

The electron-ion collider

AdT



**Comunidad
de Madrid**

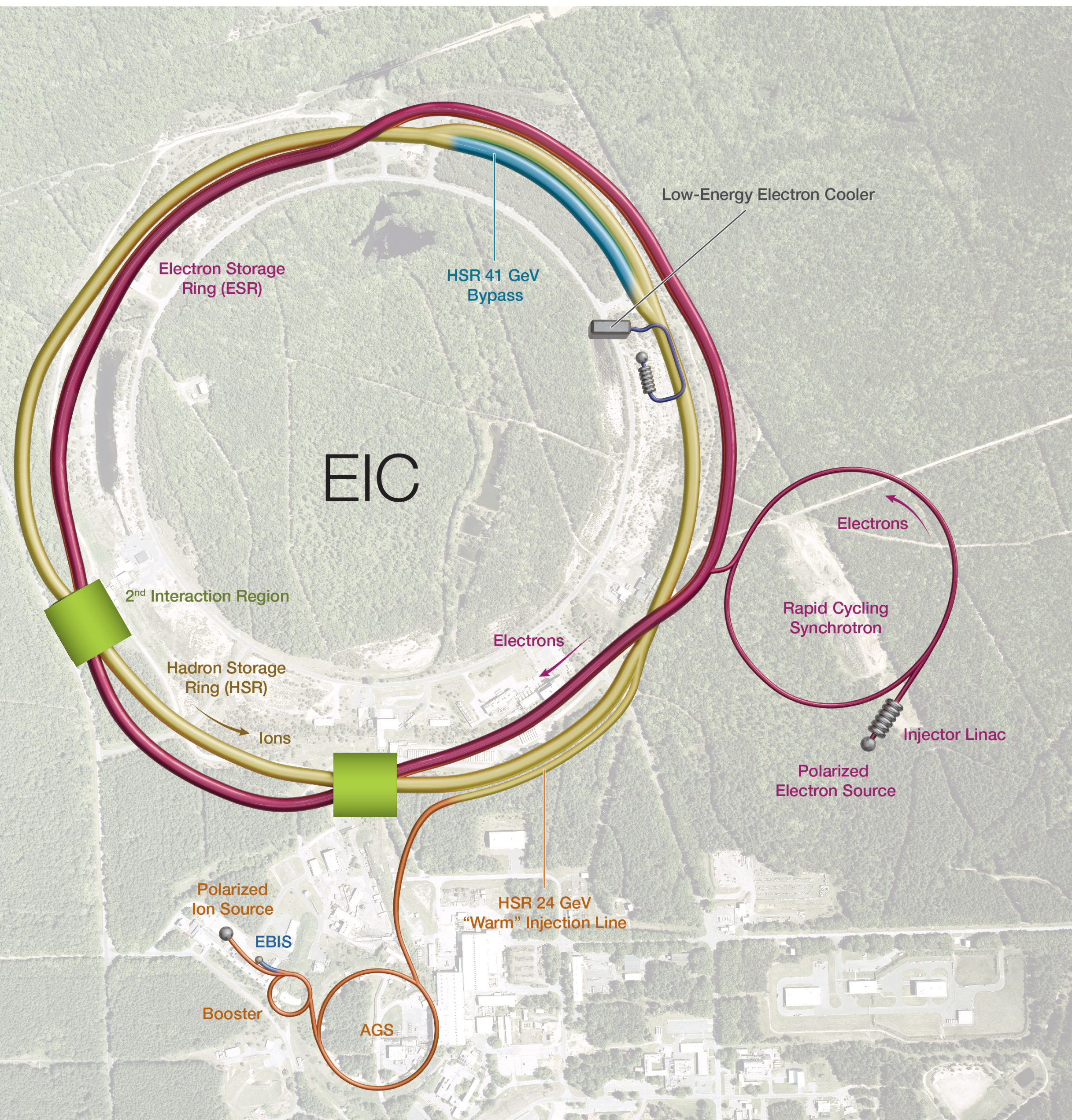
Charlotte Van Hulse
University of Alcalá

HSF-India/ePIC Workshop
Mumbai, India
May 13–17, 2025

The electron-ion collider (EIC)



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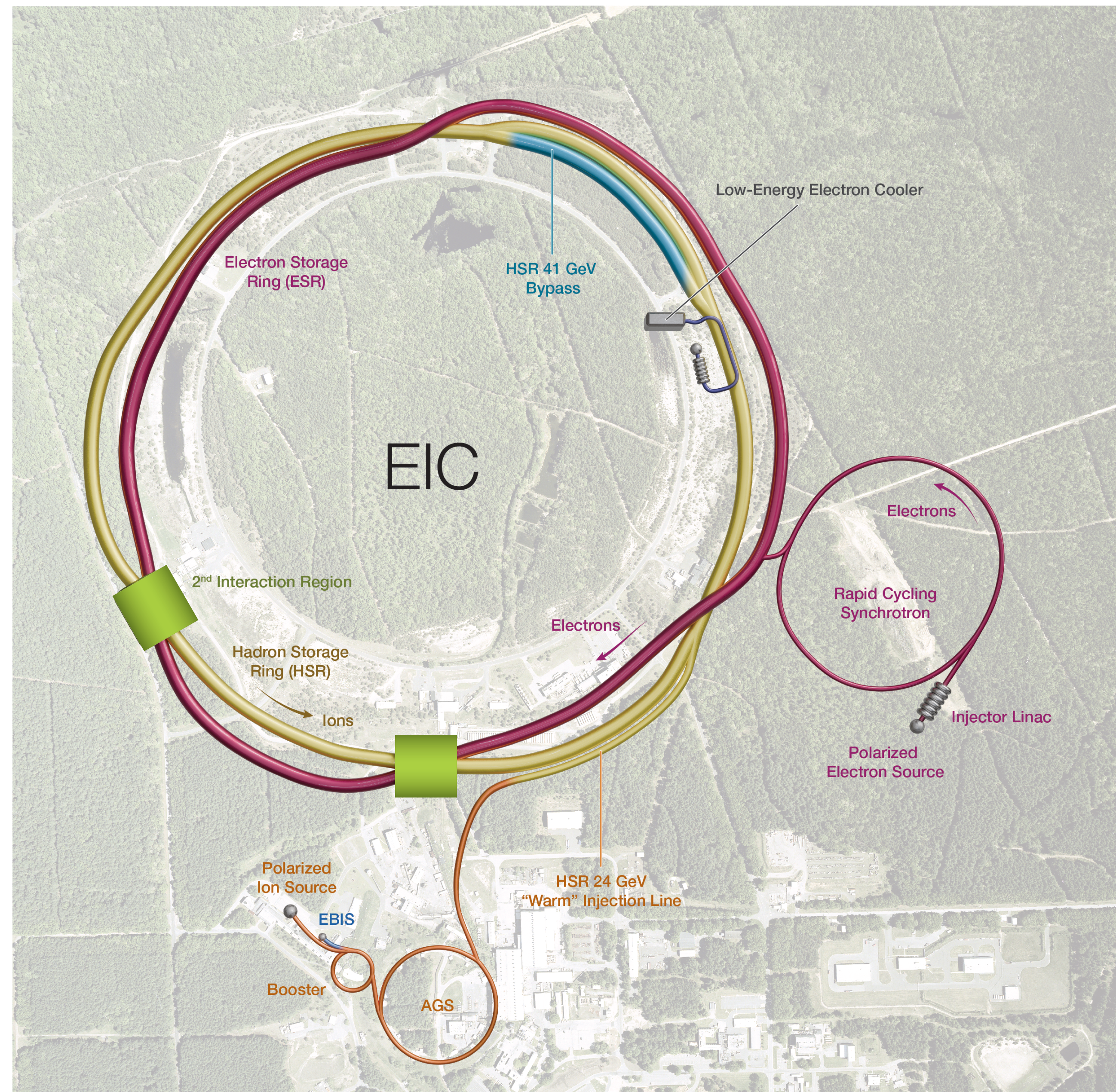


- Based on RHIC:
 - use exiting hadron storage ring
energy: 41–275 GeV
 - add electron storage ring in RHIC tunnel
energy: 5–18 GeV

[illegible]

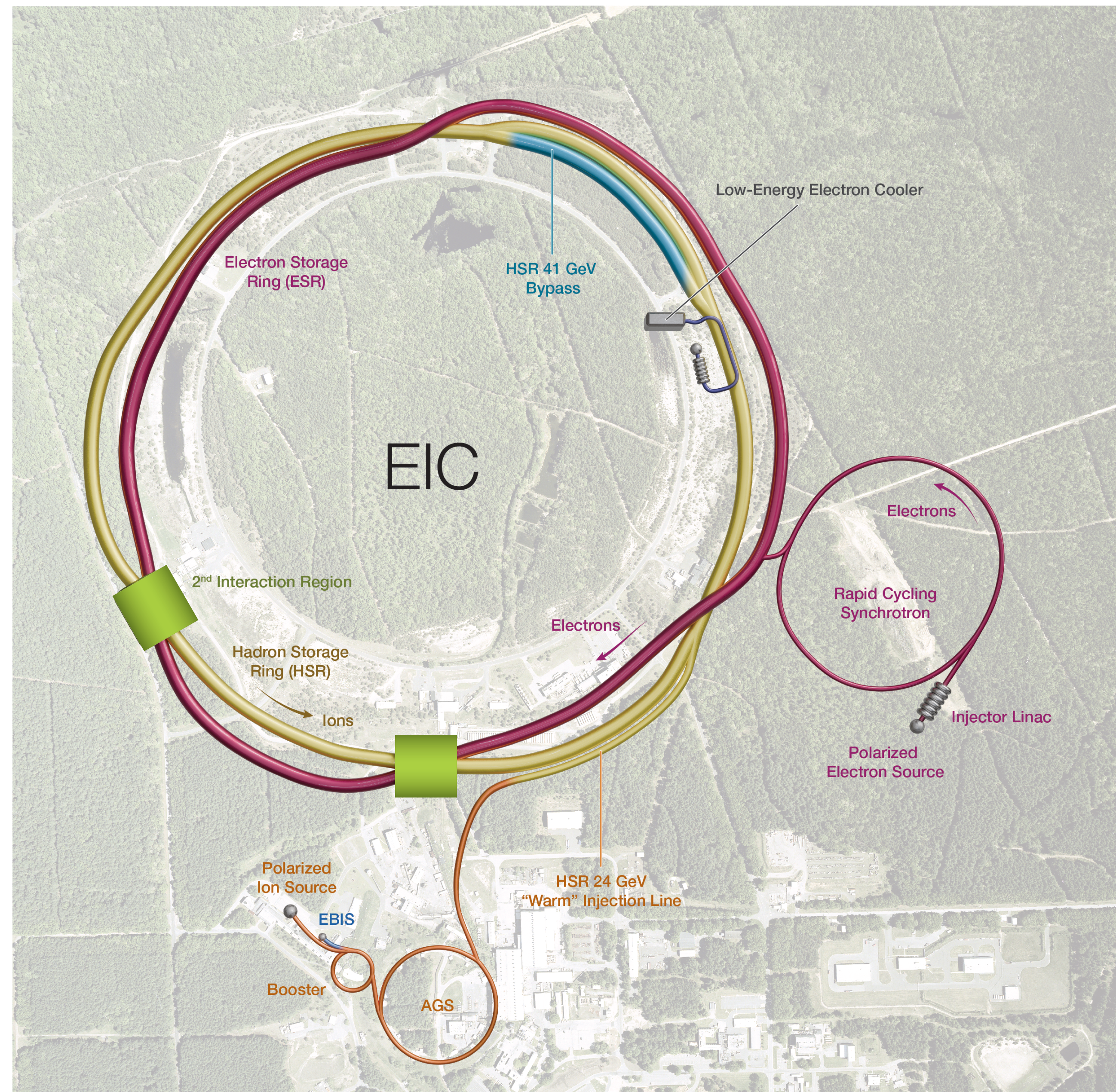
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The electron-ion collider (EIC)



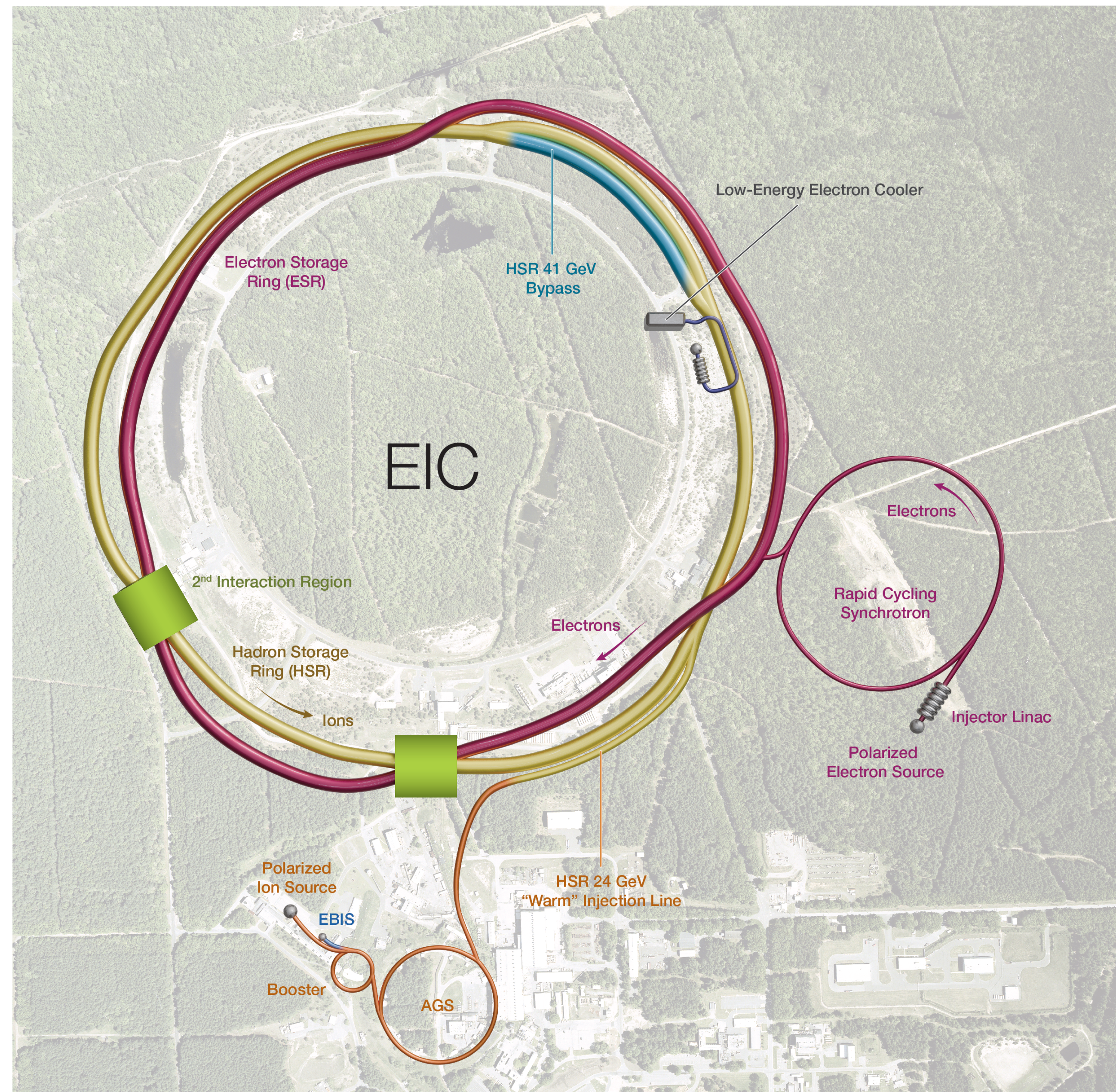
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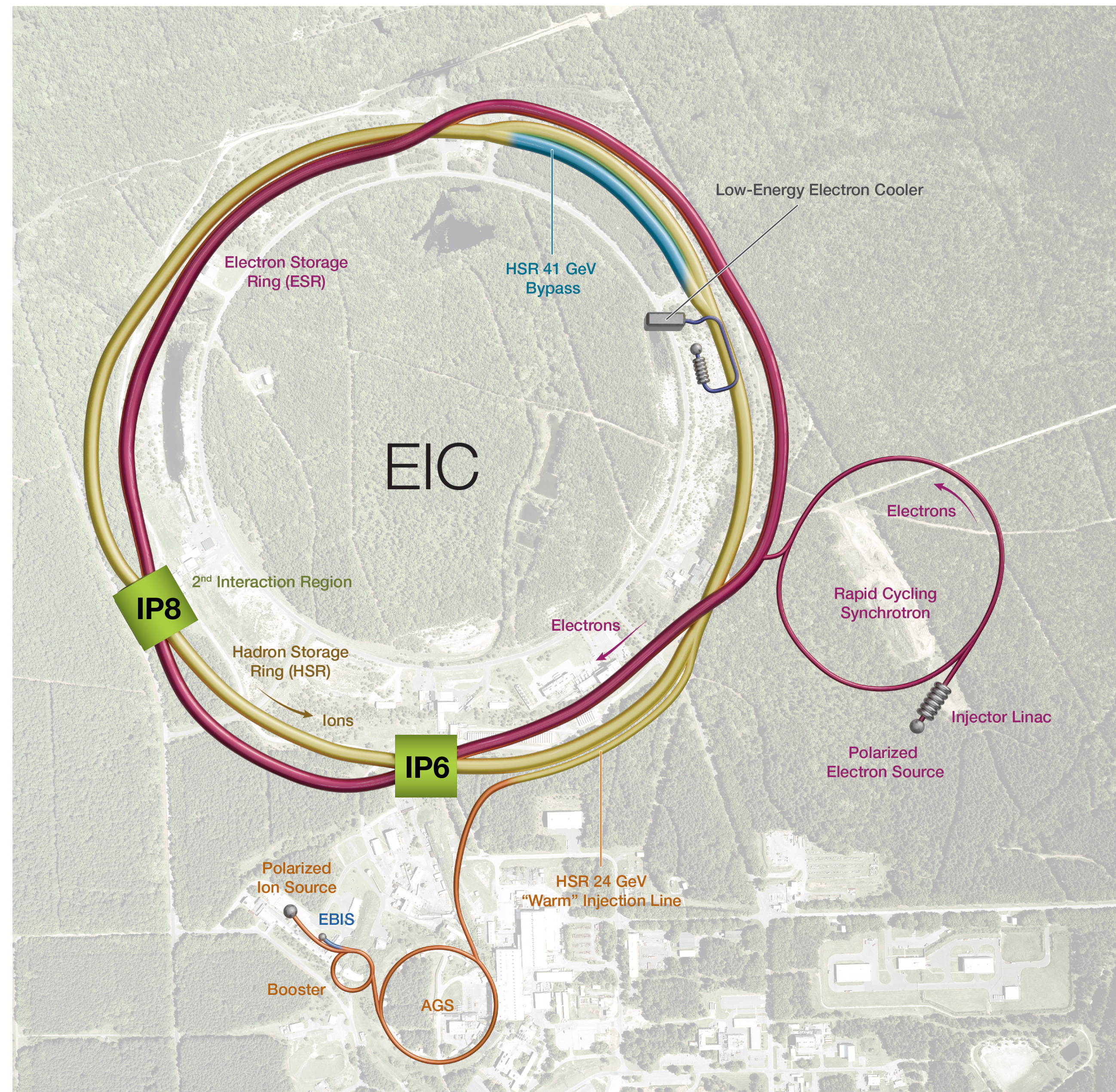
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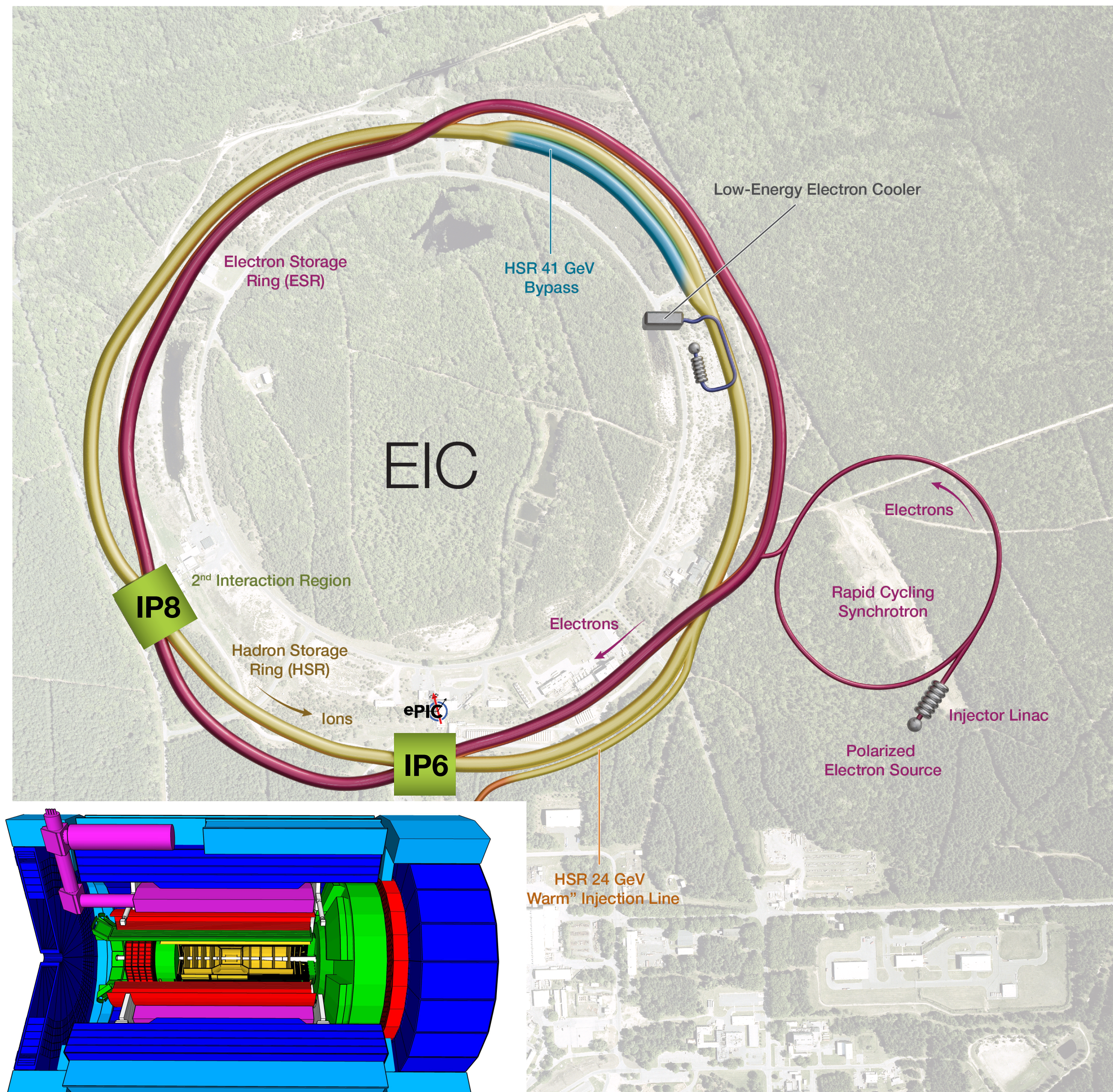
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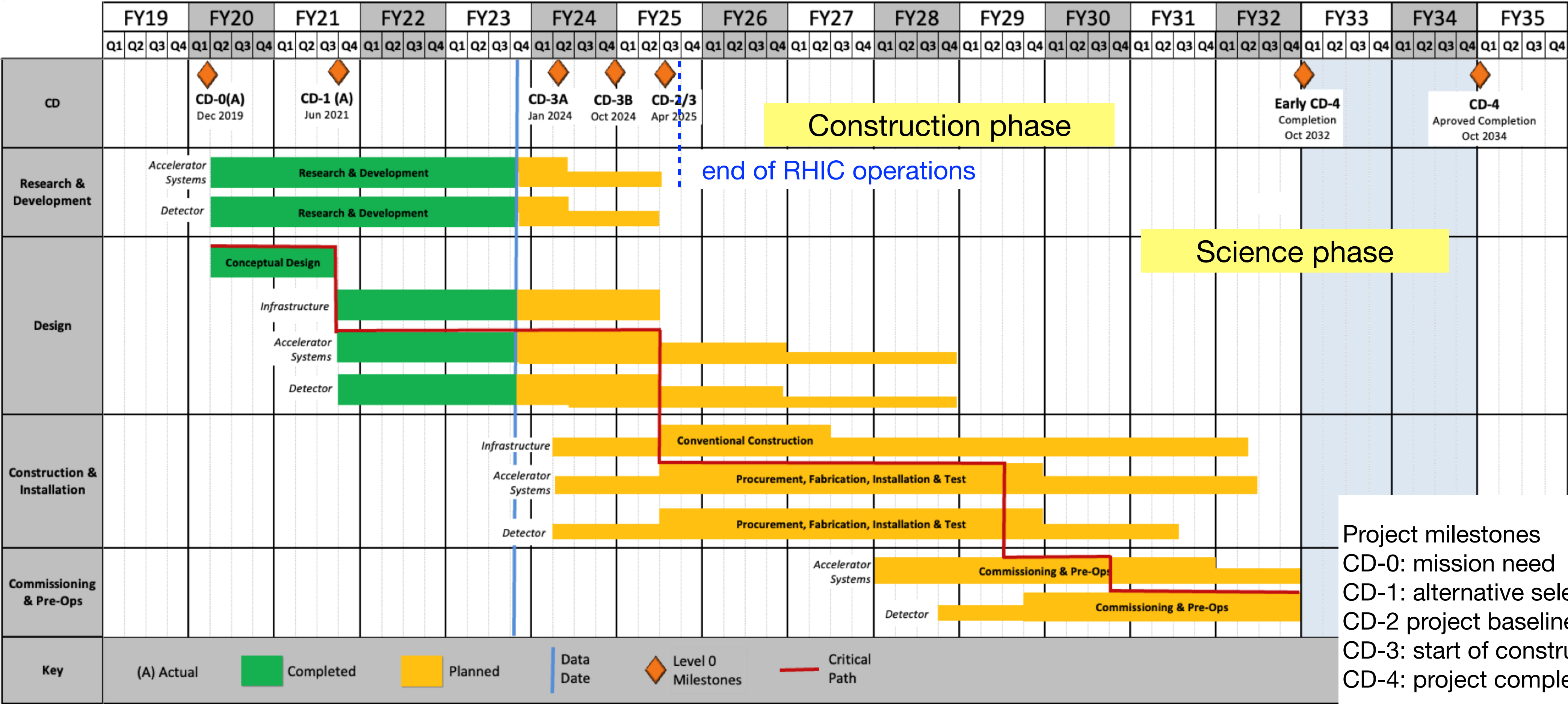
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Timeline

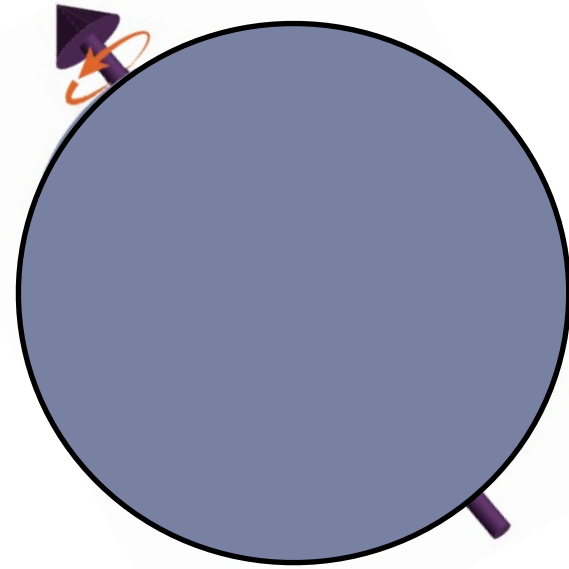


Project milestones
CD-0: mission need
CD-1: alternative selection, cost range
CD-2 project baseline
CD-3: start of construction
CD-4: project completion, start of operation

Why an EIC?

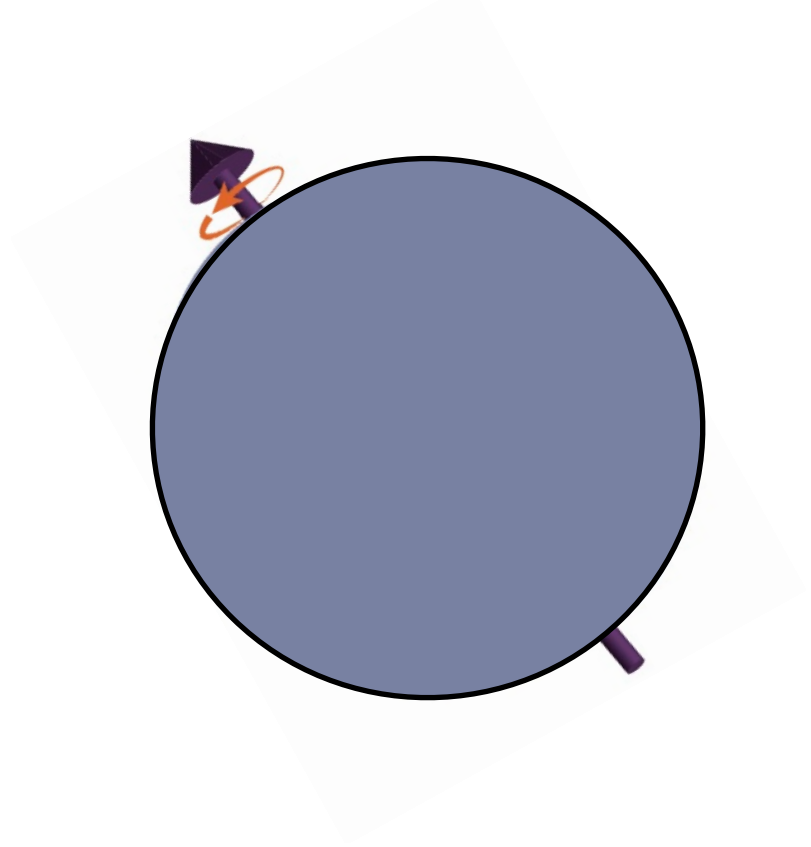
Why an EIC?

Nucleon spin structure

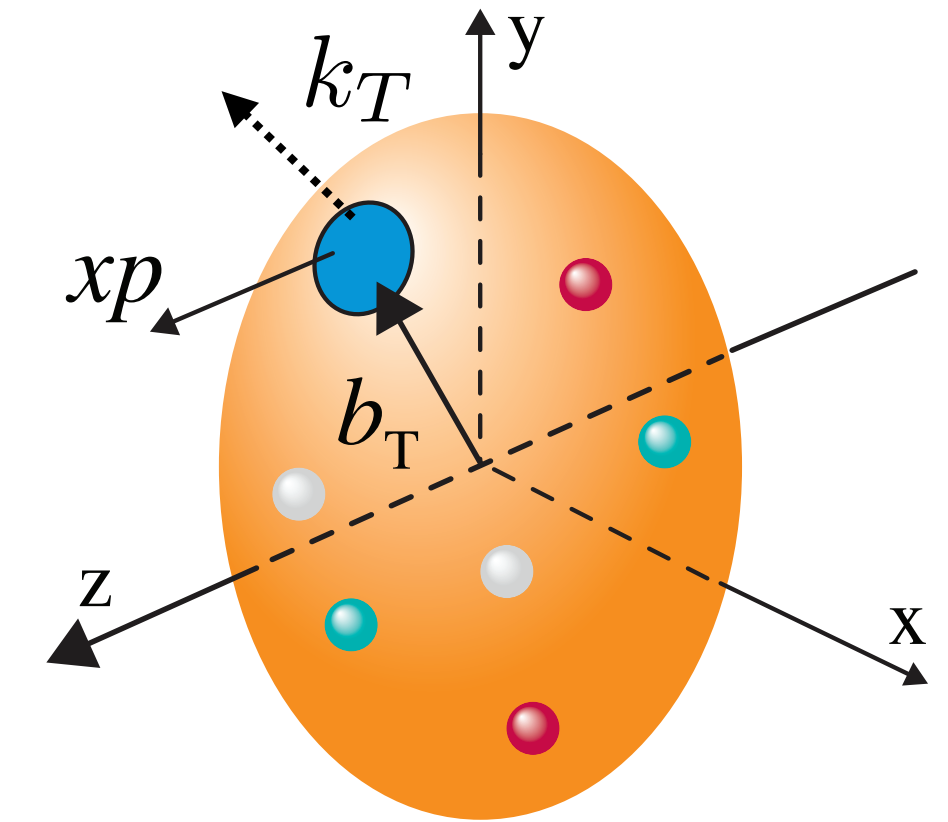


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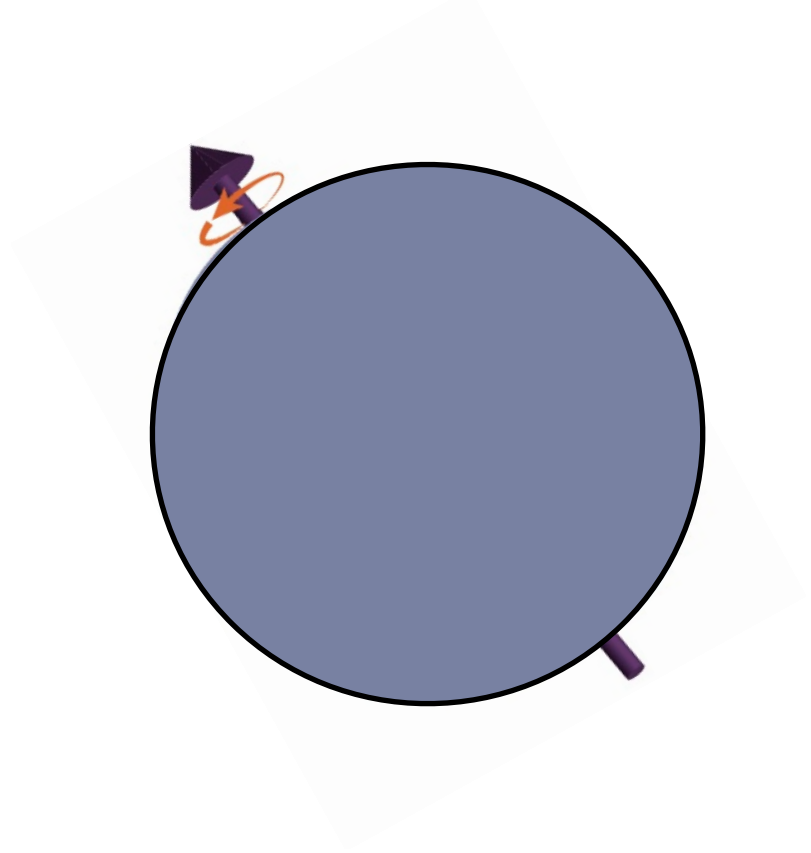


Nucleon multi-dimensional structure

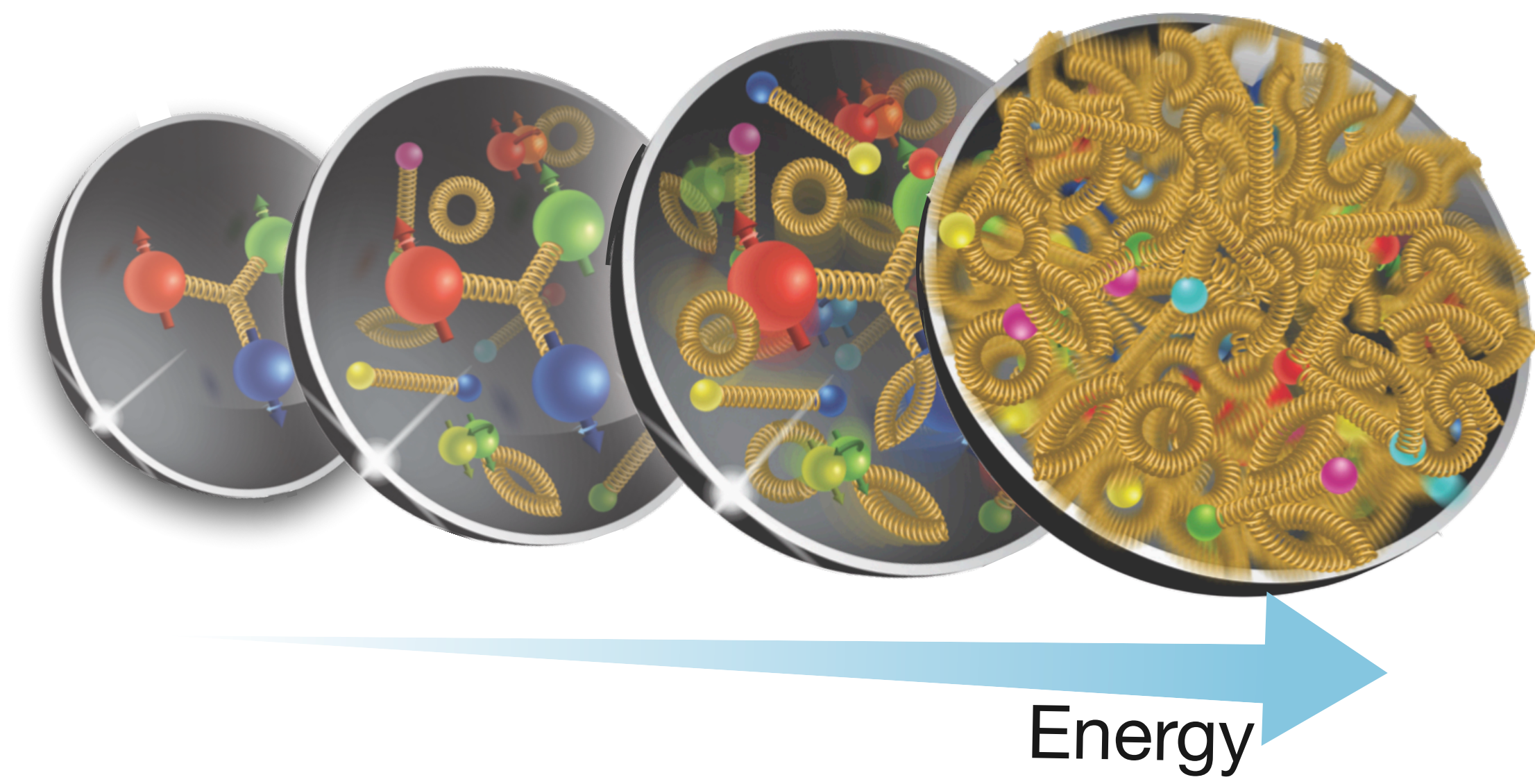


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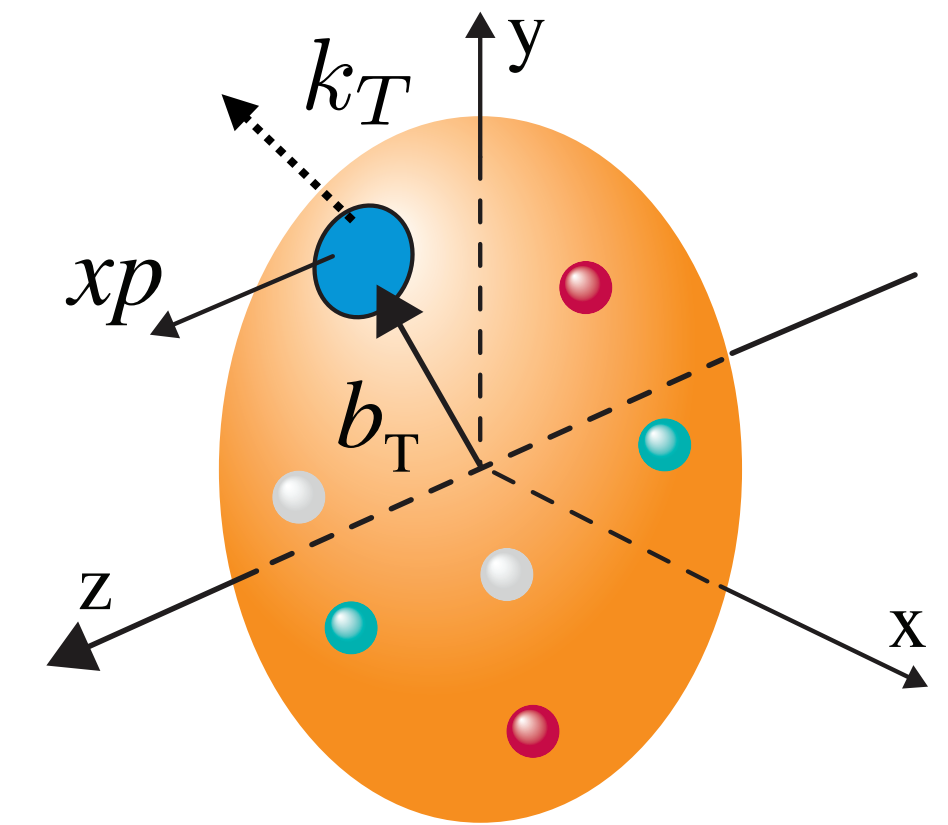
Nucleon spin structure



Gluon saturation

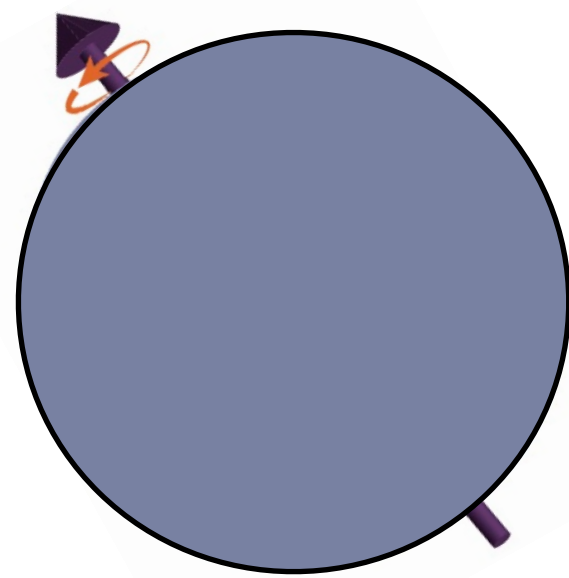


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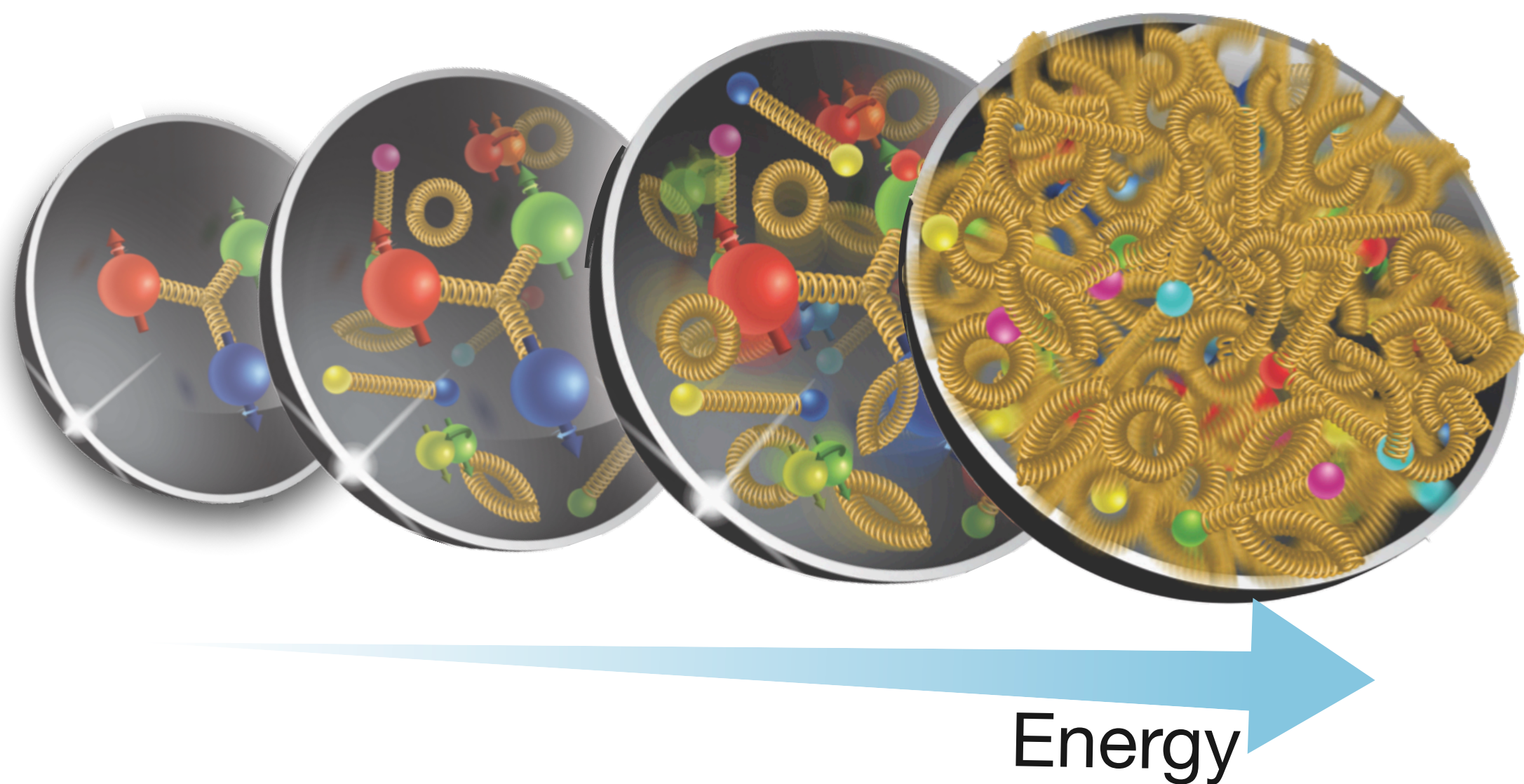


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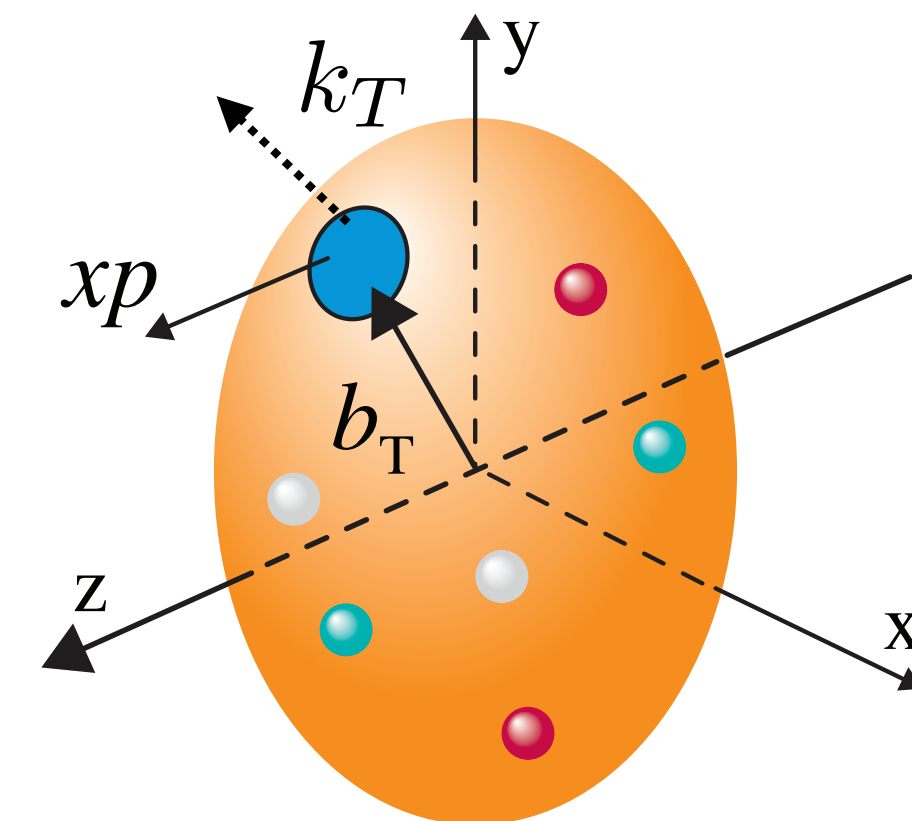
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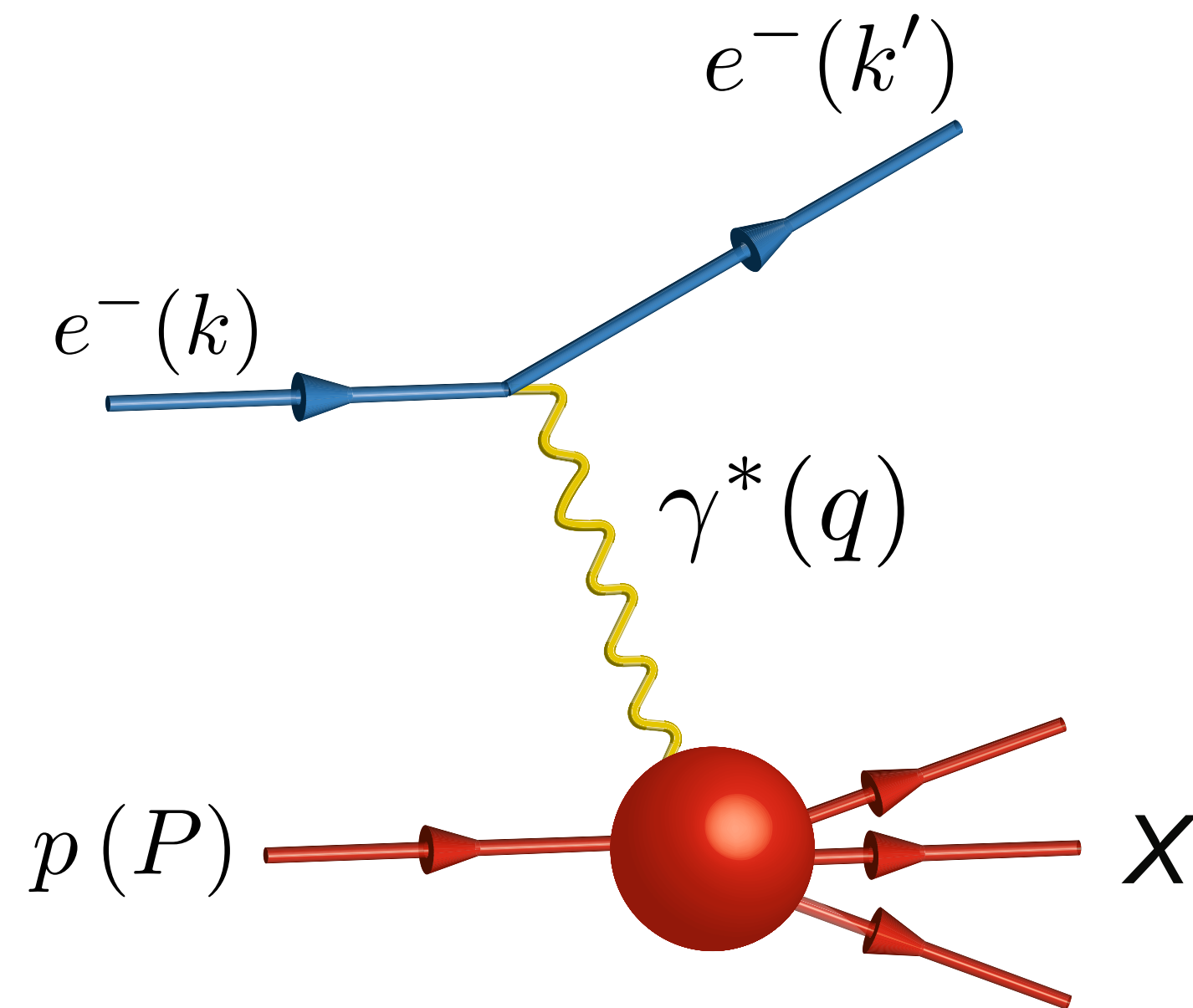
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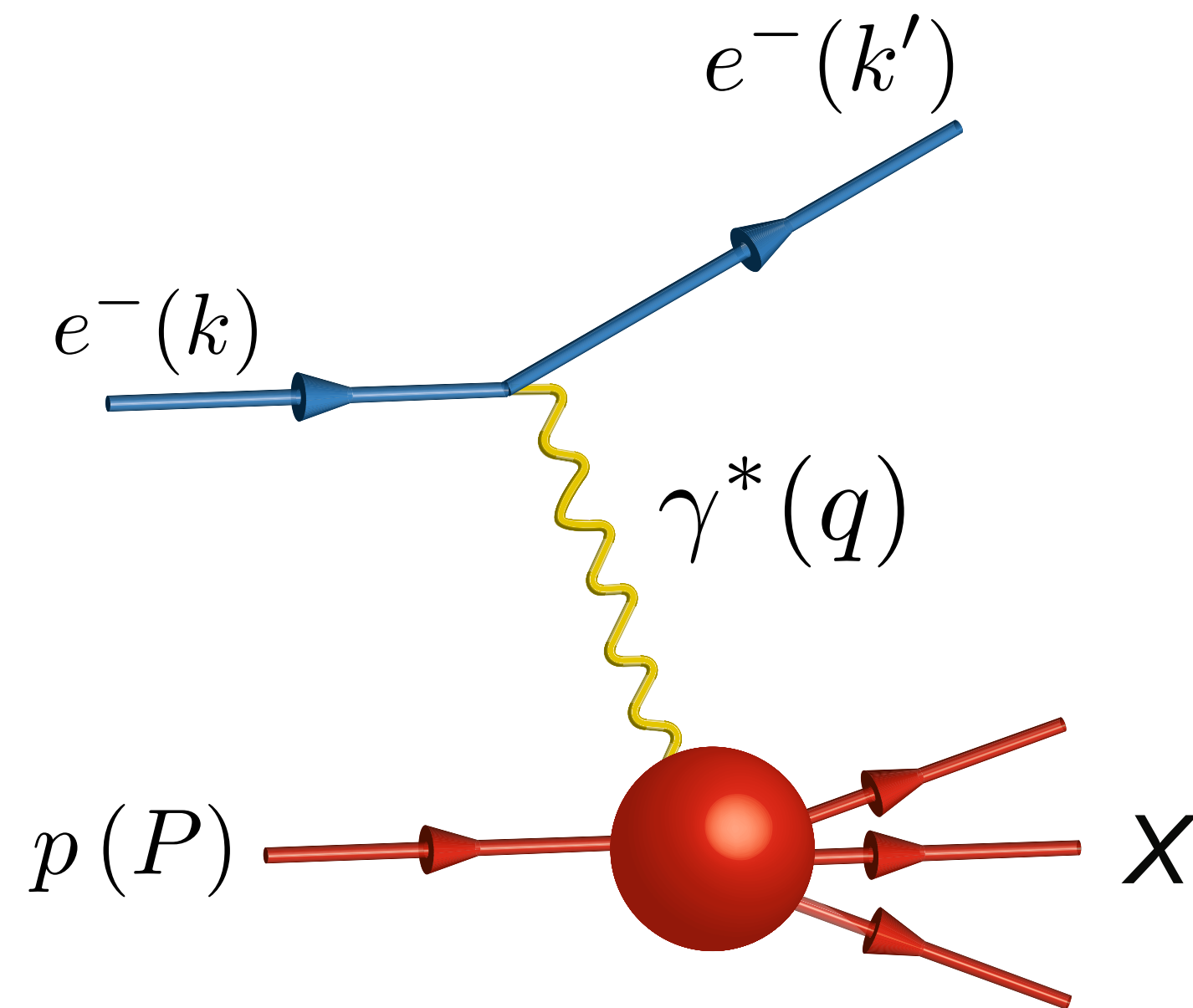
Hadronisation



Deep-inelastic scattering (DIS) of electrons and nucleons/nuclei



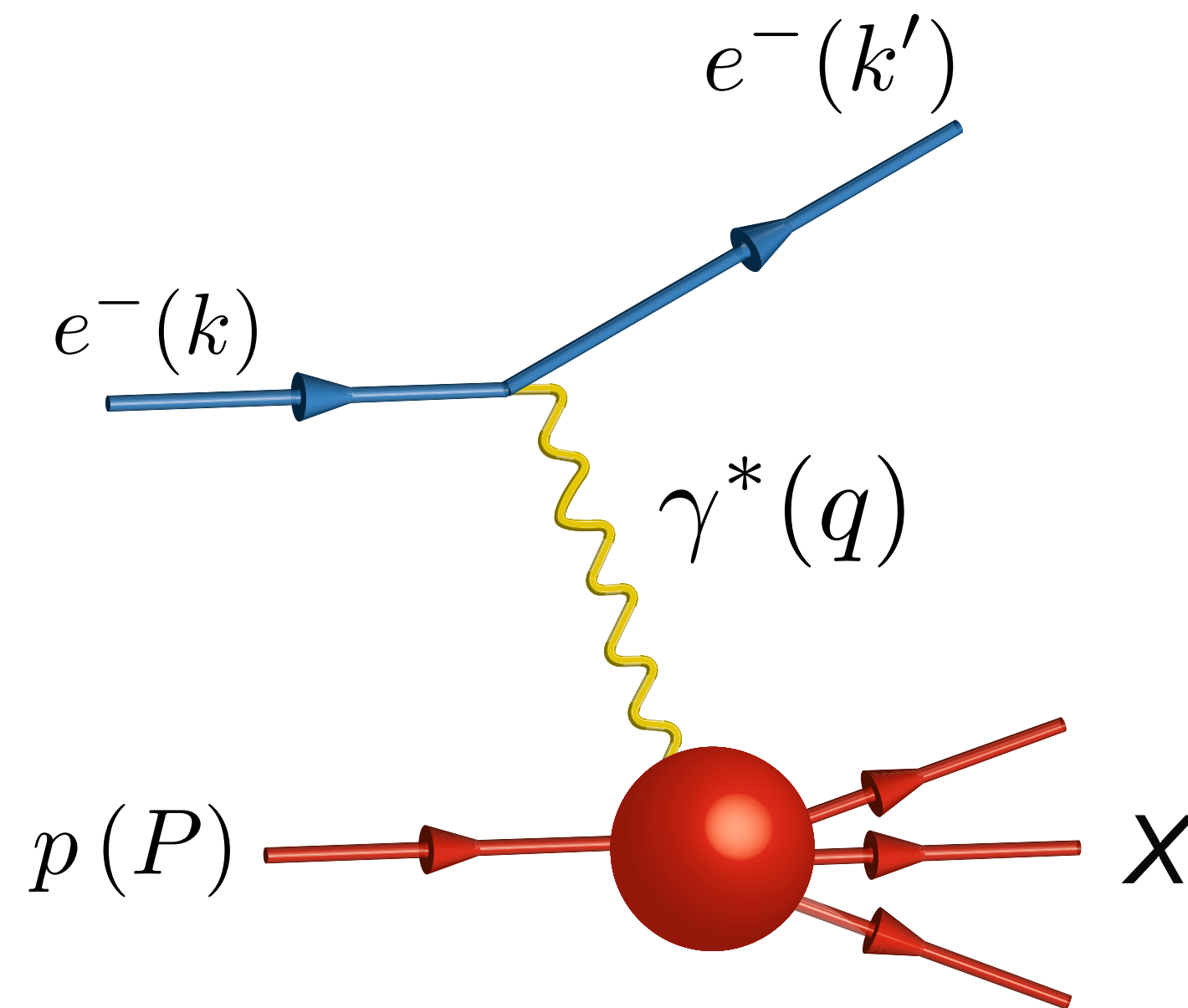
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Highly virtual photon:
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provides hard
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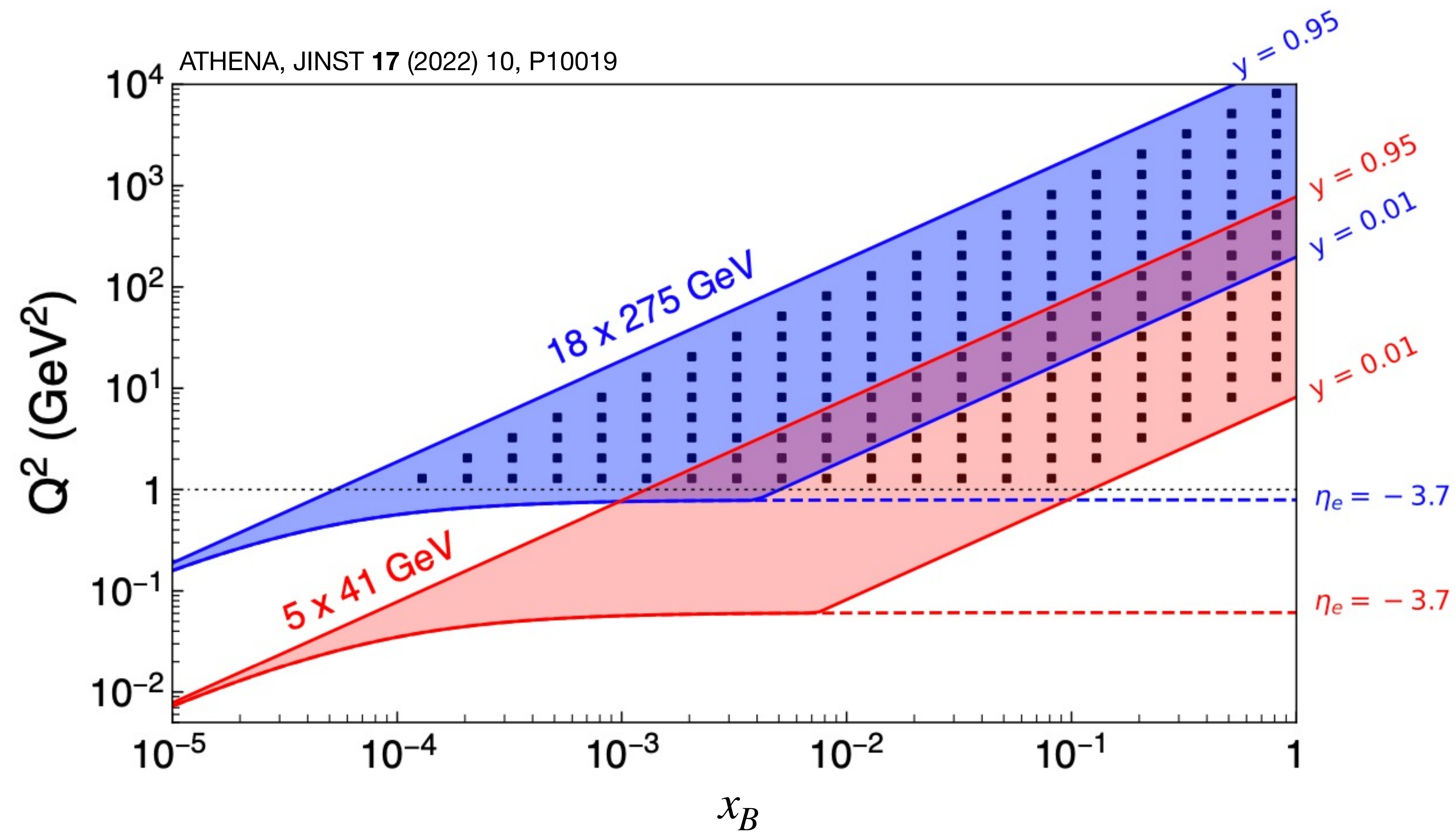


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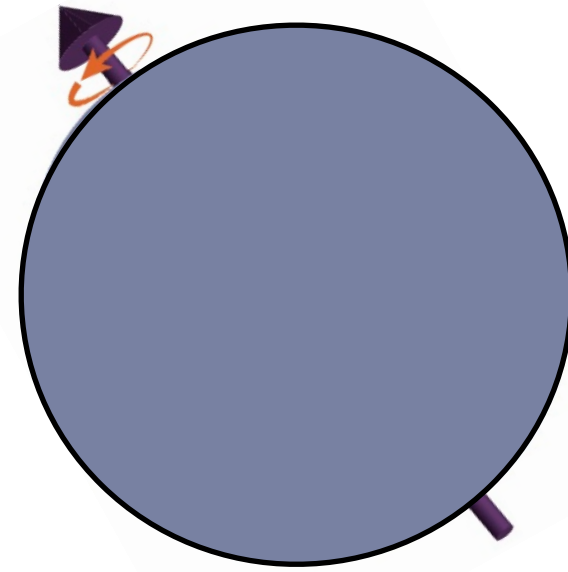
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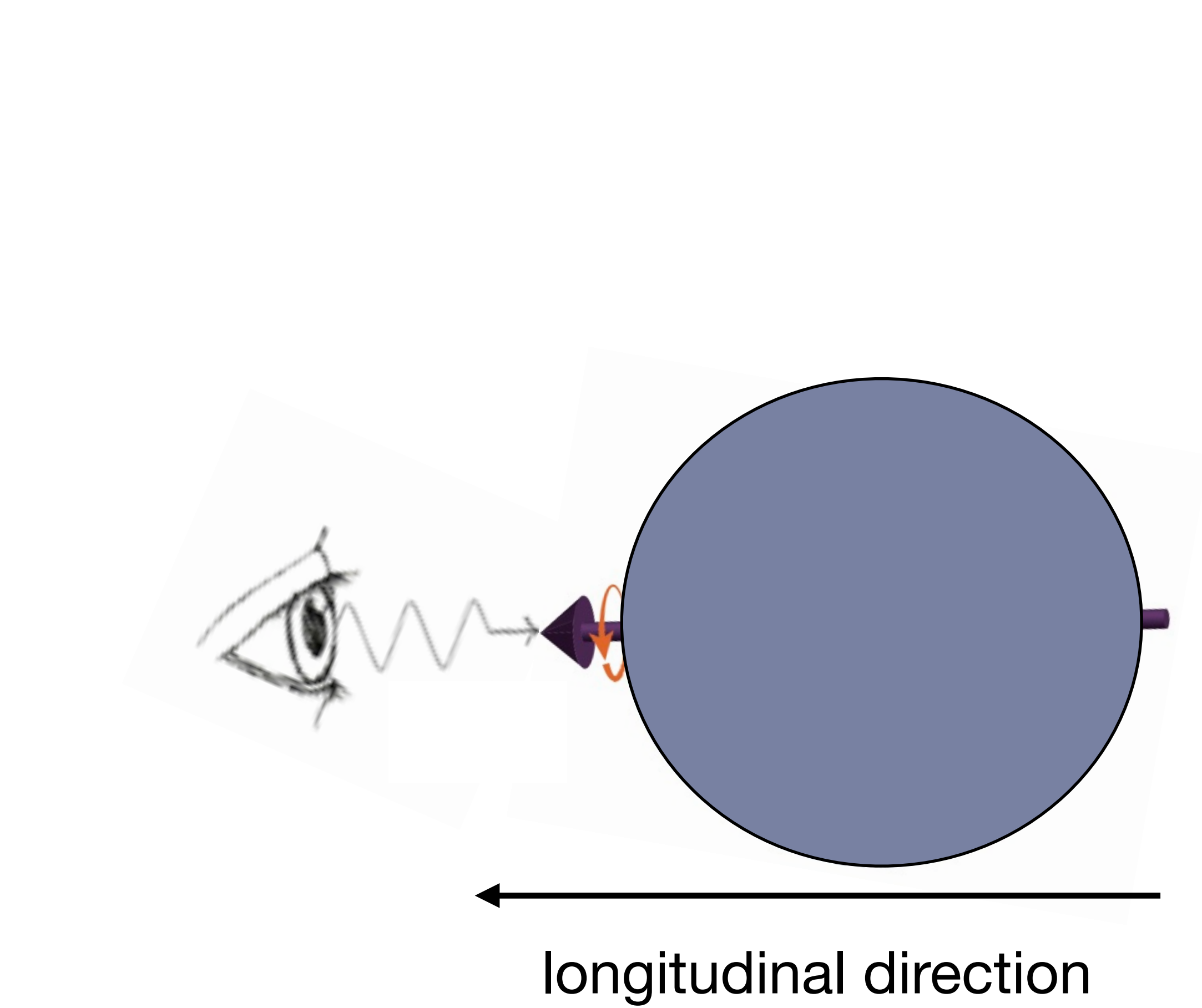
Kinematic coverage at the EIC



