

# The L $\updownarrow$ C project

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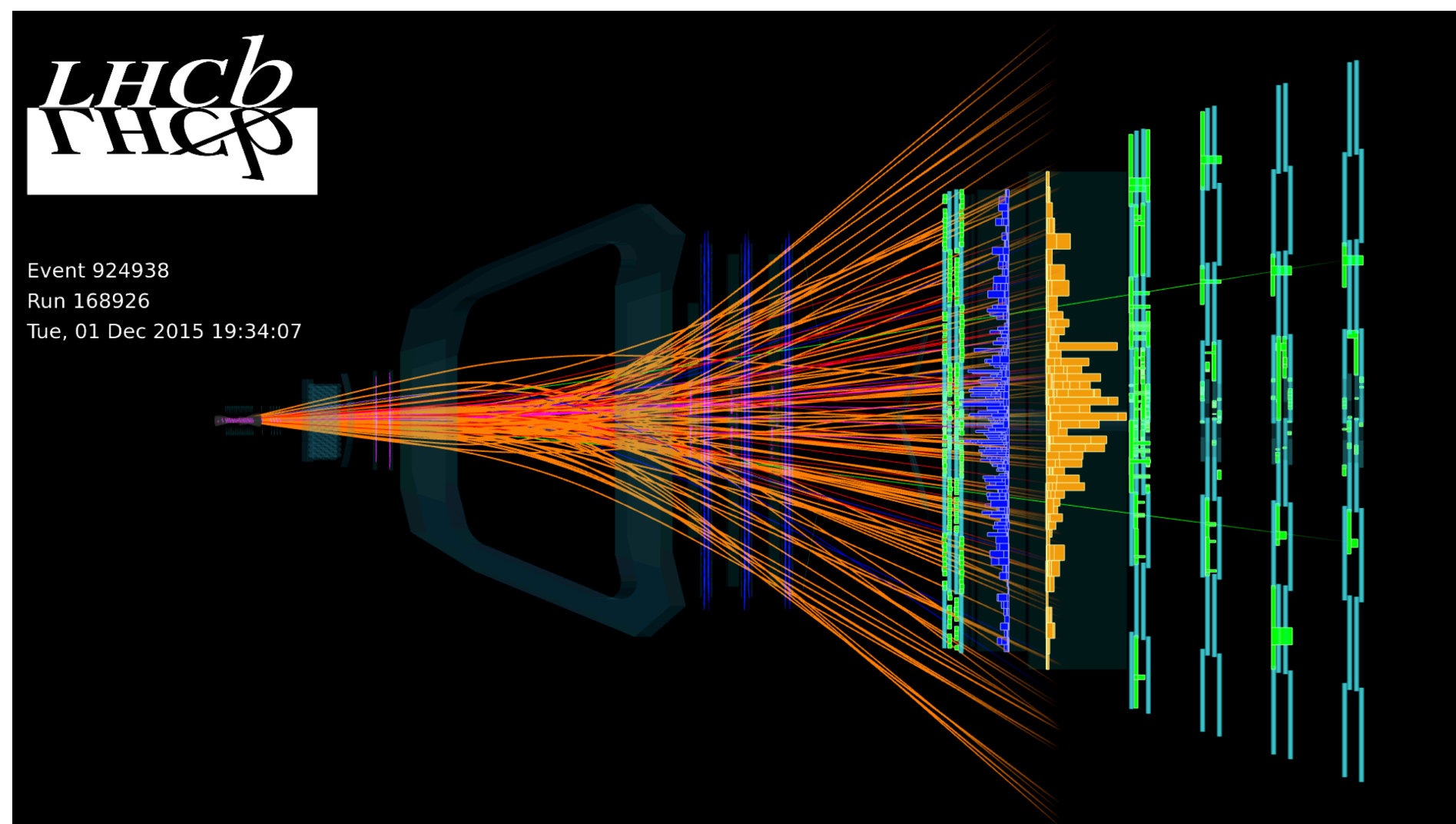




# The LHCb detector for fixed target collisions

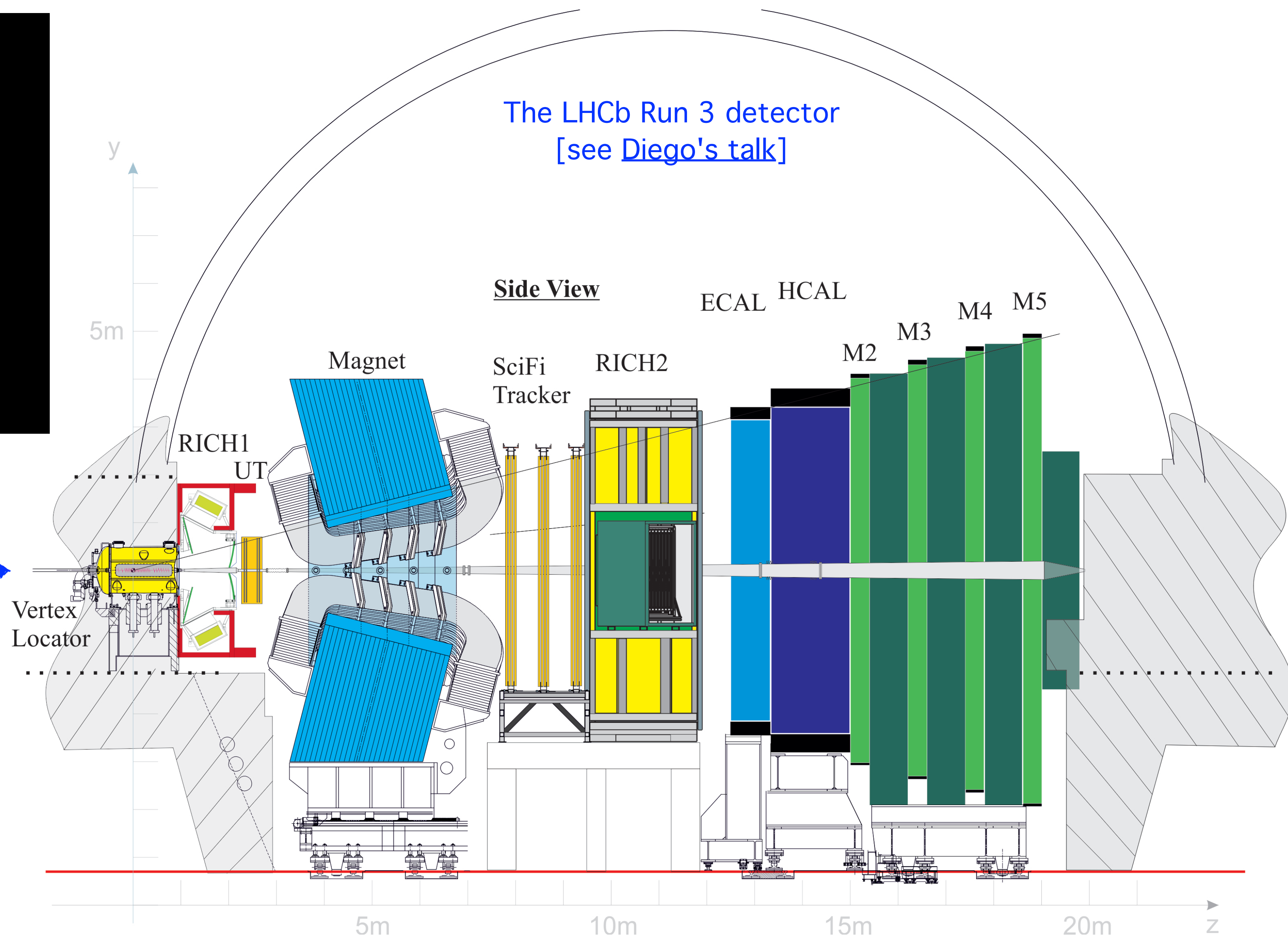
[JINST 3 (2008) S08005]

[IJMPA 30 (2015)1530022]



- LHCb is a general-purpose forward spectrometer, fully instrumented in  $2 < \eta < 5$ , and optimised for  $c$  and  $b$  detection
- Particle identification with RICH+CALO+MUON
- Excellent momentum resolution:  
 $\sigma_p/p = 0.5 - 1.0 \%$  ( $p \in [2, 200] \text{ GeV}$ )

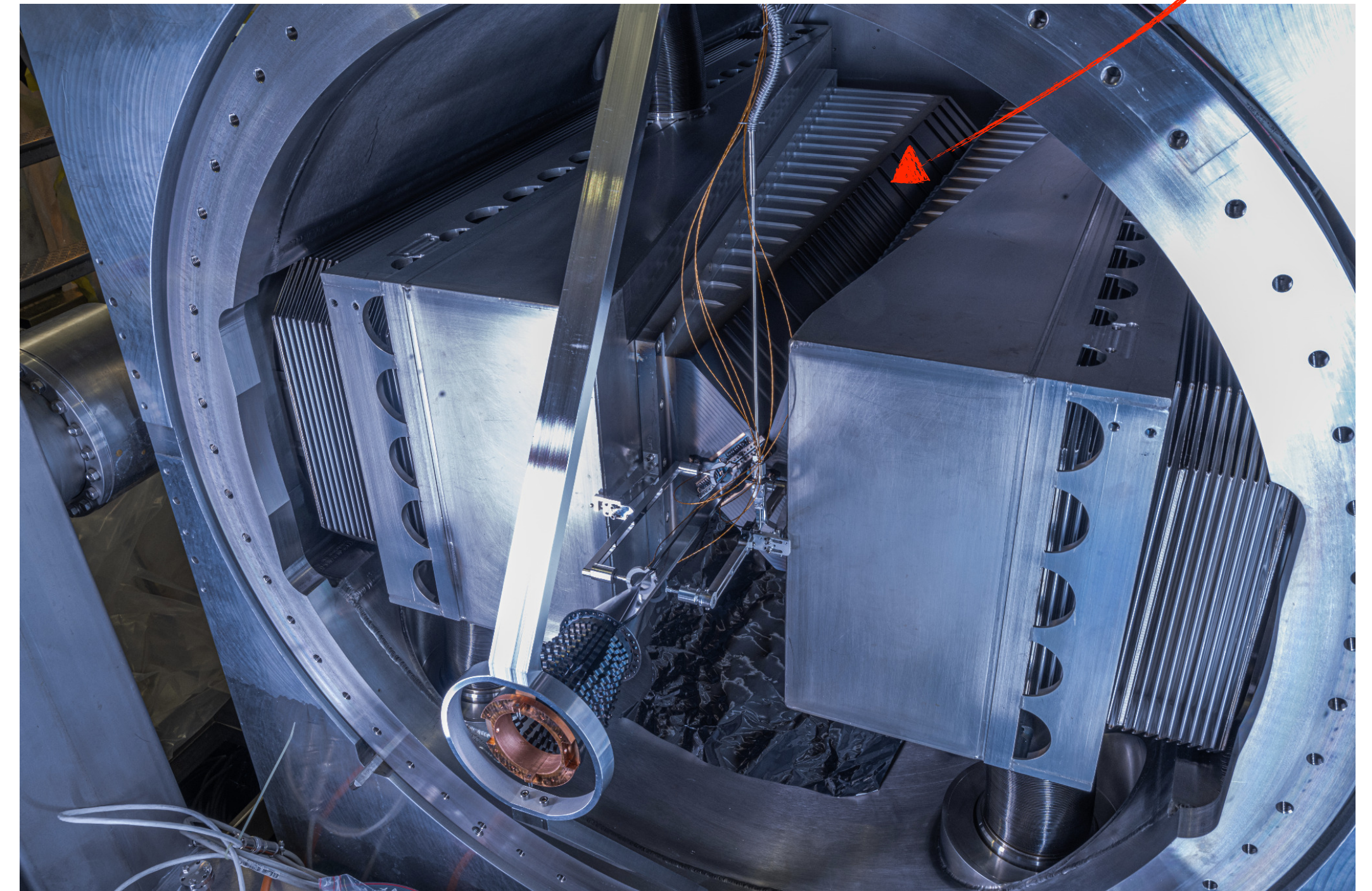
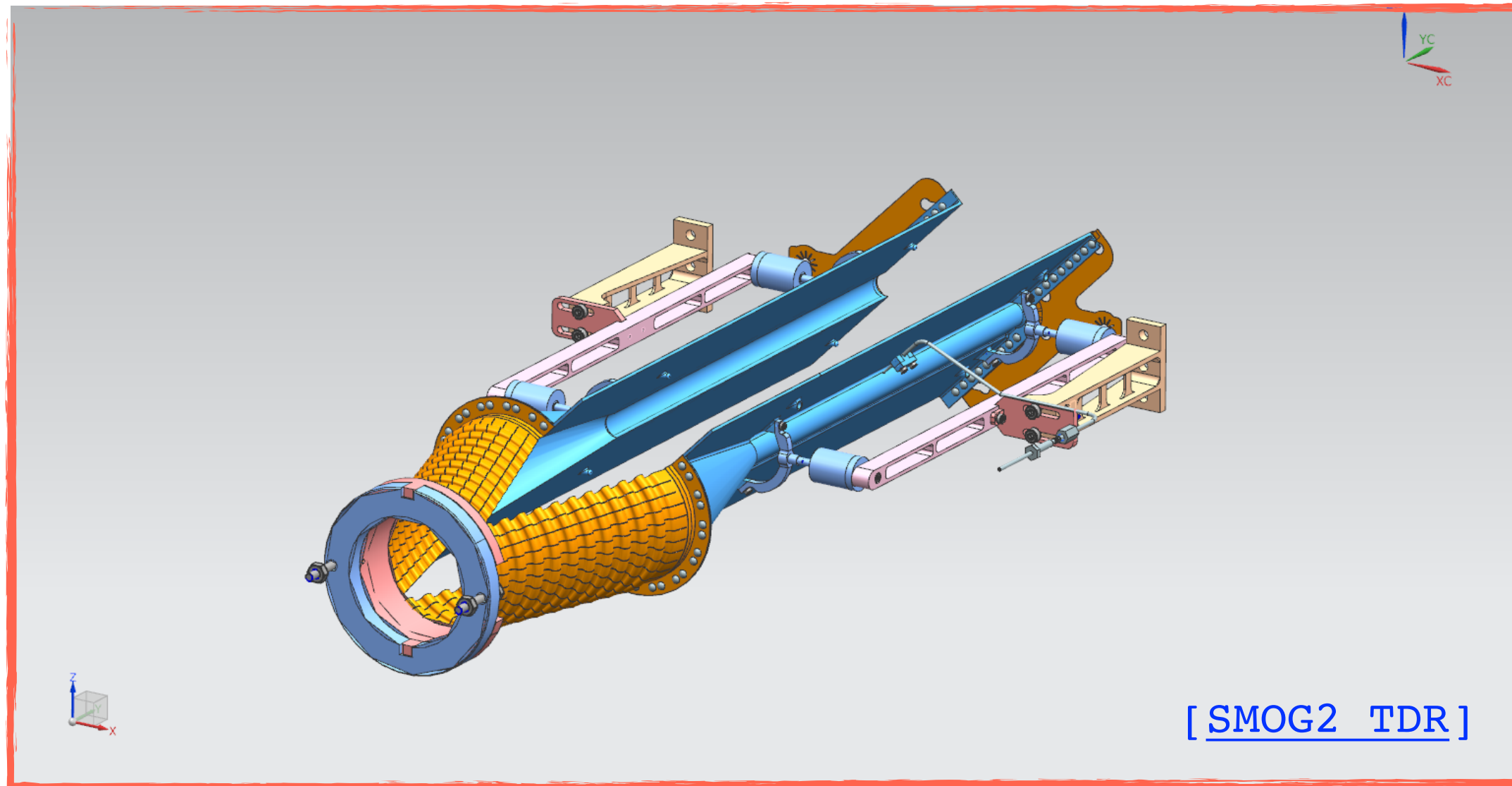
LHC beam





