

## **Strong Interactions briefing**

## Jorgen D'Hondt and Krzysztof Redlich

Open Symposium towards updating the European Strategy for Particle Physics May 13-16, 2019, Granada, Spain



## Strong interactions





## "hot and dense QCD"





LHC

## "hot and dense QCD"





## "hot and dense QCD"







Need to understand non-perturbative dynamics of QCD



## Inputs considered

Category: Facilities and experiments with strong interactions as key topic

(Id13) NA61++ (SPS) (Id42) PBC@CERN, COMPASS++, MUSE@PSI, MUonE, DIRAC++, NA61++ (Id46) Heavy flavour in HI (Id47 and Id67 and Id110) LHC-FT: ALICE and LHCb (LHCSpin) (Id90) NA60+ (SPS) (Id10) ALICE upgrade for HL-LHC (Id135) QCD/HI at FCC-hh and FCC-eh (Id135) QCD/HI at FCC-hh and FCC-eh (Id143) COMPASS++/AMBER (SPS) (Id152) QCD/HI at HL-LHC (Id159) LHeC/PERLE (Id160) QCD/HI at HE-LHC

Category: Synergies on a global scale (Id76) J-PARC (Id93) NICA (Id99) US-based EIC

Category: Facilities & experiments with strong interactions as a topic (Id13 and Id50) AWAKE (Id49) Super Charm-Tau Factory

Category: QCD results in support for other programs (Id117) Auger experiment (Id131) LBNF/DUNE (Id151) New physics with HI collisions

Category: QCD theory in support (Id100 and Id101) Precise calculations @ colliders (Id114) MC generators (Id163) QCD theory

Category: QCD and nuclear physics (Id39) ISOLDE/EPIC

Category: National roadmaps (Id21) INFN Hadron (Id37) Germany ALICE (Id56) INFN HI (Id115) Germany Hadron

#### **Category: Individual and community thoughts**

(Id48) Town meeting on Heavy lons
(Id103) DIS
(Id140) personal input
(Id148) NuPECC

## Hot & Dense QCD

## Colliders and fixed-target experiments in operation or being prepared



#### **Collider experiments**

- **HL-LHC**: heavy ion collisions at substantially increased luminosity open an excellent window to study strongly interacting matter at high temperature
- HE-LHC/FCC: prospects for a highly attractive heavy ion program are recognized with nuclear collisions at significantly higher energies to study the QGP at correspondingly higher energy density and temperature, while at FCC energies new probes will become accessible

#### **Fixed-target experiments**

- **SPS**: unique coverage in the QGP phase transition region and the critical point region
- HL-LHC: at ALICE and/or LHCb the most energetic fixed-target experiment ever can be performed to reach quark/gluon high-x PDFs

### The CERN accelerator complex



## The next generation of ALICE for AA/pA for installation beyond Run4 @ HL-LHC





Ultra-thin chip (<50 um): flexible with good stability

#### **Detector upgrade (all Silicon detector):**

- Pixel upgrade with fast and light CMOS MAPS
- High-rate capabilities of MAPS will allow the experiment to run at significantly higher luminosities (a factor 20 to 50), e.g. with lighter ions

#### **Physics potential:**

- QGP properties accessible via quenching of hard probes (heavy flavor and quarkonia)
- Access to new low- $p_T$  phenomena ( $\gamma$  & hadrons)
- o Low mass di-leptons

## The next generation of ALICE for AA/pA for installation beyond Run4 @ HL-LHC



## The case for AA/Ap collisions at higher energies (HE-LHC & FCC)

Part of the FCC design is to operate PbPb collisions at 39.4 TeV and pPb at 62.8 TeV, and with lighter ions New probes become available, e.g. top quark production from LHC to FCC increase with a factor ~80



Top quark observables are sensitive to the energy-loss of heavy quarks in QGP Boosted top quarks probe the QGP medium at later times as the decays of boosted top quarks become Lorentz time dilated (up to  $p_T \approx 1.8$  TeV within reach)

## The CERN accelerator complex

Plan for an optimal use of the SPS beams in order to verify how experiments can coexist





#### Large community using the protons not going to the LHC

## The SPS beam for QCD at high- $\mu_{\rm B}$

## NA61/SHINE (2020+)

upgraded detector executed during the LS2 and the measurements are scheduled in the period 2021-2024

 $\sim$ 150 physicists from 30 institutions and 14 countries



focus on charm hadron production also nuclear fragmentation cross section & hadron production

