

High energy scattering: from weak to strong coupling

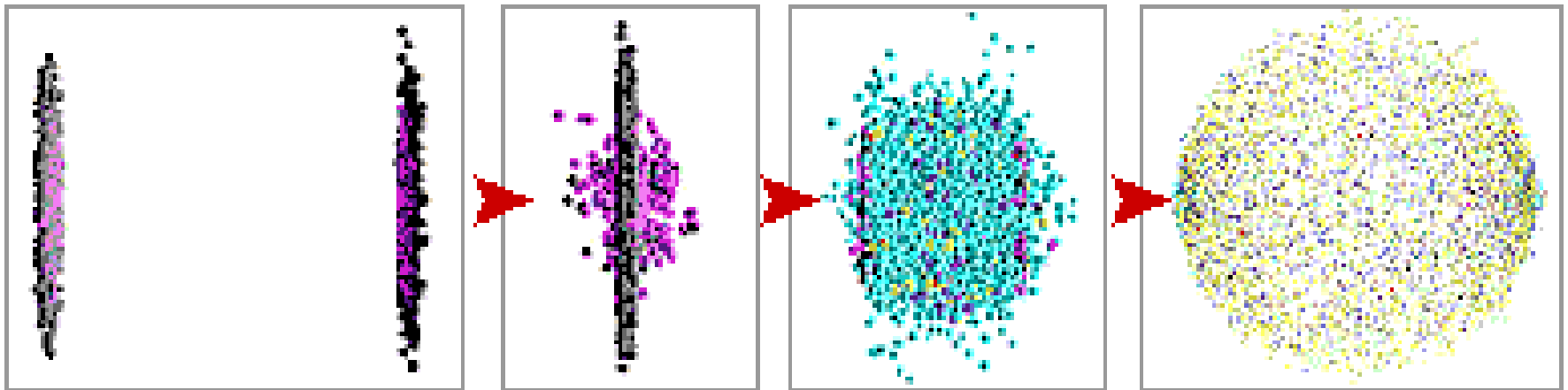
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The Little Bang

■ Ultrarelativistic heavy ion collisions @ RHIC and LHC



■ An invitation to study high-energy scattering in QCD at both weak and strong coupling

Motivation

- Asymptotic freedom
- High-energy QCD
- RHIC
- Space-time picture
- Phases of QCD
- Lattice QCD
- Jets in AA
- Elliptic flow
- Viscosity/entropy

Partons and jets in pQCD

Partons and jets in AdS/CFT

Conclusions

Backup



Asymptotic freedom

- QCD is **weakly coupled** at short distances or high density

$$\alpha_s(Q) \propto \frac{1}{\ln(Q^2/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2)} \quad \text{with} \quad \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \sim 200 \text{ MeV}$$

Motivation

● Asymptotic freedom

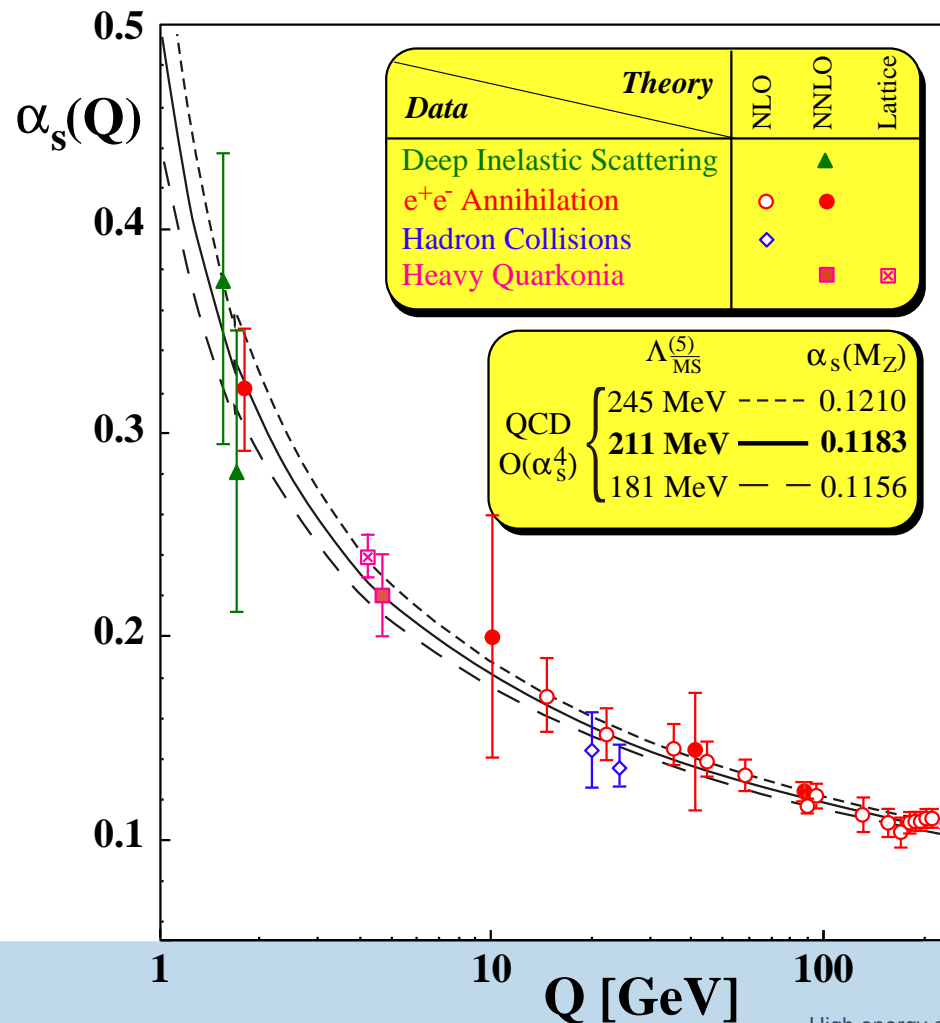
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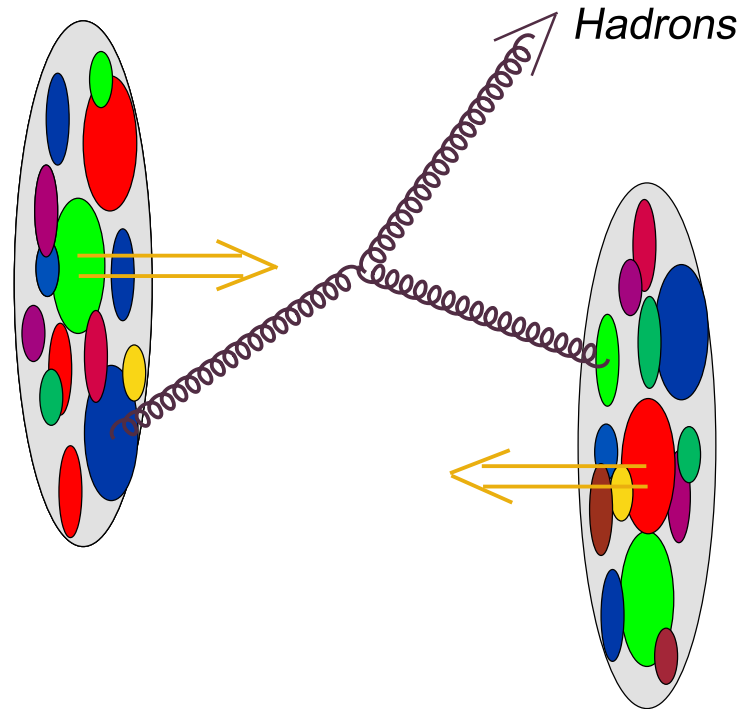
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Early stages of a high-energy collision

- Highly energetic, strongly Lorentz contracted, nuclei: $\gamma \sim 100$



- ◆ RHIC: Au–Au collision at 200 GeV/nucleon pair
- ◆ LHC : 5.5 TeV/nucleon pair in Au–Au and 14 TeV in p–p

- At high energy, hadron wavefunctions are **very dense** !

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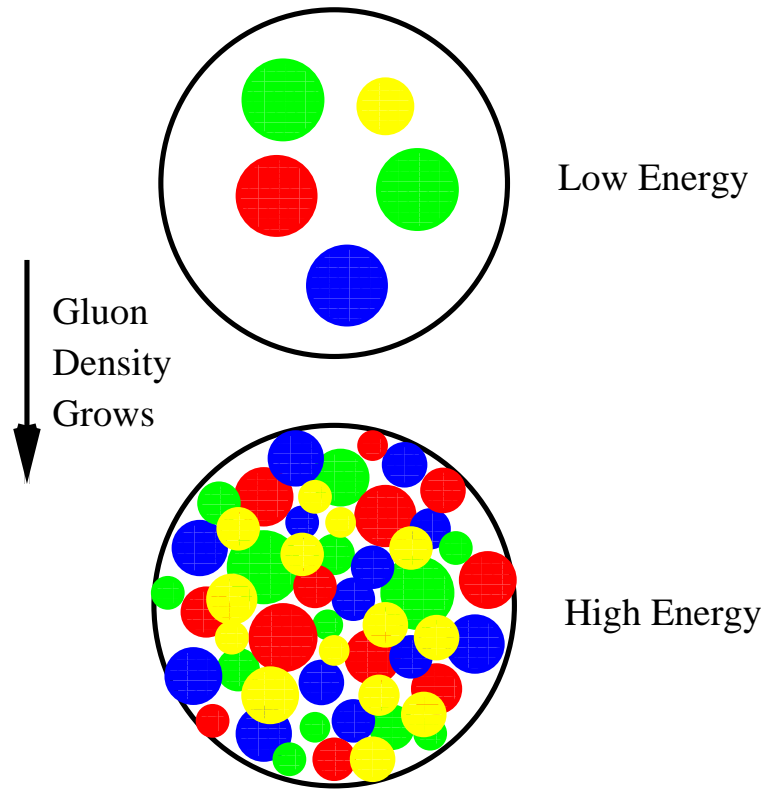
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- Gluon distribution grows very fast with increasing energy



A head-on view of a hadron

- Being dense, the gluonic matter is **weakly coupled** !
Color **G**lass **C**ondensate

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Partons at RHIC

Motivation

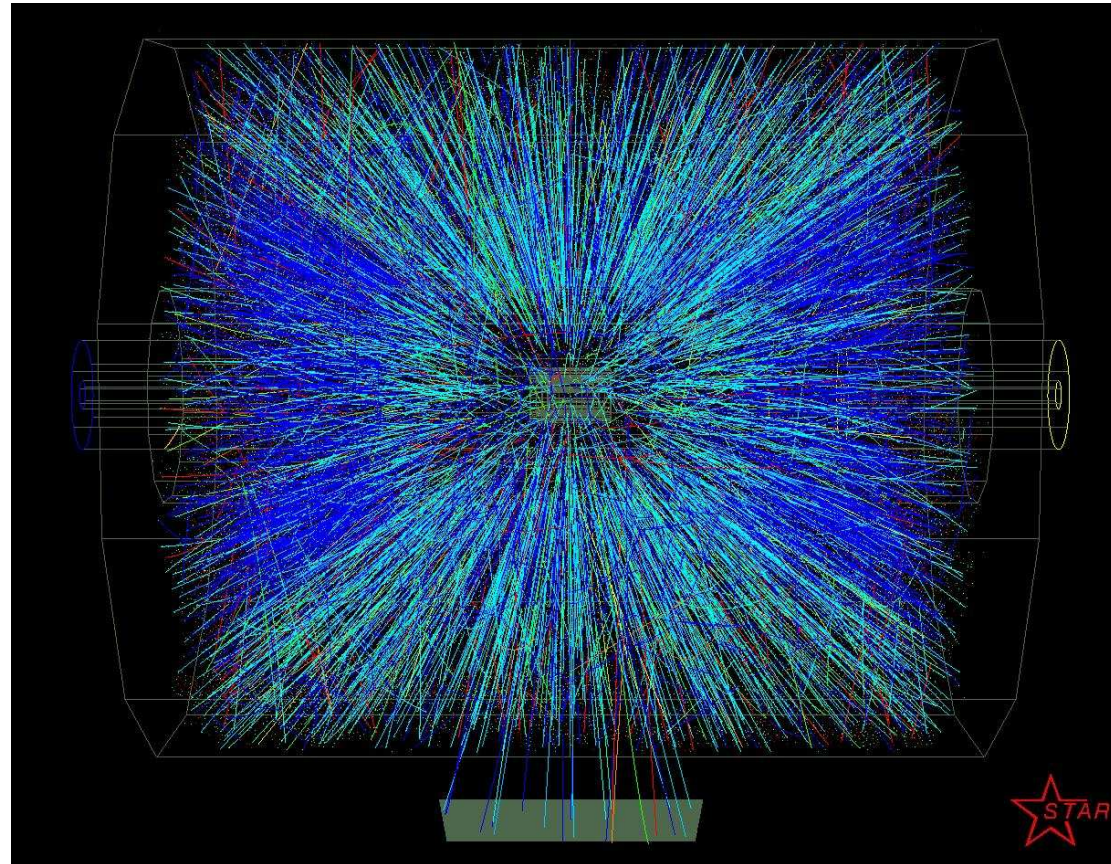
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- Partons are actually ‘seen’ (liberated) in AA collisions
 - ◆ ~ 3000 hadrons in the final state vs. 400 nucleons in AA
 - ◆ most of them arise as hadronized partons

The stages of a heavy ion collision

Motivation

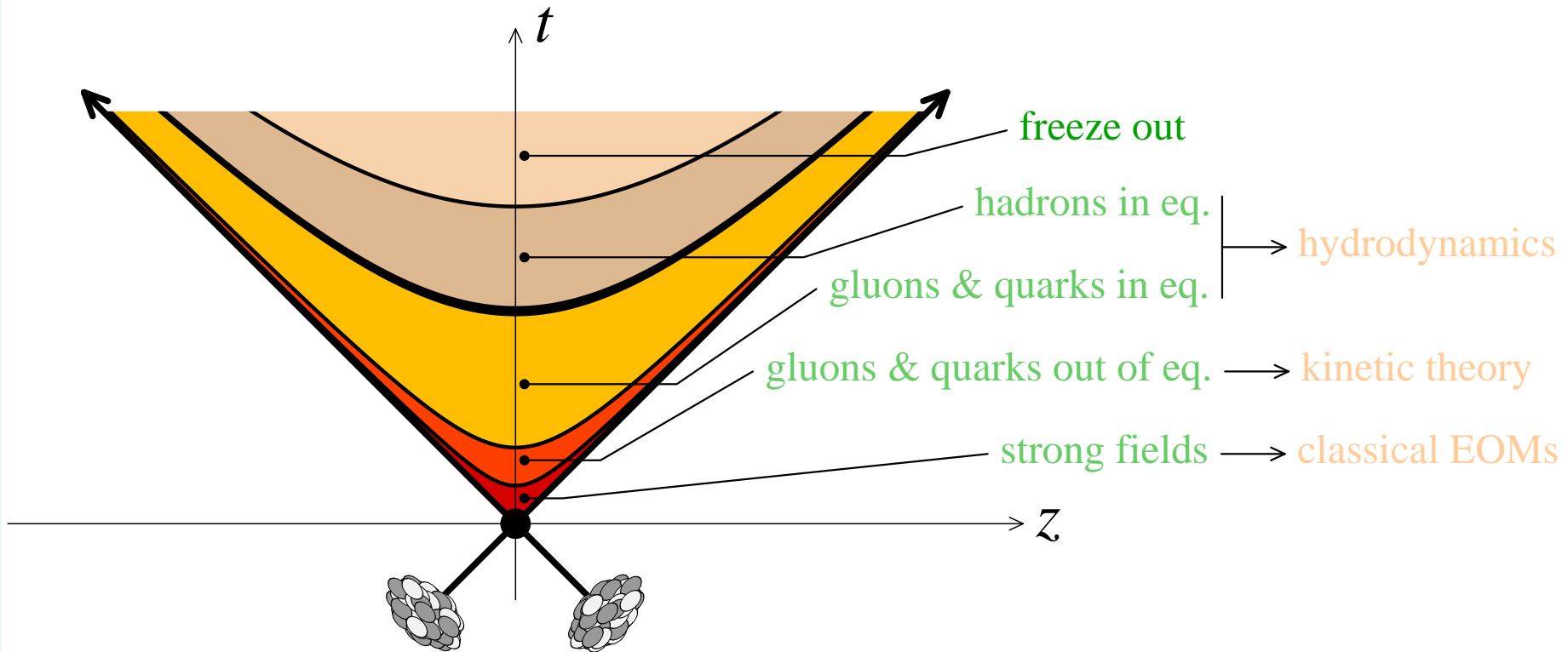
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- Right after the collision: a hot 'soup' of quark and gluons
- Later times: the matter expands and becomes more dilute
- Thermal phase at intermediate times: **Quark Gluon Plasma**

