

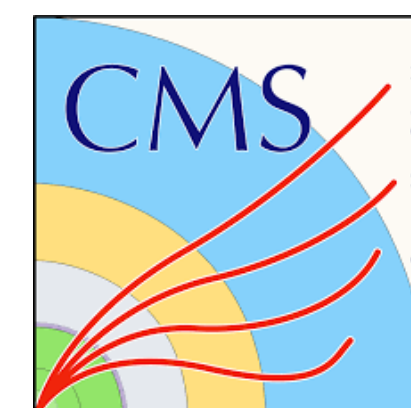


# Probing gluons in nuclei using UPC

Guillermo Contreras  
Czech Technical University in Prague



On behalf of

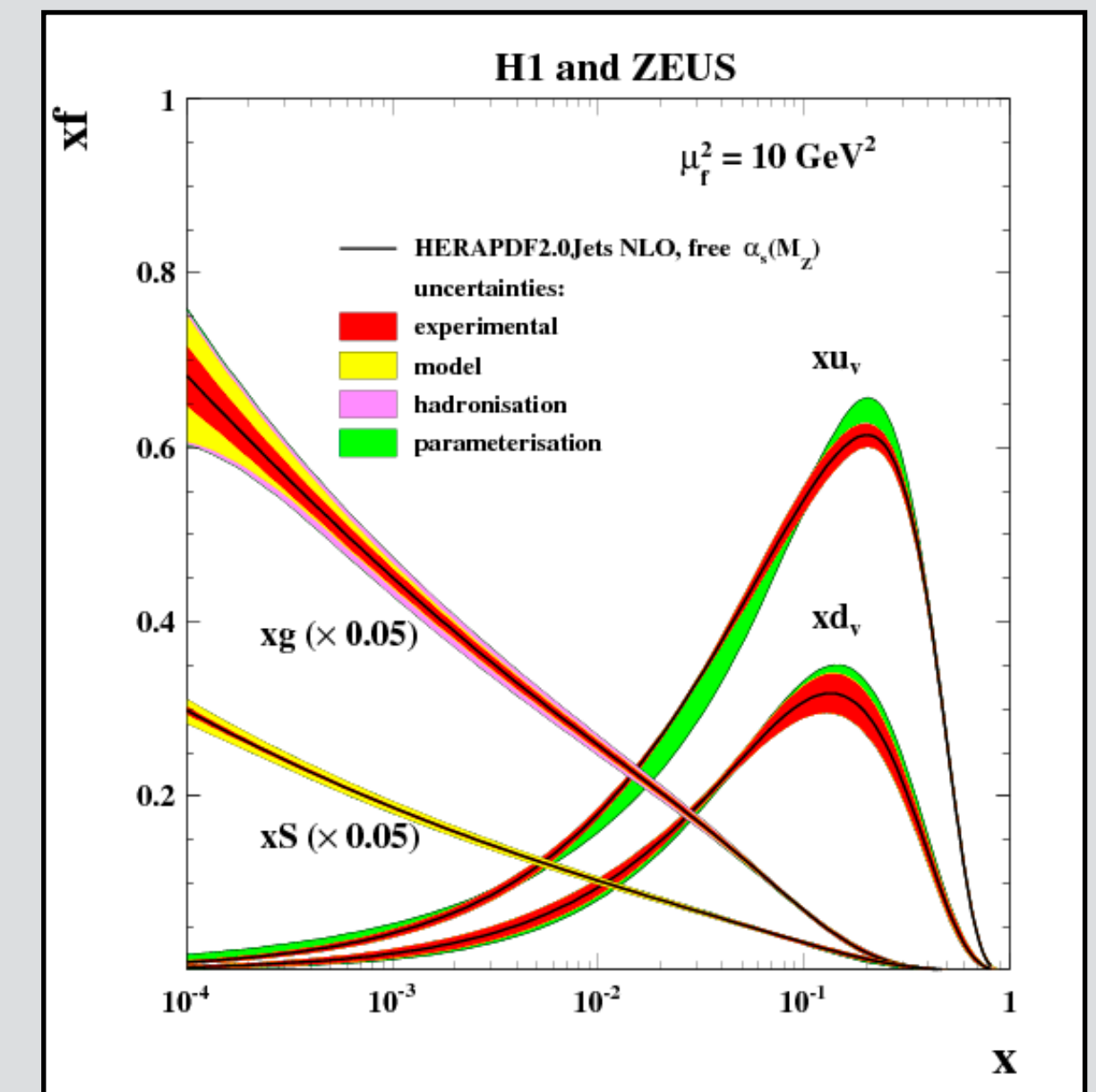


# Key questions we are interested in

**What can we learn about the structure of hadrons at high energies with the LHC?**

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Measurements at HERA imply that, when seen with a high-energy probe, nucleons are made mainly of gluons



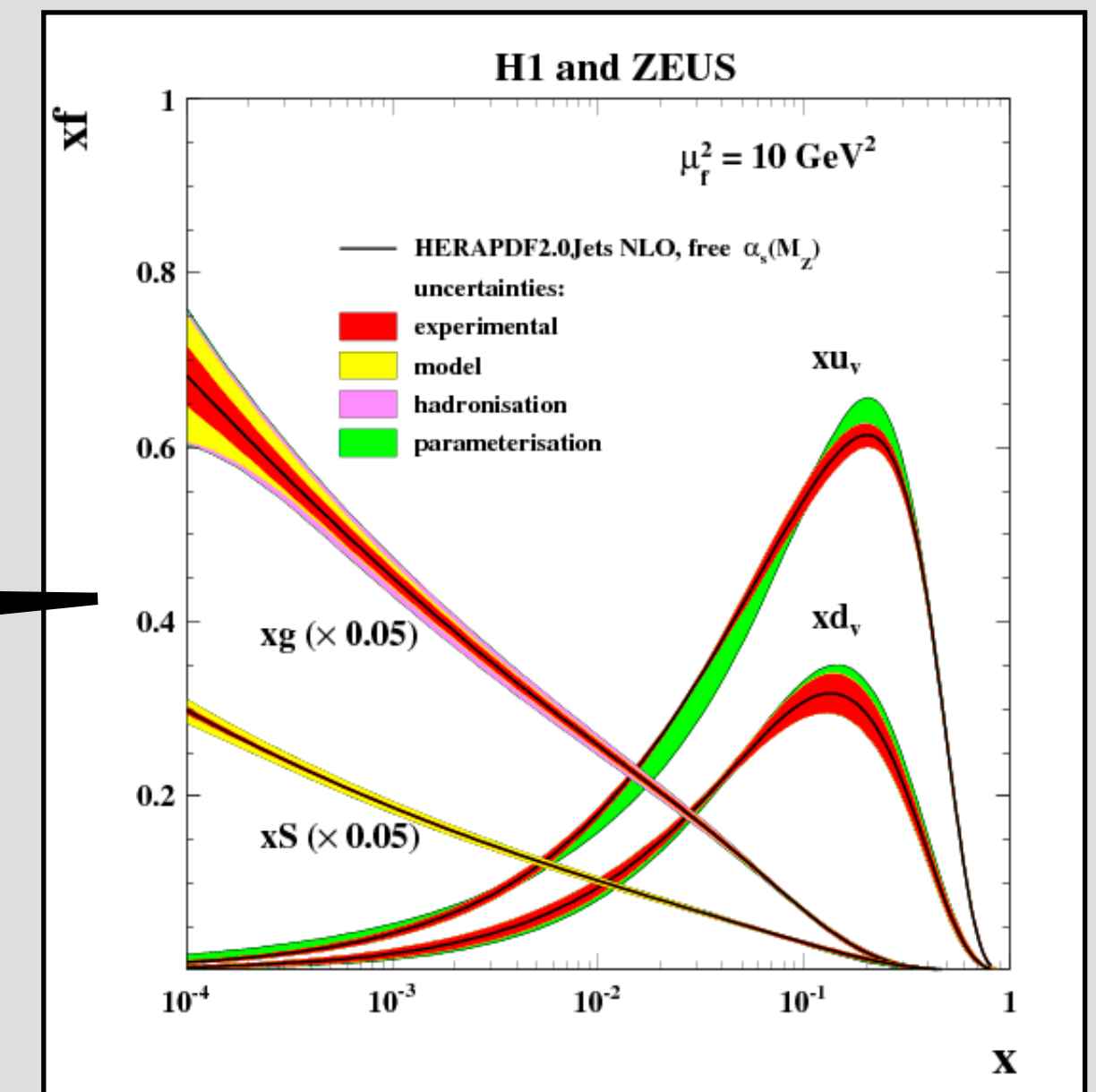
H1 and Zeus, EPCJ 75 (2015) 580

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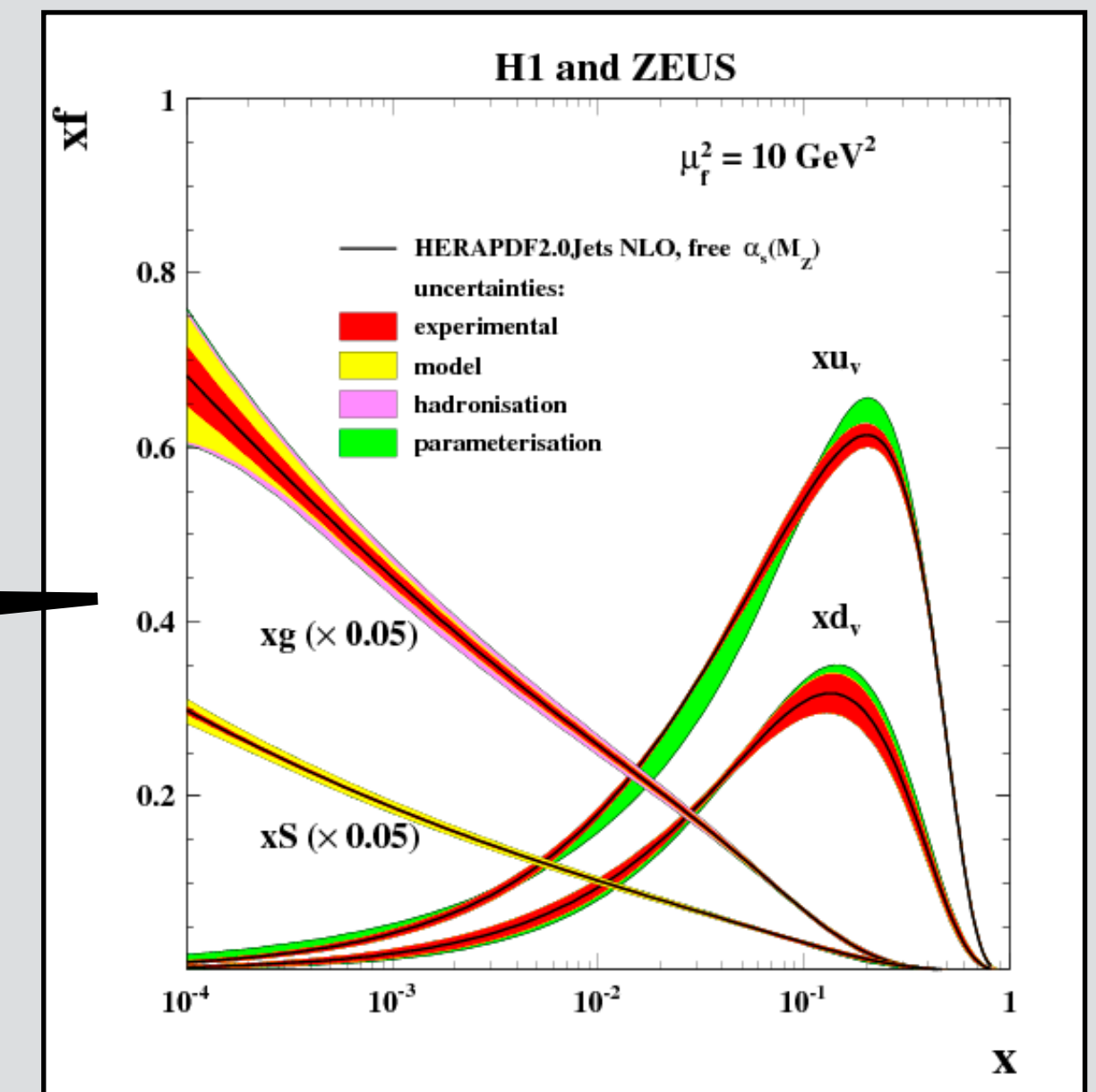


H1 and Zeus, EPCJ 75 (2015) 580

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H1 and Zeus, EPCJ 75 (2015) 580

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Key question: have we reached the saturation regime?

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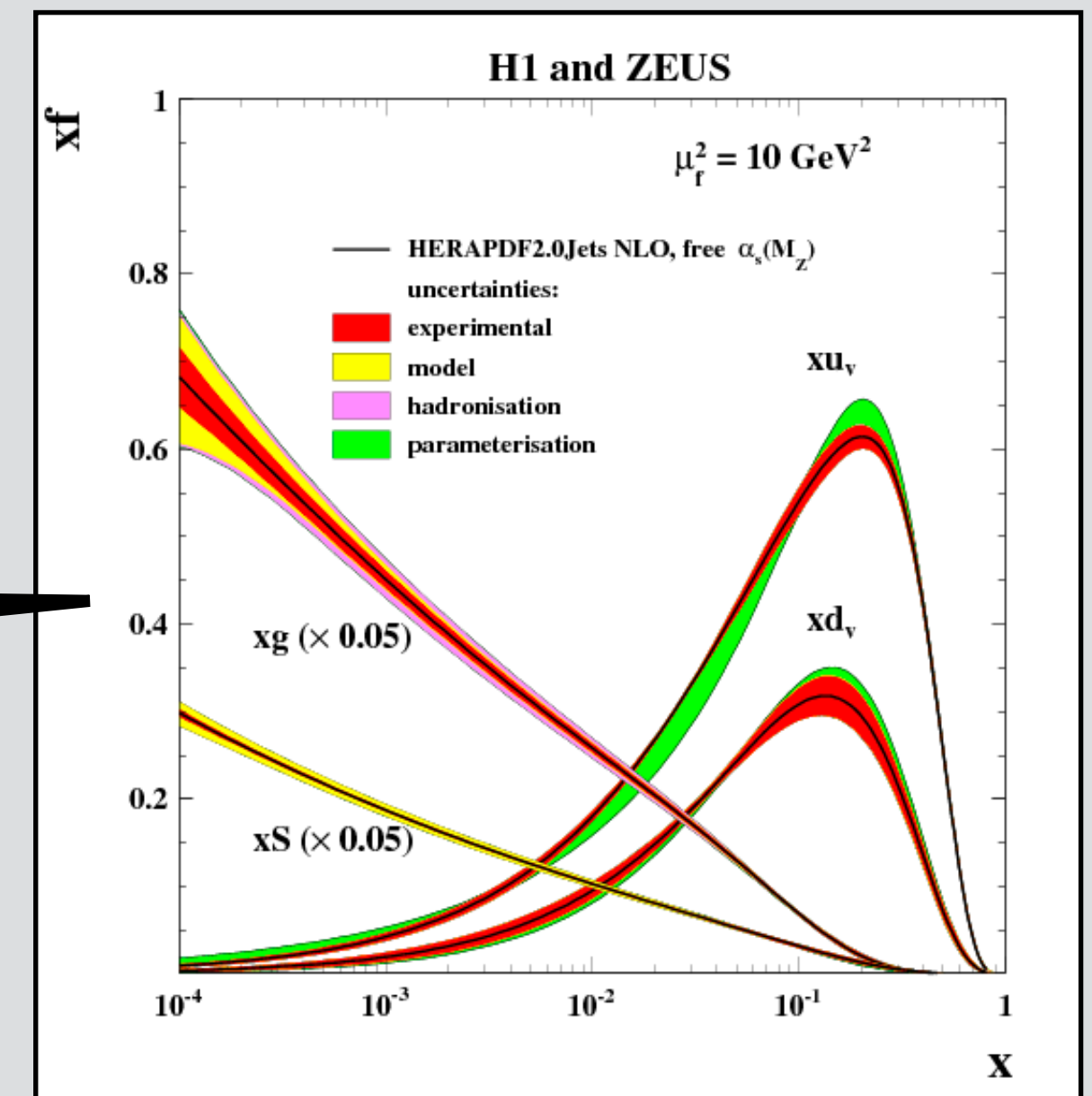
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H1 and Zeus, EPCJ 75 (2015) 580

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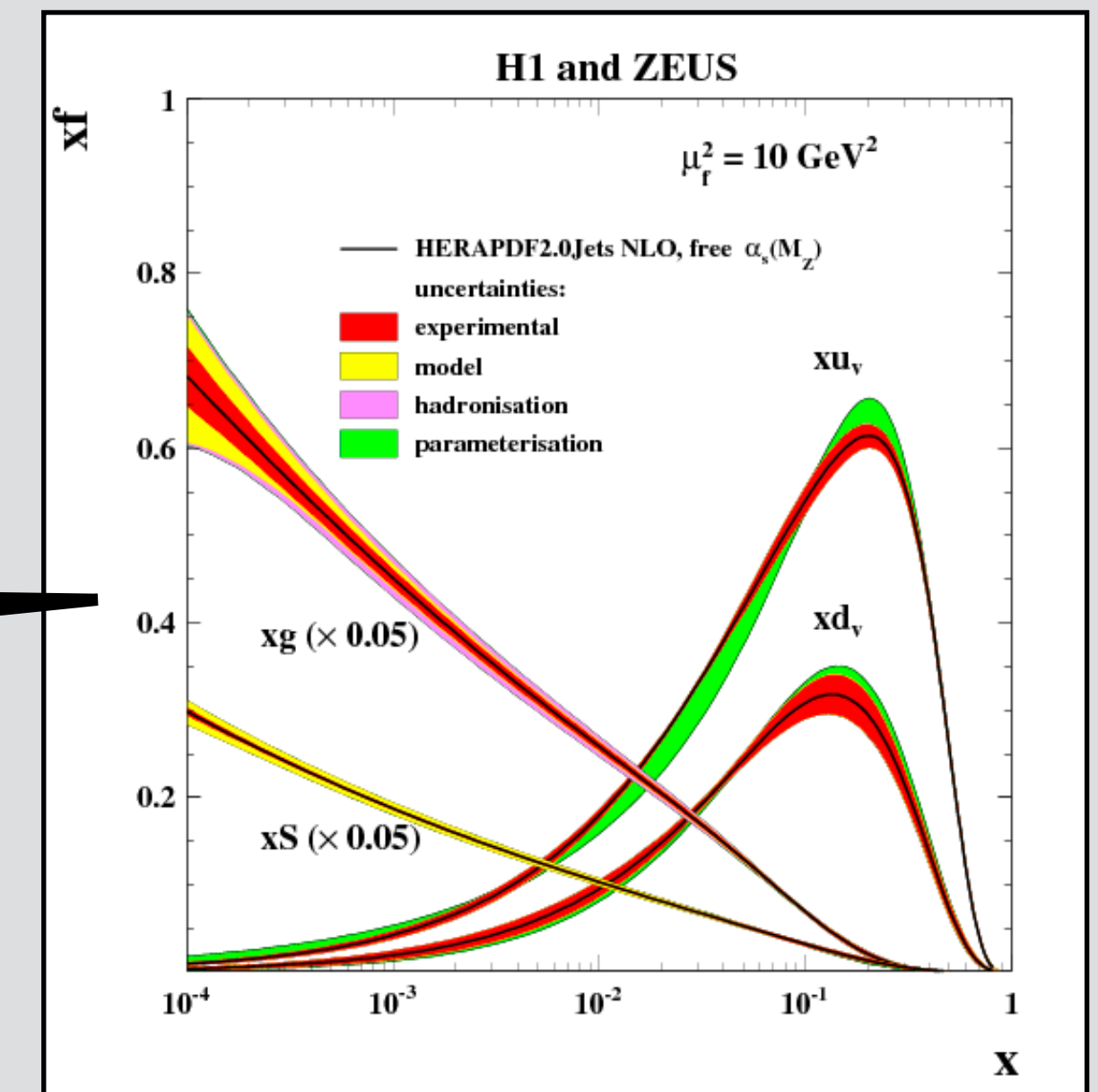
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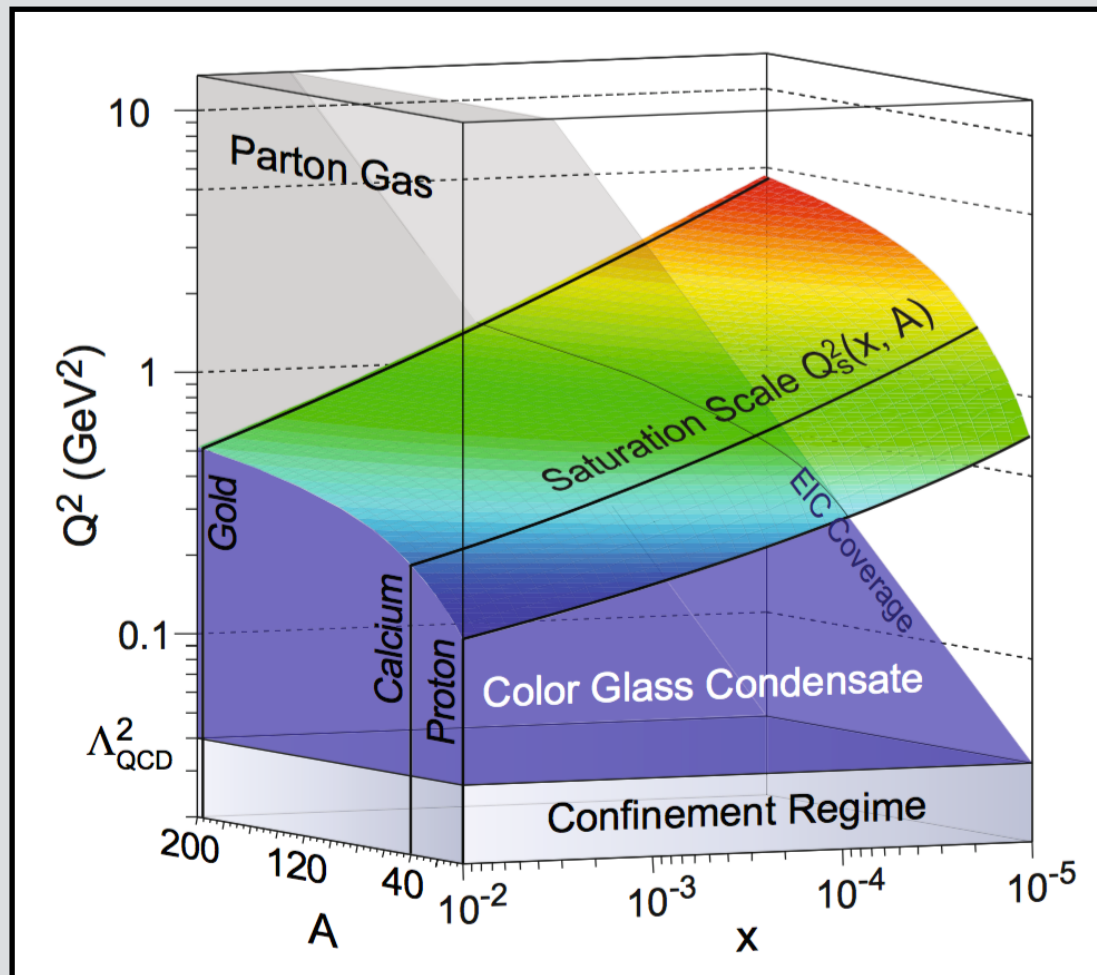


H1 and Zeus, EPCJ 75 (2015) 580

What can we learn about the structure of hadrons at high energies with the LHC?

# Key questions we are interested in

Saturation is expected to set at higher  $x$  in heavy nuclei



Accardi et al, EPJA 52 (2016) 268

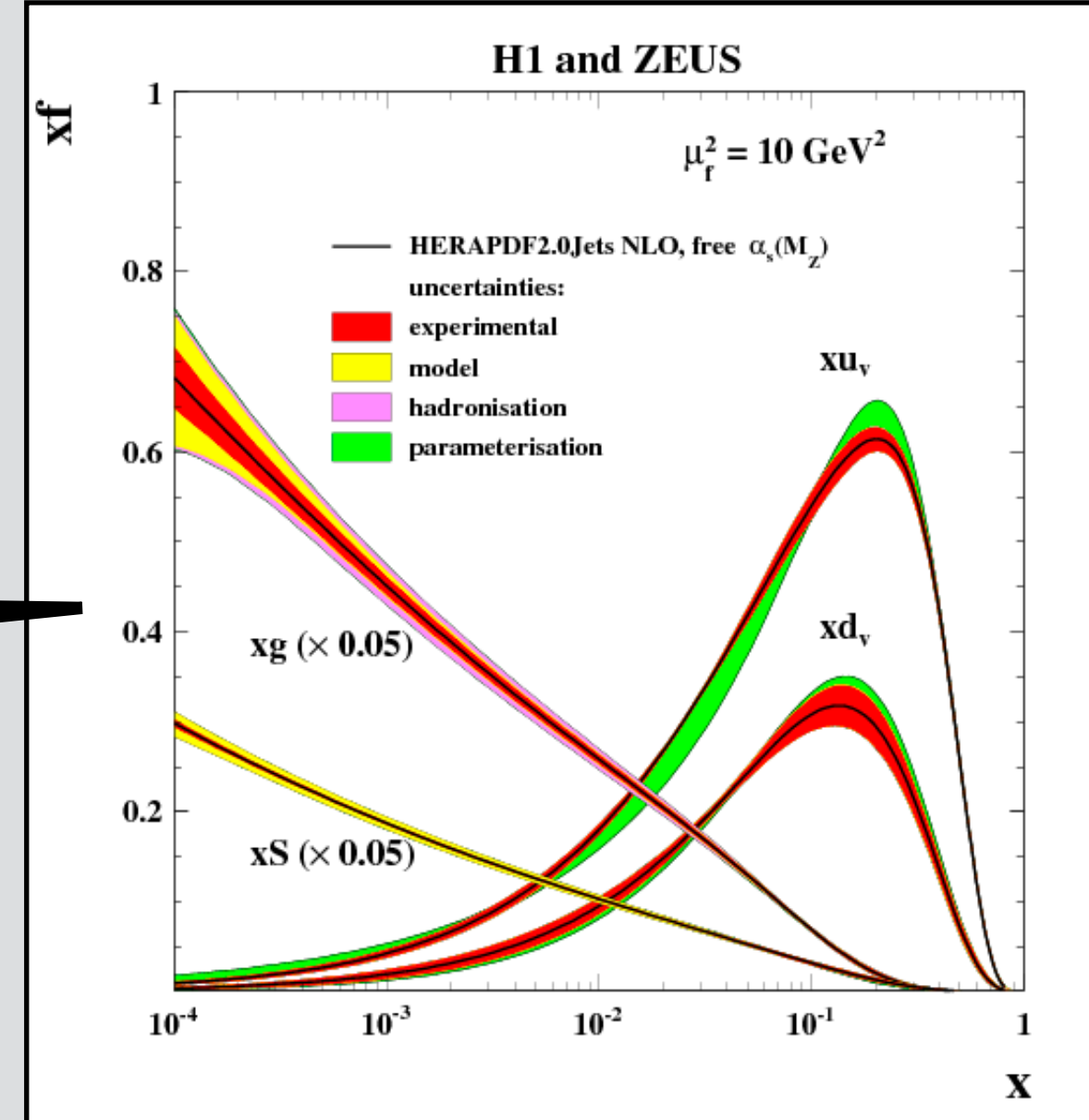
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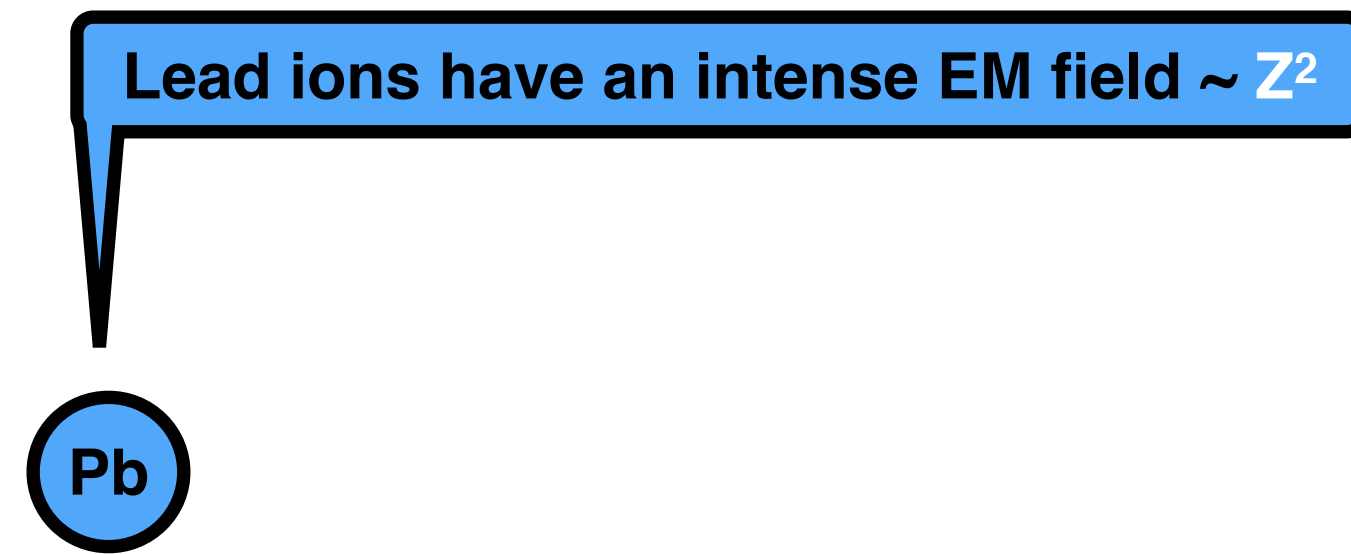


H1 and Zeus, EPCJ 75 (2015) 580

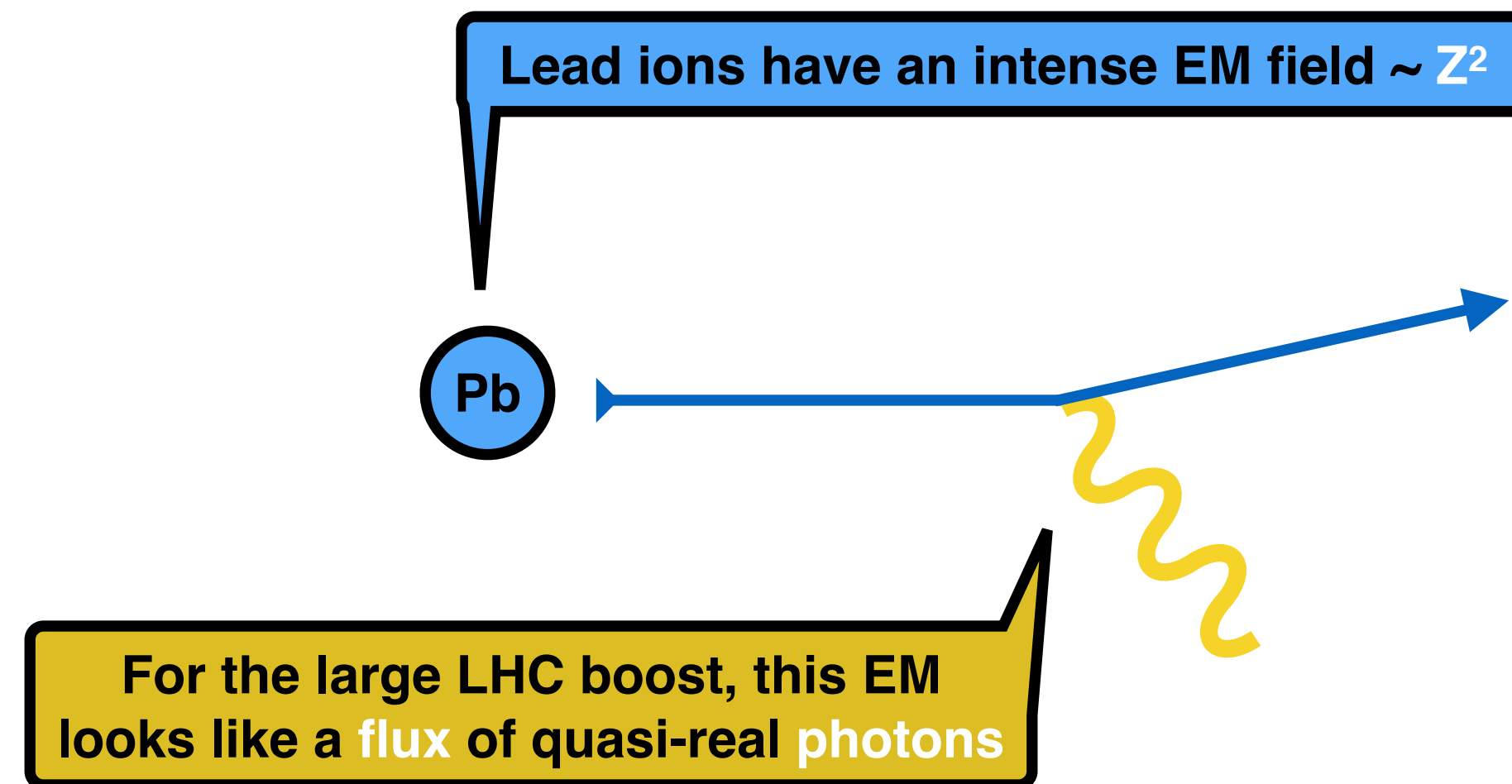
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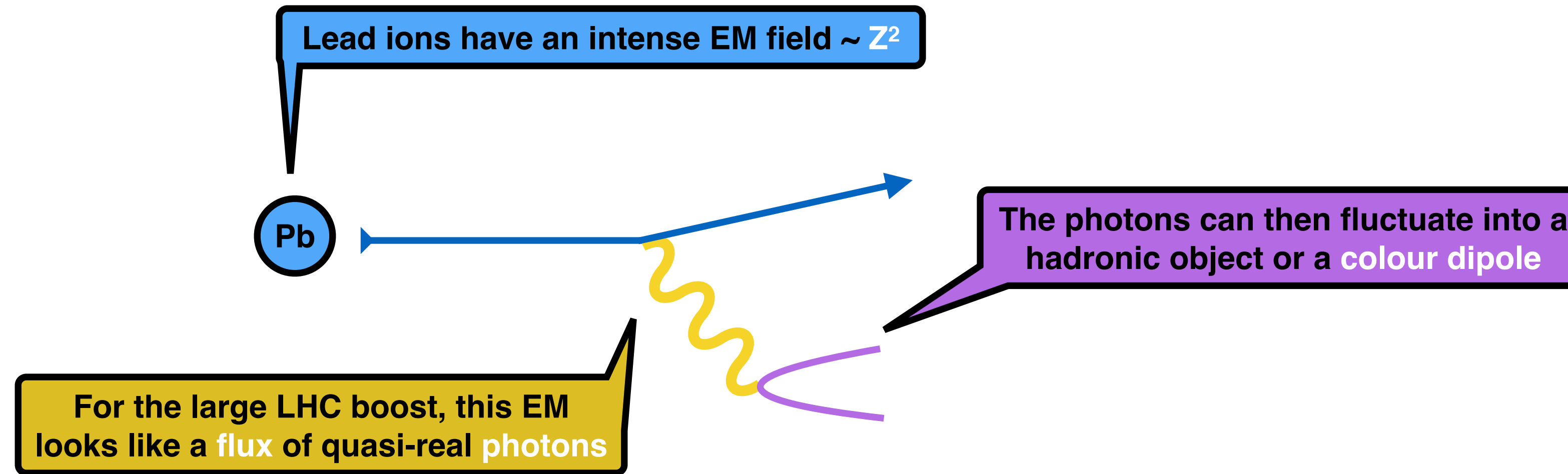
# Photons at the LHC to understand QCD



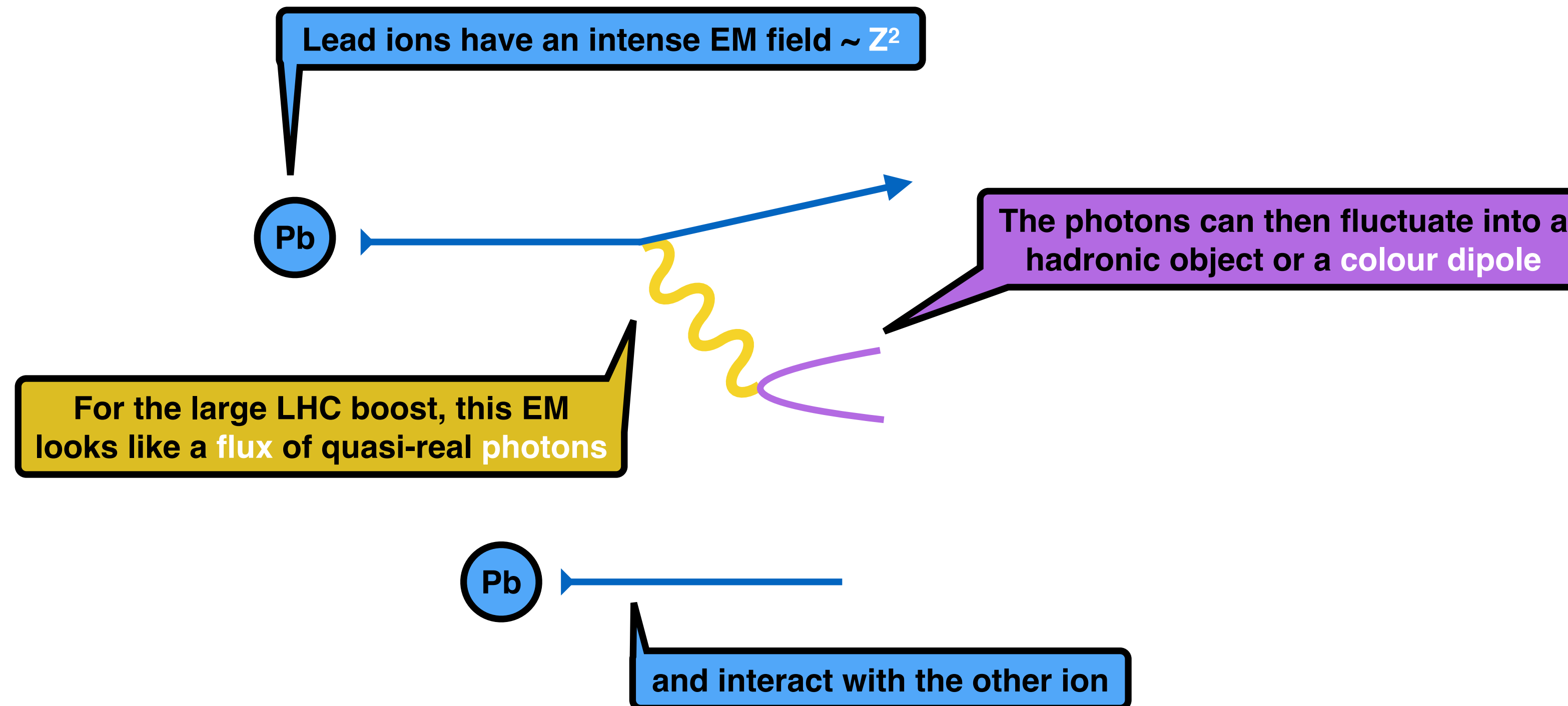
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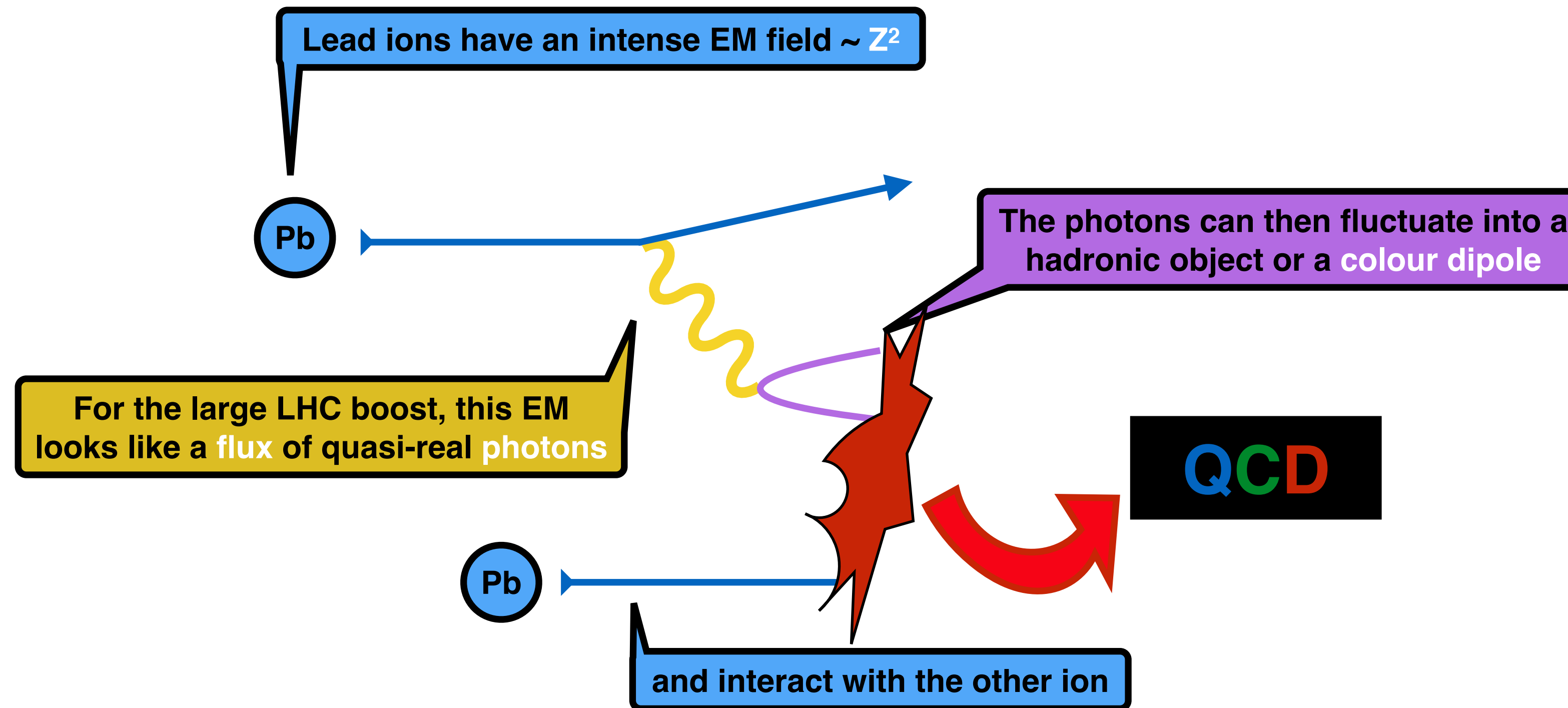
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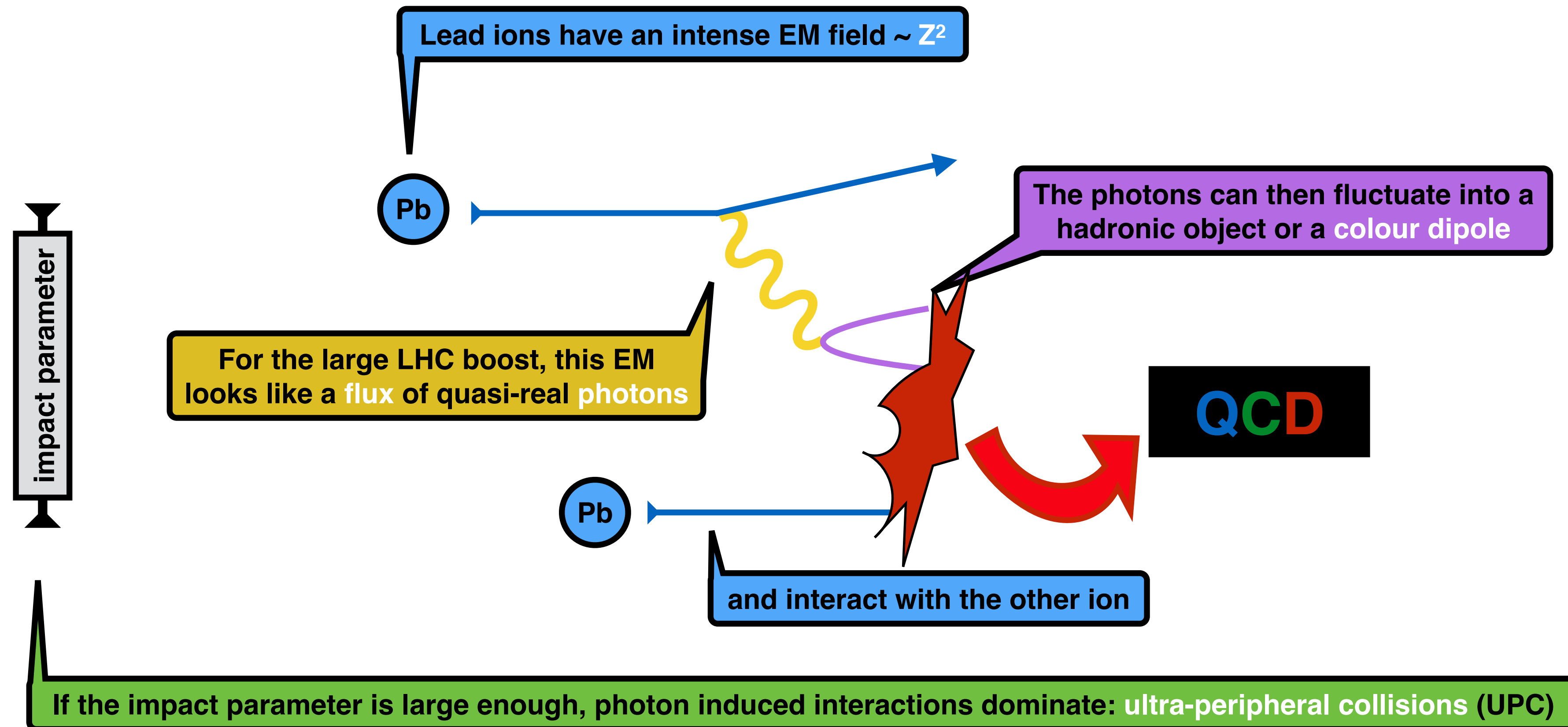


# Photons at the LHC to understand QCD





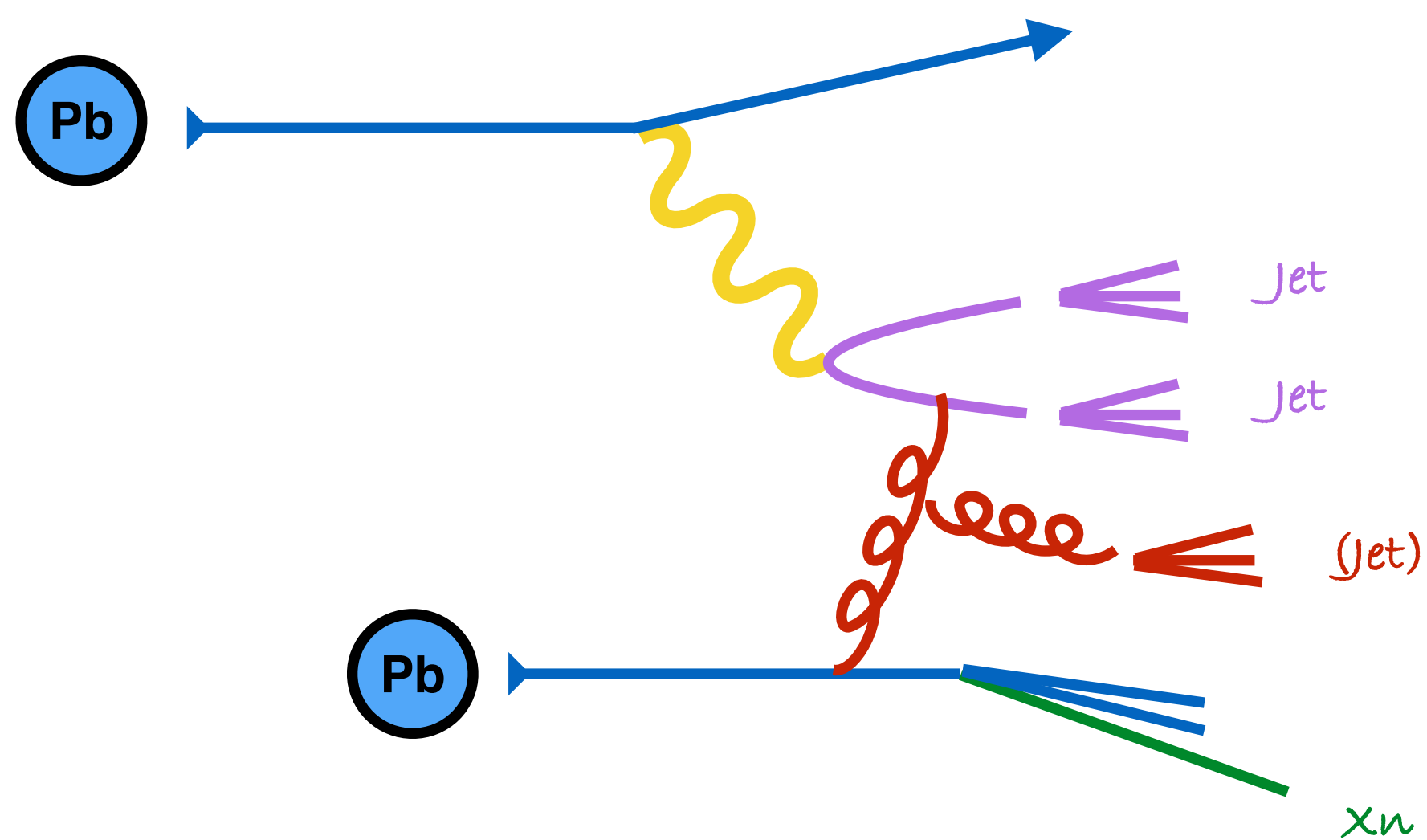
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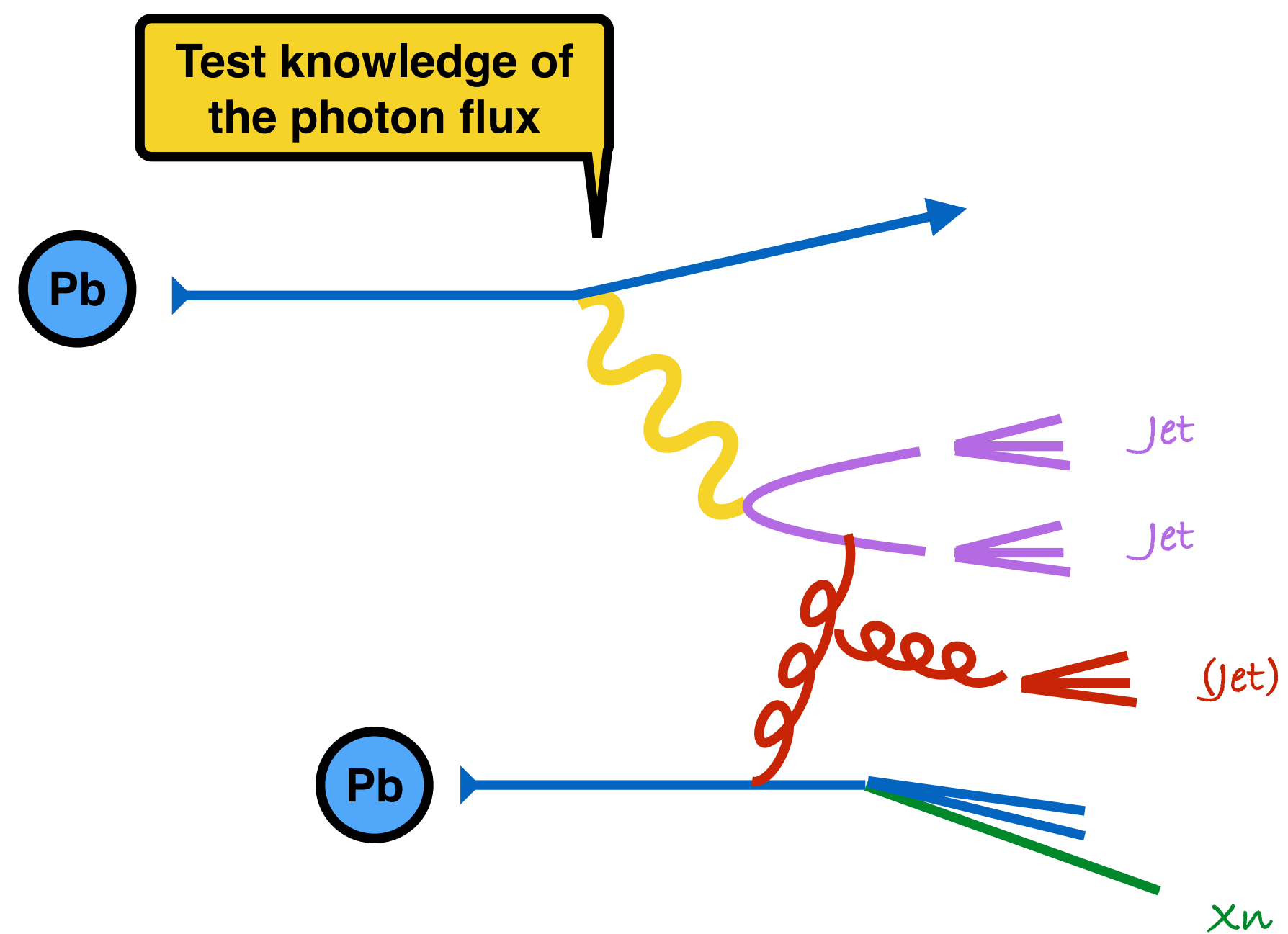


## Jet production in Pb-Pb UPC

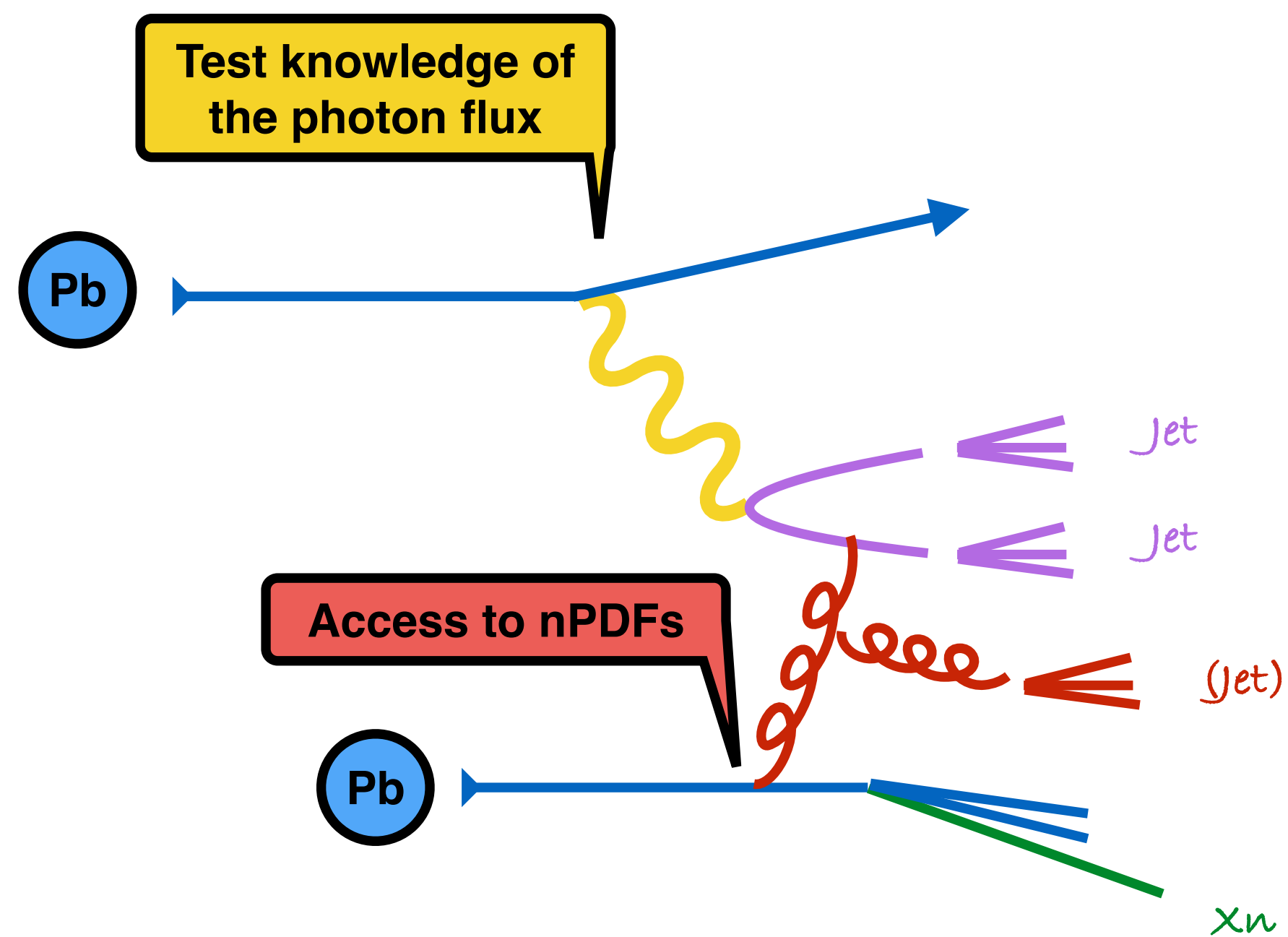
## The process:



## The process:

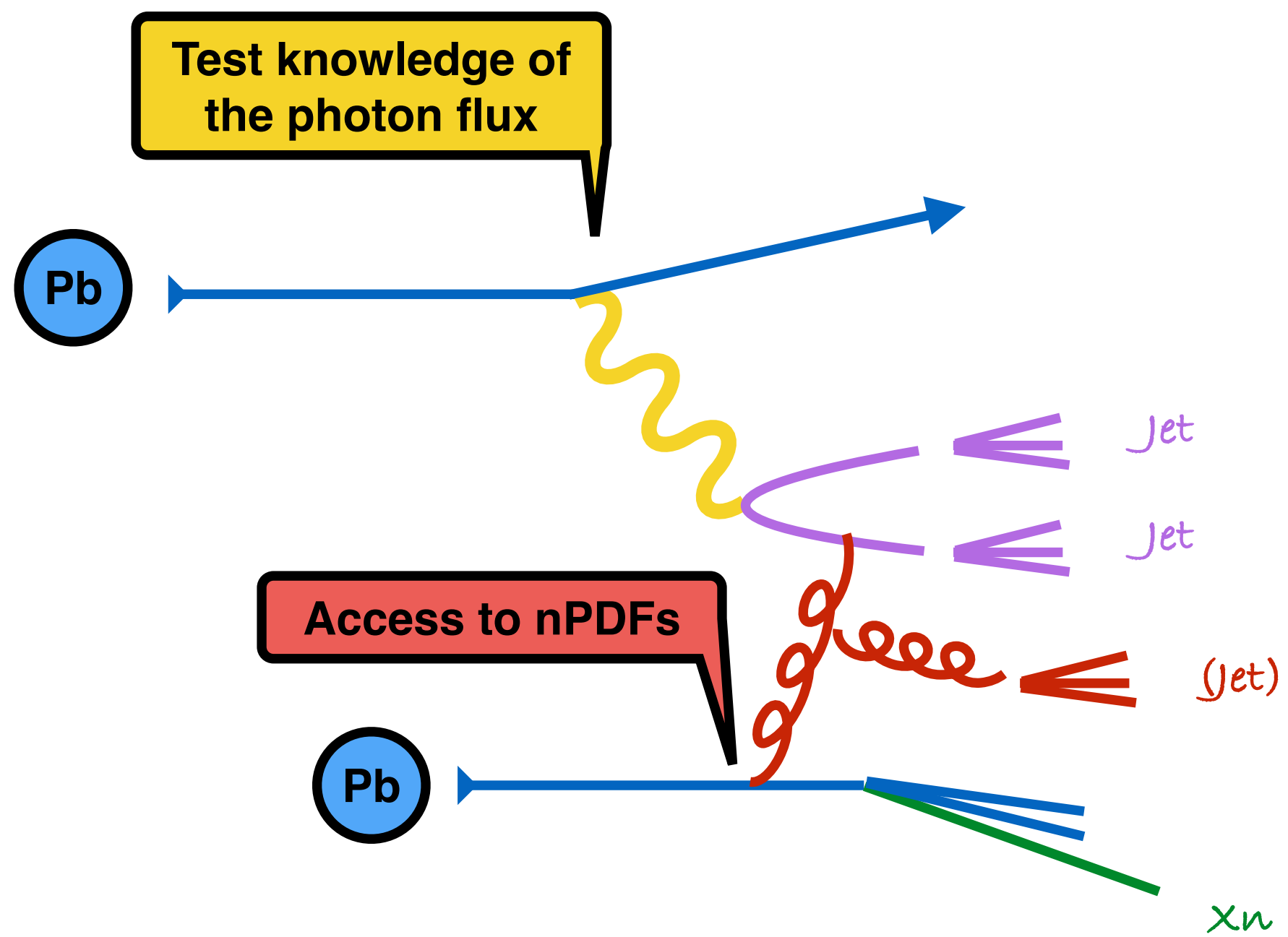


The process:





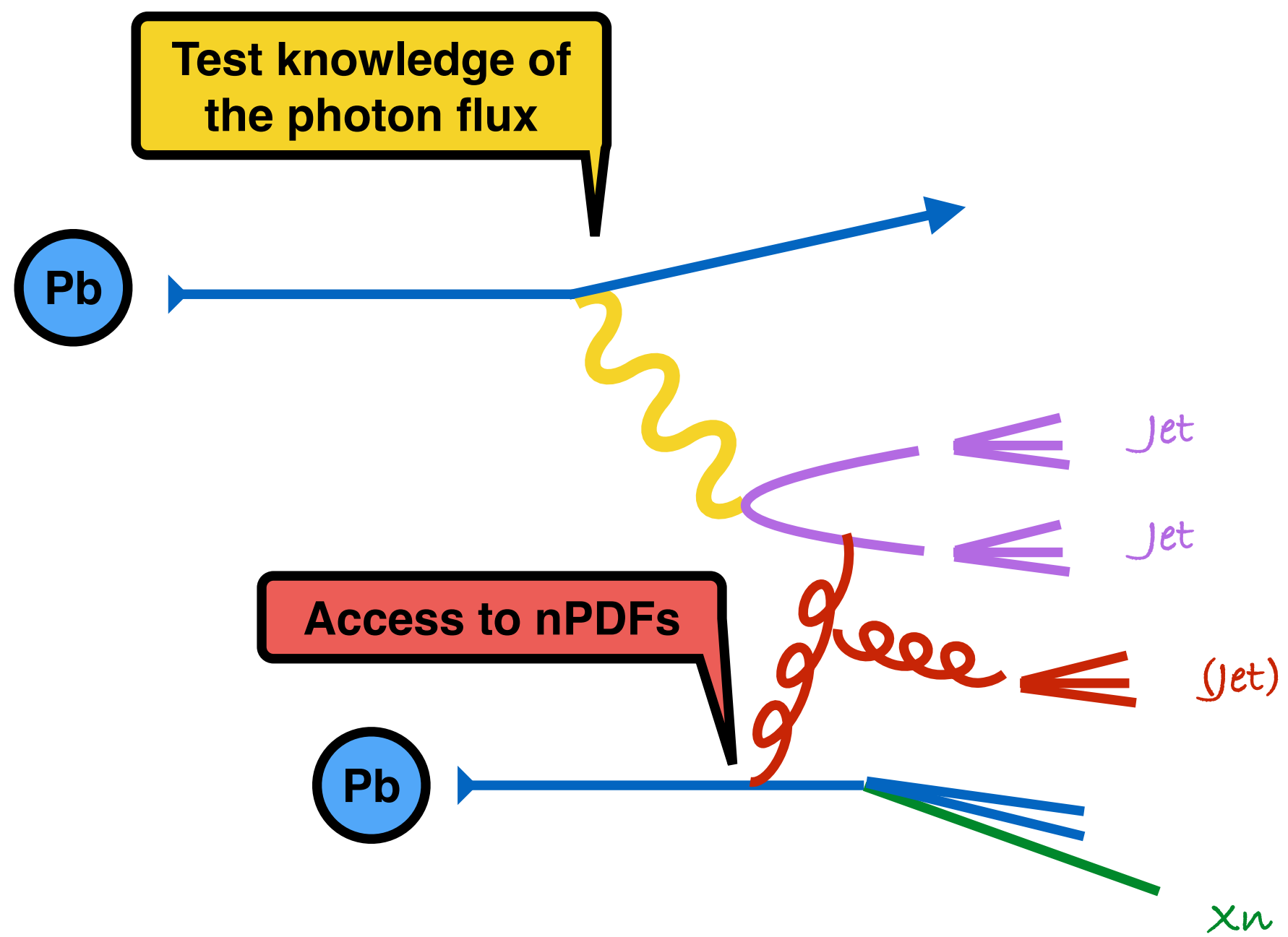
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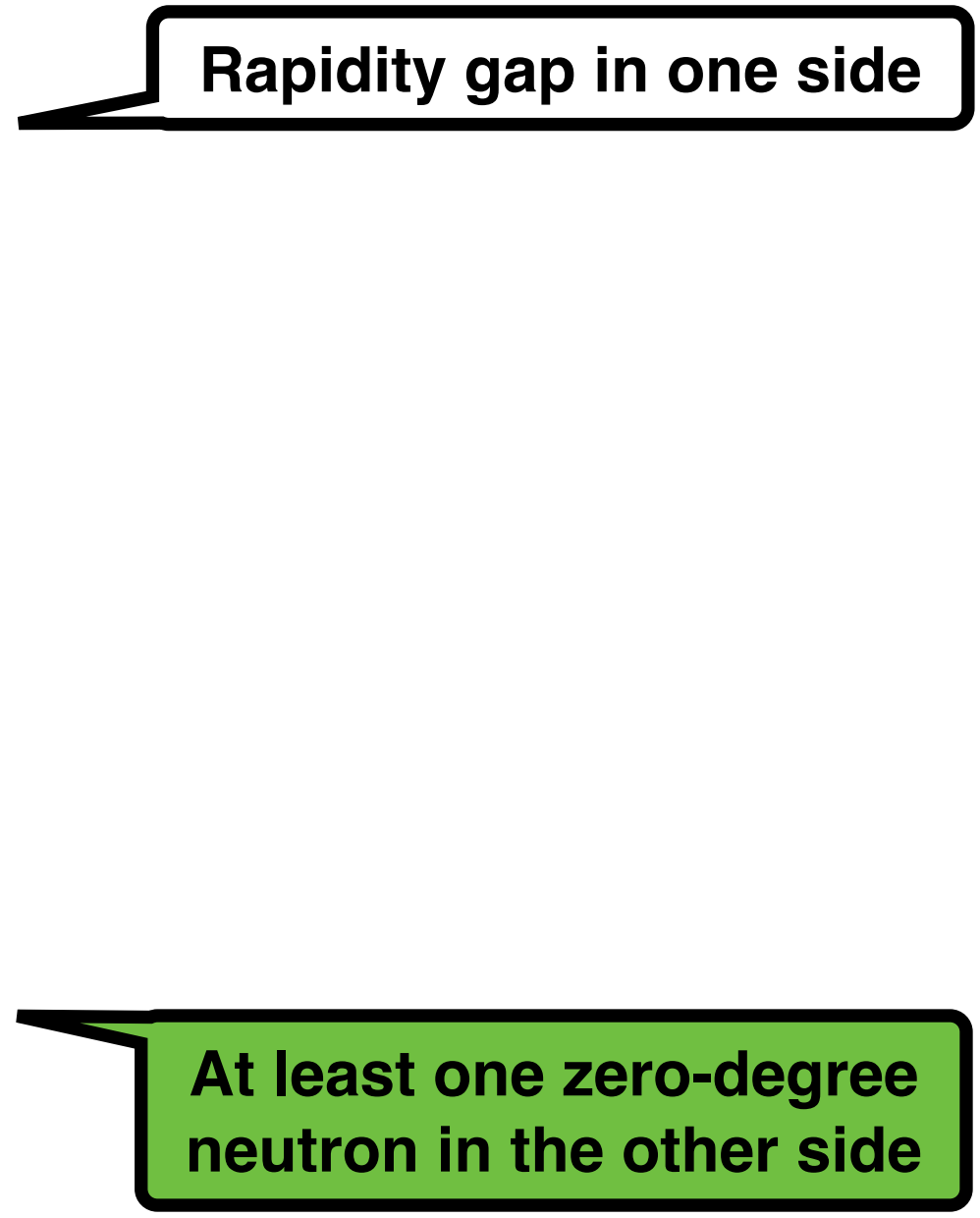
## Selection:

Rapidity gap in one side

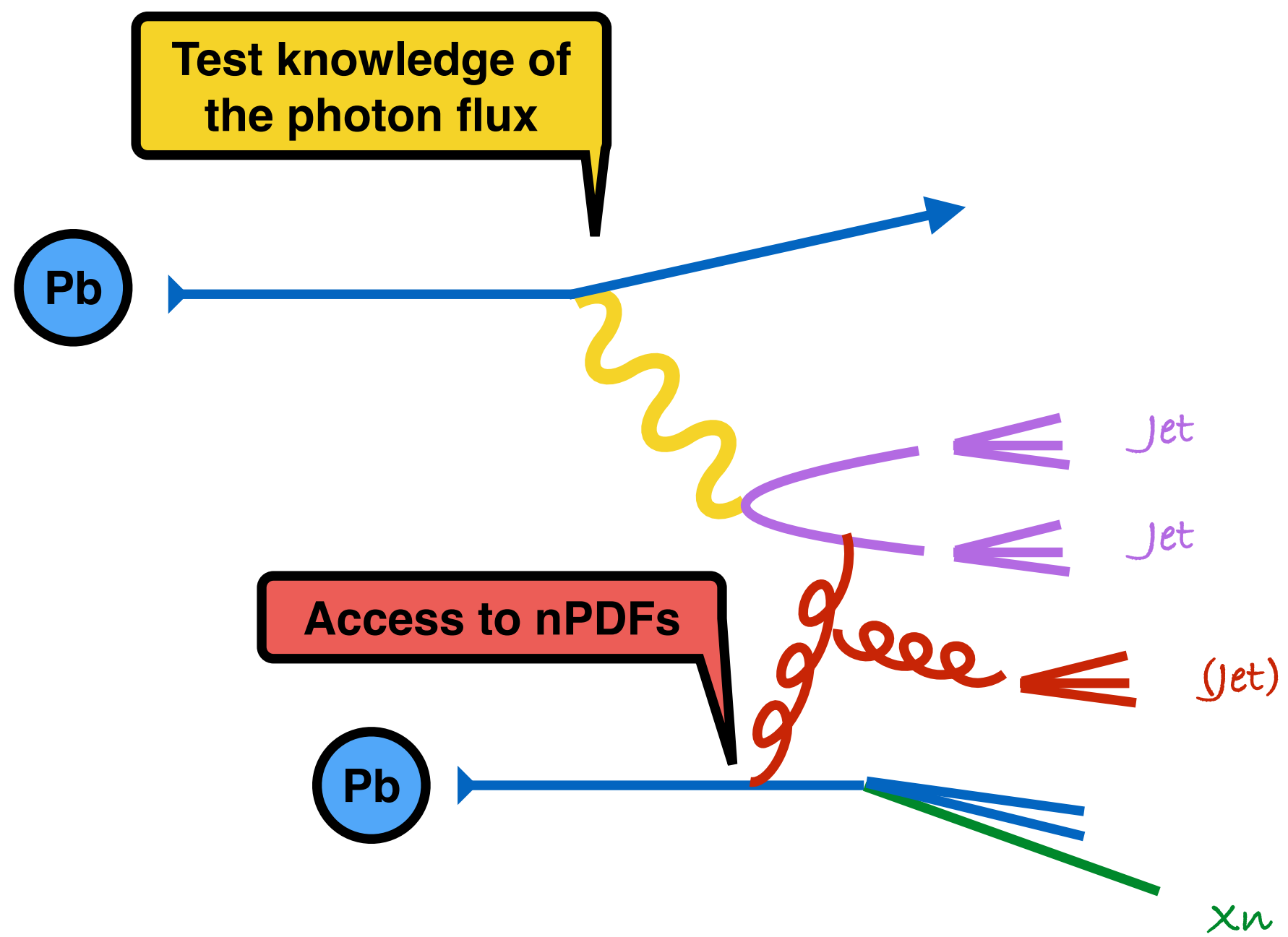
## The process:



## Selection:



## The process:



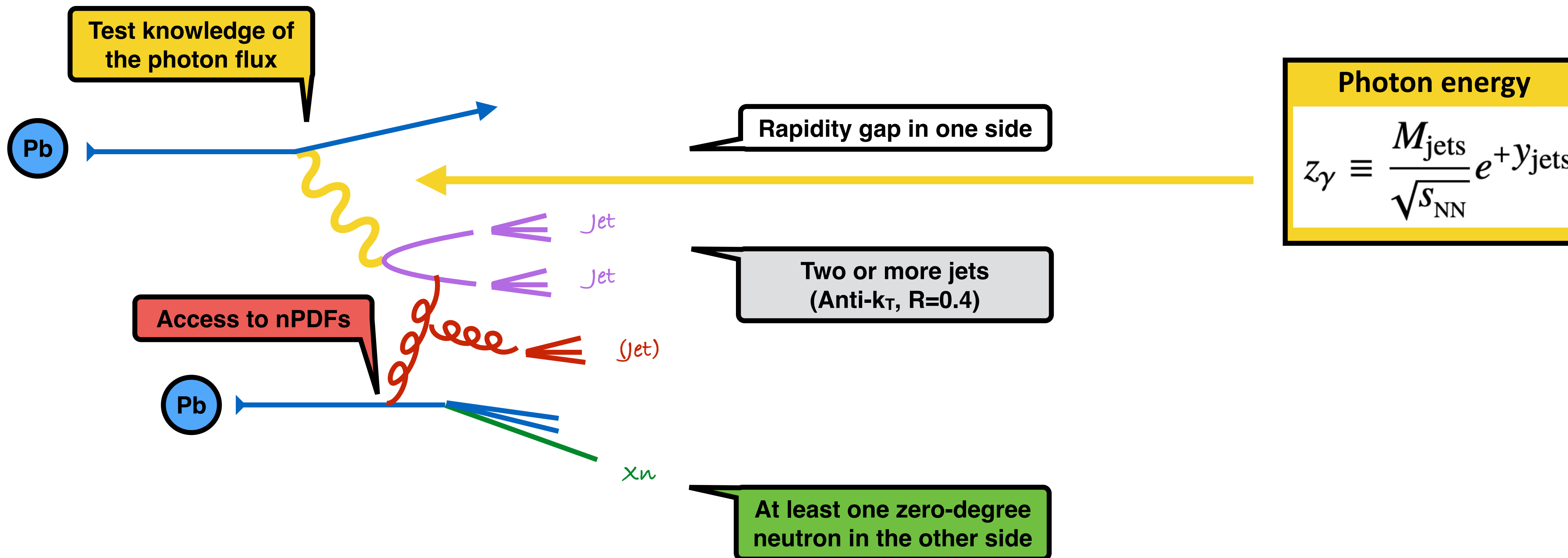
## Selection:

- Rapidity gap in one side
- Two or more jets (Anti- $k_T$ ,  $R=0.4$ )
- At least one zero-degree neutron in the other side

## The process:

## Selection:

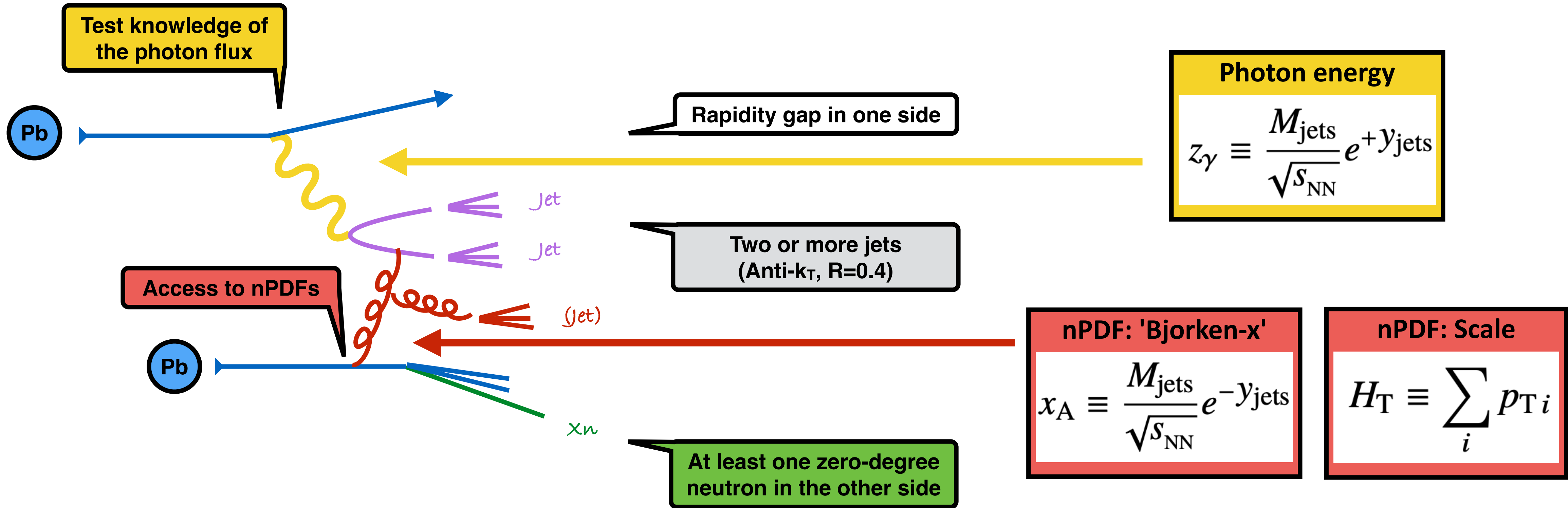
## Kinematics:



## The process:

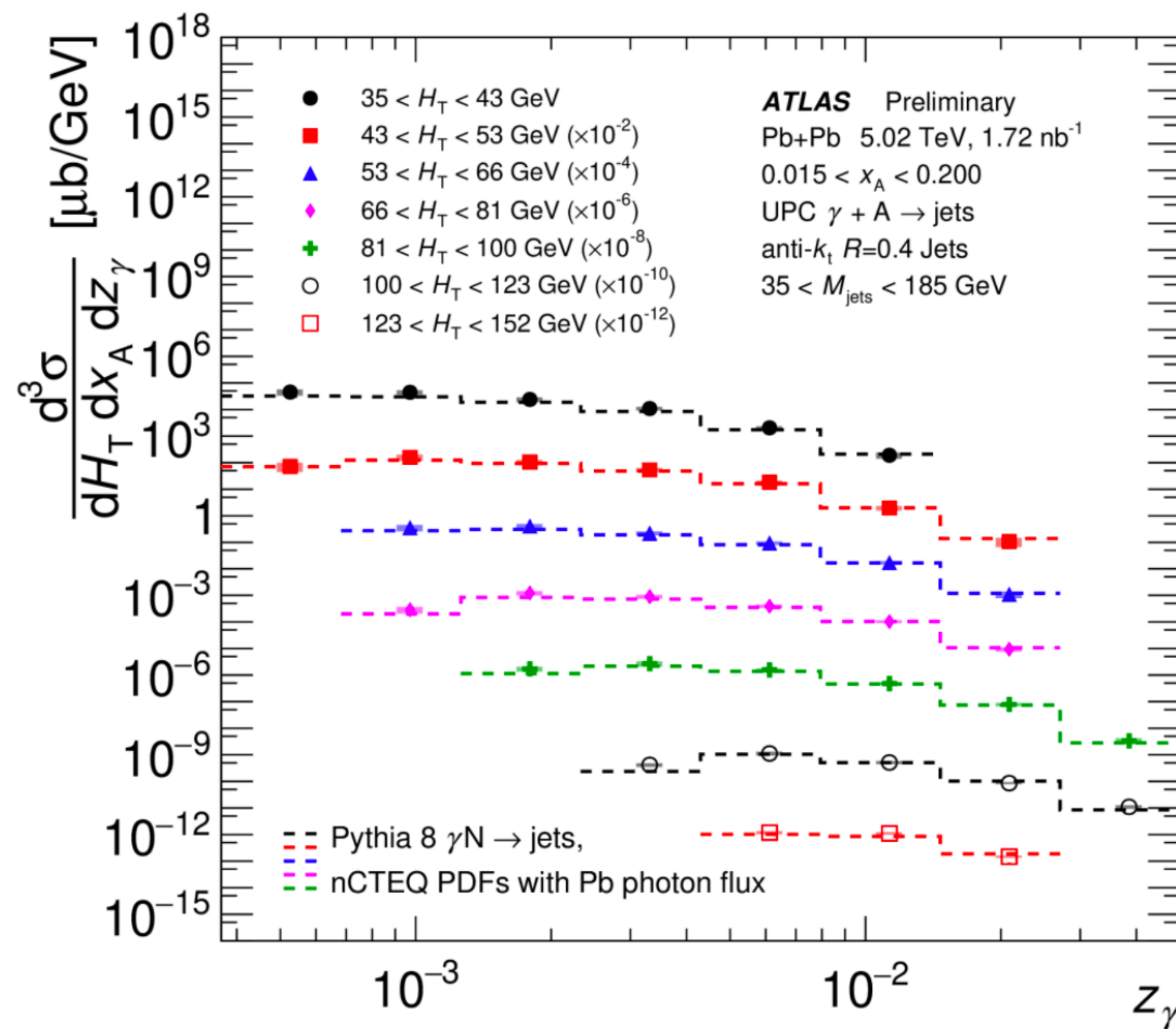
## Selection:

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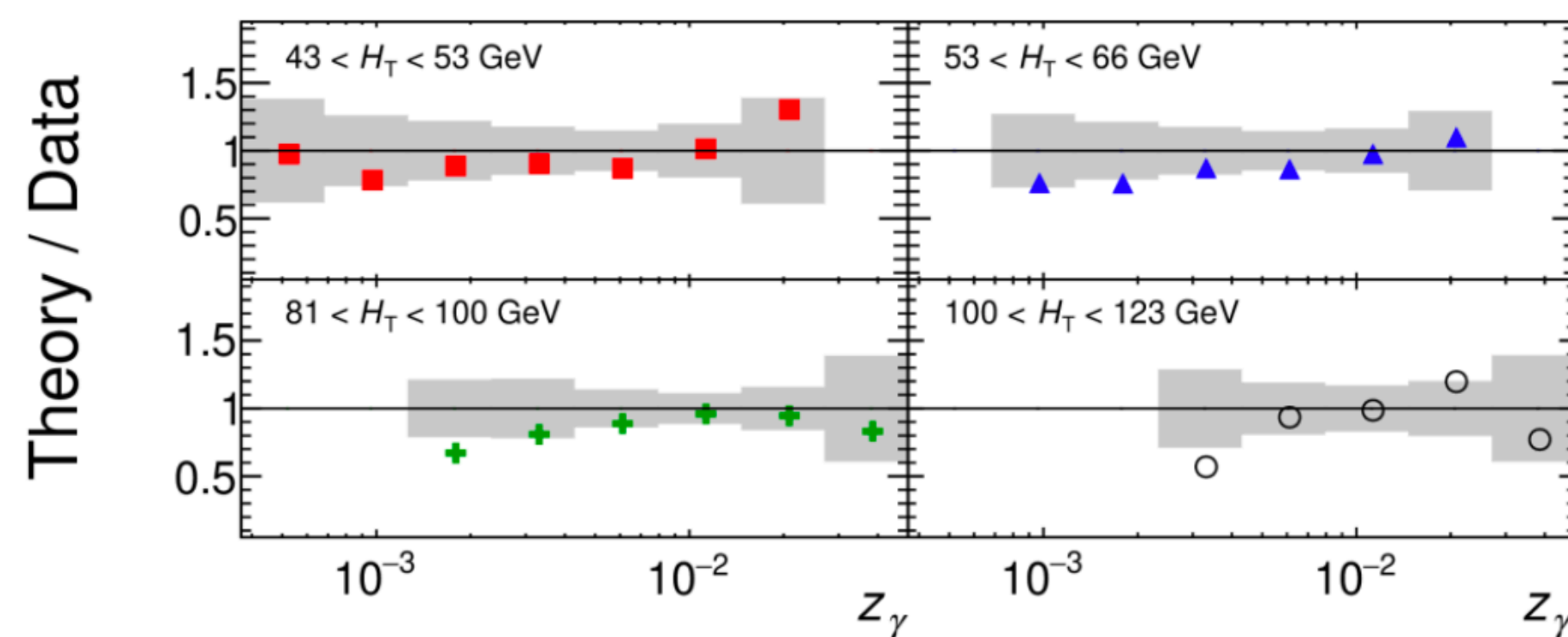




