

ATHIC 2025



Forward Physics at LHC-ALICE

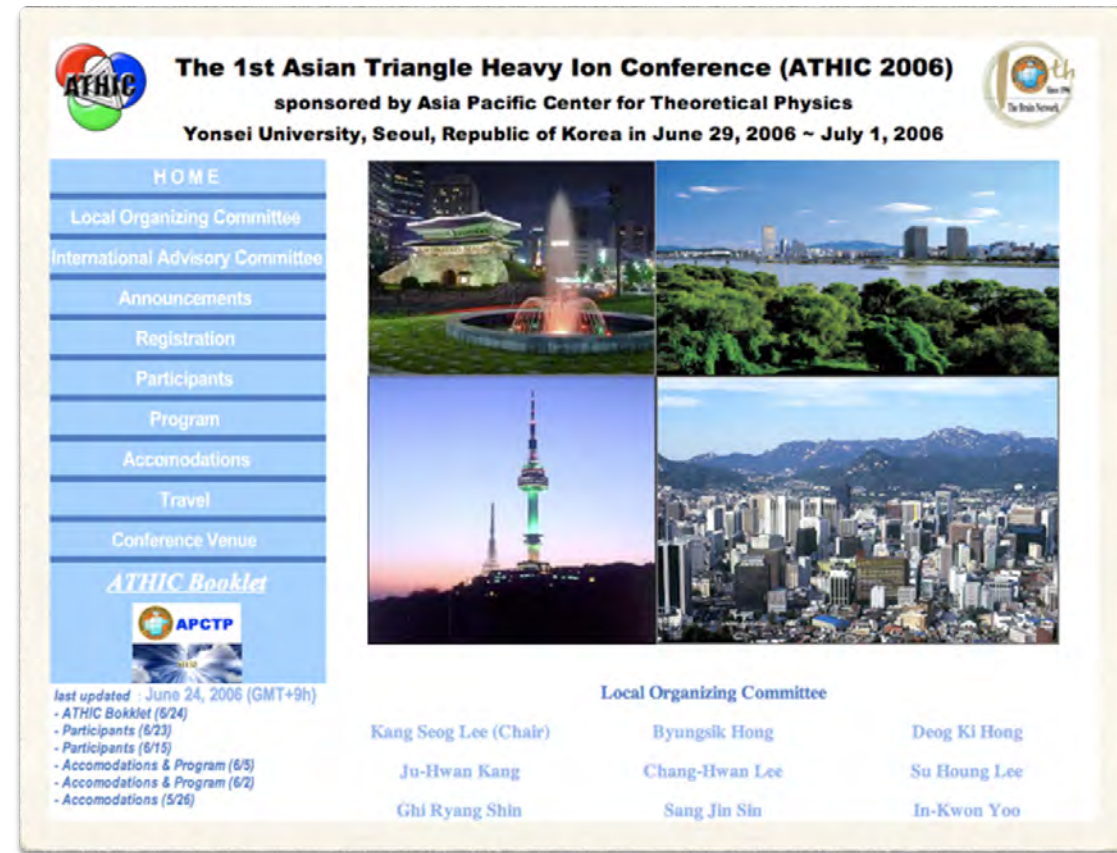
Tatsuya Chujo



筑波大学
University of Tsukuba

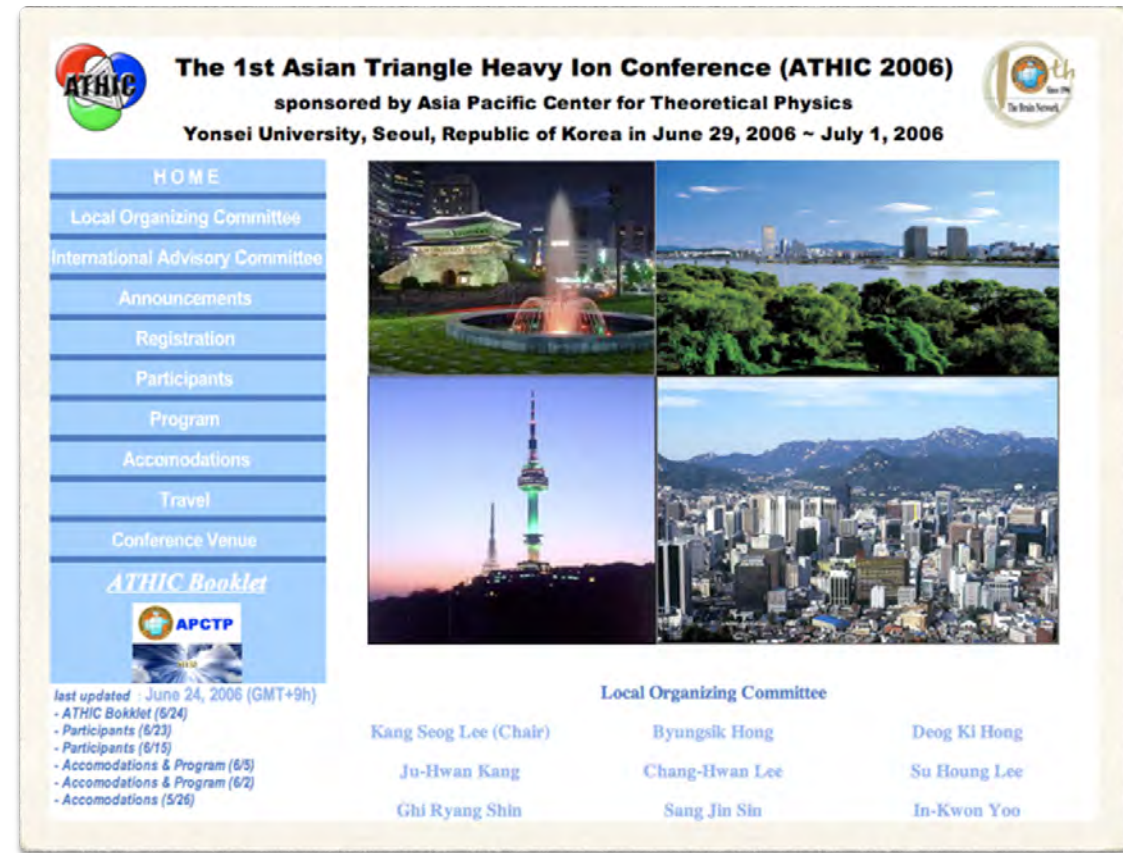
ATHIC 2025, Mayfair Palm Beach Resort, Gopalpur, India, Jan. 13-16, 2025

Our field is growing!

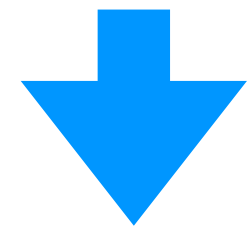


1st ATHIC (2006), Seoul, Korea

Our field is growing!



1st ATHIC (2006), Seoul, Korea

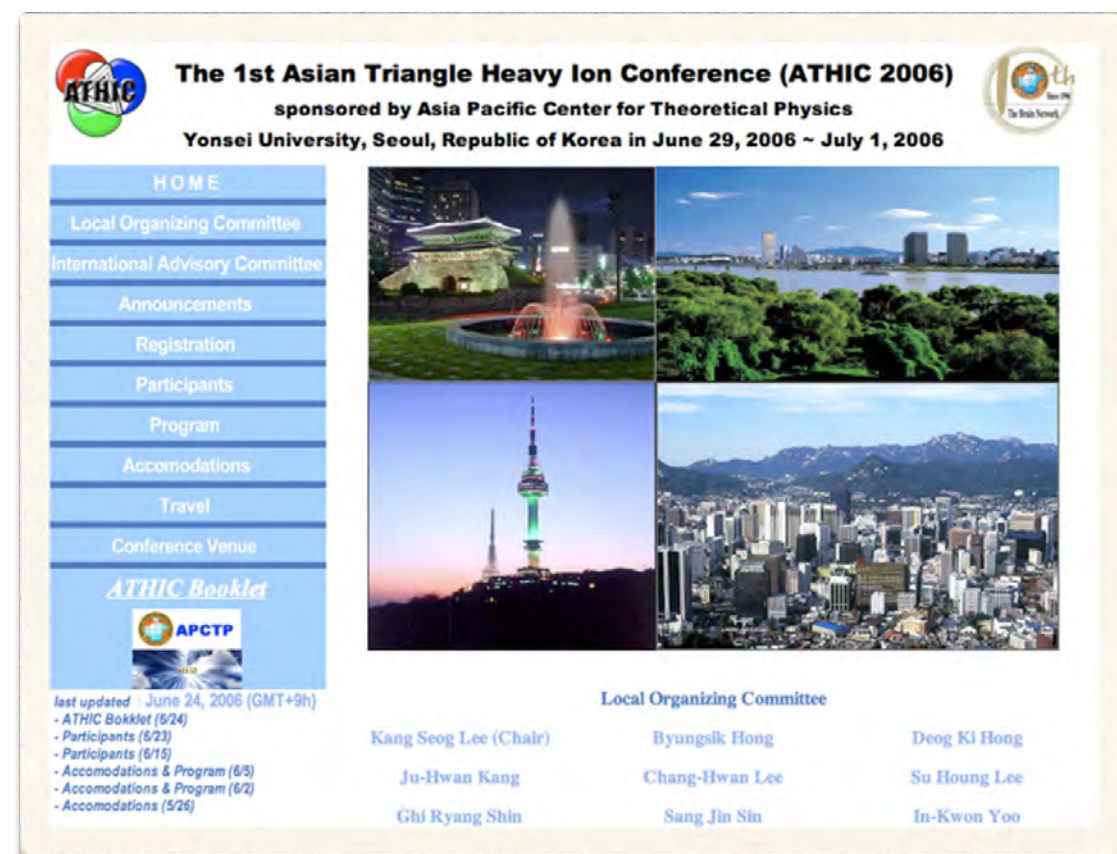


	Japanese	Korean	Chinese	Other	Sum
Senior Staff	12	7	9	1	29
Junior Staff	9	2	1	1	13
Post Doc	9	1	4	0	14
Student	25	4	4	1	34
Sum	55	14	18	3	90

2nd ATHIC (2008), Tsukuba, Japan

90 participants

Our field is growing!



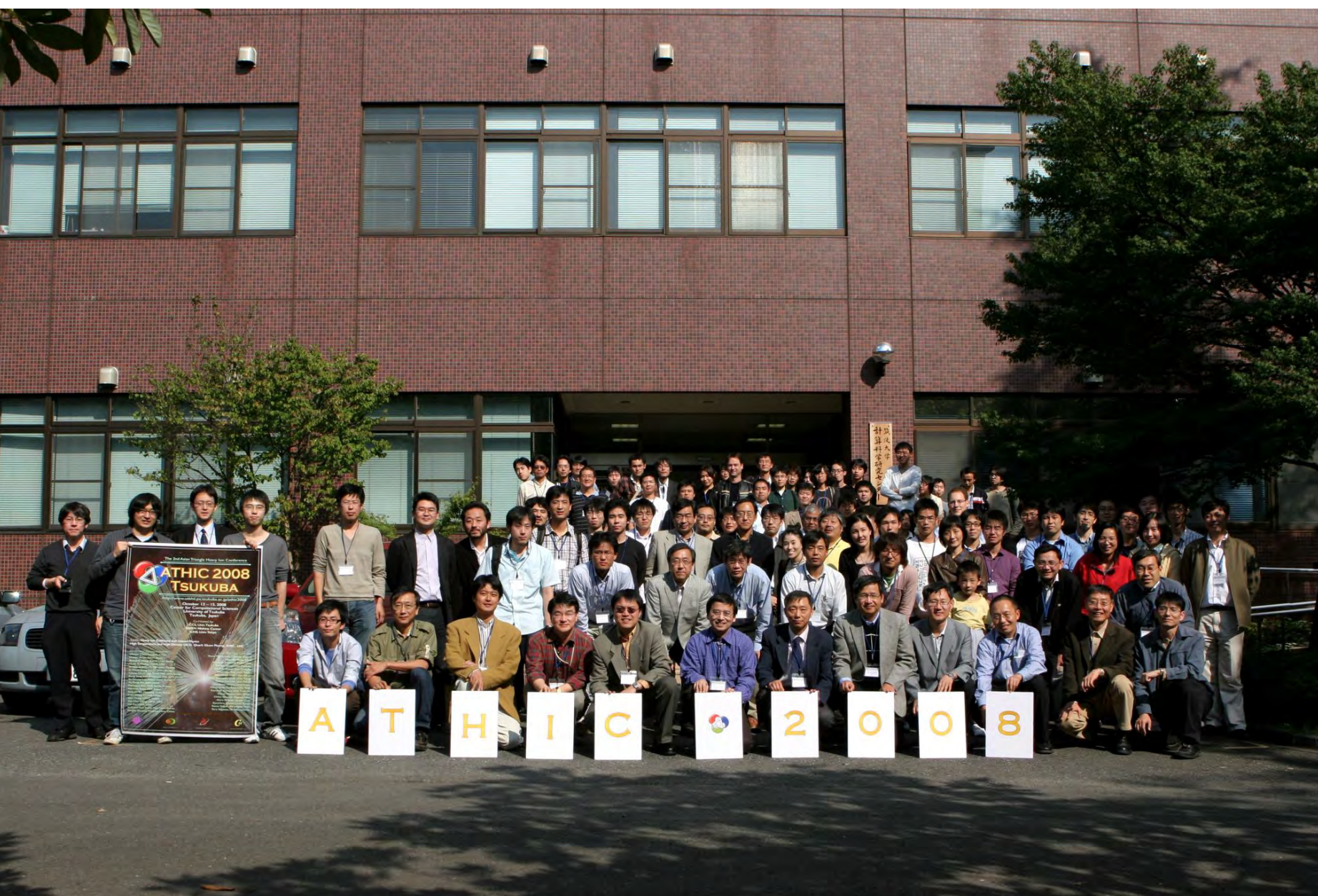
1st ATHIC (2006), Seoul, Korea



10th ATHIC (2025), Gopalpur, India

258 participants!

x3 larger than that in 2008



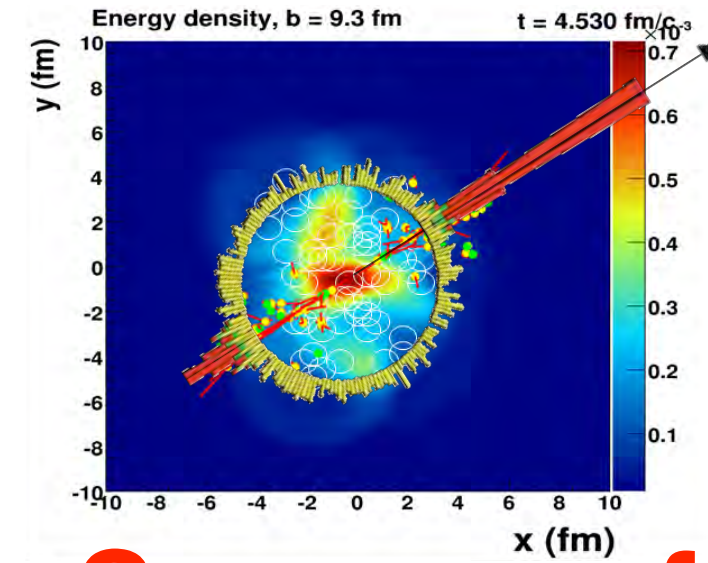
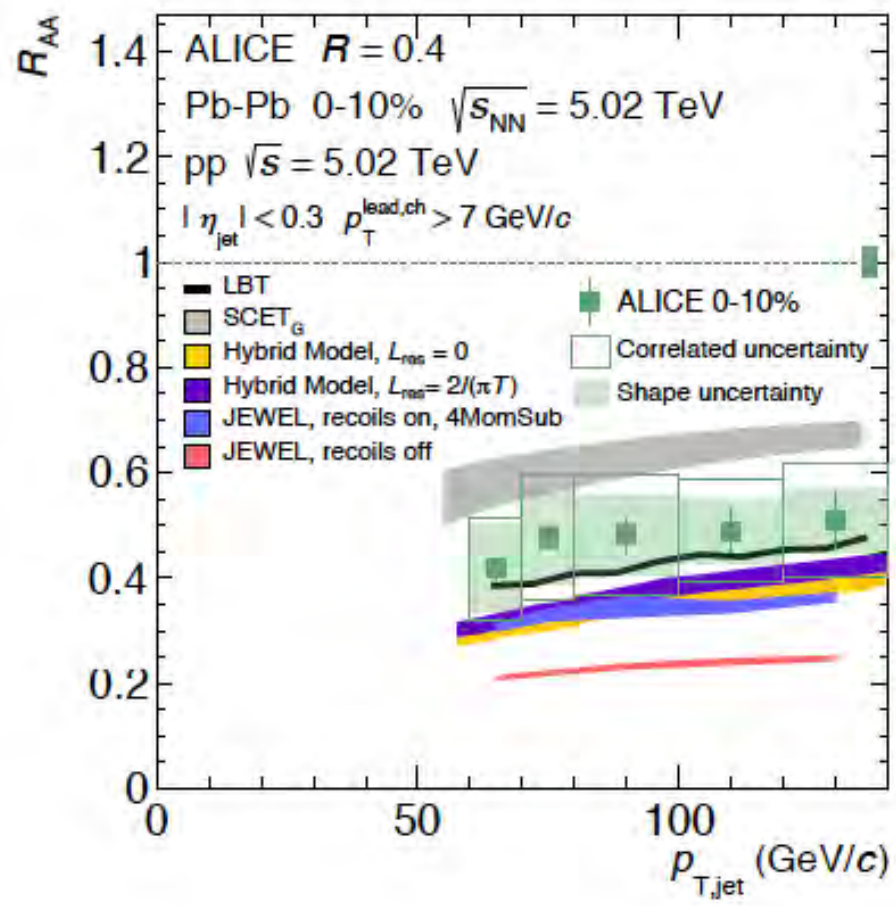
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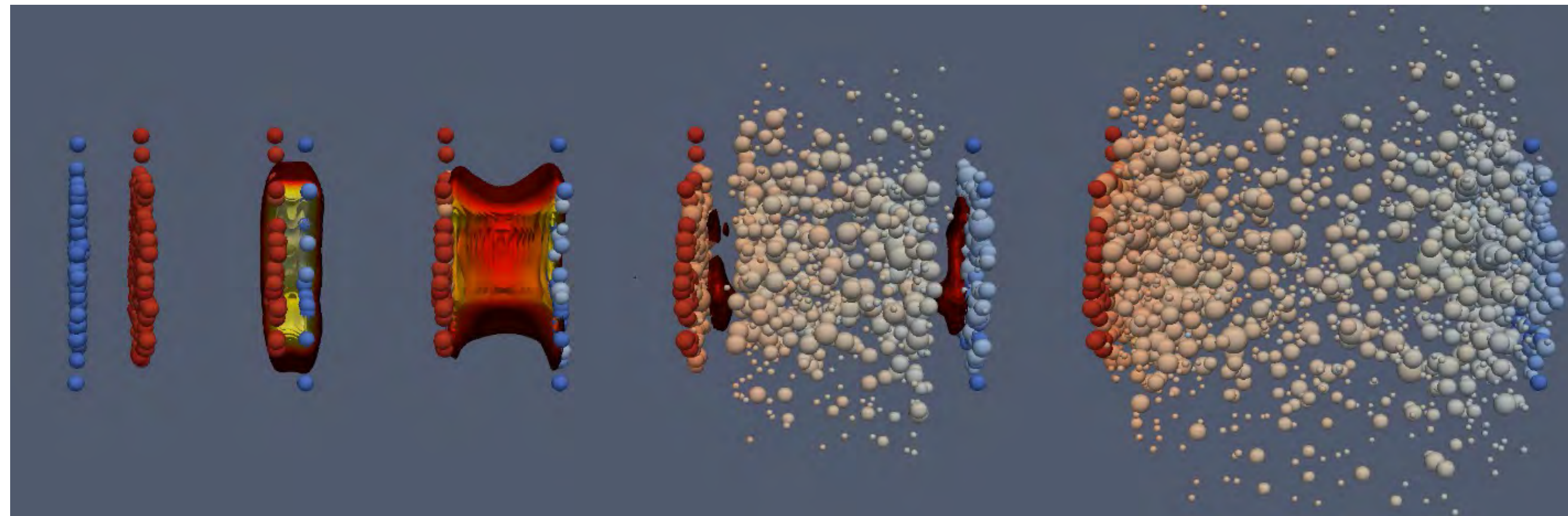
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25 years of QGP research; strongly coupled QGP ⁵

1. Jet Quenching

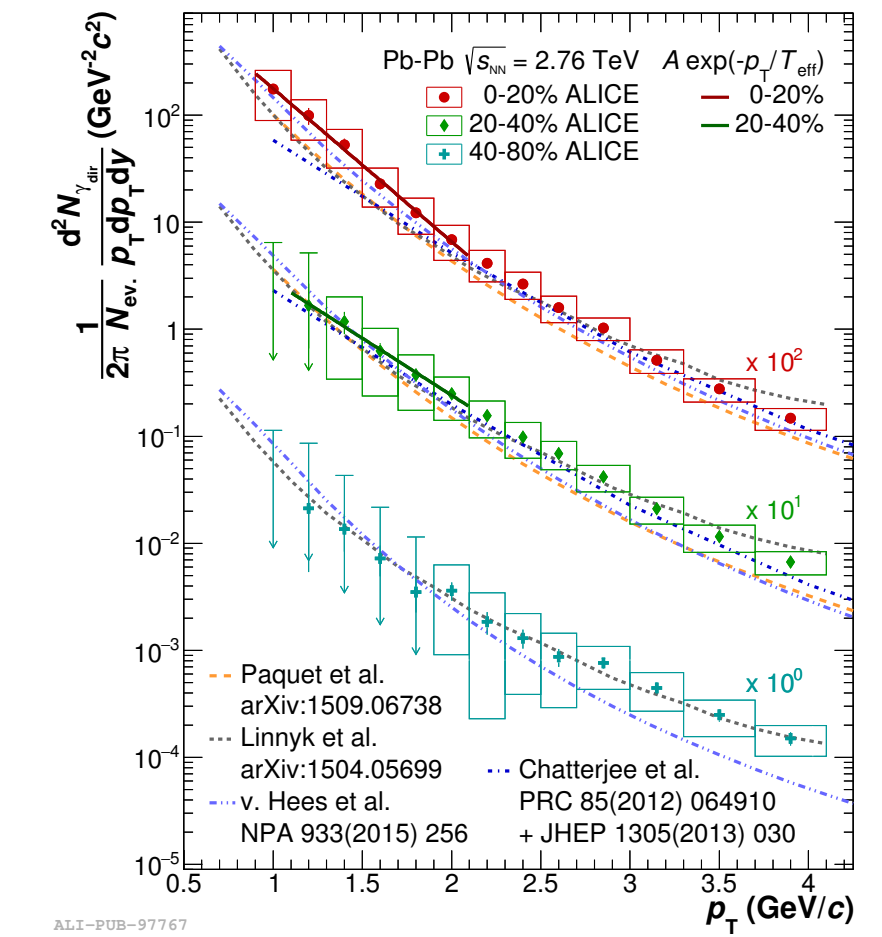


Success of hydrodynamic models,
 strongly coupled QGP (sQGP)



2. Thermal photons

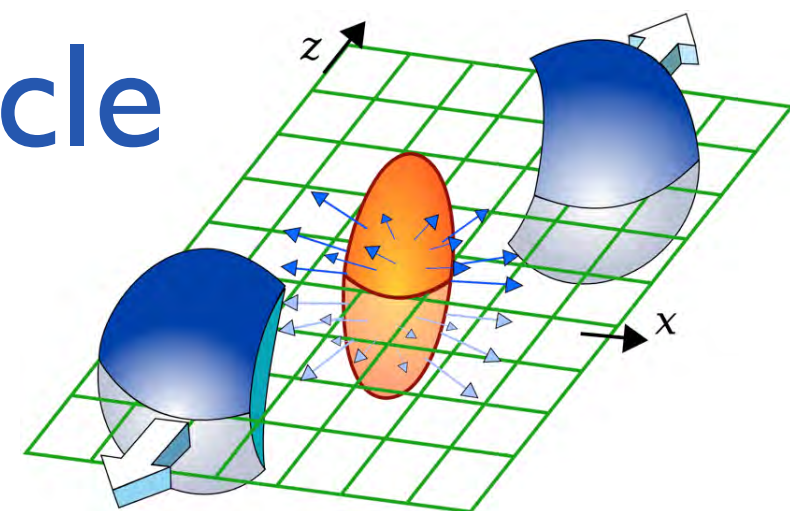
$T_{init.} \sim 300$ MeV



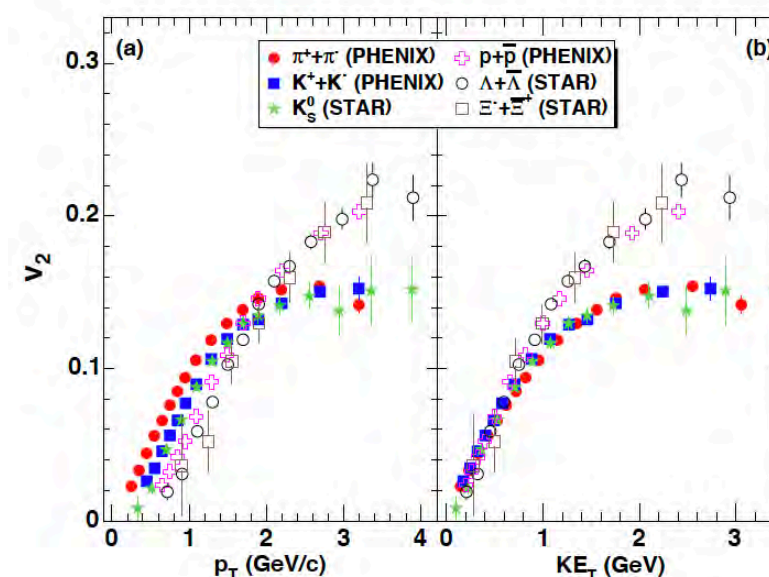
PLB754(2016)235 (ALICE)

