

# Quark Matter 2019 - the XXVIIIth International Conference on Ultra-relativistic Nucleus-Nucleus Collisions



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## Probing small- $x$ gluons with gamma+hadron correlations in the forward rapidity with the LHCb detector

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Gluon nuclear PDFs still have large uncertainties in the small- $x$  ( $x < 10^{-3}$ ) and small virtuality  $Q^2 < 50$  (GeV/c)<sup>2</sup> region. Yields from particles coming from these gluons obtained in nuclear collisions are suppressed relative to  $p+p$  collisions because of initial-state effects such as shadowing, energy loss and gluon saturation. Precise measurement of yields coming from small- $x$ , small- $Q^2$  gluons are essential to understand these effects which have a significant contribution to the suppressions observed in A+A collisions at RHIC and LHC. The inverse Compton process  $q+q \rightarrow \gamma+q \rightarrow \gamma+h$  is one of the few which can access and provide information on the gluon  $x$  and  $Q^2$  in the region where nPDFs are not well constrained. The LHCb detector can measure photons through the Electromagnetic Calorimeter or photon conversion to dielectrons in the pseudorapidity range  $2 < \eta < 5$ , covering  $x > 5 \times 10^{-6}$  and  $Q^2 > 2 \text{ GeV}^2$  in the case of inverse Compton processes. This unique coverage allow us to search for the gluon saturation scale, the transition between dilute and saturated gluons, predicted by the Color-Glass Condensate effective theory. This presentation will show the status of the isolated  $\gamma$ +hadron correlation analysis using data collected in  $p+\text{Pb}$  and  $\text{Pb}+p$  collisions at 8.16 TeV and  $p+p$  collisions at 8 TeV. New techniques will also be presented to identify isolated photons and subtract the large background from neutral meson decays.

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