

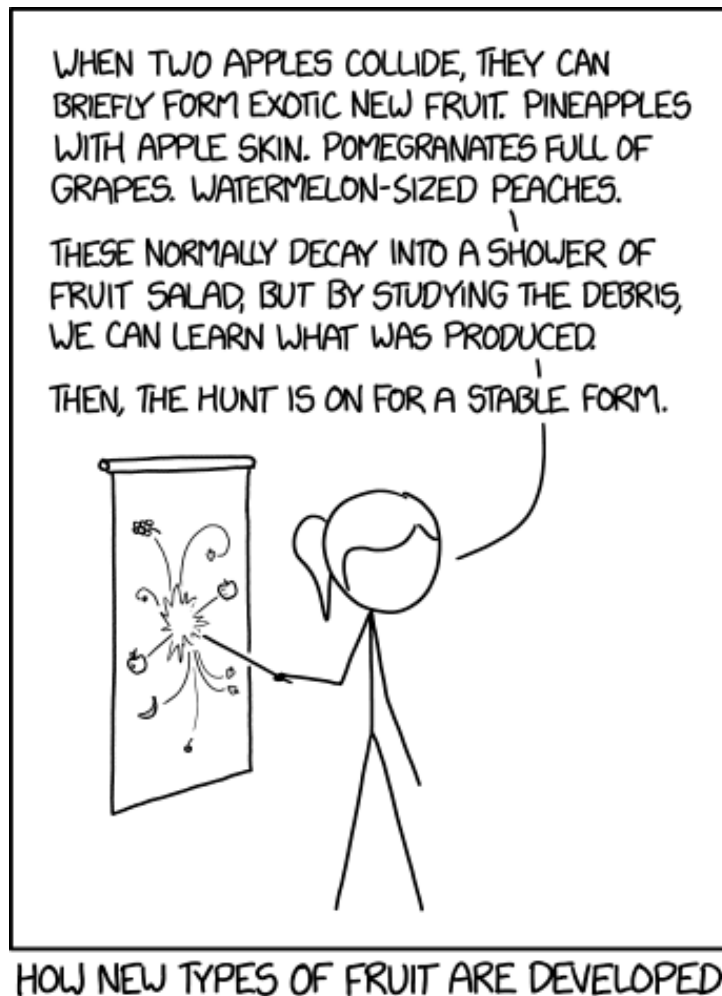
A forward/backward spectrometer for detector 2

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**Presented at the 2nd detector working group
Nov. 13, 2025**

- Forward and backward physics
- Differentiating from ePIC
- LHCb as an example
- Thoughts on a detector design
- Conclusions

Be consistent re. forward and backward



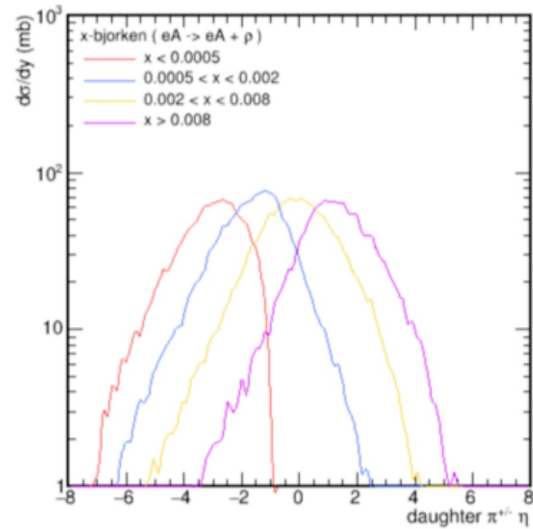
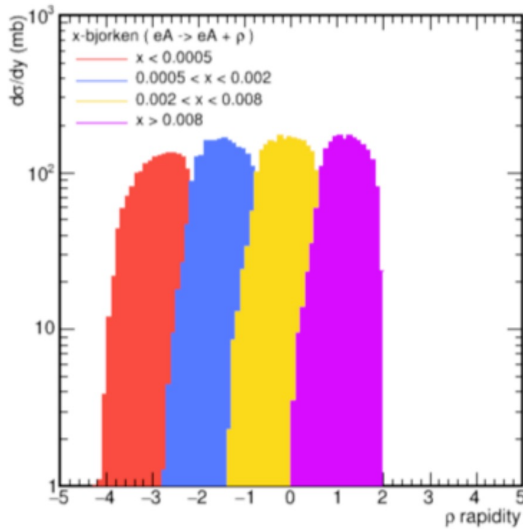
<https://xkcd.com/1949/>

Bjorken-x and rapidity

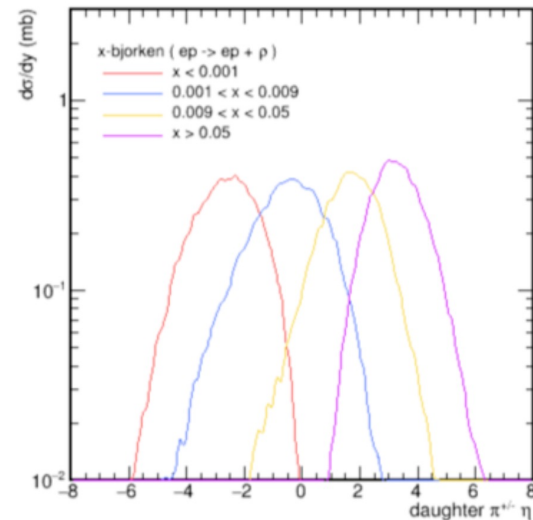
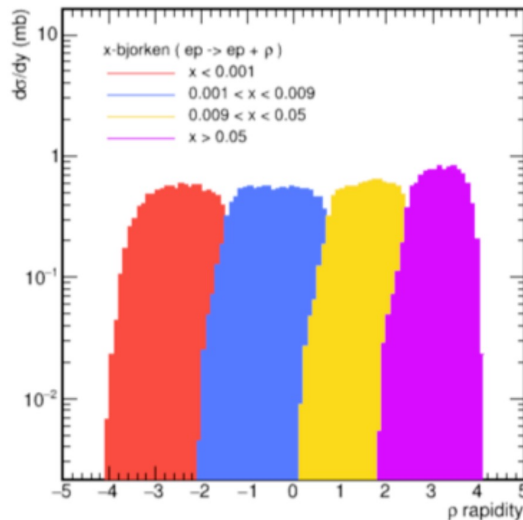
- In exclusive production, there are simple relations between:
 - ◆ photon energy (k)
 - ◆ final-state mass (M_f)
 - ◆ rapidity(y)
- $y = \ln(M_f/2k) = -\ln(M_f/2x_{\gamma}p)$
- High-photon energy (near kinematic limit) \rightarrow large rapidity
 - ◆ Without forward-enough instrumentation, we miss the highest-energy reactions that probe the lowest x values
- Near threshold production \rightarrow large negative rapidity
 - ◆ Conversely, without adequate backward-enough instrumentation, we miss near-threshold reactions, including important tests like Y production
- A second detector should concentrate on these regions. ePIC will cover mid-rapidity well.