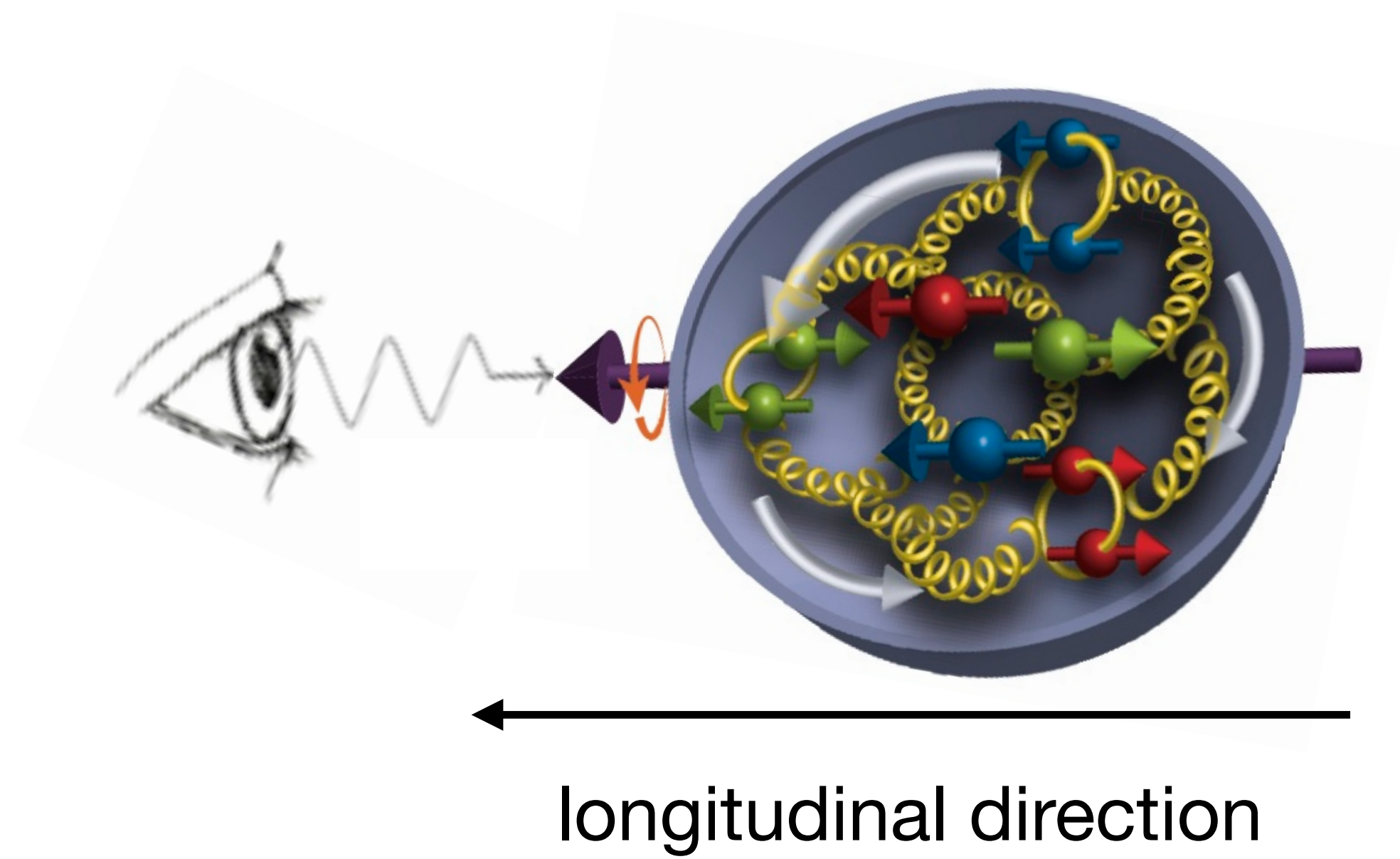
Nucleon spin structure



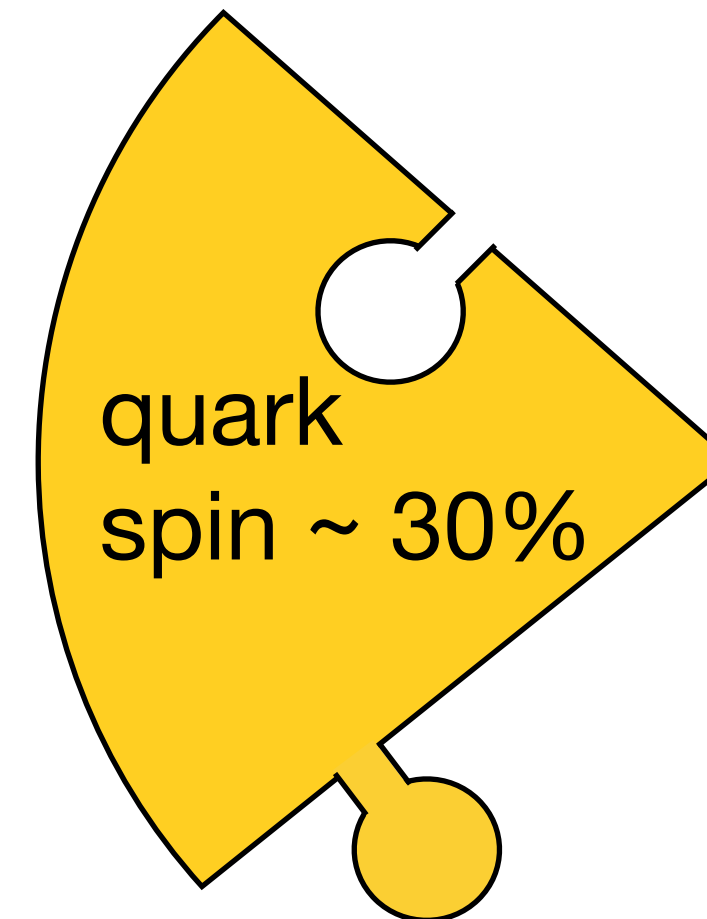
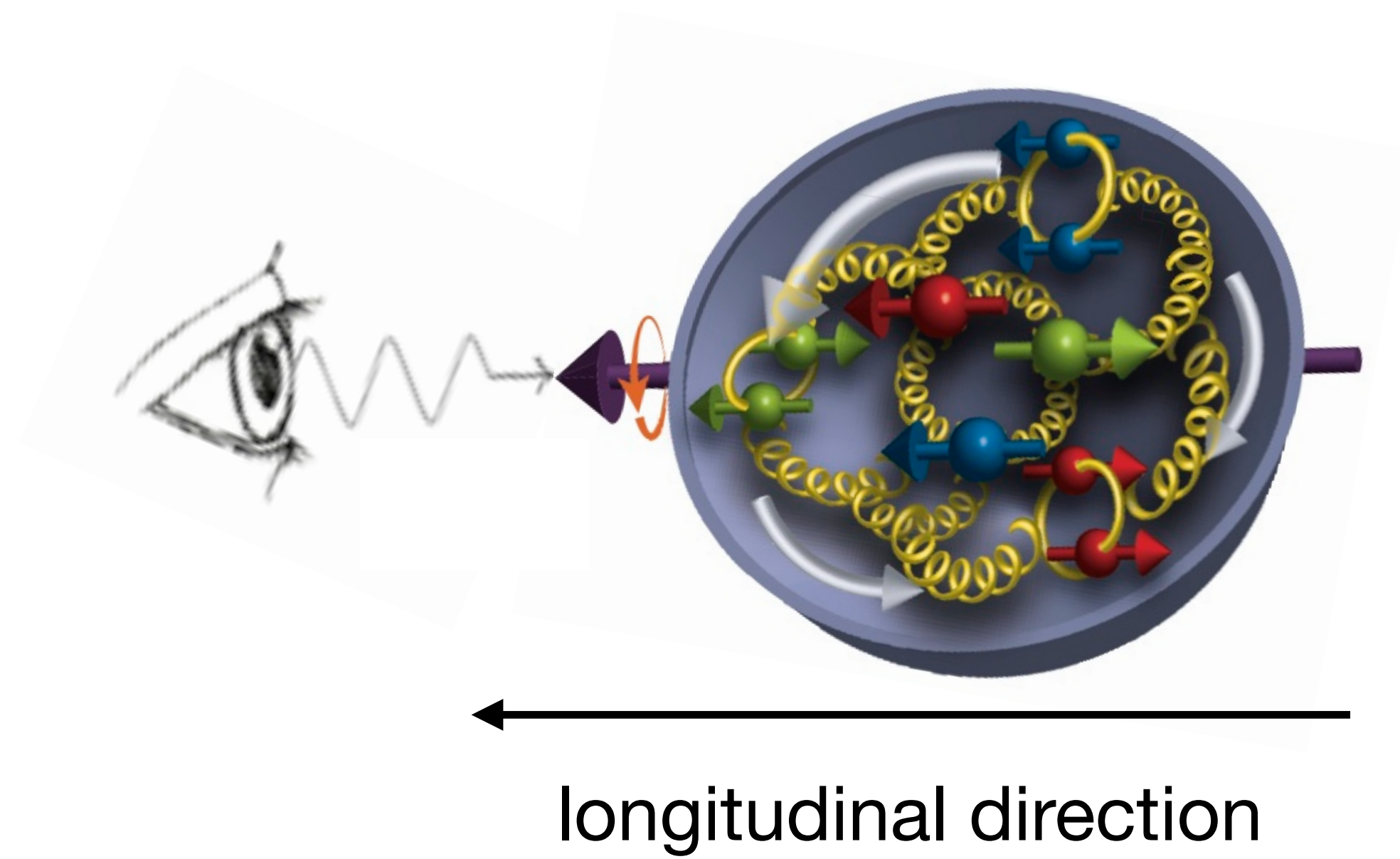
The nucleon spin



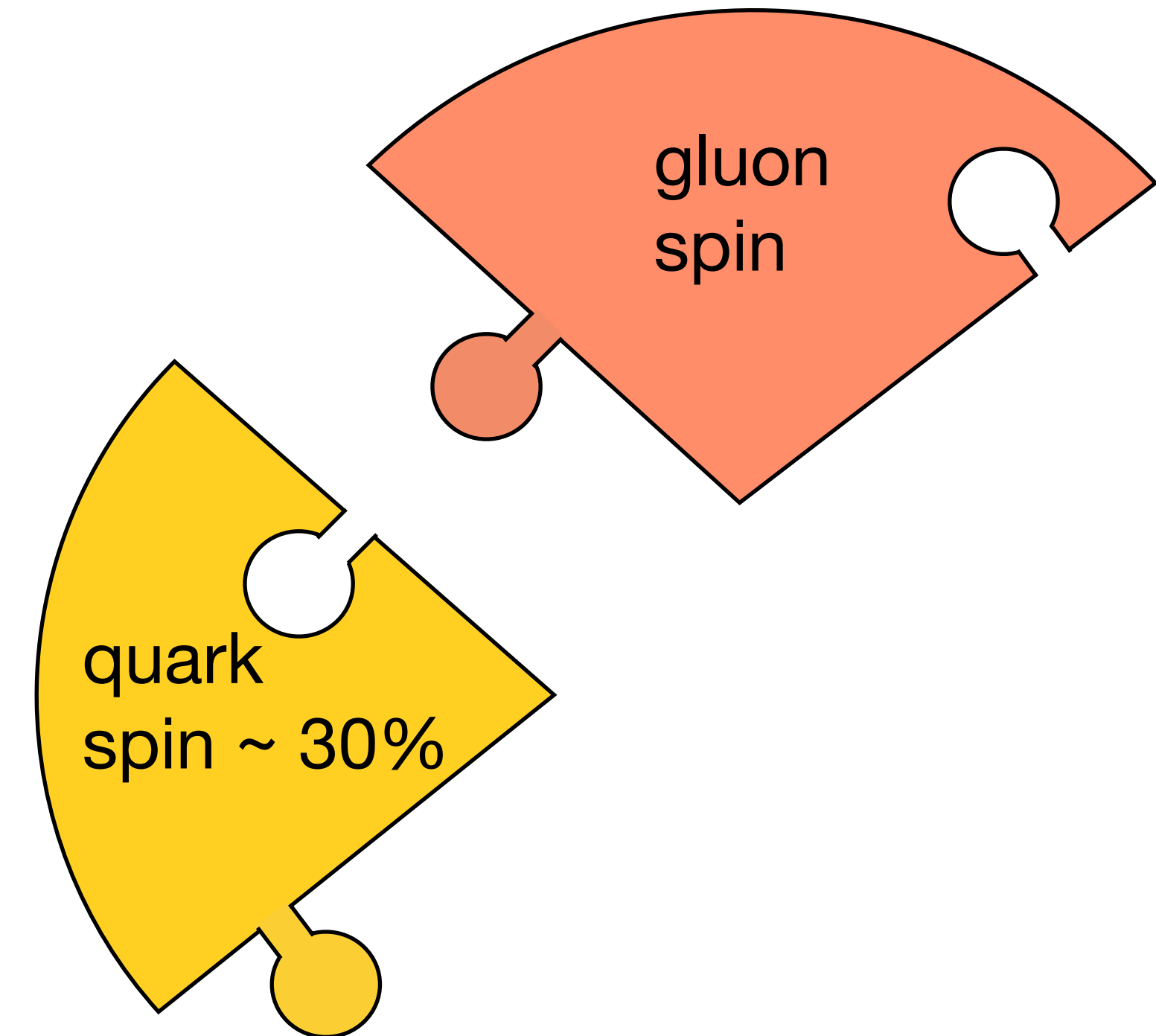
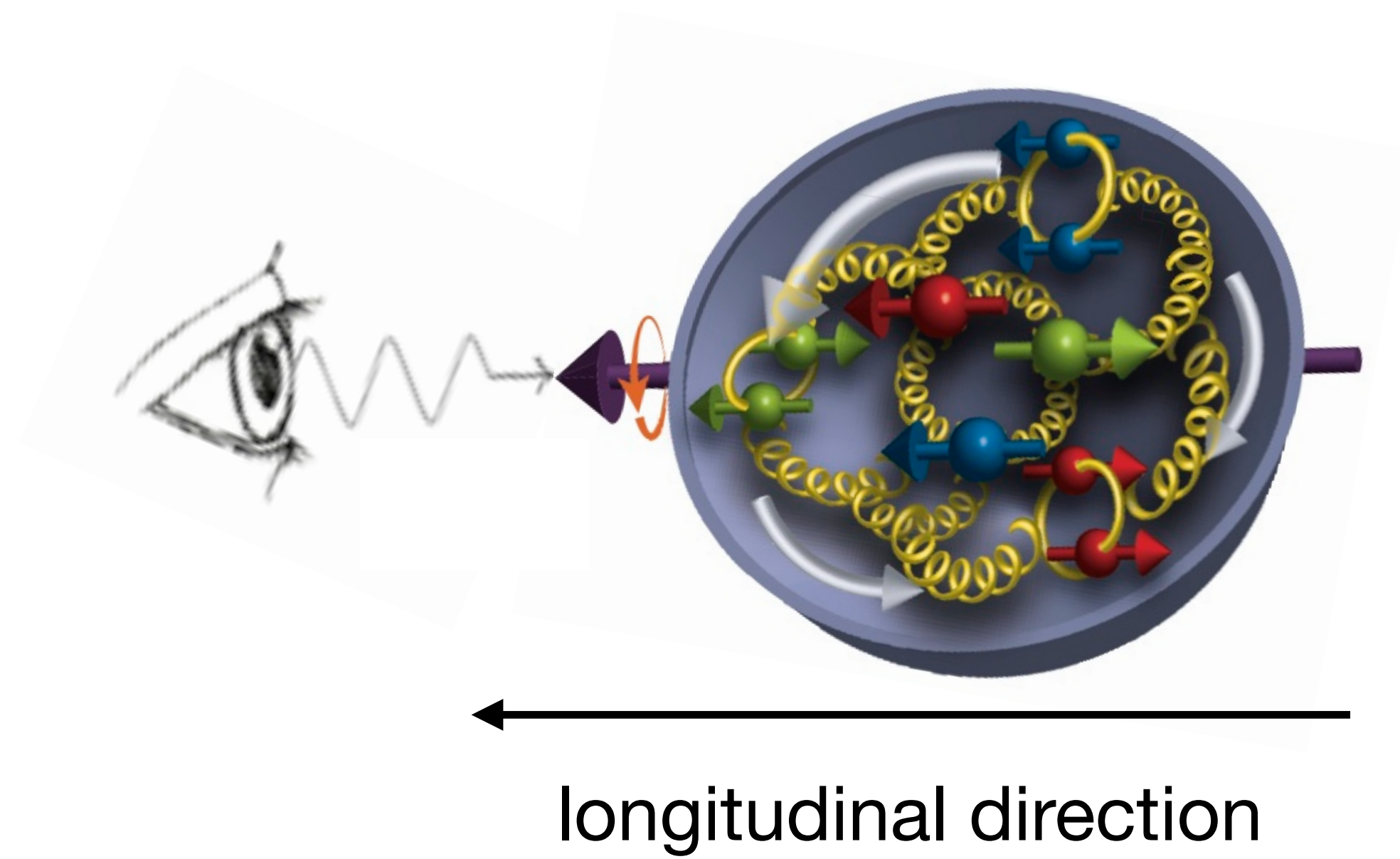
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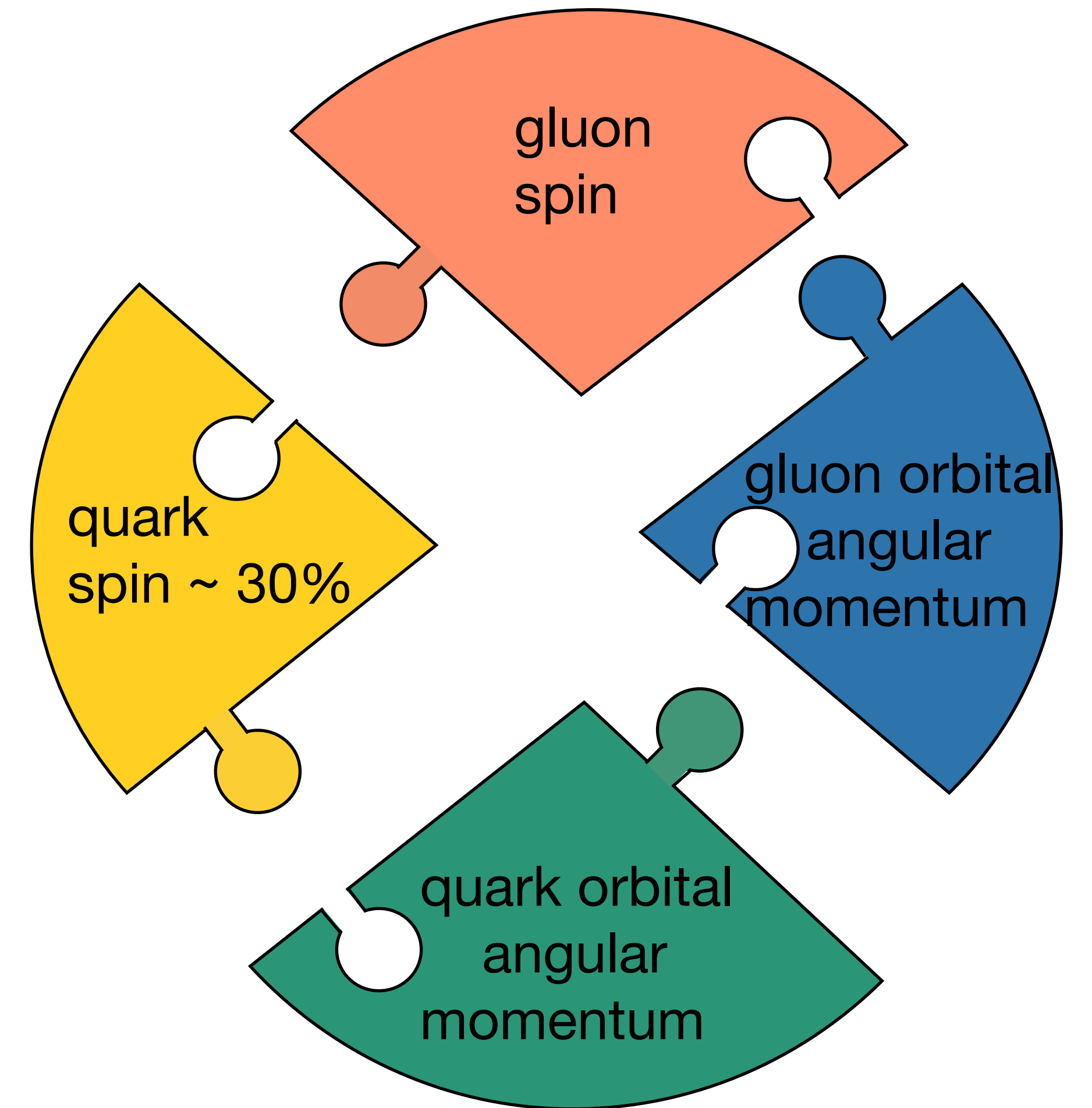
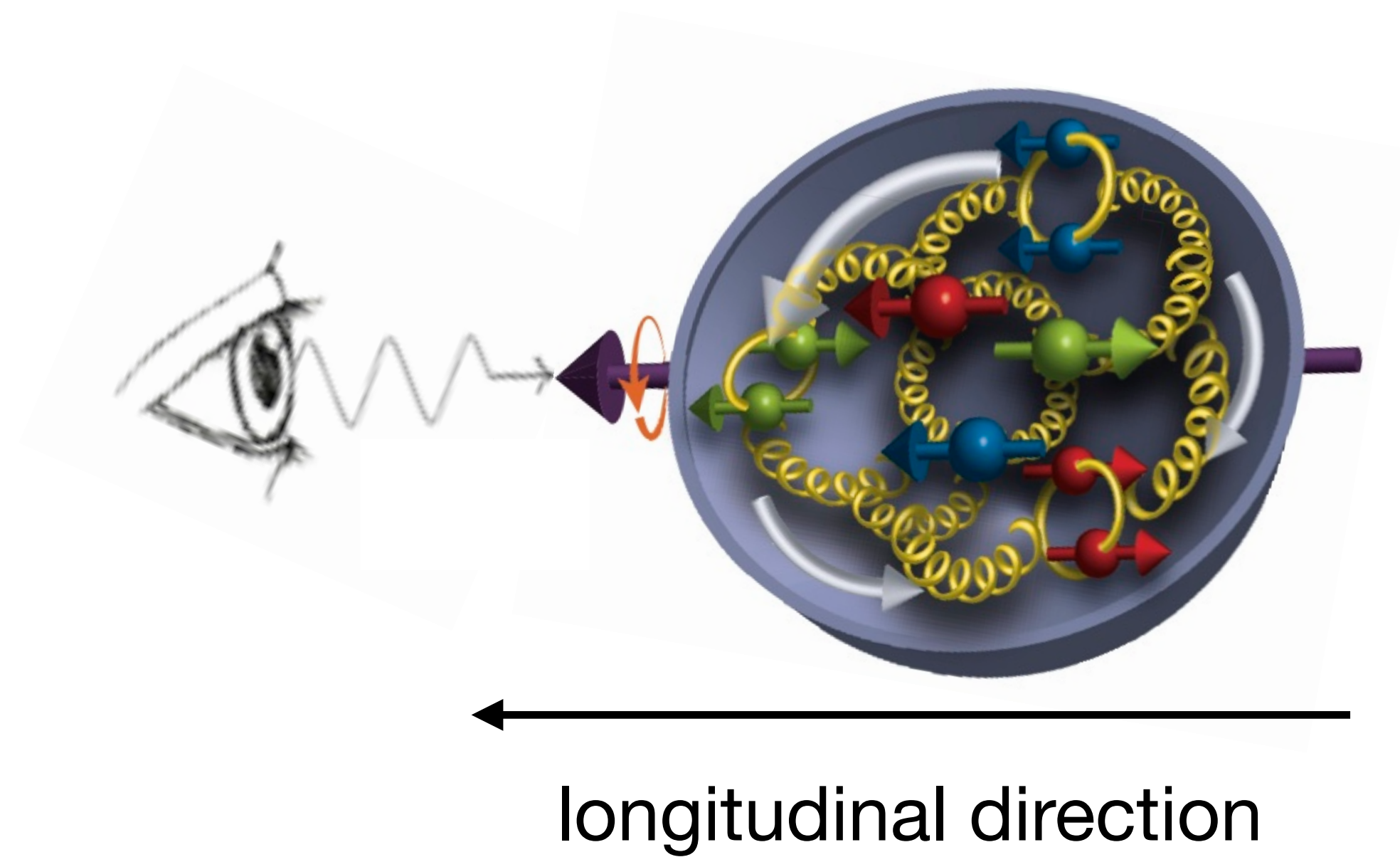
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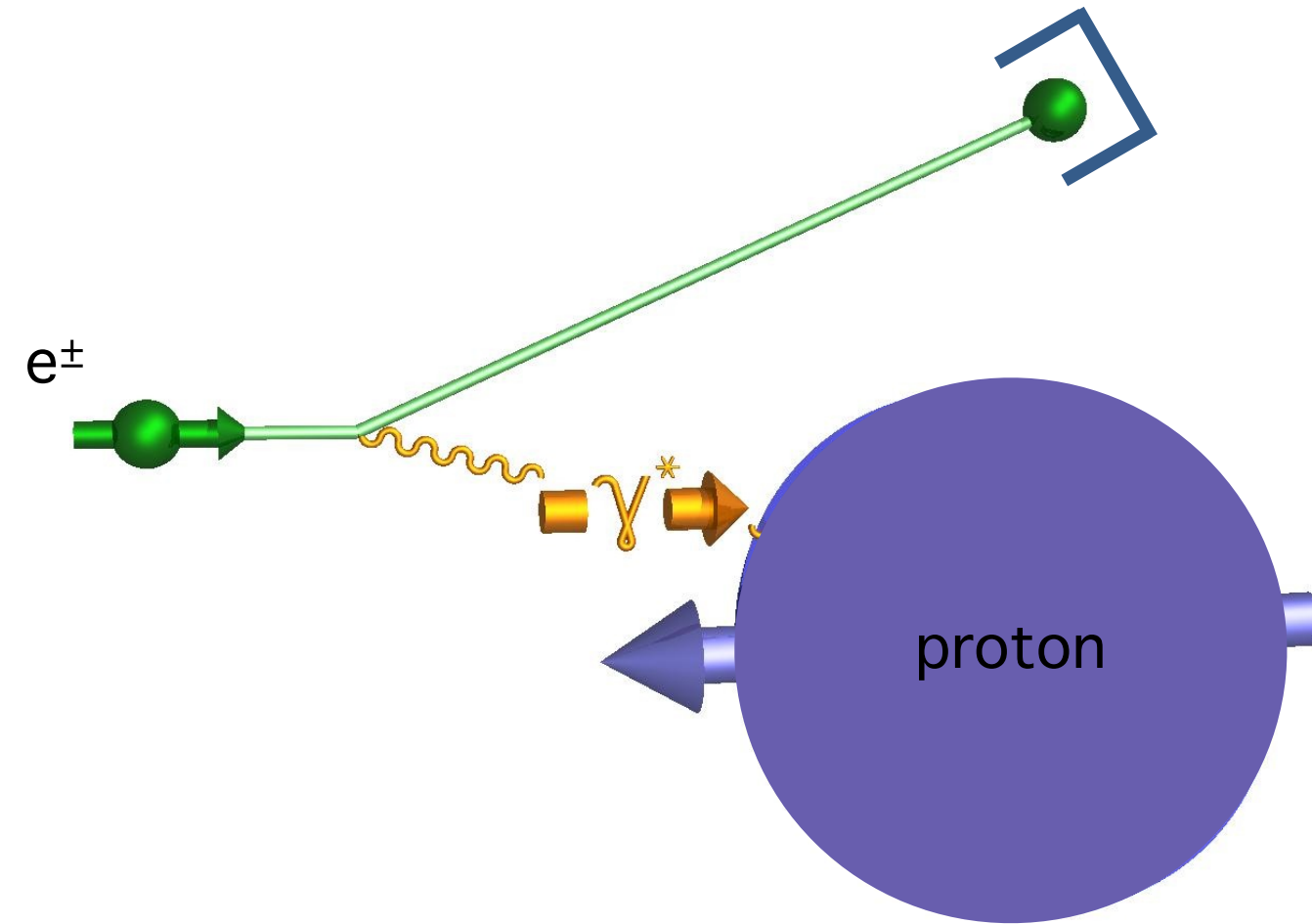
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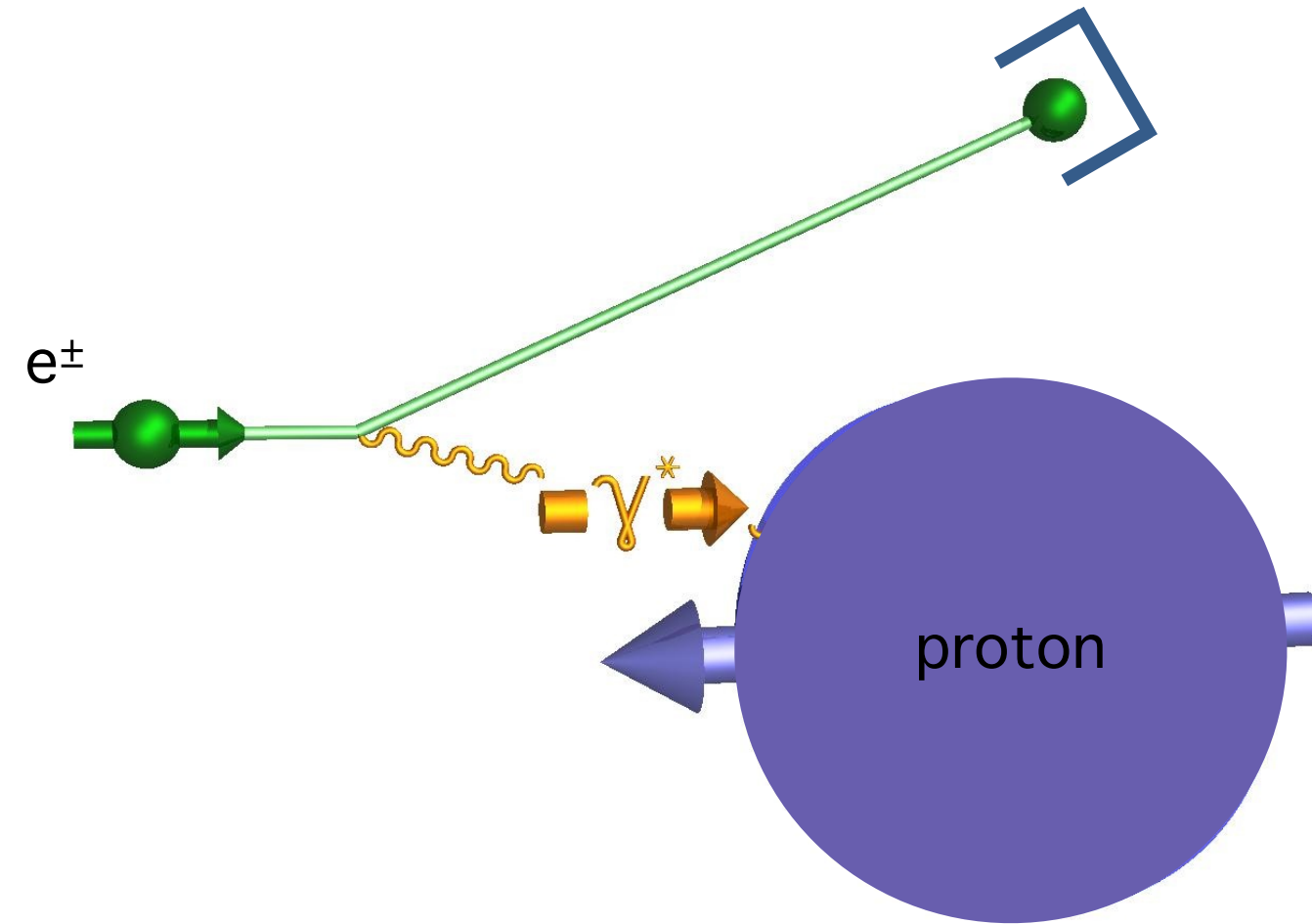
Helicity structure of the nucleon



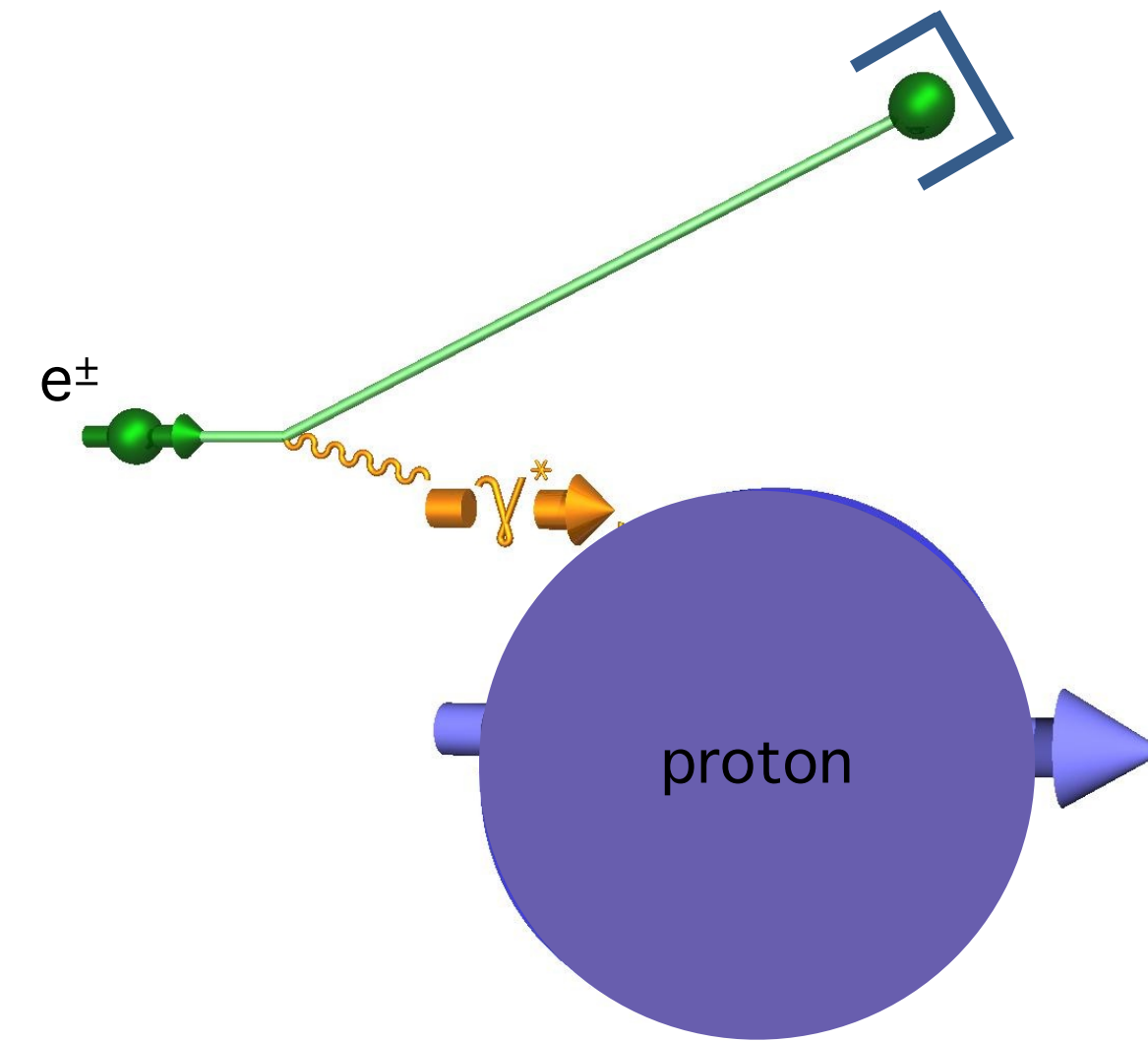
- longitudinally polarised proton
- longitudinally polarised e^\pm beam
- count...

0	2	4	6	8	1
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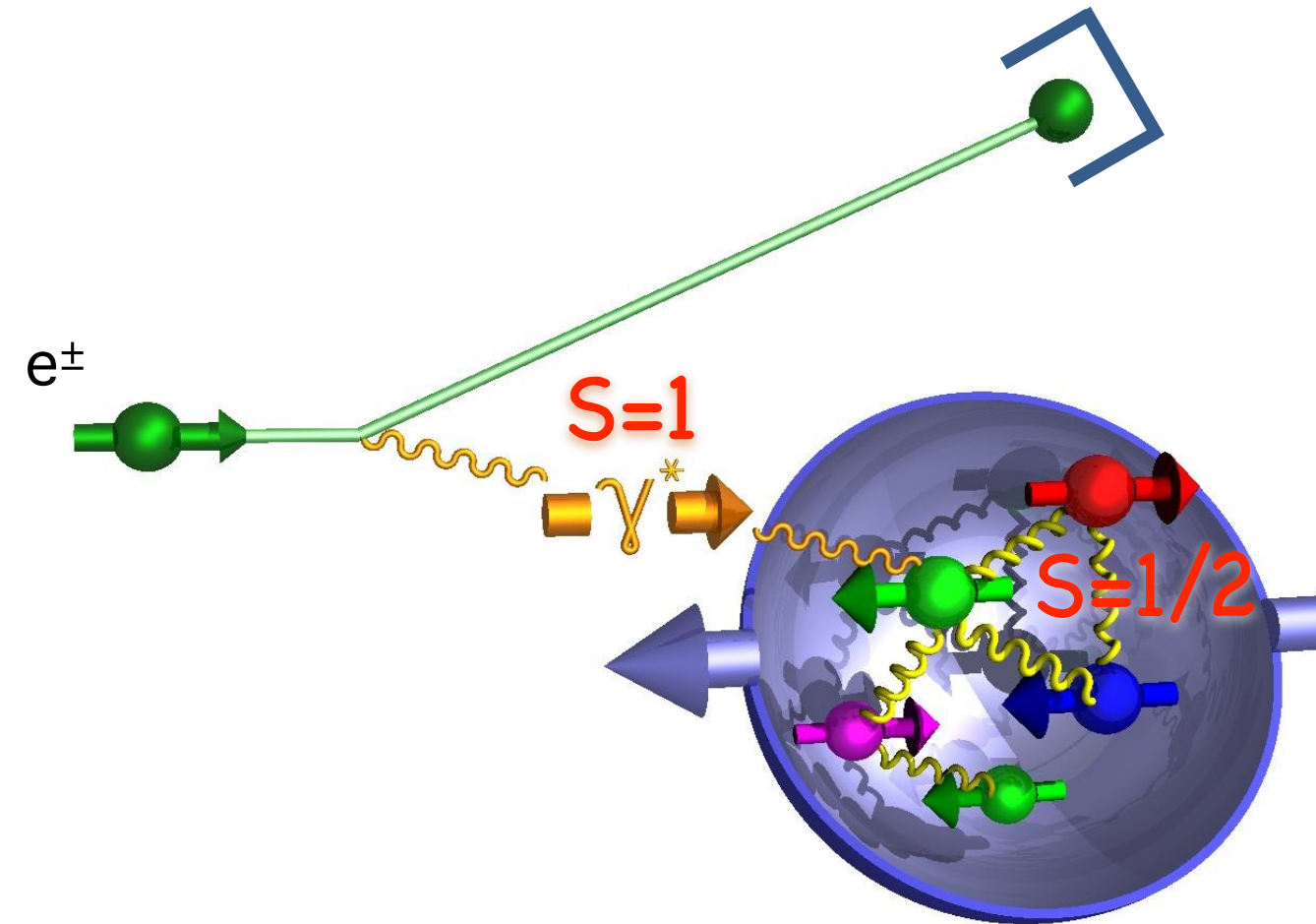


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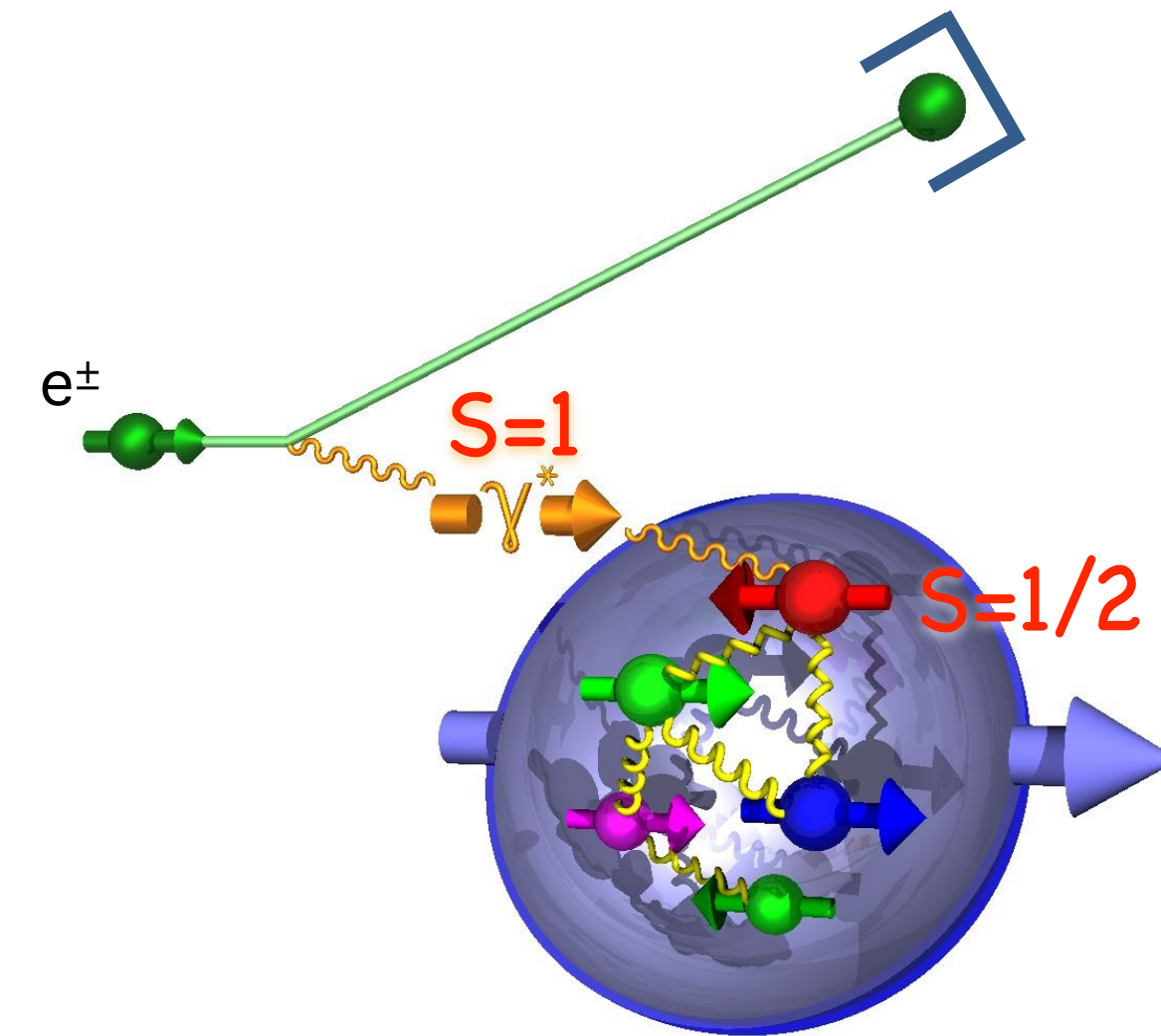


- flip proton spin and count... 02488

Helicity structure of the nucleon

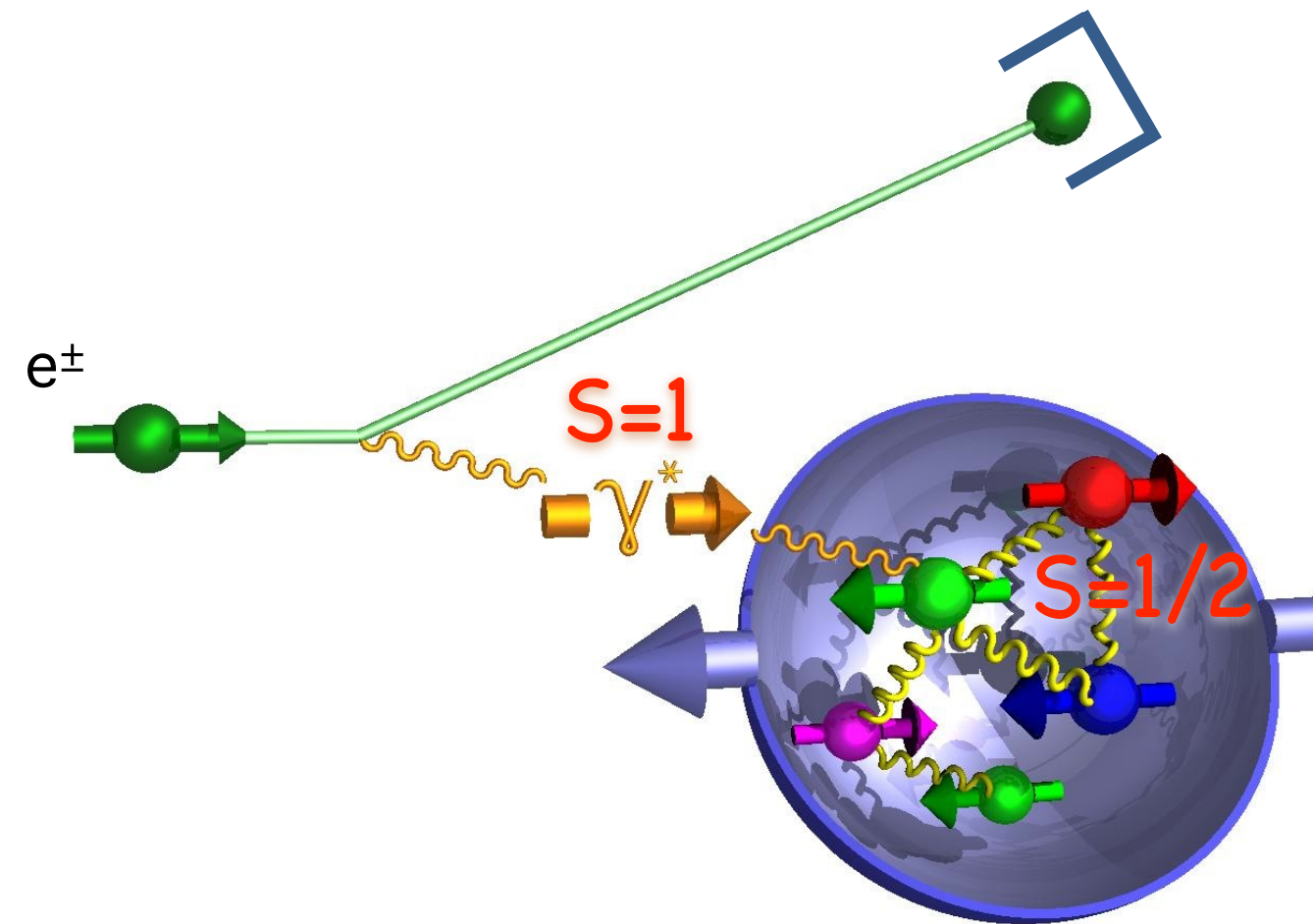


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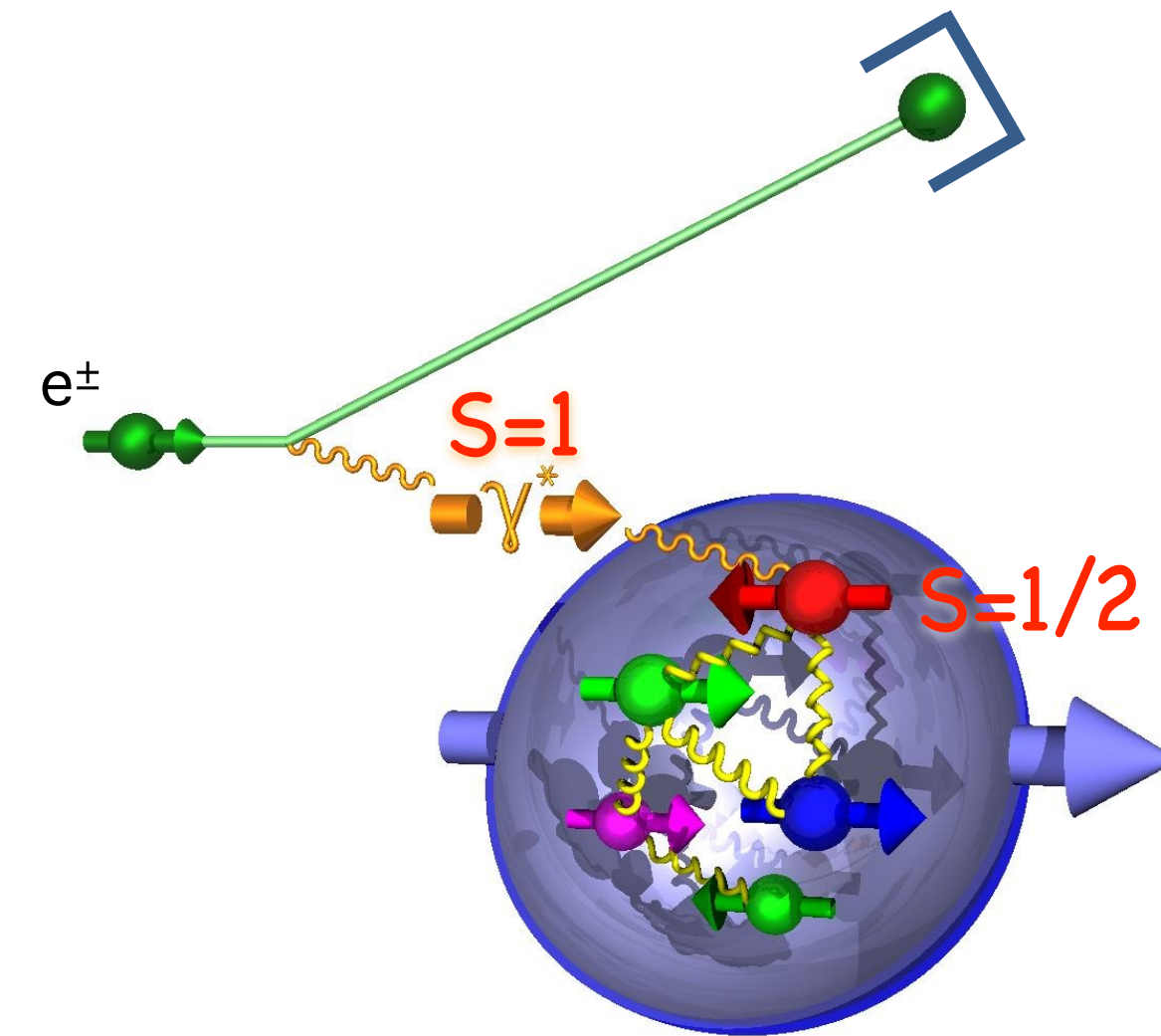
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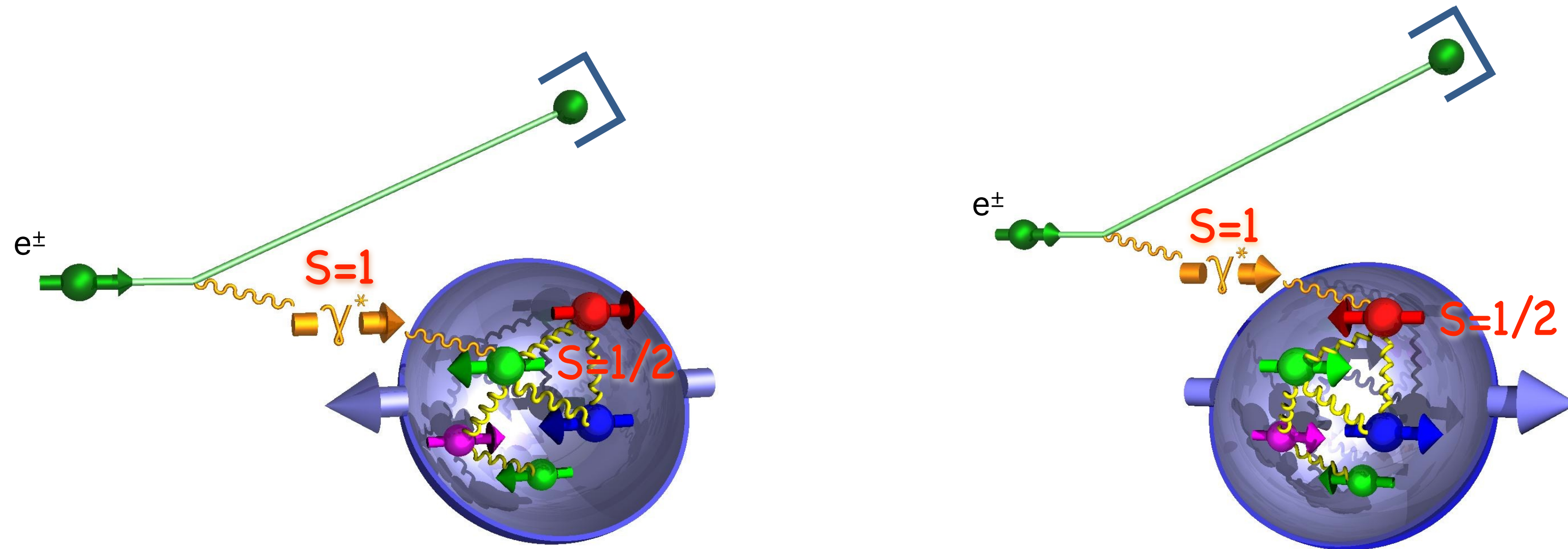
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$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \uparrow \rightarrow \\ \sigma \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \uparrow \rightarrow \\ \sigma \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \uparrow \rightarrow \\ \sigma \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \uparrow \rightarrow \\ \sigma \end{array}}$$



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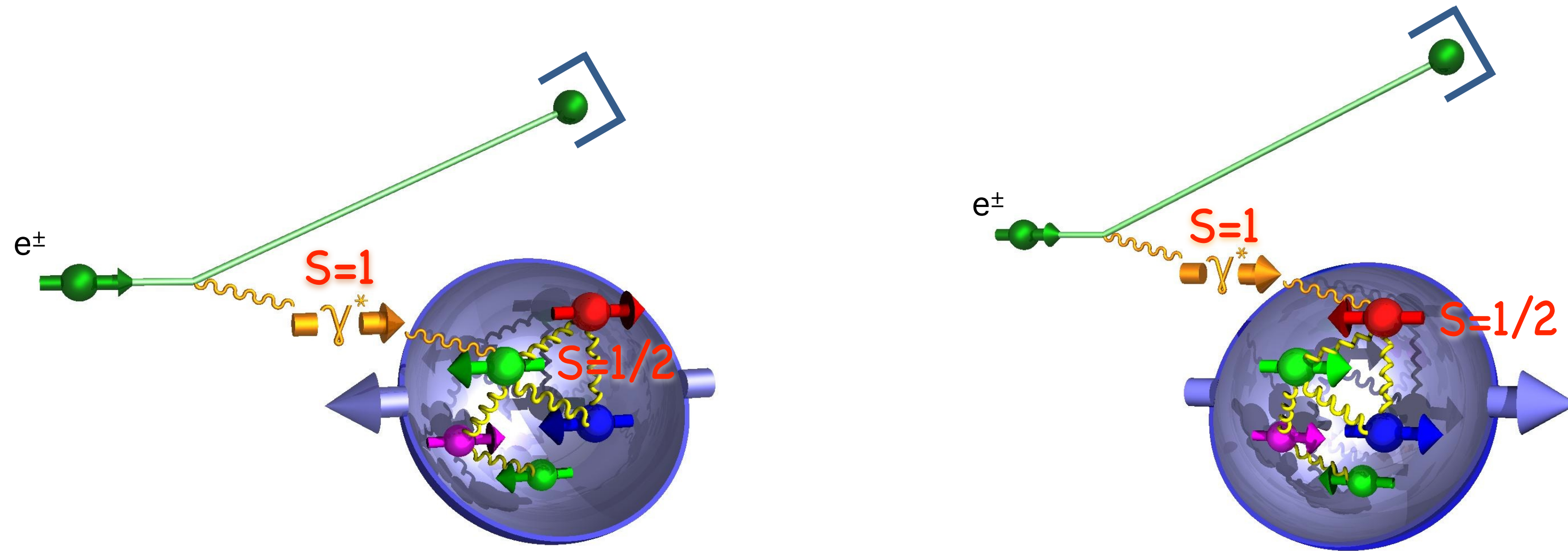
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$$\frac{\frac{\overleftrightarrow{\sigma} - \overleftarrow{\sigma}}{\overleftrightarrow{\sigma} + \overleftarrow{\sigma}}}{\frac{\overleftrightarrow{\sigma} - \overleftarrow{\sigma}}{\overleftrightarrow{\sigma} + \overleftarrow{\sigma}}} \propto g_1(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_q e_q^2 \left(\overrightarrow{\vec{q}}(x) - \overleftarrow{\vec{q}}(x) \right)$$

\downarrow
 parton fractional longitudinal
 momentum: x_B

Helicity structure of the nucleon

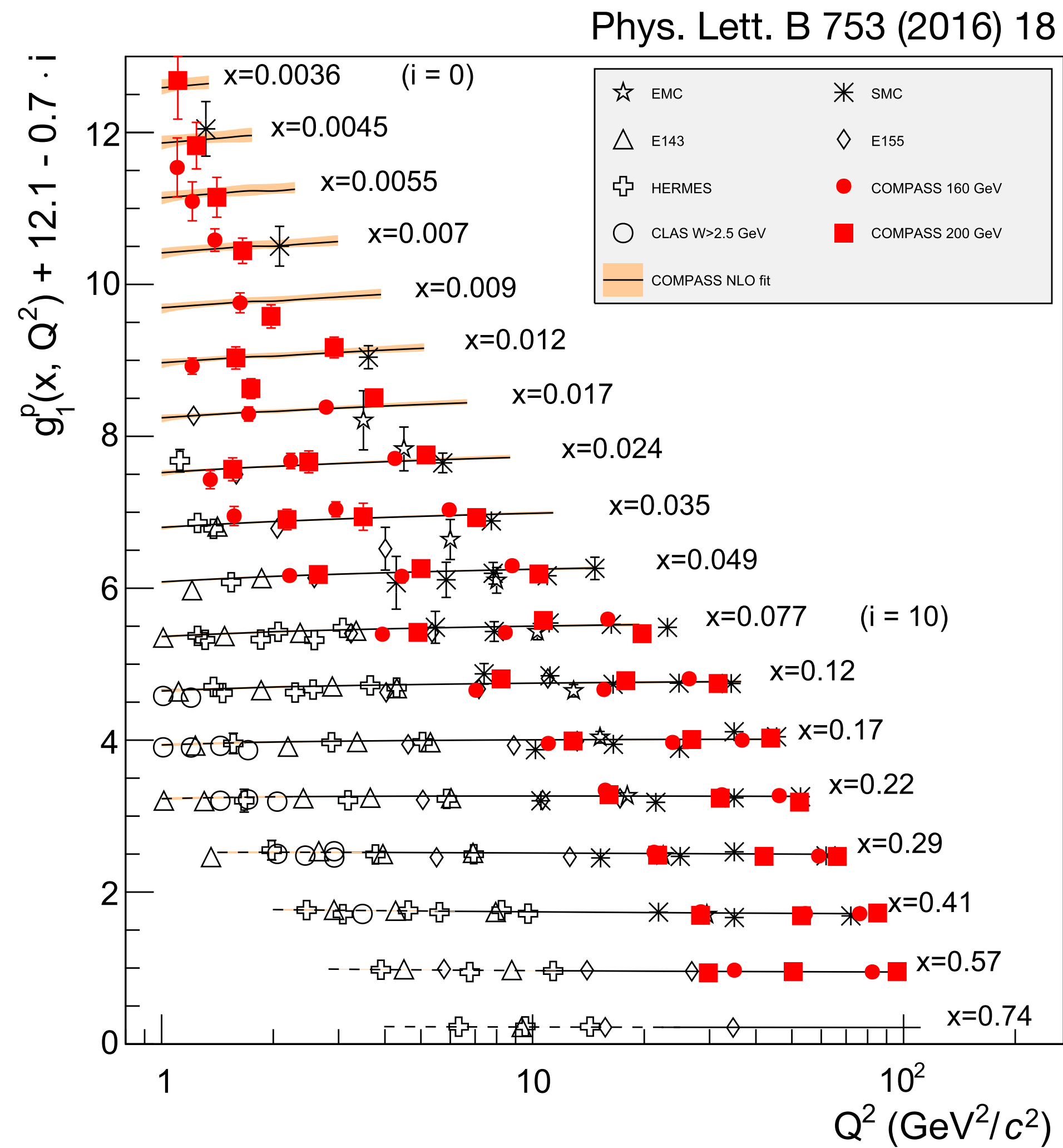


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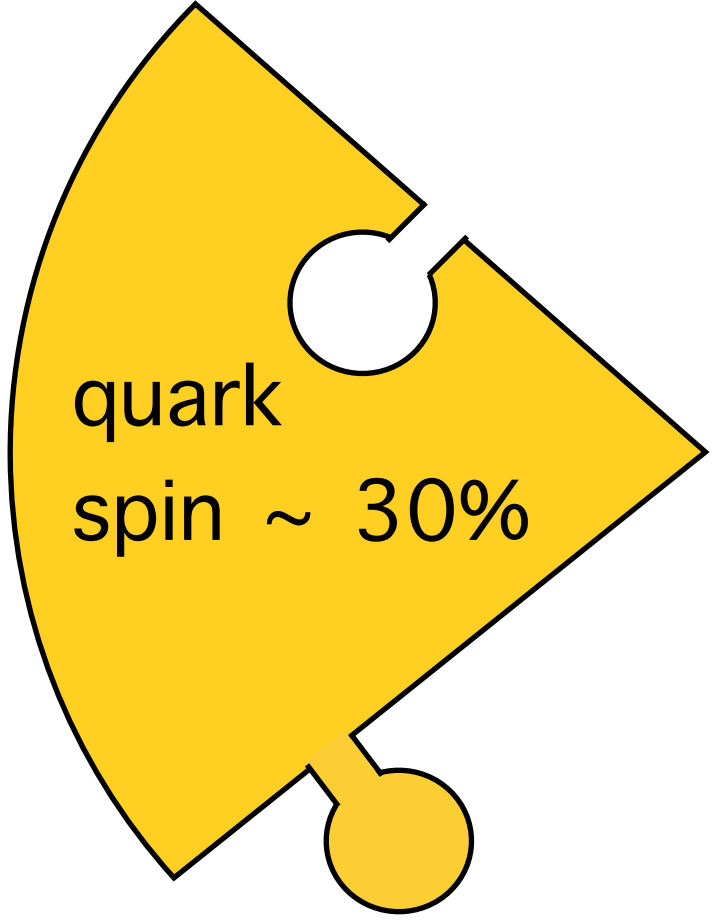
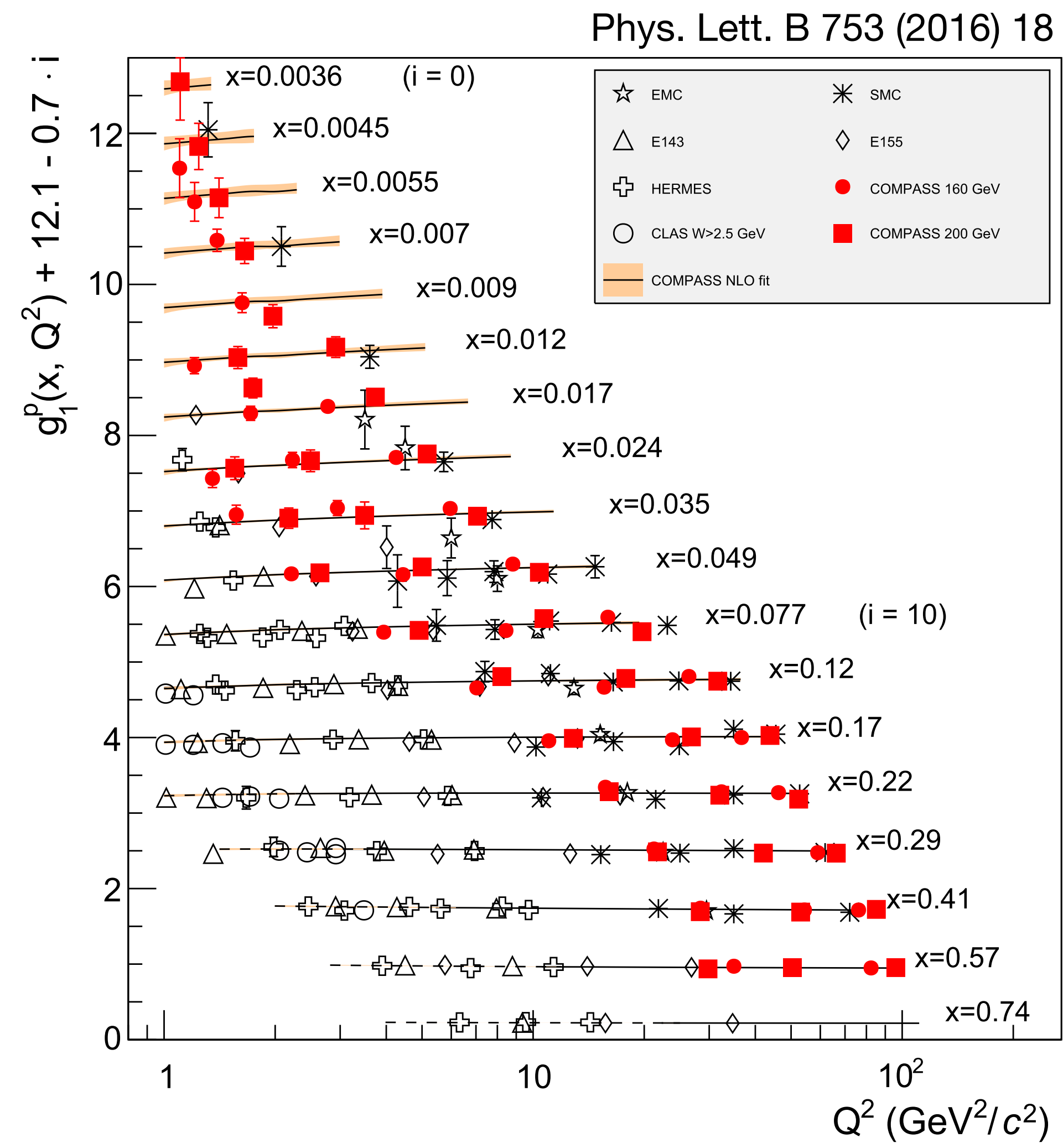
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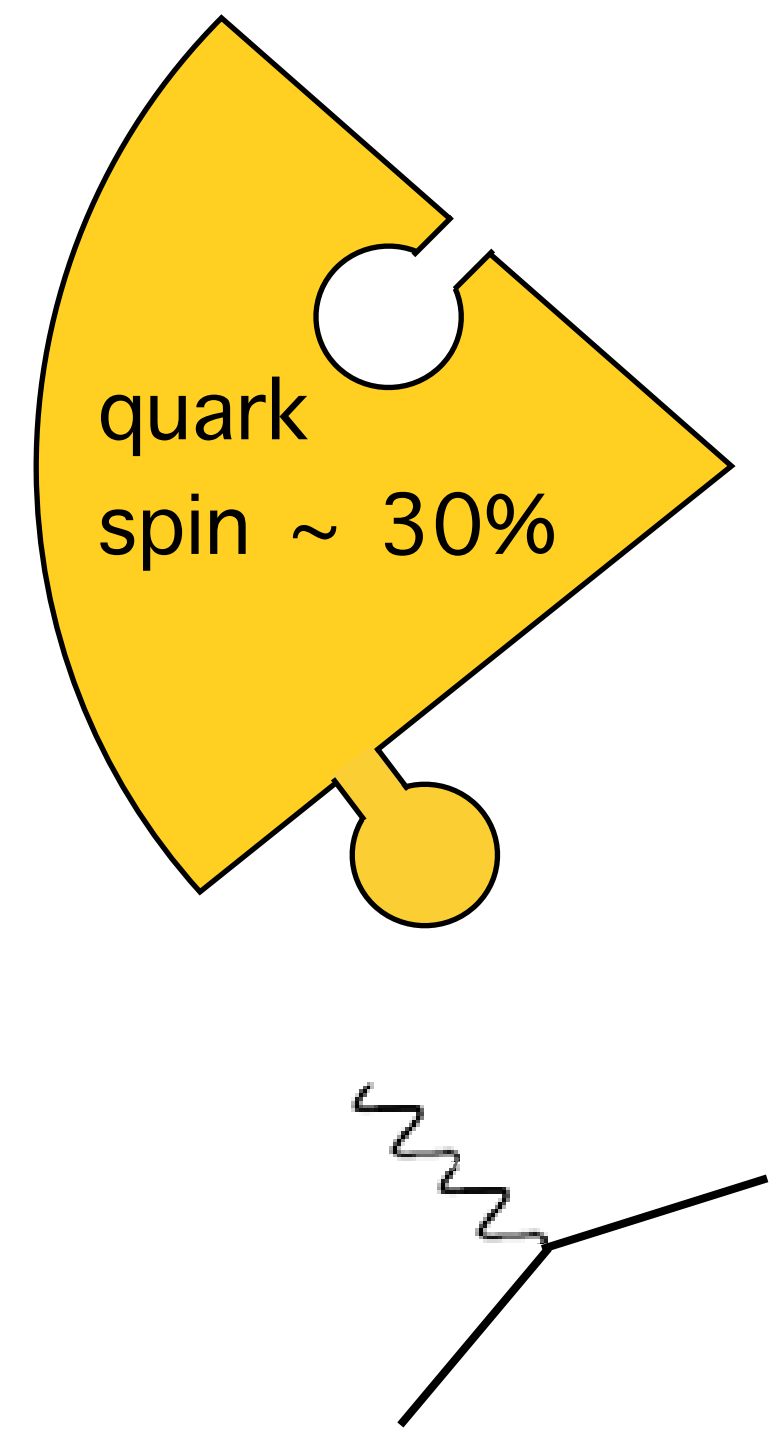
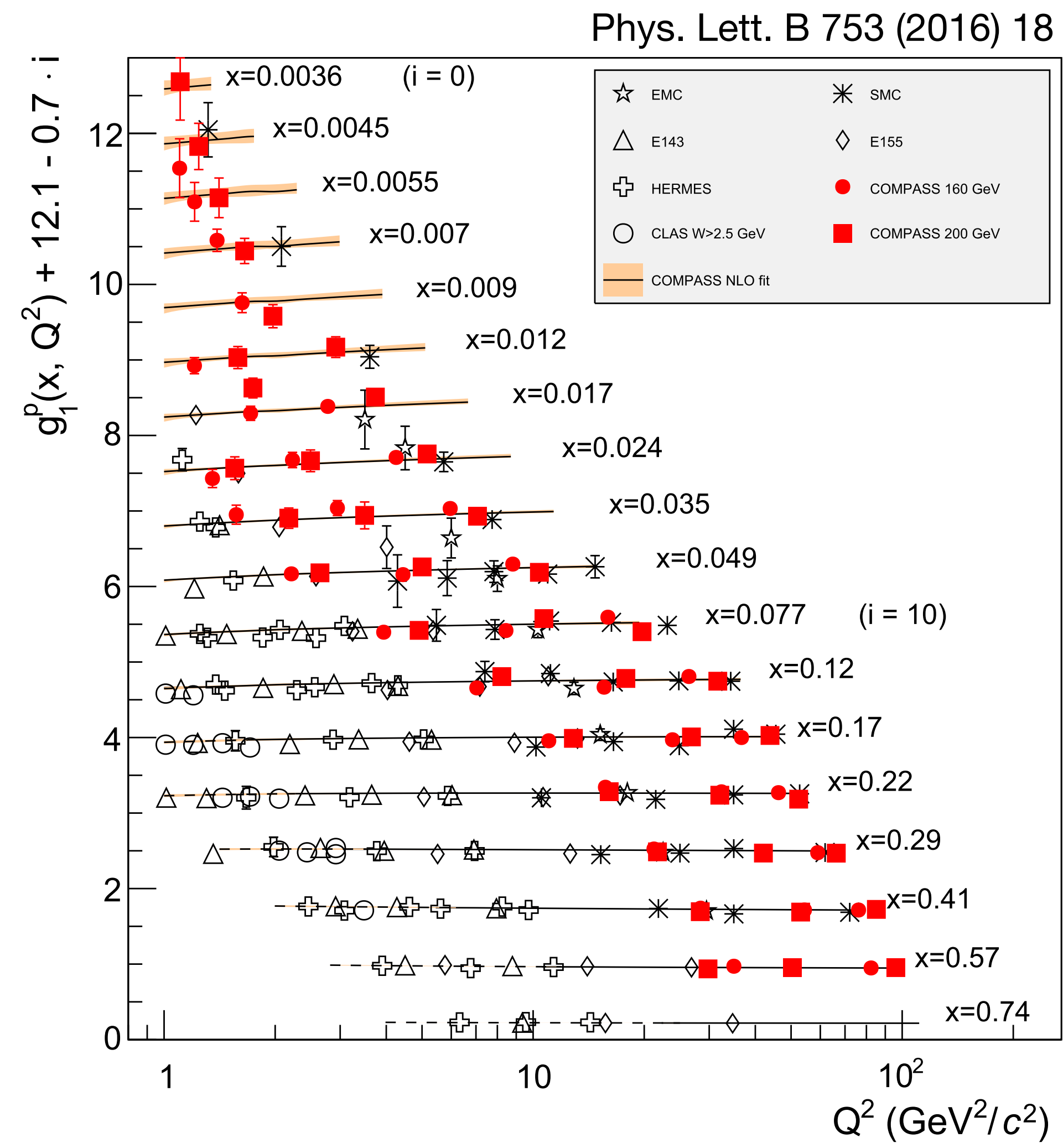
Helicity structure of the nucleon: existing measurements



