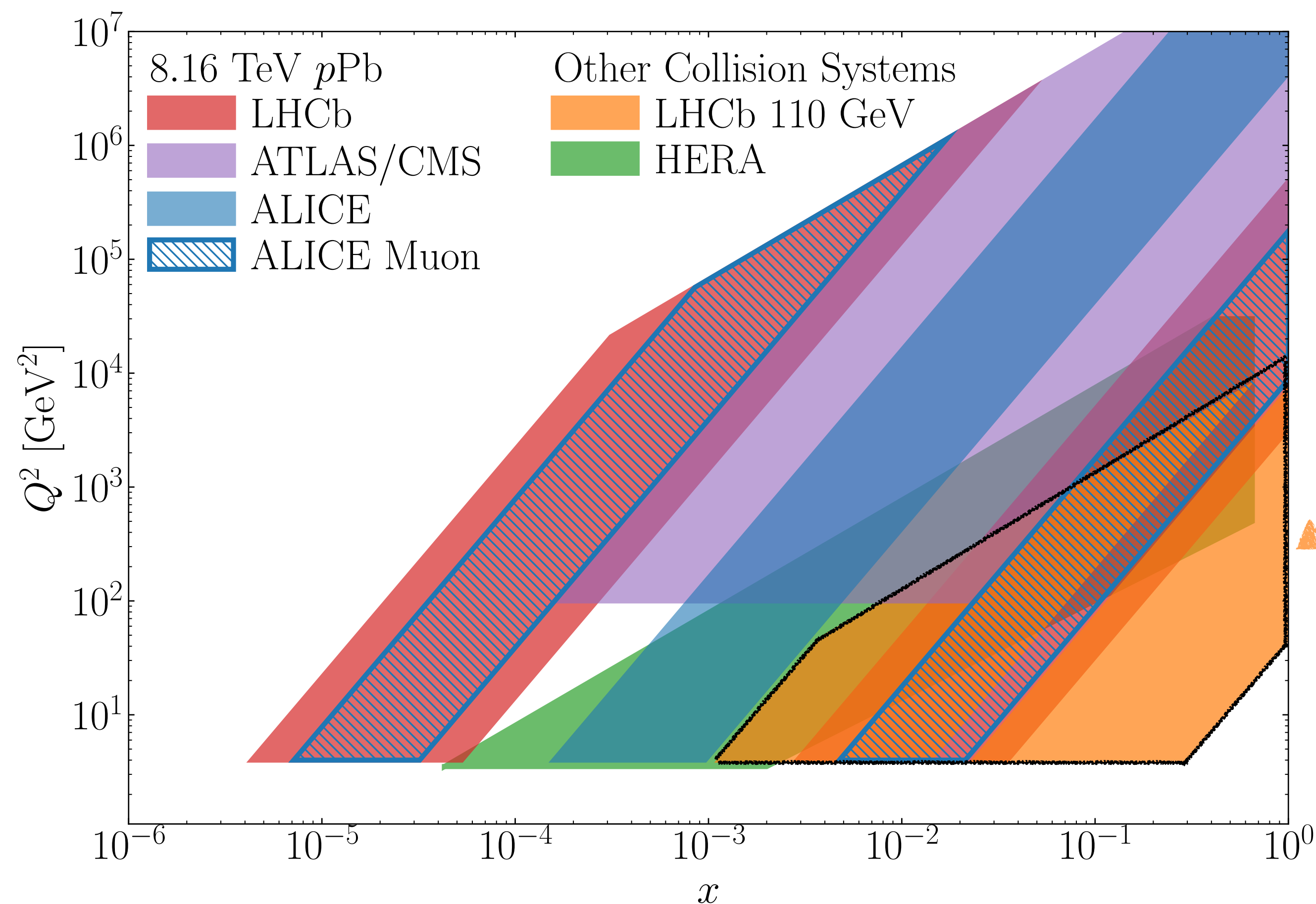
- LHCb will be the only experiment able to run in collider and fixed-target mode simultaneously!

The LHCspin project

- The SMOG2 program sets the basis for the development of a polarised gas target (PGT), that we aim to install during LS3

Two main goals of the LHCspin project:

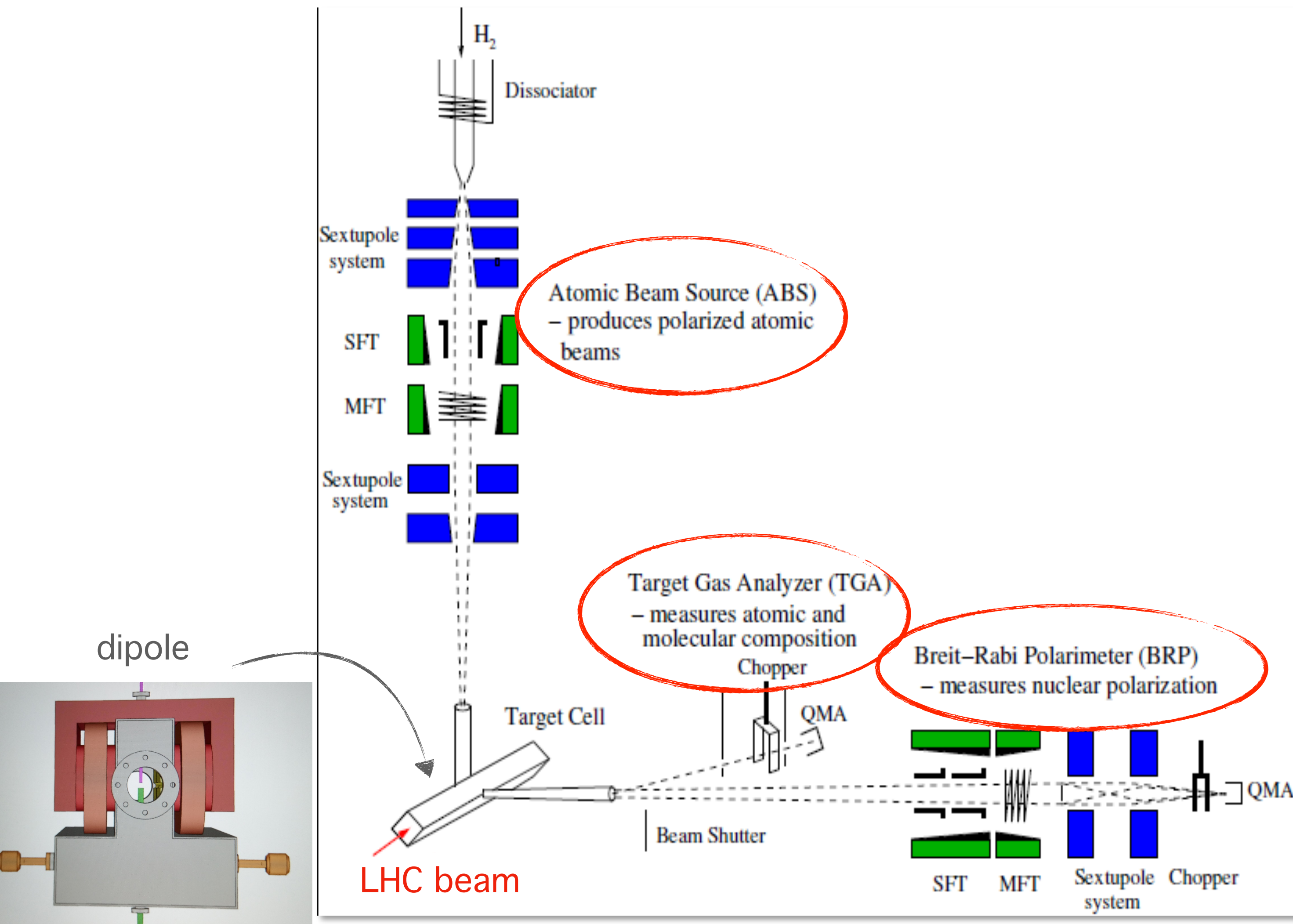
1. Extend the broad physics program with unpolarised gases to Run 4 (2029) and Run 5 (2035, HL-LHC)
2. Bring spin physics at the LHC for the first time



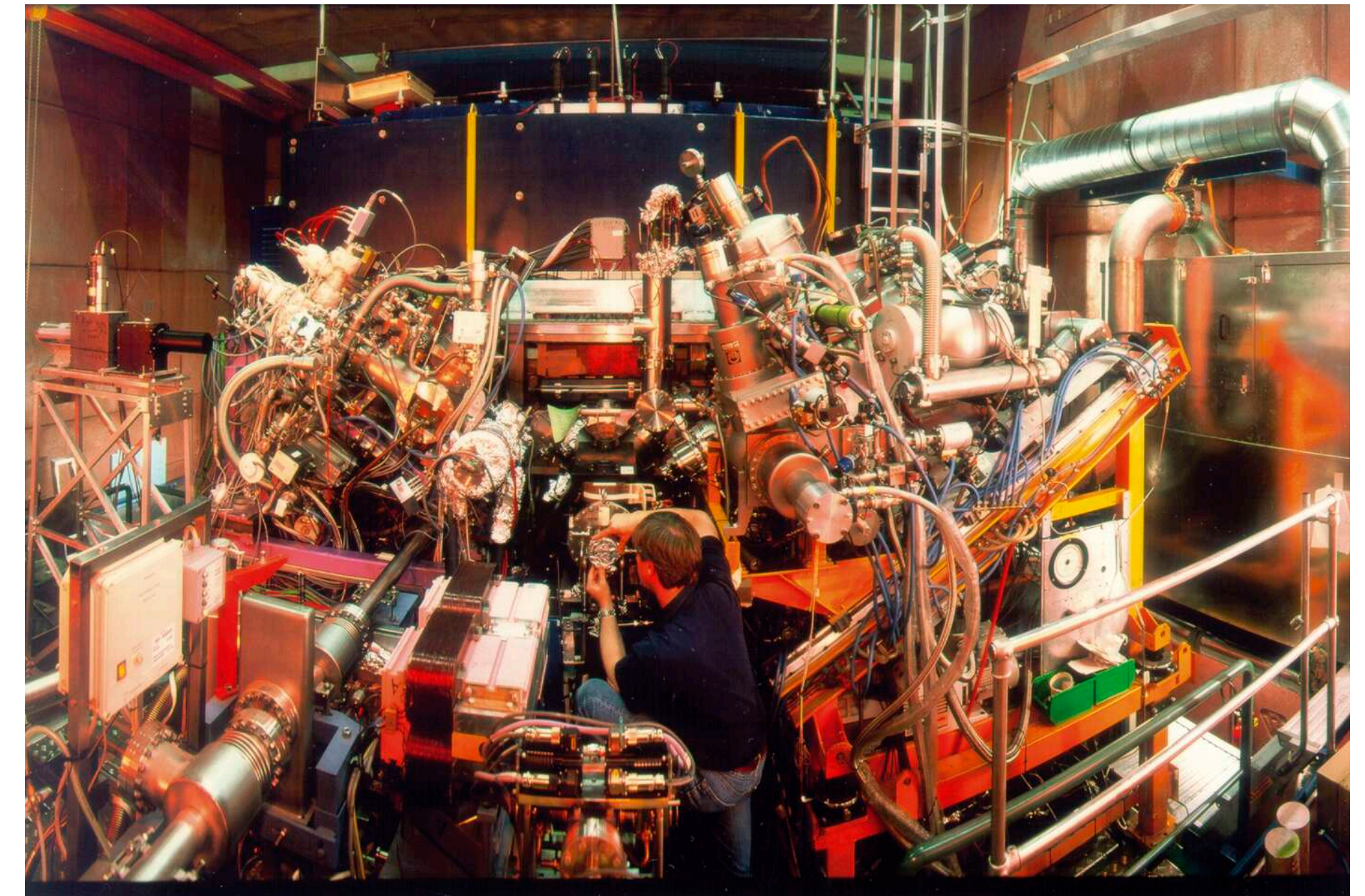
Unique QCD laboratory at LHC:

- Large- x content of g , \bar{q} and heavy quarks in nucleons and nuclei
- Spin distributions of gluons inside unpolarised and polarised nucleons
- Heavy Ion FT collisions at an energy in between SPS and RHIC
- Broad and poorly explored kinematic range
- High luminosity, high resolution detectors: access to a large variety of probes incl. exotic
- Several unpolarised gas targets
- Polarised gas targets: H^\uparrow, D^\uparrow

Experimental setup



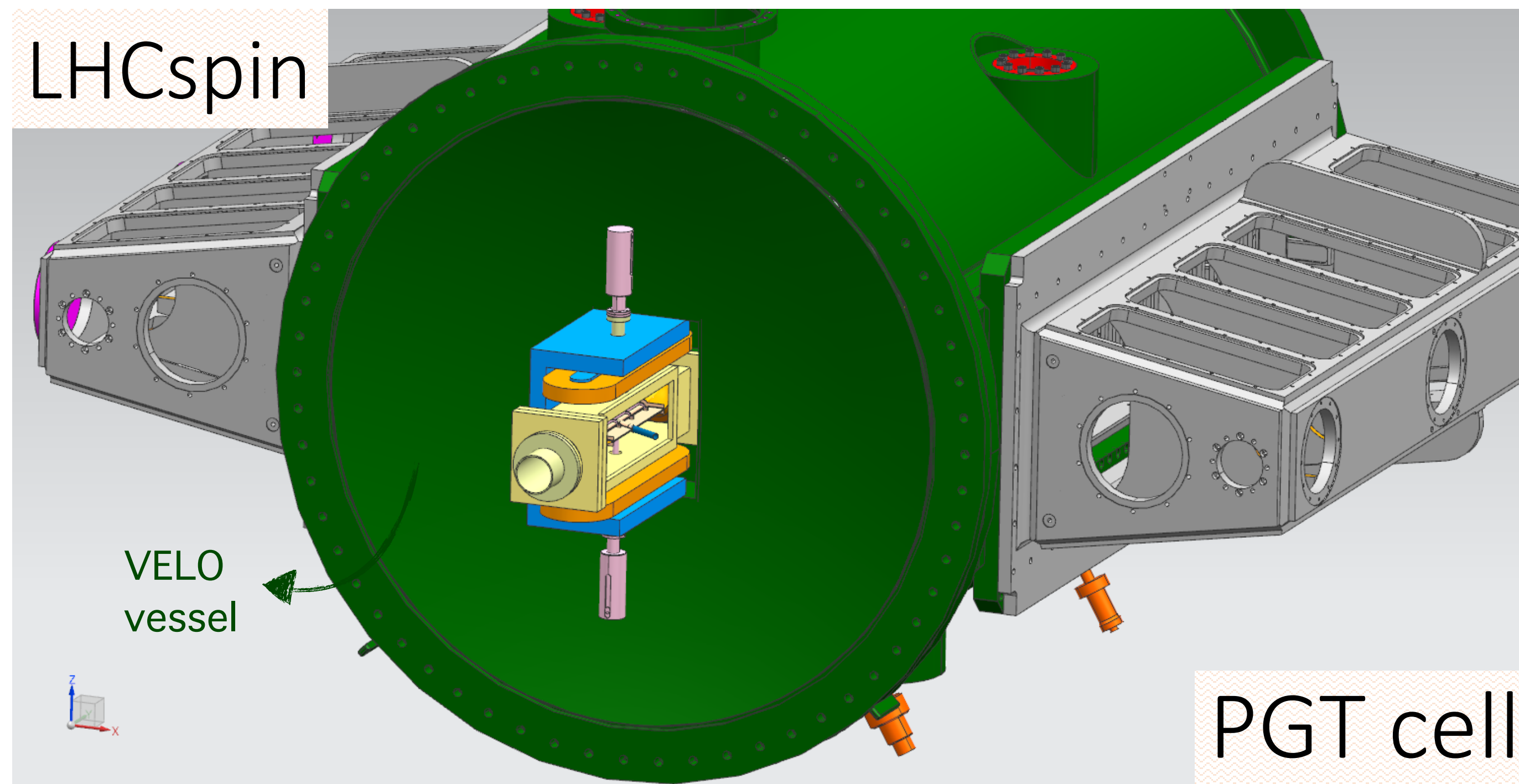
- Start from the well established HERMES setup @ DESY...
- ... to create the next generation of fixed target polarisation techniques!



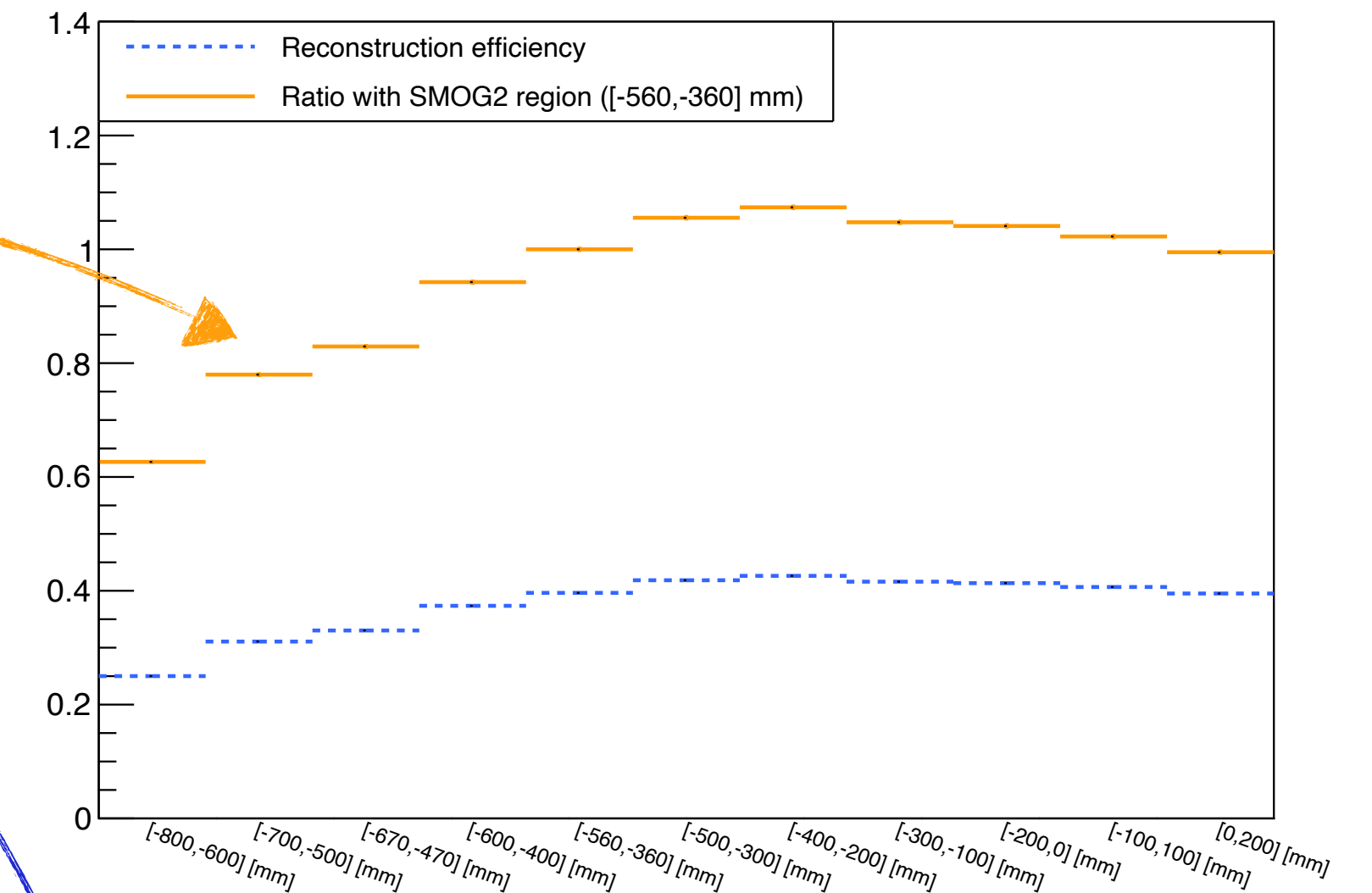
[[NIMA 540 \(2005\) 68-101](#)]

The Polarised Gas Target

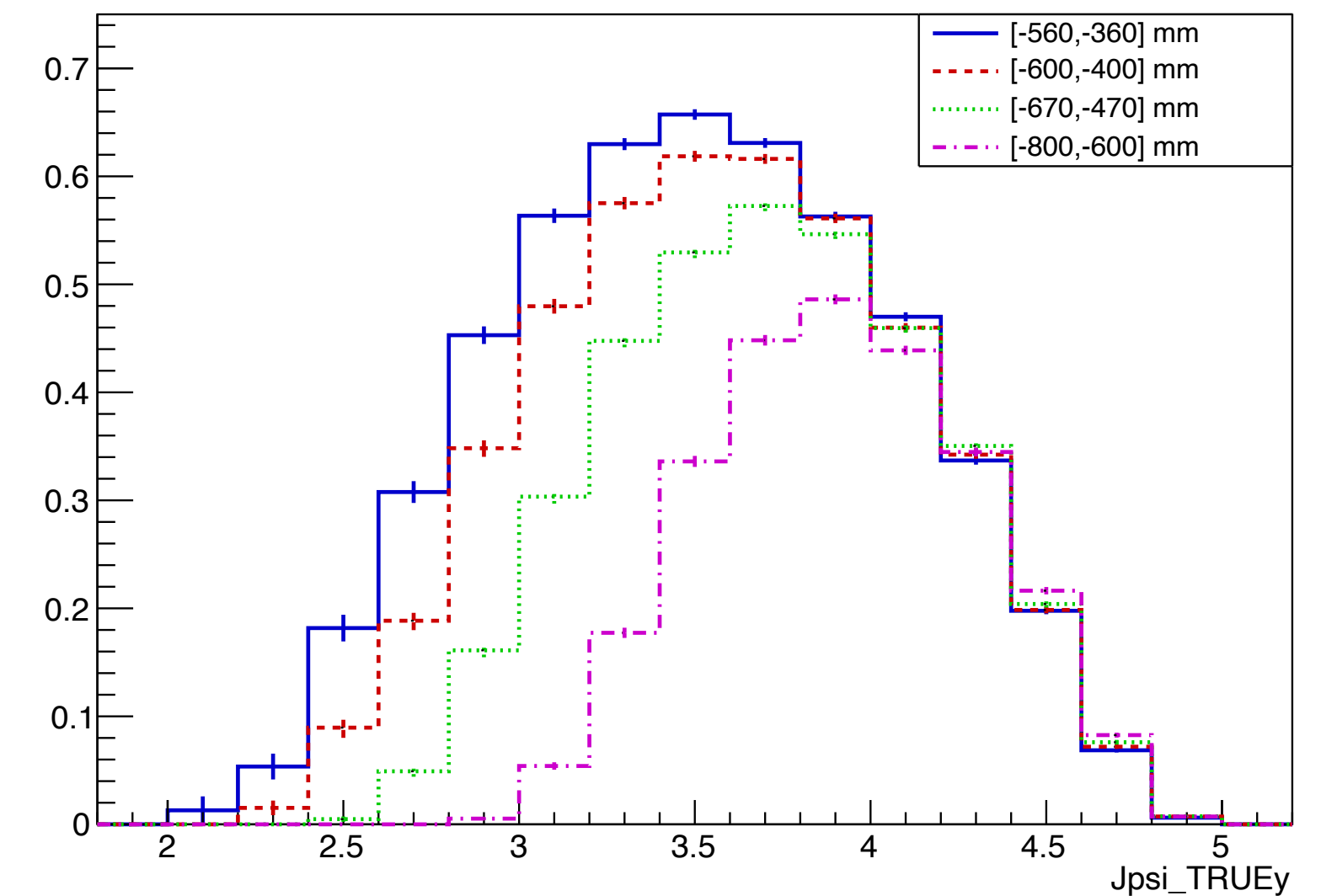
- Cylindrical target cell with $L = 20$ cm and $D = 1$ cm
- LHCb simulations show broader kinematic acceptance & higher efficiency at the same position of the SMOG2 cell
- Work ongoing to develop [dedicated trigger lines](#) and to improve reconstruction algorithms for the Run 3