Phys. Rev. C69, 034909 (2004), PHENIX

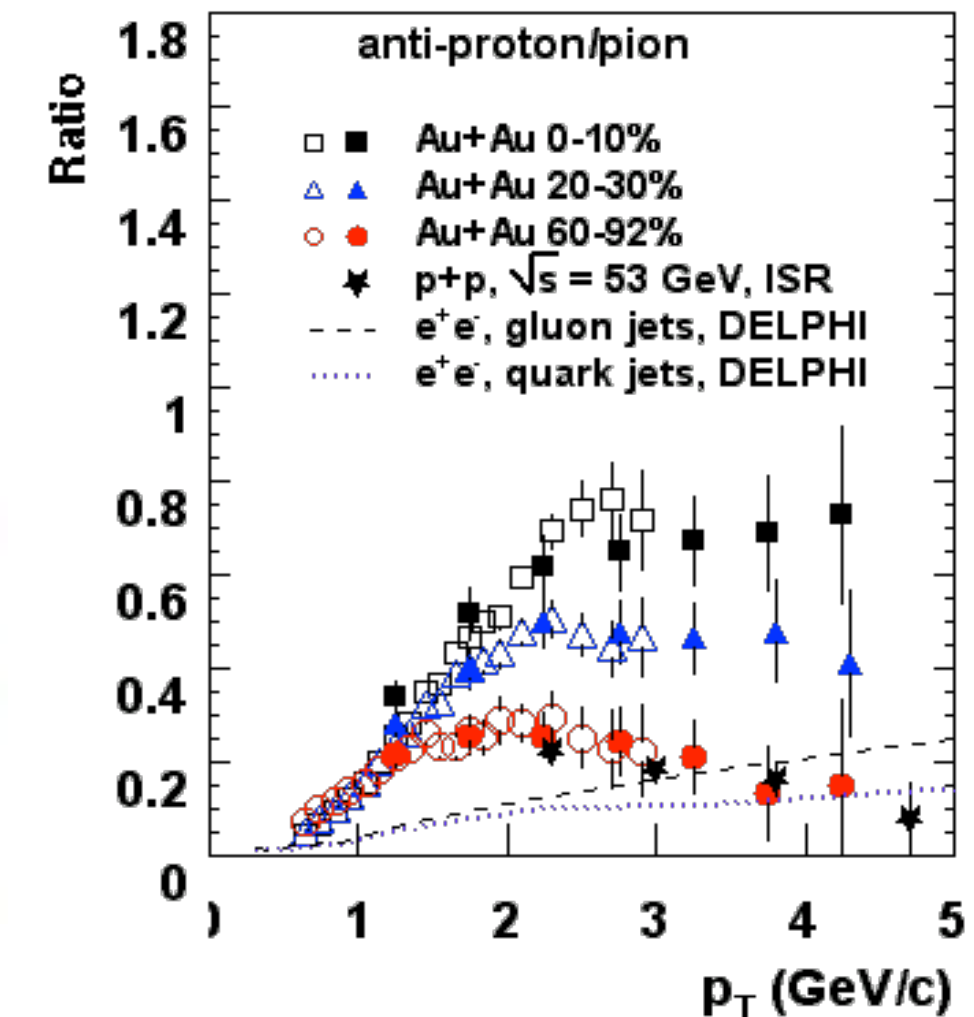
3. Large azimuthal anisotropy of particle emission (v_2)



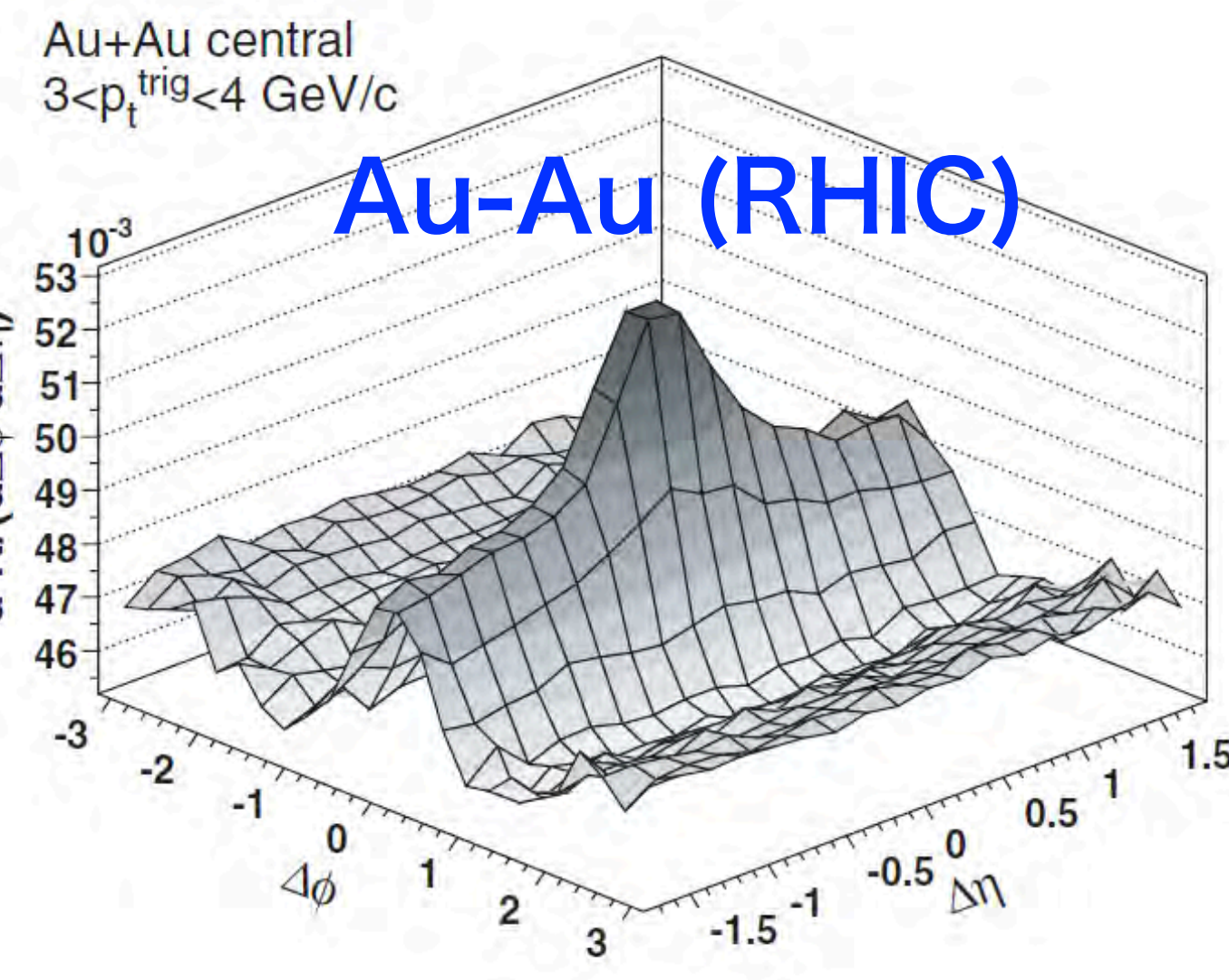
Phys. Rev. Lett.98, 162301 (2007), PHENIX



4. Quark recombination



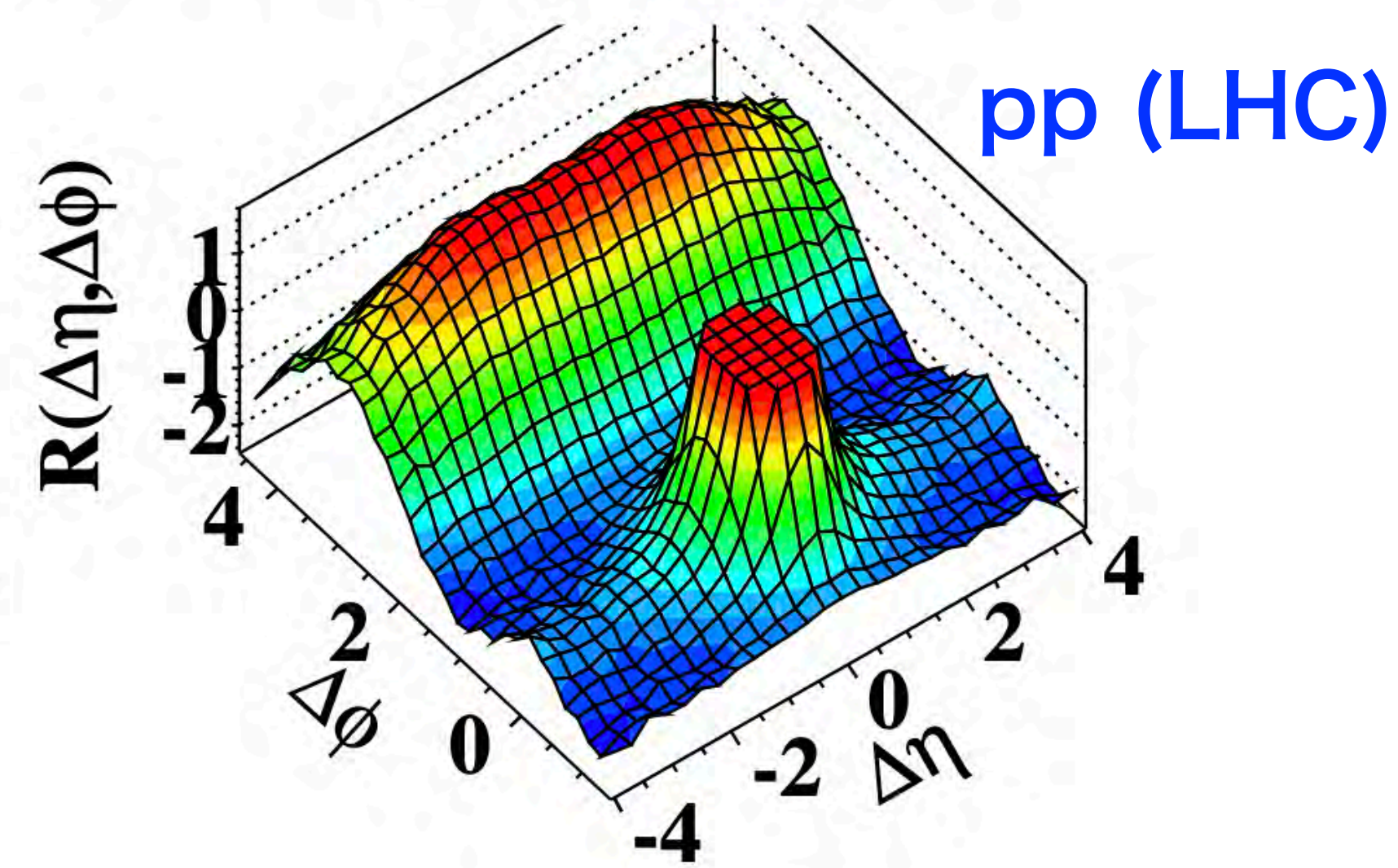
【Turning point】 High multiplicity events in small systems (2010)



Au-Au (RHIC)

STAR, PRC 80 (2009) 064912

(d) CMS $N \geq 110, 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c < p_T < 3.0 \text{ GeV}/c$



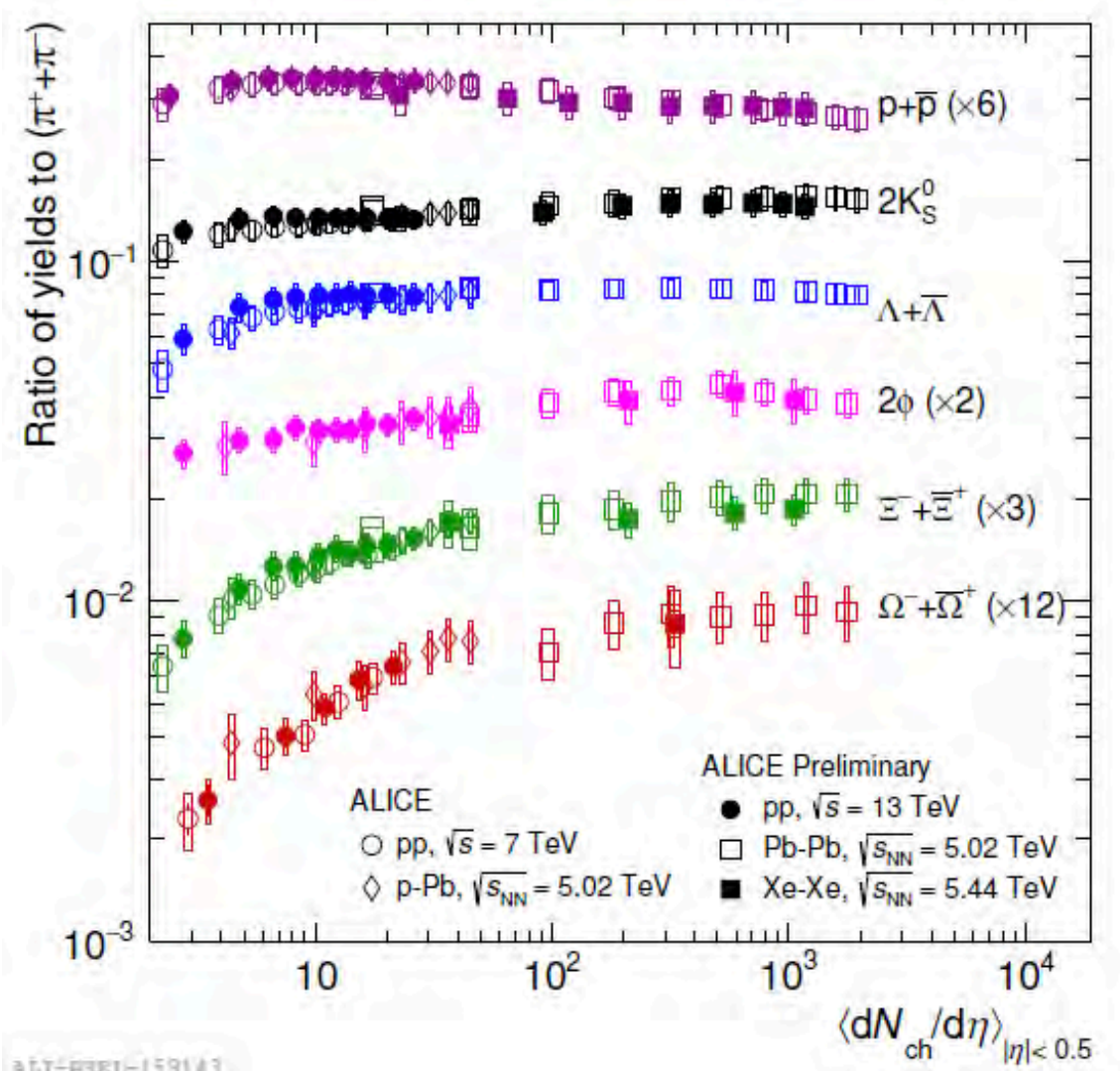
pp (LHC)

CMS, JHEP 1009 (2010) 91

- Two particle correlations ($\Delta\phi, \Delta\eta$)
 - LHC pp, p-Pb, high multiplicity events
 - Observed "Ridge" structure
 - v_2 in pp, p-Pb !
- Strangeness production is scaled by particle multiplicity (pp → p-Pb → Pb-Pb)

New questions

- Small droplet of QGP?
- Information of initial stages?
- Multi-parton interaction (MPI)?



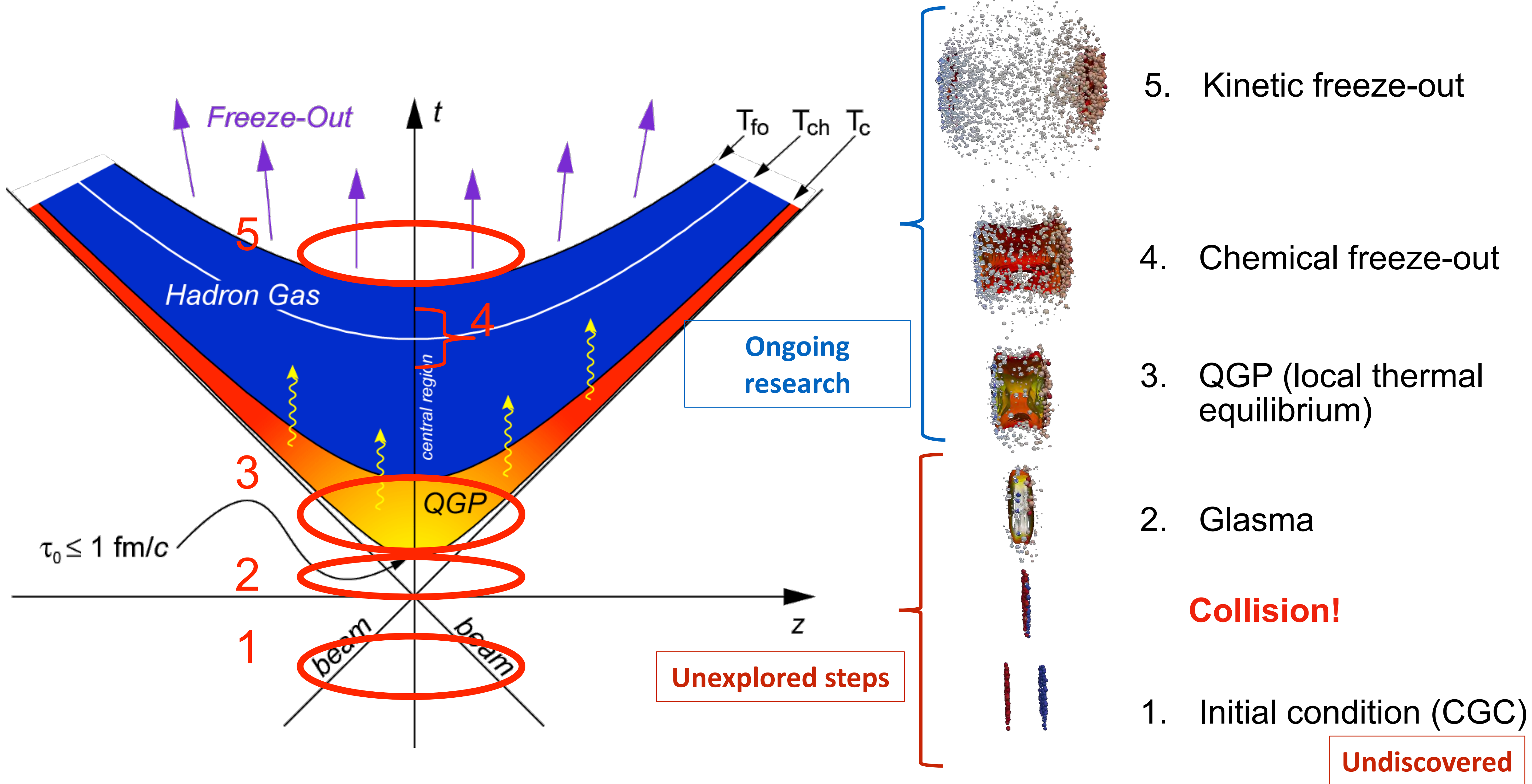
ALICE overview, talk at QM2018

Still not well understood those phenomena

→ because of the missing steps in QGP formation → Early dynamics, non-linear, non-equilibrium physics!

pp → p-Pb → Pb-Pb

Understanding of initial condition is crucial !



CGC and Glasma

Two unexplored steps

(1) Color Glass Condensate (CGC)

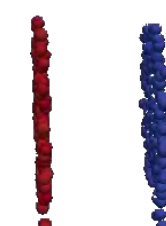
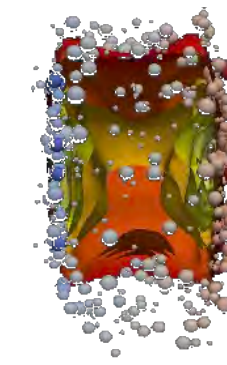
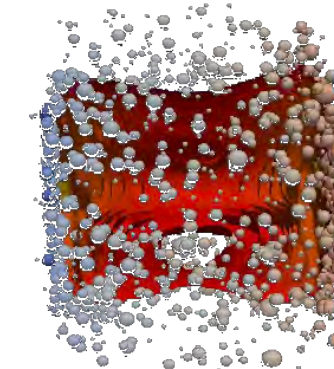
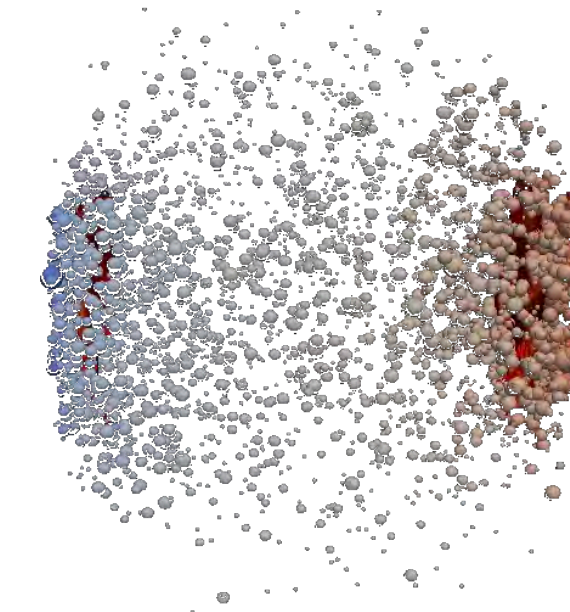
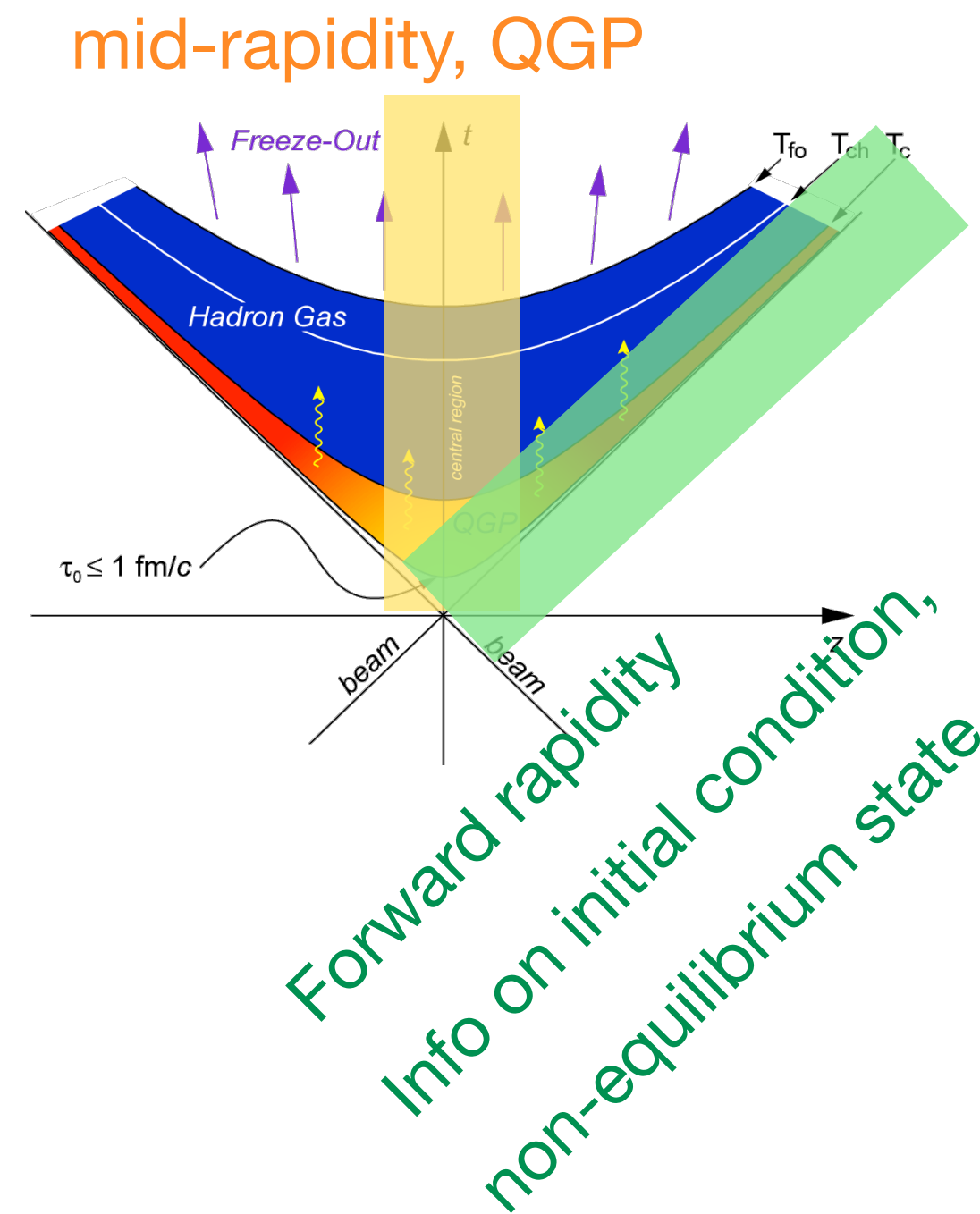
- **nonlinear** QCD evolution (gluons)
- Initial condition of QGP formation
- Undiscovered, properties are not known
- Directly connected to gluon density

(2) Glasma

- **non-equilibrated state**
- a state between CGC and QGP
- Very short time (0.4 - 0.6 fm/c), from CGC to QGP

→ **Rapid thermalization problem**

“Very Forward Rapidity Region”
→ **Access to CGC and Glasma**



5. Kinetic freeze-out

4. Chemical freeze-out

3. QGP (local thermal equilibrium)

rapid thermalization: $\sim 0.6 \text{ fm/c}$

2. Glasma **Non-equilibrated state for q/g**

Collision!

