

QCD Collectivity in High-Multiplicity Jets from pp Collisions

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University of Illinois Chicago

May 21, 2025
2025 RHIC/AGS
Annual Users' Meeting
Brookhaven National Lab



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

RHIC 25:
A quarter century of discovery
May 20-23, 2025

Topical Workshops: May 20-21
Plenary Sessions: May 22-23
RHIC 25 Symposium: May 22, 4:30pm

RHIC/AGS Users' Executive Committee

Peter Steinberg, Chair Elect
Anders Knospe, Chair
Marzia Rosati, Past Chair

Meeting Coordinators

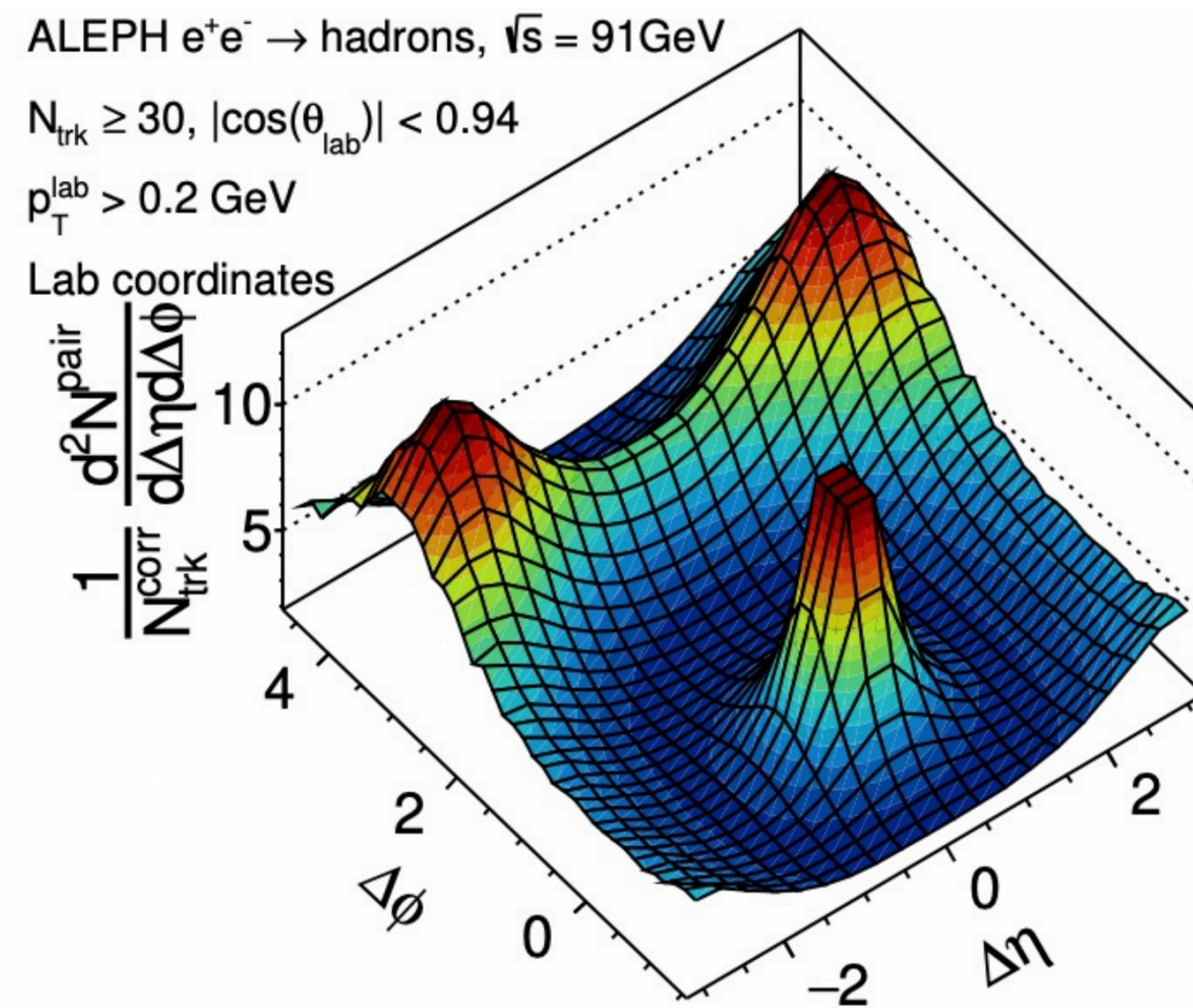
Kelly Guiffreda
guiffreda@bnl.gov
Teri Lazar
tlazar@bnl.gov

The poster features a stylized graphic of a particle detector or collision region, with a central core of red and orange hexagonal cells, transitioning to a blue background with a grid of yellow and orange cells.

Very small systems

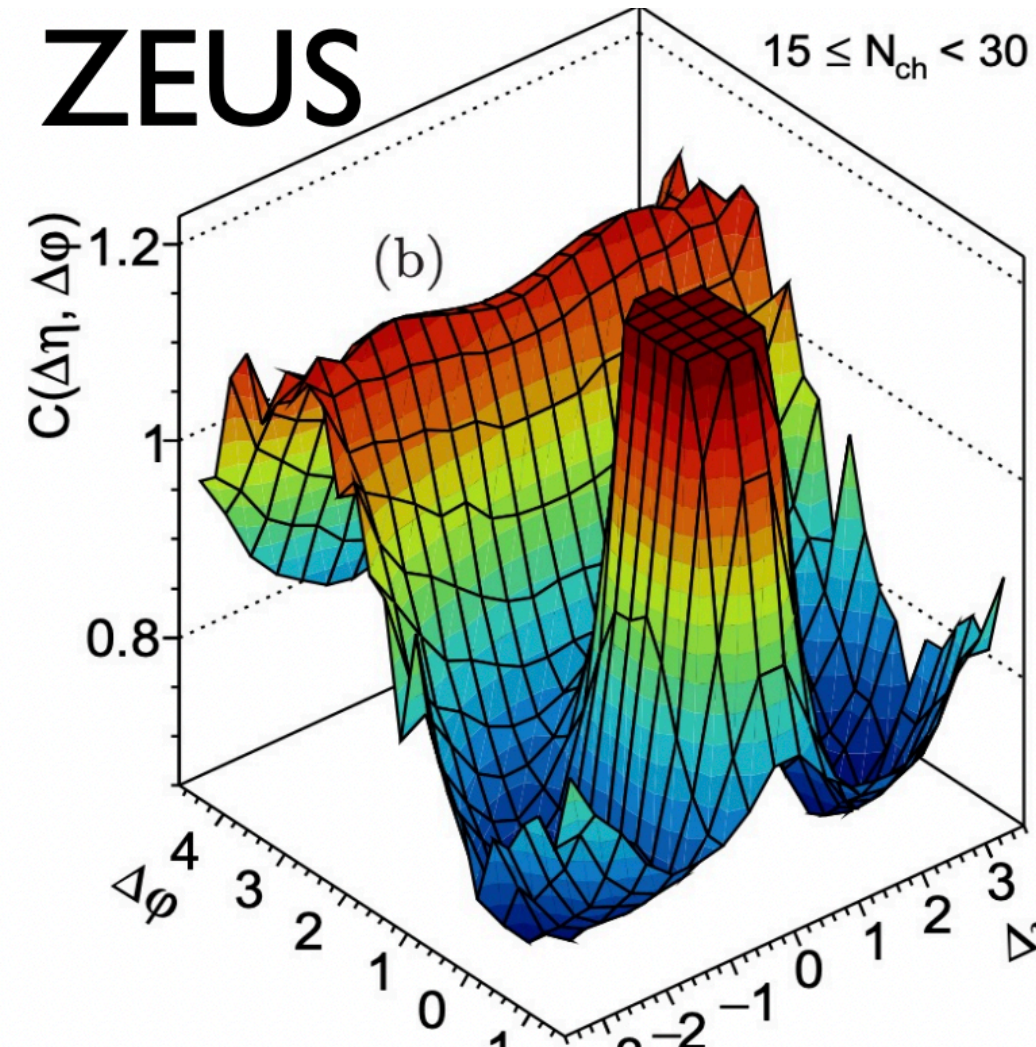
- Well established 'Fluid-like' signal observed in both pPb and high-multiplicity pp
- Many measurements pushing boundaries to smaller systems in last ~ 5 years
 - Are correlations in dense systems a general consequence of QCD?
 - From how small of a system can collectivity emerge?
 - Can hydrodynamics be applied on other non-perturbative processes?

e^+e^-
 $N_{ch} \sim 30$



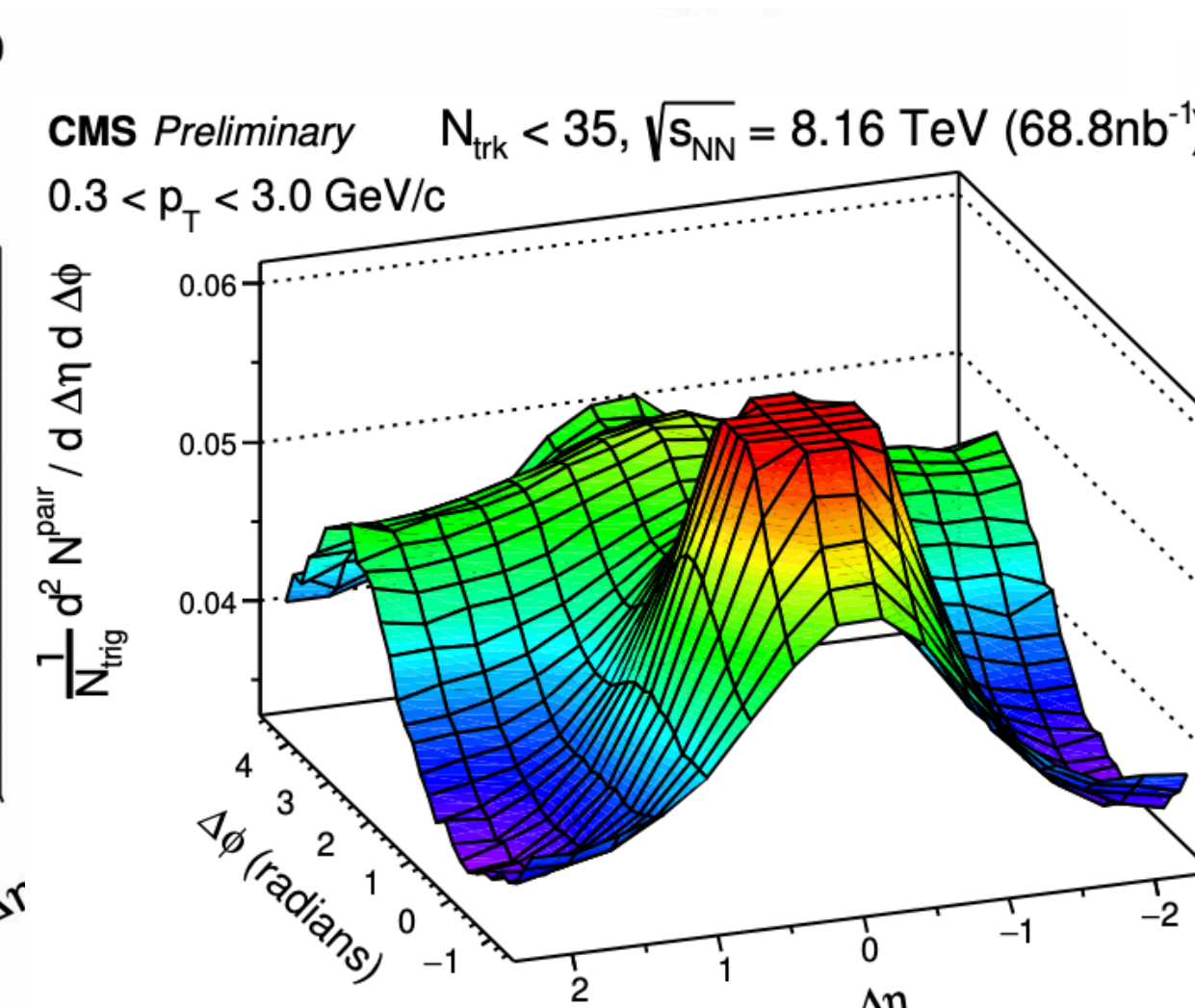
PRL 123, 212002 (2019)

ep
 $N_{ch} \sim 30$



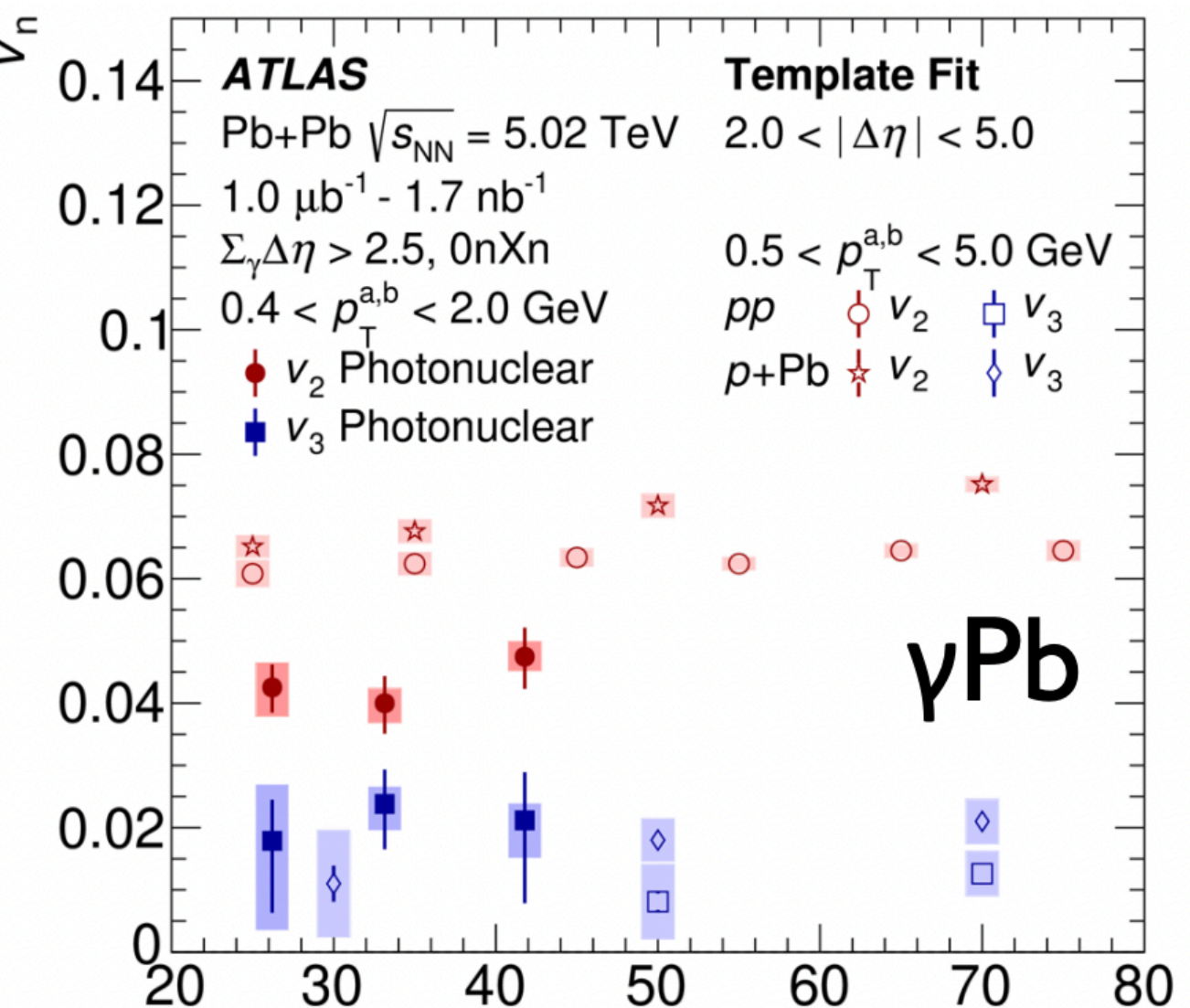
JHEP 04 (2020) 070

γp
 $N_{ch} \sim 20$



arXiv:2204.13486

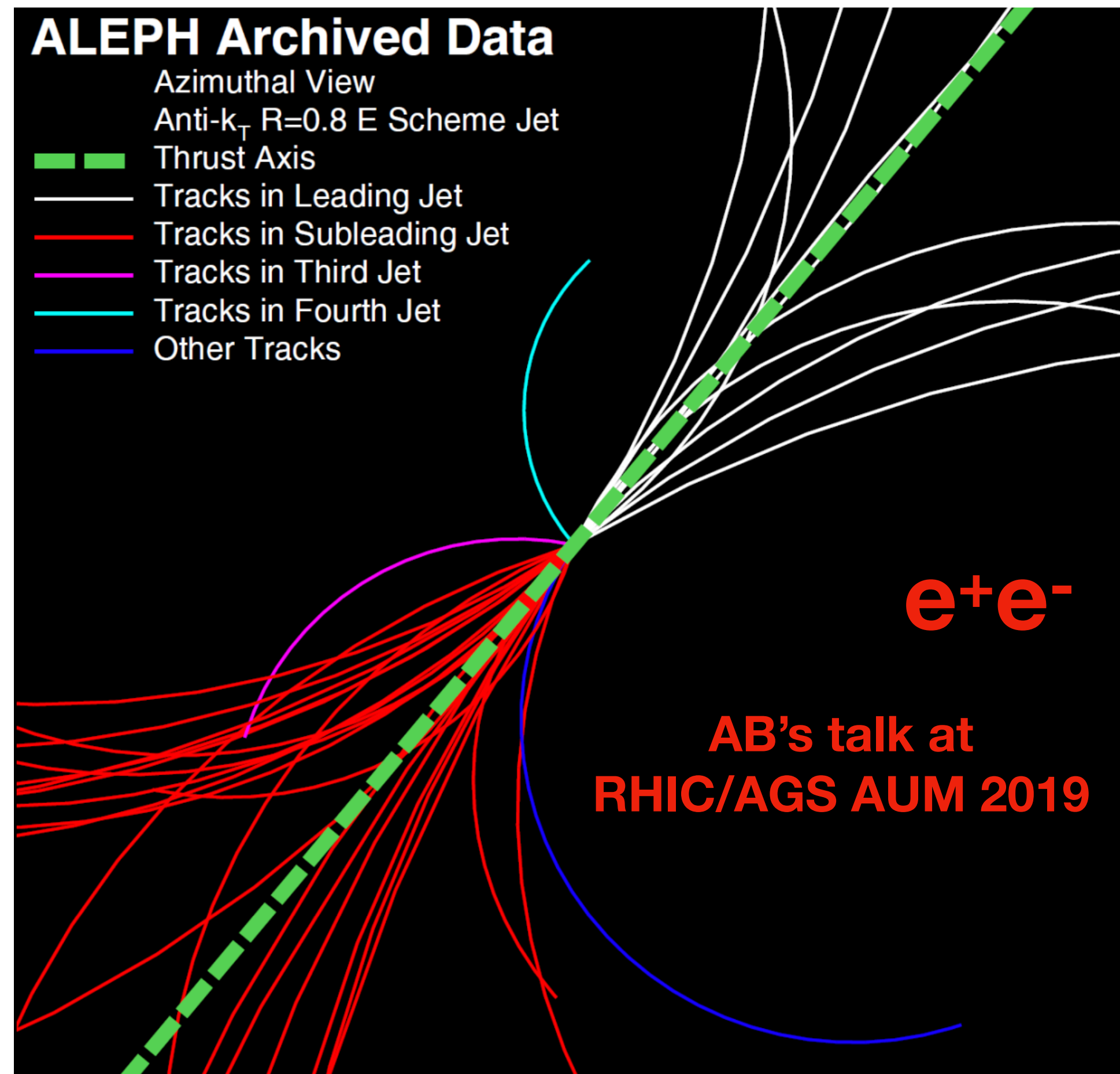
γPb
 $N_{ch} \sim 40$



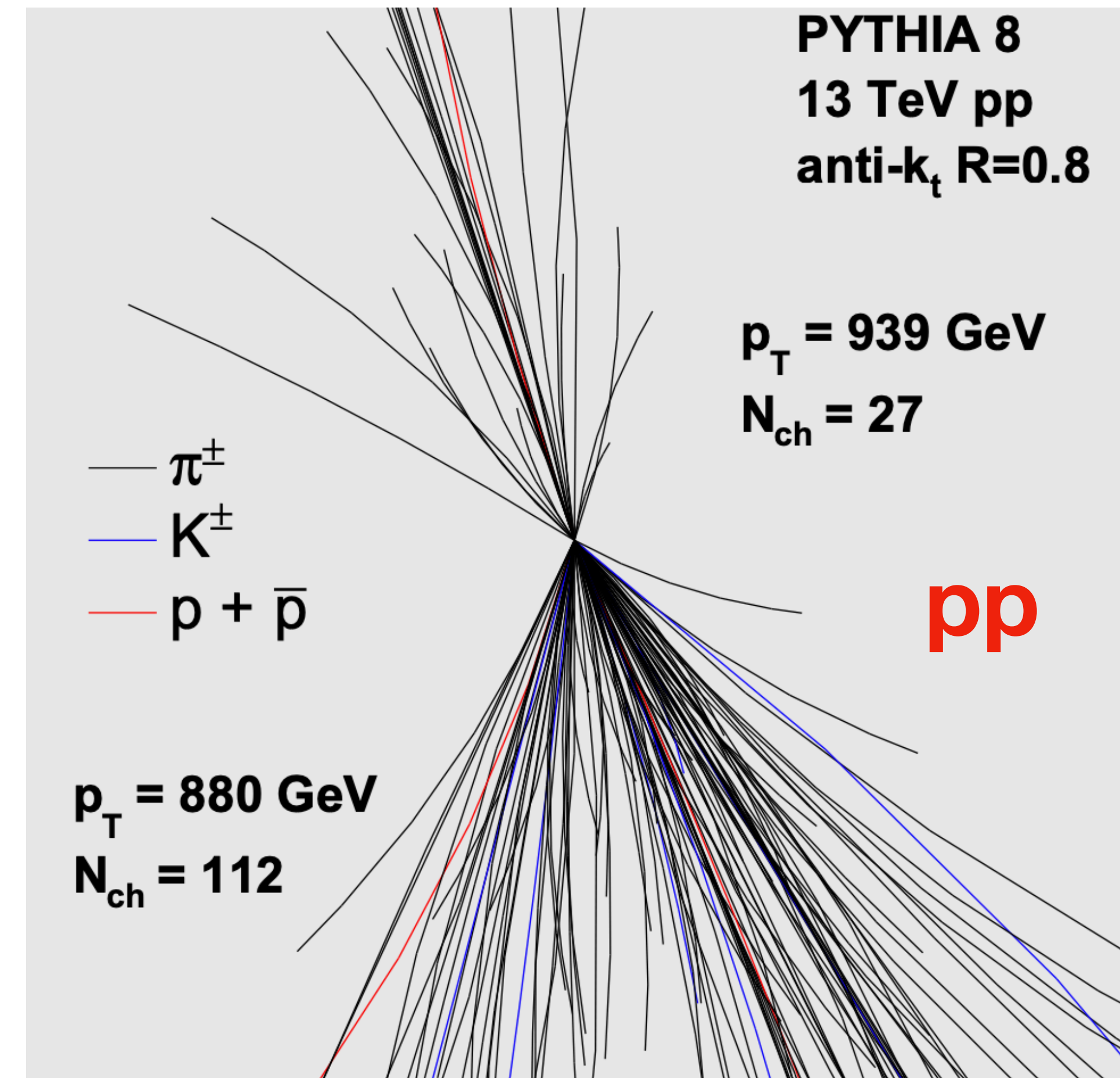
PRC, 104 014903 (2021) N_{ch}^{rec} 2

High multiplicity jets?

- Do parton interactions/rescatterings in *localized* high-density region cause any effect?
- e^+e^- produces very clean jets, but limited in statistics
- Huge number of jets at LHC!

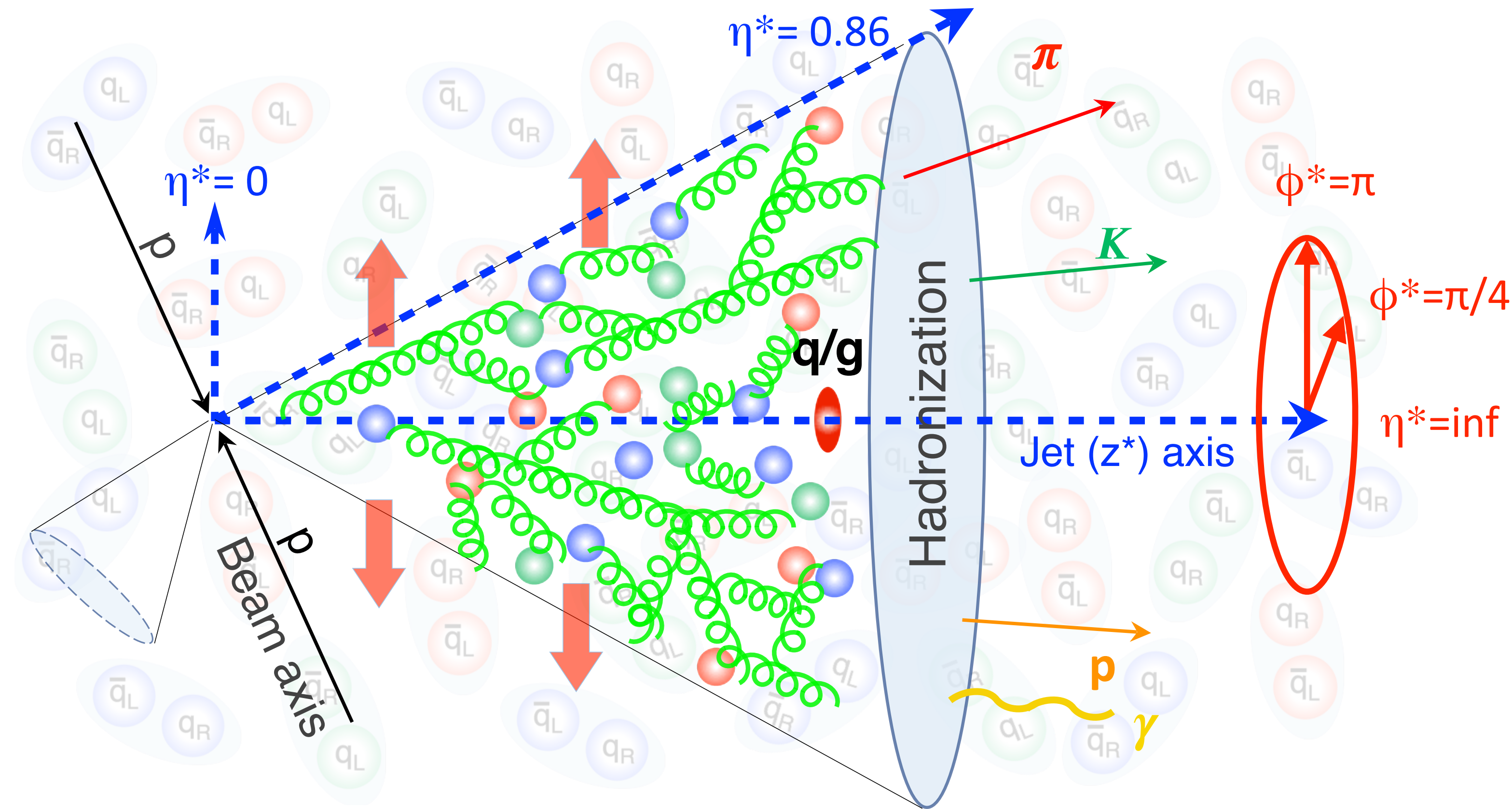


Badea A., AB, et al.. PRL 123, 212002 (2019)



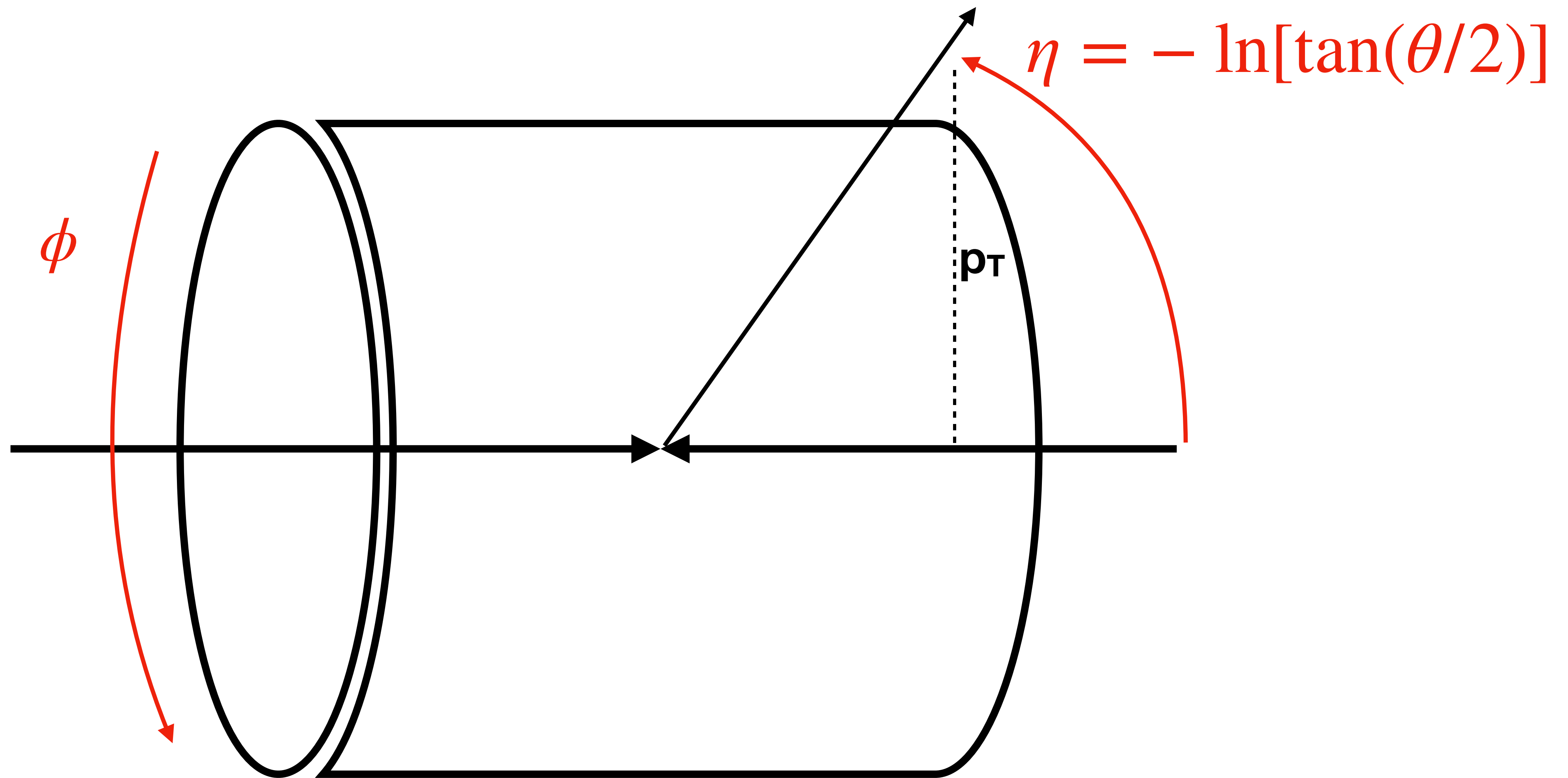
AB, Gardner P., Li W. PRC 107, 064908 (2023)

Postulated mechanism for collectivity



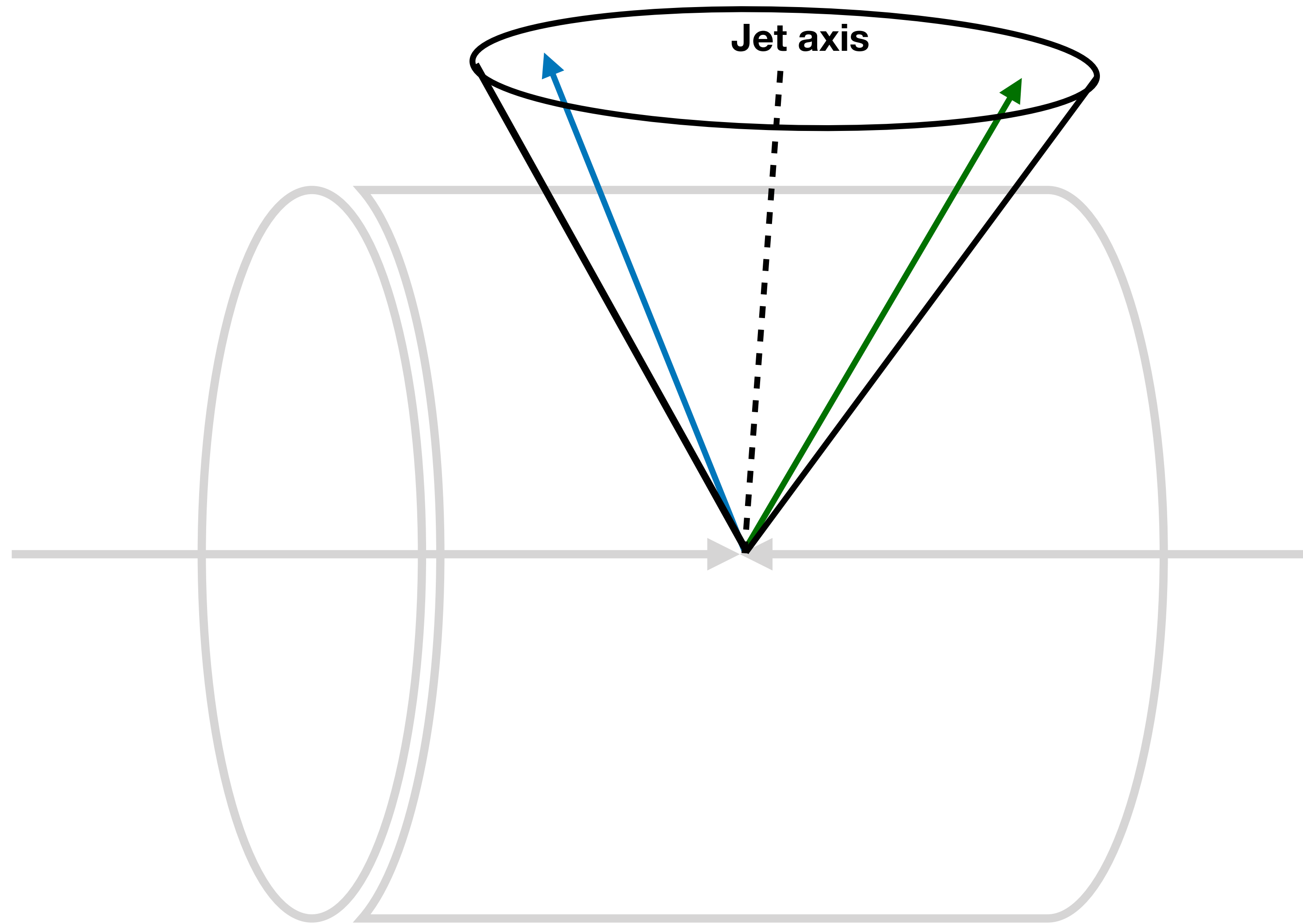
- Single parton propagating *along jet axis* generates dense parton collection
- Interactions/rescattering between resulting partons could generate collectivity
- Analysis must be with respect to jet axis - need to align jets

Redefinition of coordinates



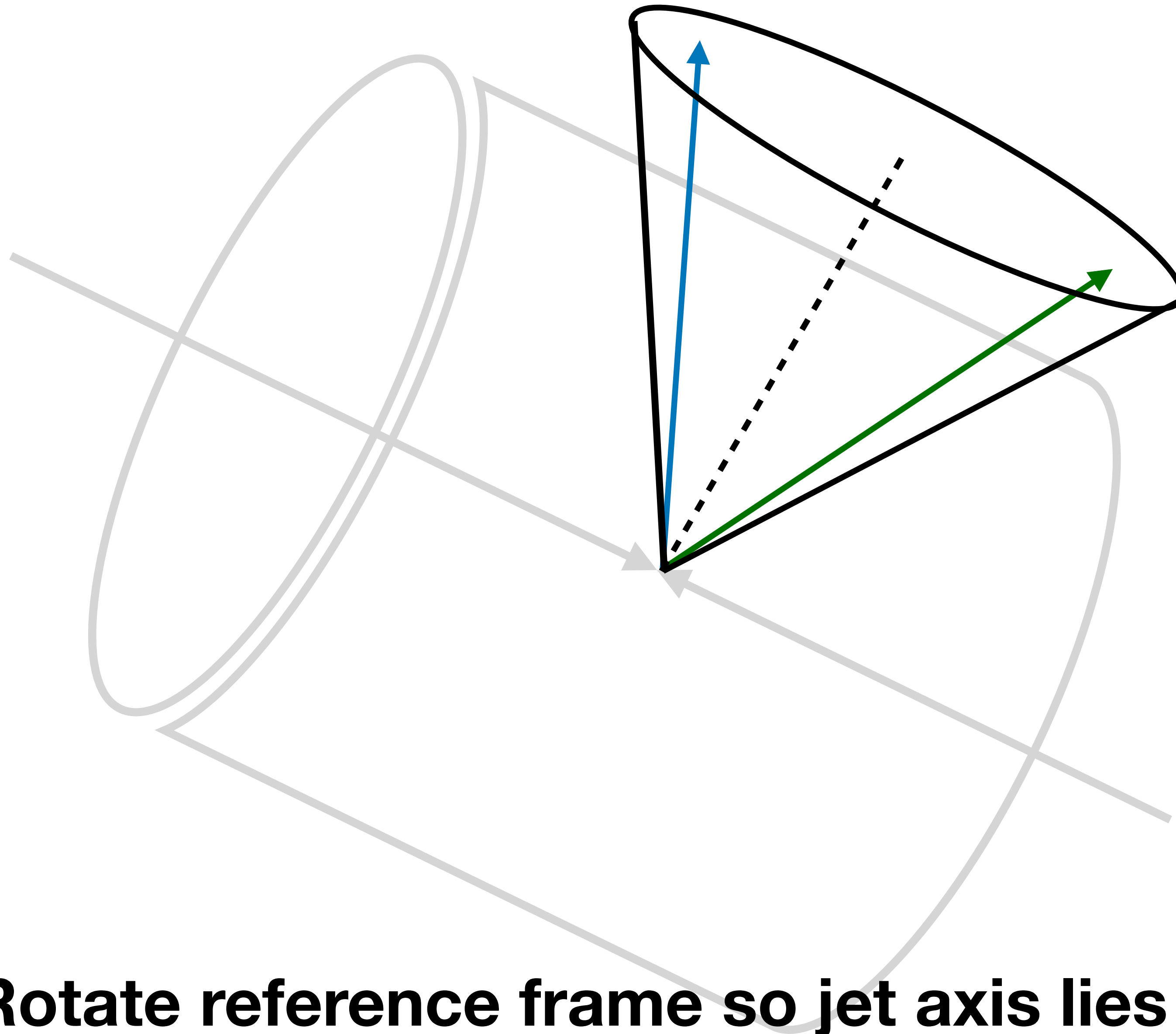
Start with standard lab coordinates

Rotation of reference frame



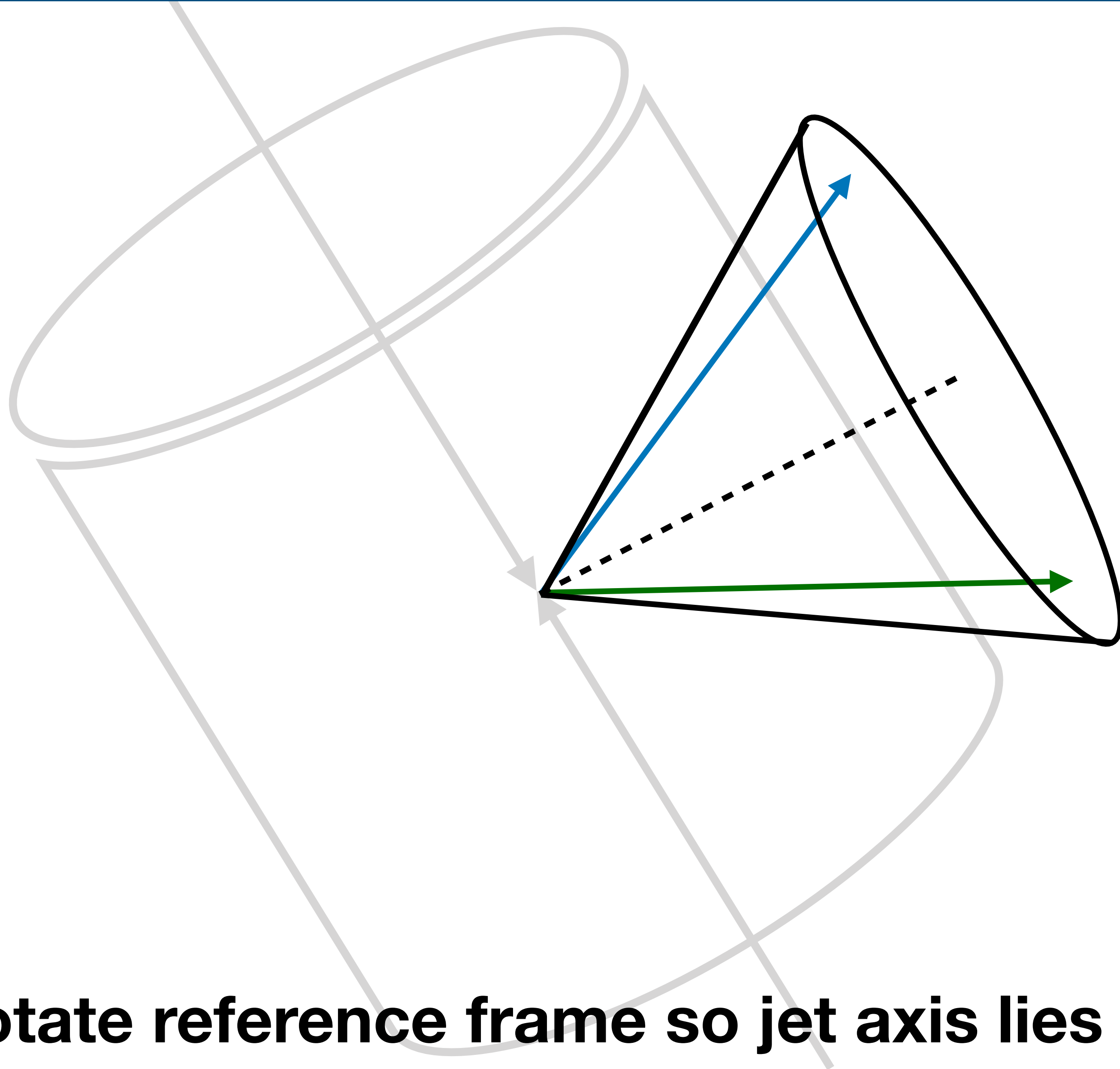
Consider a simplified jet with 2 constituents

Rotation of reference frame



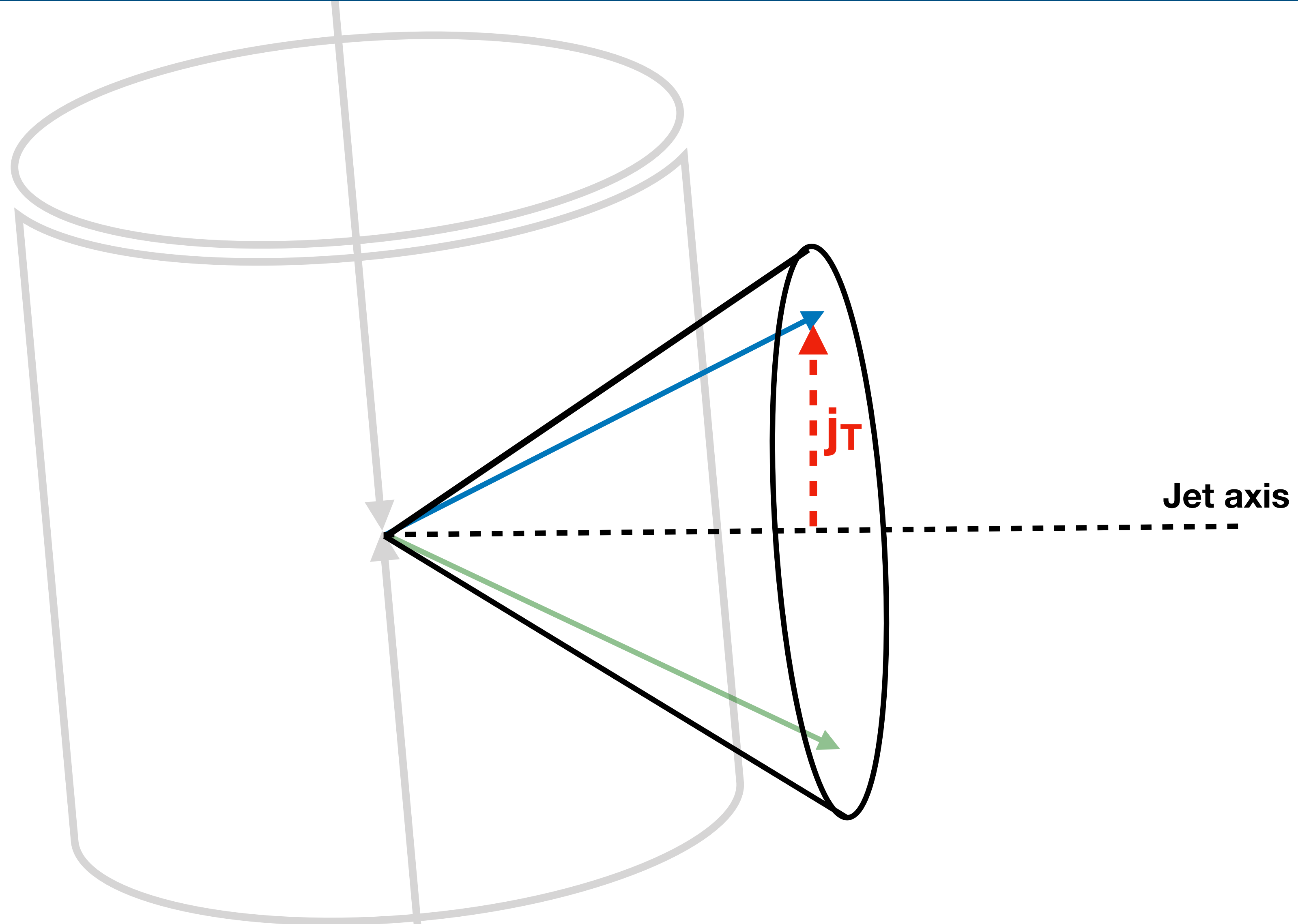
Rotate reference frame so jet axis lies along z axis

Rotation of reference frame



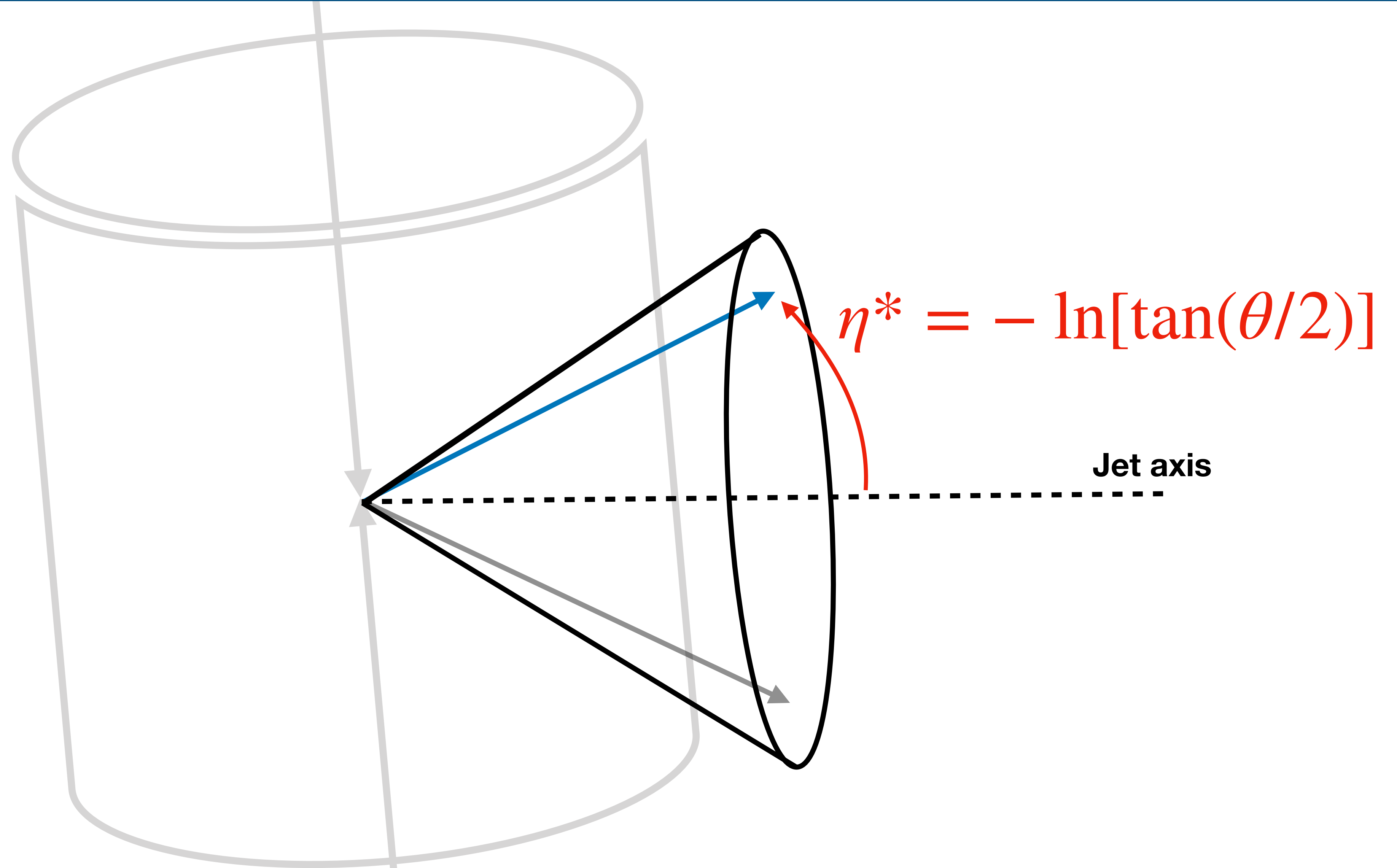
Rotate reference frame so jet axis lies along z axis

Coordinates in the jet frame



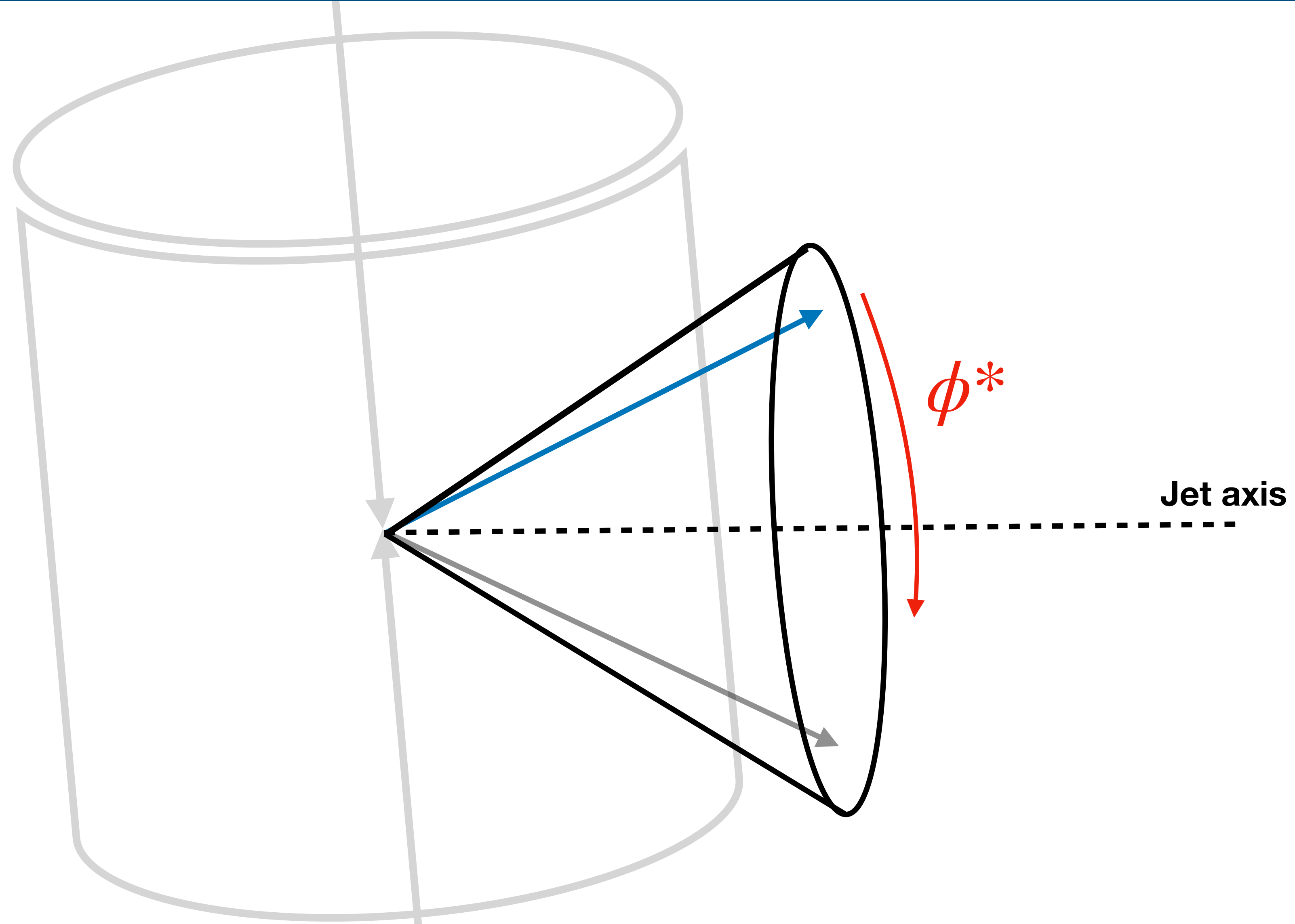
Define new 'transverse momentum' j_T

Coordinates in the jet frame



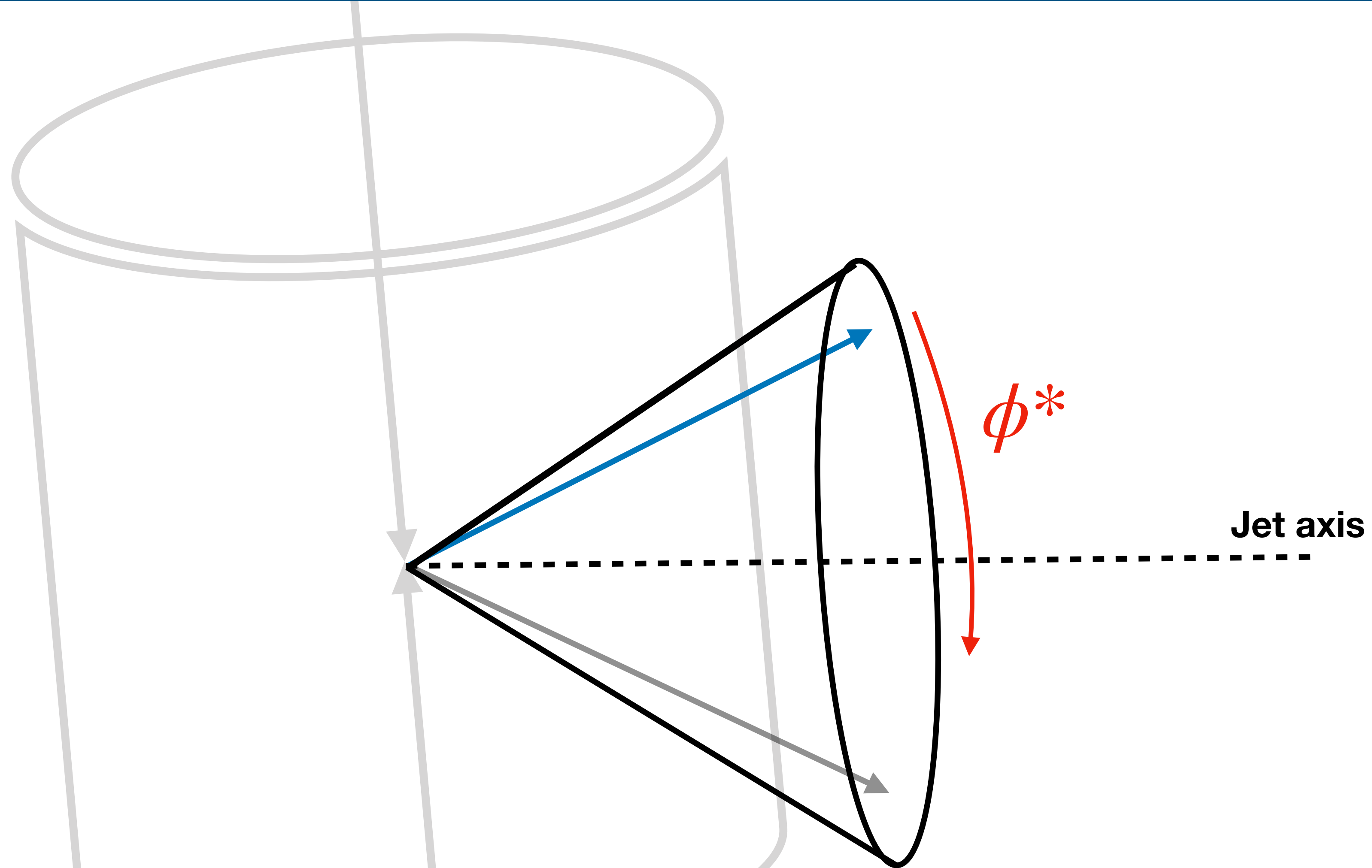
Define new 'pseudorapidity' η^*

Coordinates in the jet frame

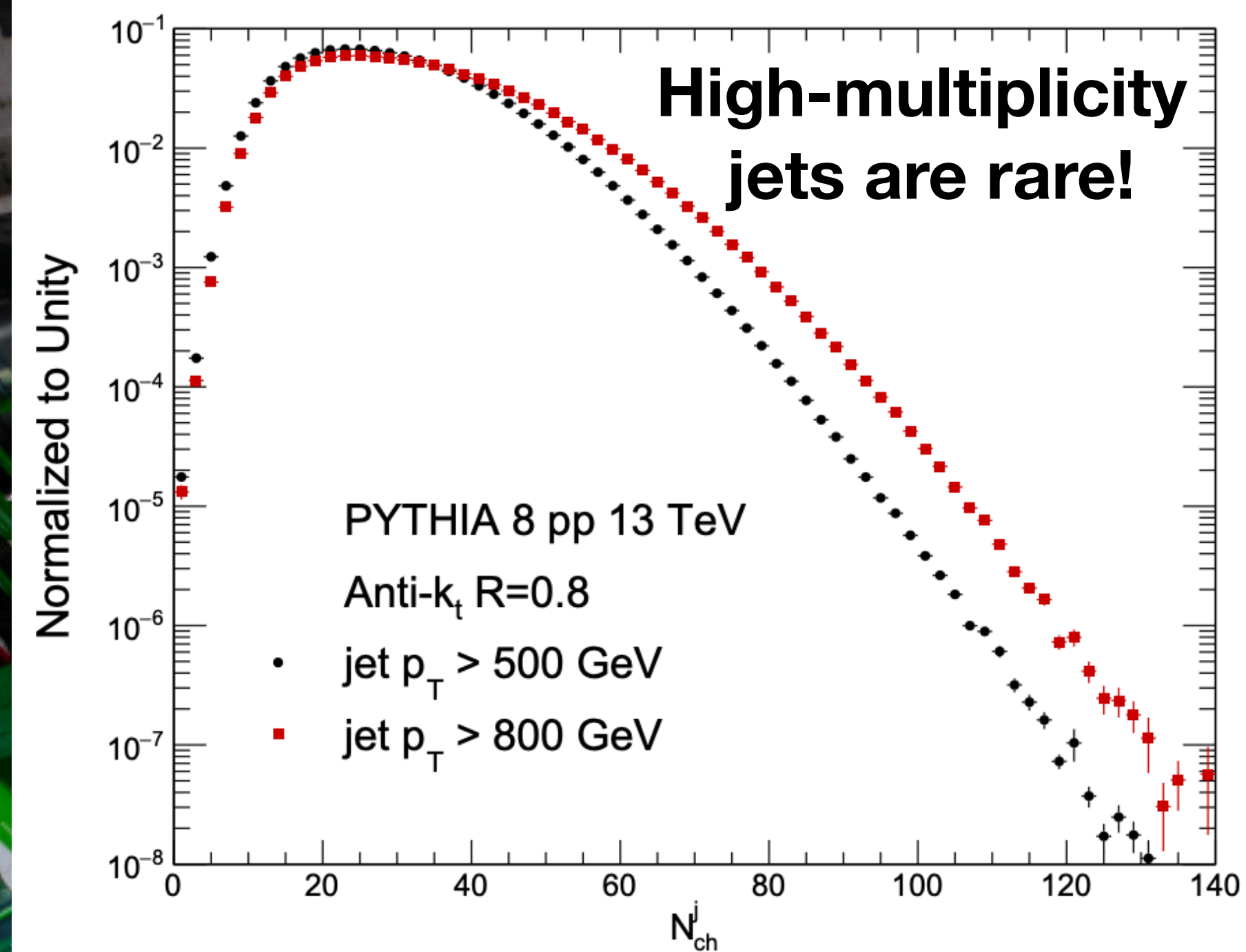


Define new 'azimuth' ϕ^*

Coordinates in the jet frame

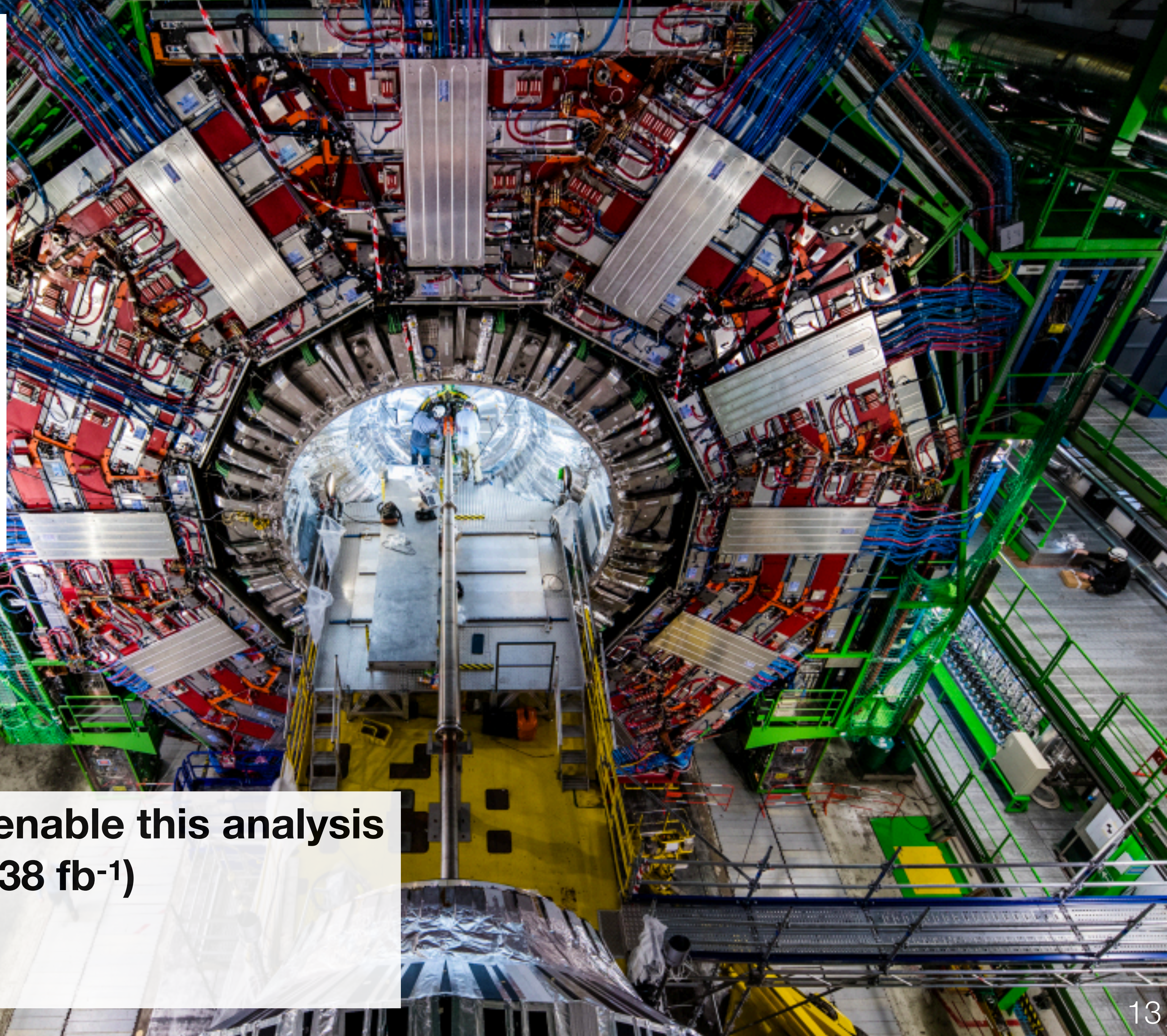


Rotation is done for every jet individually.
Every constituent has $p^* = (j_T, \eta^*, \phi^*)$ calculated.