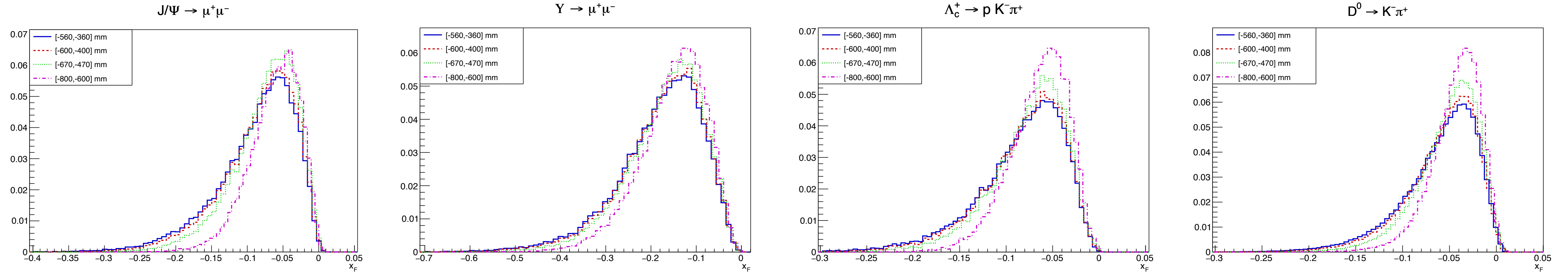
$J/\Psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- \in_{\text{rec}}(\text{PV})$ vs cell position



$J/\Psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ PV X track reconstruction efficiency

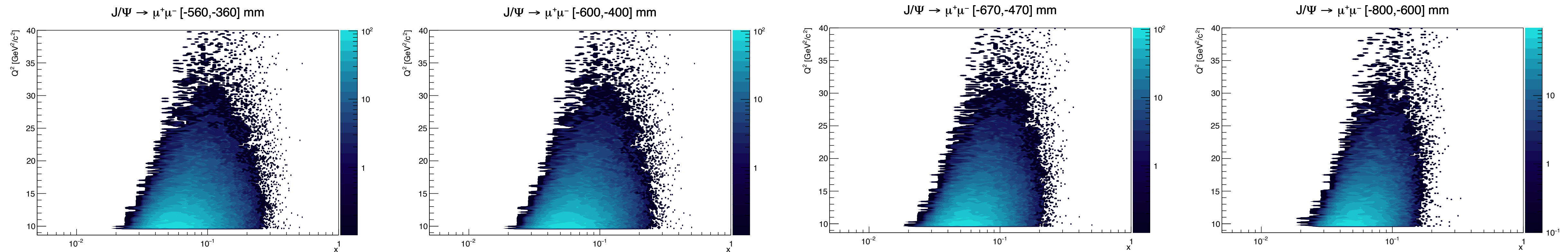


Kinematic coverage overview



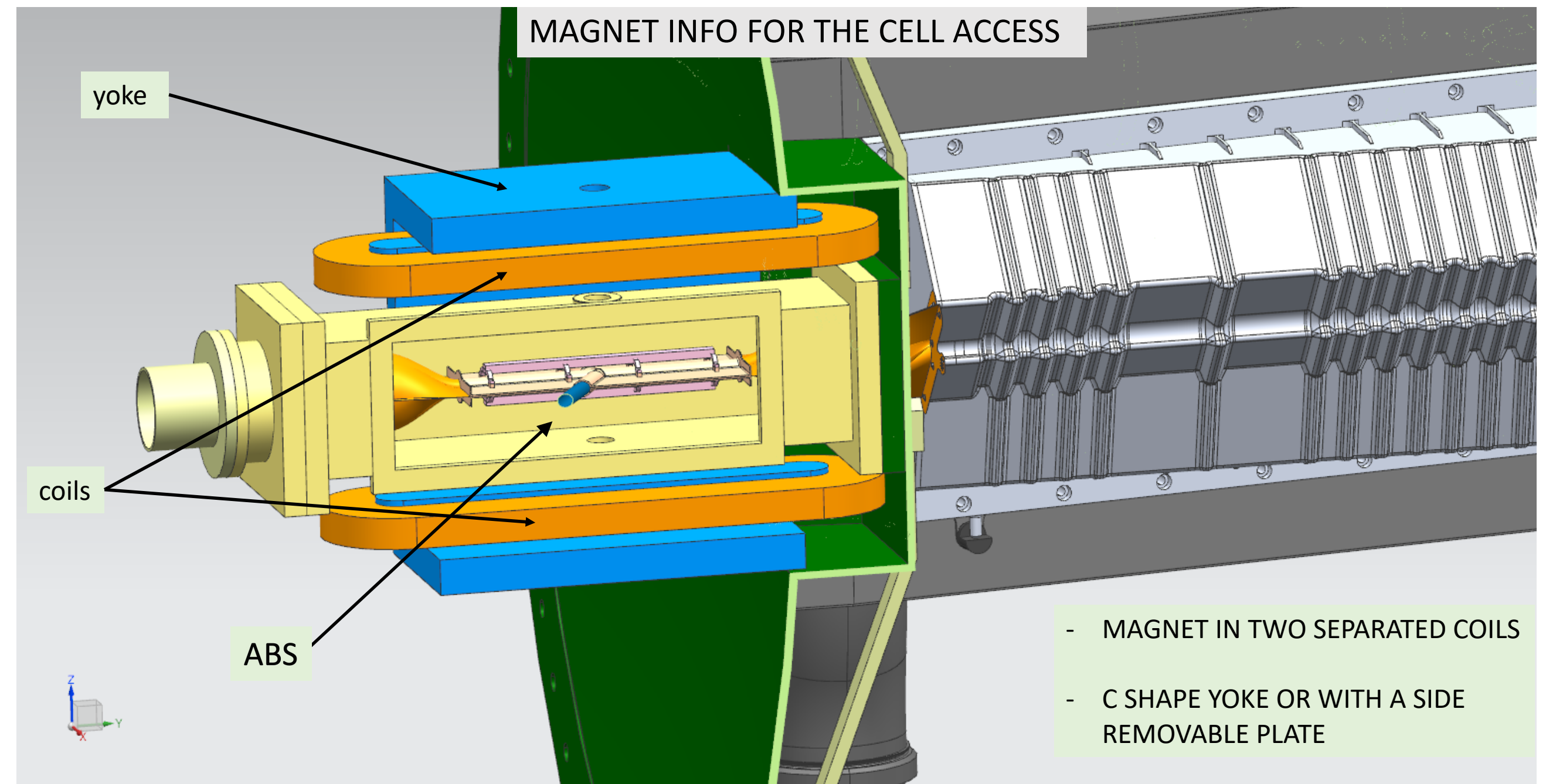
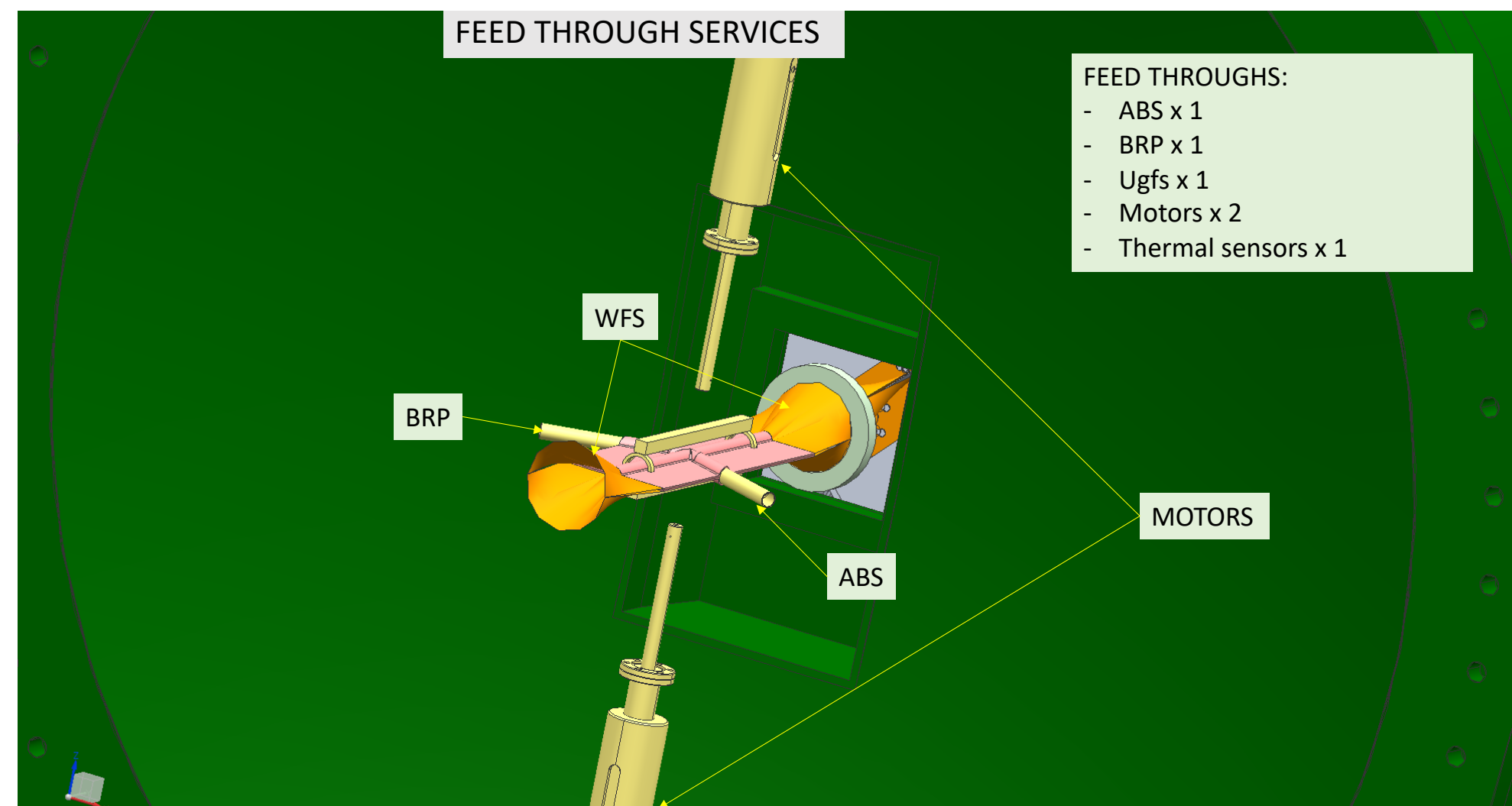
- LHCb p-H FT simulations at $\sqrt{s} = 115$ GeV
- Actual SMOG2 region $[-560, -360]$ mm as a reference, $[-670, -470]$ mm a possible solution to fit the LHCspin setup
- The kinematic coverage depends on the cell position: p_T slightly affected, x range shrinks when moving away from the VELO

- $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ $x - Q^2$ vs cell position

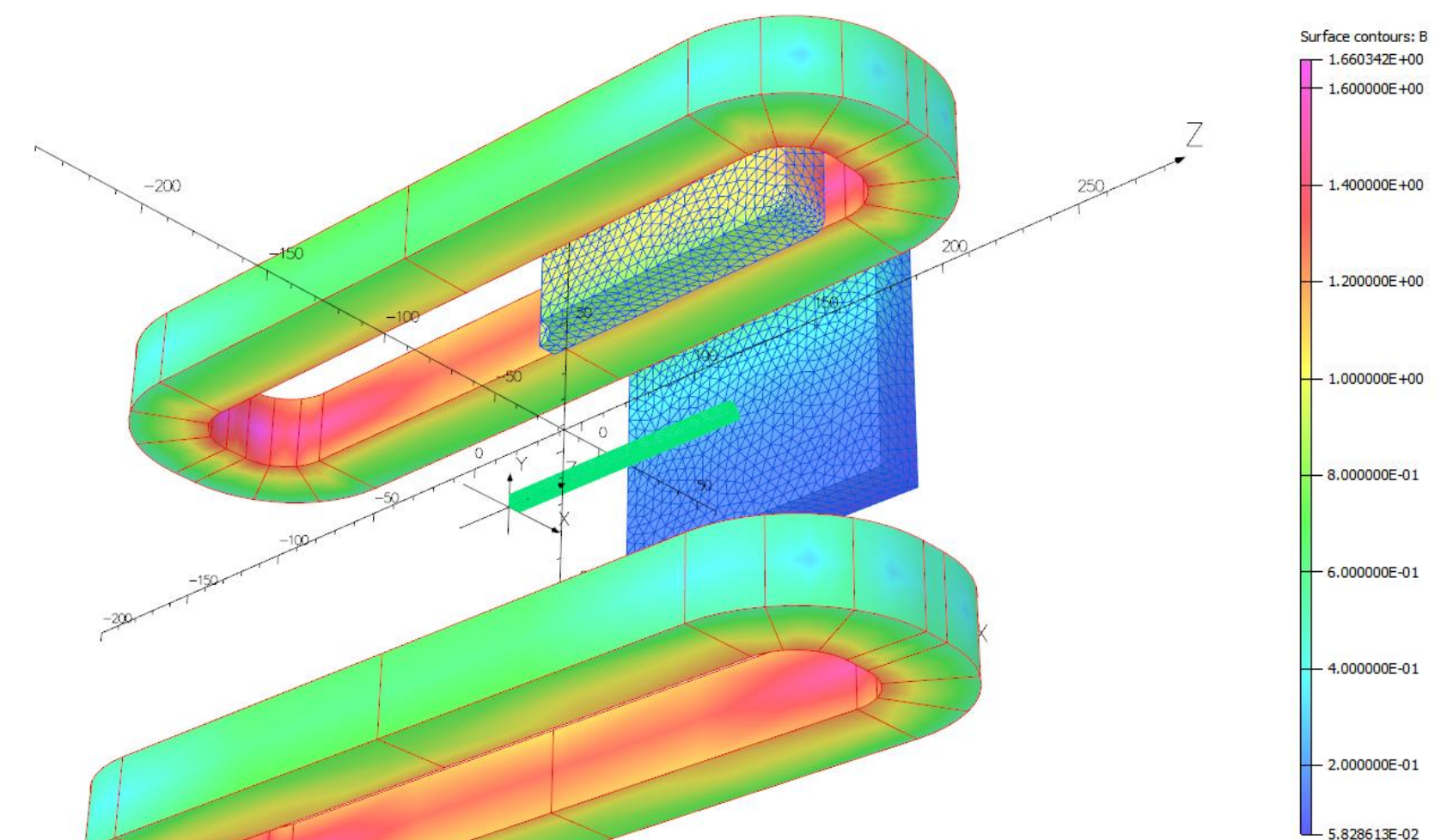


The Polarised Gas Target

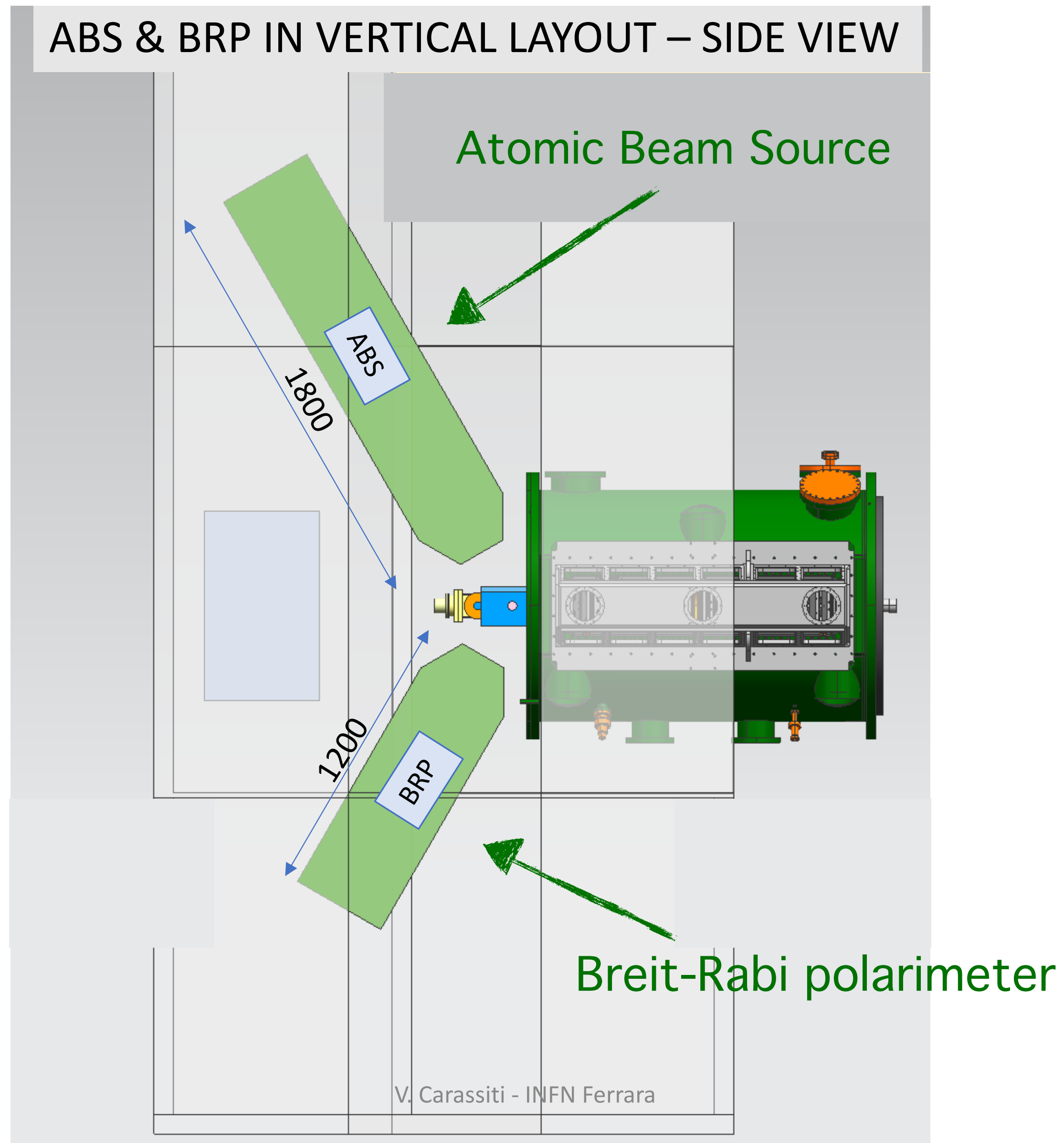
- Inject both polarised and unpolarised gases via ABS and UGFS



- Compact dipole magnet → static transverse field
- Superconductive coils + iron yoke configuration fits the space constraints
- $B = 300 \text{ mT}$ with polarity inversion
- $\Delta B/B \simeq 10\%$, suitable to avoid beam-induced depolarisation [[PoS \(SPIN2018\)](#)]
- Possibility to switch to a solenoid and provide longitudinal polarisation (e.g. in Run 5)



ABS and BRP R&D



- Reduce the size of both ABS and BRP to fit into the available space in the LHCb cavern: a challenging R&D!
- No need for additional detectors to LHCb: only a modification of the VELO flange is required
- Aiming at: [\[NIMA 540 \(2005\) 68–101\]](#)

Polarisation degree:
 $\approx 85\%$

Intensity of injected H-atoms:
 $6.5 \times 10^{16} \text{ s}^{-1}$

Luminosity (HL-LHC):
 $\sim 8 \times 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

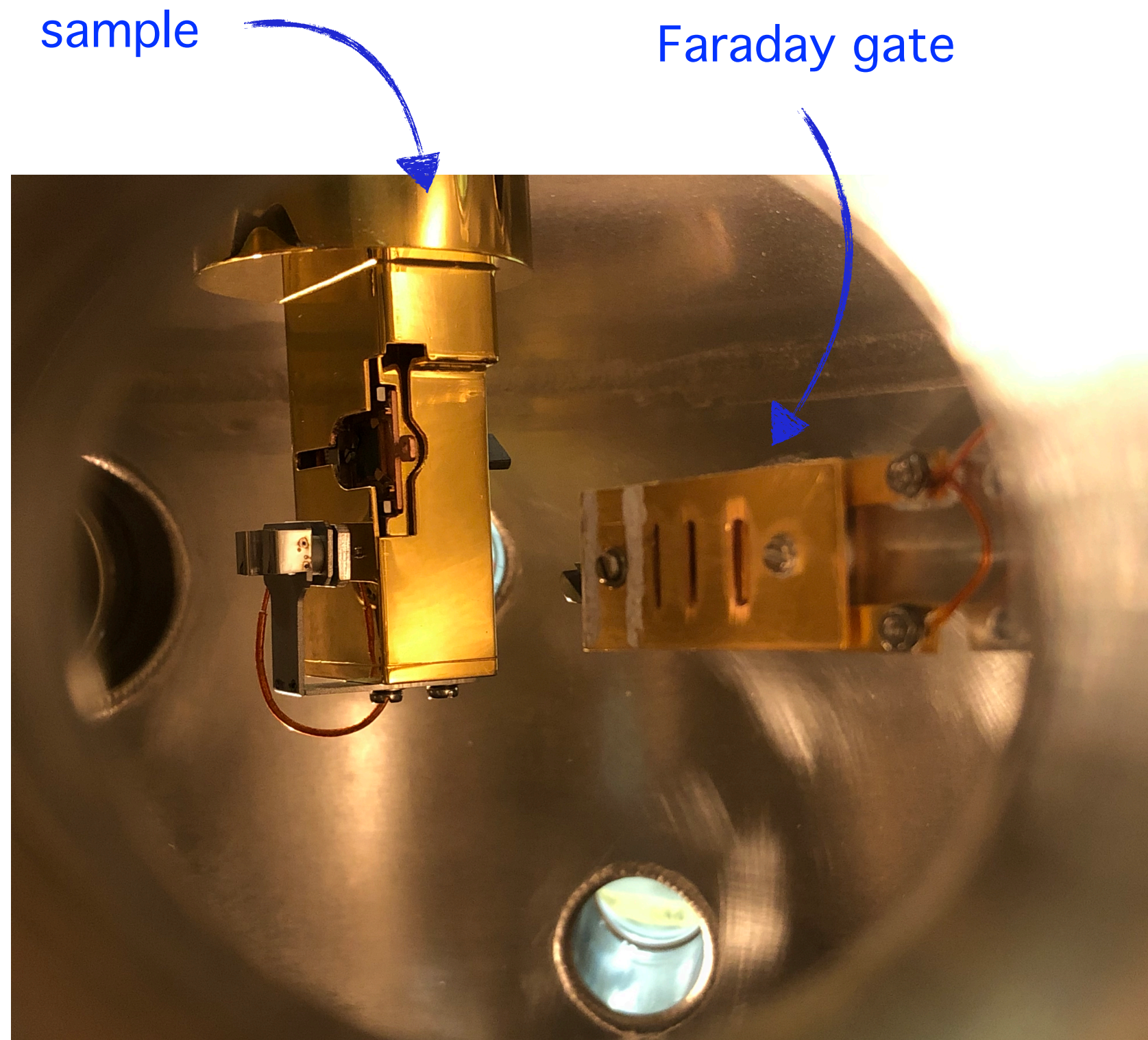
- Alternative solution is being investigated: a [jet target](#) provides lower density but higher polarisation degree