The ρ^0

- $10^{-4} < x < 1$ corresponds to $-4 < y < 4$
- Coverage up to rapidity $|y|$ requires coverage to $|\eta| > |y|+1$



eAu
18 GeV * 100 GeV

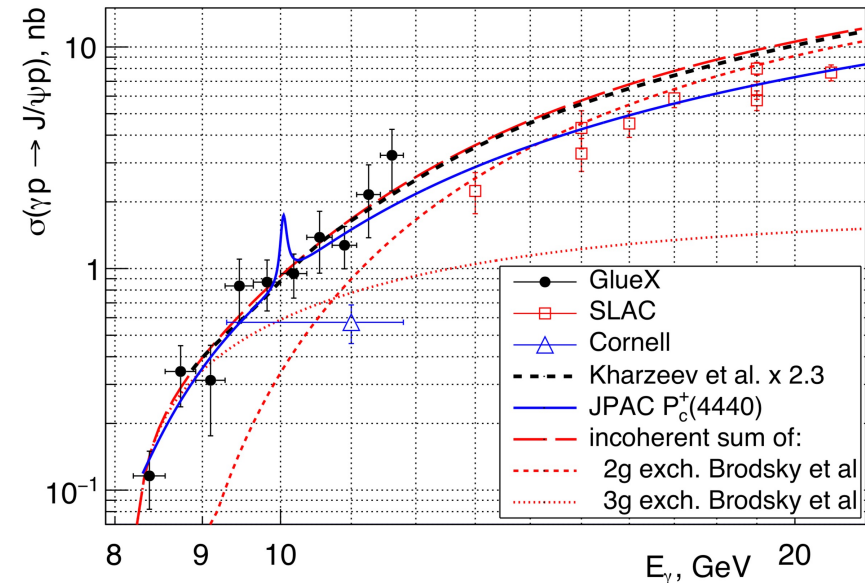


ep
18 GeV * 275 GeV

J. Arrington *et al.*,
arXiv:2102.08337

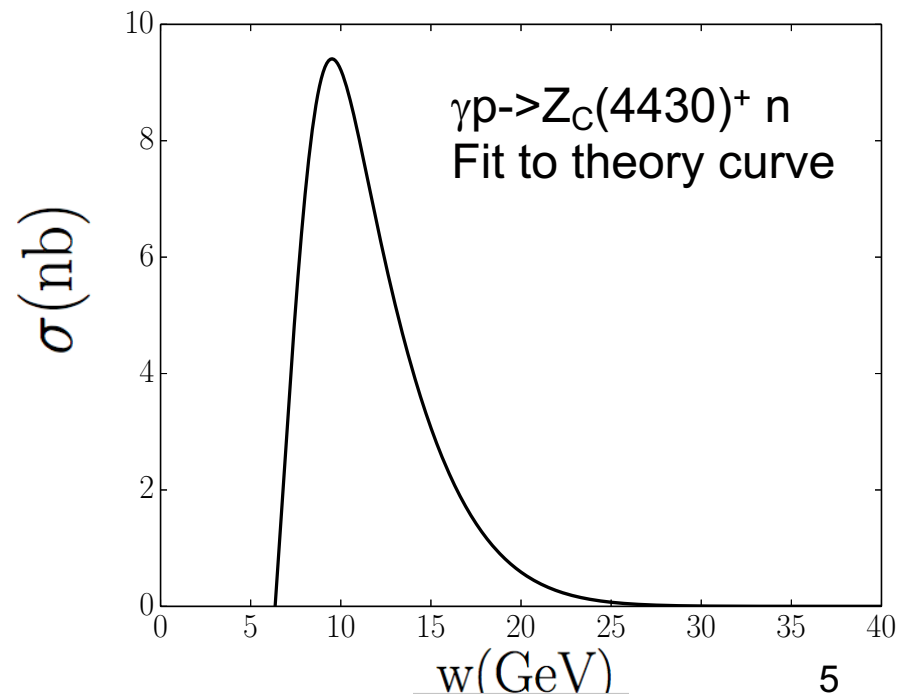
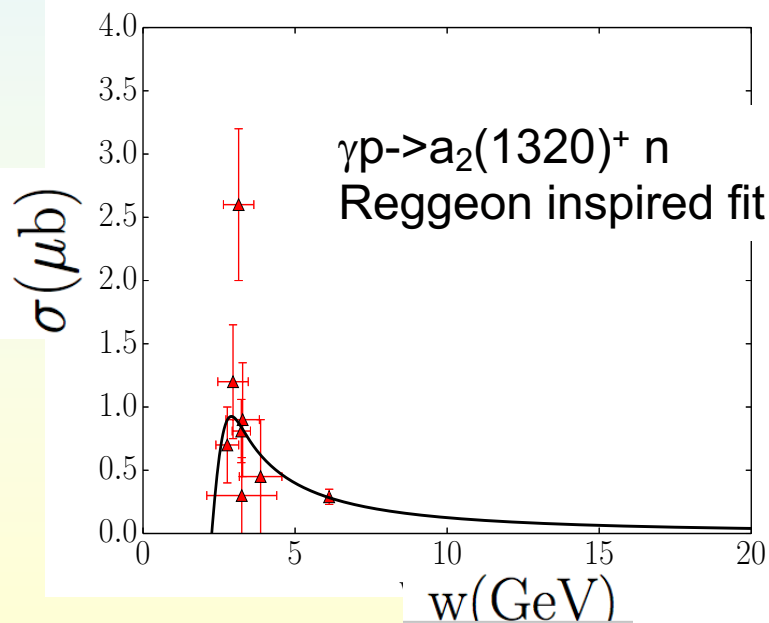
Near threshold quarkonium production

