

# High Energy Probes of nuclear media: Selected topics from quark gluon plasma studies

**Gojko Vujanovic**

University of Regina

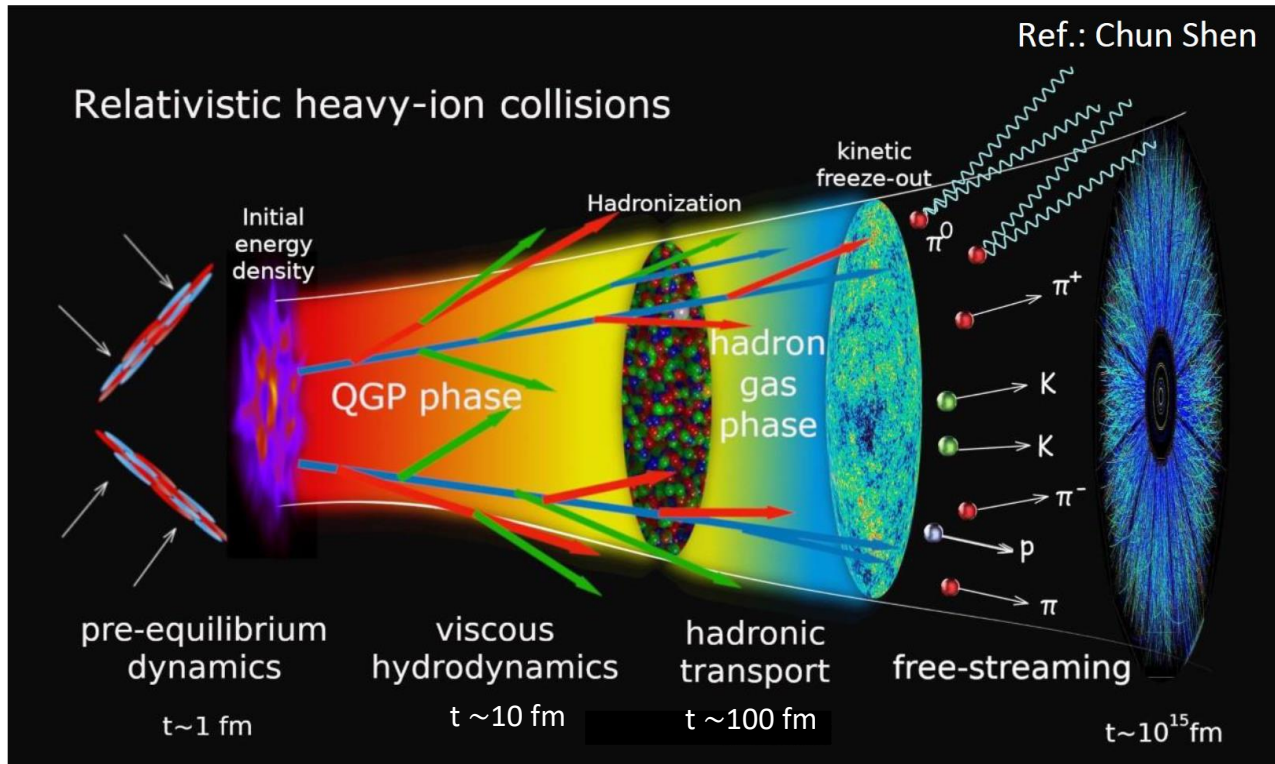
Theory Canada 15  
Mount Allison University

Sackville, New Brunswick

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

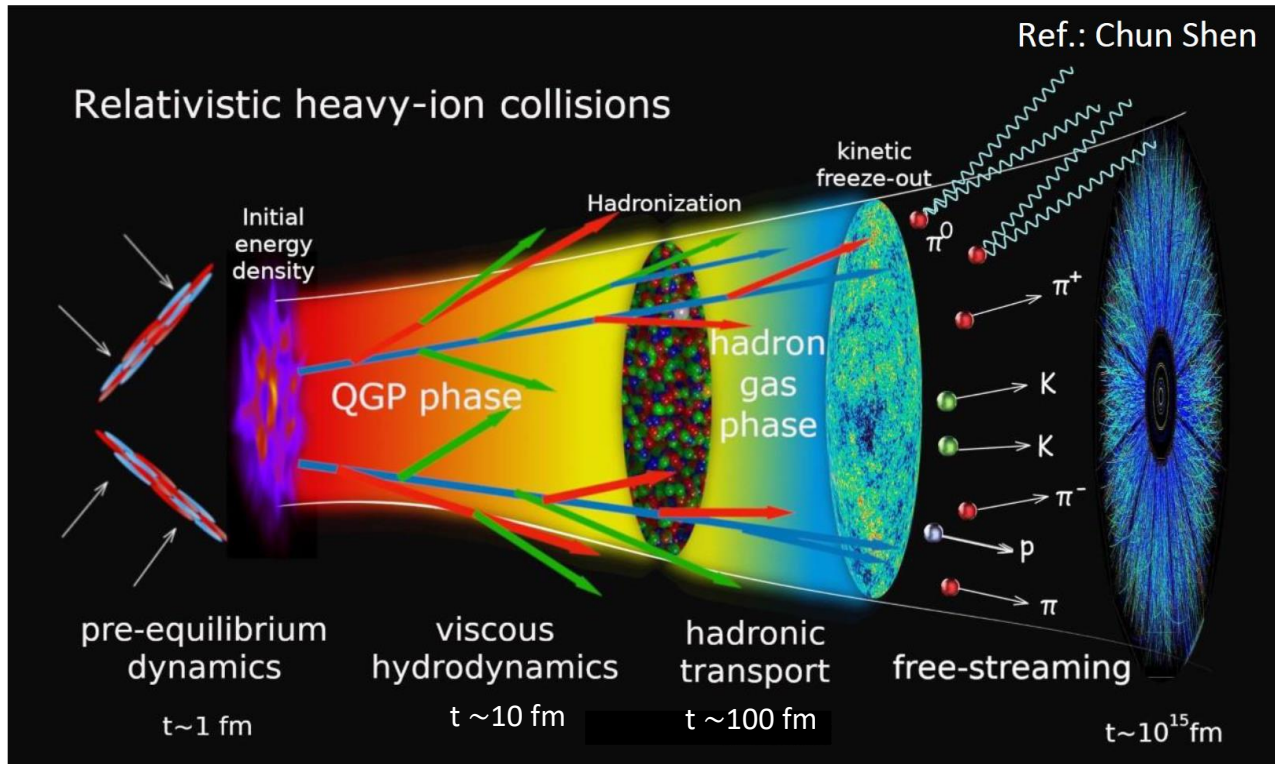


# Evolution of the nuclear medium as seen through jets



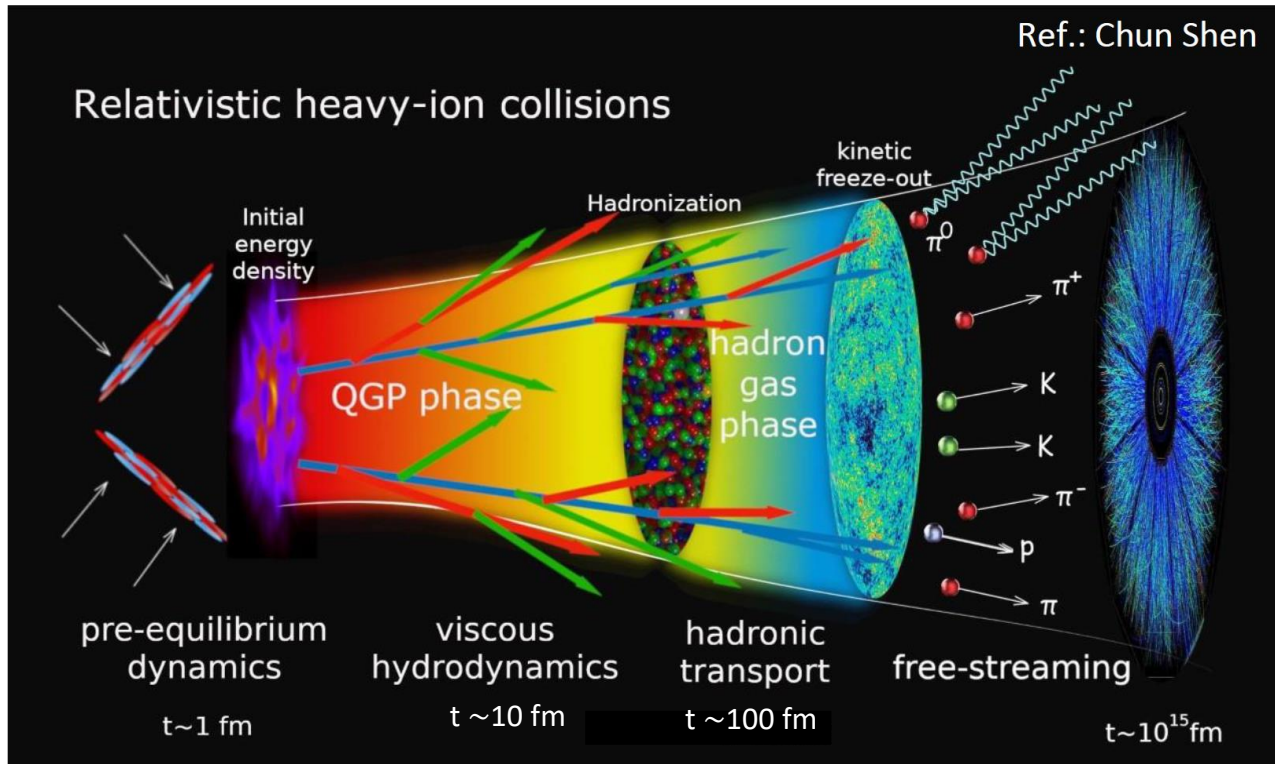
- Distribution of energy in heavy-ion collisions:
  - 3 stages of heavy-ion collisions:
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    - Last stage: Boltzmann transport/free-streaming
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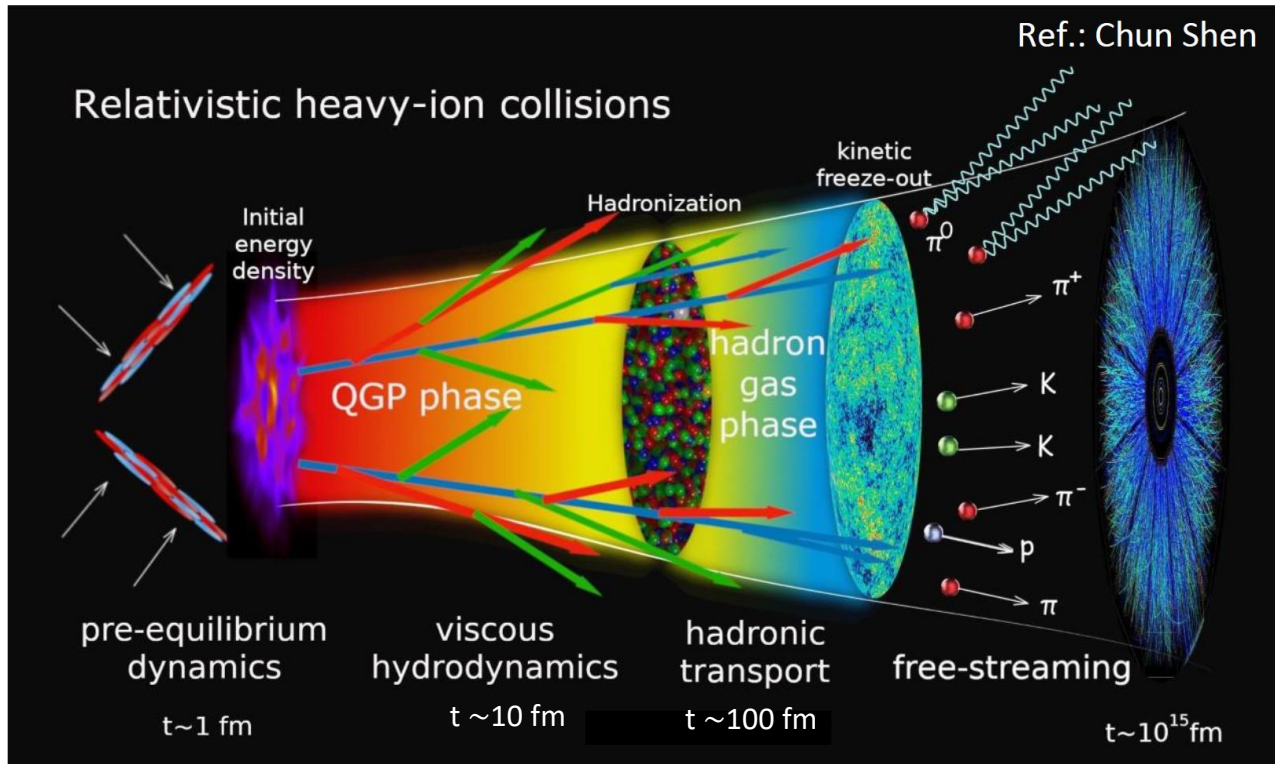
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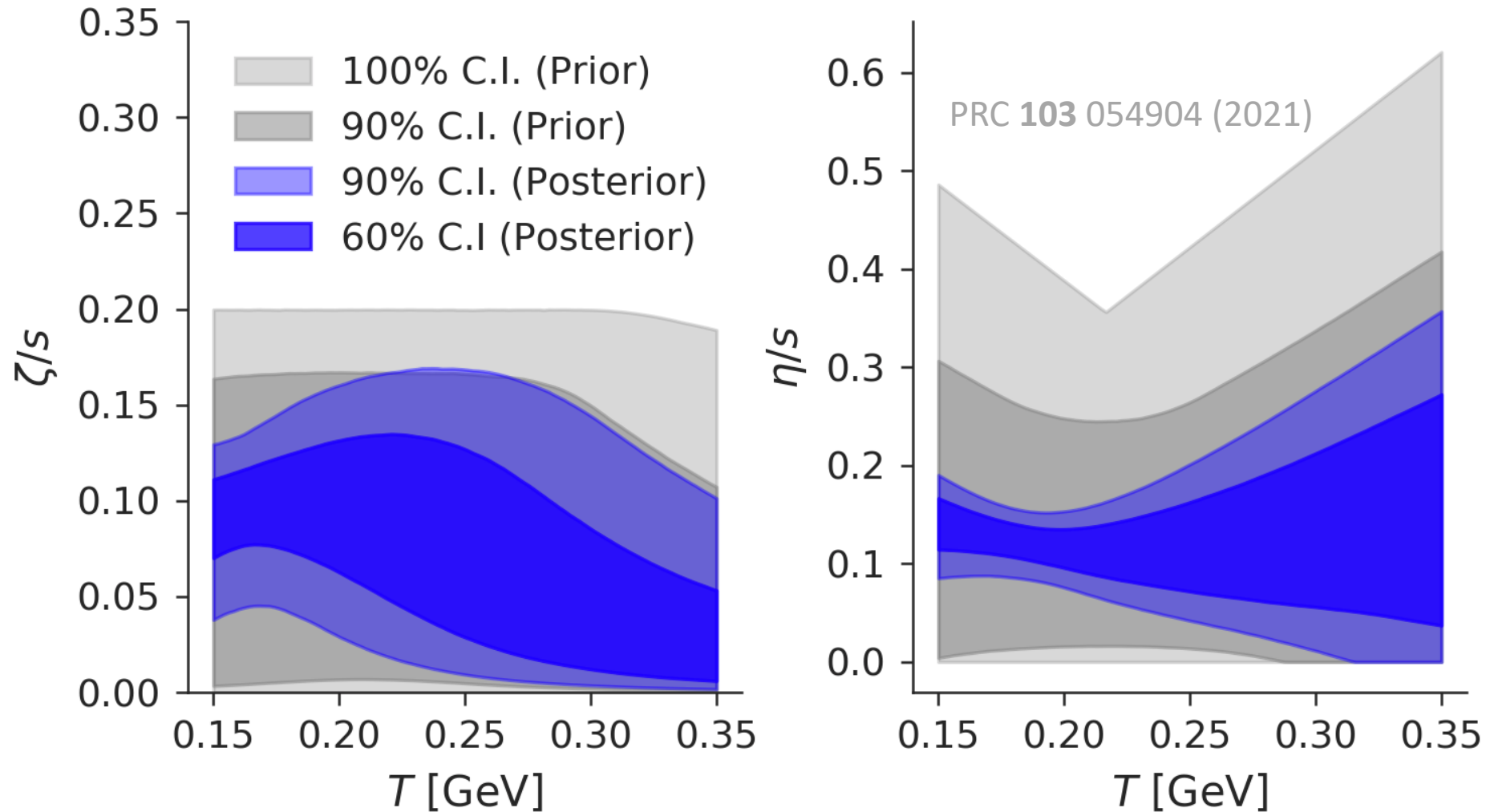
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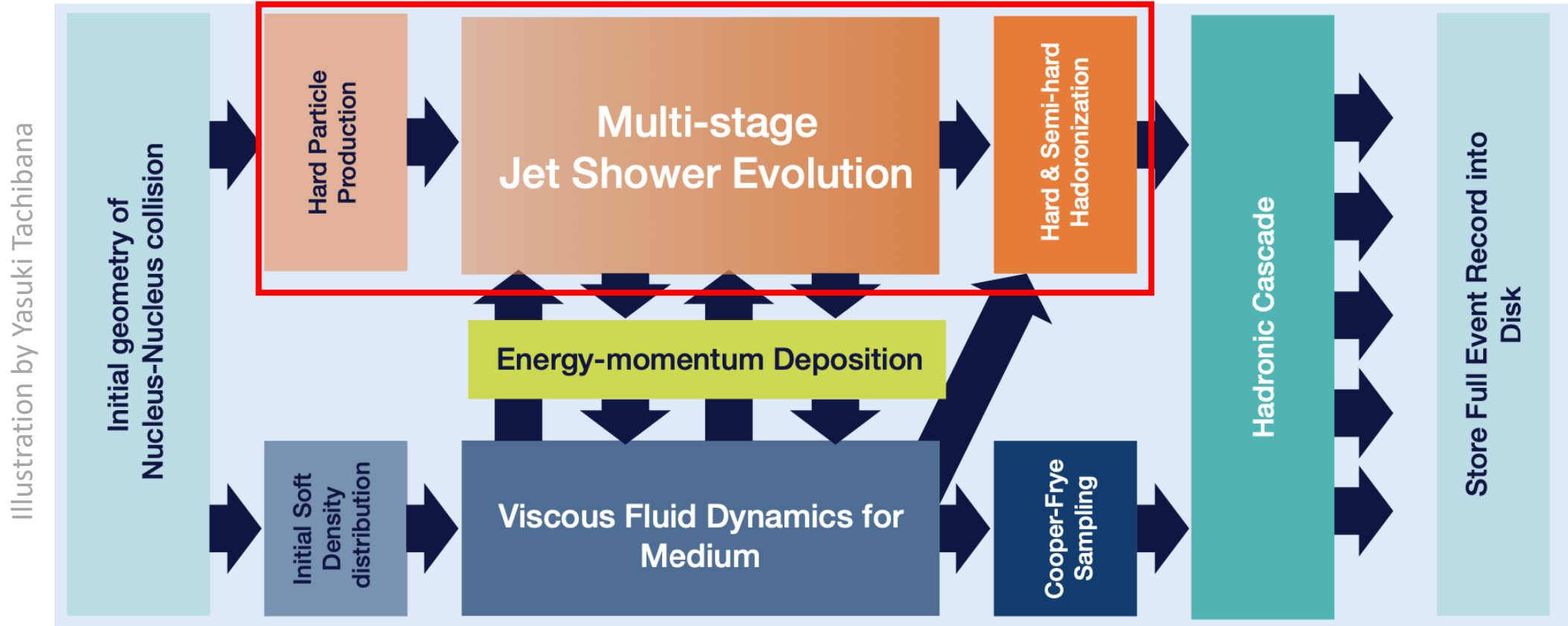
- To help simulate these different aspects of heavy-ion collisions, the JETSCAPE (Jet Energy-loss Tomography with a Statistically and Computationally Advanced Program Envelope) framework was established.

