



# Non-equilibrium photons from the thermalizing Glasma

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In collaboration with J. Berges, Nicole Löher,  
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Based on: Garcia-Montero, [arXiv:1909.12294](https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.12294)  
Garcia-Montero *et al* , [arXiv:1909.12246](https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.12246)



# Contents

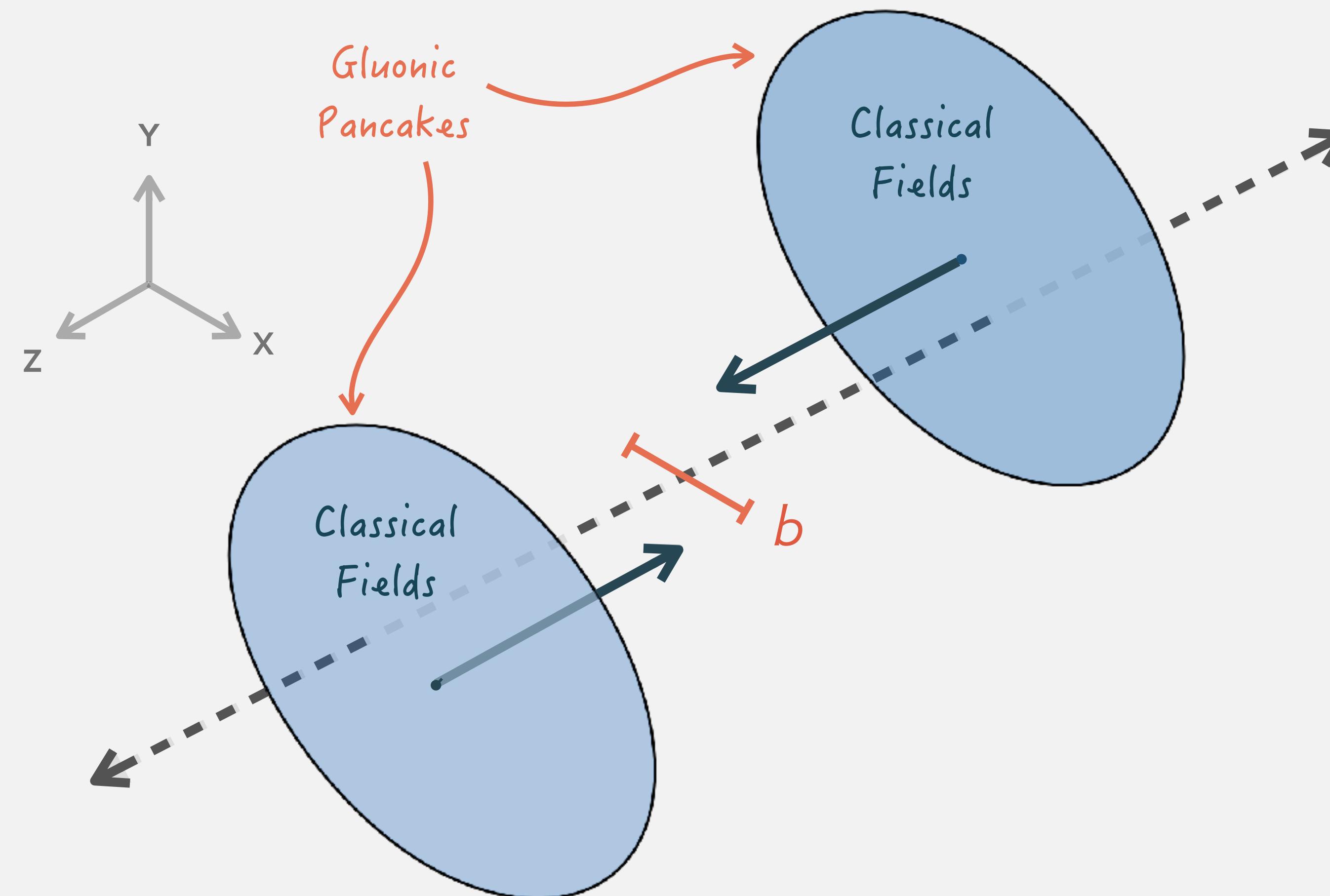
- 1 Initial stages, Turbulence, Photons
- 2 Photons from the “bottom-up” scenario
- 3 Photon correlations to probe the evolution of the fireball?



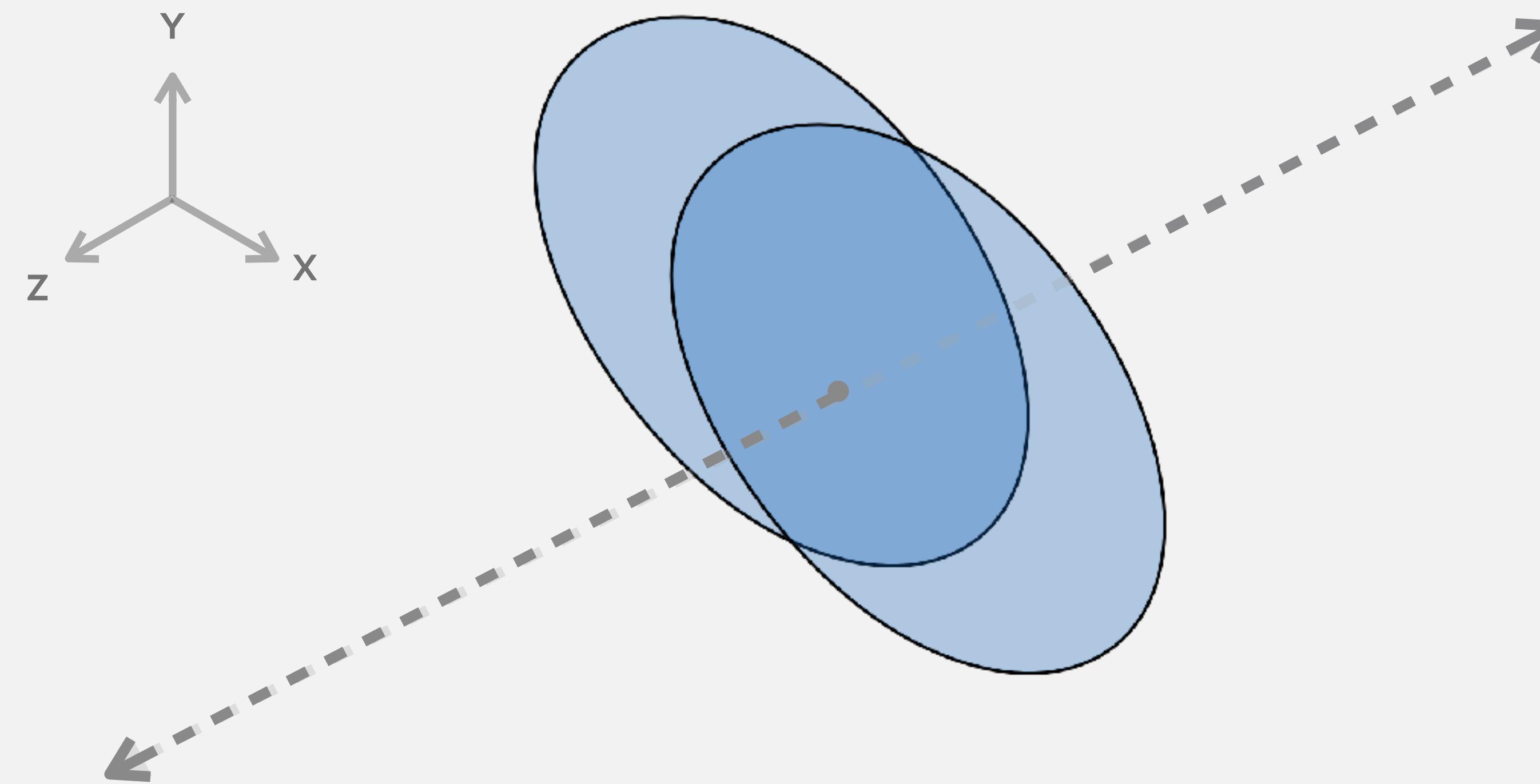
# Early Stages and Turbulence

(Retitled: **highly occupied  
non-abelian** plasmas  
very far from equilibrium)

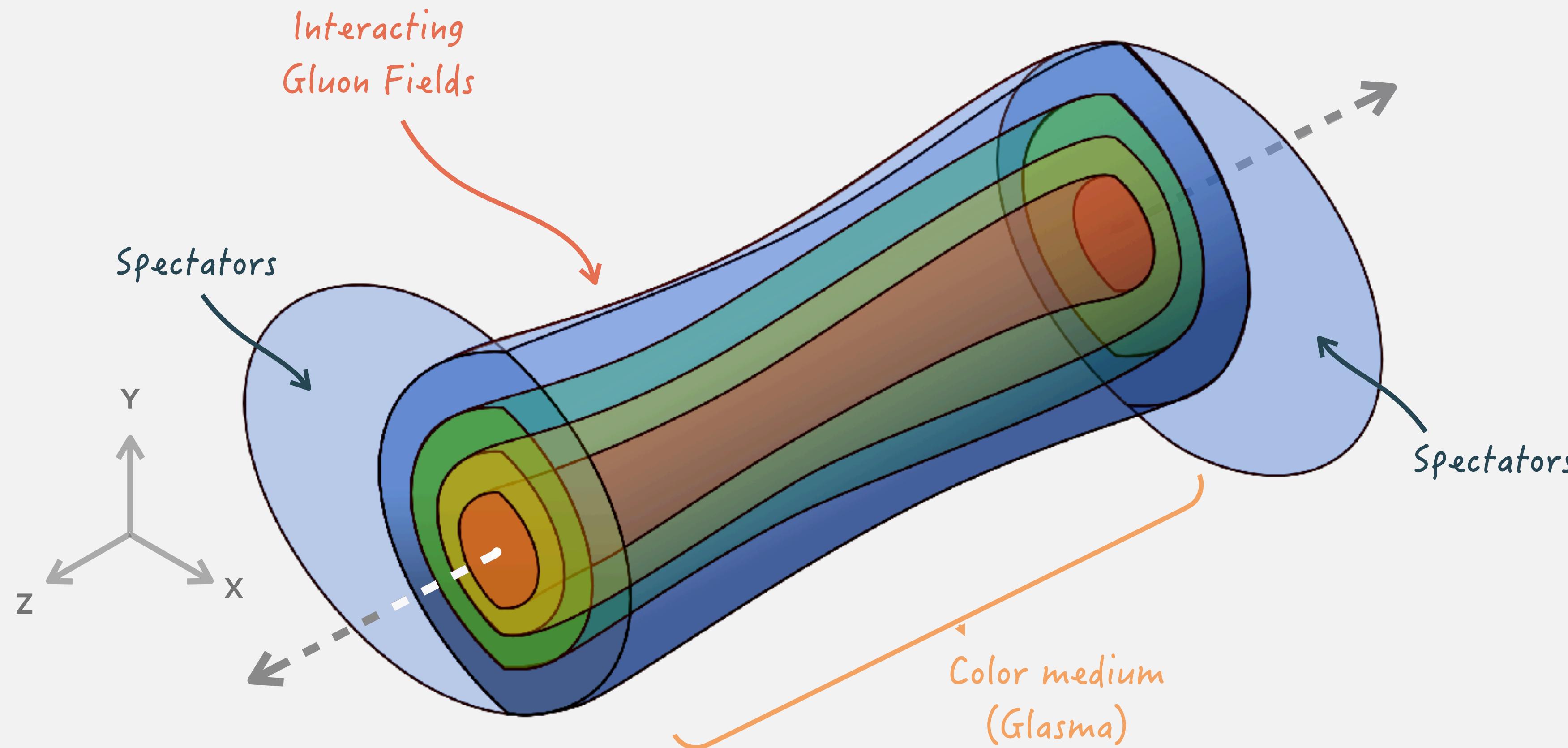
# Ultra-relativistic Nucleus-Nucleus (A+A) Collisions



# Ultrarelativistic Nucleus-Nucleus (A+A) Collisions



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# Turbulent thermalization



Color Glass Condensate  
is the energy source of  
the system.

Fast production of particles  
via quantum fluctuations and  
secondary plasma instabilities.

Relaxation period.  
Energy flows from IR  
source to UV sink.  
Memory loss.

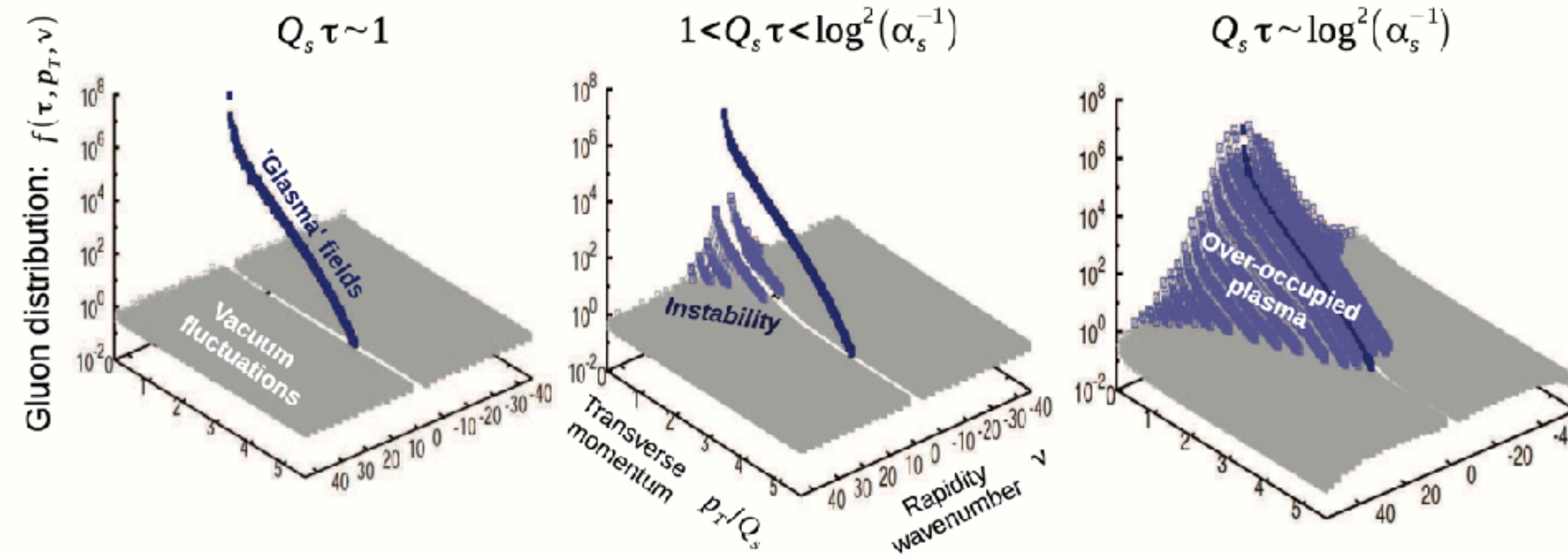


Fig. from Berges et al. Nucl. Phys. A931, 348 (2014)

Micha and Tkachev, Phys.Rev. D70 (2004) 043538

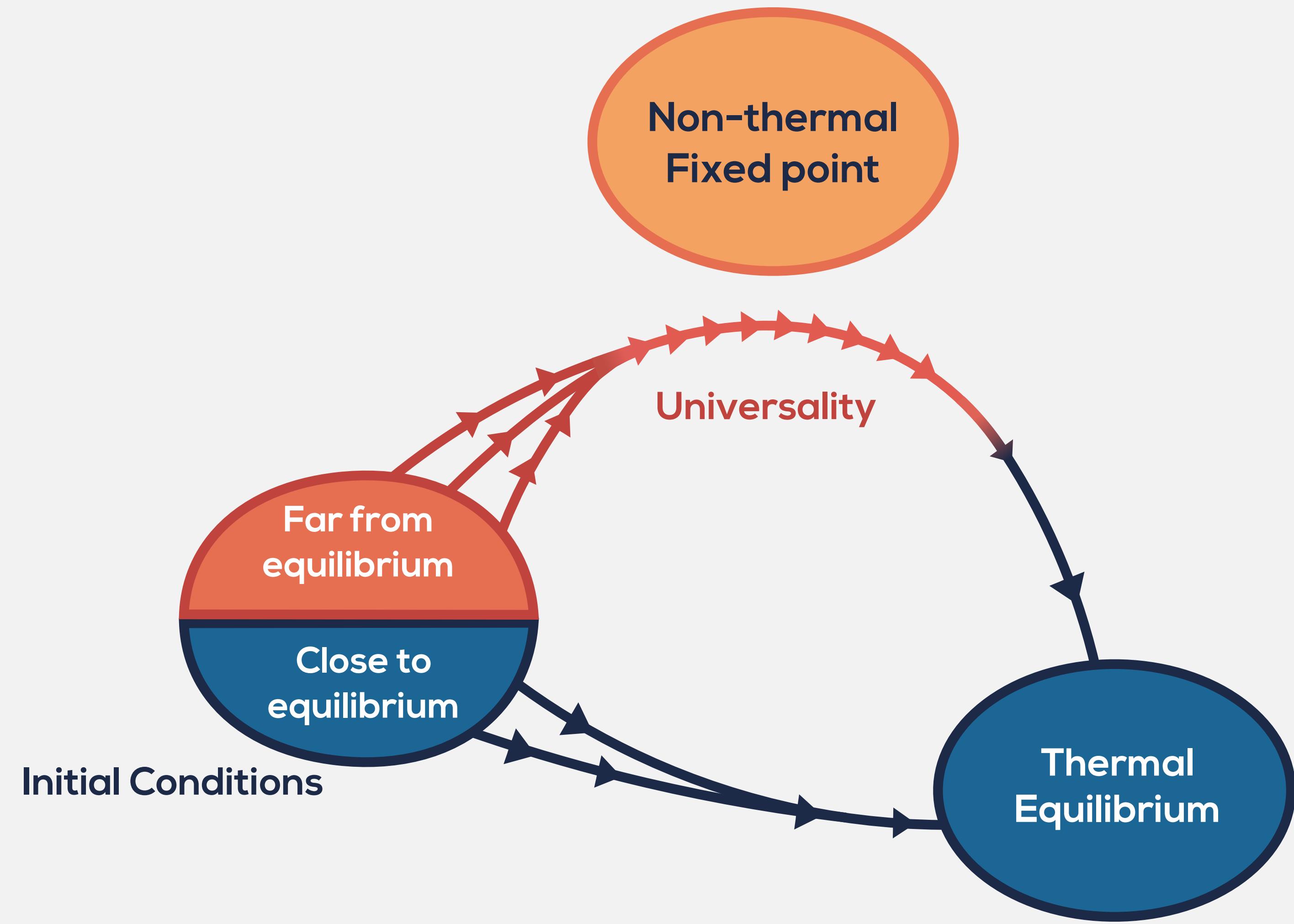
Berges et al. Phys.Rev. D89 (2014) no.11, 114007

Berges et al. arXiv: 2005.12299

Epelbaum and Gelis. Phys.Rev. D89 (2014) no.11, 114007

Berges, Boguslavski, Schlichting. Phys. Rev. D 85, 076005

Berges et al. JHEP 05, 054 (2014)



# Non-thermal fixed point

def. Parametrically long self-similar regime quantum fields under go in their way to Thermal Equilibrium

## Self - Similarity

def. distribution function depends on  
a Universal, time-independent  
function

$$f(t, p) = t^\alpha f_S(p_\perp t^\beta, p_z t^\gamma)$$



## Self - Similarity

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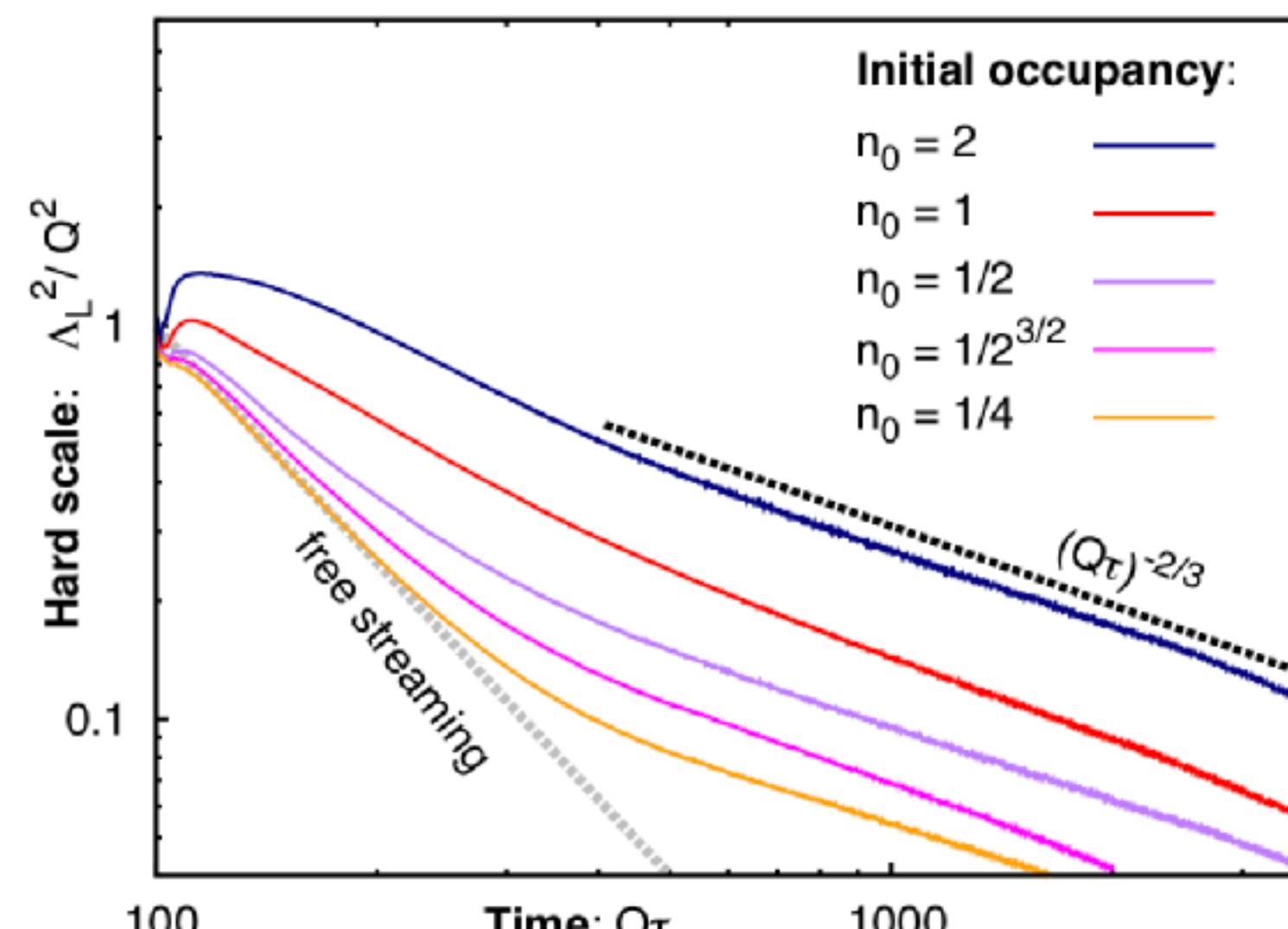


## Transport and Turbulence

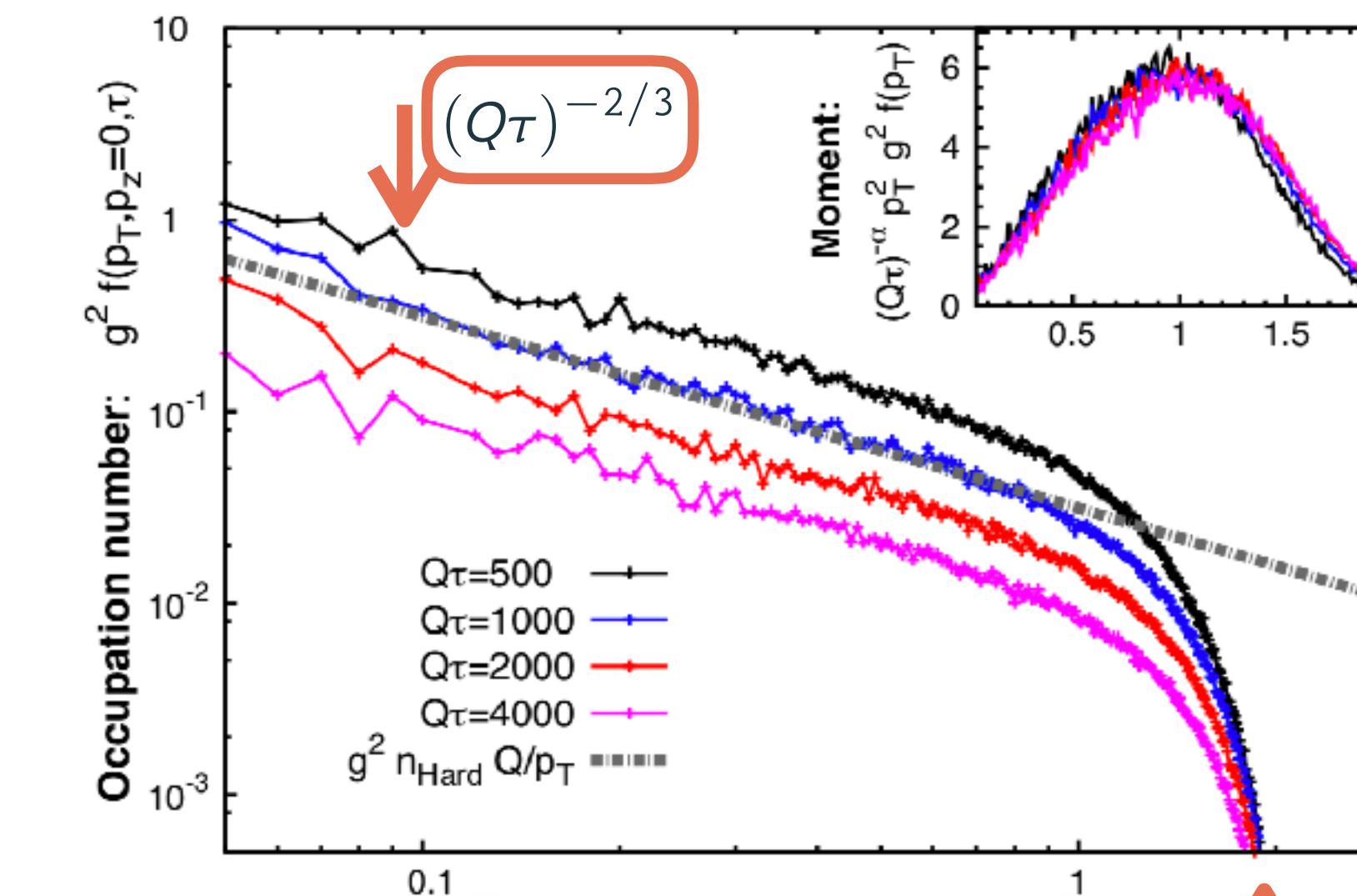
def. Local flow of conserved  
charges to accommodate better  
the total corresponding charge. The  
flow is turbulent when is self-similar

# Gluon occupation: High

**Hard Scale:**  $\Lambda_L^2 \sim \langle p_z \rangle^2$



**Transverse  $p_\perp$**



$$f_g(\tau, p_\perp, p_z) = \frac{1}{\alpha_s} (Q_s \tau)^\alpha f_S(p_\perp, (Q_s \tau)^\gamma p_z)$$

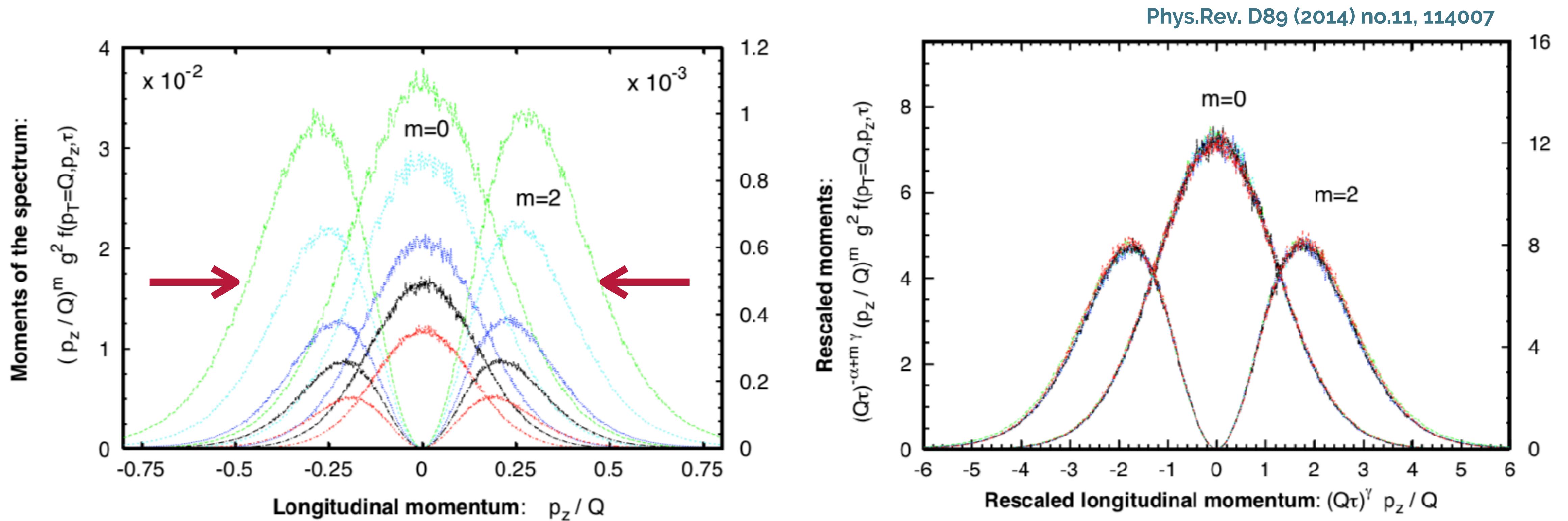
$$\alpha = -2/3 \quad \beta = 0 \quad \gamma = 1/3$$

$$N(\tau)$$

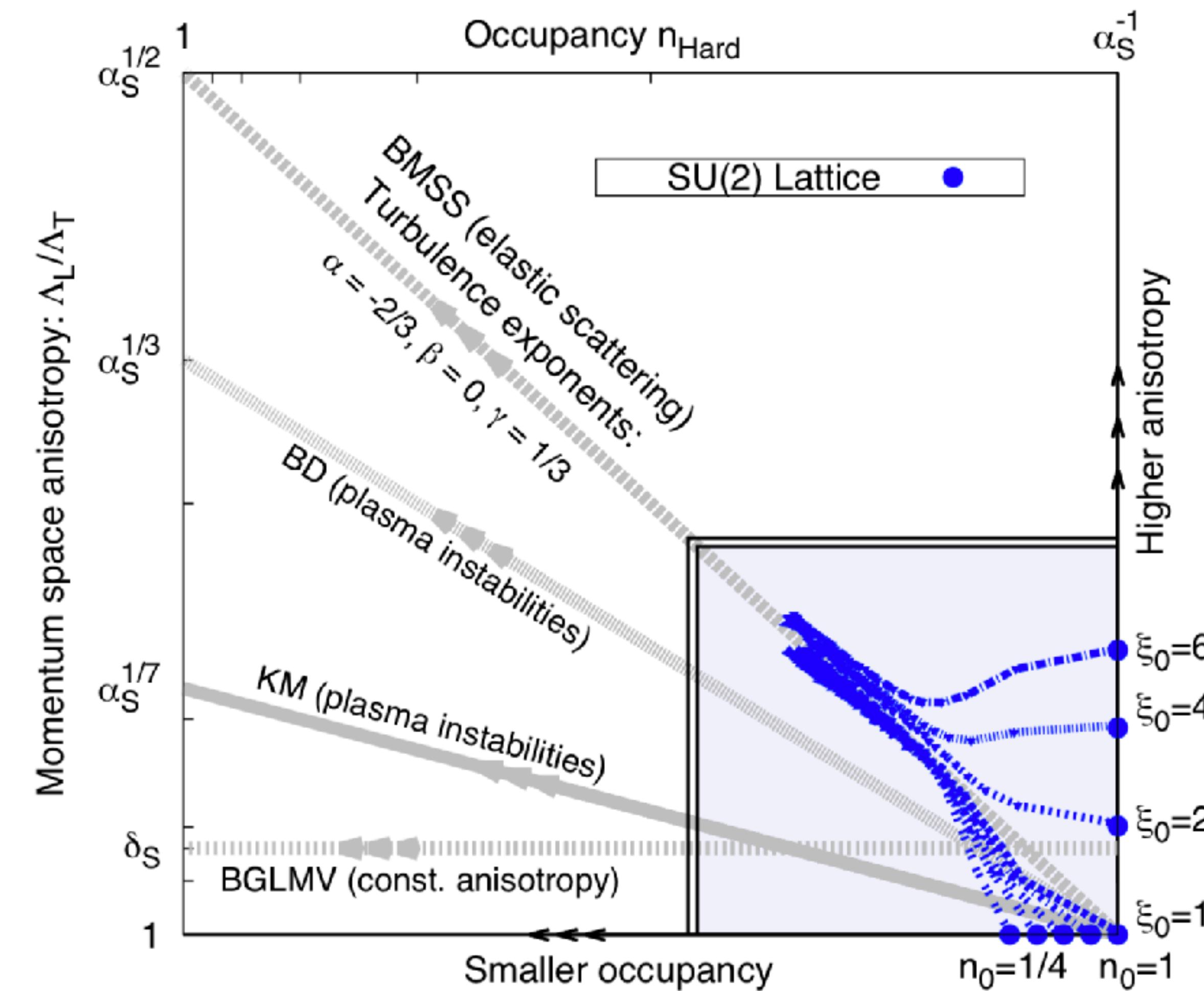
$$\langle p_\perp \rangle$$

$$\langle p_z \rangle$$

# Occupancy: $p_z$



# Finding the right scenario



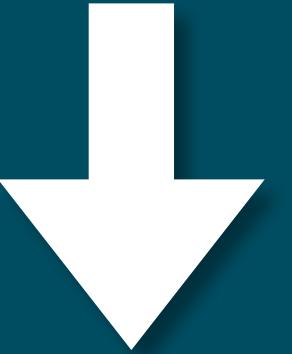
GIVEN THAT...