# The SMOG2 gas storage cell

- Together with major hardware interventions, an unpolarised gas cell has been installed in 2020 next to the VELO



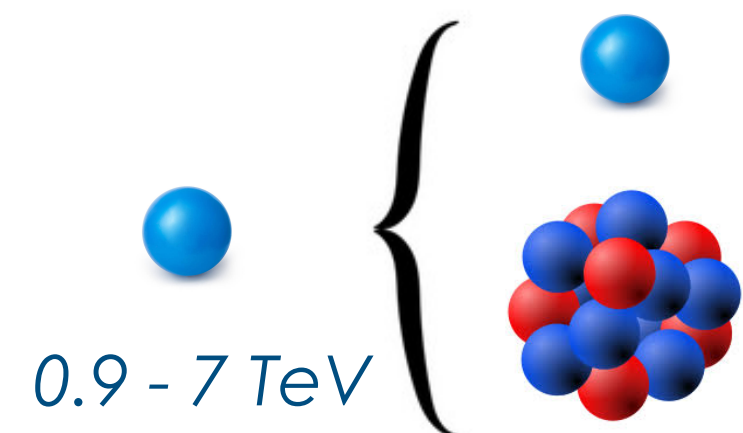
- Can be filled with  $H_2, D_2, He, N_2, O_2, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe$
- Negligible impact on the beam lifetime  
( $\tau_{beam-gas} \sim 2000$  days with hydrogen)
- SMOG2 boosts the LHCb fixed-target programme for the Run 3 of LHC (starting next year)
- Will set the basis for the development of a polarized gas target (PGT), that we aim to install during LS3 (2025-2027)
- LHCspin to take data from Run 4 → [\[The LHCspin project\]](#)



# An excellent starting point

- A trigger for simultaneous p-p ( $\sqrt{s} = 14$  TeV) and p-gas ( $\sqrt{s} = 115$  GeV) data-taking is already in place for SMOG2
- 1 – 3 % throughput decrease when adding p-gas to the LHCb event reconstruction sequence
- LHCb is the only experiment able to run in collider- and fixed-target mode simultaneously!

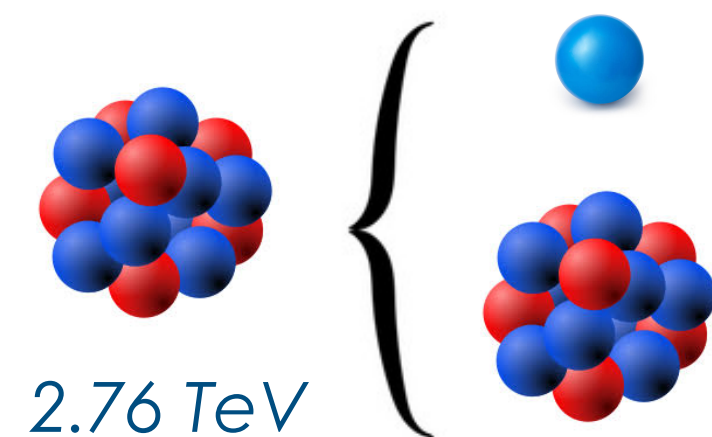
kinematics of fixed target collisions:



pp/pA collisions, 7 TeV beam:

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

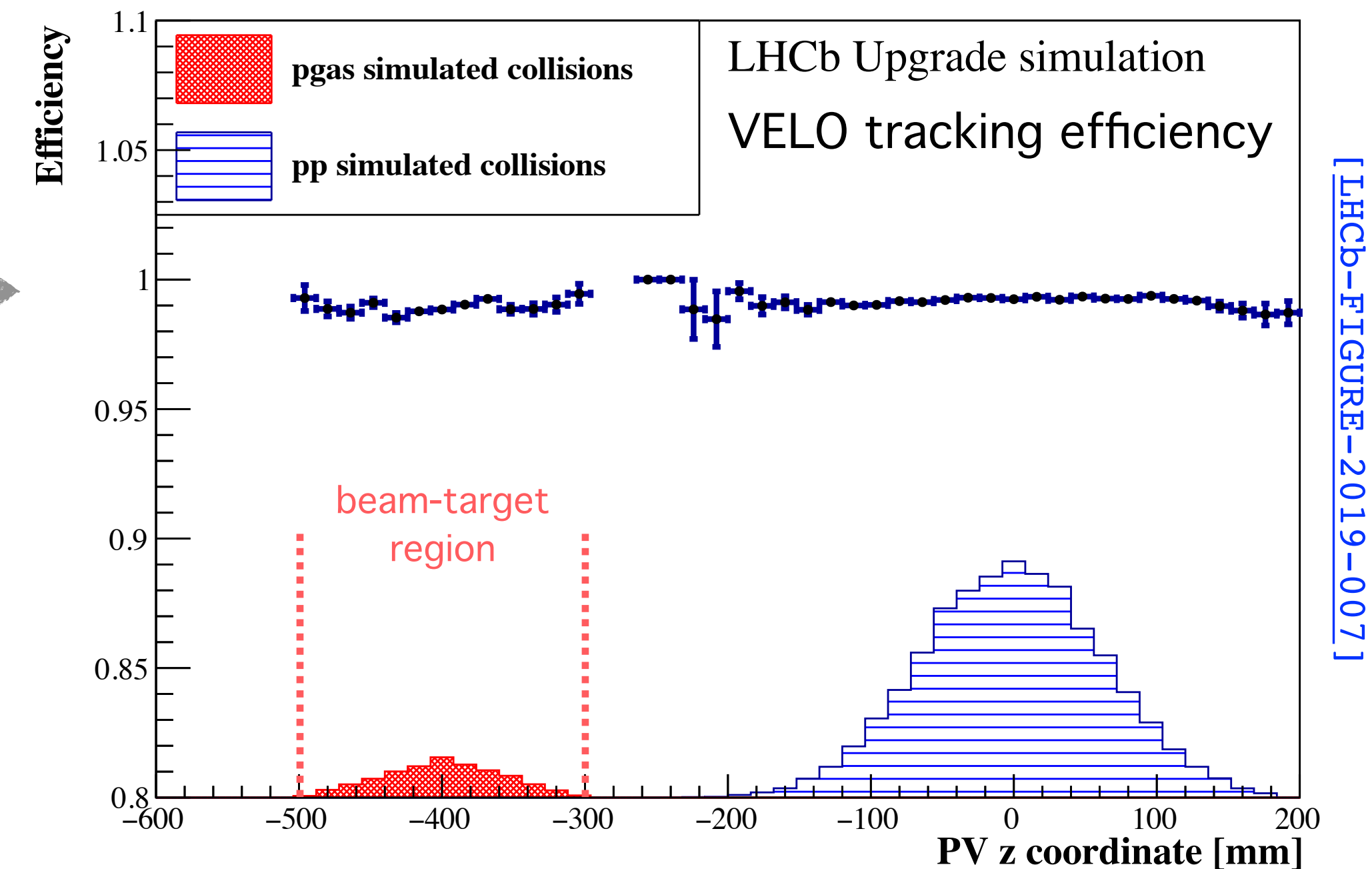
$$-3.0 \leq y_{CMS} \leq 0 \rightarrow 2 \leq y_{lab} \leq 5$$



AA collisions, 2.76 TeV beam:

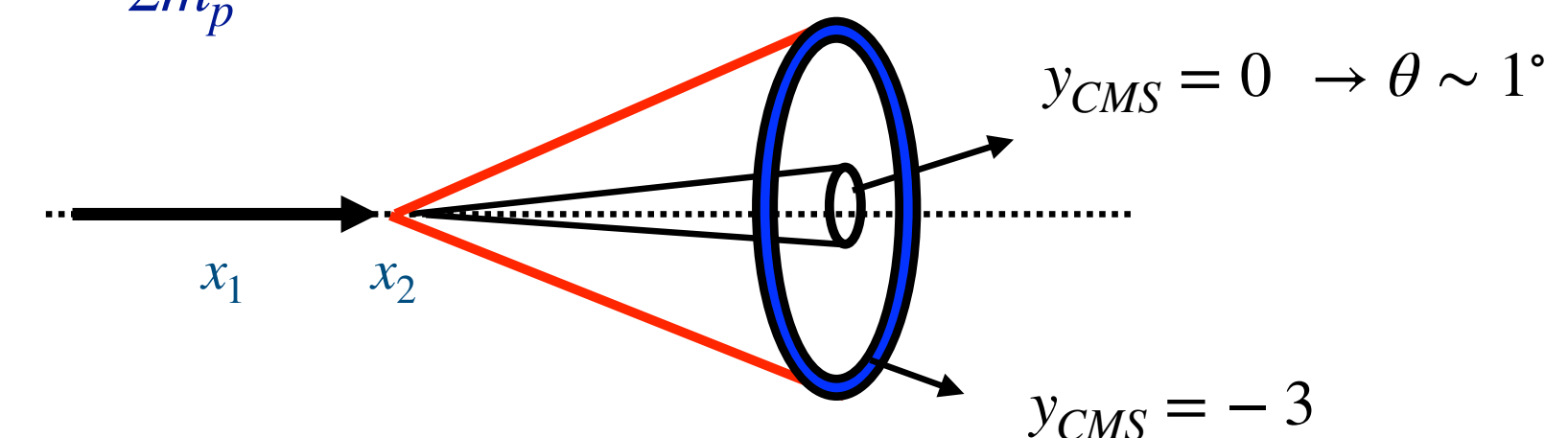
$$\sqrt{s_{NN}} \simeq 72 \text{ GeV}$$

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



Large boost : access to large  $x_2$  values ( $x_F < 0$ )