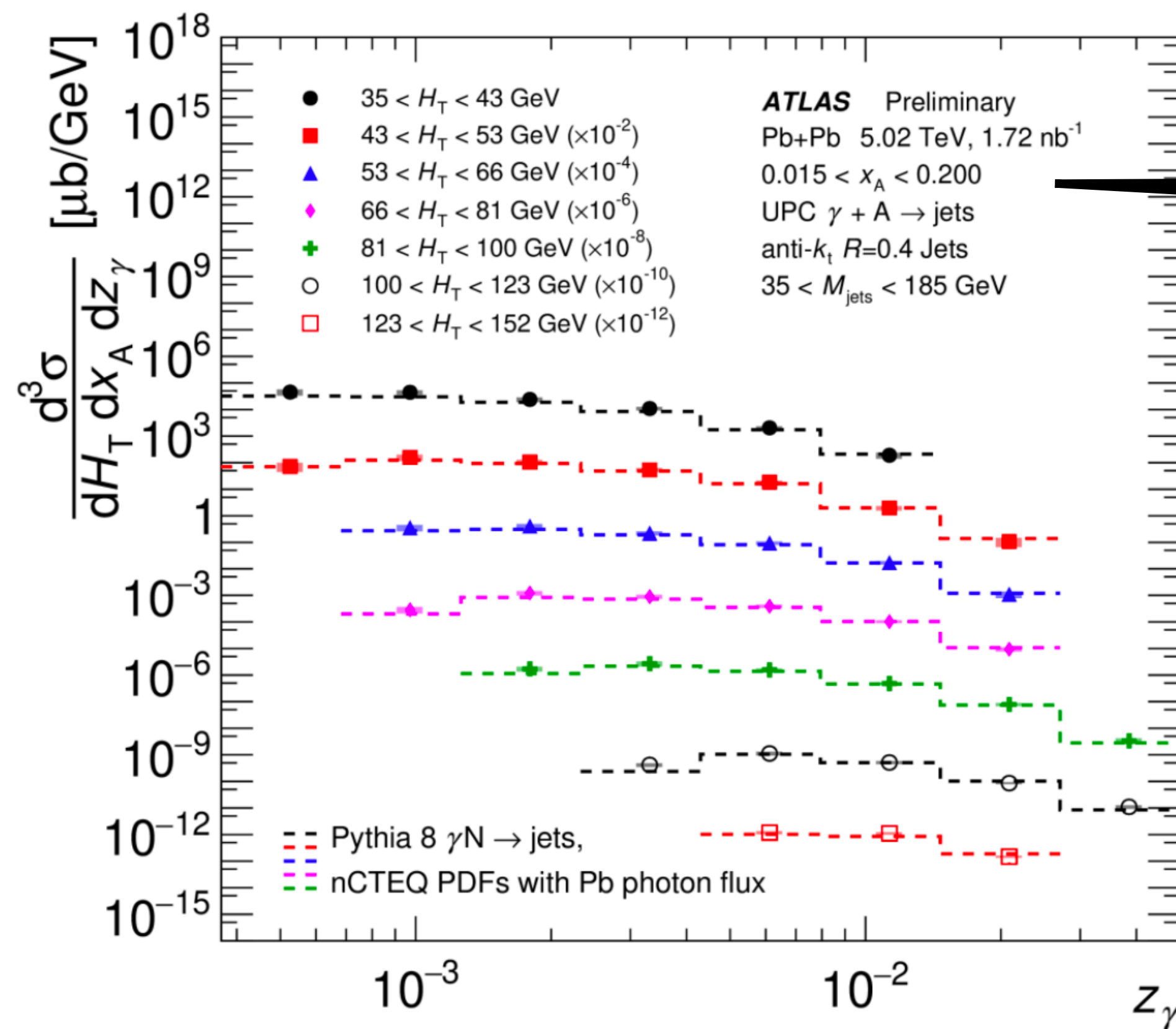
Triple differential cross section



Photon energy

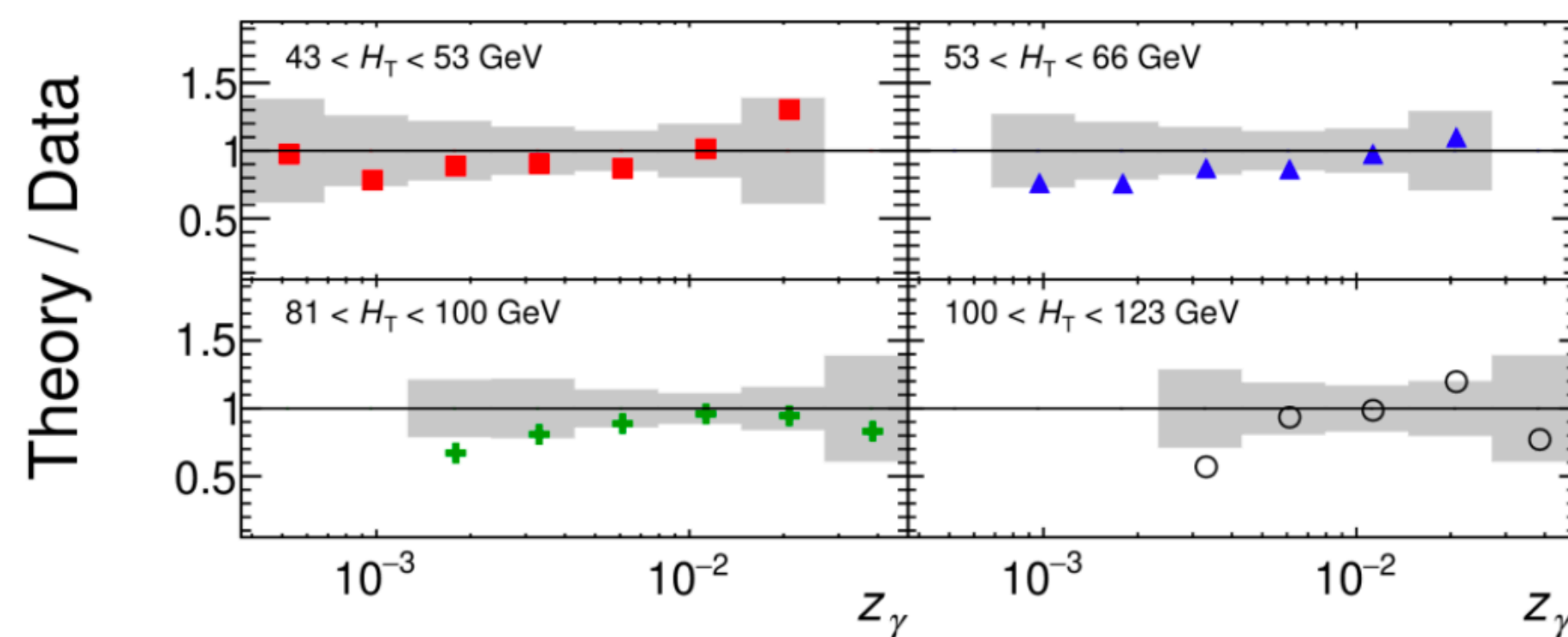


Triple differential cross section

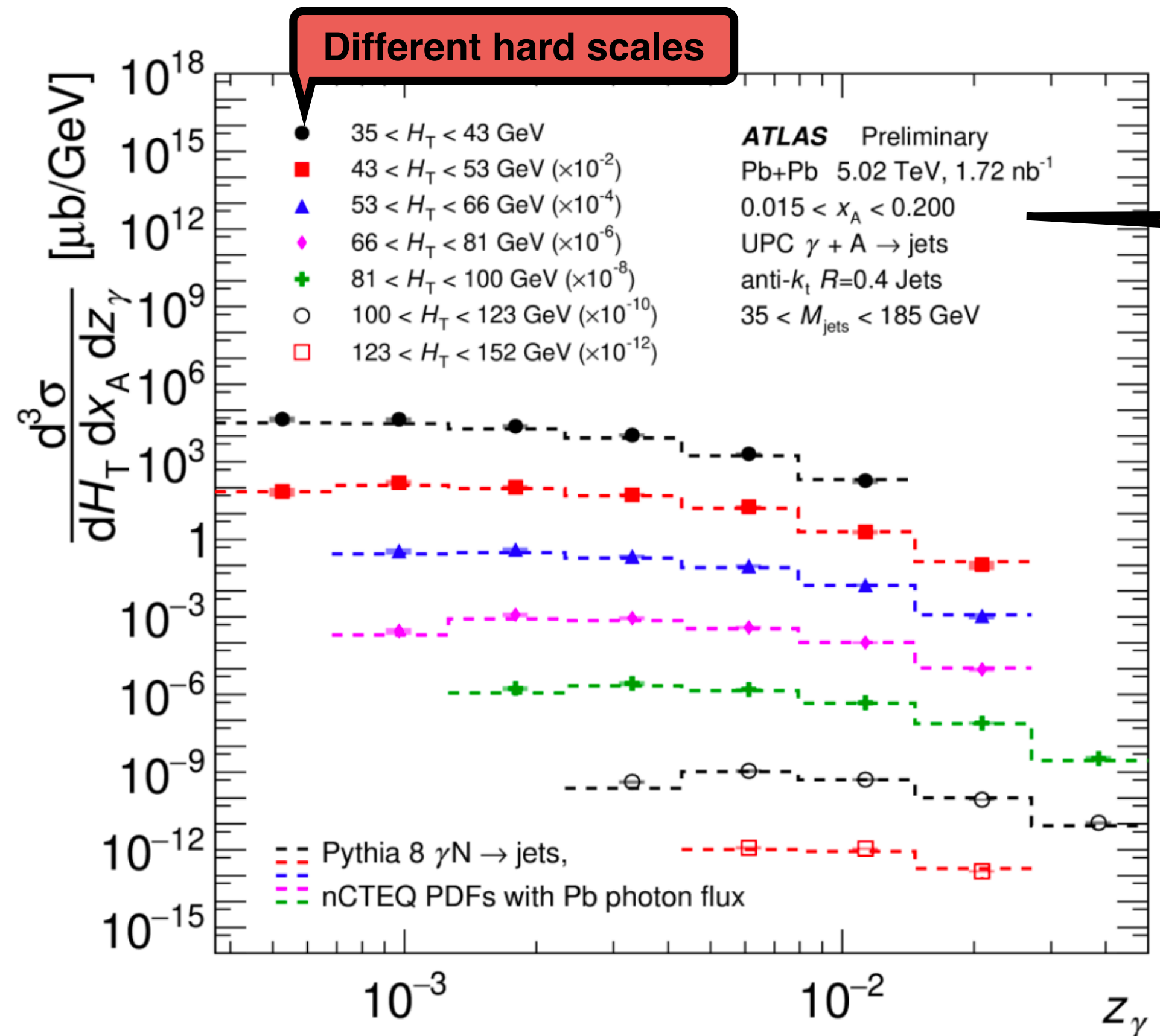


Fixed x<sub>A</sub>

Photon energy

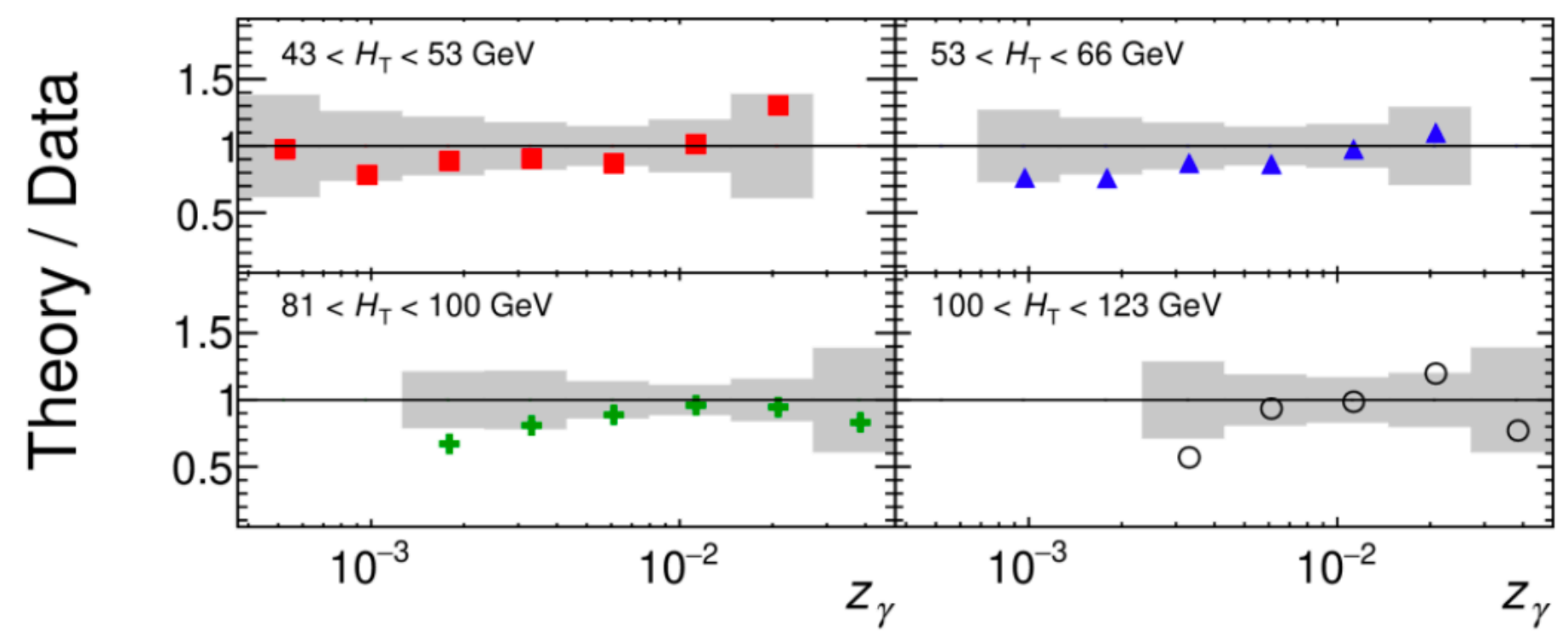


Triple differential cross section



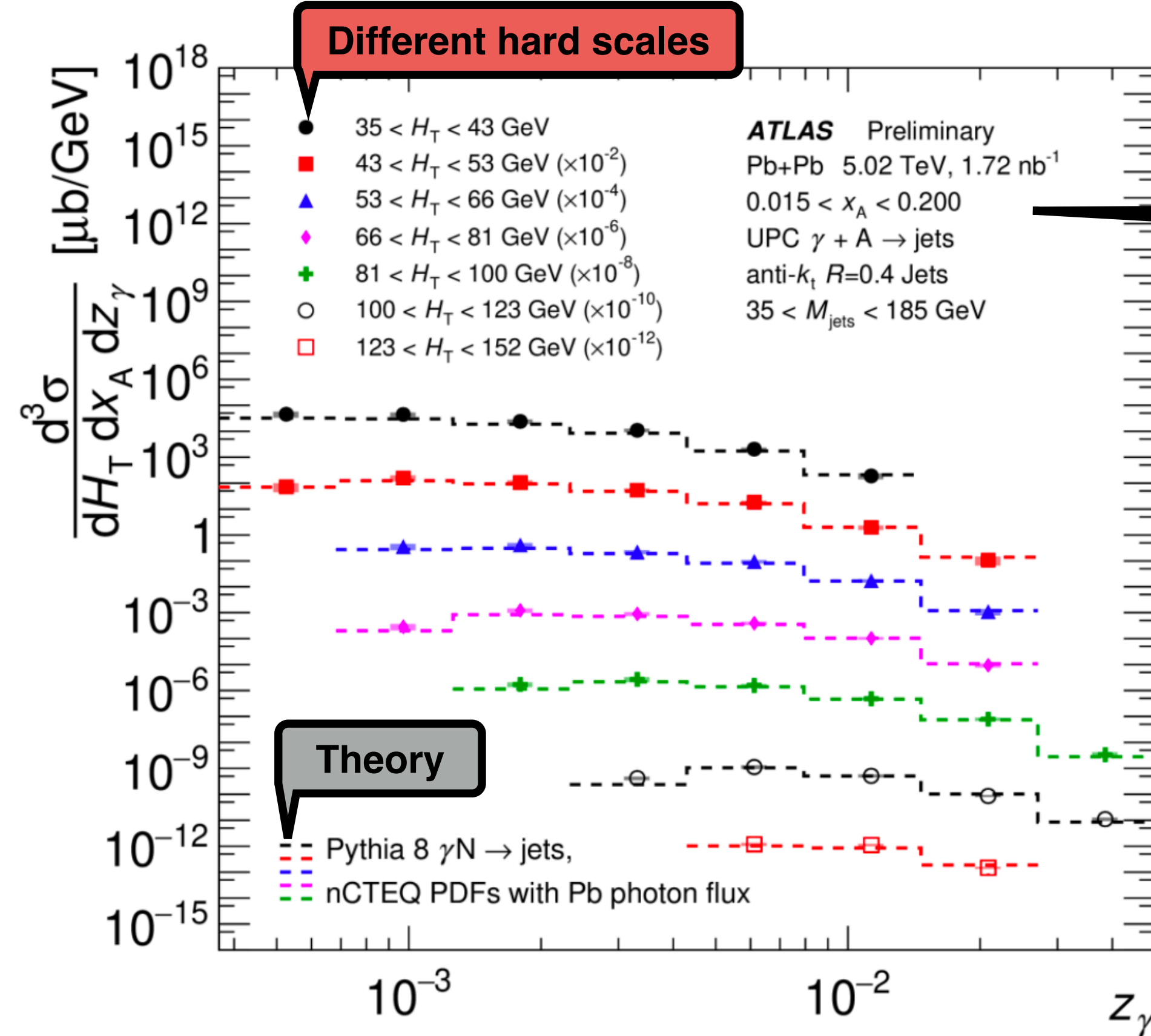
Fixed  $x_A$

Photon energy



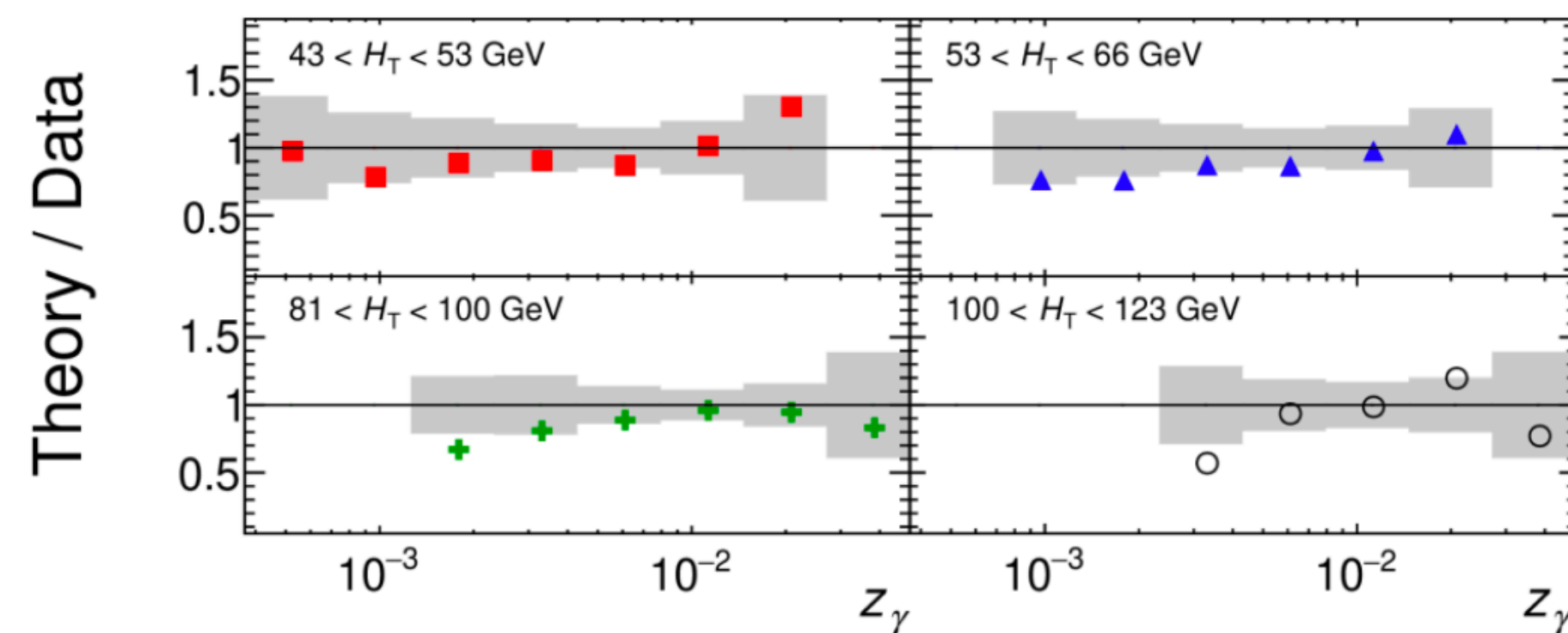


Triple differential cross section

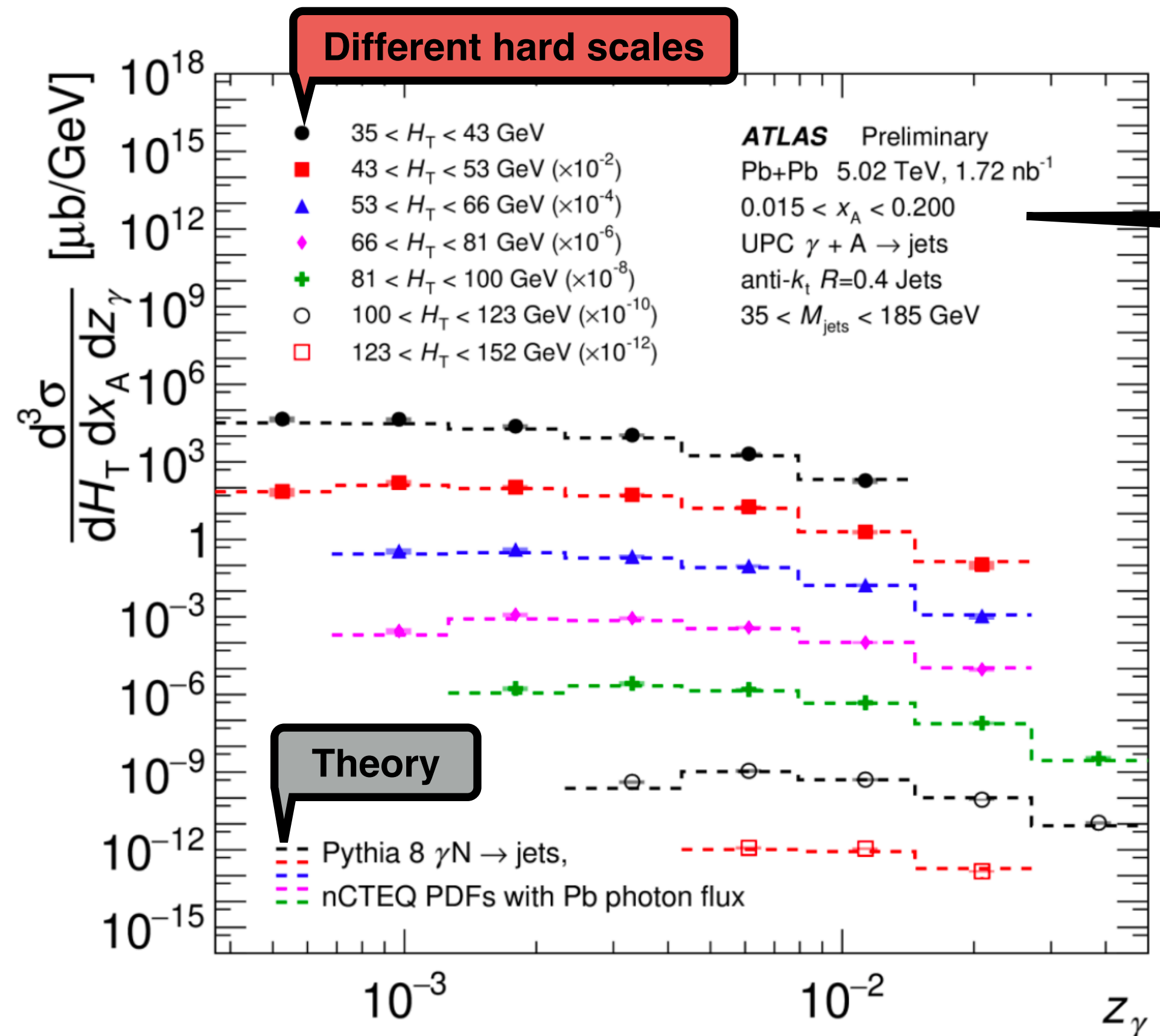


Fixed  $x_A$

Photon energy

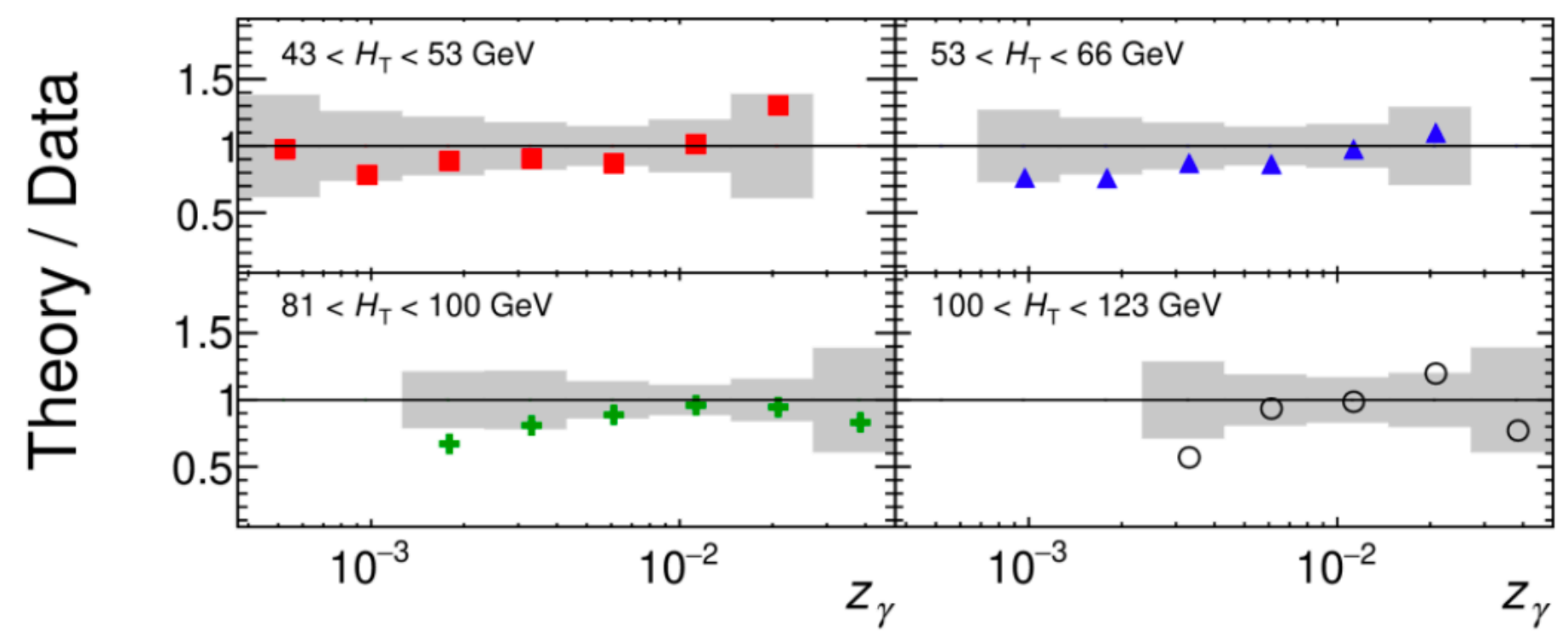


Triple differential cross section



Fixed  $x_A$

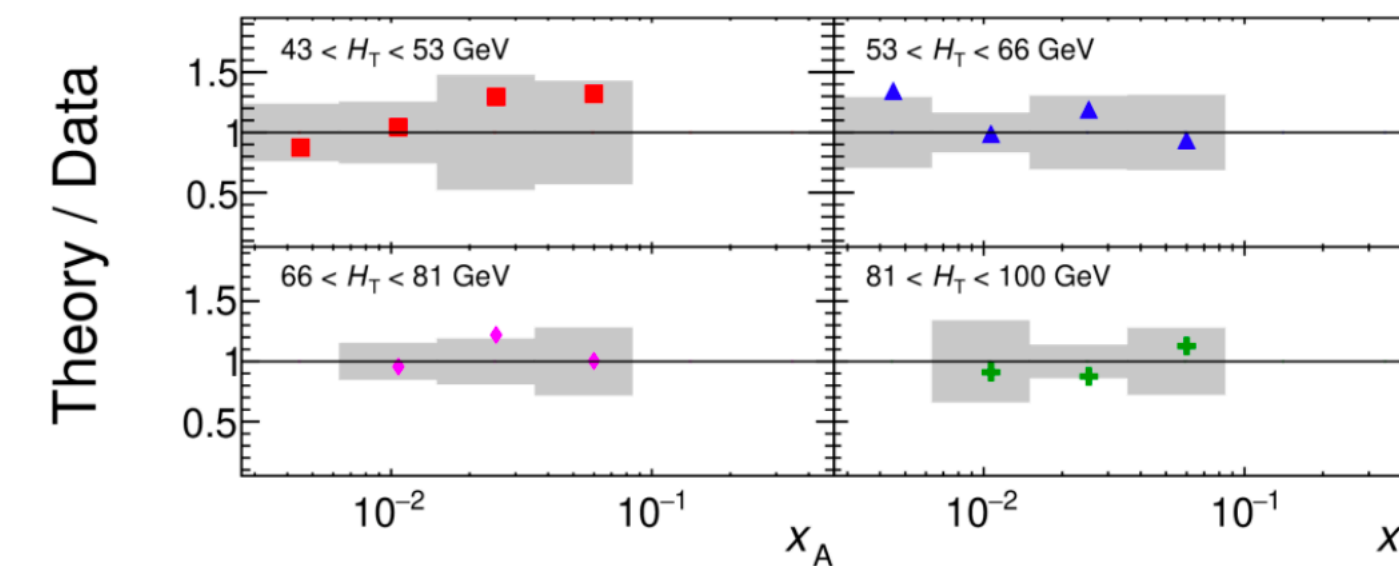
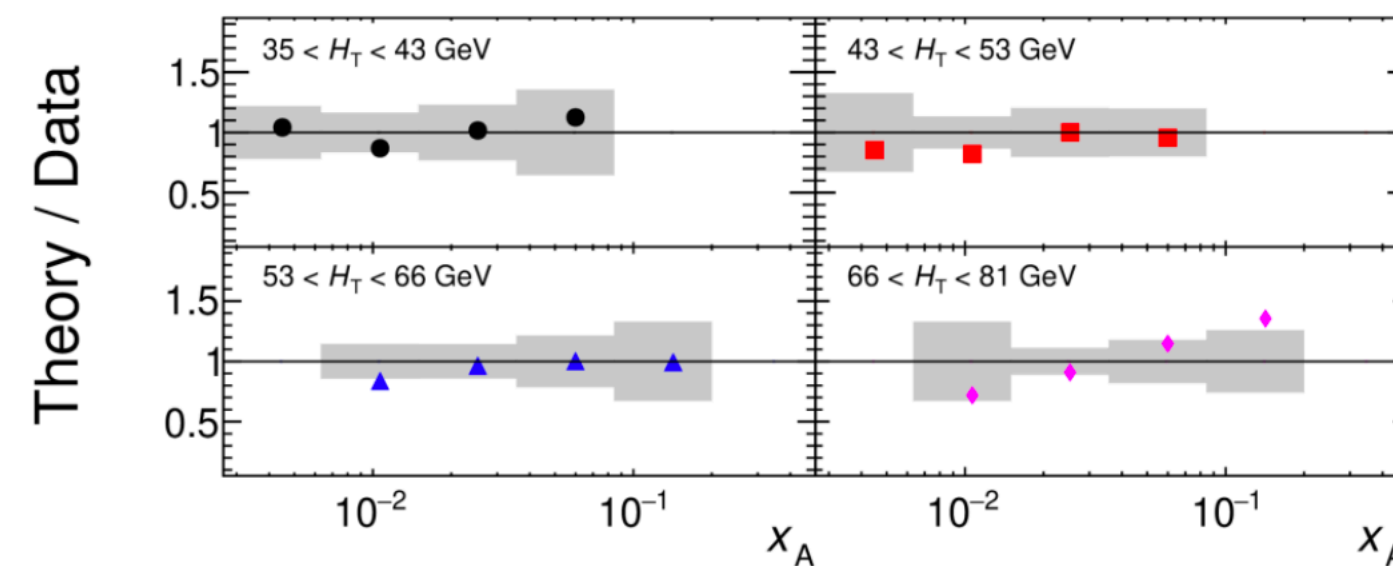
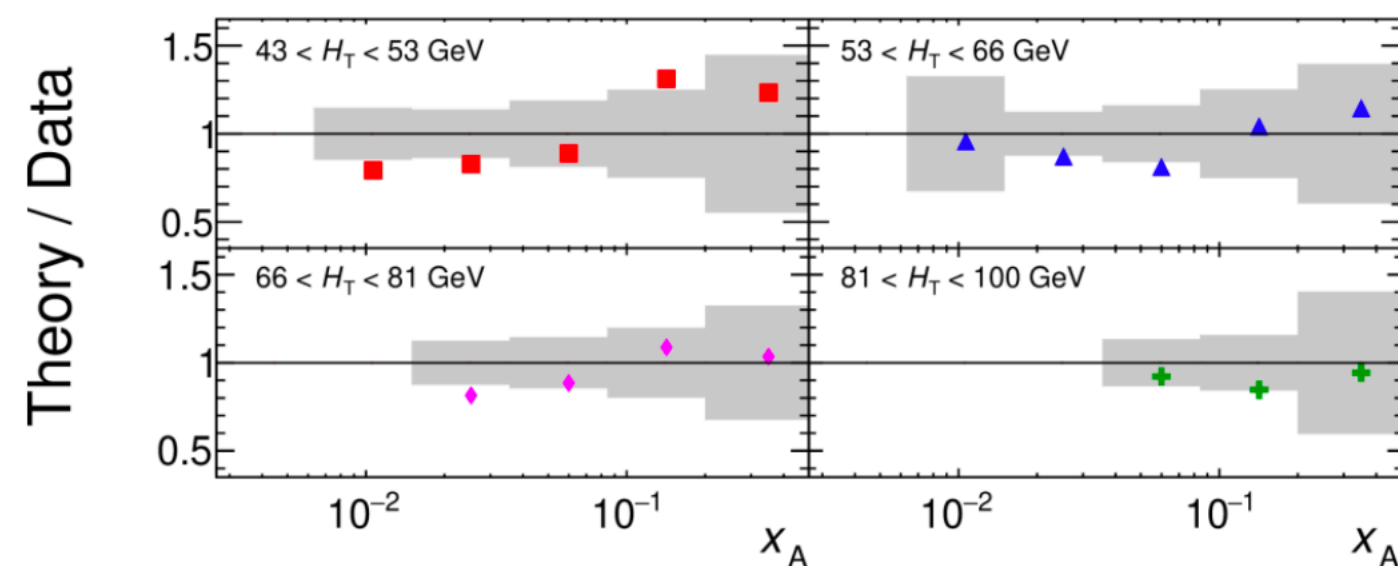
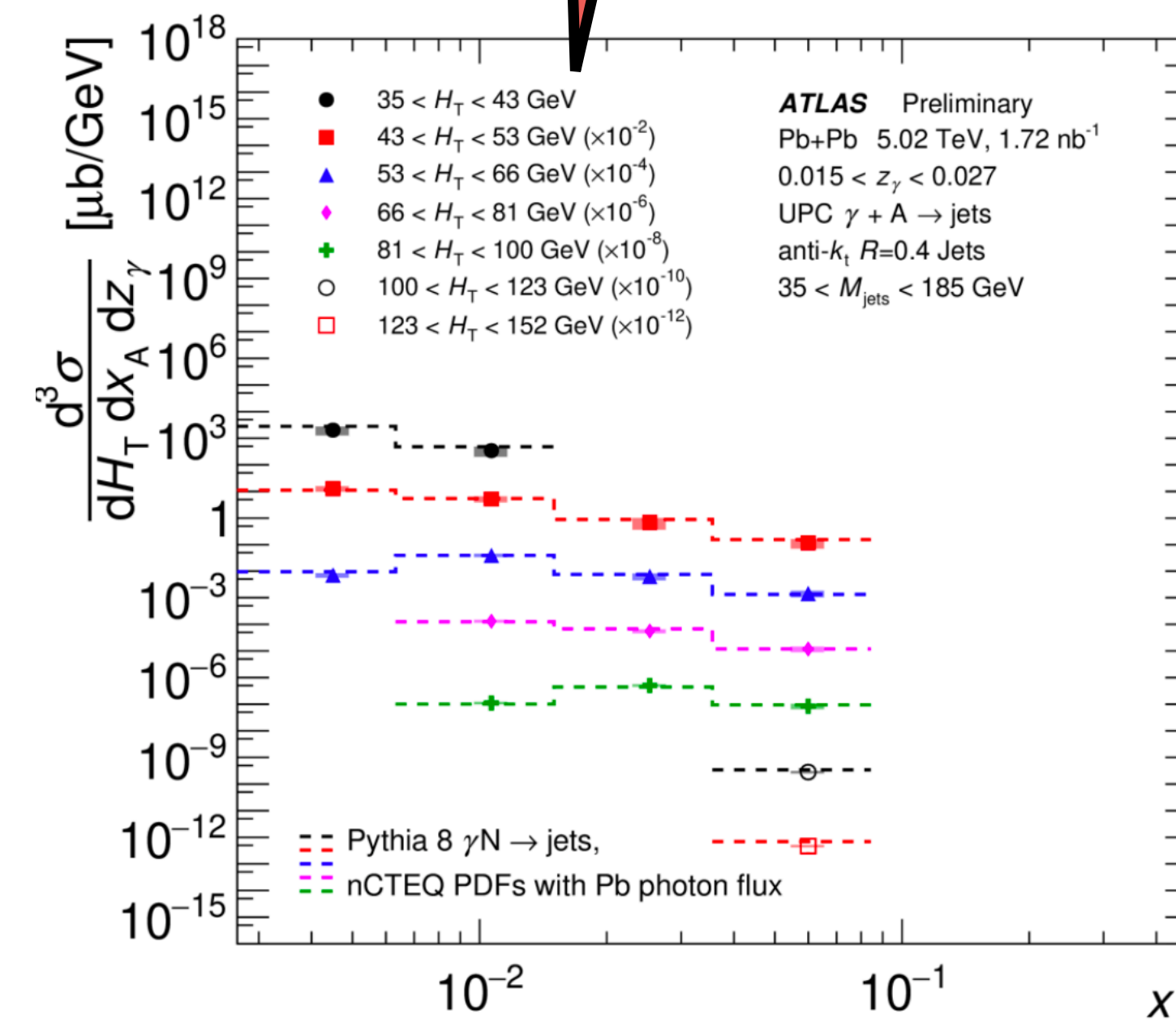
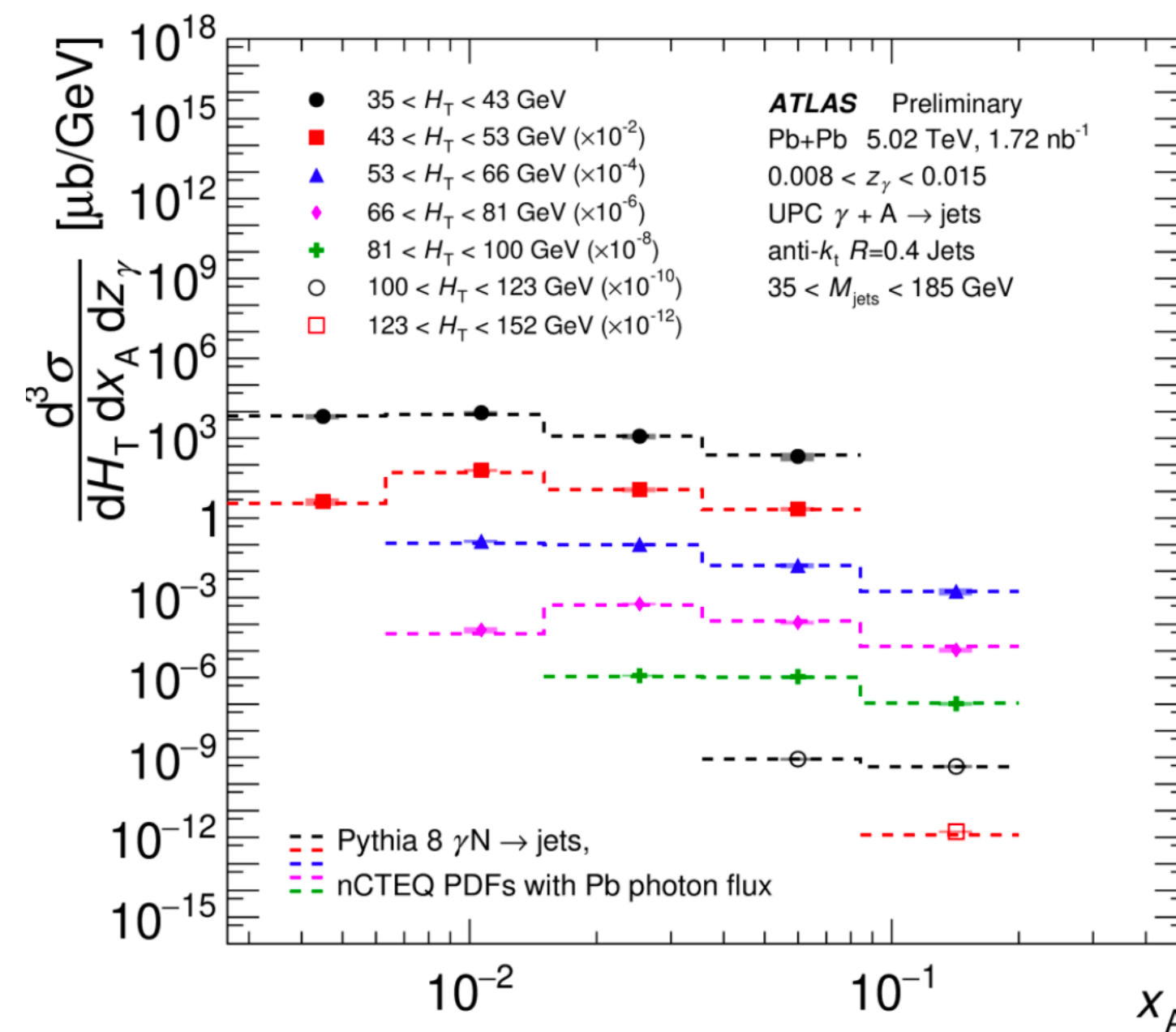
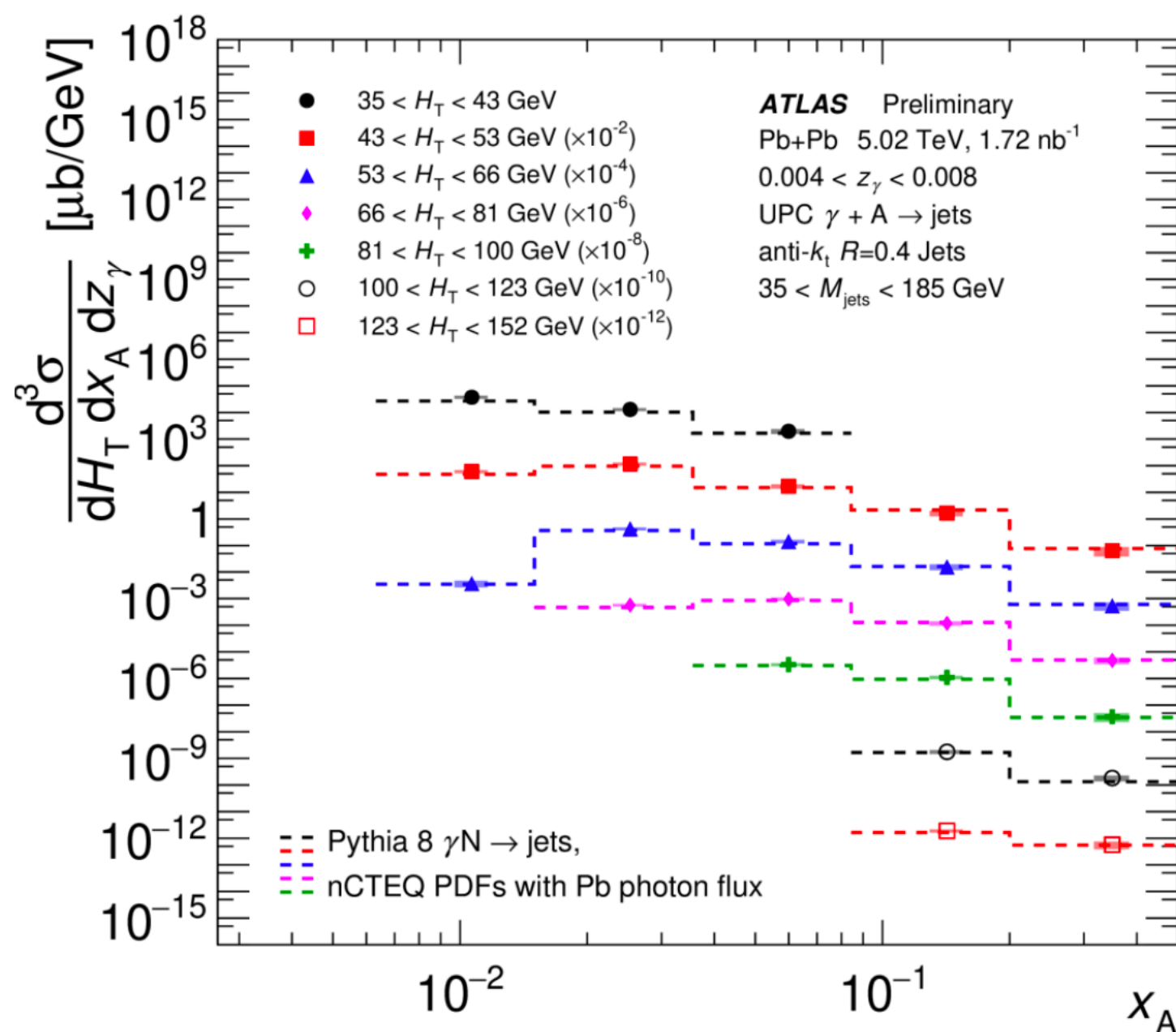
Photon energy



The photon flux seems to be relatively well understood



Different hard scales

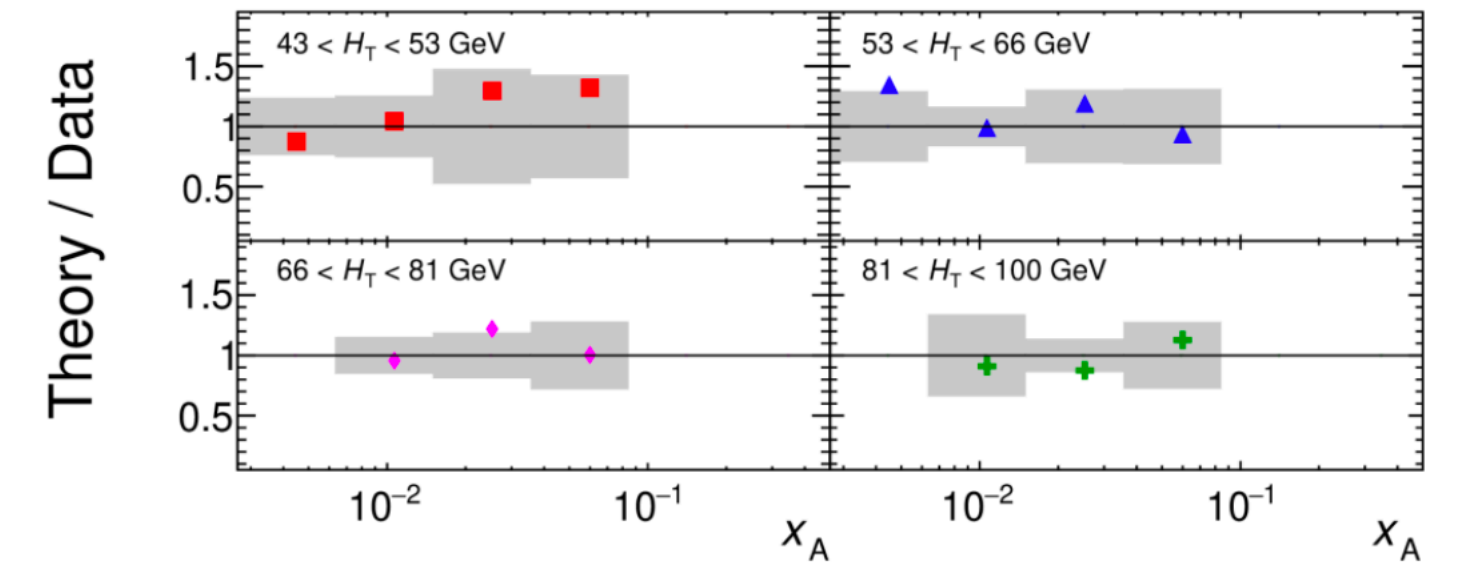
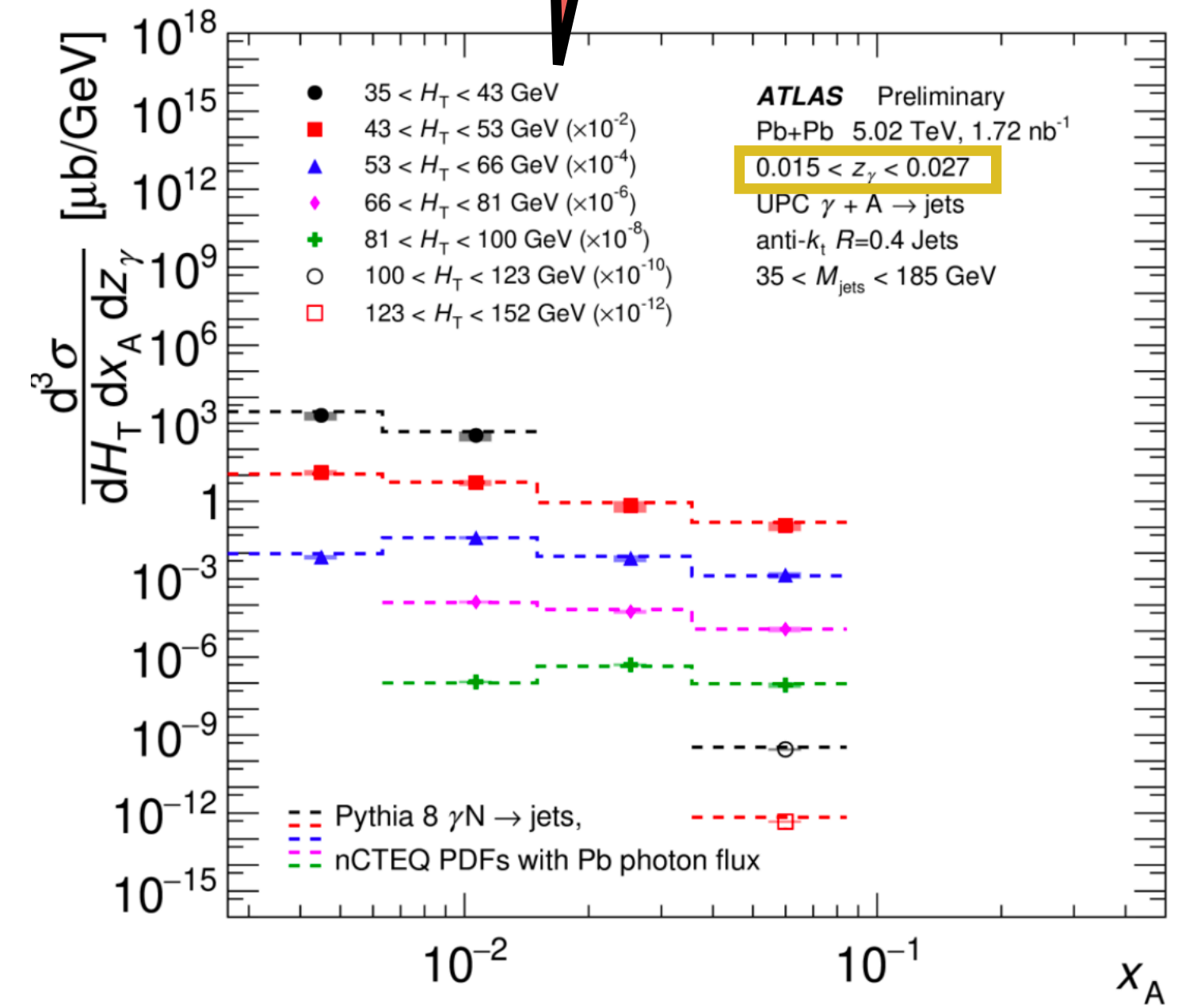
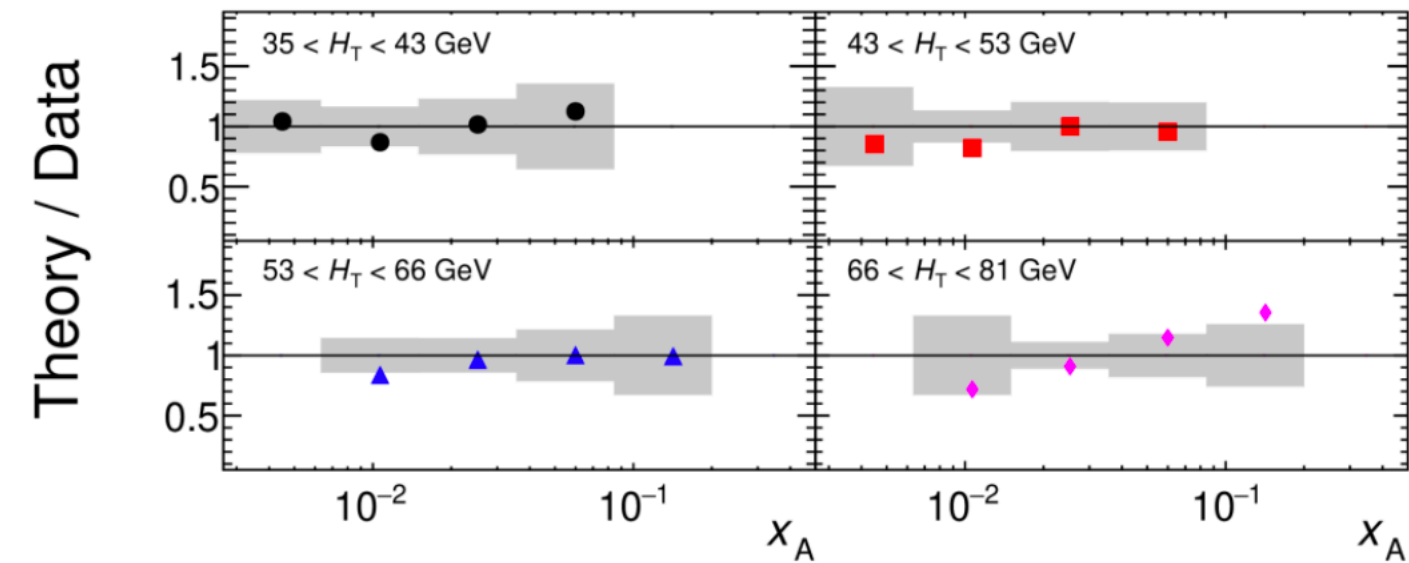
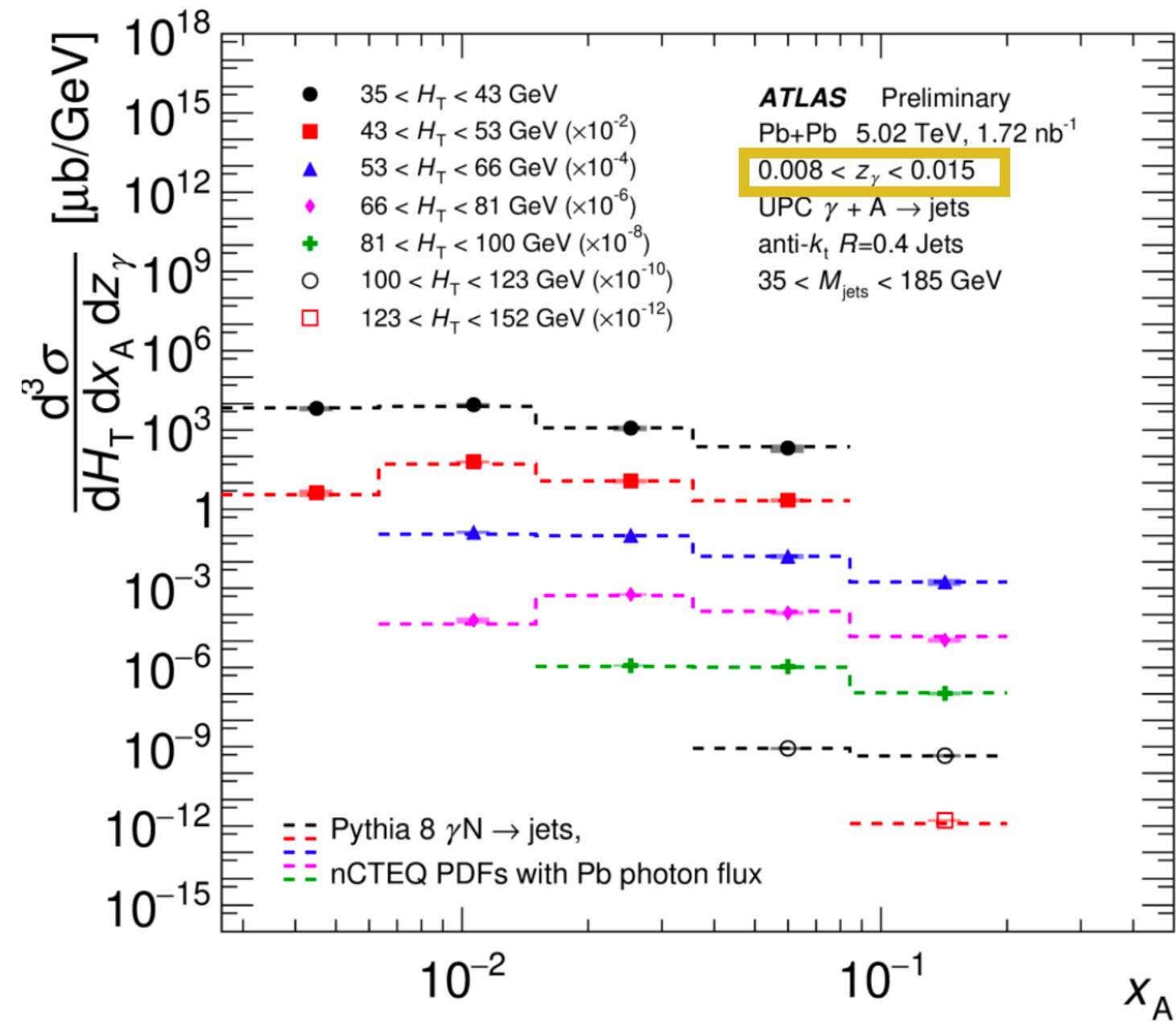
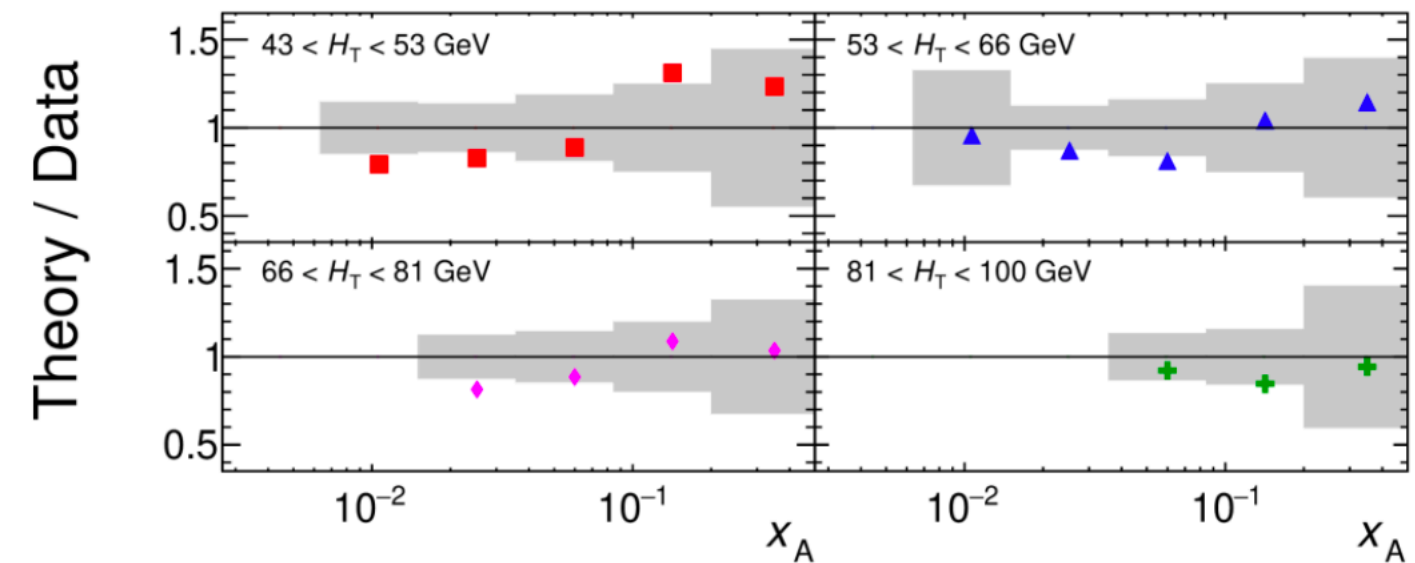
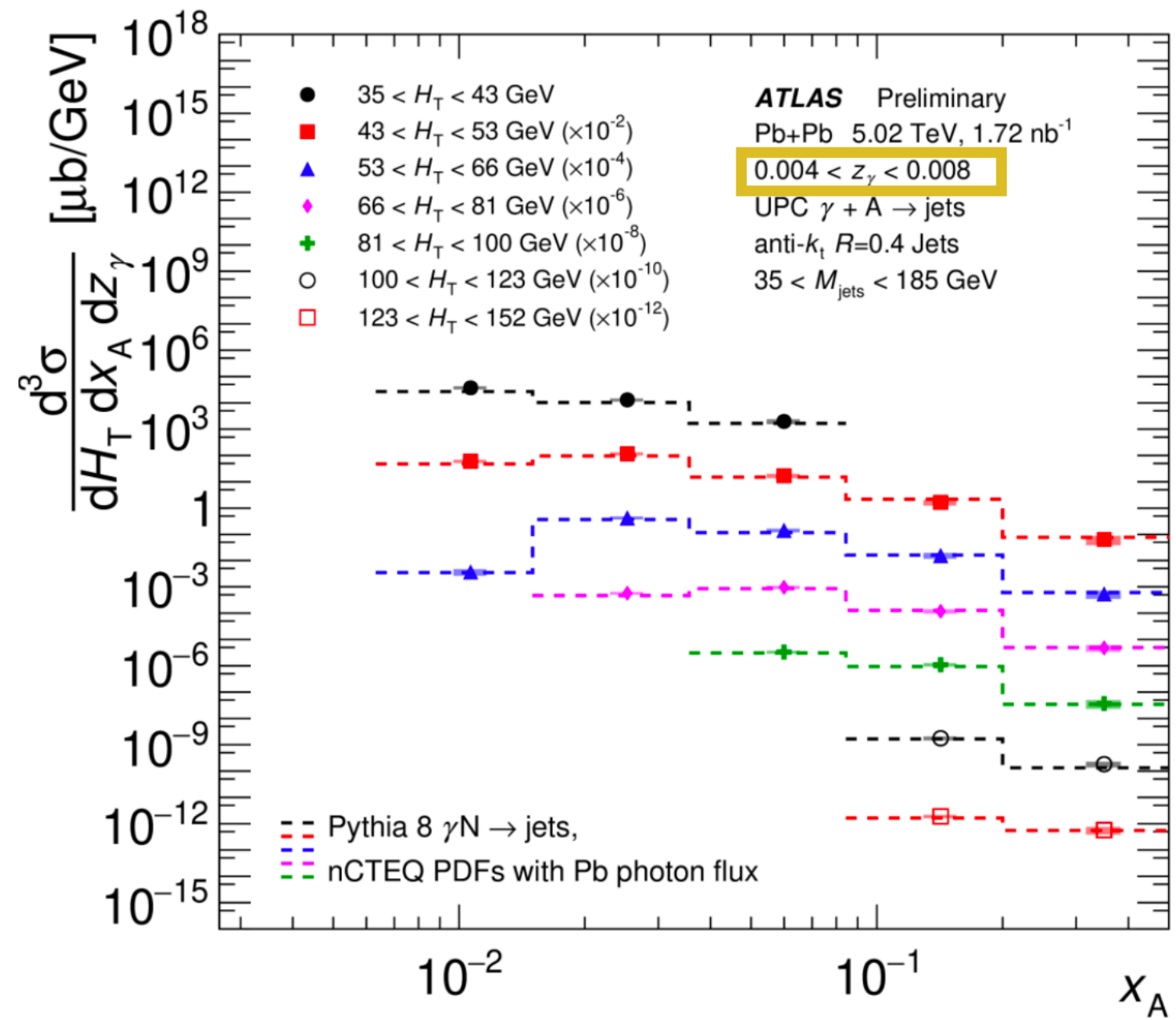


x<sub>A</sub>

Increasing photon energy



Different hard scales



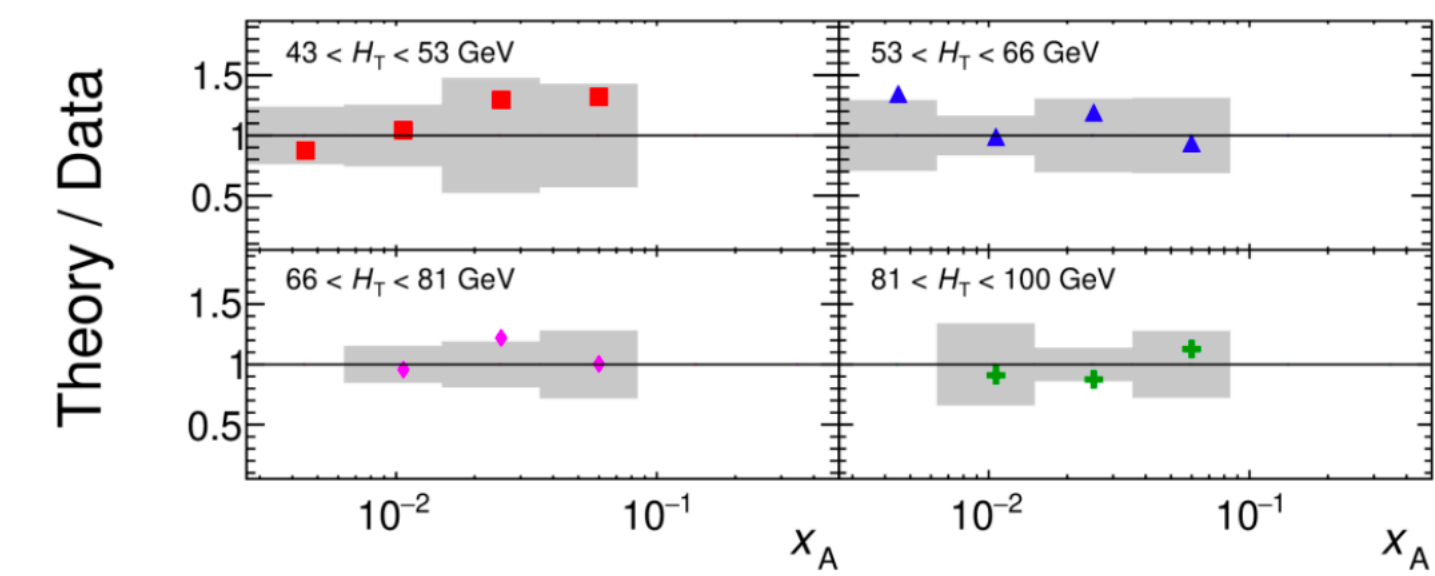
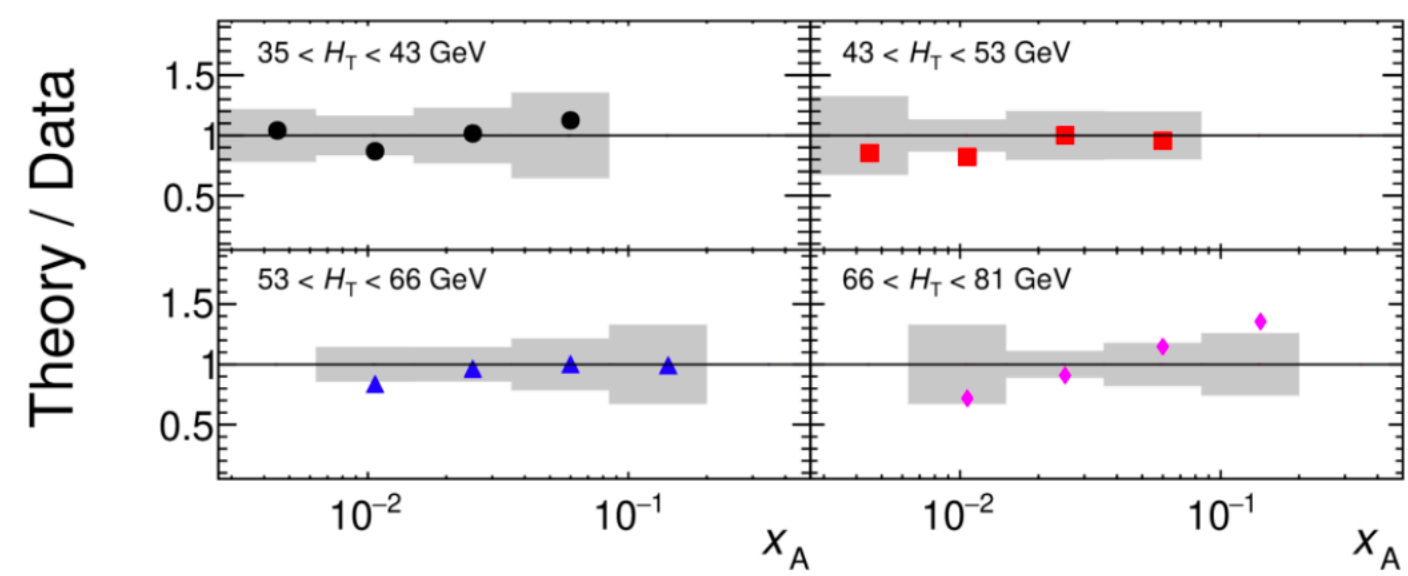
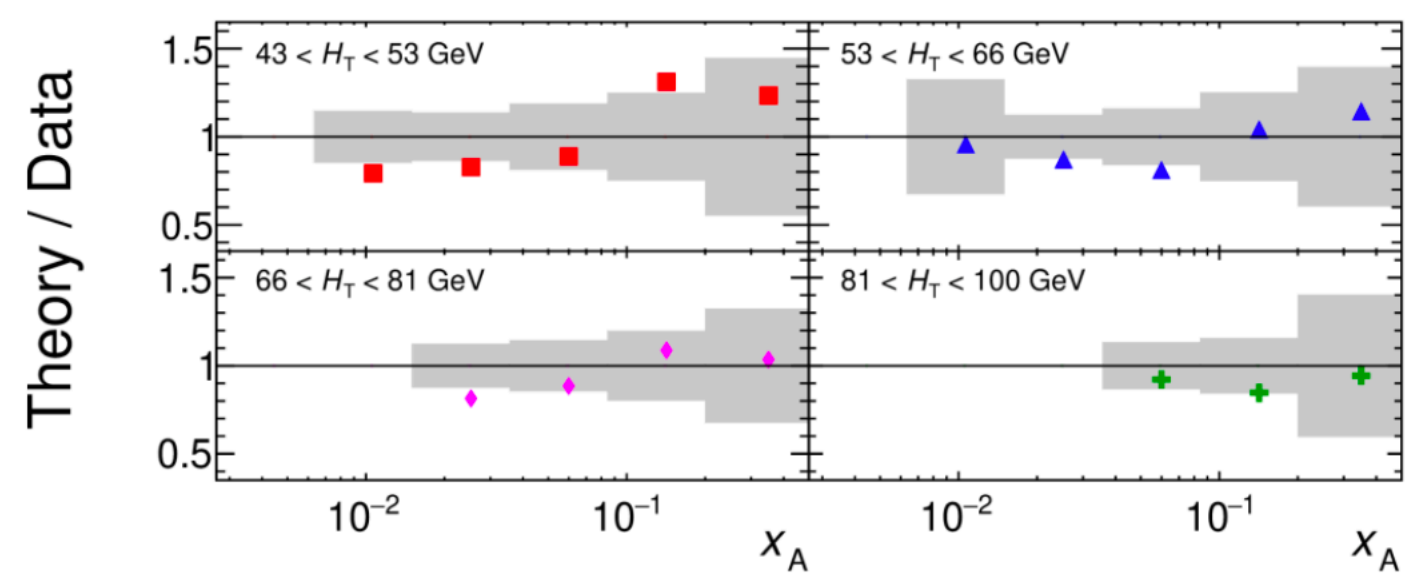
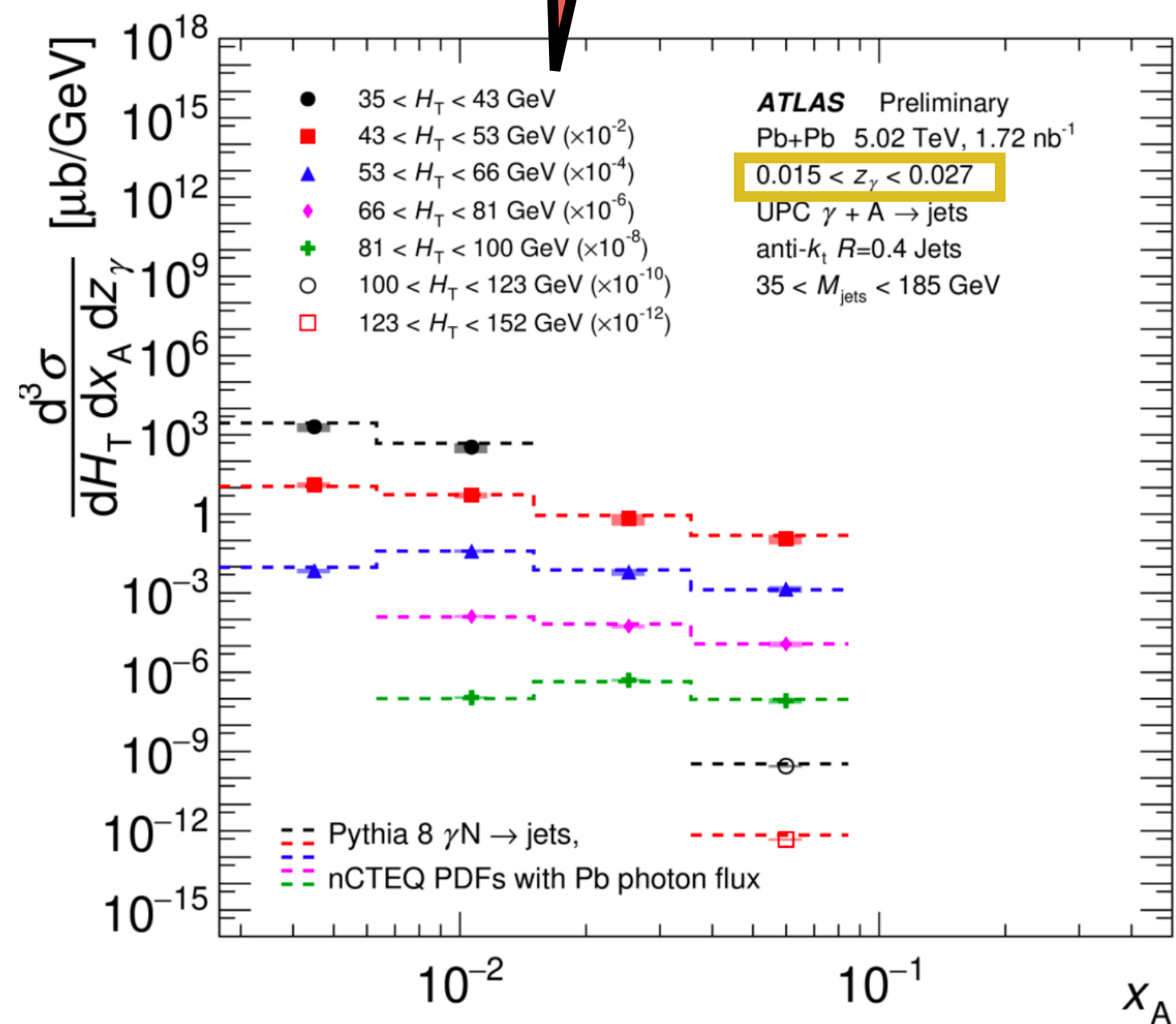
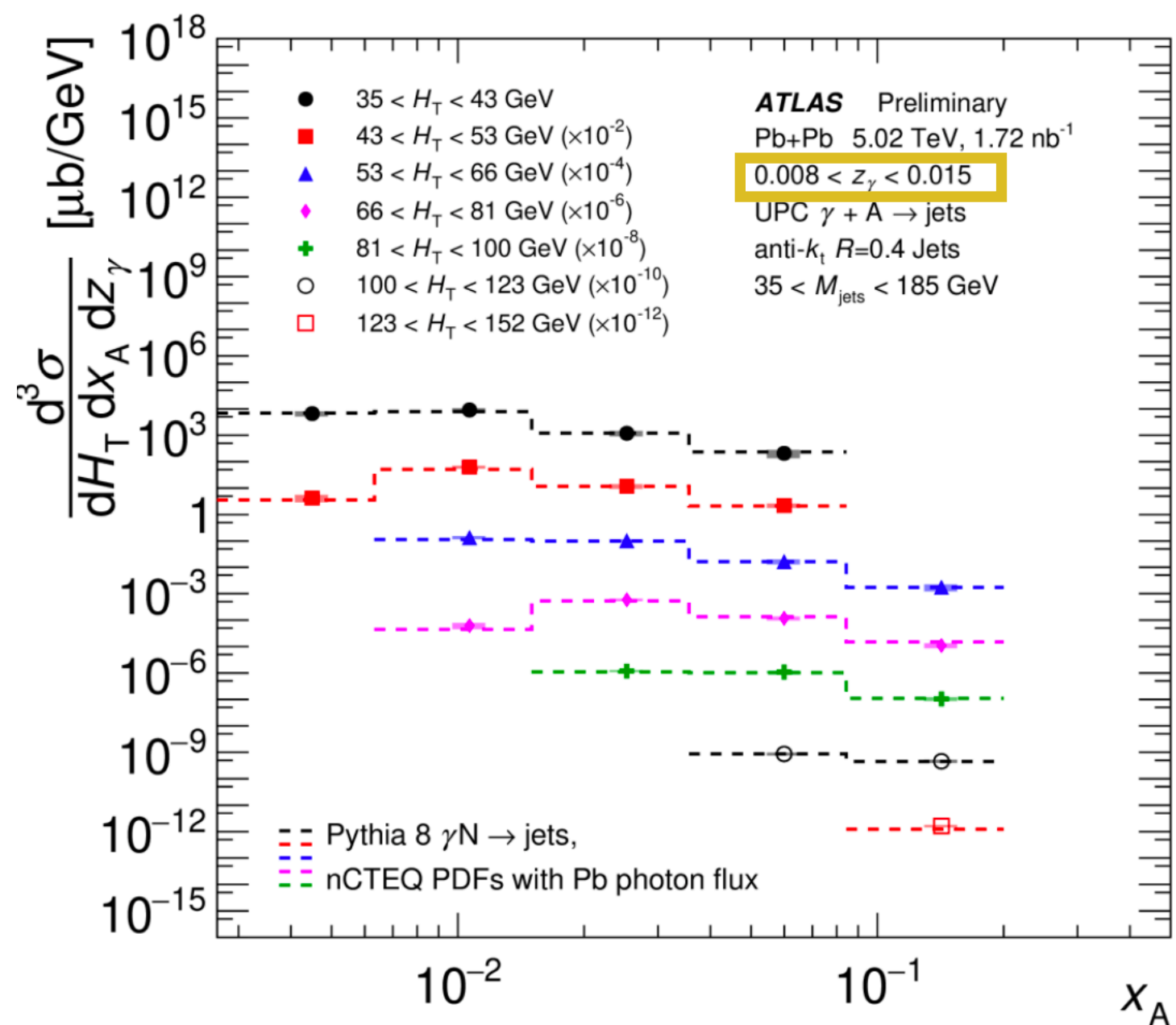
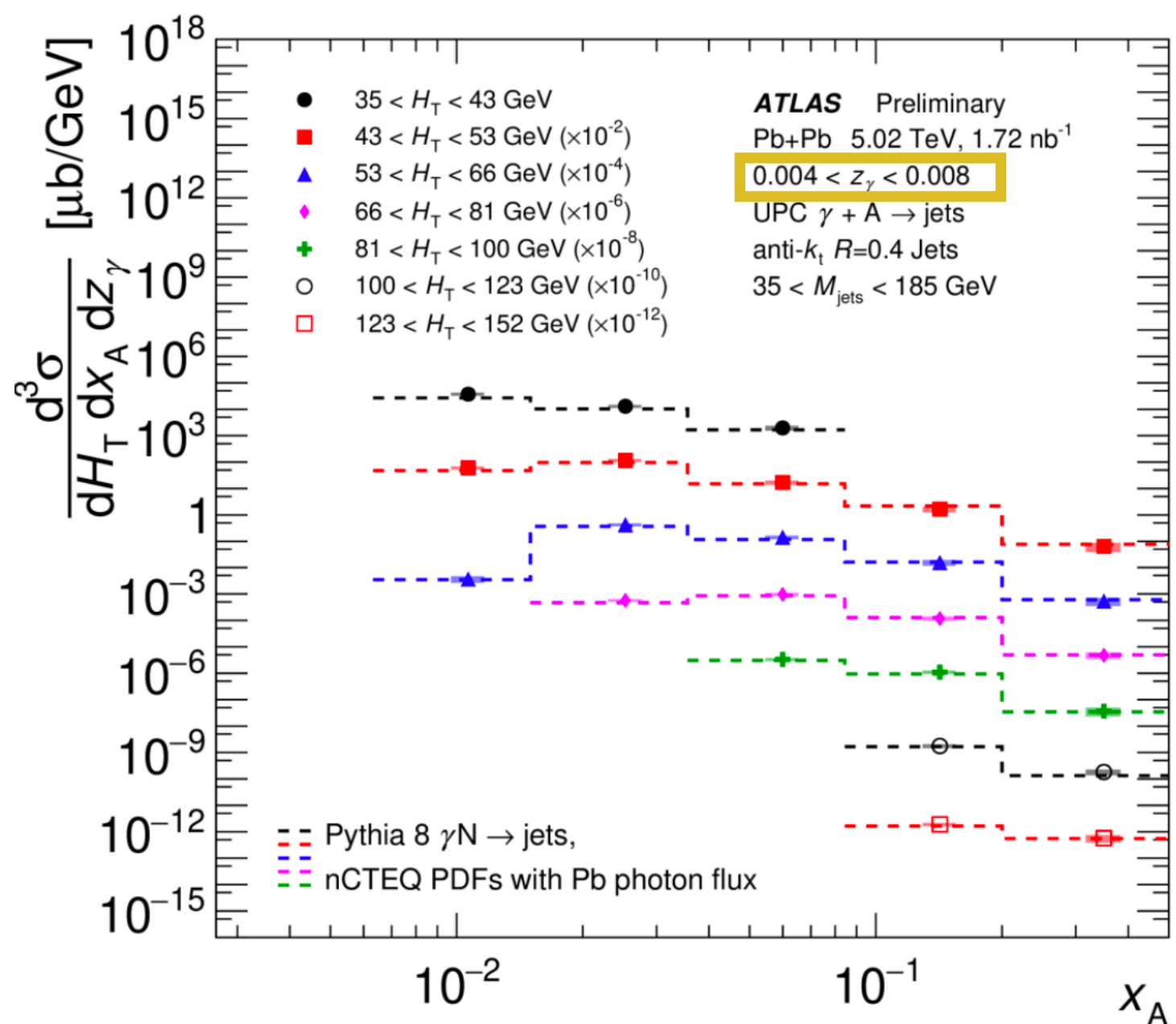
x<sub>A</sub>



Increasing photon energy



Different hard scales

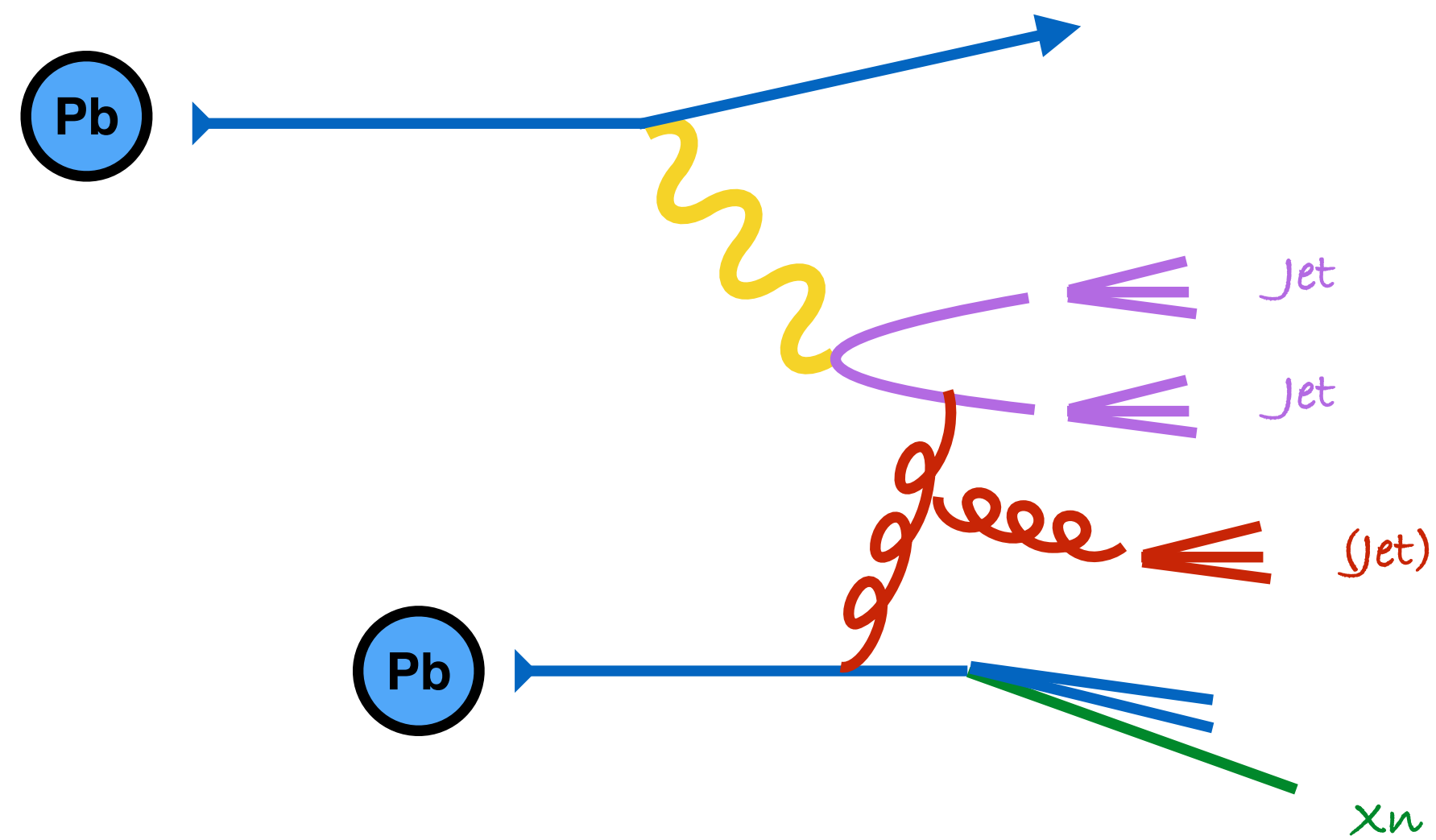


Evolution in  $x_A$  for a fixed hard scale, relatively well understood down to a few times  $10^{-3}$



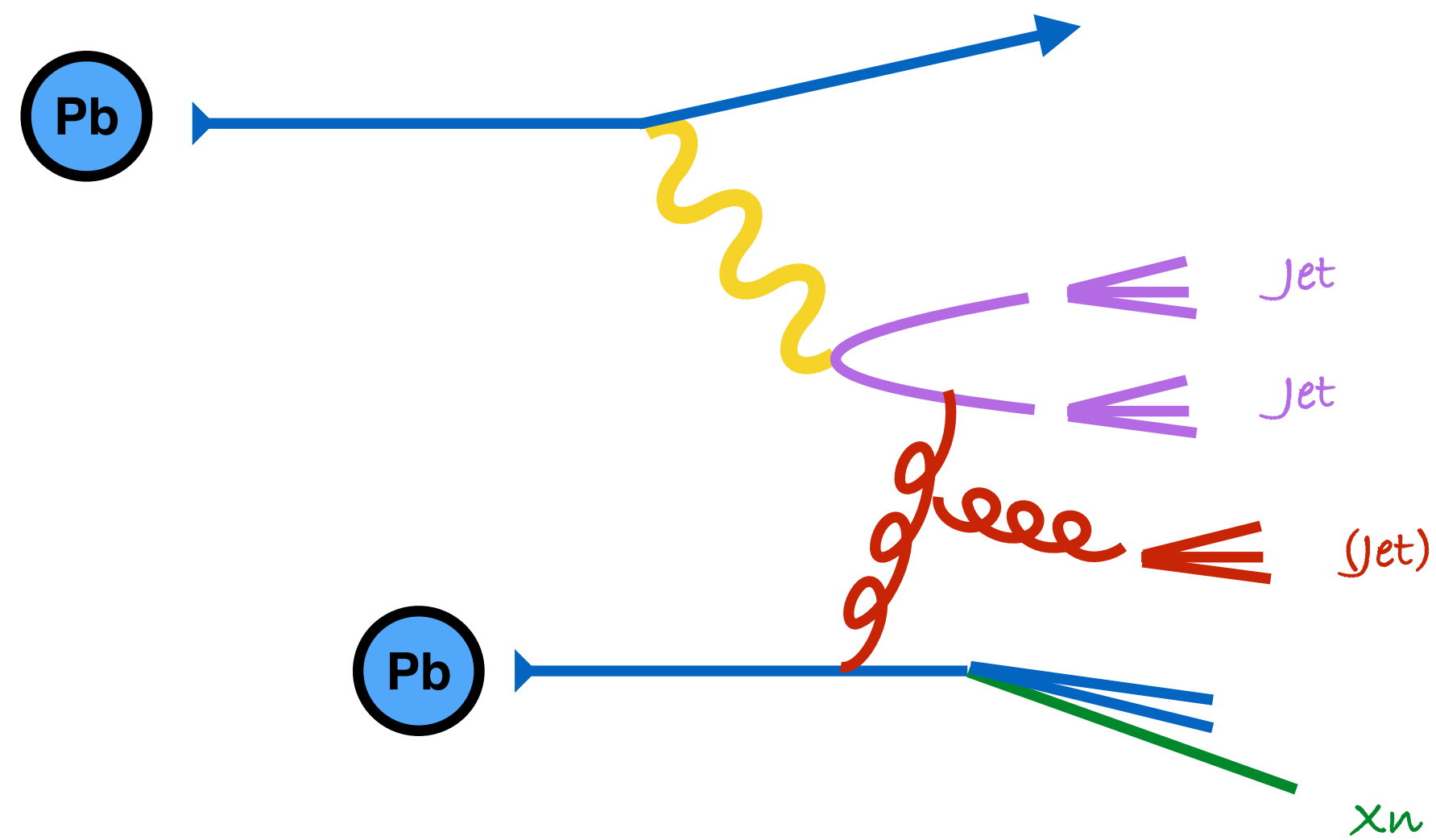
$x_A$

# What else can we do?



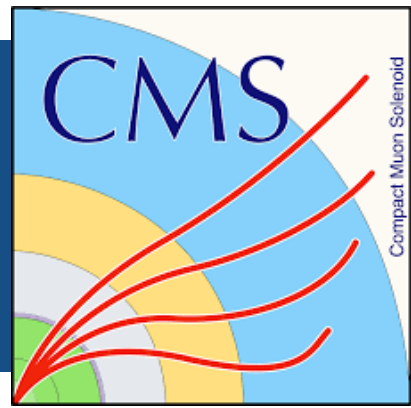
The process I have discussed until now, is sensitive to the gluon distribution in hadrons. Can we do something different/complementary?