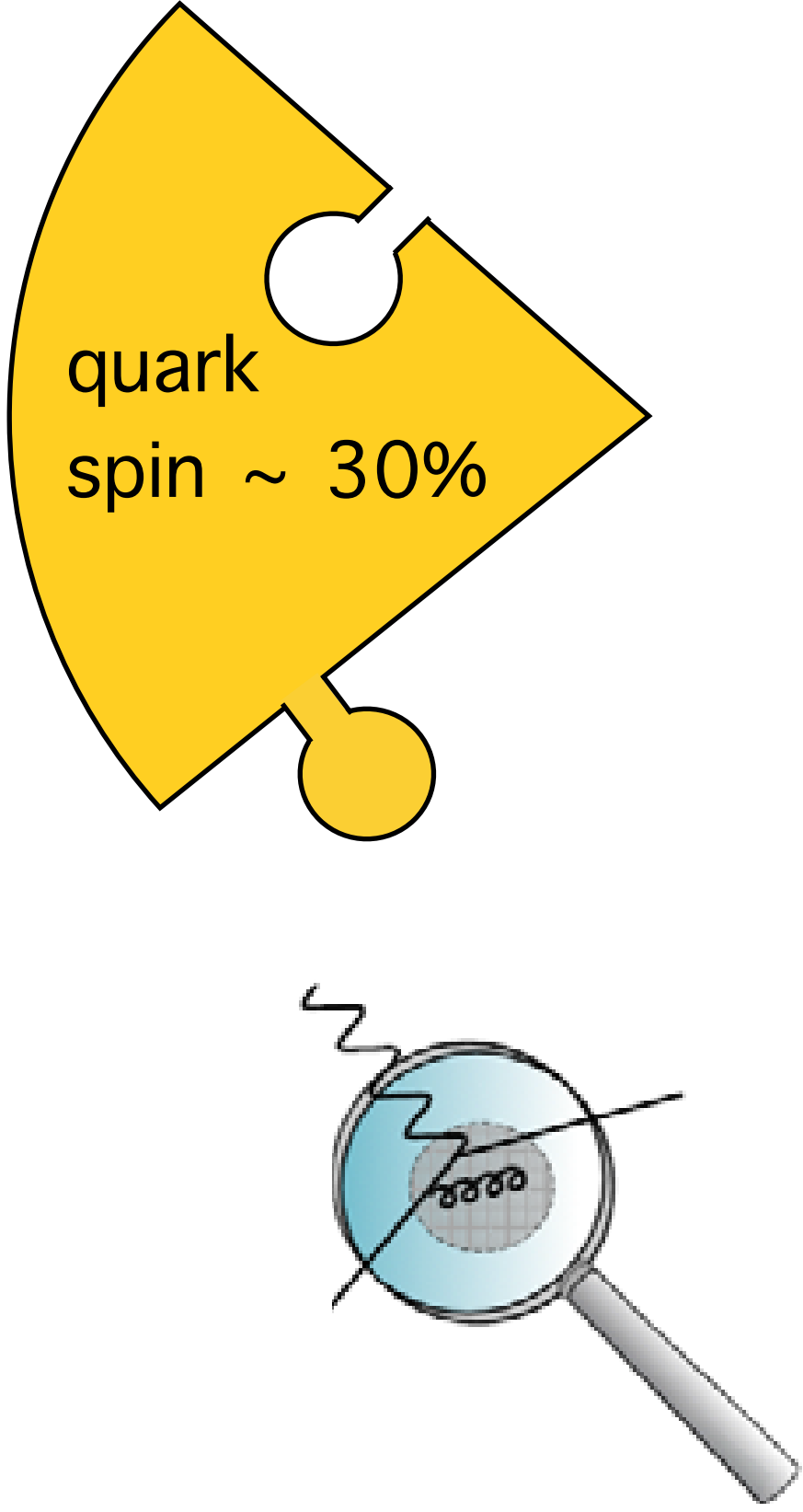
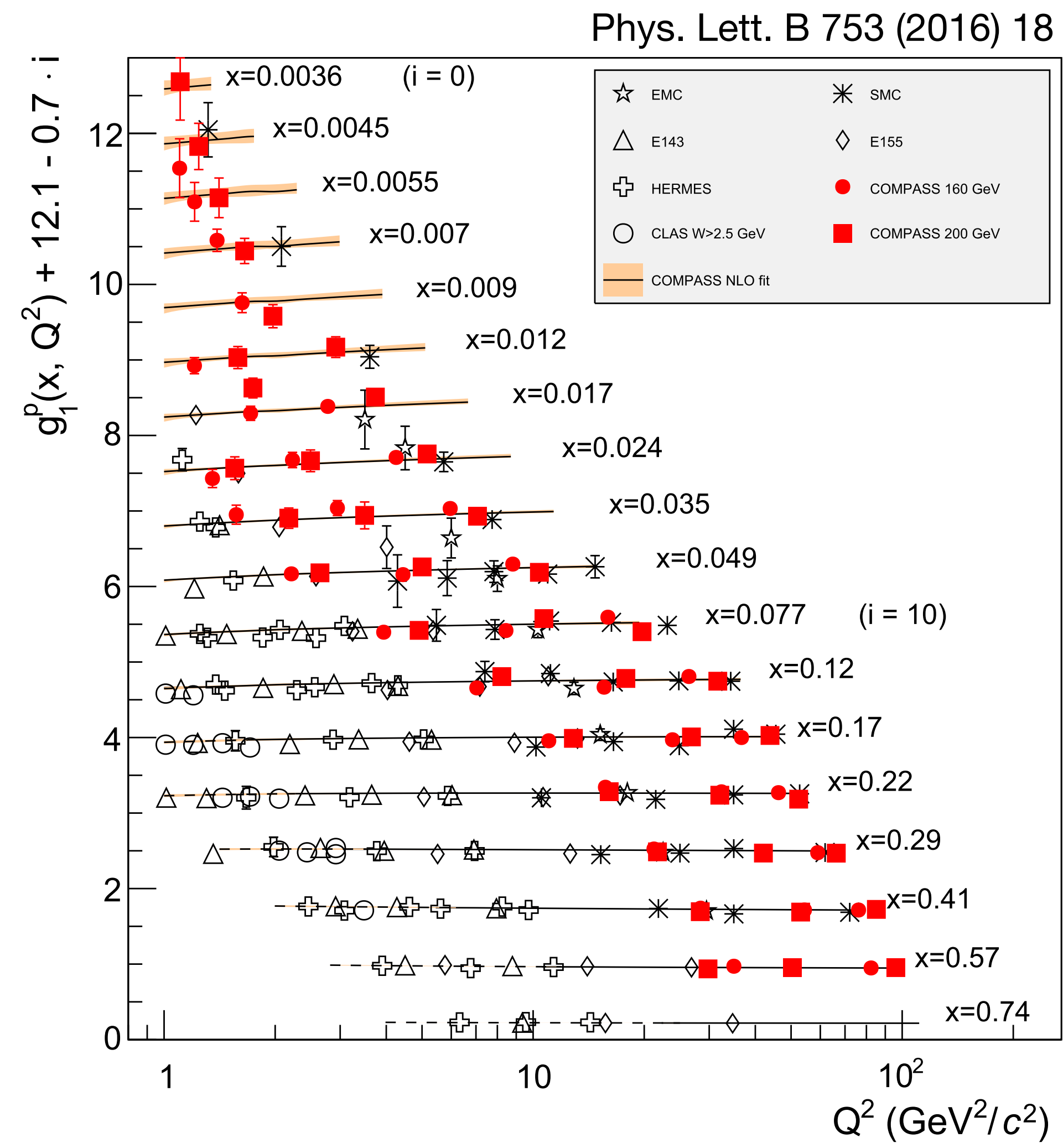
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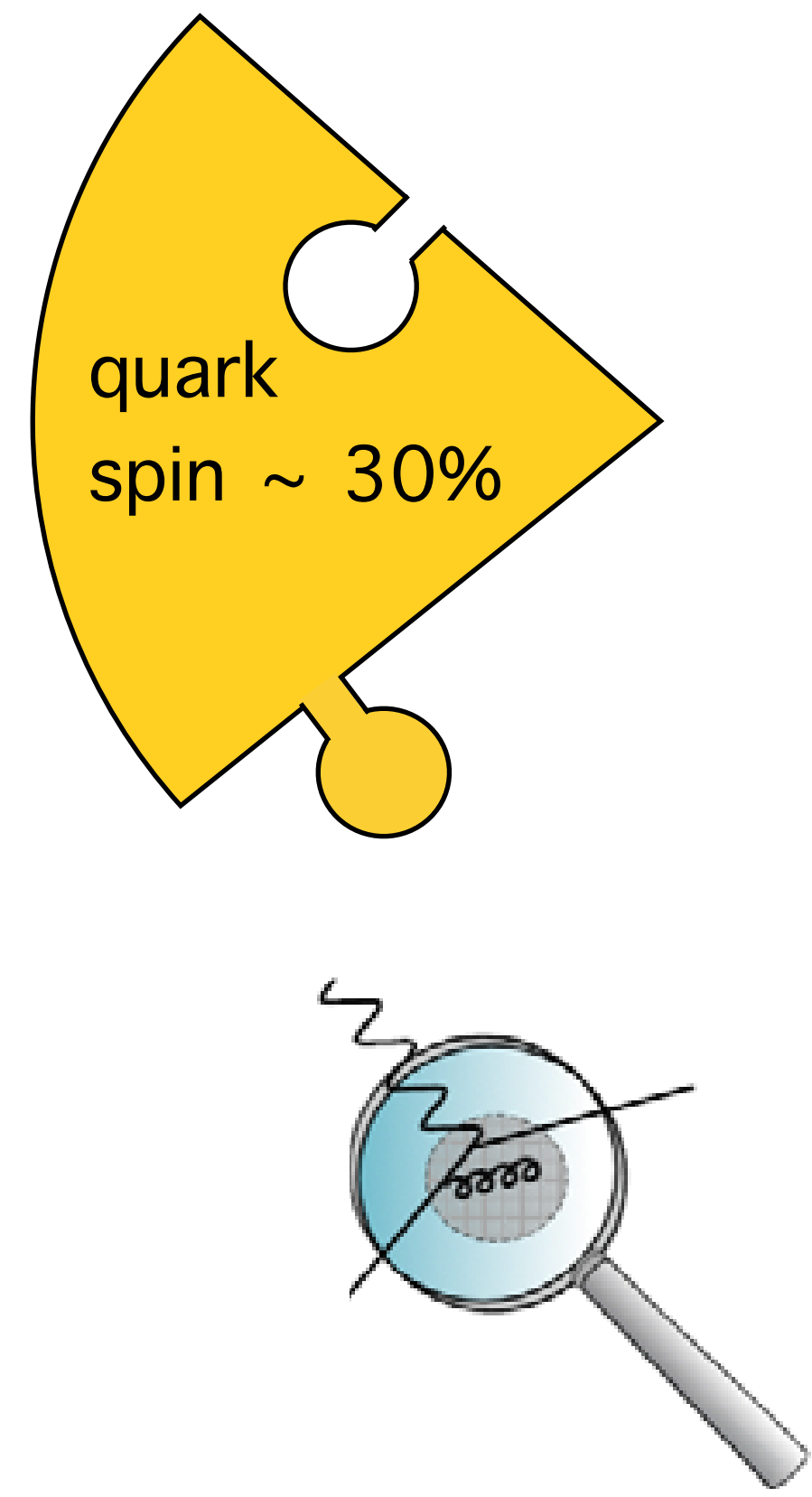
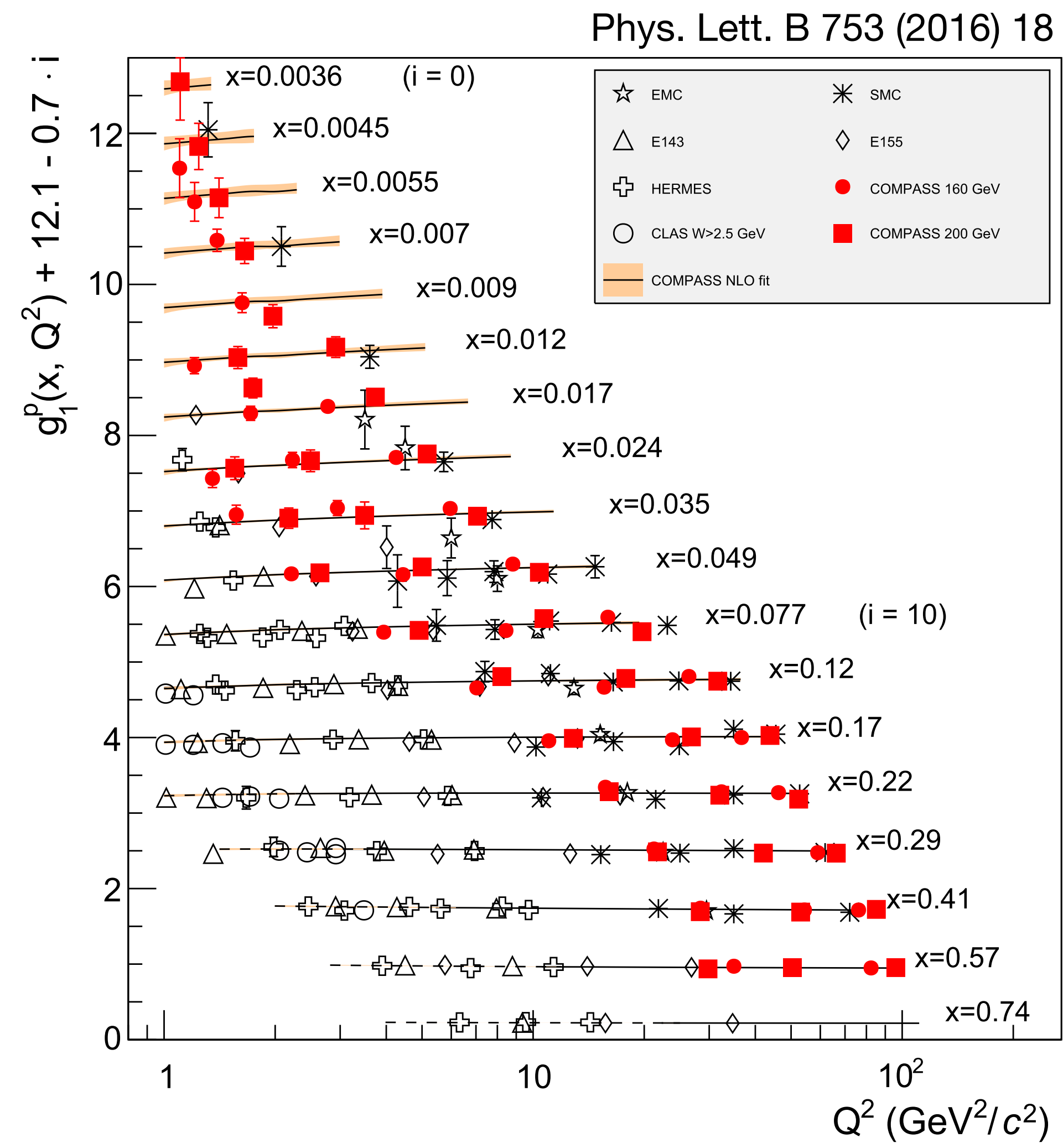
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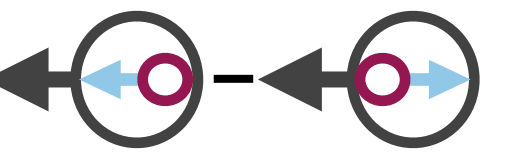
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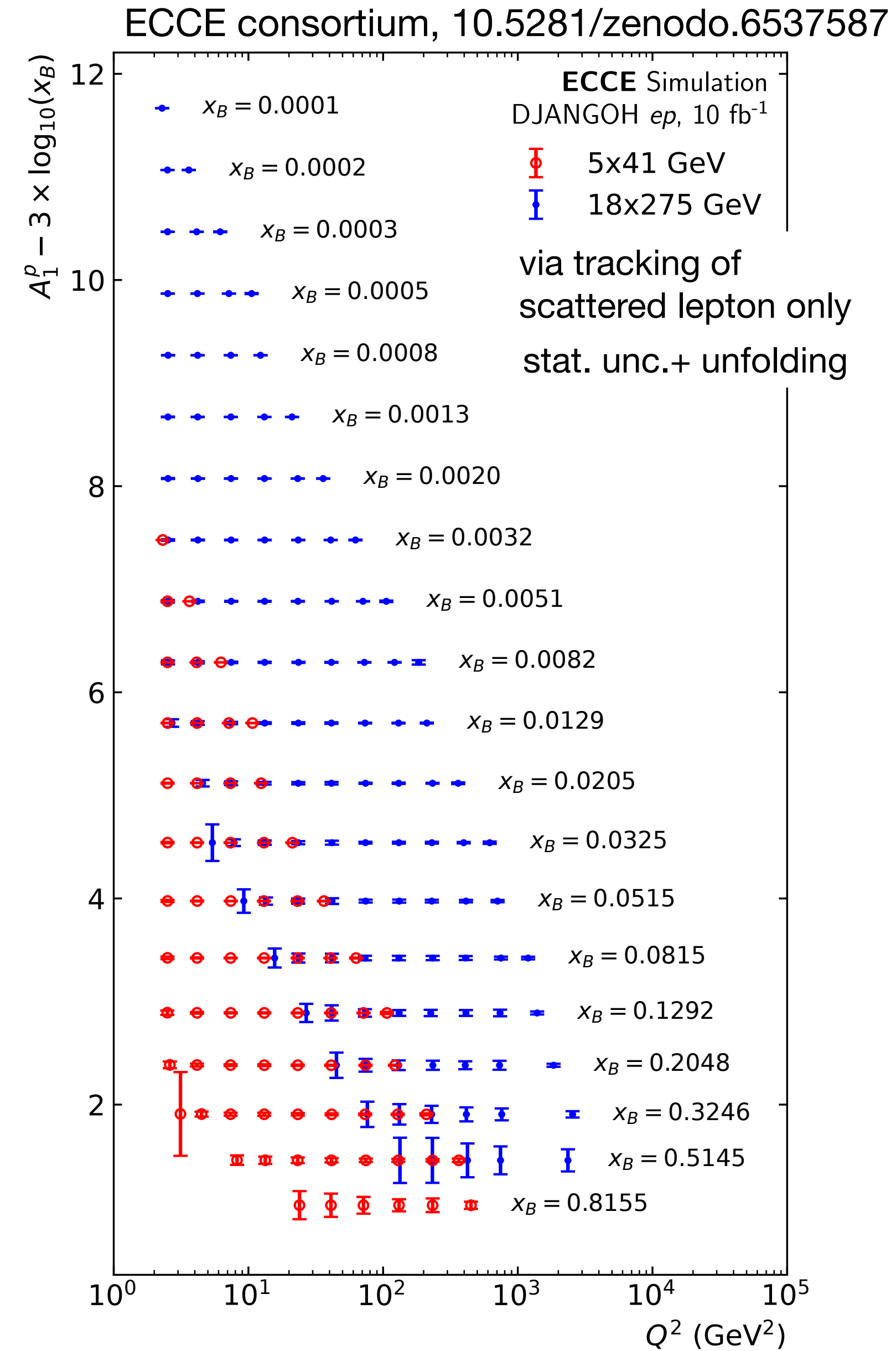
quark
spin ~ 30%

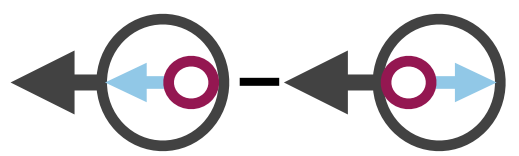
$$\frac{dg_1(x, Q^2)}{d \ln Q^2} \propto -\Delta g(x, Q^2)$$

→ gluon spin

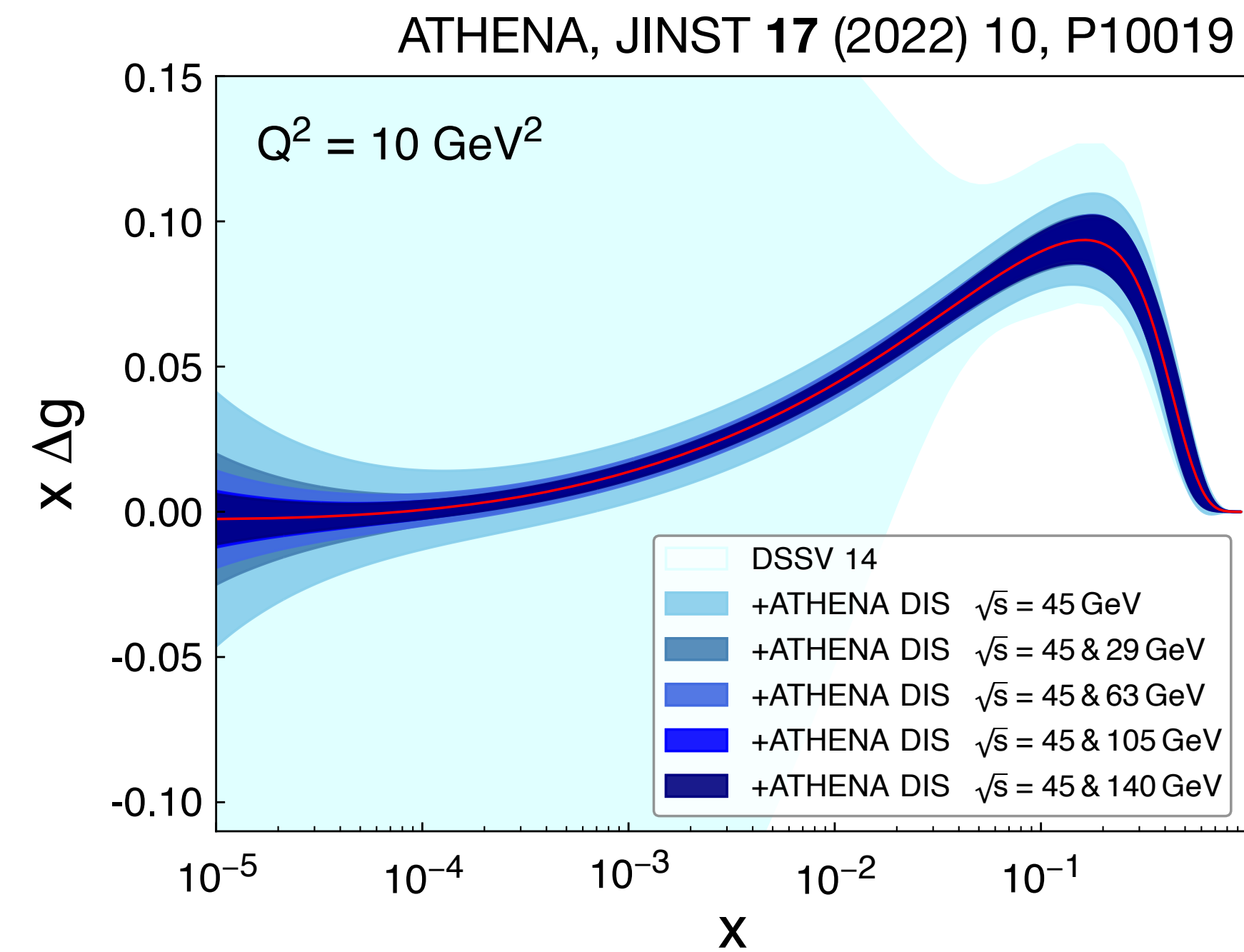
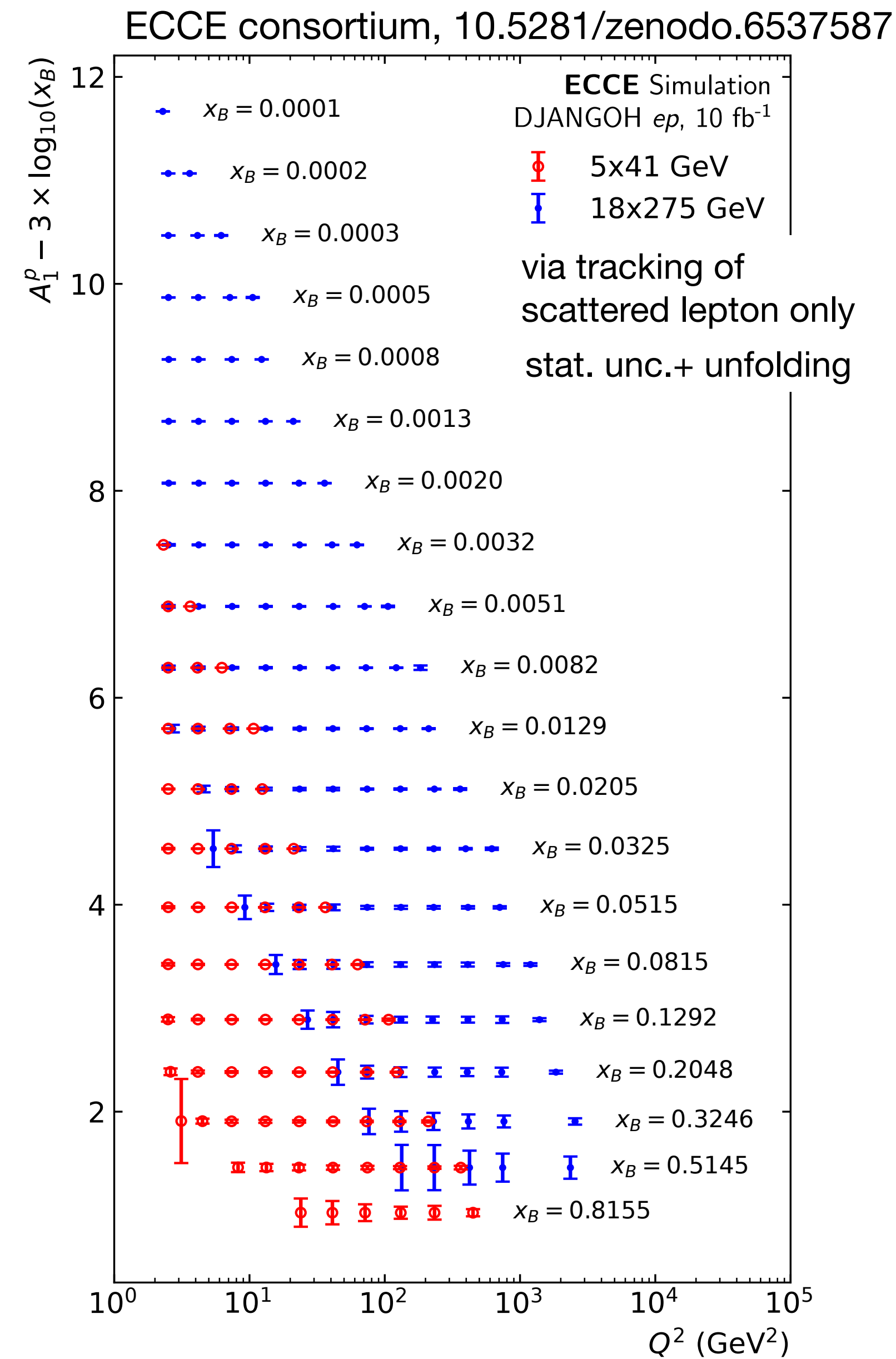


Gluon helicity distribution at the EIC





Gluon helicity distribution at the EIC

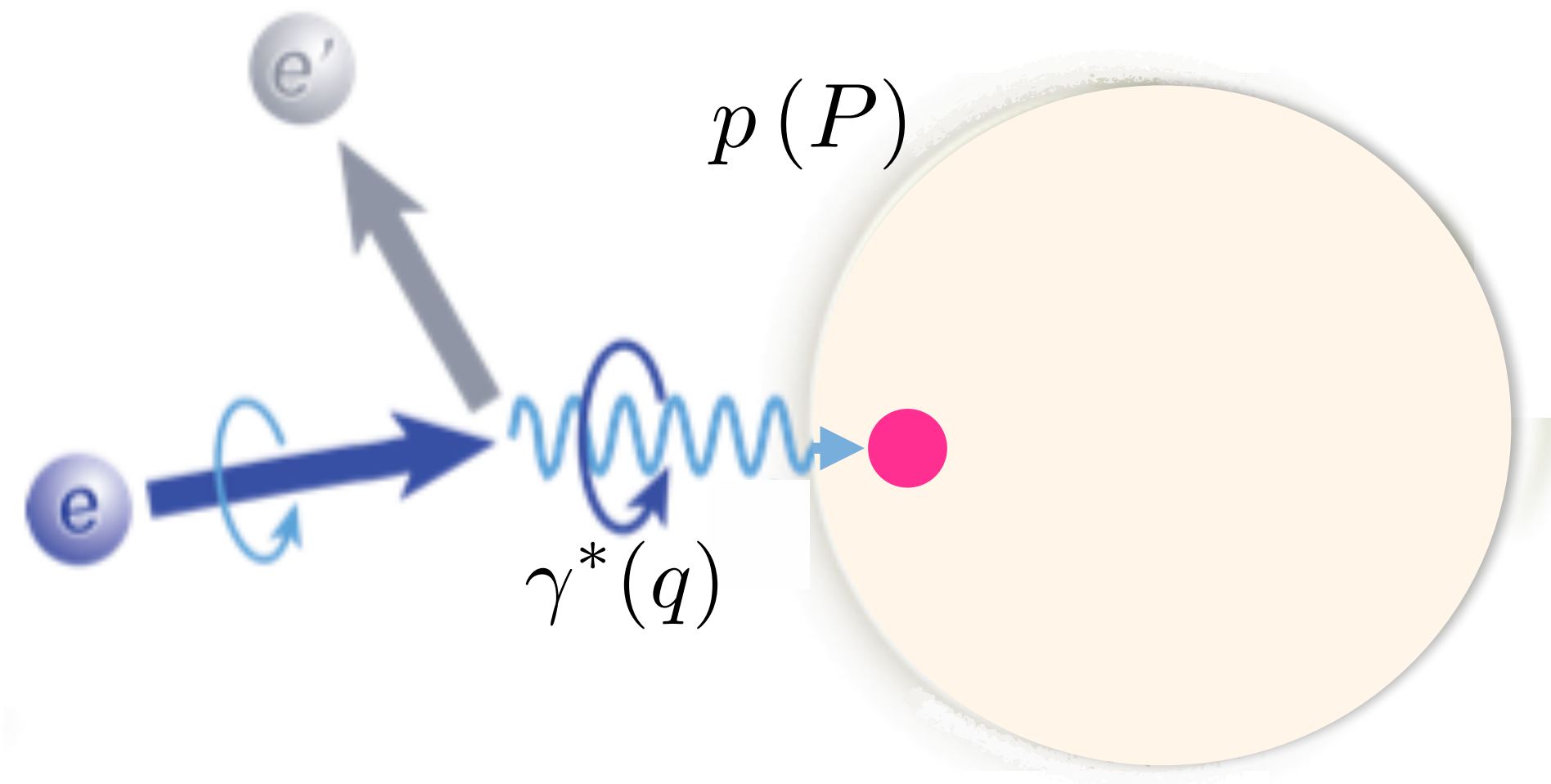


scaling violation from $g_1(x, Q^2)$

Single-hadron production in semi-inclusive DIS

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

$$x_B = \frac{Q^2}{2P \cdot q}$$



Highly virtual photon:

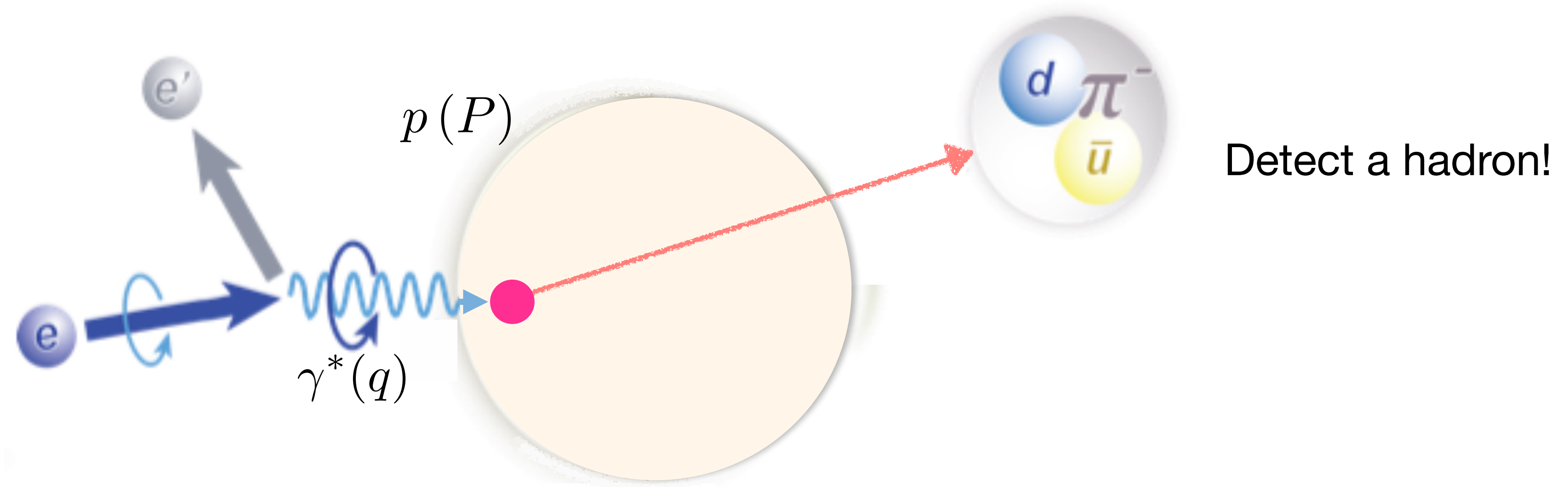
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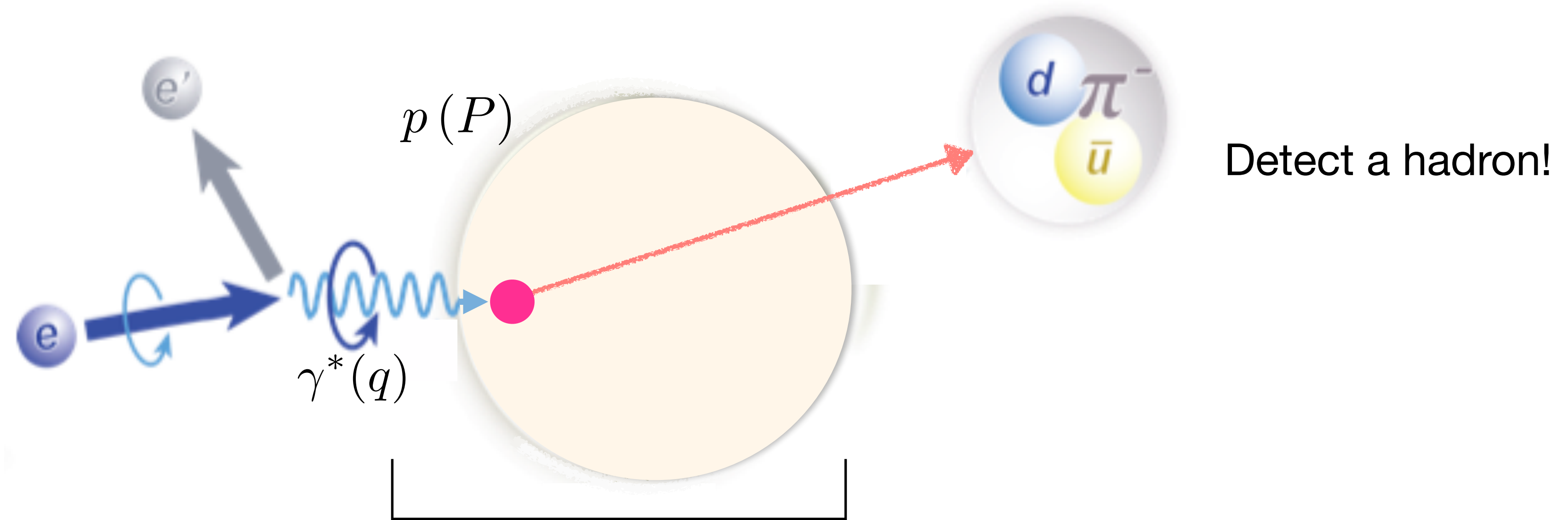
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parton distribution function $PDF(x_B)$

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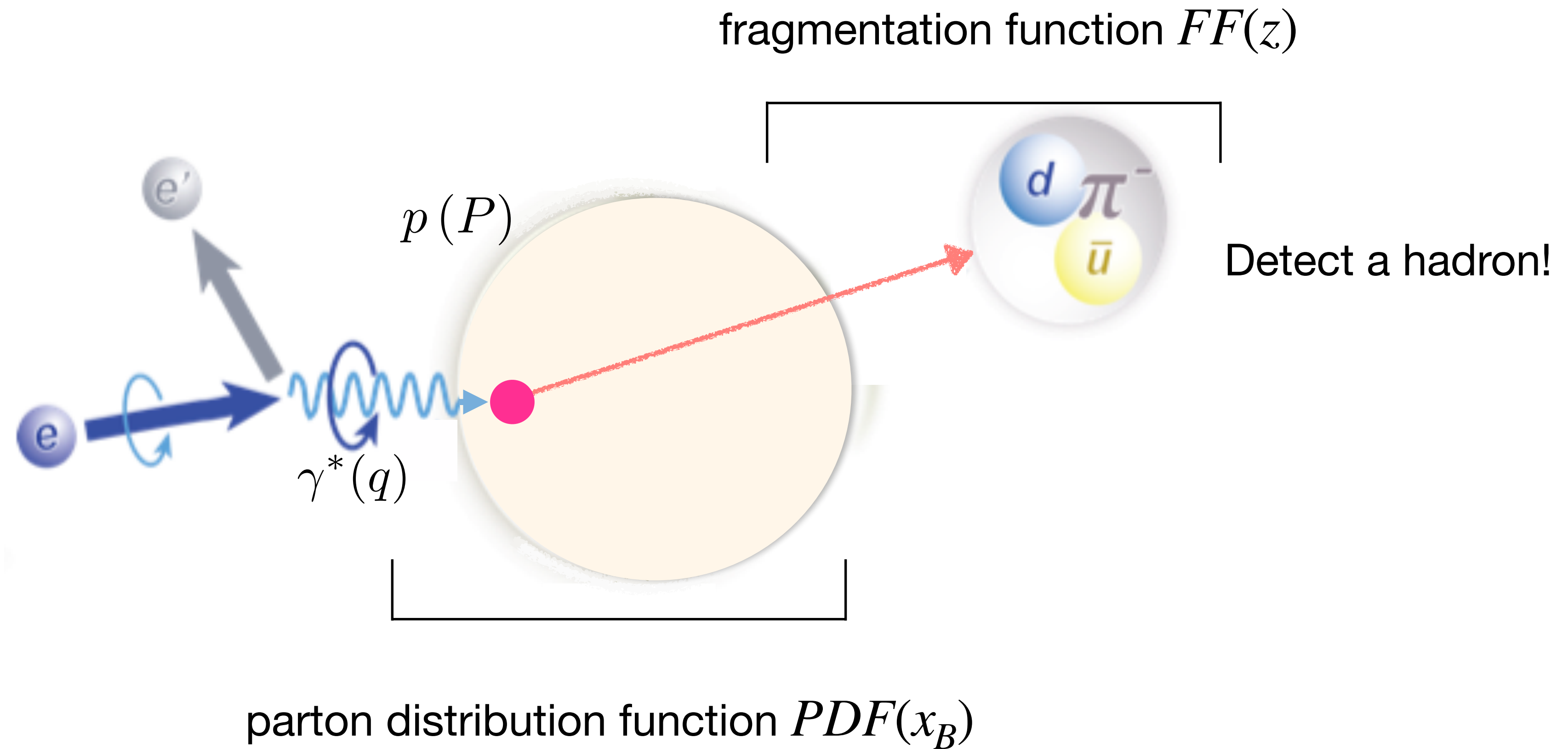
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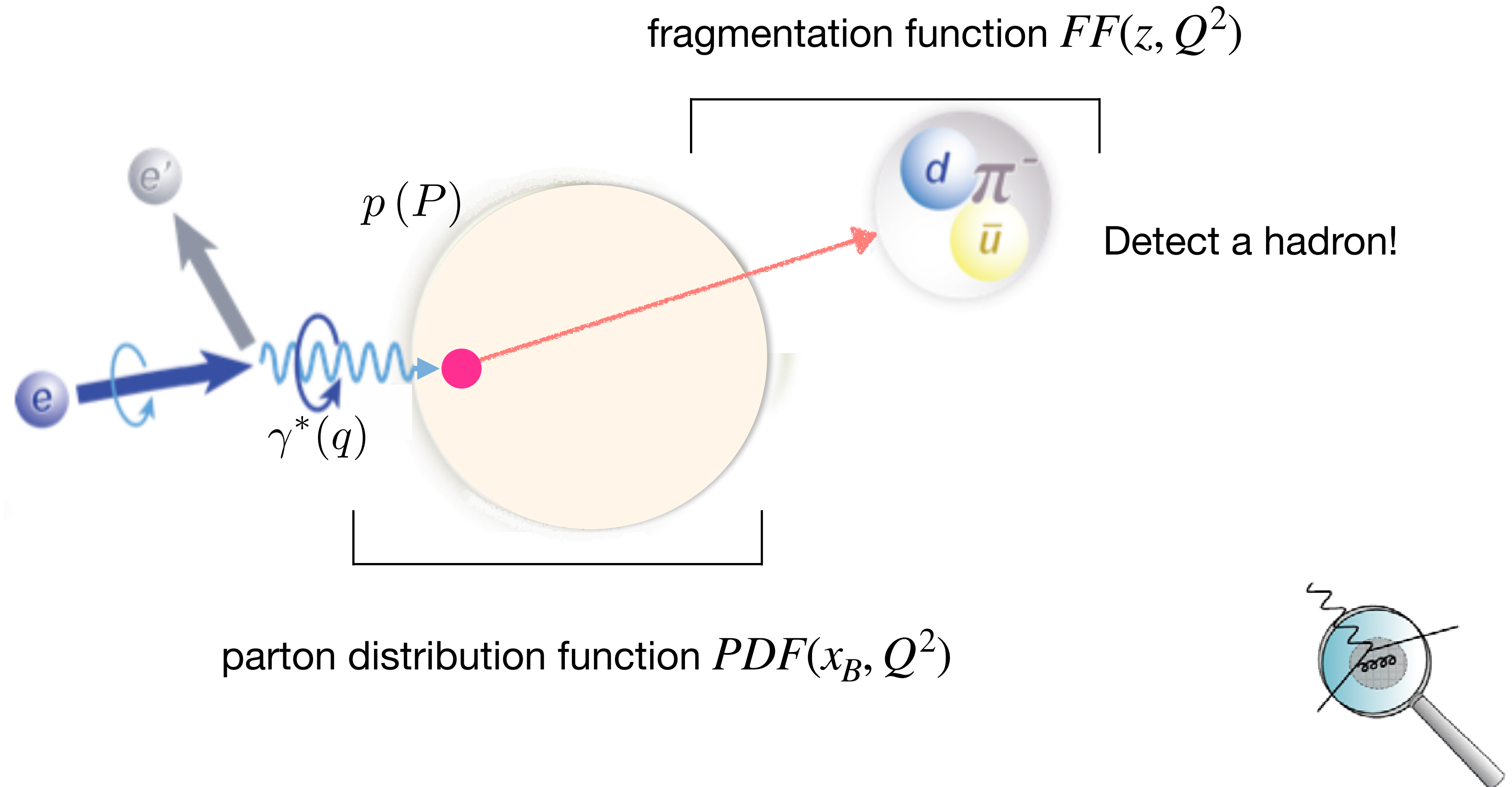
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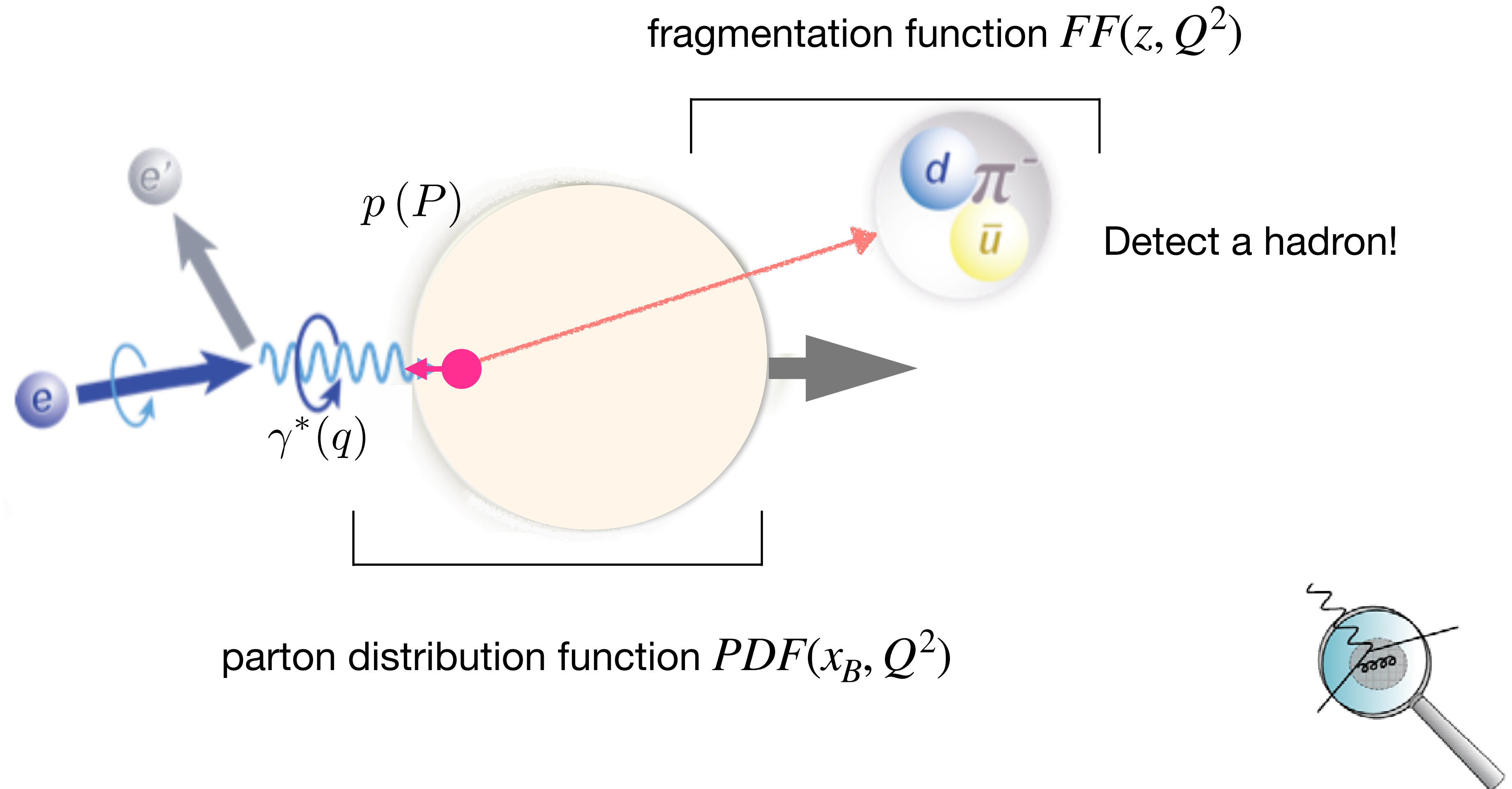
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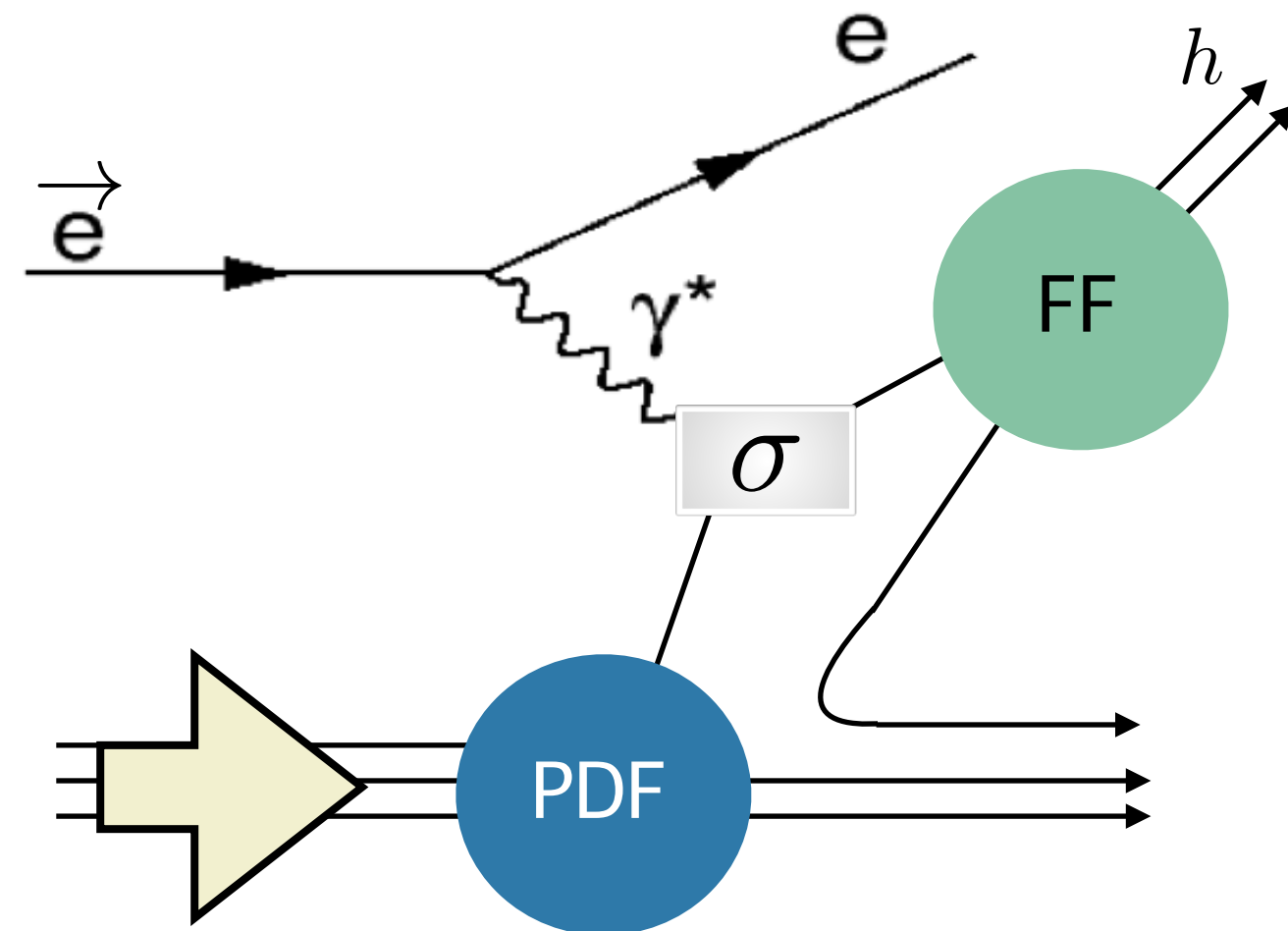
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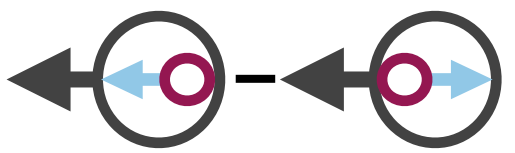


Sea-quark helicity distributions

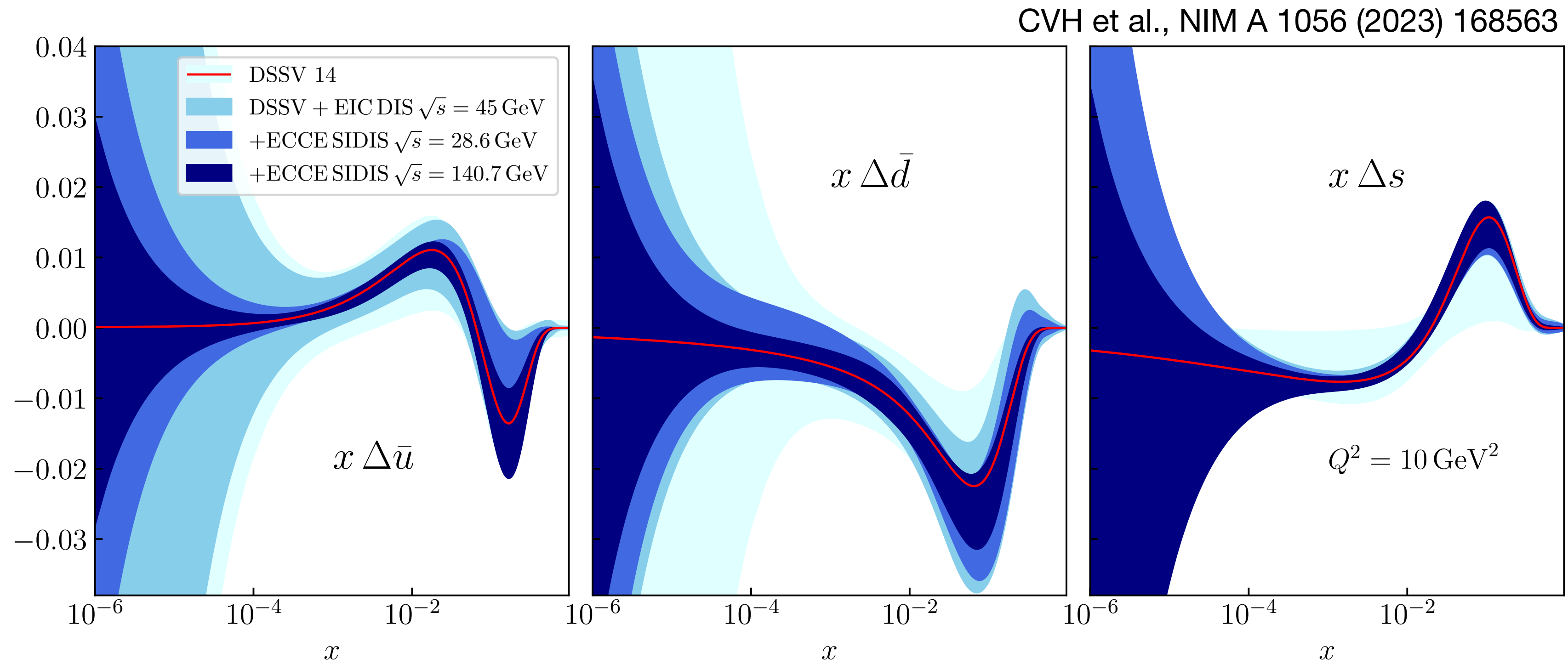


Semi-inclusive measurements
 → access to sea-quark spin

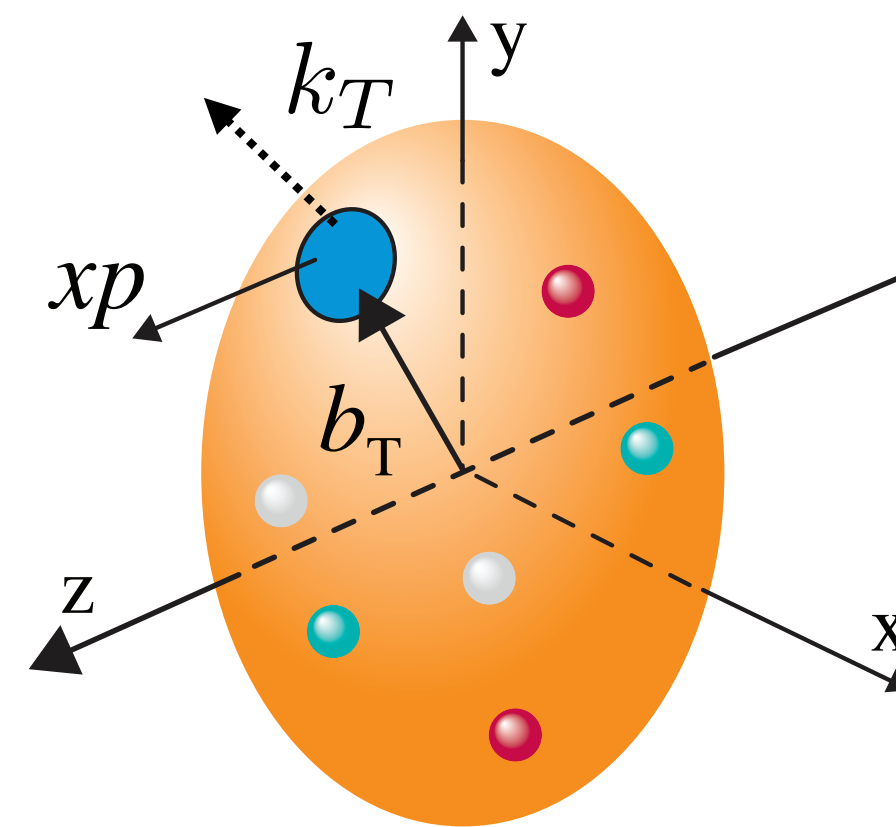
$$\frac{\overleftrightarrow{\sigma}^h - \overrightarrow{\sigma}^h}{\overleftrightarrow{\sigma}^h + \overrightarrow{\sigma}^h} \propto \sum_q e_q^2 \left[\Delta q \otimes w_1 D_1^{q \rightarrow h} \right]$$



Sea-quark helicity distributions at the EIC

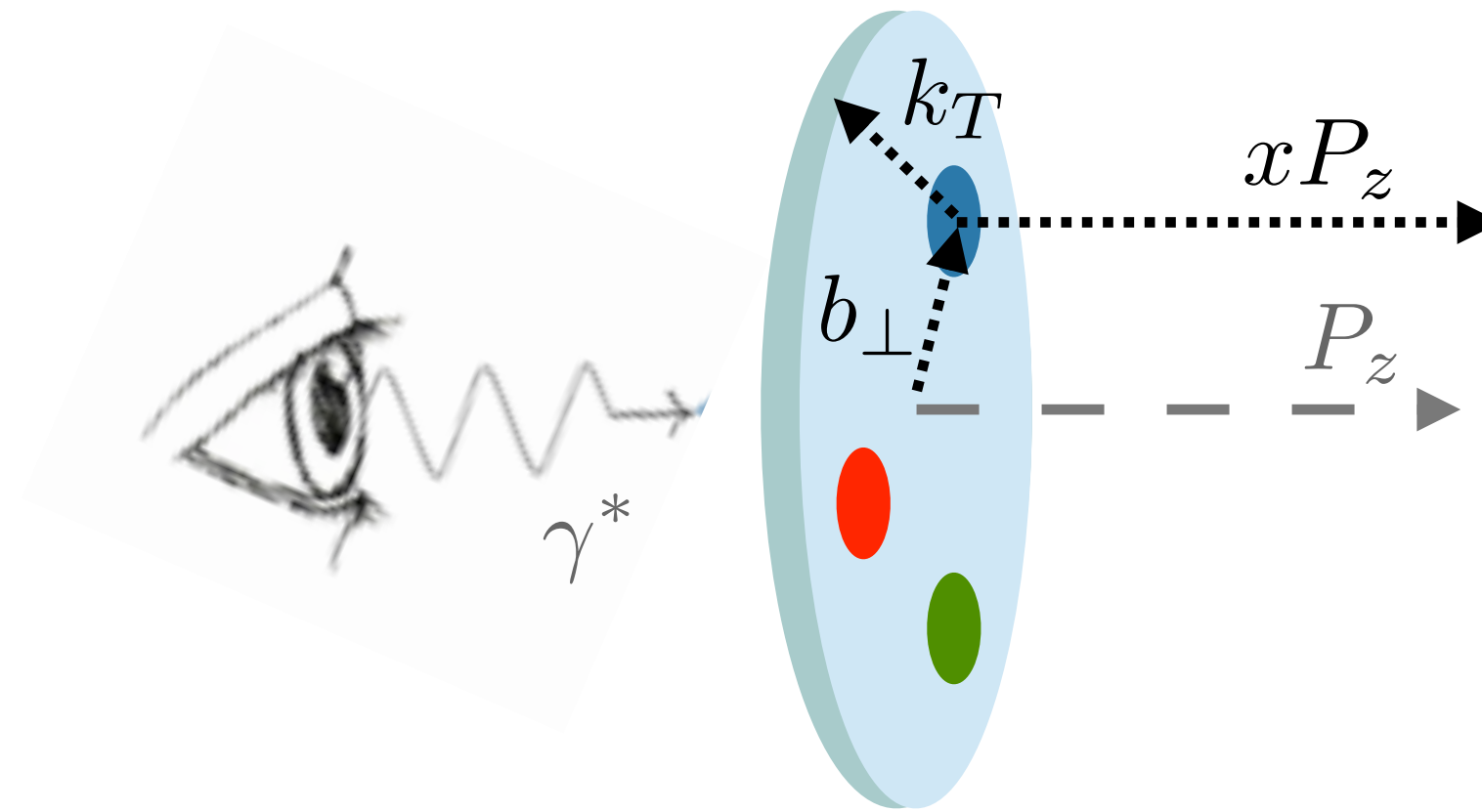


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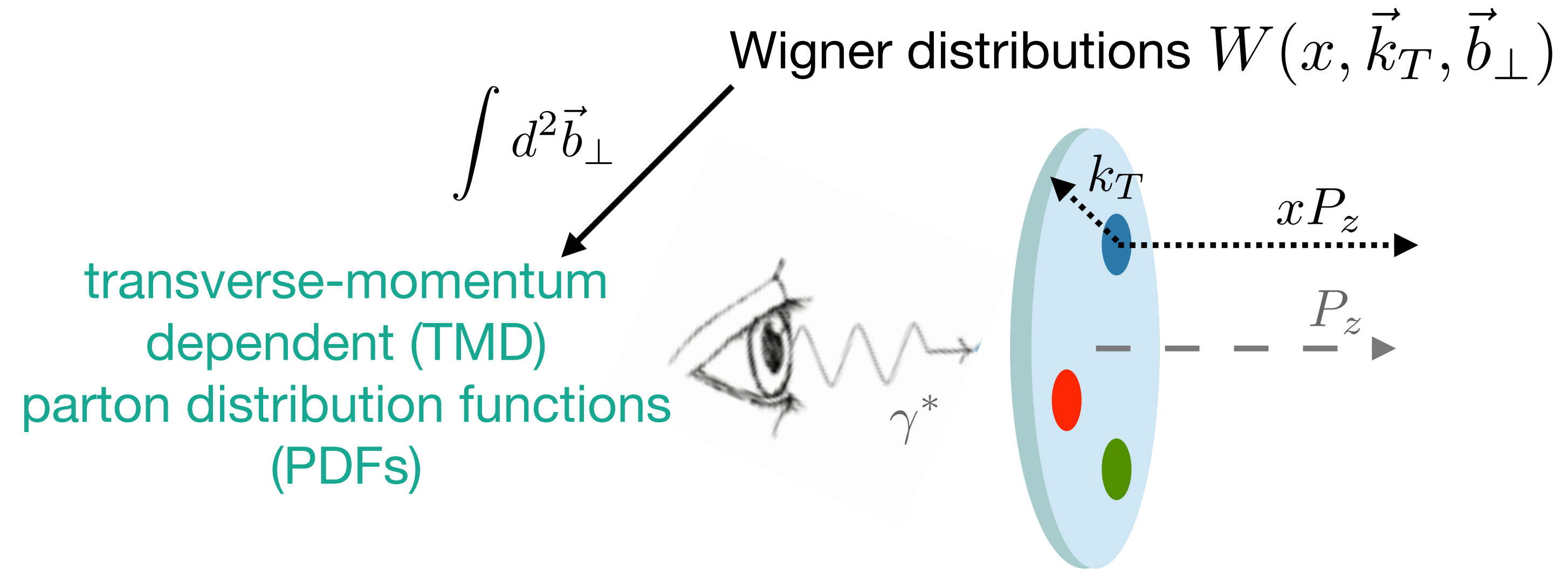


The nucleon multi-dimensional structure

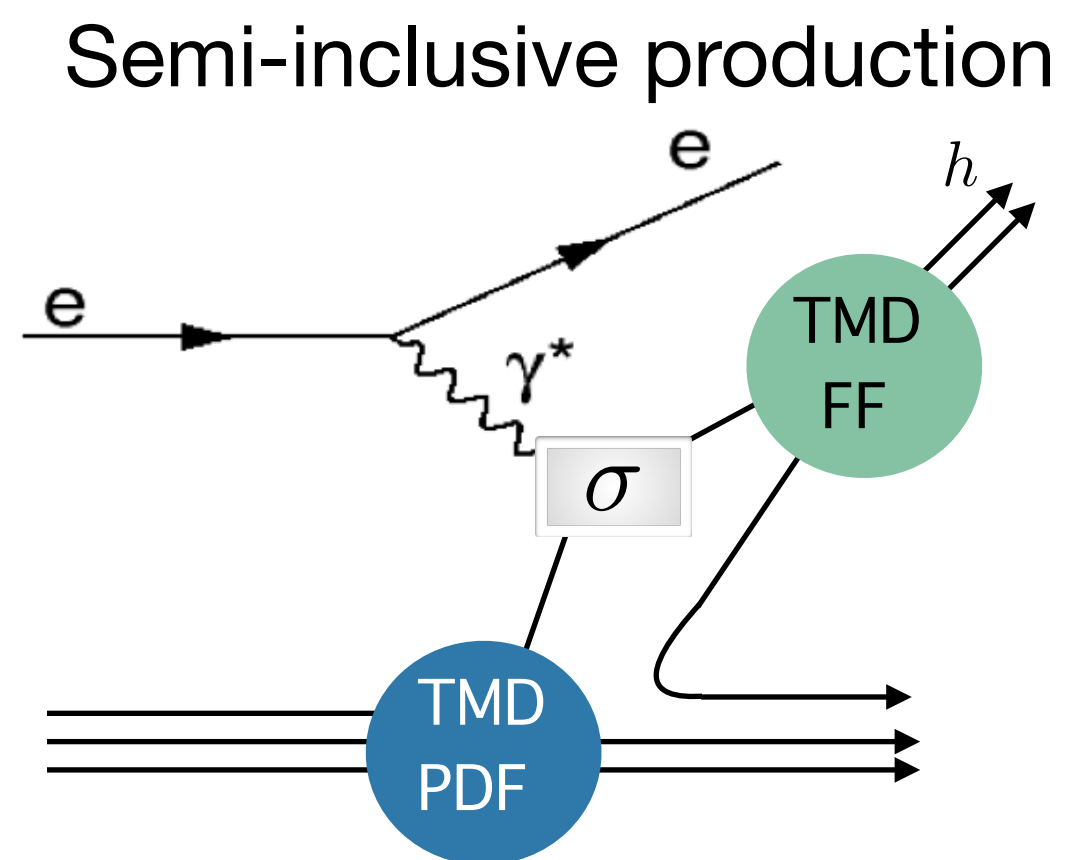
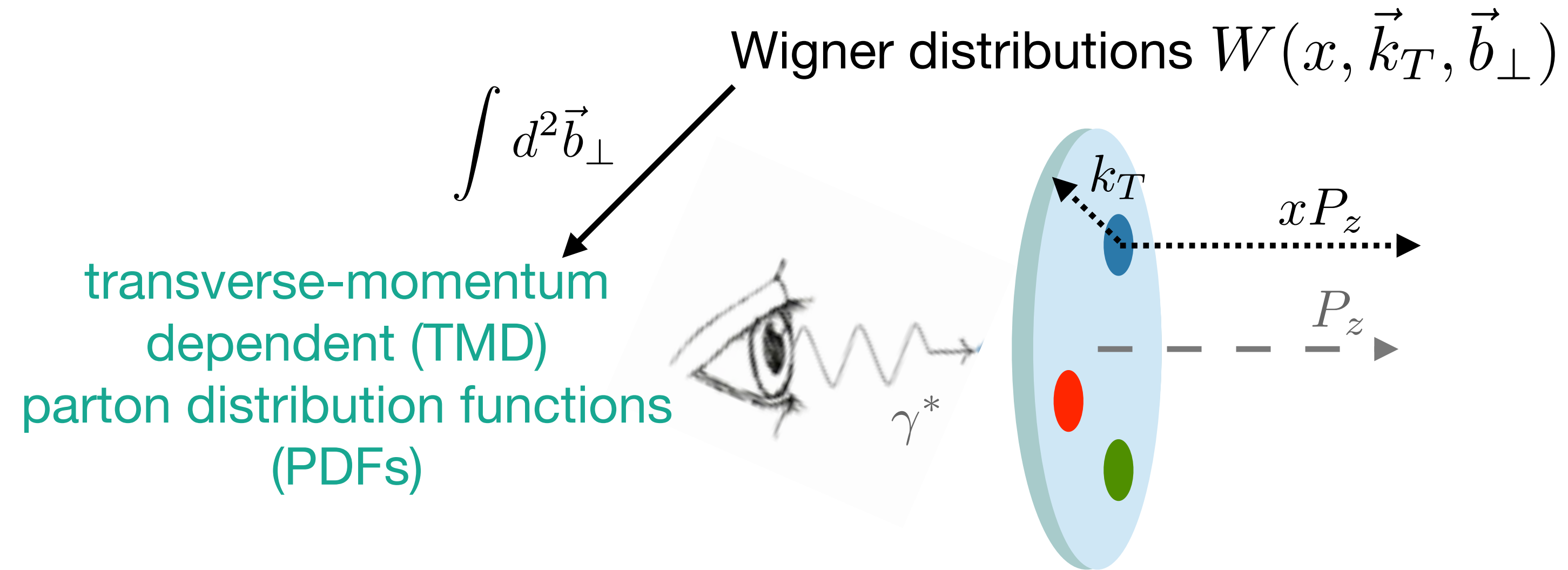
Wigner distributions $W(x, \vec{k}_T, \vec{b}_\perp)$