1. Initial condition (CGC)

Nonlinear QCD evolution

Color Glass Condensate (CGC)

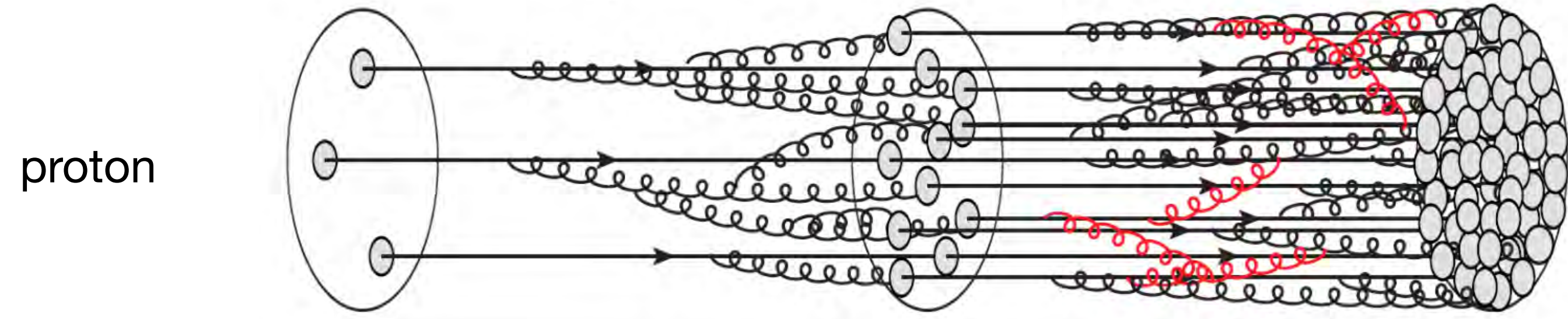
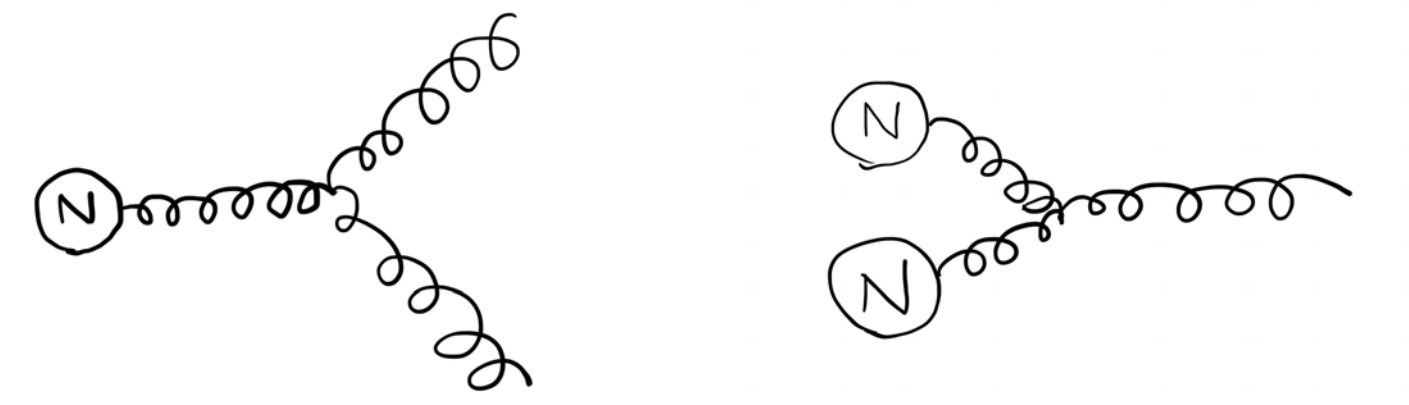


Fig. by K. Watanabe



$$g \rightarrow gg$$

gluon splitting

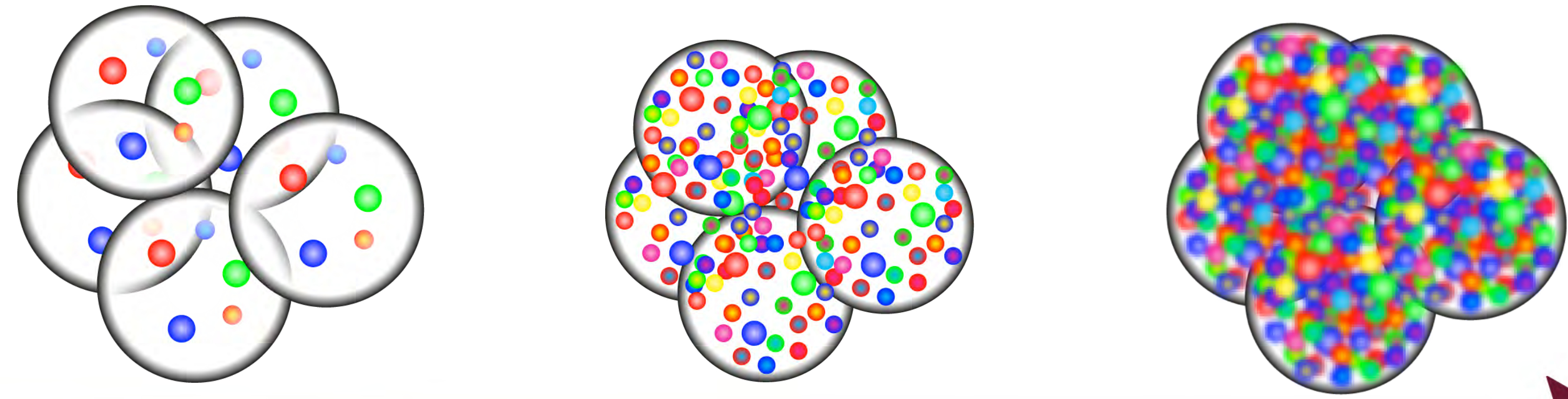
$$\propto N_g$$

$$gg \rightarrow g$$

gluon merge
(non-linear effect)

$$\propto N_g^2$$

nucleus

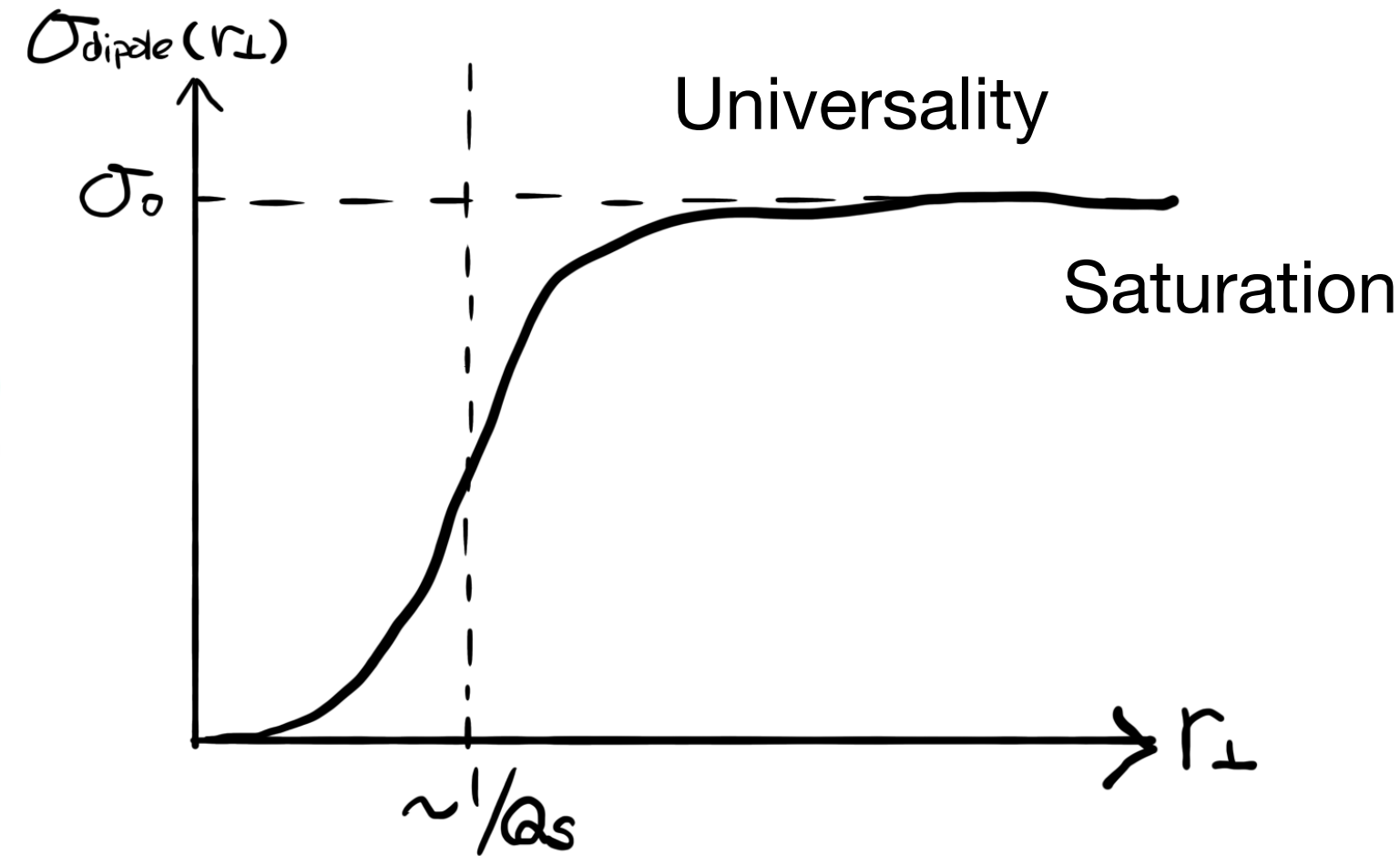


CGC!

e.g.) Logistic Eq.

$$\frac{d}{dt}N(t) = \kappa (N(t) - N(t)^2)$$

\Leftrightarrow Balitsky-Kovchegov (BK) e.q.

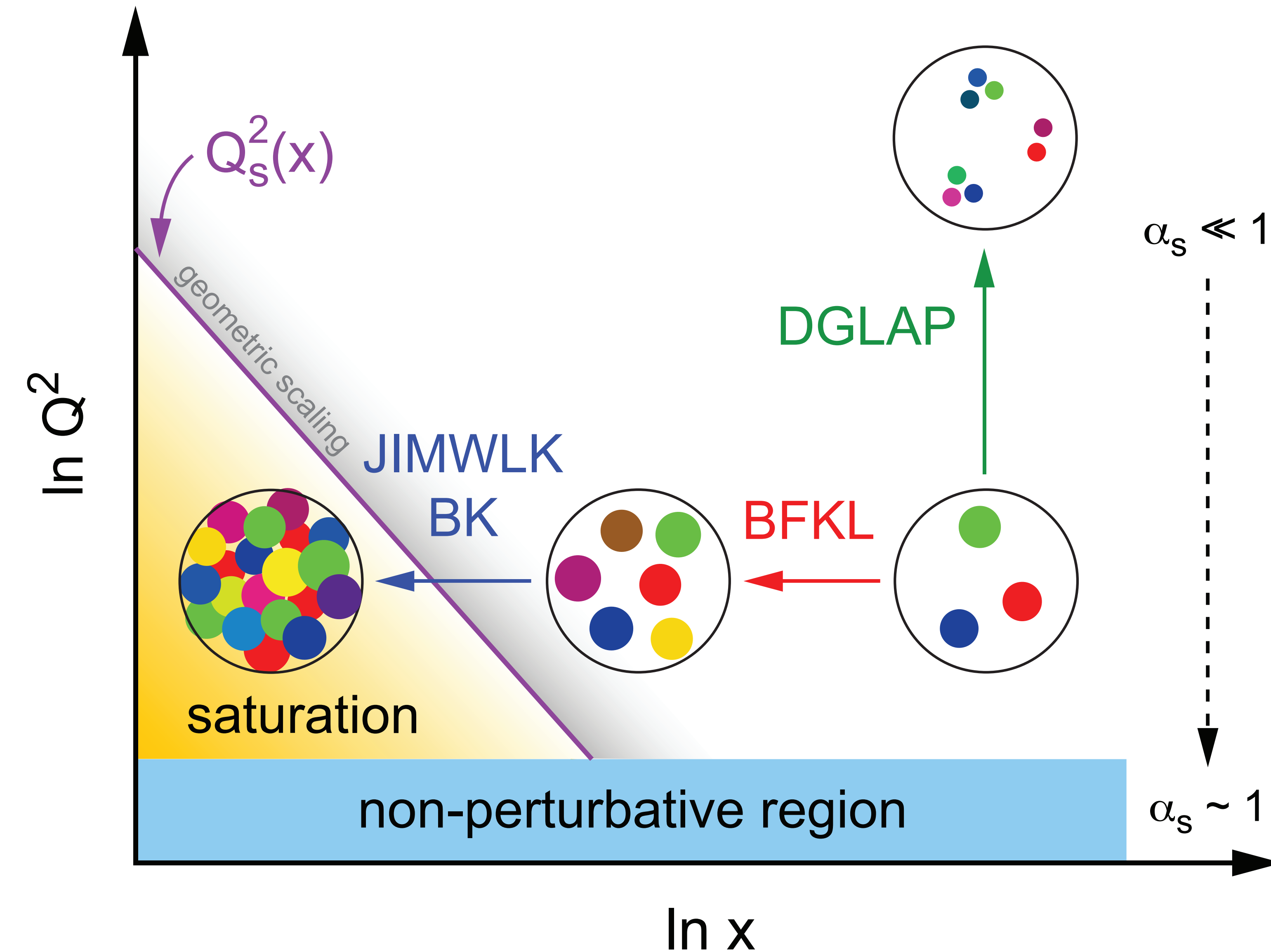


Large x
mid-rapidity
Low energy scattering

$$x \approx \frac{2p_T}{\sqrt{s}} \exp^{-\eta}$$

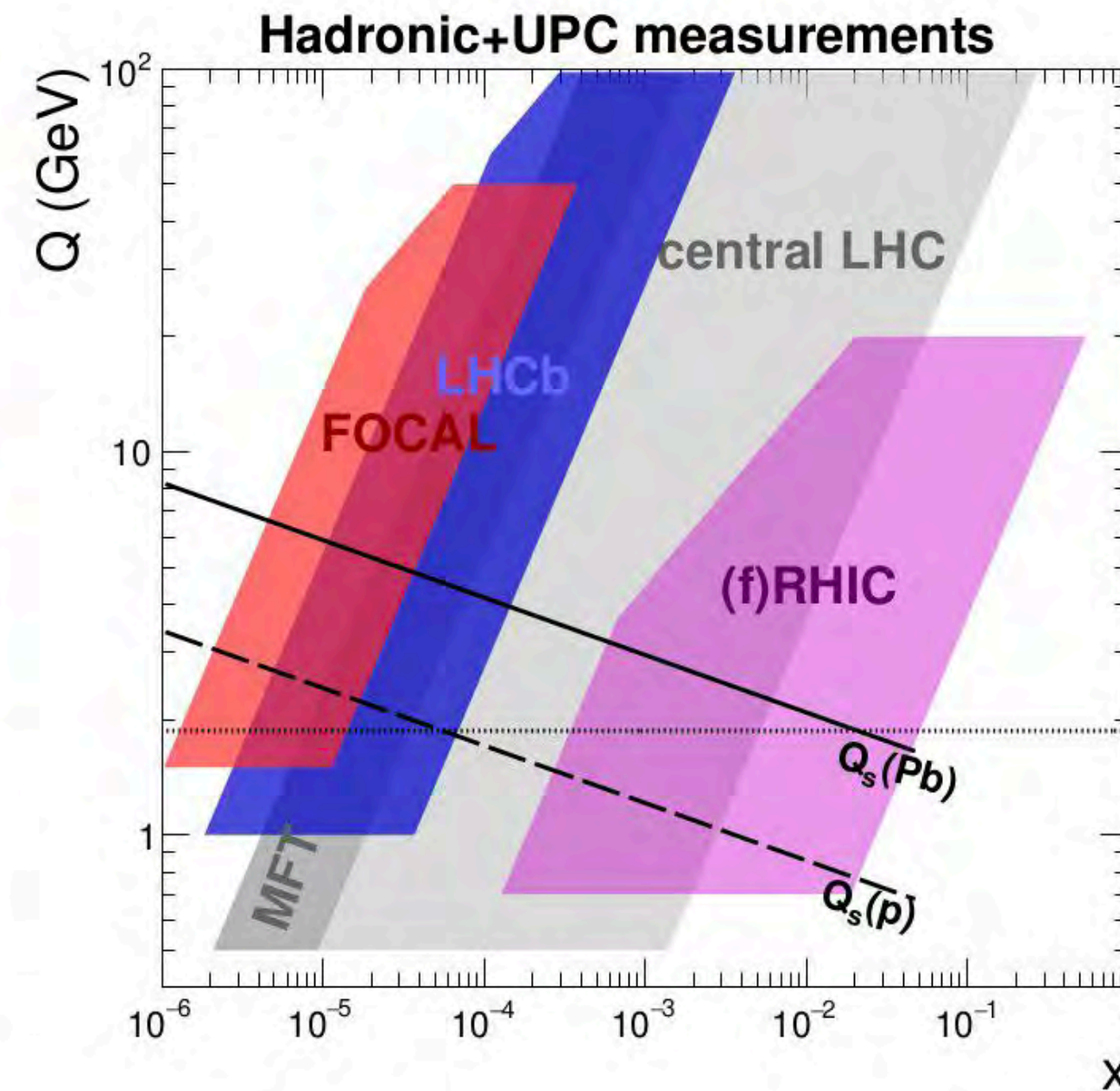
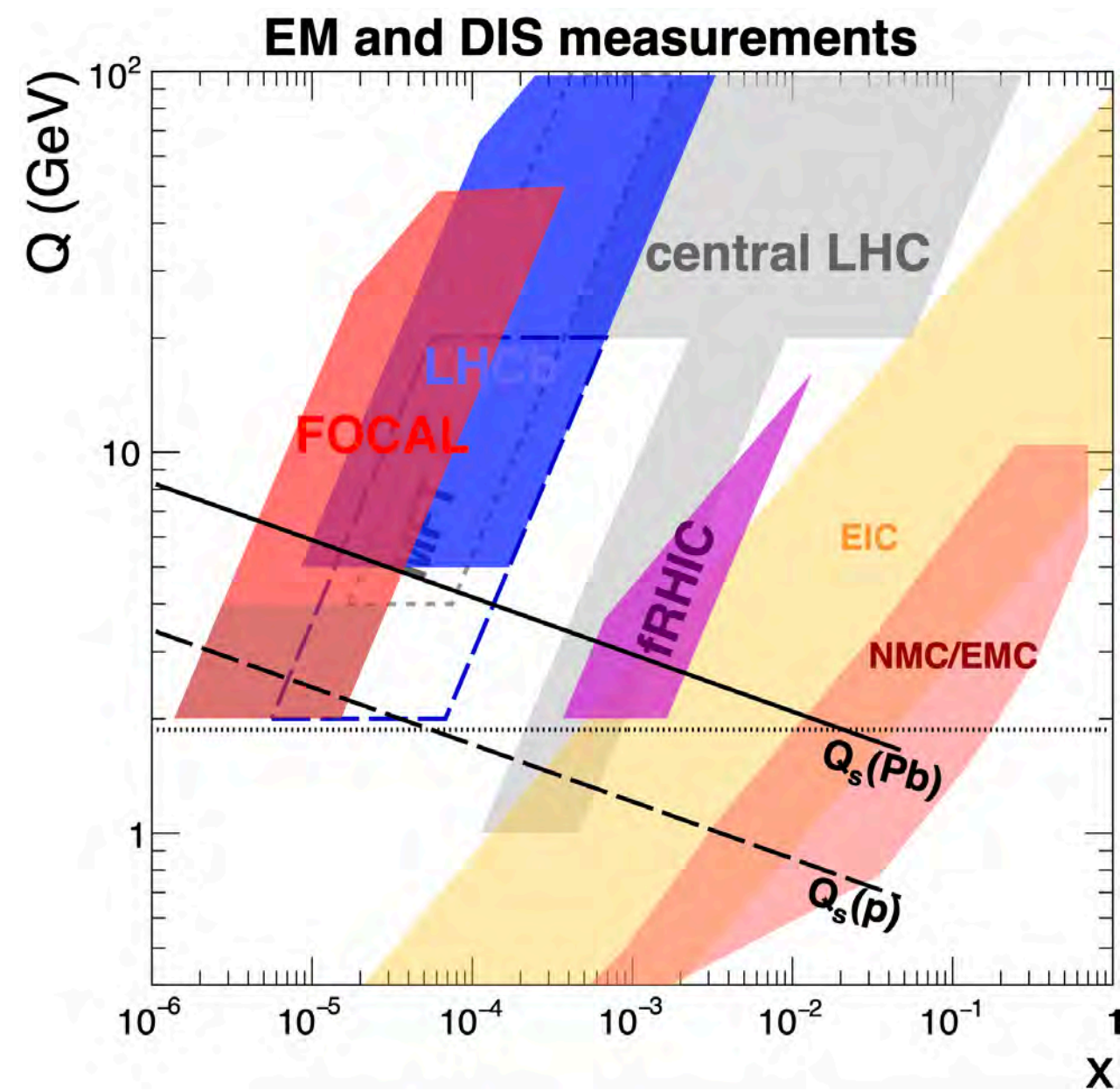
Small x
forward rapidity
High energy scattering

Where we can see CGC?

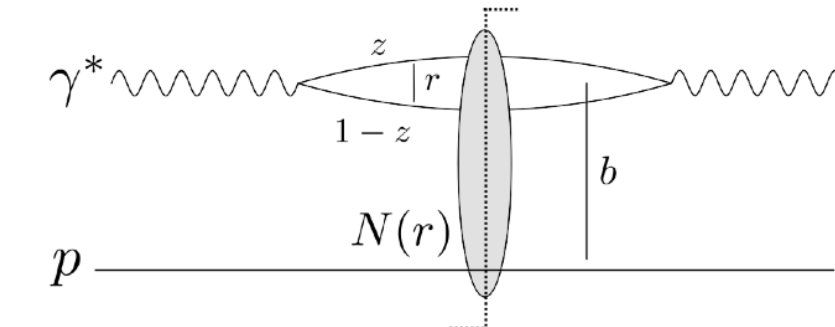


- **Small x and low Q** region (but $Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$)
- **Universal picture** of internal structure of high energy hadron (universality)
- Log-Log plot !
- **→ Essential to explore a wide x - Q^2 space**
- Non-linear QCD evolution
- Find CGC signal → Gluon density

Forward LHC vs. EIC



DIS (EIC) eA

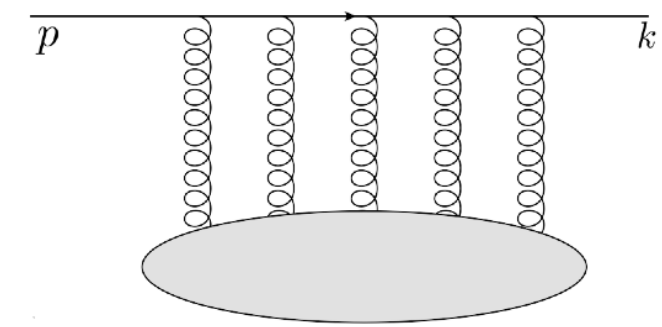


$$x \approx \frac{2p_T}{\sqrt{s}} \exp^{-\eta}$$

$$\text{Dipole } N = 1 - \frac{1}{N_C} \text{tr} V(x) V^\dagger(y)$$



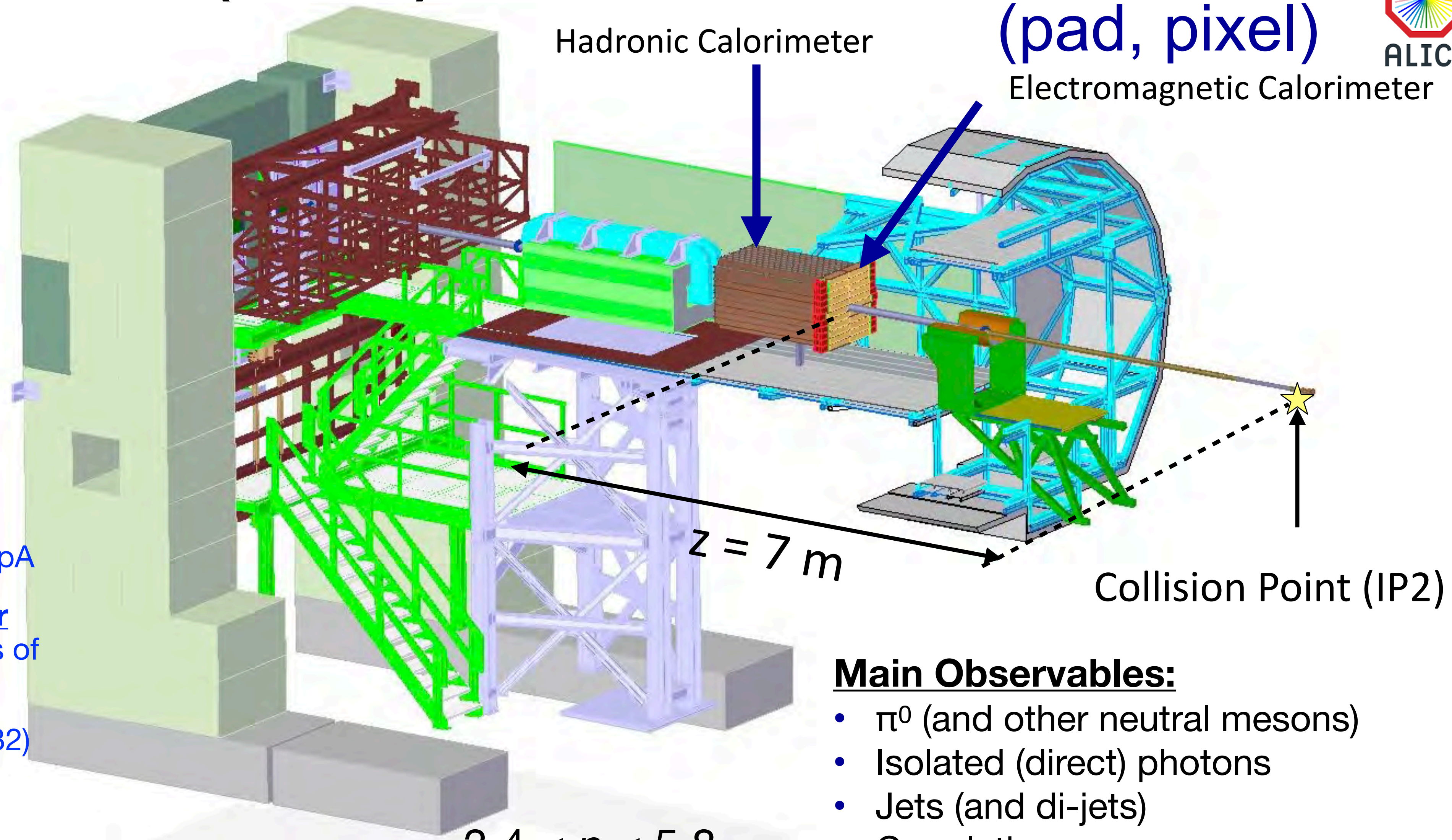
Forward pA
at high energies



- Study of saturation requires to study evolution of observables over large range in x at low Q^2
- Forward LHC (+RHIC) and EIC are complementary: together they provide a huge lever arm in x
- EIC: **Precision control of kinematics + polarization**
- Forward LHC: **Significantly lower x**
 - Observables: isolated γ , jets, open charm, DY, W/Z, hadrons, UPC
- Observables in DIS and forward LHC are fundamentally connected via same underlying dipole operator
- **Multi-messenger program to test QCD universality**: does saturation provide a coherent description of all observables, and is therefore a universal description of the high gluon density regime?