# What else can we do?



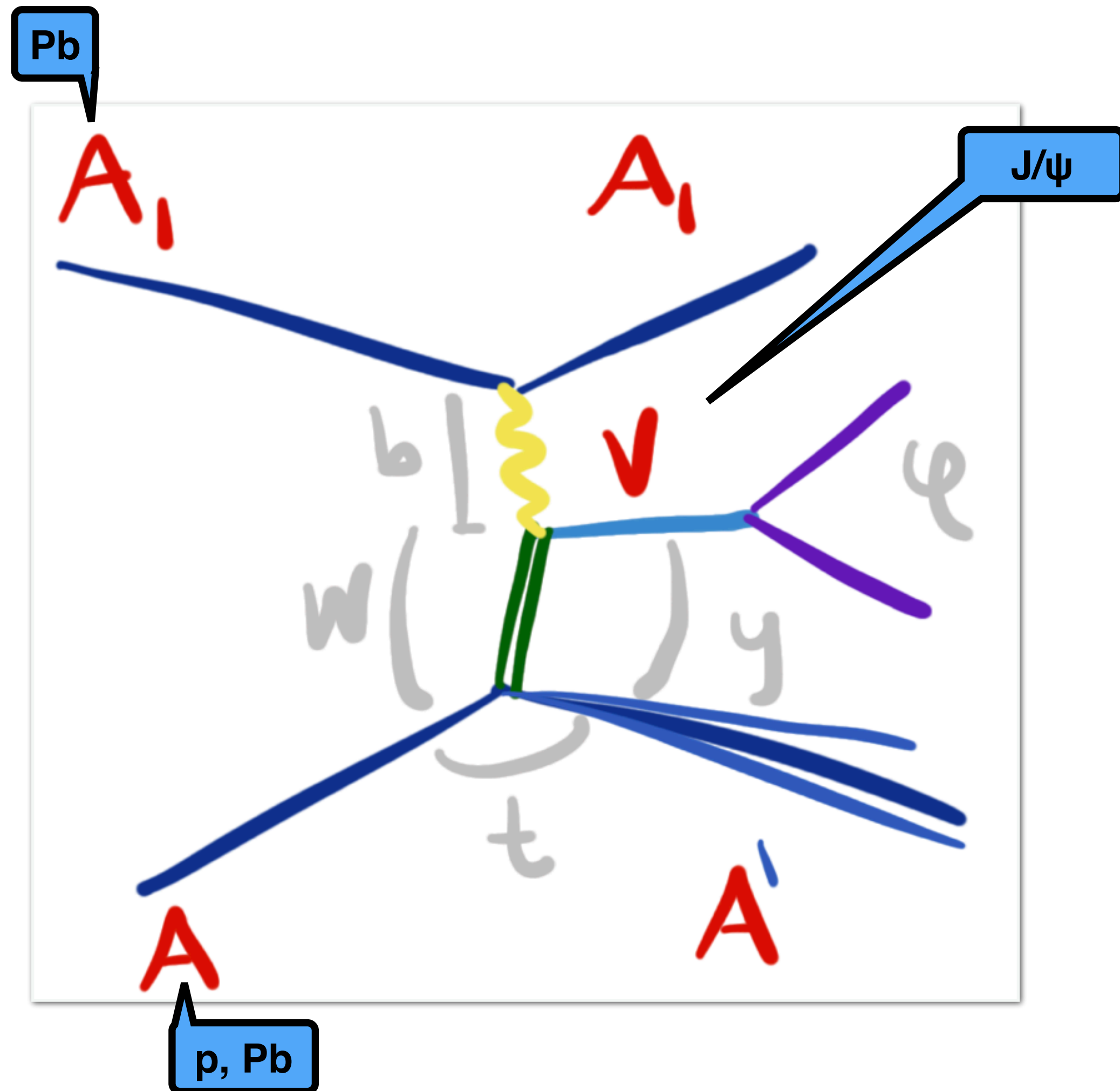
The process I have discussed until now, is sensitive to the gluon distribution in hadrons. Can we do something different/complementary?

Let's look at a process that depends at leading order on the **square** of the gluon distribution in hadrons



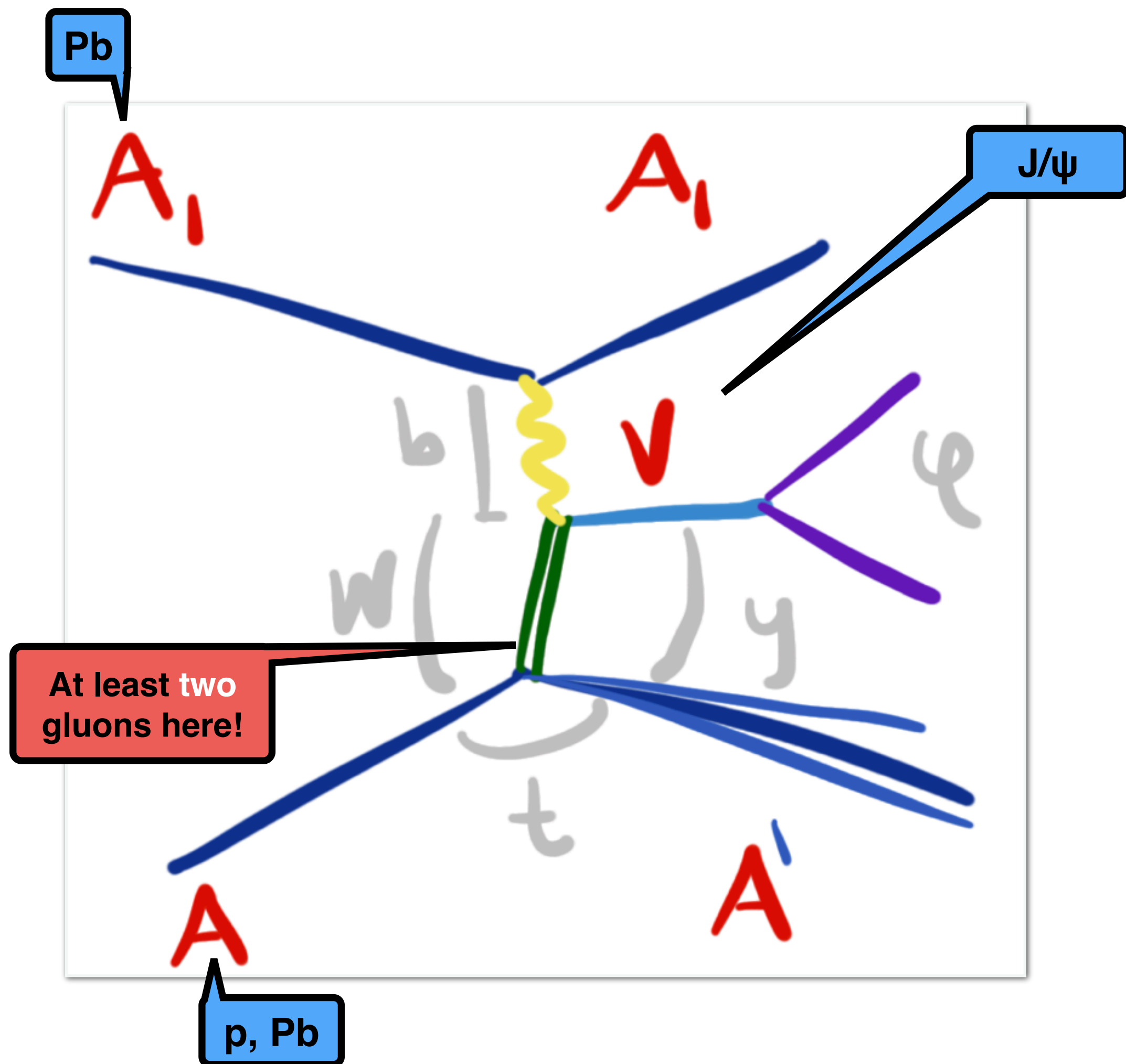
# Coherent $J/\psi$ production in Pb-Pb UPC Bjorken- $x$ dependence

# Diffractive $J/\psi$ photoproduction in UPC

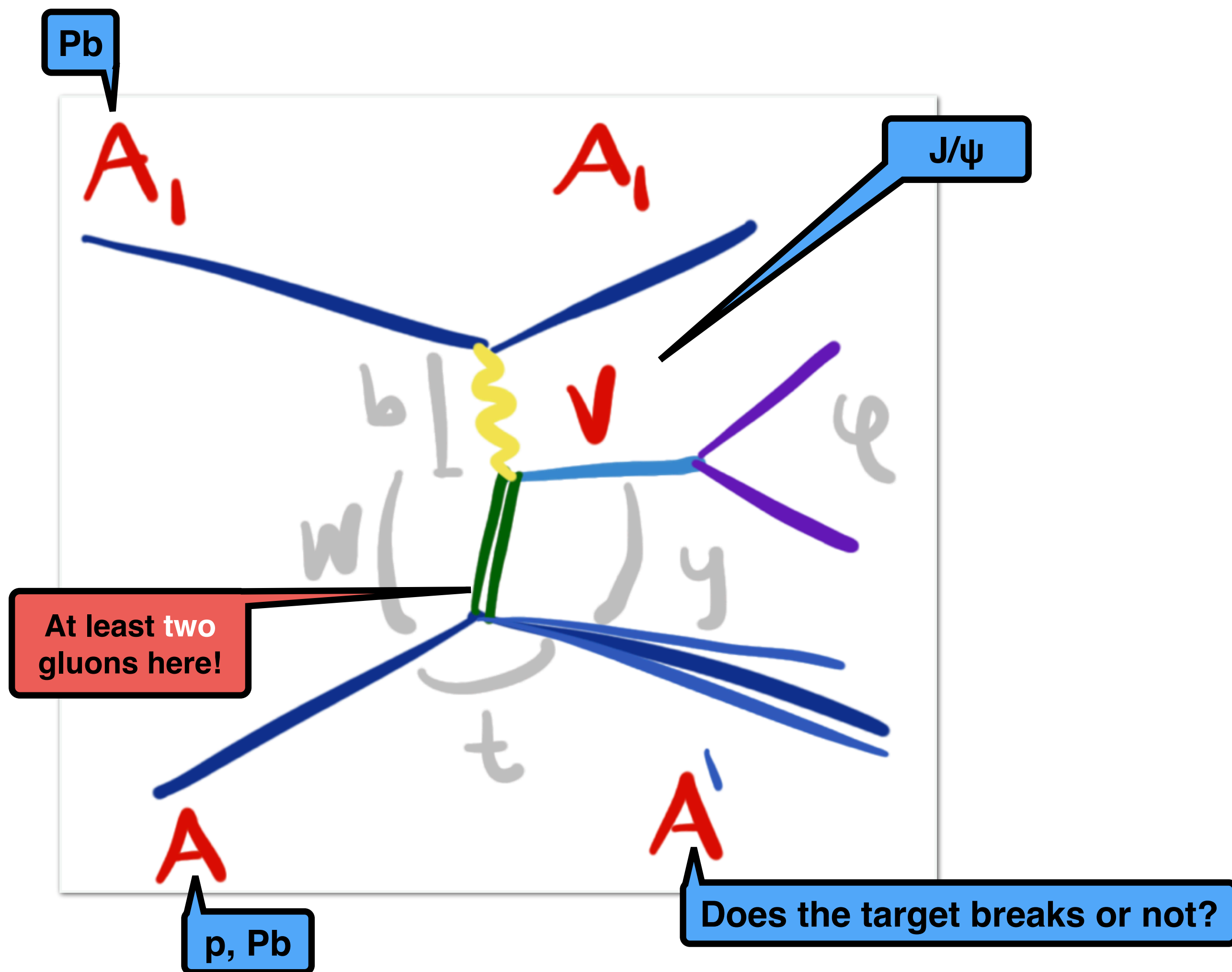




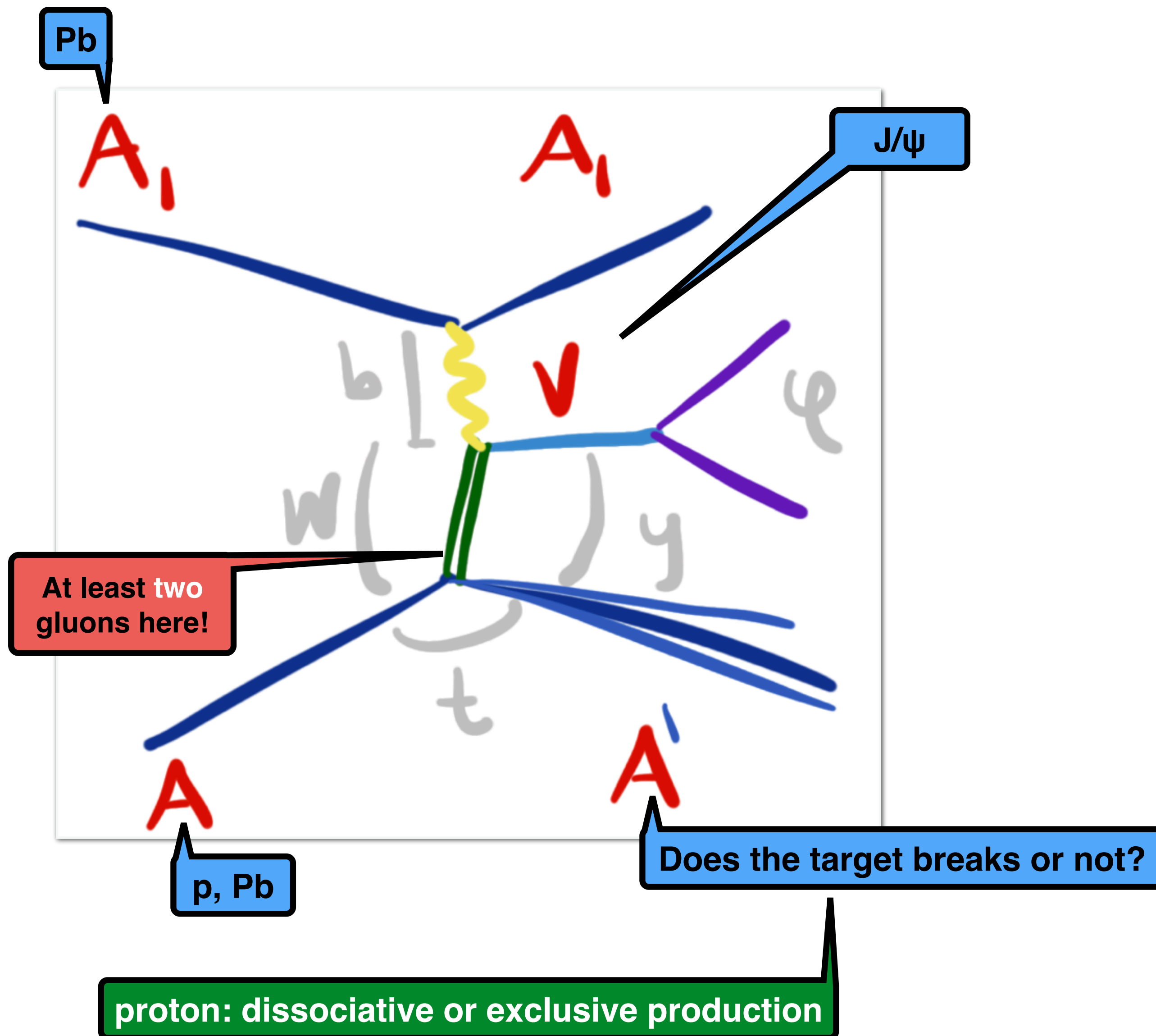
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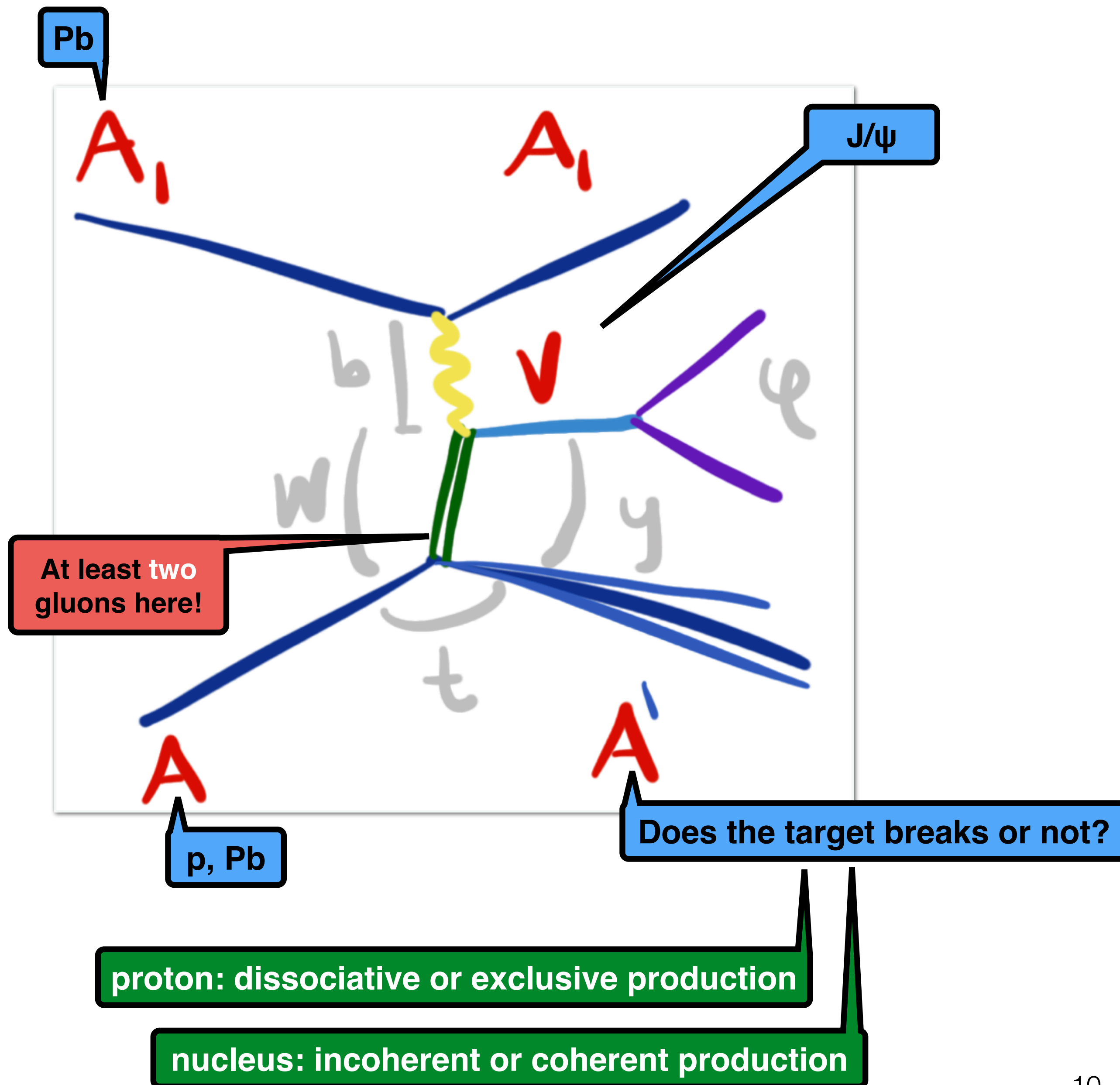
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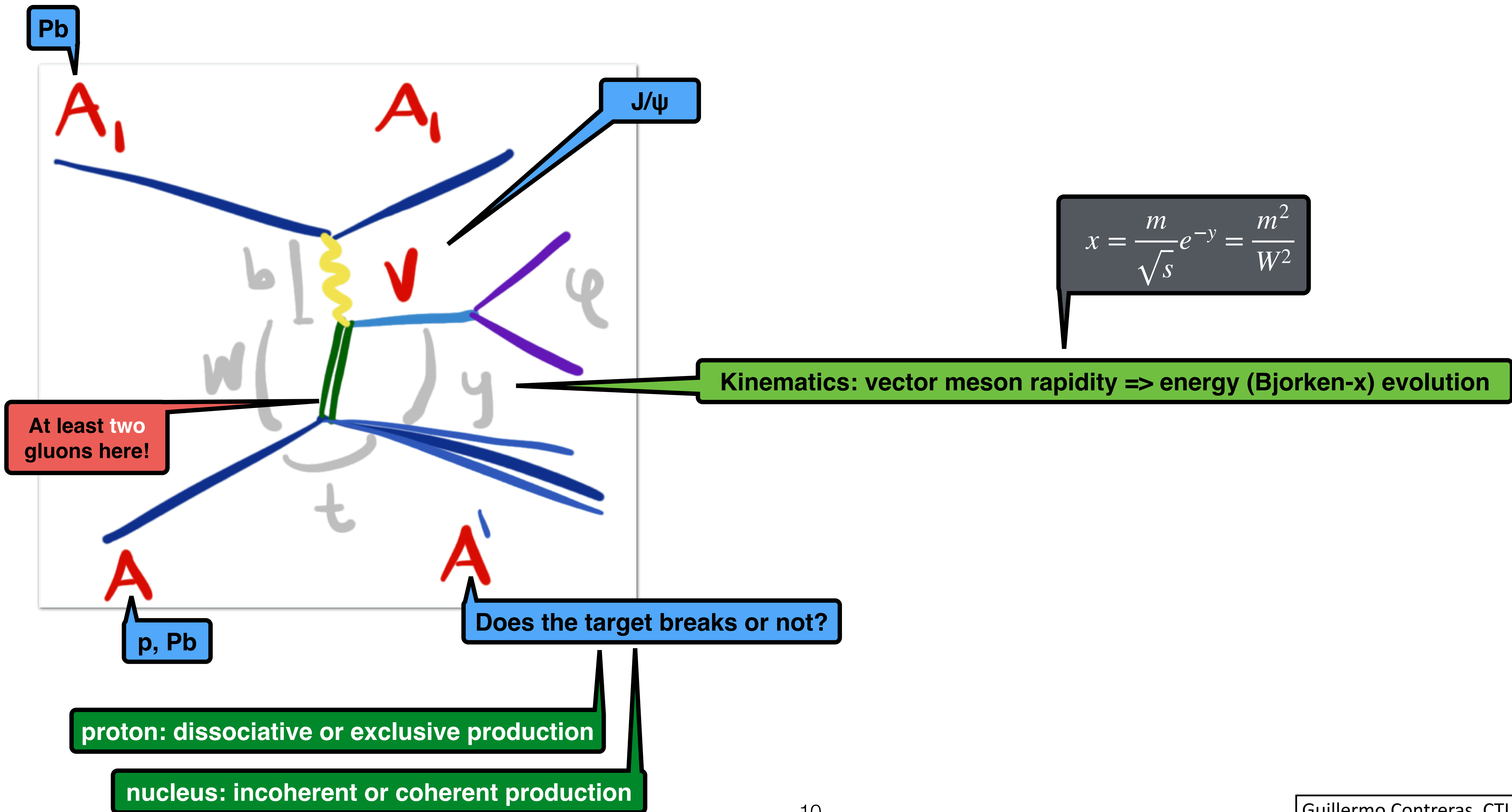
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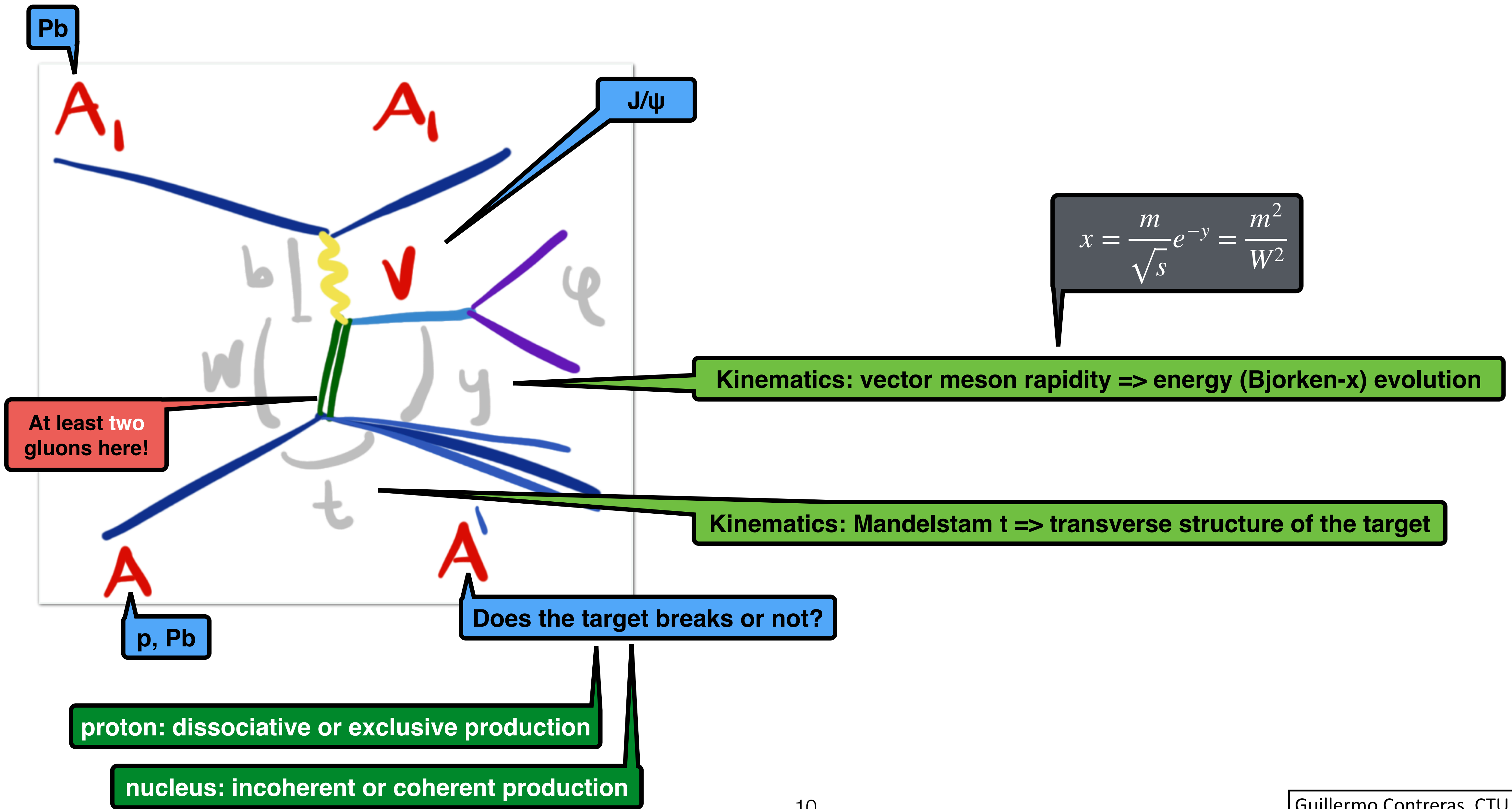
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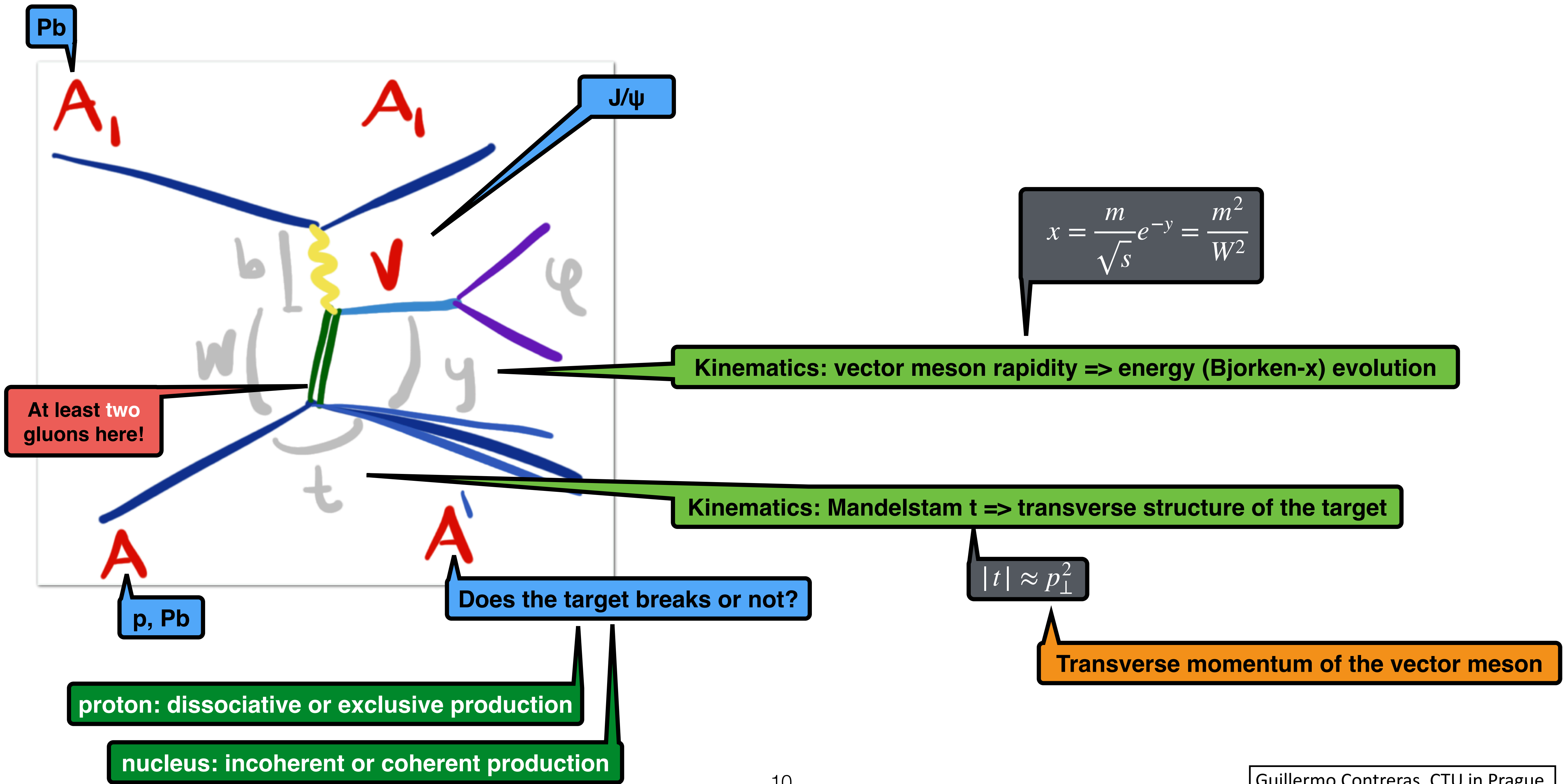


# Diffractive J/ψ photoproduction in UPC

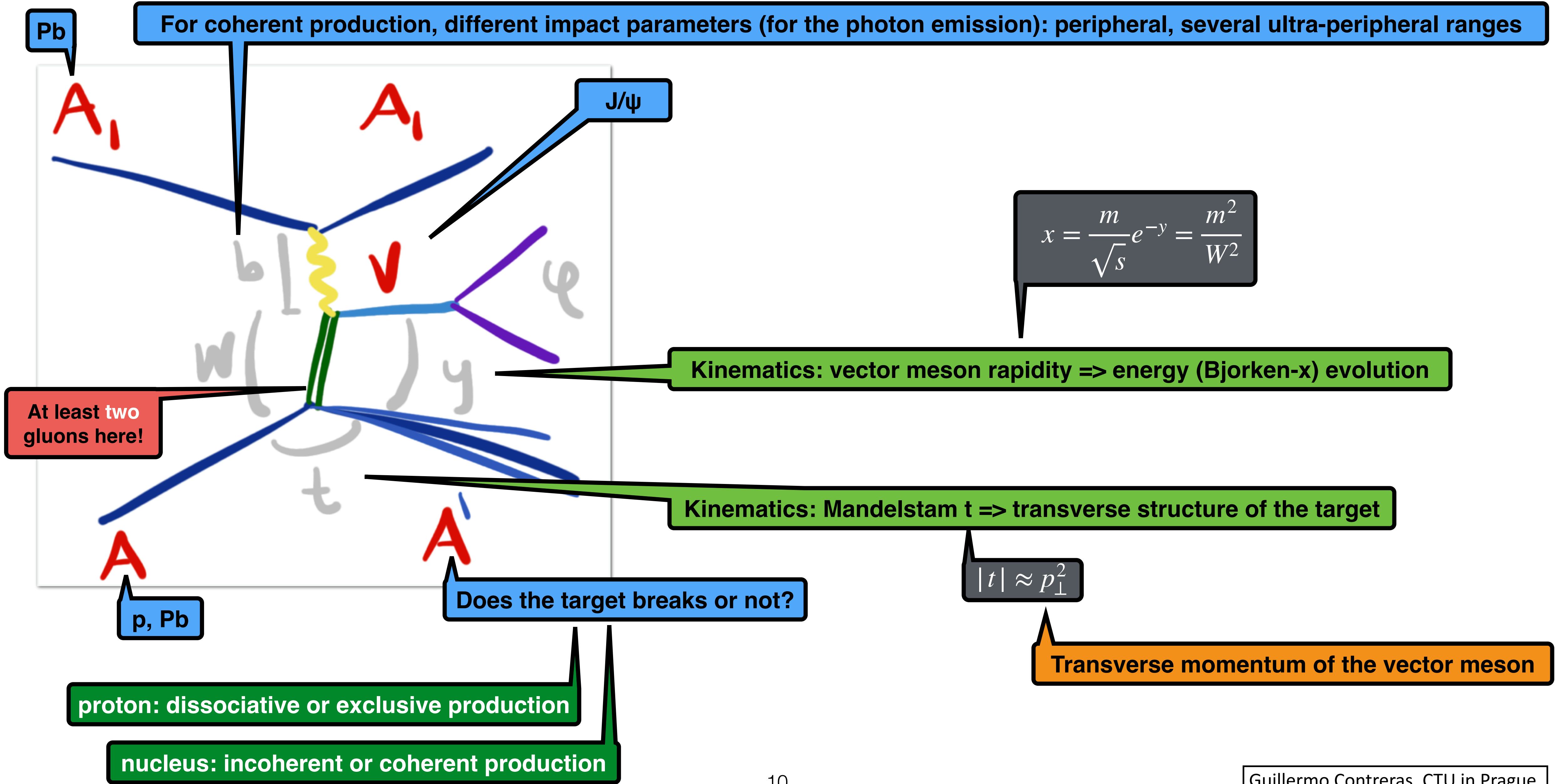




# Diffractive J/ψ photoproduction in UPC

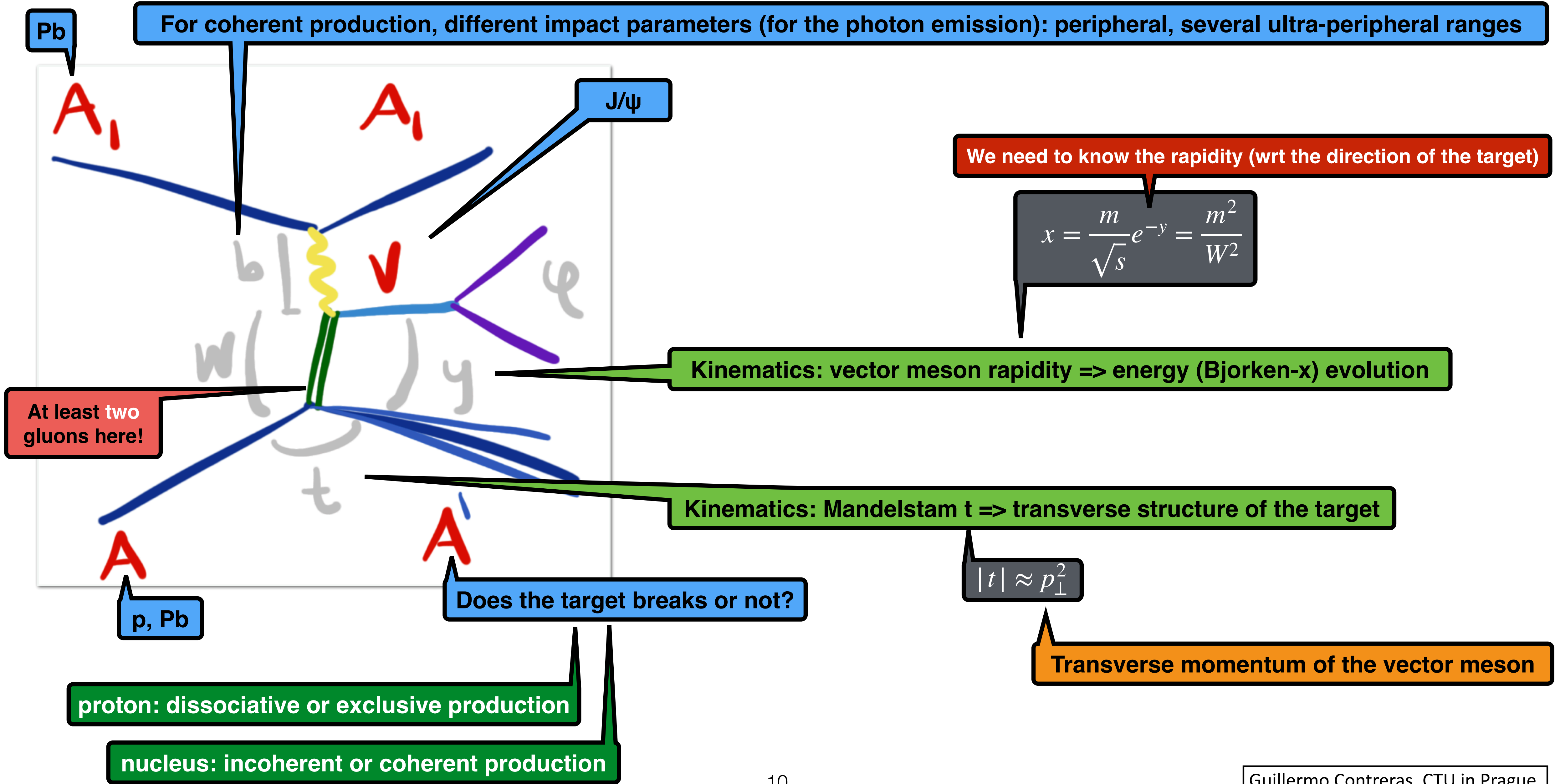


# Diffractive J/ψ photoproduction in UPC

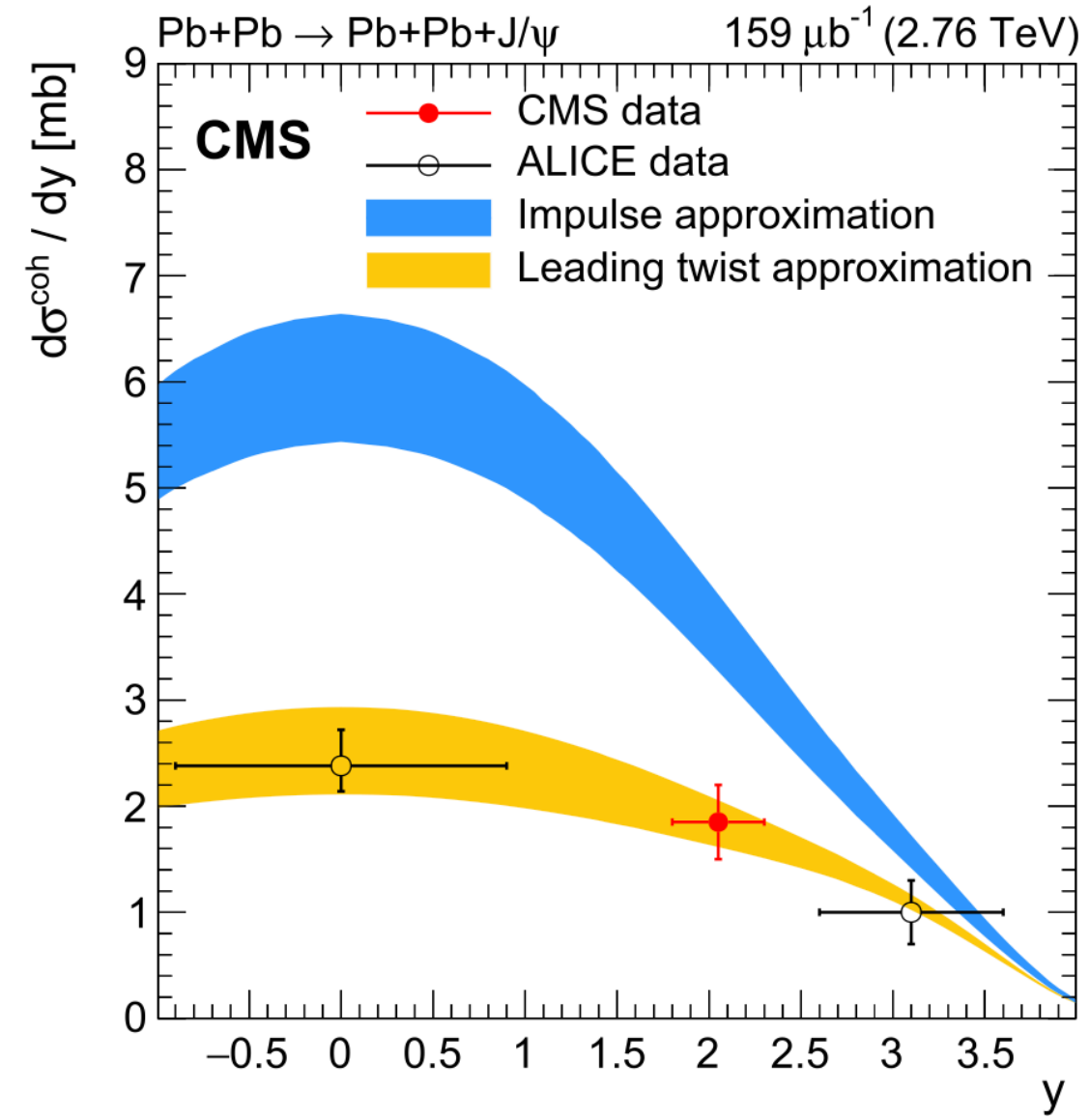




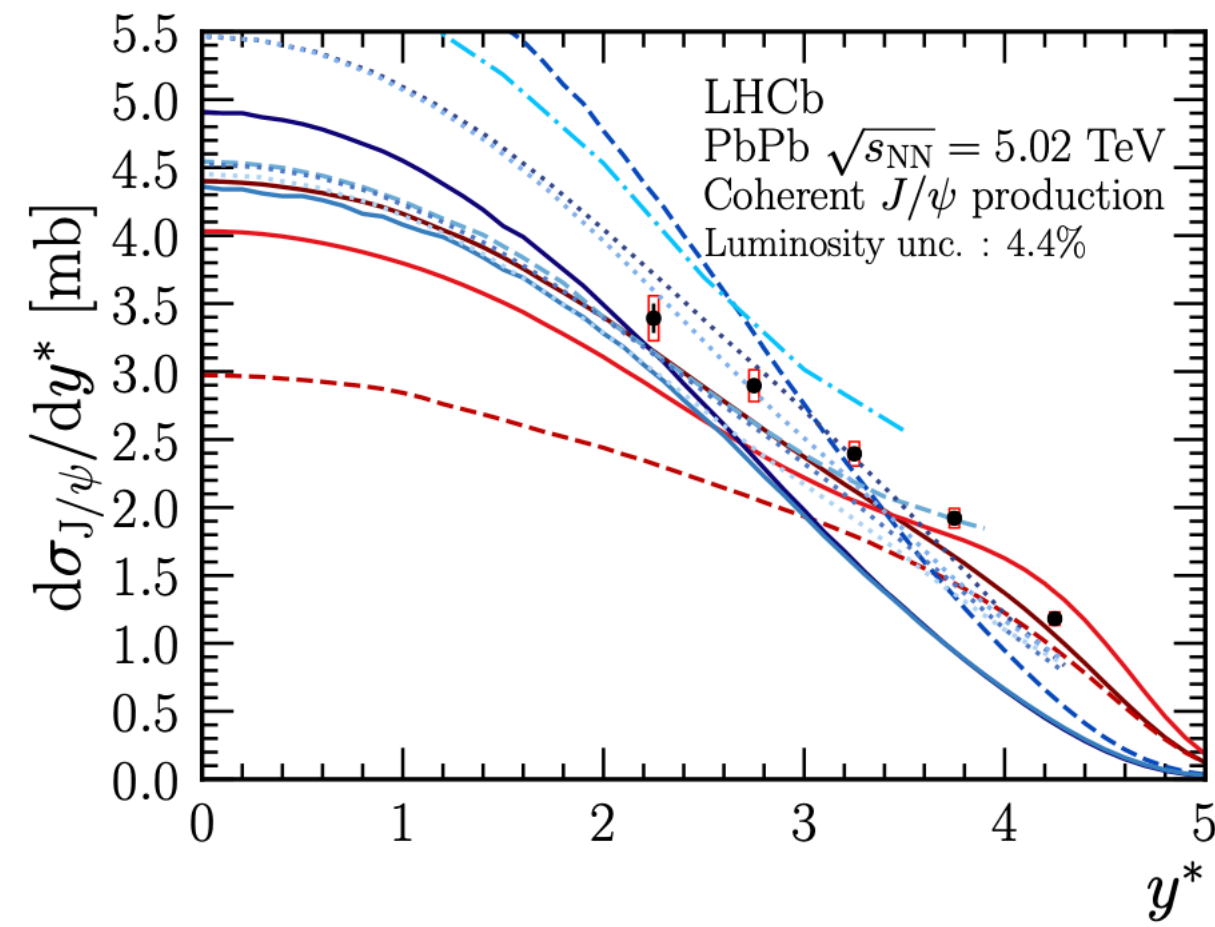
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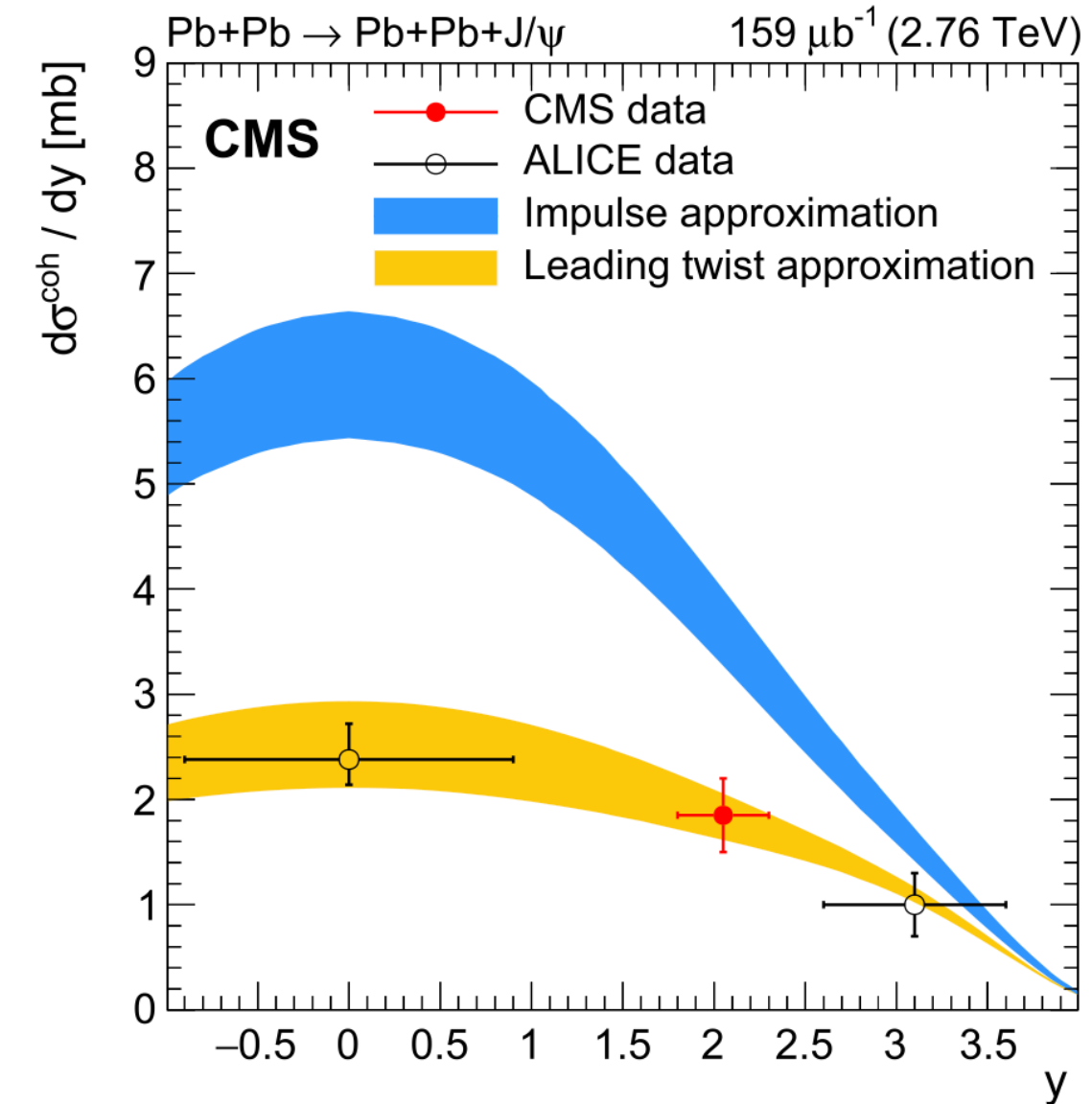
CMS, PLB772 (2017) 489



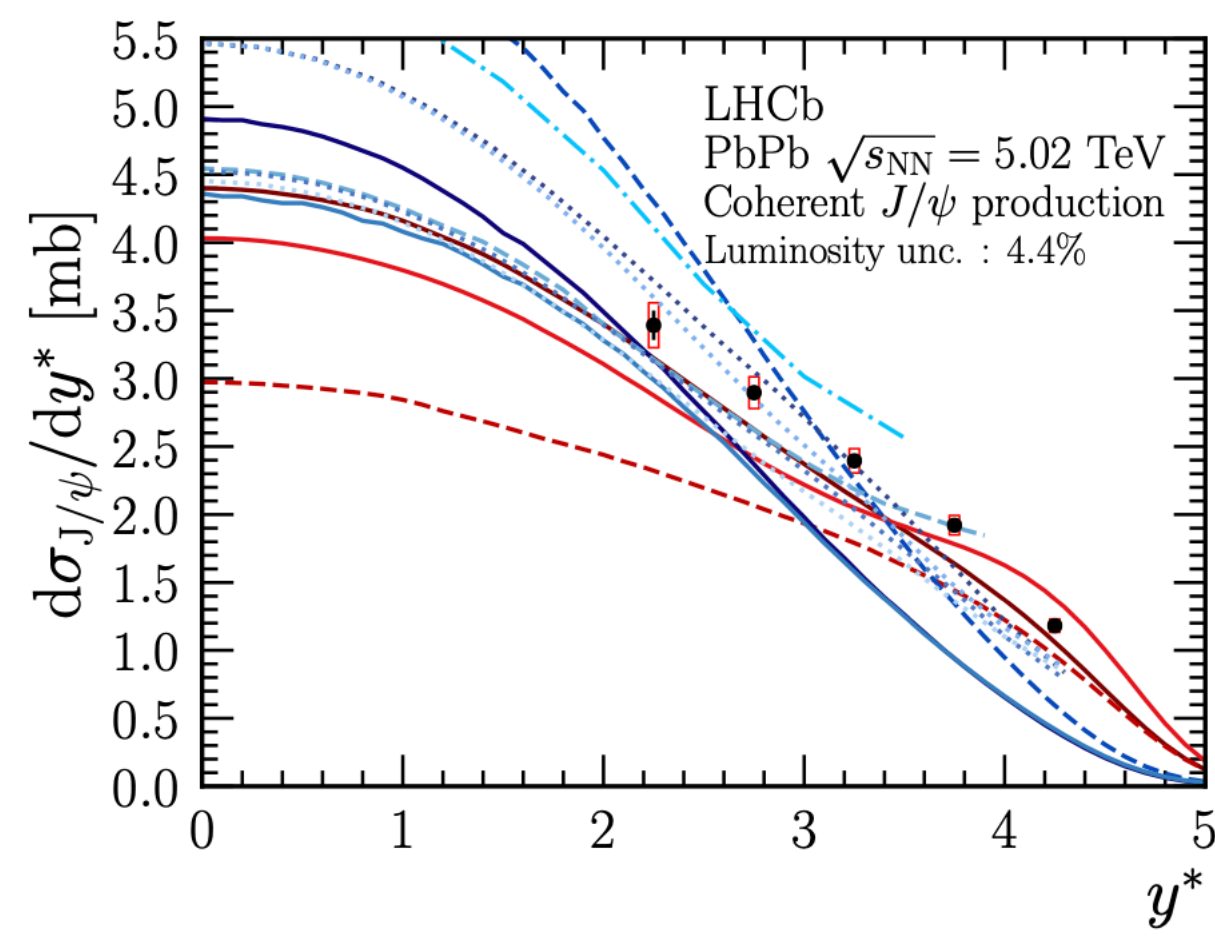
LHCb, 2206.08221



CMS, PLB772 (2017) 489

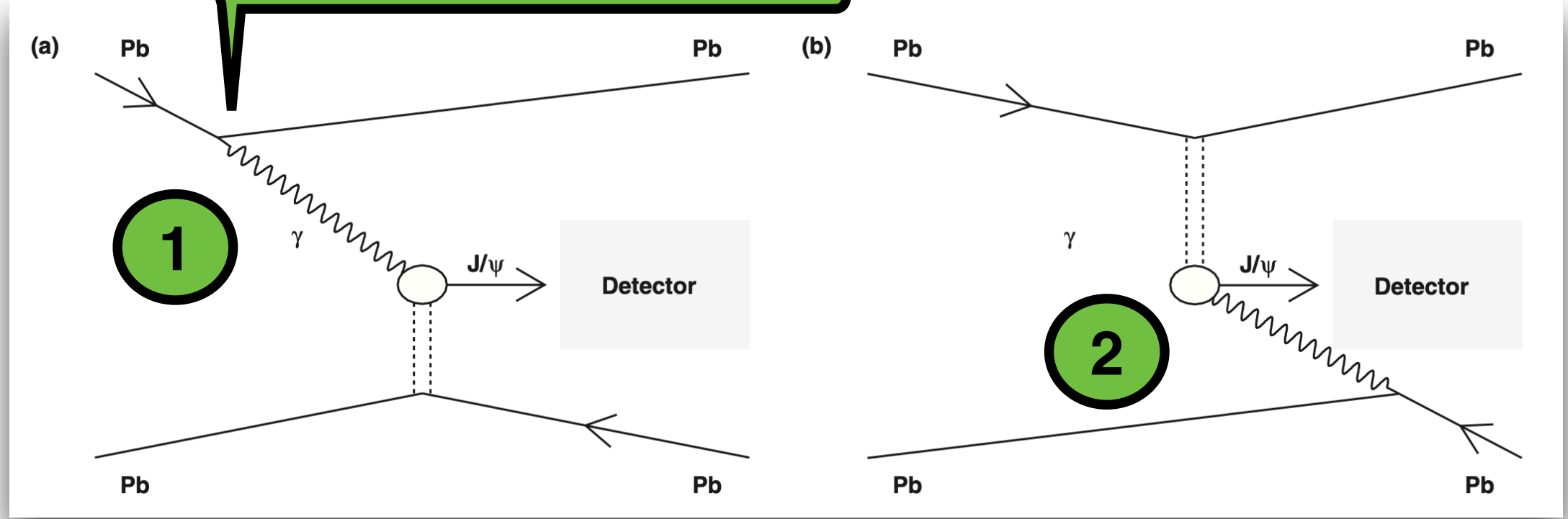


LHCb, 2206.08221

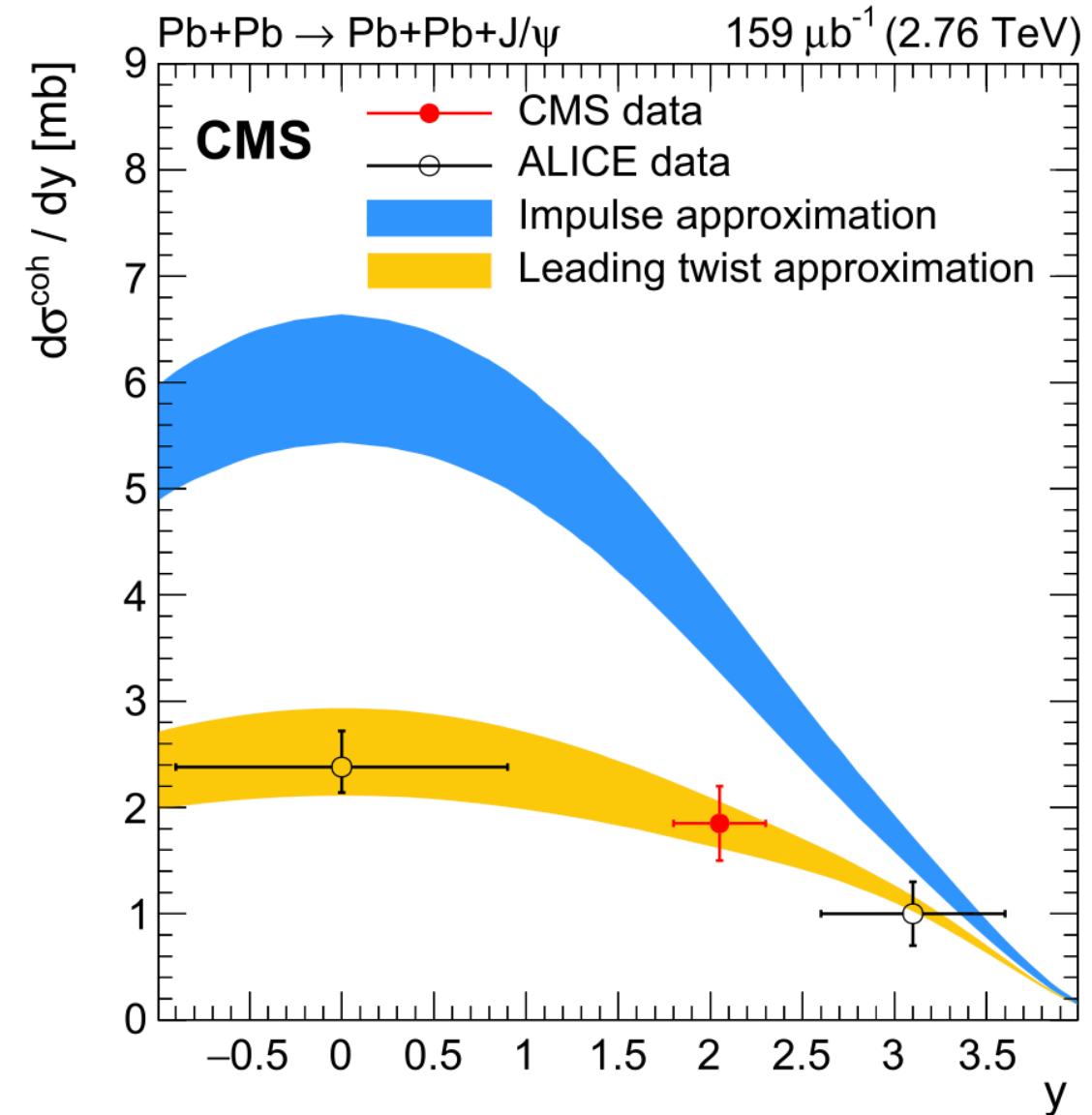


We need to know the rapidity (wrt the direction of the target)

