

# Proton shape/size determination through vector meson production

*Exclusive diffraction with Sartre*

NREC April 14, 2026

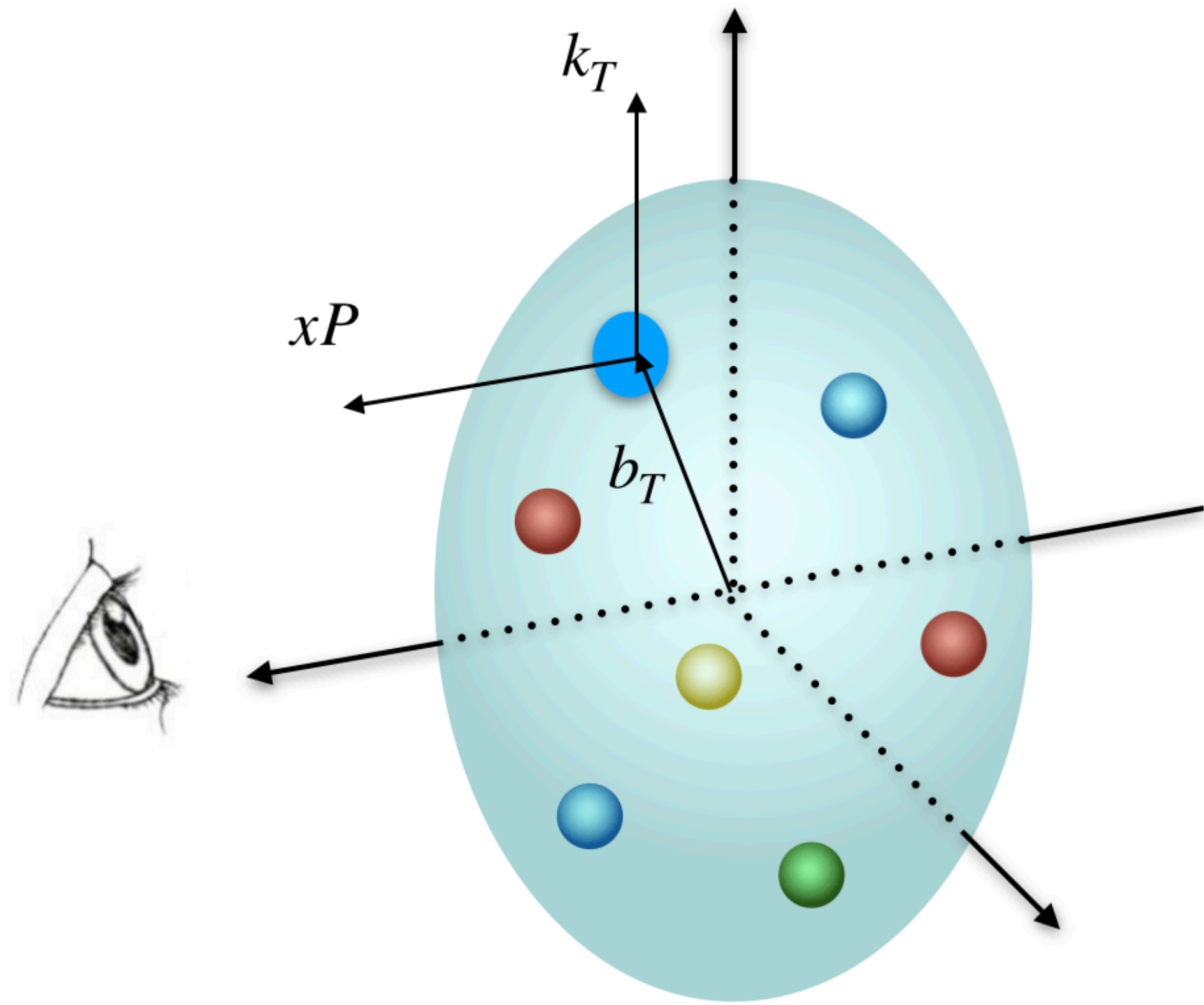


**ARJUN KUMAR**  
CFNS, Stony Brook University



# A SIMPLIFIED PERSPECTIVE ON THE PROTON

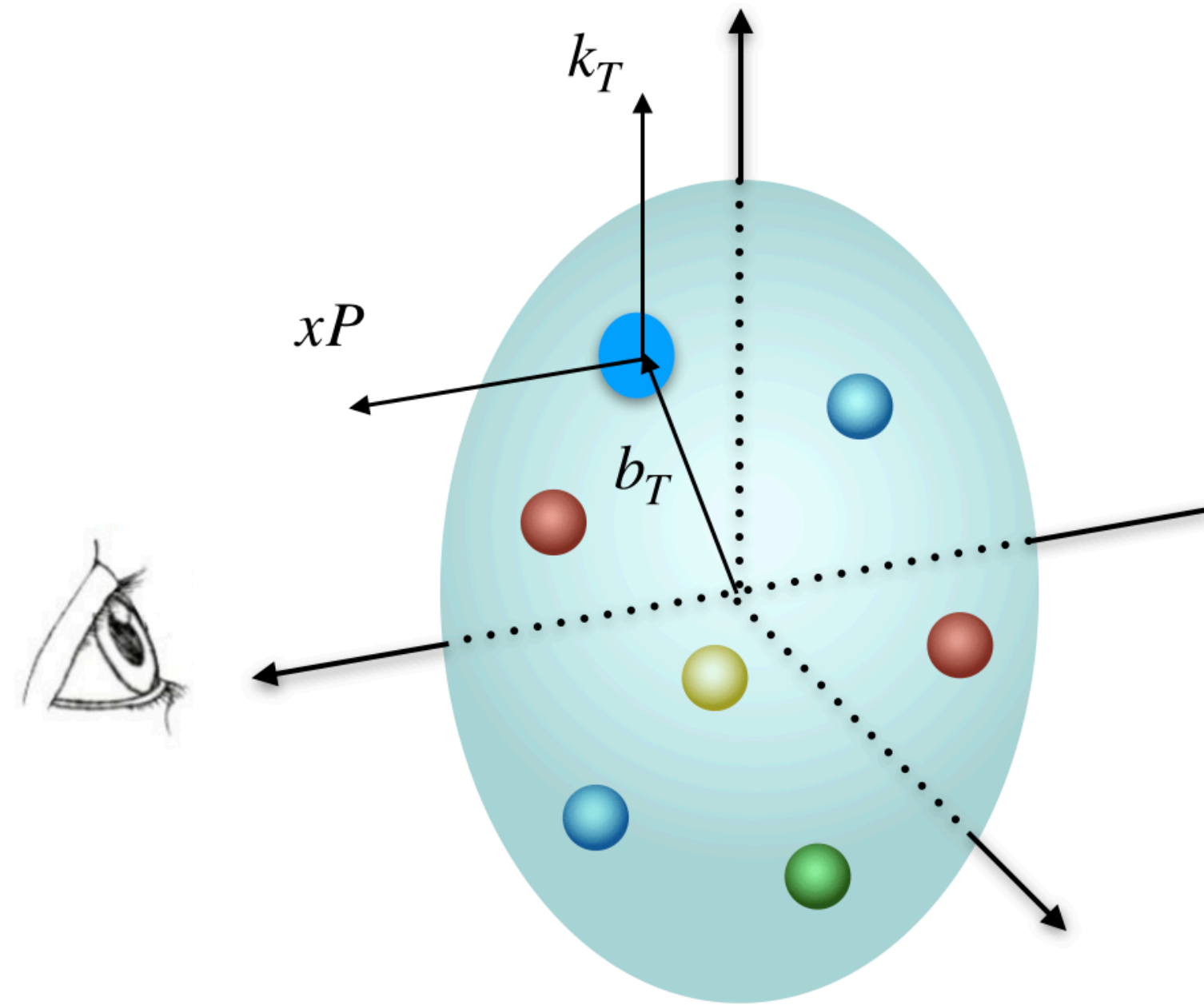
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- ❖ *Longitudinal information ( $xP$ )*
- ❖ *Spatial Structure in transverse plane ( $b_T$ )*
- ❖ *Transverse momentum distributions ( $k_T$ )*
- ❖ *Unitarity*

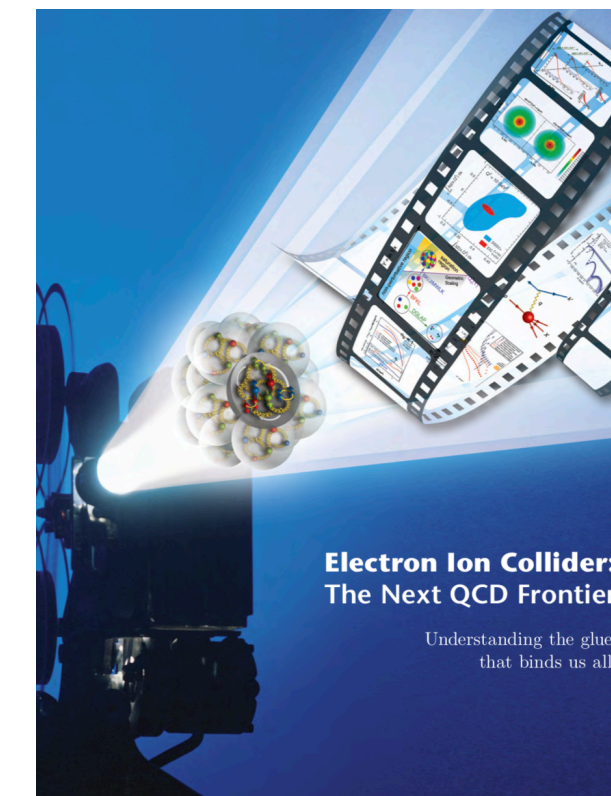
- Need to go beyond 1-dimensional  $\rightarrow$  (2+1) dimensional imaging (**this work!**)

# DEEP INELASTIC SCATTERING AT EIC

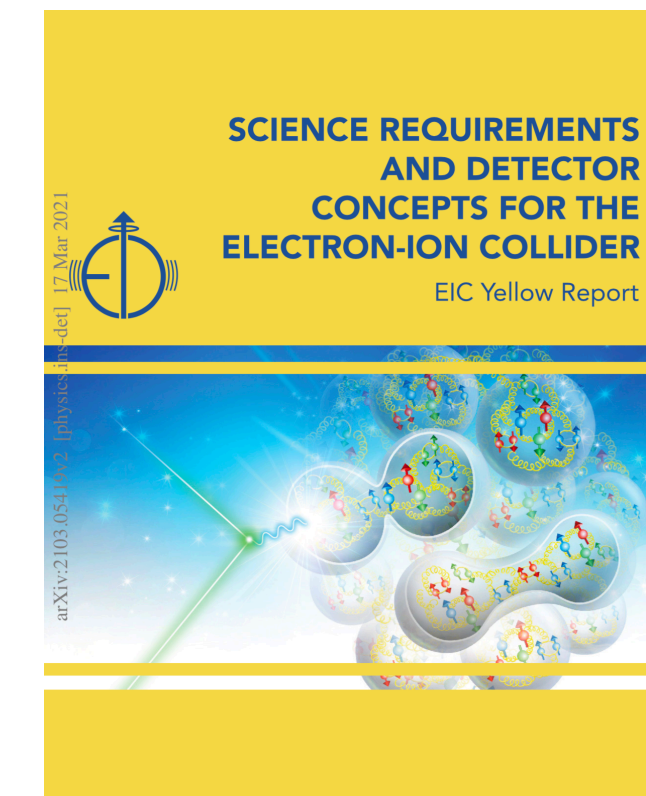


- ❖ *What is the gluonic radius of the proton?*
- ❖ *How are gluons distributed in the transverse plane?*
- ❖ *Does the transverse size of proton remains fixed at high energies ?*
- ❖ *Is there a correlation between spatial structure and saturation?*

- ➔ **Inclusive measurement :**  
*Longitudinal information ( $xP$ )*
- ➔ **Exclusive measurement :**  
*Spatial structure ( $b_T$ ) & Saturation*



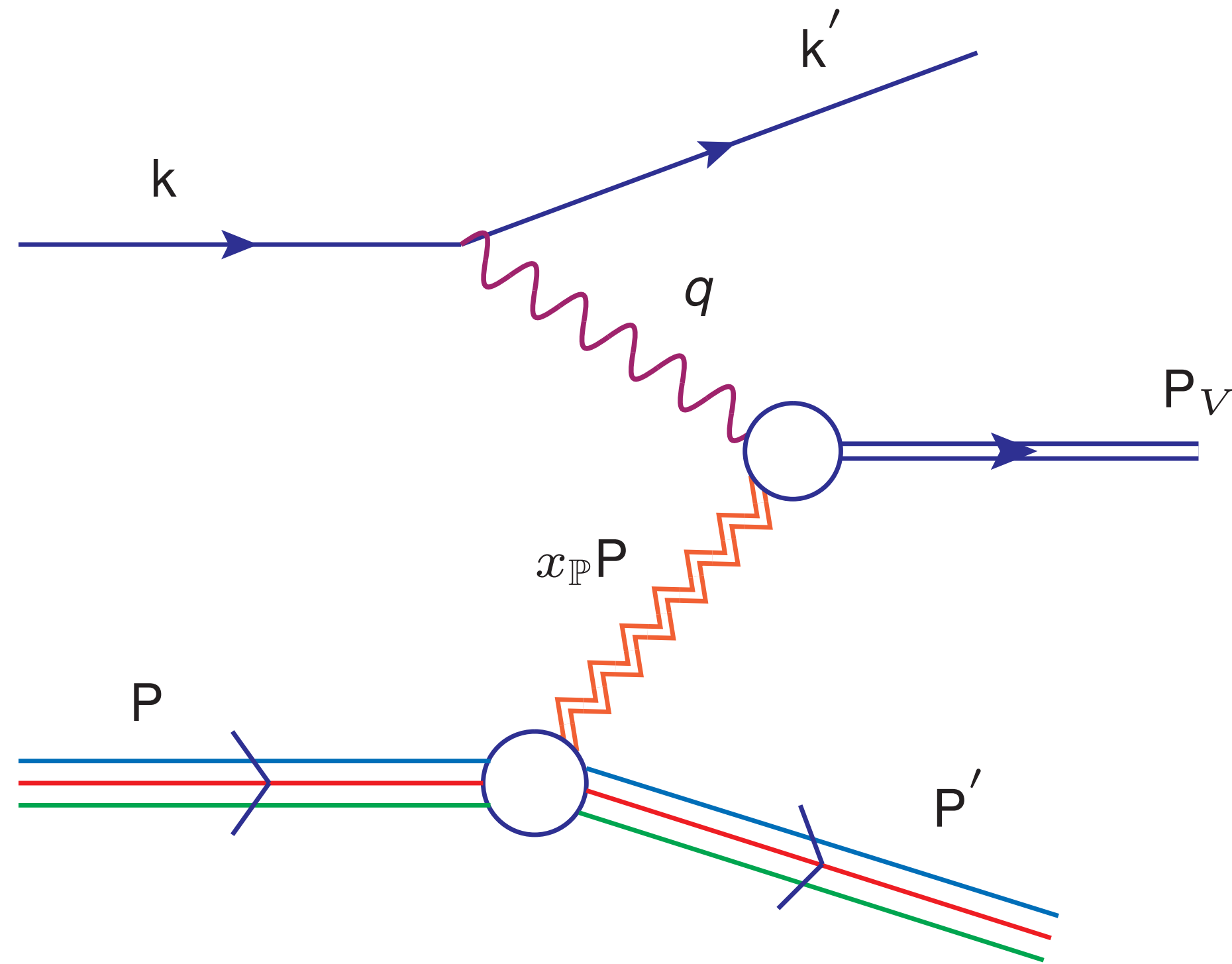
arXiv: 1212.1701



arXiv: 2103.05419

# DIFFRACTIVE EVENTS IN DIS

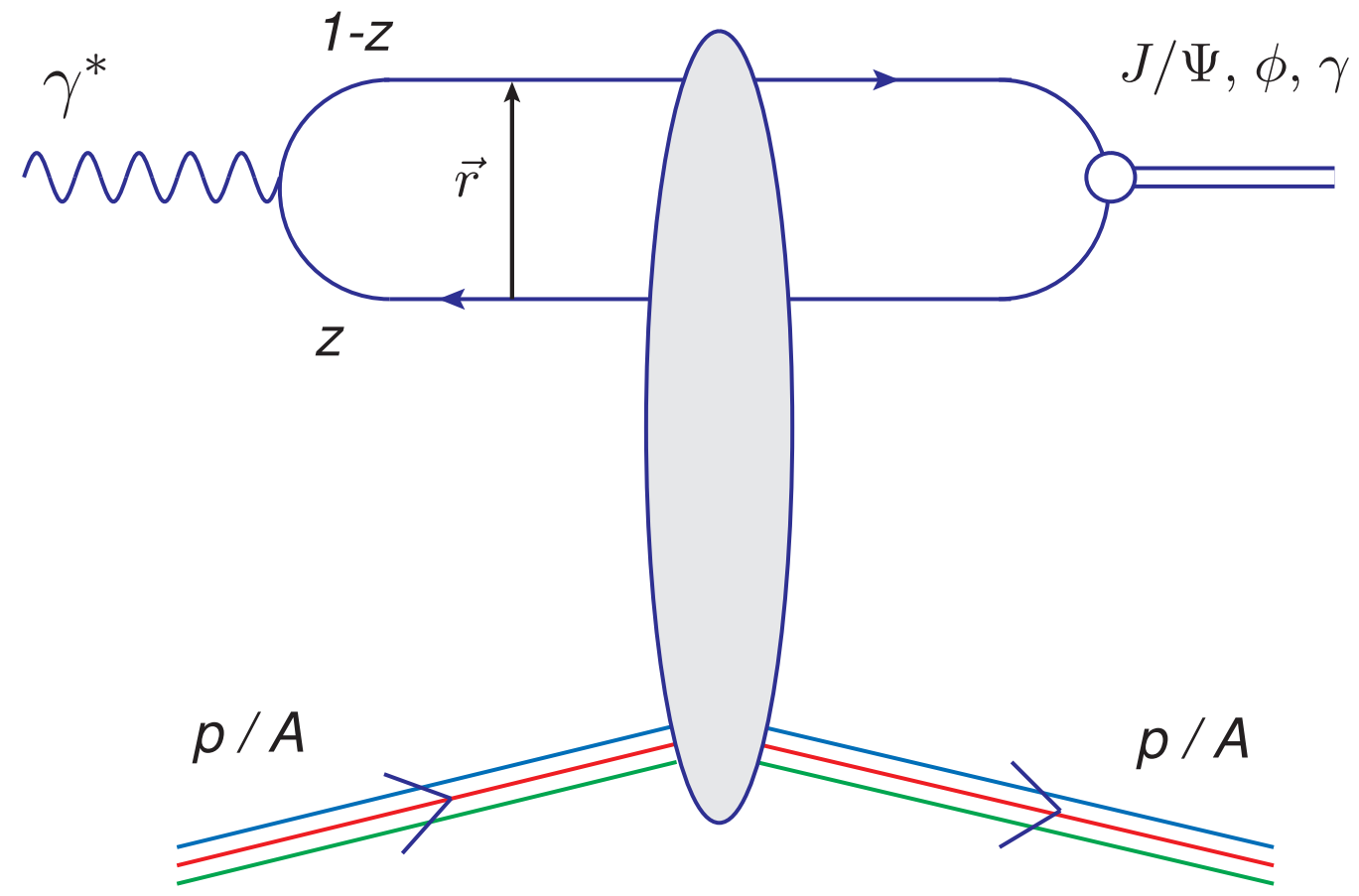
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- ➔ Exclusive measurement :  
 $e + p \rightarrow e + VM / \gamma + p$
- ➔ Experimental Signature :  
*rapidity gap in final state particles*
- ➔ Diffractive process :  
*cross-section distribution resemble to that of diffraction in optics (color neutral exchange)*

- Excellent probe for high density gluonic matter and the transverse structure

# EXCLUSIVE DIFFRACTION IN DIPOLE PICTURE



Factorisation :

- ◆  $\Psi(r, Q^2, z)$  is wavefunction for  $\gamma^* \rightarrow q\bar{q}$
- ◆  $q\bar{q}$  dipole scatters elastically of the target
- ◆  $\Psi^V(r, Q^2, z)$  is wavefunction for  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow VM$

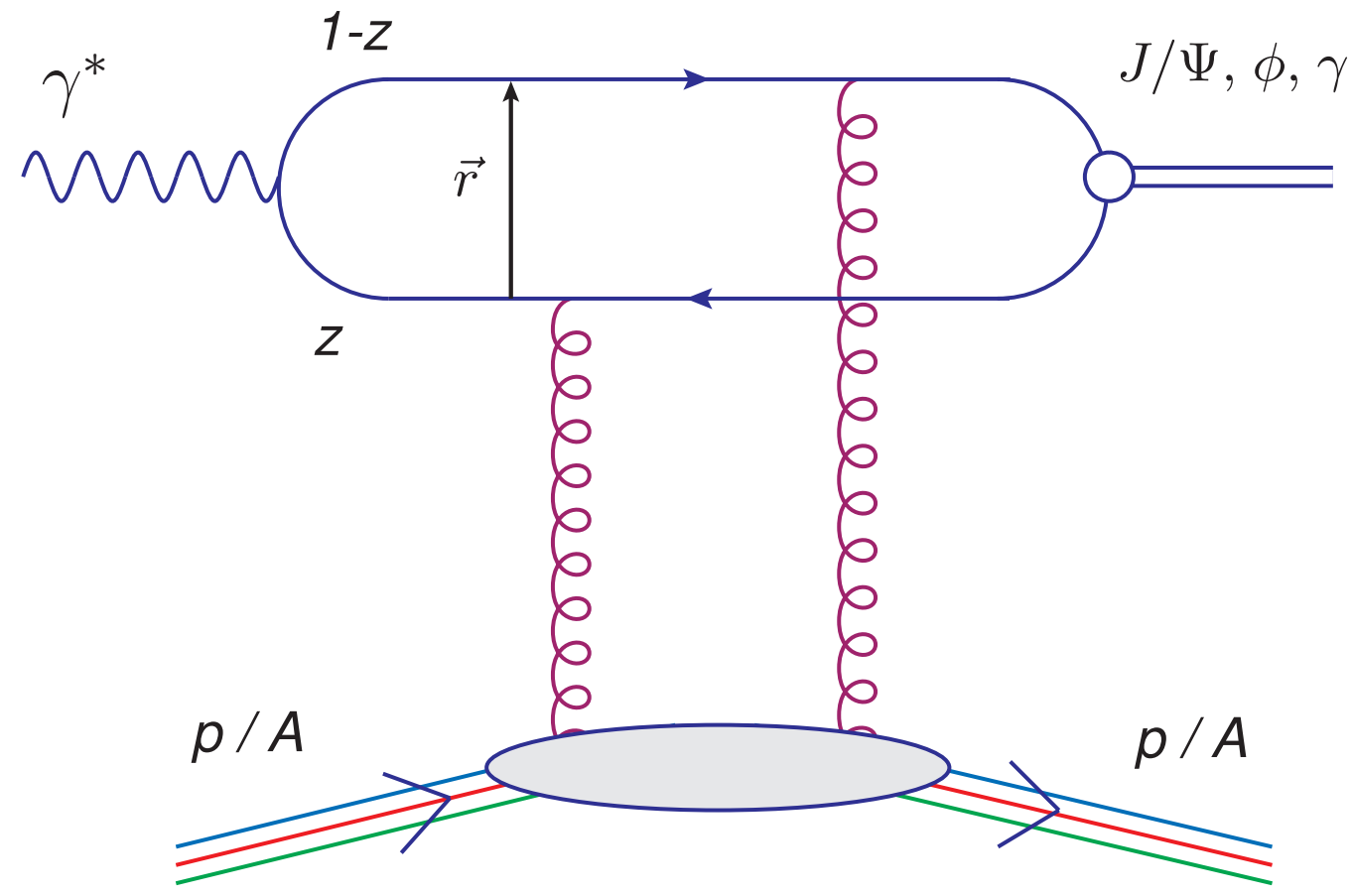
❖ The scattering amplitude is given by :

$$\mathcal{A}_{T,L}^{\gamma^* p \rightarrow Vp}(x, Q^2, \Delta) \simeq \int d^2r \int d^2b \int dz \times (\Psi^* \Psi_V)_{T,L}(Q^2, r, z) \times e^{-ib \cdot \Delta} \times N(b, r, x)$$