Motivation

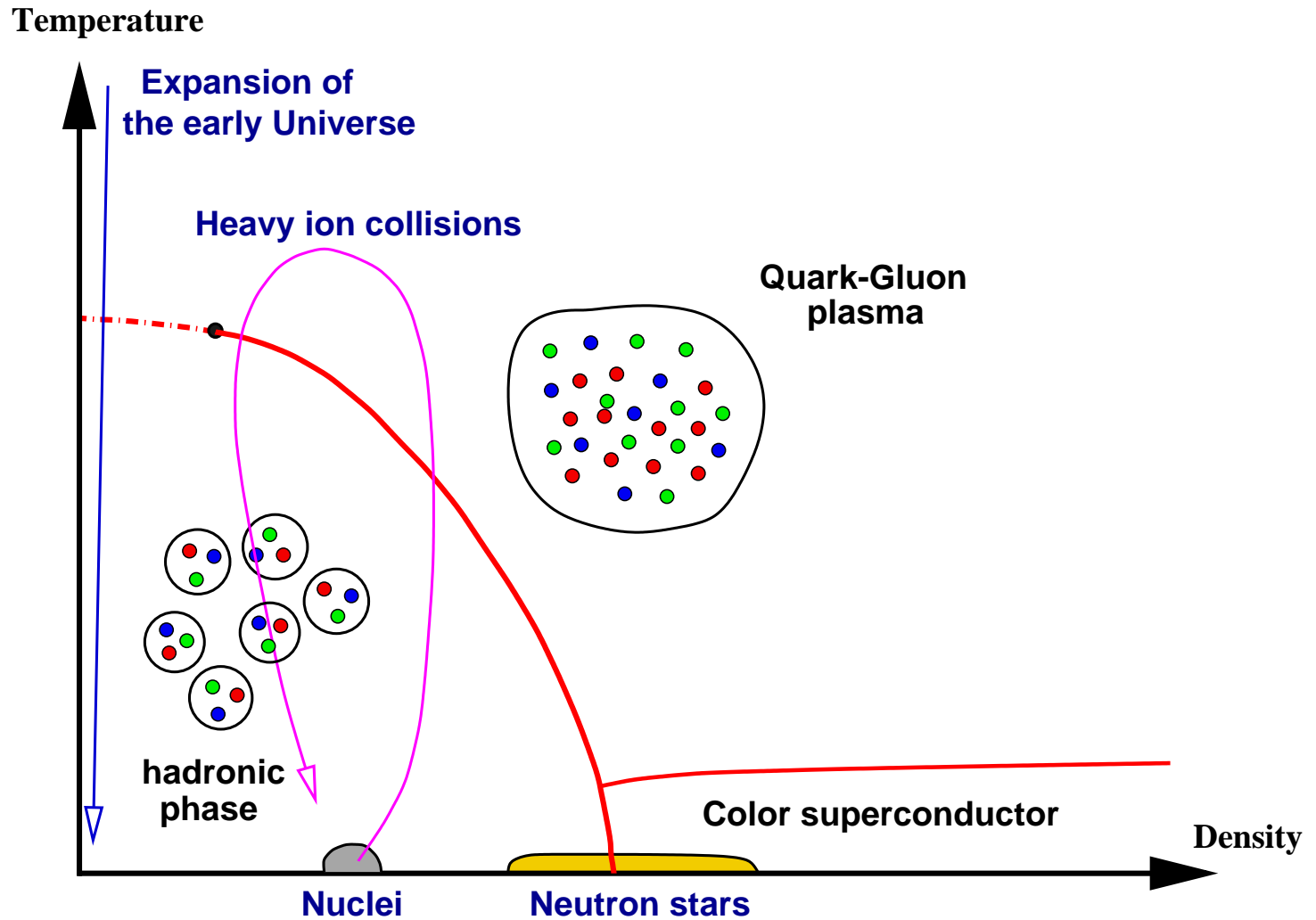
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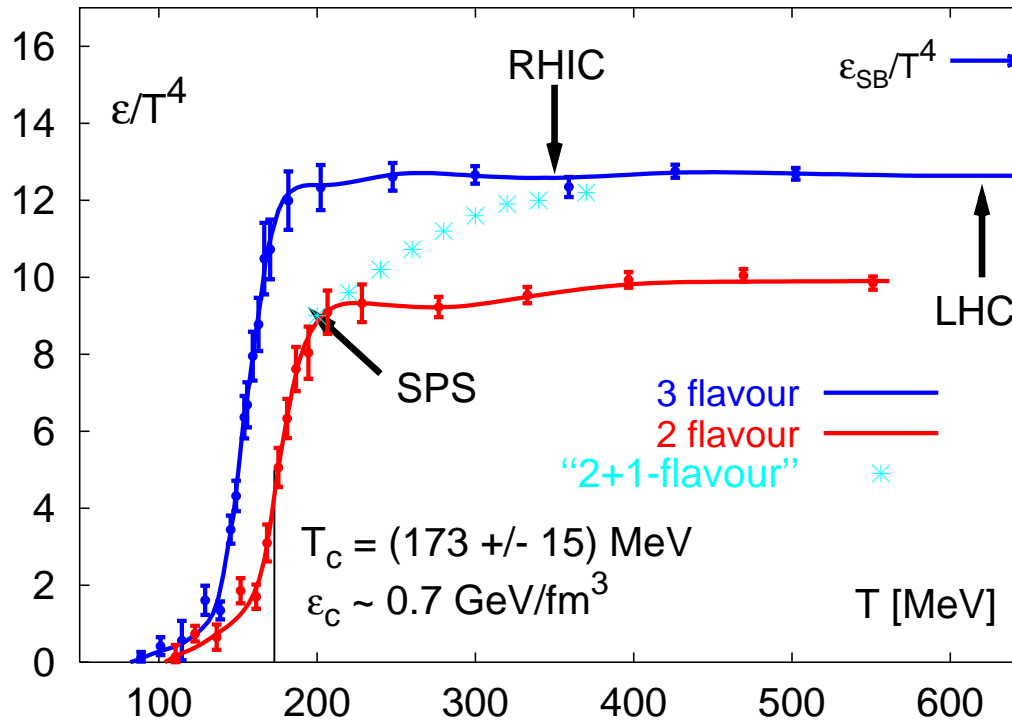
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Heating QCD : Lattice results

■ Energy density as a function of T (Bielefeld Coll.)



$$\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{E}_0 \approx 0.85 \quad \text{for} \quad T = 3T_c$$

■ Is this deviation from ideal gas **small** ? Or is it **large** ?

■ AdS/CFT : $\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{E}_0 \rightarrow 3/4$ when $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ($\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM)

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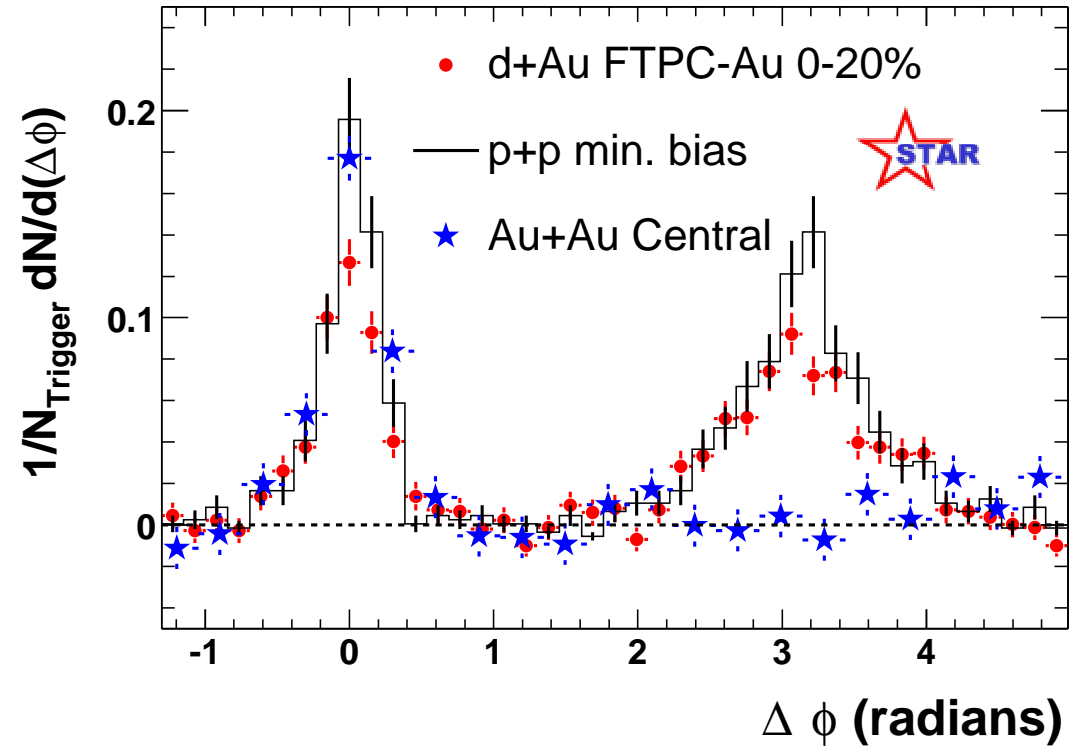
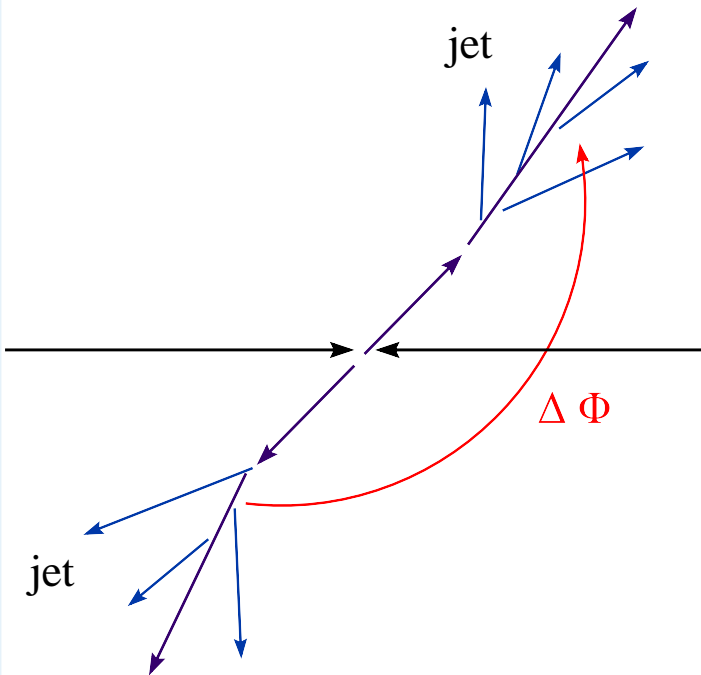
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- Azimuthal correlations between the produced jets:
a peak at $\Delta\Phi = 180^\circ$

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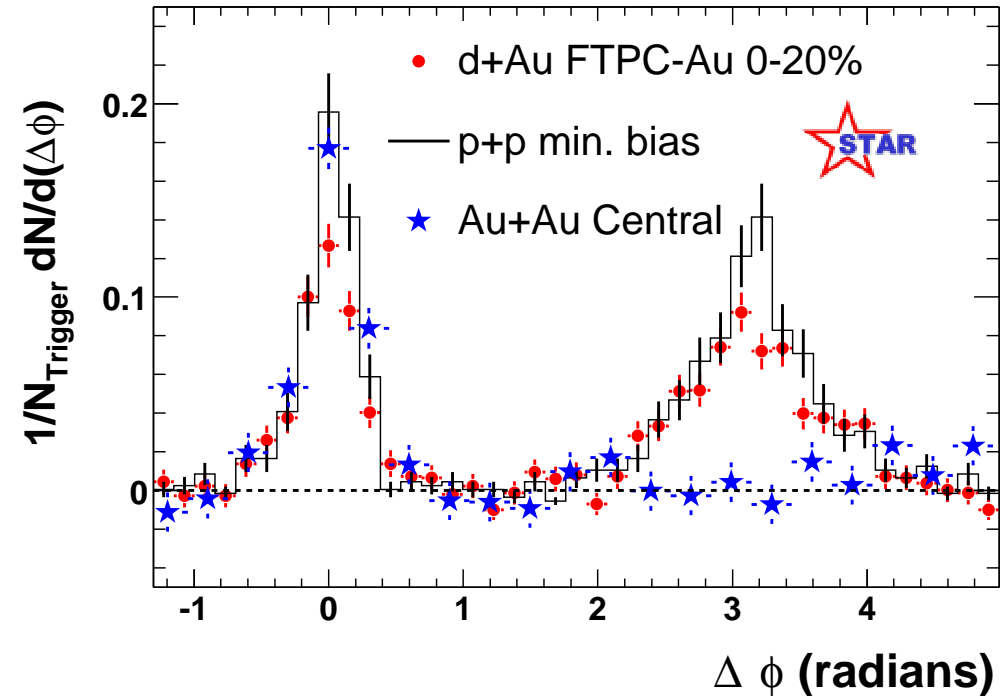
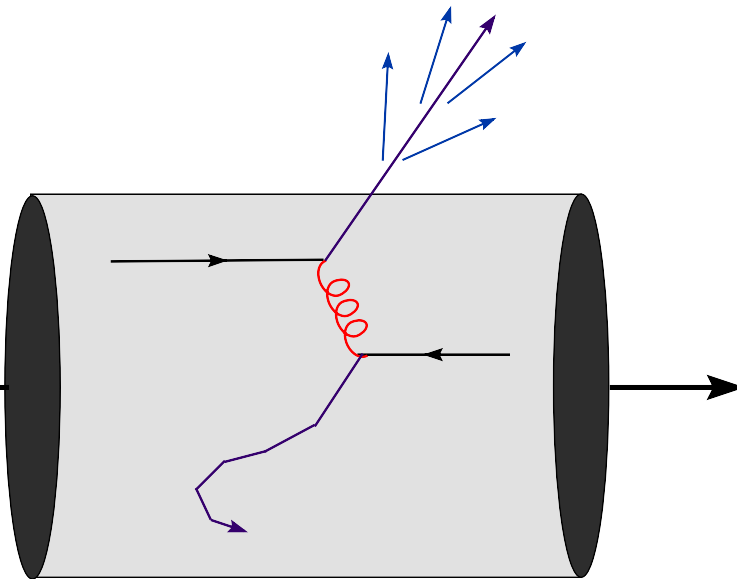
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- The “away–side” jet has disappeared !
absorbtion (or energy loss, or “jet quenching”) in the medium
- The matter produced in a heavy ion collision is **opaque**
high density, strong interactions, ... or both

Elliptic flow at RHIC: The perfect fluid

Motivation

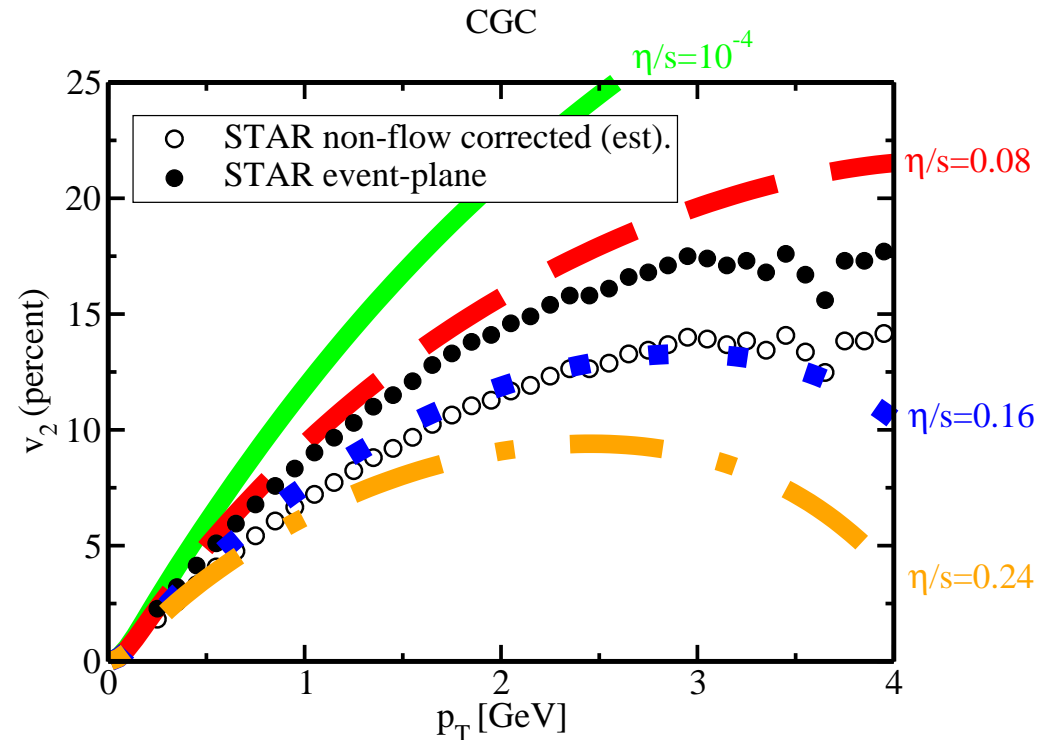
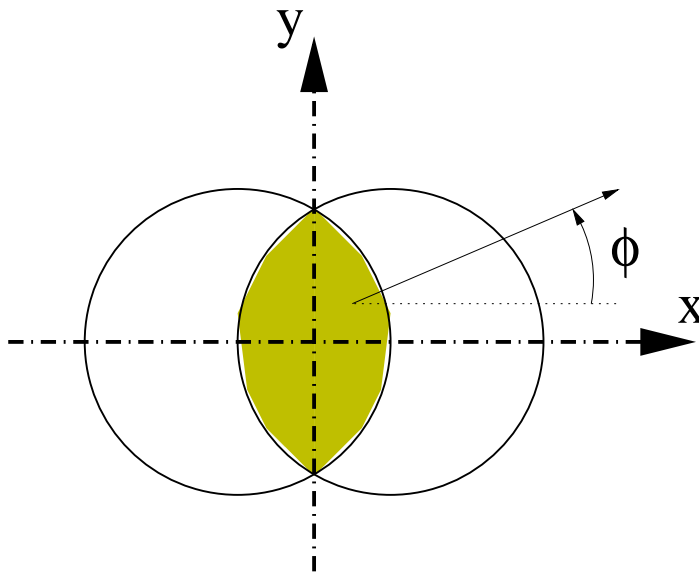
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- Non-central AA collision: Pressure gradient is larger along x

$$\frac{dN}{d\phi} \propto 1 + 2v_2 \cos 2\phi, \quad v_2 = \text{“elliptic flow”}$$

- Well described by hydrodynamical calculations with very small viscosity/entropy ratio: “perfect fluid”



Viscosity over entropy density ratio

- Viscosity/entropy density ratio at RHIC (in units of \hbar)

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = 0.1 \pm 0.1(\text{theor}) \pm 0.08(\text{exp}) [\hbar]$$

- This ratio is **small** when the coupling is **strong** !
- Kinetic theory: viscosity is due to collisions among molecules

$$\eta \sim \rho v l = \text{mass density} \times \text{velocity} \times \text{mean free path}$$

- Conjecture (from AdS/CFT) : *[Kovtun, Son, Starinets, 2003]*

$$\frac{\eta}{s} \geq \frac{\hbar}{4\pi} \quad [\text{lower limit} = \text{infinite coupling}]$$

- The RHIC value is at most **a few times** $\hbar/4\pi$!