Forward Calorimeter (FoCal)



FoCal-H

Hadronic Calorimeter

FoCal-E (pad, pixel)

Electromagnetic Calorimeter

- **Forward Calorimeter**

- LHC ALICE, $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 8.8 \text{ TeV}$, pp, pA

- Non-linear QCD evolution, **Color glass condensate**, initial stages of Quark Gluon Plasma (QGP)

- Physics in LHC Run 4 (2029-2032)

- **TDR approved by LHCC on March 2024**

Main Observables:

- π^0 (and other neutral mesons)
- Isolated (direct) photons
- Jets (and di-jets)
- Correlations
- J/ψ in UPC

$$3.4 < \eta < 5.8$$

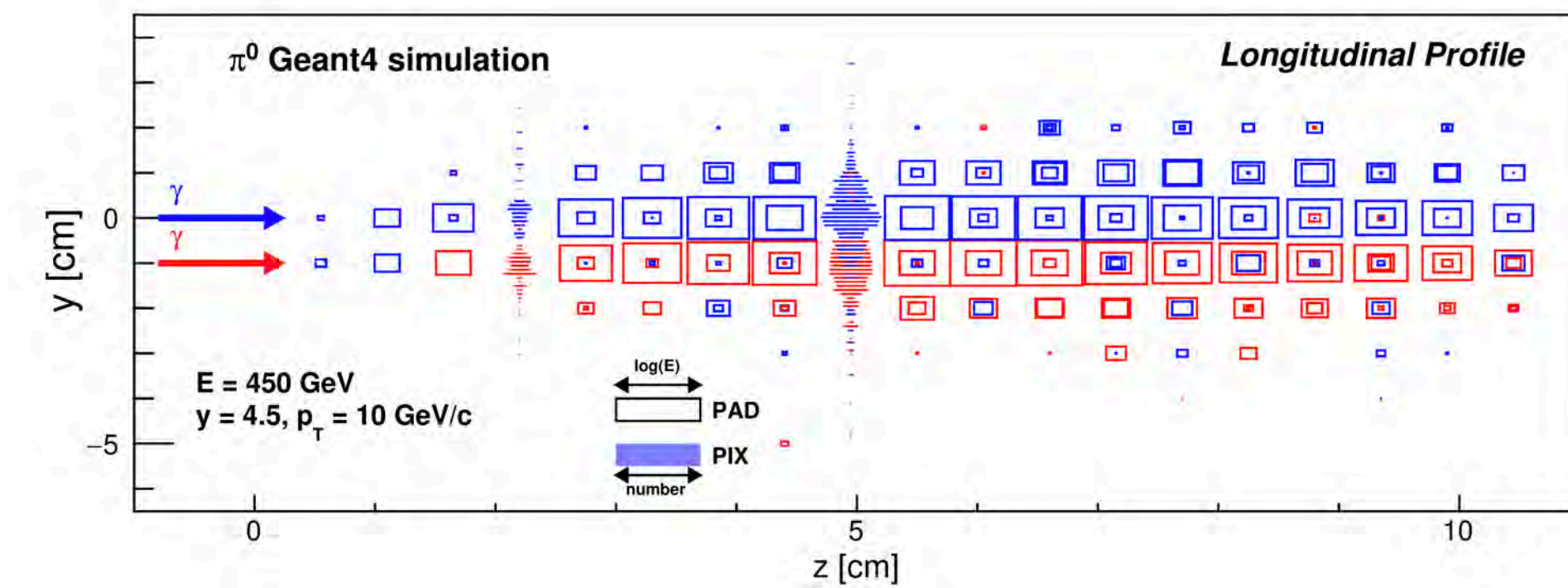
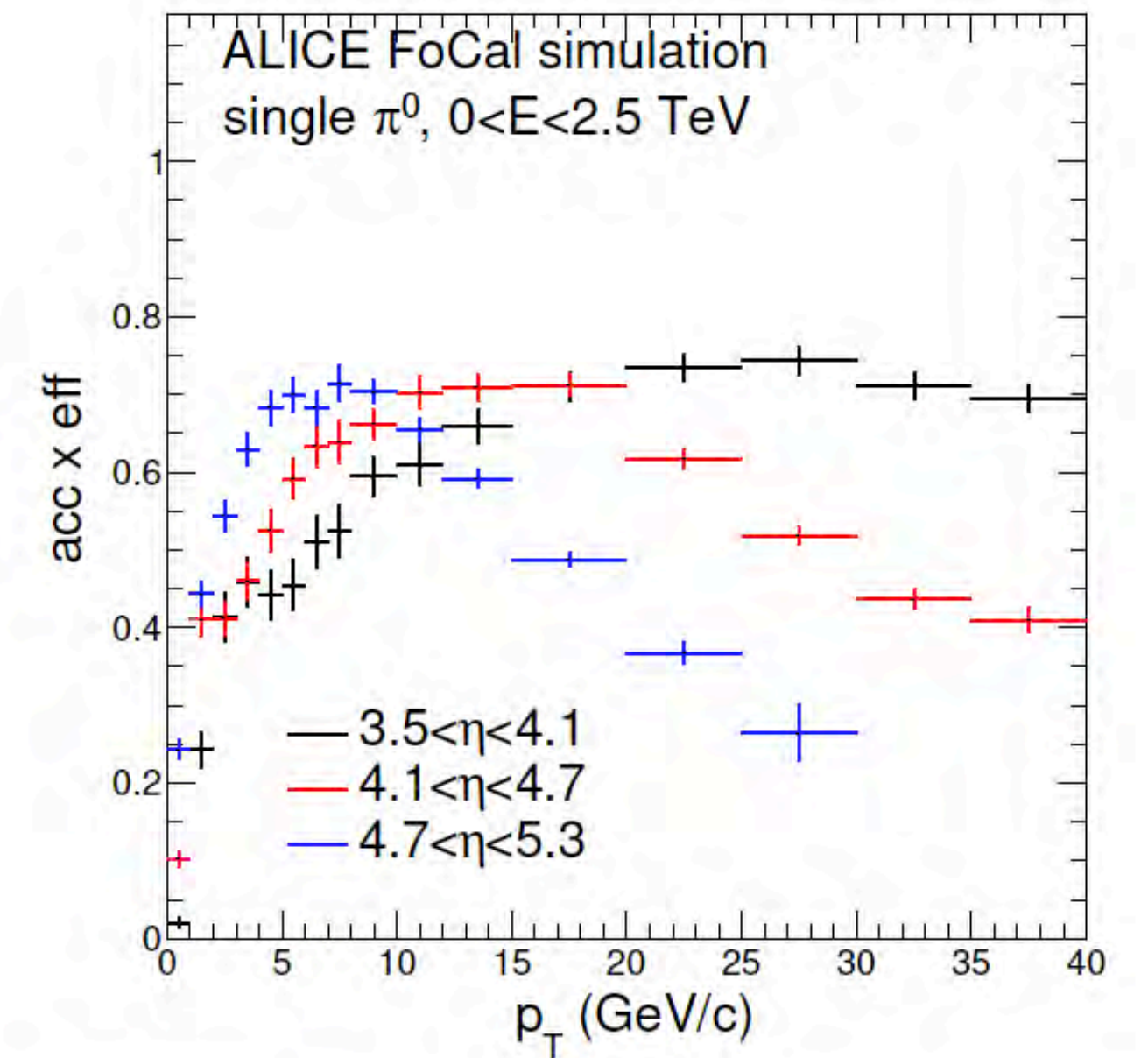
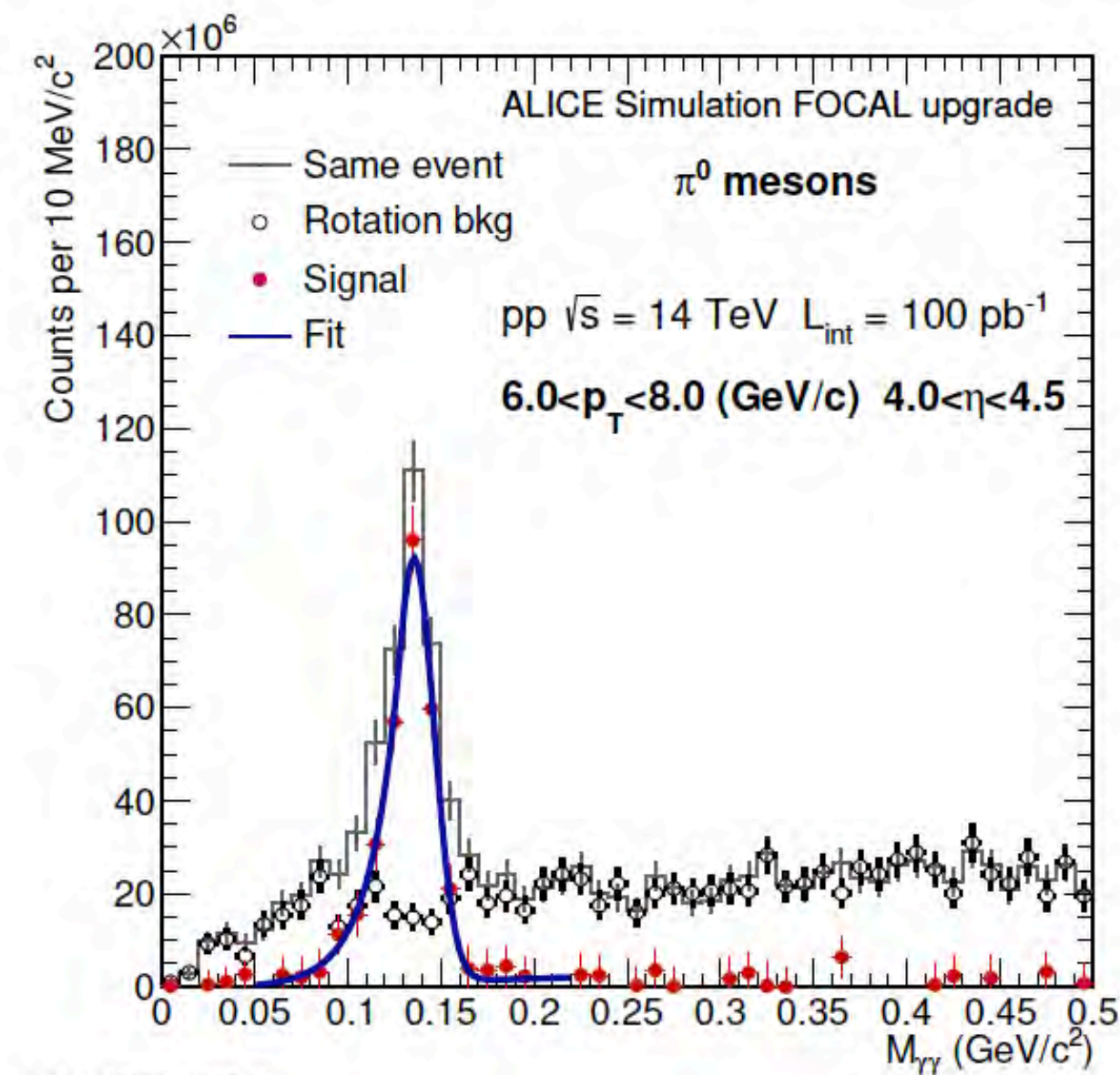
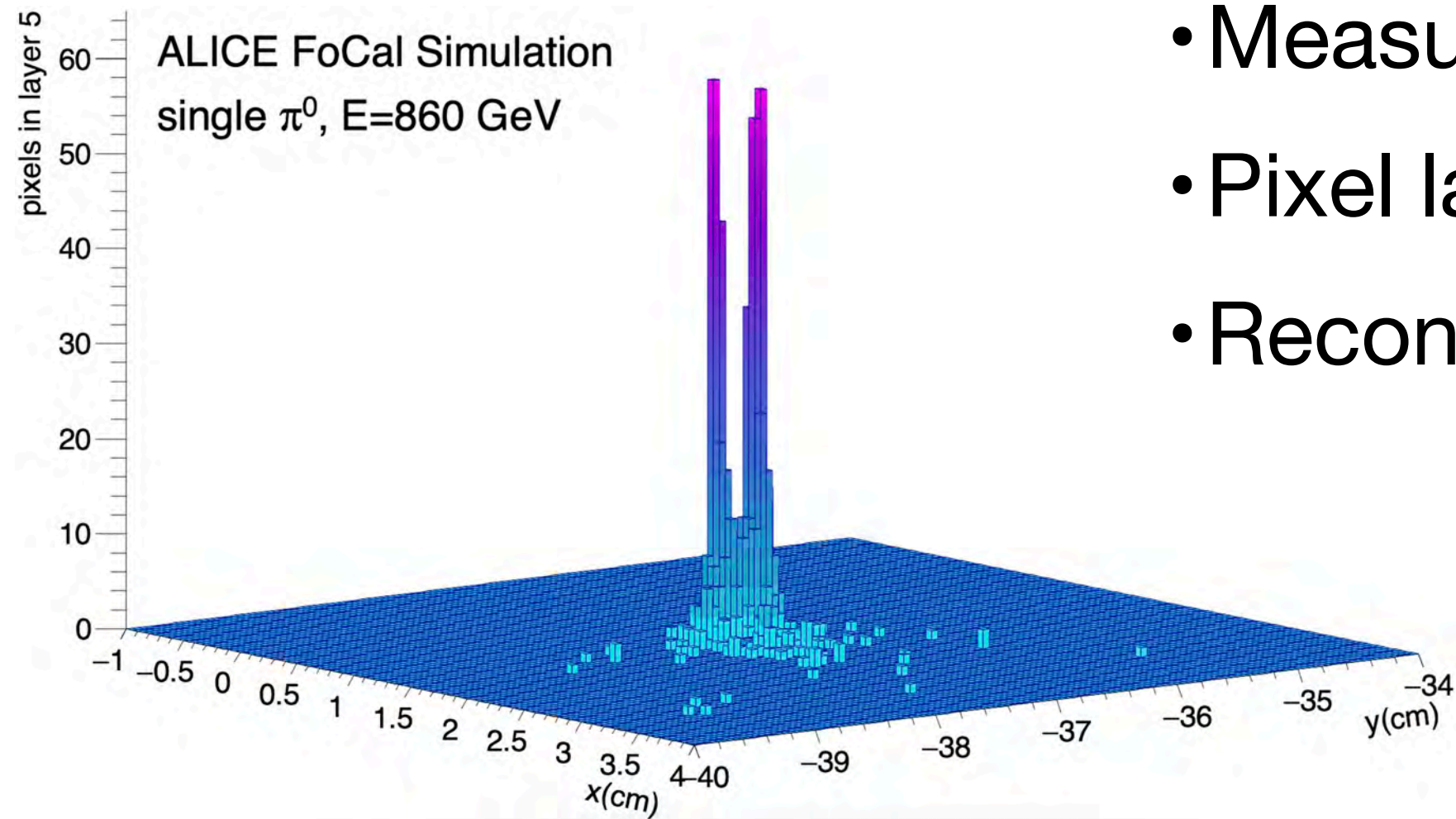
$$\eta = -\ln(\tan(\theta/2))$$

FoCal (LoI) : [CERN-LHCC-2020-009](#)

FoCal (TDR) : [CERN-LHCC-2024-004](#)

Neutral mesons in FoCal

- Measurement of neutral mesons, e.g. π^0 , η and ω up to $E = 2$ TeV
- Pixel layers allow measuring photons with less than $d = 5$ mm separation
- Reconstruction efficiency of up to 75%



Prompt photon identification

Isolation

Restrict p_T within cone of $R = 0.4$

+

Shower shape

Restrict shower ellipse elongation to reduce merged π^0 clusters

+

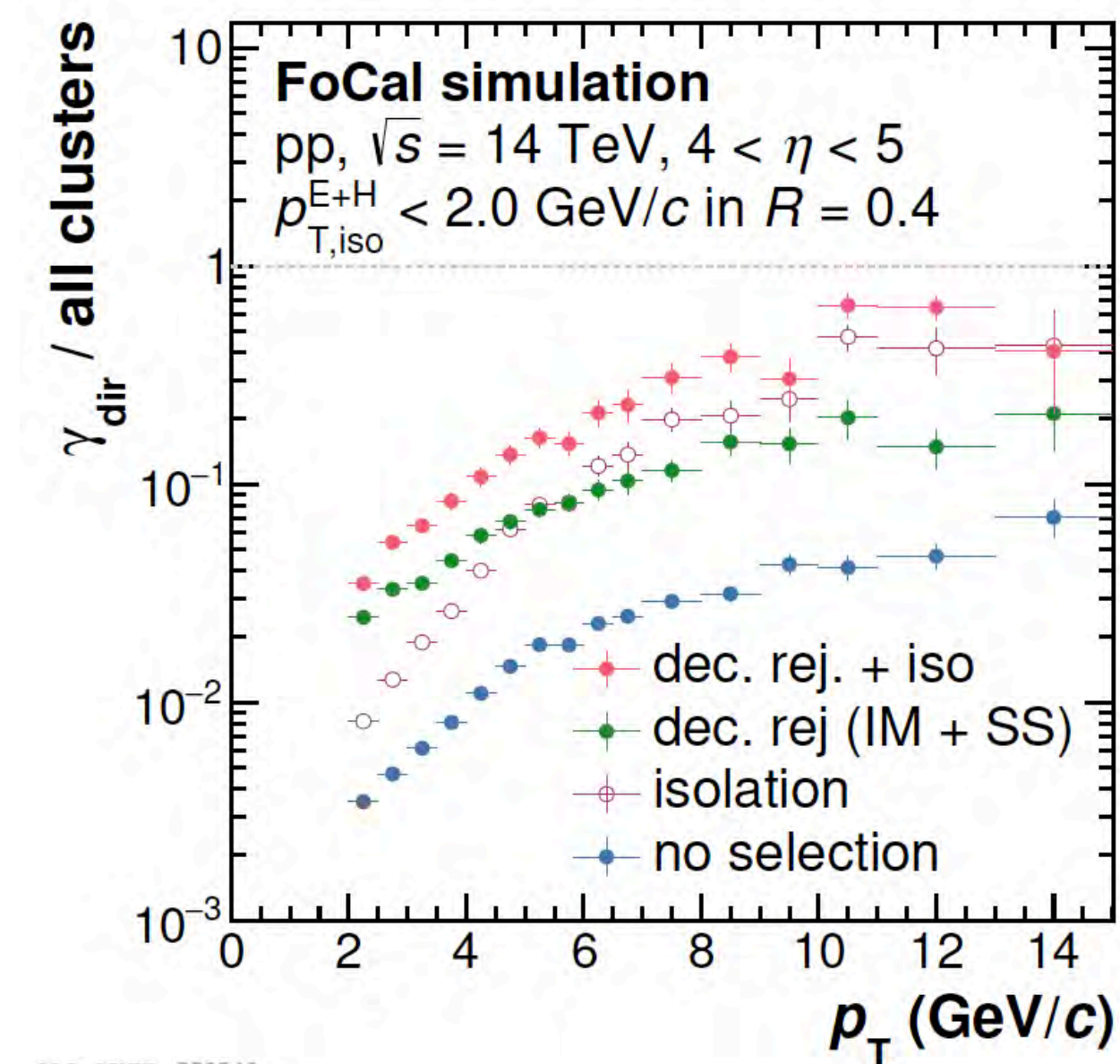
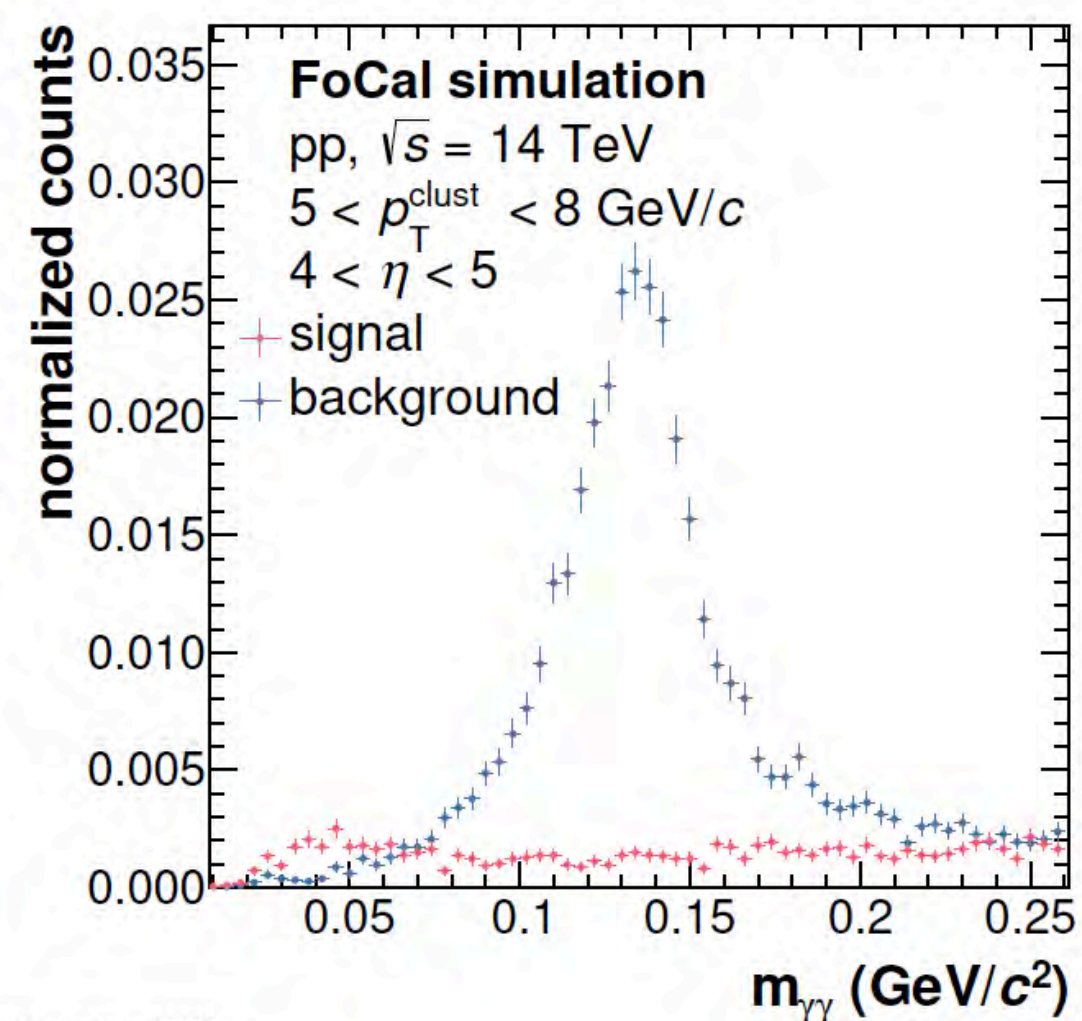
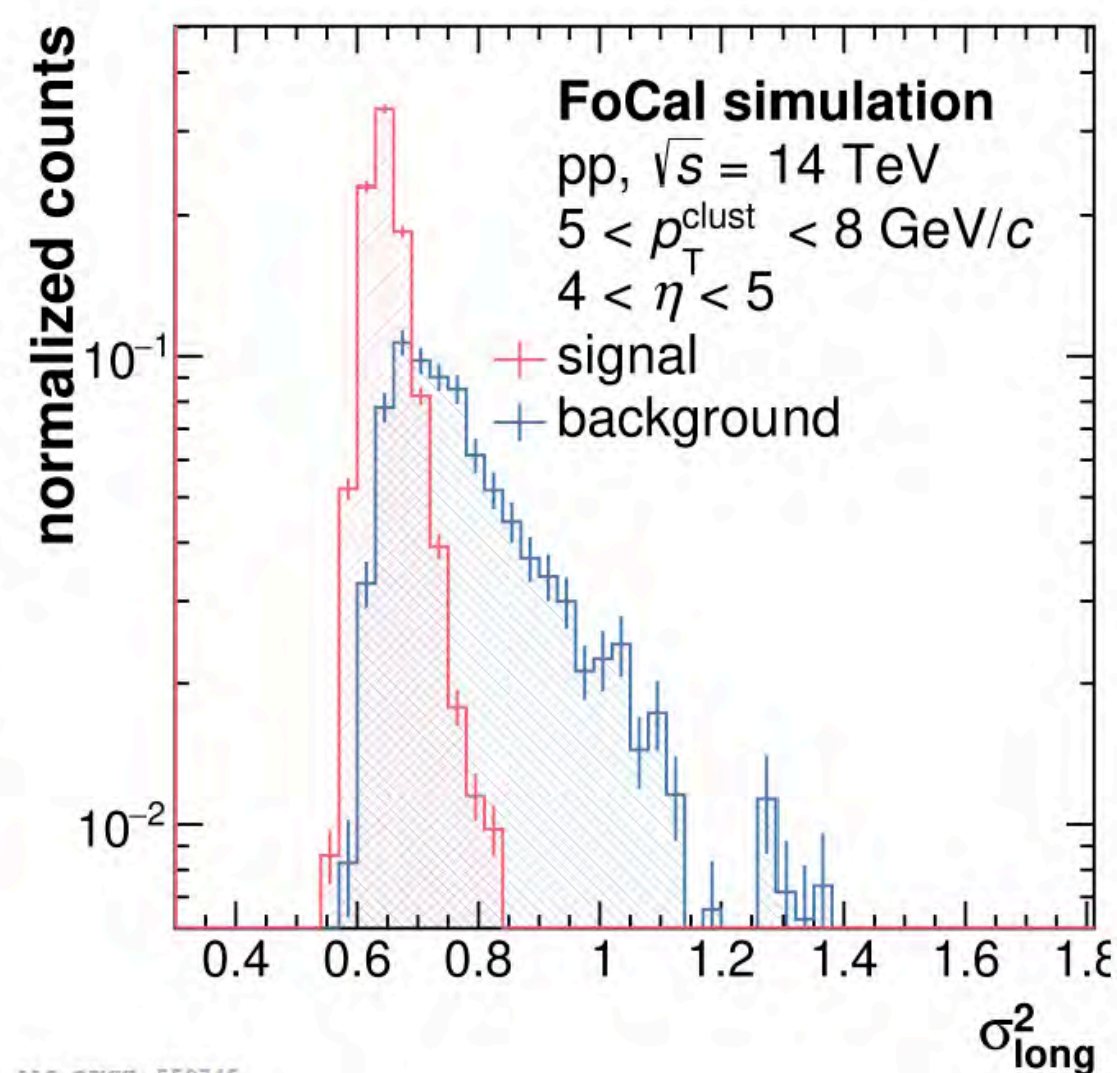
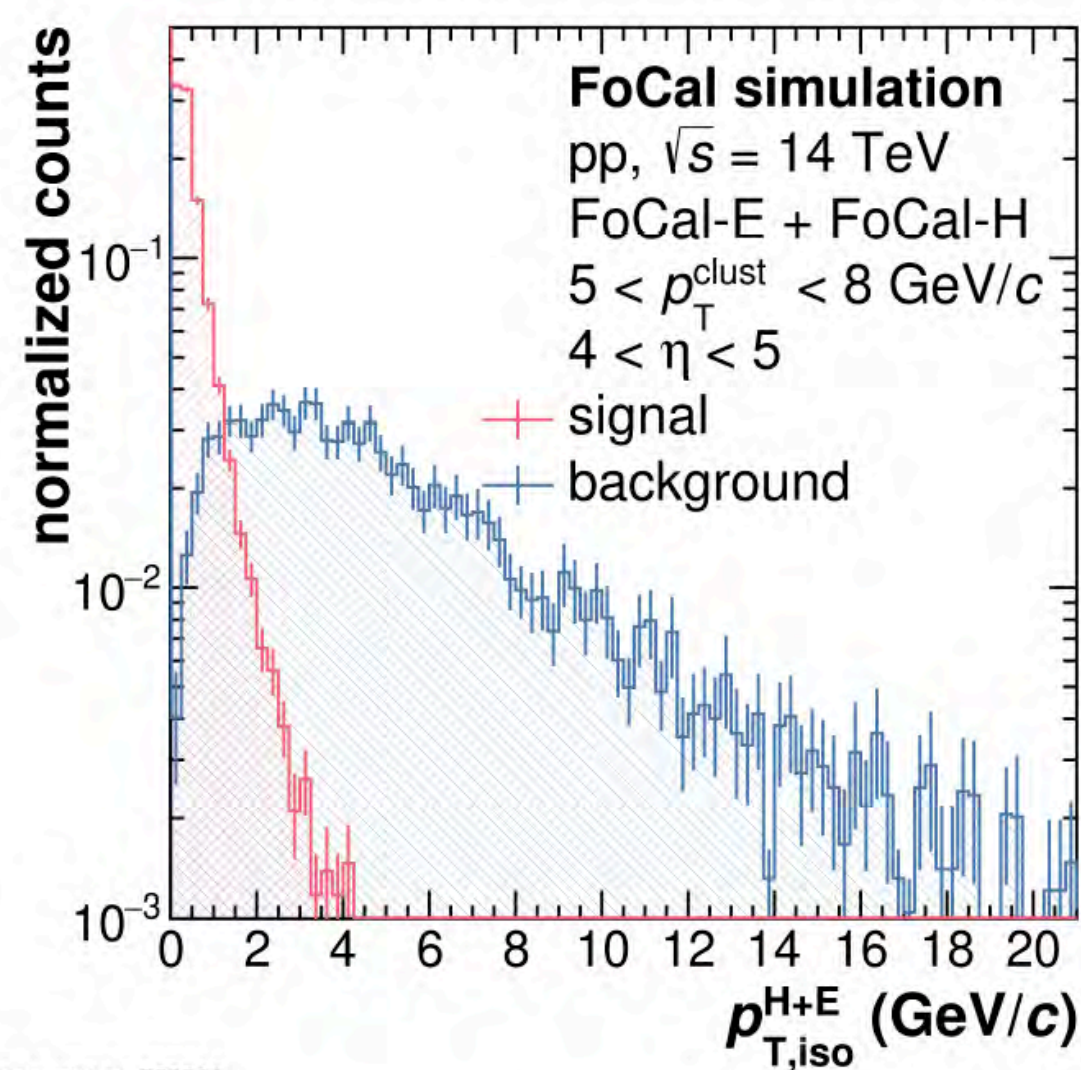
π^0 tagging