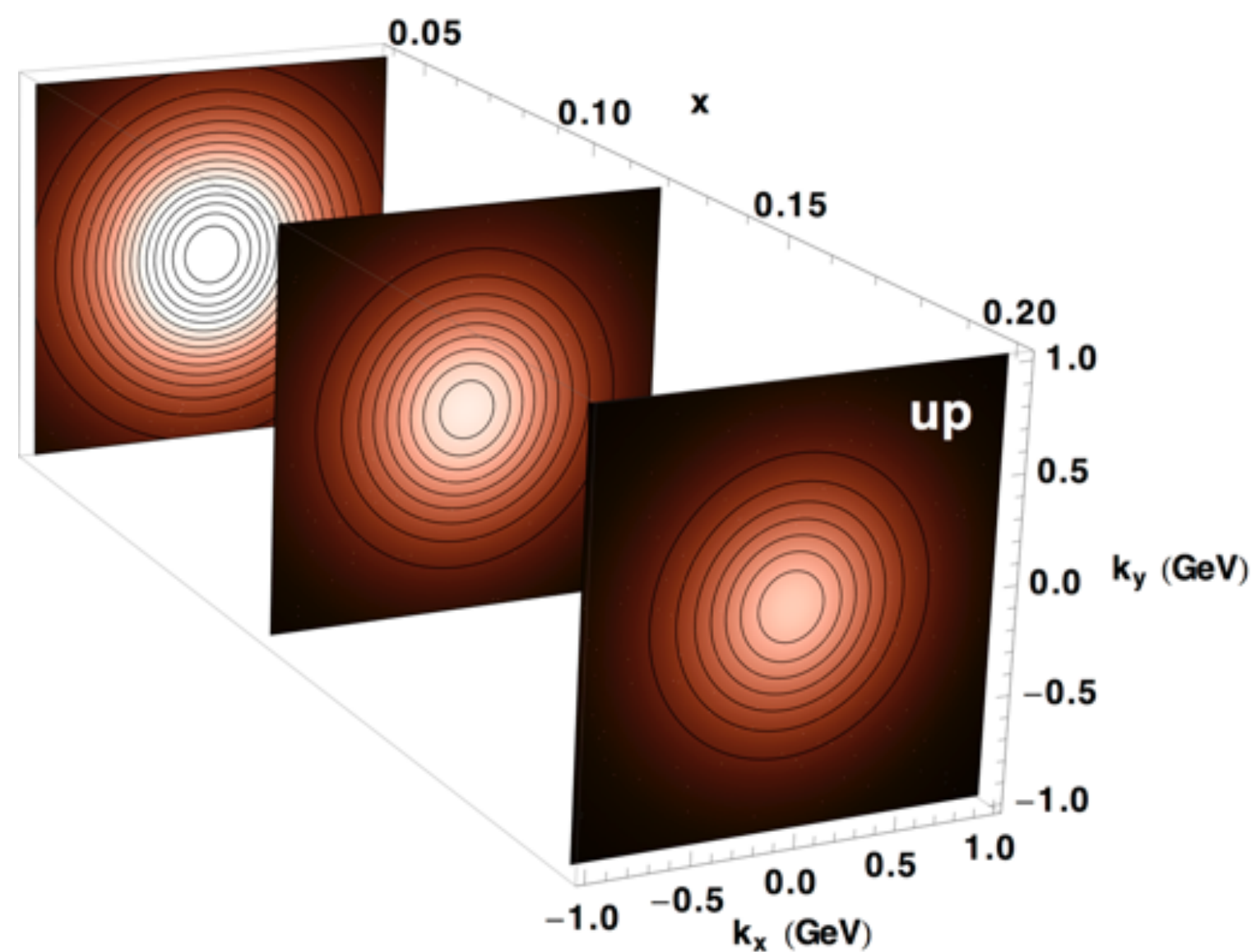
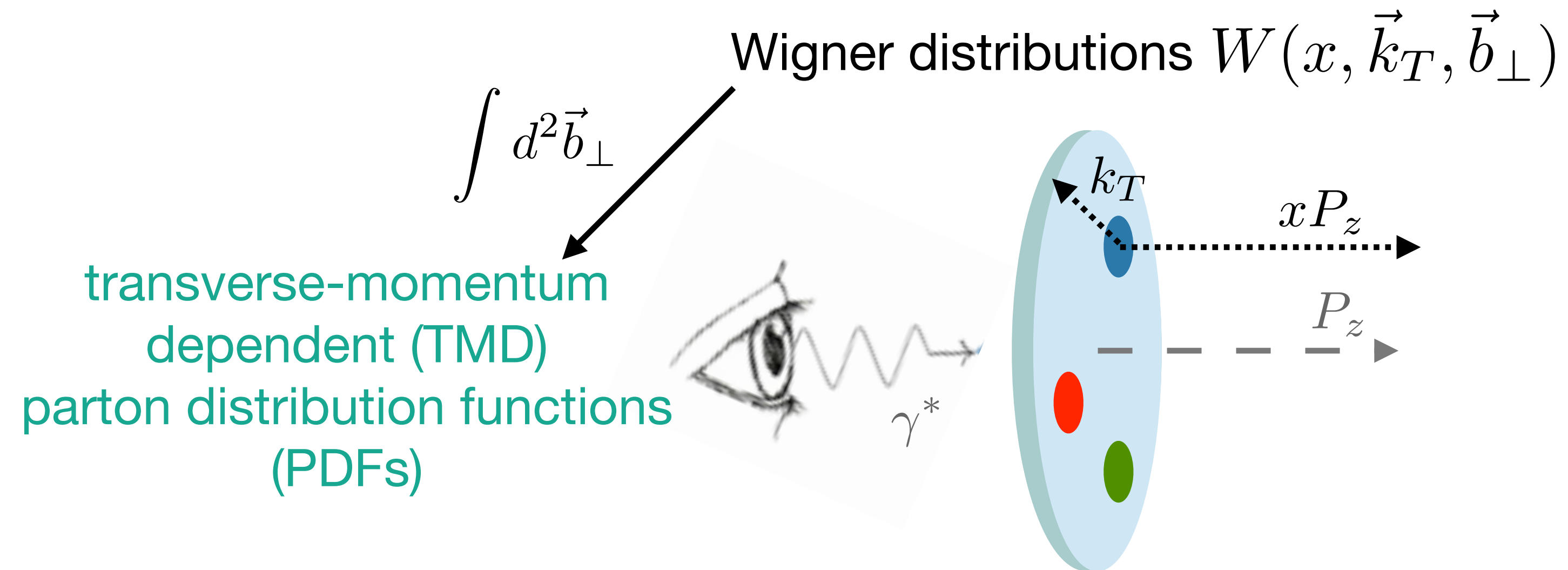
The nucleon multi-dimensional structure



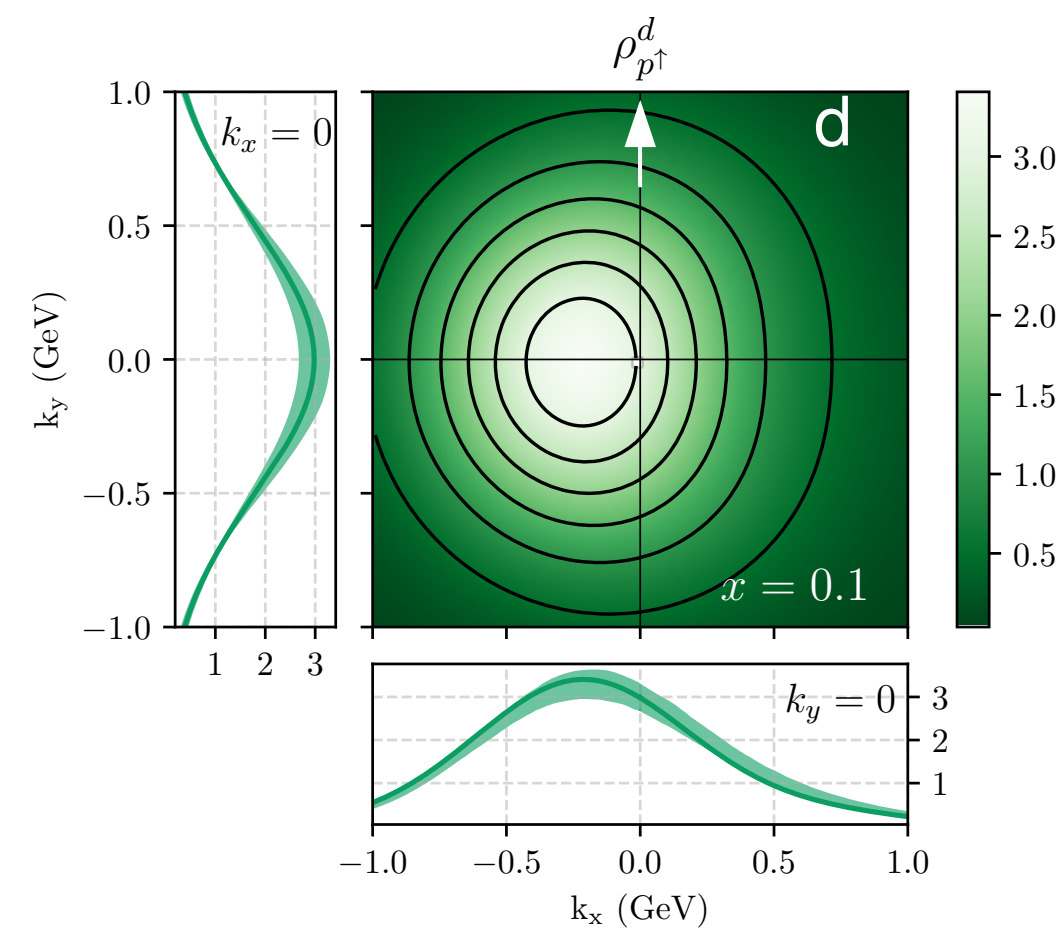
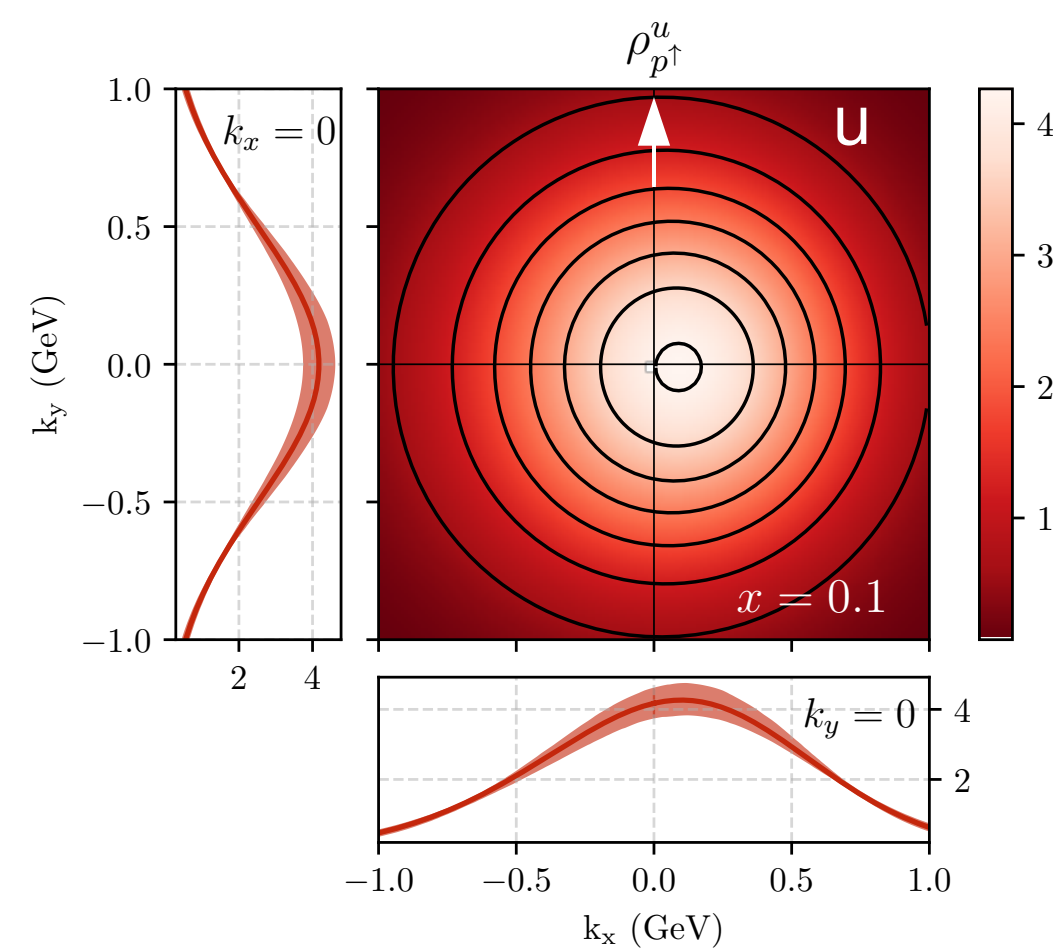
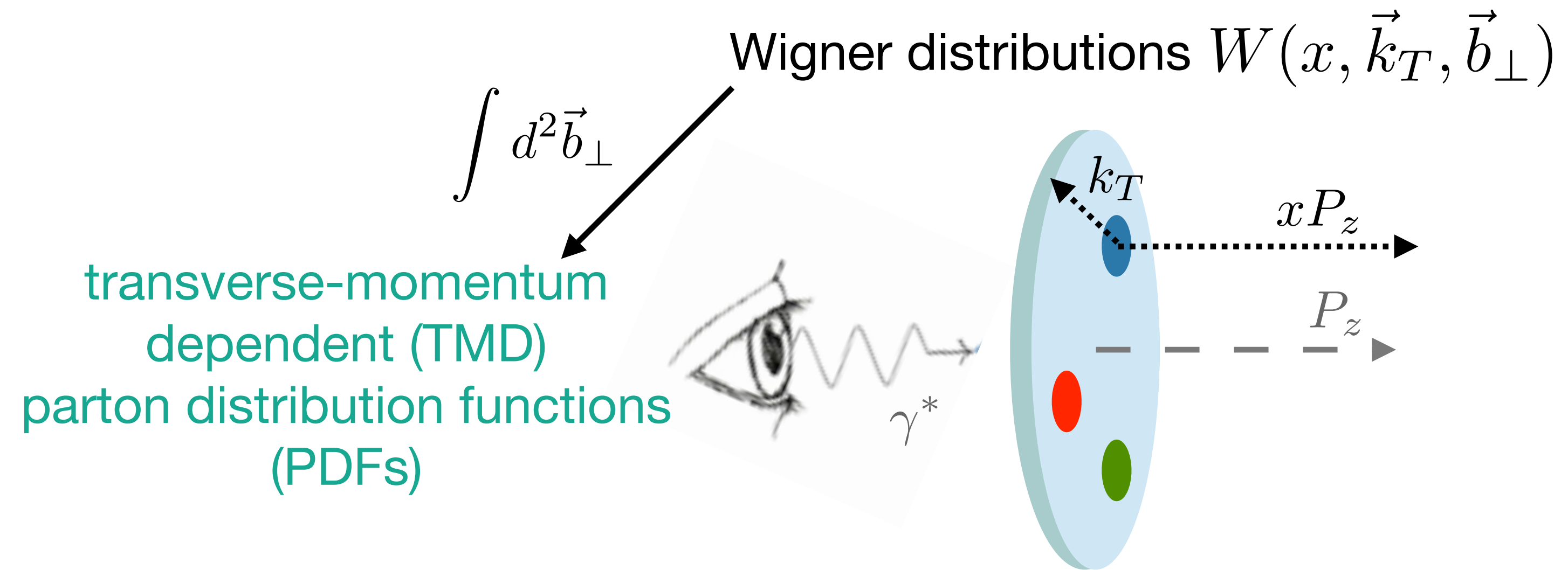
The nucleon multi-dimensional structure



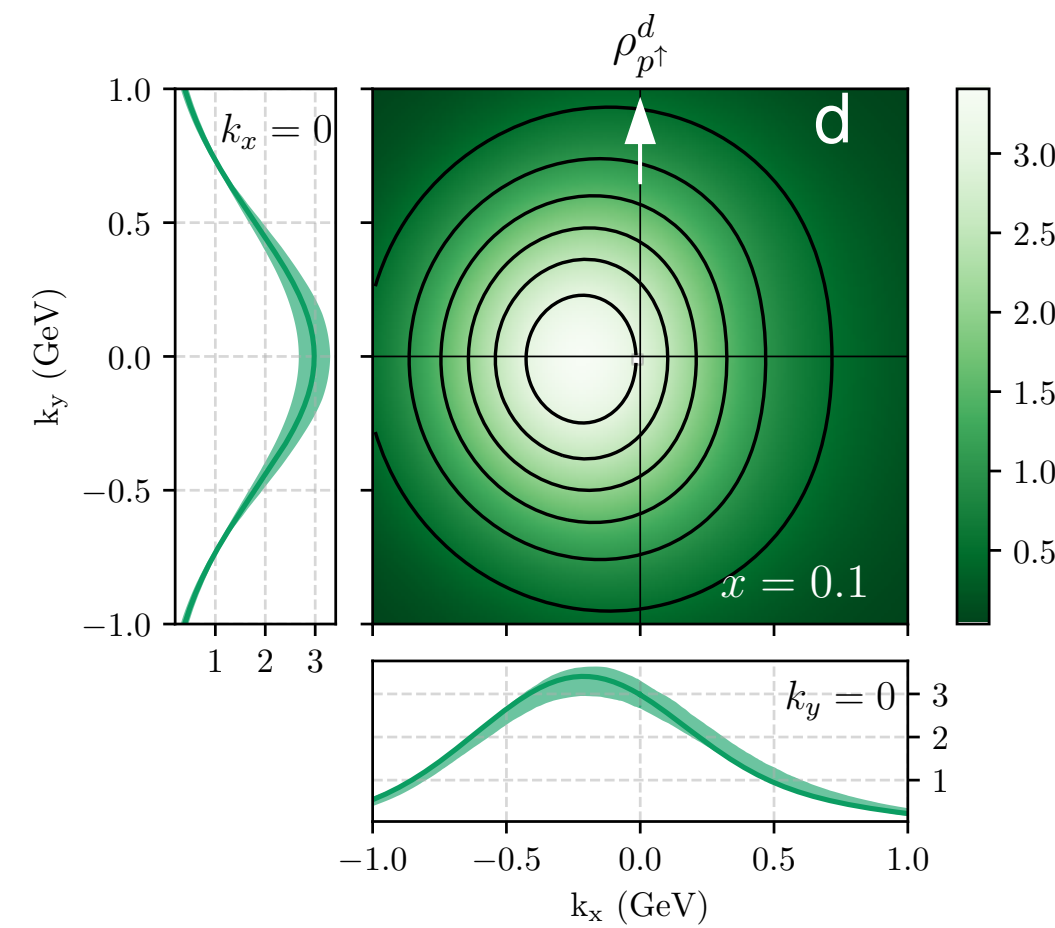
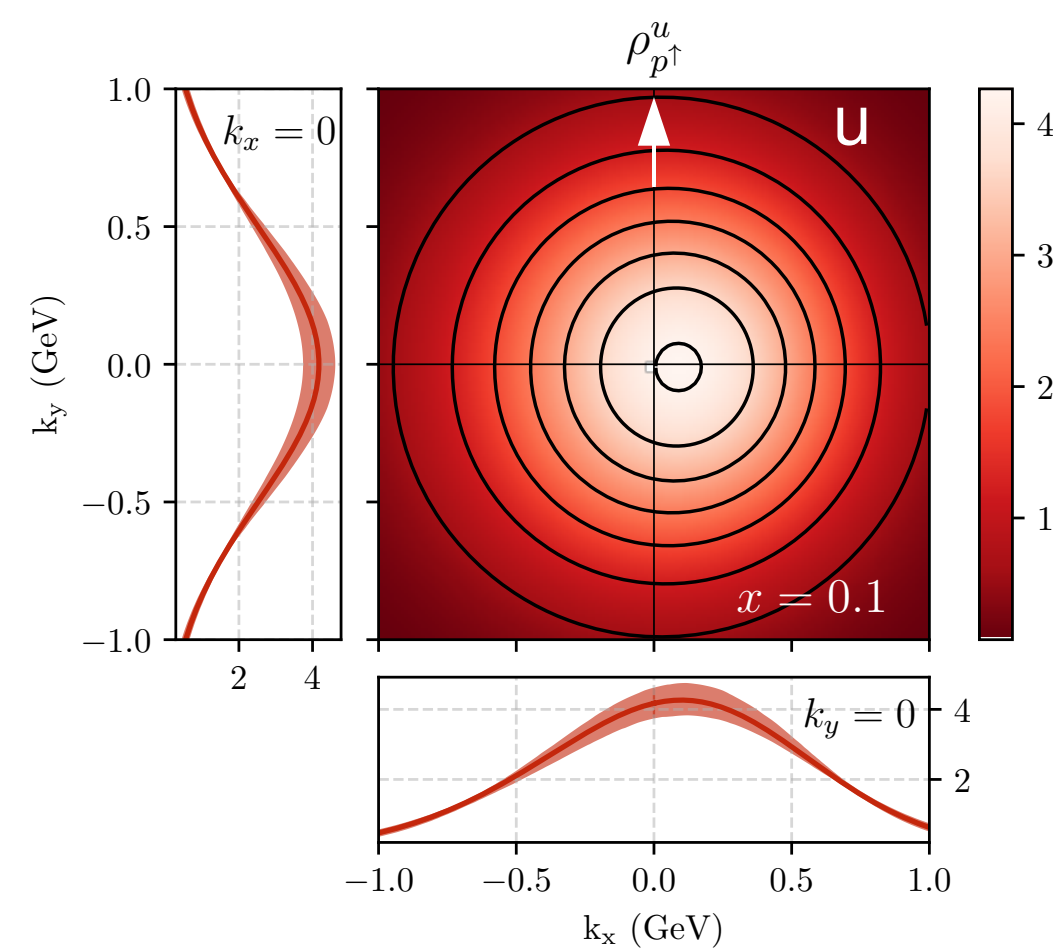
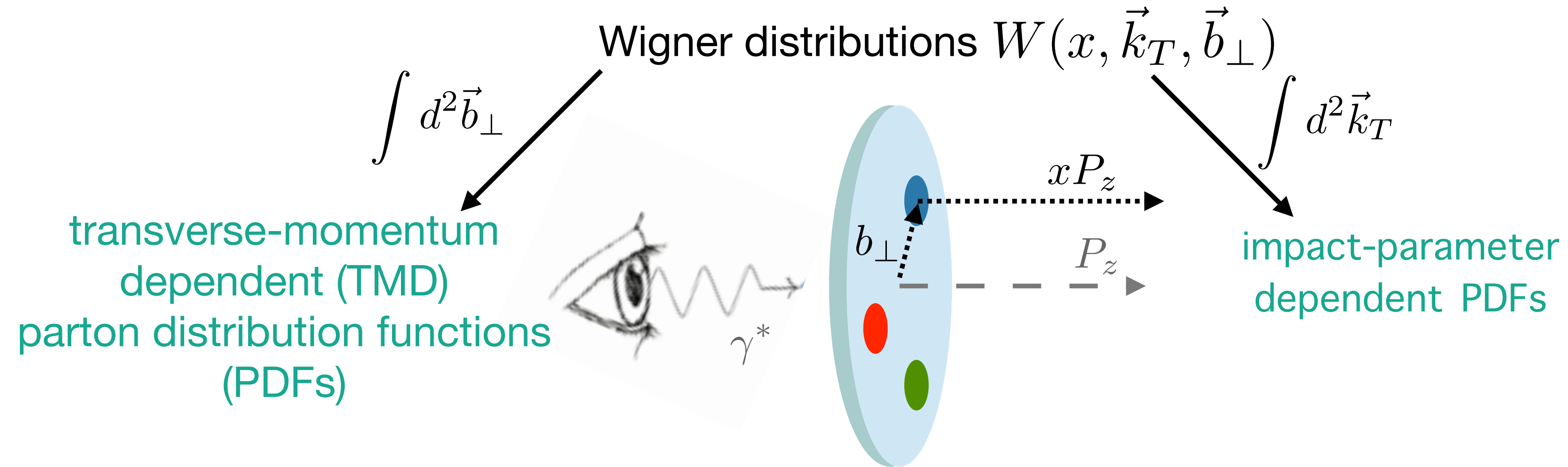
The nucleon multi-dimensional structure



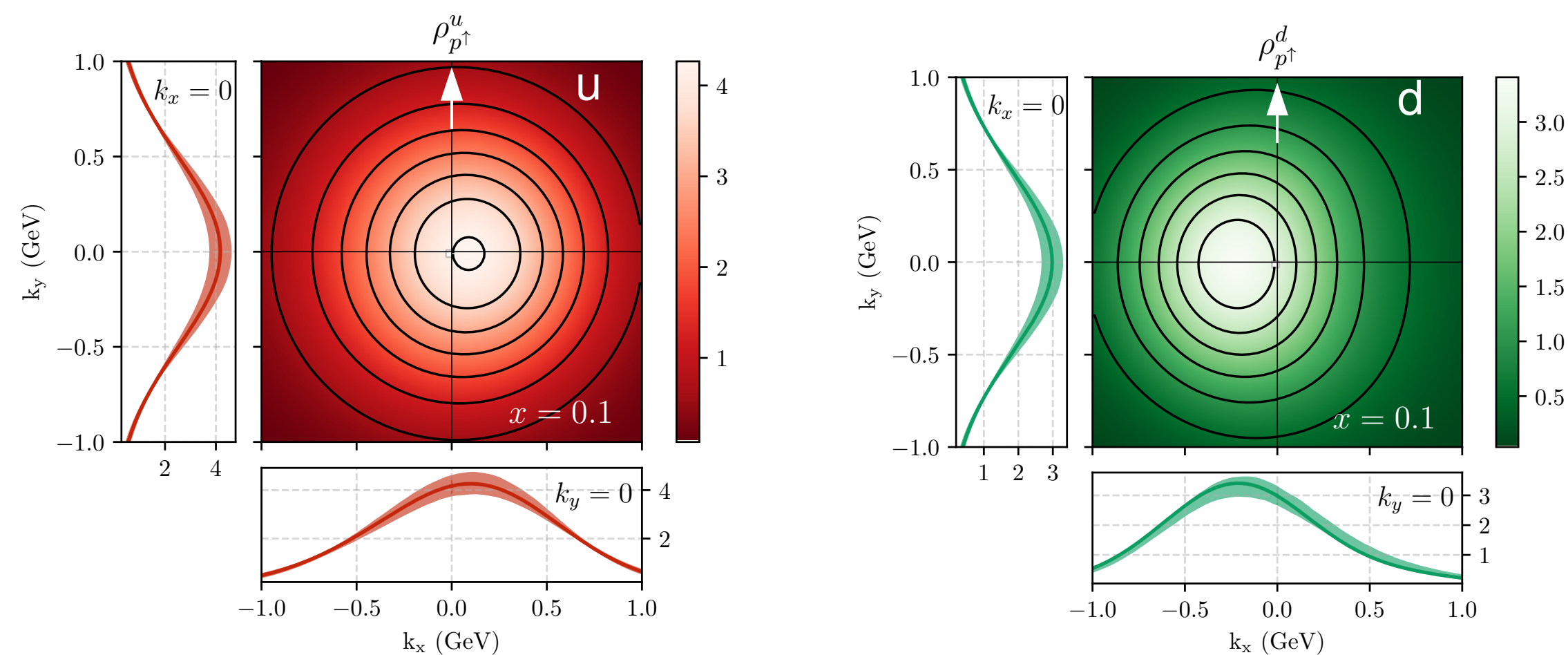
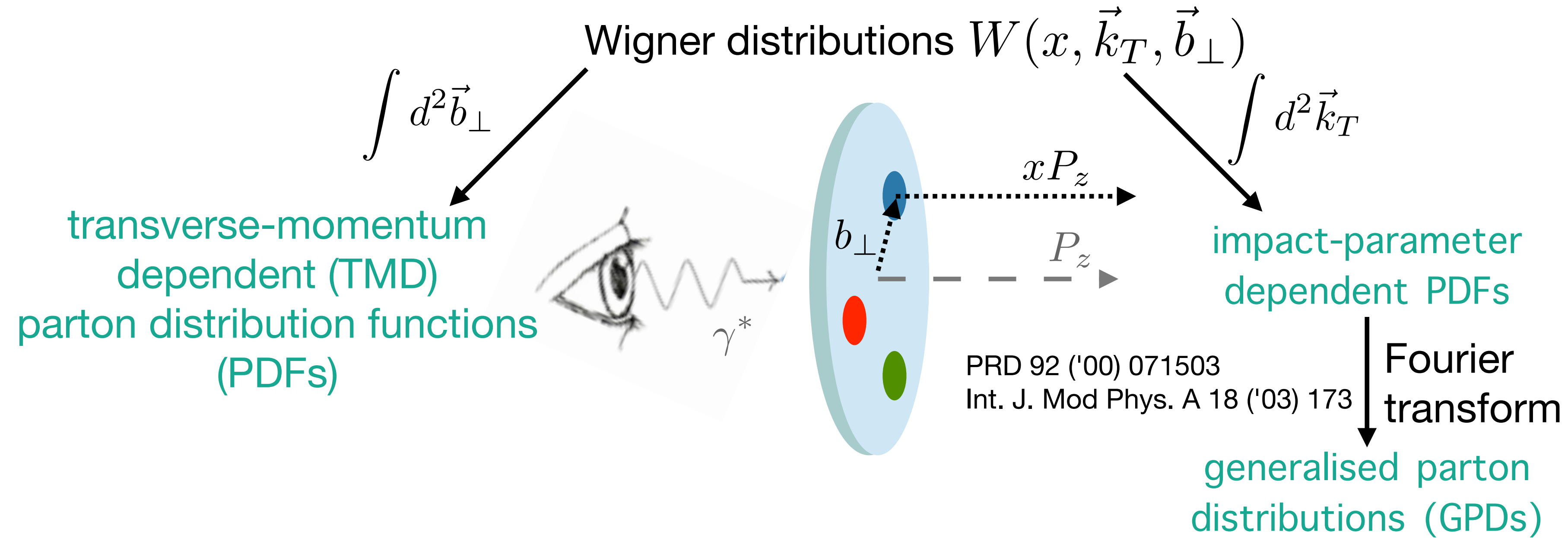
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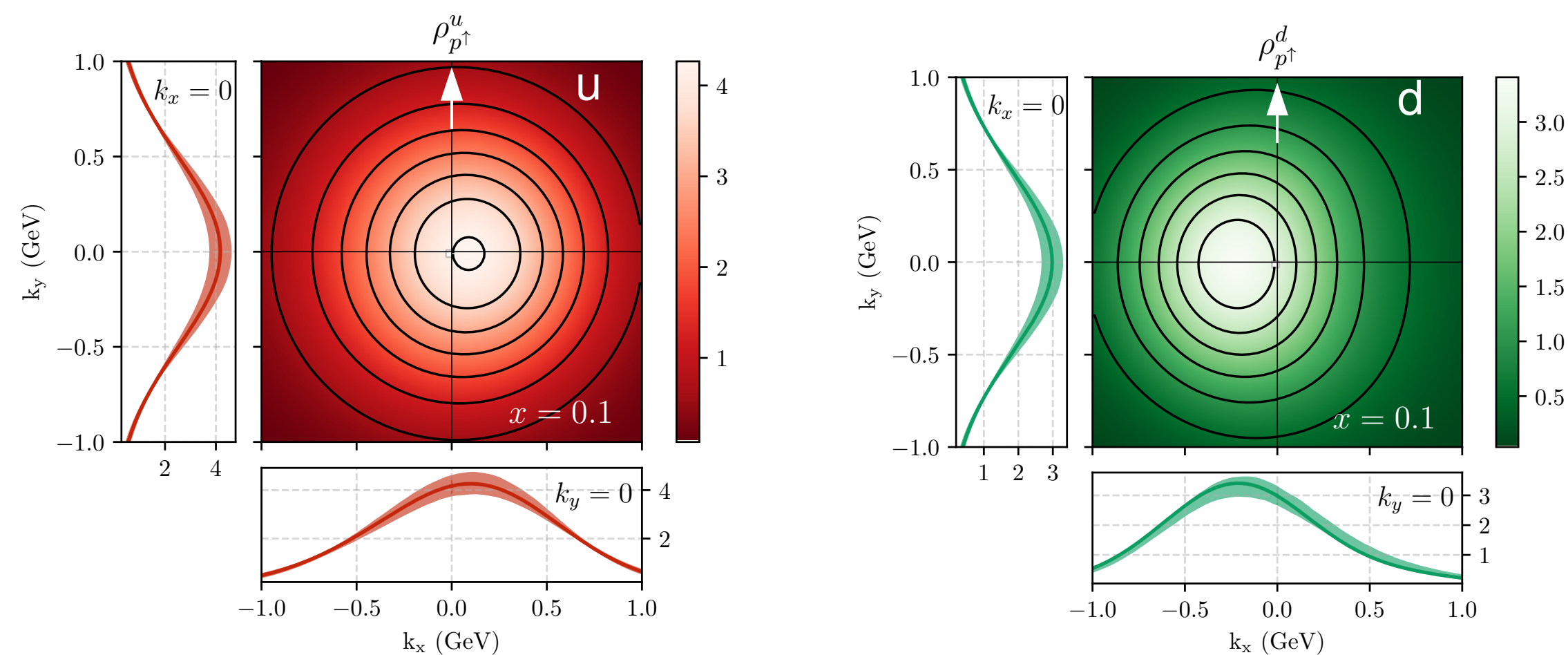
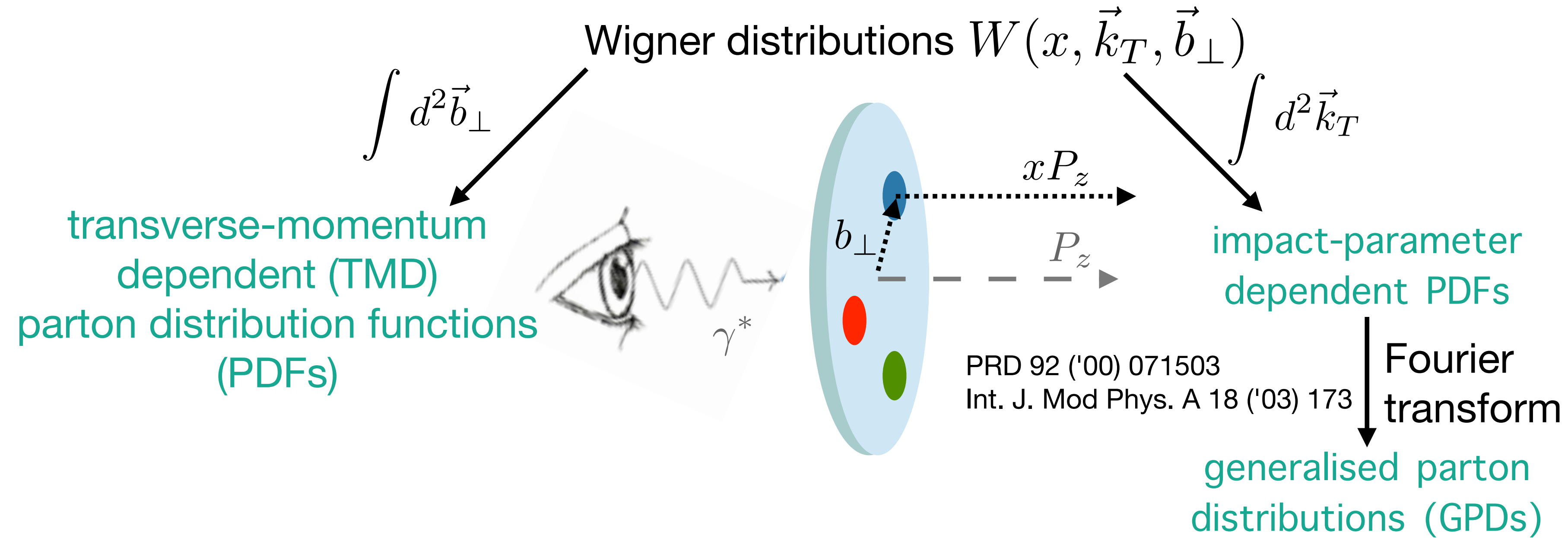
The nucleon multi-dimensional structure



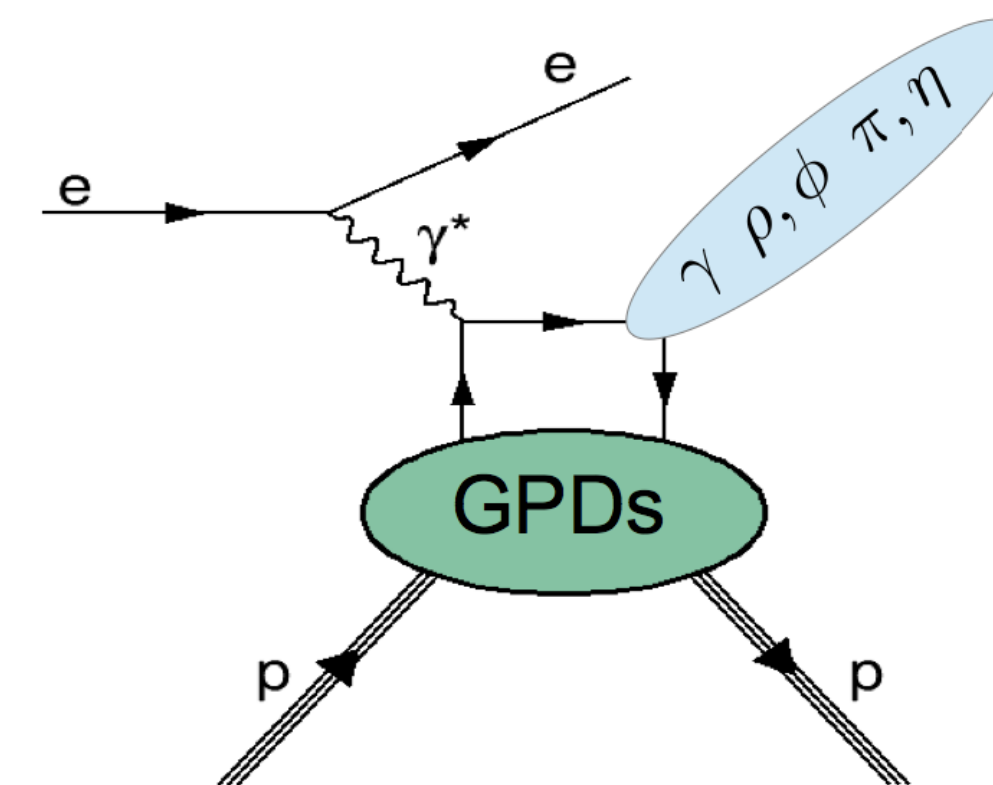
The nucleon multi-dimensional structure



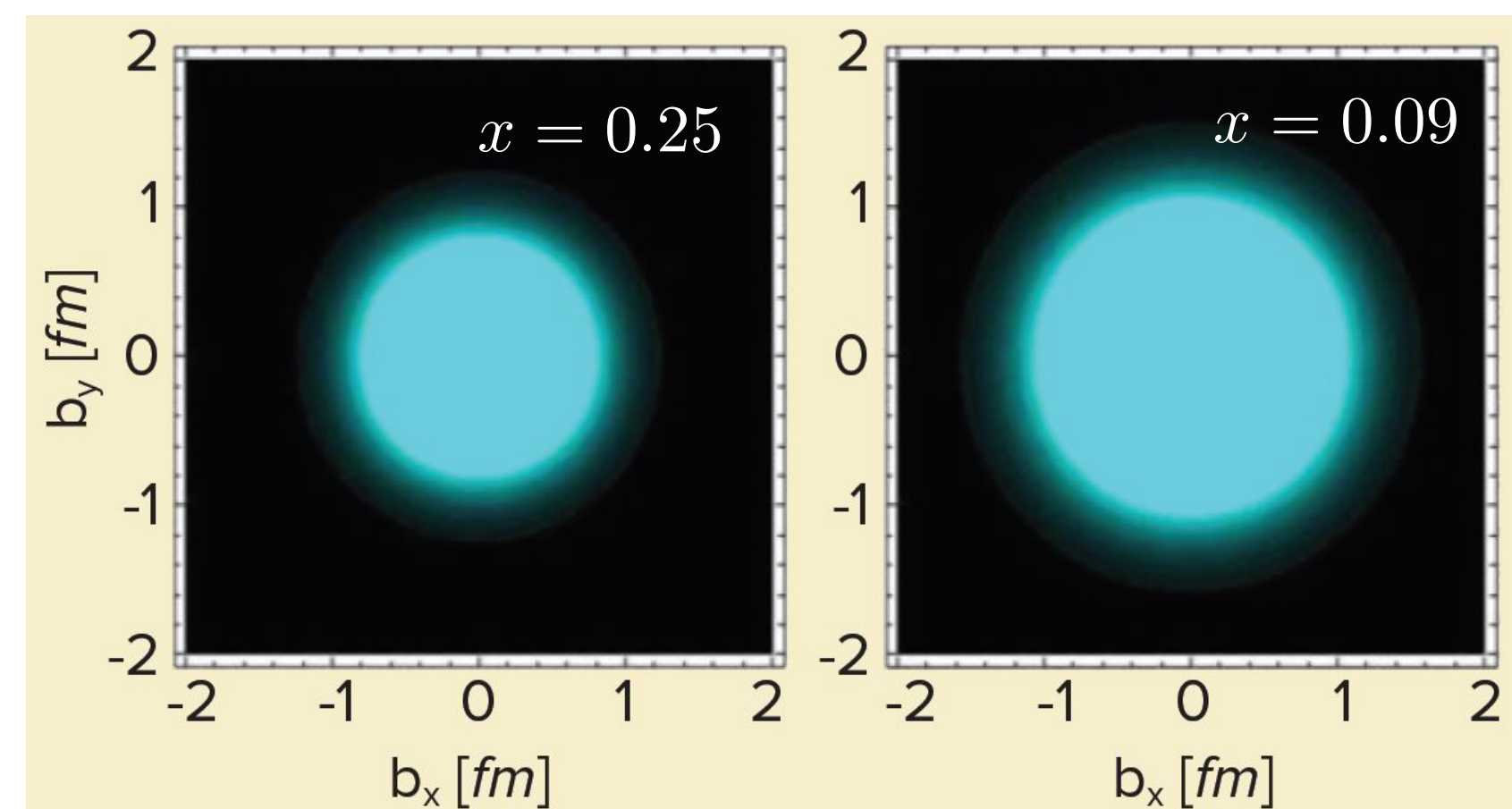
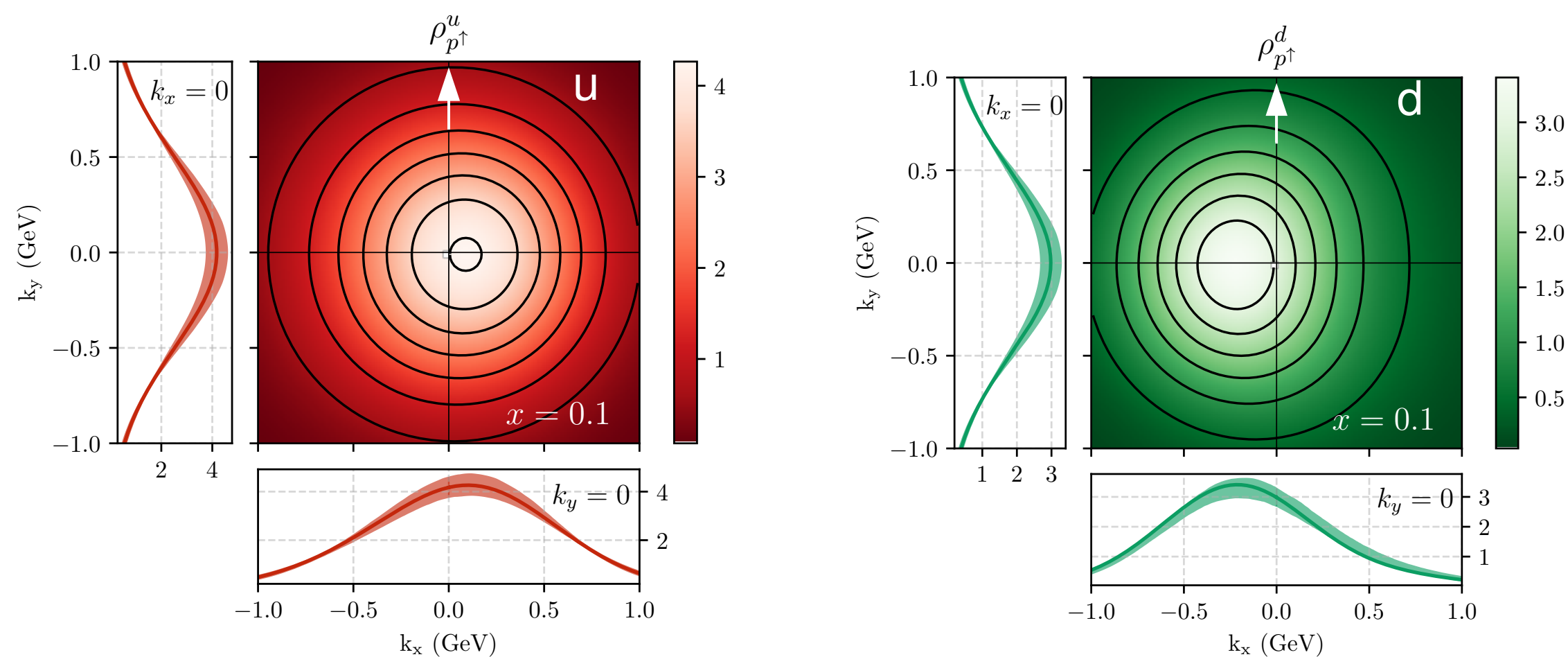
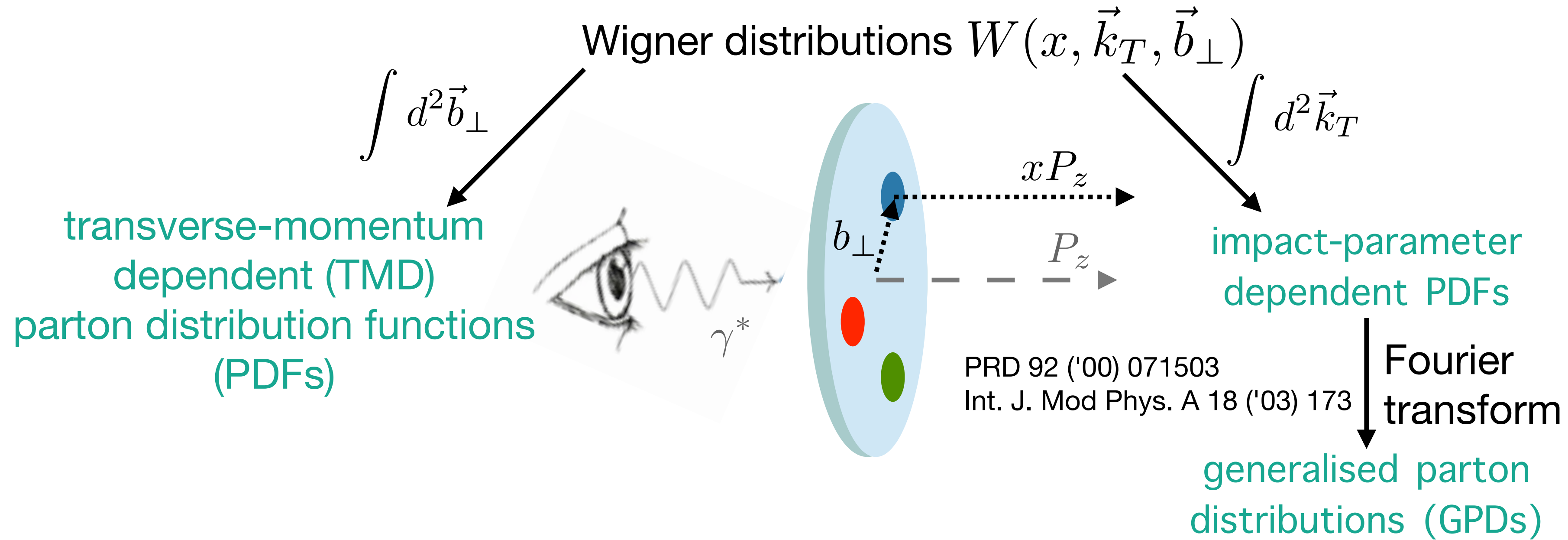
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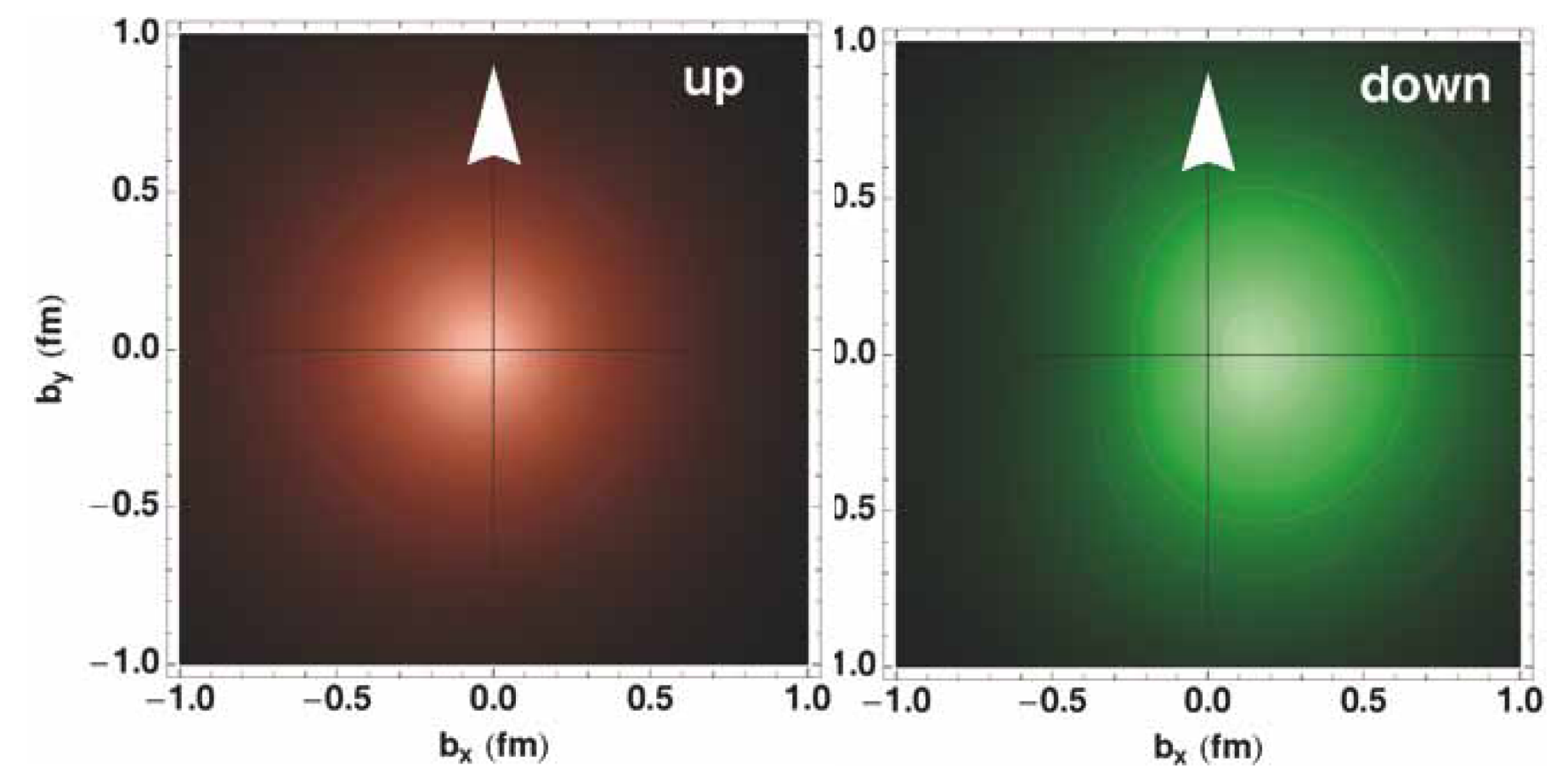
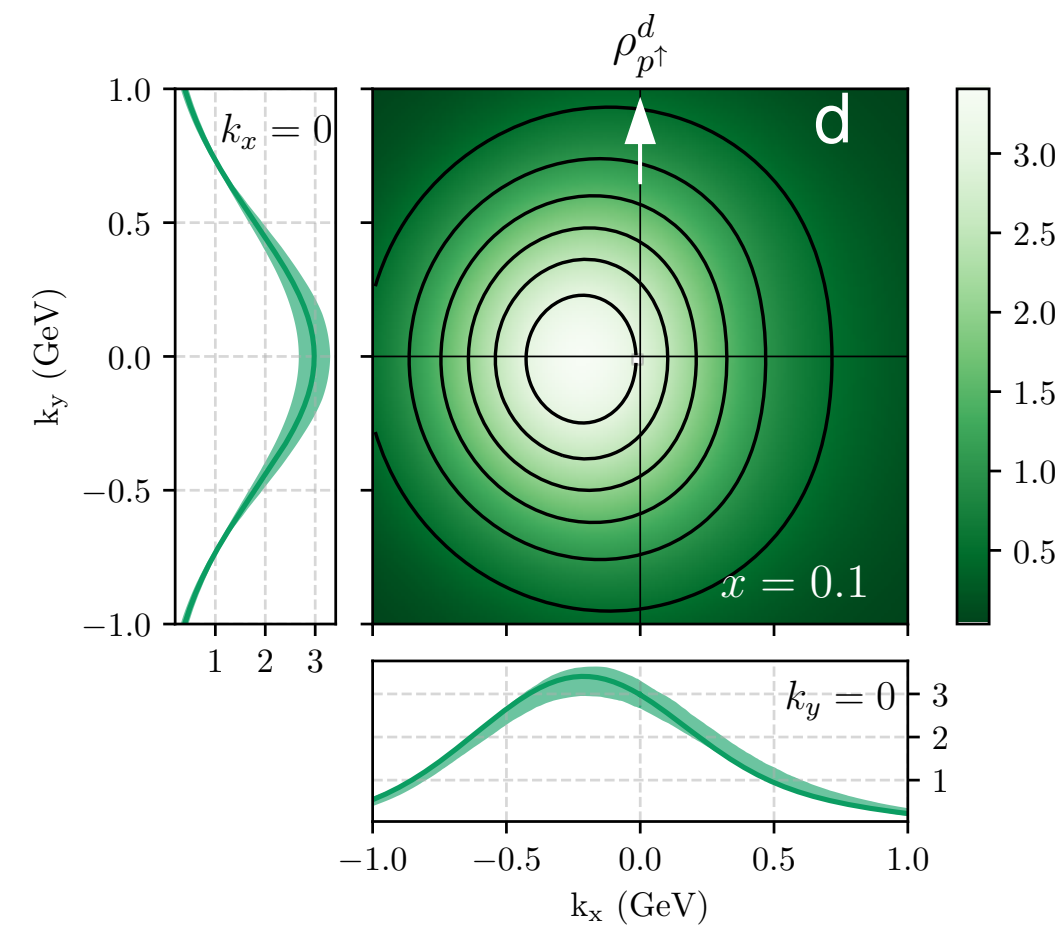
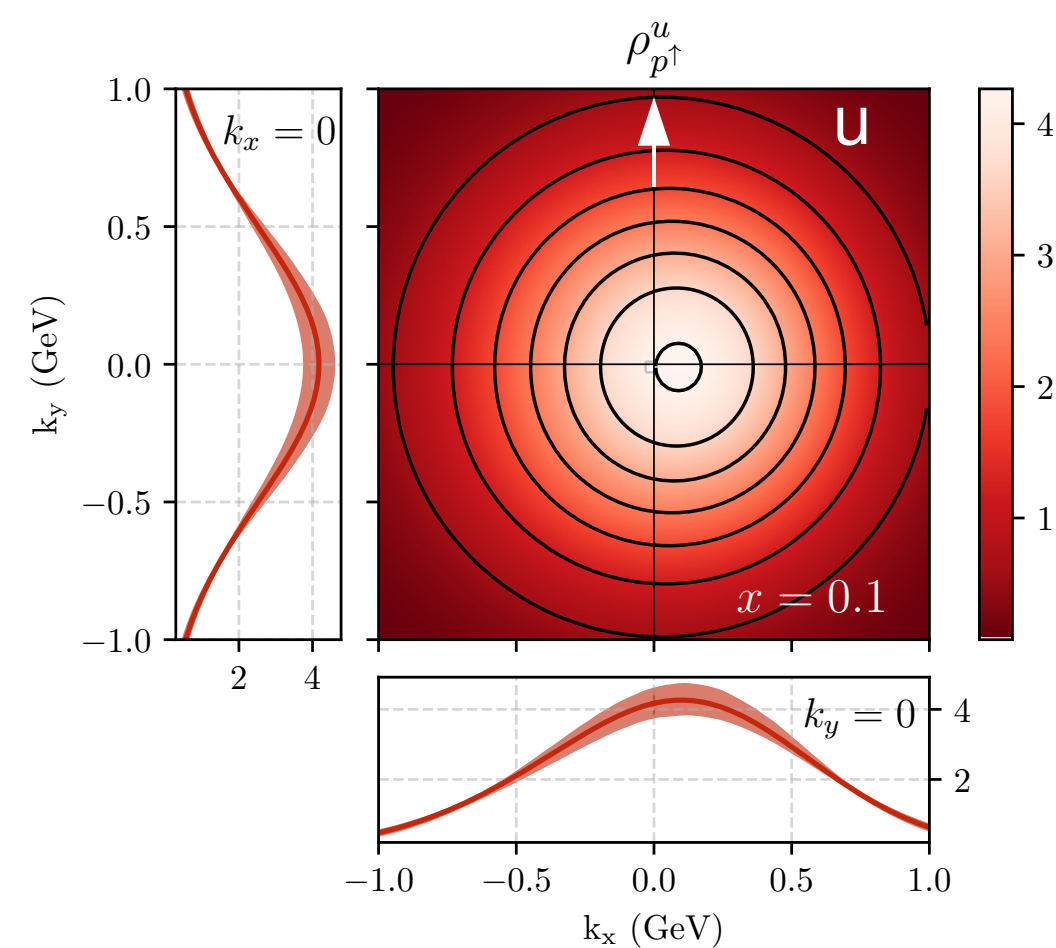
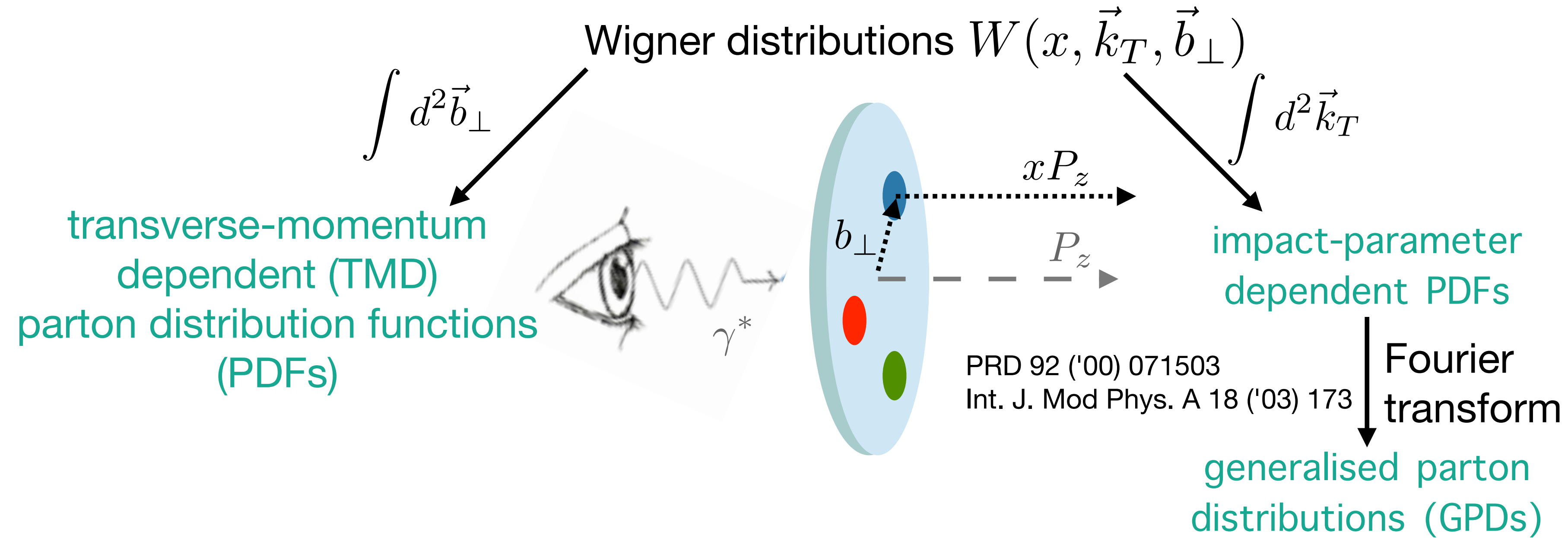
Exclusive production



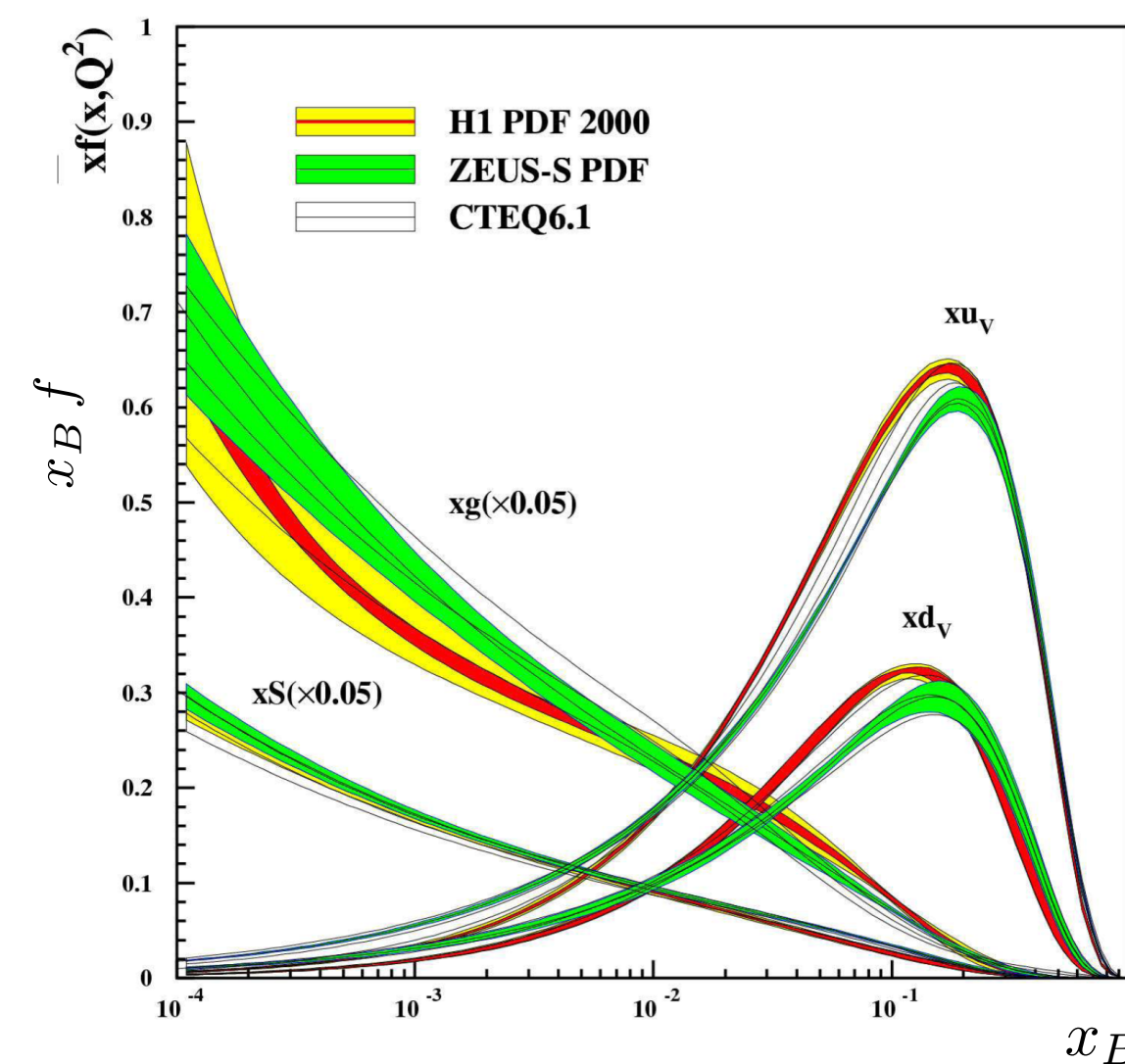
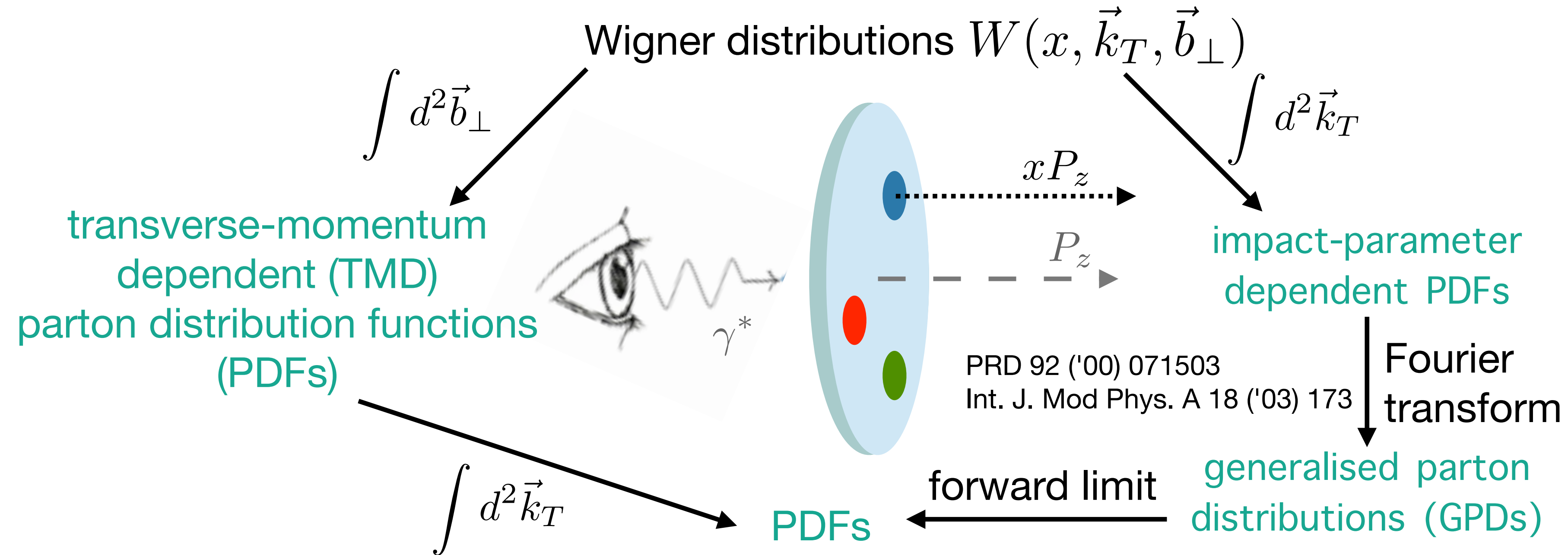
The nucleon multi-dimensional structure



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The nucleon multi-dimensional structure