# Nuclear medium viscosities



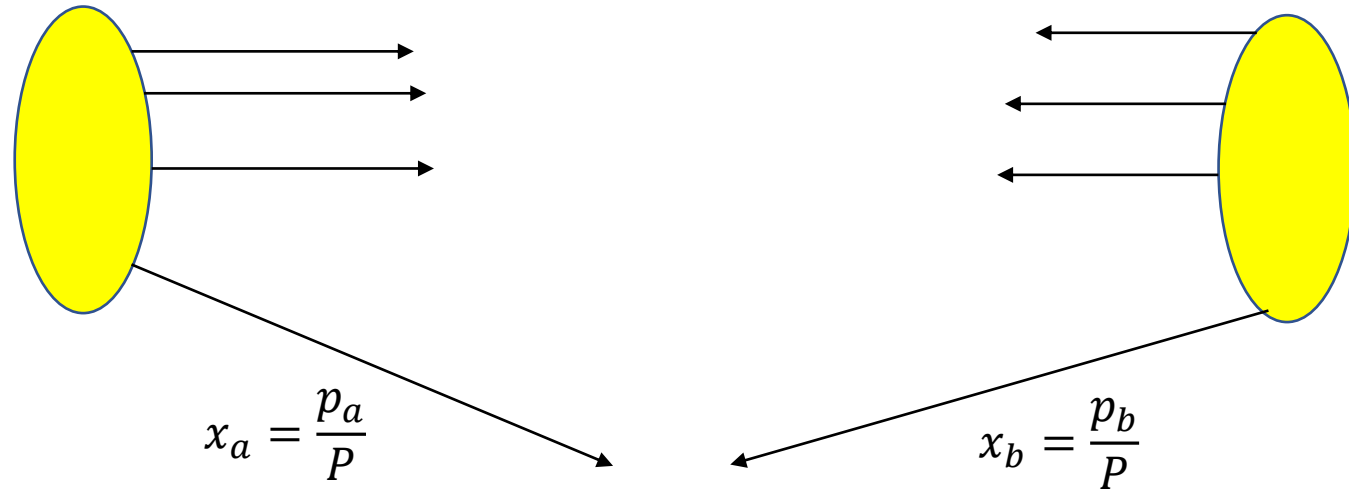
- The latest Bayesian constraints in the viscosities of the nuclear medium  $T^{\mu\nu}$  done by JETSCAPE (see talk on Wed, 1:45pm)

# The JETSCAPE Framework



- JETSCAPE framework allows :
  - Multiple energy loss formalisms to be present simultaneously, each applied in its region of validity.
  - Provides a set of Bayesian tools to characterize the interaction of hard probes with the QGP

# Factorization at work: Leading order diagram

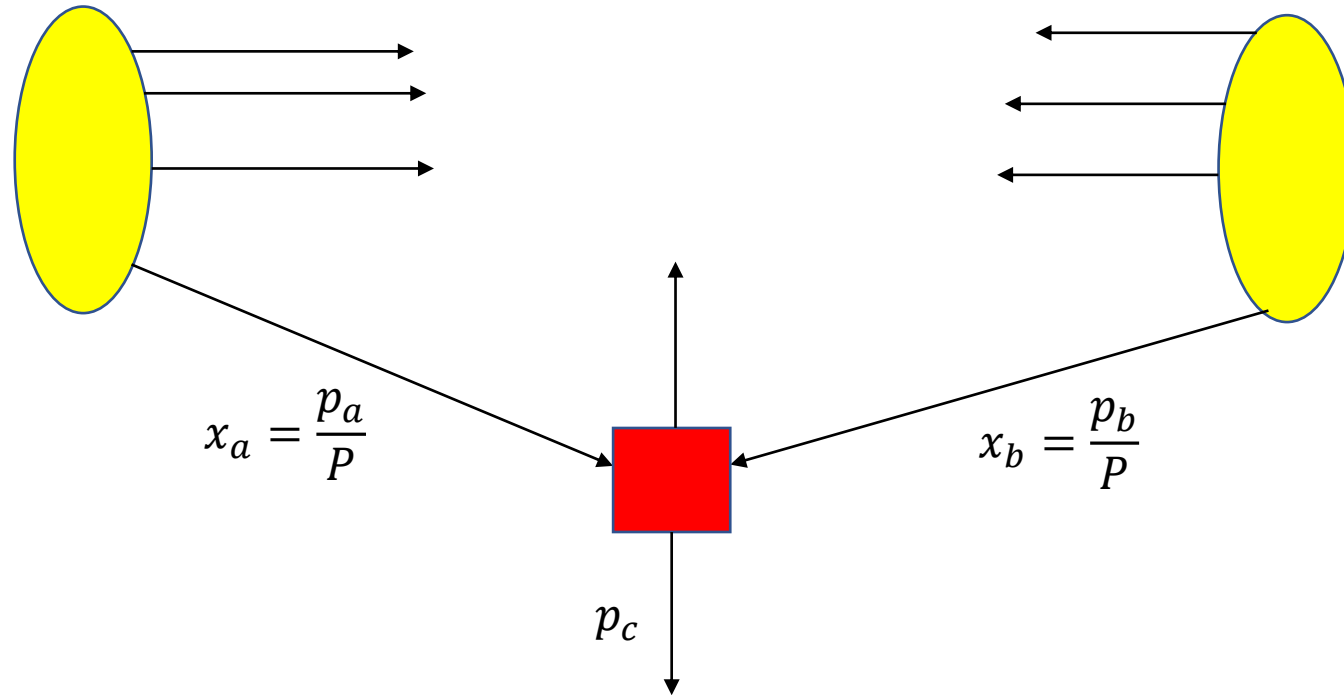


- Parton Distribution Function (PDF)  $G$ : Prob. of finding a parton from the hadron
  - a non-perturbative process, most easily measured in  $e + p$  experiment (e.g. HERA)

$$\frac{d\sigma_1^h}{dy dp_{T_1}} \sim \int dx_a dx_b G(x_a) G(x_b) \left[ \frac{d\hat{\sigma}}{d\hat{t}} \right] D(z_1)$$



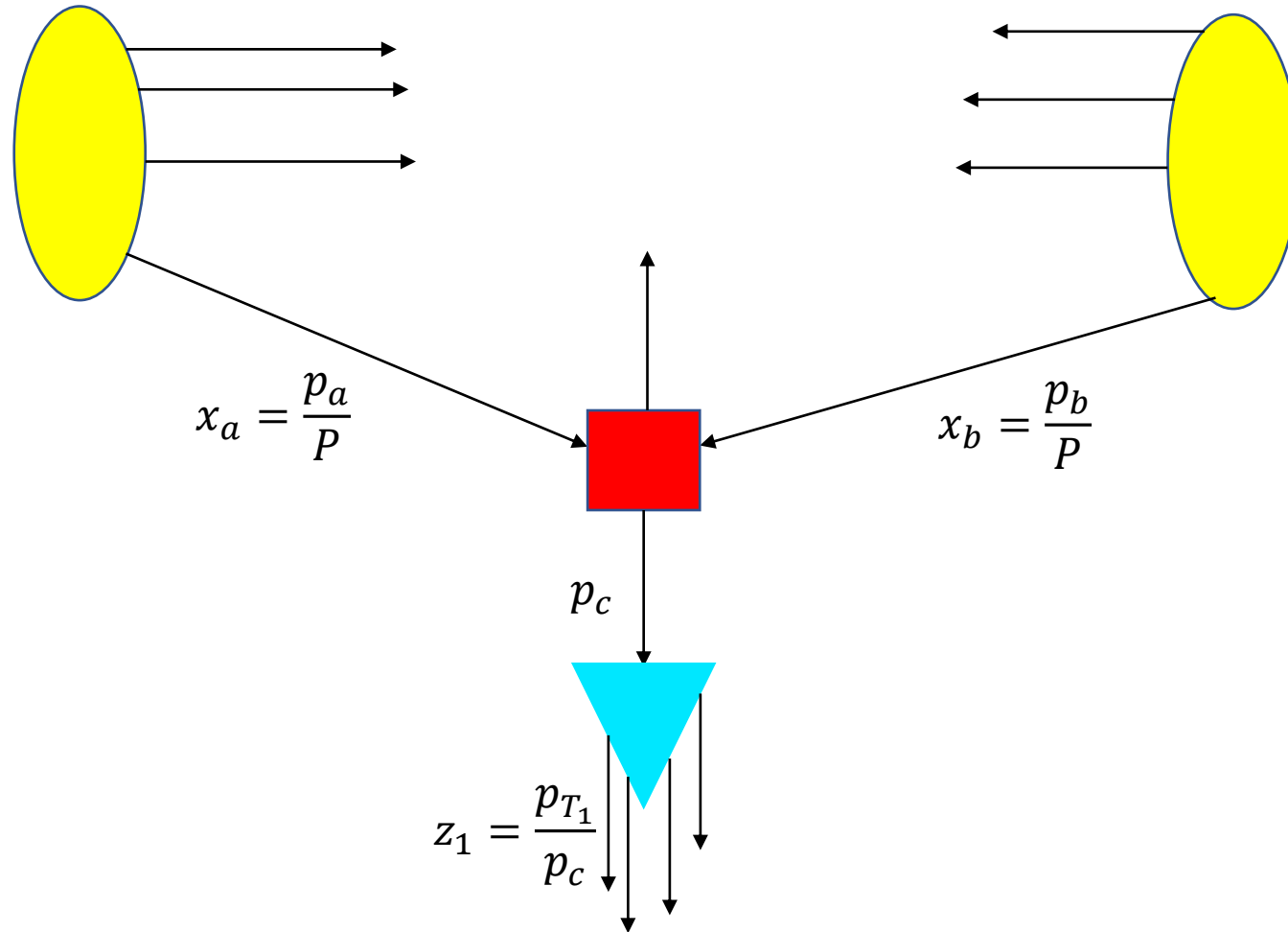
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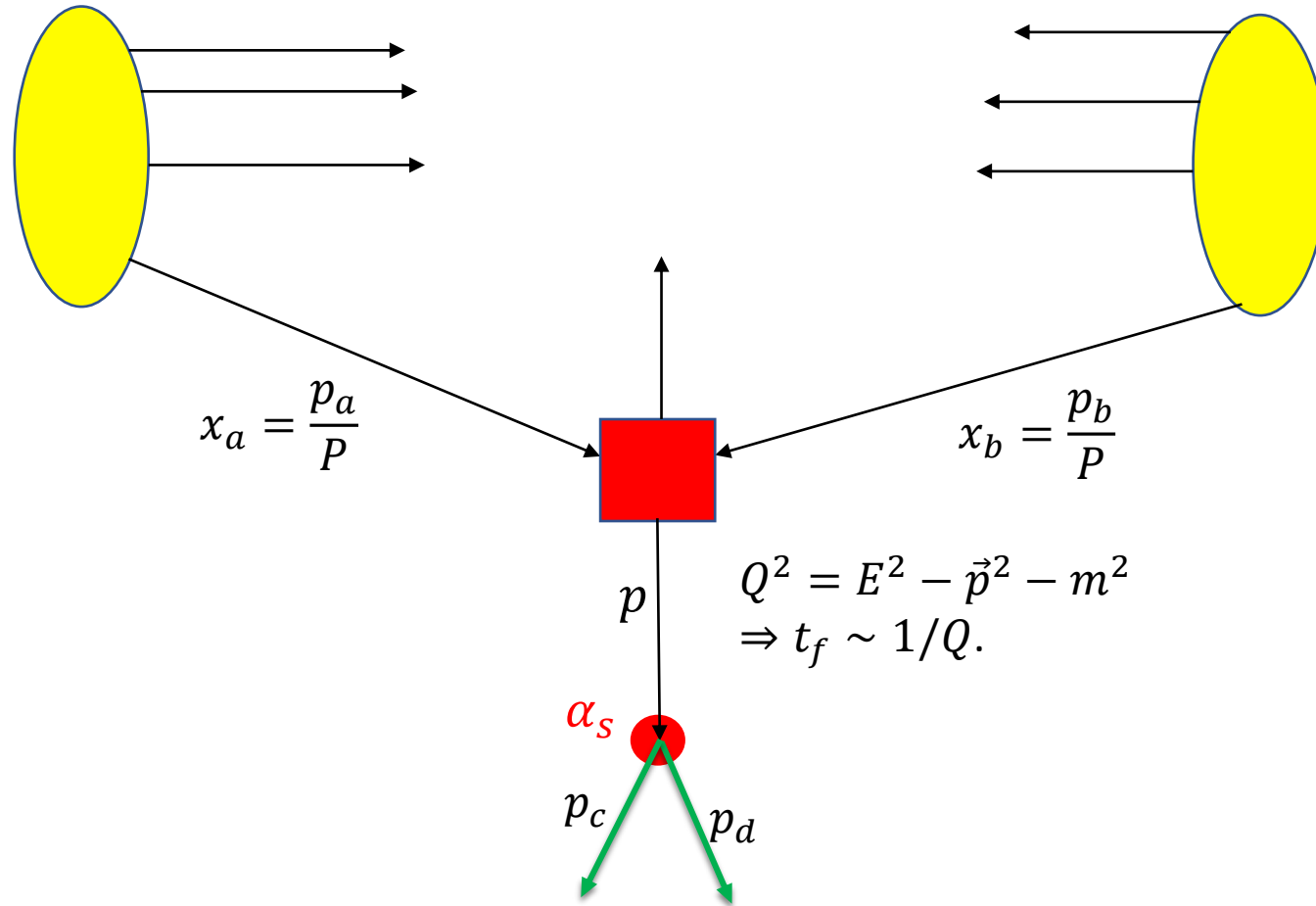
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- The showering and hadronization of quarks and gluons is encapsulated in the Fragmentation Function (FF)  $D$ : converts partons into hadrons
  - non-perturbative process measured in  $e^+ + e^-$  (e.g. LEP)