❖ Total  $F_2$  : Forward scattering amplitude ( $\Delta = 0$ ) for  $V = \gamma^*$

❖ *Advantage of dipole picture*: Describe simultaneously inclusive and diffractive observables using same degrees of freedom( same  $N(b, r, x)$  )

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❖ Impact parameter is Fourier conjugate to the momentum transfer  $\Delta = (p' - p)_\perp$

→ Access to spatial structure ( $t = -\Delta^2$ )

❖ In pQCD (2 gluon exchange) :  $\frac{d\sigma^{\gamma^* A \rightarrow V A}}{dt} \sim [xg(x, Q^2)]^2$

# GOOD-WALKER PICTURE

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## Coherent diffraction

- Target remains in the same quantum state after the interaction
- Cross section is determined by the average interaction of states (fock states of incoming virtual photon ; LO: quark-antiquark pair) that diagonalise the scattering matrix with target

## Incoherent diffraction

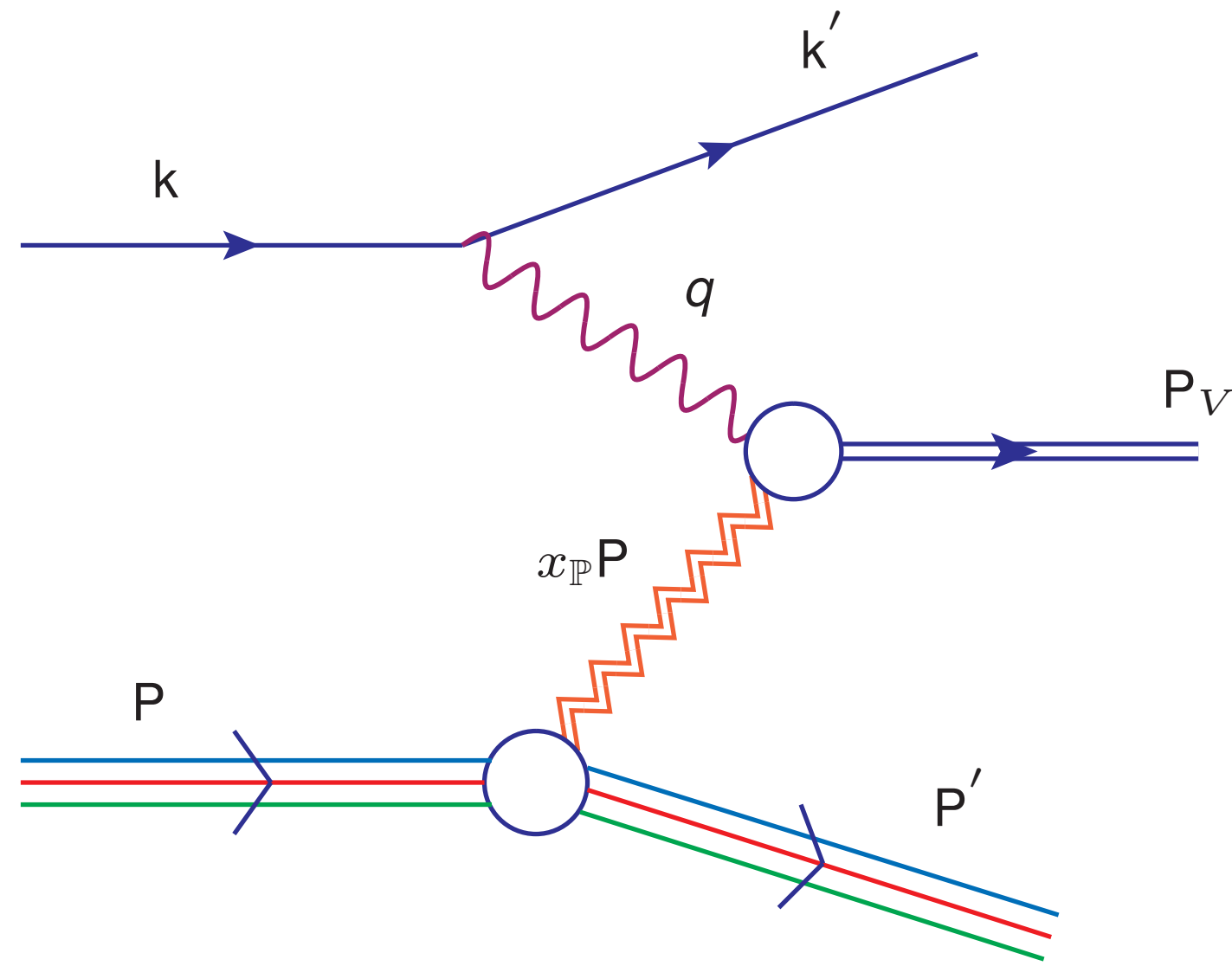
- Sensitive to fluctuations of gluon distribution

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{incoherent} &\sim \sum_{f \neq i} | \langle f | \mathcal{A} | i \rangle |^2 \\ &= \sum_f \langle i | \mathcal{A}^\dagger | f \rangle \langle f | \mathcal{A} | i \rangle - \langle i | \mathcal{A} | i \rangle^\dagger \langle i | \mathcal{A} | i \rangle \\ &= \langle |\mathcal{A}|^2 \rangle_\Omega - | \langle \mathcal{A} \rangle_\Omega |^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_{total}}{dt} = \frac{1}{16\pi} \langle |\mathcal{A}|^2 \rangle_\Omega$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_{coherent}}{dt} = \frac{1}{16\pi} | \langle \mathcal{A} \rangle_\Omega |^2$$

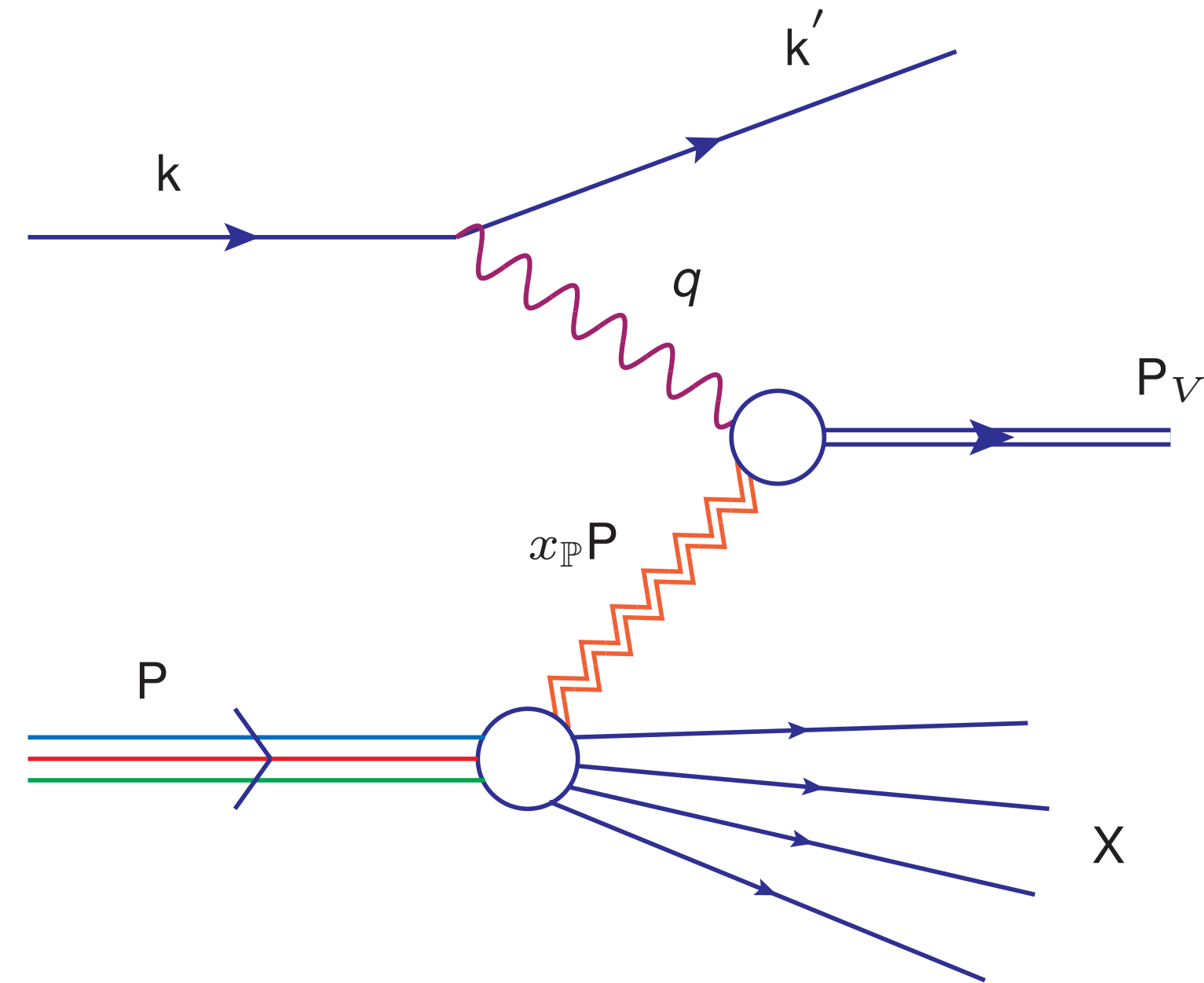
# DIFFRACTIVE VECTOR MESON PRODUCTION WITH SARTRE



## Coherent diffraction

- ★ Proton remains intact
- ★ Sensitive to average gluon distribution in the proton

$$\mathcal{A}_{T,L}^{*p \rightarrow Vp}(x, Q^2, \Delta) \simeq \int d^2r \int d^2b \int dz \times (\Psi^* \Psi_V)_{T,L}(Q^2, r, z) \times e^{-ib \cdot \Delta} \times N(b, r, x, \Omega)$$



## Incoherent diffraction

- ★ Proton breaks up
- ★ Sensitive to fluctuations of gluon distribution

Good, Walker 1960, Miettinen, Pumplin 1978

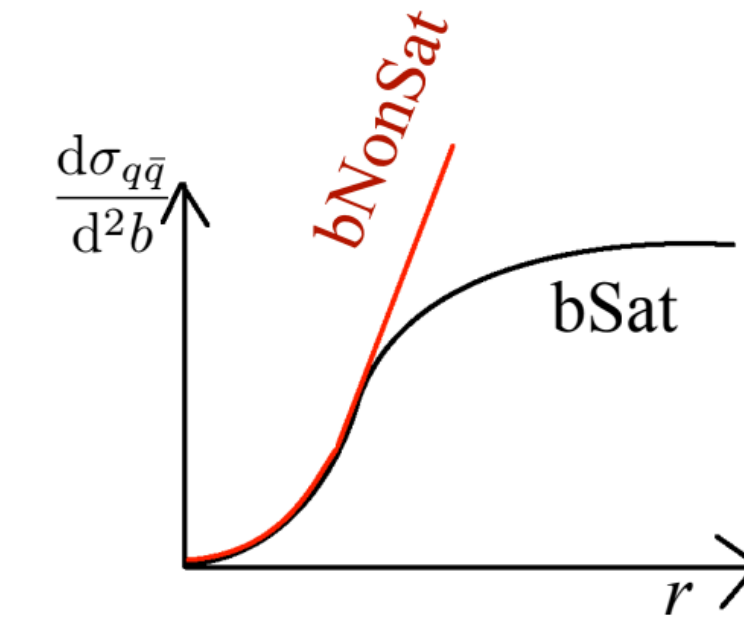
$$\sigma_{tot} \propto \underbrace{|\langle \mathcal{A} \rangle_{\Omega}|^2}_{\text{Coherent}} + \underbrace{(\langle |\mathcal{A}|^2 \rangle_{\Omega} - |\langle \mathcal{A} \rangle_{\Omega}|^2)}_{\text{Incoherent}}$$

# THE DIPOLE-TARGET AMPLITUDE

• the bSat dipole model : 
$$N(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{r}, x) = 2 \left[ 1 - \exp \left( - \frac{\pi^2}{2N_C} \mathbf{r}^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T_p(\mathbf{b}) \right) \right]$$

• the bNonSat dipole model : 
$$N(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{r}, x) = \frac{\pi^2}{N_C} \mathbf{r}^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T_p(\mathbf{b})$$

where  $xg(x, \mu_0^2) = A_g x^{-\lambda_g} (1-x)^{5.6}$  and  $\mu^2 = \mu_0^2 + \frac{C}{r^2}$



( the parameters are constrained by HERA reduced-cross section data (inclusive) and the scale dependence obtained from DGLAP evolution )

Two models for the spatial proton profile :

a) Smooth proton (assume gaussian proton shape) : 
$$T_p(\mathbf{b}) = \frac{1}{2\pi B_G} \exp \left[ - \frac{\mathbf{b}^2}{2B_G} \right]$$
 Kowalski, Teaney 2003, Kowalski, Motyka, Watt 2006

b) Lumpy proton (assume gaussian distributed hotspots with gaussian shape) : 
$$T_p(\mathbf{b}) \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{N_q} T_q(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b}_i)$$
 and 
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Mäntysaari, Schenke PRL 117 (2016) 052301

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- the *bNonSat* dipole model :  $N(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{r}, x) = \frac{\pi^2}{N_C} \mathbf{r}^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T_p(\mathbf{b})$

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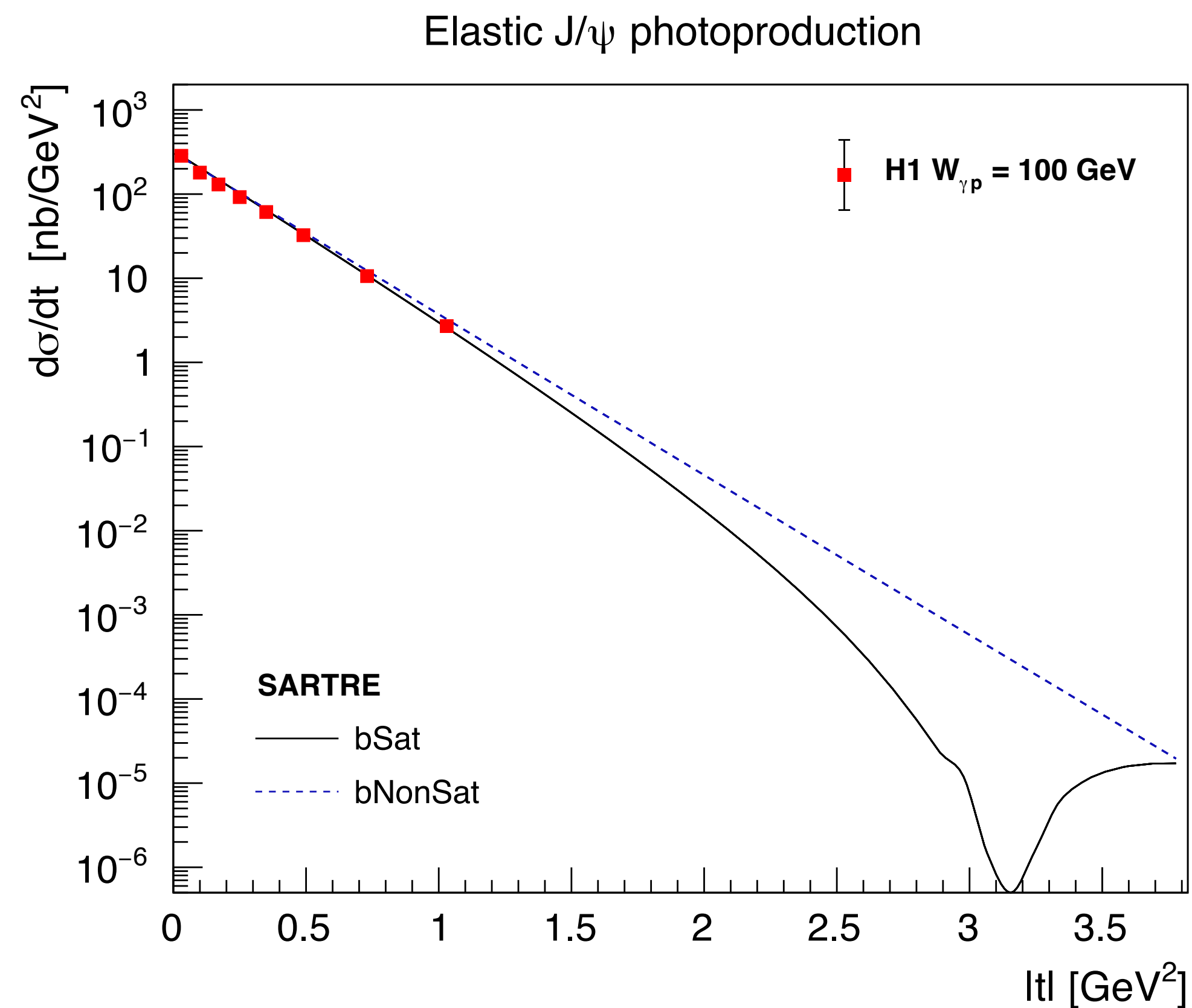
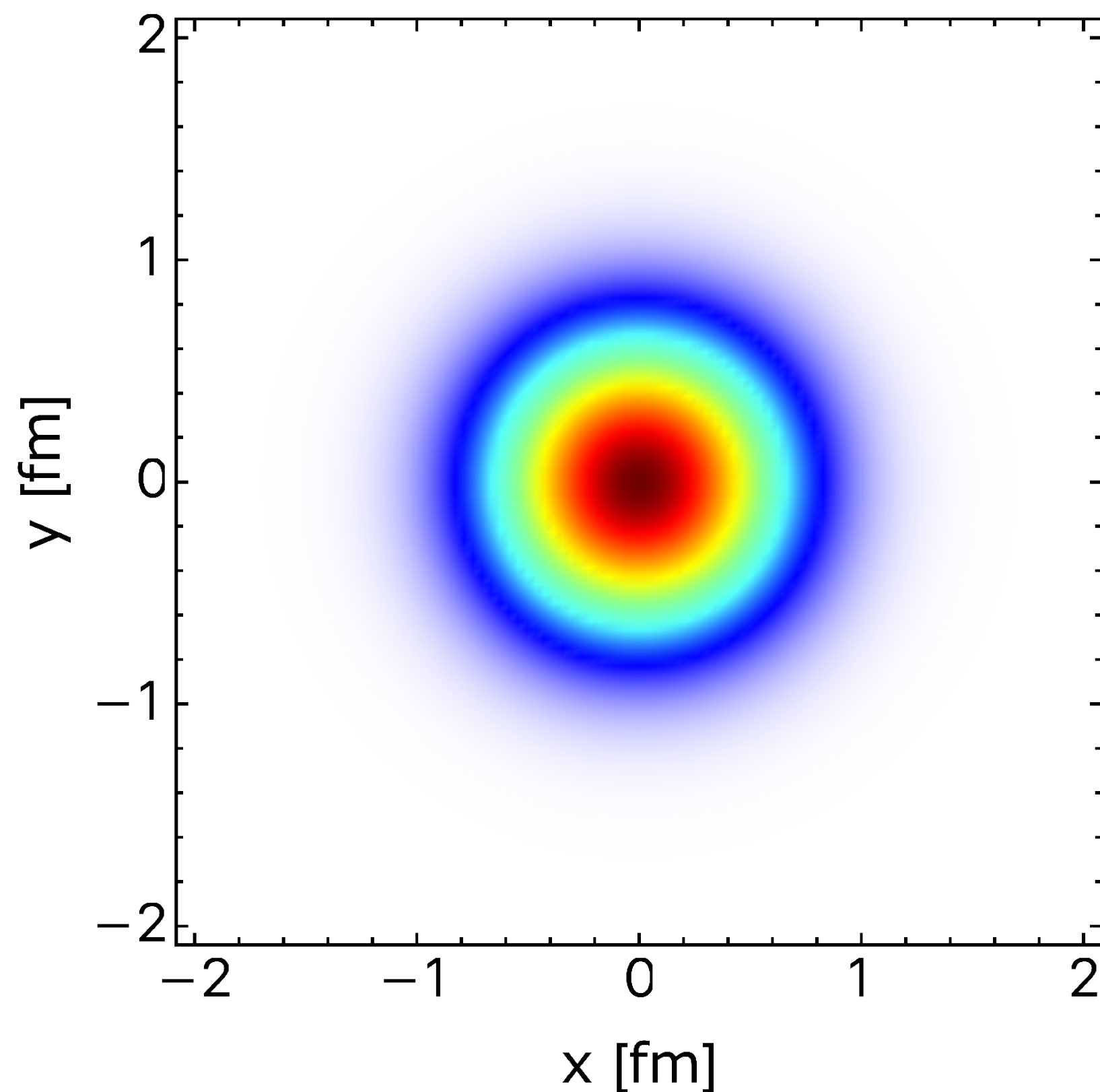
Mäntysaari, Schenke PRL 117 (2016) 052301

# $e + p$ AS COMPARED TO HERA DATA : SMOOTH PROTON

$$T_p(\mathbf{b}) = \frac{1}{2\pi B_G} \exp\left[-\frac{\mathbf{b}^2}{2B_G}\right]$$

$$\mathcal{A} \sim \int d^2r \int d^2b \int dz \times (\Psi^* \Psi_V)_{T,L}(Q^2, r, z) \times e^{-ib \cdot \Delta} \times N(b, r, x)$$

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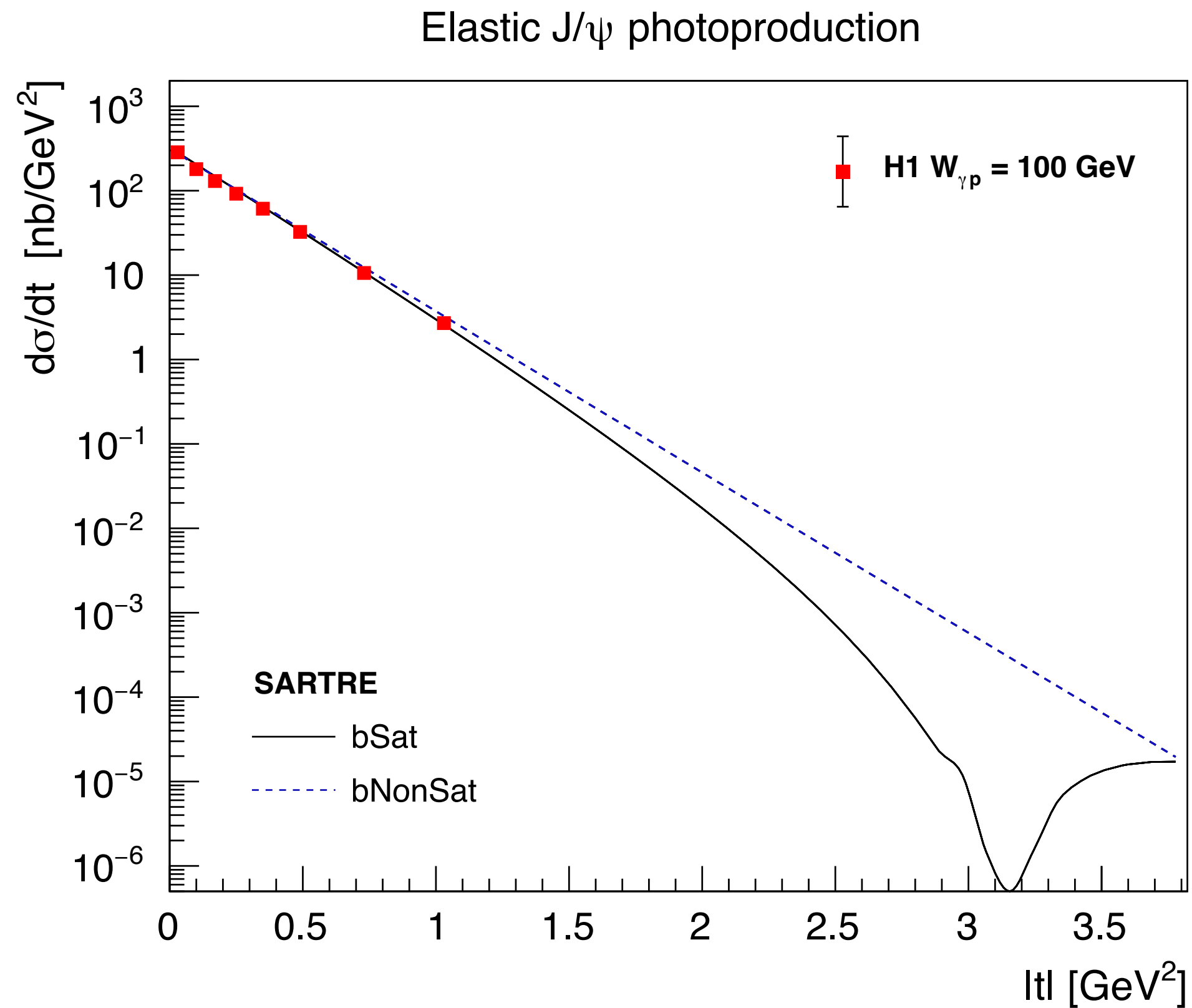