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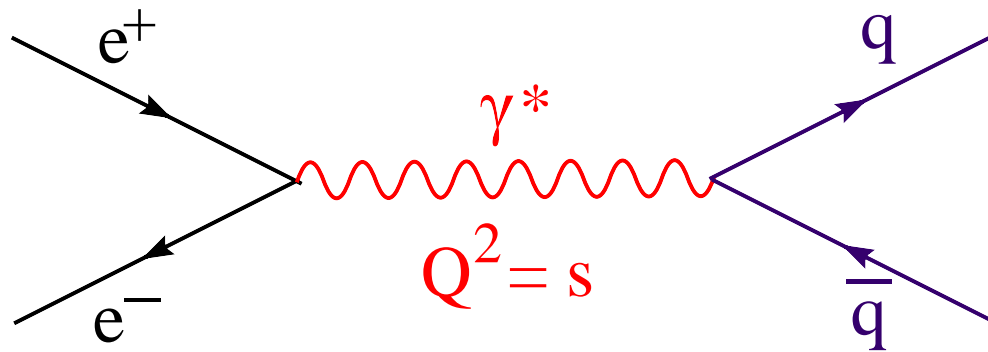
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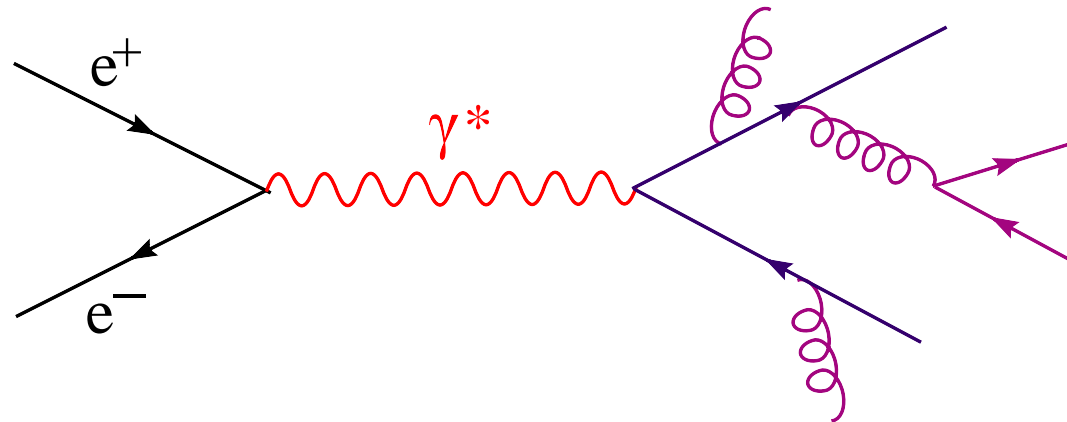
Backup

- How would a **high-energy jet** interact in a strongly coupled plasma ?
- How to **produce** jets in the first place ?
- Guidance from perturbative QCD: $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma^* \rightarrow q\bar{q}$



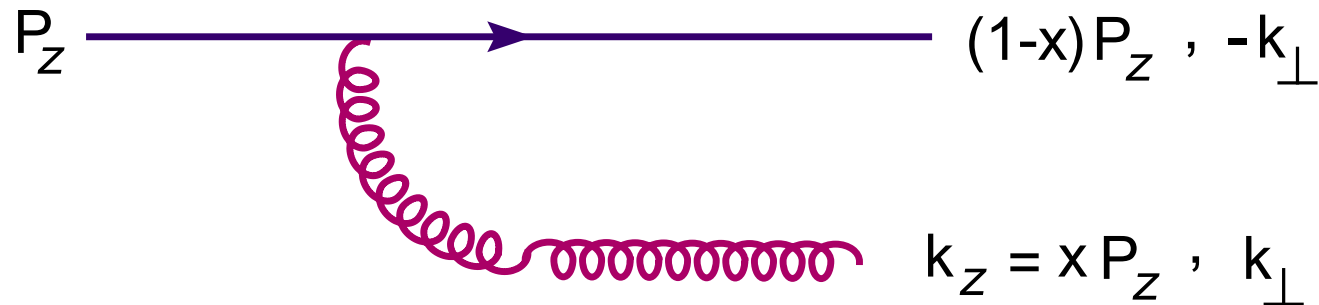
- Decay of a **time-like** photon: $Q^2 \equiv q^\mu q_\mu = s > 0$

- How would a **high-energy jet** interact in a strongly coupled plasma ?
- How to **produce** jets in the first place ?
- Guidance from perturbative QCD: $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma^* \rightarrow q\bar{q}$



- The structure of the final state is determined by
 - ◆ **parton branching & hadronisation**

- Gluon emission to lowest order in perturbative QCD:



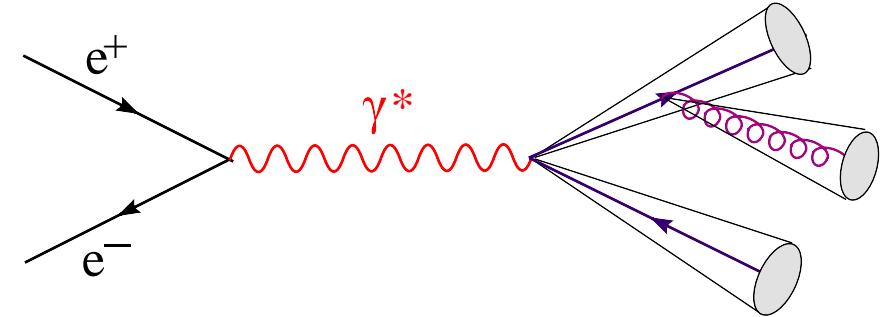
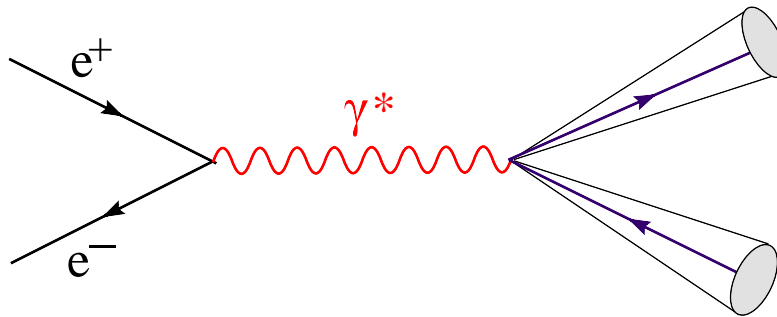
$$d\mathcal{P}_{\text{Brem}} \sim \alpha_s(k_\perp^2) N_c \frac{d^2 k_\perp}{k_\perp^2} \frac{dx}{x}$$

- Phase-space enhancement for the emission of

- ◆ **collinear** ($k_\perp \rightarrow 0$)
- ◆ and/or **soft** ($x \rightarrow 0$) gluons

- Parton lifetime (or 'gluon formation time') : $\Delta t \sim \frac{k_z}{k_\perp^2}$

- e+e-
- Bremsstrahlung
- **Jets**
- 3-jet
- Optical theorem
- Current correlator
- DIS
- F2
- Parton evolution
- Gluons at HERA
- Gluons at RHIC
- Saturation momentum



■ Few, well collimated, jets

■ e^+e^- cross-section computable in perturbation theory

$$\sigma(s) = \sigma_{\text{QED}} \times \left(3 \sum_f e_f^2 \right) \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_s(s)}{\pi} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2(s)) \right)$$

σ_{QED} : cross-section for $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$

■ Multi-jet ($n \geq 3$) events appear, but are comparatively rare



3-jet event at OPAL (CERN)

Motivation

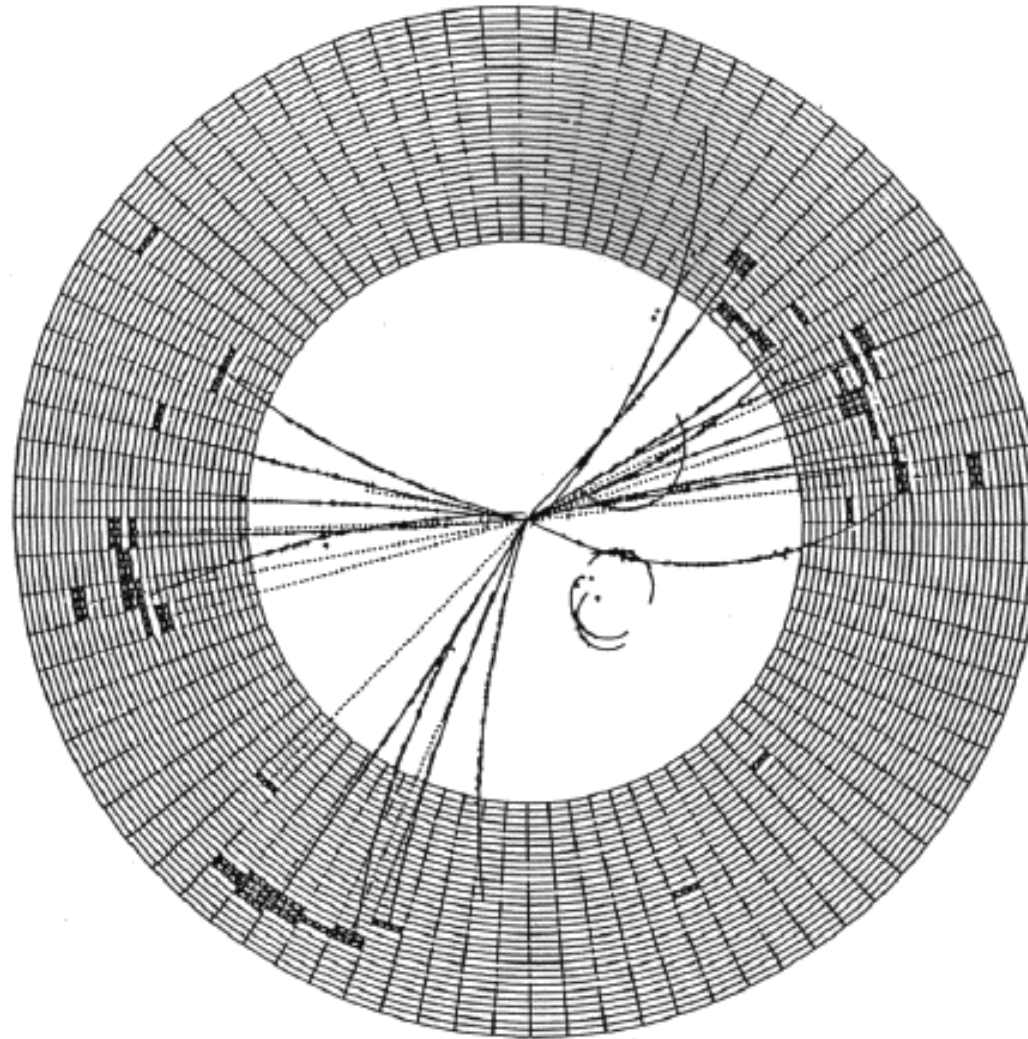
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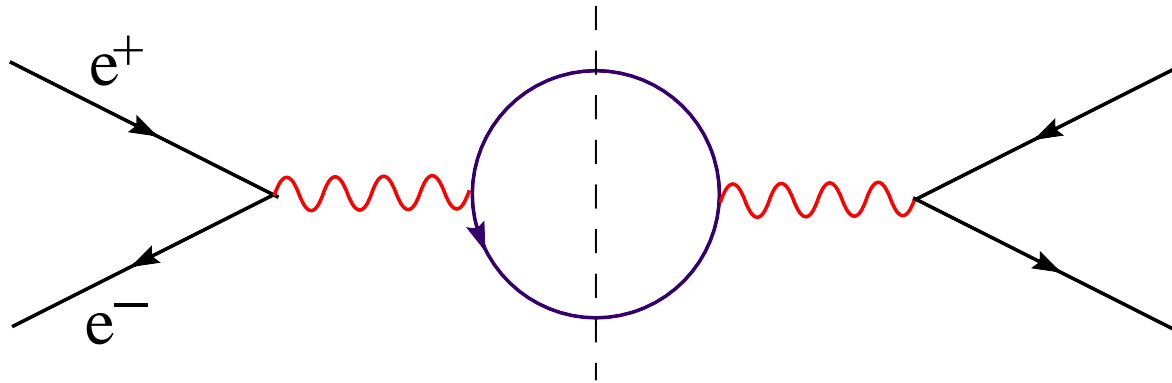
Backup



*** SUMS (GEV) *** PTOT 35.768 PTRANS 29.964 PLONG 15.700 CHARGE -2
TOTAL CLUSTER ENERGY 15.169 PHOTON ENERGY 4.893 NR OF PHOTONS 11

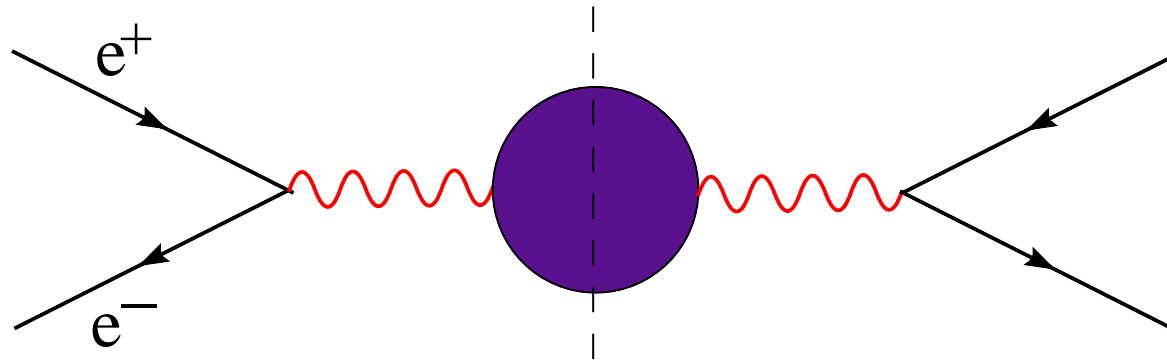
- Total cross-section given by the **optical theorem**

$$\sigma(e^+e^-) = \frac{1}{2s} \ell^{\mu\nu} \text{Im} \Pi_{\mu\nu}(q)$$



- The quark loop: The vacuum **polarization tensor** $\Pi_{\mu\nu}$ for a **time-like** photon (here, evaluated at **one-loop** order)
- This can be generalized to **all-orders**

$$\sigma(e^+e^-) = \frac{1}{2s} \ell^{\mu\nu} \text{Im} \Pi_{\mu\nu}(q)$$



- $\Pi_{\mu\nu}$ = current-current correlator to all orders in QCD

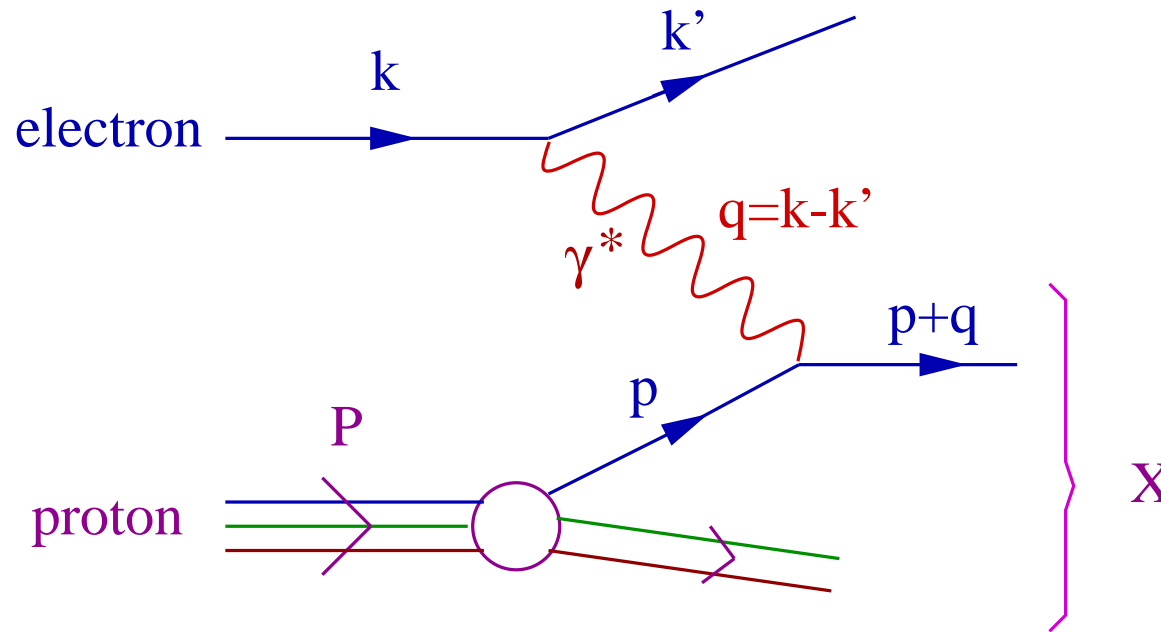
$$\Pi_{\mu\nu}(q) \equiv i \int d^4x e^{-iq \cdot x} \langle 0 | T \{ J_\mu(x) J_\nu(0) \} | 0 \rangle$$

$$J^\mu = \sum_f e_f \bar{q}_f \gamma^\mu q_f : \text{quark electromagnetic current}$$

- Valid to leading order in α_{em} but **all orders in α_s**

- e+e-
- Bremsstrahlung
- Jets
- 3-jet
- Optical theorem
- Current correlator

- F2
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- **Space-like current:** $Q^2 \equiv -q^\mu q_\mu \geq 0$ and $x \equiv \frac{Q^2}{2P \cdot q}$
- **Physical picture:** γ^* absorbed by a quark excitation with
 - ◆ transverse size $\Delta x_\perp \sim 1/Q$
 - ◆ and longitudinal momentum $p_z = xP$