Cell coating R&D at LNF

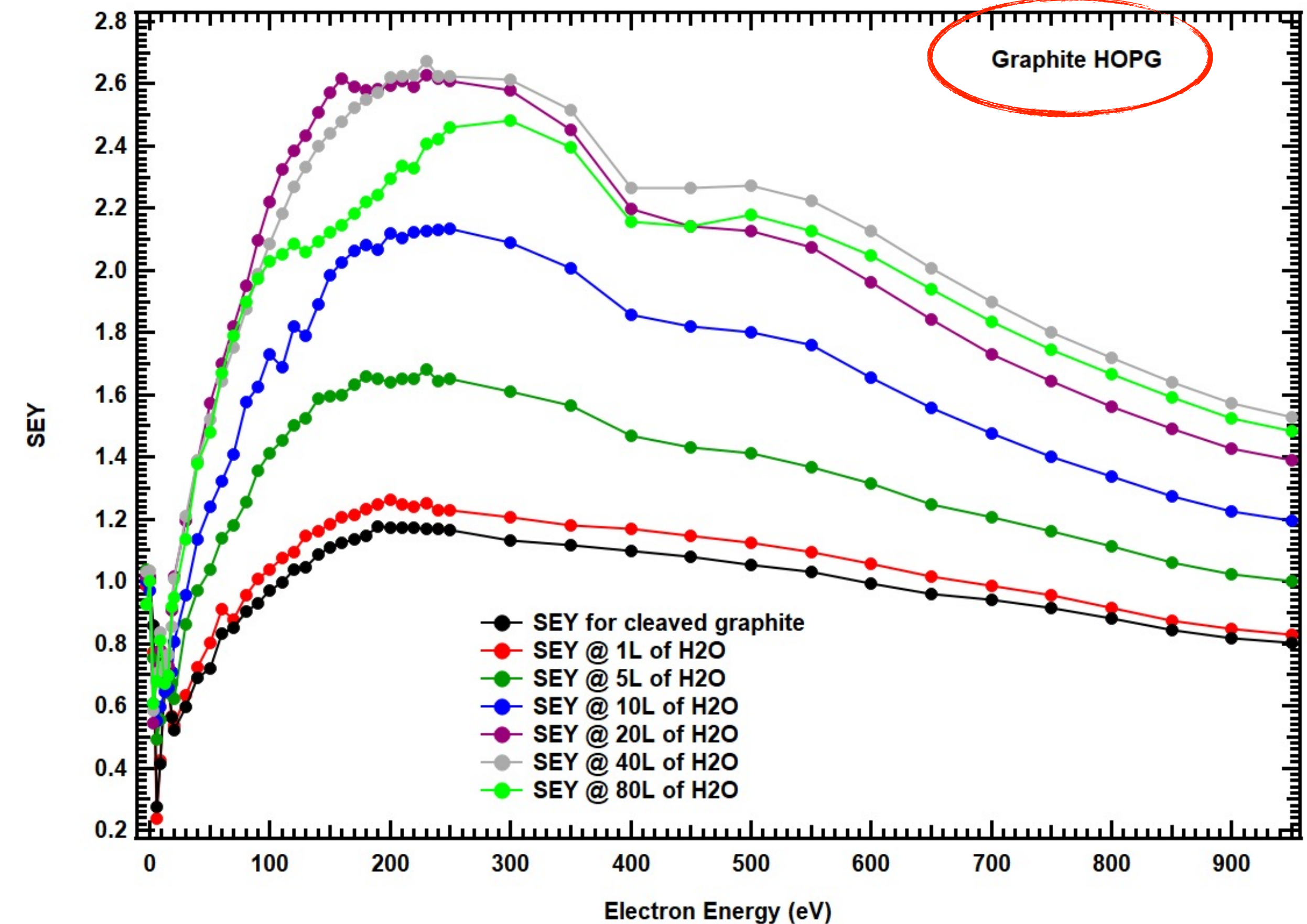
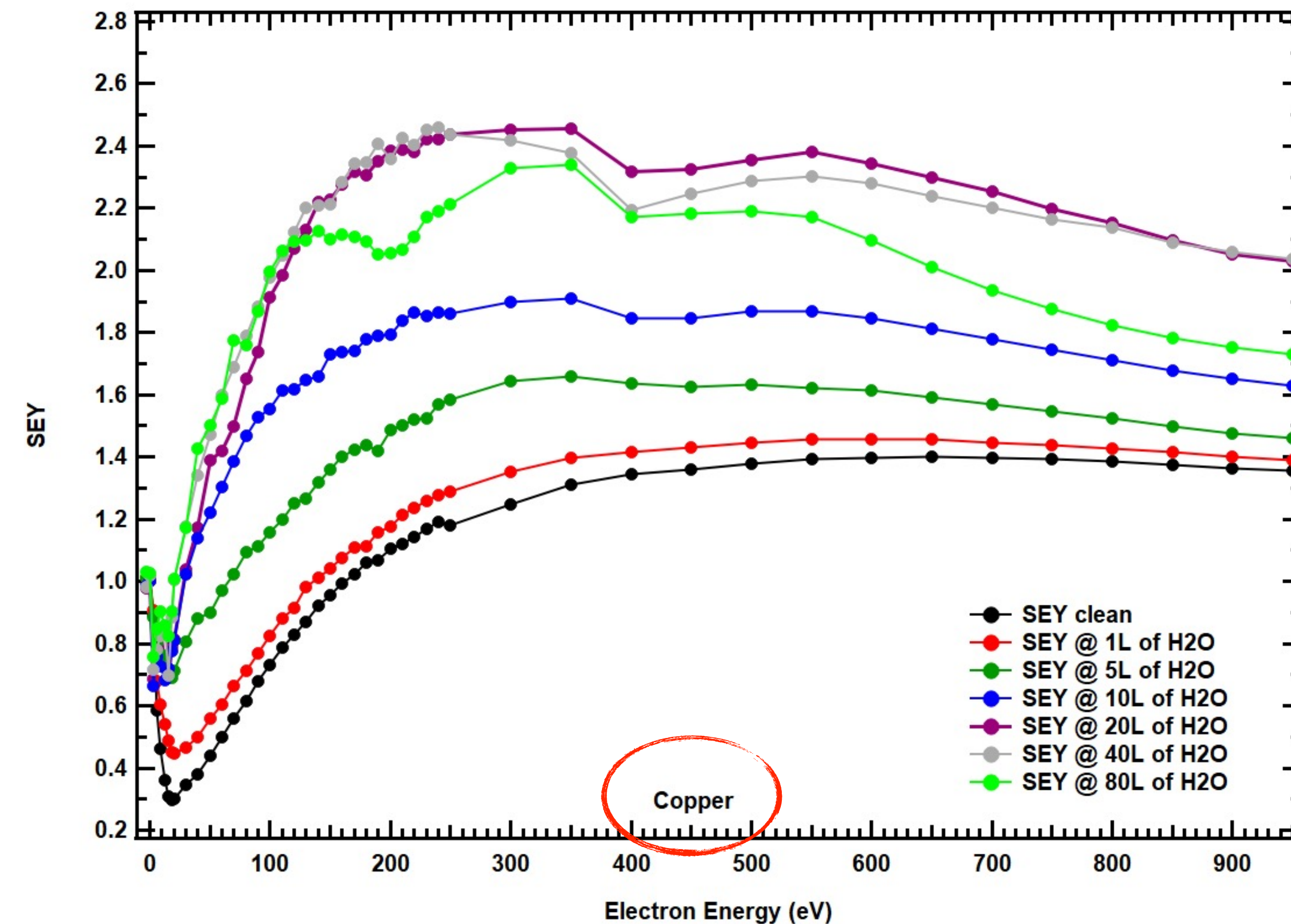
- The inner coating is a crucial aspect of the R&D and should:
 - A. Minimise e-cloud related instabilities → measurements of Secondary Electron Yield (SEY)
 - B. Minimise H depolarisation due to interactions with the walls → measurements of H recombination

Goal of the ARYA project at LNF:

- Teflon and Drifilm are not compatible with LHC, while amorphous carbon (a-C) may induce depolarisation: a possible solution to the above issues foresees a **thin H₂O layer on carbon-coated walls**
- Renewable surface but requires cooling (~100K): higher SEY but less recombination is expected
- Installed a UHV-compatible ultrapure H₂O dosing system
- Measuring SEY as $\delta = I_{out}/I_{in}$ with an electron gun on the target vs H₂O dose



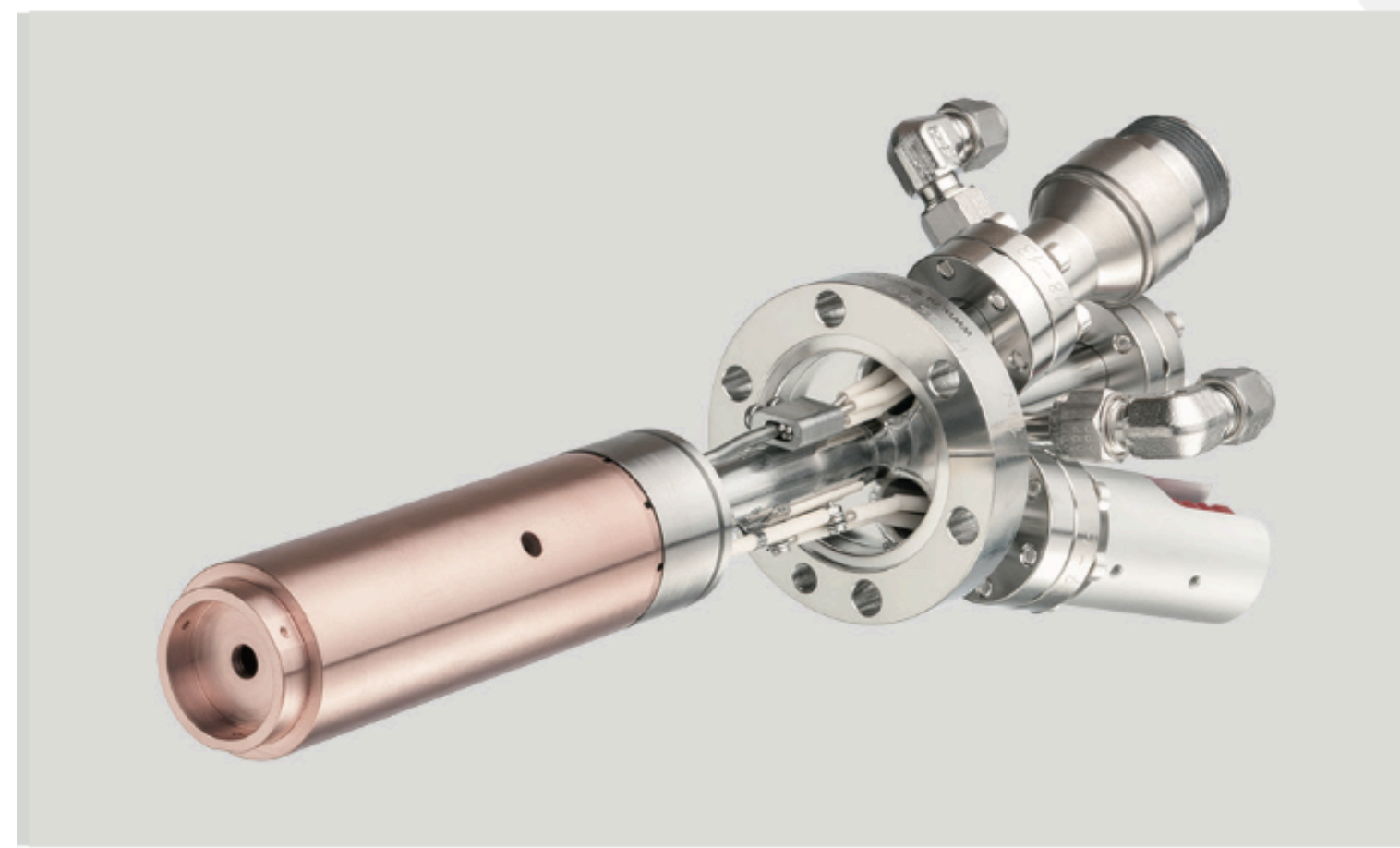
SEY curves



- Measuring SEY vs incident electron energy for copper (reference) and HOPG + 1,4,10,20,40,80 monolayers of H₂O at 90K
- [SEY max 2.6](#): impact on LHC is under evaluation
- Next: measurements on the actual CERN a-C sample, measurement of H recombination

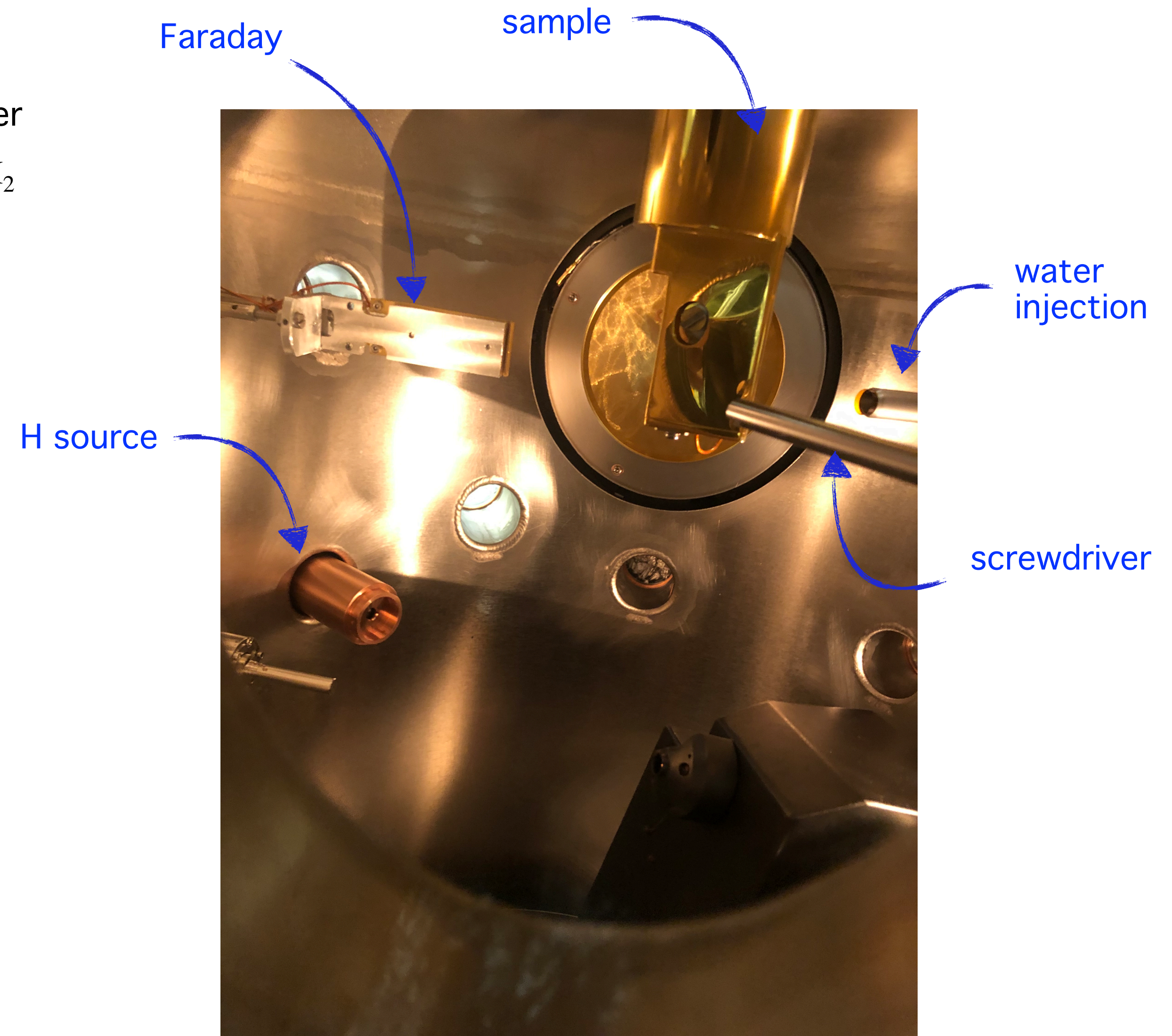
H recombination

- With the same setup, inject H by means of an atomic source
- Measure the H/H_2 fraction vs H_2O dose with a mass spectrometer
- Assuming depolarisation occurs when H atoms recombine into H_2
→ useful input for the depolarisation property of the surface



HABS 40 on DN40CF (O.D. 2.75") flange

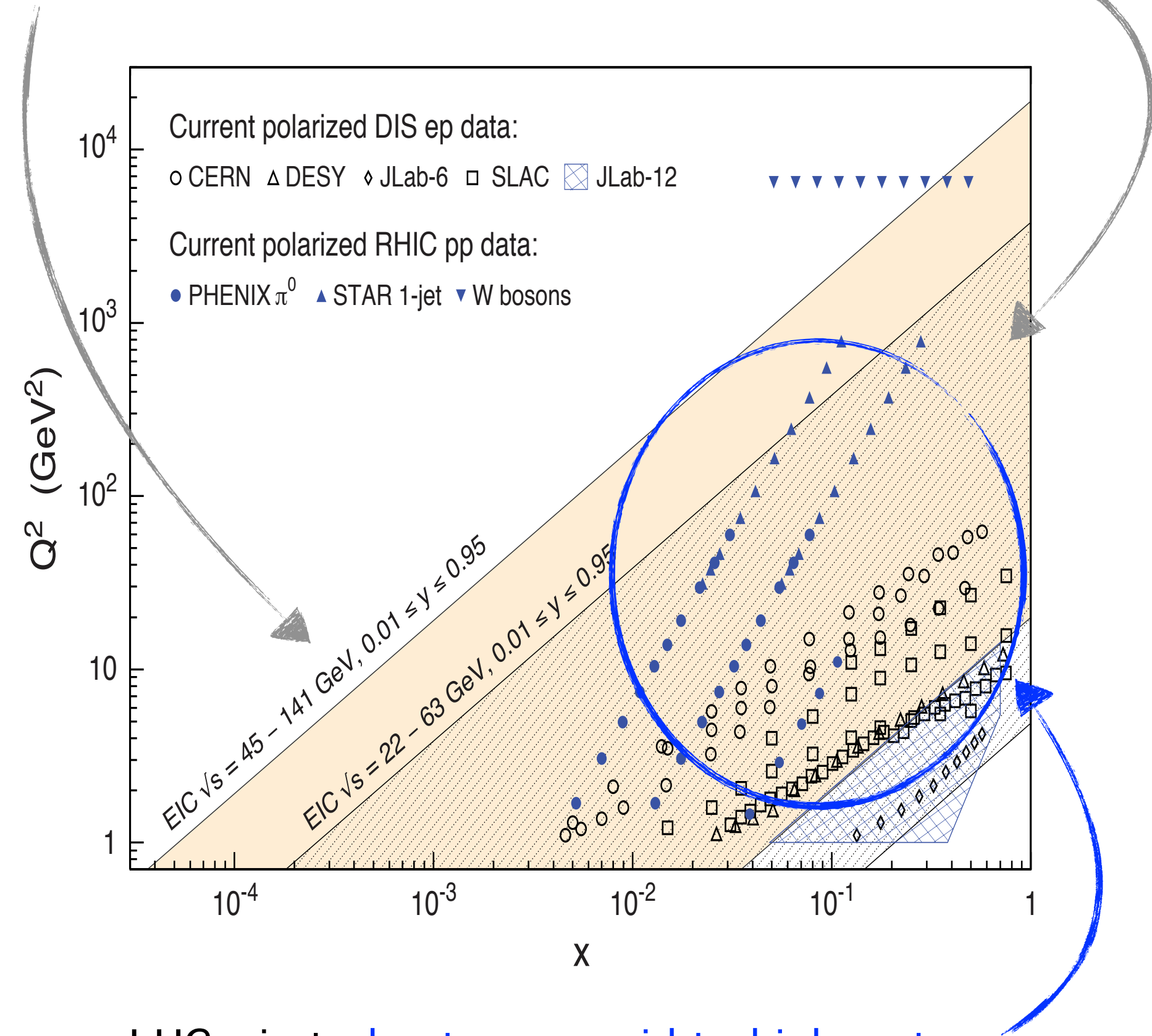
- H_2 dissociation typically 80 to 98%, depending on operation conditions
- Atomic H-flux density up to $10^{16}/cm^2s$
- No high-energy particles and ions
- Low power consumption ($P < 200\text{ W}$)
- Integrated water cooling, low thermal load on other experimental equipment



- More informations in: [\[these slides by R. Cimino\]](#)

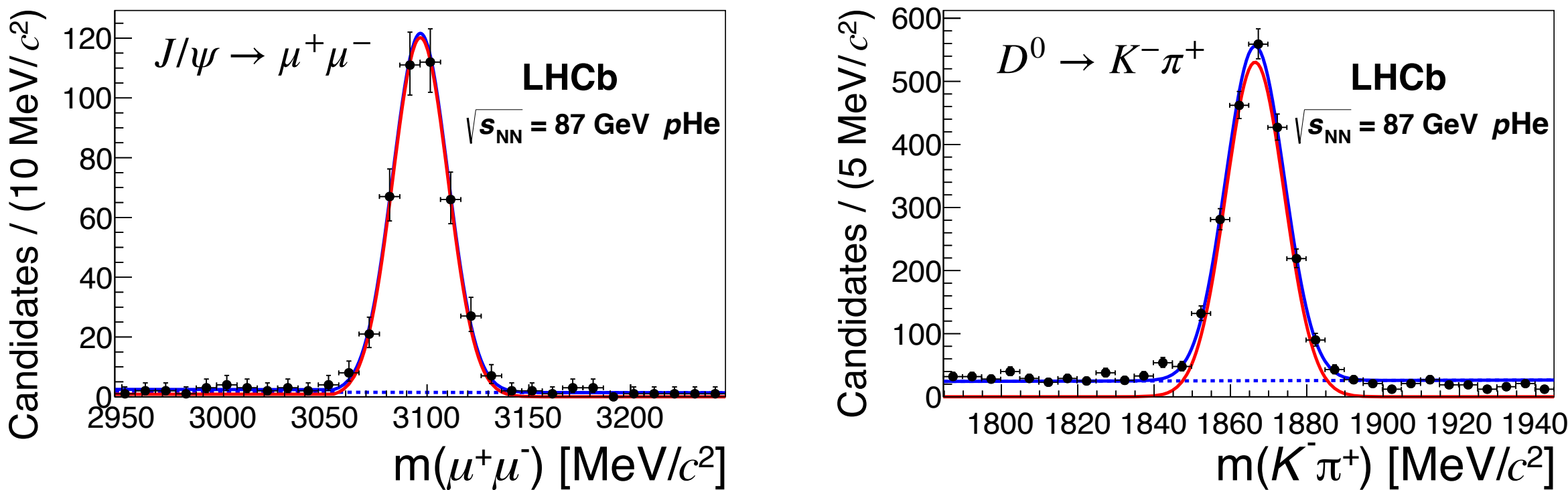
LHCspin physics: overview & expected rates

- **Complementarity is the key:**
- 12 GeV JLab probing high- x , low Q^2
- EIC measurements to focus on low- x
- higher Q^2 reach with future EIC upgrade



- LHCspin to **best cover mid to high x at intermediate Q^2 with unique probes**

- An example of SMOG data from 2016: 7.6 nb^{-1} in just 87 h
- Very clean samples of $\sim 400 \text{ } J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ and $\sim 2000 \text{ } D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$



- Expected **signal statistics at LHCspin** at the end of Run 4 (Run 4 + Run 5) with pHe collisions:

Channel	Events / week	Total events
$J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$	194k (434k)	23M (75M)
$\psi(2S) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$	3.5k (7.7k)	414k (1.3M)
$D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$	976k (2.2M)	117M (380M)
$J/\psi J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \mu^+ \mu^-$	8 (17)	930 (3000)
Drell Yan ($5 < M_{\mu\mu} < 9 \text{ GeV}$)	110 (250)	13k (43k)
$\Upsilon \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$	80 (190)	10k (32k)
$\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow p K^- \pi^+$	19k (43k)	2.3M (7.5M)