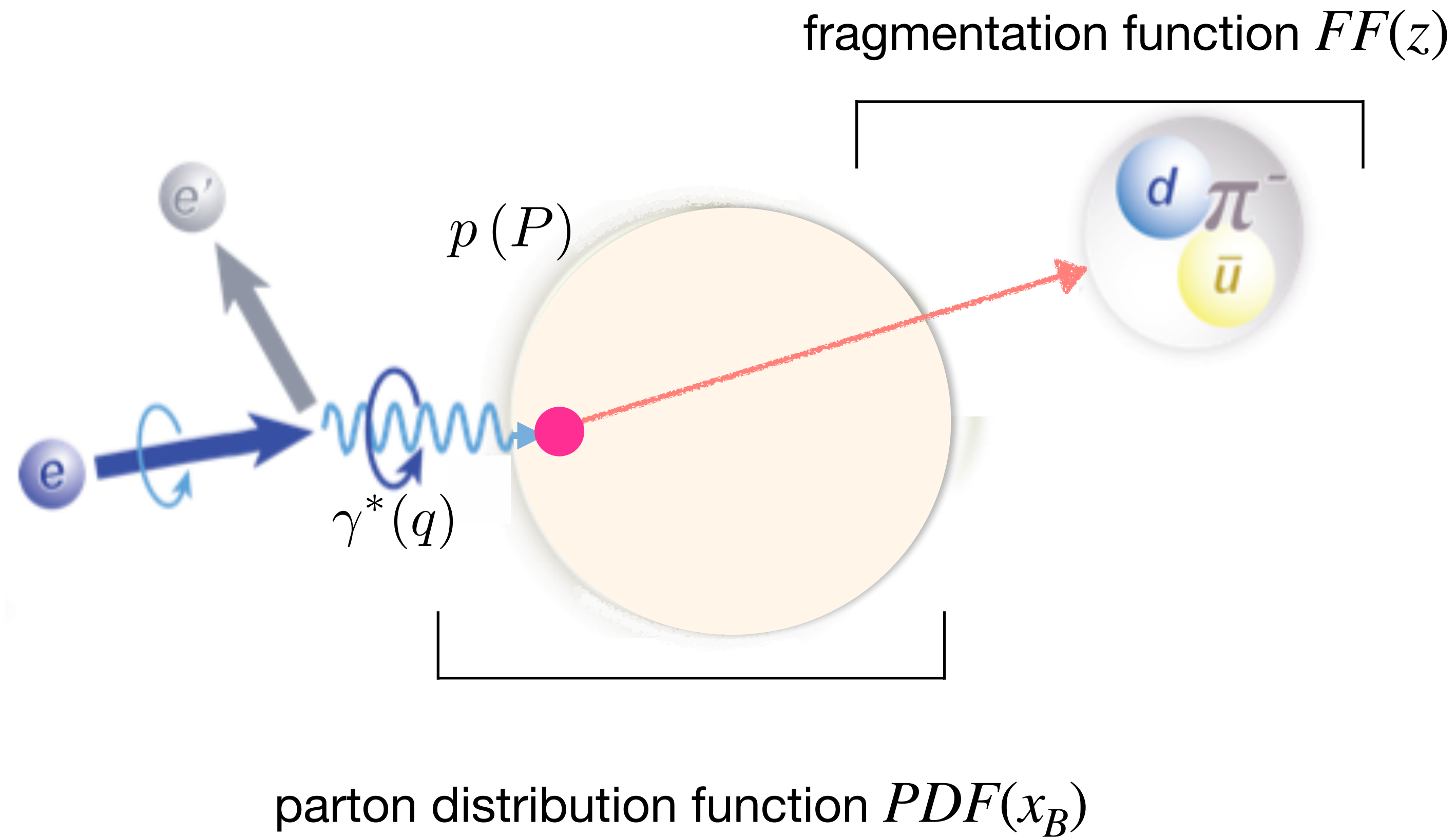


Single-hadron production in semi-inclusive DIS

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

$$x_B = \frac{Q^2}{2P \cdot q}$$

$$z \stackrel{\text{lab}}{=} \frac{E_h}{E_{\gamma^*}}$$

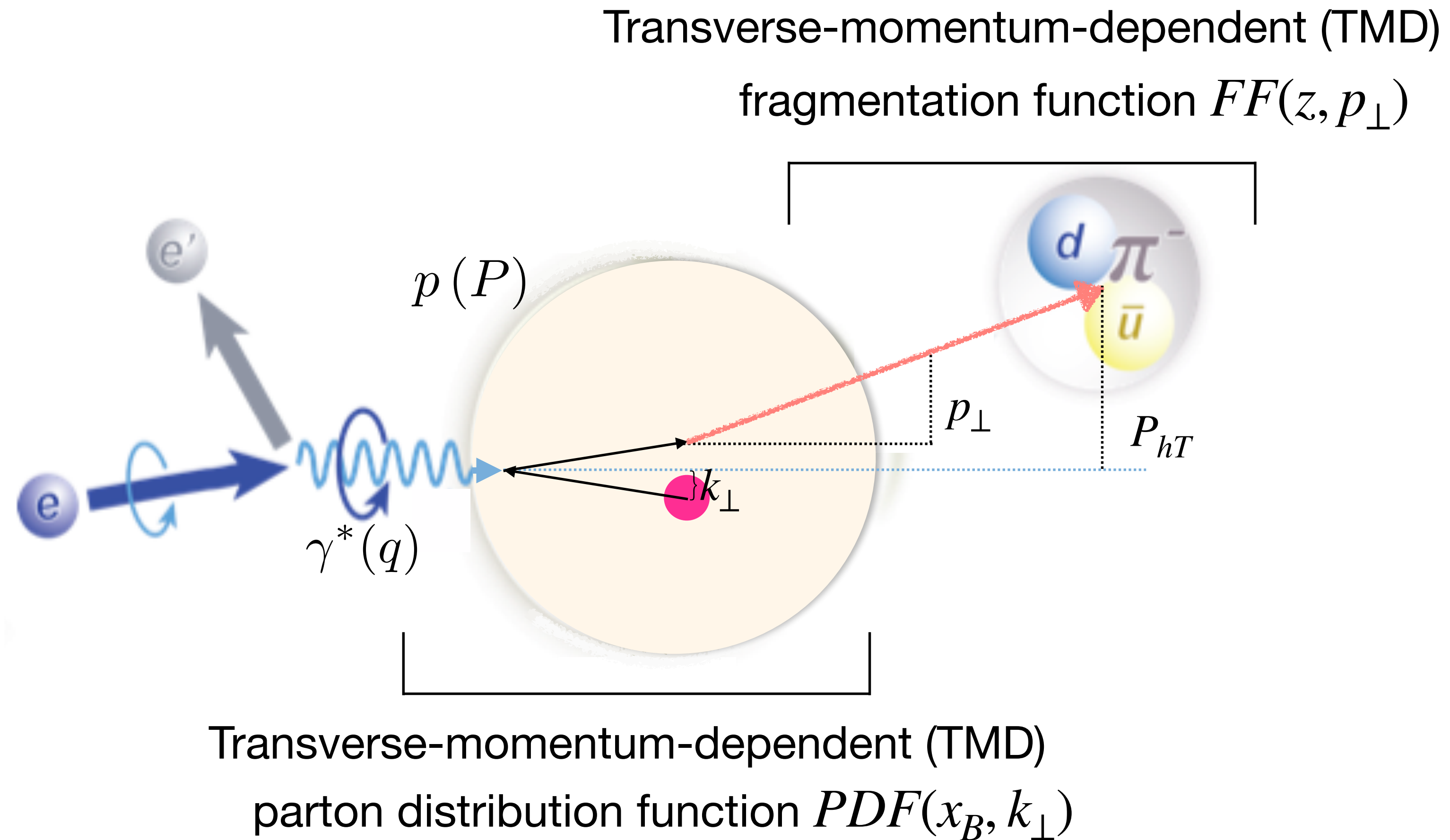


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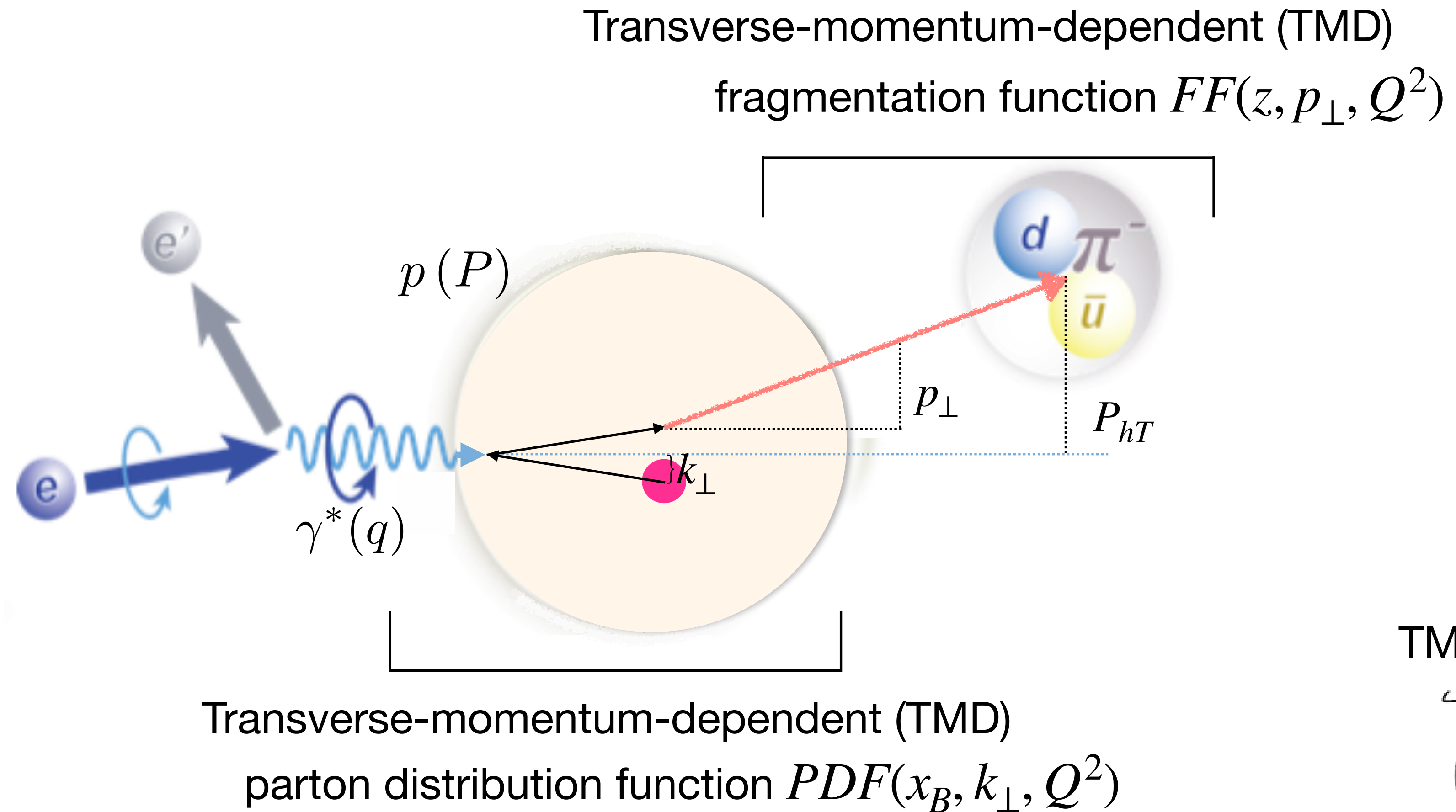


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TMD evolution

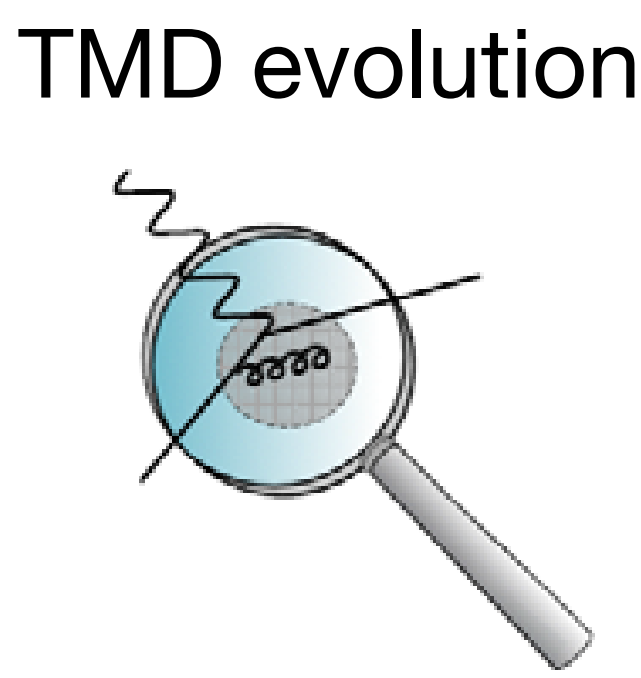
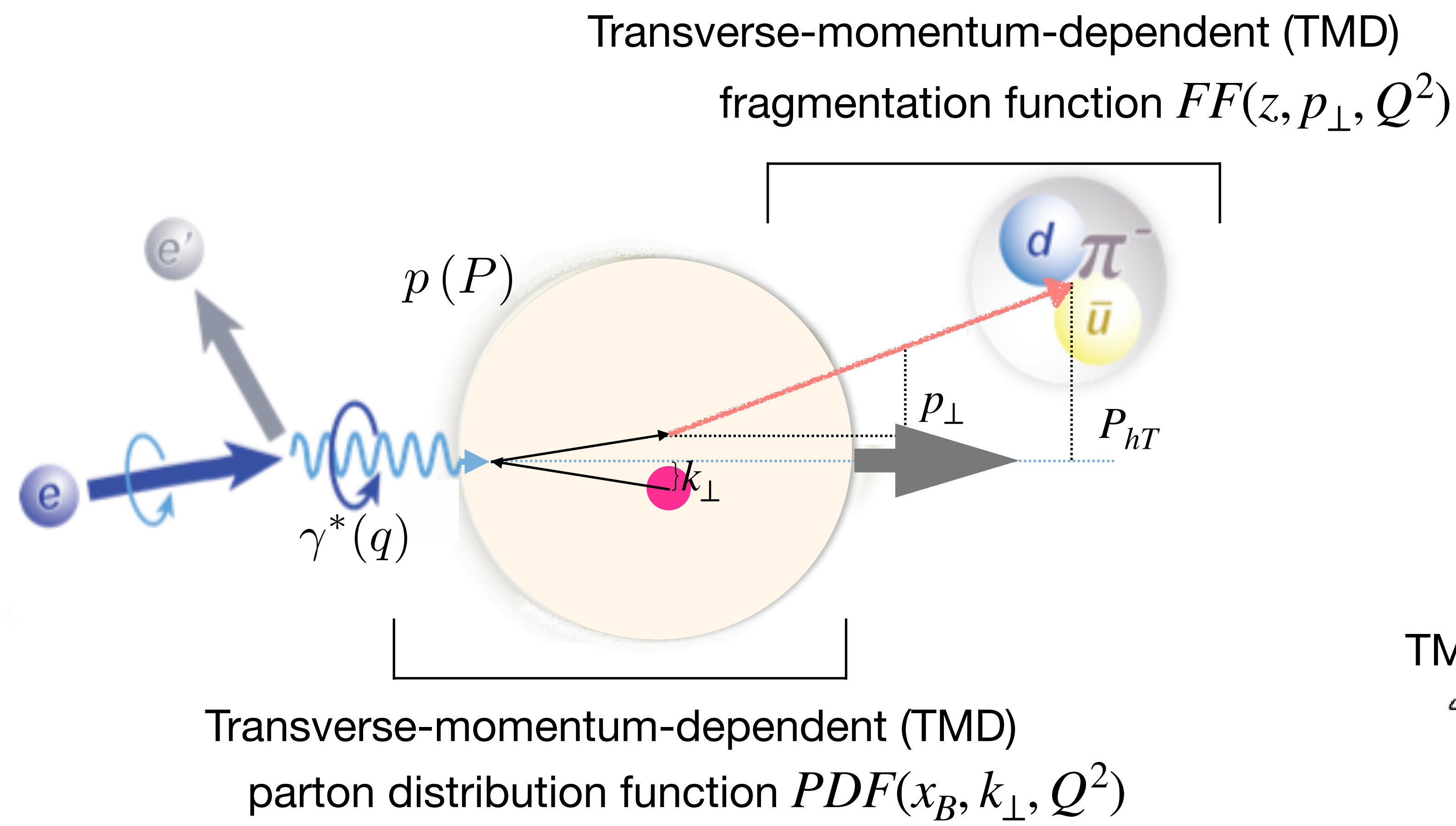


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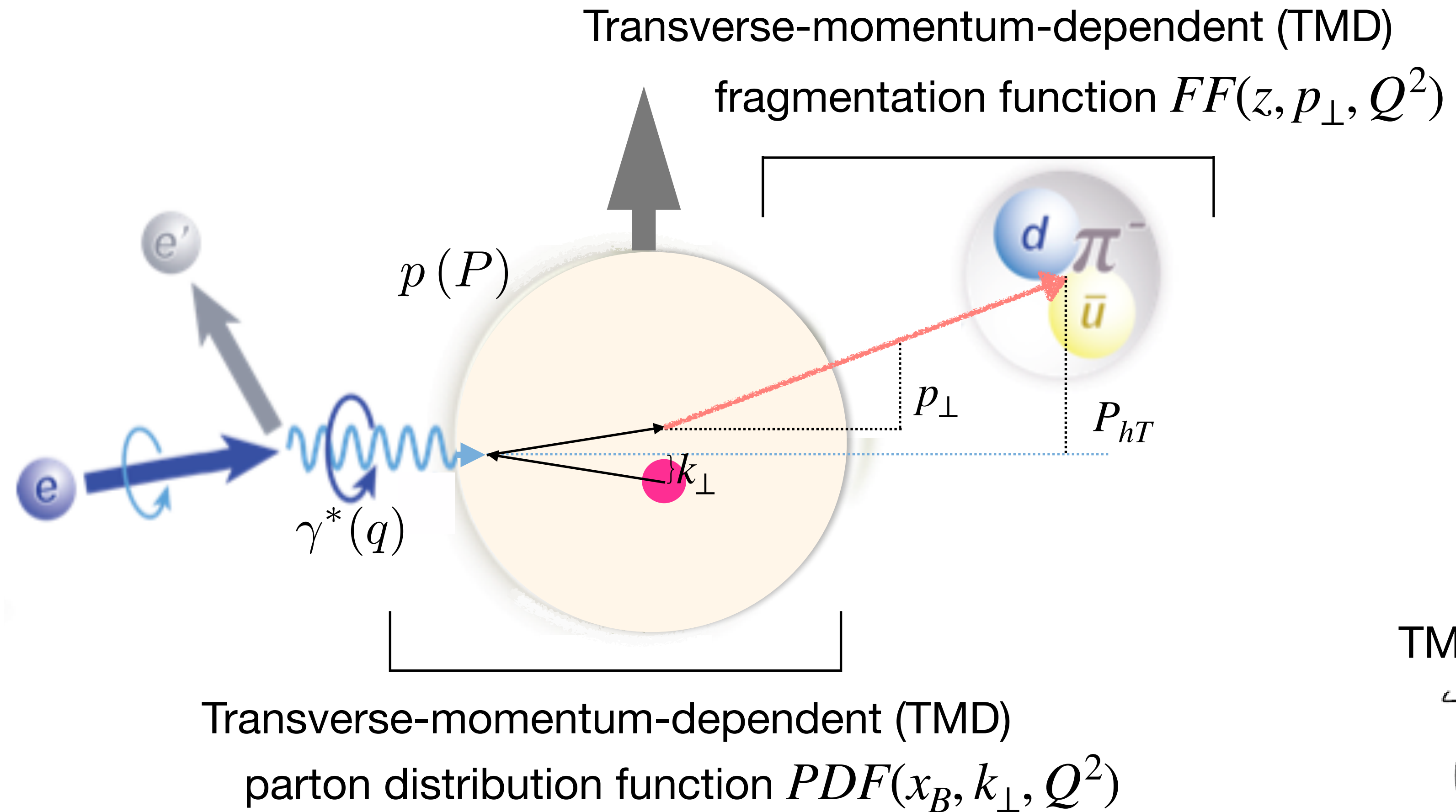


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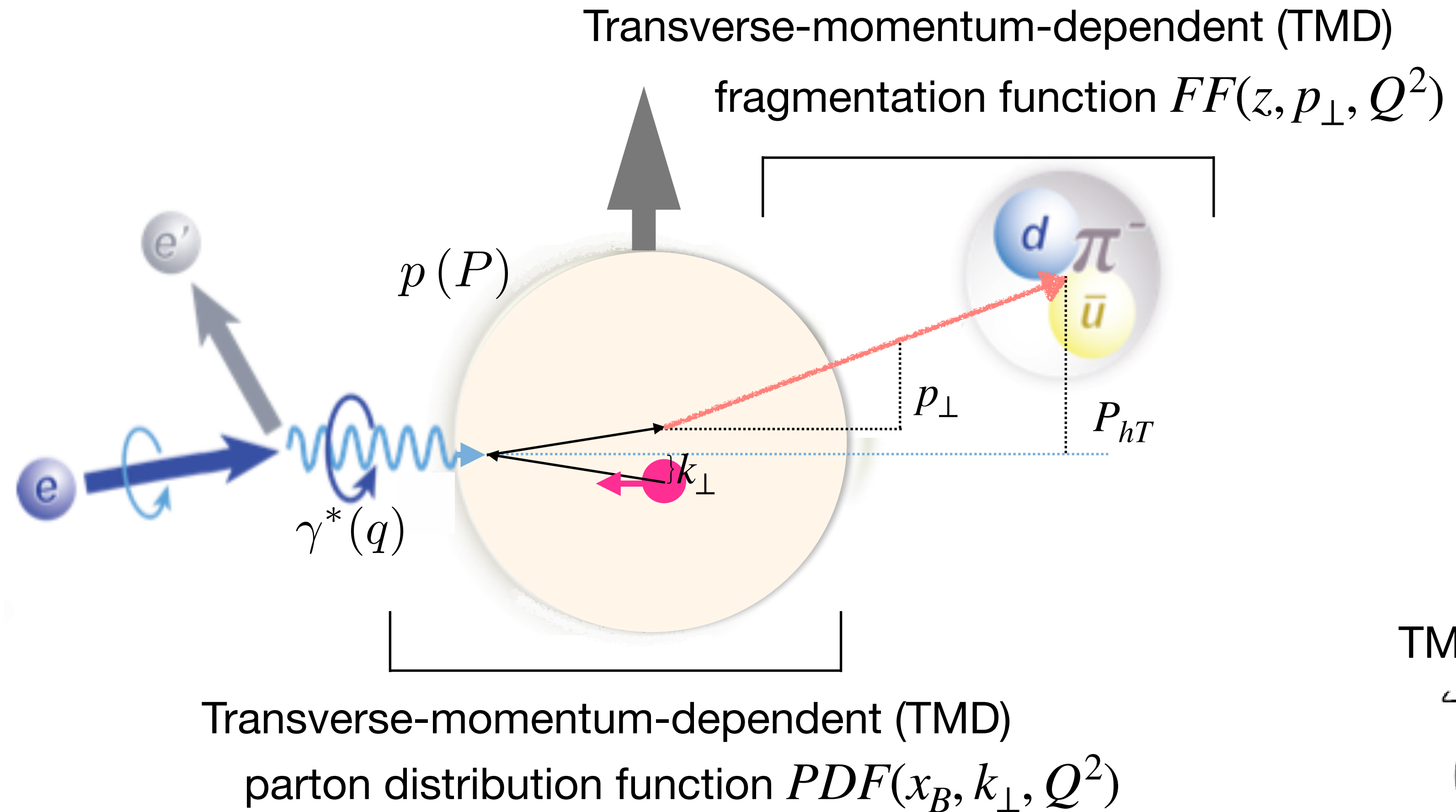


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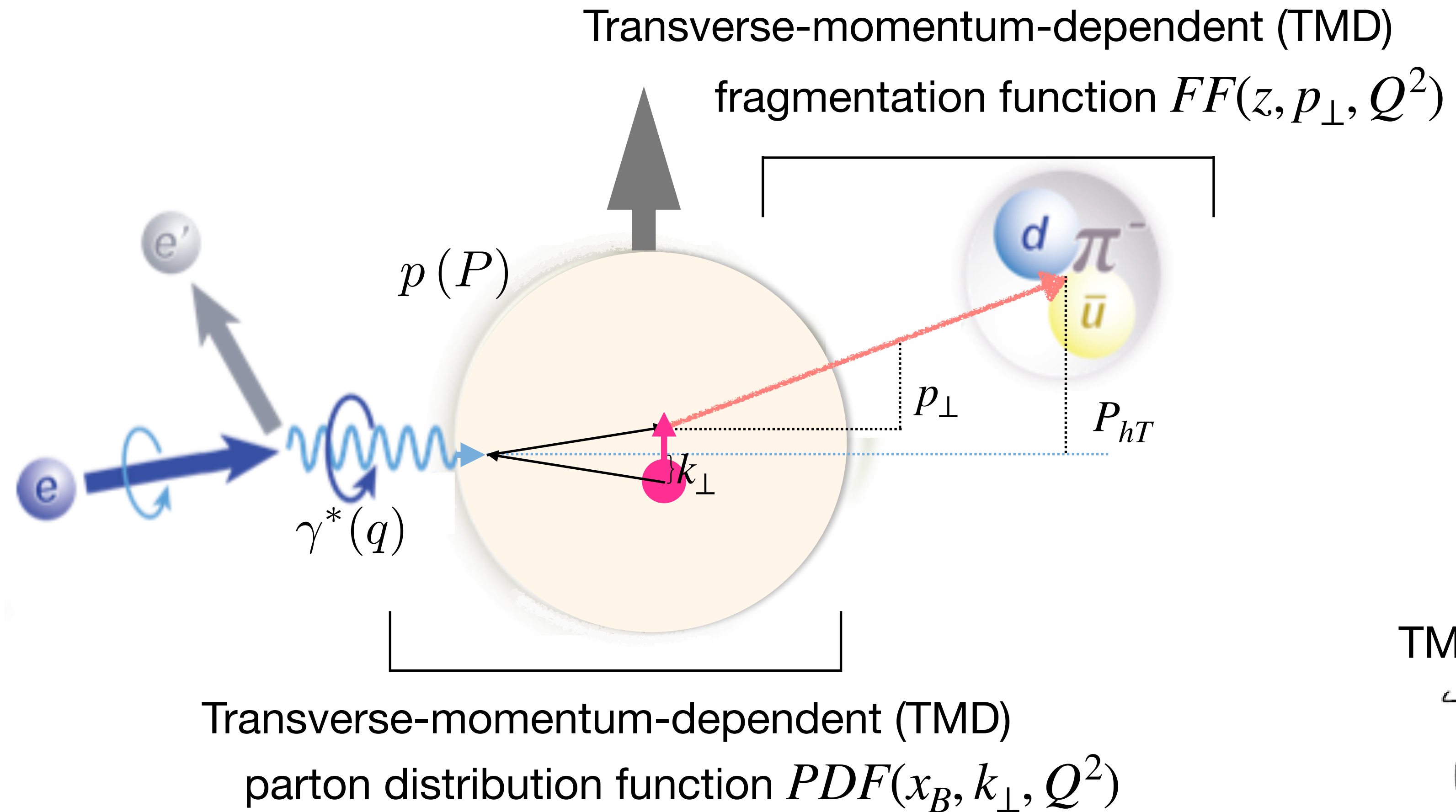


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TMD evolution



Transverse-momentum-dependent parton distribution functions

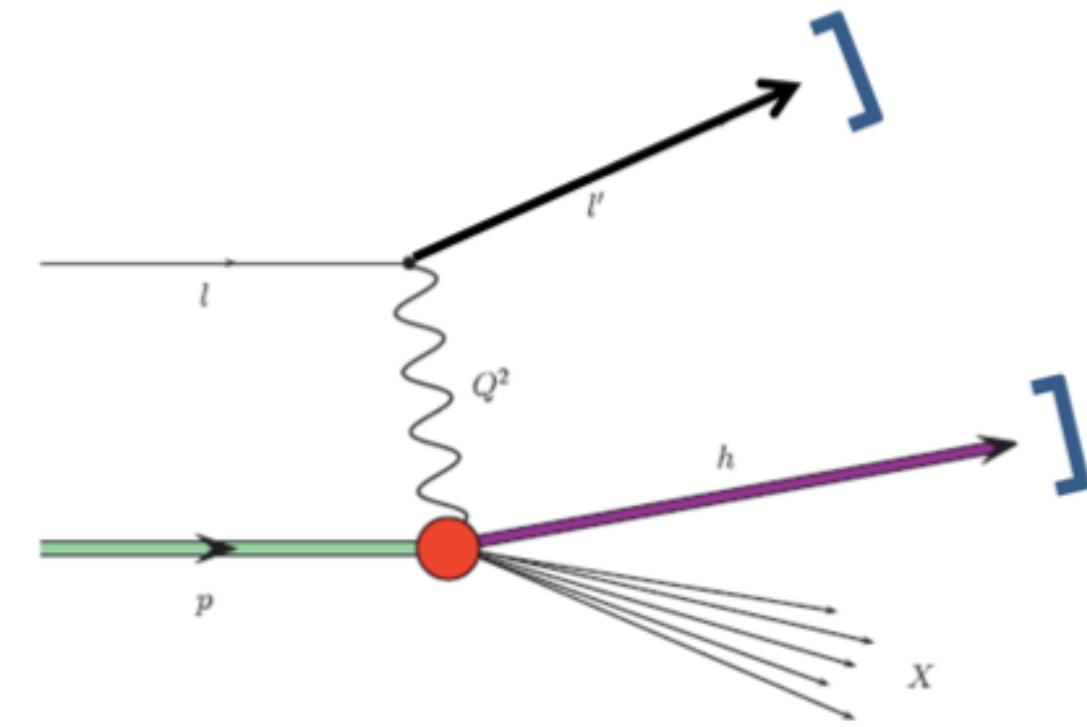
		quark polarisation		
nucleon polarisation		U	L	T
	U	f_1		
	L		g_{1L}	
	T			h_{1T}

survive integration over parton
transverse momentum

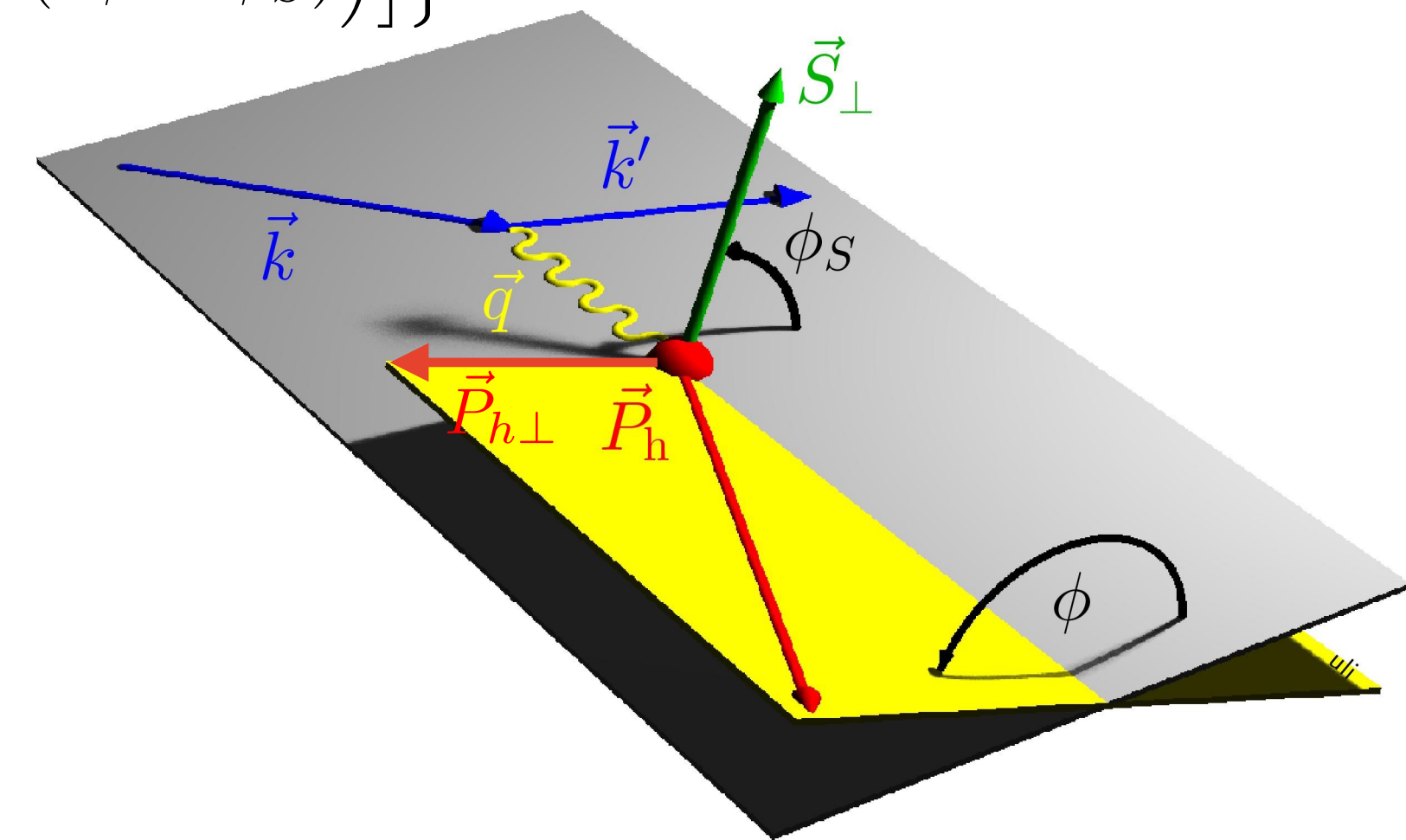
Transverse-momentum-dependent parton distribution functions

		quark polarisation		
nucleon polarisation		U	L	T
	U	f_1		h_1^\perp
	L		g_{1L}	h_{1L}^\perp
	T	f_{1T}^\perp	g_{1T}^\perp	$h_{1T} h_{1T}^\perp$

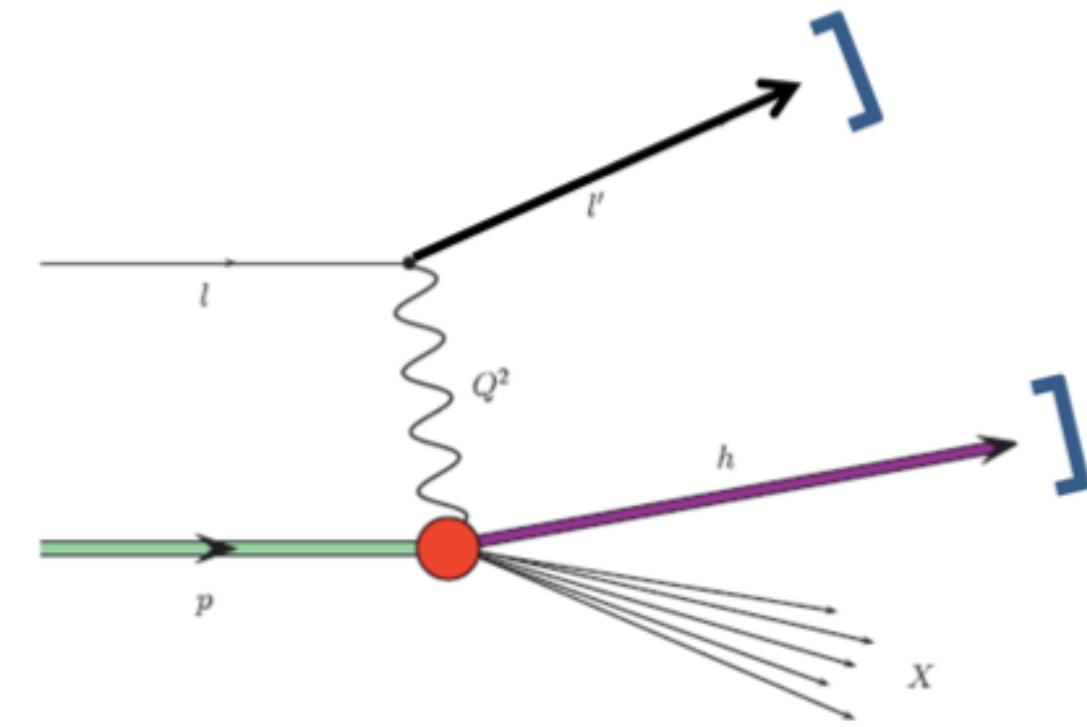
Semi-inclusive DIS cross section



$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma^h(\phi, \phi_S) = & \sigma_{UU}^h \left\{ 1 + 2\langle \cos(\phi) \rangle_{UU}^h \cos(\phi) + 2\langle \cos(2\phi) \rangle_{UU}^h \cos(2\phi) \right. \\
 & + \lambda_l 2\langle \sin(\phi) \rangle_{LU}^h \sin(\phi) \\
 & + S_L \left[2\langle \sin(\phi) \rangle_{UL}^h \sin(\phi) + 2\langle \sin(2\phi) \rangle_{UL}^h \sin(2\phi) \right. \\
 & + \lambda_l \left(2\langle \cos(0\phi) \rangle_{LL}^h \cos(0\phi) + 2\langle \cos(\phi) \rangle_{LL}^h \cos(\phi) \right) \Big] \\
 & + S_T \left[2\langle \sin(\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(\phi - \phi_S) + 2\langle \sin(\phi + \phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(\phi + \phi_S) \right. \\
 & + 2\langle \sin(3\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(3\phi - \phi_S) + 2\langle \sin(\phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(\phi_S) \\
 & + 2\langle \sin(2\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(2\phi - \phi_S) \\
 & + \lambda_l \left(2\langle \cos(\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{LT}^h \cos(\phi - \phi_S) \right. \\
 & + \left. \left. 2\langle \cos(\phi_S) \rangle_{LT}^h \cos(\phi_S) + 2\langle \cos(2\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{LT}^h \cos(2\phi - \phi_S) \right) \right] \Big\}
 \end{aligned}$$

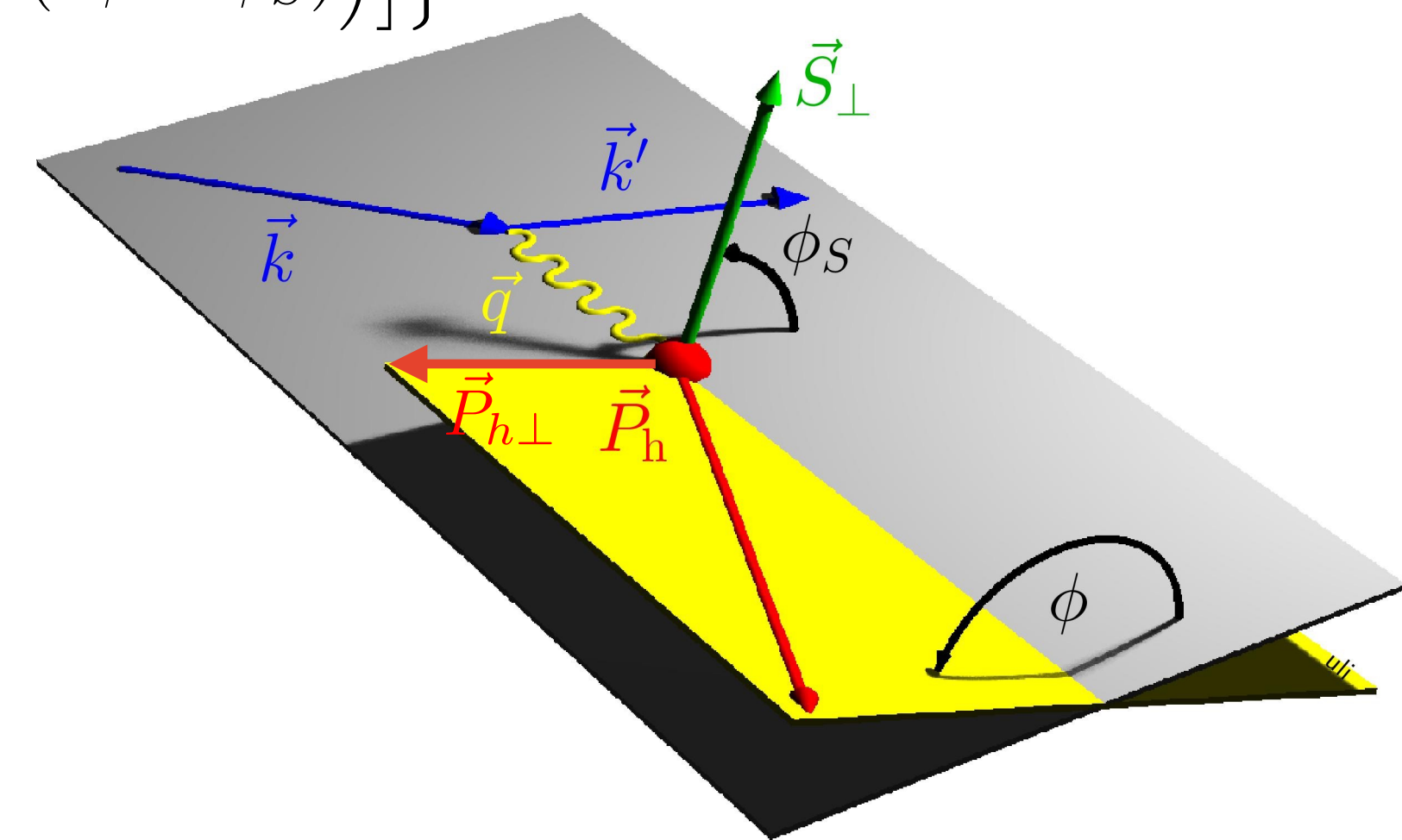


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 & + \lambda_l 2\langle \sin(\phi) \rangle_{LU}^h \sin(\phi) \\
 & \xleftarrow{\text{longitudinal target polarisation}} + S_L \left[2\langle \sin(\phi) \rangle_{UL}^h \sin(\phi) + 2\langle \sin(2\phi) \rangle_{UL}^h \sin(2\phi) \right. \\
 & + \lambda_l \left(2\langle \cos(0\phi) \rangle_{LL}^h \cos(0\phi) + 2\langle \cos(\phi) \rangle_{LL}^h \cos(\phi) \right) \\
 & \xleftarrow{\text{transverse target polarisation}} + S_T \left[2\langle \sin(\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(\phi - \phi_S) + 2\langle \sin(\phi + \phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(\phi + \phi_S) \right. \\
 & + 2\langle \sin(3\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(3\phi - \phi_S) + 2\langle \sin(\phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(\phi_S) \\
 & + 2\langle \sin(2\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h \sin(2\phi - \phi_S) \\
 & \xleftarrow{\text{beam polarisation}} + \lambda_l \left(2\langle \cos(\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{LT}^h \cos(\phi - \phi_S) \right. \\
 & + \left. \left. 2\langle \cos(\phi_S) \rangle_{LT}^h \cos(\phi_S) + 2\langle \cos(2\phi - \phi_S) \rangle_{LT}^h \cos(2\phi - \phi_S) \right) \right] \Big\}
 \end{aligned}$$

beam polarisation
target polarisation



TMD PDFs and fragmentation functions (FFs)

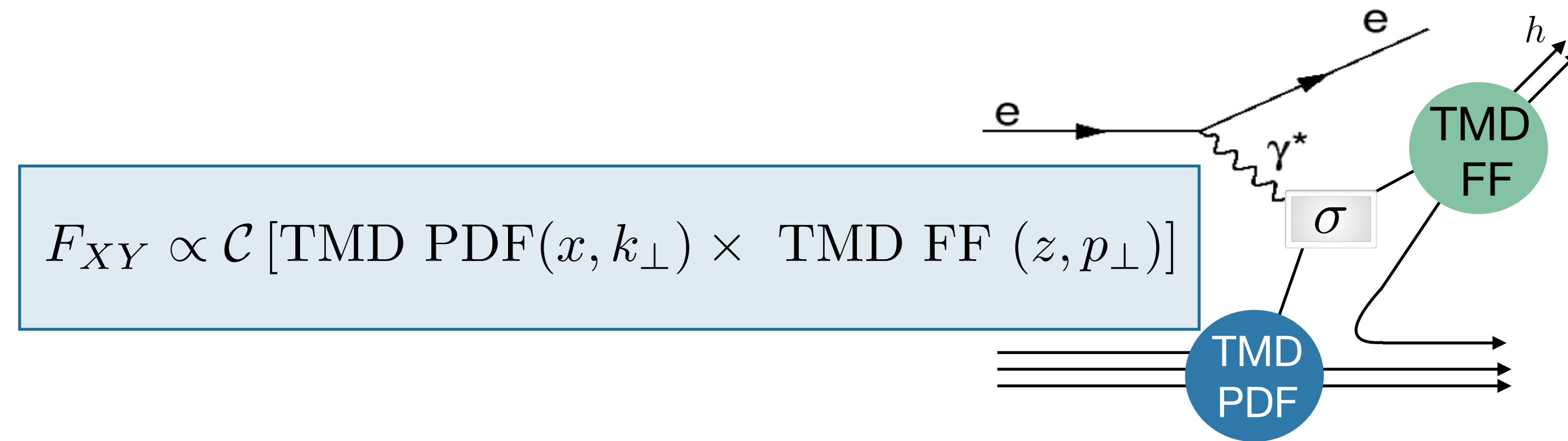
Azimuthal amplitudes related to structure functions F_{XY} :

$$2\langle \sin(\phi + \phi_S) \rangle_{UT}^h = \epsilon F_{UT}^{\sin(\phi + \phi_S)}$$

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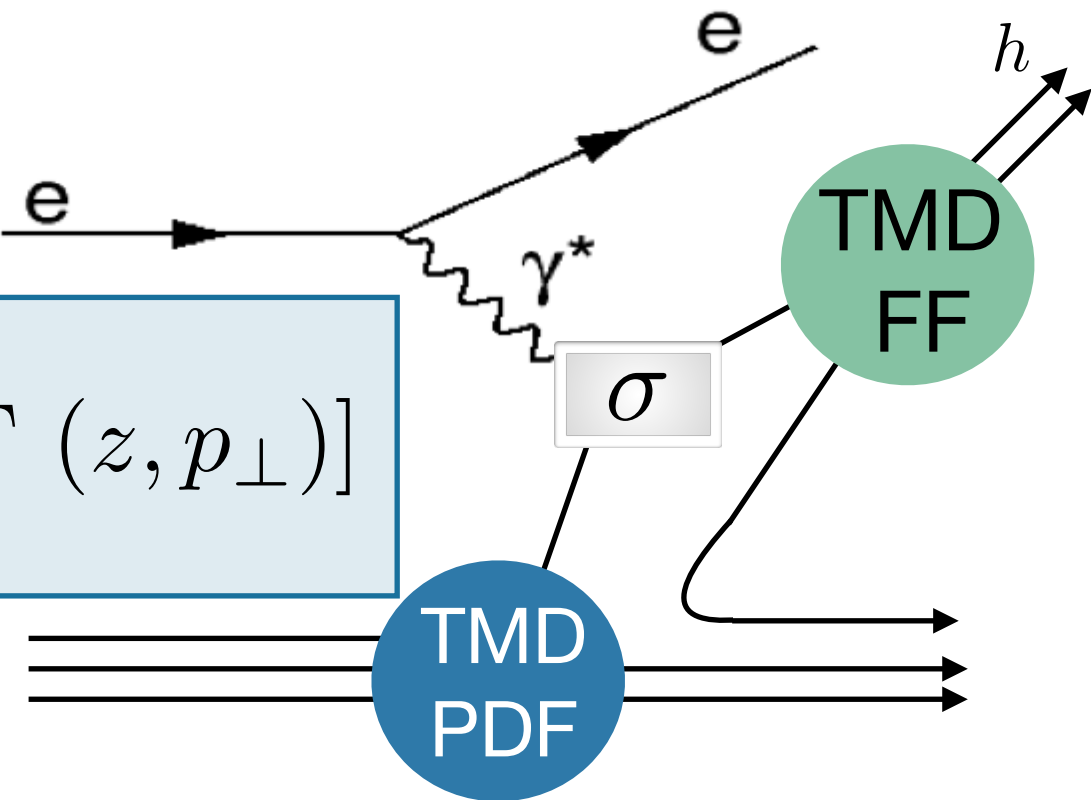


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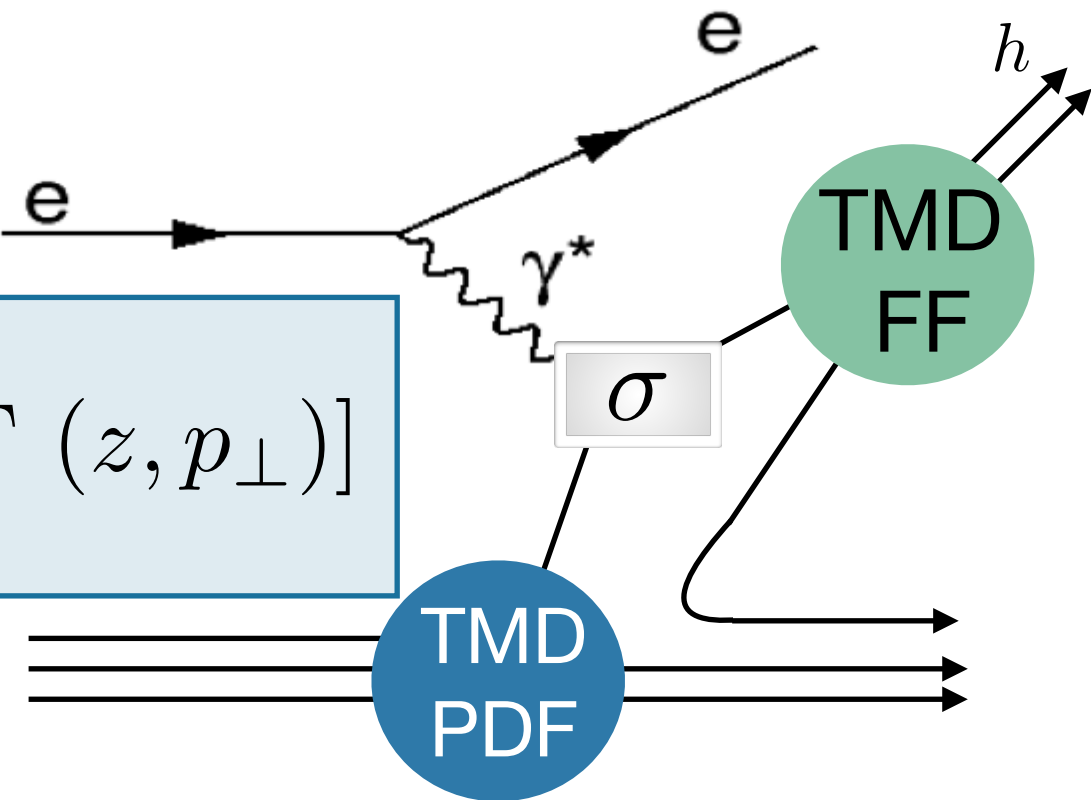
		quark polarisation		
nucleon polarisation		U	L	T
	U	f_1		h_1^\perp
	L		g_{1L}	h_{1L}^\perp
	T	f_{1T}^\perp	g_{1T}^\perp	$h_{1T} h_{1T}^\perp$

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nucleon polarisation

	U	L	T
U	f_1		h_1^{\perp}
L		g_{1L}	h_{1L}^{\perp}
T	f_{1T}^{\perp}	g_{1T}^{\perp}	$h_{1T} h_{1T}^{\perp}$

hadron polarisation

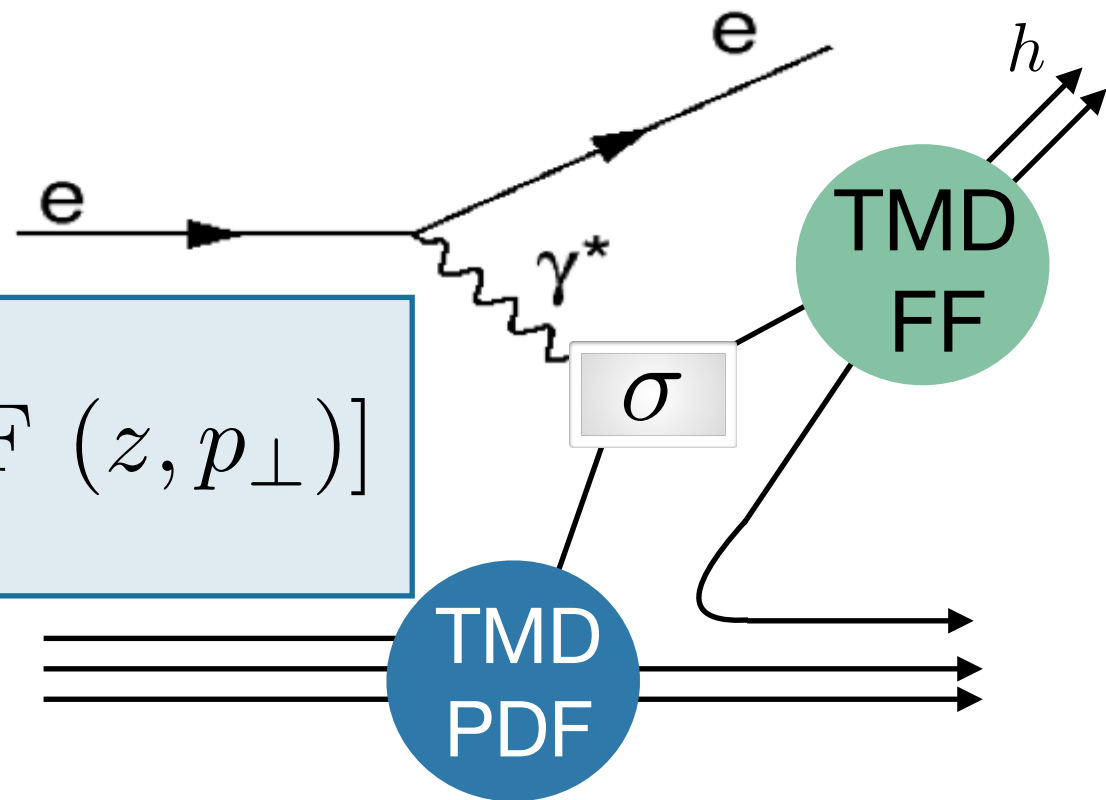
	U	L	T
U	D_1		H_1^{\perp}

TMD PDFs and fragmentation functions (FFs)

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		U	L	T
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		quark polarisation		
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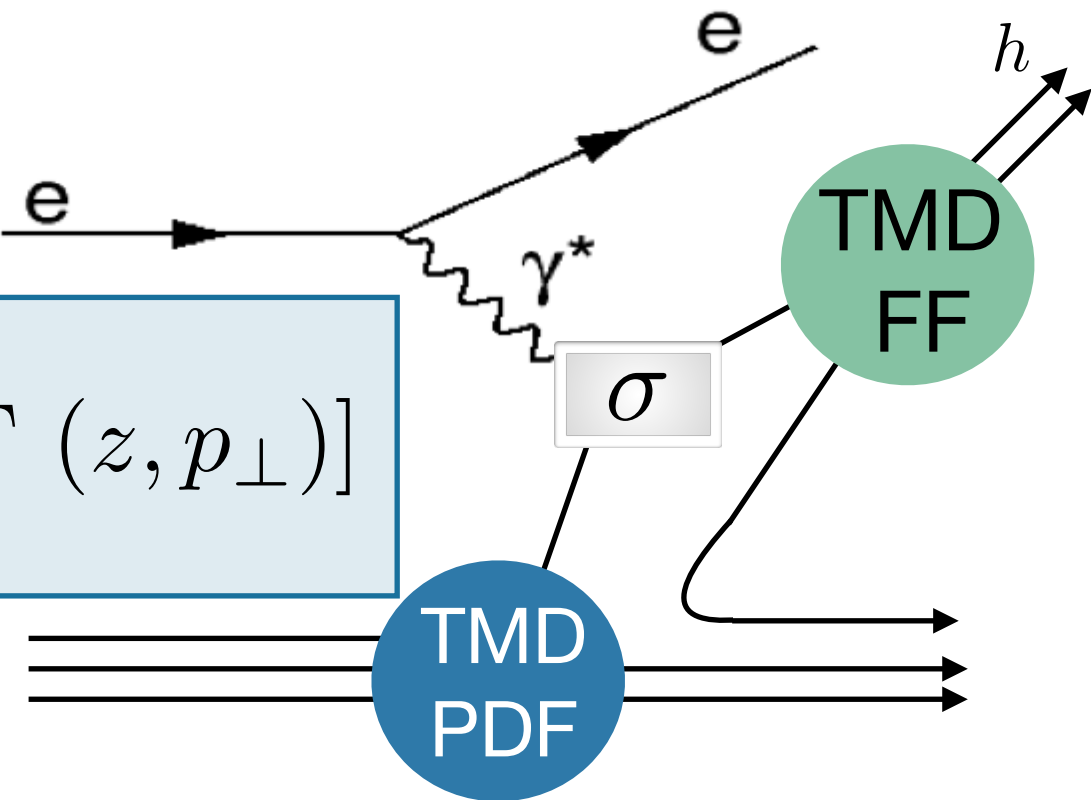
chiral even x chiral even

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quark polarisation

	U	L	T
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nucleon polarisation

chiral even x chiral even

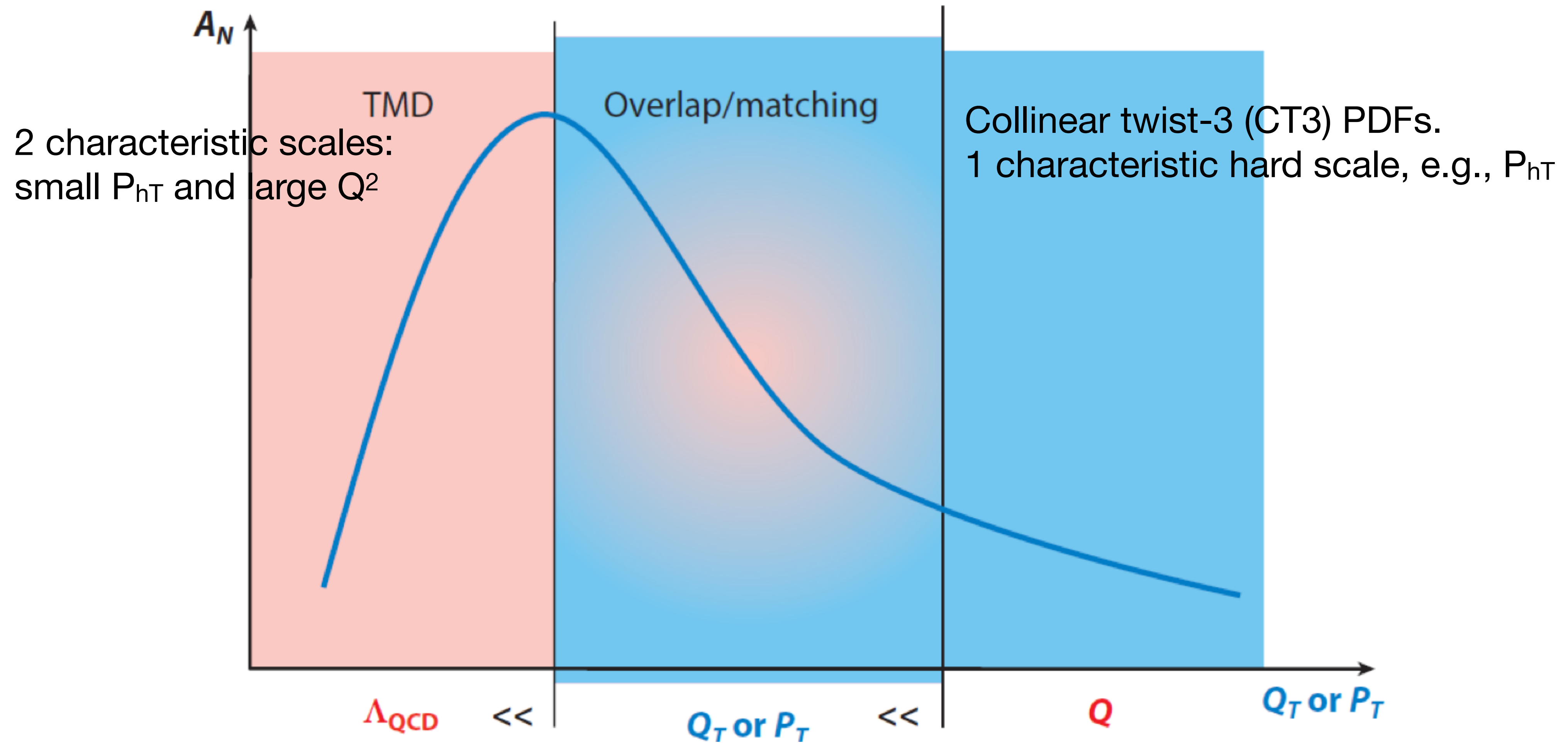
quark polarisation

	U	L	T
U	D_1		H_1^\perp

hadron polarisation

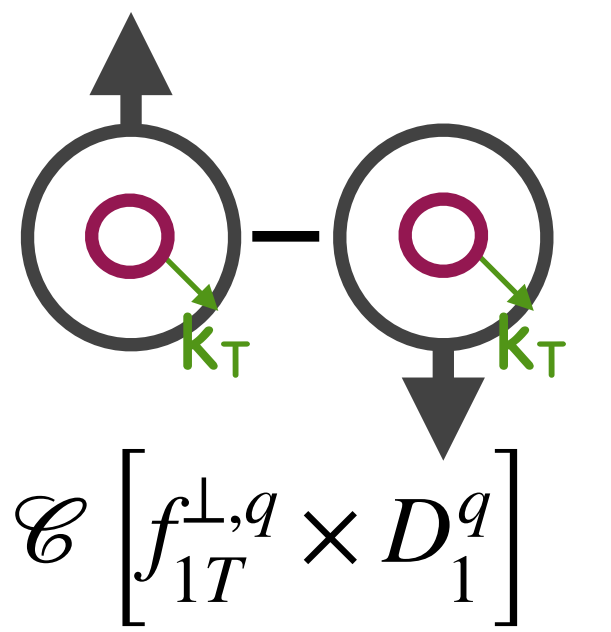
chiral odd x chiral odd

Validity of TMD description

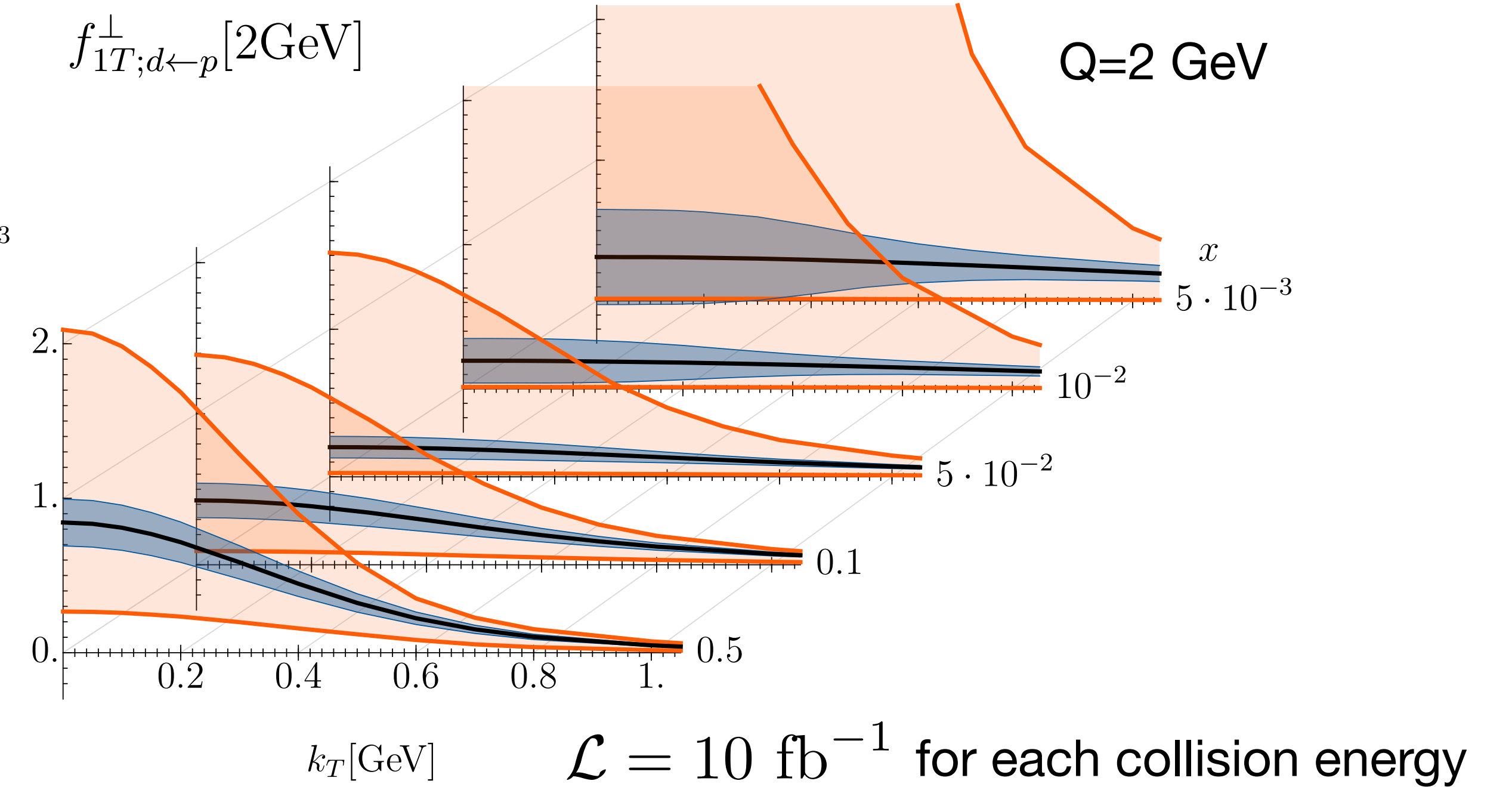
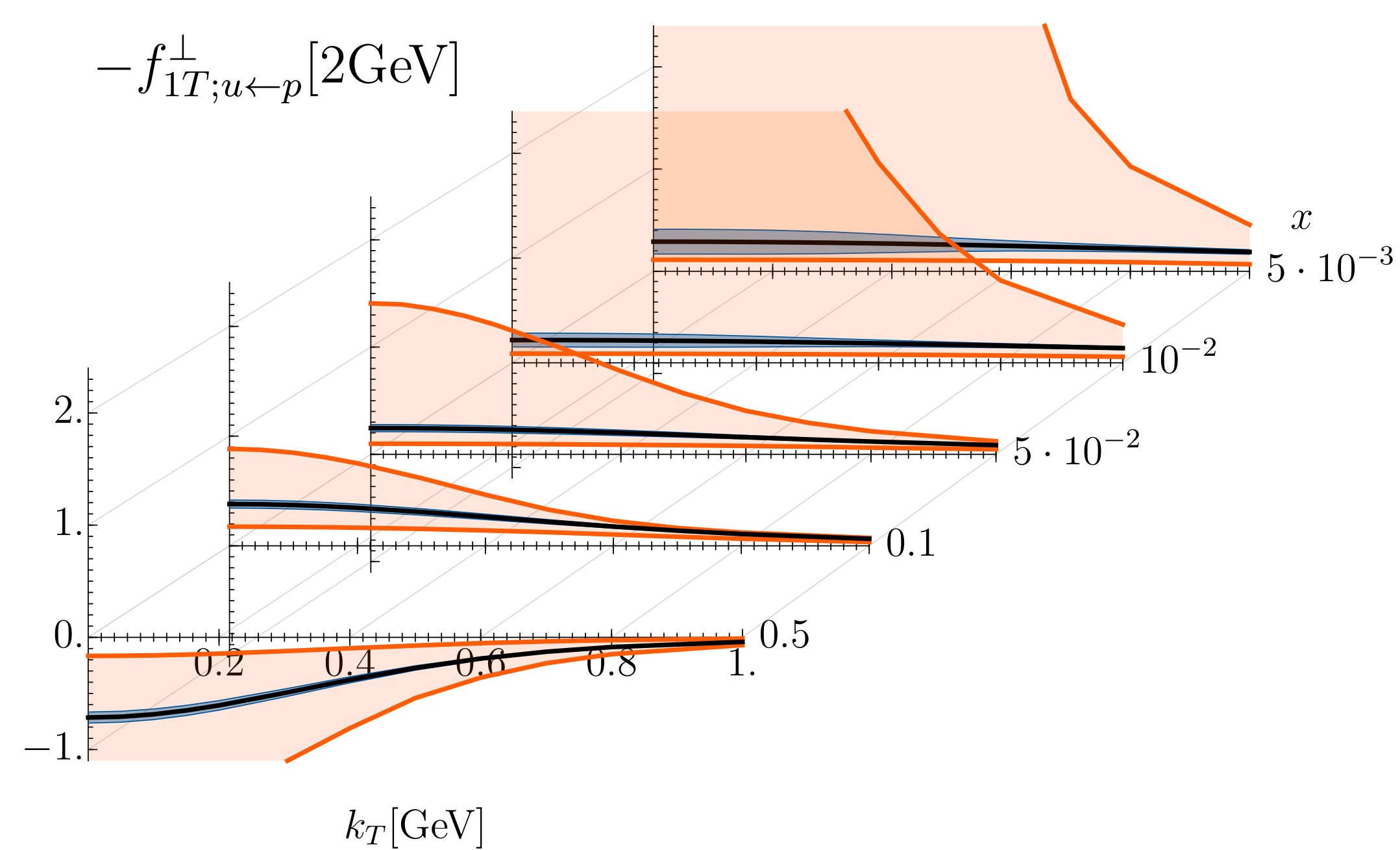


Consistent results for TMD
and CT3 in overlap region

Impact of EIC on Sivers TMD PDFs



$$\frac{\sigma^{\uparrow} - \sigma^{\downarrow}}{\sigma^{\uparrow} + \sigma^{\downarrow}} \propto \sin(\phi - \phi_S) \sum_q e_q^2 \mathcal{C} \left[f_{1T}^{\perp,q}(x, k_{\perp}) \times D_1^q(z, p_{\perp}) \right]$$