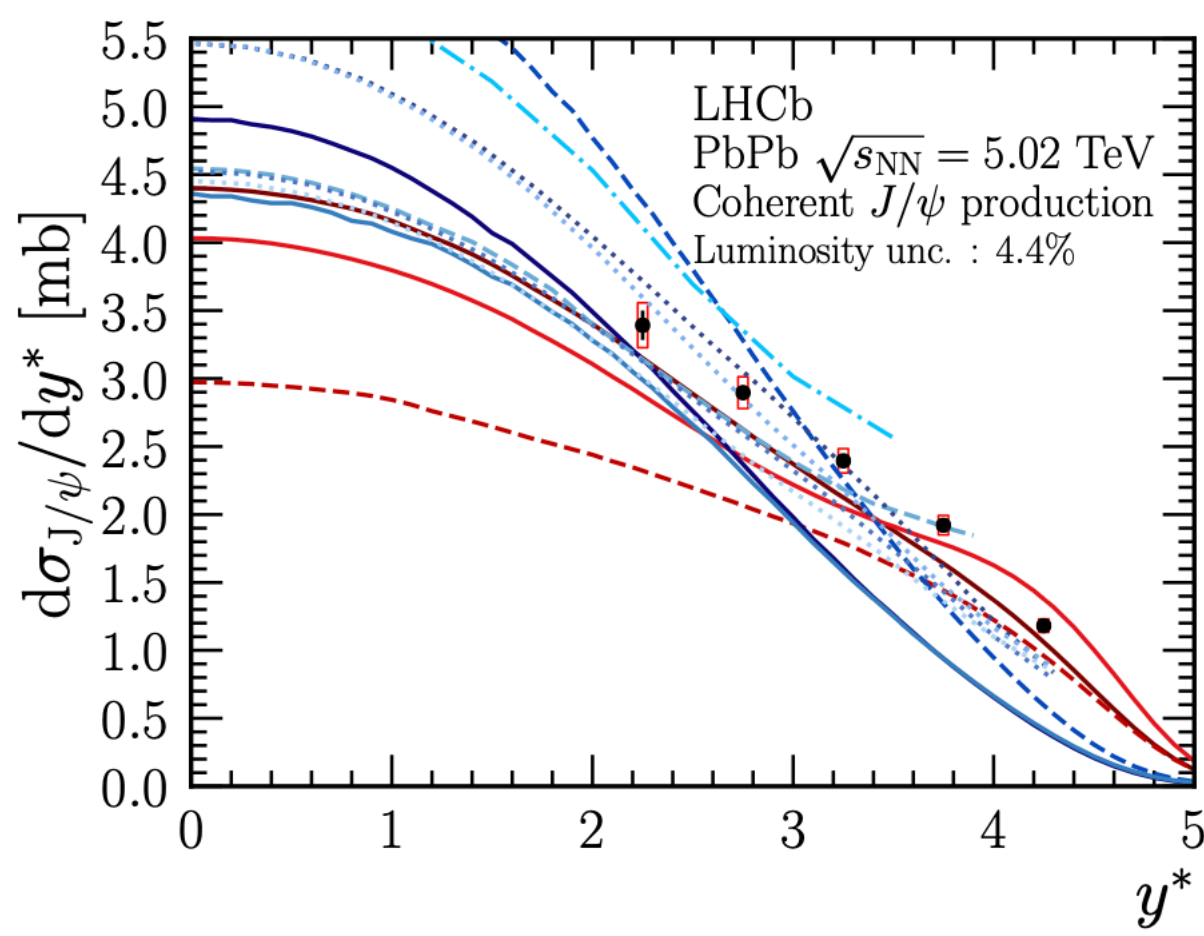
Two photon sources



CMS, PLB772 (2017) 489

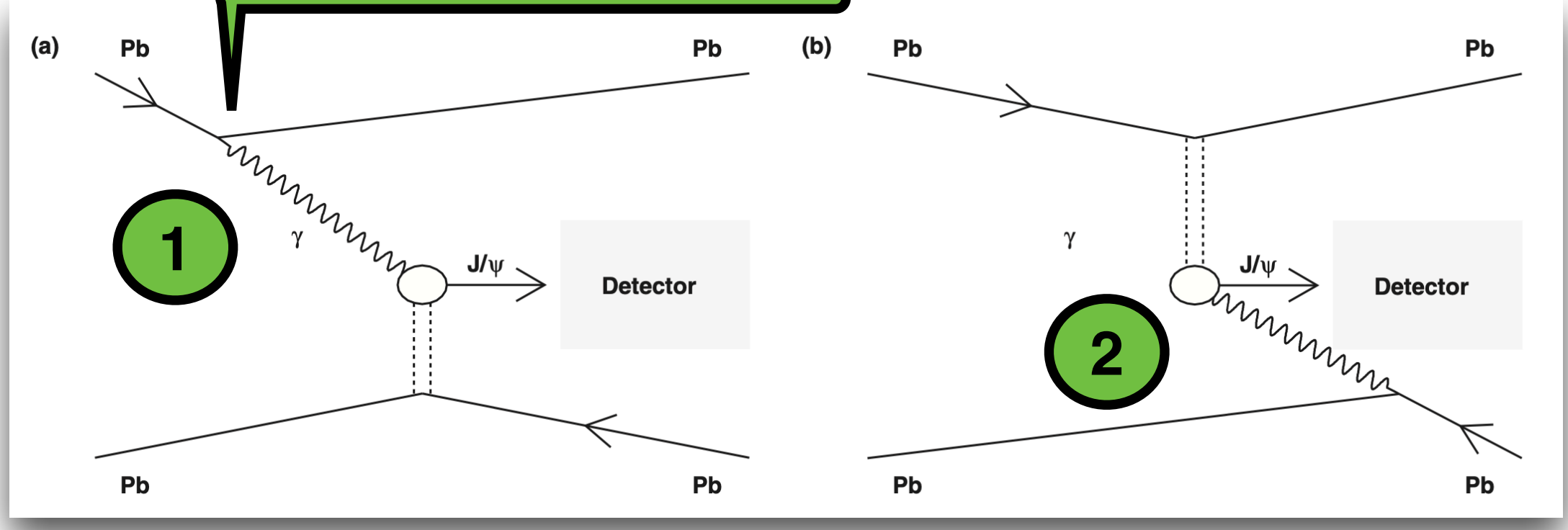


LHCb, 2206.08221



**We need to know the rapidity (wrt the direction of the target)**

**Two photon sources**



**What we measure**

**What we want**

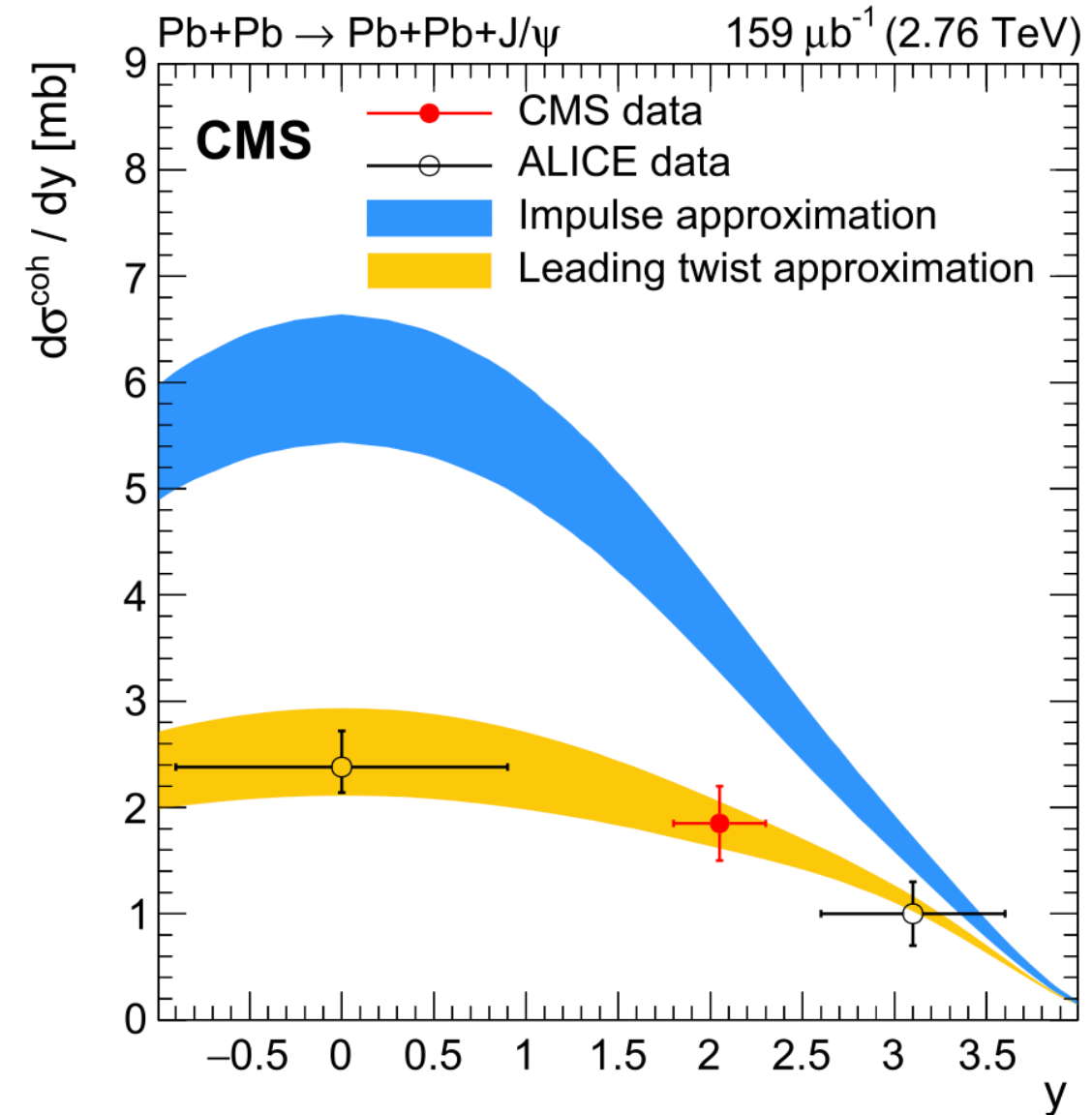
**What we want**

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}}{dy} = n_\gamma(y; \{b\})\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(y) + n_\gamma(-y; \{b\})\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(-y)$$

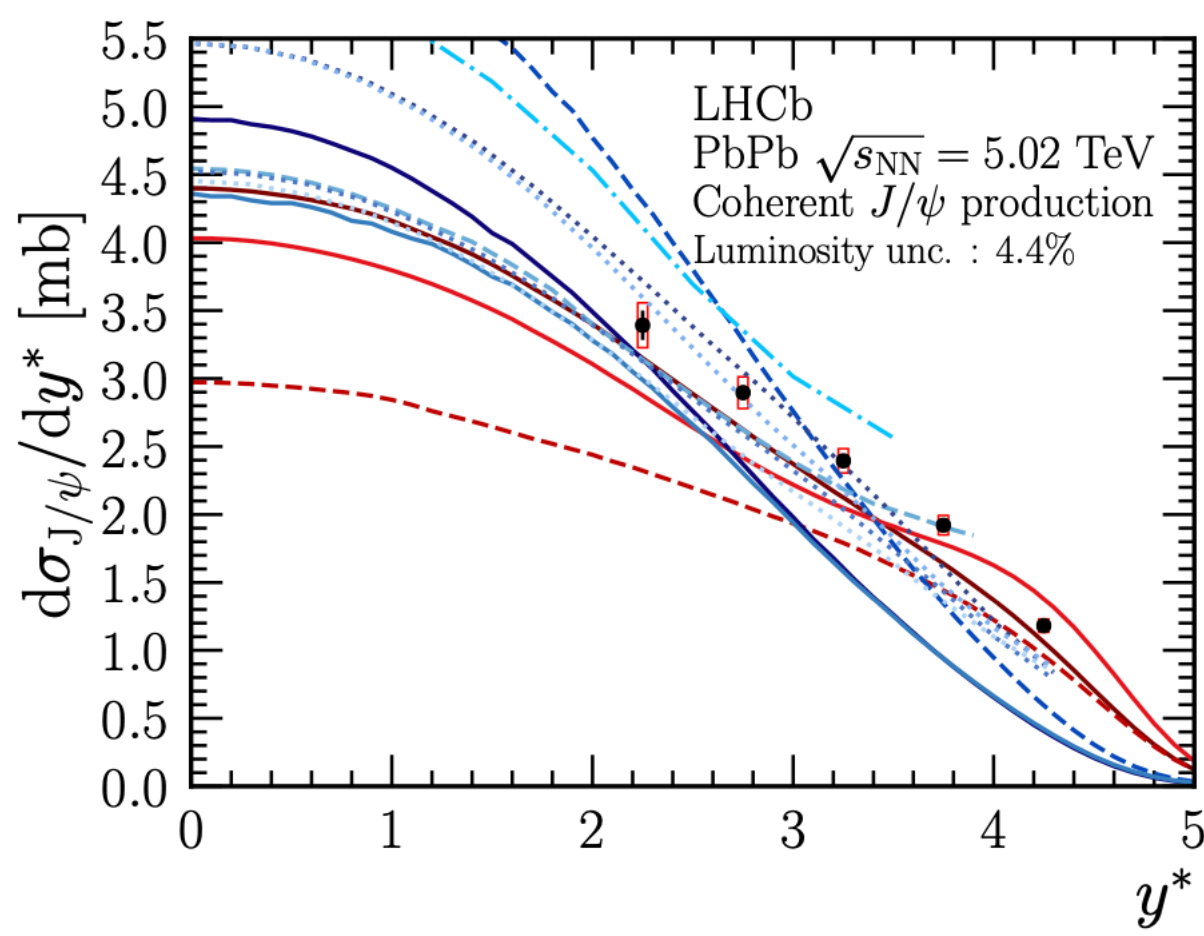
**Photonuclear cross sections at two rapidities, i.e. Bjorken-x**



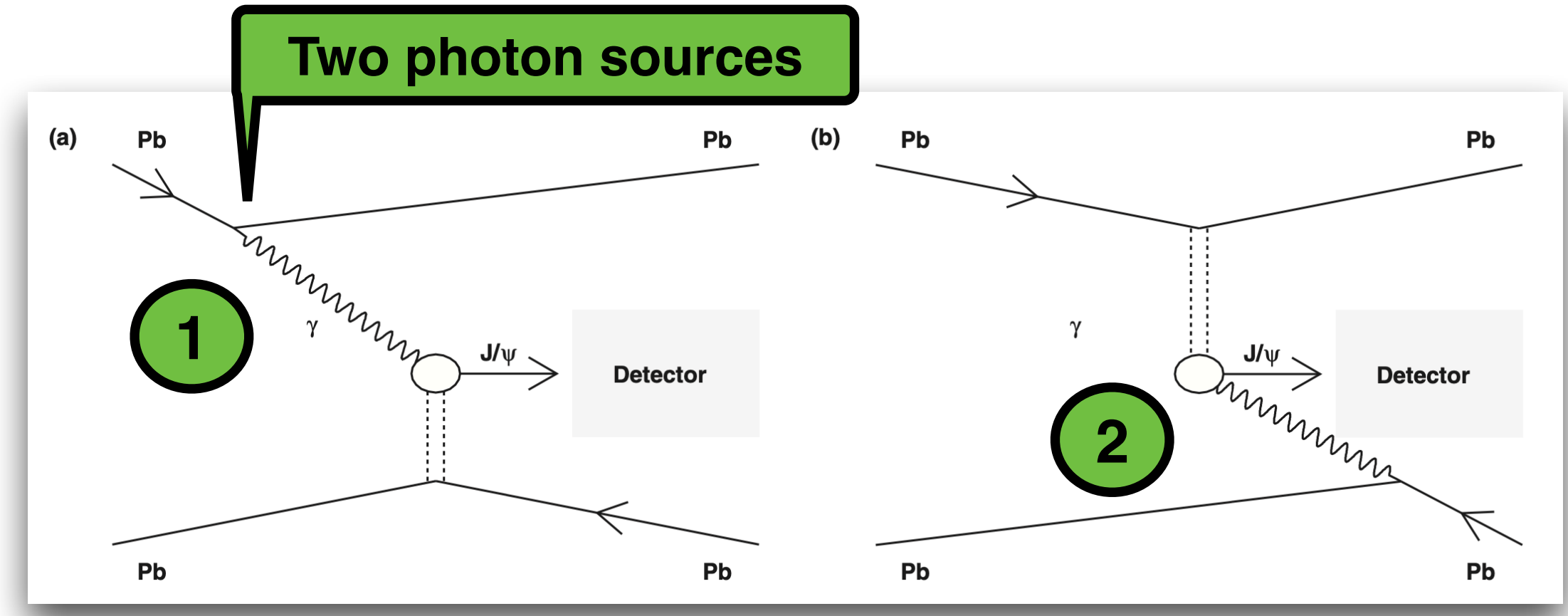
CMS, PLB772 (2017) 489



LHCb, 2206.08221



We need to know the rapidity (wrt the direction of the target)



What we measure      What we want      What we want

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}}{dy} = n_\gamma(y; \{b\})\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(y) + n_\gamma(-y; \{b\})\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(-y)$$

Photonuclear cross sections at two rapidities, i.e. Bjorken-x

How to extract the photonuclear cross section if the photon fluxes are known?

# Ambiguity problem: first solutions applied to LHC Run 1 data

At midrapidity both contributions are equal, no problem

What we measure

What we want

What we want

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}}{dy} = n_{\gamma}(y; \{b\})\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(y) + n_{\gamma}(-y; \{b\})\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(-y)$$

Photonuclear cross sections at two rapidities, i.e. Bjorken-x

How to extract the photonuclear cross section if the photon fluxes are known?

# Ambiguity problem: first solutions applied to LHC Run 1 data

At forward rapidities **2** dominates (95% of the cross section)

Guzey et al, Phys.Lett. B726 (2013) 290-295

At midrapidity both contributions are equal, no problem

What we measure

What we want

What we want

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}}{dy} = n_{\gamma}(y; \{b\})\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(y) + n_{\gamma}(-y; \{b\})\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(-y)$$

Photonuclear cross sections at two rapidities, i.e. Bjorken-x

How to extract the photonuclear cross section if the photon fluxes are known?

# Ambiguity problem: first solutions applied to LHC Run 1 data

At forward rapidities **2** dominates (95% of the cross section)

Guzey et al, Phys.Lett. B726 (2013) 290-295

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Perform two independent measurements at the same rapidity, but different impact parameter, then solve the equations.

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$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}}{dy}\right)_A = n_{\gamma}(y; \{b\}_A)\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(y) + n_{\gamma}(-y; \{b\}_A)\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(-y)$$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}}{dy}\right)_B = n_{\gamma}(y; \{b\}_B)\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(y) + n_{\gamma}(-y; \{b\}_B)\sigma_{\gamma\text{Pb}}(-y)$$



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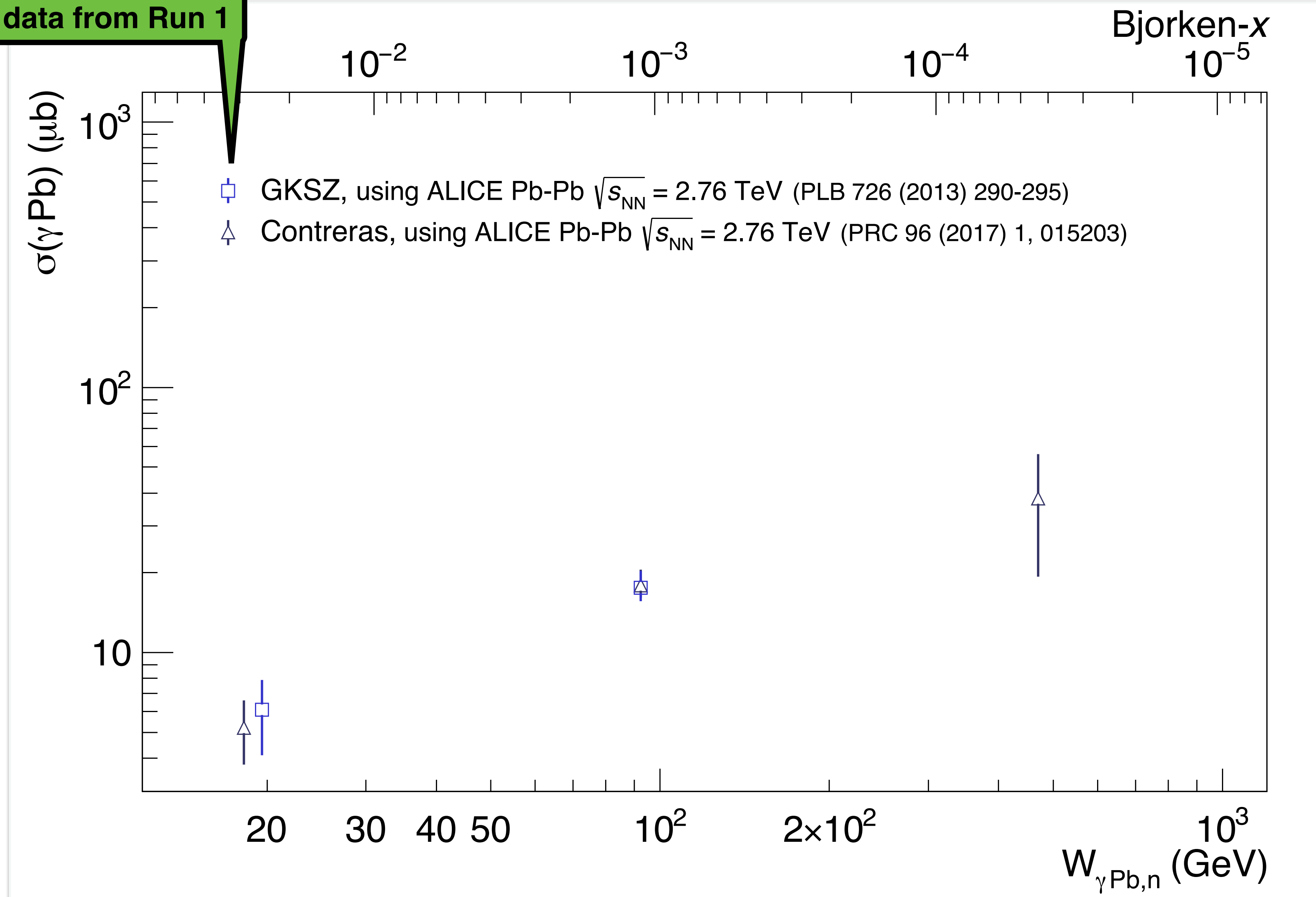
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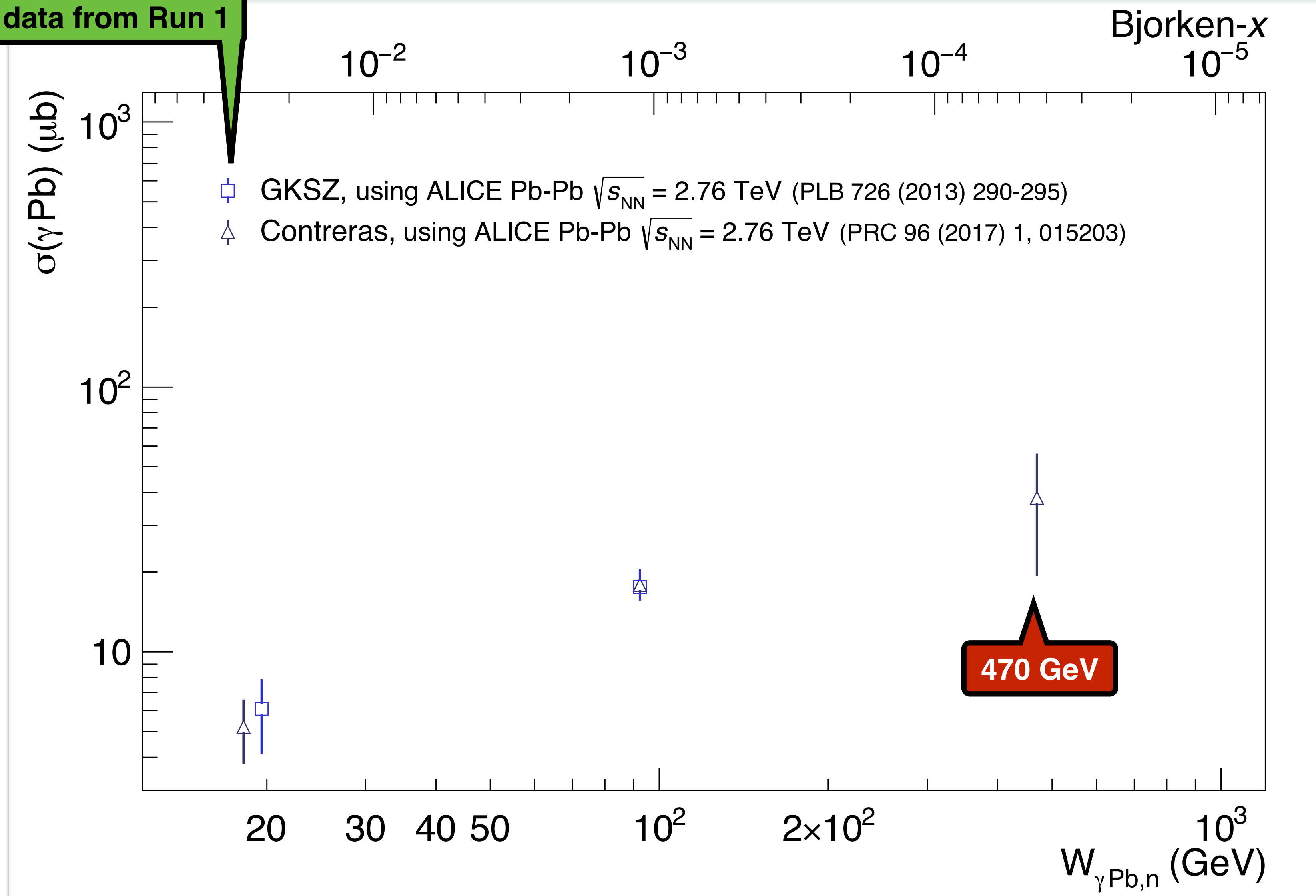
For example, use peripheral and ultra-peripheral collisions

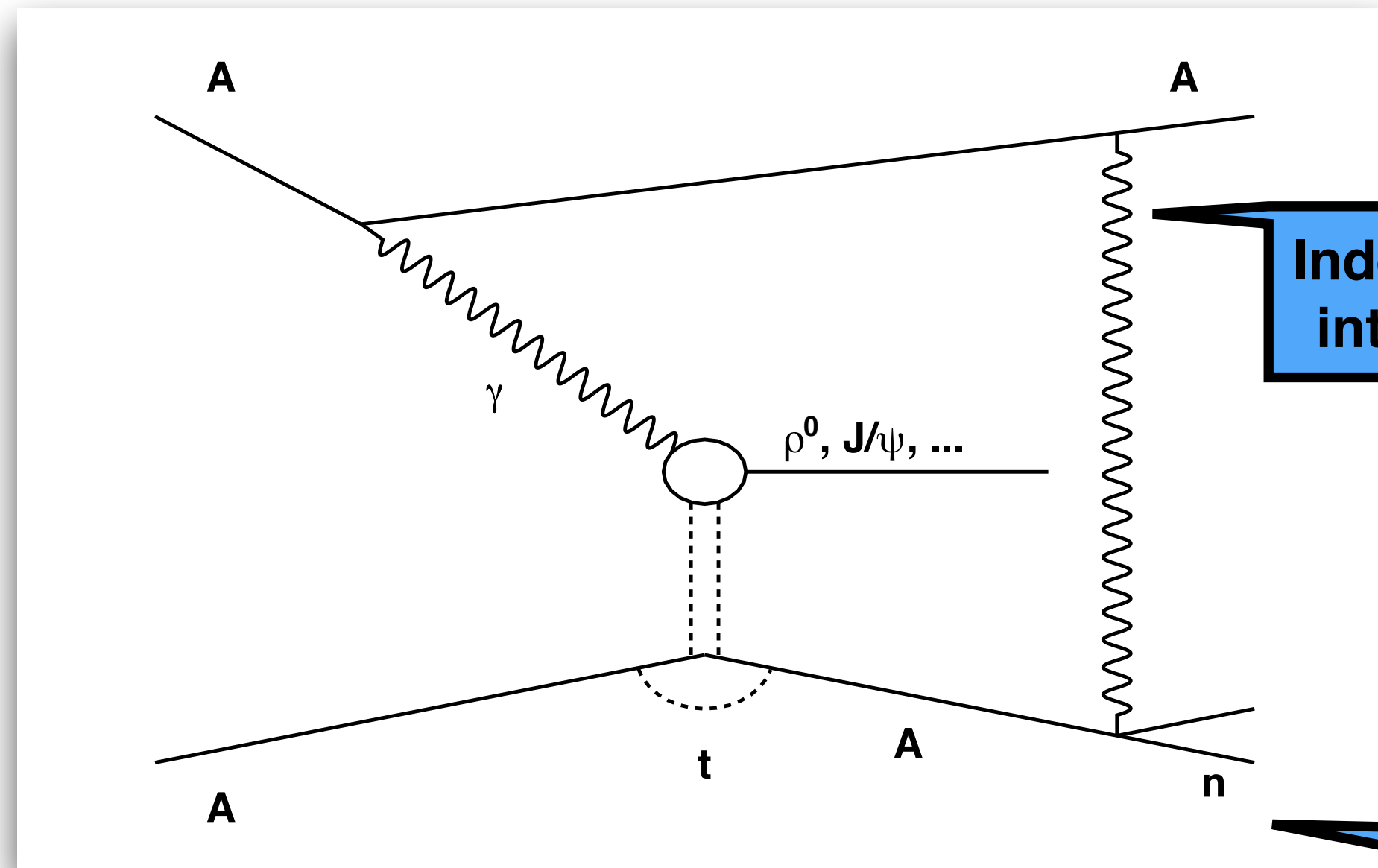
JGC, PRC 96, 015203 (2017)

Analyses using ALICE data from Run 1



Analyses using ALICE data from Run 1

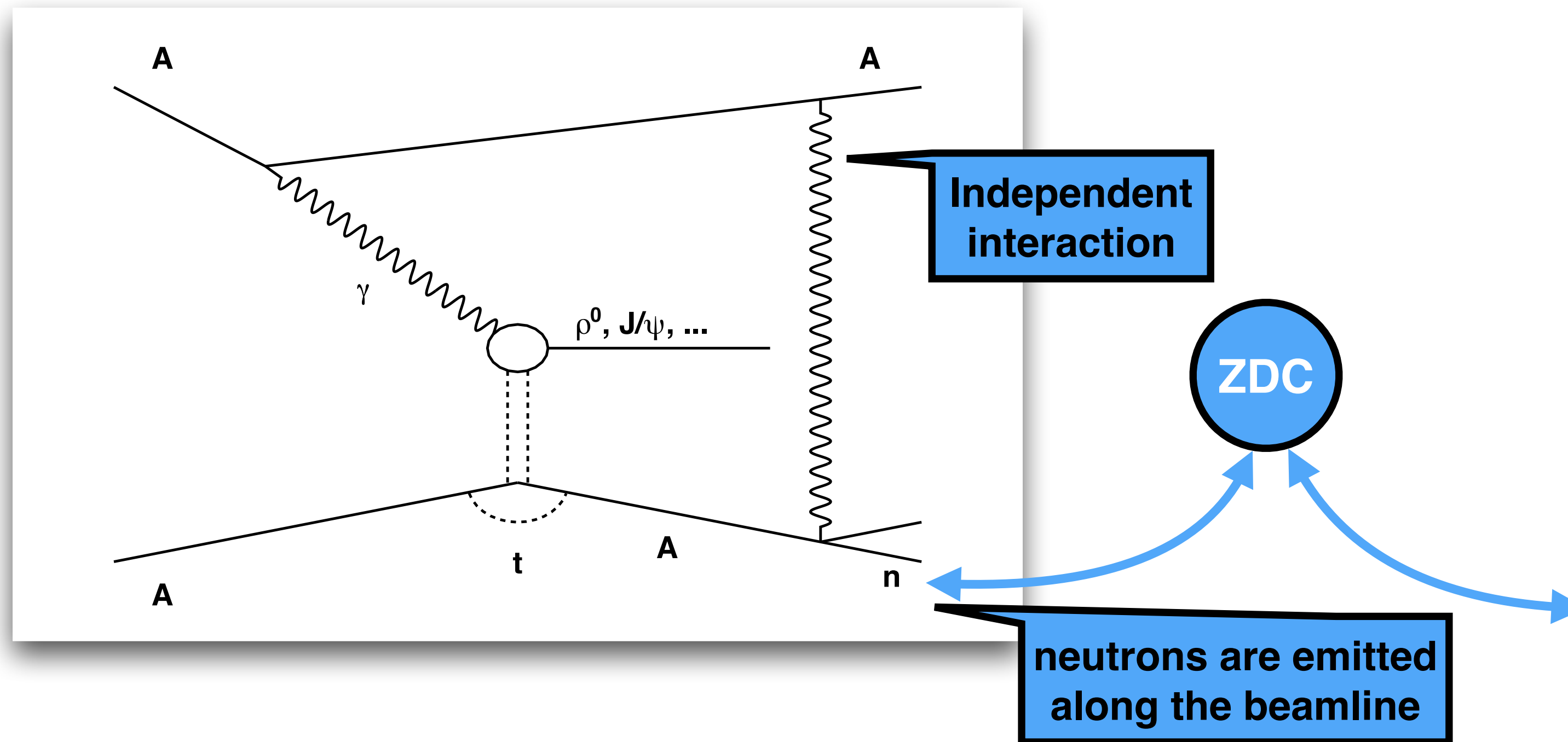




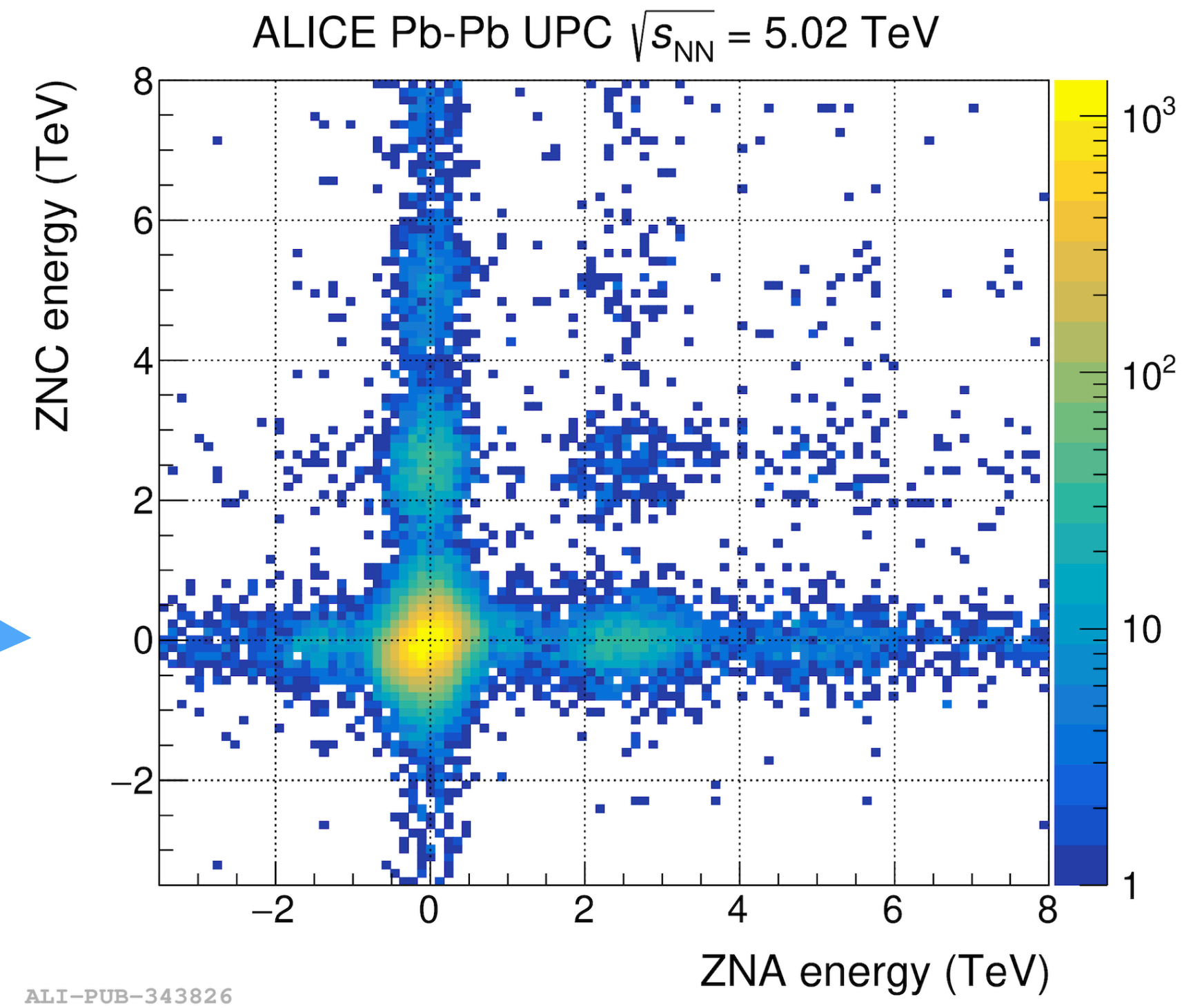
Independent interaction

neutrons are emitted along the beamline

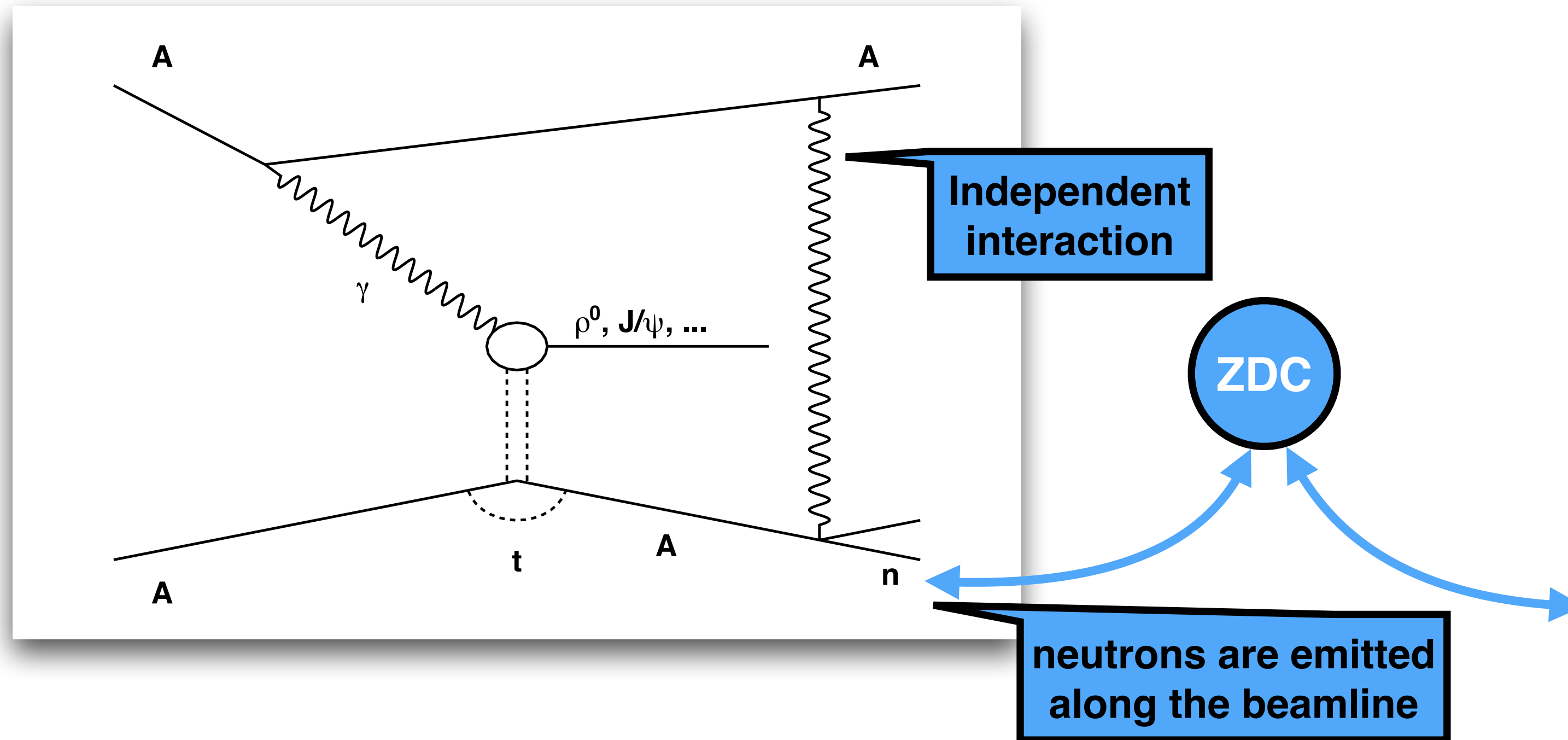
Electromagnetic dissociation of nuclei



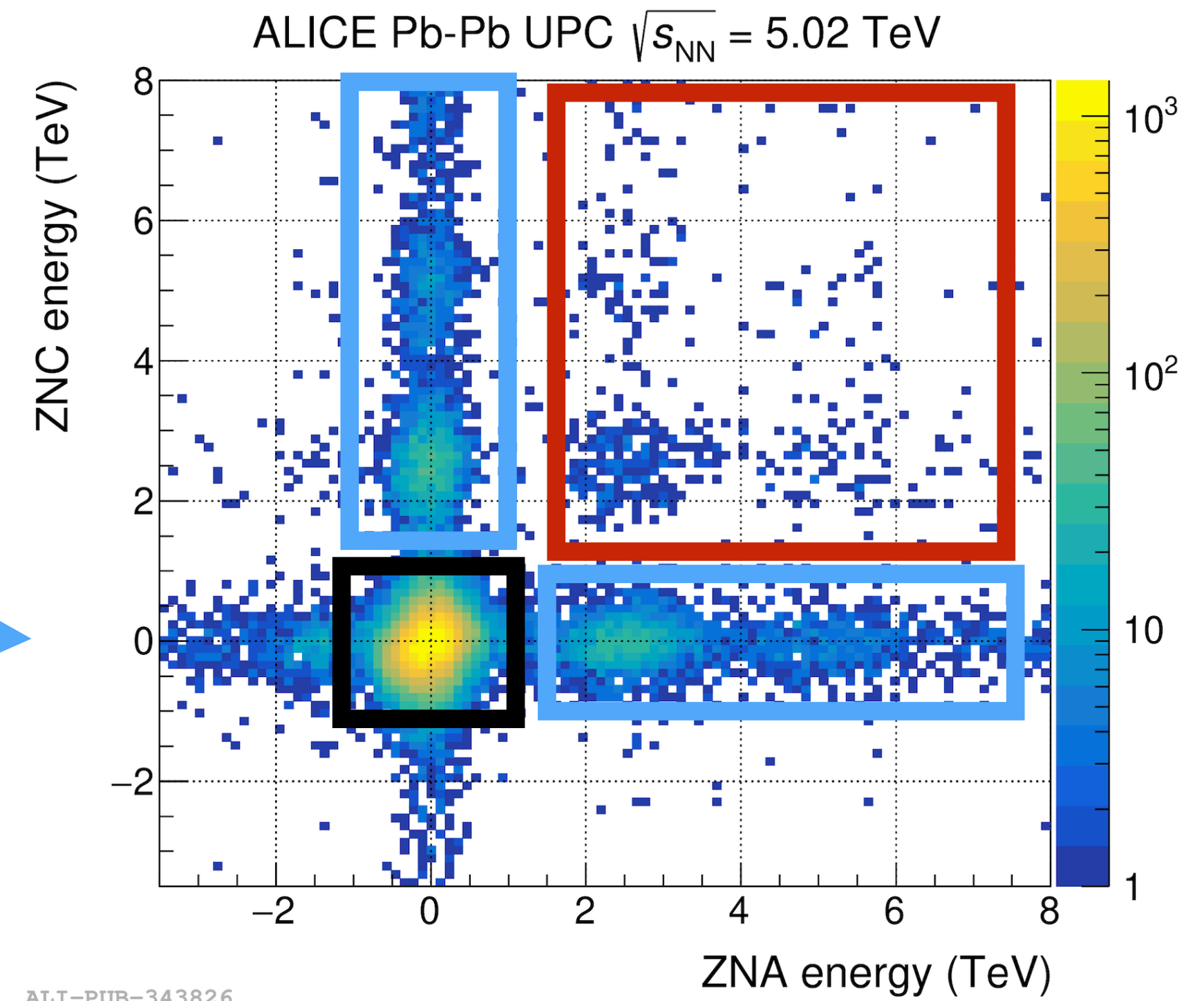
## Electromagnetic dissociation of nuclei



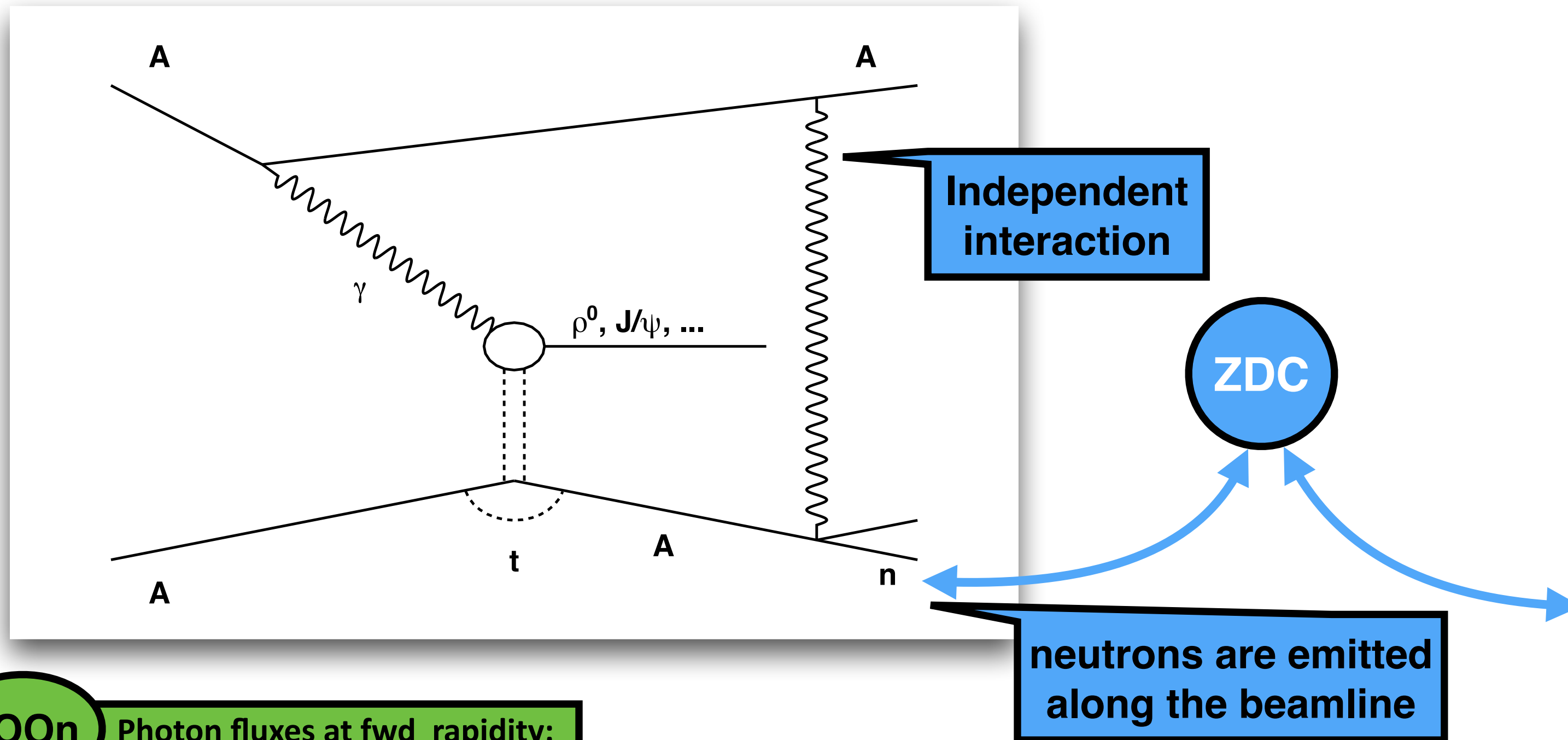
ALICE, JHEP 06 (2020) 035



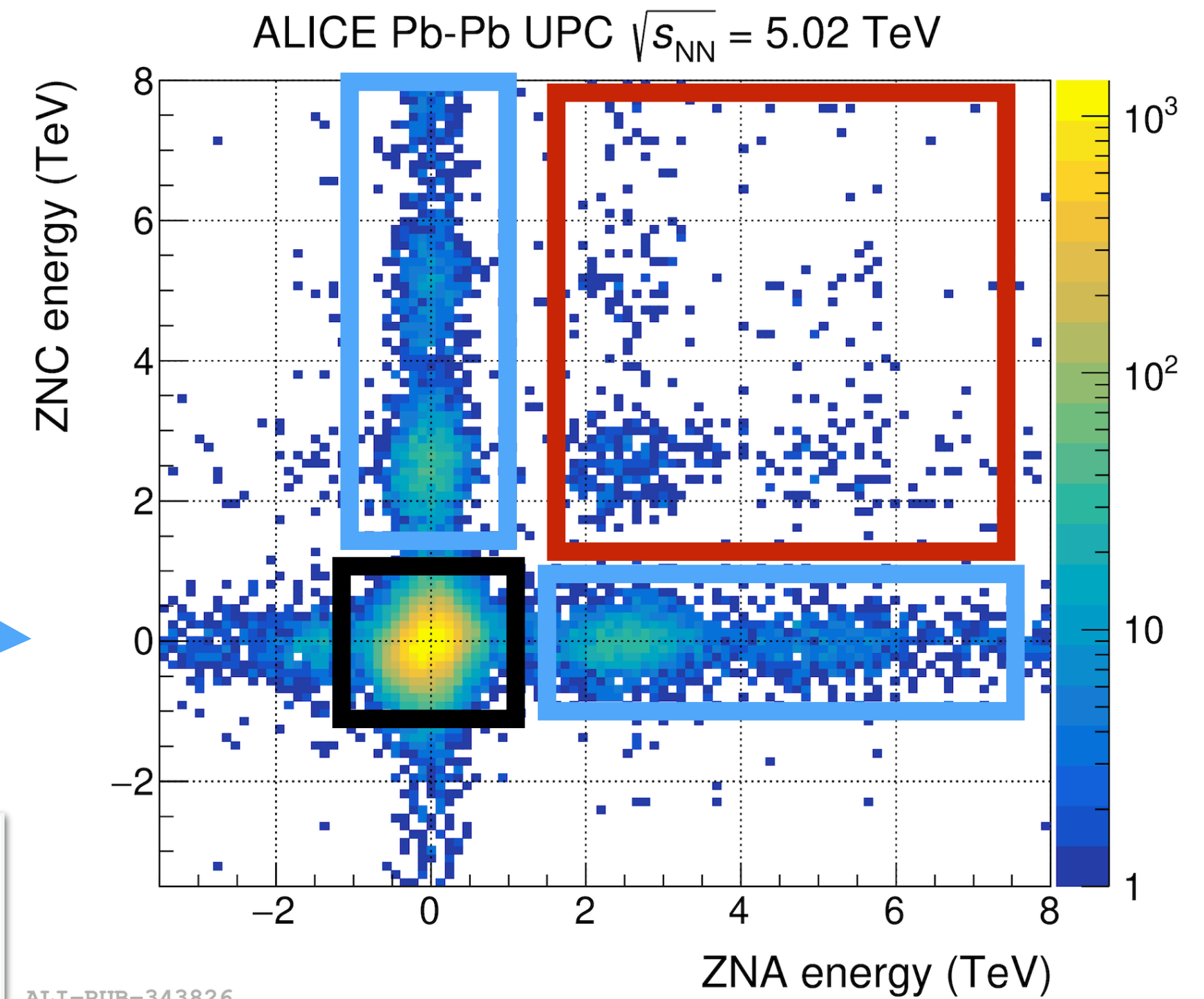
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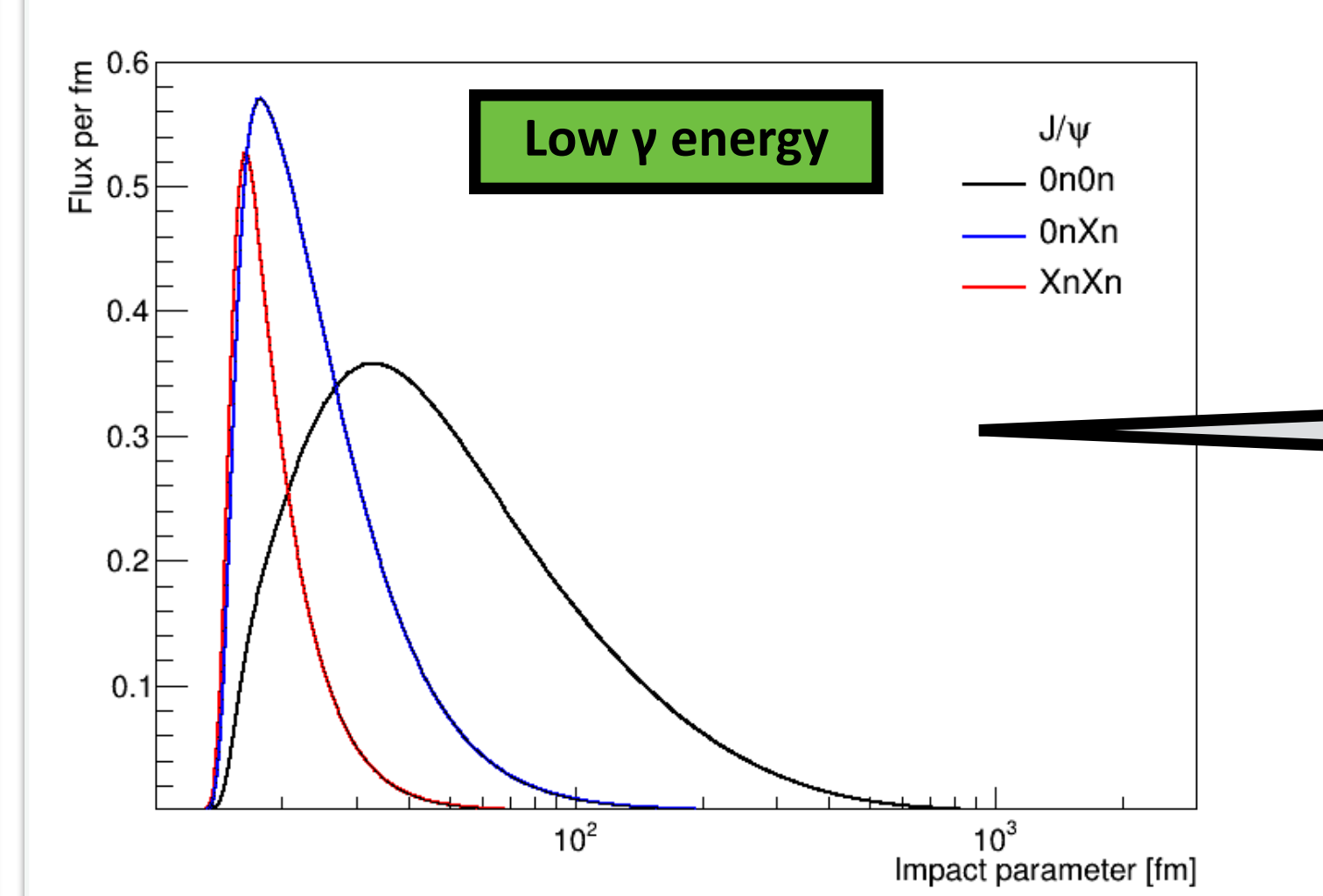
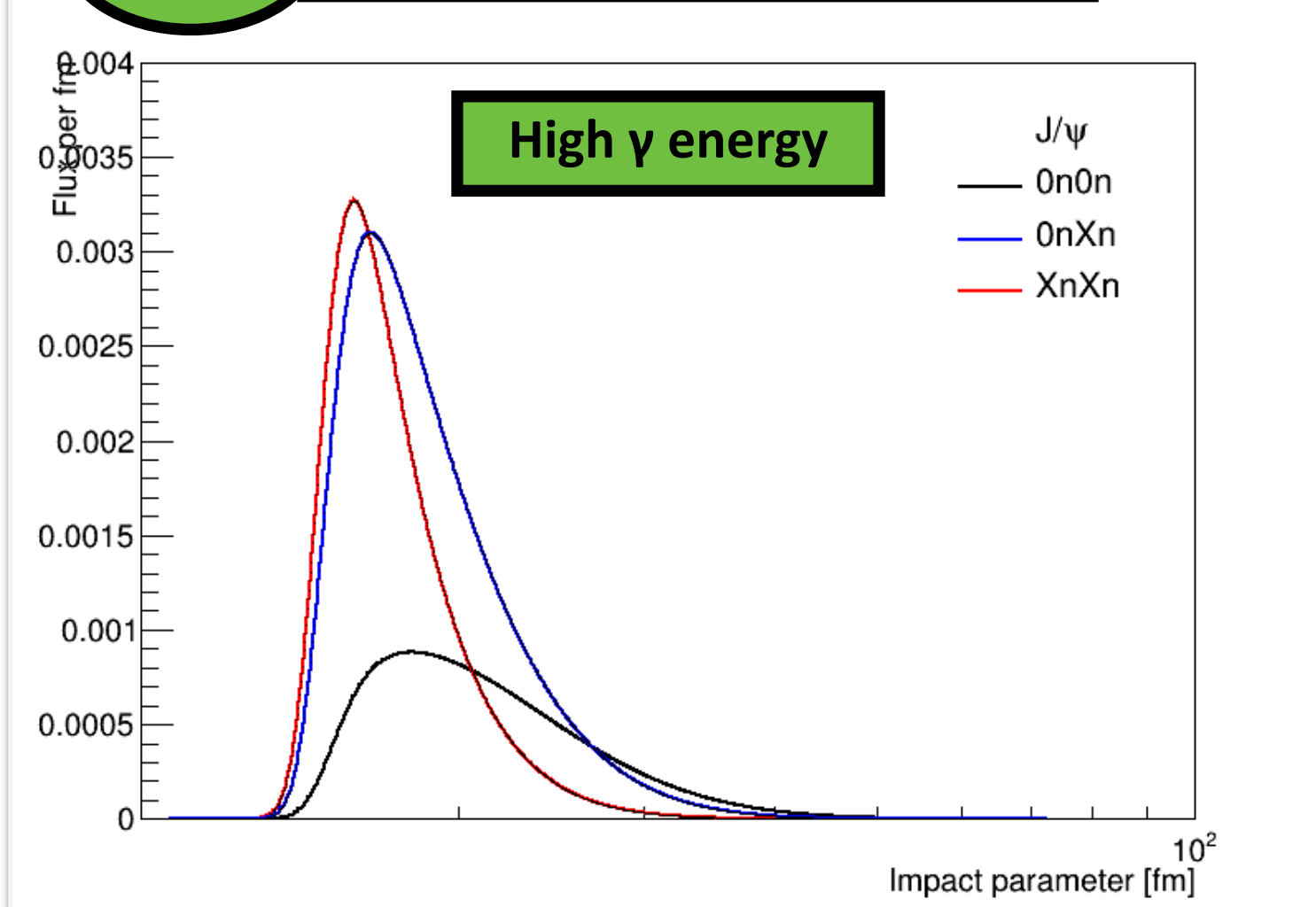