- **Huge statistics: precise spin asymmetries in a few weeks!**

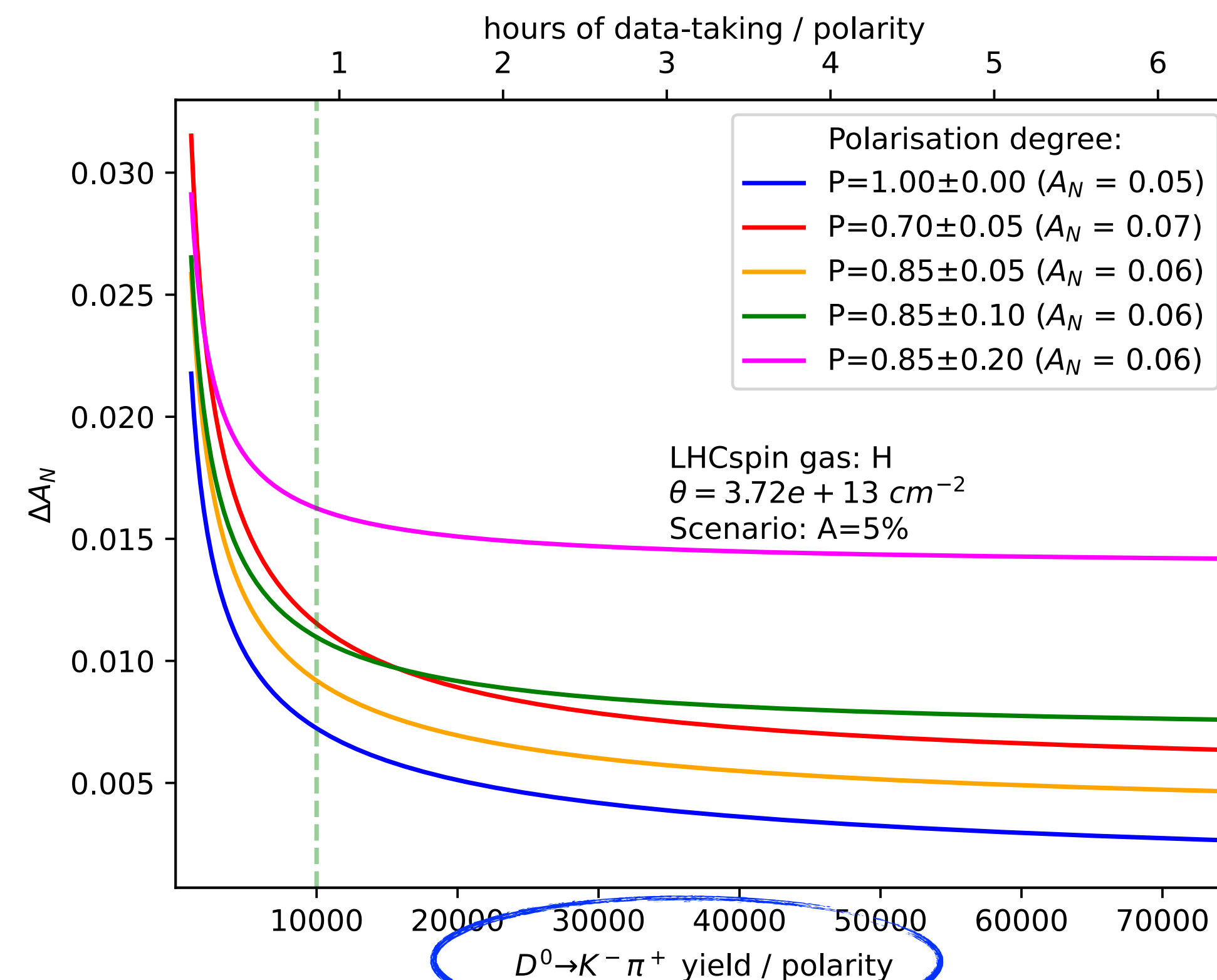
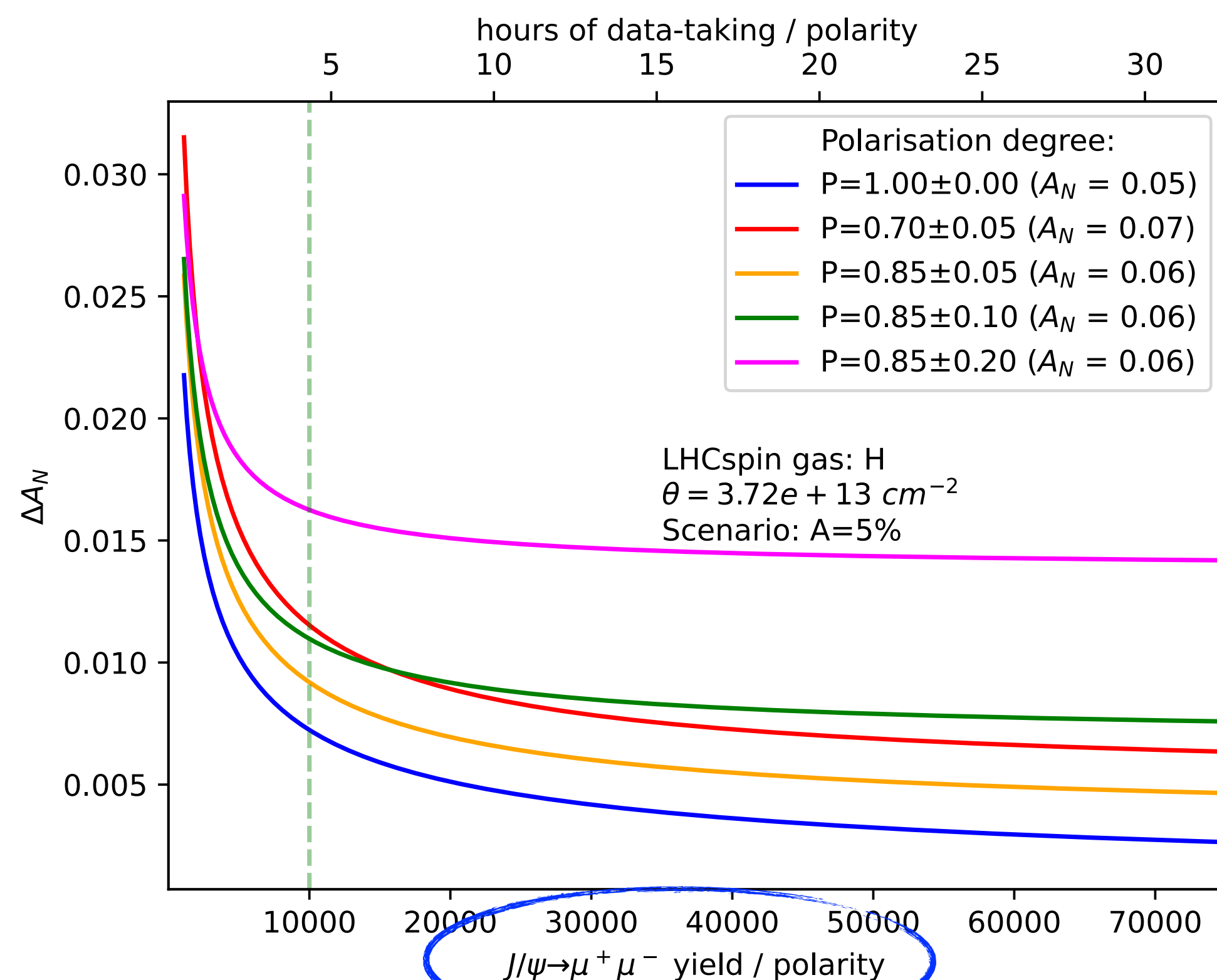
LHCspin: expected precision on A_N

- Quick look at expected statistics in terms of a spin asymmetry:

$$A_N = \frac{1}{P} \frac{N^\uparrow - N^\downarrow}{N^\uparrow + N^\downarrow}$$

- Projected uncertainty on TSSA with different polarisation degrees

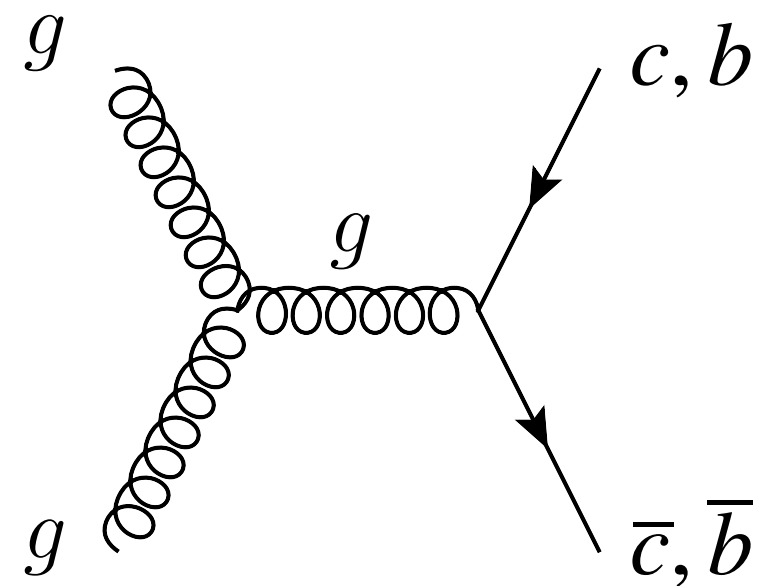
- Run4: precise spin asymmetry on $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ for pH^\uparrow collisions in just a few hours!
- Statistics further enhanced by a factor $\sim 3 - 5$ in Upgrade II
- More detailed TSSA analysis in the following slides



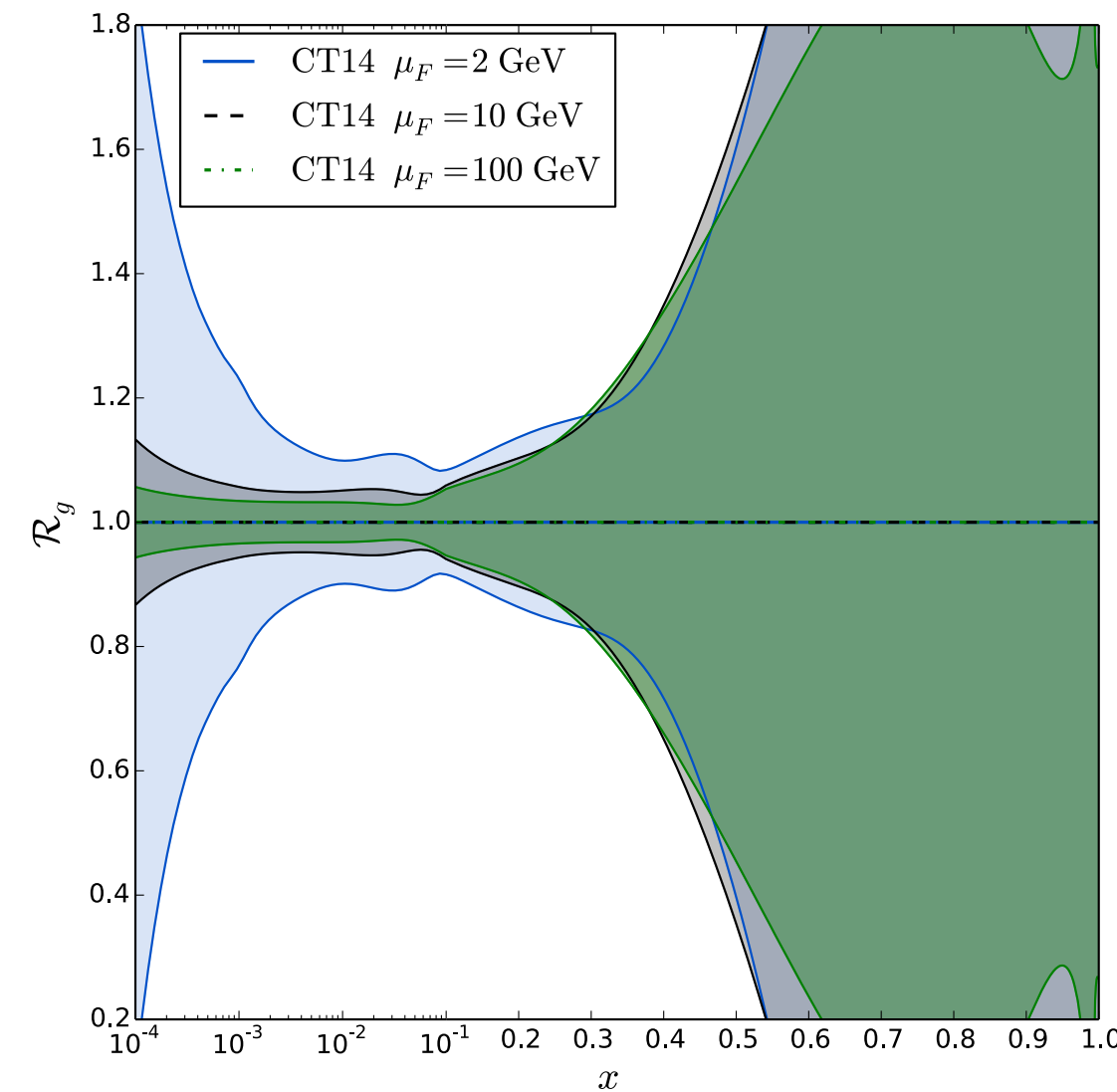
Unpolarised gases: PDFs

- high- x nucleon and nuclei structure is poorly known at all scales

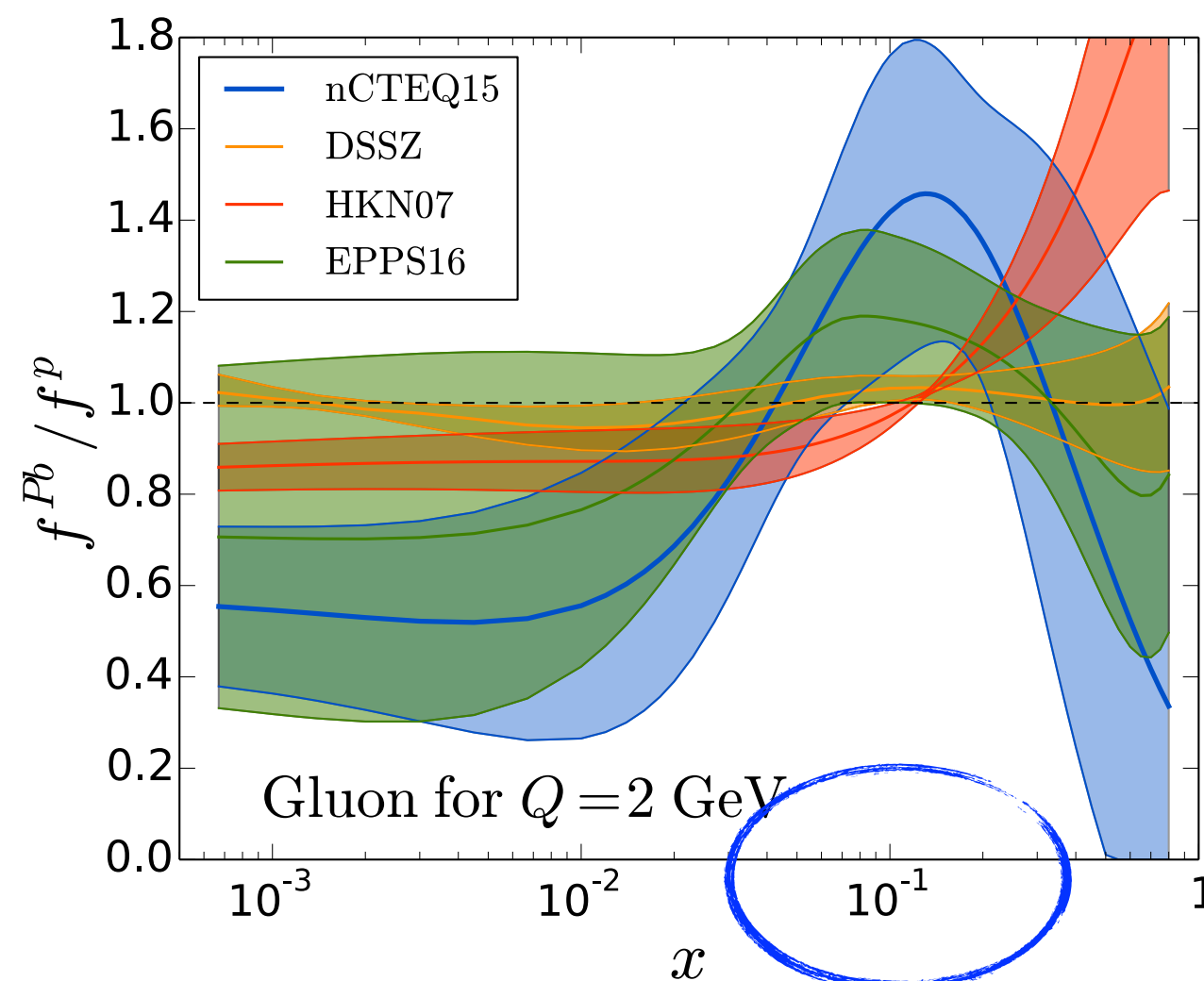
- Gluon PDFs are least known, accessed with heavy flavours: a strength point of LHCb!
- Probe quark PDFs via W production ($\sim 300/\text{y}$)



- Investigate the EMC effect \rightarrow get more insight into the anti-shadowing region ($x \sim 0.1$)



[PRD 93 (2016) 033006]

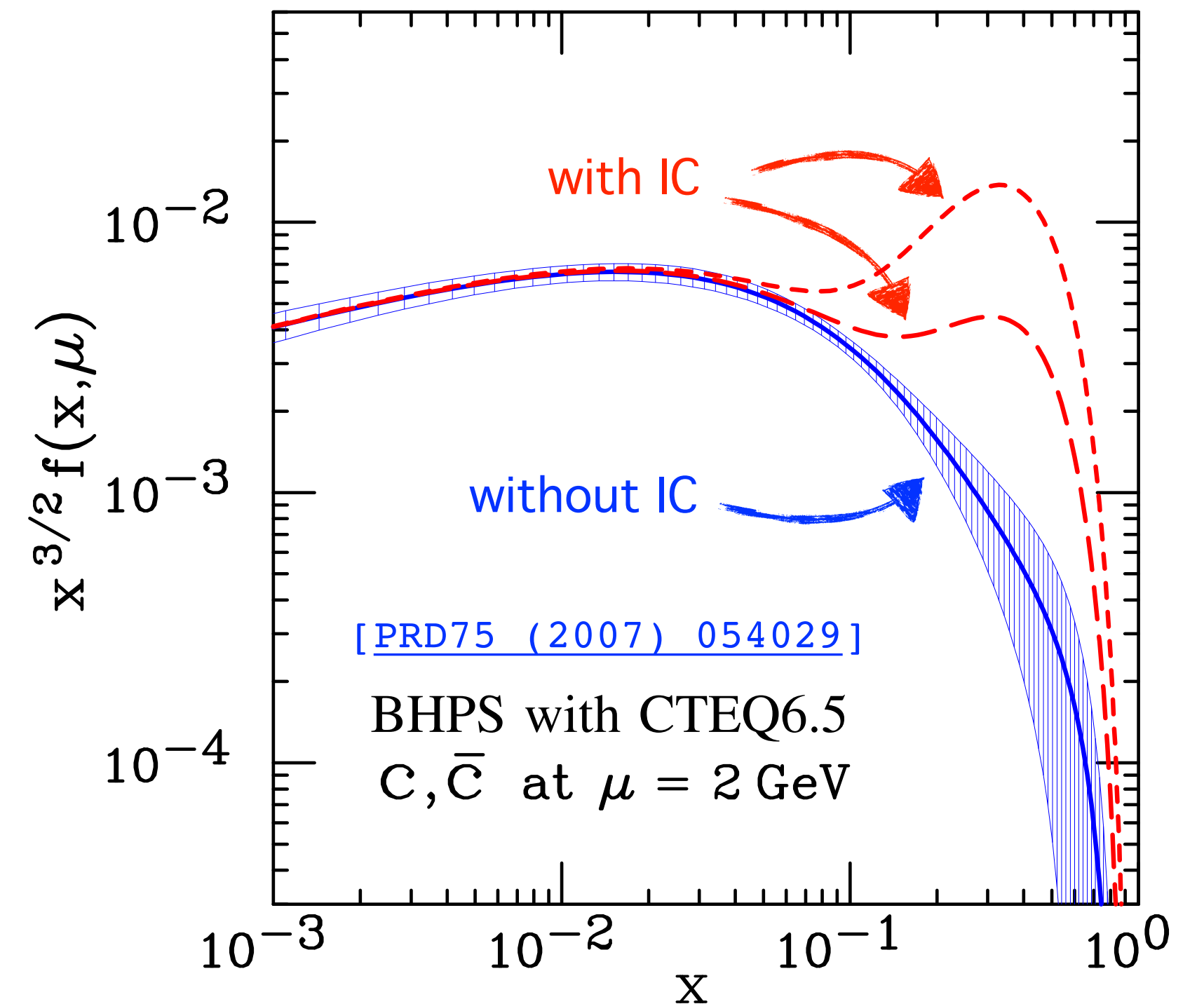


[ArXiv:1807.00603]

- Intrinsic Charm (IC) component in the proton can be large at $x > 0.1$

- First search performed with SMOG:

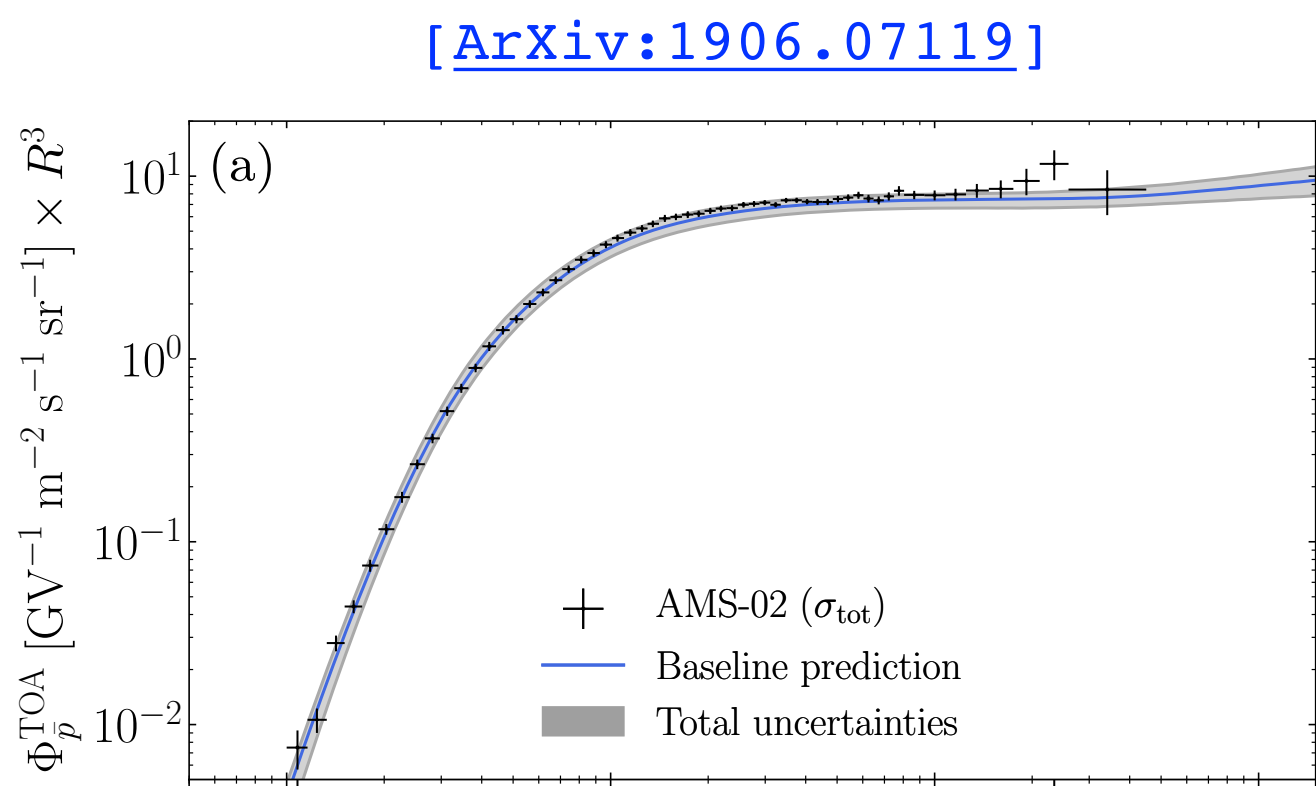
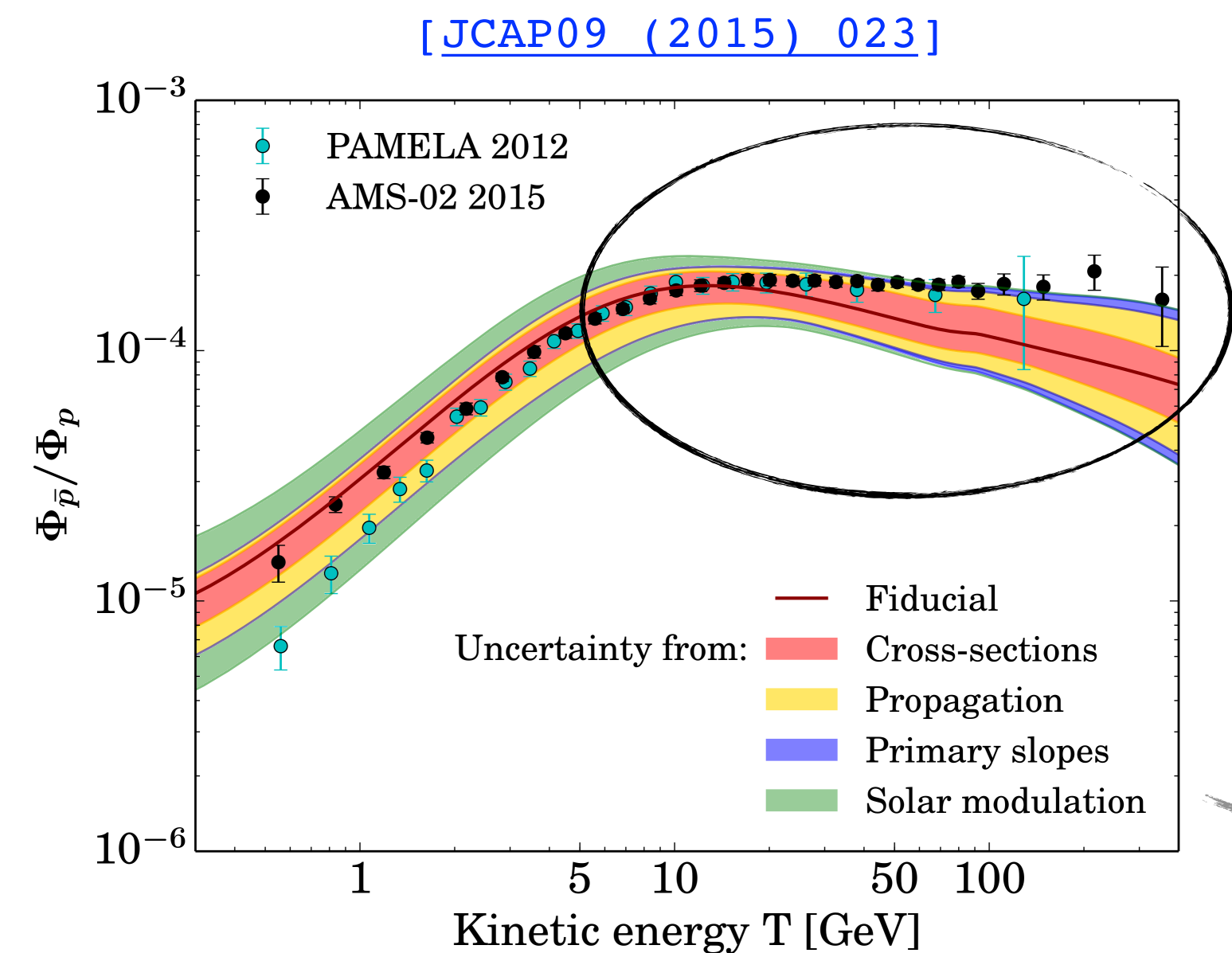
[PRL 122 (2019) 132002]



[PRD75 (2007) 054029]

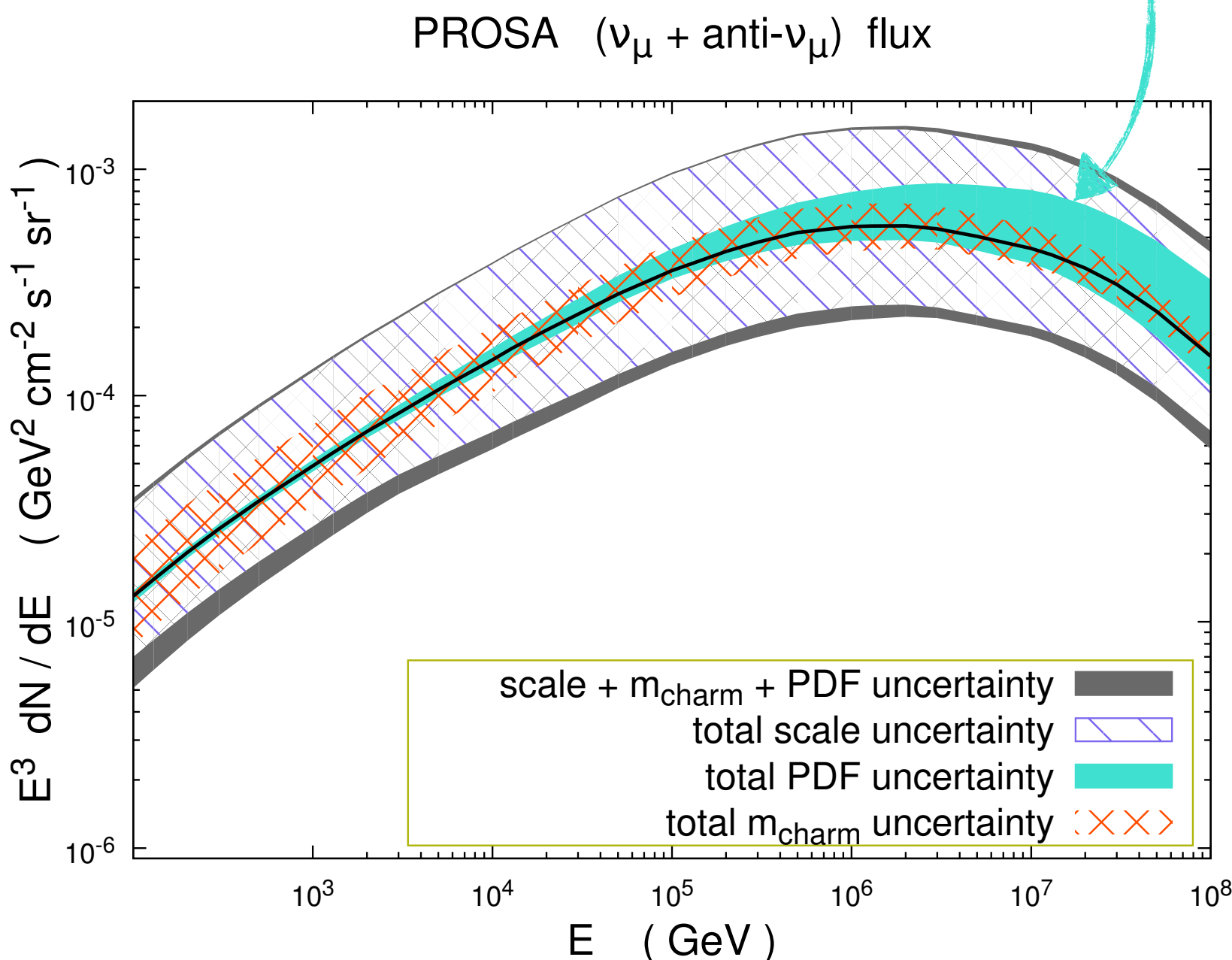
Unpolarised gases: impact on astrophysics

- \bar{p} production on pHe collisions, first measurement from SMOG helped the interpretation of DM annihilation [\[PRL 121 \(2018\) 222001\]](#)
- New result on anti-hyperons suggest underestimate of generators [\[J. Sun @ QM2022\]](#)



- Main uncertainty still due to cross sections!

- heavy-flavour hadroproduction measurements needed to improve the prompt ν_μ flux prediction at high energy



[\[JHEP 05 \(2017\) 004\]](#)

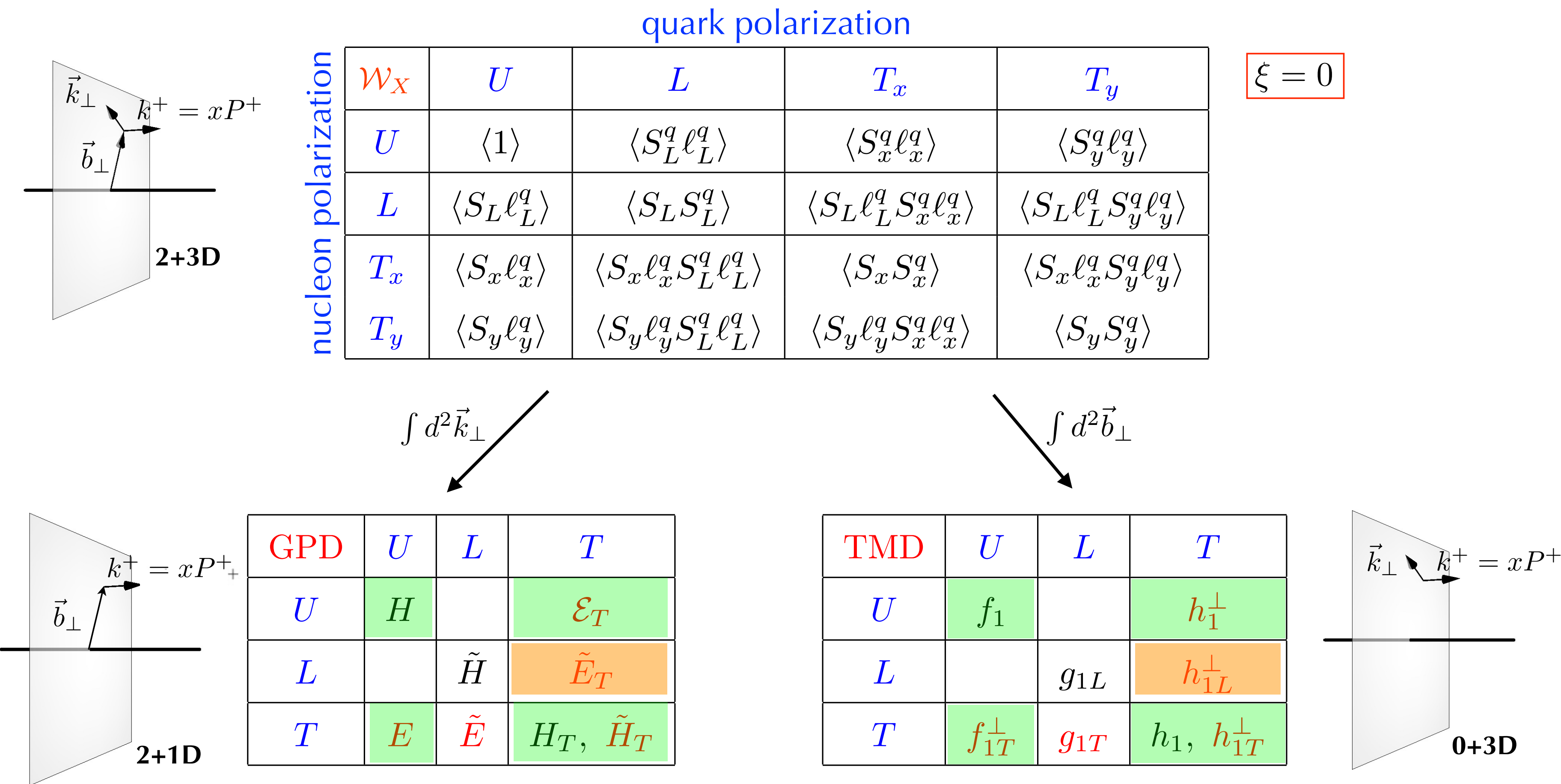
- Inputs for UHECR flux composition with pHe, pO, pN data
- ^{16}O beam foreseen for Run 3, would reproduce the actual processes:
- $^{16}\text{O} + p \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$ and $^{16}\text{O} + ^4\text{He} \rightarrow \bar{p} + X$ [\[CERN-LPCC-2018-07\]](#)



- More in this → [\[Talk by G. Graziani\]](#)

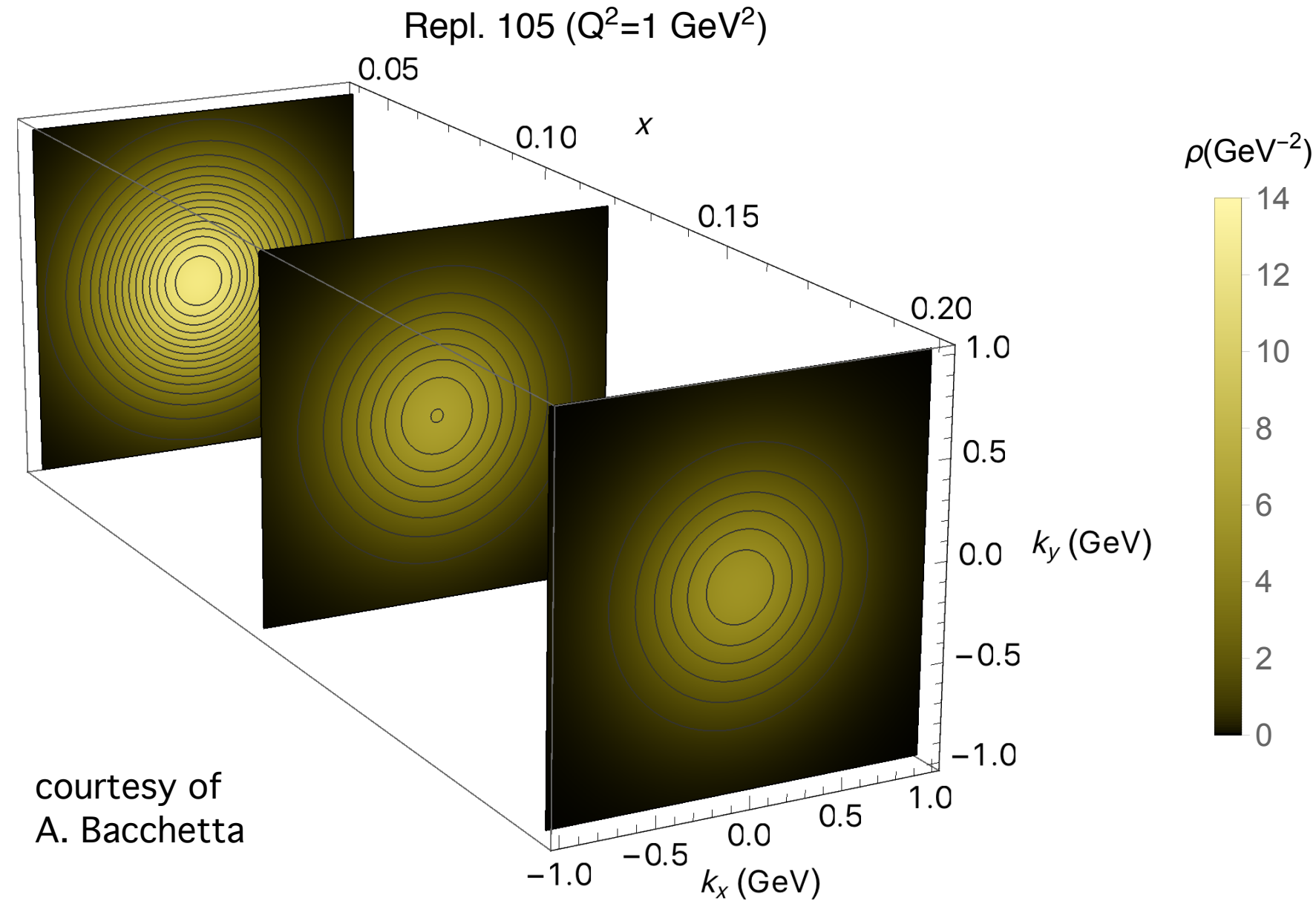
Polarised gases: multi-dimensional nucleon mapping

- Overcome the 1D view of the nucleon and investigate its spin structure: GPDs and TMDs



TMDs

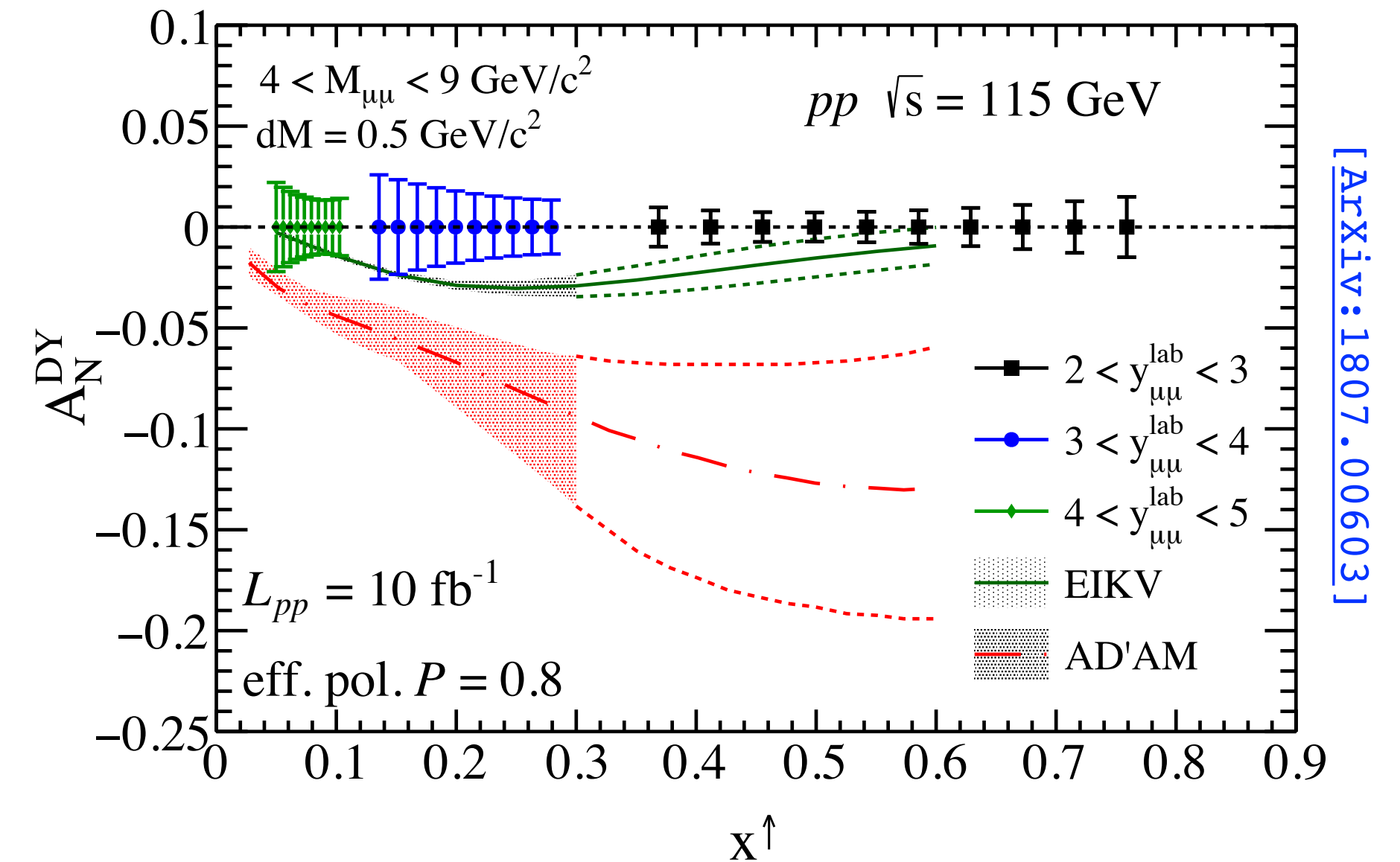
- 3D momentum "tomography" of hadrons:



- To access the transverse motion of partons inside a polarised nucleon: measure TMDs via **TSSAs** at high x_2^\uparrow (and low x_1)

$$A_N = \frac{1}{P} \frac{\sigma^\uparrow - \sigma^\downarrow}{\sigma^\uparrow + \sigma^\downarrow} \longrightarrow A_N \sim \frac{f_1^q(x_1, k_{T1}^2) \otimes f_{1T}^{\perp \bar{q}}(x_2, k_{T2}^2)}{f_1^q(x_1, k_{T1}^2) \otimes f_1^q(x_2, k_{T2}^2)}$$

- Projections of polarised Drell-Yan data with 10 fb^{-1}



- Verify the sign change of the Sivers TMD in DY wrt SIDIS:

$$f_{1T}^{\perp q}(x, k_T^2)_{\text{DY}} = -f_{1T}^{\perp q}(x, k_T^2)_{\text{SIDIS}}$$

- + isospin effect with polarised deuterium
- Sea-quark component accessed via W^\pm boson production, with $\Delta A_N \sim 0.1 - 0.2$ complementing RHIC [PRL 116 (2016) 132301]

More TMDs

- Plenty of observables with polarised DY: azimuthal asymmetries of the dilepton pair to probe TMDs
- h_q^1 : transversity → difference in densities of quarks having T pol. $\uparrow\uparrow$ or $\uparrow\downarrow$ in T pol. nucleon
- $f_{1T}^{\perp q}$: Sivers → dependence on p_T orientation wrt T pol. nucleon
- $h_{1T}^{\perp q}$: Boer-Mulders → dependence on p_T orientation wrt T pol. quark in unp. nucleon
- $h_{1T}^{\perp q}$: pretzelosity → dependence on p_T and T. pol of both T pol. quark and nucleon
- f_1^q : unpolarised TMD, always present at the denominator

$$A_{UU}^{\cos 2\phi} \sim \frac{h_1^{\perp q}(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes h_1^{\perp \bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}{f_1^q(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes f_1^{\bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}$$

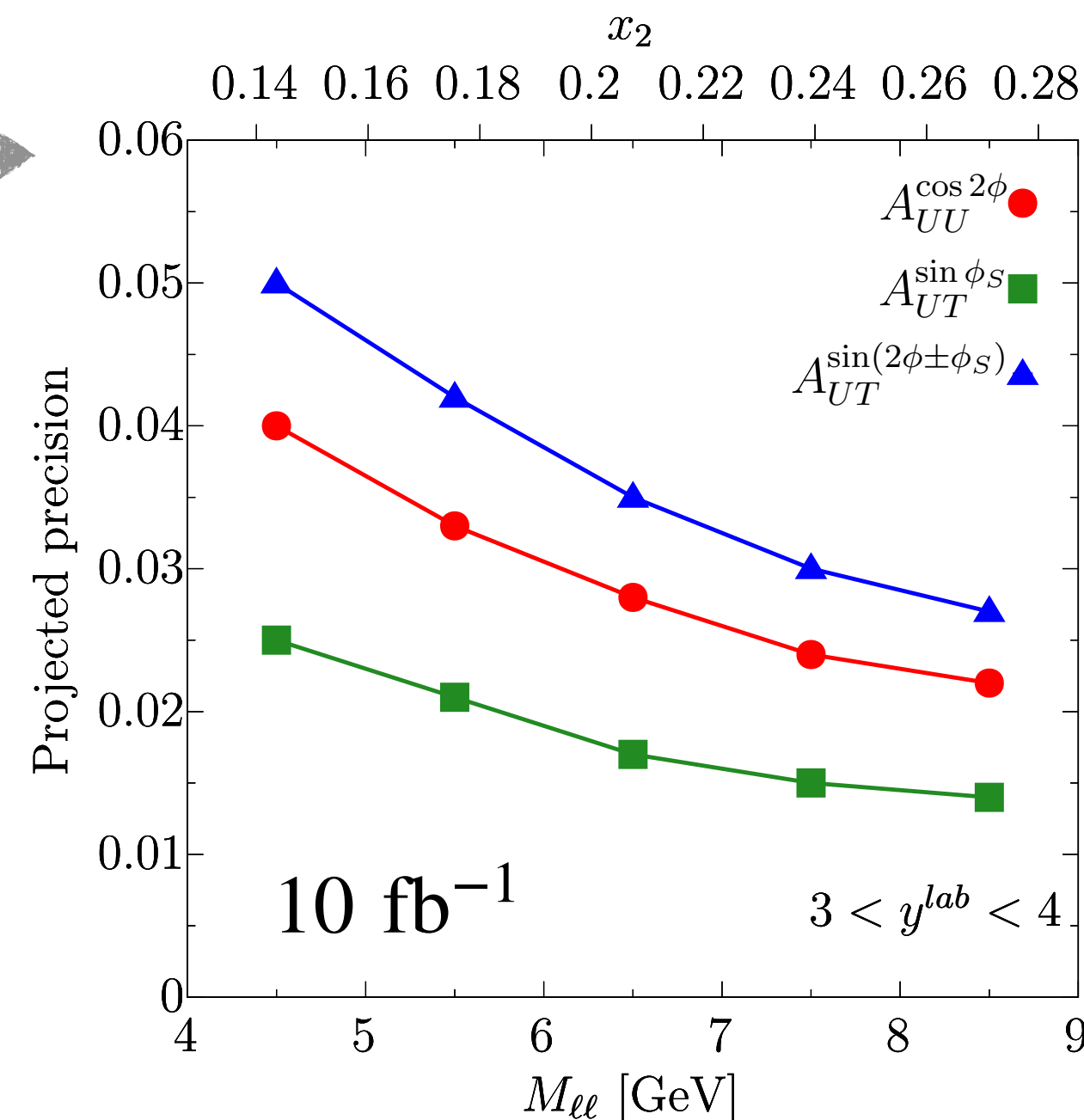
$$A_{UT}^{\sin \phi_S} \sim \frac{f_1^q(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes f_{1T}^{\perp \bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}{f_1^q(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes f_1^{\bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}$$

$$A_{UT}^{\sin(2\phi+\phi_S)} \sim \frac{h_1^{\perp q}(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes h_{1T}^{\perp \bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}{f_1^q(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes f_1^{\bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}$$