Tag decay photons according to inv. mass of cluster pairs

=

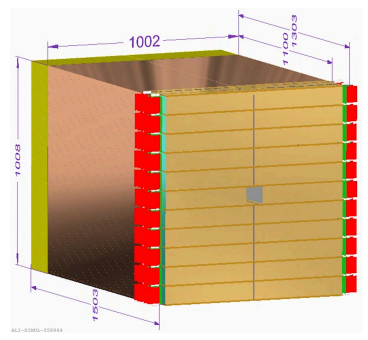
Signal fraction

Selections increase signal fraction $\times 11$

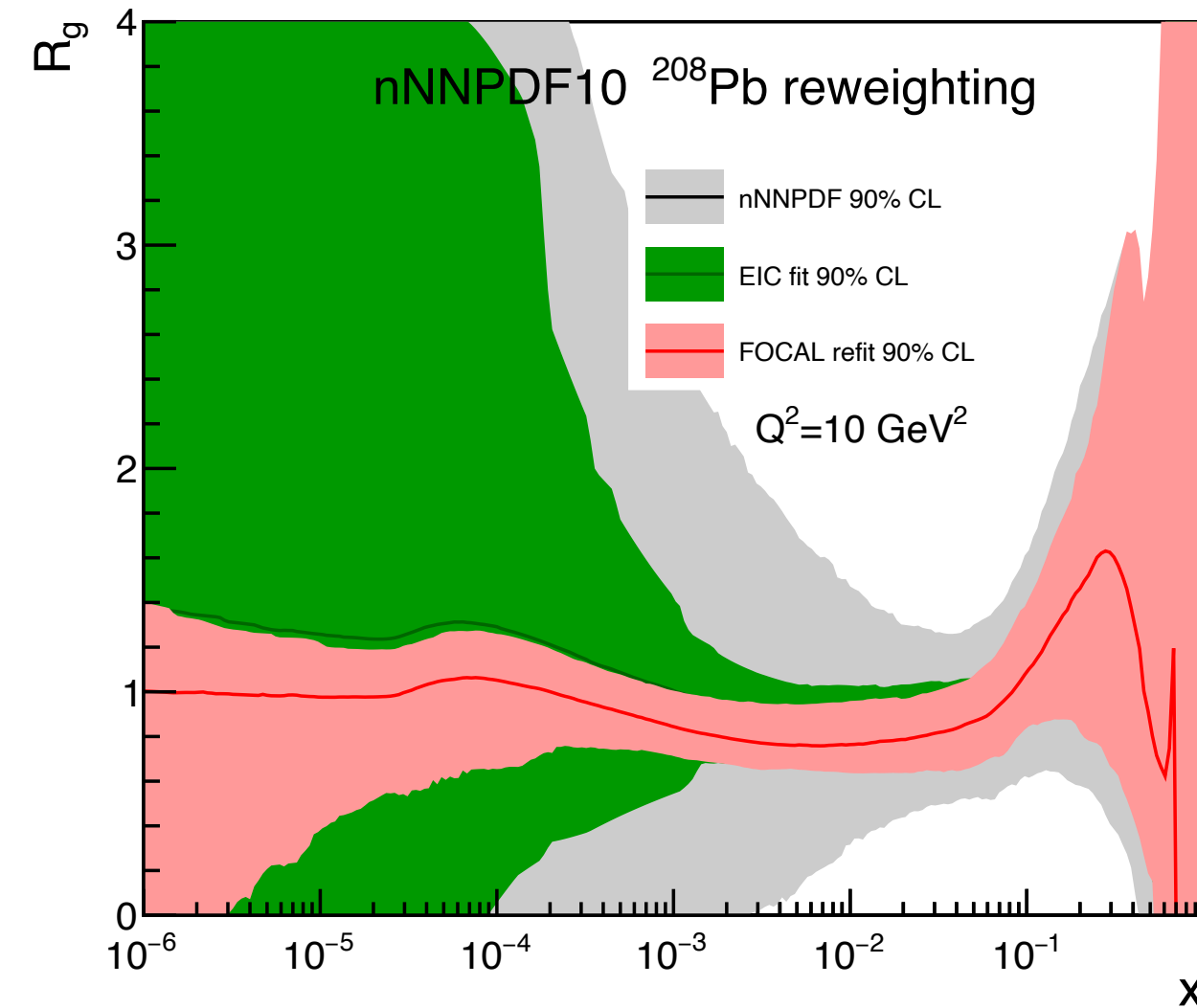
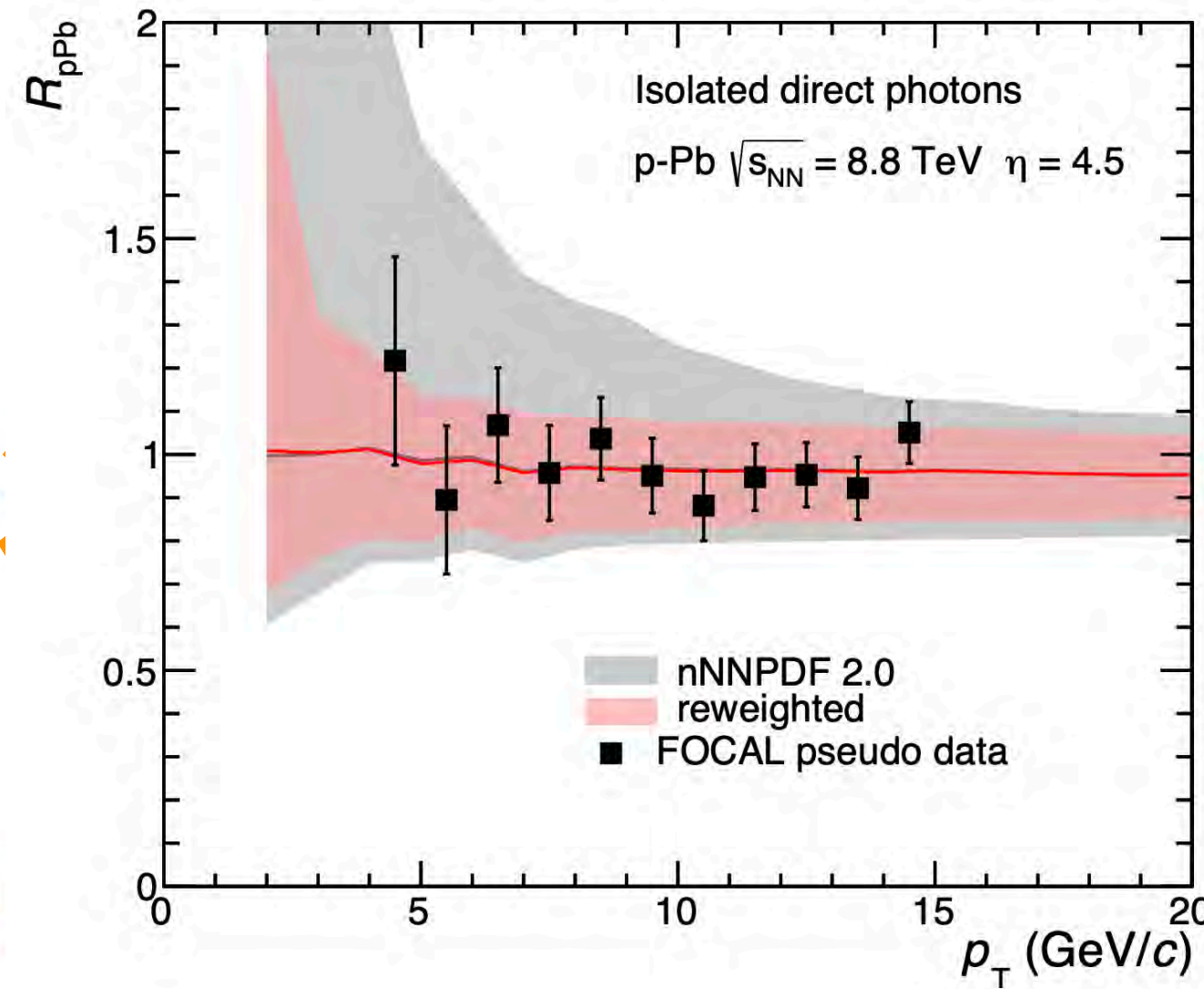
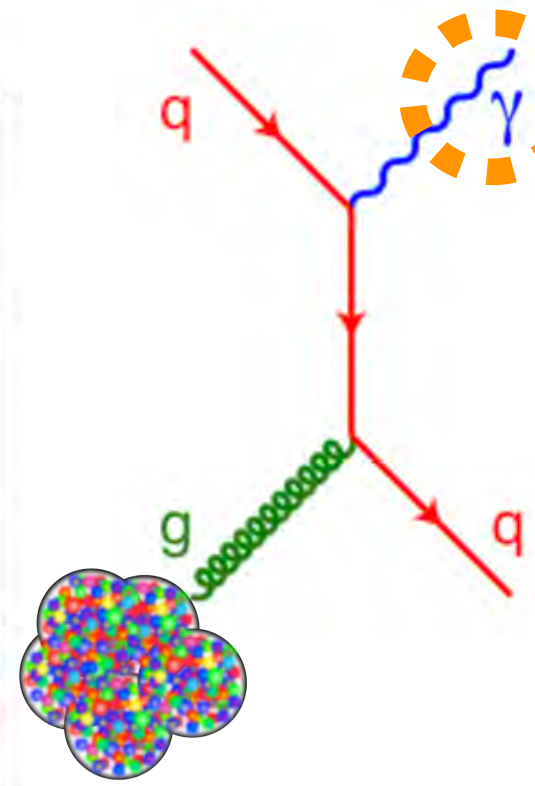
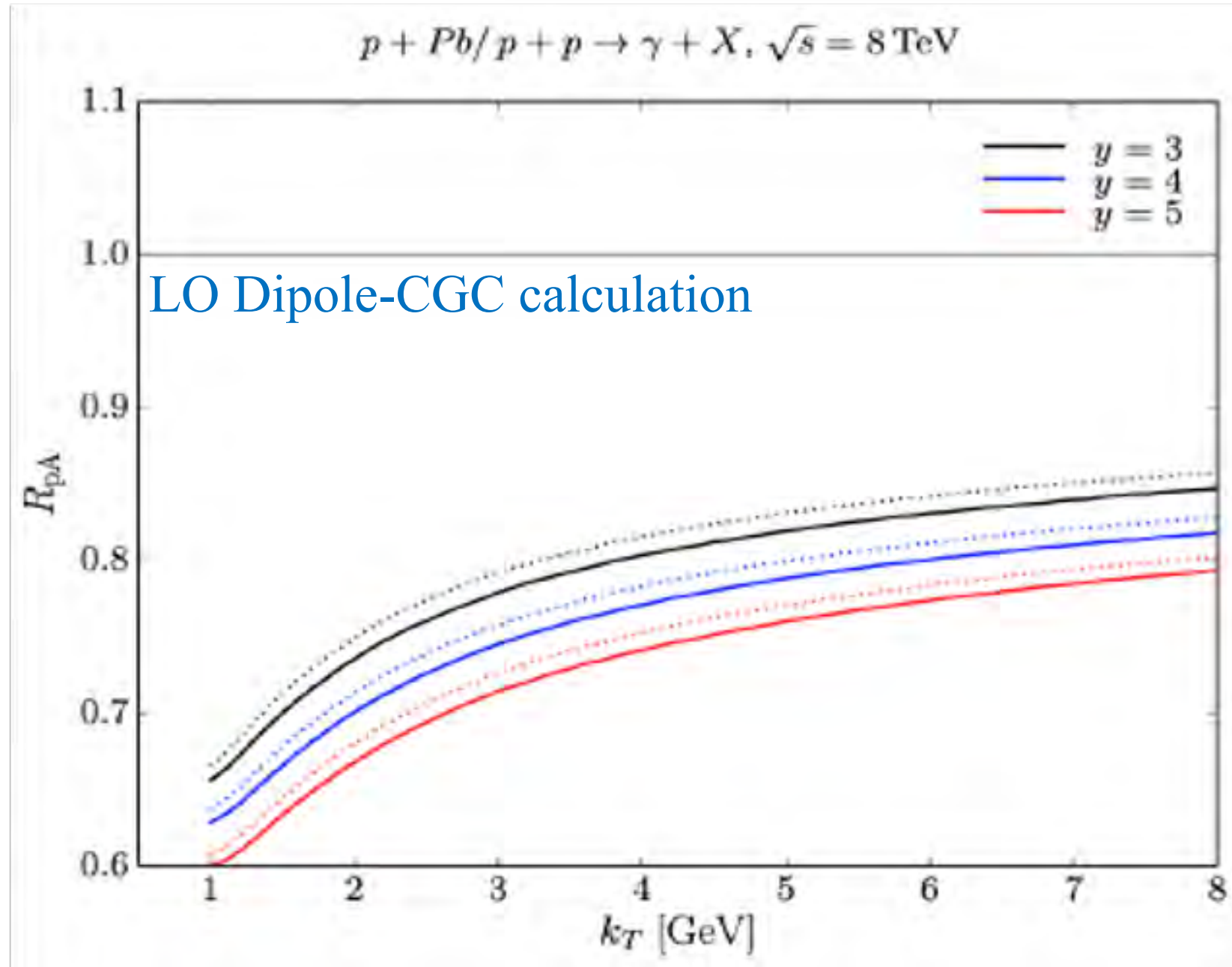




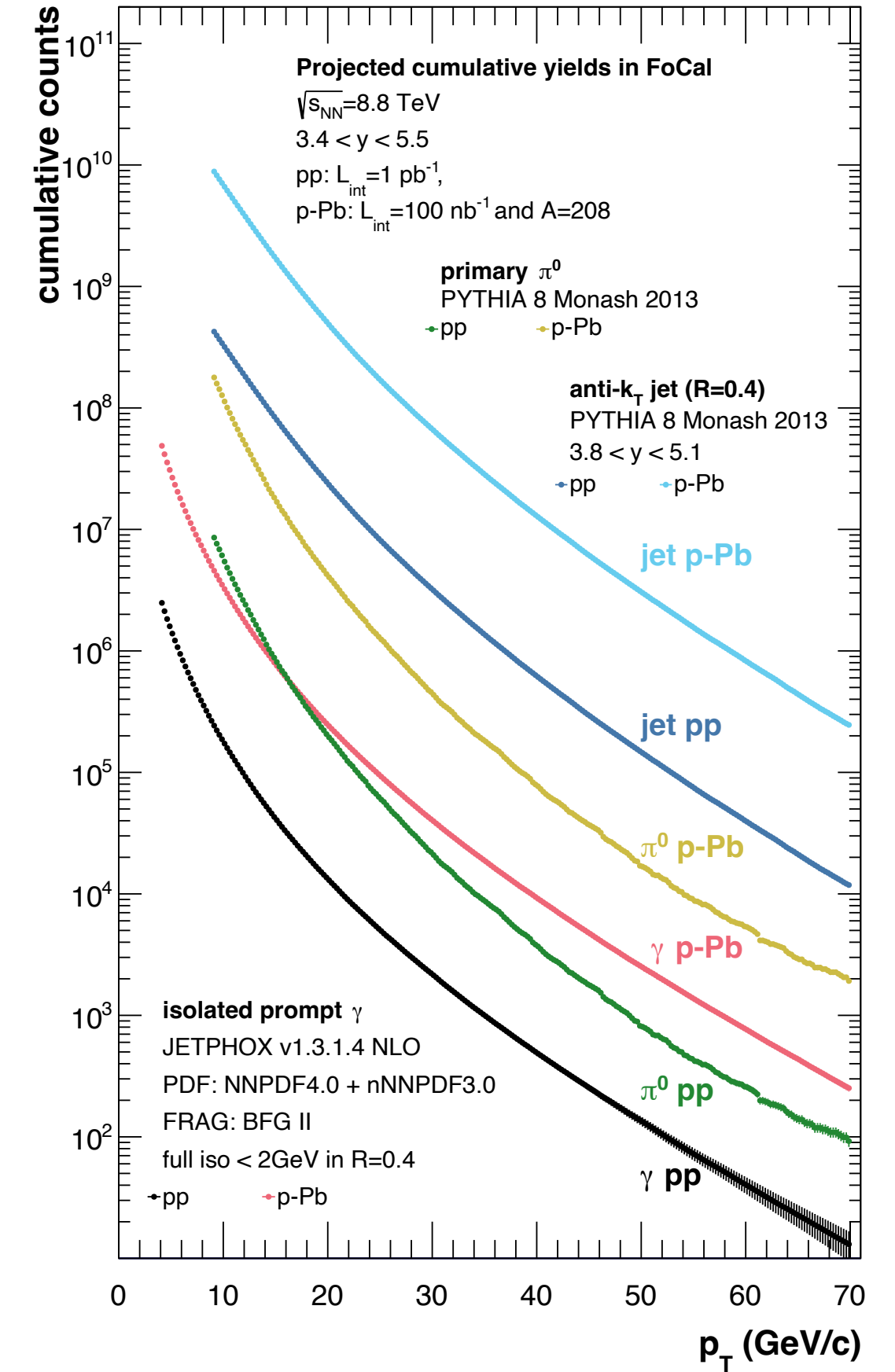
Saturation signal in FoCal (1)



R_{pPb} : forward γ



Expected yields in FoCal (Run-4)



- Large suppression at low p_T for isolated γ
 Isolated γ : $qg \rightarrow q\gamma$; $k_T \sim Q_{sat}$

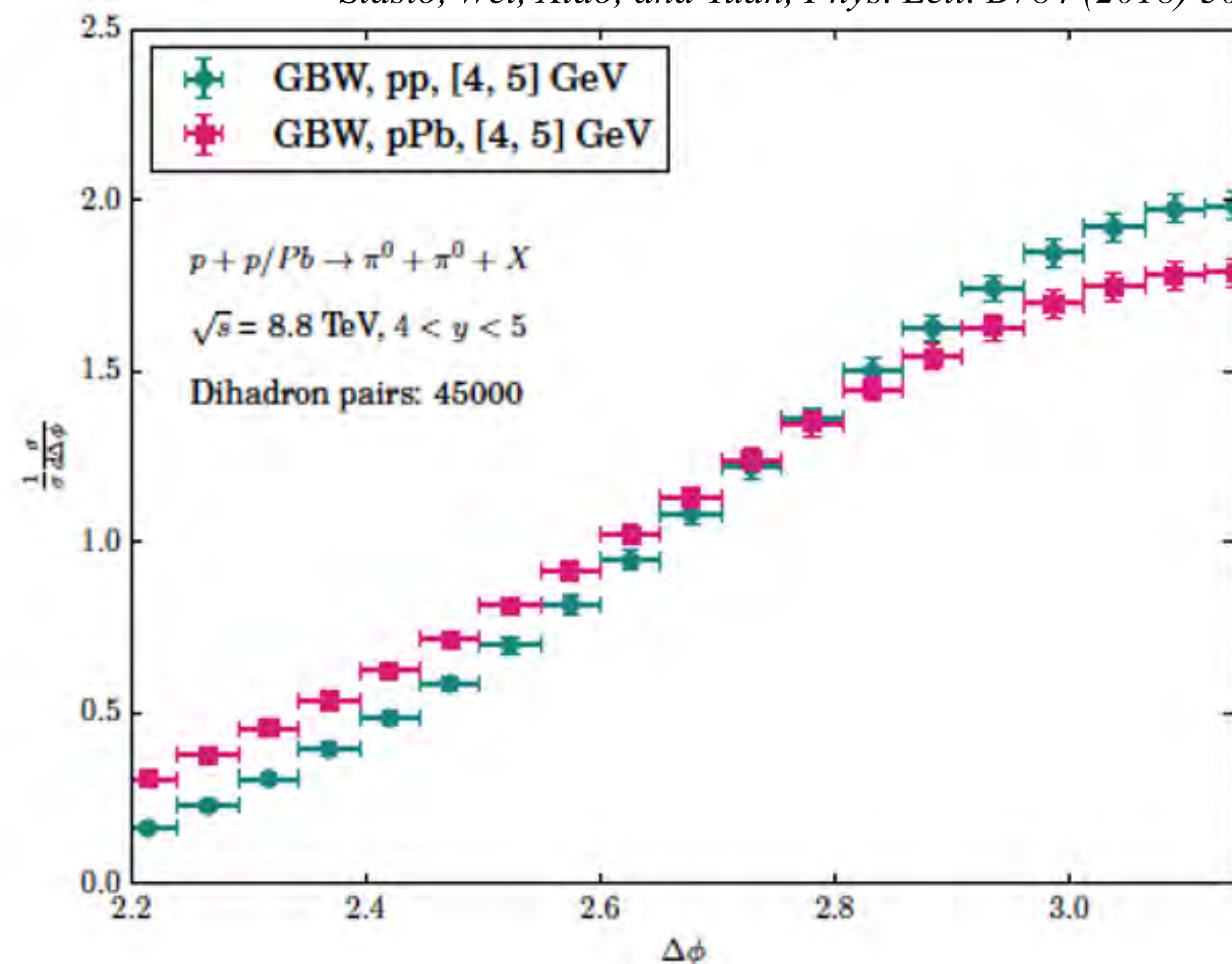
- pp at $\sqrt{s}=8.8$ TeV: 1 week, $\mathcal{L}=4$ pb $^{-1}$;
- p-Pb at $\sqrt{s}=8.8$ TeV: 3 weeks, $\mathcal{L}=300$ nb $^{-1}$;
- Pb-Pb at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=5.02$ TeV: 3 months; $\mathcal{L}=7$ nb $^{-1}$;
- pp at $\sqrt{s}=14$ TeV: ≈ 18 months, $\mathcal{L}=150$ pb $^{-1}$;

- Expected gluon saturation (CGC) in small-x, not yet clear evidence
- Excellent probe: isolated photons from quark-gluon Compton scattering

Saturation signal in FoCal (2)