- System later becomes hydrodynamical
- Hadrons are produced at later stages from lower energy densities
- Hadrons observables are robust to change of Initial Conditions

...THE QUESTION IS THEN

Should we care (phenomenologically) about the early stages?

Find probe that “feels”  
the turbulent stage



*Photons and dileptons*

# Direct Photons

## The Good

- No strong interactions
  - Mean free path in medium > medium size
- ➡️ Photons escape, virtually unscathed

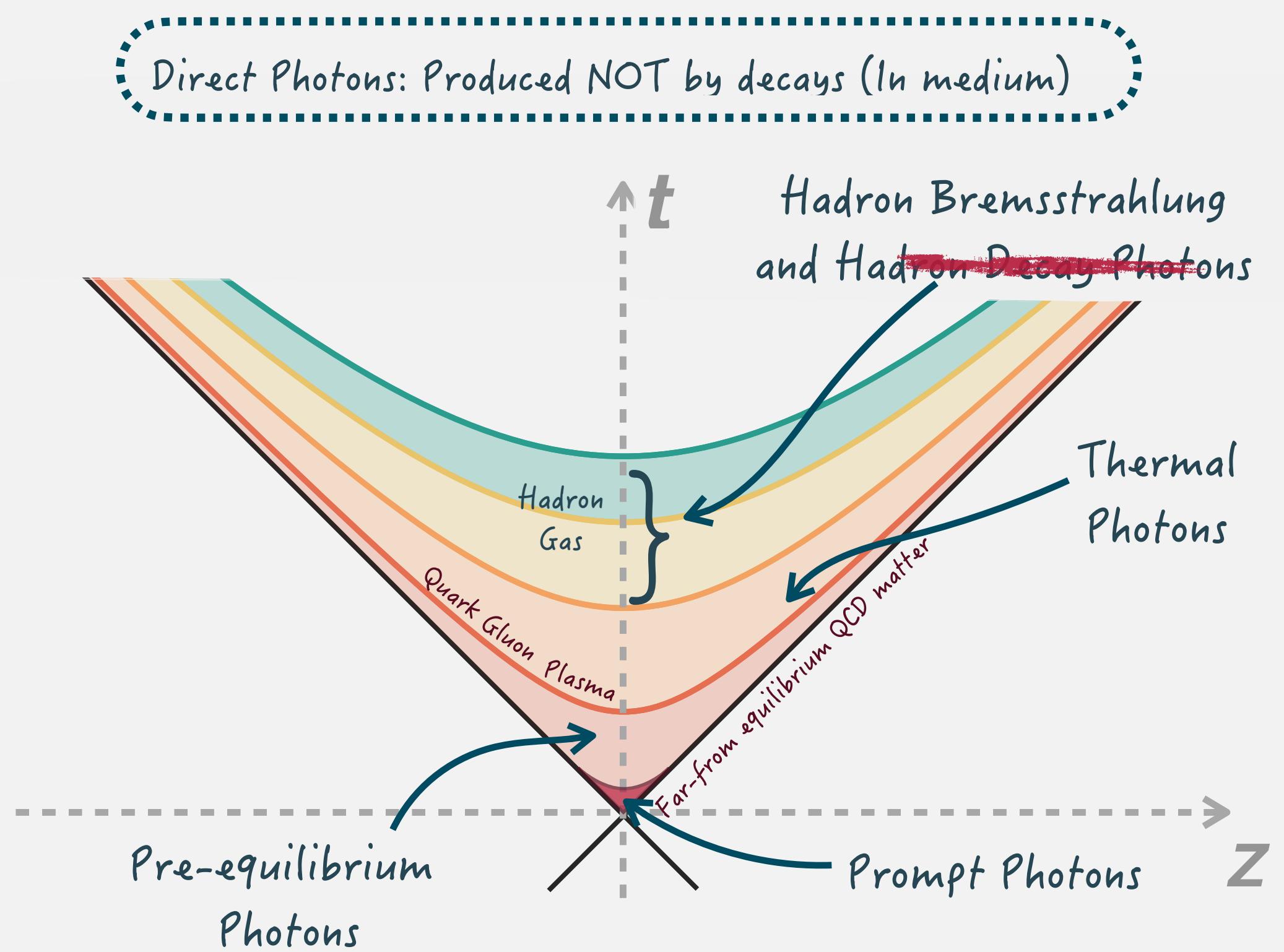
## The Bad

- Produced at every stage
- Their signal has to be extracted from total by subtracting hadronic decays.

## The Ugly

- Compared with a lot of observables, signal is hard to get.

## The Standard Model of Heavy Ion Collisions



# Direct Photon Puzzle

# Direct Photon Puzzle

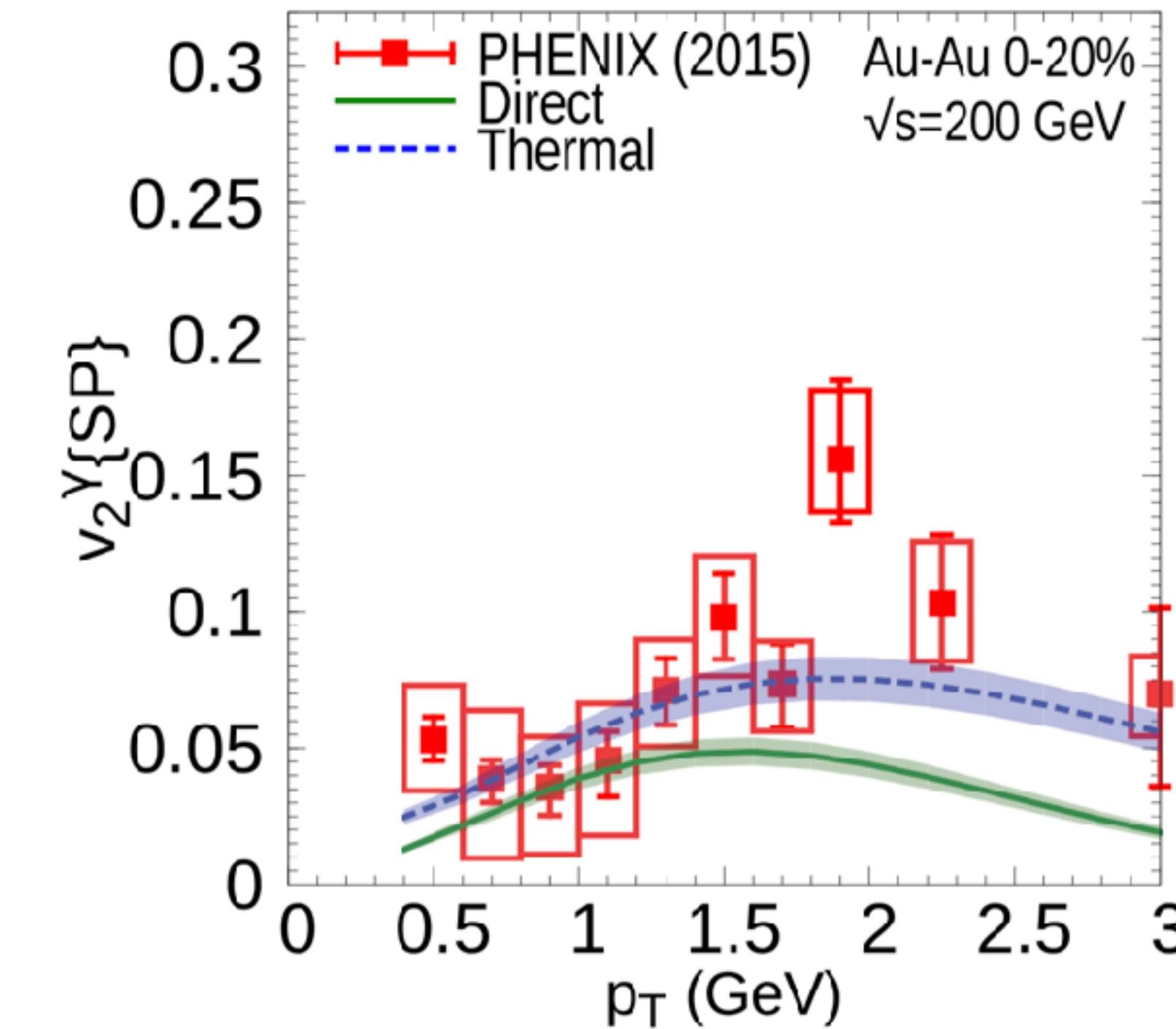
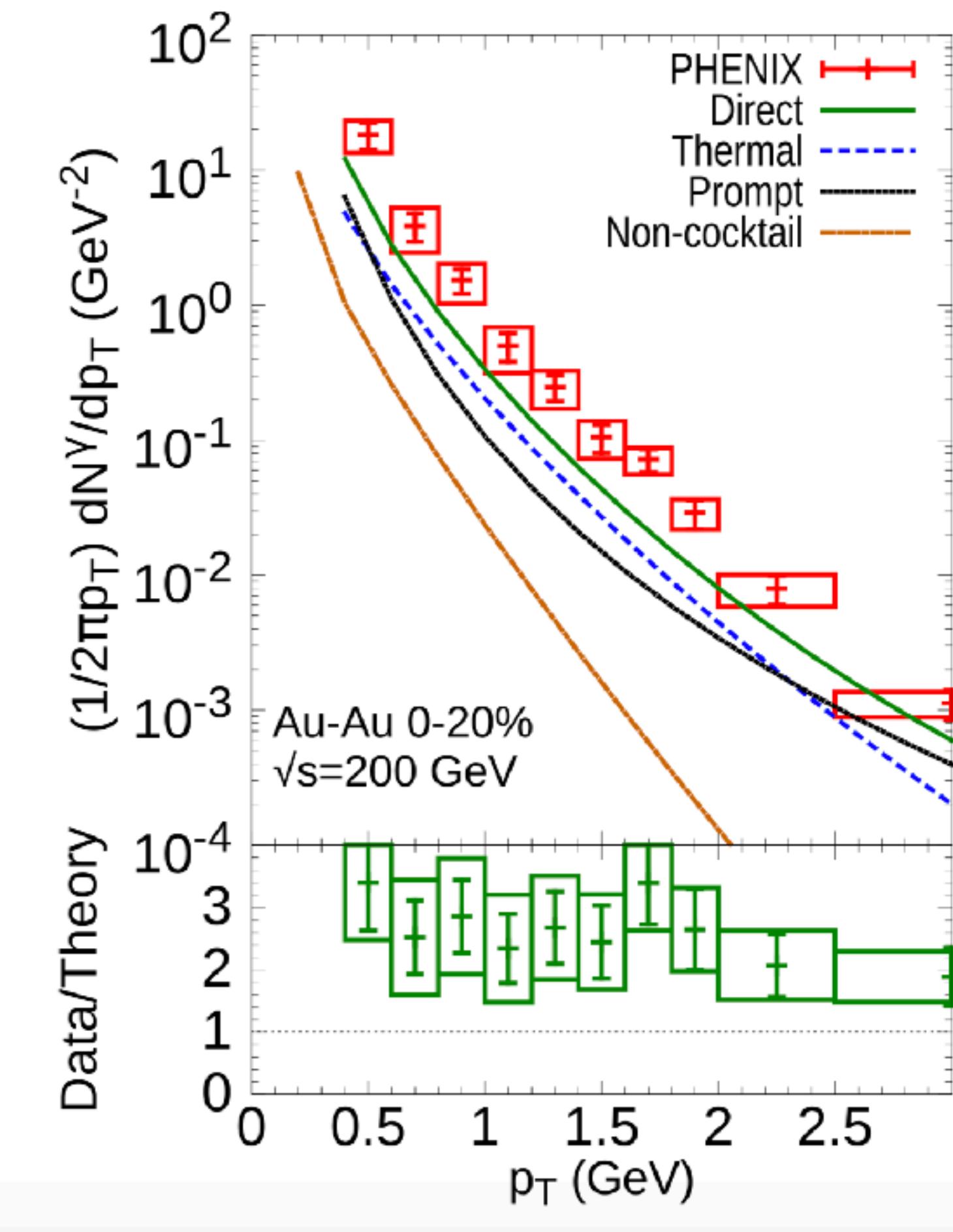


Figure from Paquet *et al*,  
Phys.Rev. C93 (2016) no.4, 044906

# Photons @ LHC

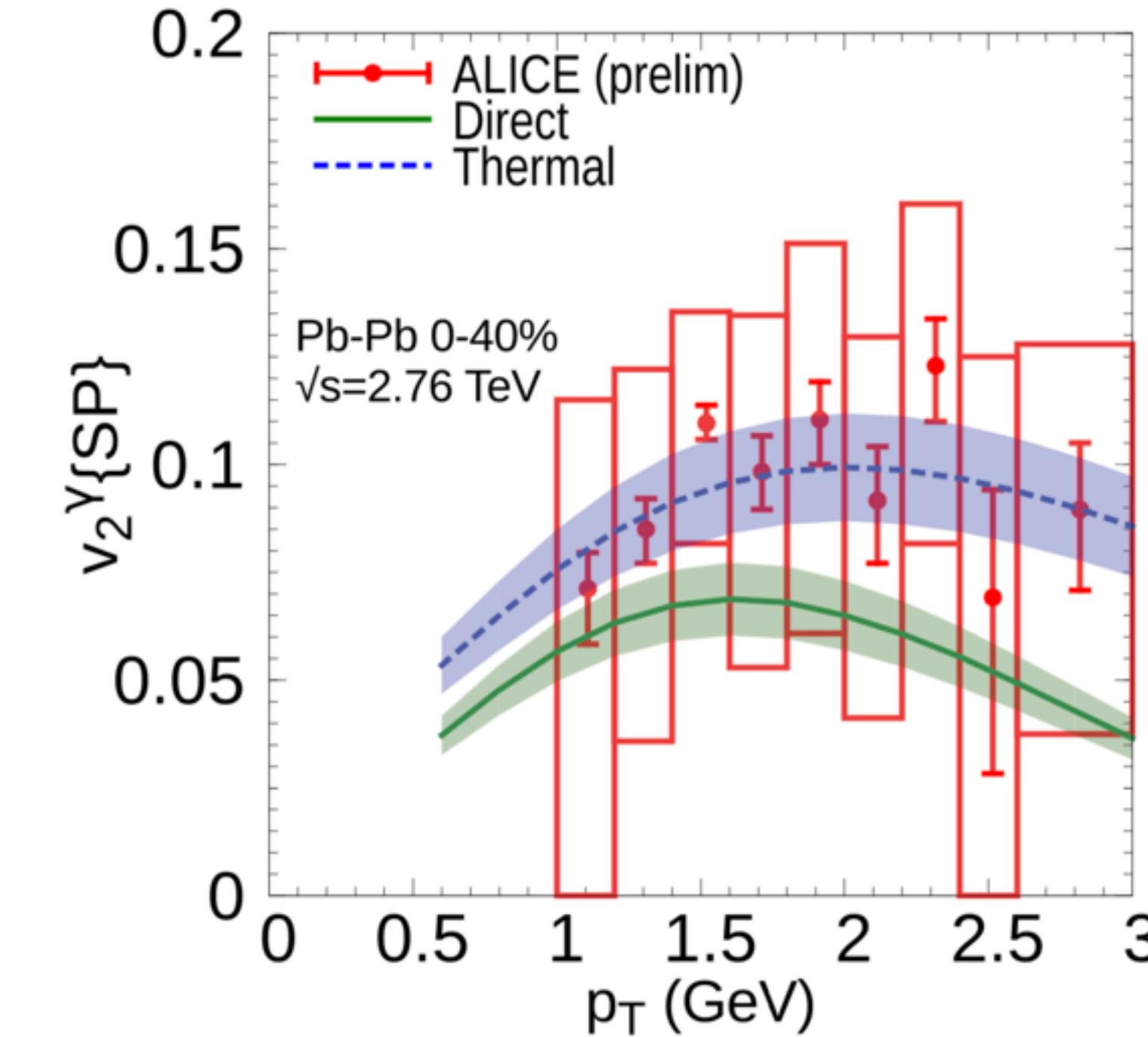
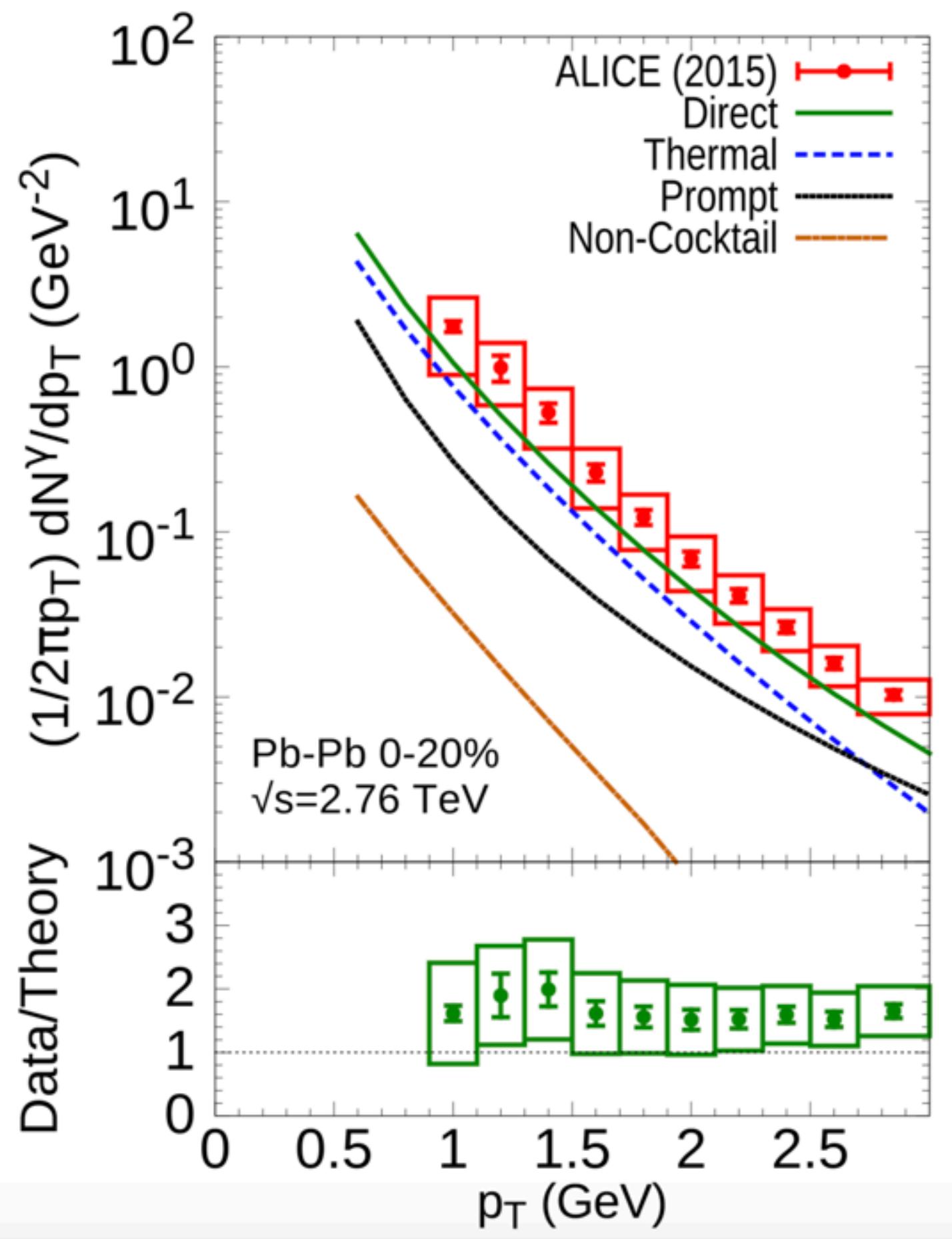


Figure from Paquet *et al*,  
Phys.Rev. C93 (2016) no.4, 044906

See also Shen, Nucl.Phys. A956 (2016) 184-191

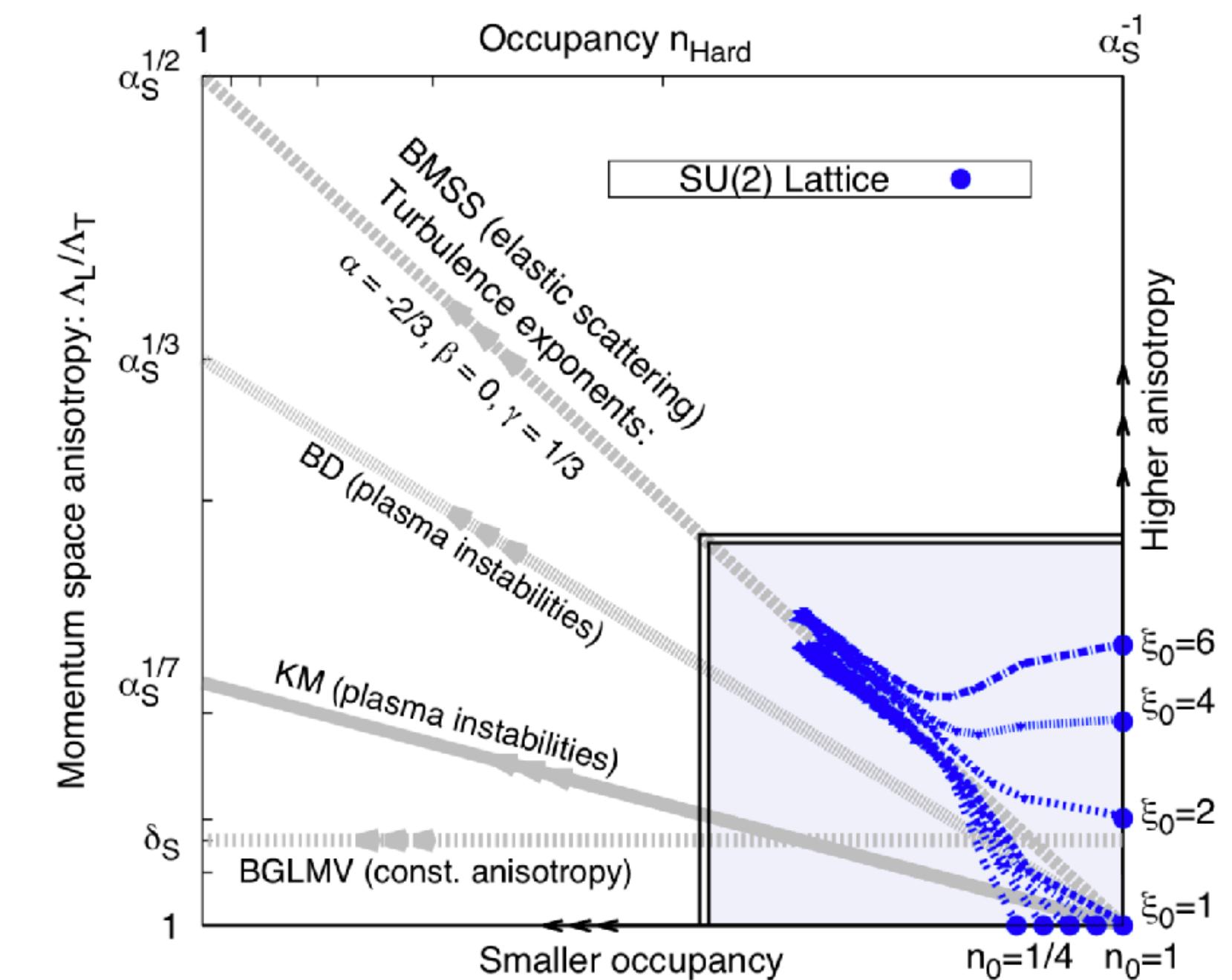
# Direct Photon Puzzle™

*“The inability to simultaneously  
describe both  
the photon yield and anisotropy.”*

# Part 1

## Non-Thermal photons from a thermalizing QCD medium

Or: Calculate photon radiation from  
out-of-equilibrium plasma, using the  
“bottom-up” scenario



# *Bottom-up thermalization*

Three  
Stages

- I. Early Times. 2-2 broadening  
 $1 \ll Q\tau \ll \alpha_s^{-3/2}$
- II. Onset of thermalization  
 $\alpha_s^{-3/2} \ll Q\tau \ll \alpha_s^{-5/2}$
- III. Mini-jet quenching  
 $\alpha_s^{-5/2} \ll Q\tau \ll \alpha_s^{-13/5}$

# I. Early Times: $2 \leftrightarrow 2$ broadening

$$1 \ll Q\tau \ll \alpha_s^{-3/2}$$

$$\frac{dN_g}{d^2p_\perp dy} = \frac{1}{\alpha_s} f\left(\frac{p_\perp}{Q_s}\right)$$

Dominated by hard gluons  
 $\langle p_\perp \rangle \sim Q_s$

Instabilities freed hard Gluons

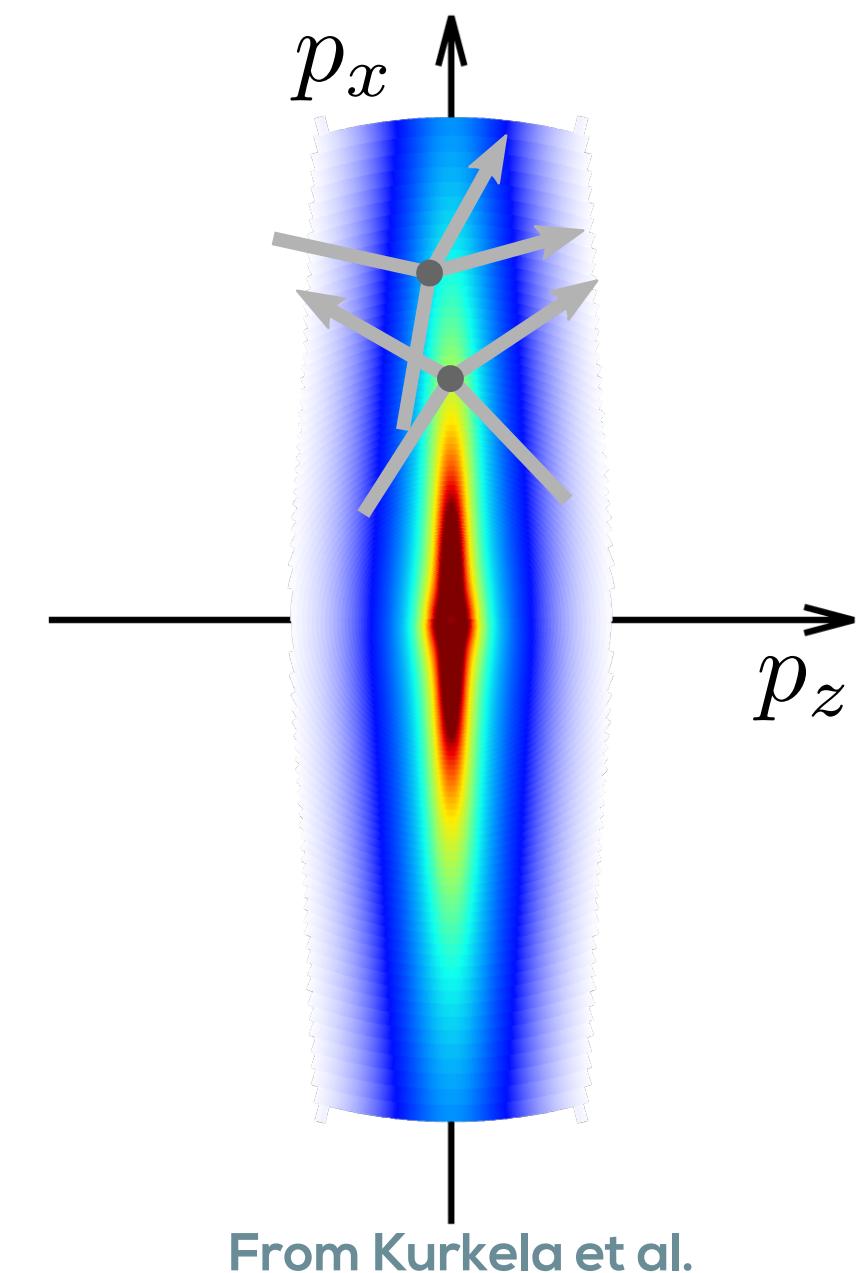
$$n_h \sim \frac{1}{\alpha_s} \frac{Q^3}{Q_s \tau}$$

Hard-hard interactions dominated by soft exchange

$$m_D^2 \sim \alpha_s \int \frac{d^3p}{p} f_g \sim \frac{Q_s^2}{Q_s \tau}$$

Longitudinal broadening

$$\langle p_z \rangle \sim Q_s (Q_s \tau)^{-1/3}$$



# I. Early Times: $2 \leftrightarrow 2$ broadening

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$$\frac{dN_g}{d^2p_\perp dy} = \frac{1}{\alpha_s} f\left(\frac{p_\perp}{Q_s}\right) \sim \frac{1}{\alpha_s} (Q_s\tau)^{-2/3}$$

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Instabilities freed hard Gluons

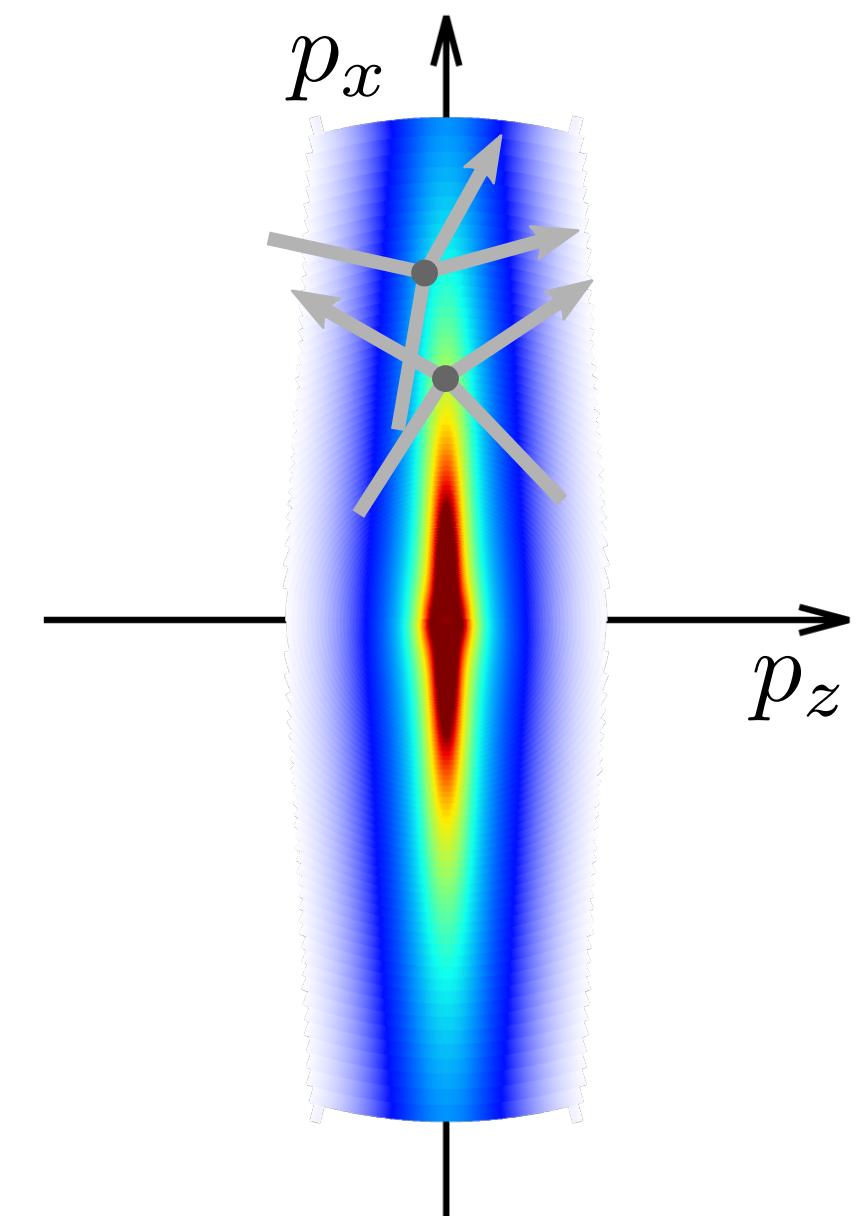
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Longitudinal broadening

$$\langle p_z \rangle \sim Q_s (Q_s\tau)^{-1/3}$$



## II. Onset of thermalization

$$\alpha_s^{-3/2} \ll Q\tau \ll \alpha_s^{-5/2}$$

Occupation of Hard Gluon drops below unity

$$\frac{dN_g}{d^2p_\perp dy} \sim (Q_s\tau)^{-2/3}$$

Soft gluons dominate the screening mass

$$n_s \sim \frac{\alpha_s^{1/4} Q_S^3}{(Q_S \tau)^{1/2}}$$

Longitudinal momentum

$$\langle p_z \rangle \sim \sqrt{\alpha_s} Q_s$$

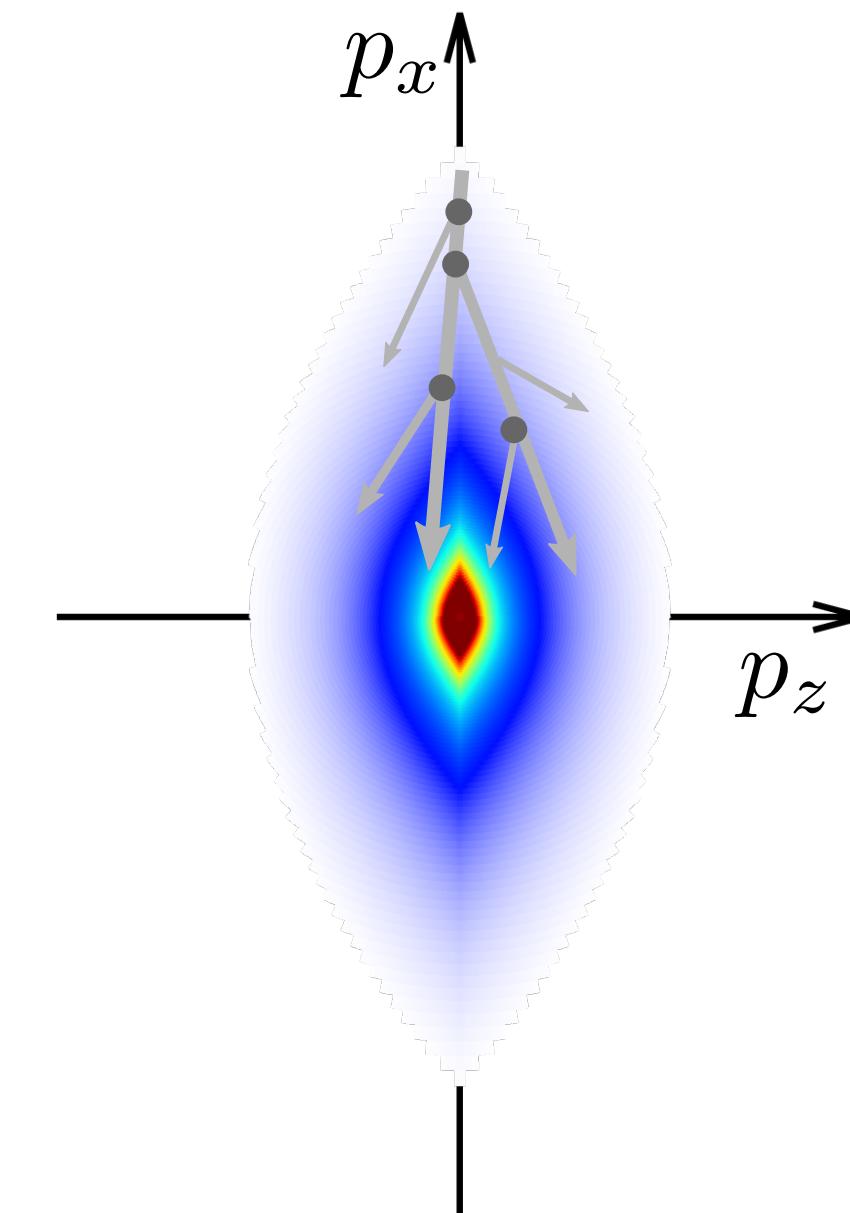
Screening mass is dominated by soft sector

$$m_D^2 \sim \frac{\alpha_s^{3/4} Q_s}{(Q_s \tau)^{1/2}}$$

Dominated by hard gluons

$$\langle p_\perp \rangle \sim Q_s$$

$$\langle p_\perp \rangle \sim Q_s$$

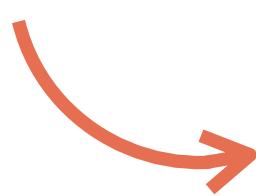


From Kurkela et al.  
Phys. Rev. C99 (2019) no.3, 034910

### III. Mini-jet Quenching

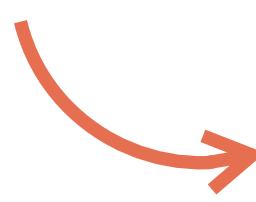
$$\alpha_s^{-5/2} \ll Q\tau \ll \alpha_s^{-13/5}$$

