

# Describing the proton with electron scattering

Tyler Kutz (JGU Mainz)

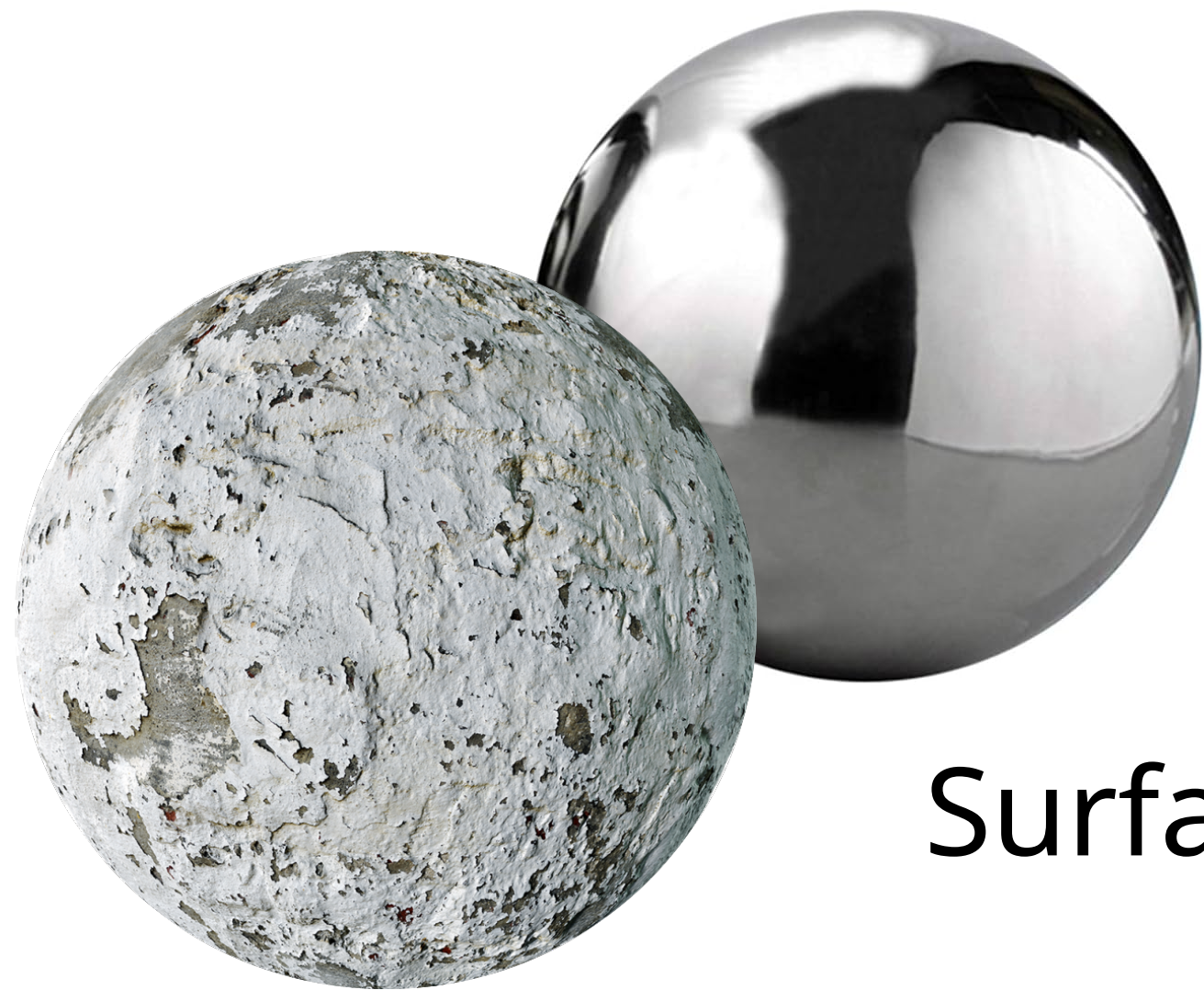
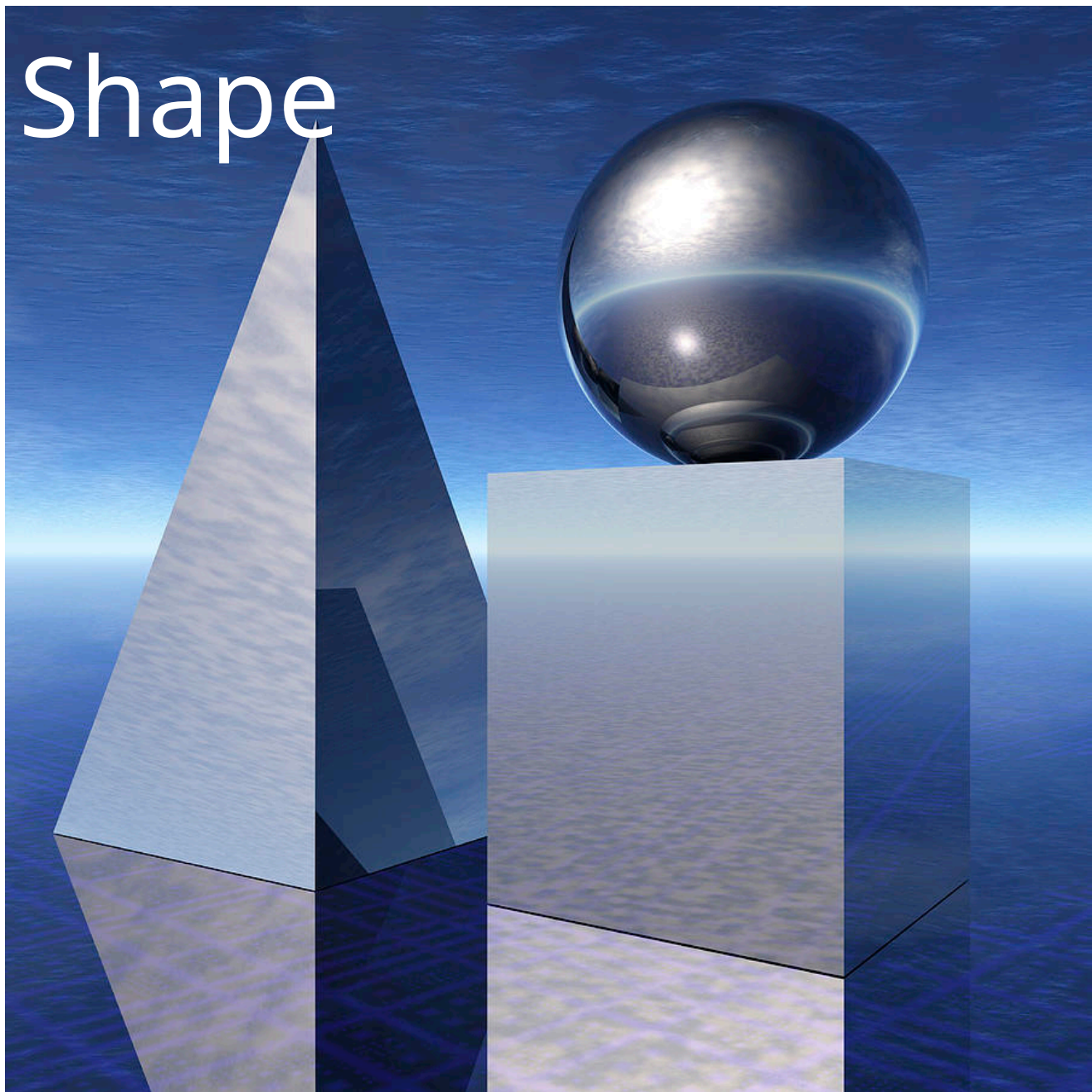
Mainz Physics Academy summer school  
September 15-19, 2025



JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

What physical characteristics describe an object?

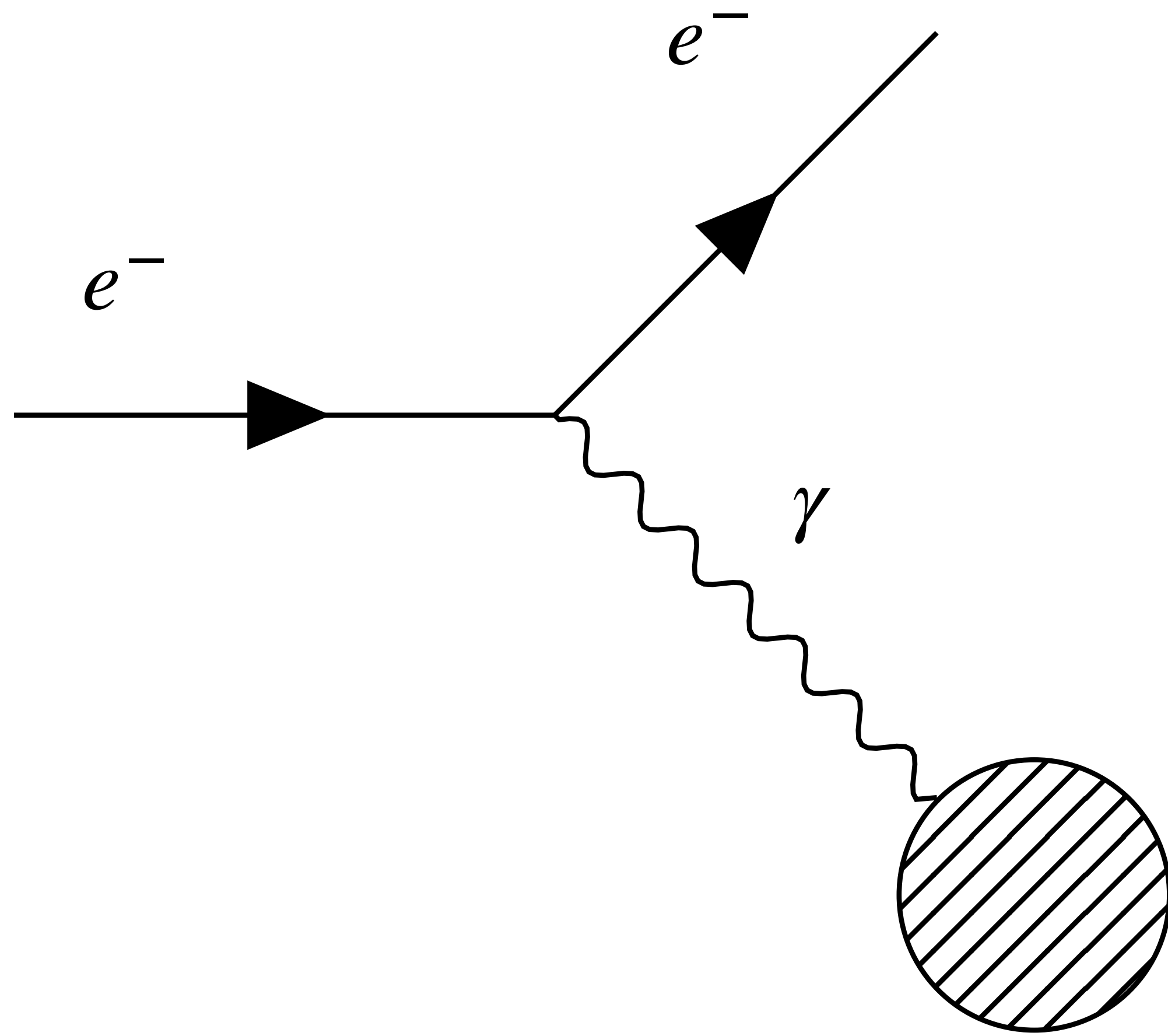
# What physical characteristics describe an object?



# How to describe the proton?

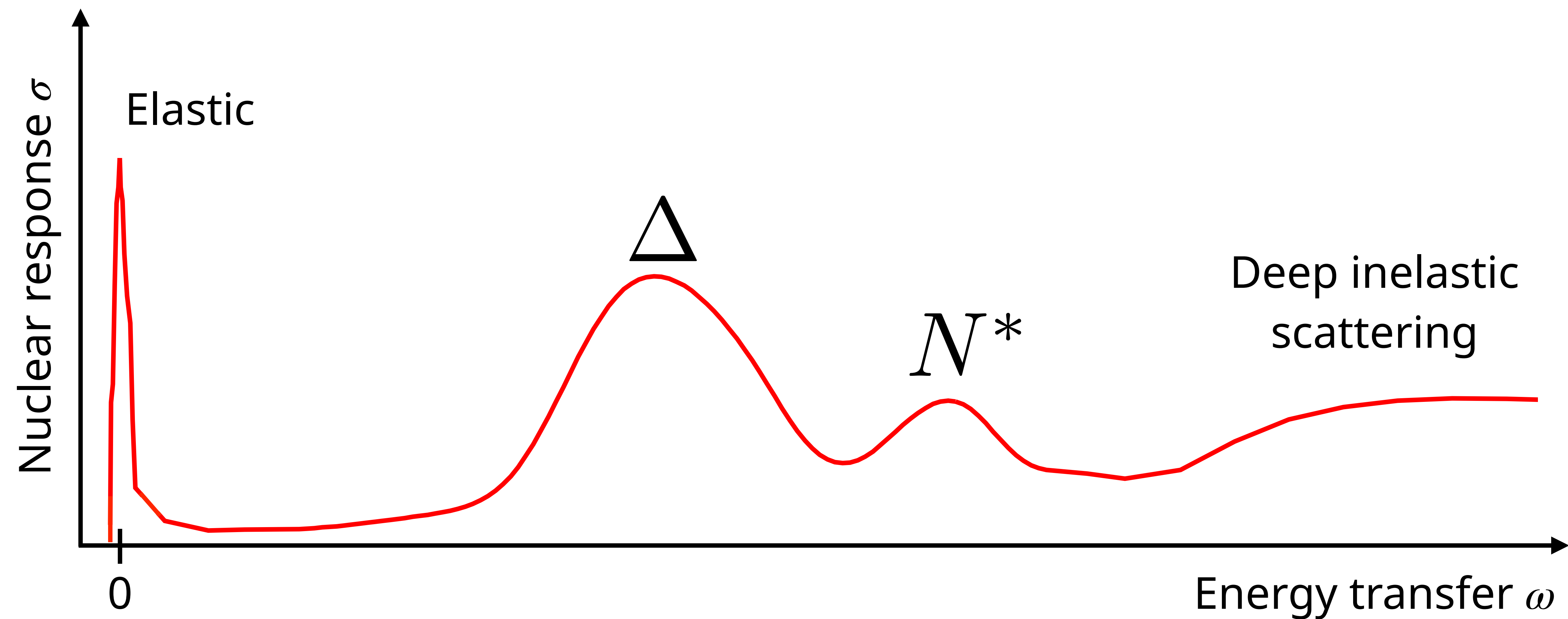


# Studying the proton with electron scattering



- Powerful method used since the 1950s
- Electrons are abundant, easy to control and detect
- Typical to assume Born approximation
  - Scattering mediated by single virtual photon
- Clean separation of (known) lepton vertex from (unknown) hadronic vertex

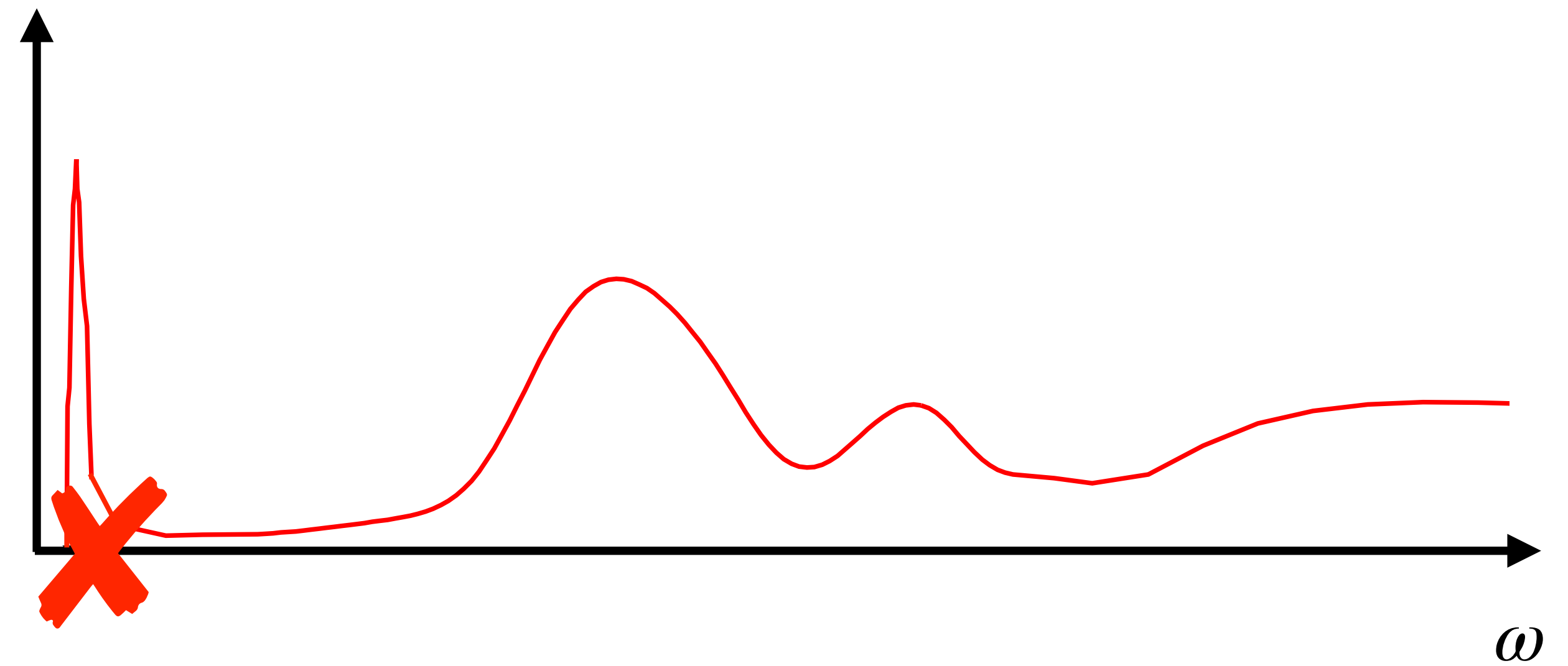
# Proton response function



# Today's roadmap

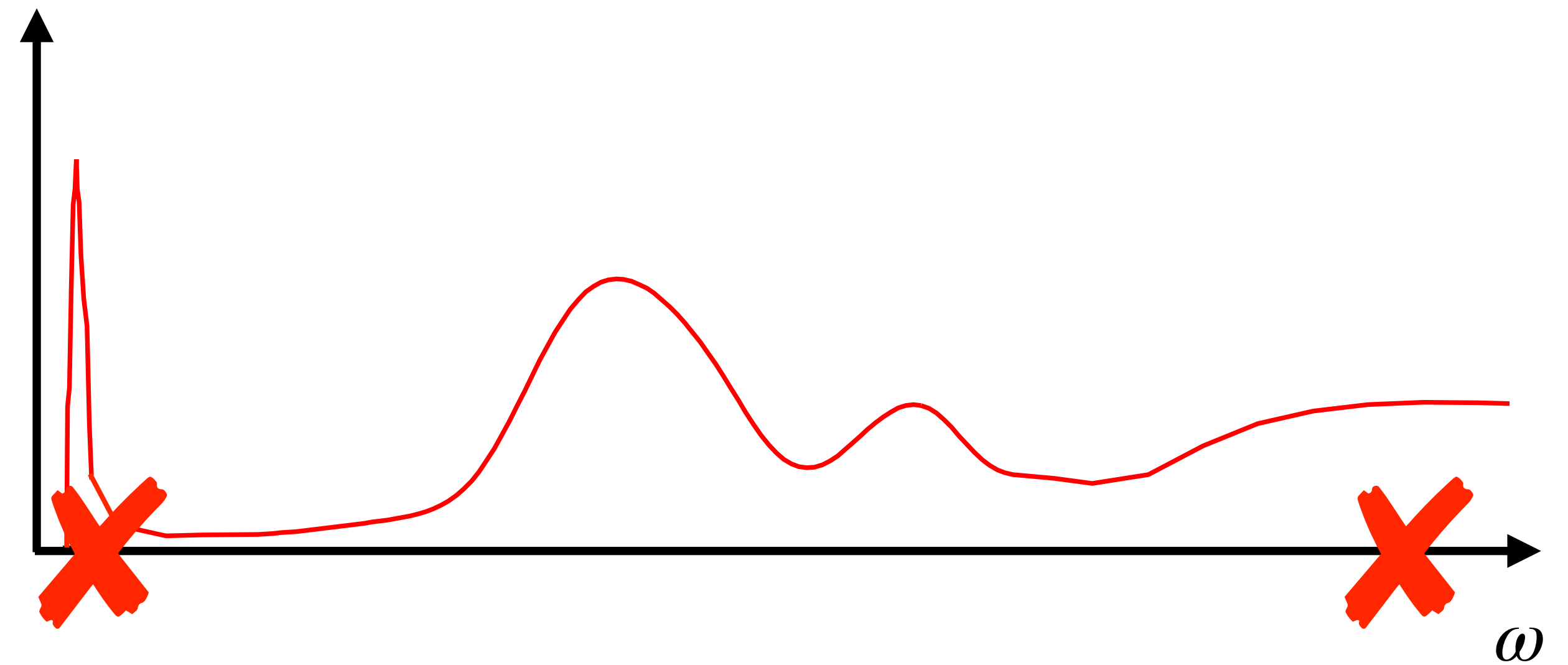
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- Elastic scattering:
  - Proton form factor ratio and multi-photon exchange
  - Proton weak charge



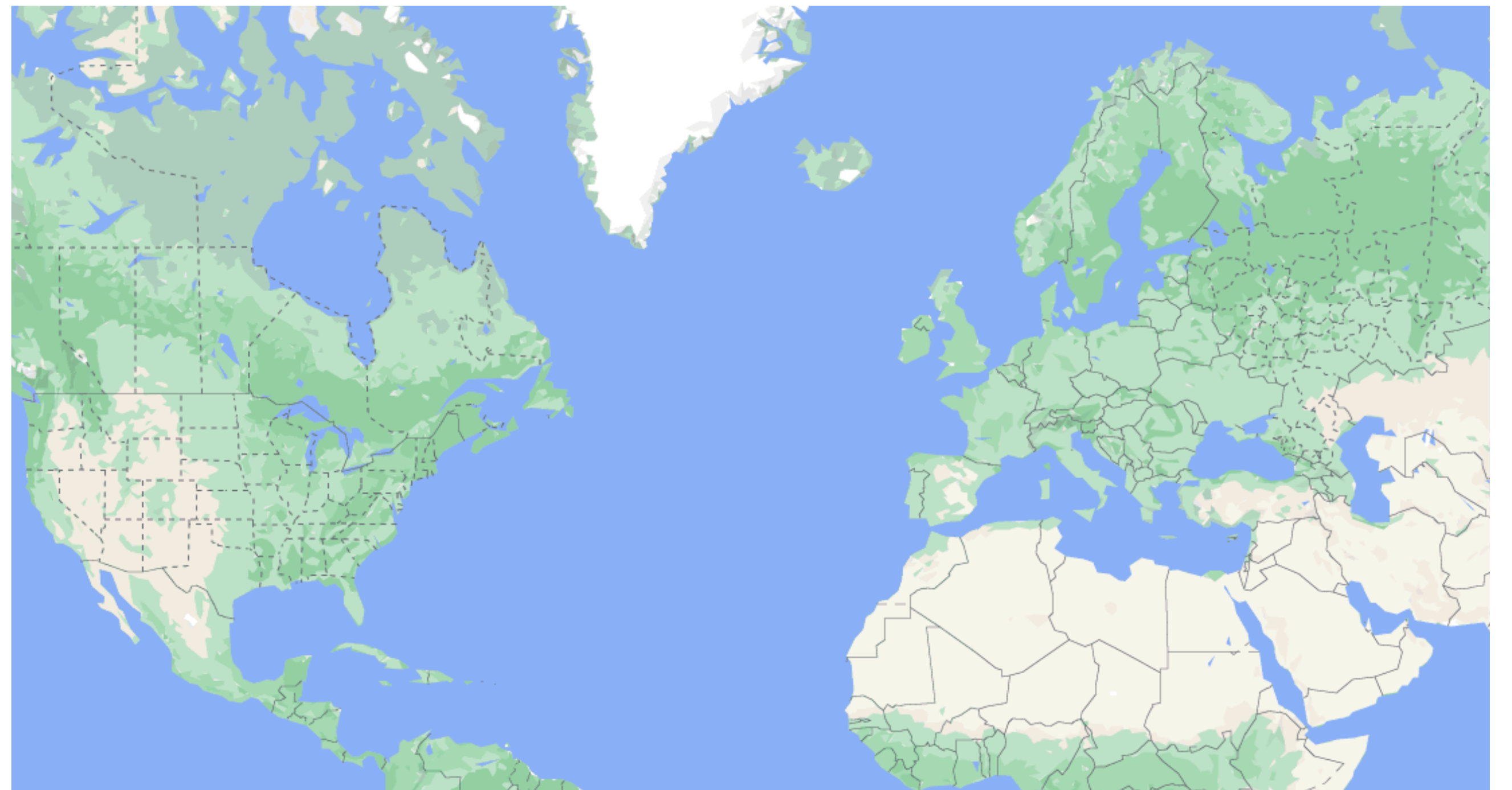
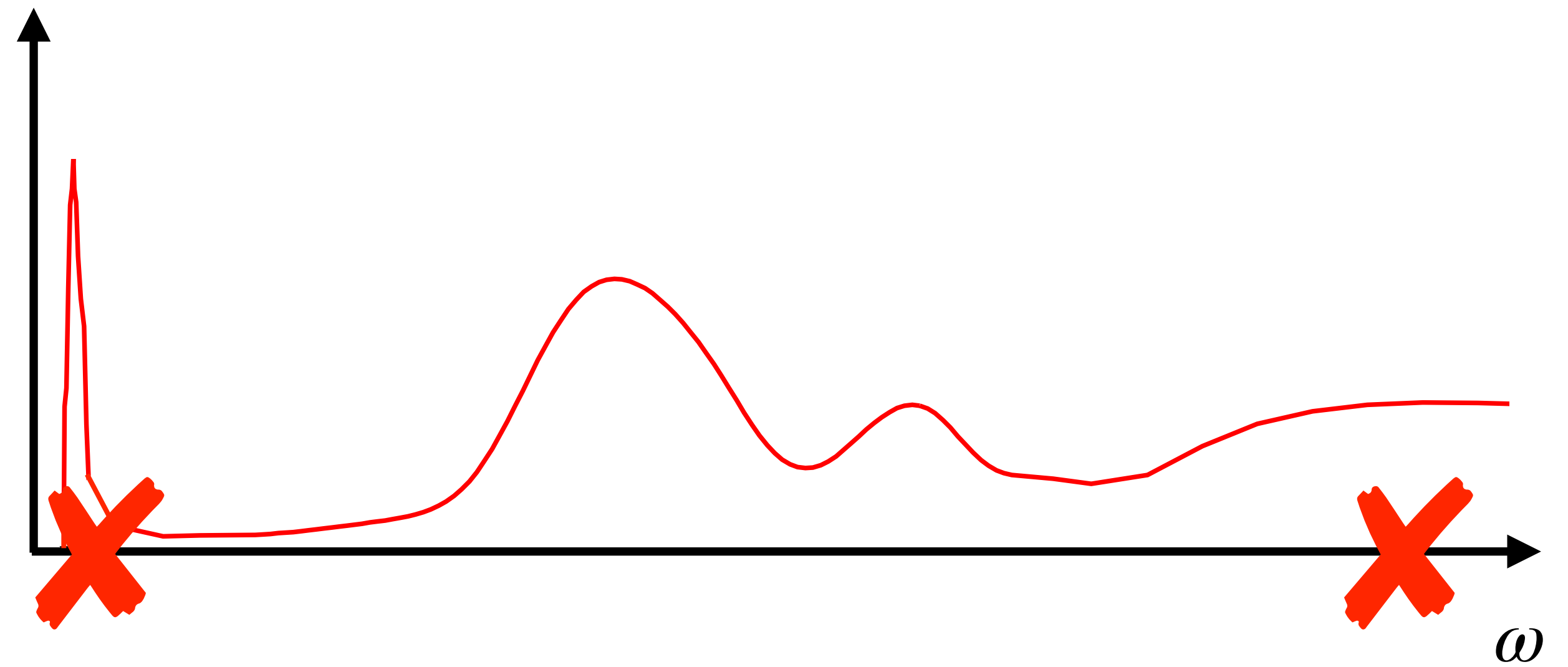
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- Elastic scattering:
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- Deep inelastic scattering
  - Origin of proton spin



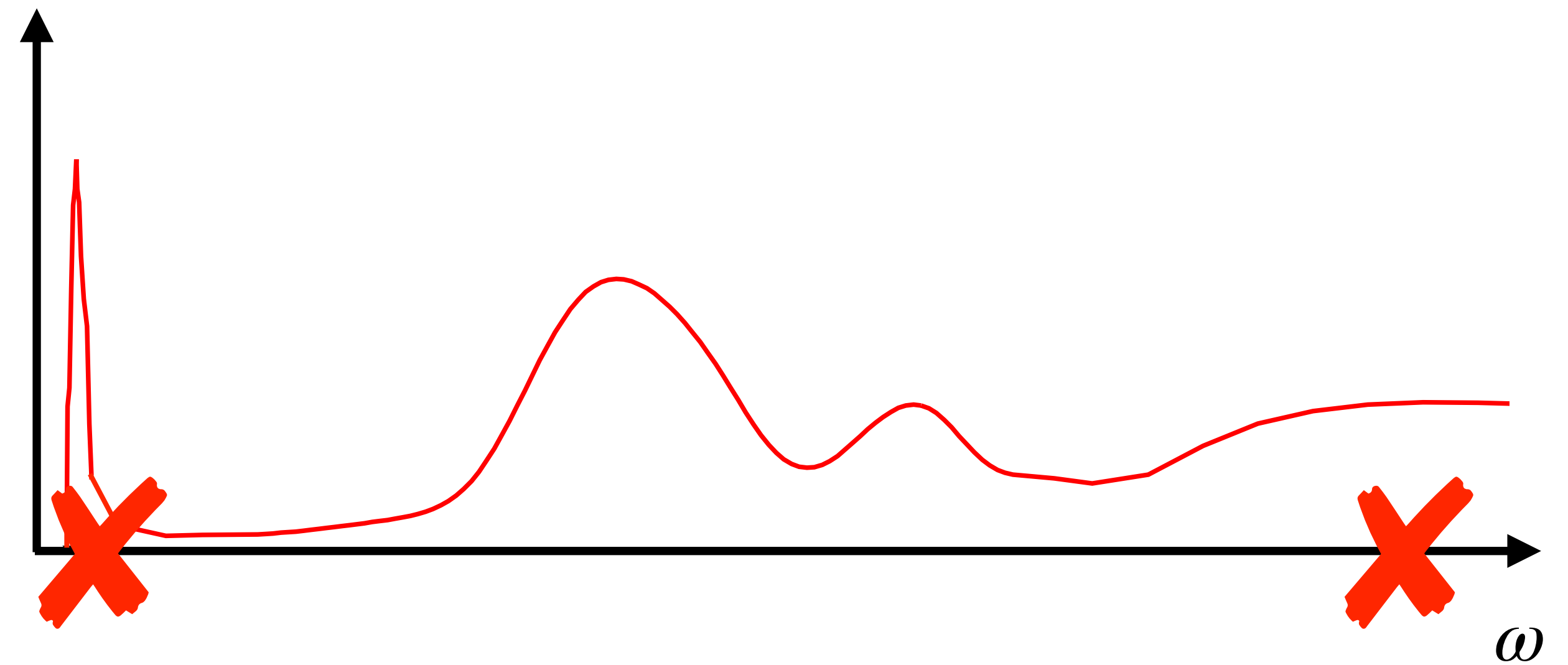
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- Will discuss some relevant **experimental facilities** and **techniques** along the way



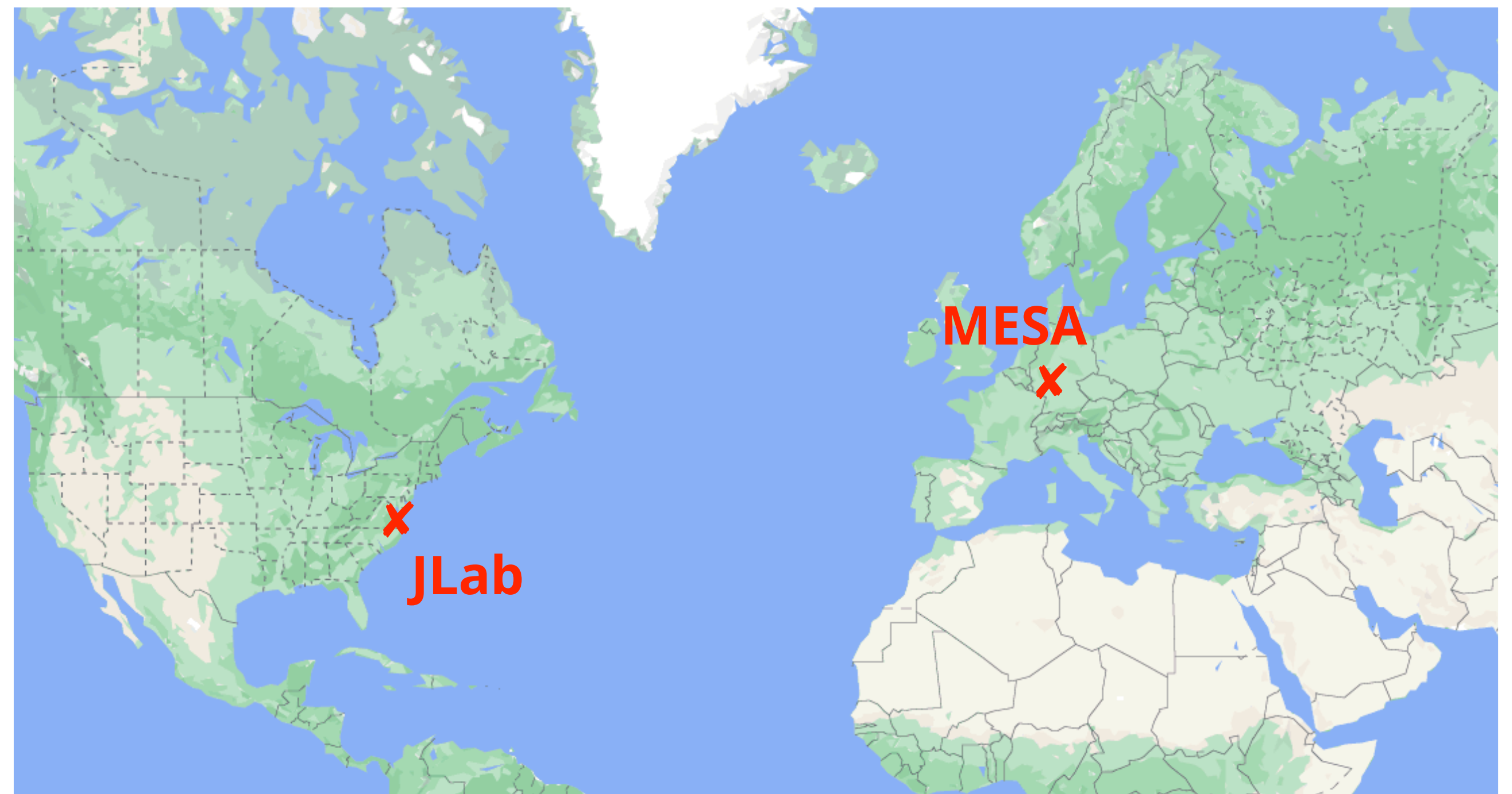
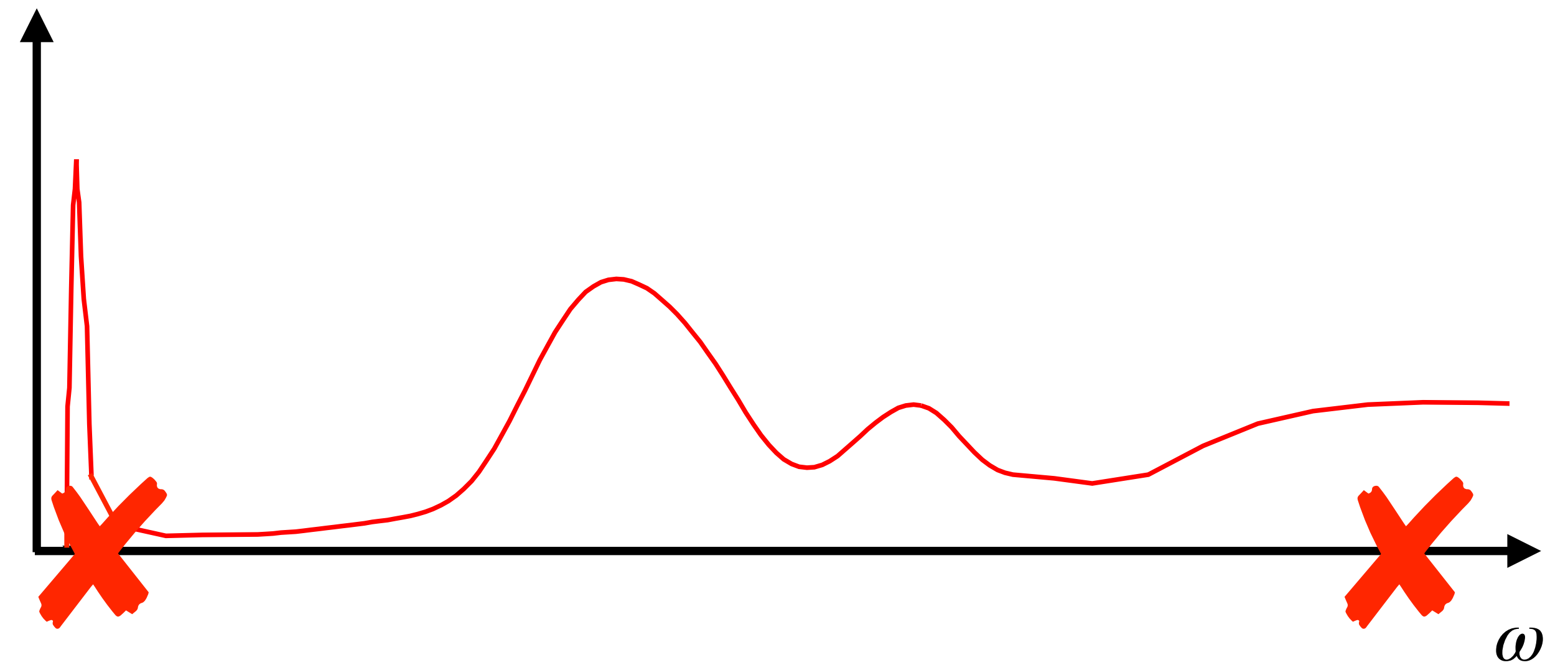
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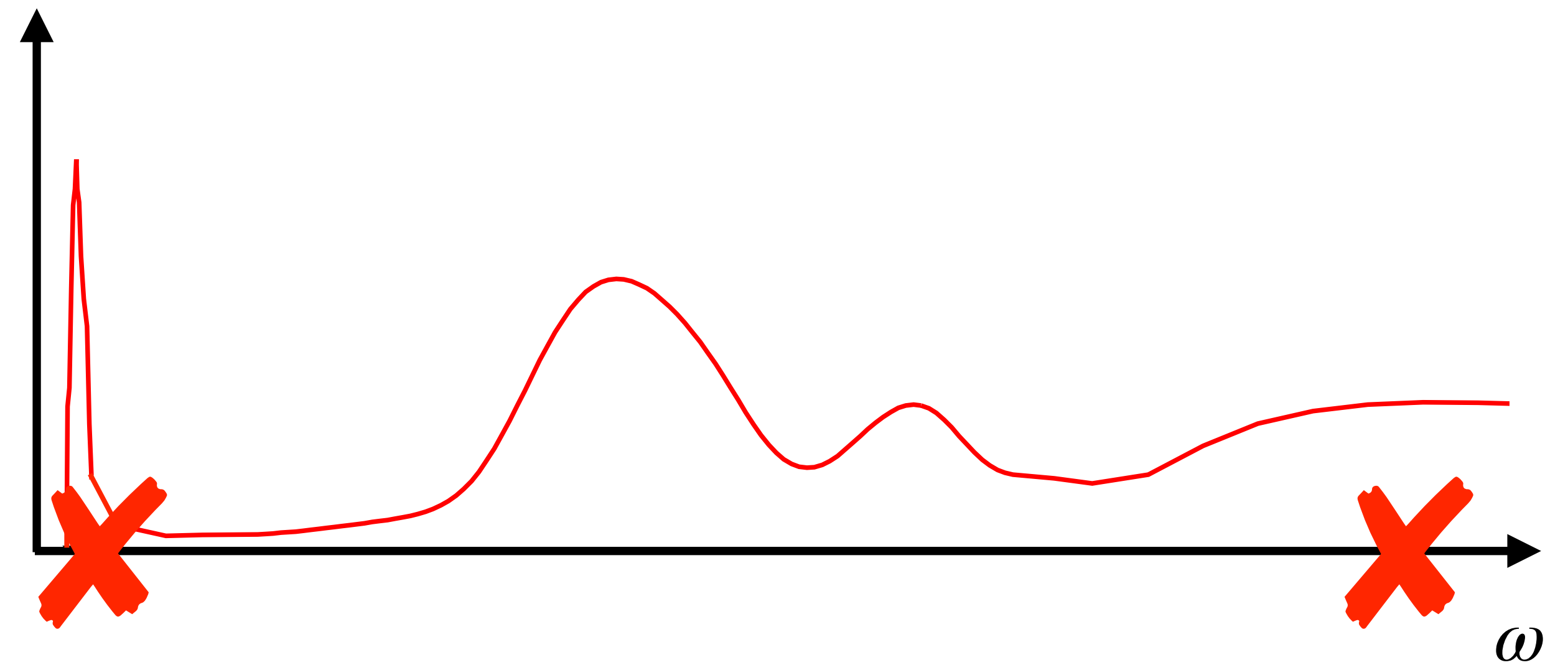
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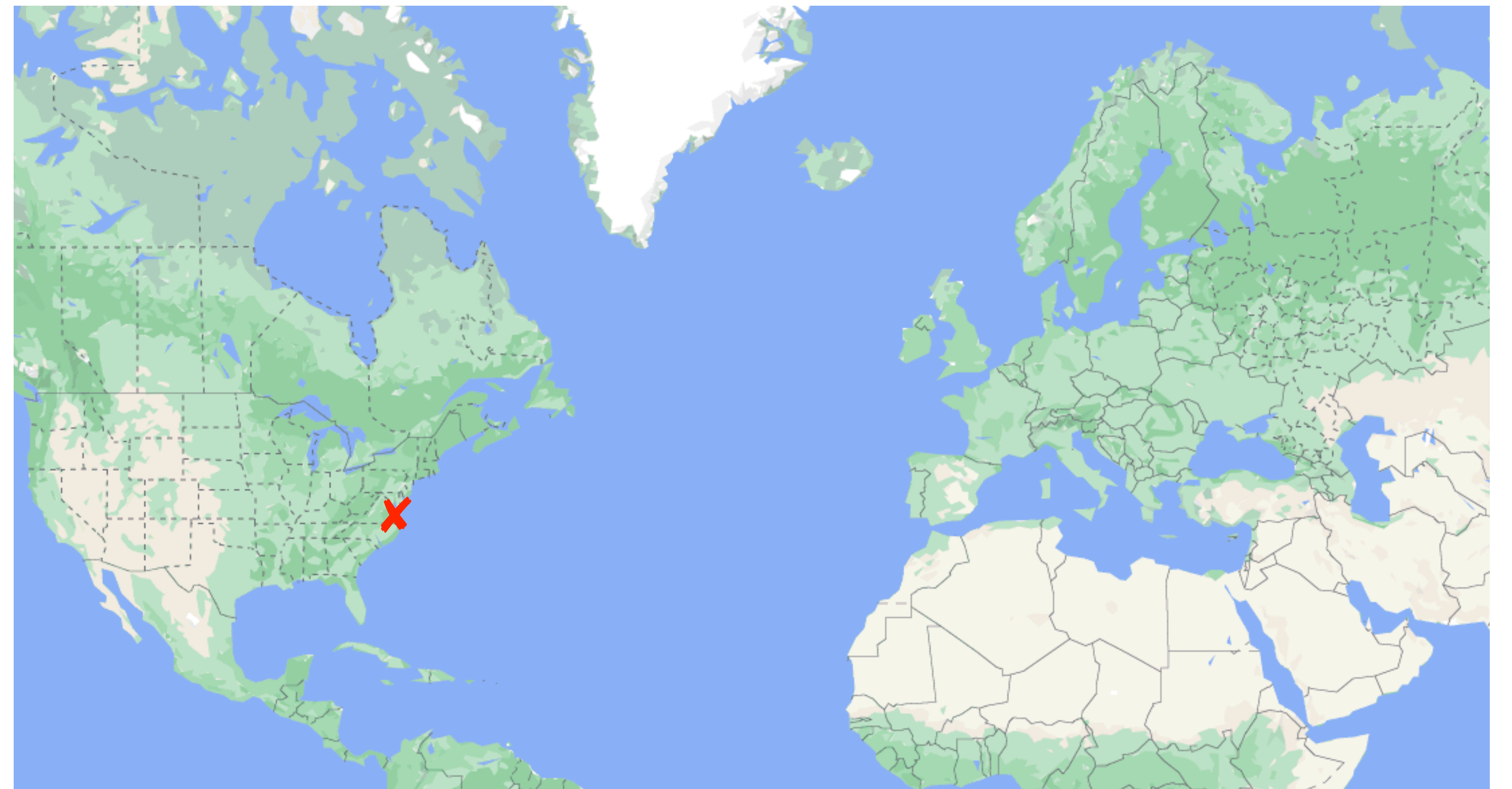
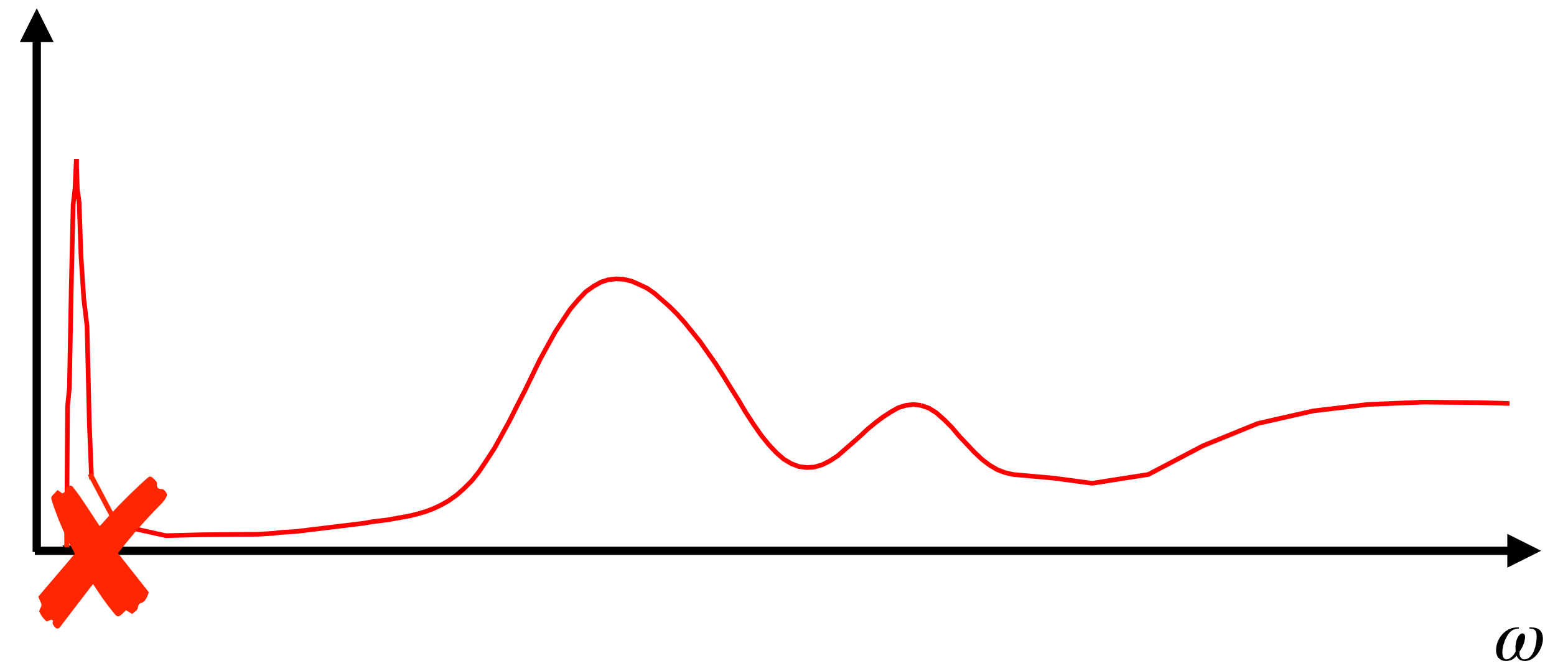
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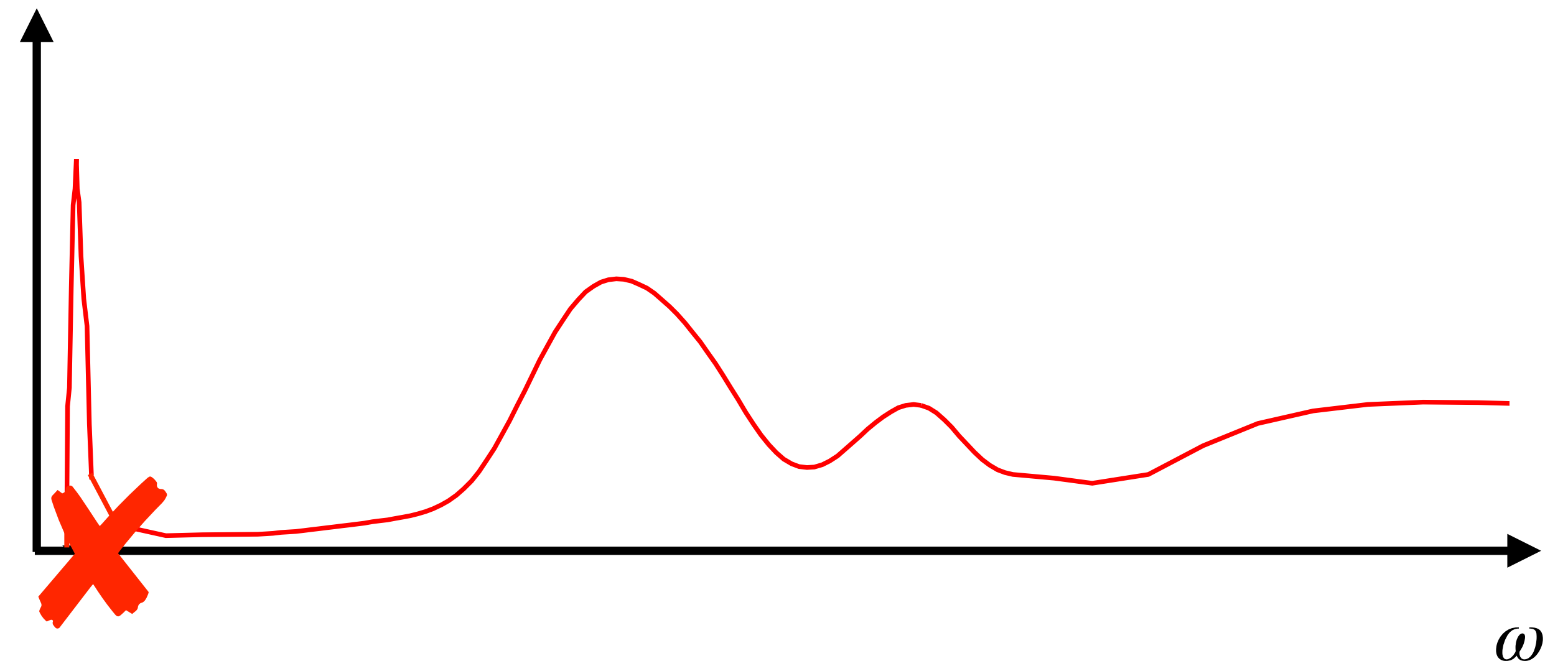
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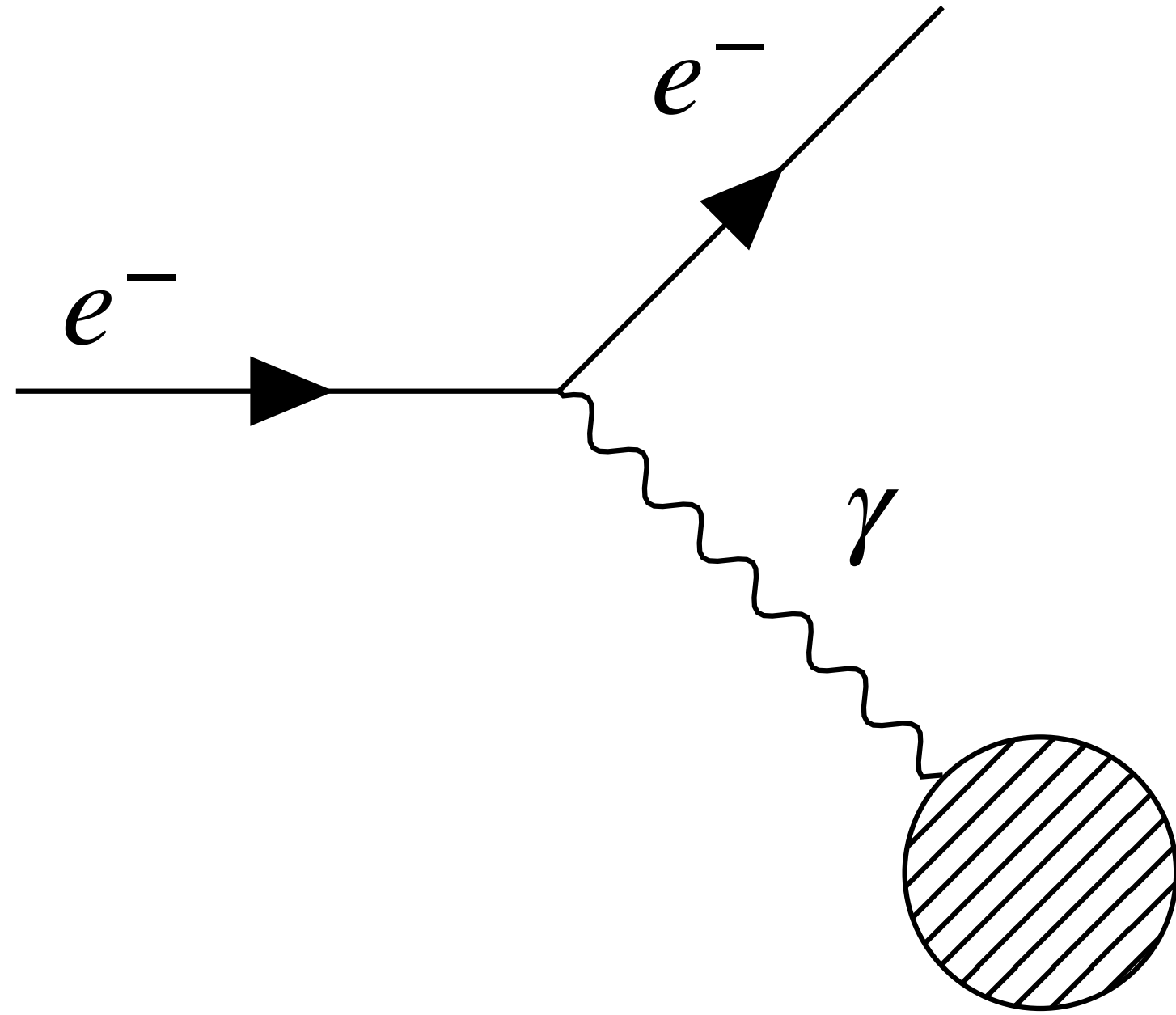


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# Elastic cross section



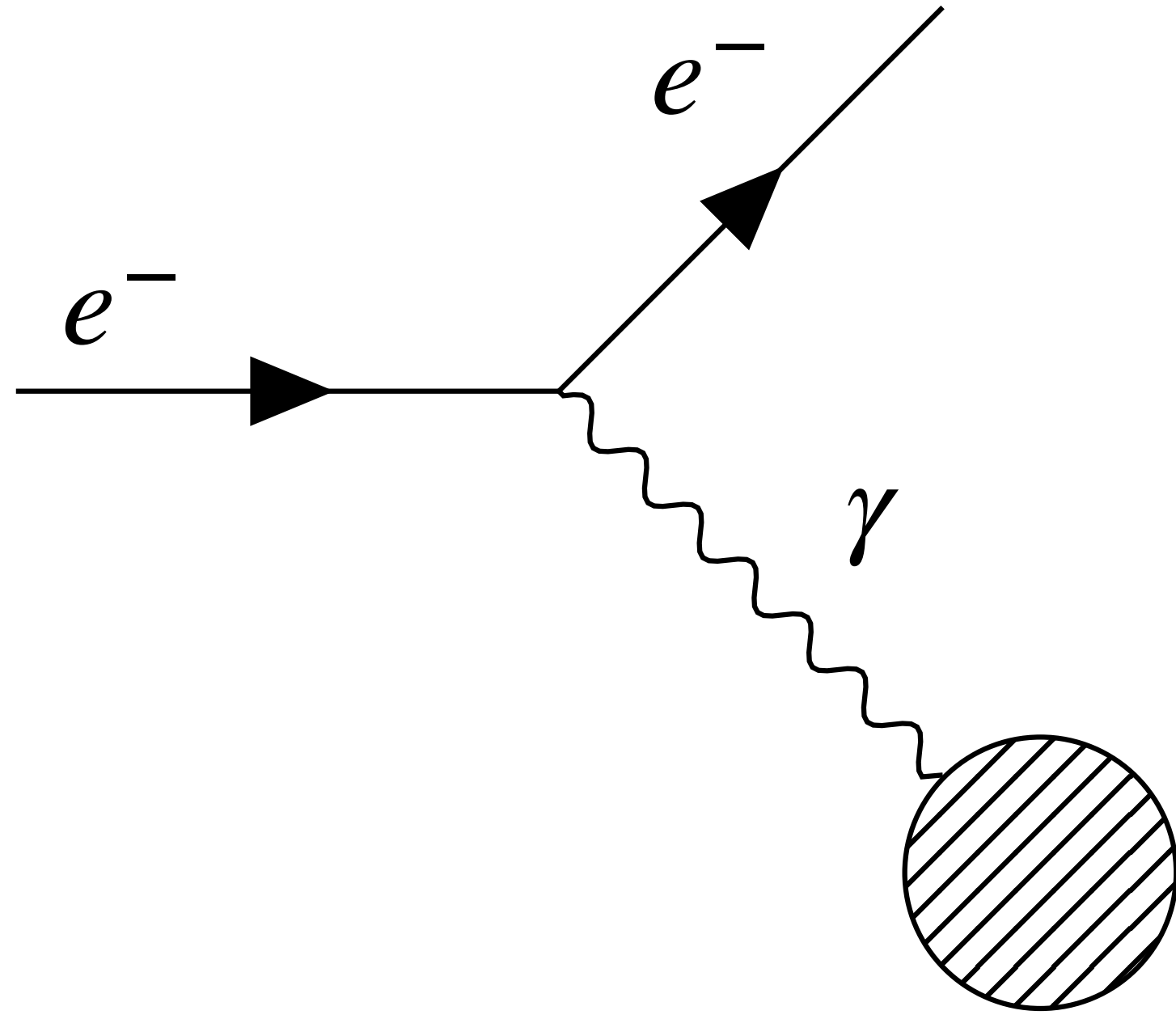
Momentum transfer squared

$$Q^2 = -q^2 = 4EE' \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

Structureless (pointlike) target

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{\text{Mott}} = \frac{4Z^2 \alpha^2 E'^2}{Q^4} \frac{E'}{E} \left( 1 - \beta^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$
$$\approx \frac{4Z^2 \alpha^2 E'^2}{Q^4} \frac{E'}{E} \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

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Extended target

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left( \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{\text{Mott}} \frac{\varepsilon G_E^2(Q^2) + \tau G_M^2(Q^2)}{\varepsilon(1 + \tau)}$$

$$\tau = Q^2 / 4M^2 \quad \varepsilon = \left( 1 + 2(1 + \tau) \tan^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right)^{-1}$$

# Elastic cross section

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- Structure parameterized with electric and magnetic form factors  
→ *Fourier transforms* of charge and current densities