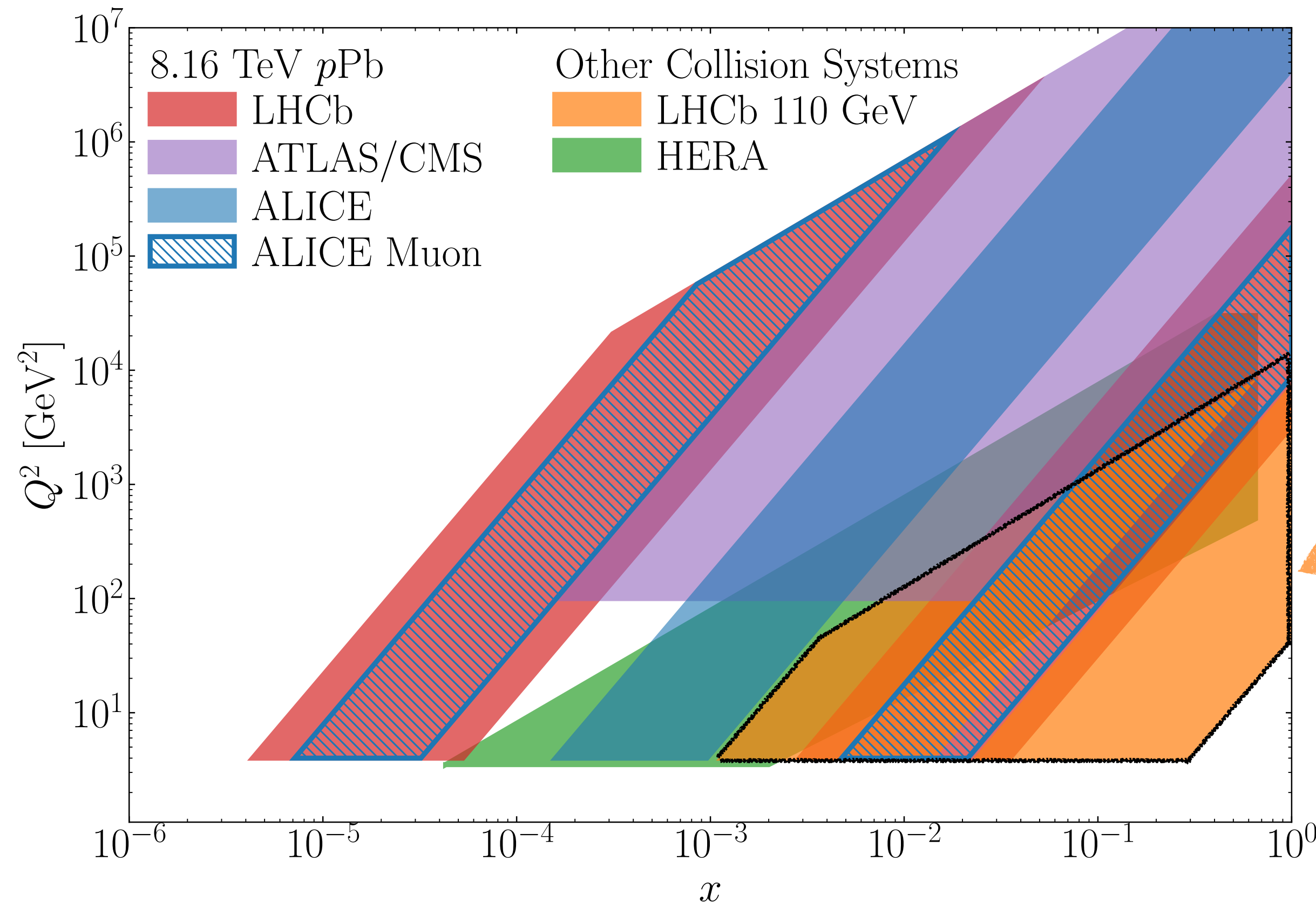
$$\gamma = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2m_p} \sim 60$$





# A lot of possibilities!

- Bring (un) polarised physics at the LHC for the first time exploiting one of the most advanced particle detector



- Unique observables:

- Large  $x$  content of  $g$ ,  $\bar{q}$  and heavy quarks in nucleons and nuclei
- Spin distributions of gluons inside unpolarised and polarised nucleons
- Heavy Ion FT collisions at an energy in between SPS and RHIC (at large rapidities)

- Unique features:

- broad and unexplored kinematic range
- high luminosity, high resolution detectors
- proton and heavy ions beams
- large variety of gas targets:  $H_2, D_2, He, N_2, O_2, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe$
- polarised targets:  $H^\uparrow, D^\uparrow$

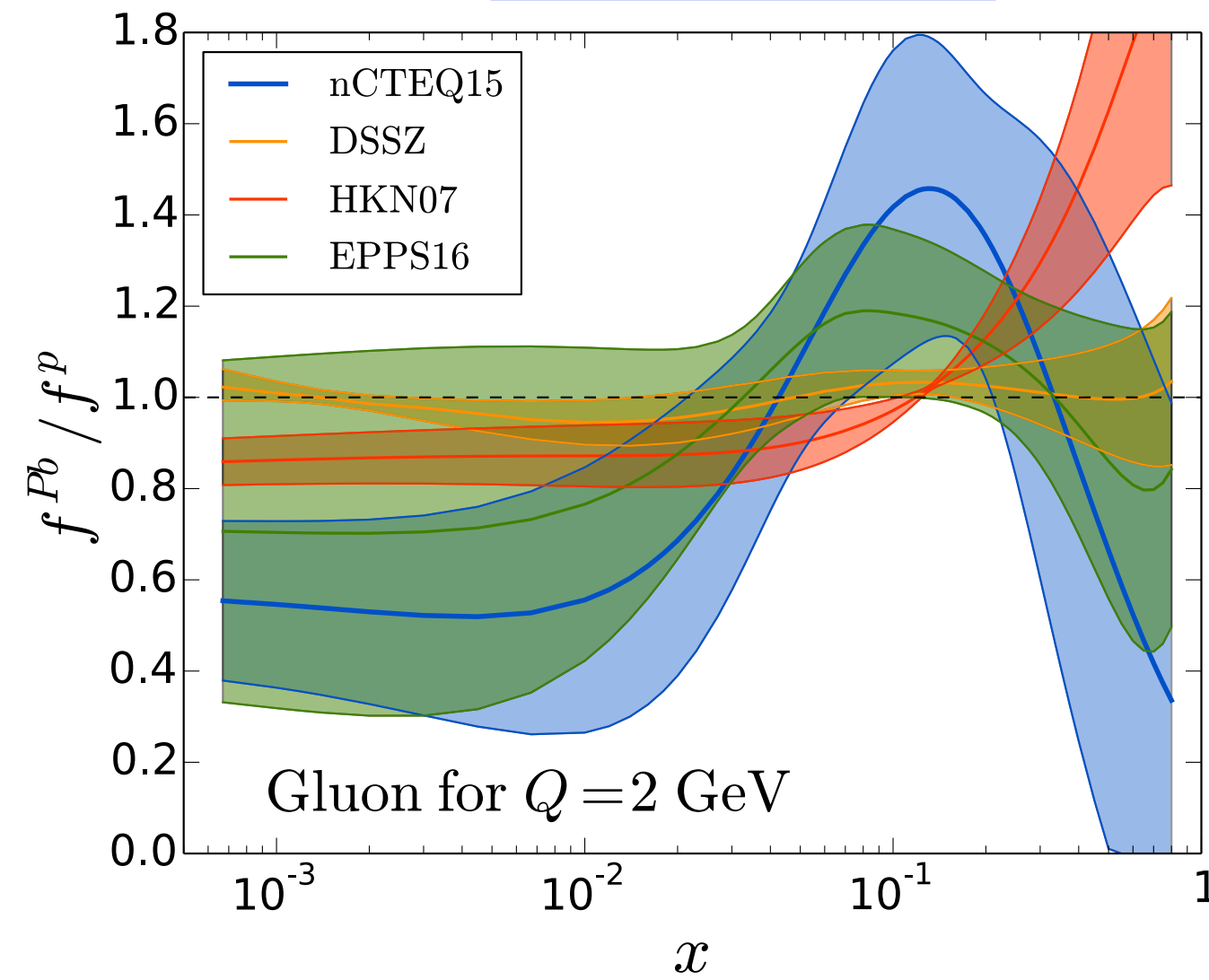
- A selection of physics cases from LHCspin is shown in the following



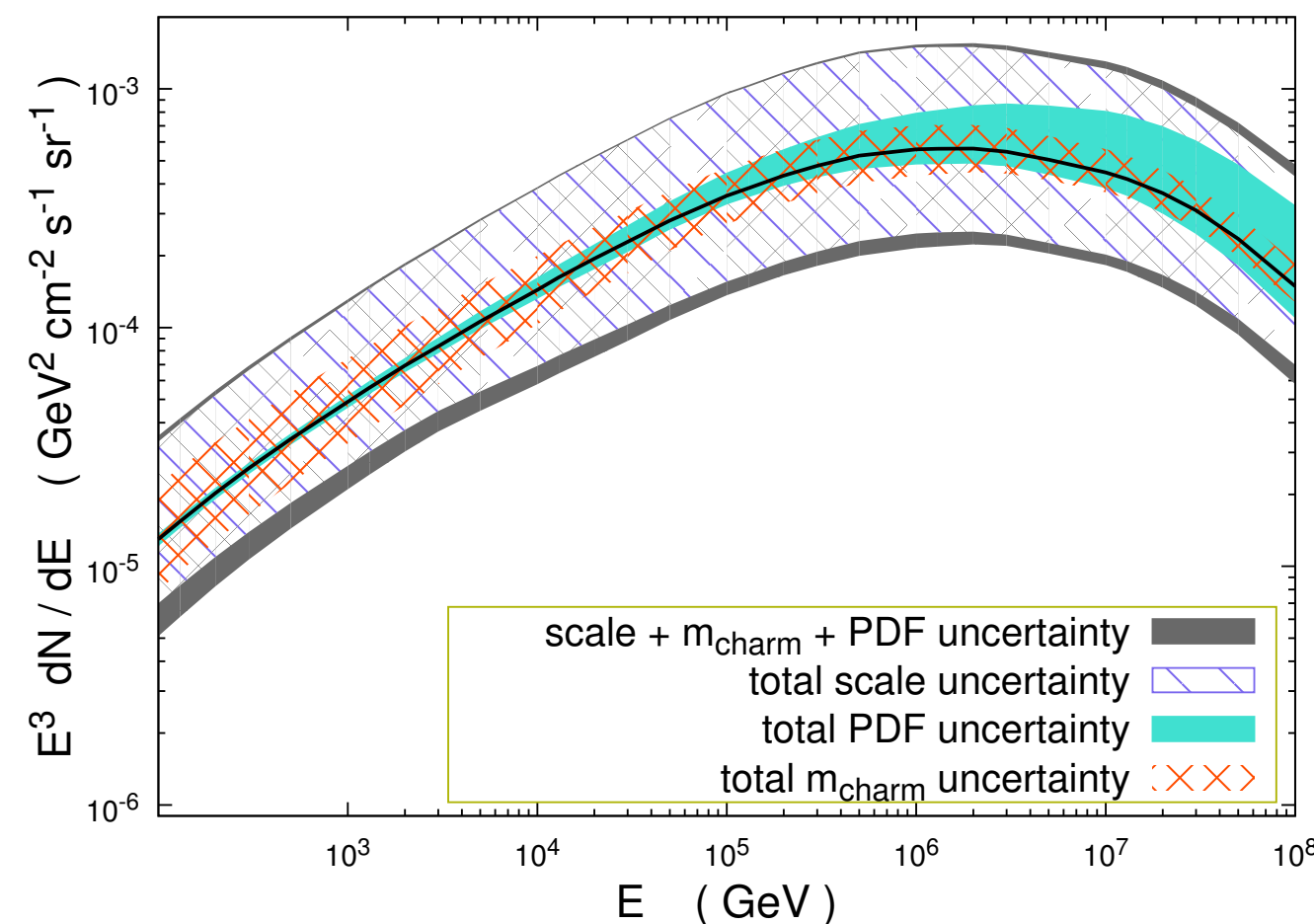
# Physics case #1: PDFs

- Improved knowledge of gluons PDFs, a crucial ingredient for HEP computations and FCC