The proton structure function

Motivation

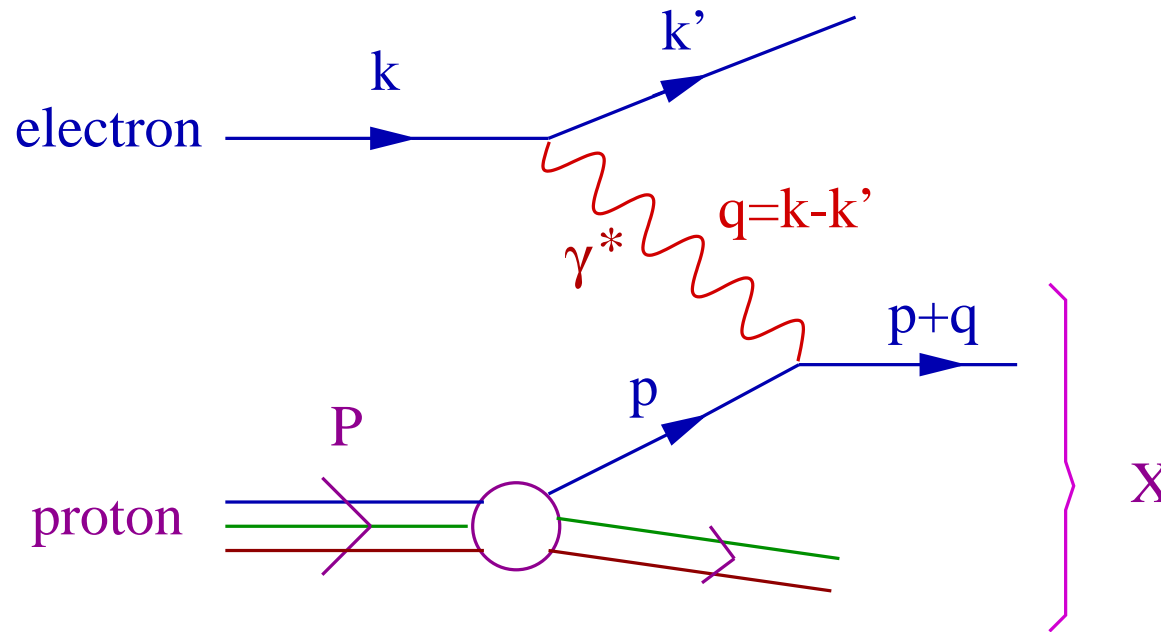
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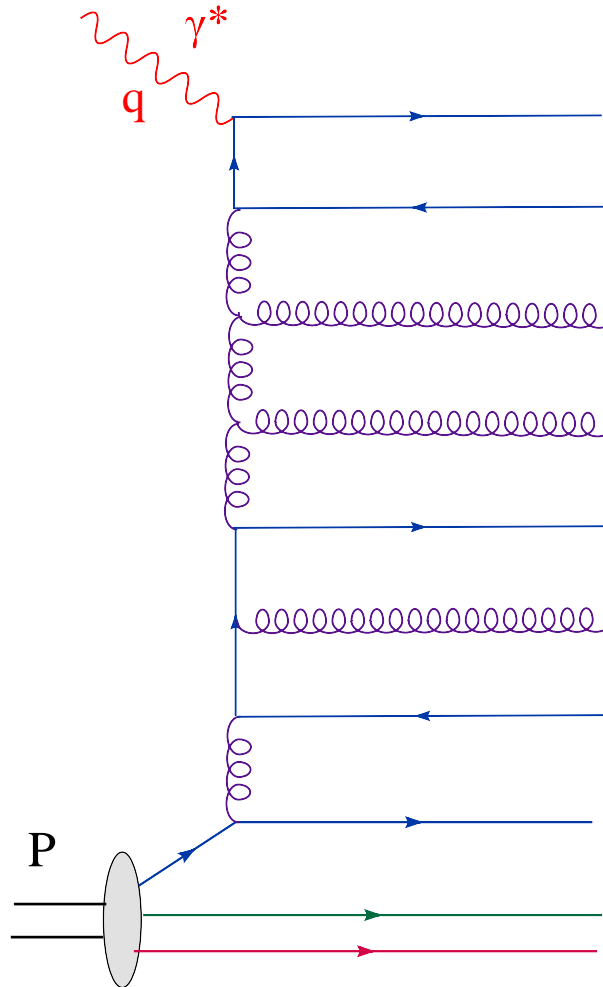


$$\sigma_{\gamma^* p}(x, Q^2) = \frac{4\pi^2 \alpha_{em}}{Q^2} F_2(x, Q^2)$$

- $F_2(x, Q^2)$: 'quark distribution' = number of quarks with longitudinal momentum fraction x and transverse area $1/Q^2$

Parton evolution in pQCD

- Gluons are **implicitly** seen in DIS, via **parton evolution**



$$d\mathcal{P}_{g \rightarrow g} \sim \alpha_s N_c \frac{d^2 k_{\perp}}{k_{\perp}^2} \frac{dx}{x}$$

$$d\mathcal{P}_{q \rightarrow g} \sim \alpha_s C_F \frac{d^2 k_{\perp}}{k_{\perp}^2} \frac{dx}{x}$$

$$d\mathcal{P}_{q \rightarrow q} \sim \alpha_s C_F \frac{d^2 k_{\perp}}{k_{\perp}^2} \frac{dx}{1-x}$$

- Bremsstrahlung favors the emission of gluons with $x \ll 1$

Motivation

Partons and jets in pQCD

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● Parton evolution

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Partons and jets in AdS/CFT

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$xg(x, Q^2)$ = # of gluons with transverse area $\sim 1/Q^2$ and $k_z = xP$

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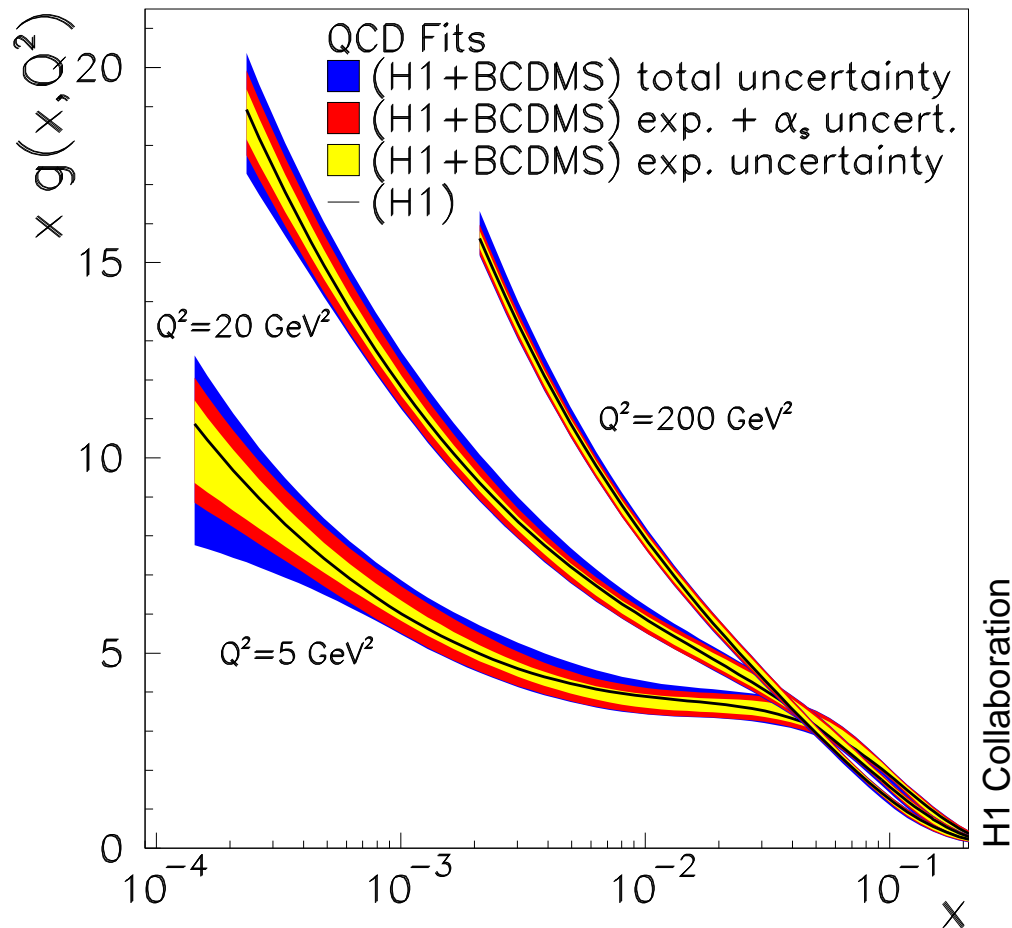
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▷ Rapid rise with $1/x$: $xg(x, Q^2) \sim 1/x^\lambda$ with $\lambda = 0.2 \div 0.3$

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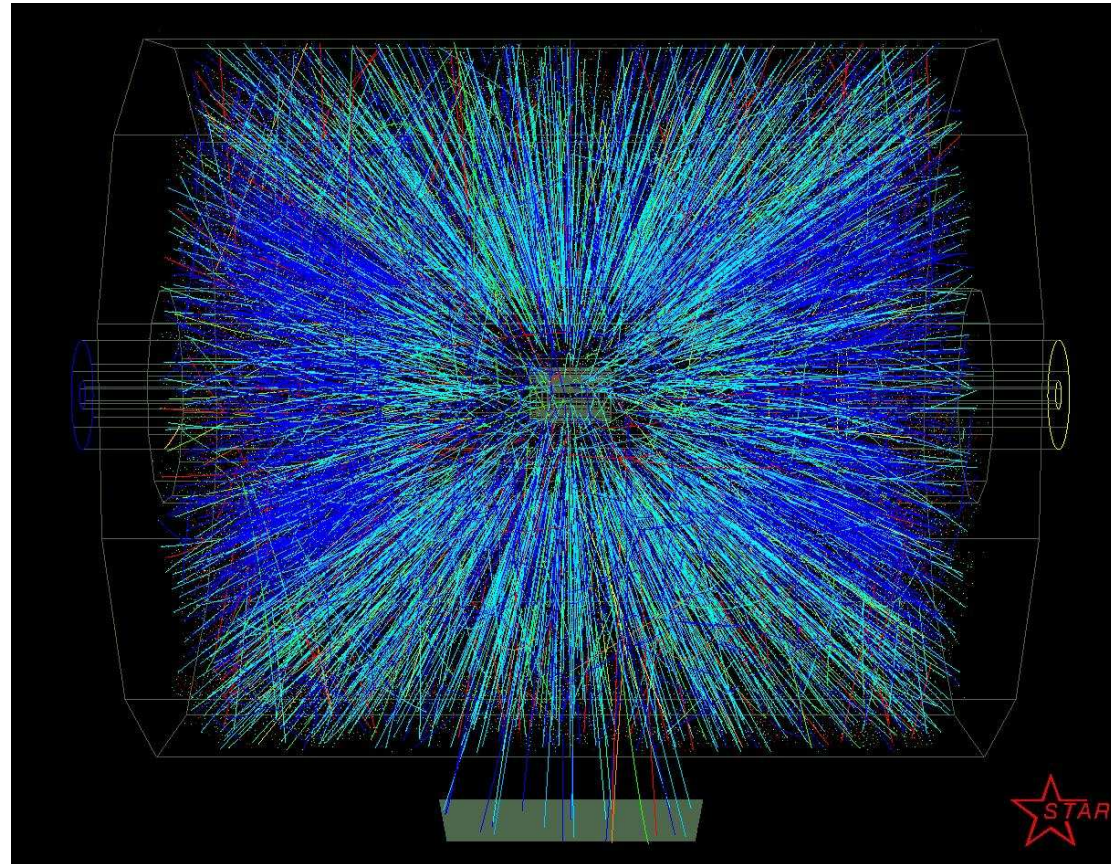
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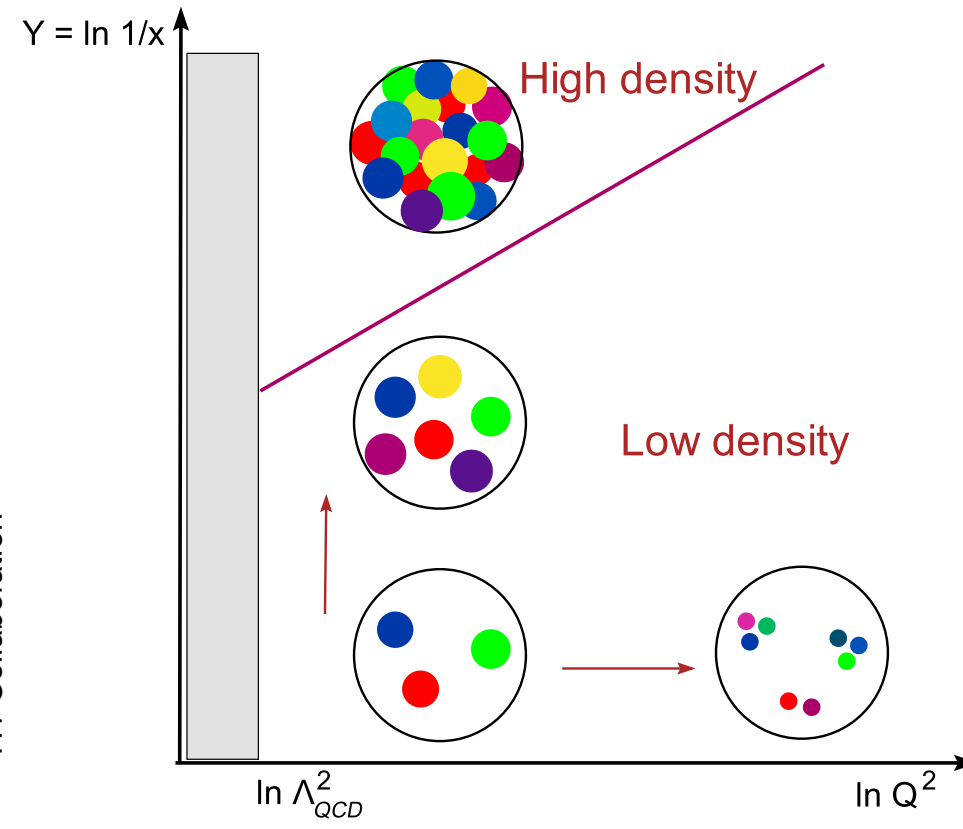
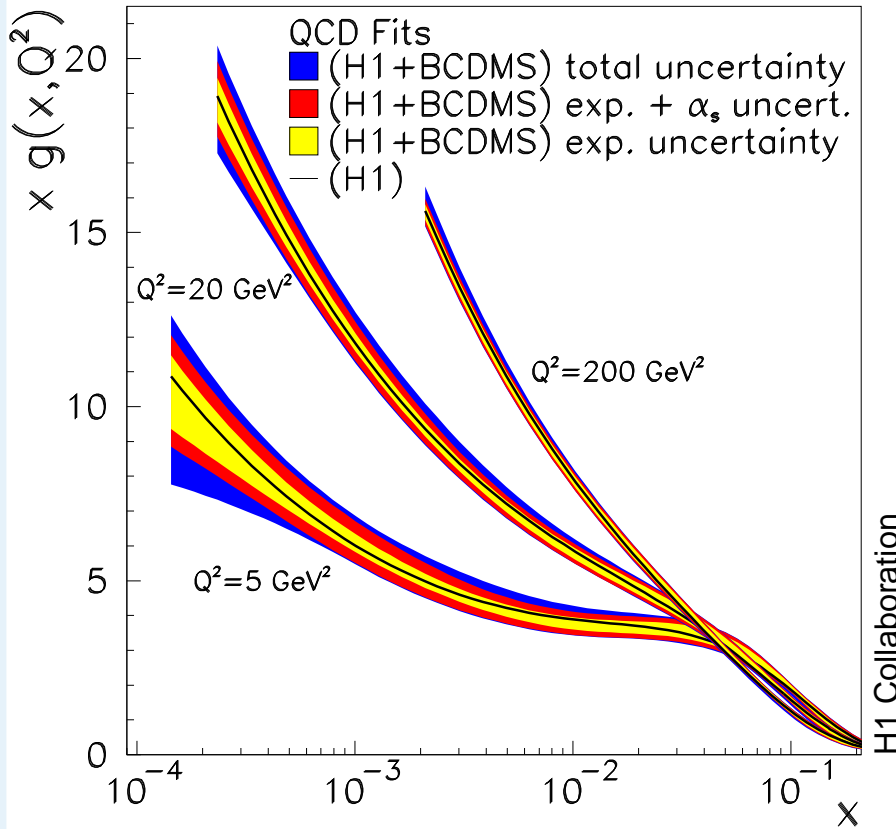
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- Partons are actually ‘seen’ (liberated) in the high energy hadron–hadron collisions
 - ◆ central rapidity: small- x partons
 - ◆ forward/backward rapidities: large- x partons

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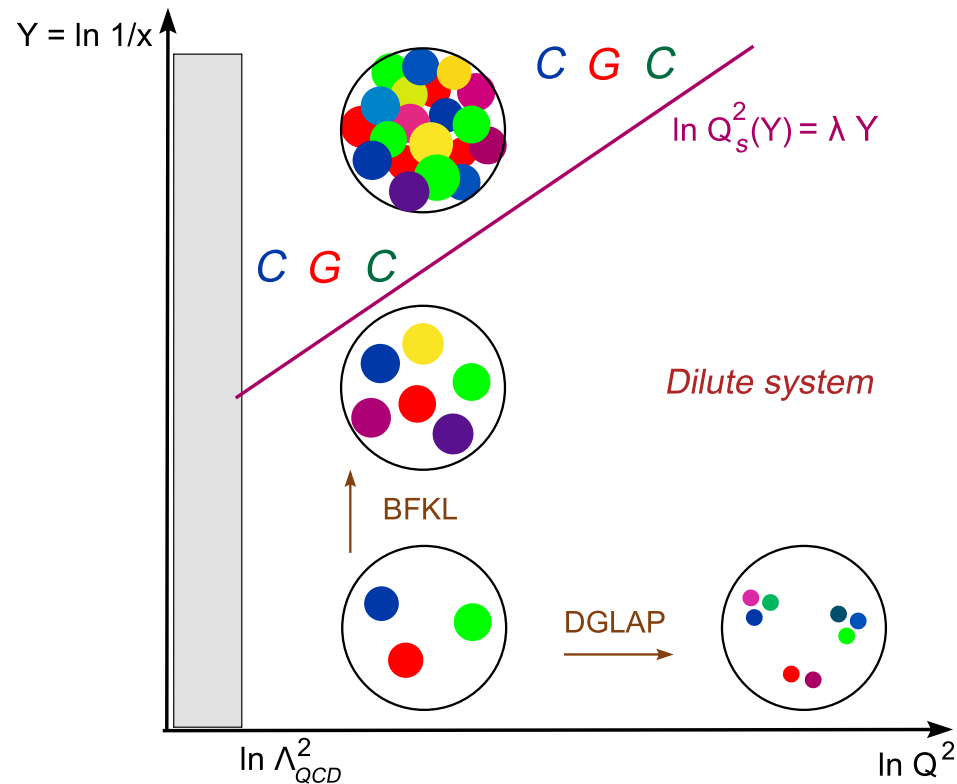


- High- Q^2 evolution : The parton density is decreasing
- Small- x evolution: An evolution towards increasing density
- The gluon density cannot become arbitrarily high !