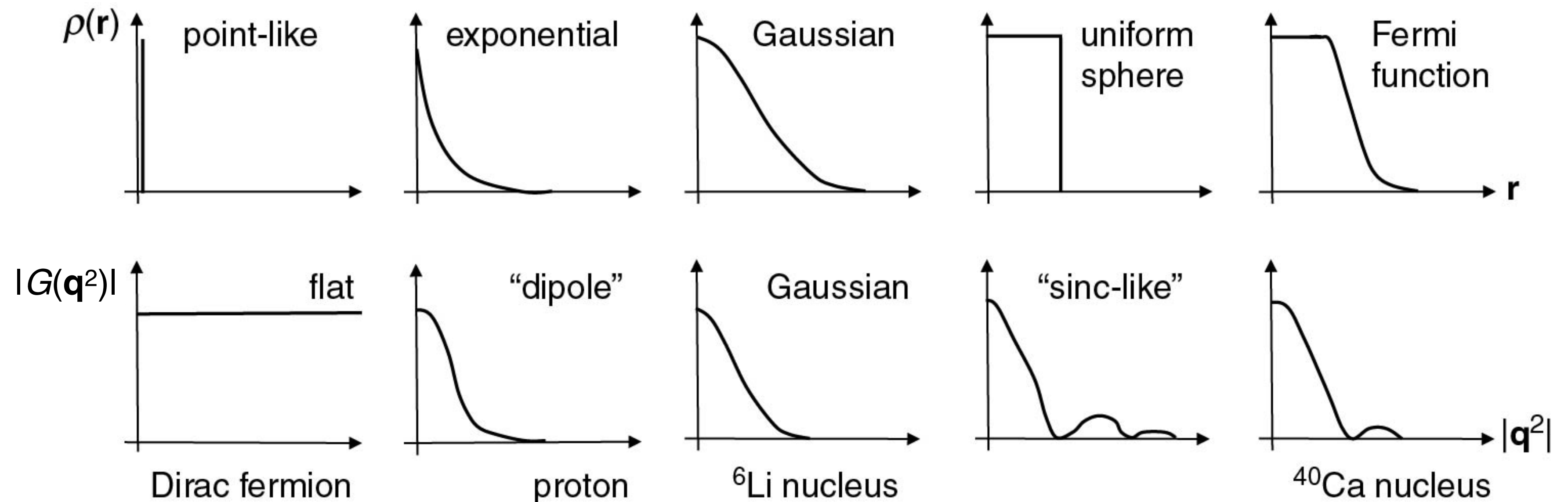
$$G(\mathbf{q}) = \int \rho(\mathbf{x}) e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} d^3x$$

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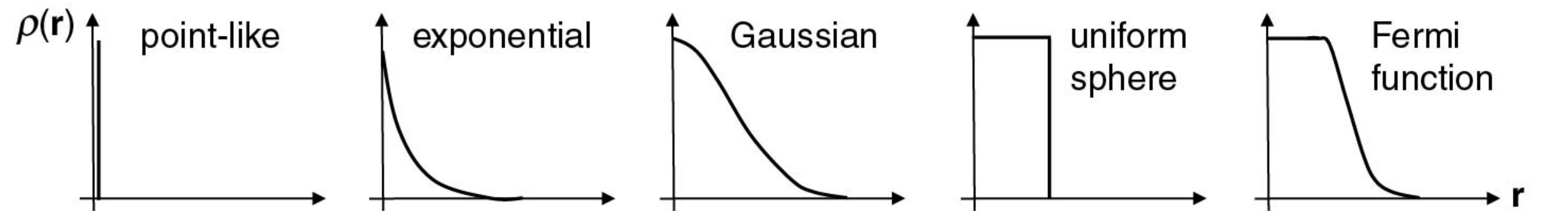


# Elastic cross section

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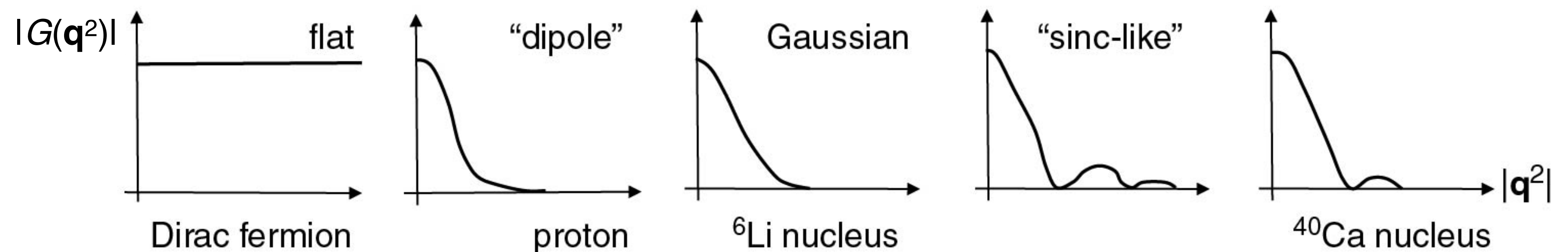
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Low  $Q^2$  expansion:

$$\langle r^2 \rangle \approx -6 \left. \frac{dG(Q^2)}{dQ^2} \right|_{Q^2=0}$$



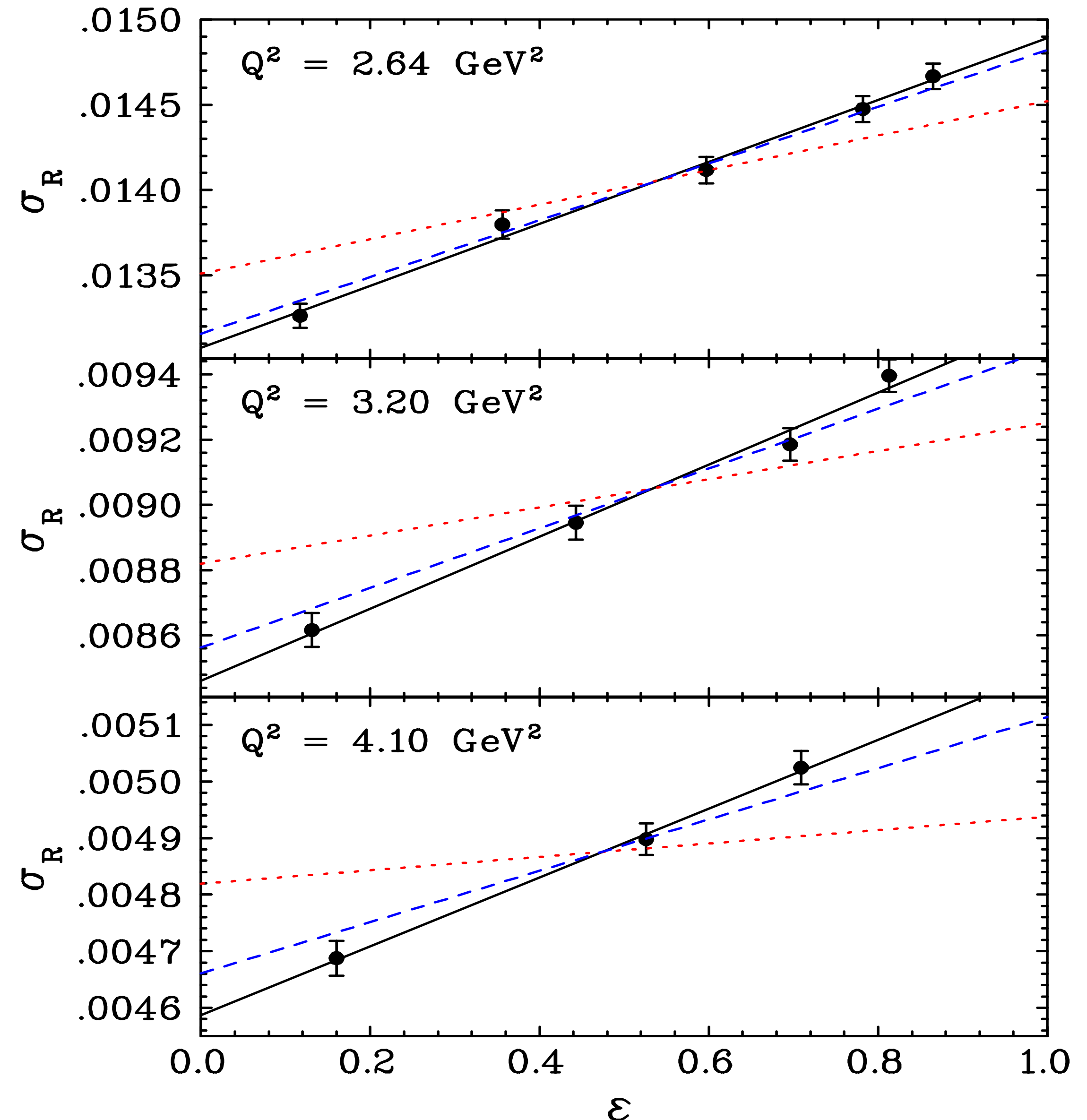
# Proton form factors from Rosenbluth separation

- Method employed since 1960s
- Reduced cross section:

$$\sigma_R = \left( \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \cdot \varepsilon(1 + \tau) \right) / \left( \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{\text{Mott}}$$

$$= \varepsilon G_E^2(Q^2) + \tau G_M^2(Q^2)$$

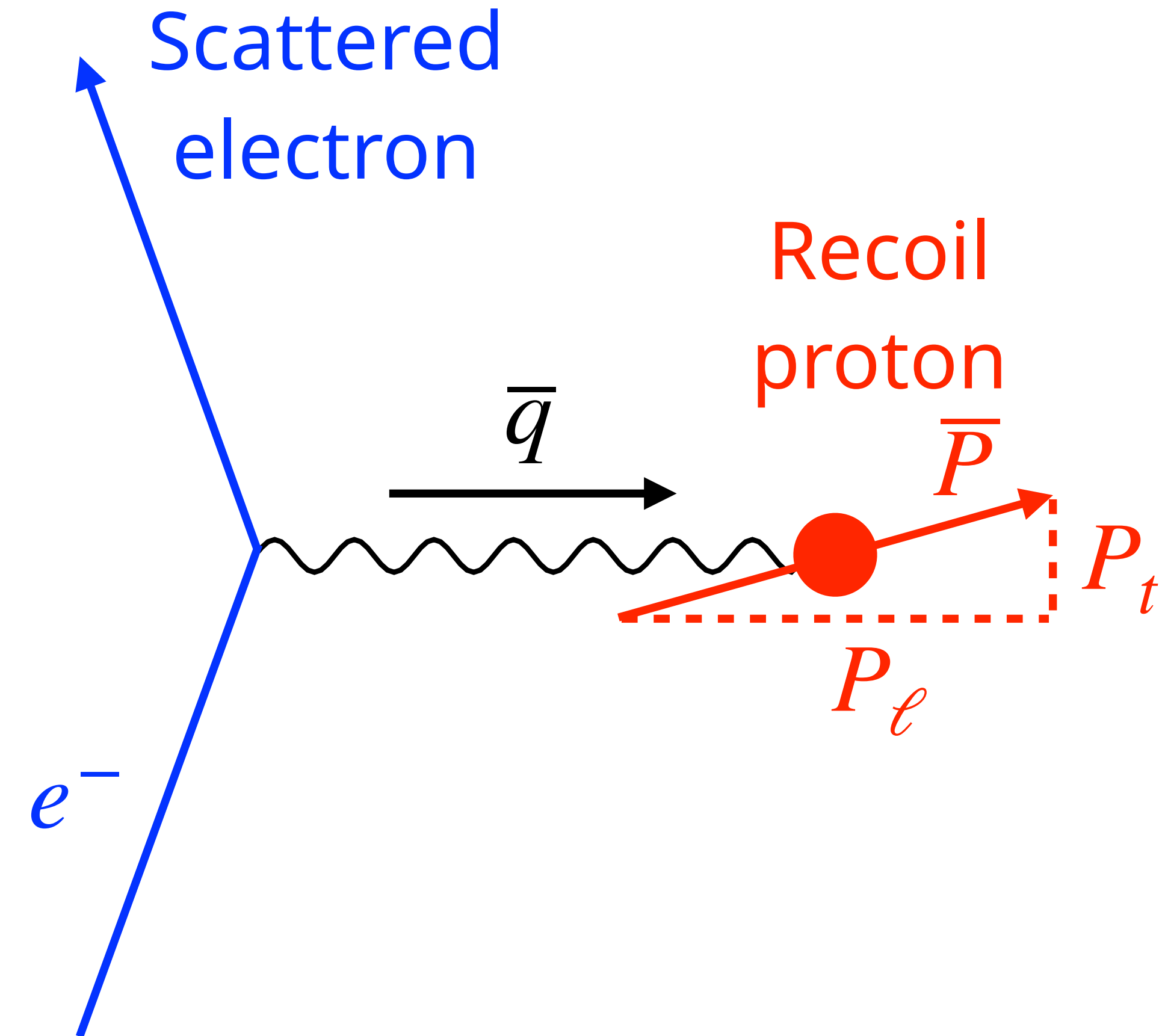
- Measure  $\sigma_R$  at fixed  $Q^2$  for differing  $\varepsilon$
- Slope, intercept of linear fit yields  $G_E$ ,  $G_M$  (up to sign)



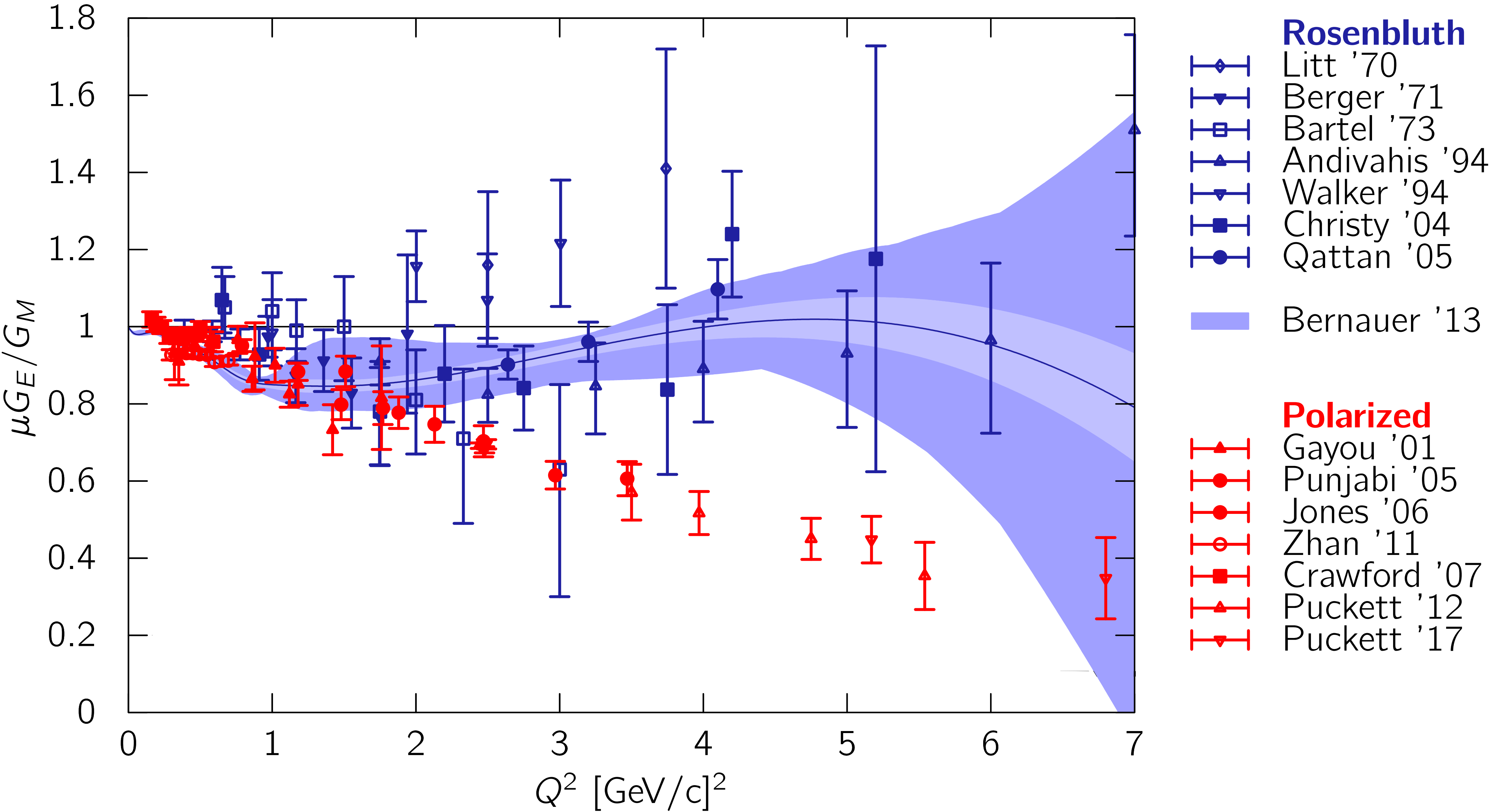
# Proton form factor ratio from polarization transfer

- Pioneered at JLab in the 2000s
- Longitudinally polarized electrons on unpolarized protons
- Polarization transferred to the proton
- Detect components of recoil proton polarization  $\bar{P}$  (relative to  $\bar{q}$ )
- Ratio of transverse/longitudinal components directly gives form factor ratio:

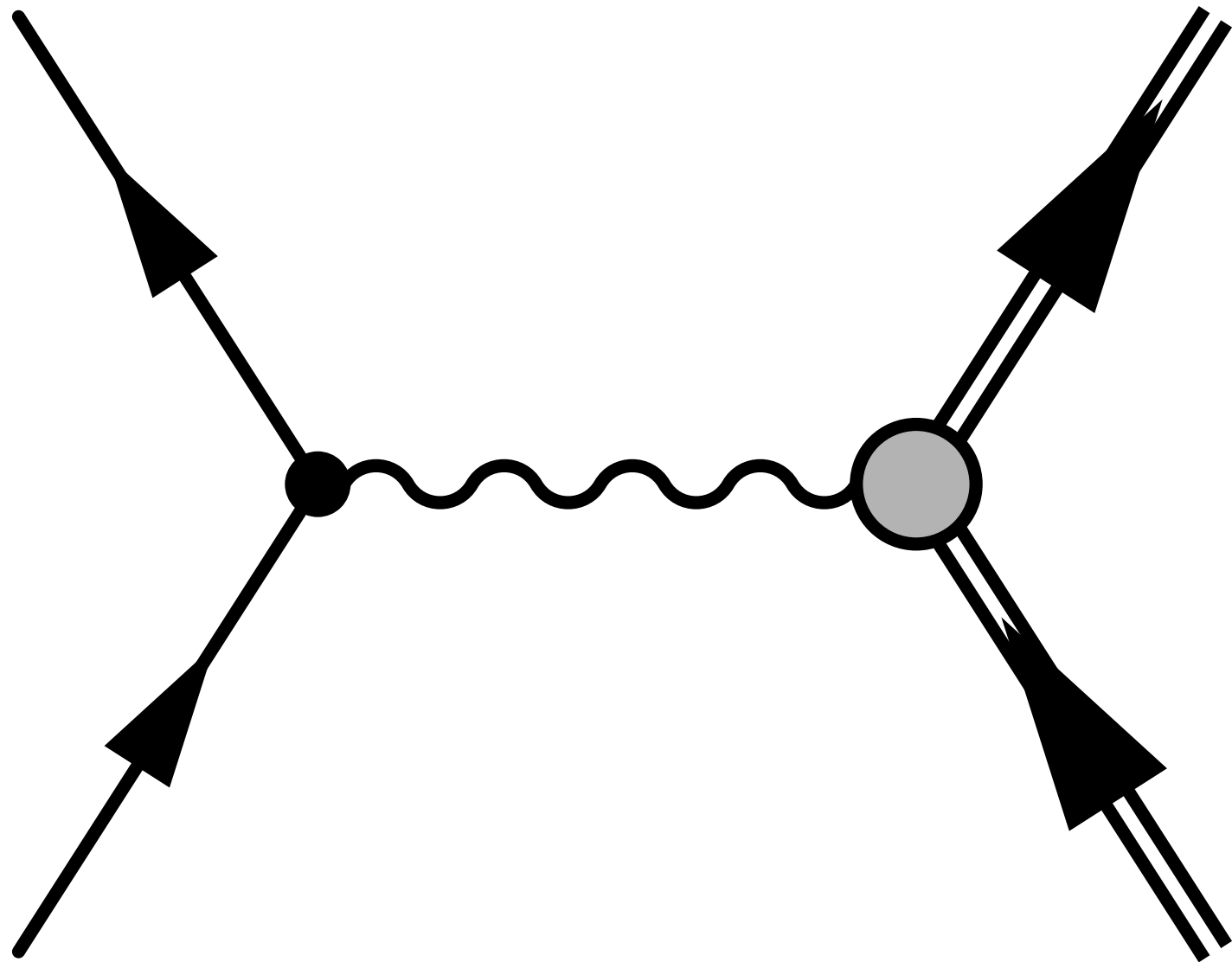
$$\frac{G_E}{G_M} = -\frac{P_t}{P_\ell} \sqrt{\frac{\tau(1+\varepsilon)}{2\varepsilon}}$$



# Different methods show discrepancy in form factor ratio



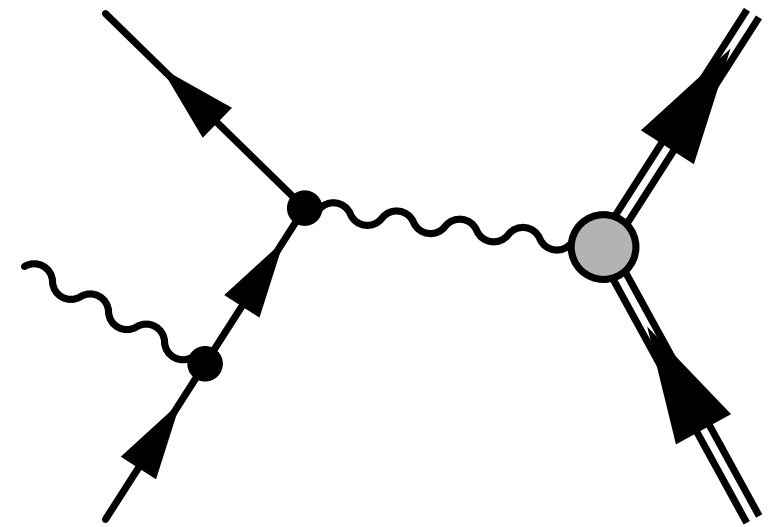
# Beyond the Born approximation



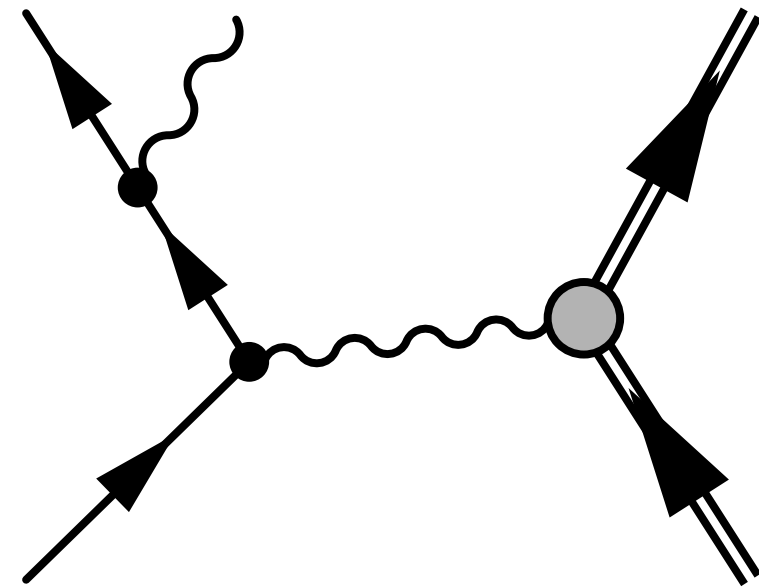
- Single-photon exchange useful picture
- But...this never happens!
- Many higher-order QED contributions to scattering process

# Beyond the Born approximation

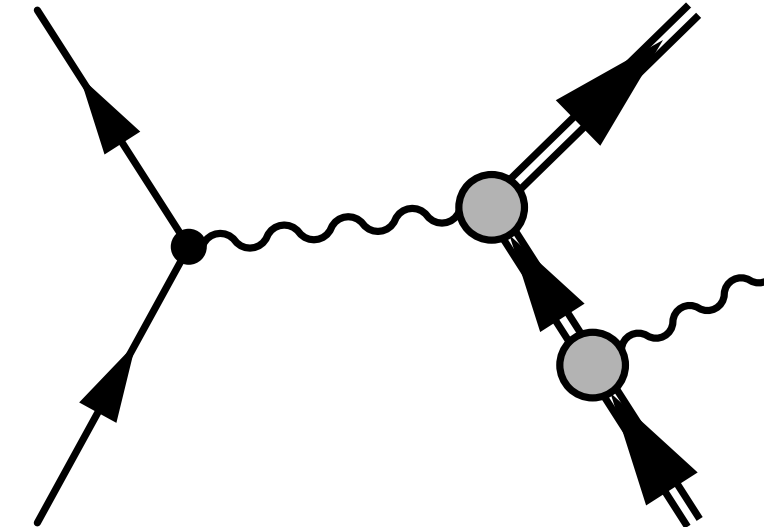
Bremsstrahlung



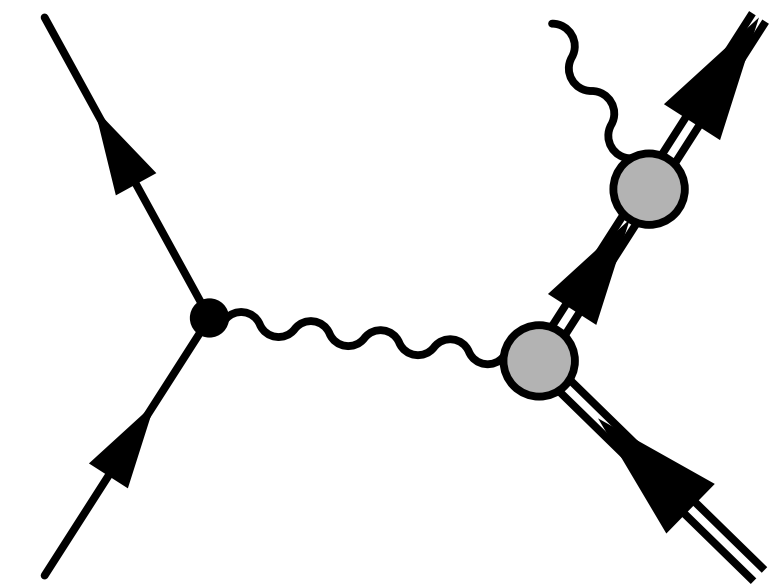
$e$  vertex



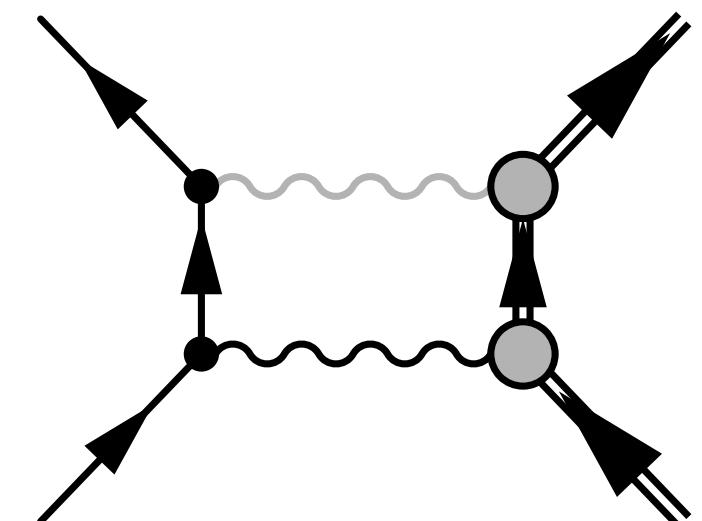
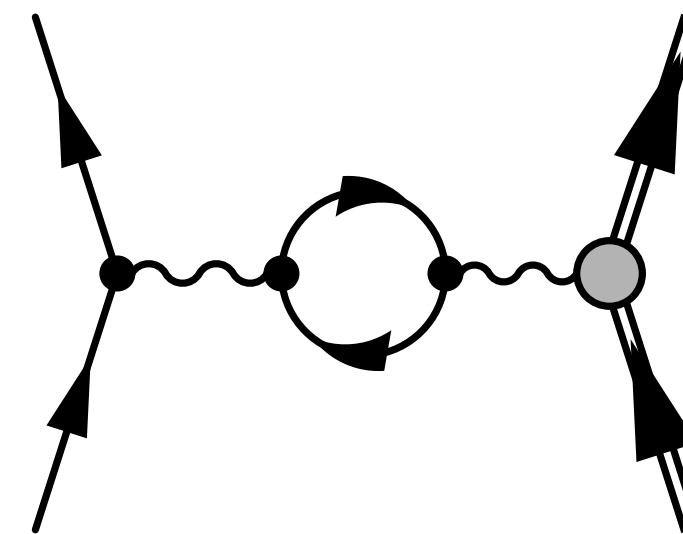
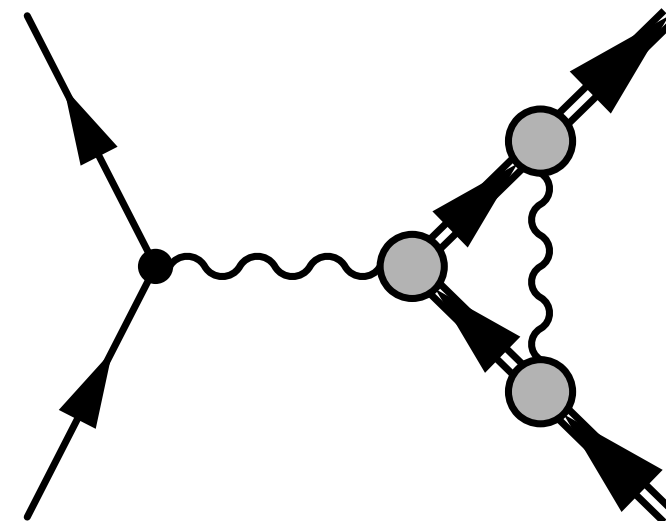
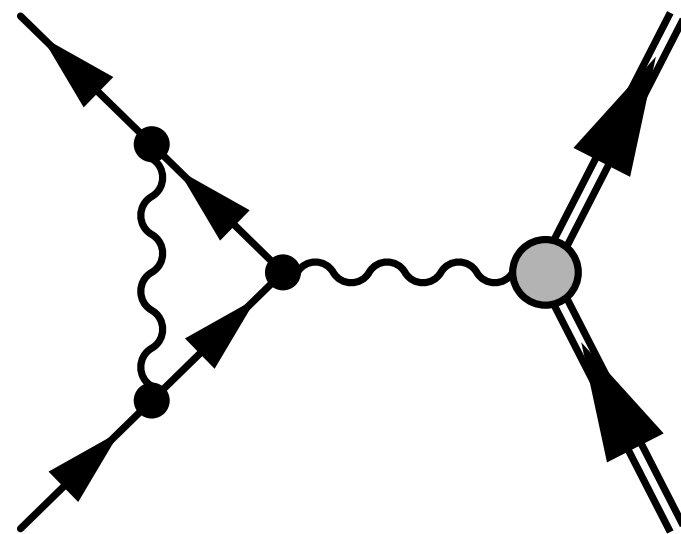
$p$  vertex



Vacuum  
polarization

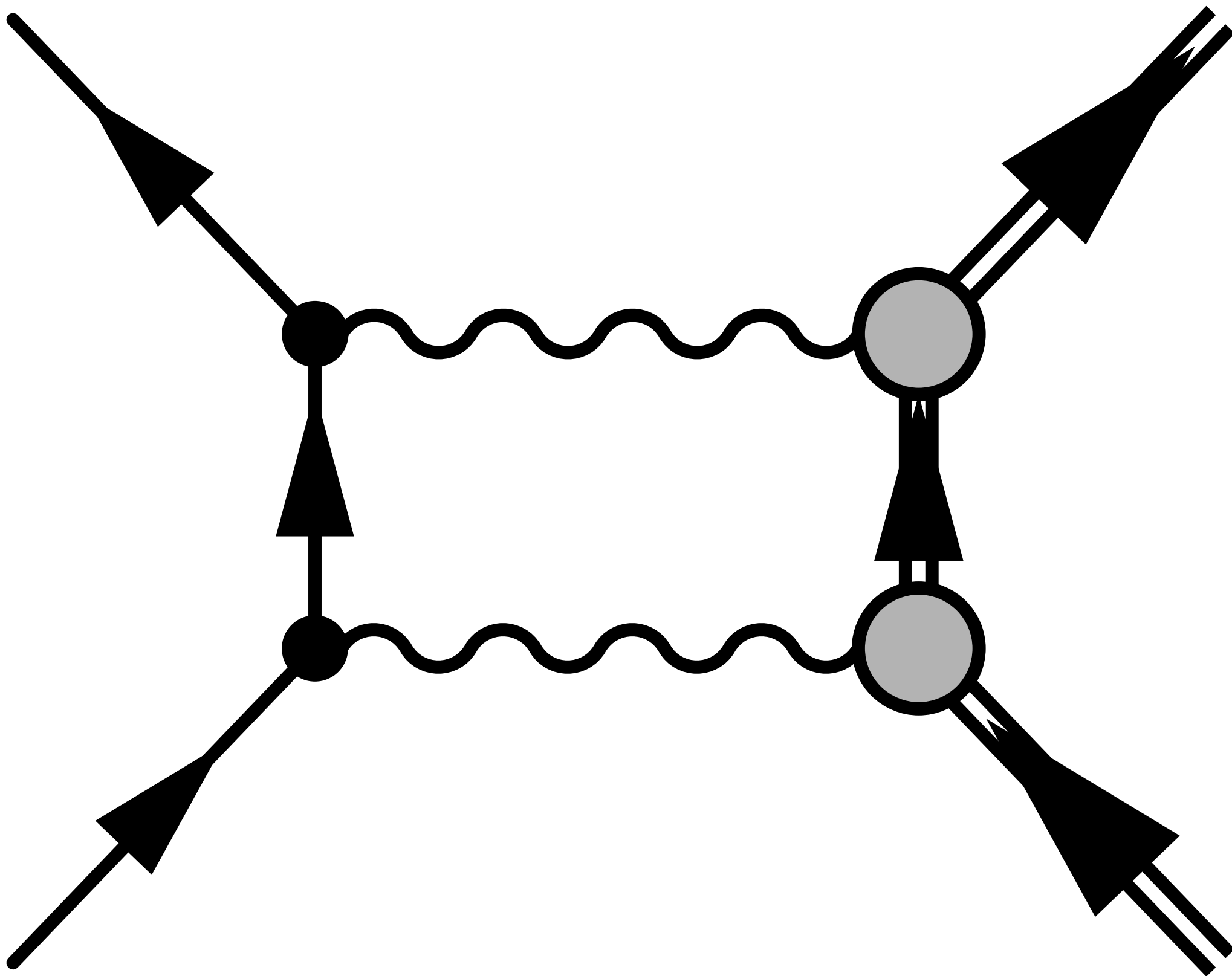


Soft TPE

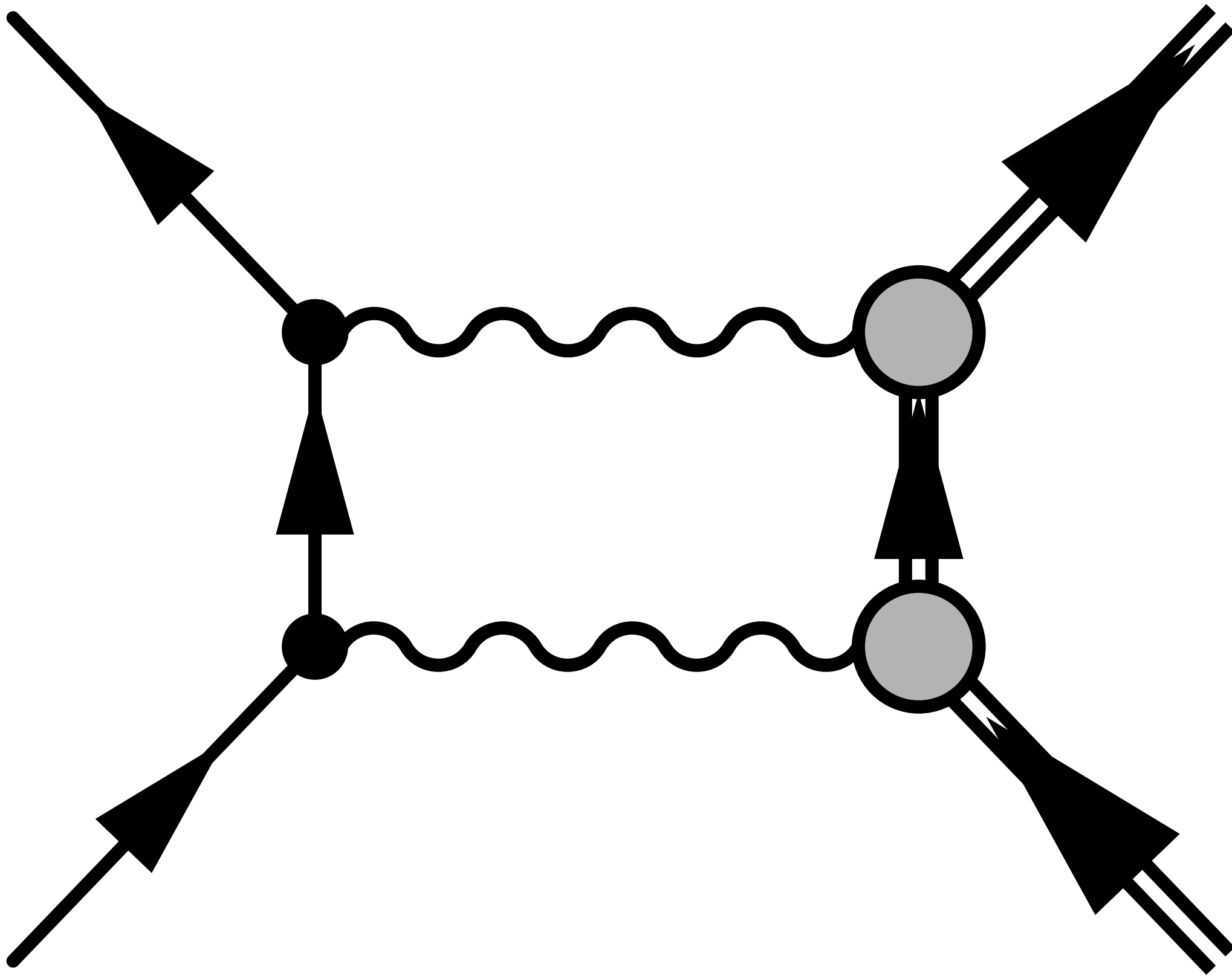


“Radiative corrections” :  
calculate theoretically, subtract from experimental cross section

# Missing radiative correction: hard two-photon exchange



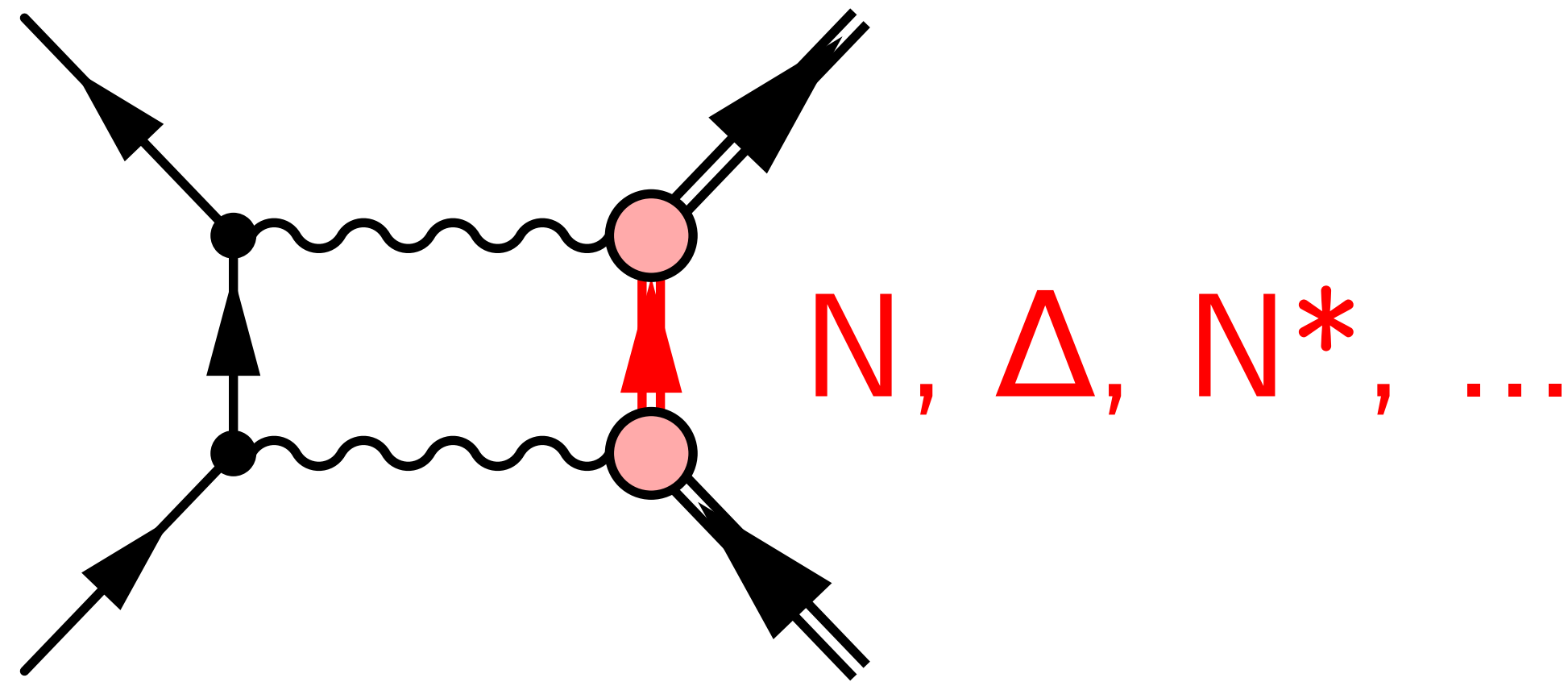
# Missing radiative correction: hard two-photon exchange



- Hard: both photons carry significant four-momentum
- Unlike other radiative processes, the hadronic vertex does not factorize
- Intrinsically depends on internal structure of the proton!

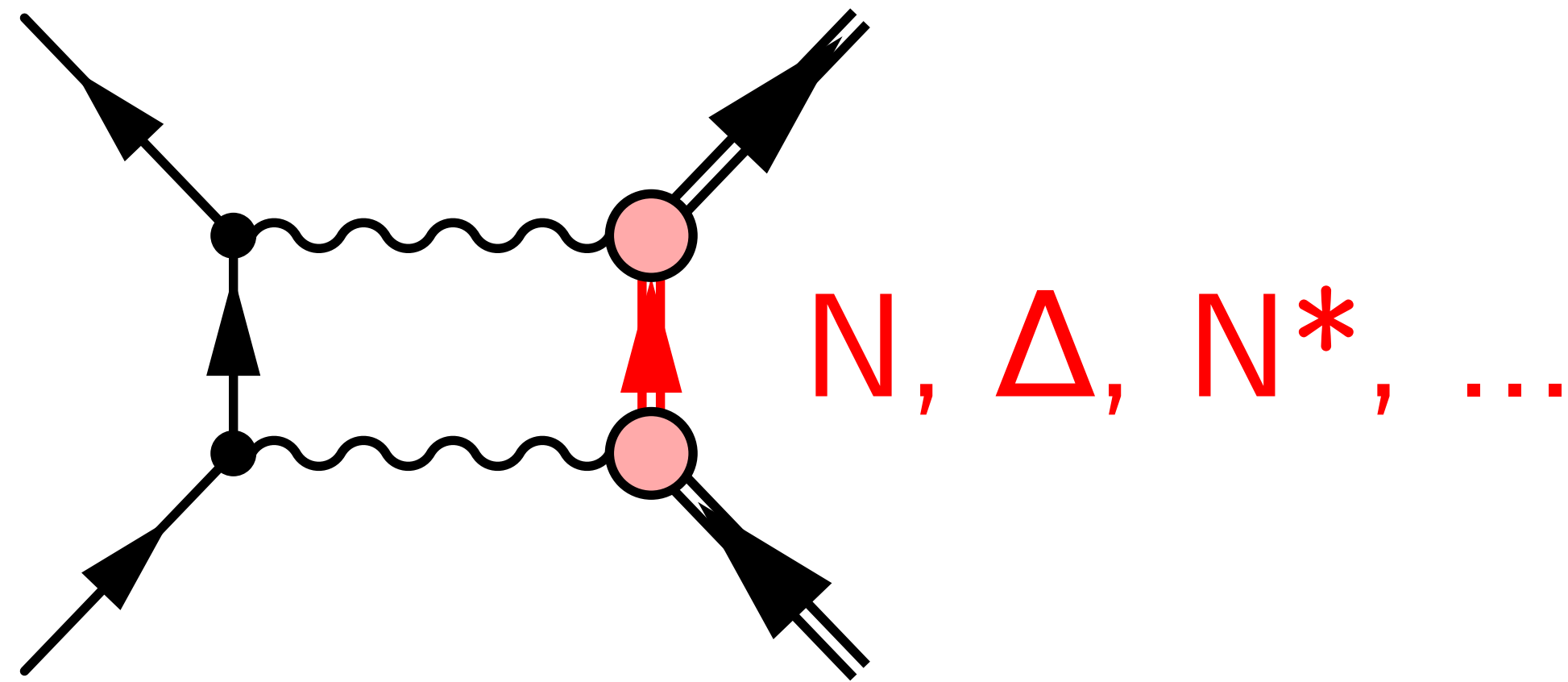
# Calculation of hard TPE model-dependent

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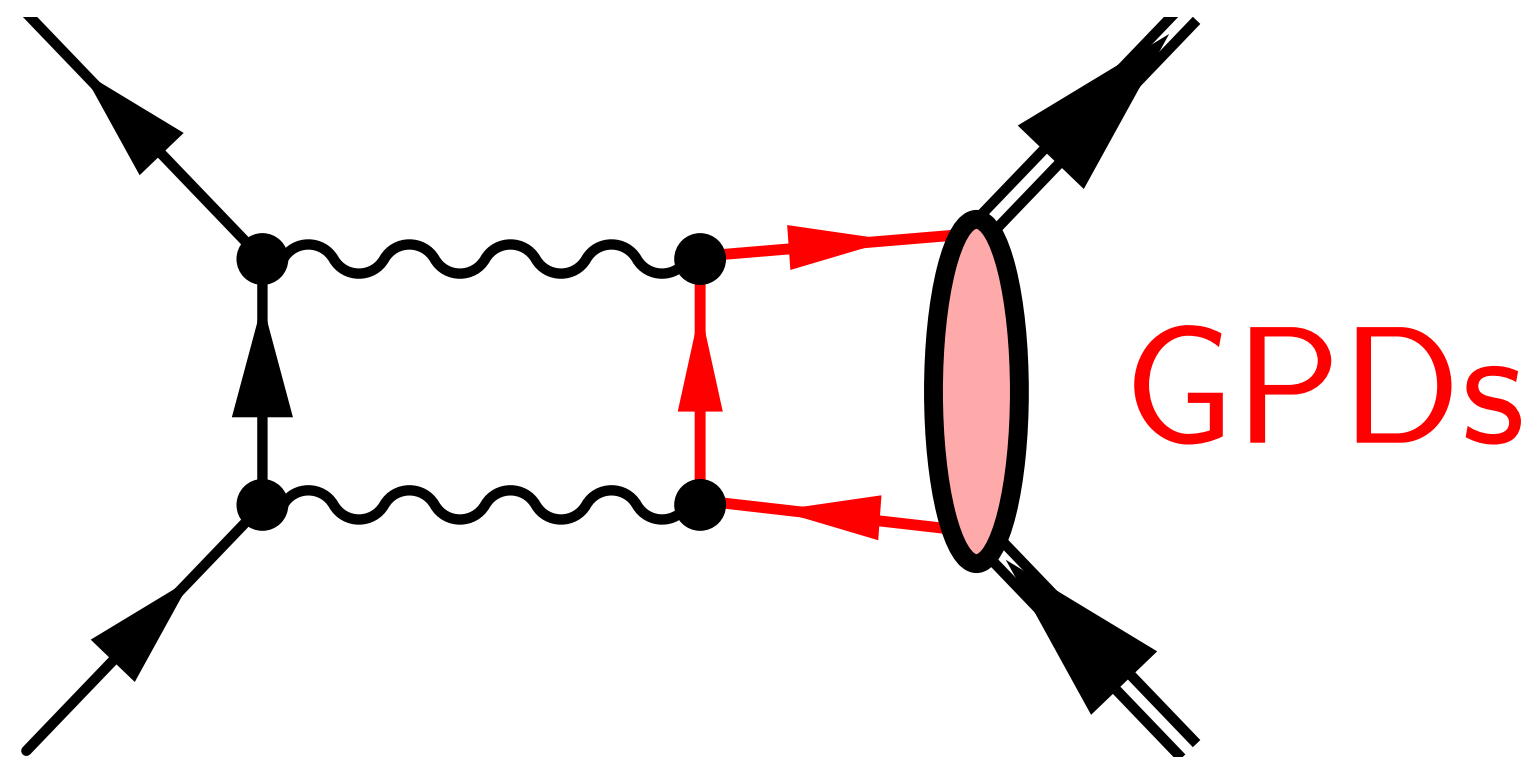
- Sum over intermediate hadronic states  
e.g. [Ahmed, Blunden, Melnitchouk  
PRC 102, 045205 \(2020\)](#)
- $Q^2 \lesssim 3 \text{ GeV}^2$ .

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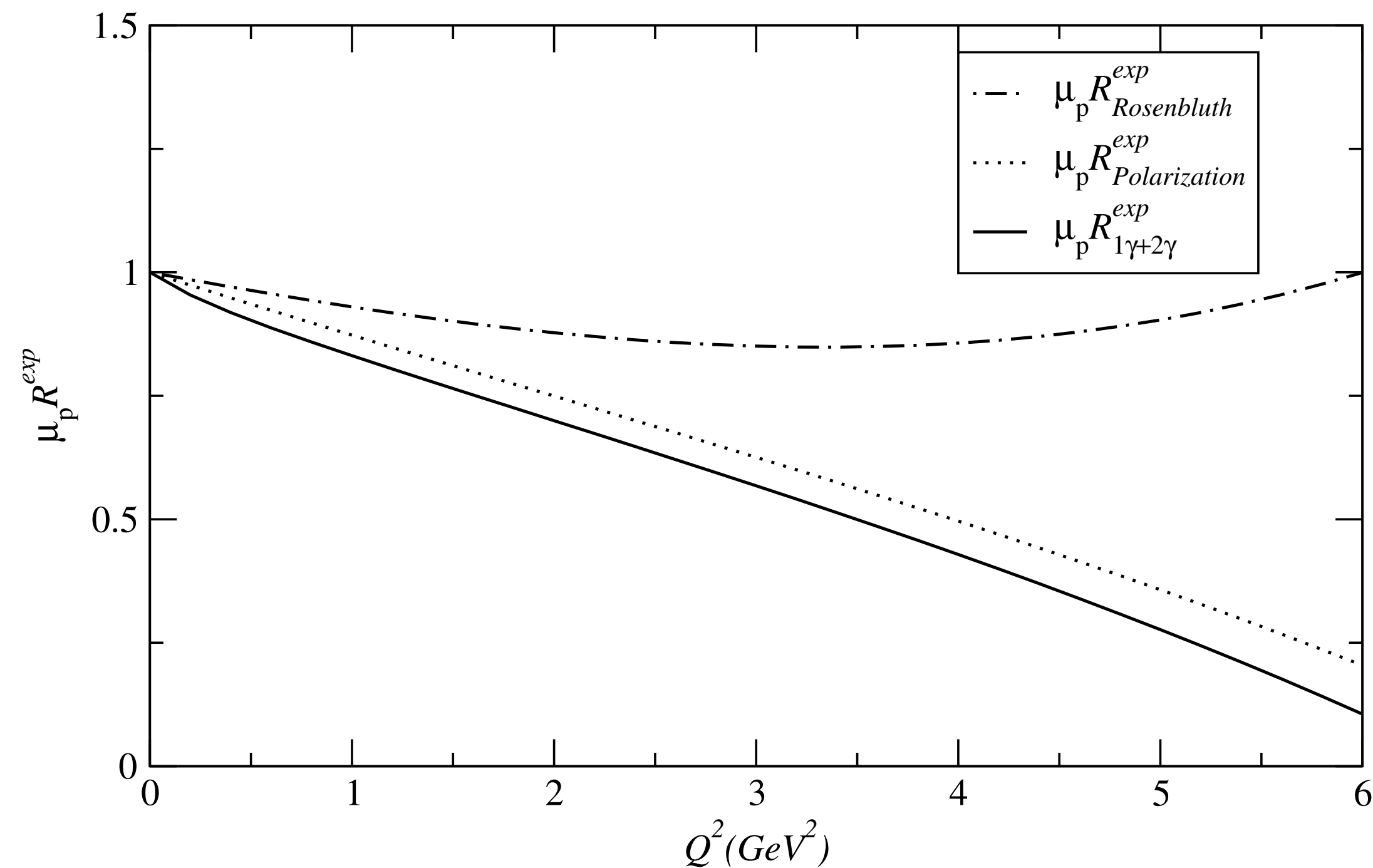
- Treat as  $\gamma\gamma$  interaction with quarks described by generalized parton distributions  
e.g. [Afanasev et al. PRD 72, 013008 \(2005\)](#)

- $Q^2 \gtrsim 5 \text{ GeV}^2$ .