- Near-threshold quarkonium production is sensitive to new mechanisms (i. e. 3-gluon exchange)
 - ◆ GlueX data favors a mix gluon exchange for J/ψ
- Sensitive to near-threshold
 - ◆ $P_C^+(4440) \Rightarrow J/\psi p$
 - ✦ Pentaquark candidate
- EIC will study ψ' , Y states and probe the Q^2 dependence of multiple resonances
- For nuclei, near-threshold or sub-threshold production is sensitive to short-range nuclear correlations.
- Requires good acceptance in the ion-going direction



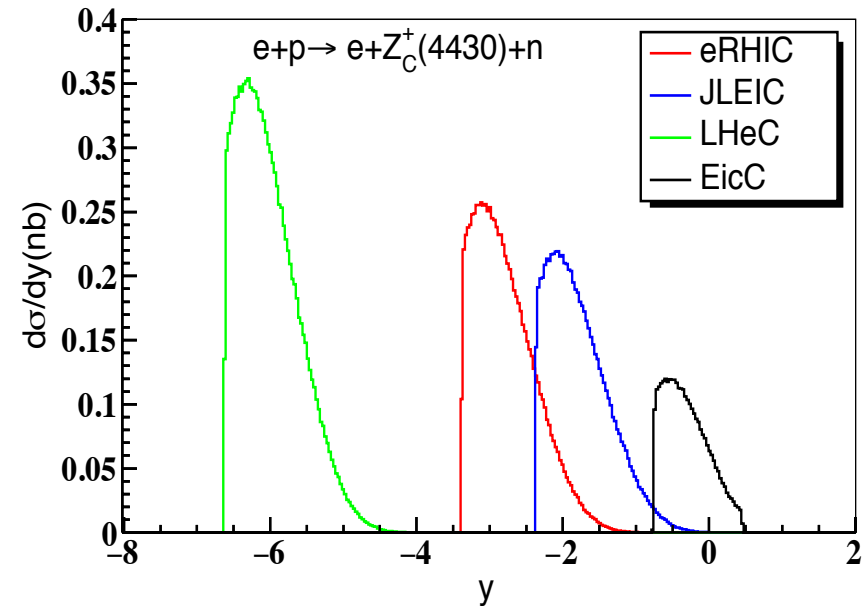
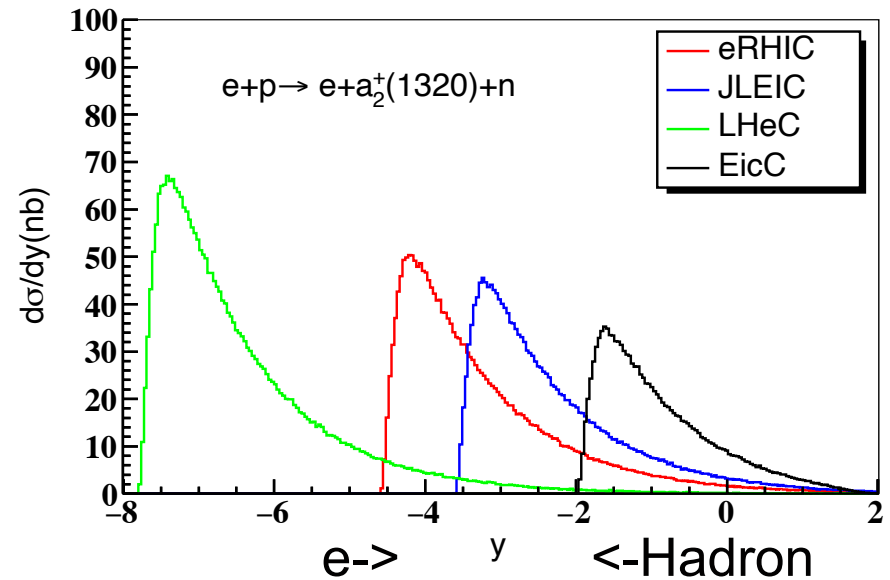
Reggeon exchange and forward production

- Examples: the $a_2^+(1320)$ standard candle and the exotic $Z_c^+(4430)$
- Use data/calculations of $\sigma(\gamma p \rightarrow X + n)$ as input to eSTARlight to predict $d\sigma/dy$ for the same process in EIC collisions/
 - Use the same Q^2 scaling as the ρ (for the a_2) and J/ψ (for the Z_c)



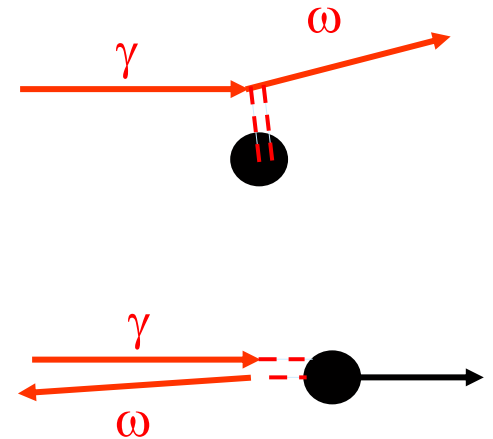
$a_2^+(1320)$ and $Z_c^+(4430)$ production in ep collisions at the EICs

- The $a_2^+(1320)$ is mainly at negative rapidity
 - ◆ $\sigma \sim 80$ nb at eRHIC
 - ✦ Copiously produced
- The $Z_c^+(4430)$ is heavier, and so somewhat more centrally produced.
- ◆ σ is 0.26 nb at eRHIC
- Both require good ion-going acceptance to be observable
- Both might be easier to observe at lower beam energies



Backward meson production

- Data from fixed-target experiments (including JLab), show that photoproduction can also occur in the backward production
 - ◆ Model via a baryon exchange trajectory
- Normally, photoproduction is maximal when t (momentum transfer from target) is small
 - ◆ $d\sigma/dt \sim \exp(-Bt)$
 - ✦ $B \sim \hbar/\text{target size}$
- In baryon exchange, in the CM frame, the meson scatters backward 180 degrees causing the baryon to recoil
 - ◆ In CM frame, baryon and photon/meson trade momentum
 - ◆ Mandelstam u is small, but t is large ($t > Q^2$)
- How does an intact baryon recoil at high energies?
Similar to baryon stopping in RHIC collisions