AB, Gardner P., Li W. PRC 107, 064908 (2023)

- CMS 13 TeV high-pileup data enable this analysis
 - Large sampled luminosity (138 fb^{-1})
 - Good jet acceptance
 - High quality tracking



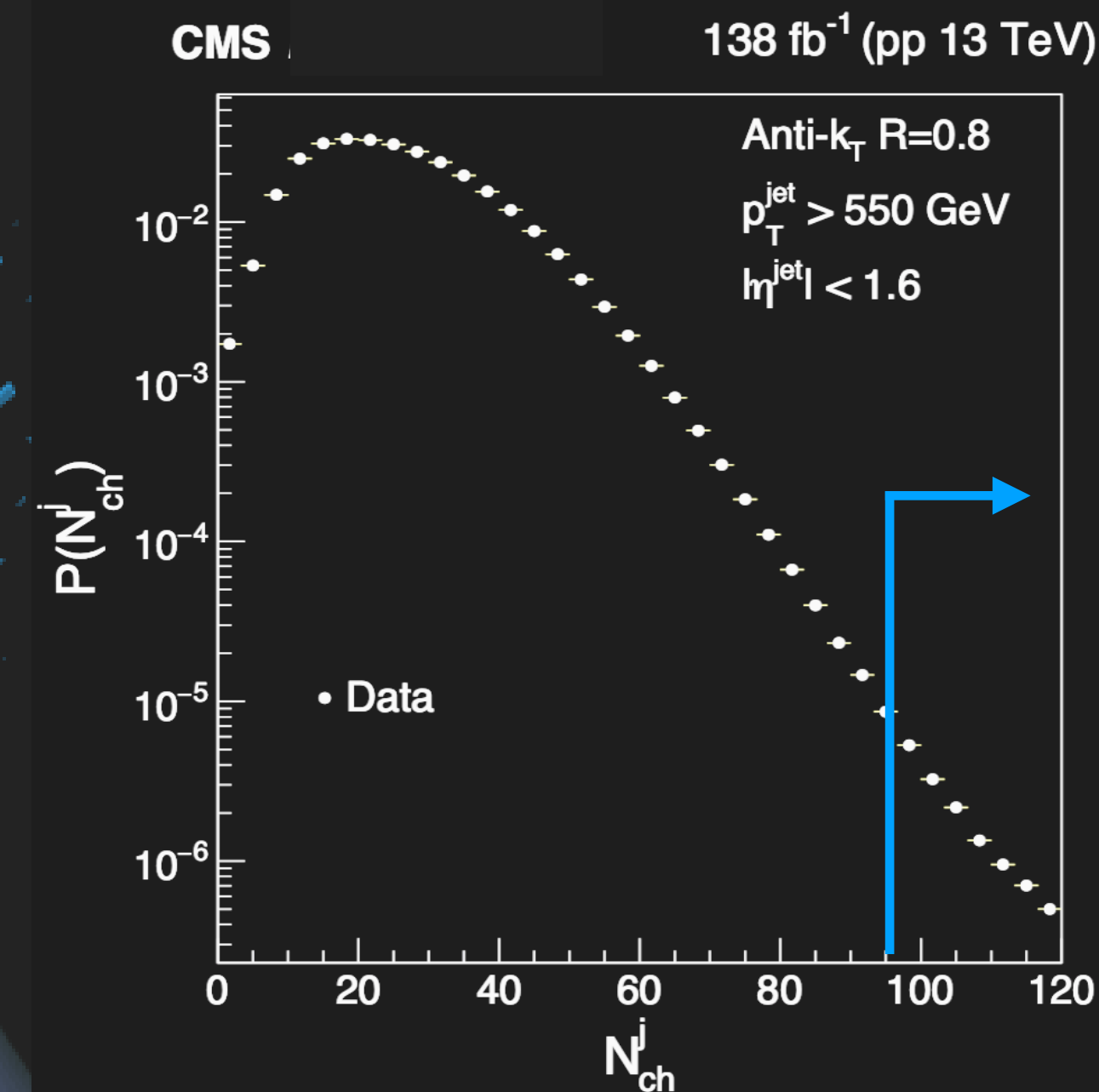
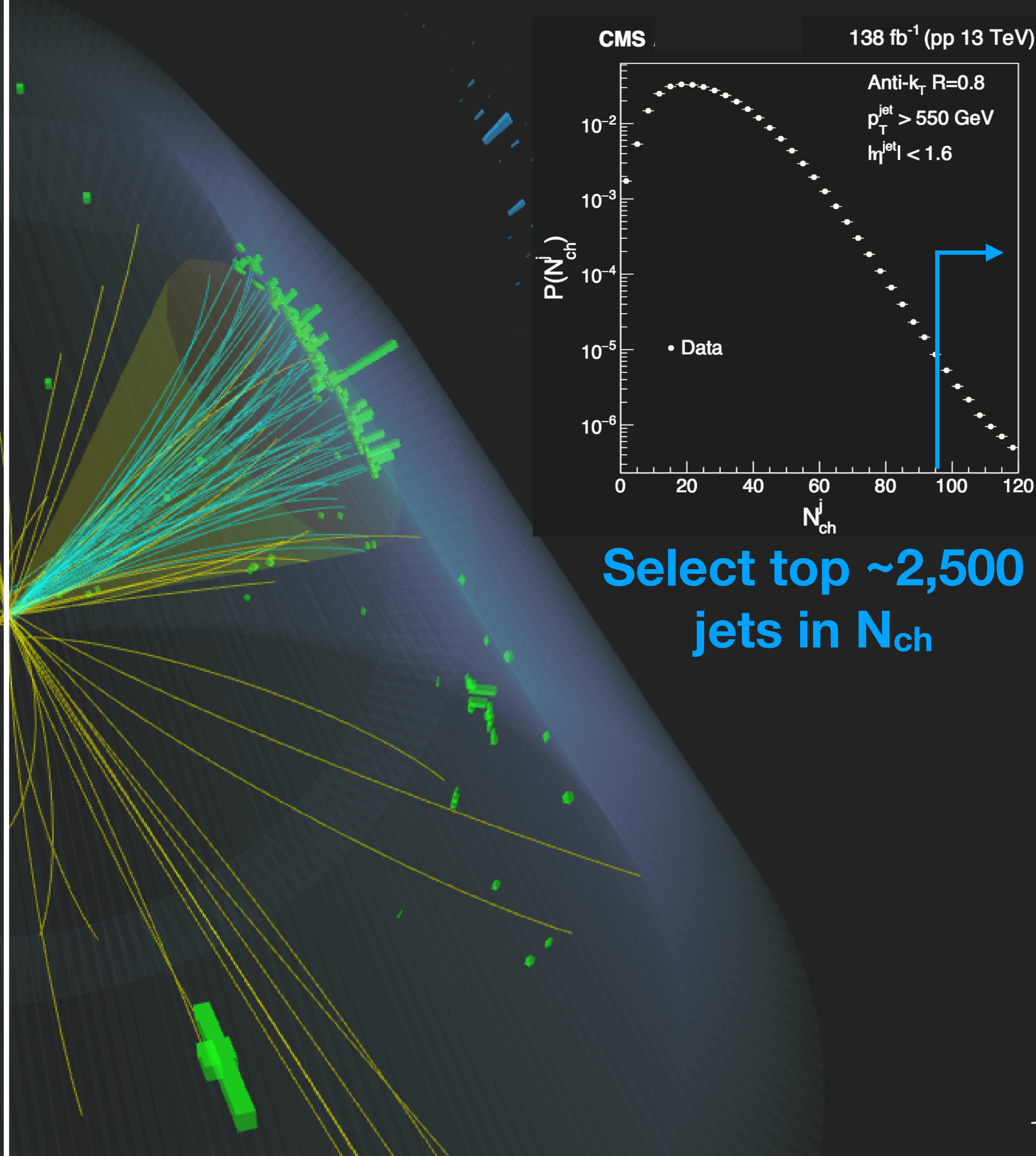
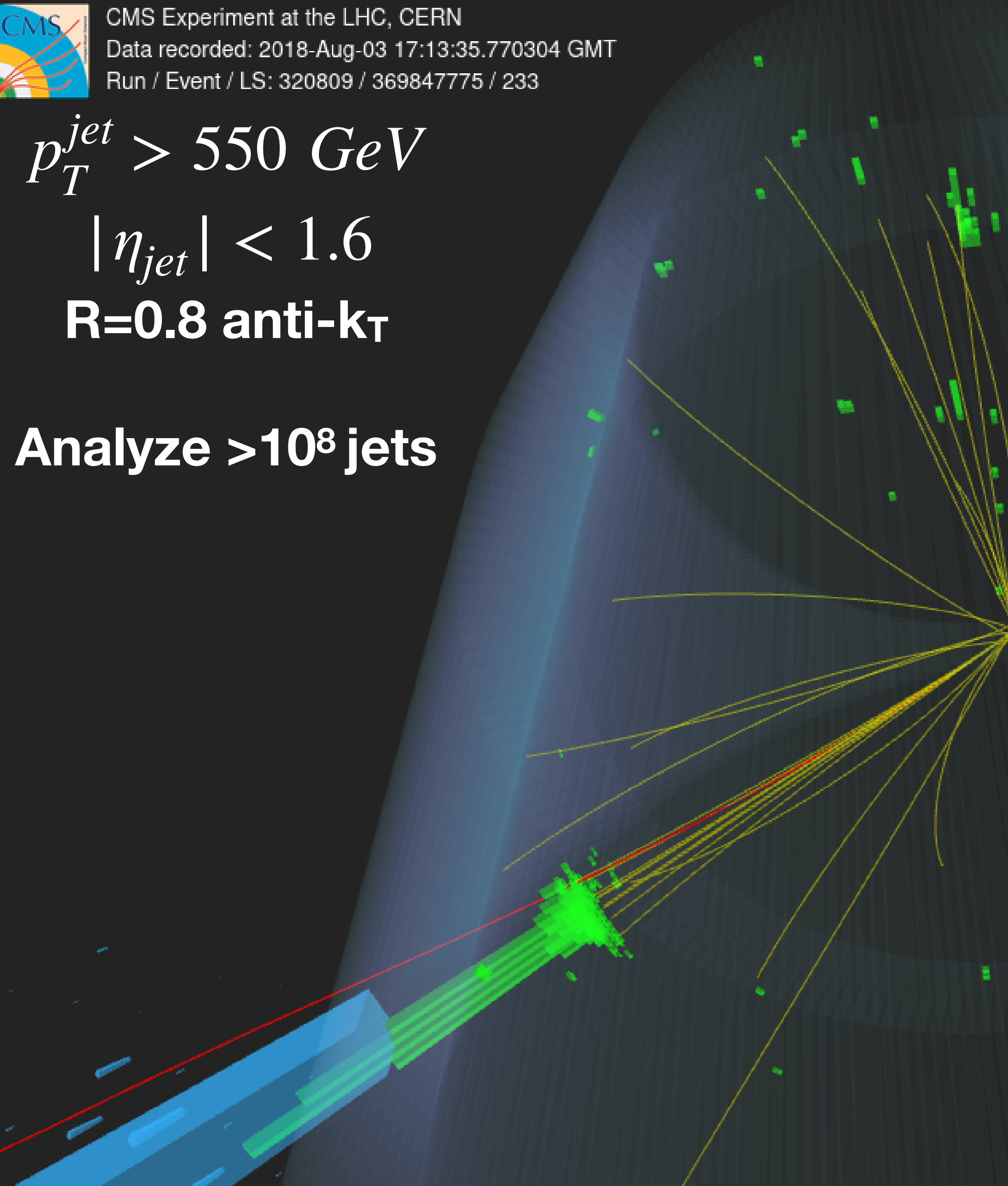


$$p_T^{\text{jet}} > 550 \text{ GeV}$$

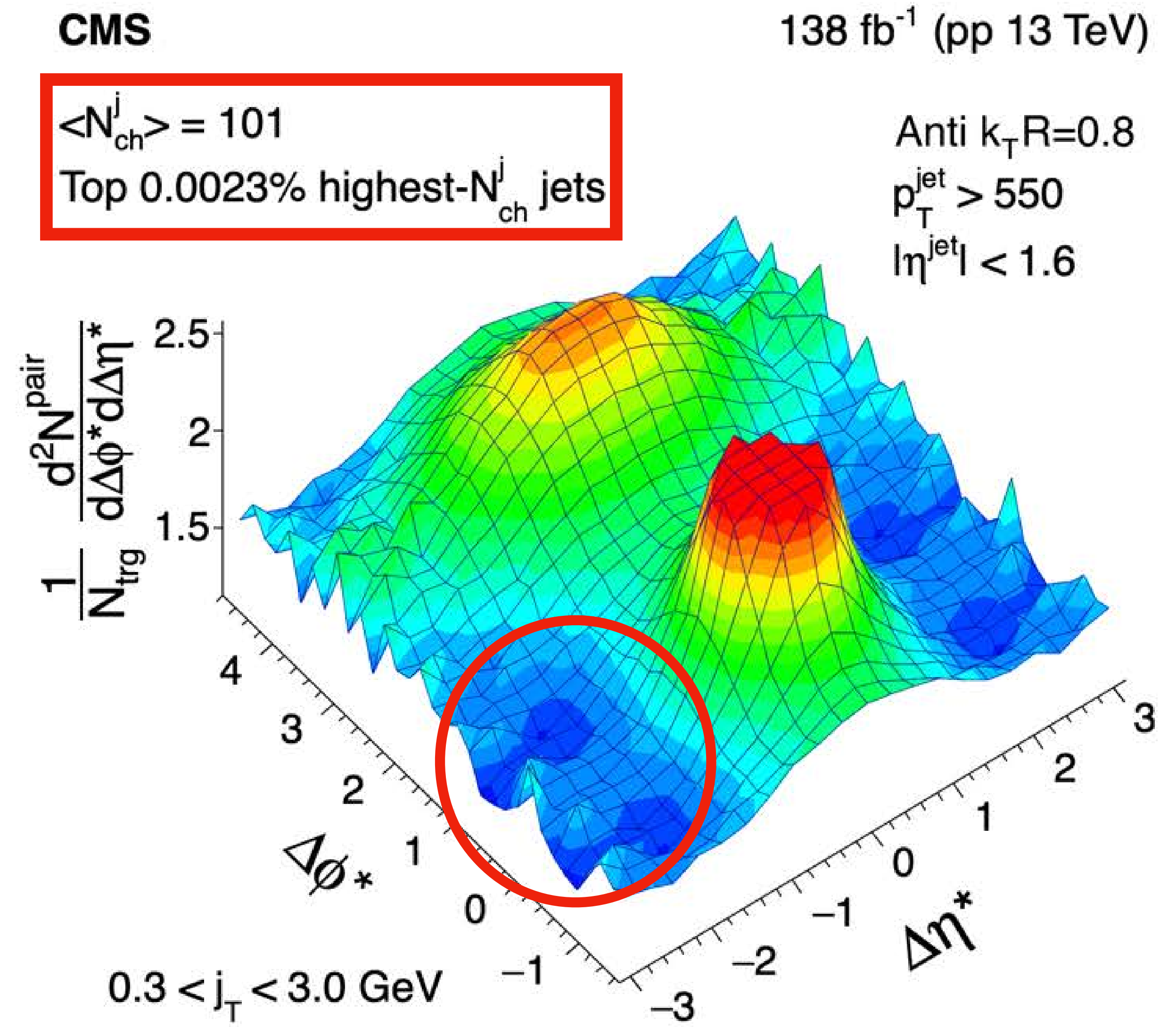
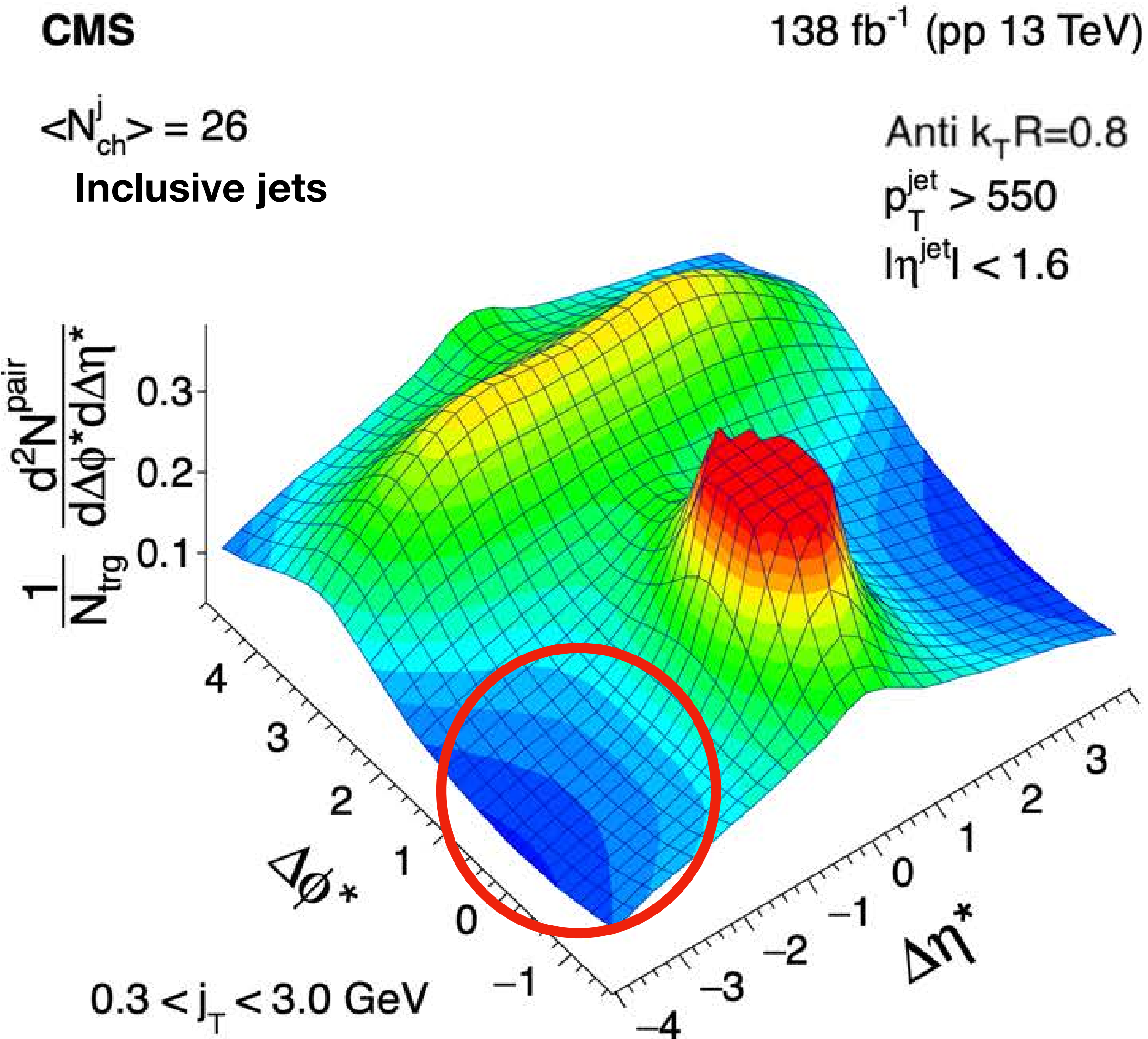
$$|\eta_{\text{jet}}| < 1.6$$

R=0.8 anti- k_T

Analyze $>10^8$ jets



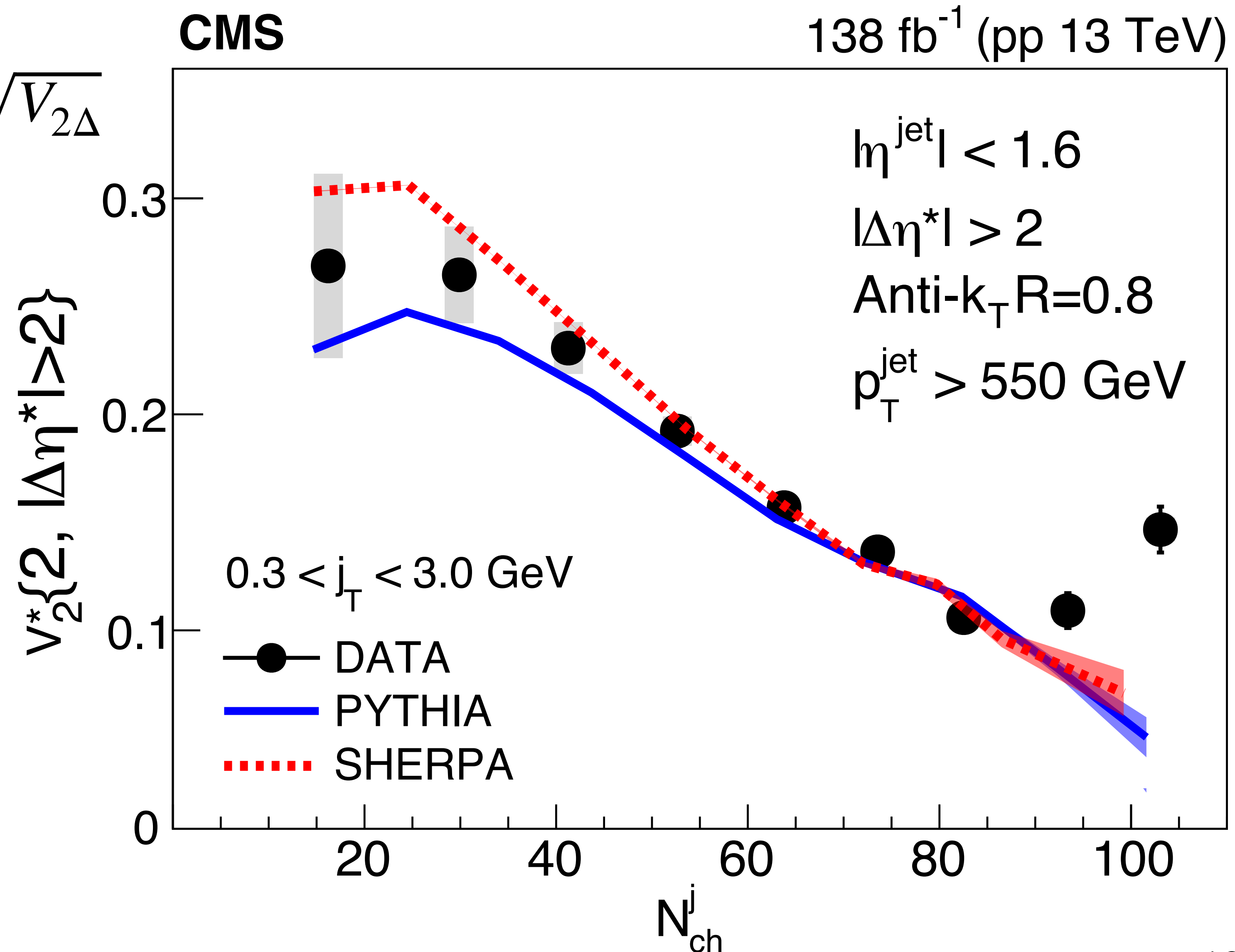
High-Multiplicity 2D correlation



Potential 'ridge' in high-multiplicity jets?

v_2 vs jet N_{ch}

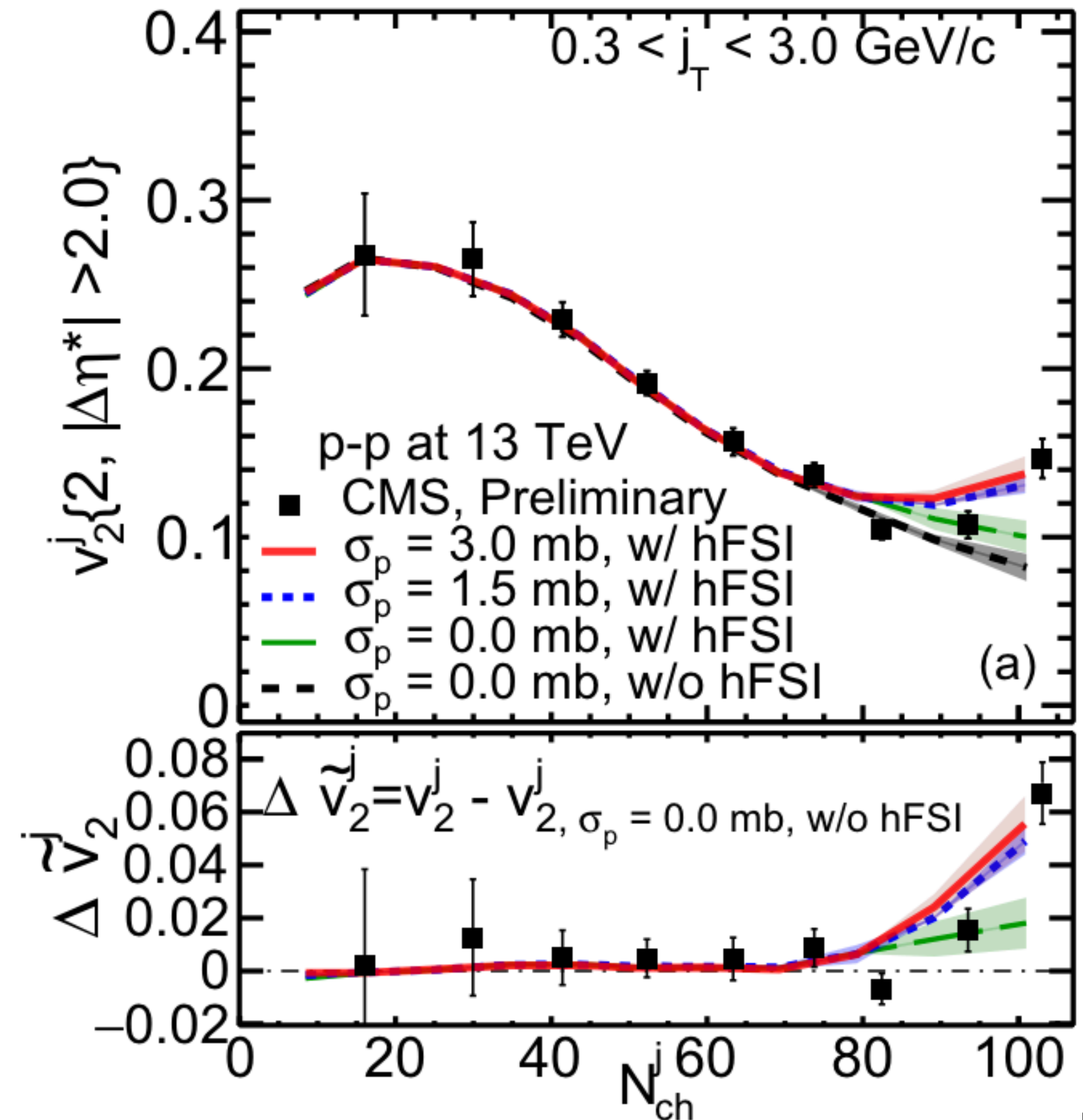
- Quantify size of bump with $v_2 = \sqrt{V_{2\Delta}}$
- $N_{ch} < 80$ trend captured by MC
- Rising trend for last few points
- Data deviates from MC by $> 5\sigma$
- Observation of QGP-like effects above some critical density?
- What can explain such effect?



Potential collectivity explanation

- Test ‘collectivity’ interpretation by adding final-state interactions to parton shower
- No effect in low N_{ch} region
 - consistent with HEP studies
- Only hadronic final state interactions can’t describe data
- Need partonic rescatterings
 - Cross section similar to that needed to describe pPb v_n data

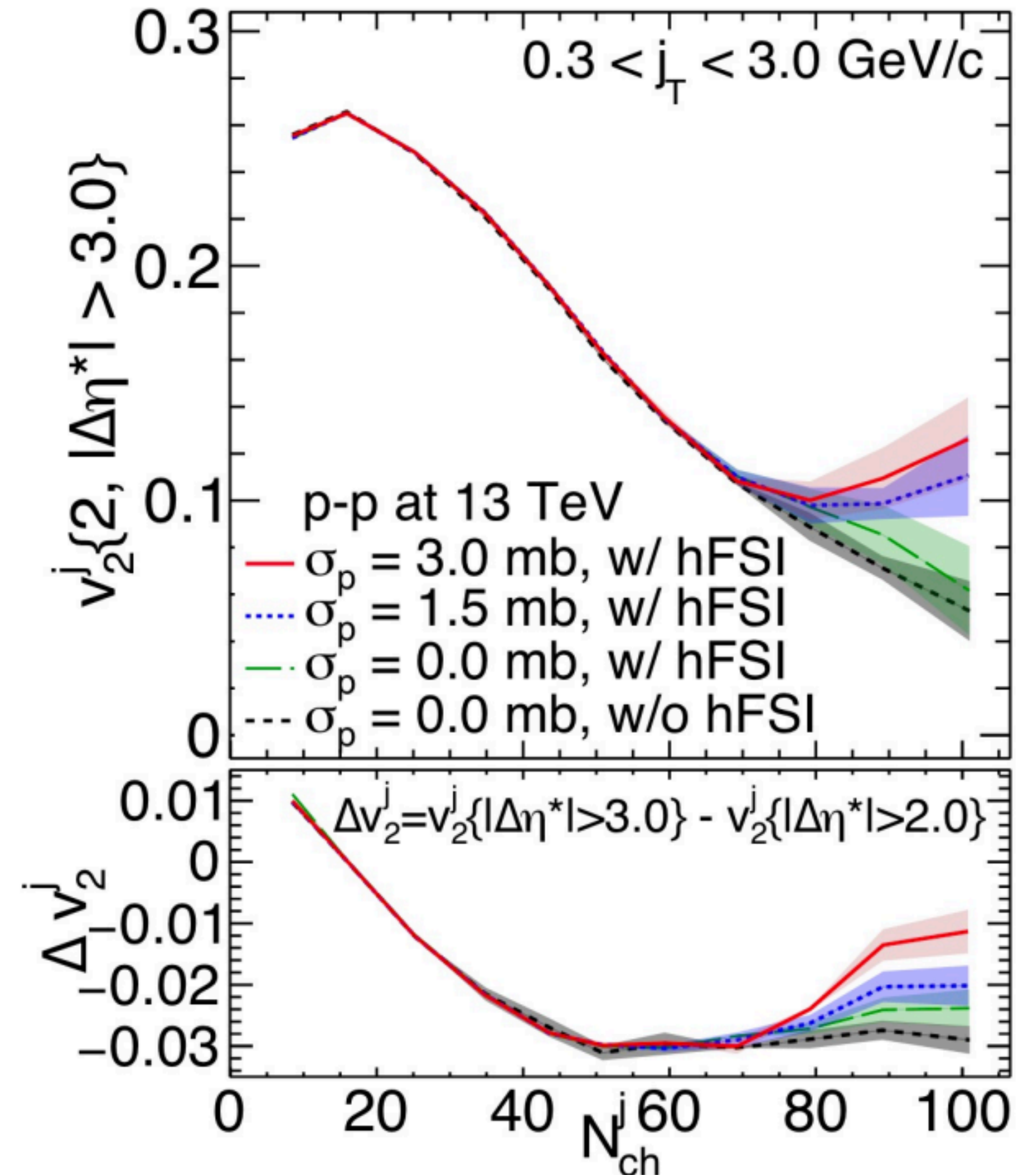
W. Zhao, et. al., arxiv:2401.13137



$\Delta\eta^*$ Dependence

W. Zhao, et. al., arxiv:2401.13137

- Test ‘collectivity’ interpretation by adding final-state interactions to parton shower
- No effect in low N_{ch} region
 - consistent with HEP studies
- Only hadronic final state interactions can’t describe data
- Need partonic rescatterings
 - Cross section similar to that needed to describe pPb v_n data
- Predicted a flattening of $\Delta\eta^*$ dependence for $N_{ch} > 80$



New CMS analysis

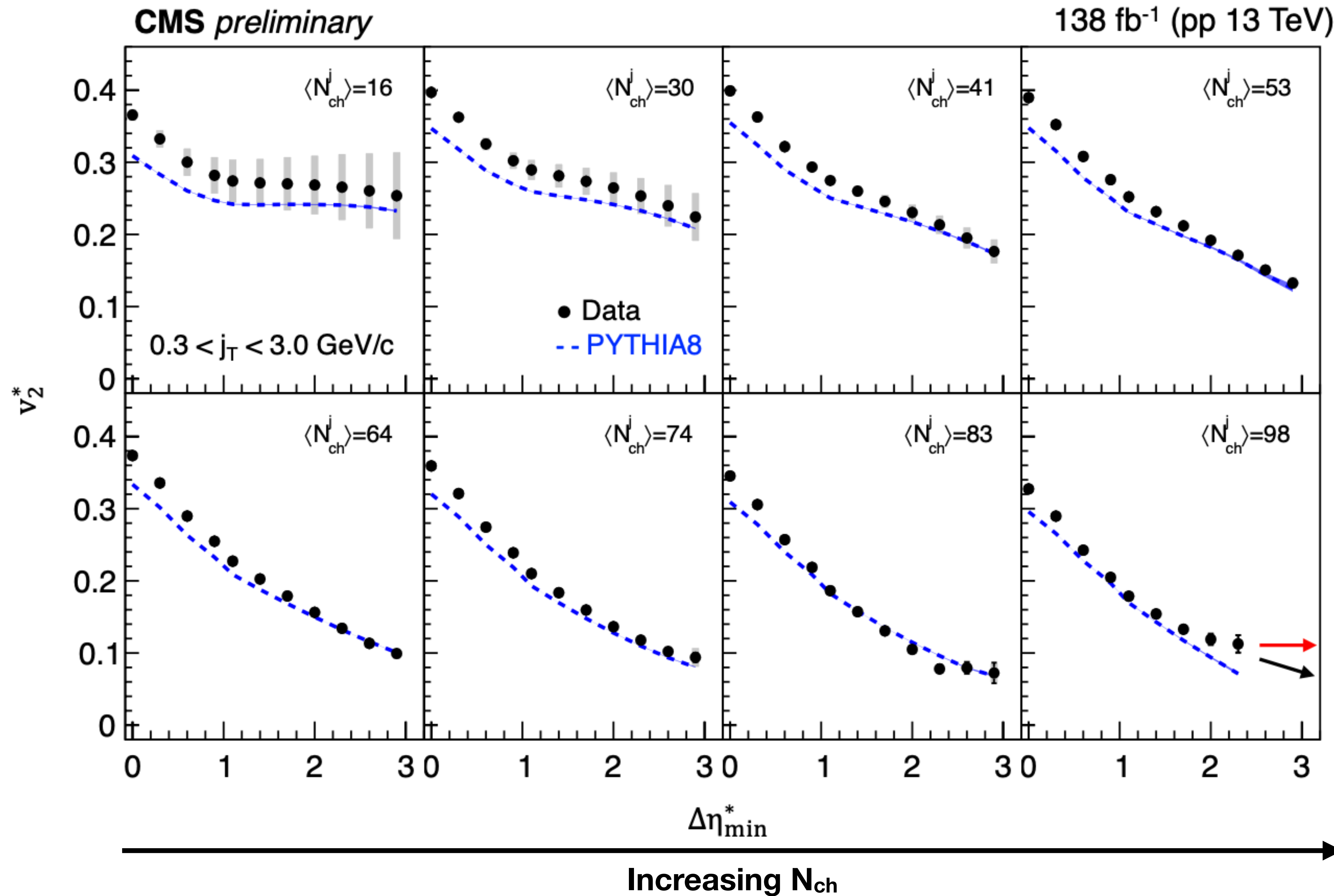
Unveiling the dynamics of long-range correlations in high-multiplicity jets through substructure engineering in pp collisions at CMS

The CMS Collaboration

[CMS-PAS-HIN-24-024](#)

- **New CMS follow-up analysis trying to provide more input to interpretations**

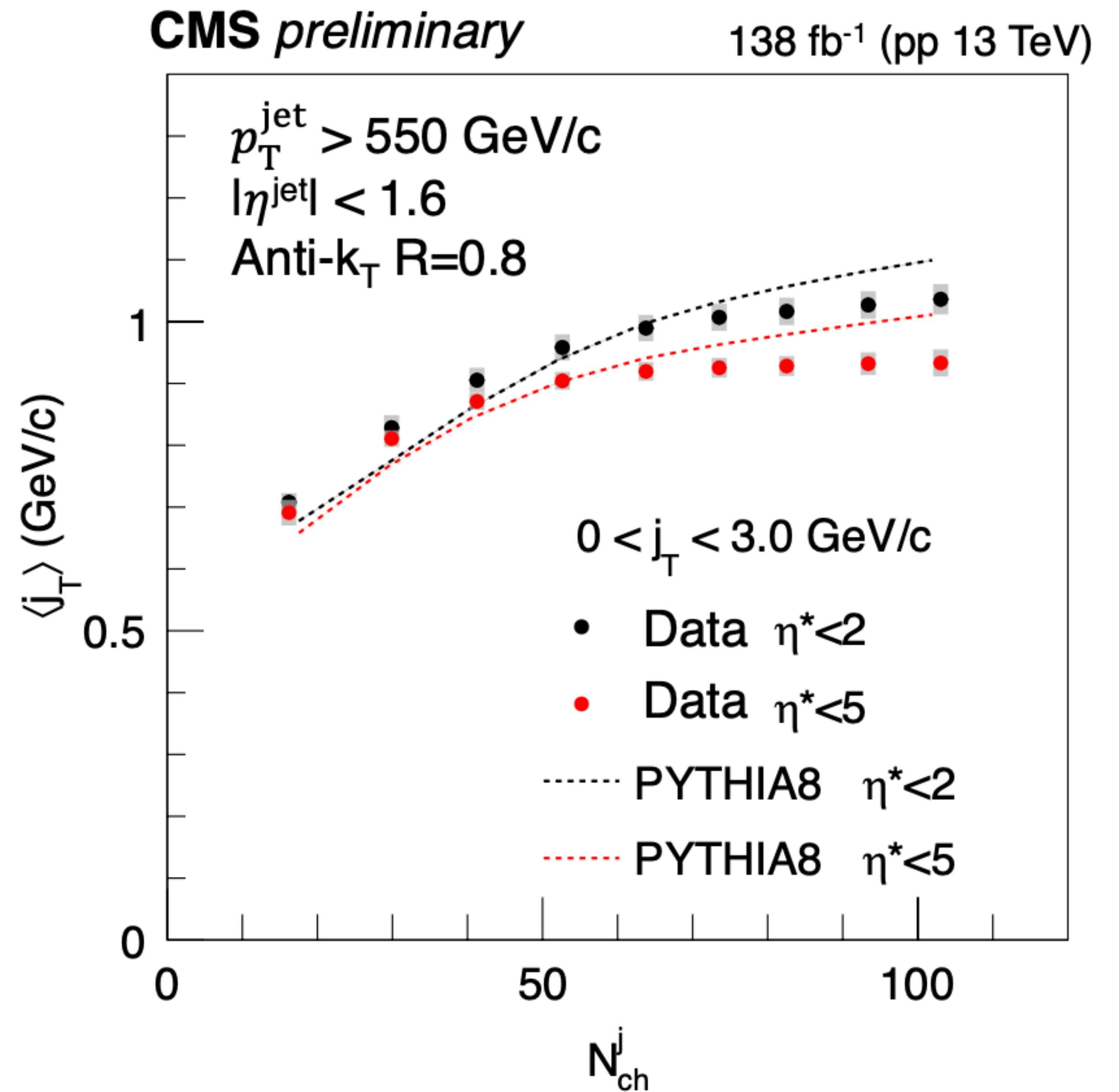
$\Delta\eta^*$ Dependence - data



- Qualitative **flattening** vs. $\Delta\eta^*$ seen in data
- Rather small effect

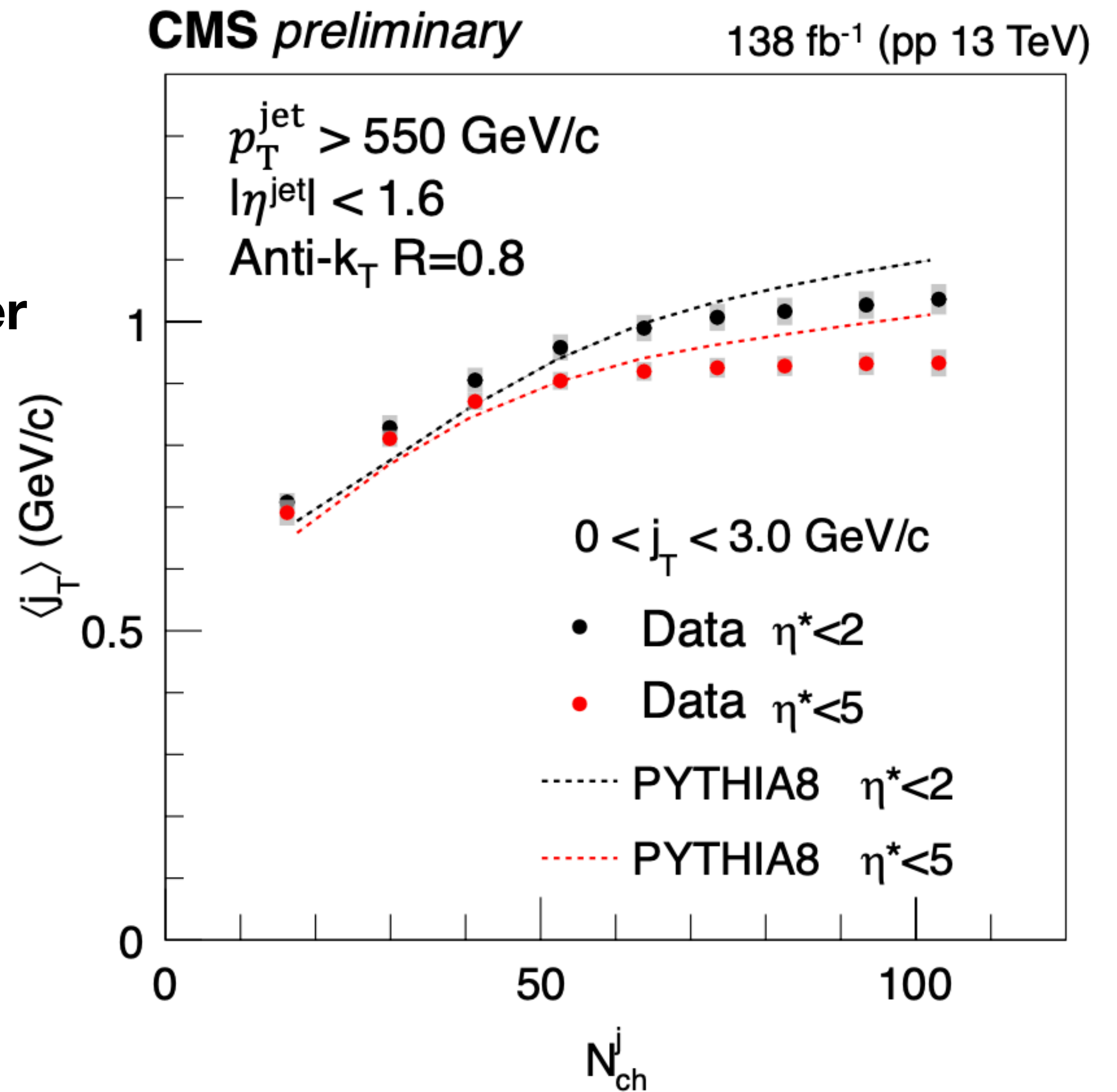
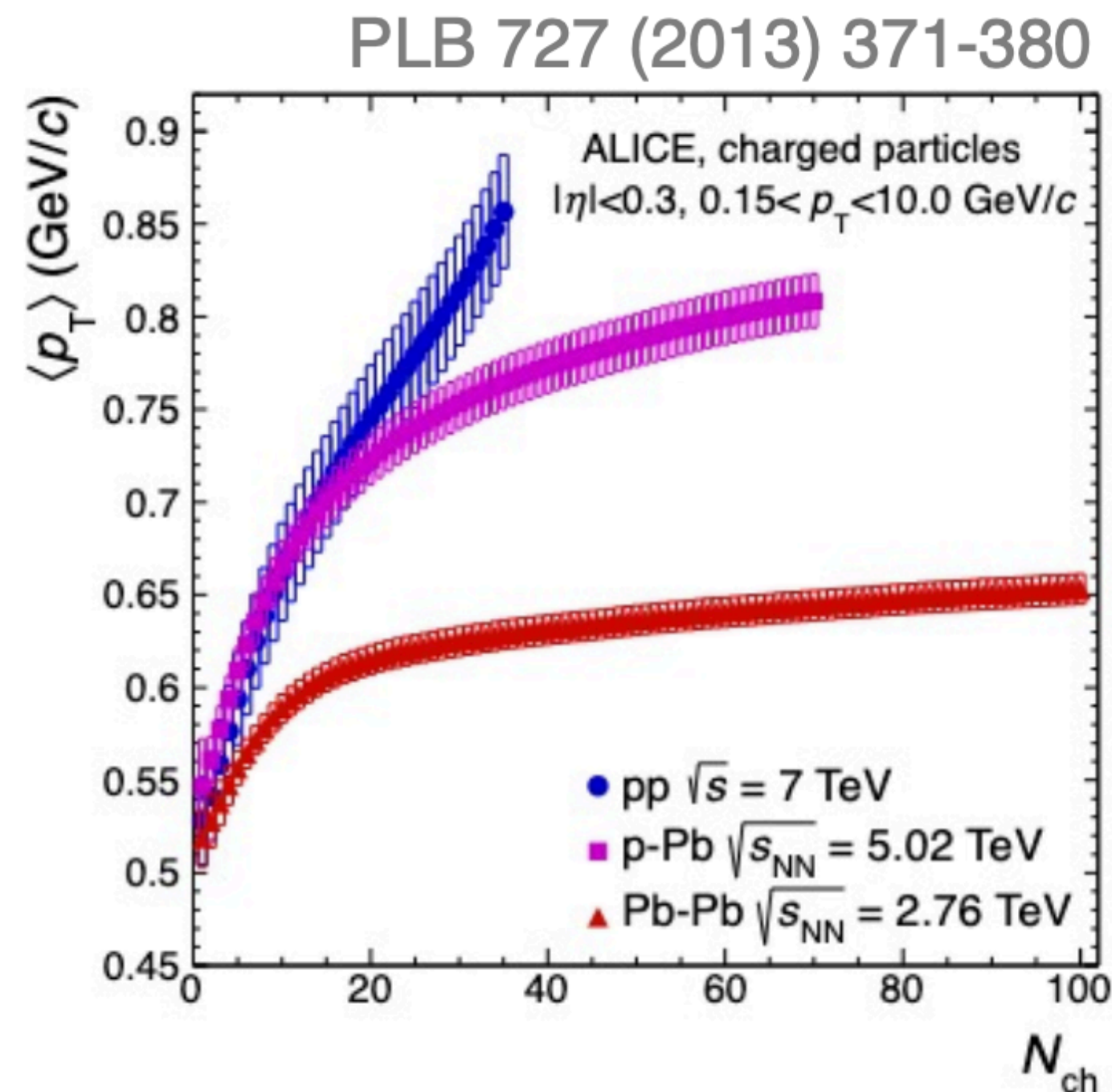
Average j_T Dependence

- ‘ p_T ’ with respect to jet axis
- Lower average values than Pythia 8 for high N_{ch}



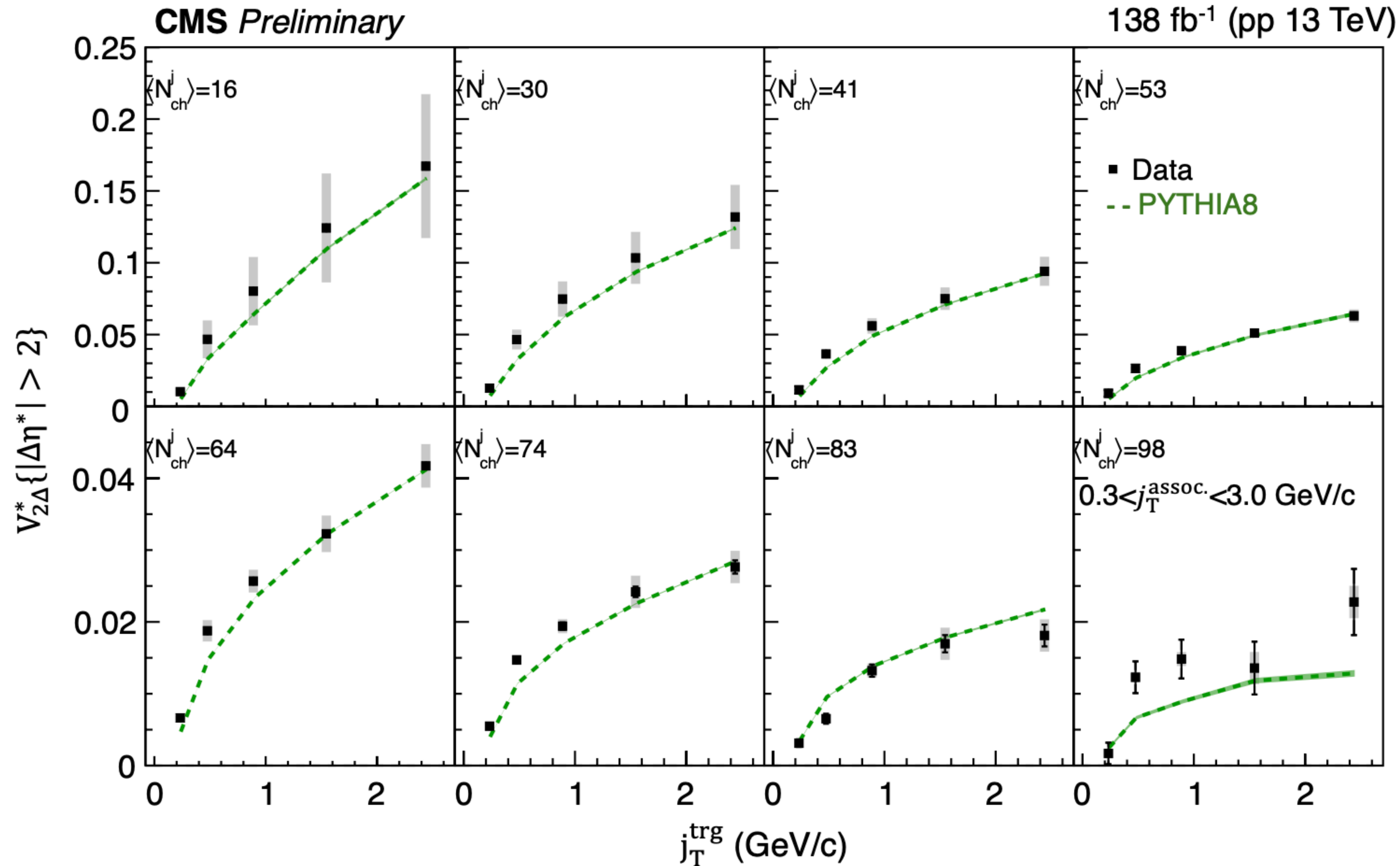
Average j_T Dependence

- ‘ p_T ’ with respect to jet axis
- Lower average values than Pythia 8 for high N_{ch}
- Suggestive of behavior in HI where other particle production mechanisms kick in



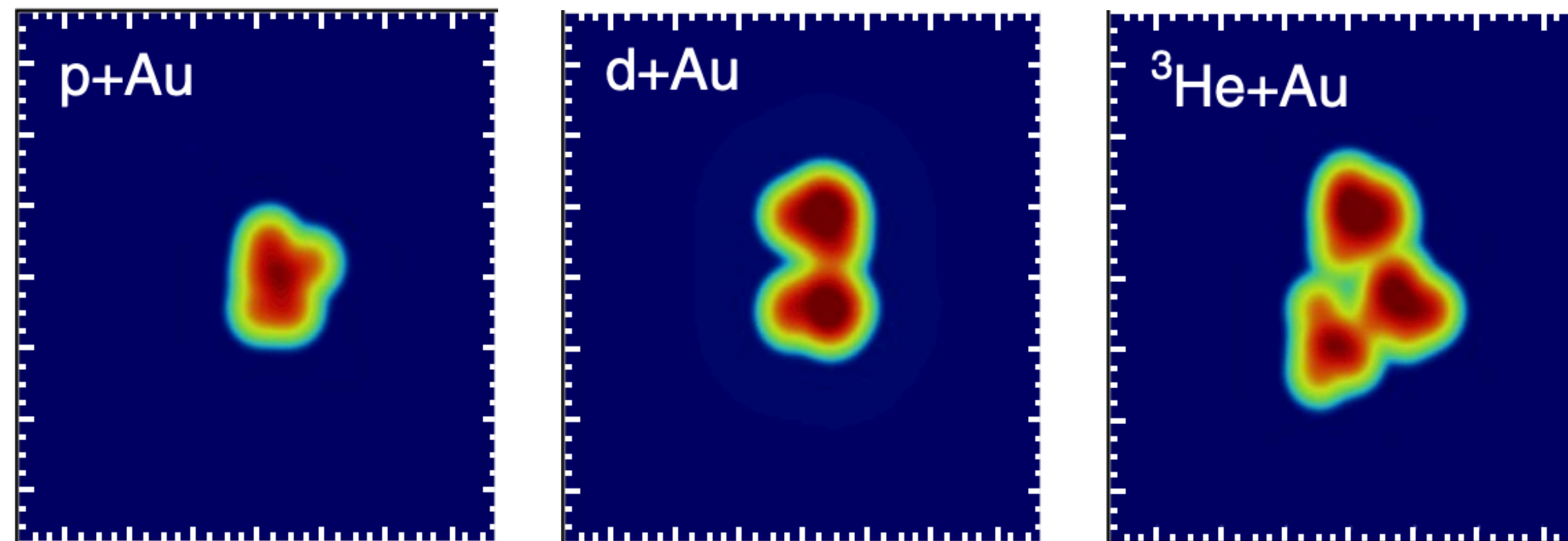
Scan of trigger particle j_T

- V_2 vs. j_T^{trig} has largest deviations >0.3 GeV
- Effect comes from particles with greater separation from jet axis



Role of initial geometry

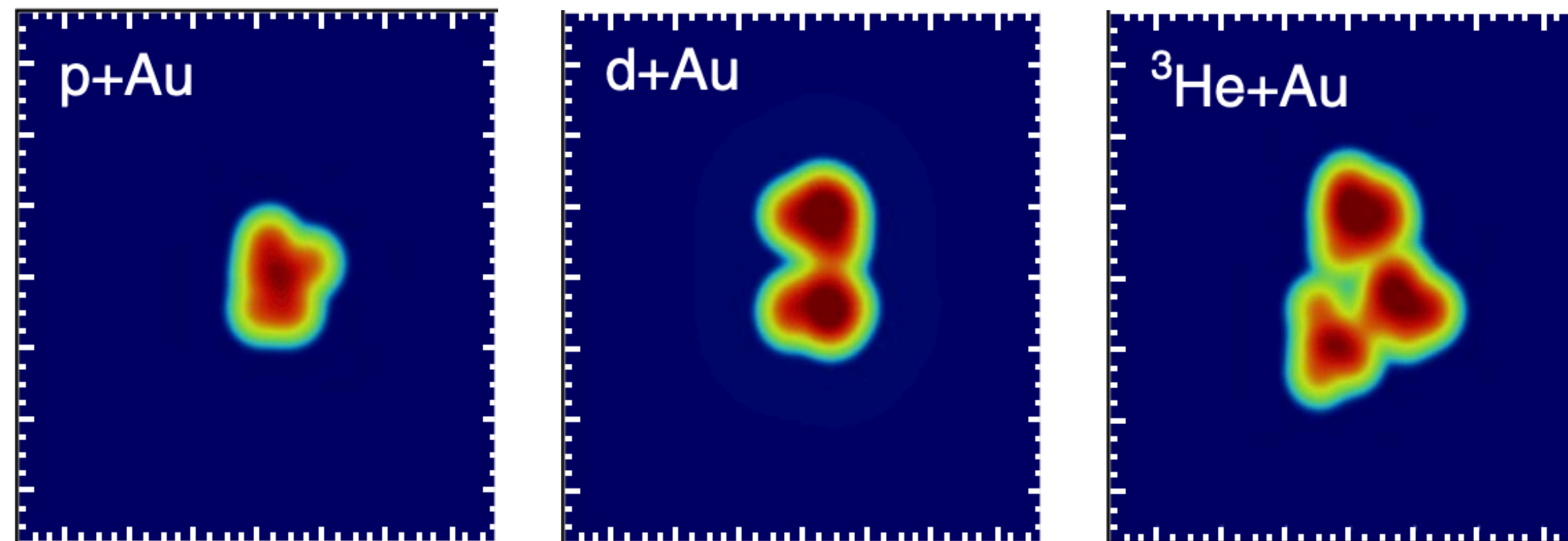
- In Heavy Ions, we know initial geometry is of key importance
- Is there any 'initial parton geometry' analogue for jets?