Soft sector thermalizes

 Acts like a bath

Dominated by soft gluons  
 $\langle p_\perp \rangle \sim m_D$

Hard sector loses energy to soft bath

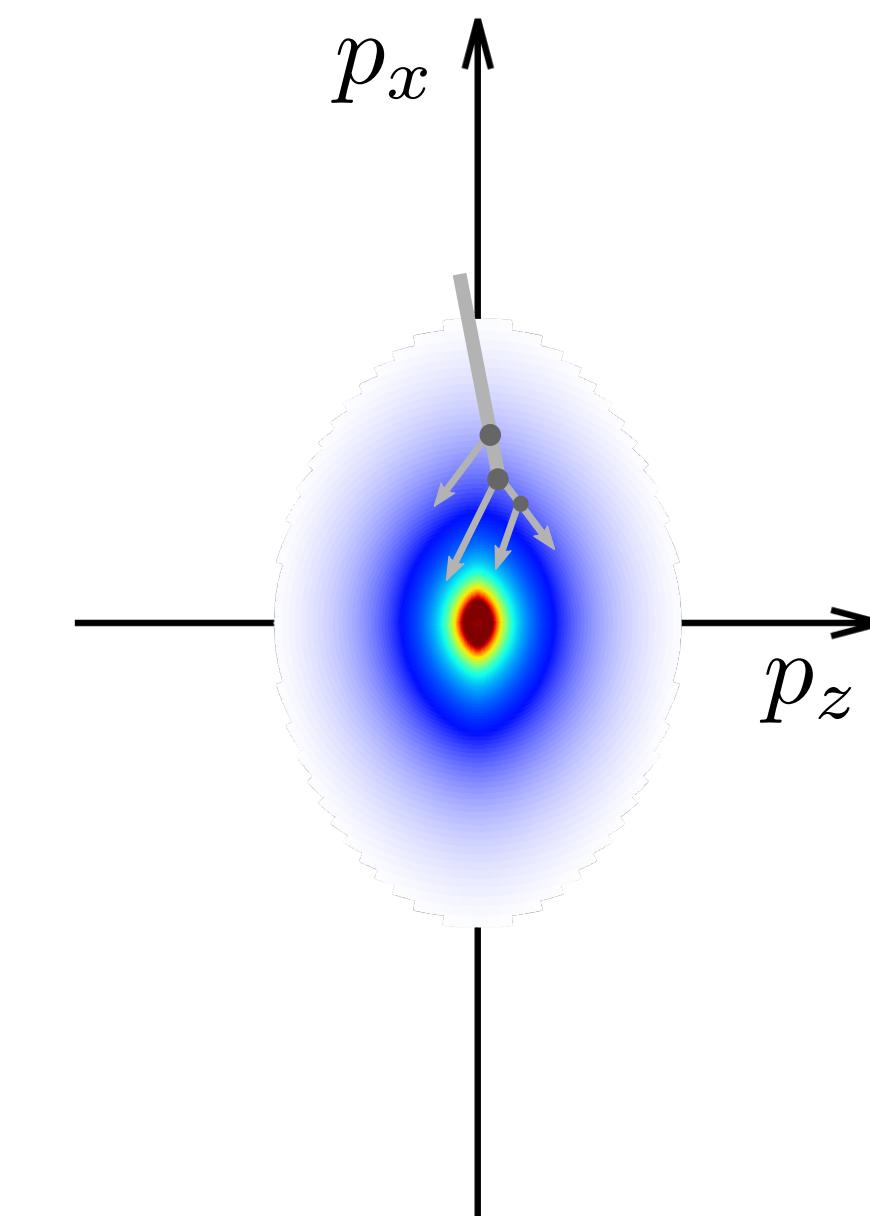
 Temperature rises as

$$T = c_T \alpha_s^3 Q_s (Q_s \tau)$$

**THERMALIZATION  
HAPPENS AT**



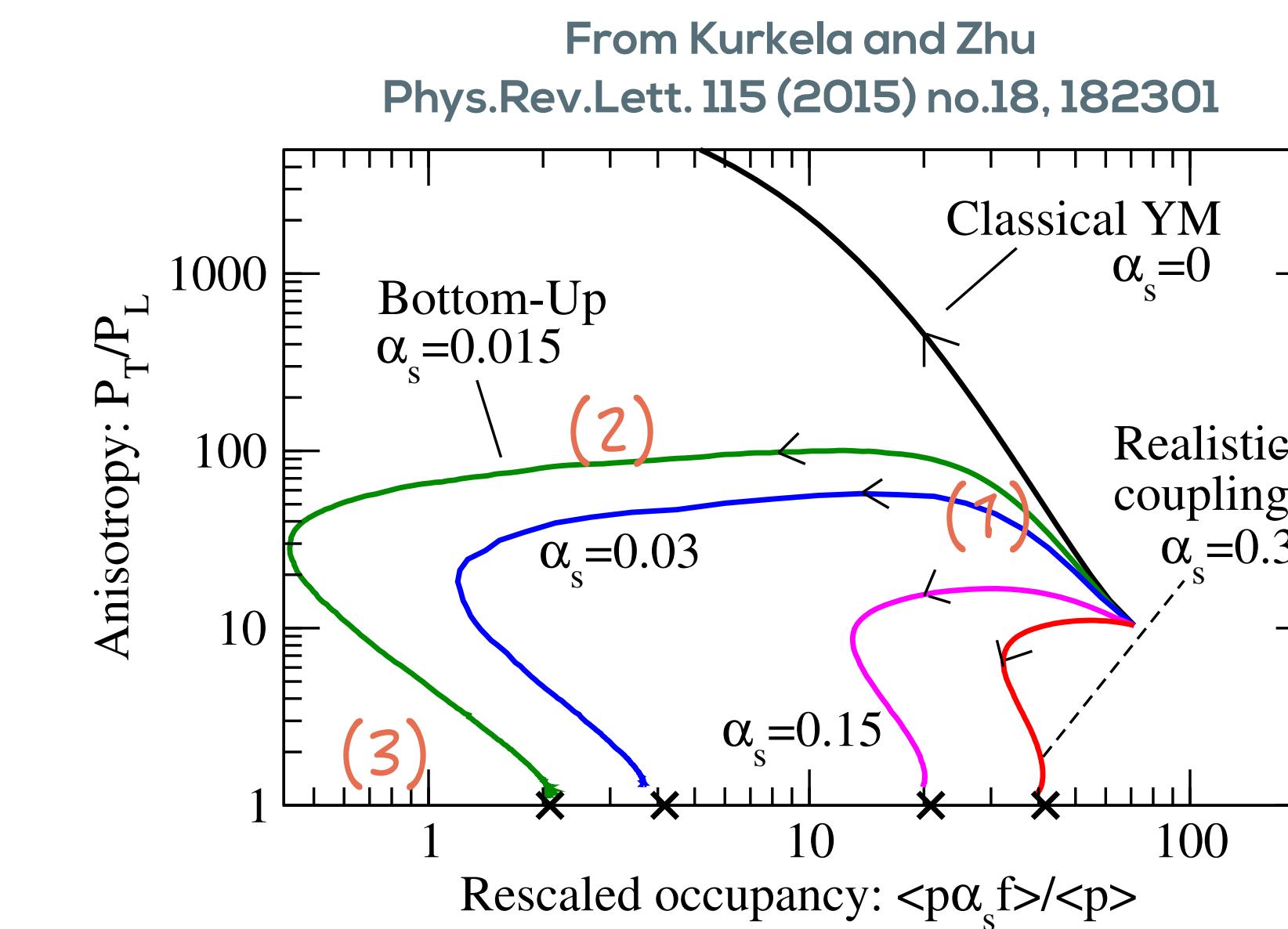
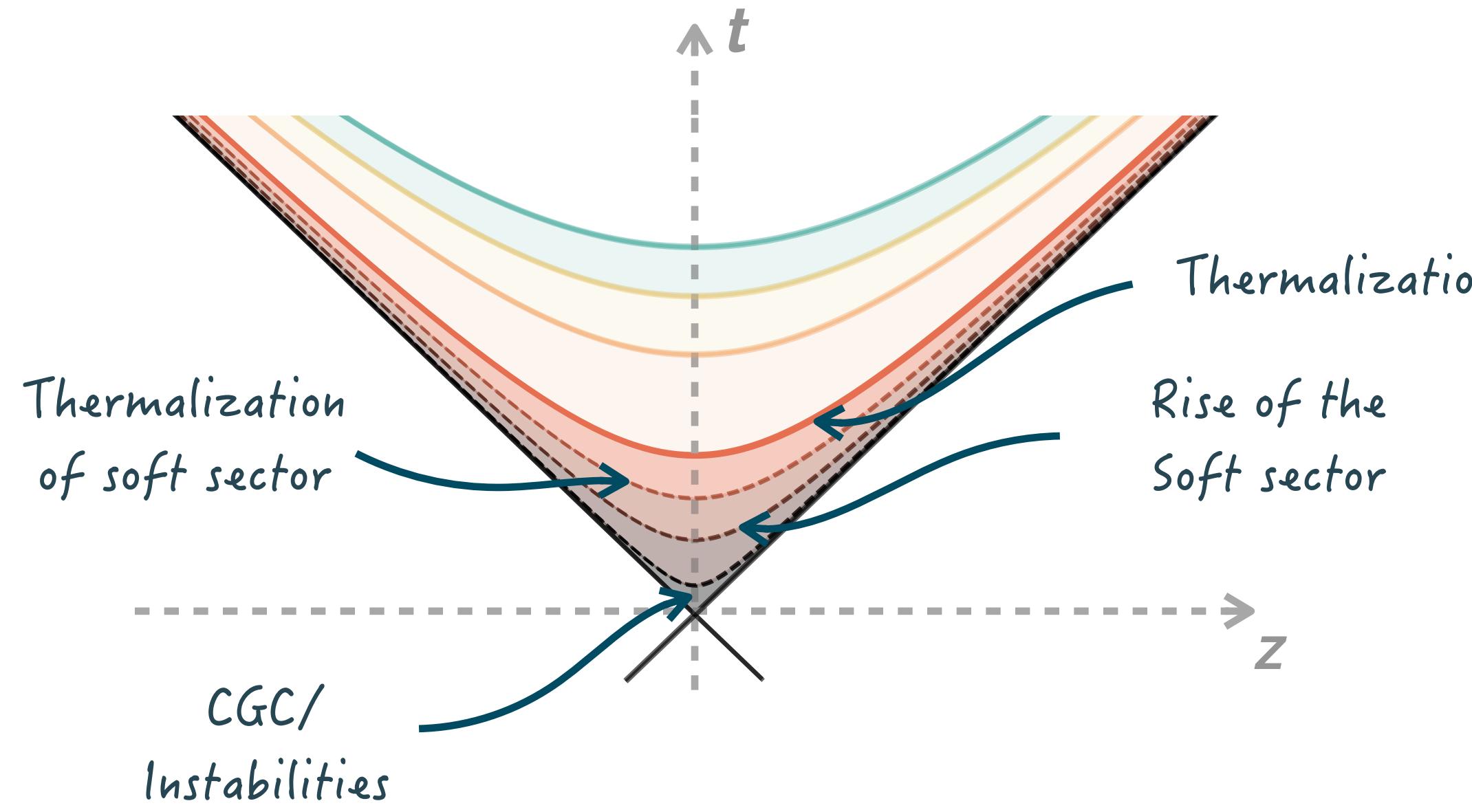
$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \tau_{th} &\sim c_{eq} \alpha_s^{-13/5} Q_S^{-1} \\ T_{th} &\sim c_T c_{eq} \alpha_s^{2/5} Q_S \end{aligned}}$



From Kurkela et al.  
 Phys. Rev. C99 (2019) no.3, 034910

# The Standard Model of Heavy Ion Collisions

(revisited)



# Photon Production: Kinetic Rates

$$E \frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4X d^3p} = |\mathcal{M}|^2 \otimes F[f_i] \otimes \delta(p_{in} - p_{out})$$

*Focus for now*

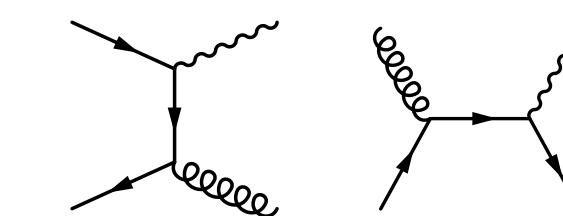


**Leading Log**

Dominate at hard scale



$2 \leftrightarrow 2$  scatterings



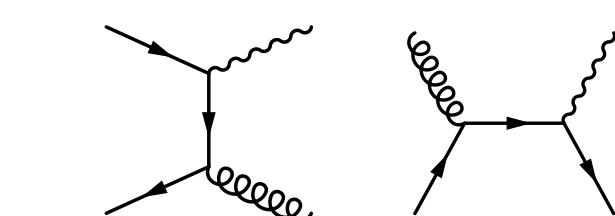
Momentum transfer:

$$\begin{aligned} gT &\leftrightarrow T \\ gQ_s &\leftrightarrow Q_s \end{aligned}$$

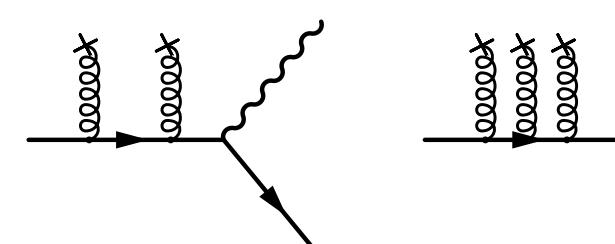
**Complete LO**  
Dominate at softer scales



$2 \leftrightarrow 2$  scatterings



$1 \leftrightarrow 2$  scatterings



Colinearly enhanced,  
inelastic processes

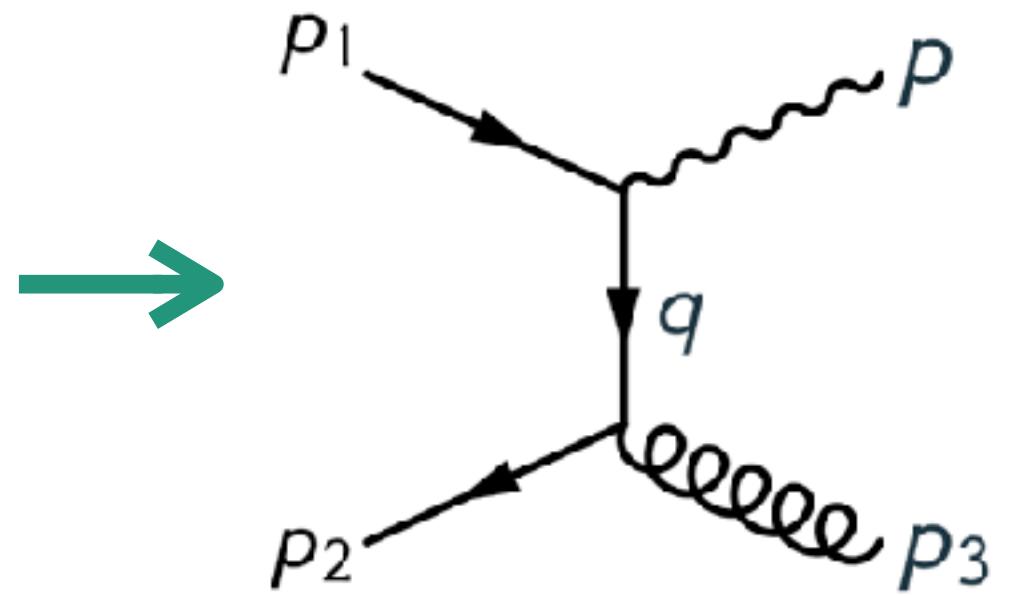
LPM

# Kinetic Rates

$$E \frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4X d^3p} = \frac{1}{2(2\pi)^{12}} \int \frac{d^3p_3}{2E_3} \frac{d^3p_2}{2E_2} \frac{d^3p_1}{2E_1} |\mathcal{M}|^2 (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(P_1 + P_2 - P_3 - P) f_1(p_1) f_2(p_2) [1 \pm f_3(p_3)]$$

**Small angle approximation**

Expansion on momentum exchange



$$|\mathbf{p}| = \sqrt{(\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{q})^2} \sim |\mathbf{p}_1| + \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{p}_1 / |\mathbf{p}_1|$$

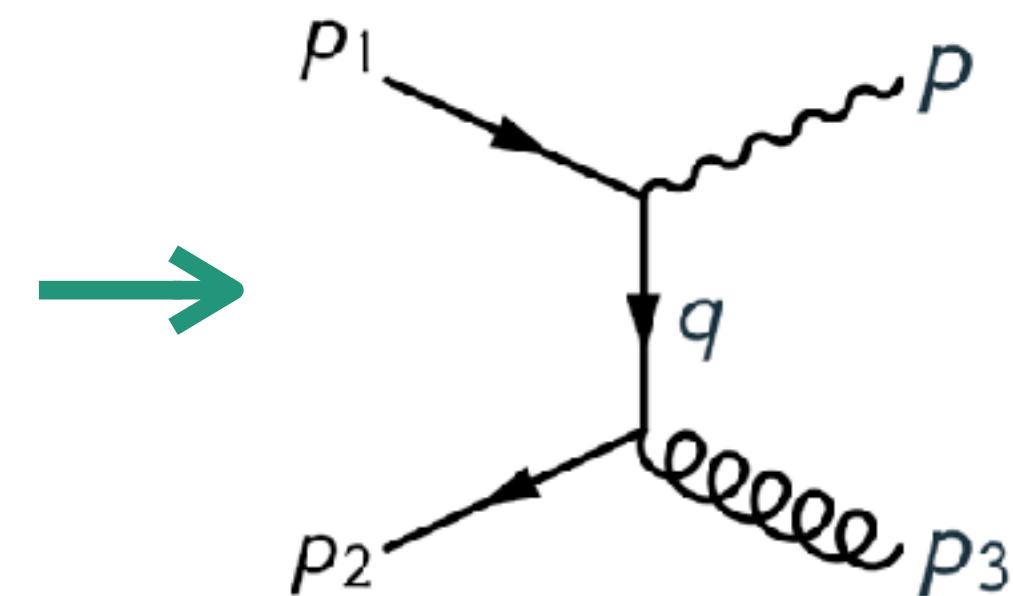
$$|\mathbf{p}_3| = \sqrt{(\mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{q})^2} \sim |\mathbf{p}_2| - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{p}_2 / |\mathbf{p}_2|$$

# Kinetic Rates

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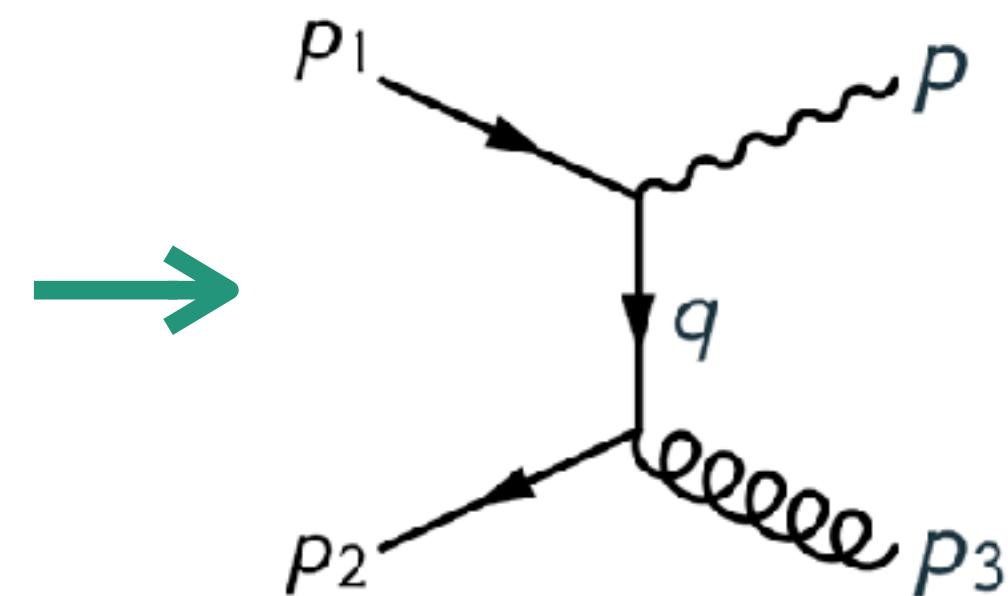
**Rate:**  $E \frac{dN}{d^4X d^3p} = \frac{40}{9\pi^2} \alpha \alpha_S \mathcal{L} f_q(\mathbf{p}) (I_g + I_q)$

# Kinetic Rates

$$E \frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4X d^3p} = \frac{1}{2(2\pi)^{12}} \int \frac{d^3p_3}{2E_3} \frac{d^3p_2}{2E_2} \frac{d^3p_1}{2E_1} |\mathcal{M}|^2 (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(P_1 + P_2 - P_3 - P) f_1(p_1) f_2(p_2) [1 \pm f_3(p_3)]$$

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Expansion on momentum exchange



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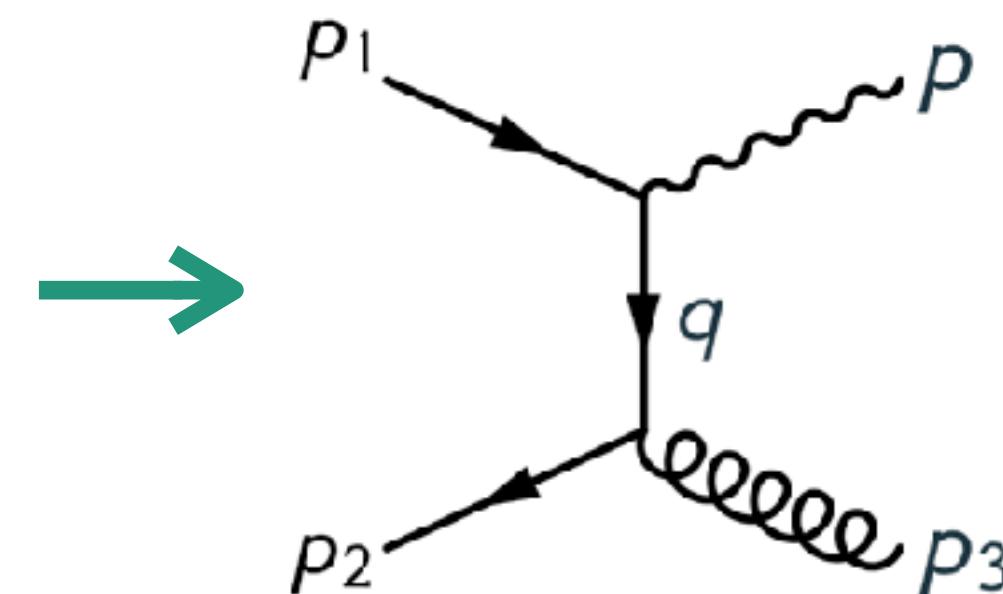
Amplitude

# Kinetic Rates

$$E \frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4X d^3p} = \frac{1}{2(2\pi)^{12}} \int \frac{d^3p_3}{2E_3} \frac{d^3p_2}{2E_2} \frac{d^3p_1}{2E_1} |\mathcal{M}|^2 (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(P_1 + P_2 - P_3 - P) f_1(p_1) f_2(p_2) [1 \pm f_3(p_3)]$$

**Small angle approximation**

Expansion on momentum exchange



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**Rate:**  $E \frac{dN}{d^4X d^3p} = \frac{40}{9\pi^2} \alpha \alpha_s \mathcal{L} J_q(\mathbf{p}) (I_g + I_q)$

*Regulator*

with

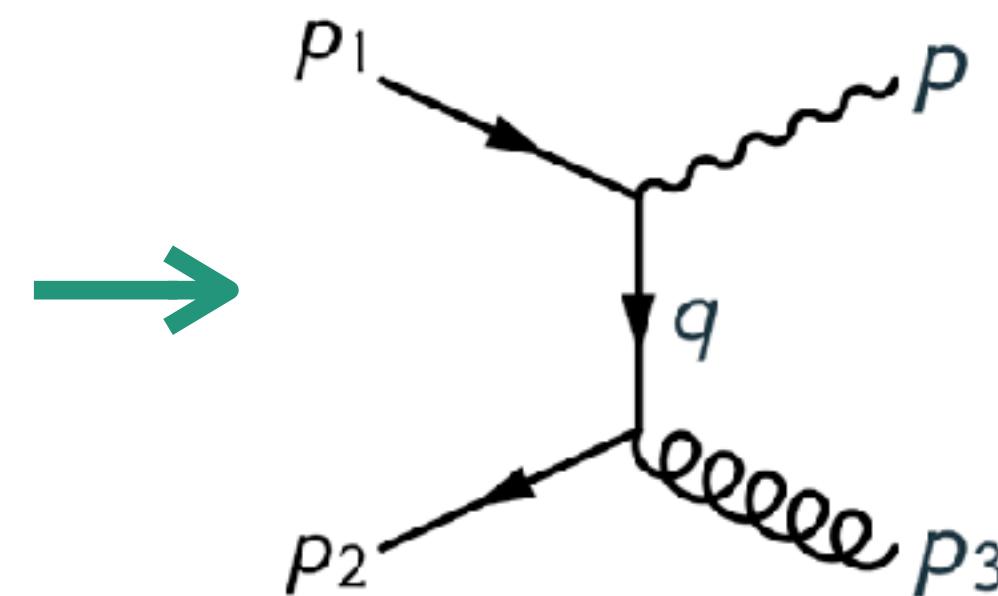
$$\mathcal{L} = 2 \log \left( \frac{2.912 E}{g_s^2} \frac{T}{T} \right) \rightarrow 2 \log \left( 1 + \frac{2.912}{g_s^2} \right)$$

# Kinetic Rates

$$E \frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4X d^3p} = \frac{1}{2(2\pi)^{12}} \int \frac{d^3p_3}{2E_3} \frac{d^3p_2}{2E_2} \frac{d^3p_1}{2E_1} |\mathcal{M}|^2 (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(P_1 + P_2 - P_3 - P) f_1(p_1) f_2(p_2) [1 \pm f_3(p_3)]$$

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*Screening Masses*

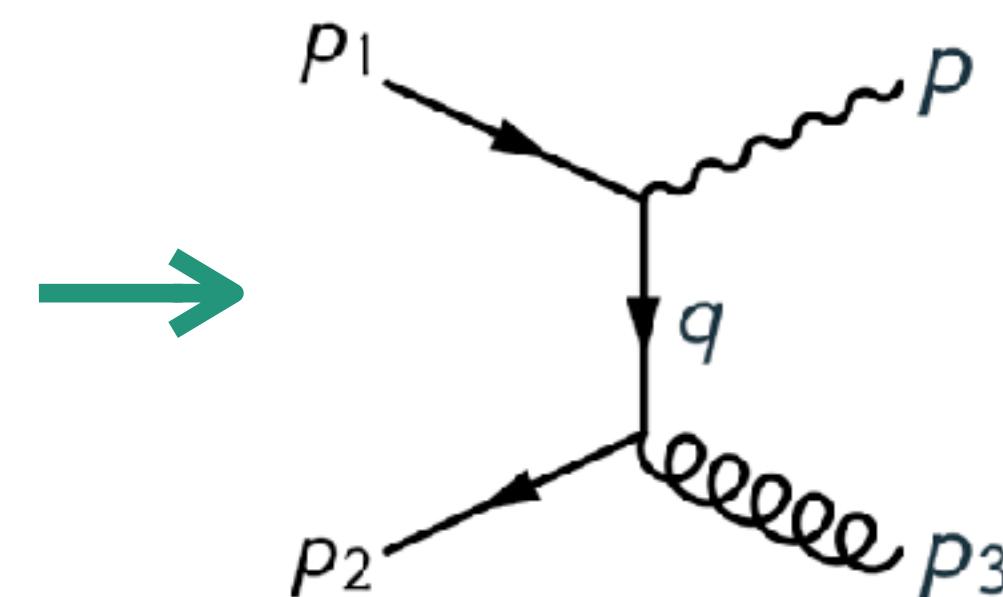
$$I_{q,g}(\tau) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{p} f_{q,g}(\tau, p)$$

# Kinetic Rates

$$E \frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4X d^3p} = \frac{1}{2(2\pi)^{12}} \int \frac{d^3p_3}{2E_3} \frac{d^3p_2}{2E_2} \frac{d^3p_1}{2E_1} |\mathcal{M}|^2 (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(P_1 + P_2 - P_3 - P) f_1(p_1) f_2(p_2) [1 \pm f_3(p_3)]$$