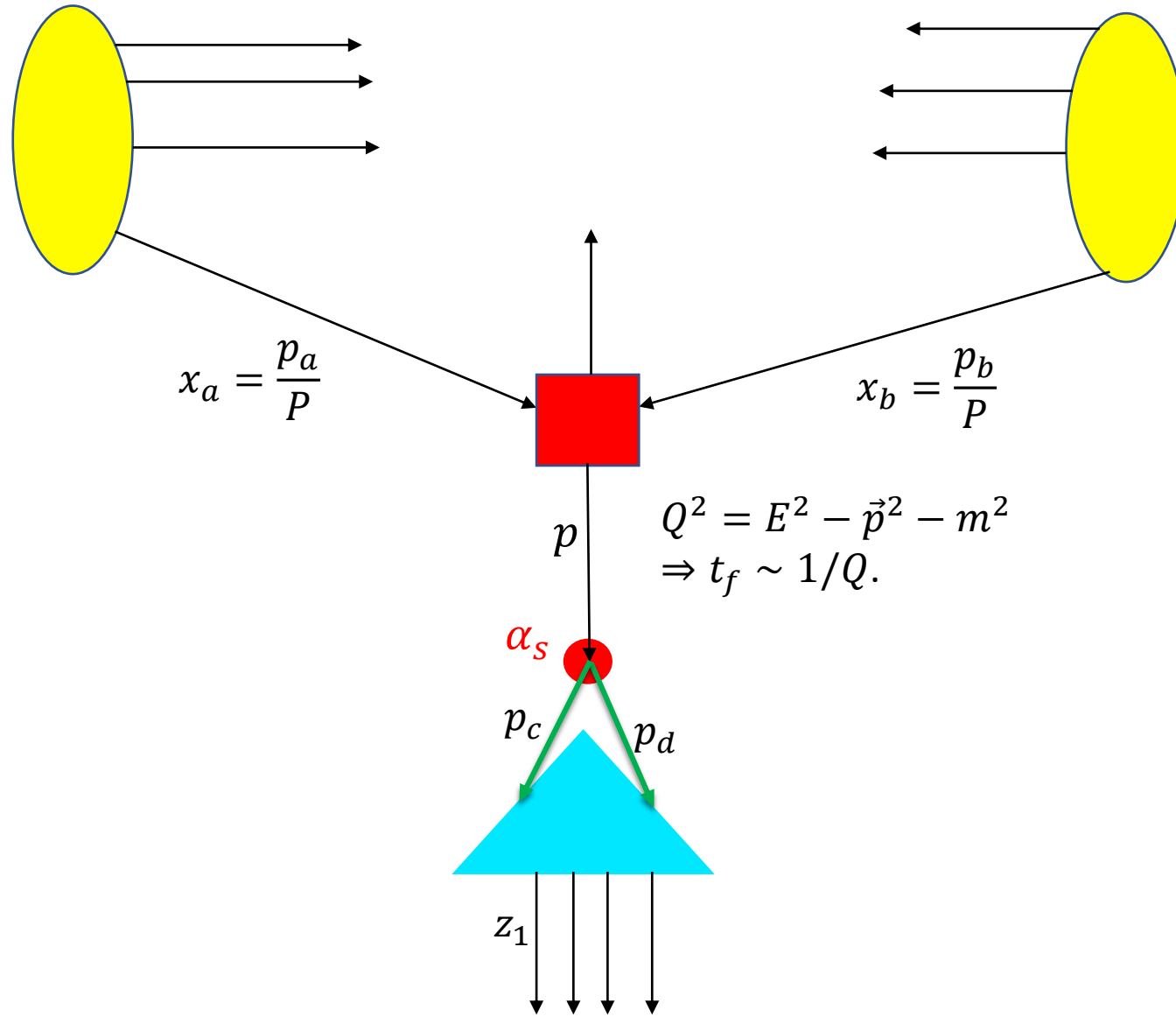
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# Sketch of possible corrections



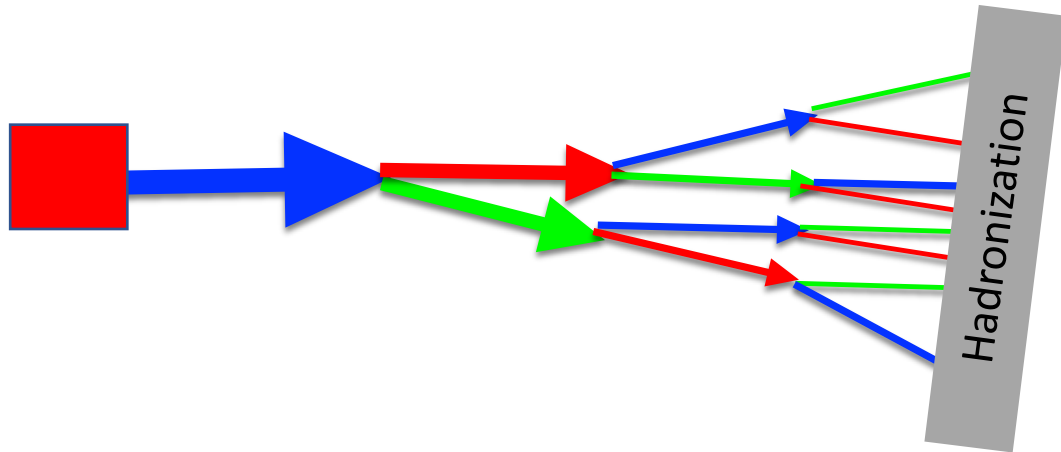
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# Sketch of possible corrections



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- Need to use scale ( $Q$ ) dependent PDFs and FFs  
 $G(x_a) \rightarrow G(Q, x_a); \quad D(z_1) \rightarrow D(Q, z_1)$
- Repeat the split recursively to get a shower

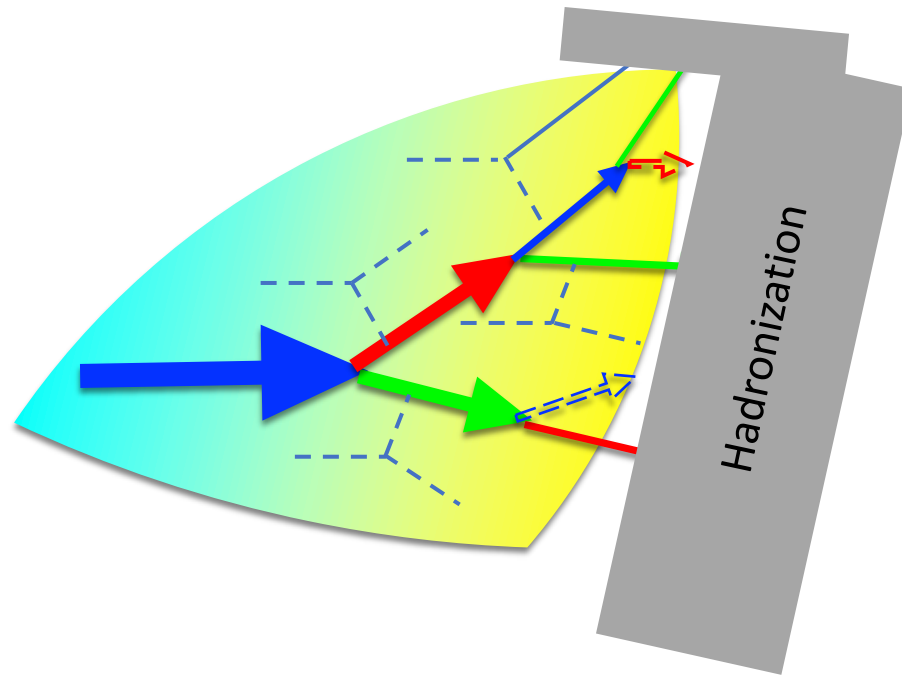
# Monte Carlo jet shower simulation in vacuum



- Monte Carlo simulations (e.g., Pythia) develop a shower at the quark/gluon level in vacuum by adding multiple splits.
- In vacuum, the particles in a jet after hadronization occupy a narrow cone.

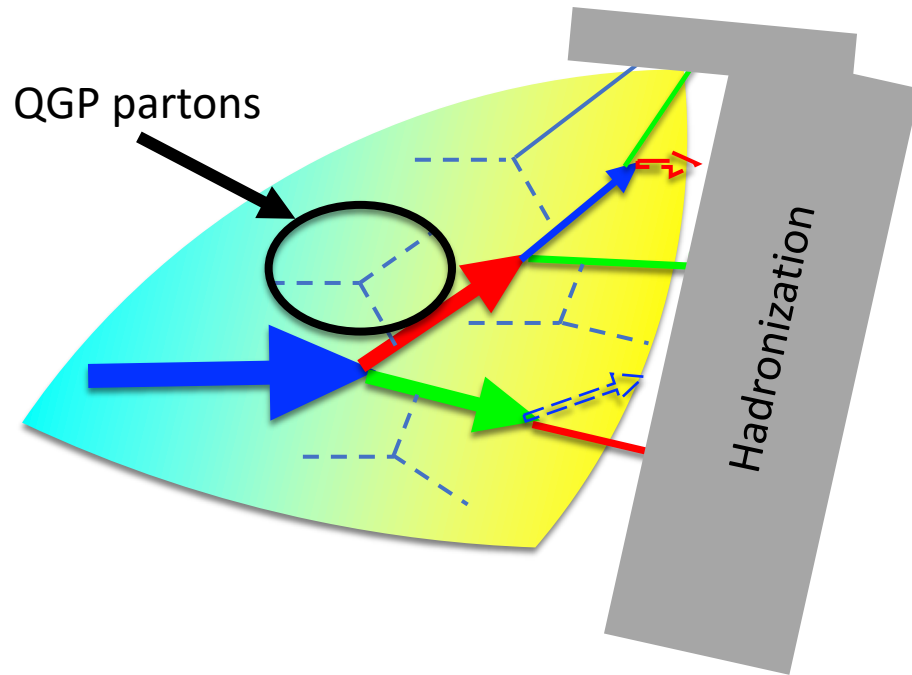
# Modified splitting inside the QGP

- In the nuclear medium, the particles in a jet after hadronization occupy a wider cone.