TPE could resolve  $\mu G_E/G_M$  discrepancy

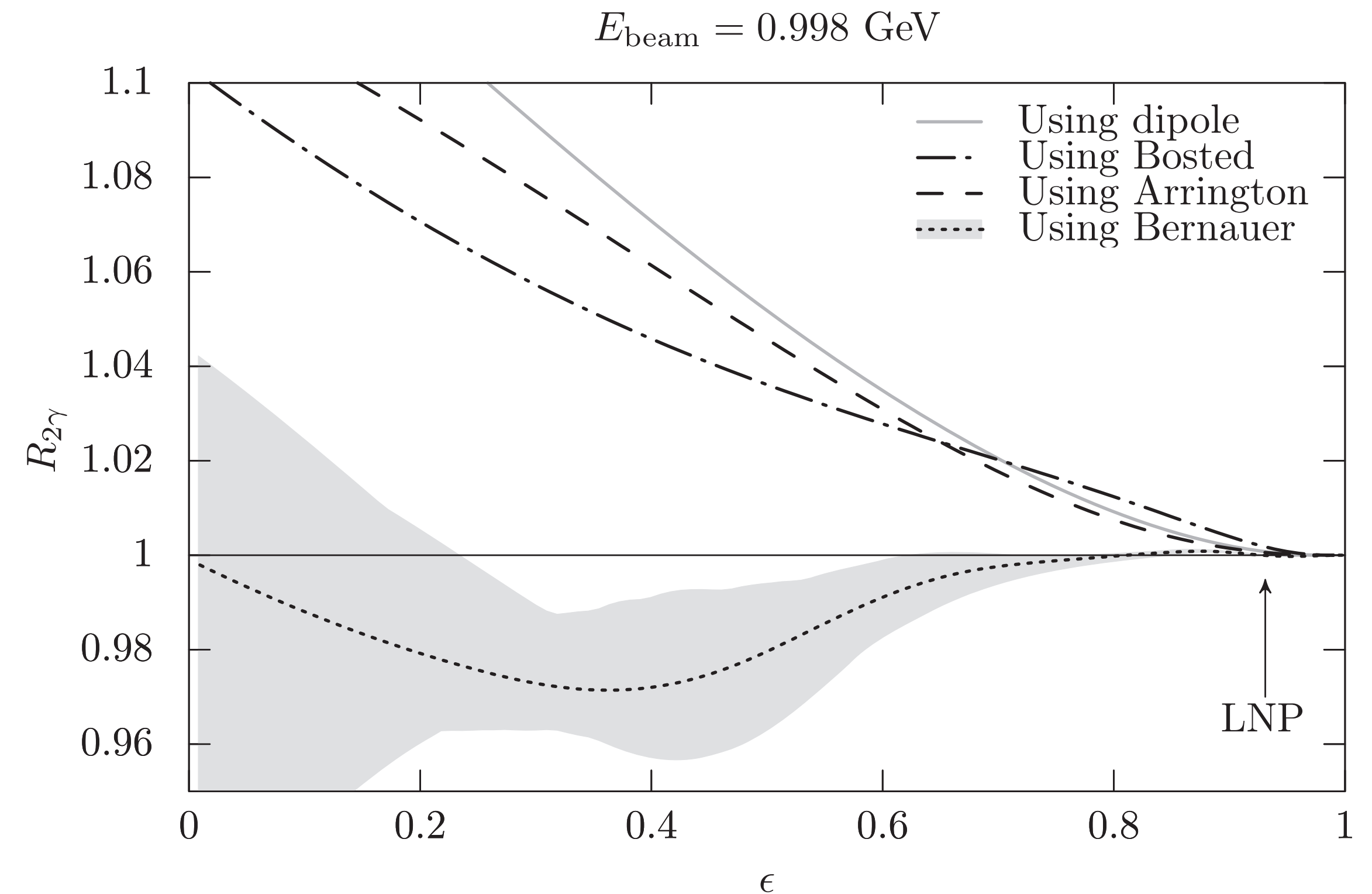
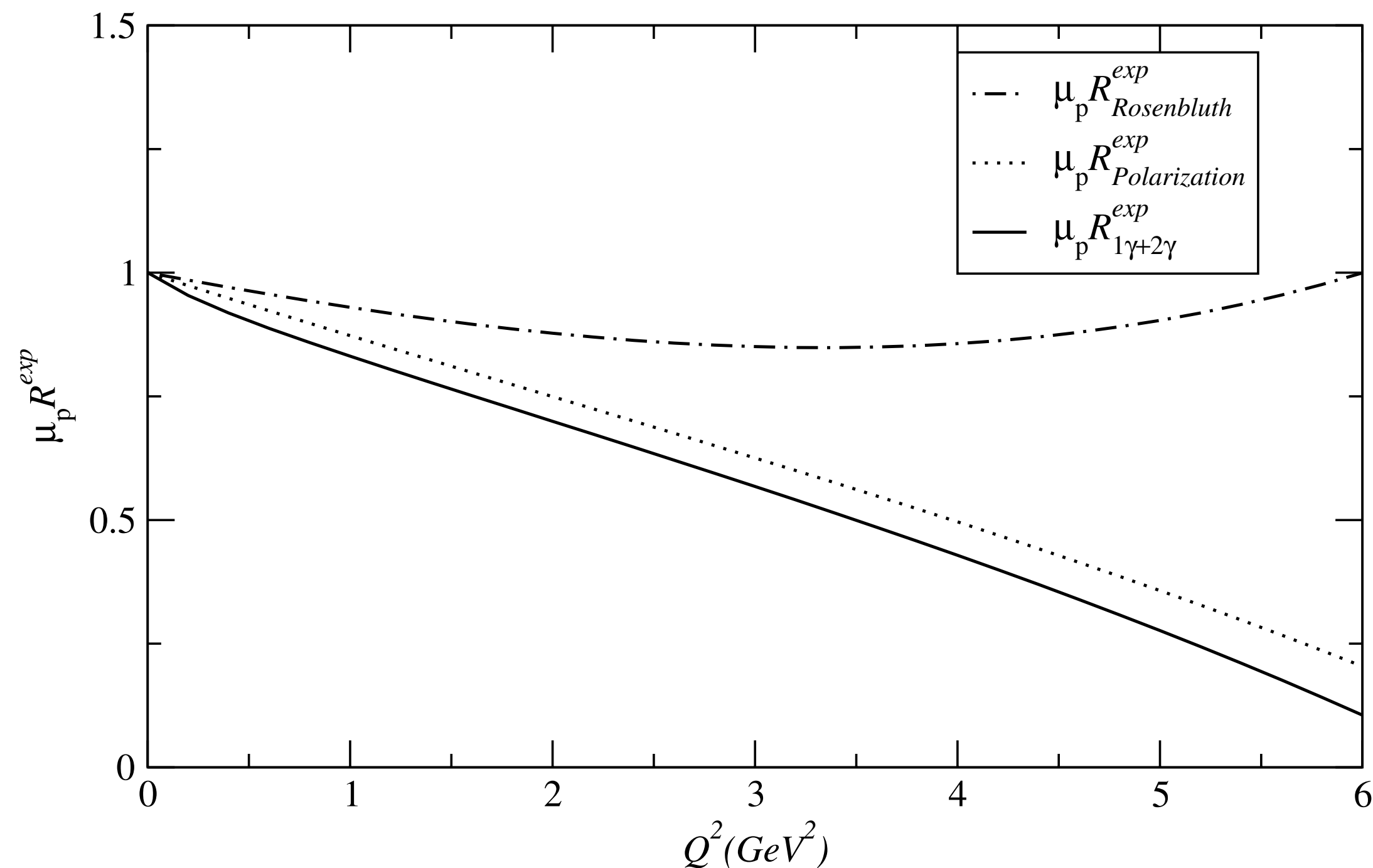
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- TPE would have enhanced impact on Rosenbluth separation vs. polarization transfer e.g. [Guichon & Vanderhaeghen, PRL 91, 142303 \(2003\)](#)

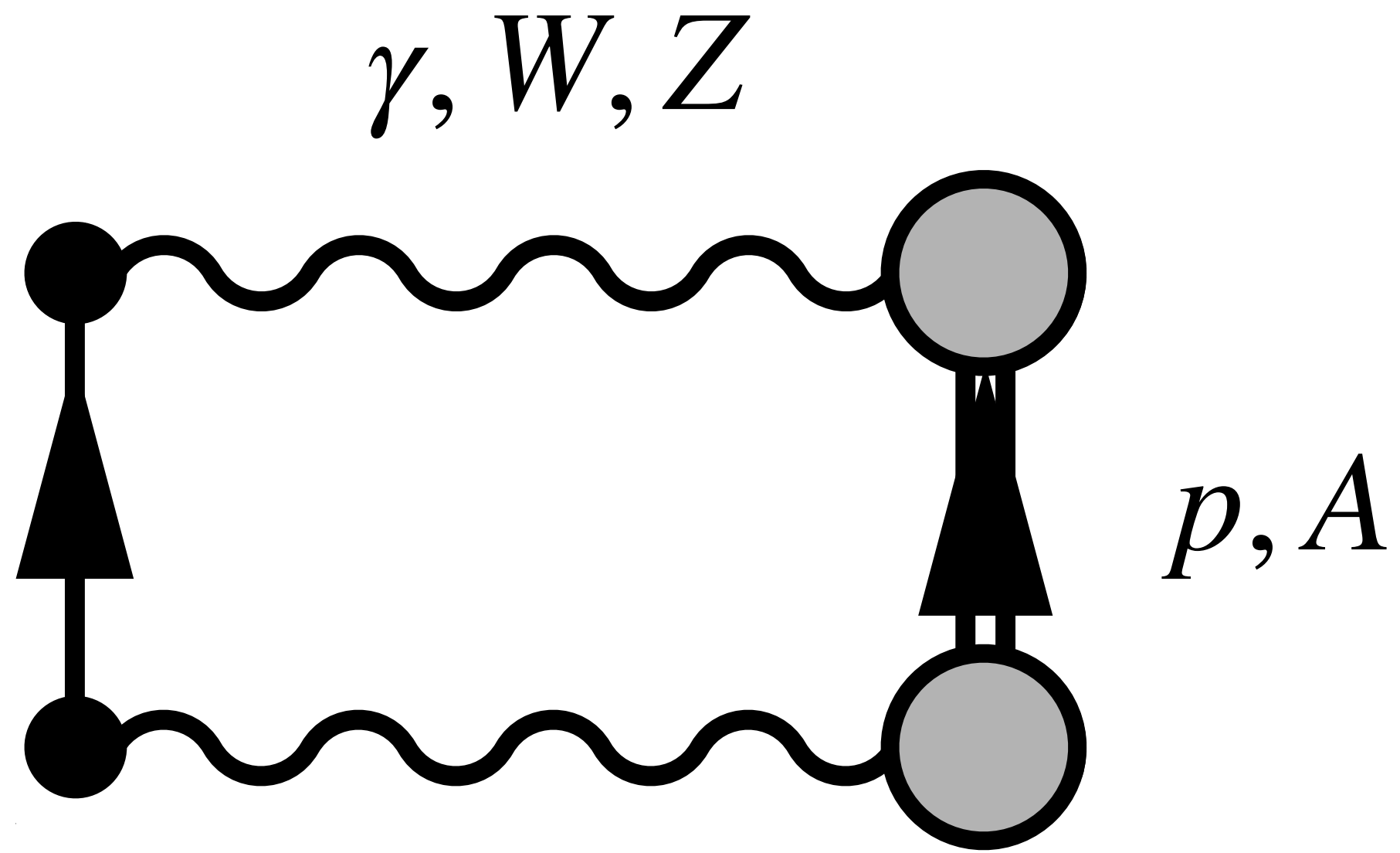


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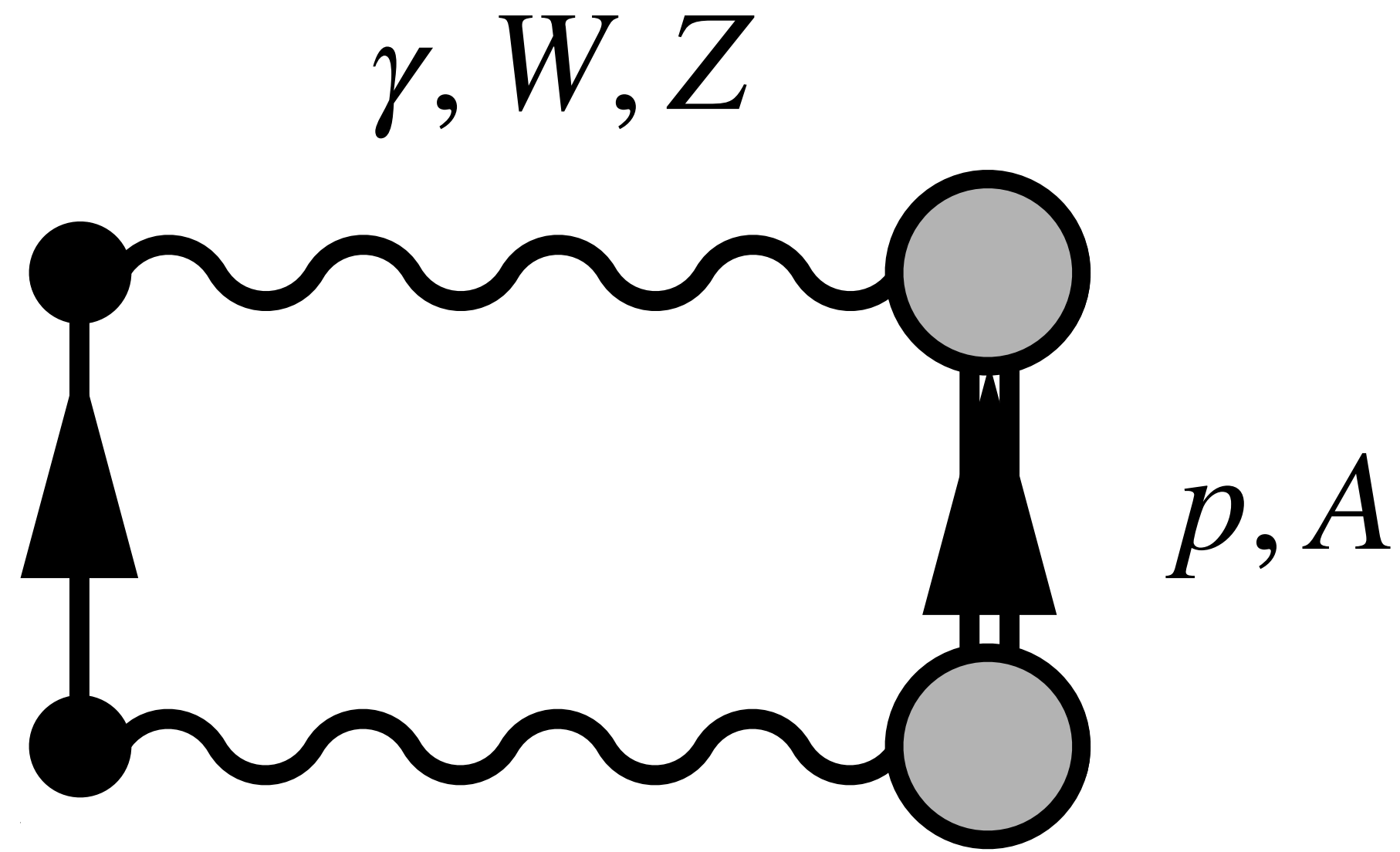
- TPE would have enhanced impact on Rosenbluth separation vs. polarization transfer e.g. [Guichon & Vanderhaeghen, PRL 91, 142303 \(2003\)](#)
- Phenomenological approach: predict size of TPE needed to resolve discrepancy e.g. [Schmidt, JPG 47, 055109 \(2020\)](#)



Hadronic box diagrams a more general challenge as  
radiative correction to electro(weak) measurements

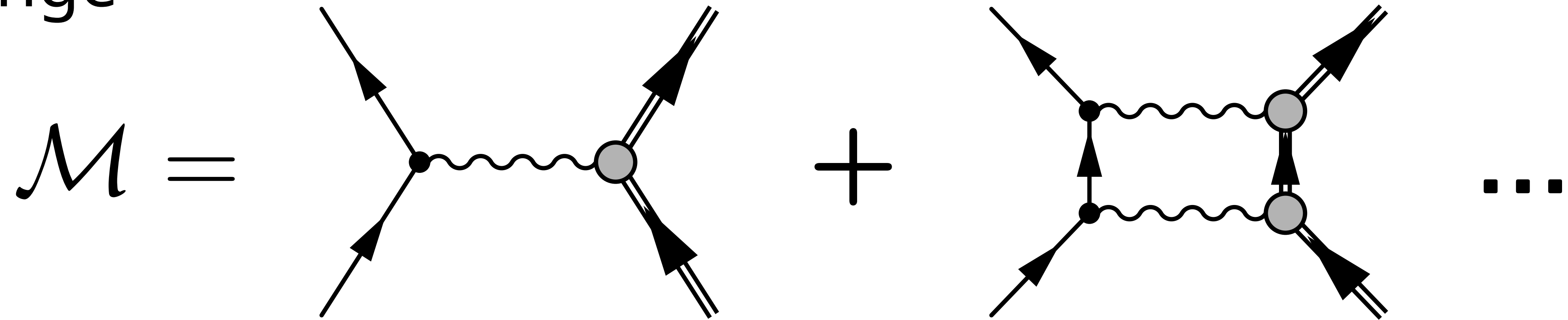


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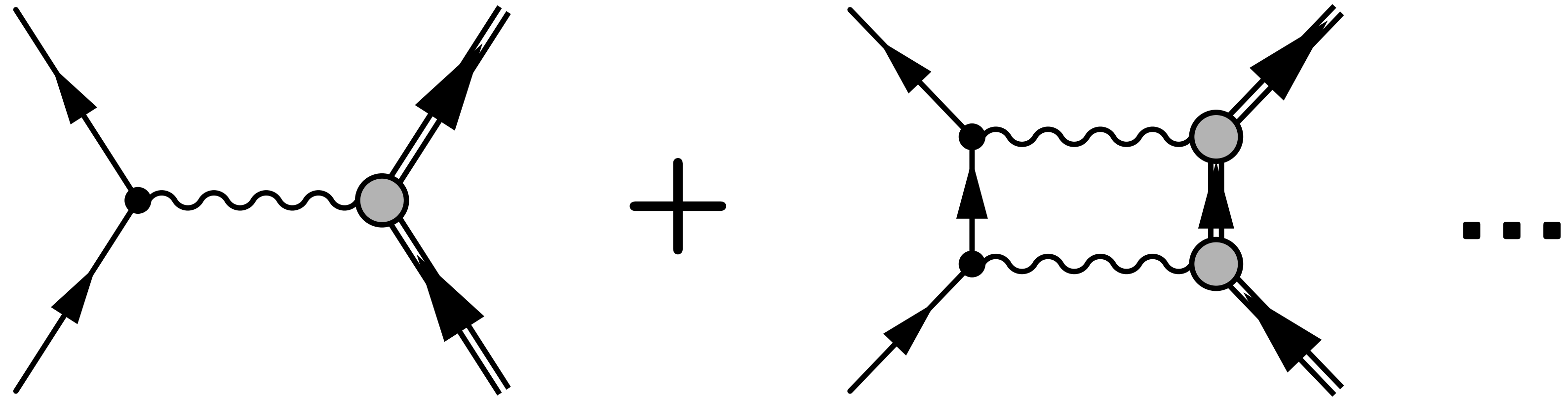


- $\Box_{\gamma\gamma}$ : background to parity-violating electron scattering (PVES)
- $\Box_{\gamma Z}$ : weak mixing angle extractions from PVES
- $\Box_{\gamma W}$ : CKM matrix elements from  $\beta$ -decay

Can observe interference between one- and two-photon exchange



# Can observe interference between one- and two-photon exchange

$$\mathcal{M} =$$


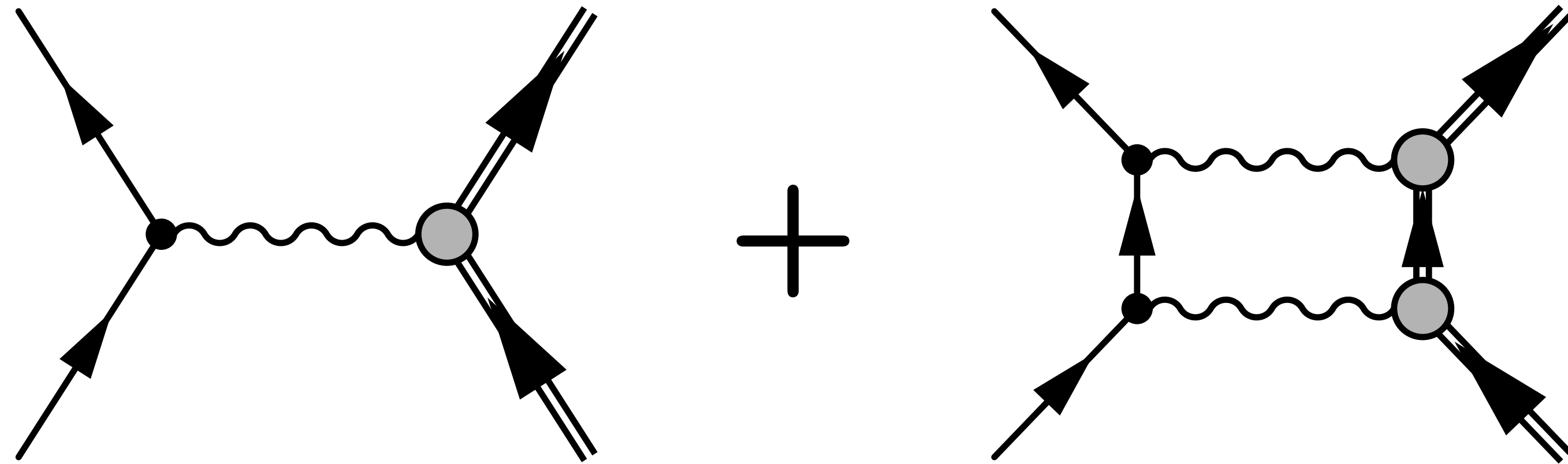
The diagram shows the mathematical expression for the scattering amplitude  $\mathcal{M}$  as a sum of Feynman diagrams. The first diagram represents one-photon exchange: two incoming fermion lines (solid lines with arrows) meet at a vertex (black dot), a wavy line (photon) connects it to another vertex (gray circle), and two outgoing fermion lines emerge from the second vertex. The second diagram represents two-photon exchange: two incoming fermion lines meet at a vertex (black dot), a wavy line connects it to a second vertex (black dot), which then connects via another wavy line to a third vertex (gray circle). From the third vertex, two outgoing fermion lines emerge. A plus sign and an ellipsis (...) follow, indicating that the total amplitude is the sum of these and higher-order terms.

- Normal single-spin asymmetries

$$A_n = \frac{\sigma^\uparrow - \sigma^\downarrow}{\sigma^\uparrow + \sigma^\downarrow} = \frac{2\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{M}_{1\gamma}\mathcal{M}_{2\gamma}^*)}{|\mathcal{M}_{1\gamma}|^2}$$

- Background to PVES

# Can observe interference between one- and two-photon exchange

$$\mathcal{M} =$$


The diagram shows the mathematical expression for the scattering amplitude  $\mathcal{M}$  as a sum of Feynman diagrams. The first diagram represents one-photon exchange: an incoming electron (solid line with arrow) and an incoming positron (solid line with arrow pointing left) interact via a single wavy photon line (labeled  $\gamma$ ) to produce an outgoing electron and an outgoing positron. The second diagram represents two-photon exchange: the incoming electron and positron interact via two wavy photon lines, forming a box-like structure with two vertices on each side. The diagrams are separated by a plus sign and followed by an ellipsis, indicating higher-order terms in the perturbation series.

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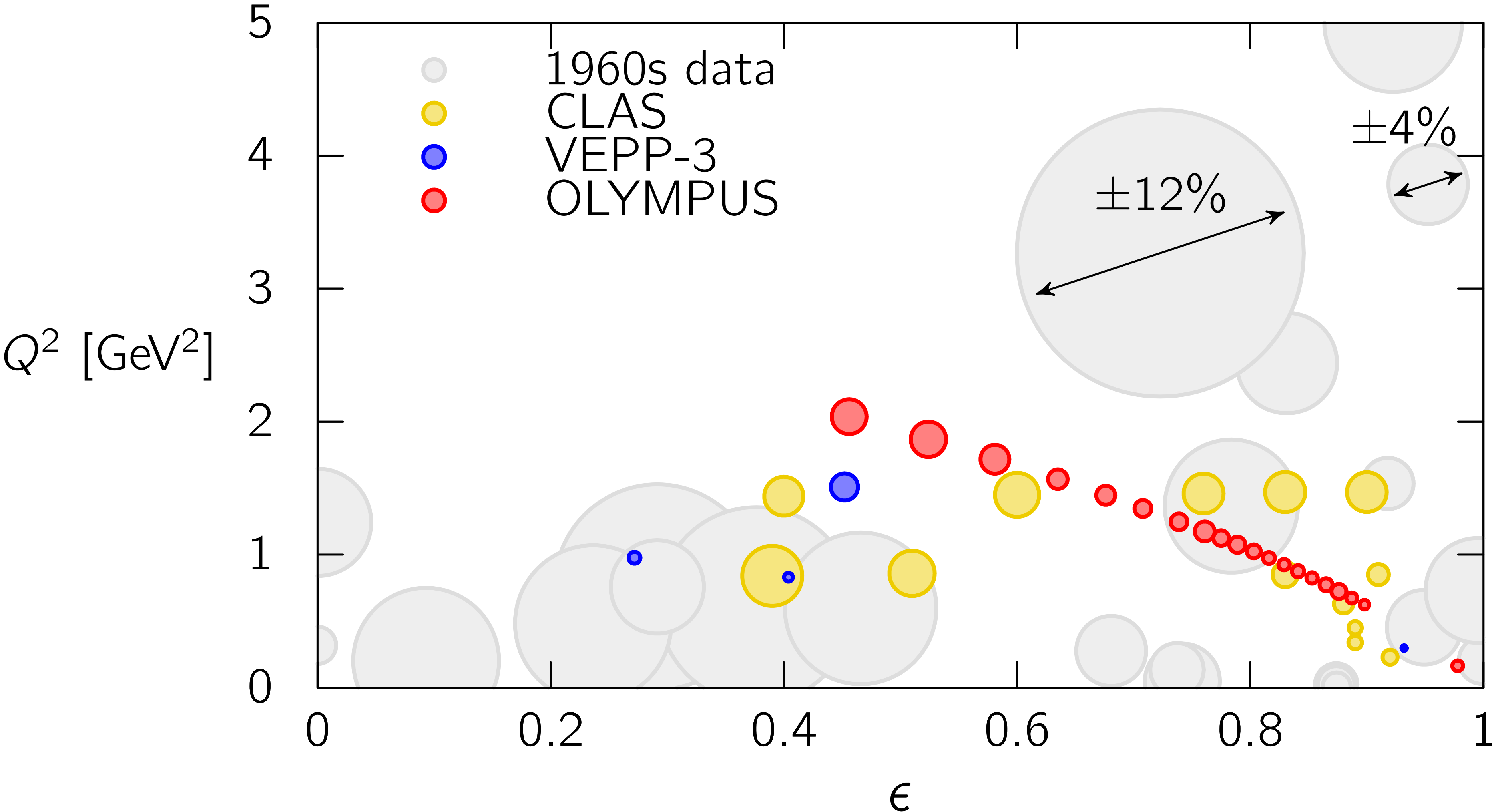
- Positron to electron ratio:

$$R_{2\gamma} = \frac{\sigma_{e^+p}}{\sigma_{e^-p}} = 1 + \frac{4\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{M}_{1\gamma}\mathcal{M}_{2\gamma}^*)}{|\mathcal{M}_{1\gamma}|^2} + \dots$$

- Background to PVES

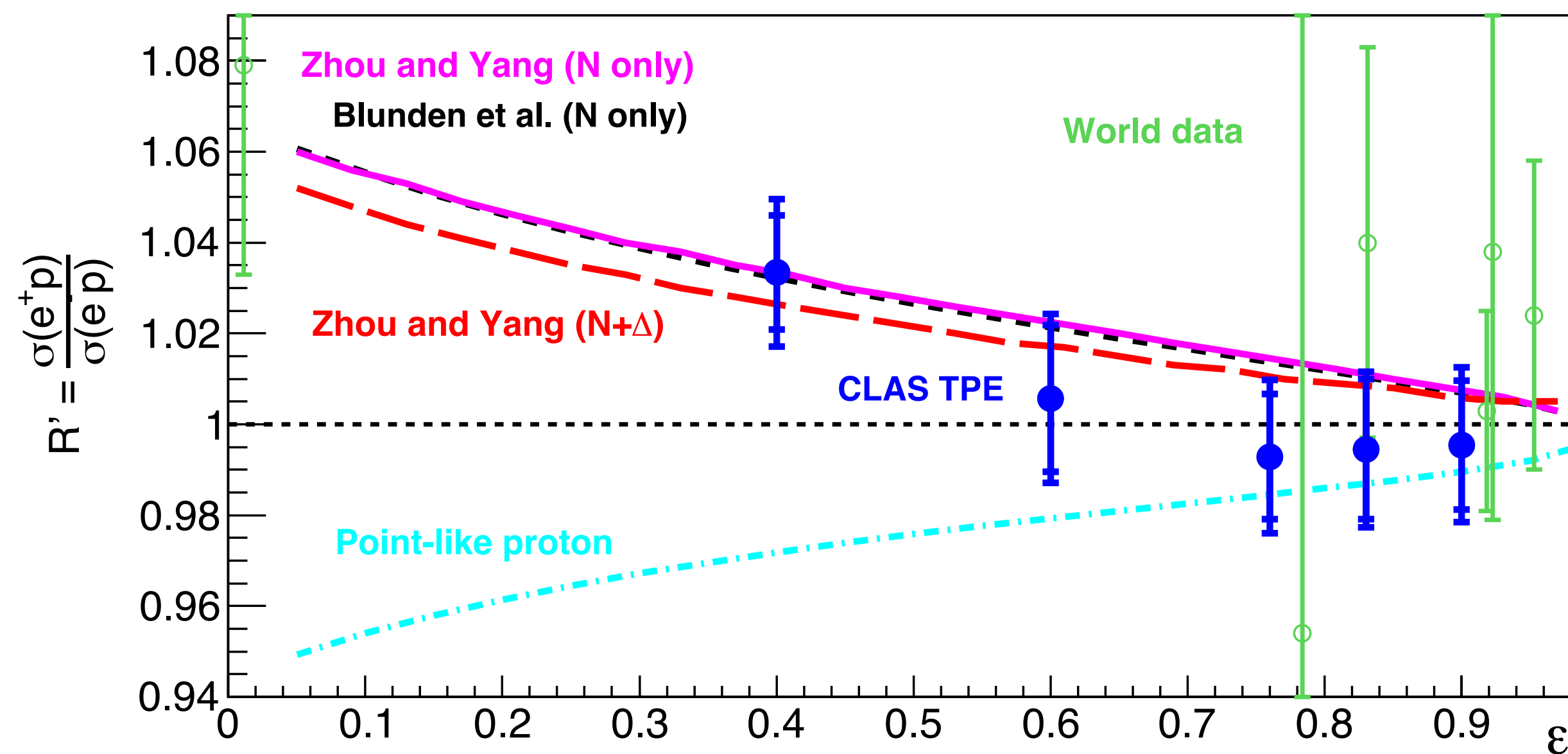
- Leading TPE correction to unpolarized  $ep$  scattering

# Existing positron measurements inconclusive on $\mu G_E/G_M$ discrepancy

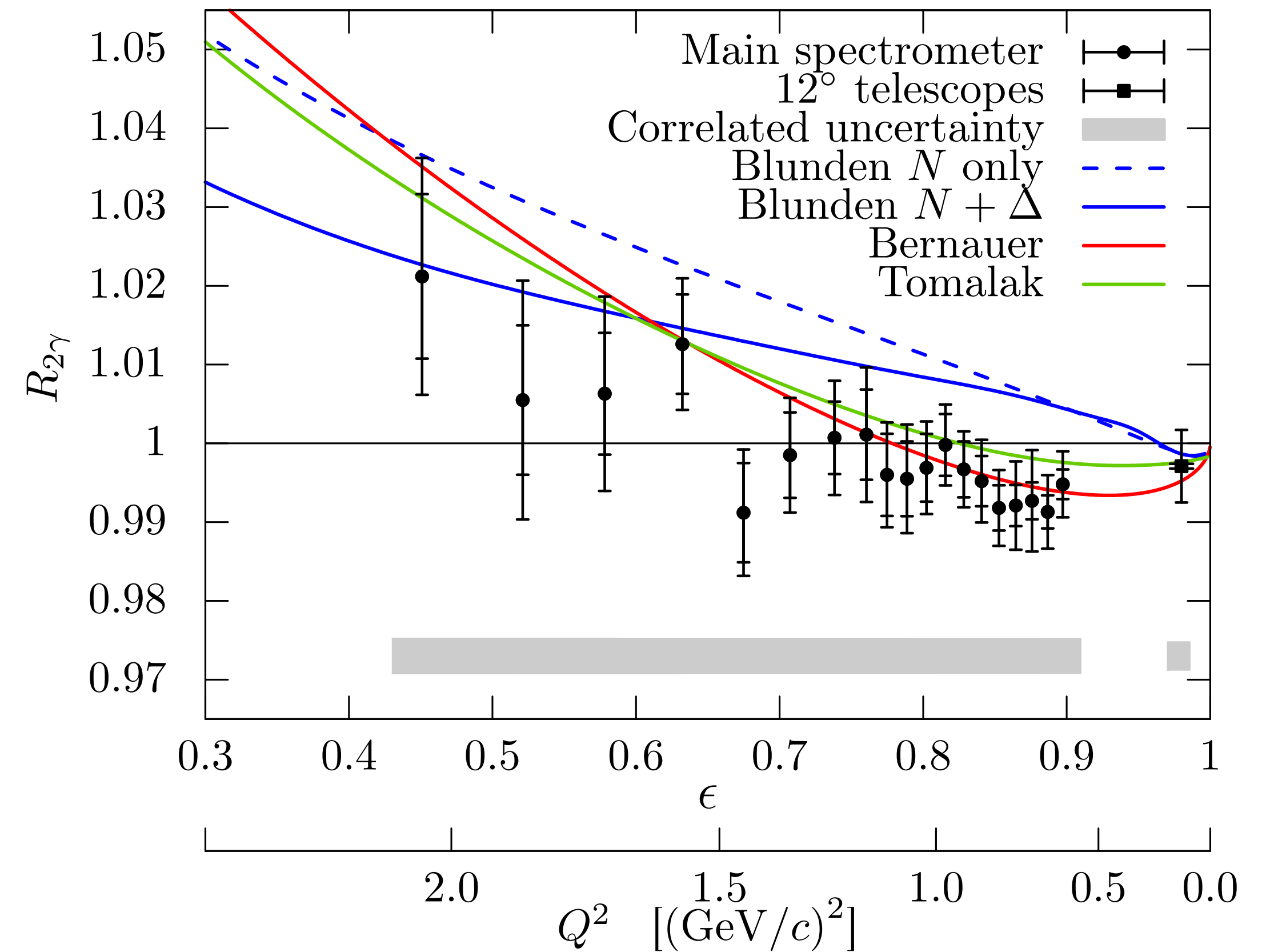


# Existing positron measurements inconclusive on $\mu G_E/G_M$ discrepancy

[CLAS, PRL 114, 062003 \(2015\)](#)



[OLYMPUS, PRL 118, 092501 \(2017\)](#)



See also: [Rachek et al. PRL 114, 062005 \(2015\)](#)

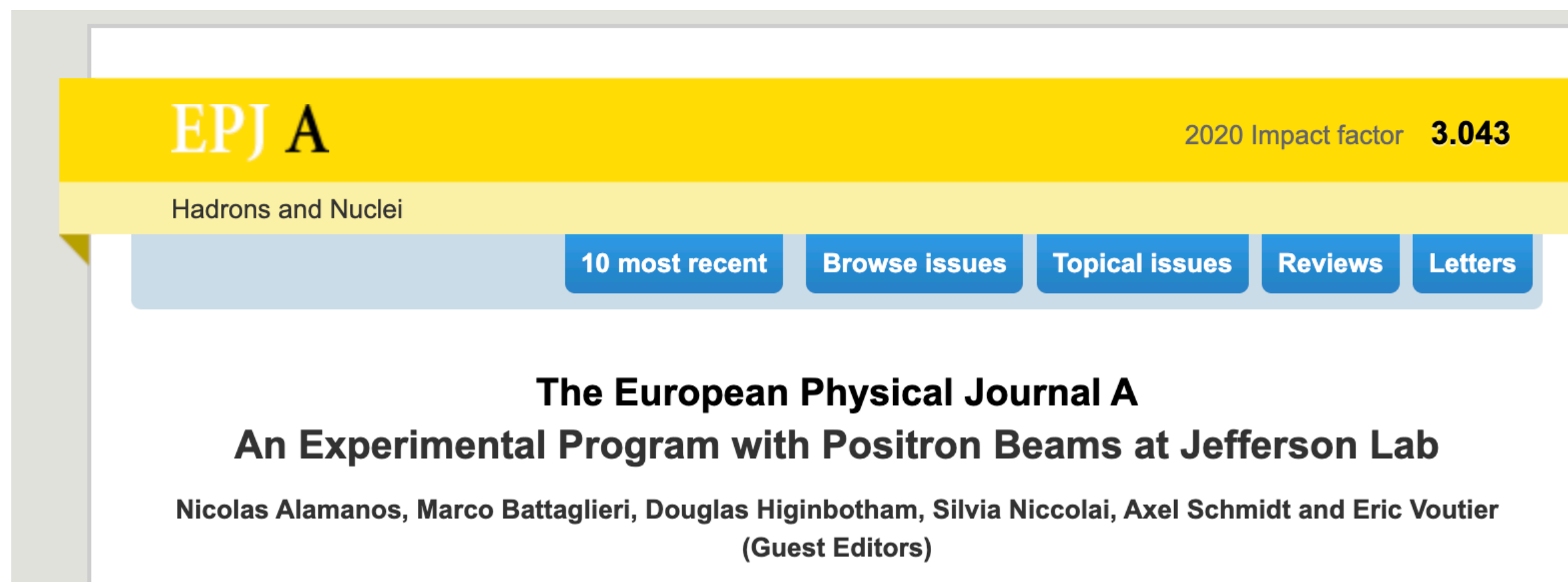
# Jefferson Lab



- Located in Newport News, Virginia
- CEBAF: Polarized electron beams up to 12 GeV, 150  $\mu\text{A}$
- Four experimental halls with complementary instrumentation:
  - High-resolution spectrometers (A & C)
  - Large-acceptance multipurpose detector (B)
  - Real photon beam (D)

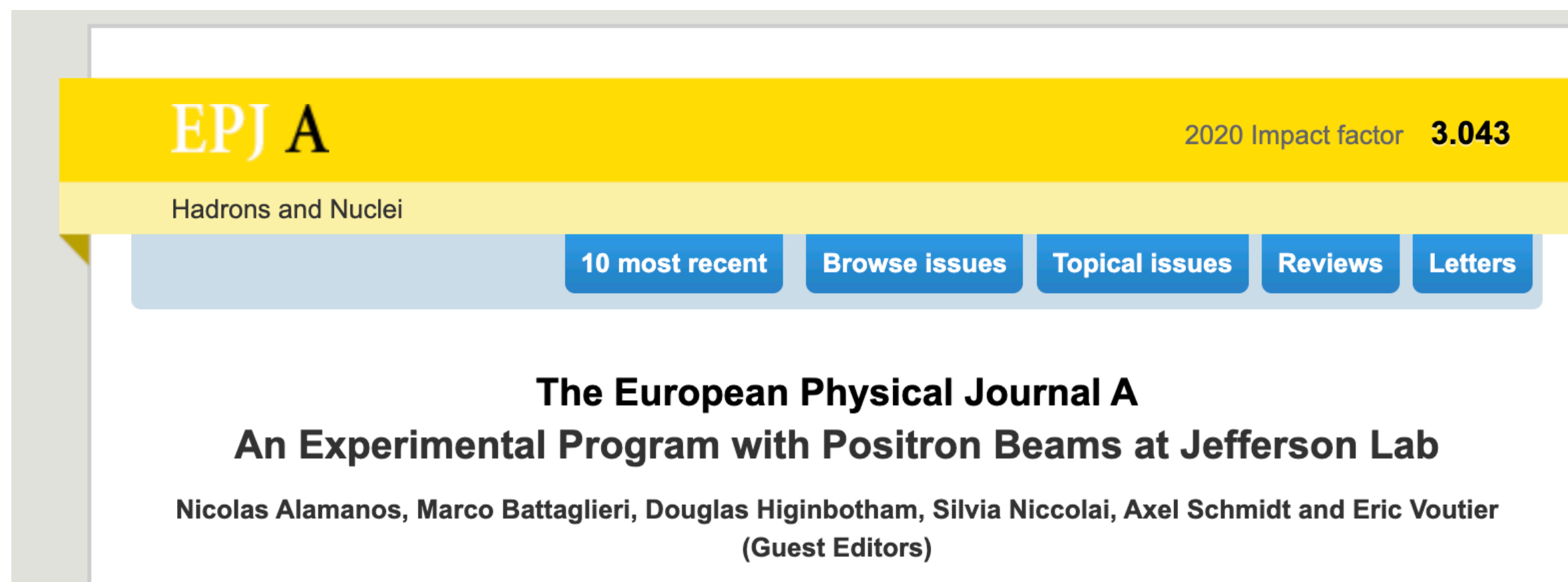
# Efforts to develop positron program at JLab

- Recent interest in development of positron source for possible JLab upgrade
- Currently being pursued in conjunction with possible 22 GeV upgrade
- Physics case:
  - Driven by multi-photon exchange and 3D nucleon imaging (DVCS)
  - Summarized by community in EPJA special issue
  - Several positron proposals submitted/approved by JLab program committee



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PR12+23-008 "Direct  
Measurement of Hard Two-  
Photon Exchange with  
Electrons and Positrons at  
CLAS12"

# CLAS12 in Hall B

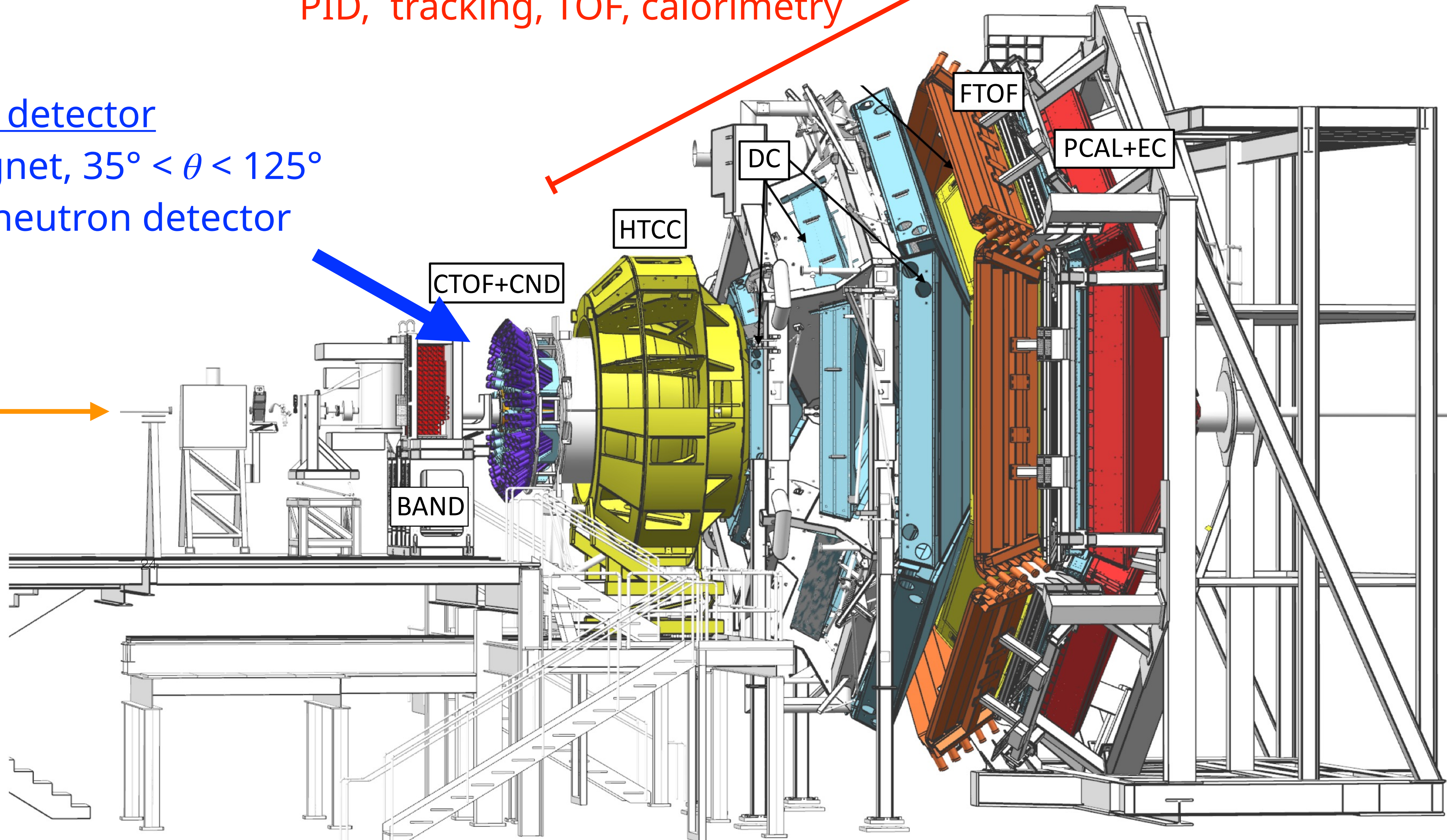
## Central detector

5 T solenoid magnet,  $35^\circ < \theta < 125^\circ$   
Tracking, TOF, neutron detector

## Forward detector

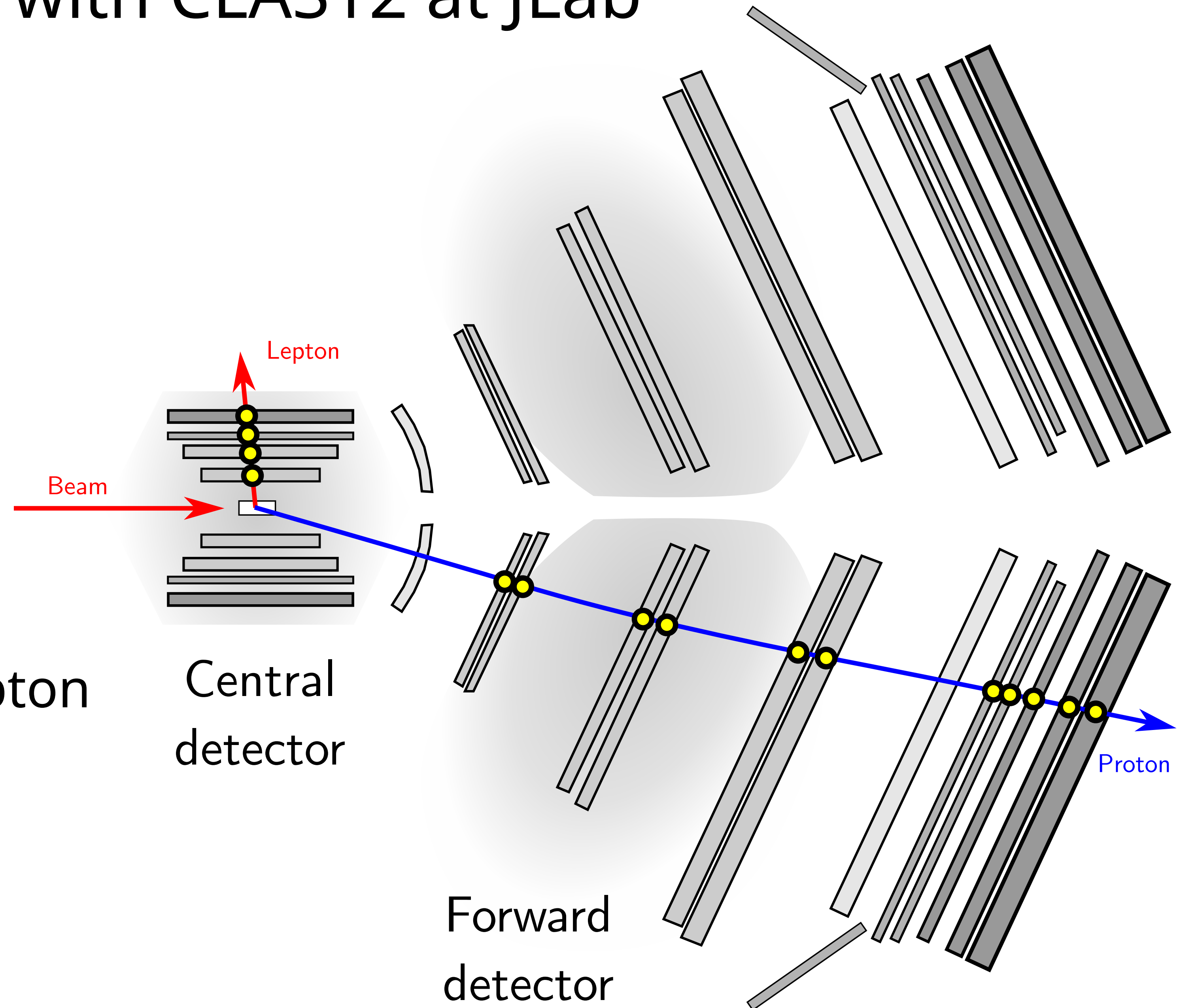
3.5 T torus magnet,  $5^\circ < \theta < 35^\circ$   
PID, tracking, TOF, calorimetry

Beam →

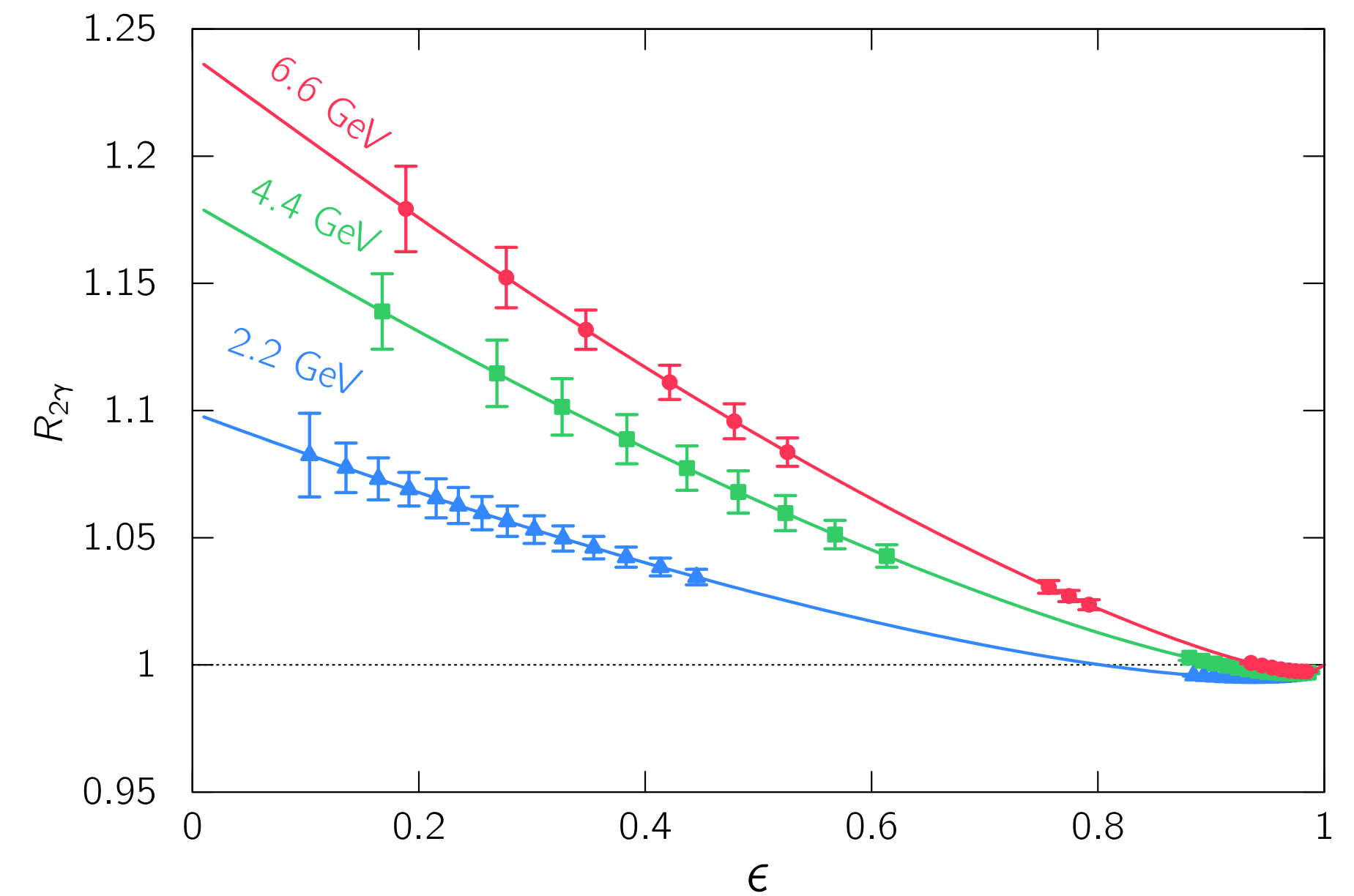
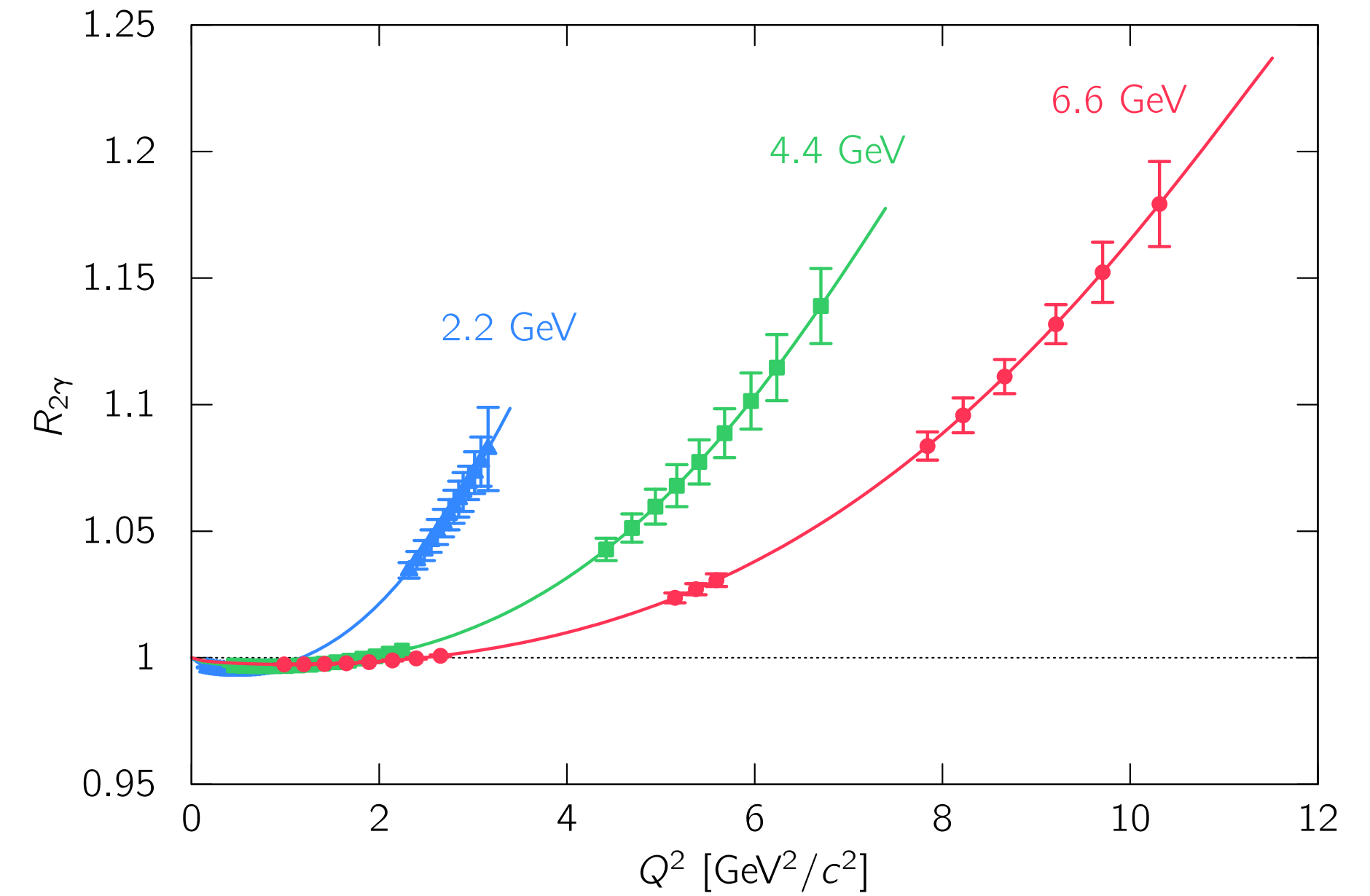
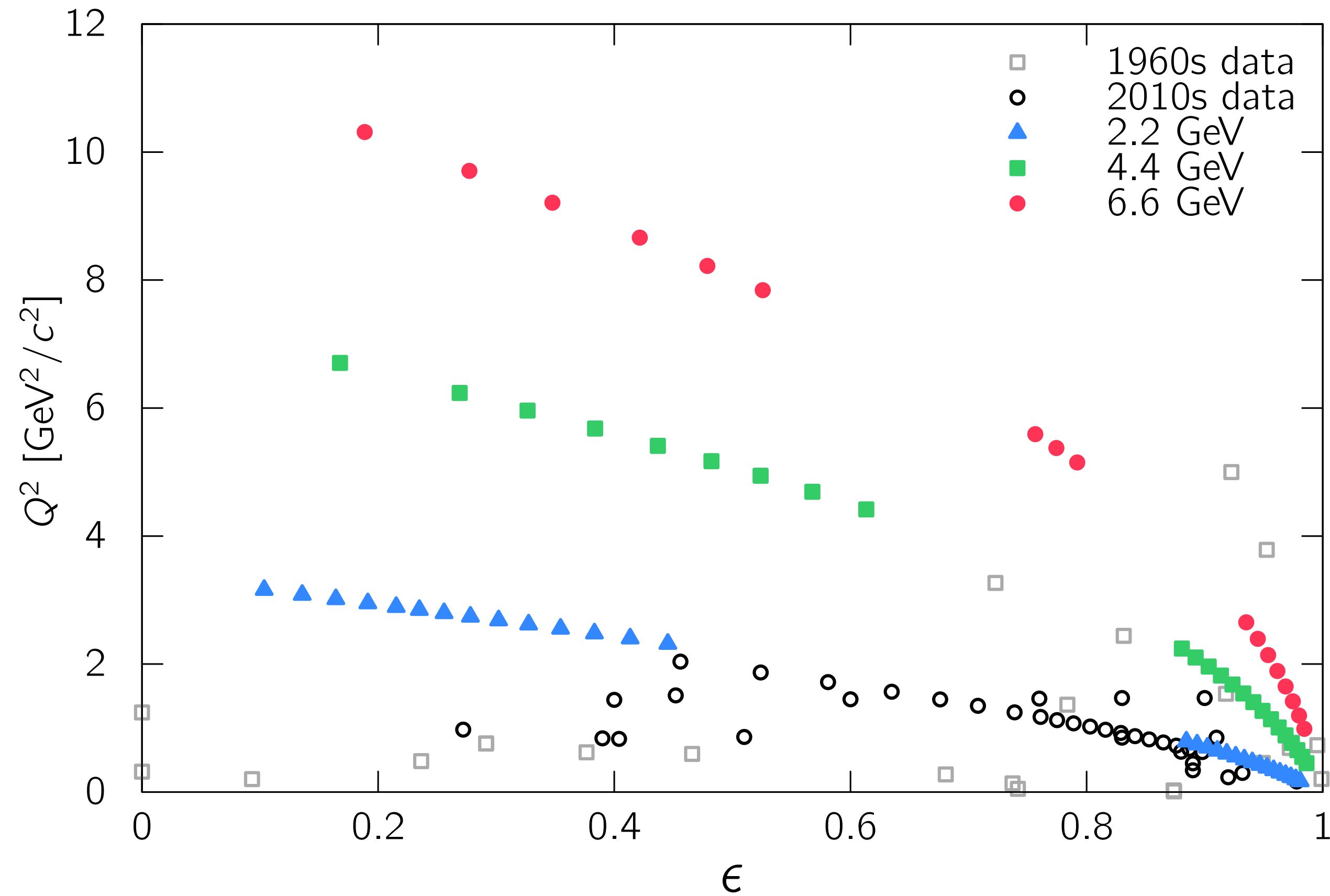


# Proposed measurement with CLAS12 at JLab

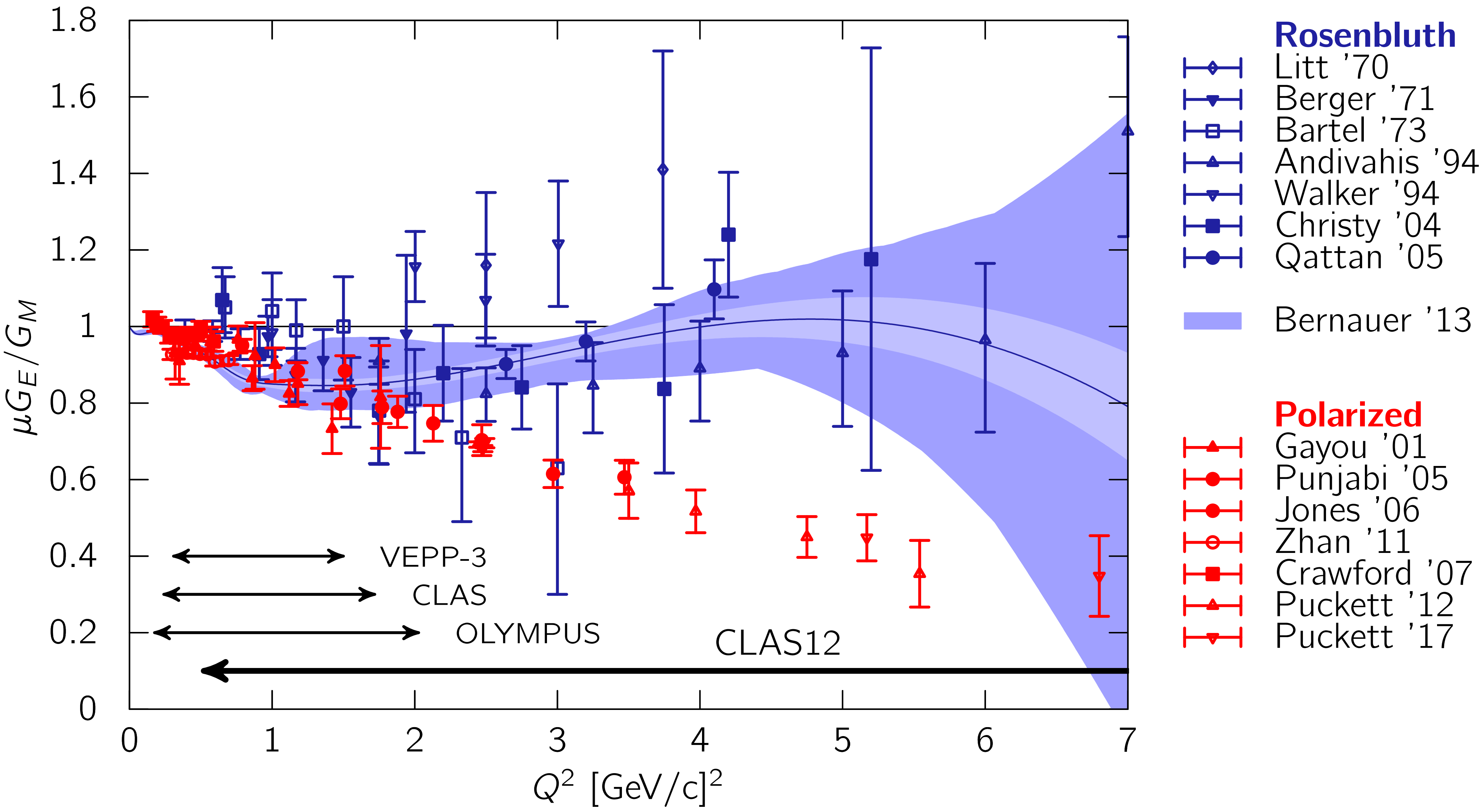
- Measure  $e^+p/e^-p$  ratio
- $E_{beam} = 2.2, 4.4, 6.6$  GeV
- High  $Q^2$ , low  $\epsilon$  requires  
→ forward proton, central lepton