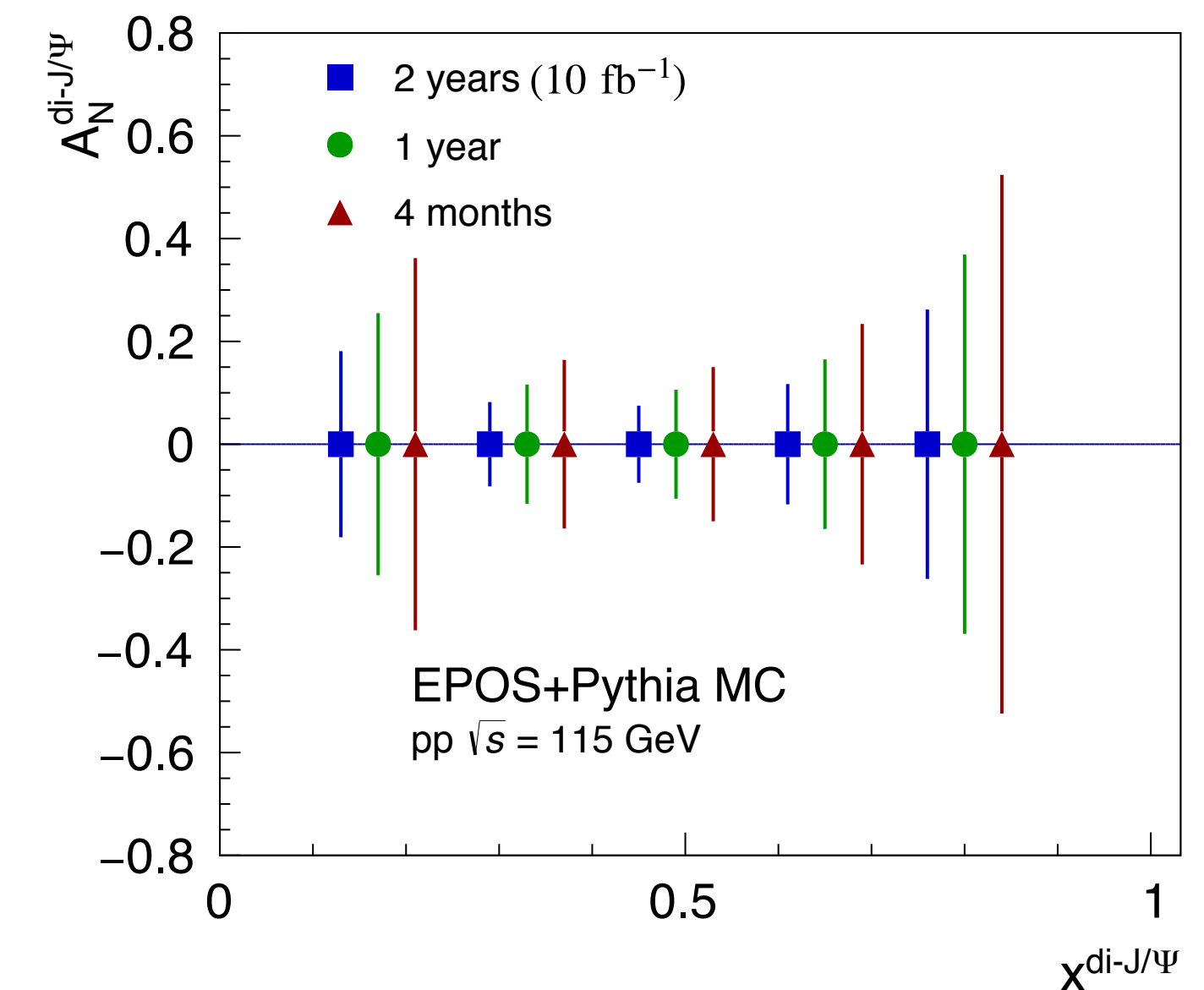
$$A_{UT}^{\sin(2\phi-\phi_S)} \sim \frac{h_1^{\perp q}(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes h_1^{\bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}{f_1^q(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes f_1^{\bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}$$

- **polarised Drell-Yan** to access unpolarised TMDs of sea quarks and polarised TMDs in the valence region
- gluon-induced asymmetries: $h_1^{\perp g}$ never measured, can be accessed together with the f_1^g TMD (also unconstrained) in di- J/ψ and Υ production

[[ArXiv:1807.00603](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.00603)] [[PLB 784 \(2018\) 217-222](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.00603)]



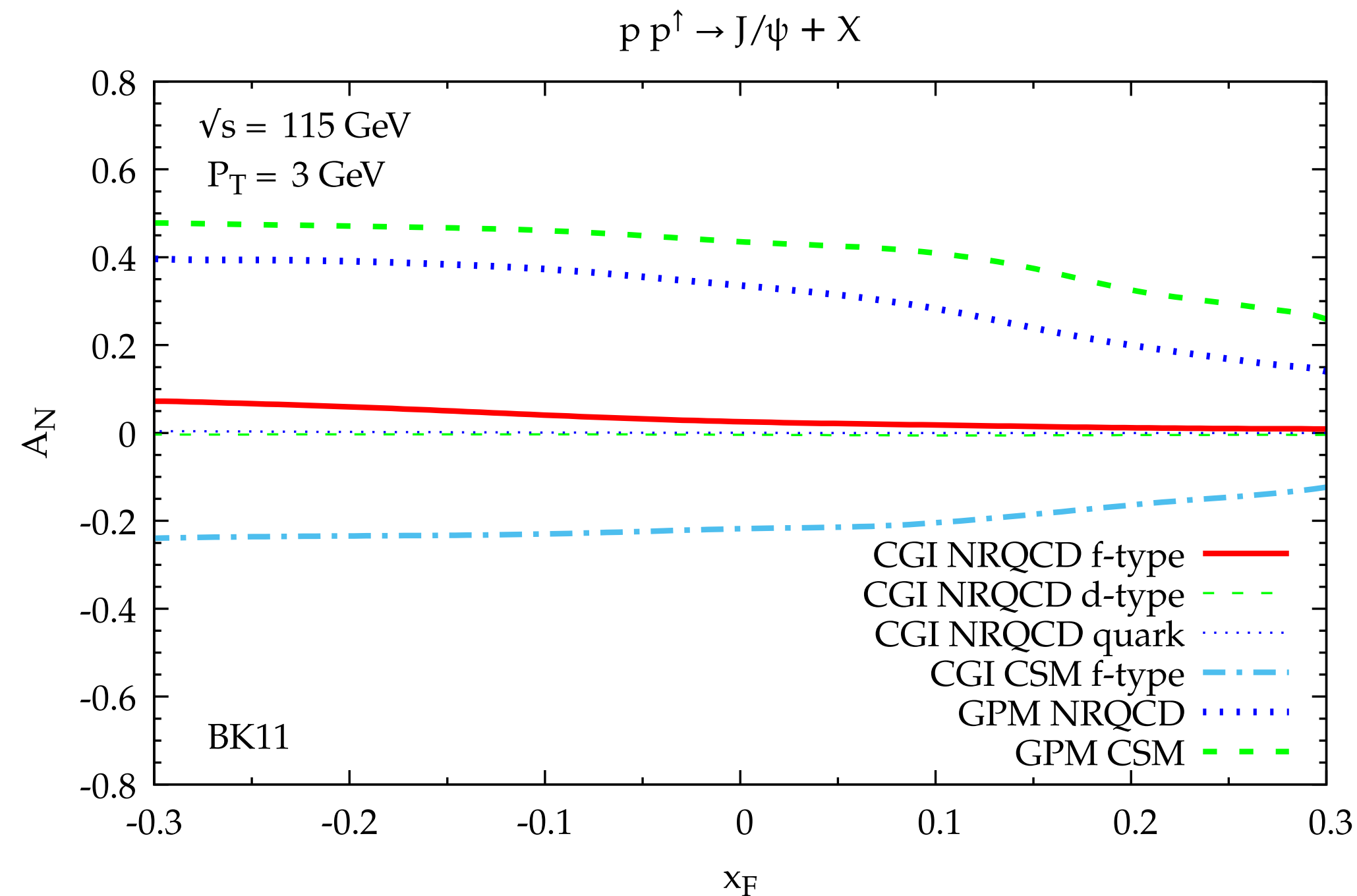
- J/ψ J/ψ channel



The gluon Sivers function

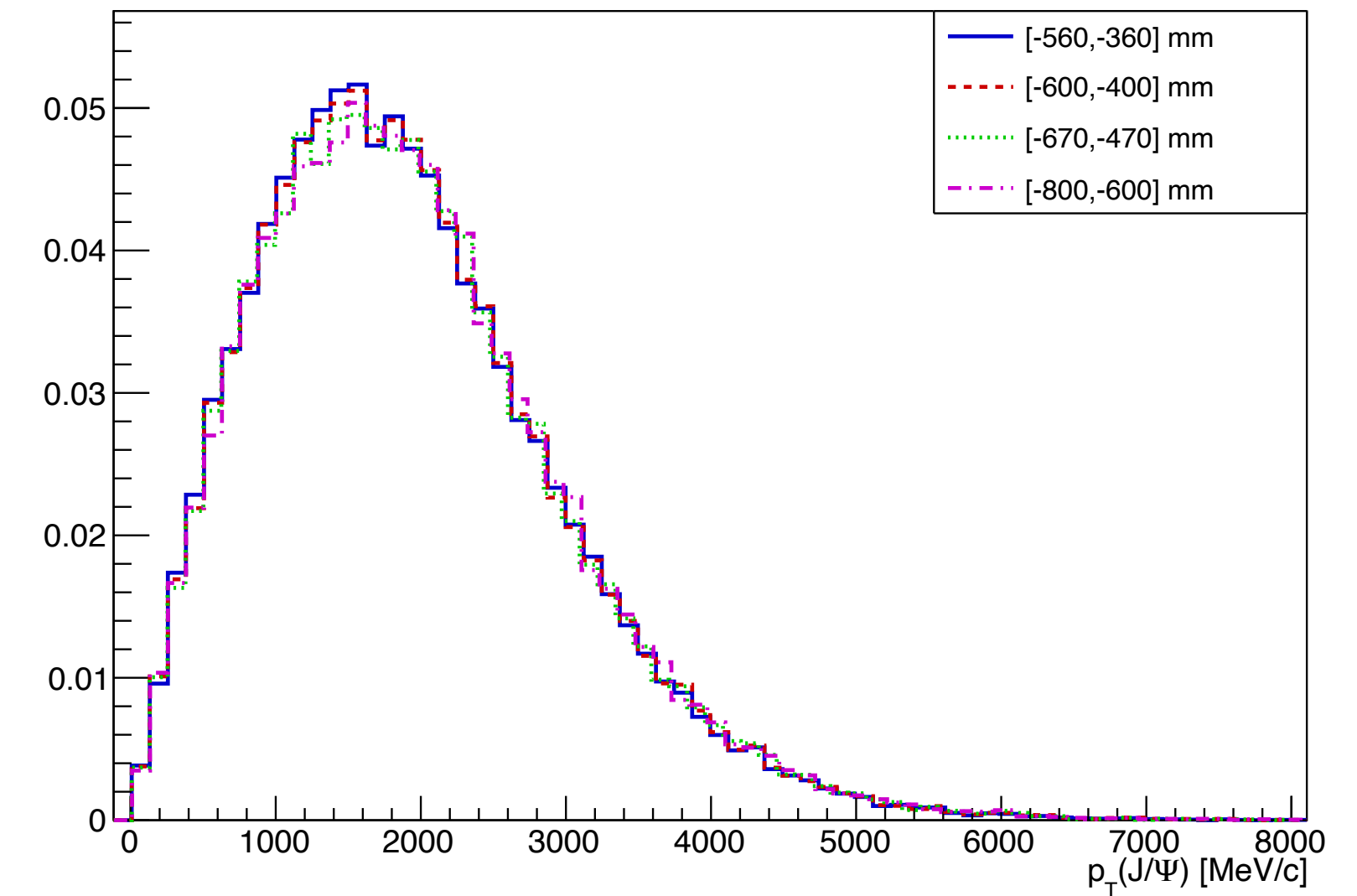
- Gluon Sivers function can be probe with quarkonia and open heavy-flavour production
- broad x range at a scale $M_T = \sqrt{M^2 + P_T^2}$ with lot of unique probes: η_c , χ_c , χ_b , J/ψ , J/ψ ...

- A_N predictions on $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ with LHCspin kinematics

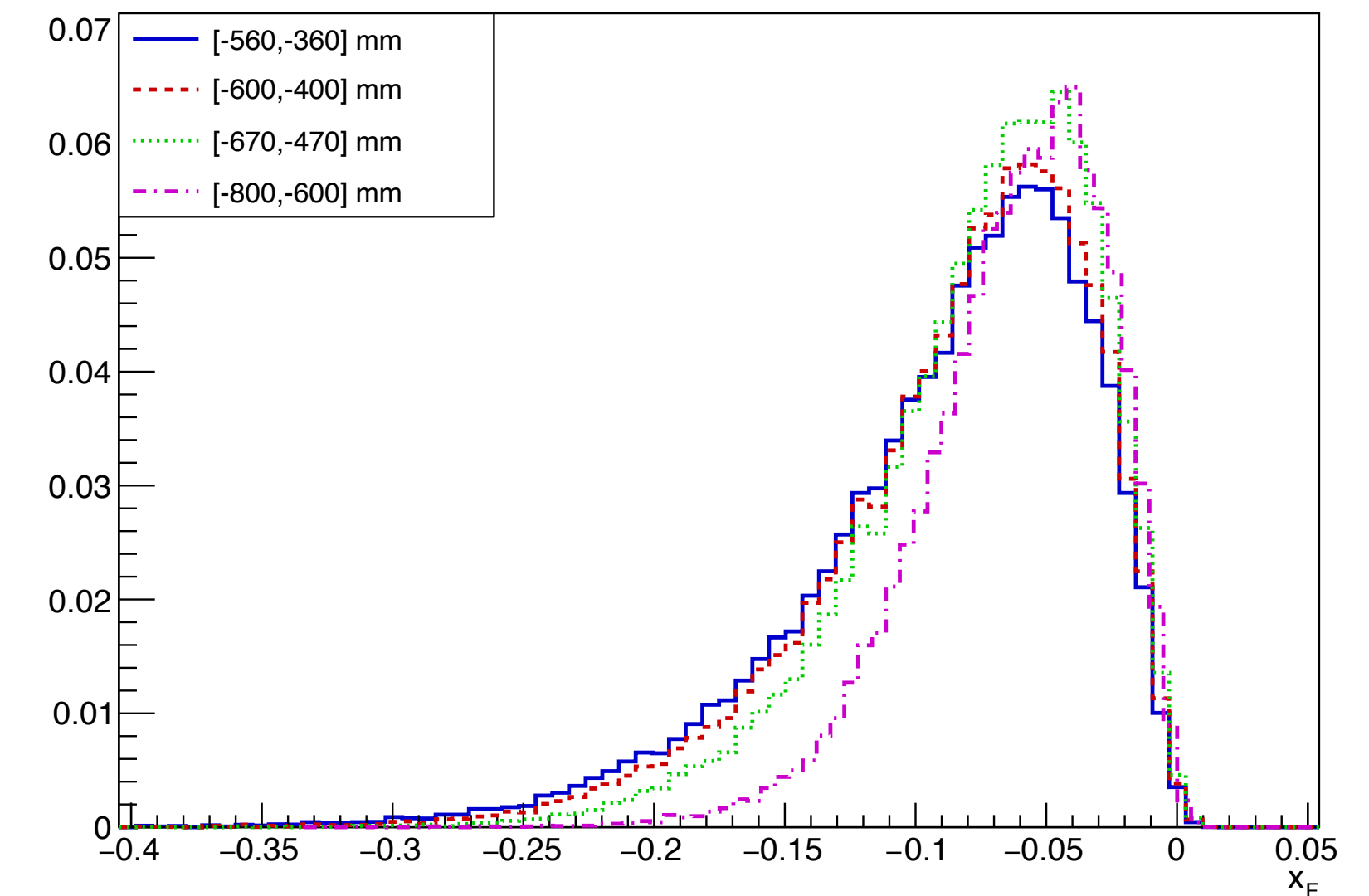


[PRD 102 (2020) 094011]

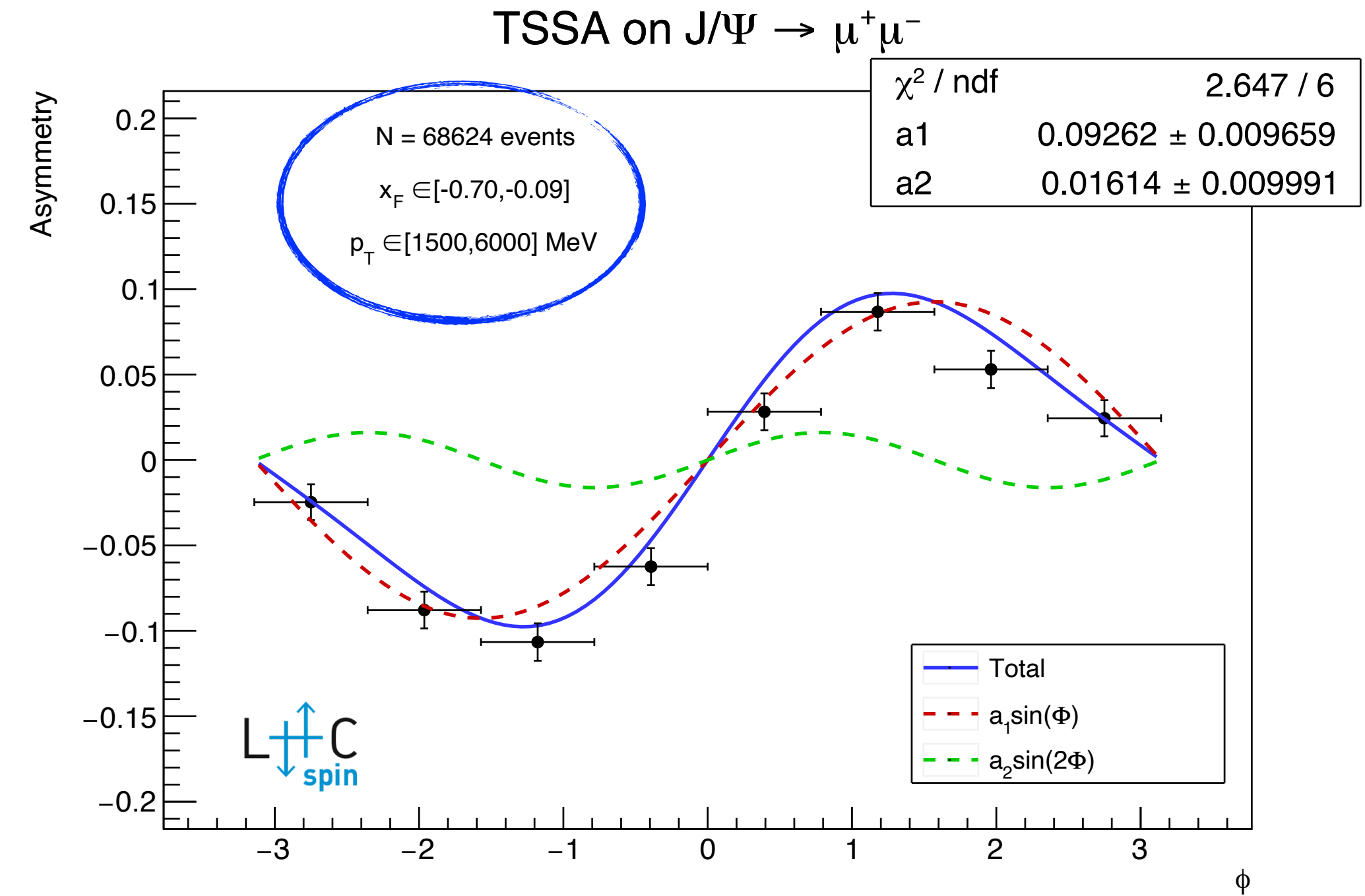
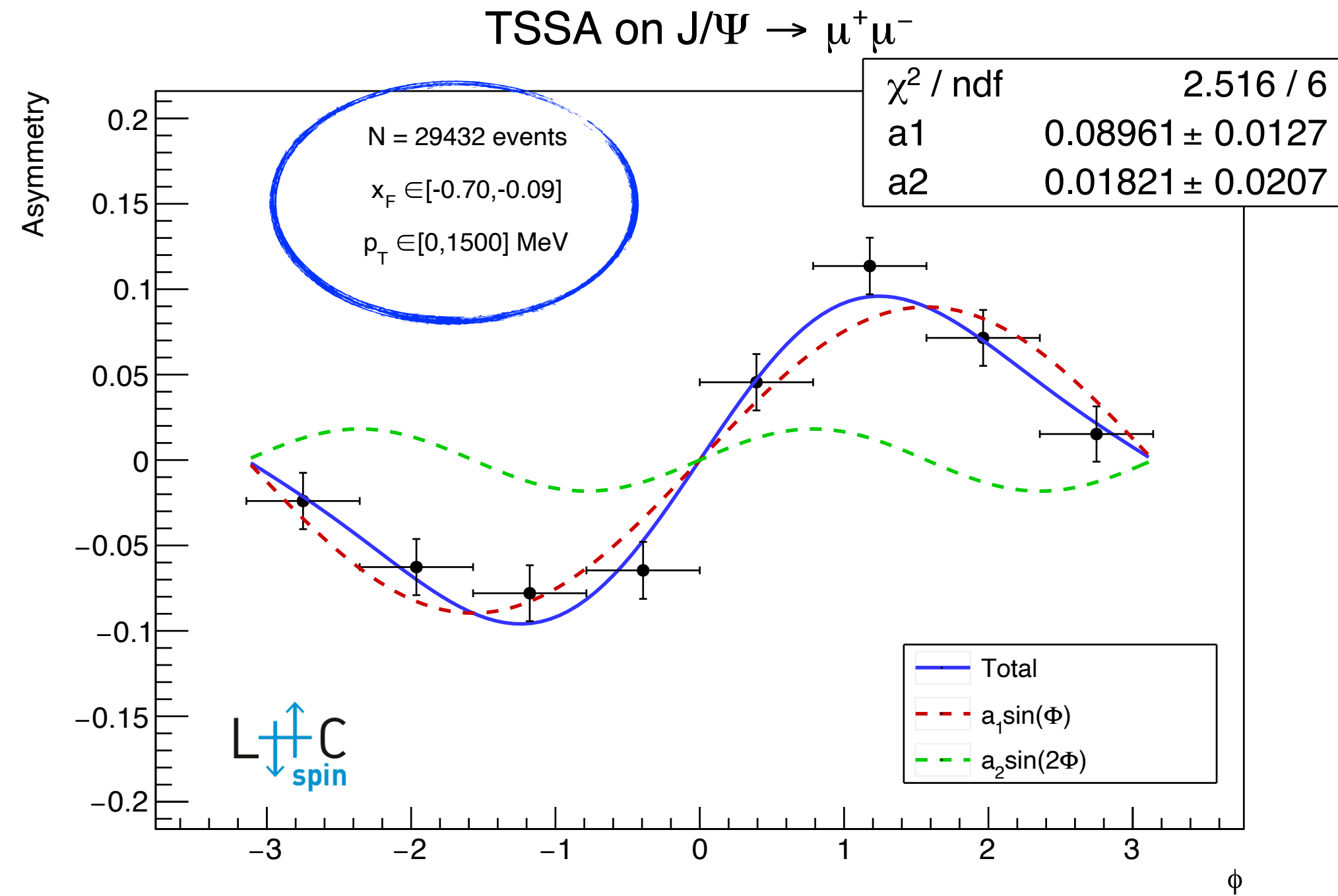
$J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$