- $B_G = 4 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$  ( $r \sim 0.56 \text{ fm}$ )  $\rightarrow$  Gluons are more concentrated in centre of proton than quarks

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Gaussian & linear (bNonSat) :  $N(r, b) \sim e^{-\mathbf{b}^2/(2B)}$

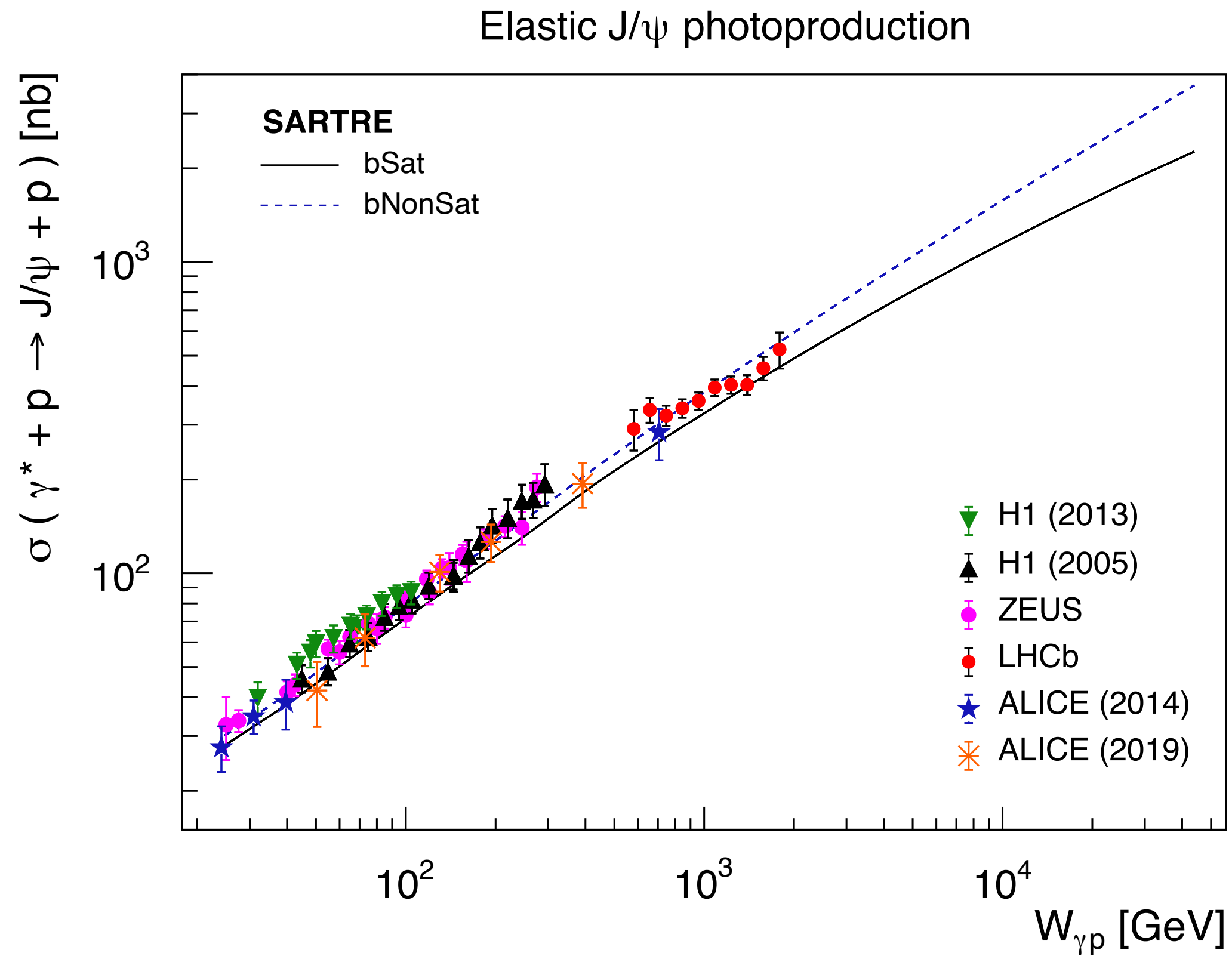
Gaussian & non-linear (bSat) :  $N(r, b) \sim 1 - \exp(-e^{-\mathbf{b}^2/(2B)})$

Dips depends upon i) density profile ii) the non-linear effects

Complementary constraints from inclusive diffraction??

Deviations from gaussian shape?

# $e + p$ AS COMPARED TO HERA DATA : SMOOTH PROTON



*Gaussian & linear (bNonSat) :  $N(r, b) \sim e^{-\mathbf{b}^2/(2B)}$*

*Gaussian & non-linear (bSat) :  $N(r, b) \sim 1 - \exp(-e^{-\mathbf{b}^2/(2B)})$*

*Power law increase for non-saturated model*

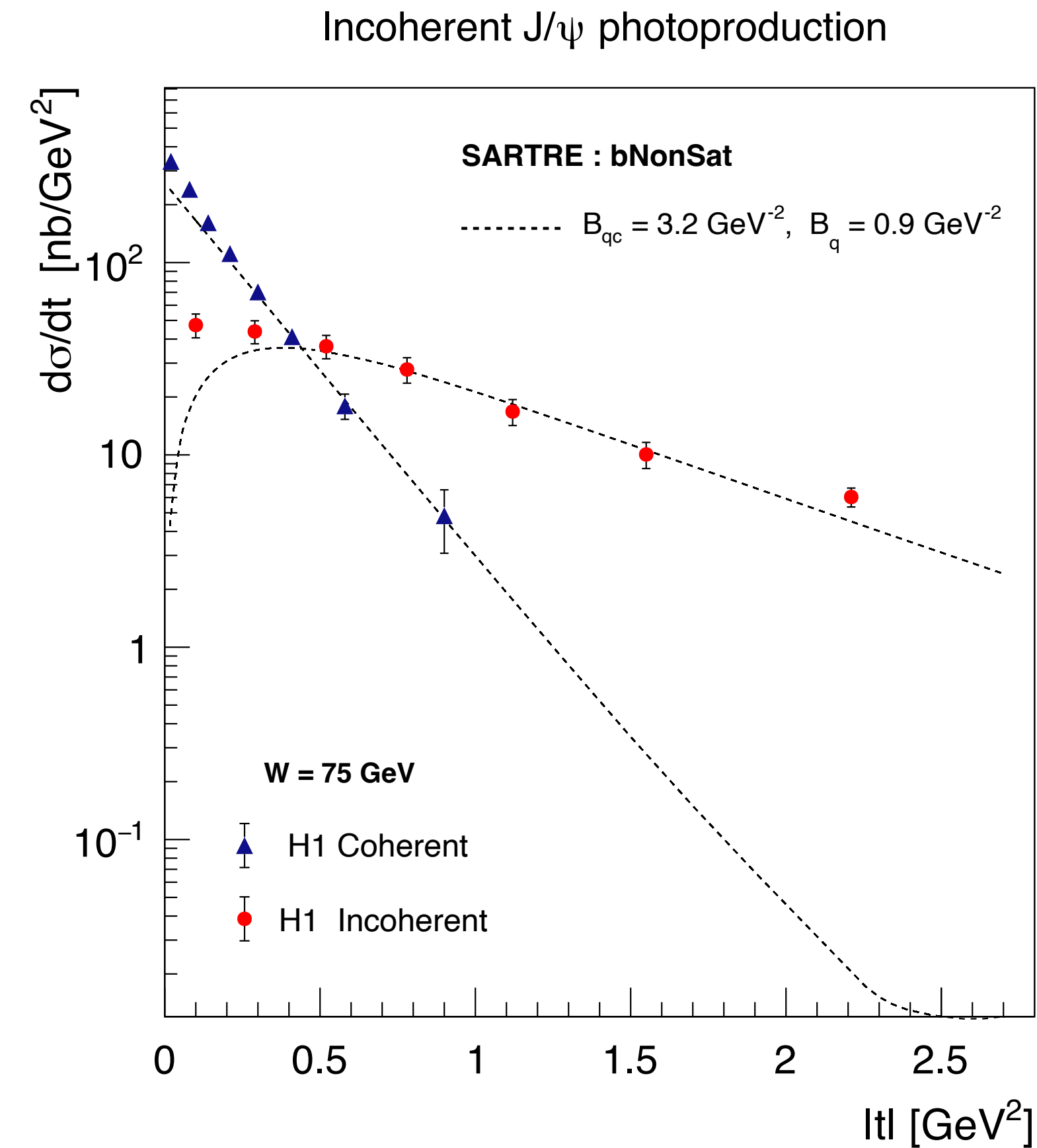
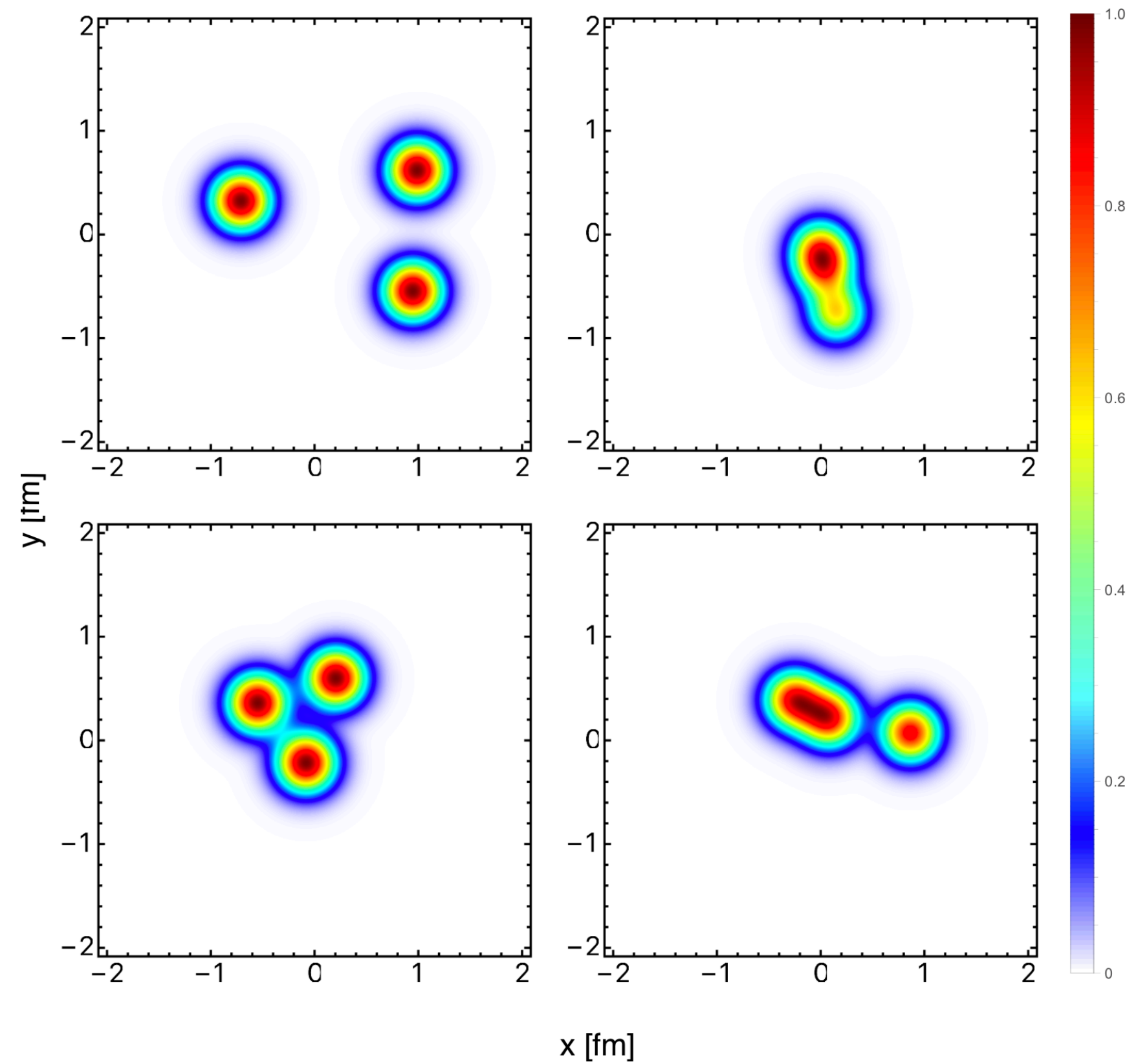
*Deviations from power law? Hint of non-linear effects*

*For a smooth proton there are no fluctuations and the incoherent cross section is zero  $\rightarrow$  Lumpy proton*

# $e + p$ AS COMPARED TO HERA DATA : LUMPY PROTON

$$T_p(b) \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{N_q} T_q(b - b_i)$$

Mäntysaari, Schenke PRL 117 (2016) 052301

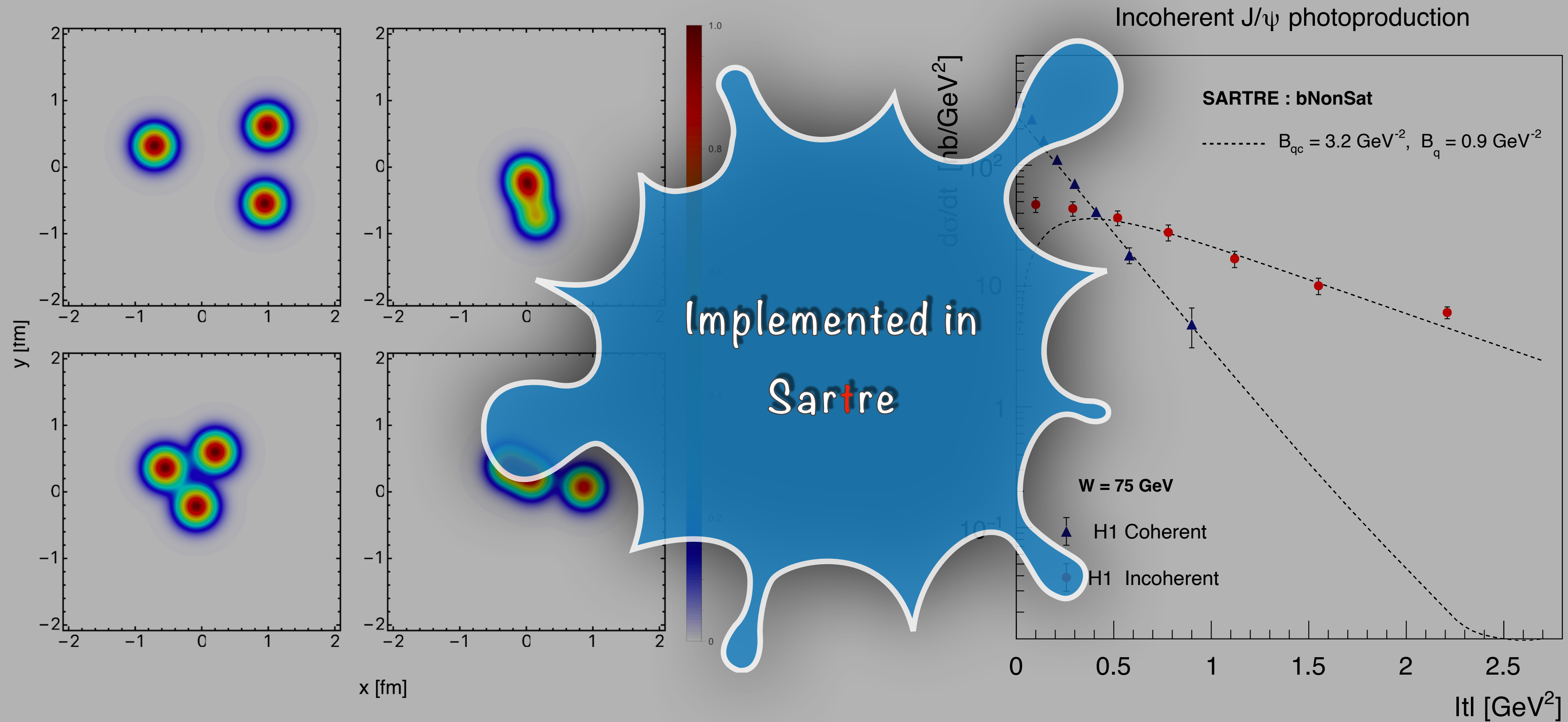


*(large event-by-event fluctuations (1000 configurations) are needed to explain HERA data)*

see Blaizot, Traini 2209.15545 for dipole size fluctuations at low momentum transfer

# $e + p$ AS COMPARED TO HERA DATA : LUMPY PROTON

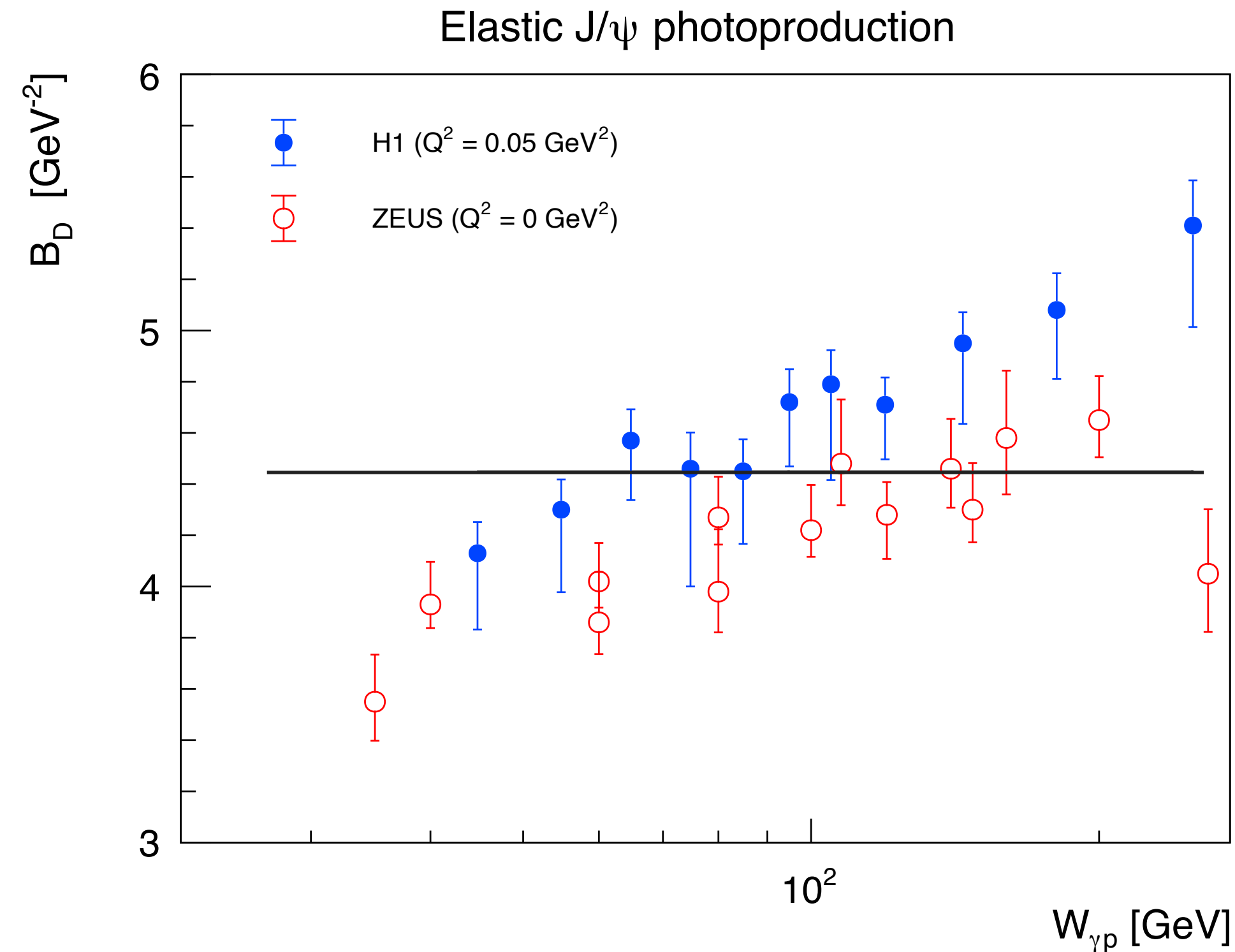
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# $e + p$ AS COMPARED TO HERA DATA



- $B_D$  is the extracted slope of the coherent t-distribution *i.e.*

$$d\sigma/dt \propto \exp(-B_D |t|)$$

$$* r_{proton} = \sqrt{2(B_{qc} + B_q)} = 0.56 \text{ fm}$$

- \* *Transverse size of proton fixed for all energies*

- \* *Experimentally the transverse width increases at high energies*

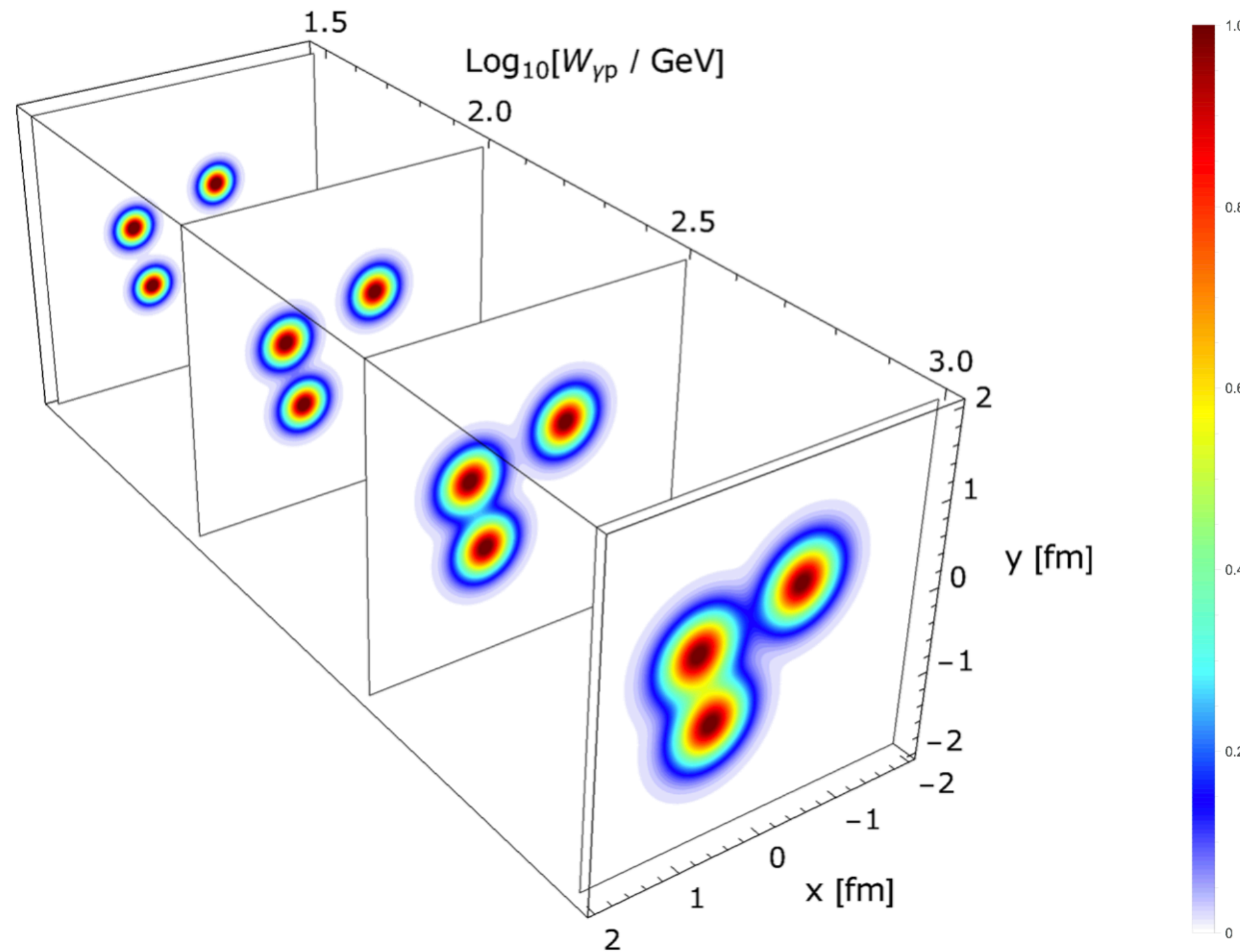
- \* *Tensions between H1 & ZEUS data*

- ★ *Shrinkage of diffraction peak at high energies and fluctuations too expected to evolve with energy*