# CLAS12 ideal for mapping TPE over wide phase space

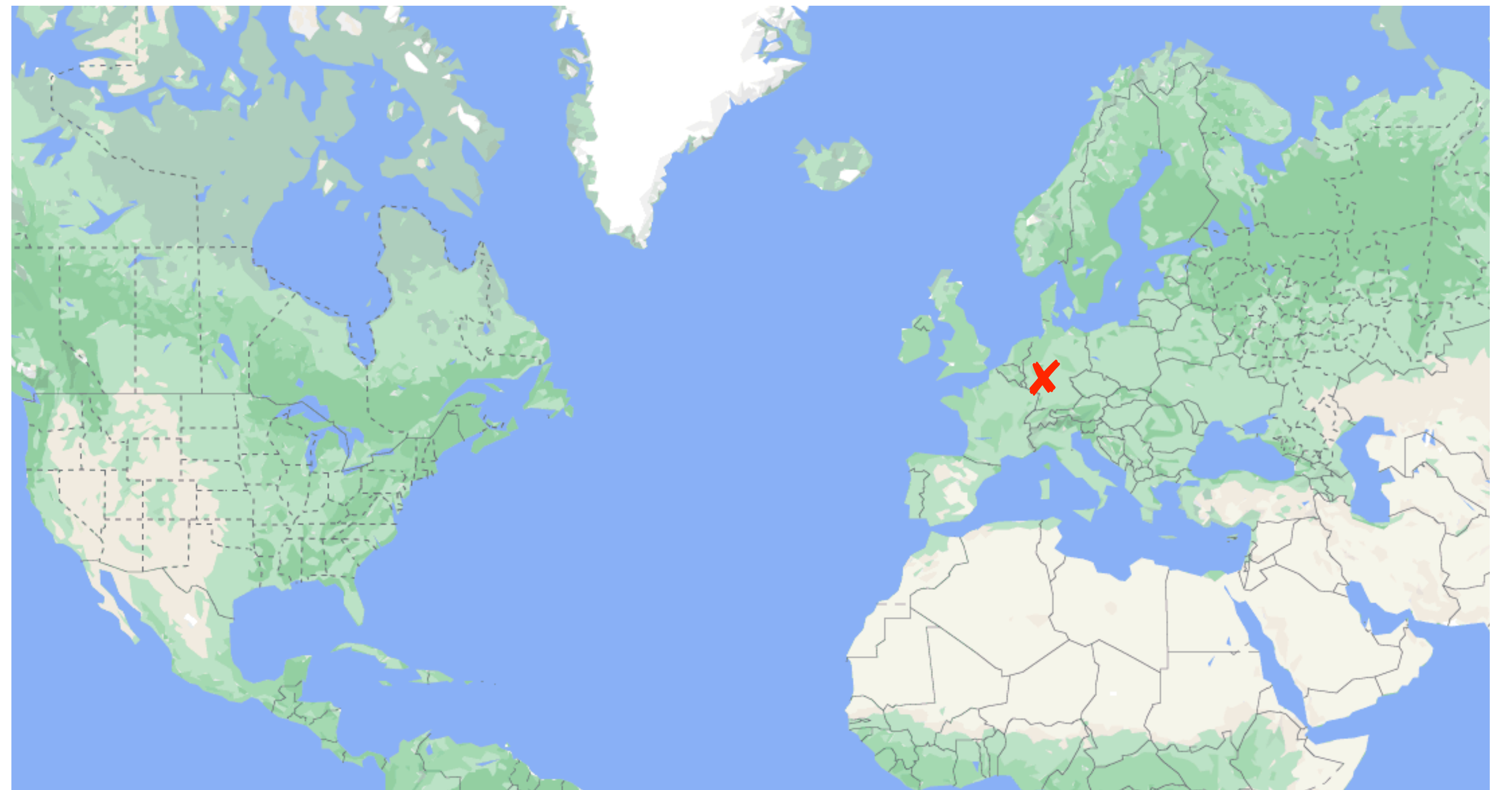
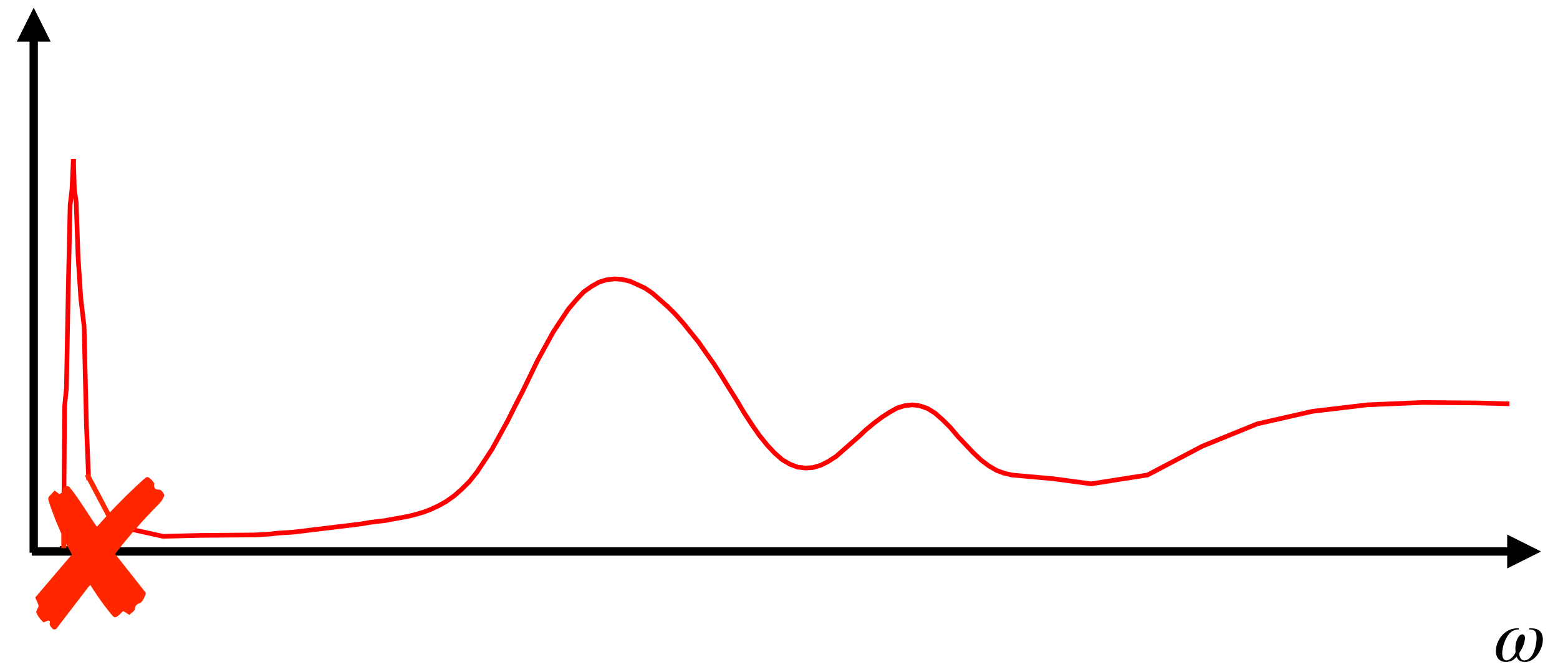


# Definitive answer to whether TPE causes discrepancy



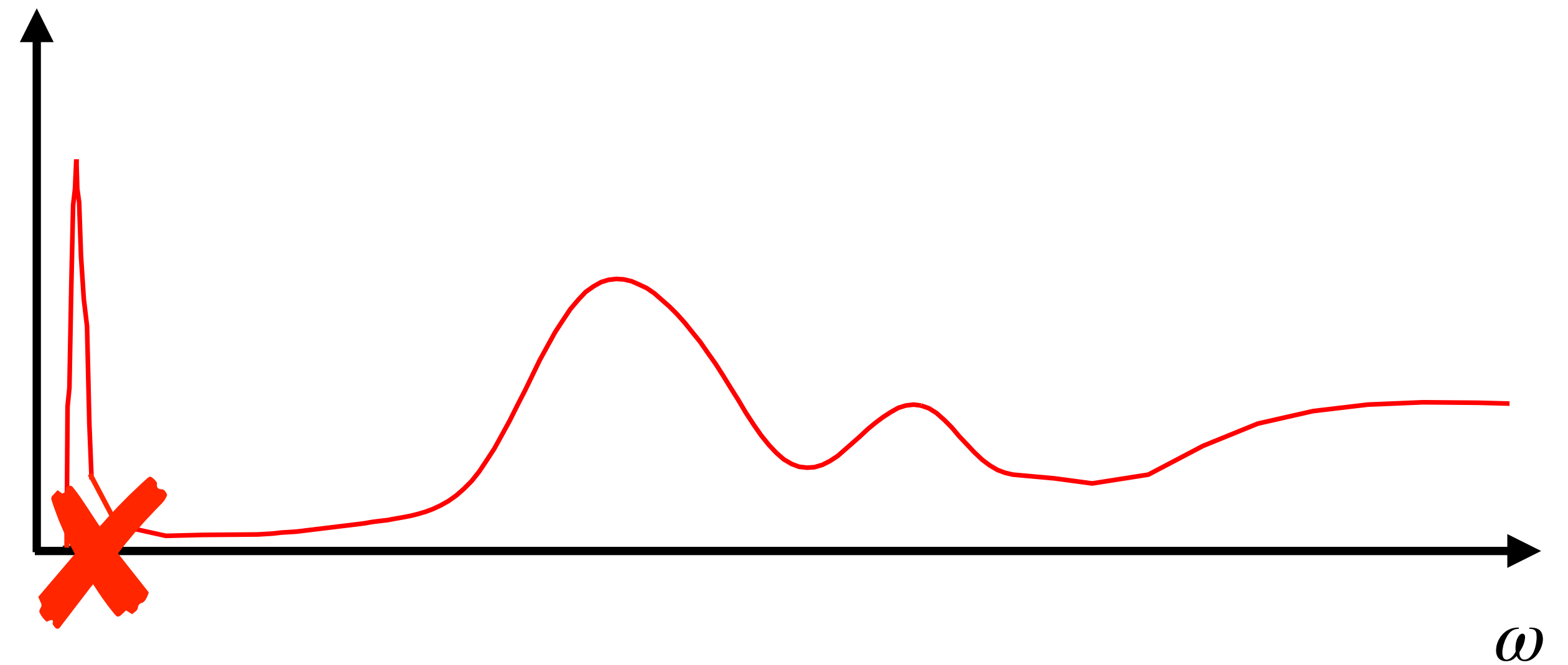
# Today's roadmap

- Elastic scattering:
  - Proton form factor ratio and multi-photon exchange
  - Proton weak charge
- Deep inelastic scattering
  - Origin of proton spin
- Will discuss some relevant **experimental facilities and techniques** along the way



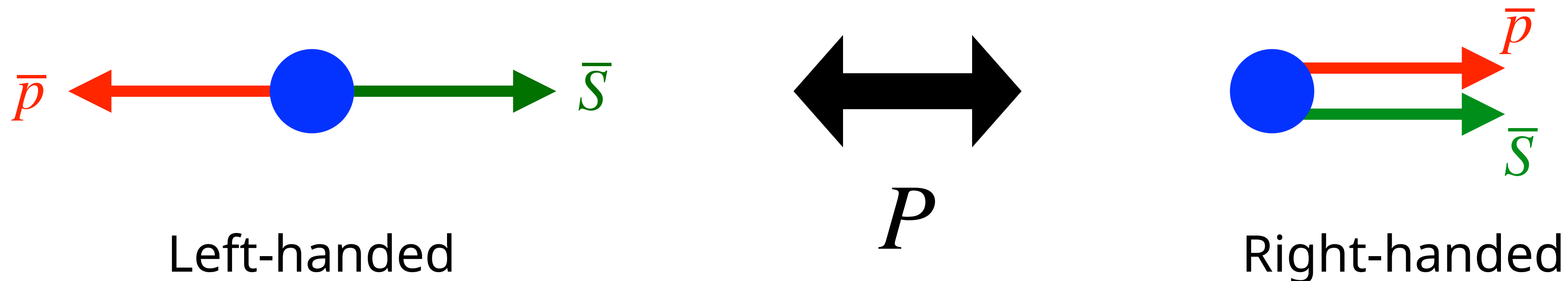
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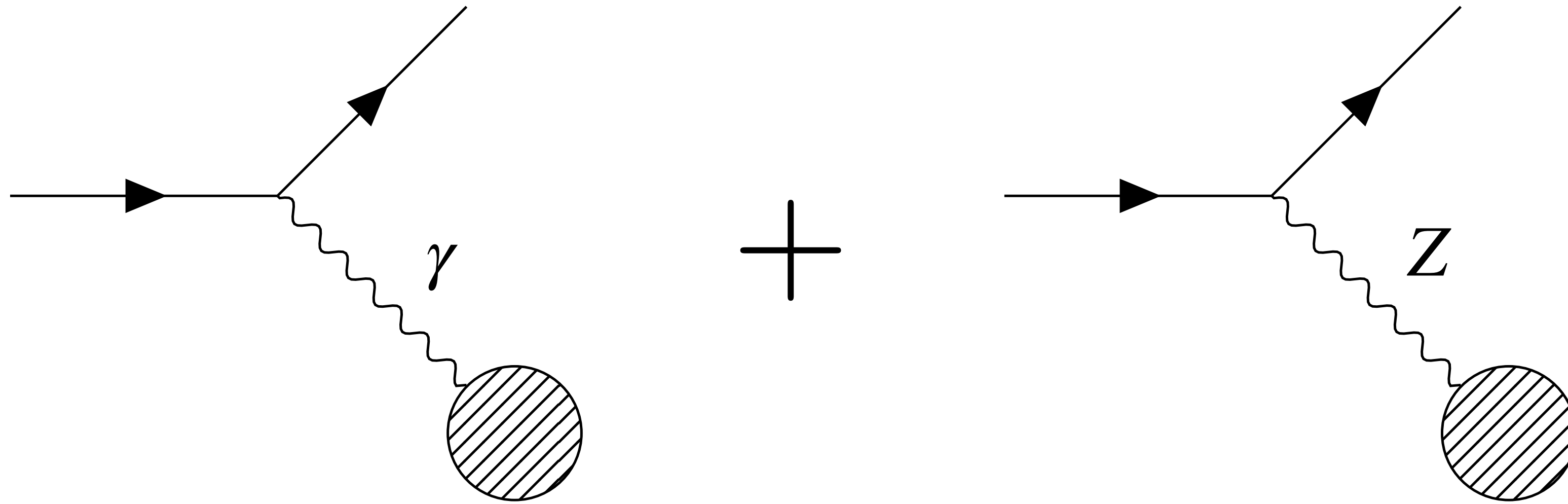


# The weak interaction violates parity

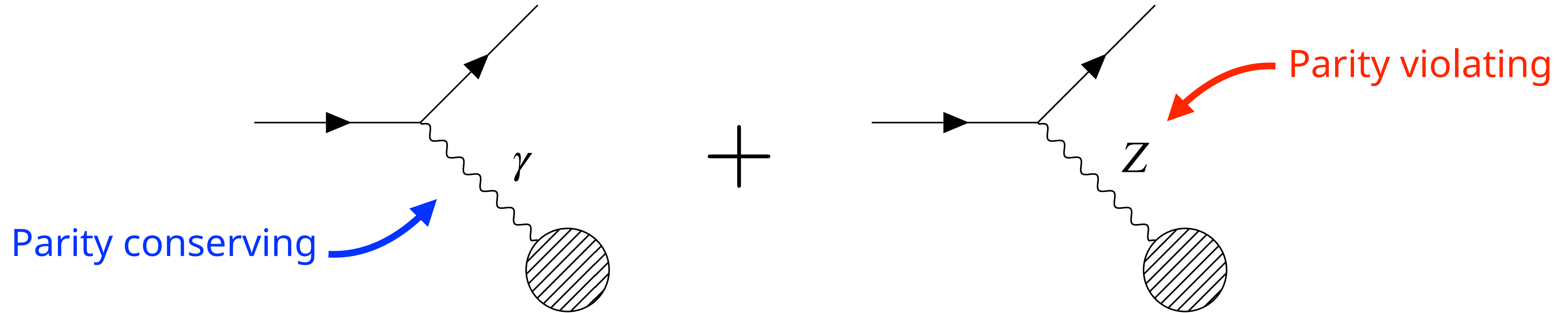
- Parity transformation  $P : (x, y, z) \rightarrow (-x, -y, -z)$
- Parity violation in weak interactions:
  - Theorized by Lee & Yang in 1956
  - Discovered by C.S. Wu in 1957



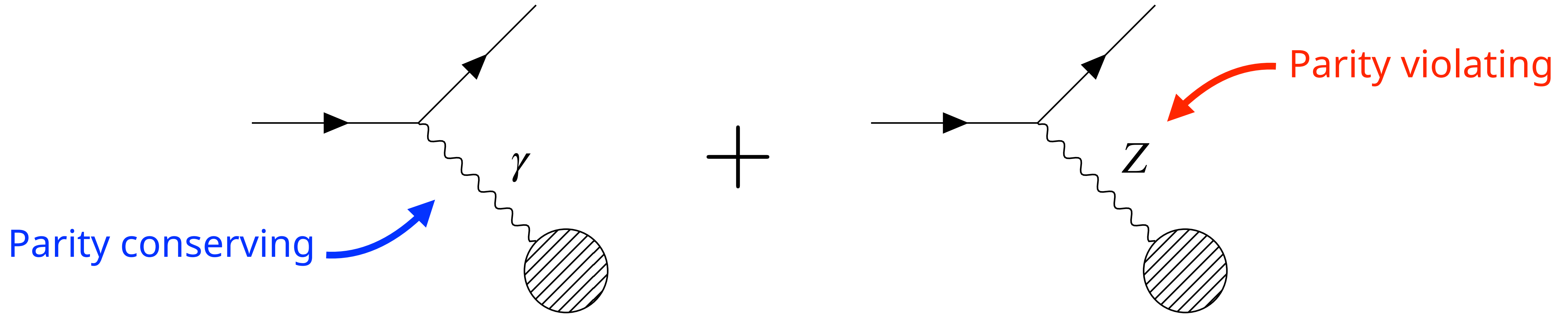
# Parity-violating electron scattering



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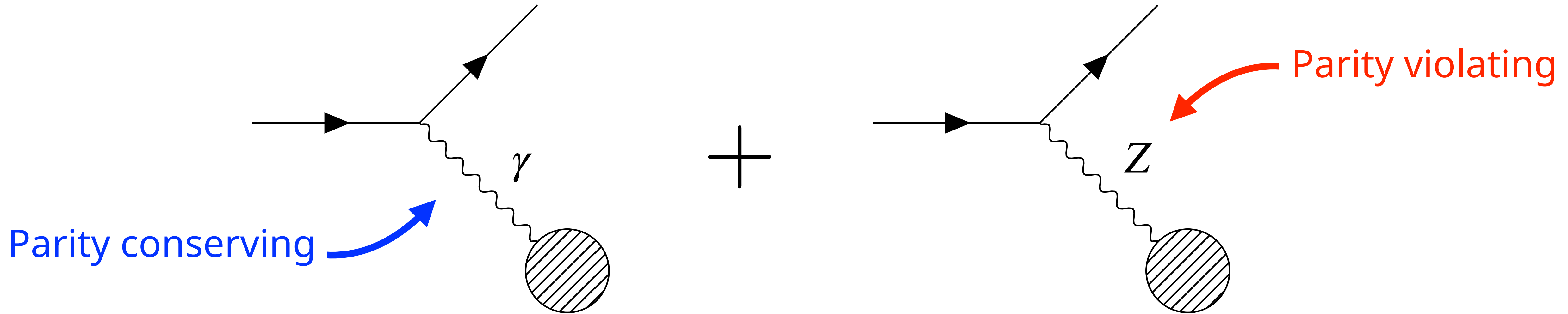
# Parity-violating electron scattering



- Interference between  $\gamma$  and  $Z$  exchange leads to parity-violating asymmetry

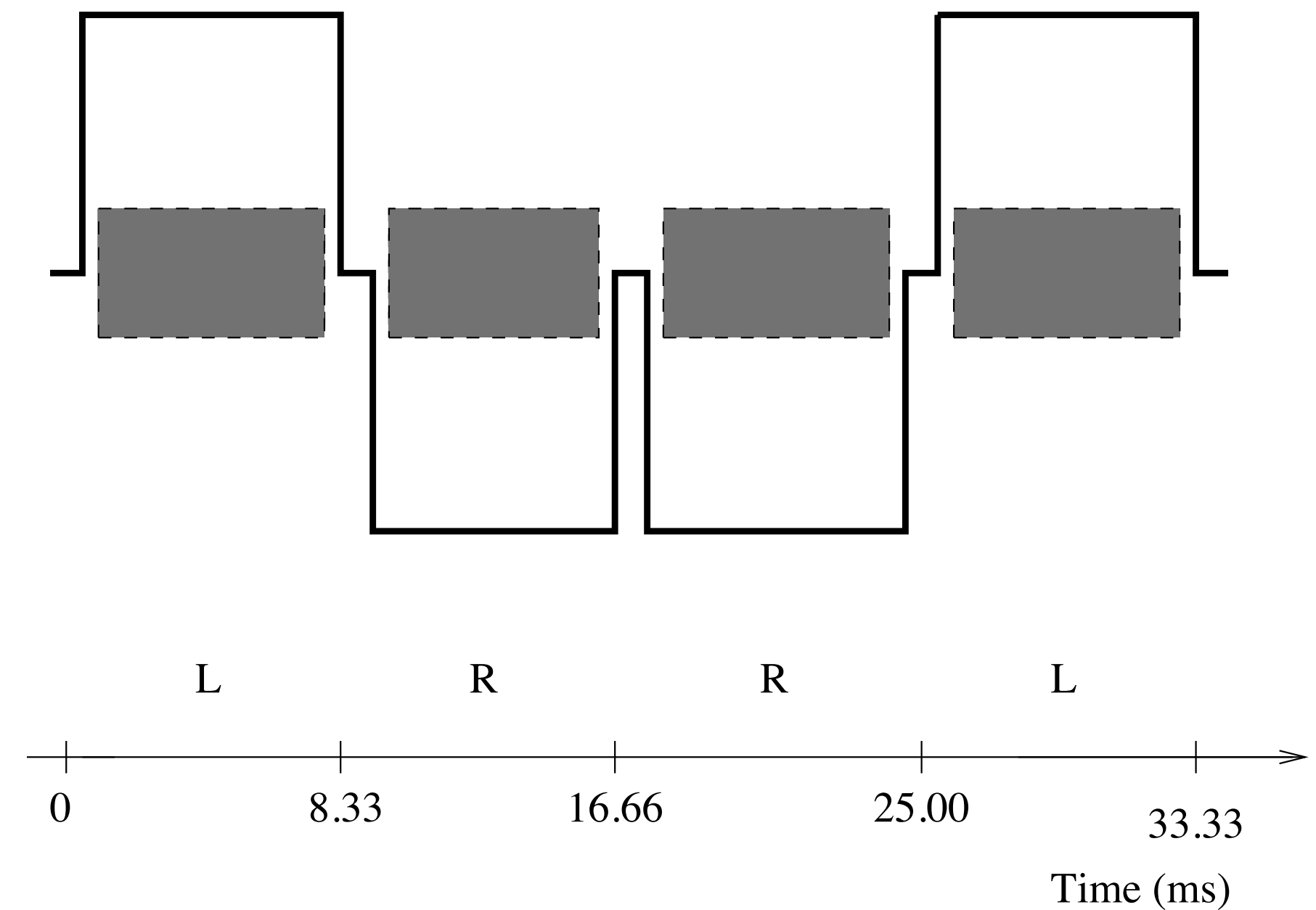
$$A_{PV} = \frac{\sigma_L - \sigma_R}{\sigma_L + \sigma_R} \propto \frac{\mathcal{M}_\gamma^* \mathcal{M}_Z}{\mathcal{M}_\gamma^2}$$

# Parity-violating electron scattering

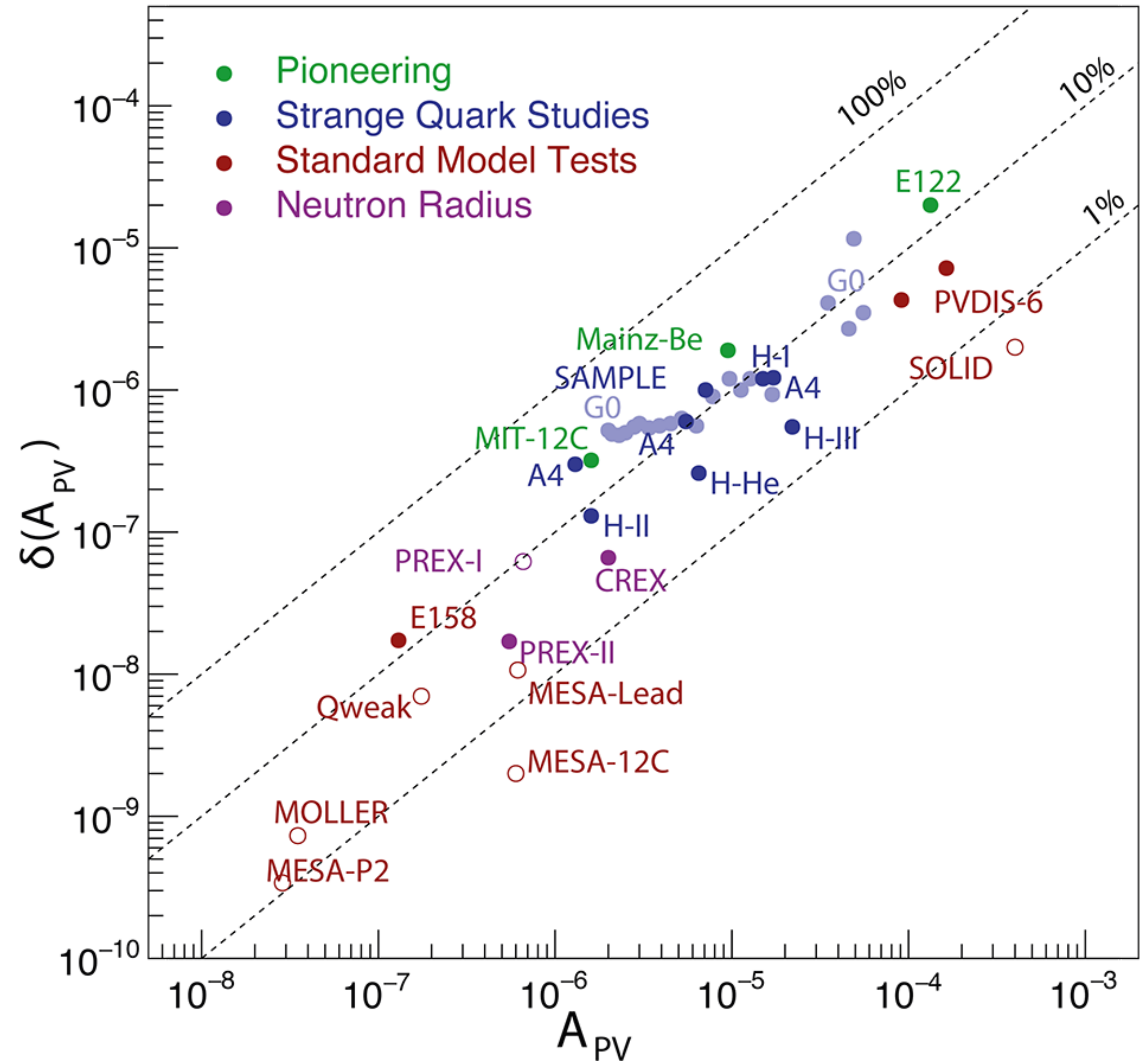


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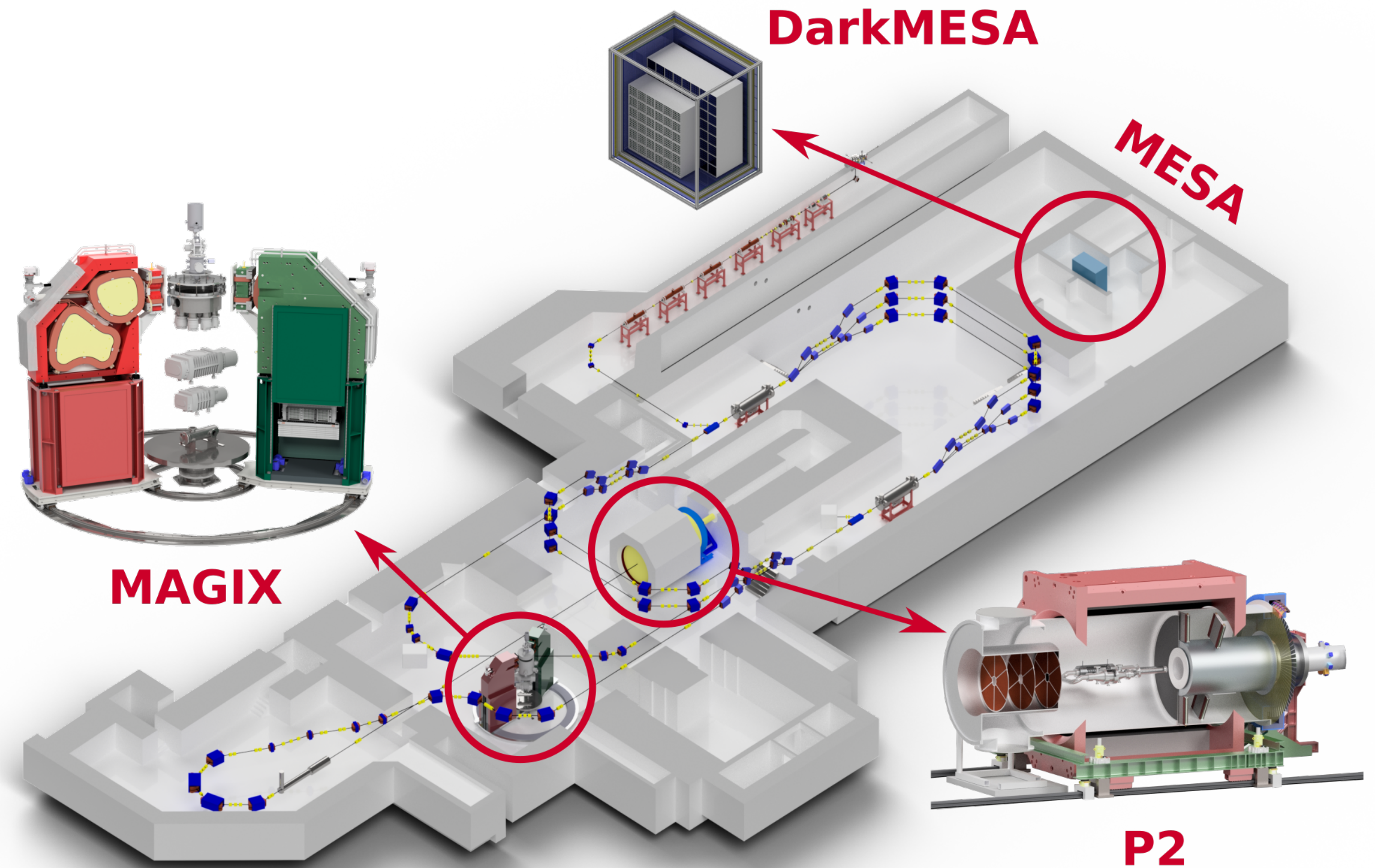
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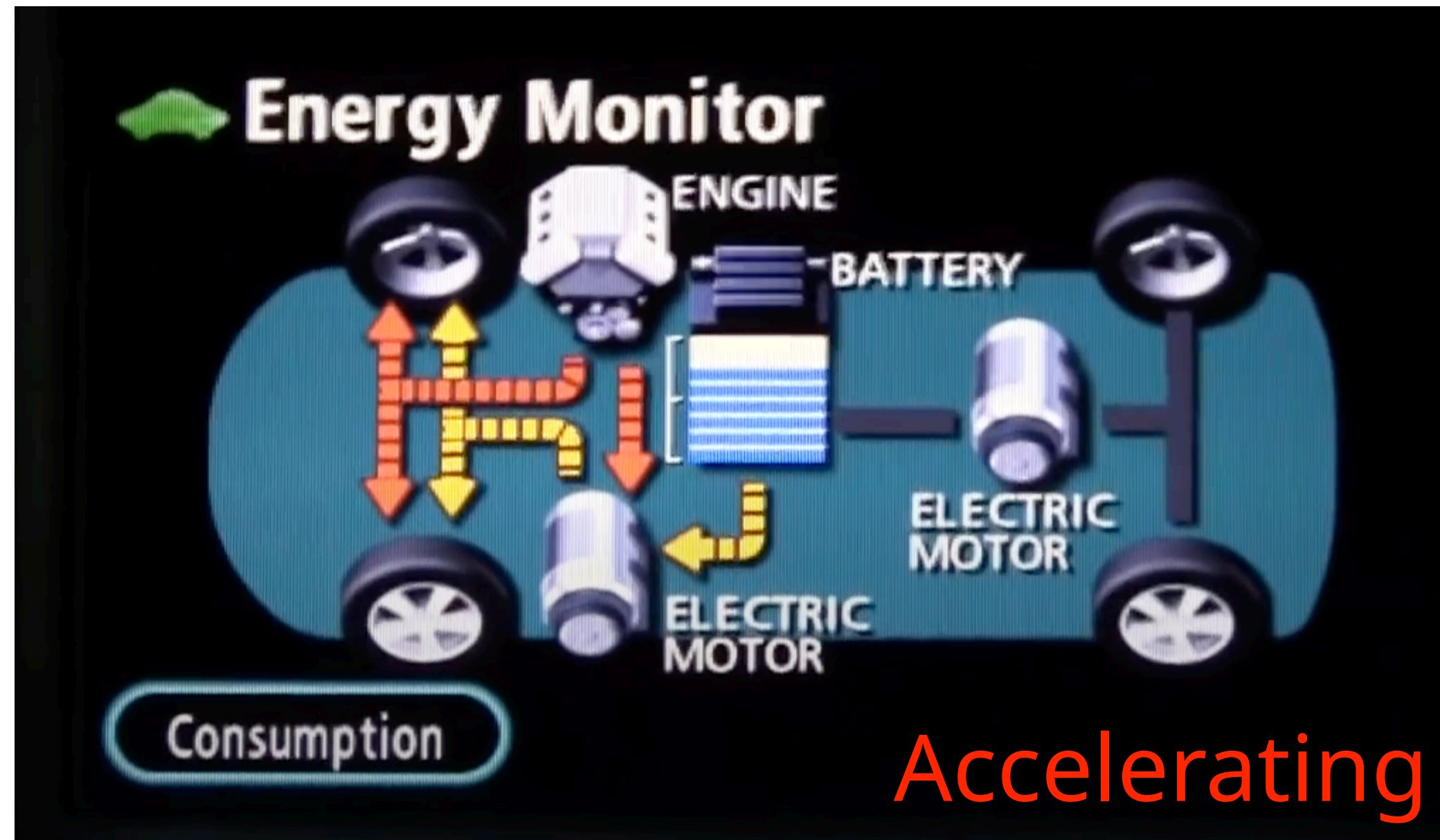
- History of PVES: continuous improvement in accelerator and detector technology
- State of the art: sub-ppb statistical reach and control of systematics



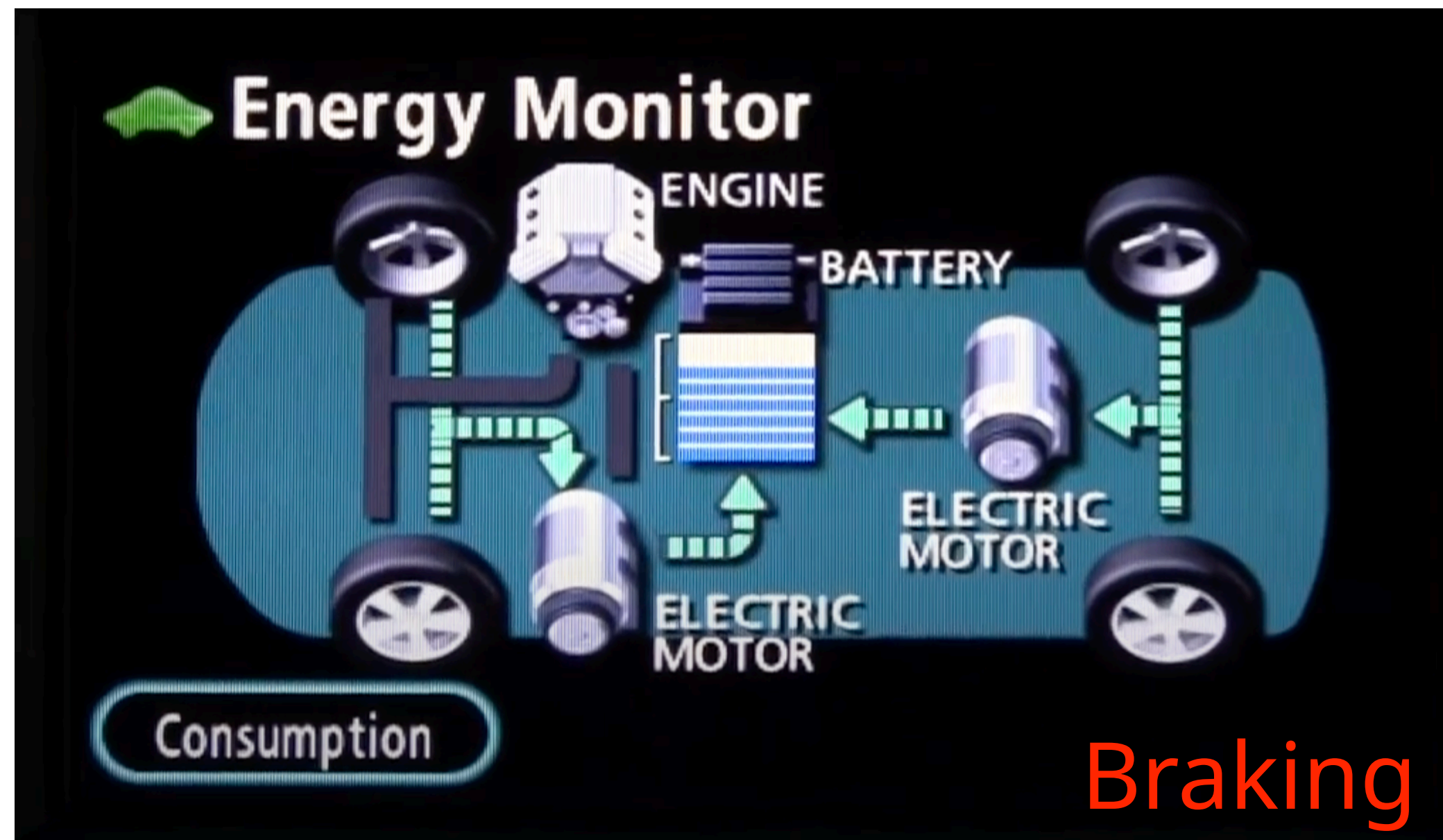
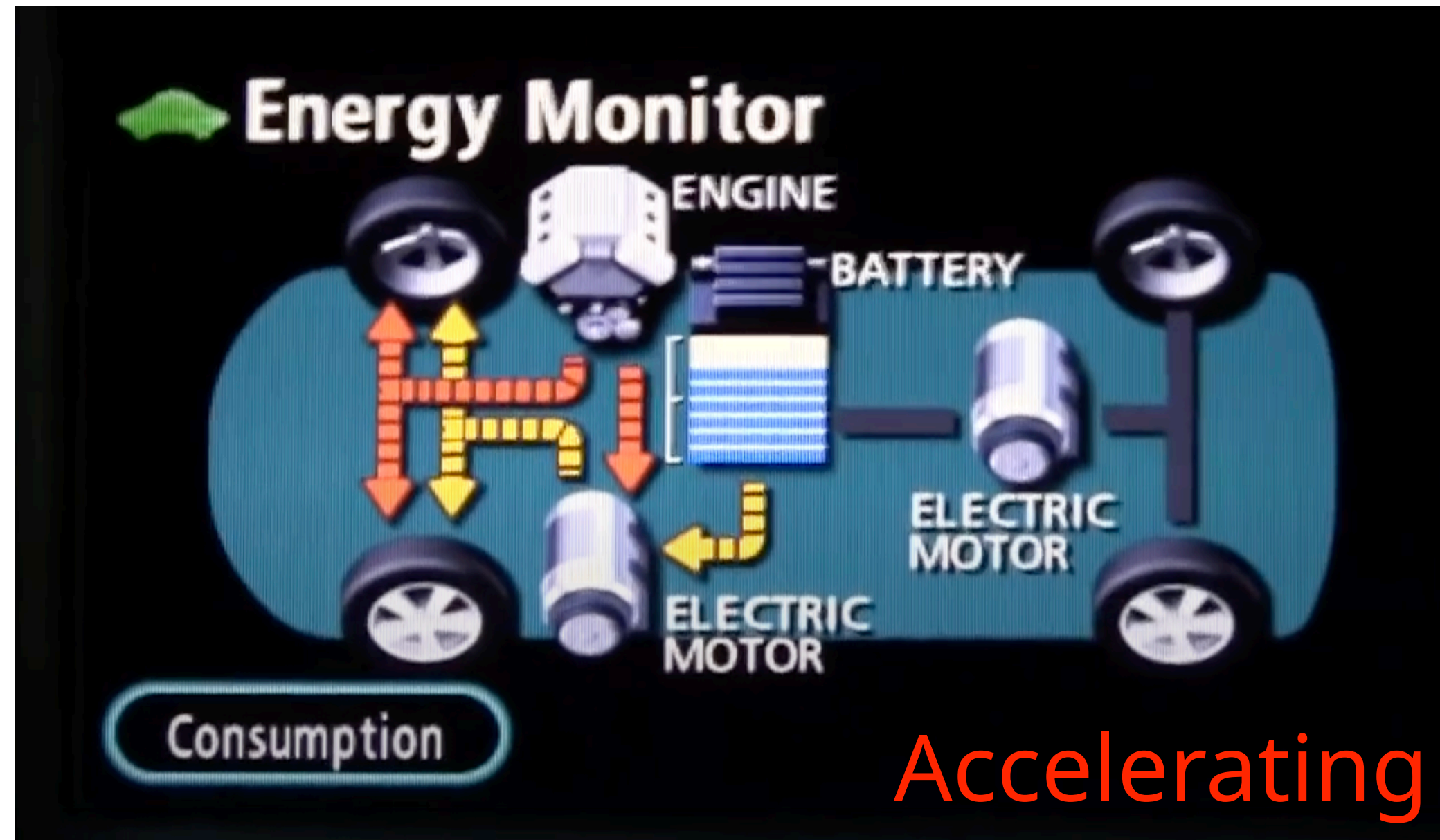
# Mainz Energy-recovery Superconducting Accelerator (MESA)



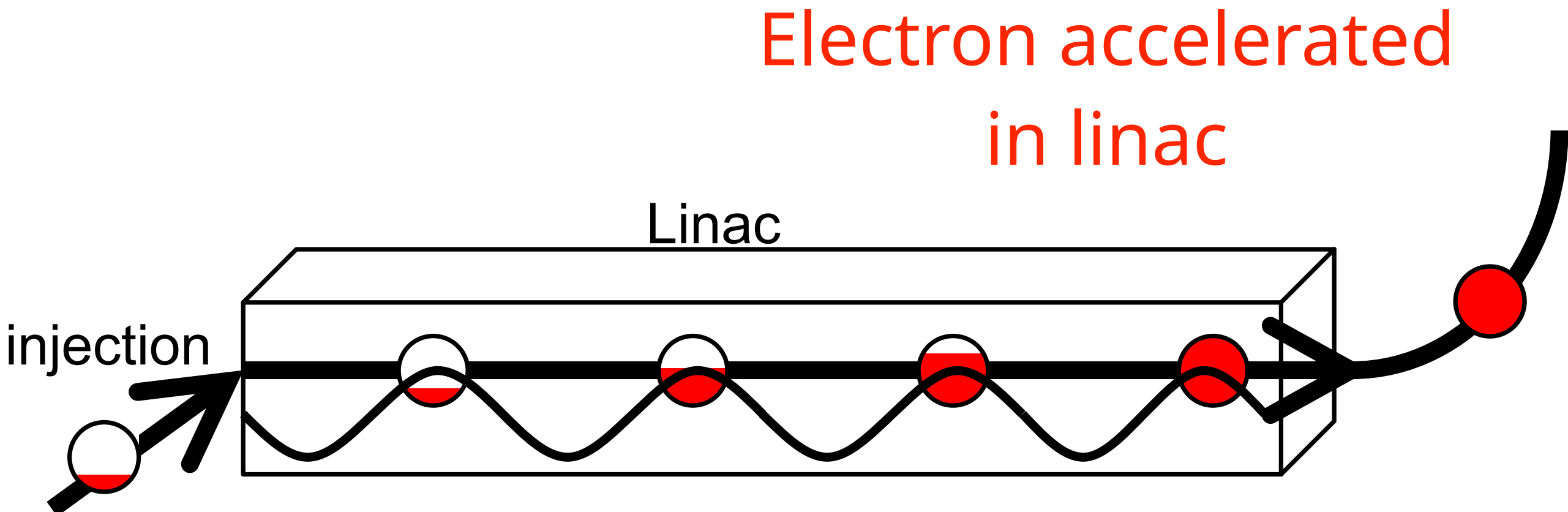
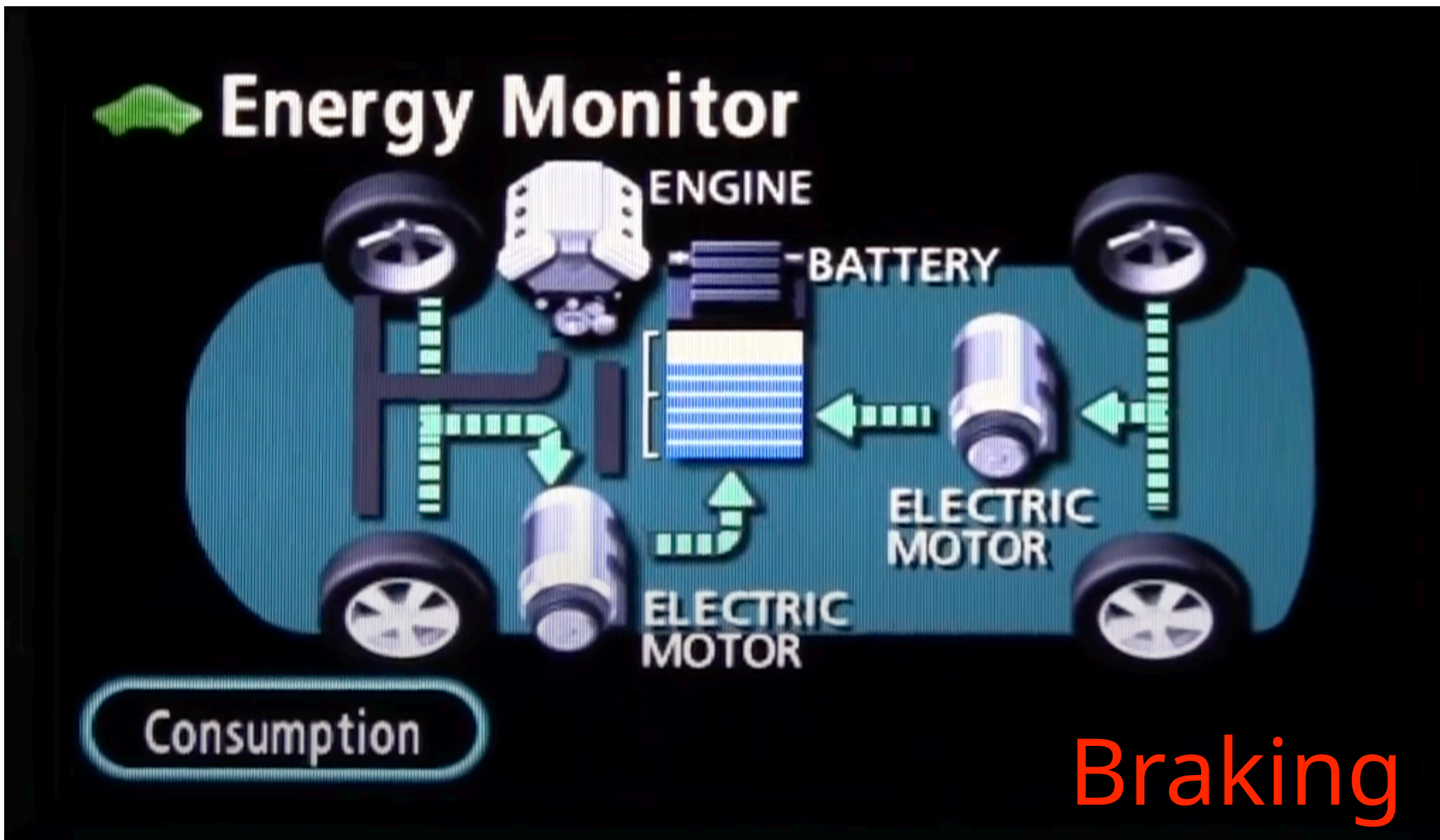
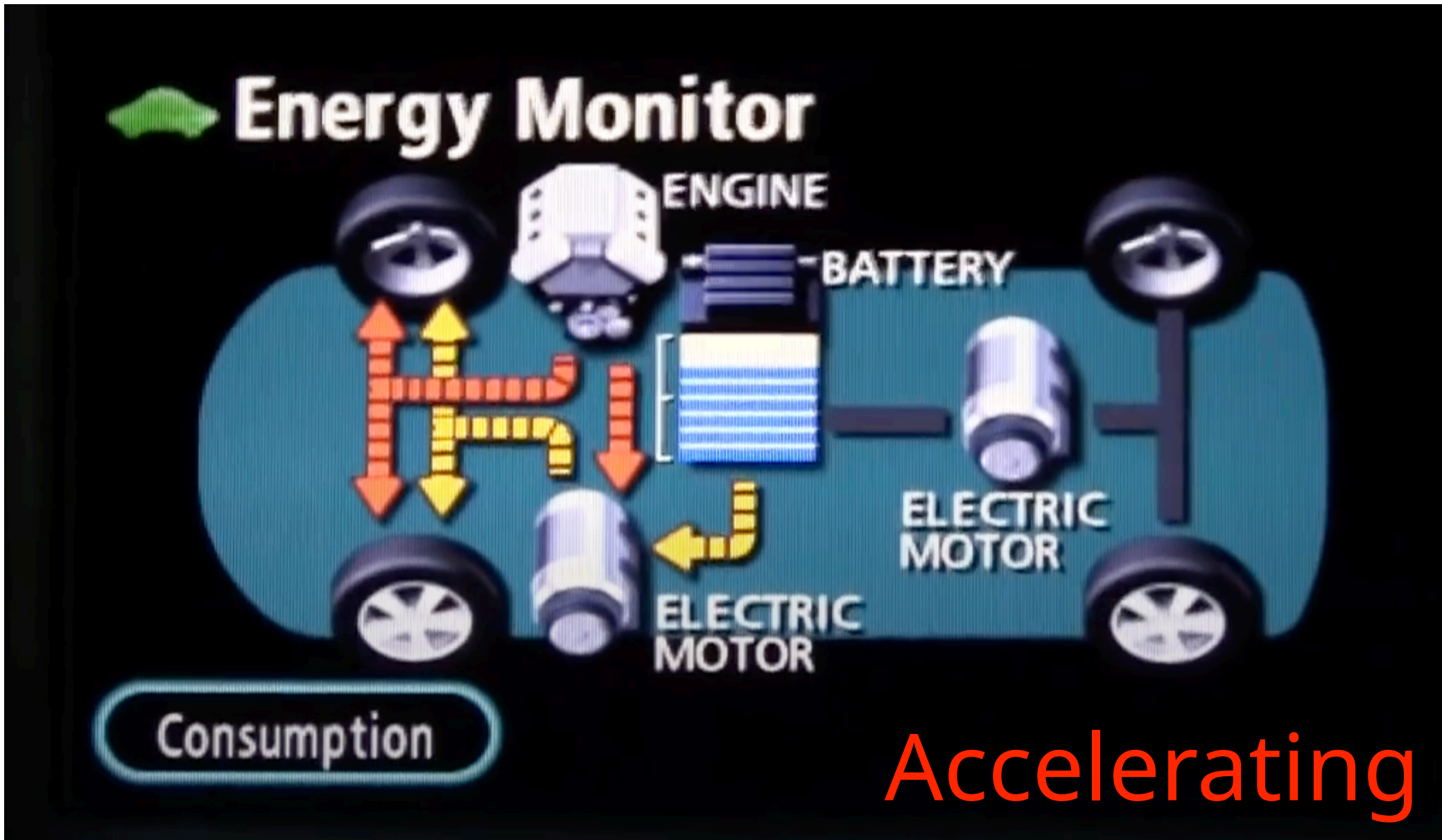
# What is energy recovery?



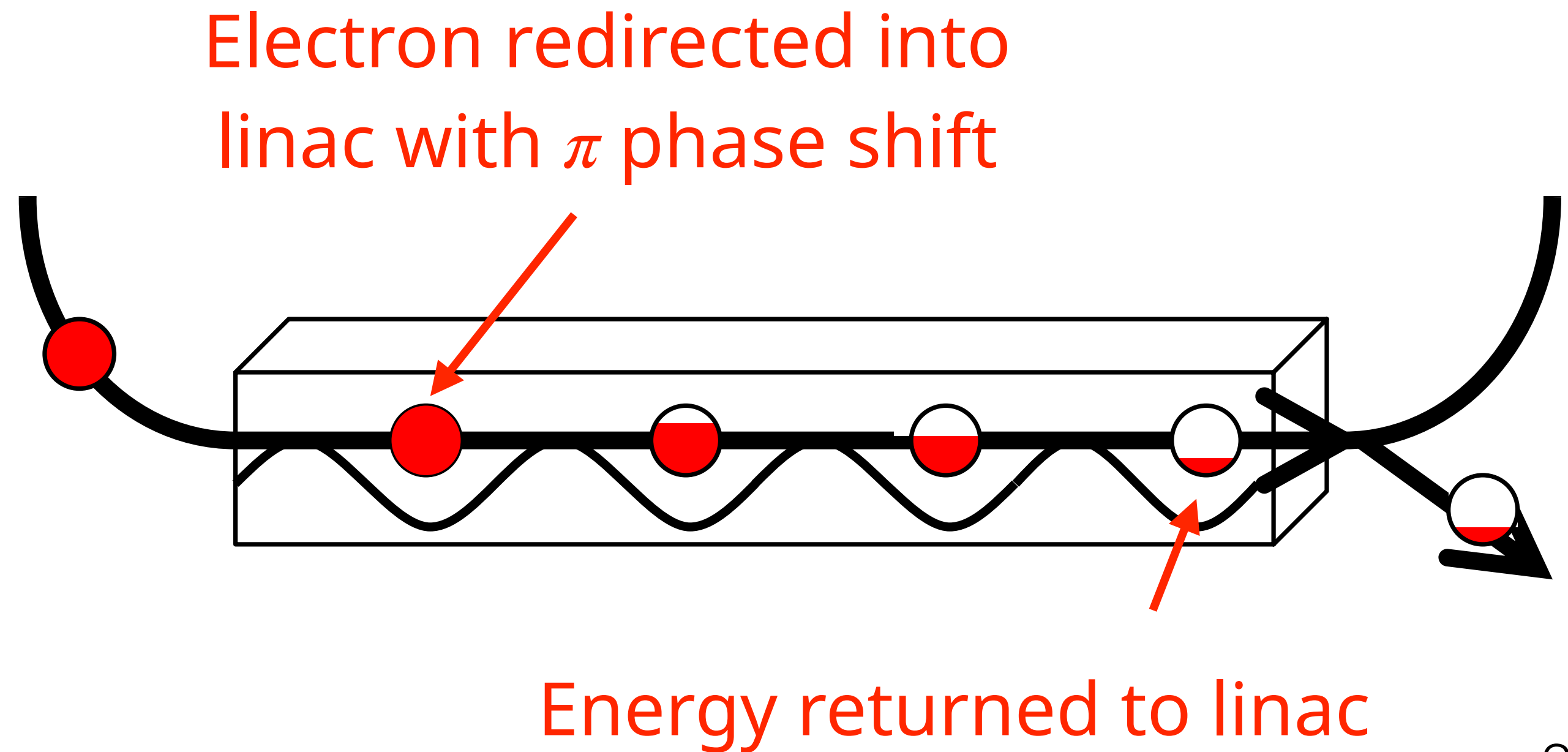
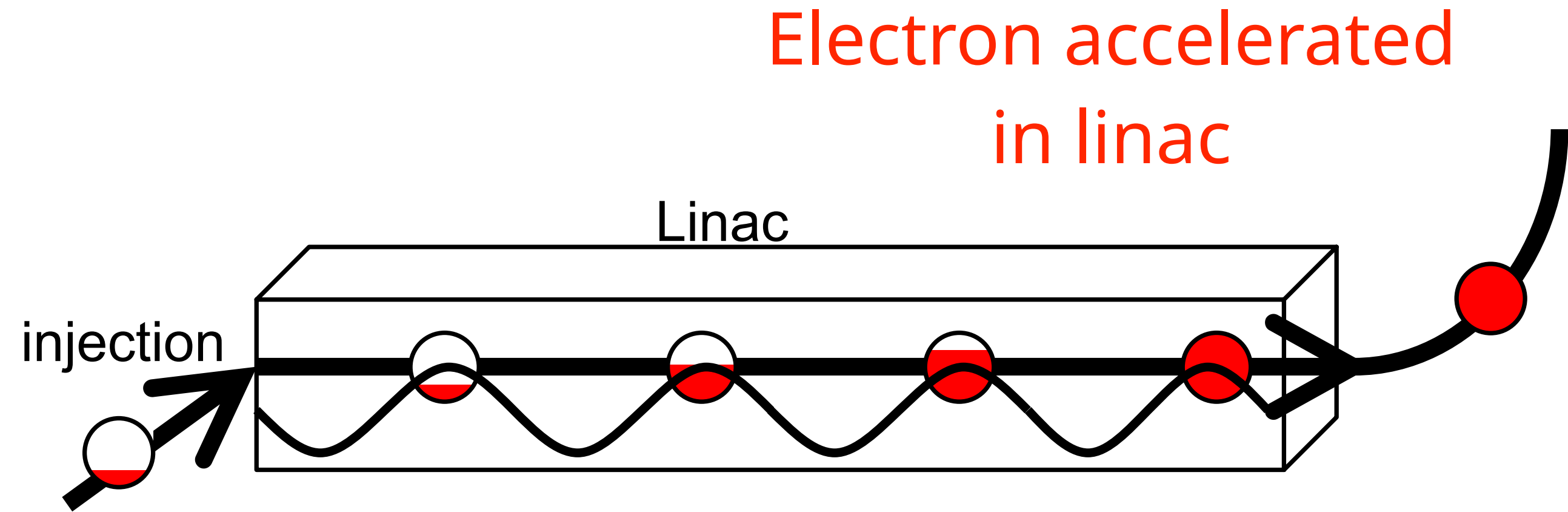
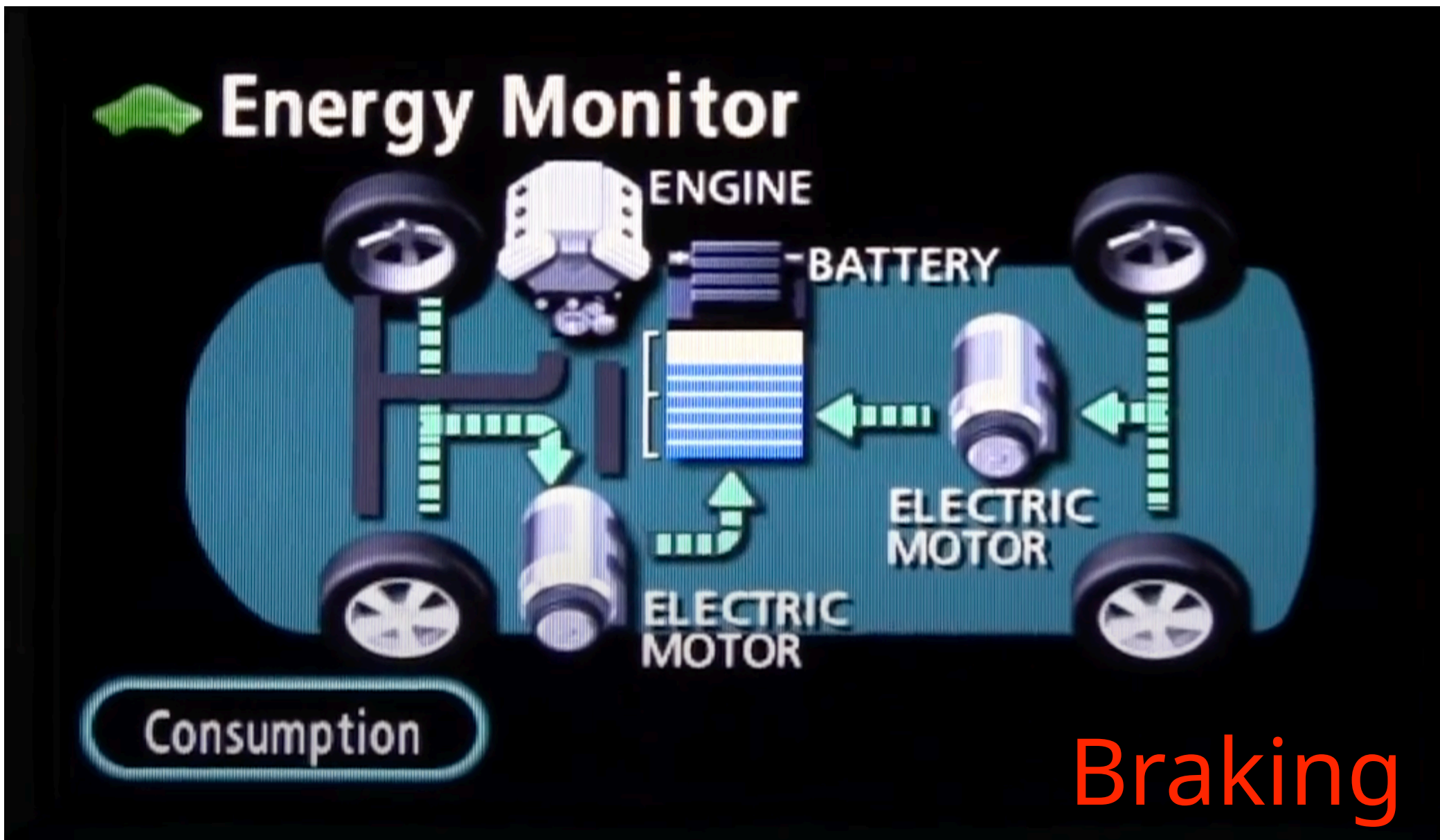
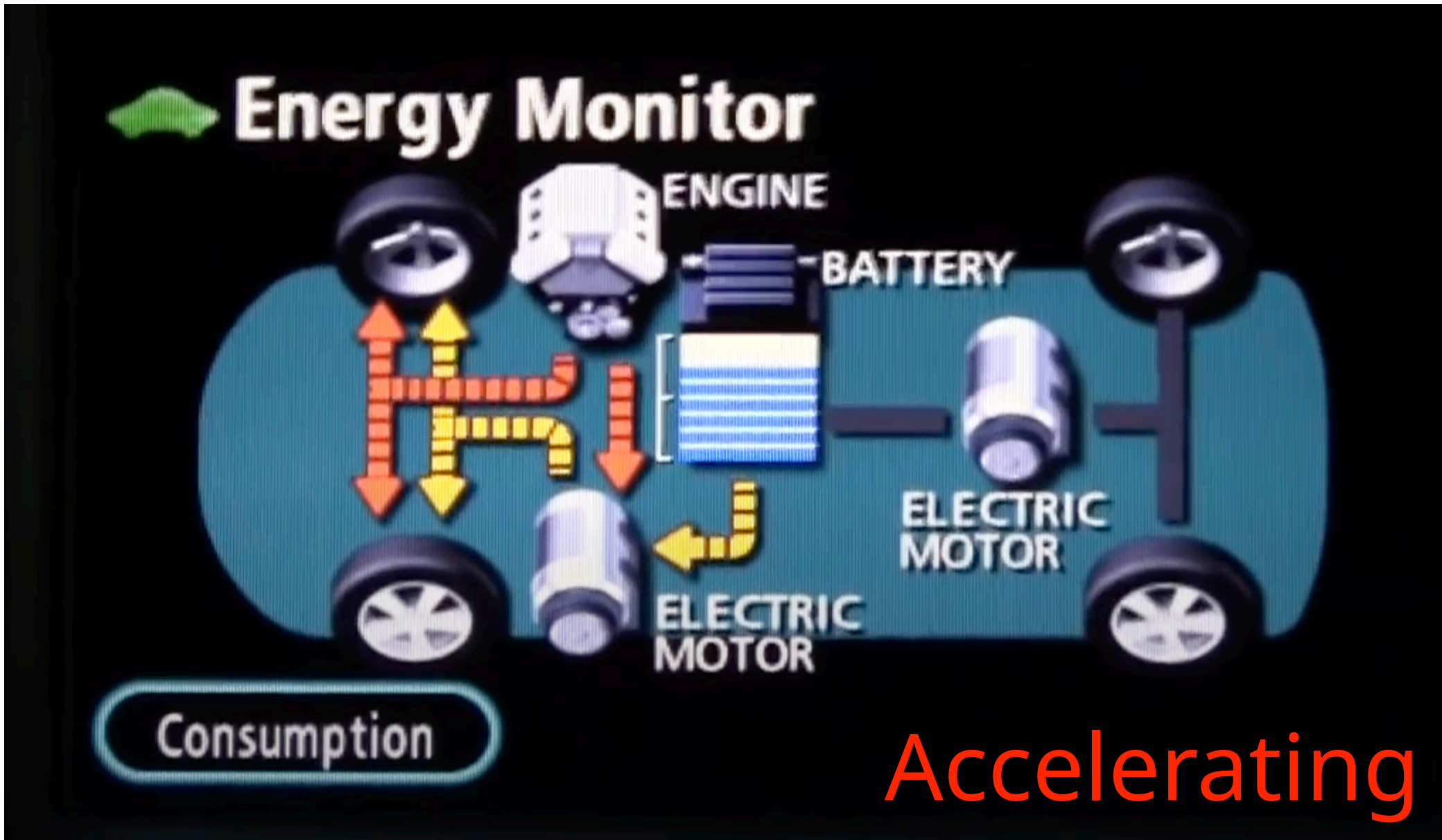
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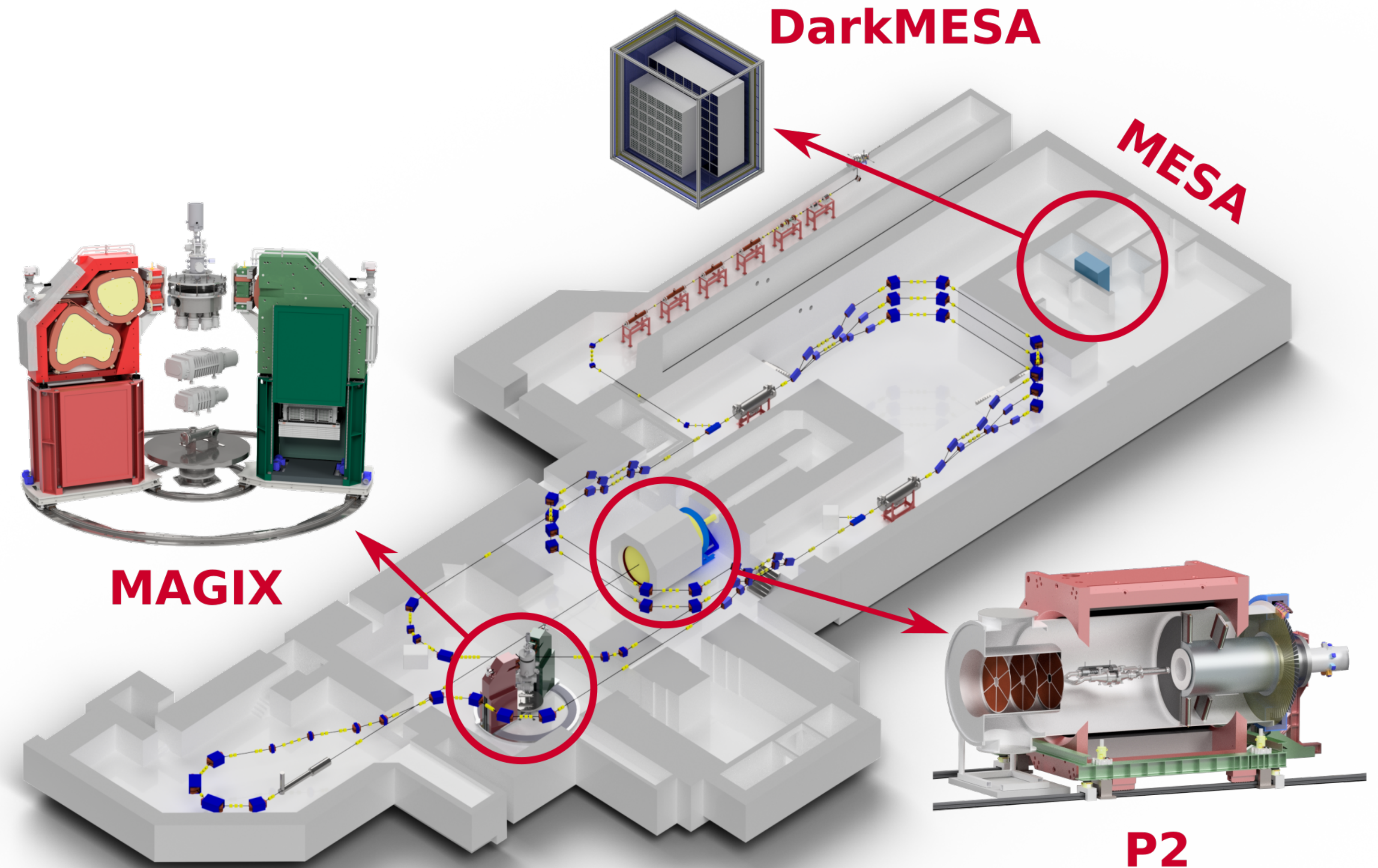