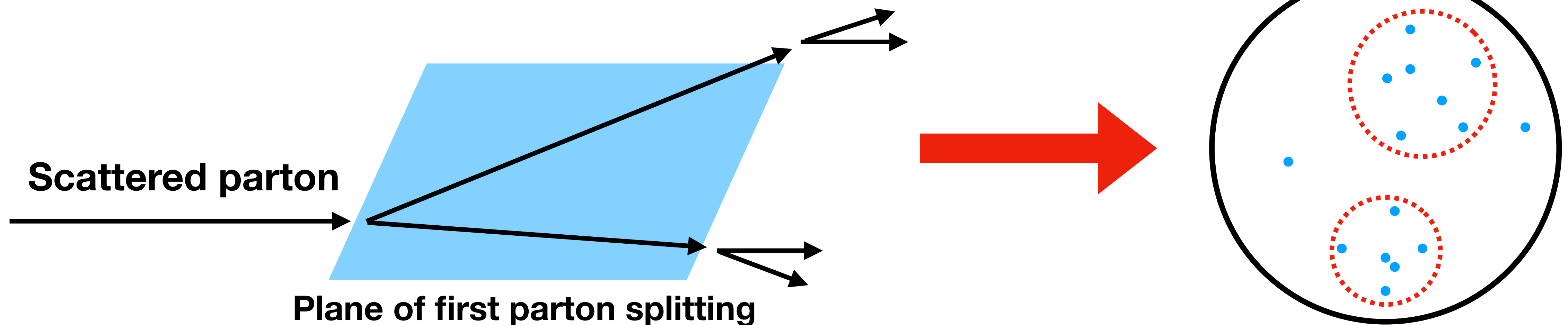
Nature Physics 15, 214-220 (2019)

Role of initial geometry

- In Heavy Ions, we know initial geometry is of key importance
- Is there any 'initial parton geometry' analogue for jets? - domain of jet substructure

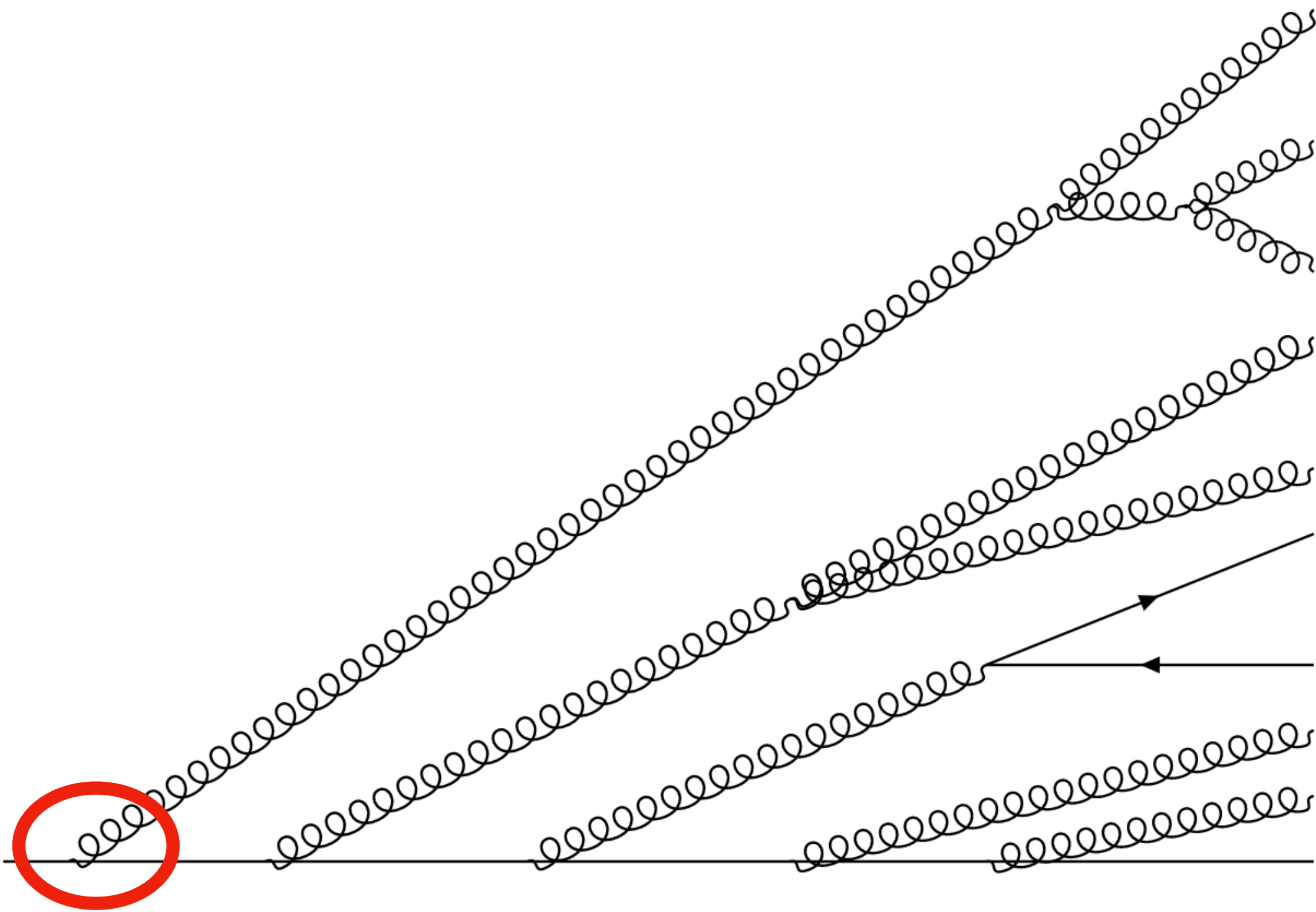


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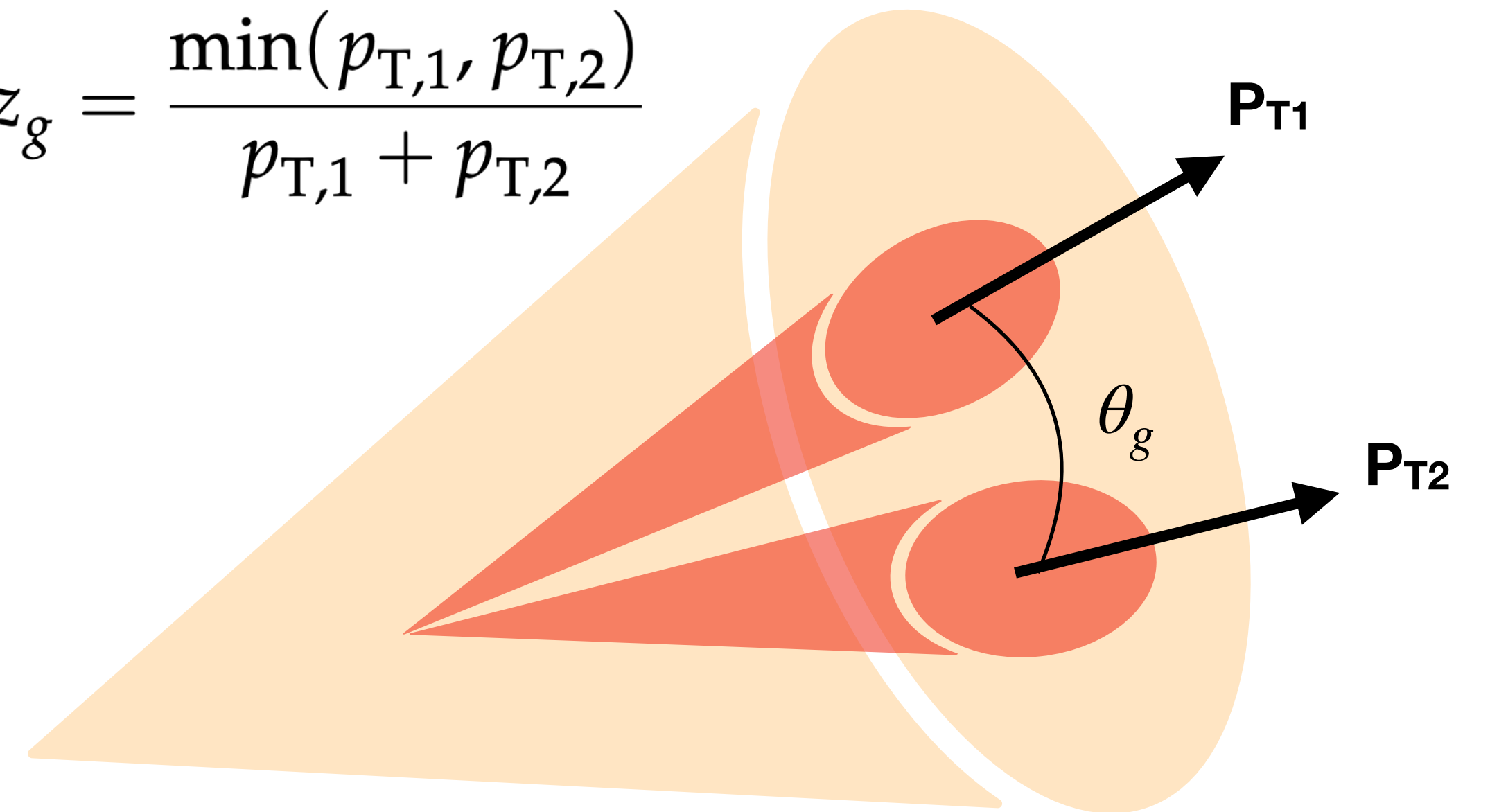


Jet substructure engineering

- Use SoftDrop grooming algorithm to access **early parton splitting kinematics**



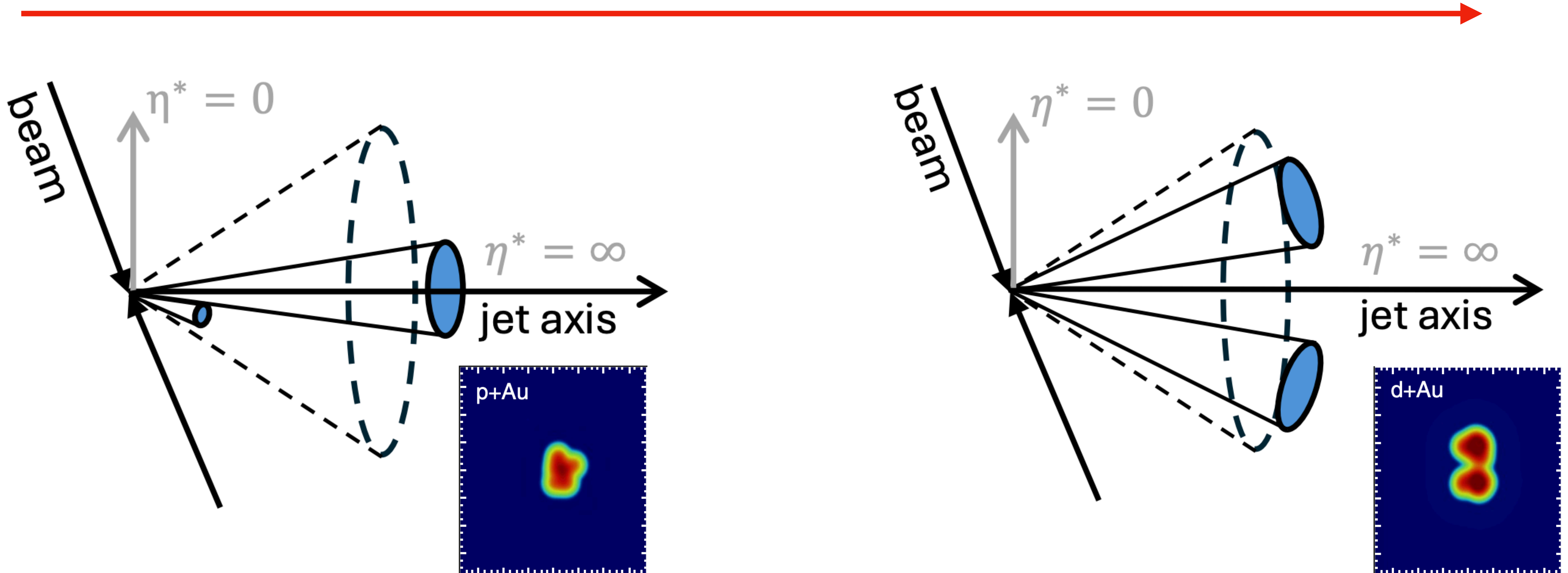
$$z_g = \frac{\min(p_{T,1}, p_{T,2})}{p_{T,1} + p_{T,2}}$$



Jet substructure engineering

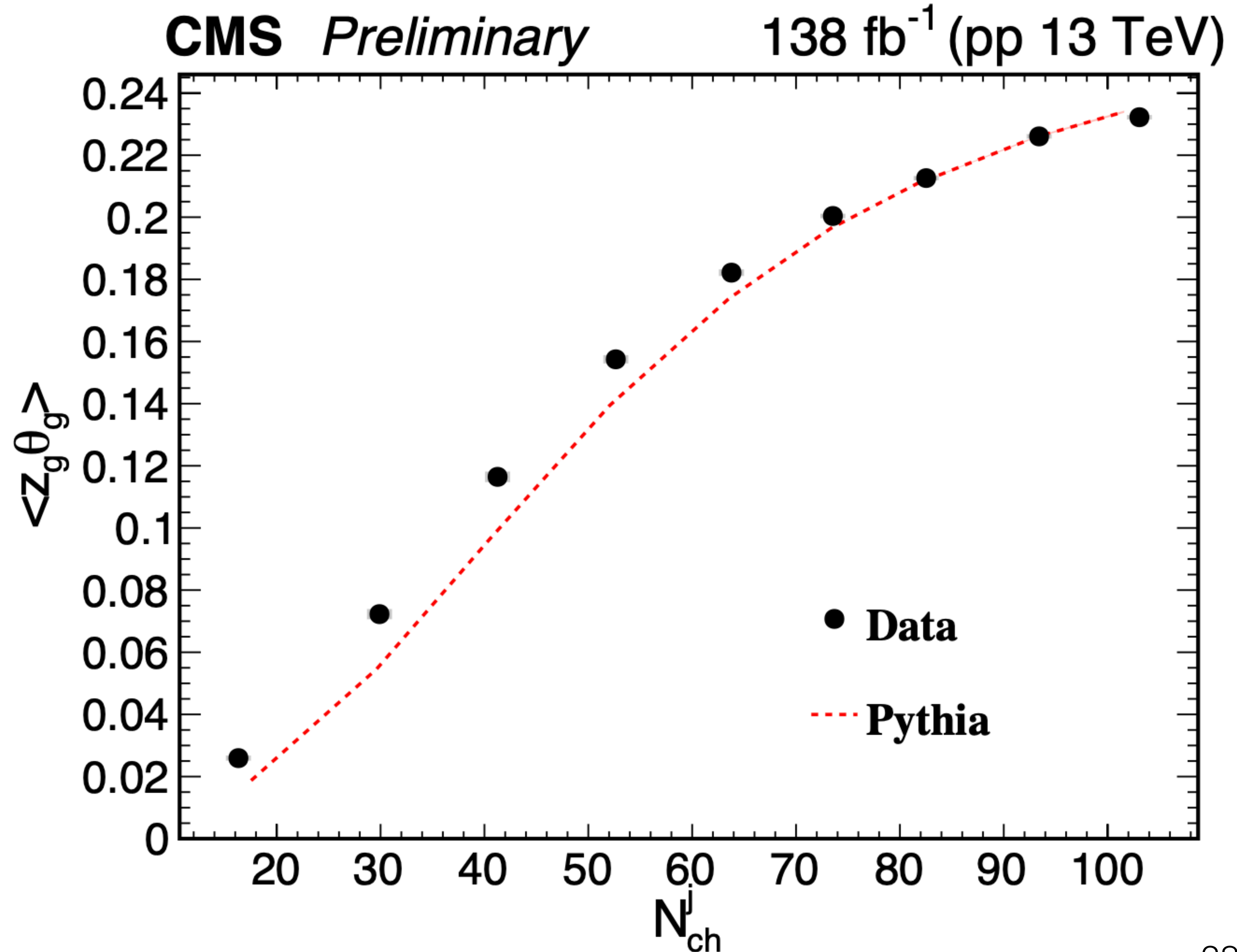
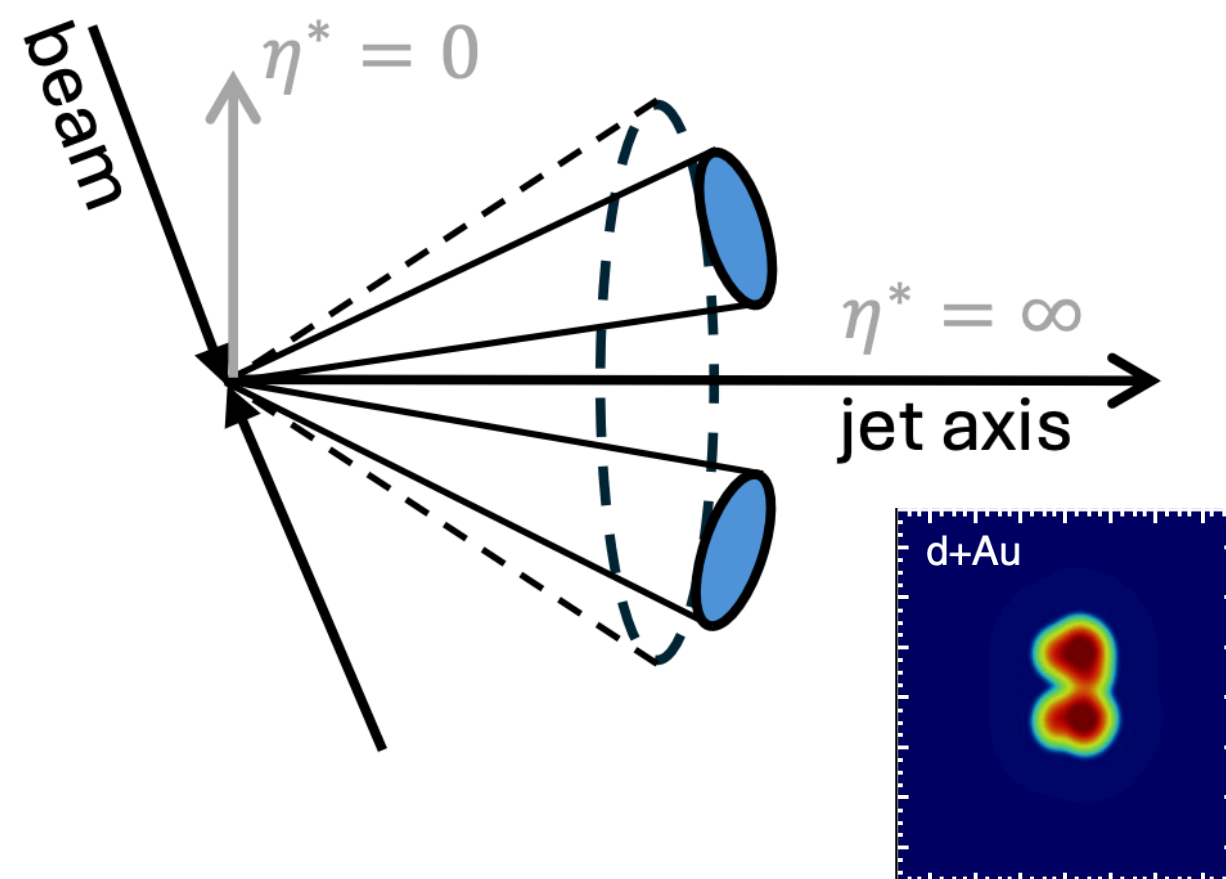
- Use SoftDrop grooming algorithm to access early parton splitting kinematics
- Quantify how separated + balanced two-prongs in jet is with $z_g\theta_g$

Increasing $z_g\theta_g$

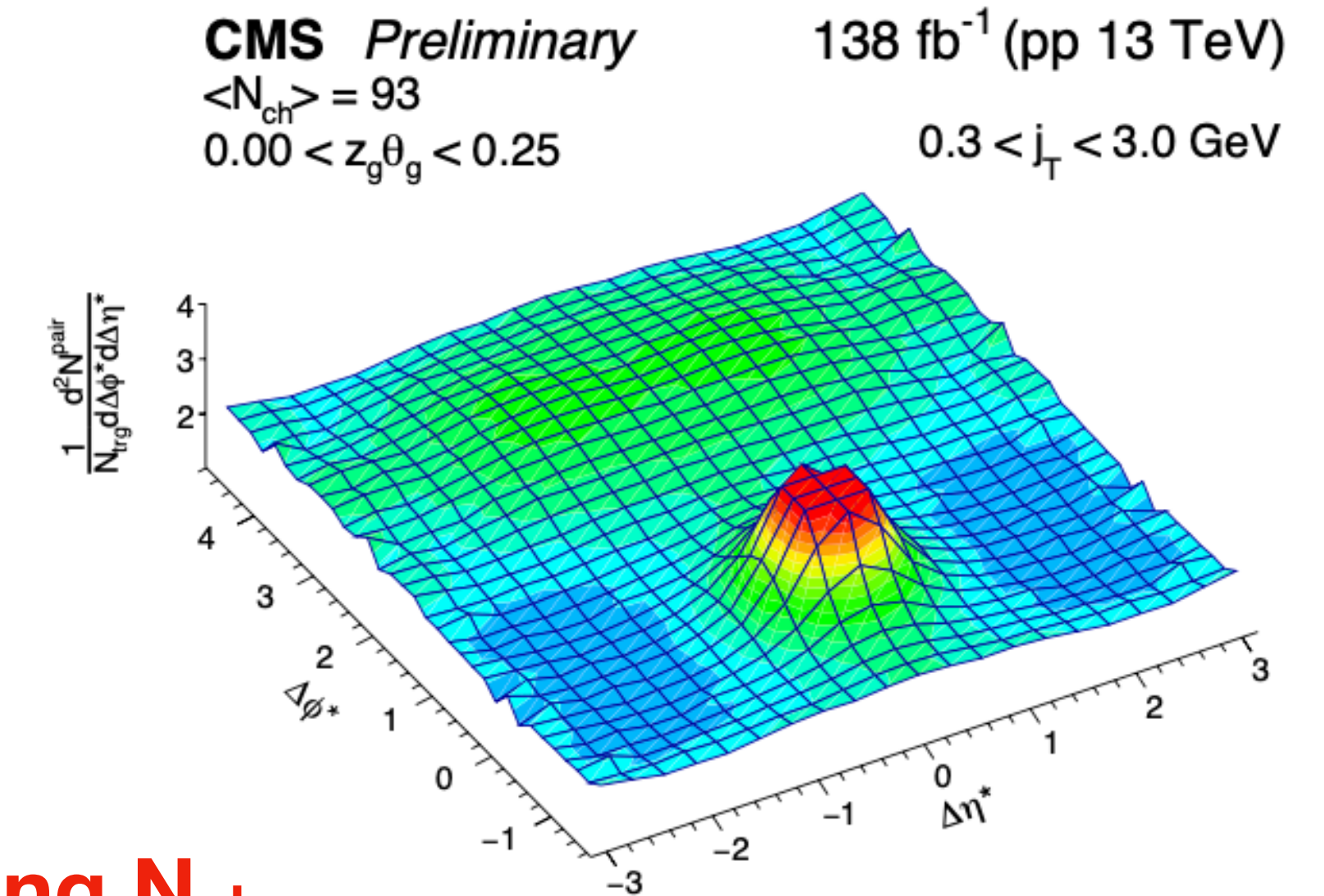
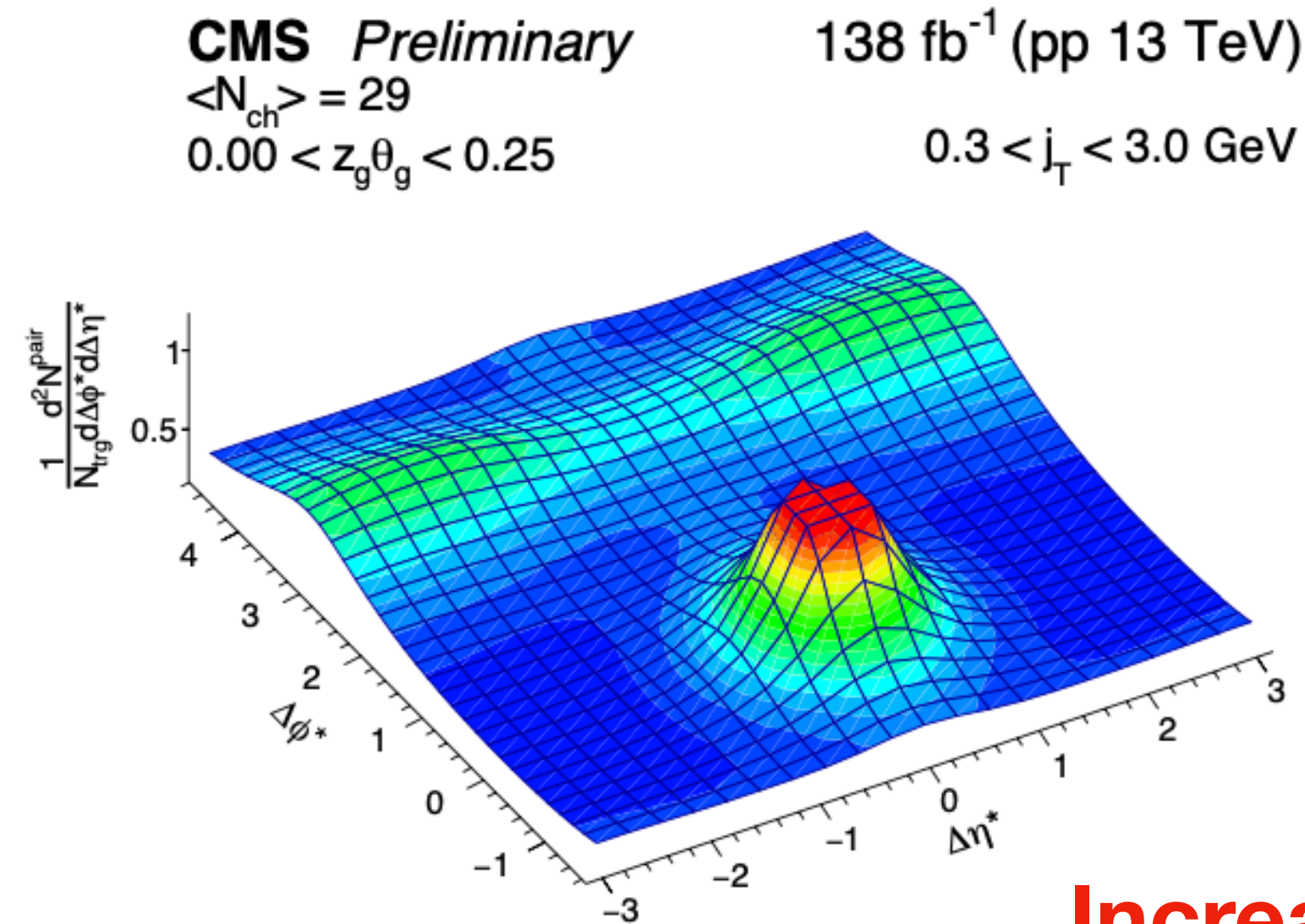
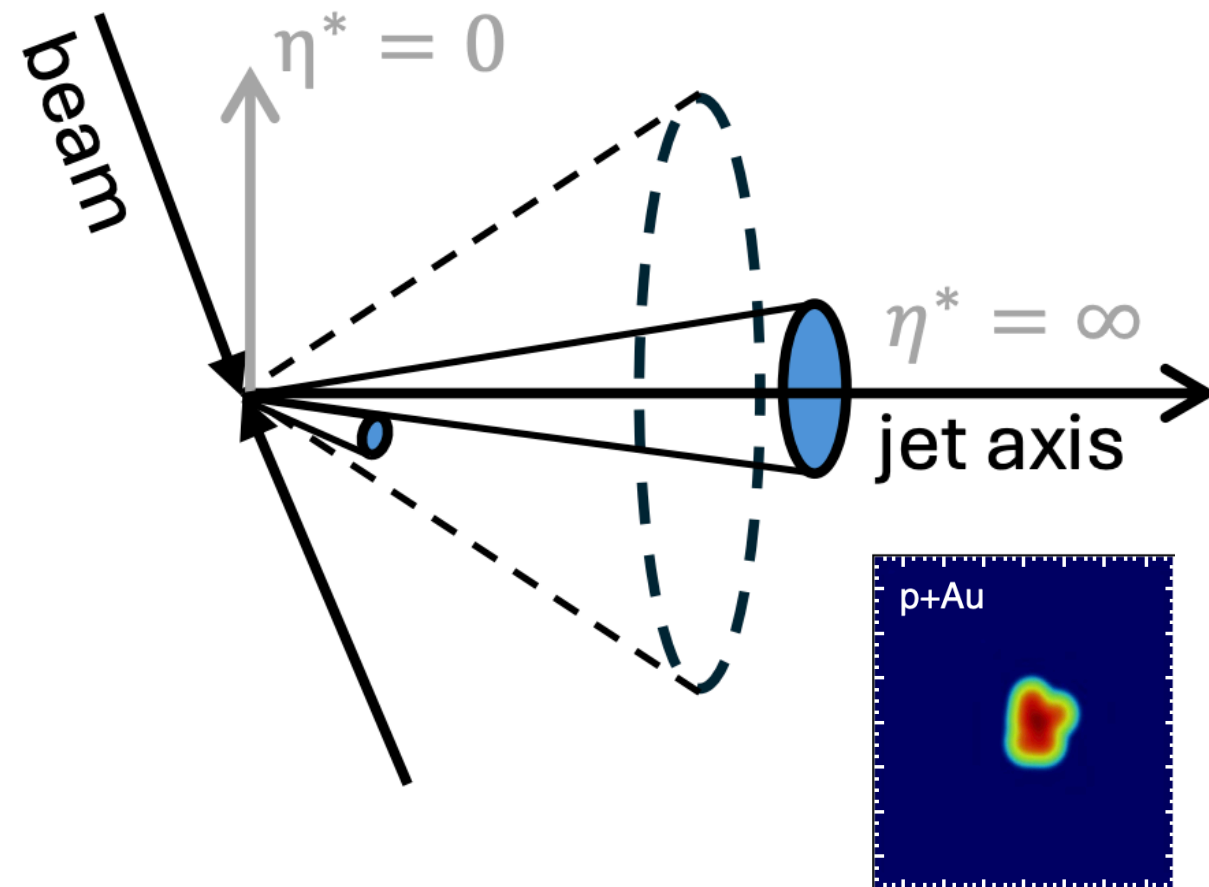
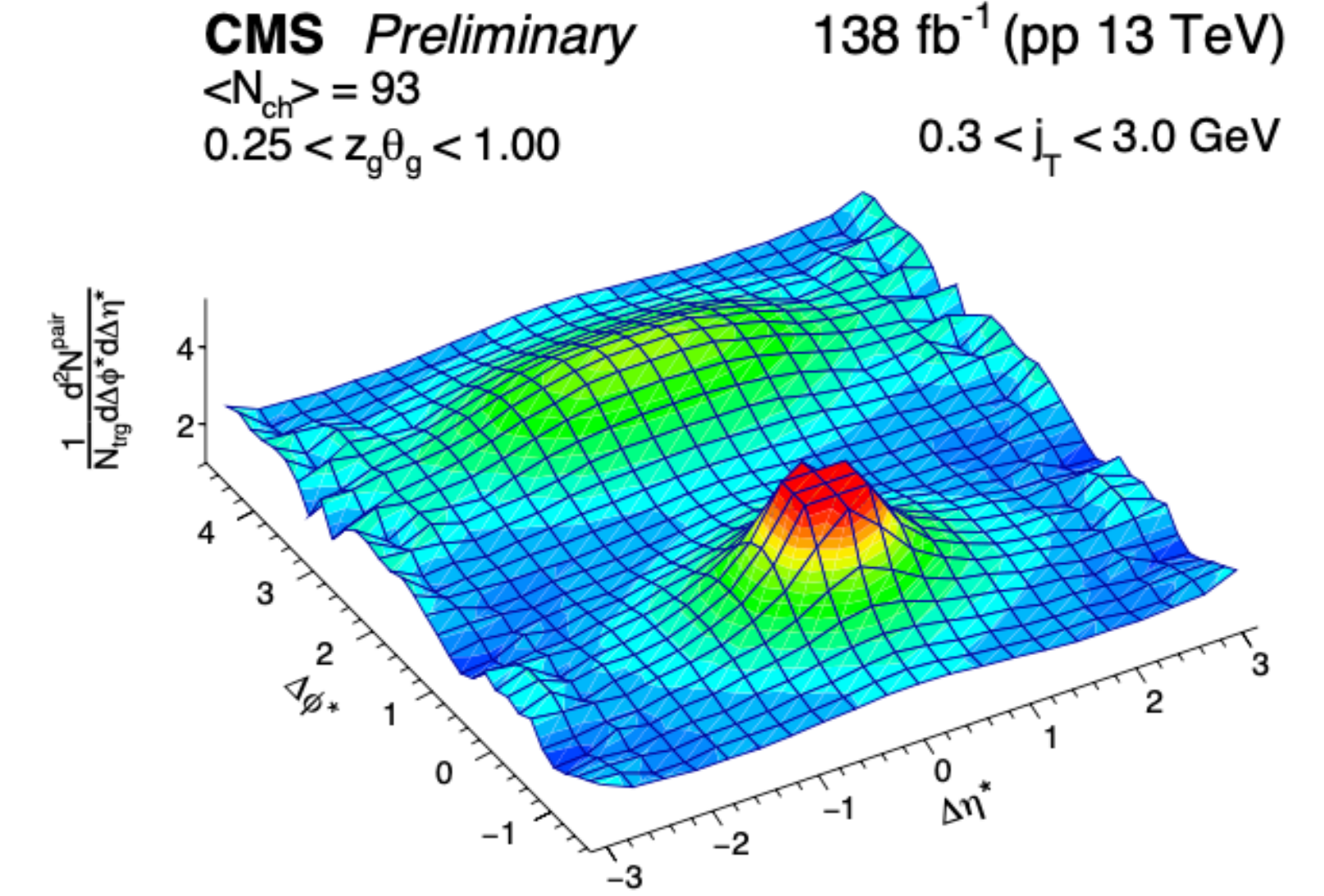
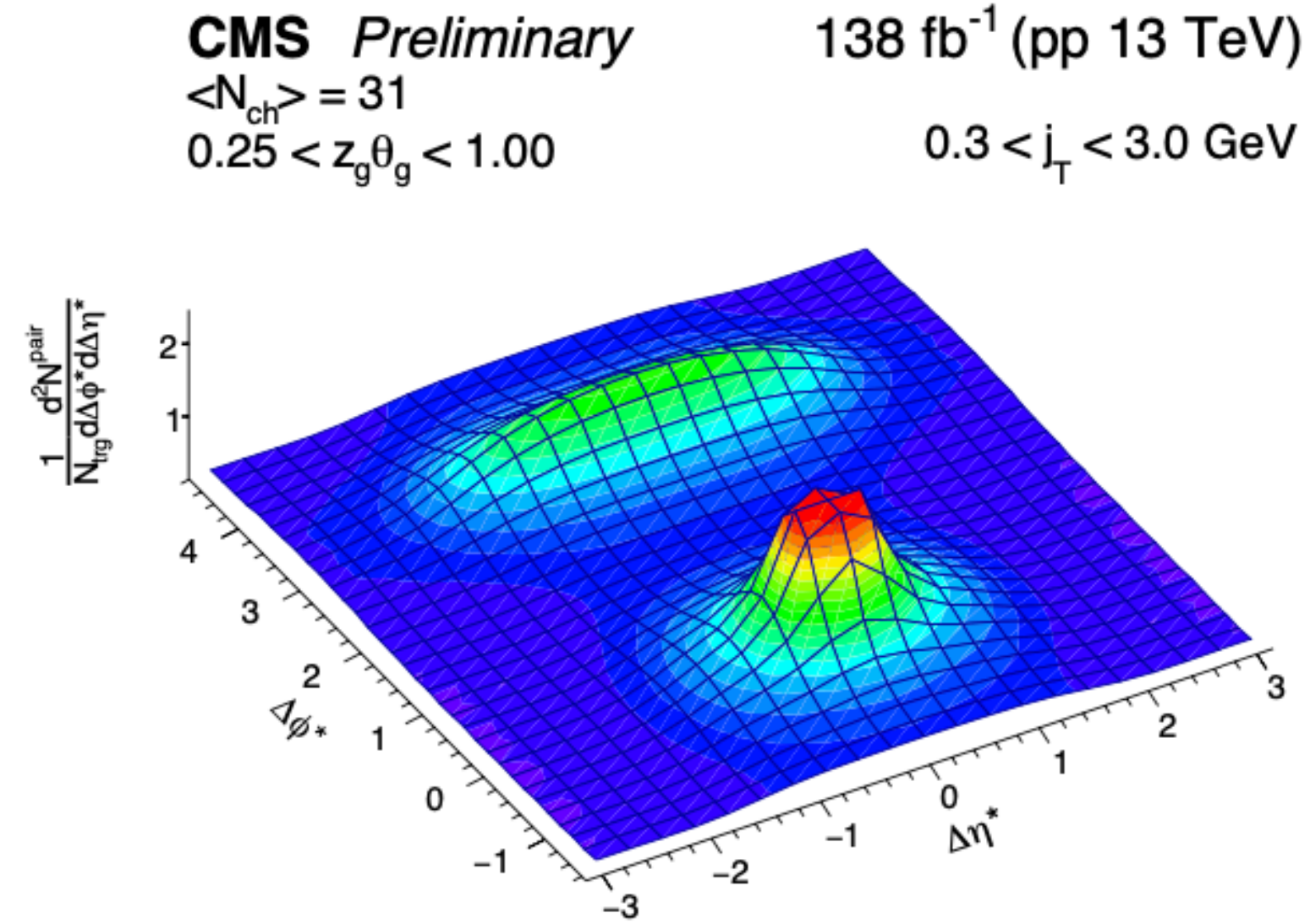
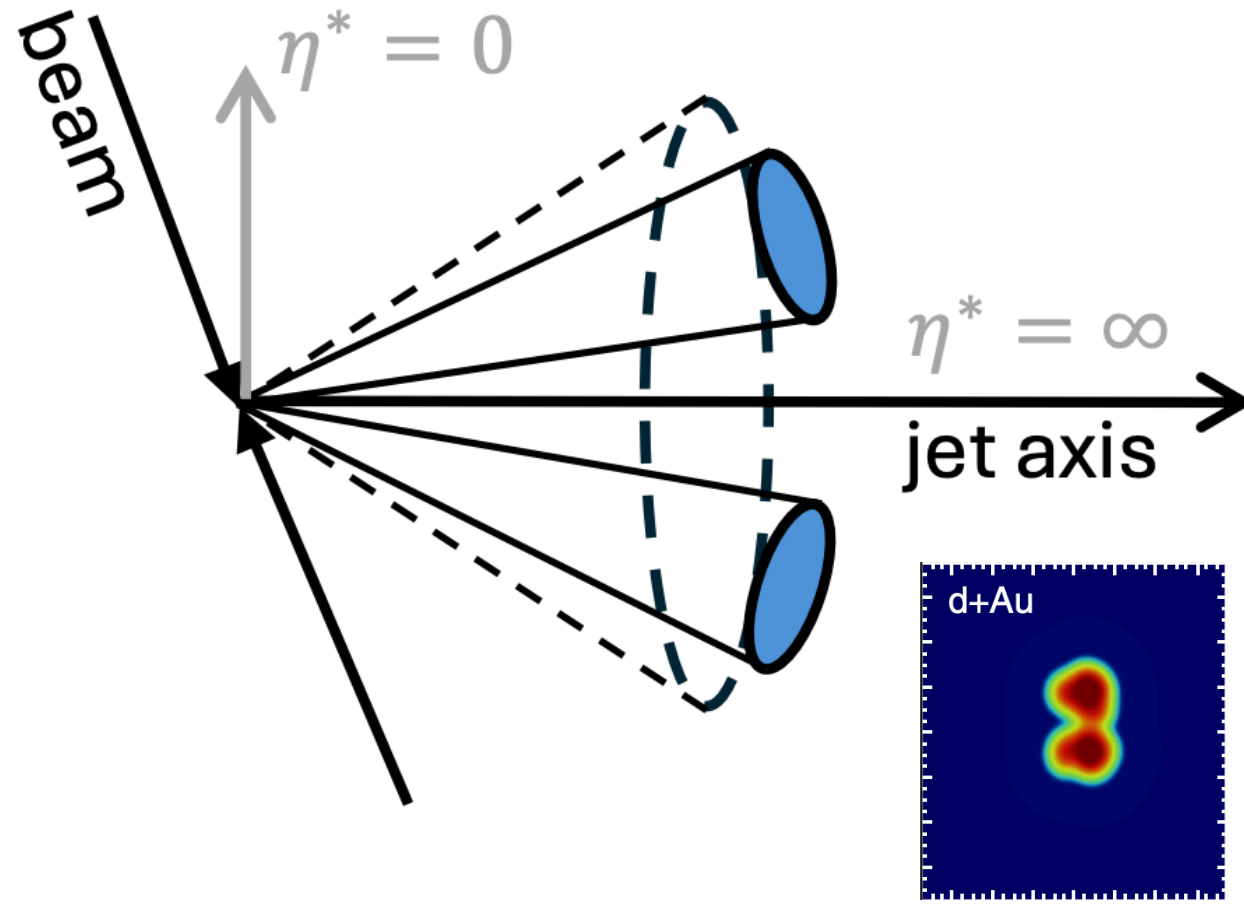


$\langle z_g \theta_g \rangle$ vs N_{ch} in data

- Average $z_g \theta_g$ distribution well-described by Pythia 8
- N_{ch} is correlated with more balanced and separated subjects
- More 'elliptic' initial parton geometry



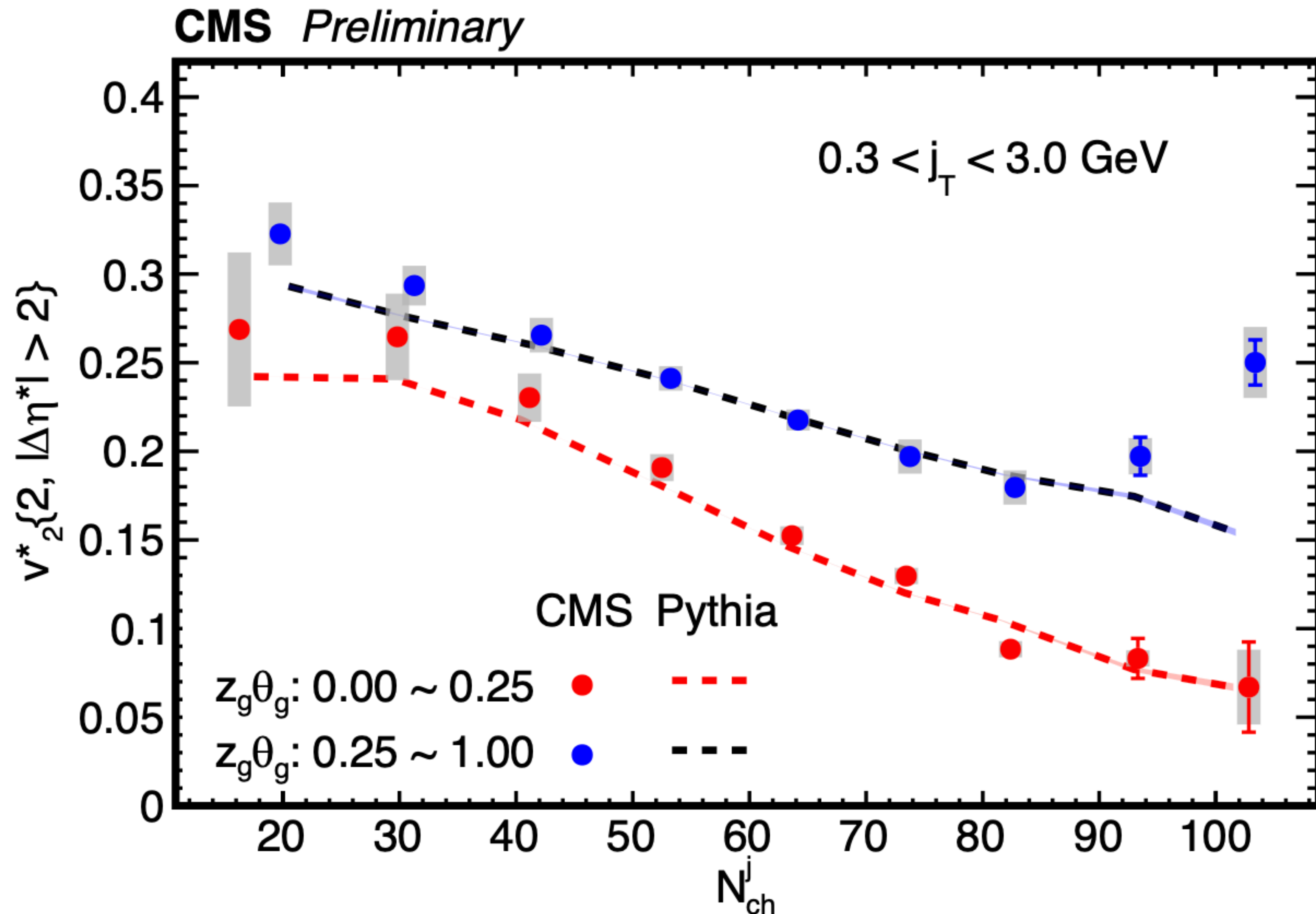
Correlations for different geometries



Increasing N_{ch}

v_2 for different 'parton geometry'

- 'Single prong' jets show no v_2 enhancement, match Pythia
- 'Two prong' jets cause v_2 rise
- Clearly treatment of initial hard splittings very important for this observable
- Establish 'geometry' for collectivity?
- Simply a jet selection bias?



A recent paper on this topic

Hadron multiplicity fluctuations in perturbative QCD[†]

Yu.L. Dokshitzer*

Riga Technical University, Latvia

B.R. Webber

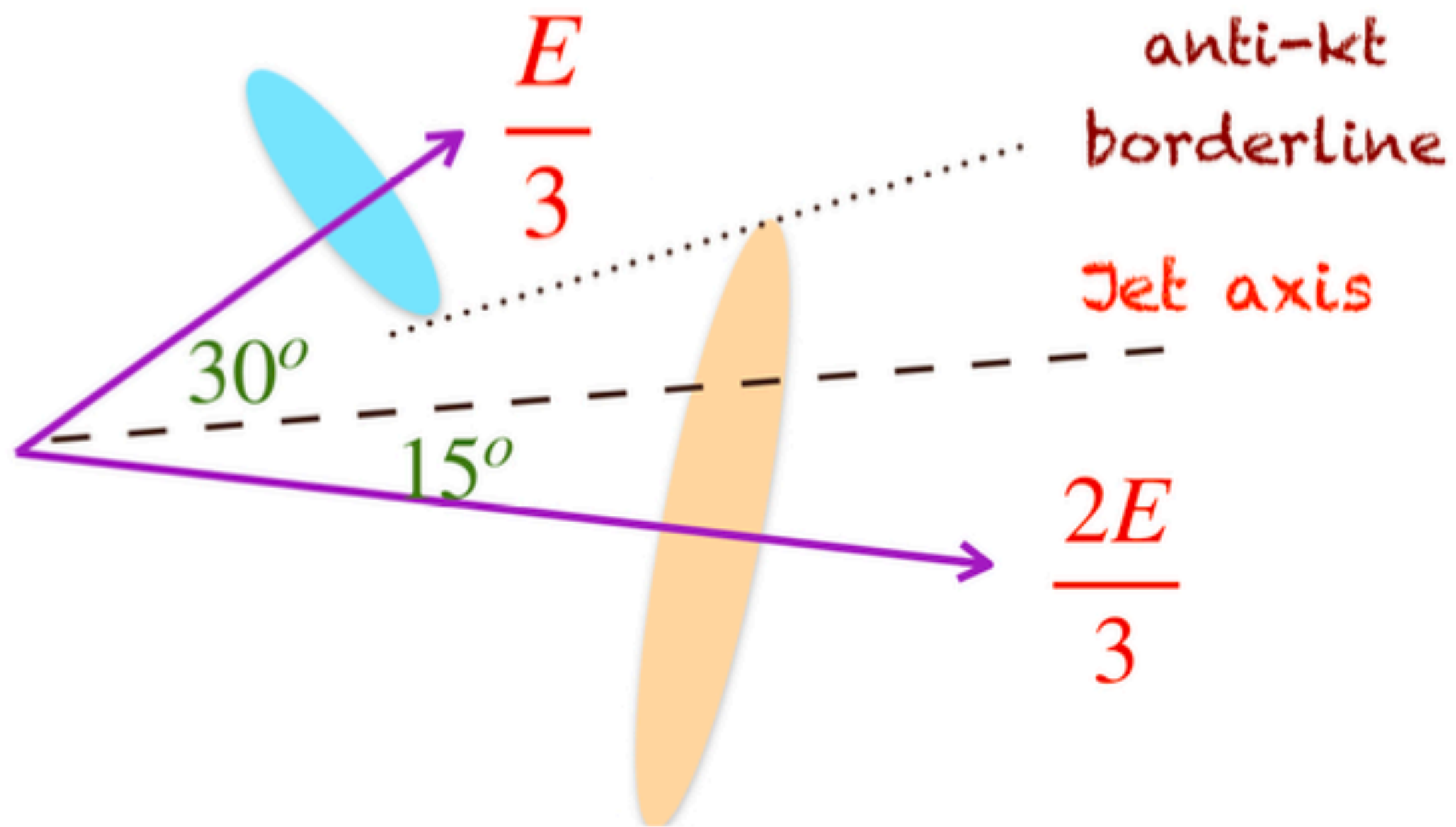
Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, UK

Abstract

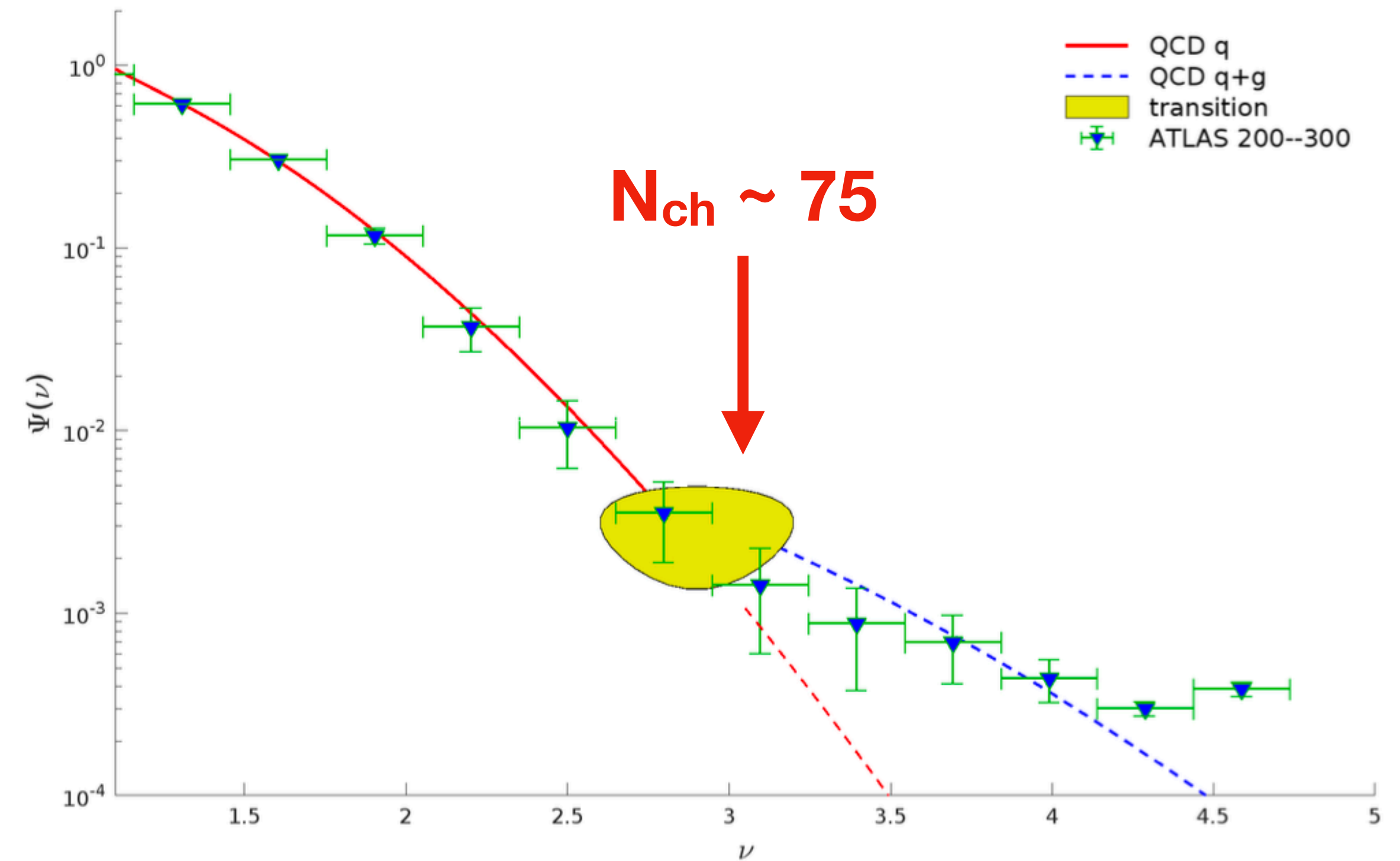
We examine hadron multiplicity fluctuations in hard processes and confront analytic QCD predictions with the pattern of multiplicity fluctuations observed in e^+e^- annihilation and high- p_t jets produced in pp collisions at the LHC. Special emphasis is placed on high-multiplicity fluctuations in jets. Selecting events with hadronic multiplicity exceeding the average value by a factor of 3 or more in various processes has been a source of conundrums for many years. We discuss two recent high-multiplicity puzzles and attempt to reveal their common origin.