Di-hadron Correlations

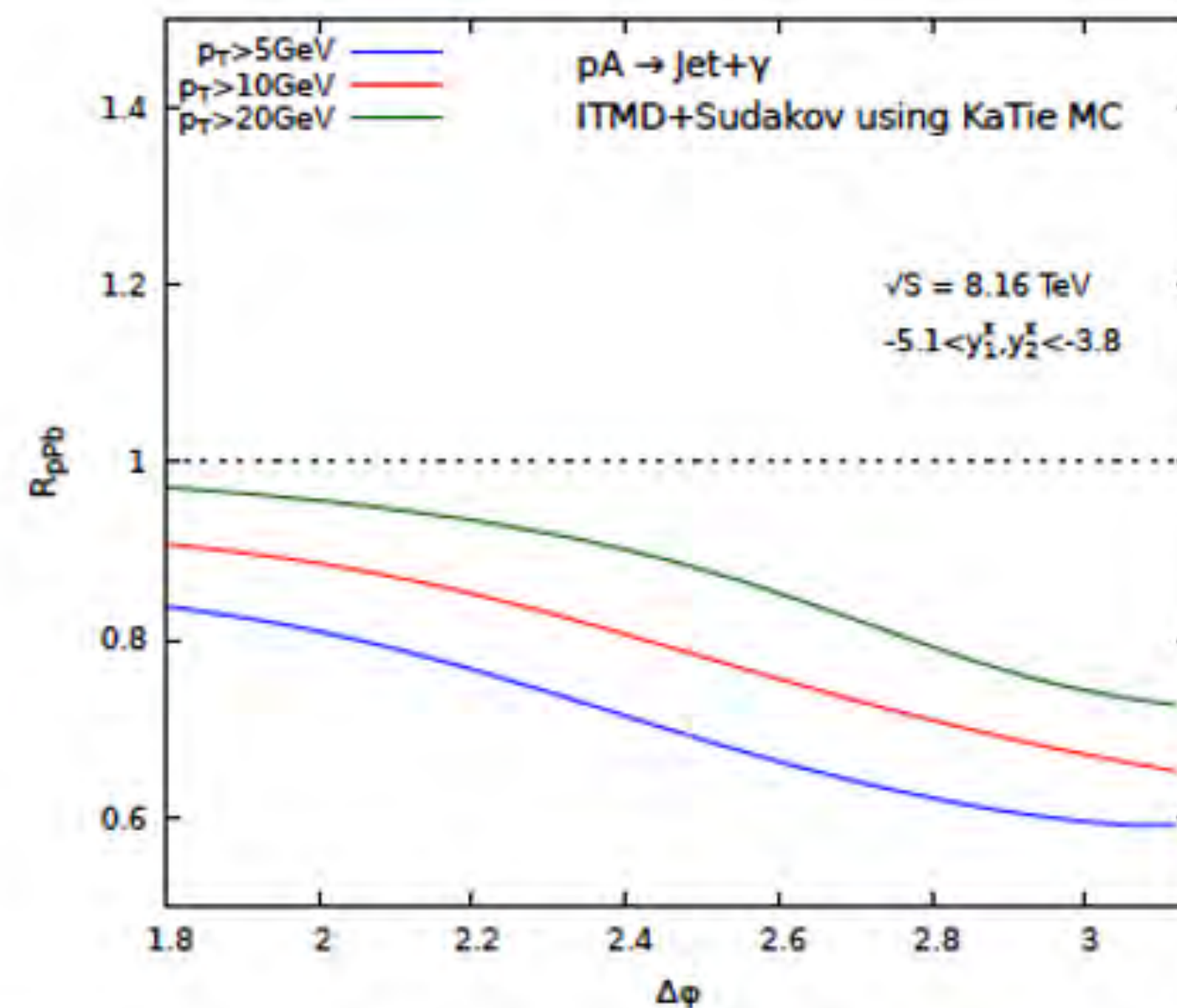
Stasto, Wei, Xiao, and Yuan, *Phys. Lett. B*784 (2018) 301



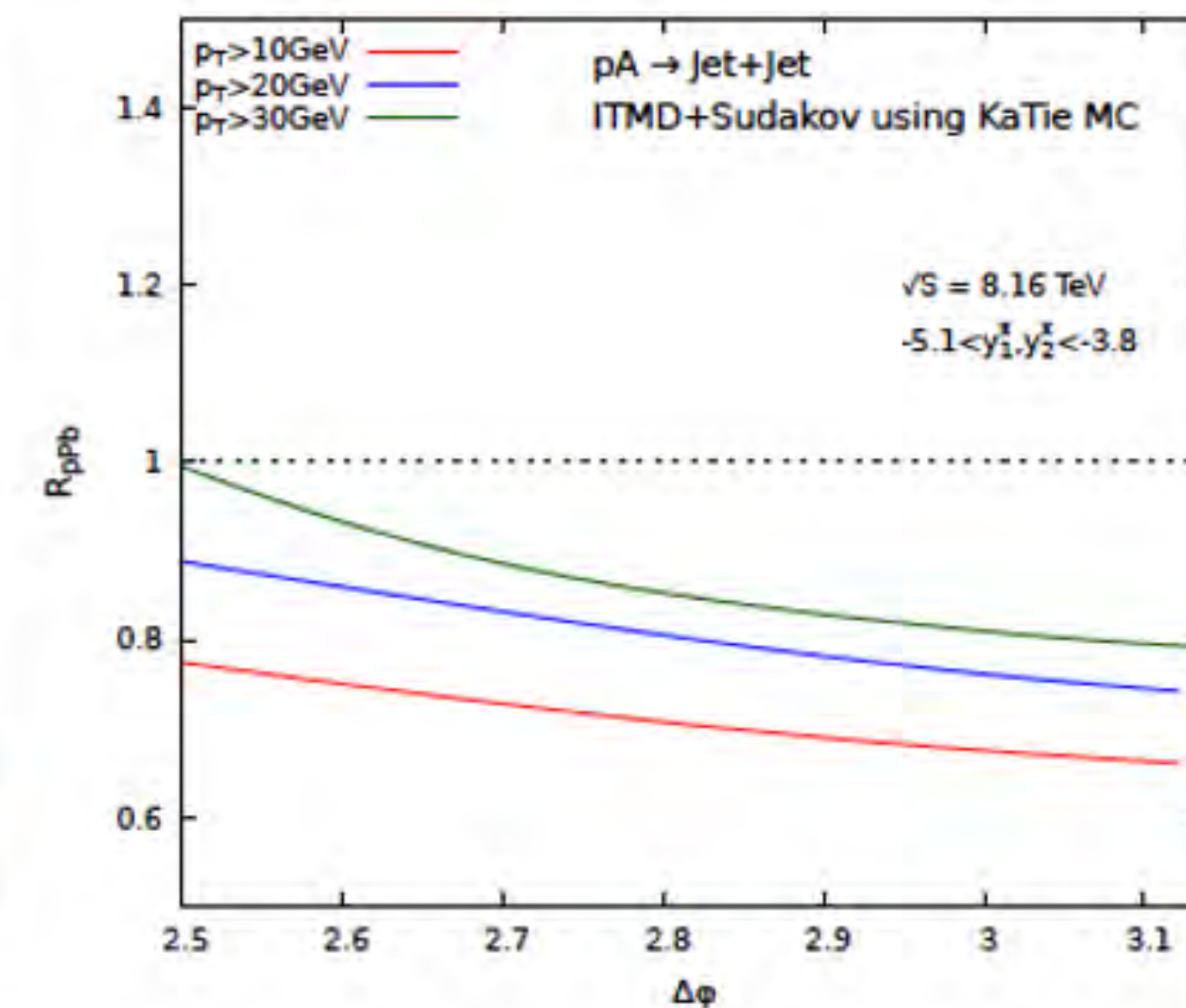
Dilute-dense LO + Sudakov
probes quadrupole operator

- Experimental challenge to see an effect of CGC in $\Delta\phi$ width?
- Theory: NLO cal. is needed

Forward γ +jet



Forward di-jet

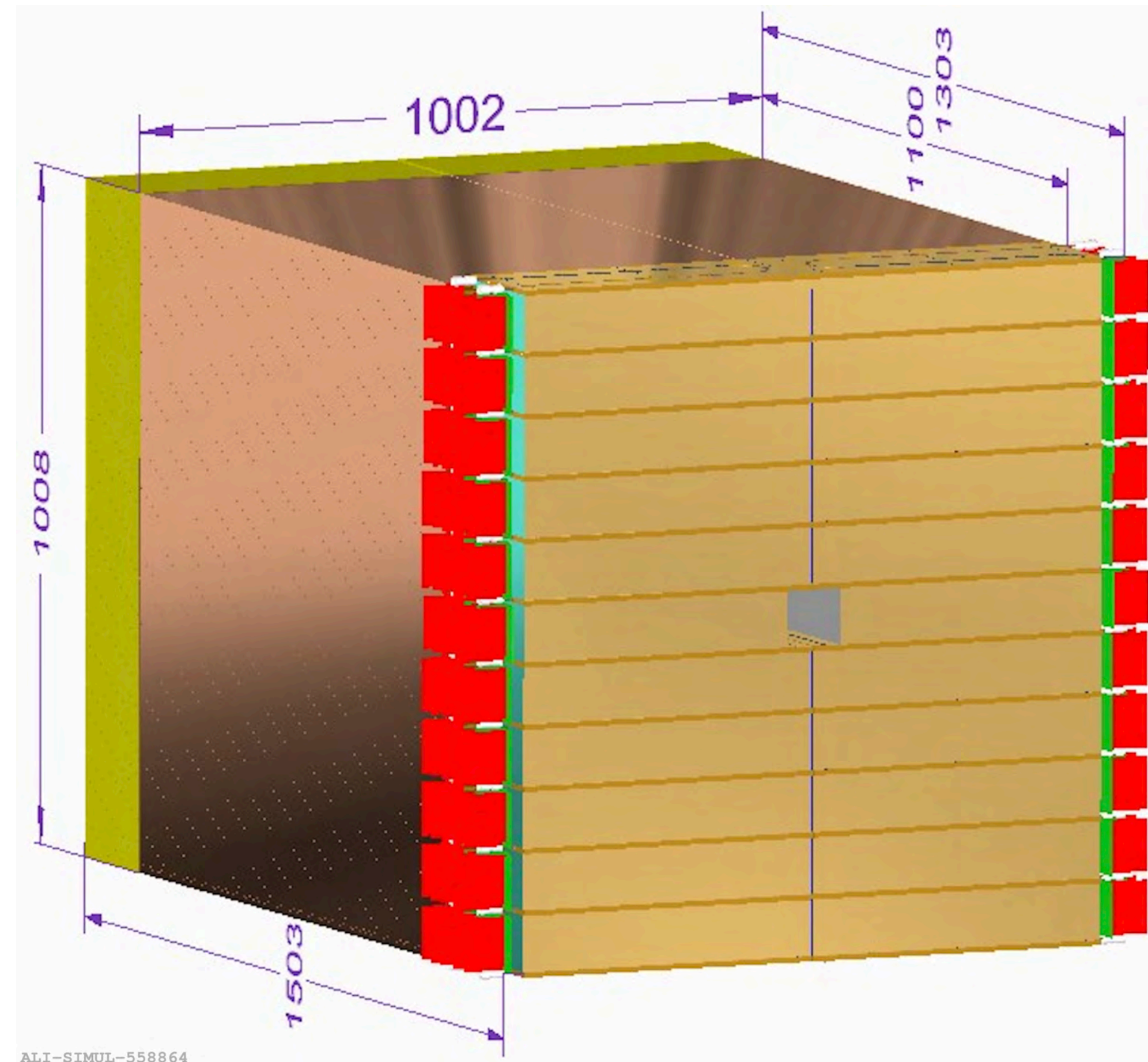


• γ +jet: dipole TMD gluon distribution

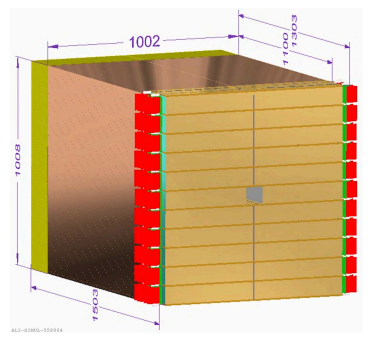
•di-jet: multiple TMD distributions

- γ +jet, balanced di-jet at low- x : $k_T \sim Q_{\text{sat}}$ (sensitive to saturation)
- changing k_T (p_T) \rightarrow exploring non-linear QCD evolution in wide kinematic coverage of x - Q^2 by FoCal

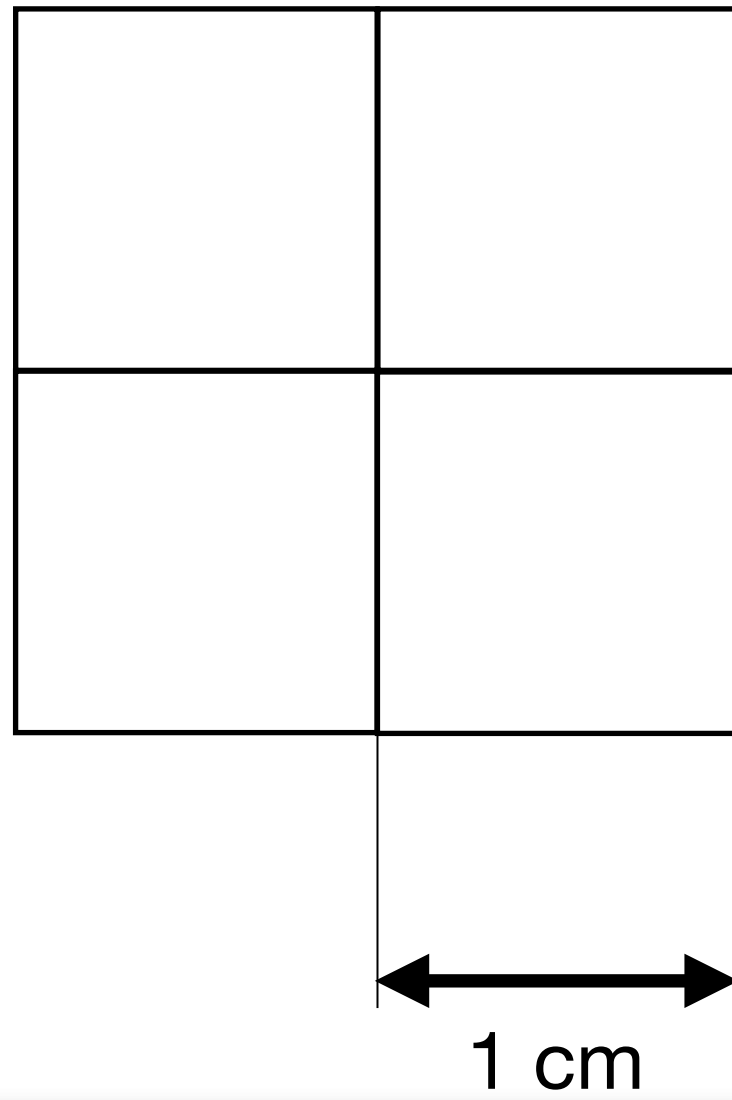
ALICE FoCal detector



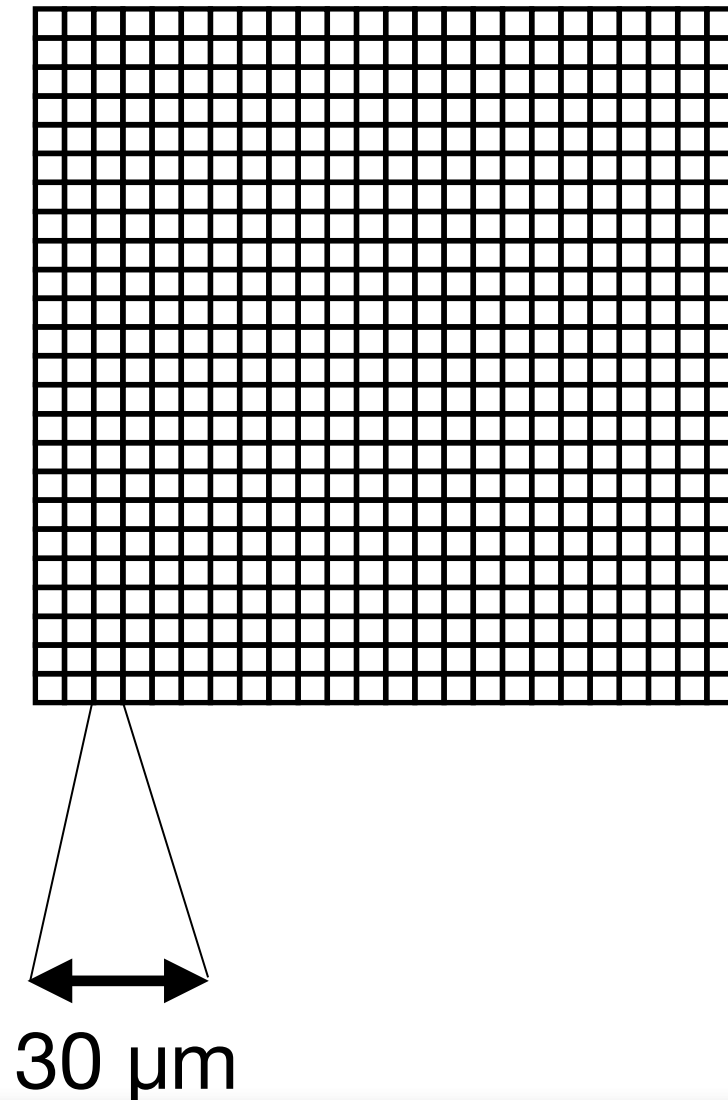
Detector design



E-Pad



E-Pixel



FoCal-E (pad, pixel)

20 layers of W(3.5 mm $\approx 1X_0$) + silicon sensors:

Two types: **Pad (1x1 cm²)** and **Pixel (30 x 30 μm²)**

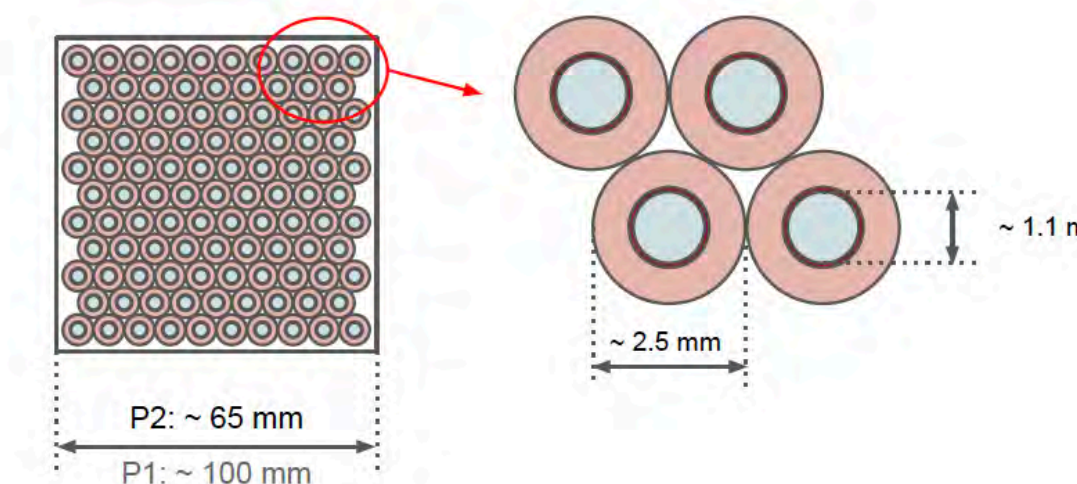
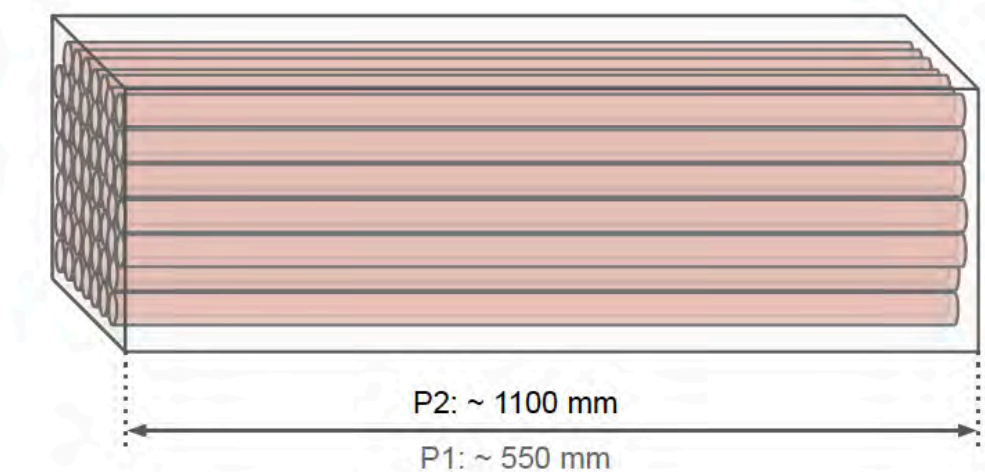
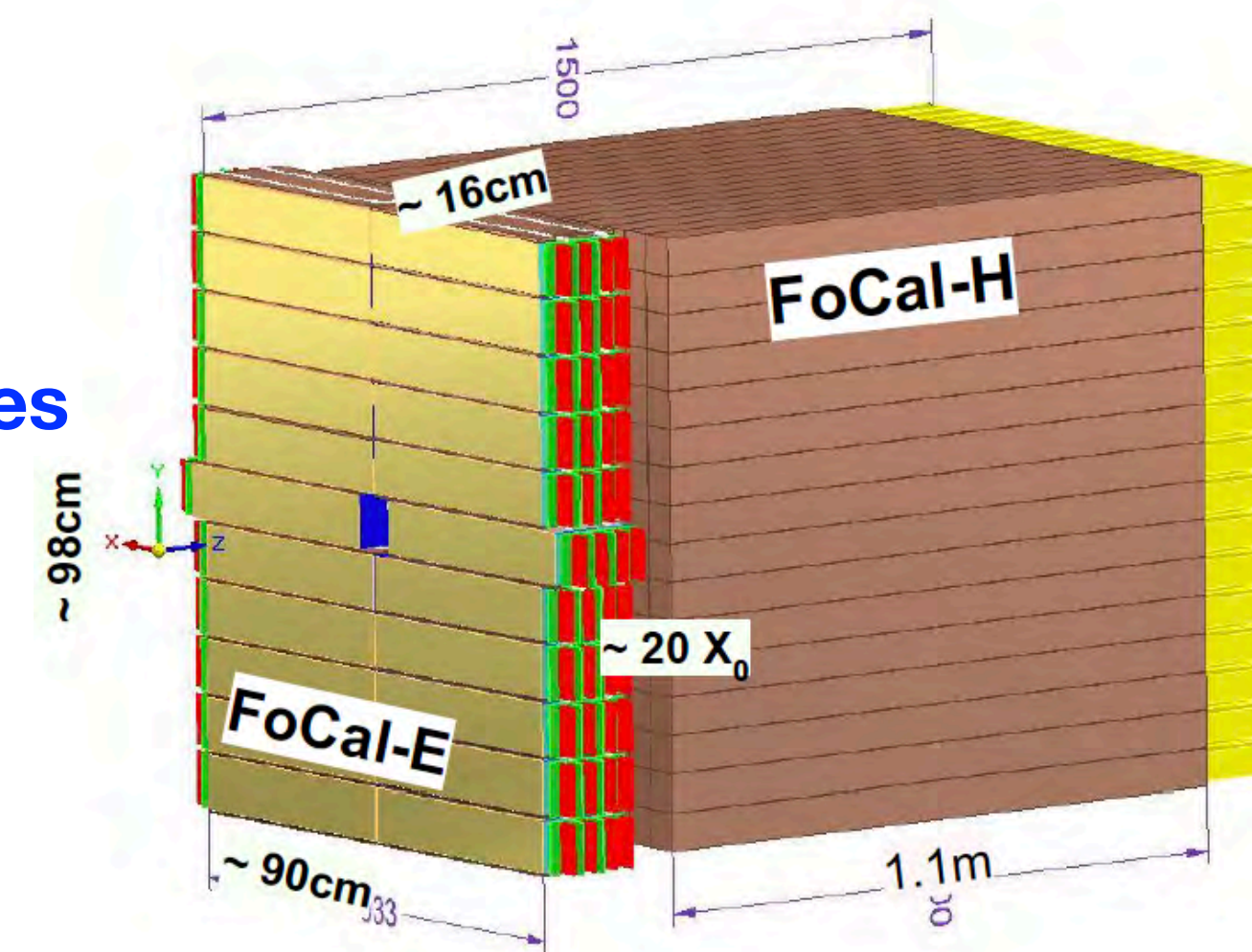
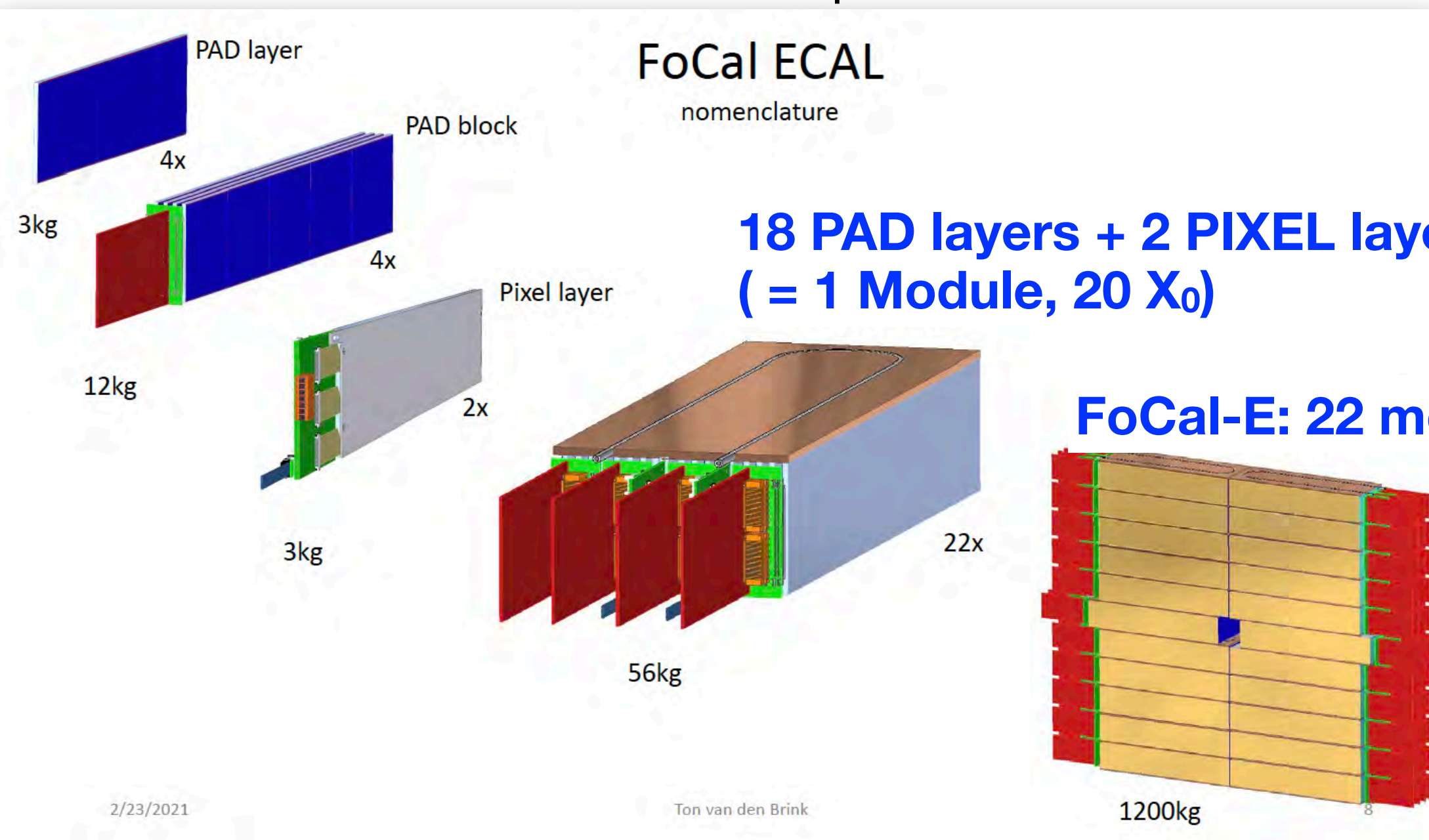
- Pad: shower profile and total energy
 - Si PAD sensor
- Pixel: position resolution to resolve overlapping showers
 - CMOS MAPS technology (ALPIDE)