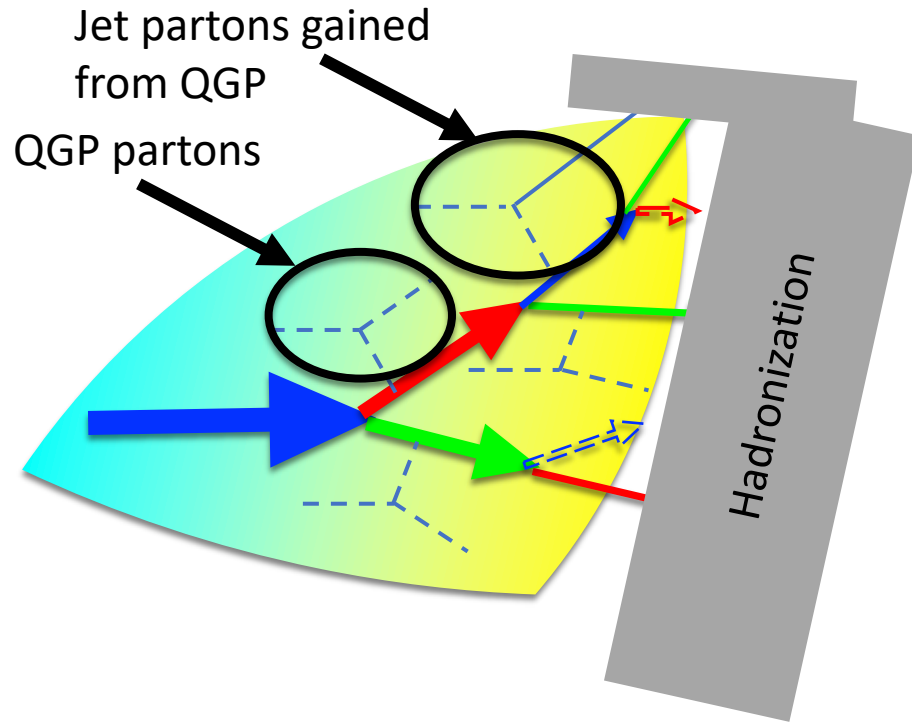


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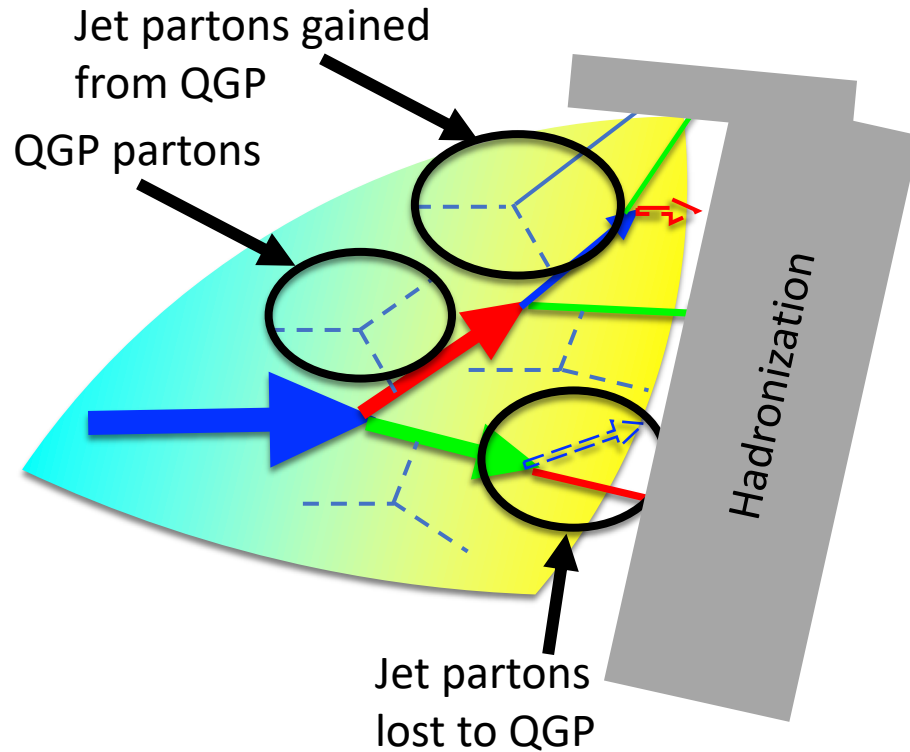
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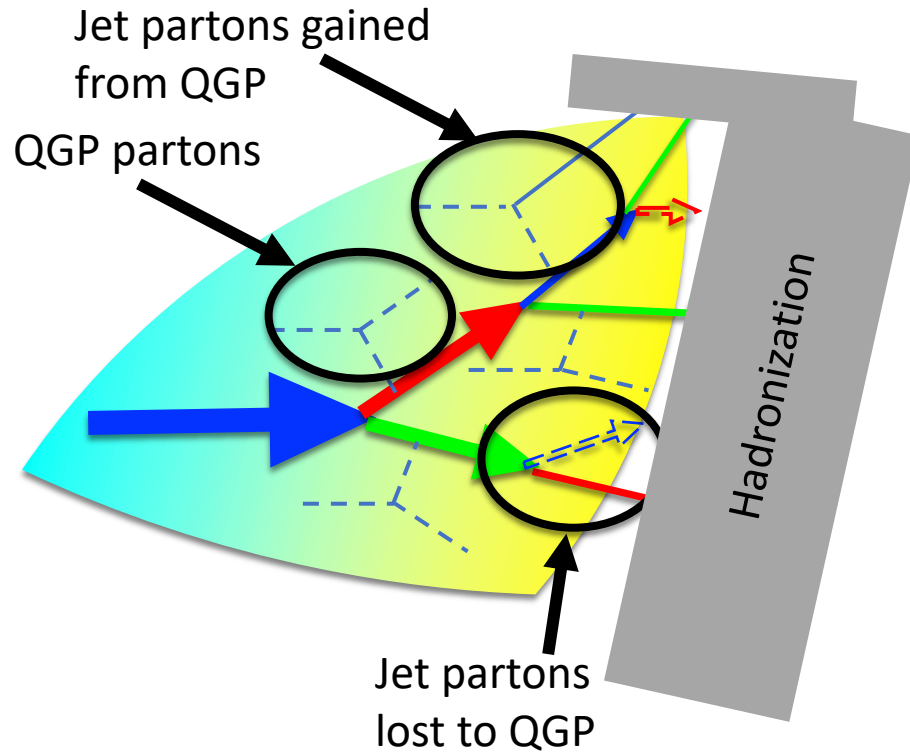
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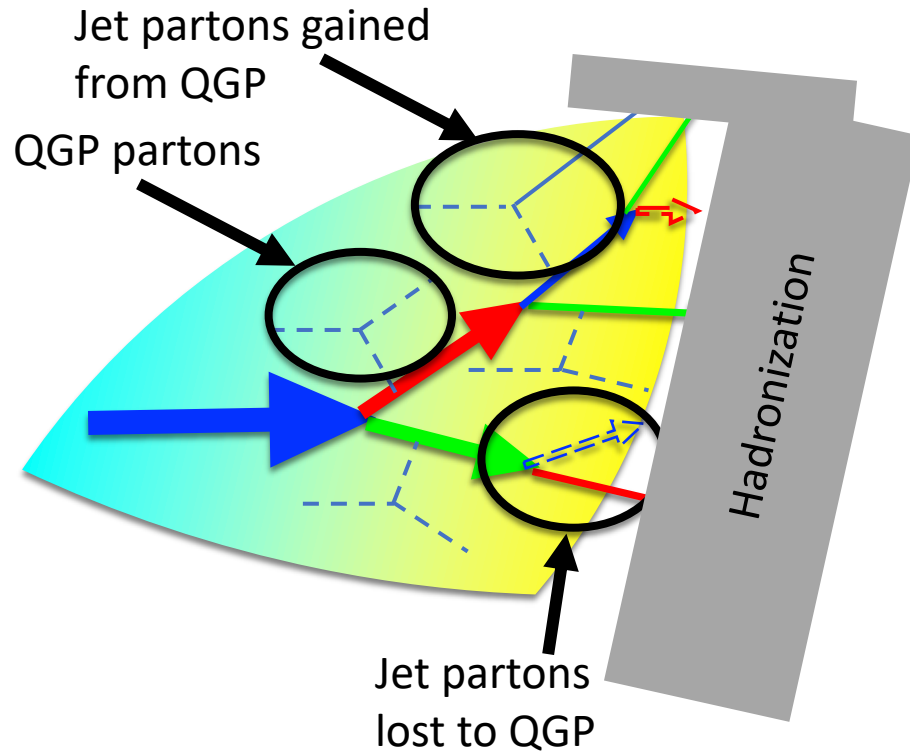
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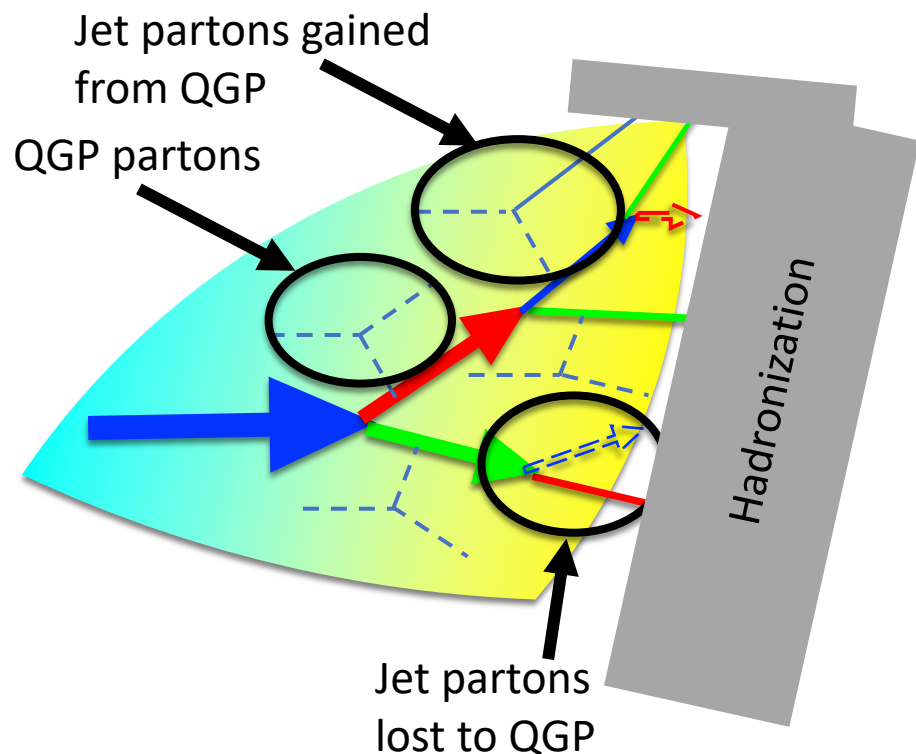
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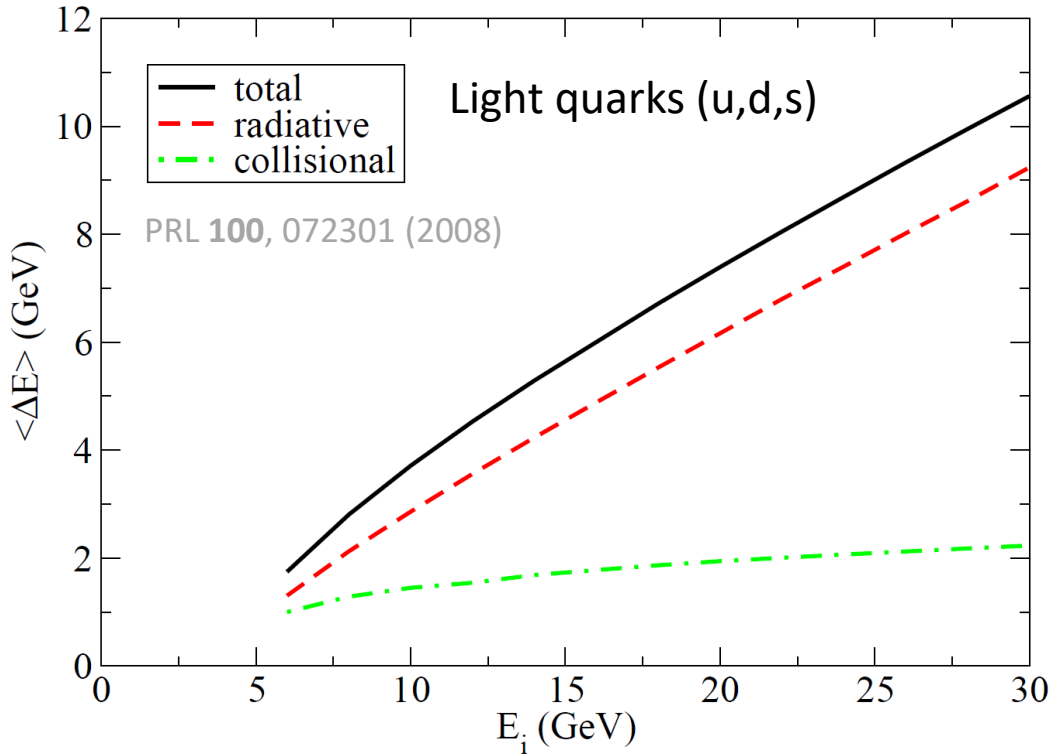


The JETSCAPE framework combines high/low virtuality stages for an improved description of parton energy loss.

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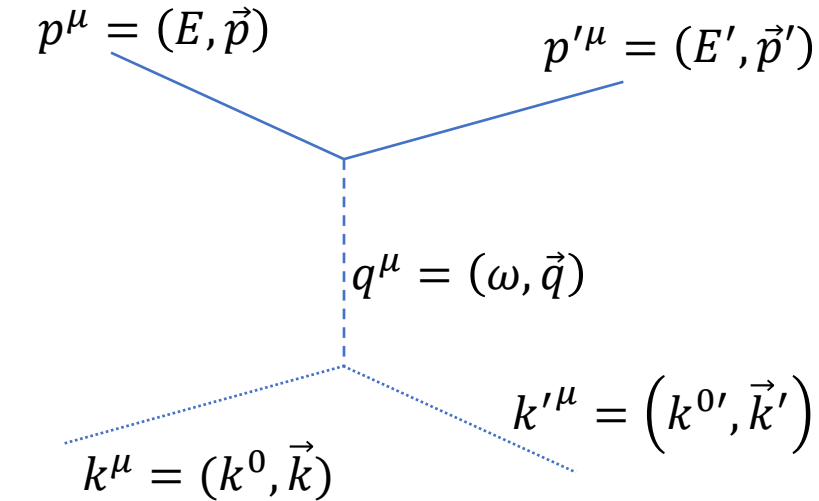
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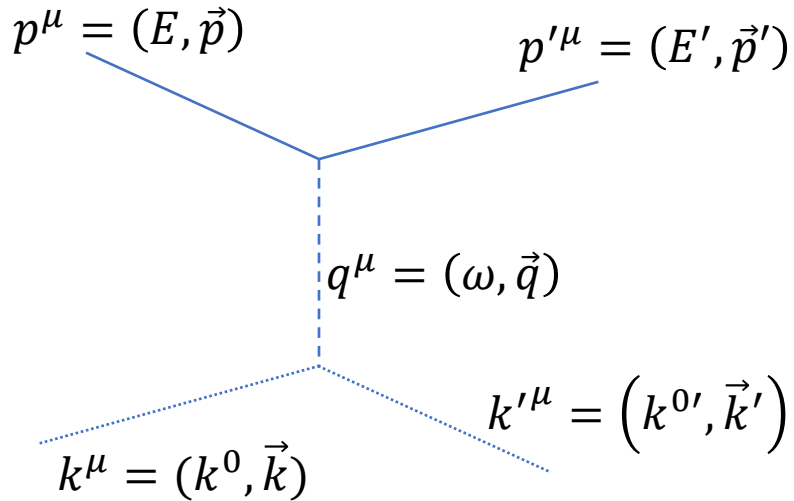
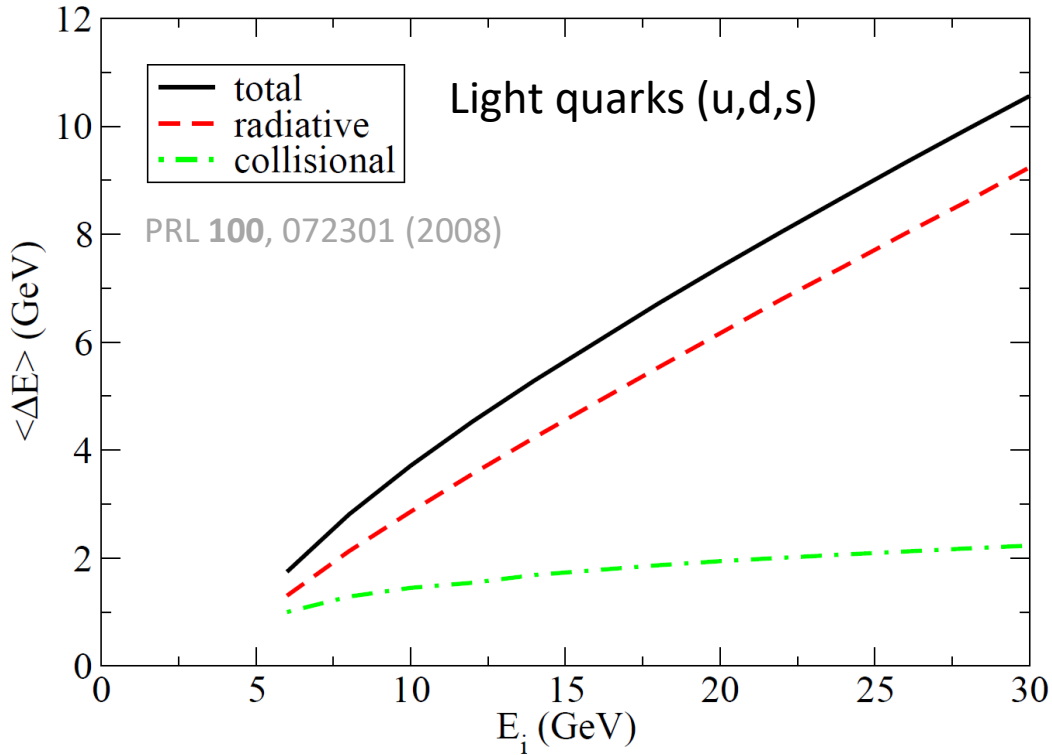
- Collisional energy-loss (from  $2 \rightarrow 2$  scattering):

$$\langle \Delta E \rangle = E - \int dx \frac{dE}{dx}$$

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = \sum_{a=q,g} \int d^2q \int d^3k \underbrace{J \rho_a(k)}_{\text{Flux of incoming particles}} \underbrace{(\omega = E - E')}_{\text{Exchanged energy}} \underbrace{\frac{d\sigma^{Qa \rightarrow Qa}}{dq^2}}_{\text{differential cross-section}}$$



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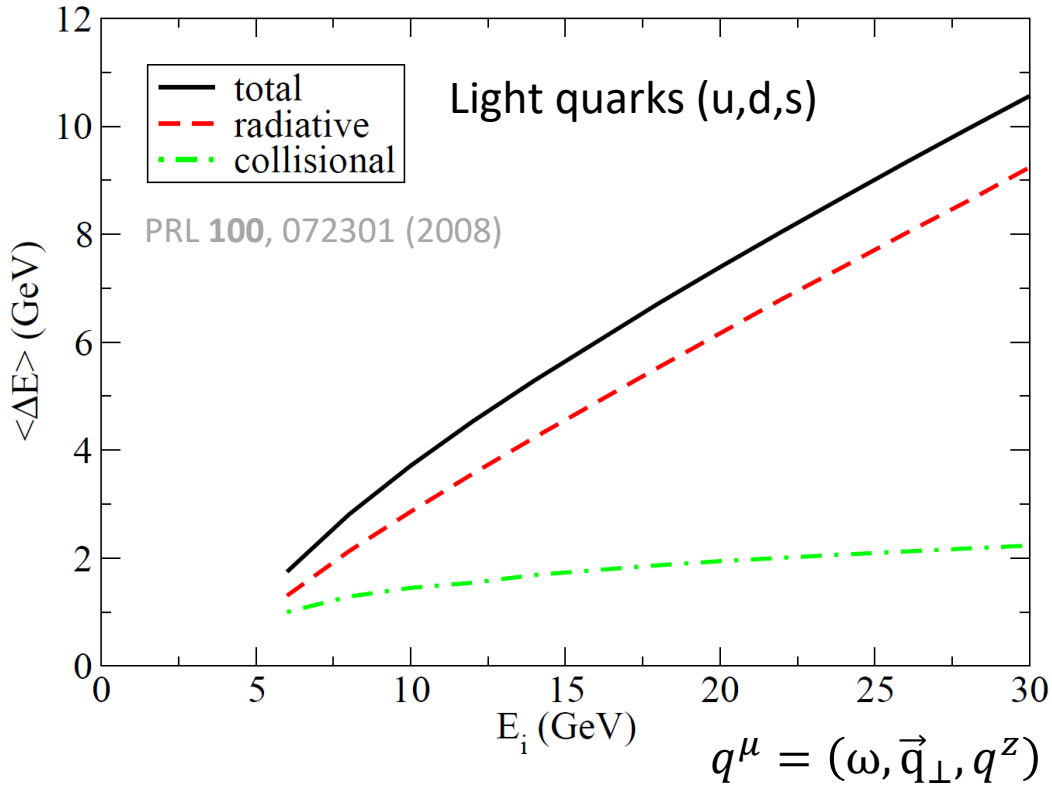
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$$-\frac{dE}{dx} \approx \sum_{a=q,g} \int d^3k \frac{1}{\exp \frac{k^0}{T} \pm 1} \int dq^2 \frac{q^2}{2k} C_a \frac{2\pi\alpha_s^2}{(q^2)^2}$$

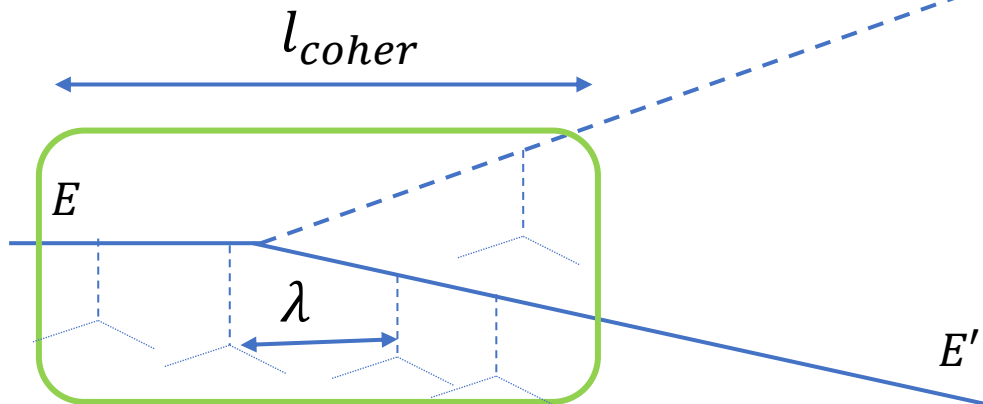
$$-\frac{dE}{dx} \sim \alpha_s T^2 \ln \frac{E}{T}$$