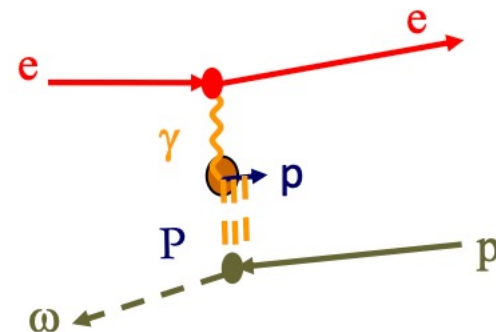
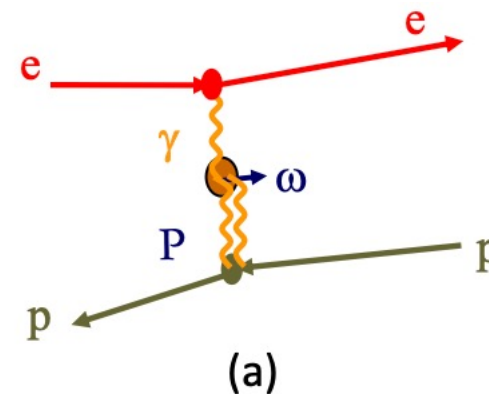
Backward ρ/ω production

- Two examples of experimental interest
 - ◆ One decays to $\pi^+\pi^-$, the other to $\pi^0\gamma$
- Production extrapolated from fixed-target data using a Regge model
 - ◆ Faster dropoff with W than forward production

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{du} \right|_{u=0} = A \left(\frac{k}{1 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{-\eta} = A \left(\frac{W^2 - m_p^2}{2m_p(1 \text{ GeV})} \right)^{-\eta}$$

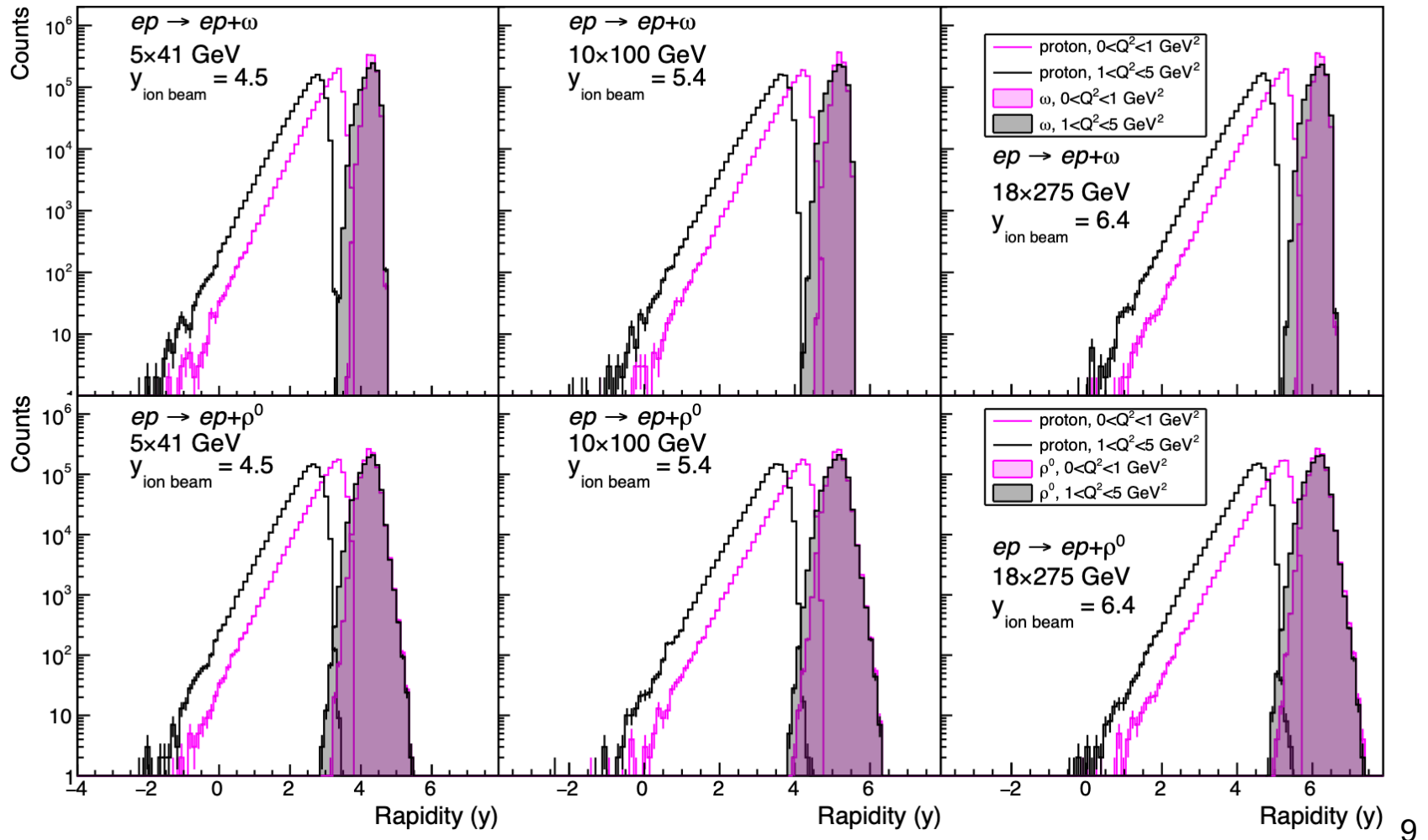
$$\frac{d\sigma(s, u)}{du} = \left| A(u) s^{\alpha(u)-1} + B(u) e^{i\phi(u)} s^{-n/2} \right|^2.$$

