

# Experimental evidence for saturation — a mini-review

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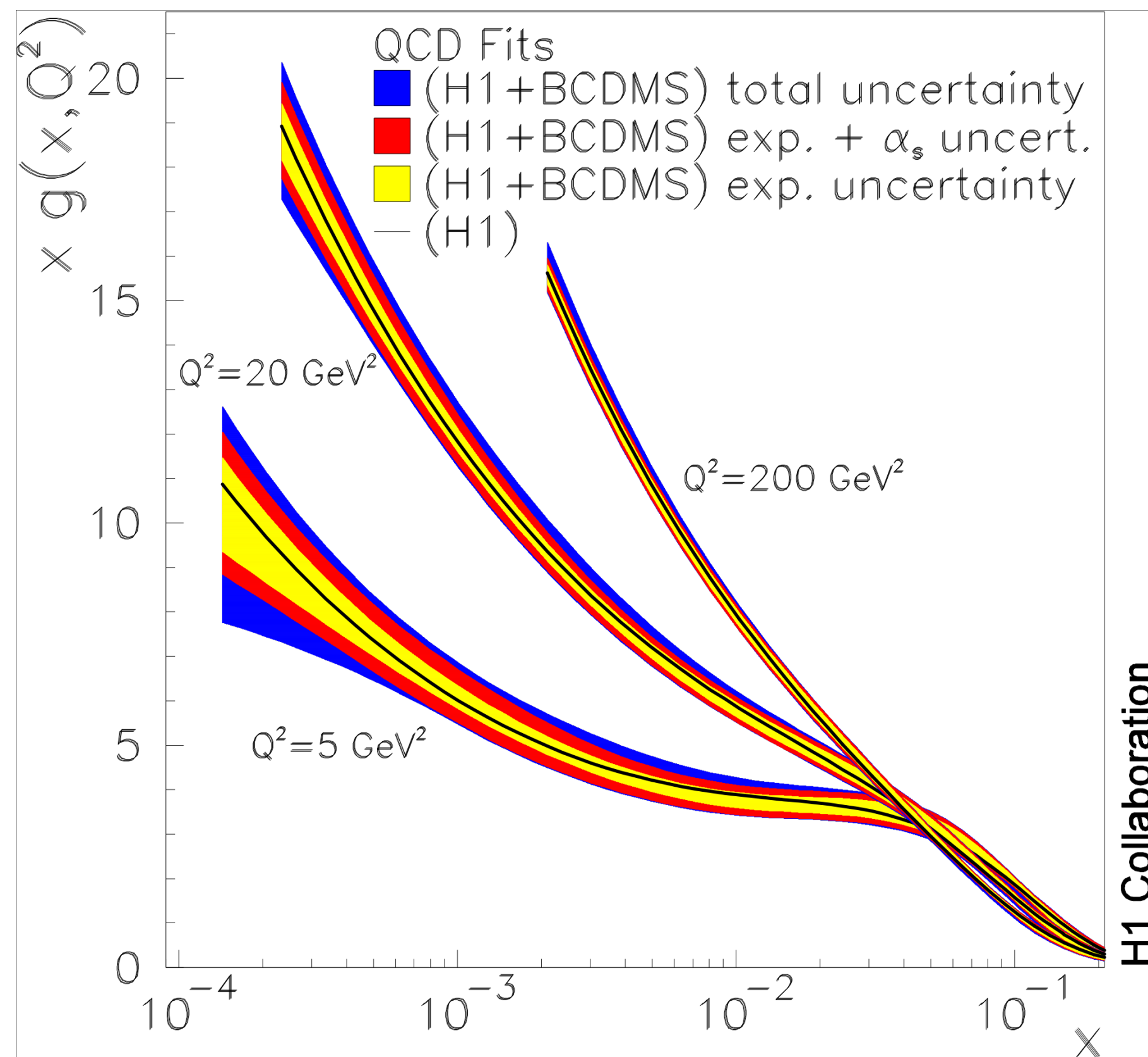
**IS2021**

The VI<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the  
**INITIAL STAGES**  
OF HIGH-ENERGY NUCLEAR  
COLLISIONS

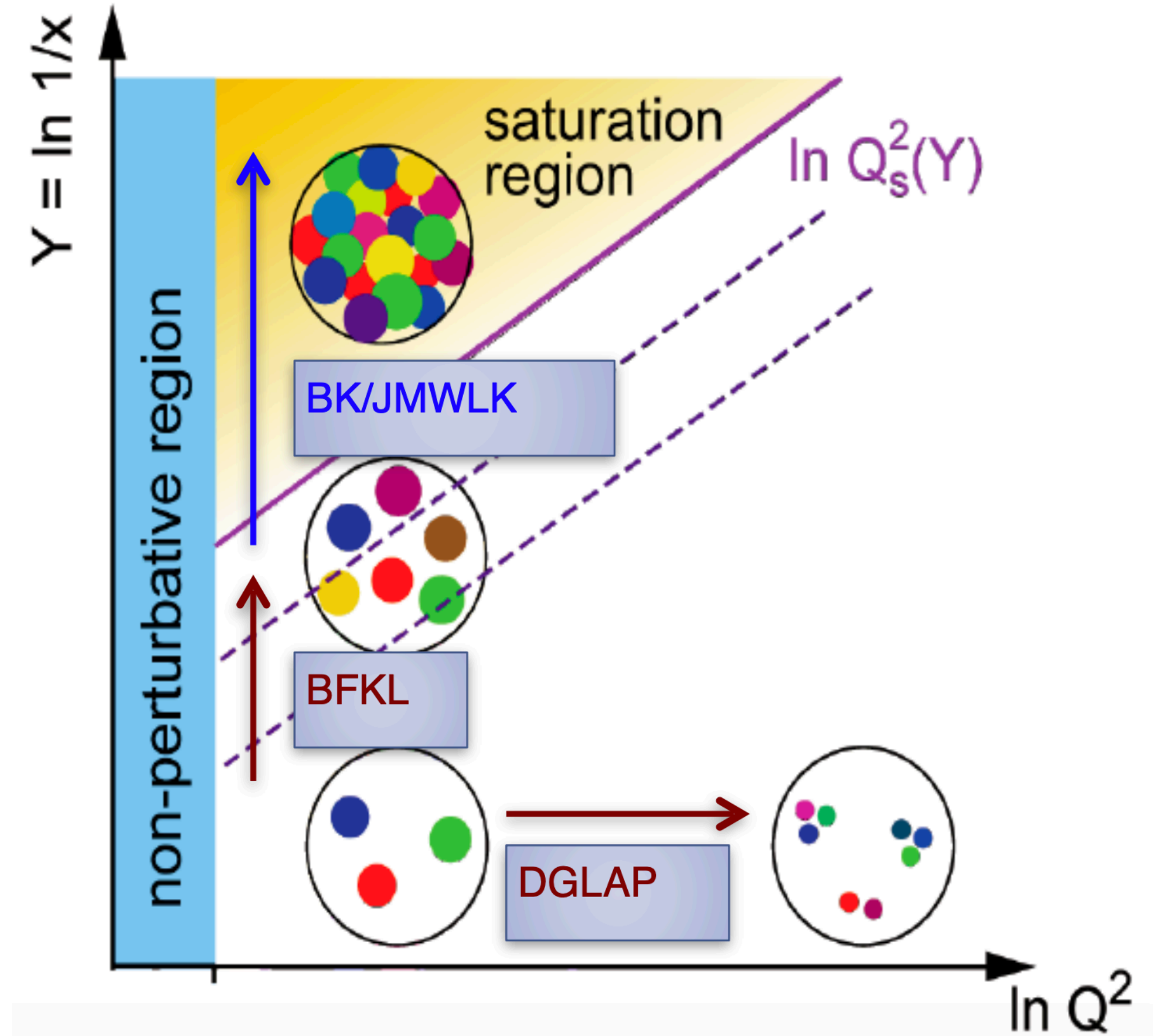


# Experimental evidence of saturation?

Q<sup>2</sup> evolution: gluon density



Gluon content of proton rises quickly with Q<sup>2</sup>



Something must 'tame' the gluons at low  $x$   
non-linear evolution, gluon fusion?

# Where do we expect saturation?

- Non-linear processes, gluon fusion expected to become important
  - At small  $Q^2 < Q_s^2$
  - At small  $x$ , i.e. where  $Q_s$  is large enough
  - Effect sets in earlier in nuclei than in protons
- Most studies to date: compare nuclei to protons/neutrons

$$Q_s^2 \approx \frac{xG_A(x, Q^2)}{\pi R_A^2} \propto A^{1/3} x^{-\lambda}$$

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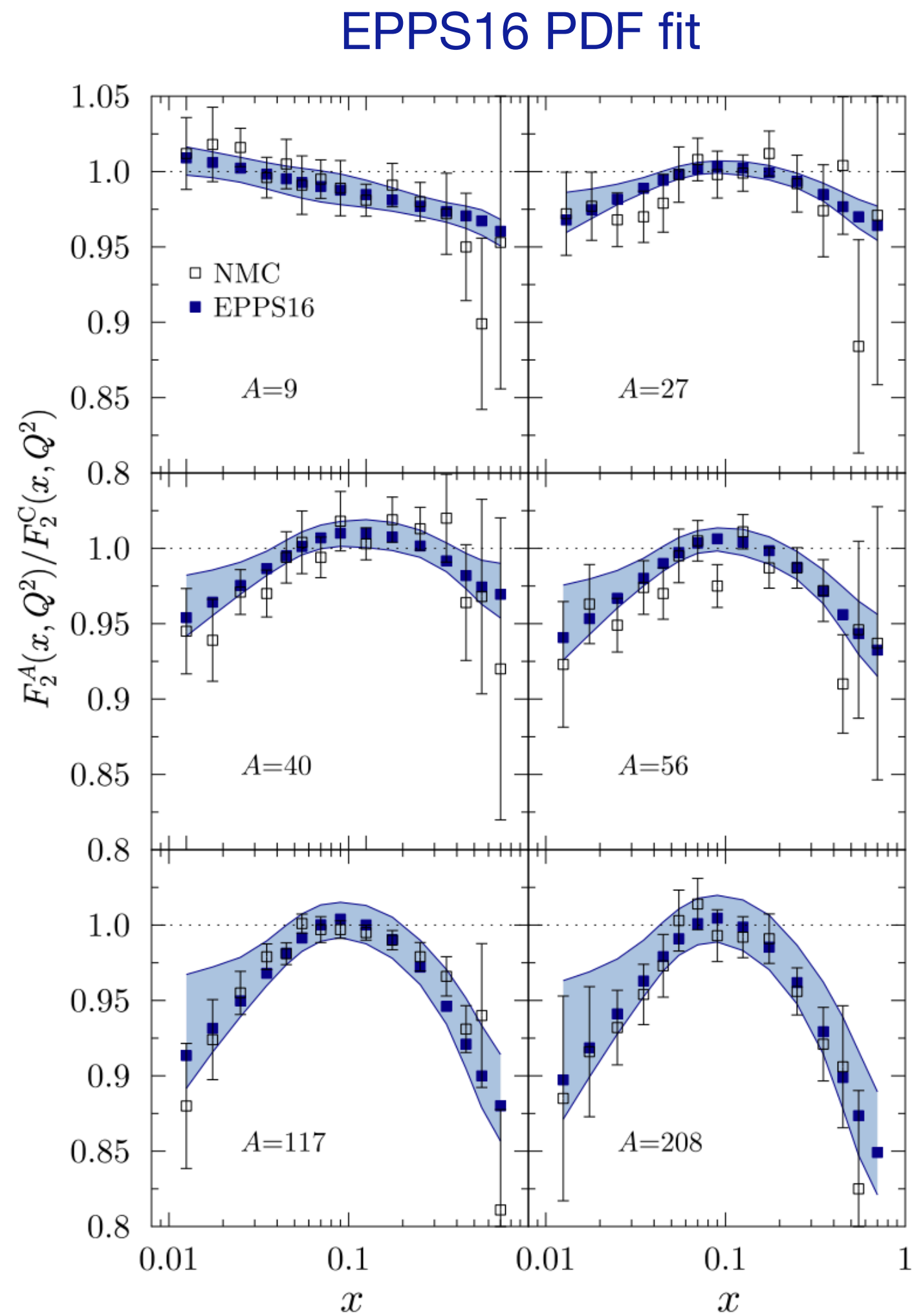
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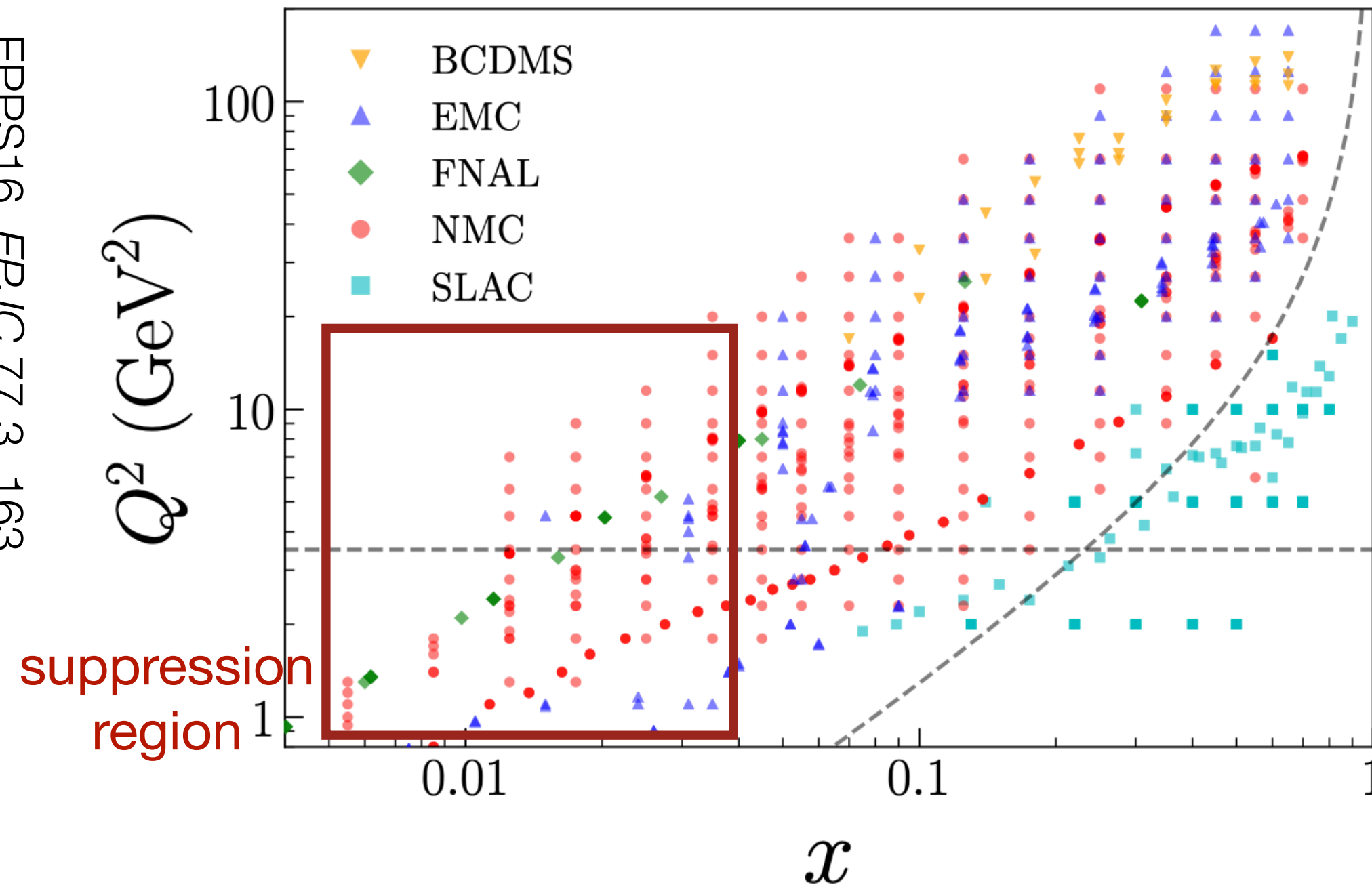
- Observables/measurements:

- Inclusive production: forward, moderate to low  $p_T$  probes small  $x$ 
  - Forward open charm: reach to smallest  $x$  in current LHC results
  - Direct photons: clean probe, but mostly measured at mid-rapidity, fairly high  $p_T$
  - Electroweak bosons: both forward and mid-rapidity, large  $Q^2$   $\rightarrow$  Not discussed here
- UPC  $J/\psi$  production: very small  $x$ , small  $Q^2$
- Two-particle correlations: look for mono-jet topology, multi-gluon recoil

# Evidence for saturation/shadowing from DIS: NMC data



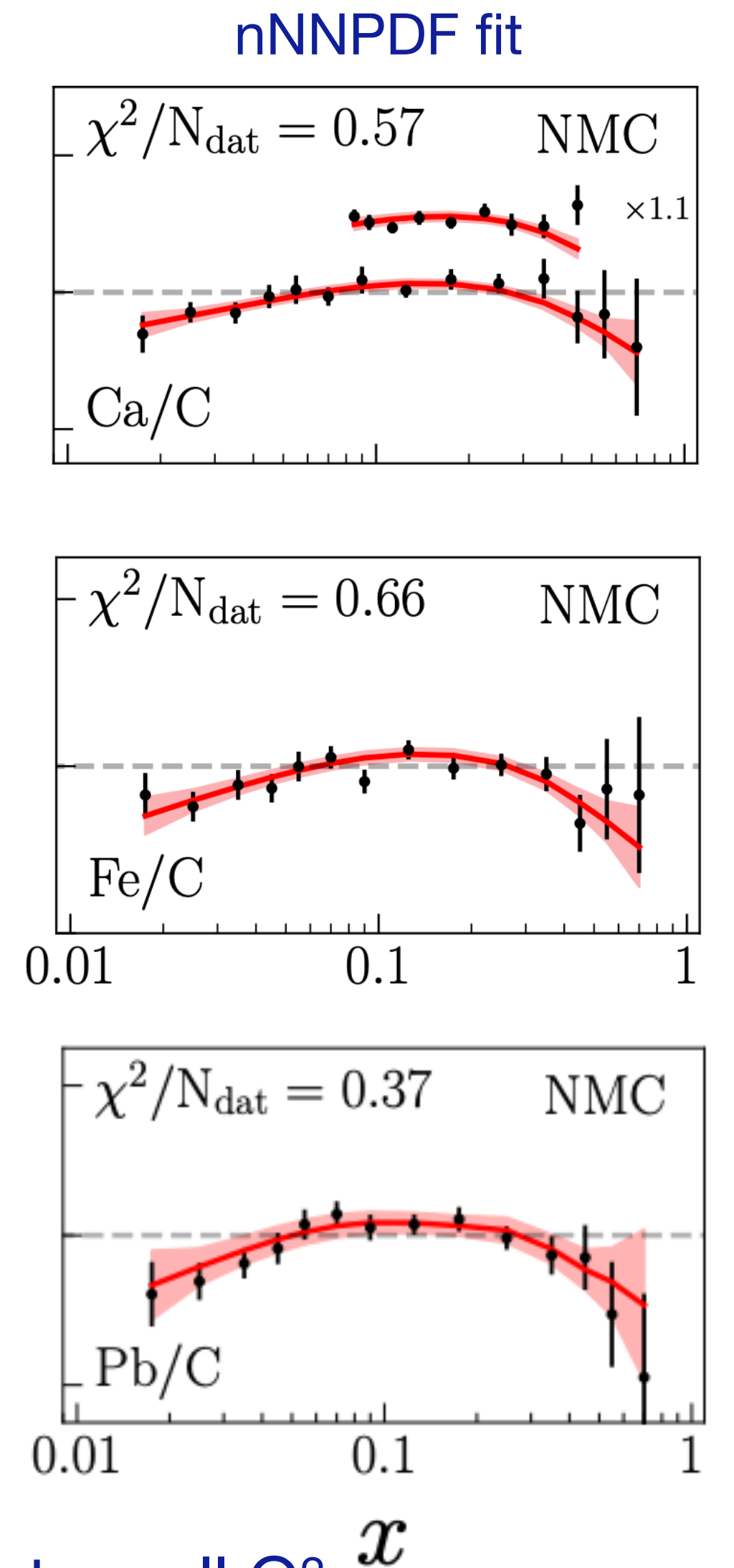
EPPS16, EPJ C 77 3, 163



DIS kinematics: small  $x$  is also small  $Q^2$   
Small  $x$  reach depends on  $Q^2$  cut-off

EPPS16  
 $Q^2_{\min} = 1.69 \text{ GeV}^2$

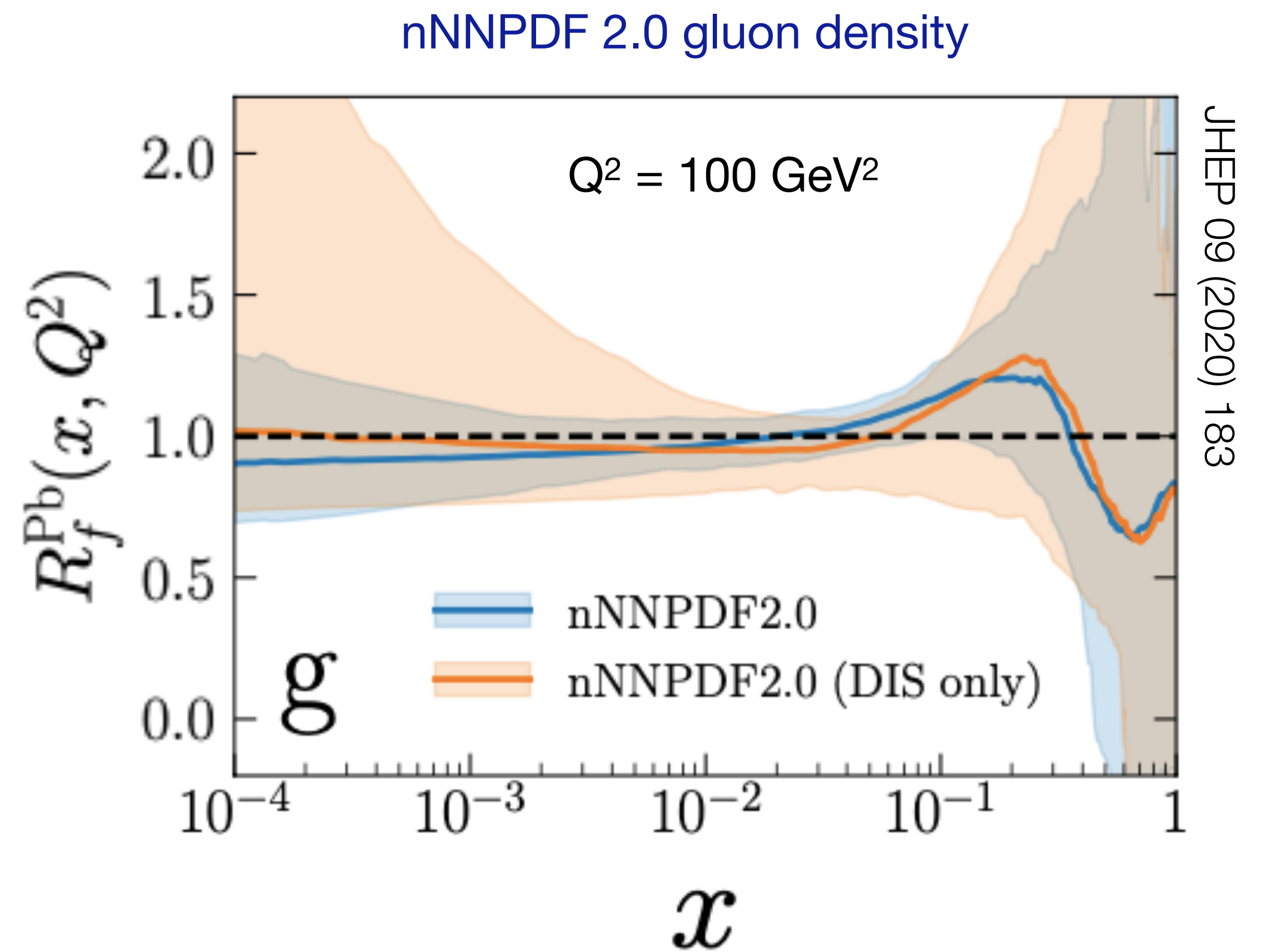
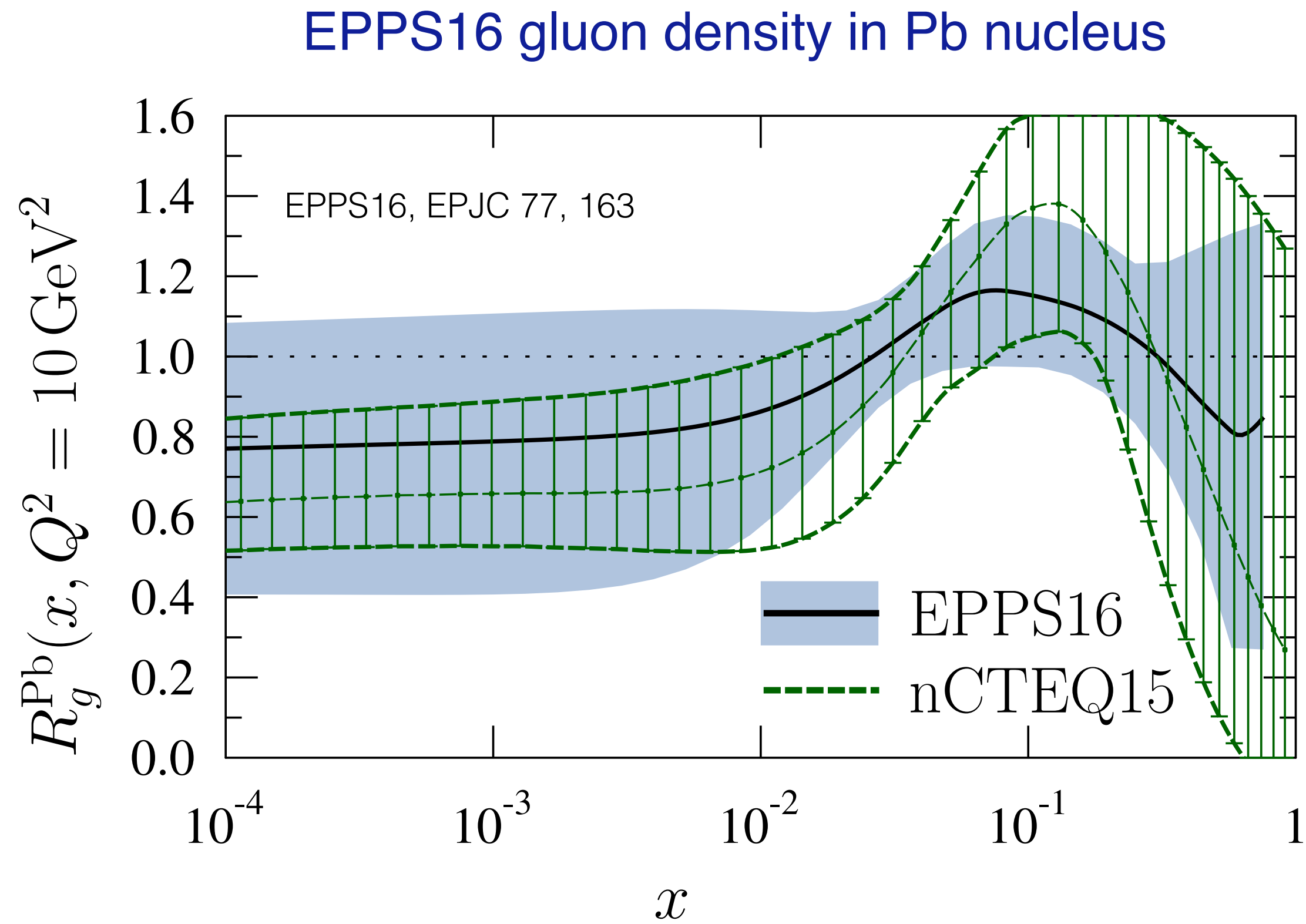
nNNPDF  
 $Q^2_{\min} = 3.5 \text{ GeV}^2$



nNNPDF: R. A. Khalek et al, EPJ C 79 6, 471, JHEP 09 (2020) 183

Main evidence for shadowing/saturation from DIS concentrated at small  $Q^2$

# nPDF gluon densities at small $x$



Suppression of gluon density ‘shadowing’ from global fit; small- $x$  driven by NMC data

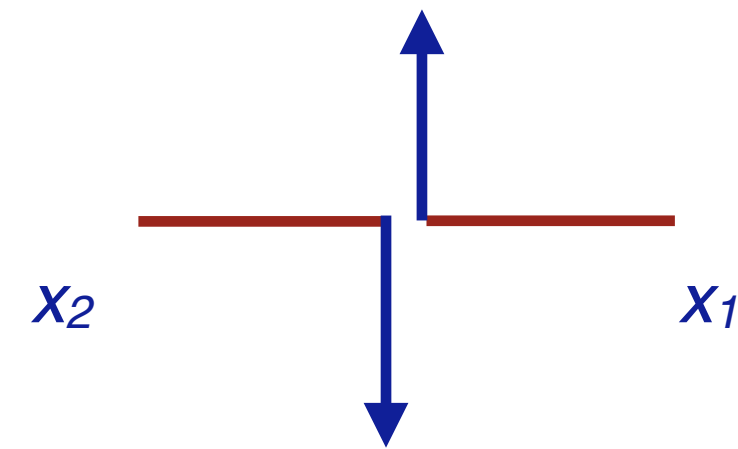
Amount of suppression varies between fits

Large uncertainties over broad range  $x < 10^{-2}$

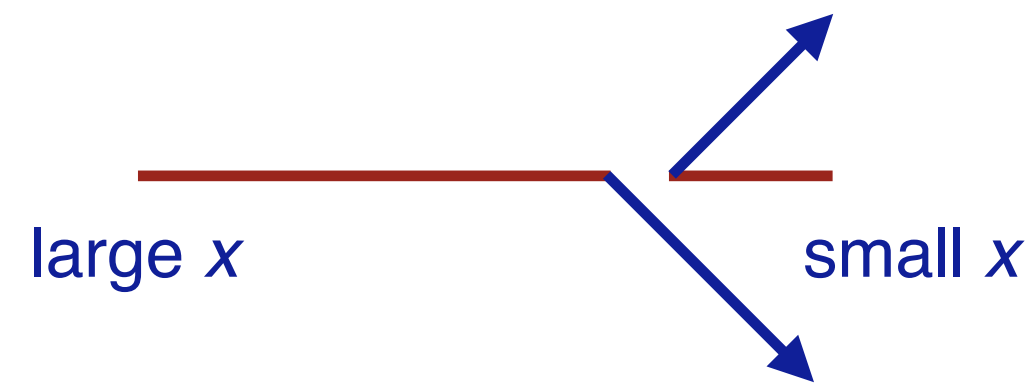
# Probing gluons with inclusive particle production

# 2-parton kinematics

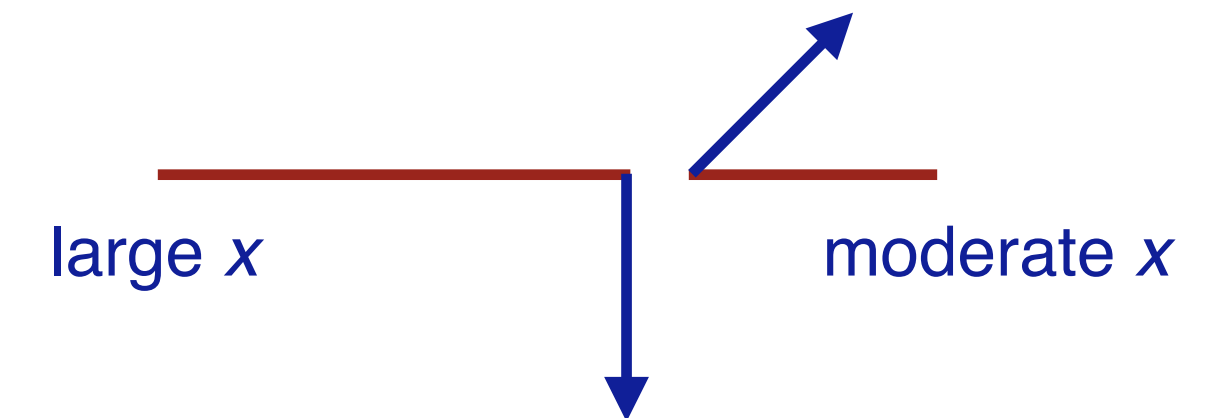
Both outgoing partons at mid-rapidity



Both outgoing partons at forward rapidity



One parton forward, one closer to mid-rap



Both incoming partons at moderate x

$$\hat{s} = x_1 x_2 s \approx (2 p_T)^2$$

$$x_1 \approx x_2 \approx \frac{2 p_T}{\sqrt{s}}$$

**Boosted configuration:  
One small-x, one large-x parton**

$$\hat{s} = x_1 x_2 s \approx (2 p_T)^2$$

$$x_1 \approx \frac{p_T}{\sqrt{s}} e^{-y}$$

Large mass final state

$$Q^2 = \hat{s} > (2 p_T)^2$$

small probability

Note: 2 to 2 scattering is LO kinematics; NLO processes add additional freedom/smearing



# RHIC forward particle suppression

- Nuclear modification factor  $R_{dAu}$

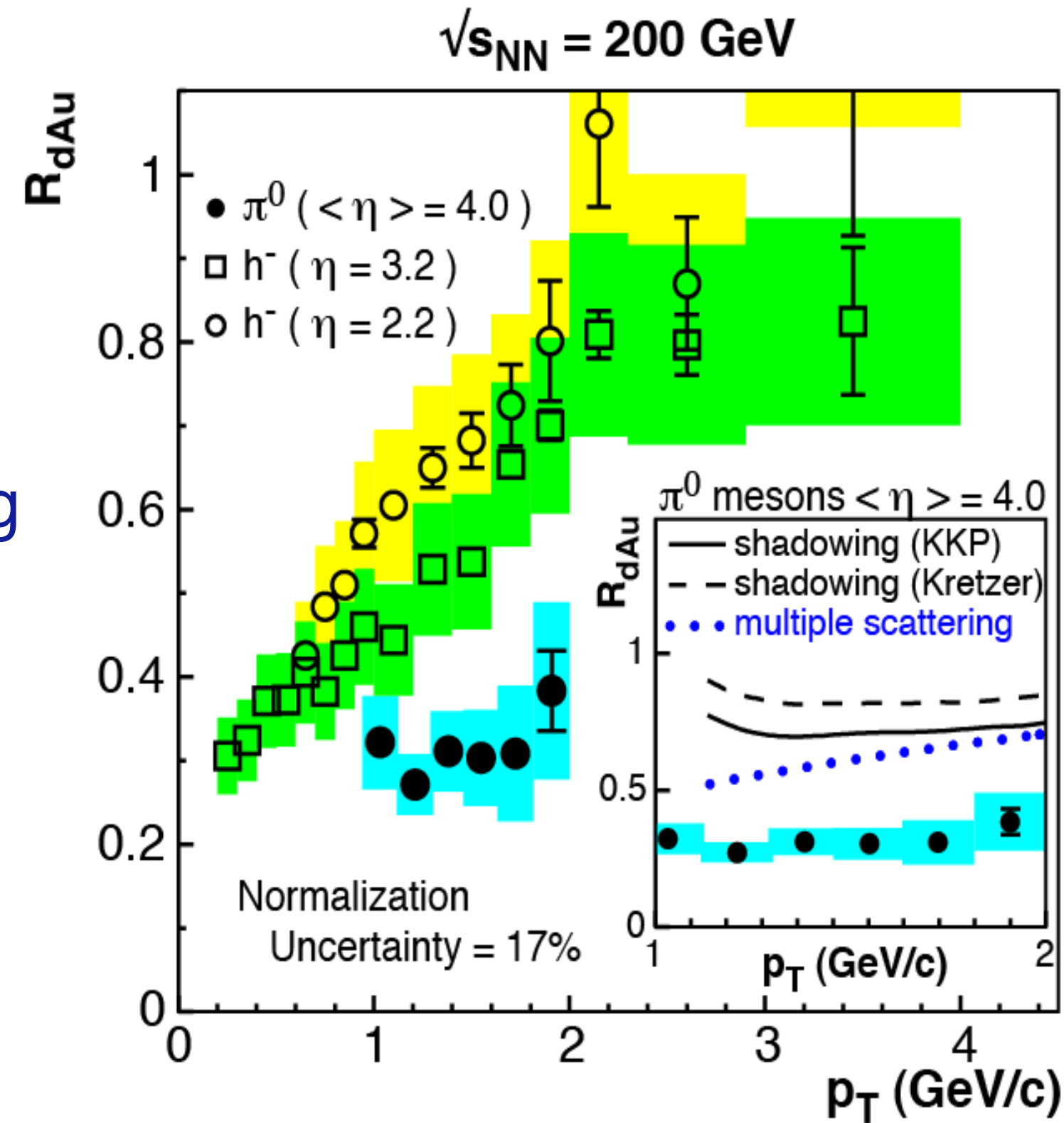
$$R_{dAu} = \frac{dN/dp_T|_{dAu}}{Ad\sigma/dp_T|_{pp}}$$

- Yield suppression  $R_{dAu} < 1$  seen at RHIC
  - Low  $p_T$ : expect also  $N_{part}$  vs  $N_{coll}$  scaling
  - $p_T > 2$  GeV,  $R_{dAu} \sim 0.8$

Probes  $x \sim 10^{-3}$

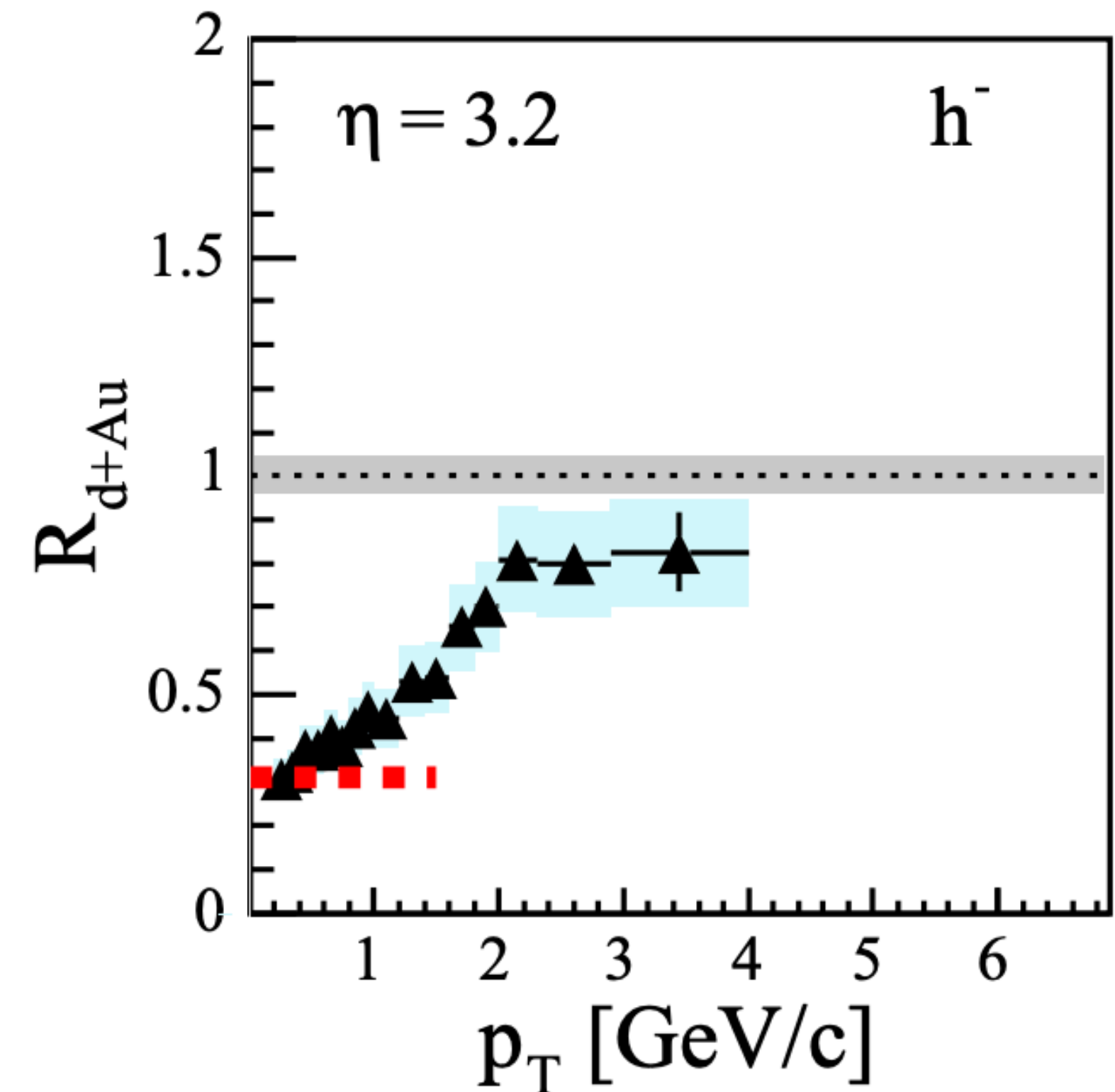
First hint of saturation?  
 $\Rightarrow$  Can we confirm this at LHC?