**Small angle approximation**

Expansion on momentum exchange



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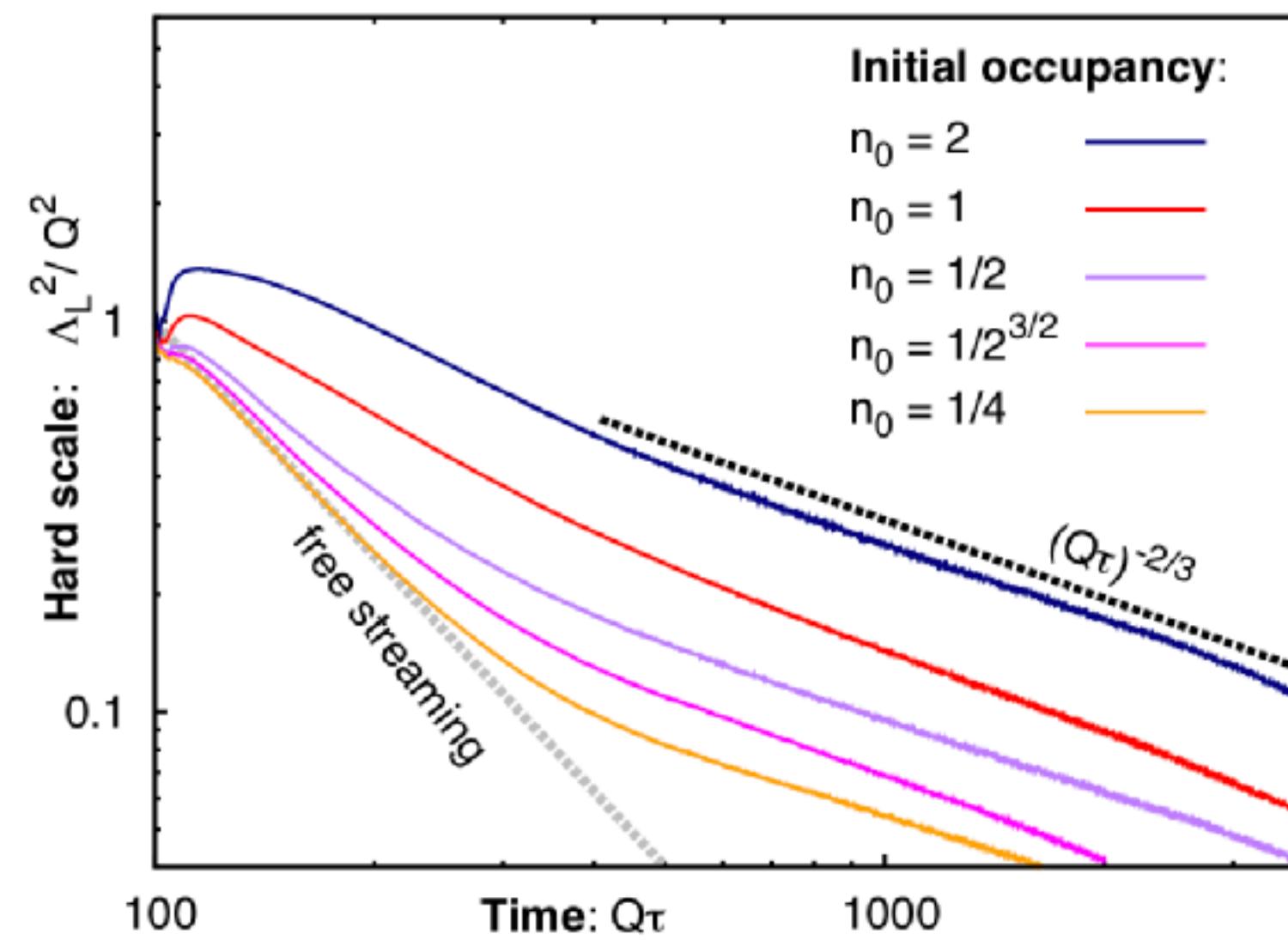
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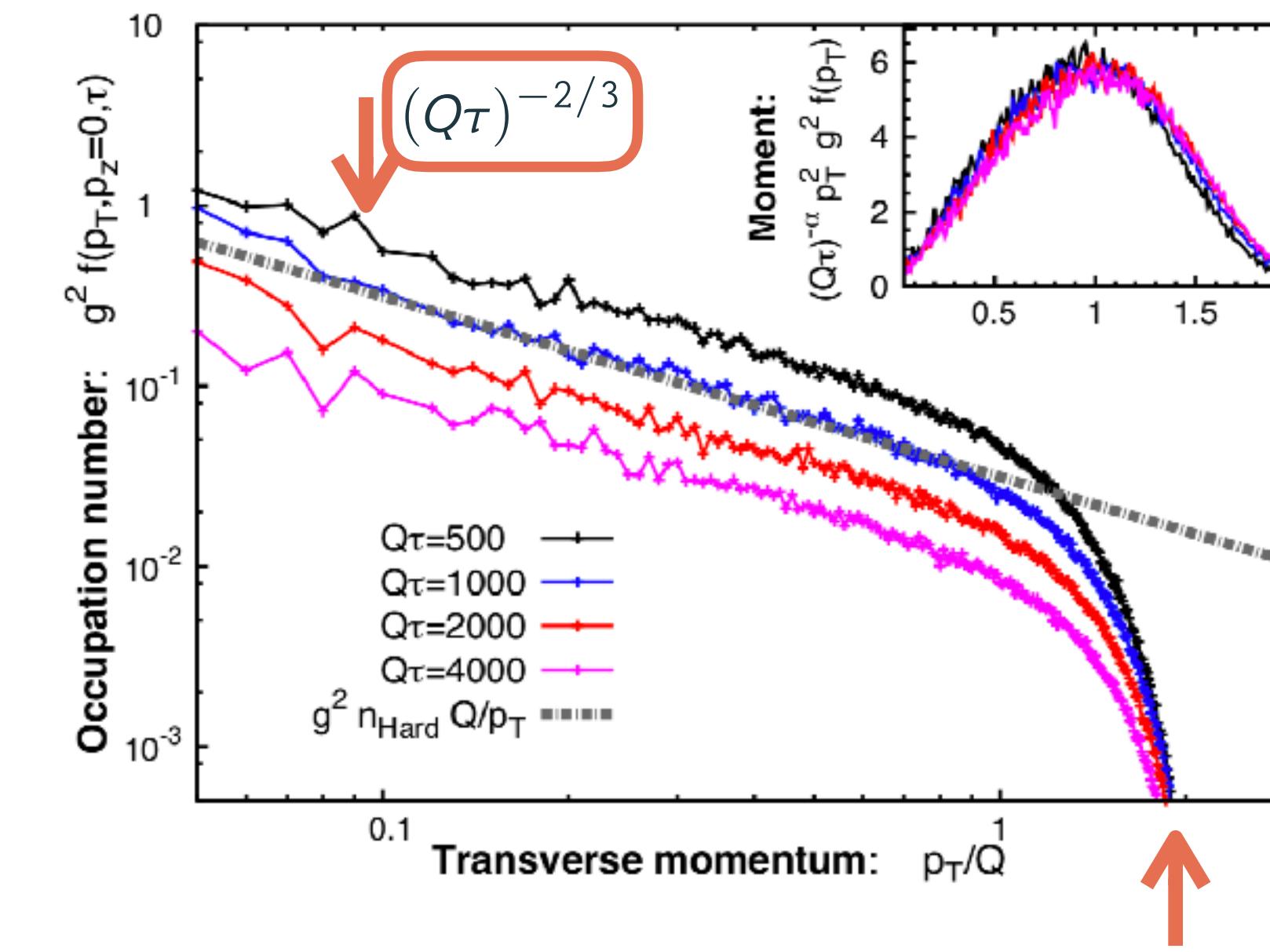
Quark Distribution → BMSS Scenario  
Dynamical Lattice Simulations

# Gluon occupation: Fit lattice results

**Hard Scale:**  $\Lambda_L^2 \sim \langle p_z \rangle^2$



**Transverse  $p_\perp$**

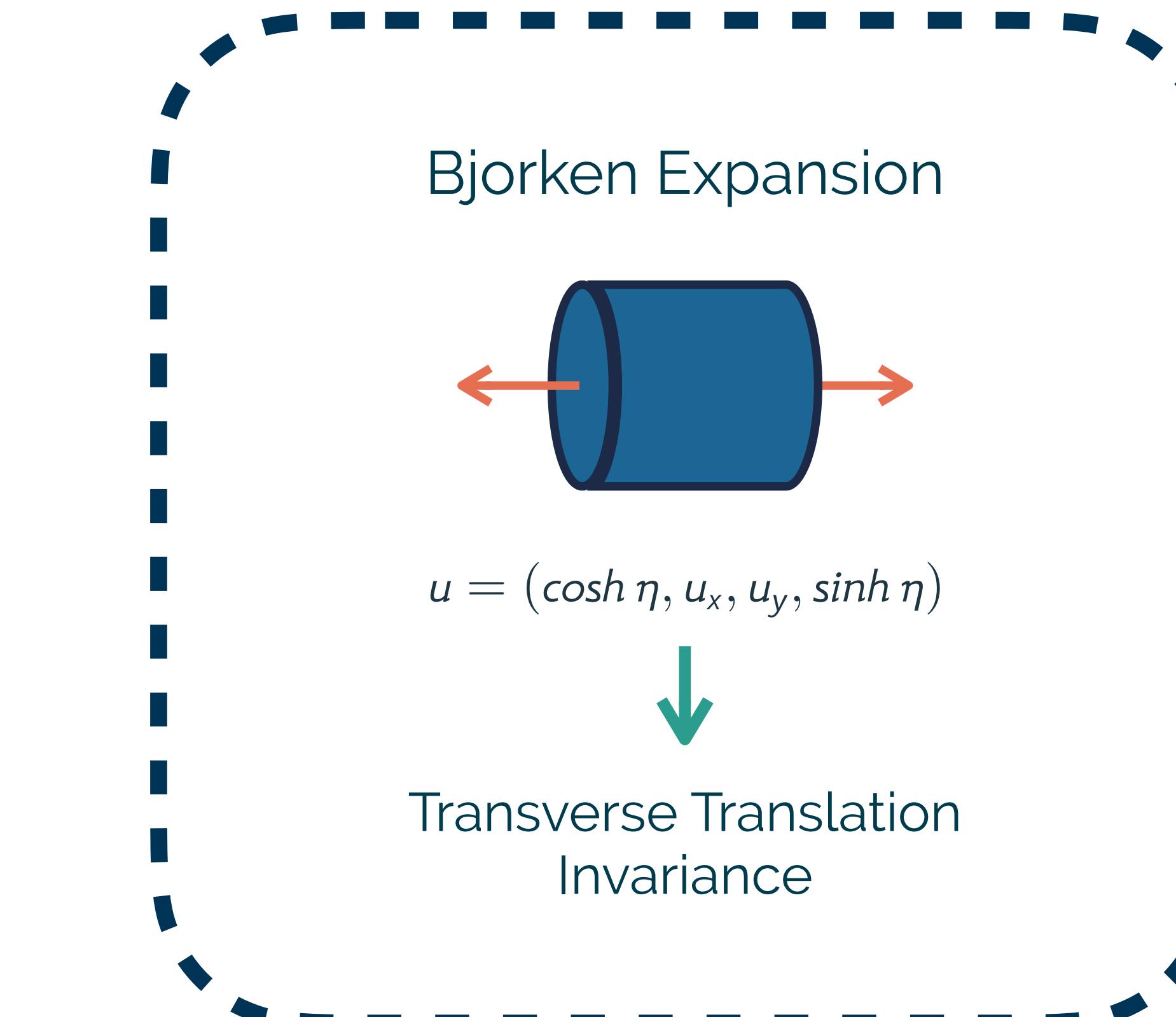
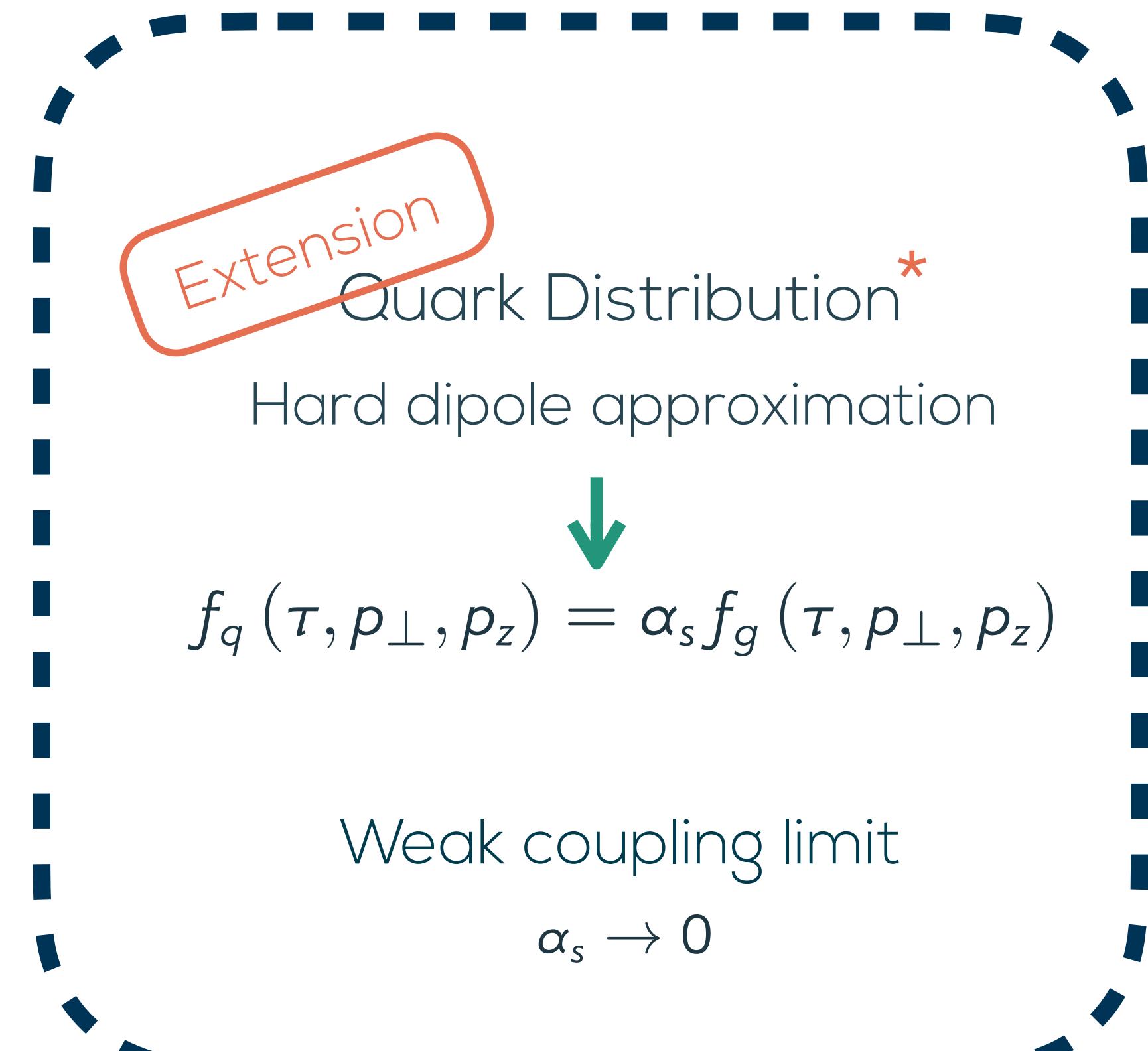


$$f_g(\tau, p_\perp, p_z) = \frac{1}{\alpha_s} (Q_s \tau)^\alpha f_S(p_\perp, (Q_s \tau)^\gamma p_z)$$

$\alpha = -2/3 \quad \beta = 0 \quad \gamma = 1/3$

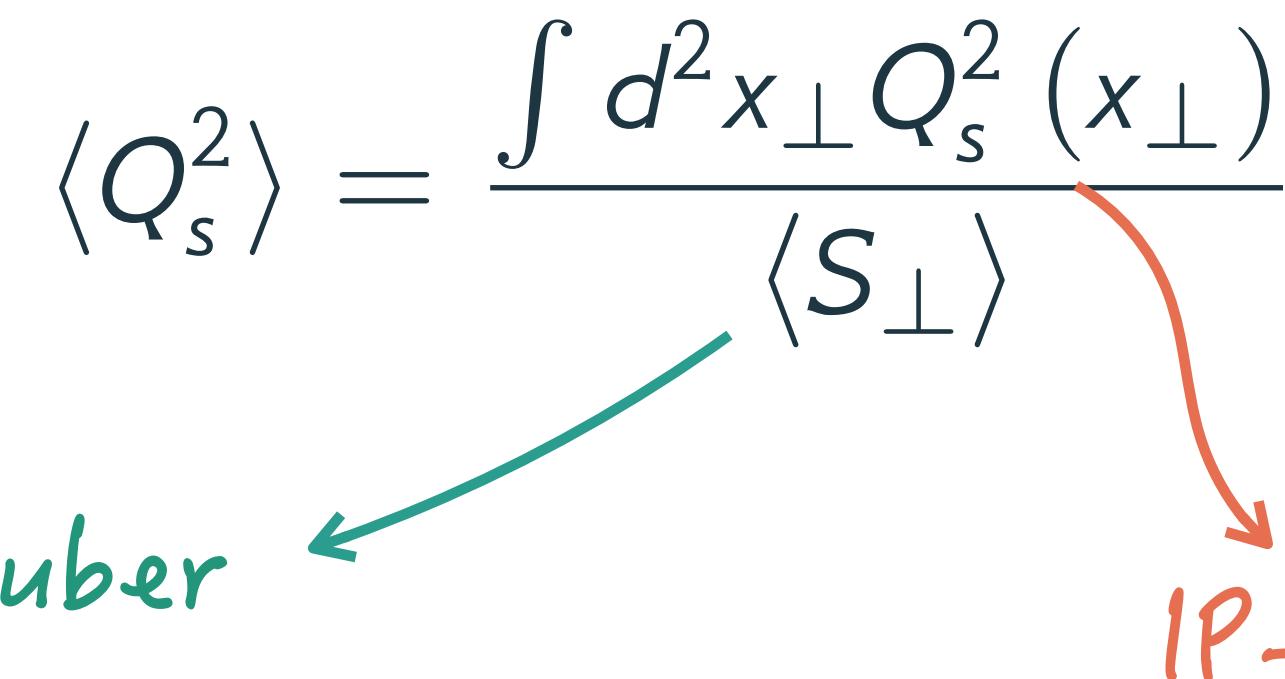
$N(\tau)$        $\langle p_\perp \rangle$        $\langle p_z \rangle$

# Other approximations



\* Q.Stat. kick in outside the region of interest.

# Phenomenological Matching

$$\langle Q_s^2 \rangle = \frac{\int d^2 x_\perp Q_s^2(x_\perp)}{\langle S_\perp \rangle}$$


Glauber  IP-Glasma 

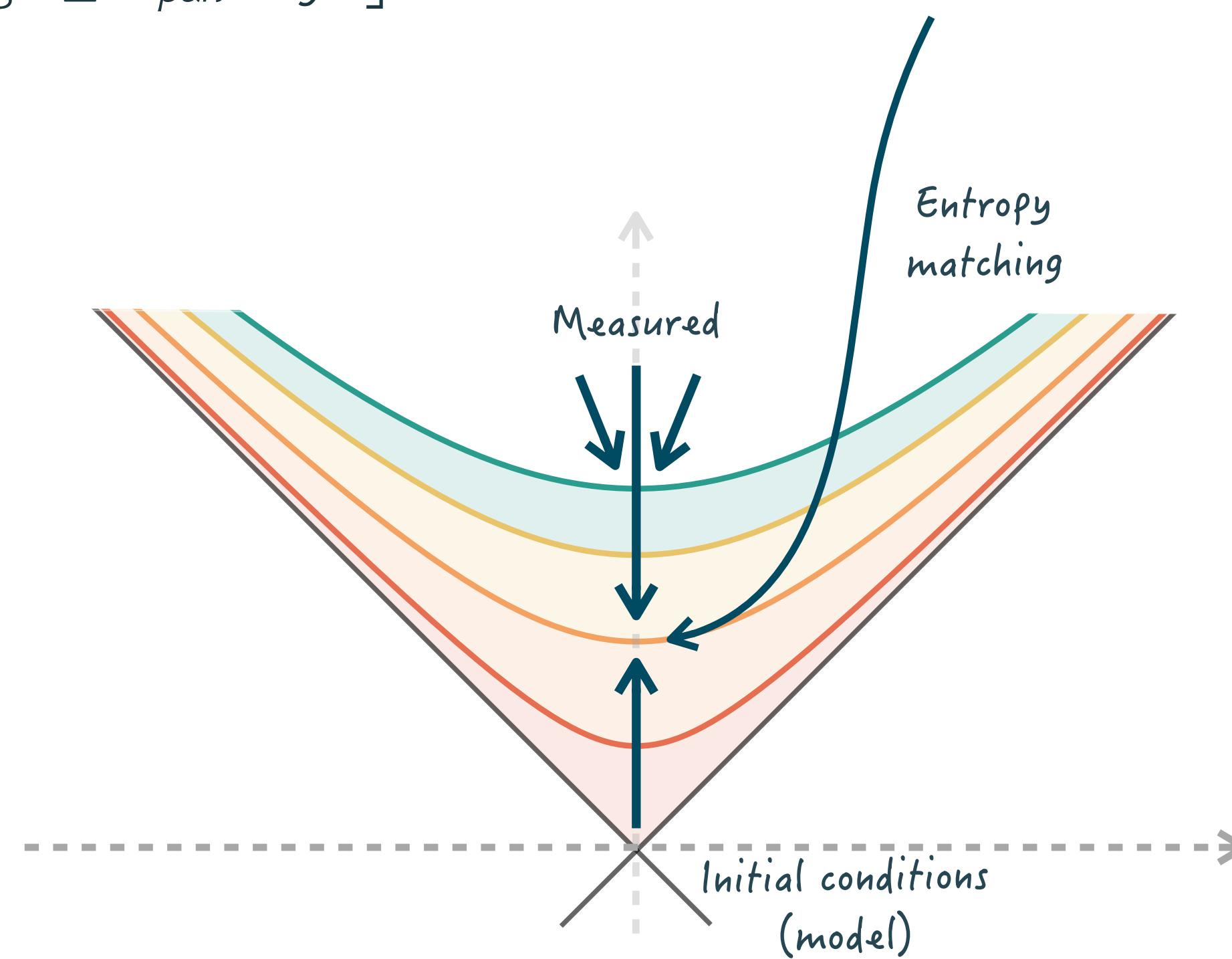
- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| $\langle Q_s^2 \rangle = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$    |  | RHIC, 200GeV, 0-5% <small>(Reference)</small> |
| $\langle Q_s^2 \rangle = 1.67 \text{ GeV}^2$ |  | RHIC, 200GeV, 0-20%                           |
| $\langle Q_s^2 \rangle = 2.97 \text{ GeV}^2$ |  | ALICE, 2.76TeV, 0-20%                         |

# Phenomenological Matching

$$c_{eq} c_T^{3/4} = \left[ \frac{45}{148\pi^2} k_{S/N} \alpha^{7/5} \frac{N_{part}}{Q_S^2 S_\perp} \frac{2}{N_{part}} \frac{dN_{ch}}{dy} \right]^{1/4}$$

Entropy transport via

$$\frac{dS_{QGP}}{d\eta} = k_{S/N} \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$$

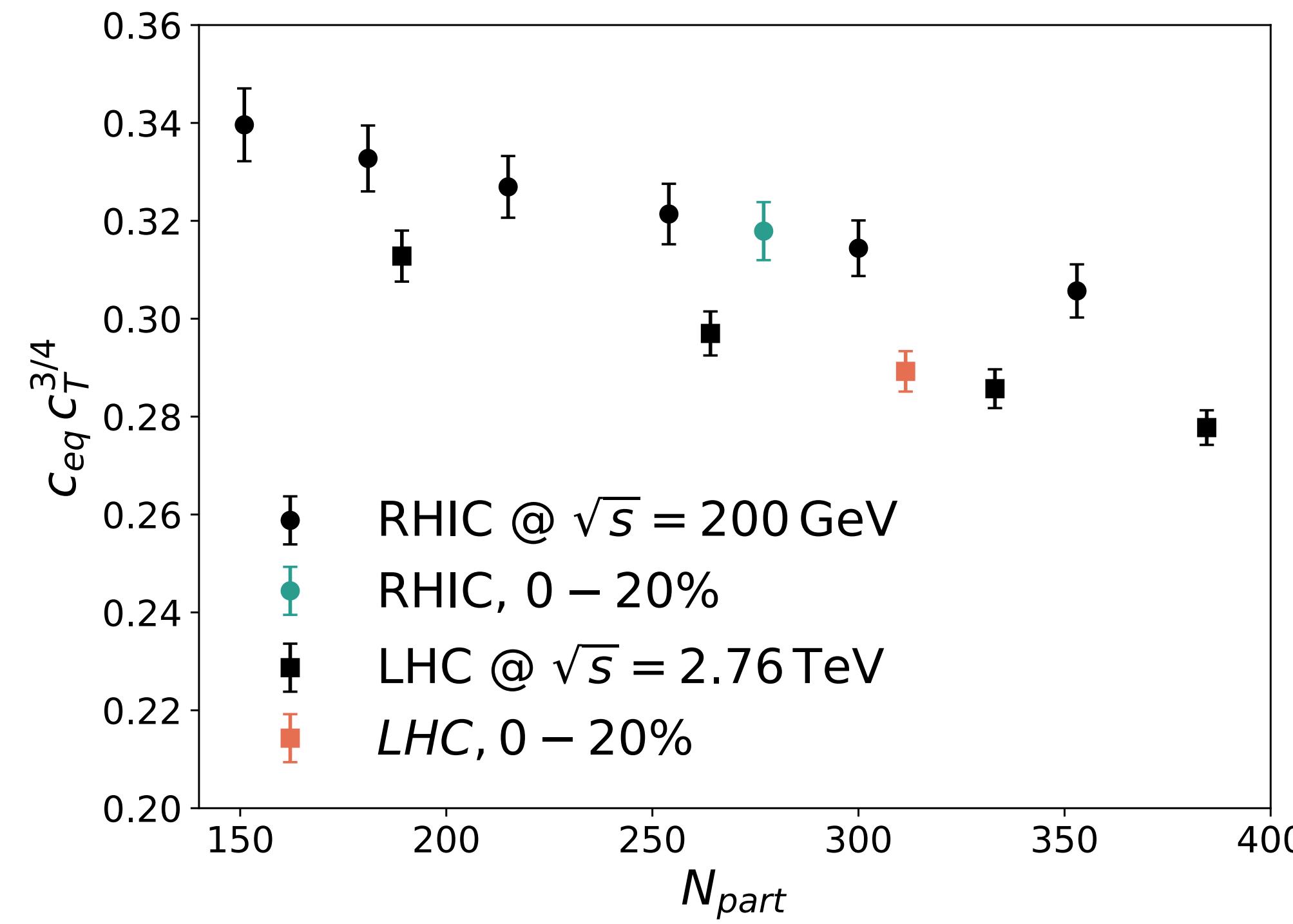


# Phenomenological Matching

$$c_{eq} c_T^{3/4} = \left[ \frac{45}{148\pi^2} k_{S/N} \alpha^{7/5} \frac{N_{part}}{Q_S^2 S_\perp} \frac{2}{N_{part}} \frac{dN_{ch}}{dy} \right]^{1/4}$$

Entropy transport via

$$\frac{dS_{QGP}}{d\eta} = k_{S/N} \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$$



$C_T$  known to logarithmic precision

$$C_T = 0.18$$

$\tau_c$  is independent of match

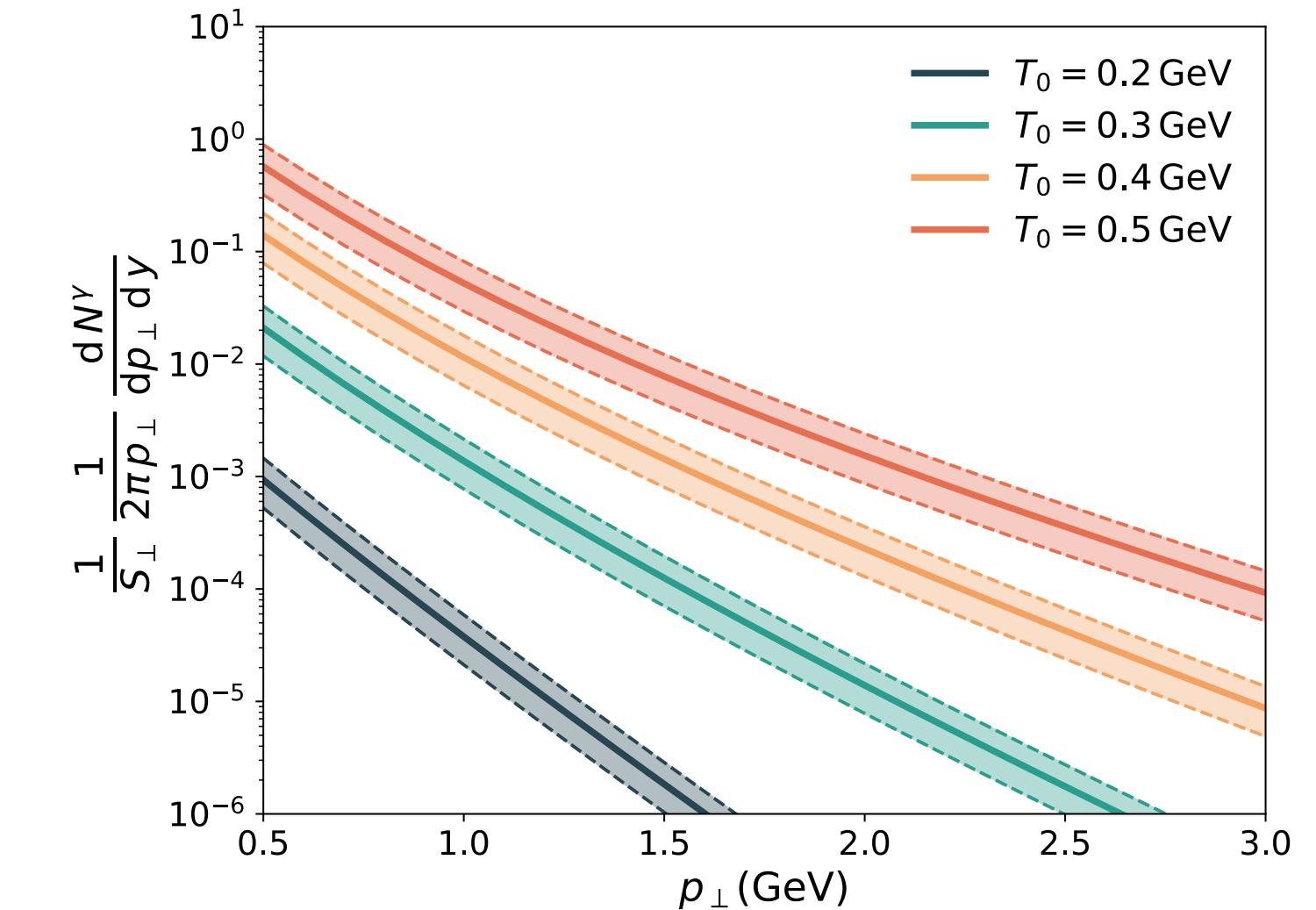
$$\tau_{th} \sim 2 \text{ fm}$$

$$T_{th} \sim 0.25 \text{ GeV}$$

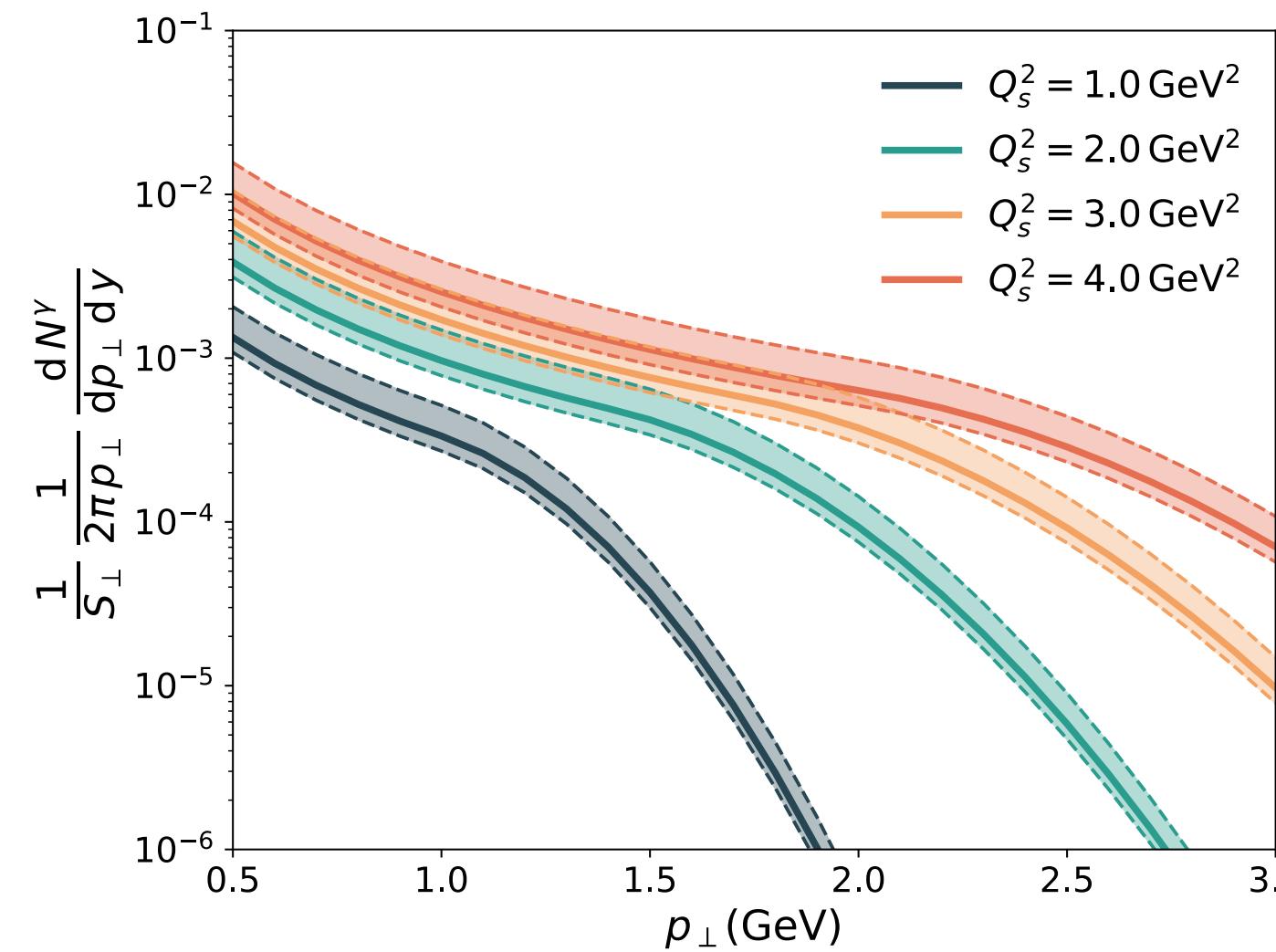
# Results

- Computed analytical solution for the full “bottom-up” scenario [OGM. arXiv: 1909.12294](#)
- Solution only includes hard scatterings via 2-2 processes.
- Thermal means QGP + Hadronic