(A great read for fans of Alice in Wonderland)

An intressssssssssssssting connection



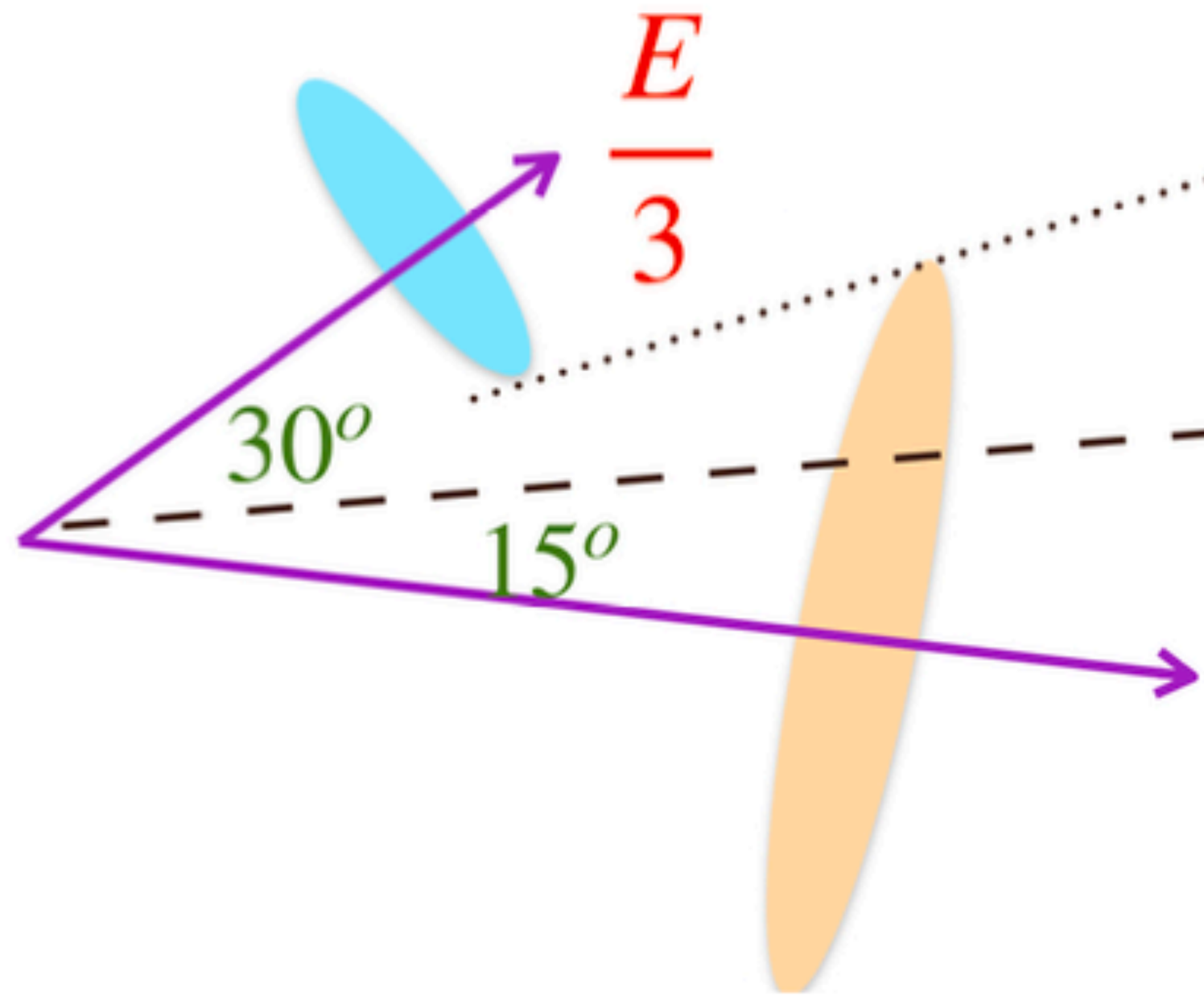
A 'forked-tongue' initial parton splitting:
Leads to CMS data



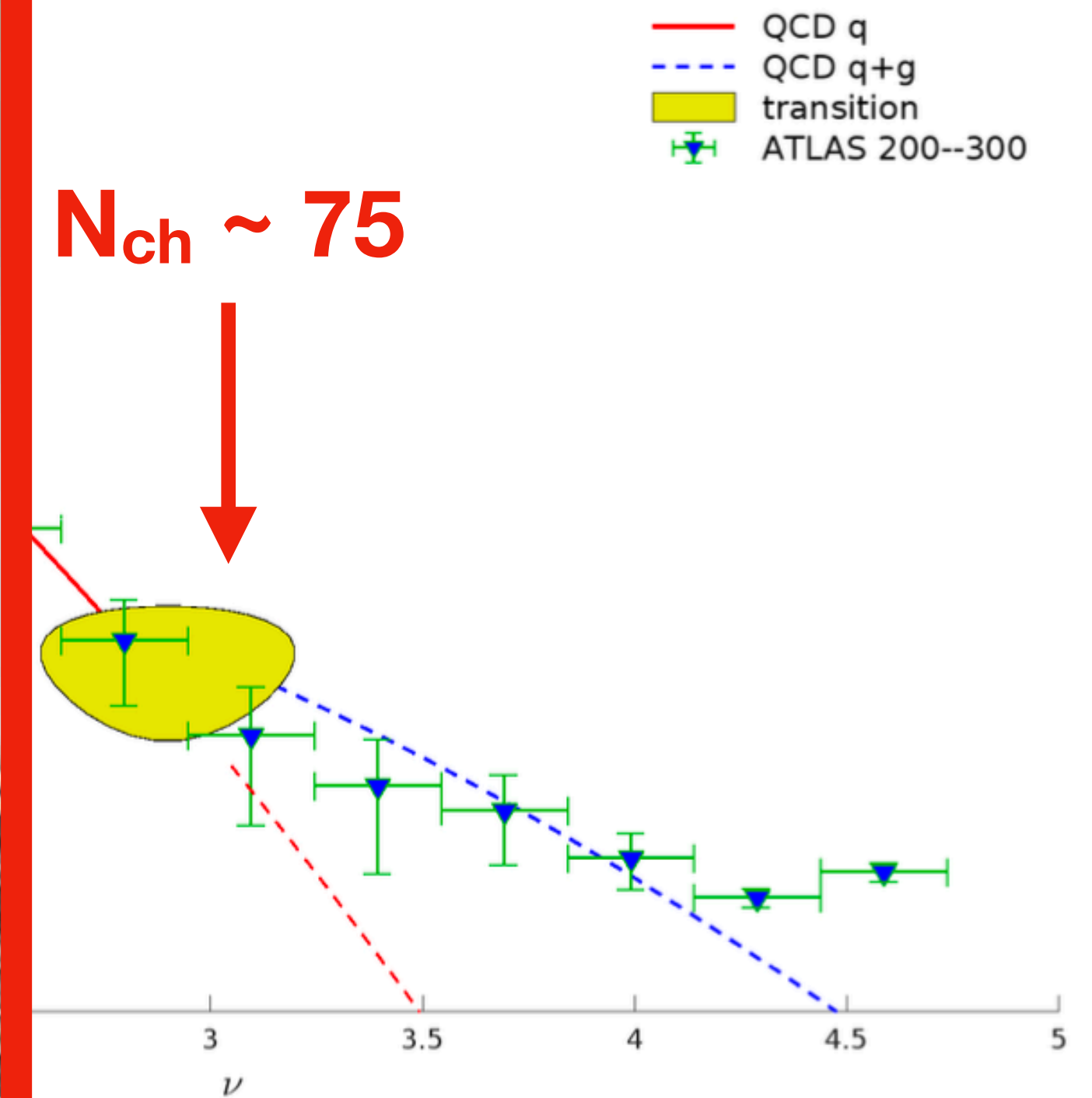
$$\nu = N_{ch} / \langle N_{ch} \rangle$$

Could also lead to KNO scaling violations:
A 'raised tail' in ATLAS jet data

An intressssssssssssting connection



A 'forked-tongue' initial parton
Leads to CMS data



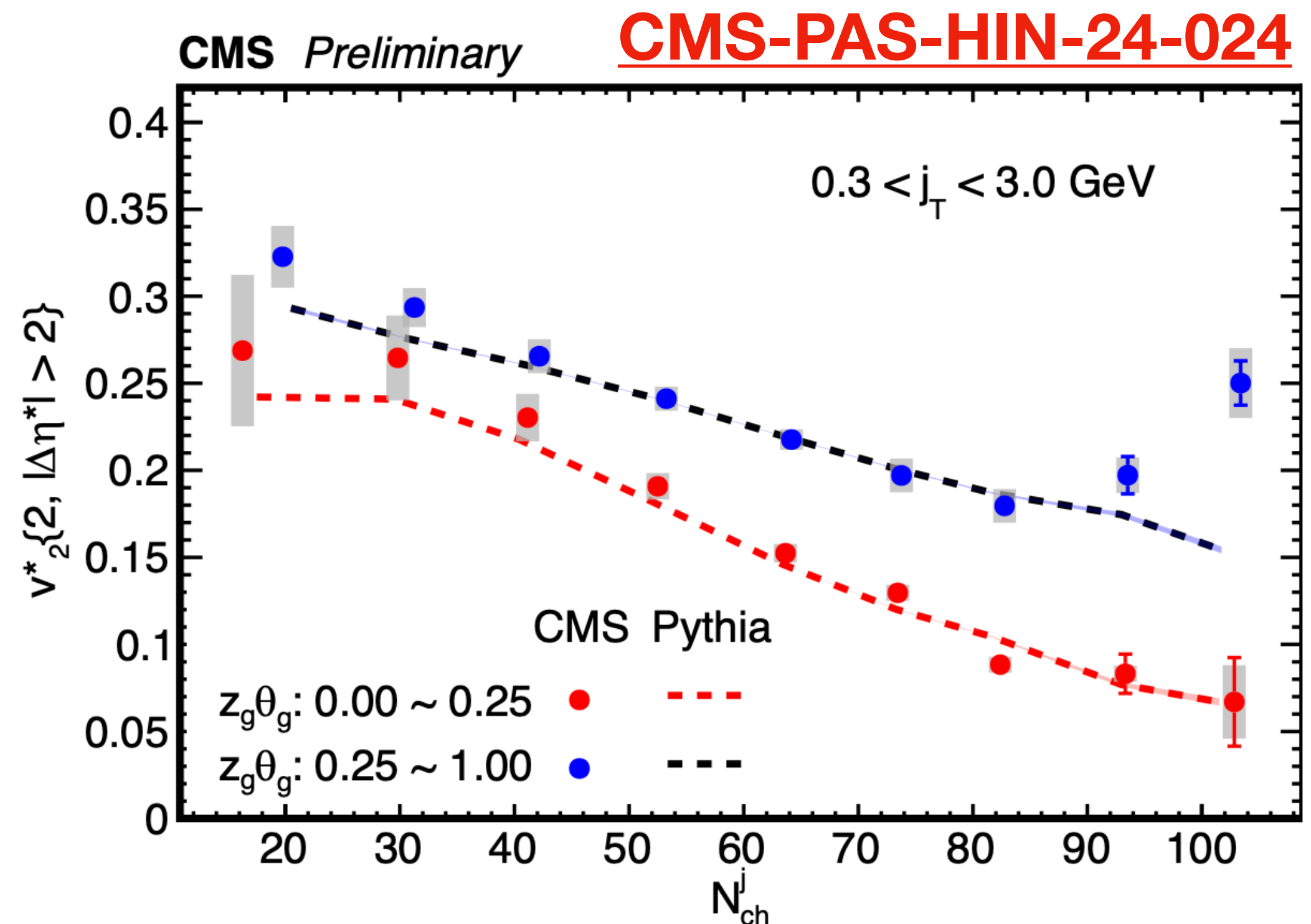
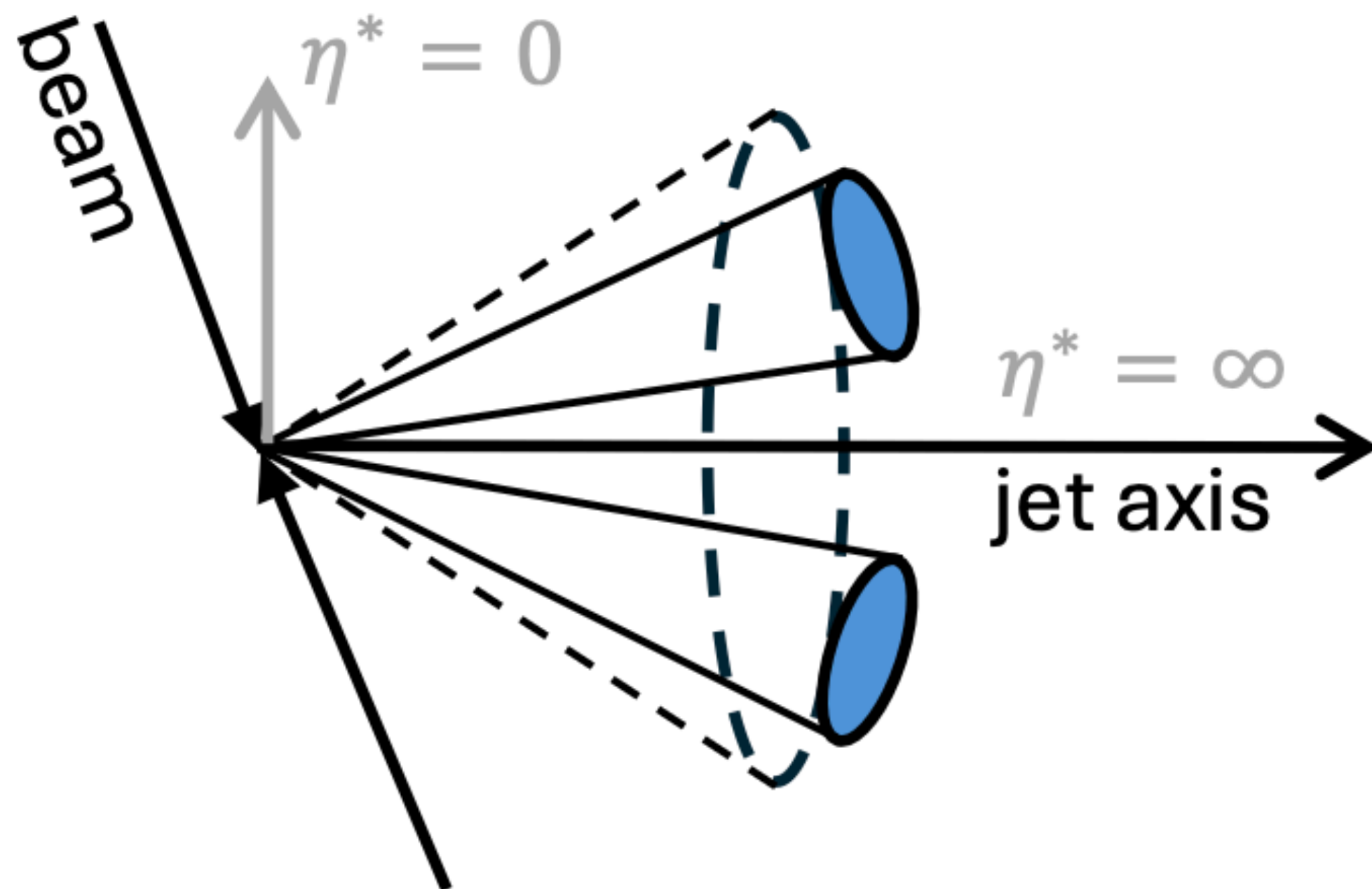
$$= N_{ch} / \langle N_{ch} \rangle$$

no KNO scaling violations:
'tail' in ATLAS jet data

³After this paper was completed, we learned of a forthcoming CMS publication [33] in which the possibility of two-pronged structure of ellipticity generating events is put under scrutiny.

Summary

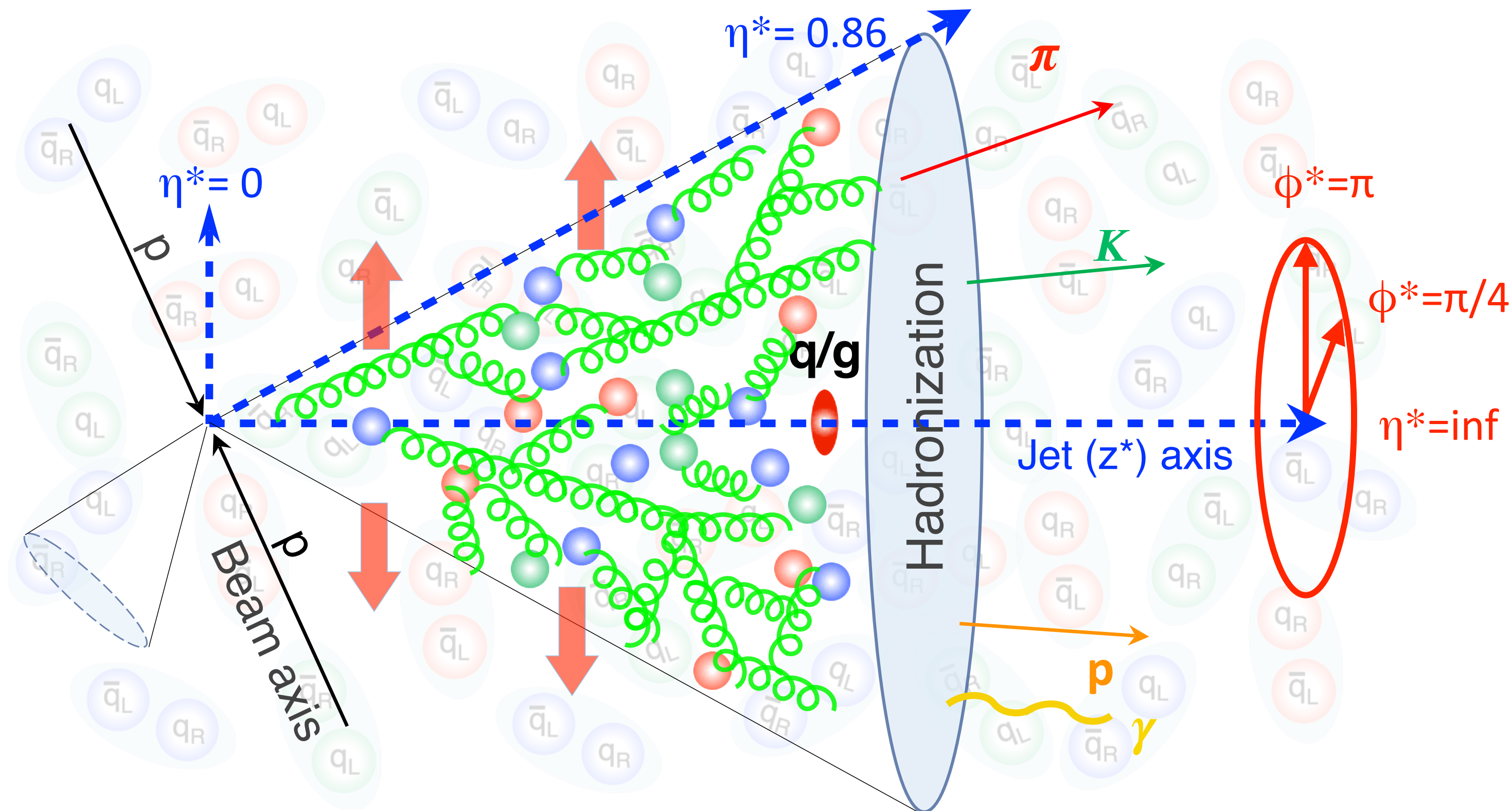
- New detailed examination of high-multiplicity jet v_2 vs $\Delta\eta^*$, j_T
- ‘Jet substructure engineering’ to understand initial ‘parton geometry’
- Rise in v_2 seems to originate from 2-pronged jets
- Collectivity vs. rattlesnake (or some combination) still undetermined
- Much more Run 3 data on disk - stay tuned!



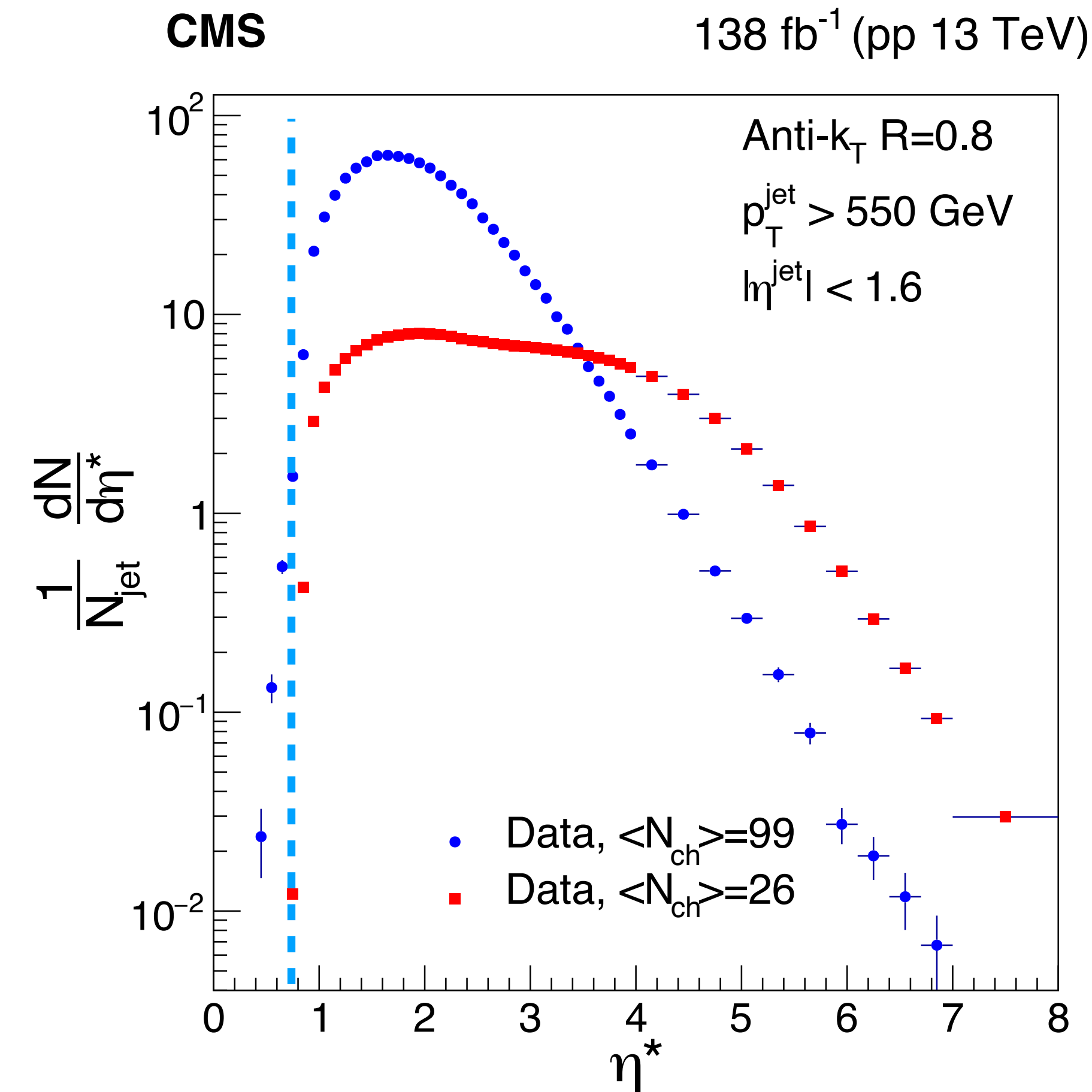
The background is a light gray surface covered with a dense pattern of thin, yellow, hand-drawn style lines radiating from the center. Scattered throughout are various rectangular shapes in shades of green and blue, some appearing as solid blocks and others as outlines or semi-transparent overlays.

Backup

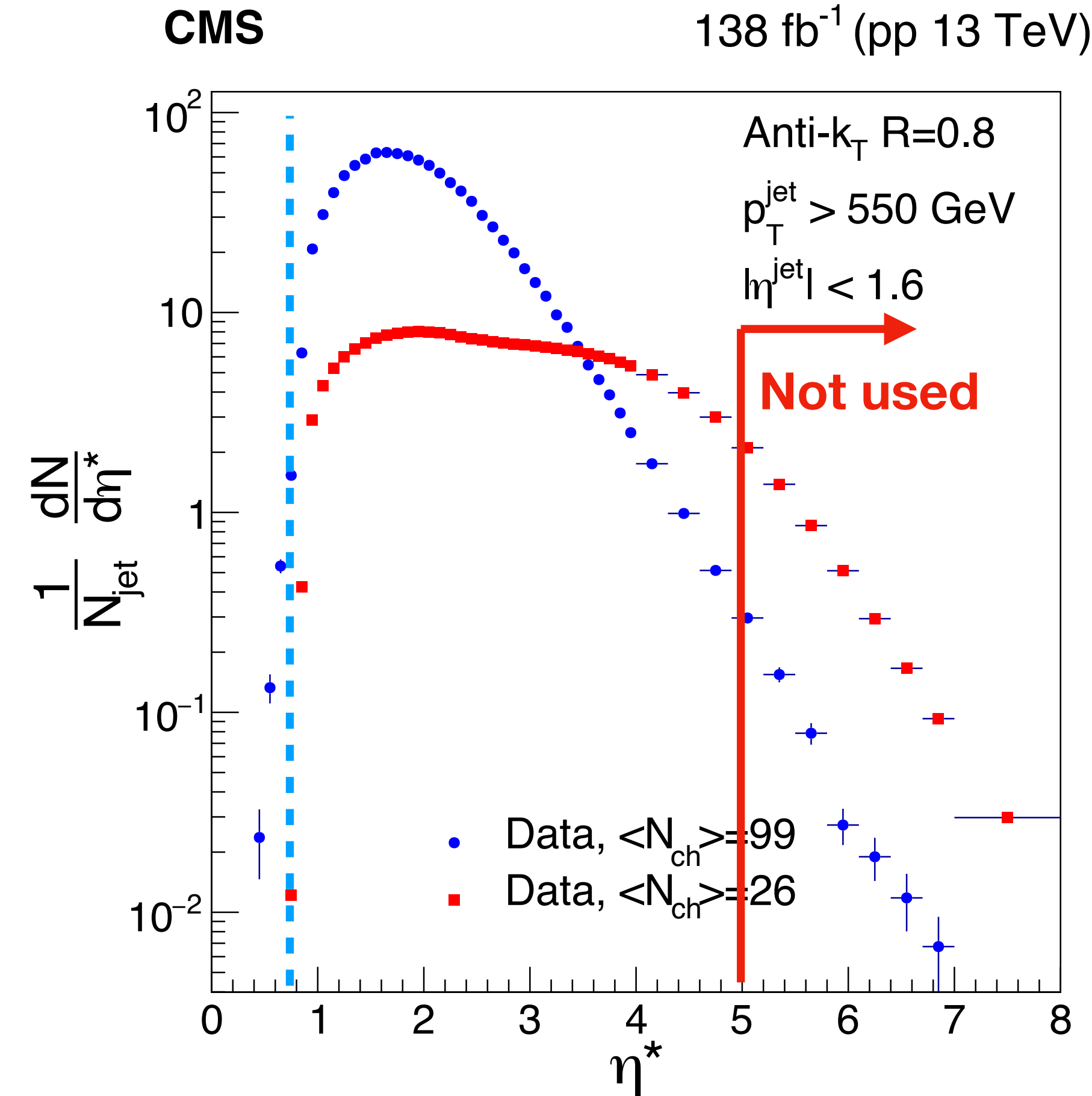
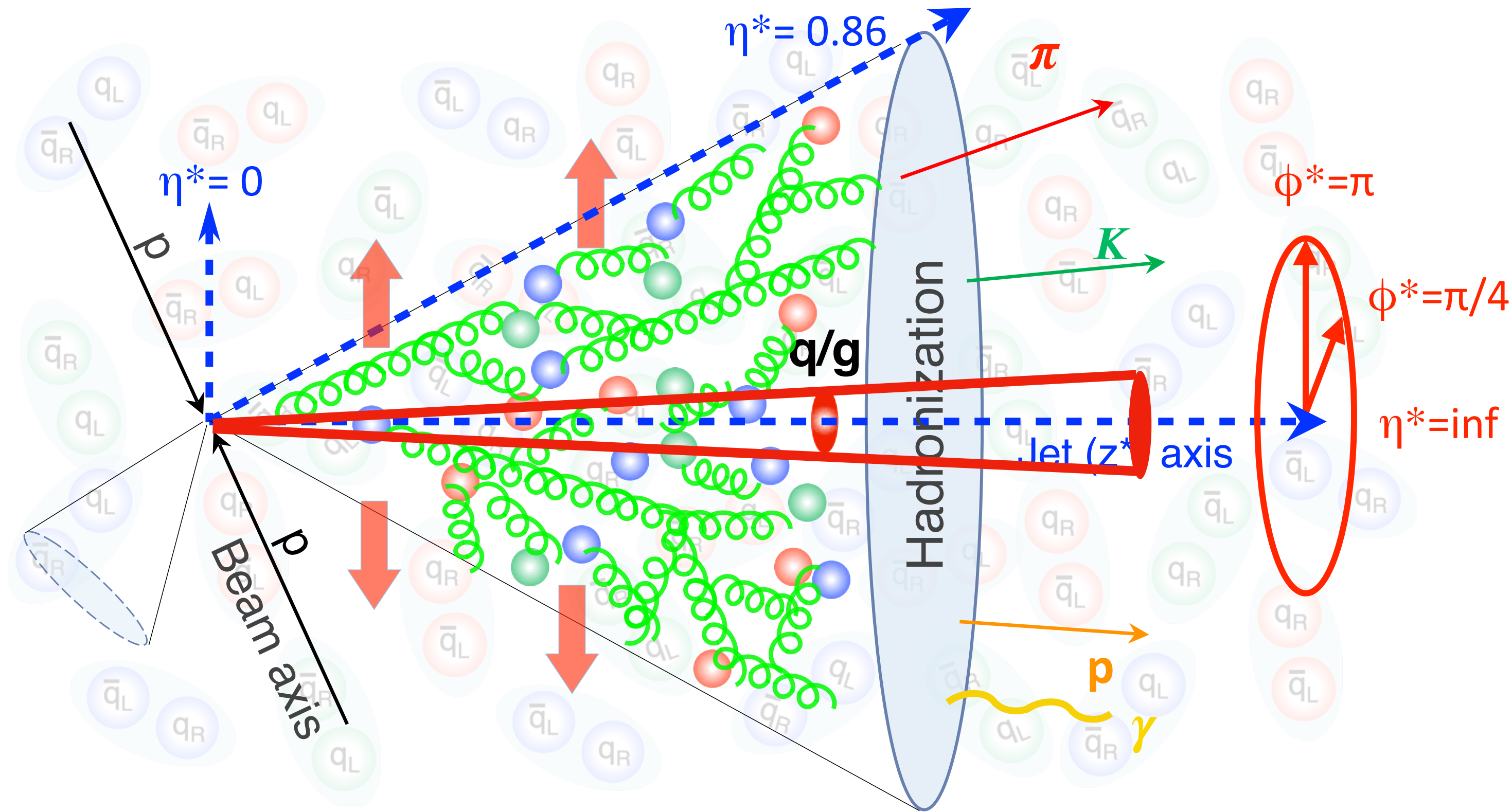
Properties of η^*



- **Wide angle radiation \rightarrow smaller η^***
- $\eta^* > 0.86$ for an $R=0.8$ jet

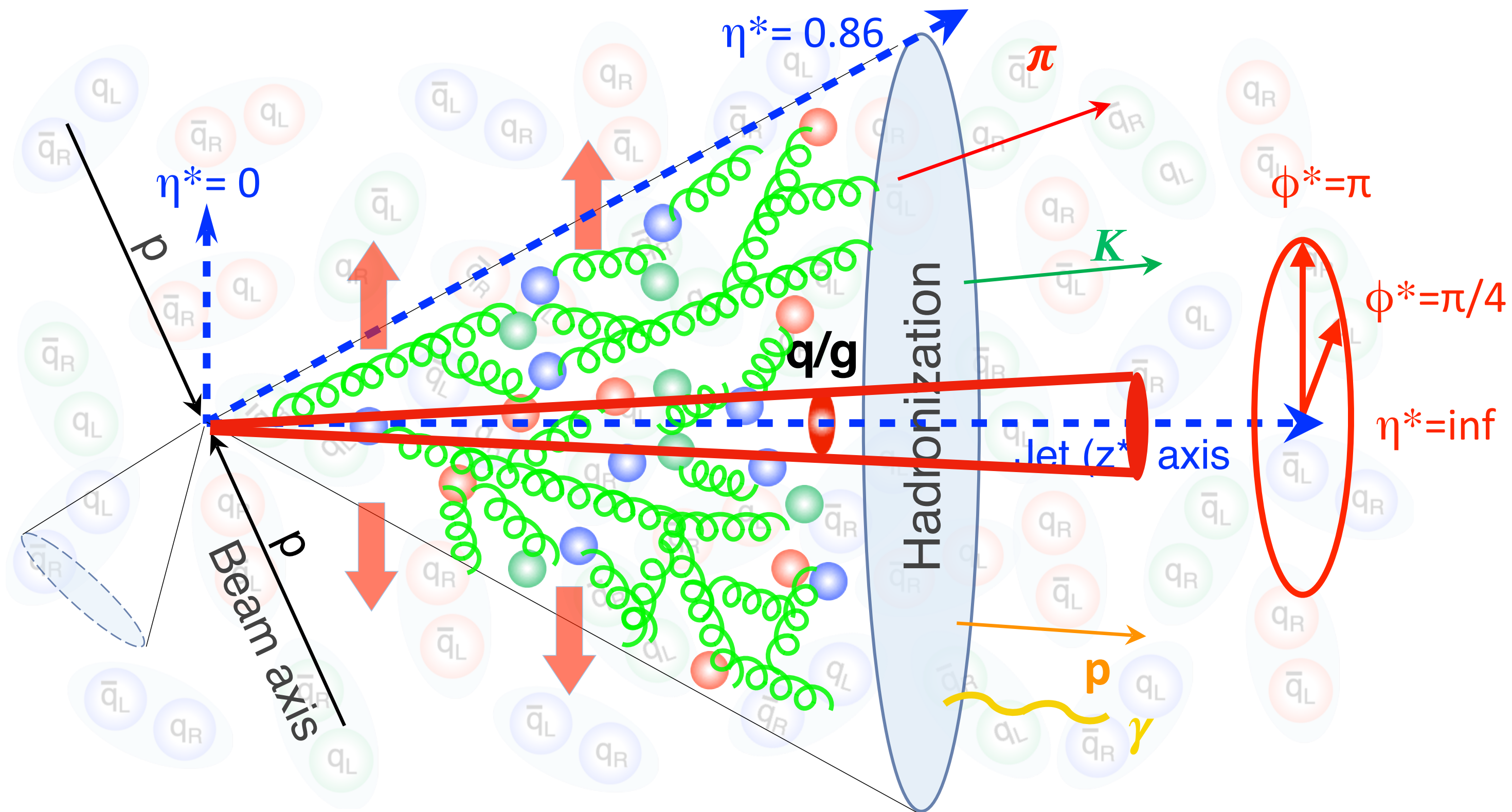


Properties of η^*

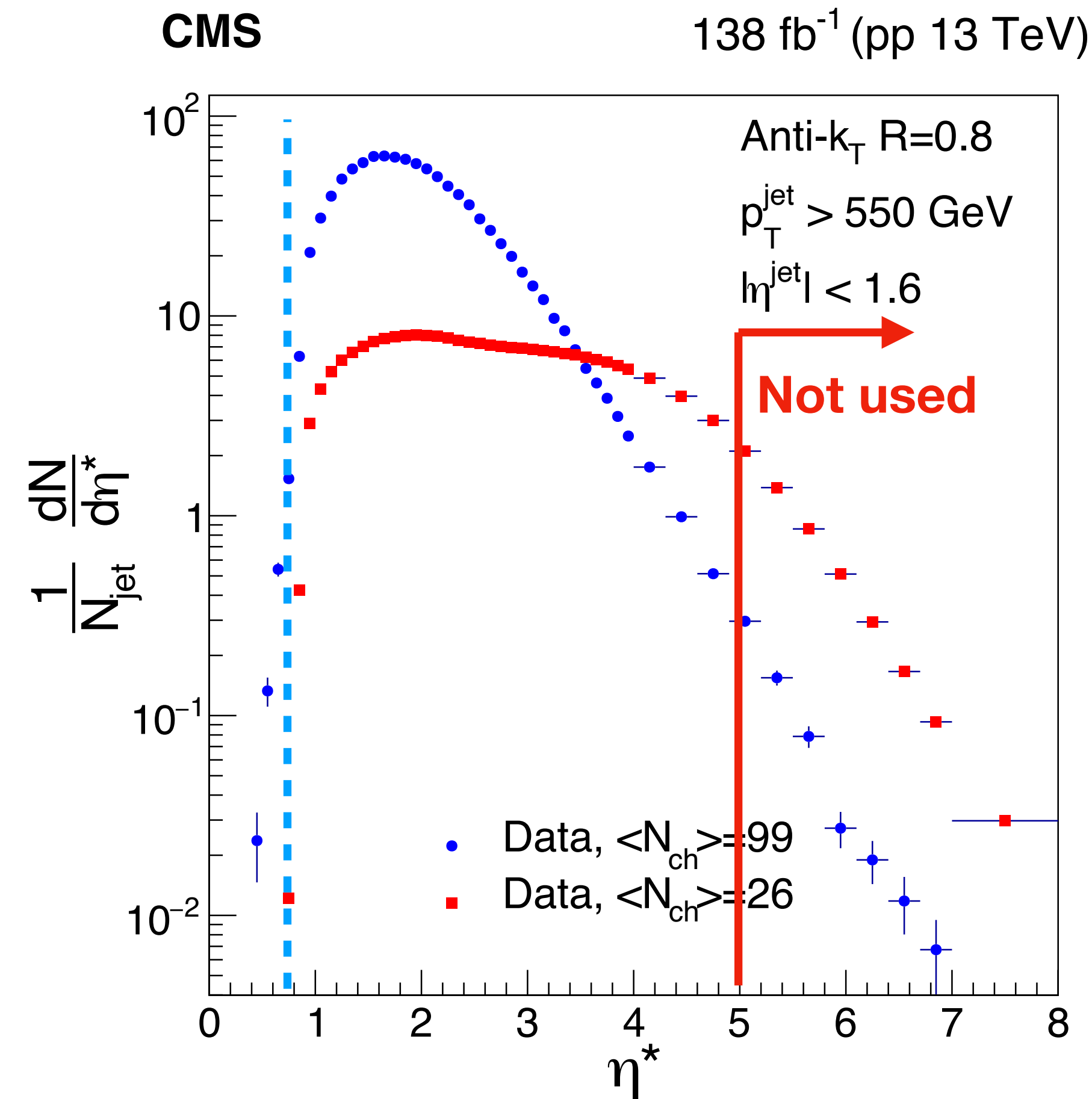


- **Wide angle radiation \rightarrow smaller η^***
- $\eta^* > 0.86$ for an $R=0.8$ jet
- $\eta^* > 5$ excluded from analysis - sensitive to jet axis resolution

Properties of η^*



- **Wide angle radiation \rightarrow smaller η^***
 - $\eta^* > 0.86$ for an R=0.8 jet
 - $\eta^* > 5$ excluded from analysis - sensitive to jet axis resolution
 - $dN/d\eta^*$ up to 80 in jet frame - similar particle density to peripheral heavy ion collision!
-



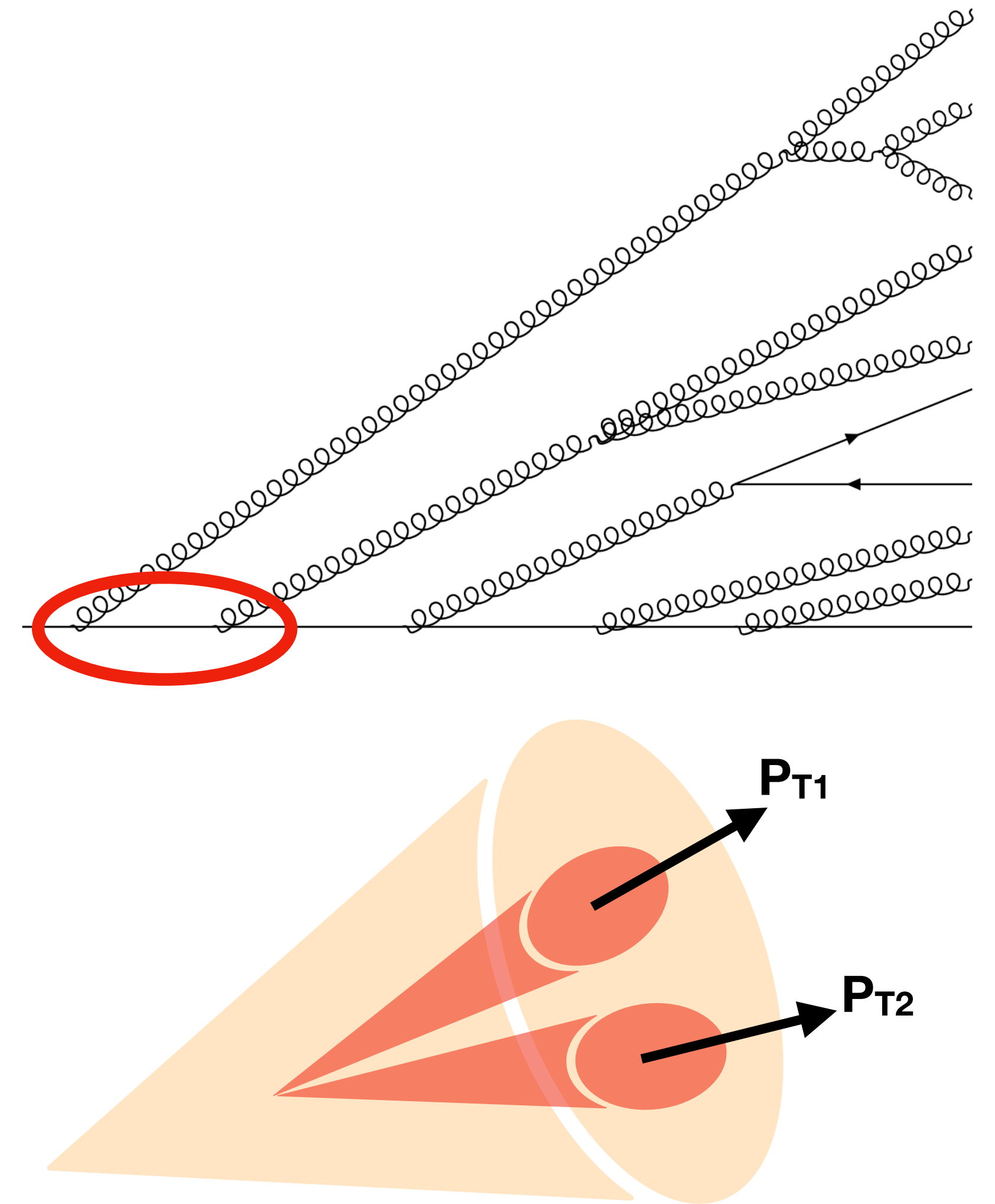
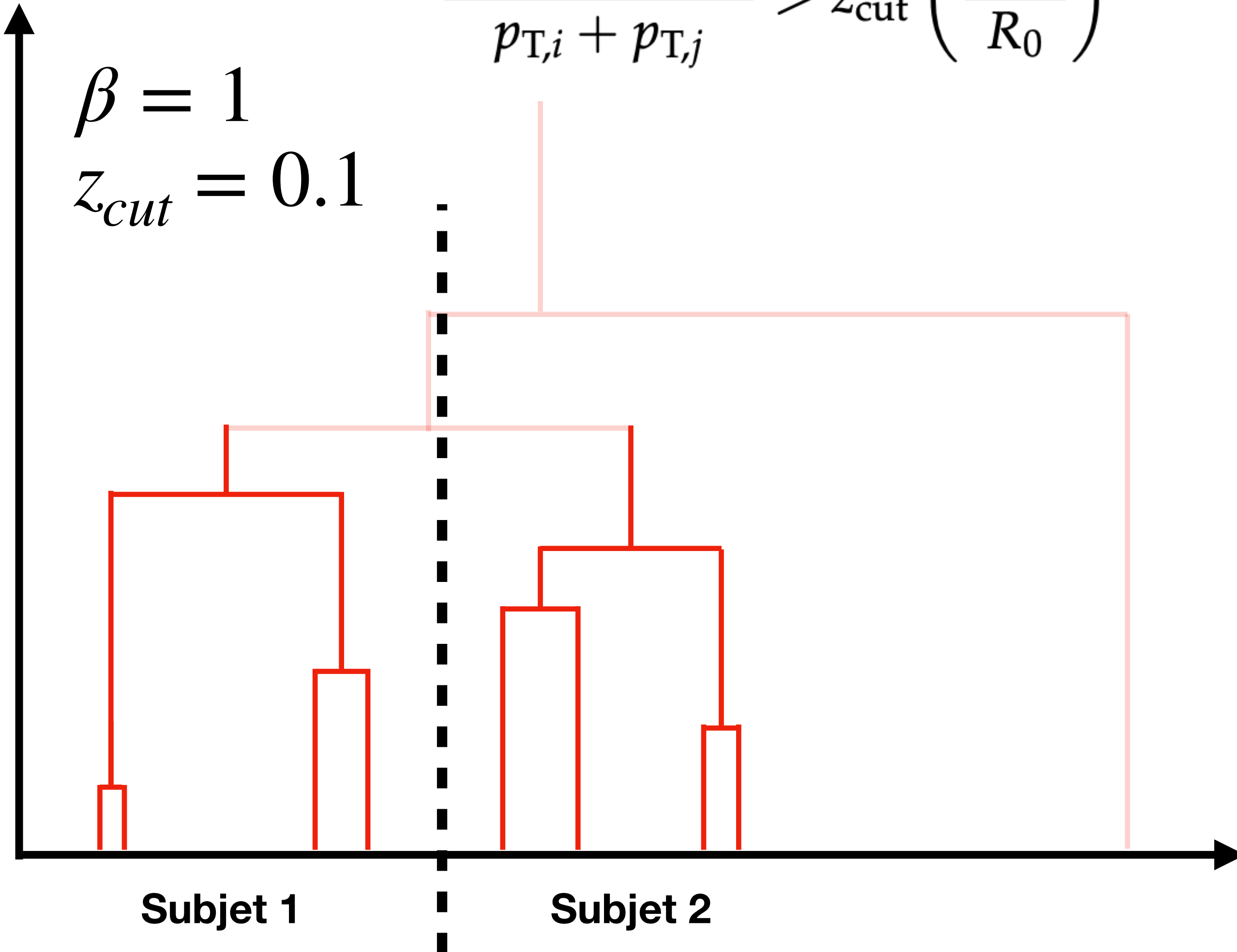
SoftDrop Jet Grooming

Softdrop condition

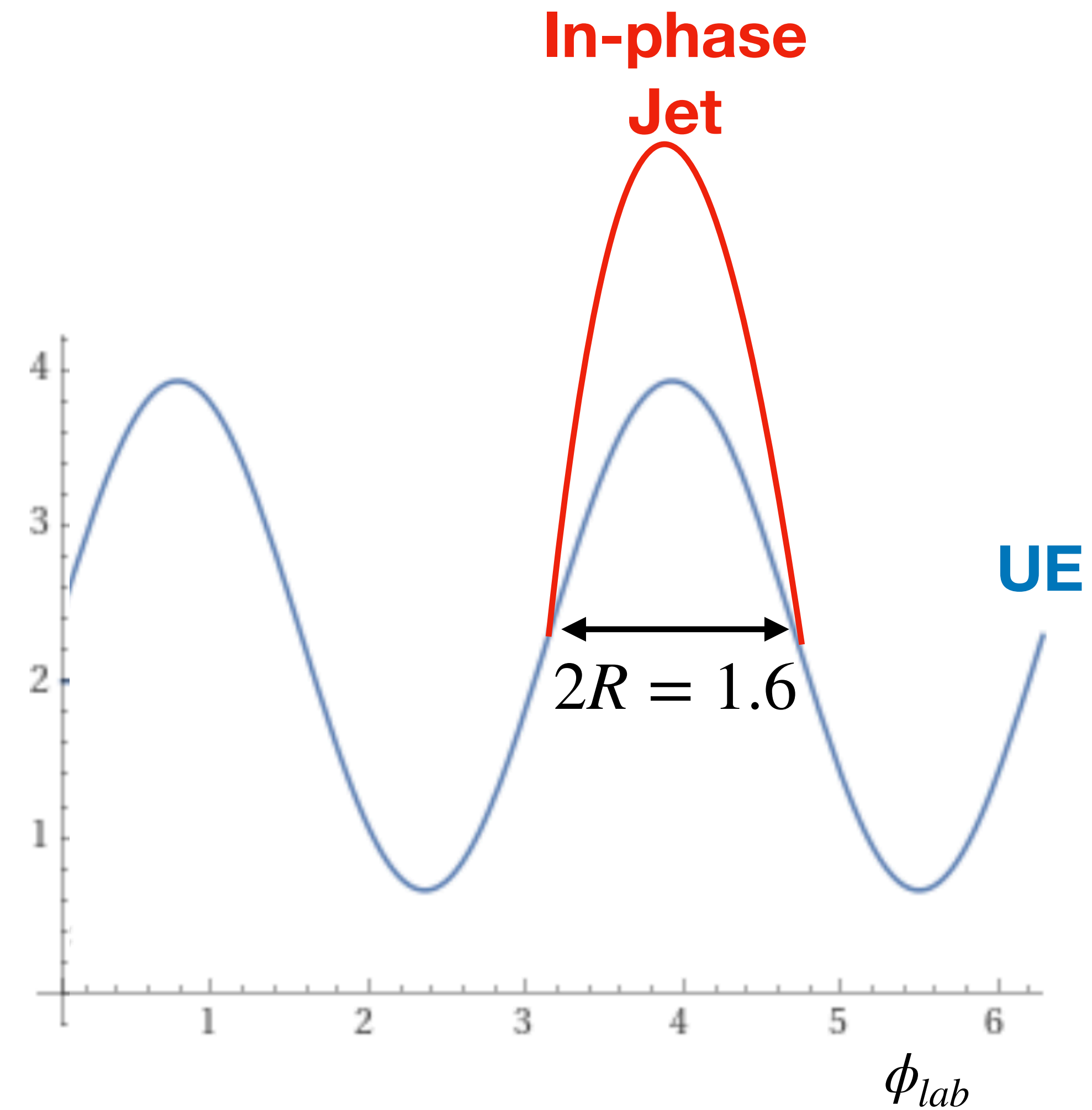
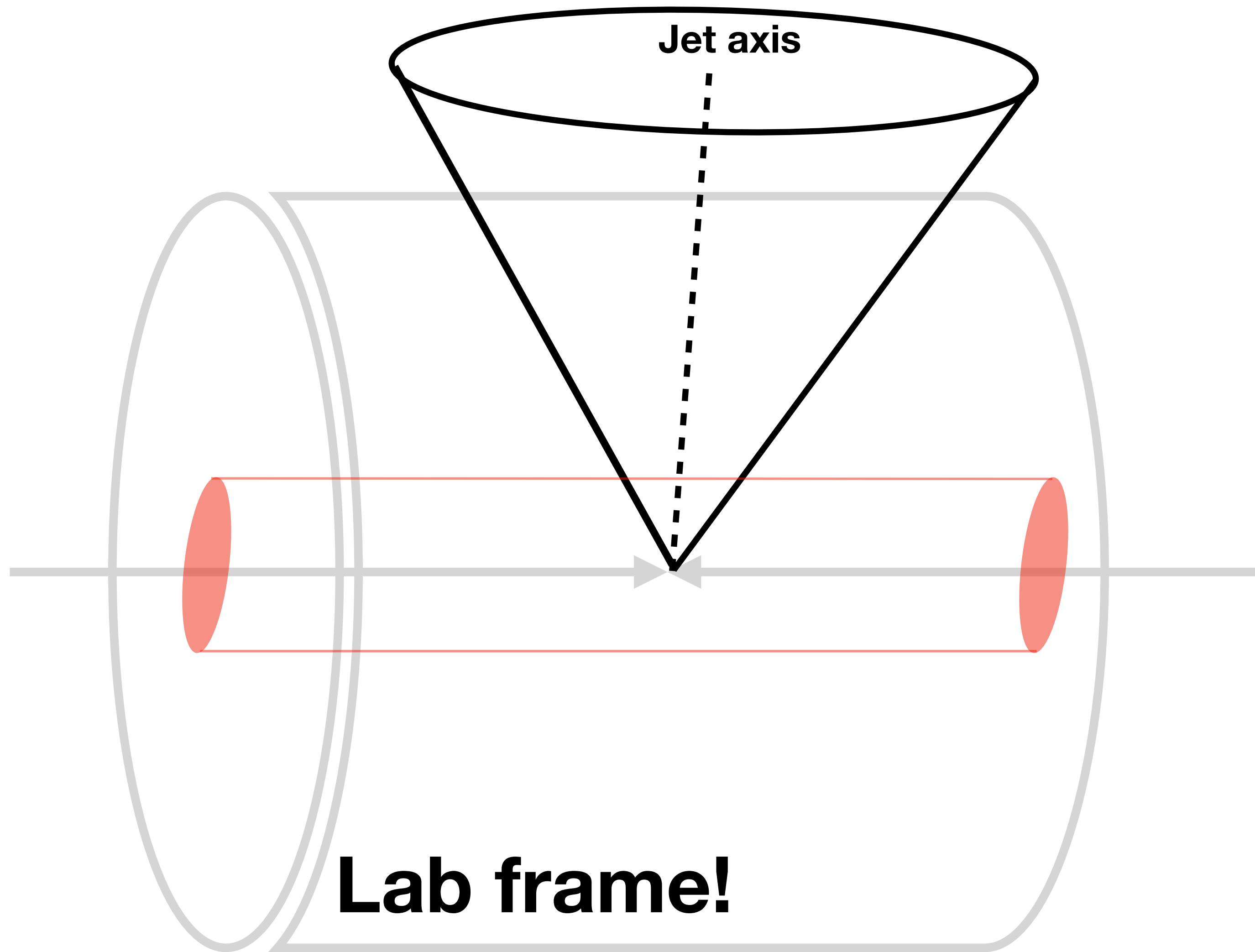
$$\frac{\min(p_{T,i}, p_{T,j})}{p_{T,i} + p_{T,j}} > z_{\text{cut}} \left(\frac{\Delta R_{ij}}{R_0} \right)^\beta$$

Clustering Iteration

$$\beta = 1$$
$$z_{\text{cut}} = 0.1$$

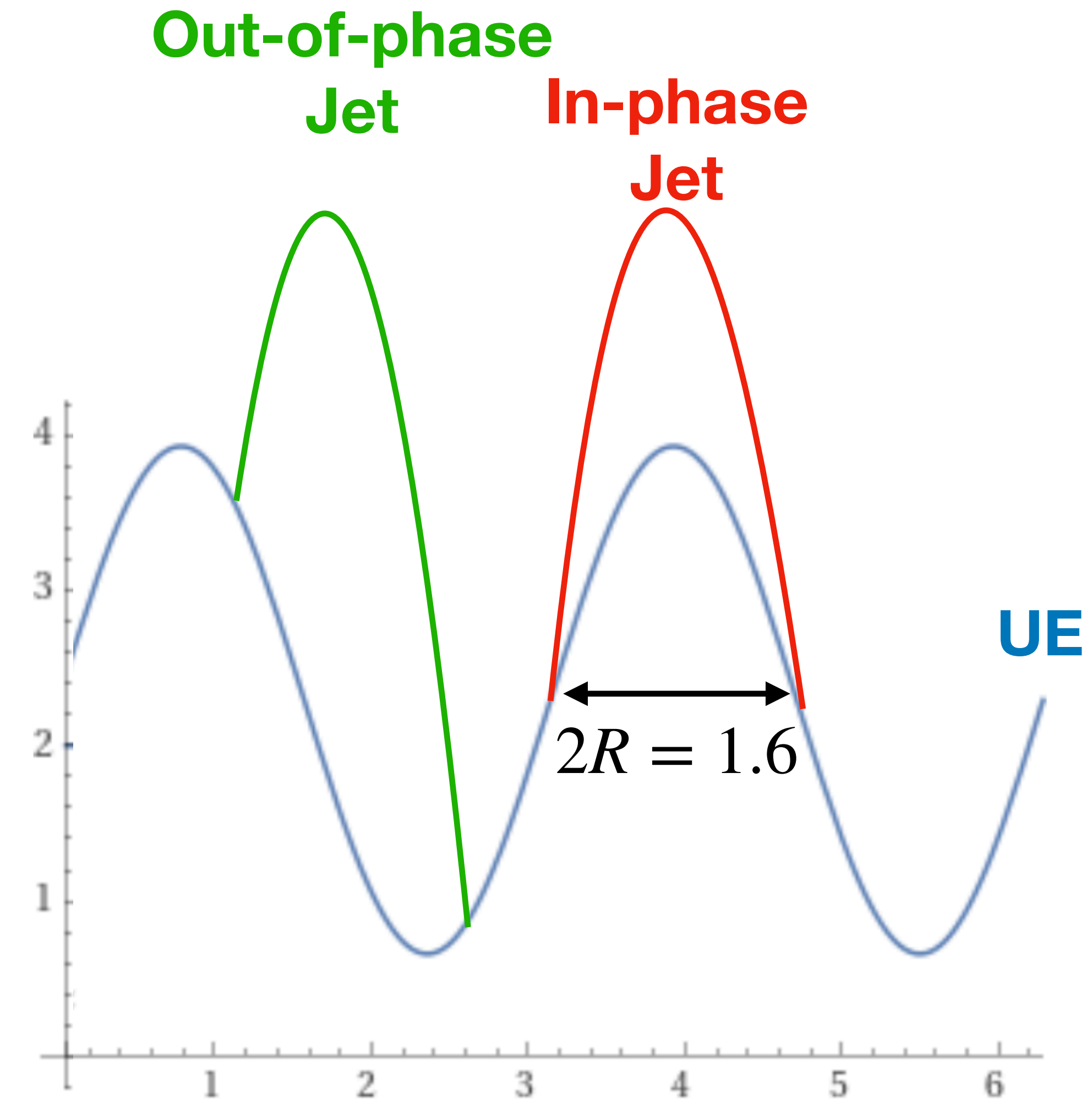
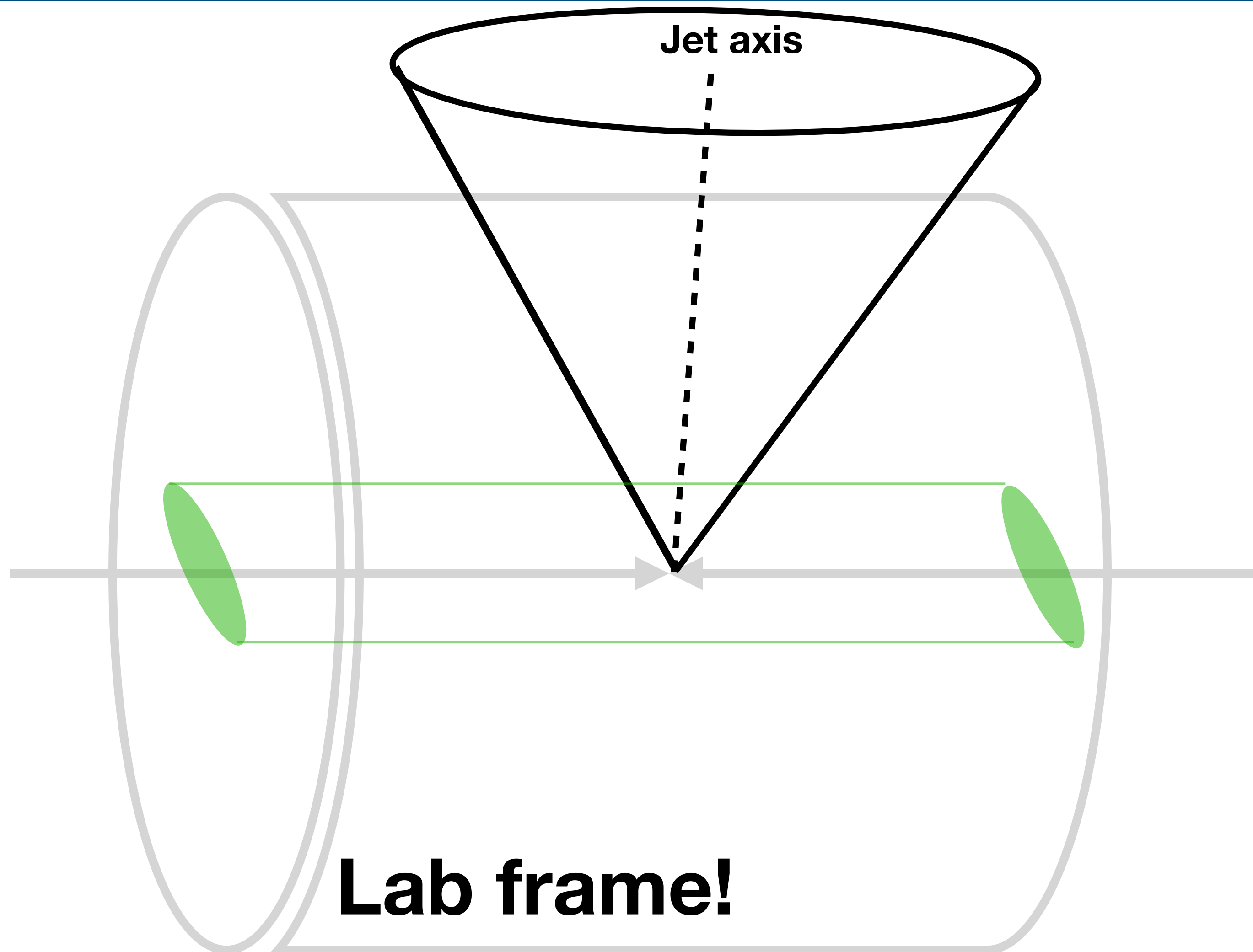


Underlying Event Explanation?