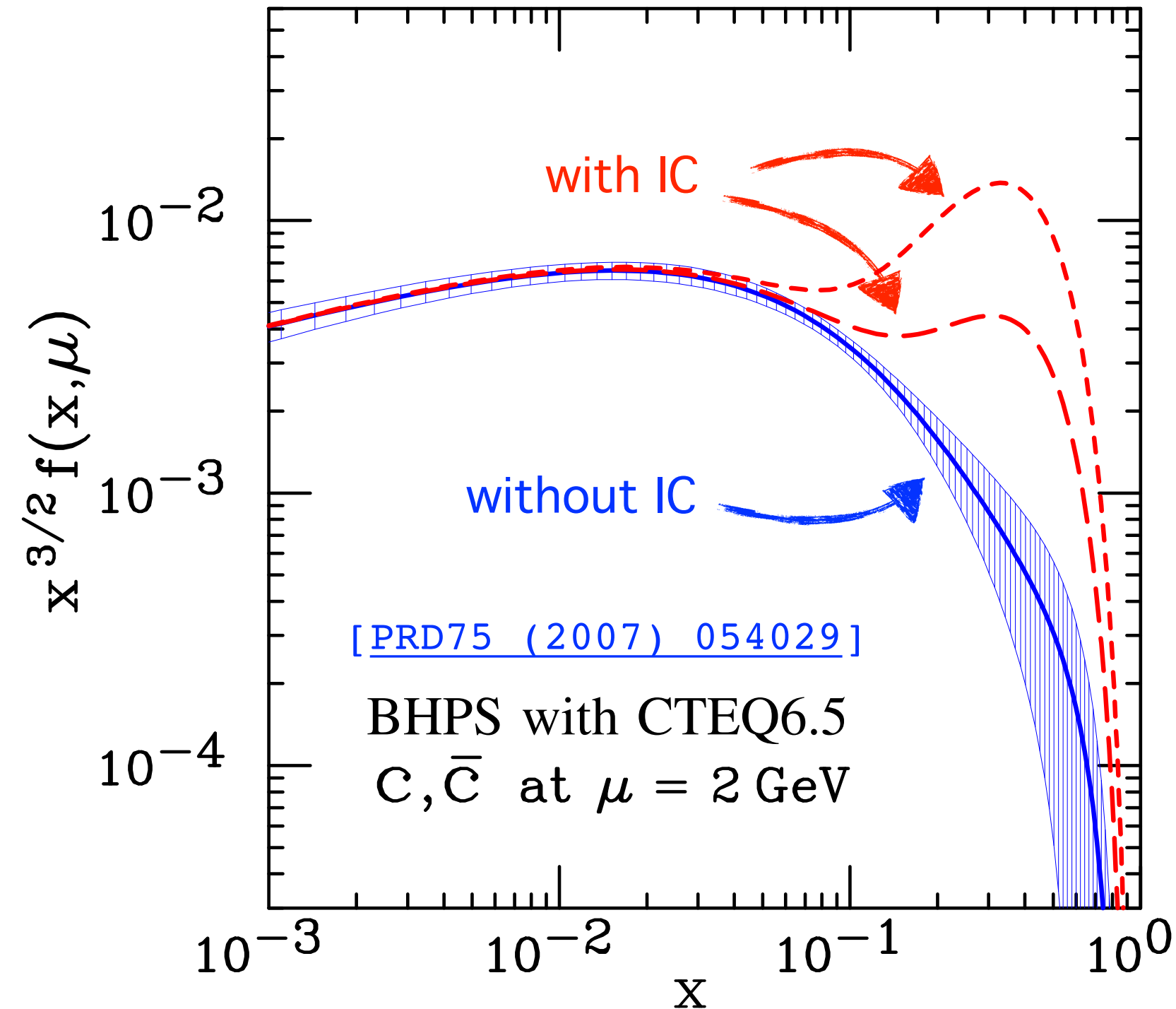
[[ArXiv:1807.00603](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.00603)]



PROSA ( $\nu_\mu + \text{anti-}\nu_\mu$ ) flux



- Intrinsic charm component
- First search at LHCb FT  
[see [Tom's talk](#)]

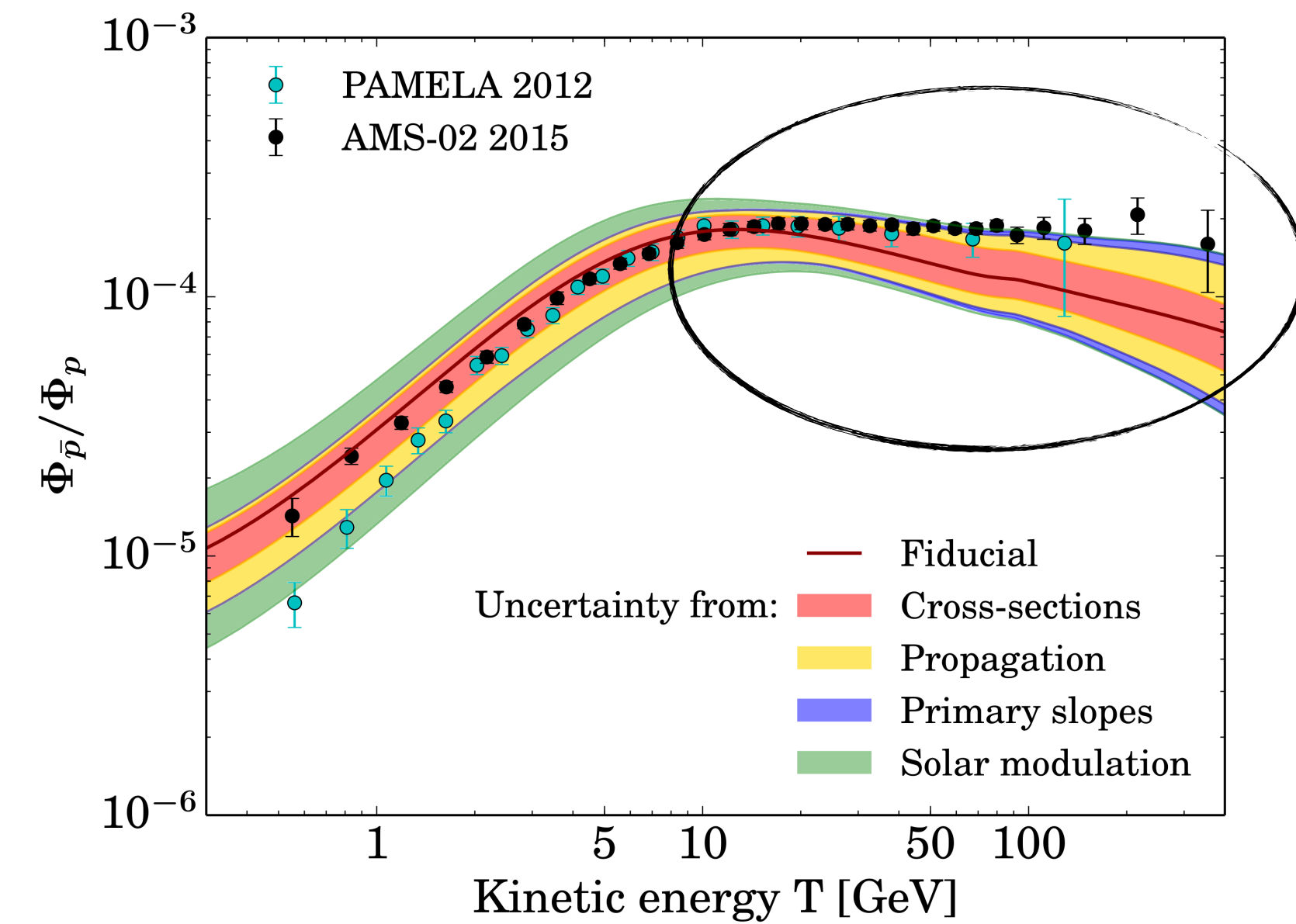


[[PRD75 \(2007\) 054029](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0605239)]

- Improve the prompt  $\nu_\mu$  flux prediction via heavy-flavour hadroproduction measurements [[JHEP 05 \(2017\) 004](https://arxiv.org/abs/1608.05701)]

- Interpret DM annihilation with  $\bar{p}$  production on  $pHe$  collisions

[[PRL 121 \(2018\) 222001](https://arxiv.org/abs/1708.05825)]



And more, for example:

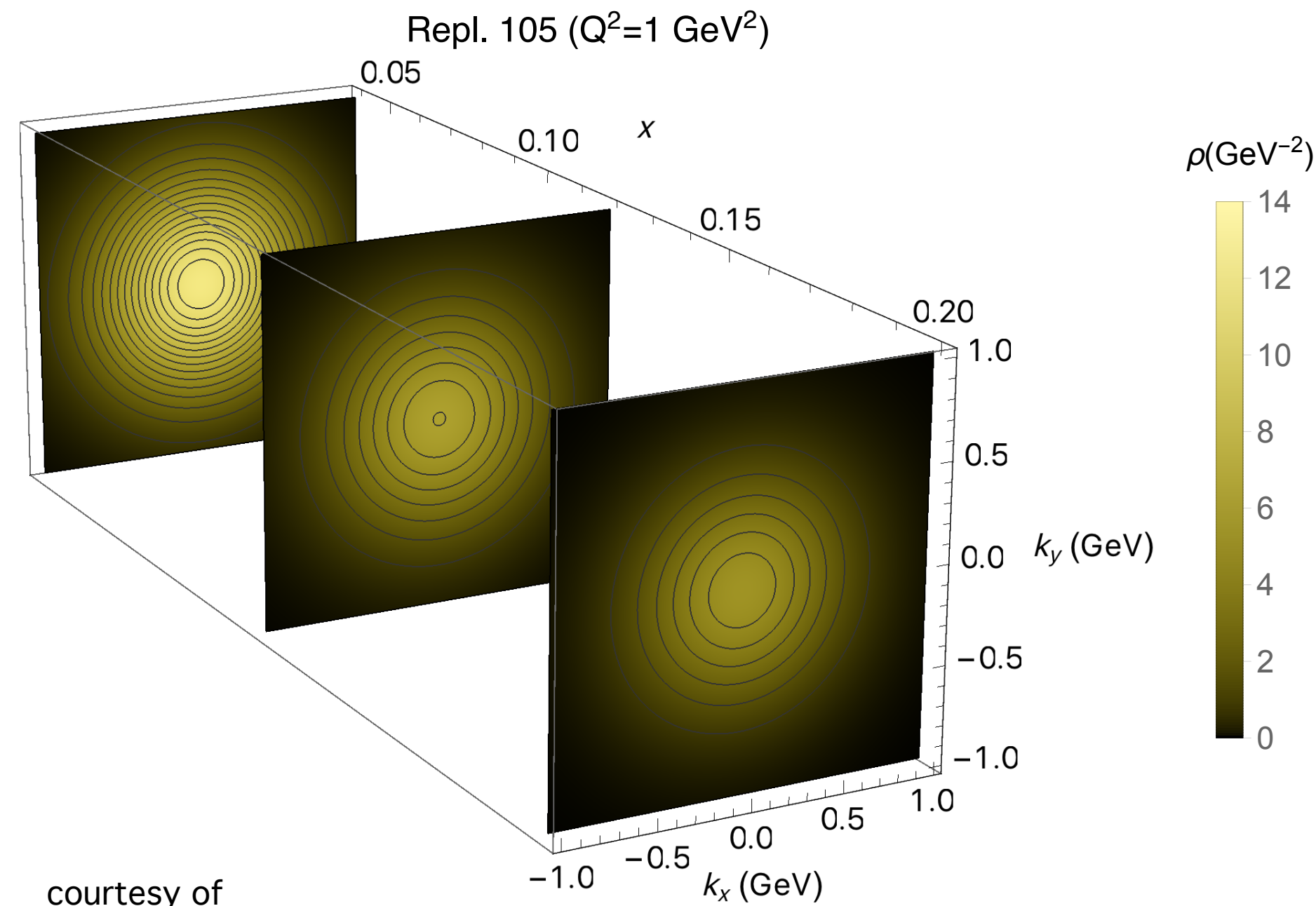
- UHECR flux composition with  $pHe, pO, pN$  data
- More insight on EMC effect, nPDFs
- $^{16}O$  beam at LHC

[[ARNPS 61 \(2011\) 467-489](https://arxiv.org/abs/1008.4022)]