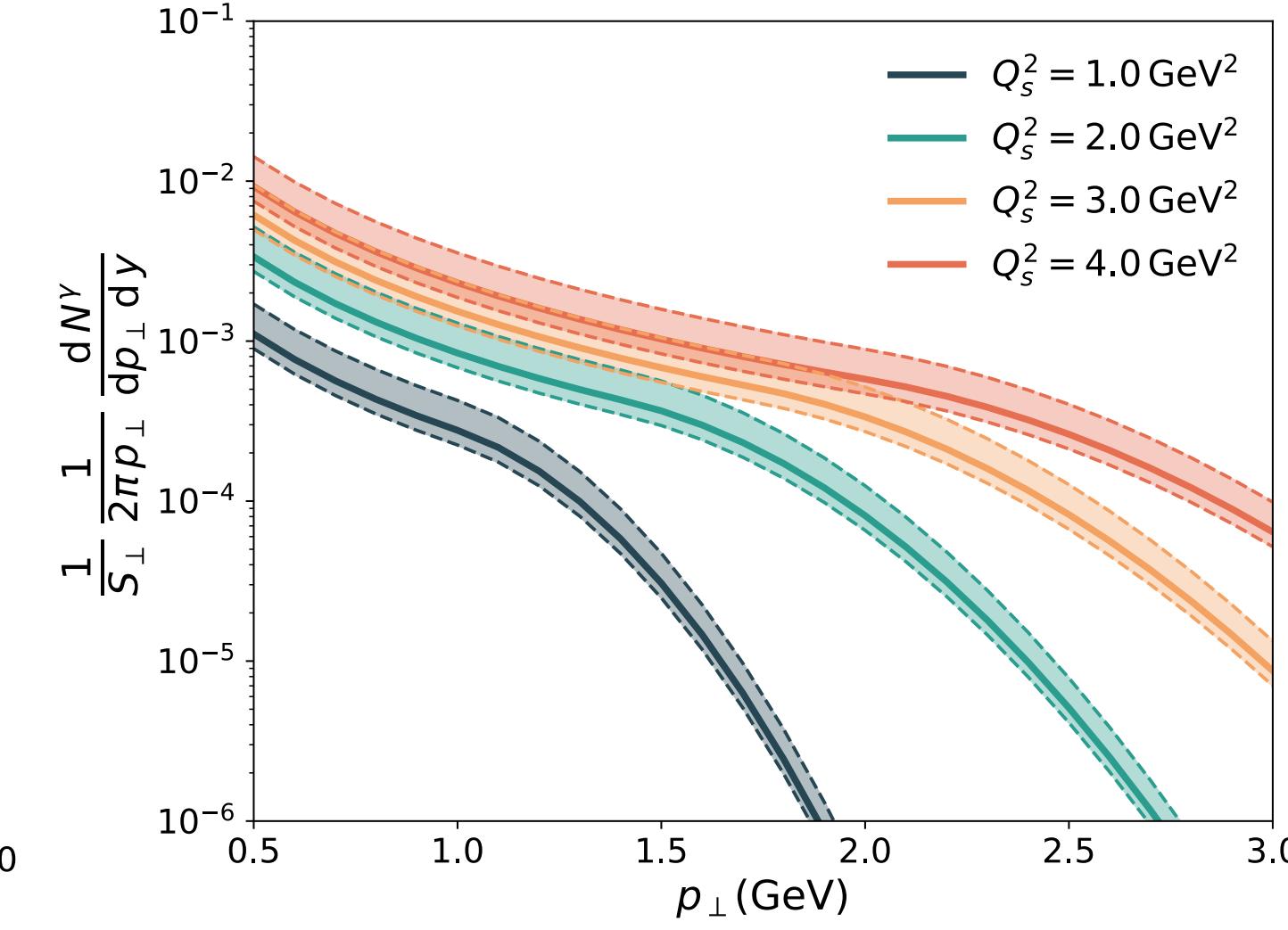
## Thermal Stage



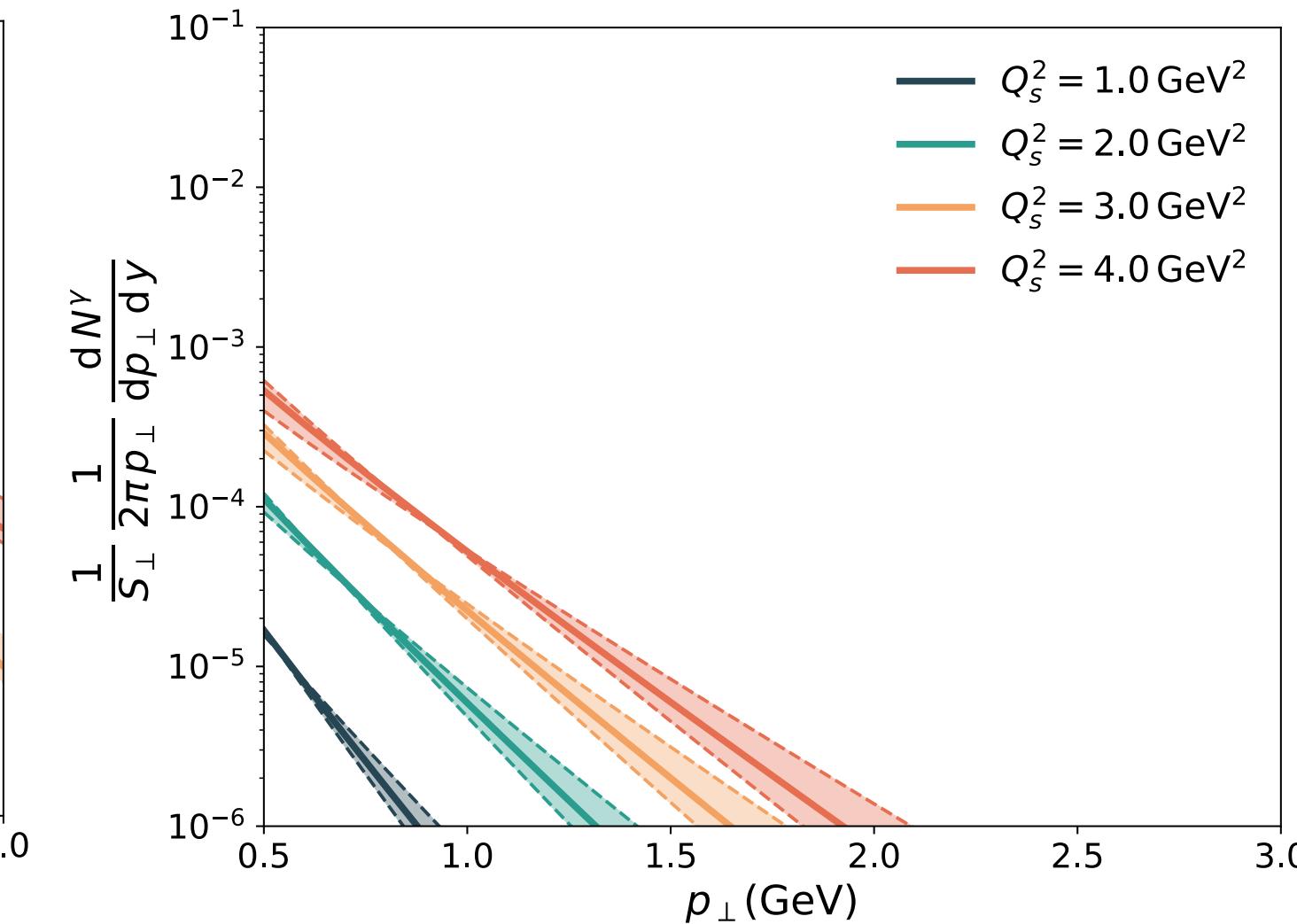
## “Bottom-up”, stage I



## “Bottom-up”, stage II



## “Bottom-up”, stage III



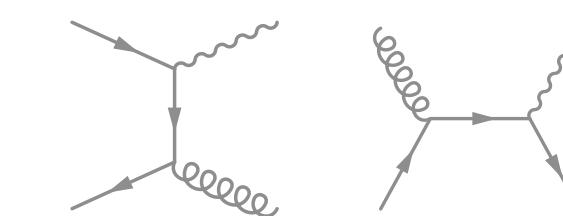
# Photon Production: Kinetic Rates

$$E \frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4X d^3p} = |\mathcal{M}|^2 \otimes F[f_i] \otimes \delta(p_{in} - p_{out})$$

Leading Log  
Dominate at hard scale



Momentum transfer:



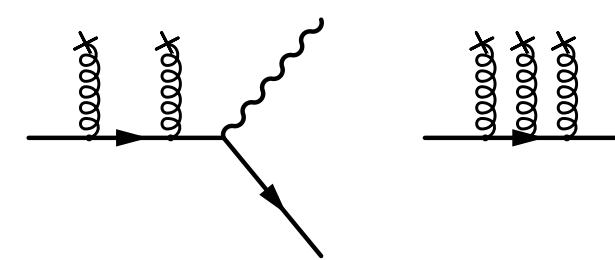
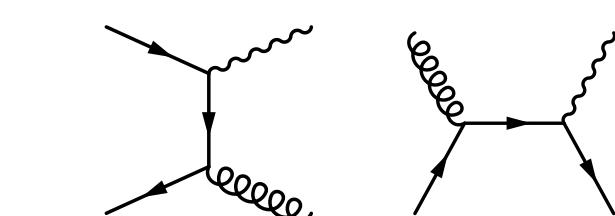
$gT \leftrightarrow T$   
 $gQ_s \leftrightarrow Q_s$

Very complex

Complete LO  
Dominate at softer scales



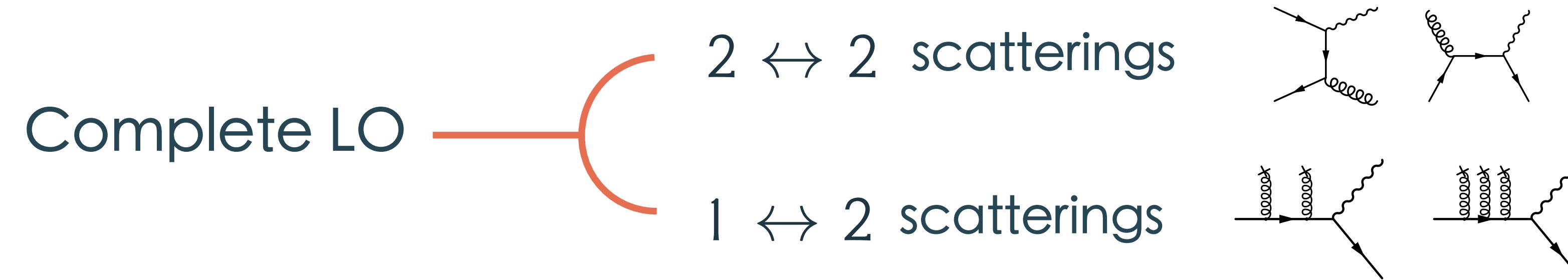
2 ↔ 2 scatterings  
1 ↔ 2 scatterings



Colinearly enhanced,  
inelastic processes

LPM

# Photon Production: Kinetic Rates



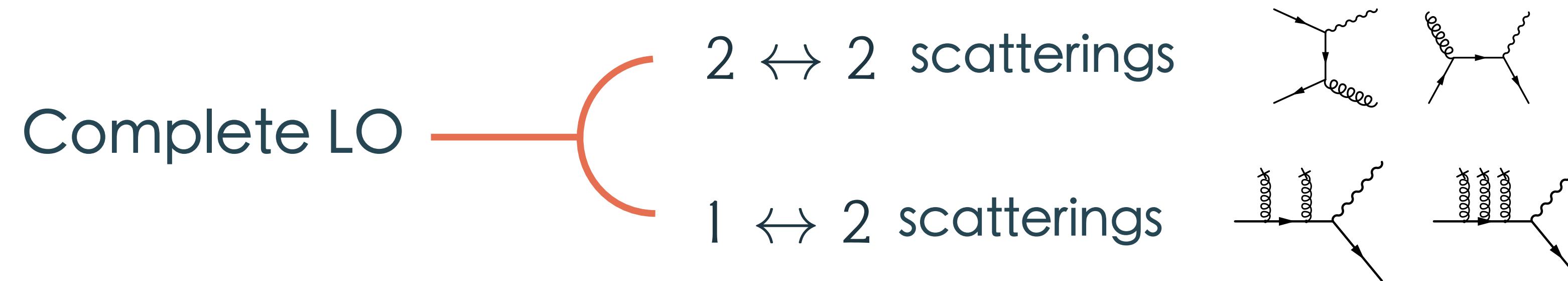
Thermal (AMY)

$$E \frac{dN}{d^4X d^3p} = 2\alpha d_F \sum_c q_c^2 \frac{C_F g_s^2 T^2}{4} f_{q,eq} \left( \frac{E}{T} \right) \nu \left( \frac{E}{T} \right)$$

$$LL : \nu \left( \frac{E}{T} \right) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$$

$$LO : \nu \left( \frac{E}{T} \right) \rightarrow LL \left( \frac{E}{T} \right) + C_{brems} \left( \frac{E}{T} \right) + C_{anni} \left( \frac{E}{T} \right)$$

# Photon Production: Kinetic Rates

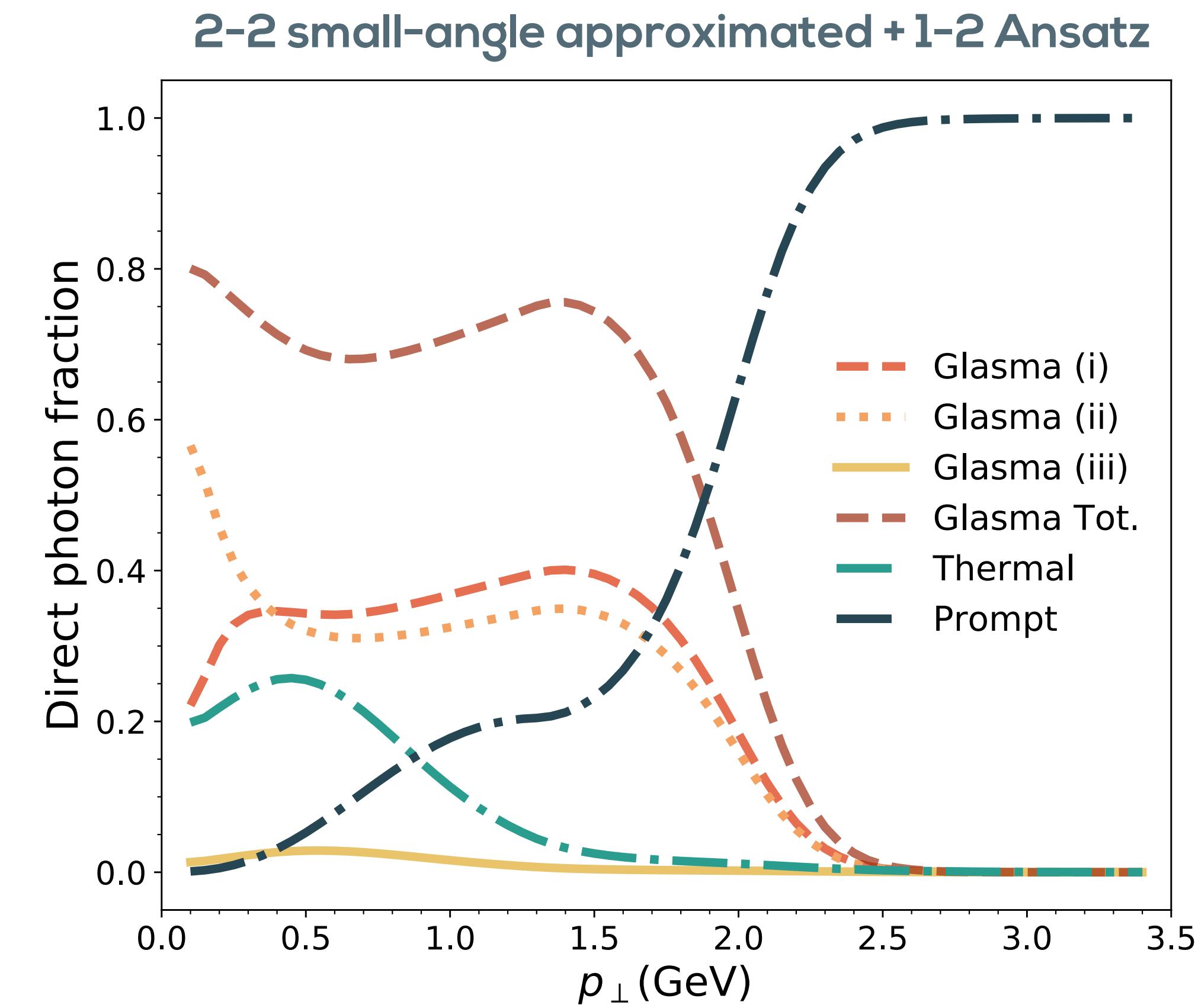
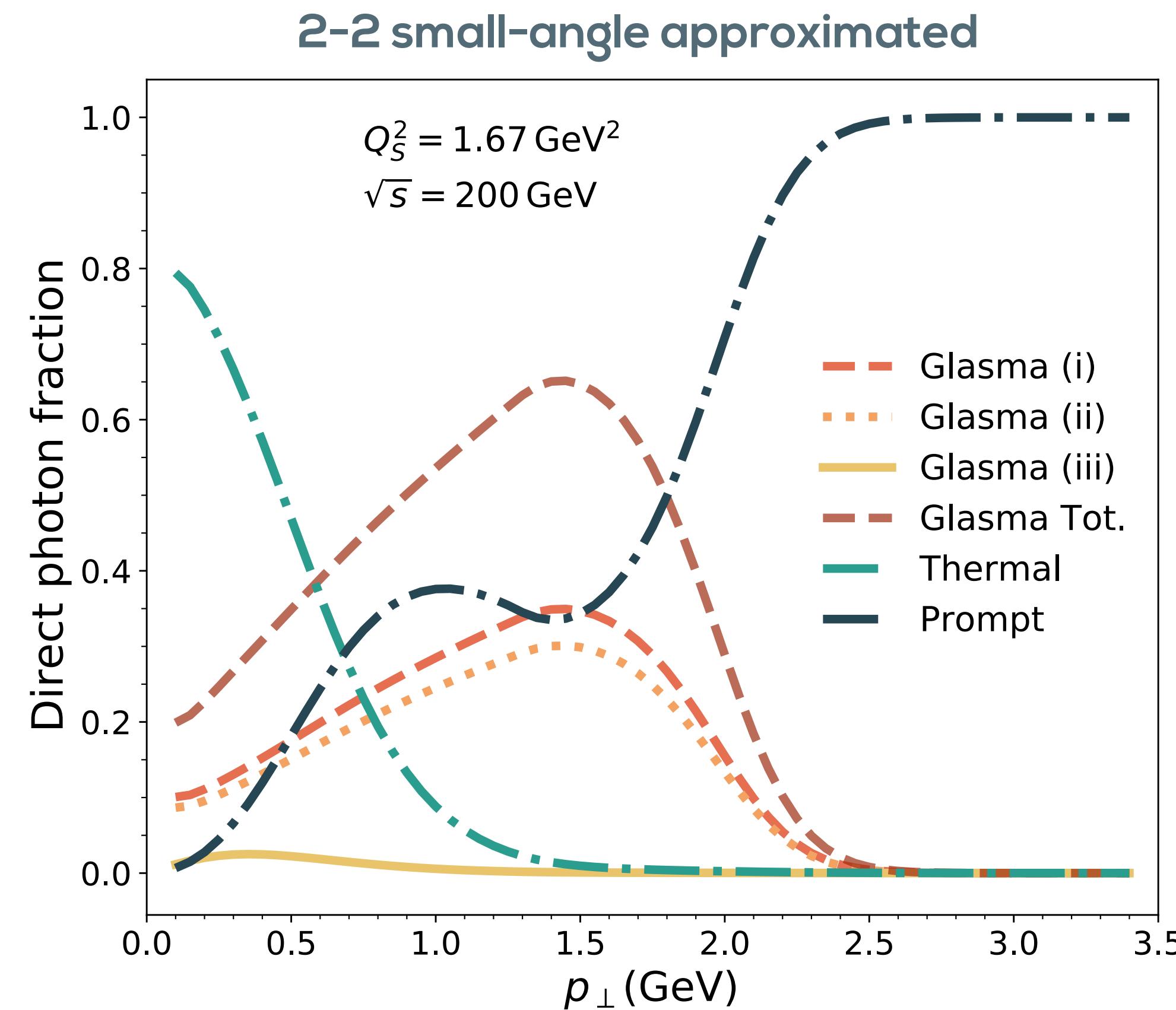


"Non-Thermal"

$$E \frac{dN}{d^4X d^3p} = \frac{40}{9\pi^2} \alpha \alpha_S f_{q,eq}(\tau, \mathbf{p}) I_g(\tau) \nu \left( \frac{E}{Q} \right)$$

$$LL : \nu \left( \frac{E}{Q} \right) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$$

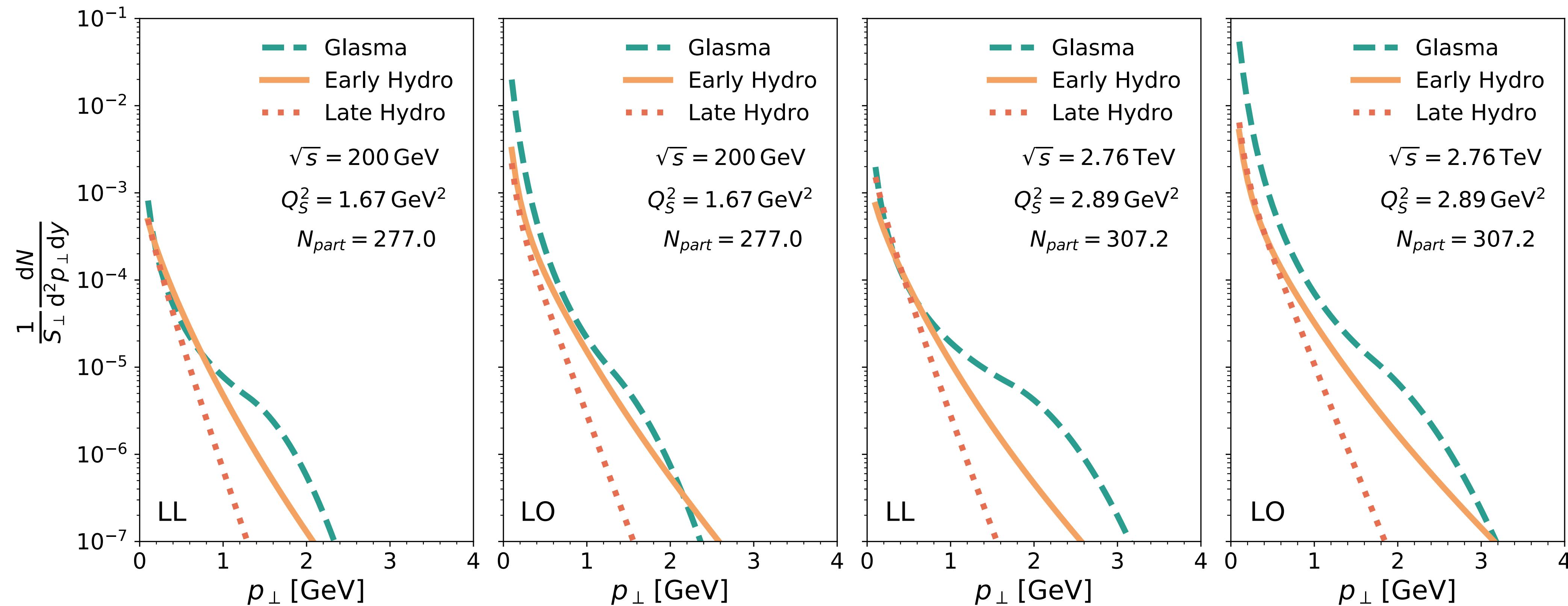
$$LO : \nu \left( \frac{E}{Q} \right) \rightarrow LL \left( \frac{E}{Q} \right) + C_{brems} \left( \frac{E}{Q} \right) + C_{anni} \left( \frac{E}{Q} \right)$$



**Non-equilibrium photons become more relevant in the IR**

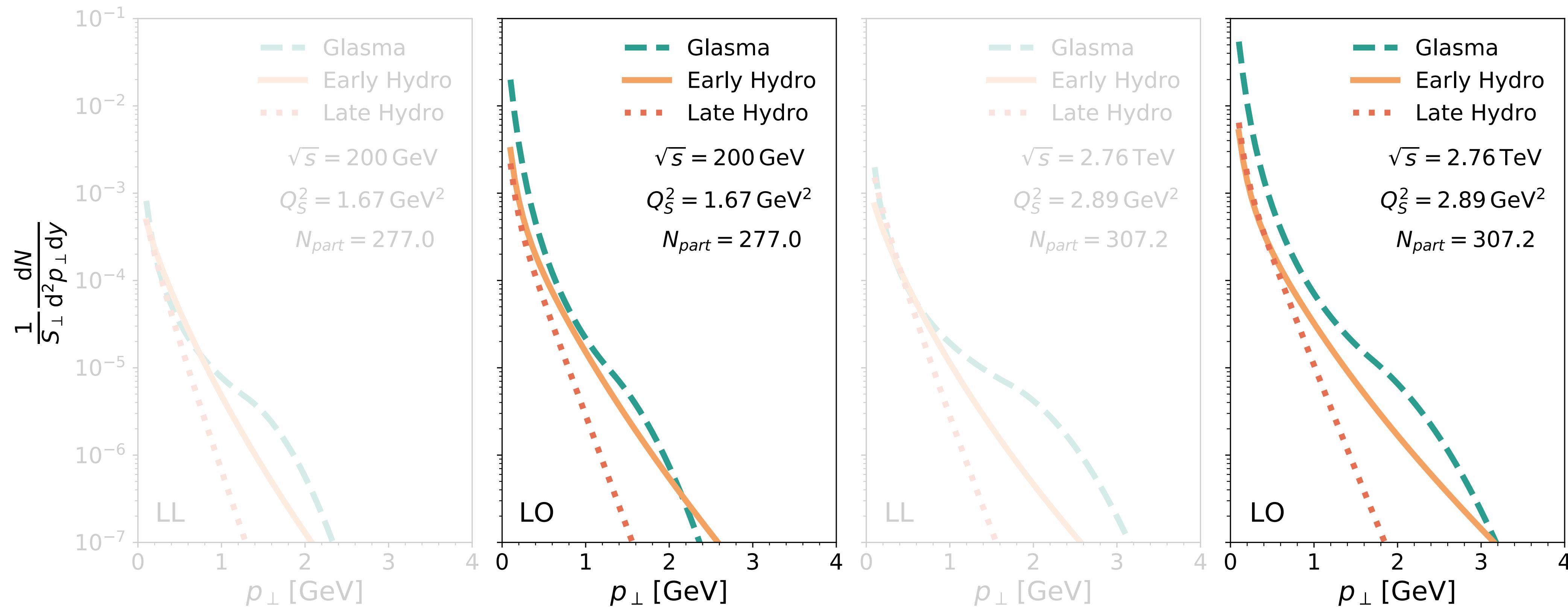
# Early Thermalization vs “bottom-up”

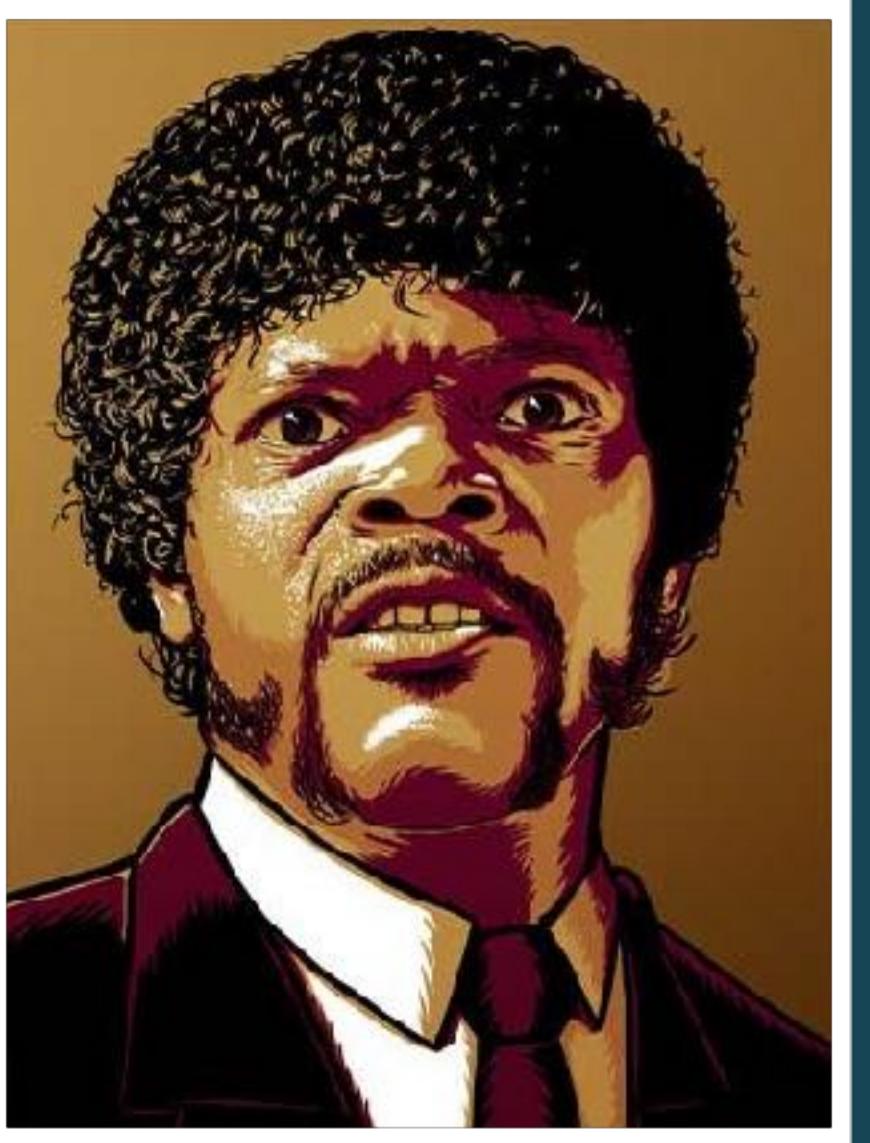
- Early Thermalization: Thermal stage is initialized at
- Non-equilibrium photons increase the yields.



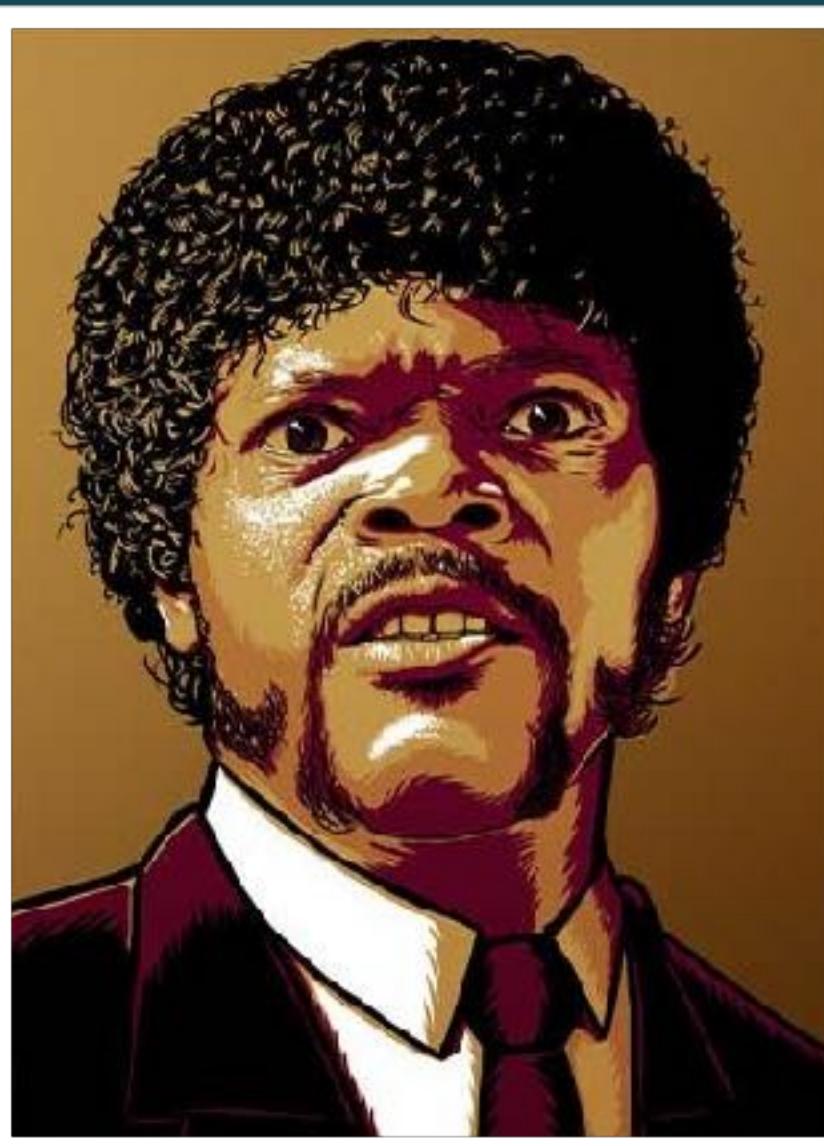
# Early Thermalization vs “bottom-up”

- Early Thermalization: Thermal stage is initialized at
- Non-equilibrium photons increase the yields.