STAR: charged hadrons,  $\pi^0$



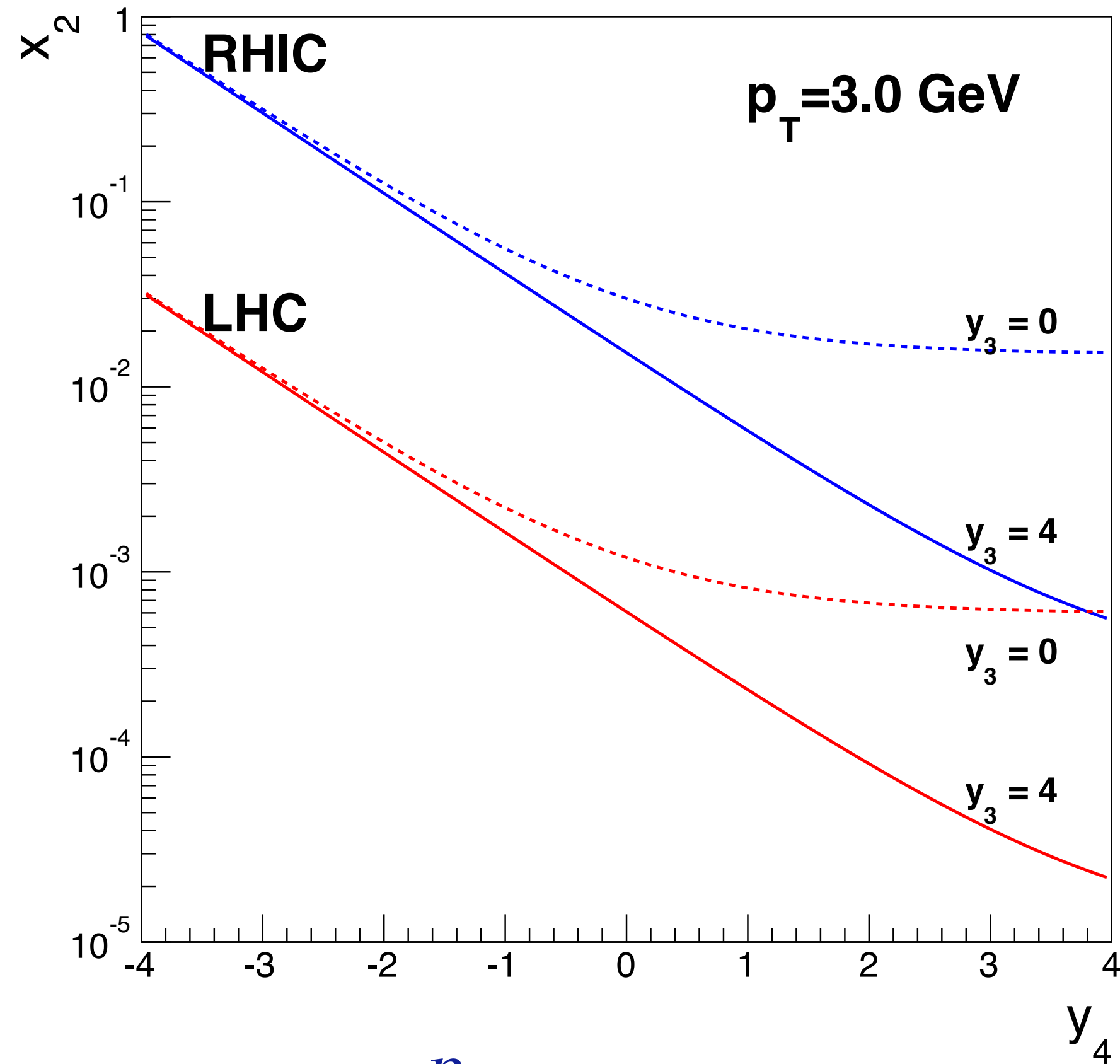
STAR, PRL 97 152302

BRAHMS: charged hadrons



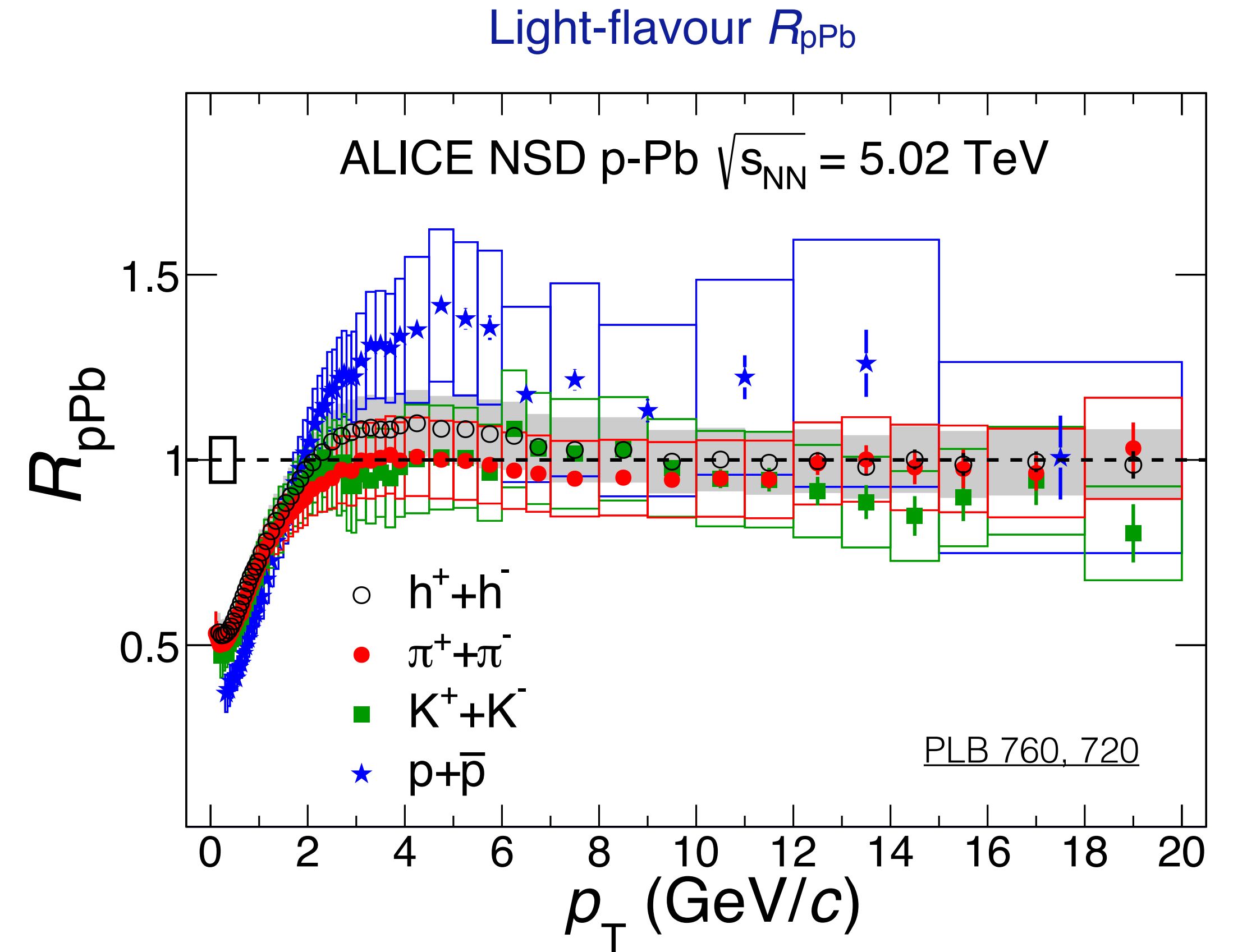
BRAHMS, Phys. Rev. Lett. 93, 242303

# RHIC and LHC for $x \sim 10^{-4}$



$$x_2 \approx \frac{p_T}{\sqrt{s}} (e^{-y_3} + e^{-y_4})$$

Mid-rapidity at LHC  $\approx$  forward rapidity at RHIC

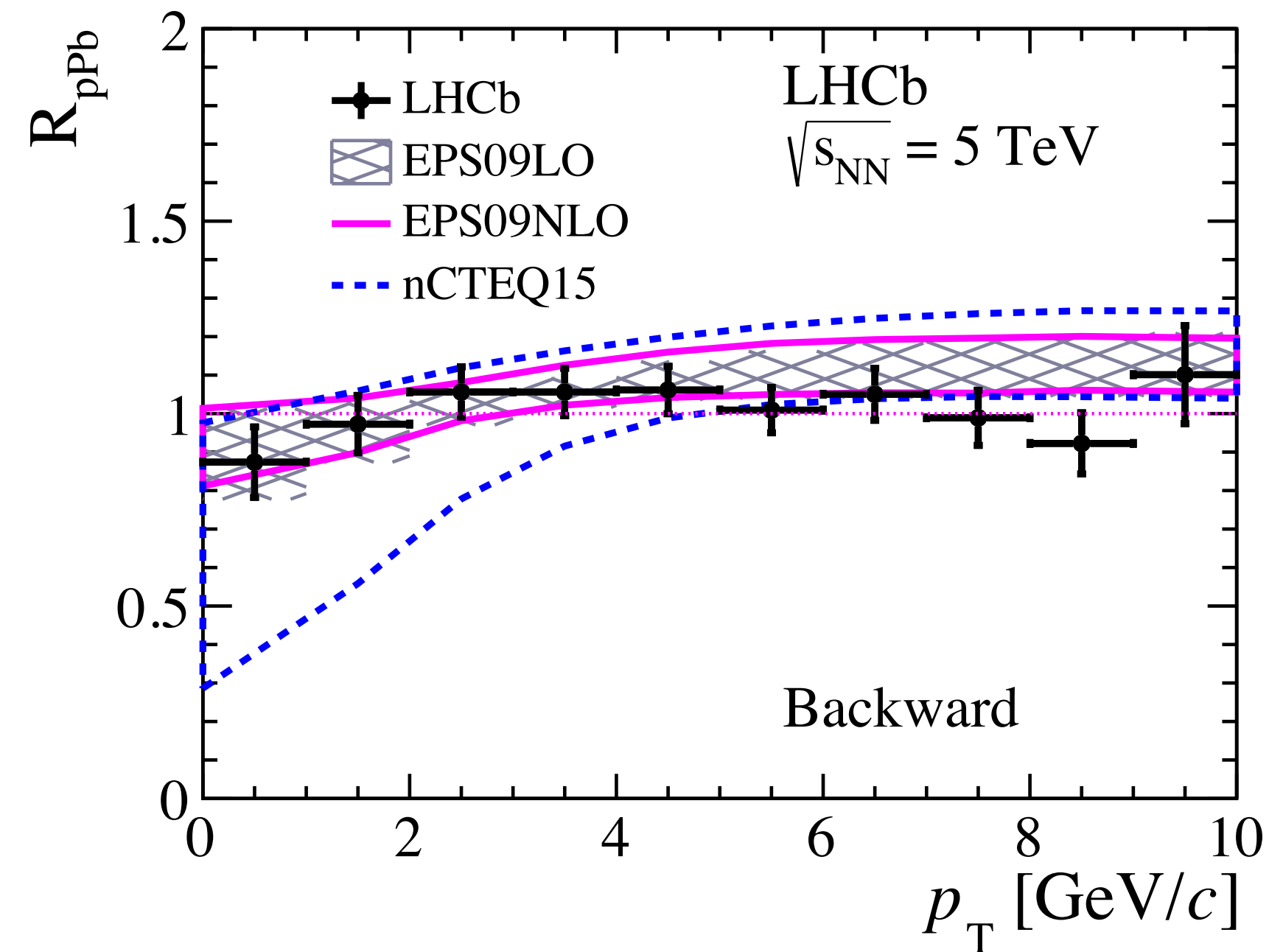


No sign of suppression at high  $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}$   
 $p_T < 2 \text{ GeV}$  expect soft effects;  $N_{part}$  scaling

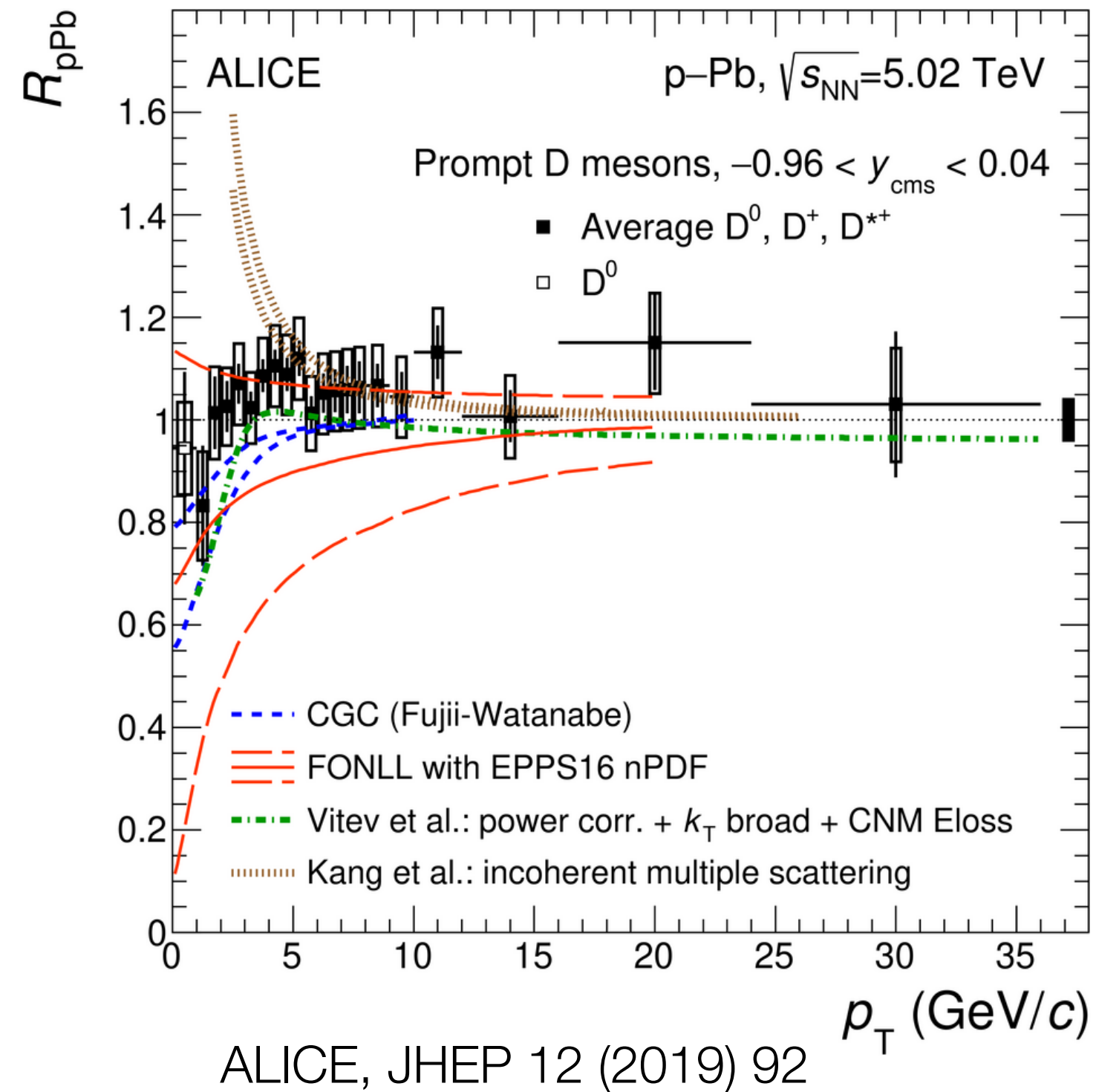
Enhancement for protons?

# Open charm production vs rapidity at LHC

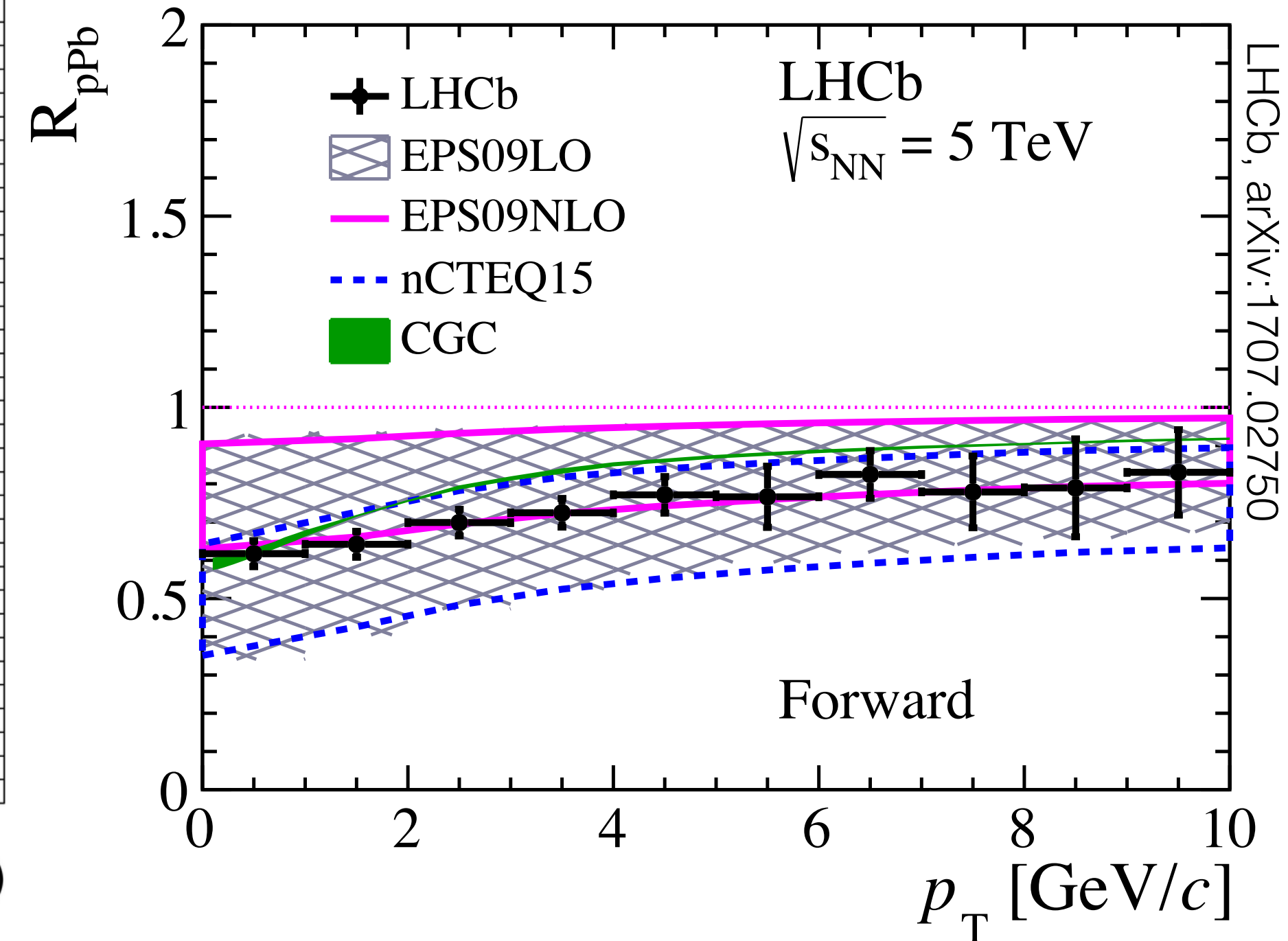
Backward rapidity: large x



Mid-rapidity



Forward rapidity: small x



$R_{pPb} \sim 1$  at backward and mid-rapidity; below 1 at forward rapidity

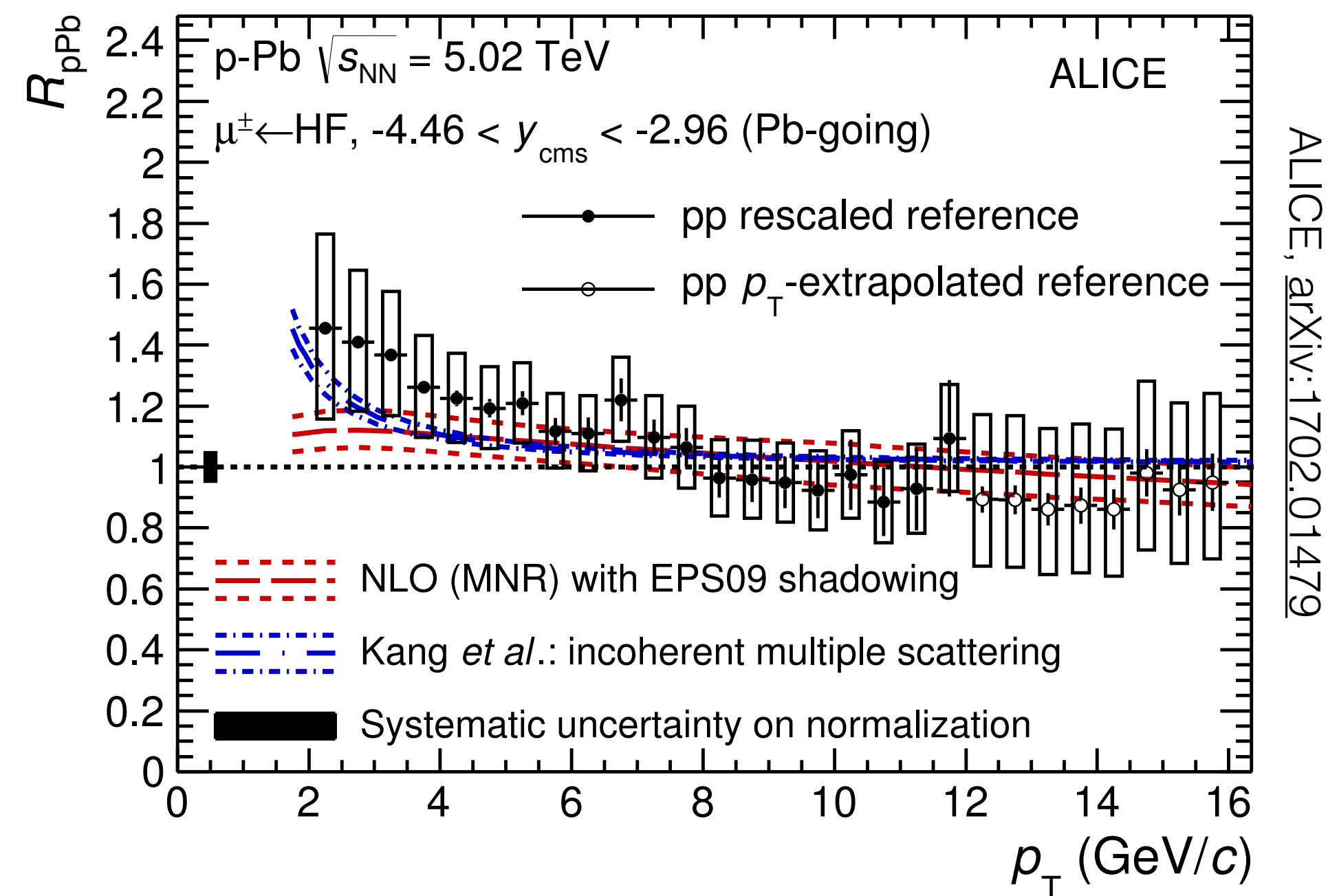
Suppression mainly at small-x compatible with nuclear PDFs (shadowing) and CGC calculations

CGC: DeCloue et al, PRD 91, 114005

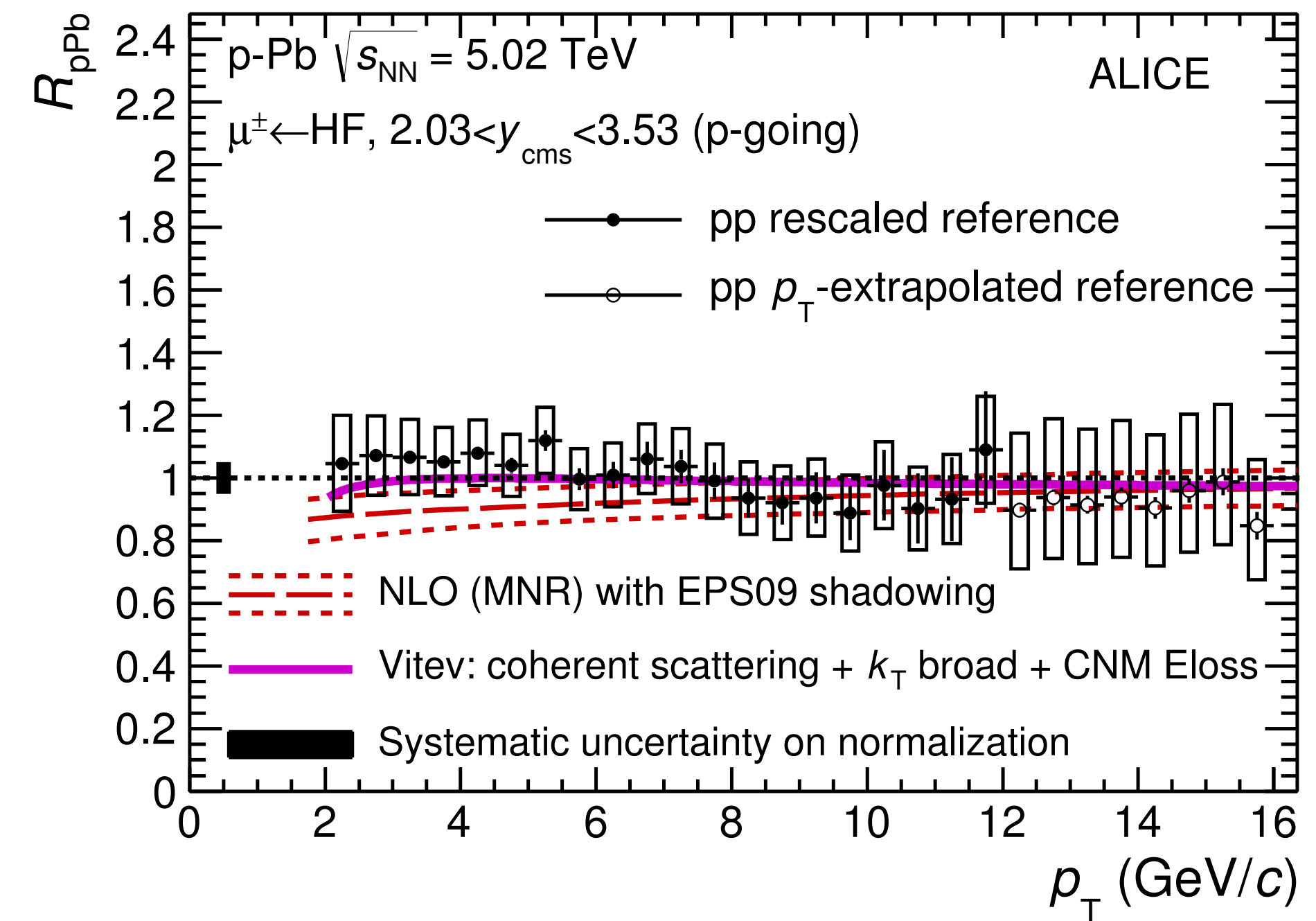
# Open charm production at backward and forward rapidity

ALICE: Heavy flavour decay muons

Backward rapidity: large  $x$



Forward rapidity: small  $x$



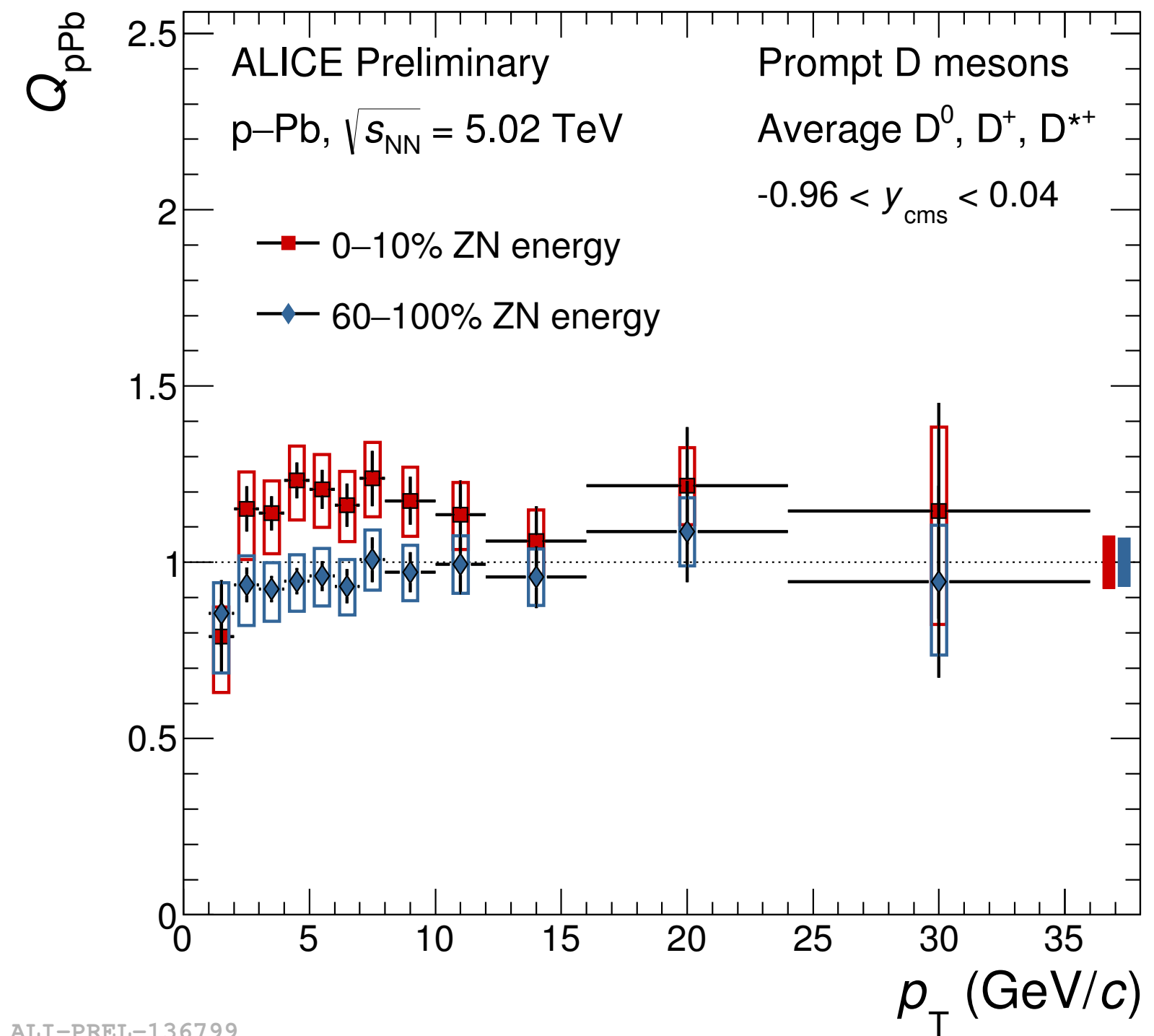
Forward muons (ALICE) show similar trend, different normalisation:  
 $R_{pPb} \approx 1$  at forward (small- $x$ ), but enhancement in backward direction

(Note: measured  $p_T$  is from decay muon)

# Final state effects in p-Pb collisions: 'radial and elliptic flow'?

ALICE, [PRL 122, 072301](#)

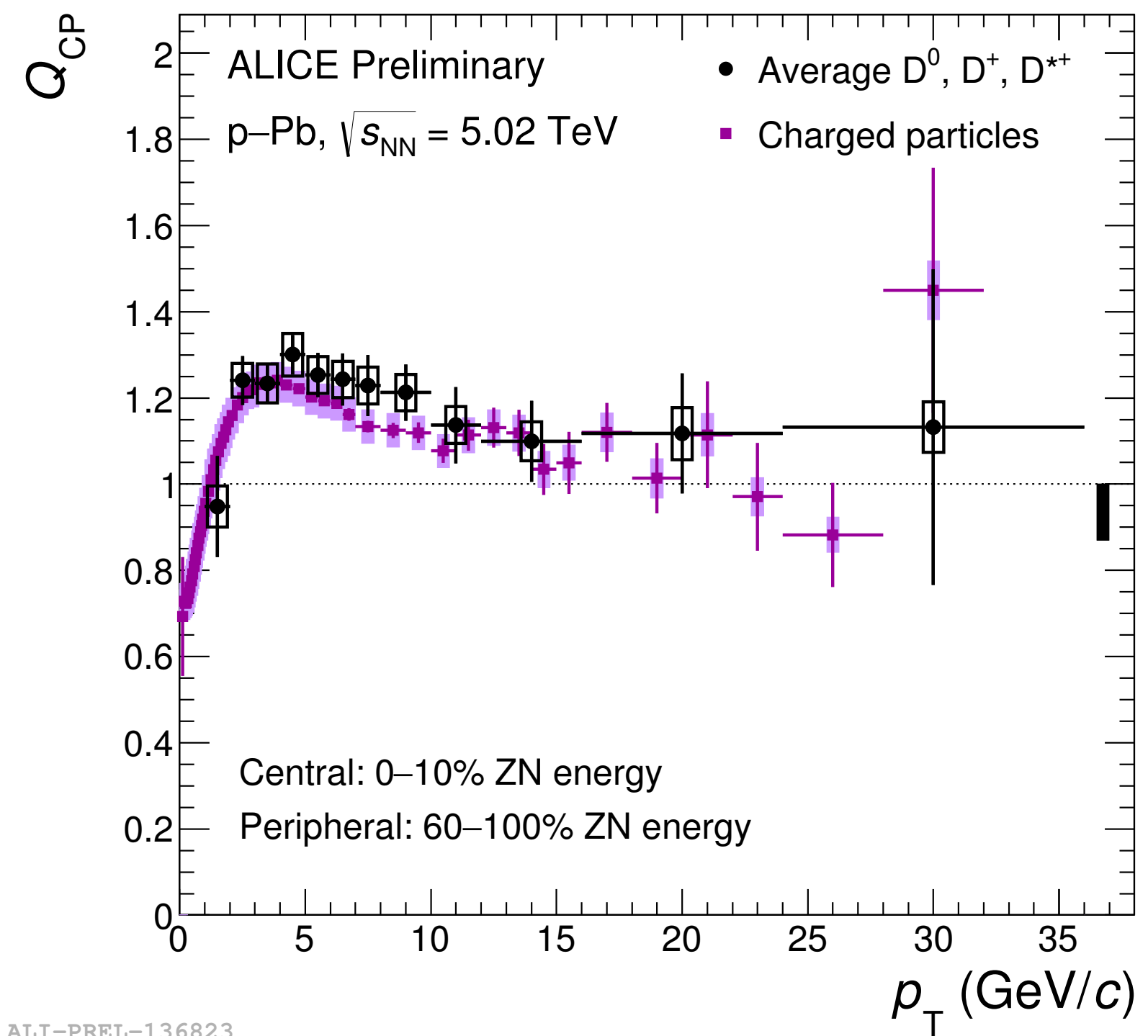
$Q_{pPb}$  for charm, central and peripheral



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ALICE, [PRL 122, 072301](#)

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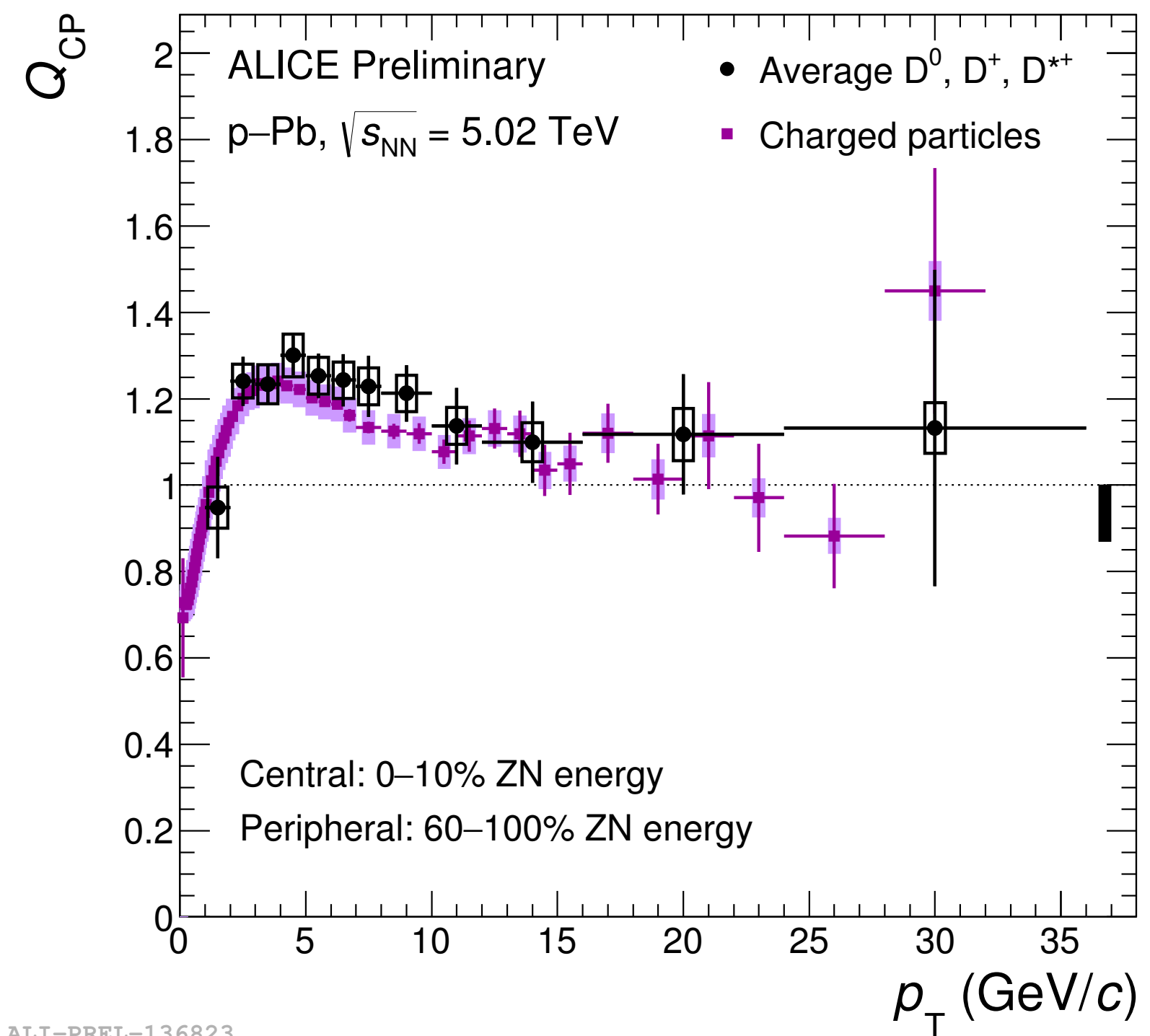


Ratio central/peripheral shows  
hint of flow-like 'bump'  
( $Q_{CP} > 1$  significance  $1.5\sigma$ )