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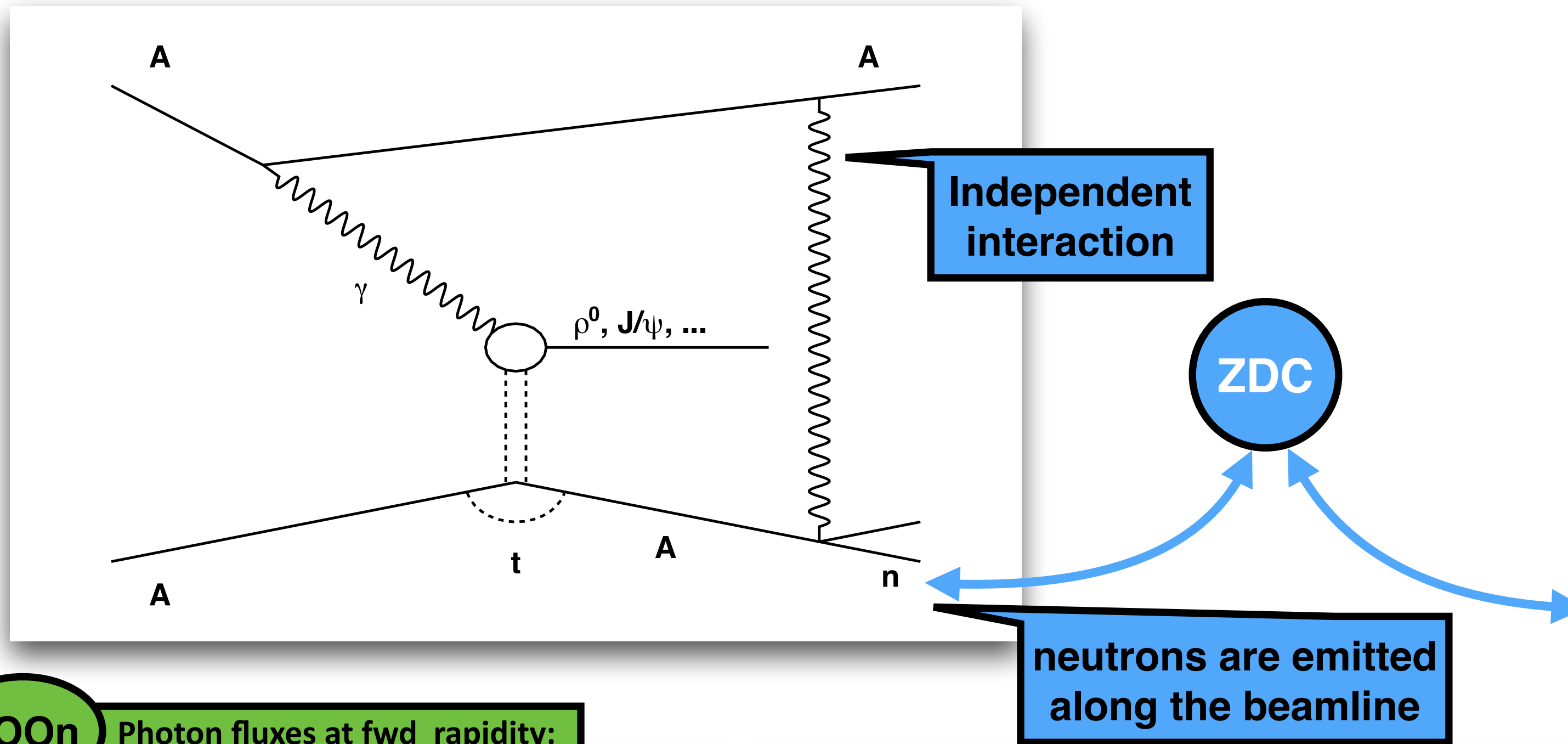
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### n00n Photon fluxes at fwd rapidity:

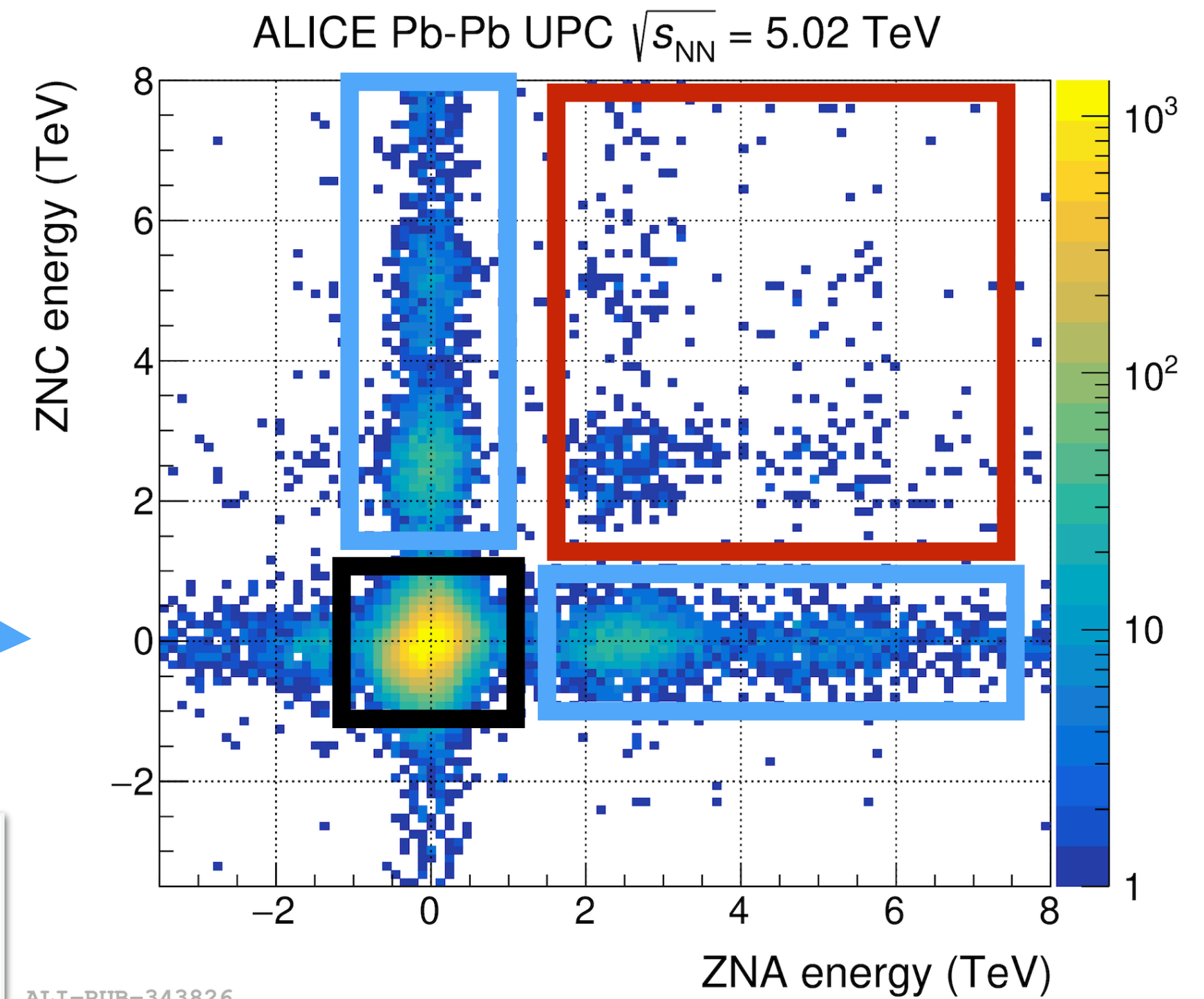


**0n0n: no EMD neutron (large b)**  
**0nXn: single EMD (medium b)**  
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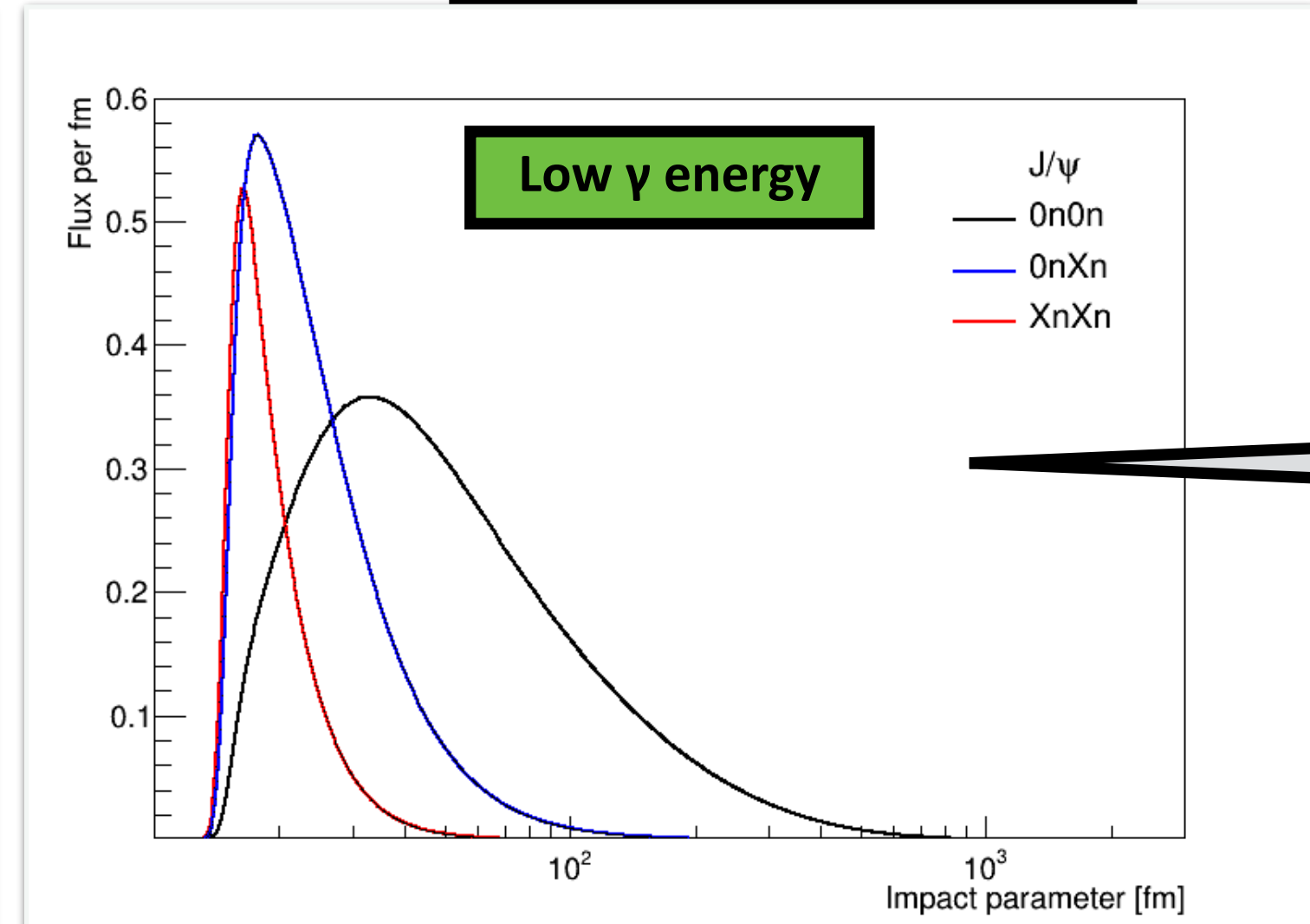
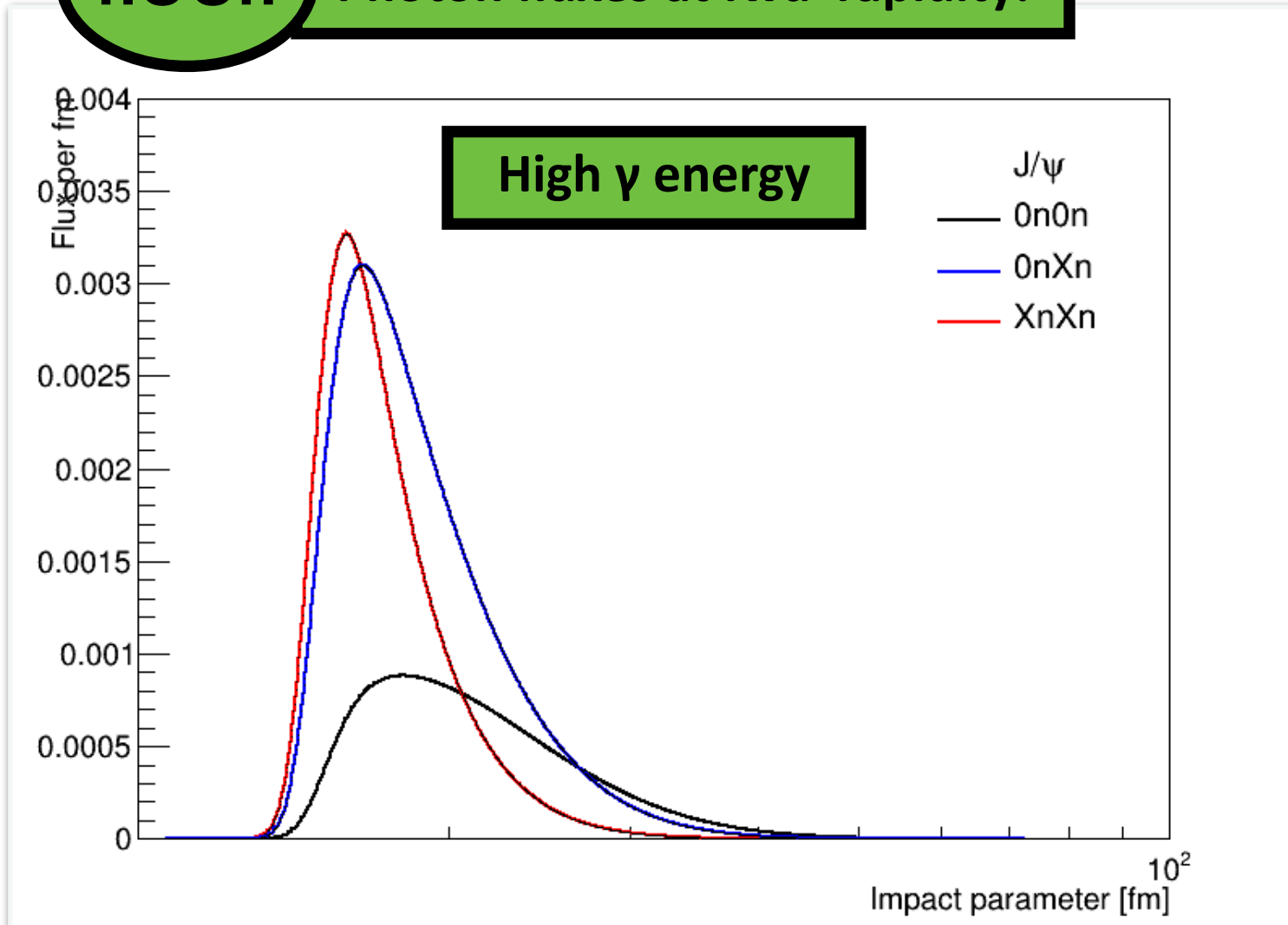


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ALICE, JHEP 06 (2020) 035

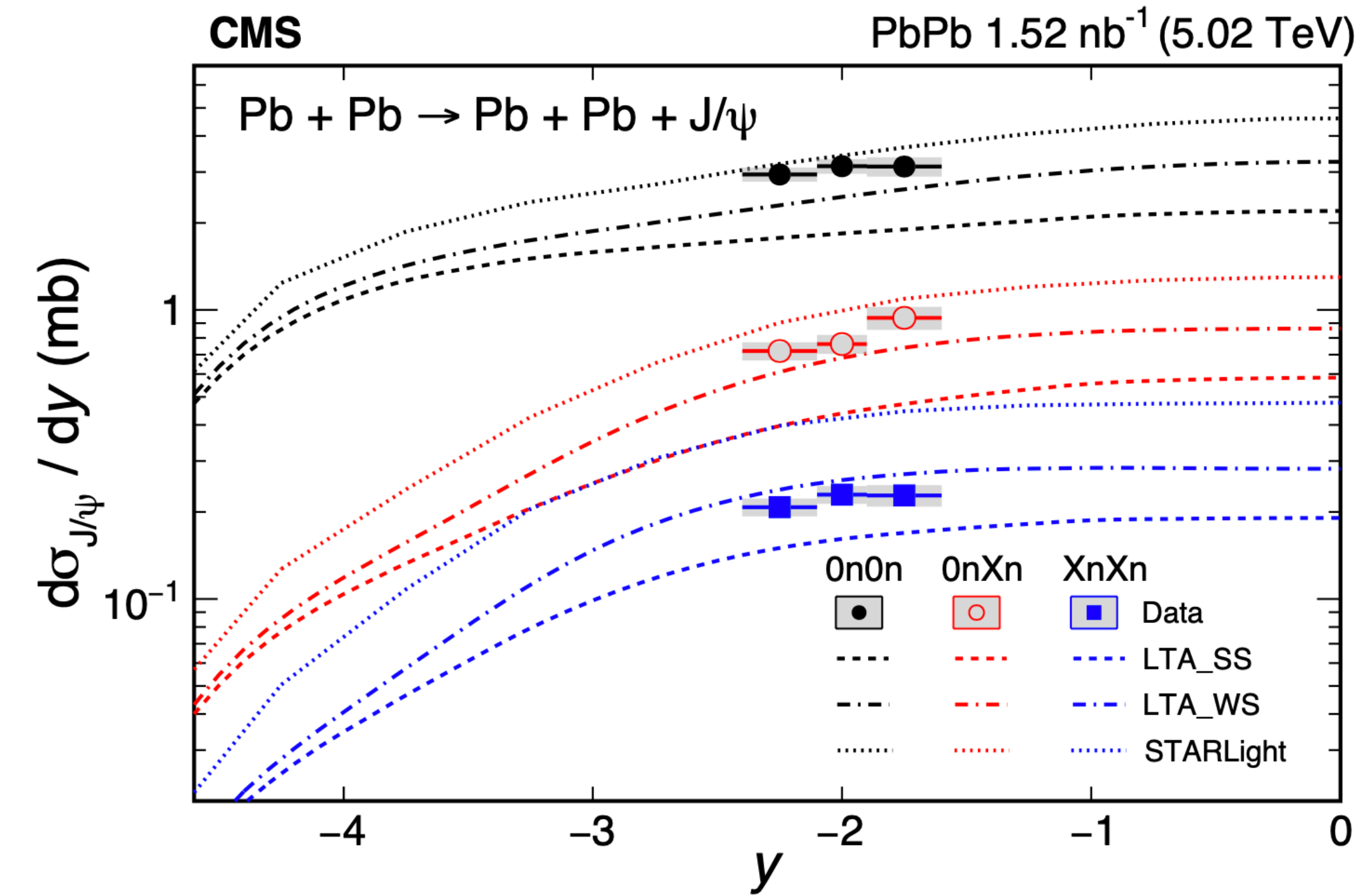
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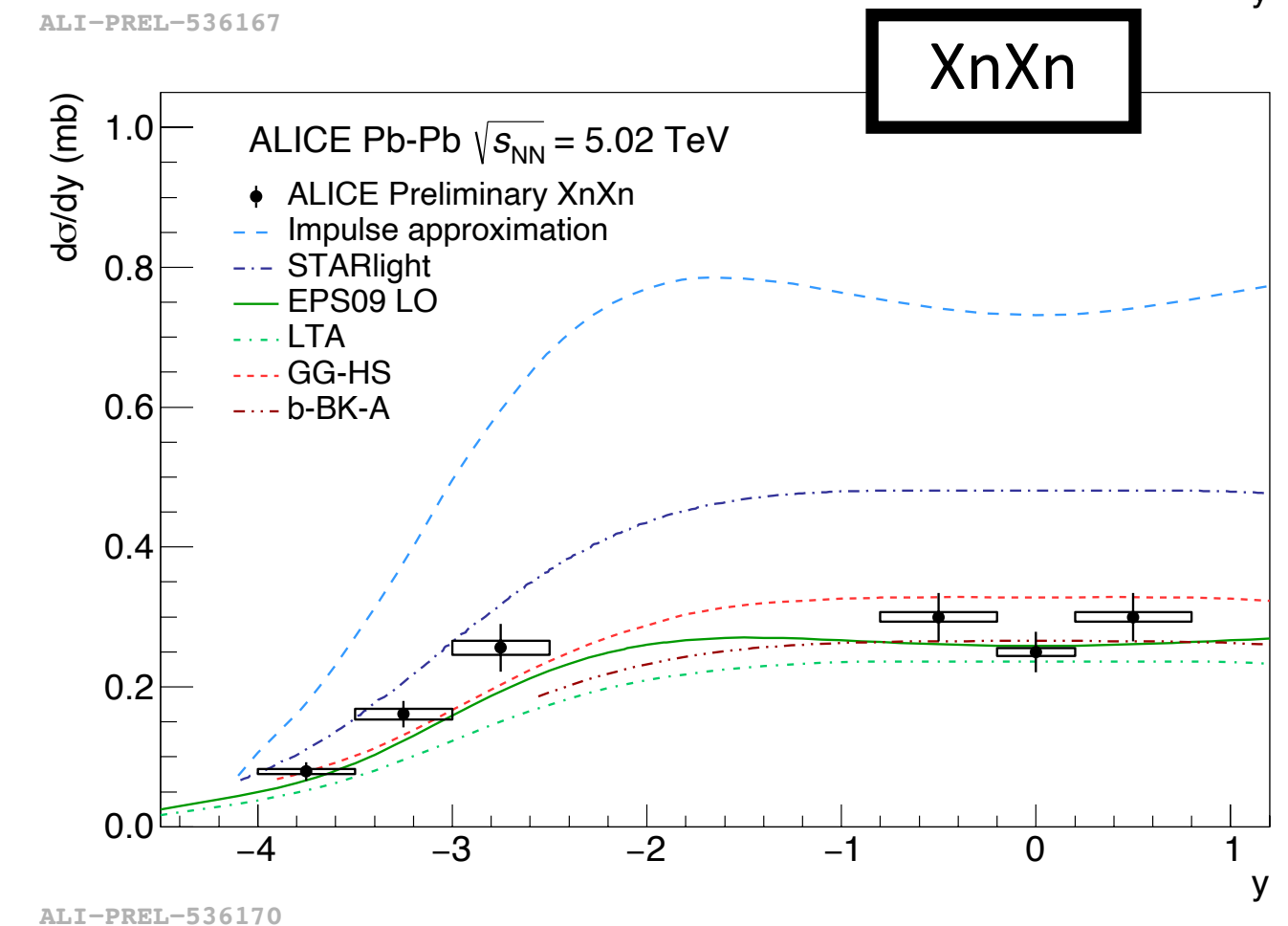
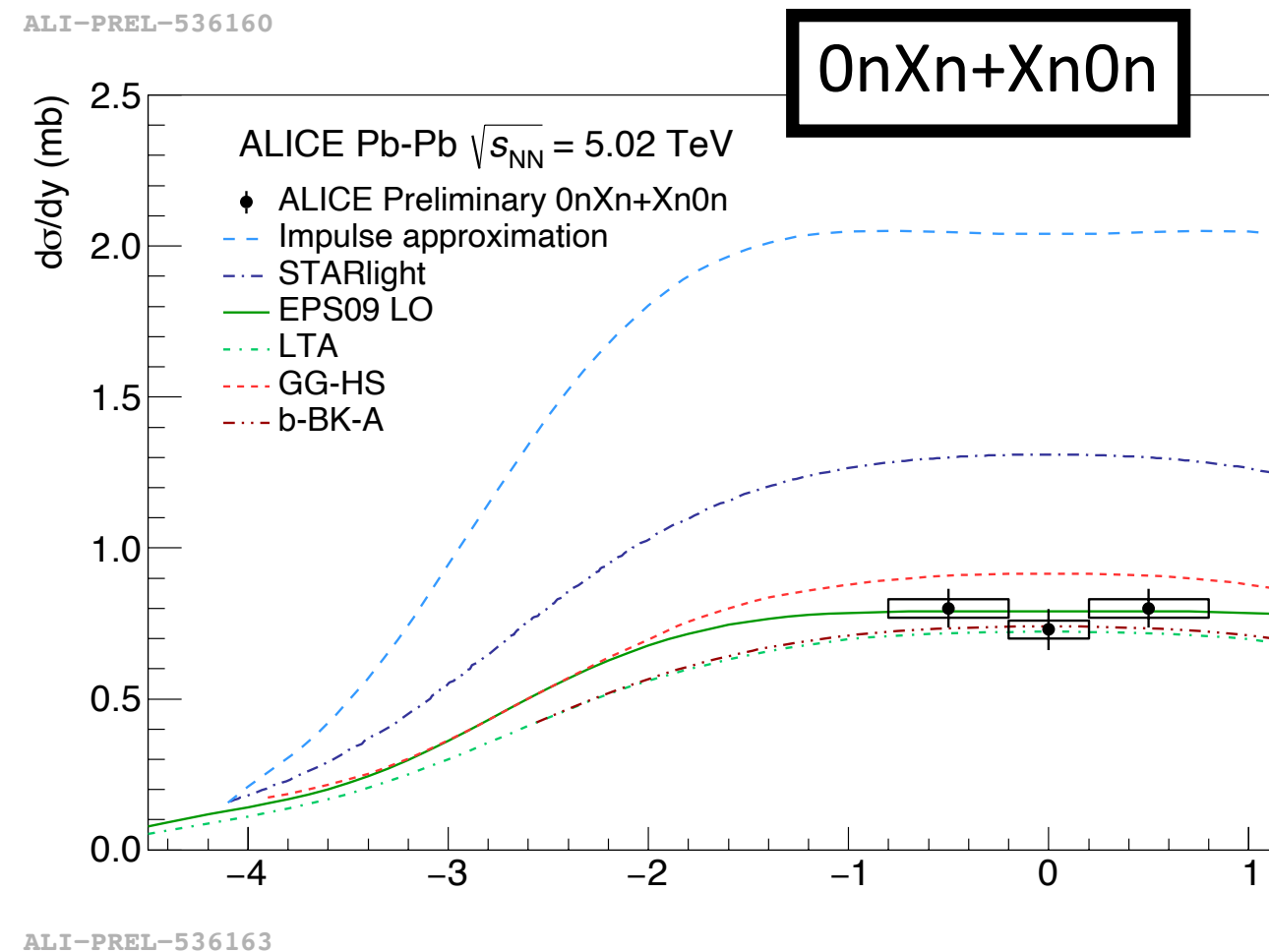
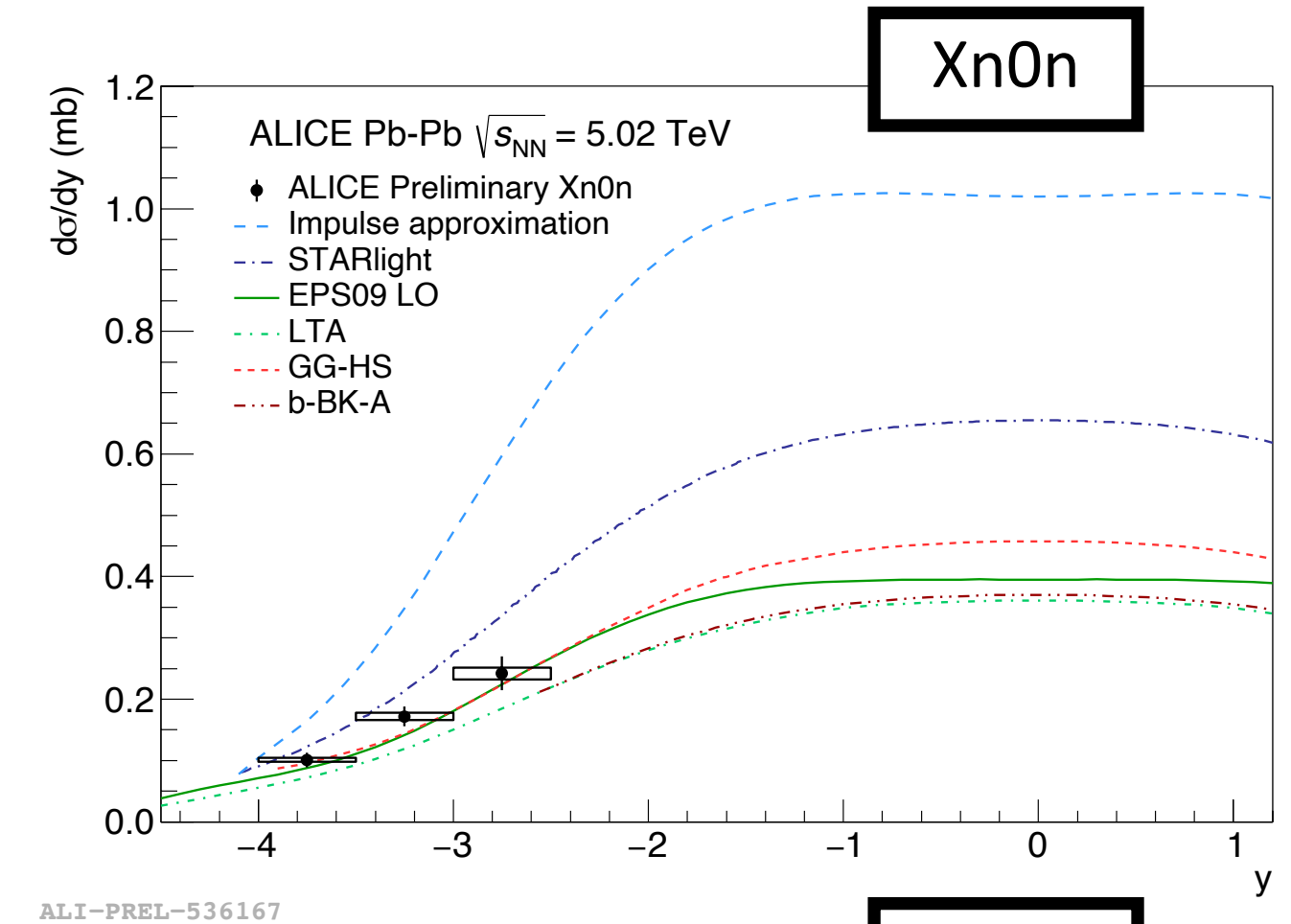
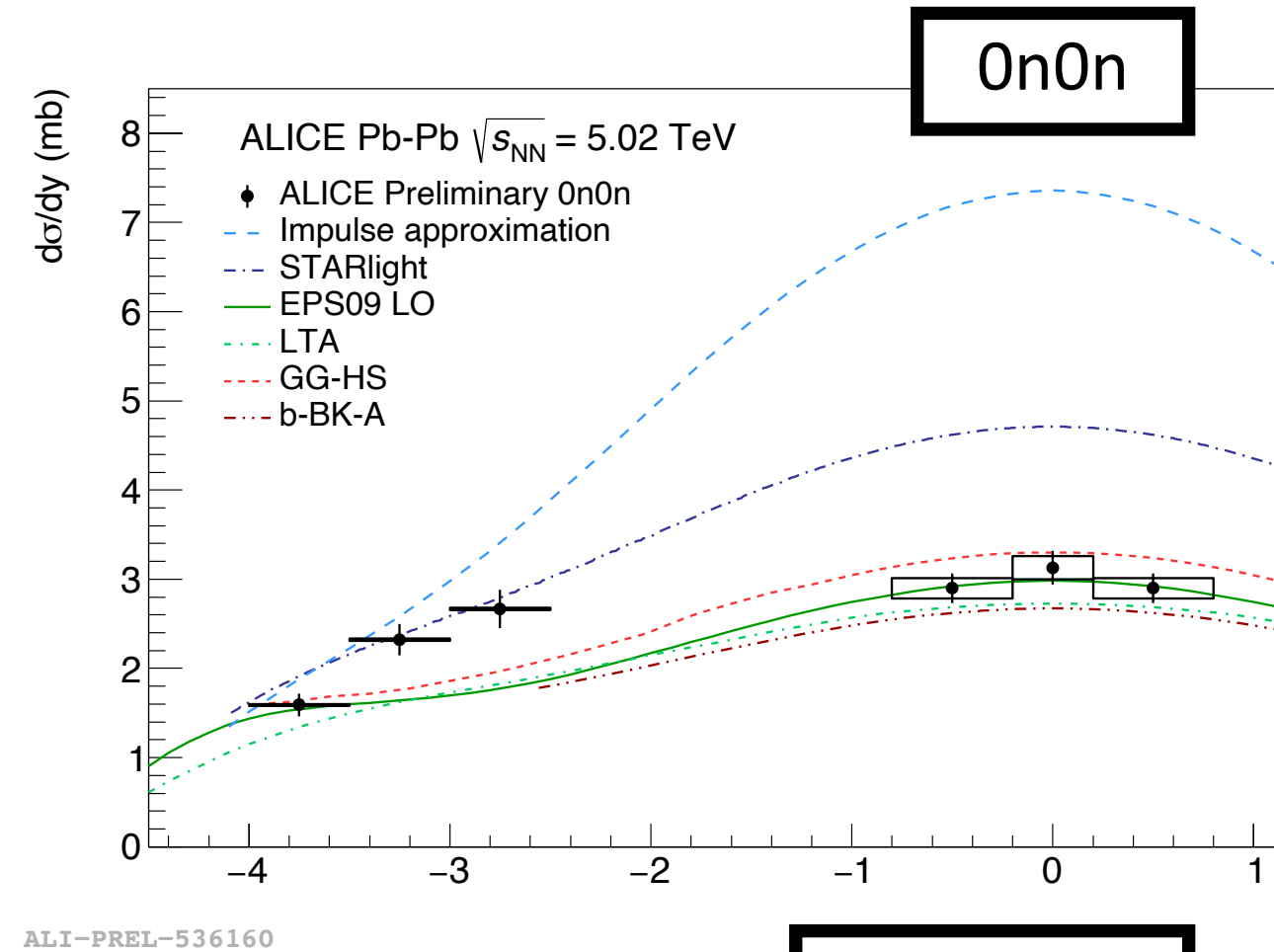
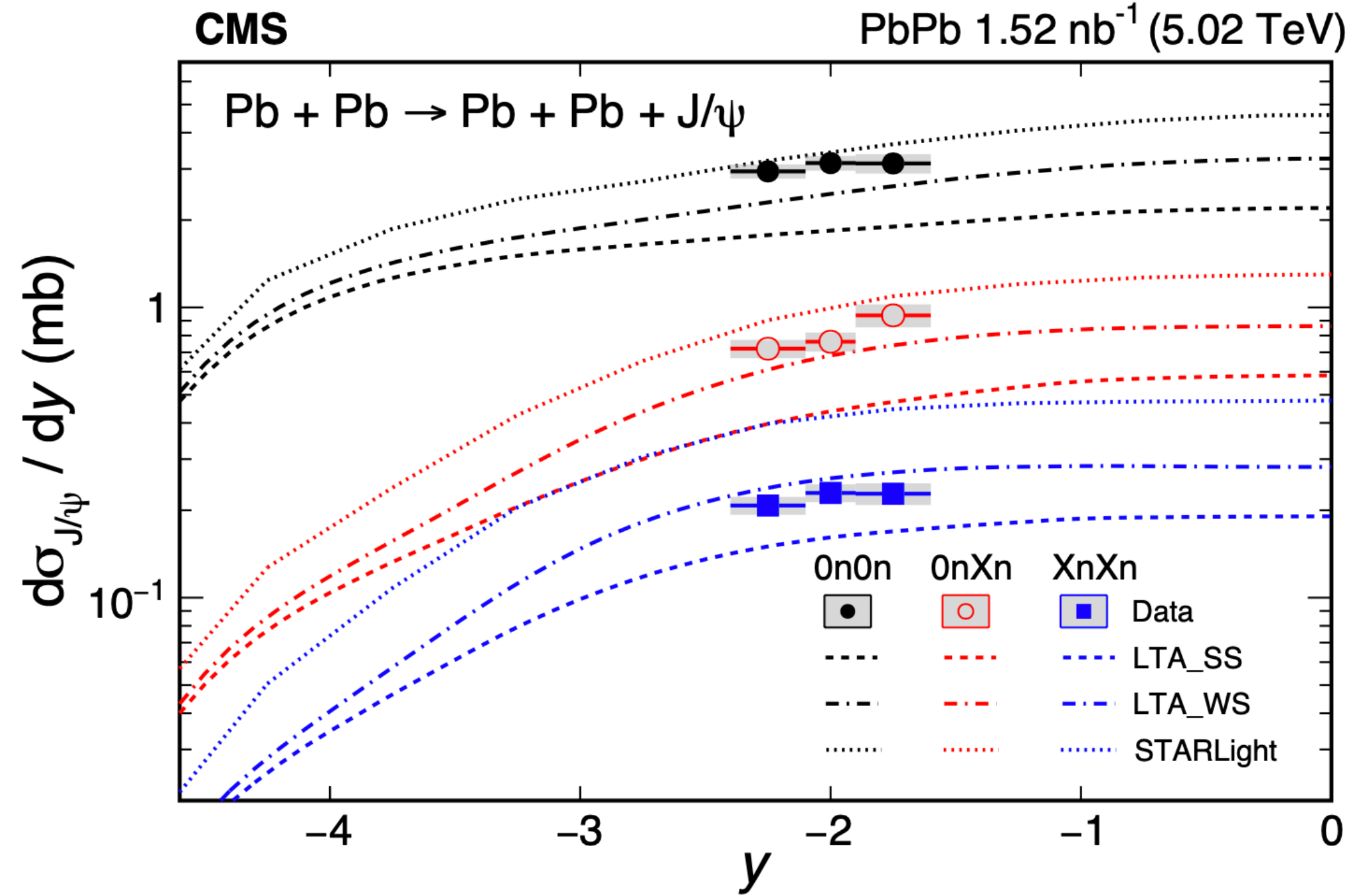
**Three independent measurements at the same rapidity, but different impact parameters**

CMS



**CMS**

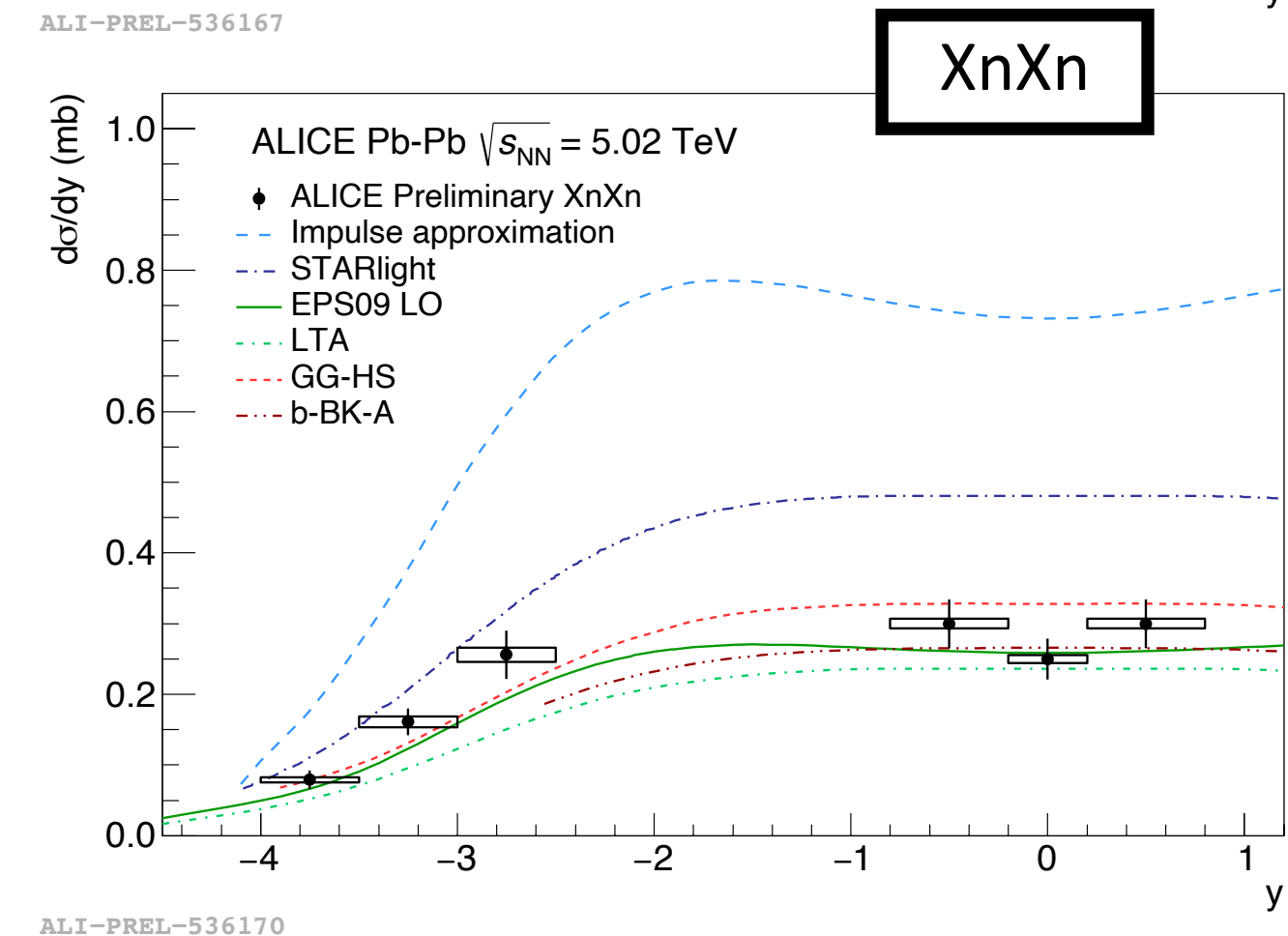
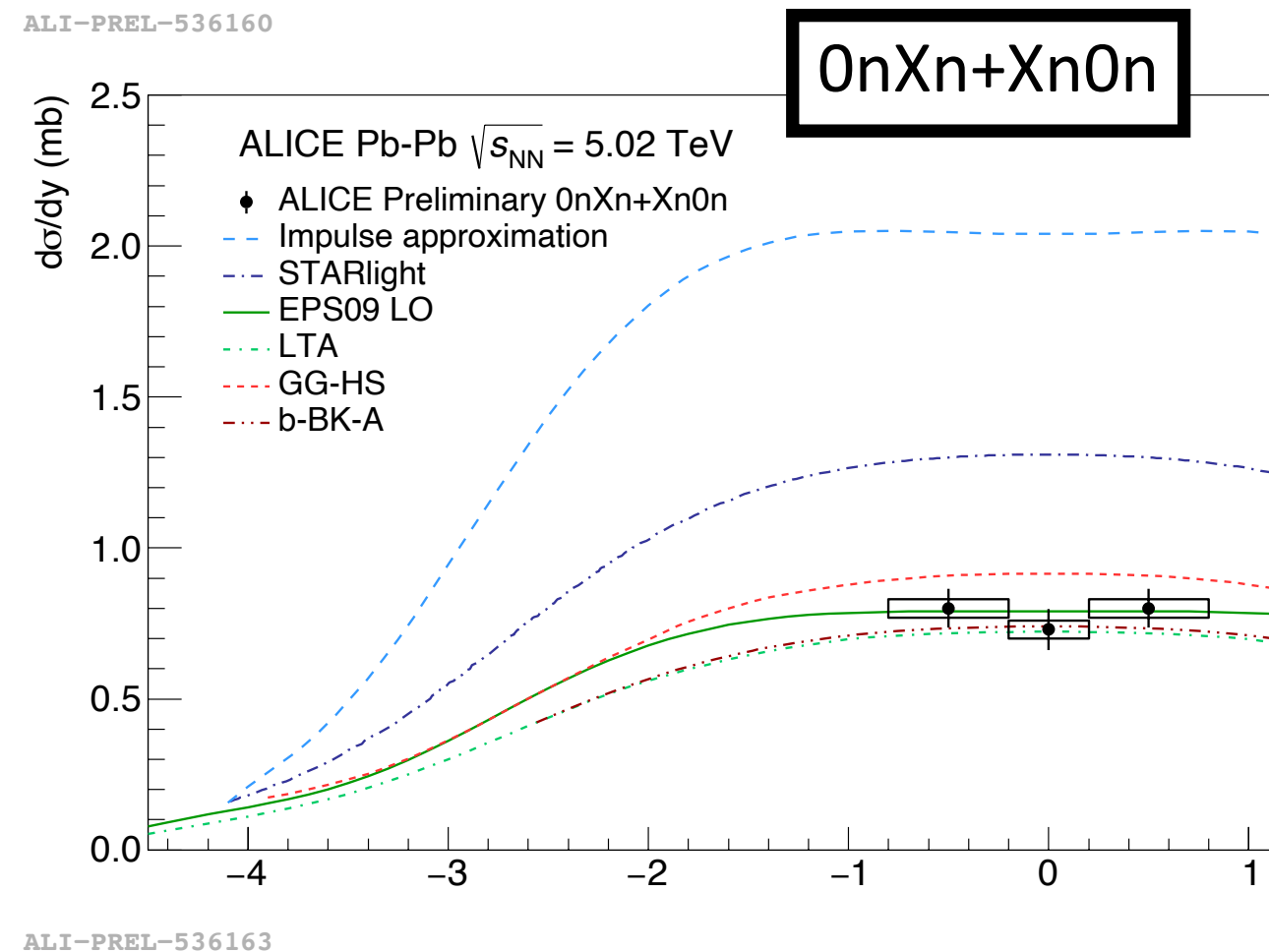
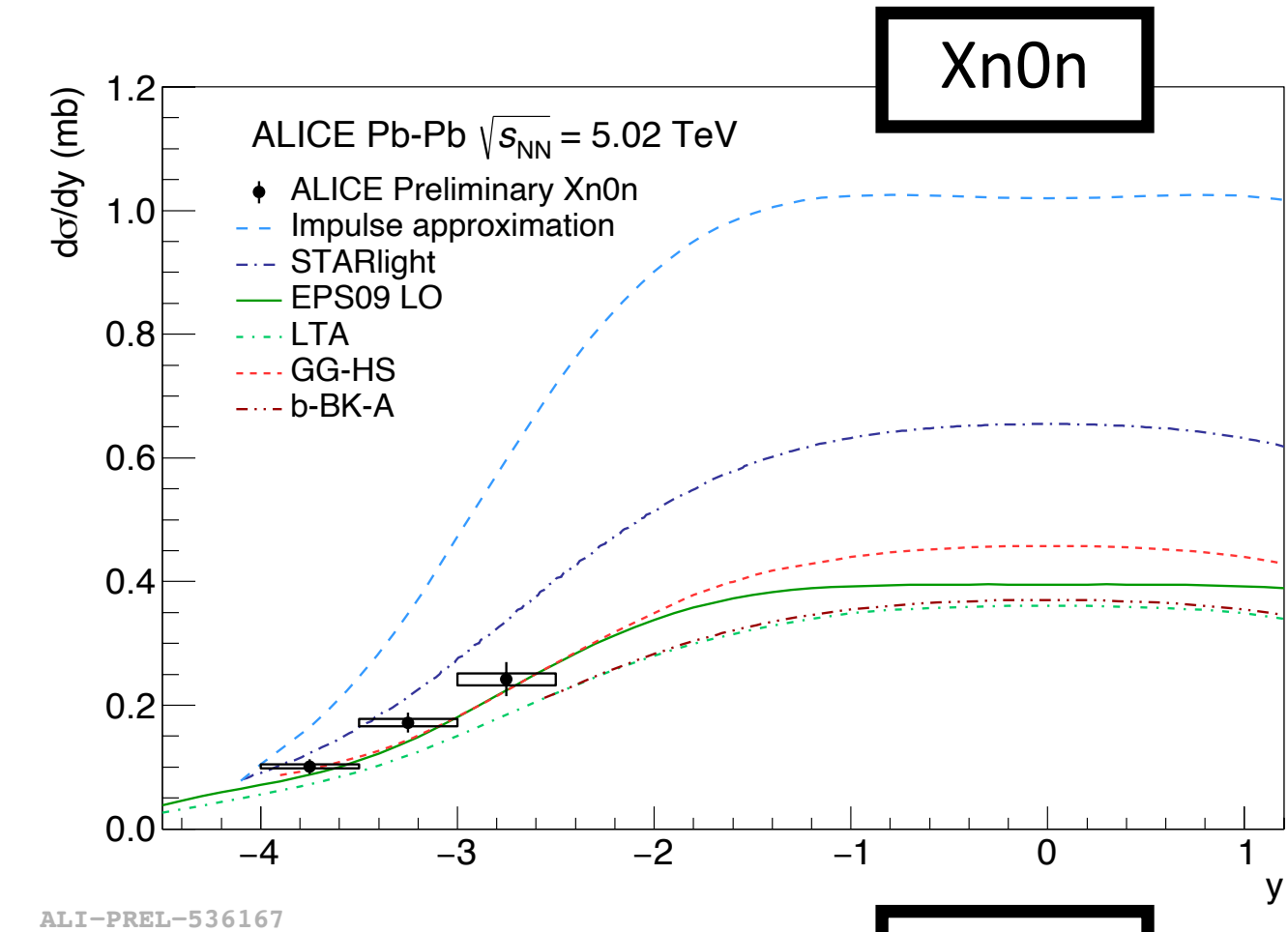
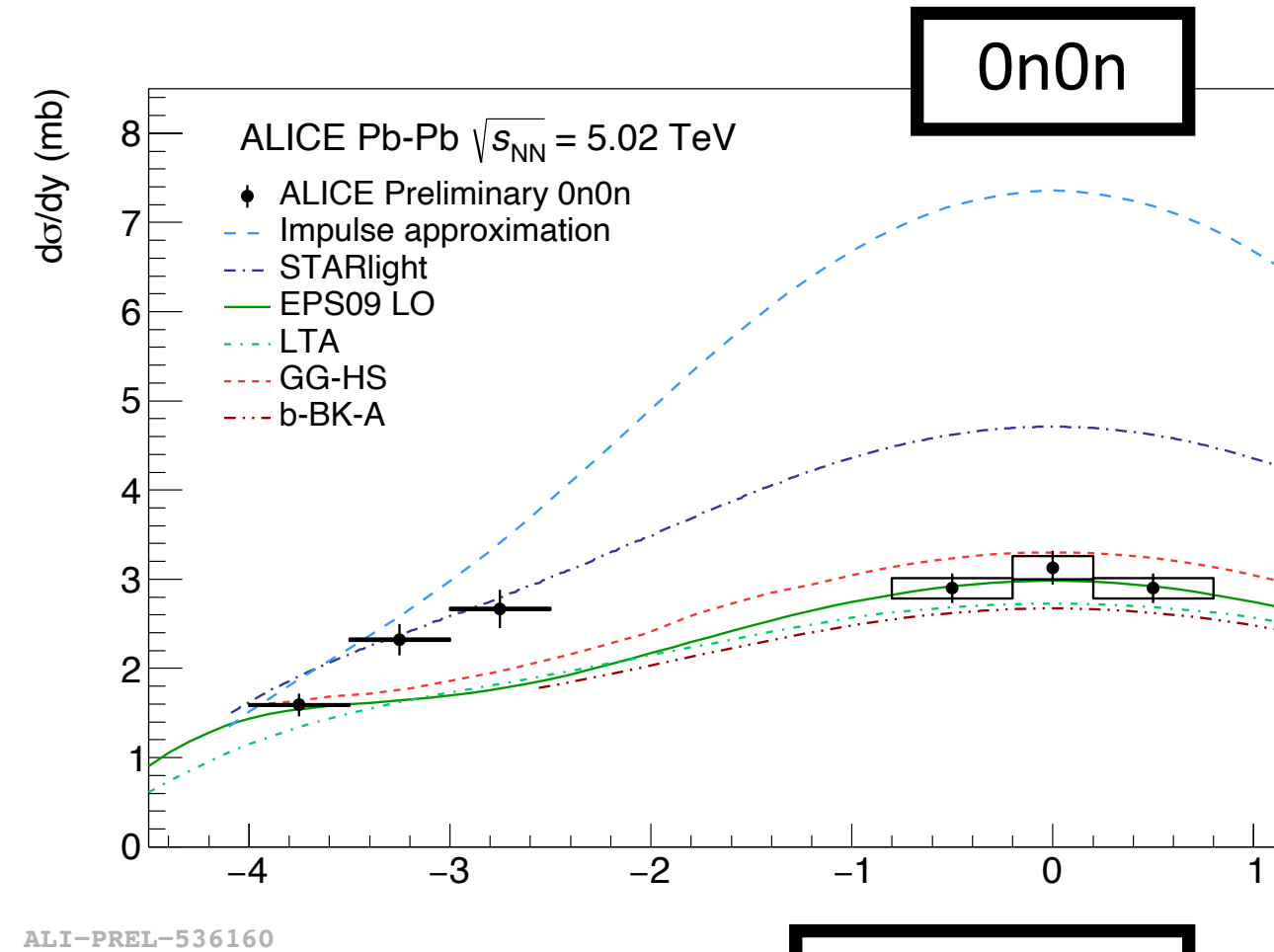
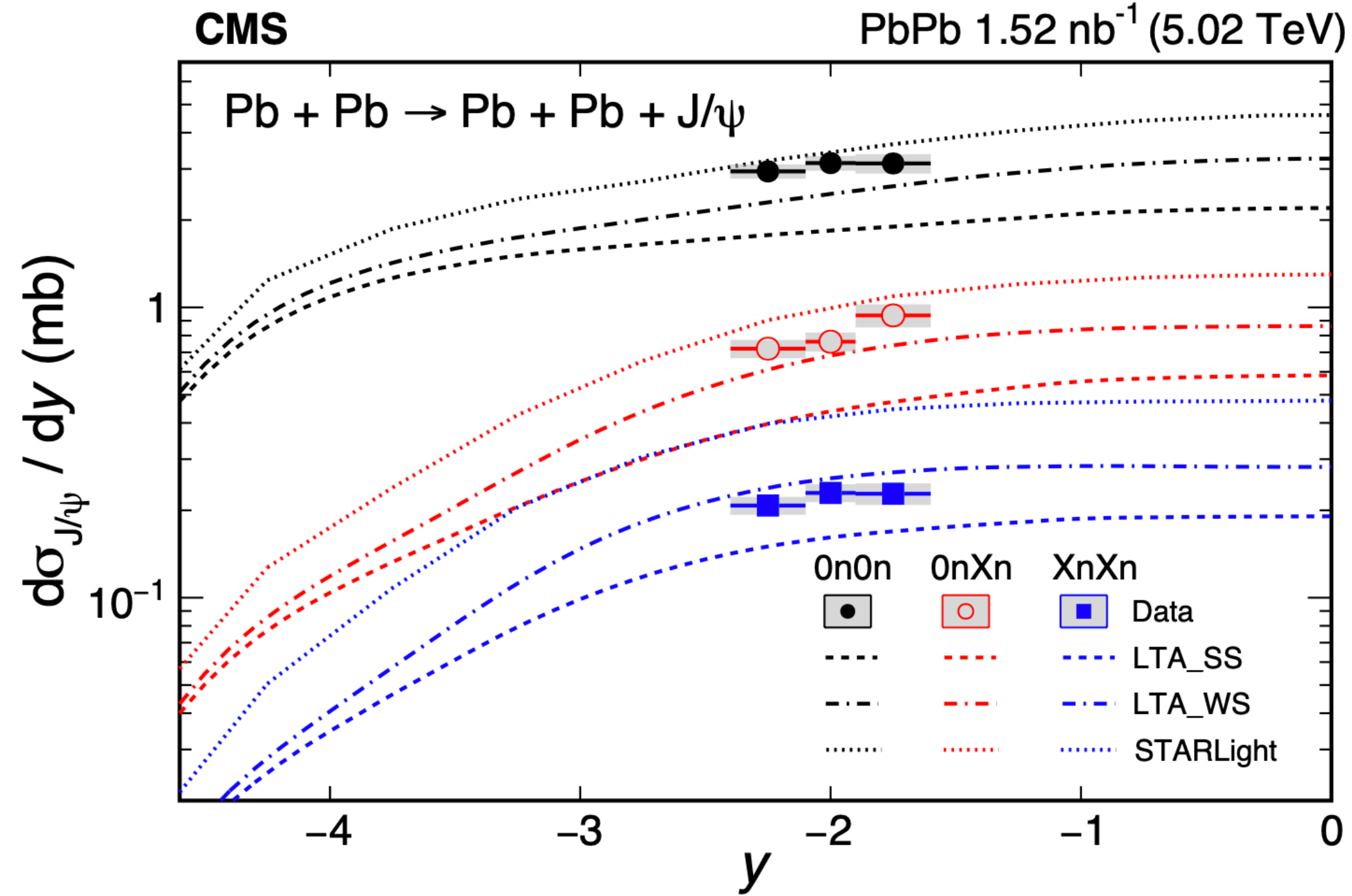
**ALICE**