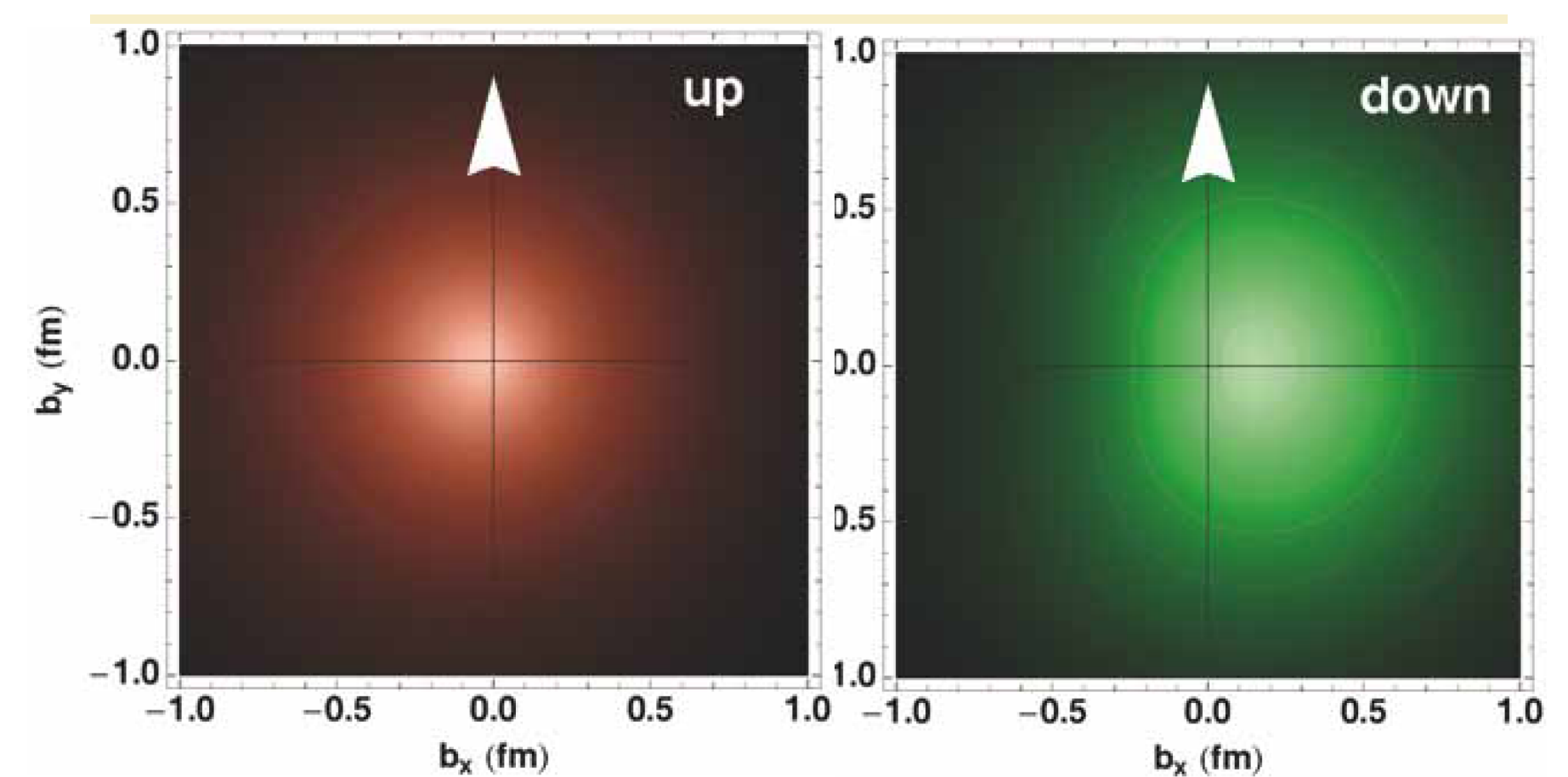
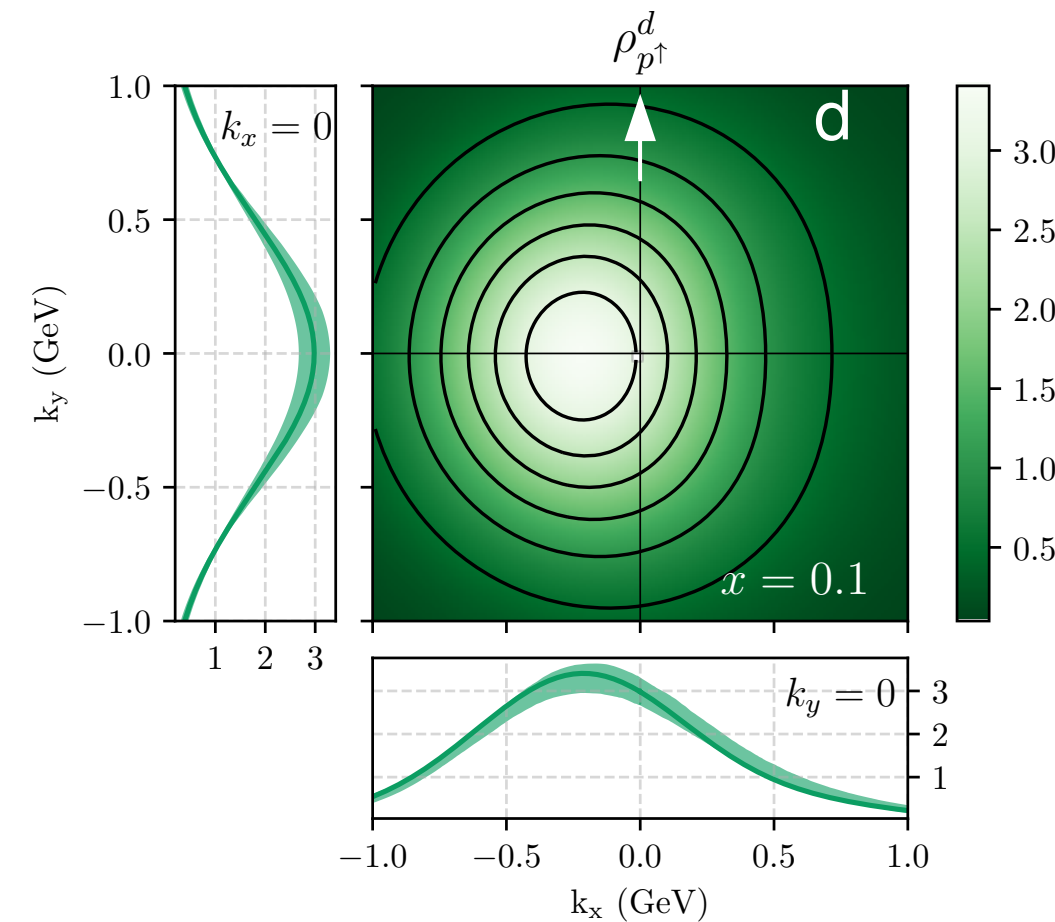
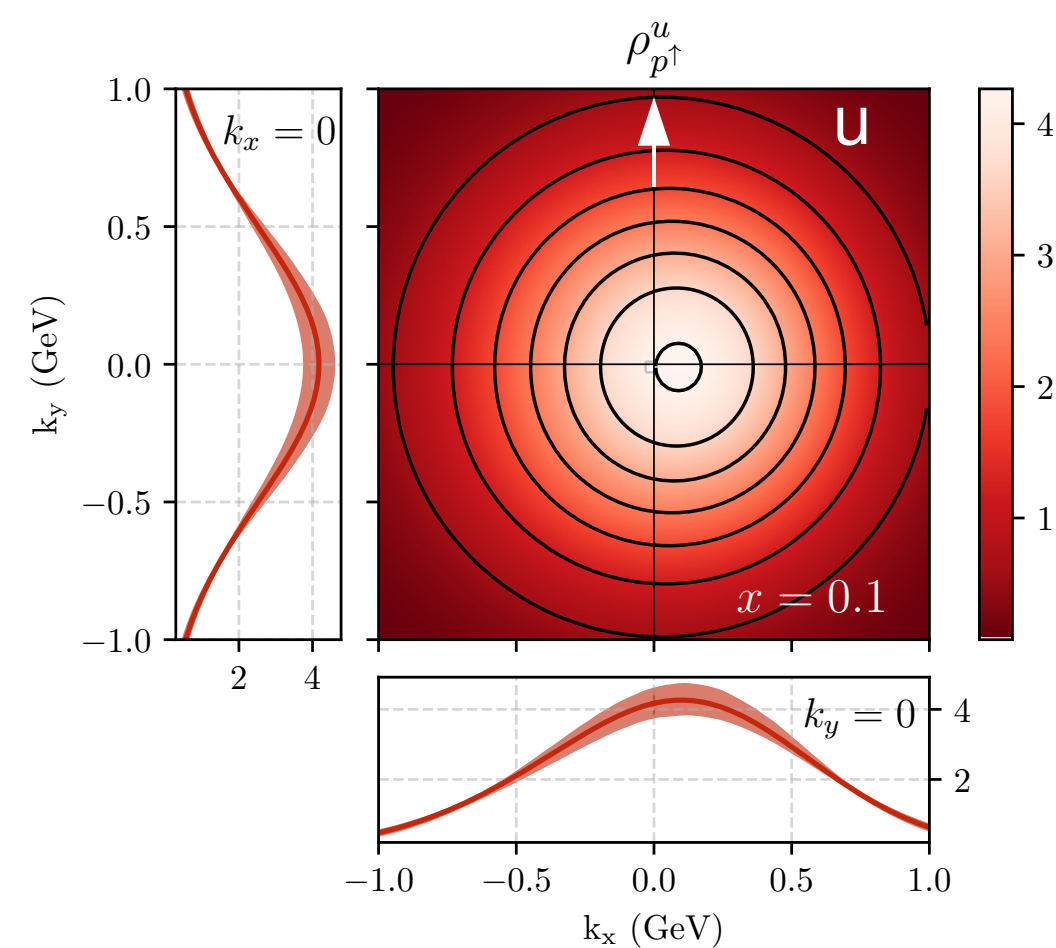
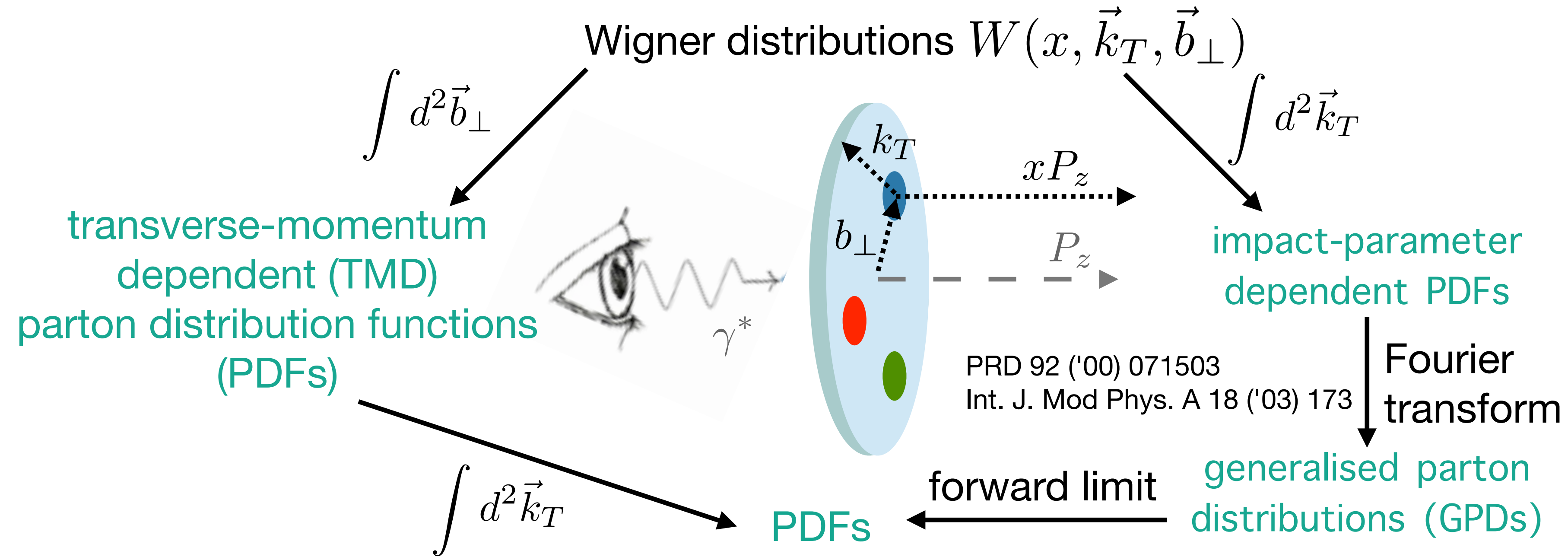
R. Seidl, A. Vladimirov et al., NIM A **1055** (2023) 168458

Gluon TMDs

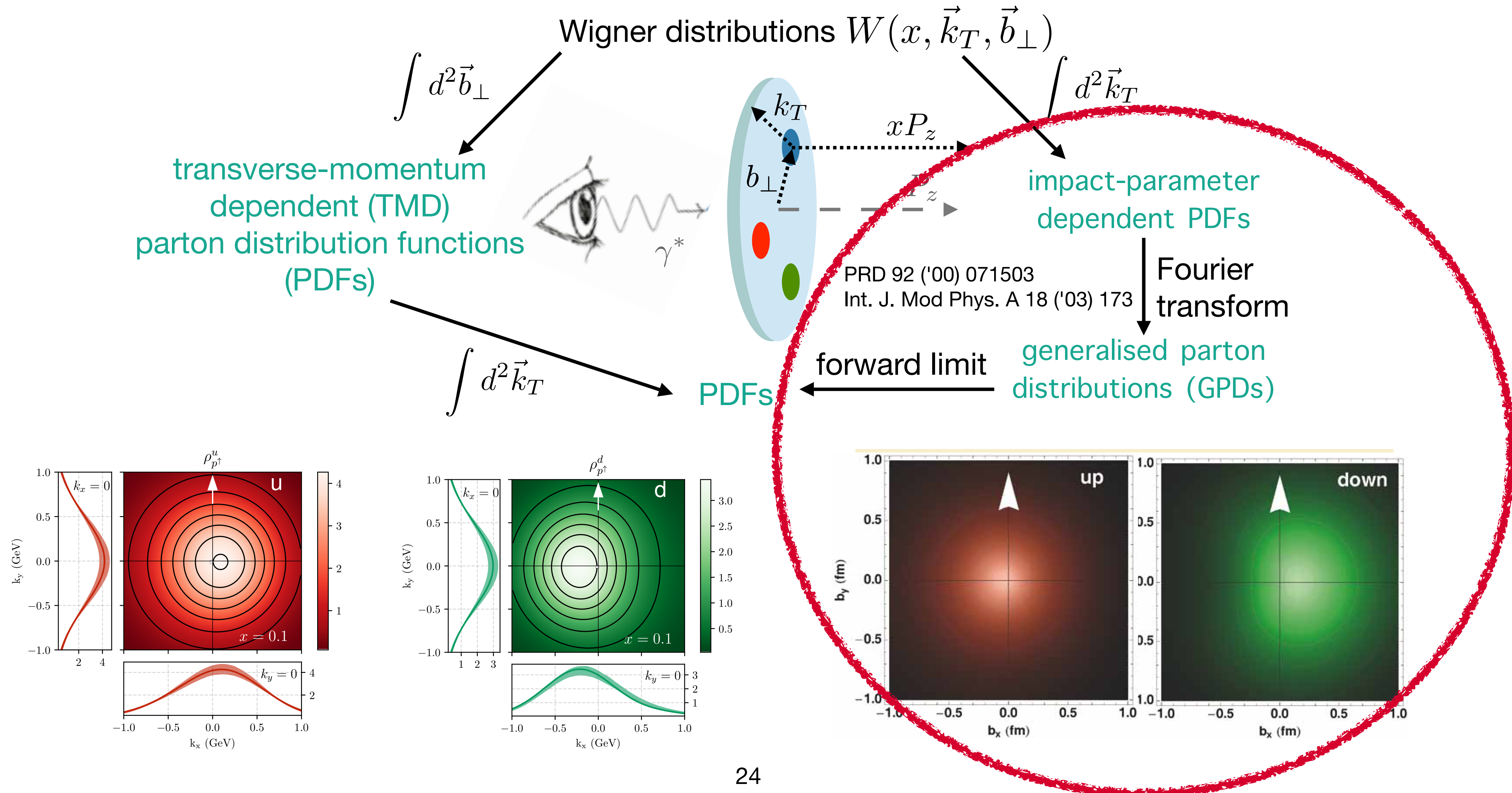
GLUONS	<i>unpolarized</i>	<i>circular</i>	<i>linear</i>
U	f_1^g		$h_1^{\perp g}$
L		g_{1L}^g	$h_{1L}^{\perp g}$
T	$f_{1T}^{\perp g}$	g_{1T}^g	$h_{1T}^g, h_{1T}^{\perp g}$

- In contrast to quark TMDs, gluon TMDs are almost unknown
- Accessible through production of dijets, high- P_T hadron pairs, quarkonia

The various dimensions of the nucleon structure

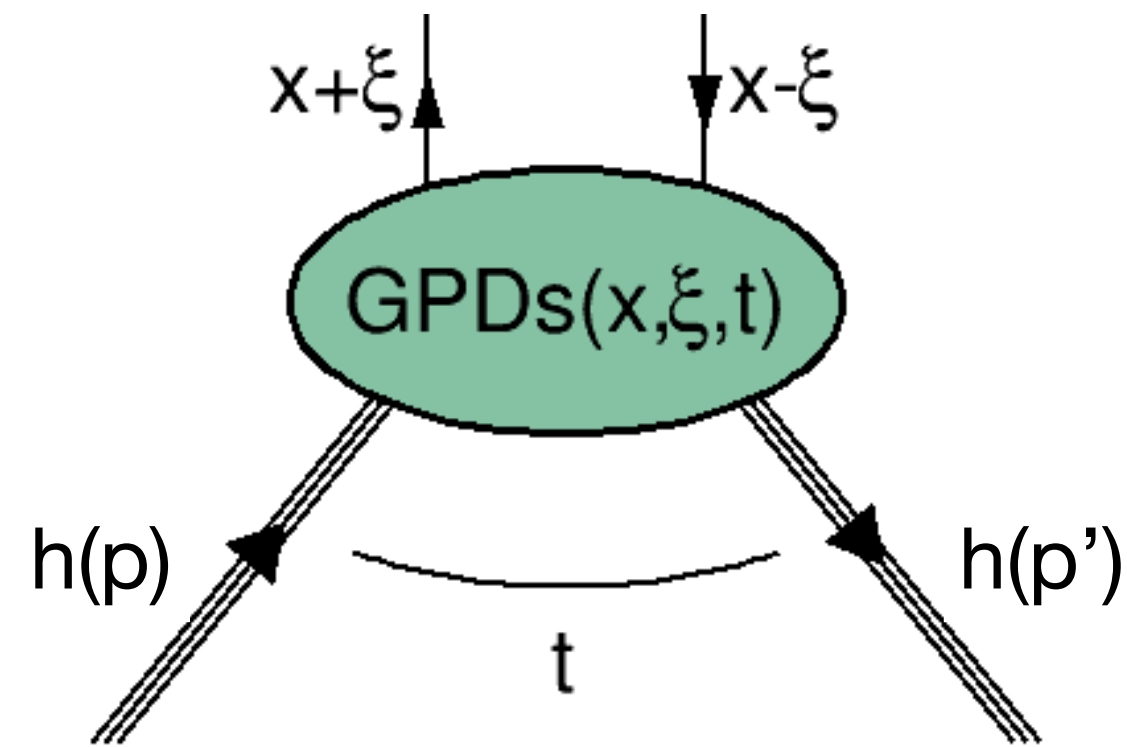


The various dimensions of the nucleon structure



What are generalised parton distributions (GPDs)?

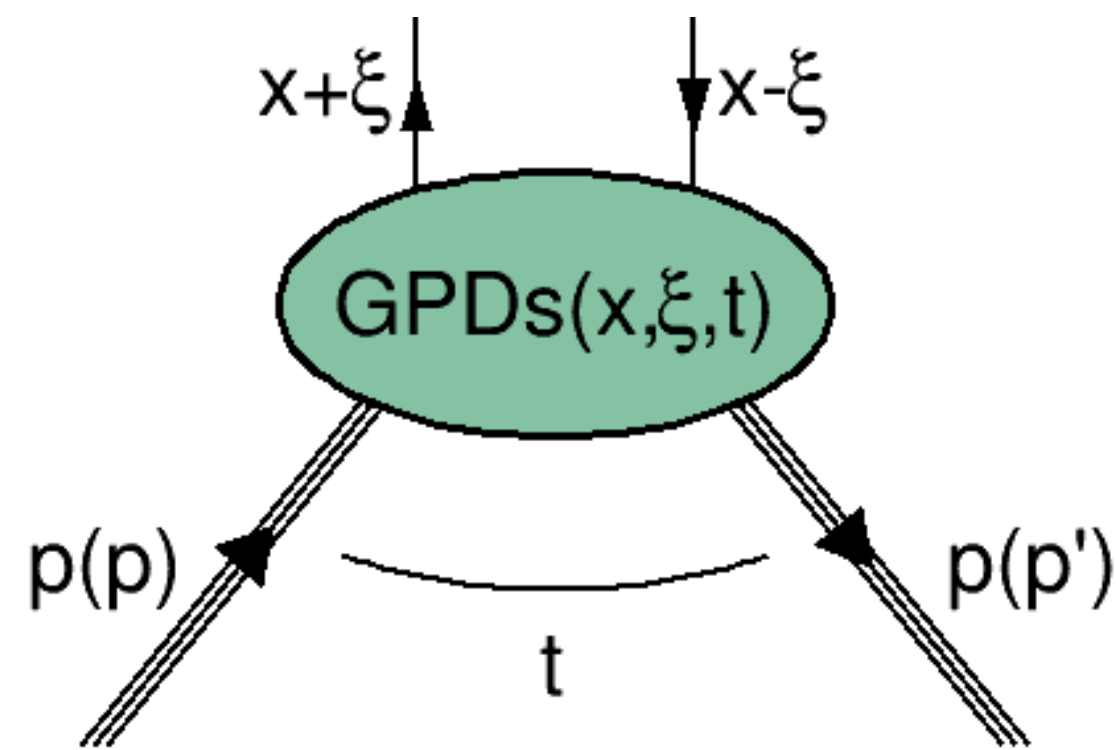
GPDs are probability amplitudes



- x =average longitudinal momentum fraction
- 2ξ =longitudinal momentum transfer
- t =squared momentum transfer to hadron
- experimental access to t and ξ
- in general: no experimental access to x

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- in general: no experimental access to x

- for spin-1/2 hadron:

Four parton helicity-conserving twist-2 GPDs

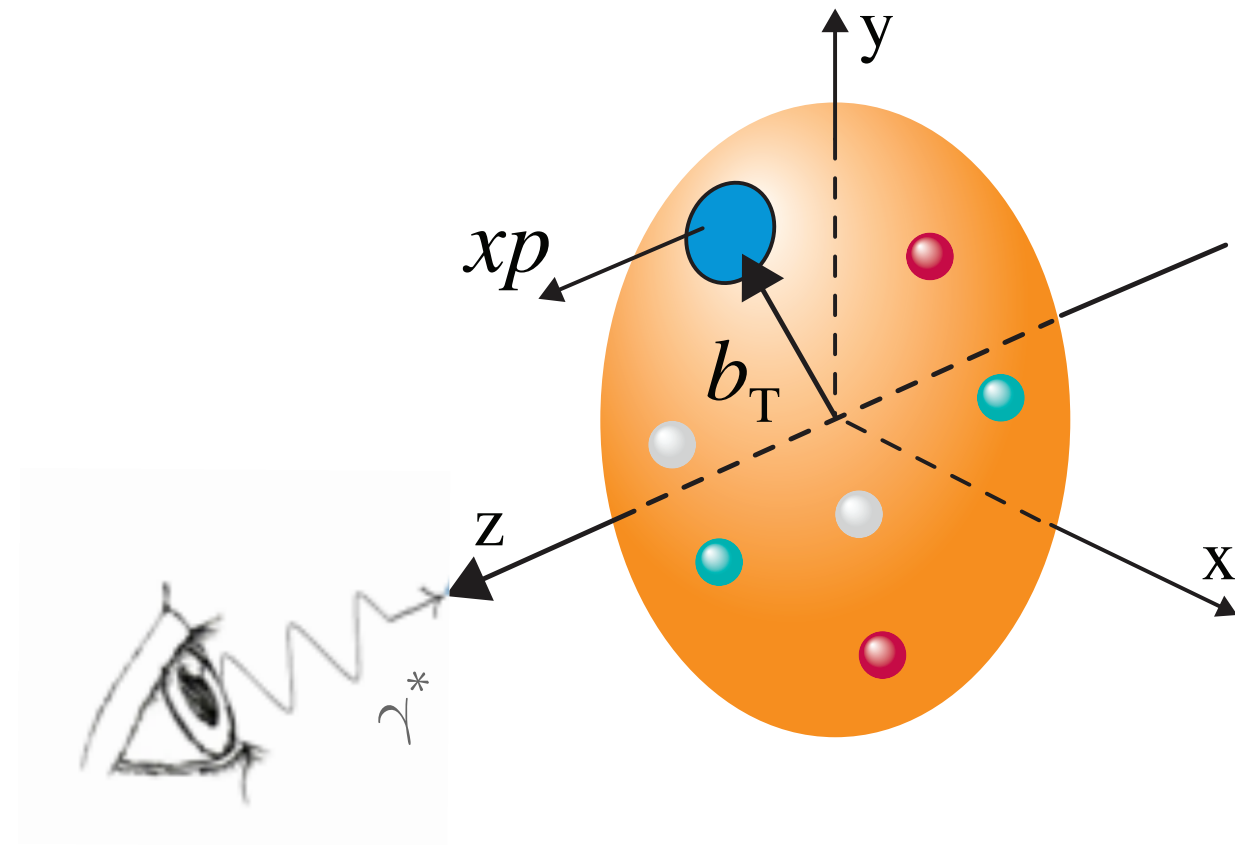
$H(x, \xi, t)$	$E(x, \xi, t)$	parton-spin independent
$\tilde{H}(x, \xi, t)$	$\tilde{E}(x, \xi, t)$	
proton helicity non flip	proton helicity flip	

Four parton helicity-flip twist-2 GPDs

$H_T(x, \xi, t)$	$E_T(x, \xi, t)$
$\tilde{H}_T(x, \xi, t)$	$\tilde{E}_T(x, \xi, t)$

What GPDs tell us about the nucleon

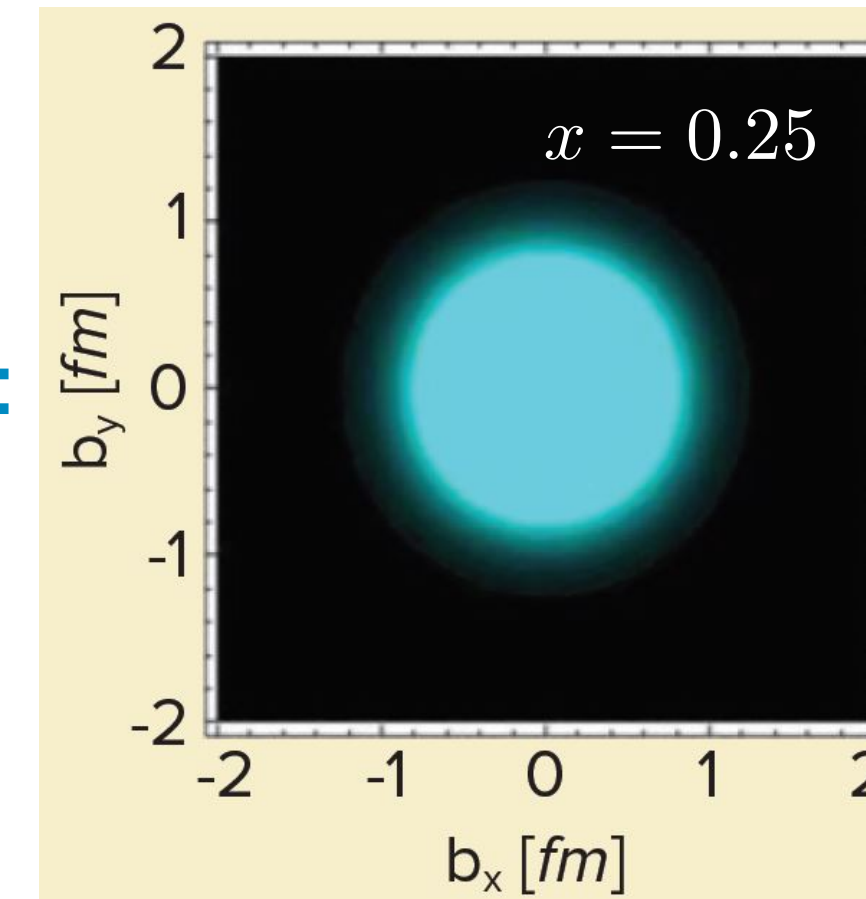
- 3D parton distributions



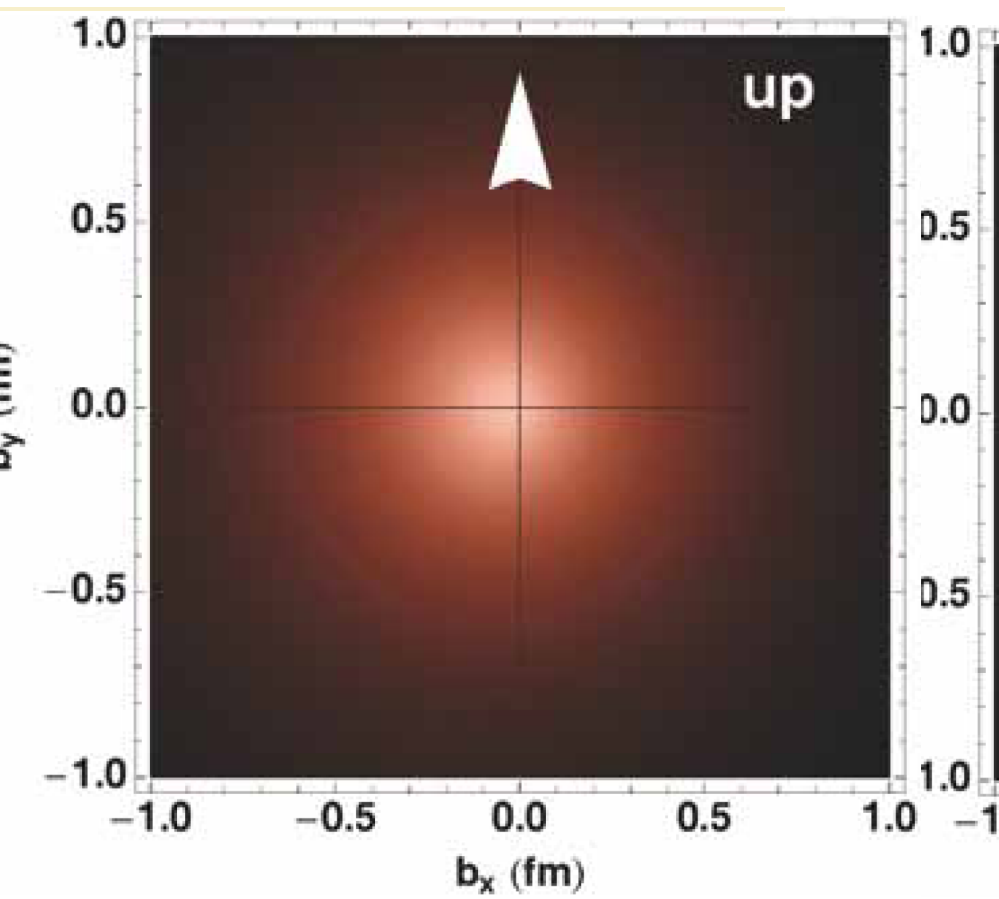
M. Burkardt, PRD **92** ('00) 071503
Int. J. Mod Phys. A **18** ('03) 173

impact-parameter dependent distributions:
probability to find parton (x, b_T)

Fourier
transform for $\xi=0$
GPDs



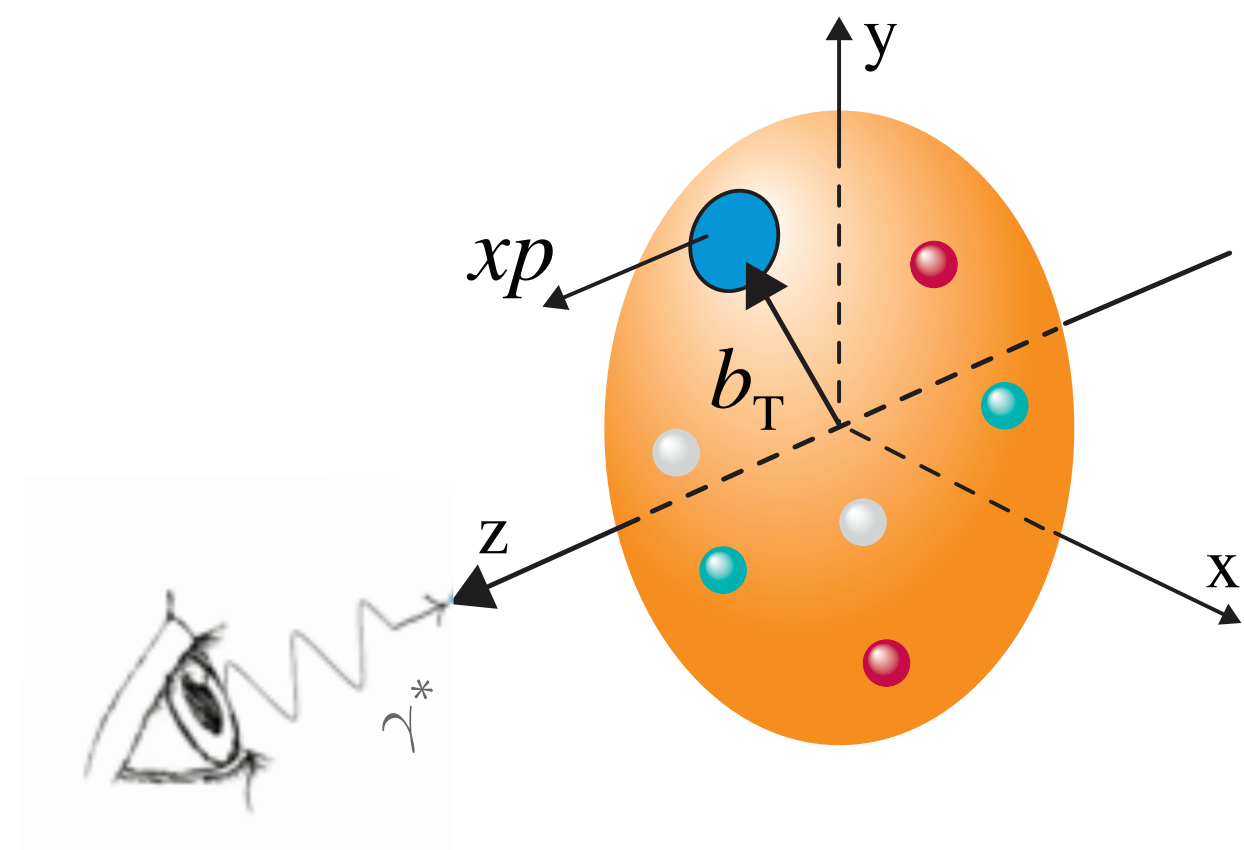
GPD H



GPDs H+E

What GPDs tell us about the nucleon

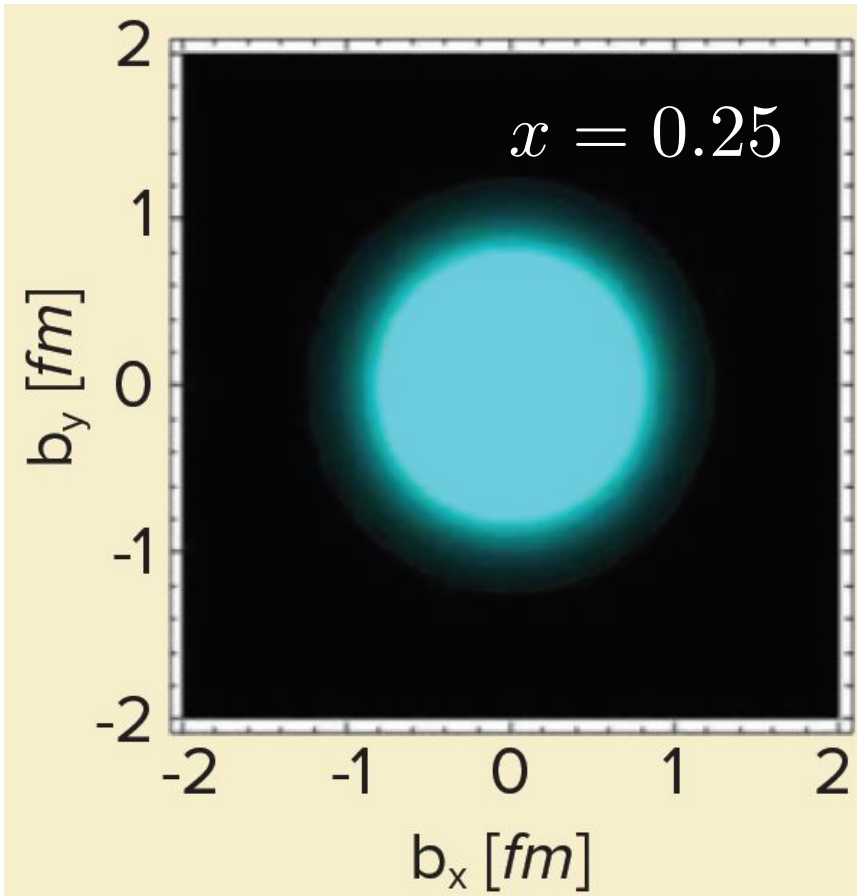
- 3D parton distributions



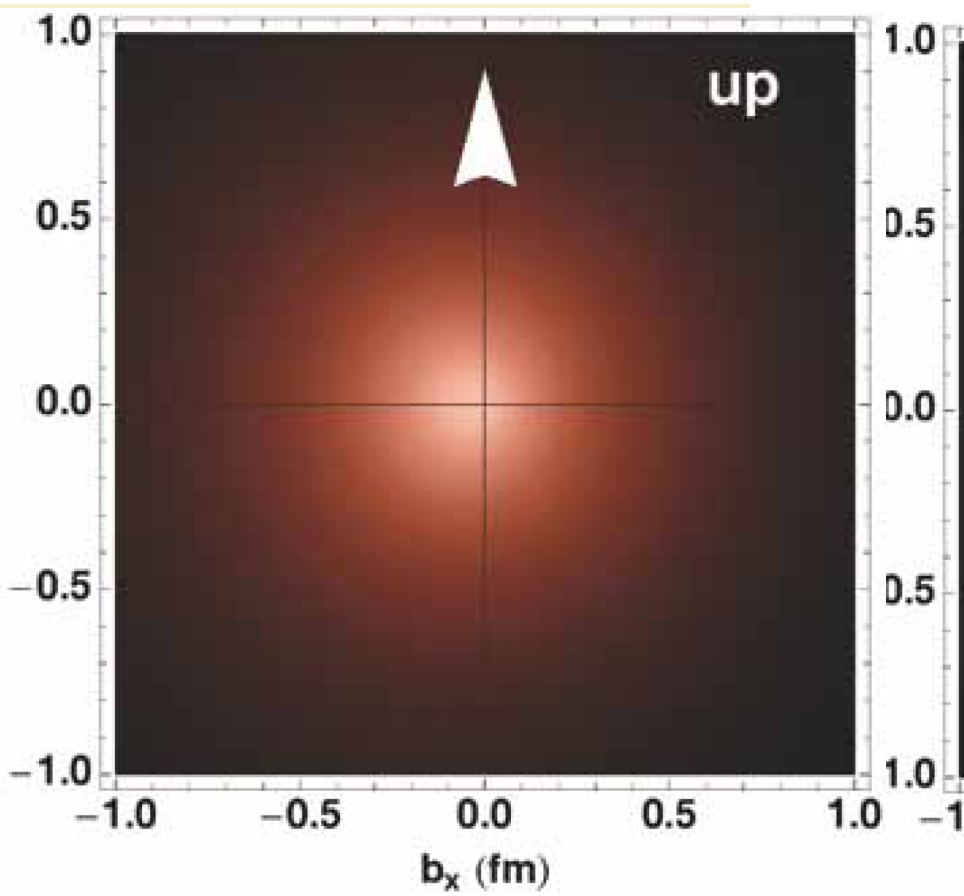
M. Burkardt, PRD **92** ('00) 071503
Int. J. Mod Phys. A **18** ('03) 173

impact-parameter dependent distributions:
probability to find parton (x, b_T)

Fourier
transform for $\xi=0$
GPDs



GPD H



GPDs H+E

- pressure distributions

GPDs

$\int dx \, x$

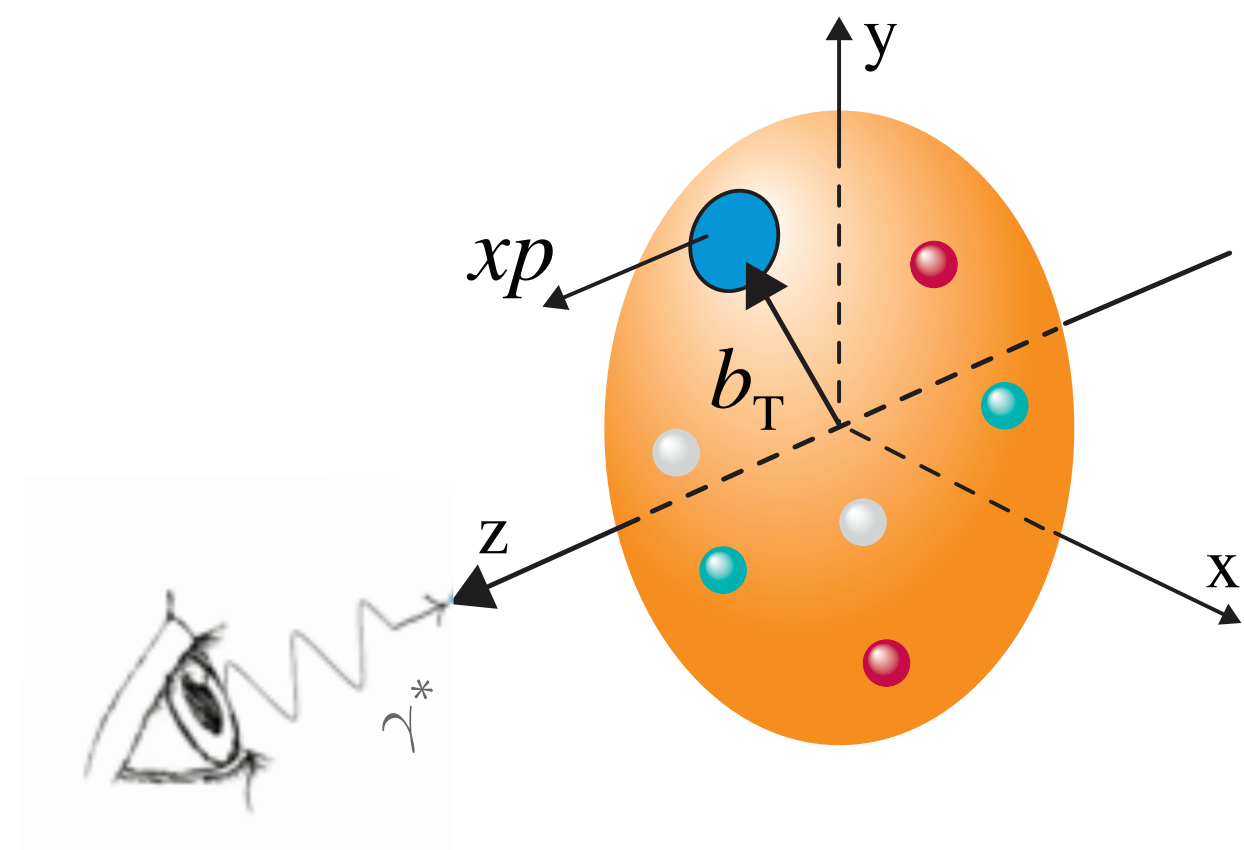
gravitational form factors

Fourier
transform

pressure distributions

What GPDs tell us about the nucleon

- 3D parton distributions

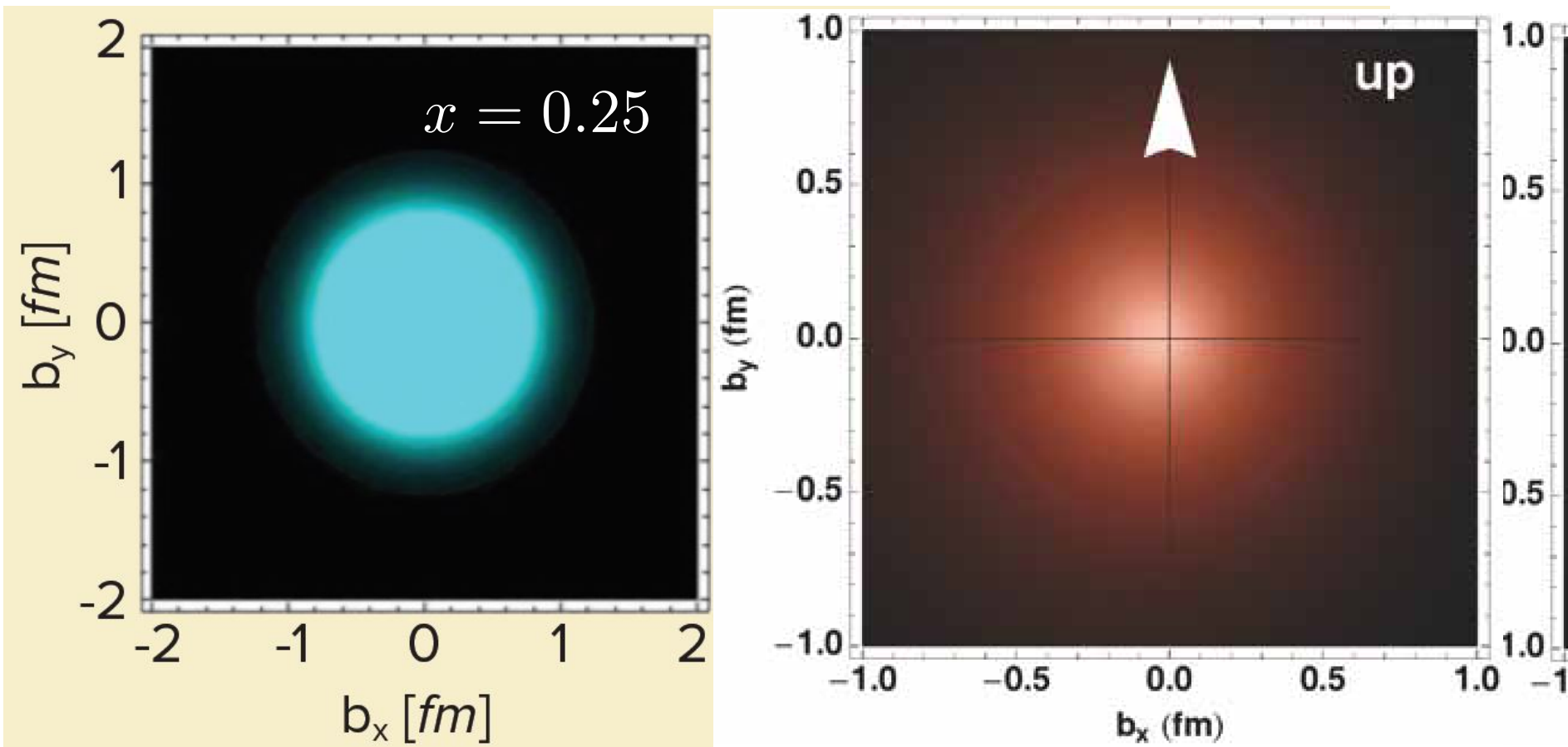


M. Burkardt, PRD **92** ('00) 071503
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impact-parameter dependent distributions:
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$$\int dx x$$

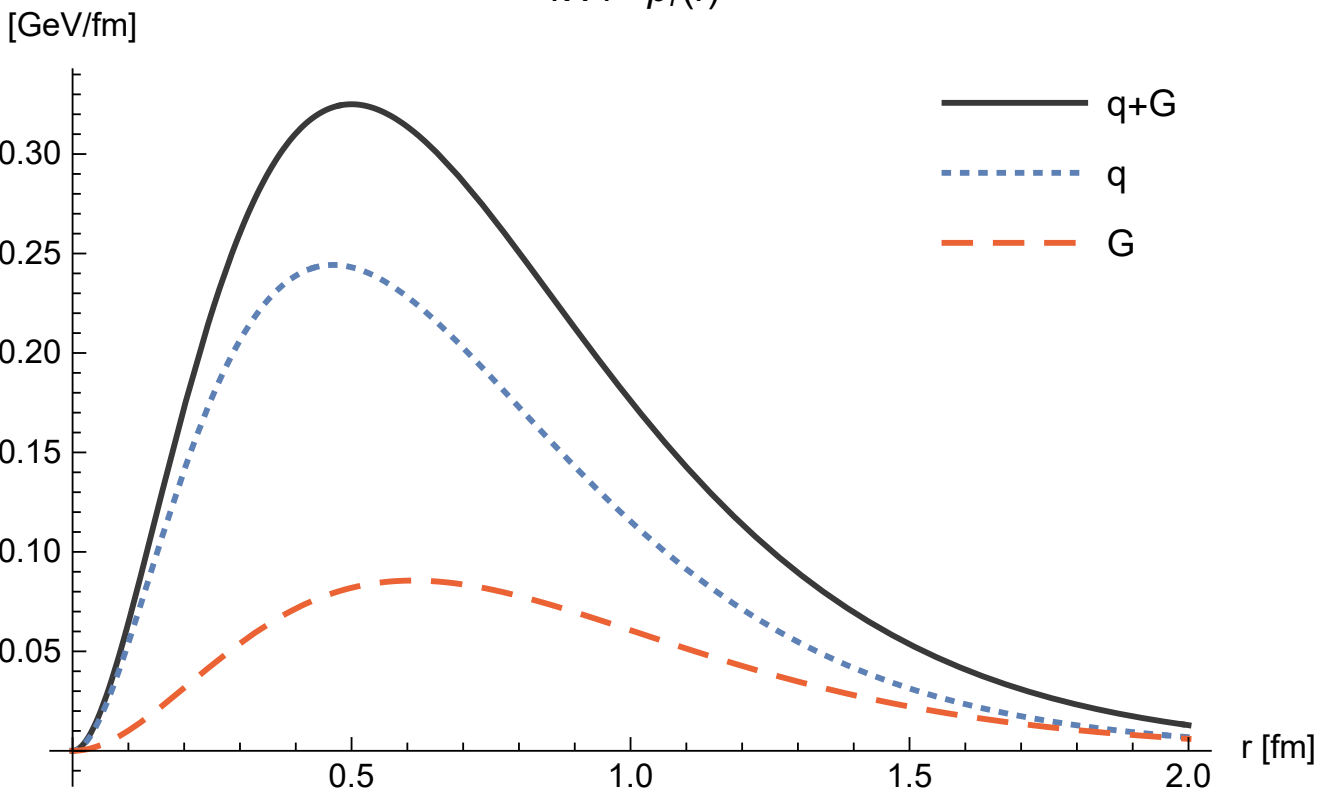
gravitational form factors

Fourier
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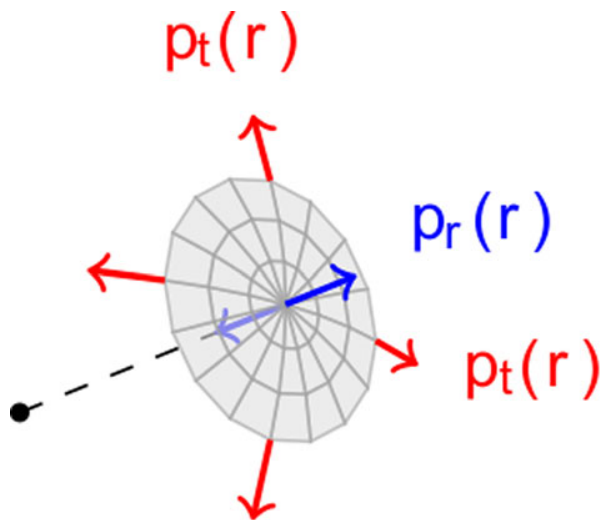
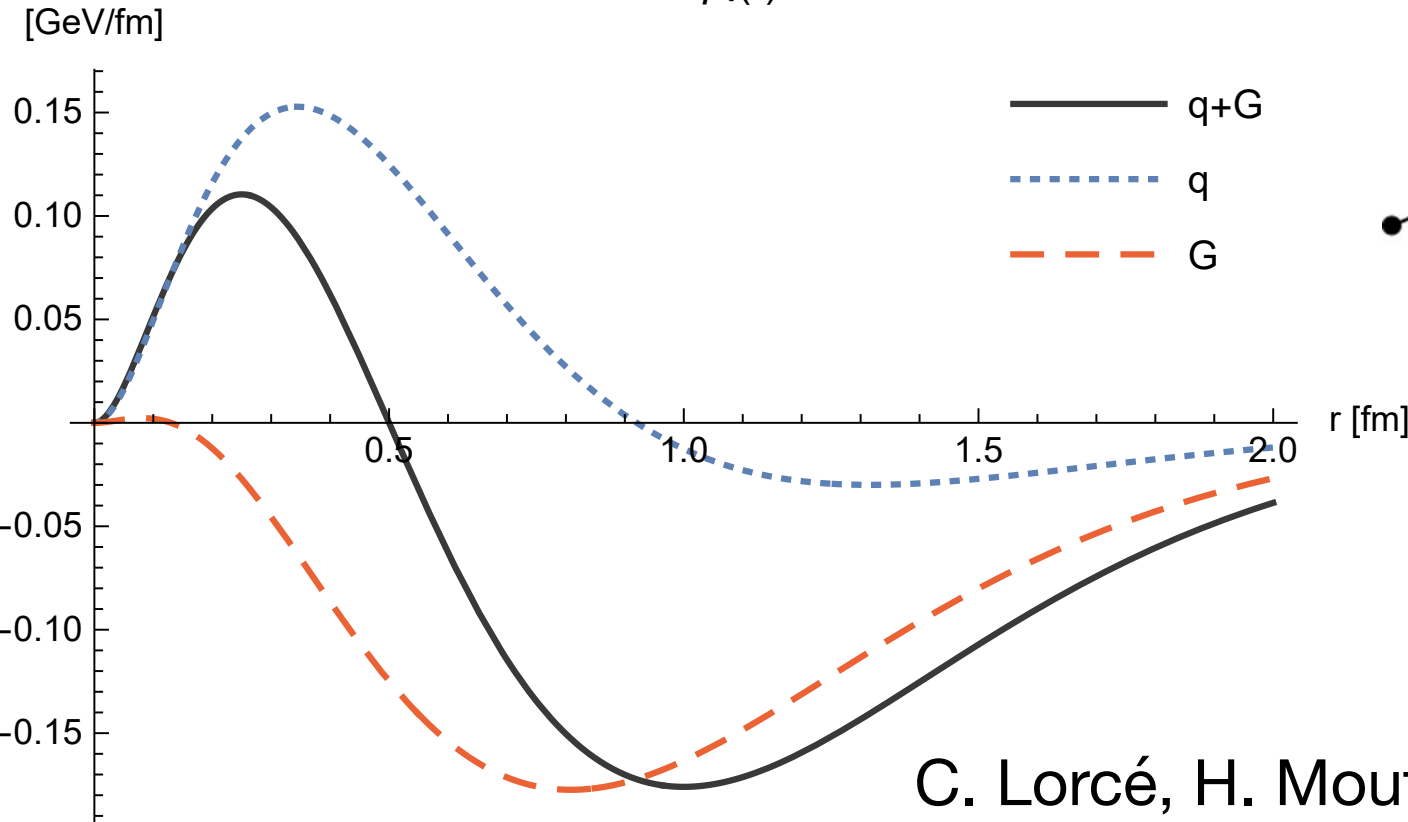
radial pressure

$$4\pi r^2 p_r(r)$$



tangential pressure

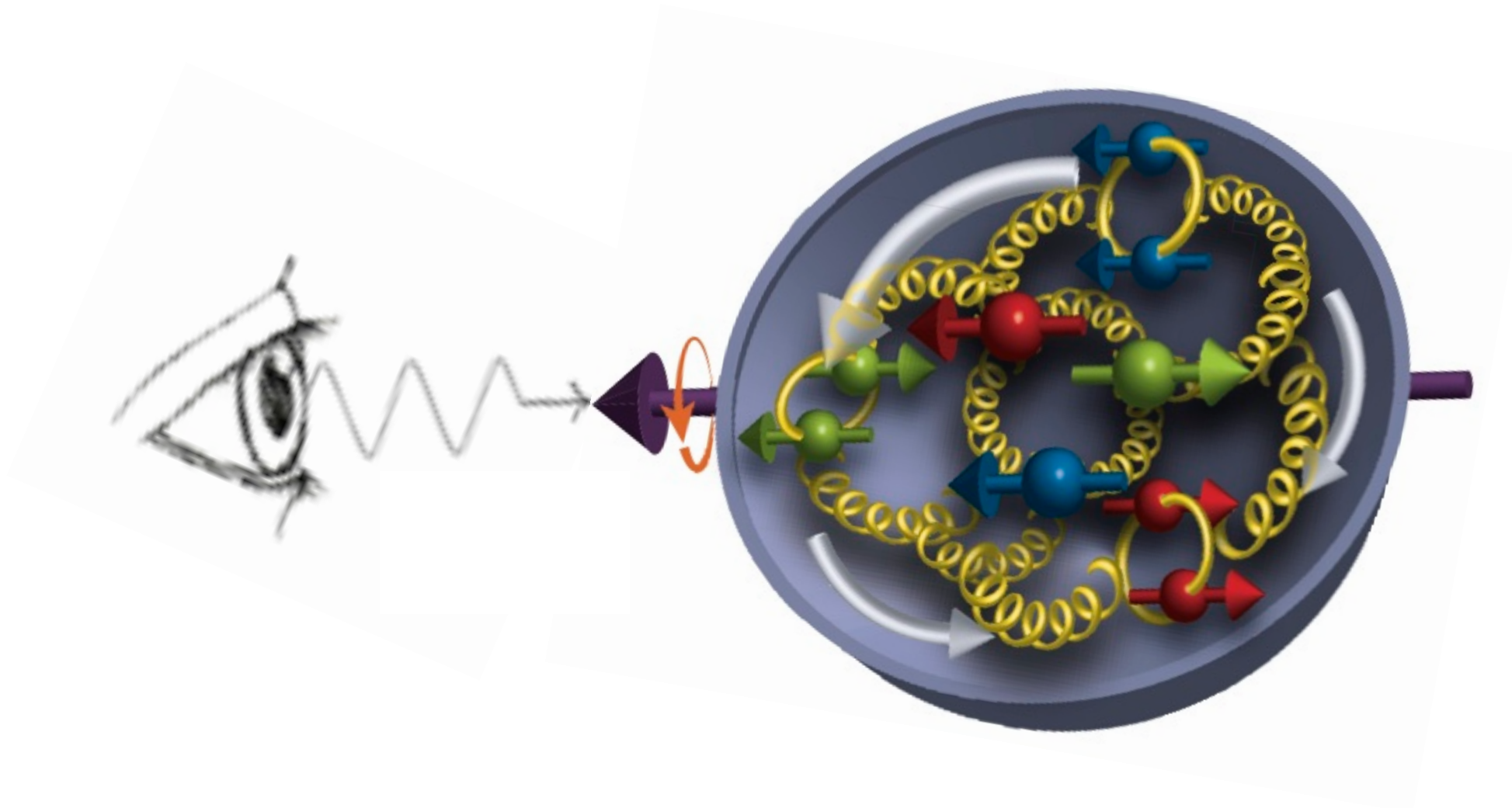
$$4\pi r^2 p_t(r)$$



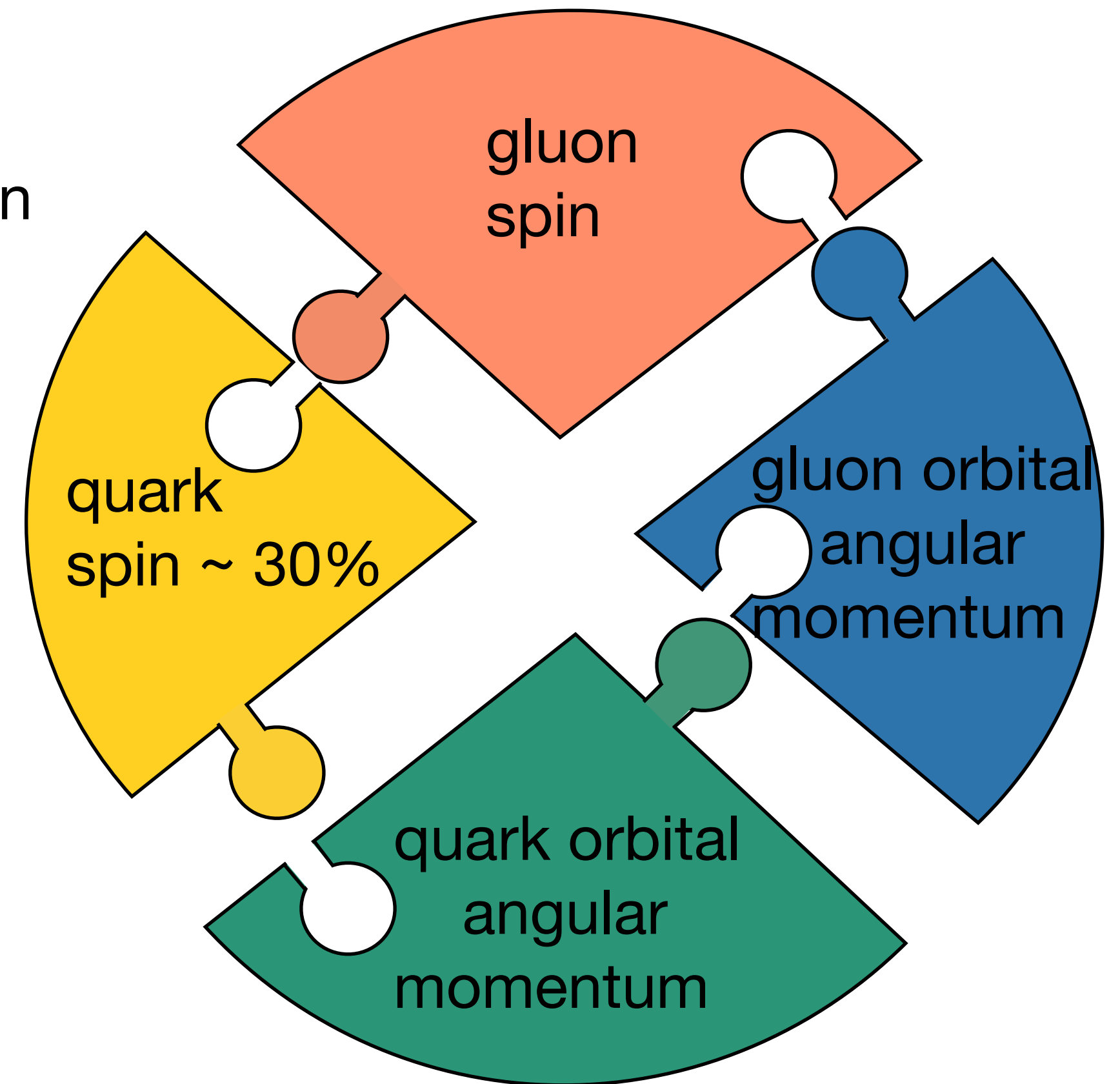
C. Lorcé, H. Moutarde, A. P. Trawiński
Eur. Phys. J. C **79** ('19) 89