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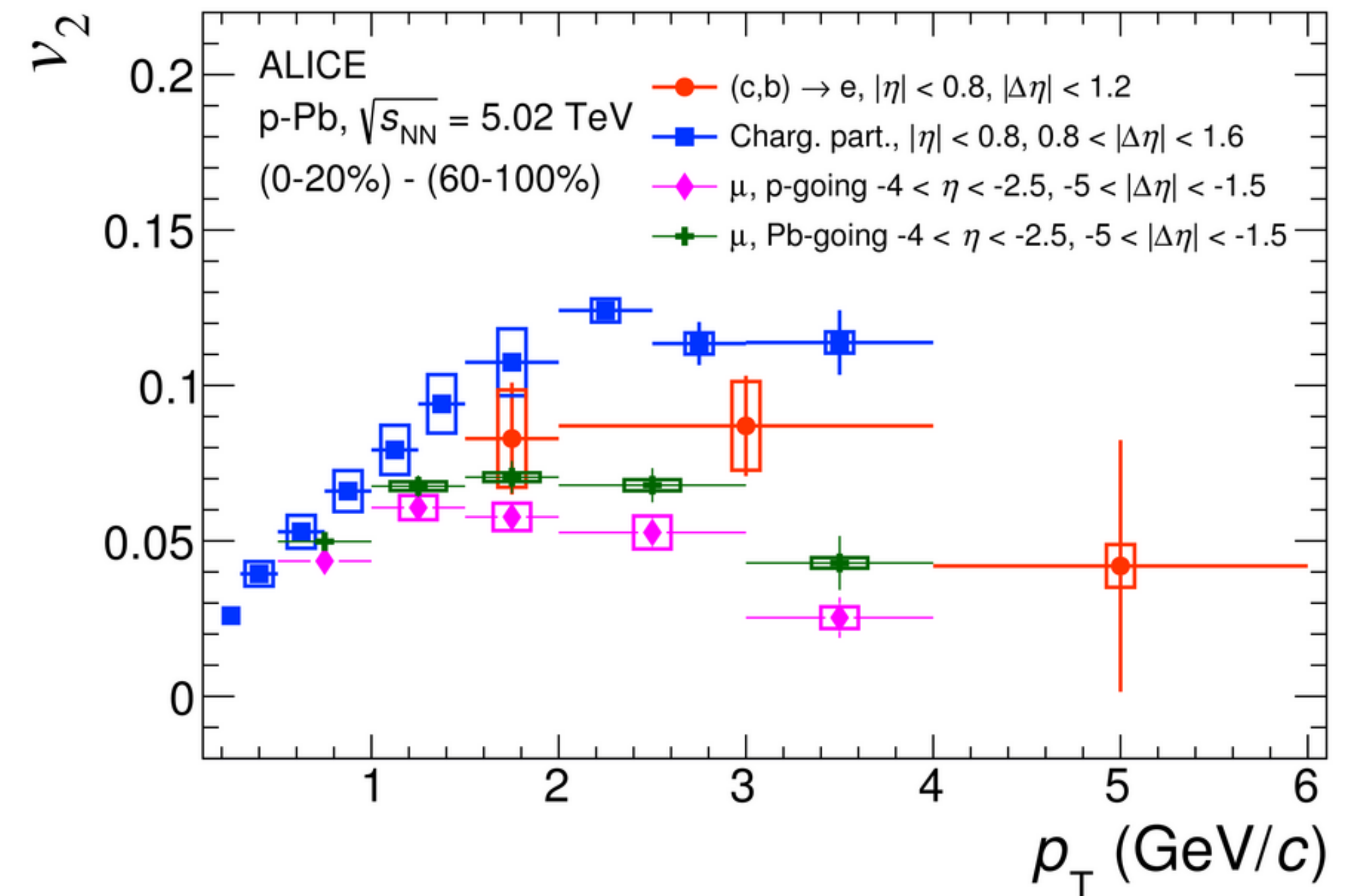
ALICE, [PRL 122, 072301](#)

$Q_{pPb}$  for charm, central and peripheral



Ratio central/peripheral shows  
hint of flow-like 'bump'  
( $Q_{CP} > 1$  significance  $1.5\sigma$ )

$v_2$  for heavy flavour electrons and muons



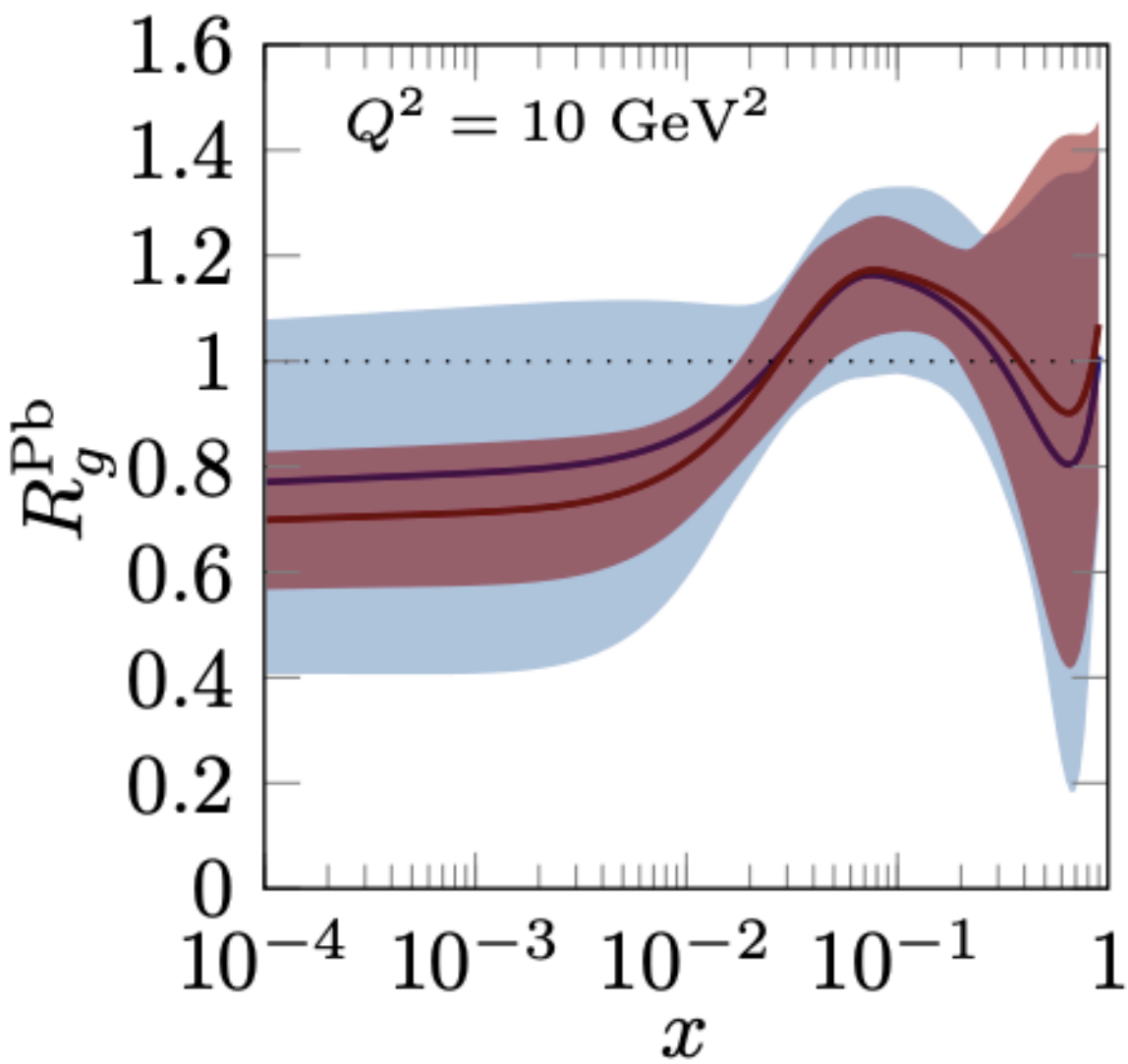
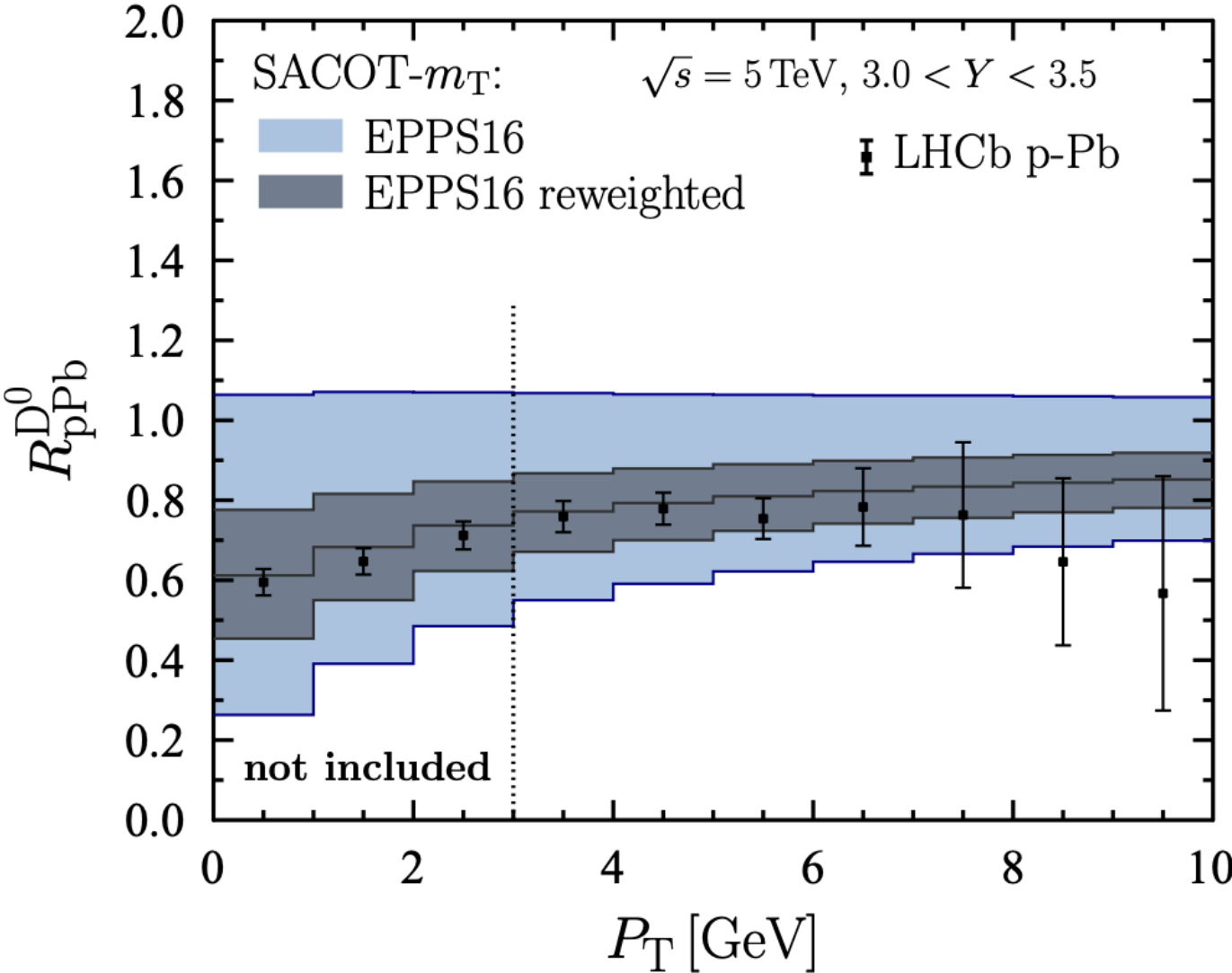
Clear  $v_2$ -like modulations for HF decay muons and electrons  
strength of modulation smaller than for charged particles in p-Pb

Interesting physics, but a 'nuisance effect' for parton density studies...

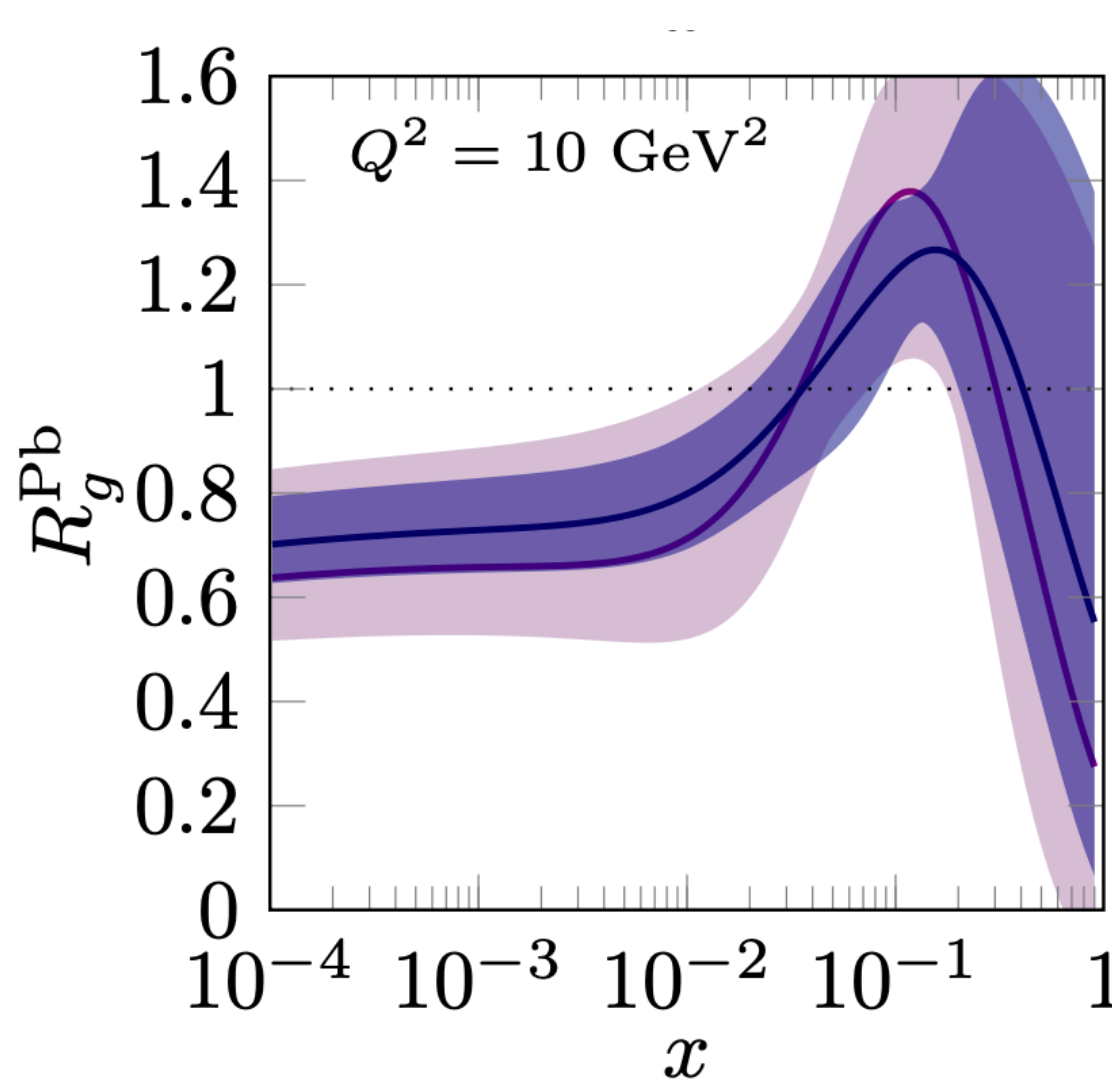
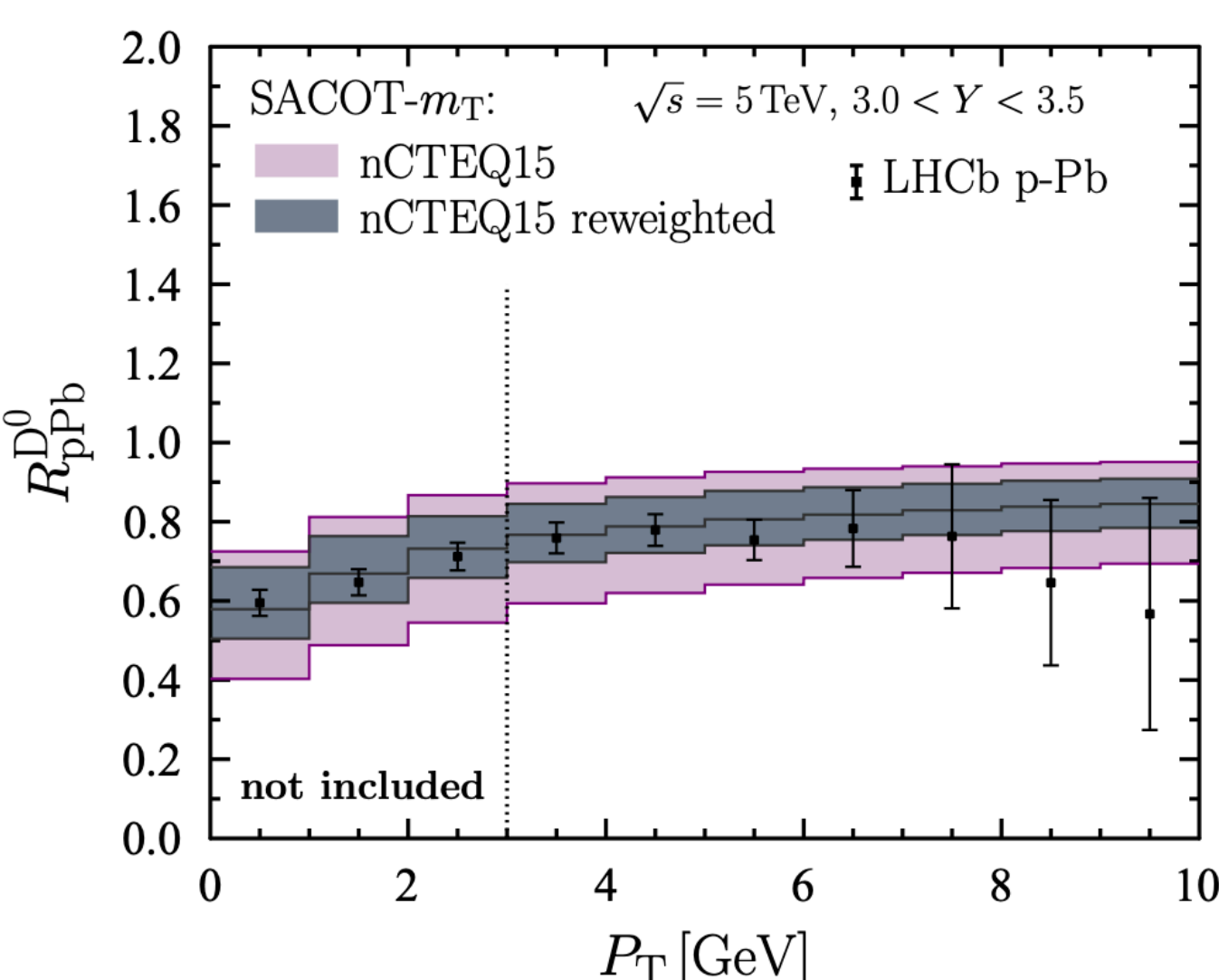
# PDF reweighting with charm: full NLO charm calculation

Eskola, Helenius et al, *JHEP* 05 (2020) 037

EPPS16 reweighting



nCTEQ15 reweighting

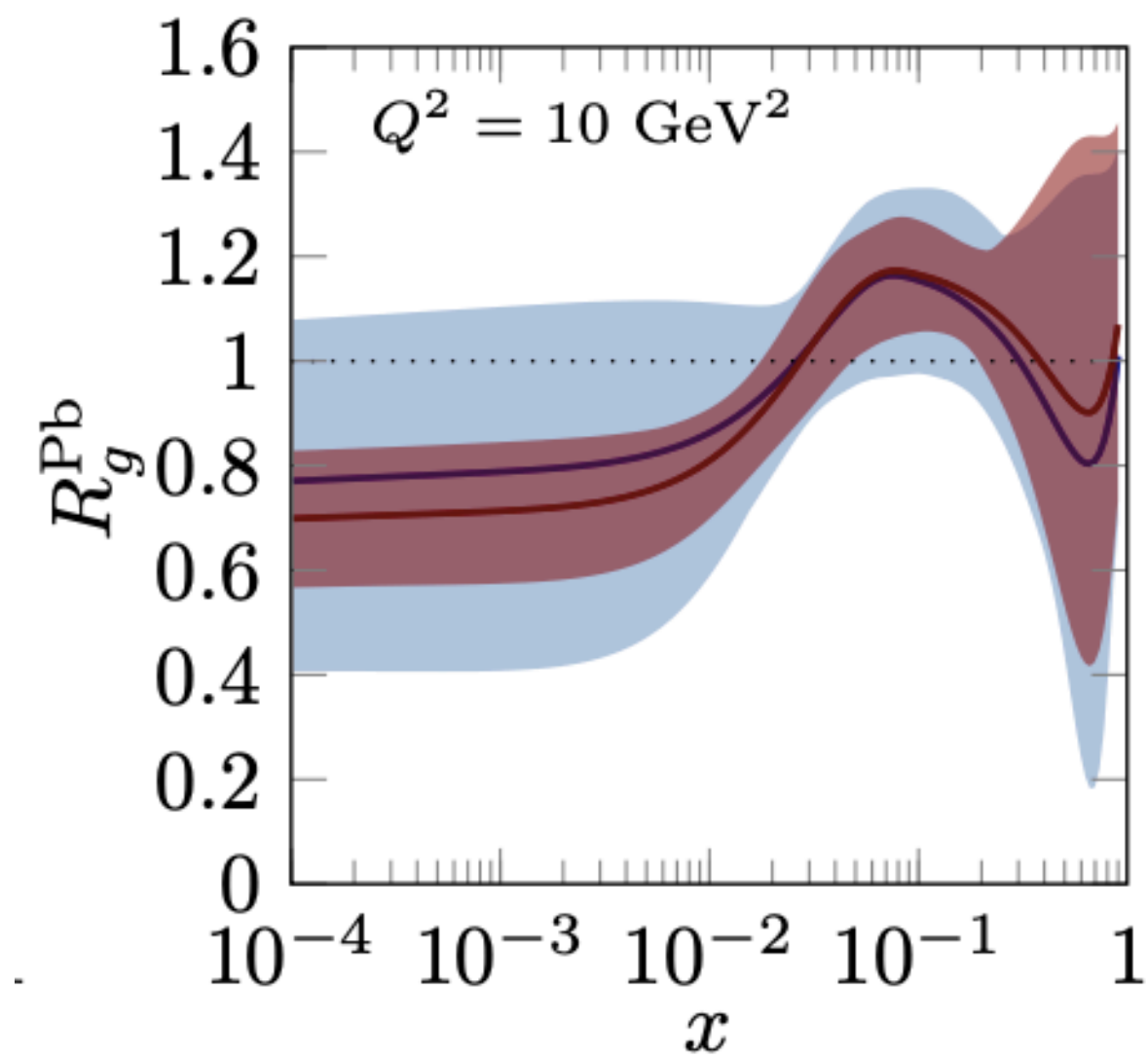
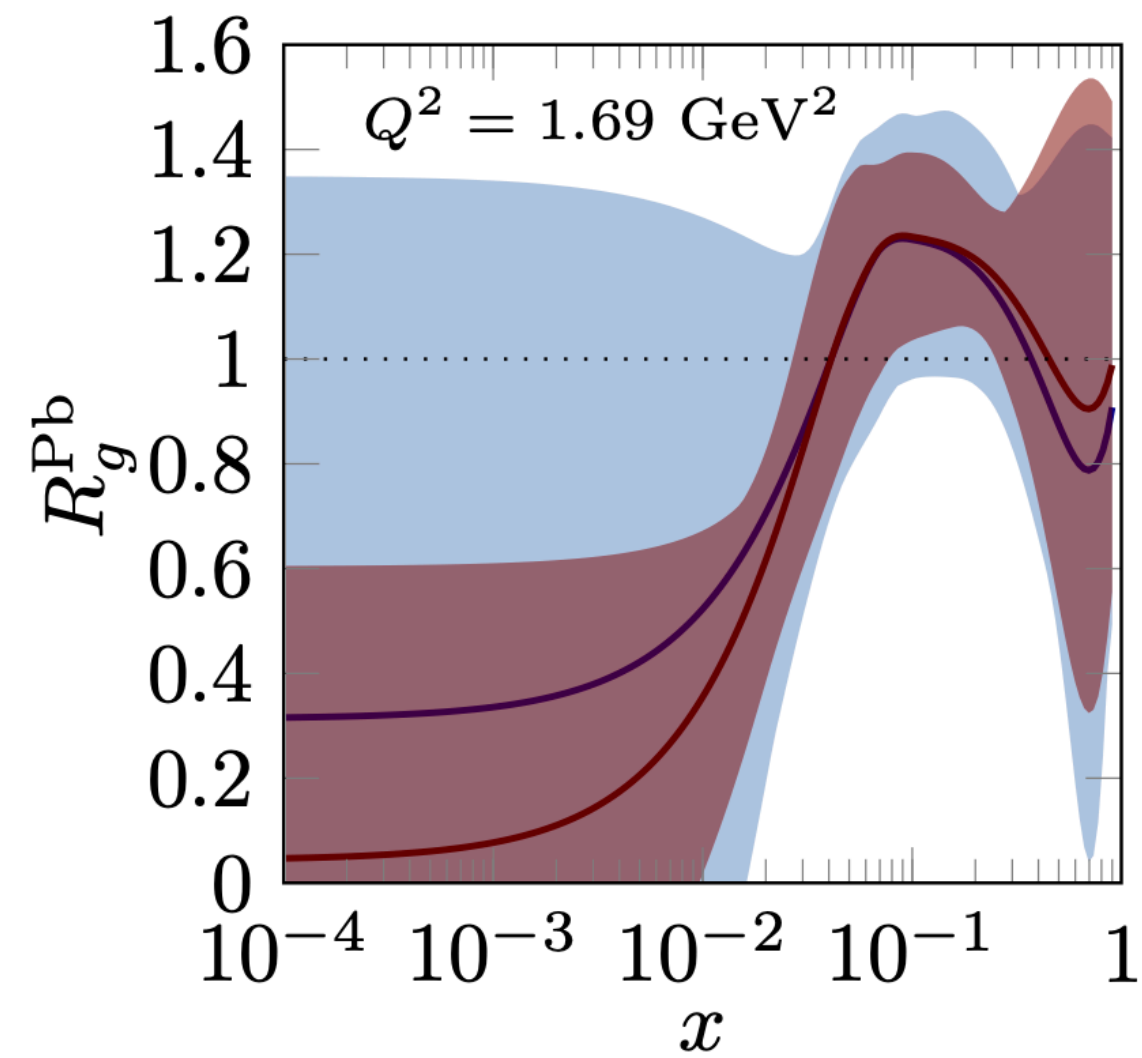


Forward charm data brings significant constraints; prefer shadowing with  $R_g \sim 0.7$  at  $x < 5 \cdot 10^{-3}$  ( $Q^2 = 10 \text{ GeV}$ )

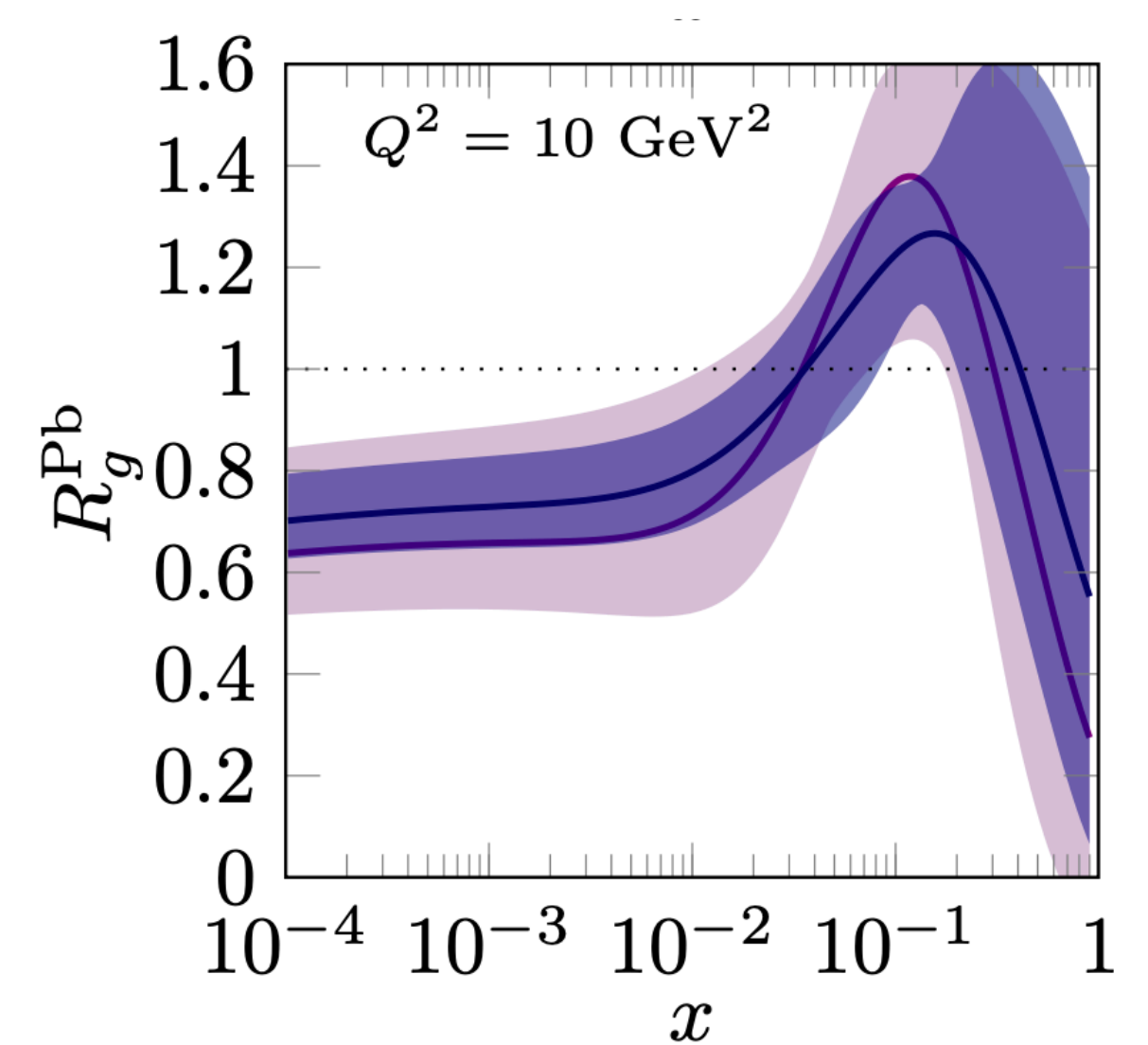
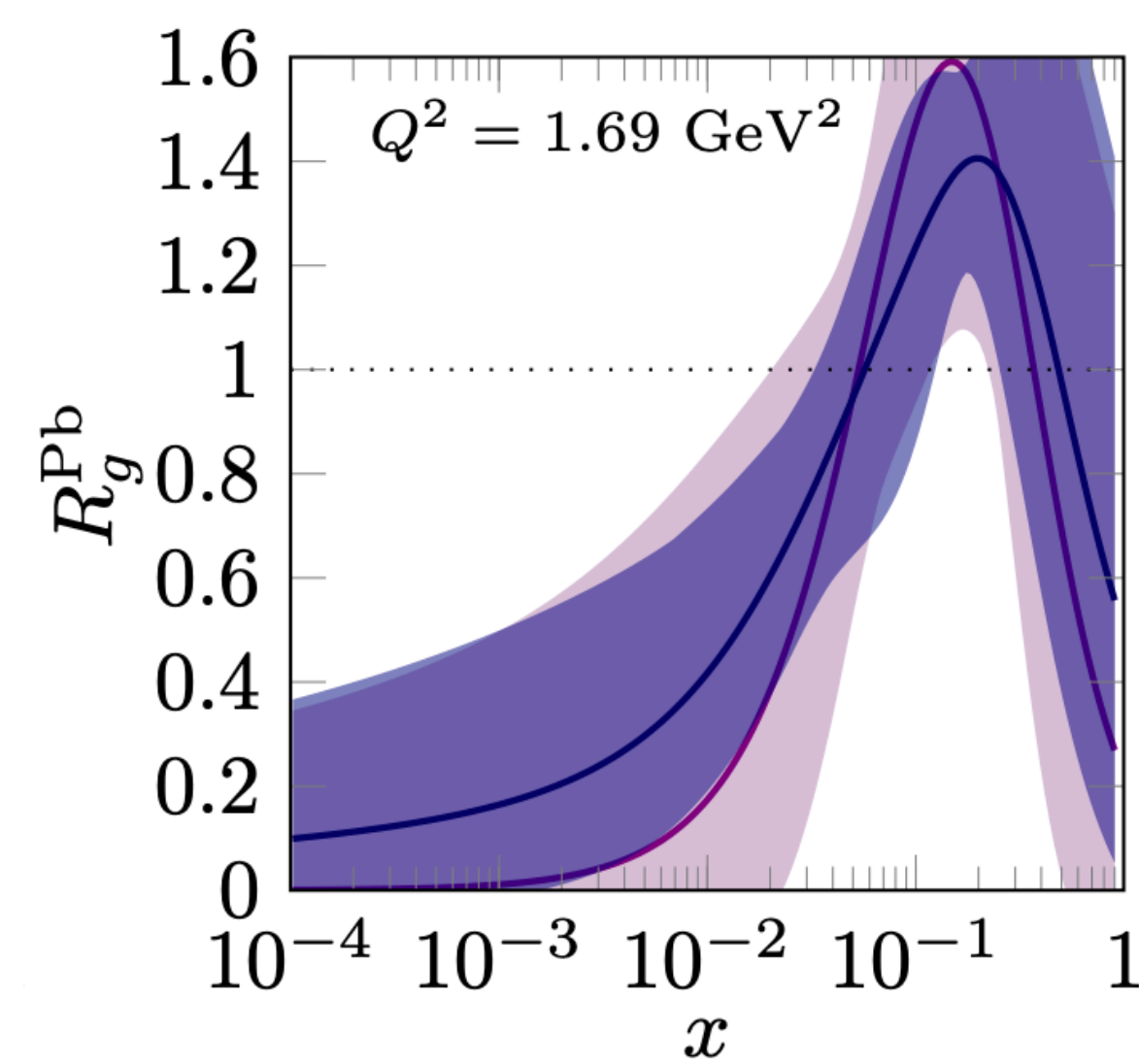


# $Q^2$ dependence

EPPS16 reweighting



nCTEQ15 reweighting

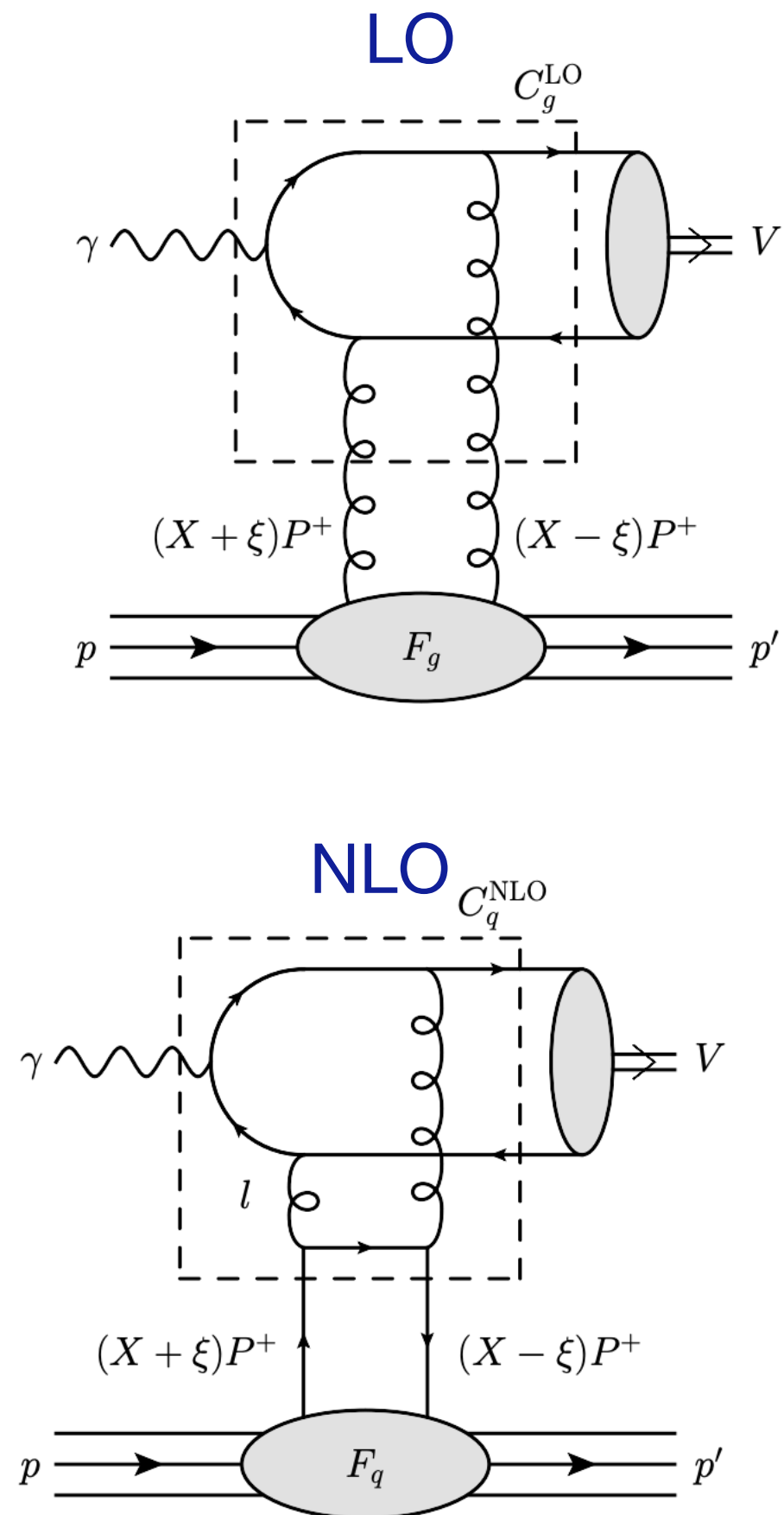


Charm reweighted PDFs show strong dependence on  $Q^2$   
Probably a robust feature: DGLAP evolution

Can we test this experimentally? How low in  $Q^2$  do we trust the formalism?