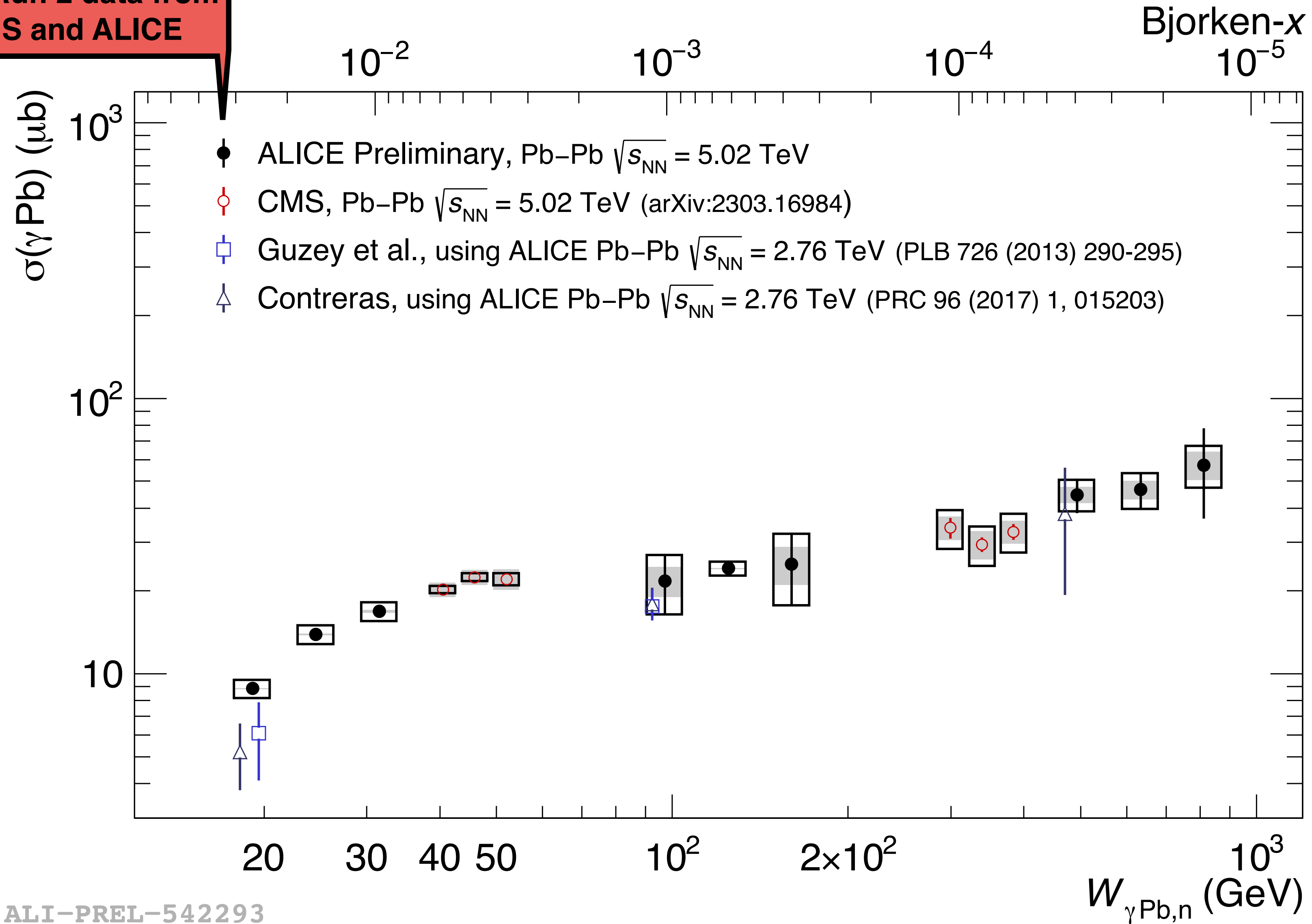
**CMS**

**ALICE**



**Several UPC measurements for each rapidity range → We can extract the photonuclear cross sections!**

New Run 2 data from CMS and ALICE

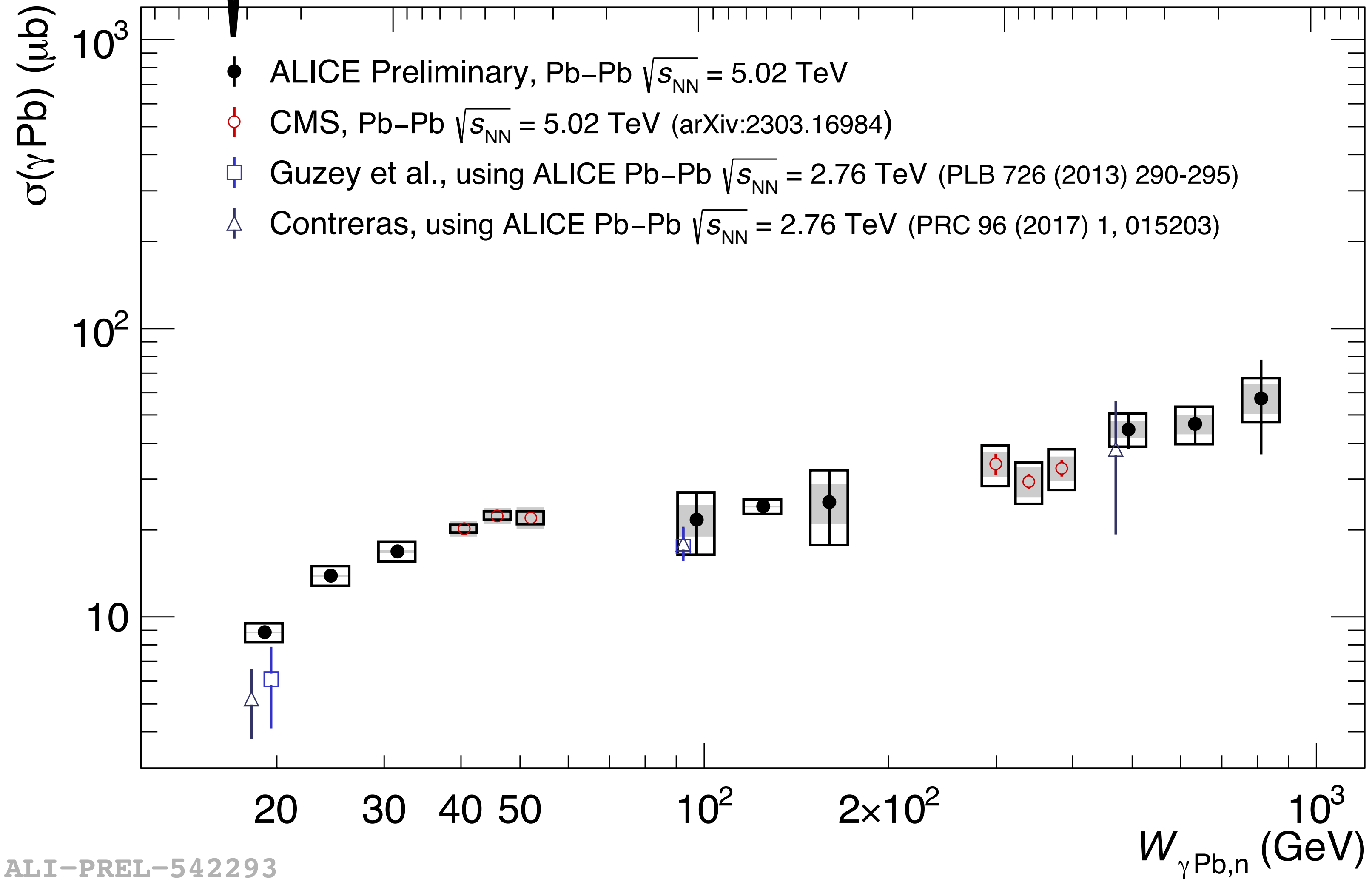


ALI-PREL-542293

New Run 2 data from CMS and ALICE

3 orders of magnitude in x

Bjorken-x  
 $10^{-5}$



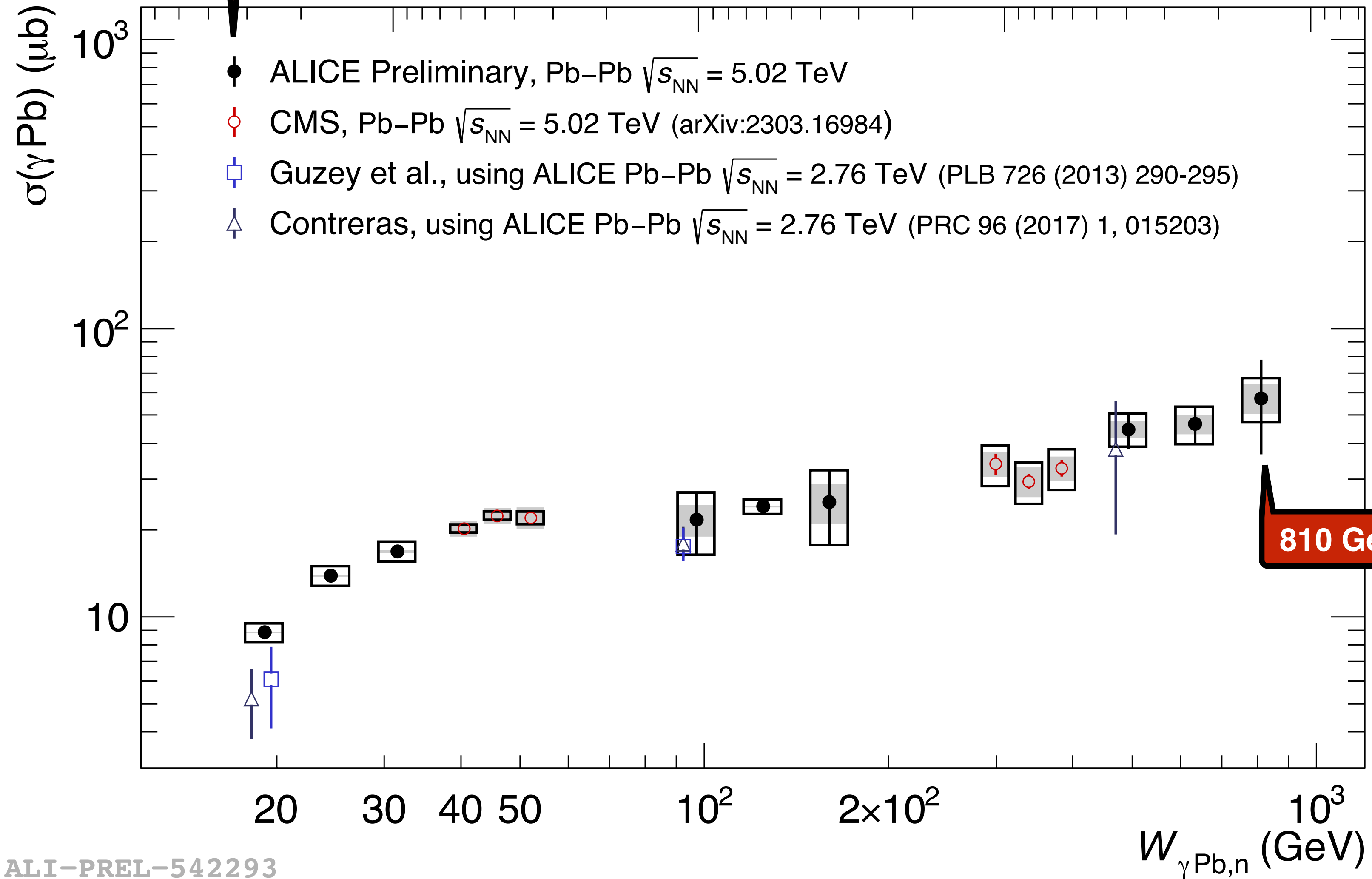
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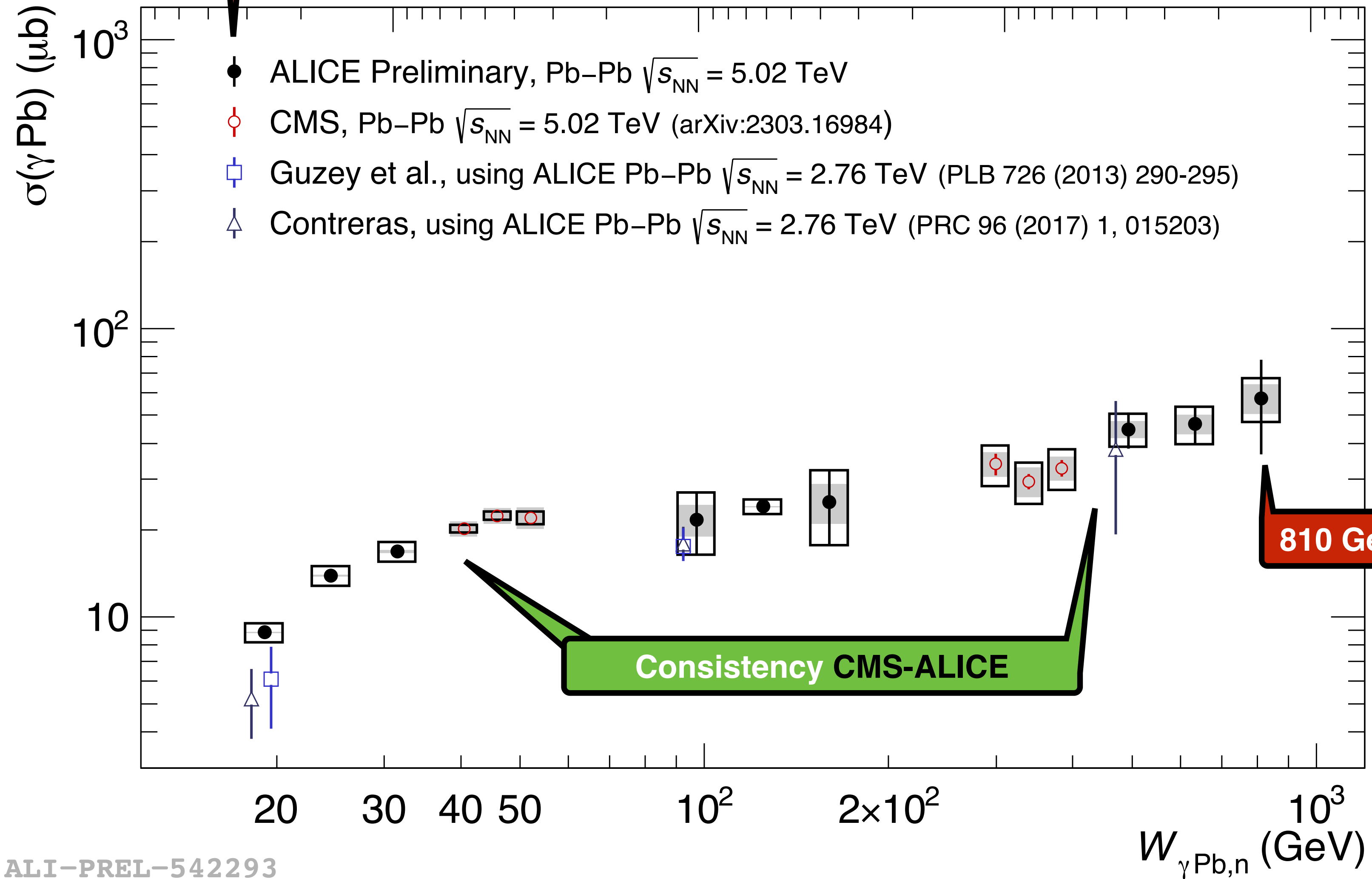


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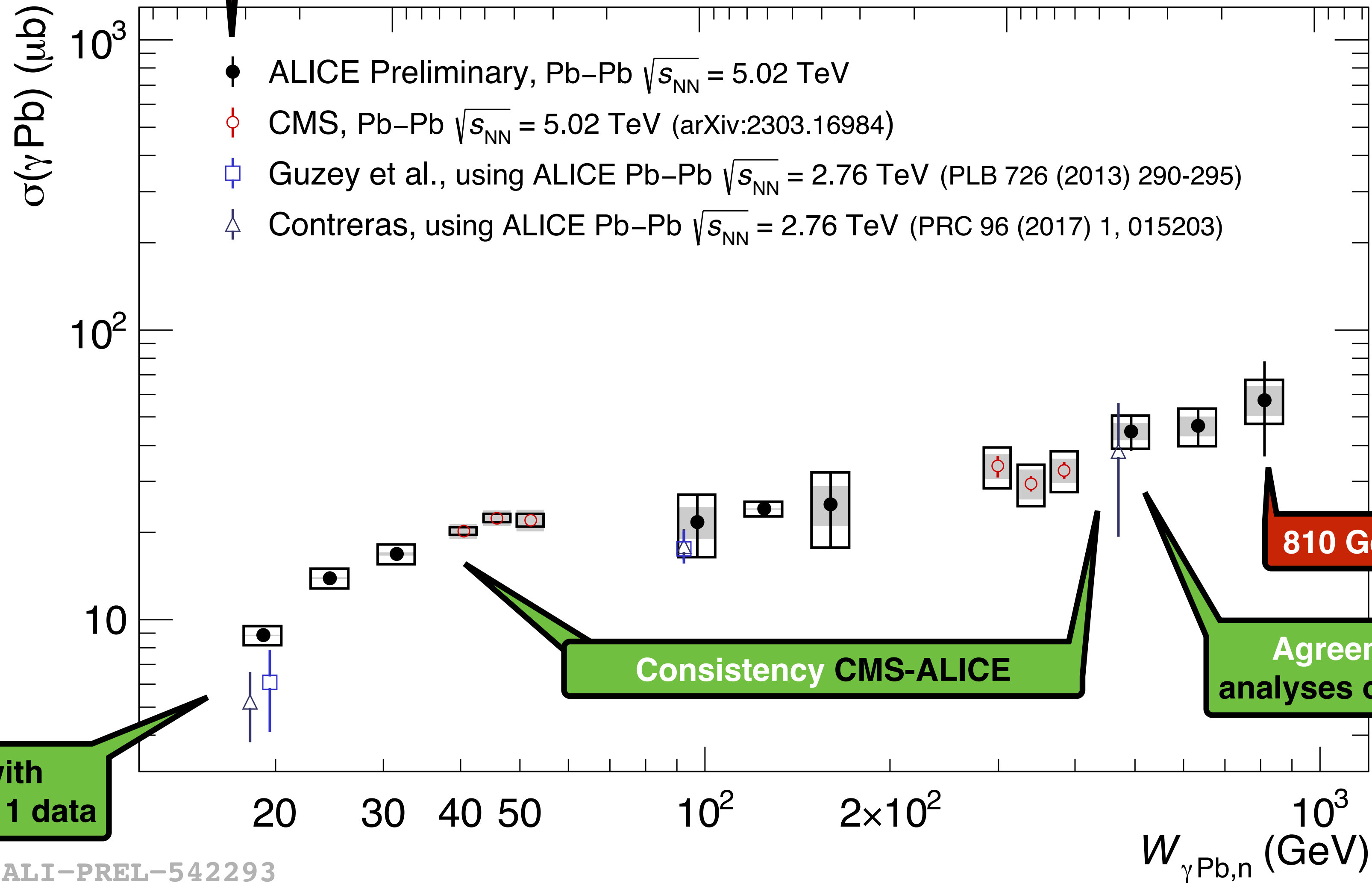


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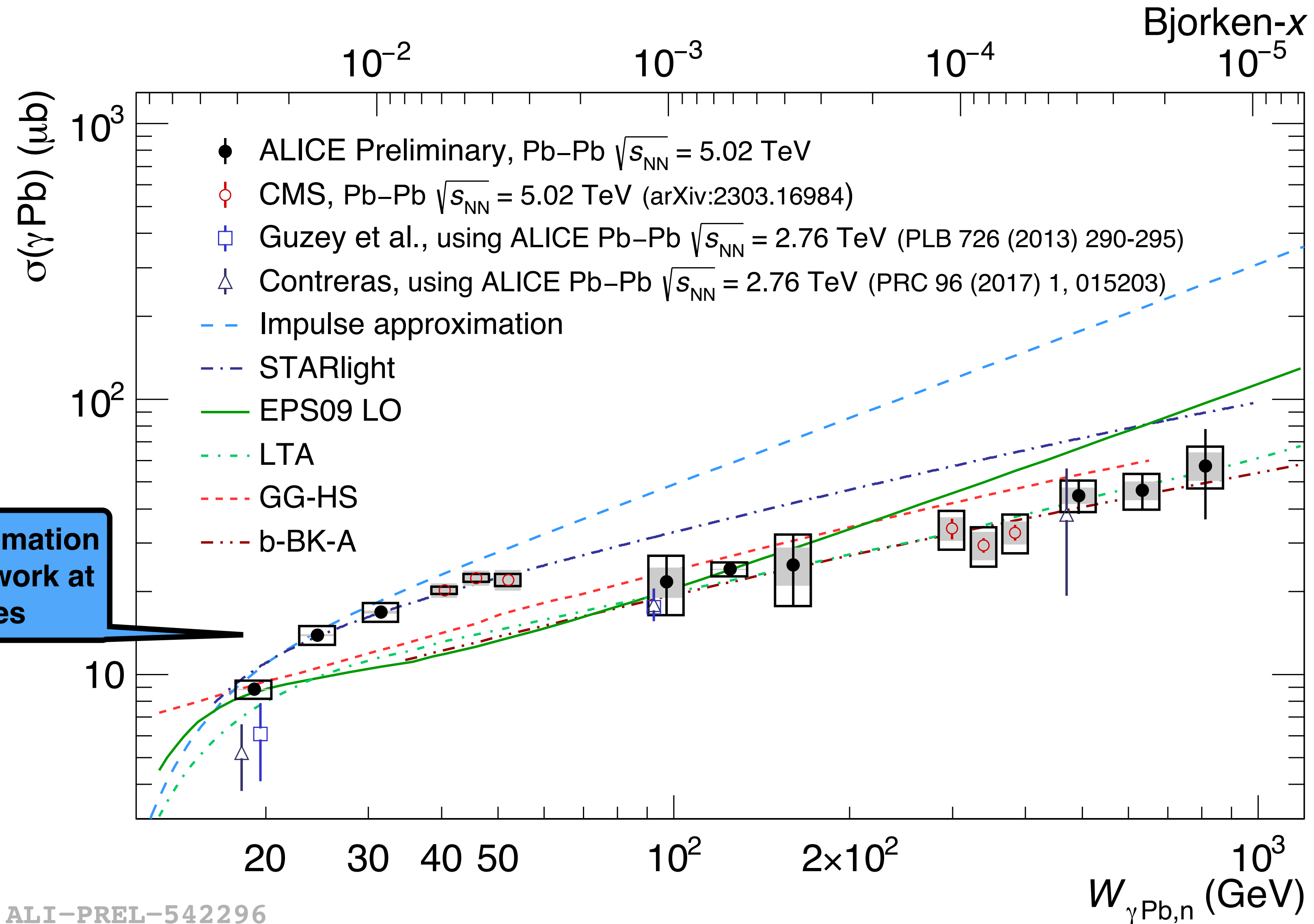
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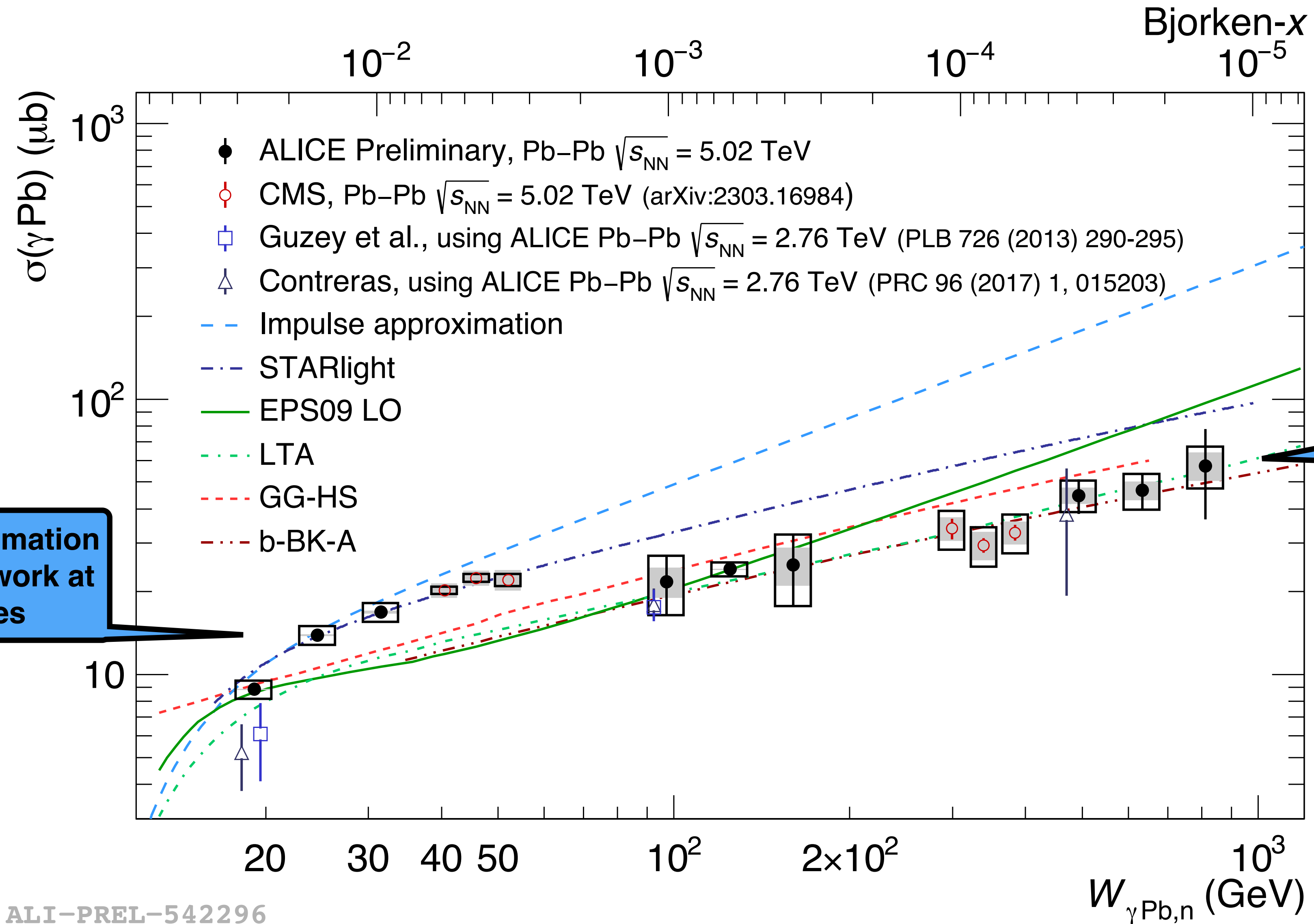


**Agreement with analyses of Run 1 data**

**Consistency CMS-ALICE**

**810 GeV**  
**Agreement with analyses of Run 1 data**





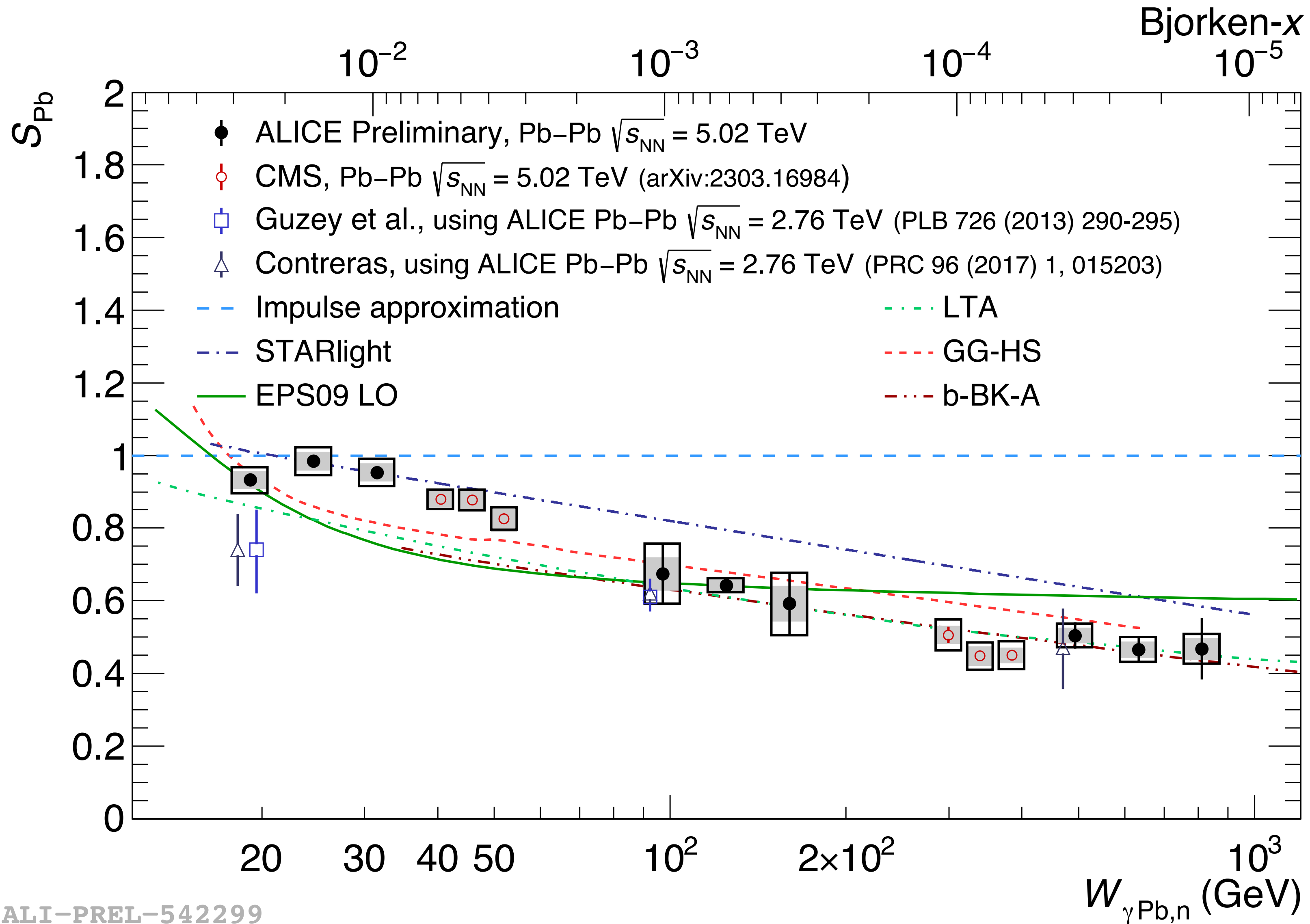
Impulse approximation and STARlight work at low energies

LTA and colour dipole based models (b-BK-A, GG-HS) work at high energies



**Nuclear suppression factor (shadowing)**

$$S_{Pb} = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{\gamma Pb}}{\sigma_{\gamma Pb}^{IA}}}$$

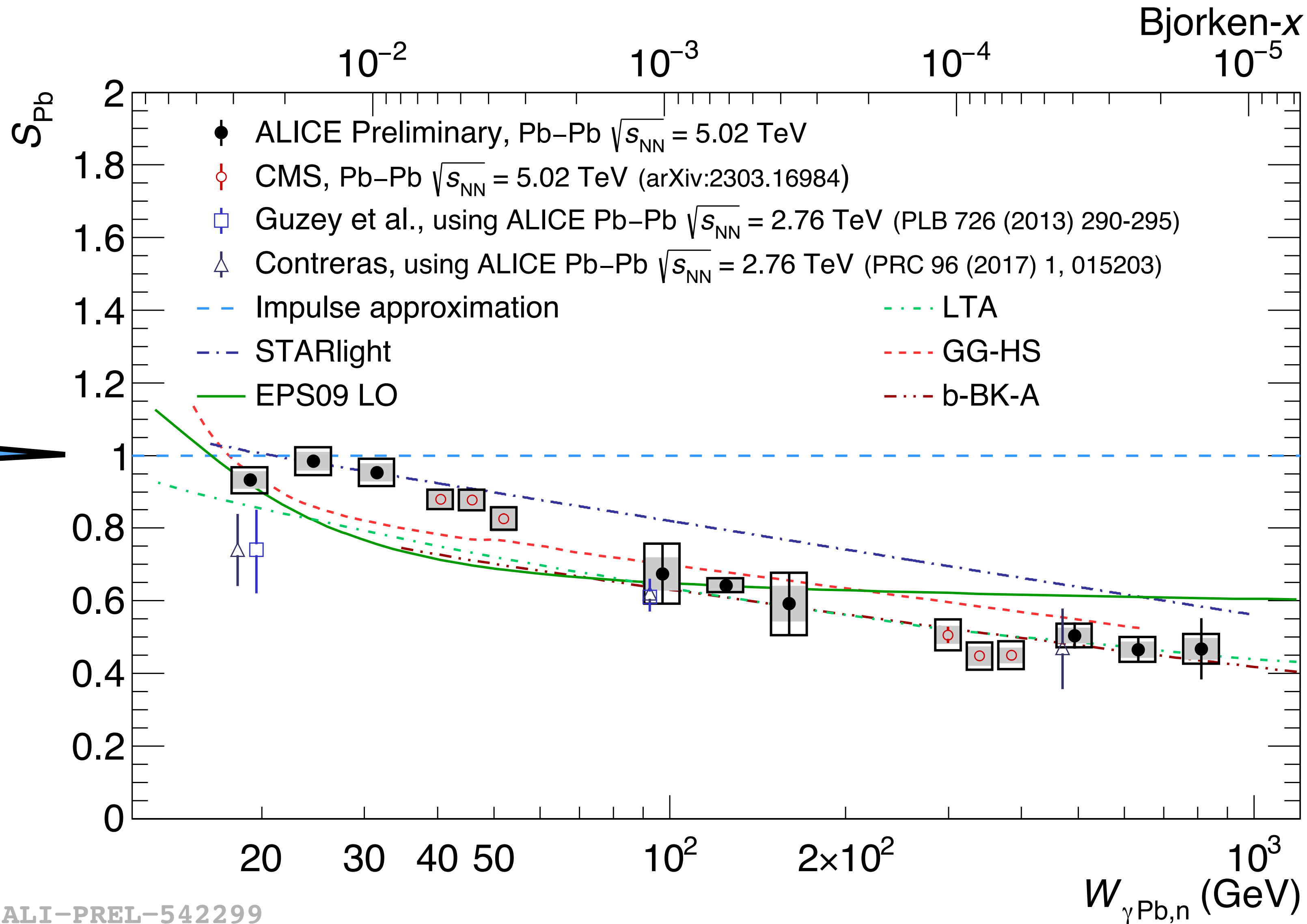


ALI-PREL-542299

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No suppression at low energies?

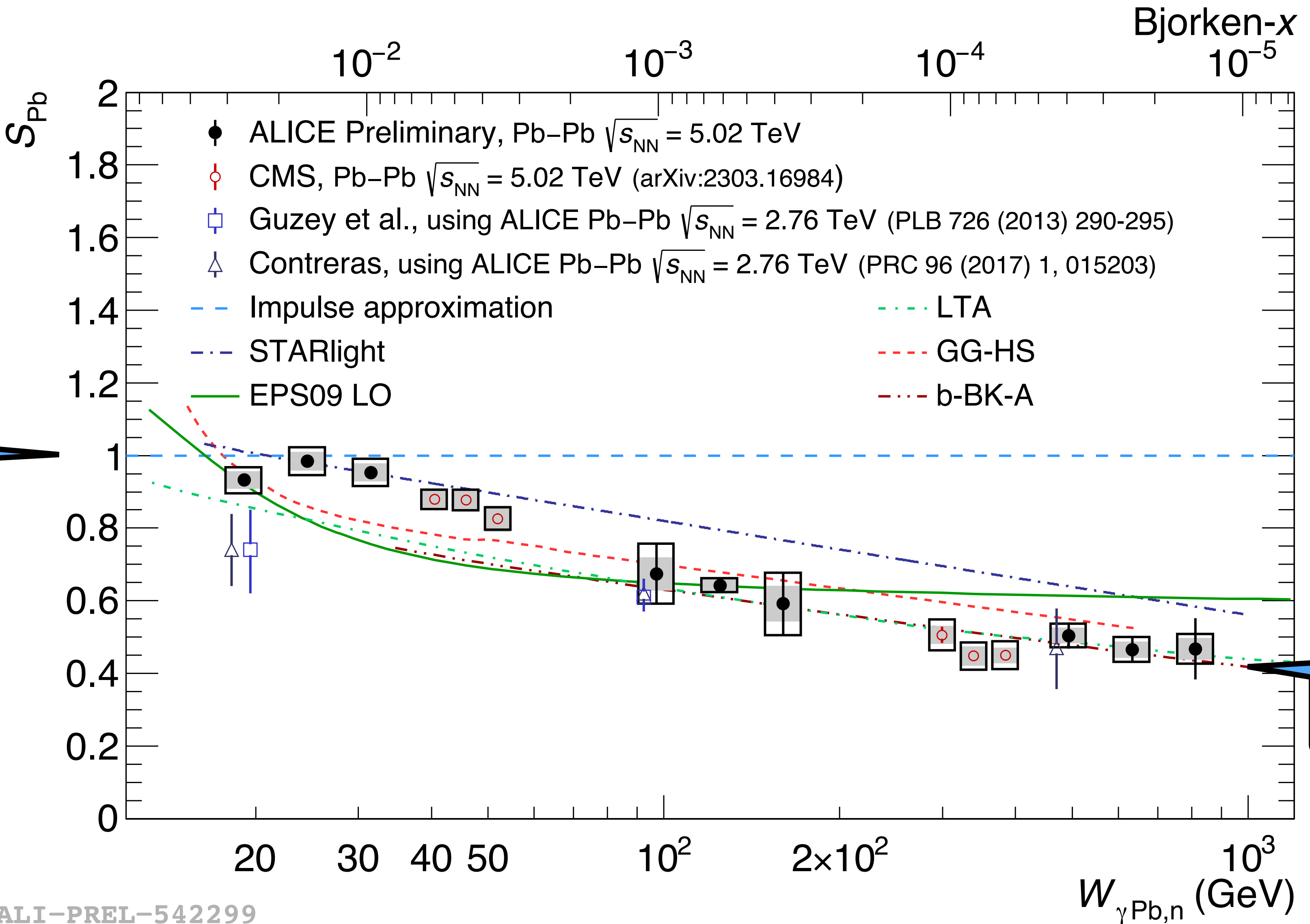


ALI-PREL-542299

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Flattening of suppression at high energies?

ALI-PREL-542299

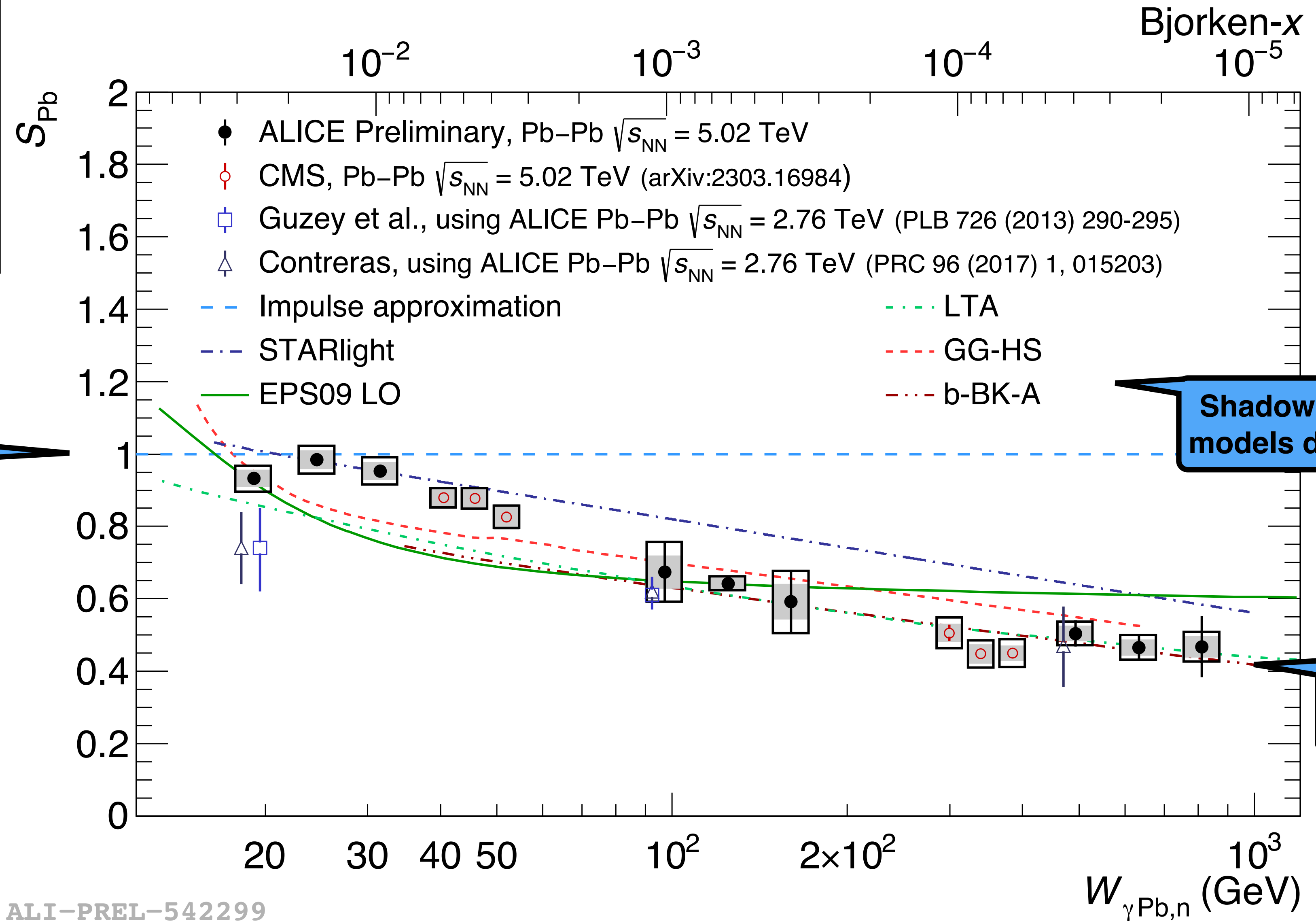
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Shadowing and saturation based models describe data equally well.

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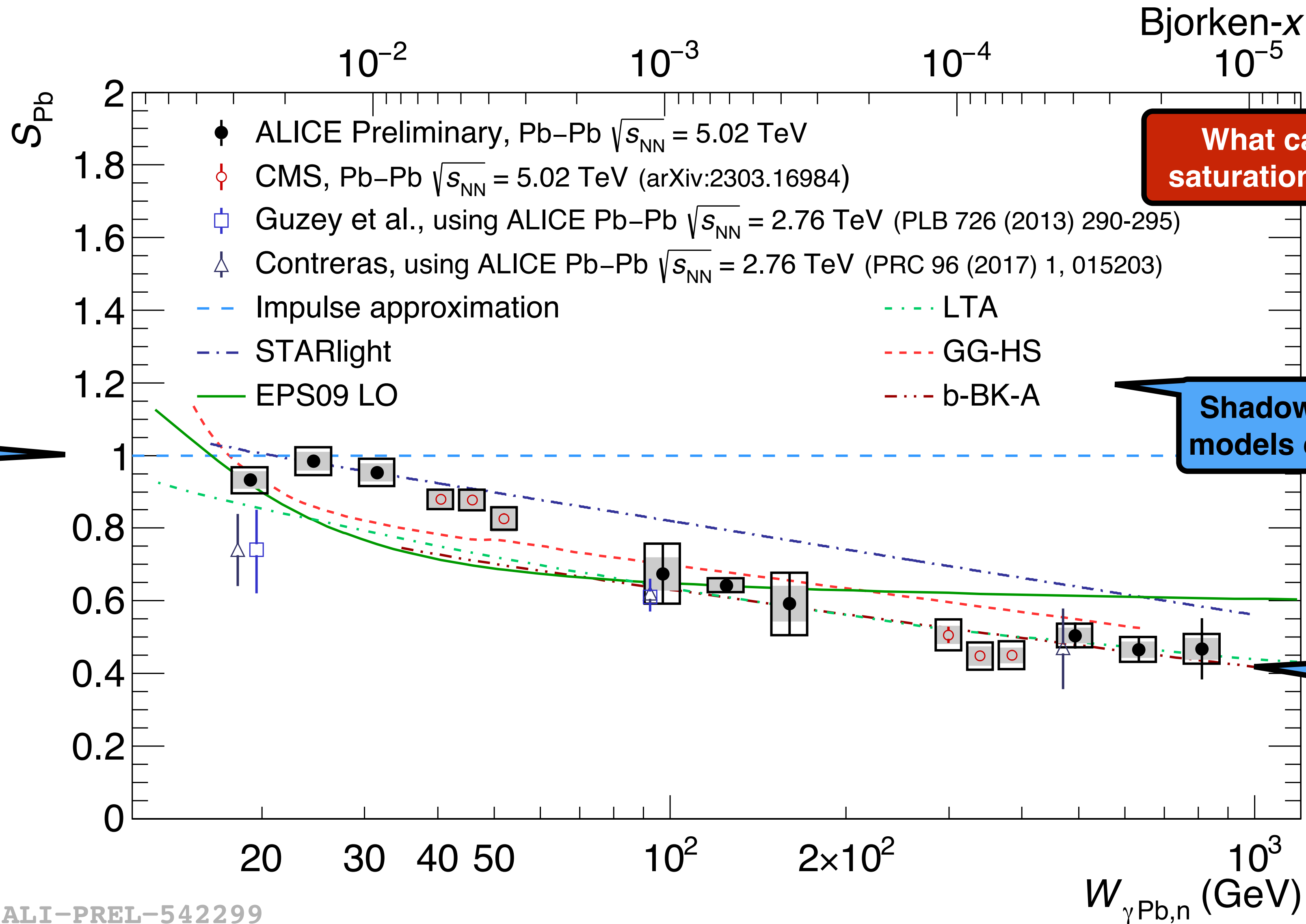
ALI-PREL-542299



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What can we do to disentangle saturation and shadowing models?

Shadowing and saturation based models describe data equally well.

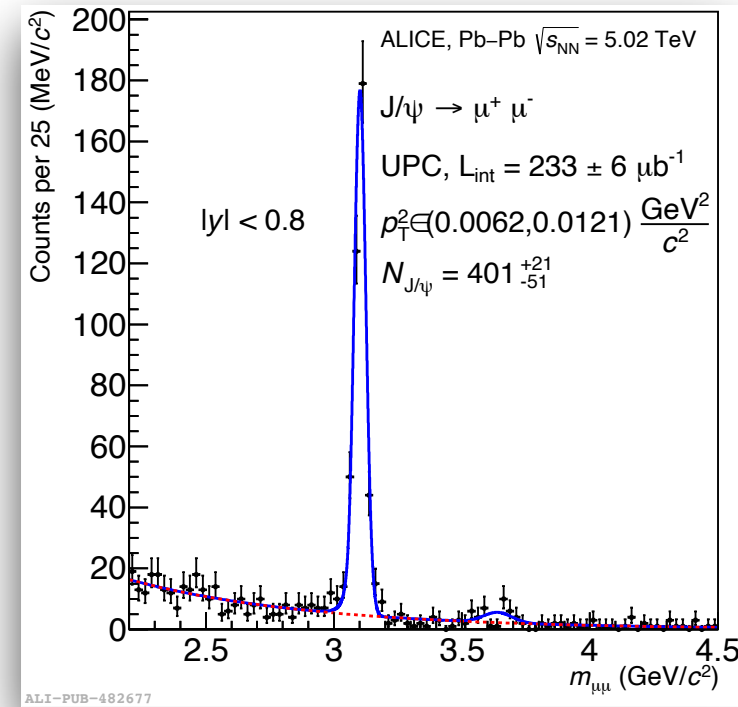
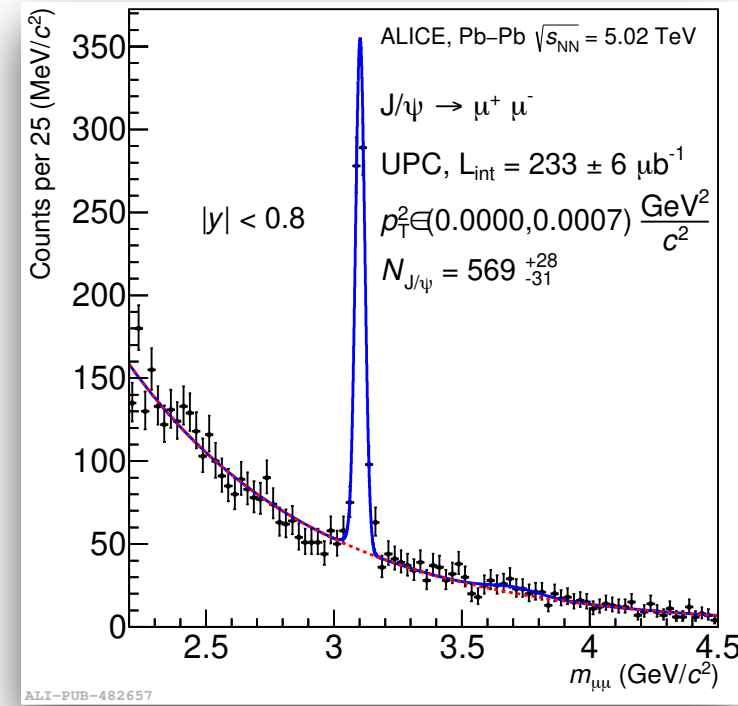
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ALI-PREL-542299

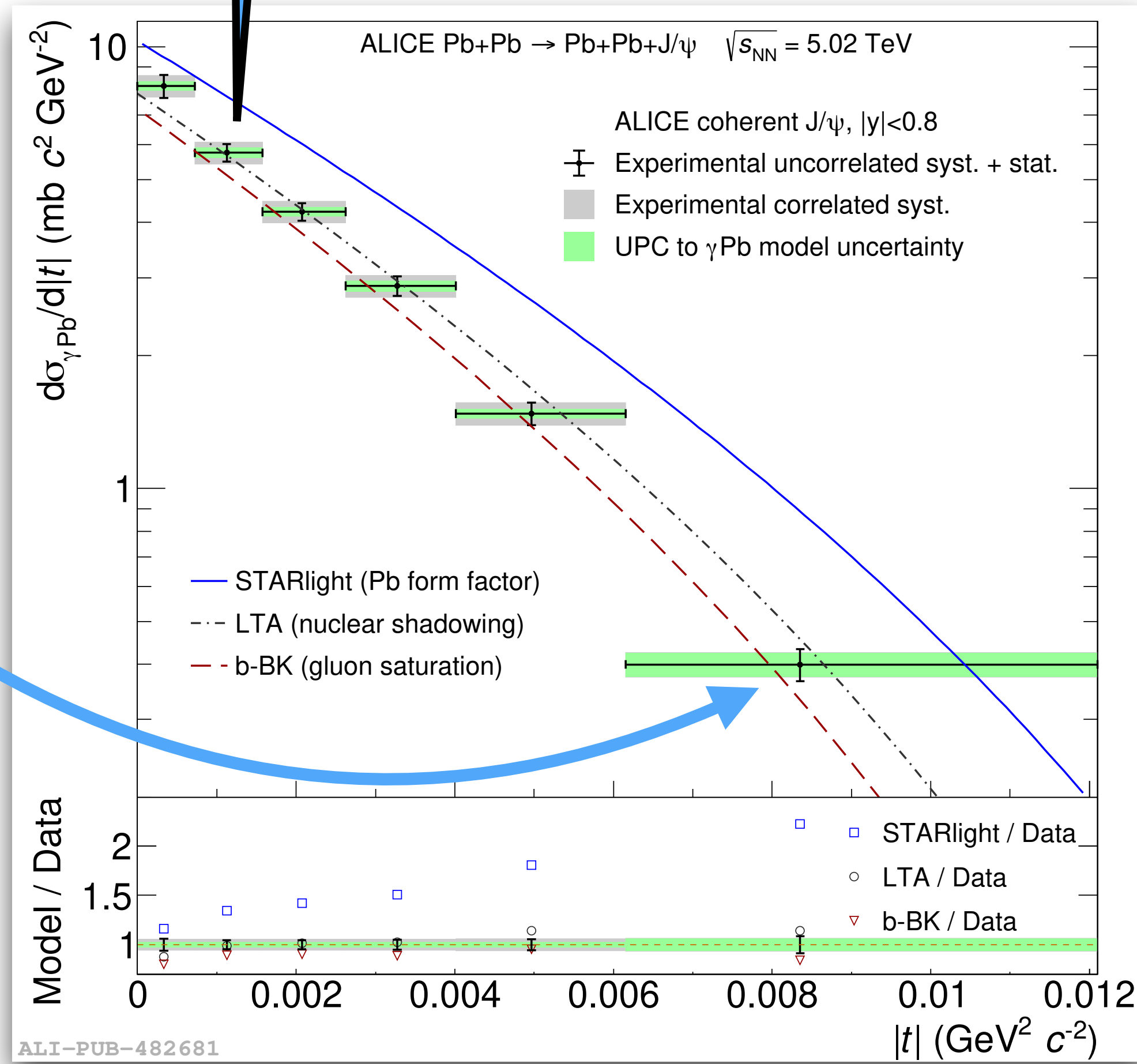




# $J/\psi$ photonuclear production in Pb-Pb UPC Mandelstam- $t$ dependence

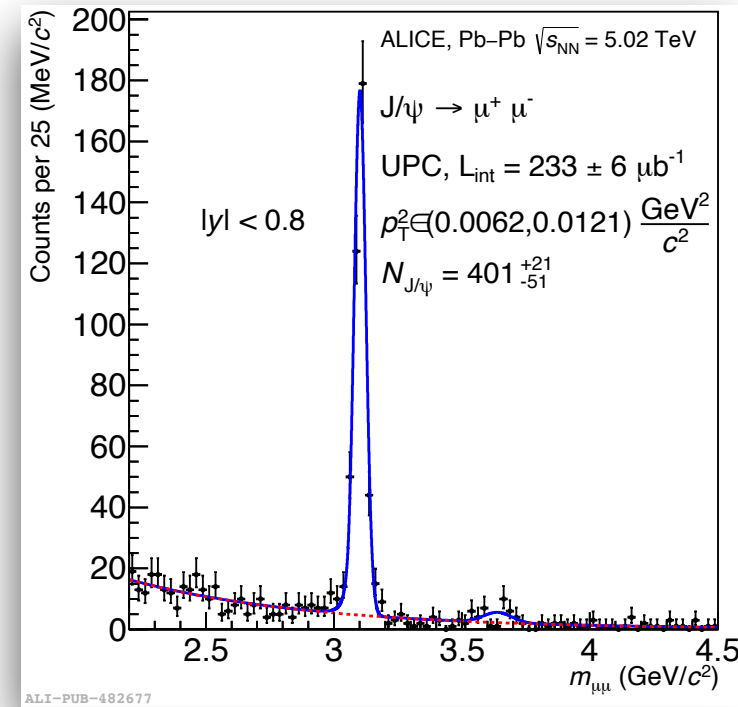
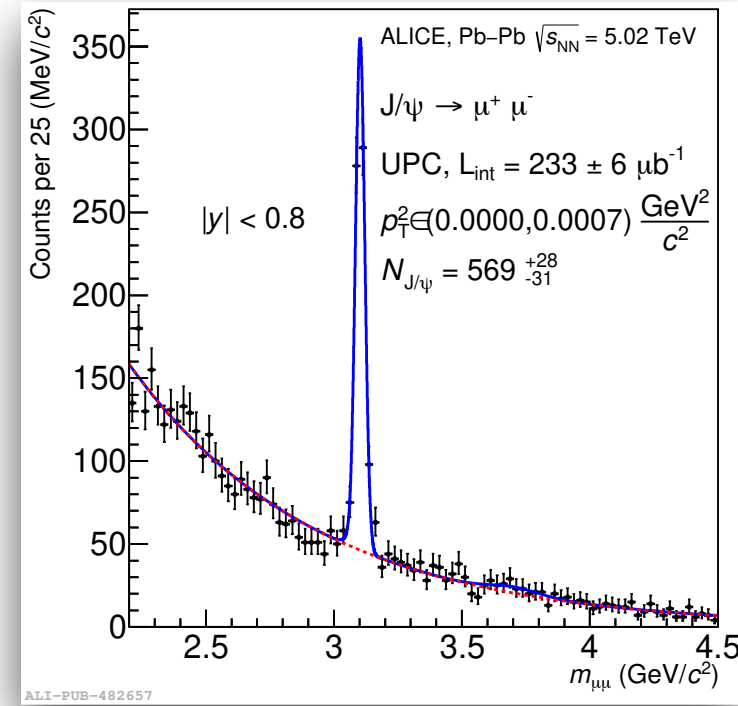