Color Glass Condensate

- The gluon occupation number cannot be larger than $1/\alpha_s$:

$$n(x, Q^2) \sim \frac{1}{Q^2} \times \frac{xG(x, Q^2)}{\pi R^2}$$



- When $n \sim 1/\alpha_s$, gluons form a Bose condensate: **CGC**

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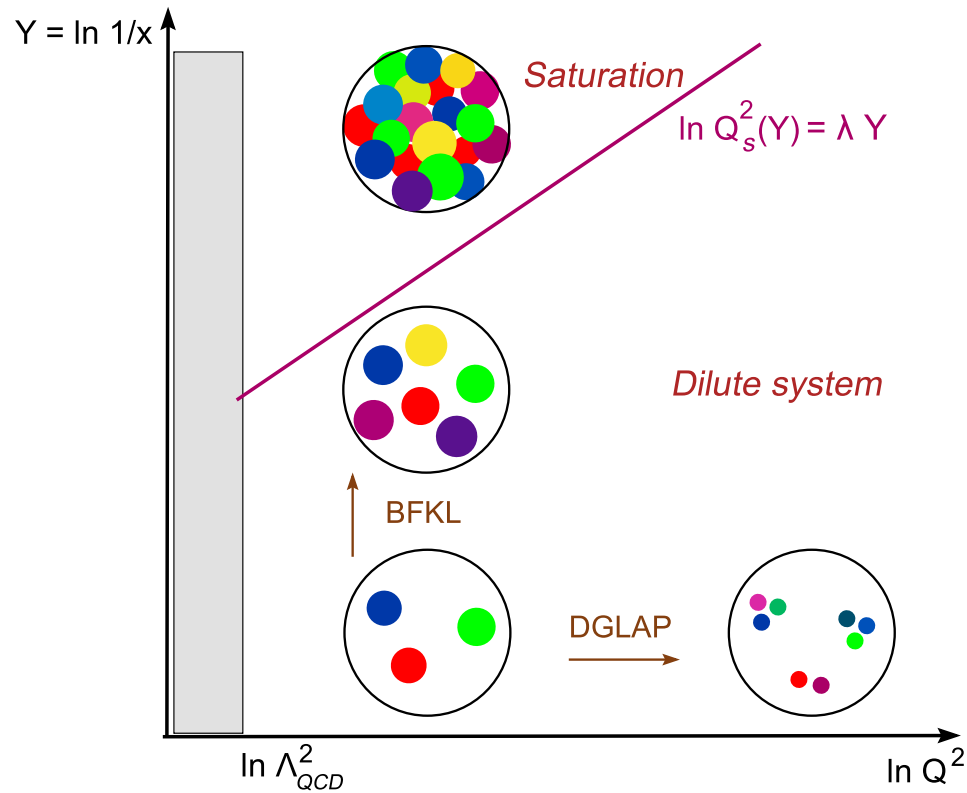
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The Saturation Momentum

■ $n(x, Q^2) \sim 1/\alpha_s \implies$ the saturation line $Q^2 = Q_s^2(x)$

$$Q_s^2(x) \simeq \alpha_s \frac{xG(x, Q_s^2)}{\pi R^2} \sim \frac{1}{x^{\lambda_s}}$$



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Electromagnetic current in a plasma

- Thermal expectation value (retarded polarization tensor) :

$$\Pi_{\mu\nu}(q) \equiv \int d^4x e^{-iq \cdot x} i\theta(x_0) \langle [J_\mu(x), J_\nu(0)] \rangle_T$$

- ‘Hard probe’ : large virtuality $Q^2 \equiv |q^2| \gg T^2$
 - ◆ time-like current ($q^2 > 0$) : jets
 - ◆ space-like current ($q^2 < 0$) : DIS, partons
- Strong coupling \implies AdS/CFT correspondence
- A ‘cousin’ of QCD: $\mathcal{N} = 4$ Super Yang–Mills theory
 - ◆ conformal invariance: coupling is fixed !
 - ◆ no confinement, no fundamental quarks ...

Motivation

Partons and jets in pQCD

Partons and jets in AdS/CFT

● Current in a plasma

- AdS/CFT
- Black Hole
- Holography
- Space-like
- Partonic fluctuation
- High energy
- Saturation momentum
- DIS: Large x
- Small-x partons
- Saturation line
- Jet quenching
- Isotropy

Conclusions

Backup



A Gauge/Gravity duality (Maldacena, 1997)

- A conformal gauge field theory in $D = 4$: $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

- Type IIB string theory living in $D = 10$: $AdS_5 \times S^5$

$$ds^2 = \frac{R^2}{\chi^2} (-dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2) + \frac{R^2}{\chi^2} d\chi^2 + R^2 d\Omega_5^2$$

- ◆ $0 \leq \chi < \infty$: 'radial', or '5th', coordinate

- ◆ gauge theory lives at the Minkowski boundary $\chi = 0$

- Strong 't Hooft coupling (more properly, $N_c \rightarrow \infty$):

$\lambda \equiv g^2 N_c \gg 1$ with $g^2 \ll 1 \implies$ classical supergravity

(no massive string excitations, no string loops)

- Generating functional for the correlations of an operator $\hat{\mathcal{O}}$

$$\langle e^{i \int d^4 x \hat{\mathcal{O}} \phi} \rangle_{4D} \approx e^{i S_{\text{SUGRA}}[\phi_{cl}]} \quad \text{with} \quad \phi_{cl}(x, \chi = 0) = \phi(x)$$

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Partons and jets in AdS/CFT

● Current in a plasma

● AdS/CFT

● Black Hole

● Holography

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Heating AdS_5

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM at finite temperature \iff Black Hole in AdS_5

$$ds^2 = \frac{R^2}{\chi^2} (-f(\chi)dt^2 + d\mathbf{x}^2) + \frac{R^2}{\chi^2 f(\chi)} d\chi^2 + R^2 d\Omega_5^2$$

where $f(\chi) = 1 - (\chi/\chi_0)^4$ and $\chi_0 = 1/\pi T = \text{BH horizon}$

- **Example:** compute the plasma entropy density for $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$
- The black hole entropy: Bekenstein–Hawking formula

$$S_{\text{BH}} = \frac{A}{4G} \quad \text{with } A = \text{horizon area}$$

- ... is identified with the entropy of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ plasma:

$$\implies s \equiv \frac{S_{\text{BH}}}{V_{3D}} = \frac{\pi^2}{2} N_c^2 T^3 = \frac{3}{4} s_0$$

Motivation

Partons and jets in pQCD

Partons and jets in AdS/CFT

● Current in a plasma

● AdS/CFT

● Black Hole

● Holography

● Space-like

● Partonic fluctuation

● High energy

● Saturation momentum

● DIS: Large x

● Small-x partons

● Saturation line

● Jet quenching

● Isotropy

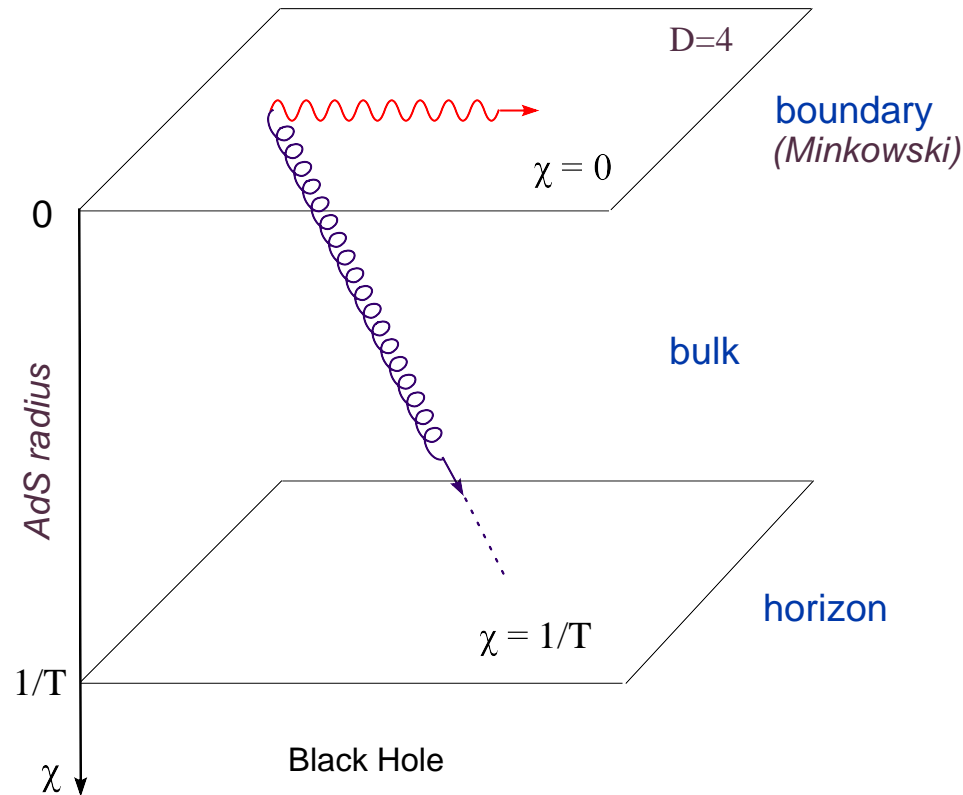
Conclusions

Backup

DIS off the Black Hole

(Polchinski, Strassler, 02; Hatta, E.I., Mueller, 07)

- Abelian current J_μ in 4D \longleftrightarrow Maxwell wave A_μ in AdS_5 BH
- $\text{Im } \Pi_{\mu\nu} \longleftrightarrow$ absorption of the wave by the BH
- Maxwell equations in a curved space-time



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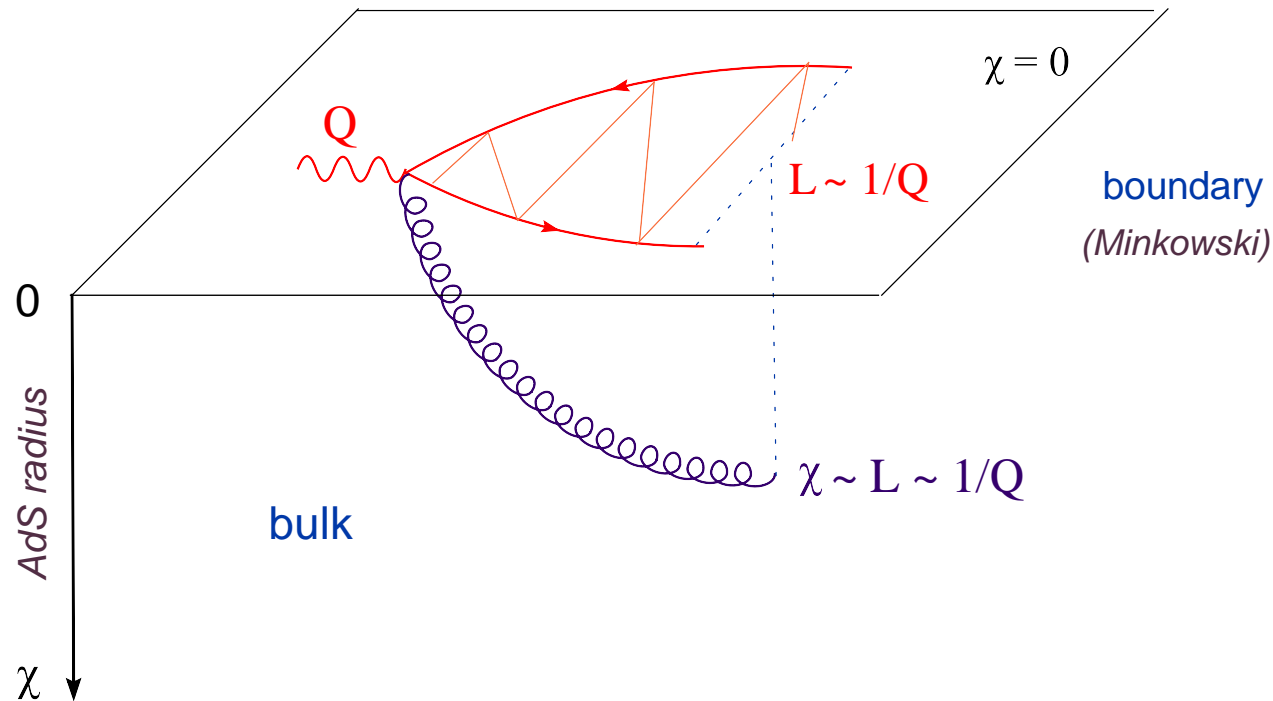
● Isotropy

Conclusions

Backup

The Holographic principle

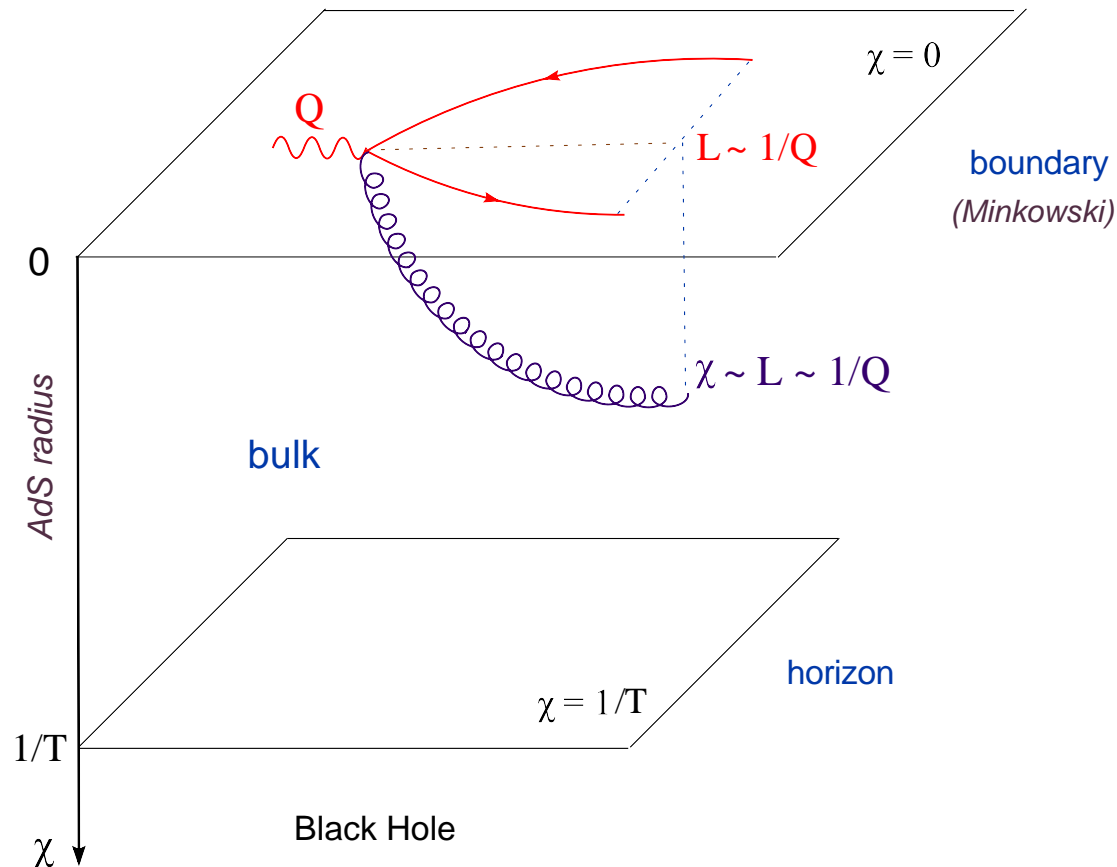
- ‘Holography’ : A quantum field theory in $D = 3 + 1 \iff$
A theory with gravitation in higher dimensions



- Rôle of the 5th dimension: **a reservoir of quantum flucts.**
- Radial penetration χ of the wave packet in $AdS_5 \iff$
transverse size L of the partonic fluctuation on the boundary