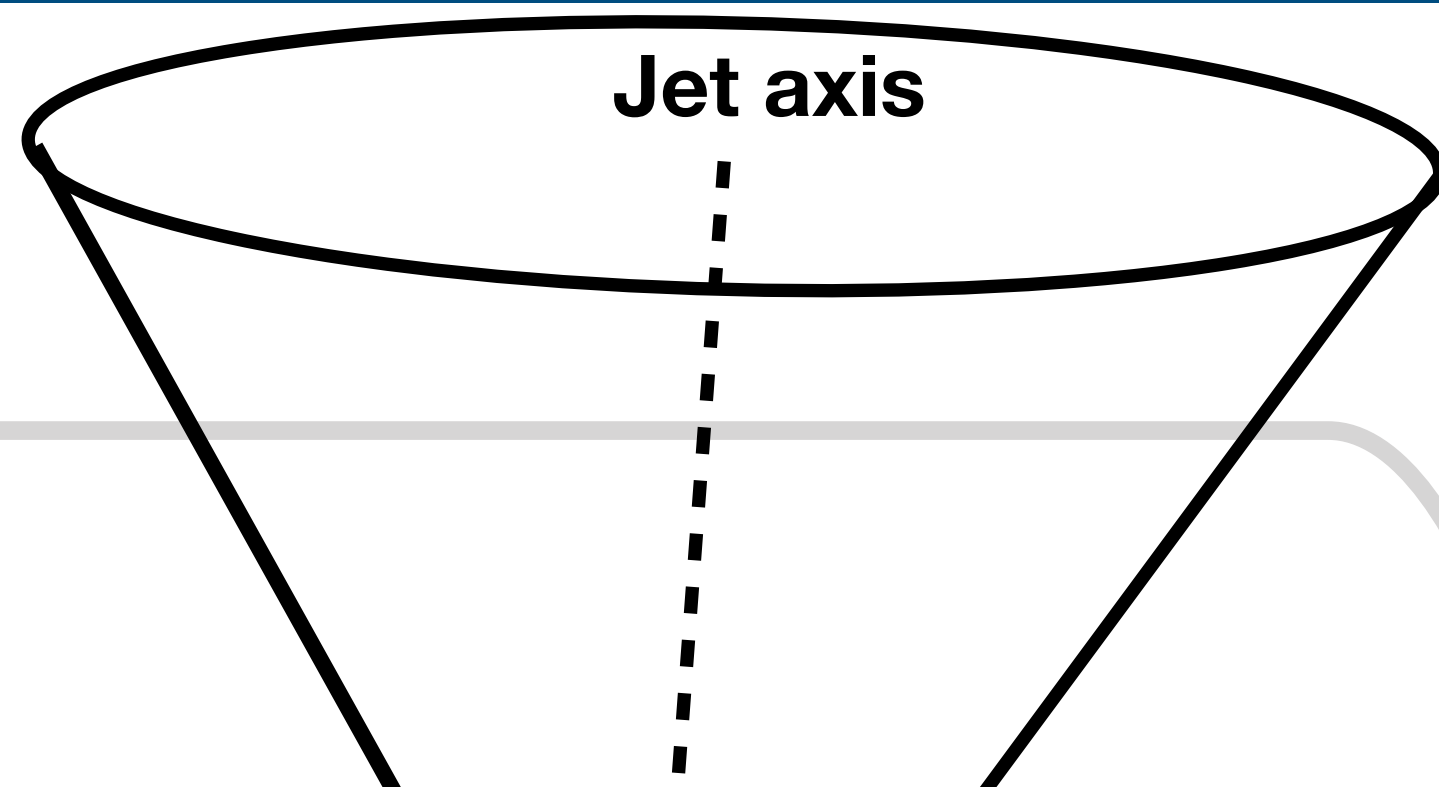
- Can underlying event generate a signal?
- Inject signal into UE and study effect on signal

Underlying Event Explanation?



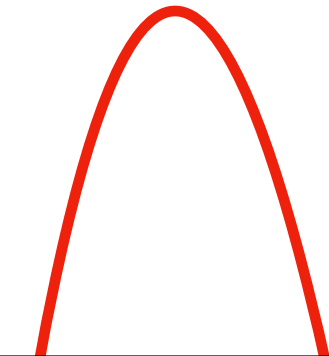
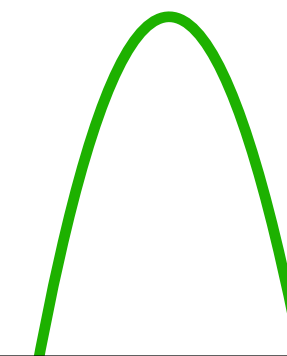
- Regardless of phase between jet and UE, no significant signal in jet frame seen ϕ_{lab}
- Different UE tunes also have no effect

Underlying Event Explanation?



Out-of-phase
Jet

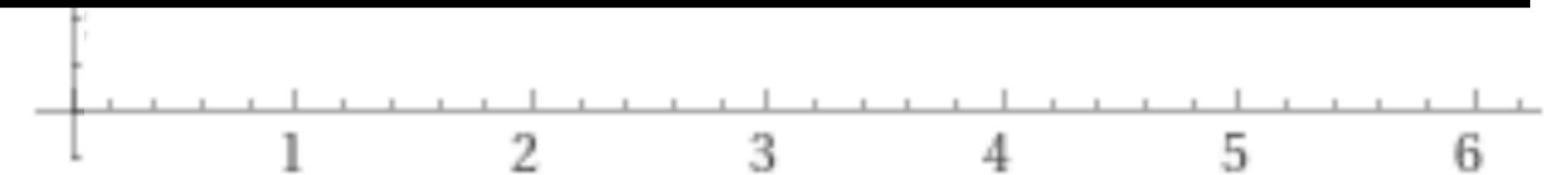
In-phase
Jet



Injecting signal in lab frame coordinates does not seem to translate to a signal in jet coordinates

My opinion: not a promising path to try to explain this signal

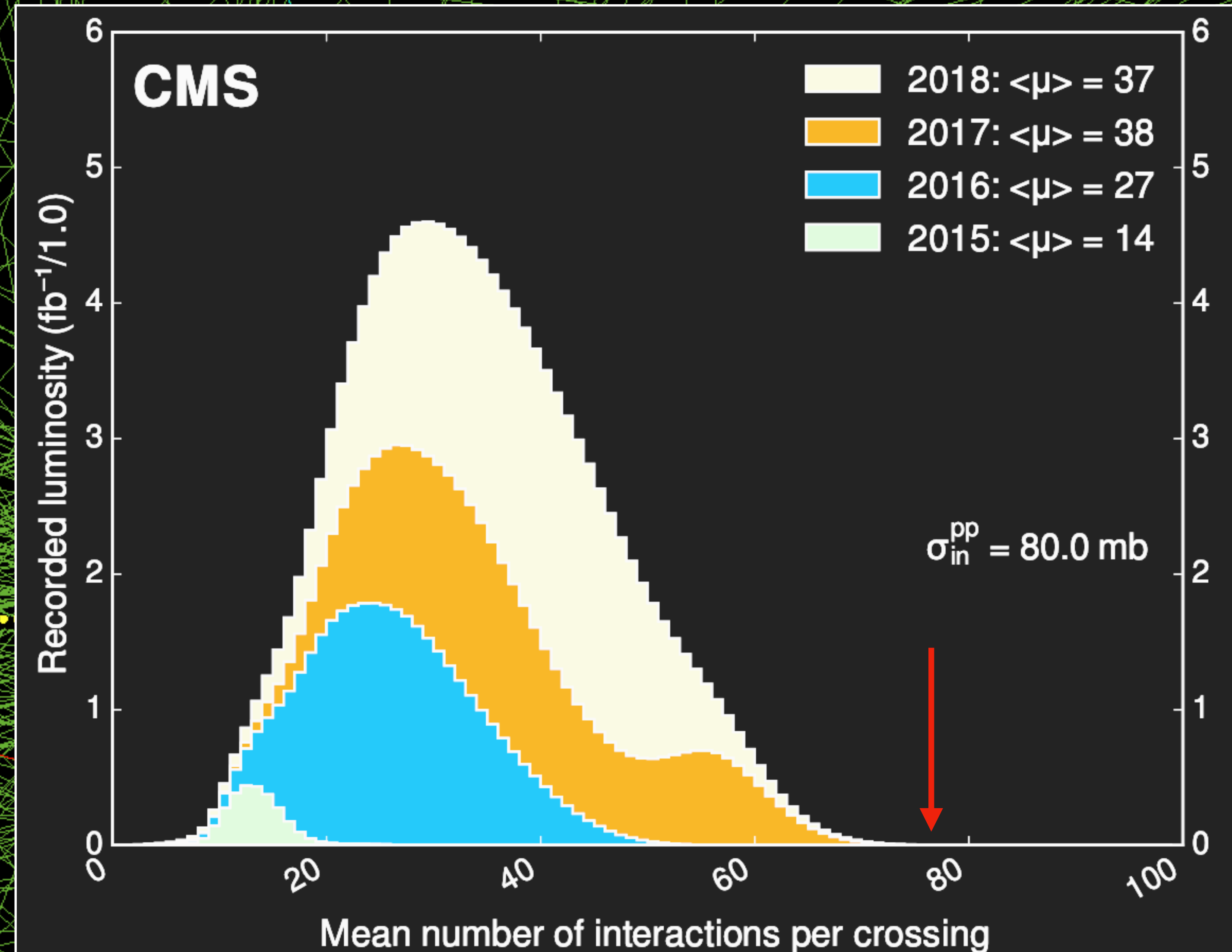
Lab frame!



- Regardless of phase between jet and UE, no significant signal in jet frame seen ϕ_{lab}
- Different UE tunes also have no effect

Pileup distribution

- Use 2016-2018 Run 2 data
- Only interested in jet events
- Must deal with pileup!



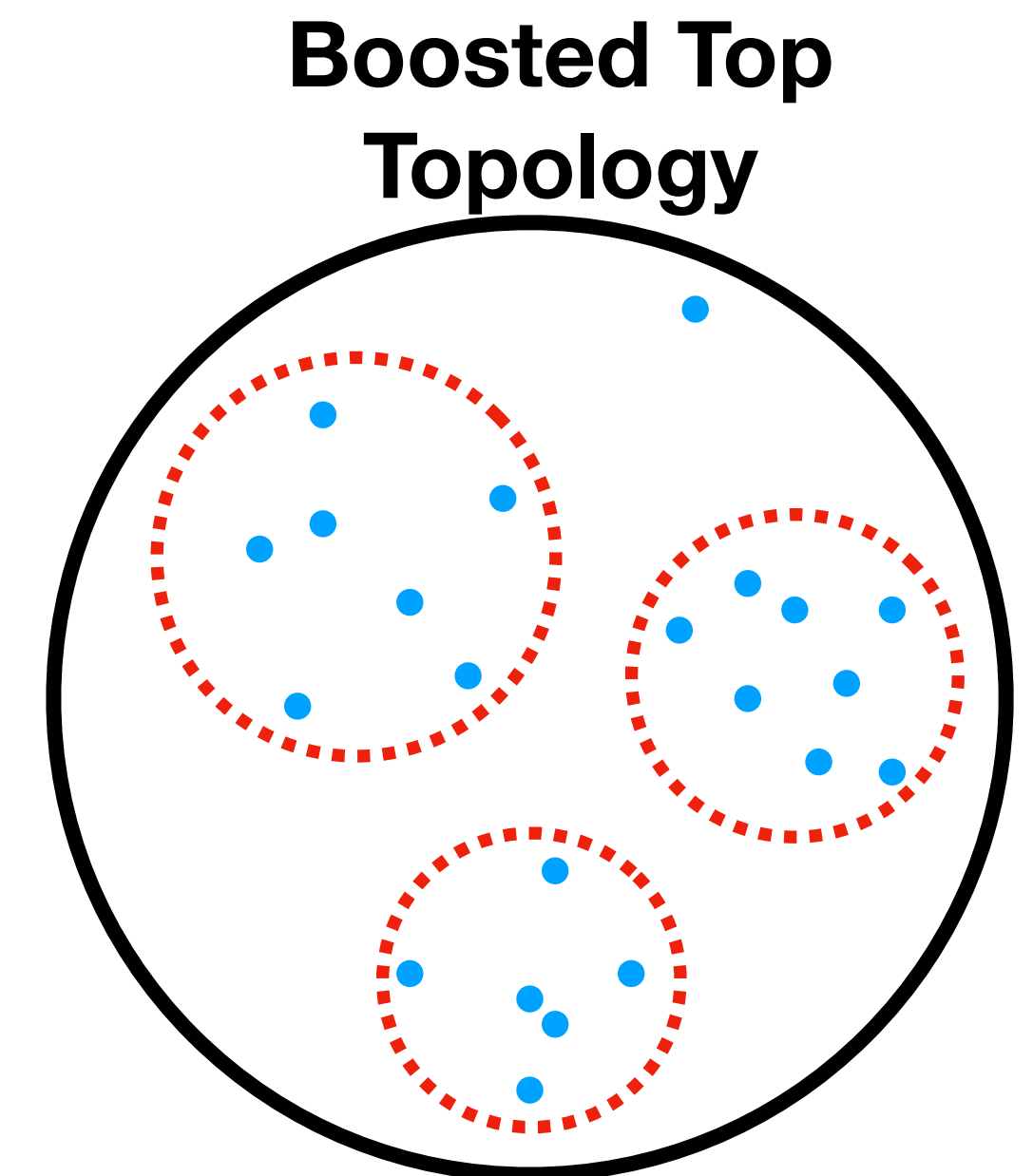
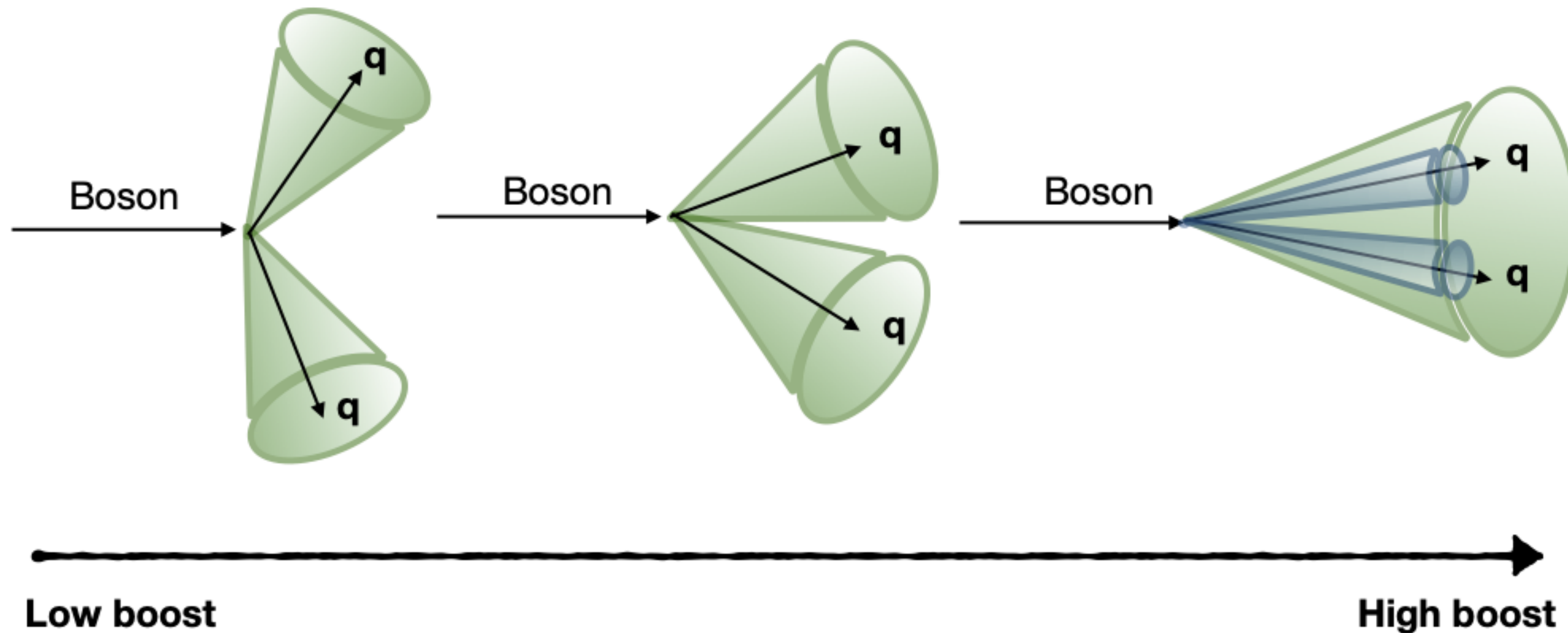
Pileup Mitigation

- **Pileup Per Particle Identification (PUPPI) subtraction**
 - Use track/vertex info to remove obvious pileup tracks
 - Ambiguous tracks weighted by probability of being signal
 - Included in analysis (negligible effect)
 - Similar weighting for neutral particles



Signal vertex

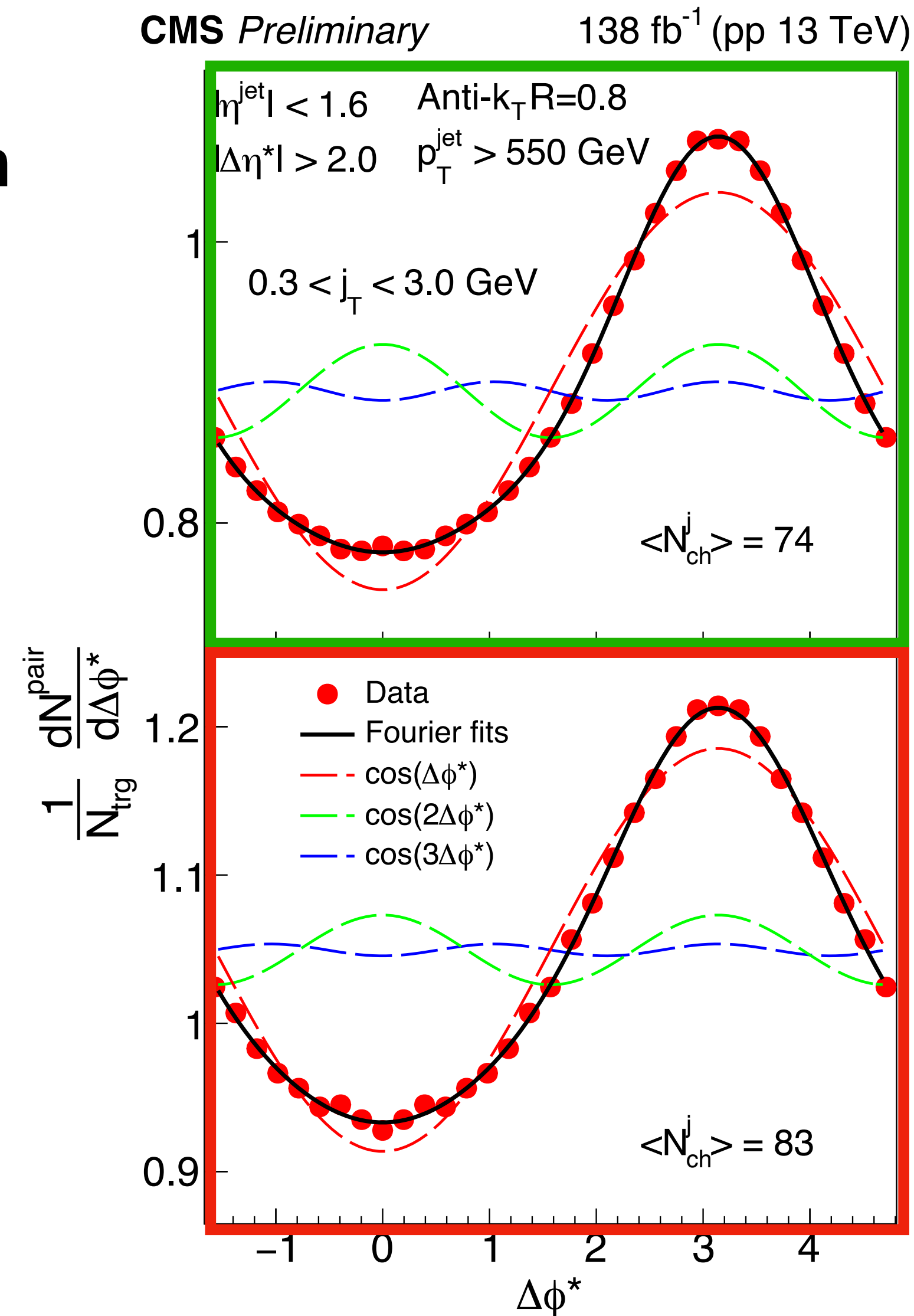
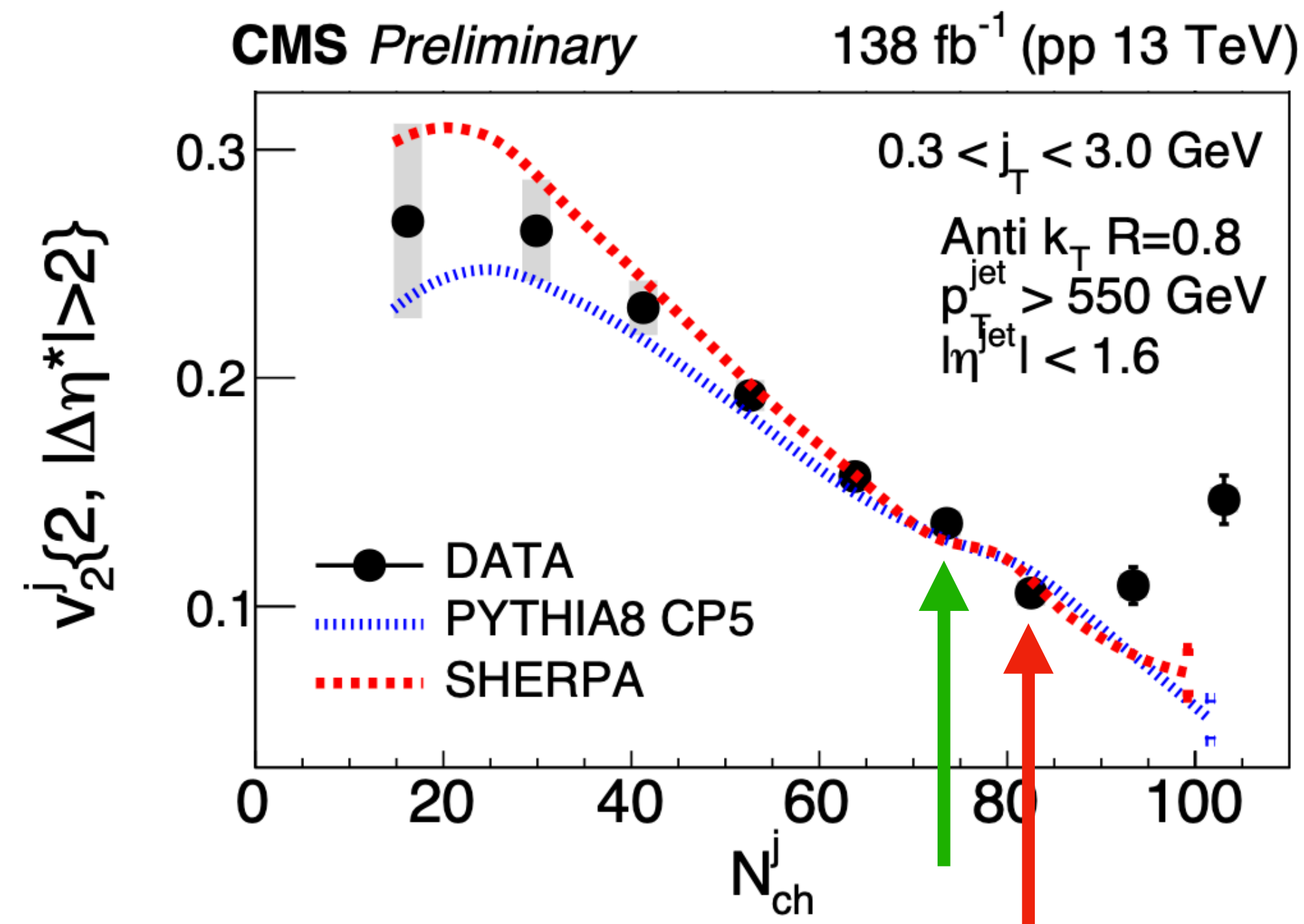
Boosted Topologies



- Checks of groomed W mass indicate W 's are not origin of signal

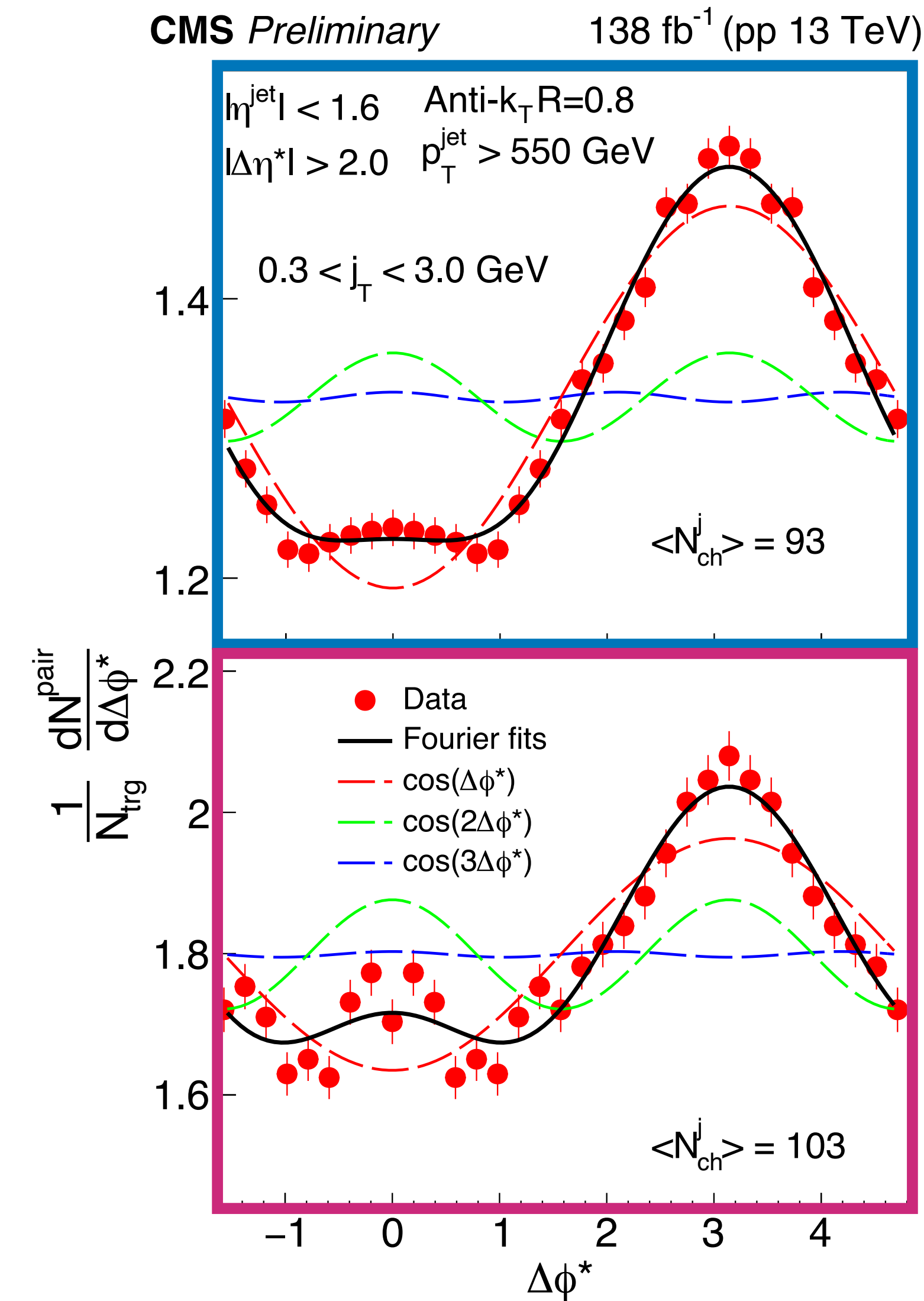
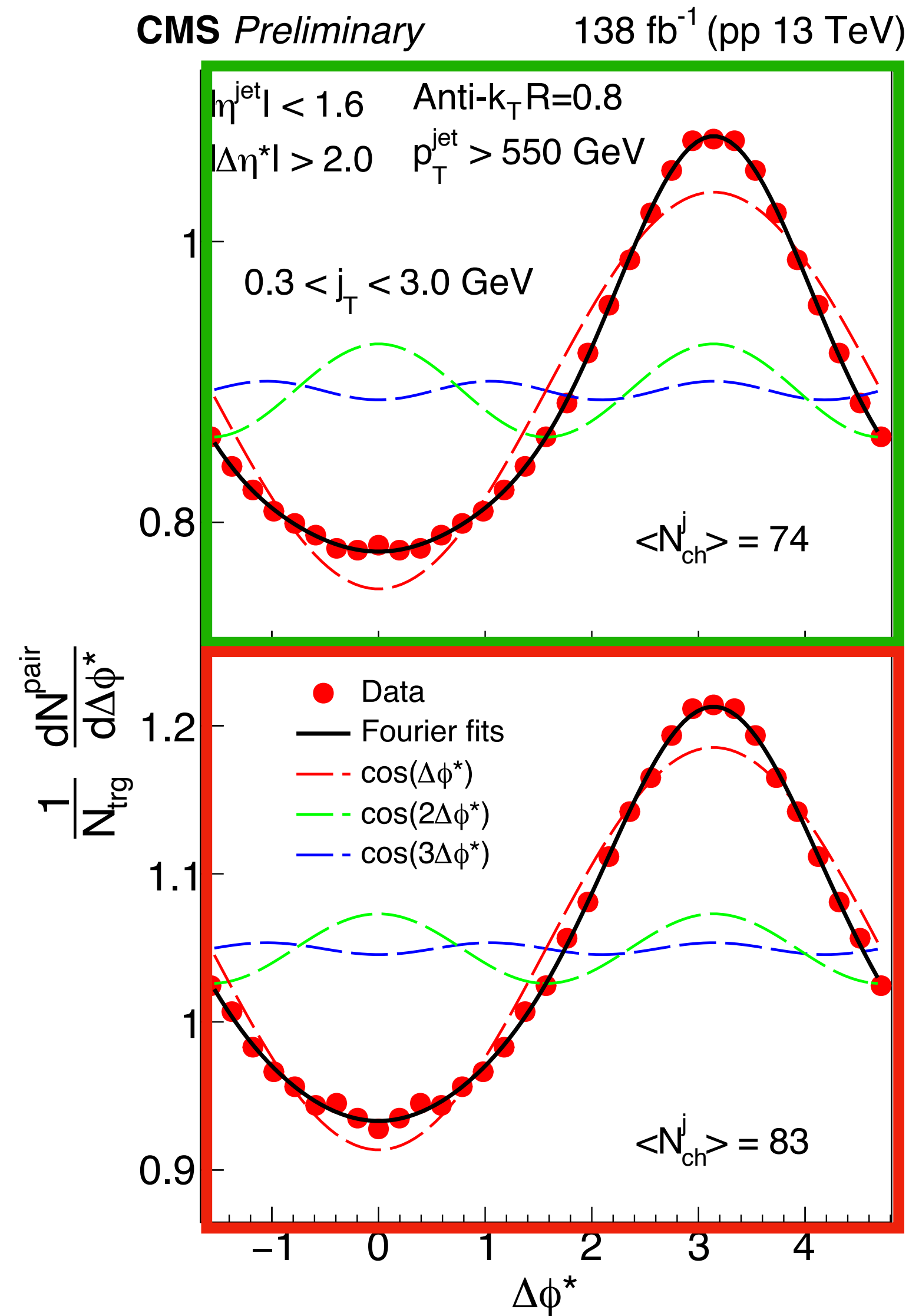
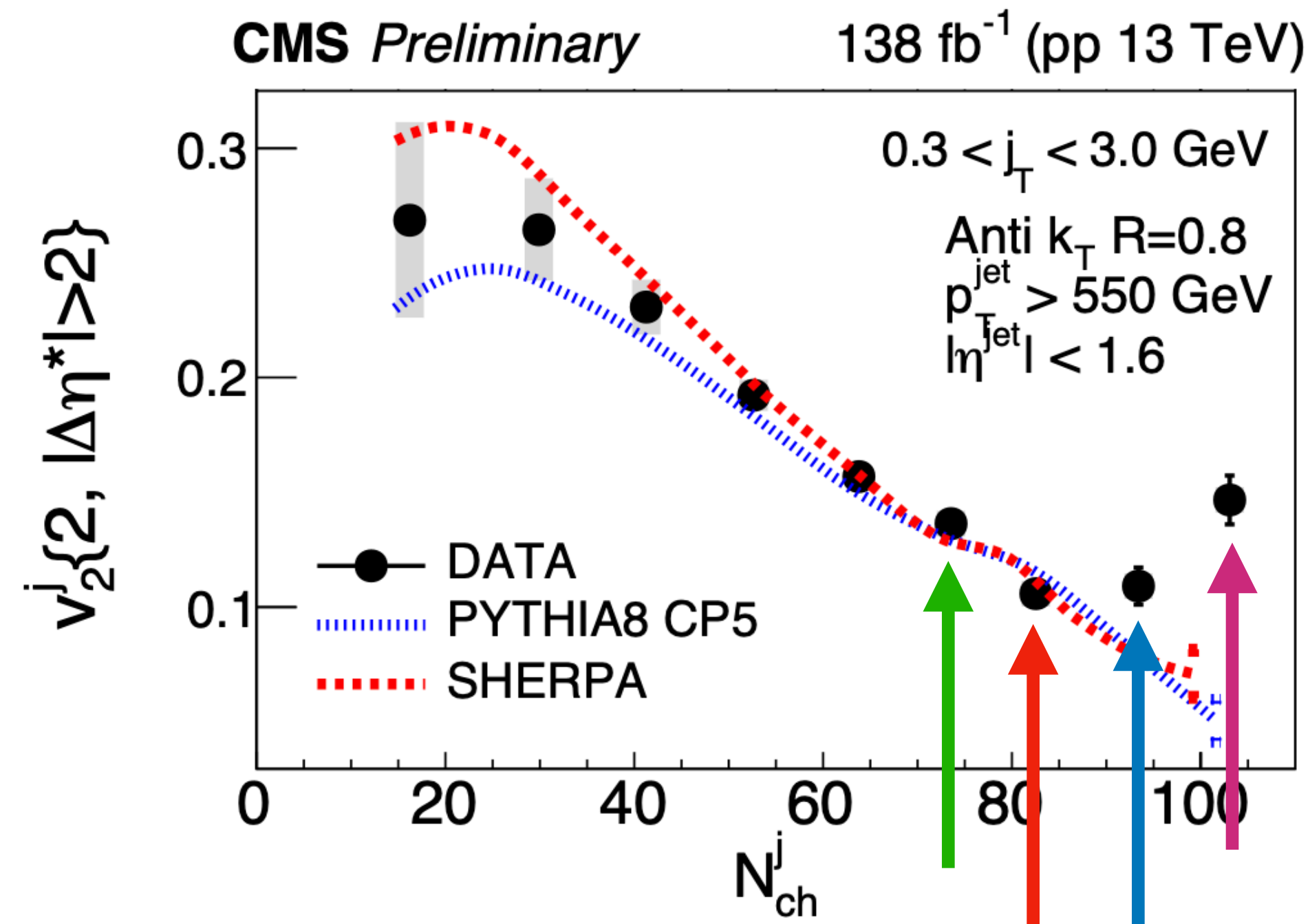
Closer inspection of 1D correlations

- Smoothly varying 1D correlation
up to $N_{ch} \sim 85$

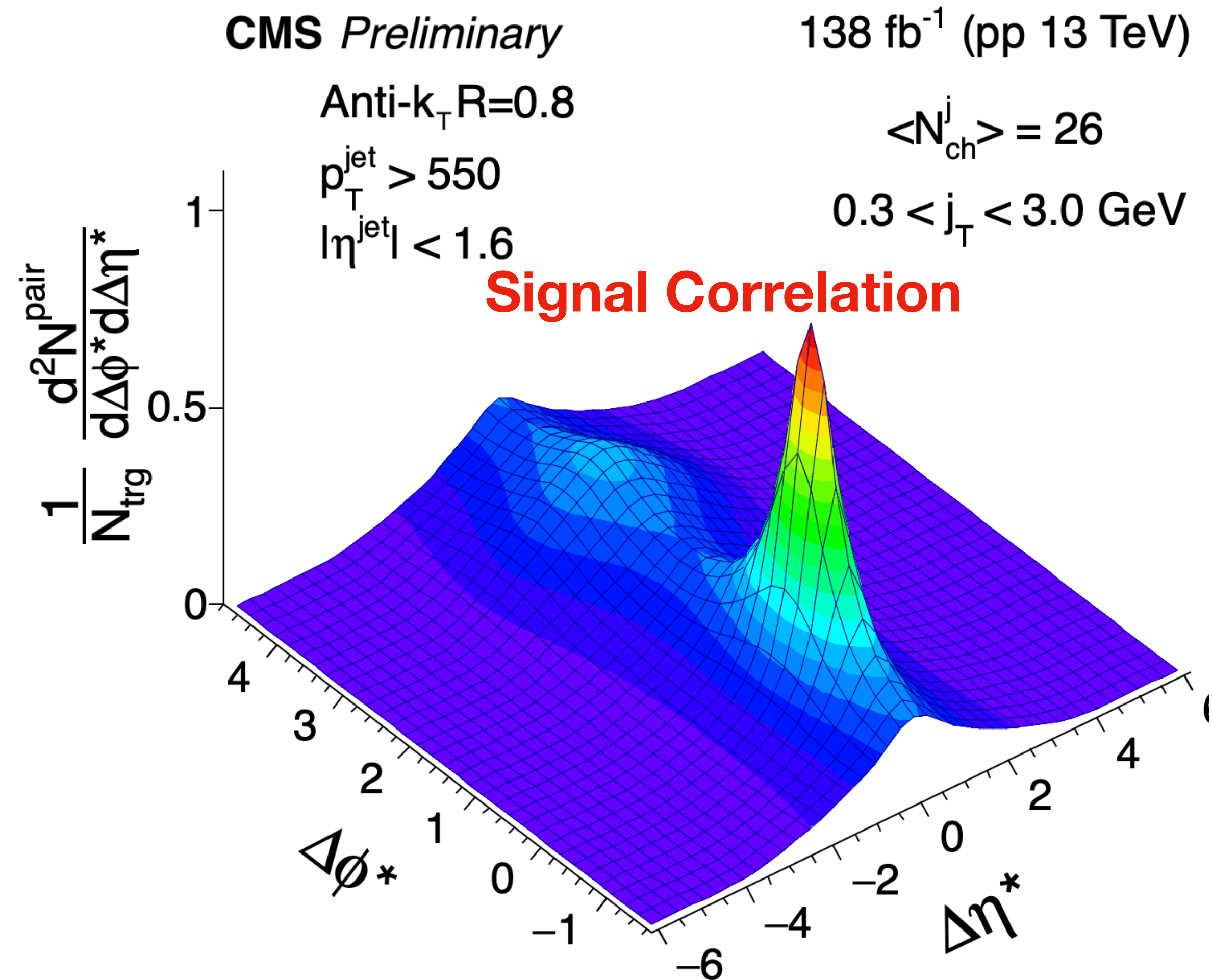


Closer inspection of 1D correlations

- **Bump around $\Delta\phi^* = 0$**
emerges around $N_{ch} > 90$
- **Hallmark behavior of ‘near side ridge’ in previous analyses**

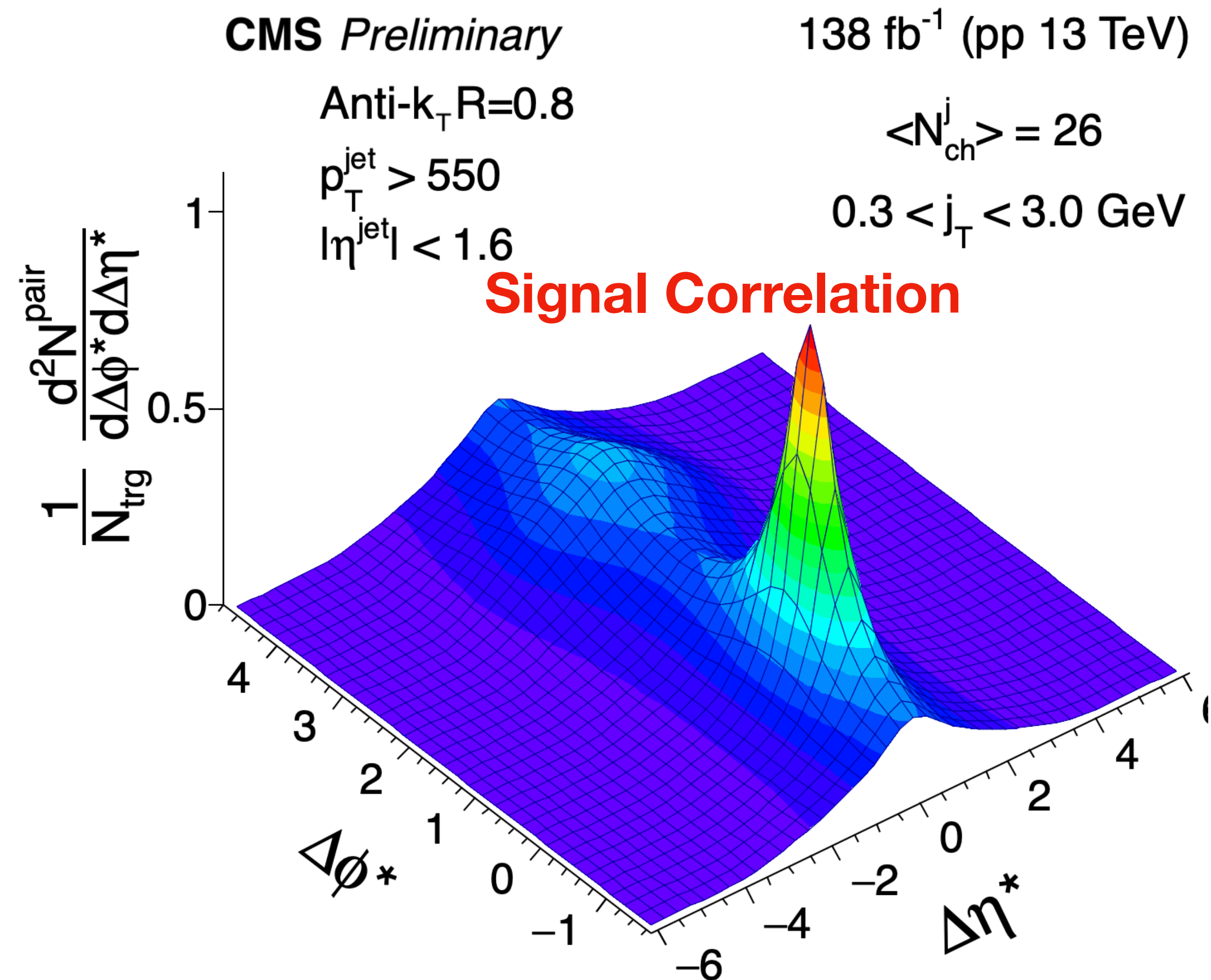


Particle pair correlations

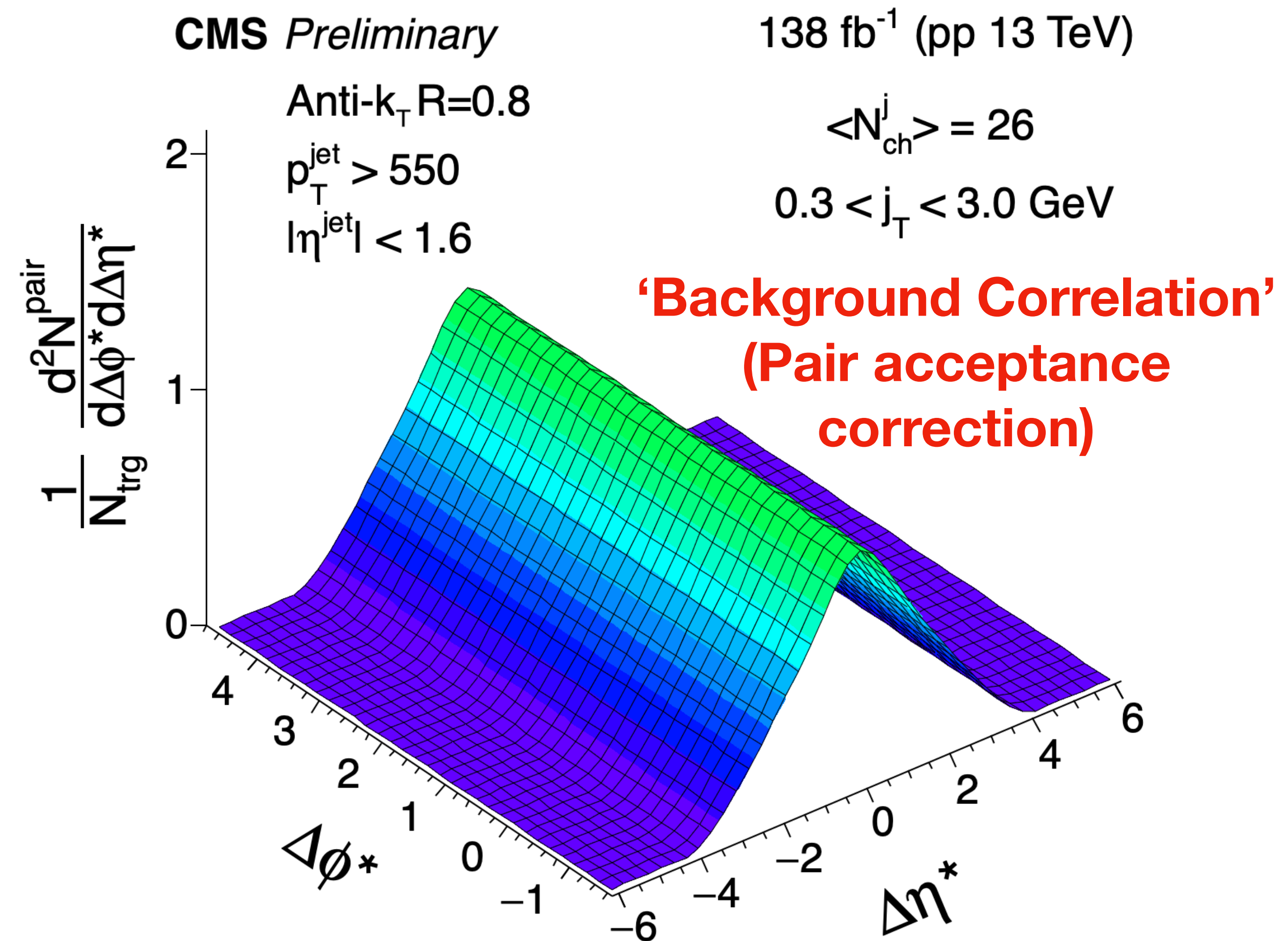


**Built from all pairs of jet constituents.
Particles not clustered into the jet ignored.**

Particle pair correlations

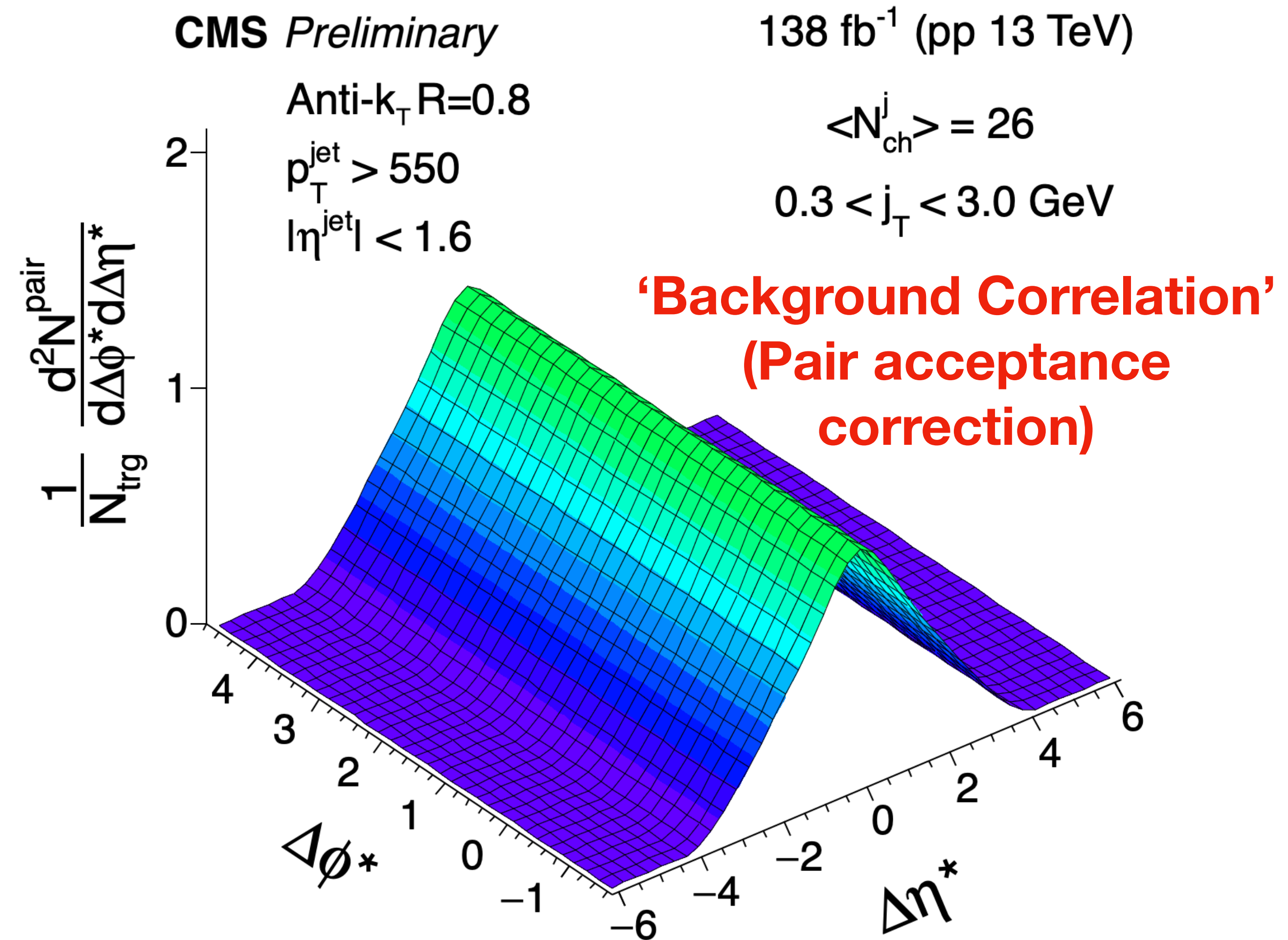
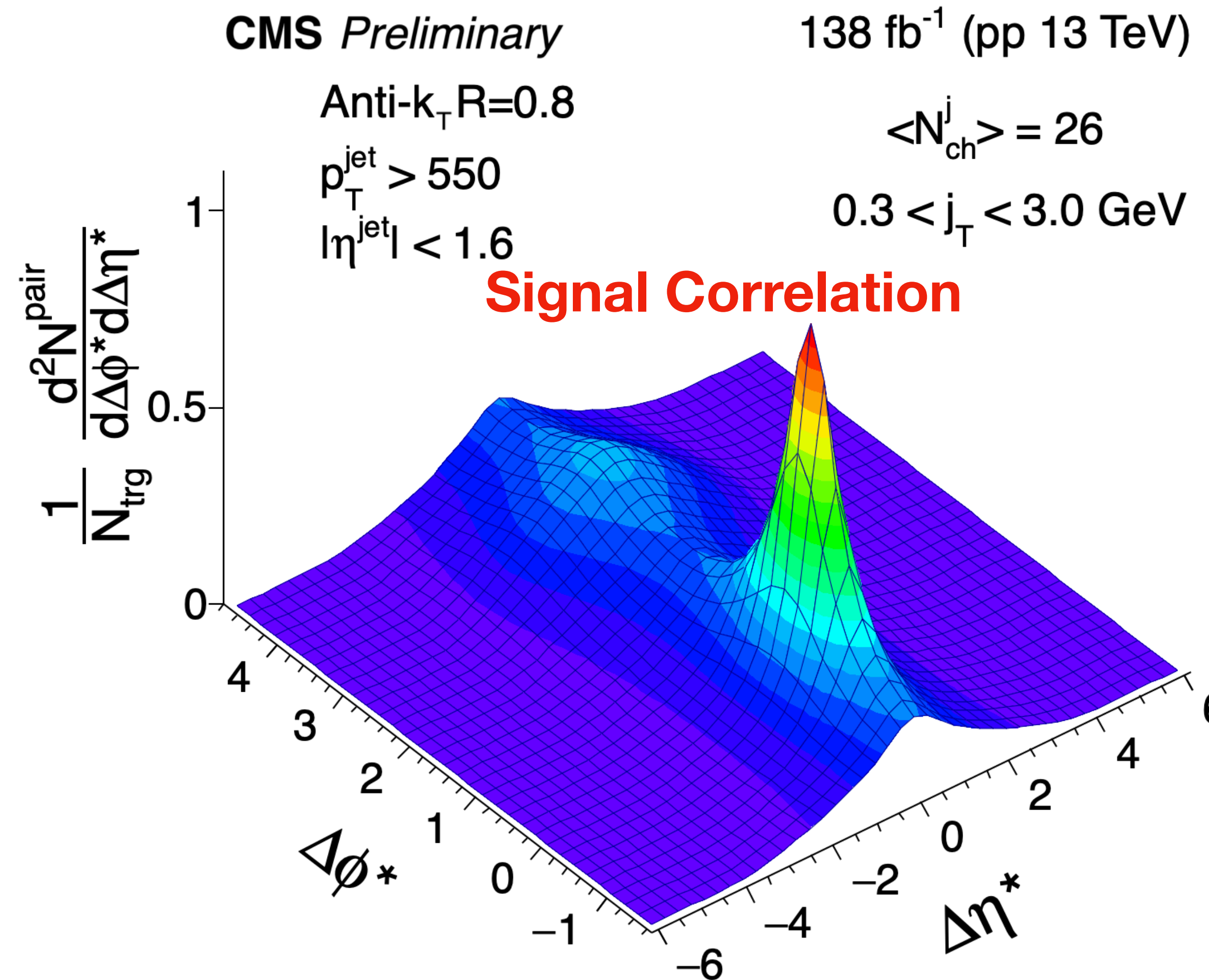


Built from all pairs of jet constituents.
 Particles not clustered into the jet ignored.