... and its spin

longitudinally polarised nucleon

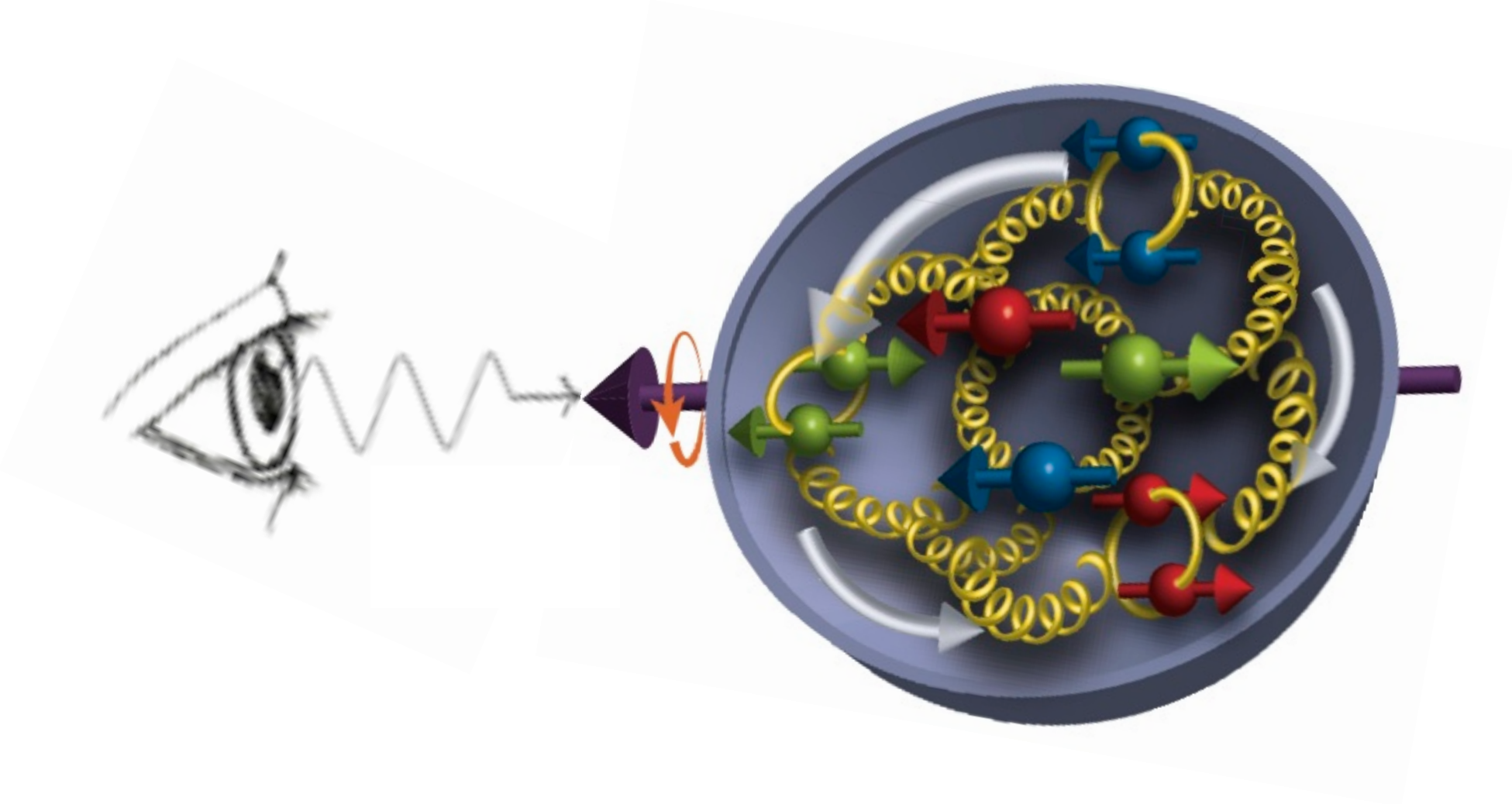


proton spin decomposition

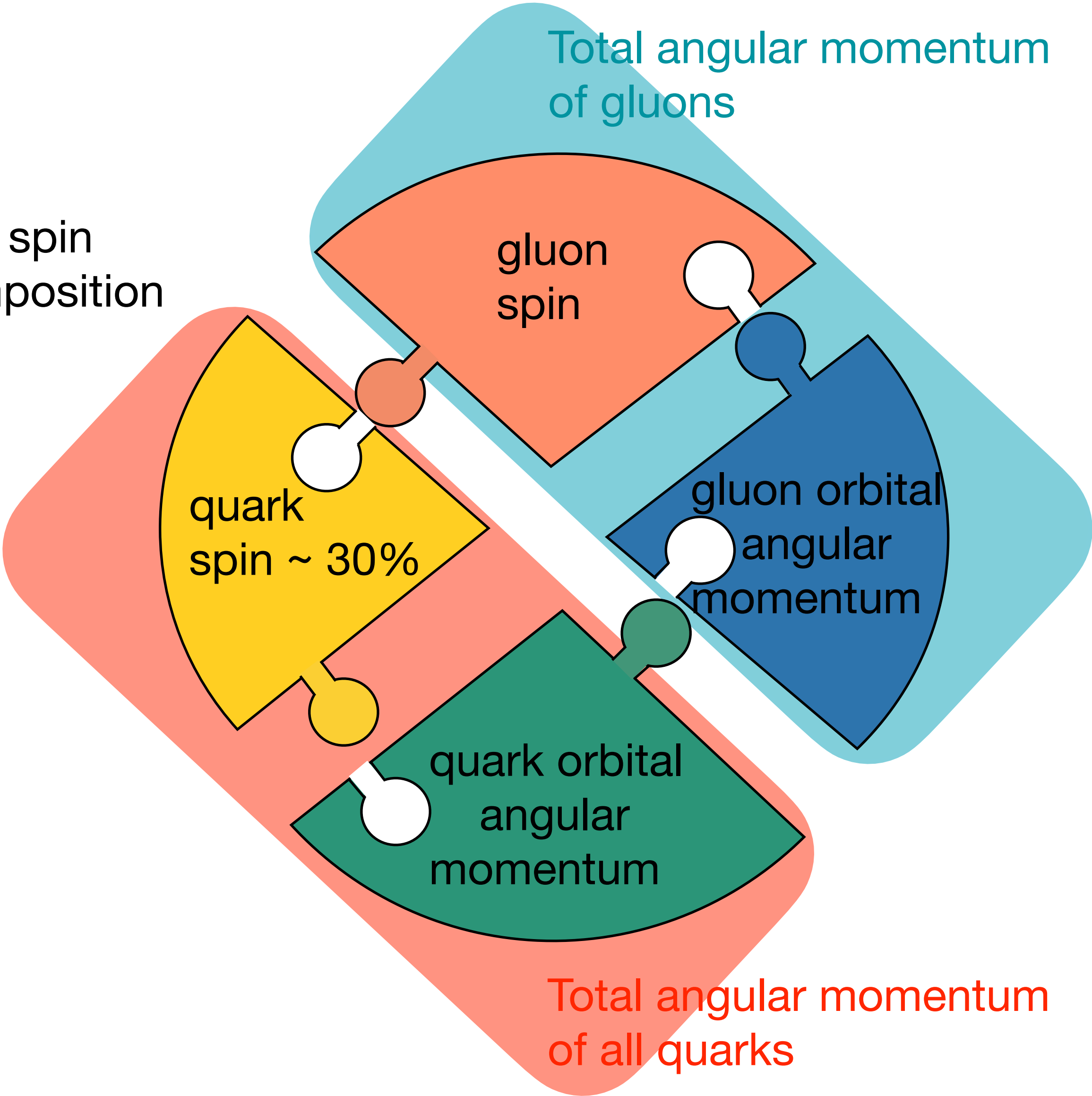


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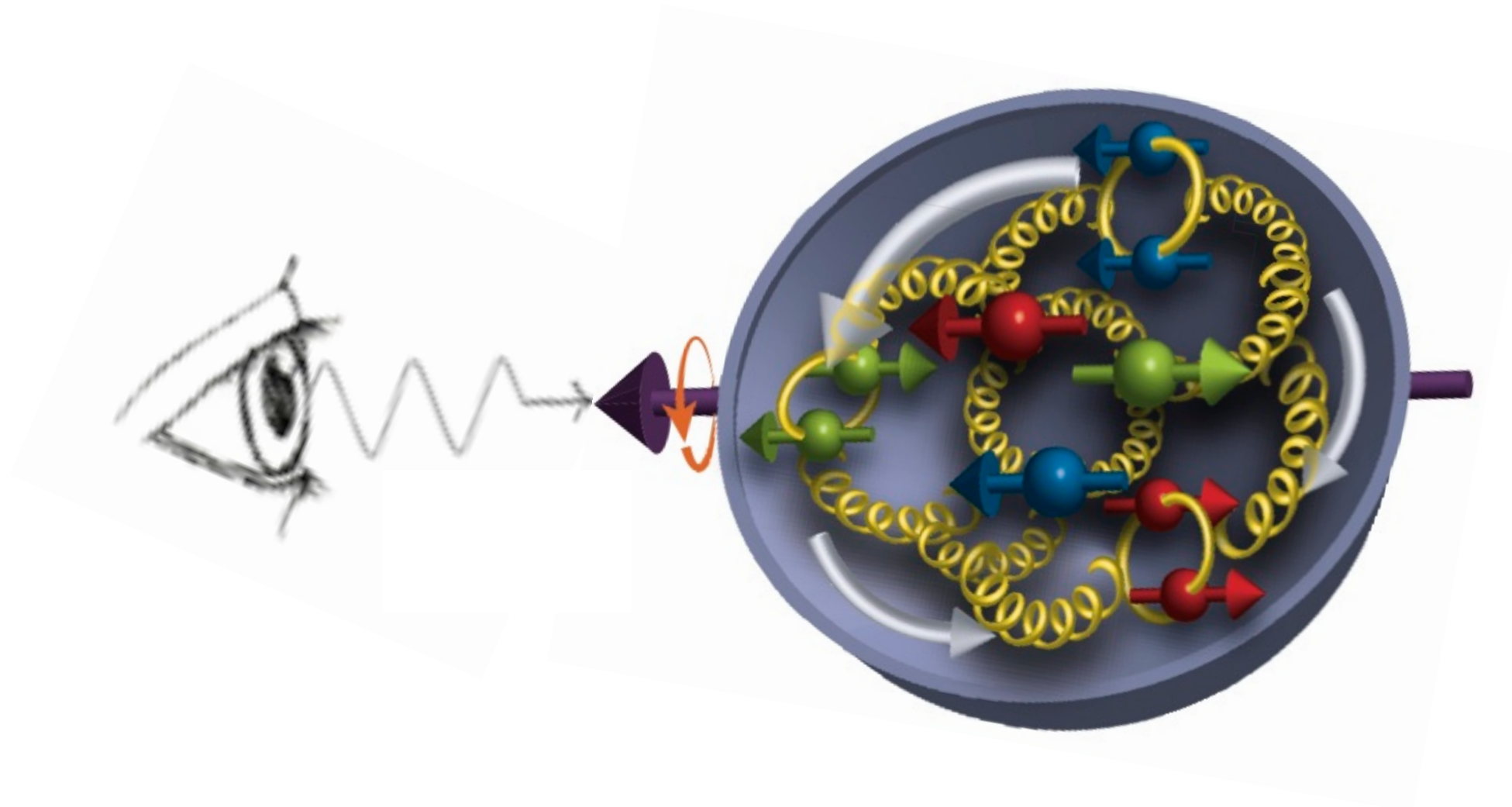


proton spin decomposition

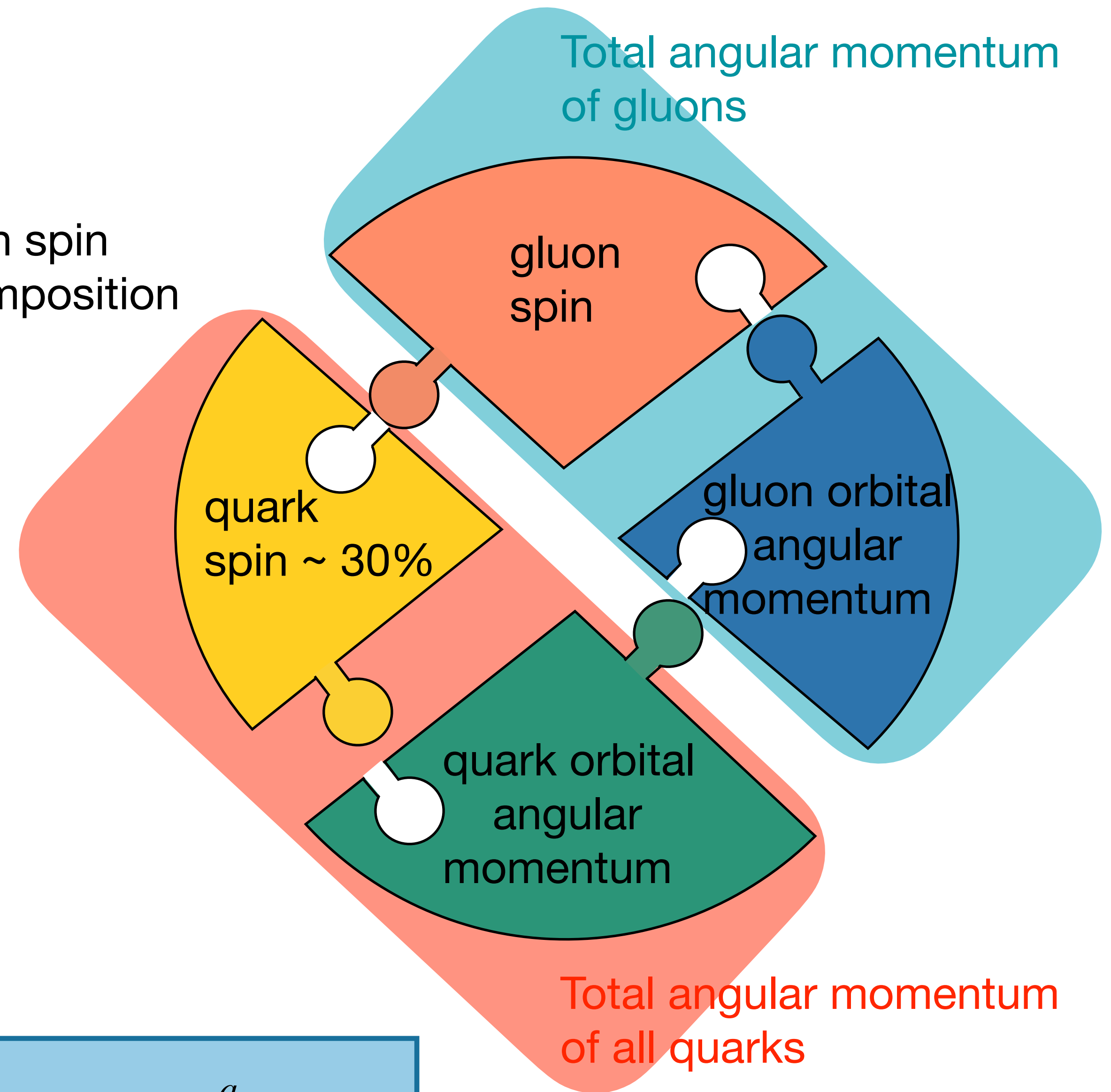


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proton spin
decomposition

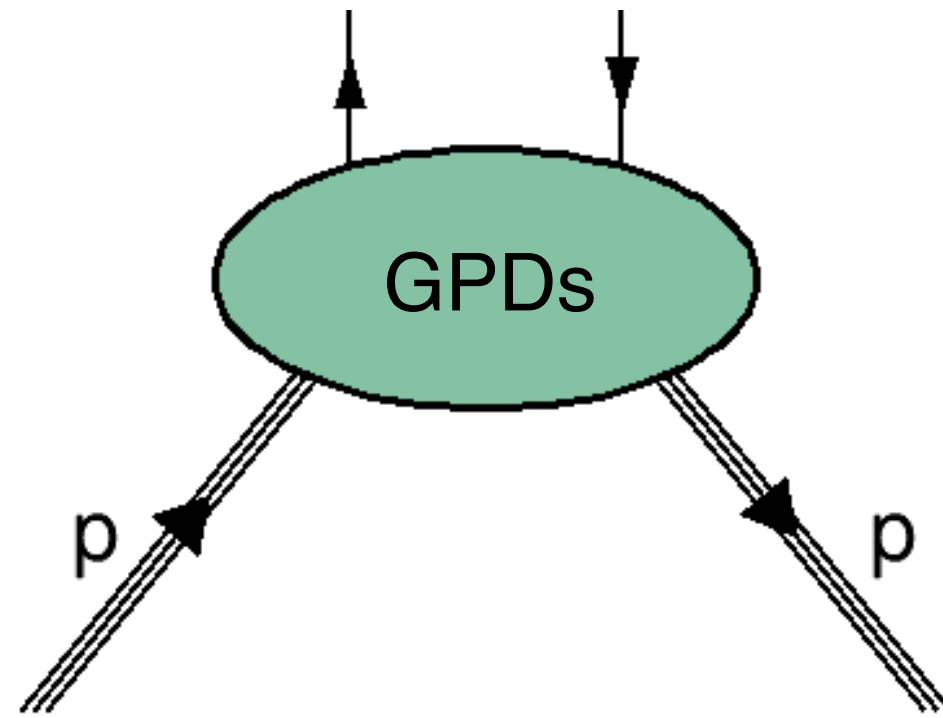


Ji relation

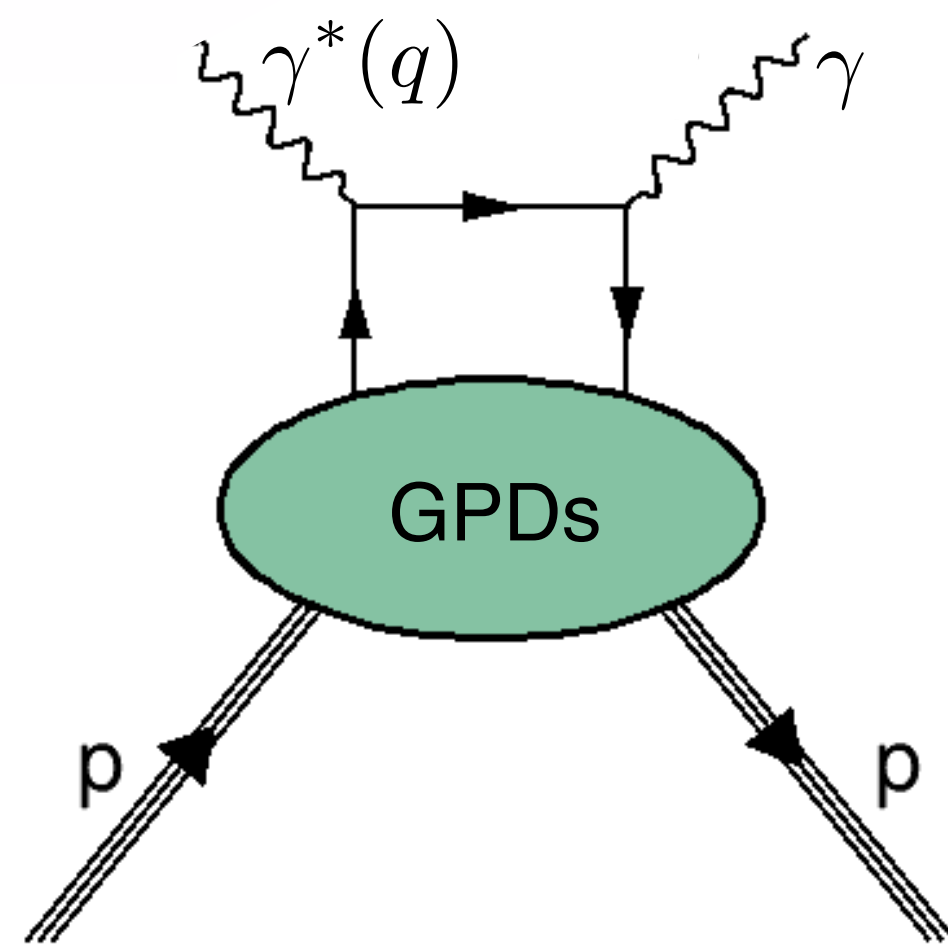
$$J^q = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 dx \, x [H^q(x, \xi, t) + E^q(x, \xi, t)]$$

X. Ji, Phys. Rev. Lett. **78** (1997) 610

Experimental access to GPDs

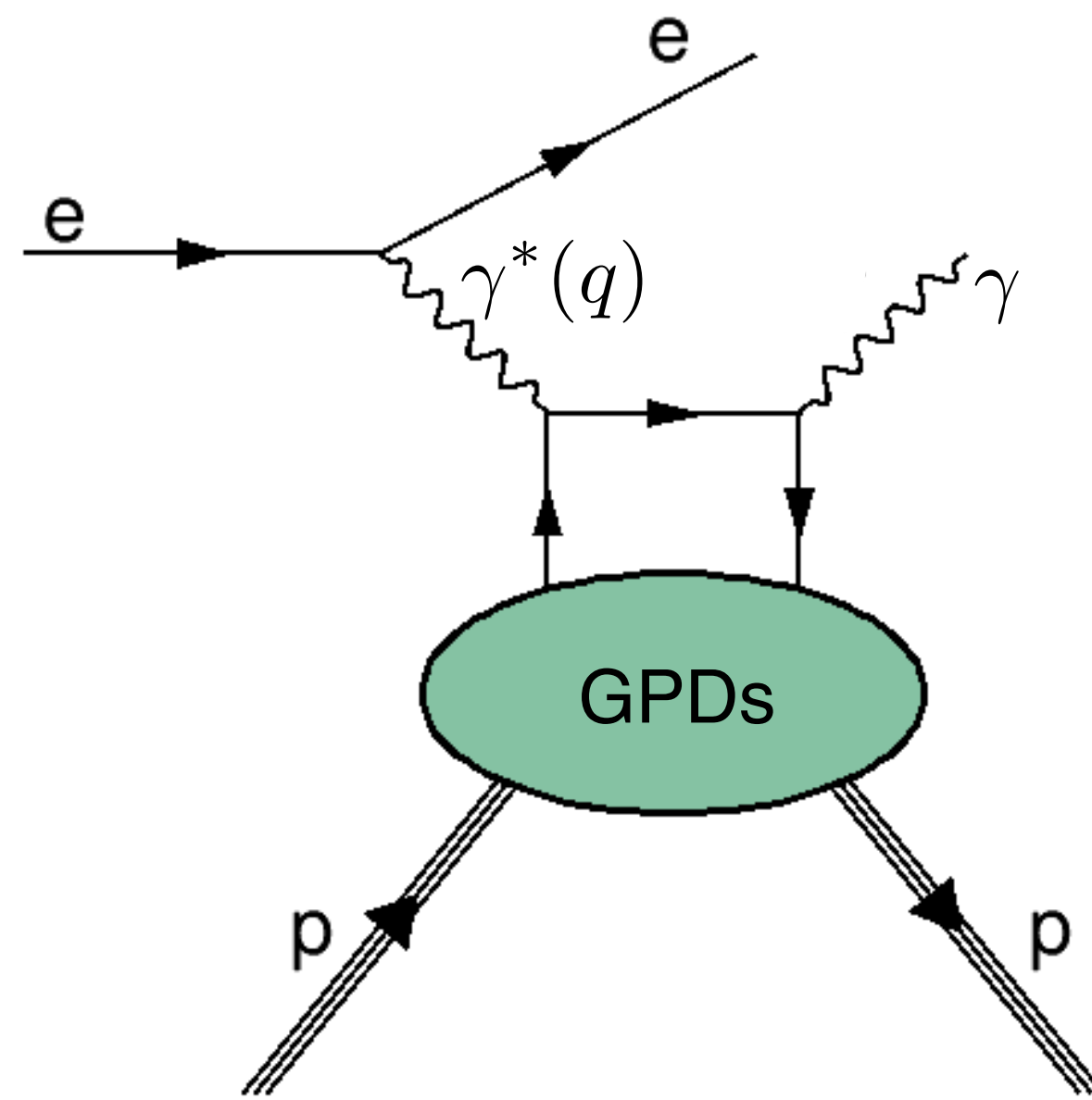


Experimental access to GPDs



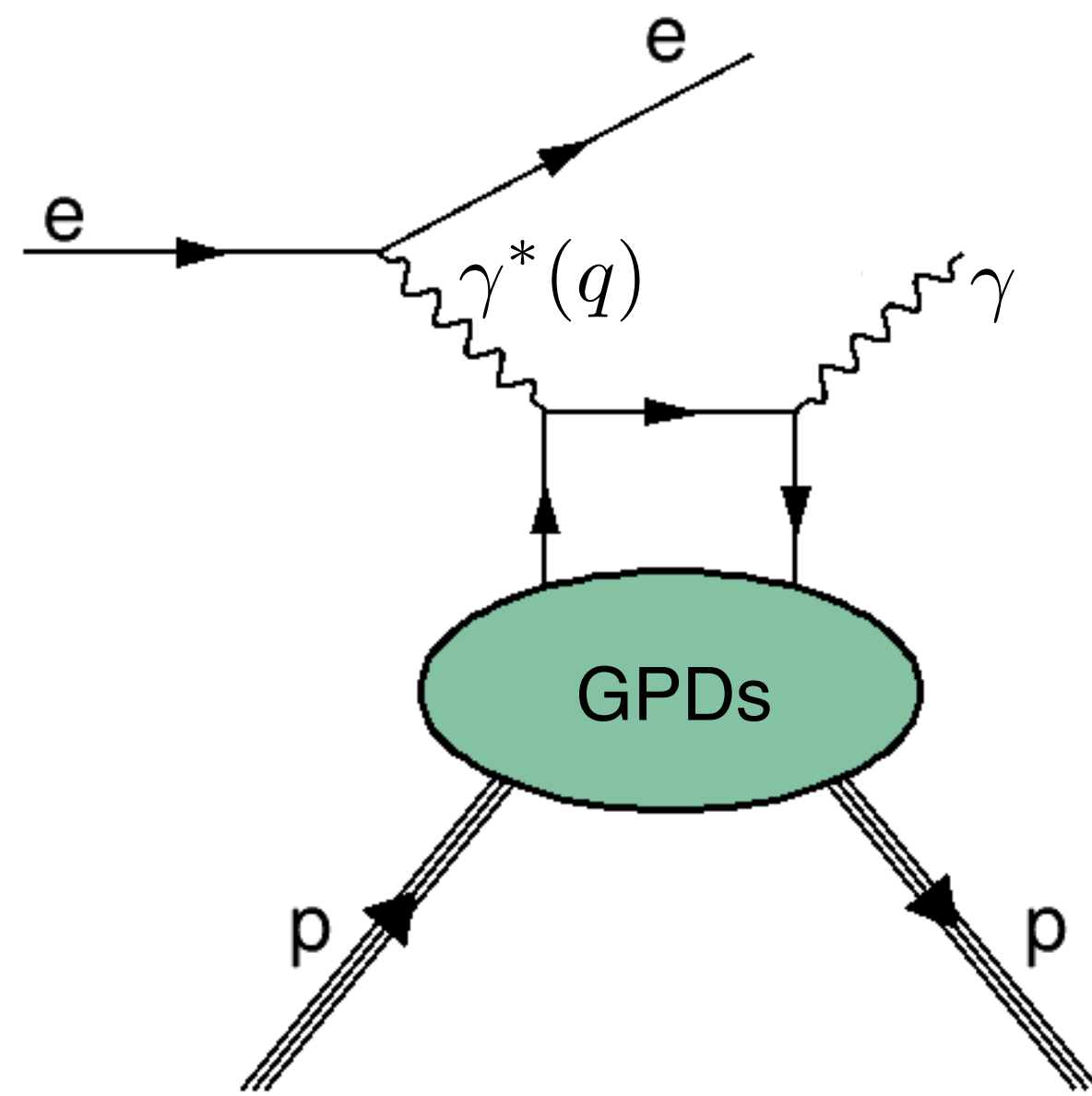
Deeply virtual Compton scattering (DVCS)
Hard scale=large $Q^2=-q^2$

Experimental access to GPDs

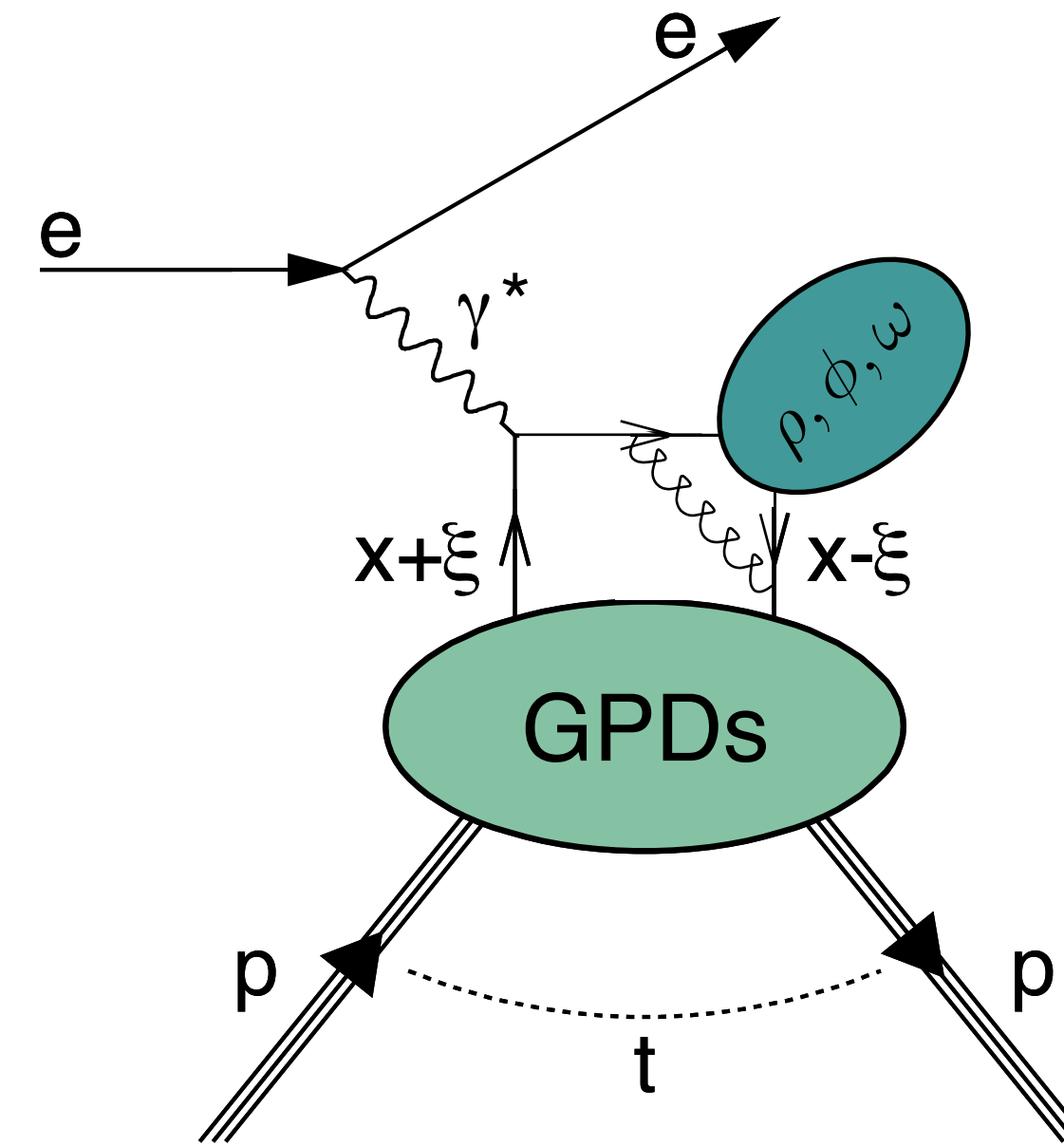


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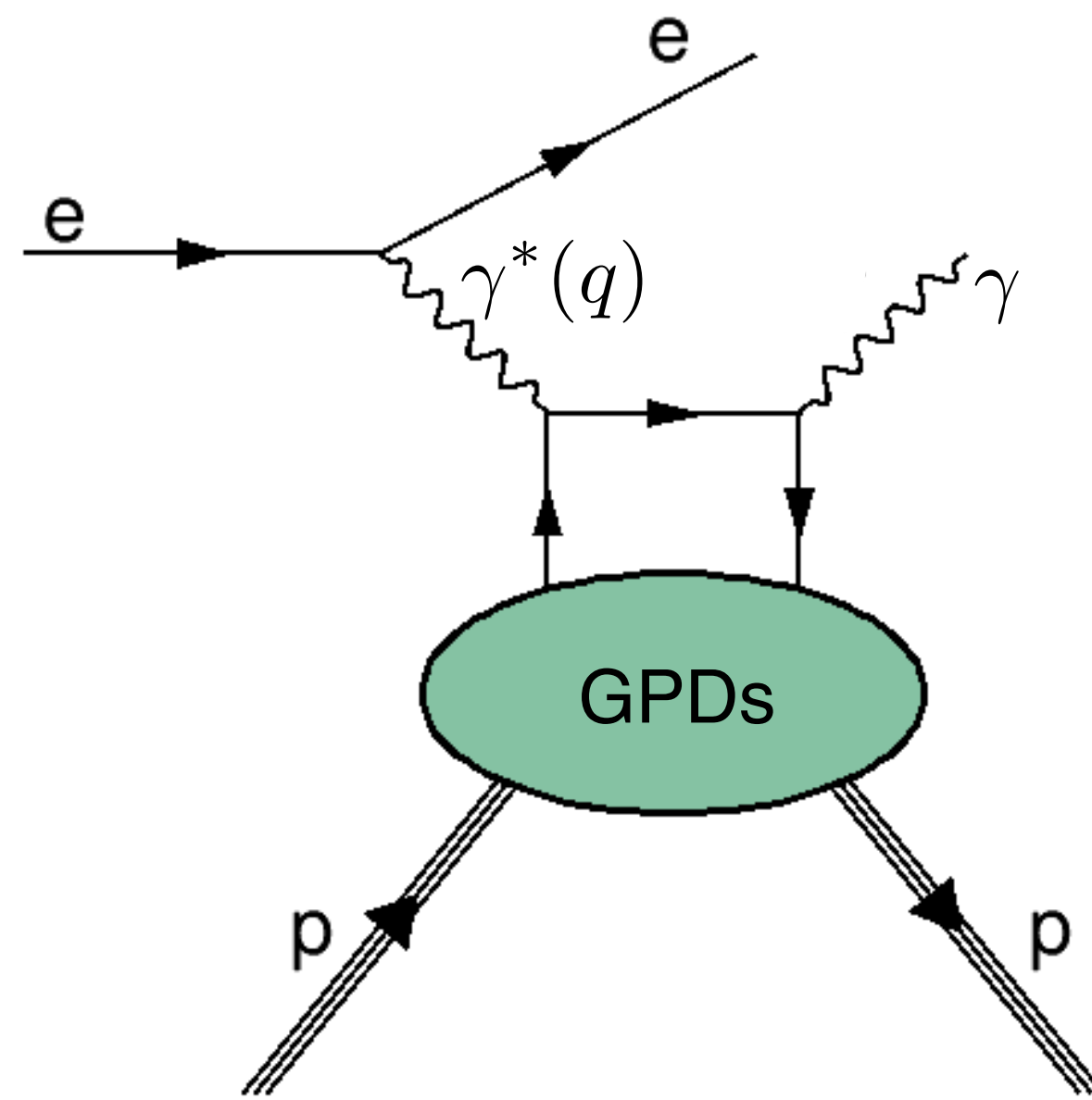


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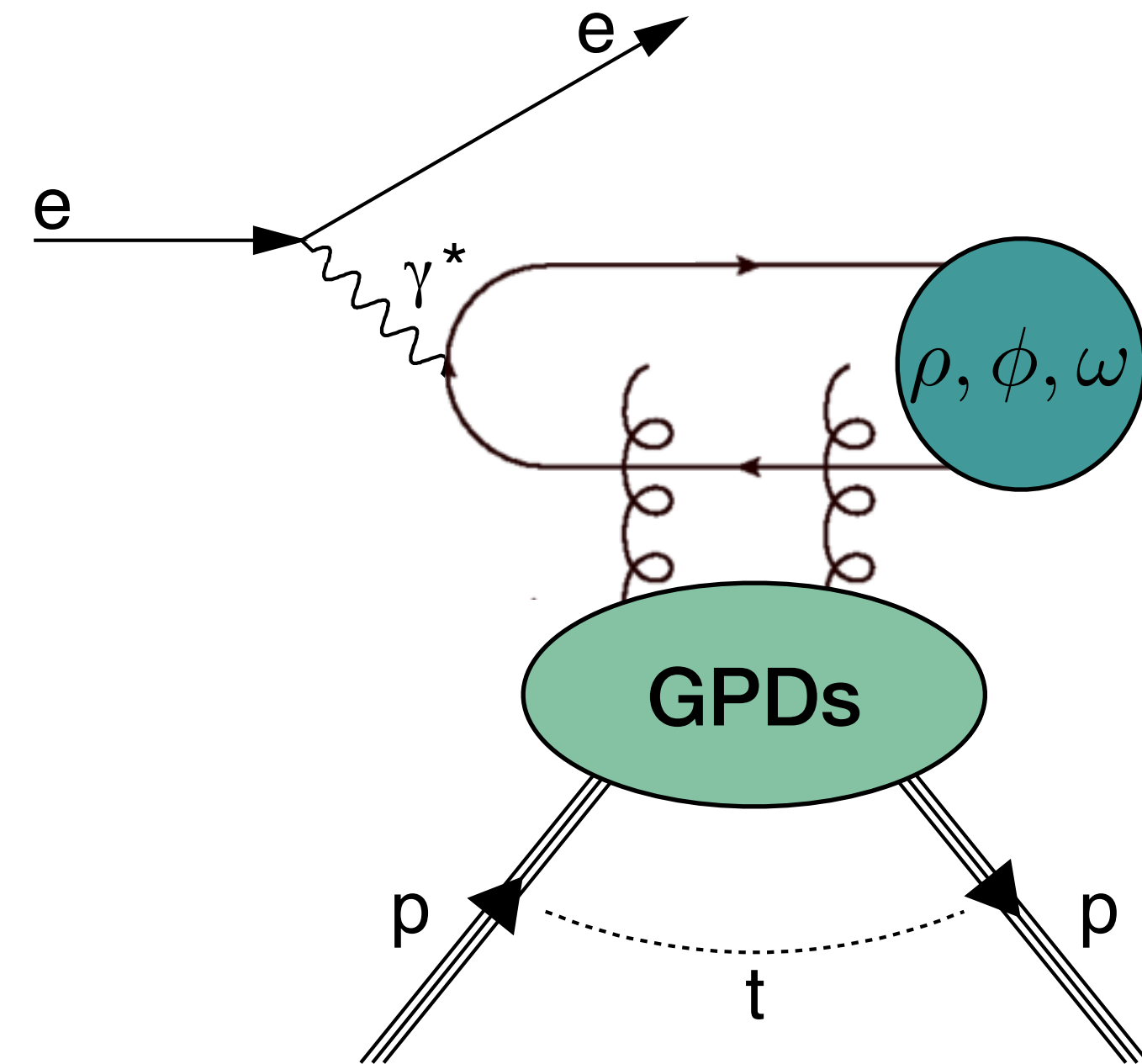


Hard exclusive meson production
Hard scale=large Q^2

Experimental access to GPDs

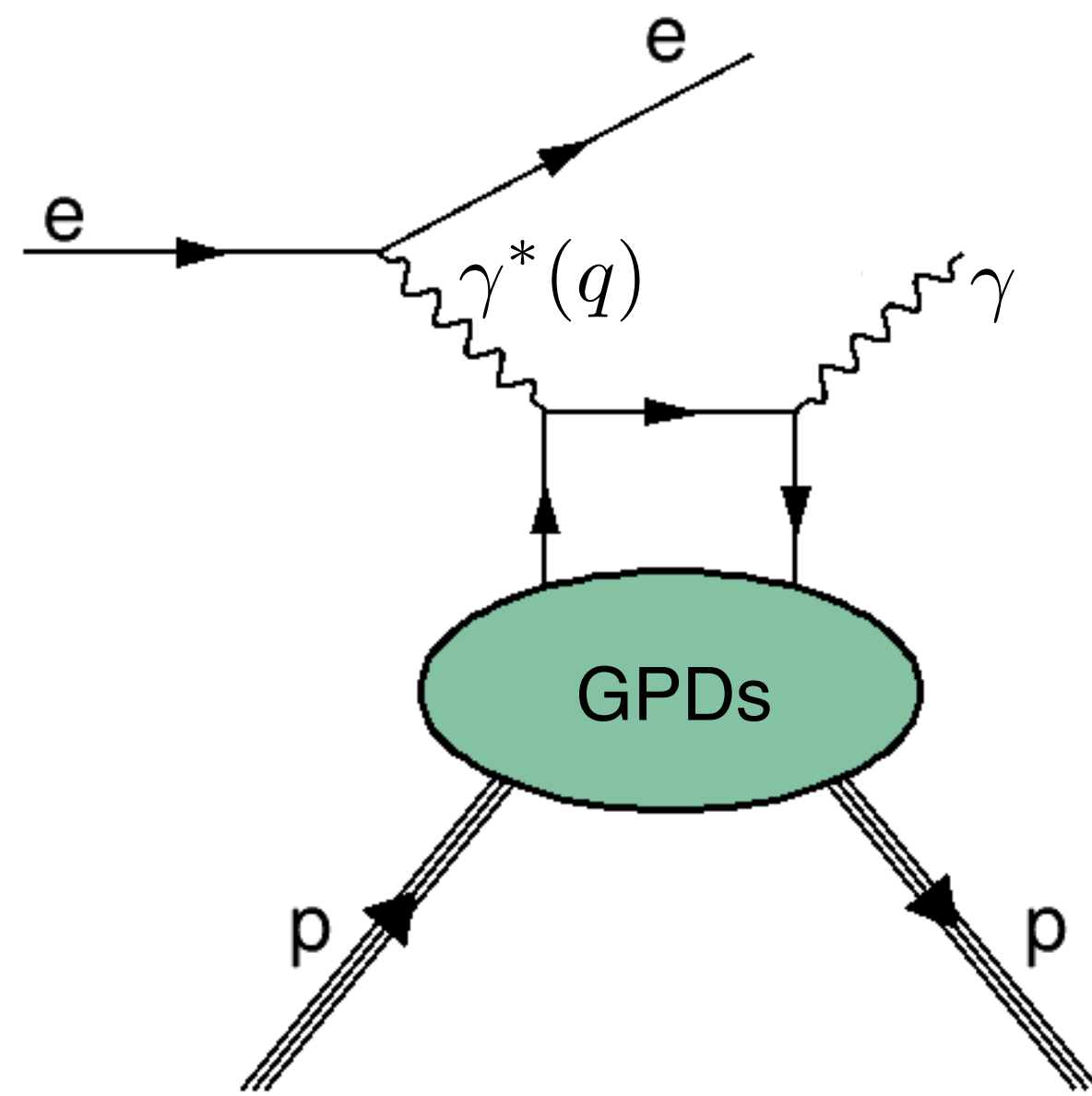


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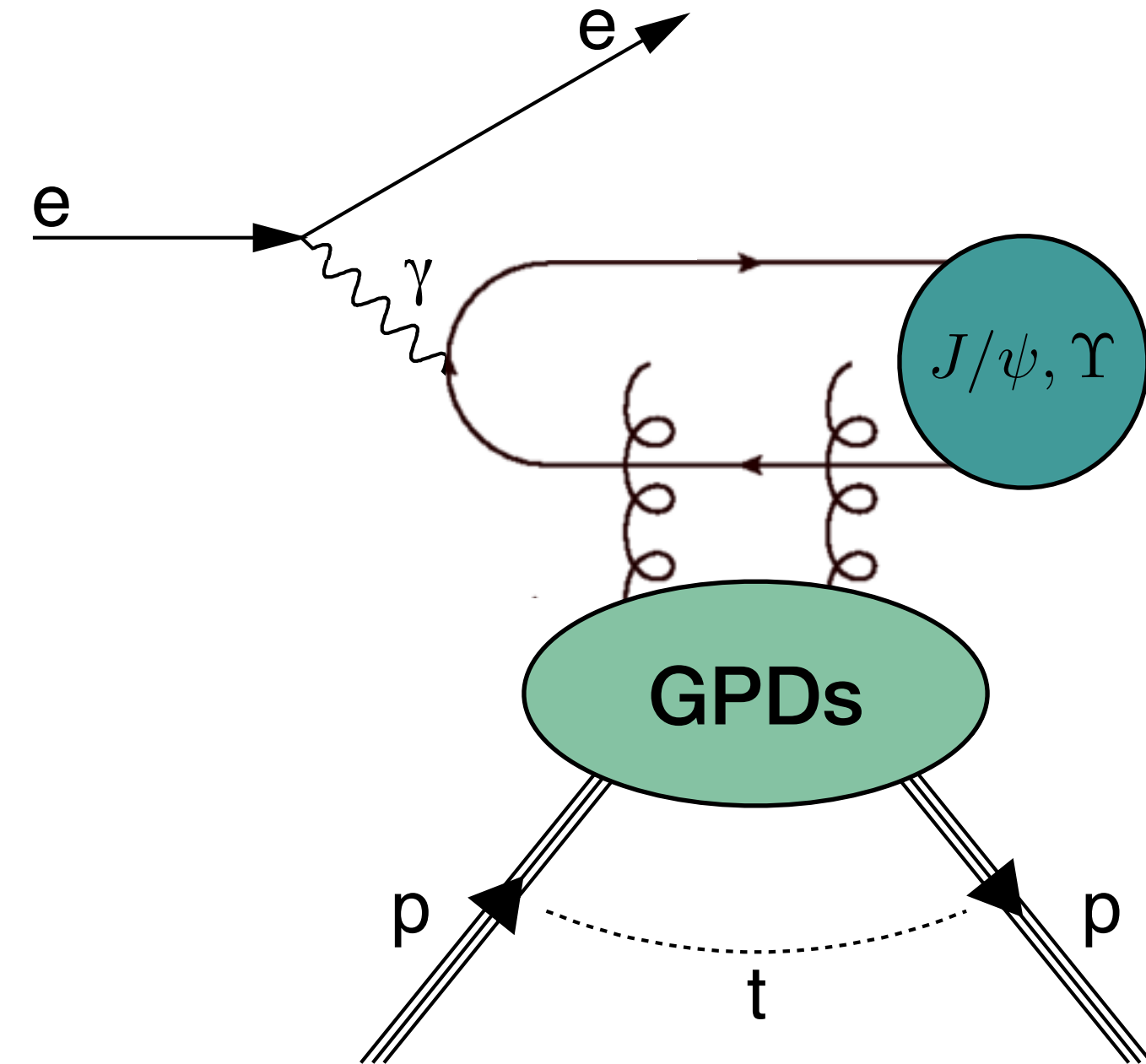


Hard exclusive meson production
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Experimental access to GPDs

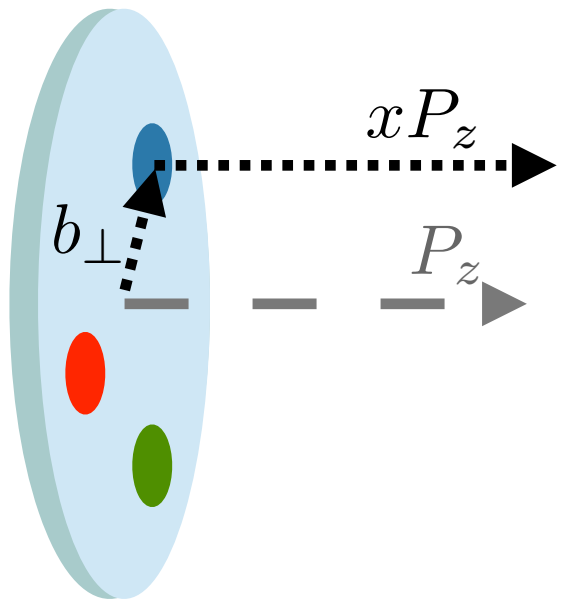


Deeply virtual Compton scattering (DVCS)
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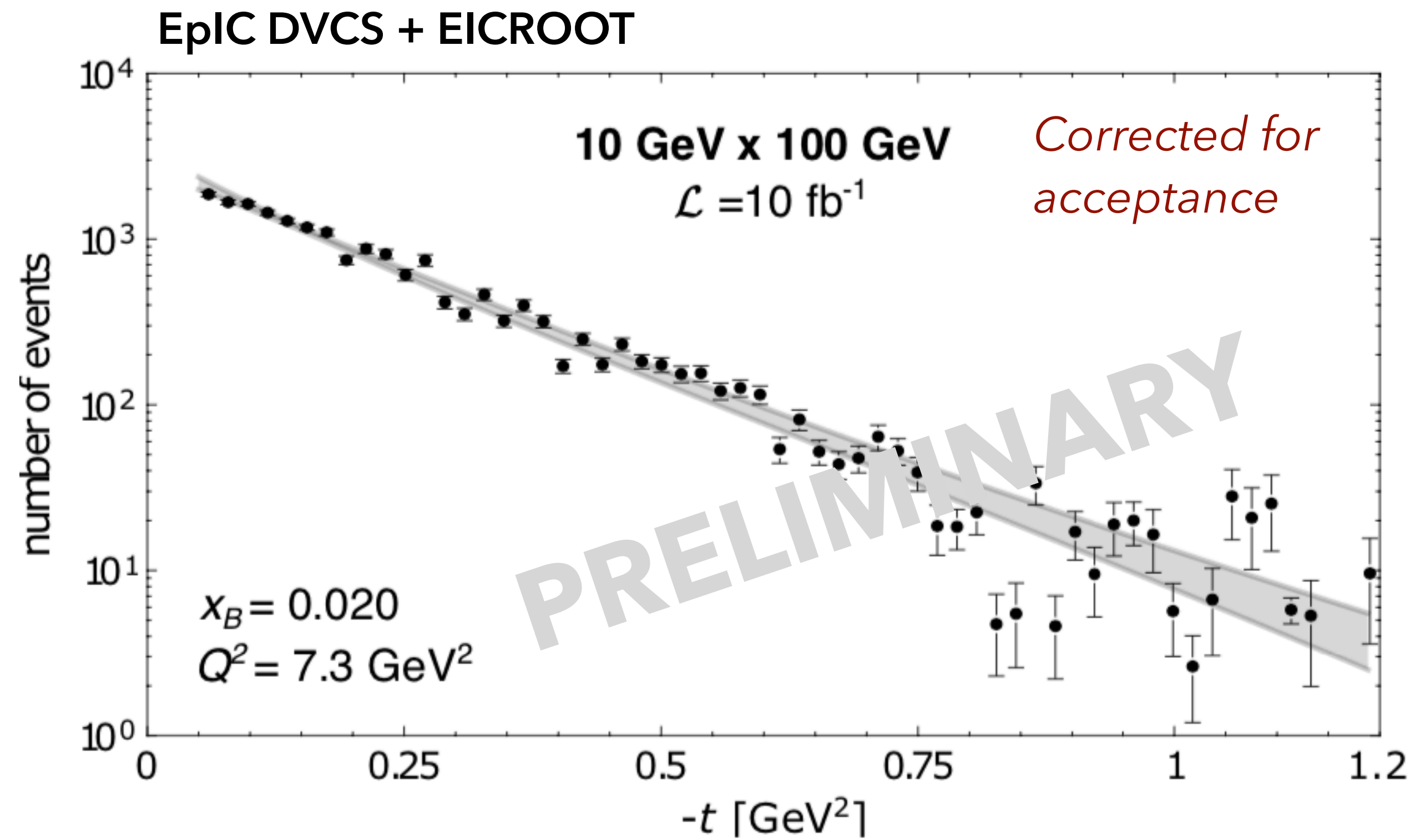


Exclusive meson photoproduction
Hard scale = large charm/bottom-quark mass

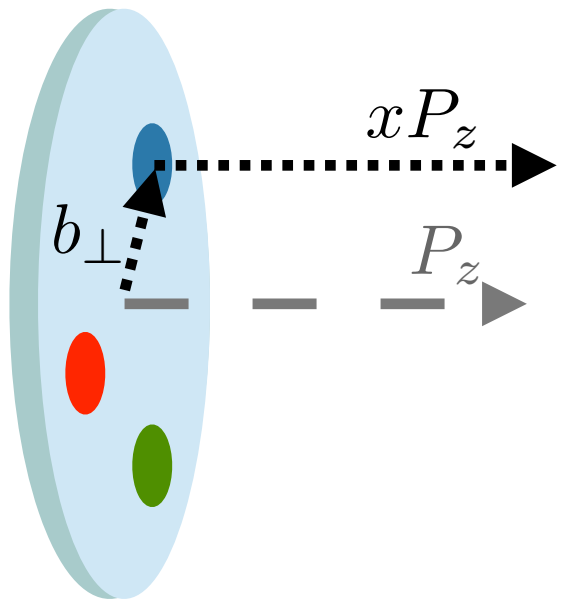
Exclusive measurements on p with the EIC



Deeply virtual Compton scattering
→ sensitive to quarks (and gluons)



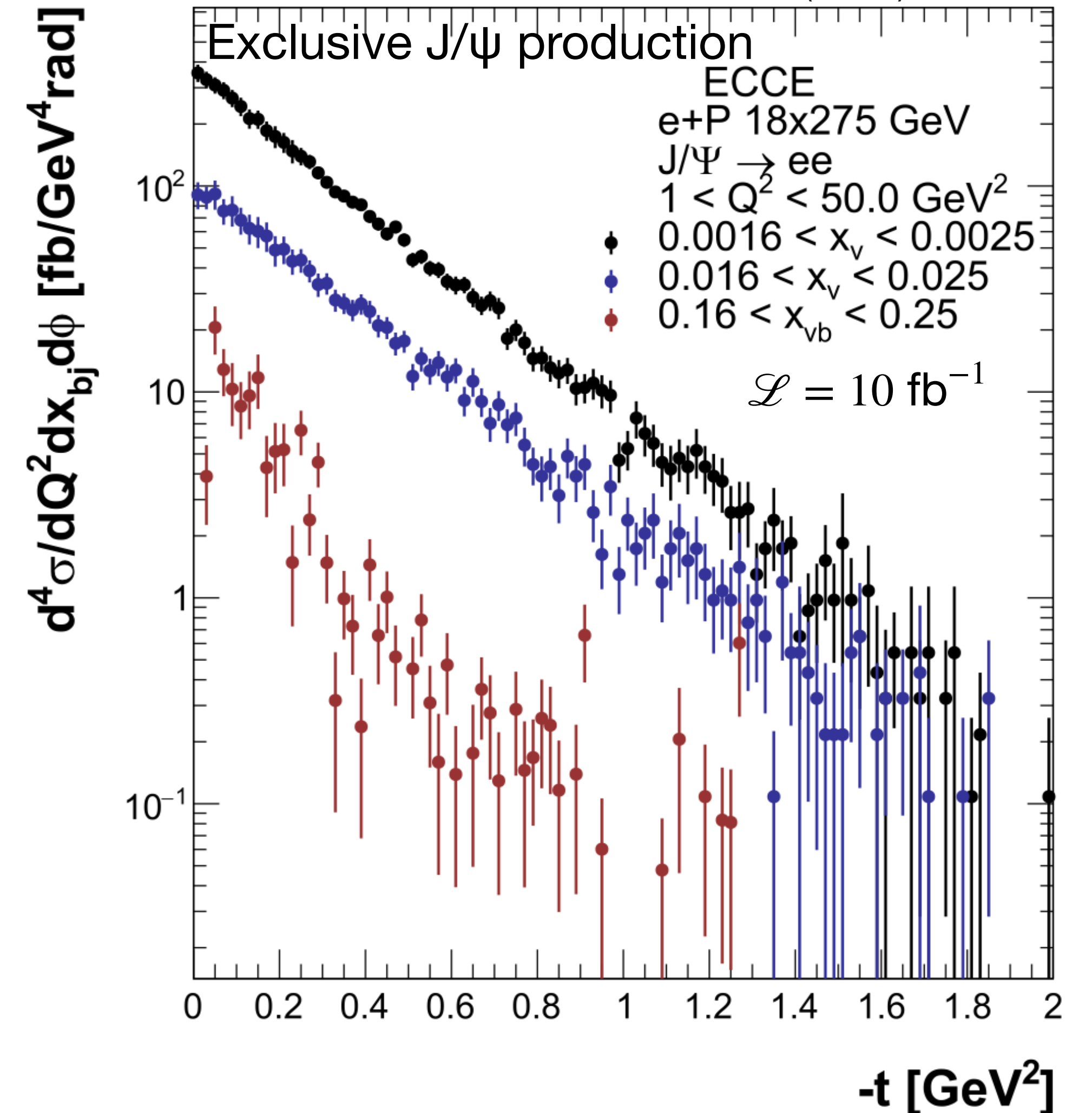
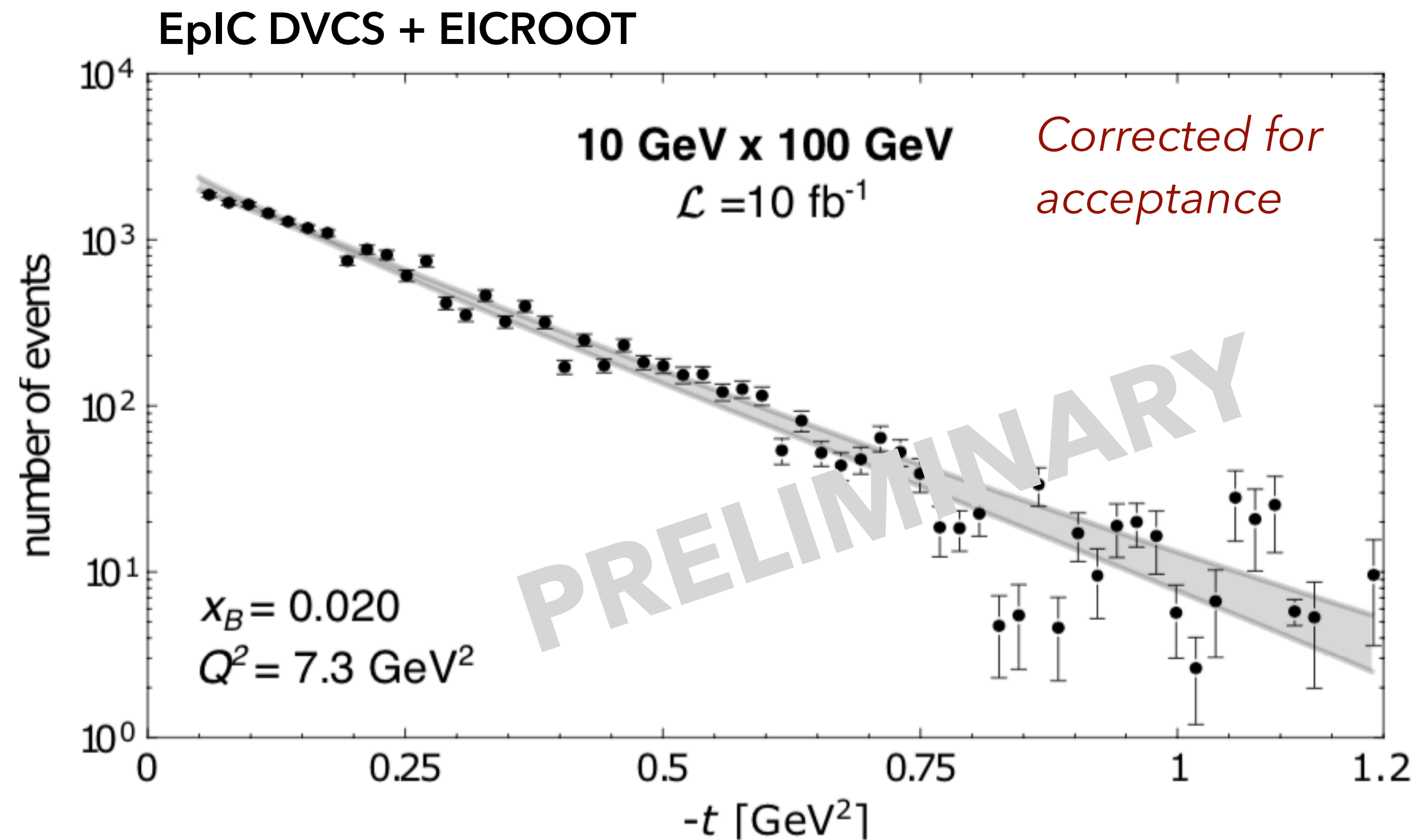
Exclusive measurements on p with the EIC



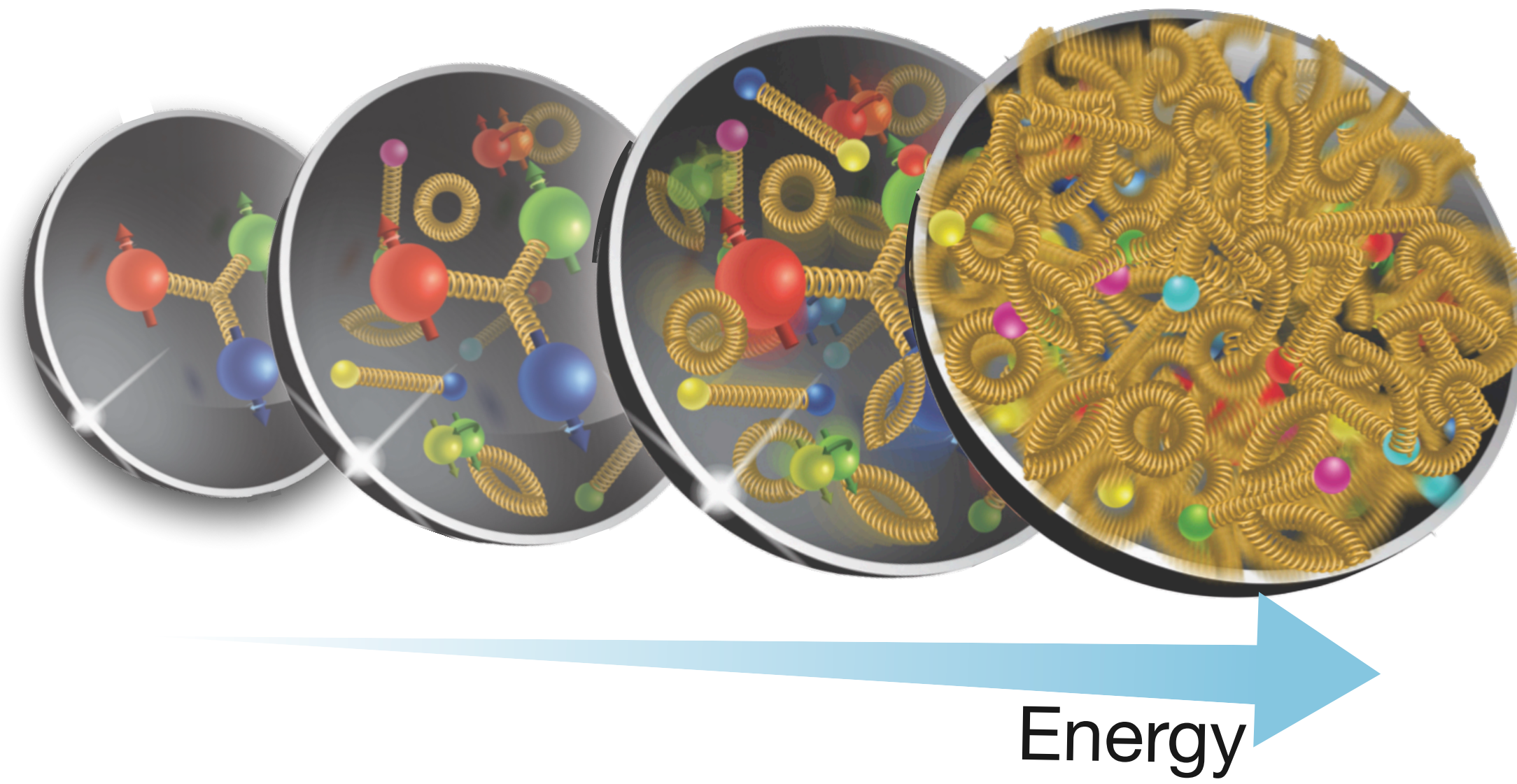
Deeply virtual Compton scattering
→ sensitive to quarks (and gluons)

Exclusive J/ψ production
→ excellent to probe gluon GPDs

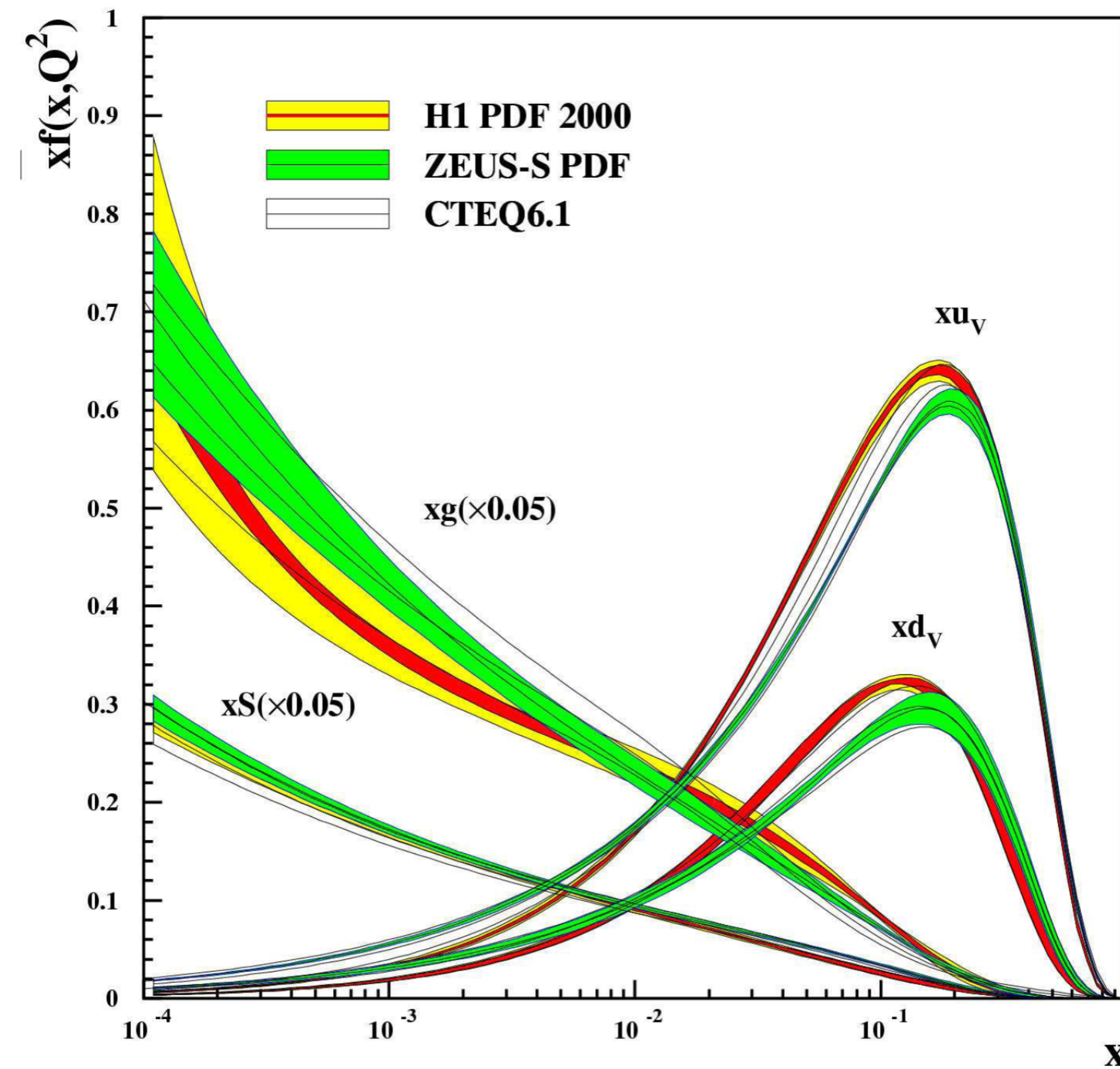
ECCE, NIMA 1052 (2023) 168238



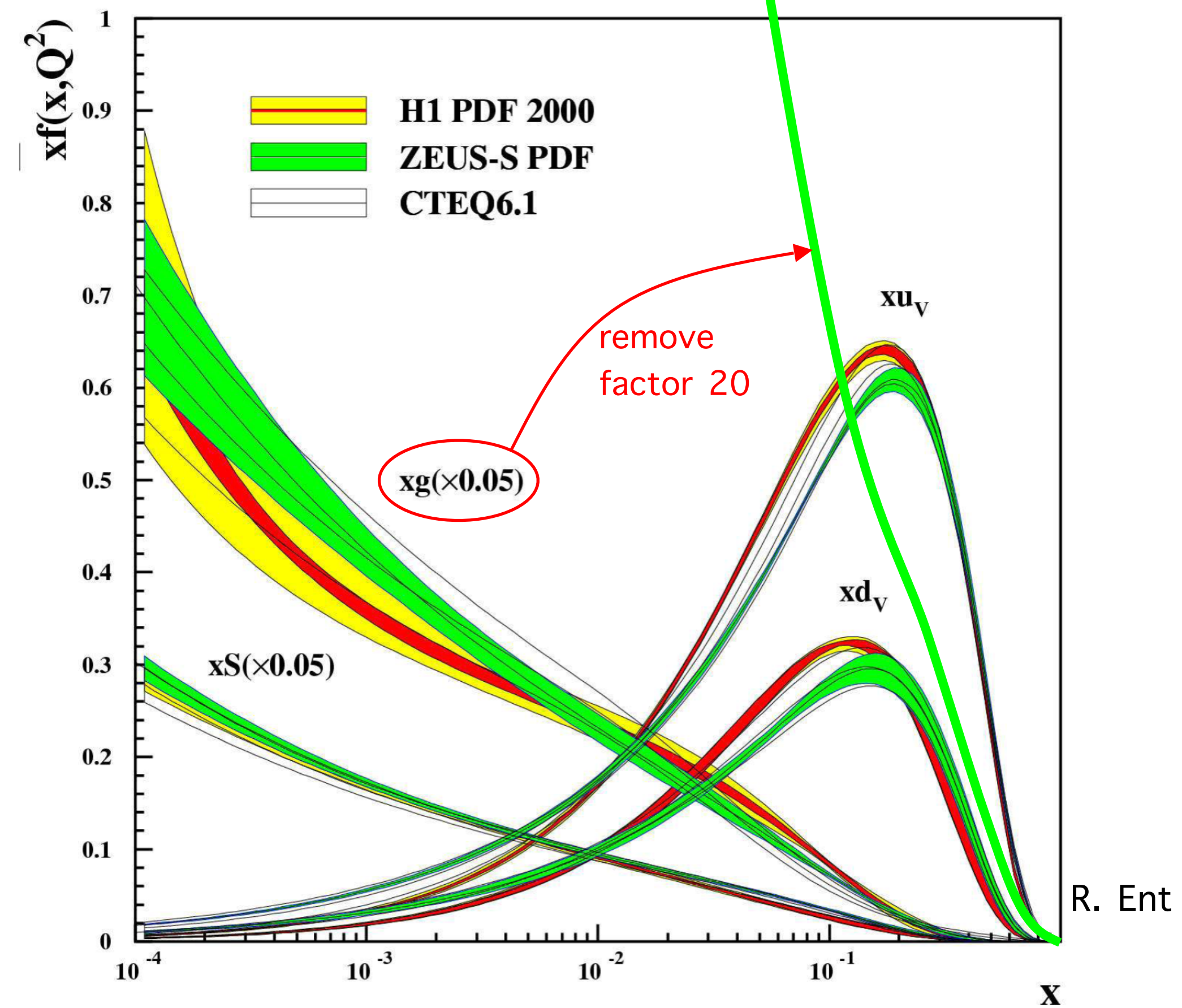
Gluon saturation



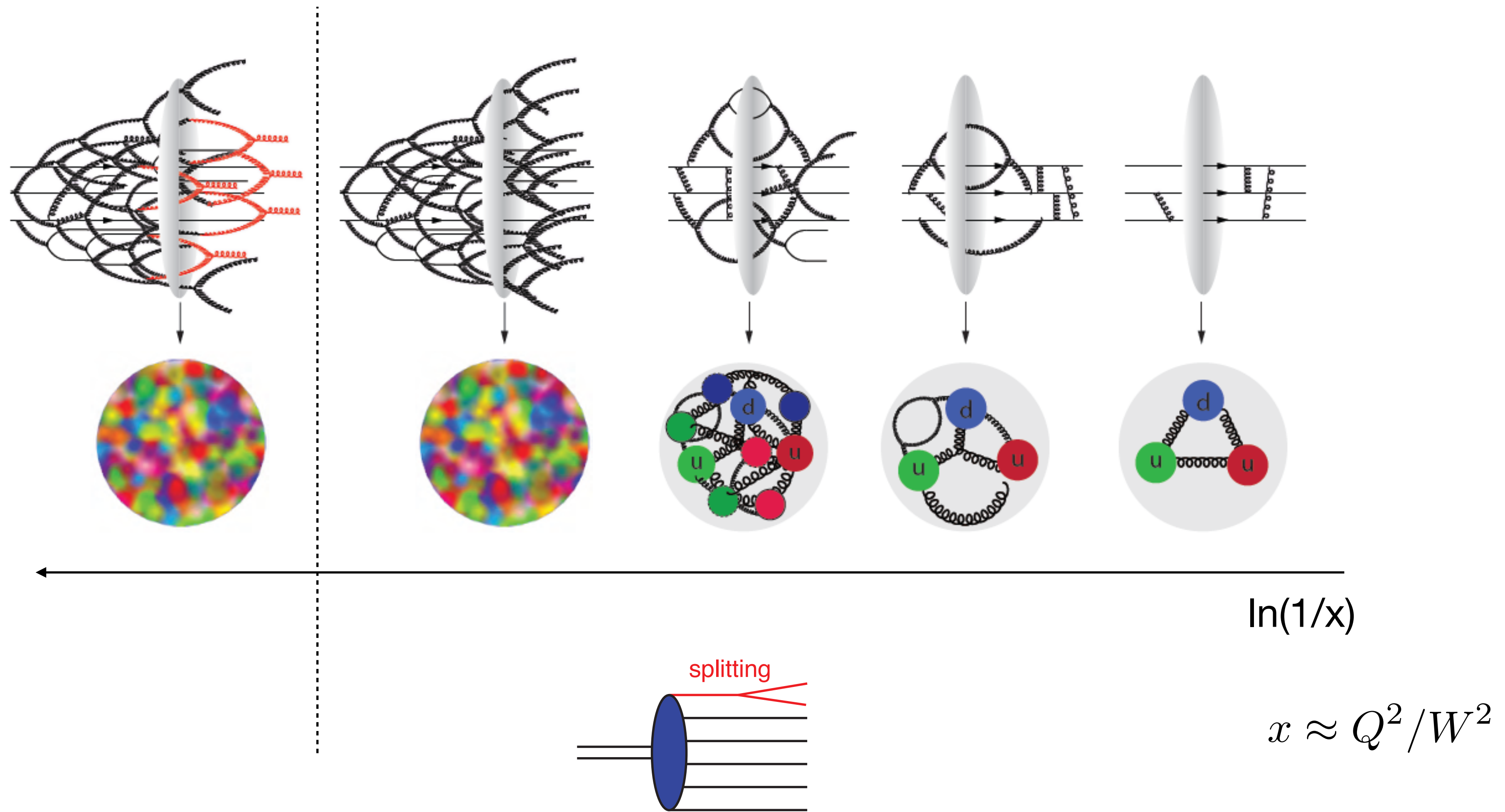
Spin-independent parton distributions



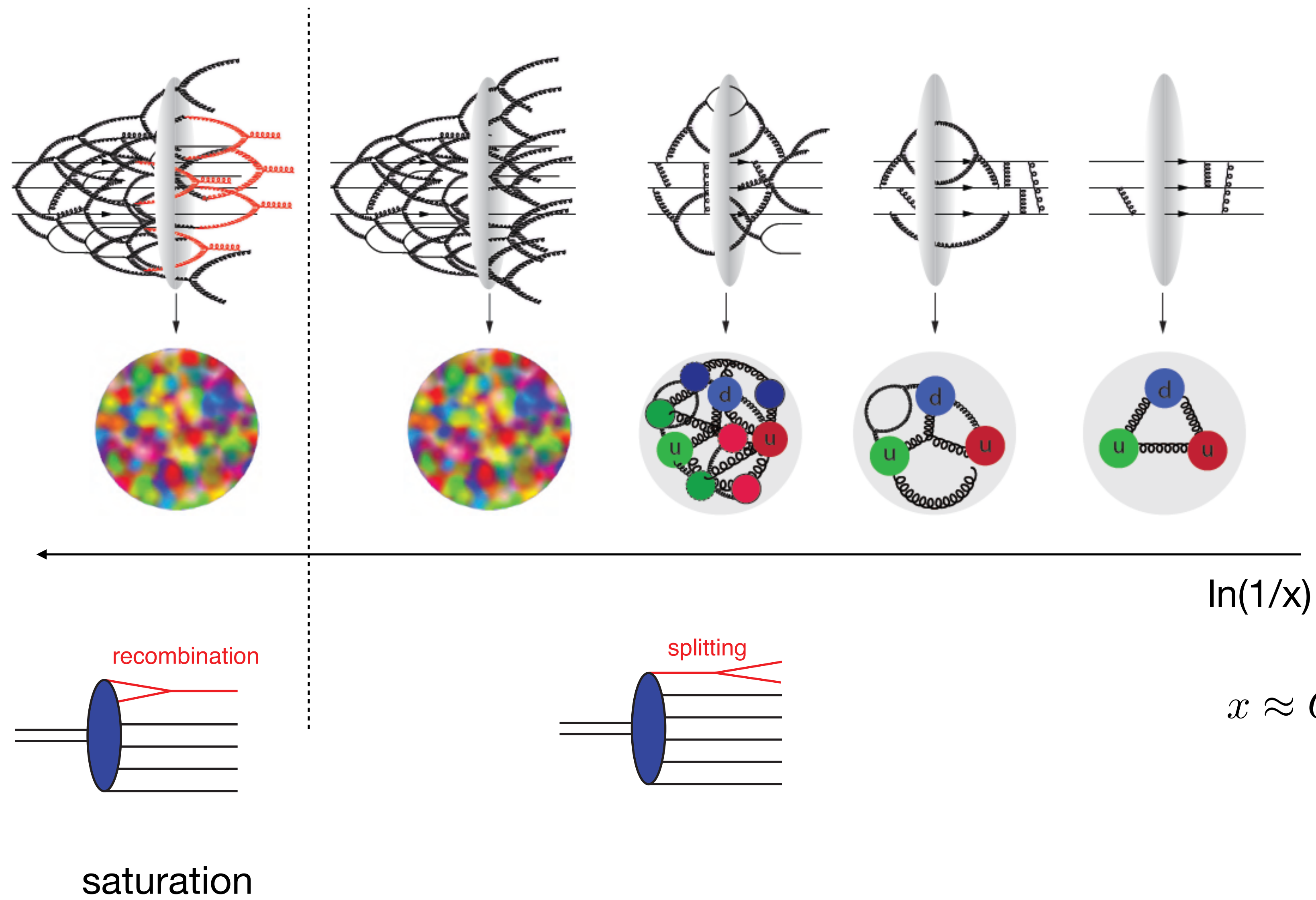
Spin-independent parton distributions



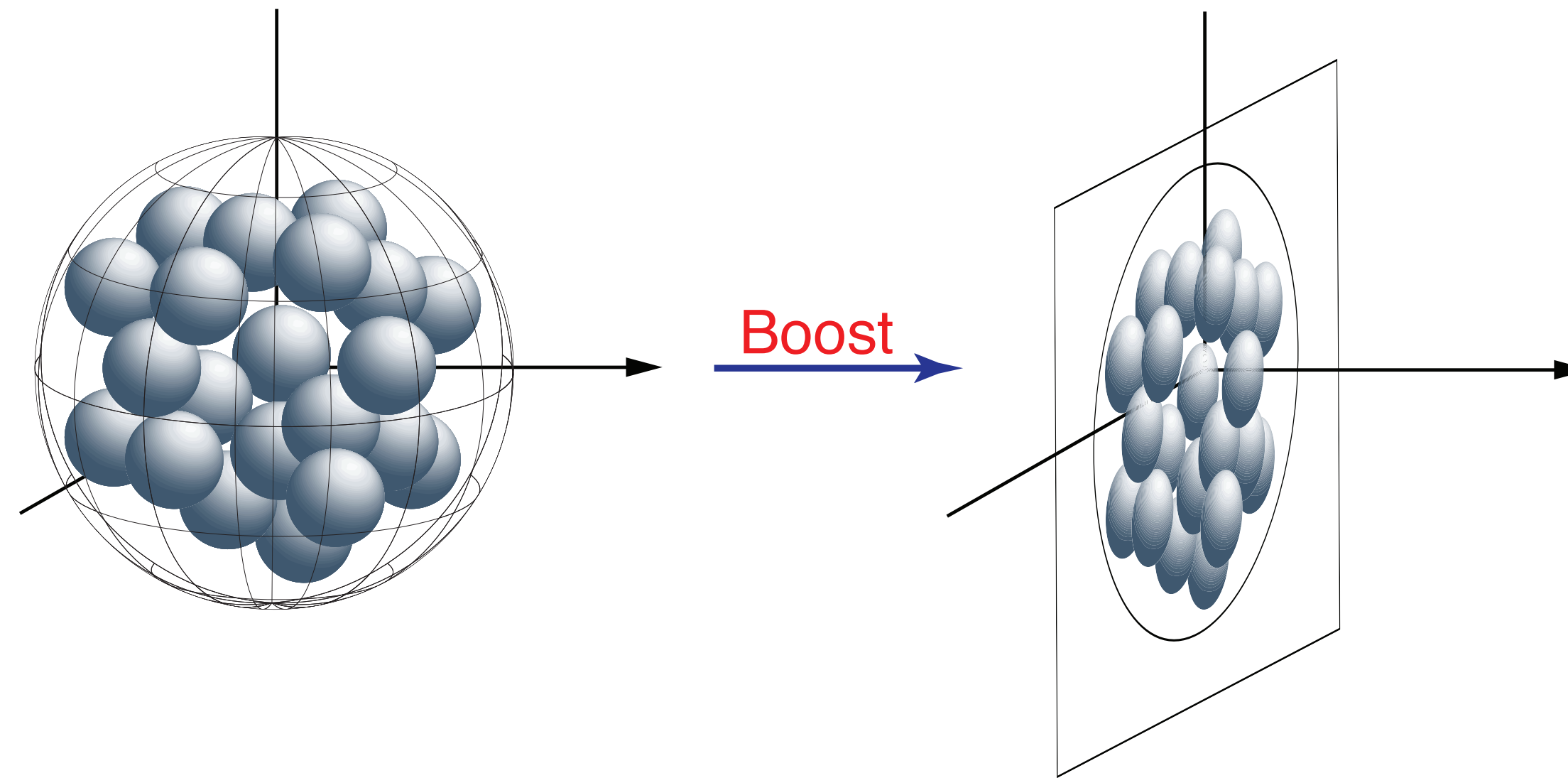
Gluon splitting and recombination



Gluon splitting and recombination



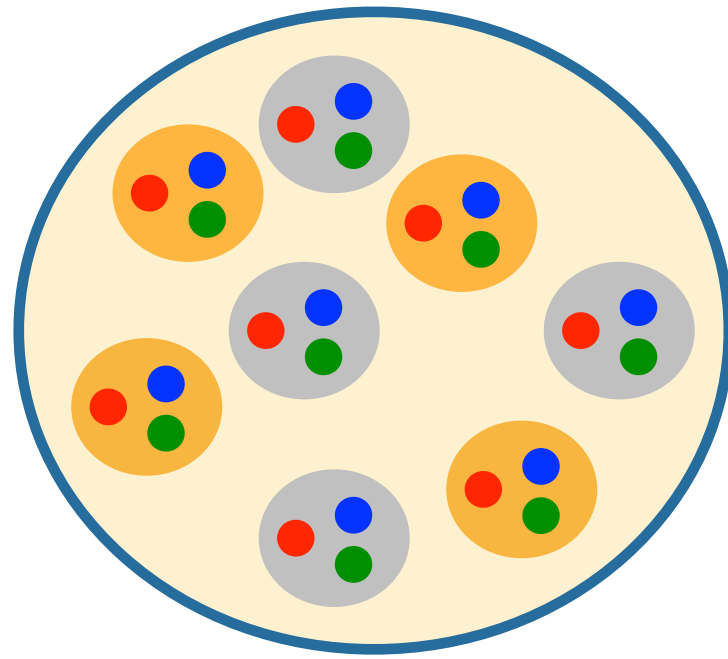
The Oomph factor



Oomph factor: $A^{1/3}$ enhancement of saturation effect

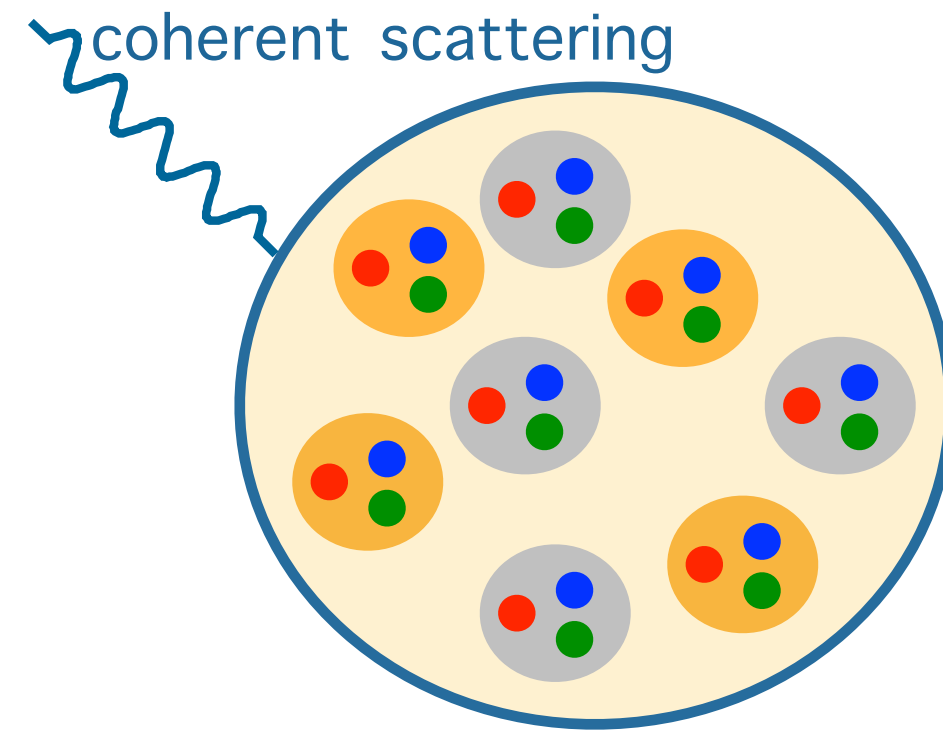
Exclusive/diffractive measurements on nuclei

What object are we probing?