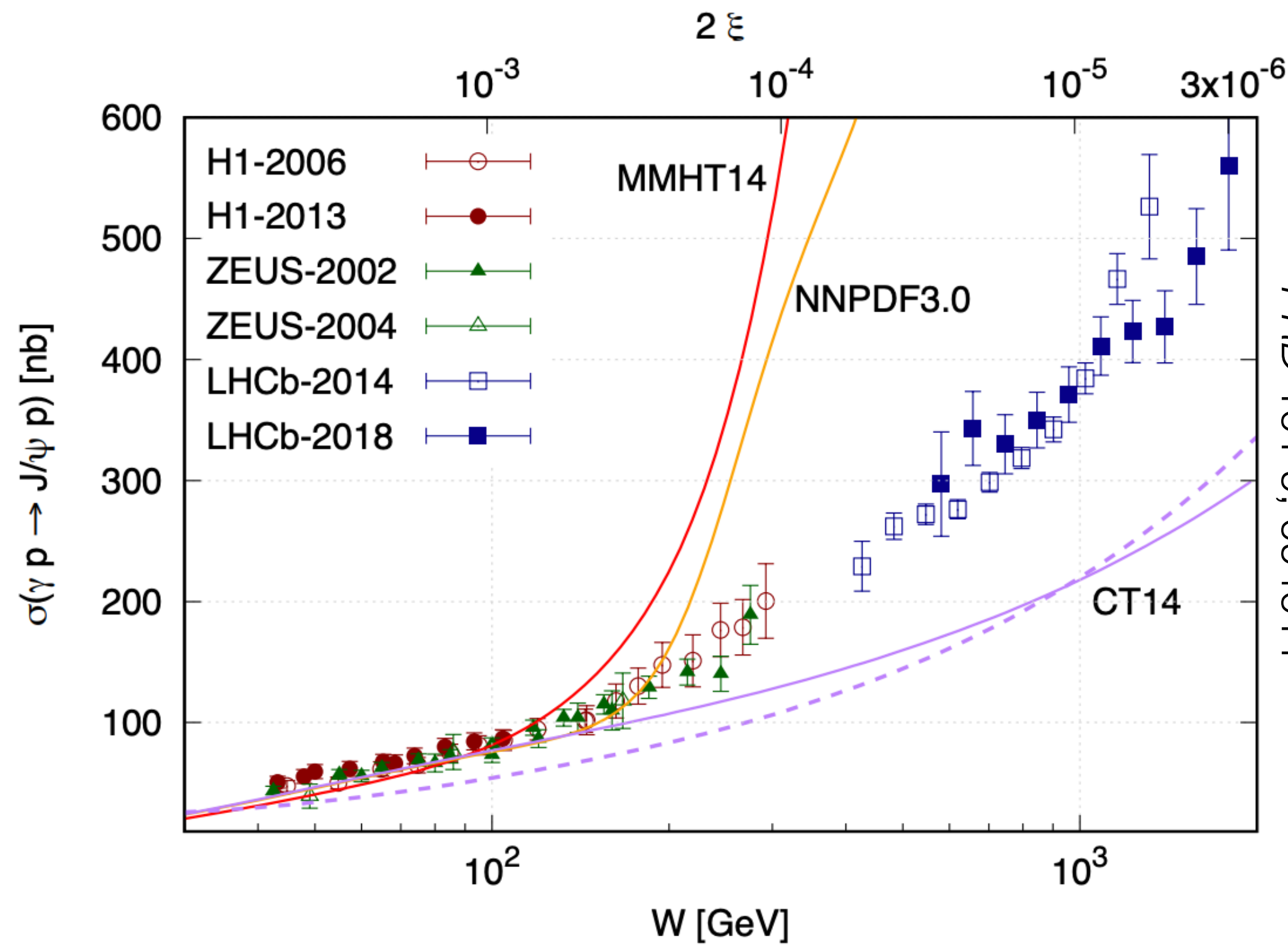
# Probing the proton PDFs with UPC

$$\gamma + p \rightarrow J/\psi + p$$



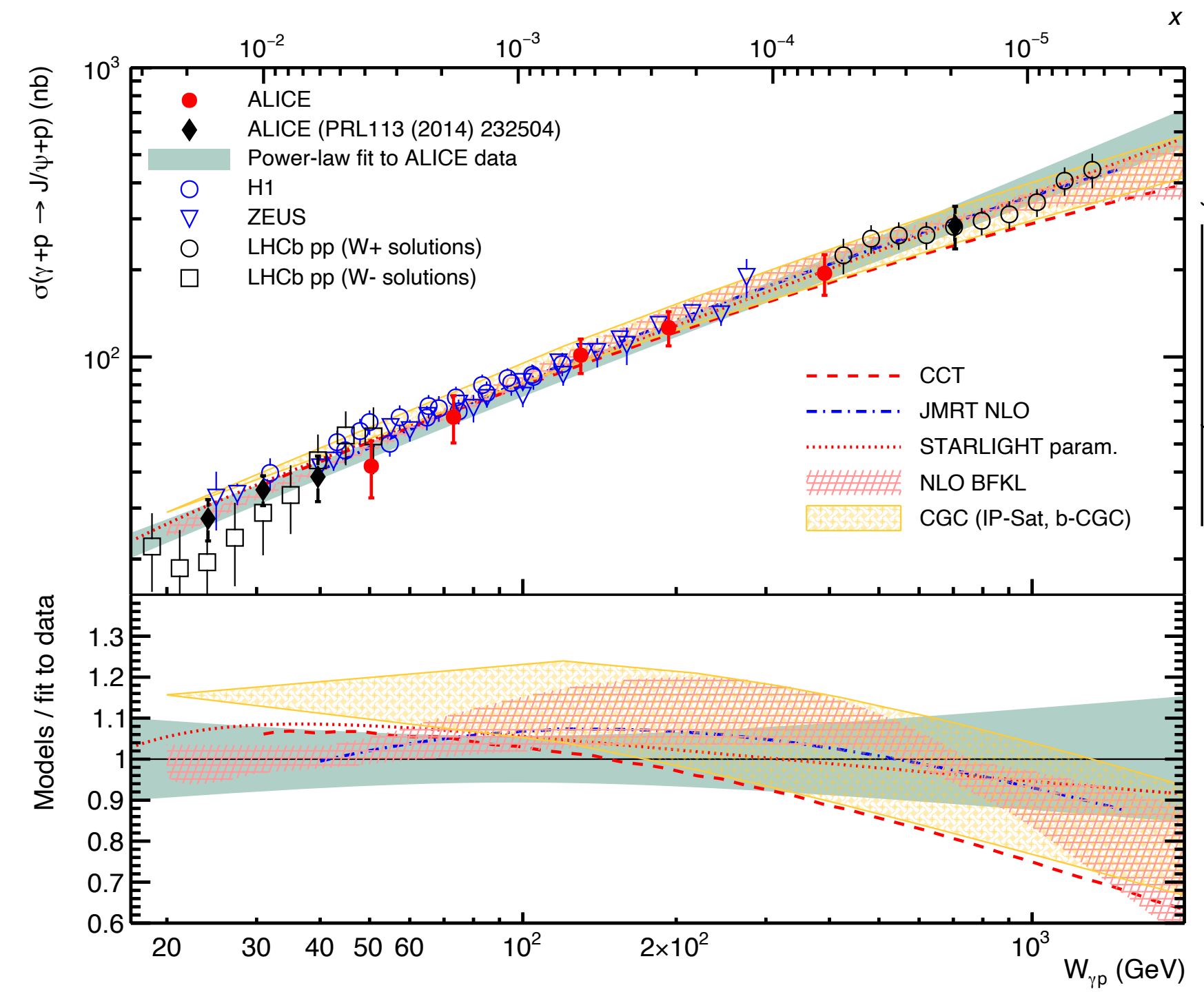
parton level:  $\gamma g \rightarrow c\bar{c}$

DIS and UPC pp



Flett, Jones, Martin, Ryskin, Teubner,  
PRD 101 9, 094011

DIS and UPC pp, Pb-p



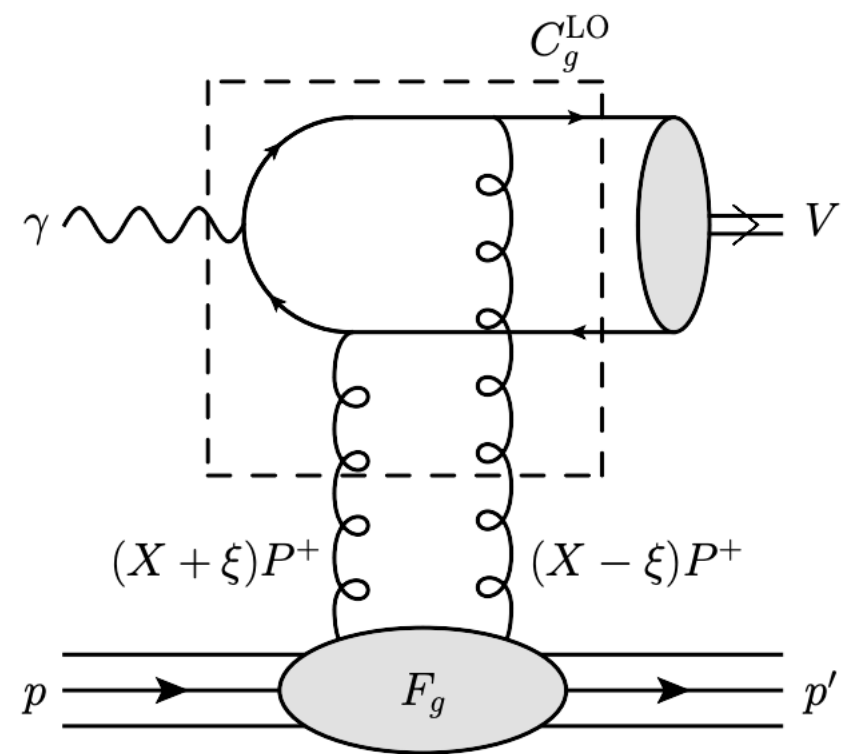
Pb-p: Photon emitted by Pb nucleus

Probes proton structure at  $x < 10^{-4}$ ; potential to constrain PDFs at small- $x$

ALICE, EPJ C 79, 402

# UPC J/ψ production: Pb-Pb

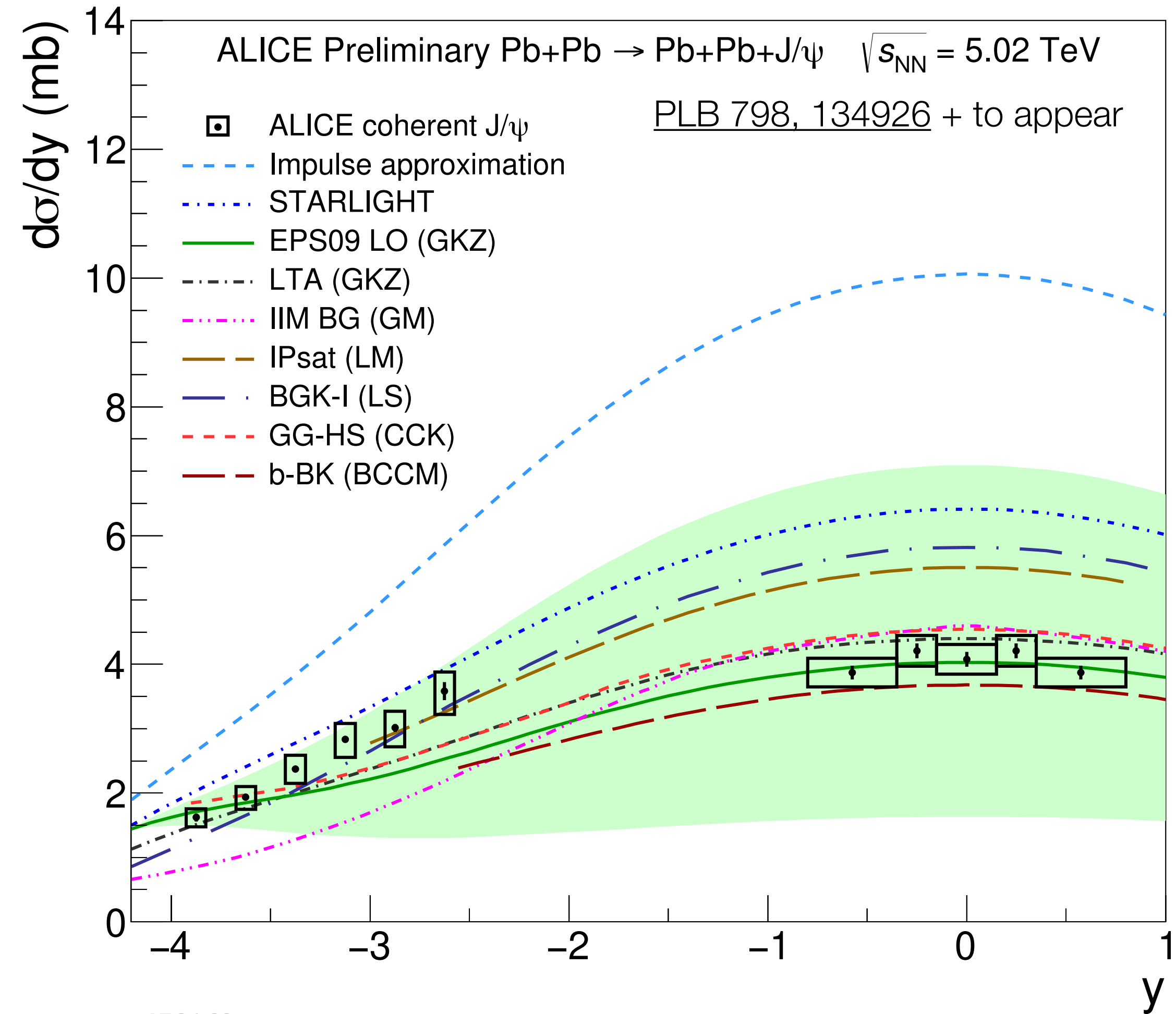
UPC Pb-Pb probes  
gluon density in nucleus



$$\left. \frac{d\sigma_{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A}}{dt} \right|_{t=0} = \frac{M_{J/\psi}^3 \Gamma_{ee} \pi^3 \alpha_s^2(Q^2)}{48 \alpha_{em} Q^8} \left[ x g_A(x, Q^2) \right]^2$$

Measured cross section below  
free-nucleon ‘impulse approximation’

Indicates shadowing/saturation at  $Q \approx 1/2 m_{J/\psi}$



ALI-PREL-479168

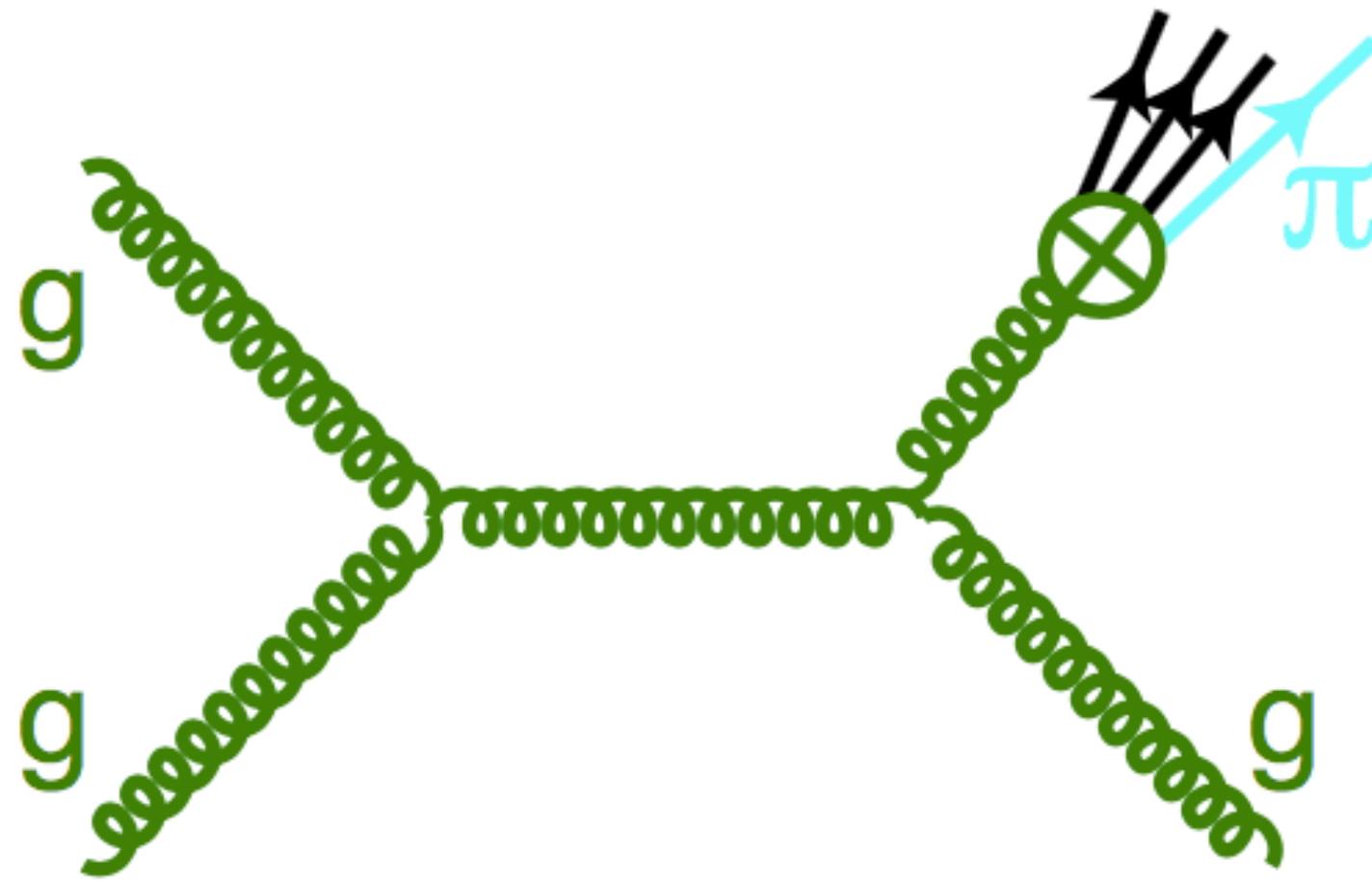
# Summary so far

- Signs of suppression of inclusive particle production in small- $x$  regime
  - RHIC: charged particle/light hadron suppression
  - LHC:  $D$  meson suppression at forward rapidity
- nPDF fits with forward  $D$  meson input: smaller gluon density in nuclei
- UPC results also indicate smaller gluon density in nuclei
- However, some open questions:
  - RHIC and LHC see effects at different  $x$ 
    - Multiple interactions near kinematic limits?
  - Tension between ALICE forward muons and LHCb  $D$  mesons
  - Impact of flow-like effects? Final state scattering?

New/cleaner measurements (photons; maybe UPC?) and/or confirmation by multiple experiments very welcome!

# Two-particle correlations: concept

QCD  $2 \rightarrow 2$  scattering

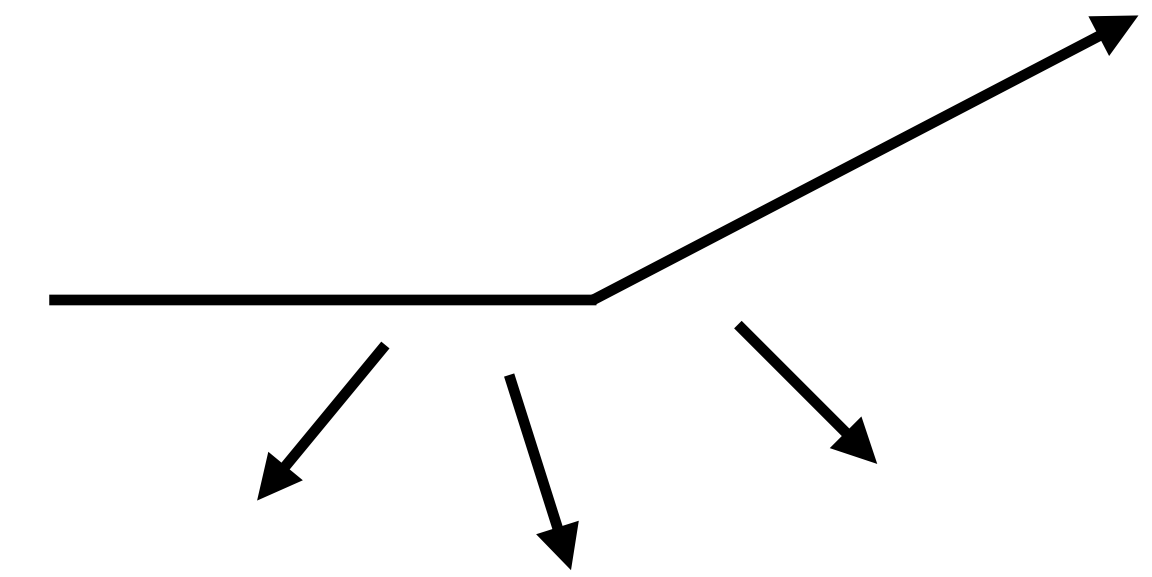


Produces a back-to-back jet

Attractive observable:

- Conceptually simple interpretation
- Probes multiple gluon interactions (CGC/saturation)
- Scan  $x$  (and  $Q^2$ ) by varying rapidity of both jets

CGC: recoil taken by multiple gluons



Soft gluon recoil

Recoil jet broadened/disappears

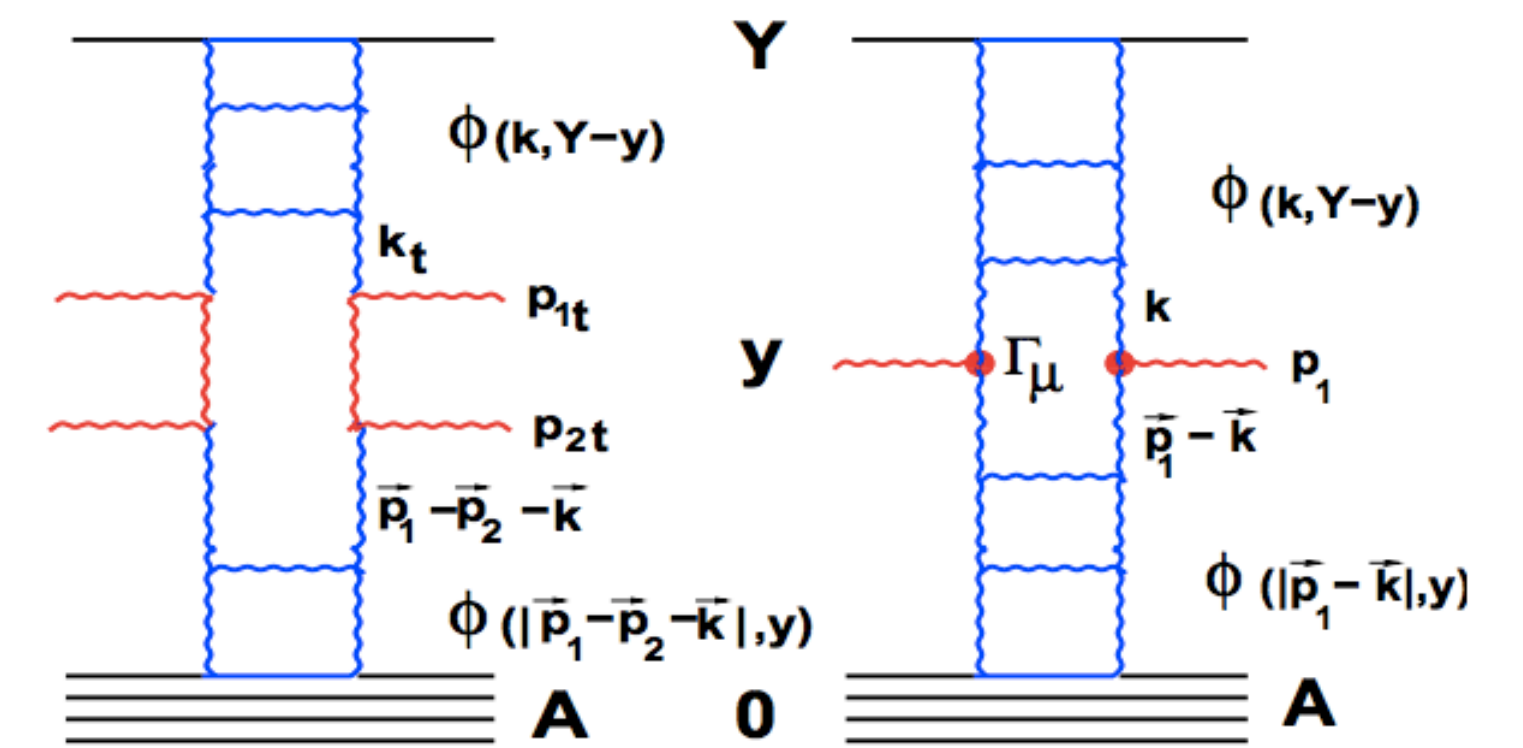
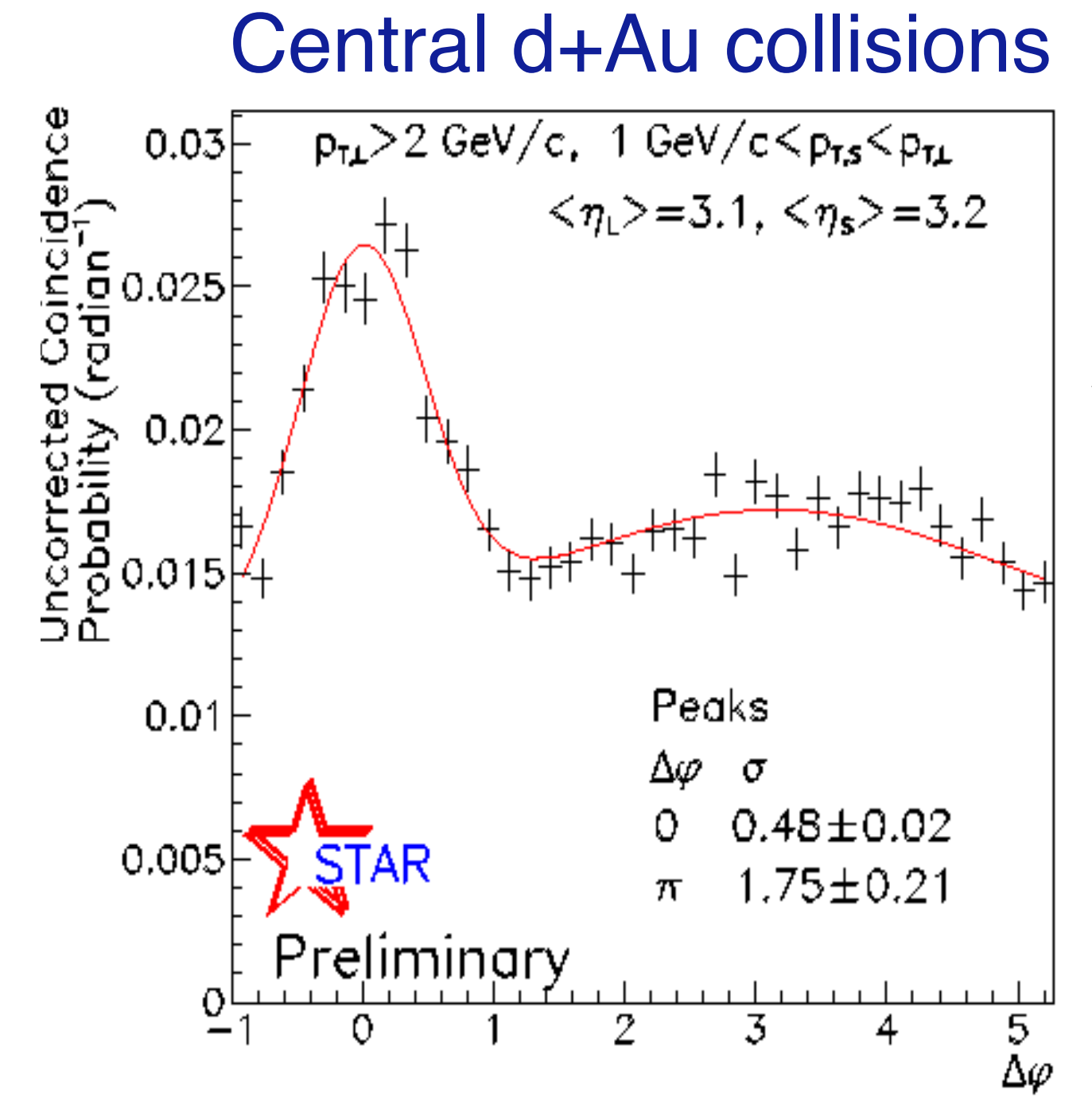
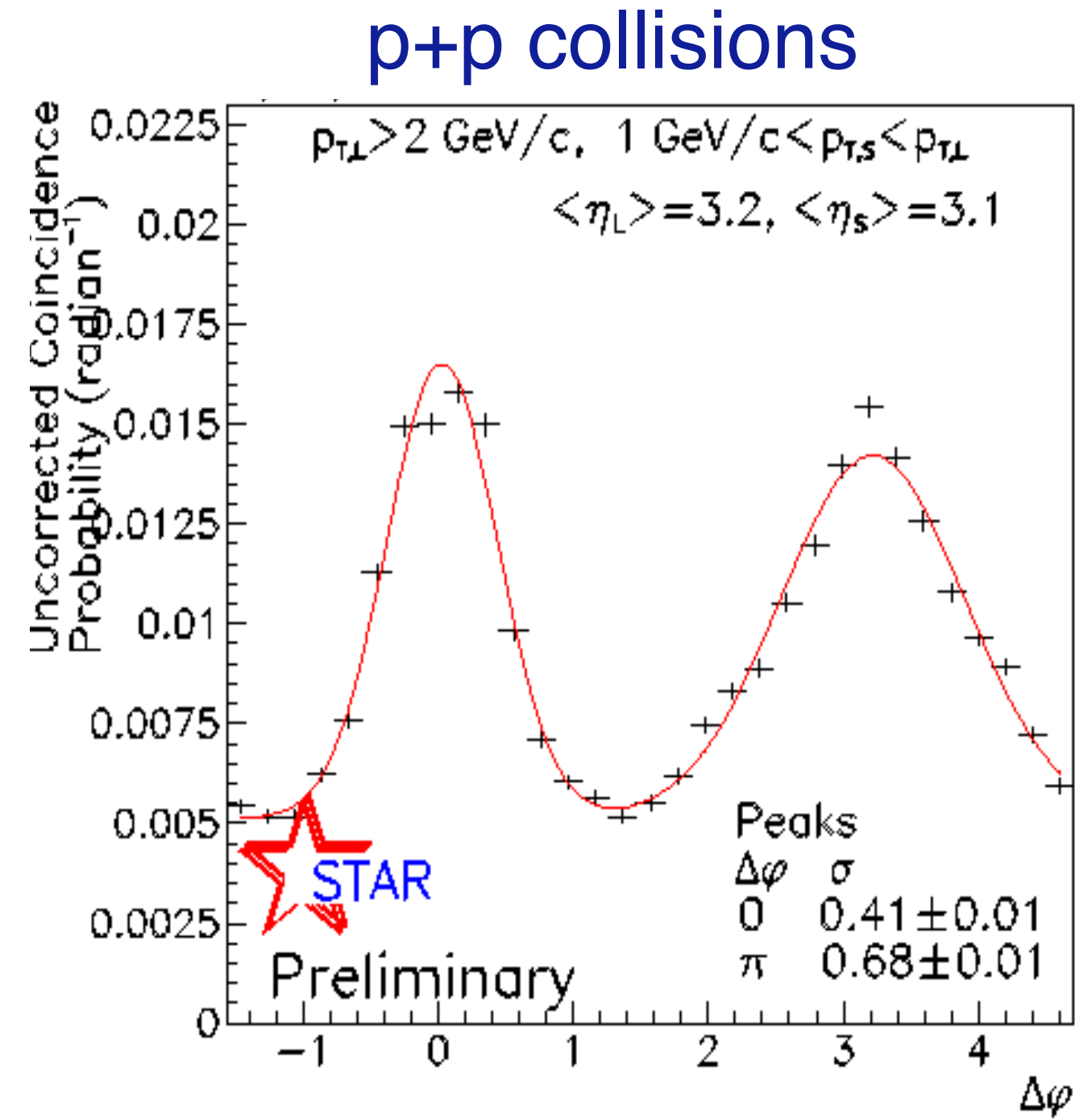
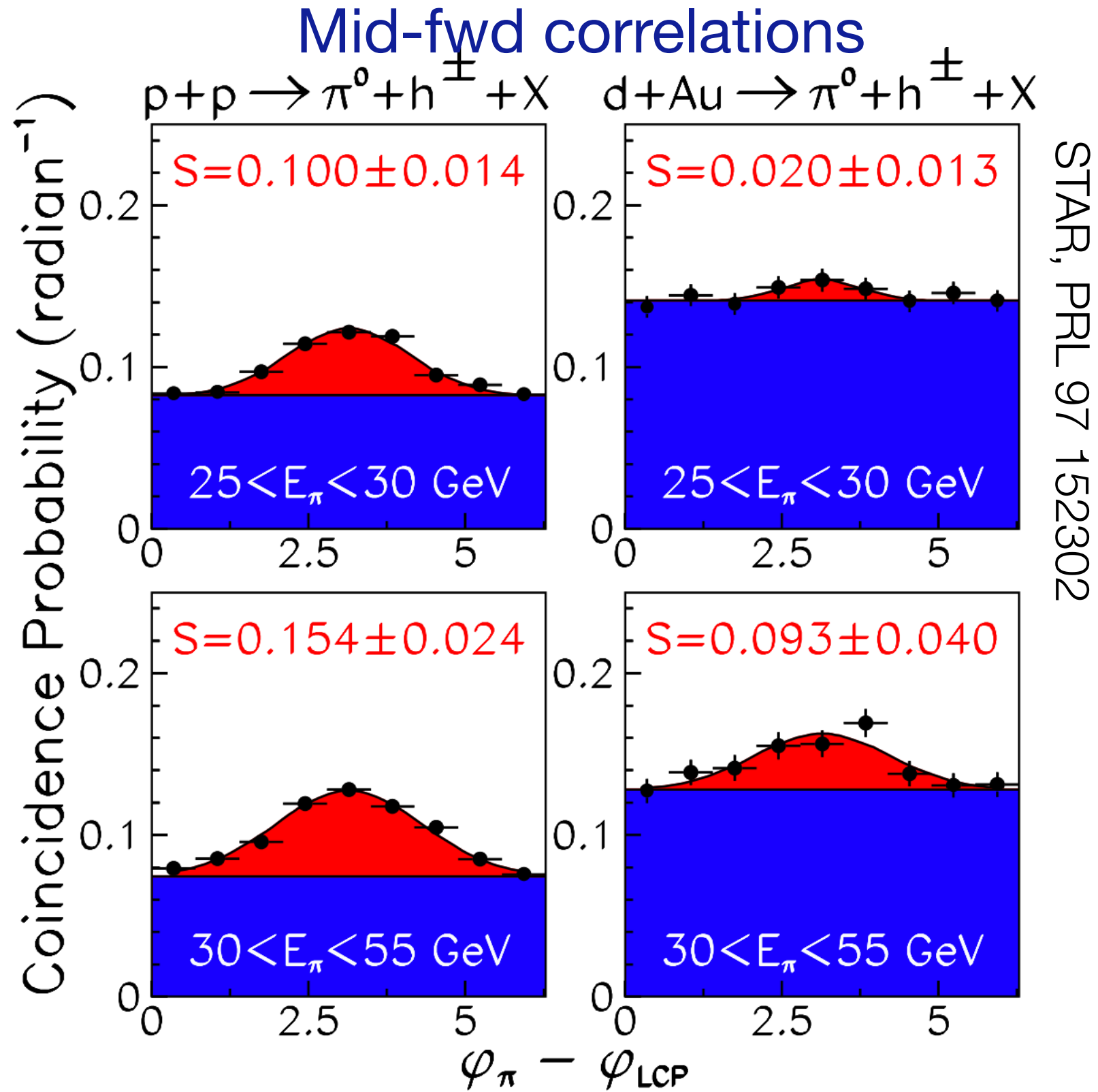


Fig. 3-a

Fig. 3-b

Kharzeev et al, hep-ph/0403271

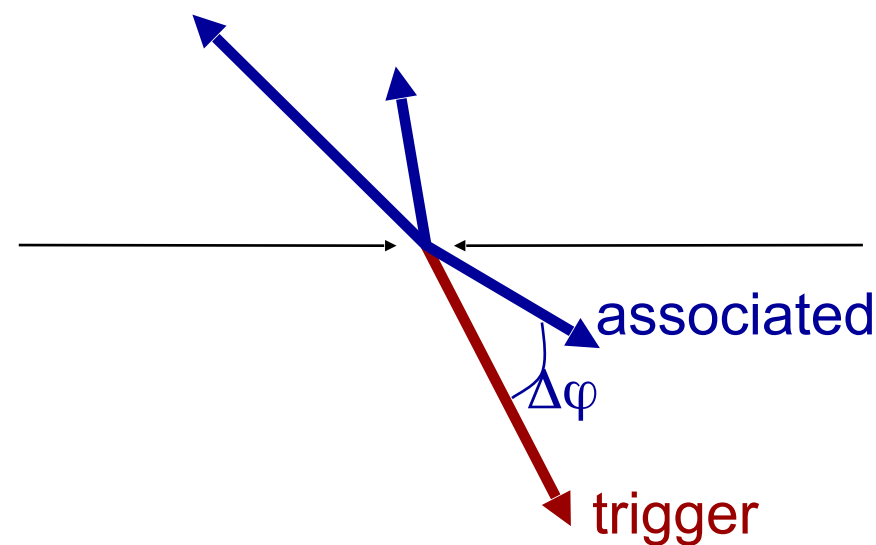
# Forward di-hadrons at RHIC: STAR



STAR, arXiv: 1005.2378

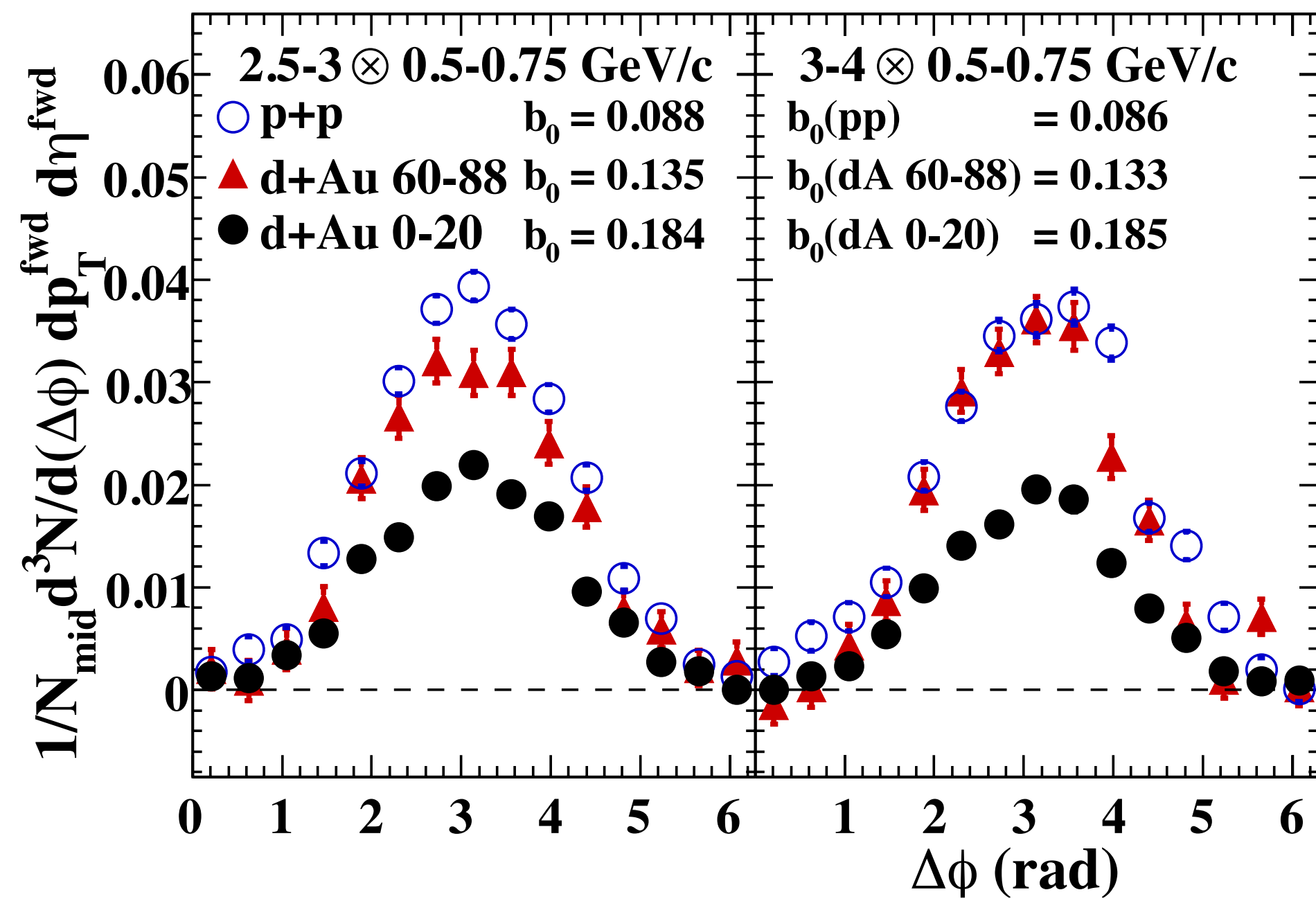
## De-correlation of recoil yield for fwd-fwd correlations

- Consistent with CGC: coherent gluon field
- Very low  $p_T$ ; other effects, e.g. multiple parton interactions might play a role



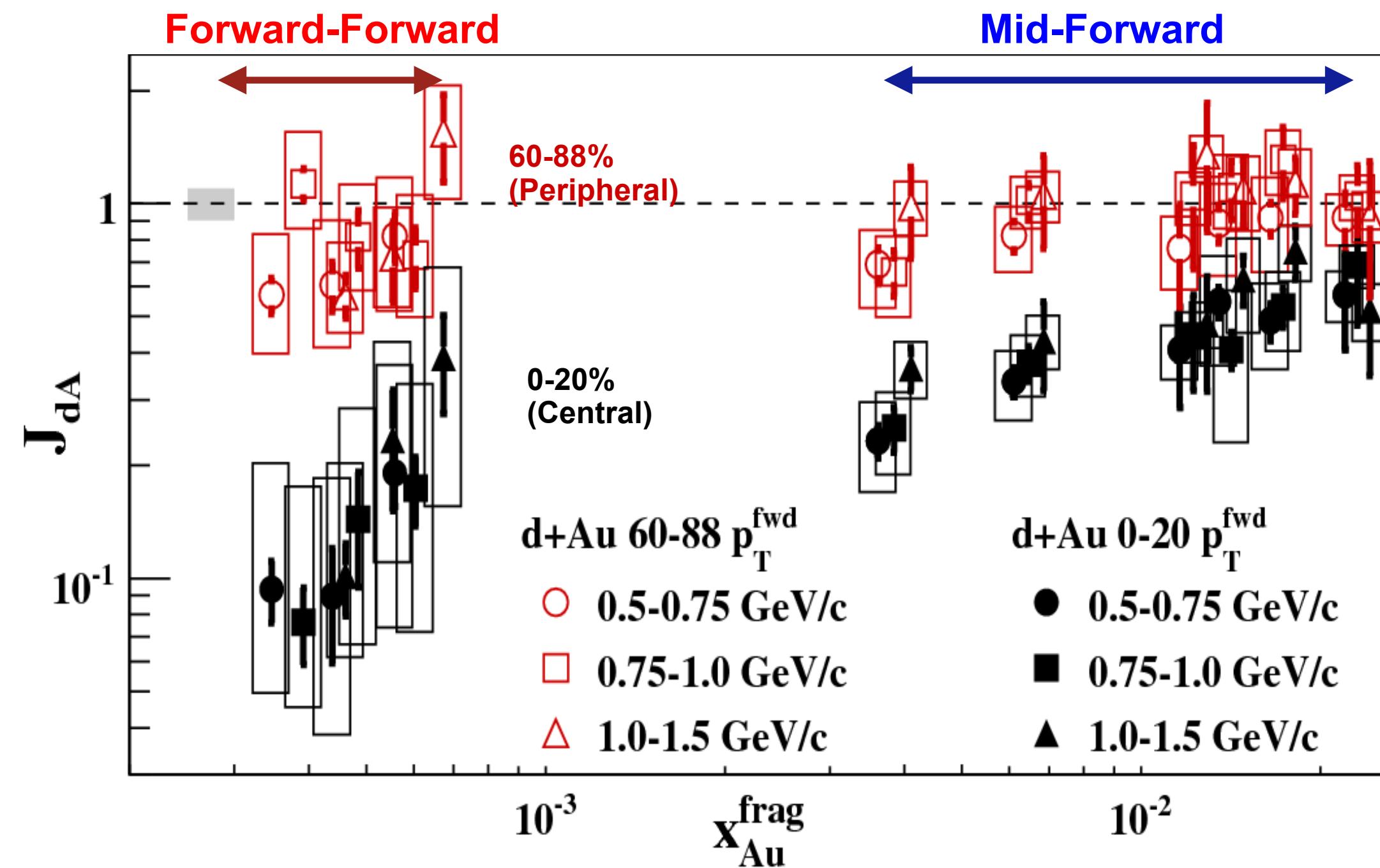
# Di-hadron correlations at RHIC: PHENIX