FoCal-H

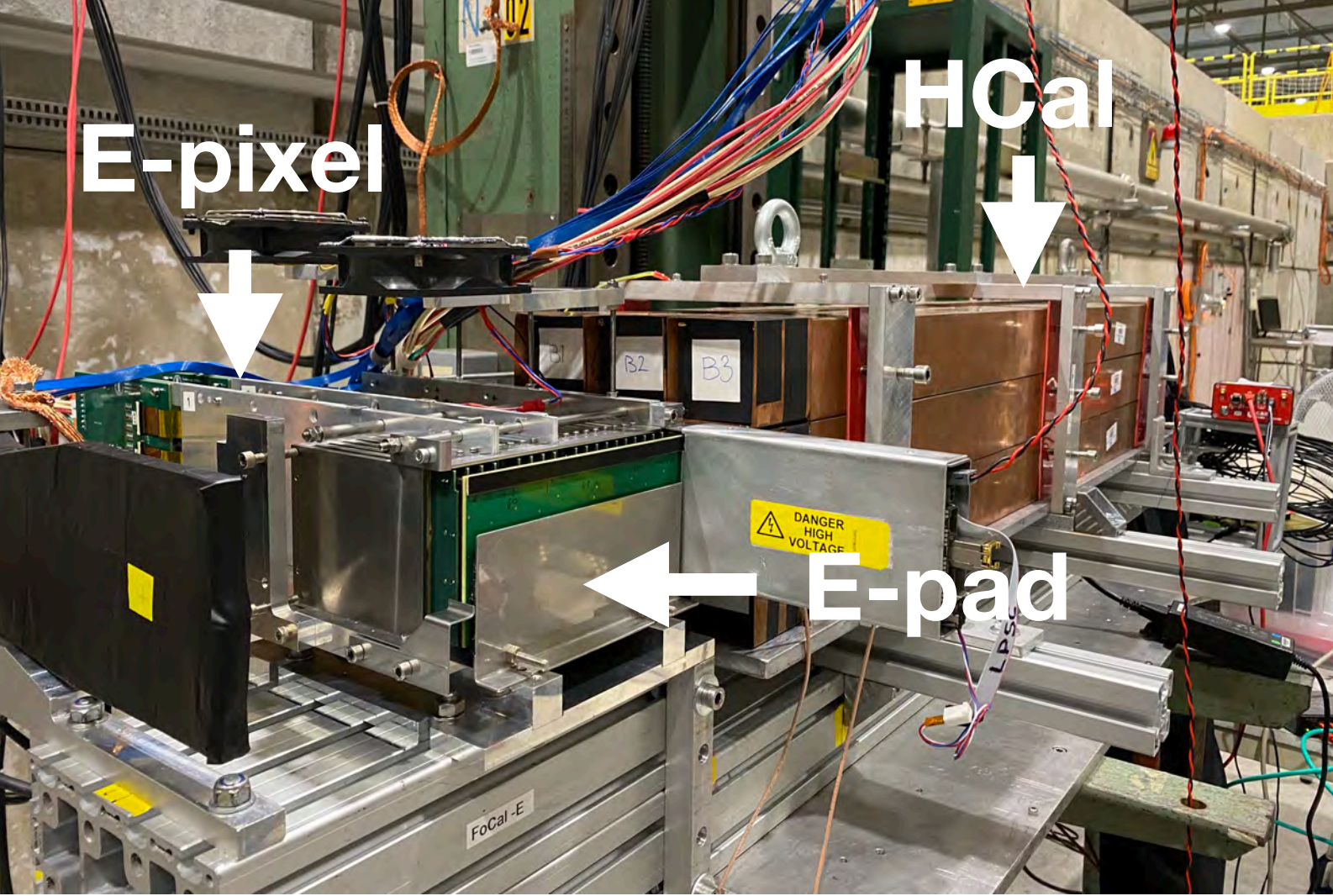
Conventional metal-scintillator design

Cu capillary-tubes enclosing BCF scintillating fibers

SiPM readout



Uniqueness of FoCal detector

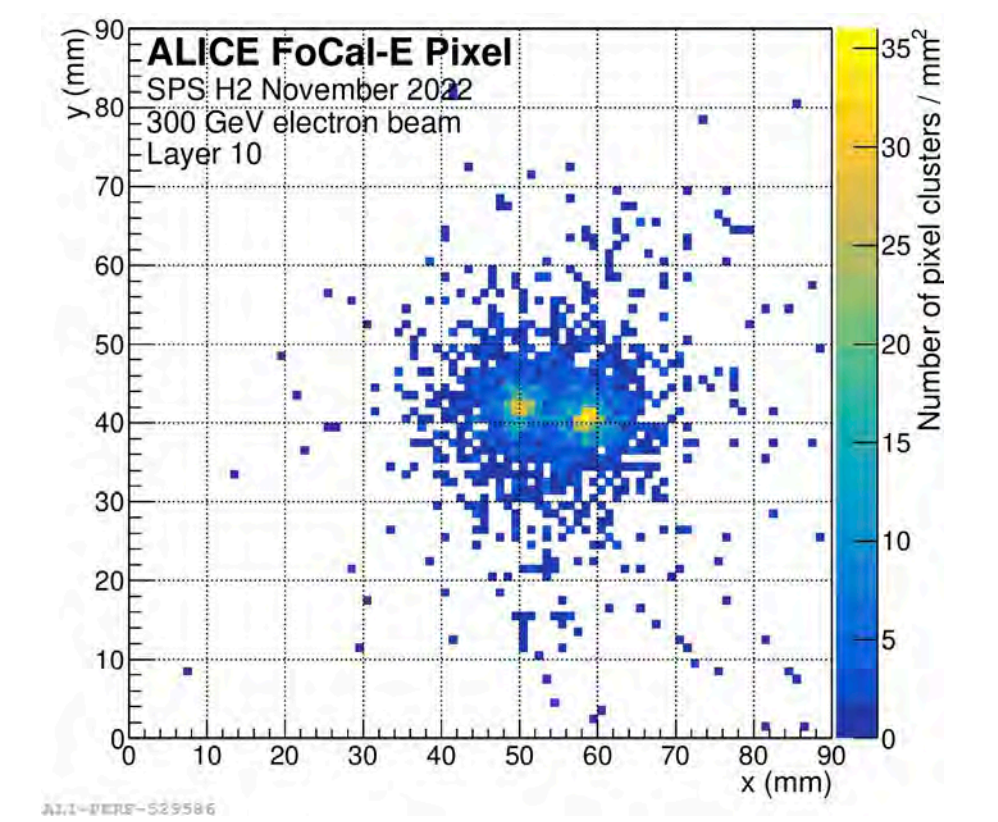
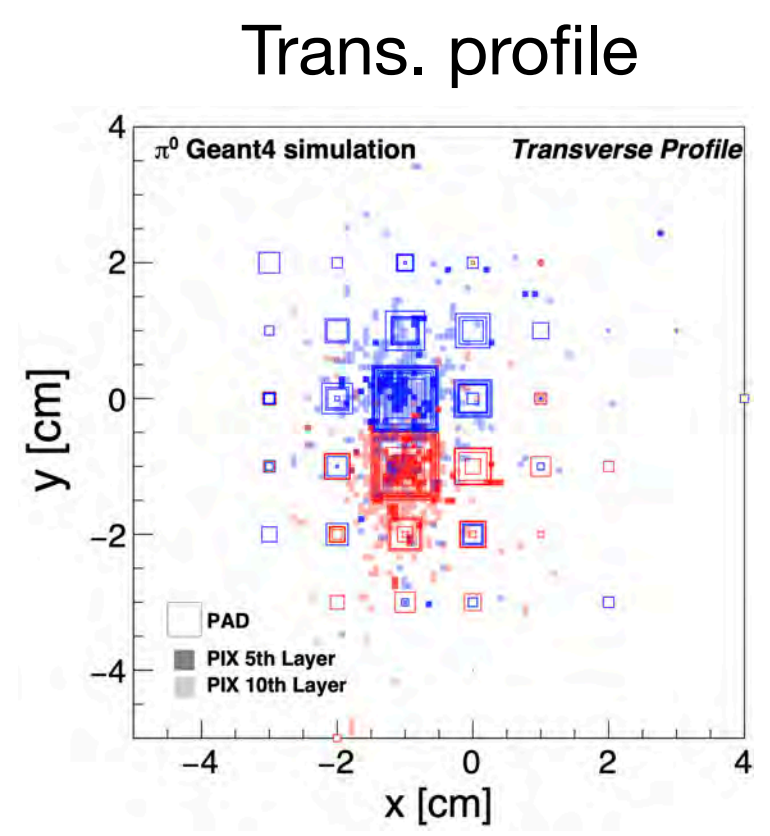
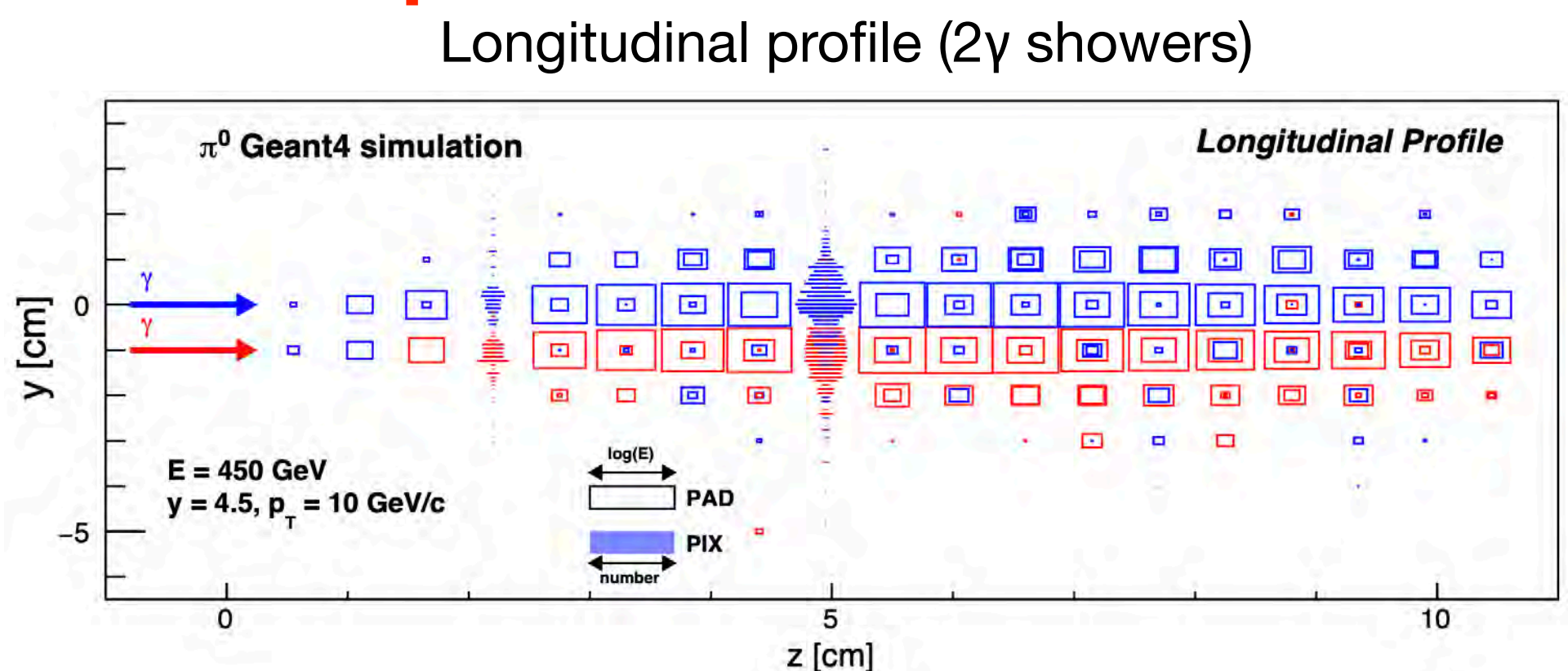
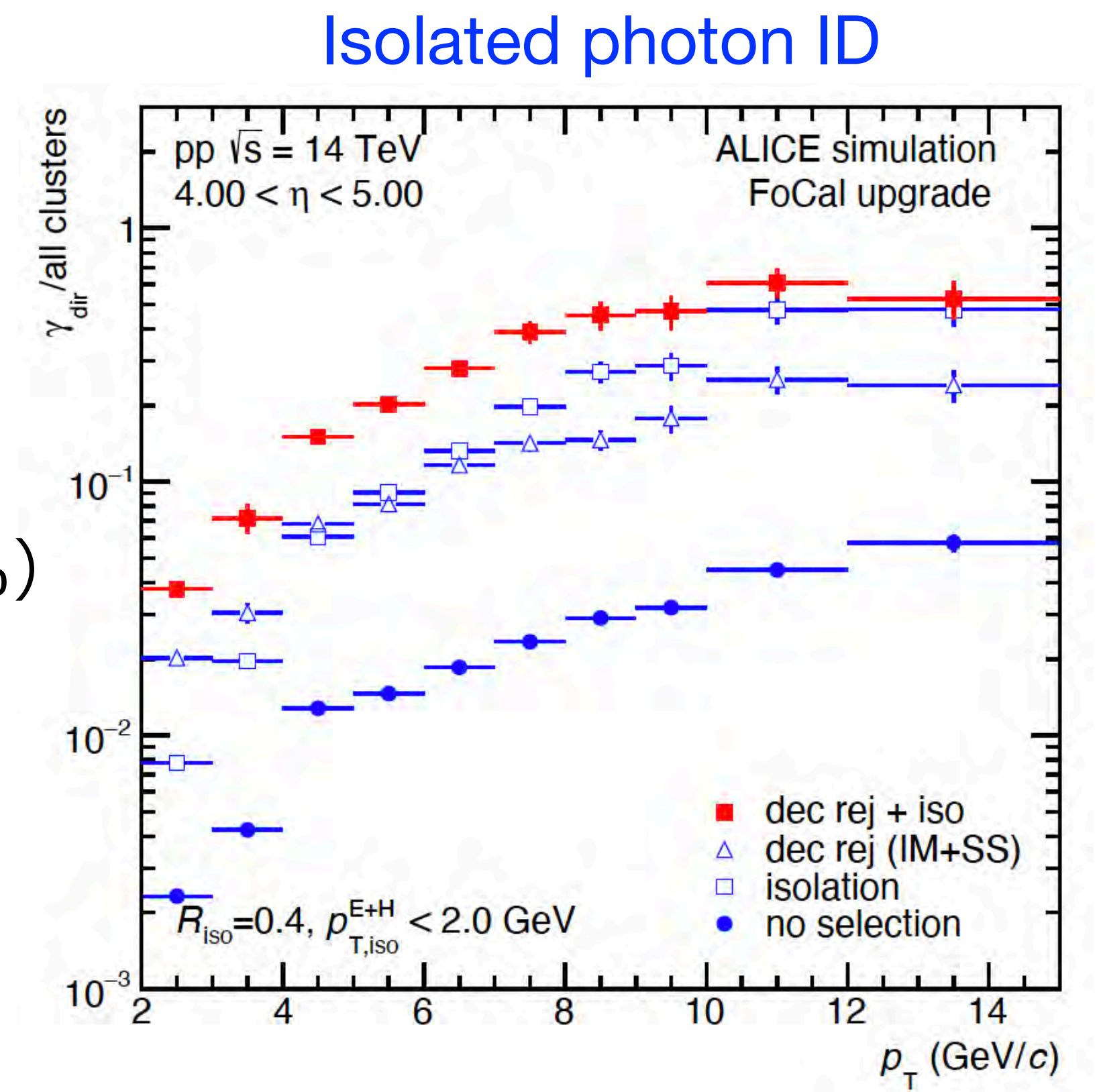


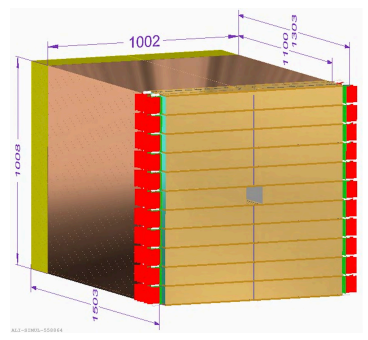
PS/SPS test beam in 2022

- 1) High two photon separation power ($< \sim 5\text{mm}$, energy resolution $\sim 3\%$)
- 2) Wide energy dynamic range (from 1 MIP to TeV EM showers)
- 3) High radiation tolerance (10^{13} (1MeV neutrons) / cm^2)

→ FoCal-E pad: major contributions from Japan and India

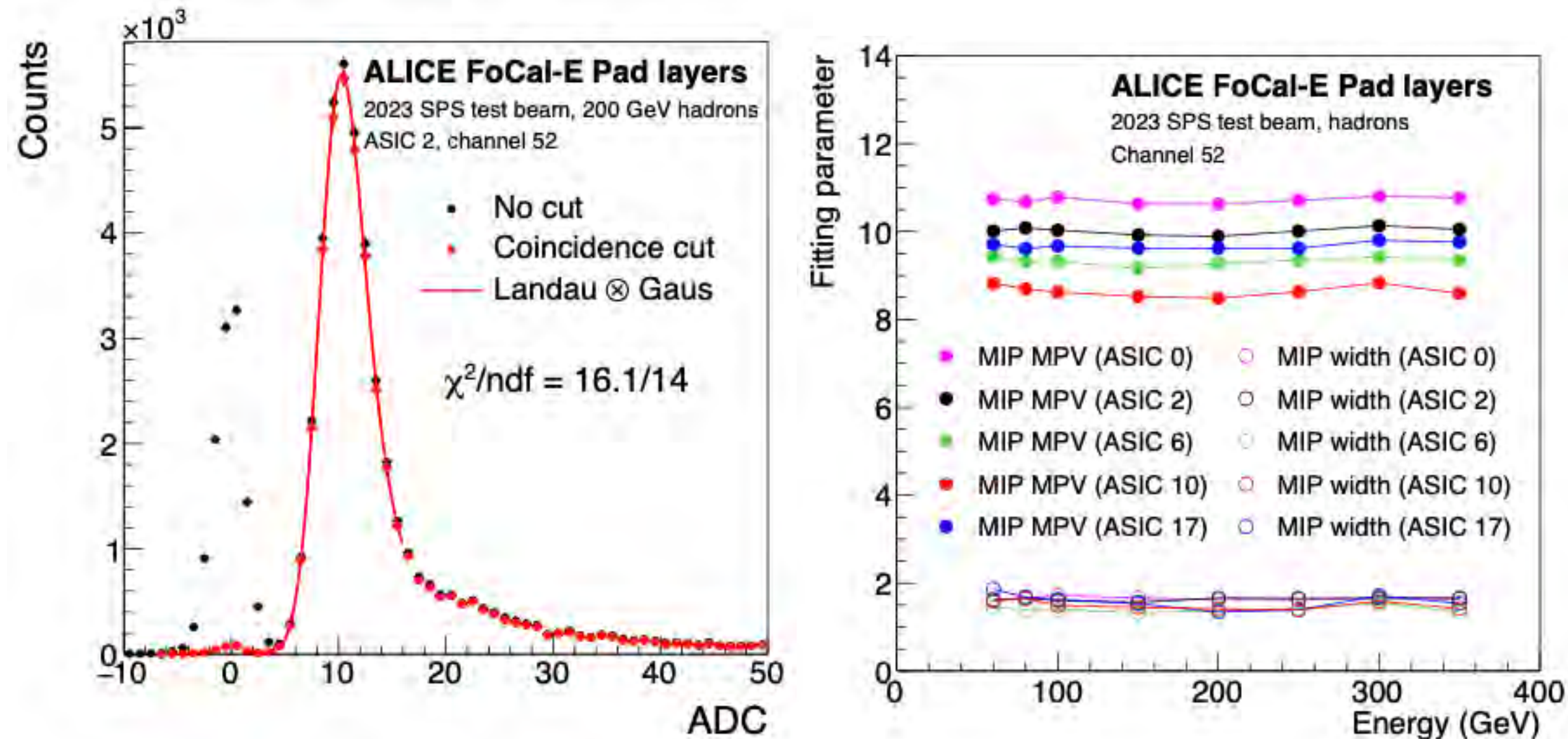
FoCal-E pixel: China



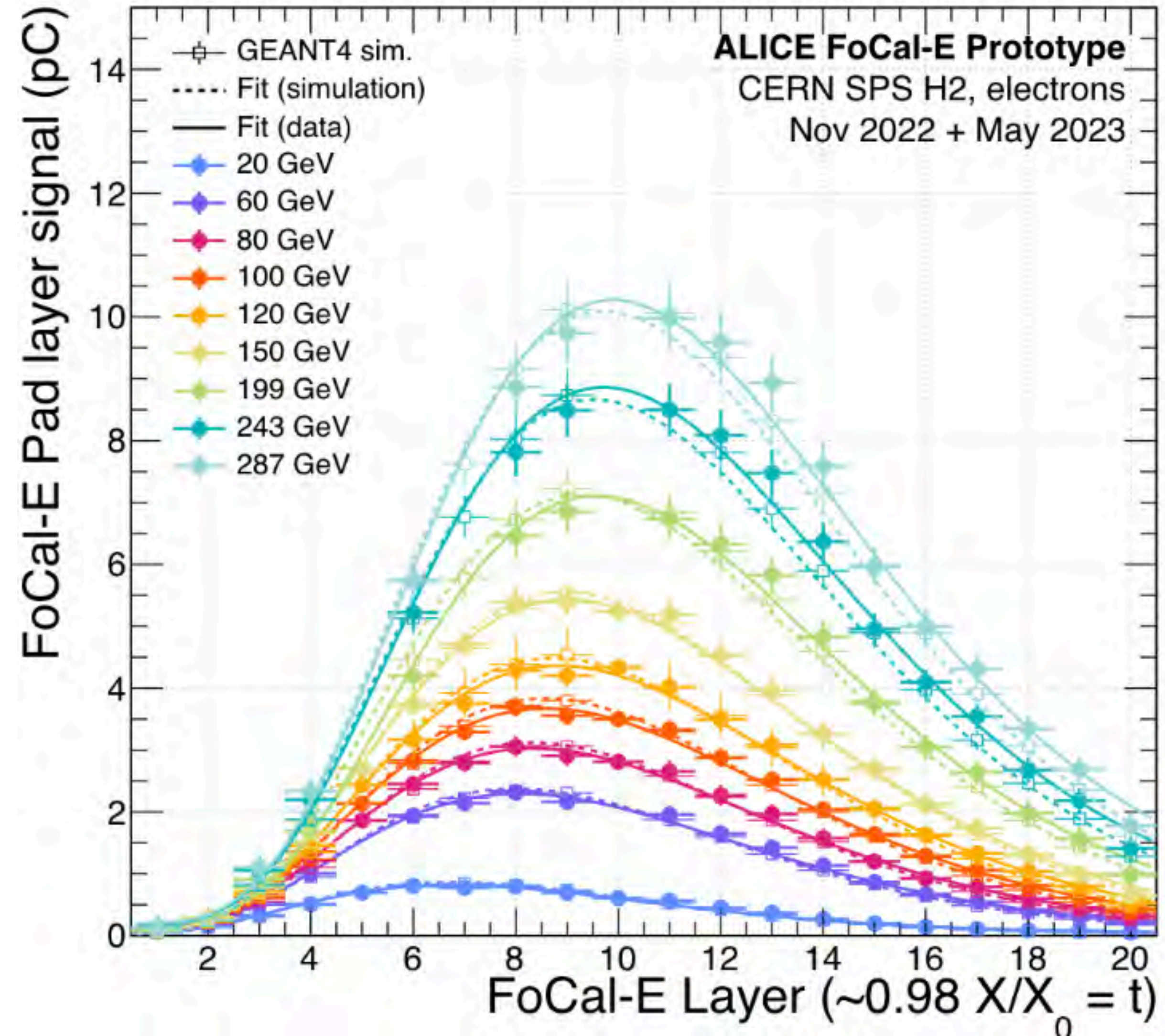


FoCal-E pad performance

MIP response

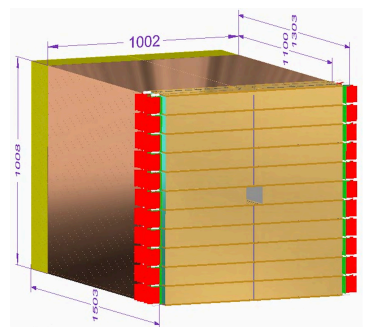


Longitudinal shower profiles



Excellent performance of prototype

- Pad MIP single channel distribution and stability
- Longitudinal shower profile