# Radiation inside the nuclear medium at low virtuality

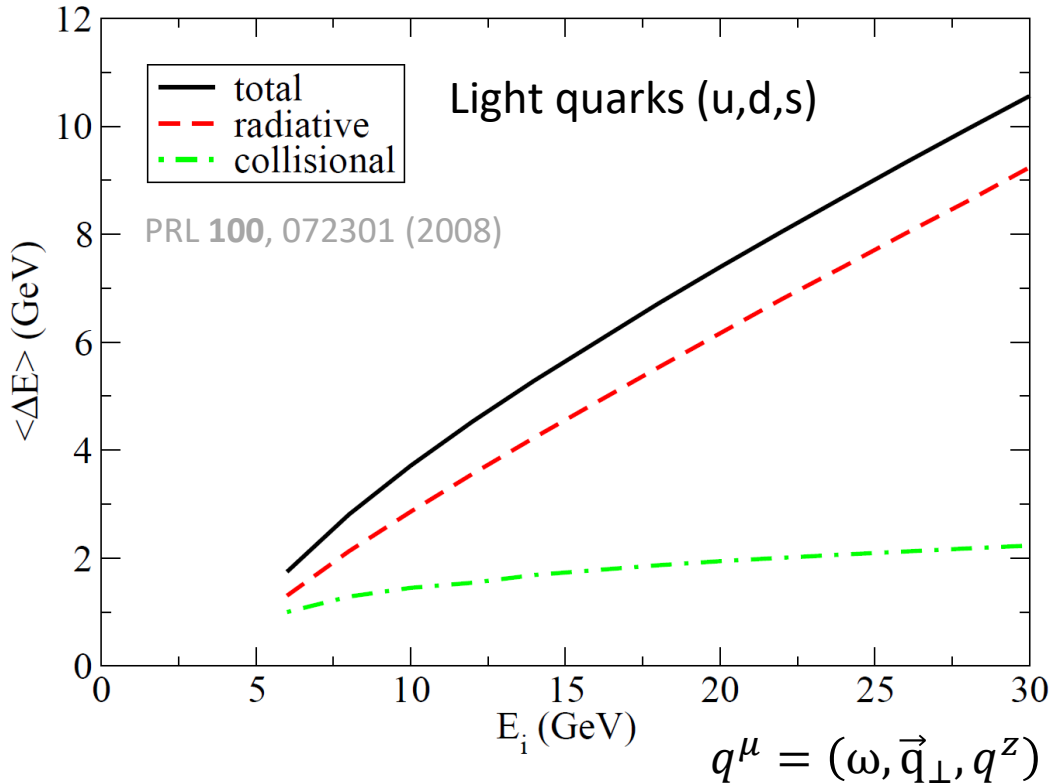


- Radiative energy-loss of long-lived partons via stimulated emission (induced by multiple coherent scatterings):

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = \int_0^E d\omega \omega \frac{d^2N}{d\omega dx} \approx \int_0^E d\omega \underbrace{\frac{1}{l_{coher}}}_{\text{Length dependence}} \underbrace{\omega \frac{dN}{d\omega}}_{\text{Energy dependence}}$$



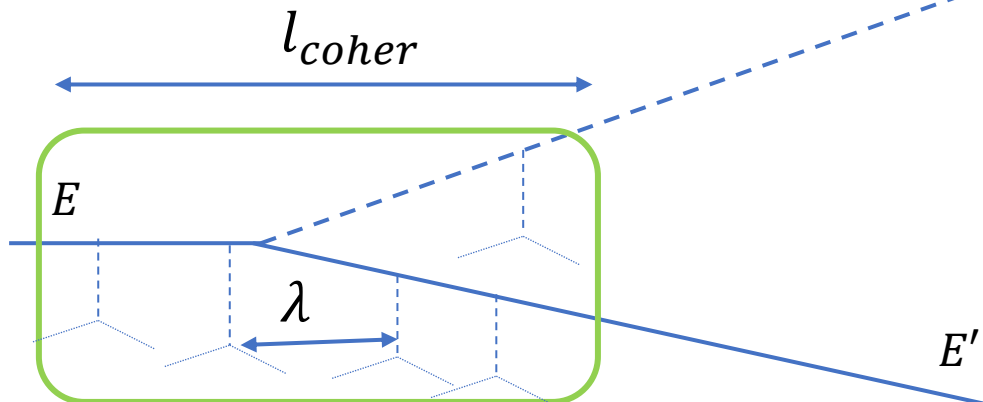
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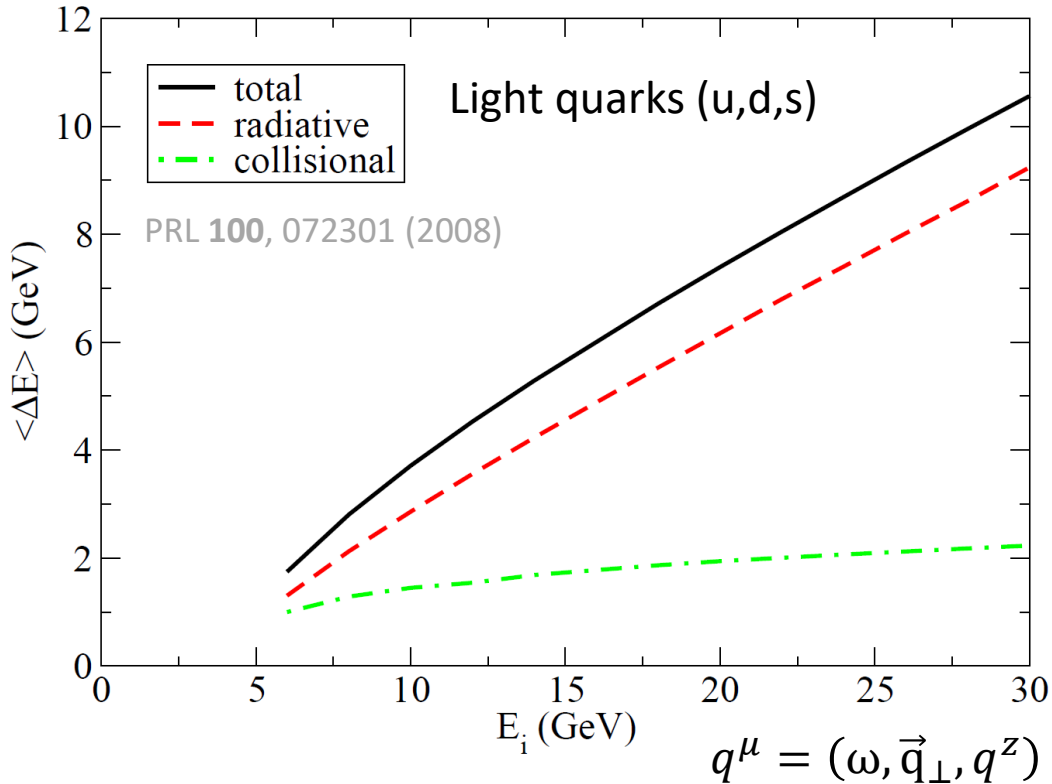
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$$l_{coher} = \frac{\omega}{q_\perp^2} \approx \frac{\omega}{\langle q_\perp^2 \rangle_{coher}} \quad \text{Brownian-like motion ansatz}$$



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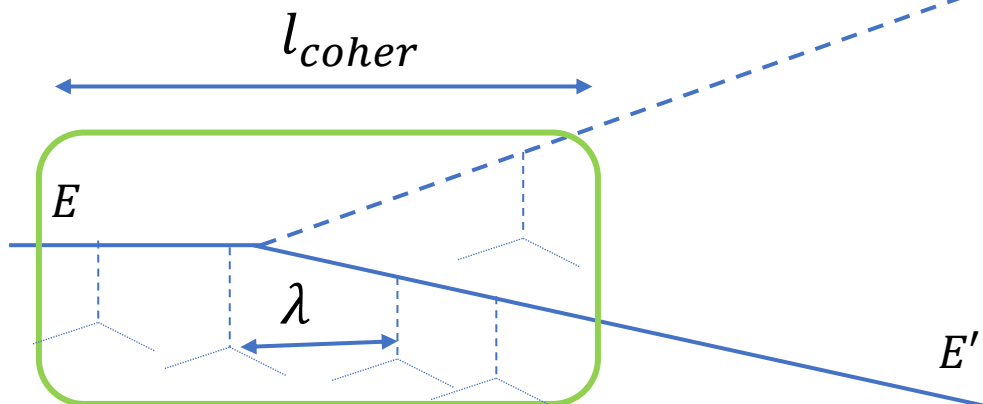


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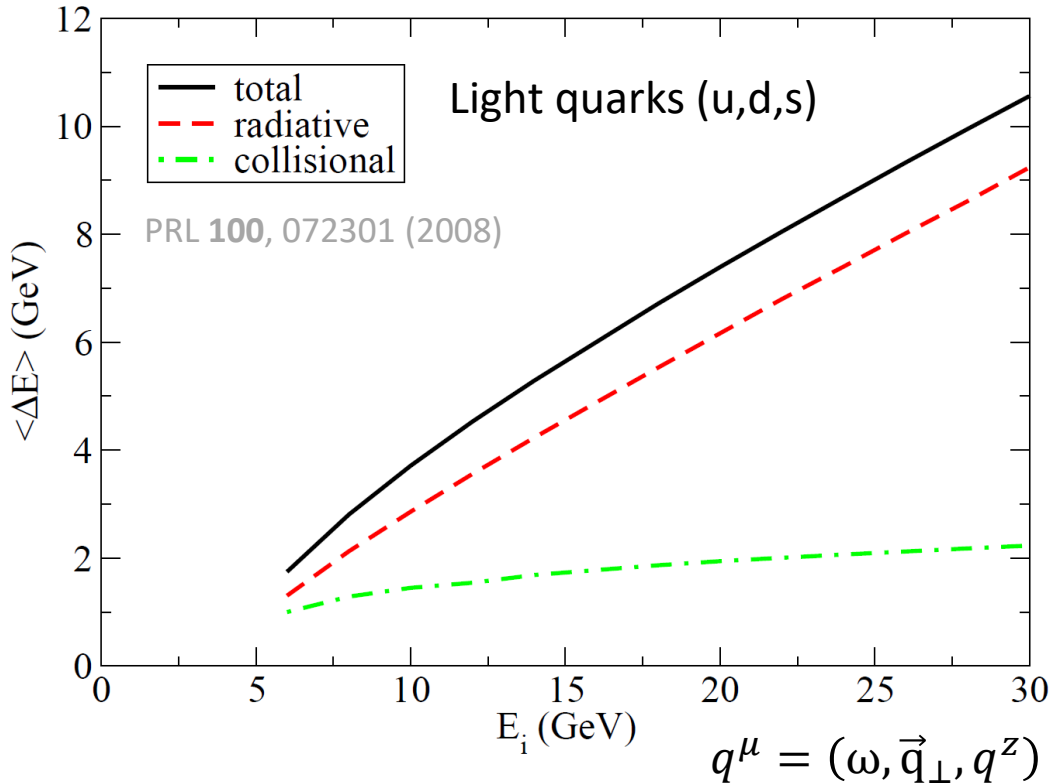
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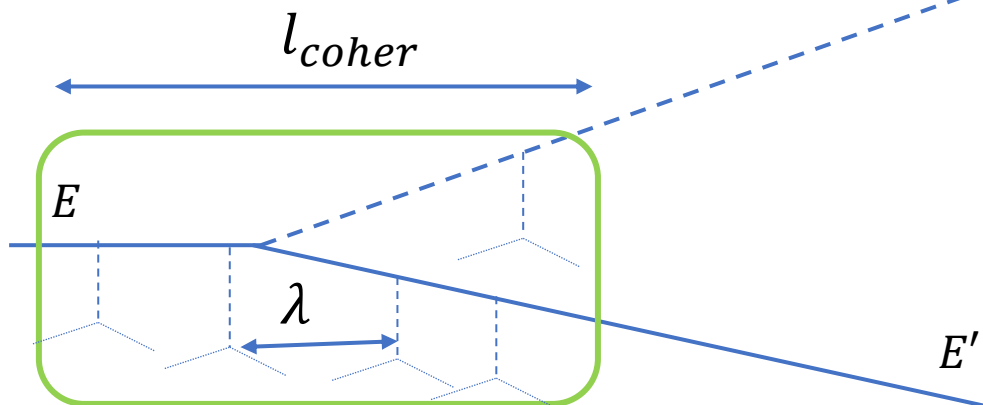
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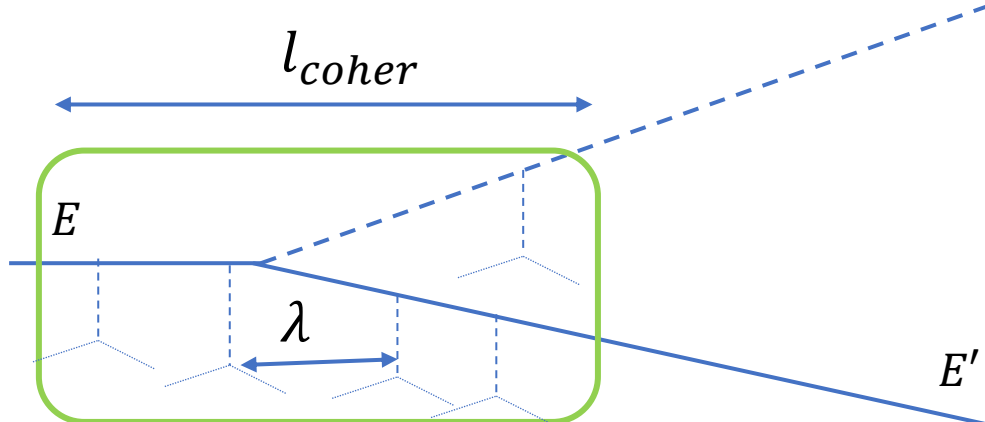
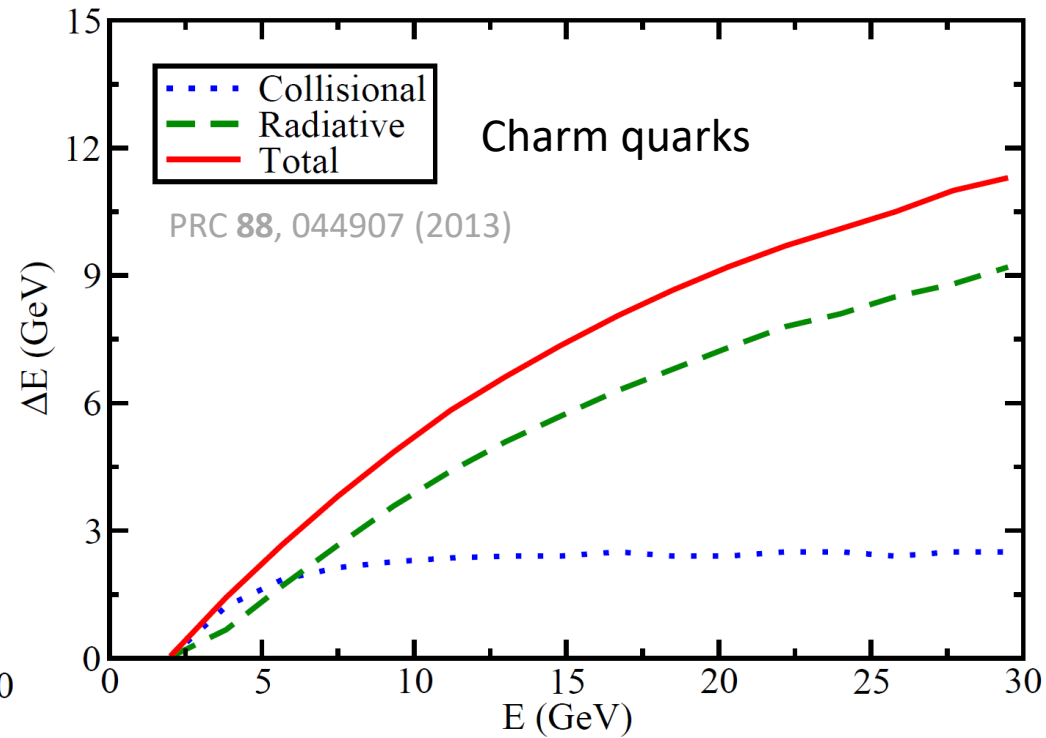
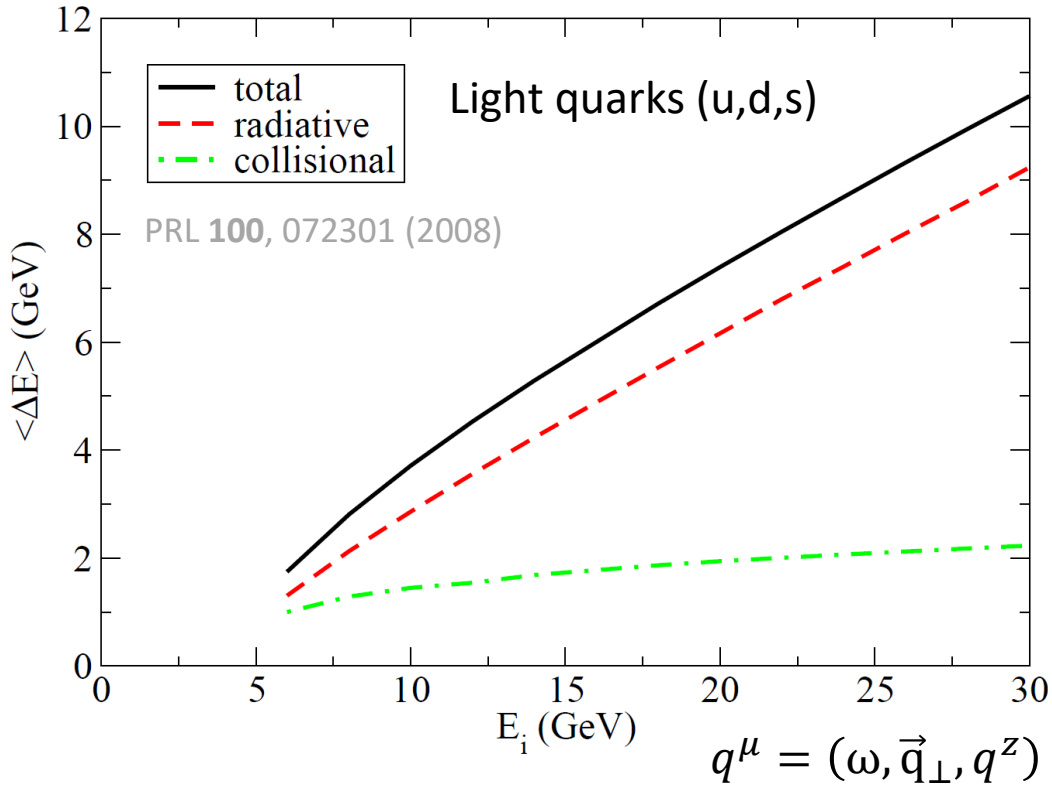
$$\omega \frac{dN}{d\omega} \rightarrow \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} N_c \quad (\text{for } \omega \rightarrow 0) \quad \text{Bethe-Heitler radiation spectrum}$$