Built from random sampling
 of 1-D distributions
 (no physics correlations by construction)

Particle pair correlations



$$\frac{1}{N_{\text{ch}}^{\text{trg}}} \frac{d^2 N^{\text{pair}}}{d\Delta\eta^* d\Delta\phi^*} = B(0,0) \frac{S(\Delta\eta^*, \Delta\phi^*)}{B(\Delta\eta^*, \Delta\phi^*)}$$

2 Particle Correlation Function

CMS preliminary

138 fb⁻¹ (pp 13 TeV)

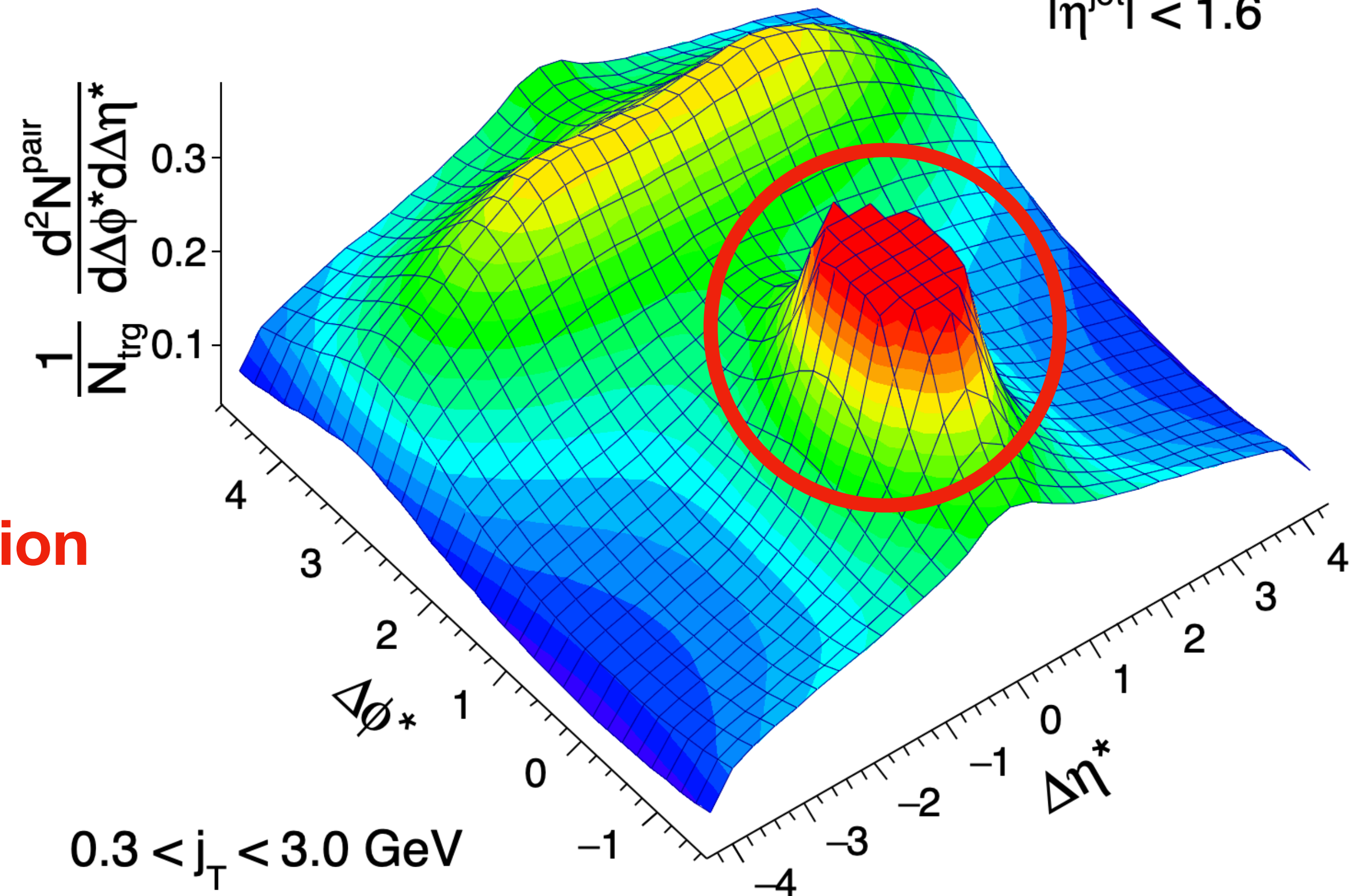
$\langle N_{\text{ch}}^j \rangle = 26$
Inclusive jets

Anti-k_t R=0.8

$p_{\text{T}}^{\text{jet}} > 550$
 $|\eta^{\text{jet}}| < 1.6$

$$\frac{1}{N_{\text{ch}}^{\text{trg}}} \frac{d^2 N^{\text{pair}}}{d\Delta\eta^* d\Delta\phi^*} = B(0,0) \frac{S(\Delta\eta^*, \Delta\phi^*)}{B(\Delta\eta^*, \Delta\phi^*)}$$

- **Similar features as lab-frame analysis!**
- **Peak at (0,0)**
- **Hadron decays, collinear fragmentation**



2 Particle Correlation Function

$$\frac{1}{N_{\text{ch}}^{\text{trg}}} \frac{d^2 N^{\text{pair}}}{d\Delta\eta^* d\Delta\phi^*} = B(0,0) \frac{S(\Delta\eta^*, \Delta\phi^*)}{B(\Delta\eta^*, \Delta\phi^*)}$$

- Similar features as lab-frame analysis!
- Peak at (0,0)
- Away-side enhancement at $\Delta\phi^* = \pi$
- Momentum conservation (back-to-back decay)

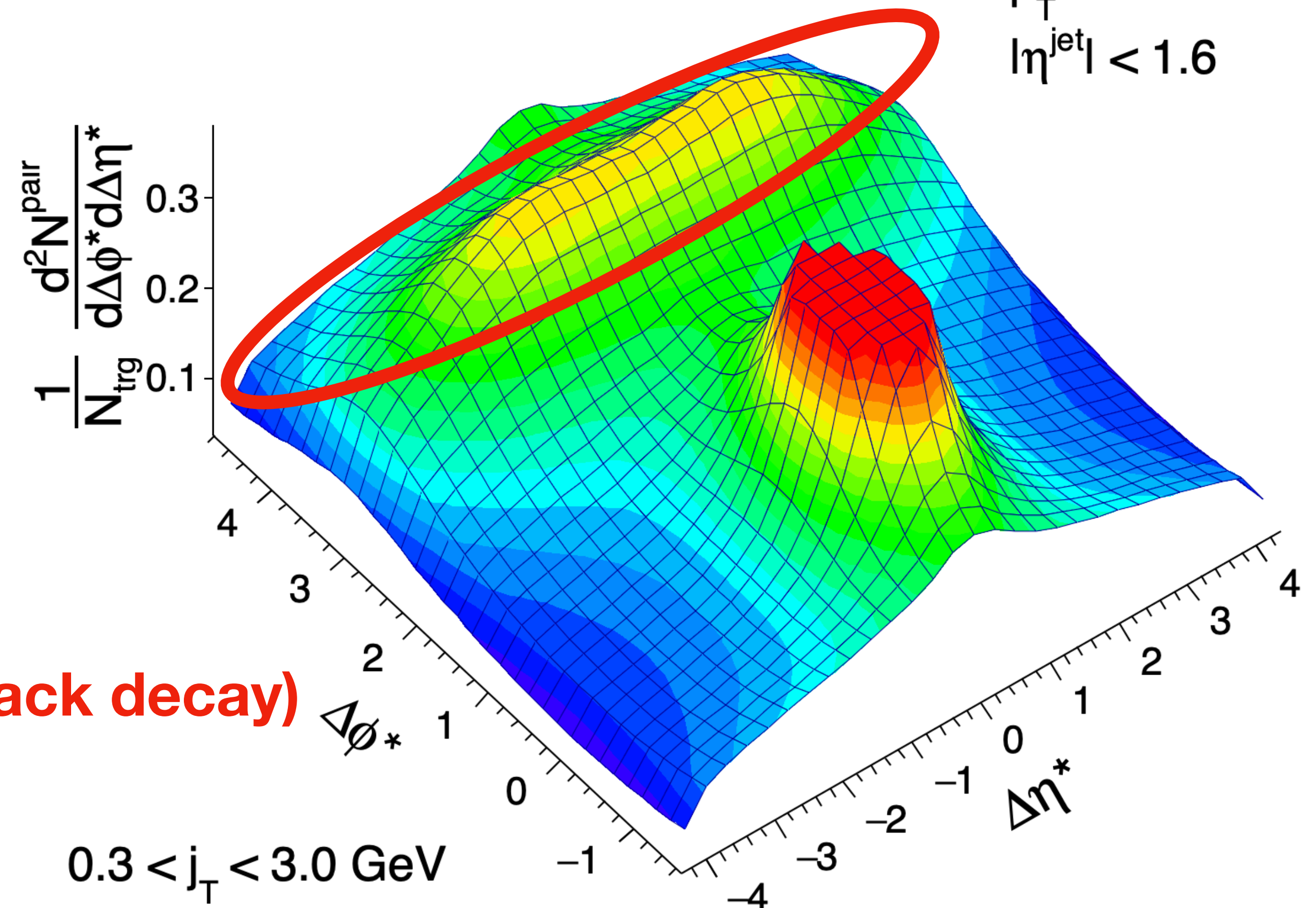
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2 Particle Correlation Function

CMS preliminary

138 fb⁻¹ (pp 13 TeV)

$$\frac{1}{N_{\text{ch}}^{\text{trg}}} \frac{d^2 N^{\text{pair}}}{d\Delta\eta^* d\Delta\phi^*} = B(0,0) \frac{S(\Delta\eta^*, \Delta\phi^*)}{B(\Delta\eta^*, \Delta\phi^*)}$$

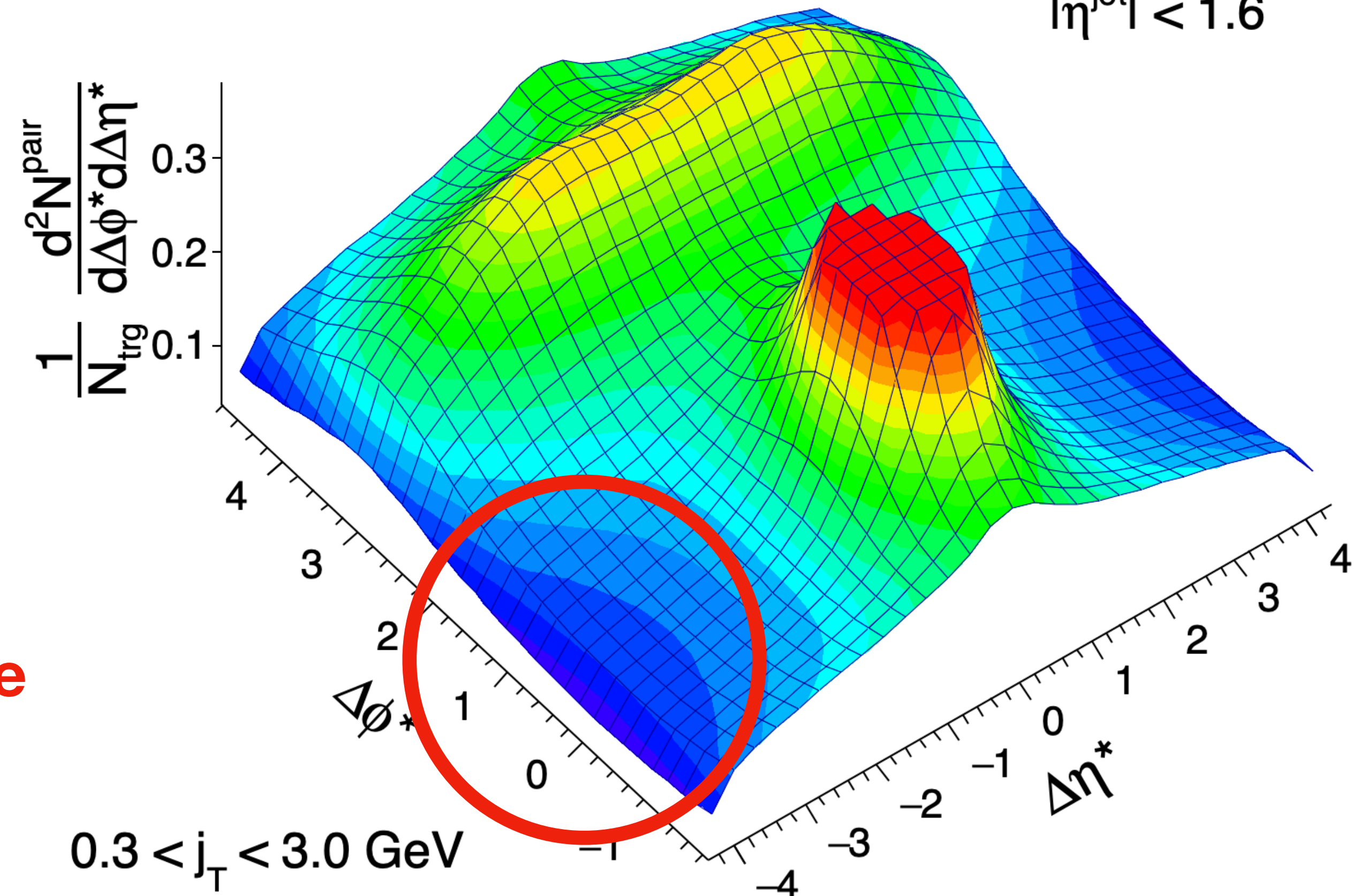
$\langle N_{\text{ch}}^j \rangle = 26$
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- Similar features as lab-frame analysis!
- Peak at (0,0)
- Away-side enhancement at $\Delta\phi^* = \pi$
- No near-side ridge for inclusive sample



2 Particle Correlation Function

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CMS preliminary

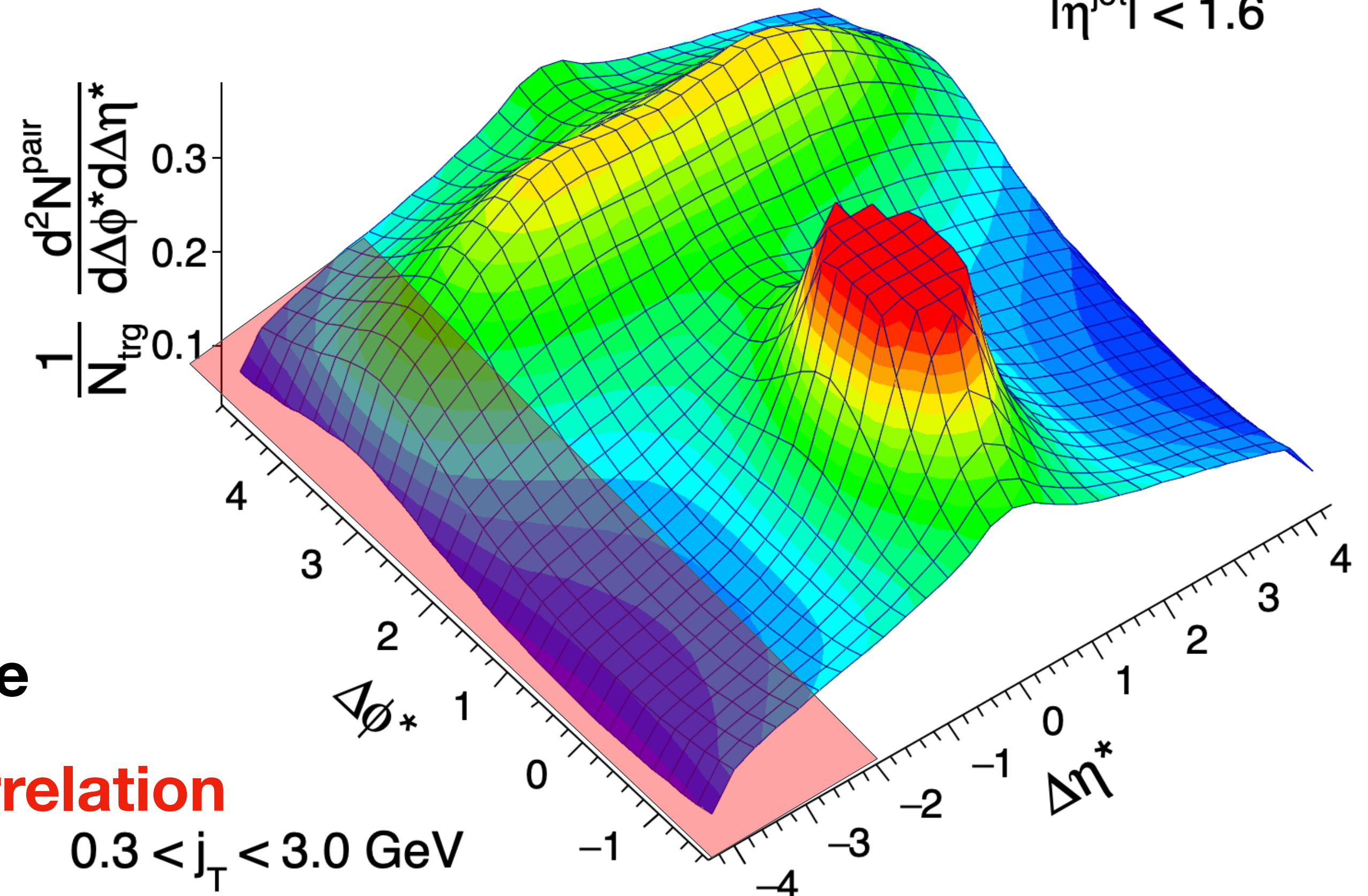
138 fb⁻¹ (pp 13 TeV)

$\langle N_{\text{ch}}^j \rangle = 26$
Inclusive jets

Anti-k_t R=0.8

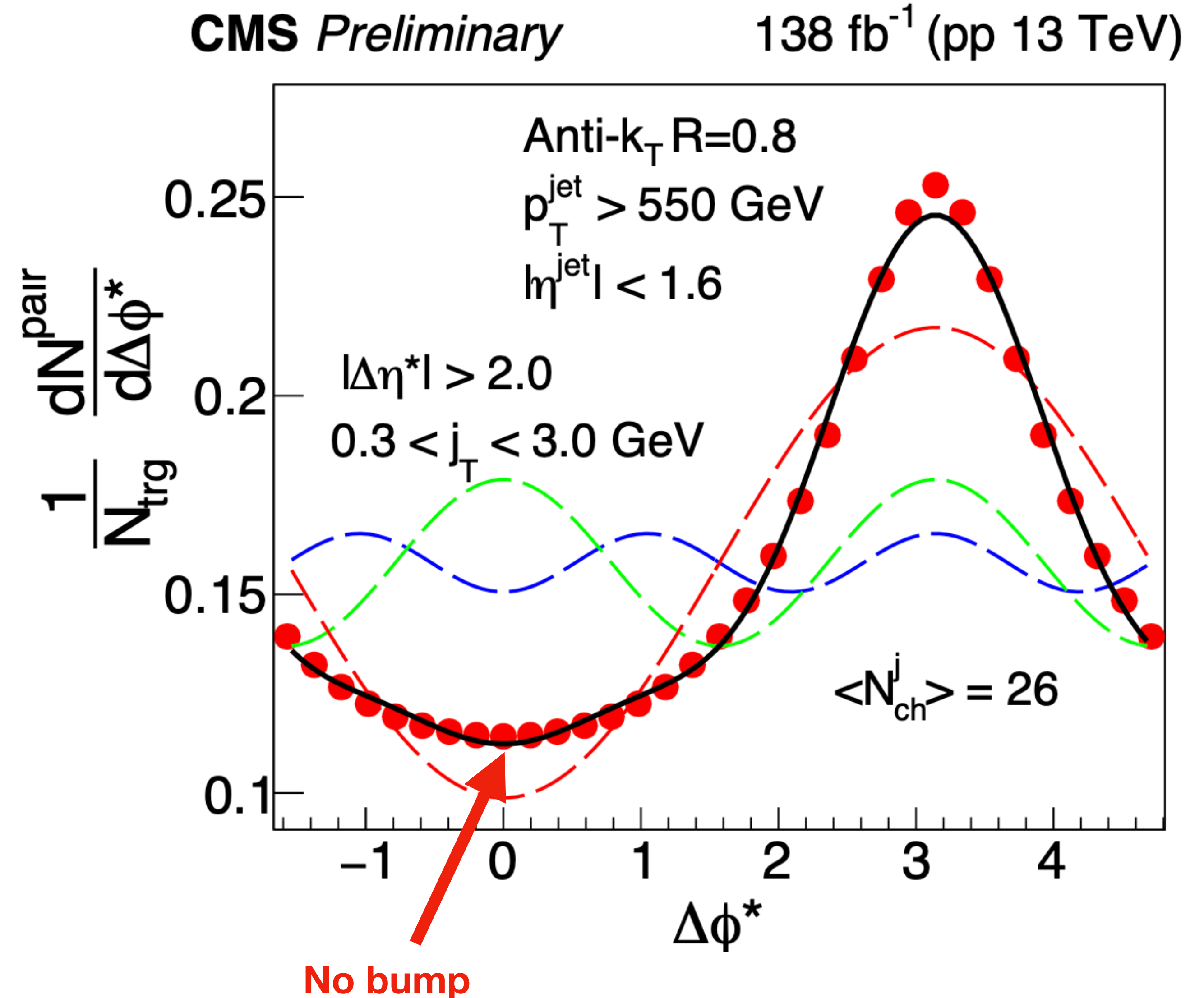
$p_{\text{T}}^{\text{jet}} > 550$
 $|\eta^{\text{jet}}| < 1.6$

- **Similar features as lab-frame analysis!**
- **Peak at (0,0)**
- **Away-side enhancement at $\Delta\phi^* = \pi$**
- **No near-side ridge for inclusive sample**
- **Project long-range portion into 1D correlation**



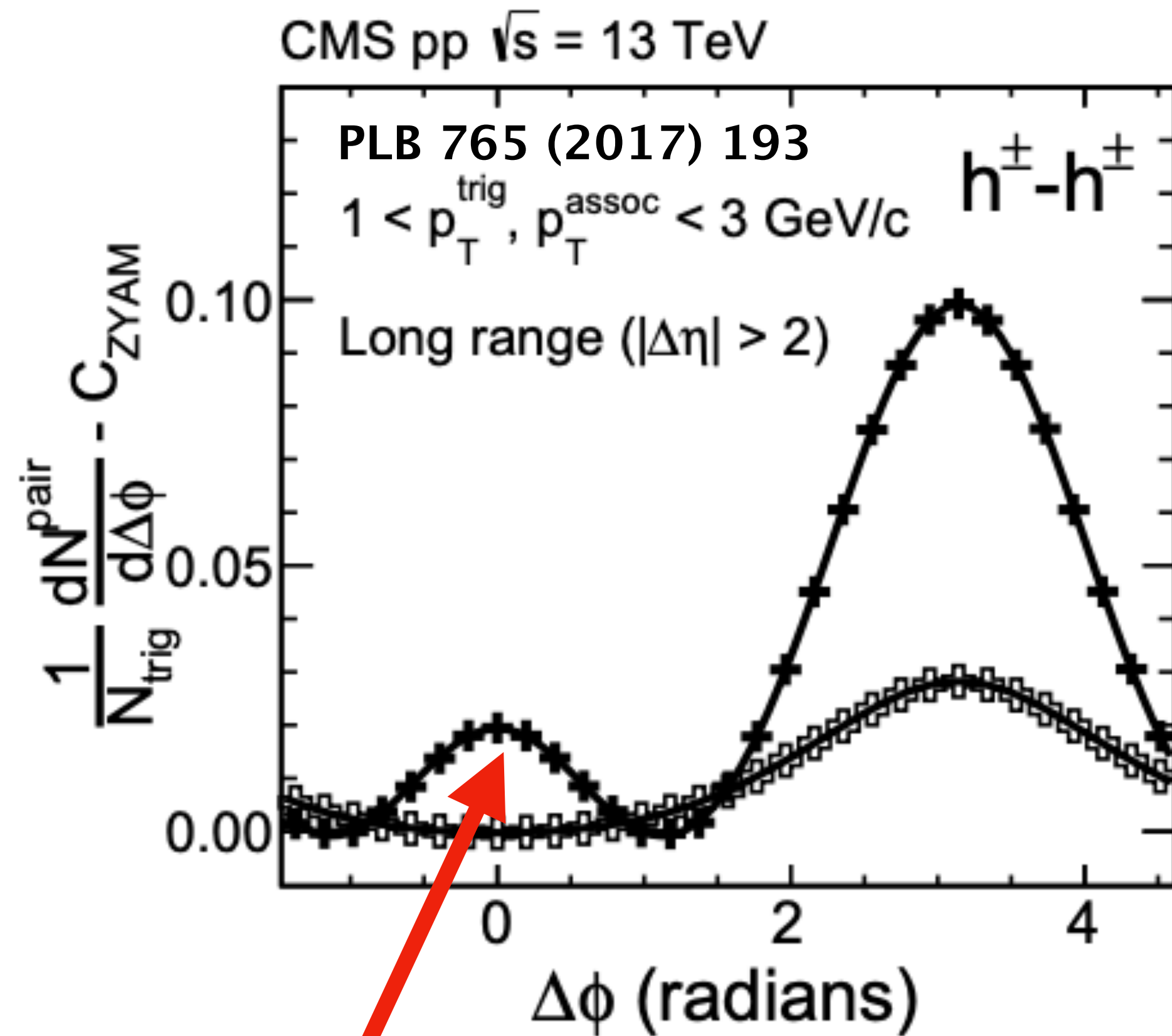
1D Correlation Function

- Data from $[0, \pi]$ range symmetrize
- Look for a bump around $\Delta\phi^* = 0$



1D Correlation Function

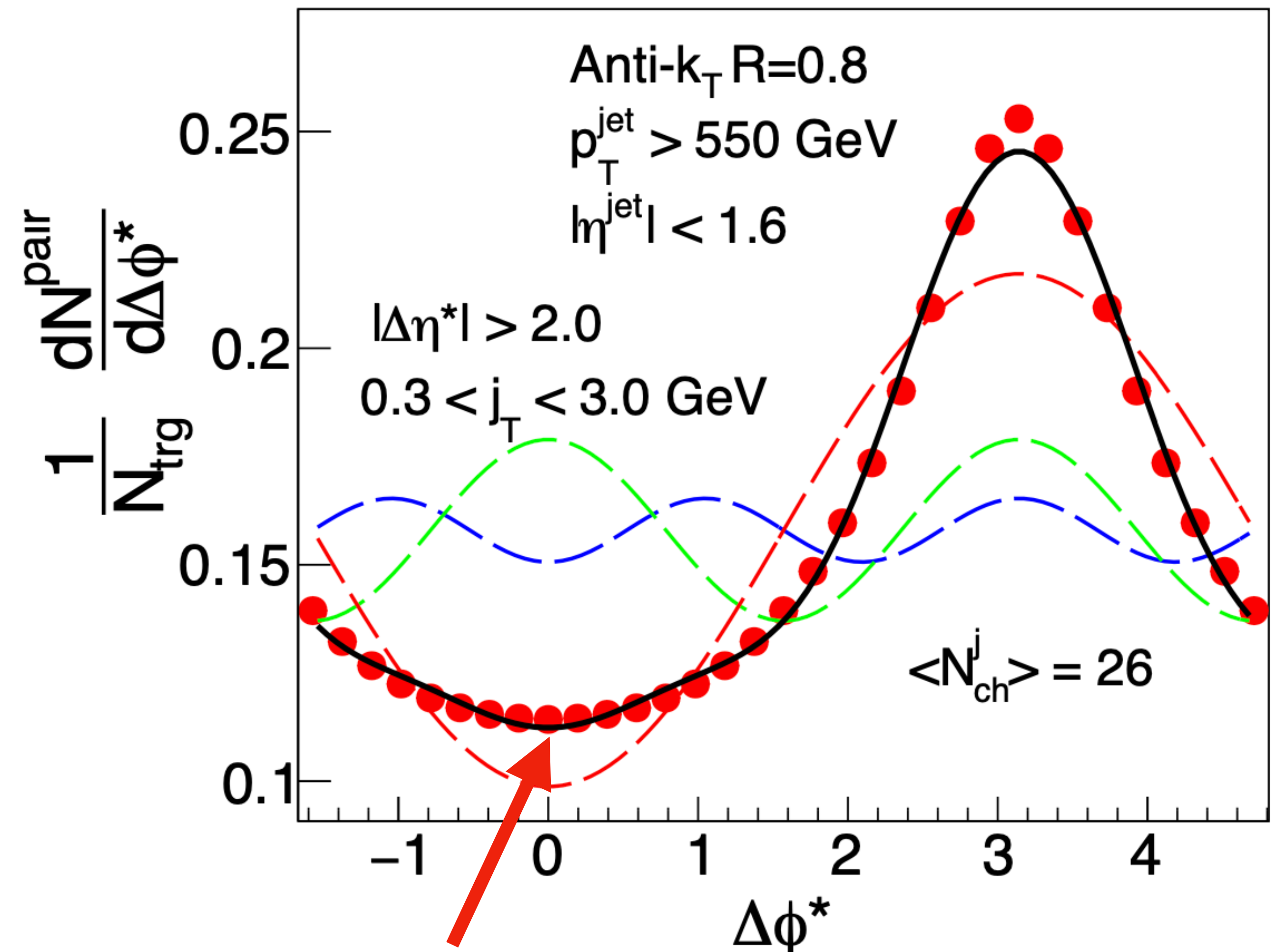
- Data from $[0, \pi]$ range symmetrize
- Look for a bump around $\Delta\phi^* = 0$



Example of a 'ridge' bump in high-multiplicity pp events (not jets)

CMS Preliminary

138 fb⁻¹ (pp 13 TeV)

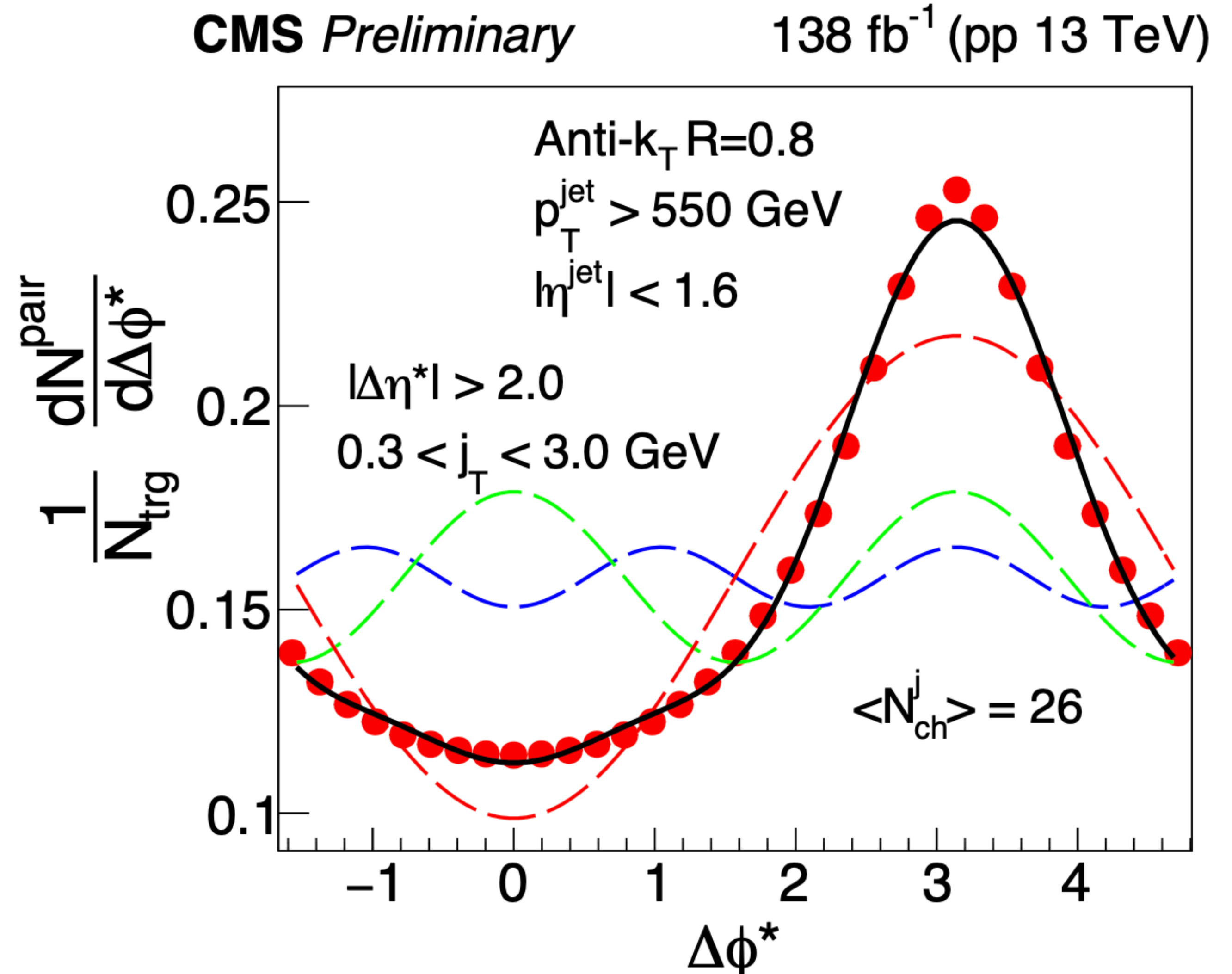


No bump

Fourier Fits

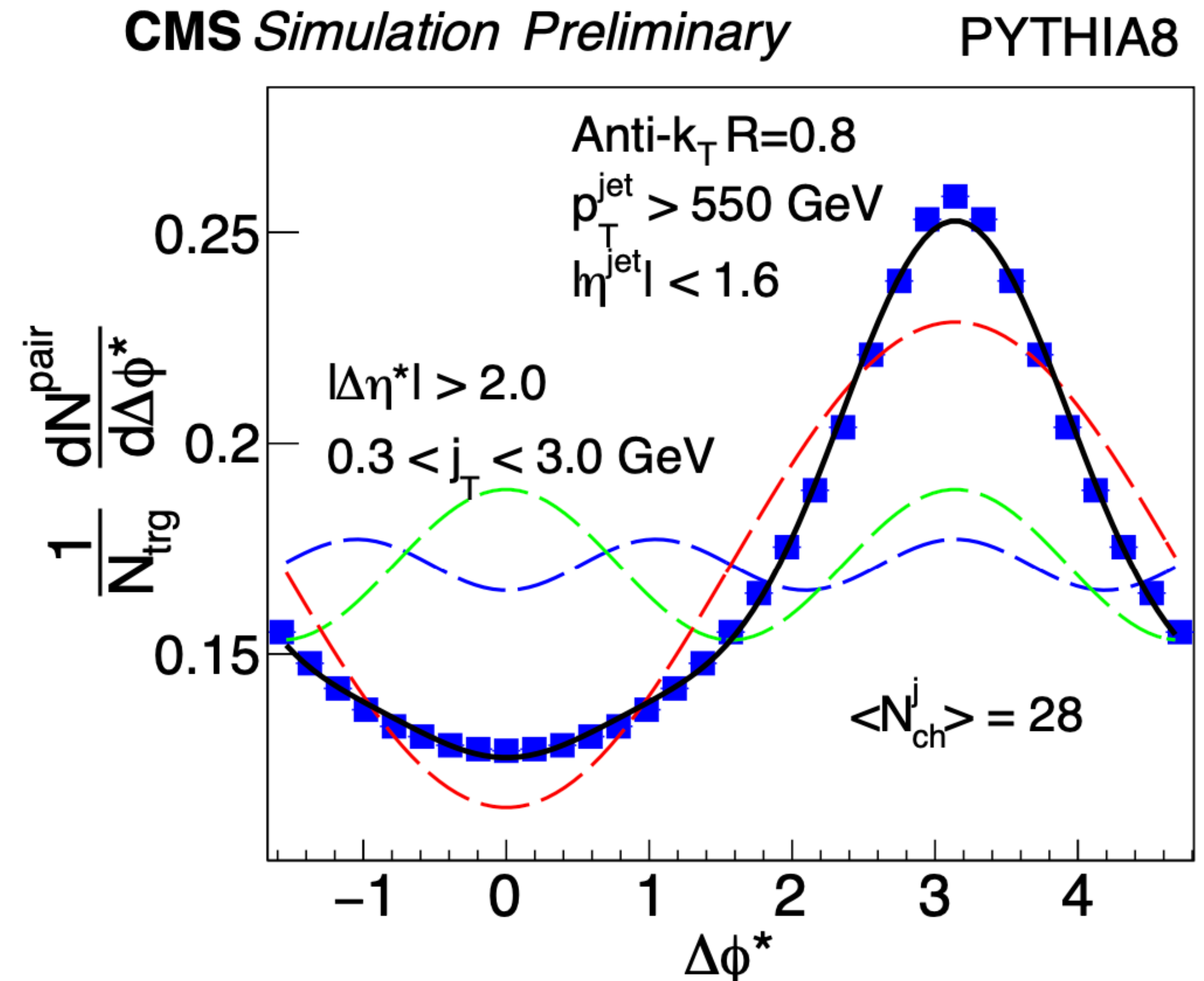
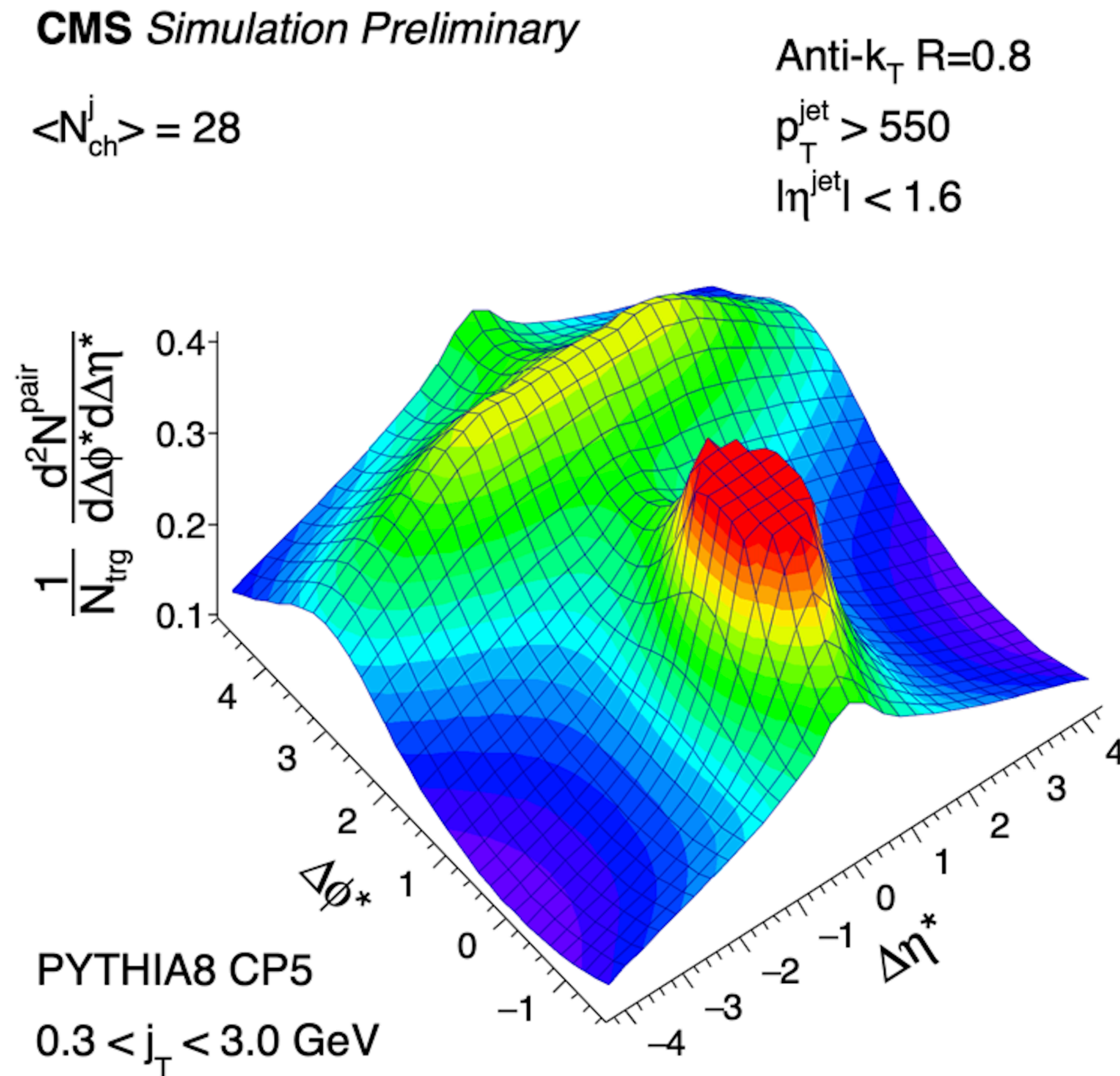
- Fourier fit to 1D correlation function
- Coefficients $V_{n\Delta}$ are free parameters
- Can be nonzero even with no bump
- Will come back at the end of talk!

$$\frac{1}{N_{\text{ch}}^j} \frac{dN^{\text{pair}}}{d\Delta\phi^*} \propto \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \boxed{V_{n\Delta}} \cos(n\Delta\phi^*)$$