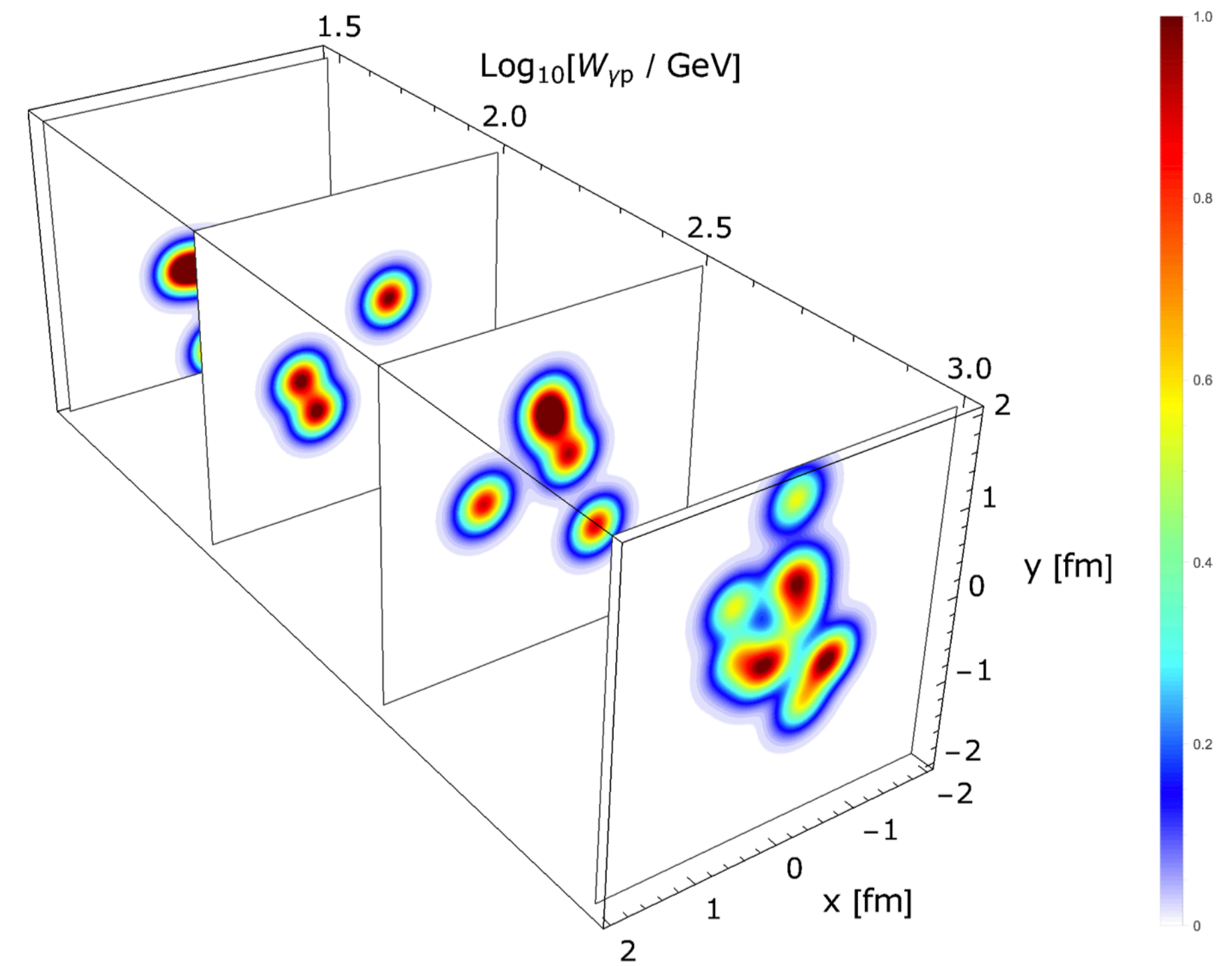
- ★ *Include evolution effects in the profile function *i.e.*  $T_p(\mathbf{b}) \rightarrow T_p(x, \mathbf{b})$  A.K., Tobias Toll PRD 105 (2022) 114011*

# INCORPORATING THE ENERGY DEPENDENCE

The profile function becomes :  $T_p(\mathbf{b}) \rightarrow \frac{1}{N_q} \sum_{i=1}^{N_q} T_q(x, \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b}_i)$  and  $r_{proton} = \sqrt{2(B_{qc} + B_q(x))}$  A.K,Tobias Toll PRD 105 (2022) 114011



Varying hotspot width (VHW) model:  $B_q(x) = B_{q0} x^{\lambda_0}$   
 Logarithmic model:  $B_q(x) = b_0 \ln^2\left(\frac{x_0}{x}\right)$



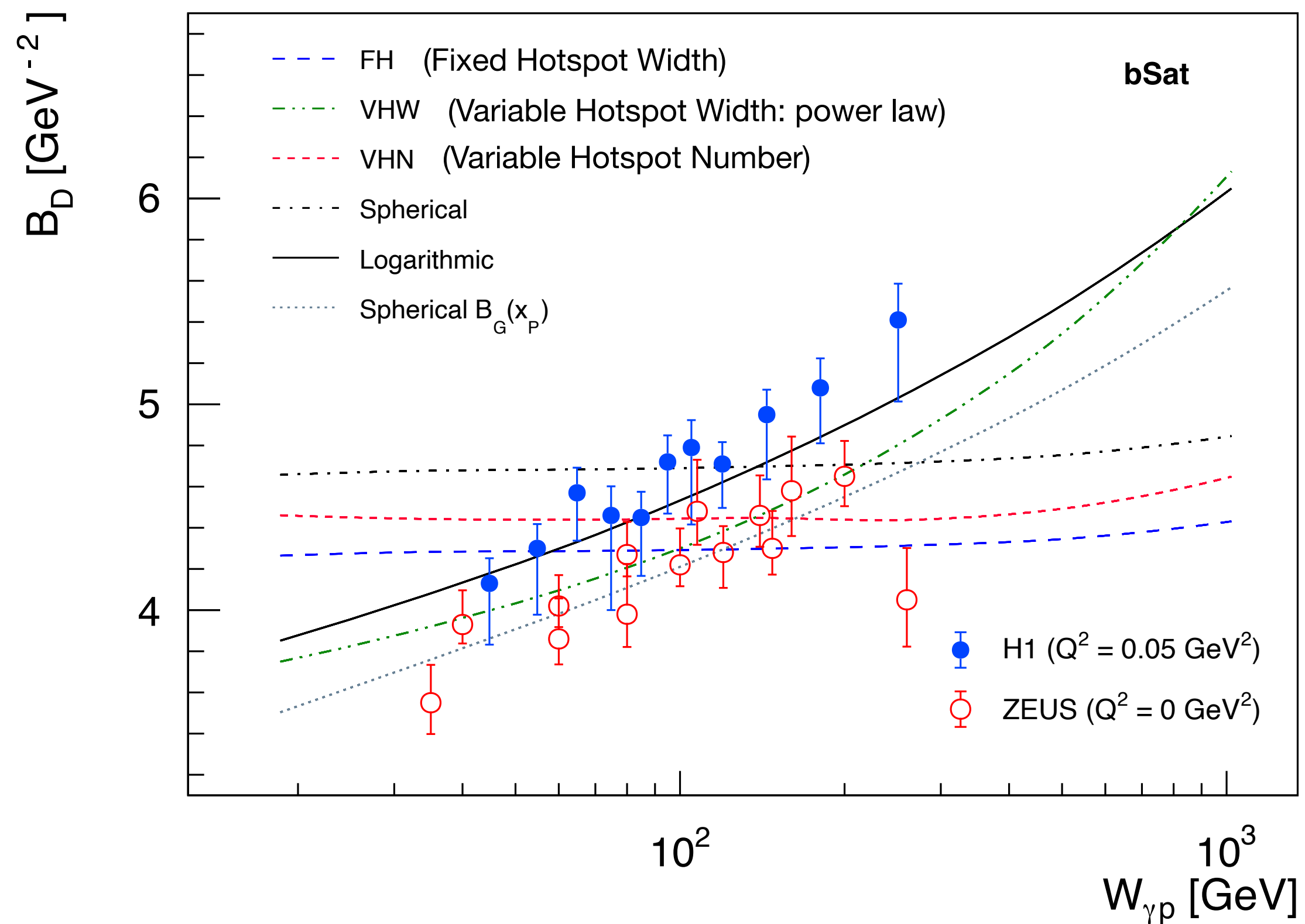
Varying hotspot number (VHN) model:  $N_q(x) = p_0 x^{p_1}(1 + p_2\sqrt{x})$

J. Cepila et al, Phys. Lett. B 766 (2017) 186–191

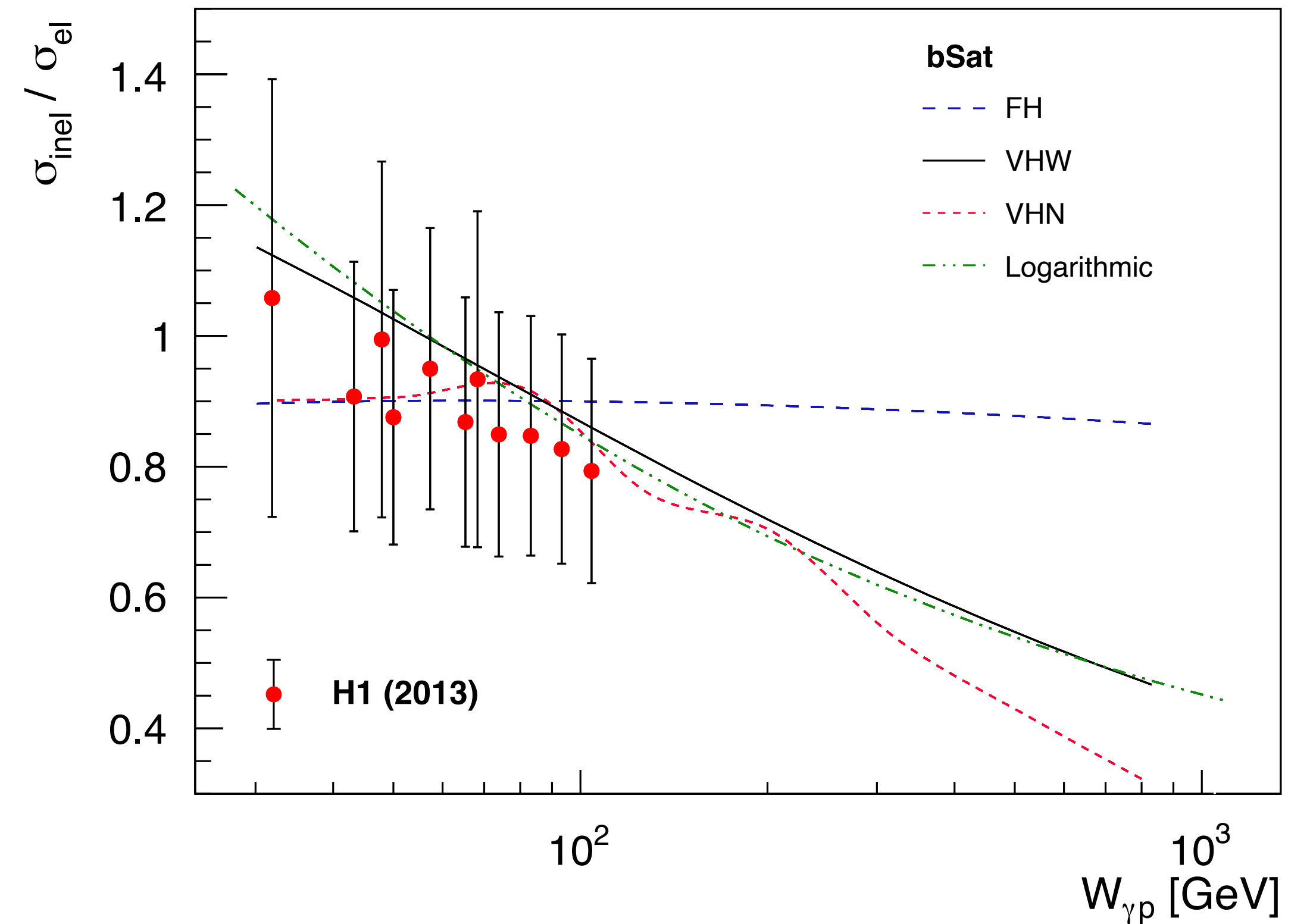
# INCORPORATING THE ENERGY DEPENDENCE

A.K,Tobias Toll PRD 105 (2022) 114011

Elastic  $J/\psi$  photoproduction

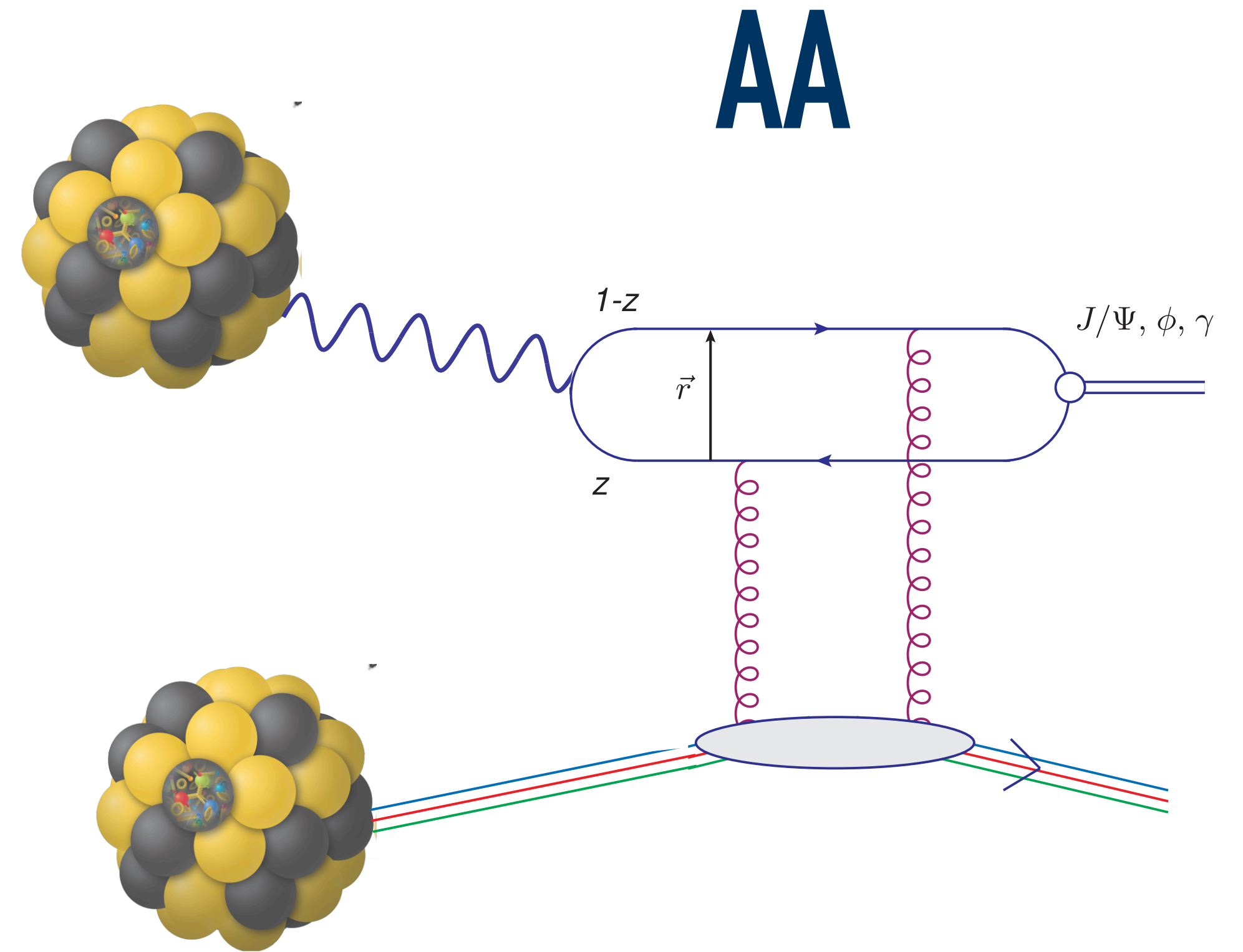
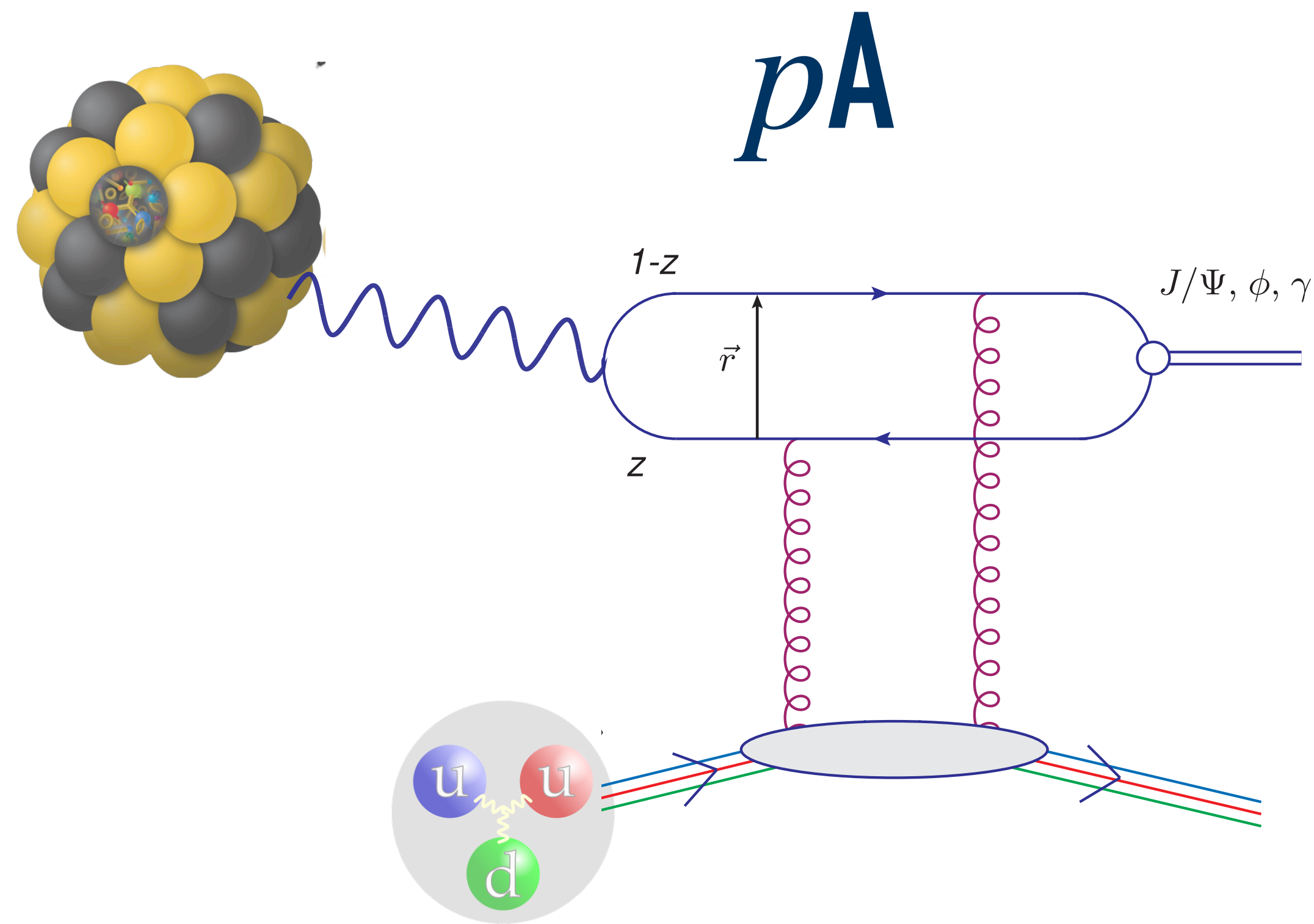


$J/\psi$  photoproduction



see Mäntysaari, Schenke 1806.06783 for similar predictions in IP-GLASMA framework