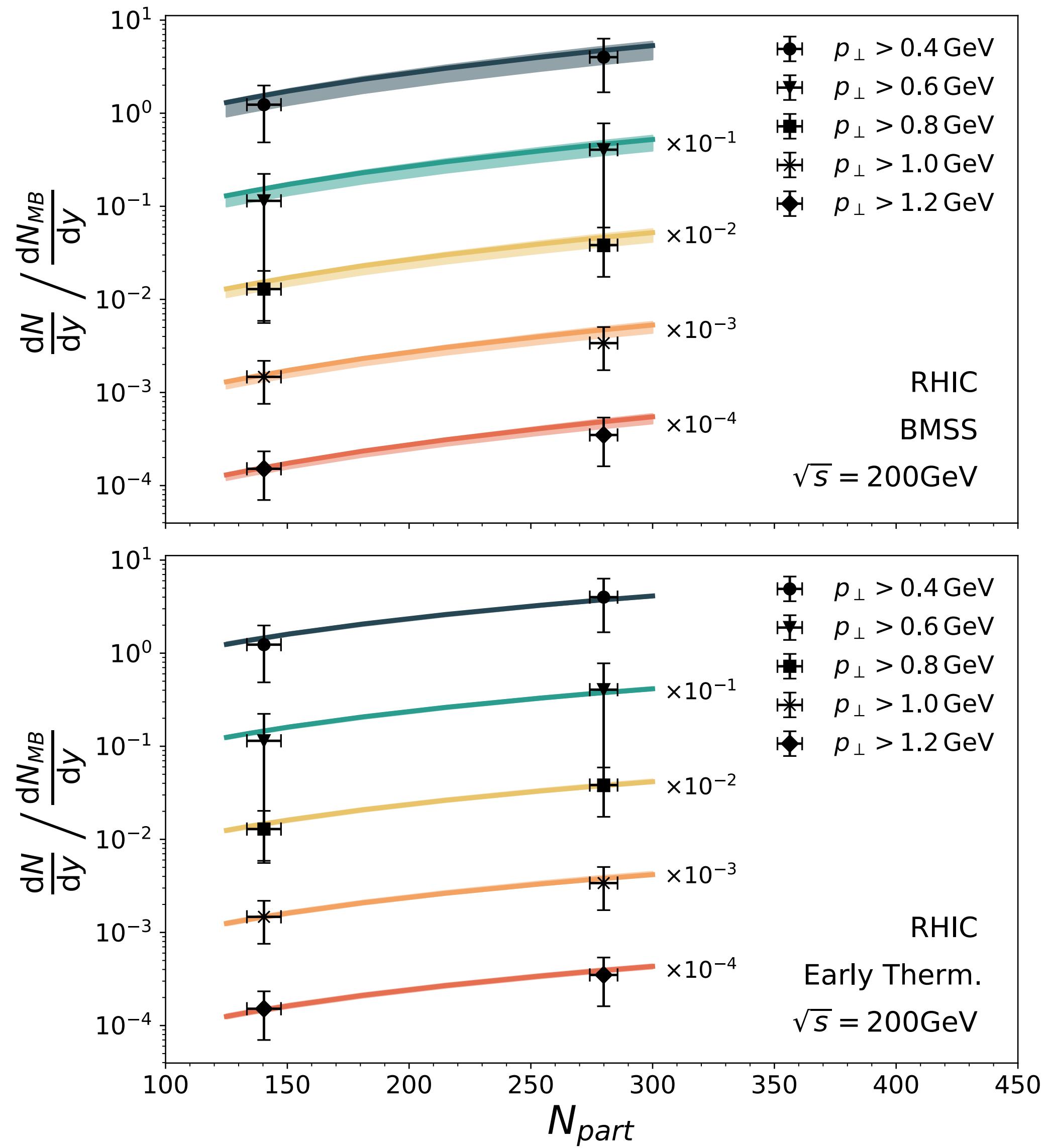


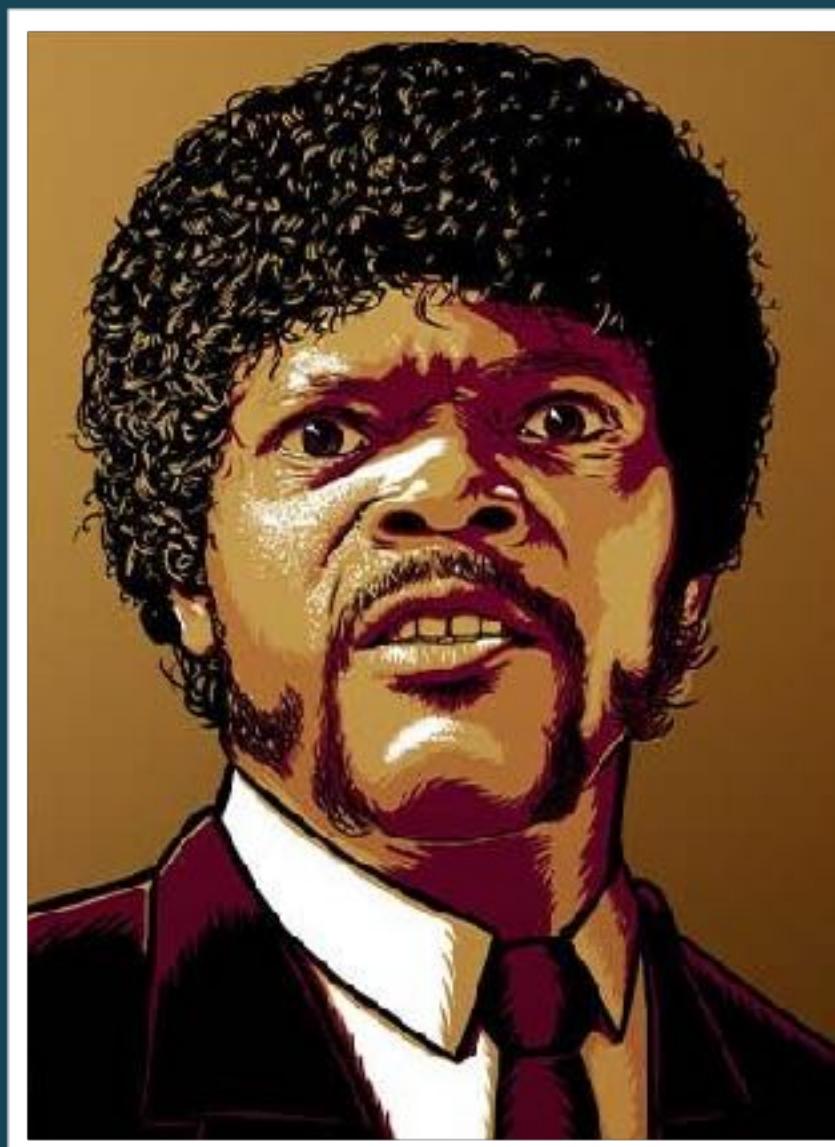


**DATA,  
DO YOU  
SPEAK IT?**



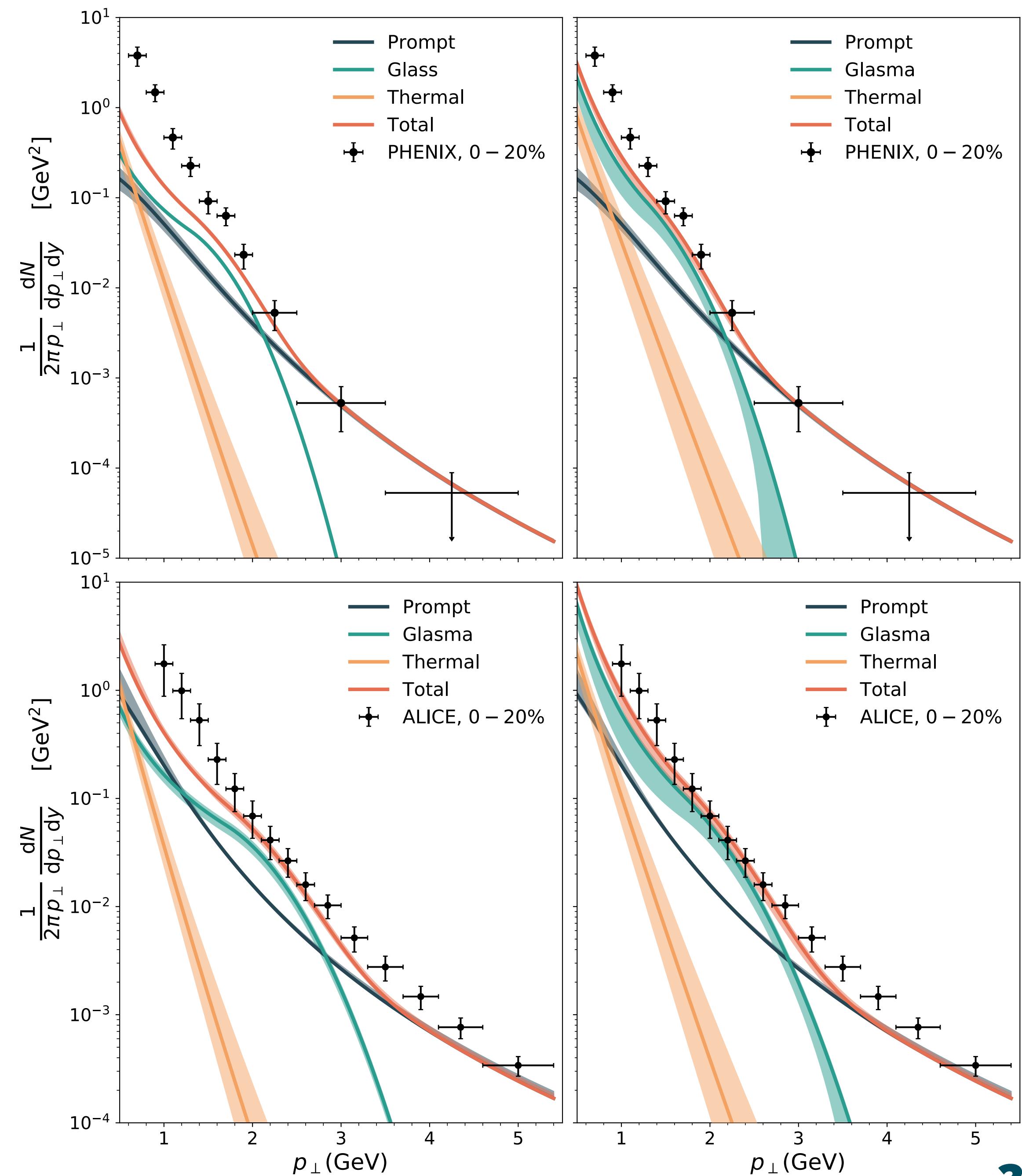
**DATA,  
DO YOU  
SPEAK IT?**





**DATA,  
DO YOU  
SPEAK IT?**

(with a caveat, perhaps)



# Summary: First Part

- Early time photons are at relevant for the completion of direct photon observables.
- Surprisingly fair agreement to data for such a simplistic model
- This is a very best case scenario. In reality, pre-eq expected to be shorter.

**So much to do still...**



- Proper non-eq simulation of photons on a QCD background should be performed  
Work in progress with Berges, Ye and Spitz
- IR, and deep IR behaviour of non-equilibrium photons still not understood. Many exciting possibilities lie there.

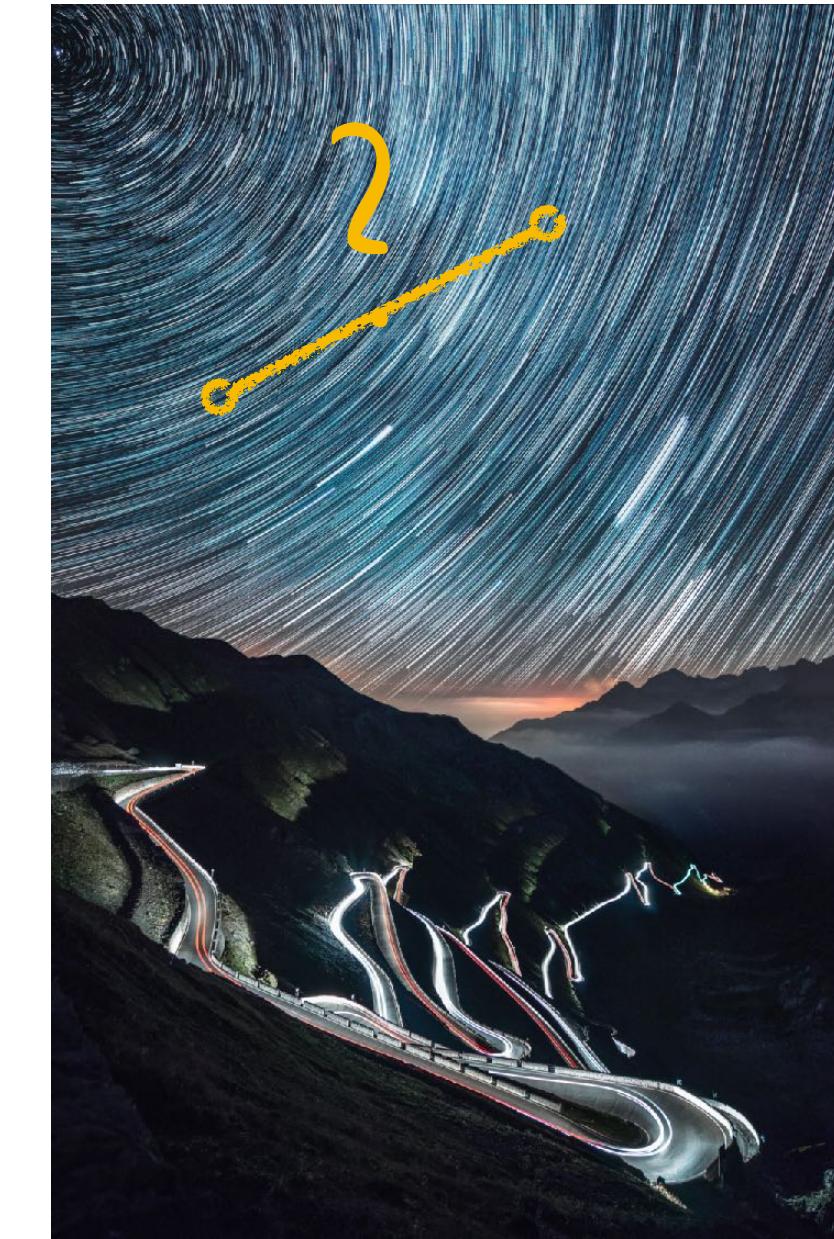
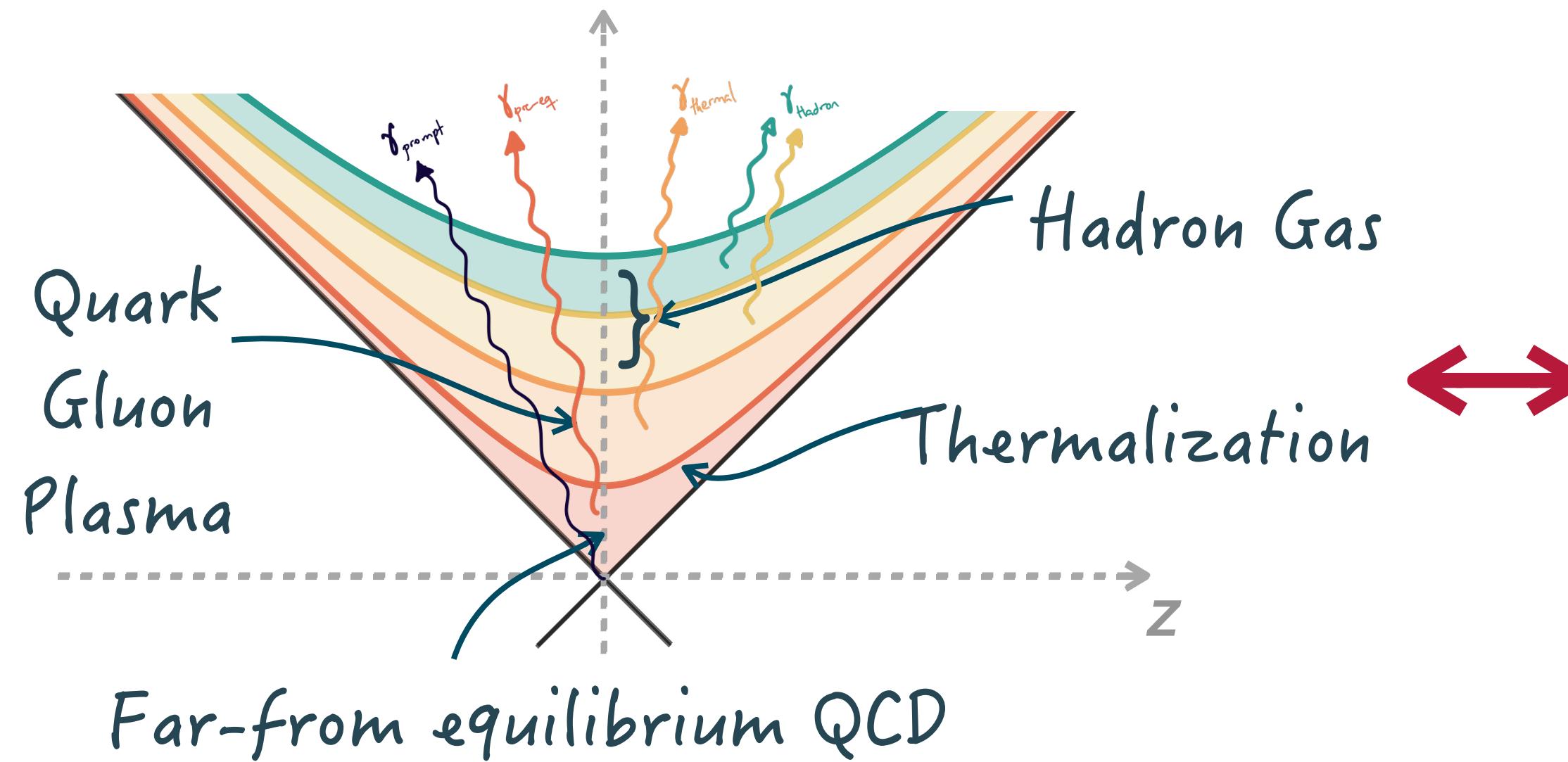
*Part 2*

# Using photon correlations to probe the spacetime evolution of the fireball

*Or: how to disentangle a long-exposure picture*



# Direct Photons



## How to disentangle a long exposure picture?

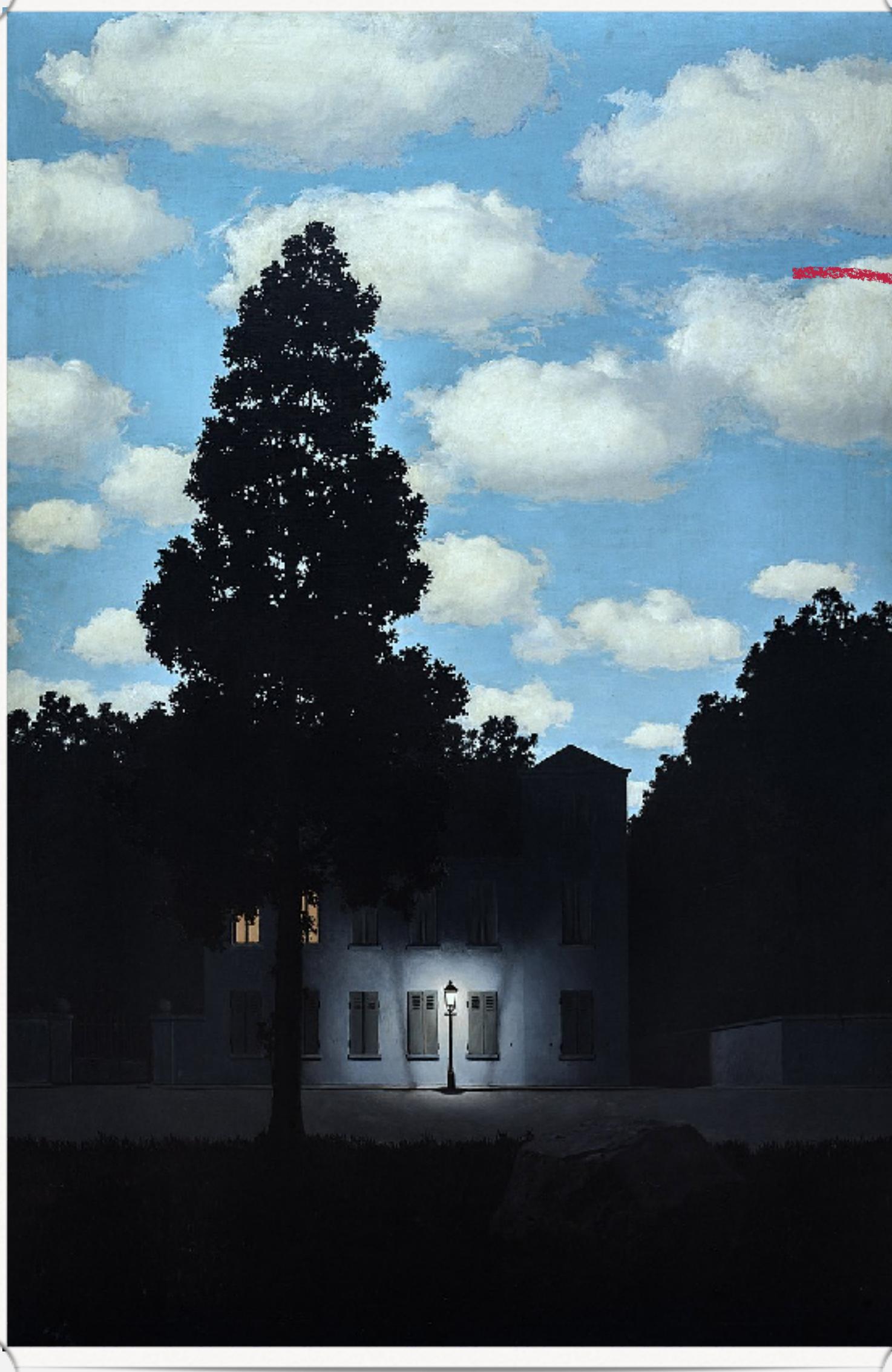
Use photon Hanbury-Brown-Twiss (HBT)  
correlations to extract space-time information

# The Plan

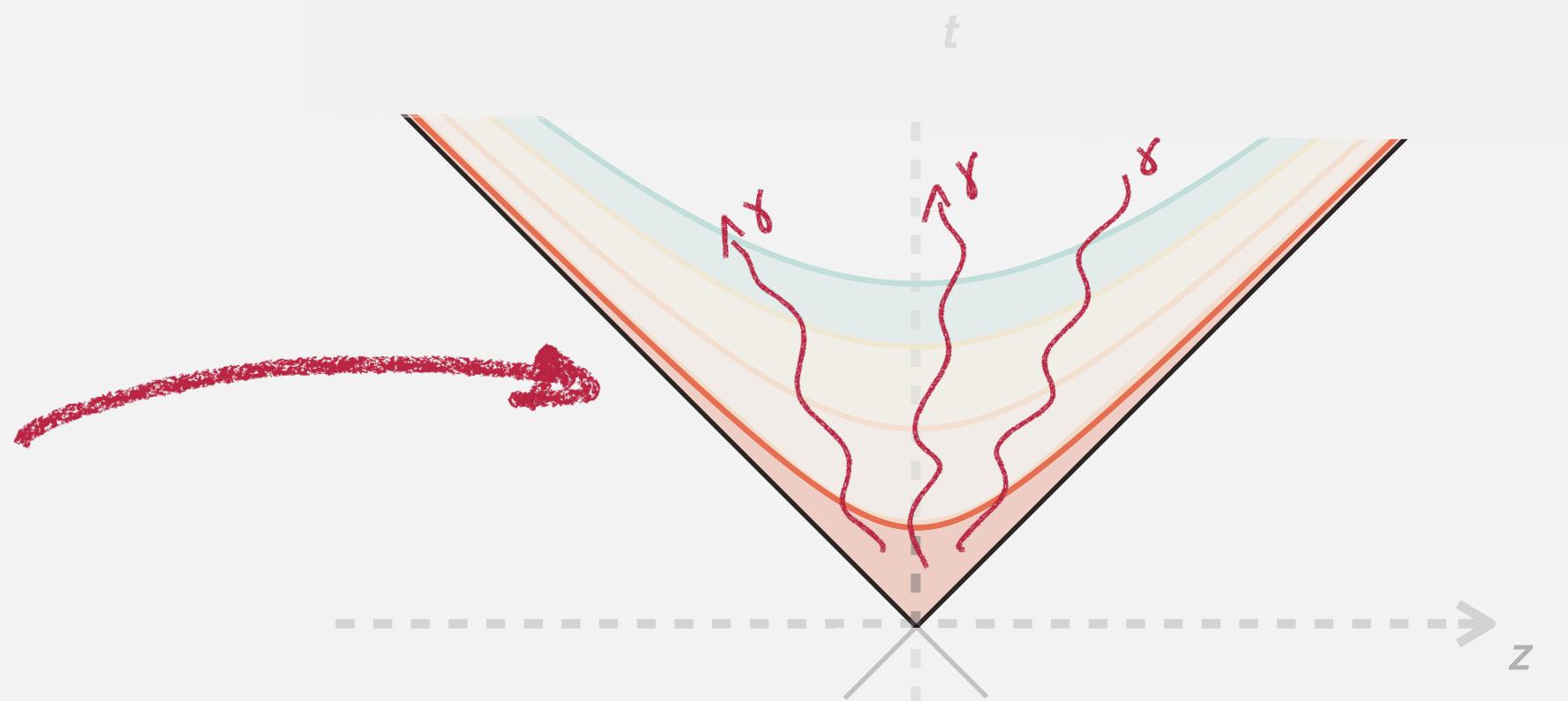
Use photon interferometry (HBT) to extract information on  
the evolution of the medium

# How?

Use two contrasting scenarios to showcase HBT as a tool to  
further discriminate results.



Early time  
Production

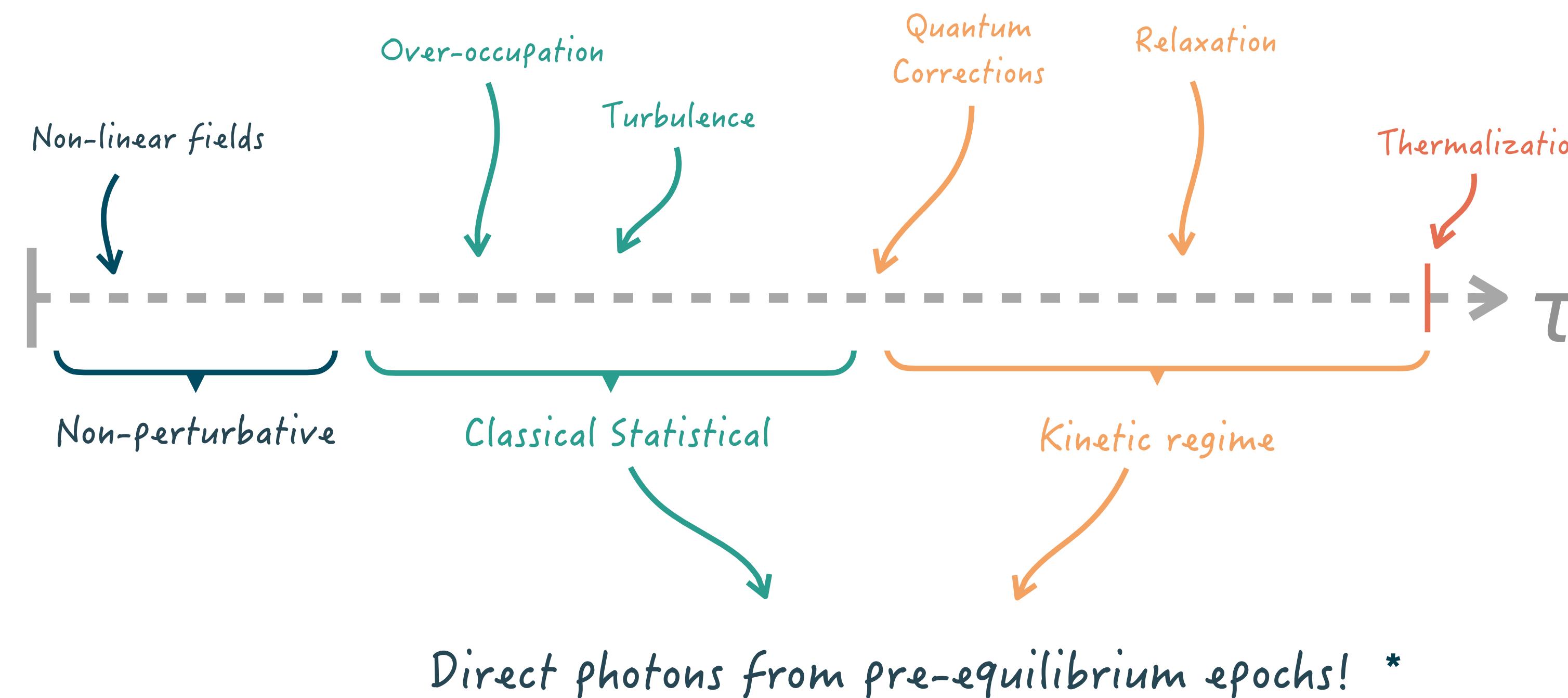


RENÉ MAGRITTE  
EMPIRE OF LIGHT

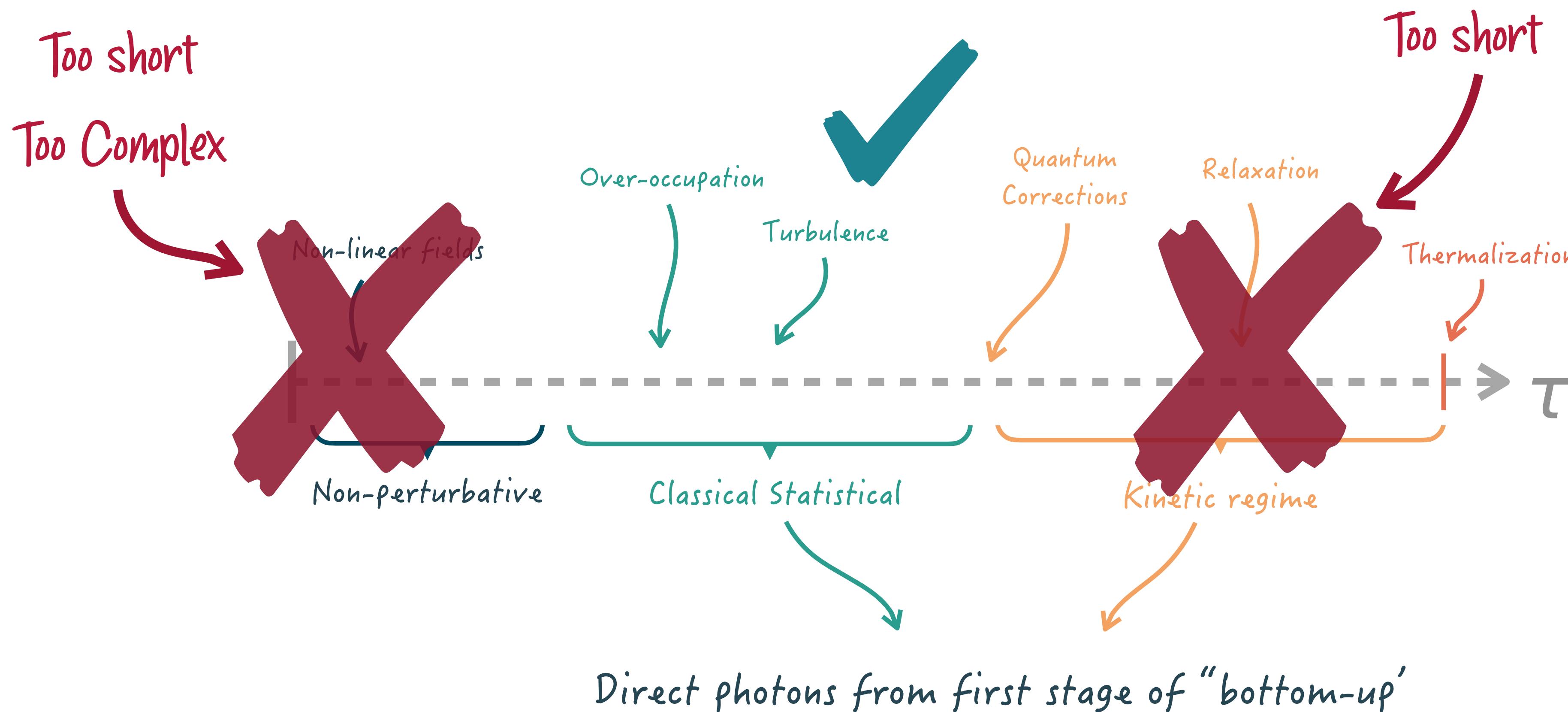
# Photons from the “bottom-up” scenario

*(QCD Kinetic Thermalization)*

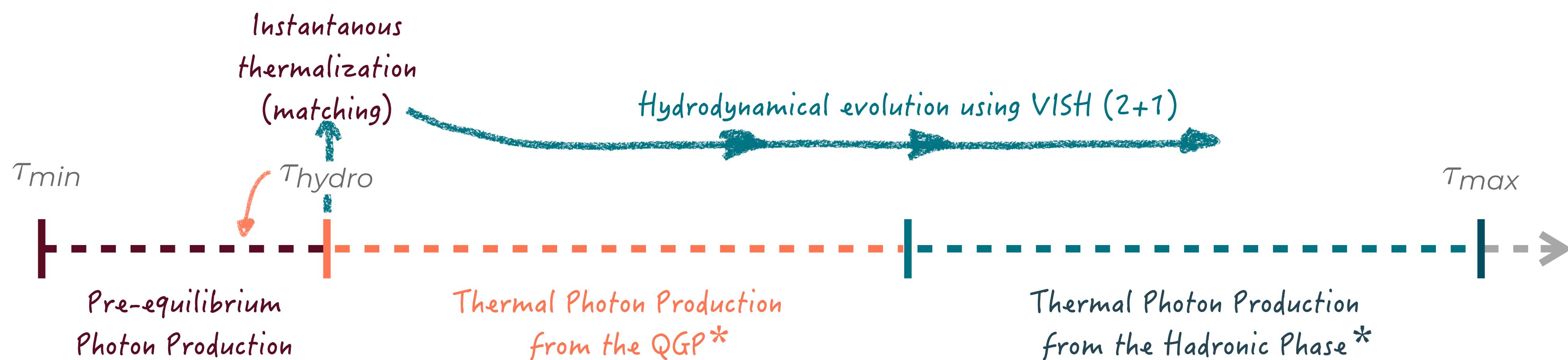
## Far-from equilibrium QCD matter



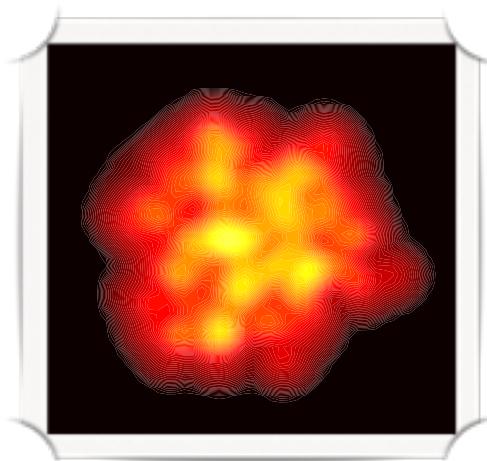
## Far-from equilibrium QCD matter



# The model



MC-Glauber



$$\begin{aligned}\tau_{min} &= 0.1\text{fm} \\ \tau_{hydro} &= 0.6\text{fm} \\ \tau_{max} &= 15\text{fm}\end{aligned}$$