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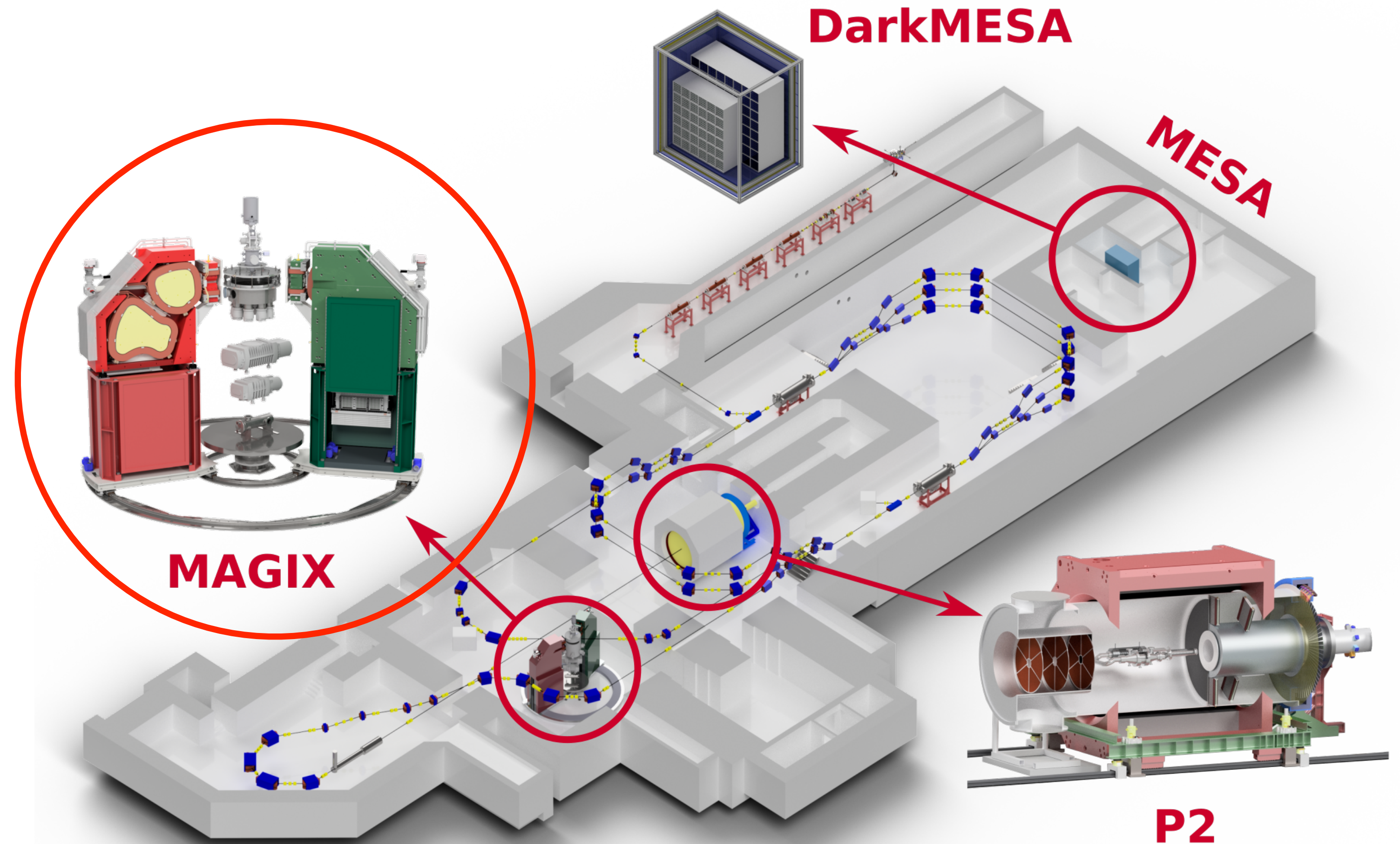
# MESA

- In *energy-recovery mode*:
  - Energy up to 105 MeV
  - Currents over  $1000\ \mu\text{A}$



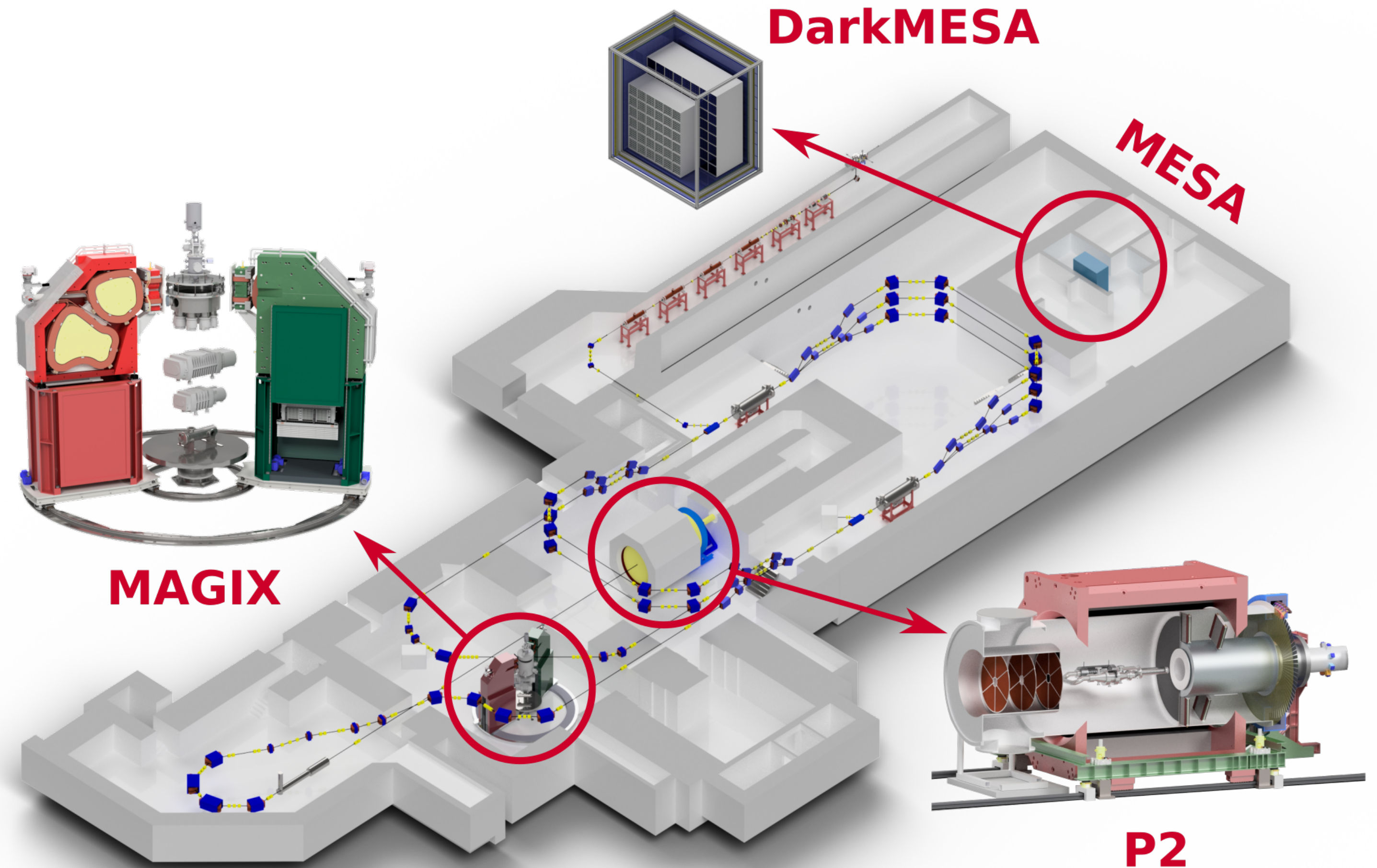
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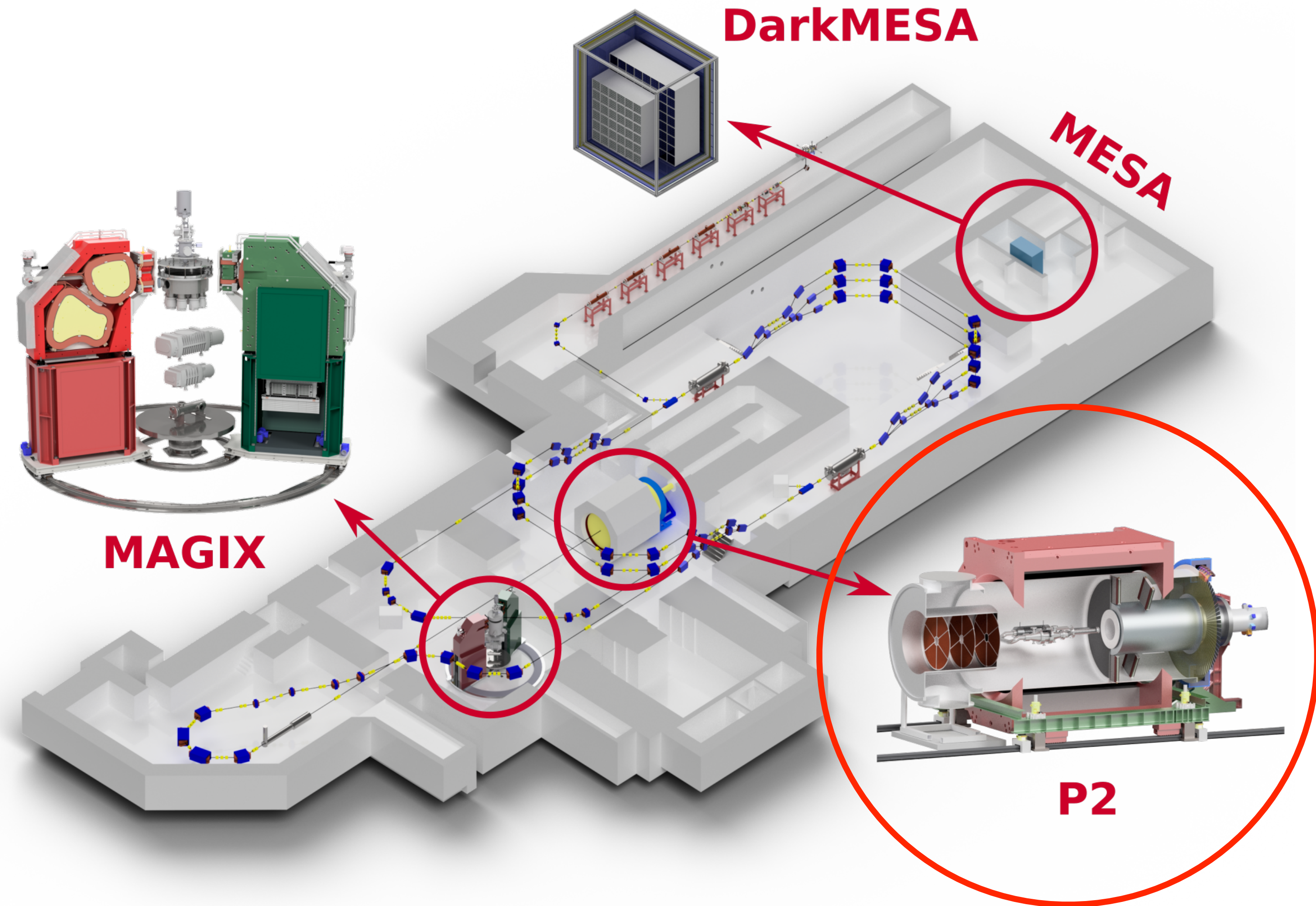
# MESA

- In *energy-recovery mode*:
  - Energy up to 105 MeV
  - Currents over  $1000\ \mu\text{A}$
- In extracted-beam mode:
  - Energy up to 155 MeV
  - Current up to  $150\ \mu\text{A}$
  - Polarization up to 80%

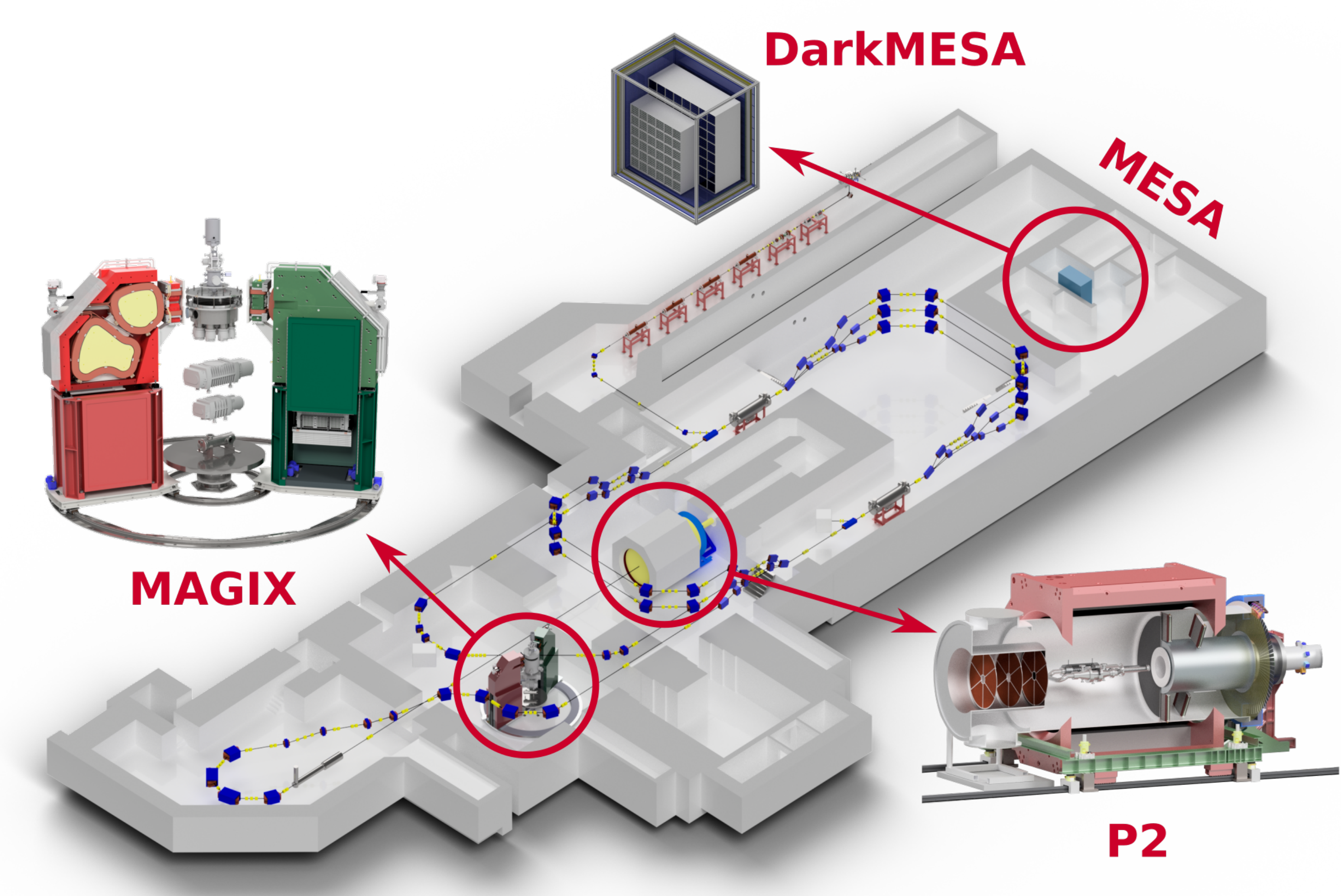


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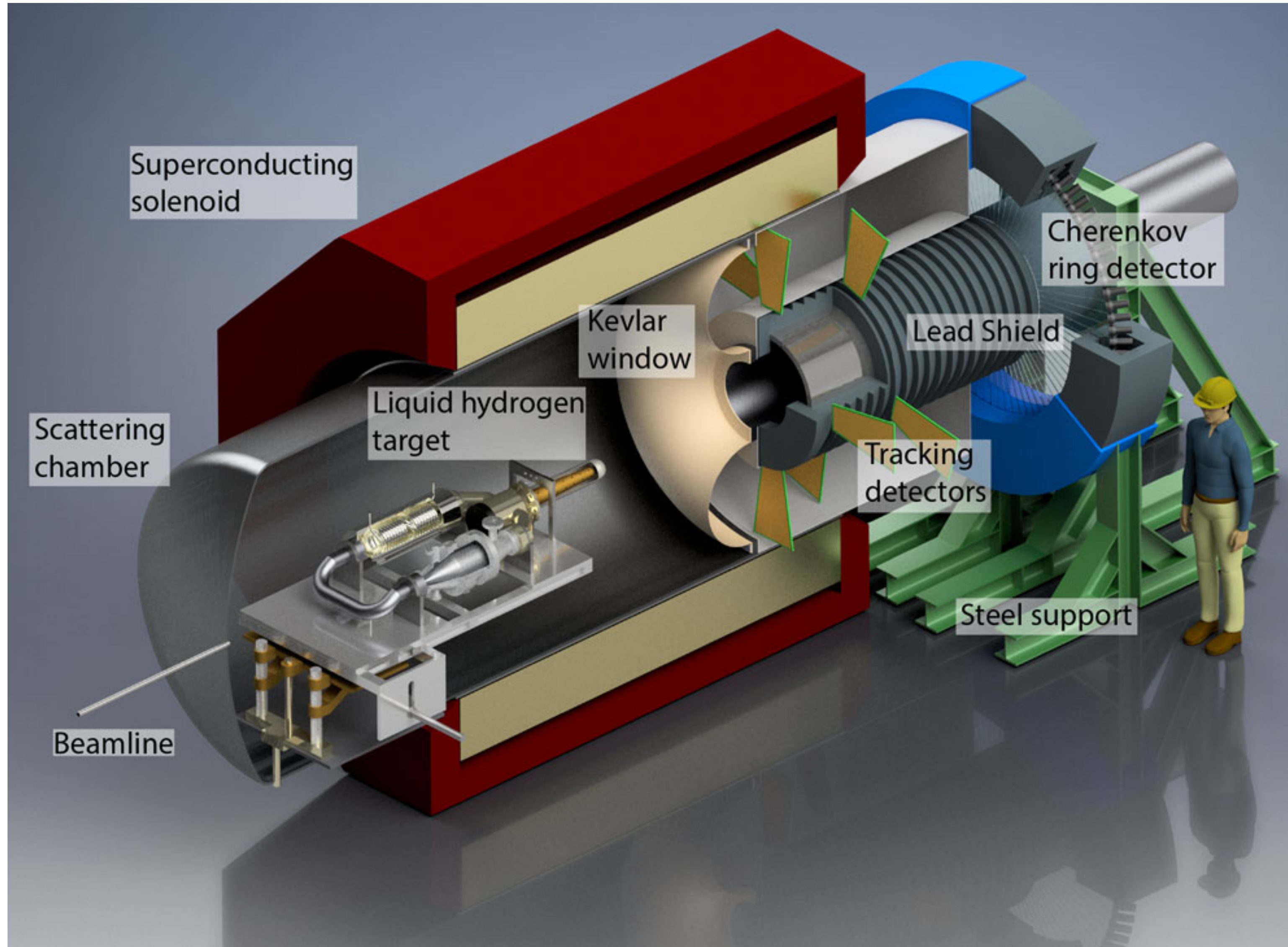
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  - Polarization up to 80%



# MESA



# The P2 experiment



- Measure parity violating asymmetry in elastic  $ep$  scattering
- Extracted beam mode:
  - $E = 155 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $I = 150 \mu\text{A}$
- 60 cm LH target
- Solenoidal spectrometer with full azimuthal acceptance
- Central  $\theta_e = 35^\circ$

# Delivery of the P2 solenoid (November 2024)



# Measuring the weak charge of the proton

- In  $ep$  scattering:

$$A_{PV} = \frac{-G_F Q^2}{4\pi\alpha\sqrt{2}} \left[ Q_W^p - F(E, Q^2) \right]$$

$$Q_W^p = 1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W$$

- Precision extraction of weak mixing angle at low  $Q^2$
- Sensitivity to BSM physics parameterized by effective interactions (e.g. SMEFT)

P2 experiment at MESA:  
Goal of 40 ppb  $\pm$  0.57 ppm  
(0.15% on weak mixing angle)

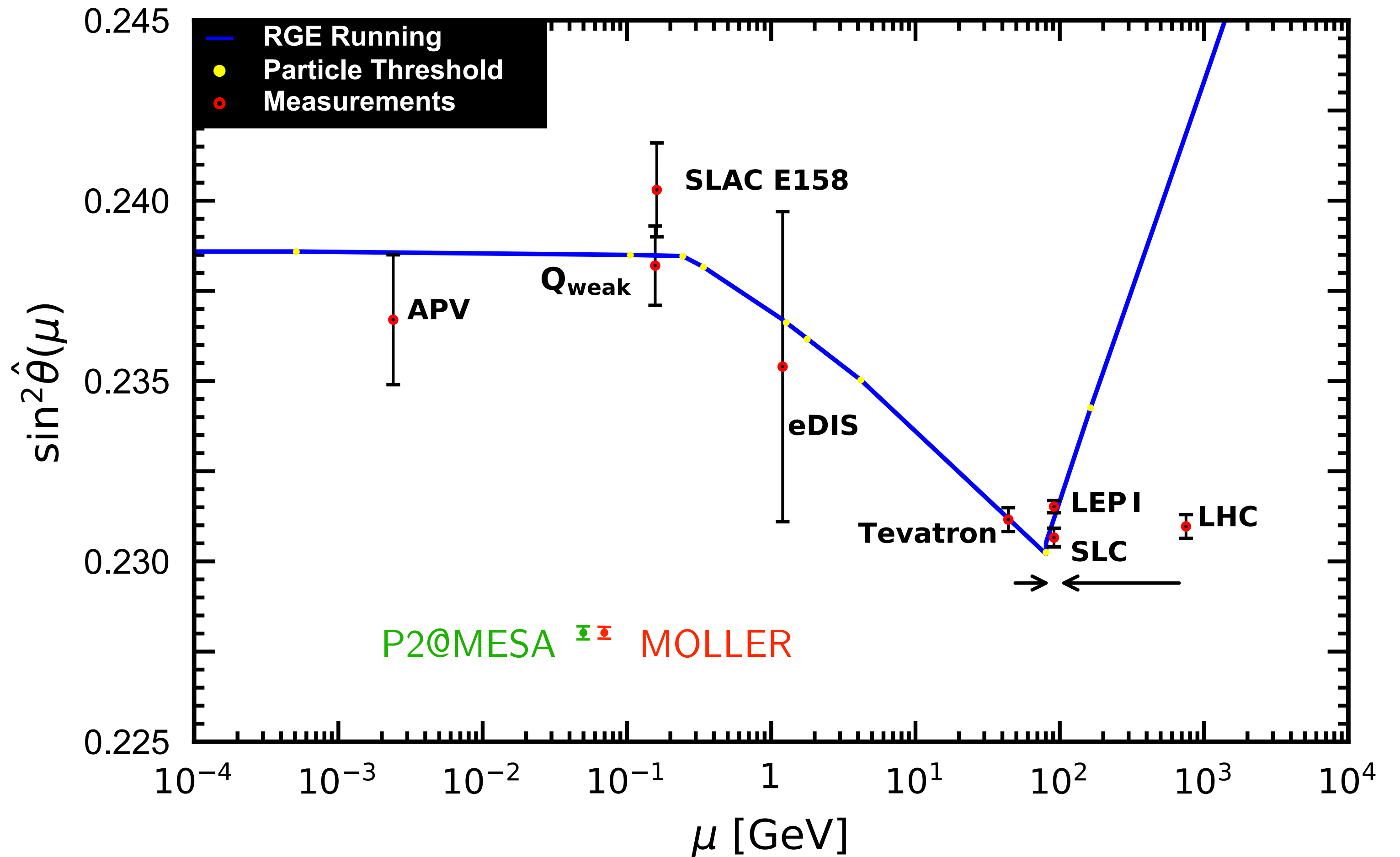
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P2 experiment at MESA:  
Goal of  $40 \text{ ppb} \pm 0.57 \text{ ppm}$   
(0.15% on weak mixing angle)

# Challenges in the precision frontier...

- Sub-ppb precision requires enormous statistics

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} < 0.57 \text{ ppb} \rightarrow N > 10^{18}$$

- Assuming counting detector rate of 100 MHz = over *100 years* of data collection  
→ need *100s of GHz* event rates
- This requirement creates significant experimental demands:
  - Large beam currents on thick targets
  - High rate detectors

# High-power targets

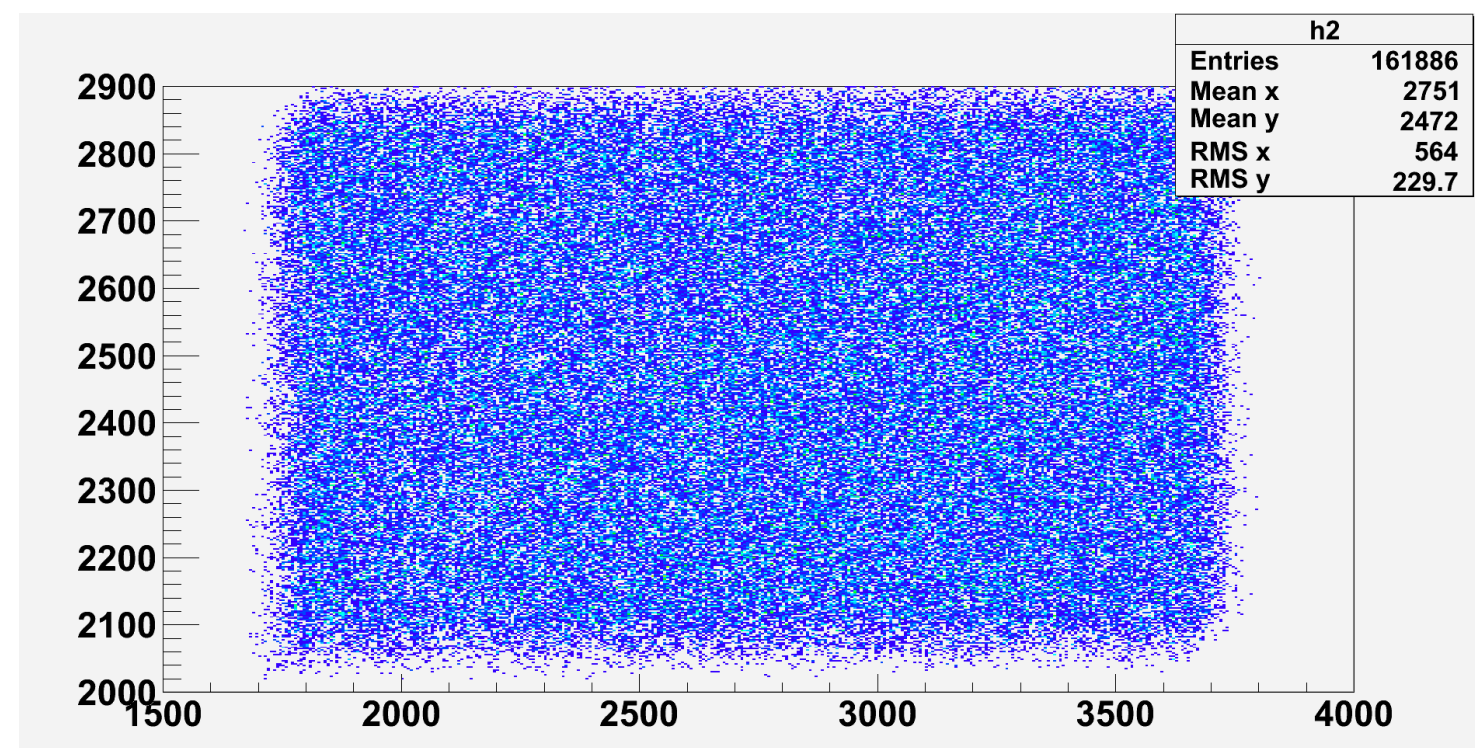
- Large power deposition (up to several kW) can quickly lead to target instability, degradation
  - Solid targets: melting, holes
  - Liquid targets: density fluctuations, boiling

# High-power targets

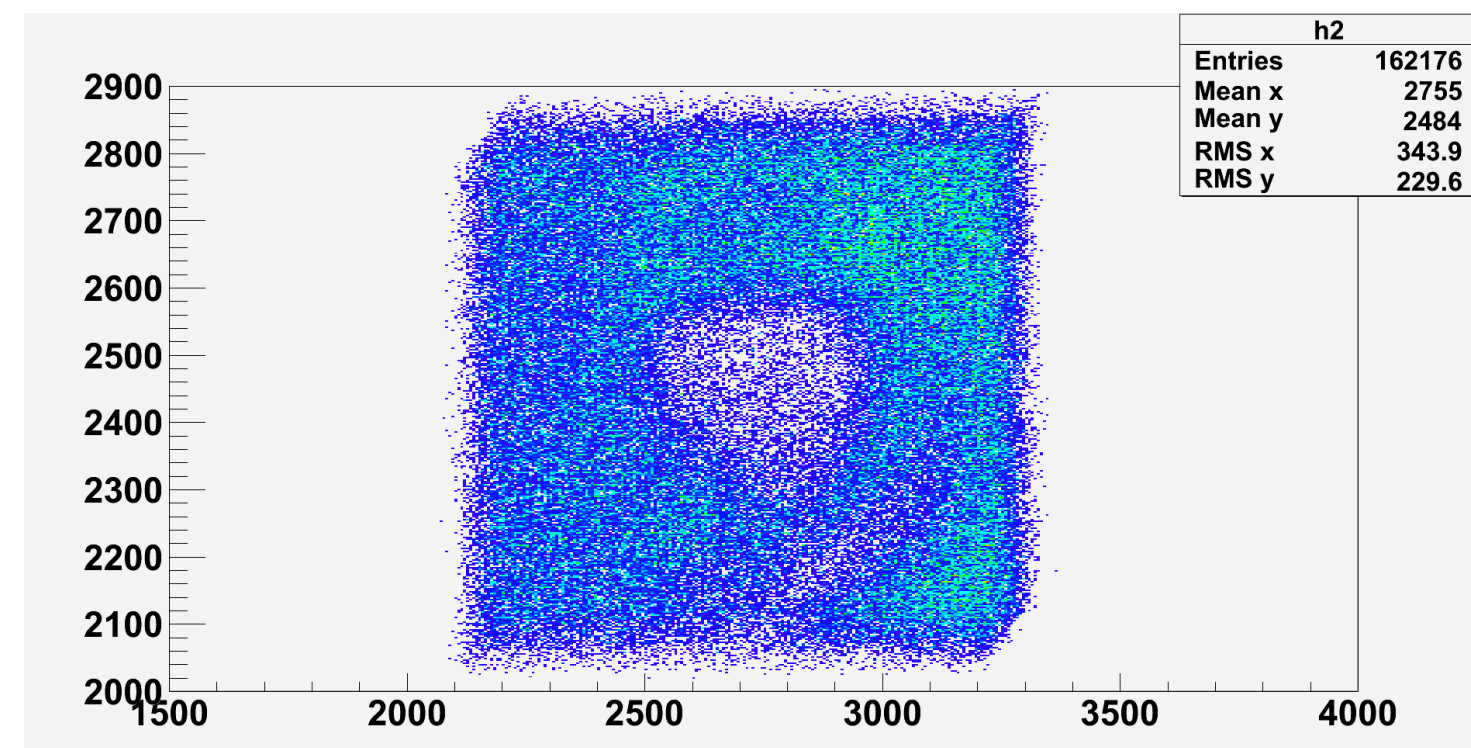
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From PREX at JLab

New  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  target

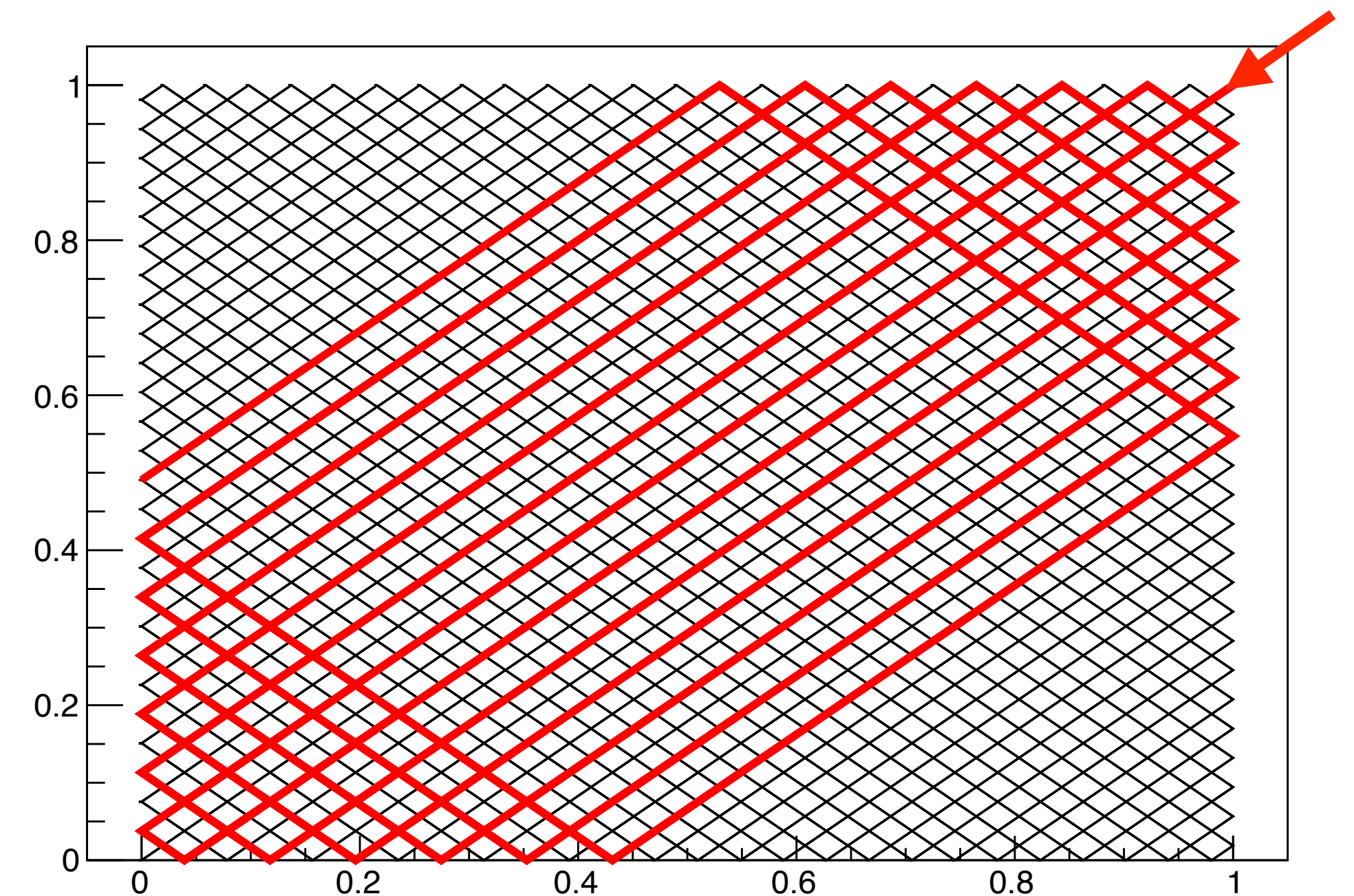
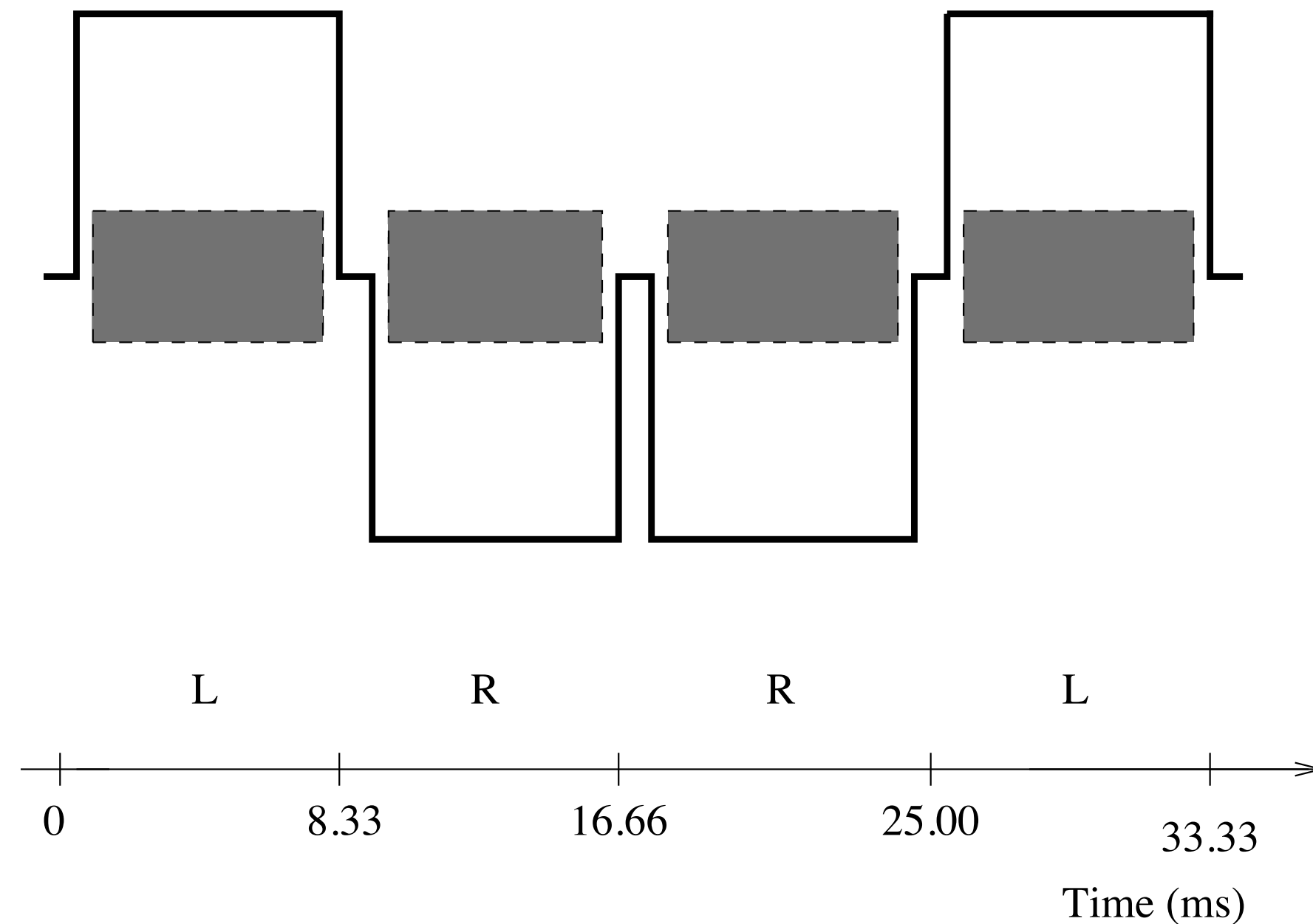
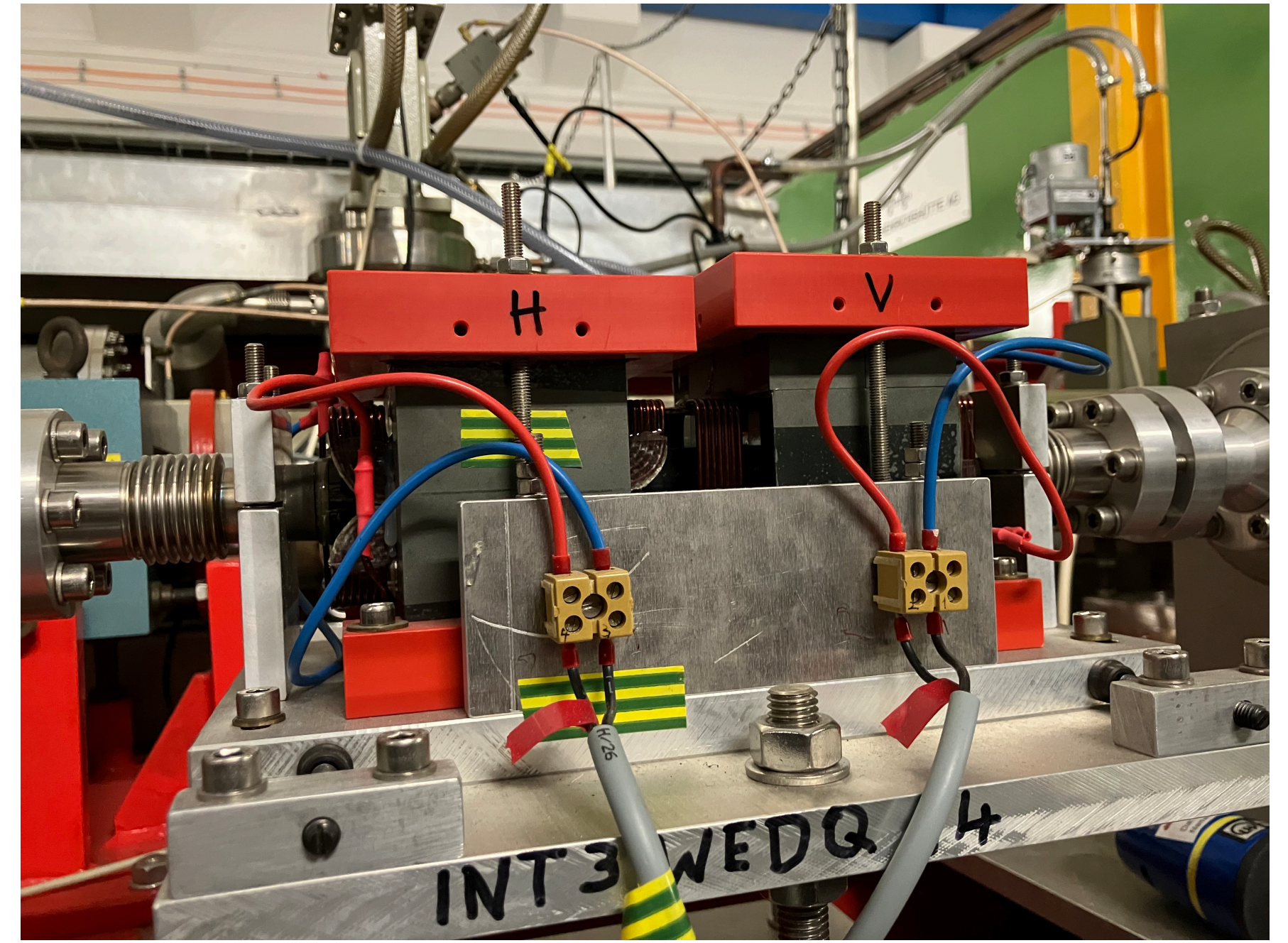


After 1 week at  $70\ \mu\text{A}$



# Beam rastering

- Fast-steering magnets raster beam on target
- Distributes power, reducing target degradation
- *Pattern must be carefully synchronized with beam helicity to reduce systematics!*

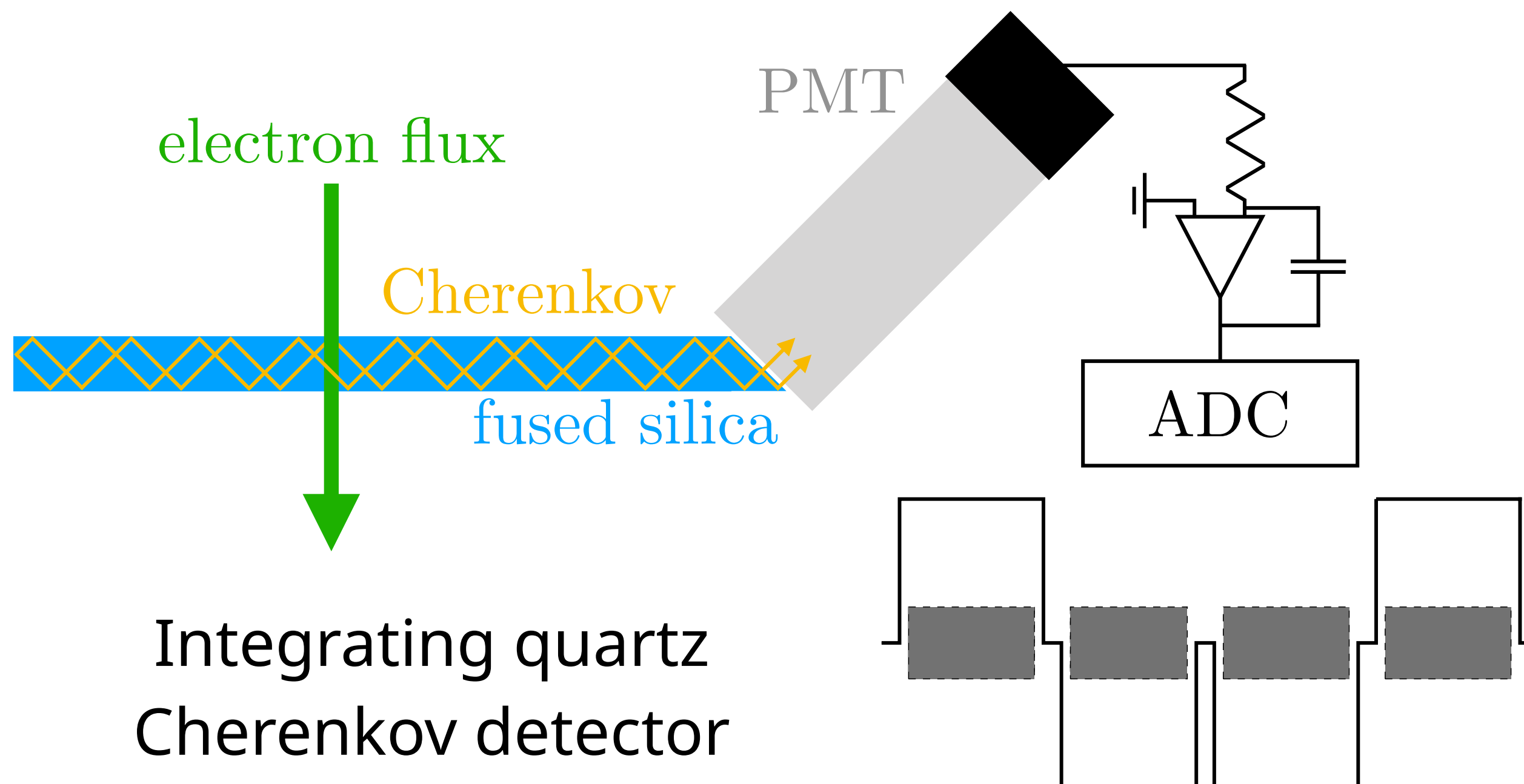


# Detector requirements

- Insensitive to low-energy background
  - Pure Cherenkov detector
- Accommodate 100+ GHz event rates to achieve required statistics
  - Radiation-hard material
  - Integrate signal from many simultaneous events (no “counting”)