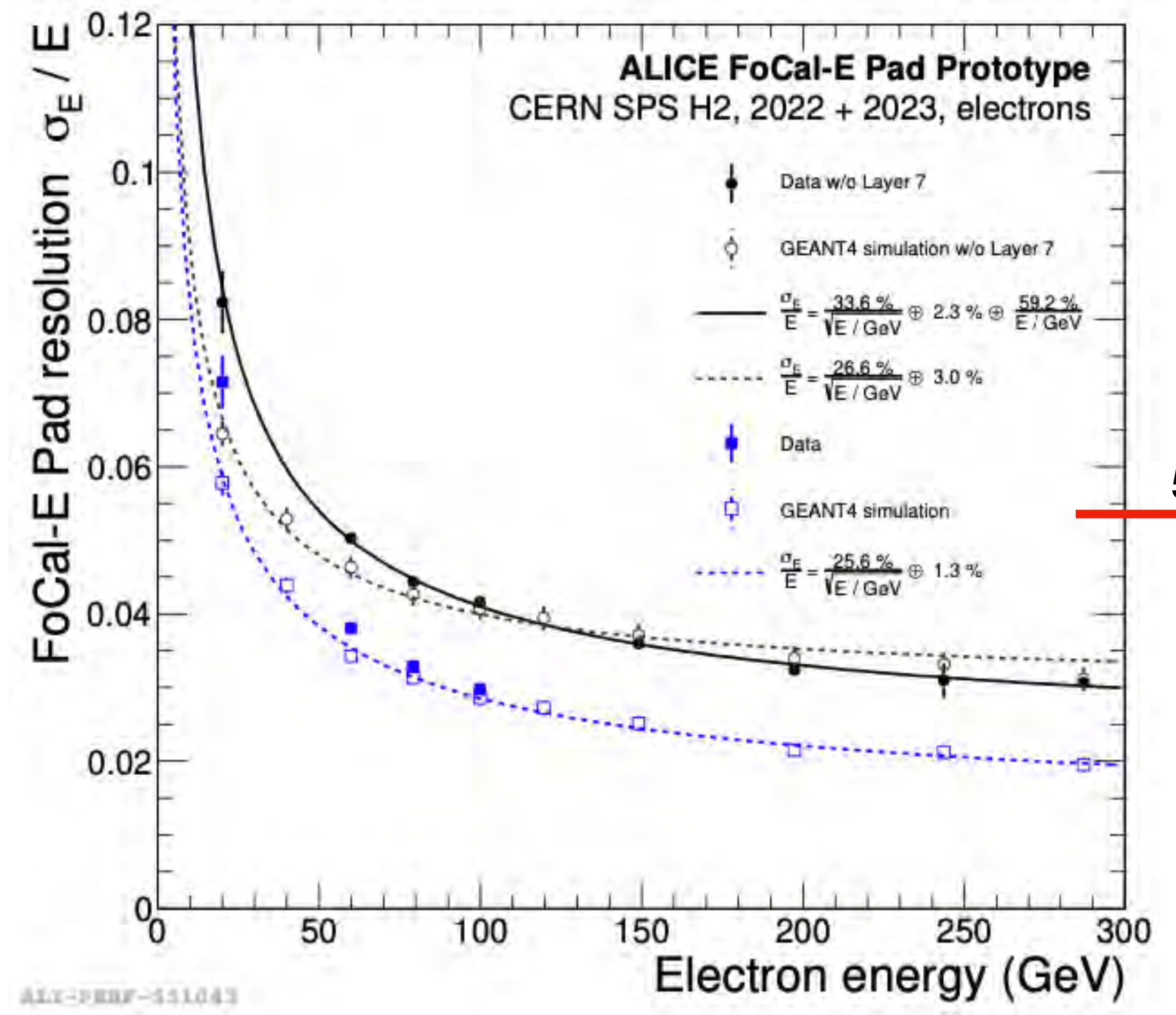
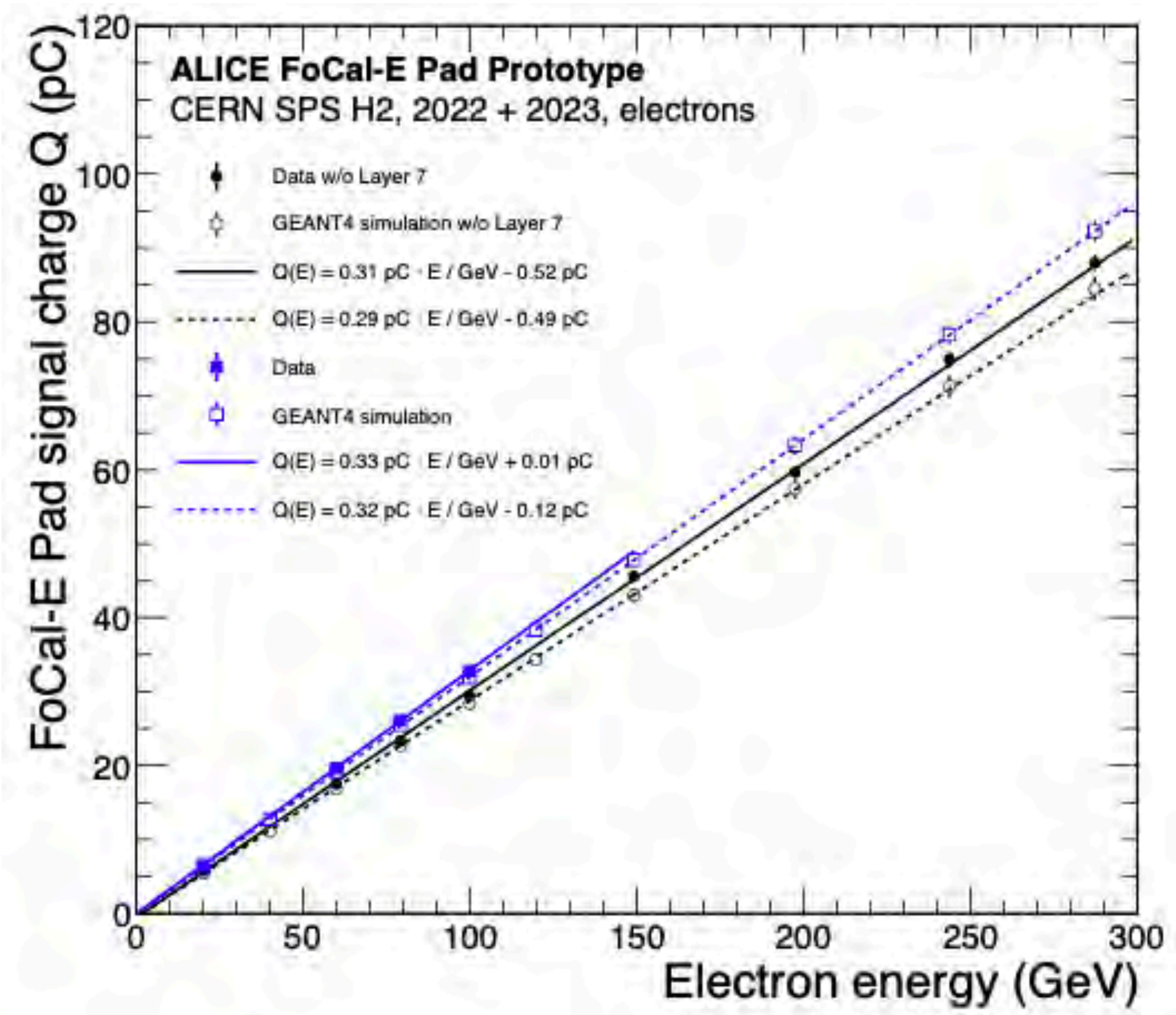


FoCal-E pad performance

JINST 19 P07006 (2024)

Linearity

Energy resolution



5%

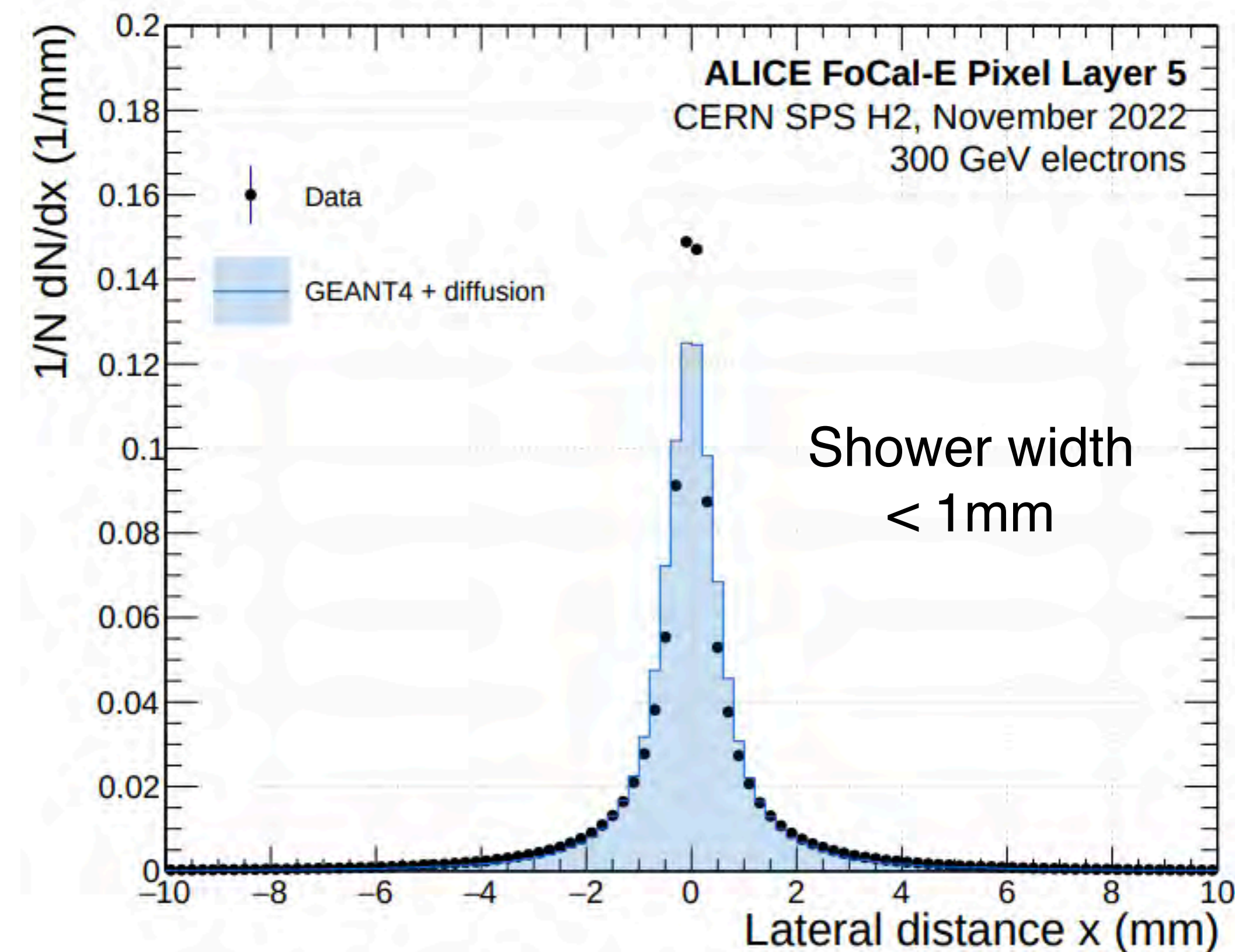
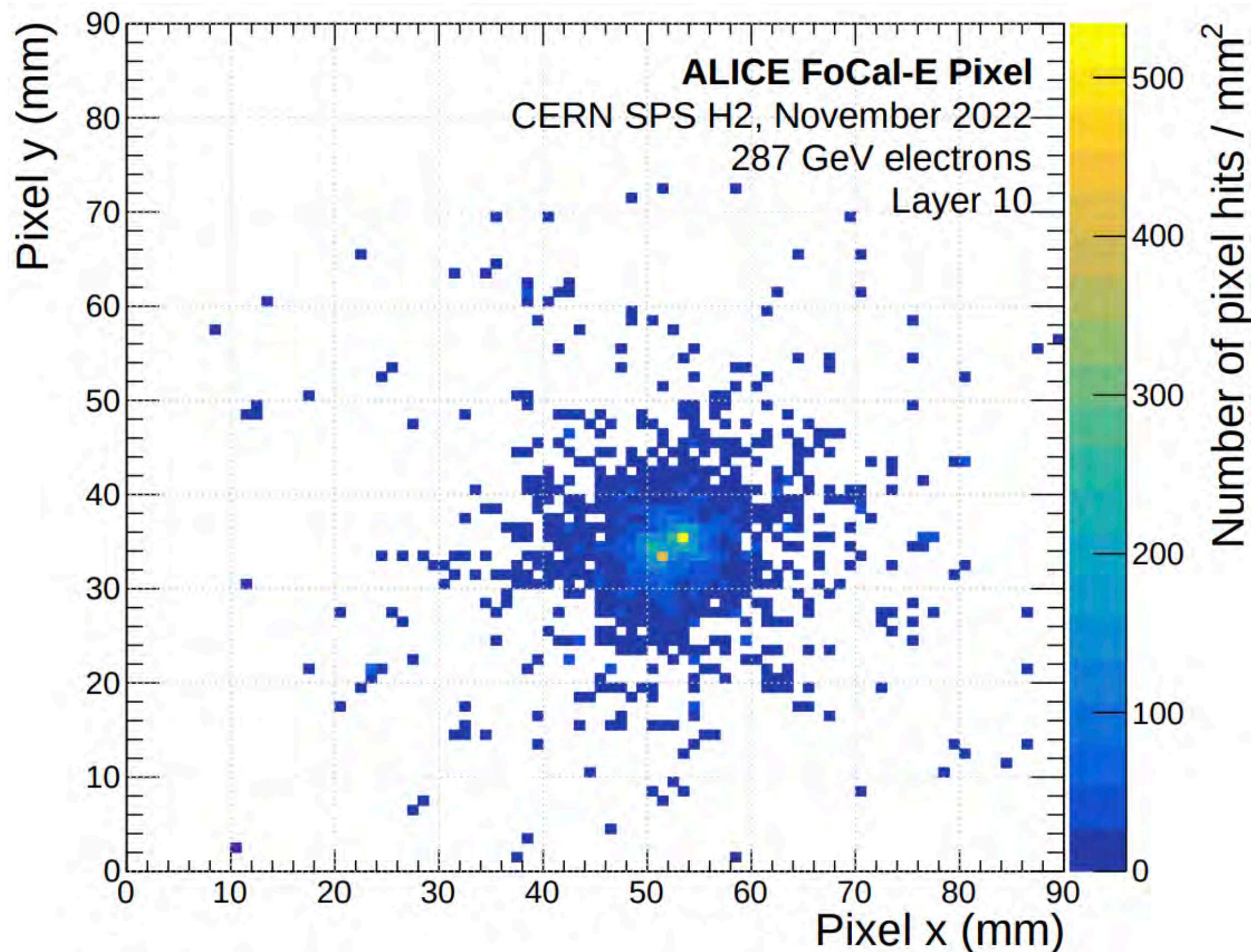
Results show expected behavior

FoCal-E PIXEL @ SPS test beam in 2022

JINST 19 P07006 (2024)

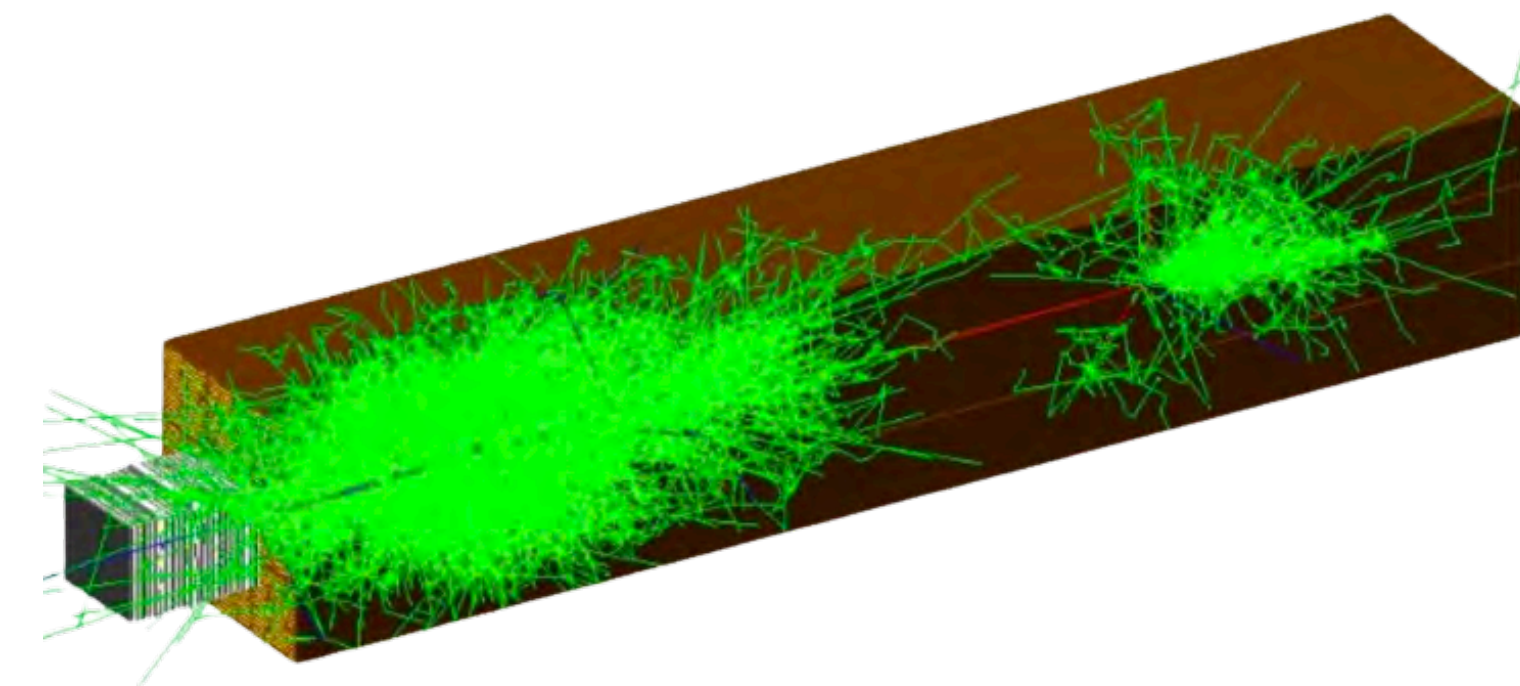
- Successful commissioning of FoCal-E PIXEL (ALPIDE)
- Distance between electrons here < 5 mm, demonstration of a good two gamma separation
- Detector response well described by GEANT4 + diffusion model

Layer 10, 2 e⁻ event

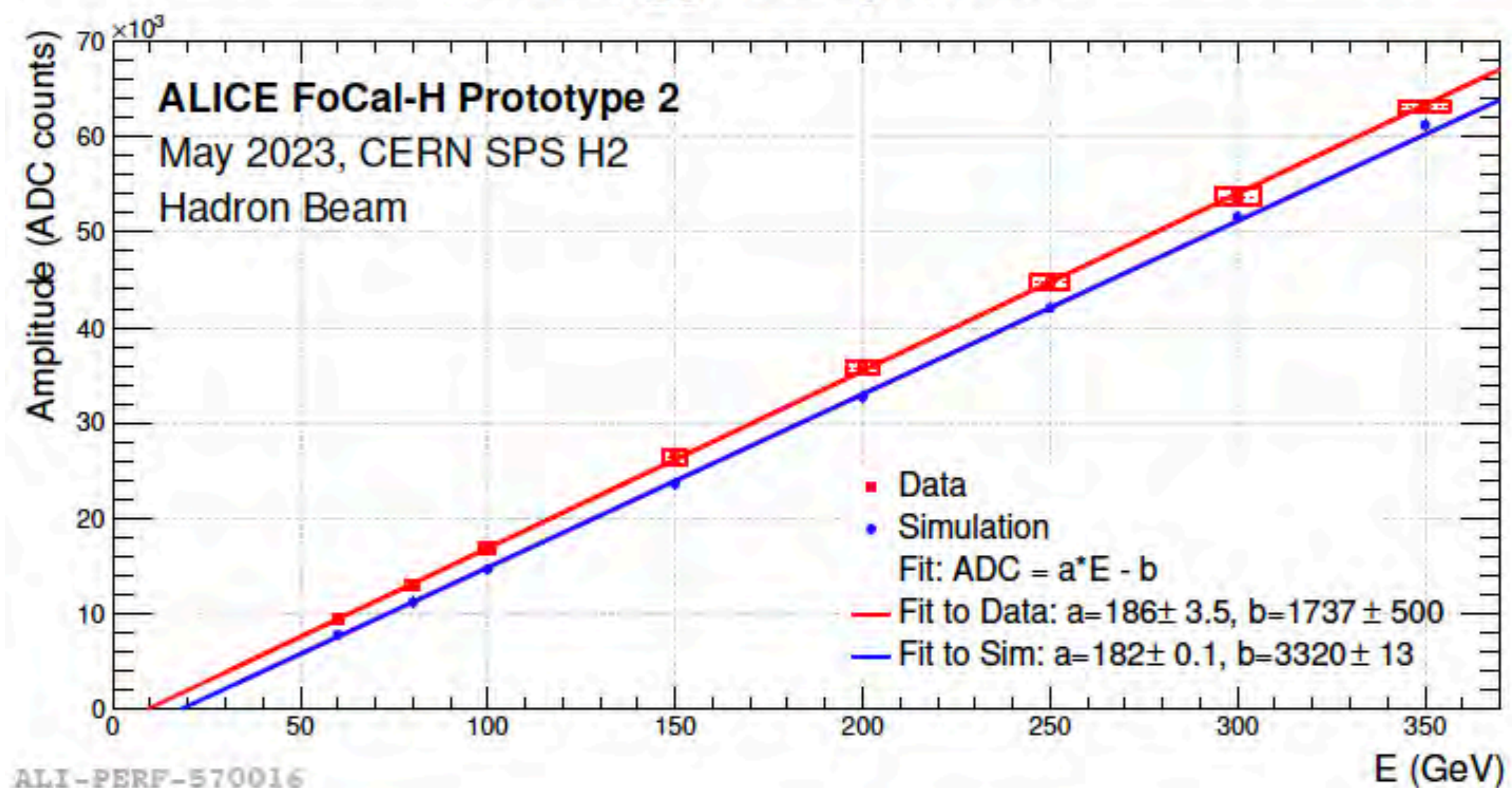


FoCal-H

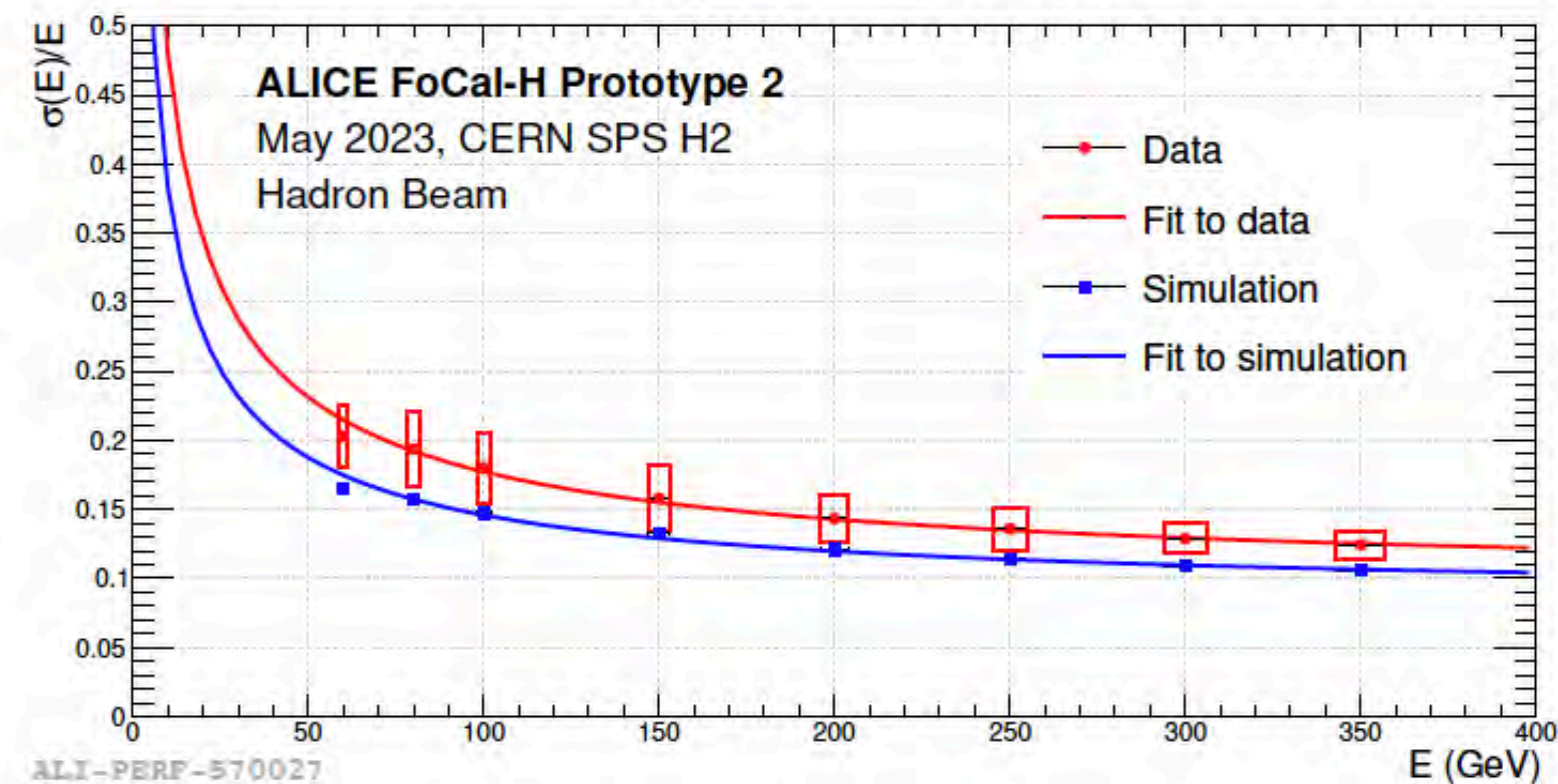
- Performance tested in hadron beam at SPS
- Energy response slope agreement between data and MC
- Energy resolution saturates at $\approx 12\%$
- Slight disagreement with simulation (GEANT4) under investigation



Energy response



Energy resolution



Summary

- FoCal is a crucial new detector to understand QCD and find a clear signal of CGC, exploring a wide kinematic coverage in x - Q^2 is crucial
- FoCal TDR has been approved, moving towards the construction
- Mass production has started in 2024, and physics in LHC Run-4 (2030-2033)
- Major contribution from Japan, India for FoCal
- FoCal provides the lowest x down to $x \sim 10^{-6}$ to detect CGC signal clearly in LHC Run-4!