Pythia 8 Correlation

- String hadronization model



Overall features of low-multiplicity correlation captured by MC models

Sherpa Correlation

- Cluster hadronization model

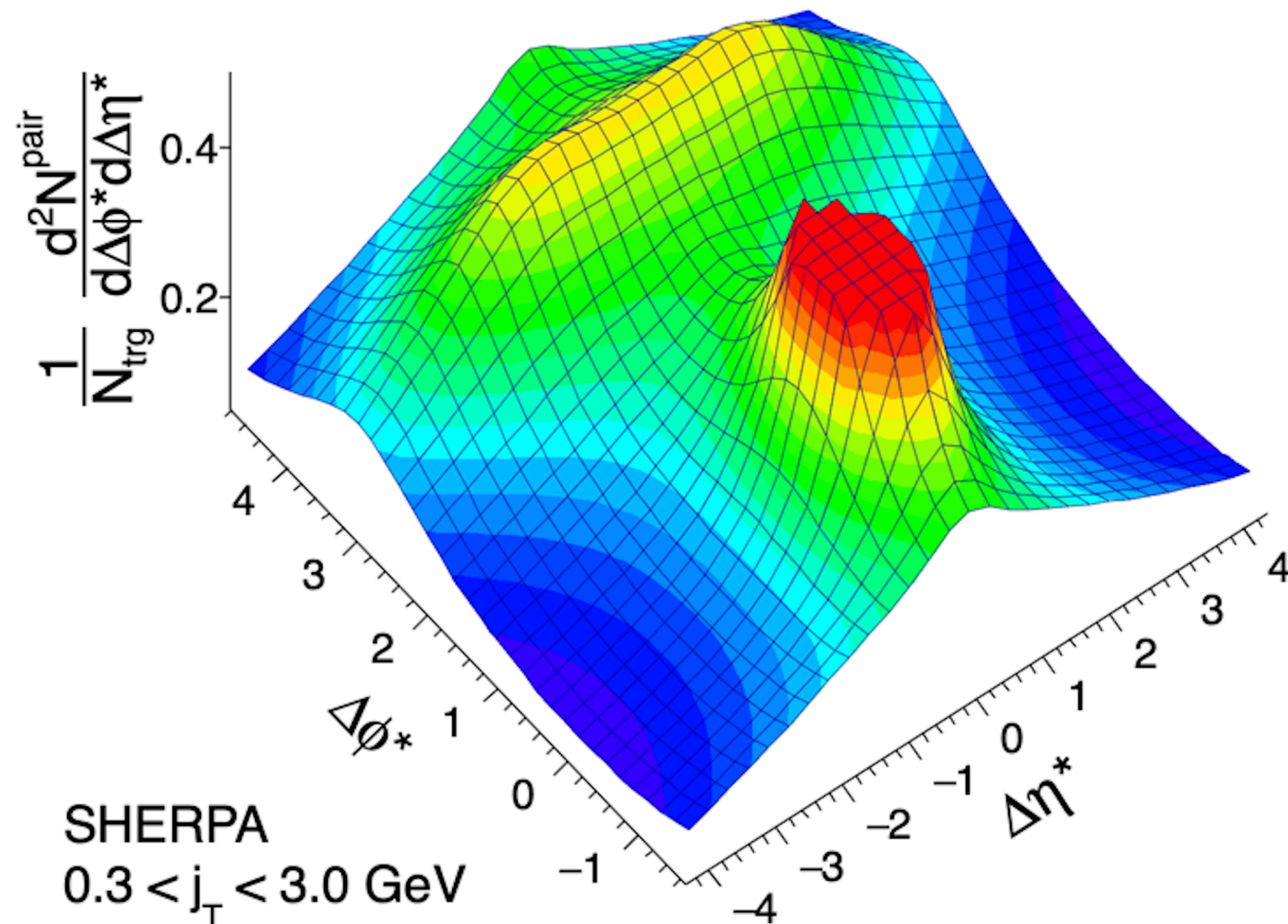
CMS Simulation Preliminary

$$\langle N_{\text{ch}}^j \rangle = 31$$

Anti- k_T $R=0.8$

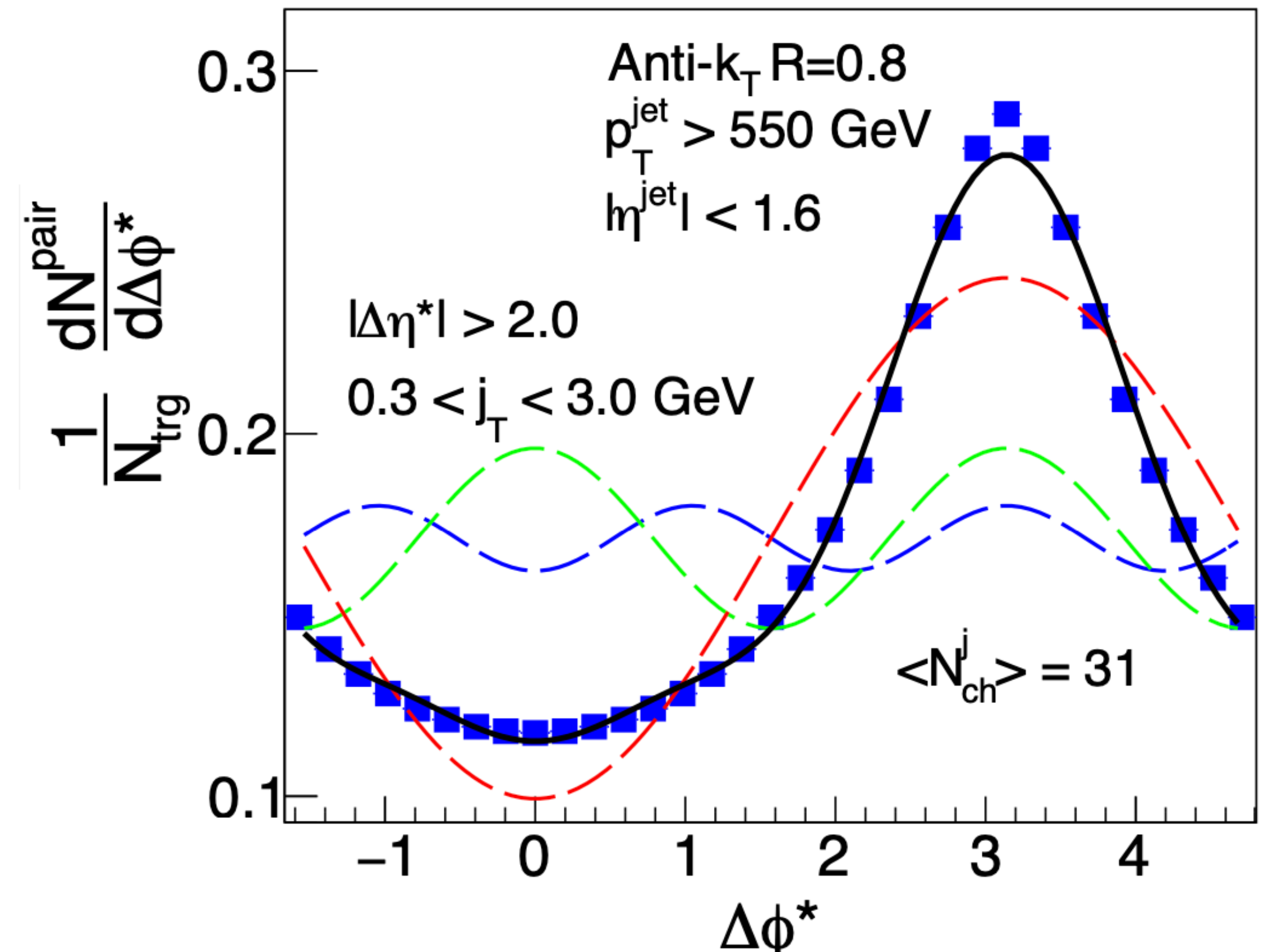
$$p_T^{\text{jet}} > 550$$

$$|\eta^{\text{jet}}| < 1.6$$



CMS Simulation Preliminary

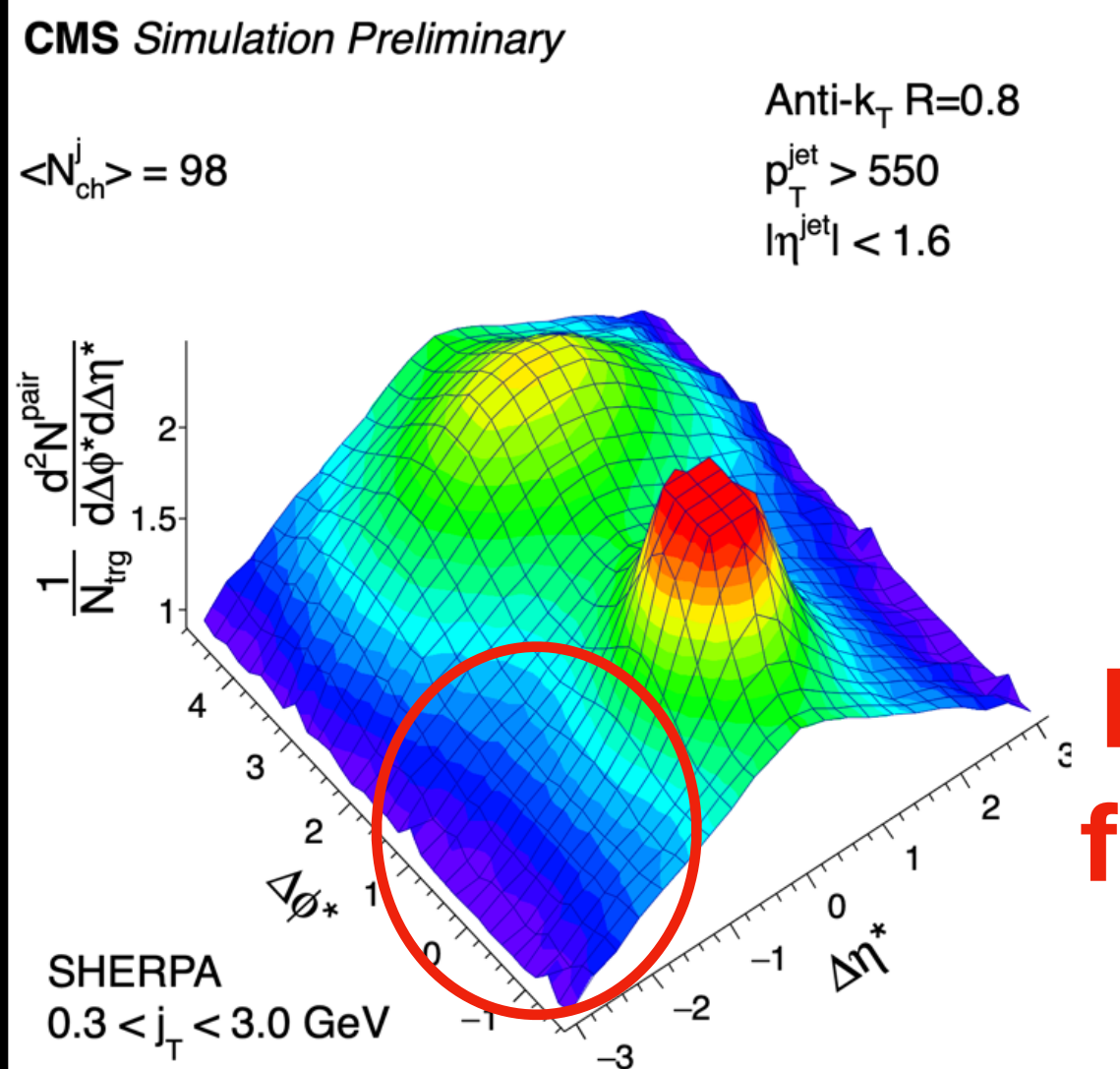
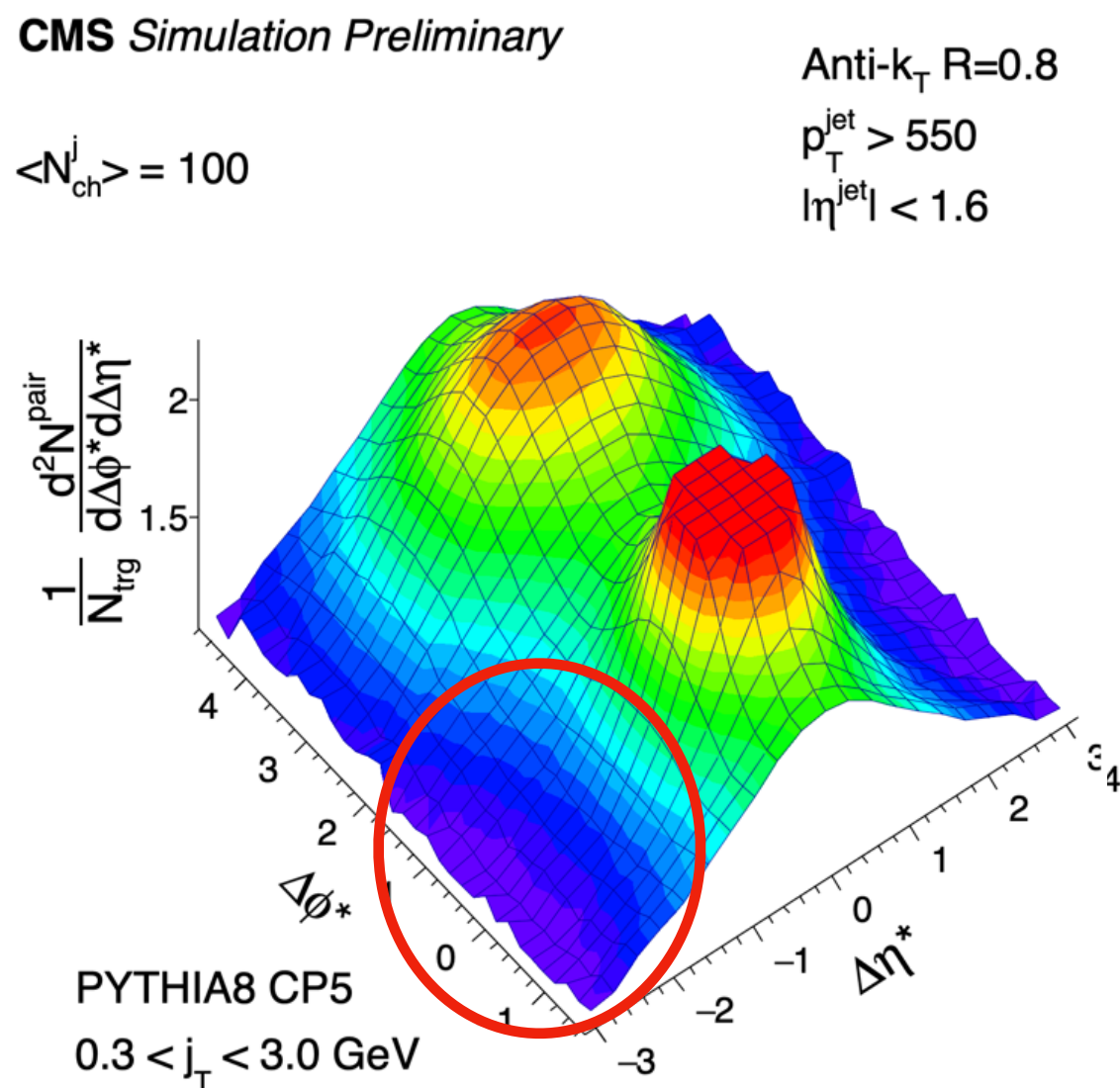
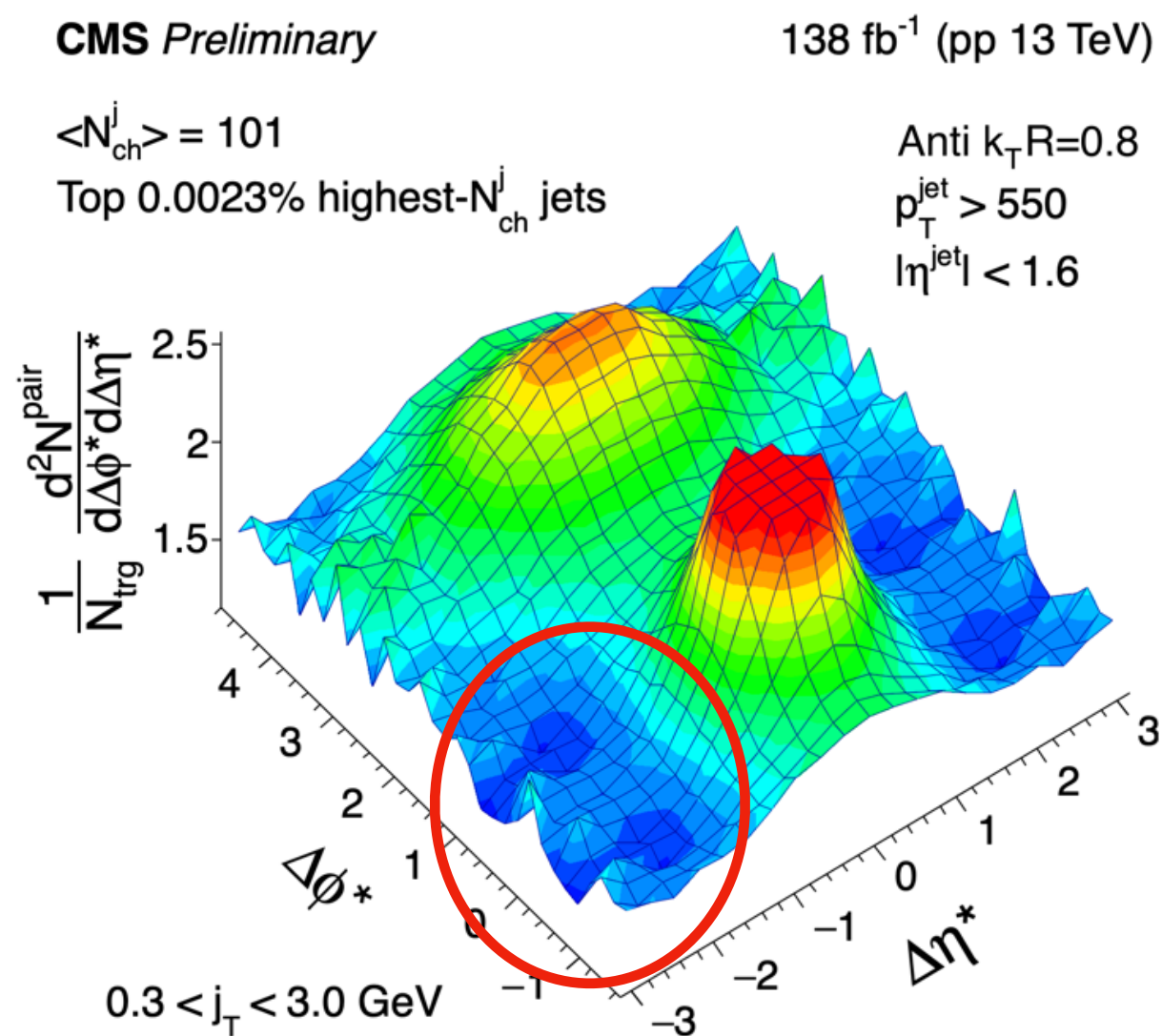
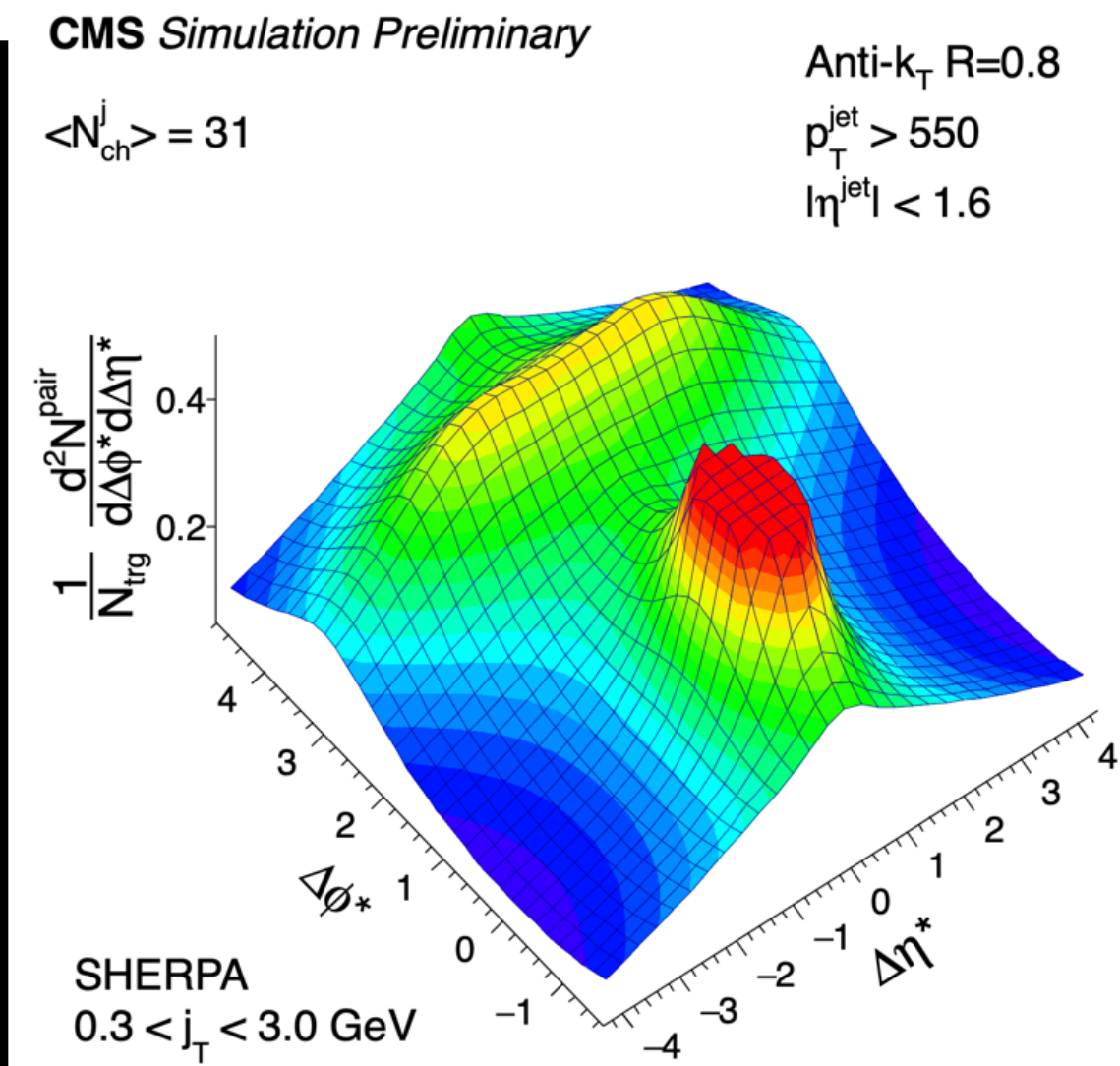
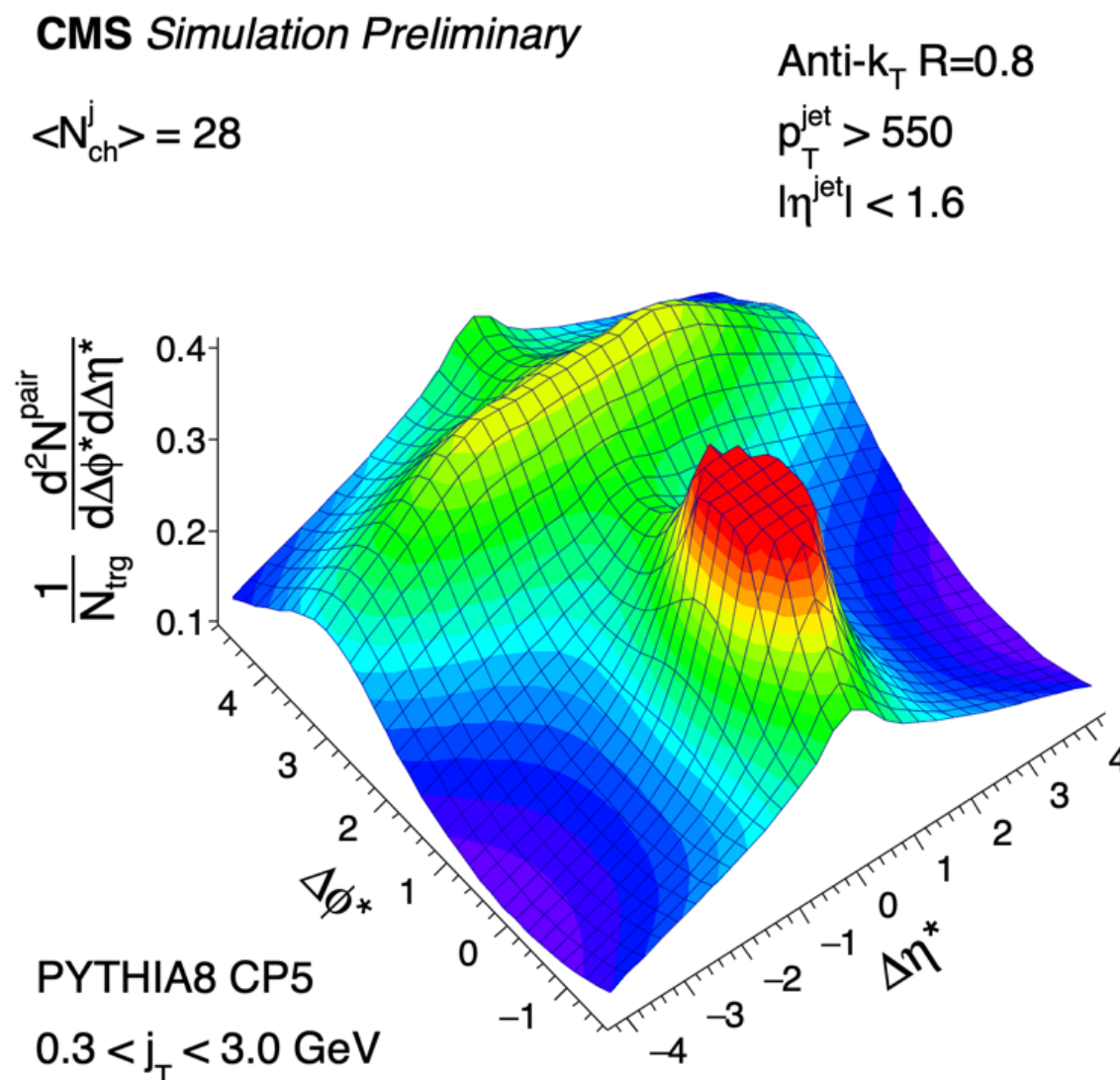
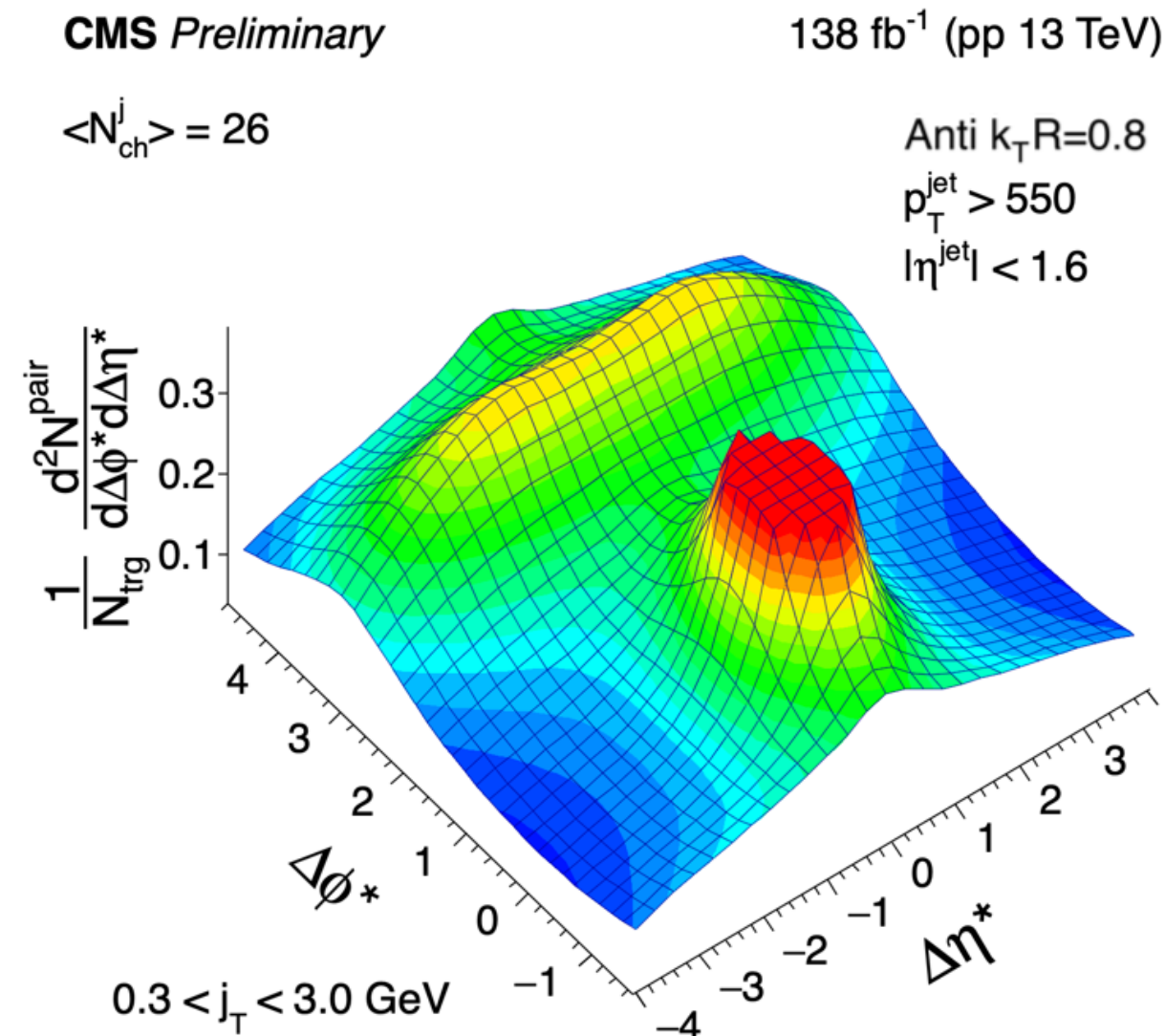
SHERPA



Overall features of low-multiplicity correlation captured by MC models

Comparison to MC

$N_{ch} \sim 26$



No near-side feature in MC

$N_{ch} \sim 100$

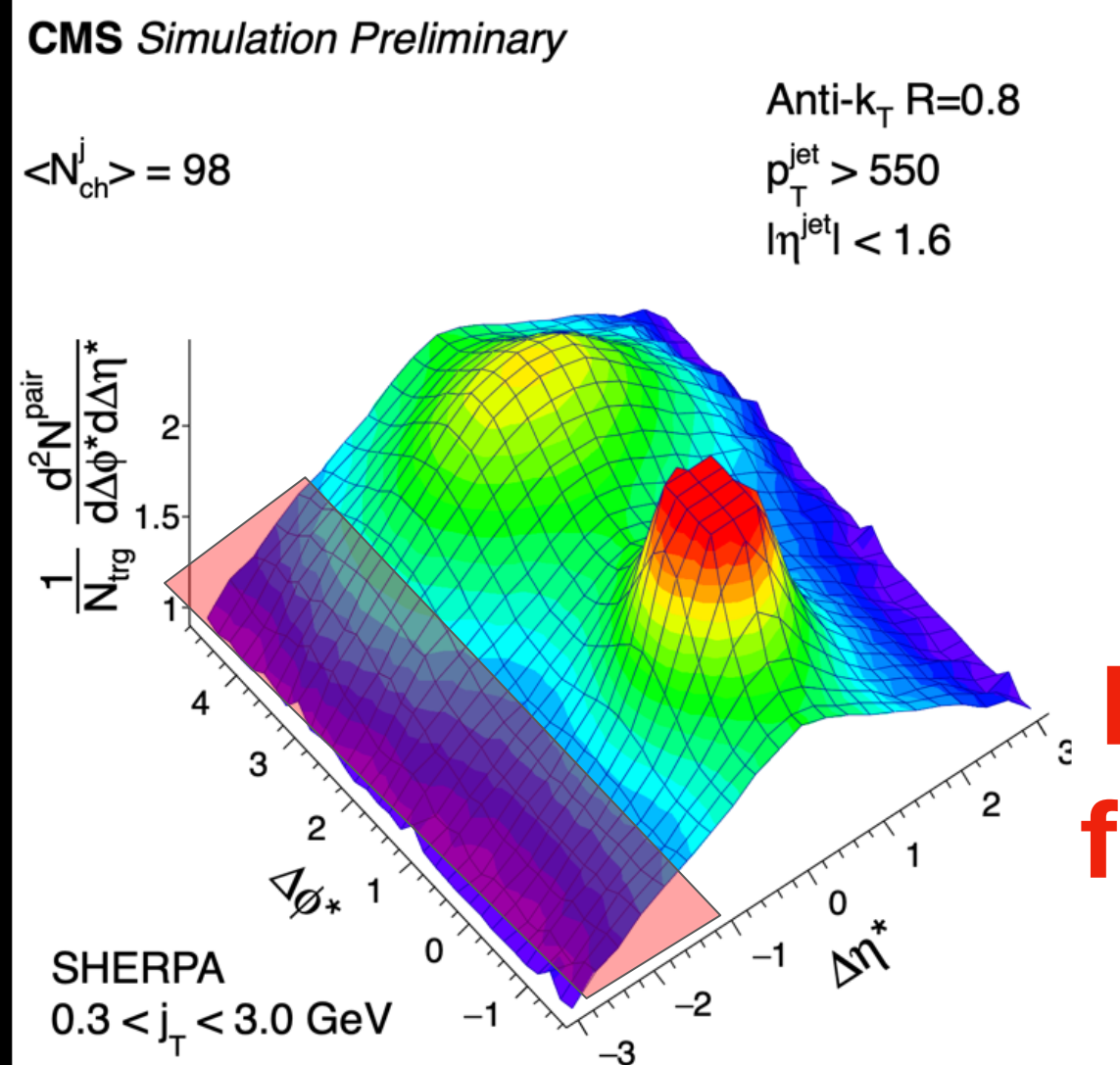
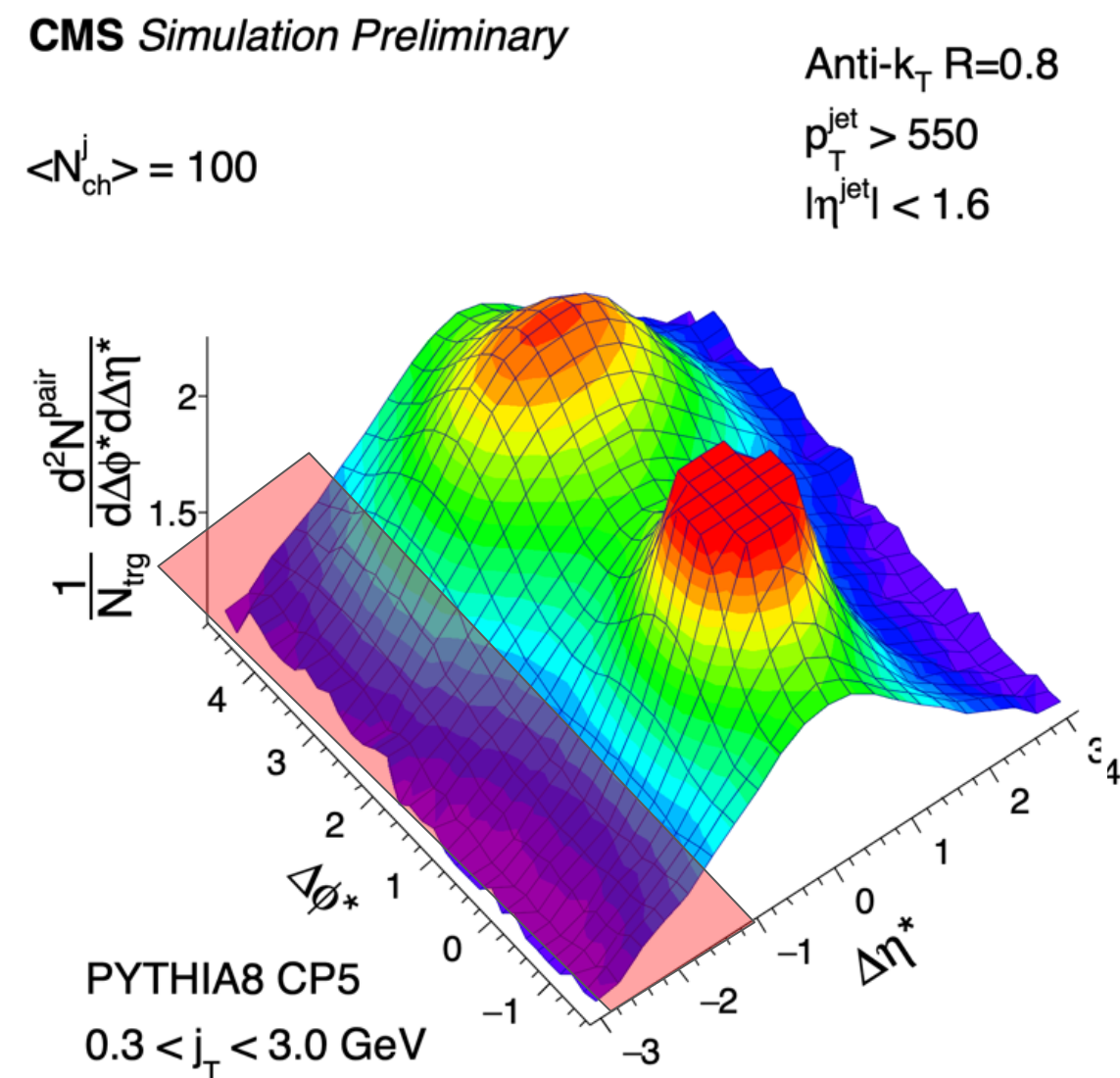
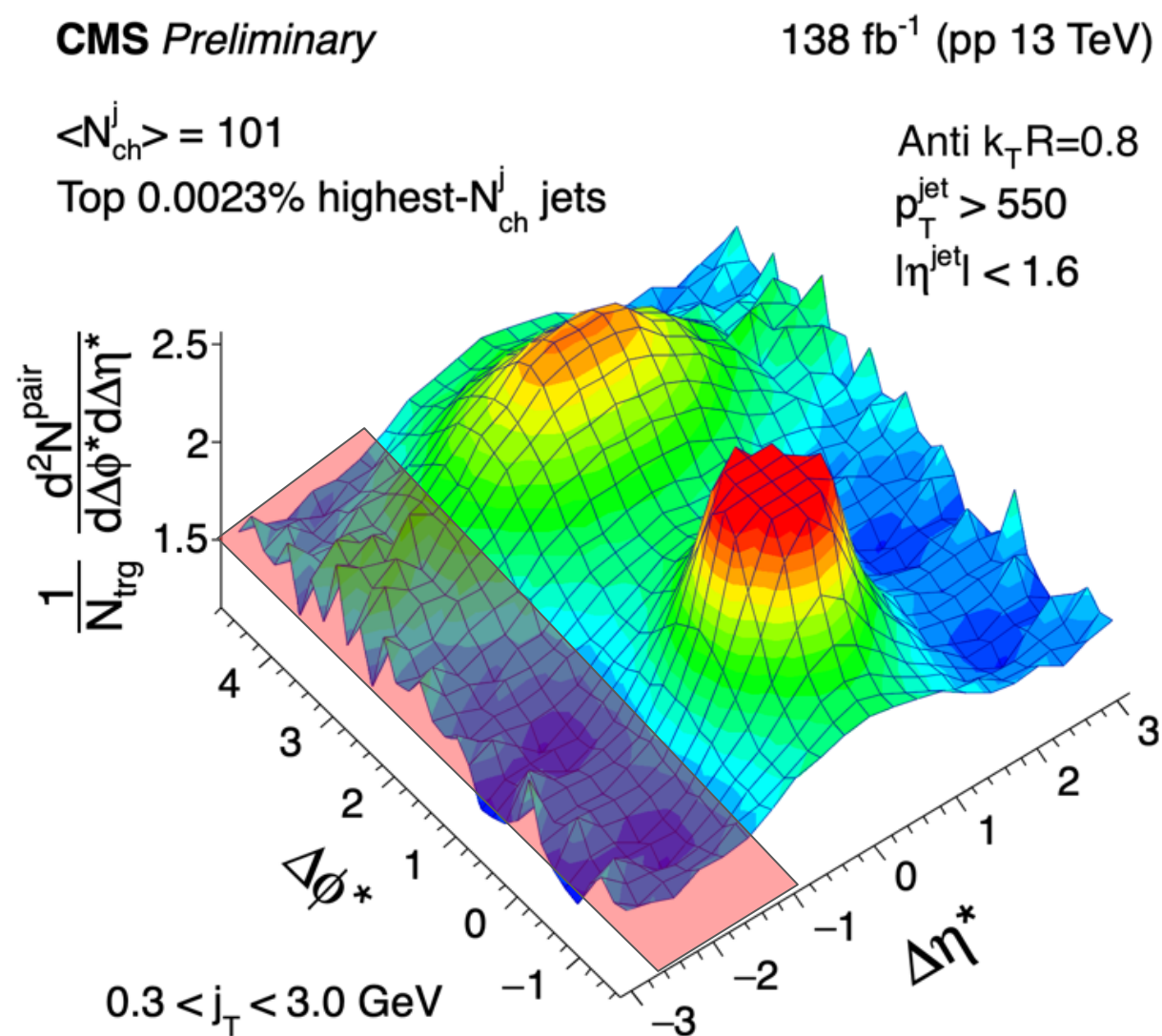
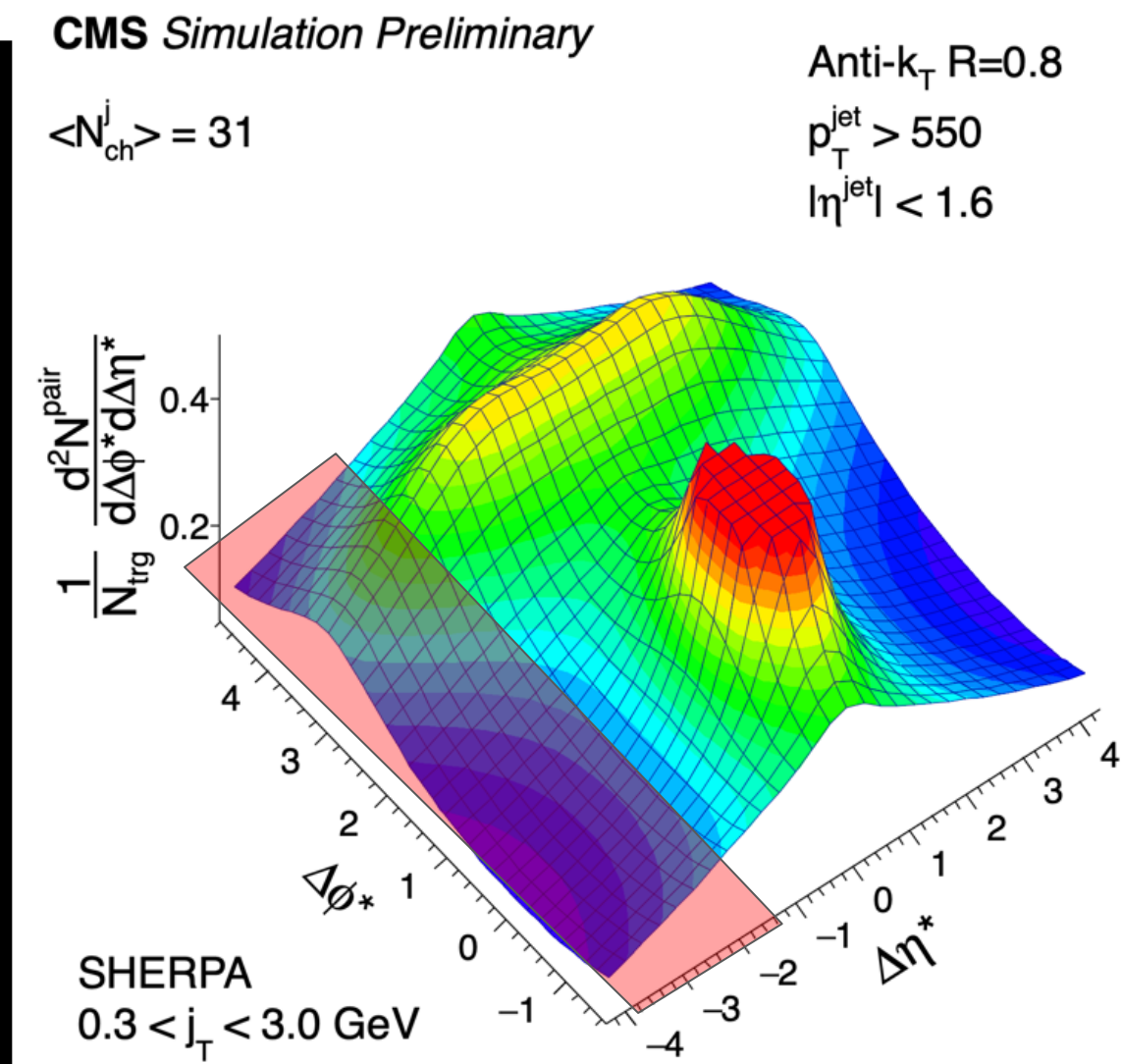
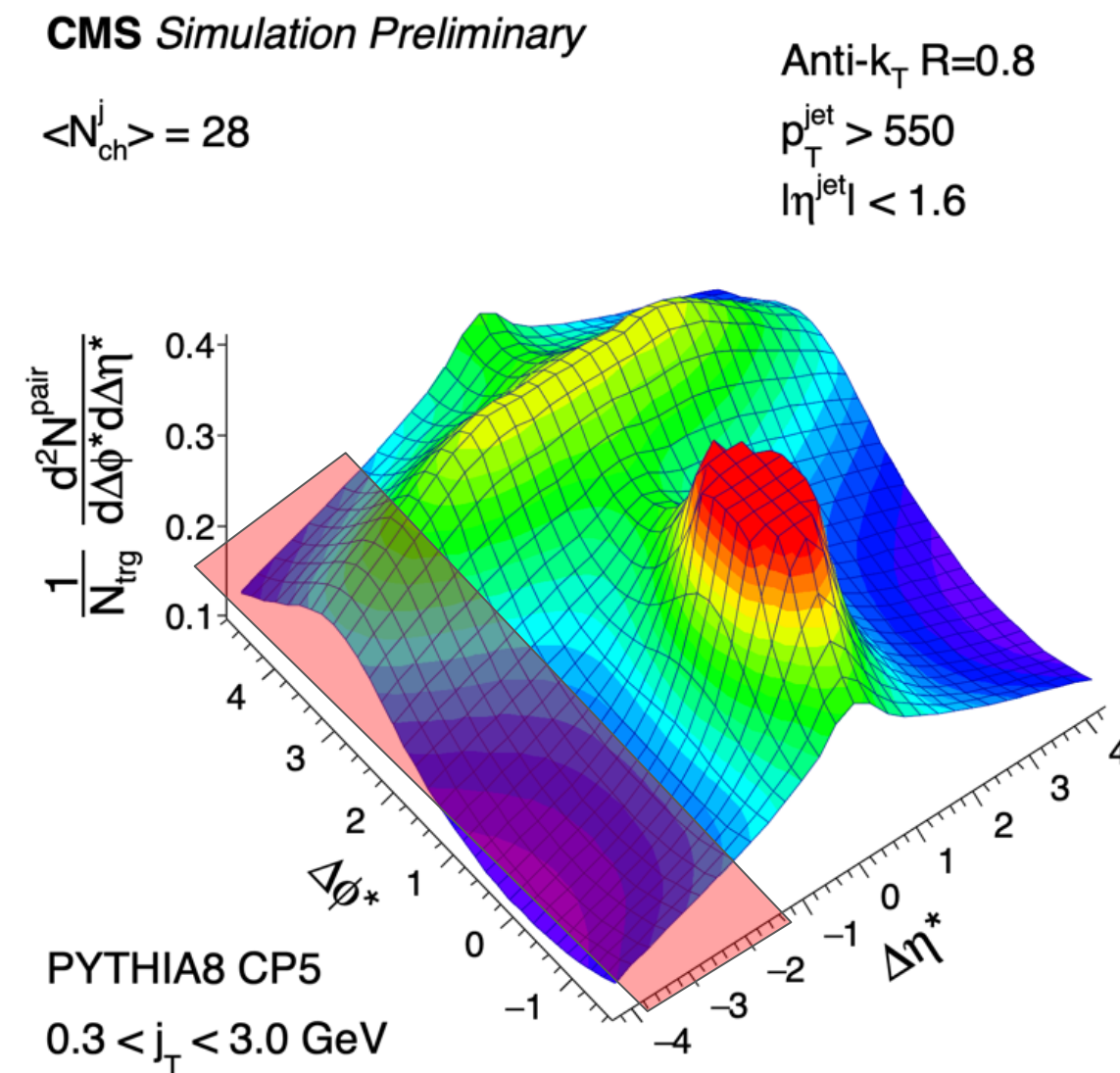
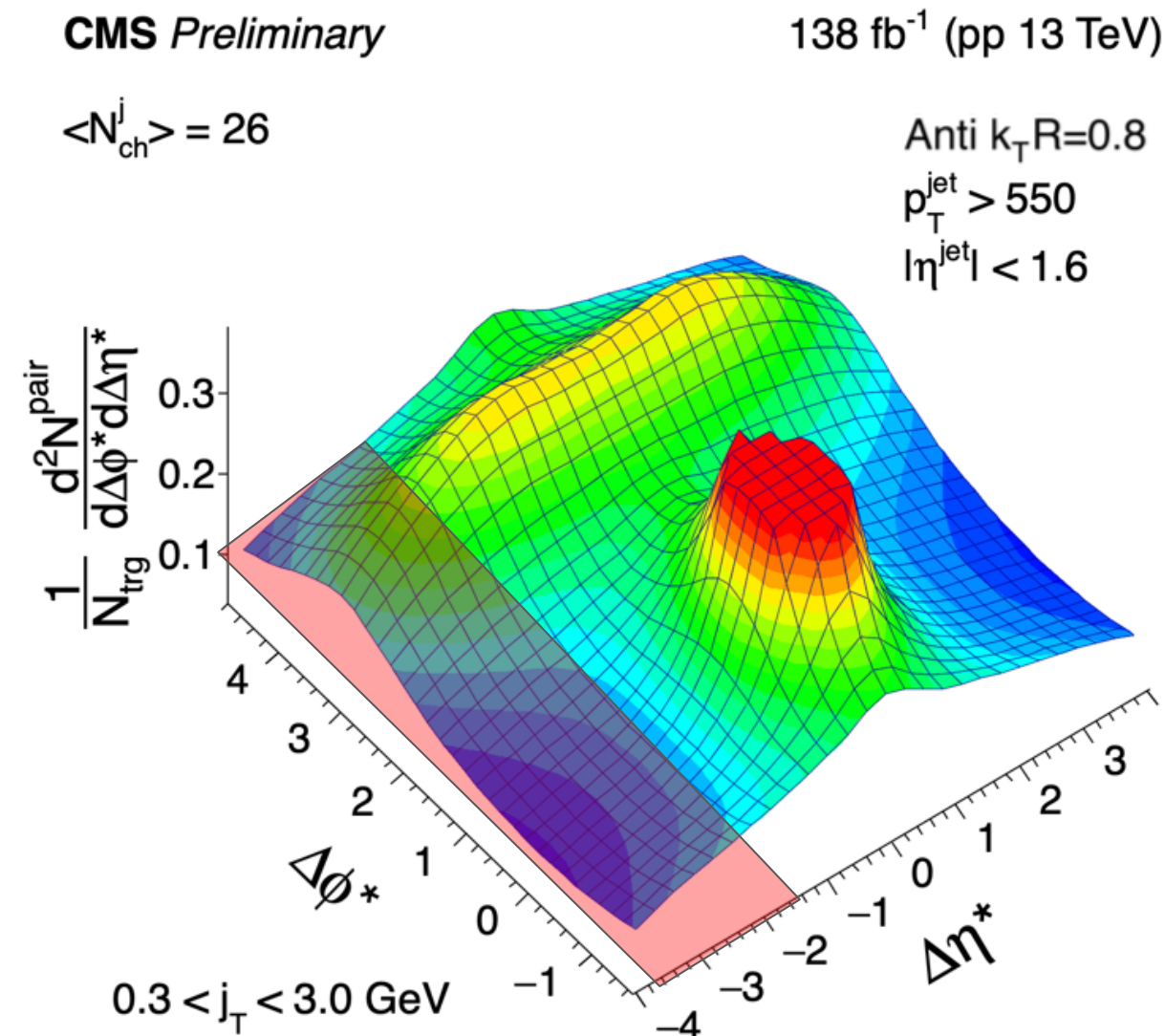
Data

PYTHIA

SHERPA

Comparison to MC

$N_{ch} \sim 26$



No near-side feature in MC

$N_{ch} \sim 100$

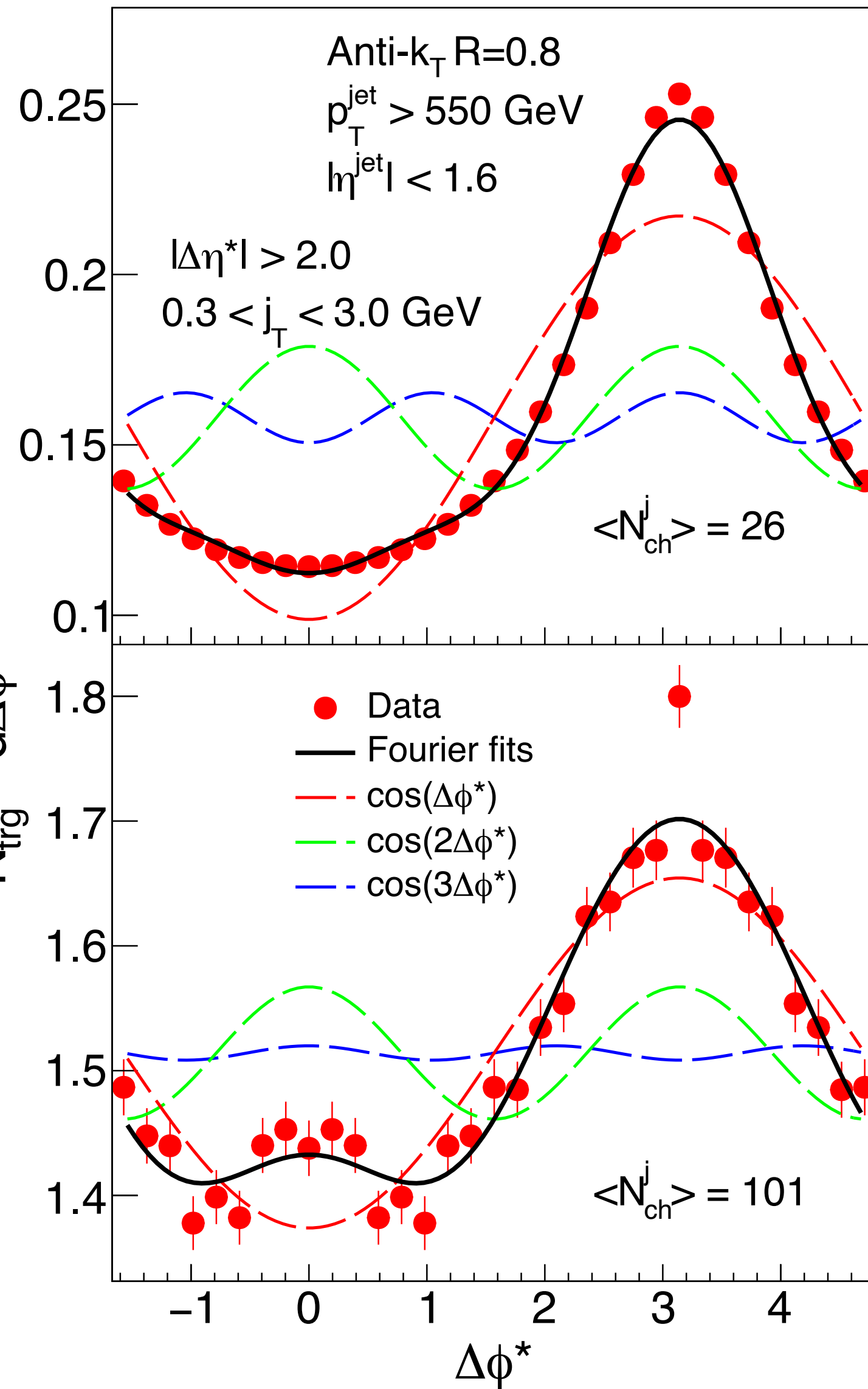
Data

PYTHIA

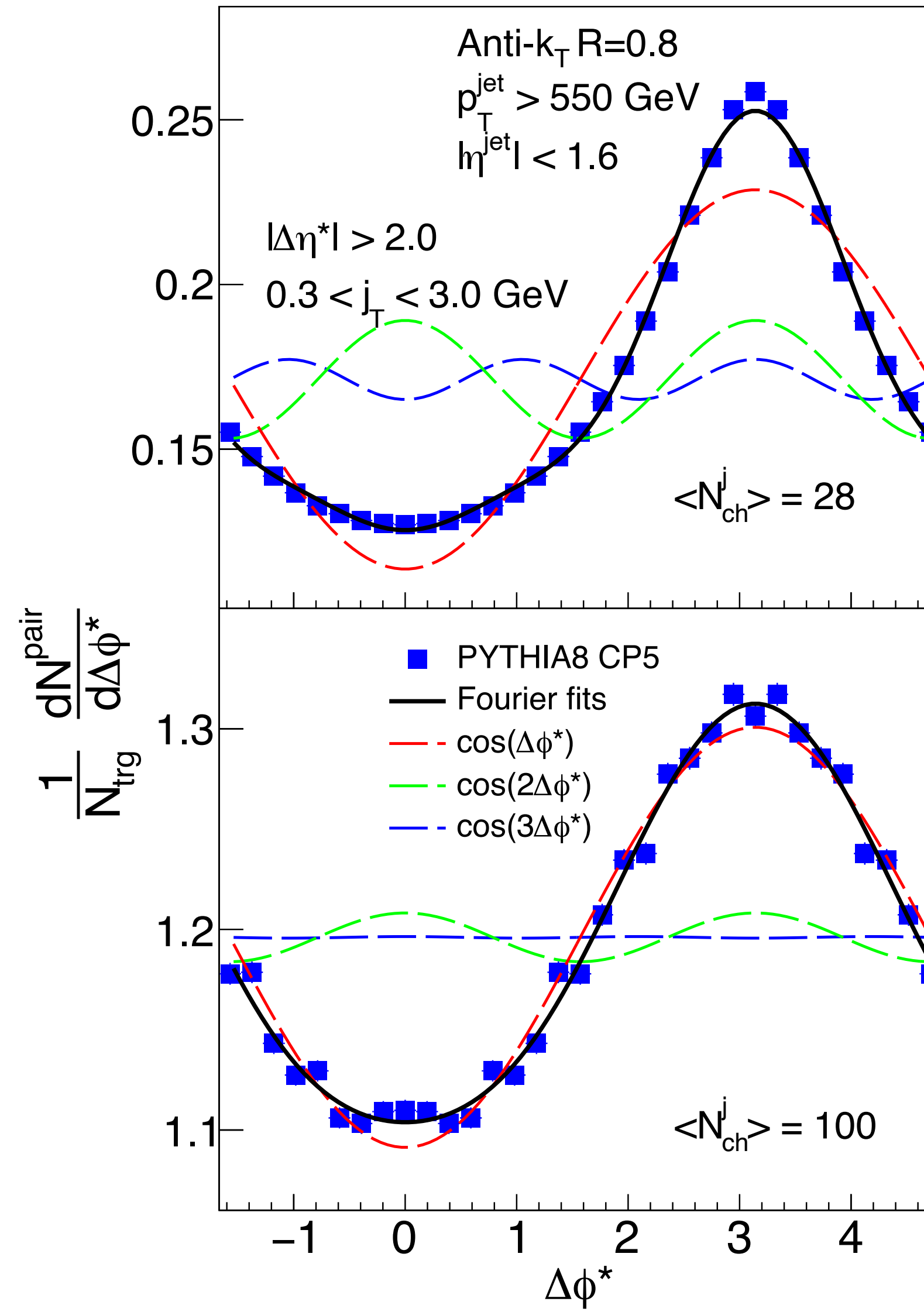
SHERPA

1D Correlations with MC

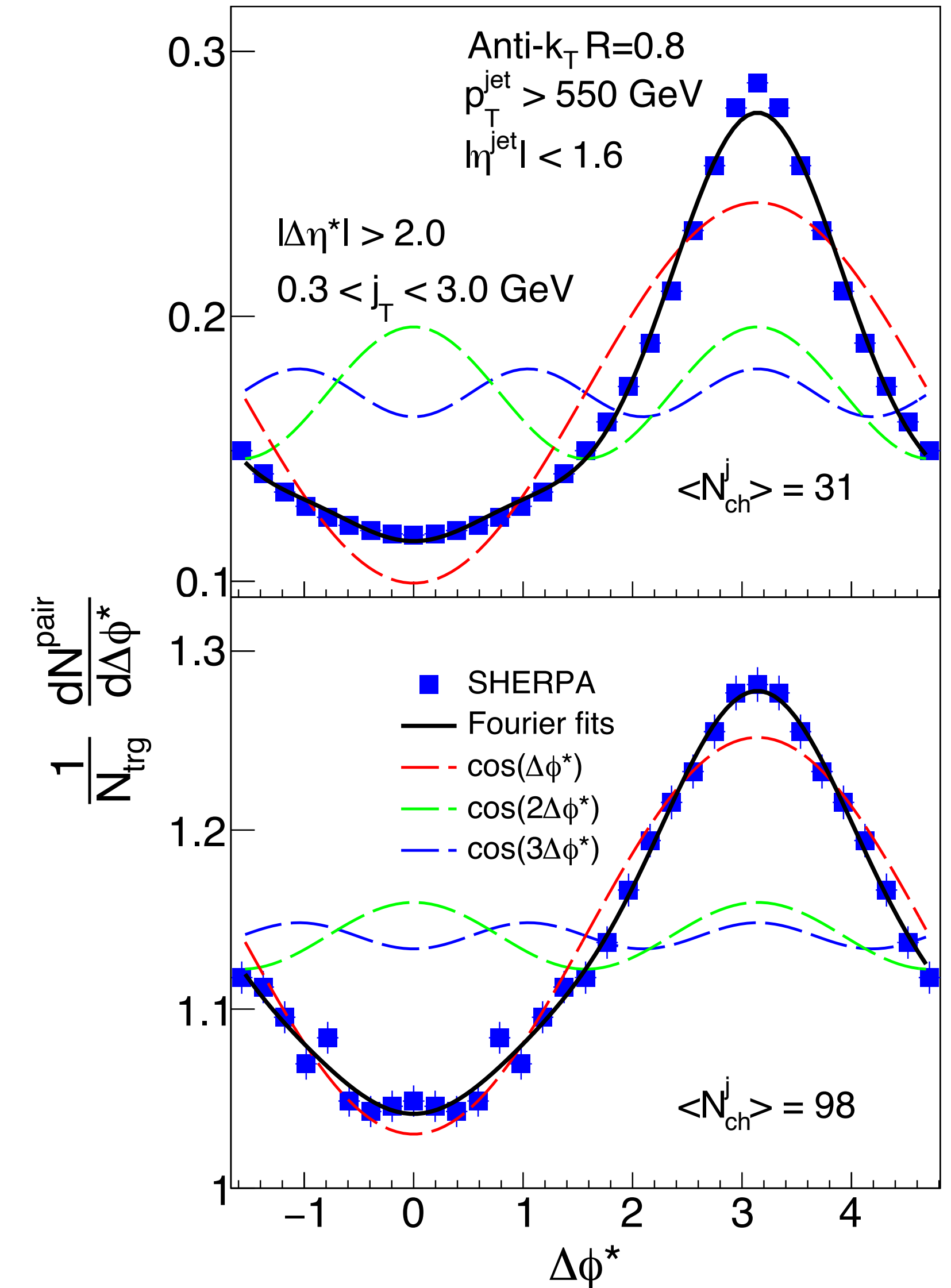
CMS Preliminary 138 fb⁻¹ (pp 13 TeV)