$\pi^0$ - $\pi^0$  mid - forward



$|\eta| < 0.35$  and  $3.0 < \eta < 3.8$

Recoil yield ratio



Scan 'x' with  $p_{T1}$  and forward, mid rapidity

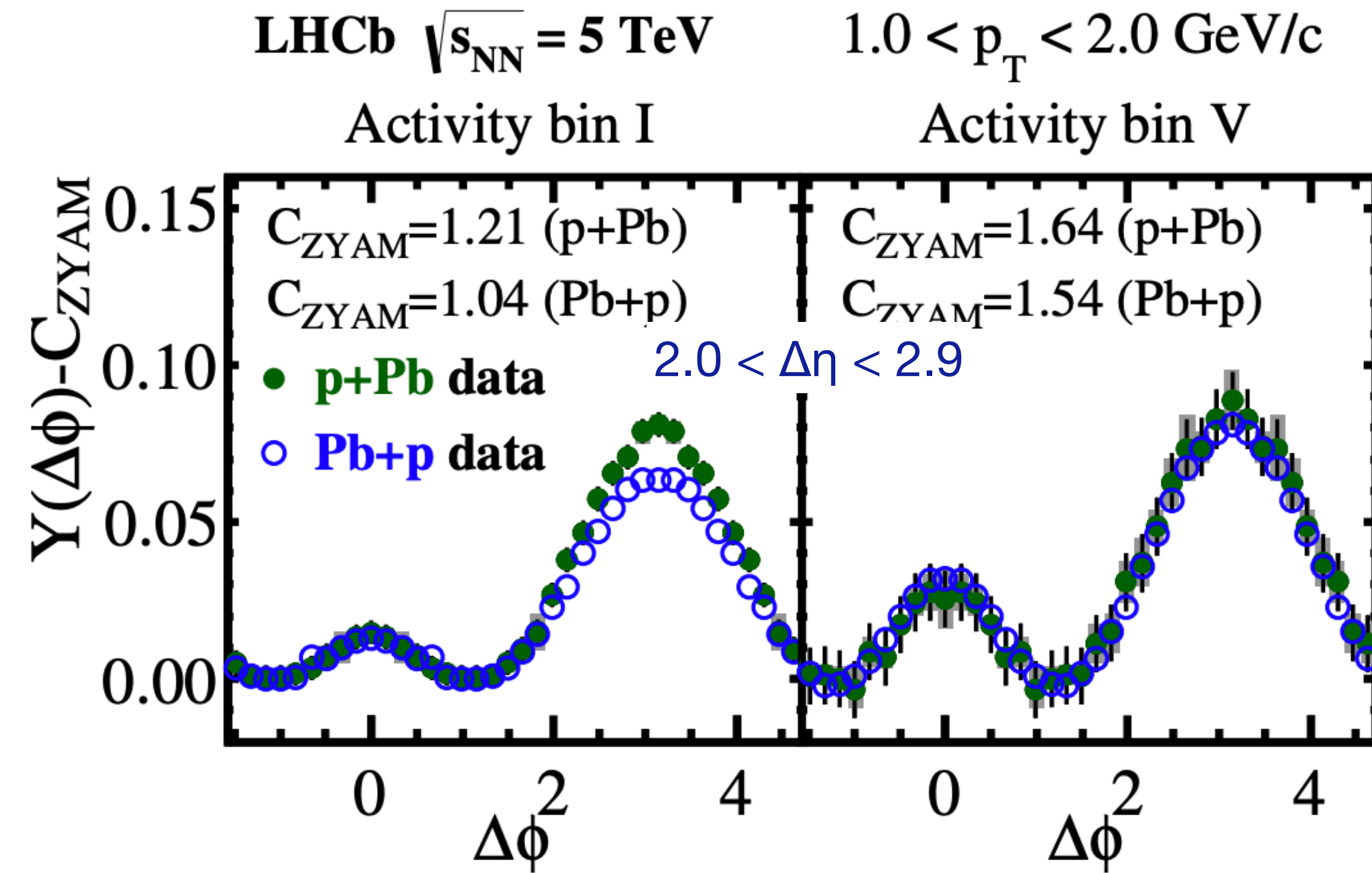
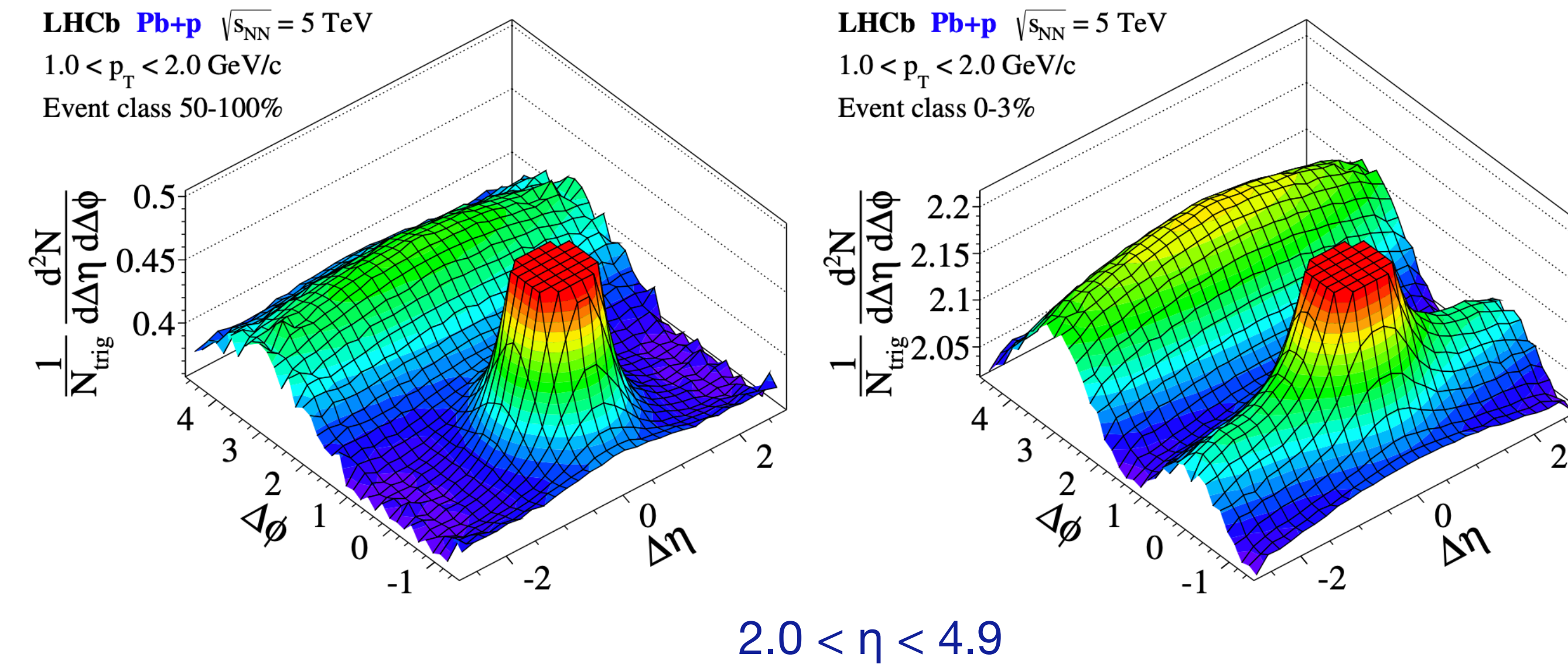
Similar effects, trends as a function of  $x$

Large suppression at ' $x$ '  $< 10^{-3}$  in central events

PHENIX, PRL107, 172301

# Di-hadron correlations at LHC

LHCb, [PLB762, 473](#)



Multiplicity dependence of di-hadron correlations

Analysis geared towards flow-like effects:  
 Long range correlations

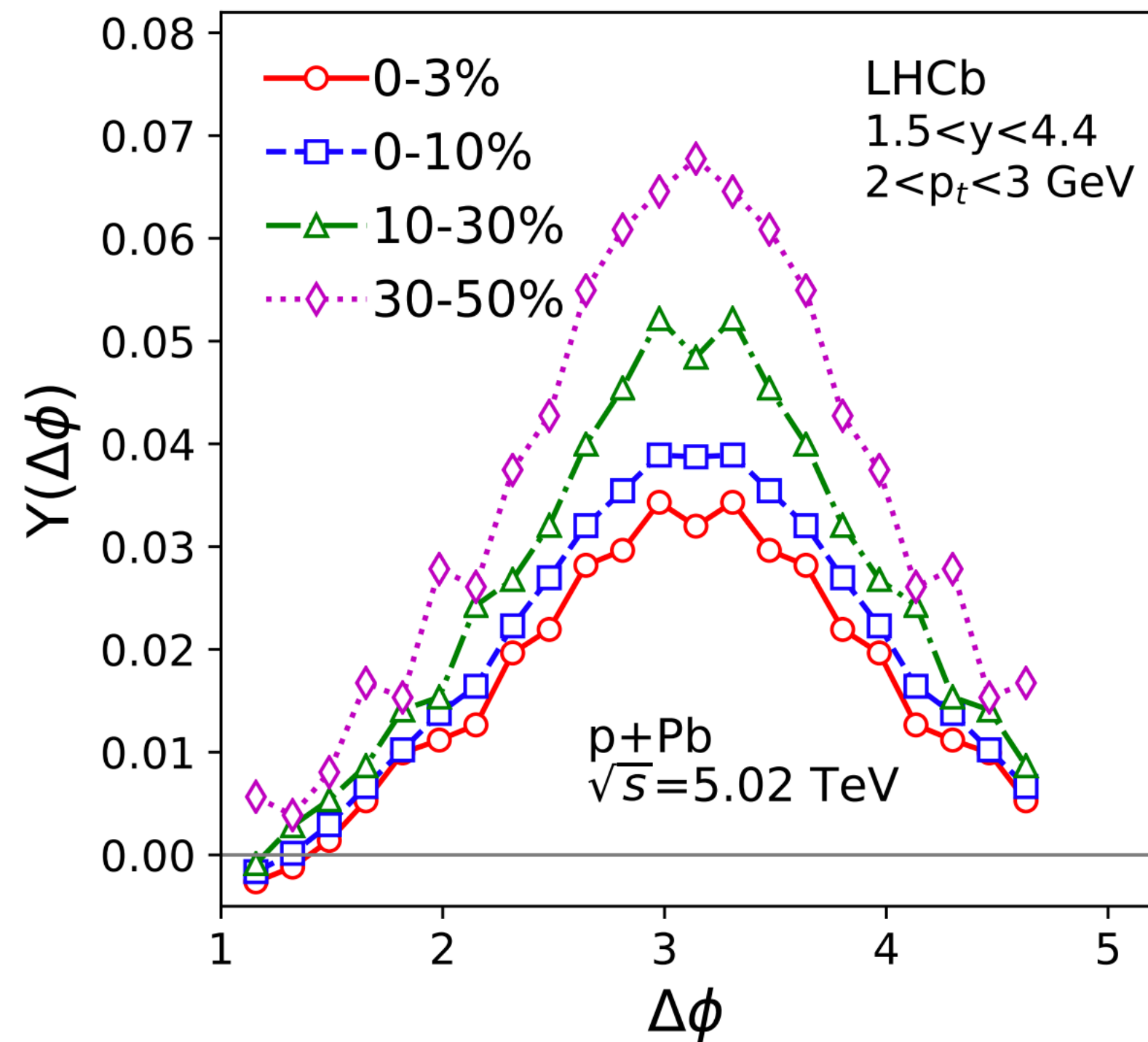
Try to separate jet-like and flow-like correlations?  
 Near side long range amplitude 20-50 per cent of away side!



# Di-hadron correlations at LHC

G Giacalone, C Marquet, NPA 982, 291 (QM2018)

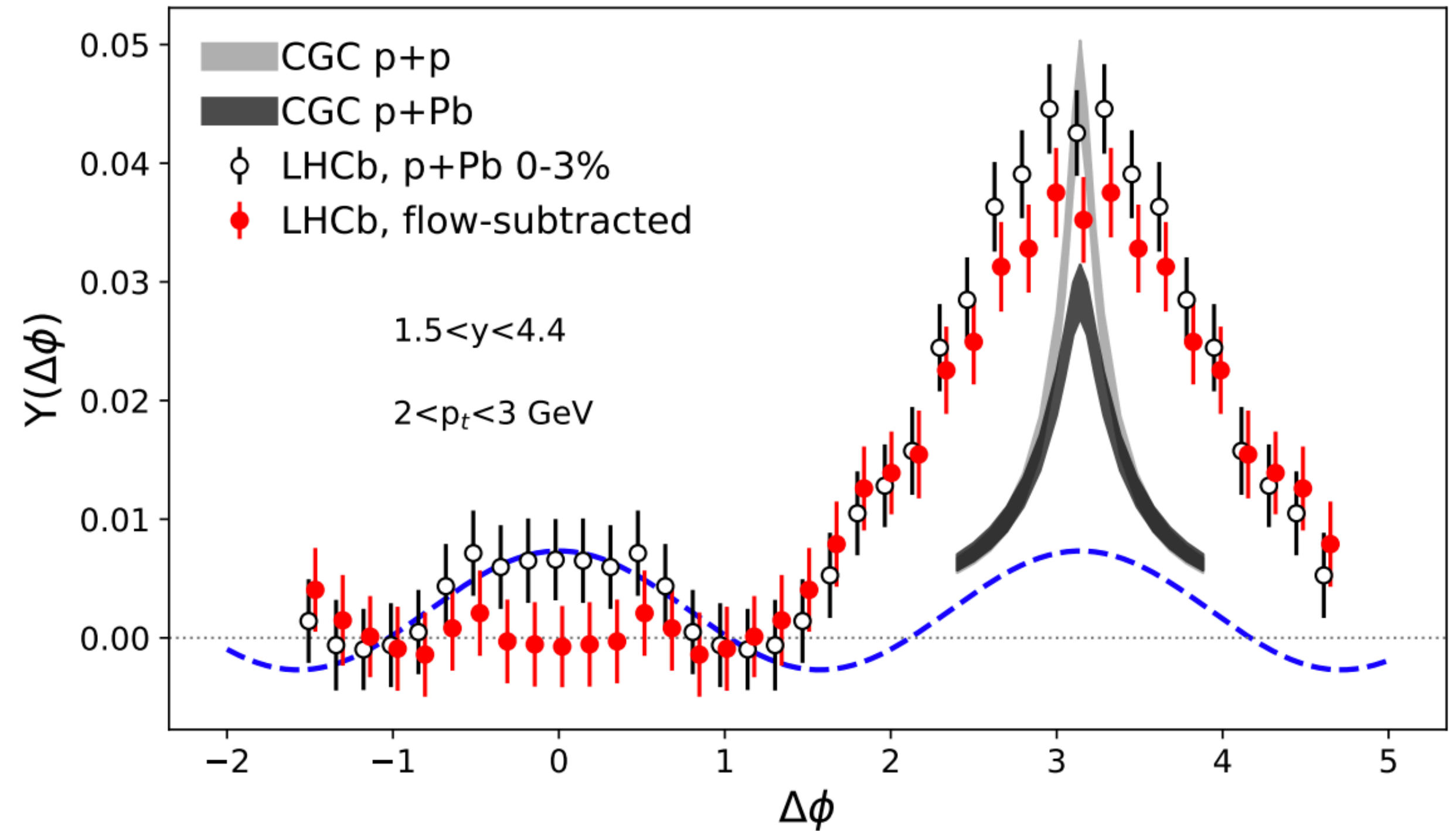
Away-side peak after flow subtraction



Assumes pure  $v_2$ ; near-away symmetry  
for long-range component

Yield suppression and mild broadening?

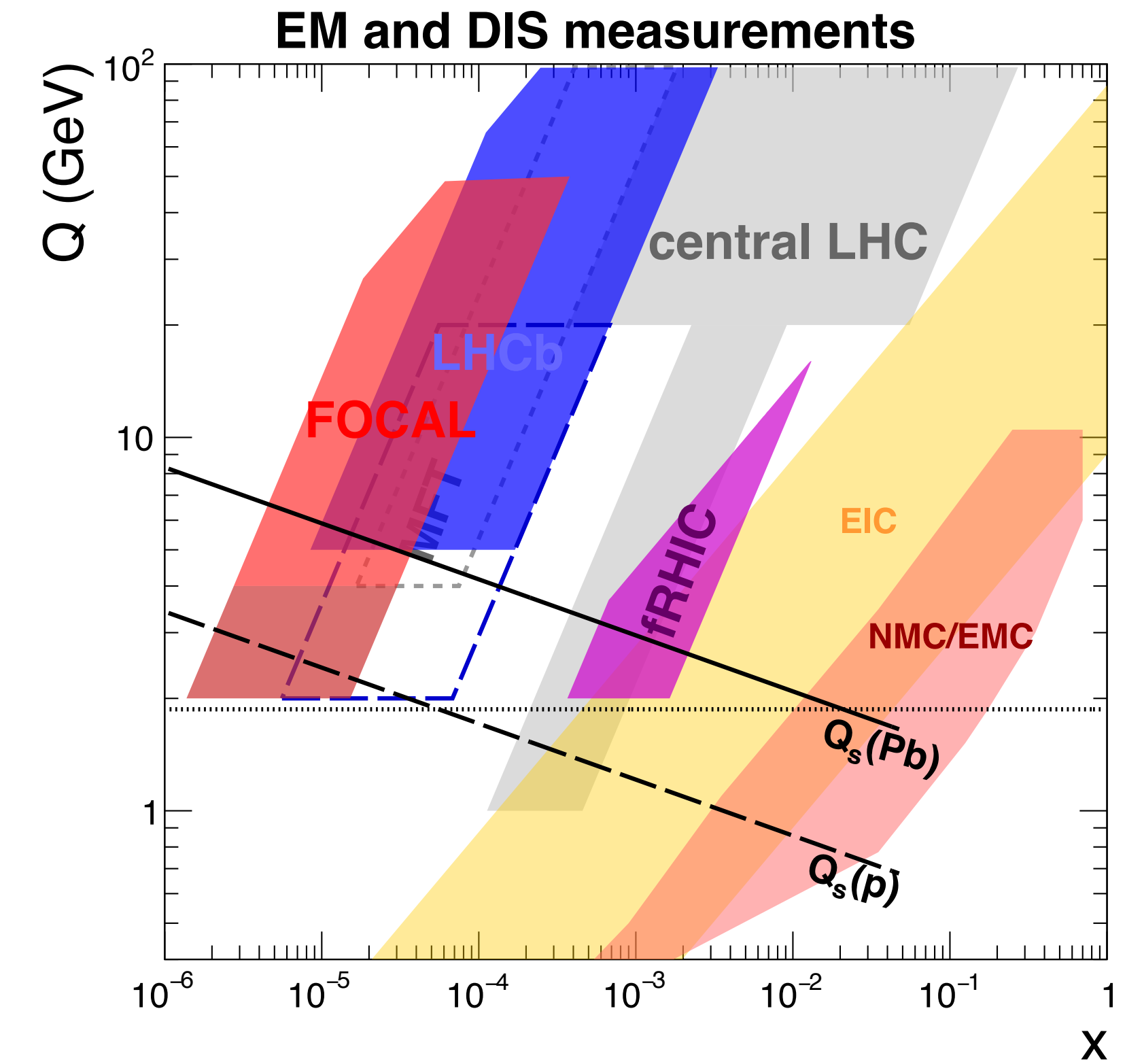
Comparison to CGC calculation



Theory calculations show narrow peak;  
add final state radiation/shower effects?

# Summary

- Multiple indications of saturation/reduced gluon density at small  $x$  in the data:
  - DIS on nuclei
  - Forward particle production at RHIC and LHC
  - UPC
  - Di-hadron correlations — so far not conclusive?
- However, not a ‘closed case’
  - Are RHIC and LHC consistent?
  - (Most) observed are at small  $p_T$ : theory uncertainties?
  - Di-hadron correlations not systematically explored
- Possible future directions
  - Other forward hadron production at LHC, e.g. charged (identified) particles in LHCb
  - Photons at fwd rapidity: ALICE FoCal, LHCb
  - Systematically explore forward correlations at LHC
  - EIC



**Thank you for your attention!**

# ALICE FoCal upgrade

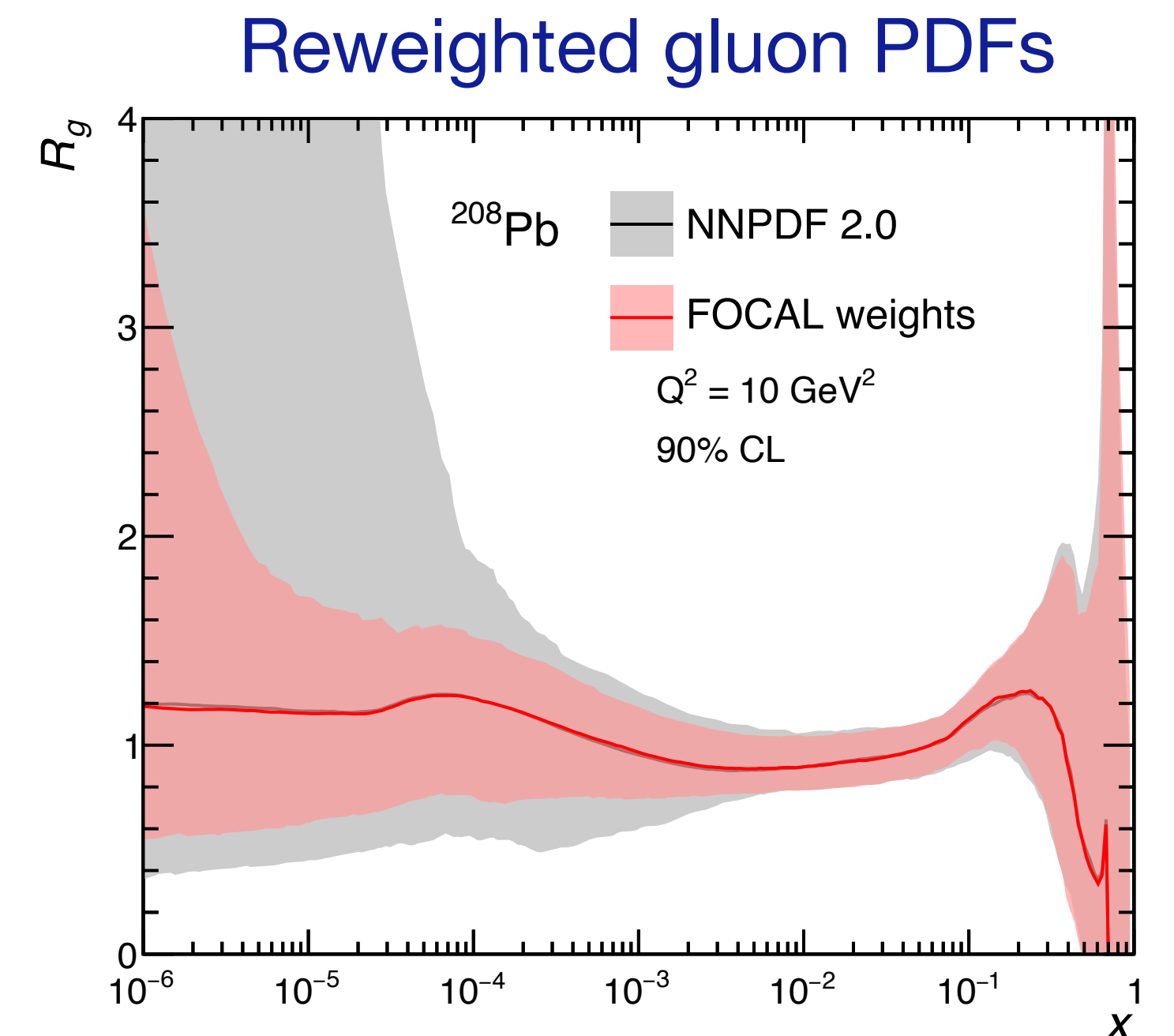
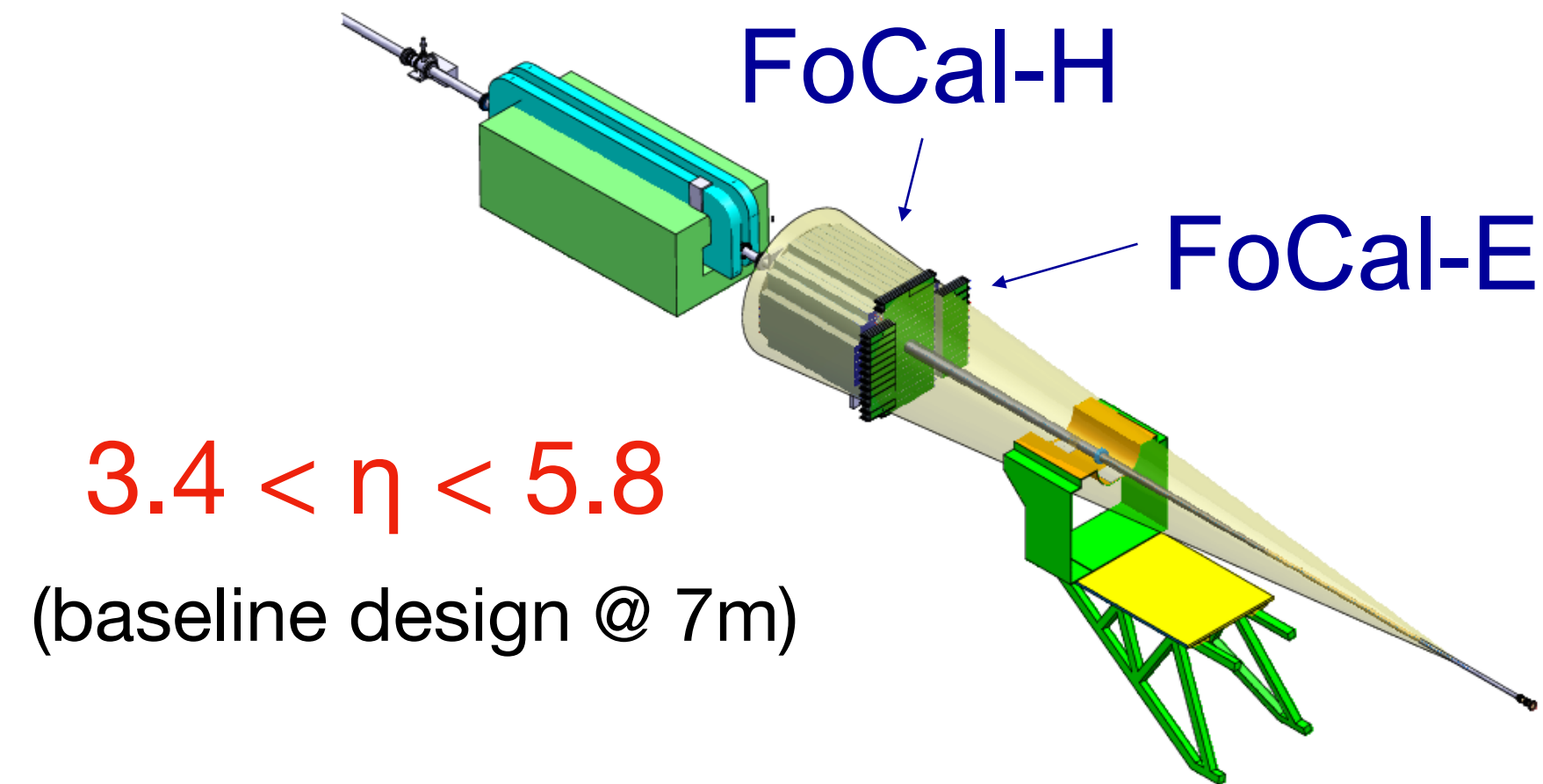
**FoCal-E:** high-granularity Si-W sampling calorimeter for photons and  $\pi^0$

**FoCal-H:** conventional metal-scintillator sampling calorimeter for photon isolation and jets

Observables:

- $\pi^0$  (and other neutral mesons)
- **Isolated (direct) photons**
- Jets (and di-jets)
- $J/\psi$  ( $\Upsilon$ ) in UPC
- W, Z
- Event plane and centrality

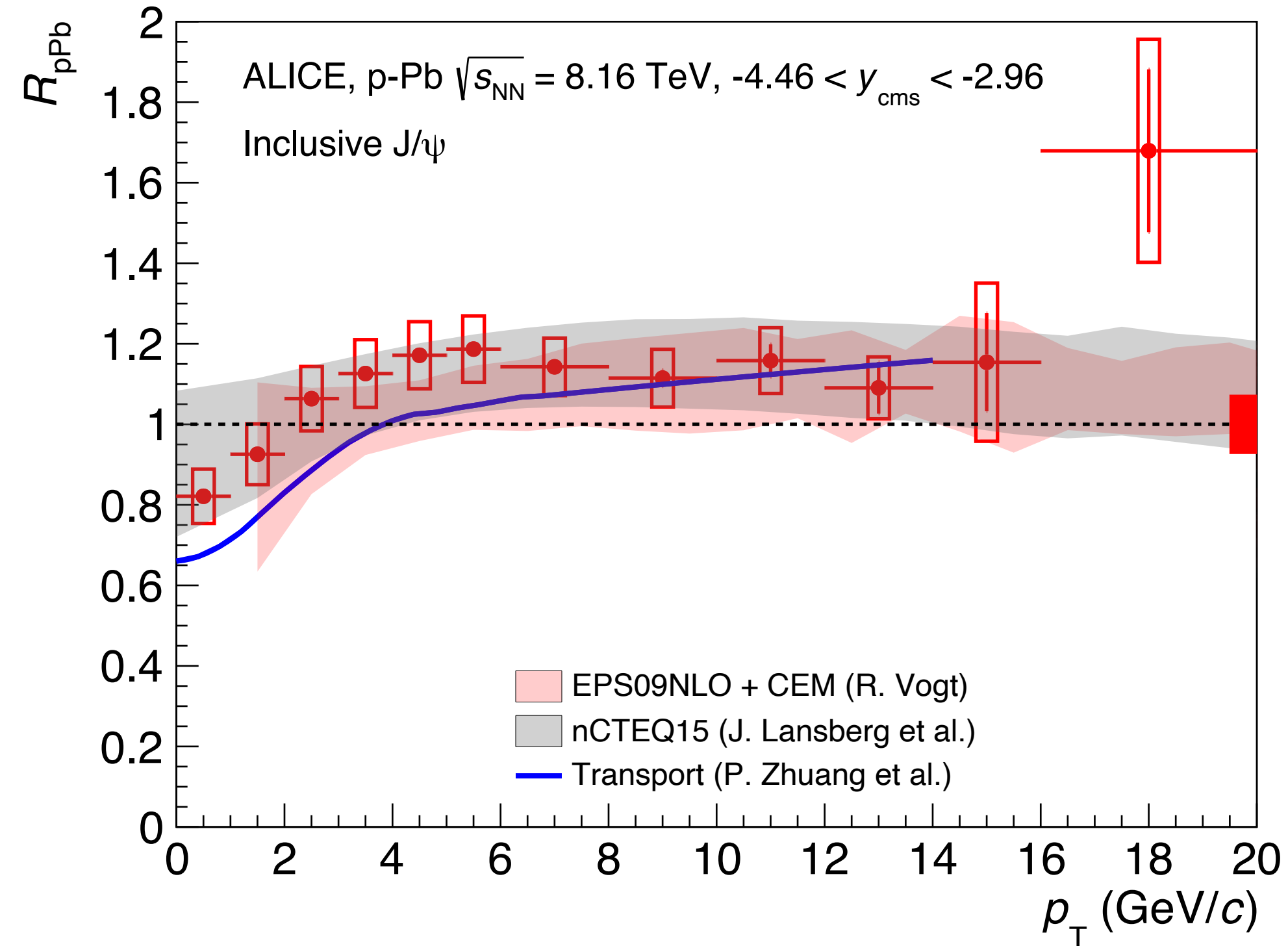
Letter of Intent: [LHCC-2020-009](#)



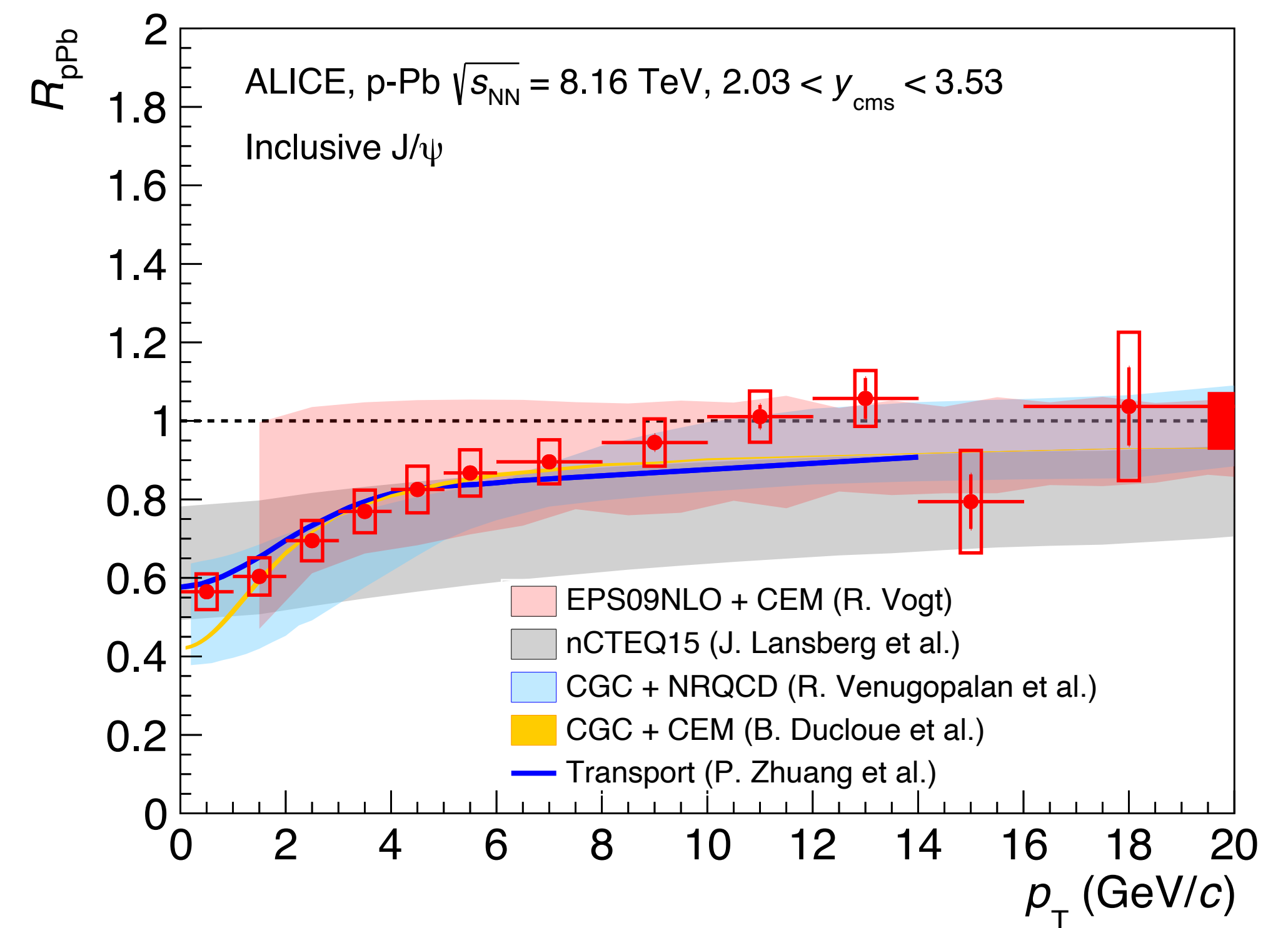
# Hidden charm: forward/backward J/Ψ production

ALICE, JHEP 07 (2018) 160

Backward rapidity



Forward rapidity



High  $x$ : hint of anti-shadowing effect?