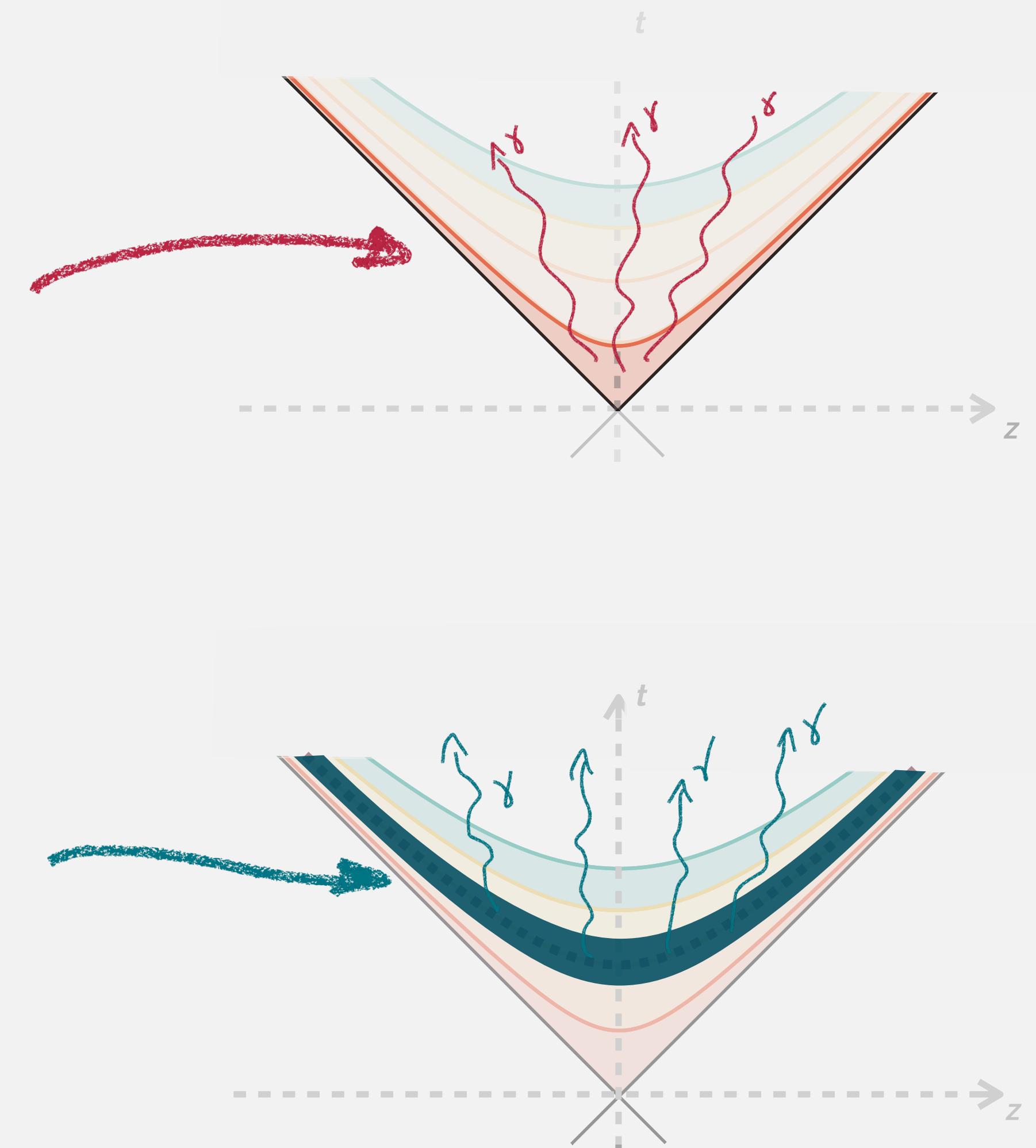
\* Using the thermal rates in

P. B. Arnold, *et al*, JHEP 12, 009 (2001)  
S. Turbide, *et al*, Phys. Rev. C69, 014903 (2004)  
M. Heffernan, *et al*, Phys. Rev. C91, 027902 (2015)



Early time  
Production

Late time  
enhancement

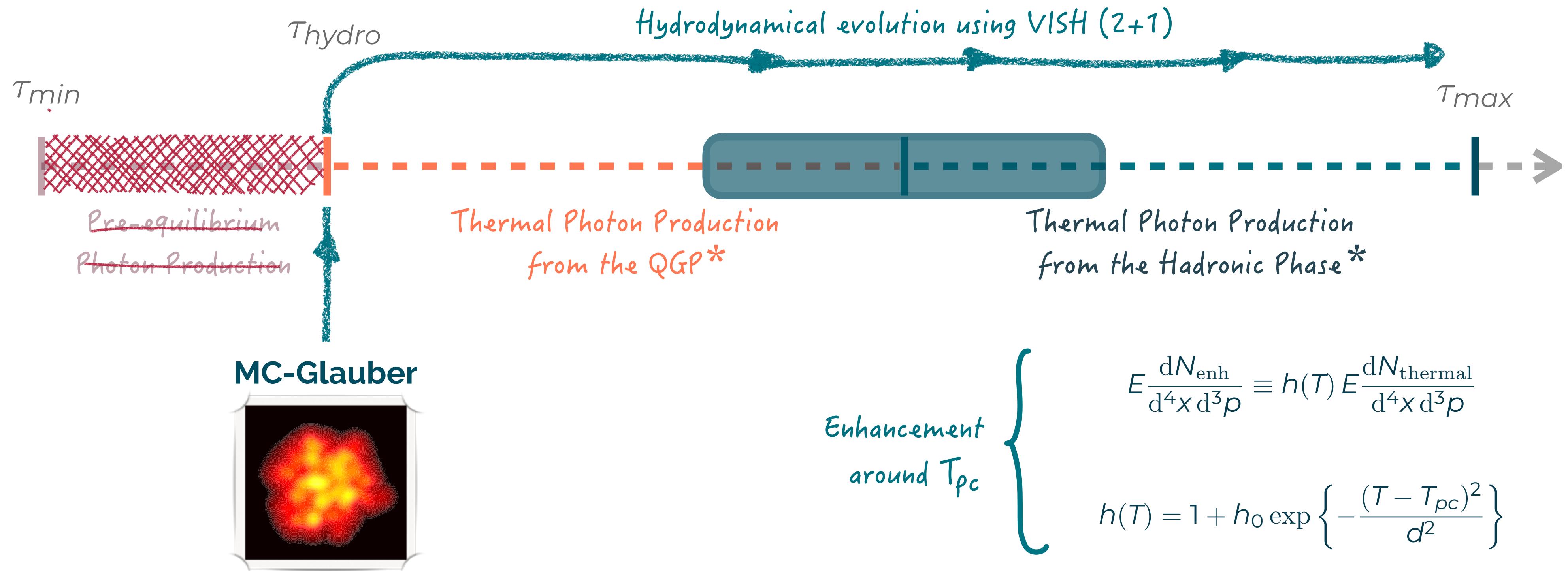


RENÉ MAGRITTE  
EMPIRE OF LIGHT

# Photons from pseudocritical enhancement

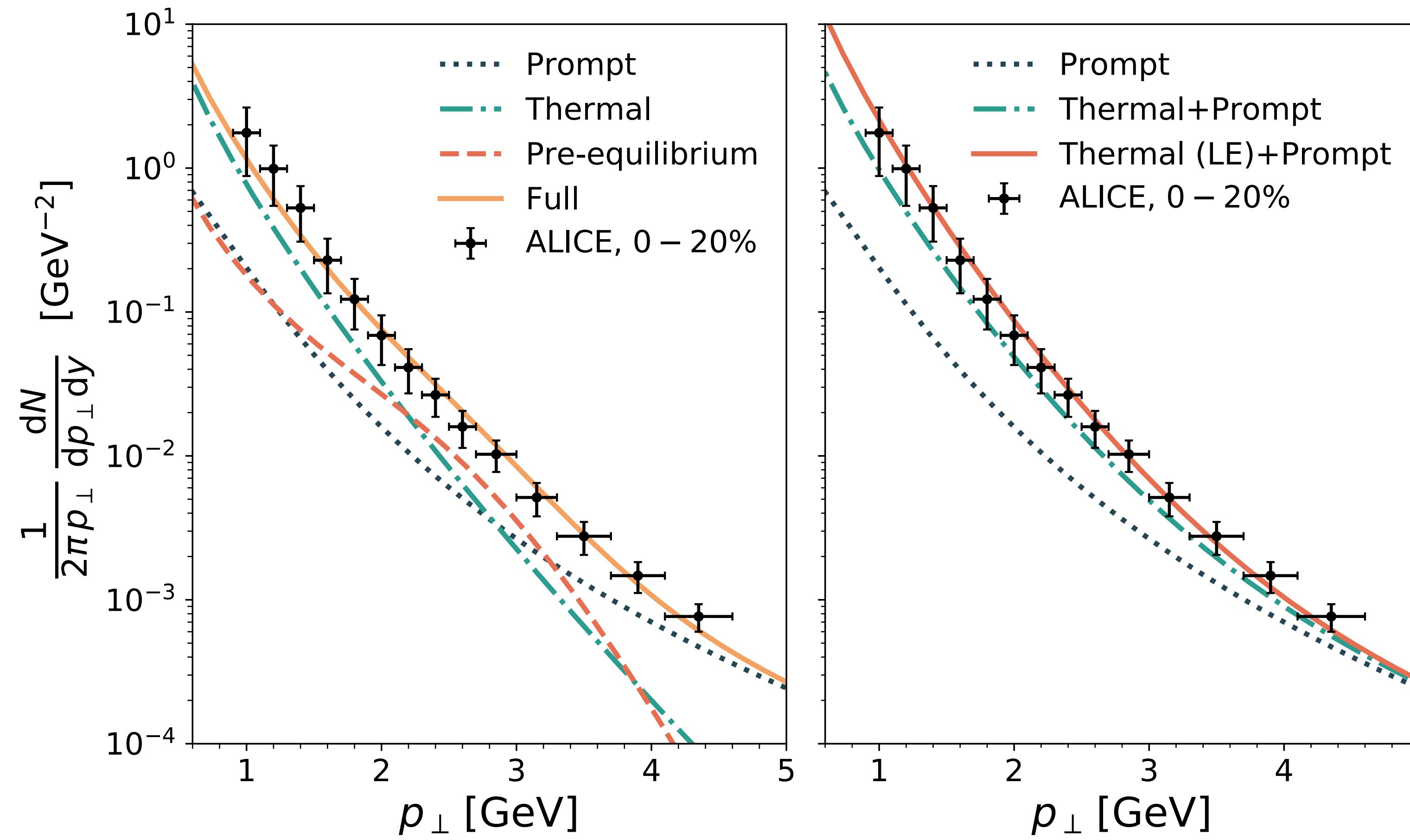
*(Non-perturbative partonic enhancement)*

# The model

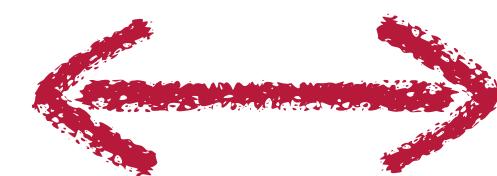
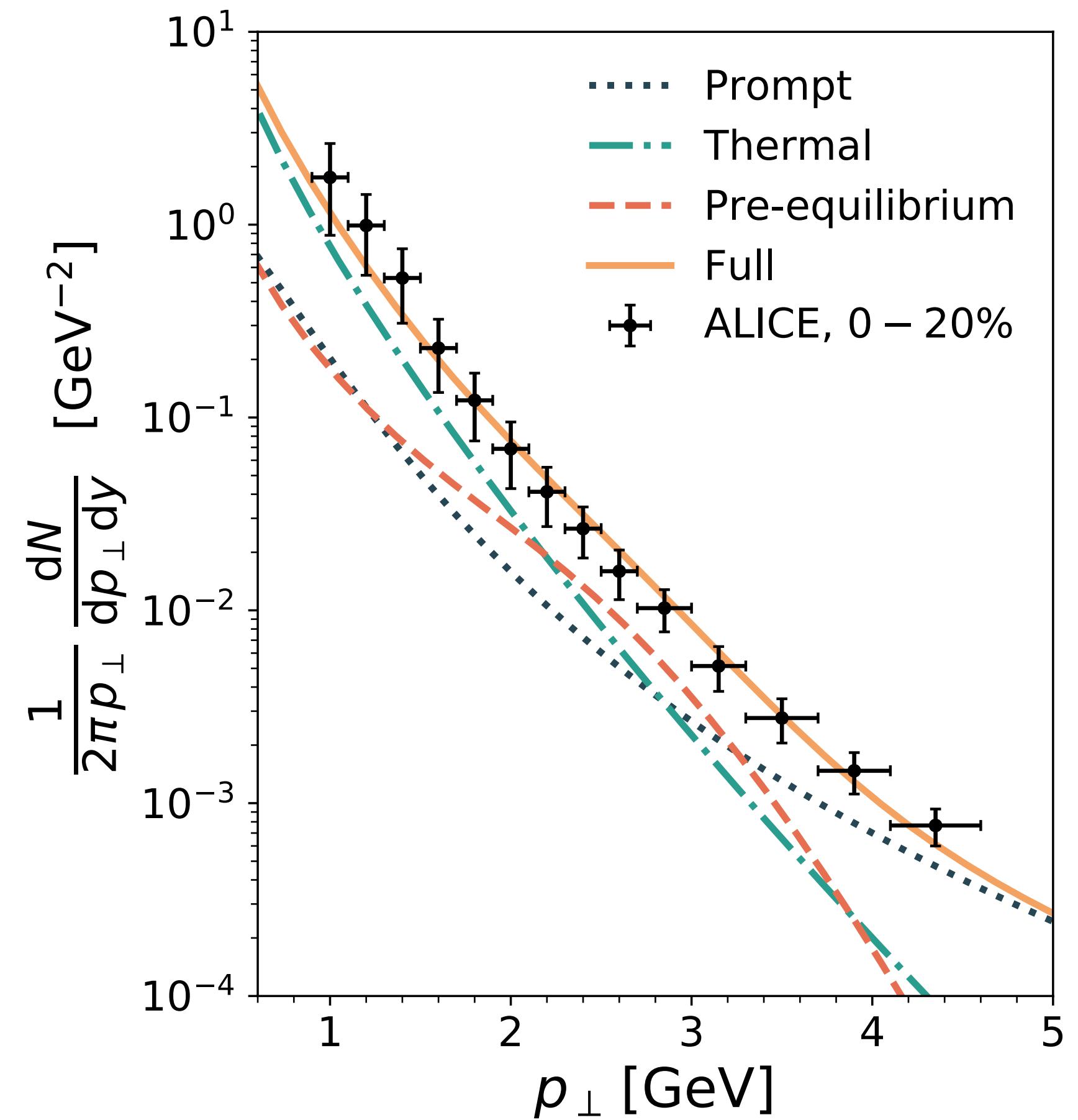


\* Inspired by: H. van Hees, et al, Nucl. Phys. A933, 256 (2015)

# Direct photon yield



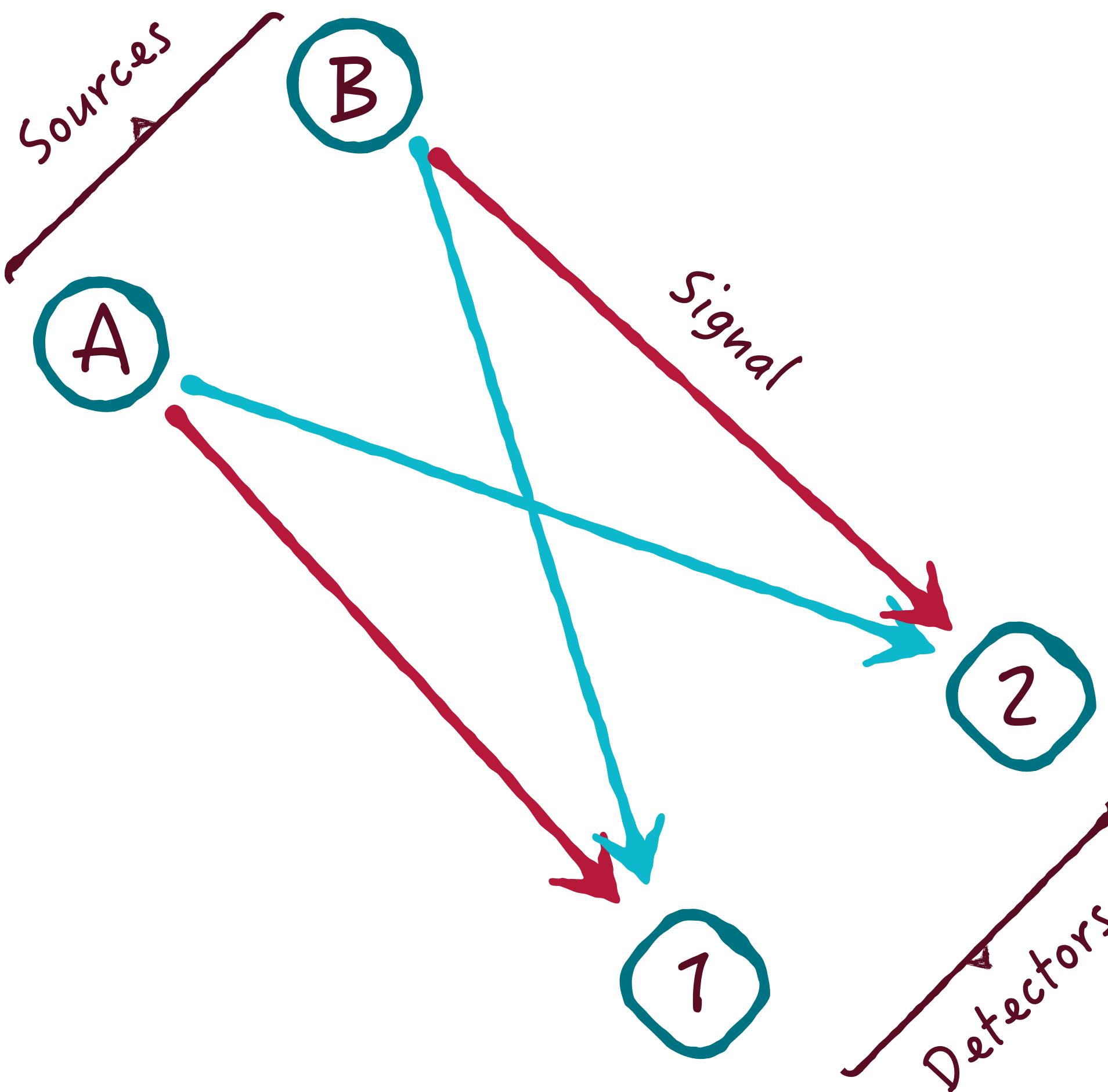
# How to disentangle a long exposure picture?



# HBT

*(Hanbury Brown-Twiss correlations)*

# HBT - What are they?



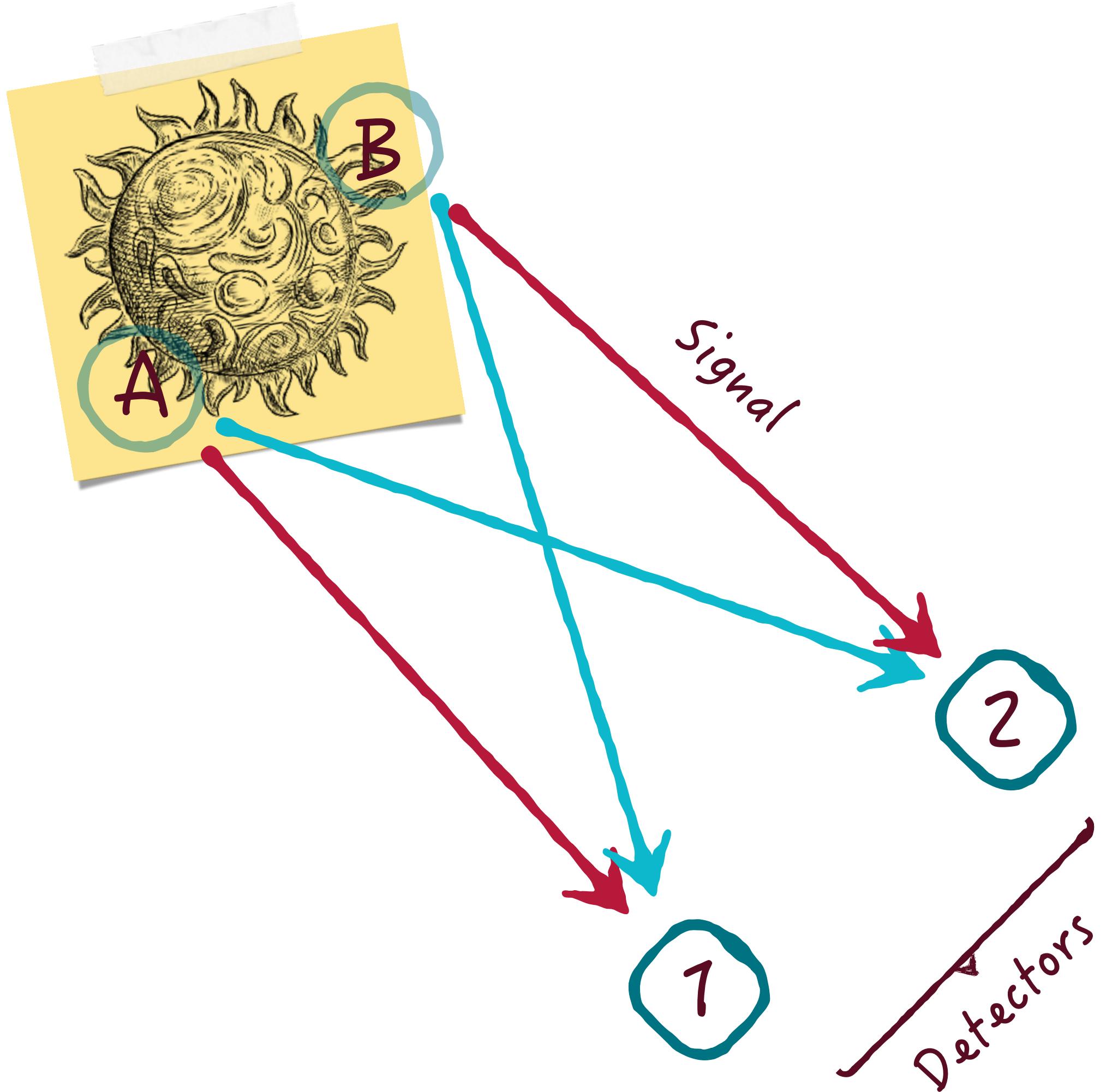
“IF THE RADIATION RECEIVED AT TWO PLACES IS MUTUALLY COHERENT, THEN THE FLUCTUATION IN THE INTENSITY OF THE SIGNALS RECEIVED AT THOSE TWO PLACES IS ALSO CORRELATED”

*Robert Hanbury Brown*

Main Object : HBT Correlator

$$C \sim \frac{\langle I_1 I_2 \rangle}{\langle I_1 \rangle \langle I_2 \rangle} \rightarrow \frac{\langle N_1 N_2 \rangle}{\langle N_1 \rangle \langle N_2 \rangle}$$

# HBT - What are they?



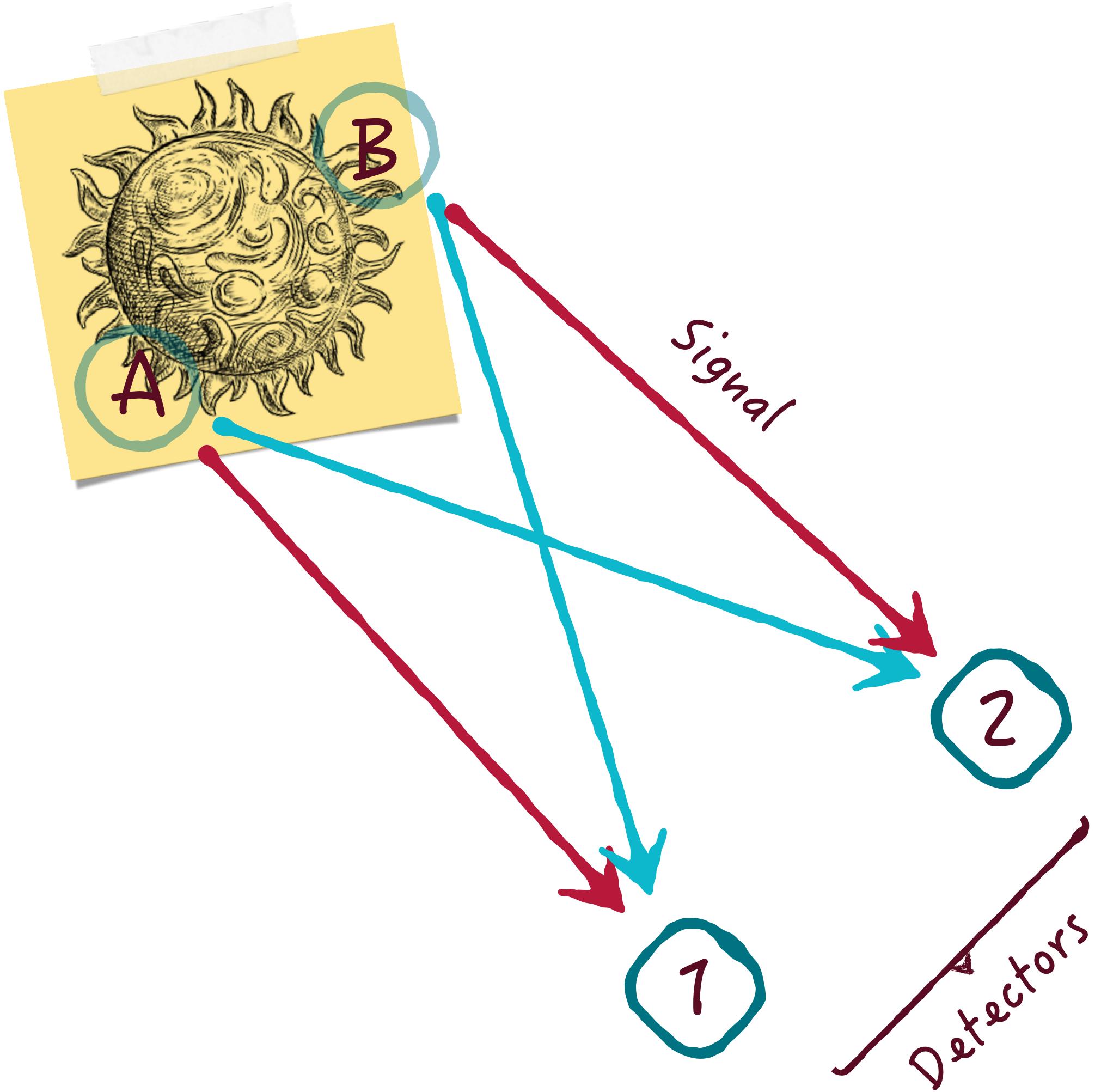
## A little bit of History

Used to measure the size of astronomical light sources.

Cassiopeia A and Cygnus A

How?

# HBT - What are they?



## A little bit of History

Used to measure the size of astronomical light sources.

Cassiopeia A and Cygnus A

How?

$$\delta x \delta p \gg 2\pi\hbar$$

$$\delta x \delta p \lesssim 2\pi\hbar$$

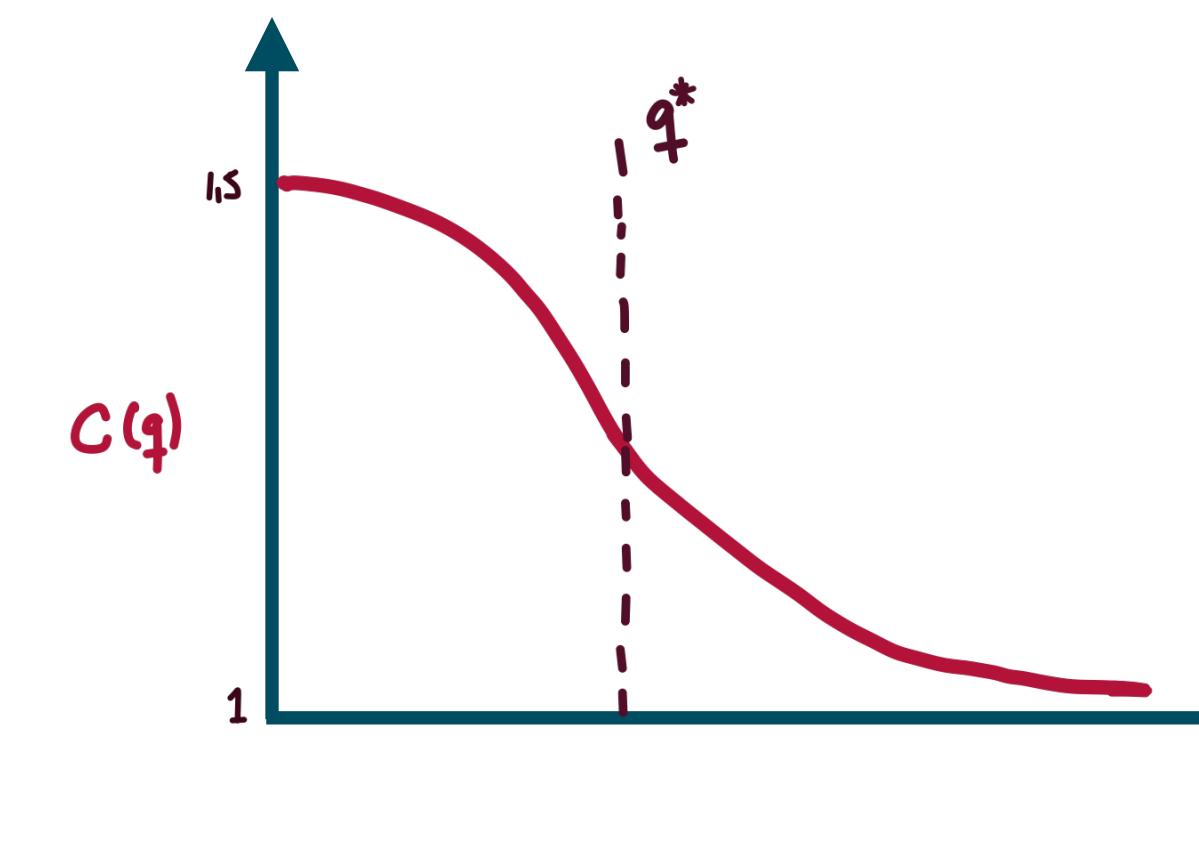
Photons behave classical

Photons behave quantum

$$\delta x_{max} \sim 2R$$

Quantum effects start at

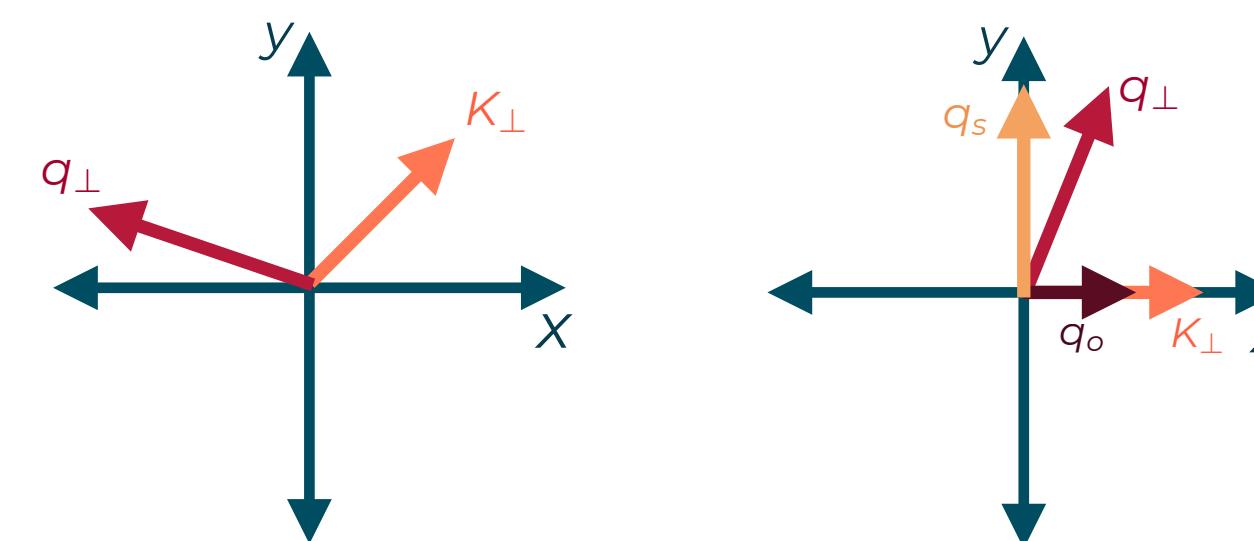
$$q^* = \frac{\pi\hbar}{R}$$



# HBT Correlators

Main Object: HBT Correlator

$$C(p_1, p_2) = \frac{E_{p_1} E_{p_2} \frac{dN}{d^3 p_1 d^3 p_2}}{E_{p_1} \frac{dN}{d^3 p_1} E_{p_2} \frac{dN}{d^3 p_2}}$$



Pair variables

$$K^\mu = (K^0, K_\perp, 0, K^z)$$
$$q^\mu = (q^0, q_o, q_s, q_1),$$

Extract some information: The HBT Radii

$$\langle\langle q_i q_j \rangle\rangle = \int d^3 q q_i q_j g(q; K) \equiv \frac{1}{2} (R^{-1})_{ij}$$

$$g(q; K) \equiv \frac{C(q, K) - 1}{\int d^3 q [C(q, K) - 1]}$$

The HBT-Radii are the characteristic scales of the correlator

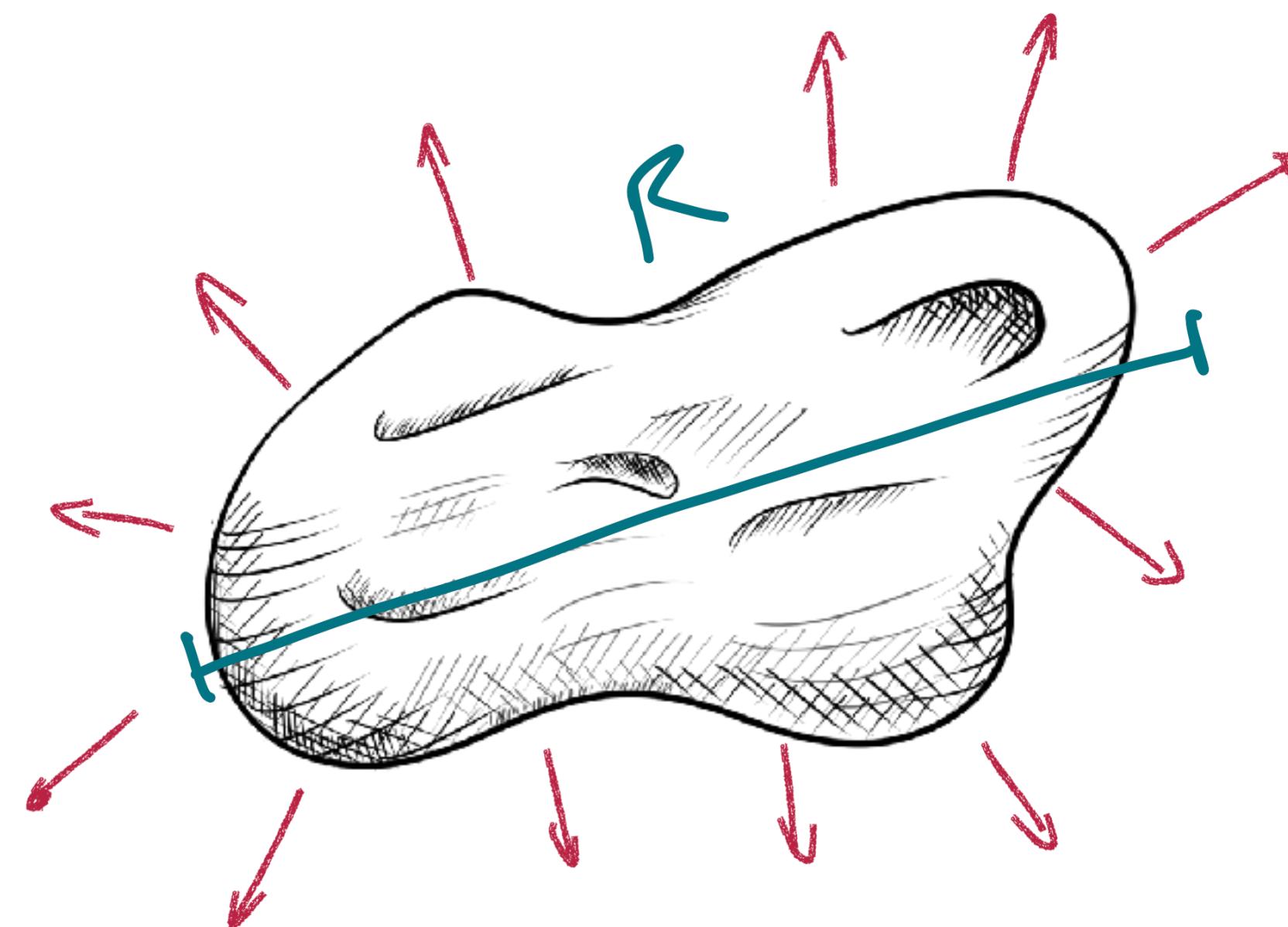
In this talk, we will only be interested in the diagonal!