**HERA-like precision!**



ALICE, PLB 817(2021) 136280

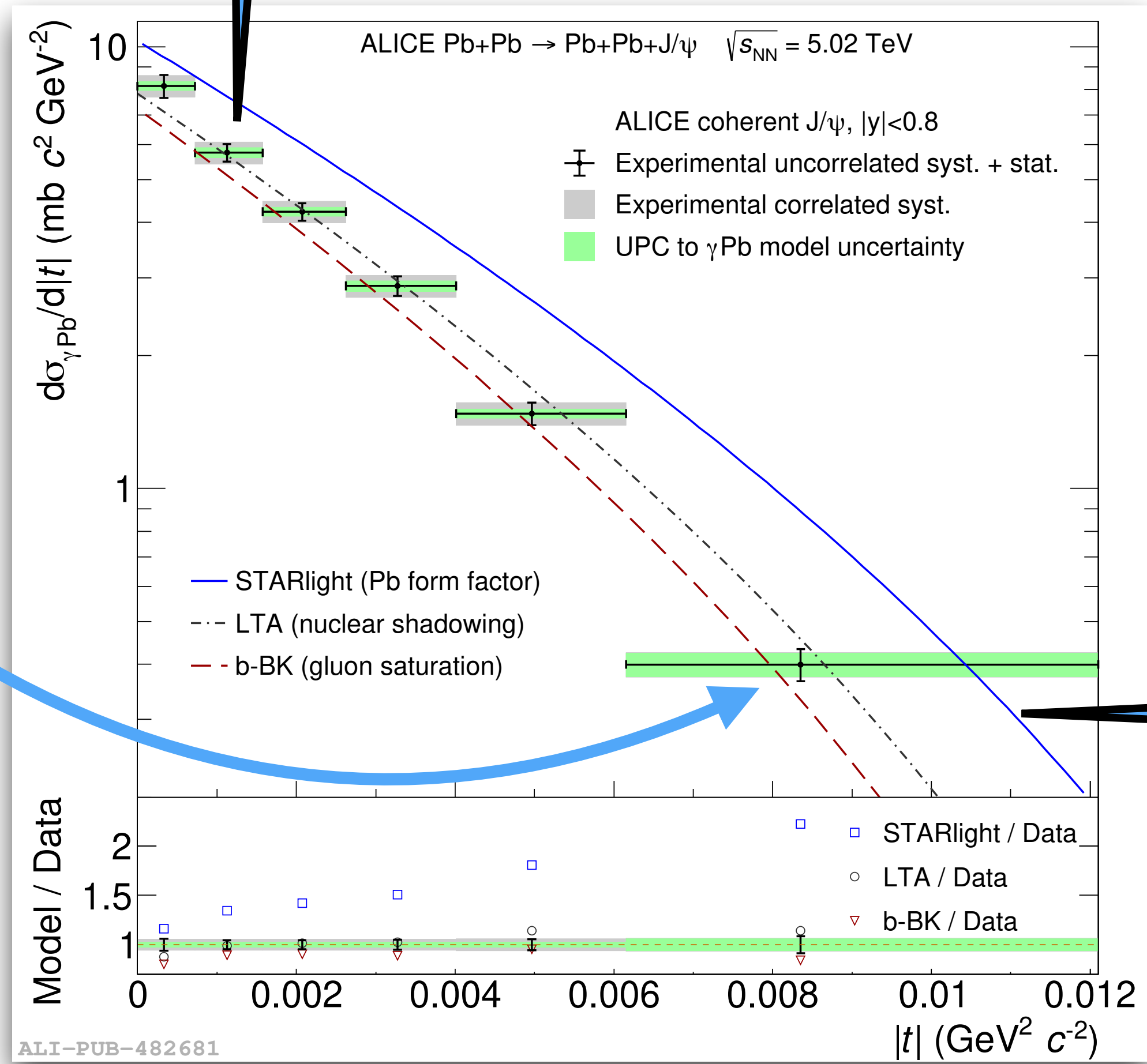
**Very clear signals**



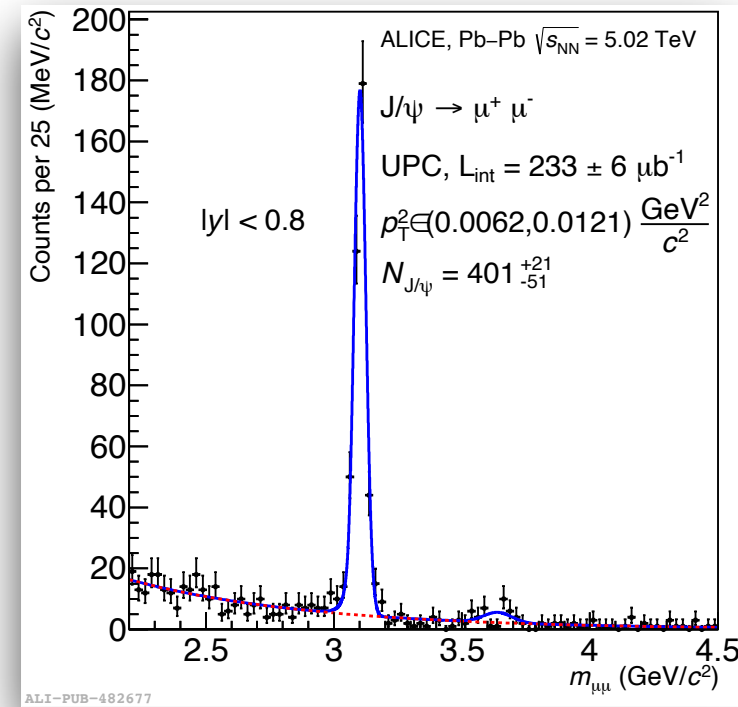
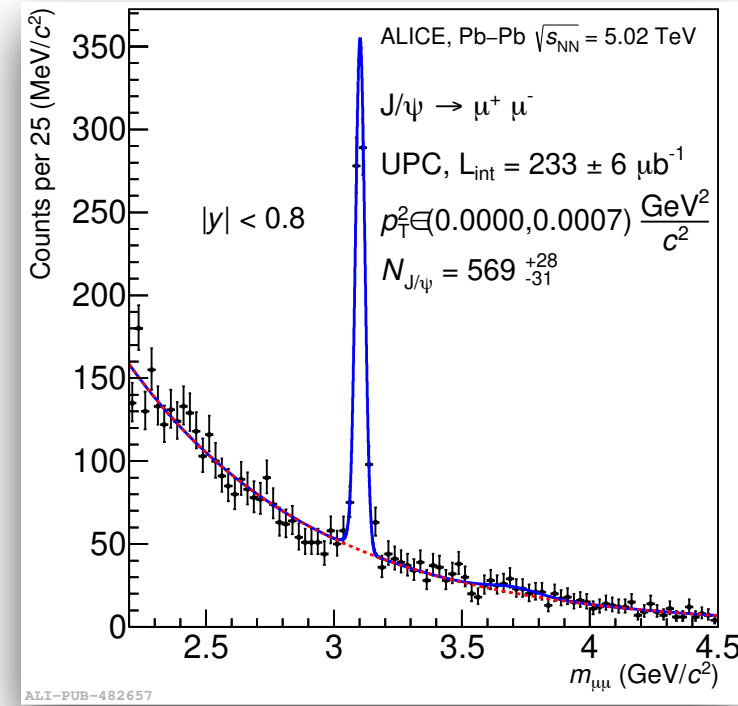
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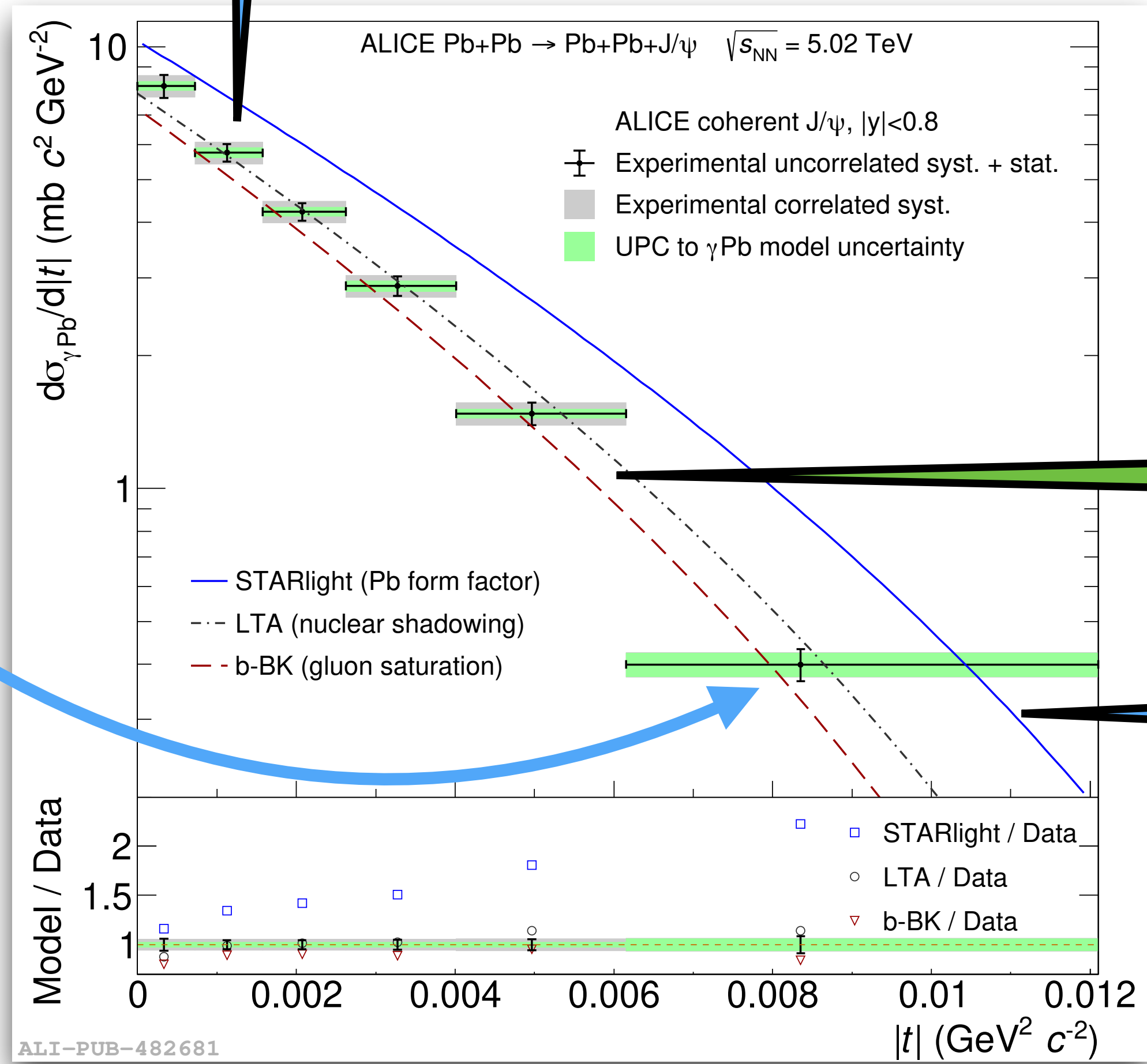
A model based on the form factor does not describe data



ALICE, PLB 817(2021) 136280

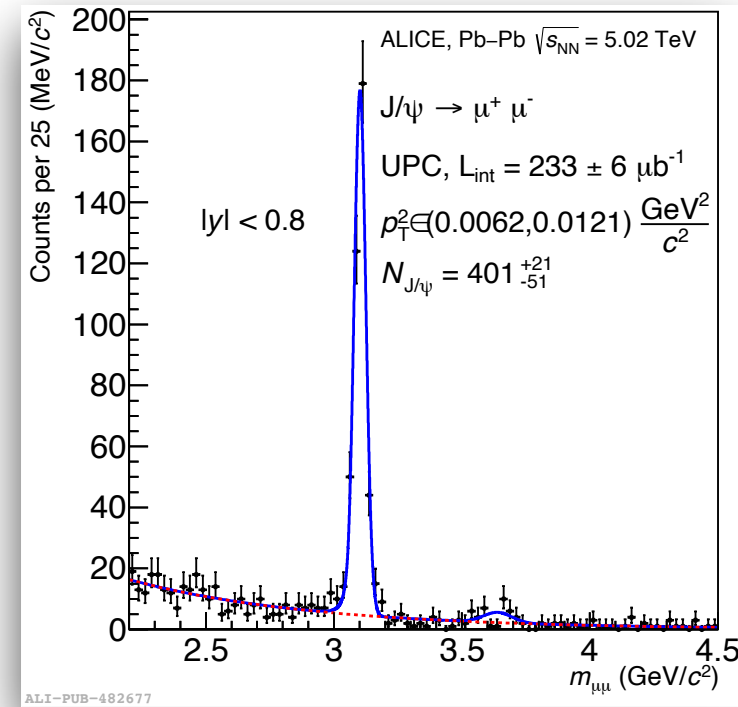
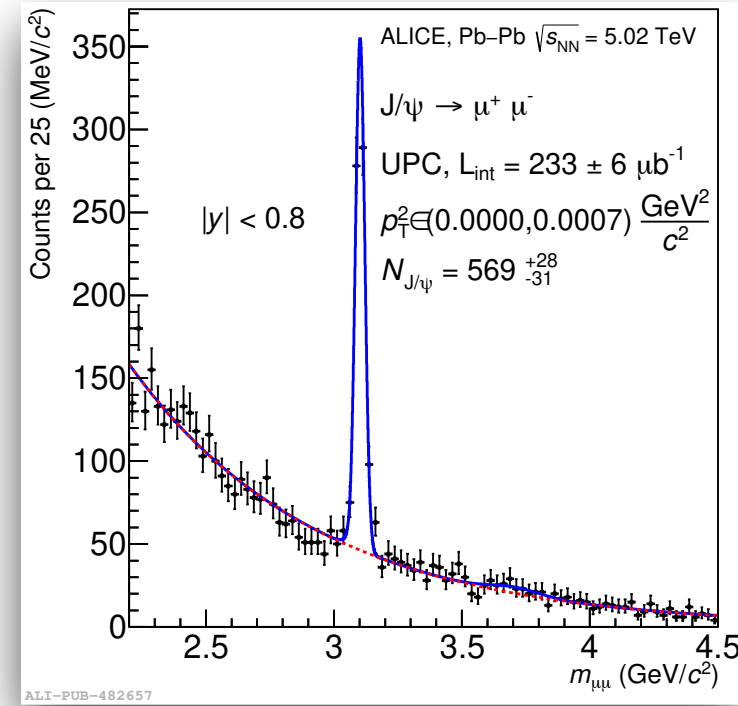
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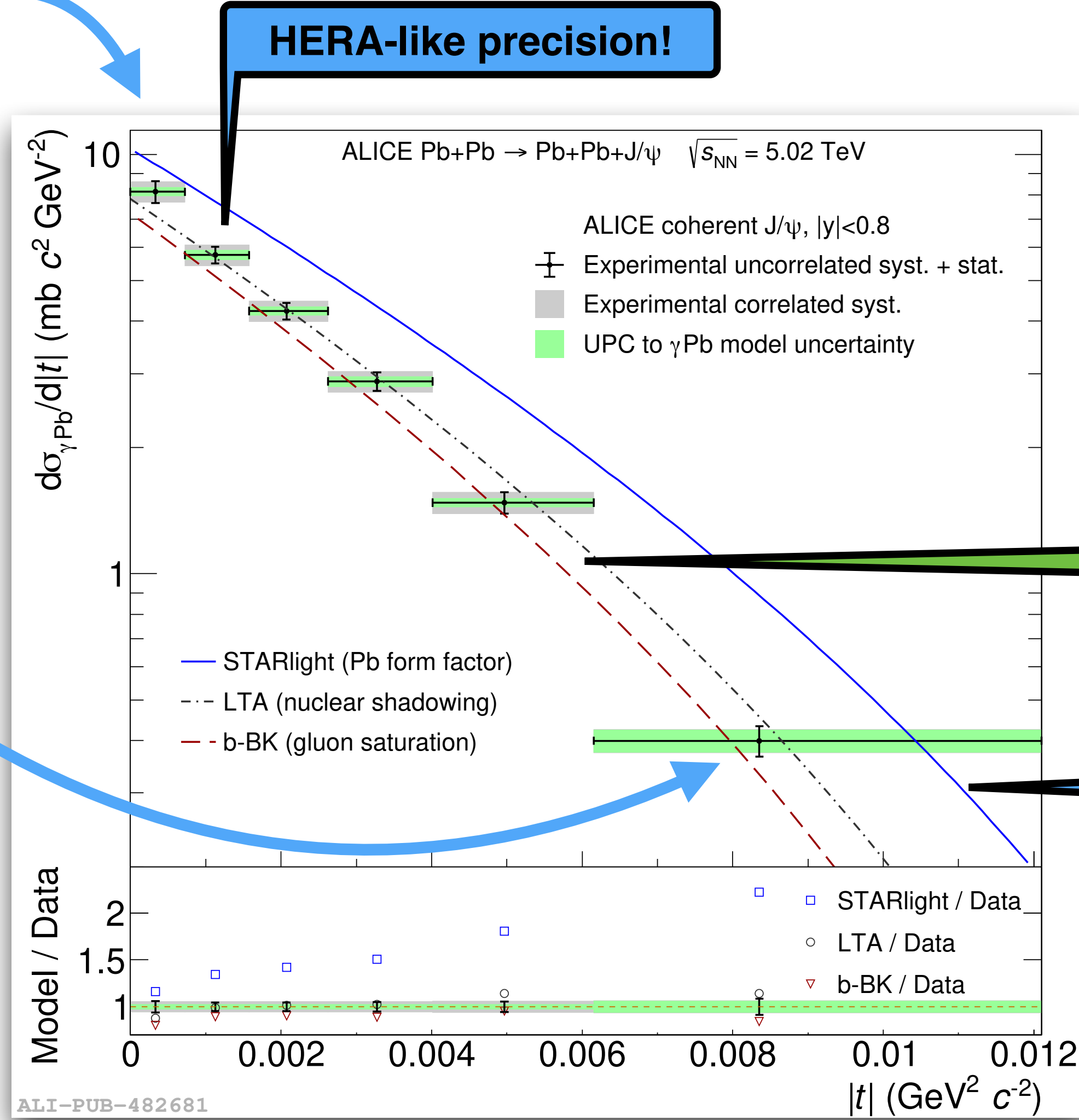
**A shadowing based, and a BK computation with impact-parameter dependence, close to data**

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ALICE, PLB 817(2021) 136280

**Very clear signals**



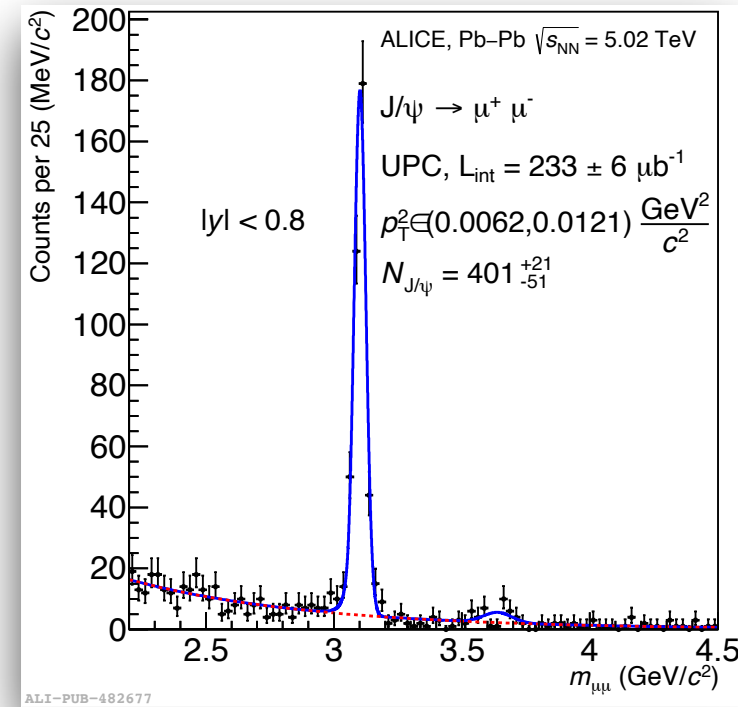
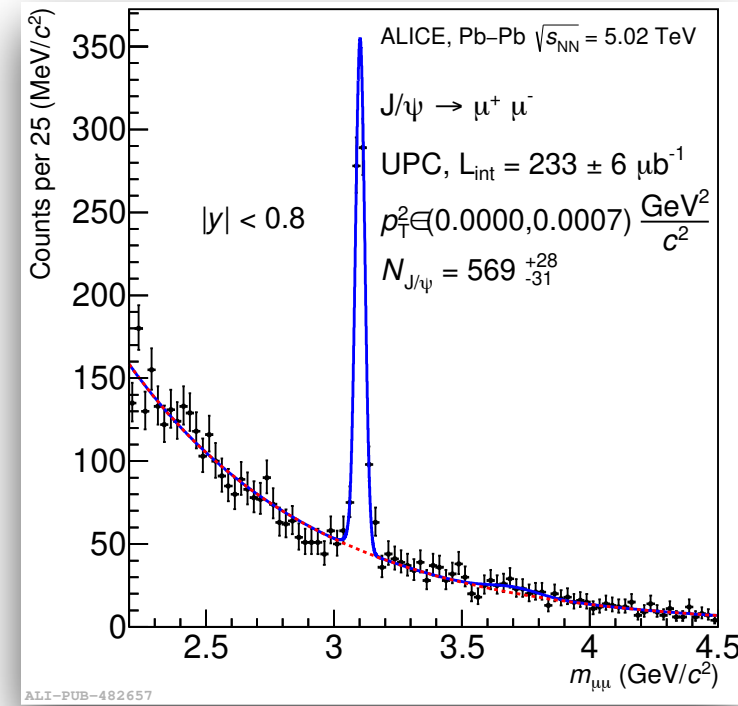
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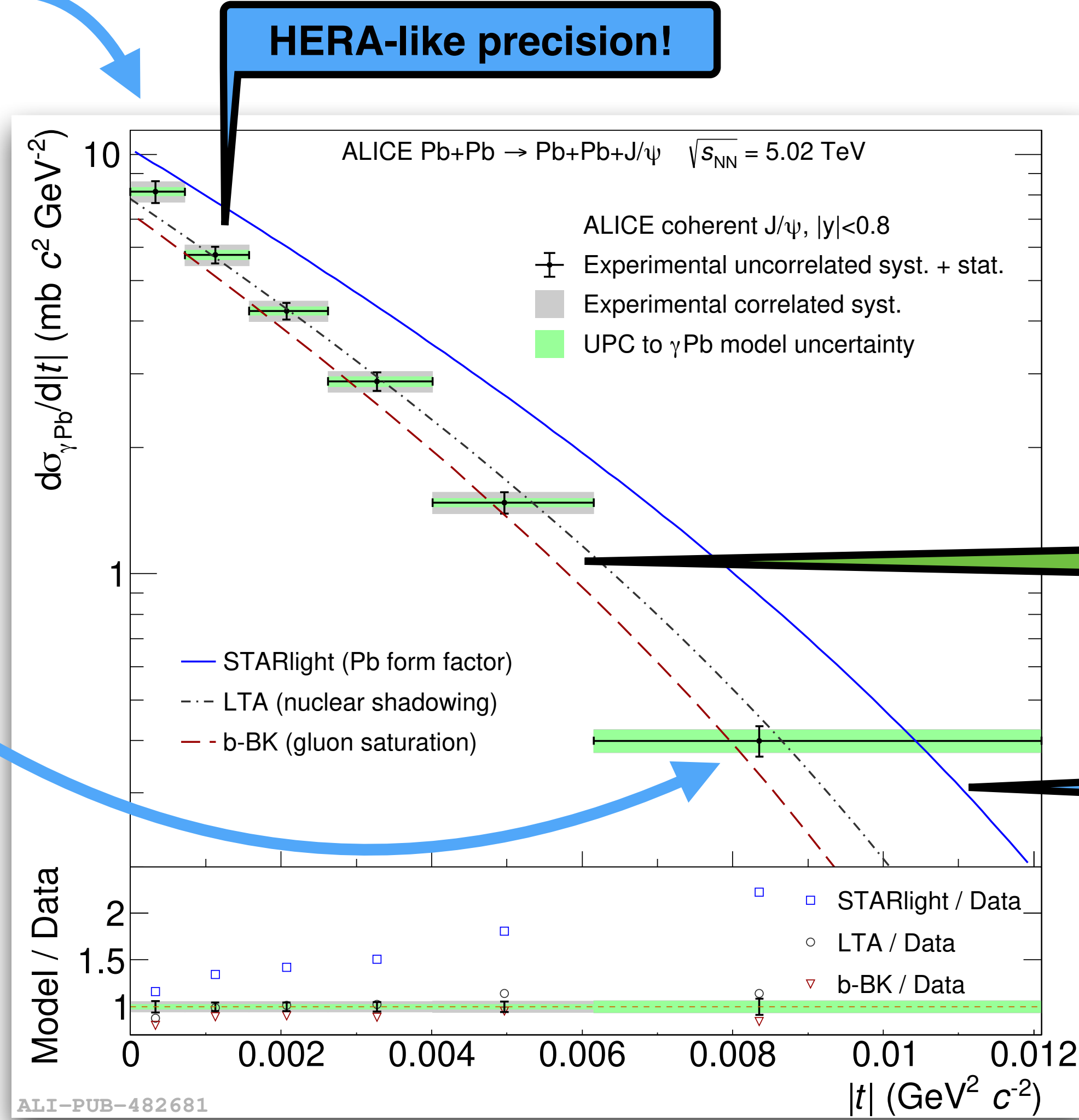
**|t| related to the transverse size of the target (b and p\_T are Fourier conjugates)**





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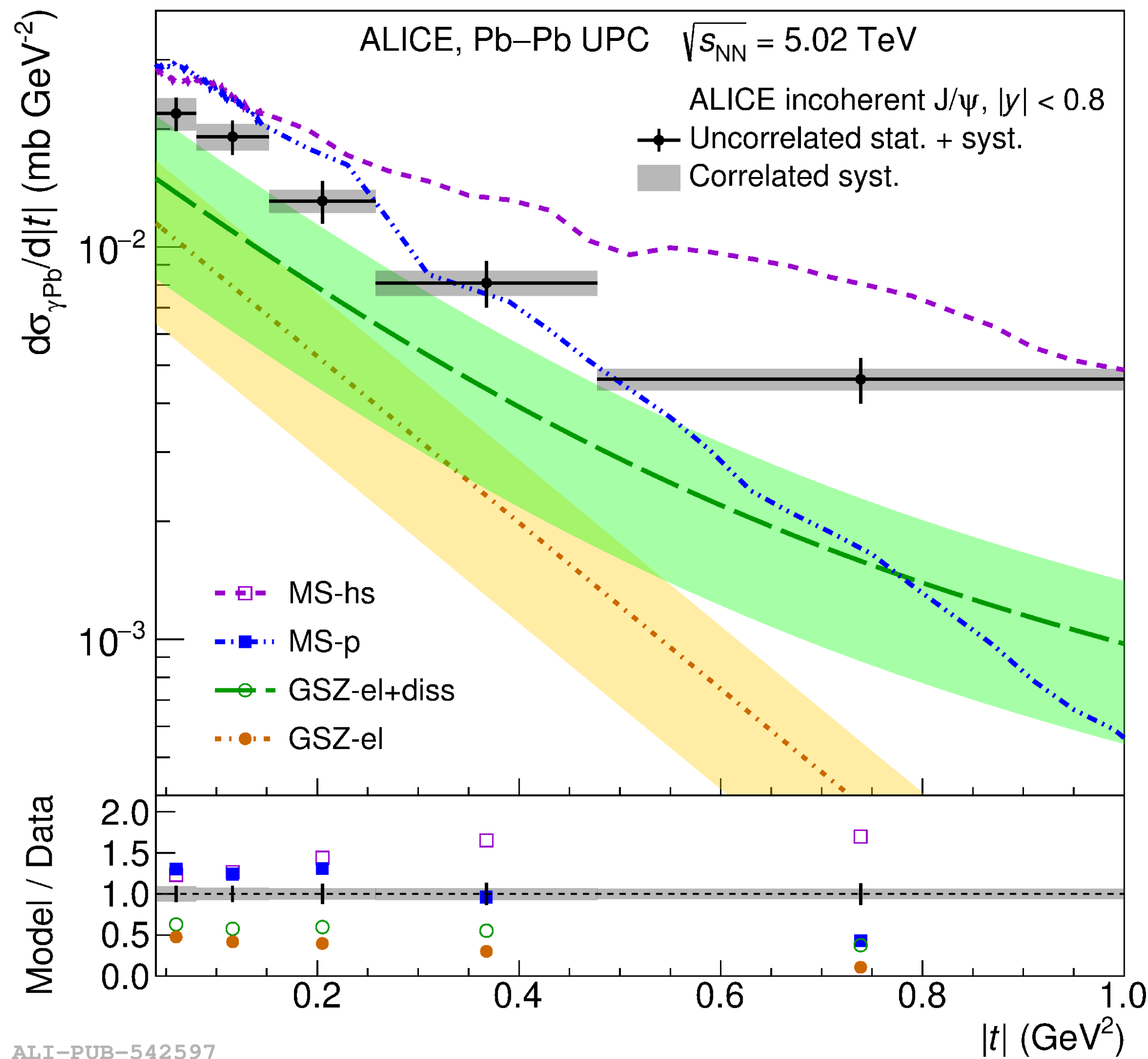
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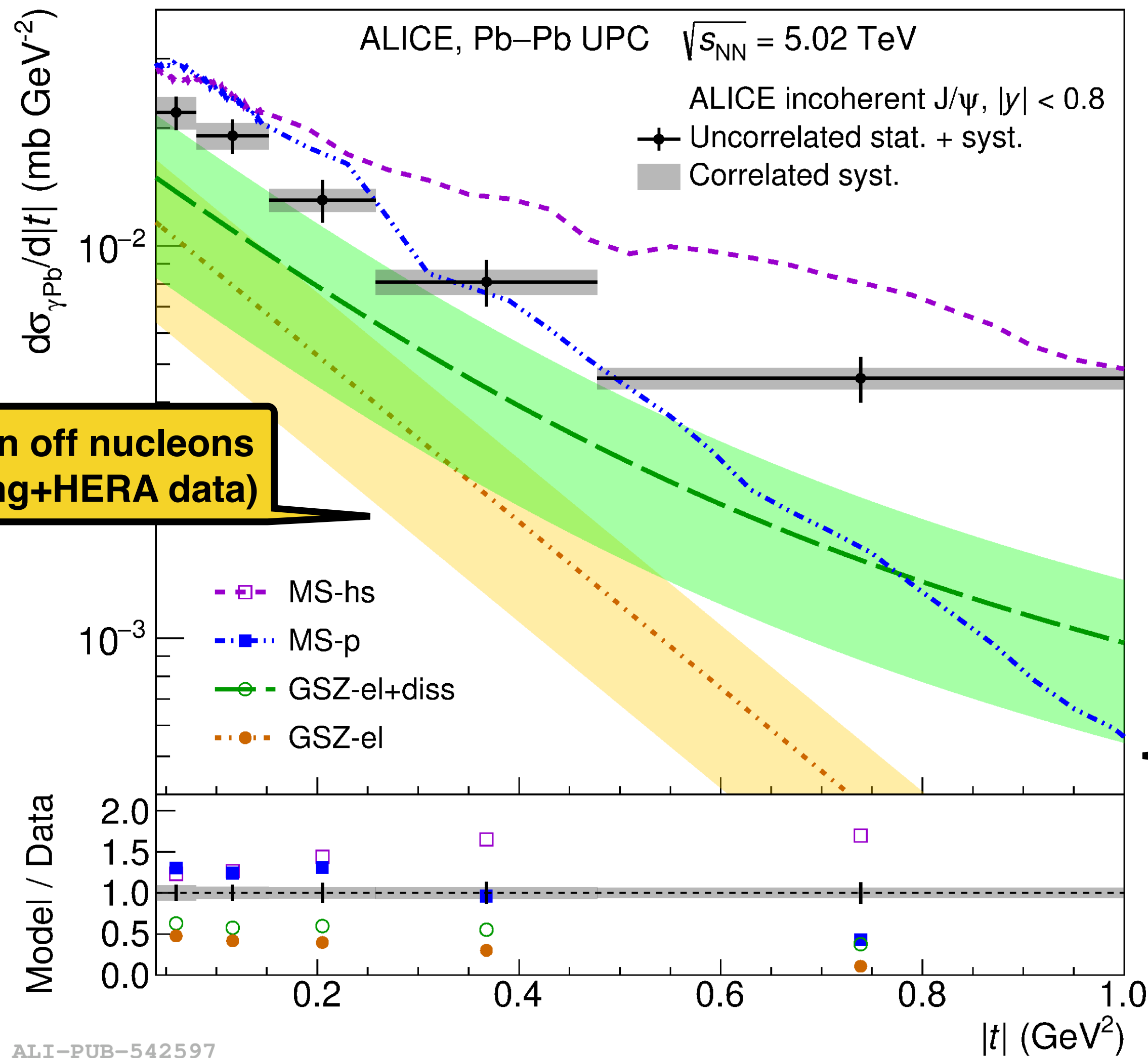
**$|t|$  related to the transverse size of the target (b and  $p_T$  are Fourier conjugates)**

**Dynamic QCD effects seem to make the t-distribution steeper ... do nuclei grow with energy?**



**$|t|$  related to the size of the target: effect of smaller structures appears at larger  $|t|$**

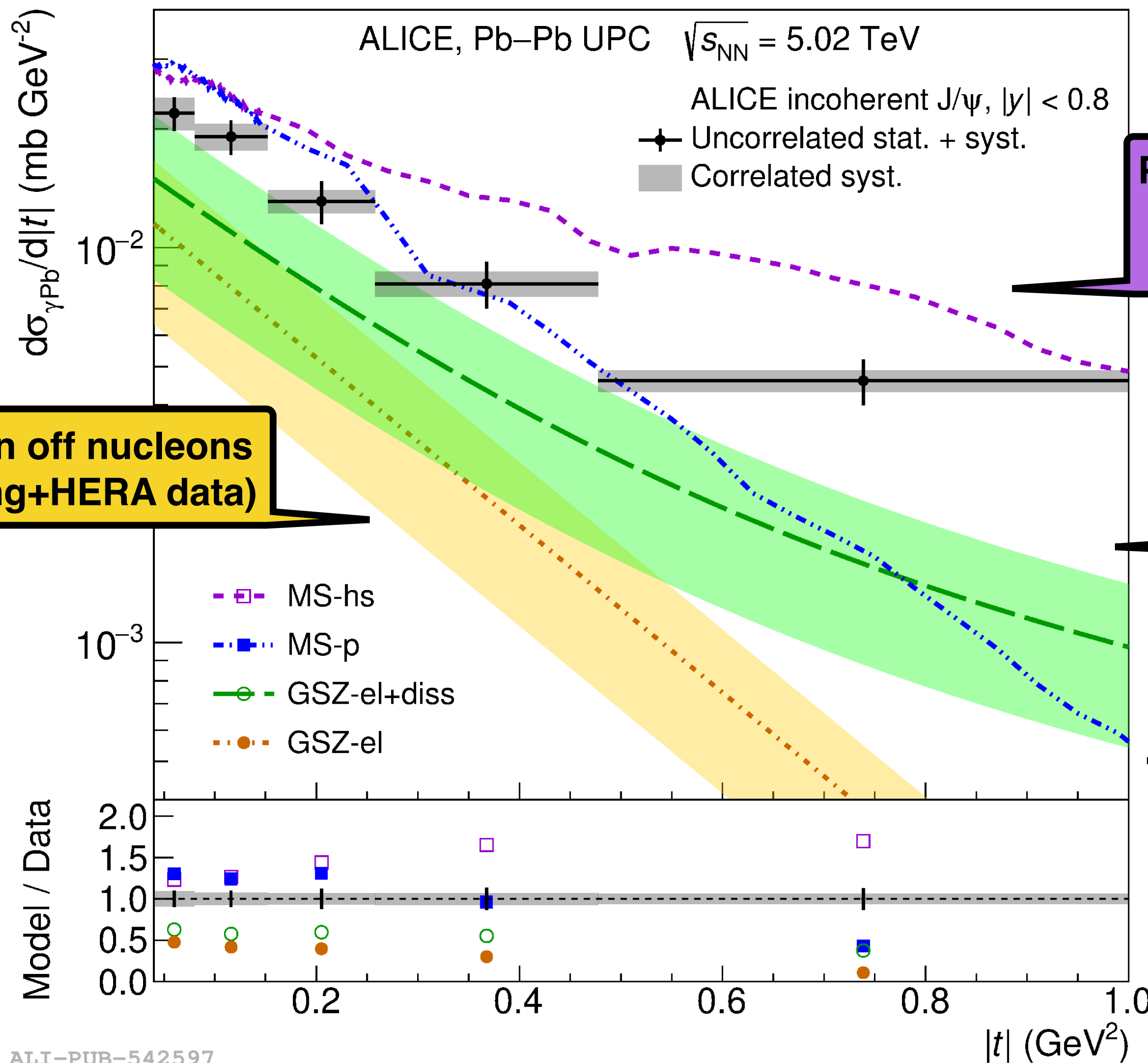
ALI-PUB-542597



Production off nucleons (CGC approach)

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ALI-PUB-542597



Production off nucleons including hot spots (CGC approach)

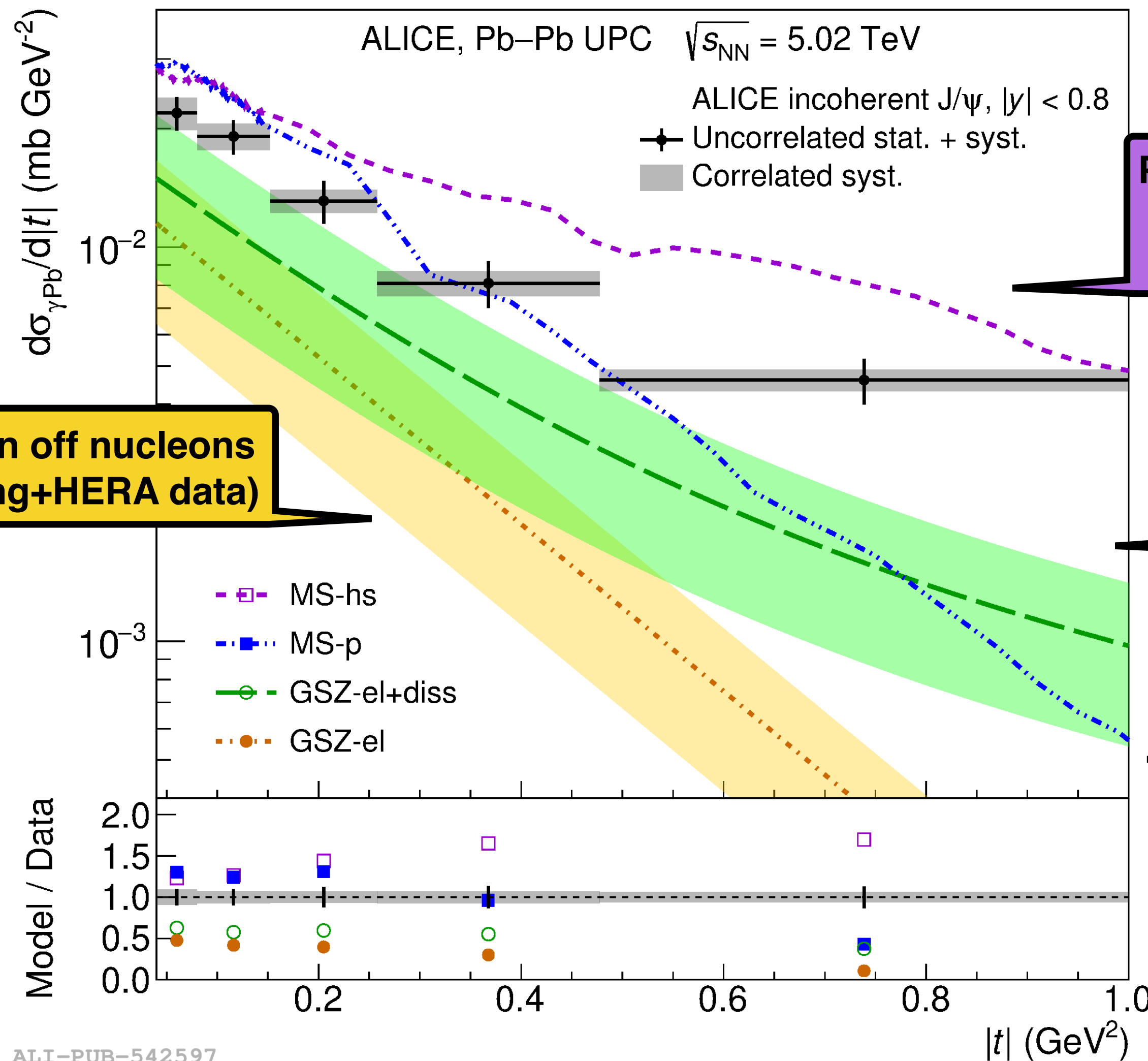
Production off nucleons (Shadowing+HERA data)

Production off nucleons including dissociation (Shadowing+HERA data)

Production off nucleons (CGC approach)

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ALI-PUB-542597



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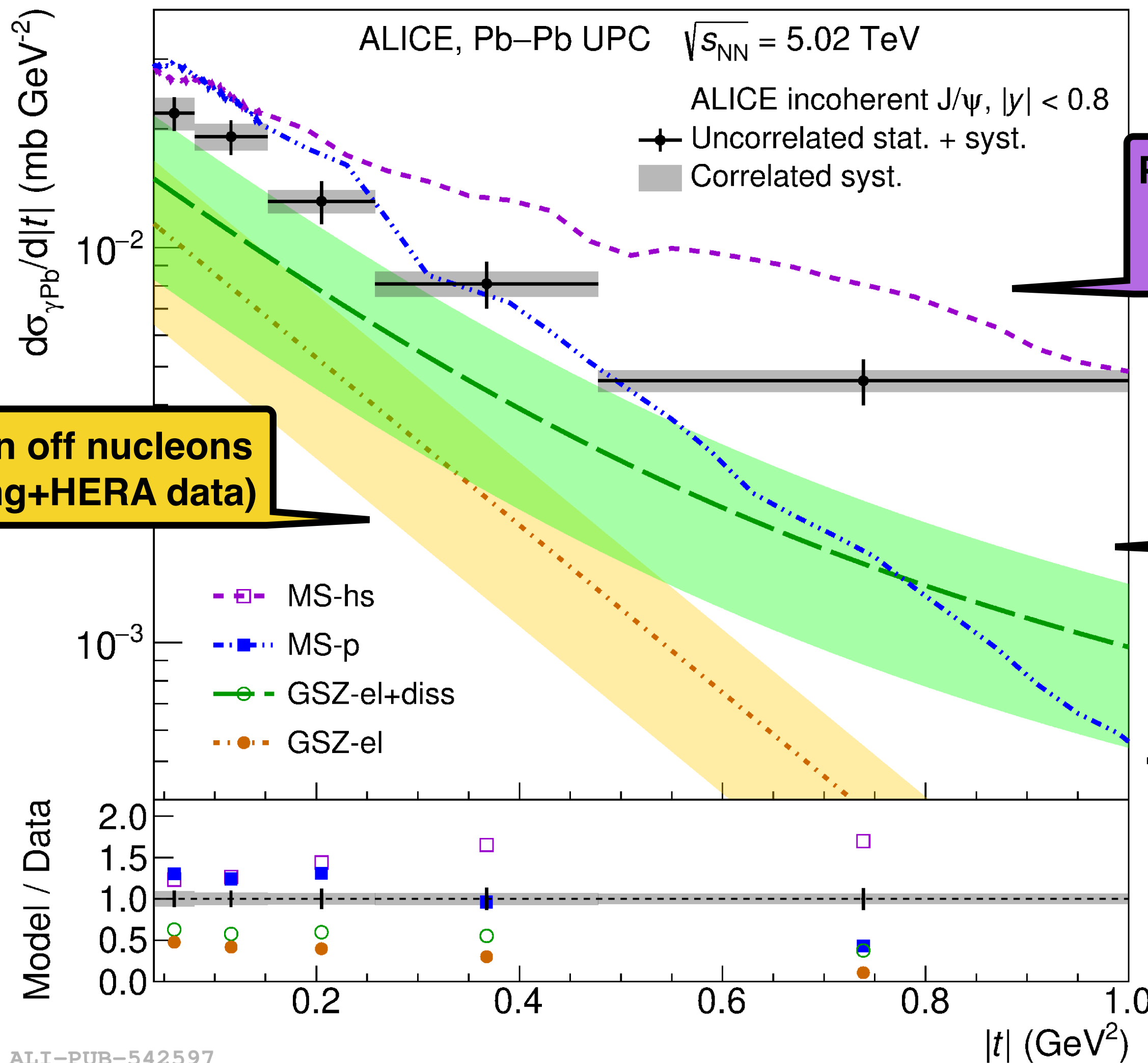
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Models including hot spots or dissociation agree better with the slope of data

ALI-PUB-542597





Production off nucleons including hot spots (CGC approach)

Larger  $|t|$  is sensitive to quantum fluctuations of the colour field at sub-nucleon size scales

Production off nucleons including dissociation (Shadowing+HERA data)

Production off nucleons (CGC approach)

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ALI-PUB-542597

A brief look at the future

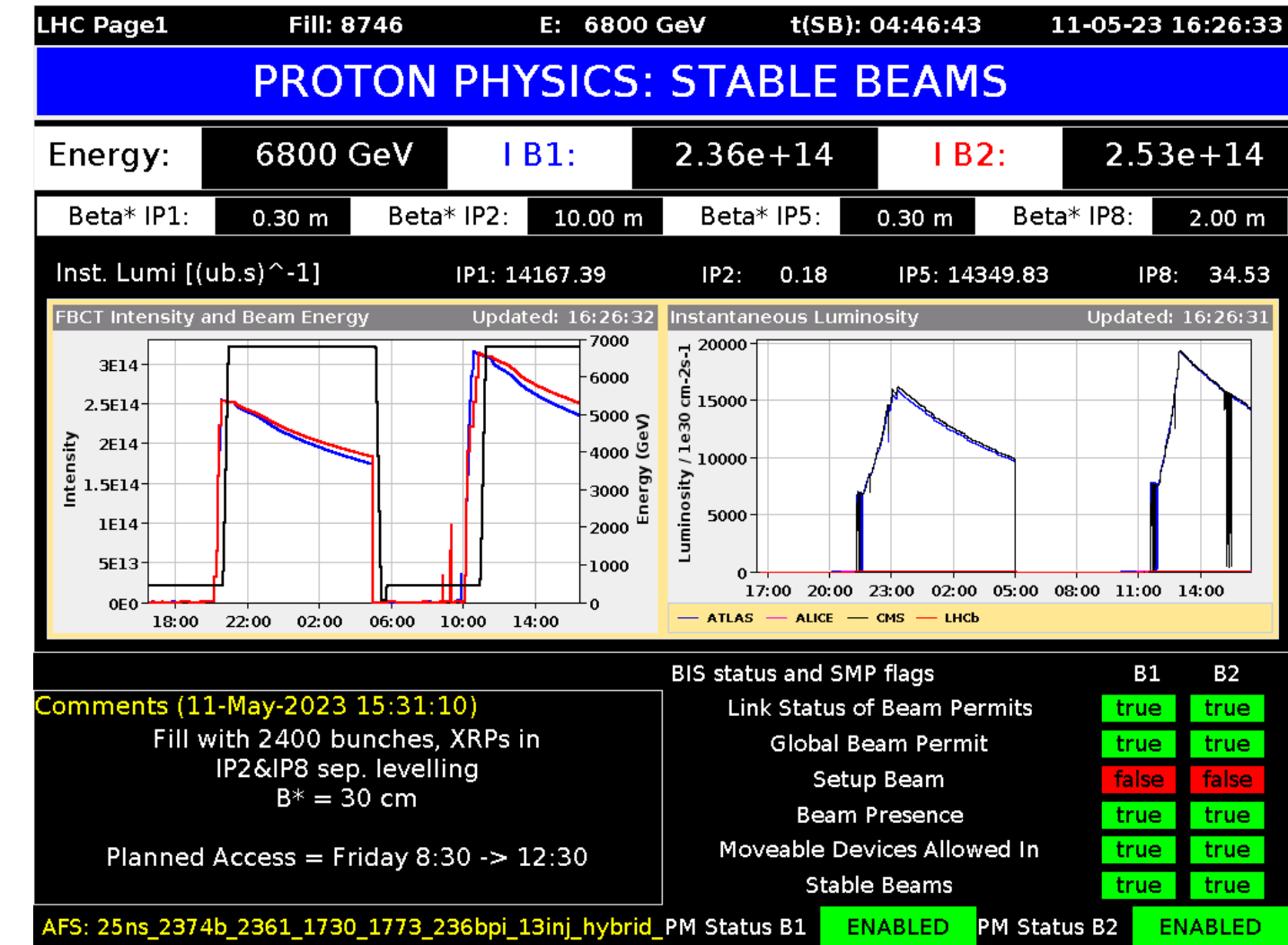
# Expectations for Run 3+4 at the LHC

Current measurements were done with few thousand of  $J/\psi$  candidates from LHC Run 2 data

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The LHC Run 3 is ongoing and new data are being recorded!

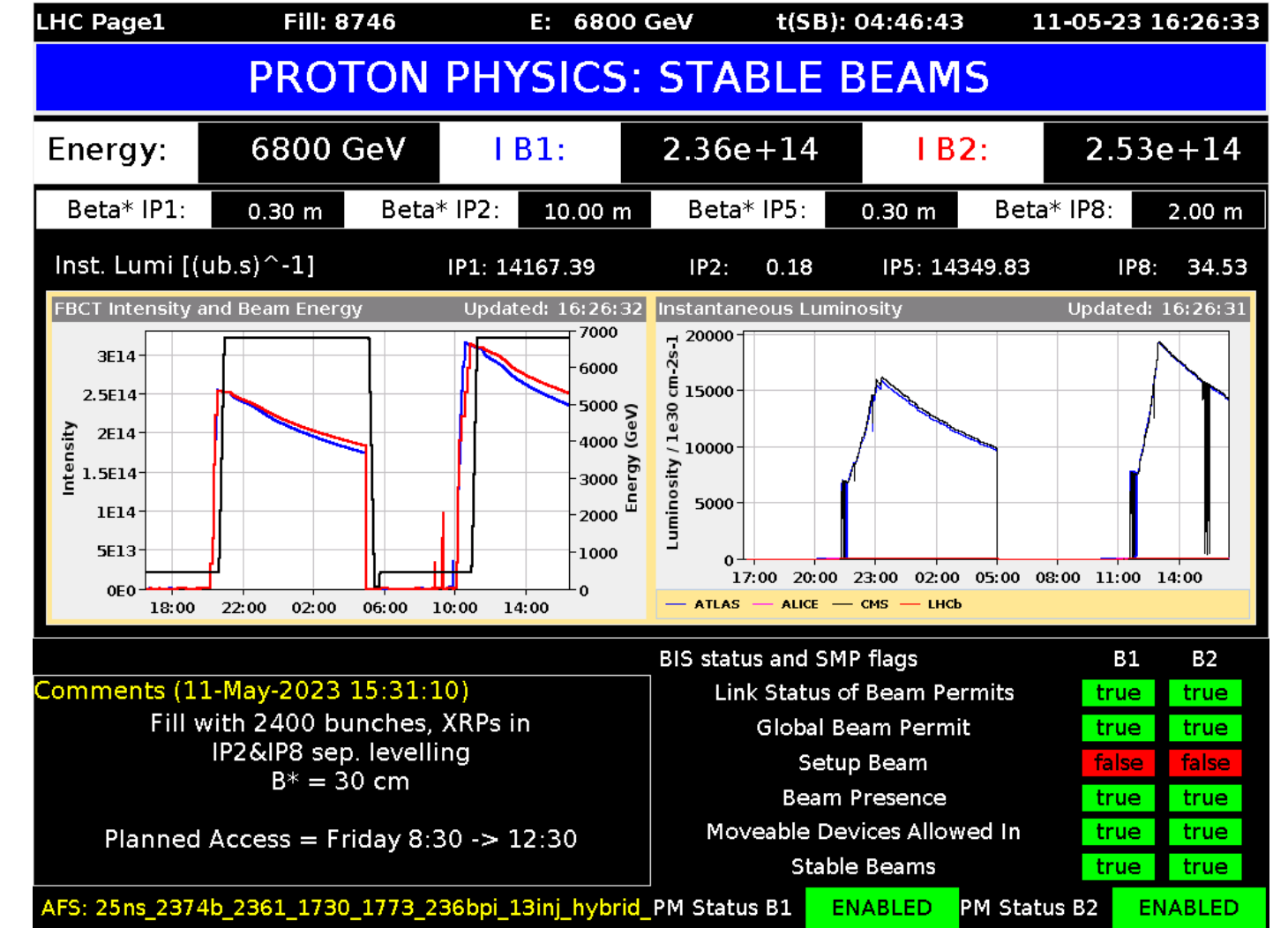


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The LHC Run 3 is ongoing and new data are being recorded!

Pb-Pb UPCs: projections for 13 1/nb in the LHC Run 3 and 4



| Meson                                       | σ      | All Total | PbPb         |              |                   |               |
|---|--------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
|   |        |           | y <0.9 Total | y <2.4 Total | 2.5< y <4 Total 1 | 2< y <5 Total |
| $\rho \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$              | 5.2b   | 68 B      | 5.5 B        | 21B          | 4.9 B             | 13 B          |
| $\rho' \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ | 730 mb | 9.5 B     | 210 M        | 2.5 B        | 190 M             | 1.2 B         |
| $\phi \rightarrow K^+ K^-$                  | 0.22b  | 2.9 B     | 82 M         | 490 M        | 15 M              | 330 M         |
| $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$            | 1.0 mb | 14 M      | 1.1 M        | 5.7 M        | 600 K             | 1.6 M         |
| $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$          | 30 μb  | 400 K     | 35 K         | 180 K        | 19 K              | 47 K          |
| $Y(1S) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$             | 2.0 μb | 26 K      | 2.8 K        | 14 K         | 880               | 2.0 K         |

Acceptances

Millions of J/ψ expected In Run 3+4



## Summary

The LHC keeps producing new photoproduction measurements, which allow us to understand better the nuclear structure at high energies (small Bjorken- $x$ )

# Summary and outlook

Many of the measurements from photon-induced processes not shown today: polarisation, flow, exclusive dijet production, A-dependence of  $\rho^0$ , exclusive and dissociative vector meson production off protons, ...

See partial list of results in the backup

Summary

The LHC keeps producing new photoproduction measurements, which allow us to understand better the nuclear structure at high energies (small Bjorken-x)

# Summary and outlook

Many of the measurements from photon-induced processes not shown today: polarisation, flow, exclusive dijet production, A-dependence of  $\rho^0$ , exclusive and dissociative vector meson production off protons, ...

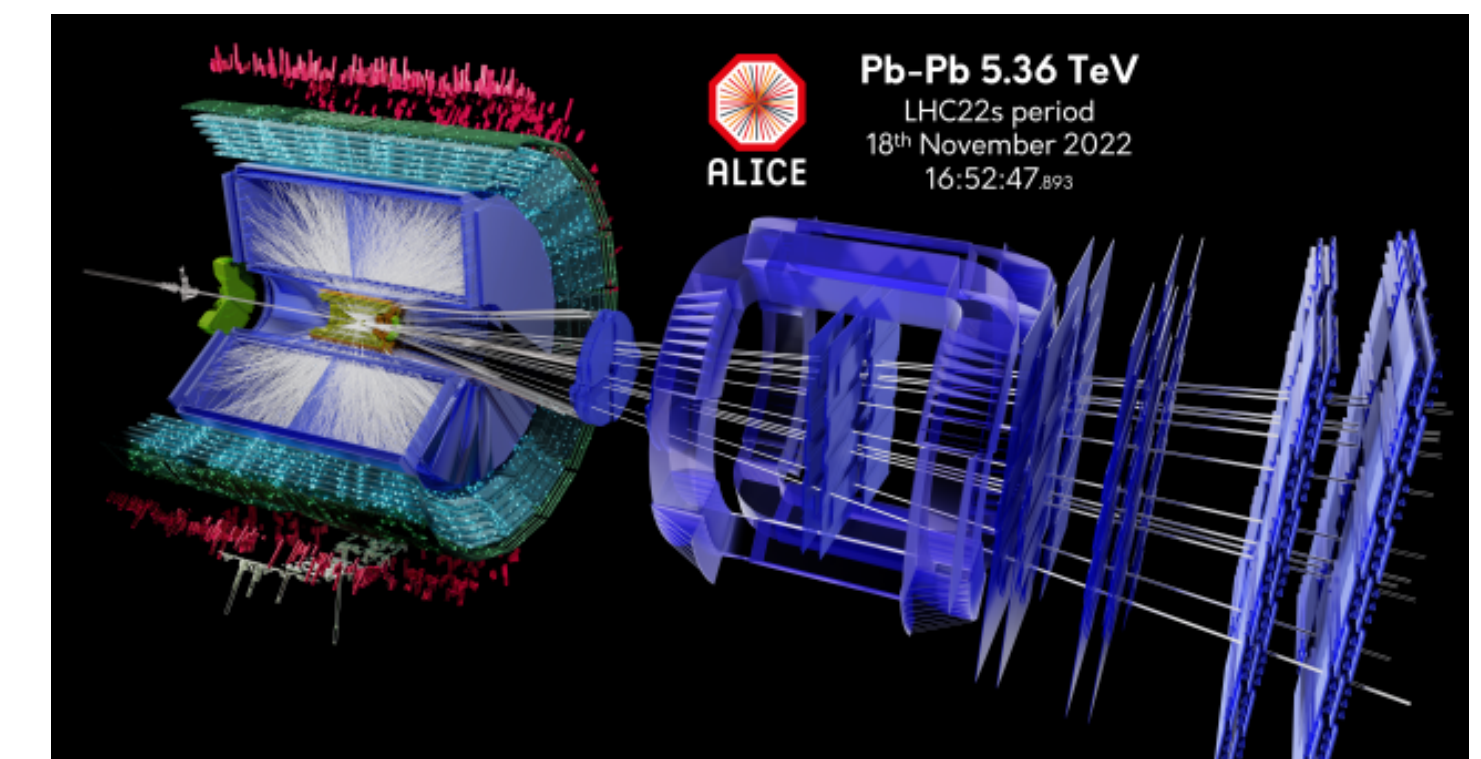
See partial list of results in the backup

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The LHC Run 3 has started!  
Large Pb-Pb data sample this year  
Oxygen-Oxygen and proton-Oxygen collisions for 2024  
Later on p-Pb ( $\gamma p$ ) collisions

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Event from the 2022 data taking period

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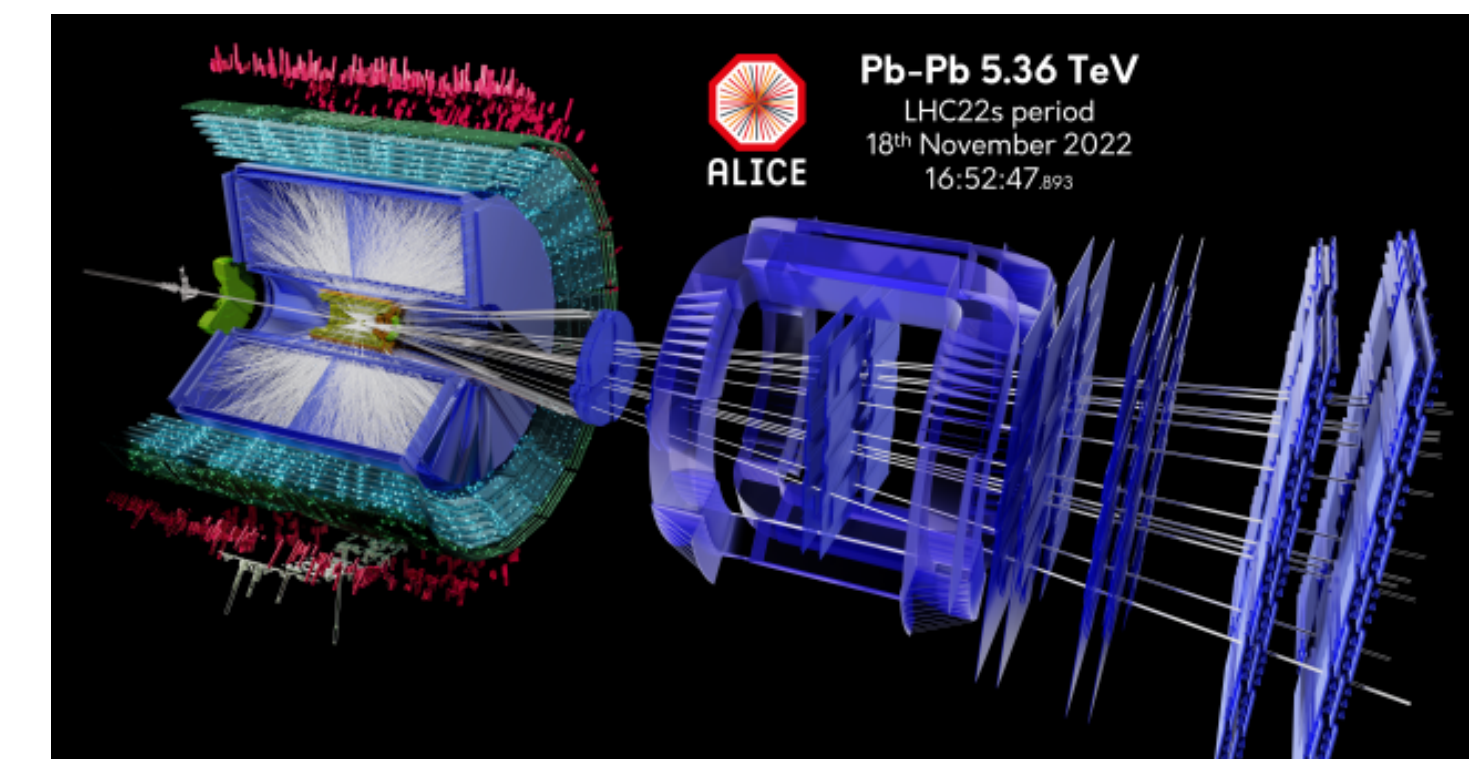
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## Outlook

A bright future for photoproduction studies at the LHC with Run 3+4 data!



Event from the 2022 data taking period



# Partial list of LHC results on photon-induced interactions

- [1] **ALICE** Collaboration, B. Abelev *et al.*, “Measurement of the Cross Section for Electromagnetic Dissociation with Neutron Emission in Pb-Pb Collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$  TeV”, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **109** (2012) 252302, [arXiv:1203.2436](#) [nucl-ex].
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