- Rates are order 0.1-1% of their forward production counterparts



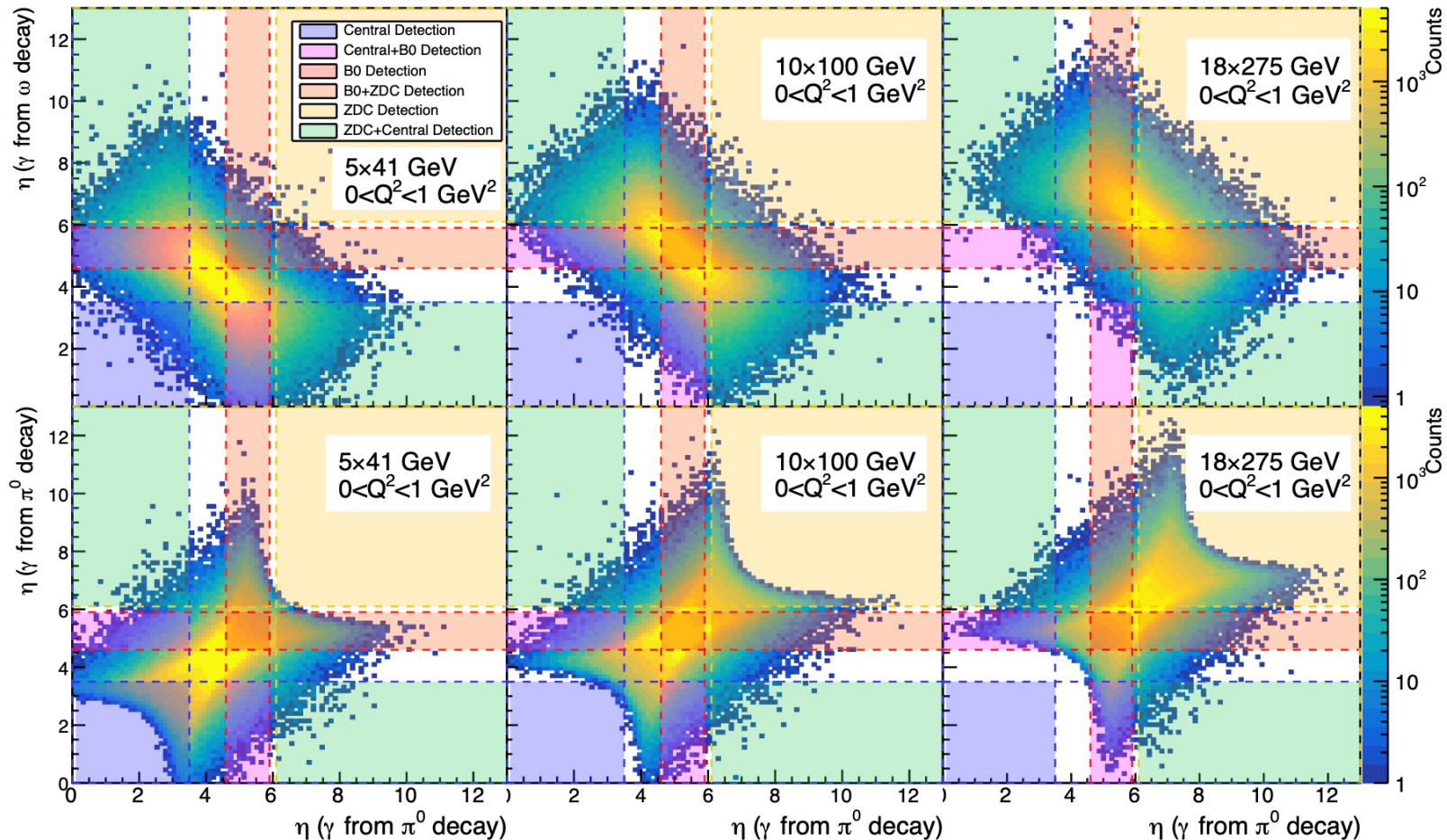
Final state rapidity

The final state mesons are in the far forward region



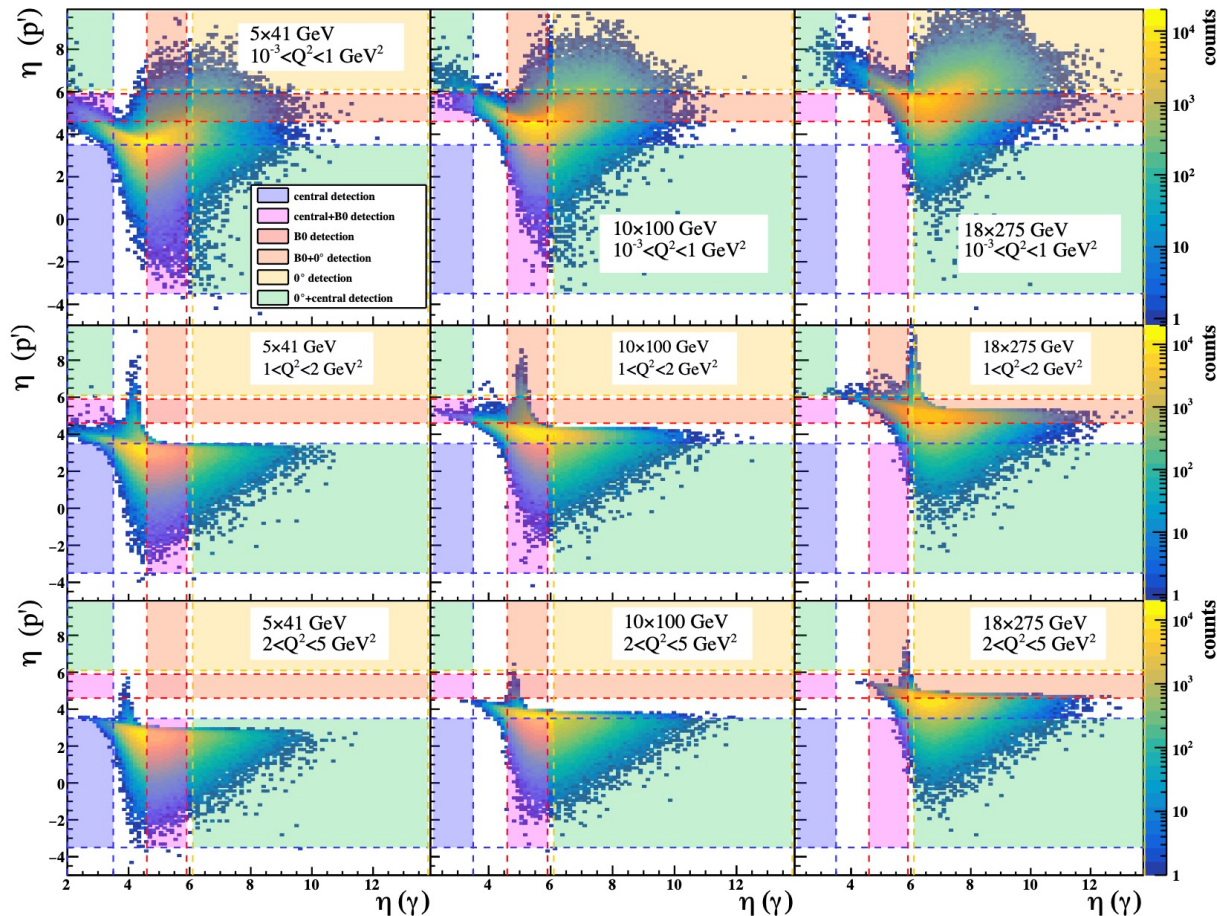
Pseudorapidity of the daughter particles

ePIC is not optimal for studying this physics



Backward π^0 /Virtual Compton Scattering (VCS)