$J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$

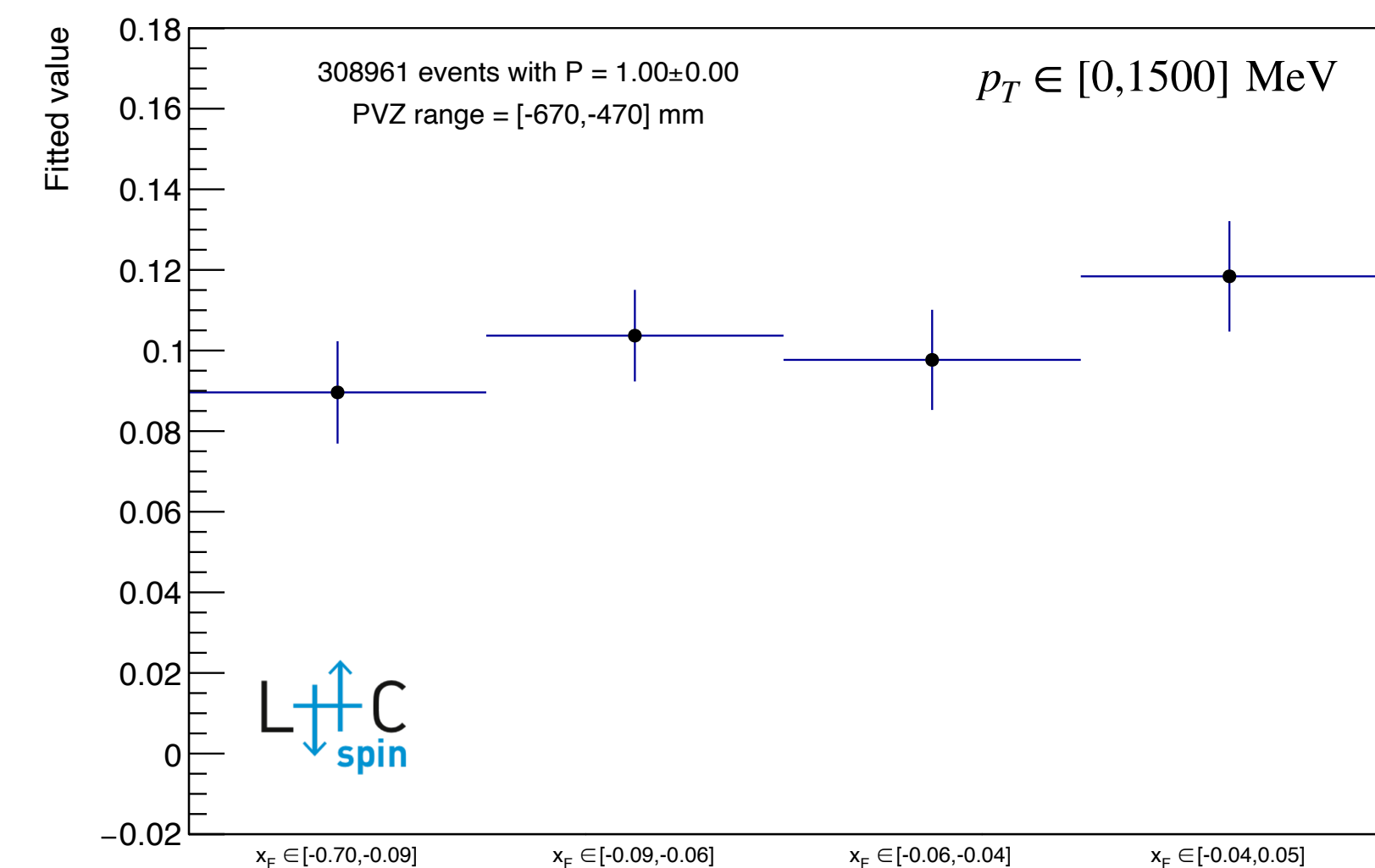


A TSSA analysis at LHCspin



- Full LHCb simulations \rightarrow emulate the target polarisation by assigning a $\uparrow \downarrow$ tag according to a model. In this example: 10% asymmetry $\sin \phi$, 2% on $\sin 2\phi$ with mild x_F, p_T dependence [[JHEP 12 \(2020\) 010](#)]
- Fit the polarised data with the sum of two Fourier amplitudes
- Within this statistics (~ 1 month of data-taking!):
 $A_N \sim 0.1 \pm 0.01$ with $4 x_F \times 2 p_T \times 8 \phi$ bins on $J/\Psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$
- Work ongoing on other channels

$J/\Psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$: fit results for parameter a_1



Knowledge of the polarisation degree

- Comparing statistical and systematic error on a_1 is very relevant for the R&D (e.g. gas vs jet target)
- With the shown analysis* :
- 5% error (realistic value): negligible effect
- 20% error: 30-40% of the stat. error
- 50% error: syst. dominated

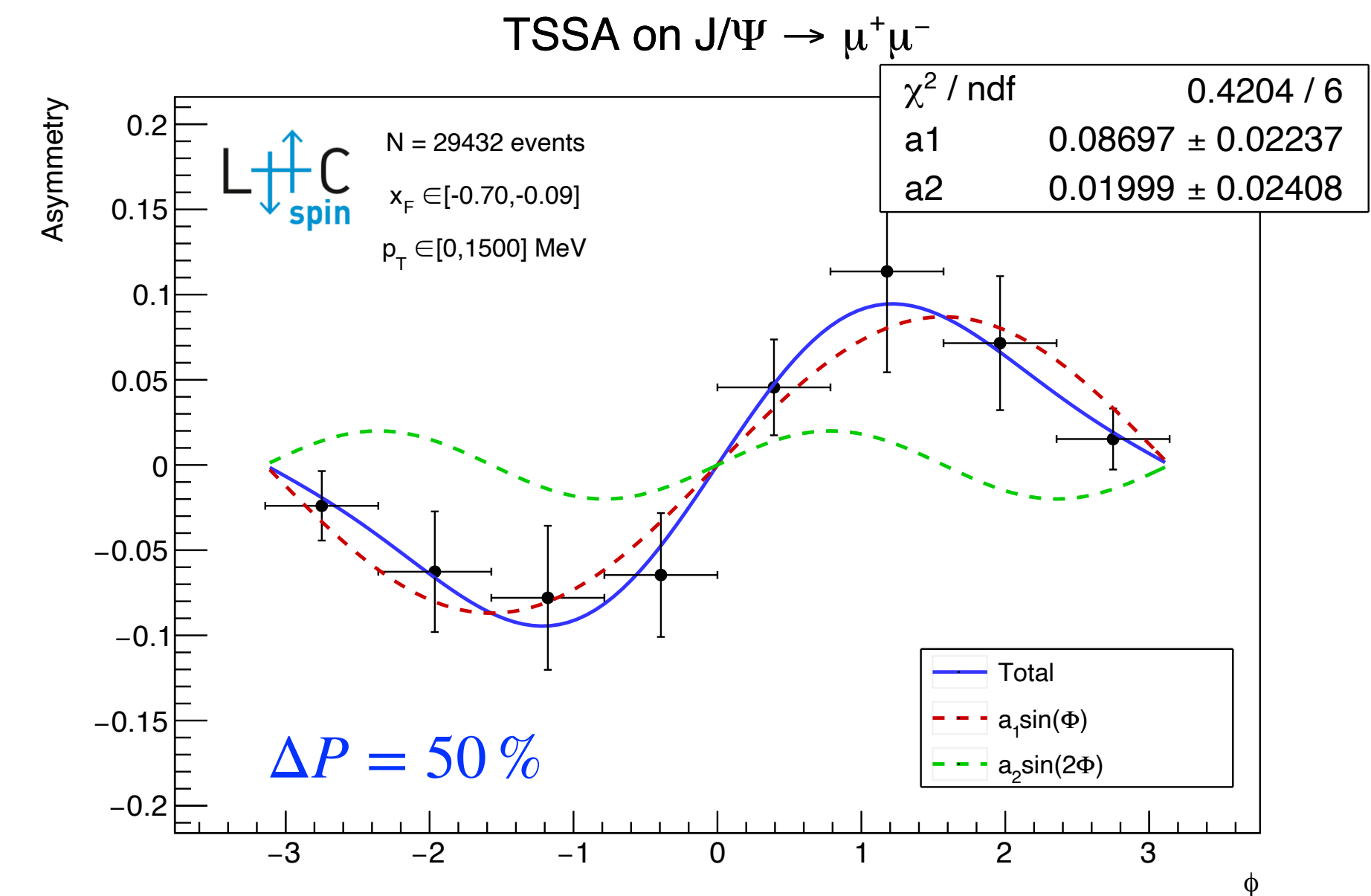
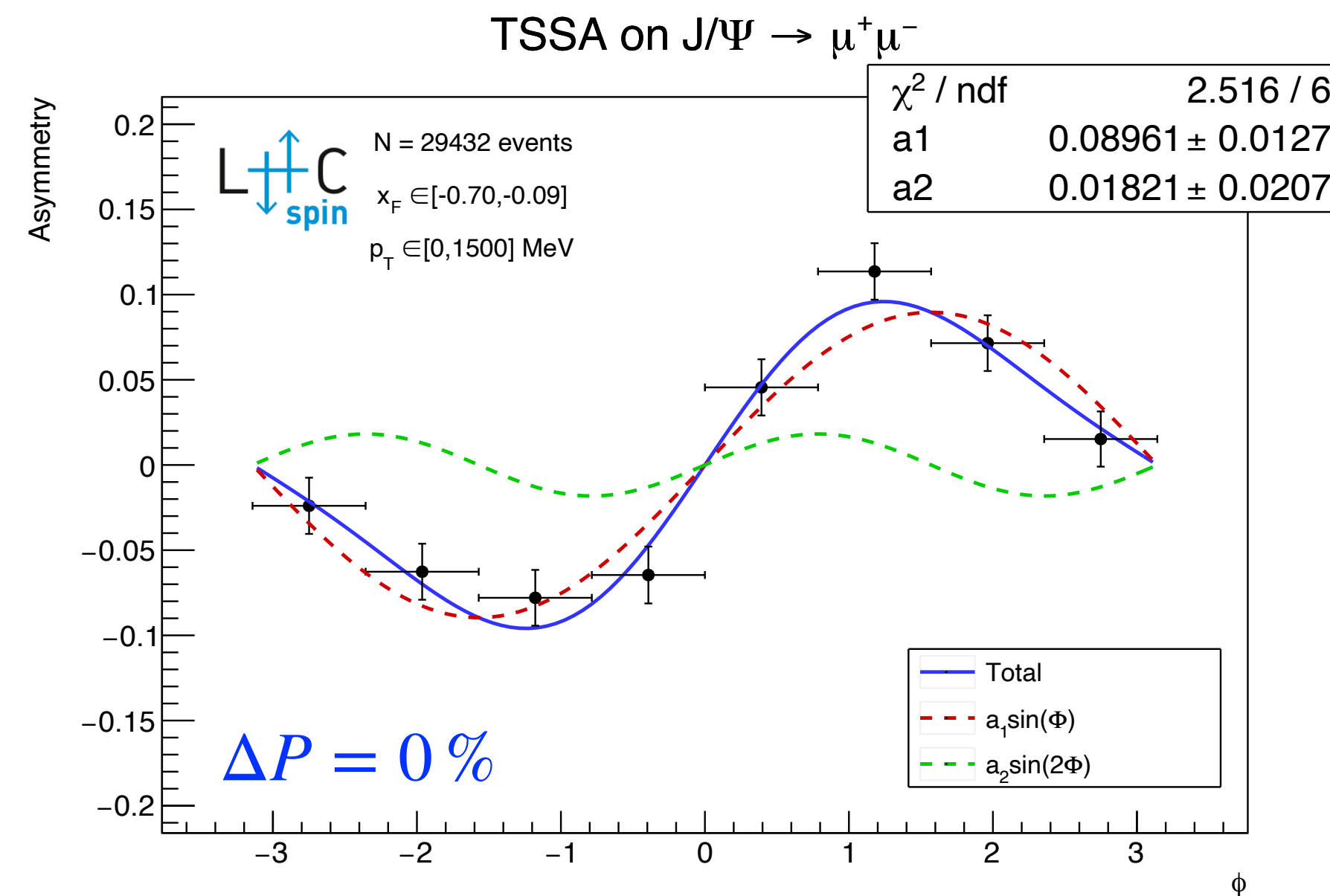
$\Delta P = 5 \%$

p_T (MeV)	x_F	a_1
[0,1500]	[-0.70,-0.09]	0.089 ± 0.013
[0,1500]	[-0.09,-0.06]	0.104 ± 0.012
[0,1500]	[-0.06,-0.04]	0.098 ± 0.013
[0,1500]	[-0.04,0.05]	0.117 ± 0.014
[1500,6000]	[-0.70,-0.09]	0.092 ± 0.010
[1500,6000]	[-0.09,-0.06]	0.108 ± 0.011
[1500,6000]	[-0.06,-0.04]	0.105 ± 0.012
[1500,6000]	[-0.04,0.05]	0.105 ± 0.012

$\Delta P = 20 \%$

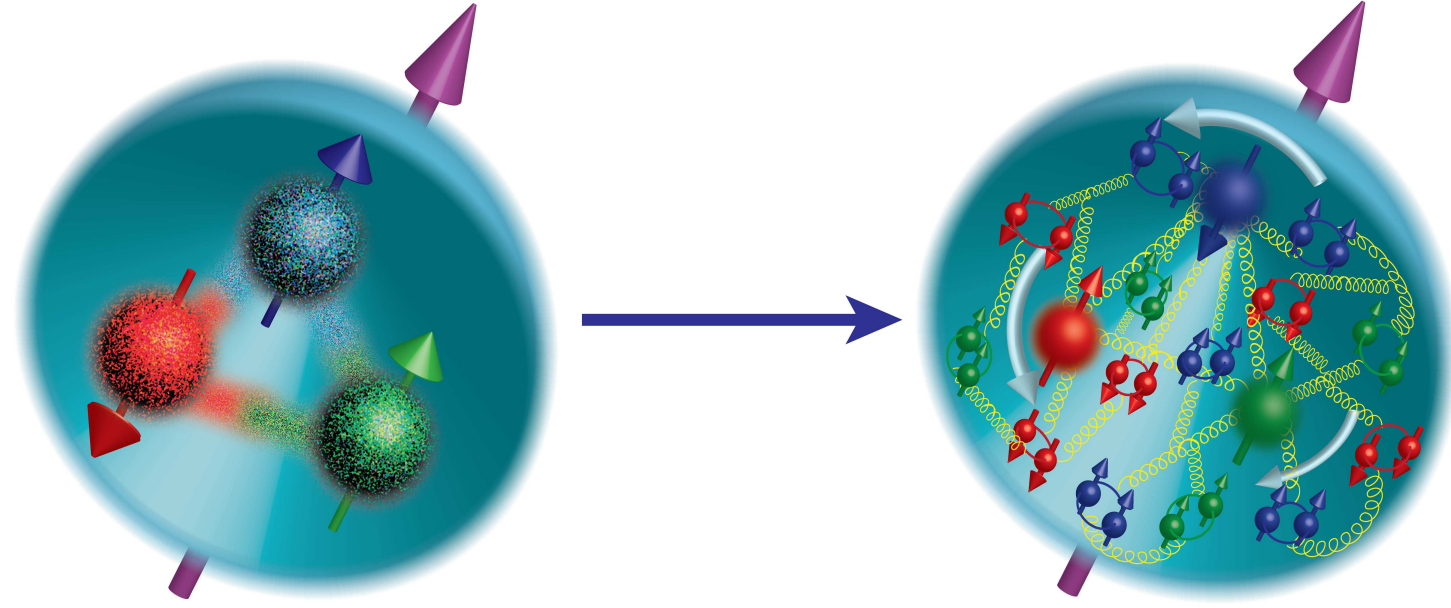
p_T (MeV)	x_F	a_1
[0,1500]	[-0.70,-0.09]	0.087 ± 0.014
[0,1500]	[-0.09,-0.06]	0.103 ± 0.016
[0,1500]	[-0.06,-0.04]	0.097 ± 0.016
[0,1500]	[-0.04,0.05]	0.114 ± 0.017
[1500,6000]	[-0.70,-0.09]	0.090 ± 0.013
[1500,6000]	[-0.09,-0.06]	0.108 ± 0.015
[1500,6000]	[-0.06,-0.04]	0.104 ± 0.015
[1500,6000]	[-0.04,0.05]	0.102 ± 0.015

* of course the result depends on the statistics, model, channel, kinematic binning...



The spin puzzle & GPDs

- TMDs → nucleon spin



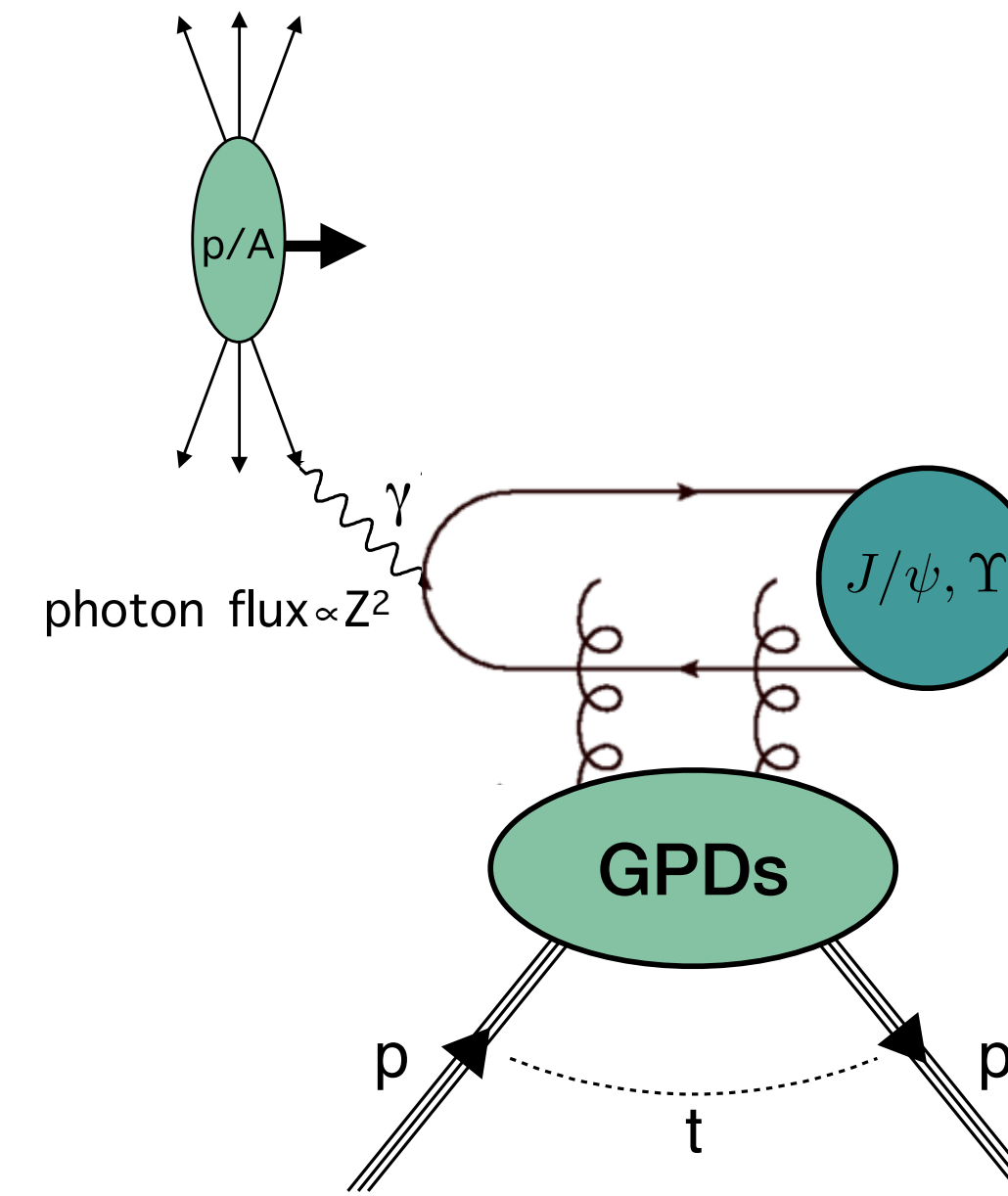
- Orbital Angular Momentum (OAM) information via TMDs is only indirect: [position and momentum correlations are needed](#)
- Quark OAM from GPD moments via Ji Sum Rule:

$$\frac{1}{2} = J^q(\mu) + J^g(\mu) = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \Sigma(\mu) + L_z^q(\mu) + J^g(\mu)$$

[\[PRL 78 \(1997\) 610-613\]](#)

- [Experimental hints of large OAM contribution](#)
- GPDs can be probed via UltraPeripheral Collisions (UPCs), dominated by EM interaction