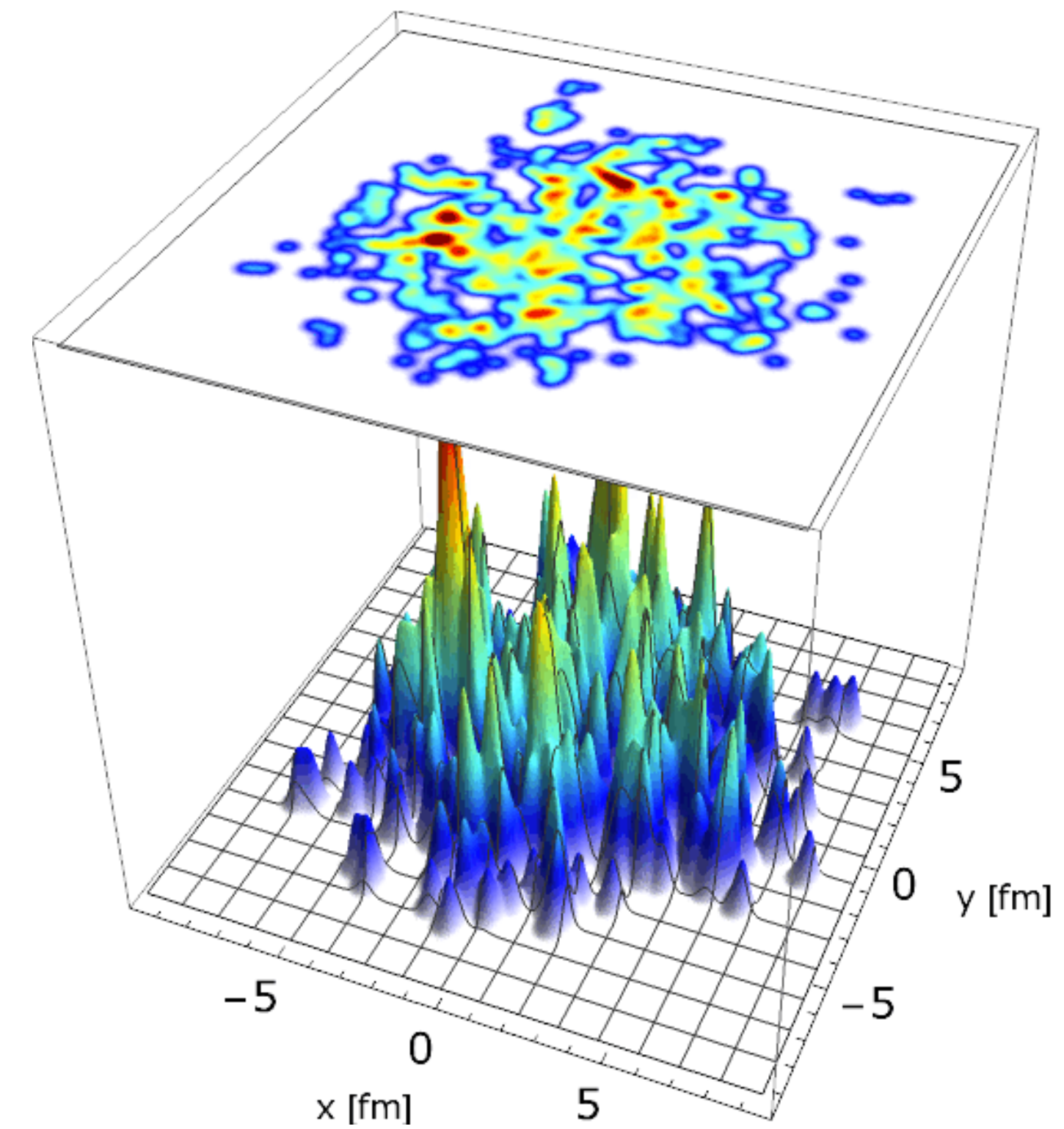
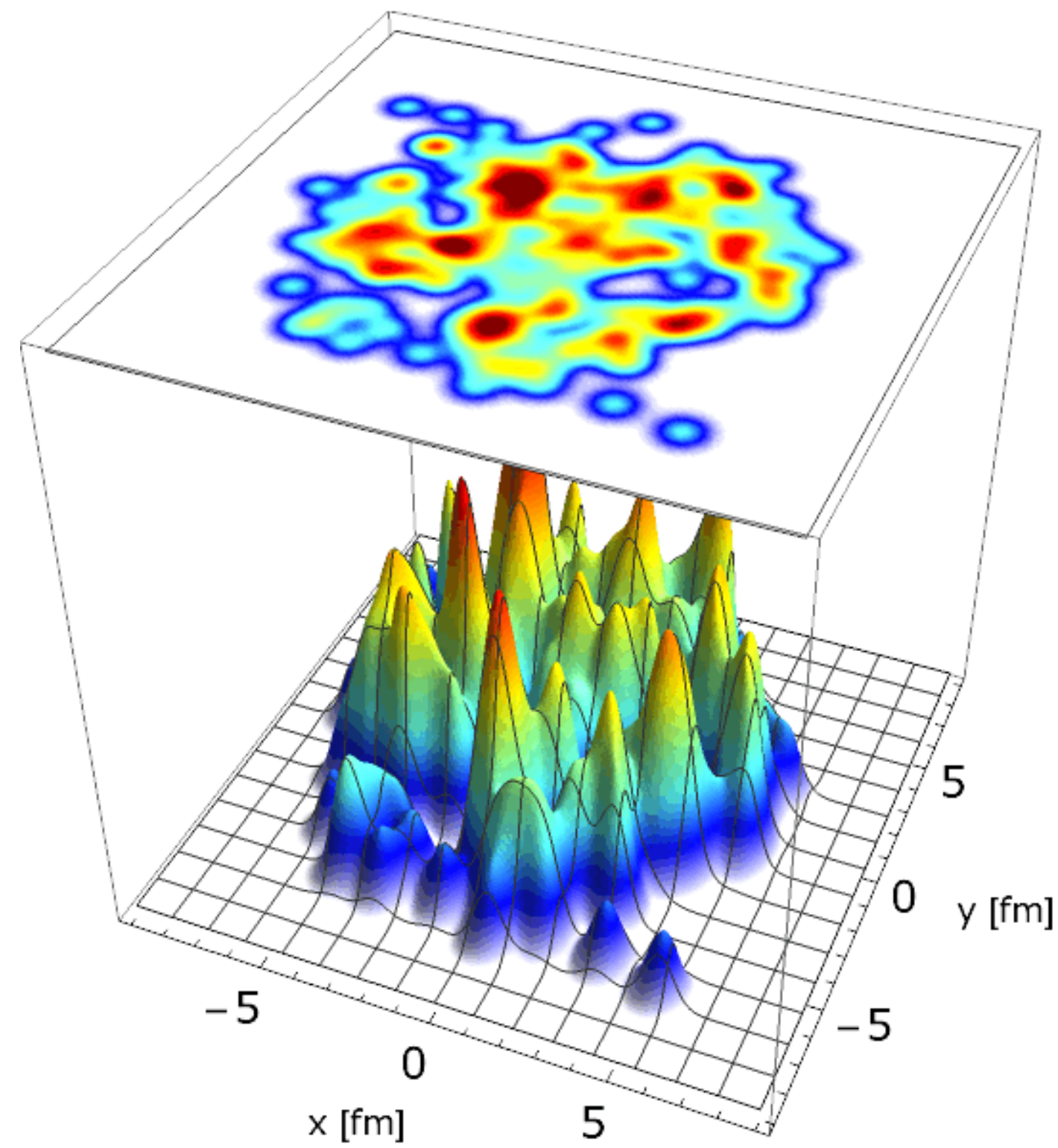
# ULTRA PERIPHERAL COLLISIONS (UPCs) AS PROBE OF PARTONIC STRUCTURE



► Photons in UPCs ( $b \gg R_A + R_B$ ) are probes of nucleus and proton partonic structure and strong interaction dynamics in small- $x$  QCD.

► Good test of our models and complementary physics at LHC and RHIC before EIC starts taking data.

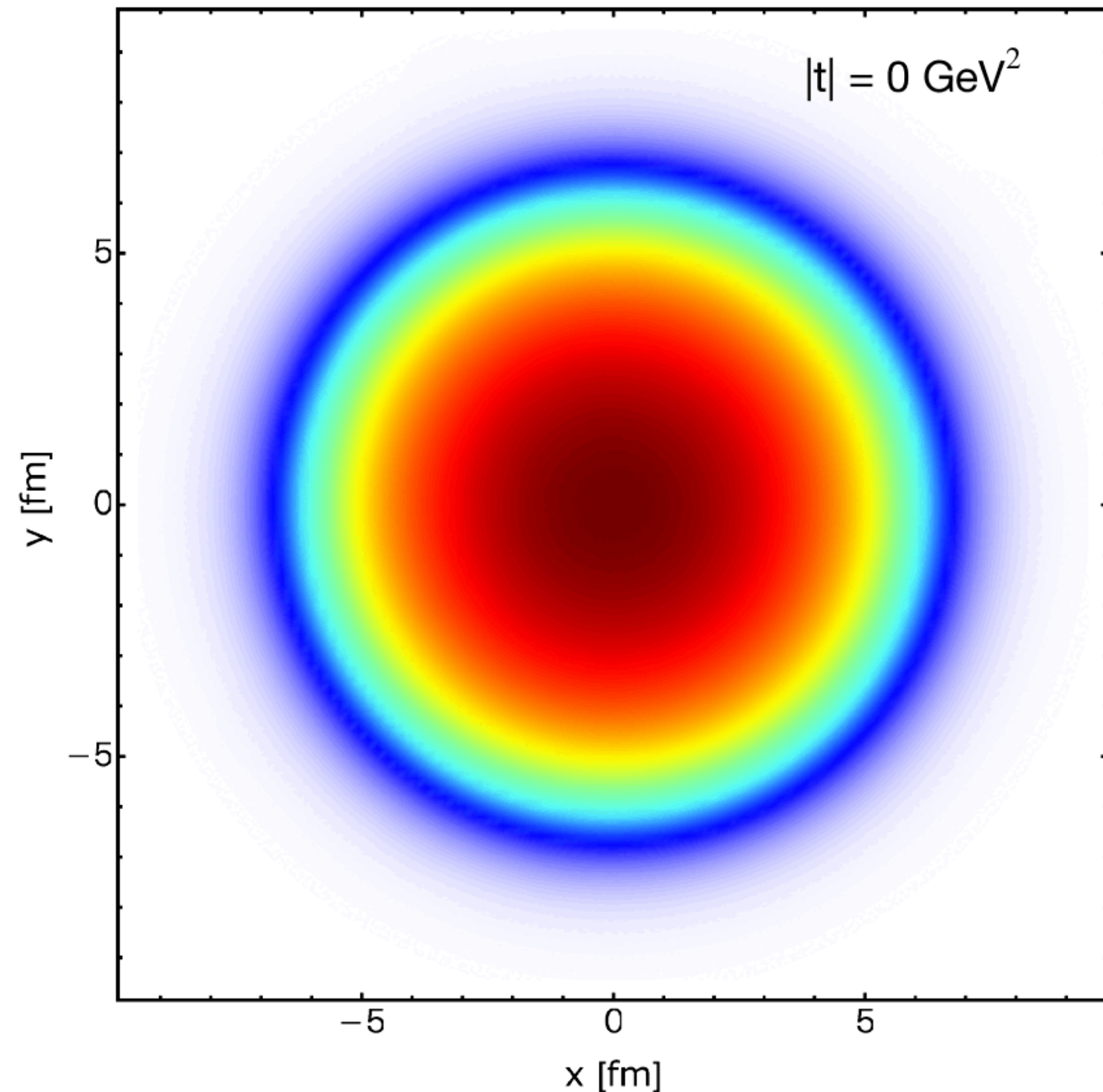
# DIFFRACTIVE $J/\psi$ PRODUCTION IN ULTRA PERIPHERAL COLLISIONS



$$T_A(b) \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^A T_p(b - b_i)$$

$$T_A(b) \rightarrow \frac{1}{N_q} \sum_{i=1}^A \sum_{j=1}^{N_q} T_q(b - b_i - b_j)$$

# DIFFRACTIVE V.M PRODUCTION AT EIC



❖ Incoherent events are by themselves interesting ( not just background)

▶ Different  $|t|$  regions of the spectrum sensitive to different sizes

- For  $0.02 \leq |t| \leq 0.2 \text{ GeV}^2$  probes the shape and size of nucleons

- For  $|t| > 0.2 \text{ GeV}^2$  probes the substructure of nucleons

▶ Energy dependence of incoherent spectra with differential binning in  $|t|$  could tell us about growth of nucleons and evolution of fluctuations

▶ Recent results from Mantysaari, et al. show different regions of spectrum to be sensitive to different kinds of shape deformations e.g Uranium

H.Mantysaari,B.Schenke, C.Shen,W.Zhao arXiv:2303.04866

❖ Coherent cross-section sensitive to average geometry

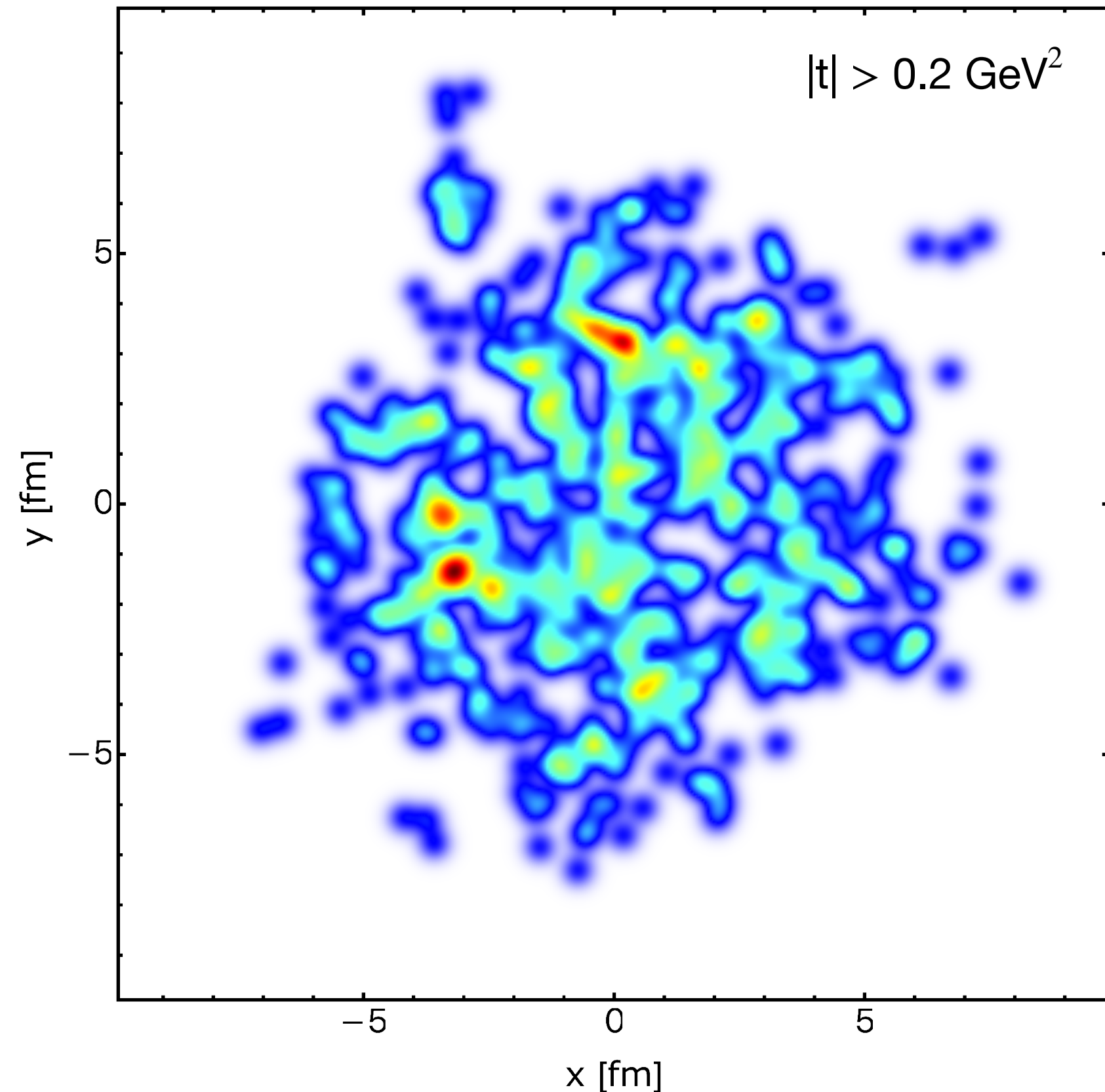
▶ Steepness and the position of first dip depends on density profile, non-linear effects and correlations H.Mantysaari,B.Schenke PRC 101 (2020) 015203

▶ Geometry evolution → Black disc limit?

▶ Deviation of WS wave function parameters at small-x? Larger radius?

H.Mantysaari, F.Salazar, B.Schenke, arXiv:2207.03712

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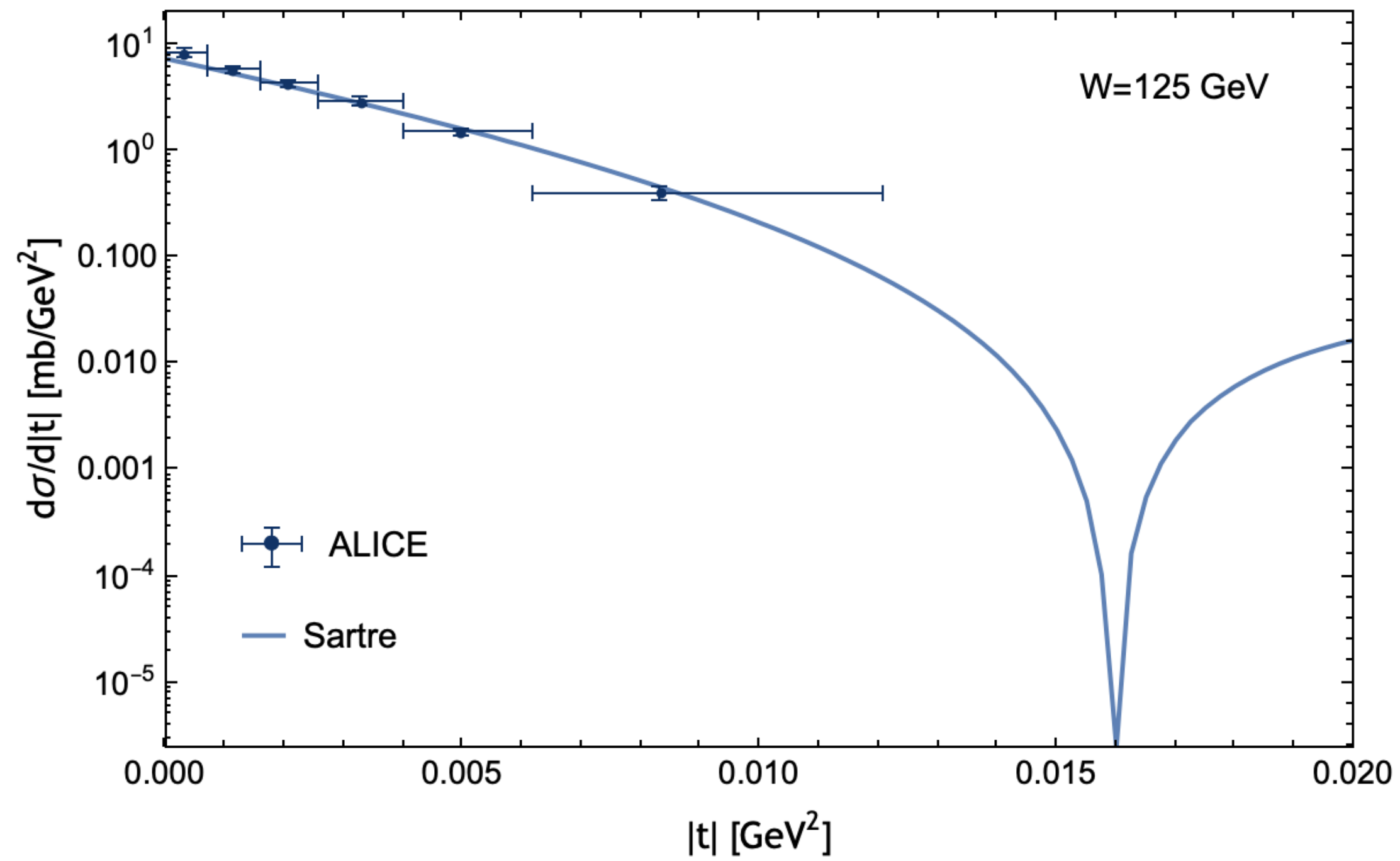
▶ Deviation of WS wave function parameters at small-x? Larger radius?

H.Mantysaari, F.Salazar, B.Schenke, arXiv:2207.03712

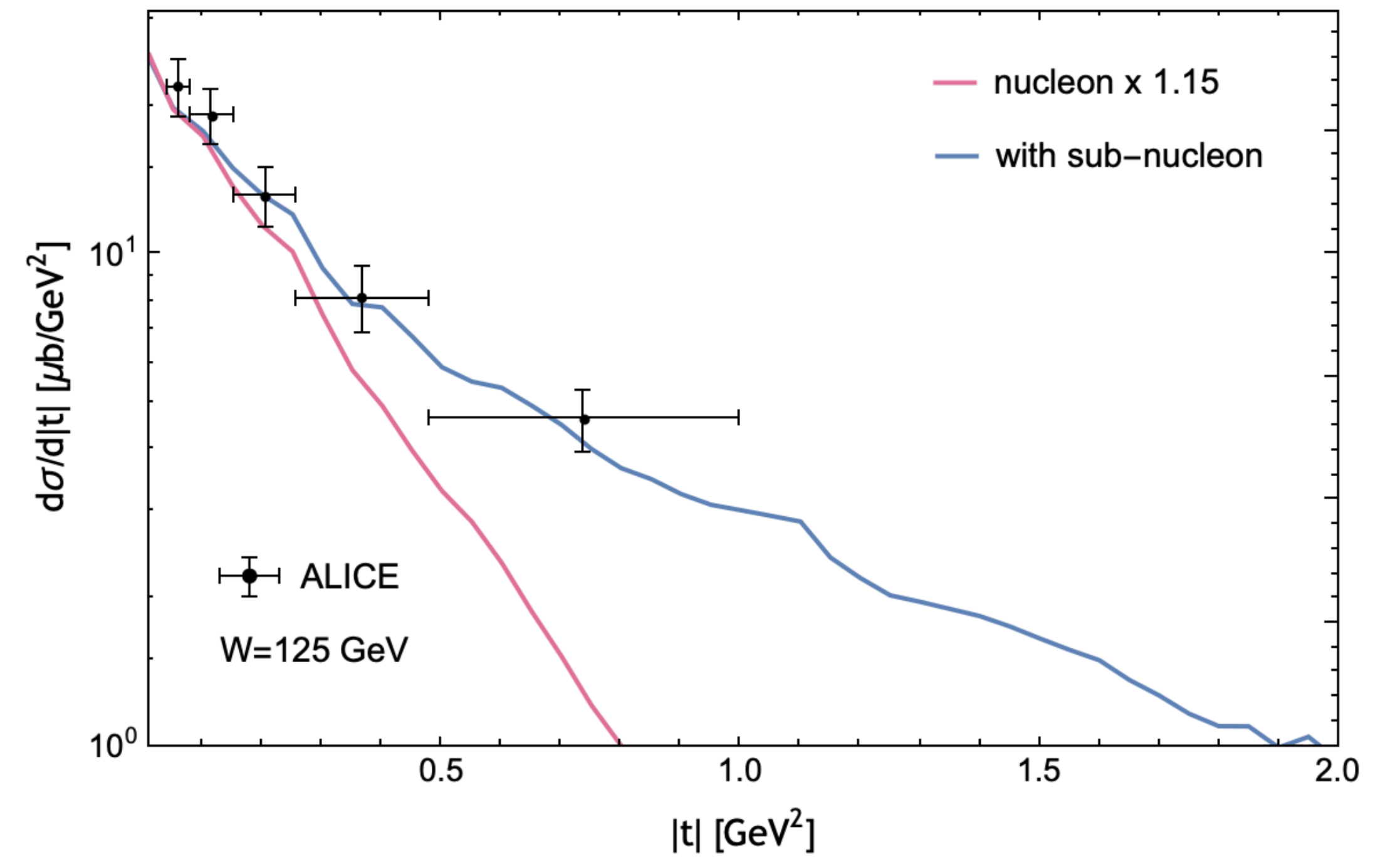
**Growth of size of nucleons in Sartre for accurate predictions of the  $|t|$  spectrum and the t-integrated observables in vector meson production**