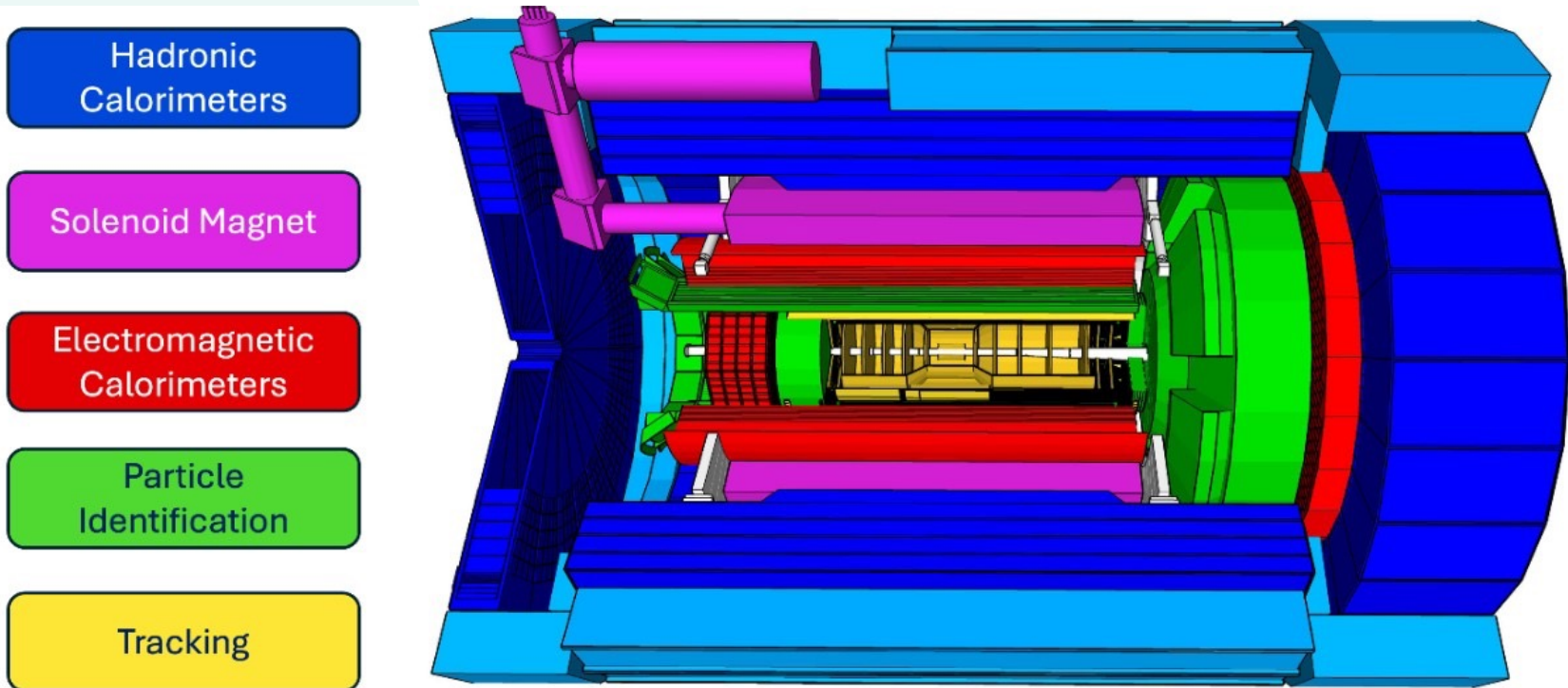
- Also modelled with Regge trajectories
- π^0 rejection is a major challenge for VCS
 - ◆ Requires well-segmented calorimetry