Suppression at low  $p_T < 6$  GeV  
 qualitatively consistent with CGC expectations  
 nPDFs show less  $p_T$  dependence

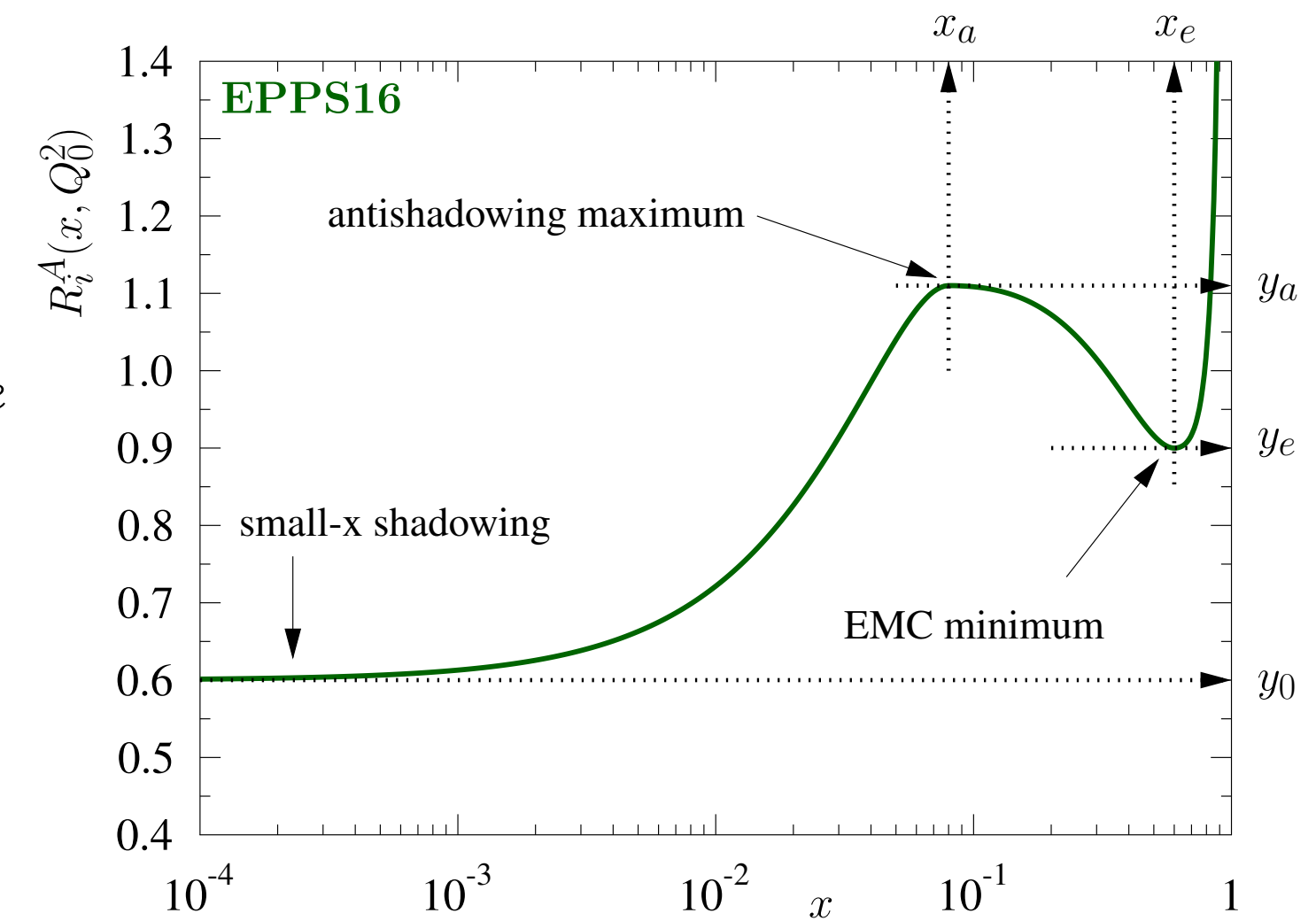
Caveat: J/Ψ hadronisation and possible final state effects (e.g. co-movers) introduce sizeable uncertainties

# x-Dependence of PDF modification

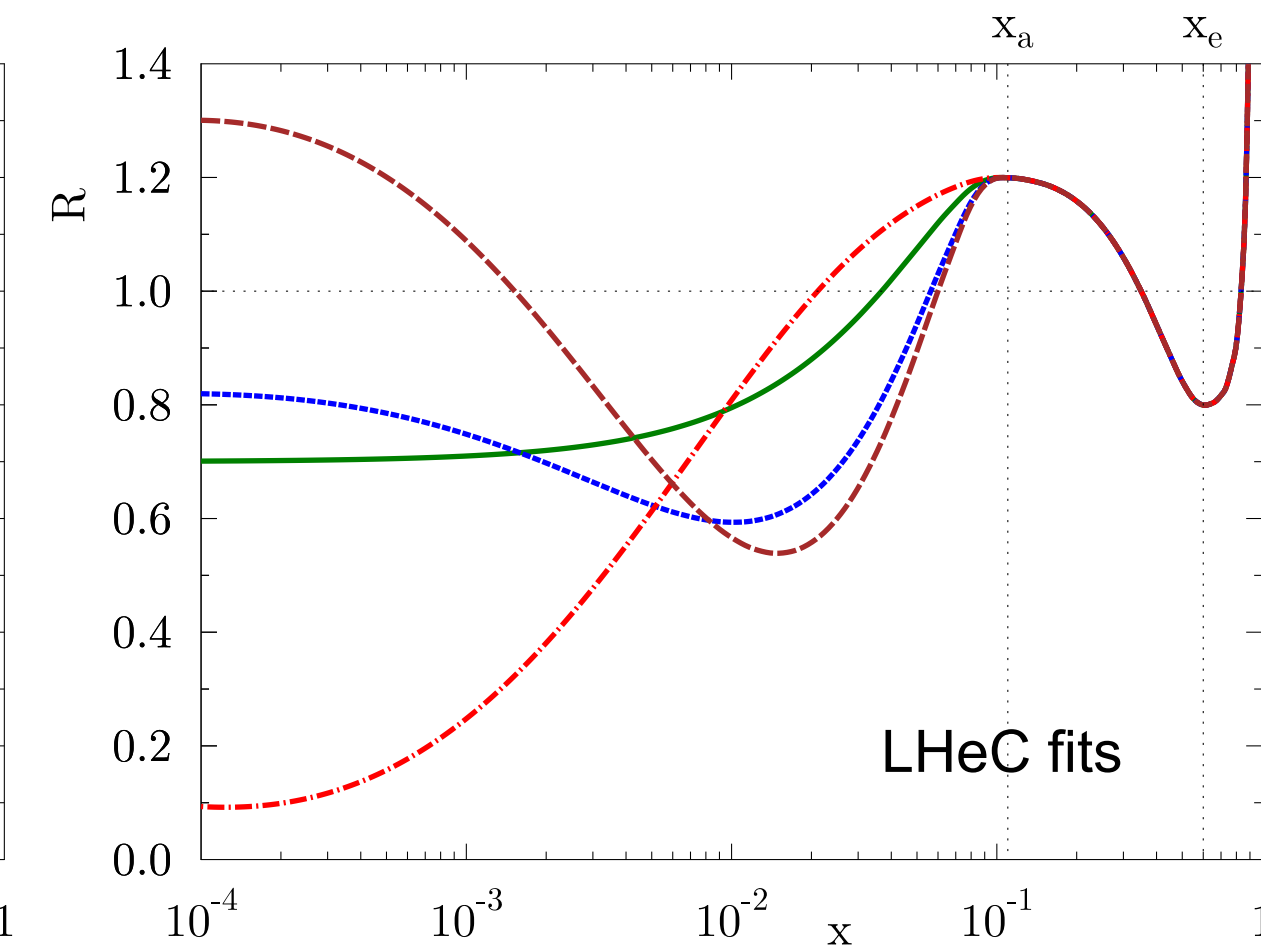
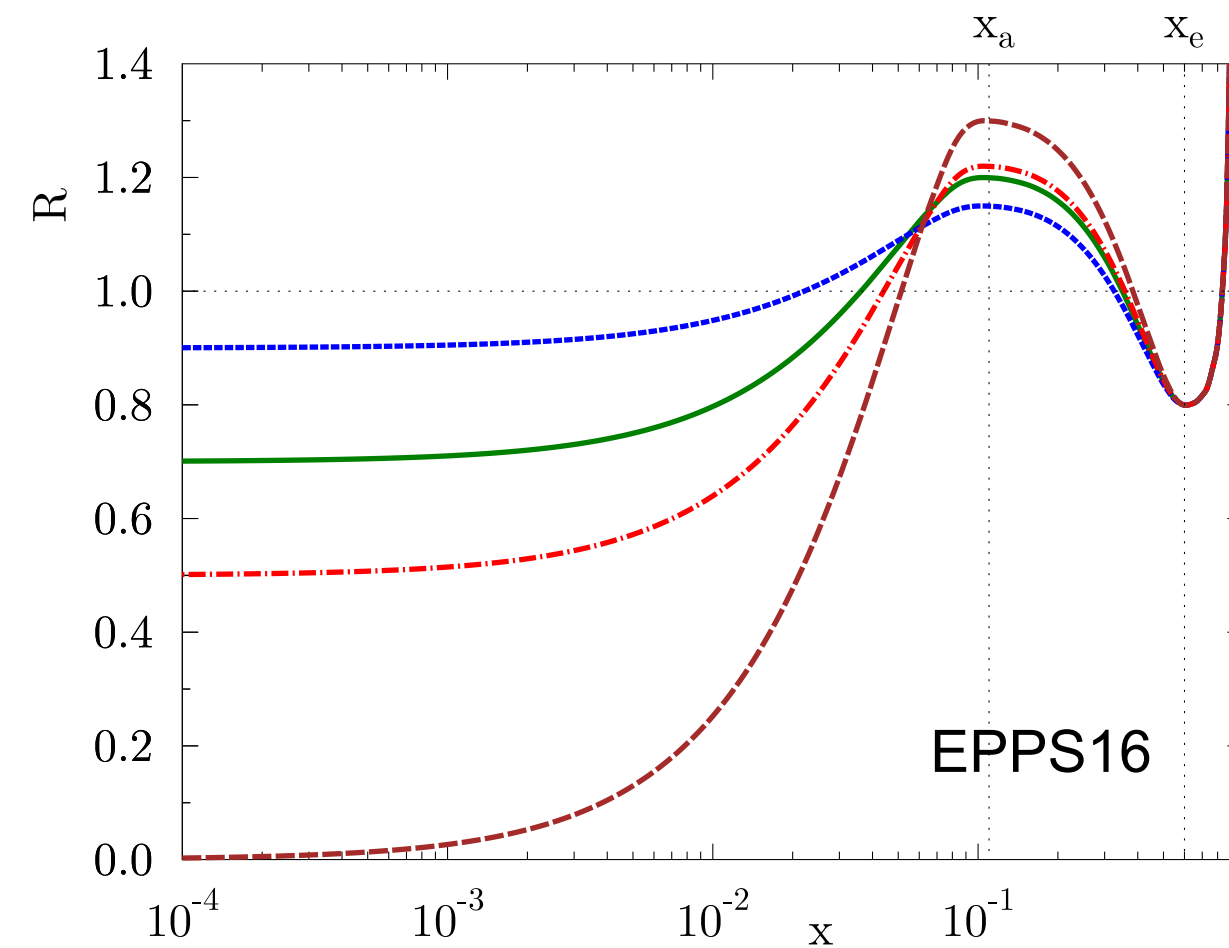
EPPS16, EPJC 77, 163

$$R_i^A(x, Q^2) = \begin{cases} a_0 + a_1(x - x_a)^2 & x \leq x_a \\ b_0 + b_1x^\alpha + b_2x^{2\alpha} + b_3x^{3\alpha} & x_a \leq x \leq x_e \\ c_0 + (c_1 - c_2x)(1 - x)^{-\beta} & x_e \leq x \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

- parameterisation of  $R_A$ 
  - shape similar to EPS09
  - at low  $x$  leads to “plateau” in  $\log(x)$



- likely not sufficient
  - more flexible PDF used for LHeC estimates

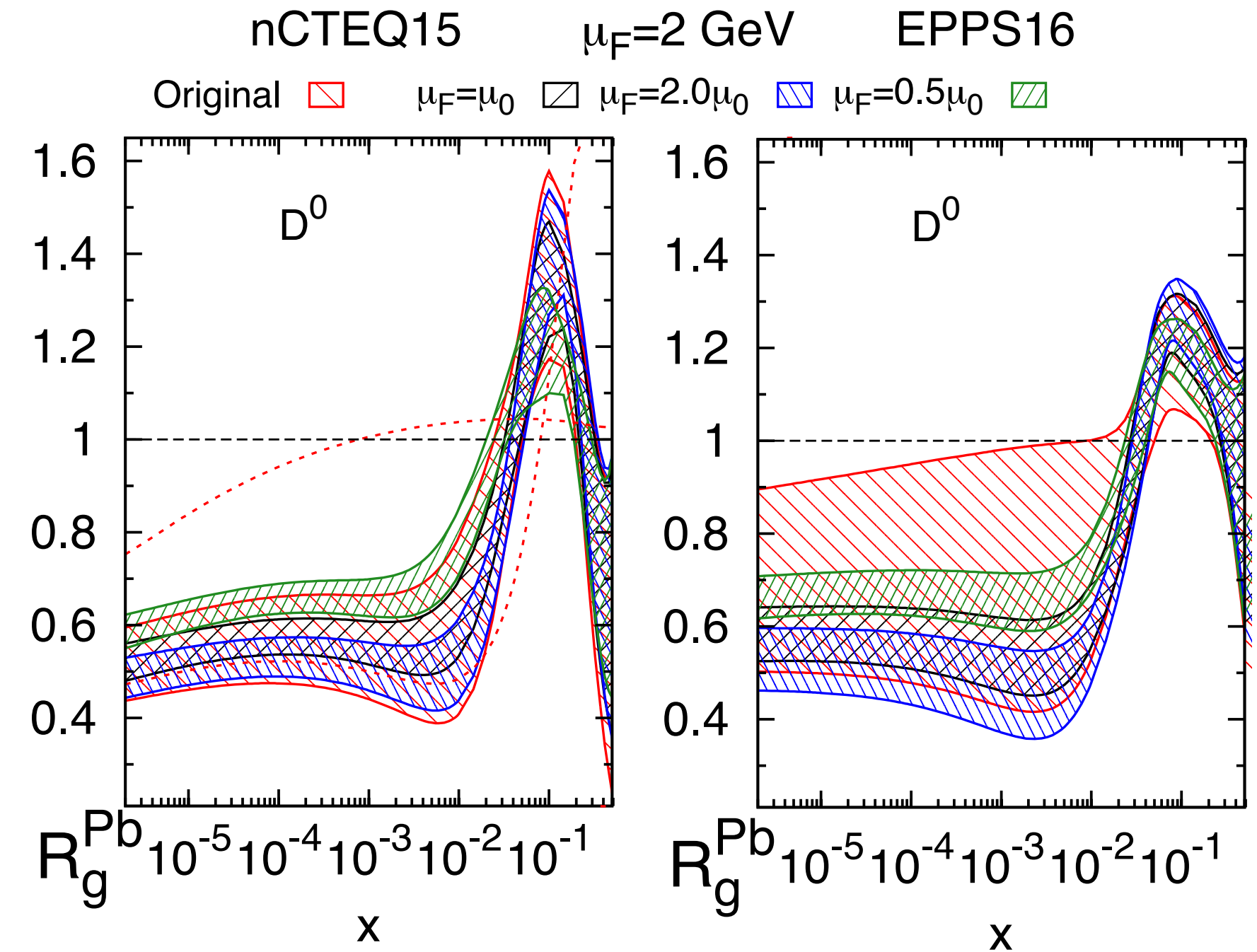
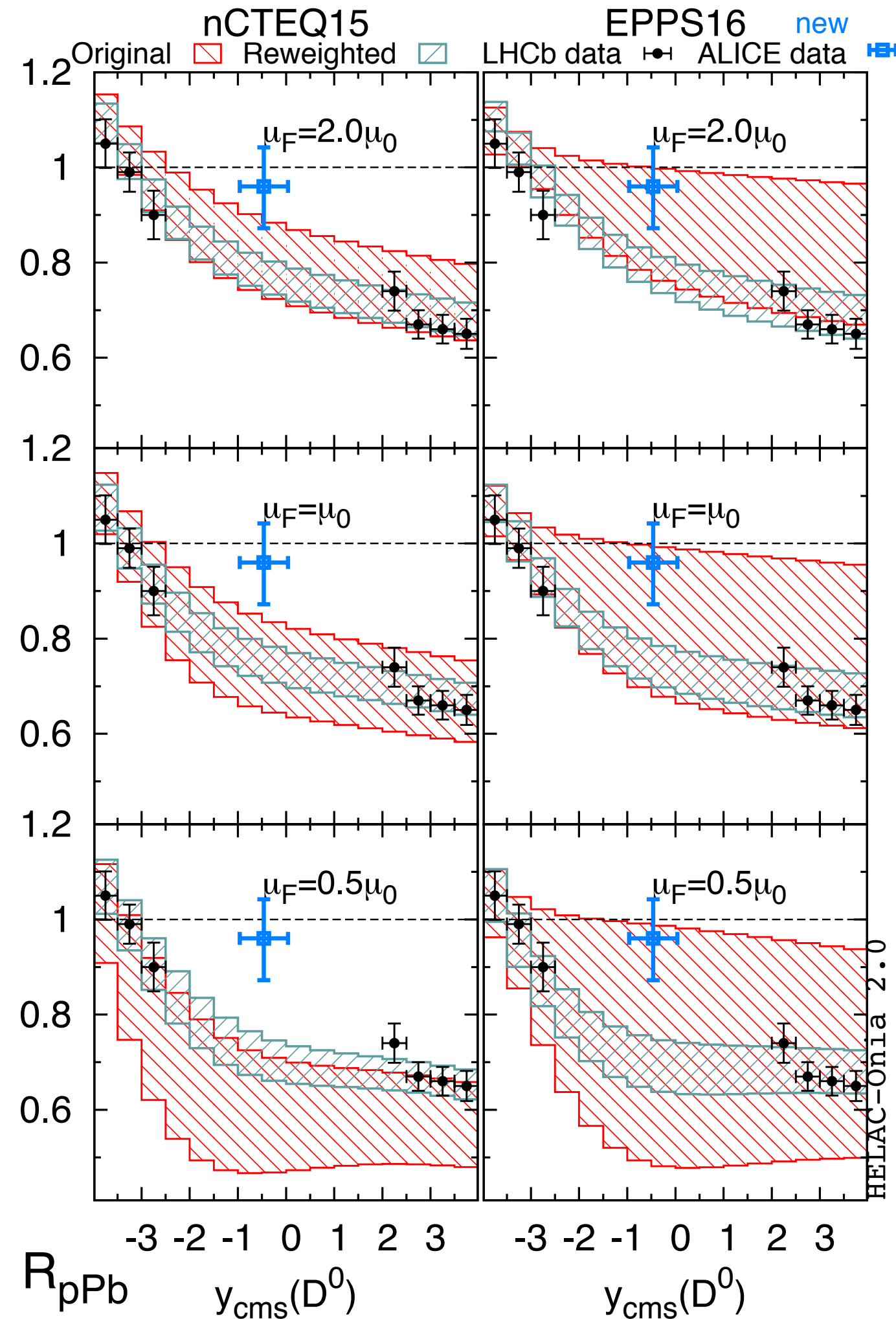
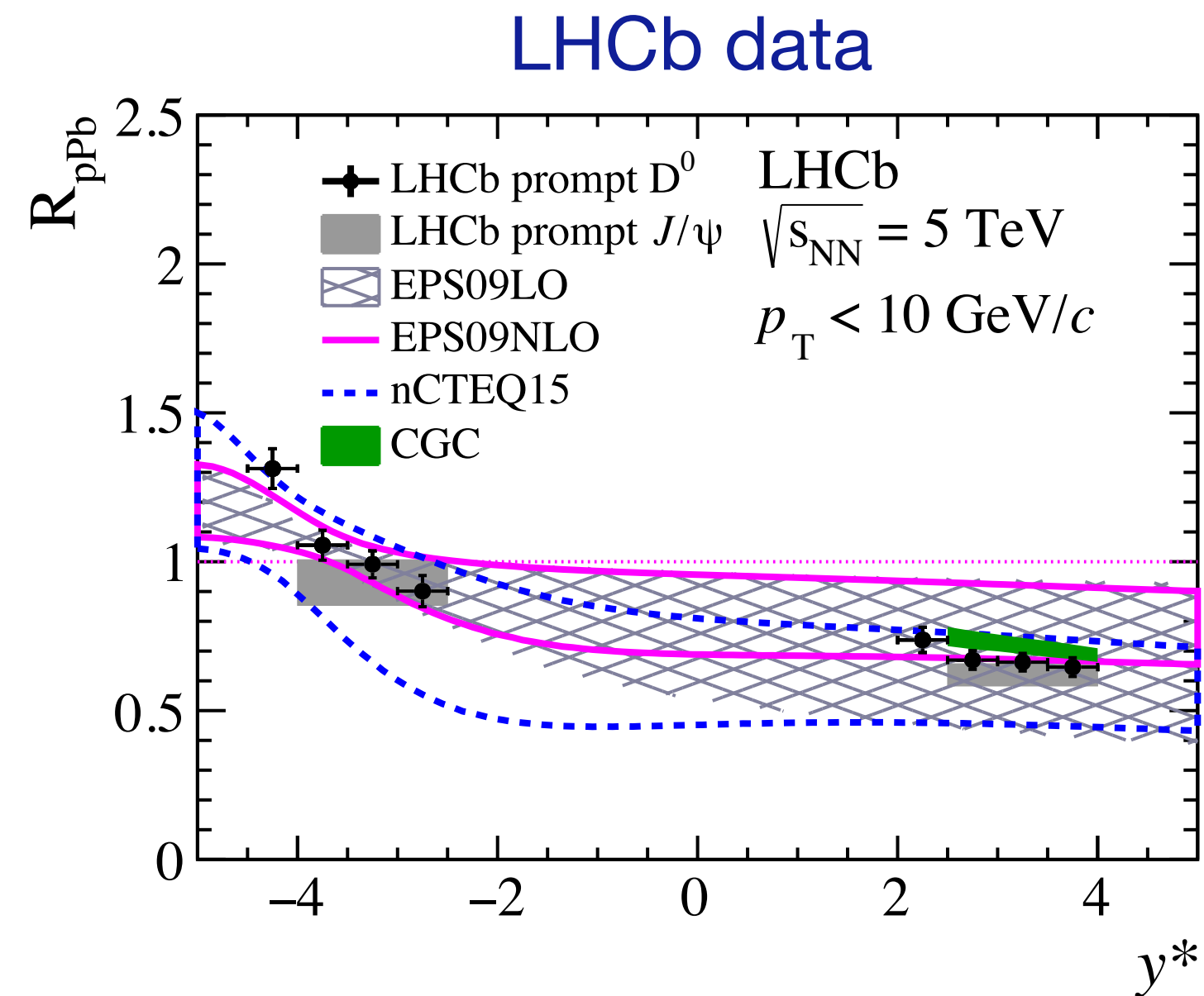


Helenius, Paukkunen, Armesto, arXiv:1606.09003

# Constraining nPDFs with charm: reweighting

Kusina et al., PRL121 (2018) 052004

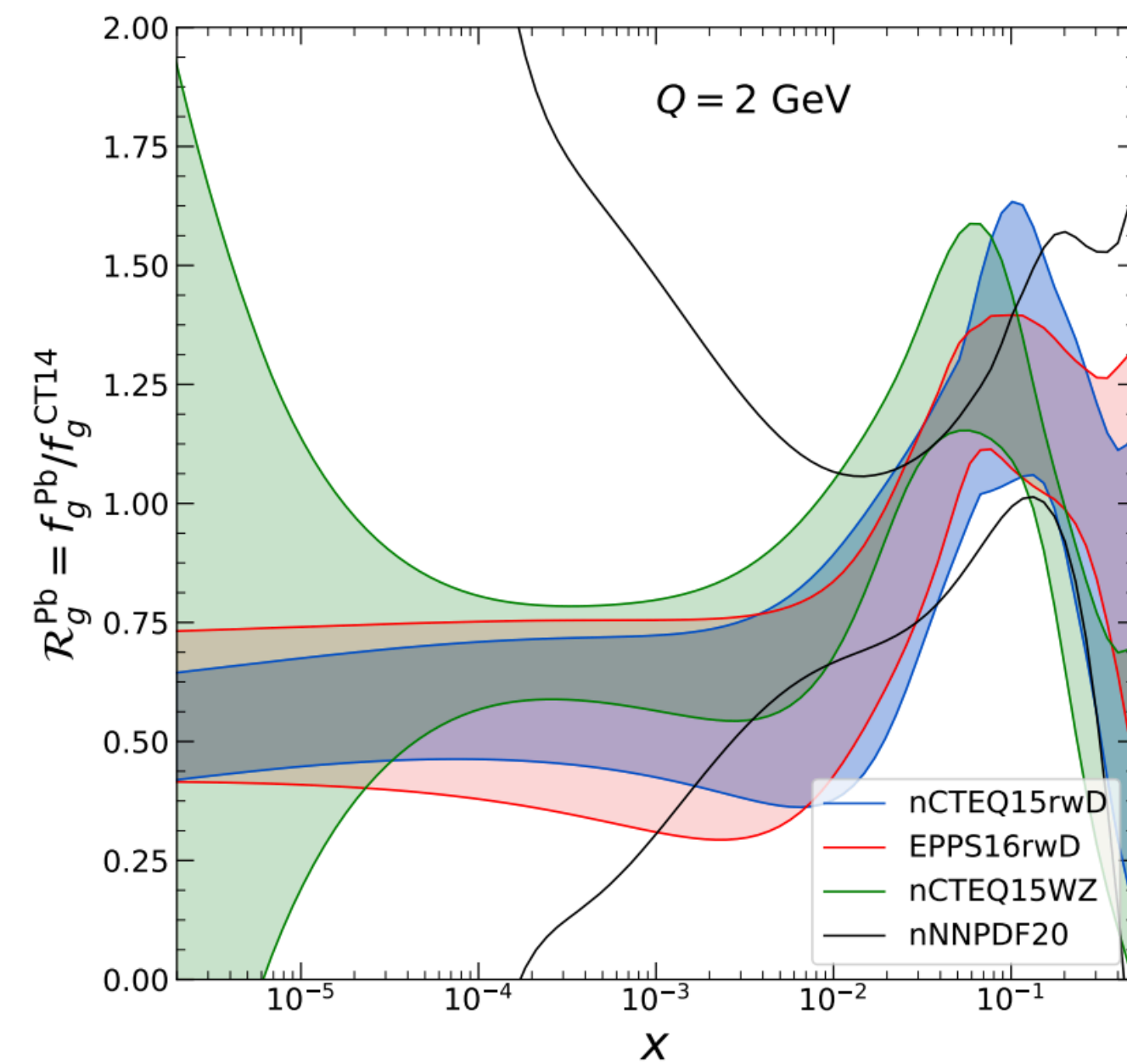
ALICE, arXiv:1906.03425



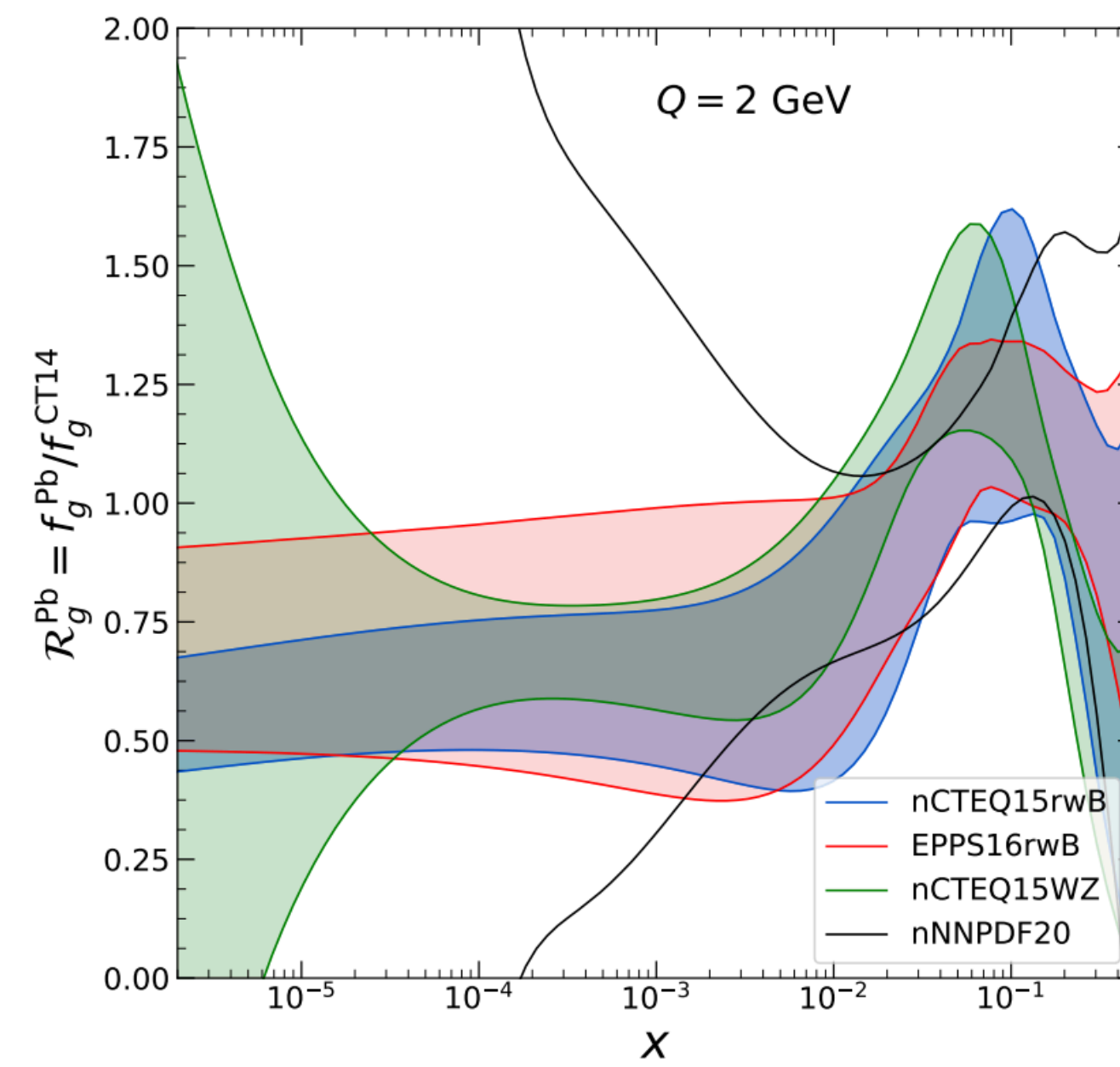
This reweighting procedure with a parametrised NLO calculation results in large shadowing; predict significant suppression at mid-rapidity; tension with data

# Reweighting with charm, beauty

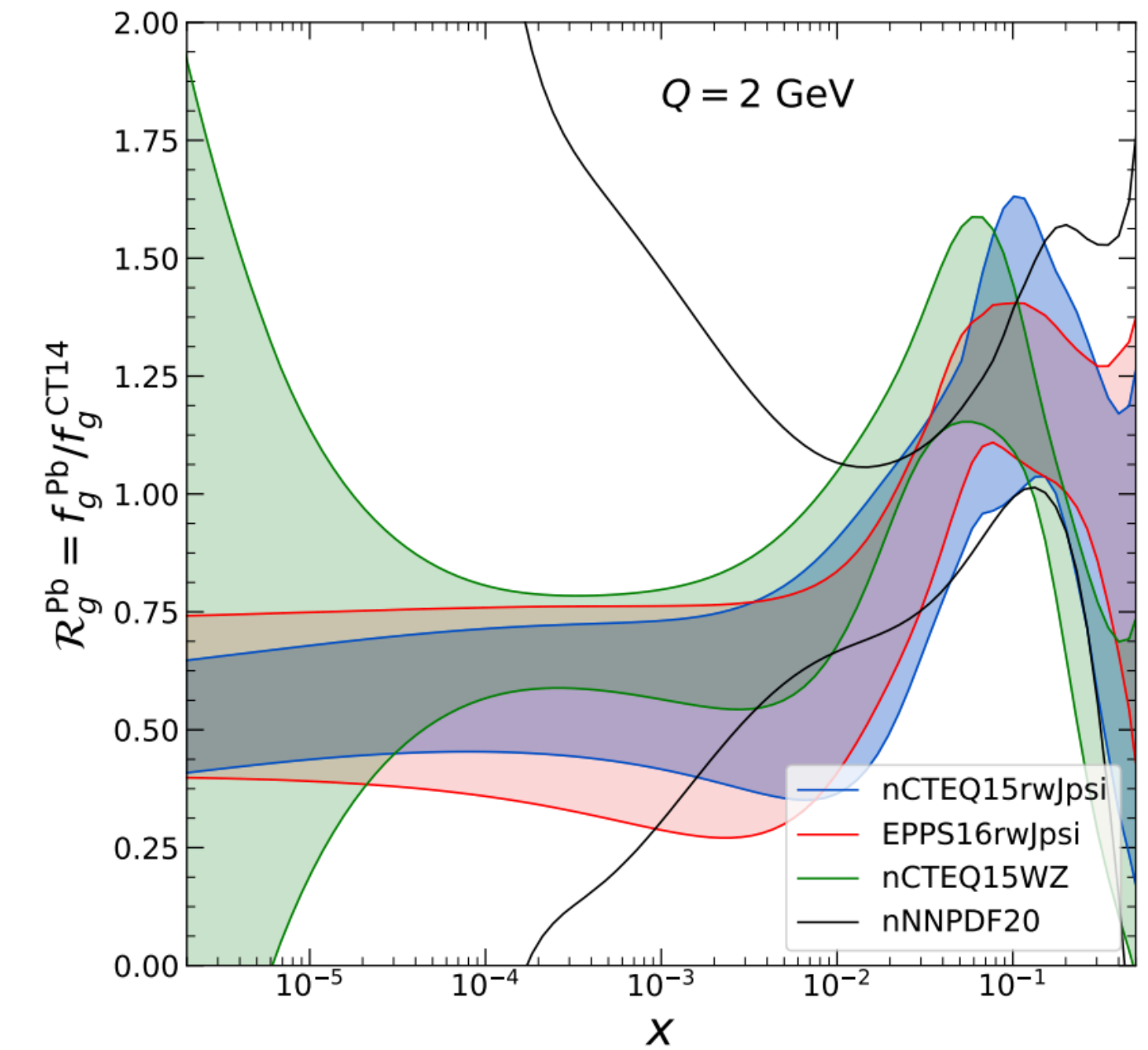
Kusina, Lansberg, Schienbein, Shao, arXiv:2012.11462



(a)  $D$  RnPDFs



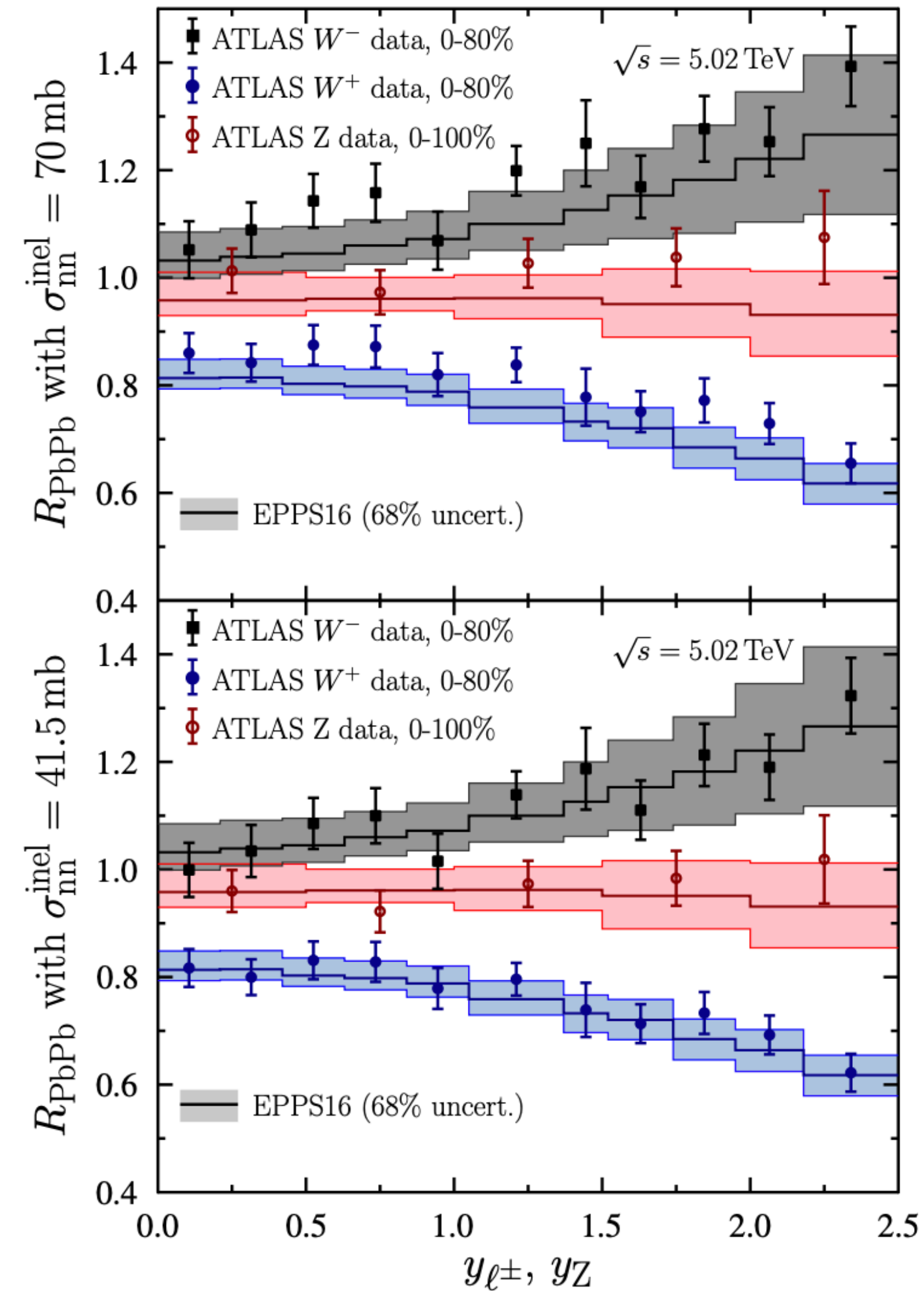
(b)  $B \rightarrow J/\psi$  RnPDFs



(c)  $J/\psi$  RnPDFs



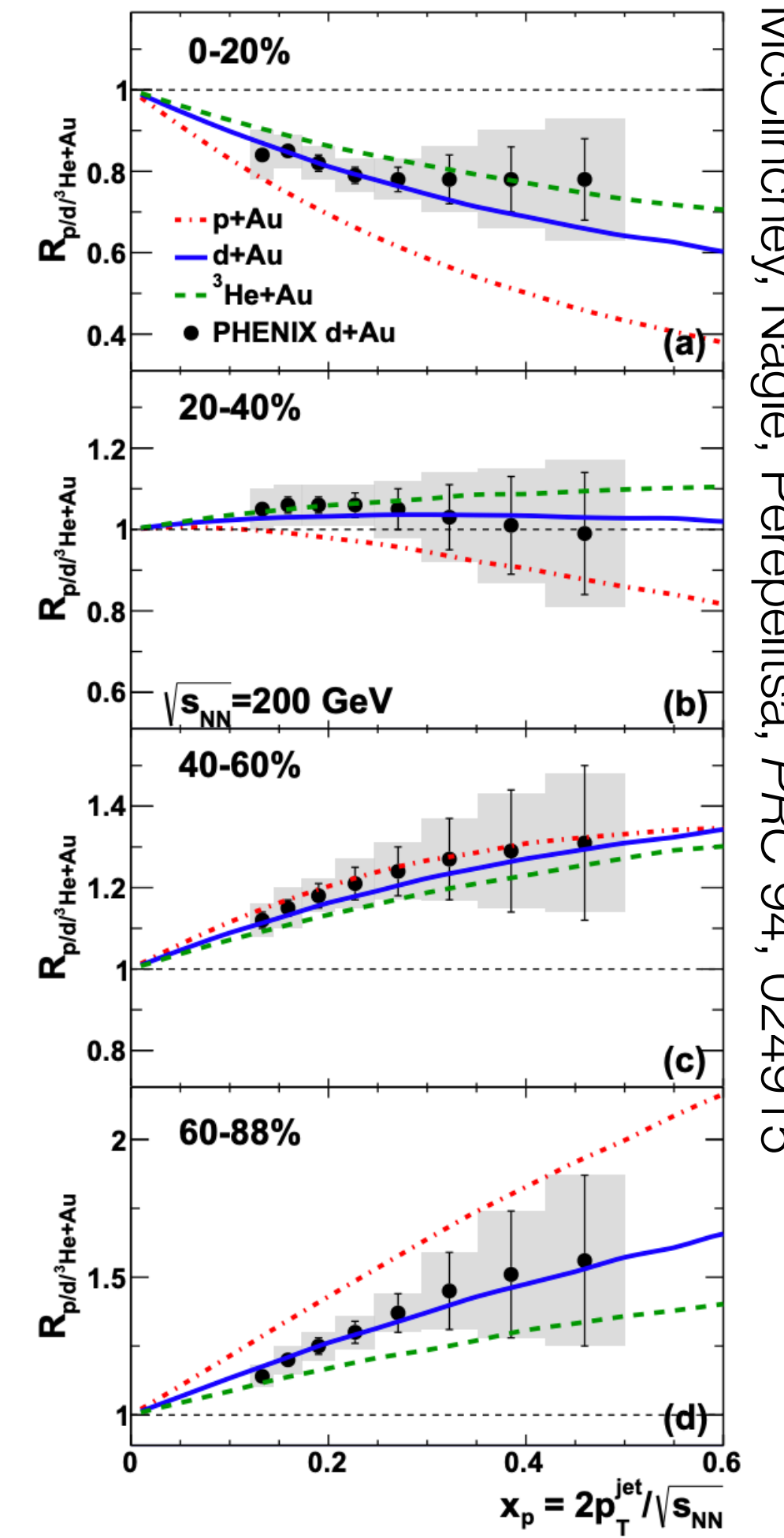
# Changing the total cross section?



Eskola, Helenius, Puka, Paukkunen, *PRL* 125, 212301

Jyvaskyla group: ATLAS EW data suggest that effective total cross section is smaller in p-Pb than free nucleons

PHENIX  $R_{dAu}$ : unexpected centrality dependence  
Suggested interpretation:  
total cross section depends on  $x$ ?