Space-like current with $Q \gg T$

- The wave gets stuck near the boundary: $\chi \lesssim 1/Q \ll 1/T$



- Gravity calculation: Potential barrier proportional to Q

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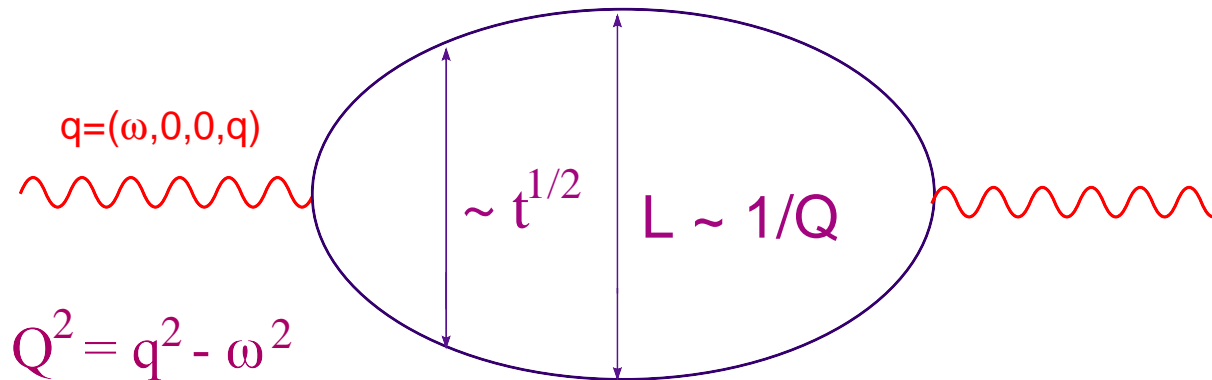
● Isotropy

Conclusions

Backup

Interpretation: Partonic fluctuation

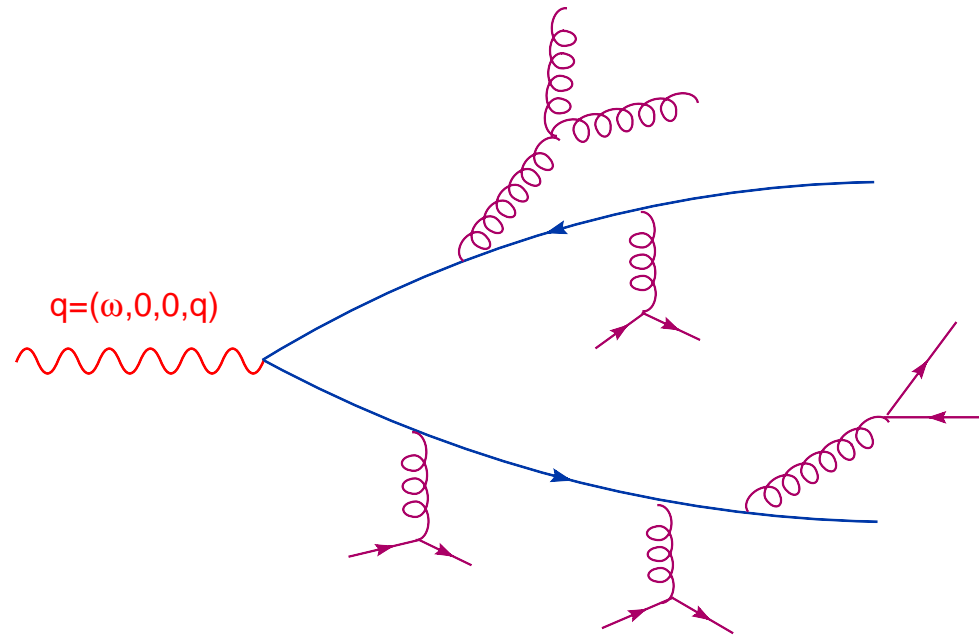
- By energy–momentum conservation, a **space–like** current cannot decay (in the vacuum)
- It can develop a **virtual** partonic fluctuation



- By uncertainty principle, this has a **transverse size** $L \sim 1/Q$

and a lifetime $\Delta t \sim \frac{1}{Q} \times \frac{\omega}{Q} \sim \frac{\omega}{Q^2}$

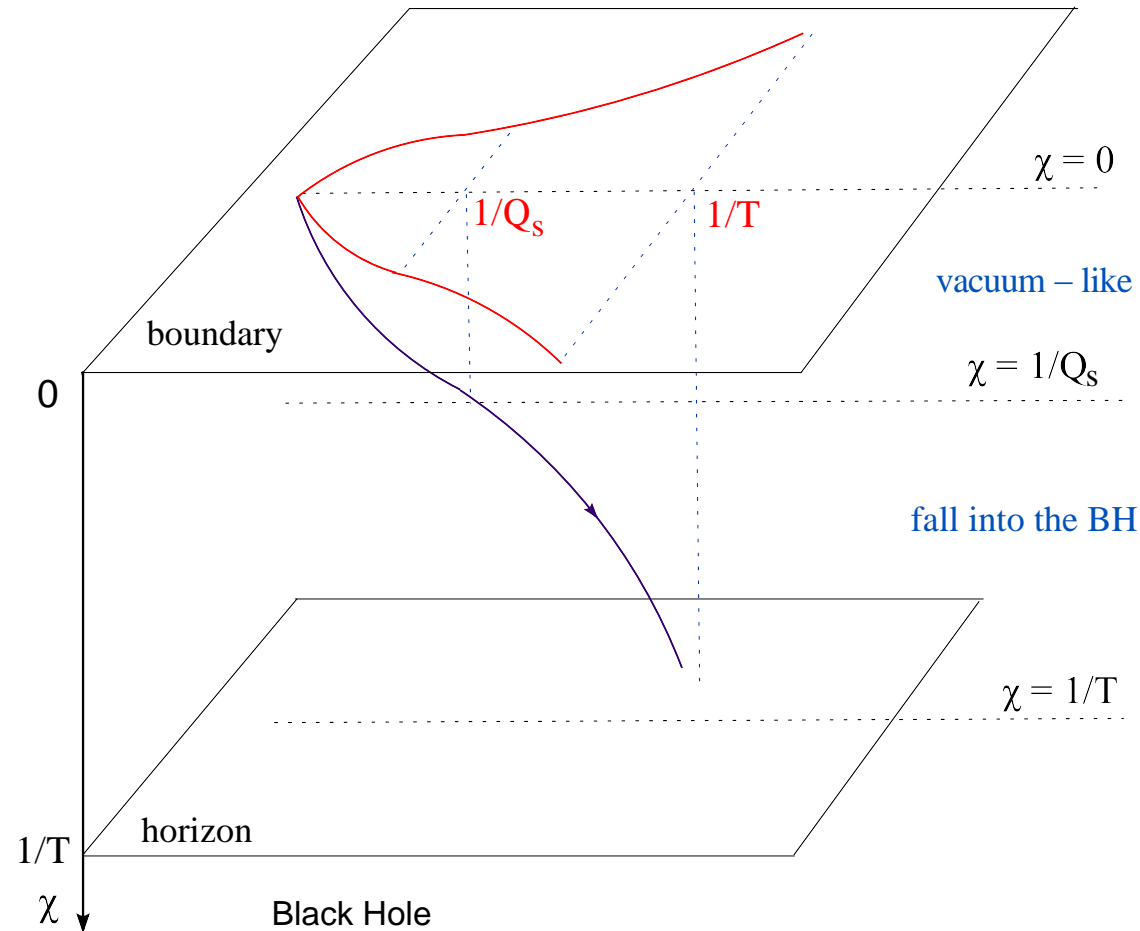
- The situation however changes at **finite temperature**



- The current can now decay due to the **parton interactions in the plasma** $\implies \text{Im } \Pi_{\mu\nu}$: a contribution to $F_2(x, Q^2)$
- The above picture is **perturbative**. How does this change at **strong coupling** ?

High energy: The fall

- Gravitational attraction becomes stronger with increasing energy and eventually washes out the repulsive barrier



- The wave falls into the BH along a **massless geodesics**

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Saturation momentum

- Gravitational interactions are proportional to the energy density in the wave (ω) and in the plasma (T)

- The criterion for strong interaction within the plasma

$$\underbrace{Q}_{\text{potential barrier}} \lesssim \underbrace{\frac{\omega T^2}{Q^2}}_{\text{gravitational potential}}$$

- Gravitational attraction must overcome the barrier due to energy conservation

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Saturation momentum

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- The criterion for strong interaction within the plasma

$$\underbrace{Q}_{\text{virtuality barrier}} \lesssim \underbrace{\frac{\omega}{Q^2}}_{\text{lifetime}} \times \underbrace{T^2}_{\text{plasma force}}$$

- The partonic fluctuation must live long enough to feel the effects of the plasma

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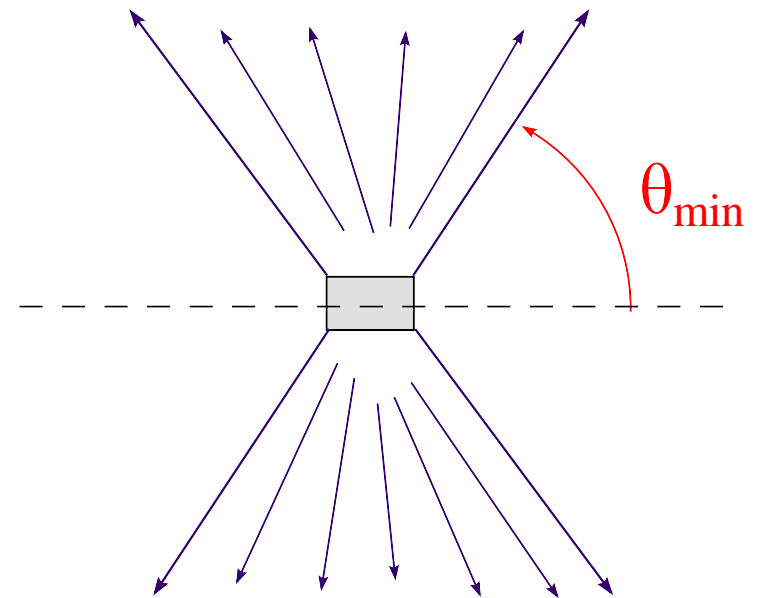
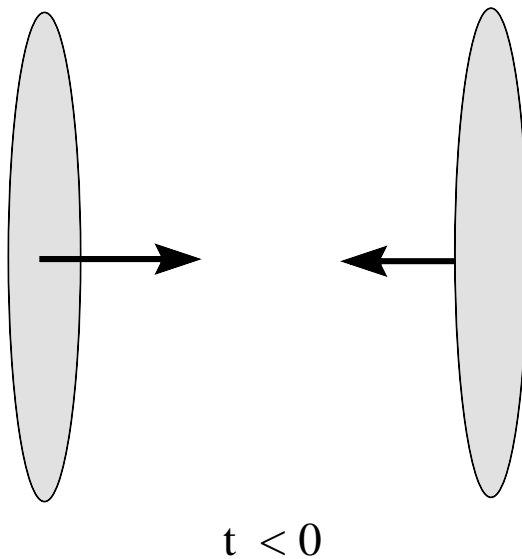
- High energy, or high T , or low Q : $Q \lesssim Q_s$ with

$$Q_s \simeq (\omega T^2)^{1/3} \simeq \frac{T}{x} \quad \text{where} \quad x \equiv \frac{Q^2}{2\omega T}$$

- $Q_s(x)$ plays the role of the plasma saturation momentum (borderline between weak and respectively strong scattering)
- Recall: the parton picture involves 2 variables : x and Q^2

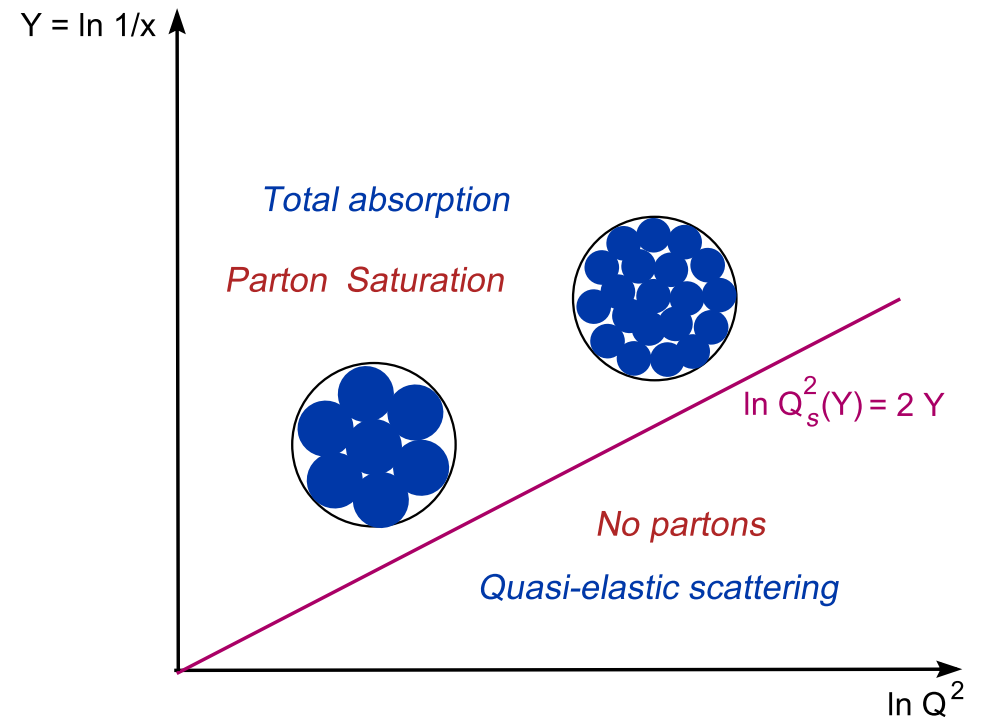
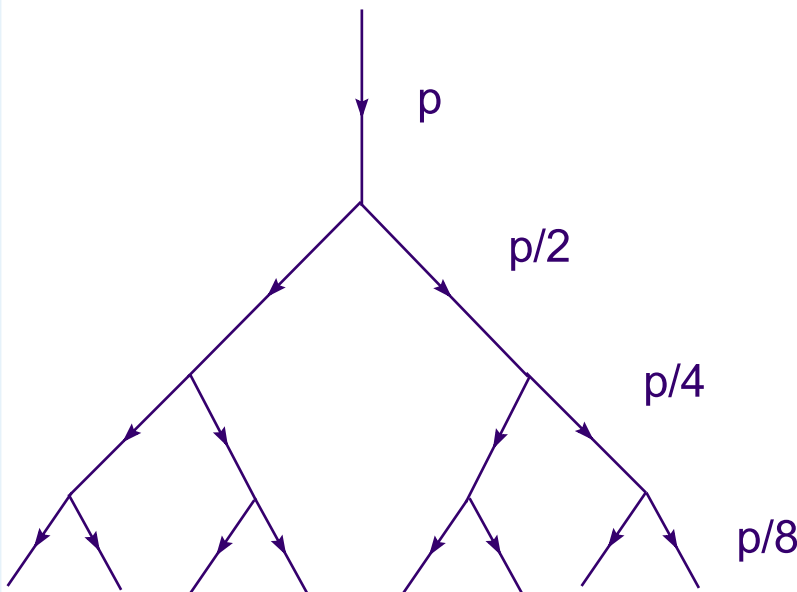
DIS at large x : No partons !

- Low energy, or large x : $x > x_s(Q) \simeq T/Q$
- No scattering (except through tunneling) $\implies F_2(x, Q^2) \approx 0$
 \implies no partons with large momentum fractions $x > x_s$
- No forward/backward jets in hadron–hadron collisions !



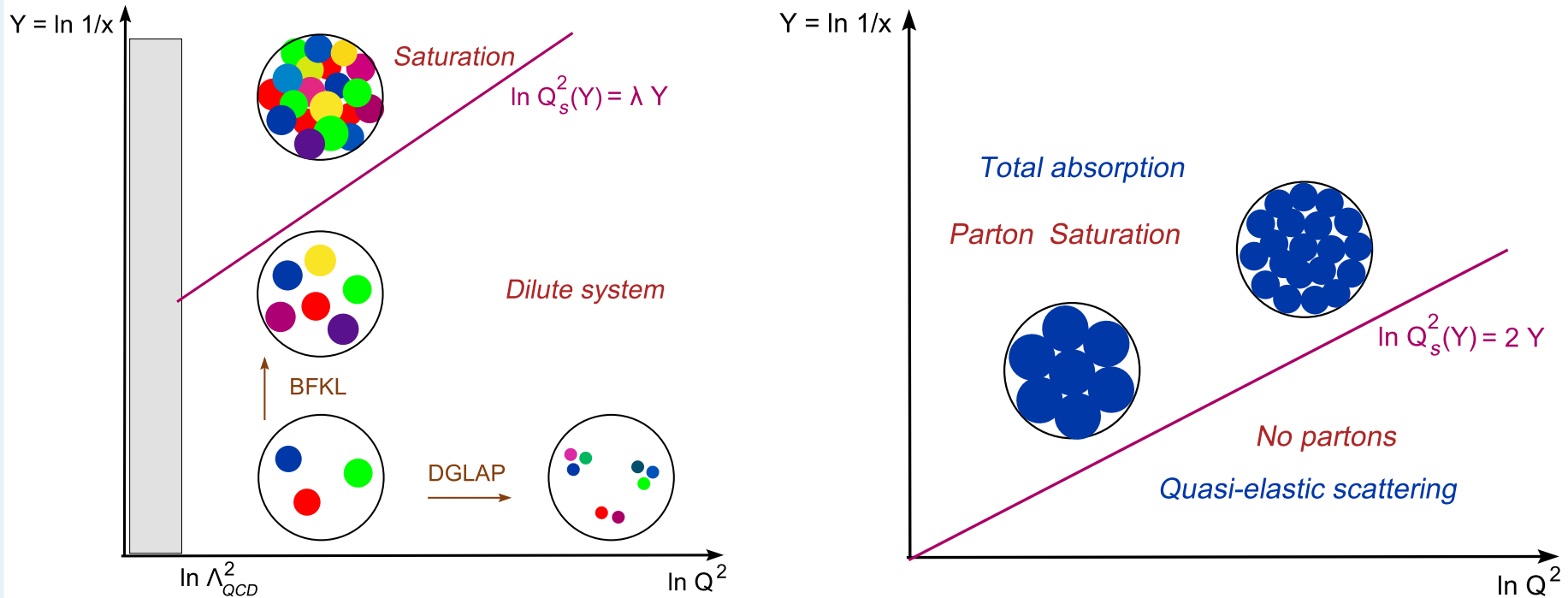
Low x : Parton saturation

- $x \lesssim x_s = T/Q$: strong scattering $\implies F_2(x, Q^2) \sim x N_c^2 Q^2$
- Parton occupation numbers of $\mathcal{O}(1) \implies$ 'saturation' (CGC)
- Physical interpretation: 'Quasi-democratic' parton branching



- All partons have branched down to small values of x !