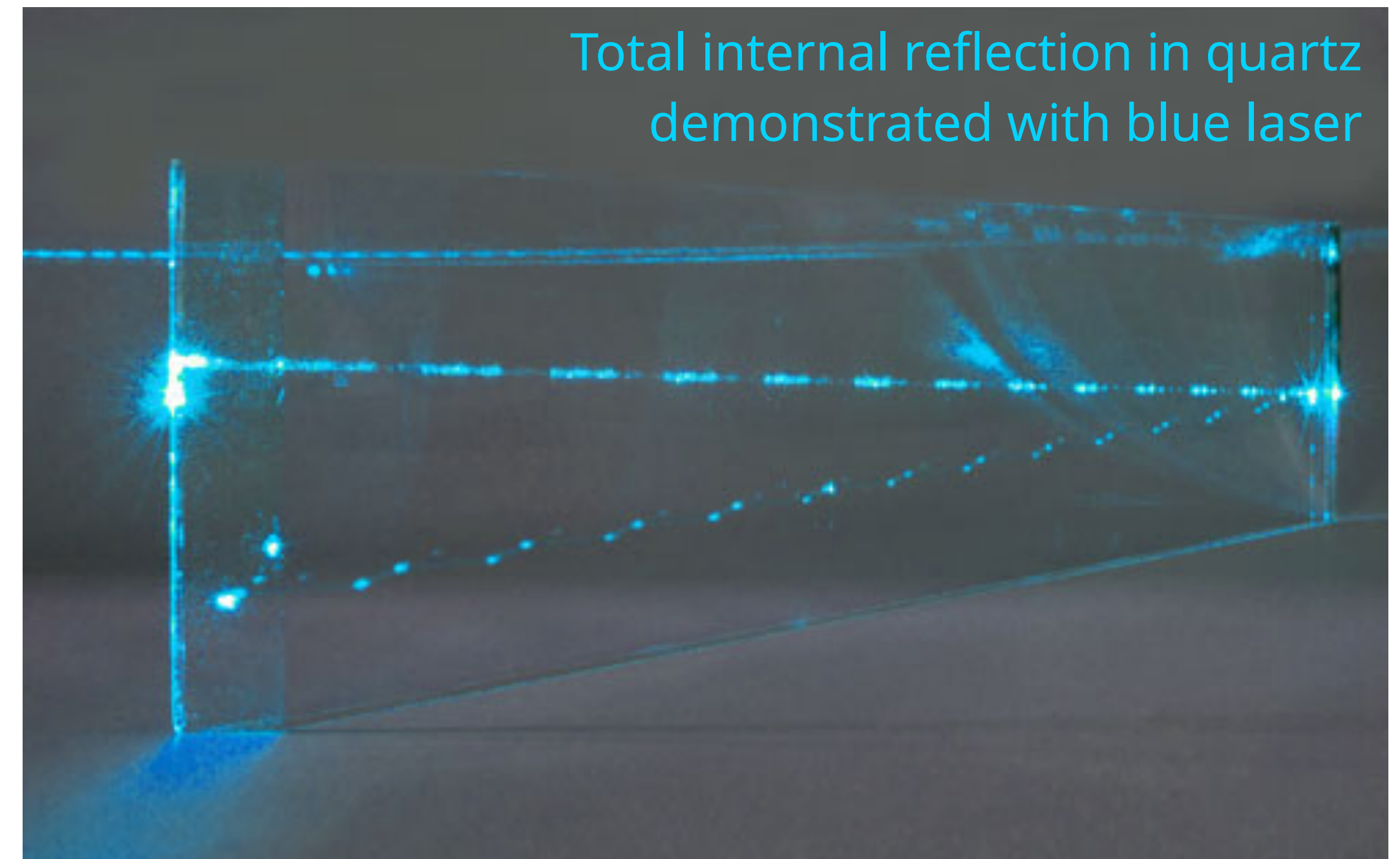
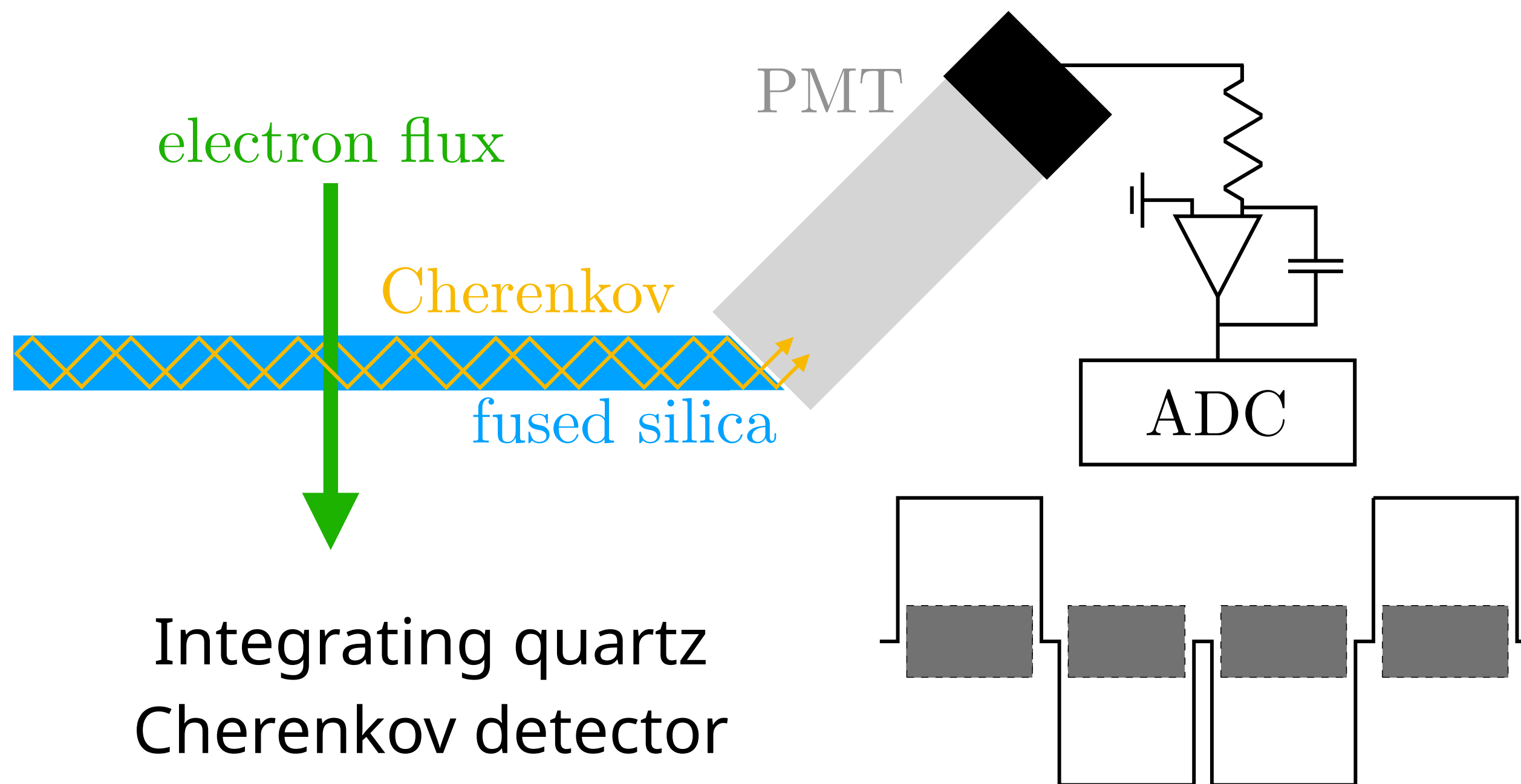
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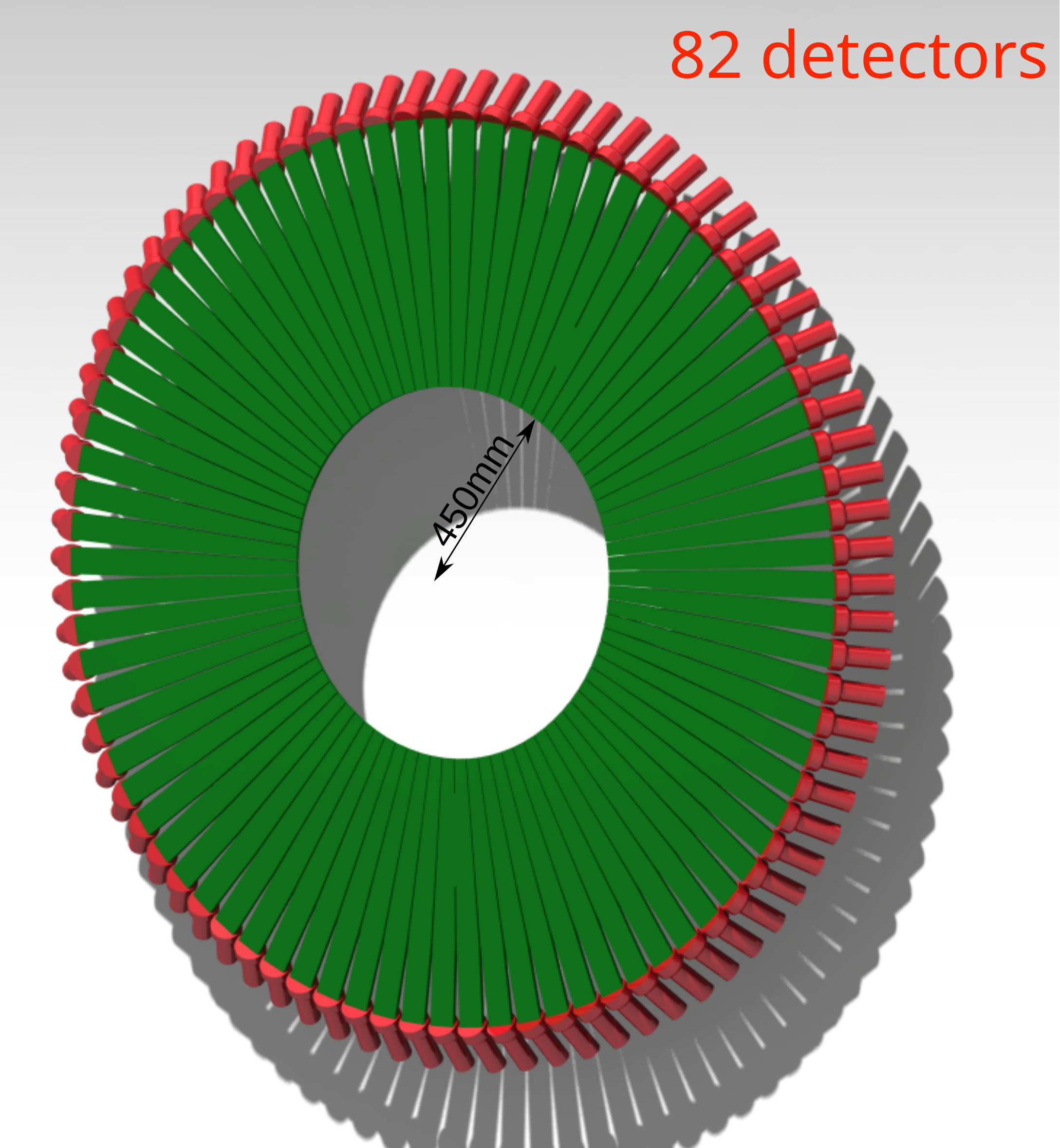
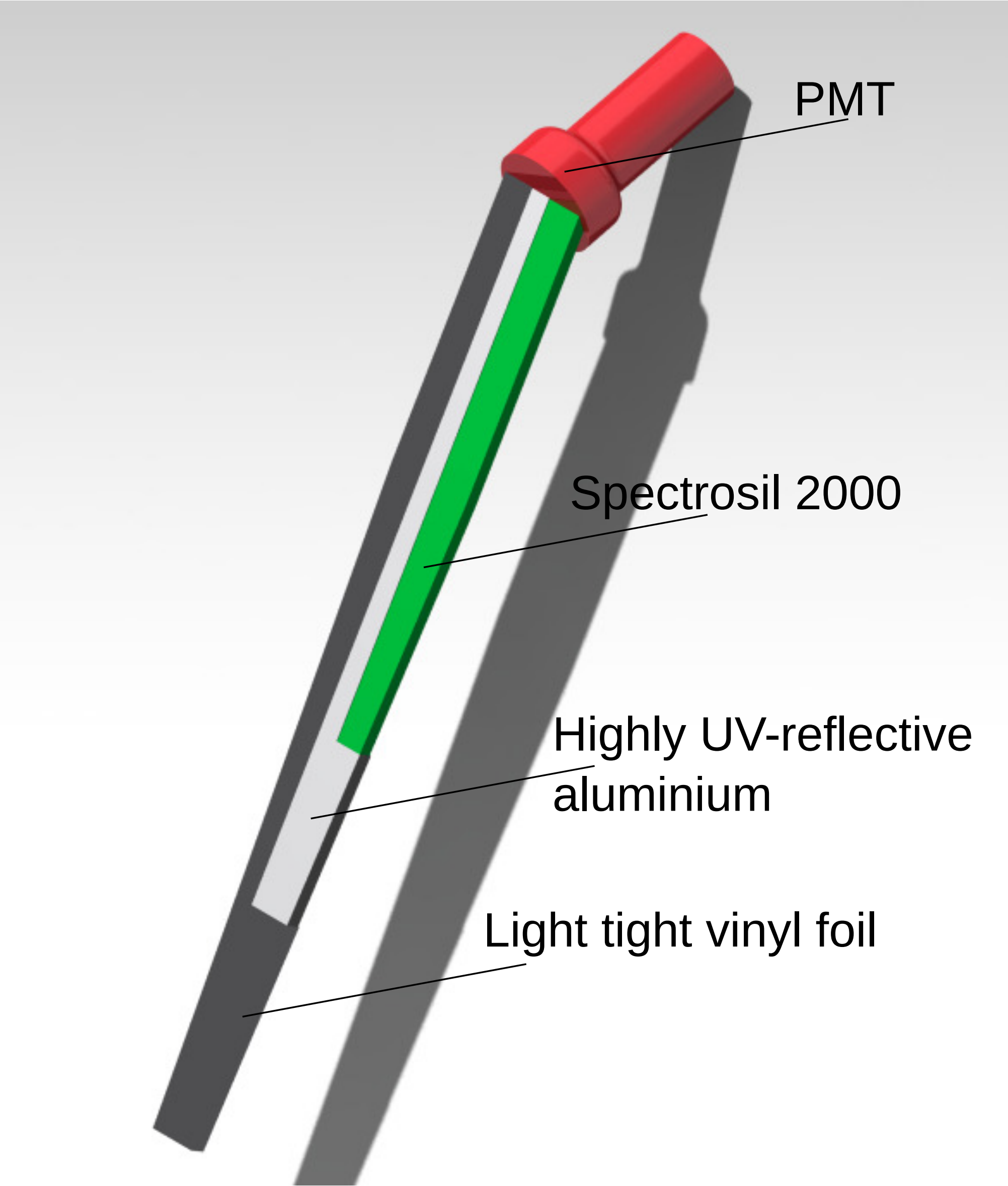


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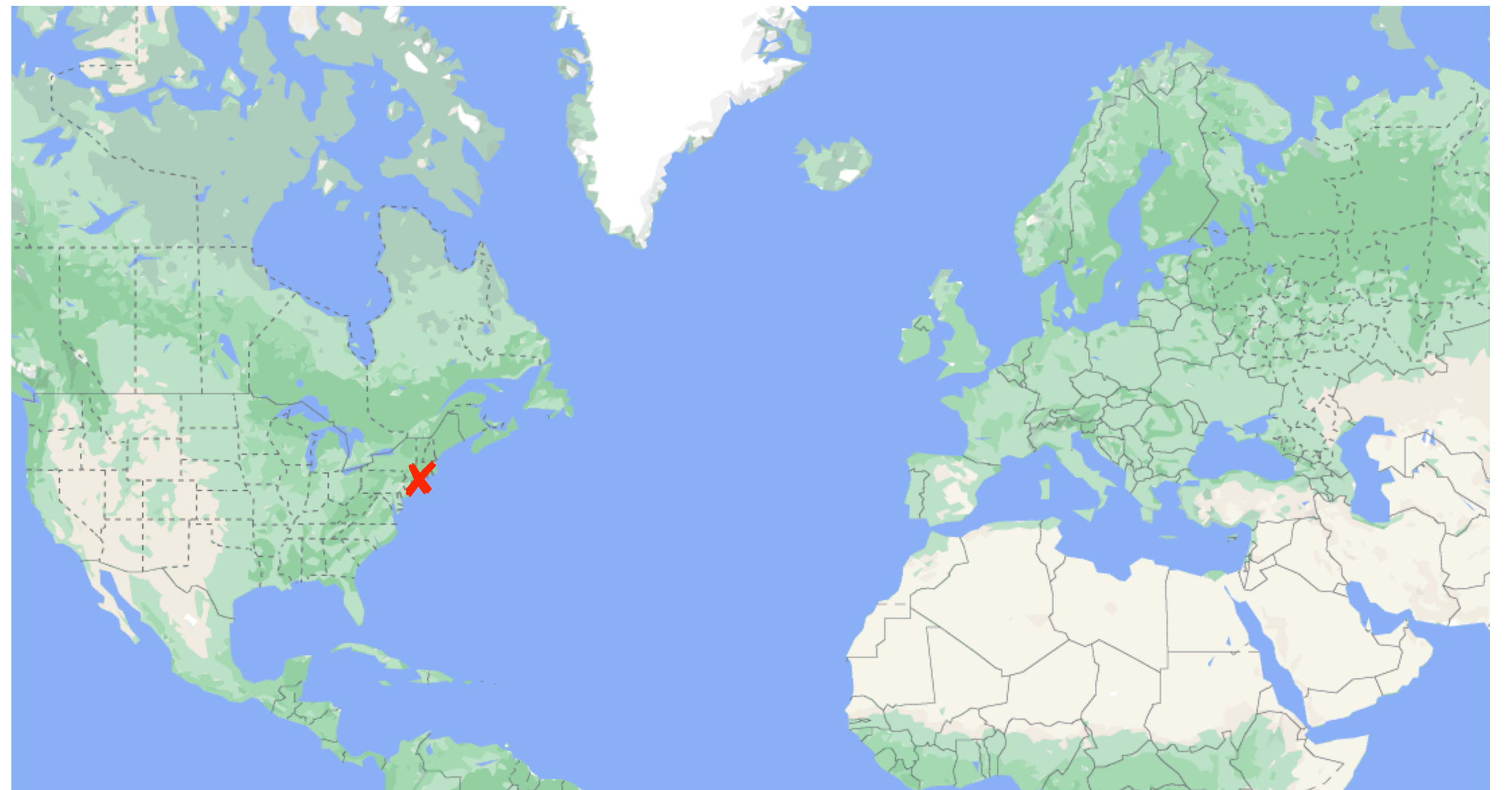
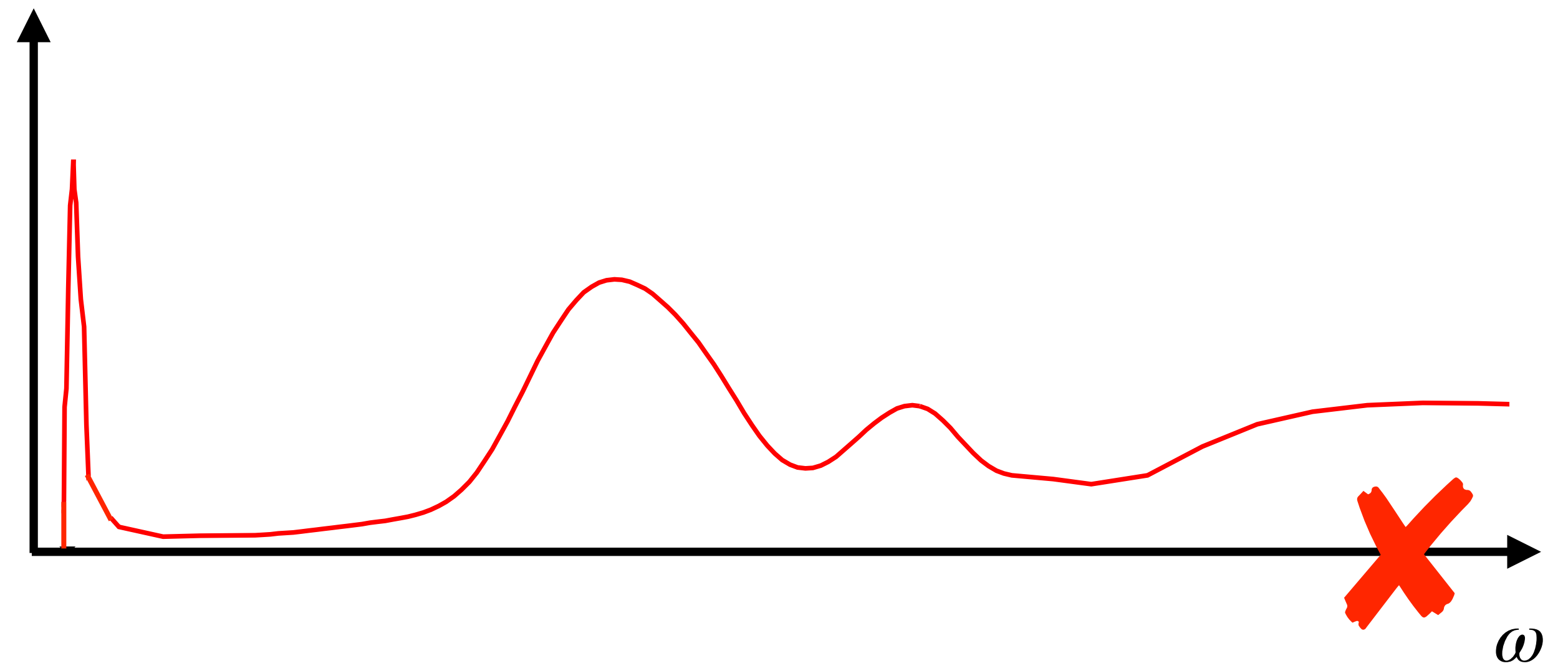


# P2 detector ring



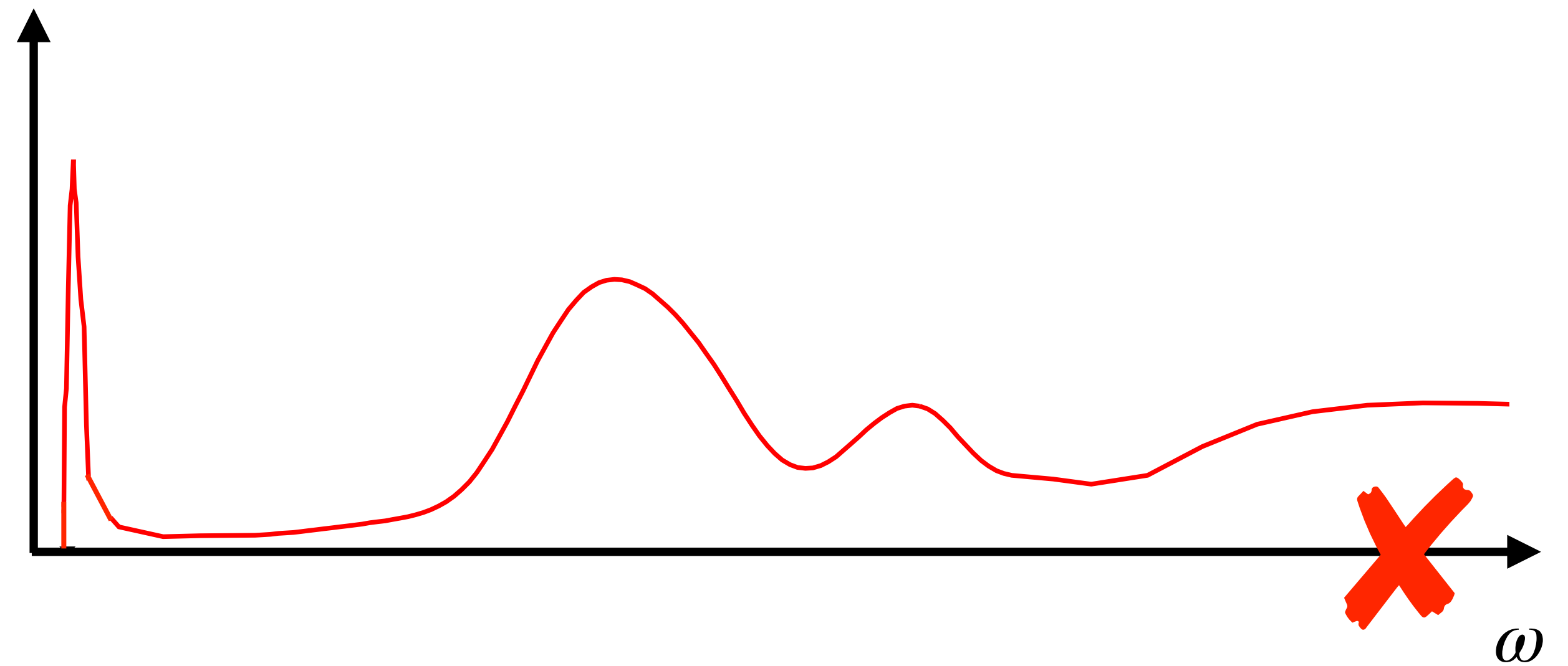
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- Deep inelastic scattering
  - Origin of proton spin
- Will discuss some relevant **experimental facilities and techniques** along the way

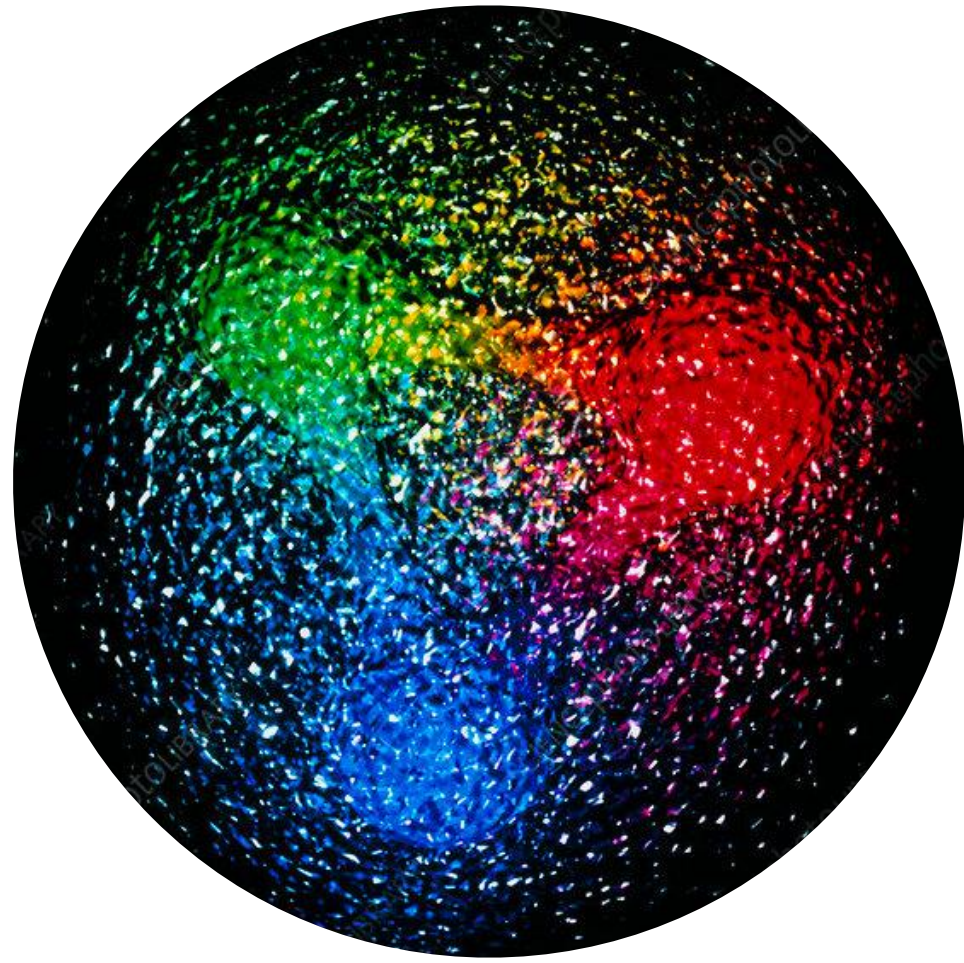


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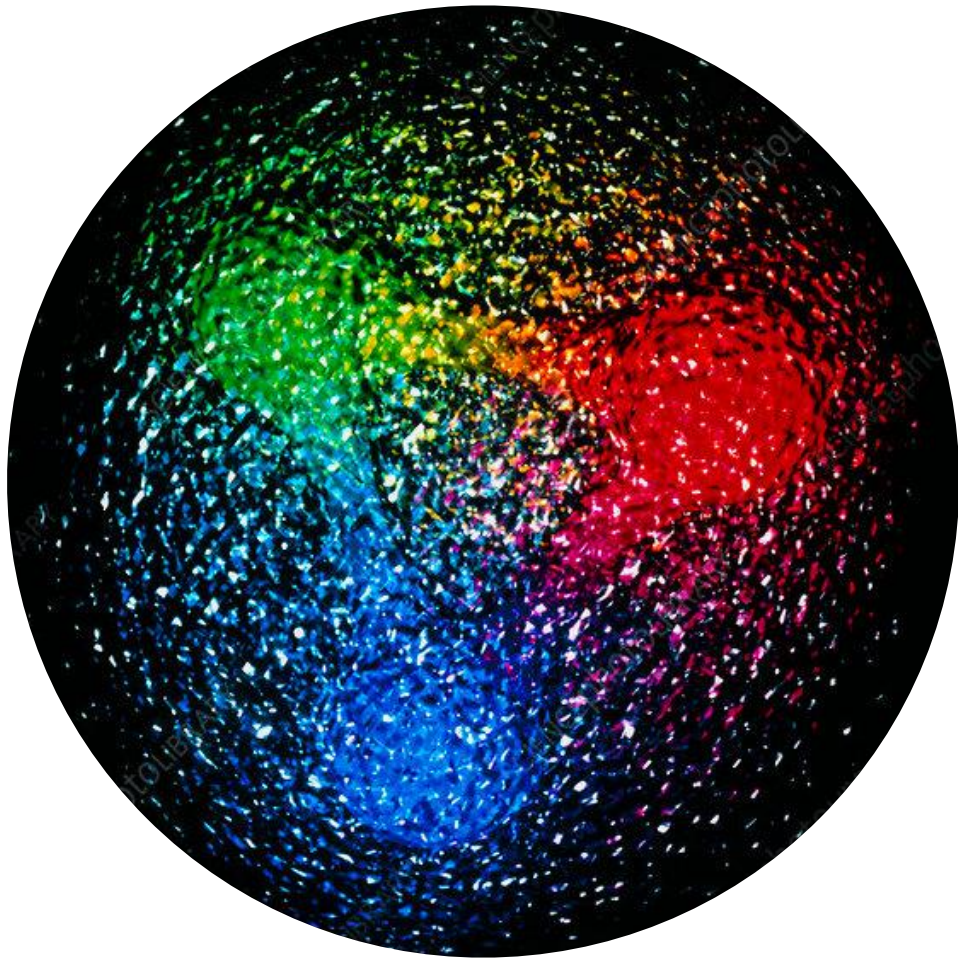


# The quarks in the proton



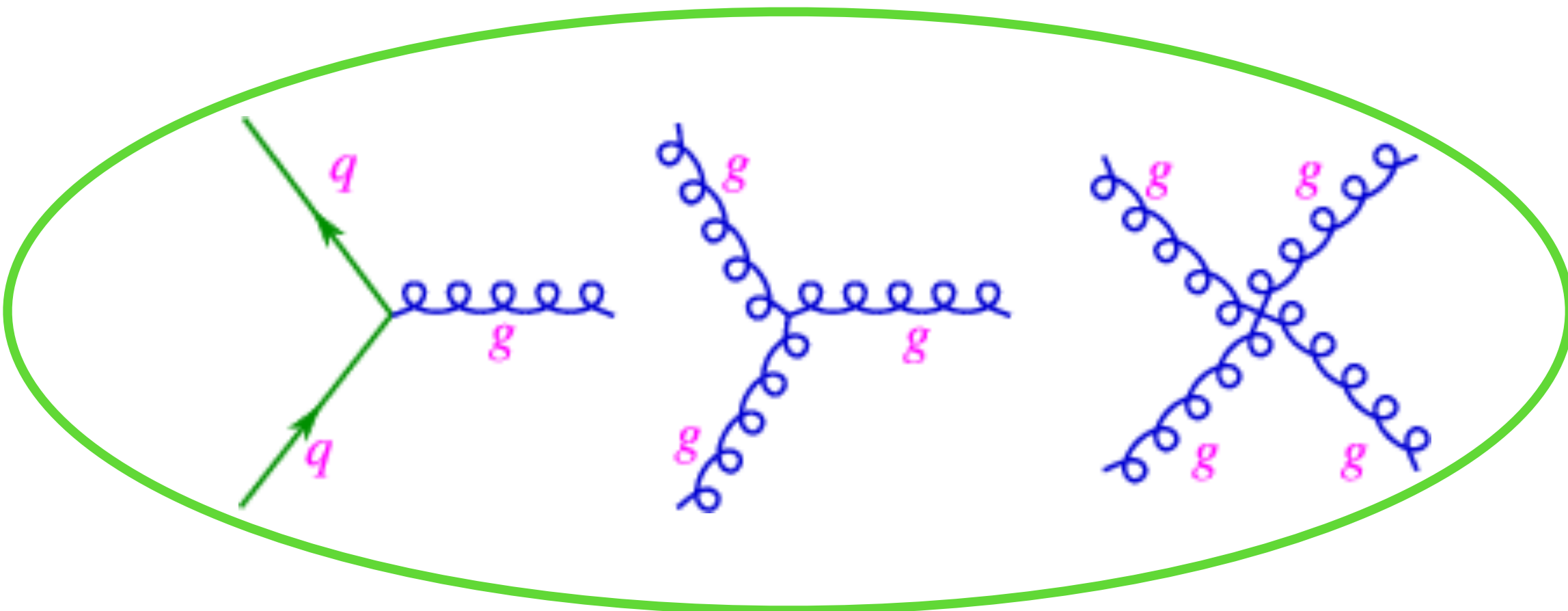
- *Protons & neutrons* account for most visible mass in the universe
- Most of this mass is *dynamically generated* by the constituent *quarks & gluons*

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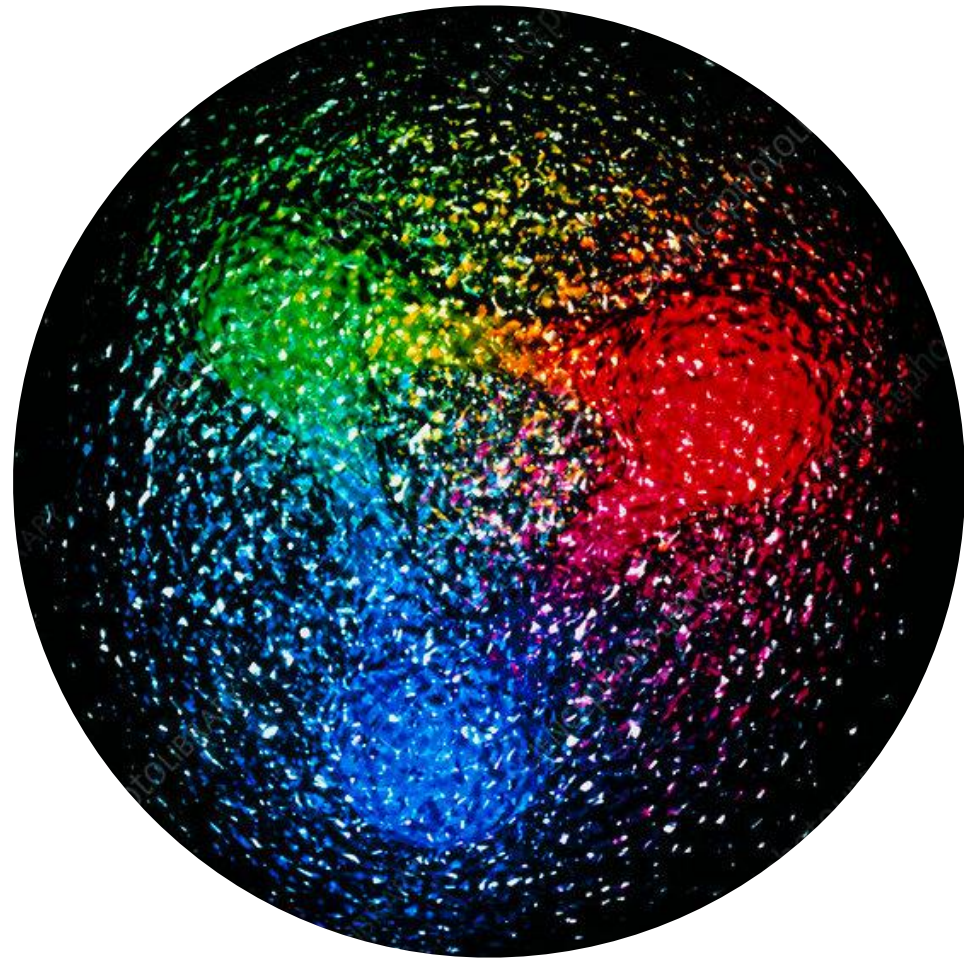


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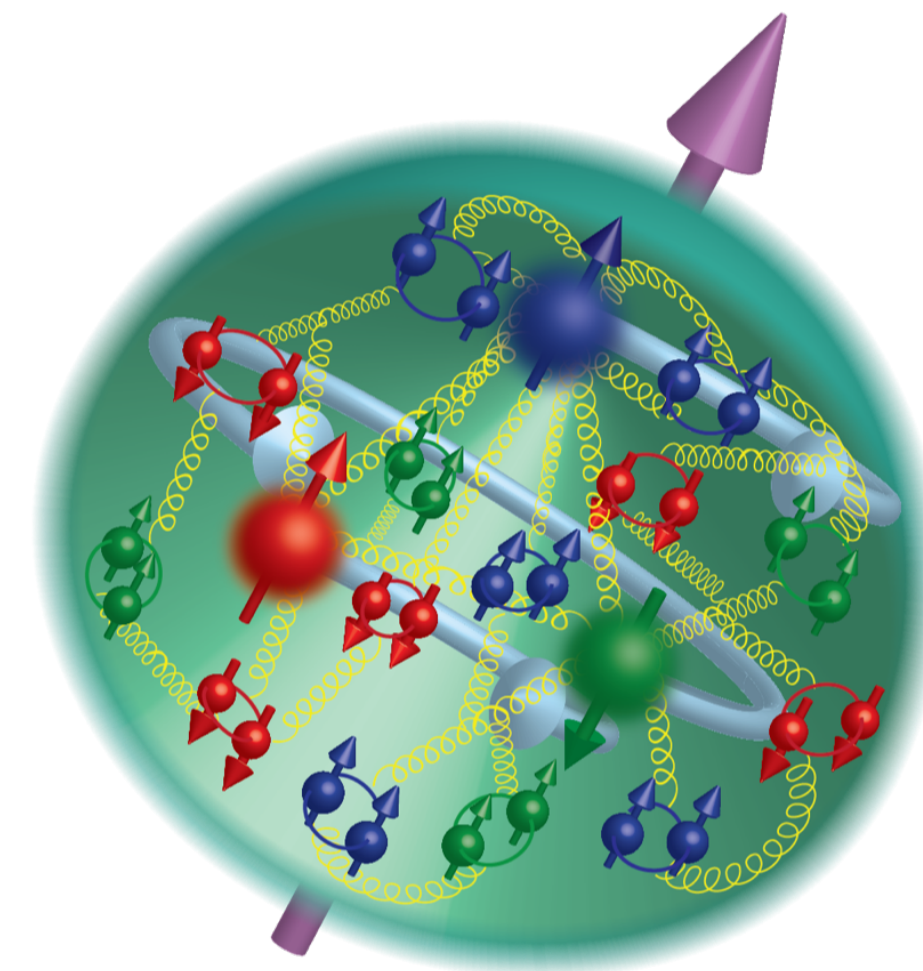
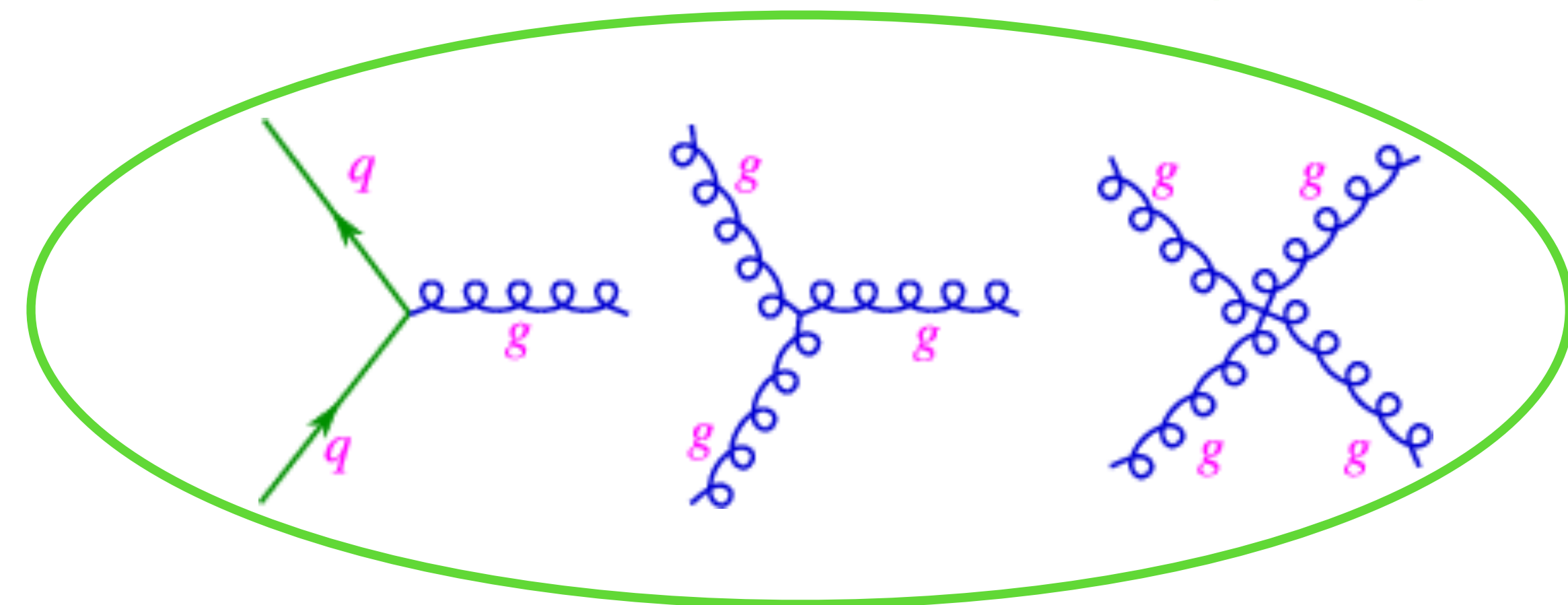


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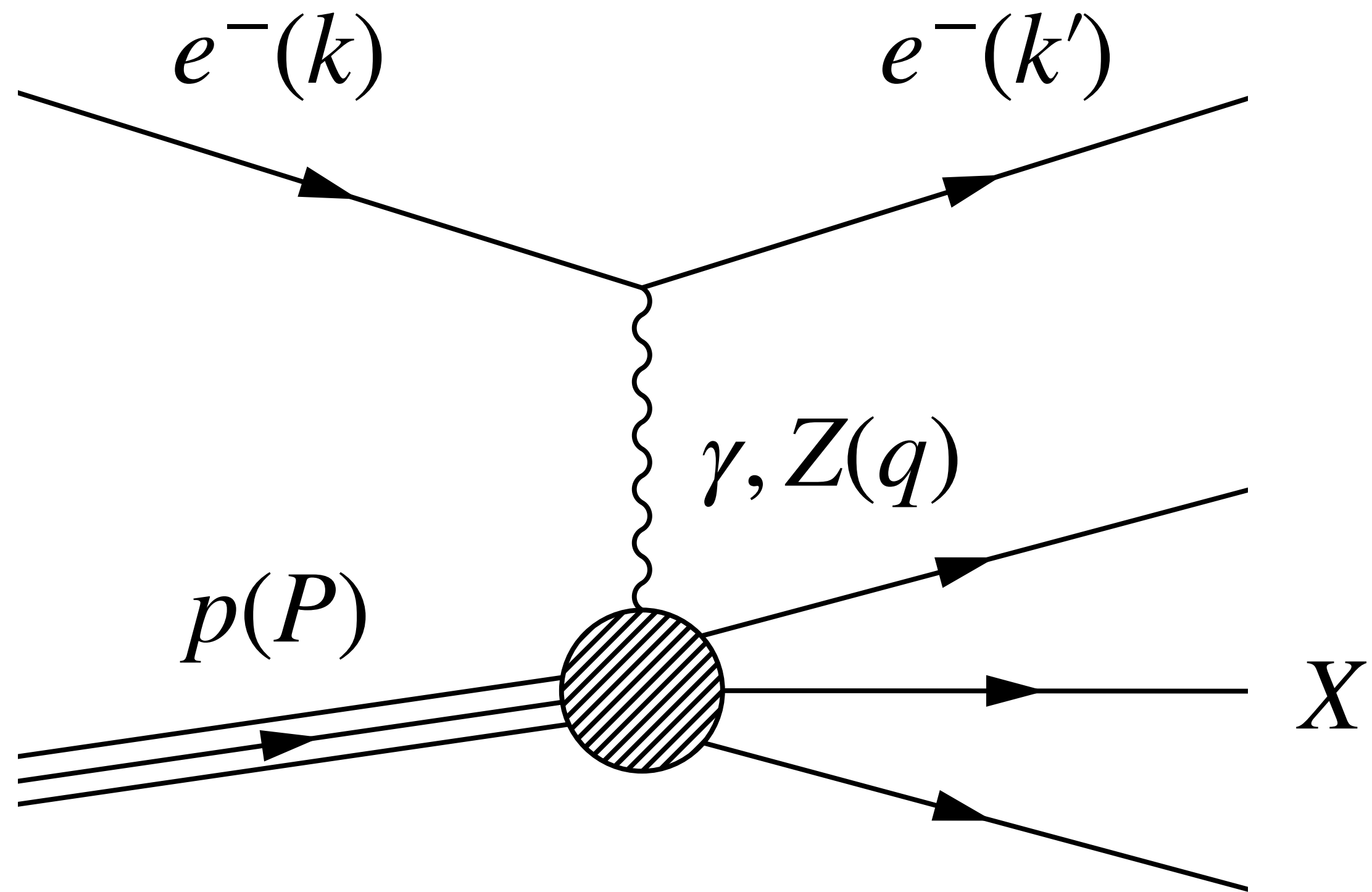
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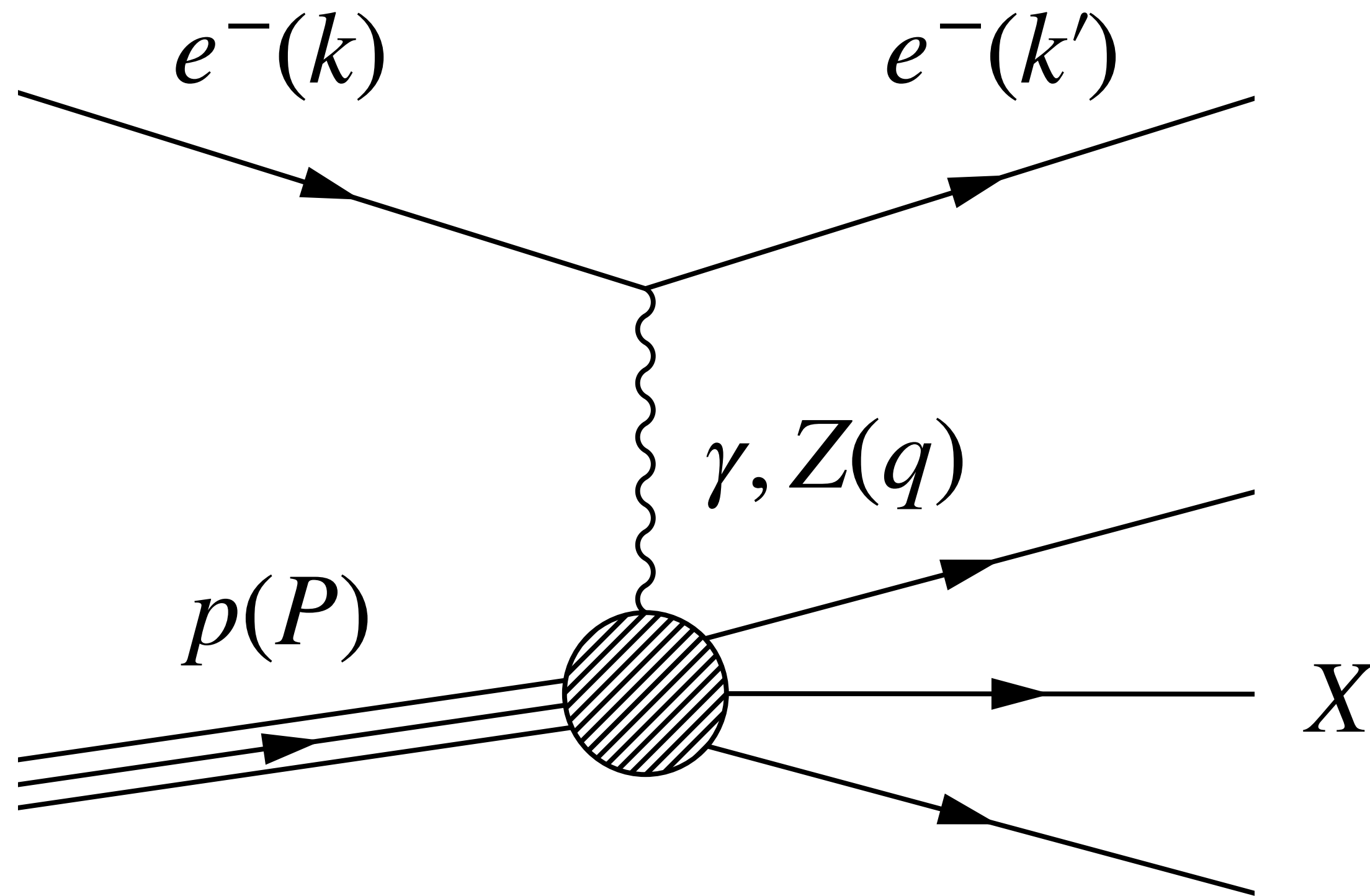


Emergent  
proton  
properties?

# Quarks probed with deep inelastic scattering



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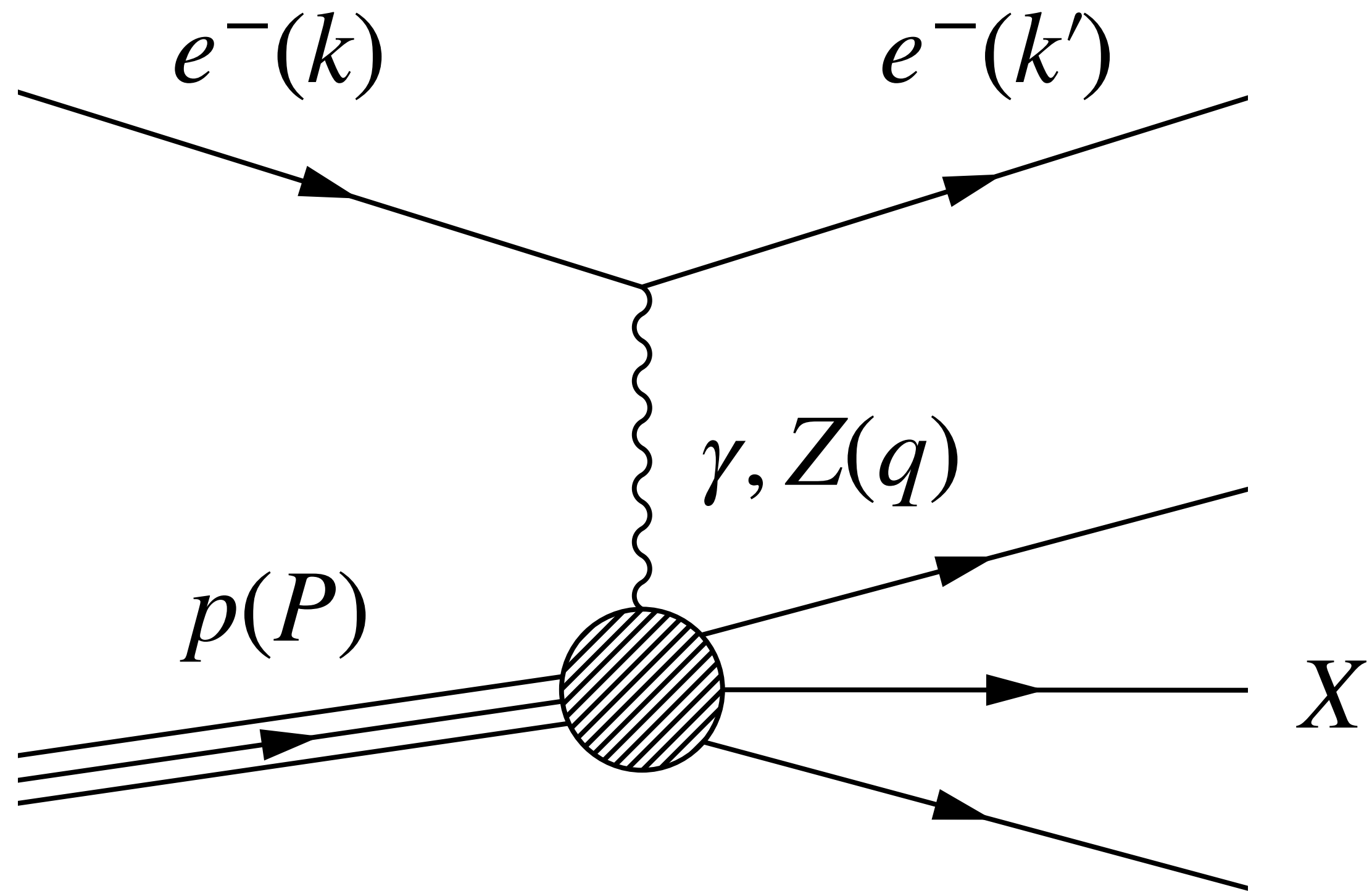
Detect scattered electron

$$Q^2 = -q^2 = (k' - k)^2$$

$$x_B = \frac{Q^2}{2P \cdot q}$$

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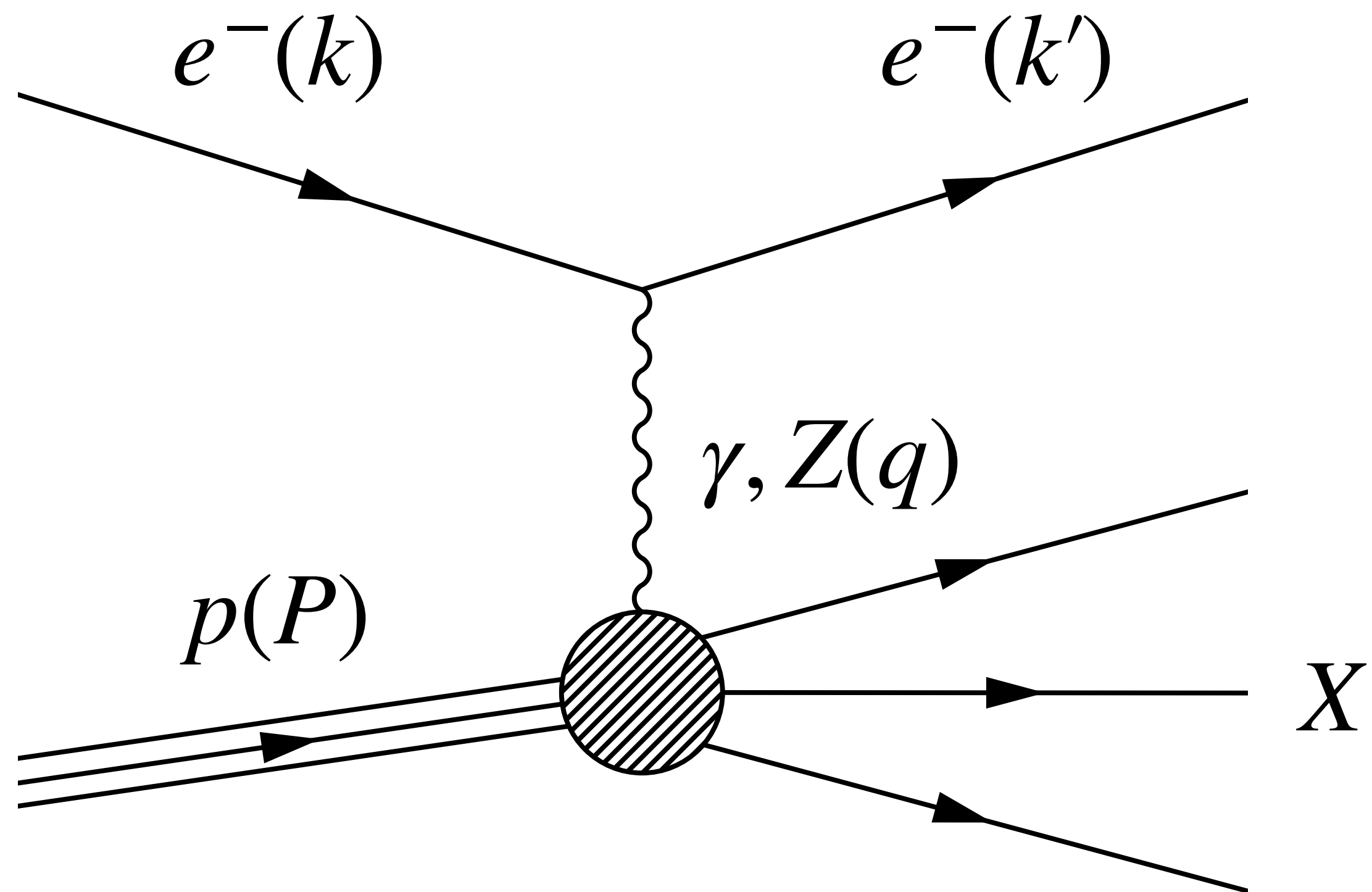
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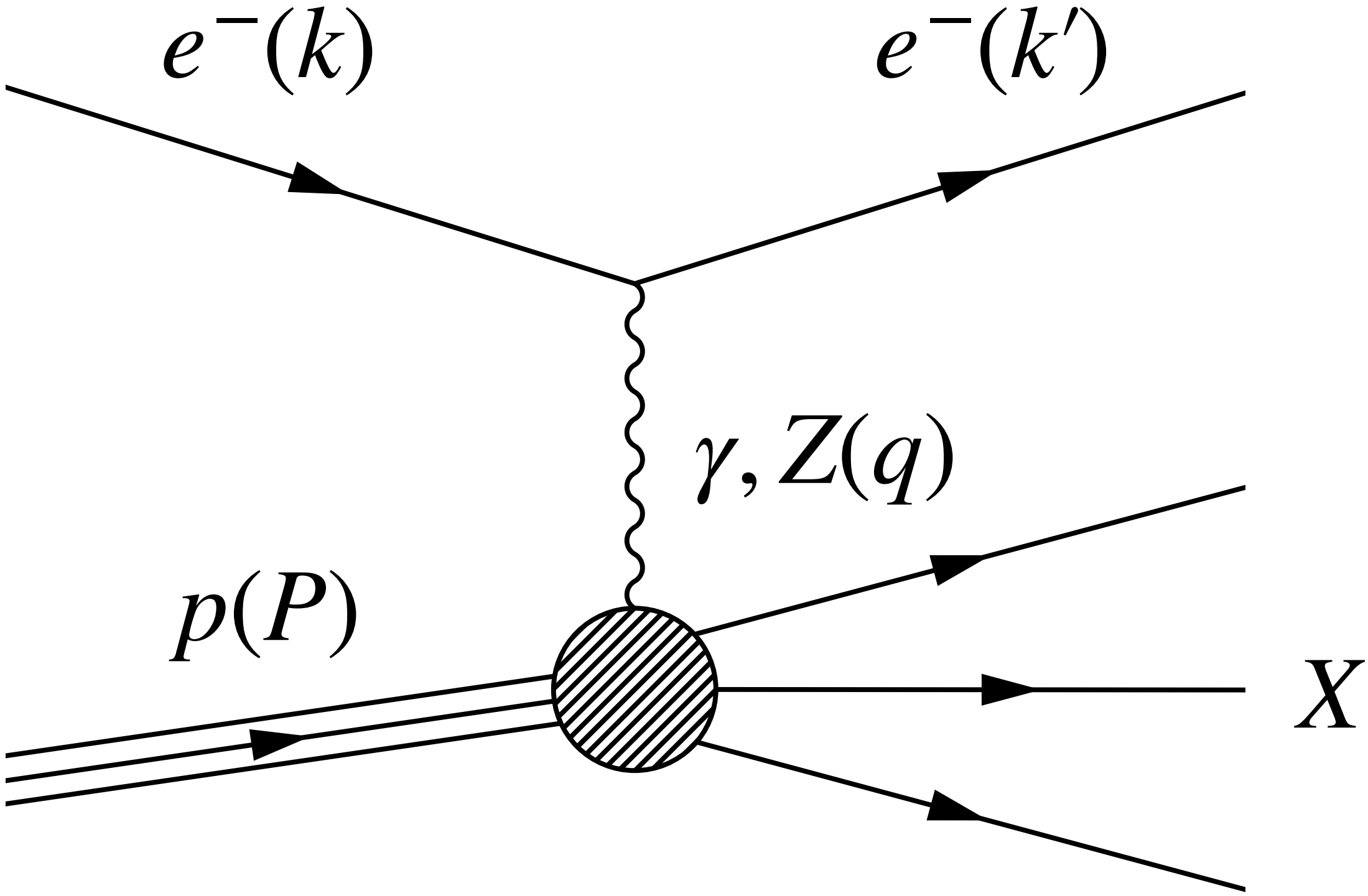


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# Neutral current DIS in naive quark-pardon model

- Hard scattering off non-interacting quarks
- Structure independent of  $Q^2$   
("scaling" → prediction for pioneering DIS experiments at SLAC)
- No transverse momentum

$$\frac{d\sigma_{NC}^{\pm}}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{xyQ^4} [Y_+ \tilde{F}_2 \mp Y_- x \tilde{F}_3 - y^2 \tilde{F}_L]$$

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$$\eta_{\gamma Z} = \left( \frac{G_F M_Z^2}{2\sqrt{2}\pi\alpha} \right) \left( \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + M_Z^2} \right)$$

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$$F_2^{\gamma} = x \sum_q e_q^2 (q + \bar{q})$$

$$F_2^{\gamma Z} = x \sum_q 2e_q g_V^q (q + \bar{q})$$

$$F_3^{\gamma Z} = \sum_q 2e_q g_A^q (q - \bar{q})$$

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$$\eta_{\gamma Z} = \left( \frac{G_F M_Z^2}{2\sqrt{2}\pi\alpha} \right) \left( \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + M_Z^2} \right)$$

$$F_2^{\gamma} = x \sum_q e_q^2 (q + \bar{q})$$

$$F_2^{\gamma Z} = x \sum_q 2e_q g_V^q (q + \bar{q})$$

$$F_3^{\gamma Z} = \sum_q 2e_q g_A^q (q - \bar{q})$$

Parton distribution functions (PDFs):

Probability to find (anti)quark  
carrying momentum fraction  $x_B$

$q = u(x_B), d(x_B), s(x_B) \dots$

# Cross section difference in polarized DIS

$$\Delta\sigma = \sigma(\lambda_n = -1, \lambda_\ell) - \sigma(\lambda_n = 1, \lambda_\ell)$$

$$\frac{d\Delta\sigma_{NC}^\pm}{dx\,dQ^2} = \frac{8\pi\alpha^2}{yQ^4} \left[ -Y_+\tilde{g}_5 \mp Y_-\tilde{g}_1 \right]$$