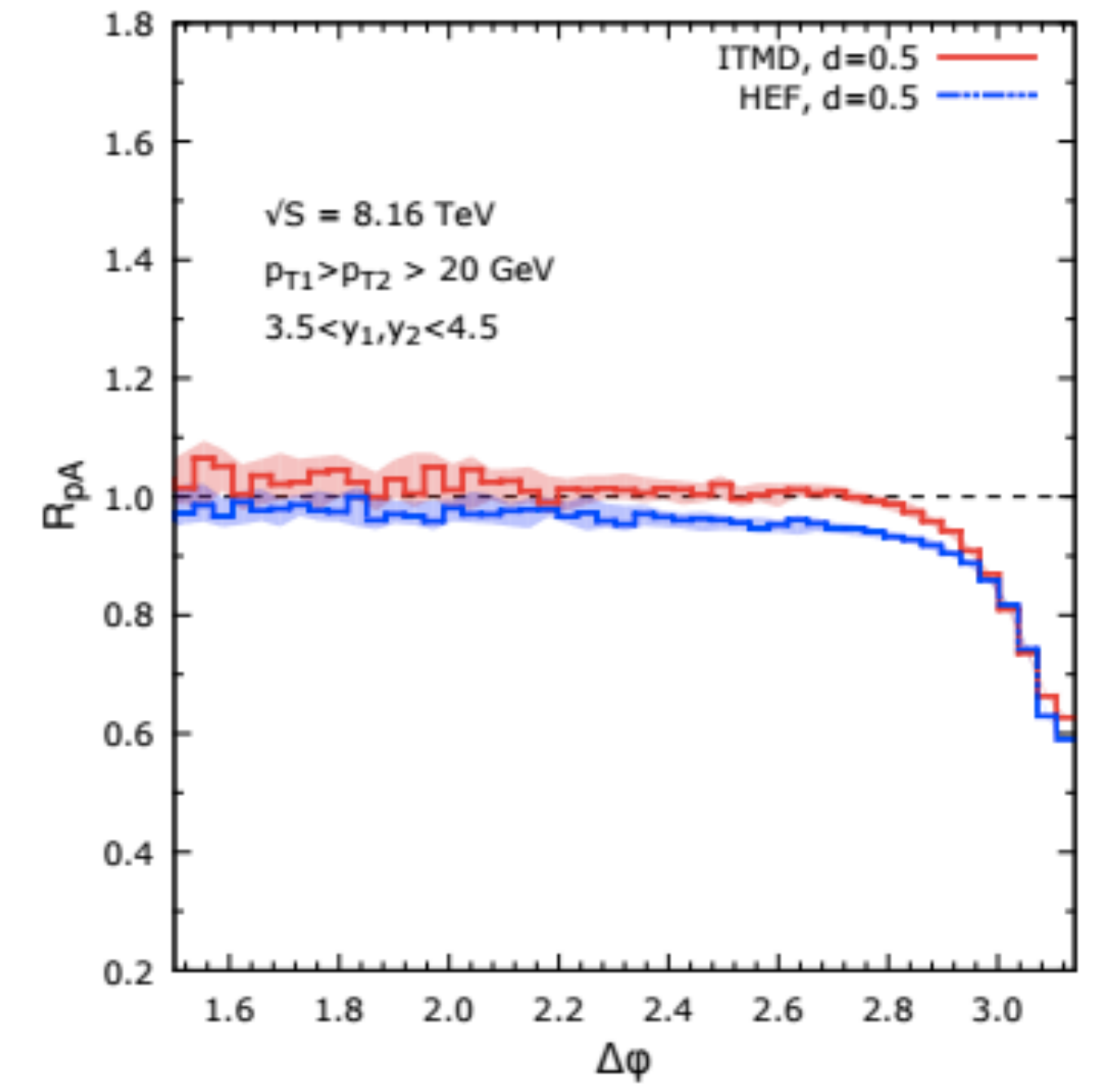
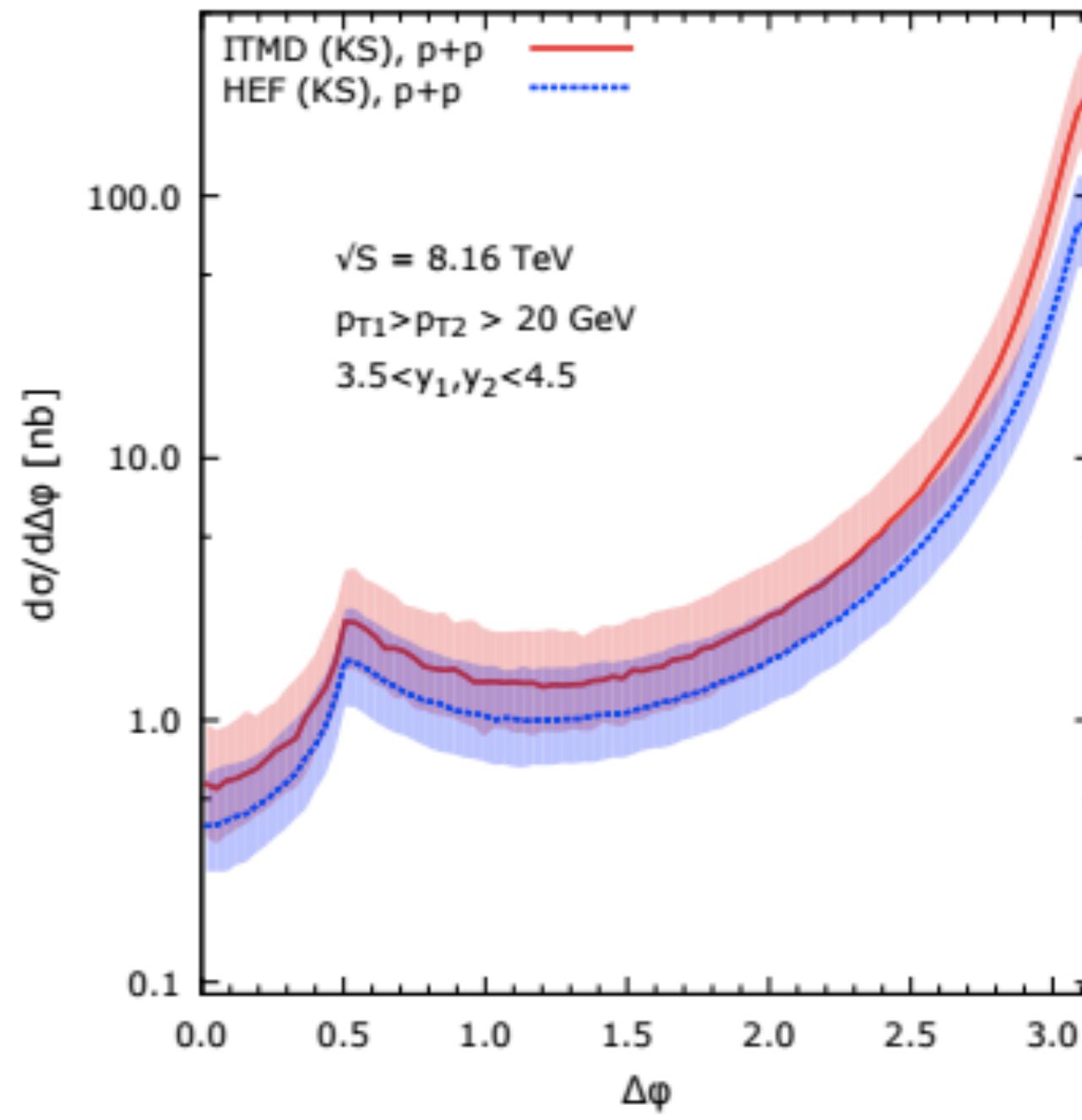
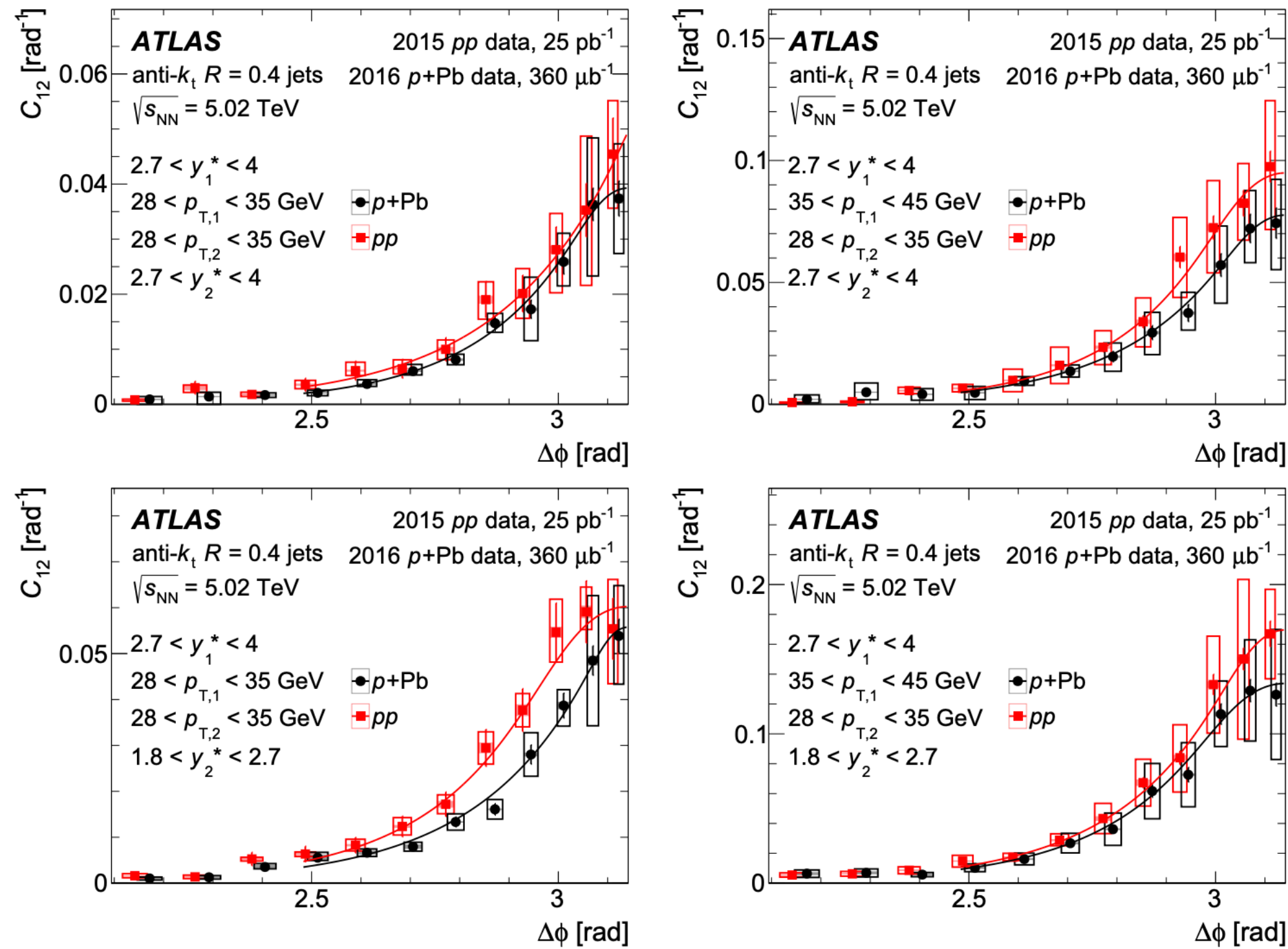


McClinchey, Nagle, Perепелitisa, *PRC* 94, 024915

# Forward di-jet correlations at LHC

Di-jets with  $p_T$  28-45 GeV

TMD framework calculation



van Hameren et al, arXiv:1607.0312

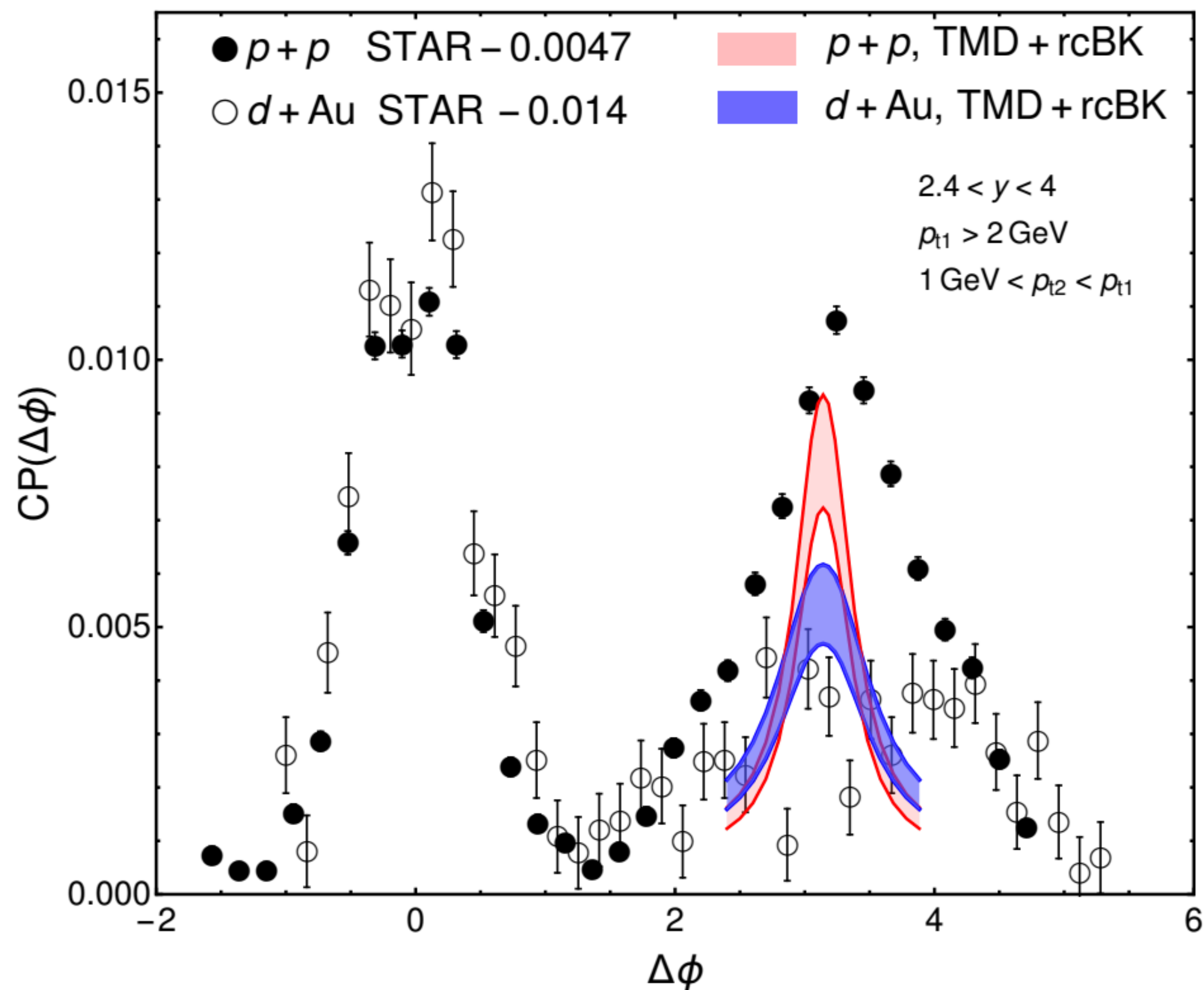
TMD: expect 'dip' near  $\Delta\phi = \pi$  for balancing jets

Some bins show difference, but no clear trend...

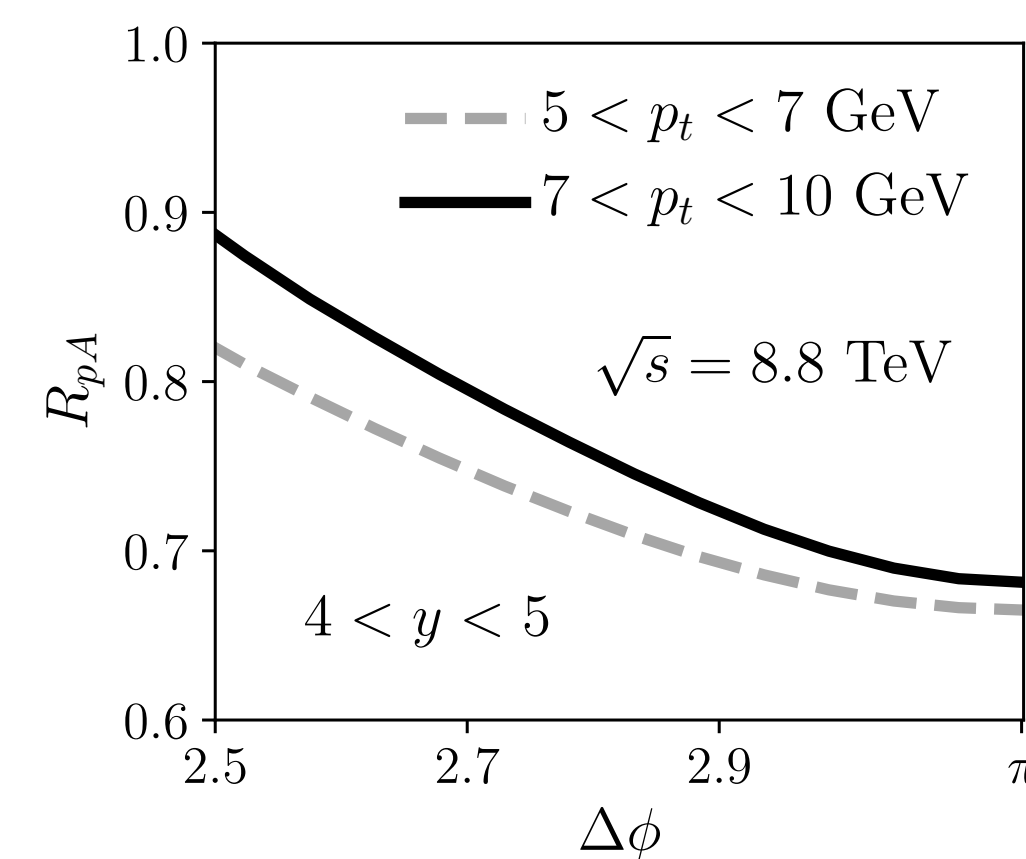
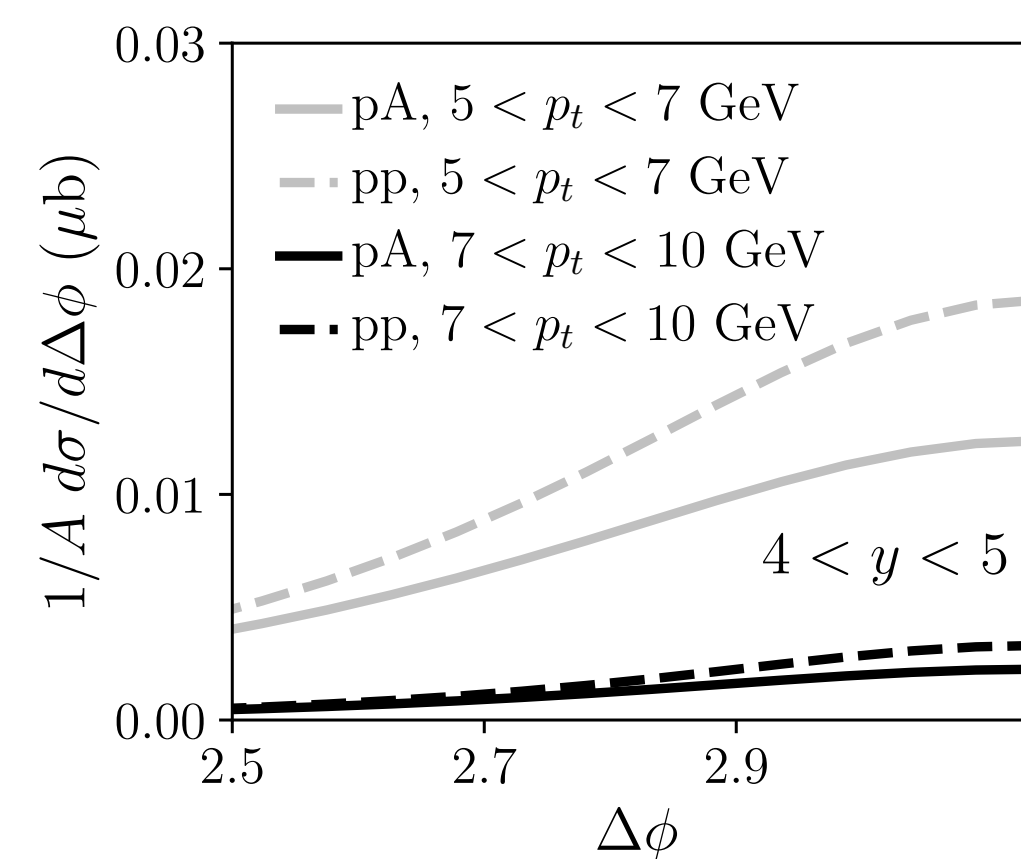
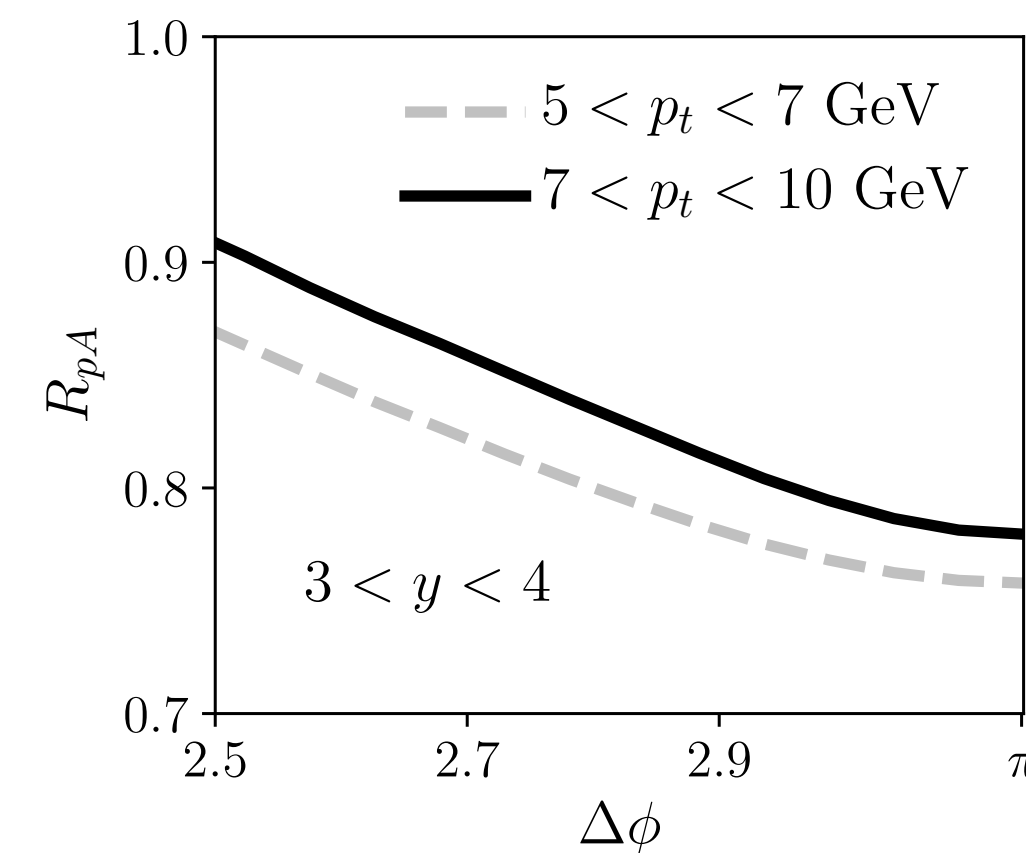
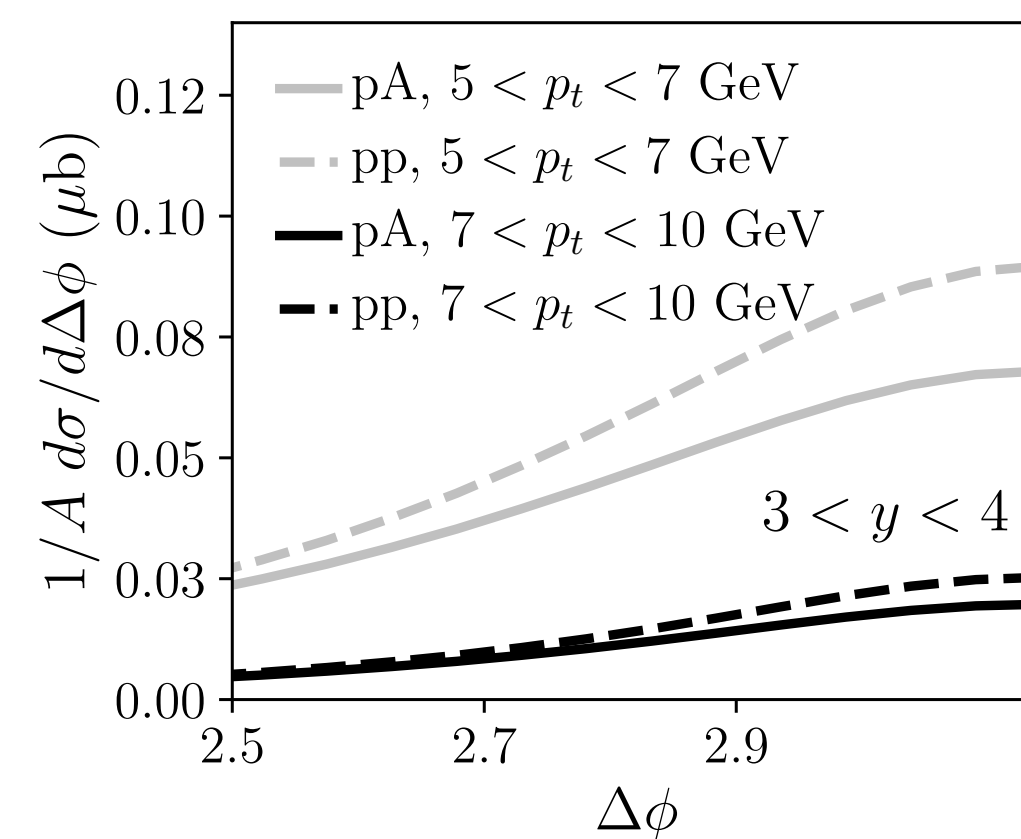
Physical origin?

# Di-hadron correlations

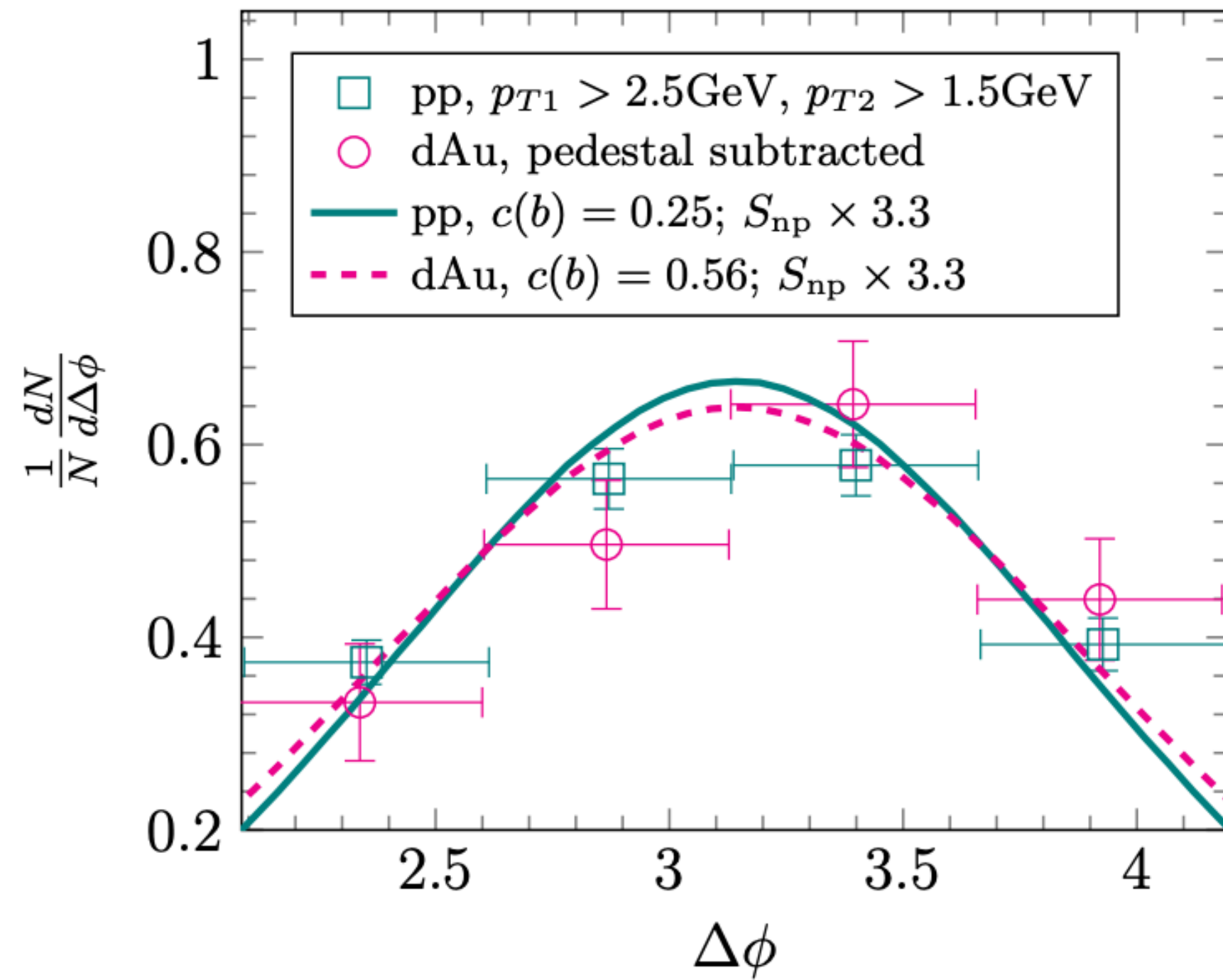
Albacete, Giacalone, Marquet, Matas, PRD 99, 014002



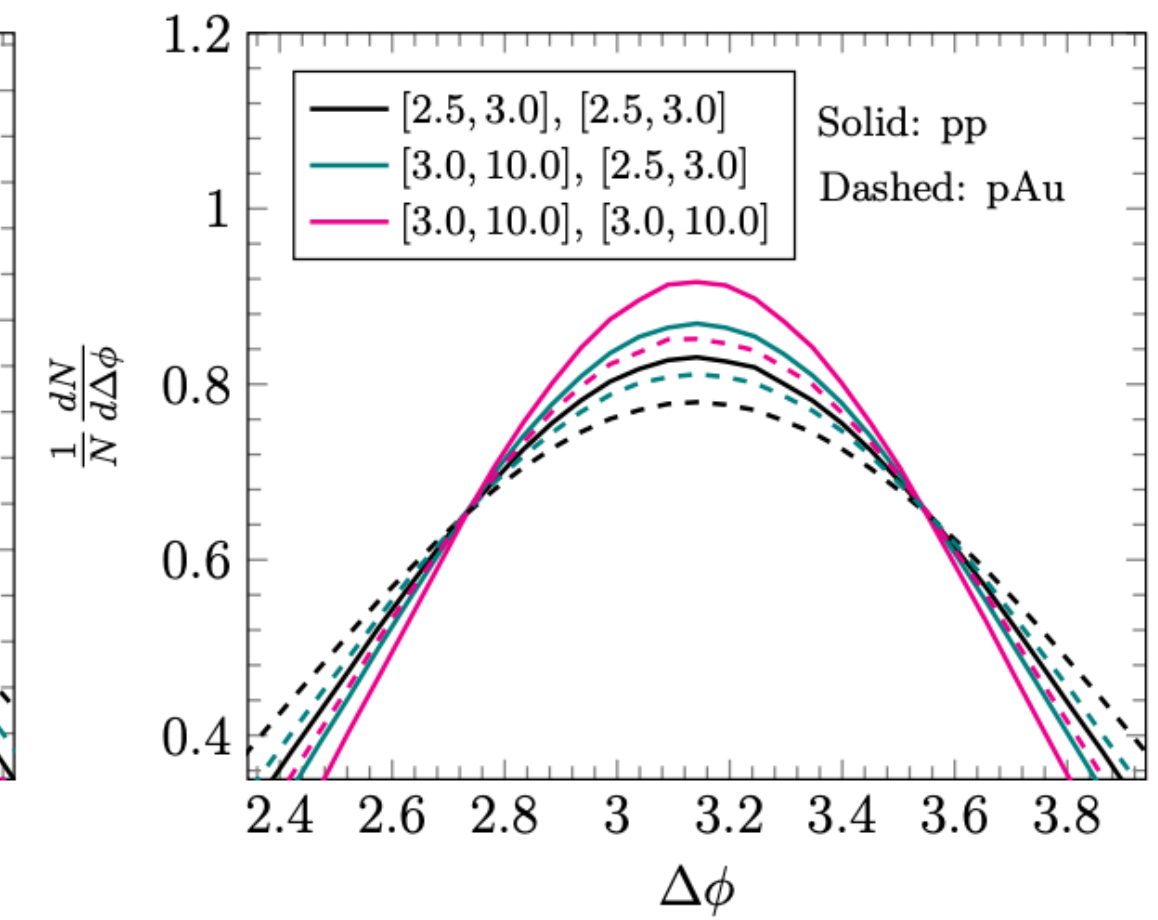
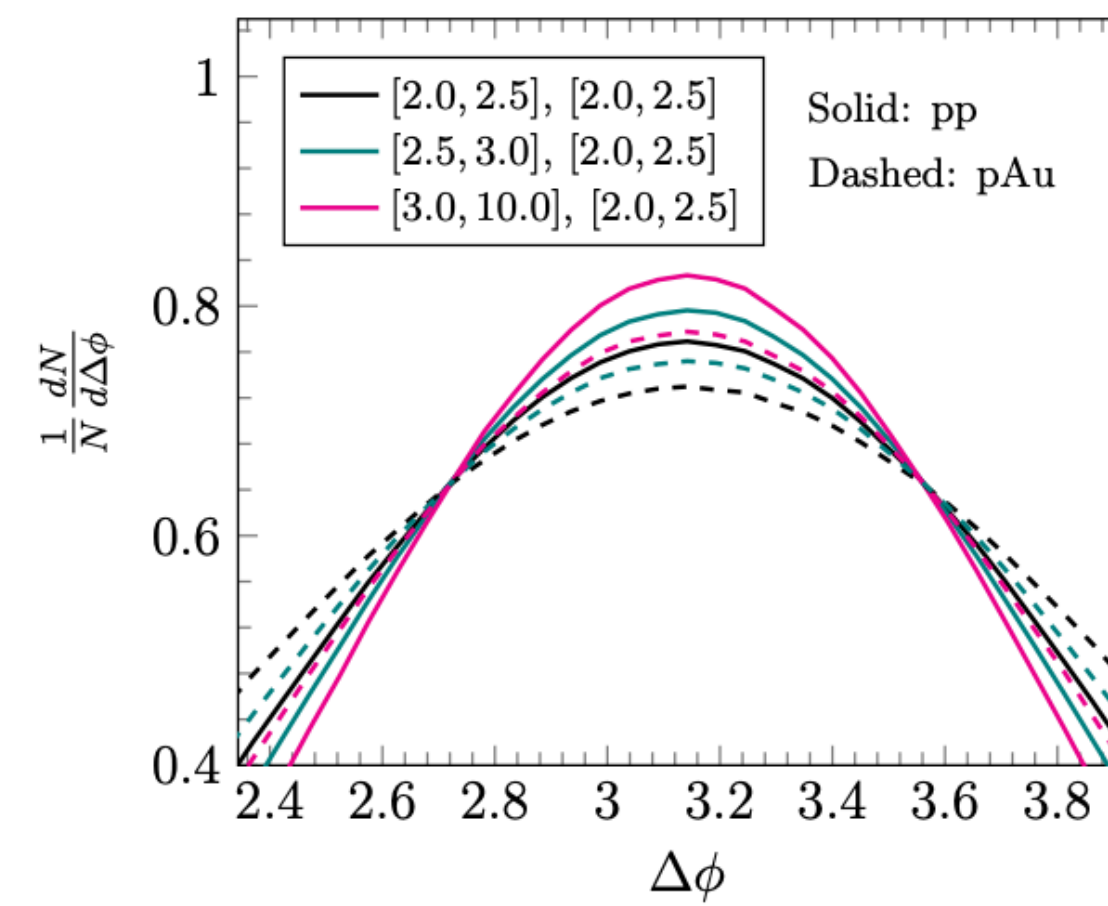
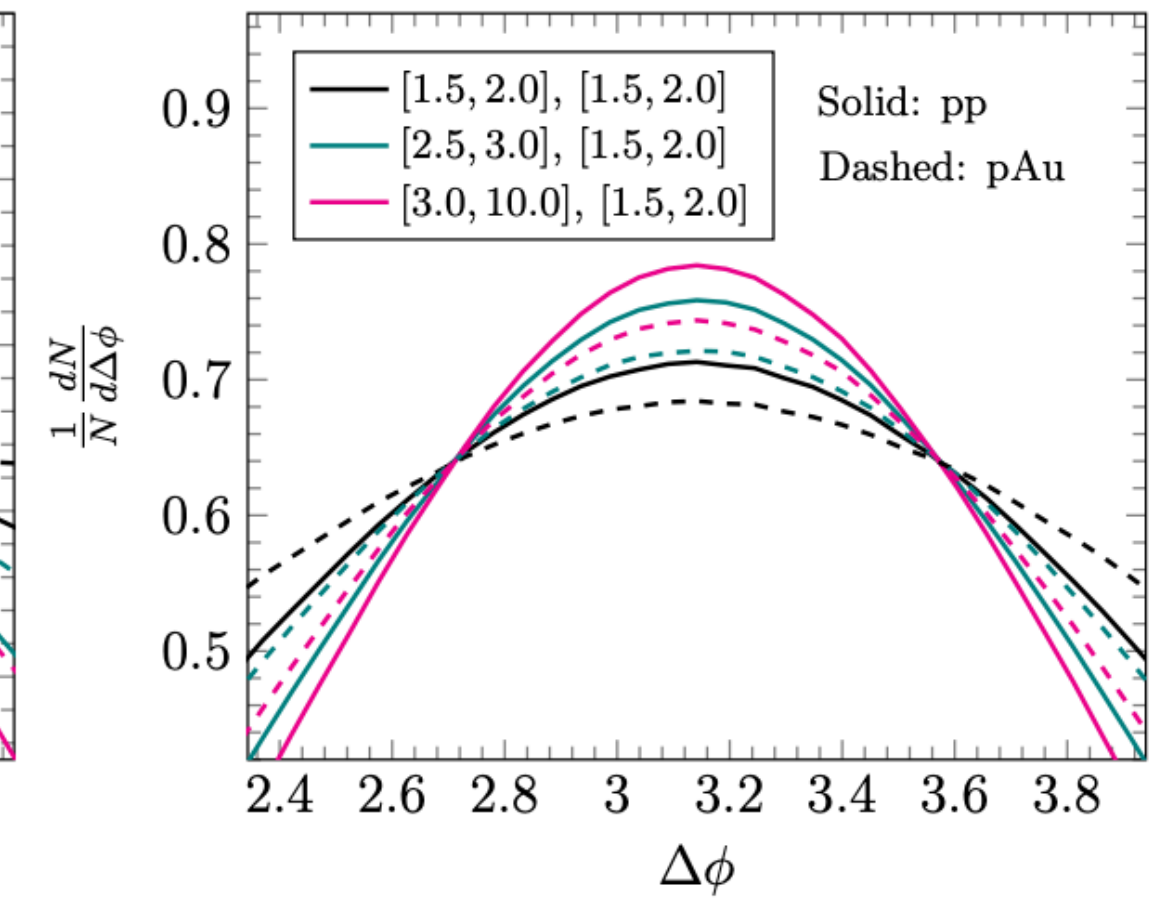
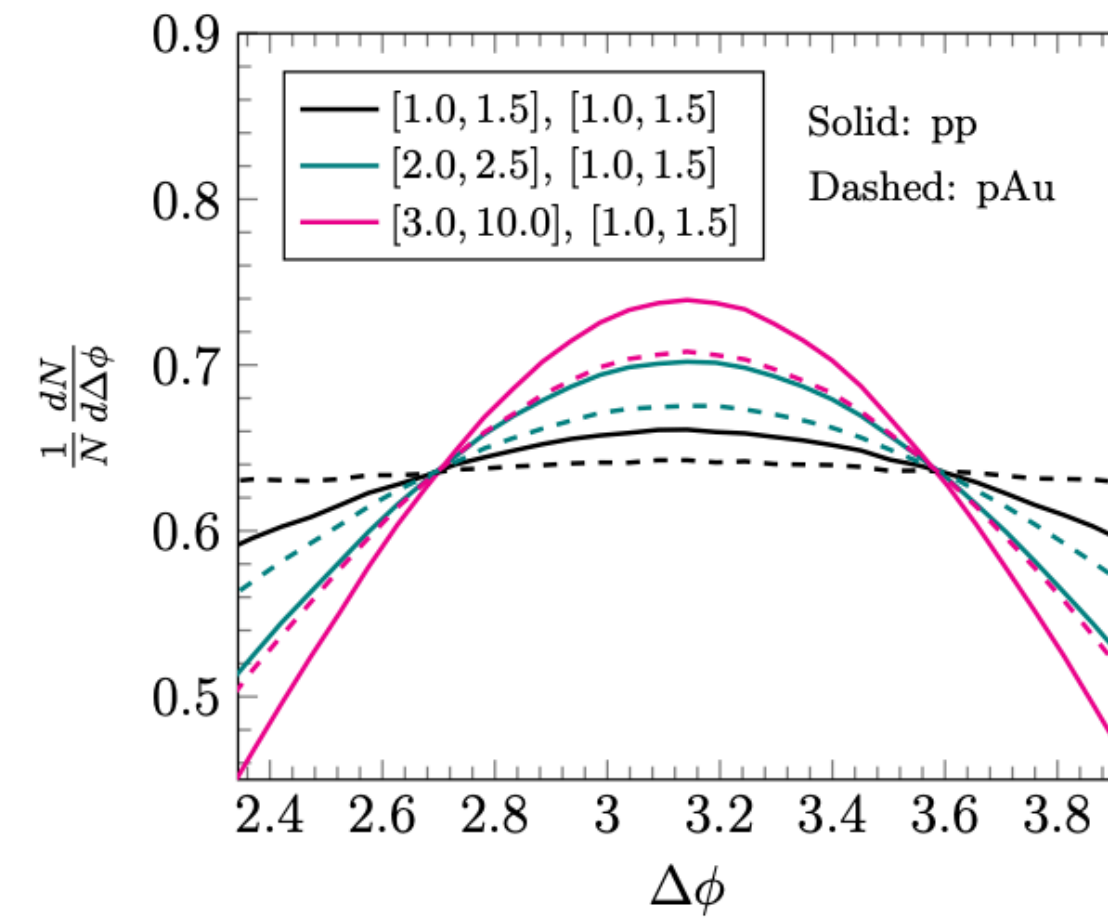
LHC prediction