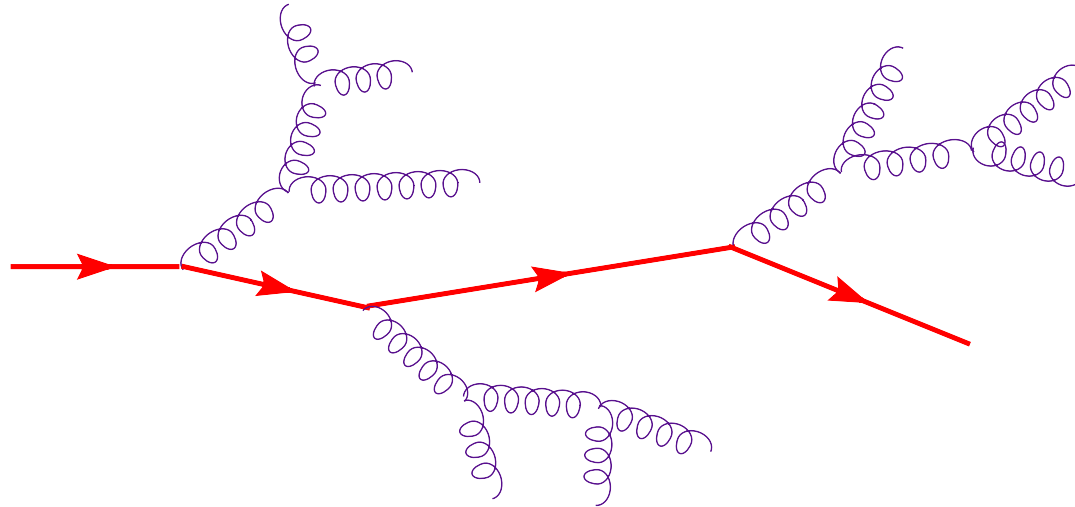
Saturation line: weak vs. strong coupling



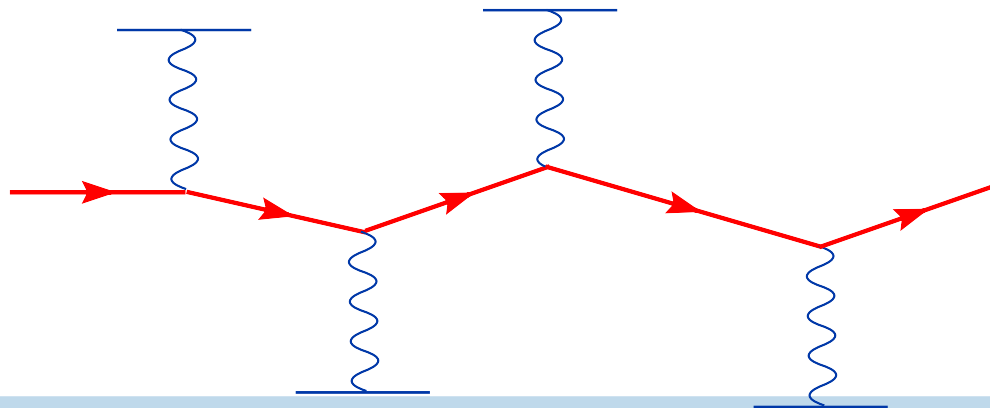
■ Saturation exponent : $Q_s^2(x) \propto 1/x^{\lambda_s} \equiv e^{\lambda_s Y}$

- ◆ weak coupling (LO pQCD): $\lambda_s \approx 0.12 g^2 N_c$
- ◆ phenomenology & NLO pQCD: $\lambda_s \approx 0.2 \div 0.3$
- ◆ strong coupling (plasma): $\lambda_s = 2$ (graviton)

■ Strong coupling : medium induced parton branching



■ pQCD : thermal rescattering (different physics !)



Motivation

Partons and jets in pQCD

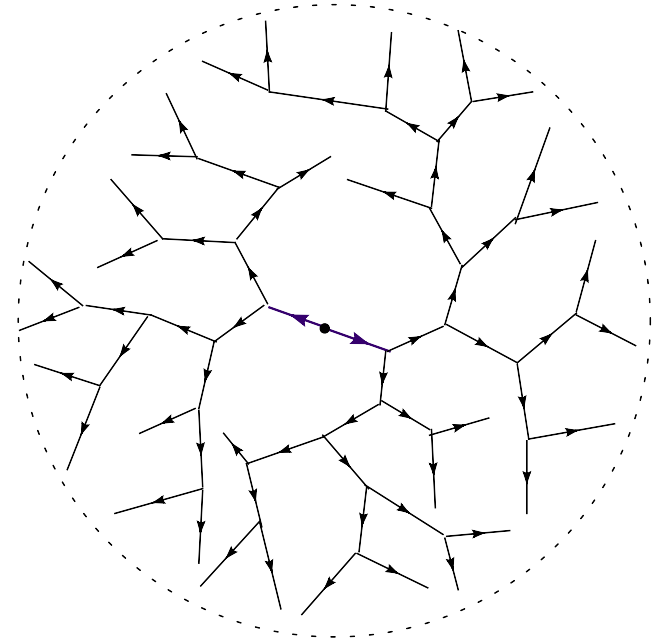
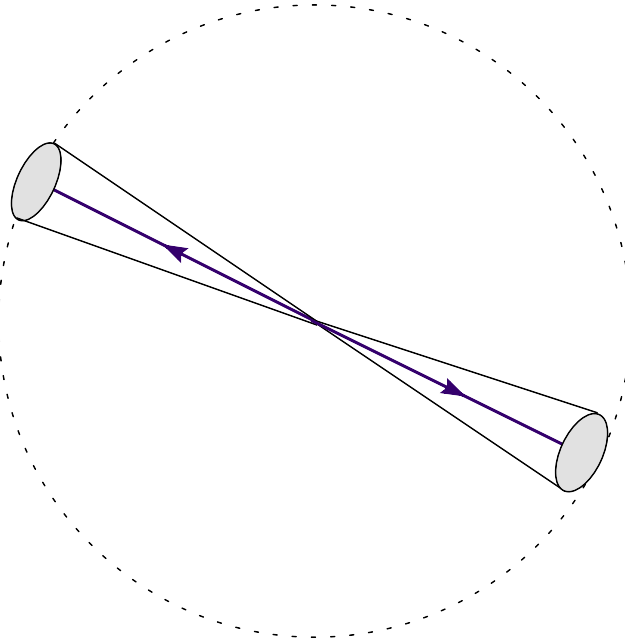
Partons and jets in AdS/CFT

- Current in a plasma
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- Black Hole
- Holography
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- Partonic fluctuation
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Conclusions

Backup

■ Time-like current in the vacuum



- Infrared cutoff $\Lambda \longrightarrow$ splitting continues down to $Q \sim \Lambda$
- In the COM frame \longrightarrow spherical distribution \implies no jets !
(similar conclusion by Hofman and Maldacena, 2008)
- Final state looks very different as compared to pQCD !

Motivation

Partons and jets in pQCD

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Conclusions

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Partons and jets in pQCD

Partons and jets in AdS/CFT

Conclusions

Backup

- **Hard probes & high-energy physics** appears to be quite different at strong coupling as compared to QCD
 - ◆ no forward/backward particle production in HIC
 - ◆ no jets in e^+e^- annihilation
 - ◆ different mechanism for jet quenching
- Not so surprising: by **asymptotic freedom**, hard & high-energy physics in QCD is weakly coupled
- Are AdS/CFT methods useless for HIC ? **Not necessarily so !**
 - ◆ some observables receive contributions from several scales, from soft to hard: use **AdS/CFT** in the soft sector
 - ◆ long-range properties (**hydro, thermalization, etc**) might be controlled by strong coupling



The 'perfect fluid'

- Uncertainty principle applied to viscosity:

$$\eta \sim \rho v \lambda_f, \quad S \sim n \sim \frac{\rho}{m}$$

$$\frac{\eta}{S} \sim m v \lambda_f \sim \hbar \frac{\text{mean free path}}{\text{de Broglie wavelength}} \gtrsim \hbar$$

- Weakly interacting systems have $\eta/S \gg \hbar$
- Strongly coupled $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM plasma

$$\frac{\eta}{S} \rightarrow \frac{\hbar}{4\pi} \quad \text{when} \quad \lambda \rightarrow \infty$$

(Policastro, Son, and Starinets, 2001)

- This bound is believed to be **universal** : $\eta/S \geq \hbar/4\pi$
- The data at RHIC are consistent with **the lower limit being actually reached** : 'sQGP'

Motivation

Partons and jets in pQCD

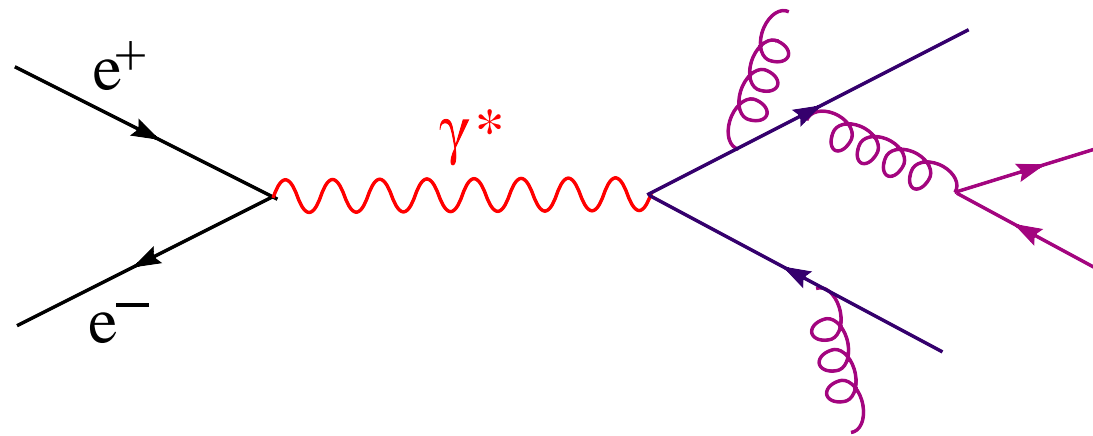
Partons and jets in AdS/CFT

Conclusions

Backup

● perfect fluid

- Jets
- Screening length
- 3-jet
- Saturation line
- Branching
- Momentum broadening
- RAA
- Energy loss
- Jet quenching



- ‘Multi–jet event’ : large emission angle & $x \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$

$$k_{\perp} \sim k \sim \sqrt{s} \implies \mathcal{P}_{\text{Brem}} \sim \alpha_s(s) \ll 1$$

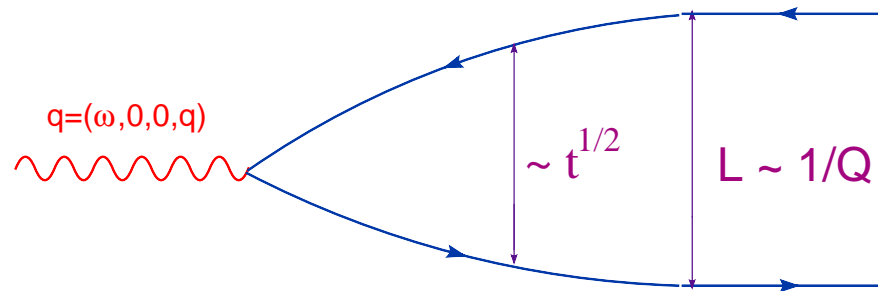
small probability for emitting an extra gluon jet !

- ‘Intra–jet activity’ : collinear and/or soft gluons

$$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \ll k_{\perp} \ll k \ll \sqrt{s} \implies \mathcal{P}_{\text{Brem}} \sim \alpha_s \ln^2 \frac{\sqrt{s}}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$

modifies particle multiplicity but not the number of jets

- A small color dipole ('meson') with transverse size $L \ll 1/Q_s$ propagates through the strongly-coupled plasma with **almost no interactions !**



- Larger dipoles with $L \gtrsim 1/Q_s$ cannot survive in the plasma

$$L_s \sim \frac{1}{Q_s} \quad \& \quad \gamma \sim \frac{\omega}{Q} \quad \implies \quad L_s \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\gamma} T} \ll \frac{1}{T}$$

- The **dipole lifetime** is short on natural time scales:

$$\Delta t \sim \frac{\omega}{Q_s^2} \sim \frac{\sqrt{\gamma}}{T} \ll \frac{\gamma}{T}$$



3-jet event at OPAL (CERN)

Motivation

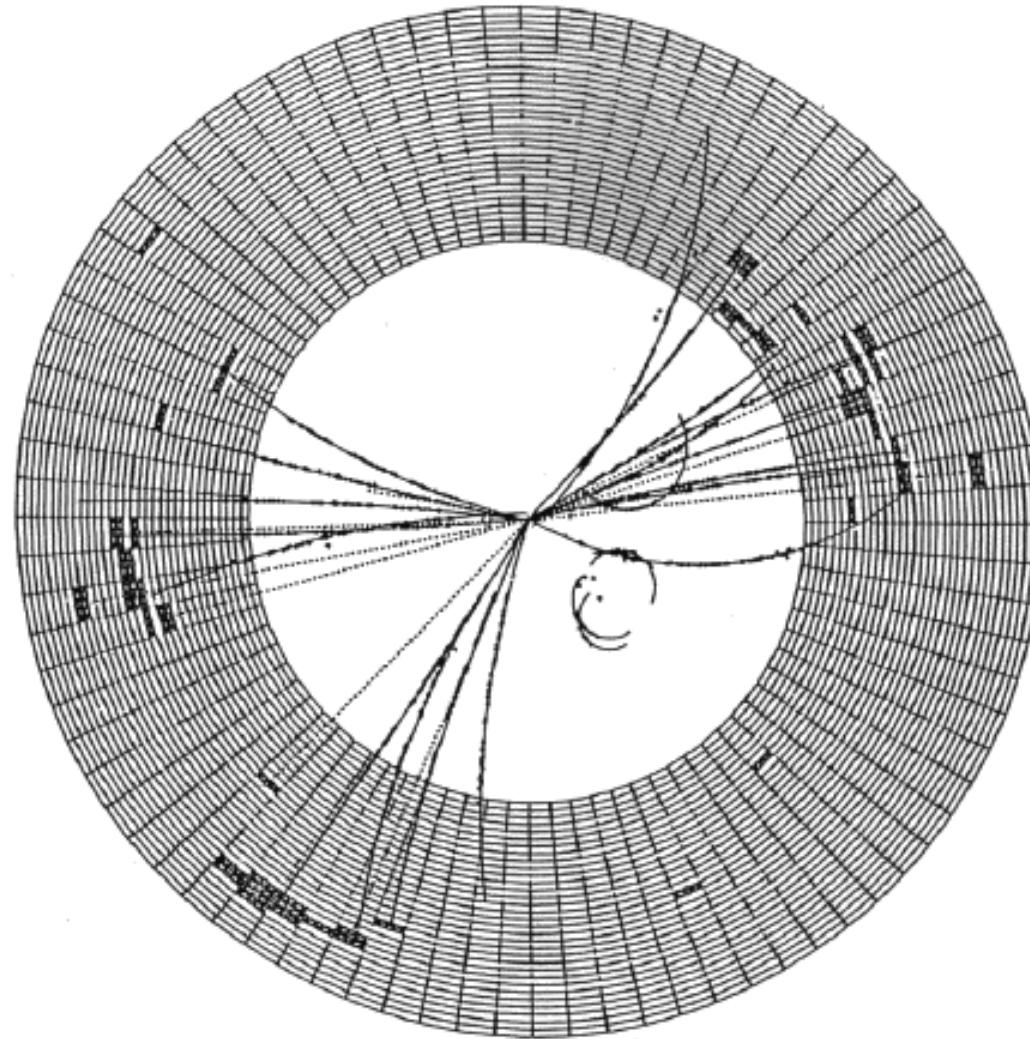
Partons and jets in pQCD

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Conclusions

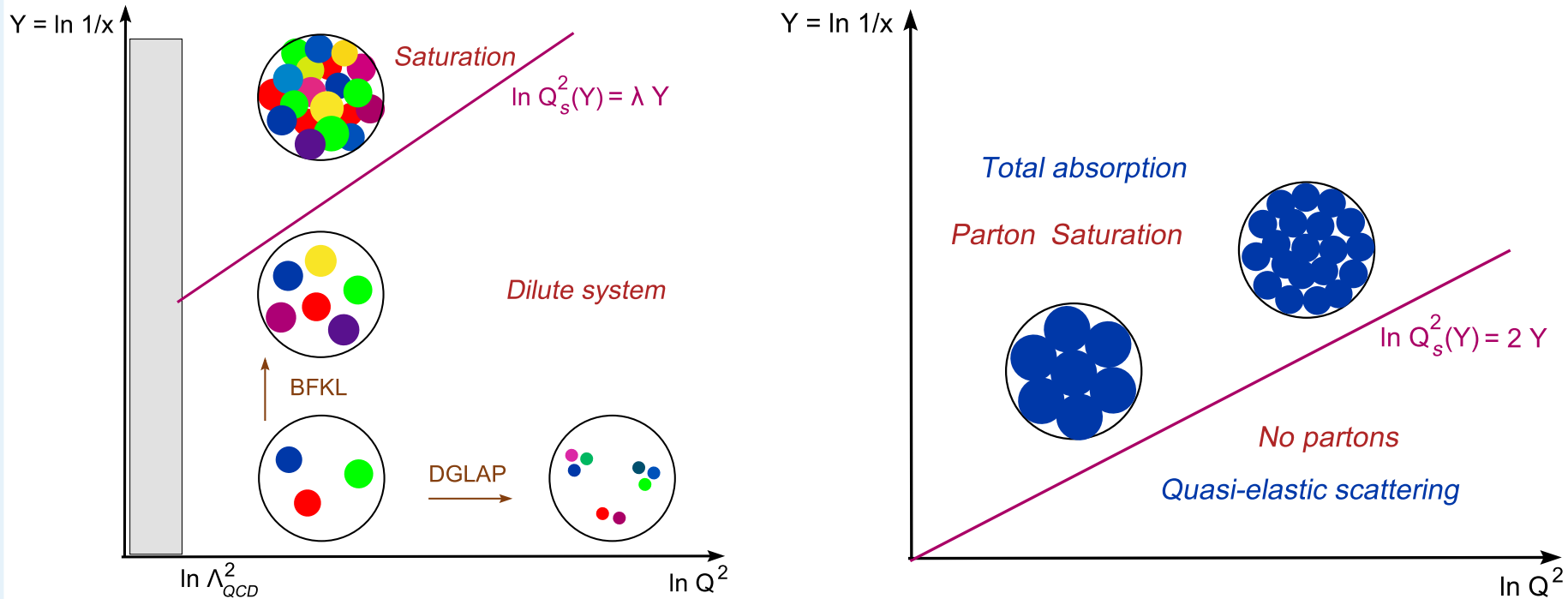
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*** SUMS (GEV) *** PTOT 35.768 PTRANS 29.964 PLONG 15.700 CHARGE -2
TOTAL CLUSTER ENERGY 15.169 PHOTON ENERGY 4.893 NR OF PHOTONS 11

Saturation line: weak vs. strong coupling



- Saturation exponent : $Q_s^2(x) \propto 1/x^{\lambda_s} \equiv e^{\lambda_s Y}$
 - ◆ weak coupling (LO BFKL): $\lambda_s \approx 1.23 g^2 N_c$
 - ◆ phenomenology & NLO BFKL: $\lambda_s \approx 0.2 \div 0.3$
 - ◆ strong coupling (plasma): $\lambda_s = 2$ (graviton)
 - ◆ strong coupling (dilaton): $\lambda_s = 1$ (graviton)

Quasi-democratic parton branching

- No reason why branching should stop at 2 parton level !
- No reason to favour special corners of phase-space !