# Physics case #2: hadron structure

- Ultimate goal: a 3D tomography of hadrons



courtesy of  
A. Bacchetta

- Accessing quark TMDs via **TSSAs** at high  $x^\uparrow$

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

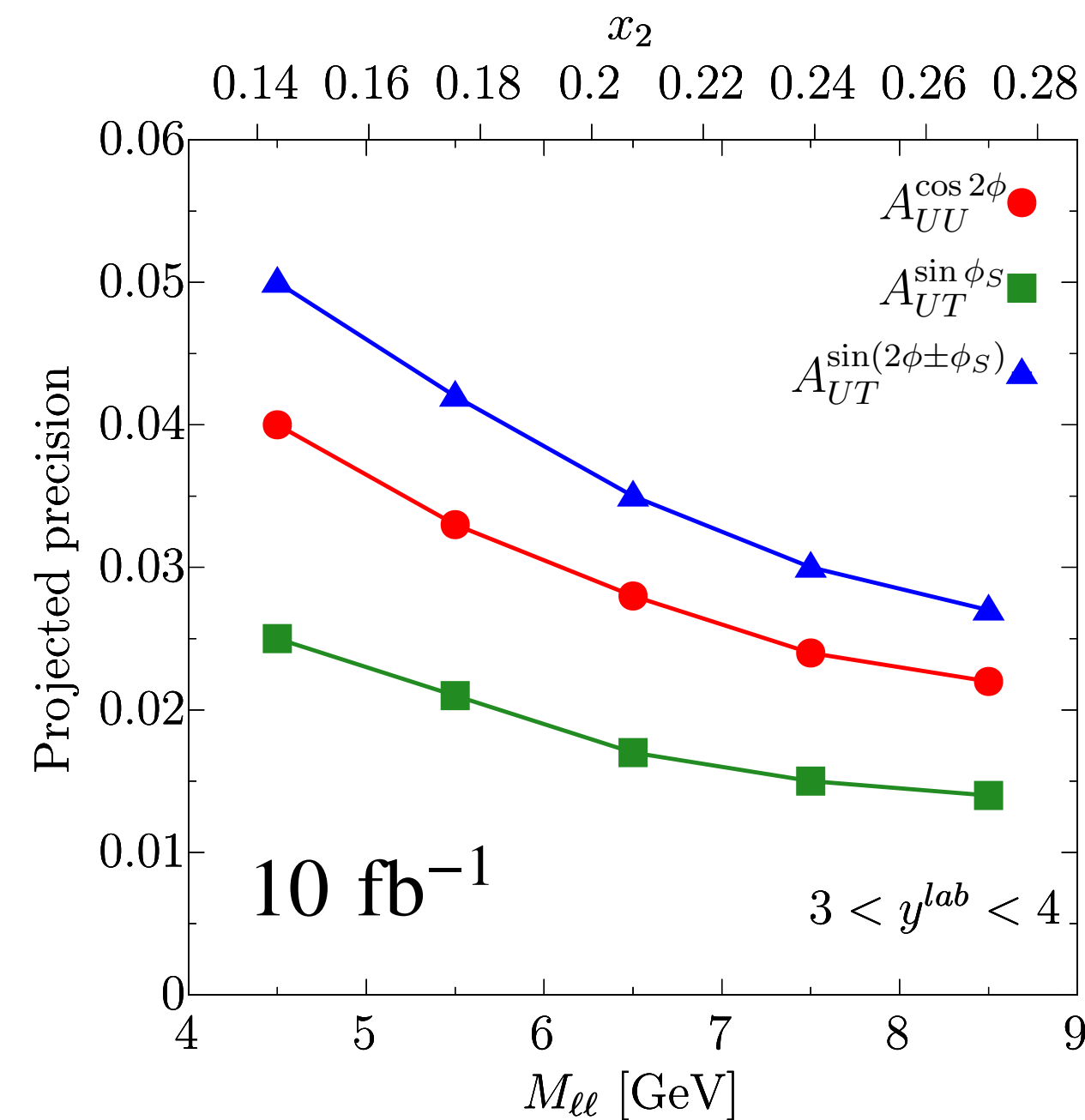
$$A_{UU}^{\cos 2\phi} \sim \frac{h_1^{\perp q}(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes h_1^{\perp \bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}{f_1^q(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes f_1^{\bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)},$$

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

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

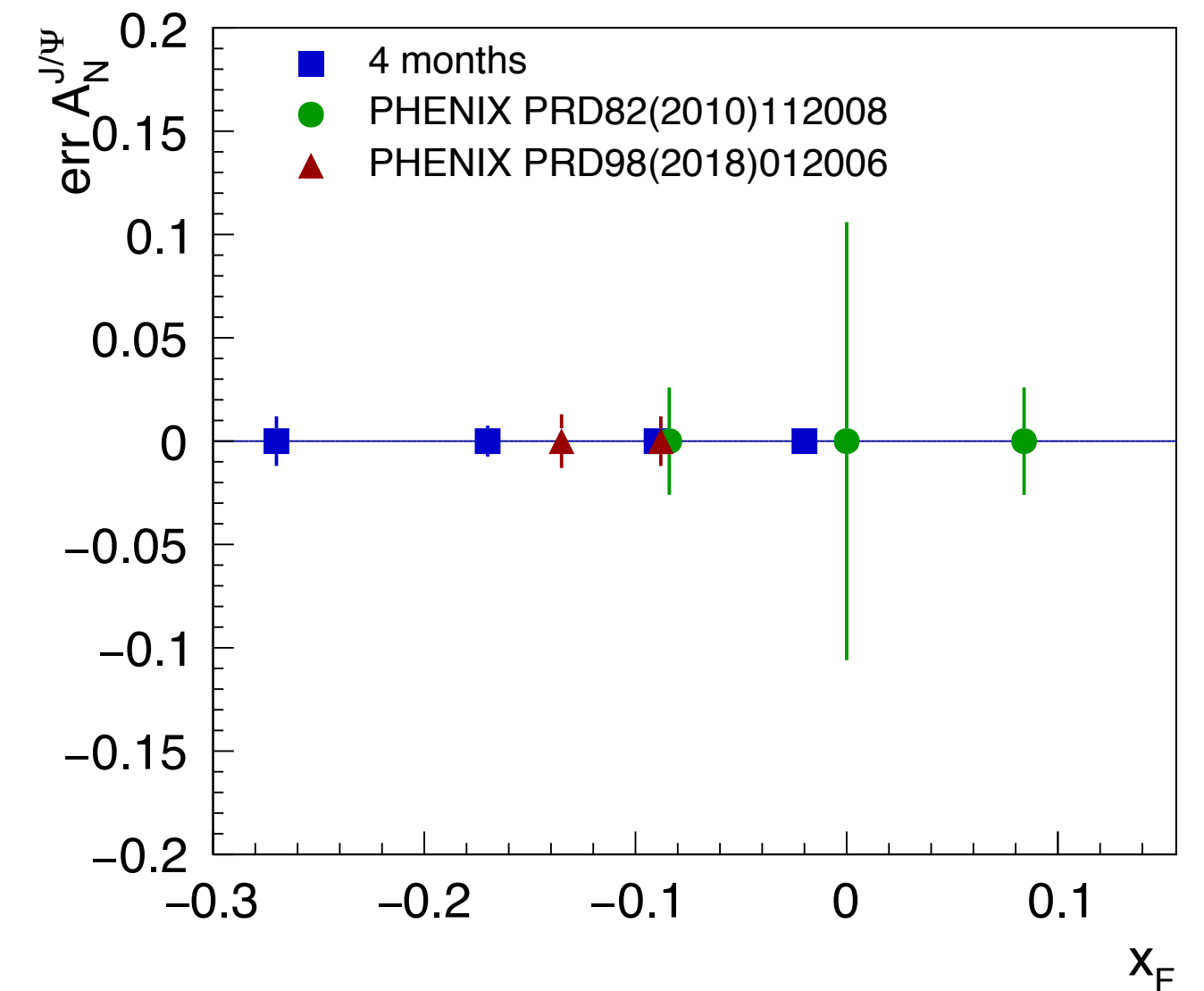
$$A_{UT}^{\sin(2\phi-\phi_S)} \sim \frac{h_1^{\perp q}(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes h_1^{\bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)}{f_1^q(x_1, k_{1T}^2) \otimes f_1^{\bar{q}}(x_2, k_{2T}^2)},$$

- Polarised DY



[arXiv:1807.00603]

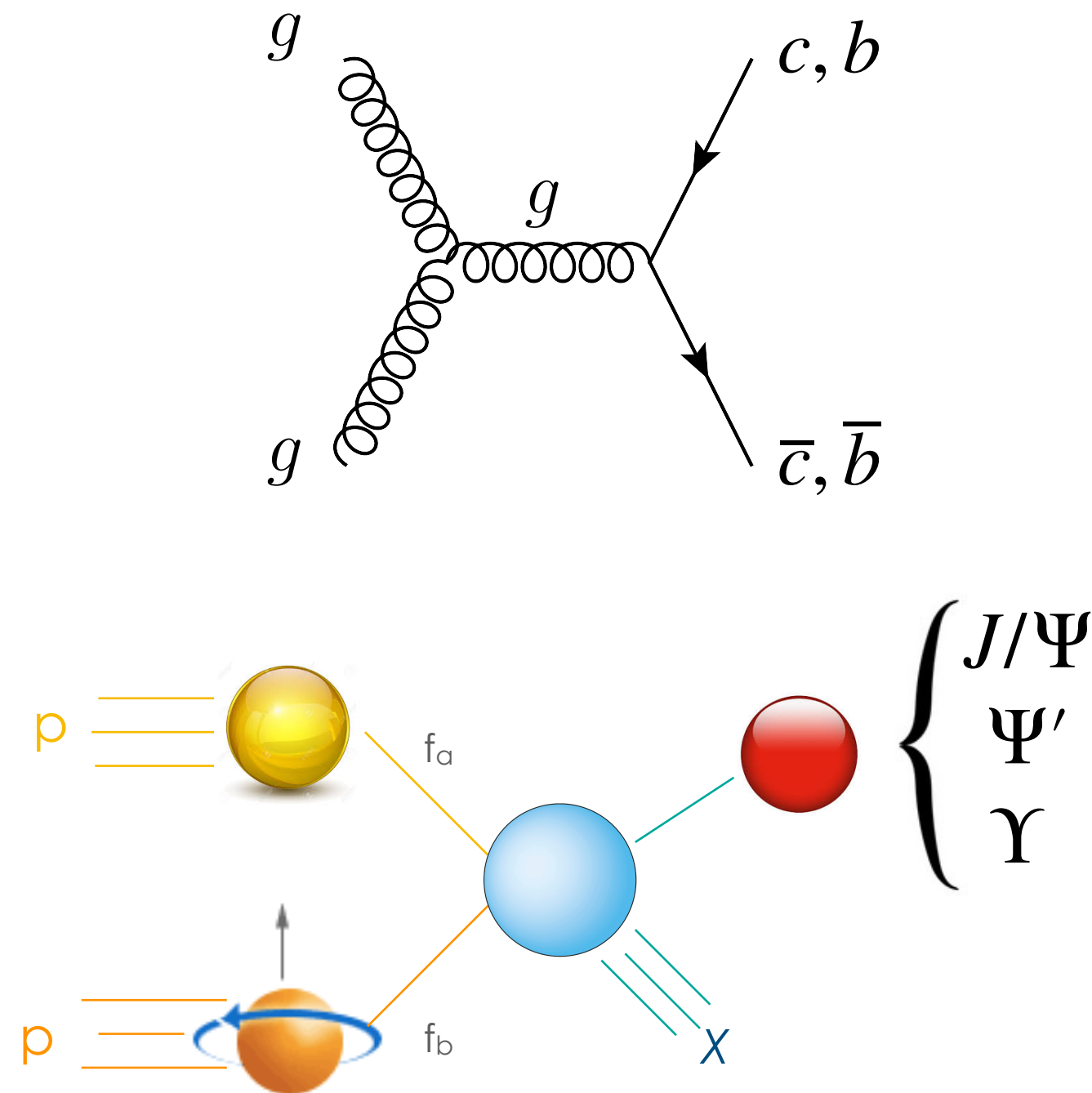
- Heavy Quark probes e.g.  $J/\psi$ ,  $\text{di-}J/\psi$





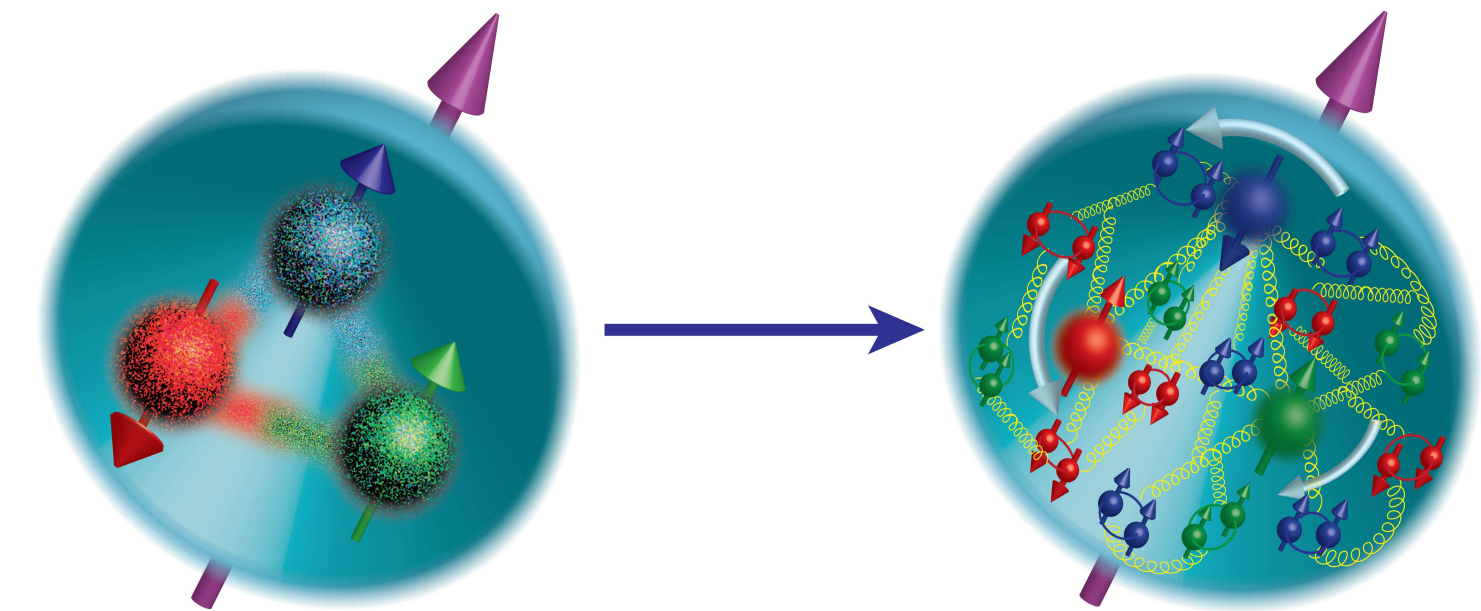
# Physics case #2: hadron structure

- Heavy Flavours mainly produced in via  $gg$  at LHC:



- LHCb can reconstruct large sample of quarkonia states with high resolution
- $\eta, \eta_c, \eta_c(2s), \chi_{c,b}, J/\psi, \Upsilon(nS), D, B \dots$
- poorly accessible from other hadron-hadron experiments

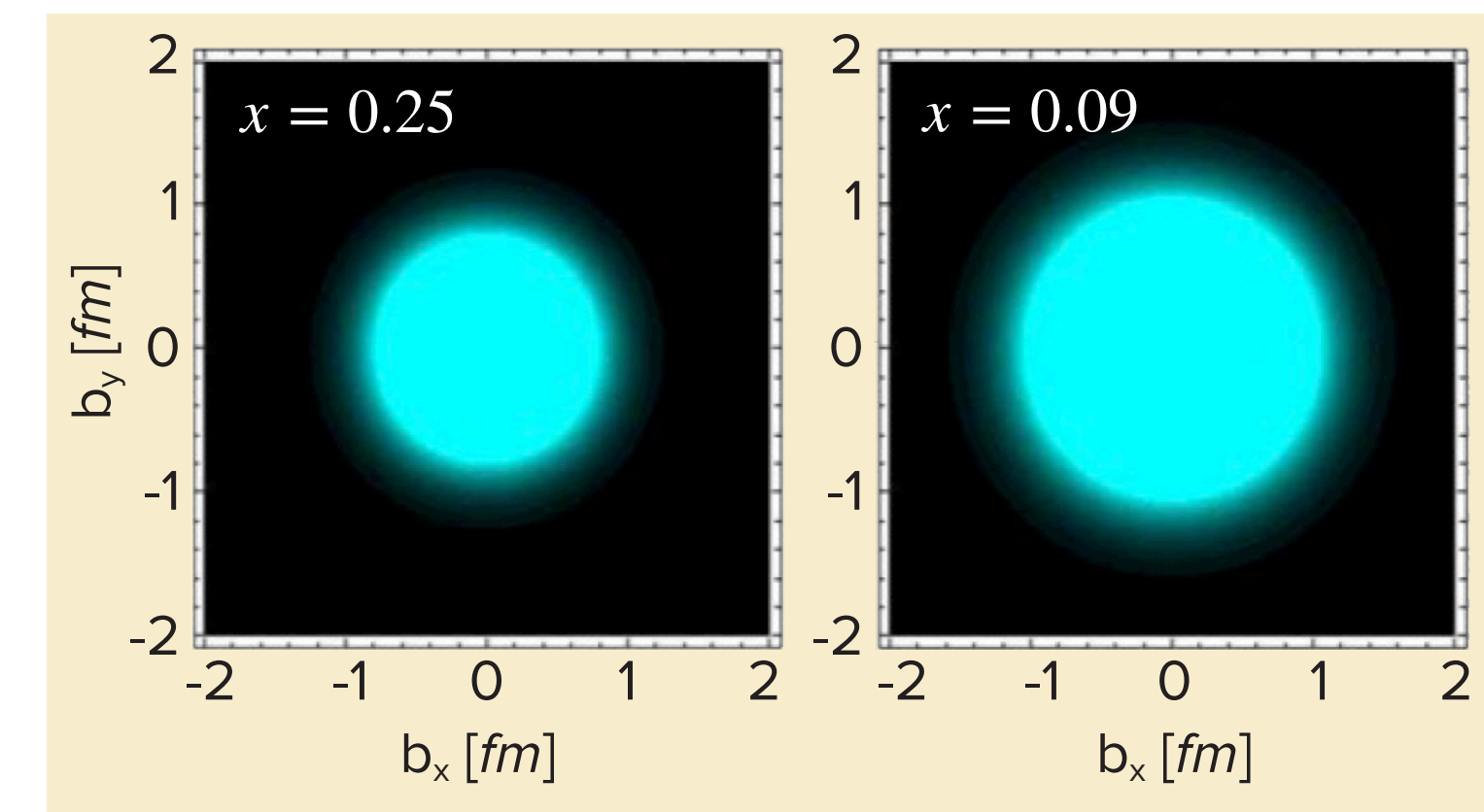
- Probe GPDs via UPC e.g. via DVCS or exclusive  $J/\psi$  production (gluon GPDs)
- Quantify gluon OAM via, e.g., the Ji Sum Rule



[[PRD 85 \(2012\) 051502](#)]

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

- Build a 3D picture of the proton in the IP space



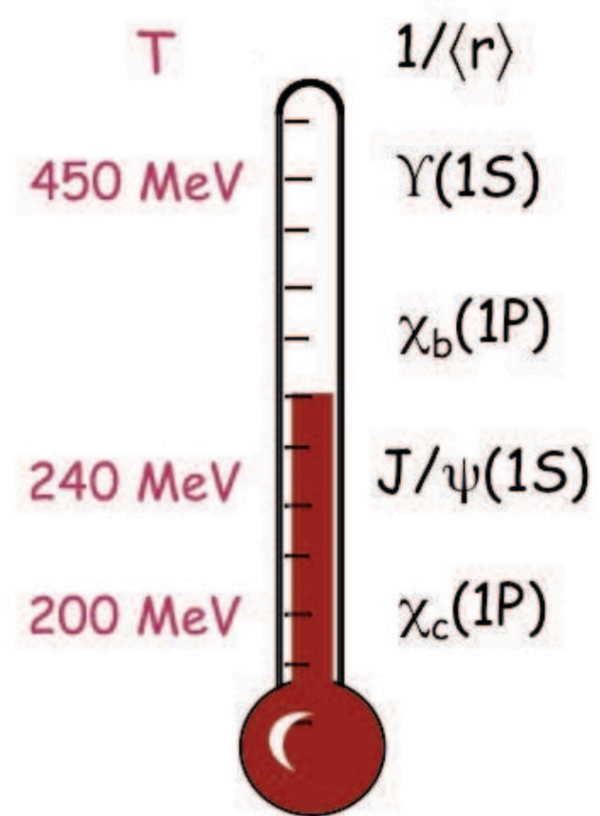
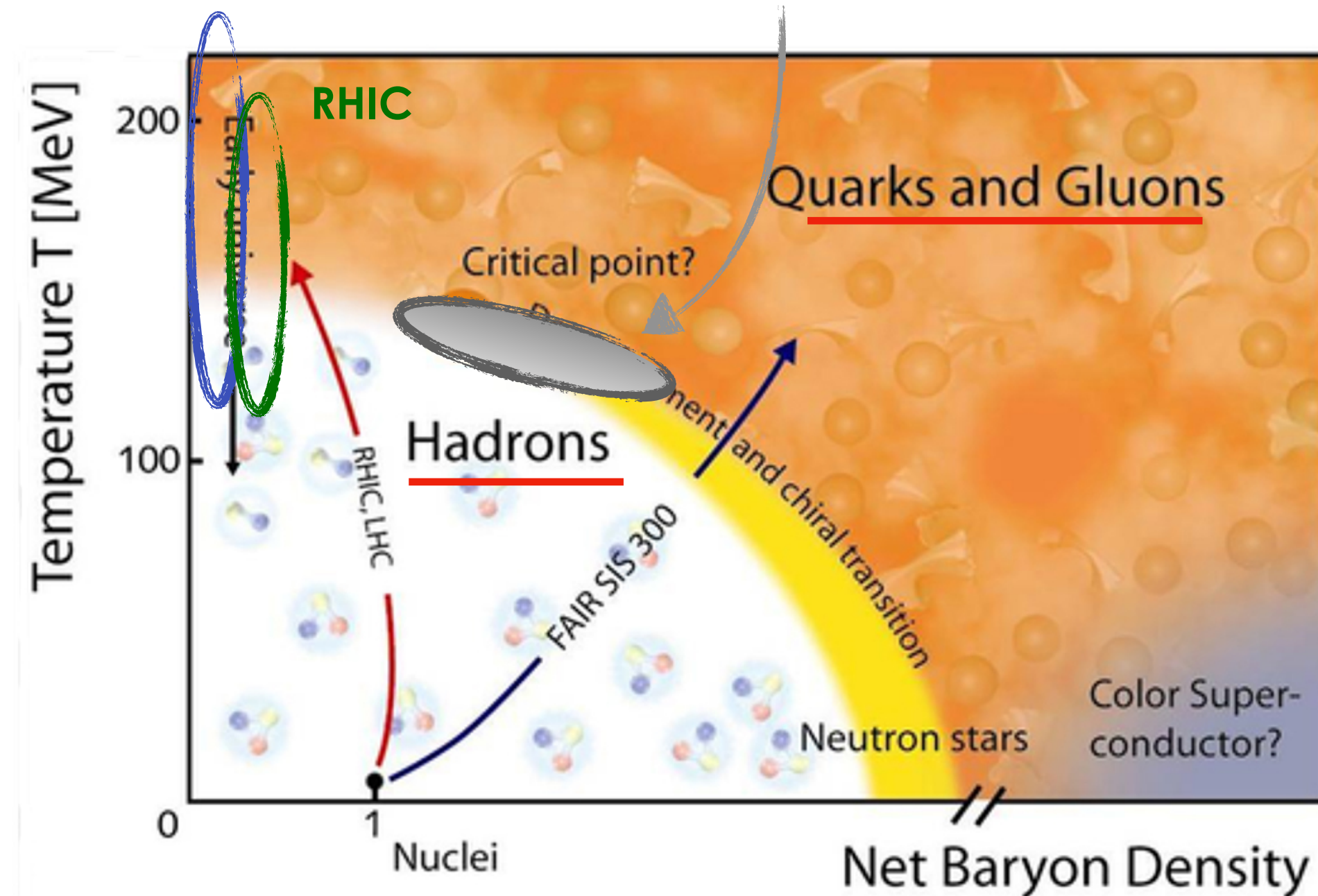
[[The 2015 Long Range Plan for Nuclear Science](#)]



# Physics case #3: heavy ions

LHC  
@5.02 TeV

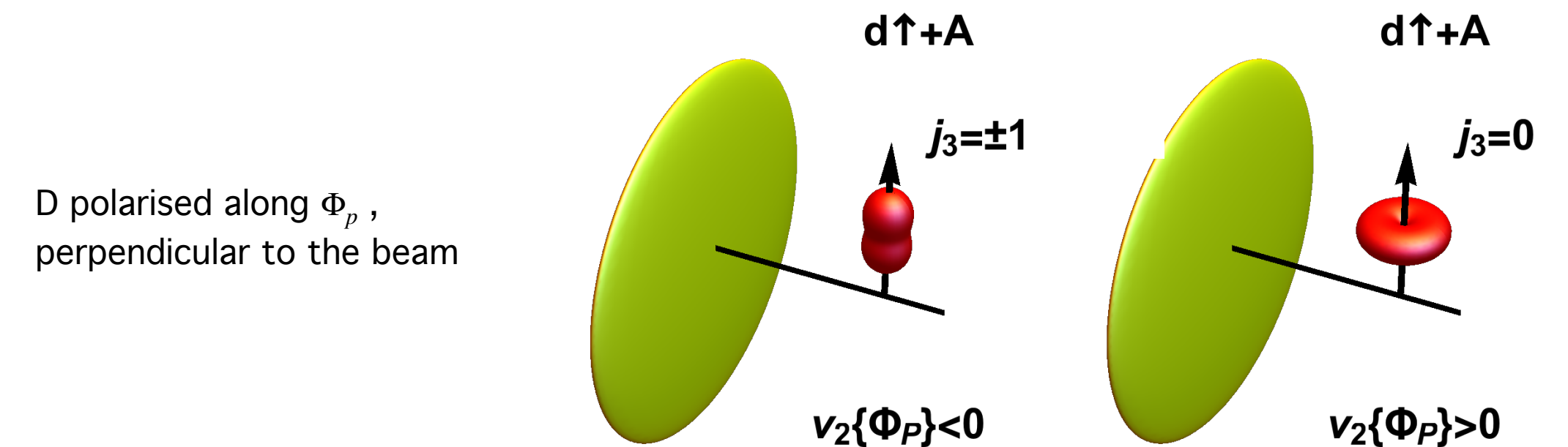
- QGP: complement the RHIC BES in the transition region via  $\gamma$  scan [\[PRC 98 \(2018\) 034905\]](#)