# DIFFRACTIVE $J/\psi$ PRODUCTION IN ULTRA PERIPHERAL COLLISIONS

Coherent  $J/\psi$  Photo-production off Pb

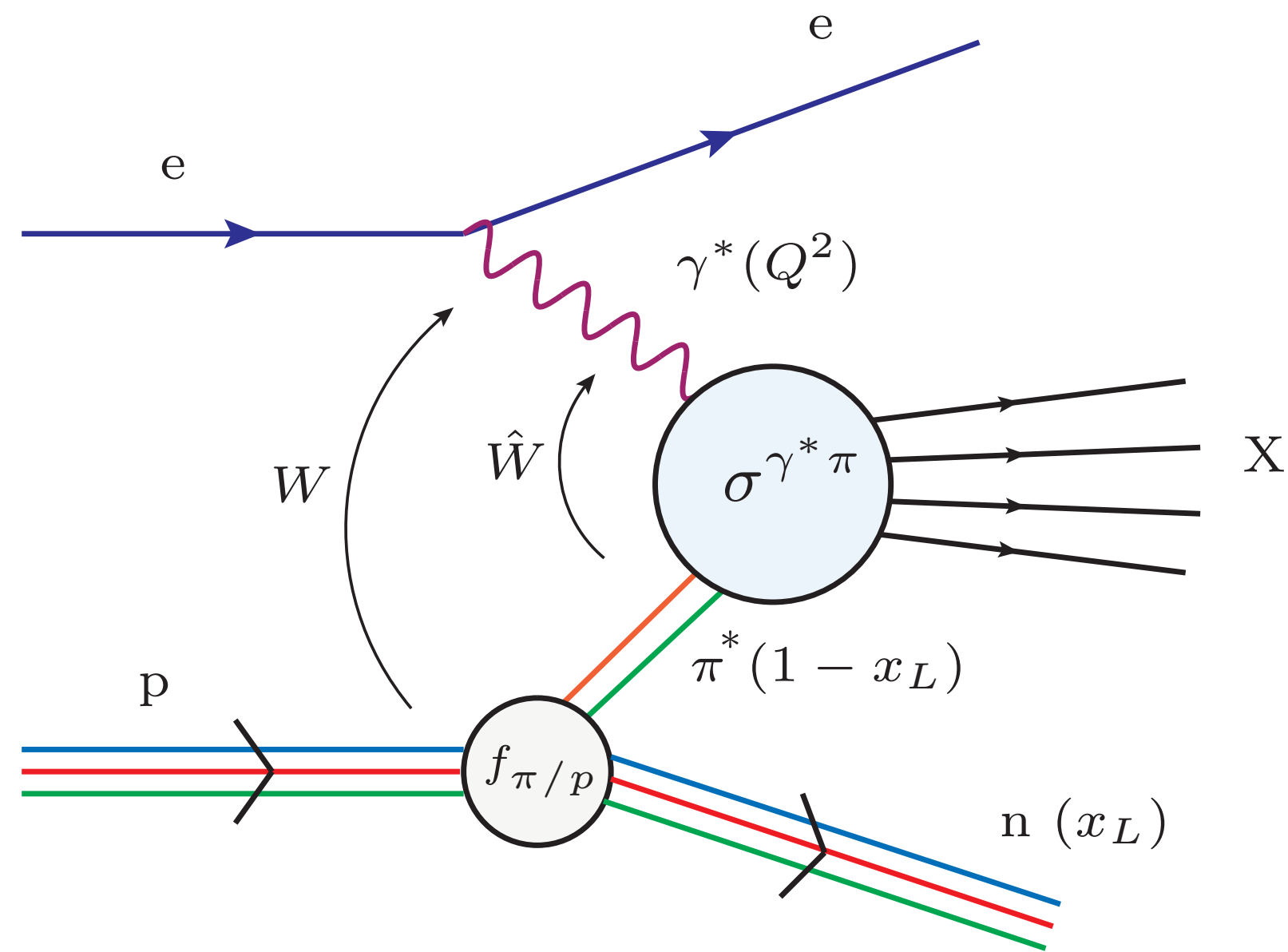


Incoherent  $J/\psi$  Photo-production off Pb



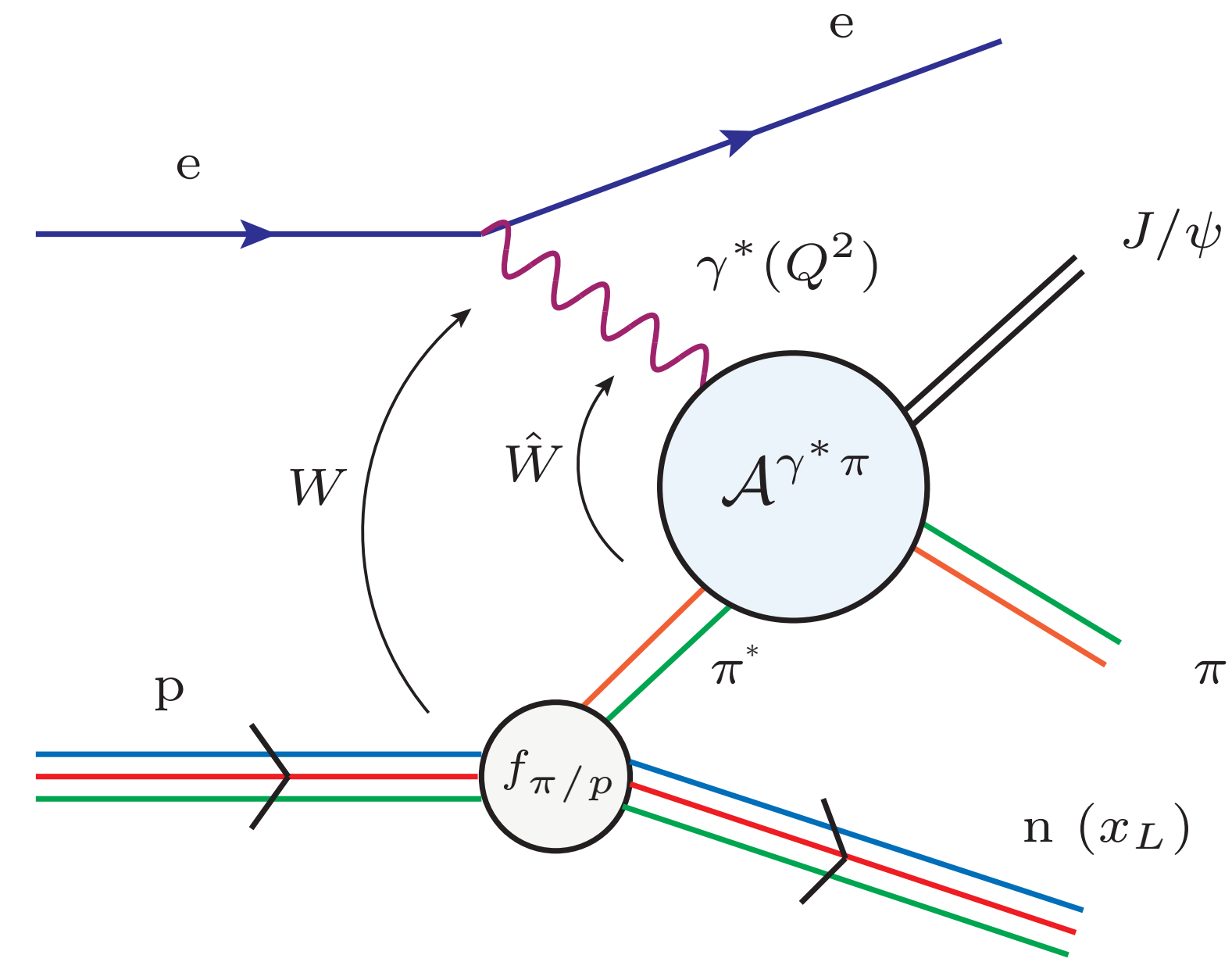
# **PART II – TAGGED DIS EVENTS AT SMALL-X**

# PION STRUCTURE IN LEADING NEUTRON EVENTS



*Effective inclusive DIS on pion ( $e + p \rightarrow e' + X + n$ )*

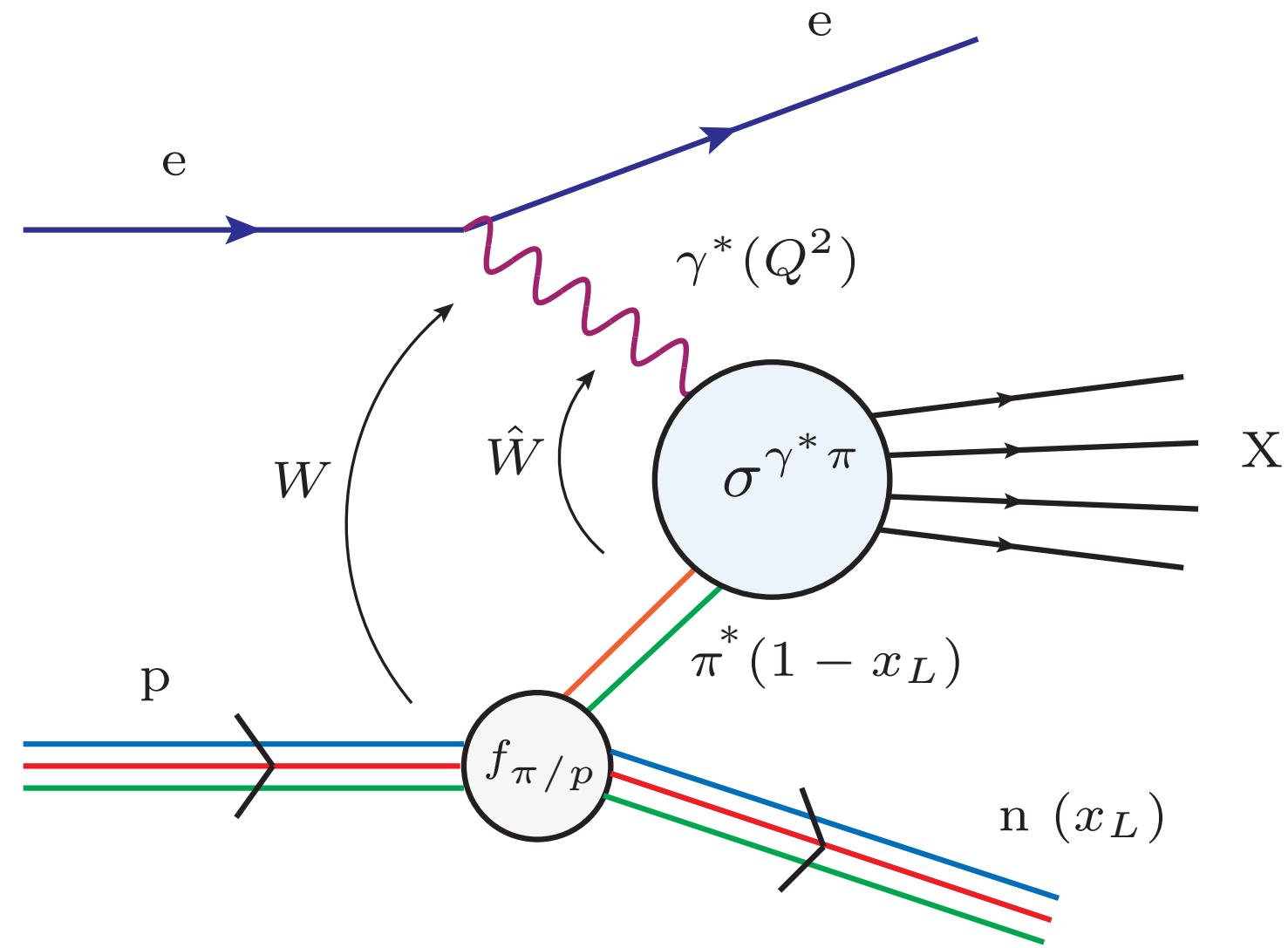
- ★ *Measure only scattered electrons and neutron*
- ★ *Sensitive to longitudinal structure of pion*



*Exclusive  $J/\psi$  production ( $e + p \rightarrow e' + J/\psi + \pi + n$ )*

- ★ *Measure all the final state particles*
- ★ *Sensitive to spatial gluon distribution of pion*

# PION STRUCTURE IN LEADING NEUTRON EVENTS



- ▶ We use the following flux factor:

$$f_{\pi/p}(x_L, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{2g_{p\pi p}^2}{4\pi} \frac{|t|}{(m_\pi^2 + |t|)^2} (1 - x_L)^{1-2\alpha(t)} [F(x_L, t)]^2$$

where the form factor is given by:

$$F(x_L, t) = \exp \left[ -R^2 \frac{|t| + m_\pi^2}{(1 - x_L)} \right], \alpha(t) = 0$$

- ❖ Leading neutron structure function in terms of  $\gamma^*p$  cross section:

$$F_2^{LN}(x, Q^2, x_L, t) = \frac{Q^2}{4\pi^2\alpha_{EM}} \frac{d^2\sigma^{\gamma^*p \rightarrow Xn}}{dx_L dt}$$

J.D. Sullivan PRD 5 (1972), 1732

- ❖ In One Pion Exchange (OPE) approximation:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma(W, Q^2, x_L, t)}{dx_L dt} = f_{\pi/p}(x_L, t) \sigma^{\gamma^*\pi^*}(\hat{W}^2, Q^2)$$

$f_{\pi/p}(x_L, t)$  is pion splitting function,

$\sigma^{\gamma^*\pi^*}(\hat{W}^2, Q^2)$  is virtual photon-virtual pion cross section

- ❖ OPE allows to extract the pion structure function  $F_2^\pi$ ,  
 $F_2^{LN}(W, Q^2, x_L) = \Gamma(x_L, Q^2) F_2^\pi(W, Q^2, x_L)$   
 $\Gamma(x_L, Q^2)$  is t-integrated flux of pions from proton

# PION STRUCTURE IN LEADING NEUTRON EVENTS

$$\sigma_{L,T}^{\gamma^*\pi^*}(\hat{x}, Q^2) = \text{Im } \mathcal{A}(\hat{x}, Q^2, \Delta = 0) = \int d^2\mathbf{b} \int d^2\mathbf{r} \int \frac{dz}{4\pi} |\Psi_{L,T}^f(\mathbf{r}, z, Q^2)|^2 \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(\pi)}}{d^2\mathbf{b}}(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{r}, \hat{x})$$

❖ Two approaches:

- Do a new fit of the dipole model parameters ( $A_g, \lambda_g, C$ ) to the LN Structure function data
- Use an assumption that the dipole-proton and dipole-pion cross section are related to each other

$$\frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(\pi)}}{d^2\mathbf{b}}(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{r}, \beta) = R_q \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(p)}}{d^2\mathbf{b}}(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{r}, \beta)$$

$R_q$  is determined through fit to the LN structure function data and dipole-proton cross section is already known from the fit of dipole models to the reduced cross section data in inclusive DIS.

- Energy Dependence of dipole-pion and dipole-proton cross section is identical
- In constituent quark picture,  $R_q$  is ratio of number quarks in pion and proton i.e  $R_q = 2/3$

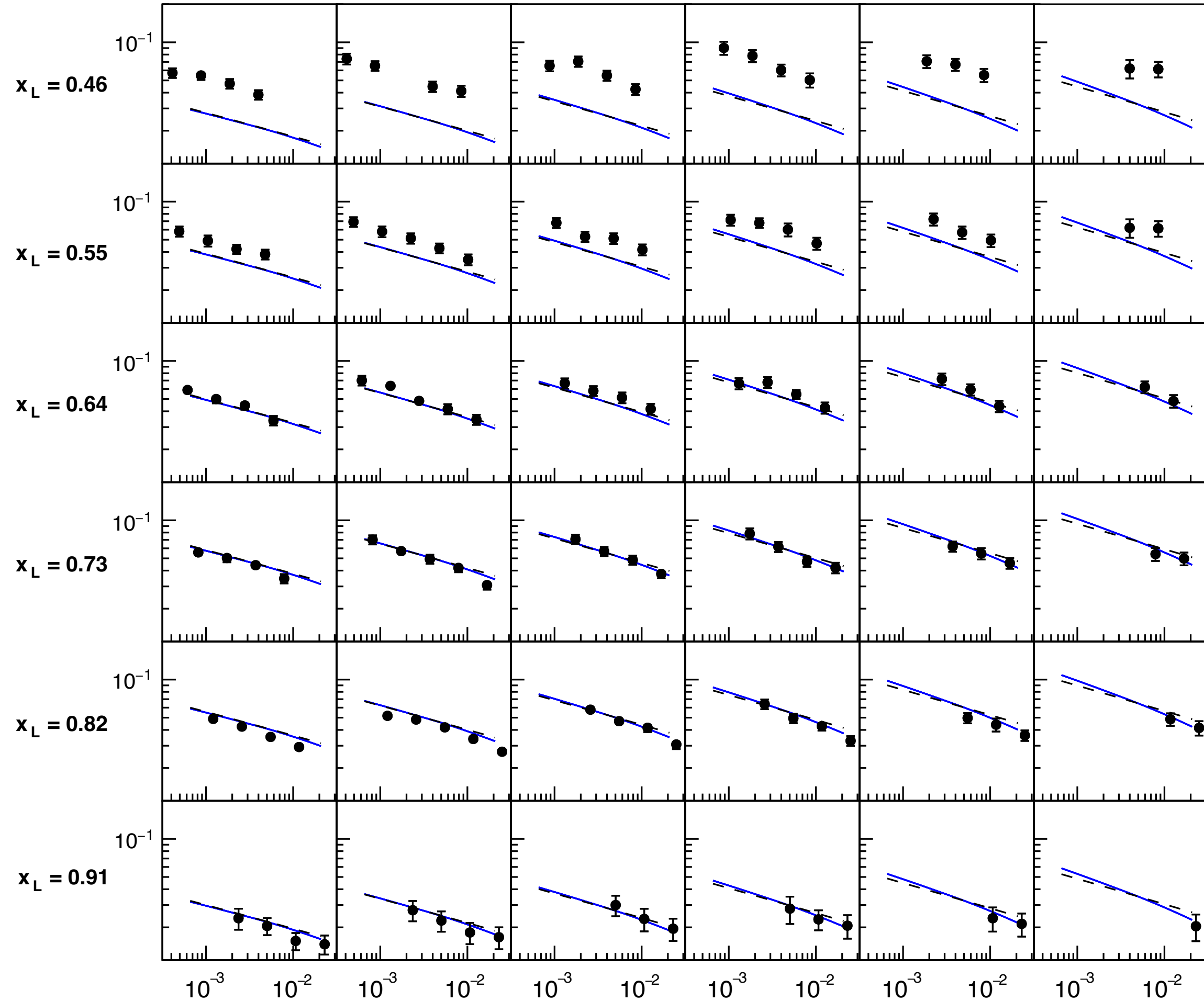
❖ We employ both the approaches and test the universality of pion and proton structure at small-x

# LEADING NEUTRON STRUCTURE FUNCTION

$$F_2^{LN}(\beta, Q^2, x_L)$$

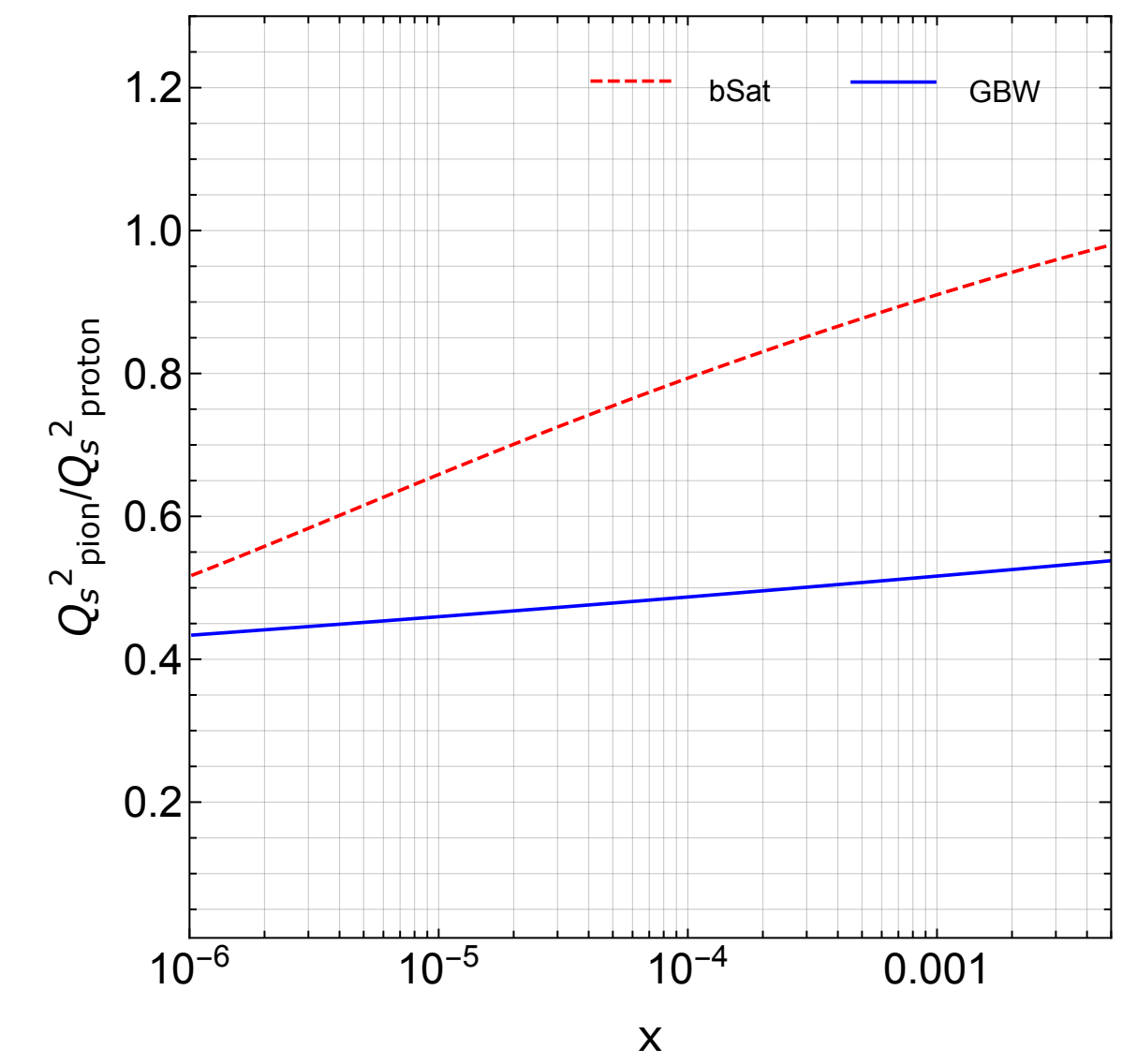
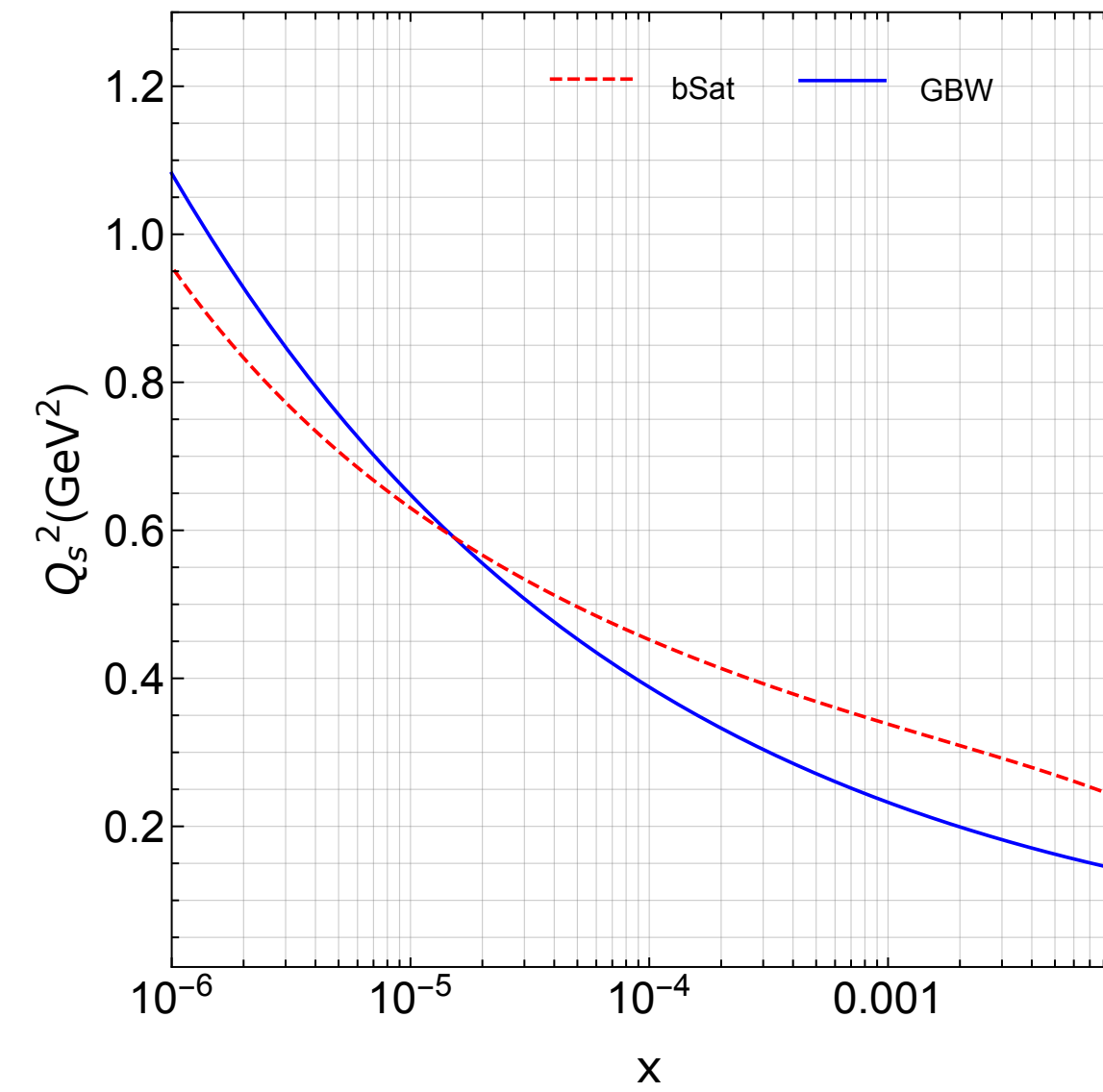
— bSat    - - - GBW    • H1