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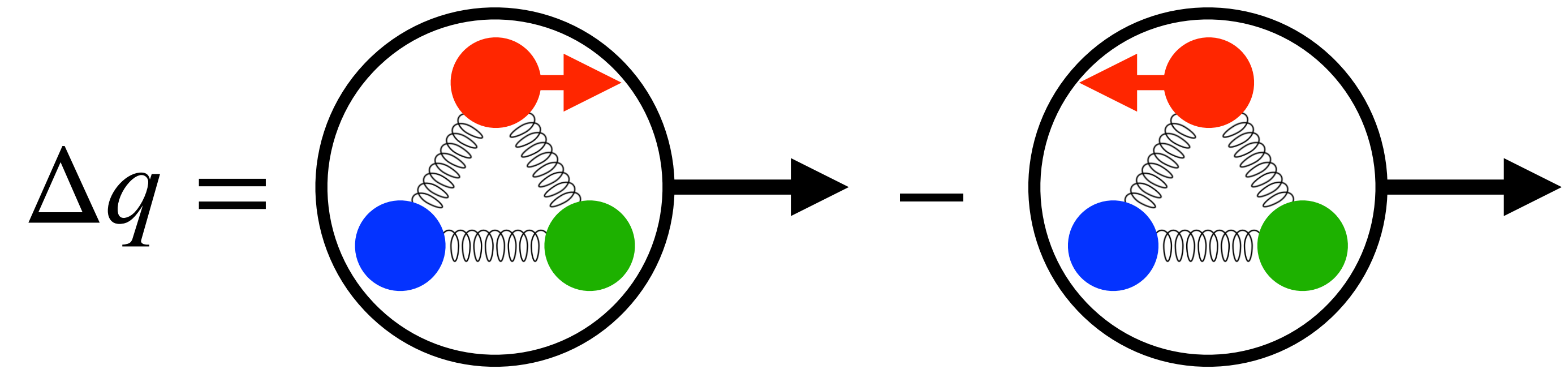
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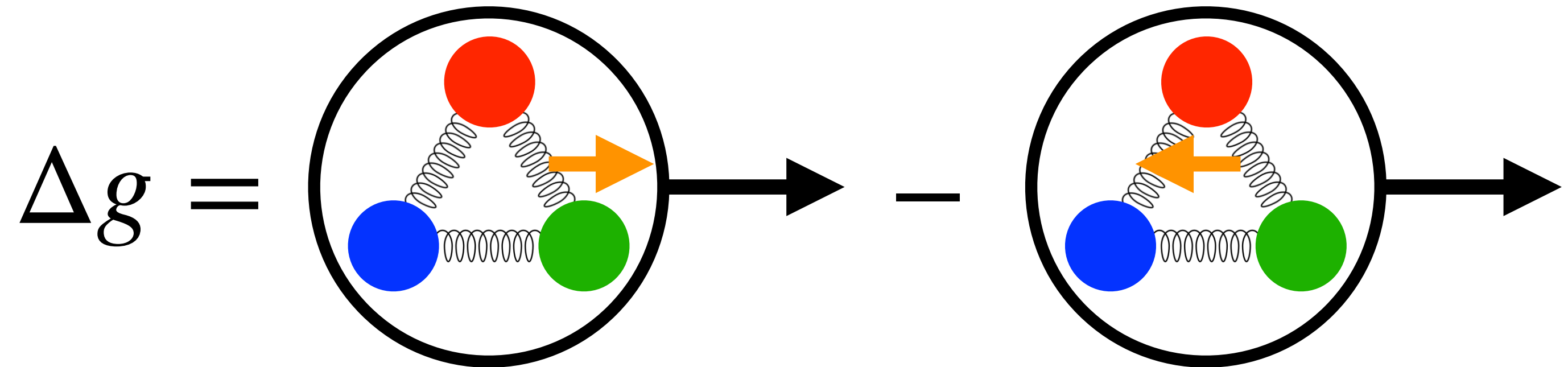
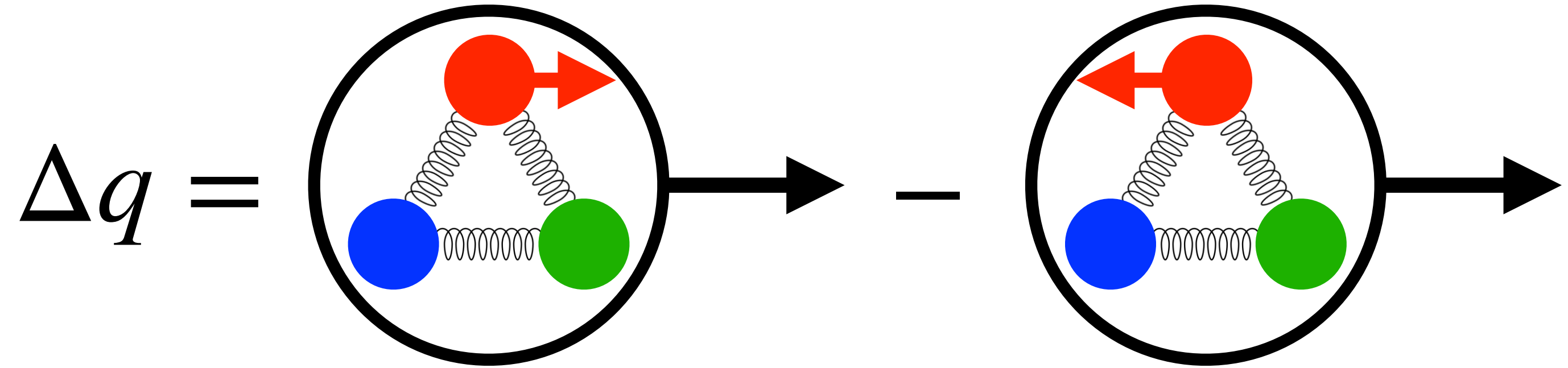
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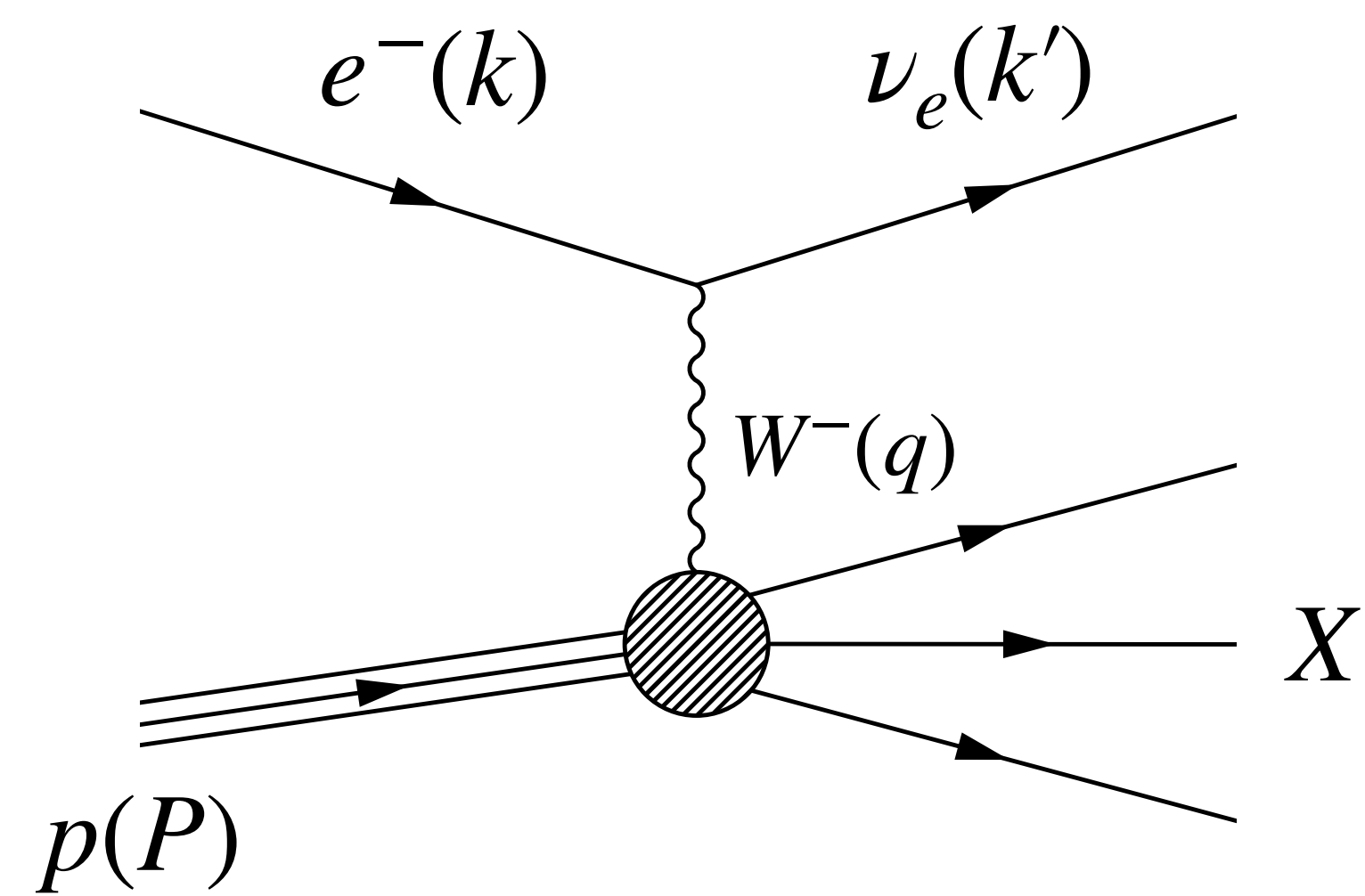
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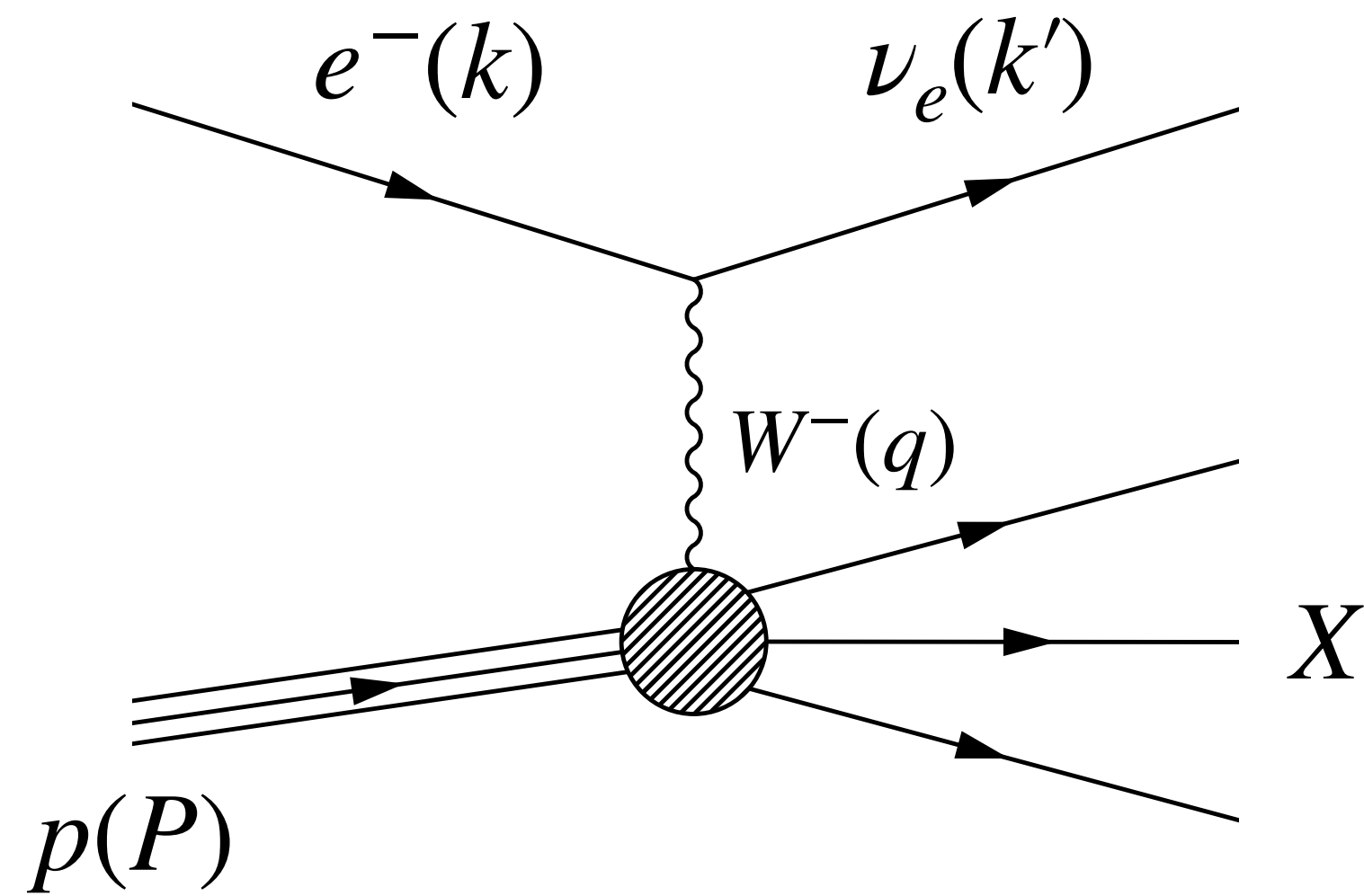
# Charged-current DIS



$$\frac{d\sigma_{CC}^{\pm}}{dx \, dQ^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{xyQ^4} (1 \pm \lambda_e) \eta_W \left[ Y_+ F_2^W \mp Y_- x F_3^W - y^2 F_L^W \right]$$

$$\eta_W = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{G_F M_Z^2}{4\pi\alpha} \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + M_W^2} \right)^2$$

# Charged-current DIS



$$\frac{d\sigma_{CC}^{\pm}}{dx \, dQ^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{xyQ^4} (1 \pm \lambda_e) \eta_W [Y_+ F_2^W \mp Y_- x F_3^W - y^2 F_L^W]$$

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$$F_2^{W^-} = 2x(u + \bar{d} + \bar{s} + c \dots)$$

$$F_3^{W^-} = 2(u - \bar{d} - \bar{s} + c \dots)$$

$$g_1^{W^-} = (\Delta u + \Delta \bar{d} + \Delta \bar{s} + \Delta c \dots)$$

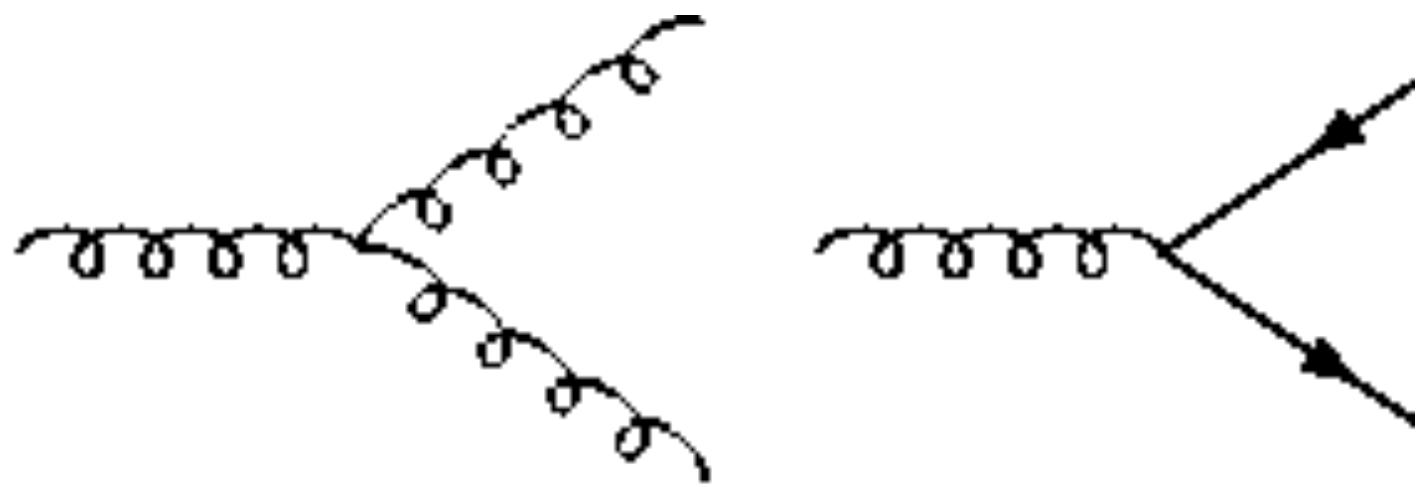
$$g_5^{W^-} = (-\Delta u + \Delta \bar{d} + \Delta \bar{s} - \Delta c \dots)$$

- Structure functions for  $W^+$  exchange:  $u \leftrightarrow d, s \leftrightarrow c$
- Unique combinations of PDFs  $\rightarrow$  flavor separation

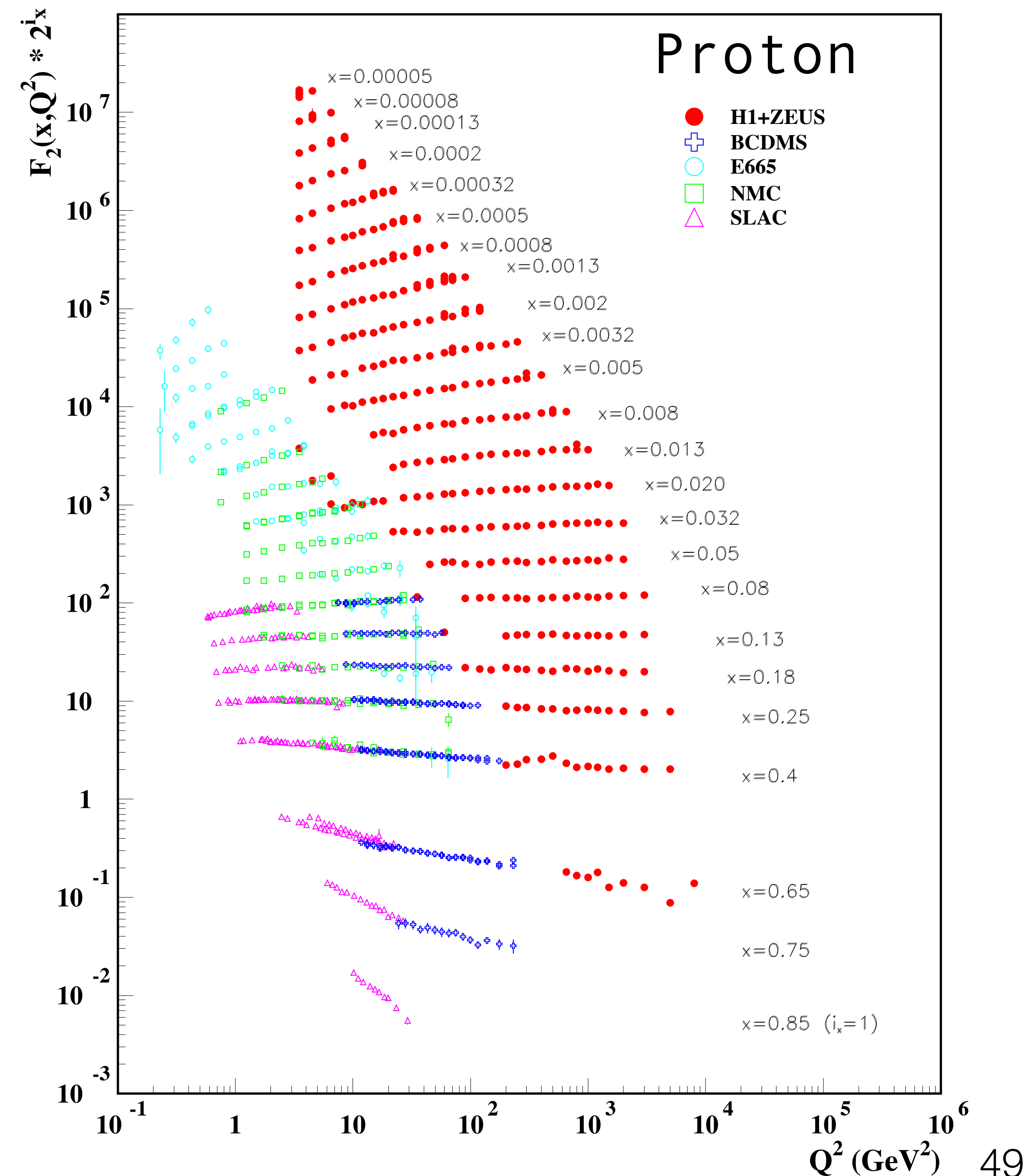
# Real world: QCD violates scaling

- *The quark-parton model ignores gluons!*

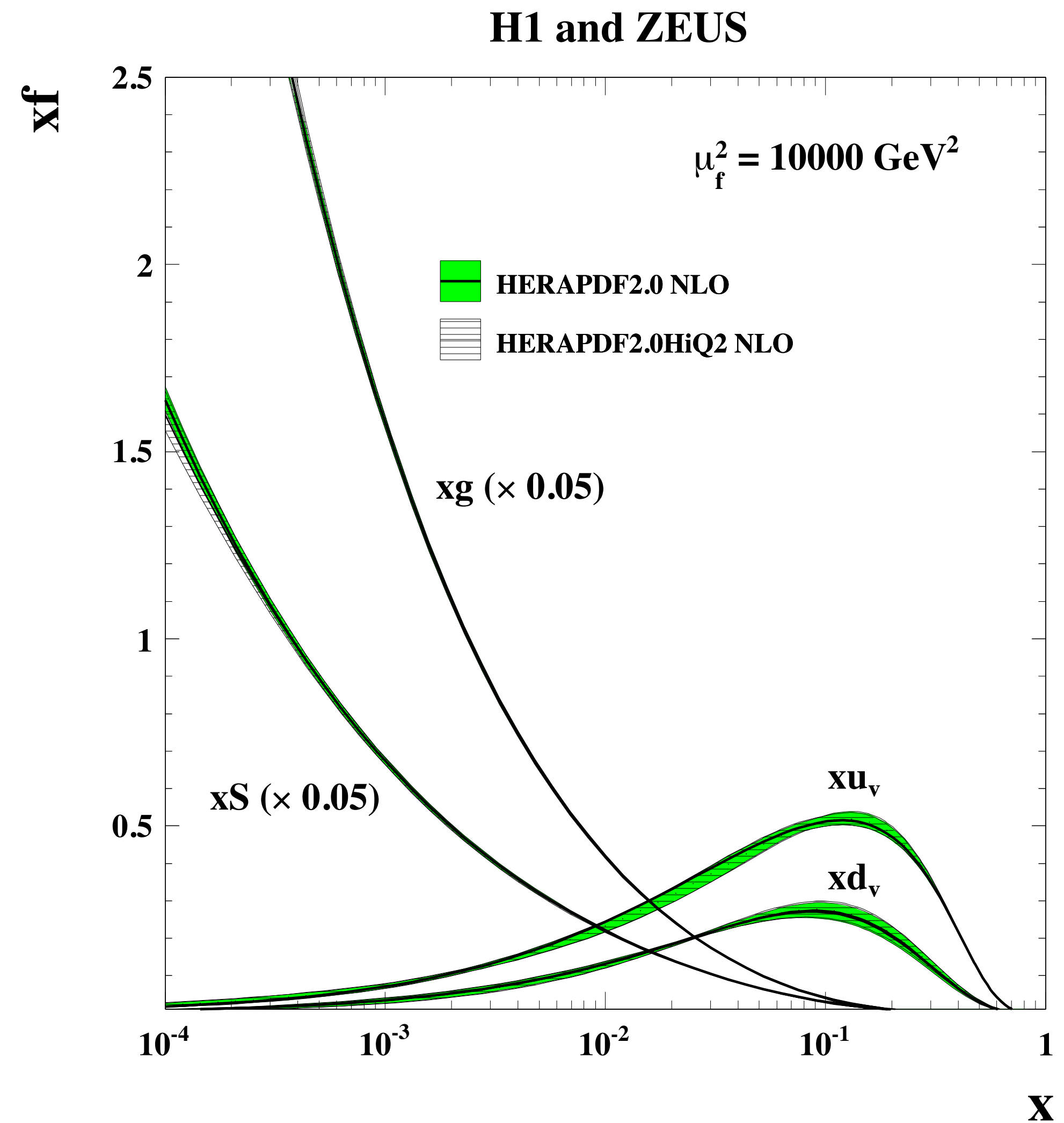
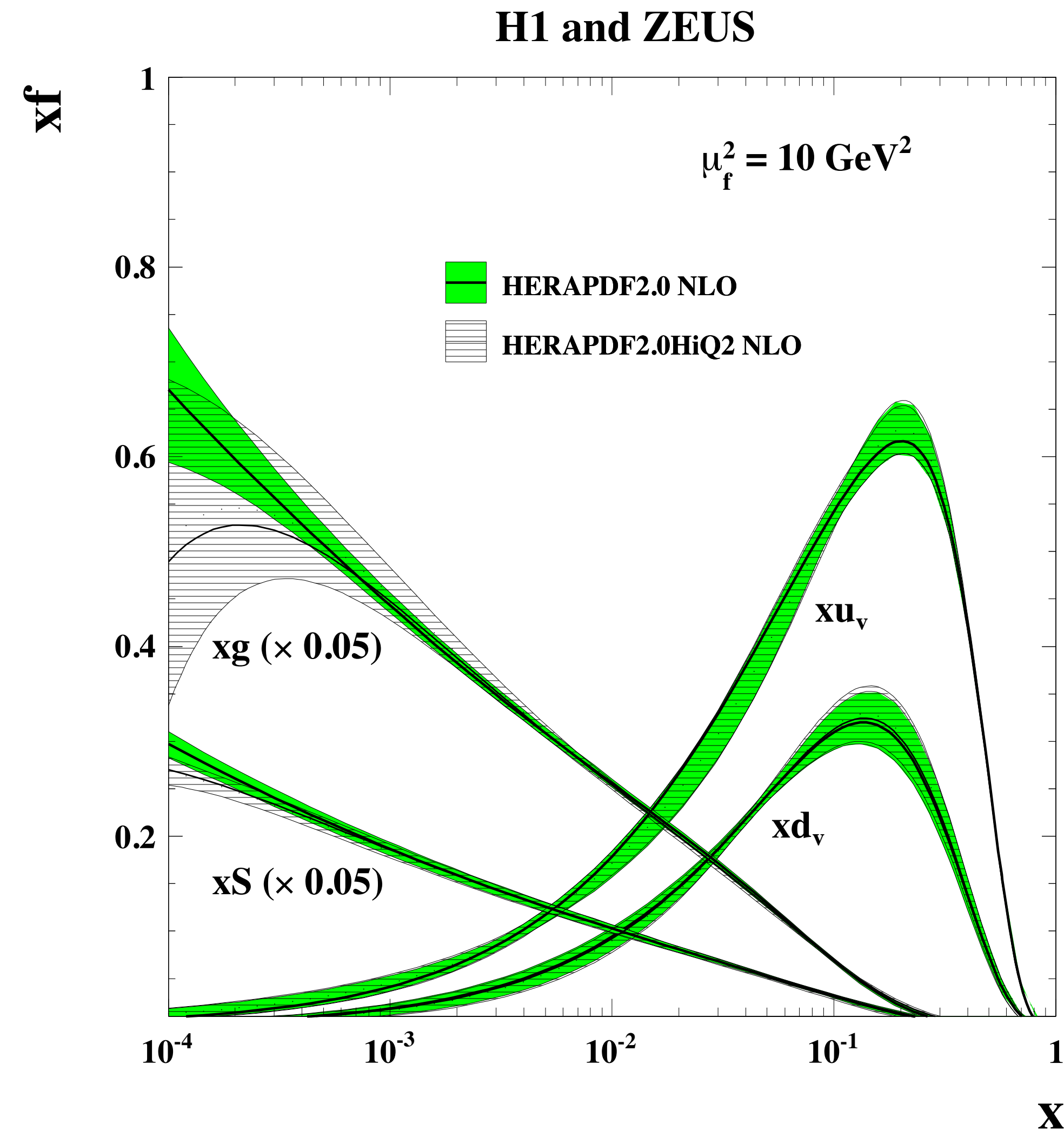
- Gluonic processes lead to large  $Q^2$  dependence of cross sections, PDFs



- DGLAP equations beautifully describe evolution of PDFs with  $Q^2$   
...but cannot predict PDFs *a priori*



# Scale dependence of PDFs



- High  $x_B$  dominated by valence quarks
- Low  $x_B$ , high  $Q^2$  dominated by gluons (and sea quarks)

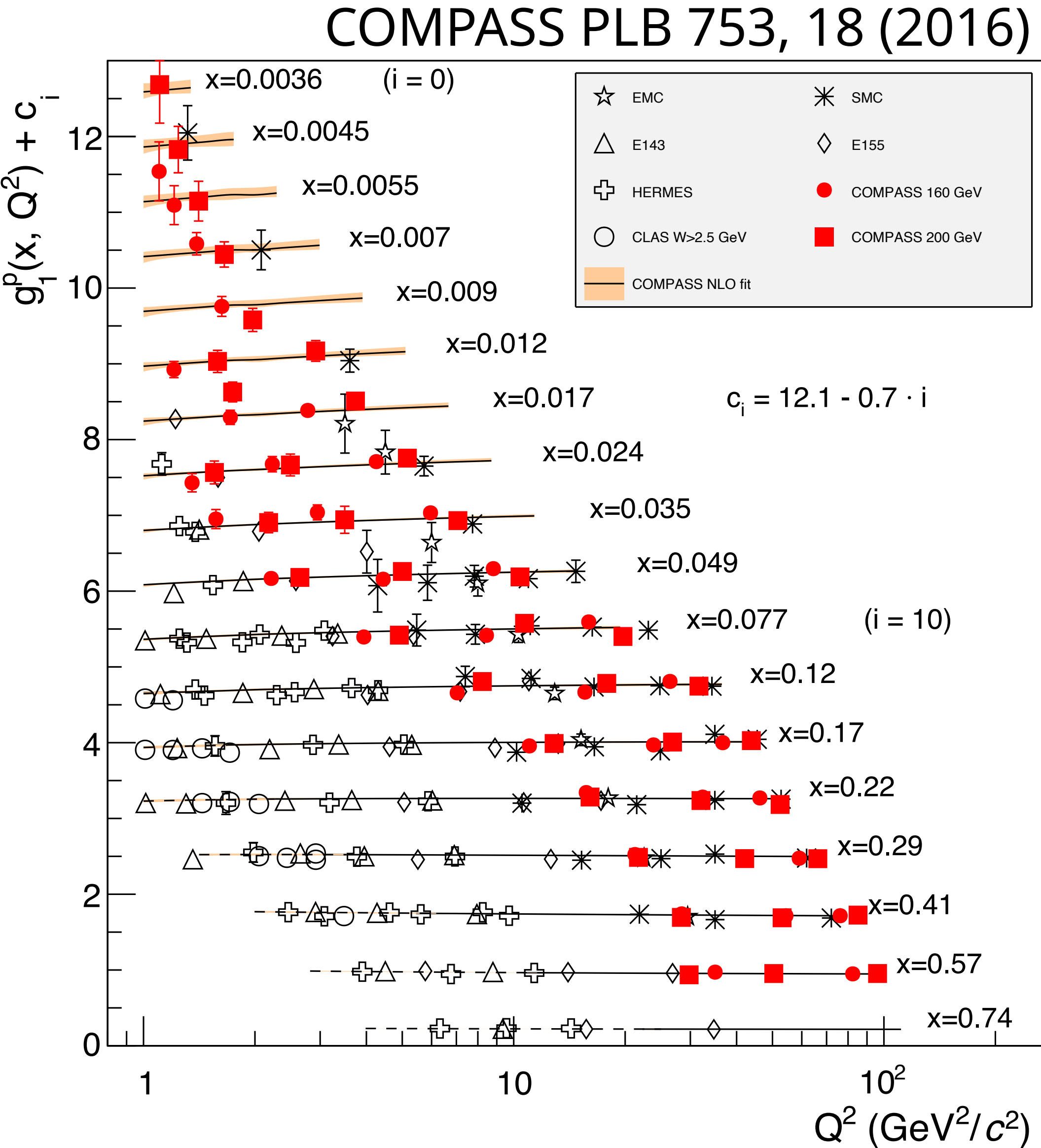
## Visualizing the proton

Most of proton spin unaccounted for!

$$\Delta\Sigma/2 + \Delta G + L_q + L_g = \frac{1}{2}$$

Most of proton spin unaccounted for!

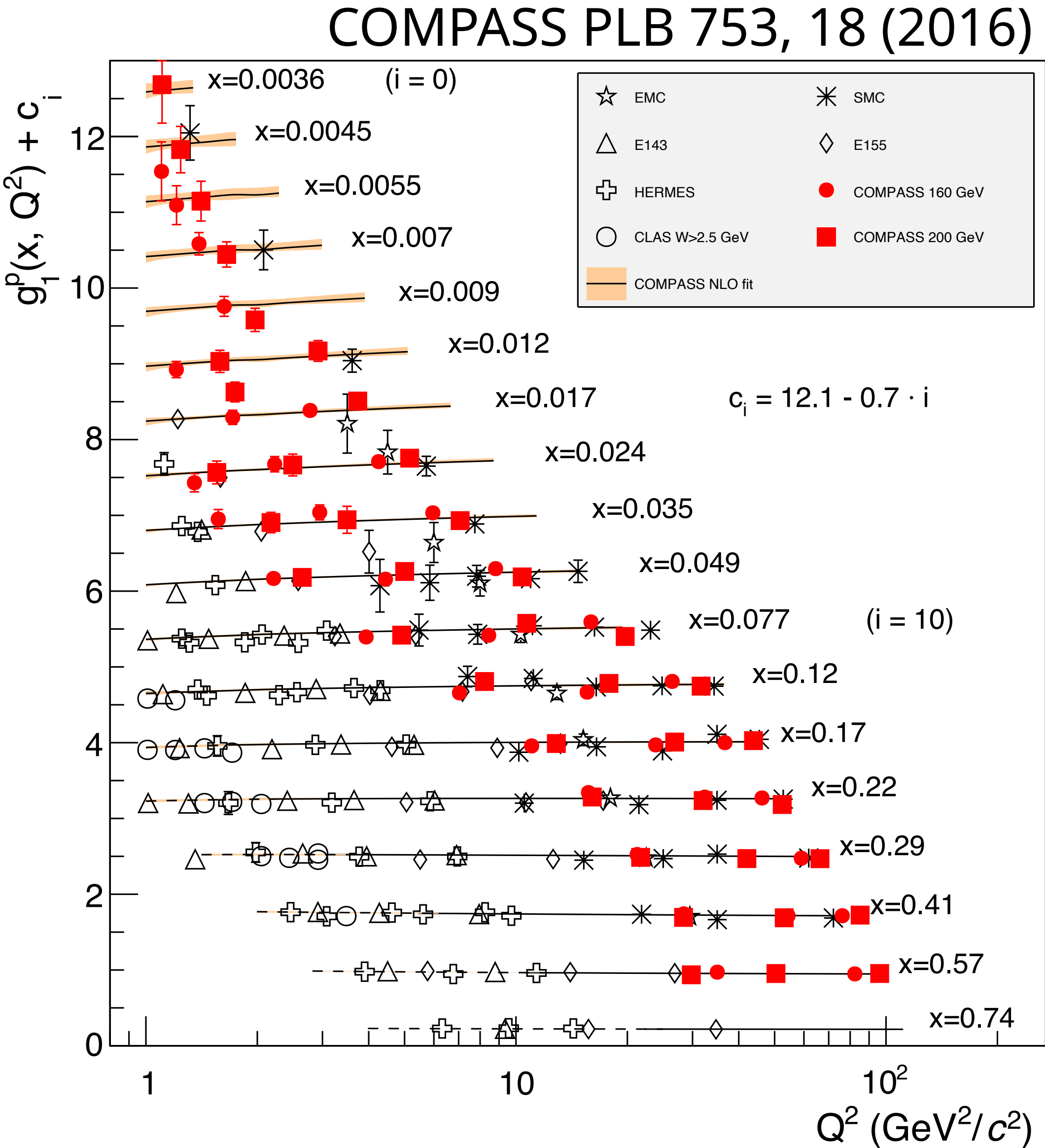
$$\Delta\Sigma/2 + \Delta G + L_q + L_g = \frac{1}{2}$$



# Most of proton spin unaccounted for!

$$\Delta\Sigma/2 + \Delta G + L_q + L_g = \frac{1}{2}$$

$\approx 30\%$

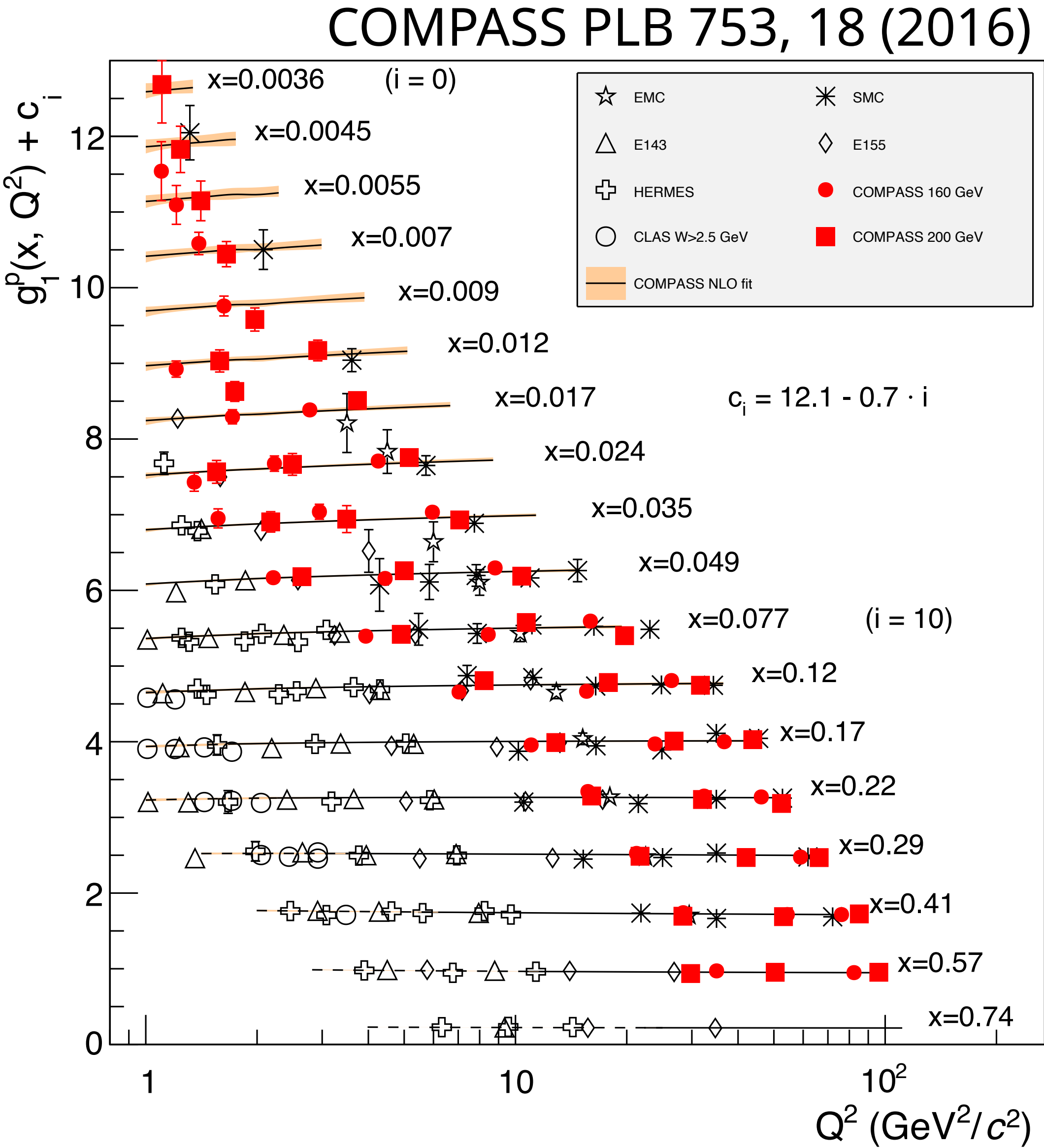


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$$\Delta\Sigma/2 + \Delta G + L_q + L_g = \frac{1}{2}$$

$\approx 30\%$

$\approx 40\%?$   
Large  
uncertainty!



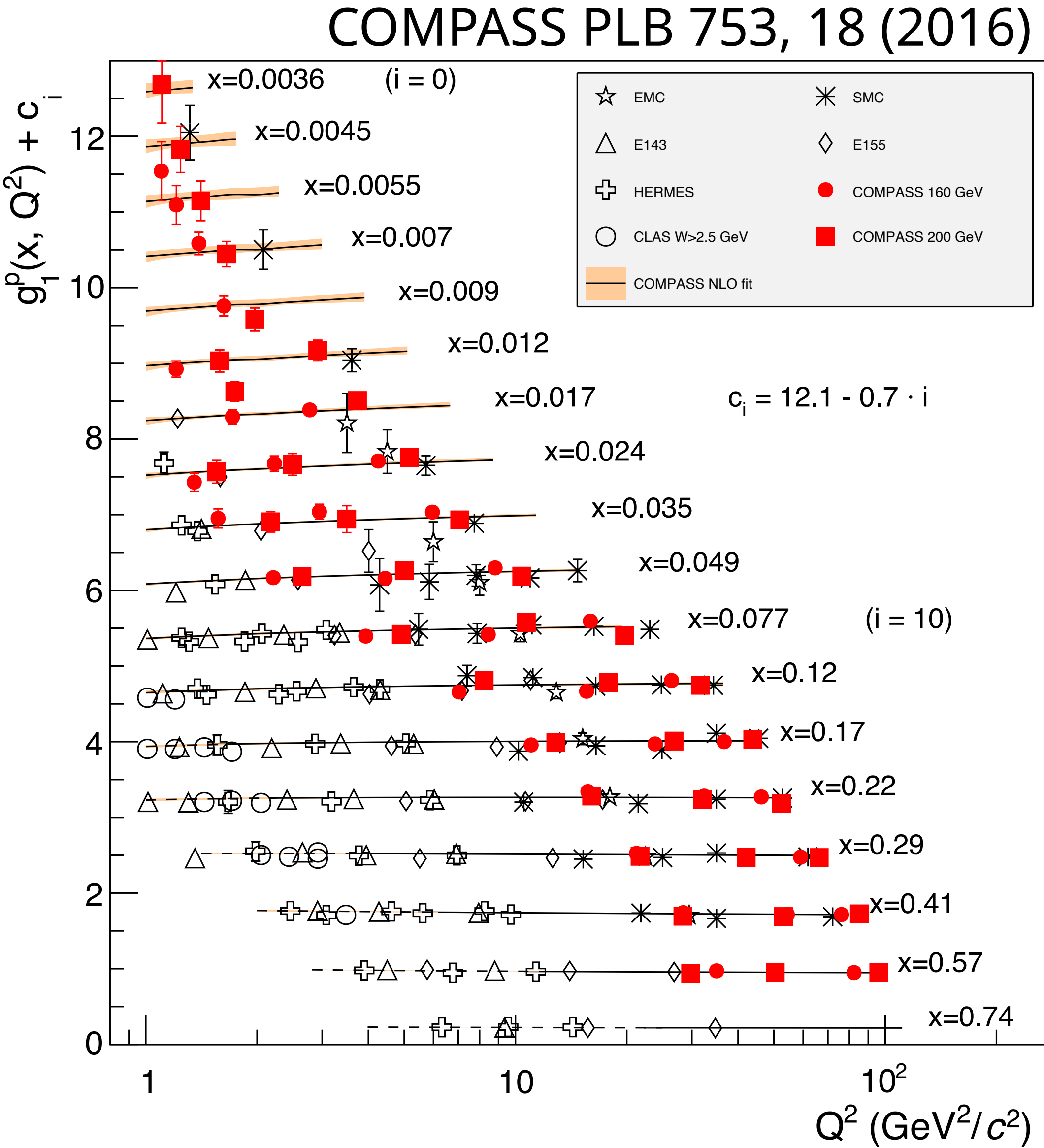
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$?%$   
Need 3D structure!



# Most of proton spin unaccounted for!

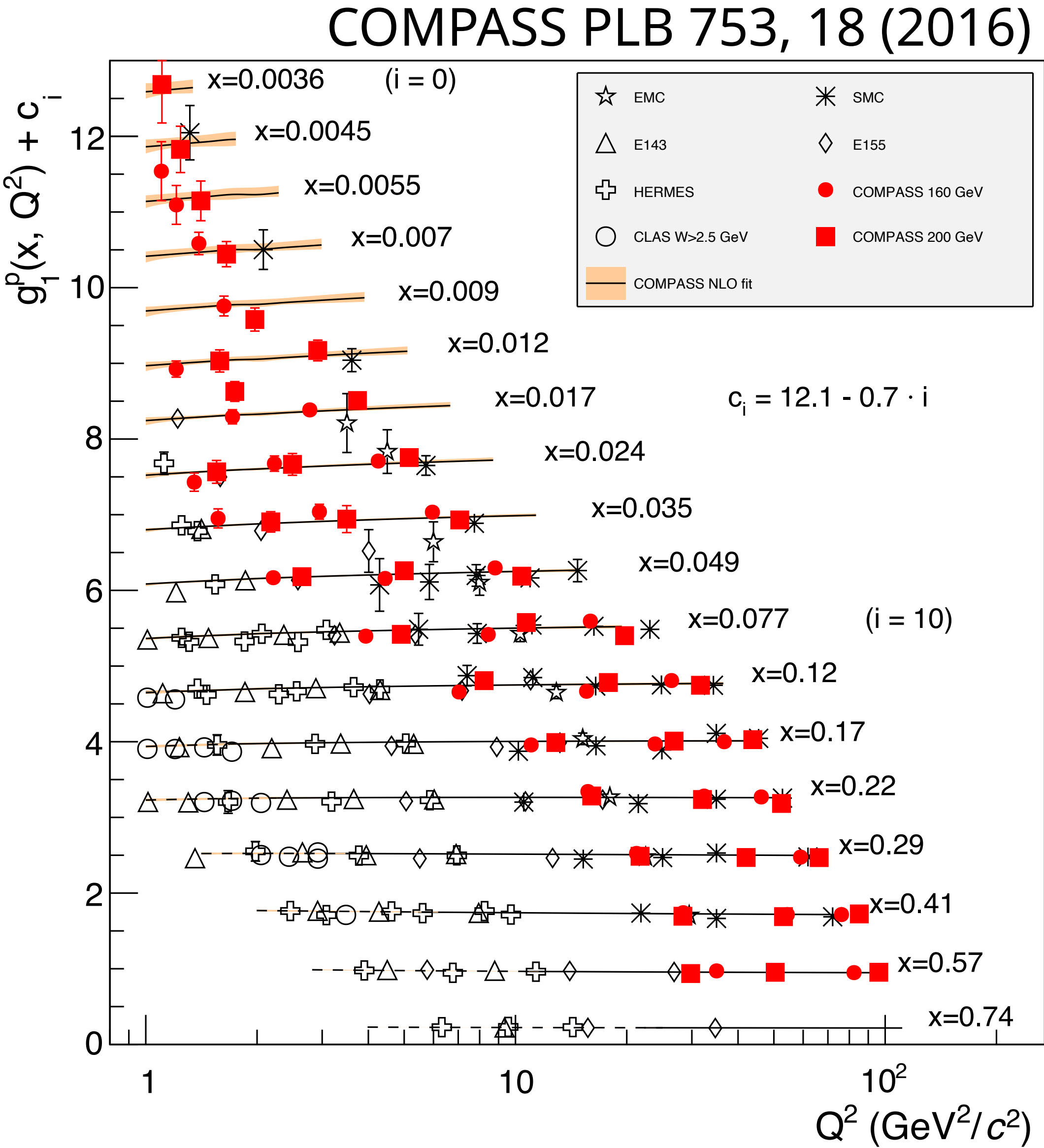
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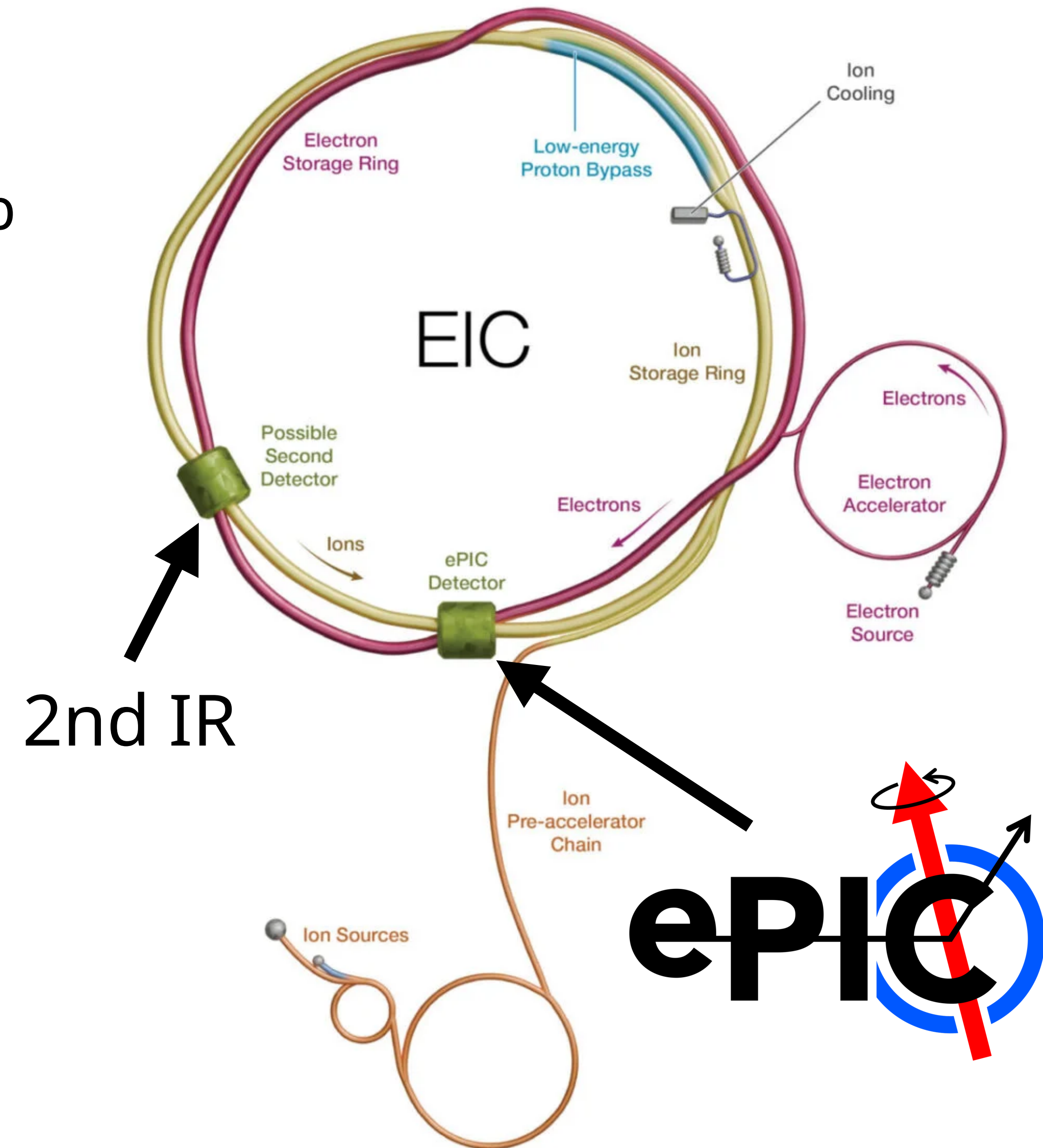
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“Proton spin crisis”

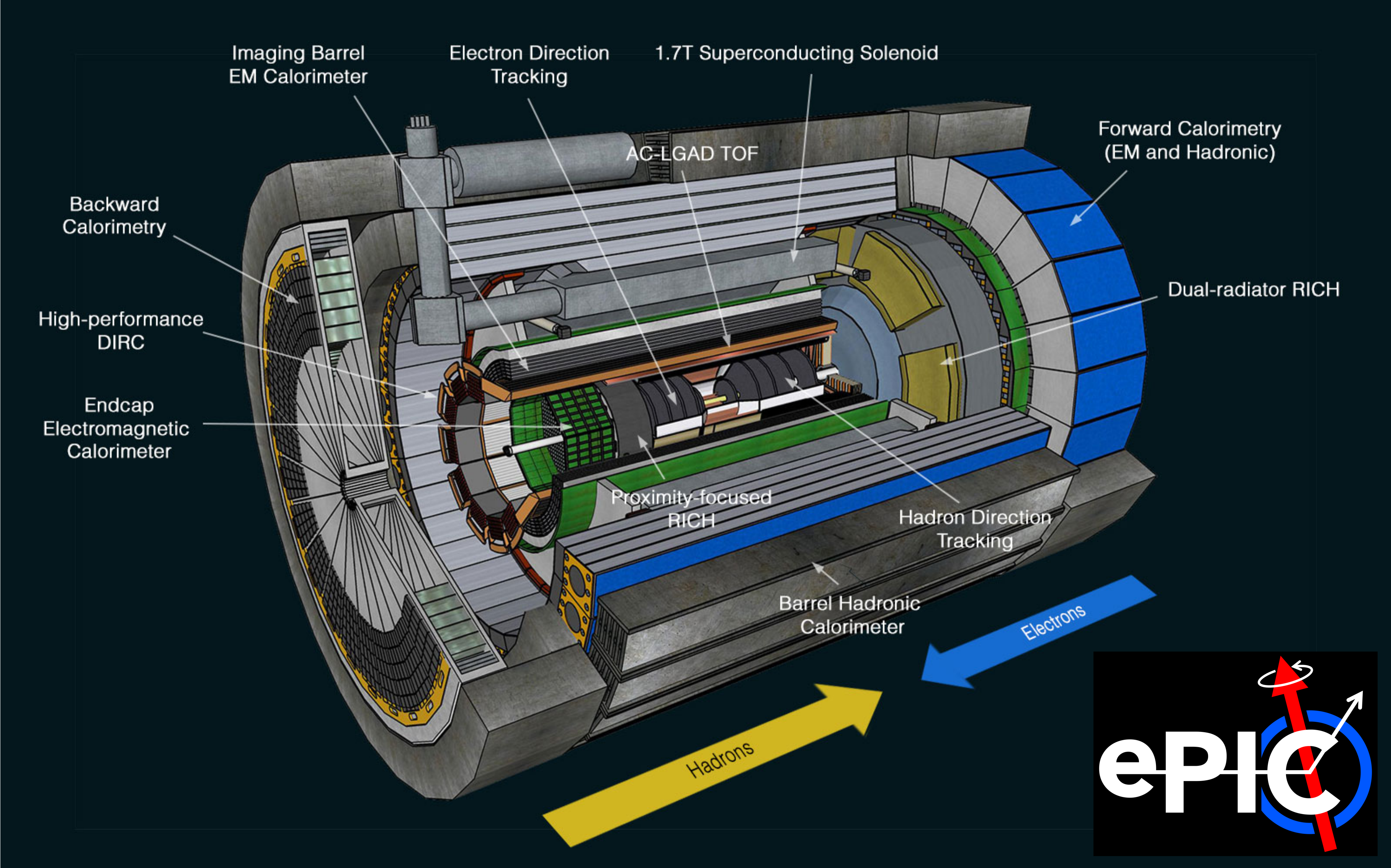


# Electron-ion collider (Long Island, New York)

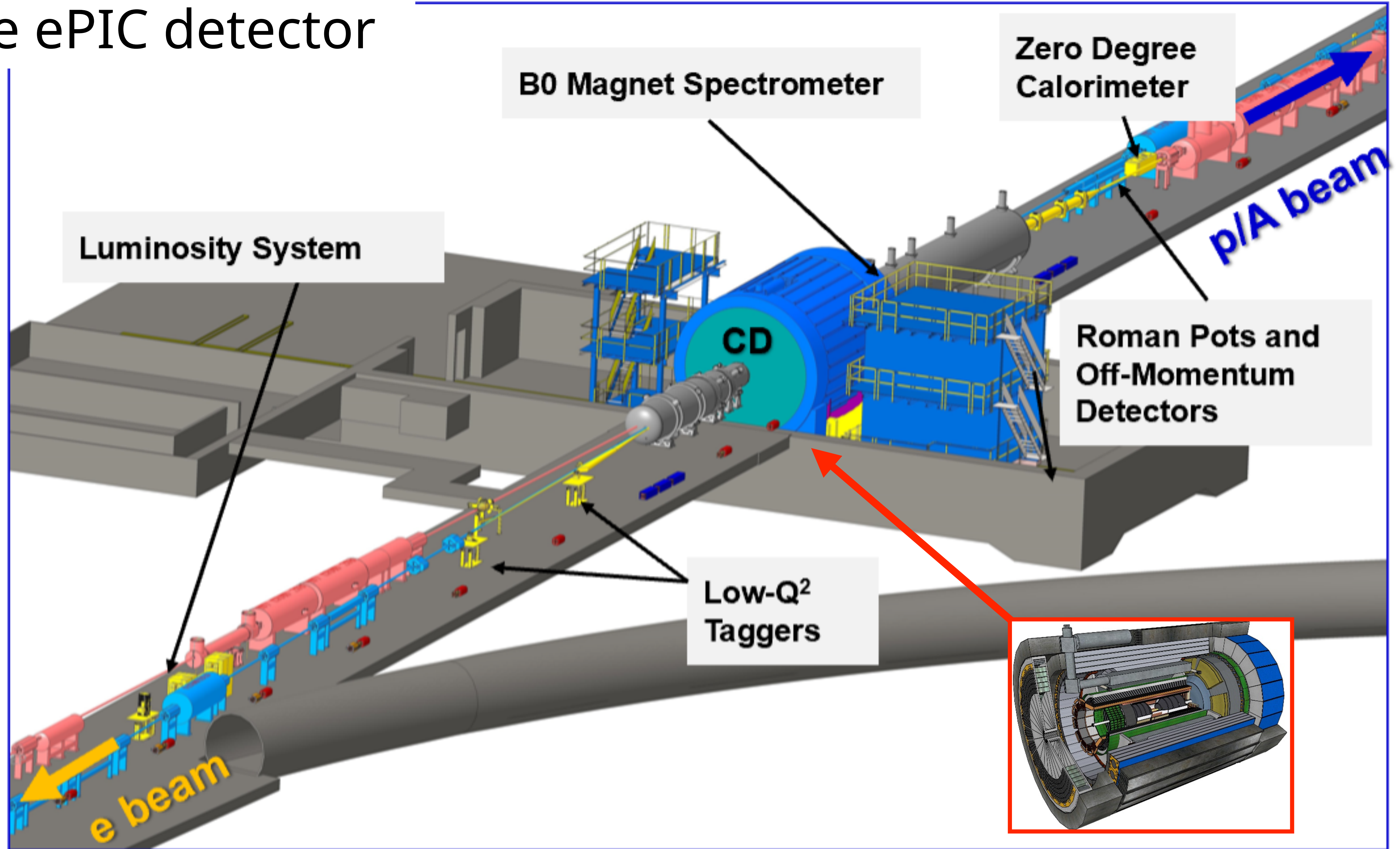
- Under construction at Brookhaven National Lab
- Fully polarized  $ep$  and  $eA$  collisions
- High luminosity!
- $20 < \sqrt{s} < 140 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow$  wide range of  $x_B$ ,  $Q^2$ !
- ePIC detector (project detector) under development
- Second interaction region for complementary detector



# The ePIC detector

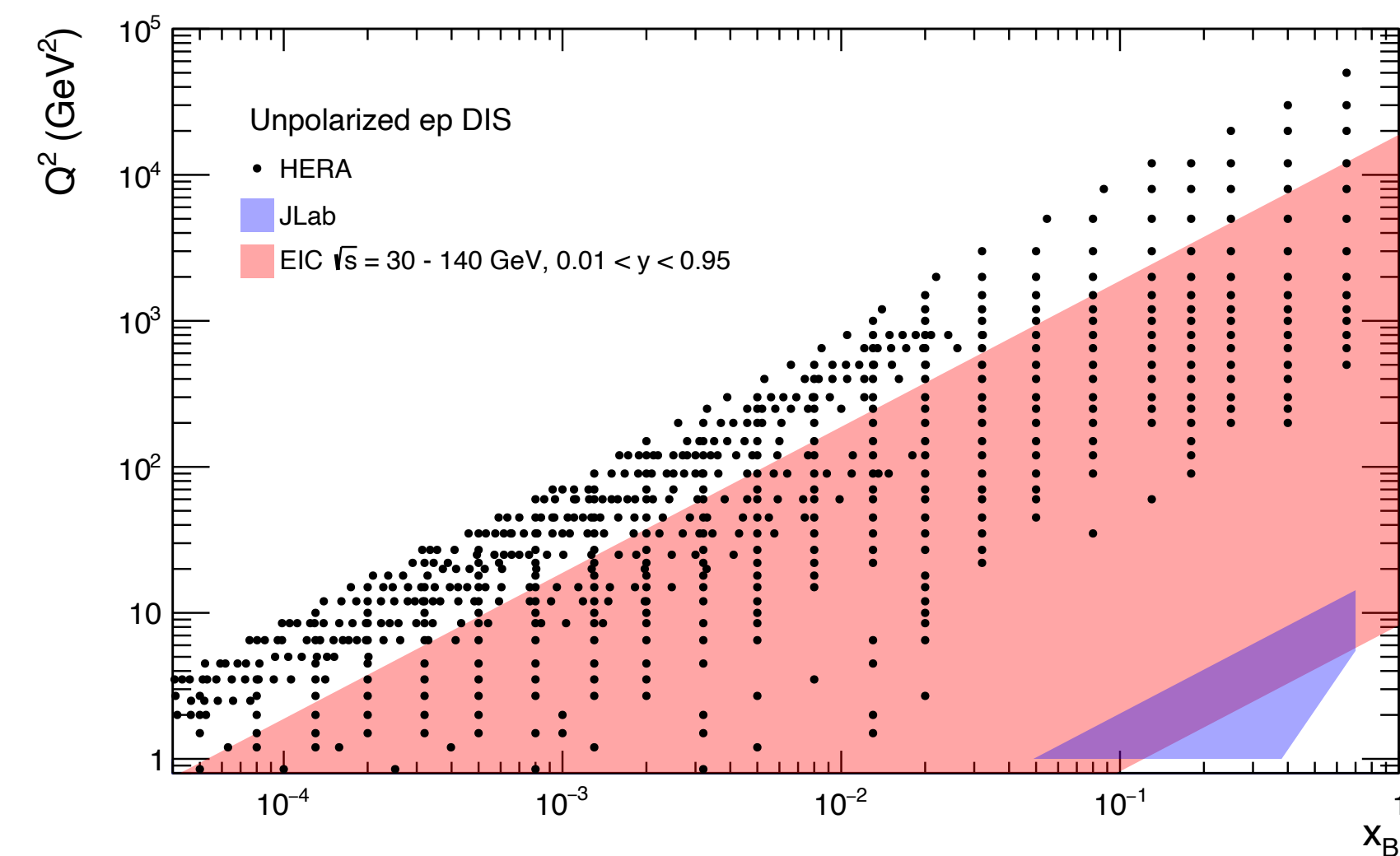


# The ePIC detector



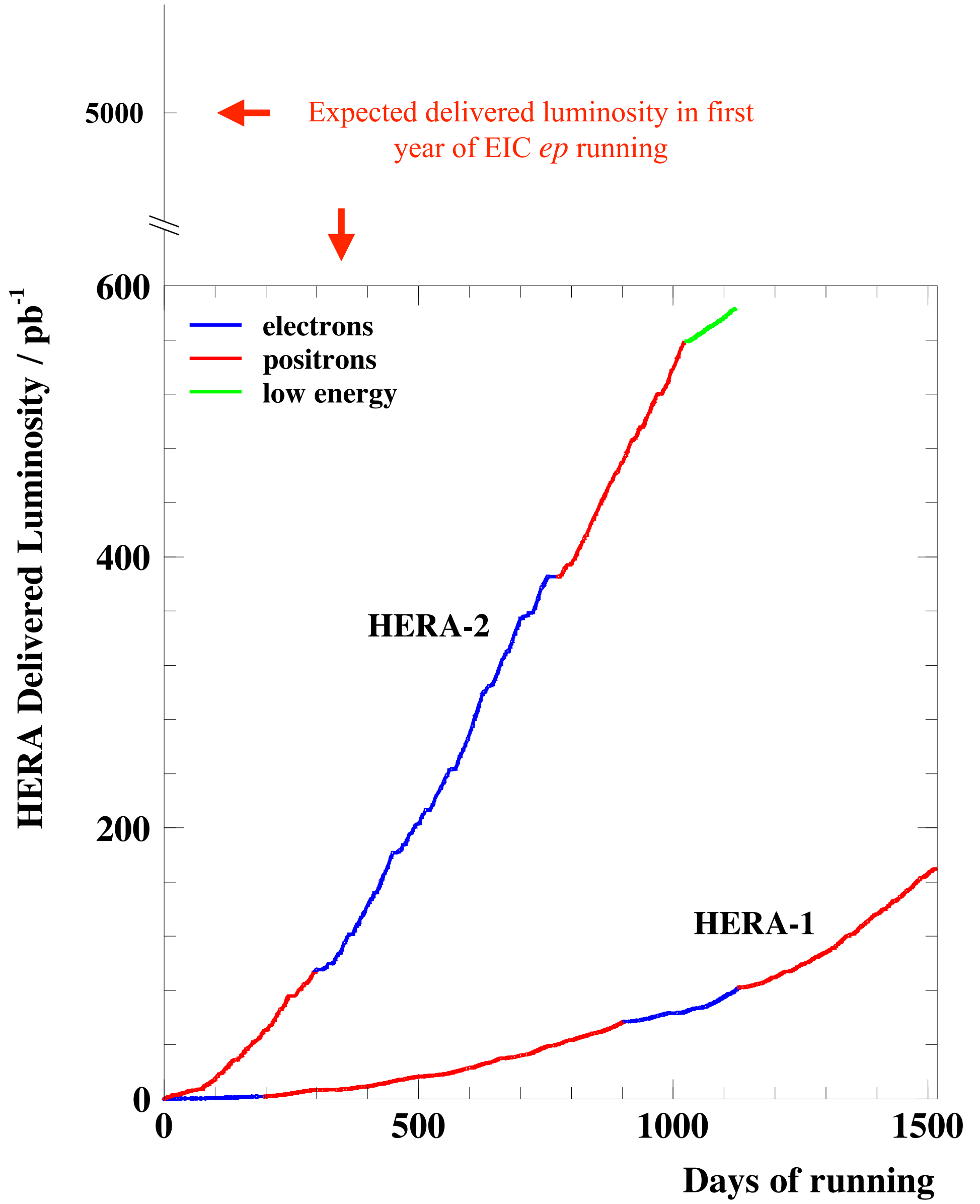
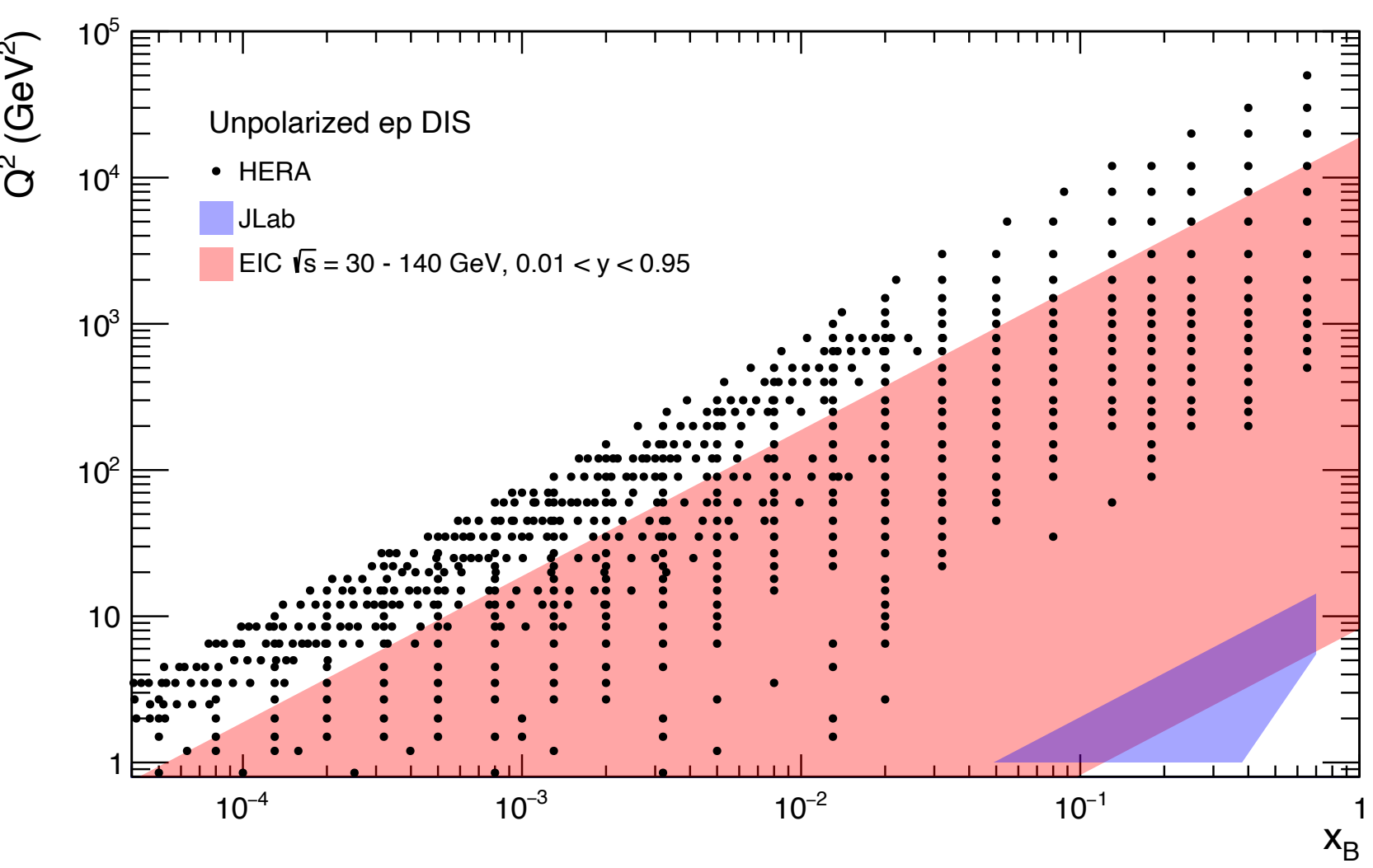
# What can EIC add to the discussion?