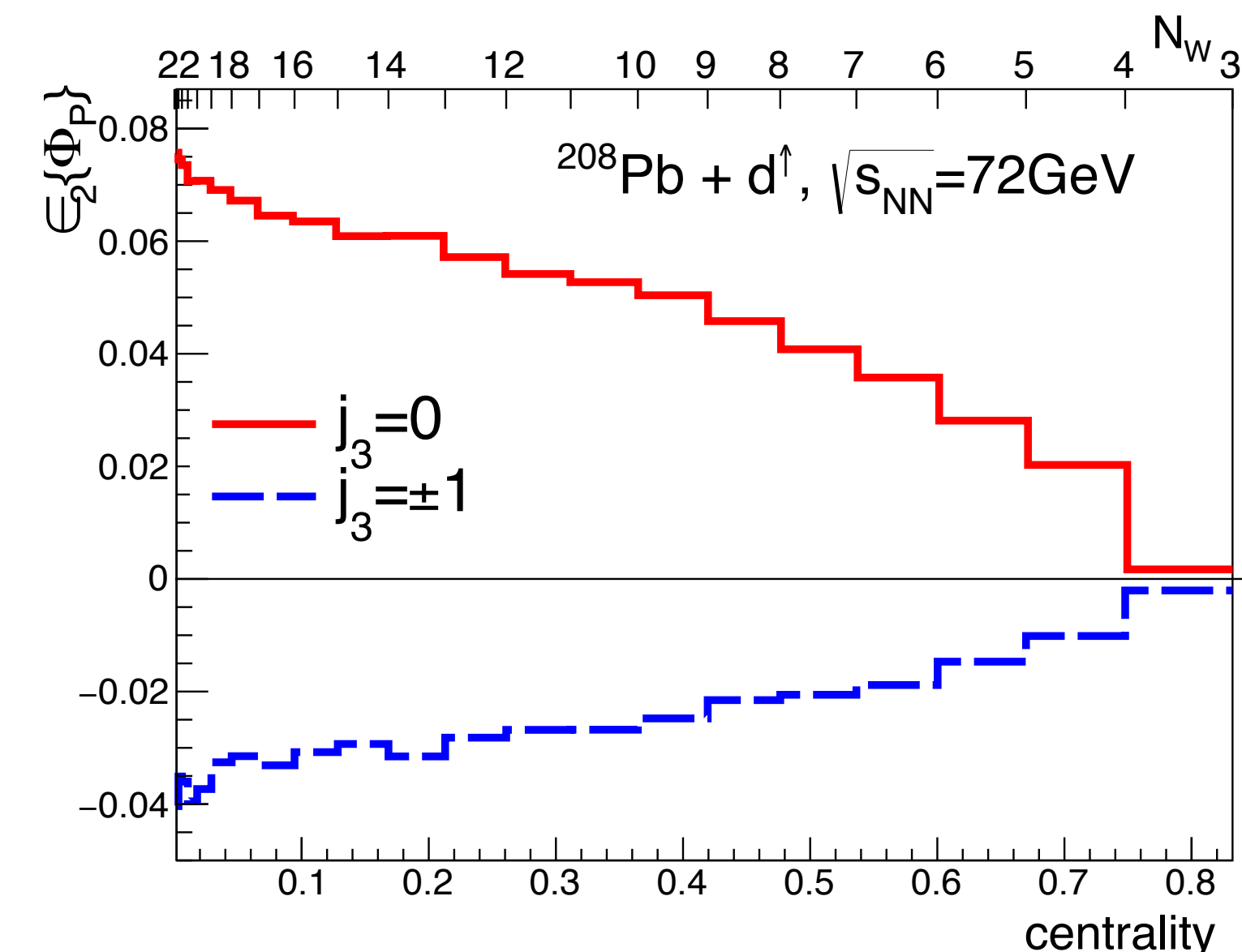
- Suppression of  $c\bar{c}$  bound states as QGP thermometer
- Different binding energy  $\rightarrow$  different dissociation temperature

[\[IJMPA 28 \(2013\) 1340012\]](#)

- Ultra-relativistic collisions of heavy nuclei on T polarised deuterons to probe the dynamics of small systems
- Deformation of  $D^\uparrow$  is reflected in the orientation of the created fireball in the transverse plane



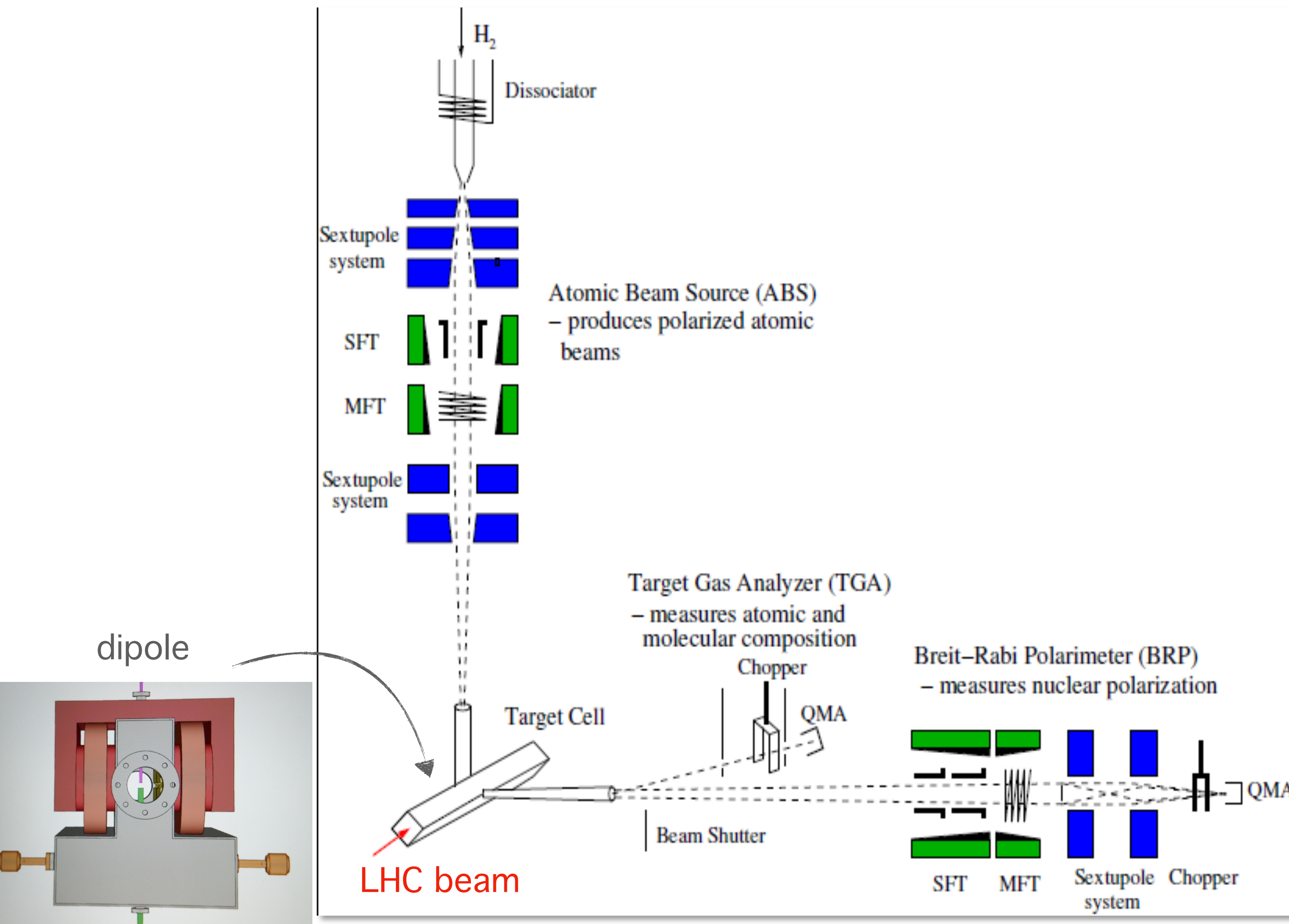
- Quantified by the ellipticity ( $\epsilon_2$  wrt  $\Phi_p$ )



[\[PRC 101 \(2020\) 024901\]](#)