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} \approx \int_0^E d\omega \sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega}} \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} N_c \sim \sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda}} \sqrt{E}$$





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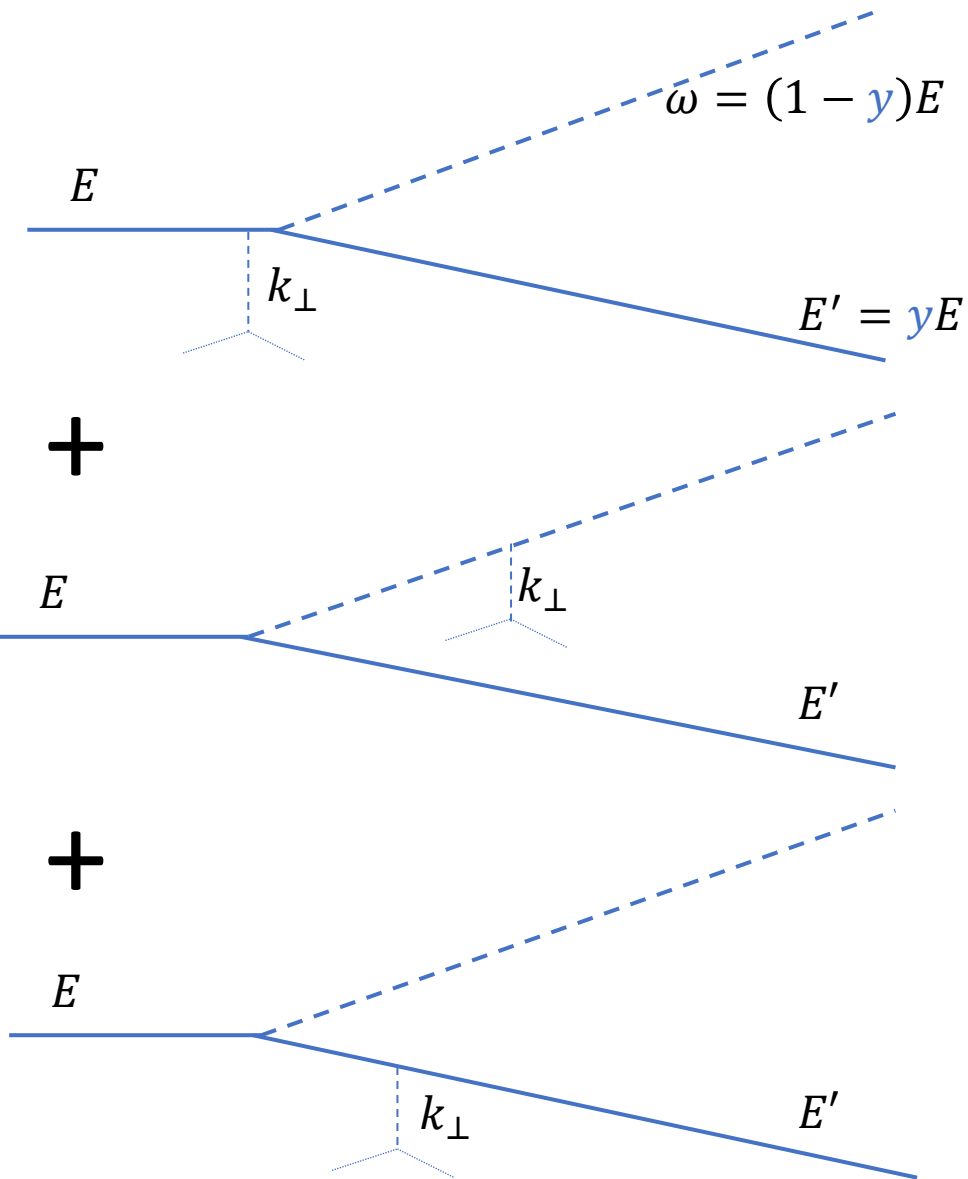


- Charm quarks behave similarly to light flavors, modulo finite mass effects on kinematics
- Together, scattering & radiation are used to solve the Boltzmann Transport (BT) equation:

$$p \cdot \partial f(x, p) = \mathcal{C}_{scatt} + \mathcal{G}_{rad}$$

- Linear BT (LBT) solves the Boltzmann eq. inside JETSCAPE

# Radiation inside the nuclear medium at high virtuality

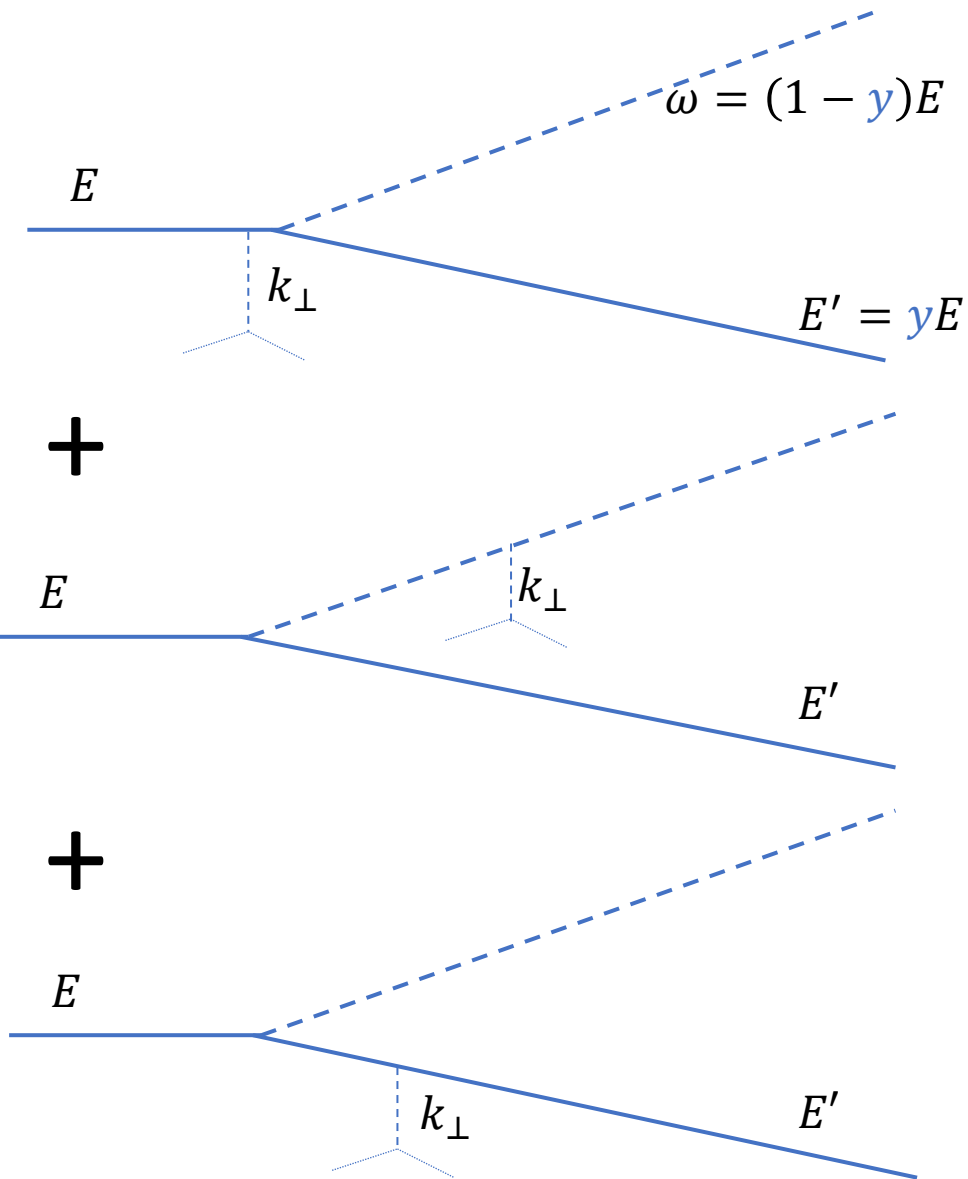


- Radiative energy-loss of short-lived partons (modified by single-scattering):

$$\frac{dN}{dydQ^2} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi Q^2} \mathcal{P}(y, Q^2) = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi(E^2 - \vec{p}_{\perp}^2)} \mathcal{P}(y, Q^2)$$

How much the splitting function  $\mathcal{P}$  is modified in the medium depends on the lifetime/formation time  $t_f(Q^2)$  of the split?

# Radiation inside the nuclear medium at high virtuality

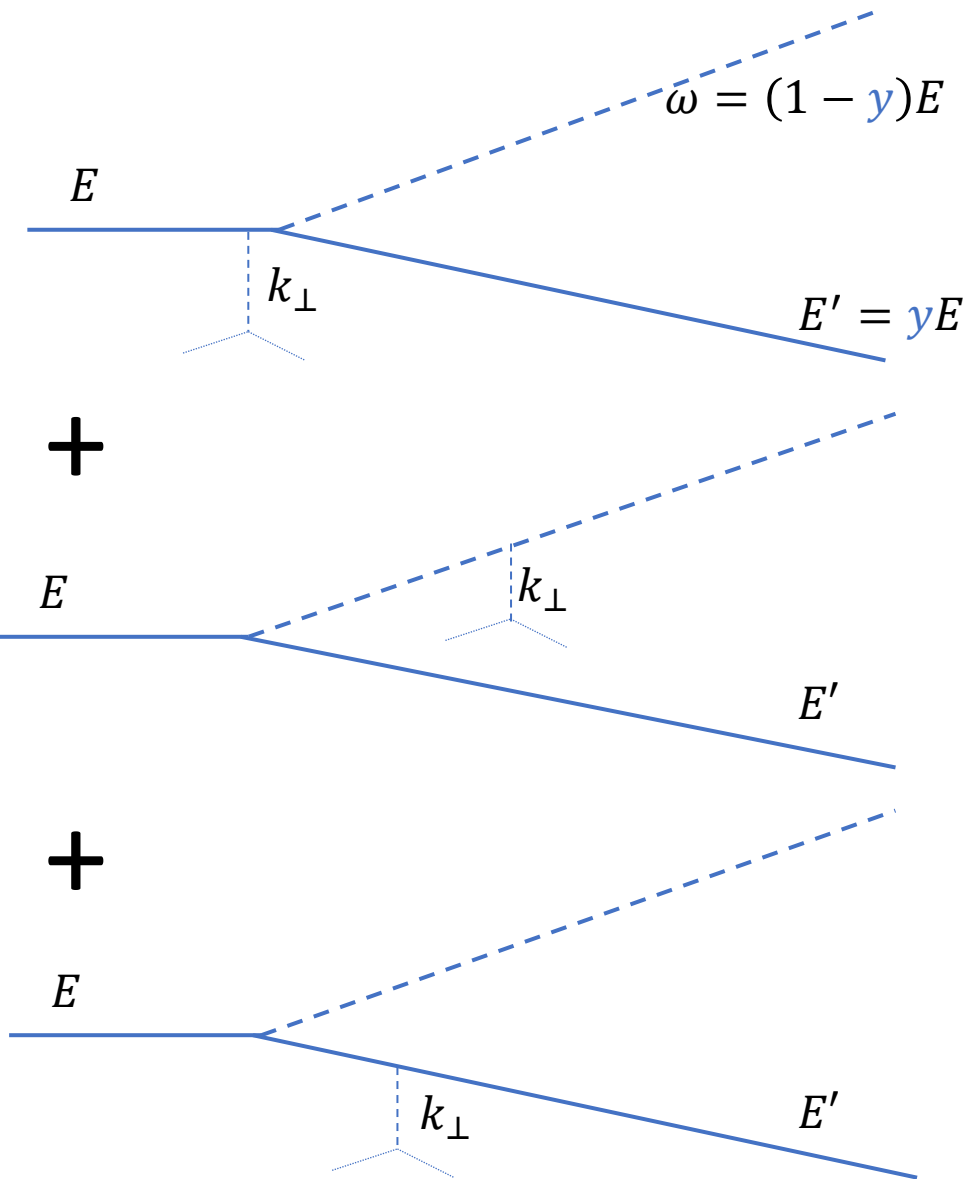


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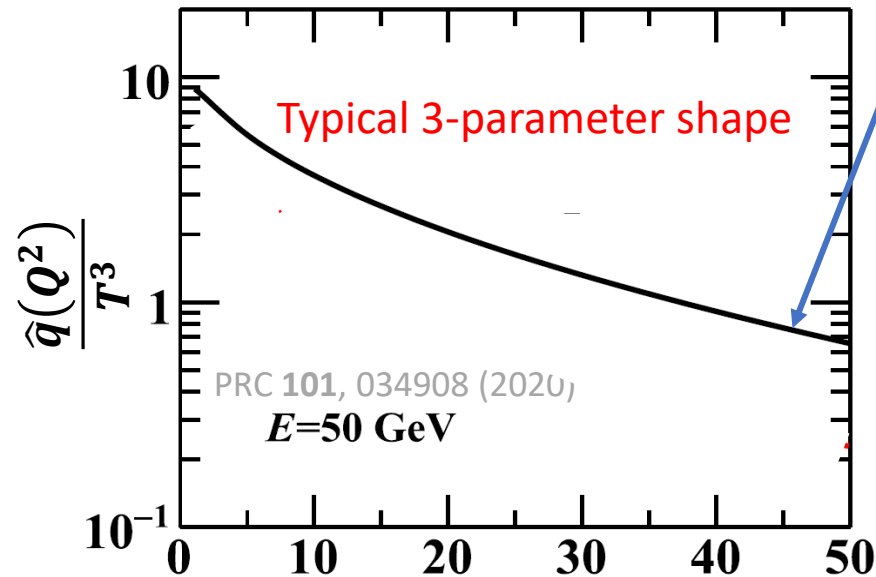
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$$\mathcal{P}(y, Q^2) = P(y) + \frac{P(y) \left[ \int_0^{t_f} dt \hat{q}(Q^2) \left[ 2 - 2 \cos \left[ \frac{t}{t_f(Q^2)} \right] \right] \right]}{y(1-y)Q^2}$$