# A little but important caveat

Stars are relatively close to being “Static Sources”

BUT

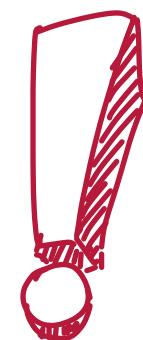
In the context of Particle Physics



Pion Interferometry  
Photon Interferometry

Dynamical sources

Radii are more like weighted averages, in fact.

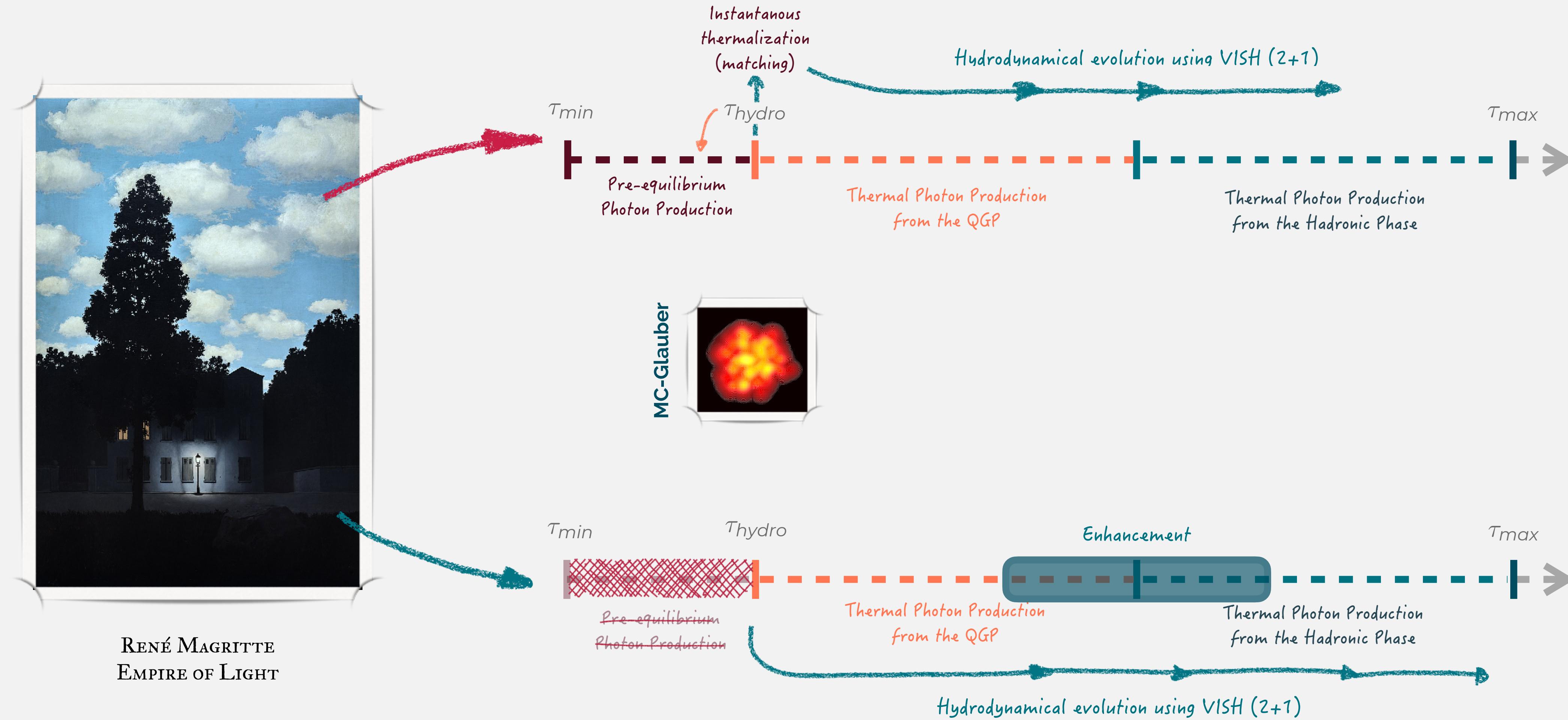


Use photon HBT not to  
extract source sizes, but  
to cross-compare models

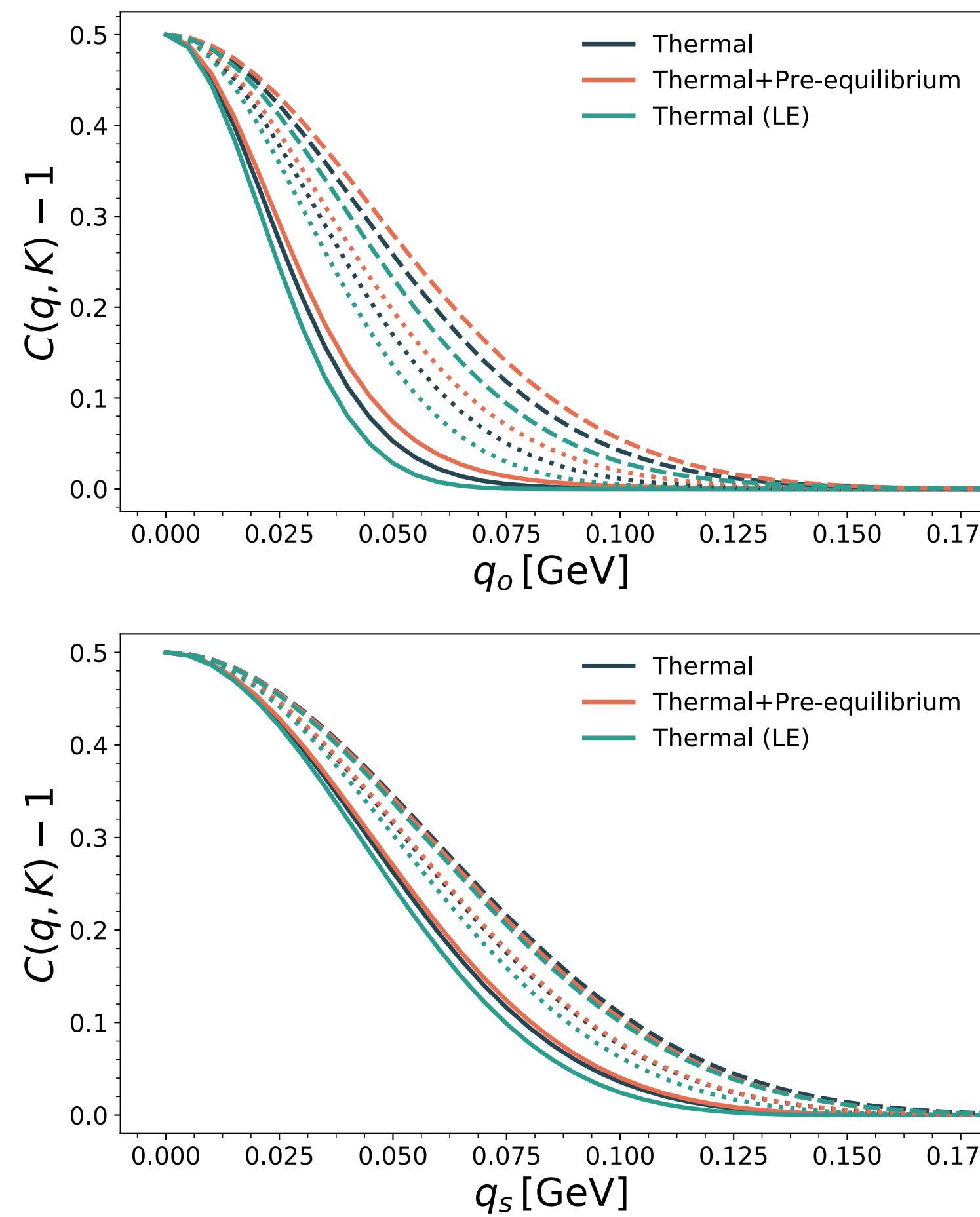
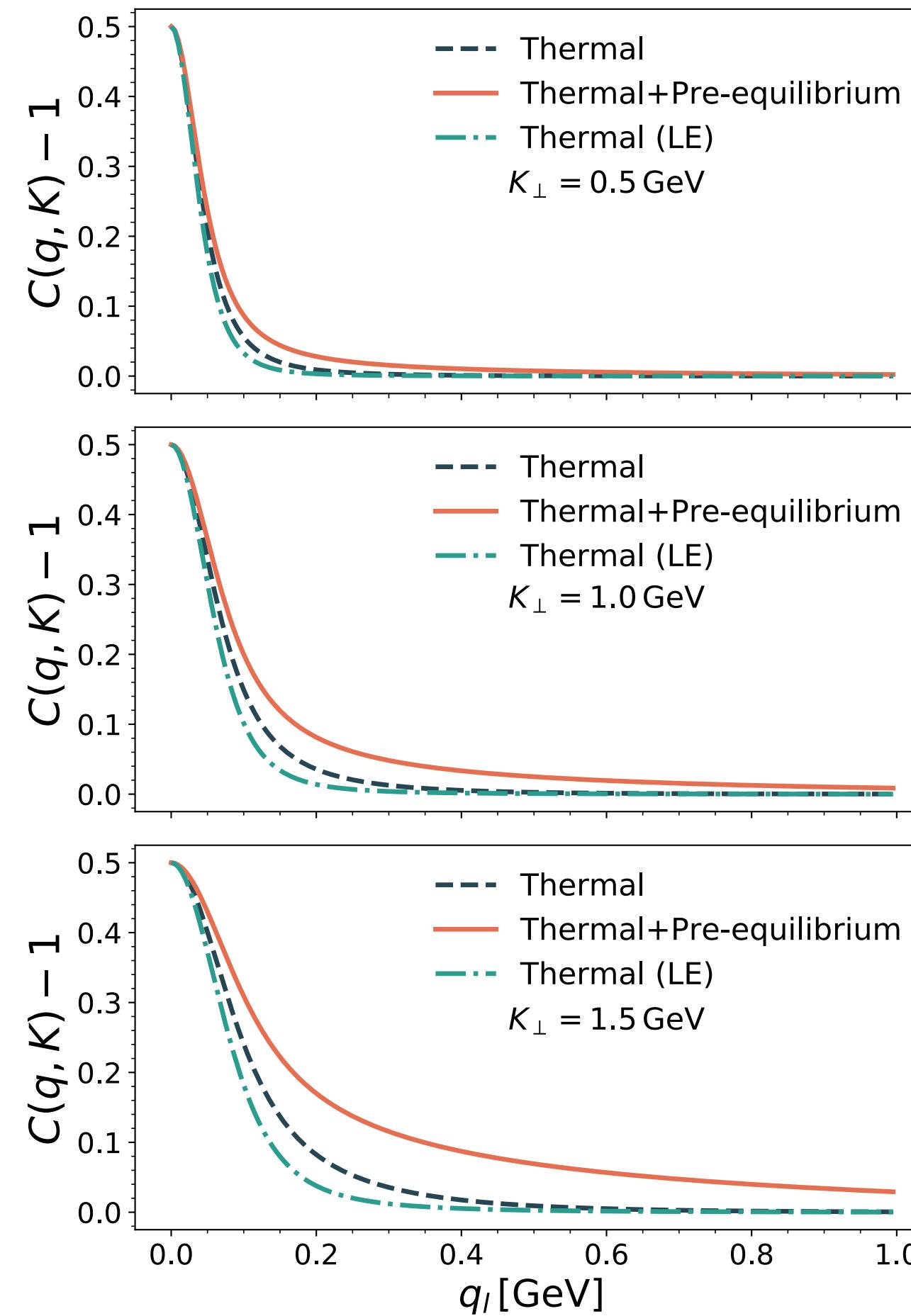
# Some Results

*(Hanbury Brown-Twiss correlations)*

# The Models



# The HBT-Correlator



$$C(p_1, p_2) := 1 + \frac{1}{d} \frac{|S(q, K)|^2}{S(0, p_1)S(0, p_2)}$$

Longitudinal direction affected the most by the inclusion of the sources.

Non-gaussianities strong at early times, thanks to Bjorken expansion

Early-times production reduces effective radii, while late times increase them.

# The HBT-Radii

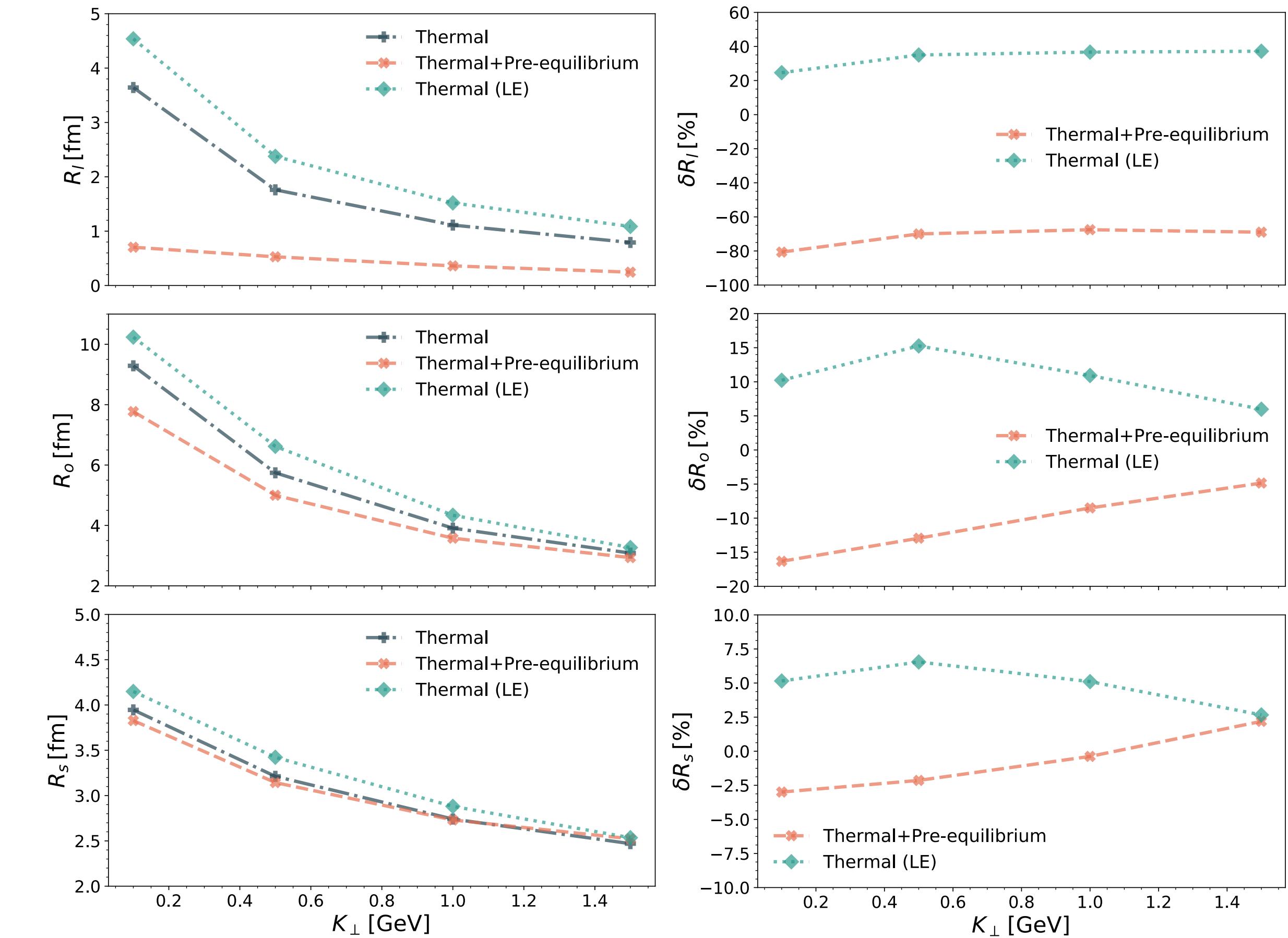
$$\langle\langle q_i q_j \rangle\rangle = \int d^3q q_i q_j g(q; K) \equiv \frac{1}{2} (R^{-1})_{ij}$$

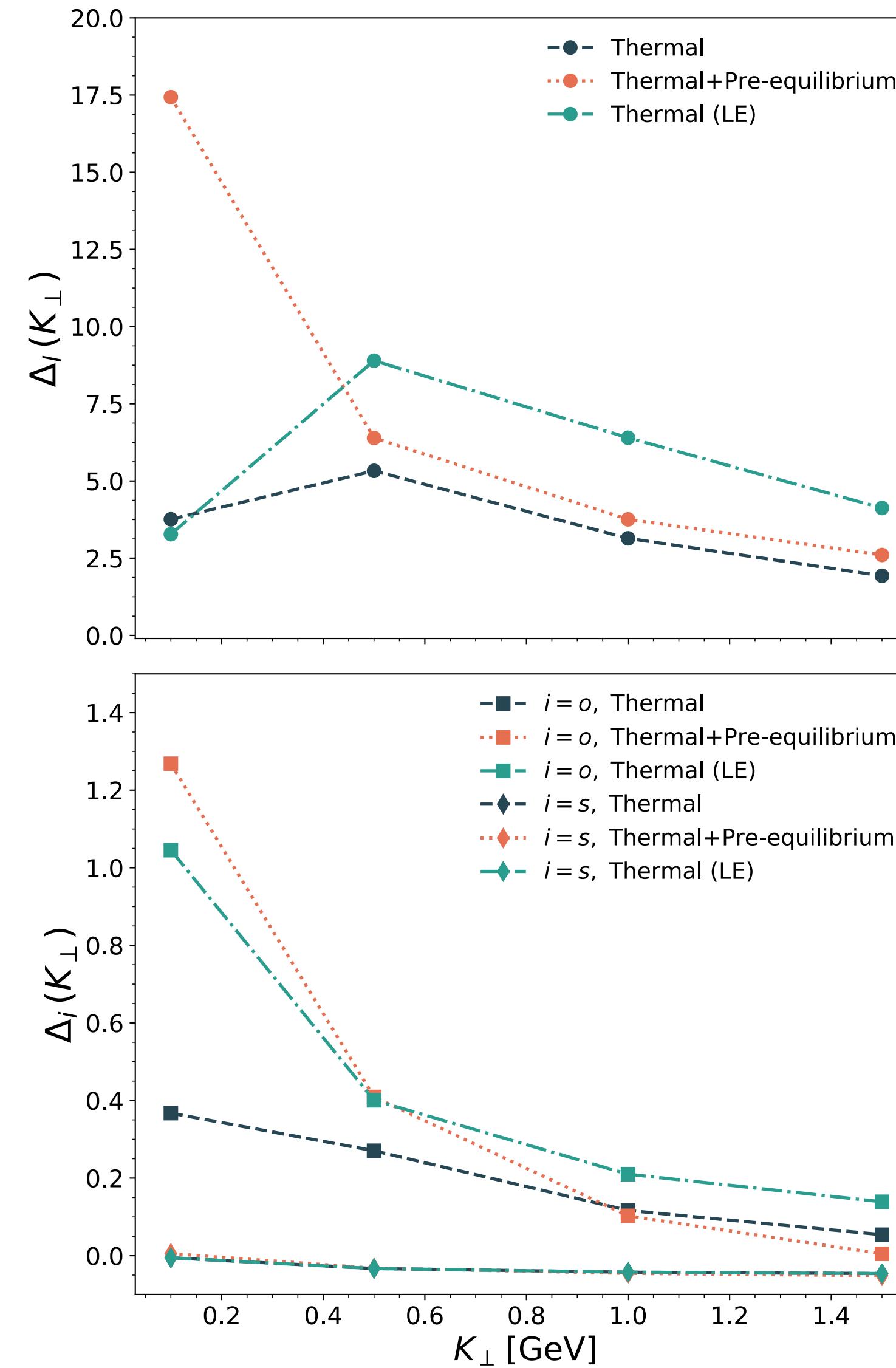
$$g(q; K) \equiv \frac{C(q, K) - 1}{\int d^3q [C(q, K) - 1]}$$

Longitudinal direction affected the most by the inclusion of the sources.

Early-times production reduces effective radii, while late times increase it.

Are these differences enough to measure it?





**But wait, there is more!**

## The Normalized Excess Kurtosis

$$\Delta_i = \frac{\langle\langle q_i^4 \rangle\rangle}{3\langle\langle q_i^2 \rangle\rangle^2} - 1$$

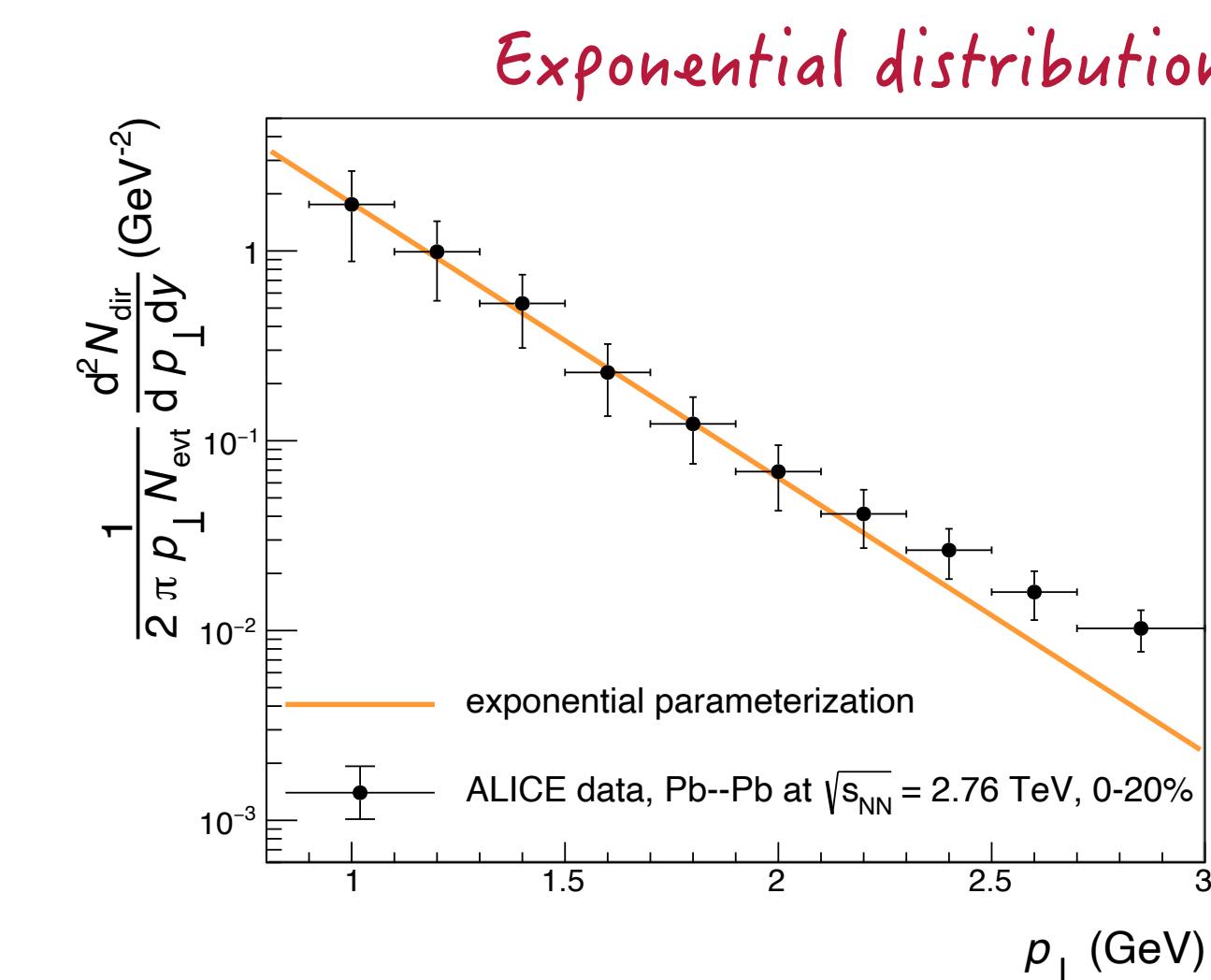
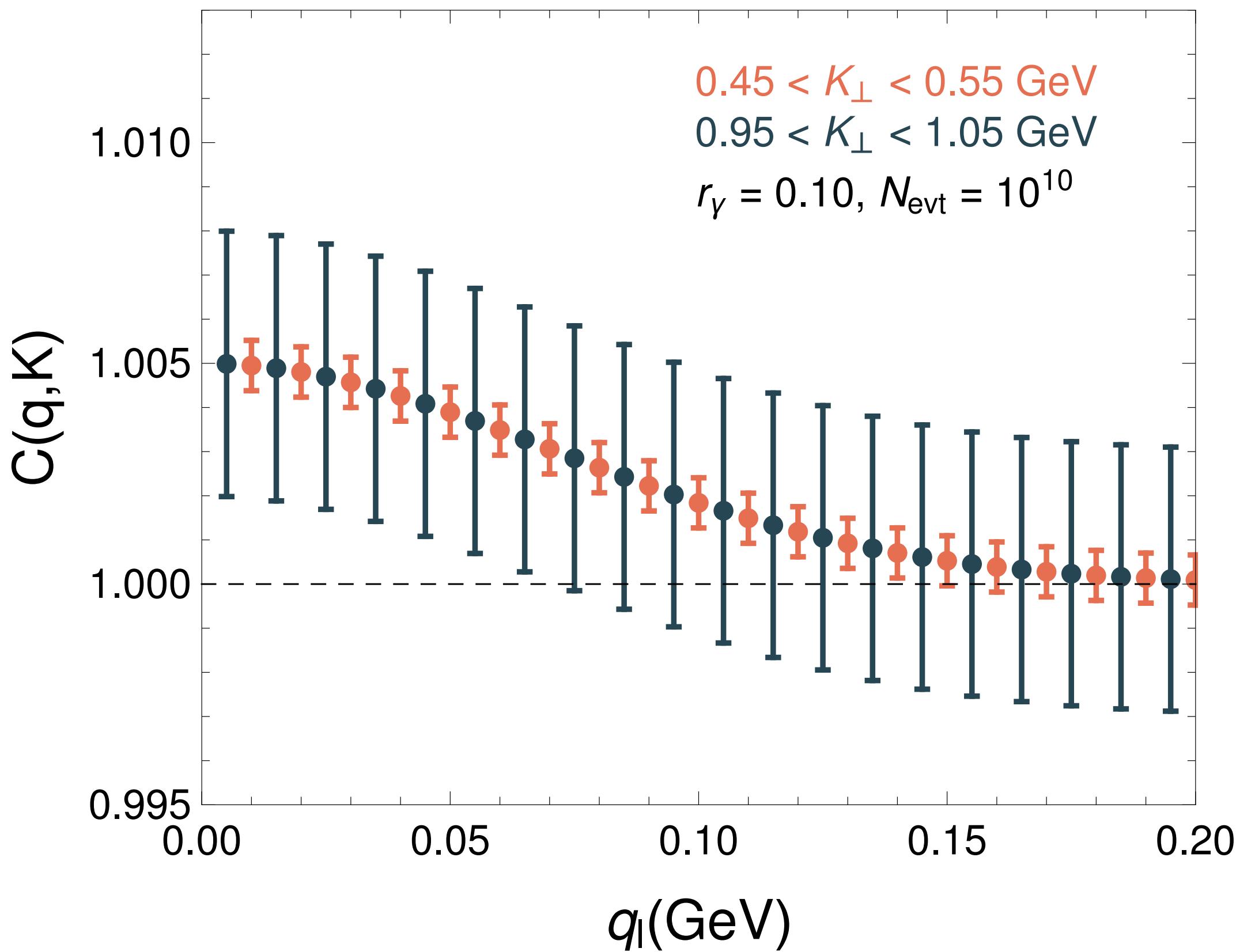
Measures “how much non-Gaussian is a distribution

Early-times non-Gaussianities strong, particularly at small pair momenta.

Very interesting observable, hard to measure.

# Statistical Model

*Effective dilution of the signal!*



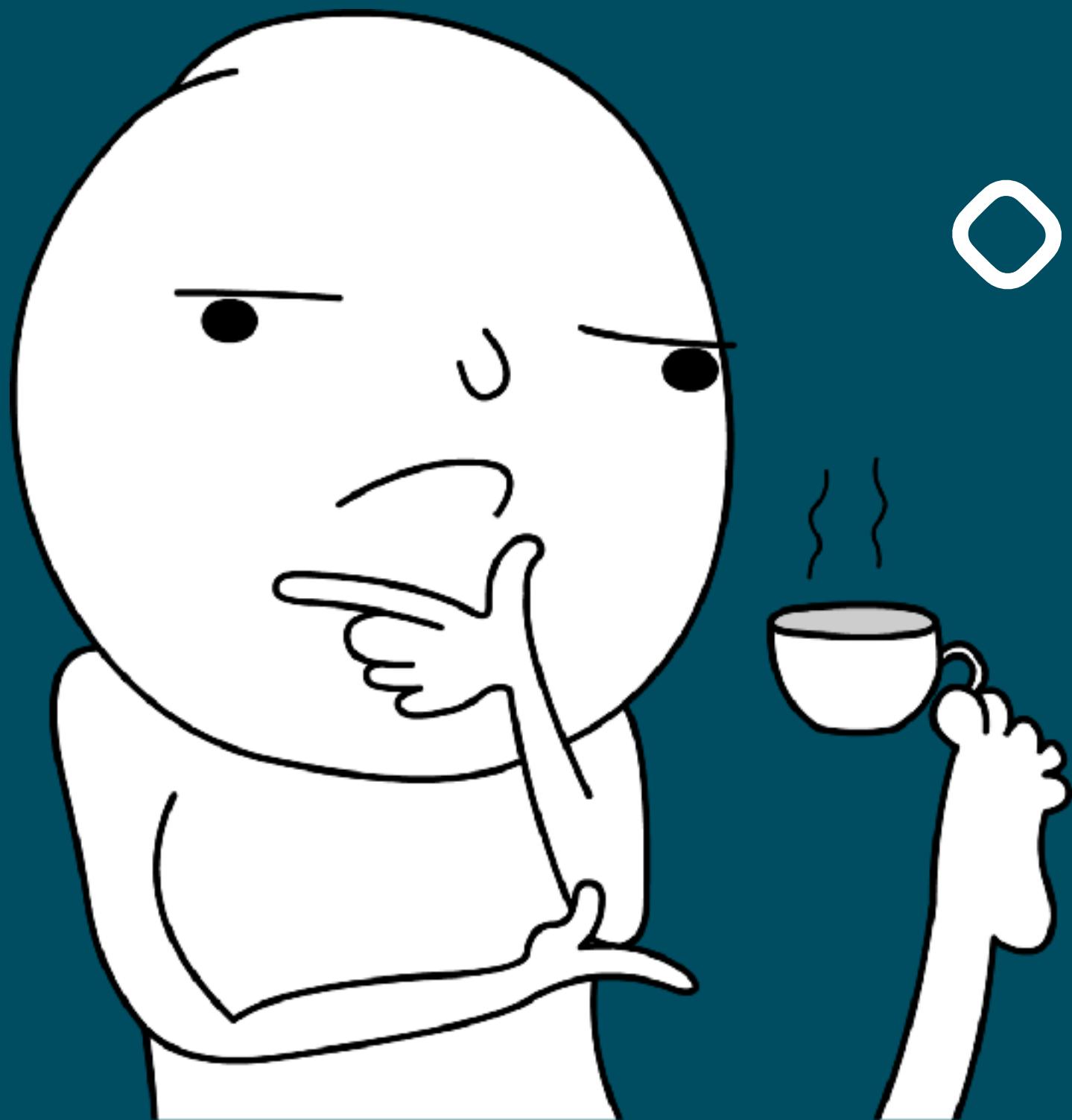
Exponential-like source used as test model.

Correlator simulated sampling from source.

Error depends strongly on the average momentum of the pair.

Low momentum pairs statistically significant.

# Summary



- Even when the discrepancies of the *Direct Photon Puzzle* are solved, we need to differentiate between the different models in the market.
- Photon correlations are the tool that we need to do so.
- Yes, they are very hard measurements, but not impossible anymore. We should start walking before we run.
- Remember that the endgame here is to untangle the space-time evolution of the medium created in a Heavy Ion Collision.

# Outlook

- Refine existing models to be able to compare against experimental results.
  - Get better grasp of the enhancement at
  - Model/Simulate the pre-eq time expansion dynamics
- Compare new ideas in the HBT framework
- "New" non-equilibrium phenomena at lower photon energies