CMS Simulation Preliminary PYTHIA8

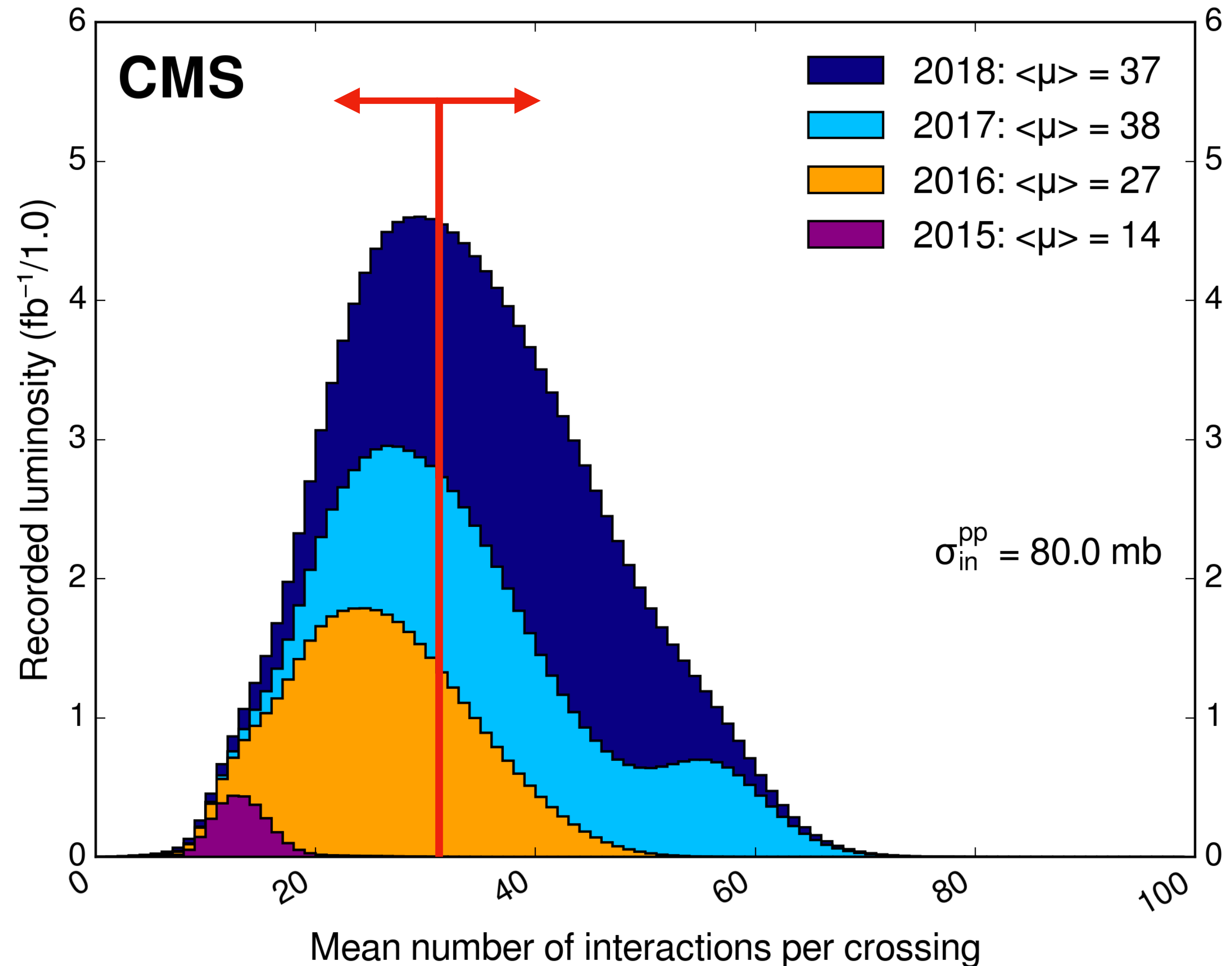


CMS Simulation Preliminary SHERPA



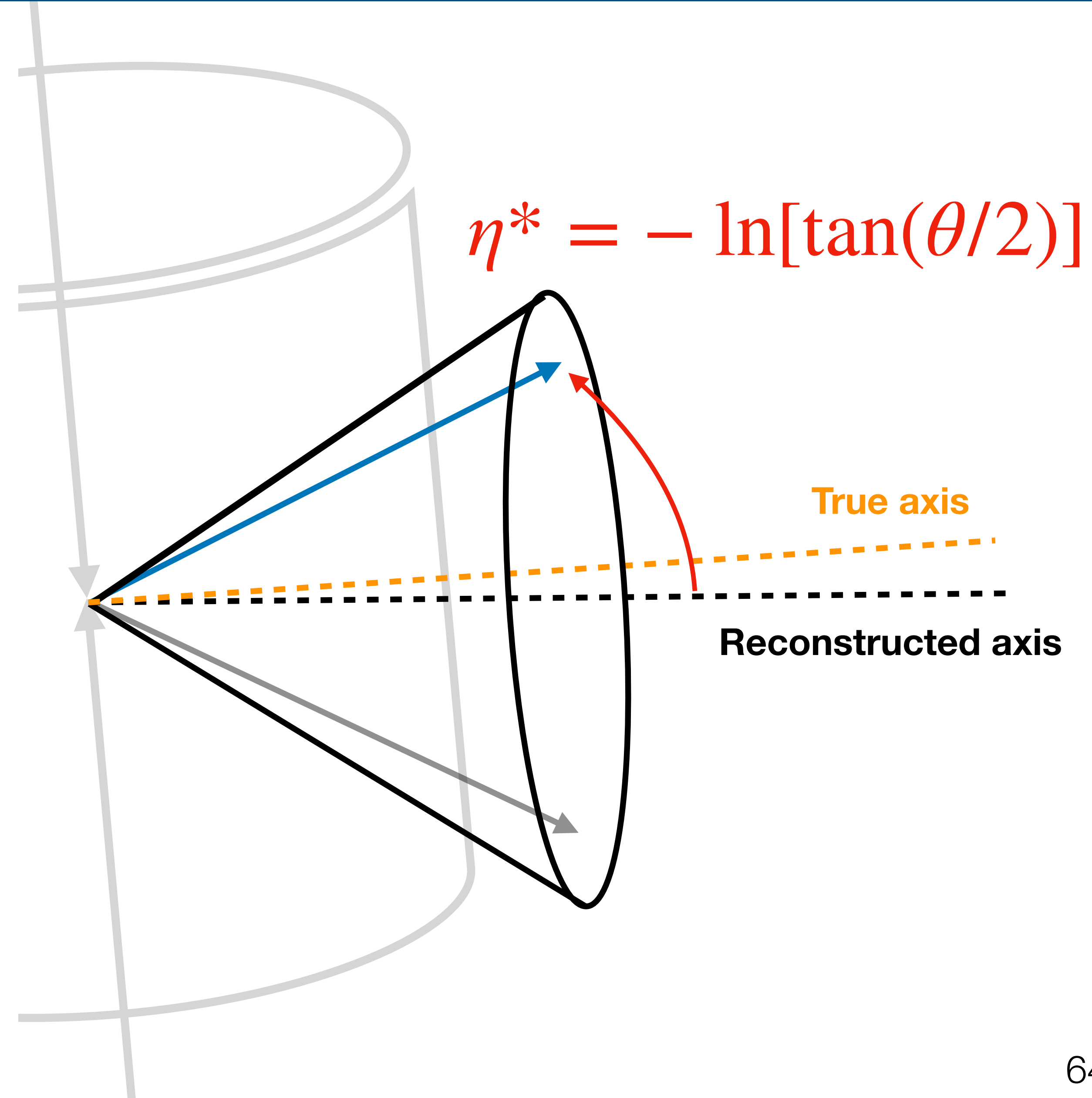
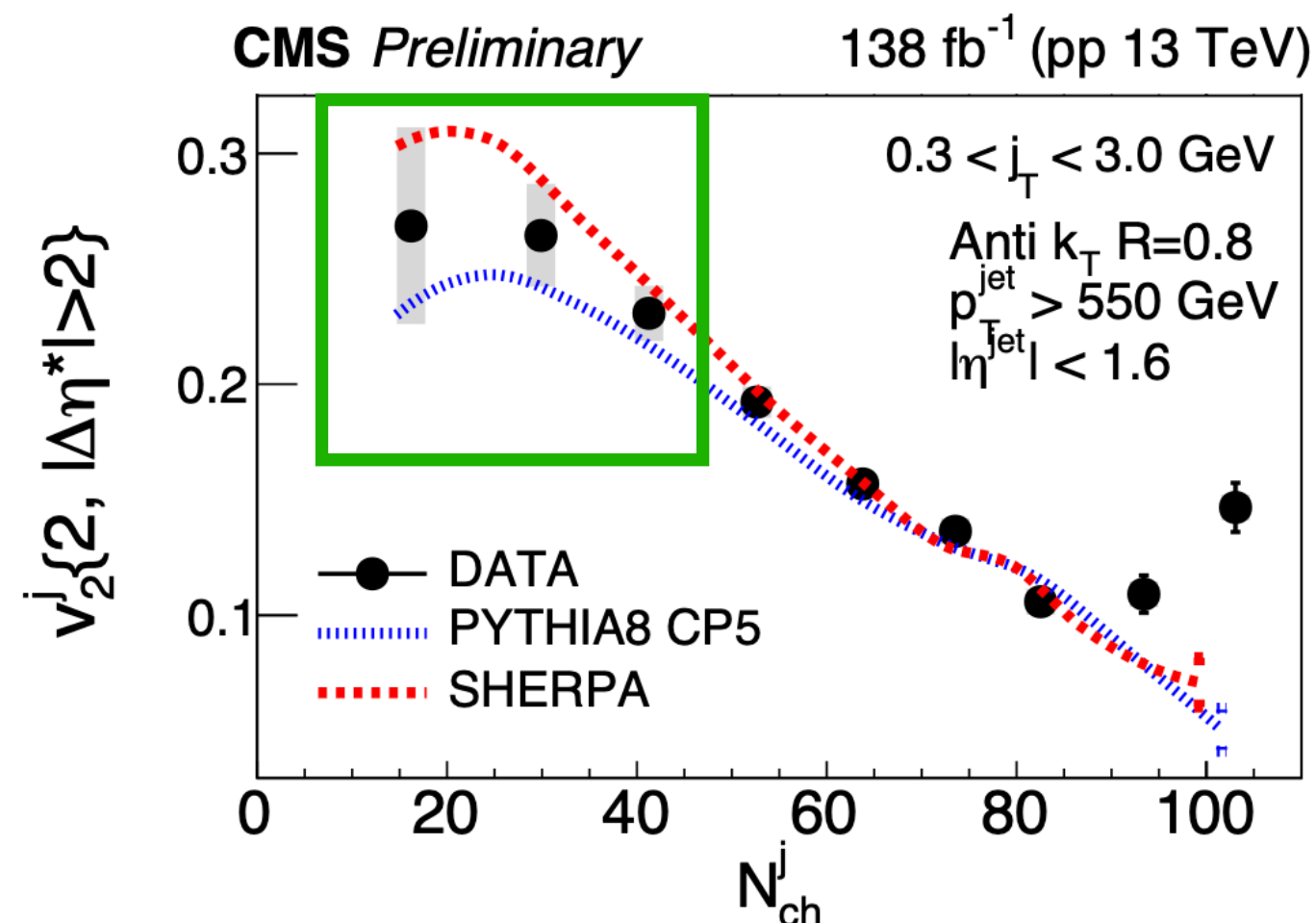
Pileup Uncertainty

- Effect of pileup studied by splitting data sample into subsamples
- By year
- By μ
- Leading systematic in high- N_{ch} region
- Variation of allowed PUPPI weight for 'ambiguous' tracks
- Negligible effect



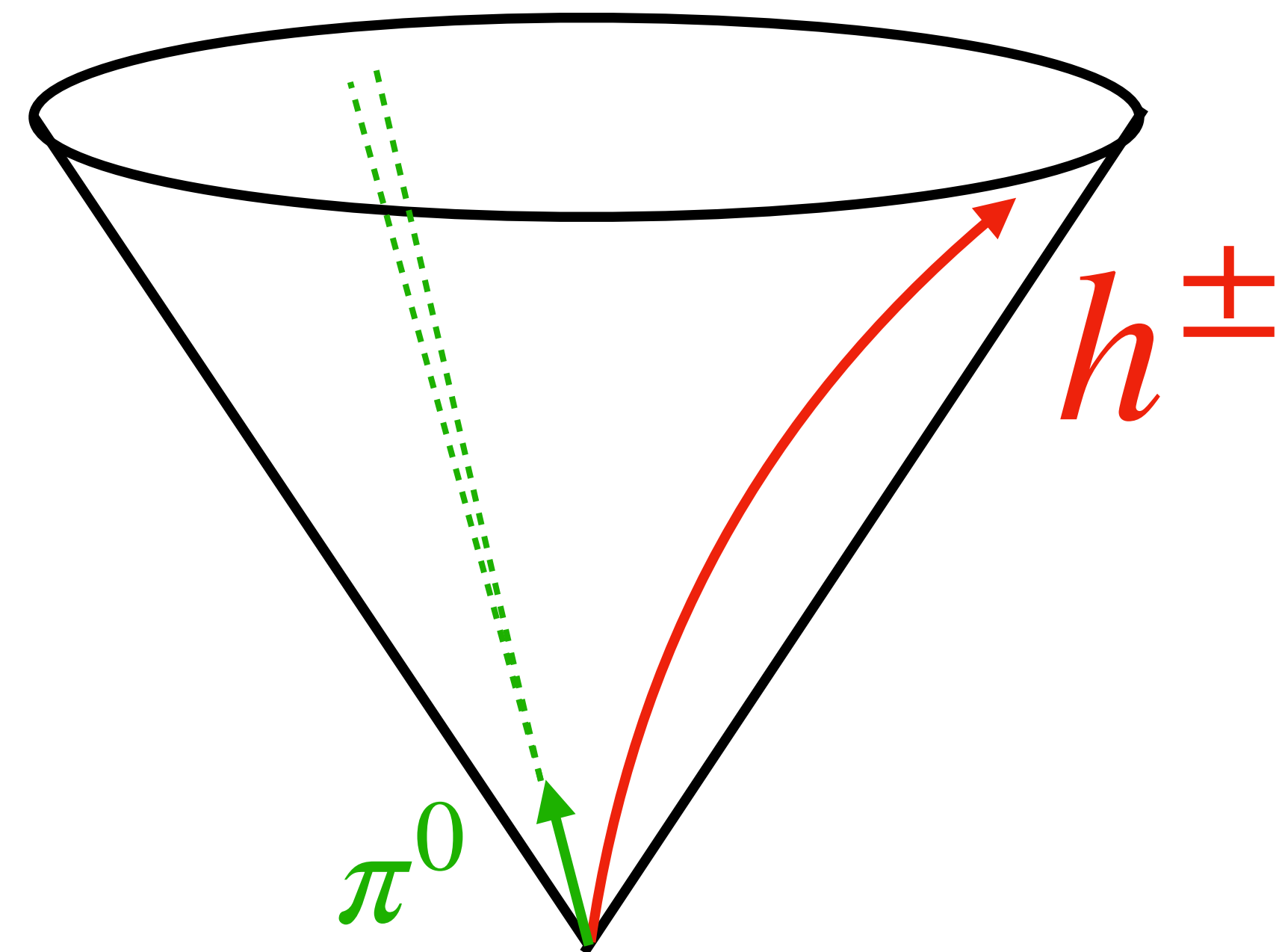
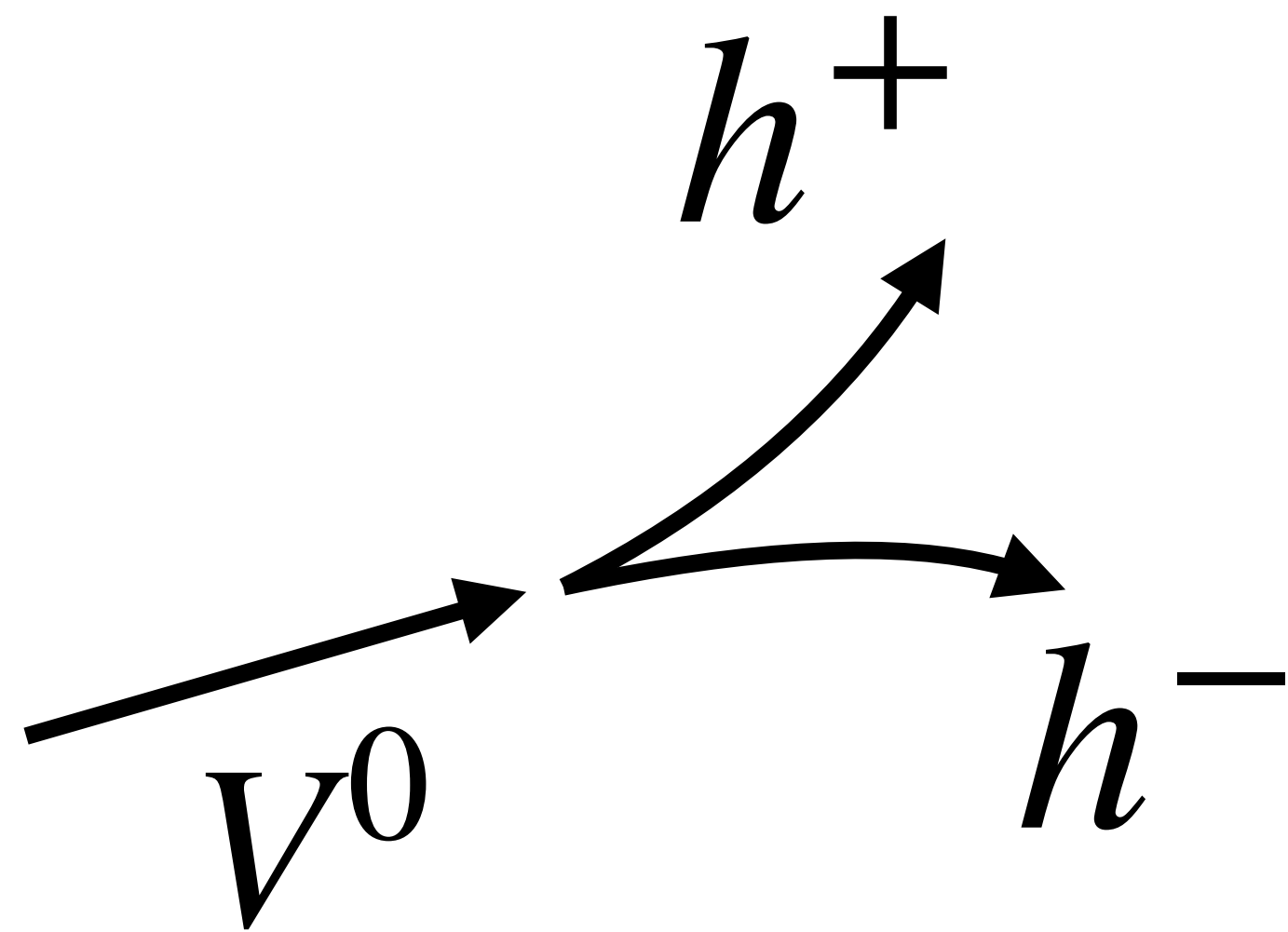
Jet axis resolution uncertainty

- Resolution effects in the jet axis
reconstruction affect $p^* = (j_T, \eta^*, \phi^*)$
- Tracks close to jet axis are more sensitive
- Evaluated systematic by smearing jet axis
- Large uncertainty for **low N_{ch} jets**
- High N_{ch} are wider \rightarrow less sensitive



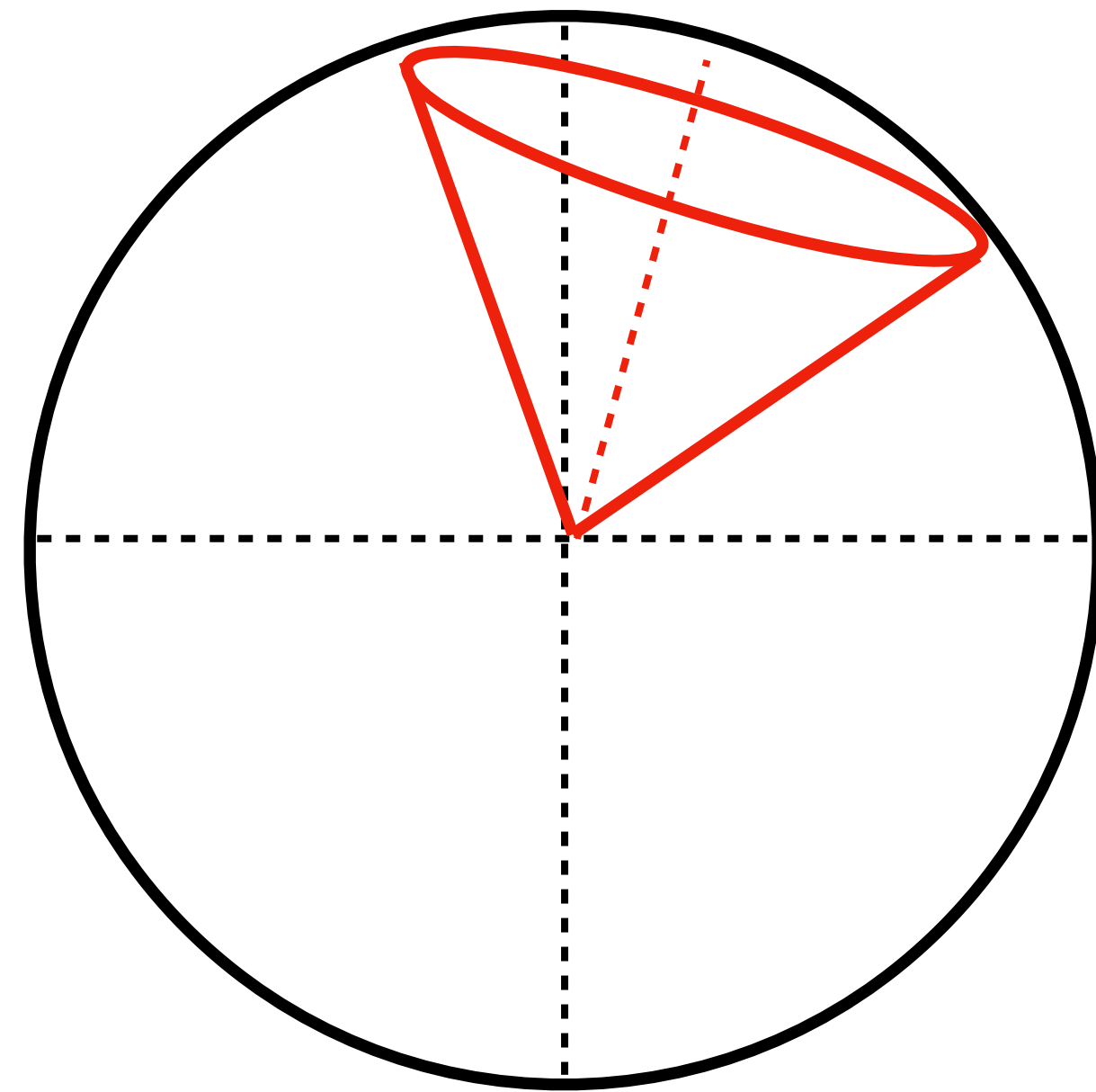
Other cross checks

- Signal found to be robust to:
 - Correlating same-sign tracks (suppresses particle decay contributions)
 - Correlating tracks w/ neutral deposits (from π^0 decays)
 - Signal is weaker, potentially from less effective of pileup mitigation



Other cross checks

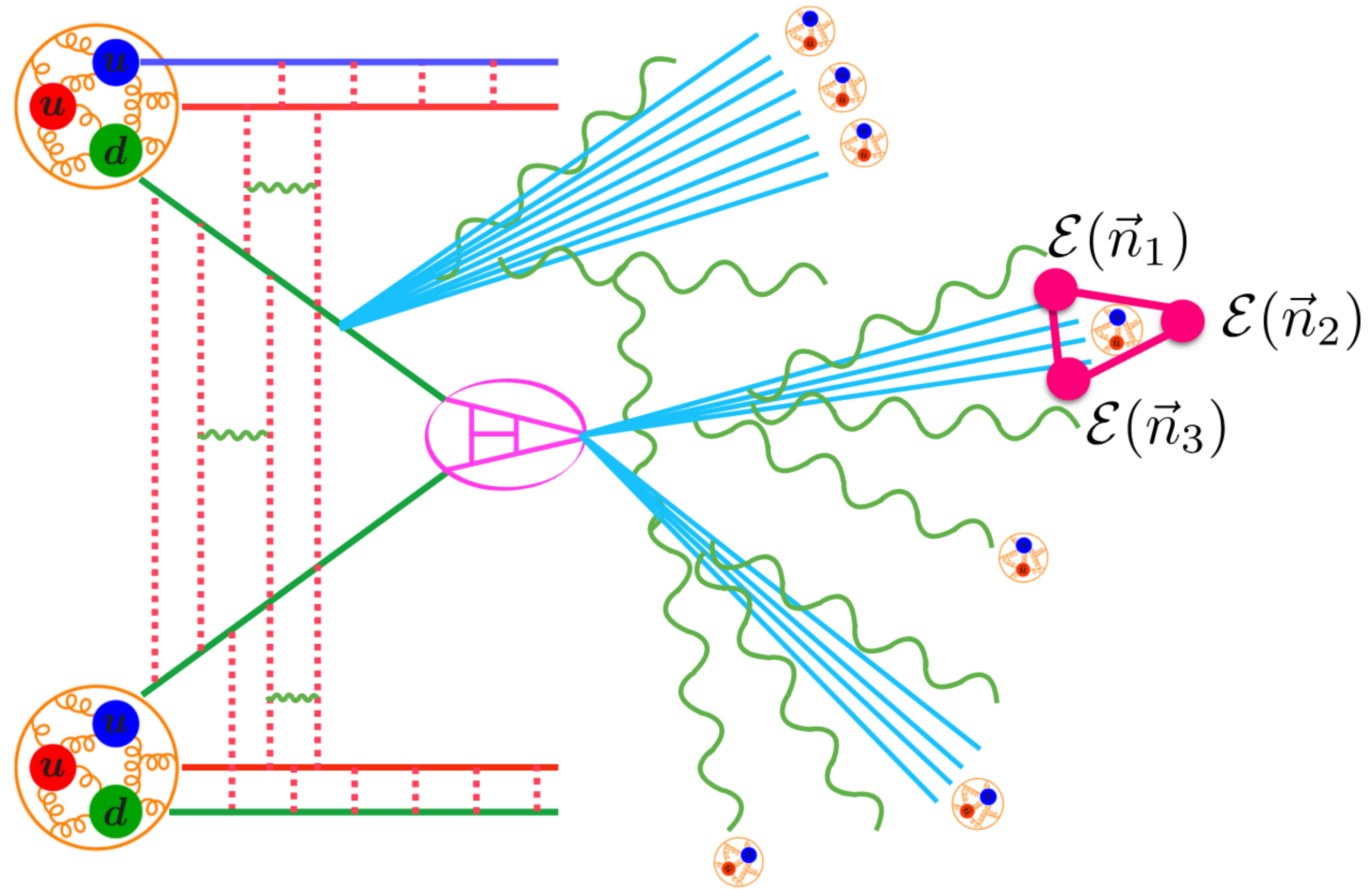
- **Signal found to be robust to:**
 - **Correlating same-sign tracks (suppresses particle decay contributions)**
 - **Correlating tracks w/ neutral deposits (from π^0 decays)**
 - **Signal is weaker, potentially from less effective of pileup mitigation**
 - **Variations in track quality selections**
 - **Details of jet energy reconstruction and trigger efficiency**
 - **Selection of only leading (subleading) jets**
 - **Changes in jet area to alter UE contributions**
 - **Repeating analysis using different azimuthal quadrants of CMS**



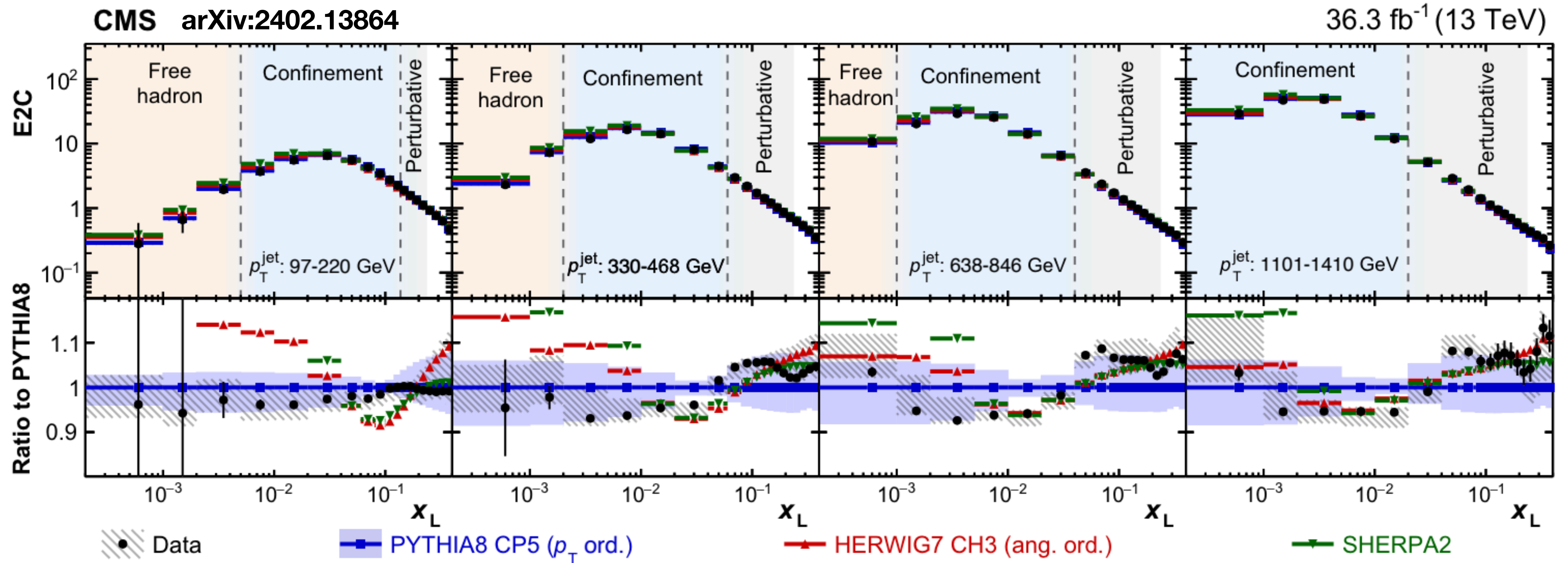
Energy-energy correlators

Phys. Rev. D 102, 054012 (2020)

- **EECs are n-particle correlators that factorize from the whole event in the collinear limit**
- **Calculated to very good precision**
- **Clear connection to various stages of jet evolution**
- **Inputs are p_T and angular separations of particles in jets**
- **2-point EEC contains very similar input info as 2 particle correlation analysis**



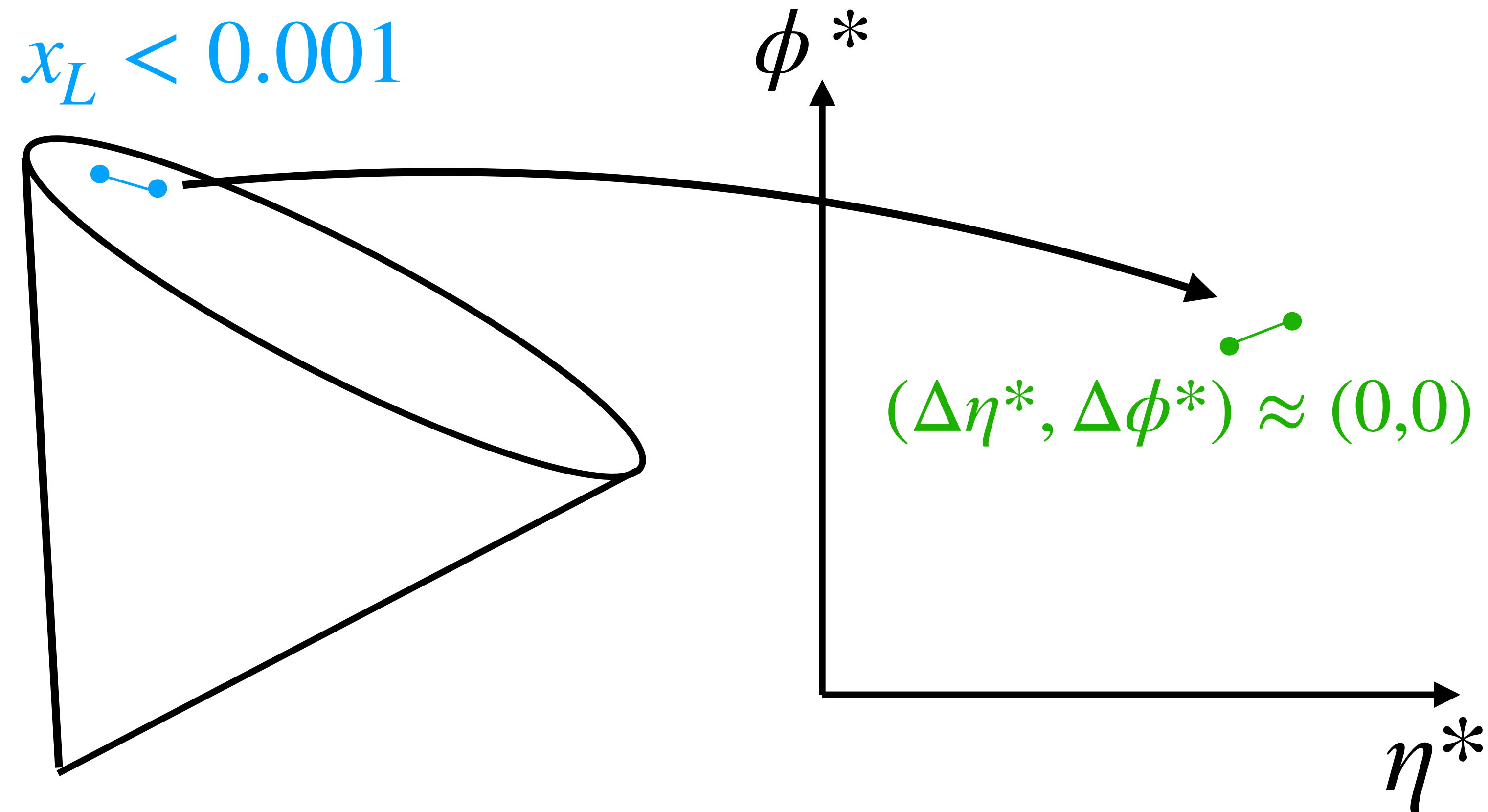
2-point pp Energy-energy correlators



$$\text{EEC}(\Delta r) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{pairs}}} \sum_{\text{jets} \in [p_{T,1}, p_{T,2}]} \sum_{\text{pairs}} (p_{T,i} p_{T,j})^n \Delta r_{i,j}$$

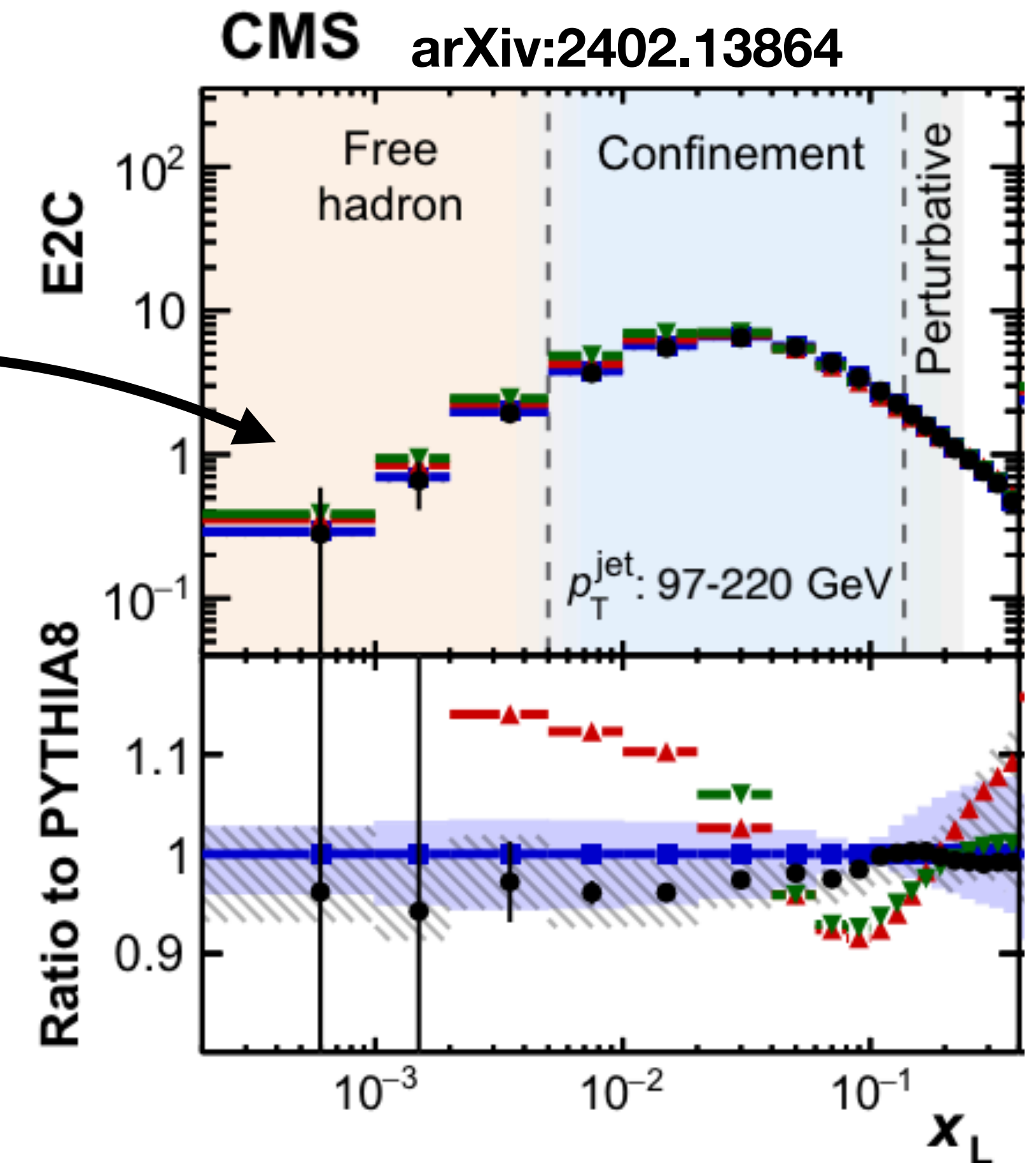
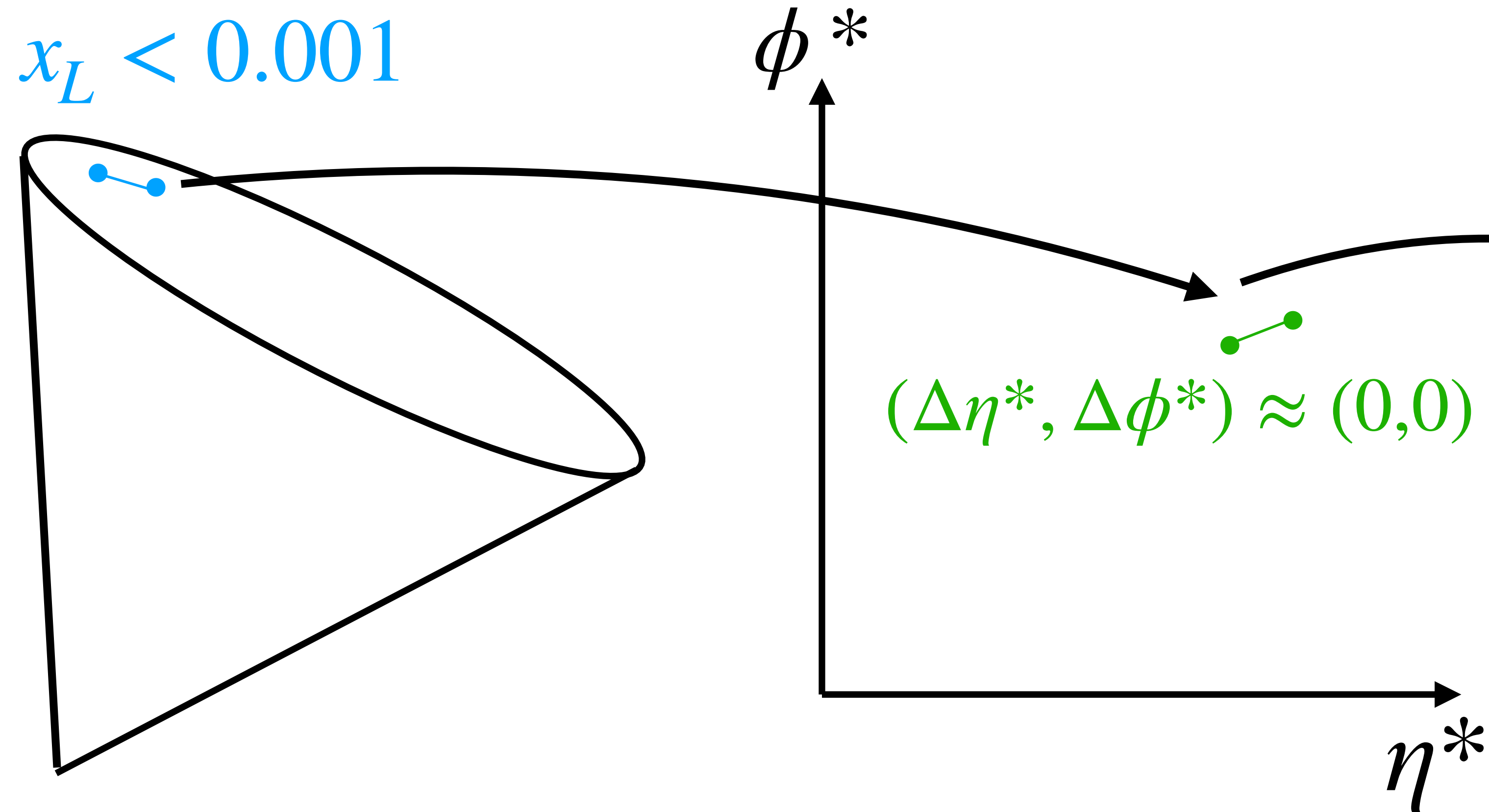
$$x_L = \Delta r_{i,j} = \sqrt{\Delta \phi_{lab}^2 + \Delta \eta_{lab}^2}$$

Mapping between coordinates



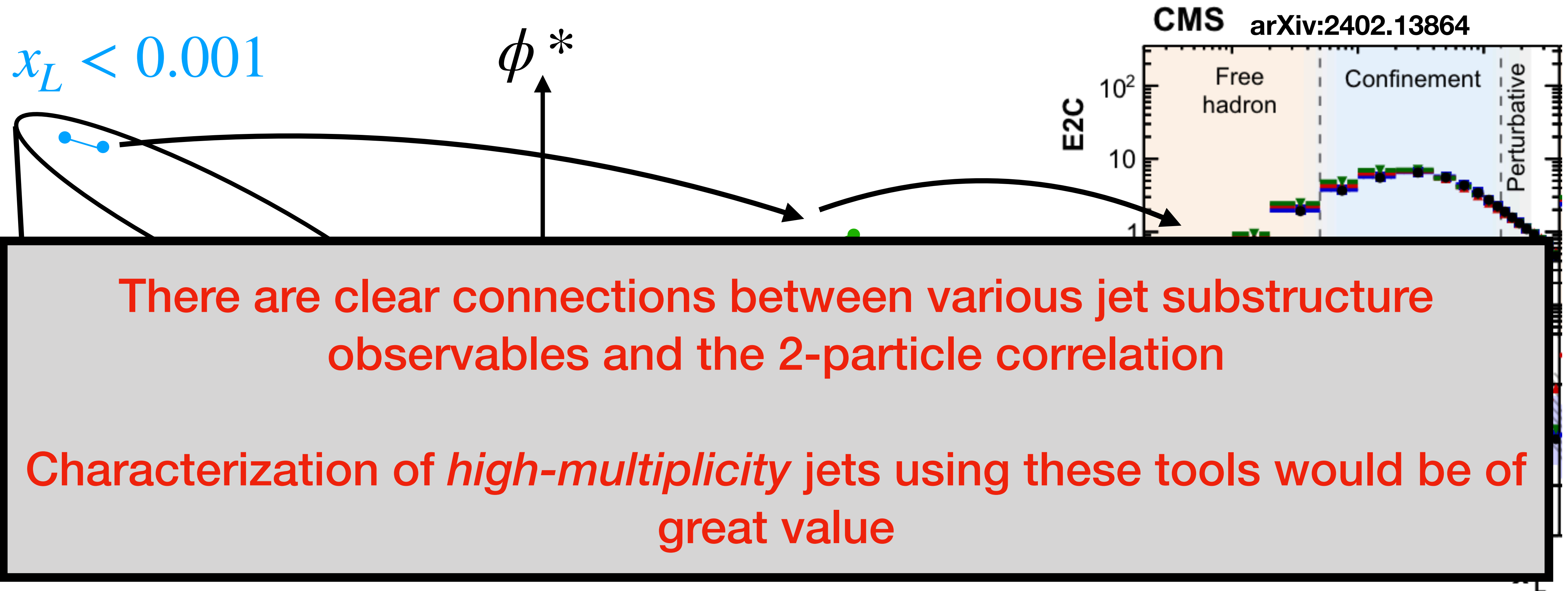
- **Particles close to each other in lab frame are also close to each other in jet coordinates**

Mapping between coordinates



- Particles close to each other in lab frame are also close to each other in jet coordinates
- These contribute to central peak around (0,0) -> excluded with $\Delta\eta^*$ cut
- ‘Long-range’ correlation corresponds to perturbative/confinement component of E2C

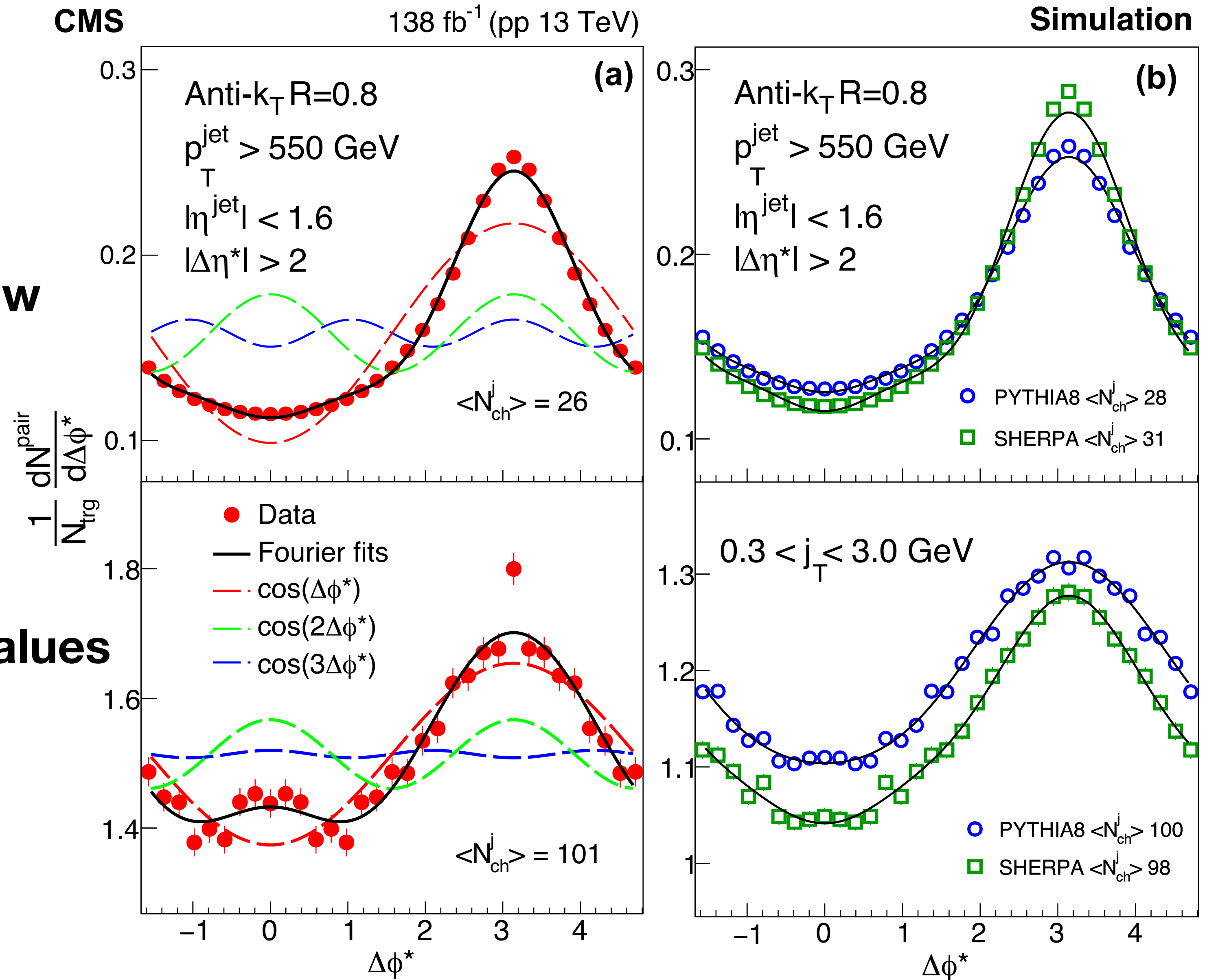
Mapping between coordinates



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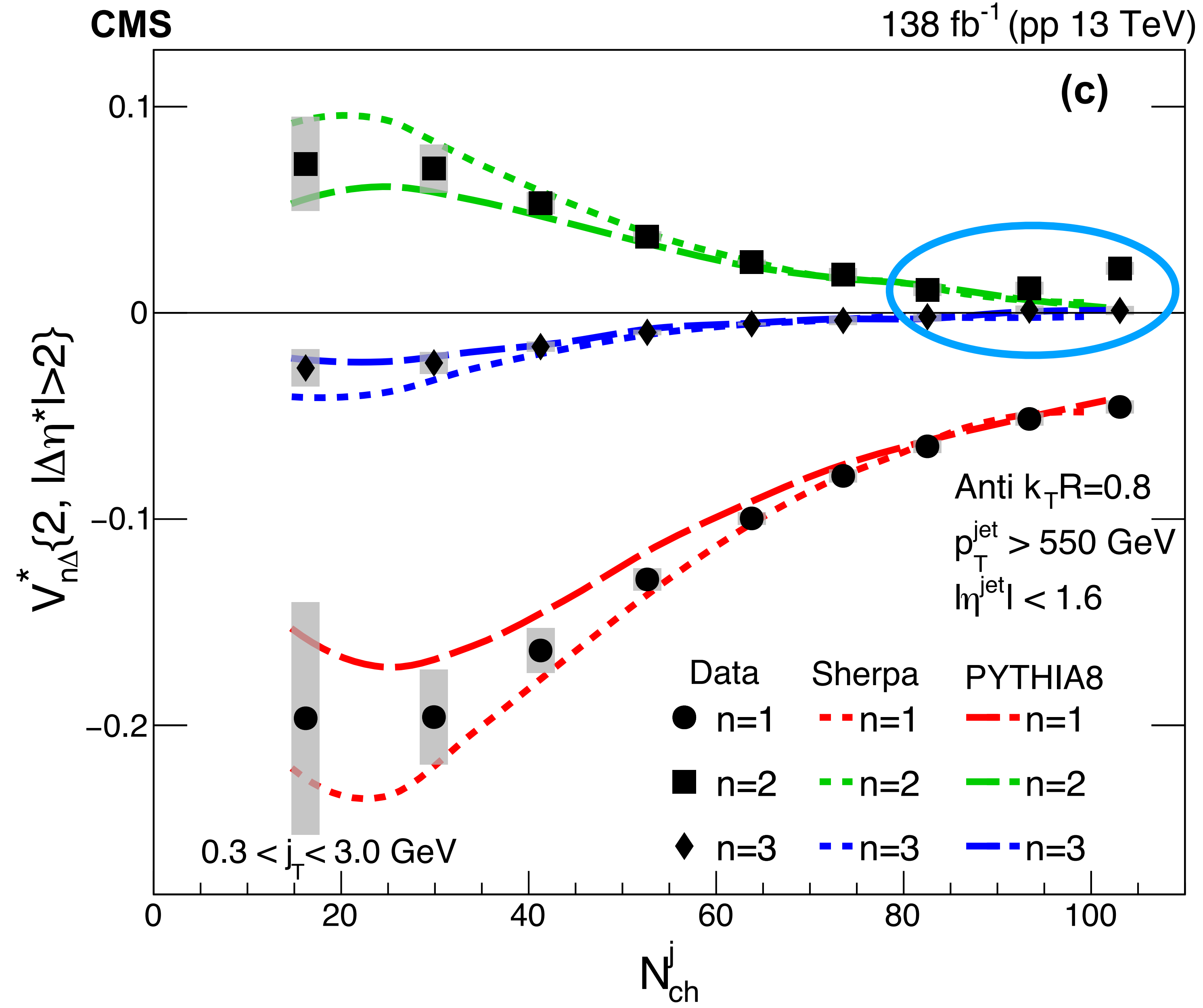
High-Multiplicity 1D correlation

- **Project into $\Delta\phi^*$ for $|\Delta\eta^*| > 2$**
- **Similar shape between data/MC**
- **Clear minimum at $\Delta\phi^* = 0$ at low multiplicity**
- **Perform Fourier fit to get V_n s**
- **Bump seen in fit for higher N_{ch} values**



Fourier Harmonics vs N_{ch}

- Magnitude of $V_{n\Delta}$ decreases with $N_{\text{ch}} < 80$
- Agrees with MC predictions
- Deviation of $V_{2\Delta}$ for $N_{\text{ch}} > 80$

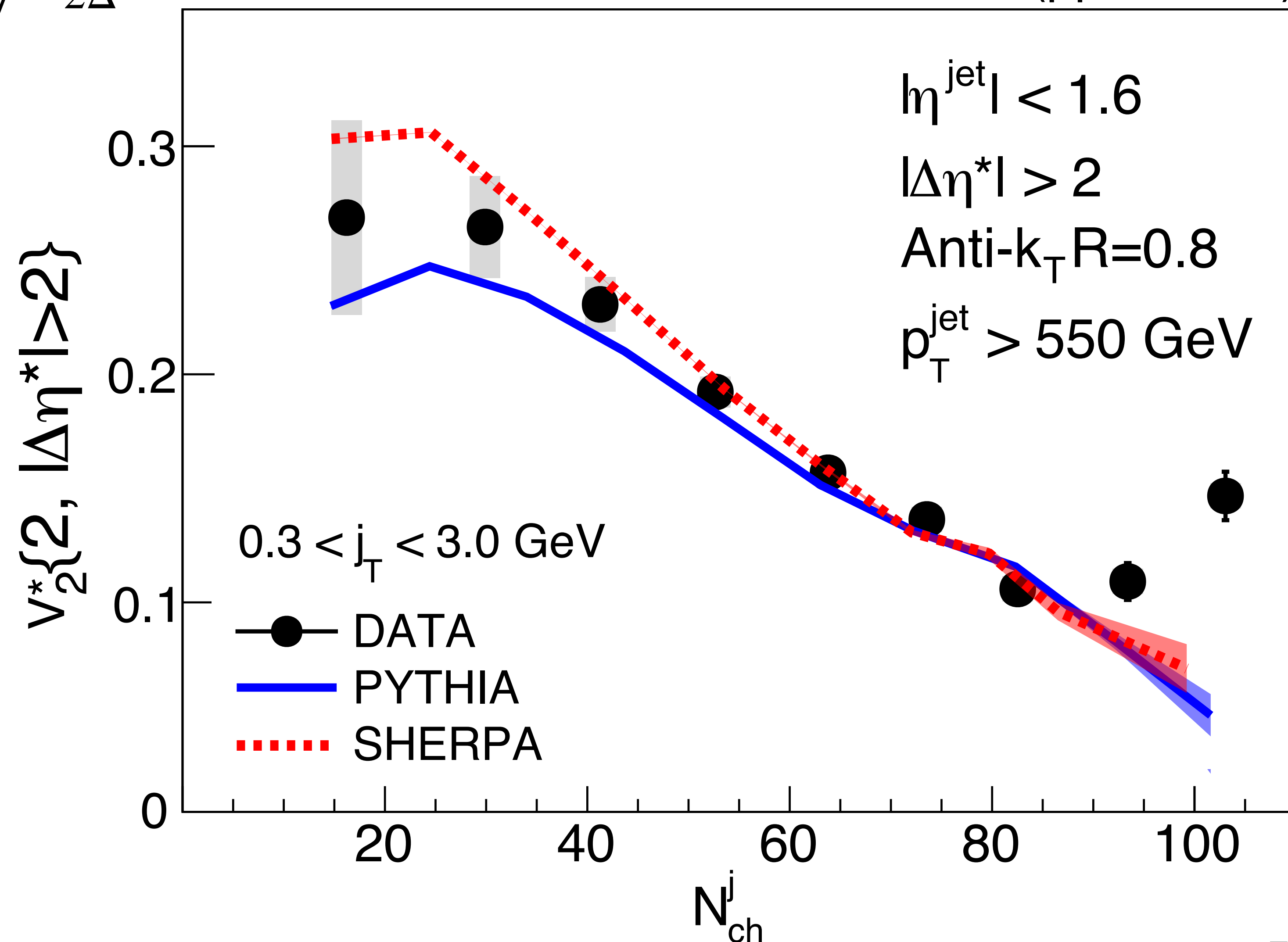


Single particle v_2

- Quantify size of bump with $v_2 = \sqrt{V_{2\Delta}}$
- $N_{ch} < 80$ trend captured by MC
- Rising trend for last few points

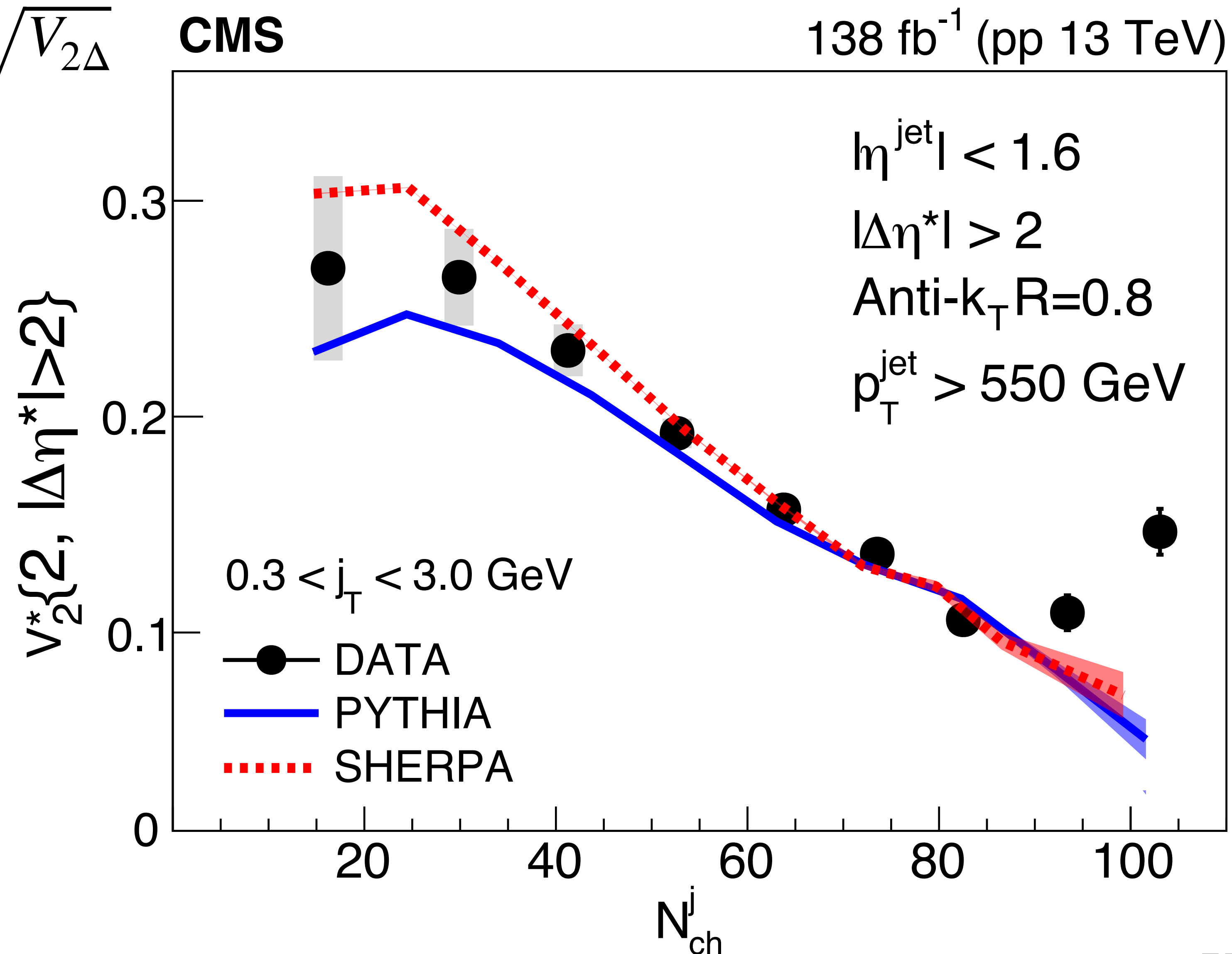
CMS

138 fb⁻¹ (pp 13 TeV)



Significance of trend

- Quantify size of bump with $v_2 = \sqrt{V_{2\Delta}}$
- $N_{ch} < 80$ trend captured by MC
- Rising trend for last few points
- Data deviates from MC by $> 5\sigma$
- Observation of QGP-like effects above some critical density?
- What can explain such effect?



ATLAS jet multiplicity data