$Q^2 = 7.3 \text{ GeV}^2$     $Q^2 = 11 \text{ GeV}^2$     $Q^2 = 16 \text{ GeV}^2$     $Q^2 = 24 \text{ GeV}^2$     $Q^2 = 37 \text{ GeV}^2$     $Q^2 = 55 \text{ GeV}^2$



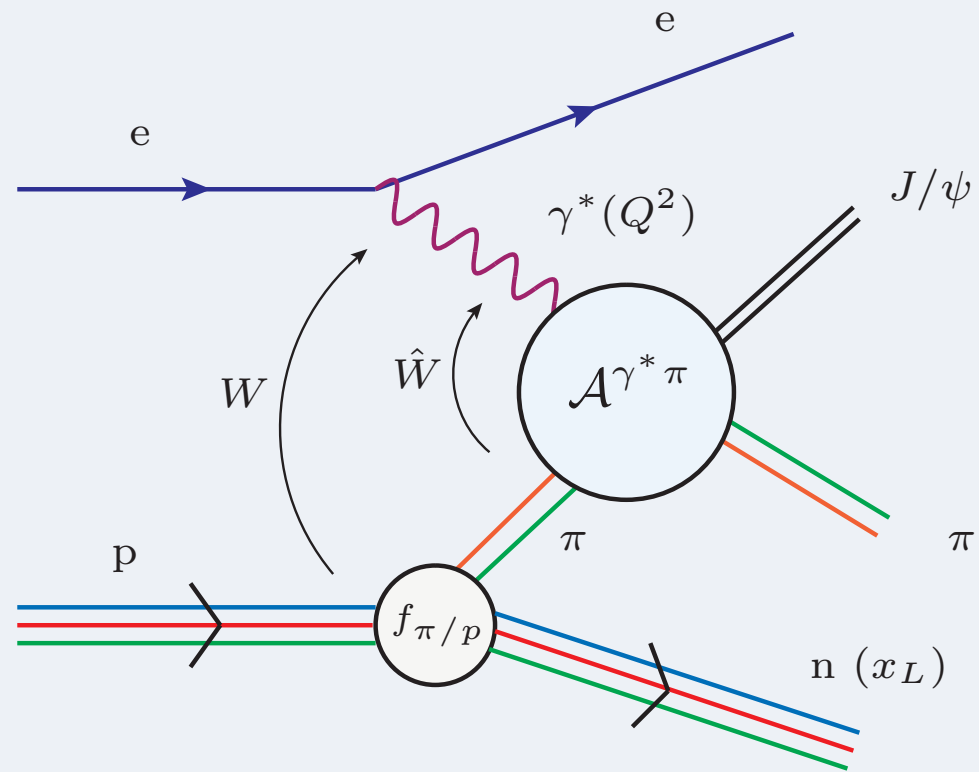
$\beta$

A.K PRD 107 (2023) 034005



GBW	$\sigma_0$ [mb]	$\lambda$	$x_0/10^{-4}$	$R_q$	$\chi^2/N_{\text{dof}}$
Fit 1	$17.171 \pm 2.777$	$0.223 \pm 0.018$	$0.036 \pm 0.024$	...	$63.26/48 = 1.32$
Fit 2	27.43	0.248	0.40	$0.438 \pm 0.005$	$64.52/50 = 1.29$
bSat	$A_g$	$\lambda_g$	C	$R_q$	$\chi^2/N_{\text{dof}}$
Fit 3	$1.208 \pm 0.012$	$0.0600 \pm 0.038$	$1.453 \pm 0.024$	...	$58.75/48 = 1.22$
Fit 4	2.195	0.0829	2.289	$0.520 \pm 0.006$	$66.19/50 = 1.32$

# PROBING THE GLUON DISTRIBUTION



- ❖ The transverse profile of the virtual pion is,

$$T_{\pi^*}(b) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \rho_{\pi^*}(b, z)$$

where the radial part of the virtual pion wave function is given by Yukawa theory:

$$\rho_{\pi^*}(b, z) = \frac{m_{\pi}^2}{4\pi} \frac{e^{-m_{\pi} \sqrt{b^2 + z^2}}}{\sqrt{b^2 + z^2}}$$

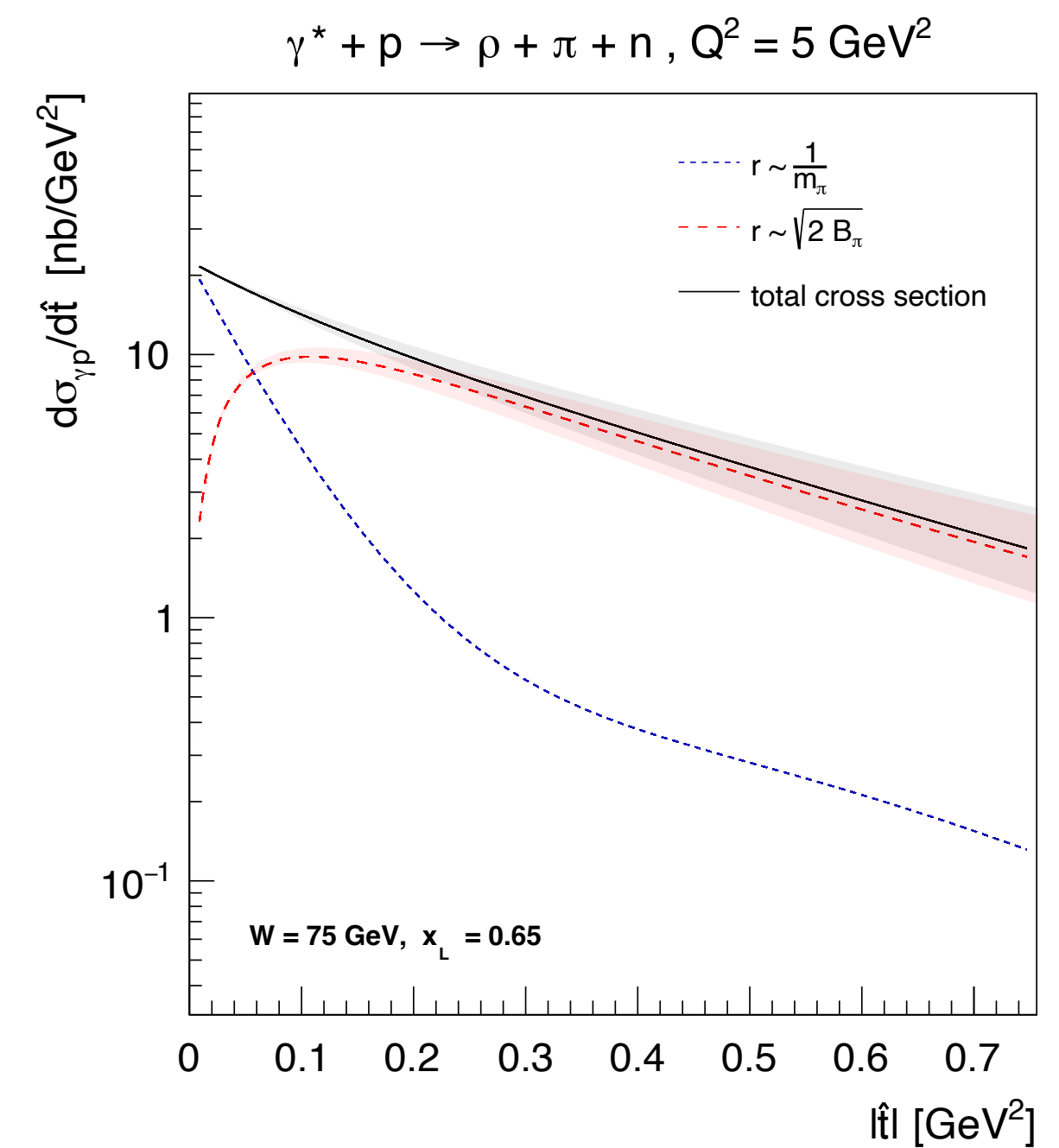
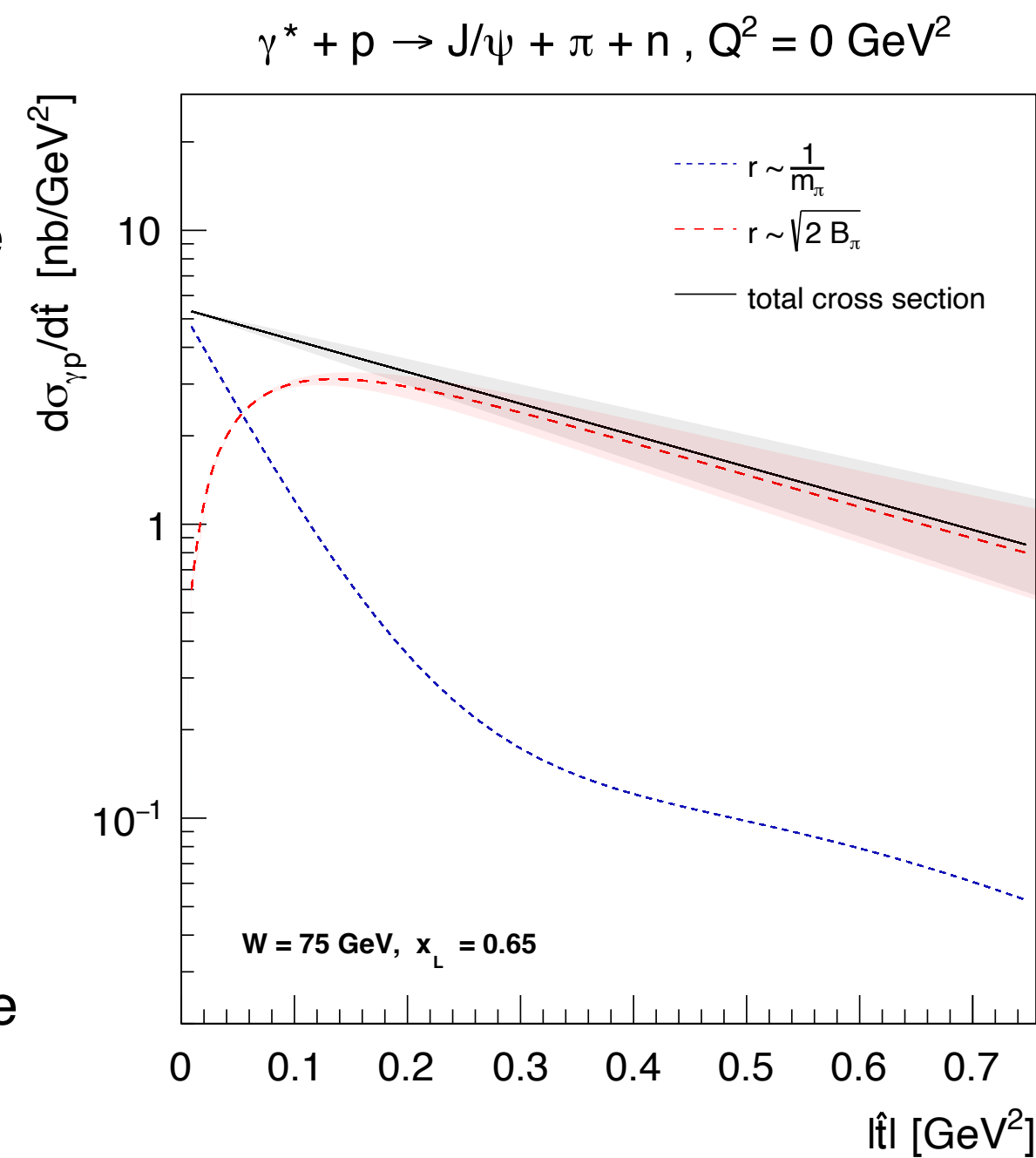
- ❖ We assume that the real pion, as for the proton, is described by a Gaussian profile:

$$T_{\pi}(b) = \frac{1}{2\pi B_{\pi}} e^{-\frac{b^2}{2B_{\pi}}}$$

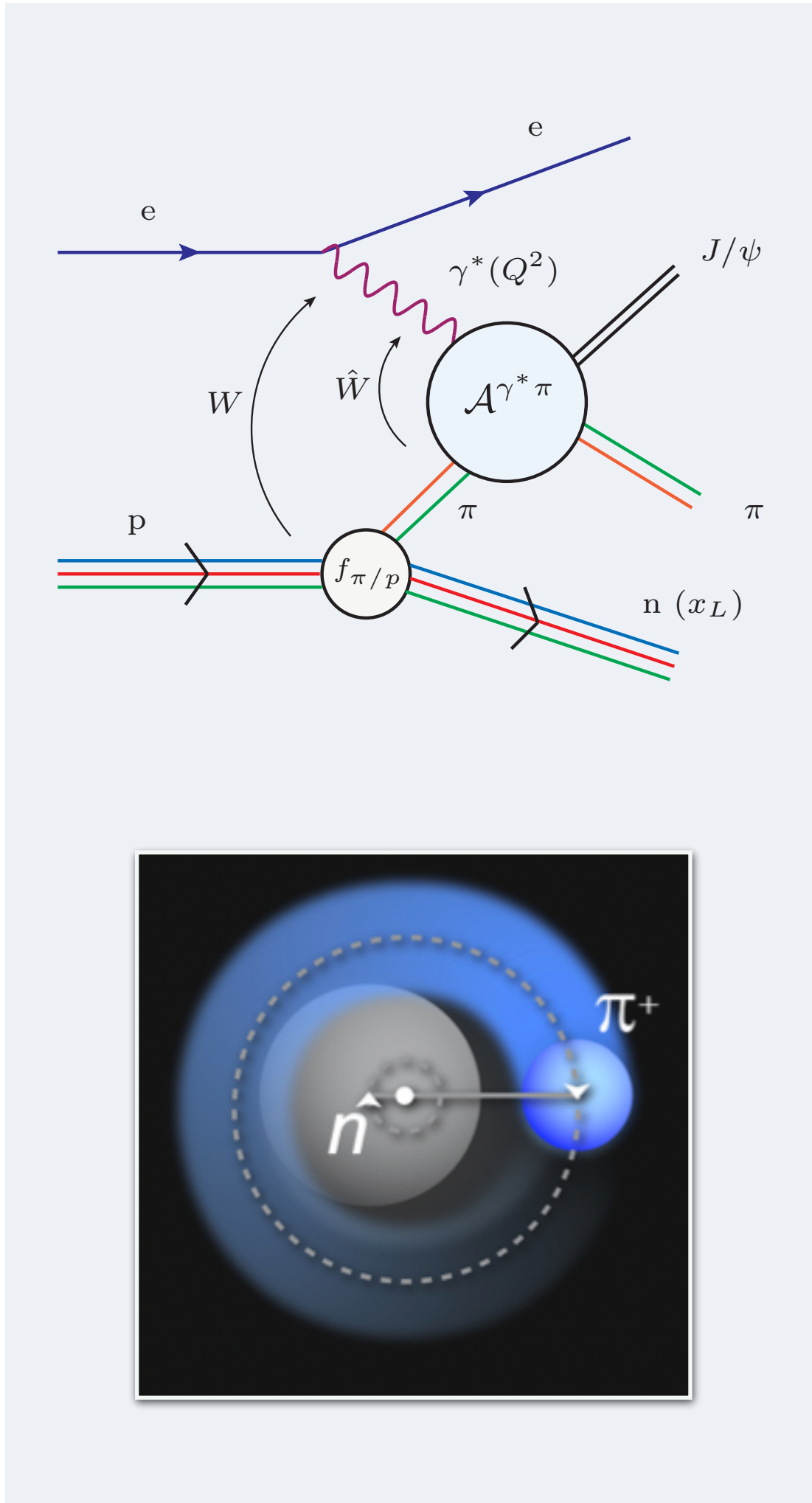
- ❖ At small  $|t'|$ , the dipole cannot resolve the pion and interacts with the whole cloud and on increasing the resolution (increasing  $|t'|$ ) the dipole interacts with the pion
- ❖ The transverse position of the pion inside the virtual pion cloud fluctuates event by event

- ❖ The cross section have two slopes due to interaction with different size scales at low  $|t'|$  and moderate  $|t'|$
- ❖ H1 data on exclusive  $\rho$  photo production with leading neutrons exhibits these two slopes in the differential distribution

$$\sigma_{tot} \propto | \langle \mathcal{A} \rangle_{\Omega} |^2 + ( \langle | \mathcal{A} |^2 \rangle_{\Omega} - | \langle \mathcal{A} \rangle_{\Omega} |^2 )$$



# PROBING THE GLUON DISTRIBUTION



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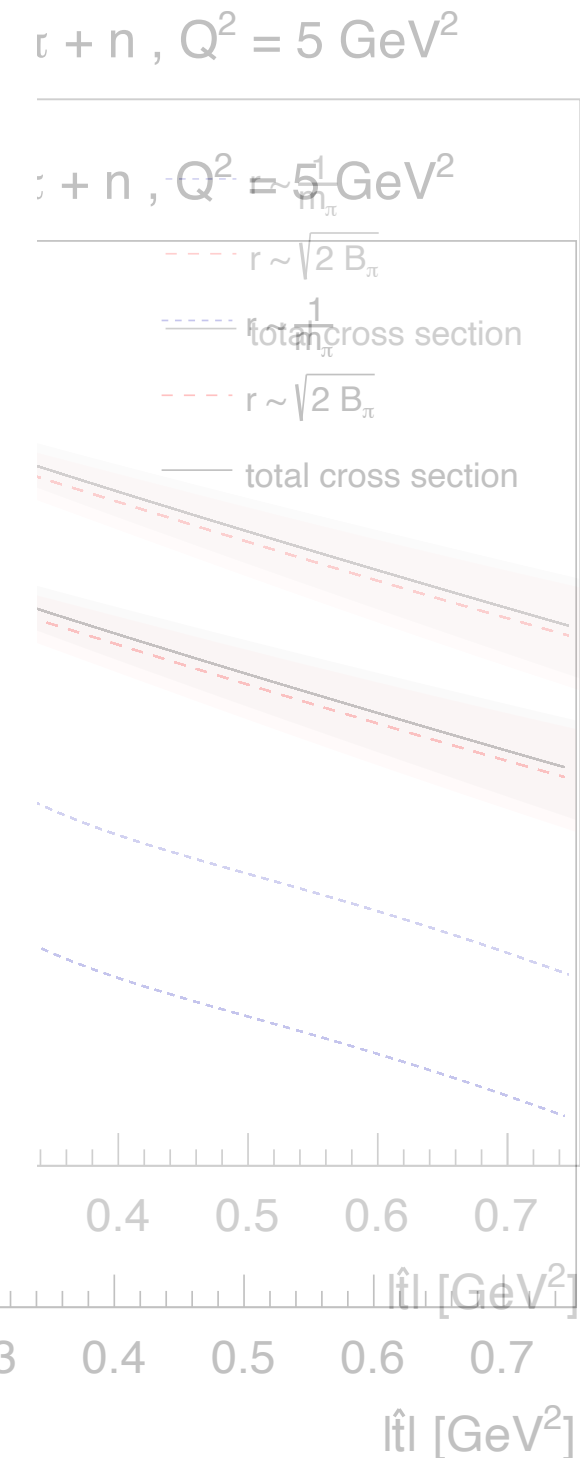
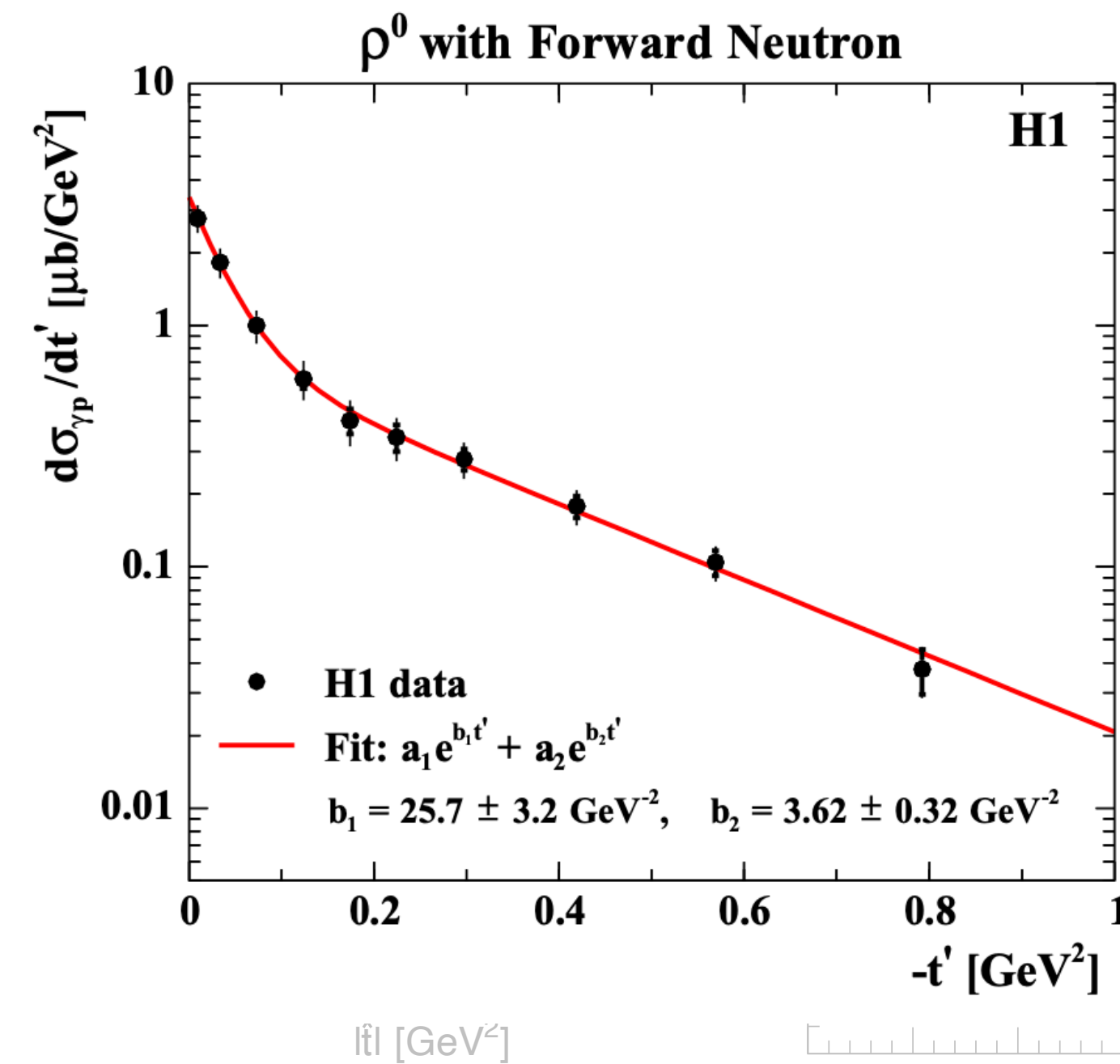
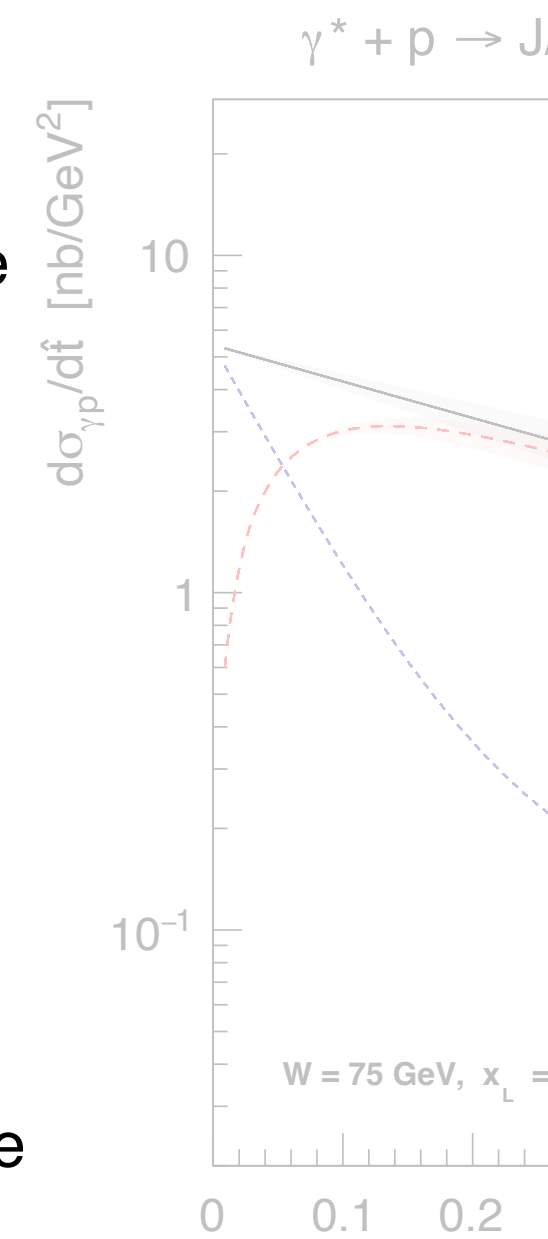
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H1 EPJC 76 (2016), 41