Motivation

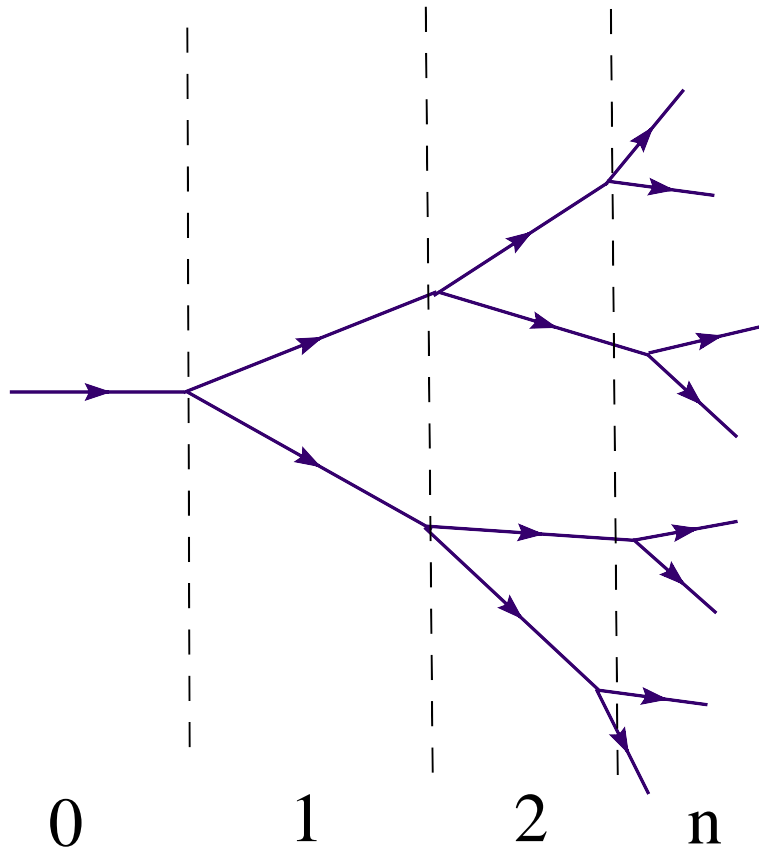
Partons and jets in pQCD

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- **Branching**
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$$\omega_n \sim \frac{\omega_{n-1}}{2} \sim \frac{\omega}{2^n}$$

$$Q_n \sim \frac{Q_{n-1}}{2} \quad (\text{vacuum})$$

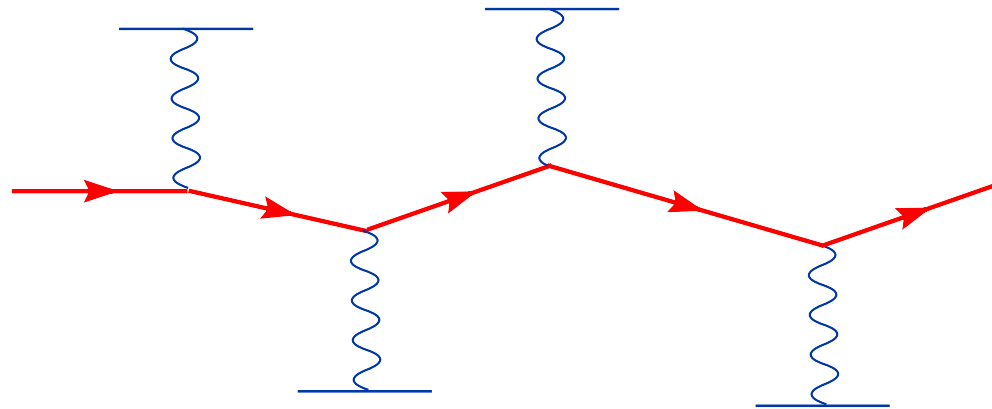
$$\Delta t_n \sim \frac{\omega_n}{Q_n^2}$$

$$\frac{\Delta Q_n}{\Delta t_n} \sim -T^2 \quad (\text{plasma})$$

- Qualitative agreement with all the results from AdS/CFT

Transverse momentum broadening

- A parton (say, heavy quark) undergoes **multiple scattering** (random kicks) off the **plasma constituents**



$$\frac{d\langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle}{dt} \equiv \hat{q} \simeq \alpha_s N_c \frac{xg(x, Q^2)}{N_c^2 - 1}$$

- $xg(x, Q^2)$: gluon distribution per unit volume in the medium
- **Weakly-coupled QGP** : incoherent sum of the gluon distributions produced by thermal quarks and gluons

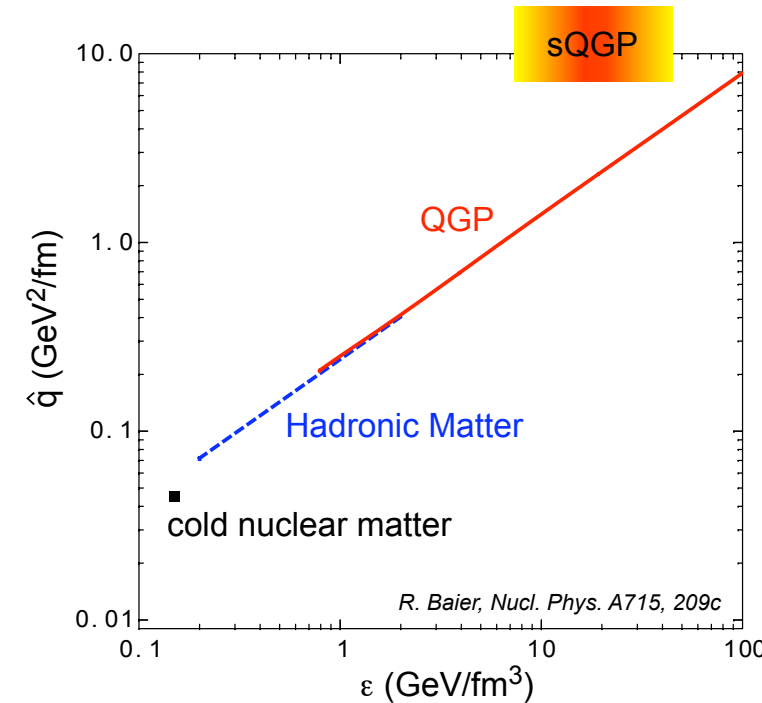
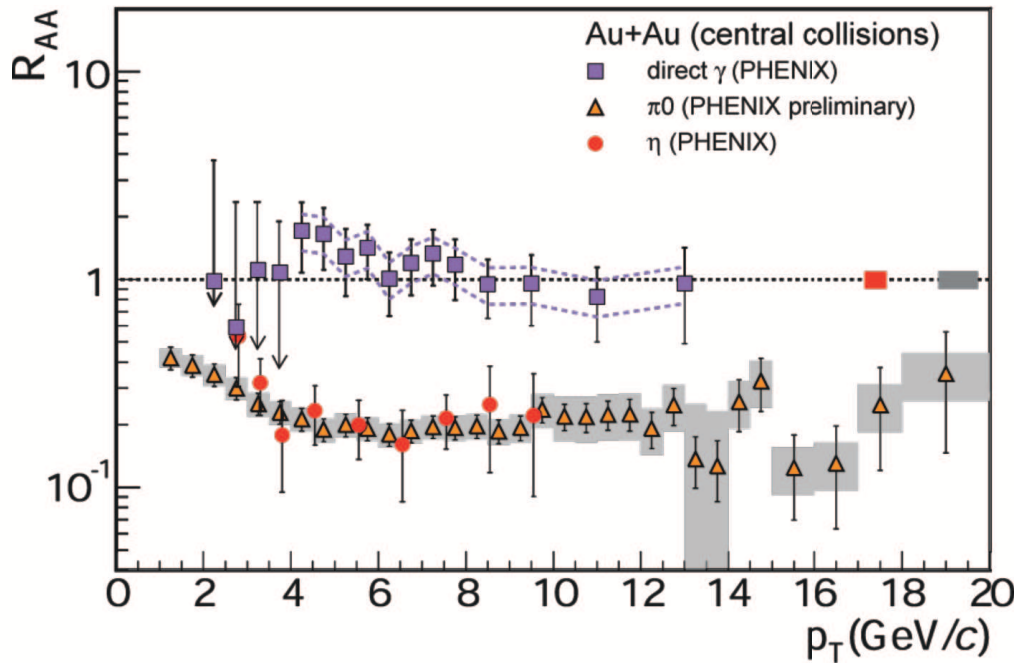
$$xg(x, Q^2) \simeq n_q(T) xG_q + n_g(T) xG_g, \quad \text{with } n_{q,g}(T) \propto T^3$$



Nuclear modification factor

- How to measure \hat{q} ? Compare AA collisions at RHIC to pp

$$R_{AA}(p_{\perp}) \equiv \frac{Yield(A + A)}{Yield(p + p) \times A^2}$$



- RHIC data seem to prefer $\hat{q} \simeq 10 \text{ GeV}^2/\text{fm}$, which is **too large** to be accounted for by weakly-coupled QGP (??)

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Heavy Quark: Energy loss

Motivation

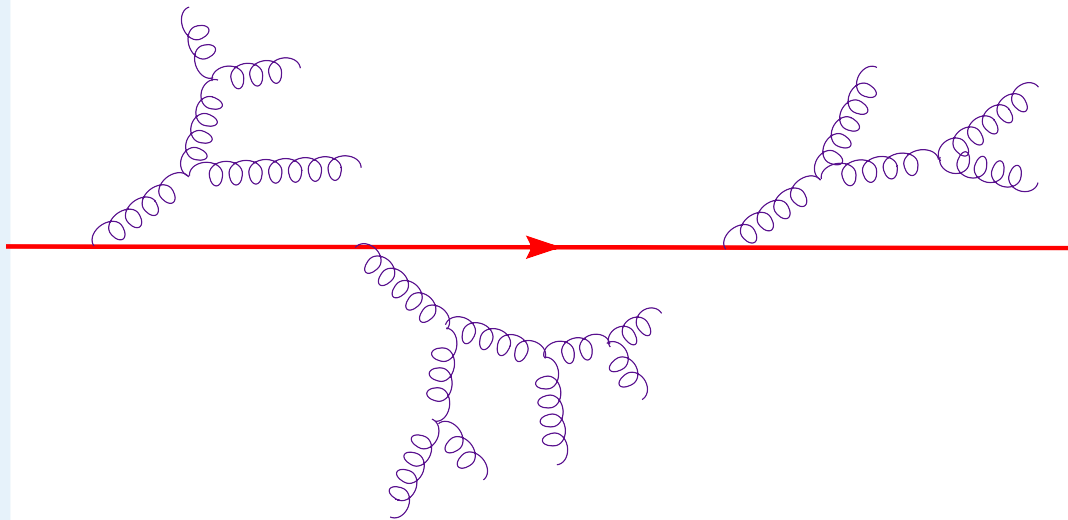
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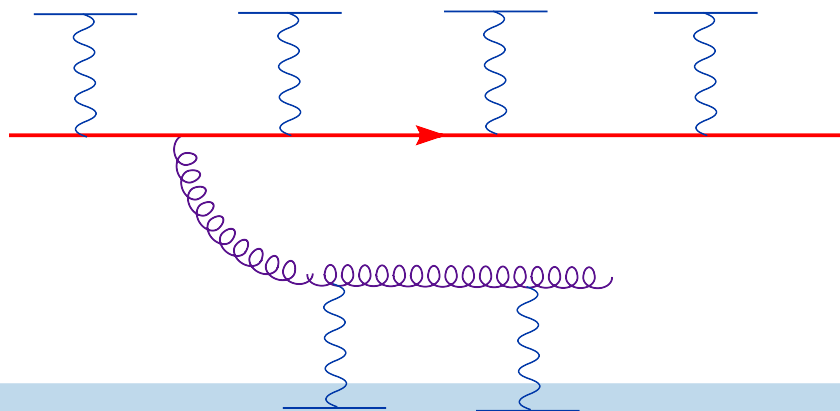
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$$Q_s^2 \sim (t_{\text{br}} T^2)^2 \sim \gamma T^2$$

$$-\frac{dE}{dt} \simeq \sqrt{\lambda} \frac{\omega}{(\omega/Q_s^2)} \simeq \sqrt{\lambda} Q_s^2 \quad (\text{Herzog et al; Gubser, 2006})$$

■ **pQCD** : same formula, but with $\sqrt{\lambda} \rightarrow g^2 N_c$ and different Q_s



$$Q_s^2 \sim t_{\text{br}} \hat{q} \quad (\text{quenching param.})$$

Transverse momentum broadening

Motivation

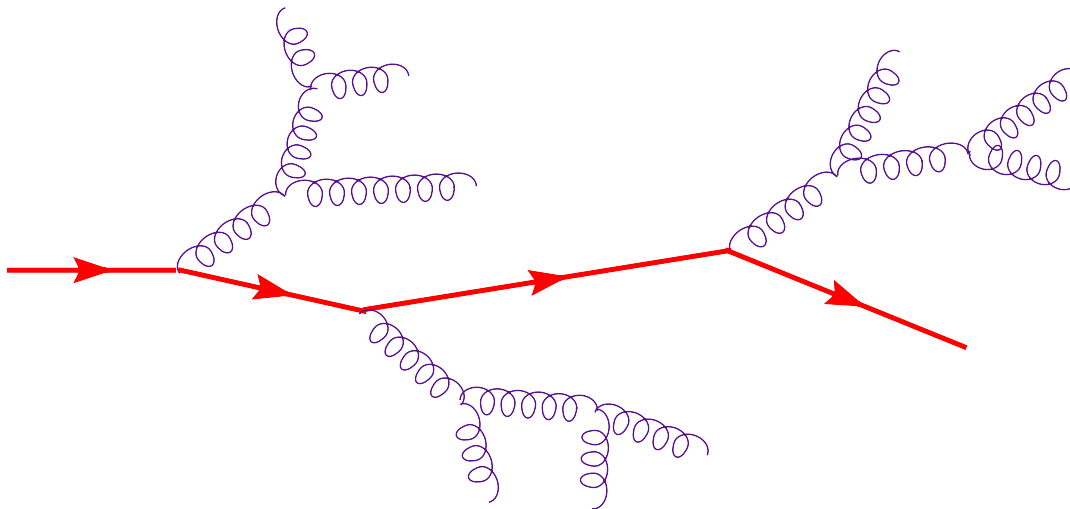
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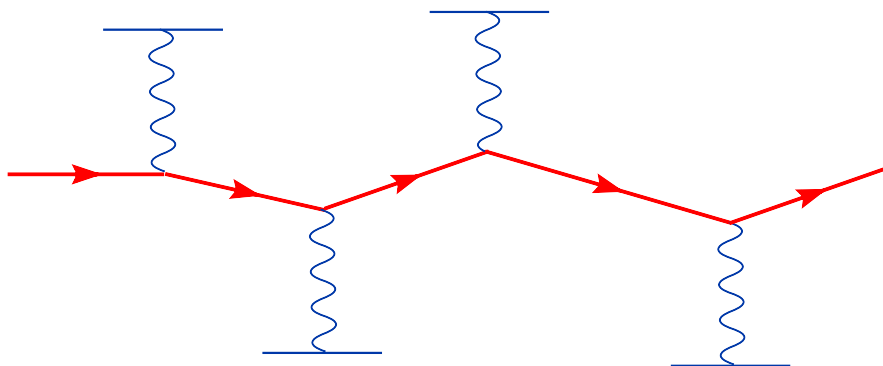
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$$\frac{dp_{\perp}^2}{dt} \sim \sqrt{\lambda} T^2 Q_s$$

Casalderrey-Solana, Teaney, 2006; Gubser, 2006; Dominguez et al, 2008
 see talks by Al Mueller and Cyrille Marquet

■ pQCD : different physics ! thermal rescattering



$$\frac{dp_{\perp}^2}{dt} \sim \hat{q}$$