Exclusive/diffractive measurements on nuclei

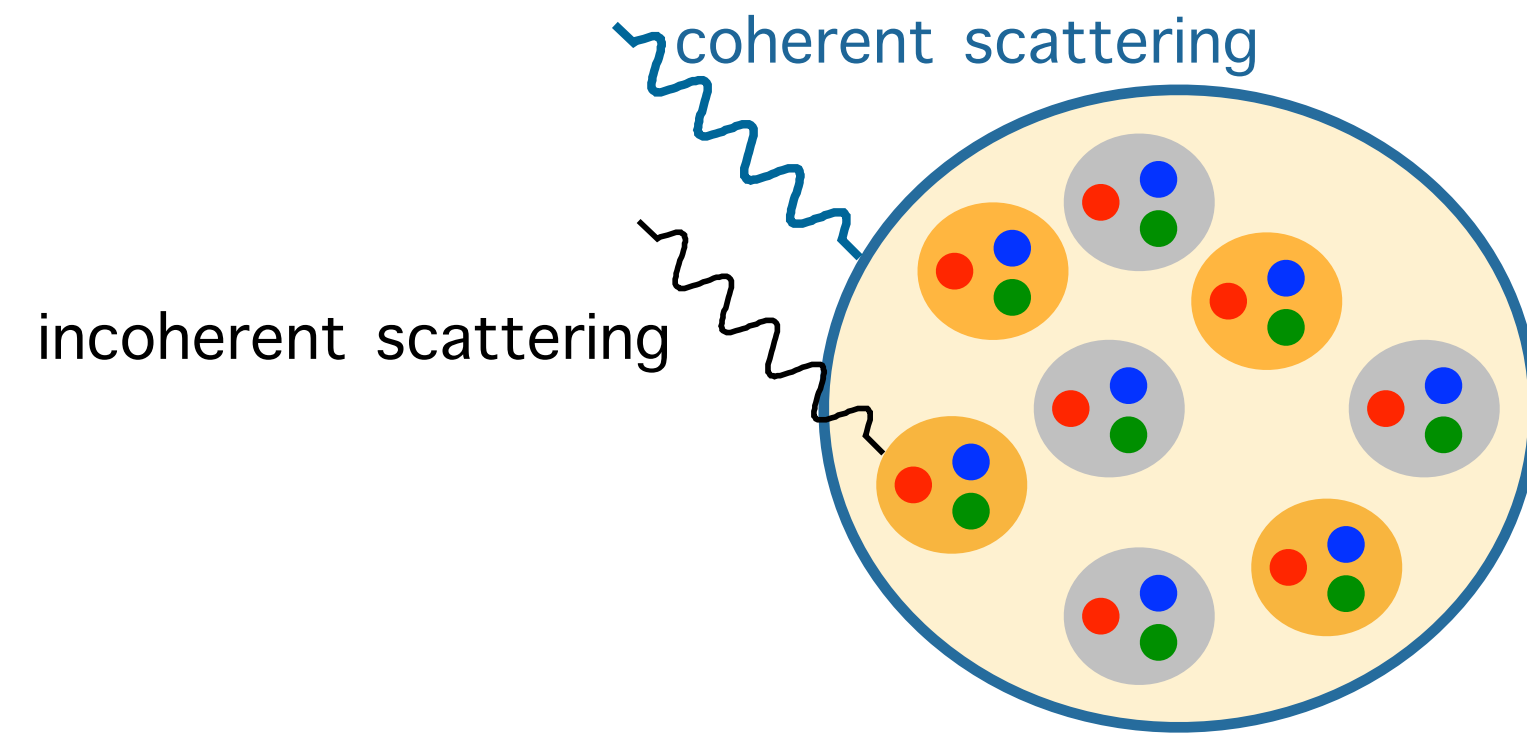
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Coherent interaction: interaction with target as a whole.
~ target remains in same quantum state.

Exclusive/diffractive measurements on nuclei

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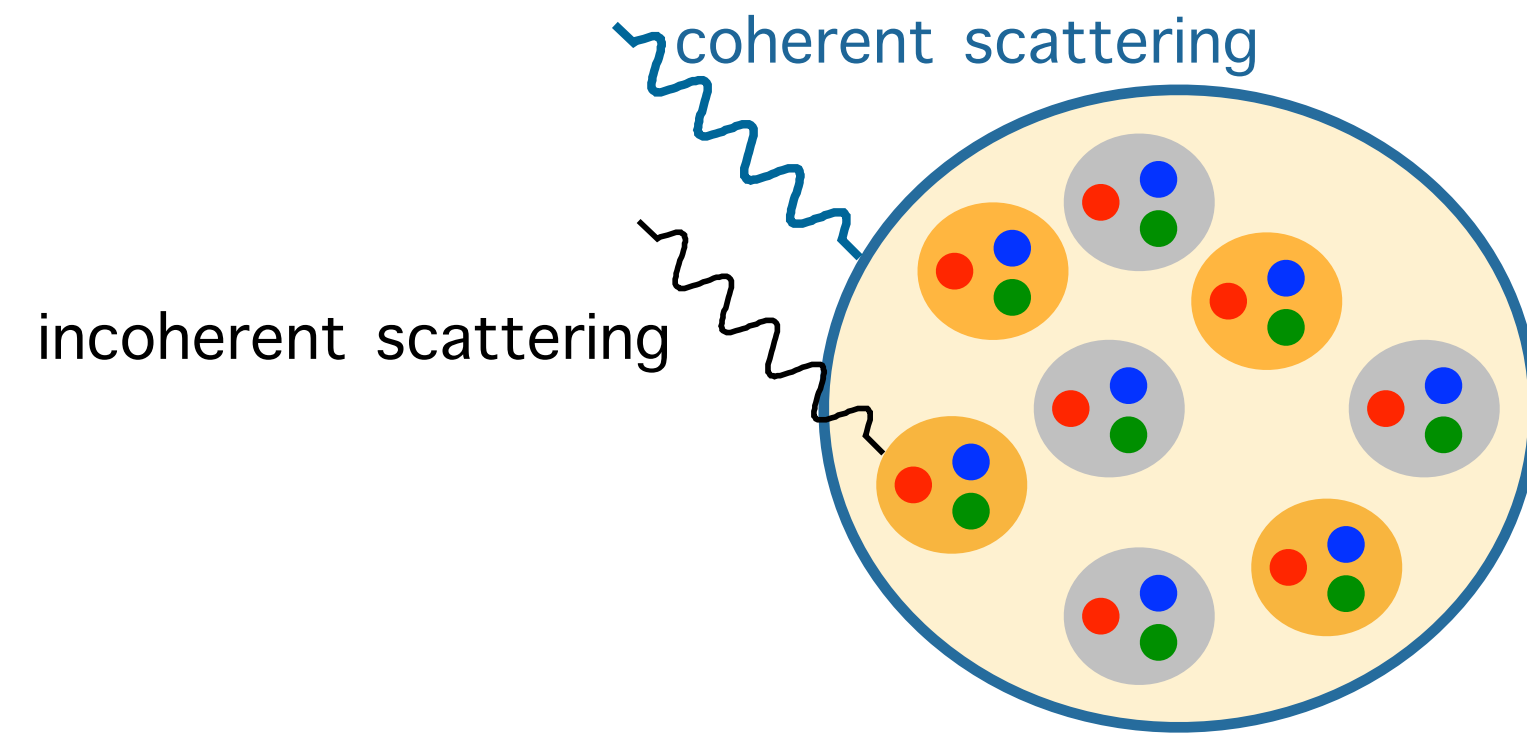


Coherent interaction: interaction with target as a whole.
~ target remains in same quantum state.

Incoherent interaction: interaction with constituents inside target.
~ target does not remain in same quantum state.
Ex.: target dissociation, excitation

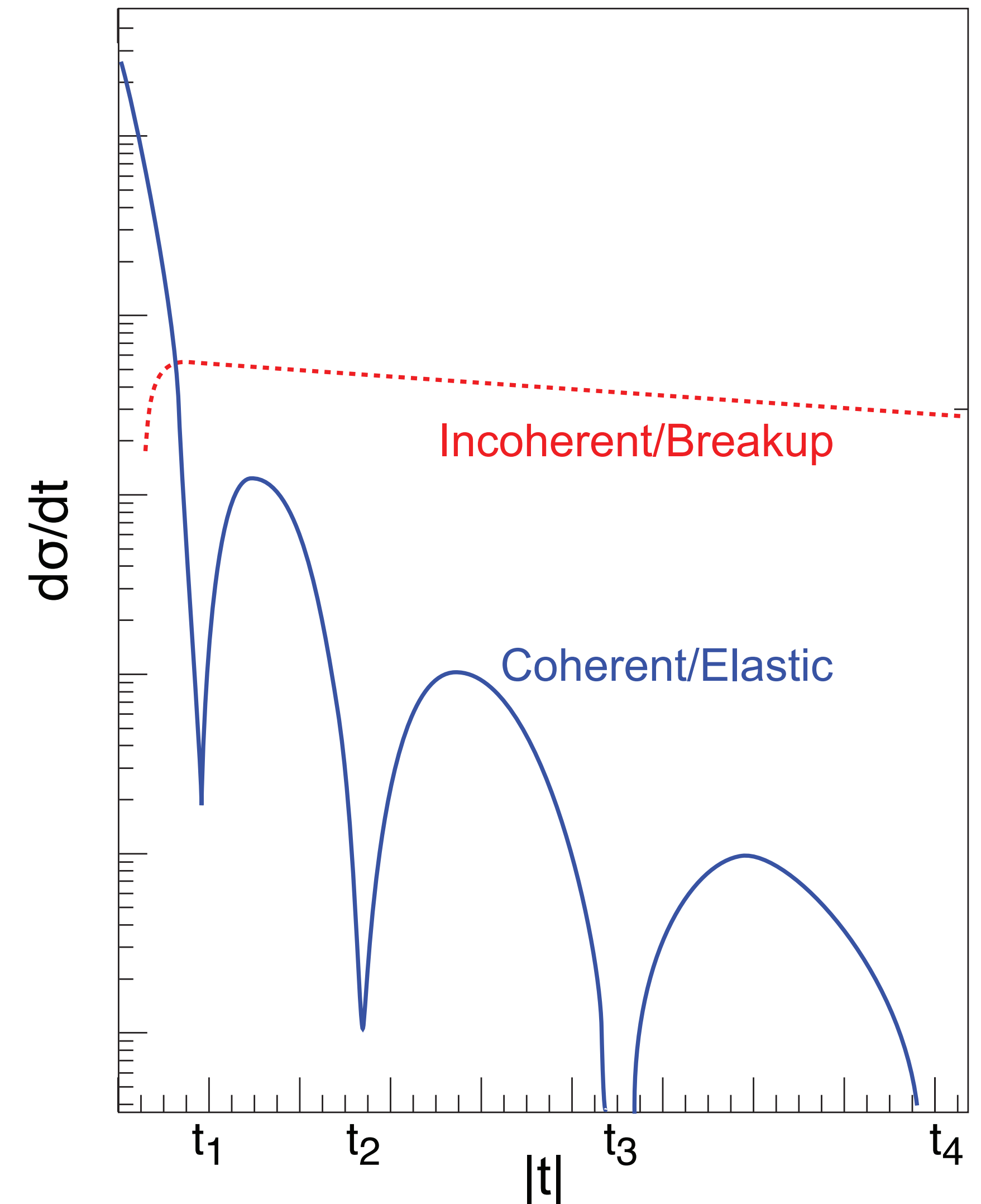
Exclusive/diffractive measurements on nuclei

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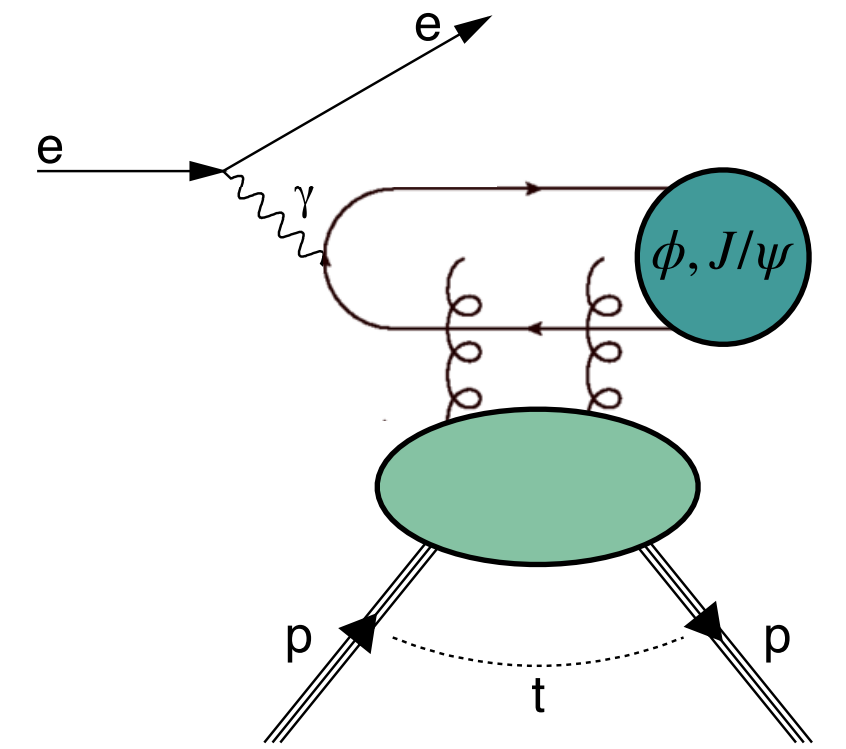


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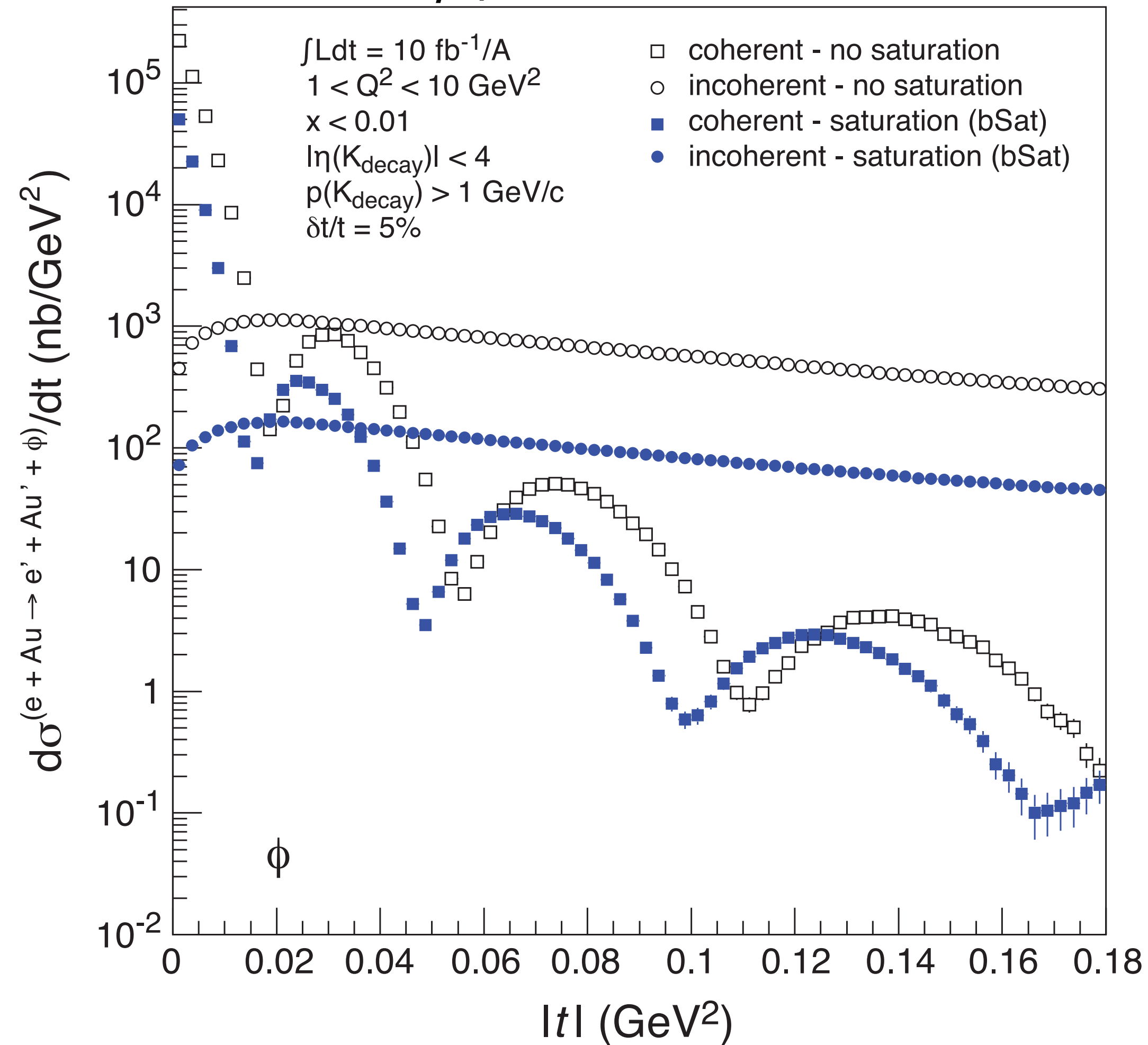


Diffractive measurements and saturation

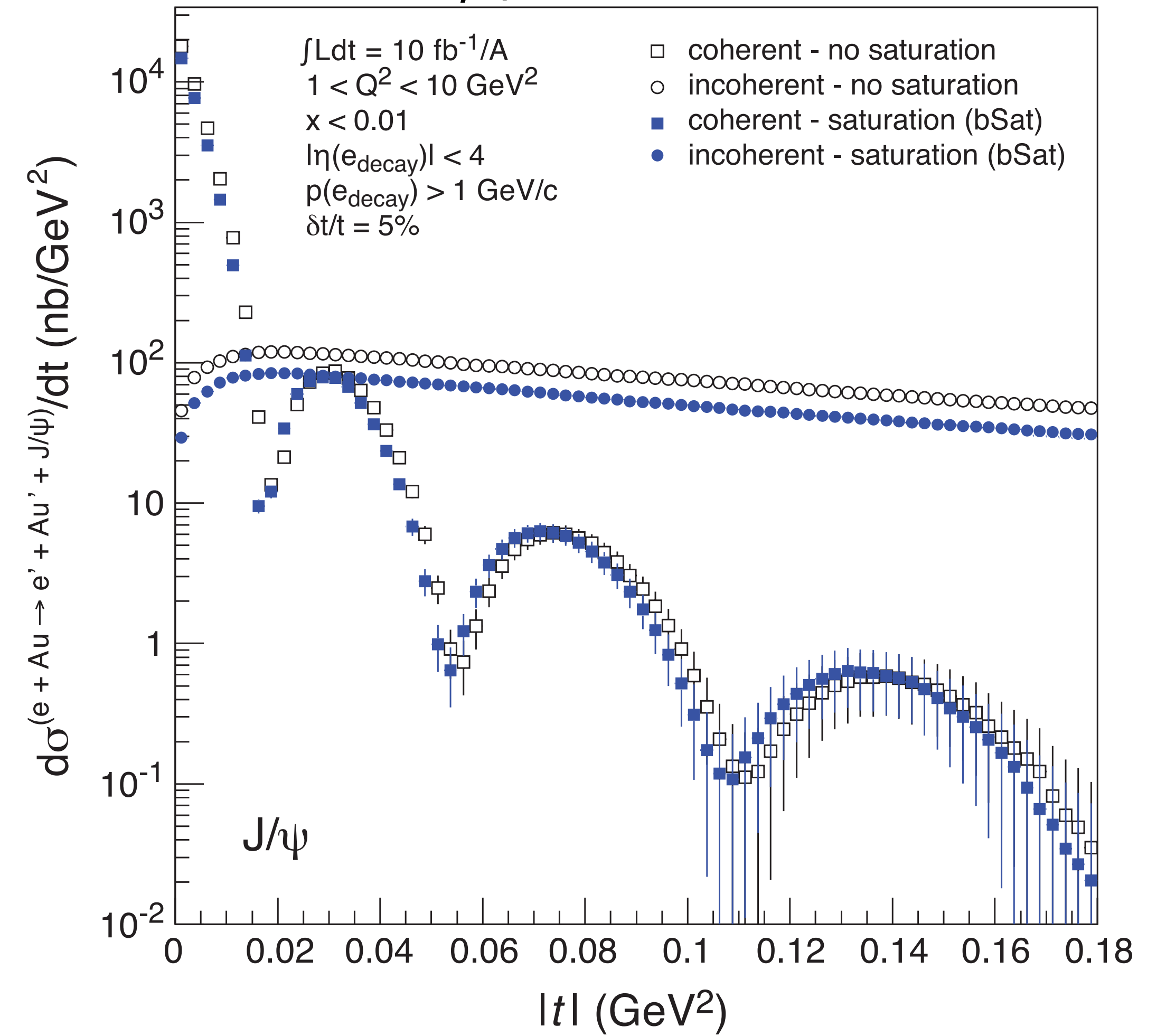


ϕ production

A. Accardi et al., arXiv:1212.1701

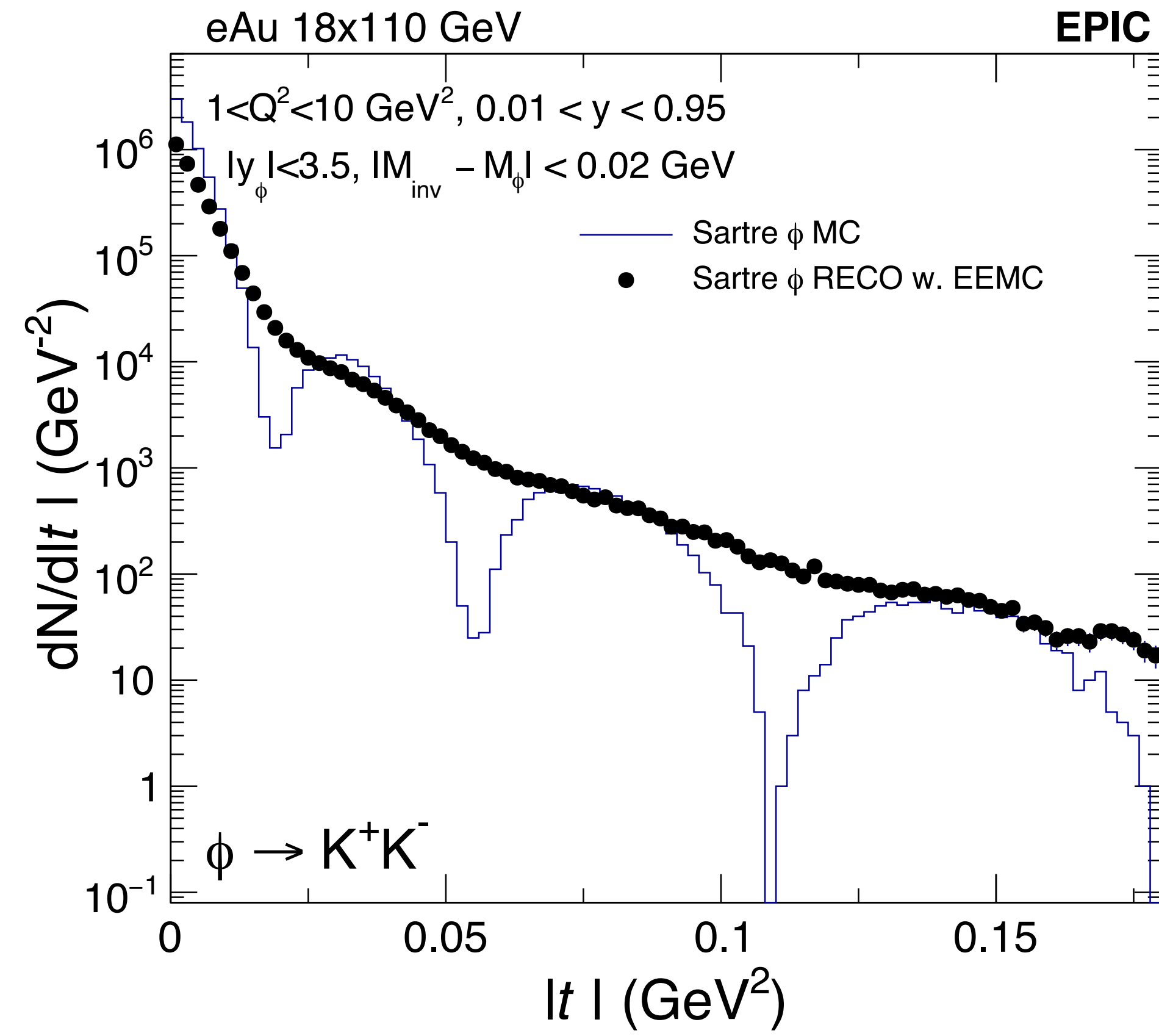


J/ψ production



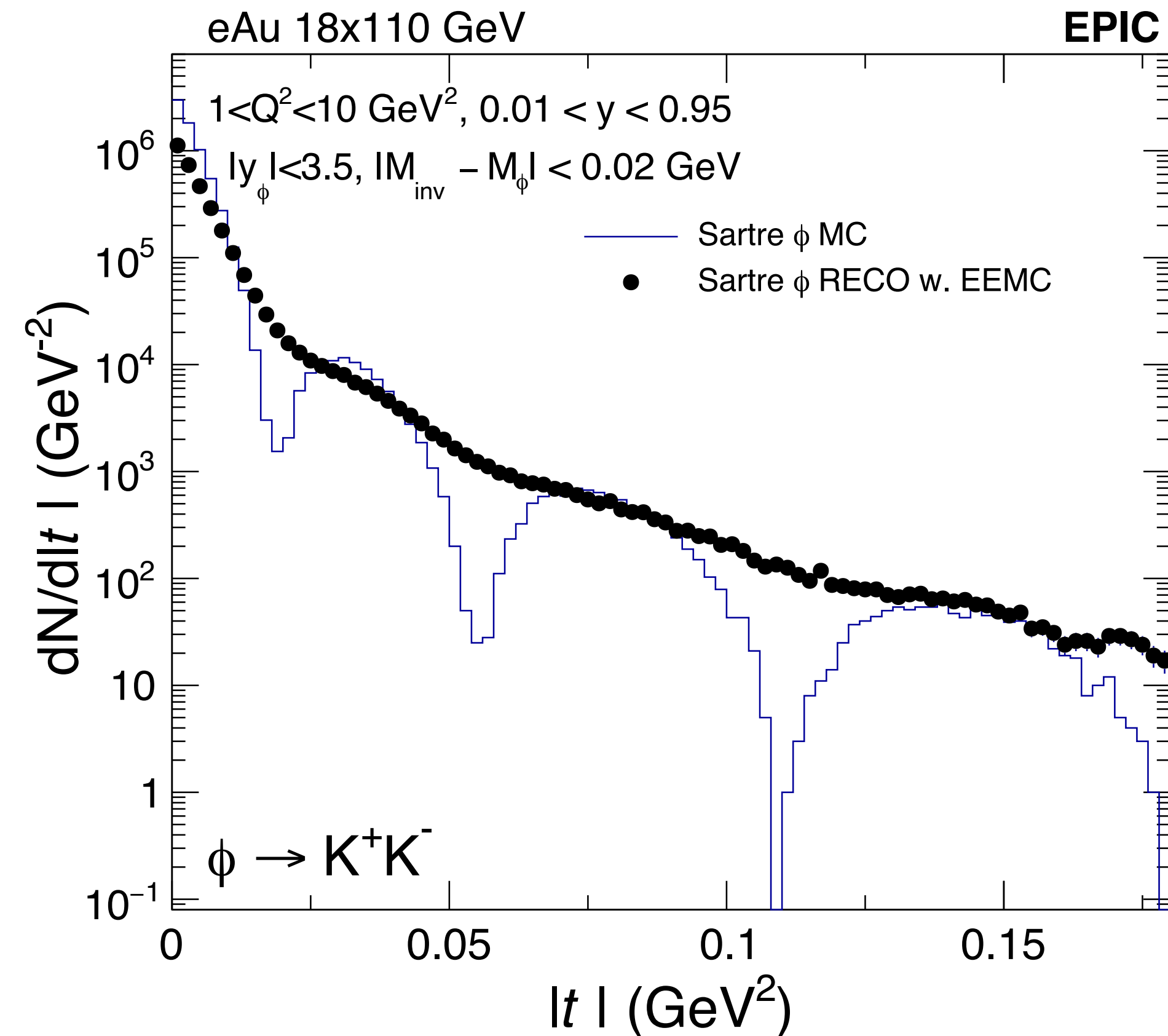
Exclusive measurements on nuclear targets with the EIC

Reconstruction of the coherent signal

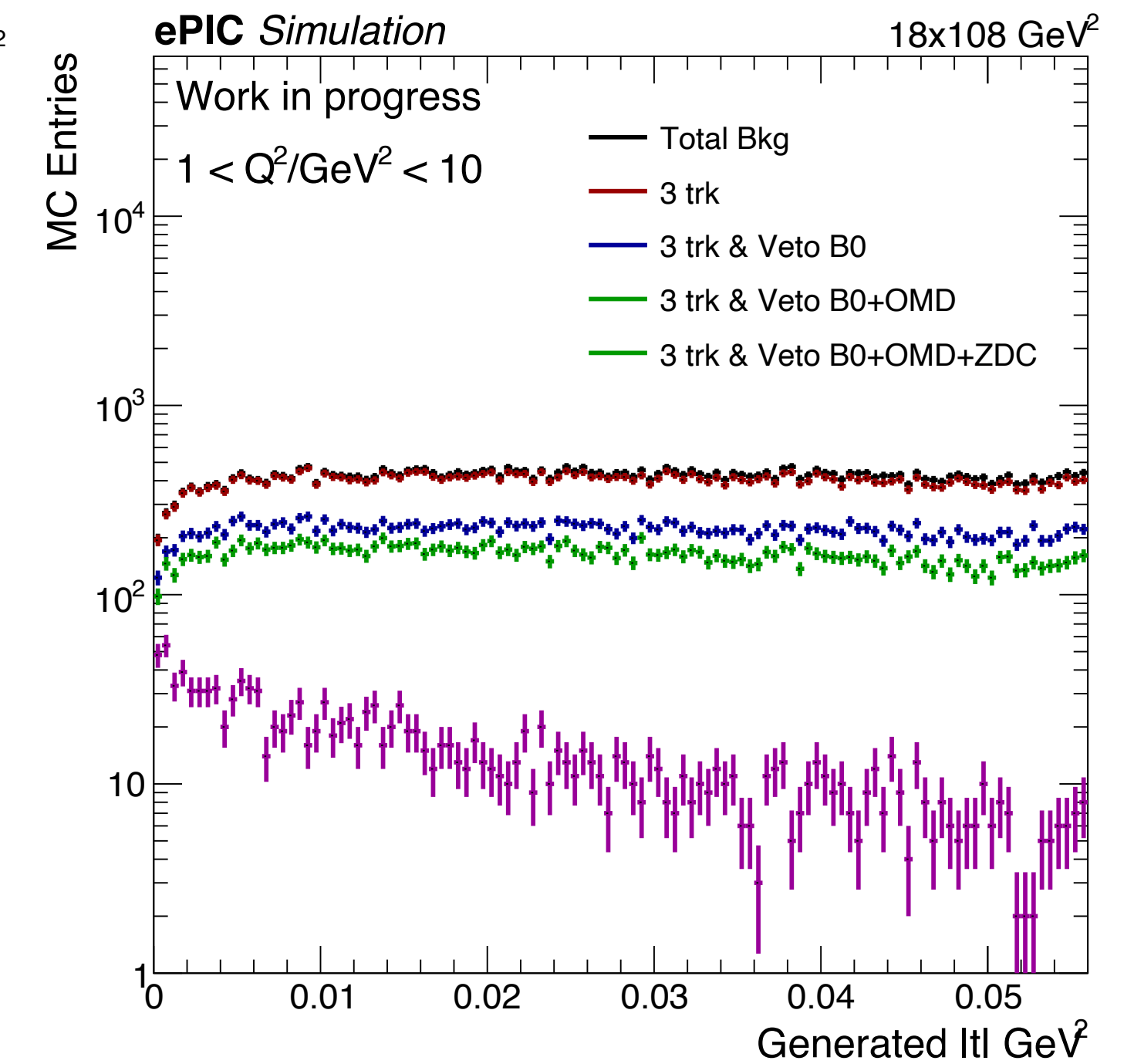
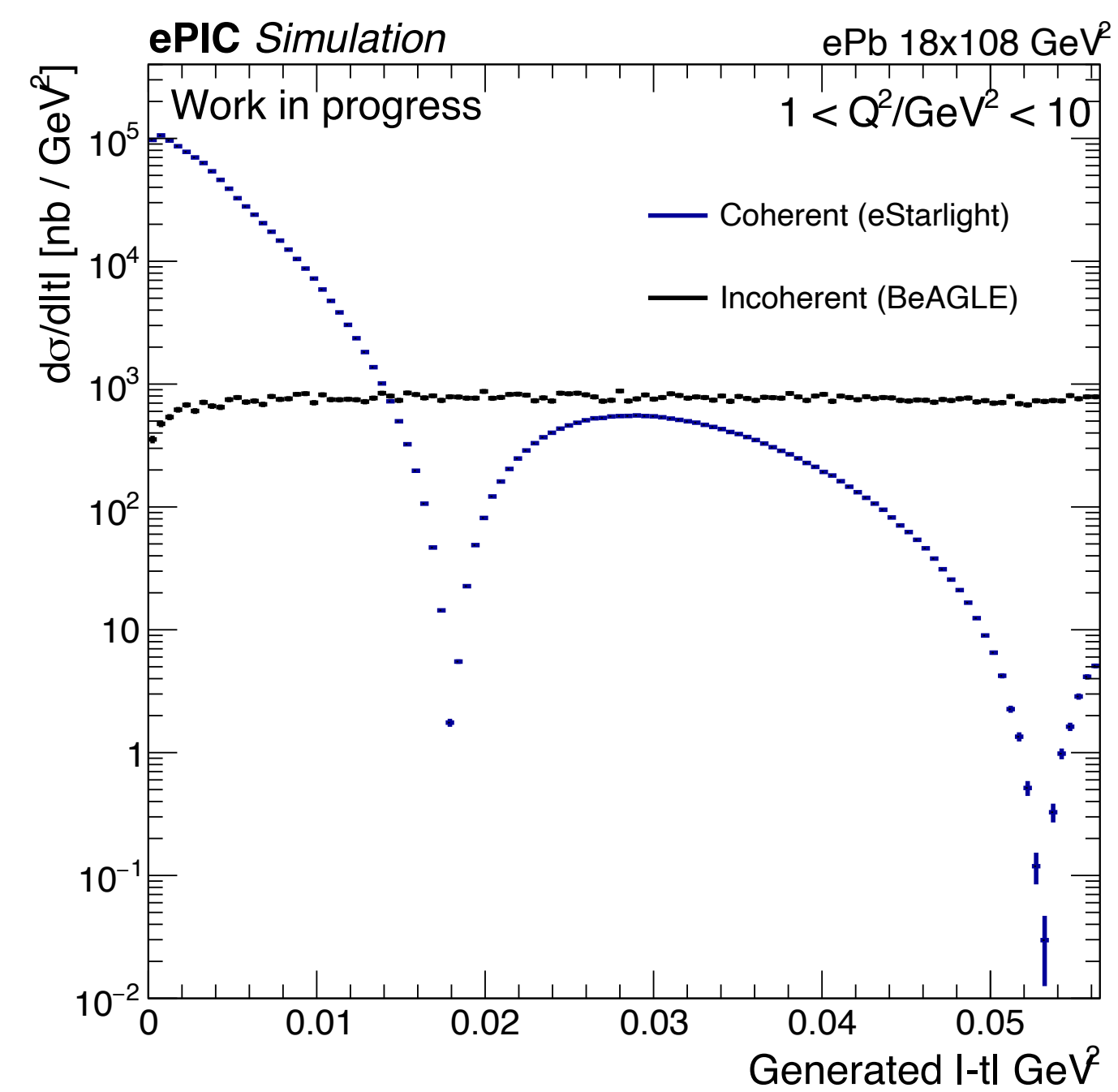


Exclusive measurements on nuclear targets with the EIC

Reconstruction of the coherent signal



Suppression of the incoherent signal

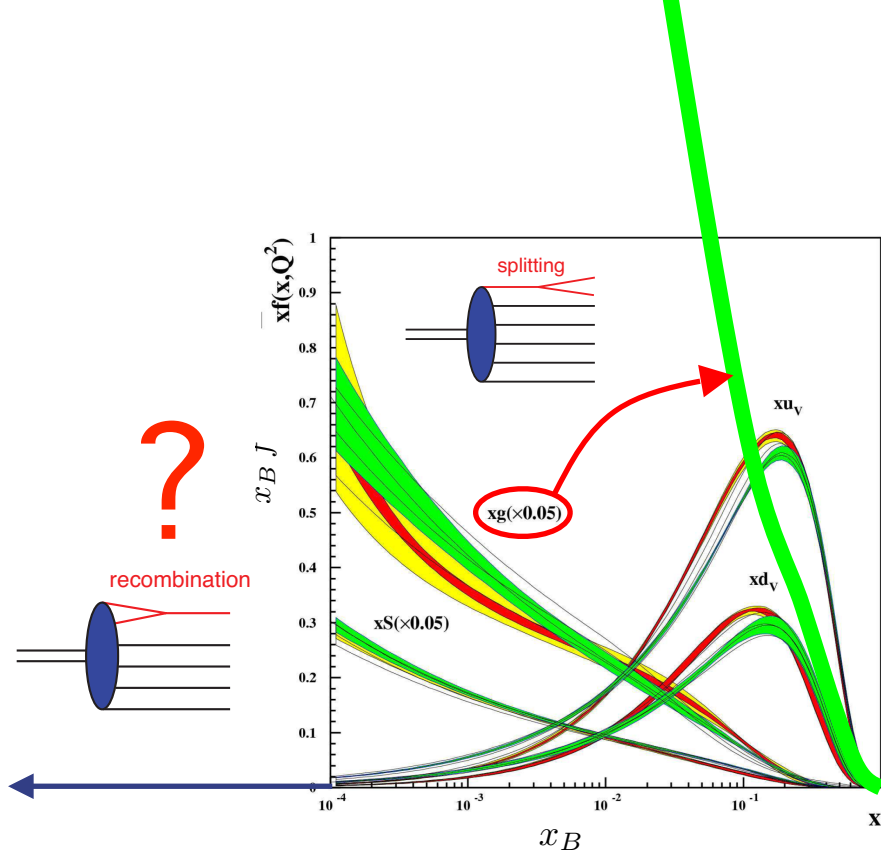
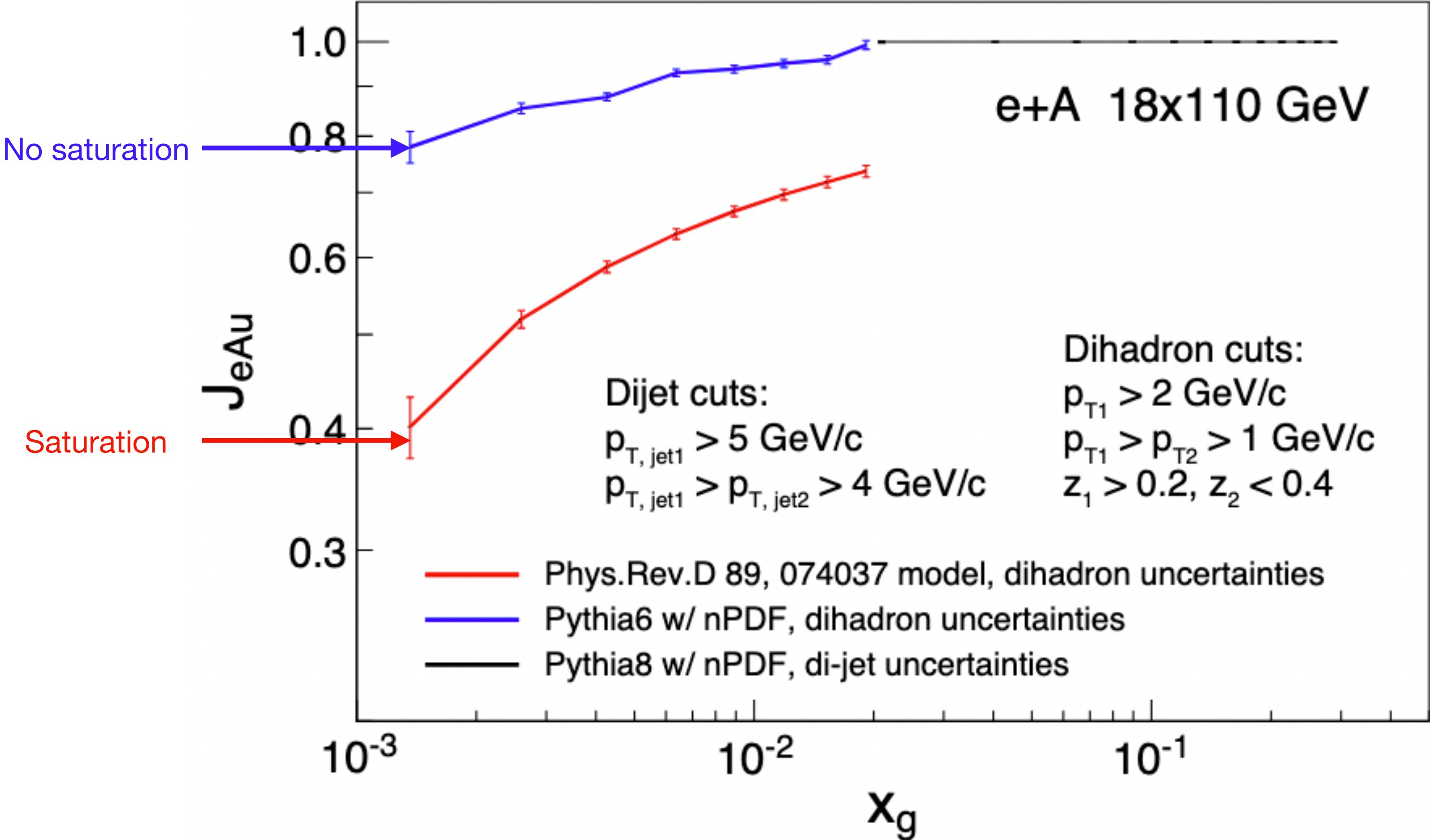


Di-hadron production in eA collisions

- Complementarity region covered by dihadron and jet production

correlated back-to-back hadron pairs in
e+Au/e+p scaled by $A^{1/3}$
Away-side suppression

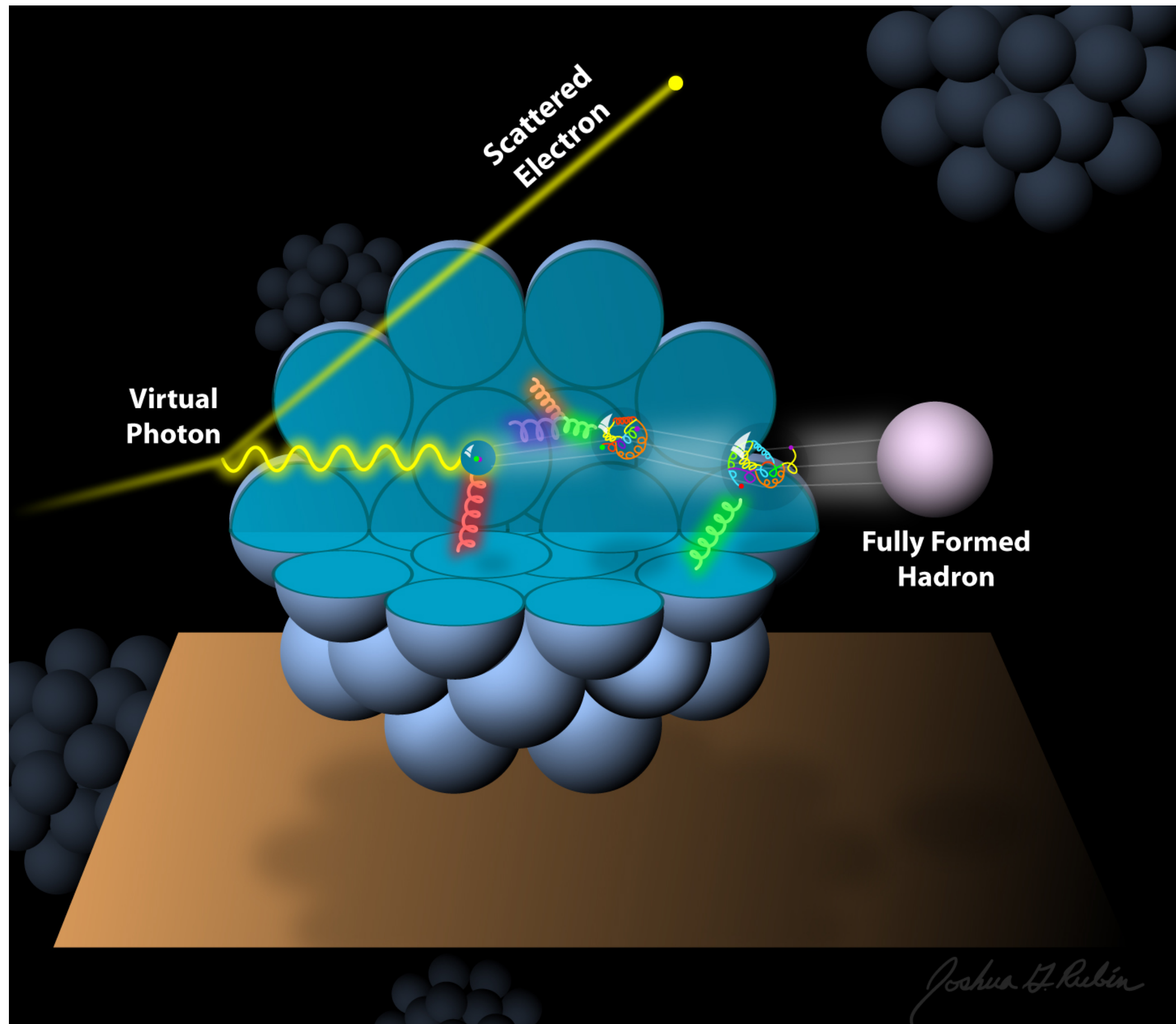
ATHENA



Hadronisation



Probing space-time evolution of hadronisation



- Energy loss of parton by medium-induced gluon radiation

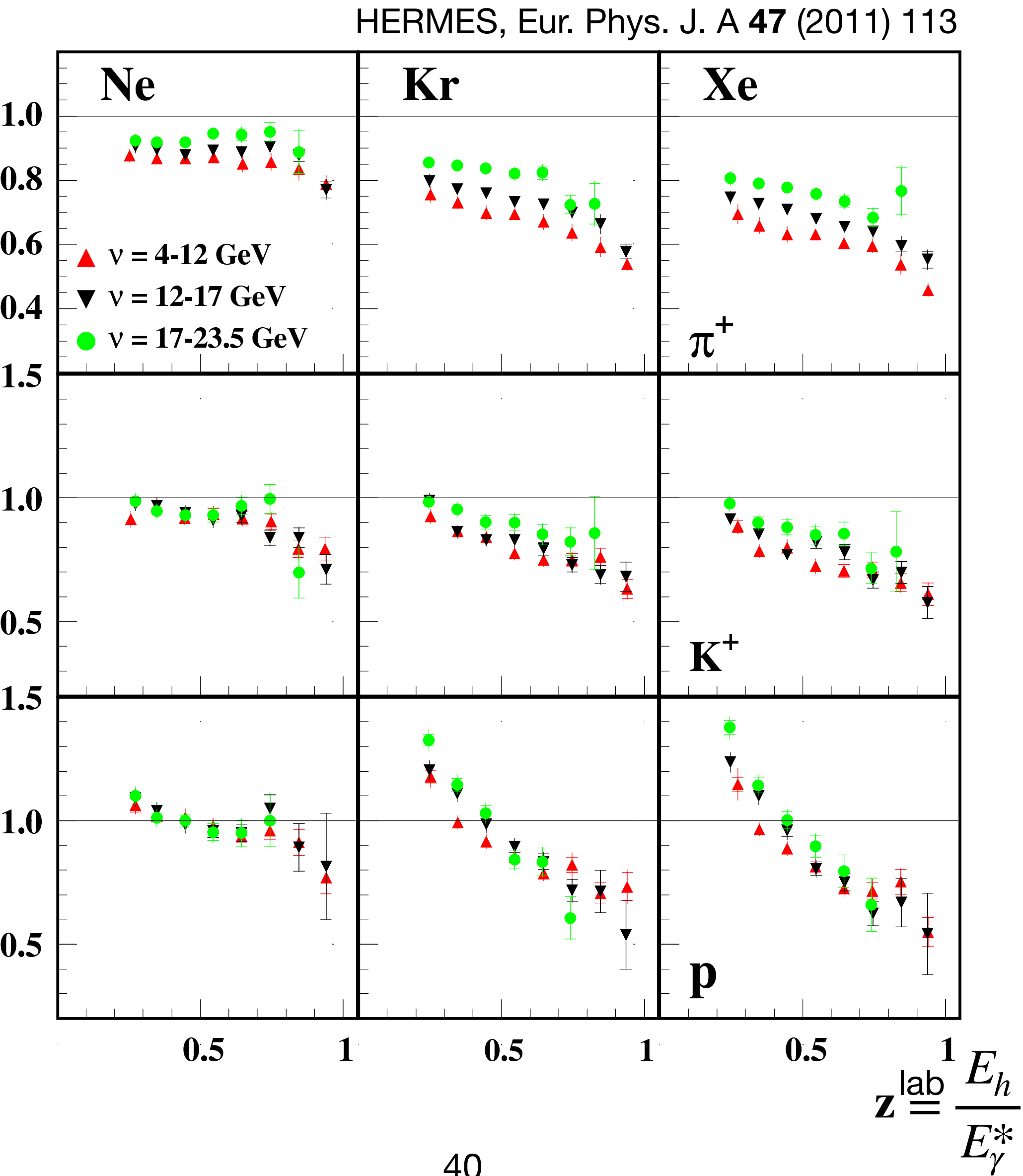
- Energy loss of (pre-)hadrons
 - absorption
 - rescattering (small)

- Partonic and hadronic processes: different signature

➡ probe space-time evolution of hadron formation

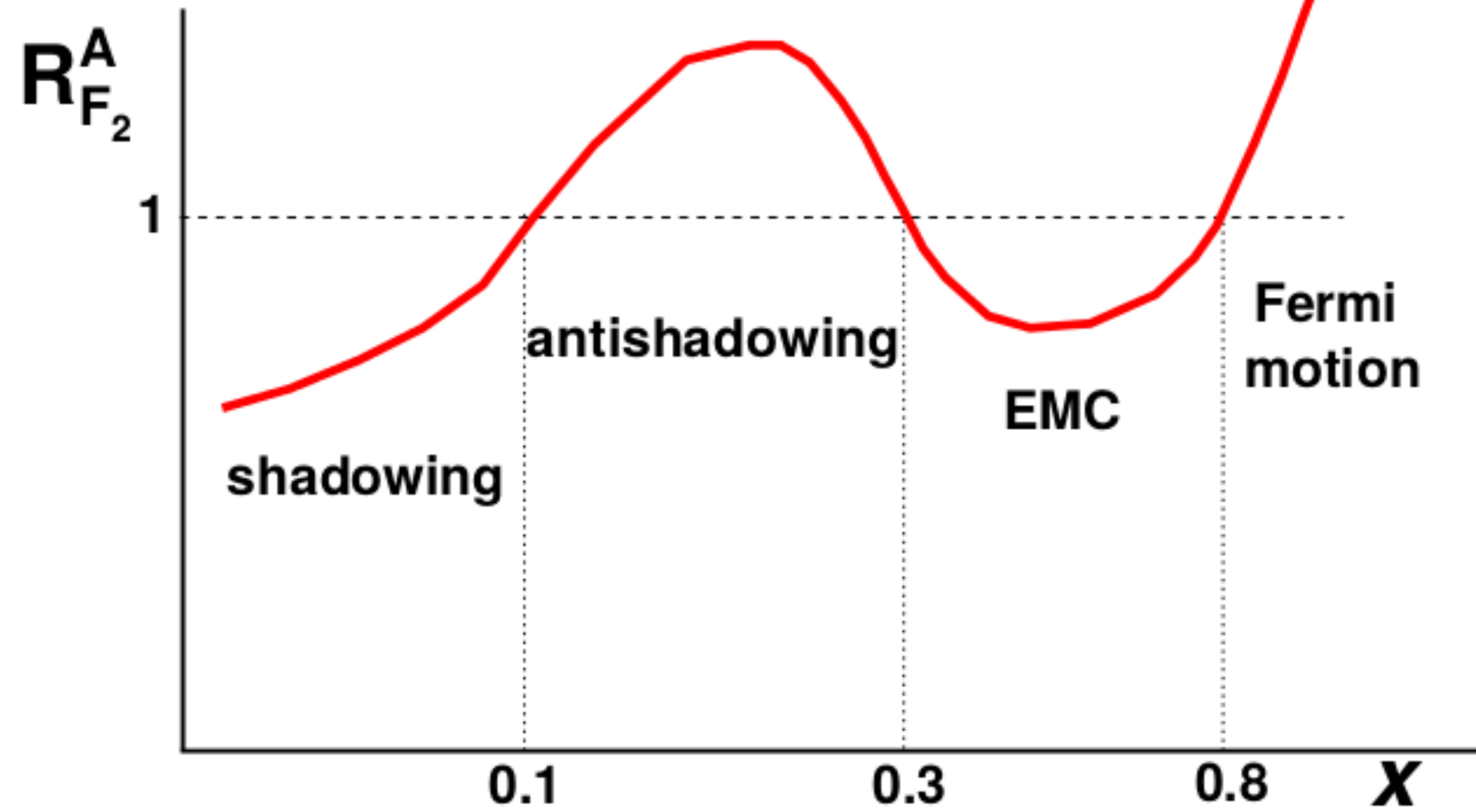
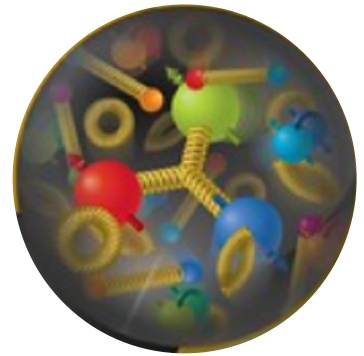
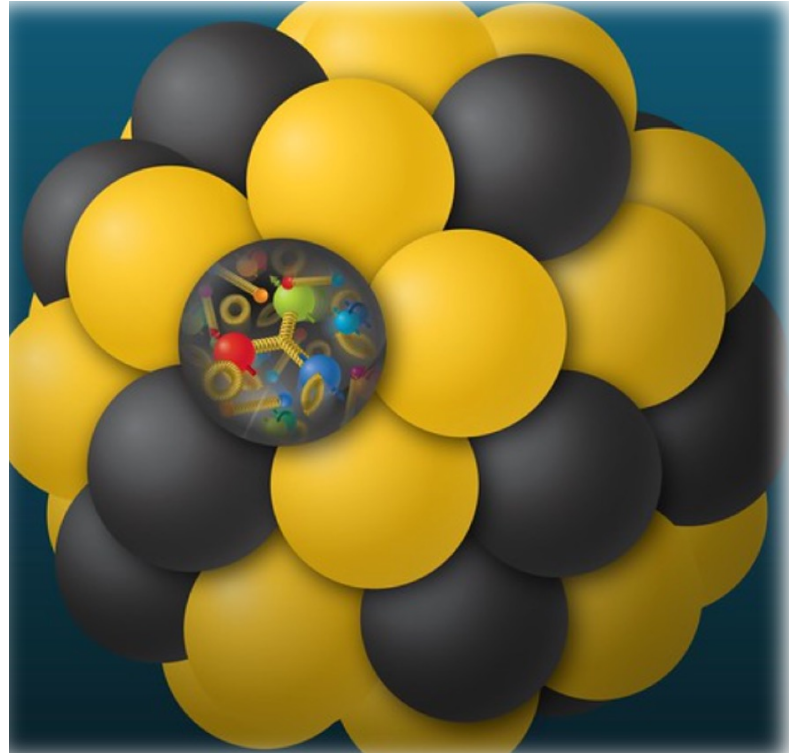
Multiplicity ratios

$$R_A^h = \frac{\left(\frac{N^h}{N_{DIS}}\right)_A}{\left(\frac{N^h}{N_{DIS}}\right)_D}$$

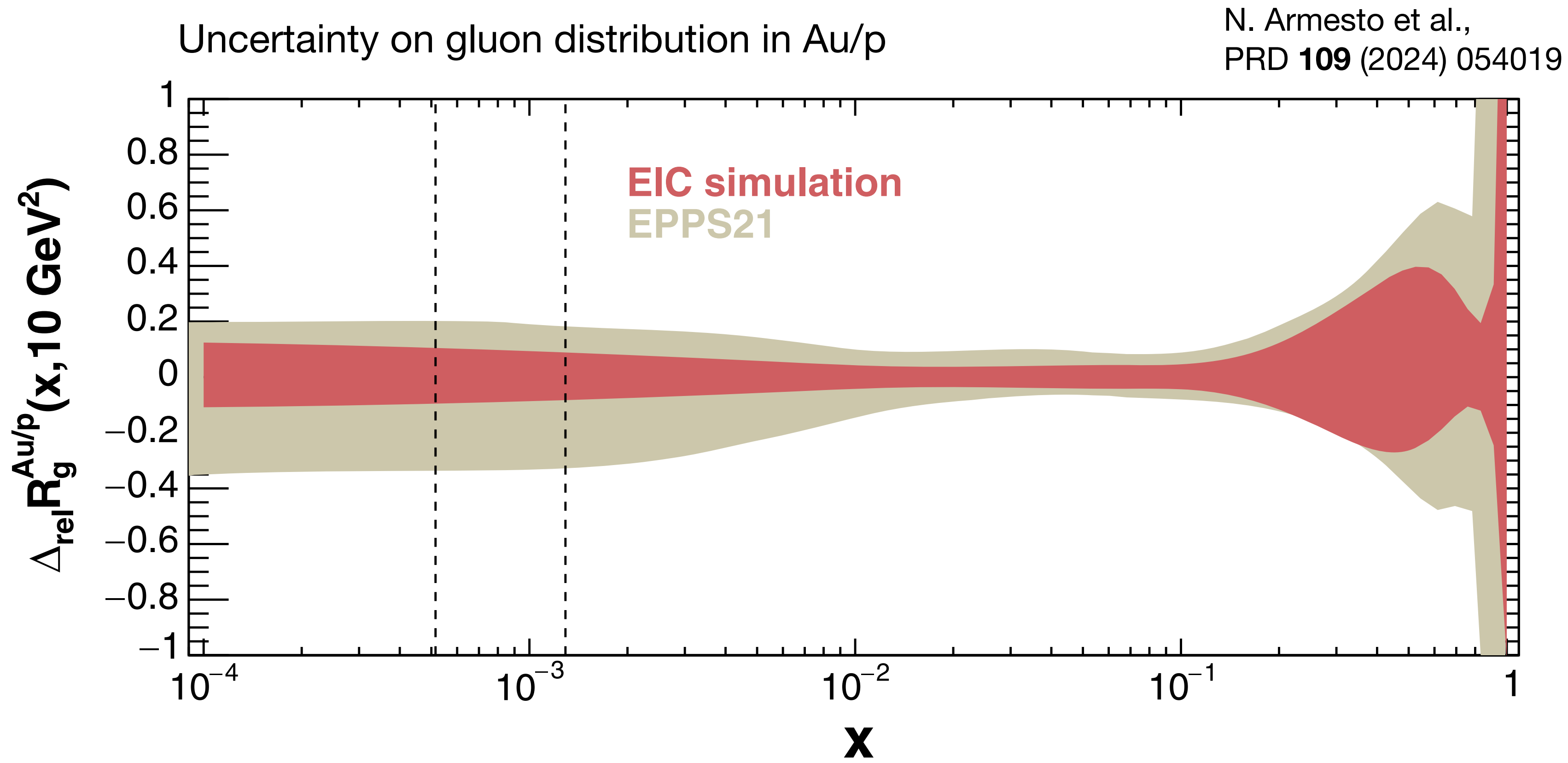


At highest z :
hadronic absorption

Nuclear PDFs



Nuclear PDFs at EIC



Inclusive e-Au data only:
constrain of nuclear PDF one single nucleus!

Early science programme

	Species	Energy (GeV)	Luminosity/nucleon per year (fb ⁻¹)	Electron polarization	p/A polarization
YEAR 1	e+Ru or e+Cu	10 x 115	0.9	NO (Commissioning)	N/A
YEAR 2	e+D e+p	10 x 130	11.4 4.95 - 5.33	LONG	NO TRANS
YEAR 3	e+p	10 x 130	4.95 - 5.33	LONG	TRANS and/or LONG
YEAR 4	e+Au e+p	10 x 100 10 x 250	0.84 6.19 - 9.18	LONG	N/A TRANS and/or LONG
YEAR 5	e+Au e+3He	10 x 100 10 x 166	0.84 8.65	LONG	N/A TRANS and/or LONG

J. Lajoie,
Early Science Workshop
April 24–25, 2025

Summary

EIC with ePIC can address various aspects of the nucleon and nuclear structure through:

- Precise inclusive and semi-inclusive DIS measurements to probe the parton spin contribution to the nucleon spin.
- Measurements for 3D (spin-dependent) tomography in momentum space and position space.
- Measurements on a large variety of nuclei:
 - understand nuclear structure
 - probe gluon saturation
 - study the space-time evolution of hadron formation.