# LHCspin setup



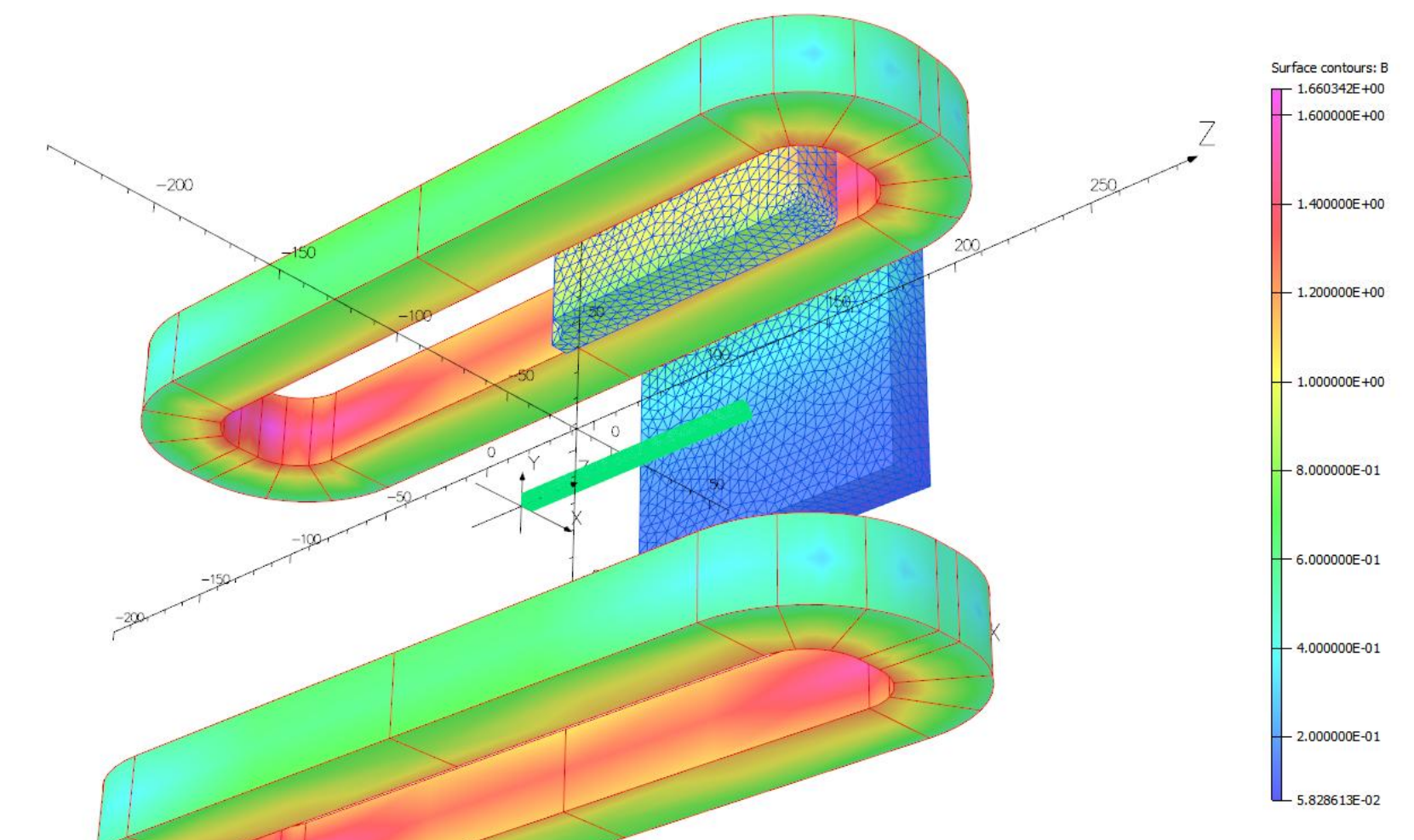
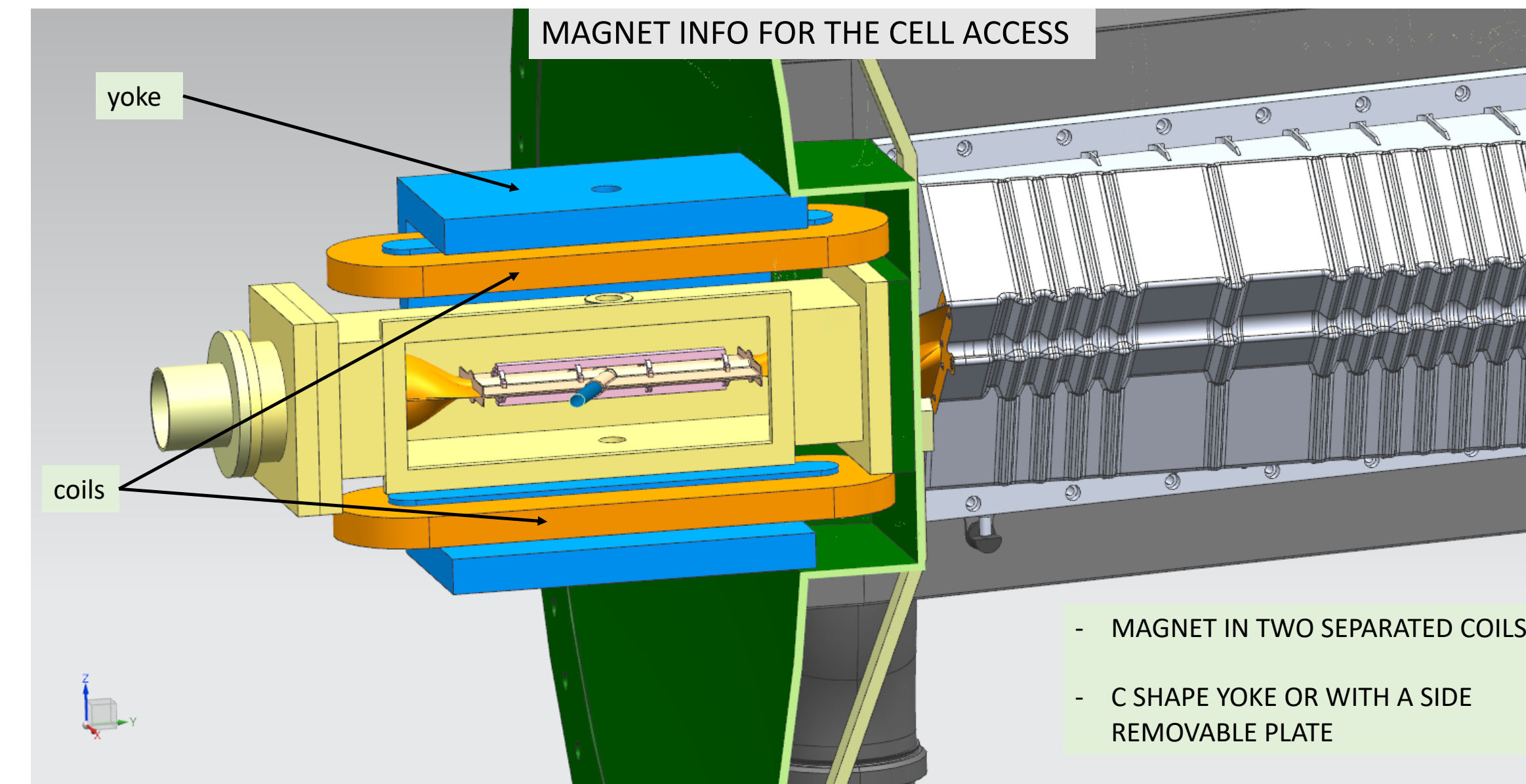
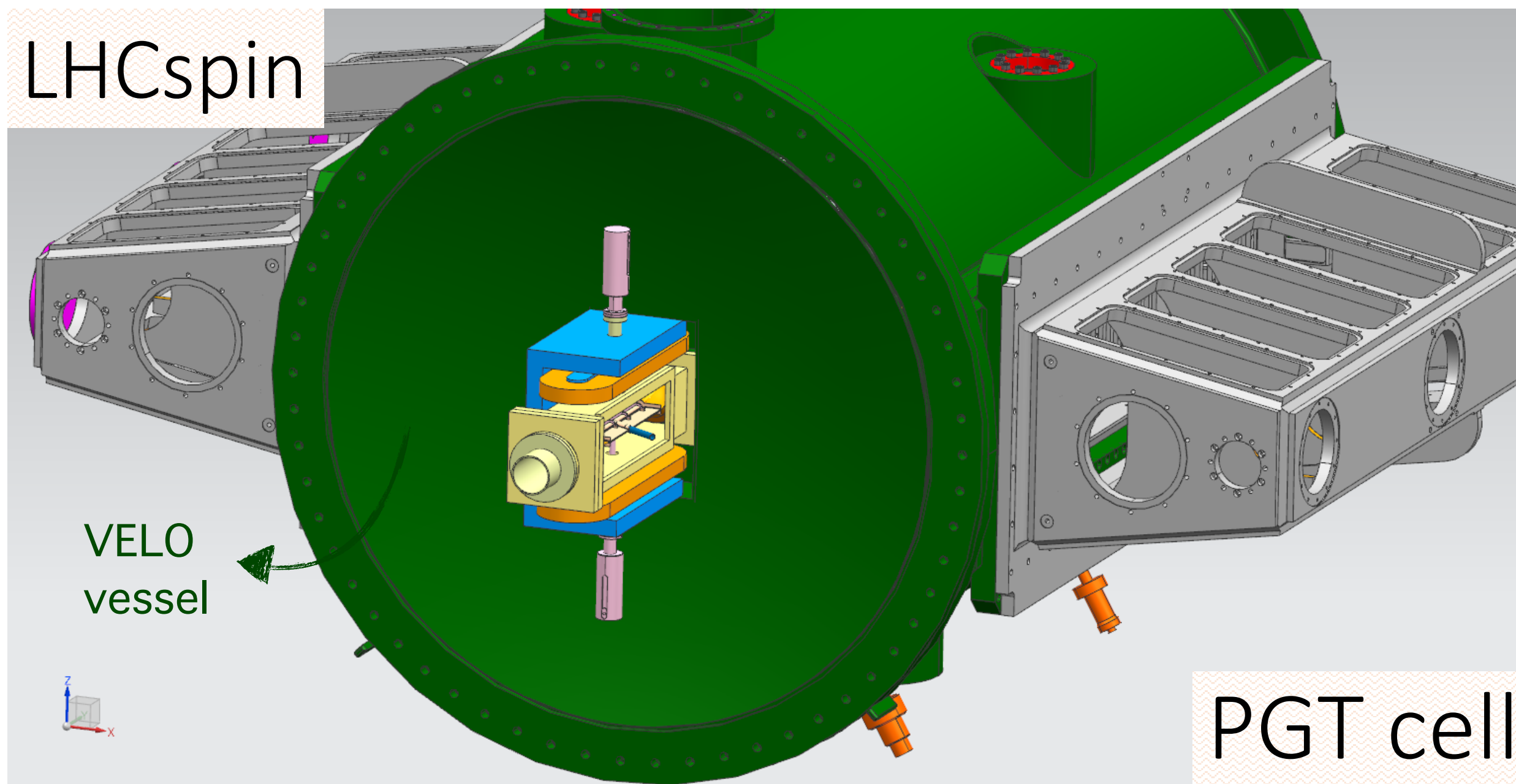
- The HERMES PGT [\[NIMA 540 \(2005\) 68-101\]](#)

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

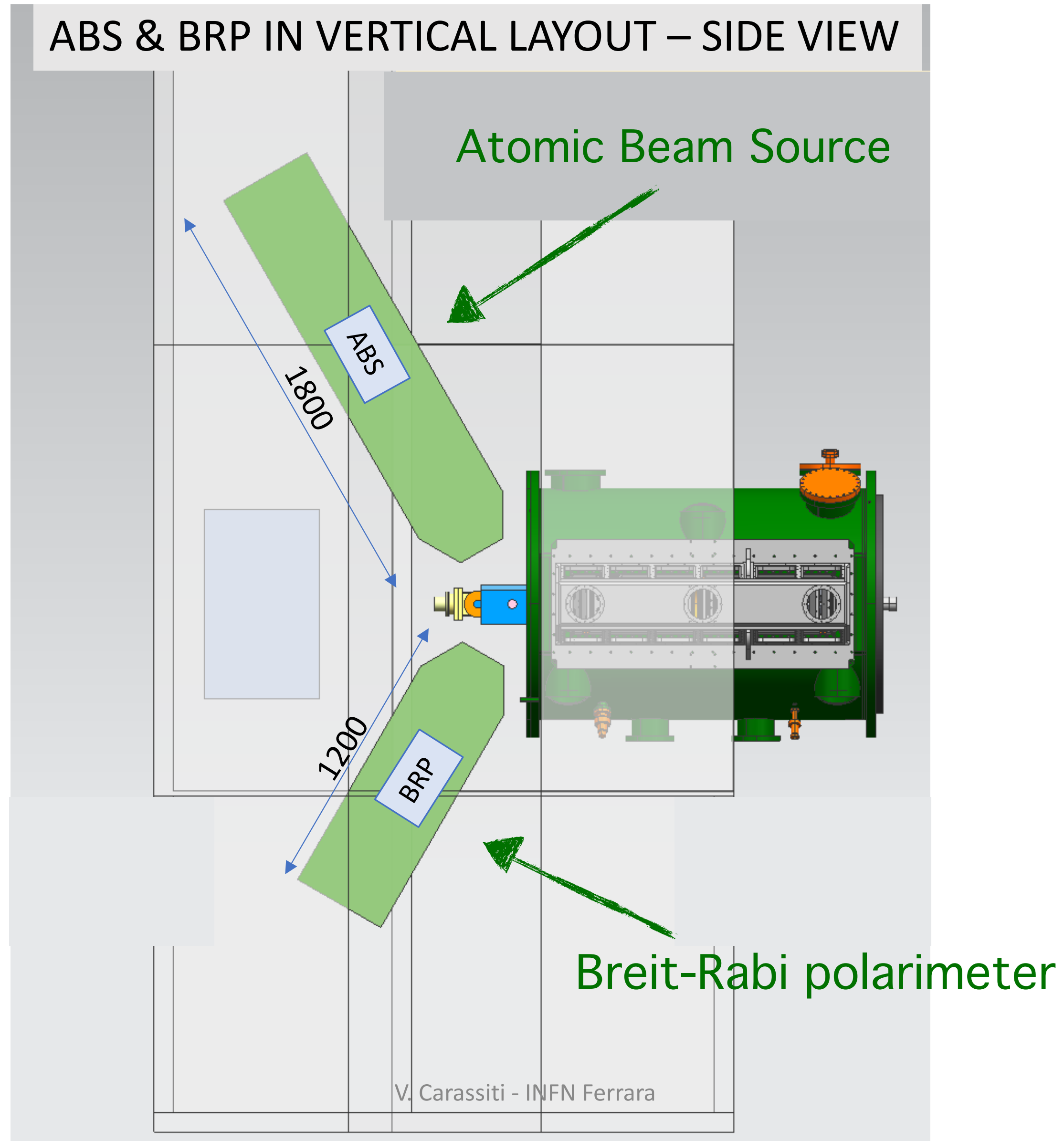


# Cell and magnet R&D

- Same position of the SMOG2 cell ( $30 \times 1 \text{ cm}^2$ ), slightly larger volume
- Inject both polarised and unpolarised gas
- Compact SC dipole magnet  $\rightarrow$  static transverse field
- $B = 300 \text{ mT}$
- polarity inversion
- $\Delta B/B \simeq 10 \%$







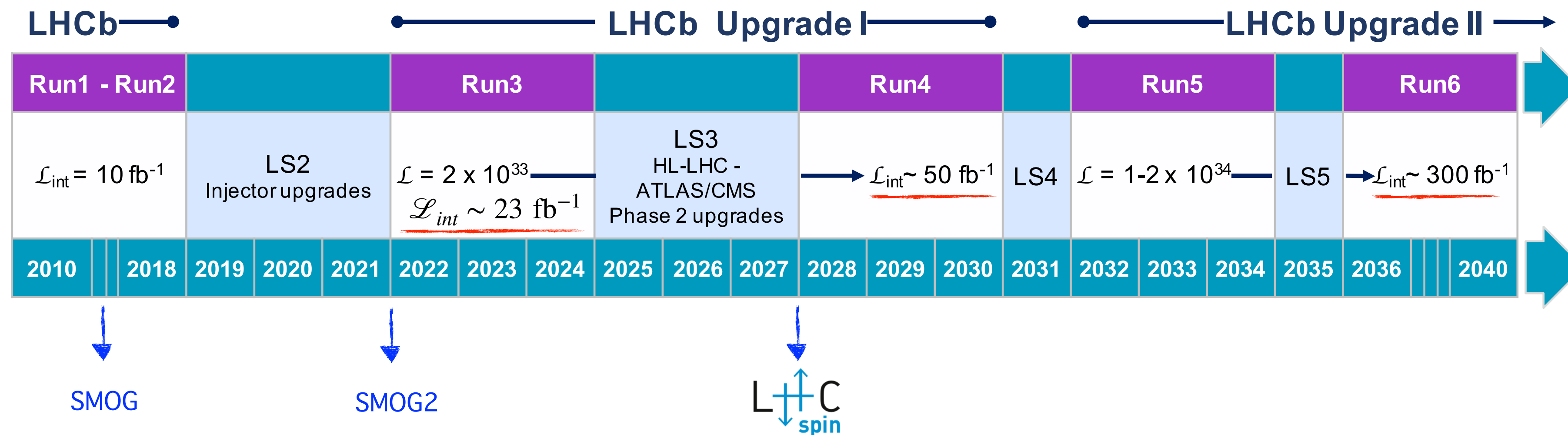
- Reduce the size of both ABS and BRP to fit into the available space in the LHCb cavern
- A challenging R&D!

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

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



# Conclusions



- The fixed target program at LHCb is active since Run 2, now greatly enriched with the SMOG2 cell for Run 3
- LHCspin: a step forward to bring spin-physics measurements for the first time at LHC, exploiting the well-suited LHCb detector
- The R&D calls for new generation of polarised gas targets: challenging but worth the effort!
- Extensive physics program, with new probes, and complementary to existing facilities and the future EIC