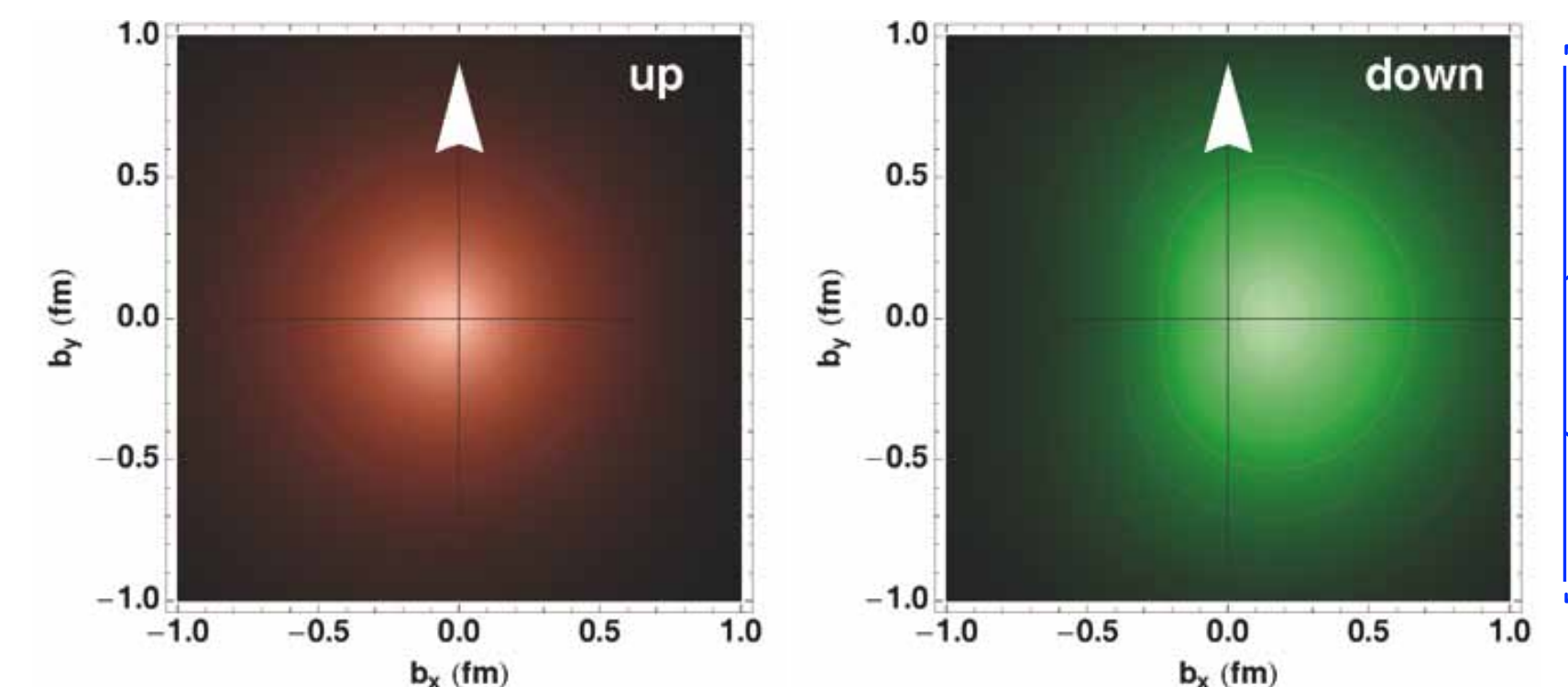
- Exclusive dilepton / exclusive quarkonia production, the latter being sensitive to gluon GPDs [\[PRD 85 \(2012\) 051502\]](#)



- UPCs already studied at LHC in collider mode
- LHCspin to **access the unknown E_g** via TSSAs : a key element of the sum rule

- GPDs to make a 3D "picture" of the proton

[\[PRL 99 \(2017\) 112001\]](#)

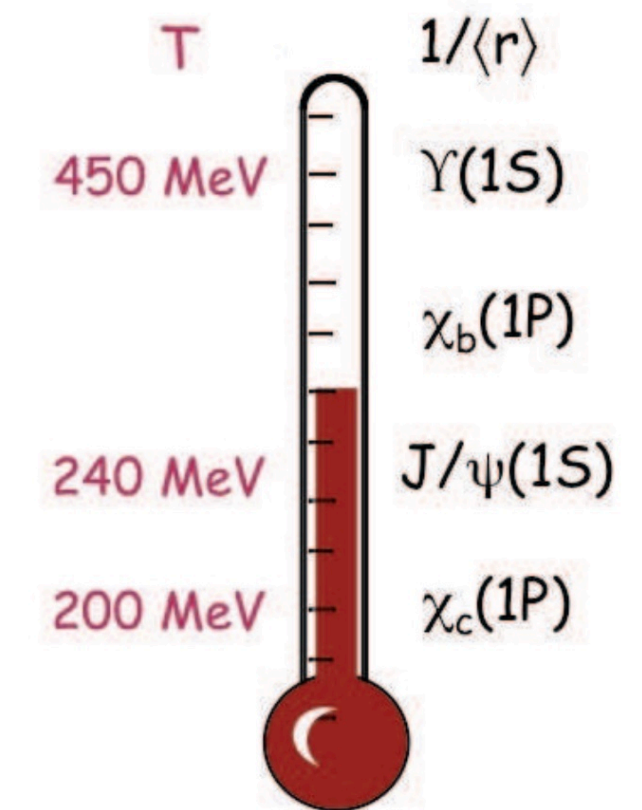
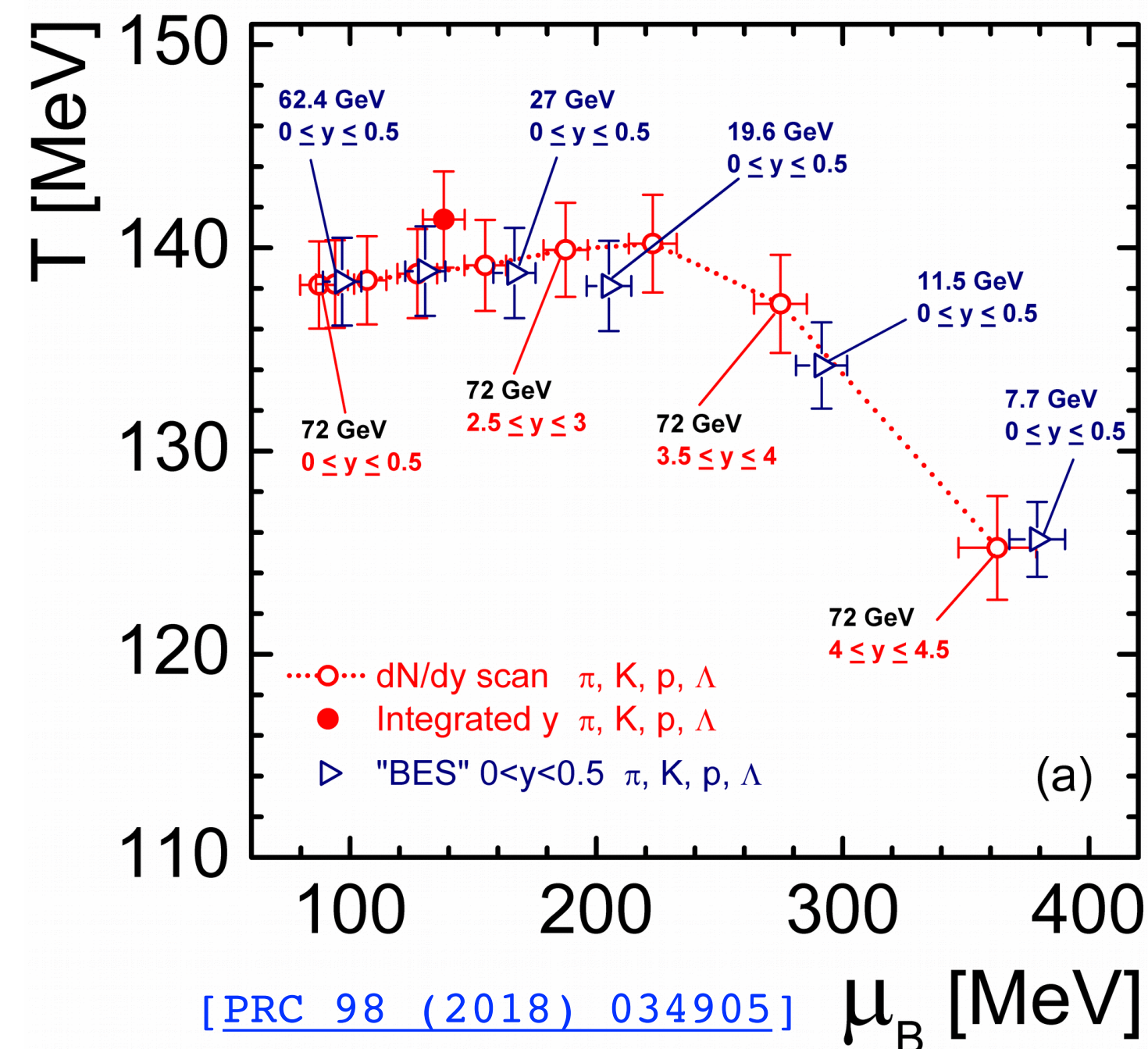
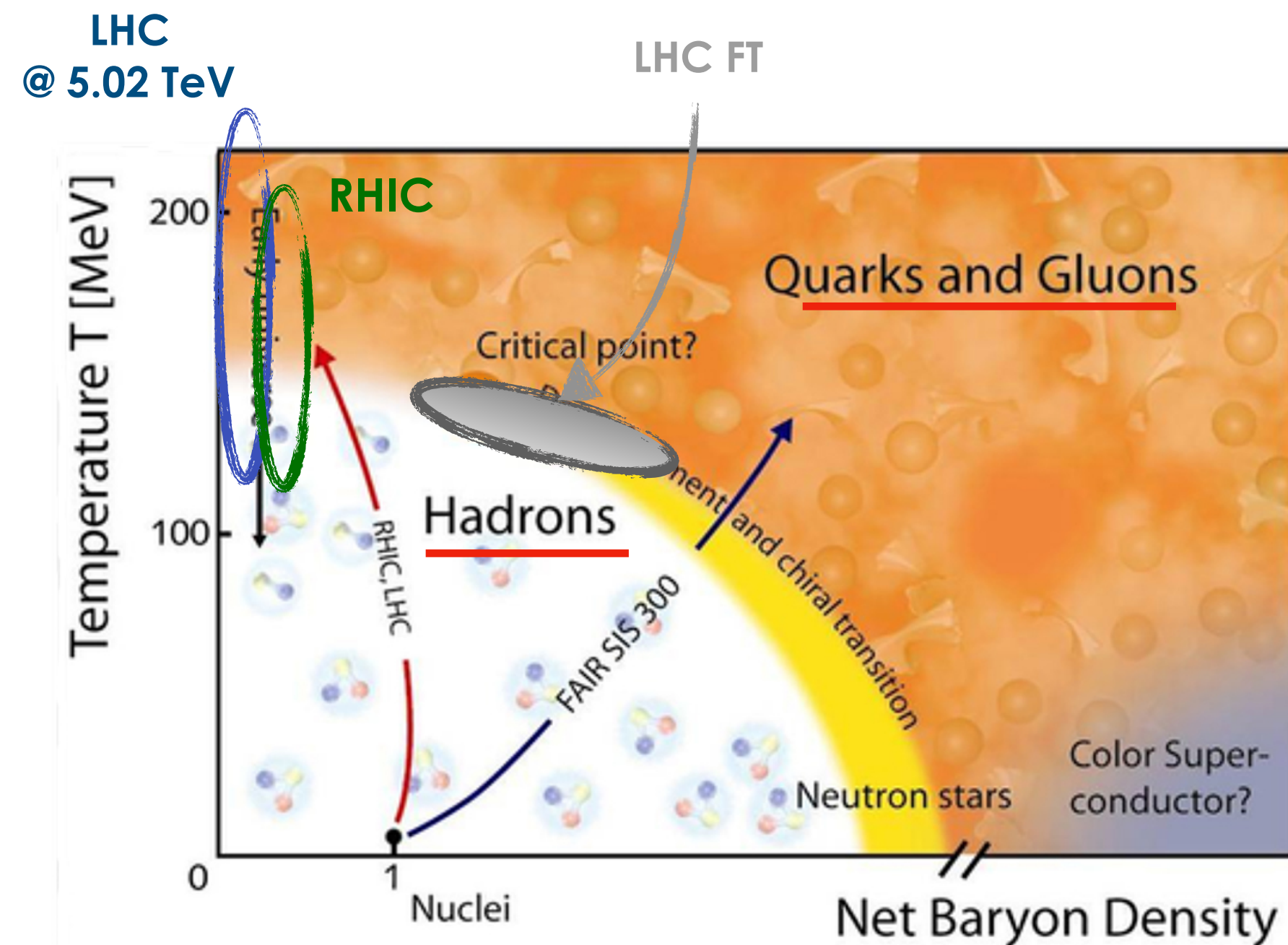


[\[NS 28 \(2012\) 1-2\]](#)

Heavy ion fixed-target collisions

- LHC delivers proton beam at 7 TeV and lead beam at 2.76 TeV, while the storage cells technology allows for an [easy target change](#)
- Great opportunities to probe nuclear matter over a new rapidity domain at $\sqrt{s} = 72$ GeV
- Hints for deconfinement at this energy: FT collisions to explore the transition region

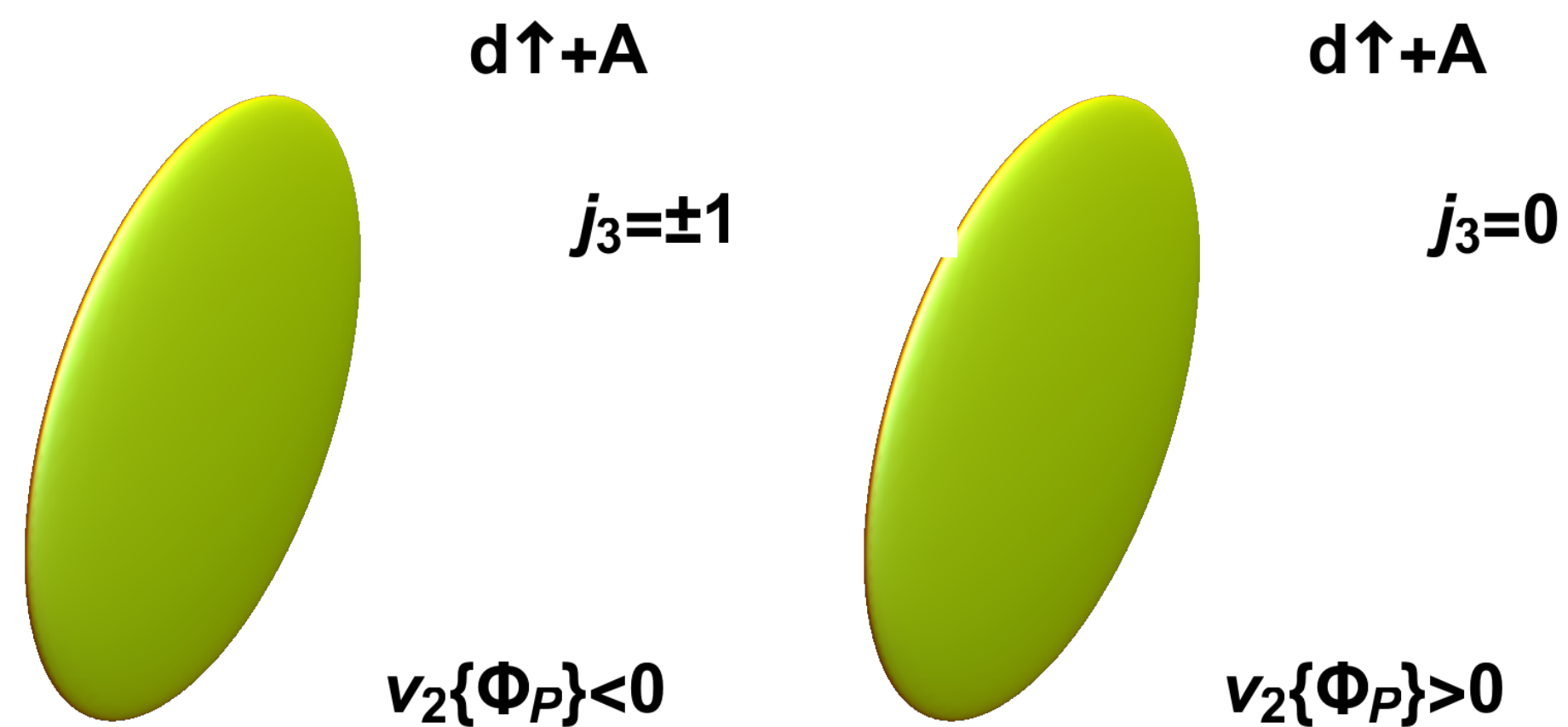
- Complement the [RHIC Beam Energy Scan \(BES\)](#) with a [y scan](#)



- Suppression of $c\bar{c}$ bound states as QGP thermometer
- States with different binding energy \rightarrow different dissociation temperature
- LHCspin to access unique/heavy probes [\[IJMPA 28 \(2013\) 1340012\]](#)

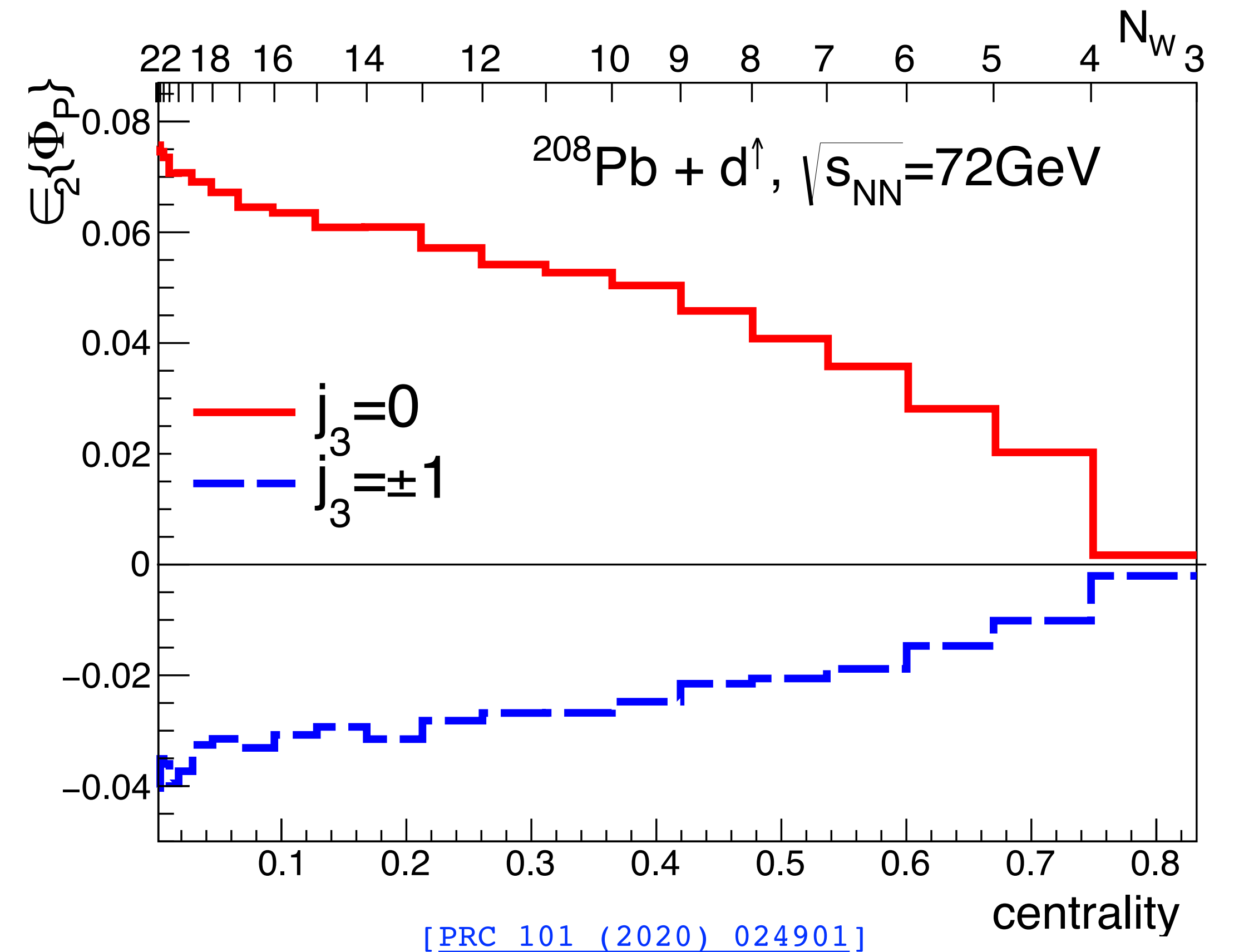
Heavy ion fixed-target collisions

- Interesting topic joining heavy ions and polarisation: probing the [dynamics of small systems](#)
- Ultra-relativistic collisions of heavy nuclei (Pb) on transversely polarised deuterons (D^\uparrow)
- Deformation of D^\uparrow is reflected in the orientation of the generated fireball in the transverse plane

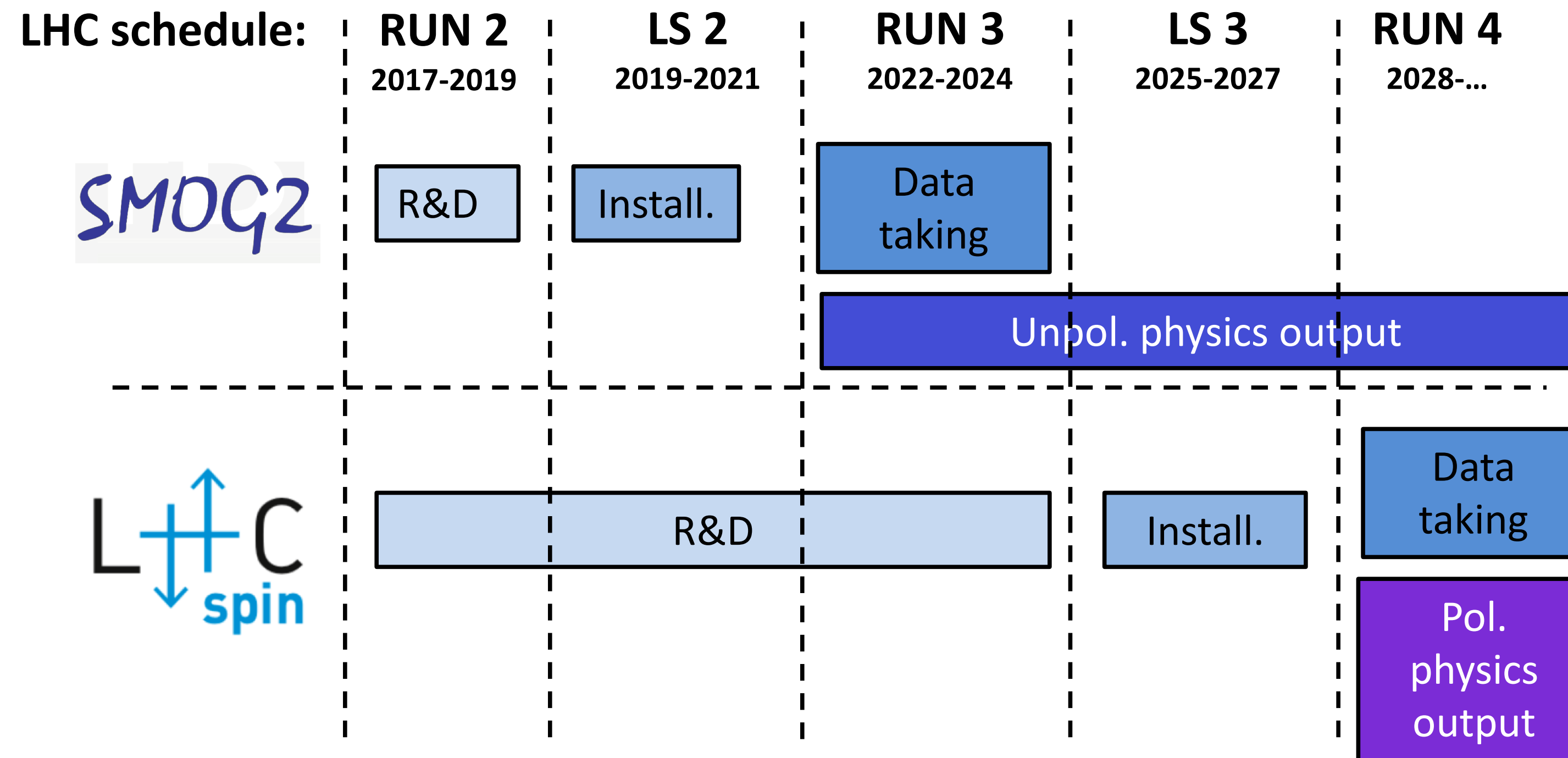


D polarised along Φ_p ,
perpendicular to the beam

- Quantified by the ellipticity, ϵ_2 wrt Φ_p
- Can be easily performed on minimum bias data



Conclusions



- The FT program at LHCb is active since Run 2, now greatly enriched with the SMOG2 cell for Run 3
- LHCspin is the natural evolution to extend this program and to bring spin-physics for the first time at LHC
- Vast physics program with both unpolarised and polarised gases for Run 4 and Run 5, with plenty of observables & final states
- The R&D calls for a new generation of polarised gas targets: challenging task but worth the effort!
- Complementary to both existing facilities and EIC