## NA60+

new experiment very high intensities (underground) proposal in the period >2025

~70 physicists from 23 institutions and 7 countries



focus on production of thermal dimuons sensitive to the order of the phase transition

## Fixed-target experiments: proton and ion beams from the LHC for high- $\mu_{\rm B}$



17

## Emerging facilities worldwide at high- $\mu_{\rm B}$ (~800 scientists community)

Complementarity of the operational and emerging facilities is essential to cover the QCD phase-diagram

<u>compilation Te</u> tyana Galatyuk, <u>Nucl. Phys. A982 (20</u> 1								A982 (2019)	
Facility	SIS18	HIAF	Nuclotron	J-PARC-HI	SIS100	NICA	RHIC	SPS	SPS
Experiment	HADES /miniCBM	CEE	BM@N	DHS, D2S	CBM / HADES	MPD	STAR	NA61++	NA60+
Start	2012, 2018	2023	2022 (Au)	>2025(?)	2025	2023	2010,2019	2009, 2022	>2025(?)
√s <sub>№,</sub> GeV	2.4 – 2.6	2 – 2.7	2 – 3.5	2-6.2	2.7 – 5	2.7 - 11	3 – 19.6	4.9 – 17.3	4.9 – 17.3
μ <sub>в</sub> , MeV	880 – 670	880 – 750	850 – 670	850 – 490	780 – 400	750 – 330	720 – 210	560 – 230	560 – 230
Hadrons	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	(+)
Dileptons	+		(+)	+	+	+	+		+
Charm				(+)	(+)	+	+	+	+



Nuclotron-based Ion Collider Facility at JINR



## The future CERN accelerator complex... when the LHC will retire

Beyond the HL-LHC there are options to use the LHC machine for novel QCD research



# What strong interaction physics can one do with the LHC after the HL-LHC?

(e.g. when the LHC becomes an injector for a future collider)

slide from Daniel Boer

Summary of opportunities and challenges

Opportunities and challenges for the strong interaction physics case for continued use of the LHC after the HL-LHC:

- Unambiguous signals of small-x gluon saturation [opportunities] Should one go for the smallest x (i.e. highest energy), even when the luminosity is modest? *e.g. plasma accelerated electrons (PEPIC, VHEeP)*
- Control over less-inclusive and diffractive processes in pp [challenges] Required for global analyses of multi-dimensional PDFs
- Observation of new strongly interacting particles [opportunities] Elucidation of the role or the embedding of QCD in BSM theory

Other opportunities/challenges for QCD@LHC after 2040?

## Precision QCD



## The strong coupling constant $\alpha_s$

Determined by comparing experimental observables to pQCD (NNLO or N<sup>3</sup>LO) predictions. Need for a high-luminosity e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider at EW scales.

$\alpha_{s}(Q^{2})$	$\begin{array}{c c} \mbox{Bethke/Dissertori/Salam} \\ \hline (1) \mbox{ lattice } & $\tau$ decays (N^3LO) \\ $\Delta$ DIS jets (NLO) \\ \hline (2) $\tau$ decays & $\Box$ Heavy Quarkonia (NLO) \\ \hline (e^+e^-) & $\circ$ e^+e^- jets \& shapes (res. NNLO) \\ \hline \end{array}$	FCC-eefrom hadronic Z decays $\delta \alpha_s < 0.15\%$ (today 2.5%)from hadronic W decays $\delta \alpha_s < 0.2\%$ (today 35%)from hadronic $\tau$ decays $\delta \alpha_s < 1\%$ (today 1.5%)event shapes $\delta \alpha_s < 1\%$ (today 2.9%)
	<ul> <li>e.w. precision fits (N<sup>3</sup>LO)</li> <li>⊽ pp → jets (NLO)</li> <li>▼ pp → tt (NNLO)</li> </ul>	<b>FCC-eh or LHeC</b> would be able to reach $\delta \alpha_s \sim 0.2\%$
0.2	(3) PDFs (4) e⁺e⁻ jets (shapes, rates) <b>(e⁺e</b> (5) Z,W decays <b>(e⁺e⁻)</b>	<b>FCC-hh</b> ) from top quark pair production test the running of $\alpha_s$ up to 25 TeV (jet cross sections)
0.1	$\equiv \operatorname{QCD} \alpha_{s}(M_{z}) = 0.1181 \pm 0.0011$ (6) pp→ttbar (pp)	<b>Lattice QCD</b> with adequate R&D on computing a robust calculation up to 0.3% precision might be within reach
1	<sup>10</sup> Q [GeV] <sup>100</sup> <sup>1000</sup>	$\delta \alpha_s$ at 0.1% precision is essential for H, t, EWPO at colliders