Z. Sweger et al. (SK),
Phys. Rev. C **108**, 055205 (2023)

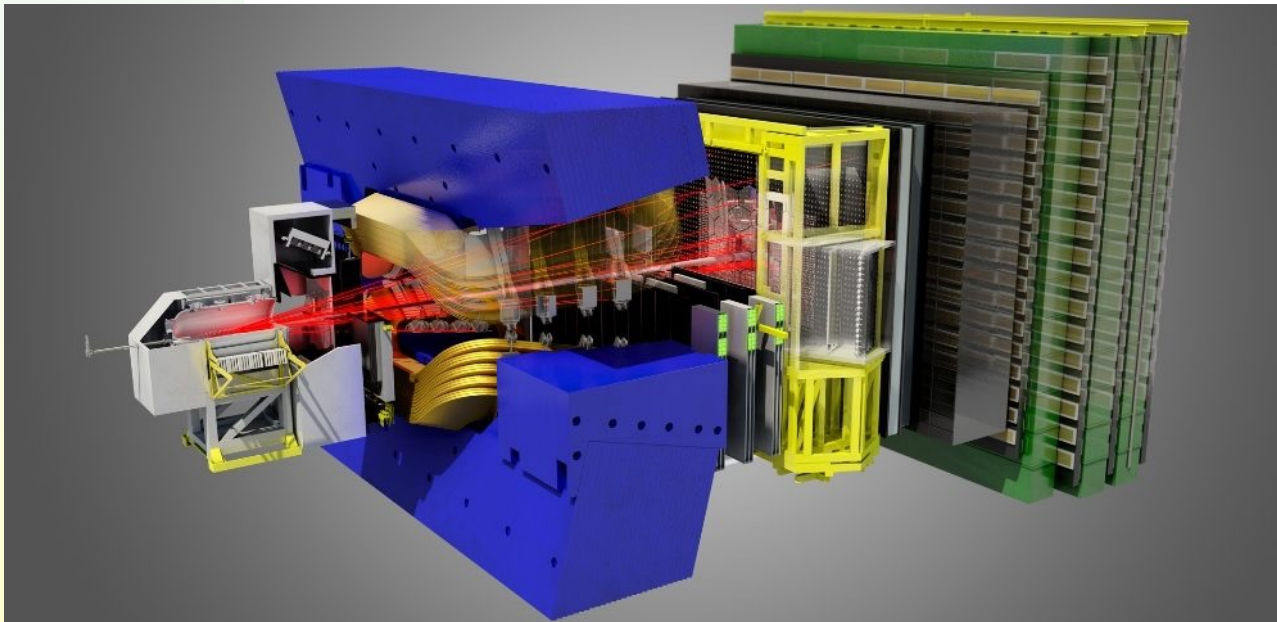
ePIC

- Excellent mid-rapidity coverage
 - ◆ $-3.5 < \eta < 3.5$, but resolution drops at large $|\eta|$
- B0 magnet provides some coverage $4.6 < \eta < 5.9$
- ZDC covers $\sim \eta > 6.1$ (not azimuthally symmetric) + Roman Pots...
- Holes at large $|\eta|$. A second detector might compromise at midrapidity to cover the large $|\eta|$ region



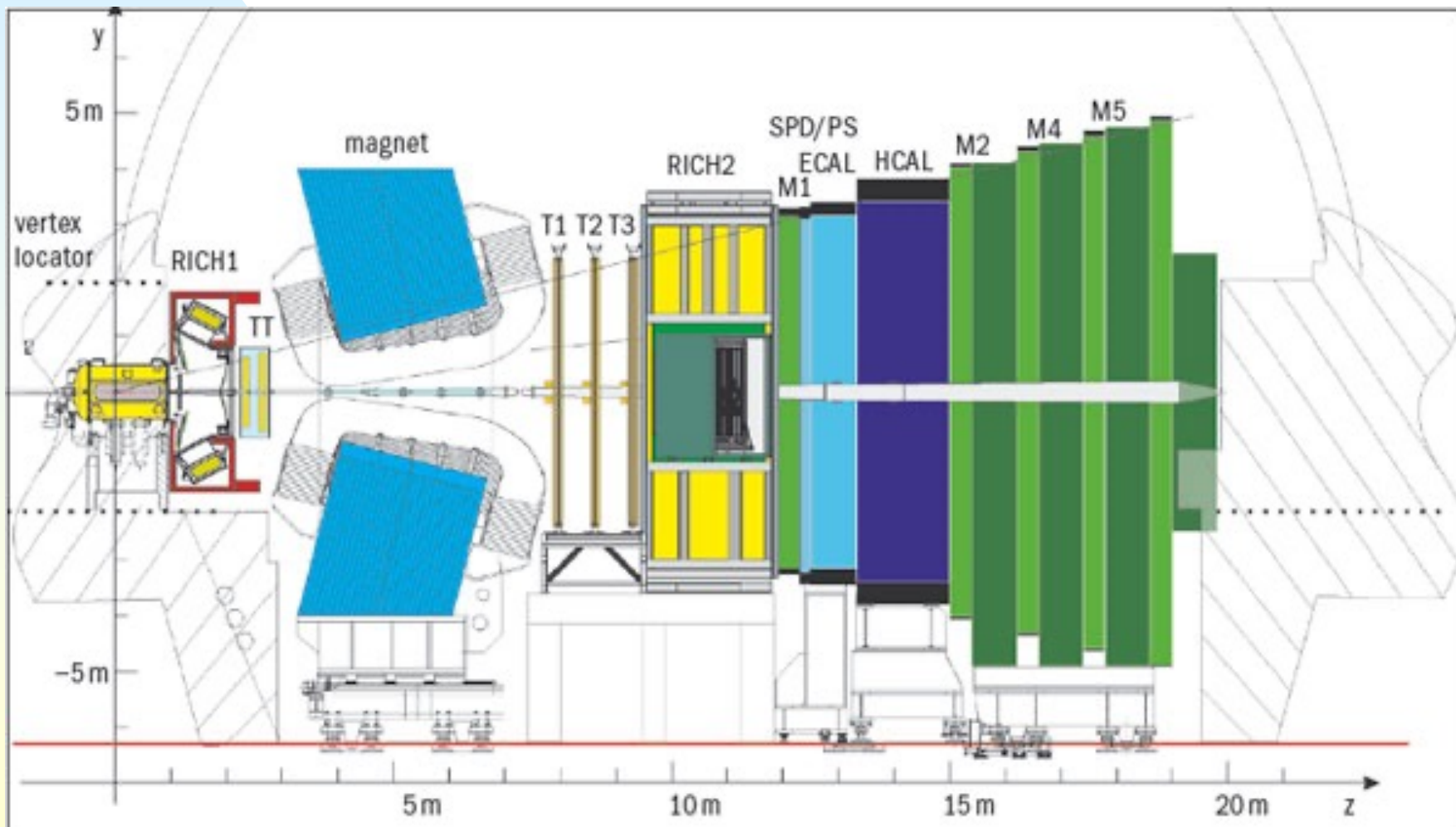
Forward spectrometers at colliders

- BTeV at the Tevatron (proposed)
- HERA-b (did not run for long)
- LHCb
 - ◆ Very successful at b-physics, CP violation, low-x physics (due to its large rapidity), ultra-peripheral collisions & other physics.
- Forward hardware is simpler than collider geometry; main challenge is very high rates



LHC-b instrumentation

Spectrometer with vertexing, charged particle tracking, electromagnetic and Hadronic calorimetry, RICH for PID and a muon system
2 T (max.) warm dipole magnet!



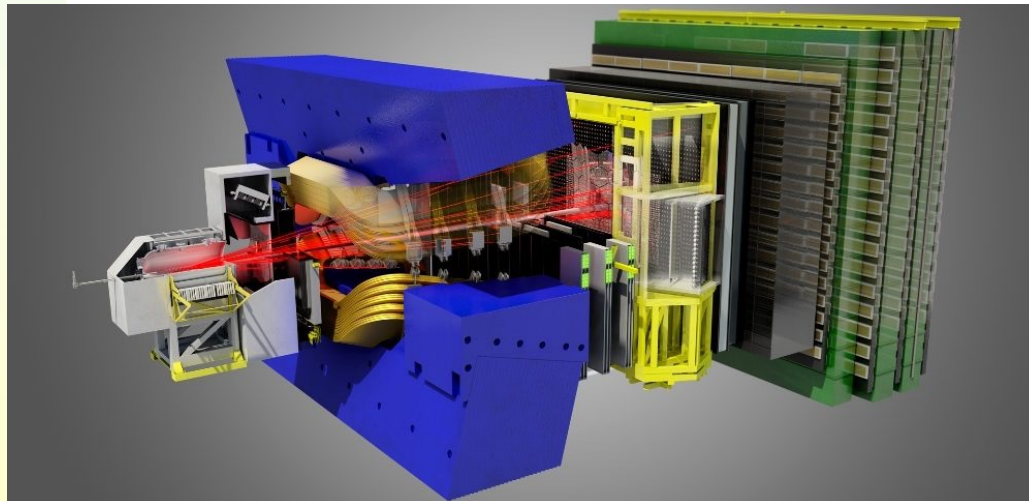
What could an EIC forward/backward detector look like?