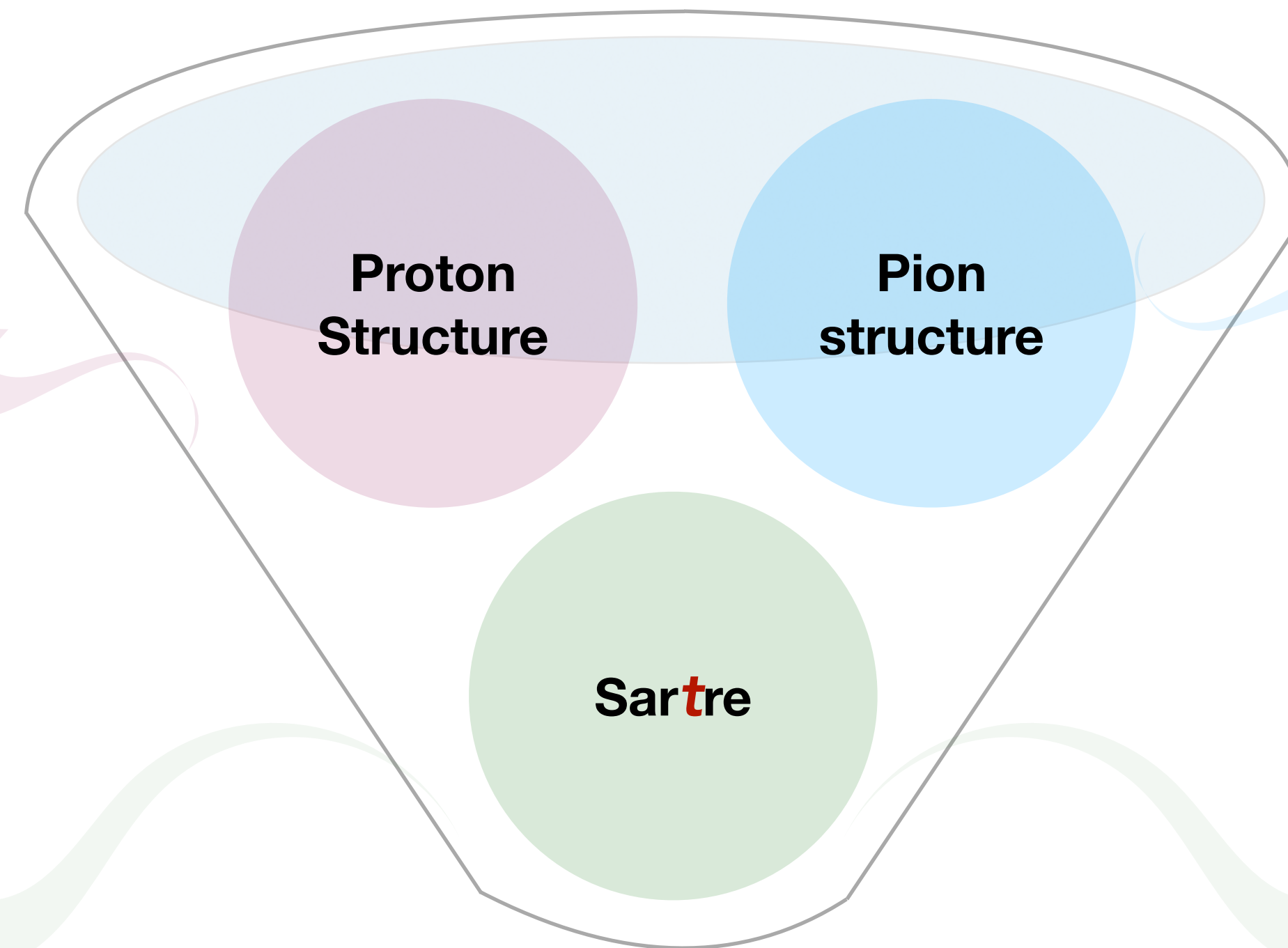
# SUMMARY & OUTLOOK

## Exclusive and proton dissociative vector meson production

- \* Comparisons with HERA Data prefers growing nucleon width
- \* Incoherent events are suppressed at high energies on including energy dependence in proton geometry
- \* Additional fluctuations are required at large momentum transfers

## Sub-nucleon fluctuations in Sartre

- \* Good agreement with UPC data for  $J/\psi$  t-spectrum in (contributes for  $t > 0.2 \text{ GeV}^2$ )
- \* Crucial for t-integrated observables and for accurate predictions of incoherent spectra in eA at EIC



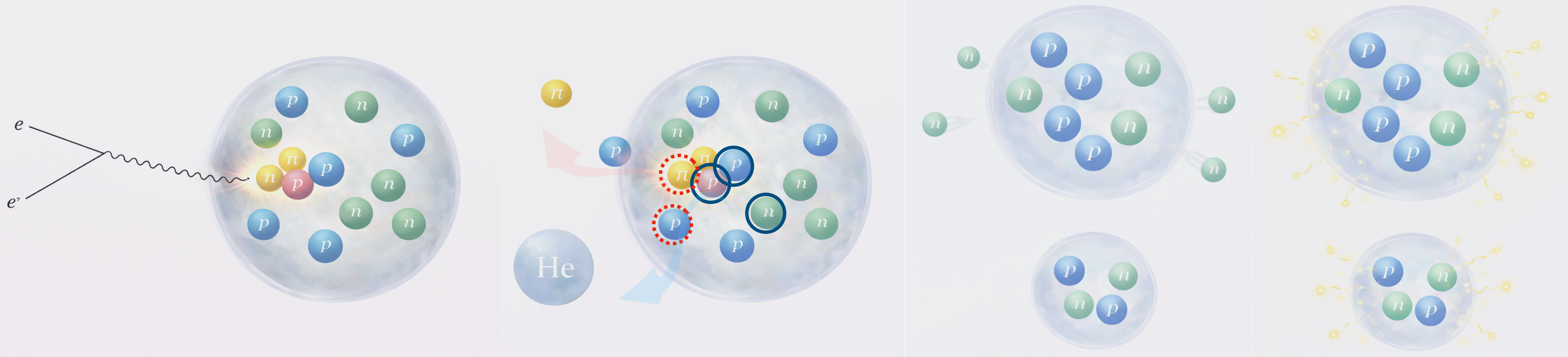
## Pion structure through Sullivan process in leading neutron events

- \* Pions and protons structure have same energy dependence at high energy, upto normalisation
- \* Data shows geometric scaling in leading neutron events
- \* Potential to constrain spatial gluon distribution of pions in exclusive events

## Impact on EIC physics program

- \* Nucleon structure at high resolution
- \* Evolution of fluctuations on including energy dependence in nucleon geometry
- \* Pion cloud in protons & nuclei
- \* Good physics models to understand proton and pion structure at small-x

# Nuclear Breakup in BeAGLE++



$t = 0$

$t = 10^{-22} \text{ s}$

$t = 10^{-20} - 10^{-17} \text{ s}$

$t = 10^{-14} \text{ s}$

DIS on a nucleon

Pythia8

Intranuclear cascade

Modified INCL++

De-excitation

ABLA

# BACKUP

# EVENT GENERATORS

---

## *BeAGLE ++*

- *A hybrid model using modules from DPMJet, PYTHIA, FLUKA, LHAPDF, PyQM*
- *Maintenance is difficult as many modules are either outdated or no longer actively maintained*
- *Redundant module initialization causes memory leaks and increased runtime*
- *Needed: Rewriting the code in C++ to enhance user-friendliness and ensure smoother functionality*
- *Introducing new physics models to broaden physics reach*

## *Sartre ( long term )*

- *BK evolution in Sartre*
- *Final state radiation (depending upon how crucial is this)*

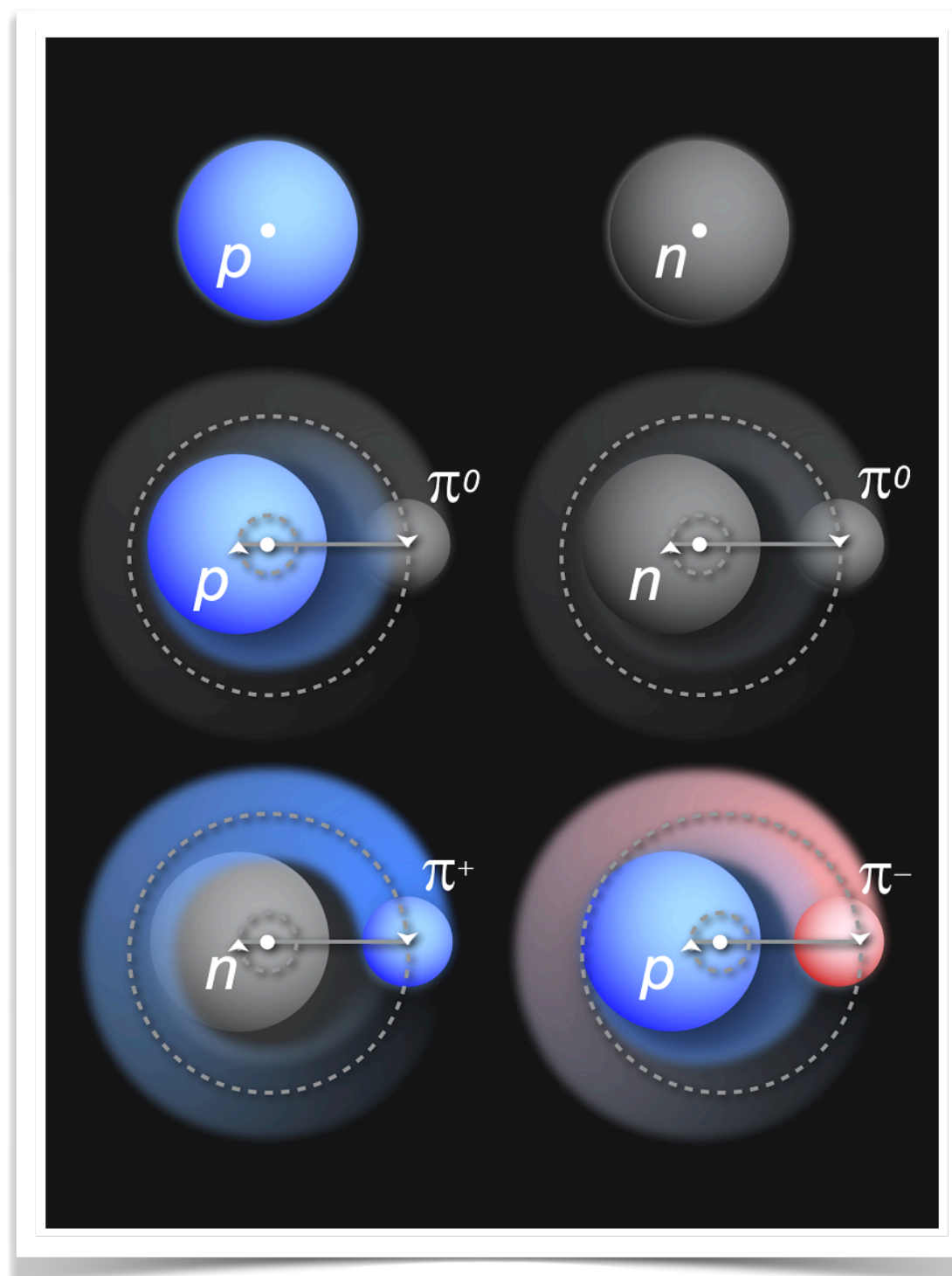
# PION FLUX FROM PROTON

Chiral approach:  $a=0.24, b=0.12$   
 Thomas, Melnitchouk & Steffens,  
 PRL85 (2000) 2892

- ❖ Proton as a superposition of states in meson-cloud models,

$$|p\rangle \rightarrow \sqrt{1-a-b} |p_0\rangle + \sqrt{a} \left( -\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} |p_0 \pi^0\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} |n_0 \pi^+\rangle \right) + \sqrt{b} \left( -\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} |\Delta_0^{++} \pi^-\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} |\Delta_0^+ \pi^0\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{1}{6}} |\Delta_0^0 \pi^+\rangle \right)$$

- ❖ Pion flux from proton is well known & can be calculated using chiral effective theory
- ❖ Previously used to explain hadron-hadron interactions at LHC



Carvalho et al PLB 752 (2016) 76

- ❖ We use the following flux factor:

$$f_{\pi/p}(x_L, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{2g_{p\pi p}^2}{4\pi} \frac{|t|}{(m_\pi^2 + |t|)^2} (1-x_L)^{1-2\alpha(t)} [F(x_L, t)]^2$$

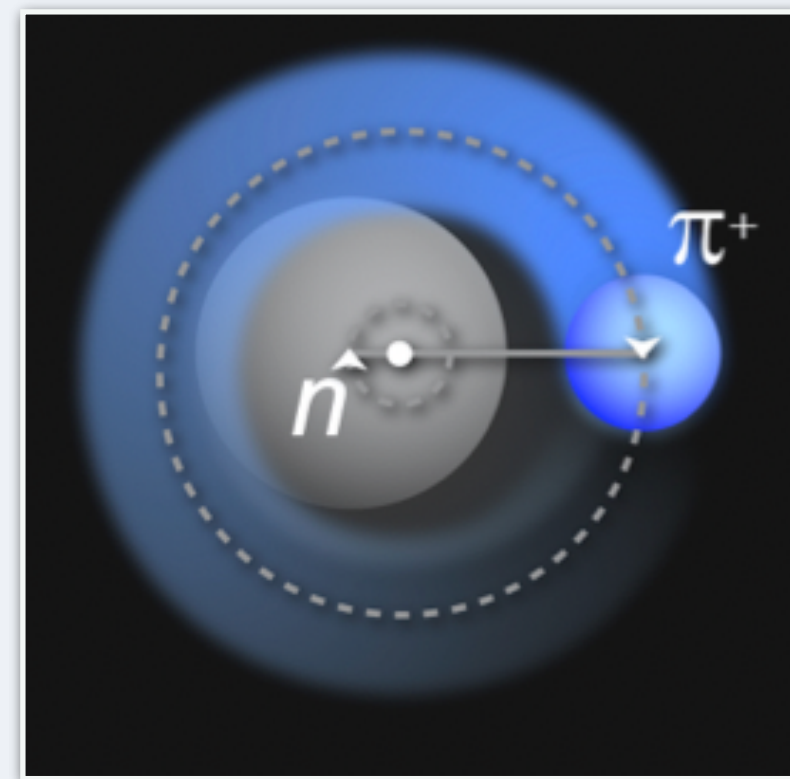
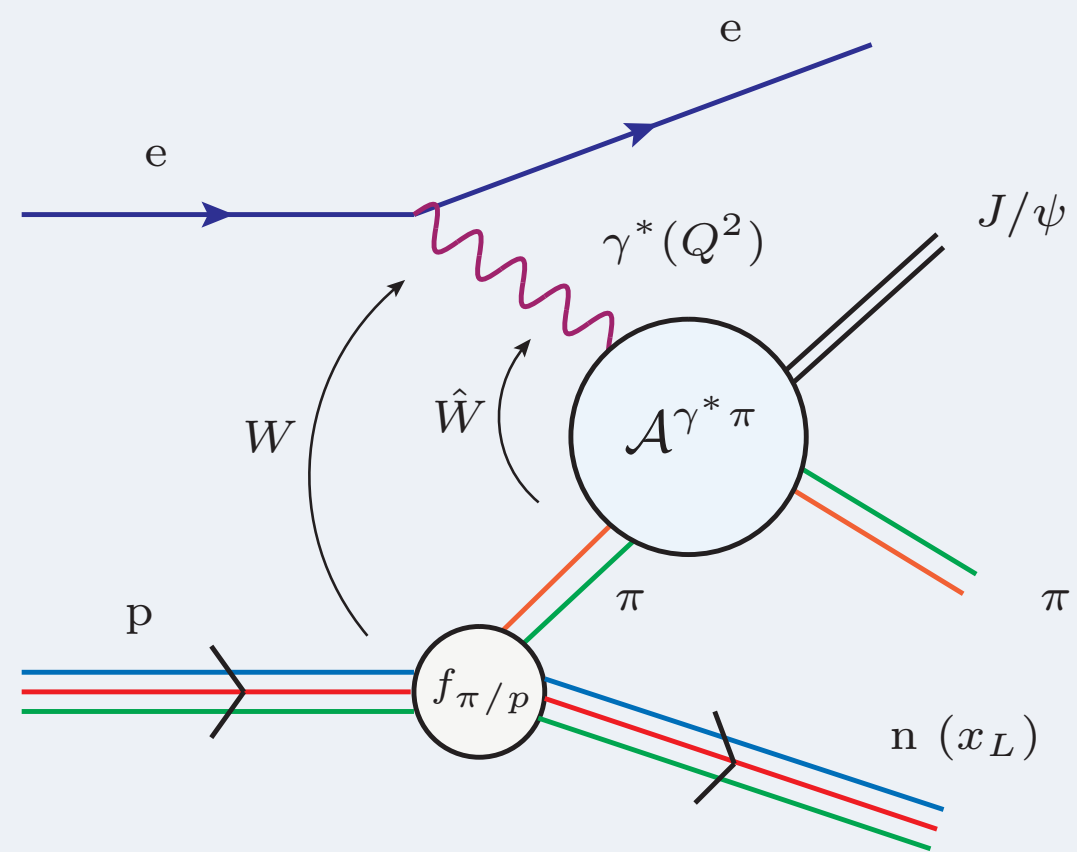
where the form factor is given by:

$$F(x_L, t) = \exp\left[-R^2 \frac{|t| + m_\pi^2}{(1-x_L)}\right], \alpha(t) = 0$$

- ❖ Used by H1 and ZEUS for the data analysis

HI EPJC 68 (2010), 381

# PROBING THE GLUON DISTRIBUTION



$$\sigma_{total} = \sigma_{yukawa} + \sigma_{fluctuations}$$

❖ The thickness function of pion:

$$T_{\pi}(b) = \frac{1}{2\pi B_{\pi}} e^{-\frac{b^2}{2B_{\pi}}}, \quad B_{\pi} \text{ is the transverse width of the pion}$$

❖ No experimental data on  $|t'|$  dependence which can restrict this parameter

- Assume that the gluon to charge radius is same in pions and protons:  $B_{\pi} = r_{\pi}^2 / r_p^2 B_p = (0.657/0.840)^2 \cdot 4^{-2} \approx 2.44 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$

- Pion gluon radius from the Belle measurements at KEKB in hadron-pair production  $\gamma^* \gamma \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0$  which suggests  $B_{\pi} \approx 1.33 - 1.96 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$  [Kumano et al PRD 97 \(2018\), 014020](#)

- H1 measured the  $|t'|$  spectrum for exclusive  $\rho$  photo-production with leading neutrons in  $ep$  scattering, as this process lacks a hard scale we are not able to make a direct comparison, but this spectrum suggests  $B_{\pi} \approx 2.3 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$

[HI EPJC 76 \(2016\), 41](#)

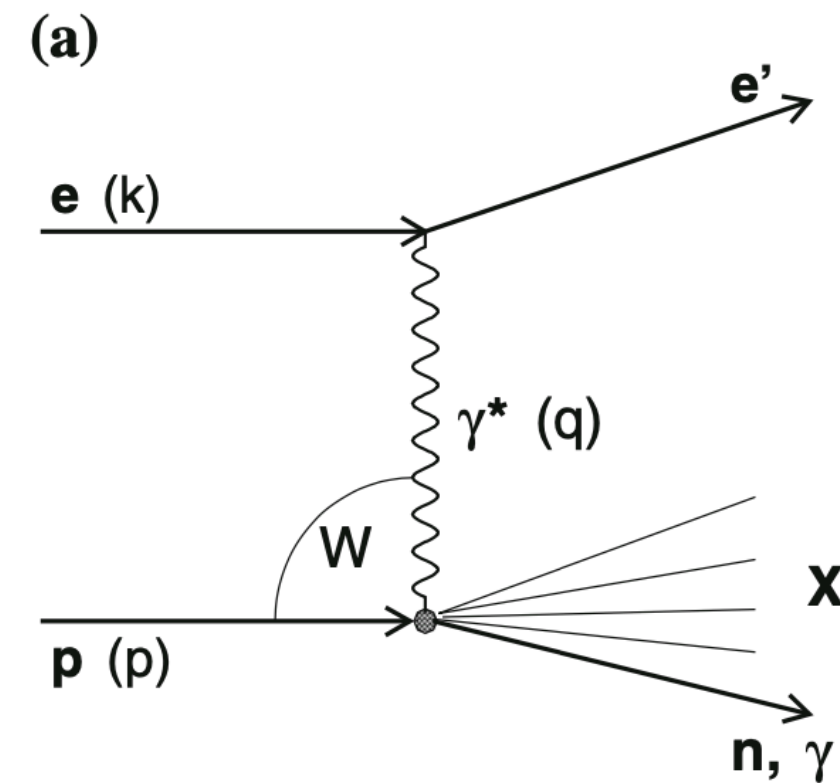
❖ We therefore present our results with bands for

$$B_{\pi} = 2 \pm 0.5 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$$

# FEYNMAN-X SPECTRA AT SMALL -XL

HI EPJC 74 (2014), 2915

Standard fragmentation (DJANGO)



One-pion approximation (RAPGAP)