From the report of the Physics Beyond Colliders working group: COMPASS++/AMBER, DIRAC++, MUonE

**DIRAC 2014** 

**DIRAC 2017** 

lattice

ChPT 2 loop

ChPT 1 loop

01

0.2

a\_K [m\_-1]

 $\pi K$  scattering lengths are

benchmark quantities for chiral

symmetry breaking in the strange-

quark sector

1/2 - a 3/2

0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7

PLB 735 (2014) 288

PRD 96 (2017) 052002

PRD 89 (2014) 054502

PRD 85 (2012) 074501

PRD 74 (2006) 114503

EPJC 33 (2004) 409

JHEP 0405 (2004) 036

NPB 357 (1991) 129

persistent discrepancies on proton charge radius determined from spectroscopy (H, muonic H) and ep elastic scattering



A long-term multipurpose hadron structure facility **COMPASS++/AMBER** at the M2 beam line beyond 2021 (muon and hadron beams)

Study of  $\pi K$  atoms with **DIRAC++** would yield an experimental uncertainty comparable with the theoretical one

persistent discrepancy between measured anomalous magnetic moment  $a_{\mu} = (g-2)_{\mu}/2$  and SM theory



With 2-years of elastic muon scattering **MUonE** aims for an independent measurement of the hadronic vacuum polarization

From the report of the Physics Beyond Colliders working group: COMPASS++/AMBER, DIRAC++, MUonE

**DIRAC 2014** 

DIRAC 2017

Roy-Steiner eqs

ChPT 2 loop

ChPT 1 loop

 $\pi K$  scattering lengths are

benchmark quantities for chiral

symmetry breaking in the strange-

quark sector

collaboration to be formed

01

PLB 735 (2014) 288

PRD 96 (2017) 052002

RD 89 (2014) 054502

PRD 85 (2012) 074501

PRD 74 (2006) 114503

EPJC 33 (2004) 409

JHEP 0405 (2004) 036

NPB 357 (1991) 129

persistent discrepancies on proton charge radius determined from spectroscopy (H, muonic H) and ep elastic scattering



A long-term multipurpose hadron structure facility **COMPASS++/AMBER** at the M2 beam line beyond 2021 (muon and hadron beams)

Study of  $\pi K$  atoms with **DIRAC++** would yield an experimental uncertainty comparable with the theoretical one

a\_K [m\_-1]

0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7

persistent discrepancy between measured anomalous magnetic moment  $a_{\mu} = (g-2)_{\mu}/2$  and SM theory



With 2-years of elastic muon scattering **MUonE** aims for an independent measurement of the hadronic vacuum polarization

From the report of the Physics Beyond Colliders working group: COMPASS++/AMBER, DIRAC++, MUonE



A long-term multipurpose hadron structure facility **COMPASS++/AMBER** at the M2 beam line beyond 2021 (muon and hadron beams) Study of πK atoms with **DIRAC++** would yield an experimental uncertainty comparable with the theoretical one With 2-years of elastic muon scattering **MUonE** aims for an ndependent measurement of the hadronic vacuum polarization

From the report of the Physics Beyond Colliders working group: COMPASS++/AMBER, DIRAC++, MUonE



(muon and hadron beams)

uncertainty comparable with the theoretical one

hadronic vacuum polarization

## The proton radius puzzle... the QCD community is motivated to solve it

With the PSI beams and the MUon proton Scattering Experiment (MUSE) experiment... ready to go



Measure simultaneously low-energy  $\mu^{\pm}$ and e<sup>±</sup> scattering to reduce systematics in the search for hints of lepton-flavor violation.

Data-taking from 2020 onwards with the goal to reach sub-percent relative precision ( $Q^2 = 0.002 - 0.07 \text{ GeV}^2$ ) to extract the proton radius difference e versus  $\mu$  with a precision of 0.007 fm.

Solving the proton puzzle will require a concerted approach with complementary experiments worldwide.

Several more QCD precision efforts worldwide.