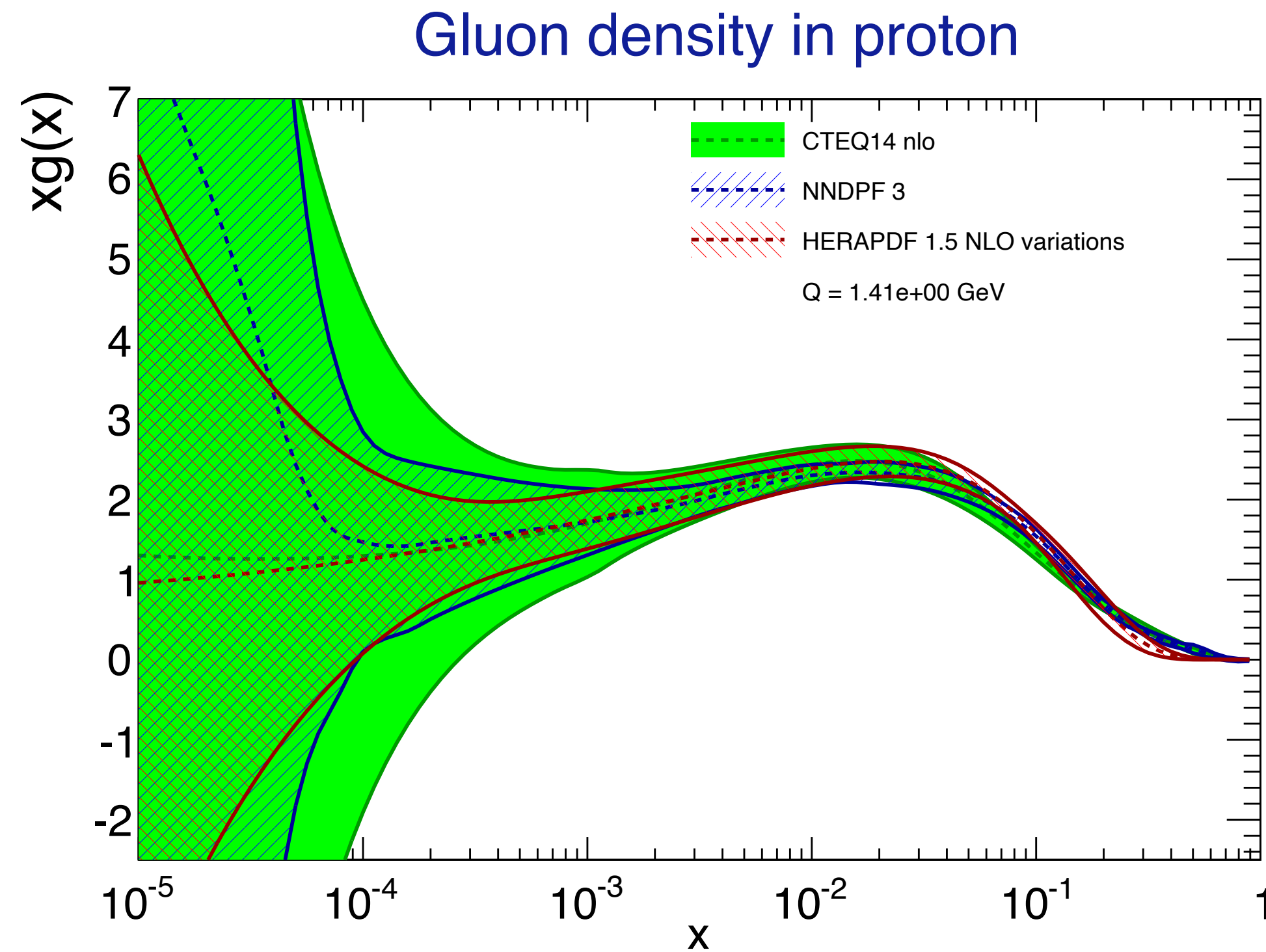
# Di-hadron correlation CGC theory: RHIC



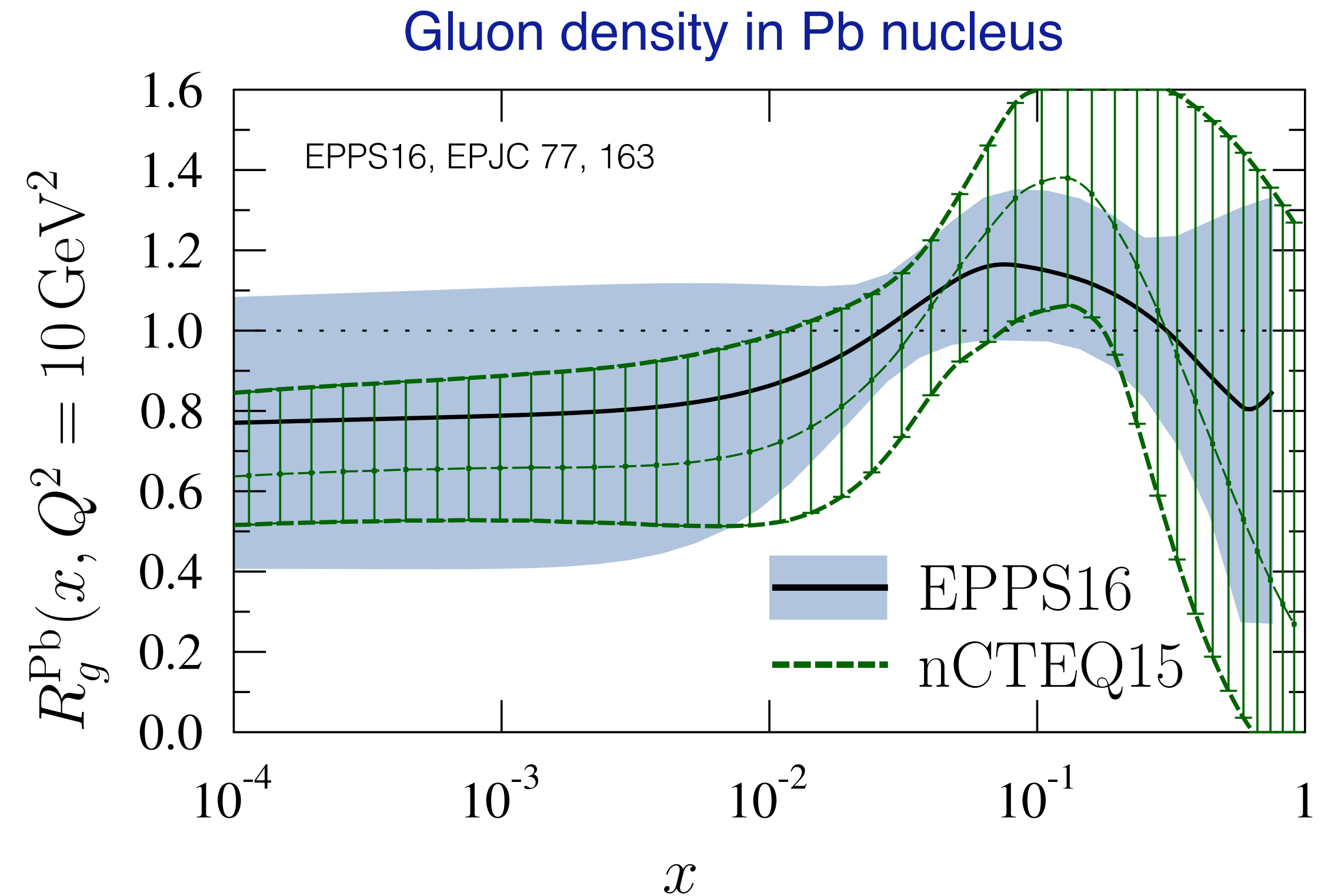
Stasto, Wei, Xiao, Yuan, *PLB* 784, 301



# Gluon Densities at small x



Even in the proton, limited information about gluons at  $x < 10^{-4}$



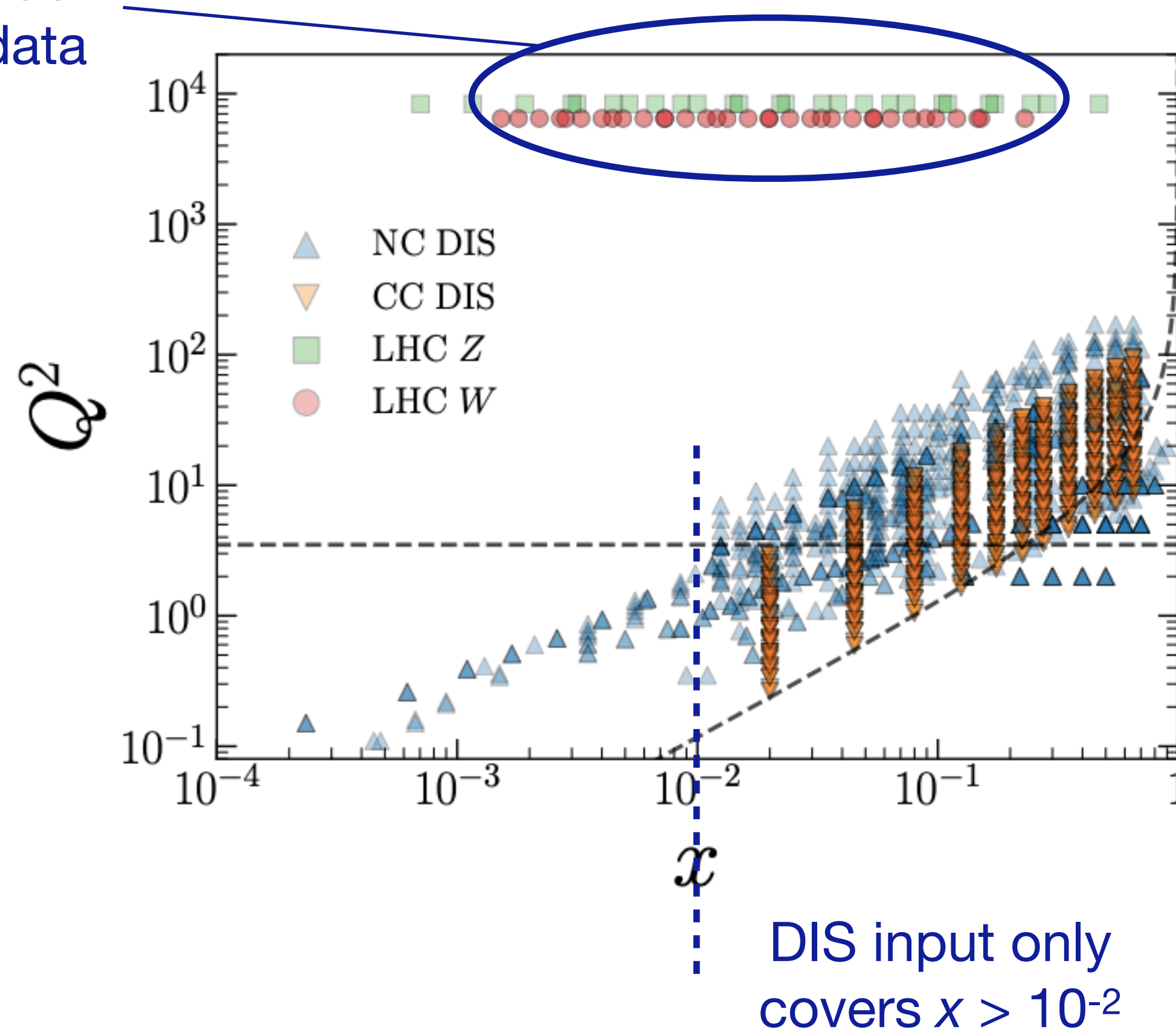
Ratio Pb/p has large uncertainties over broad range  $x < 10^{-2}$

# nPDFs with minimal constraints: nNNPDF

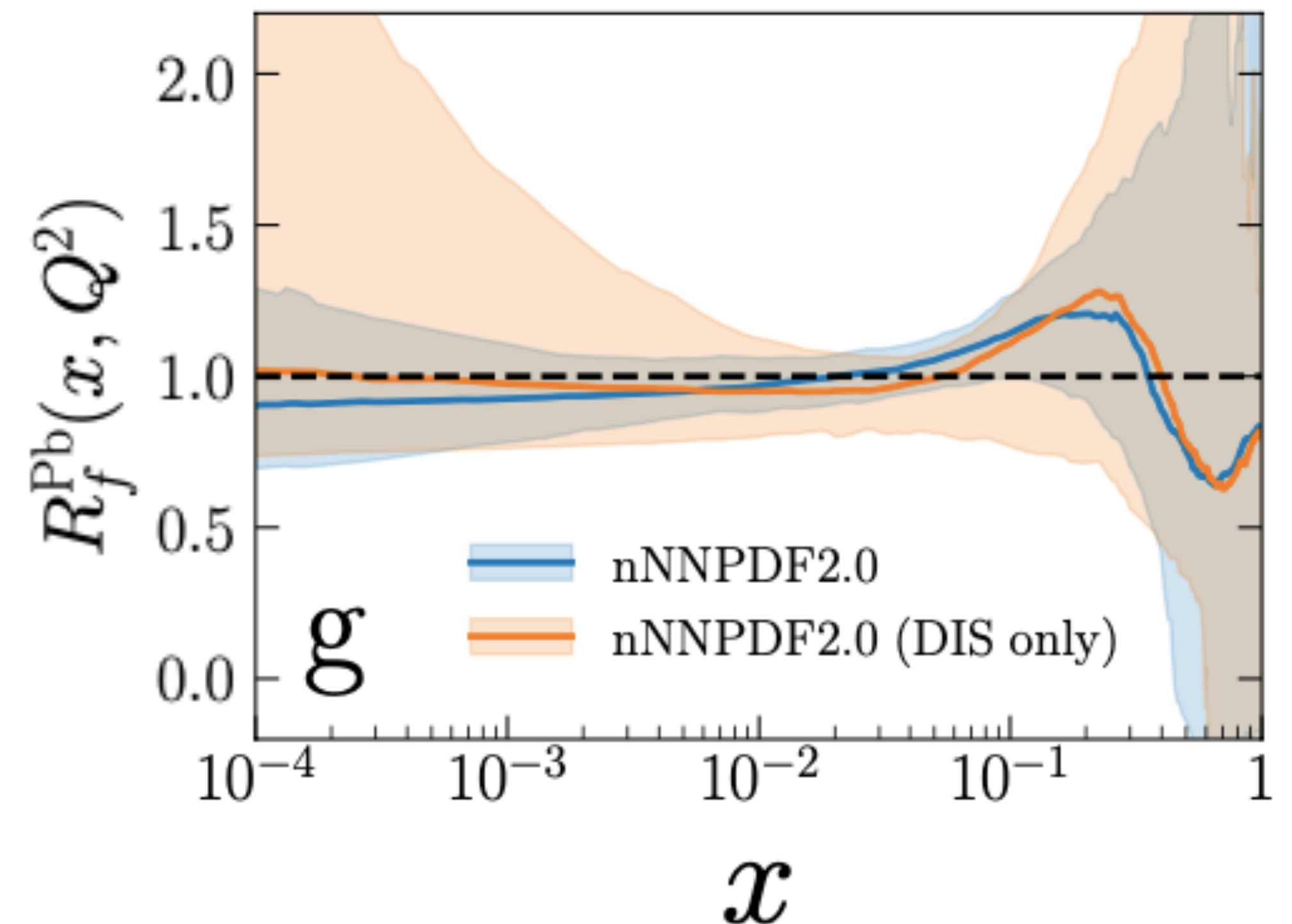
nNNPDF use a more flexible parametrisation of PDFs at  $Q_0$

R.A. Khalek et al, EPJ C 79, 6  
R.A. Khalek, J.J. Ethier et al, [arXiv:2006.14629](https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.14629)

nNNPDF 2.0: include LHC electroweak data

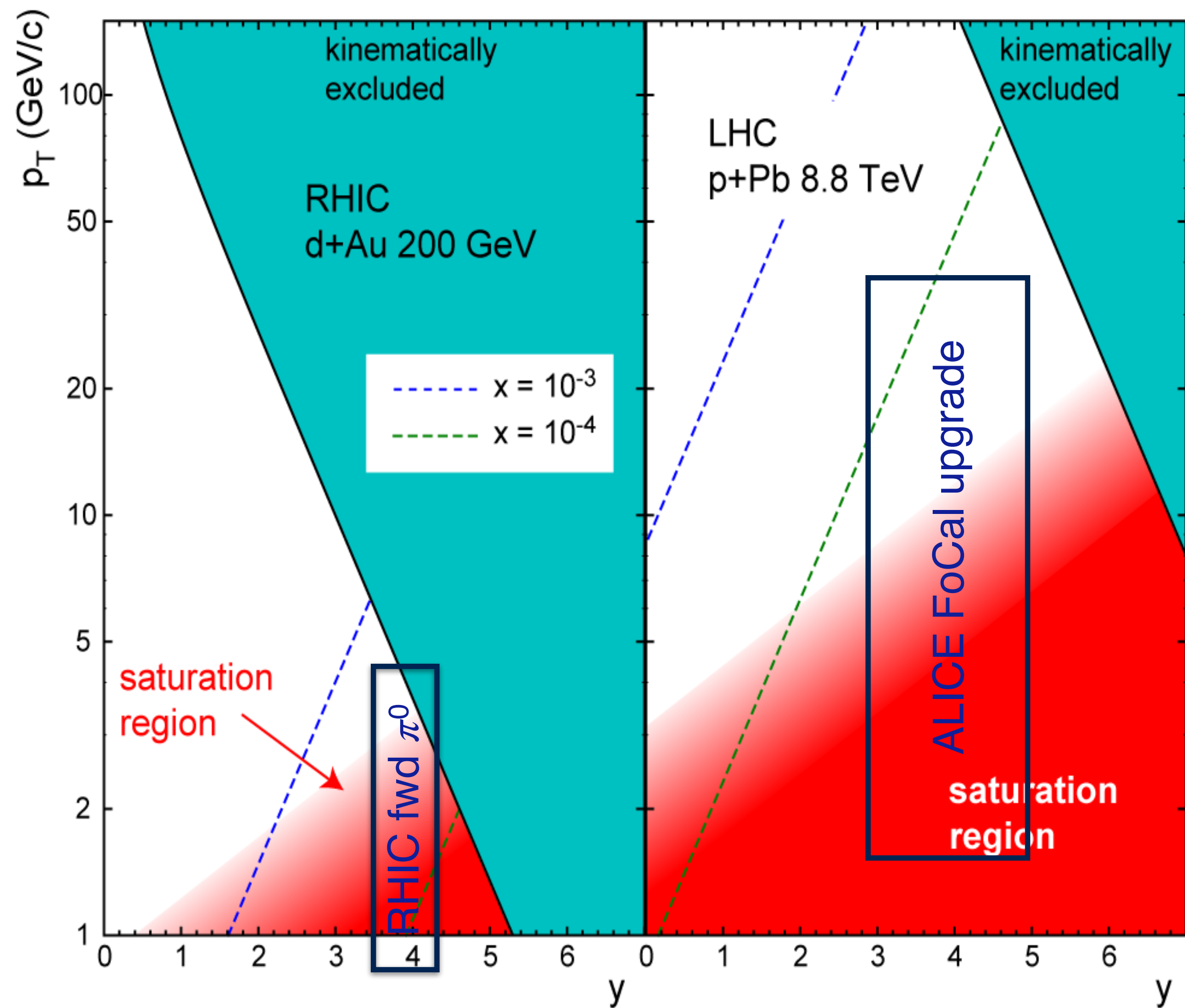


DIS only vs DIS + LHC



LHC EW data reduce uncertainty at small  $x$   
prefer no shadowing,  $R_g \approx 1$

# LHC vs RHIC



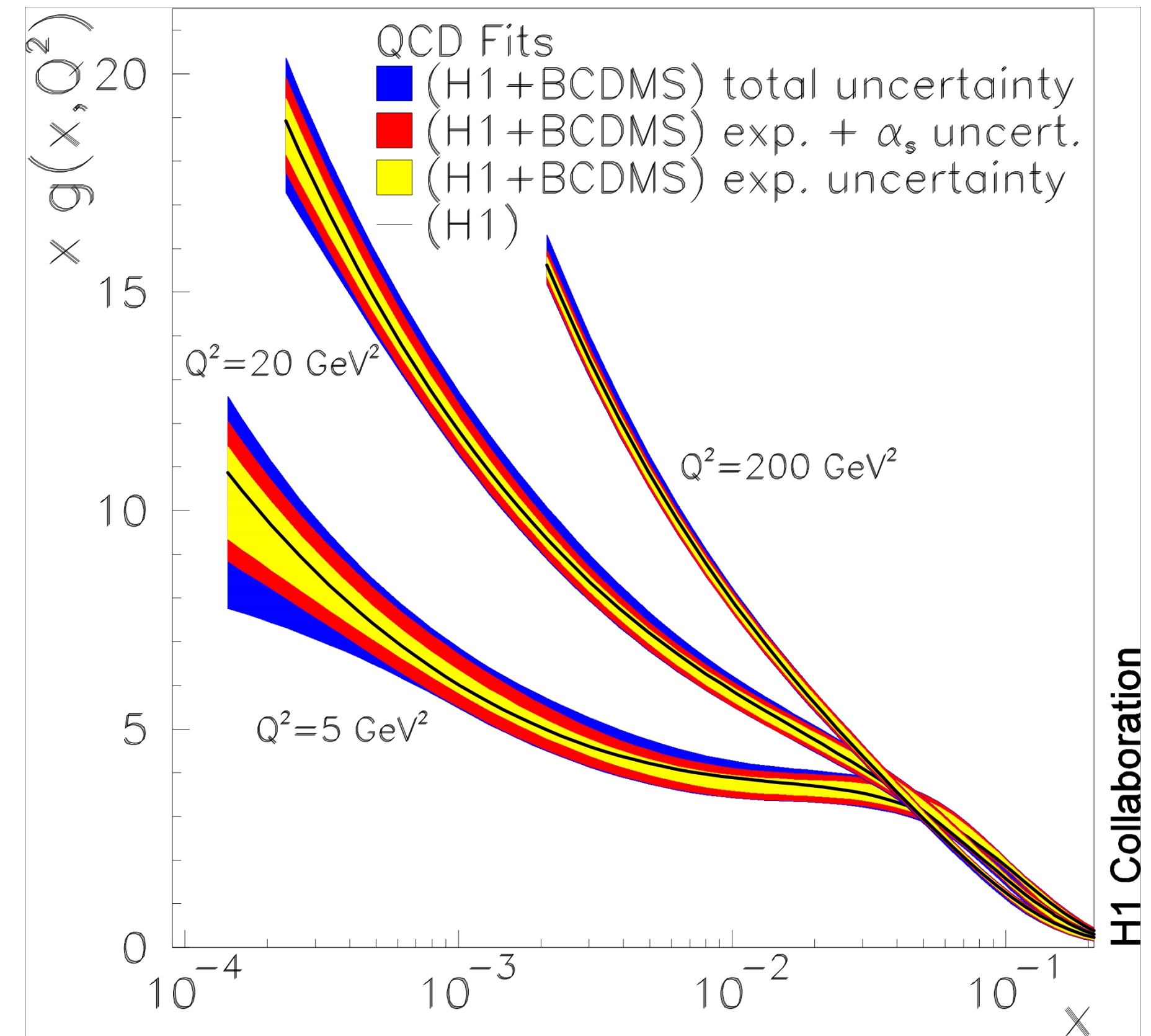
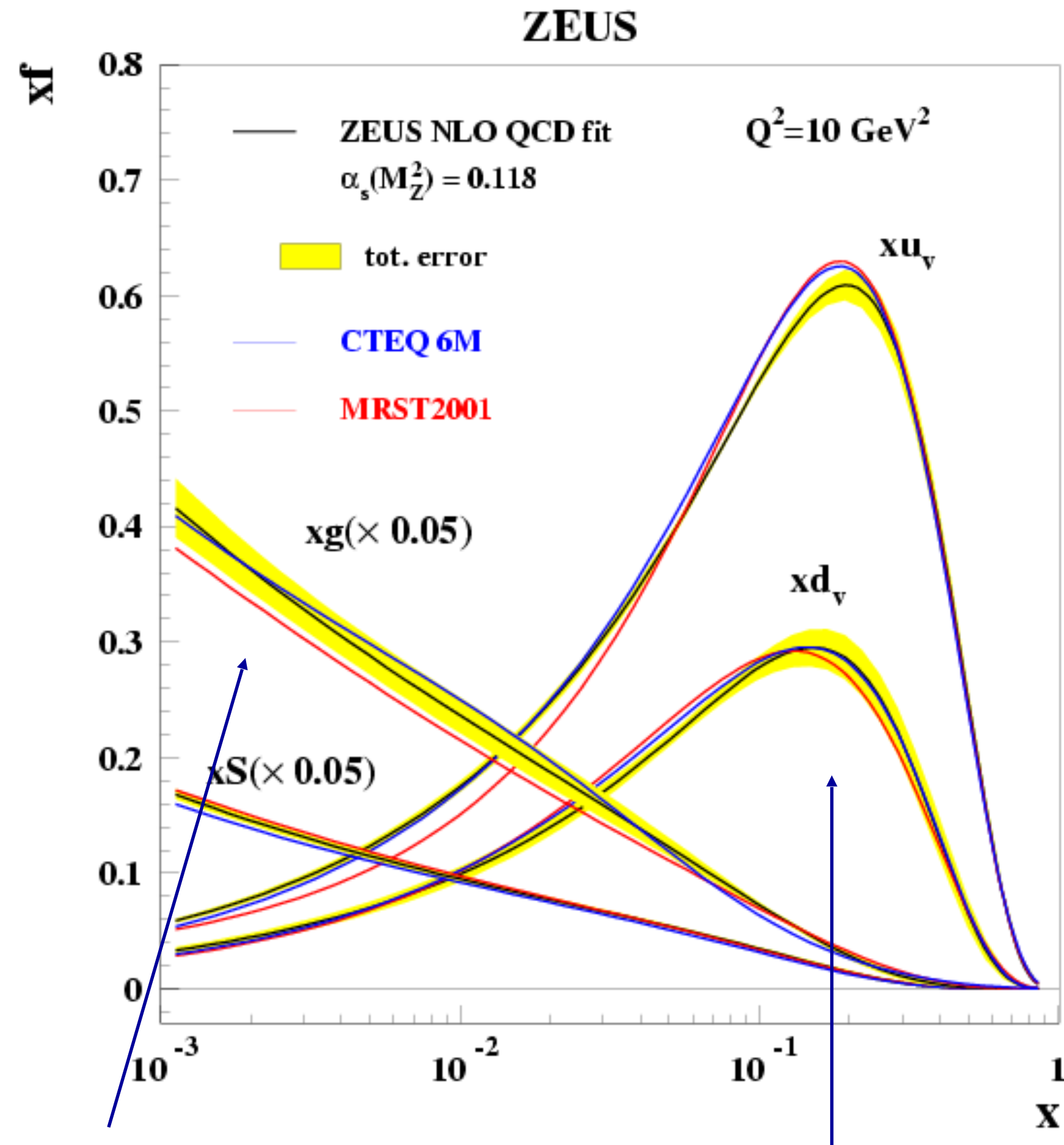
RHIC forward:  
kinematic limit at  $p_T \sim 5$  GeV

LHC:  $x \sim 10^{-4} - 10^{-5}$  accessible,  
with  $p_T \sim Q \sim 3-4$  GeV

# Proton structure: parton density functions

Low  $Q^2$ : valence structure

$Q^2$  evolution (gluons)



Soft gluons

Valence quarks ( $p = uud$ )  
 $x \sim 1/3$

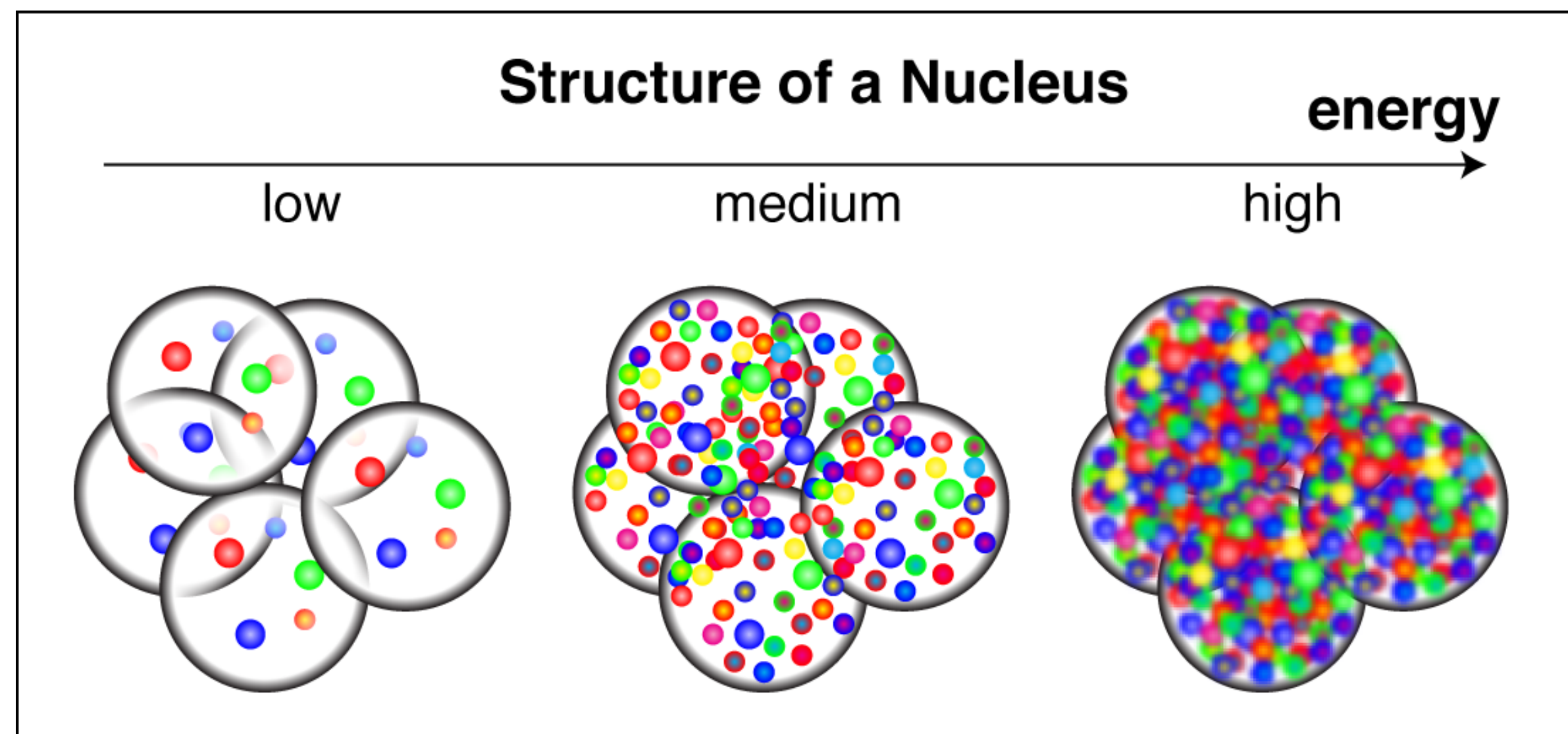
$x$ : momentum fraction  
 carried by parton

Gluon content of proton rises  
 quickly with  $Q^2$

Something must 'tame' the gluons at low  $x$   
 non-linear evolution, gluon fusion?



# Saturation/Color Glass Condensate



Low  $x$ : large gluon density

Low  $Q^2$ : large effective size of gluons

} Strong fields, large occupation numbers

## Large theoretical interest:

- Fundamentally new regime of QCD
- Theoretically calculable:  
Classical color fields; JIMWLK, etc

Experimental/phenomenological question:

Where/when is CGC dynamics relevant/dominant?

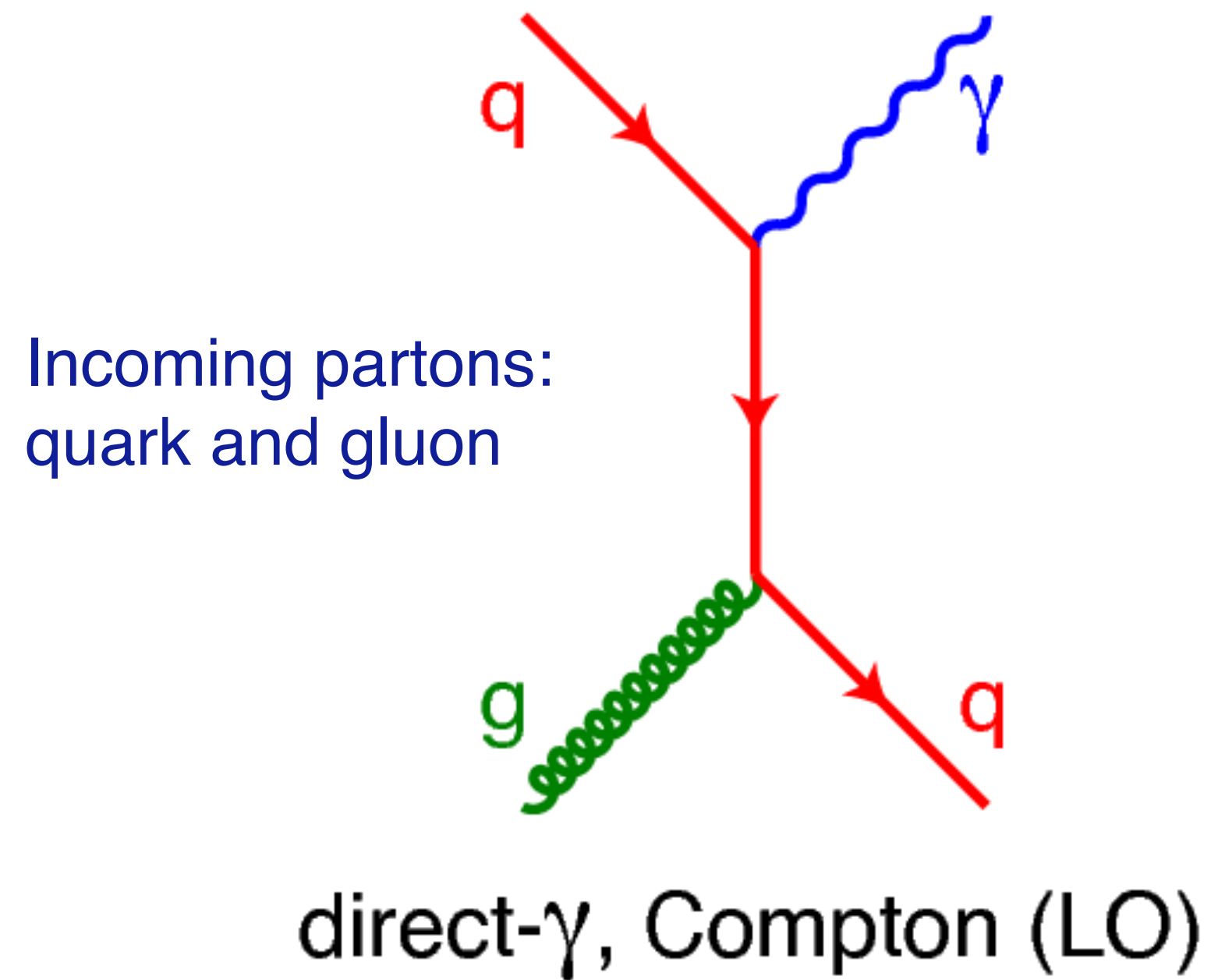
Non-linear evolution  $\Leftrightarrow$  Reduced gluon density  $\Leftrightarrow$  Suppression of yield

$1 + \text{many instead of } 2 \rightarrow 2 \Leftrightarrow$  Suppression of recoil jet (mono-jets?)

Multi-gluon emission and interference  $\Leftrightarrow$  Azimuthal anisotropy (flow-like effects)

# Probing the gluon density in a hadron collider

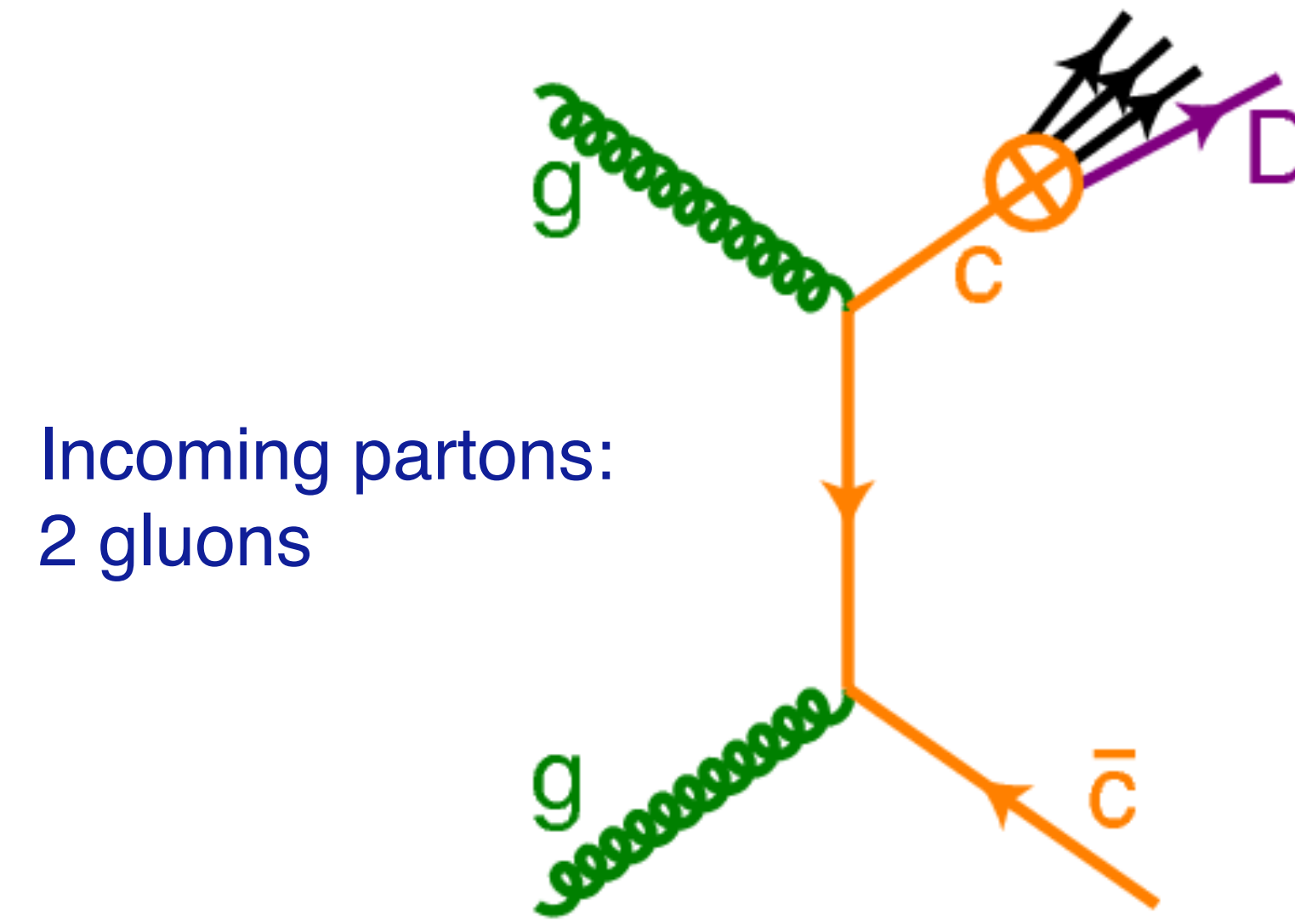
## Direct photon production



Sensitive to **gluons at LO**

Photon momentum directly related to incoming partons

## Charm production



More processes contribute, e.g. gluon splitting