- Forward and backward spectrometers similar to LHCb, but optimized for lower momentum particles

- ◆ Smaller magnet, less lever arm required
- ◆ Lower rate requirements
- ◆ Retain full acceptance coverage

- Excellent PID for electrons

- ◆ RICH + TRD?



A central detector(?)

- Compromises would be needed in the central region
- Either a lower solenoidal magnetic field, or no field.
- High efficiency particle detection over the full solid angle
 - ◆ Limited (or no) momentum resolution
 - ✦ Possibly calorimetry only

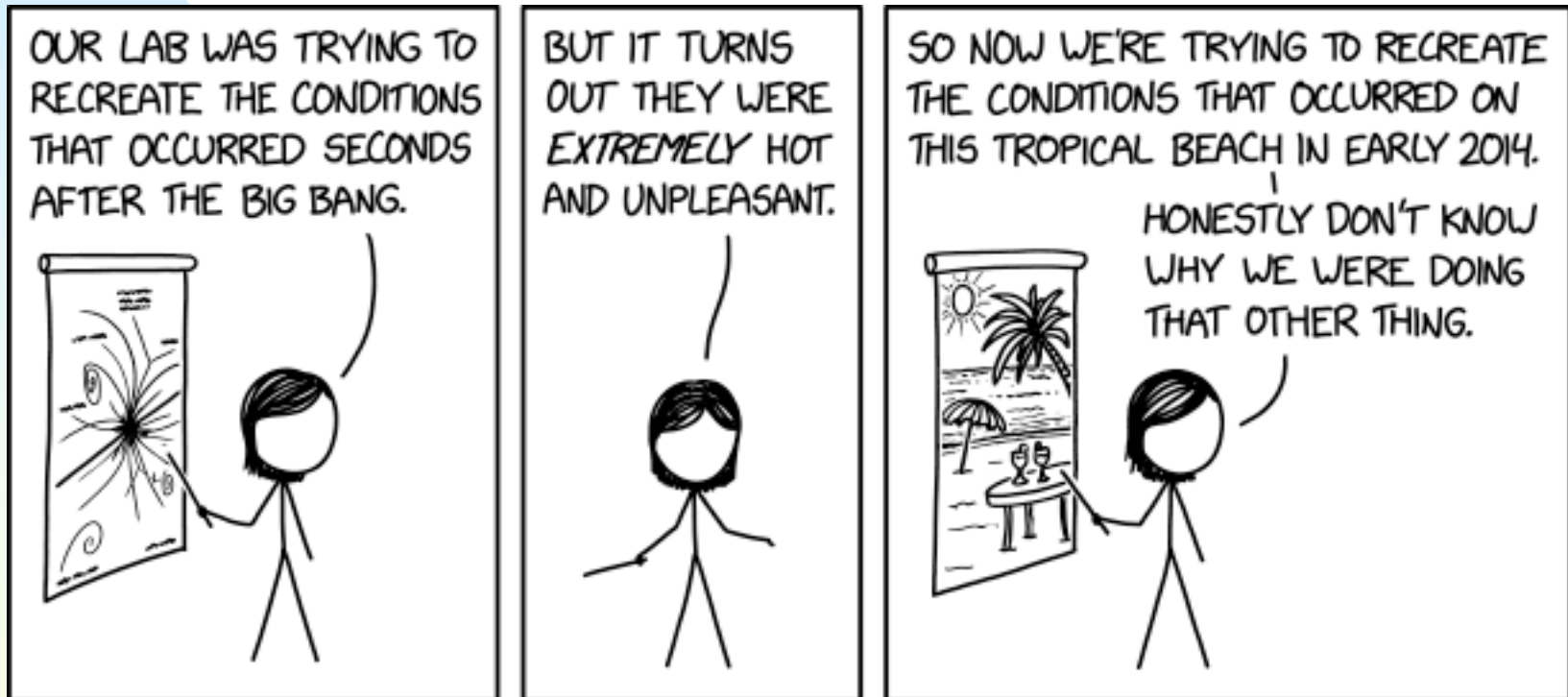
The far-forward region –meshing with the EIC

- Possible tension between accelerator needs (magnet placement, etc.) and the desire for full coverage.
- The EIC magnetic lattice will need adjustment to account for the dipole fields of the detector magnets.
 - ◆ Co-design?
 - ◆ Dipoles with horizontal fields?
- The far-forward region will require a dedicated design that preserves full coverage while taking advantage of the magnetic fields

Conclusions

- For exclusive interactions, the Bjorken- x of the struck parton maps into rapidity. For many final states, the daughter pseudorapidity is within ± 1 unit from the final state rapidity
- Some of the most interesting physics is at the lowest accessible Bjorken- x , or near threshold, at large x .
 - ◆ Large positive and negative rapidity
- A detector optimized to study large $|\text{rapidity}|$ events would nicely complement ePIC.
 - ◆ This ties in well with the IP-8 optics, which allow for improved tracking of nuclear fragments.
- This detector could consist of forward and backward spectrometers that look like smaller versions of LHCb, with dipole magnets and a forward-backward geometry.

Questions?



<https://xkcd.com/2511/>

A large, curved, light blue and yellow shape on the left side of the slide, resembling a stylized 'C' or a partial circle.

backup.

EIC photoproduction kinematics

- Maps photon energy onto rapidity
- $k = \frac{M}{2} \exp(y)$
- $y = \ln(2k/M)$
- Reggeon activity strongest at low photon energies
 - ◆ Requires good acceptance in the hadron-going direction
- Highest photon energies correspond to electron-going direction
 - ◆ Need good e-going acceptance