## Nuclear precision with HIE-ISOLDE and the EPIC upgrade

Radioactive ion beam at CERN to study the emergence of nuclear phenomena from QCD



## Partonic Structure



## PDFs measured from W, Z, top processes from LHC to HL-LHC





- factor ~2 improvement in the midx region
- no improvement in the low-x and high-x region
- requires to further develop methodologies to not fit away BSM effects when estimating PDFs from pp collision processes, e.g. fit the PDFs in-situ while doing measurements

## The case for ep collisions at high energies (LHeC, FCC-ep)

"Precision" region at FCC-pp: **5–7%** PDF uncertainty for  $\sigma(W,Z,H)$ 



## → ep collisions essential

- a clean experimental environment
   with low multiplicity, no pileup, fully
   constrained kinematics (x,Q<sup>2</sup>)
   reconstructing the outgoing lepton
- a more controlled theoretical setup with many 1<sup>st</sup>-principles calculations, factorisation tests

**EIC** (3-20 GeV e-) *E<sub>cms</sub>* = 0.02 - 0.13 TeV

**LHeC** (60 GeV e- from ERL)  $E_{cms} = 0.2 - 1.3 \text{ TeV}$ run with the HL-LHC ( $\gtrsim$  Run5)

**FCC-ep** (60 GeV e- from ERL)  $E_{cms}$  up to 3.5 TeV is required to reach O(1%) uncertainty for  $\sigma(W,Z,H)$  at FCC-pp

## The case for ep collisions at high energies (LHeC, FCC-ep) – novel ERL systems

Energy Recovery Linac (ERL) provides the electron beams at 60 GeV and high polarization of 80-90%.



Smaller PERLE demonstrator at Orsay with maximal beam energy of 0.5 GeV. No showstoppers, but need more resources to bring it forward.

## DIS at the highest collision energies: test QCD and vital for particle physics



## DIS at the highest collision energies: test QCD and vital for particle physics



## DIS at the highest collision energies: test QCD and vital for particle physics



## The QCD case for eA collisions at high energies (EIC@US, FCC-eA)

The US-based Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) can address three key questions.

- How does the mass of the nucleon arise?
- *How does the spin of the nucleon arise?*
- What are the emergent properties of a dense system of gluons?

Two realization concepts being developed. First collisions from 2029-2030 onwards.



electron-proton DIS at EIC for high-x PDFs (towards 3D nucleon structures)



Research community at EIC is 1/3 European Synergies with COMPASS, LHC-FT, LHeC, FCC-eh at CERN

## QCD & Particle Physics













## QCD Methods & Tools

"Experimental measurements are key to guide us into the unknown in the search for new physics" (HL-)LHC experiments at the frontline the next 15-20 years key to discovery potential is precision







e.g. EFT, PDFs, generators, N<sup>x</sup>O calculations, Lattice, ...

Profound experimental knowledge and theoretical understanding of QCD will be vital to succeed in our exploration with the LHC and HL-LHC, and all future colliders (for both Direct & Indirect searches)



e.g. EFT, PDFs, generators, N<sup>x</sup>O calculations, Lattice, ...

Lattice QCD comes into the precision era Made possible an essential link between theory and experiment e.g.  $\alpha_s$ , proton radius, (g-2), ... e.g. form factors, PDFs, ... e.g. phase-diagram T vs  $\mu_B$ , ...

## QCD theory for particle physics, i.e. for all other physics themes this week



#### Substantial further theory progress is needed to allow a precise interpretation for a wide range of HL-LHC data

- o sustain the strong and concerted support for QCD theory work (e.g. *MCnet* Horizon 2020 network)
- foster a community-wide and long-term close collaboration between the experimental and theoretical communities (e.g. inter-experiment workshops with theoreticians)
- o explore the complementarity of pp and ep colliders to model collision phenomena

### European institutions observe a leading and successful role to face these challenges, and hence have a leading responsibility

## QCD & Other Disciplines



## Synergy with nuclear physics



#### synergy nuclear & particle physics

- understand the properties of hadrons and nuclei from first principles
- novel detector technologies



## Synergy with nuclear physics





#### synergy nuclear & particle physics

- understand the properties of hadrons and nuclei from first principles
- novel detector technologies

Low-energy pA measurements at SPS needed to get precise neutrino fluxes from accelerator & atmospheric (Dune, Super/HyperK, IceCube...)