$$P_{g \leftarrow q}(y) = \frac{1 + y^2}{1 - y}$$



# An experimental observable

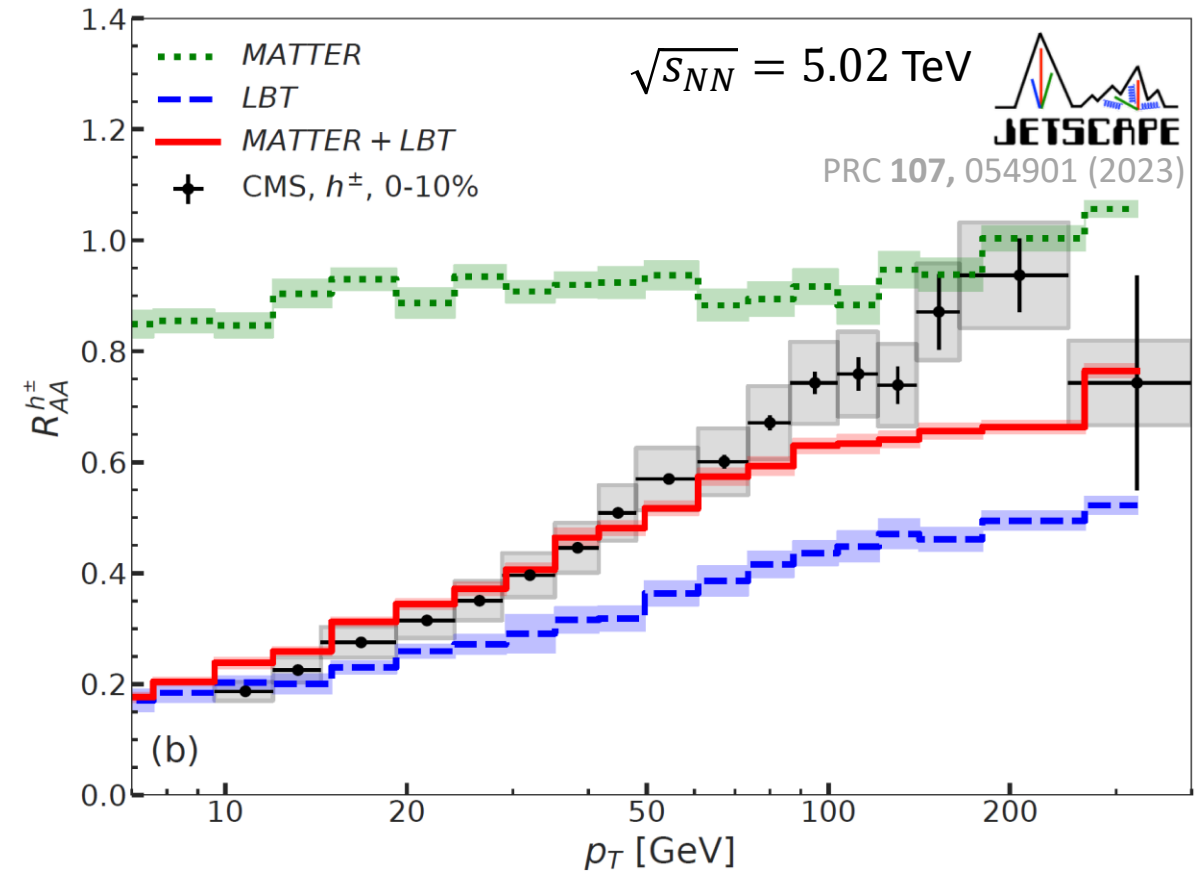
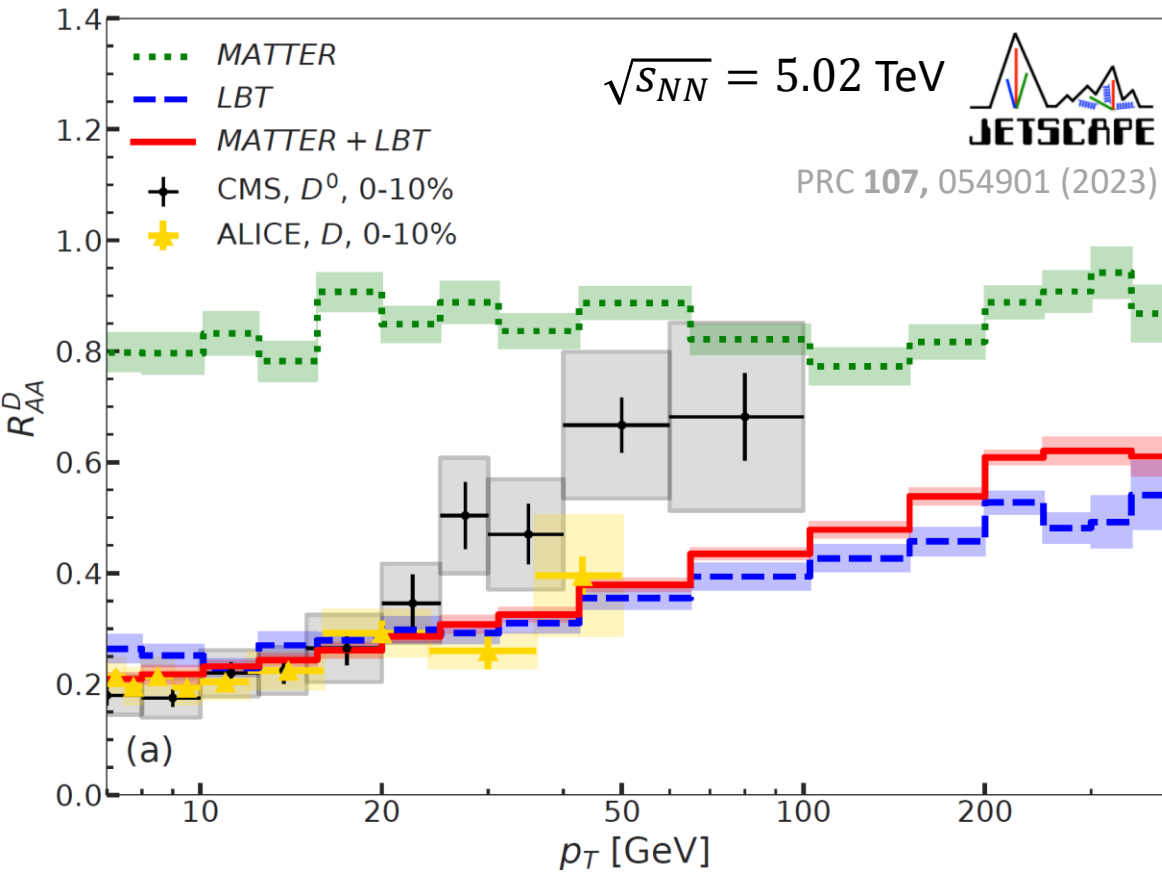
- To study the nuclear medium's effects on parton shower, one computes nuclear modification factor

$$R_{AA}^X = \frac{\frac{d\sigma_{AA}^X}{dp_T}}{N_{bin} \frac{d\sigma_{pp}^X}{dp_T}}$$

$X$  is the **leading** (highest energy) hadron in **a jet**  
(which can be of an identified species or not)

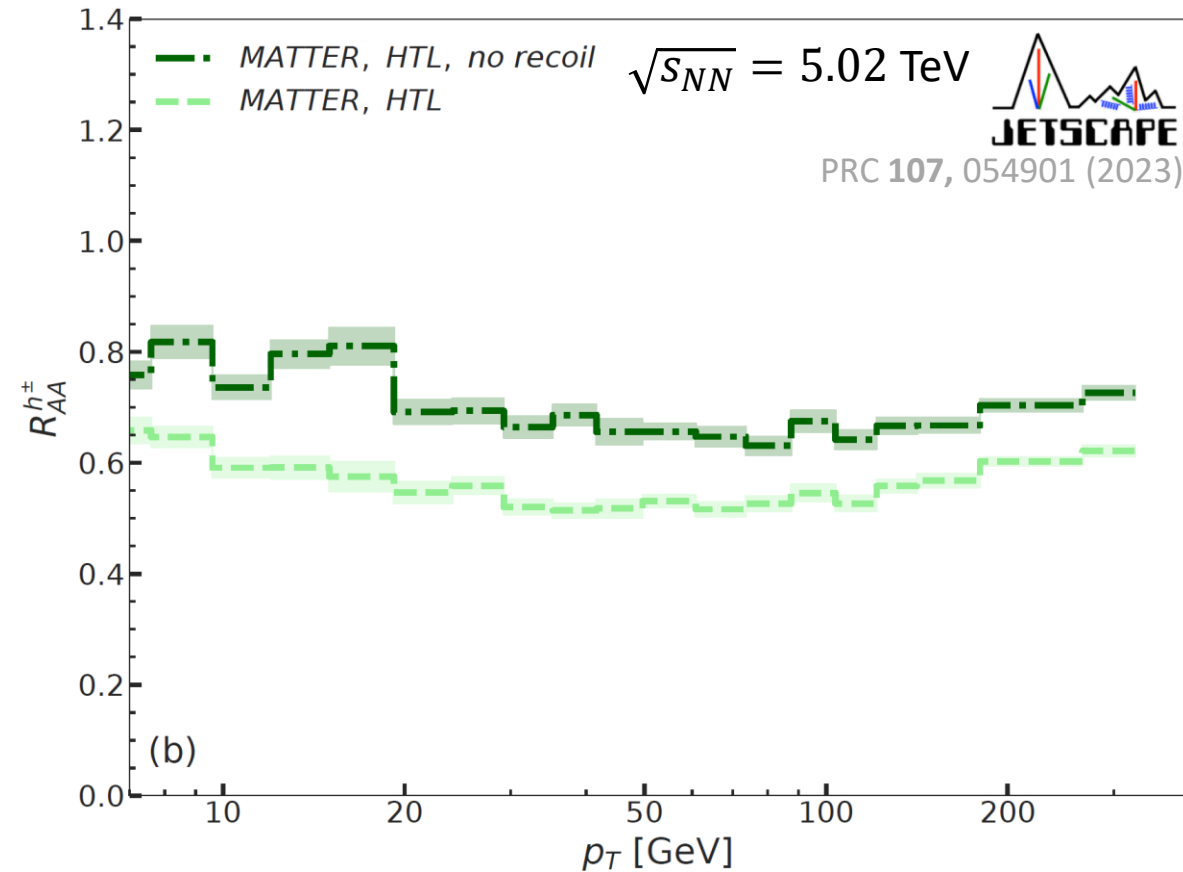
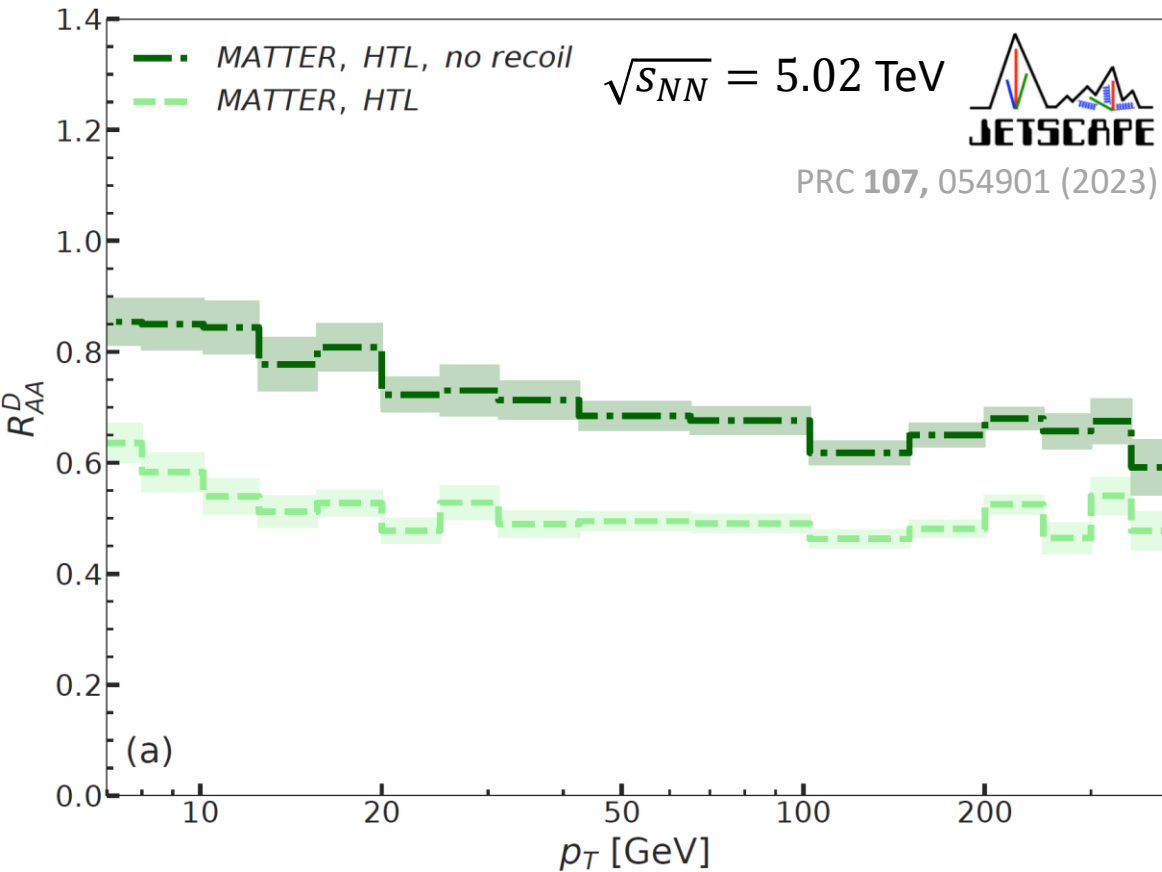
- If an A-A collisions was the same as p-p collisions, then we can rescale the p-p collision by the  $N_{bin}$  binary collisions  $\Rightarrow R_{AA}^X \rightarrow 1$ .
- $R_{AA} < 1$  stems from two different sources:
  - Initial state effects: nuclear modifications to the parton distribution function.
  - Final state effects: creation of the QGP through which partons loose energy and the jet is quenched.
- The other extreme  $R_{AA}^X \rightarrow 0$ , means that all jets in A-A collisions get absorbed by the nuclear medium, i.e. there is no leading hadron.