## Synergy with astro and astroparticle physics



#### synergy astro(particle) & particle physics

- cosmic rays
- star formation
- detector technologies
- hadronic cross sections



## Synergy with astro and astroparticle physics



#### synergy astro(particle) & particle physics

- cosmic rays (e.g. Pierre Auger observatory)
- star formation
- detector technologies
- hadronic cross sections

# Precise measurements needed in pA and AA (A<20) at highest energies:

- inelastic cross-section
- $\circ$  multiplicity
- $\circ$  diffraction
- $\circ$  forward rapidities





QCD is an essential aspect







## Strong Interactions

## Principle Components



#### Scientific Secretaries: <u>Anton Adronic (Munster)</u> and <u>Ferenc Sikler (Wigner)</u>

## Schedule

Session 1 (1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours) – QCD oriented

- Talk 1: Scientific aspirations
- Talk 2: Experimental QCD at high-energy colliders
- Talk 3: Theory challenges
- Reserve 15 min

#### Session 2 (2 ¼ hours) – Target oriented

- Talk 4: QCD with pre-accelerators @(HL-)LHC
- Talk 5: Precision at low energies
- Talk 6: Lattice QCD
- Talk 7: Fixed Target @(HL-)LHC

#### Session 3 (1 ¾ hours) – HI oriented

- Talk 8: Heavy Ion theory
- Talk 9: Heavy Ion physics at high-energy colliders
- Talk 10: QCD at eA colliders
- Reserve 15 min

#### Session 4 (2 ¼ hours) – Topical

- Talk 11: Around the world
- Talk 12: Synergies ApPEC/NuPECC/Neutrino
- Talk 13: QCD at ep colliders
- Talk 14: Use the LHC facility post HL-LHC for QCD
- Reserve 15 min

(20+10) <u>T. Gehrmann (Zurich)</u> (20+10) <u>D. d'Enterria (CERN)</u> (20+10) <u>G. Salam (Oxford)</u>

(30+15) <u>G. Schnell (Bilbao)</u>
(20+10) <u>K. Kirch (PSI)</u>
(20+10) <u>H. Wittig (Universität Mainz)</u>
(20+10) <u>J-P. Lansberg (IPN-Orsay)</u>

(20+10) <u>U. Wiedemann (CERN)</u>
(20+10) <u>J. Stachel (Heidelberg)</u>
(20+10) <u>N. Armesto (Santiago de Compostella)</u>

(20+10) <u>T. Galatyuk (Darmstadt)</u> (20+10) <u>T. Pierog (KIT)</u> (20+10) <u>U. Klein (Liverpool)</u> (10+20) <u>D. Boer (Groningen)</u>



Scientific Secretaries: Anton Adronic (Munster) and Ferenc Sikler (Wigner)

Session 1 (1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours) – QCD oriented

- Talk 1: Scientific aspirations
- Talk 2: Experimental QCD at high-energy colliders ٠
- Talk 3: Theory challenges ٠
- Reserve 15 min

#### Session 2 (2 ¼ hours) – Target oriented

- Talk 4: QCD with pre-accelerators @(HL-)LHC
- Talk 5: Precision at low energies ٠
- Talk 6: Lattice QCD ٠
- Talk 7: Fixed Target @(HL-)LHC

#### Session 3 (1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours) – HI oriented

- Talk 8: Heavy Ion theory •
- Talk 9: Heavy Ion physics at high-energy colliders
- Talk 10: QCD at eA colliders ٠
- Reserve 15 min ٠

#### Session 4 (2 ¼ hours) – Topical

- Talk 11: Around the world ٠
- Talk 12: Synergies ApPEC/NuPECC/Neutrino
- Talk 13: QCD at ep colliders ٠
- Talk 14: Use the LHC facility post HL-LHC for QCD ٠
- Reserve 15 min •

- Thank you very much! (20+10) T. Gehrmann (Zurich) (20+10) <u>D. d'Enterria (CERN)</u> (20+10) G. Salam (Oxford)
- (30+15) G. Schnell (Bilbao) (20+10) K. Kirch (PSI) (20+10) H. Wittig (Universität Mainz) (20+10) J-P. Lansberg (IPN-Orsay)
- (20+10) U. Wiedemann (CERN) (20+10) J. Stachel (Heidelberg) (20+10) N. Armesto (Santiago de Compostella)

(20+10) T. Galatyuk (Darmstadt) (20+10) <u>T. Pierog (KIT)</u> (20+10) U. Klein (Liverpool) (10+20) D. Boer (Groningen)

Schedule

## **Principle Components for QCD**





#### Hot & Dense QCD

A coherent and complementary "hot & dense QCD program" at the SPS brings valuable and unique contributions in the exploration of the QCD phase diagram.

An (HL-HE-)LHC/FCC based AA/pA/fixedtarget program is unique and provides essential science at the frontline towards a profound understanding of particle physics.

#### **Precision QCD**

A globally concerted "precision QCD program" provides a unique avenue to find new physics that breaks the Standard Model.

An EW scale and highluminosity e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider provides a unique test for pQCD, essential for most of our aspirations in particle physics.



#### Partonic Structure

A "nuclear structure program" exploring the complementarity of ep/pp/eA colliders provides vital ingredients to high-precision exploration (QCD to serve particle physics) and steps into unique unknown territories of new physics (QCD to test particle physics).



#### Theory

It is vital to support coherently the QCD theory community to succeed in all these programs and to link QCD to the rest of the particle physics research program, especially for our HL-LHC exploration.



#### Organization

Strengthening the synergies in research and technology with adjacent fields will reinforce our efforts.

Global platforms, networks and institutes have the potential to enhance the research exchange among experts worldwide and to provide essential training opportunities.

## **Principle Components for QCD**





#### Hot & Dense QCD

A coherent and complementary "hot & dense QCD program" at the SPS brings valuable and unique contributions in the exploration of the QCD phase diagram.

An (HL-HE-)LHC/FCC based AA/pA/fixedtarget program is unique and provides essential science at the frontline towards a profound understanding of particle physics.

#### **Precision QCD**

A globally concerted "precision QCD program" provides a unique avenue to find new physics that breaks the Standard Model.

An EW scale and highluminosity e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider provides a unique test for pQCD, essential for most of our aspirations in particle physics.



#### Partonic Structure

A "nuclear structure program" exploring the complementarity of ep/pp/eA colliders provides vital ingredients to high-precision exploration (QCD to serve particle physics) and steps into unique unknown territories of new physics (QCD to test particle physics).



#### Theory

It is vital to support coherently the QCD theory community to succeed in all these programs and to link QCD to the rest of the particle physics research program, especially for our HL-LHC exploration.



#### Organization

Strengthening the synergies in research and technology with adjacent fields will reinforce our efforts.

Global platforms, networks and institutes have the potential to enhance the research exchange among experts worldwide and to provide essential training opportunities.

Thank you for your attention

## Back-up

## From the previous Physics Briefing Book

#### 5.6 Strategy Issues

The following points could be considered in the discussion on the strategy update:

- For the upgrade of the LHC Pb beam programme after LS2, luminosities of order  $6 \times 10^{27} \,\mathrm{cm}^{-2} \mathrm{s}^{-1}$  are essential to reach the proposed physics goals.
- Some of the possible LHC measurements, which are crucial for understanding of strong interactions, require dedicated low-pileup running. The resulting loss in the total luminosity is expected to be small.
- Dedicated analysis, taking into account all relevant experimental and theoretical aspects, should be performed to give quantitative estimates of the PDF accuracy which can be ultimately reached with the LHC data. This is required for comparison with LHeC capabilities, against the background of the exact requirements of HL-LHC for PDF uncertainties, which should be established as well.
- The LHeC project offers, in addition to the PDF studies motivated by LHC needs, a very rich and diverse physics programme by itself. If the project is to be considered as one of the future collider options, dedicated effort towards the preparation of a Technical Design Report is needed.
- The fixed-target programme at CERN gives a very valuable contribution to research in strong interaction physics. It offers unique measurement possibilities which can not be covered at other facilities.



- What are the experimental and theoretical pre-requisites to reach an adequate precision of perturbative and non-perturbative QCD predictions at the highest energies?
- What can be learned from beams-on-target experiments at current and potential future (pre-)accelerators to test strong interactions?
- How to probe the QGP equation of state and to establish whether there is a 1st order phase transition at high baryon density?
- What is known about the make-up of the proton (mass, radius, spin, etc.) and how to extract it?
- What is the role of strong interactions at very low and very high (up to astrophysical) energies?



## **Strong Interactions**

Copied from the input submission page:

- perturbative and non-perturbative QCD
- DIS
- Heavy lons

# The upgrade of ALICE for Run4 @ HL-LHC: AA/pA slide from Johanna Stachel



## QCD Organization