# Comparison with experiment



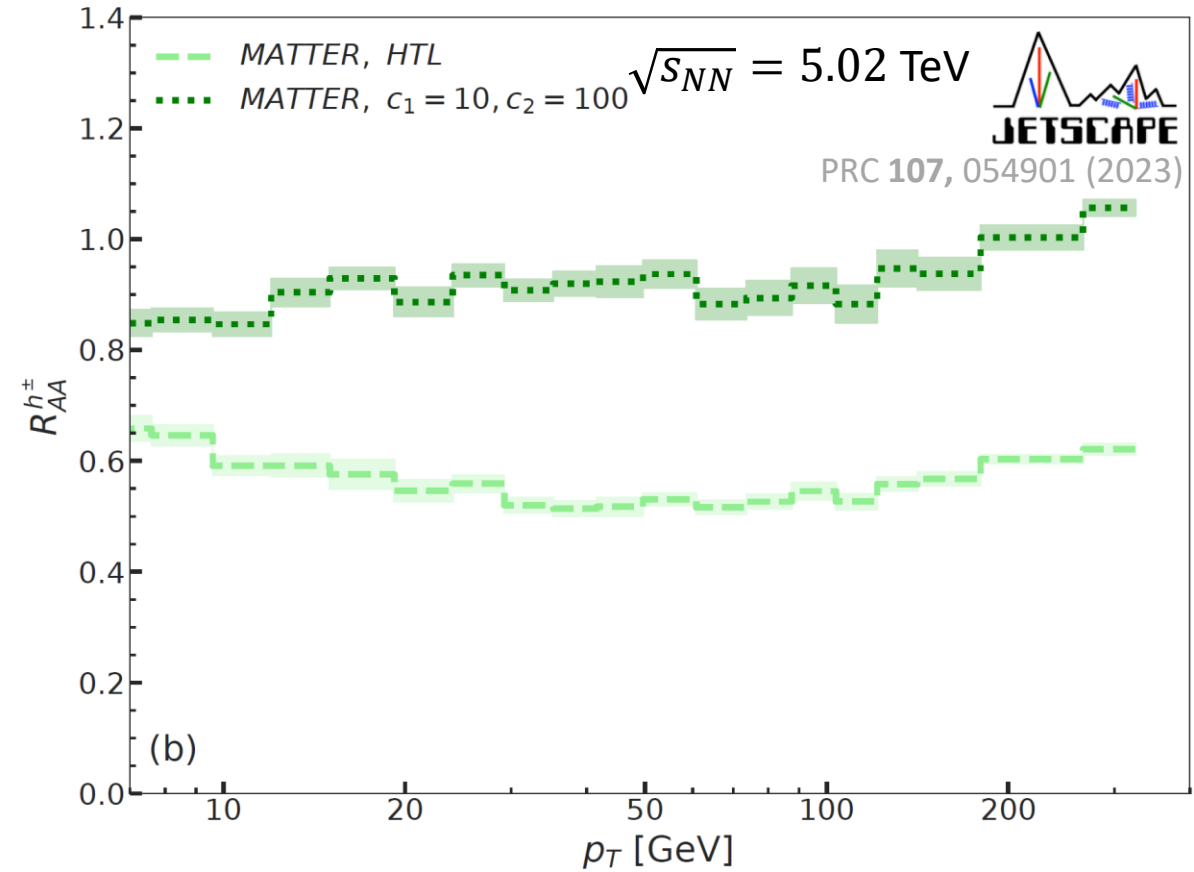
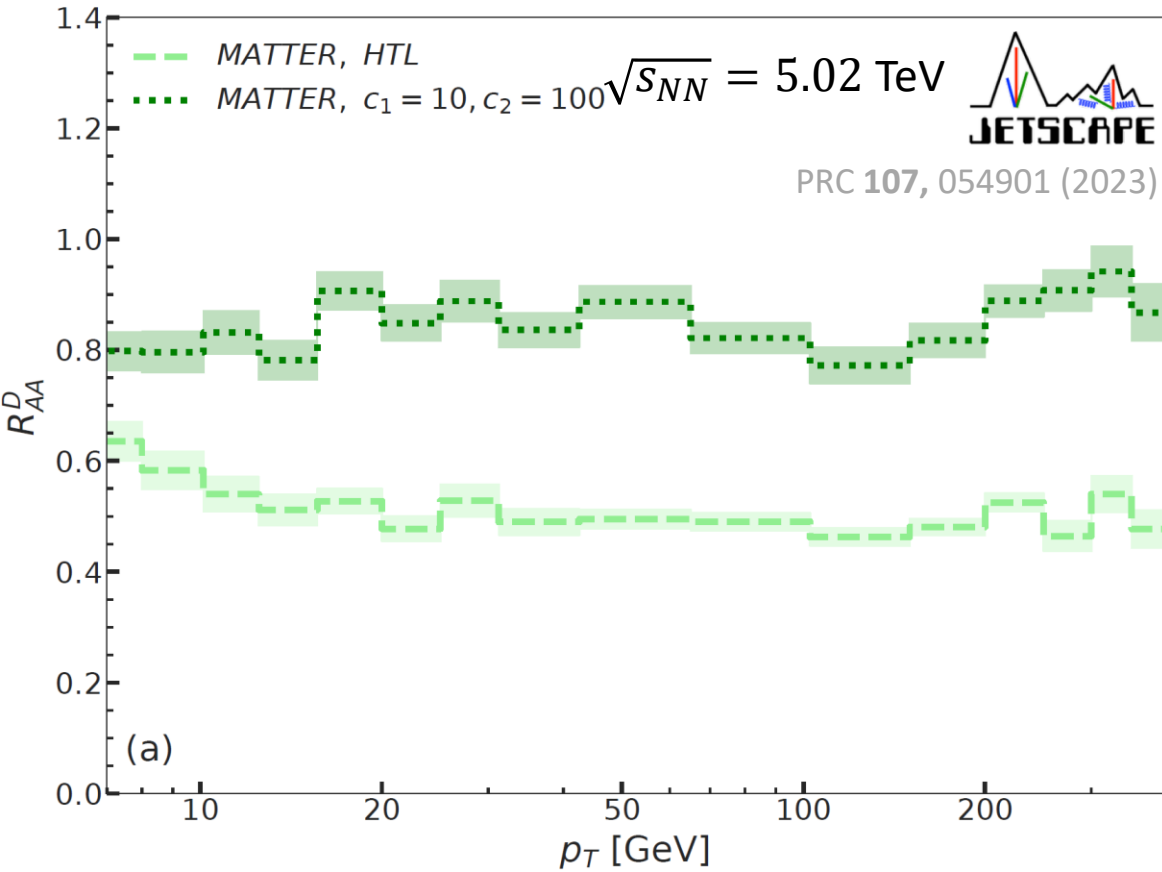
- To explain the experimental data (charged hadrons/D-mesons), a combination of high- and low-virtuality energy-loss models is needed.

# Effects of scattering at high virtuality



- For short-lived partons, it is unclear how important scattering really is.
- Using  $Q^2$ -independent, i.e. formation-time independent  $\hat{q}_{HTL}$ , and turning on/off the scattering, we see that the latter has a dramatic effect on the nuclear modification factor  $R_{AA}$ .

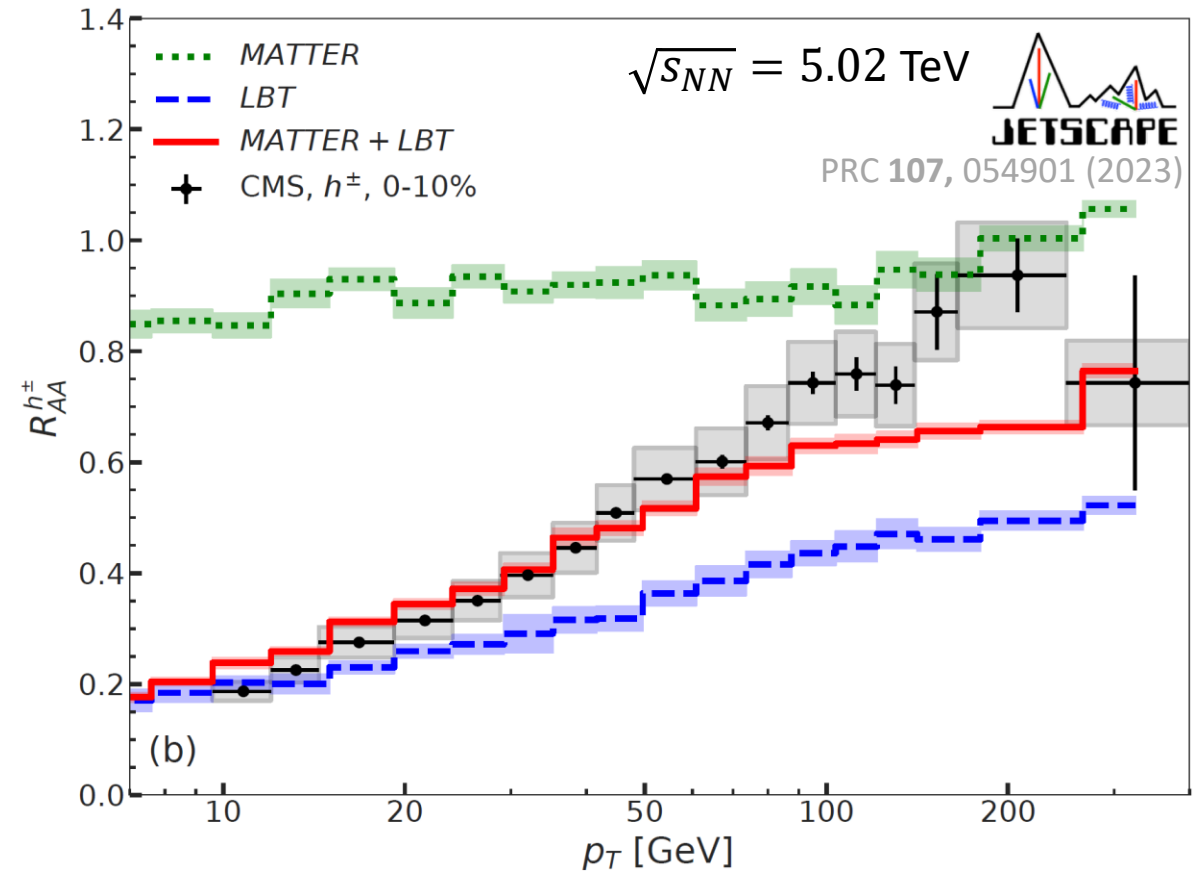
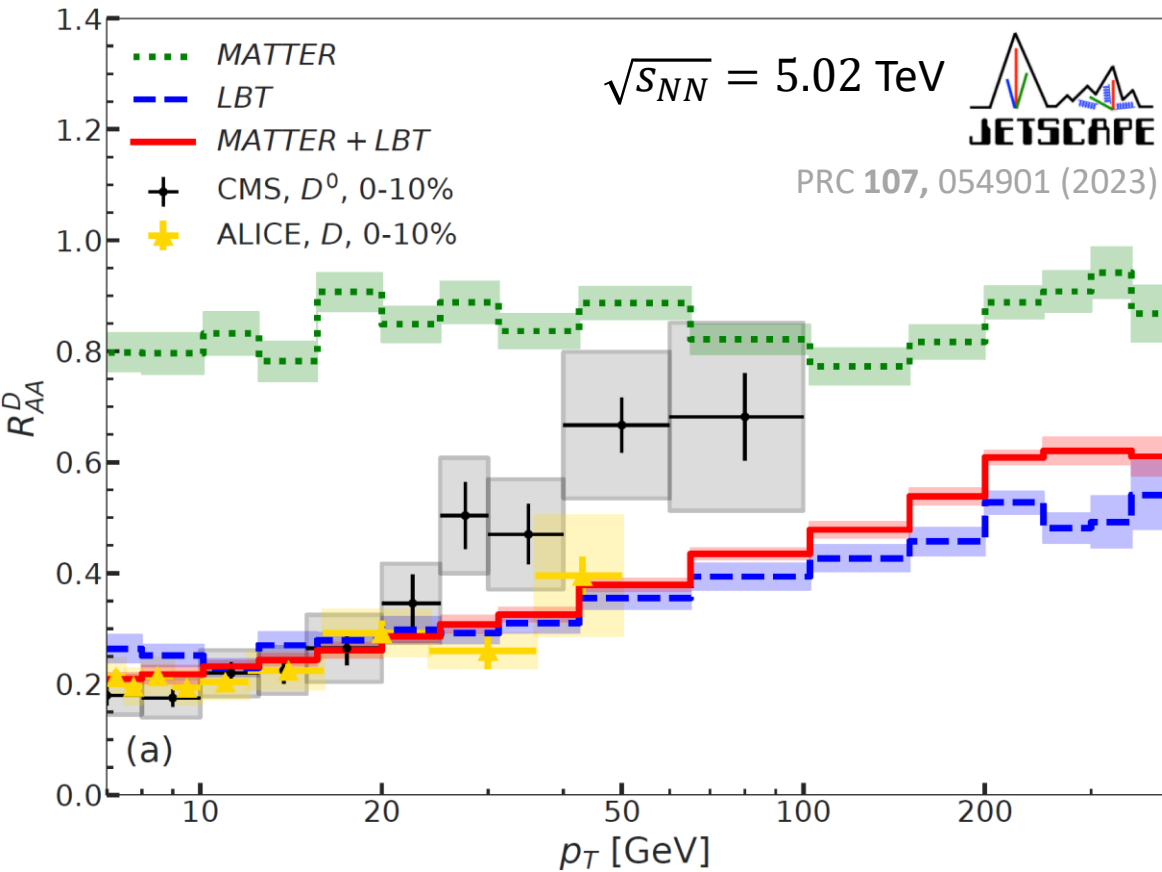
# Effects of scattering at high virtuality



- Keeping scattering on and including  $\hat{q}(Q^2)$  removes the high amount of quenching seen at high  $p_T$ .



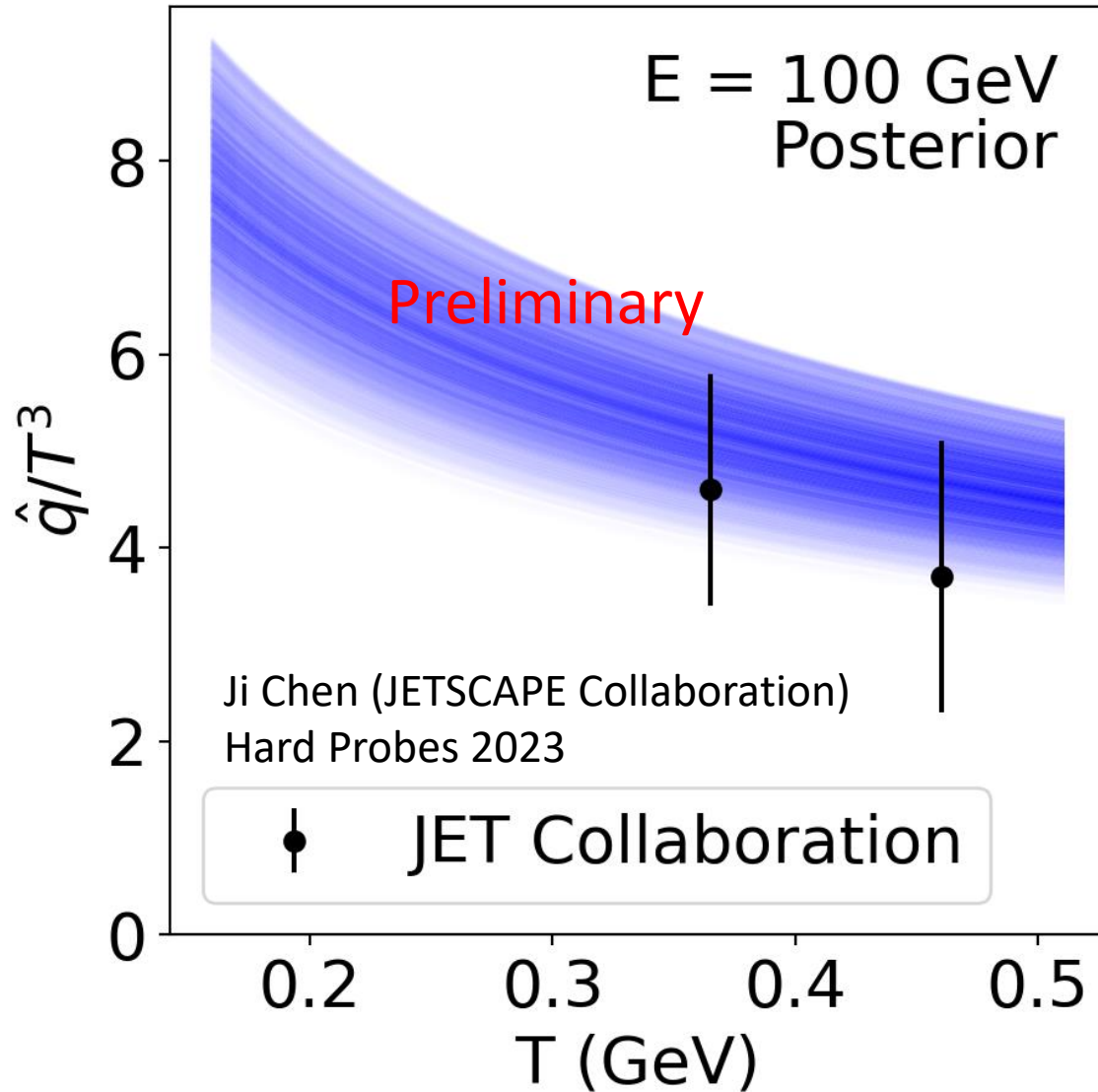
# Effects of scattering at high virtuality



- Keeping scattering on and including  $\hat{q}(Q^2)$  removes the high amount of quenching seen at high  $p_T$ .

⇒ Scattering and coherence effects are needed to explain the data.

# First results and outlook



- A holistic Bayesian analysis is ongoing to determine  $\hat{q}$  phenomenologically:
  - More collision energies and nuclear species:
    - $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 0.2 \text{ TeV Au-Au}$
    - $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76, 5.02 \text{ TeV Pb-Pb}$
  - More centralities:
    - From central (0-5%) to semi-peripheral (40-50%) collisions.
  - Different observables:
    - $R_{AA}^{\pi}, R_{AA}^{h^{\pm}}, R_{AA}^{\text{jet}} (R = 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.8, 1.0), \dots$
- $\hat{q}(Q, T)$  is upcoming. Stay tuned...

# Conclusions and Outlook

- There are two complementary ongoing efforts studying nuclear matter at high-energies:
  - Explore the nuclear viscous transport coefficients ( $\zeta(T), \eta(T), \dots$ )
  - Explore how calibrated observables are modified owing to in-medium interactions (e.g.,  $\hat{q}$ )
- Bayesian analysis are starting to become commonly used to constrain the above-mentioned properties of nuclear medium.
- As Bayesian analysis become more holistic (i.e., simultaneous extraction of viscous and jet-related transport coefficients) and computationally expensive  $\Rightarrow$  more robust extraction (hot) nuclear medium properties is foreseen.
- However, rigorously accounting for both **theoretical systematic** uncertainties (e.g. higher order corrections need to be calculated) and **experimental systematic** uncertainties (experiments need to publish the full covariance matrix of measurements) is a must.
- An era of concentrated and great collaborative work is foreseen!