- HERA was the original lepton-proton collider
- EIC limitations: smaller COM energy, no positrons (yet...)
- EIC advantages: larger luminosity, full polarization, heavy nuclei



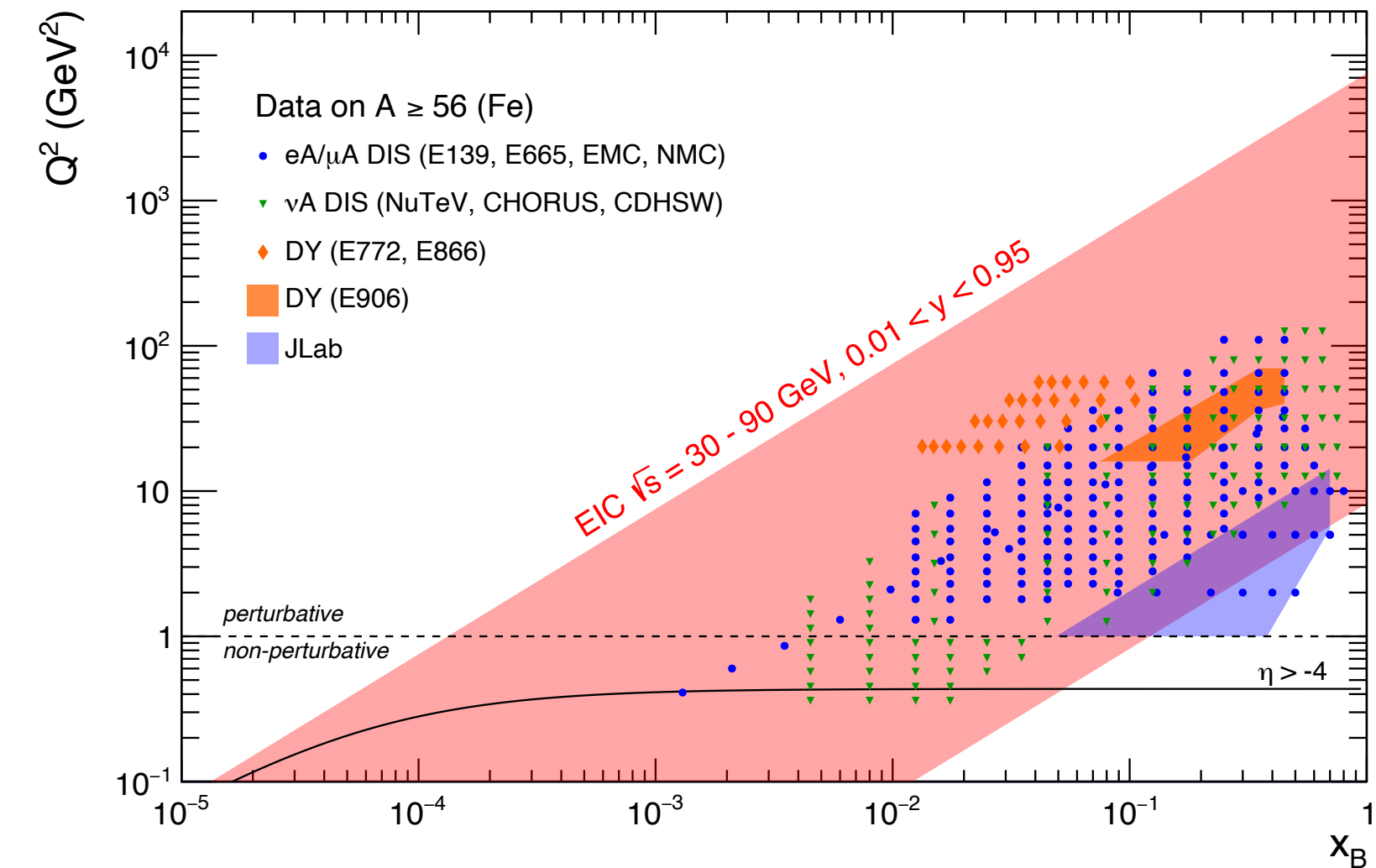
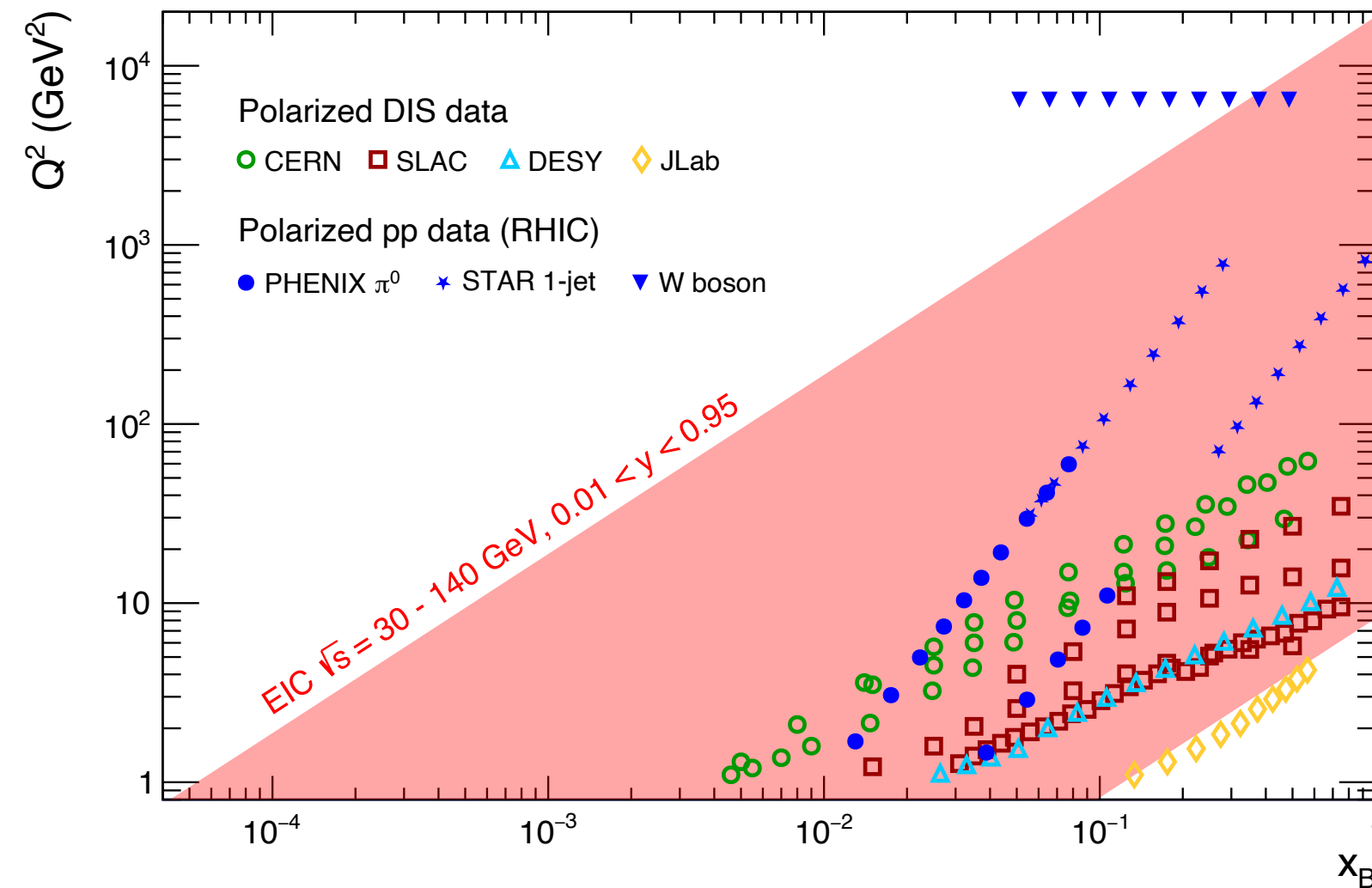
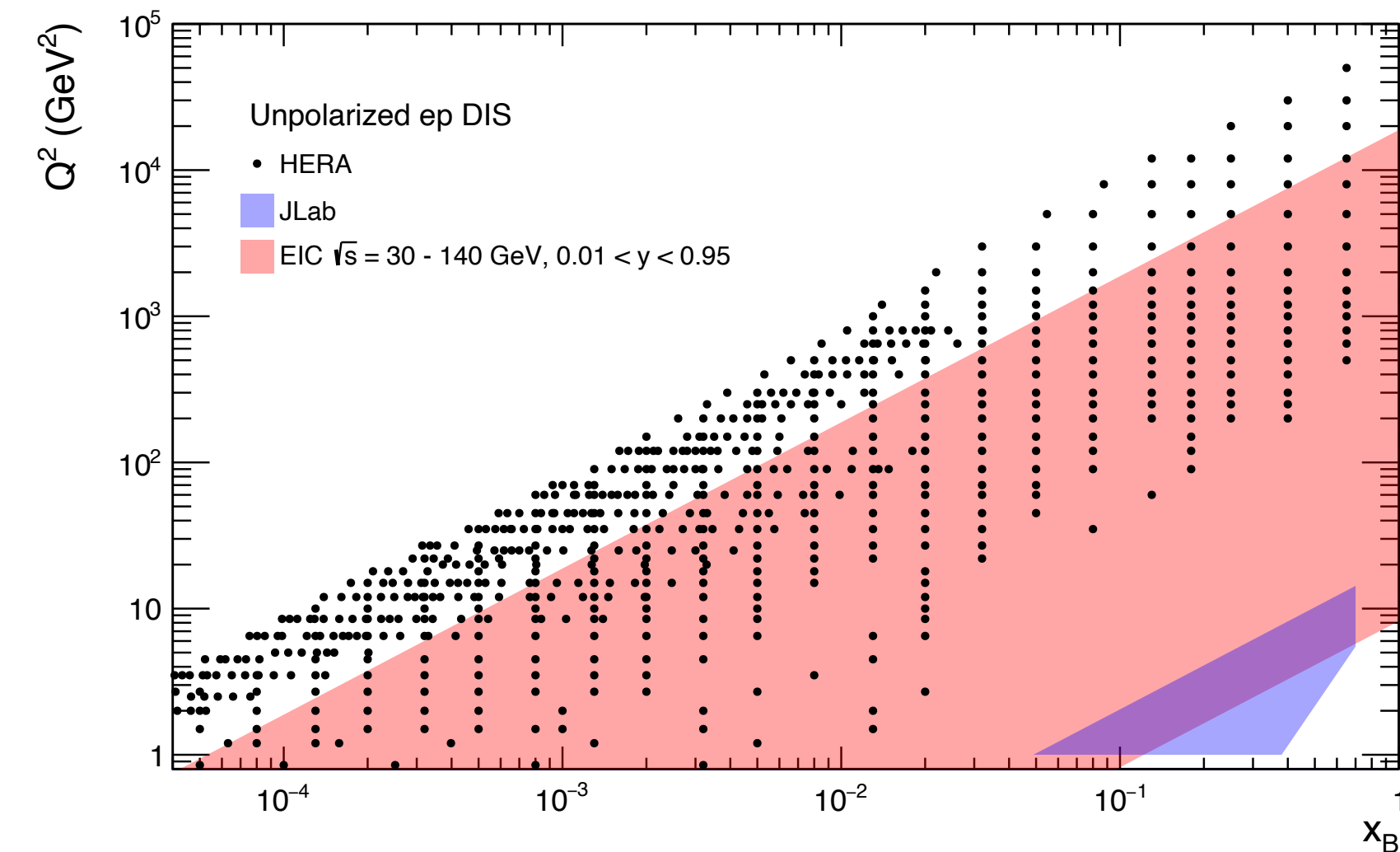
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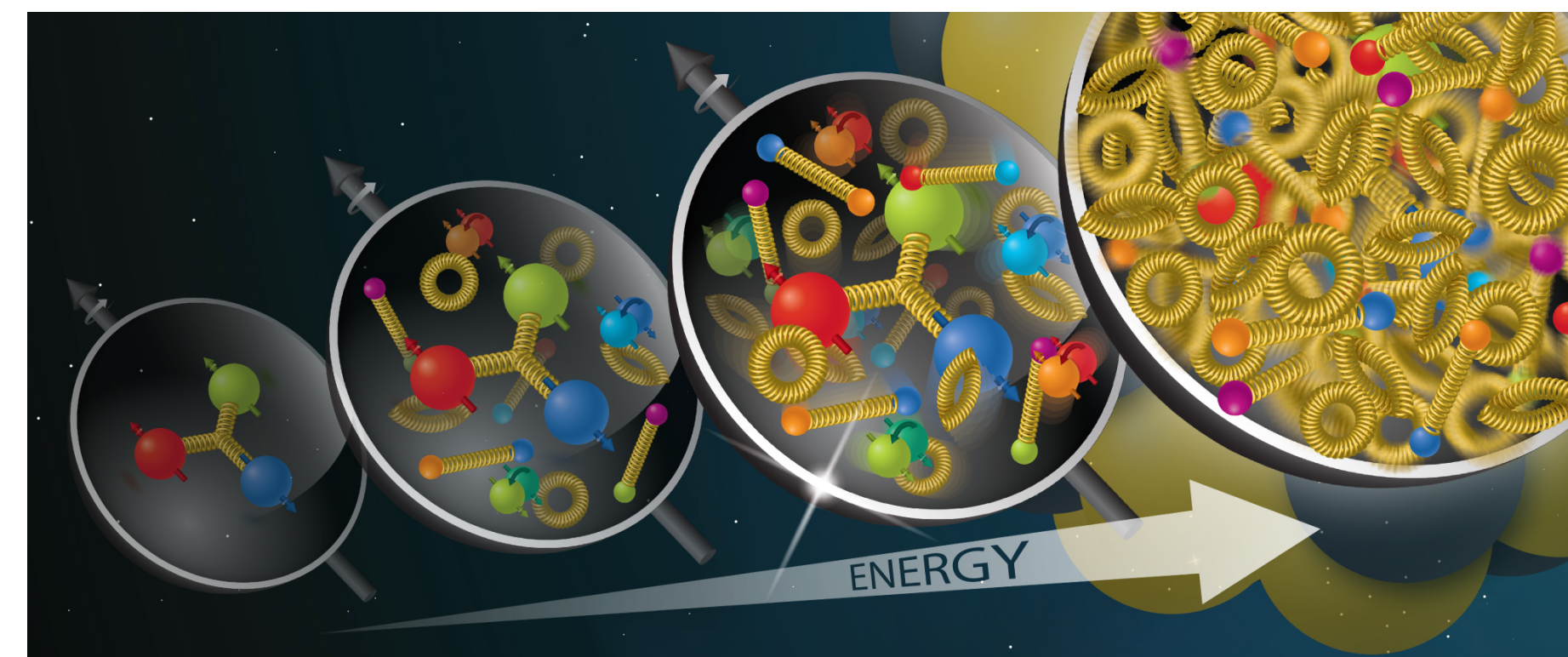
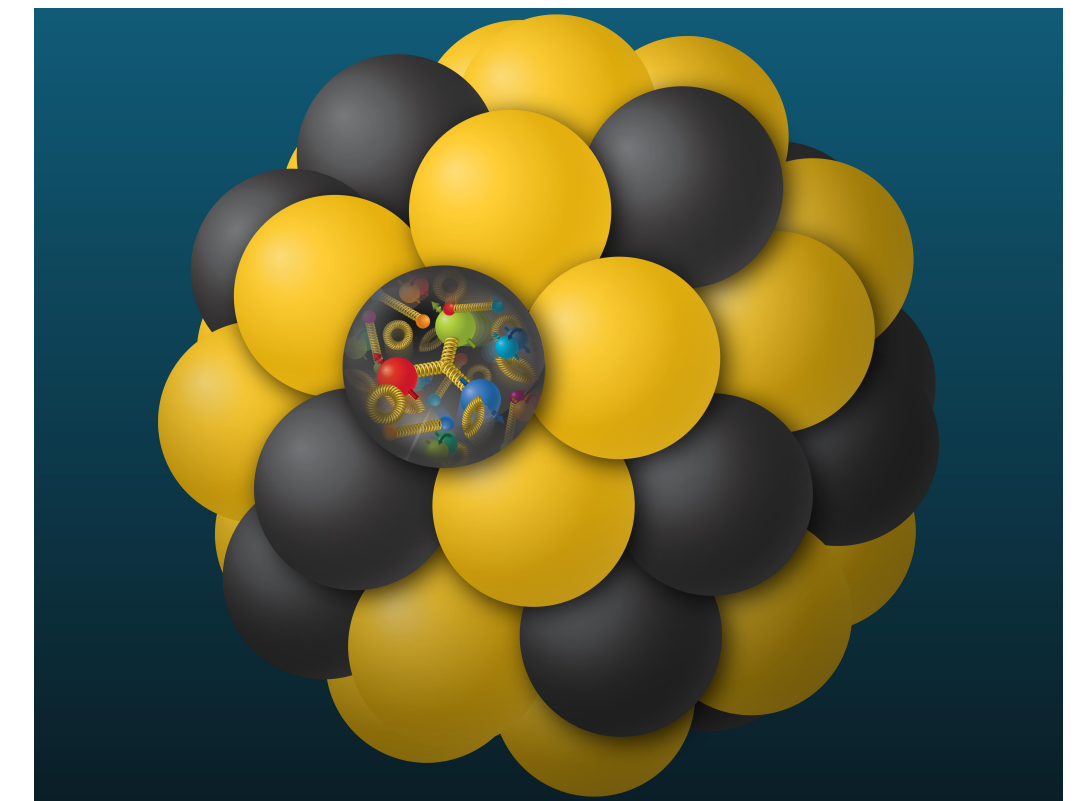
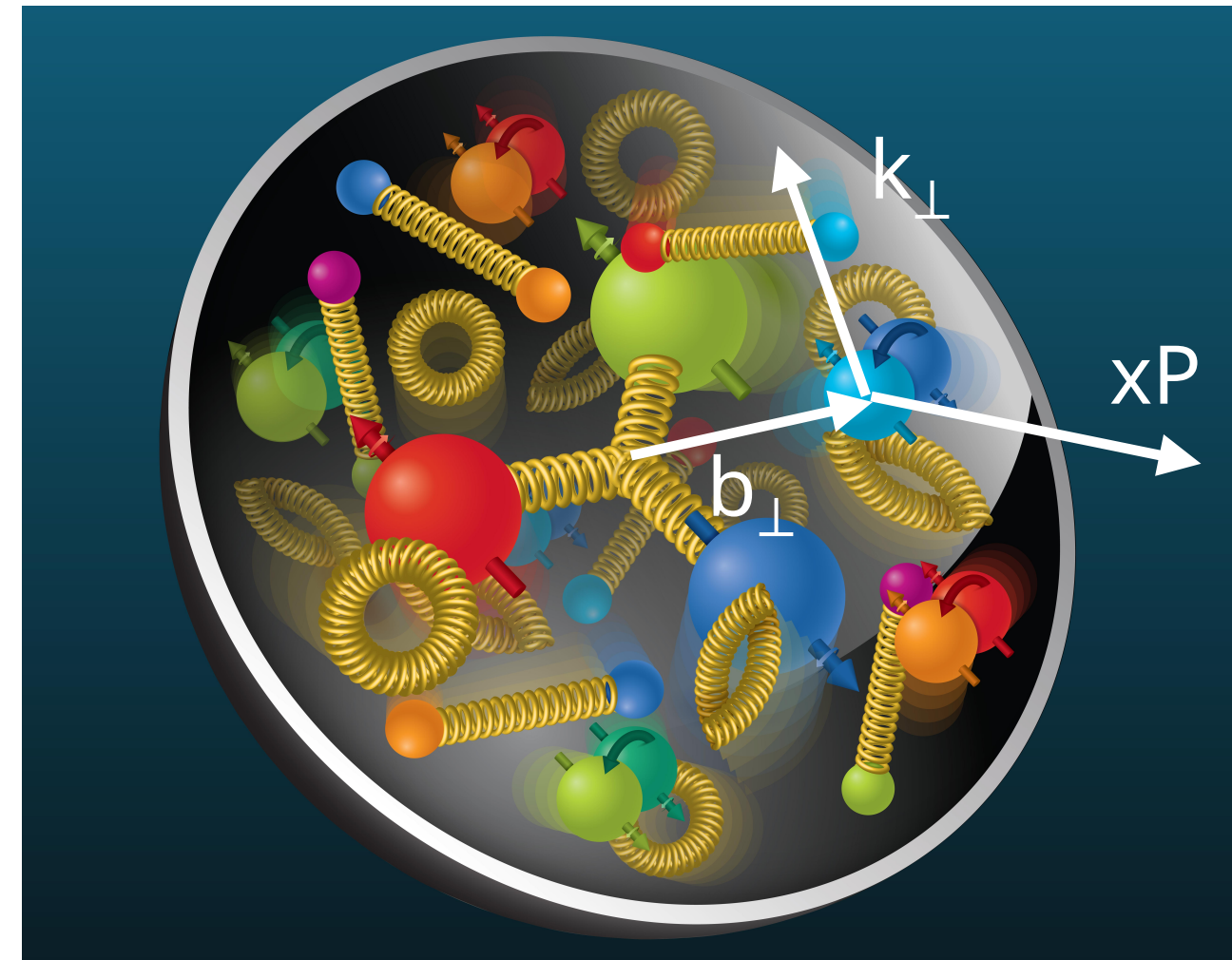
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# Physics goals of the EIC

- Origin of proton mass and spin
- 3D imaging of the nucleon
- Nuclear modification
- Gluon saturation



# Probing proton spin with double-spin asymmetries

$$A_{\parallel} = \frac{\sigma^{\leftarrow\rightarrow} - \sigma^{\rightarrow\rightarrow}}{\sigma^{\leftarrow\rightarrow} + \sigma^{\rightarrow\rightarrow}} \quad \text{and} \quad A_{\perp} = \frac{\sigma^{\rightarrow\uparrow} - \sigma^{\rightarrow\downarrow}}{\sigma^{\rightarrow\uparrow} + \sigma^{\rightarrow\downarrow}}$$

$$A_1 = \frac{A_{\parallel}}{D(1 + \eta\xi)} - \frac{\eta A_{\perp}}{d(1 + \eta\xi)}$$

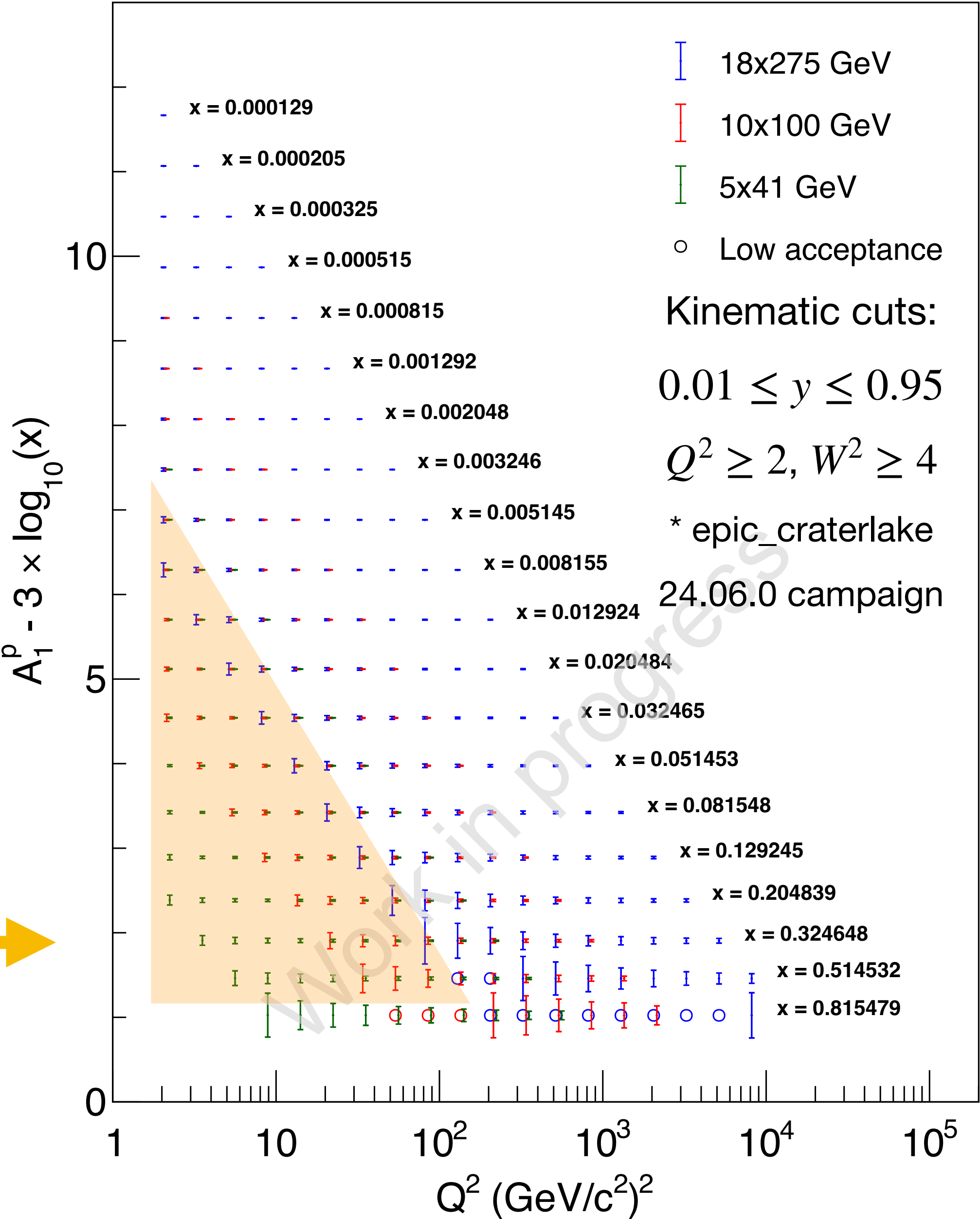
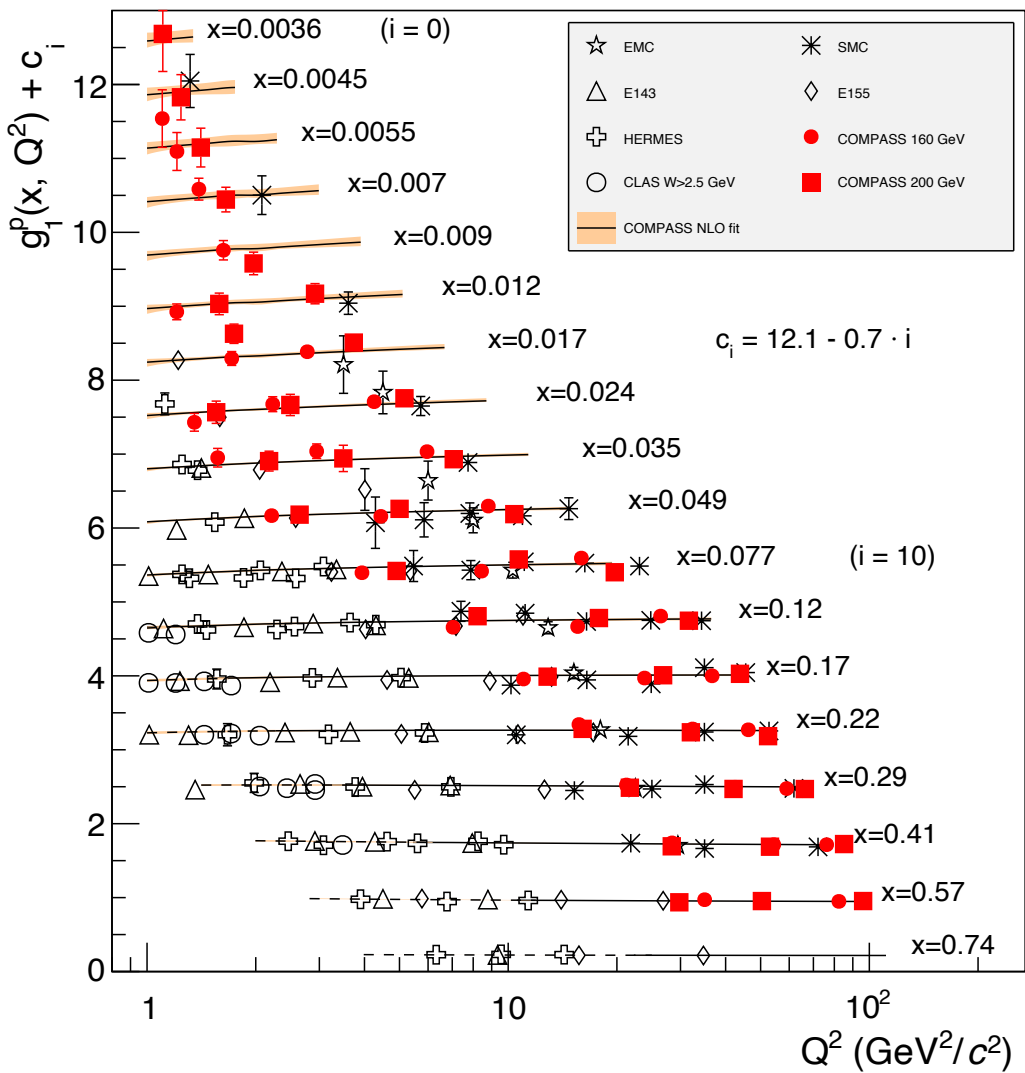
$$\approx g_1/F_1 \propto \sum_q e_q^2 (\Delta q + \Delta \bar{q})$$

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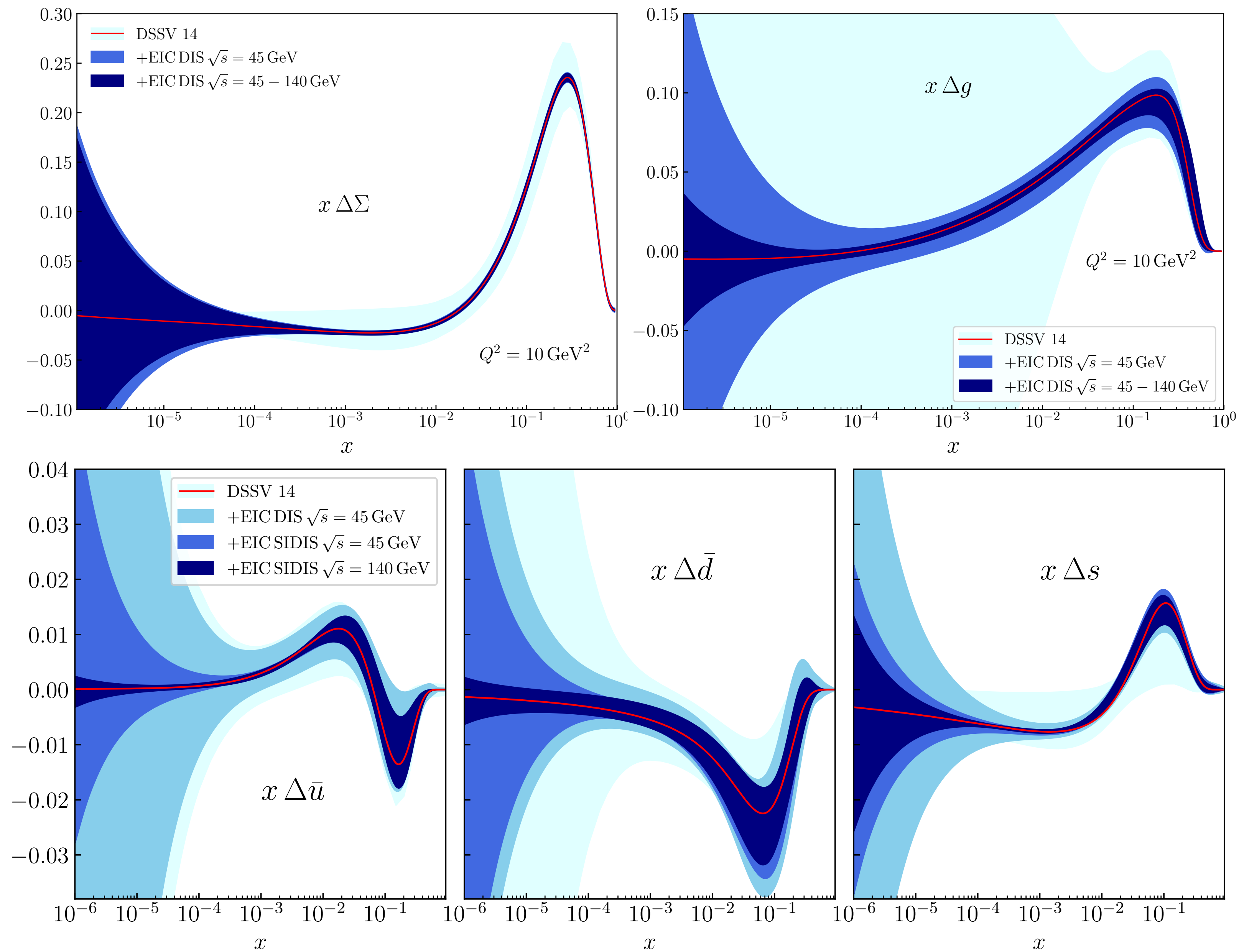
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# Impact of EIC measurements

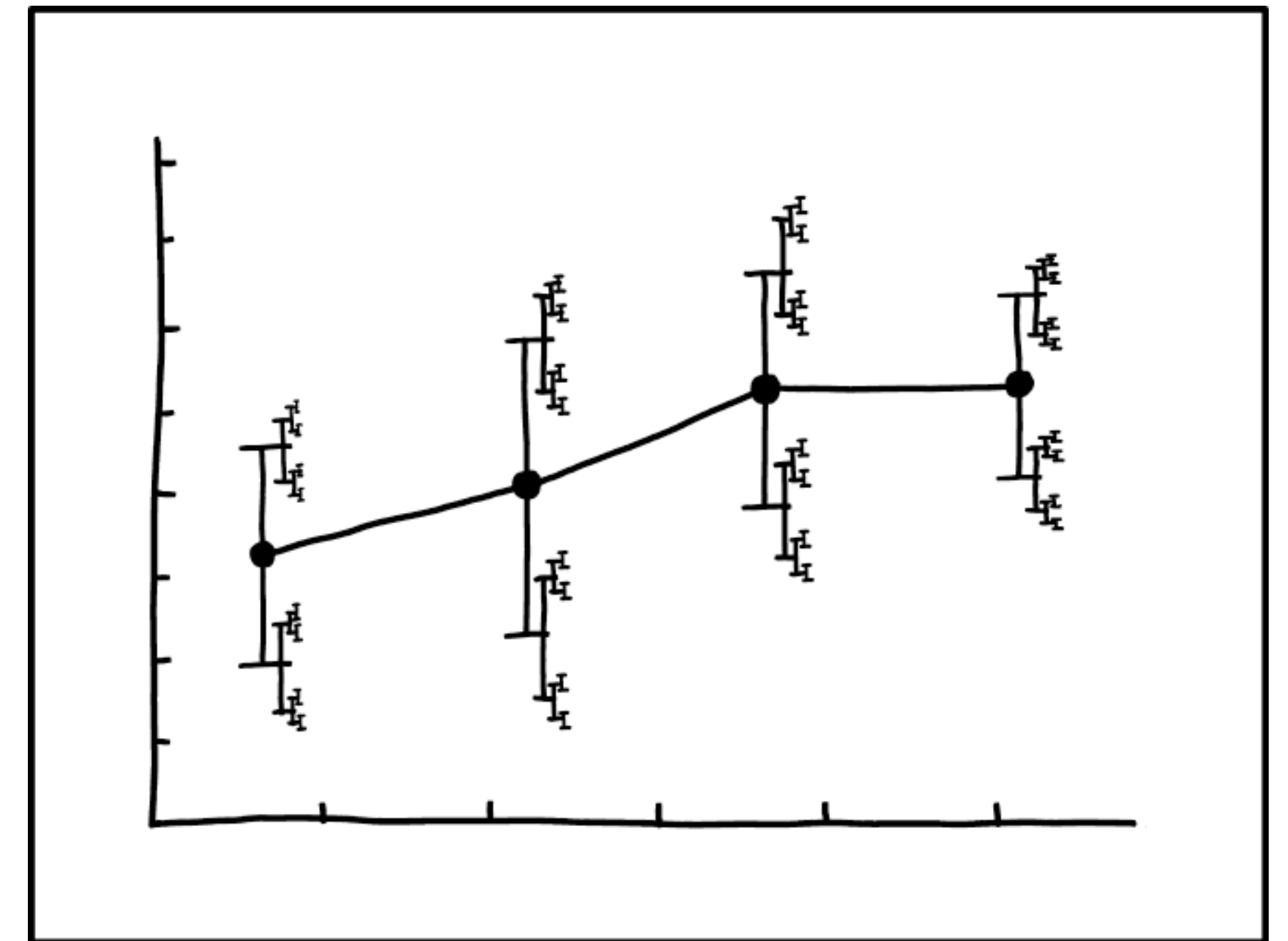


# EIC will be *systematics limited*

- High luminosity means that statistical uncertainty will be negligible
- Physics impact will be limited by control of systematics

## Key sources of systematics

- Kinematic reconstruction
  - Need high-resolution reconstruction of  $y$ ,  $Q^2$
- Electron identification
  - Minimize pion contamination
  - Reduce contamination in CC analyses



I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PROPAGATE  
ERROR CORRECTLY, SO I JUST PUT  
ERROR BARS ON ALL MY ERROR BARS.

# Hermetic detector allows reconstruction from entire final state

Lepton

$$E'_e, \theta_e$$

$$Q^2 = sxy, \quad s = (P + k)^2$$

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Hadron

$$\delta_h = \sum_i (E_i - p_{z,i})$$

$$p_{T,h} = \sqrt{\left(\sum_i p_{x,i}\right)^2 + \left(\sum_i p_{y,i}\right)^2}$$

$$\cos \gamma_h = \frac{p_{T,h}^2 - \delta_h^2}{p_{T,h}^2 + \delta_h^2}$$

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- Double-angle:  $y_{DA} = \frac{\tan\left(\frac{\gamma_h}{2}\right)}{\tan\left(\frac{\theta_e}{2}\right) + \tan\left(\frac{\gamma_h}{2}\right)} \quad Q_{JB}^2 = \frac{4E_e^2 \cot\left(\frac{\theta_e}{2}\right)}{\tan\left(\frac{\theta_e}{2}\right) + \tan\left(\frac{\gamma_h}{2}\right)}$

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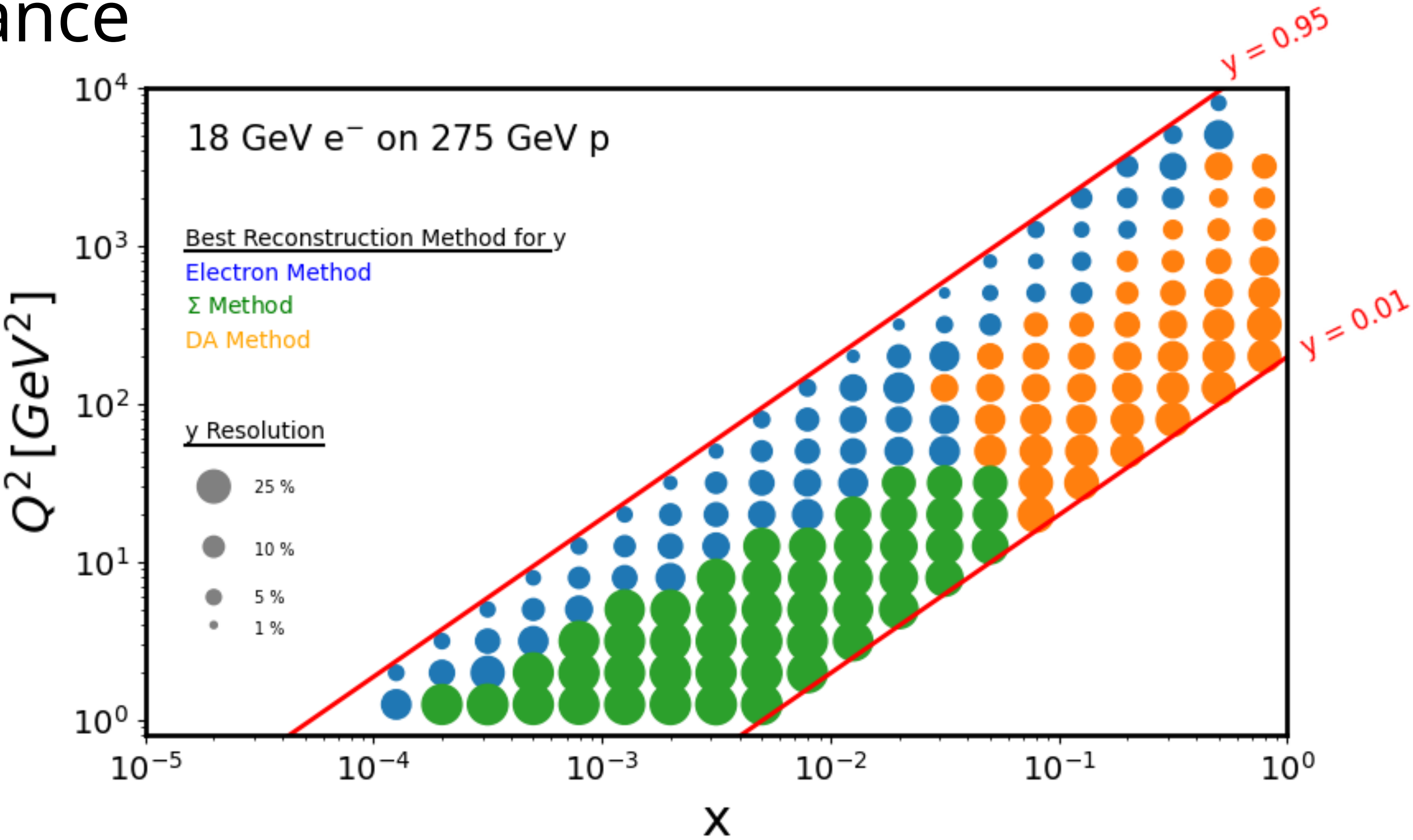
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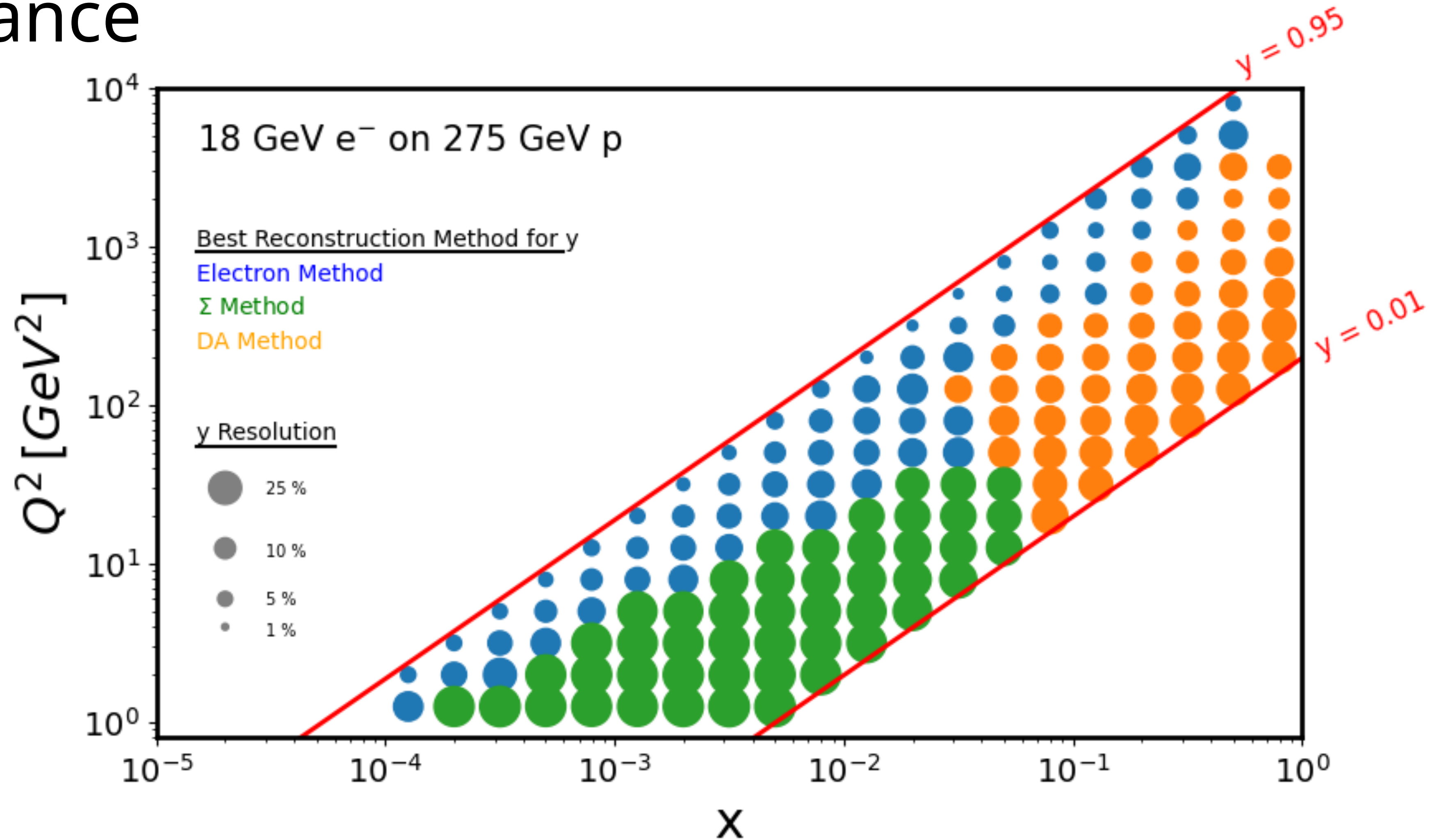
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- $e\Sigma$ :  $y_\Sigma = \frac{\delta_h}{\delta_h + E'_e(1 - \cos \theta_e)} \quad Q_\Sigma^2 = \frac{(E'_e \sin \theta_e)^2}{1 - y_\Sigma}$

# NC: leverage over-constrained kinematics to optimize performance

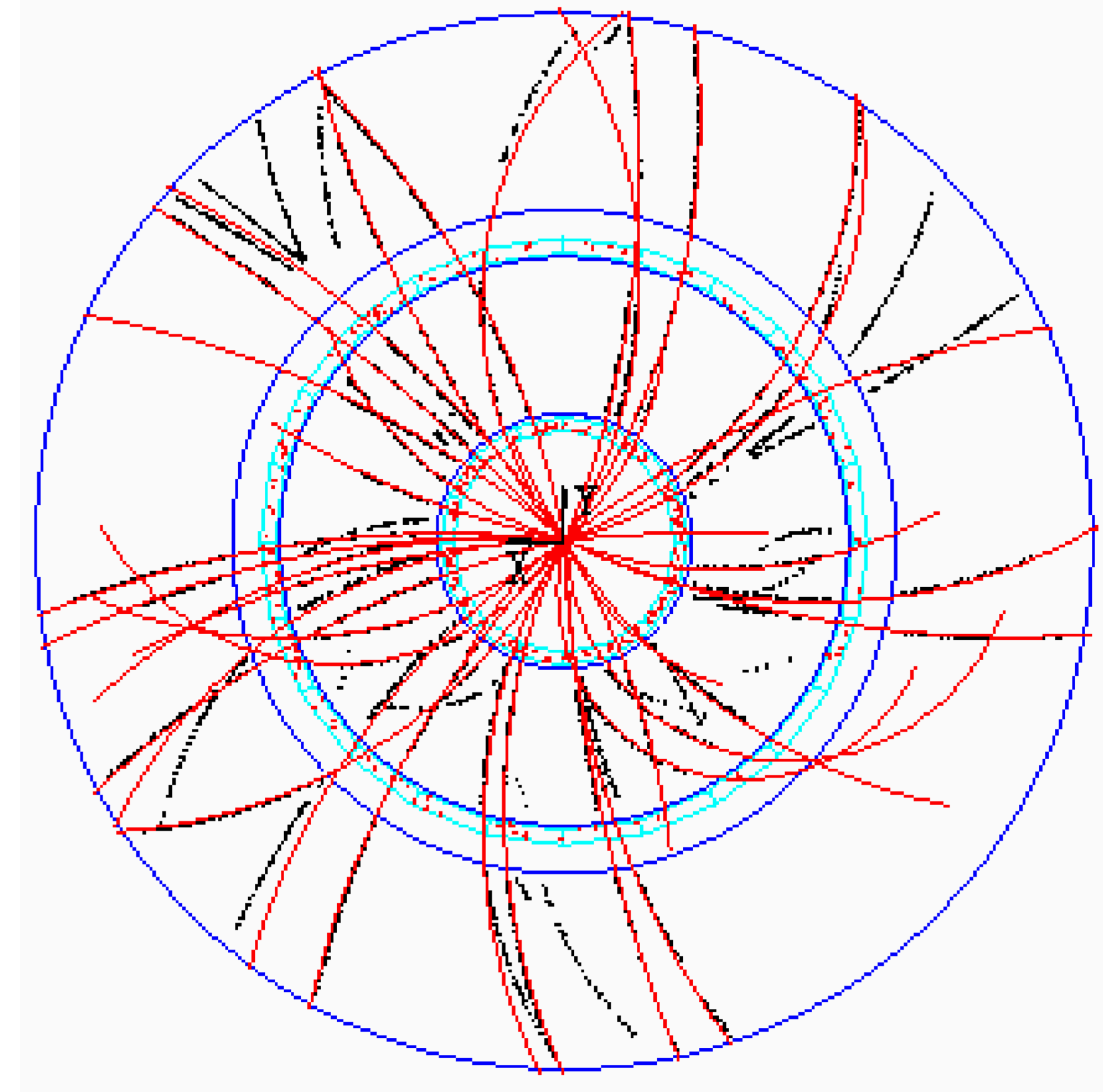


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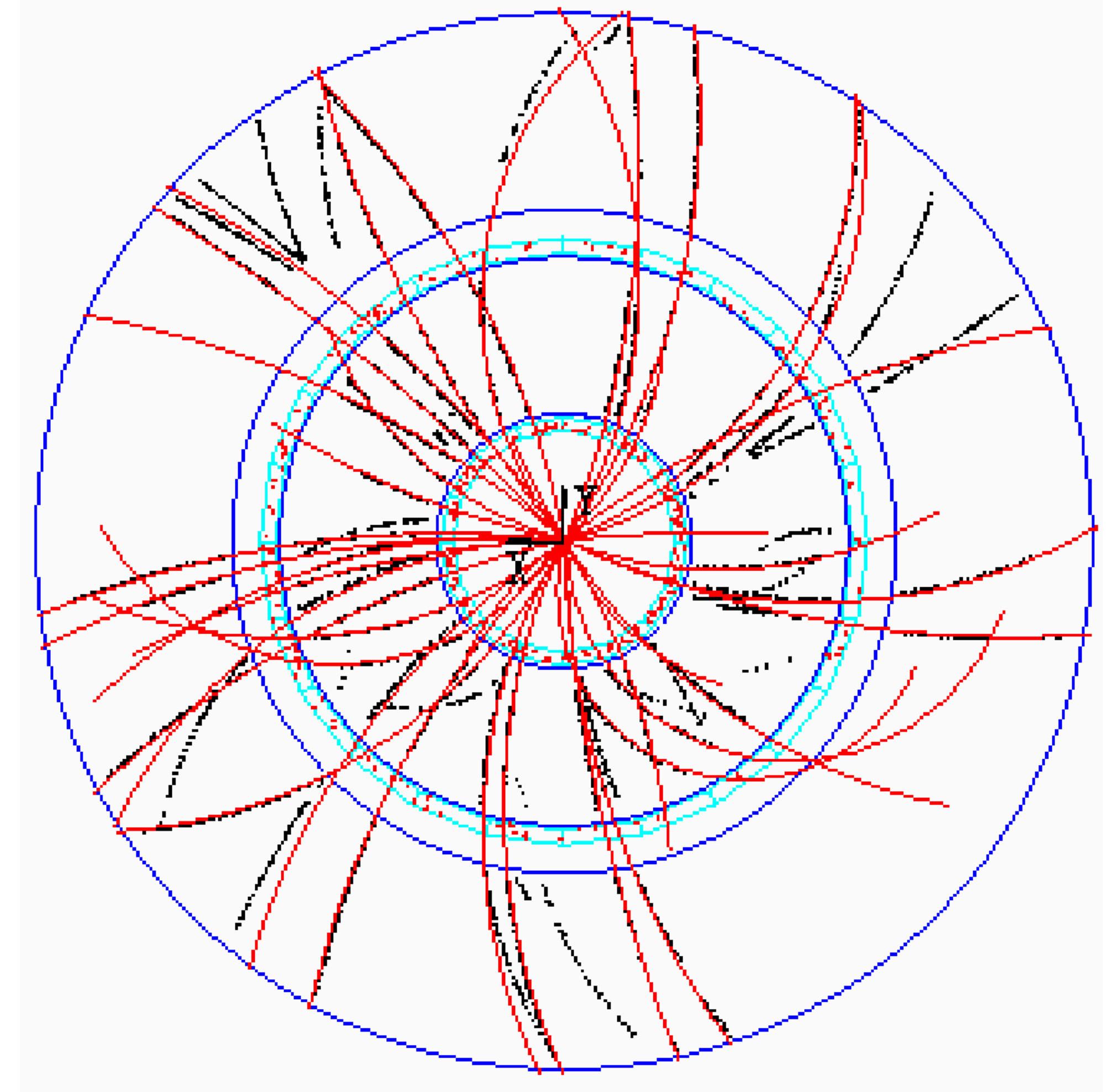
JB method only option for CC analyses

# Electron identification



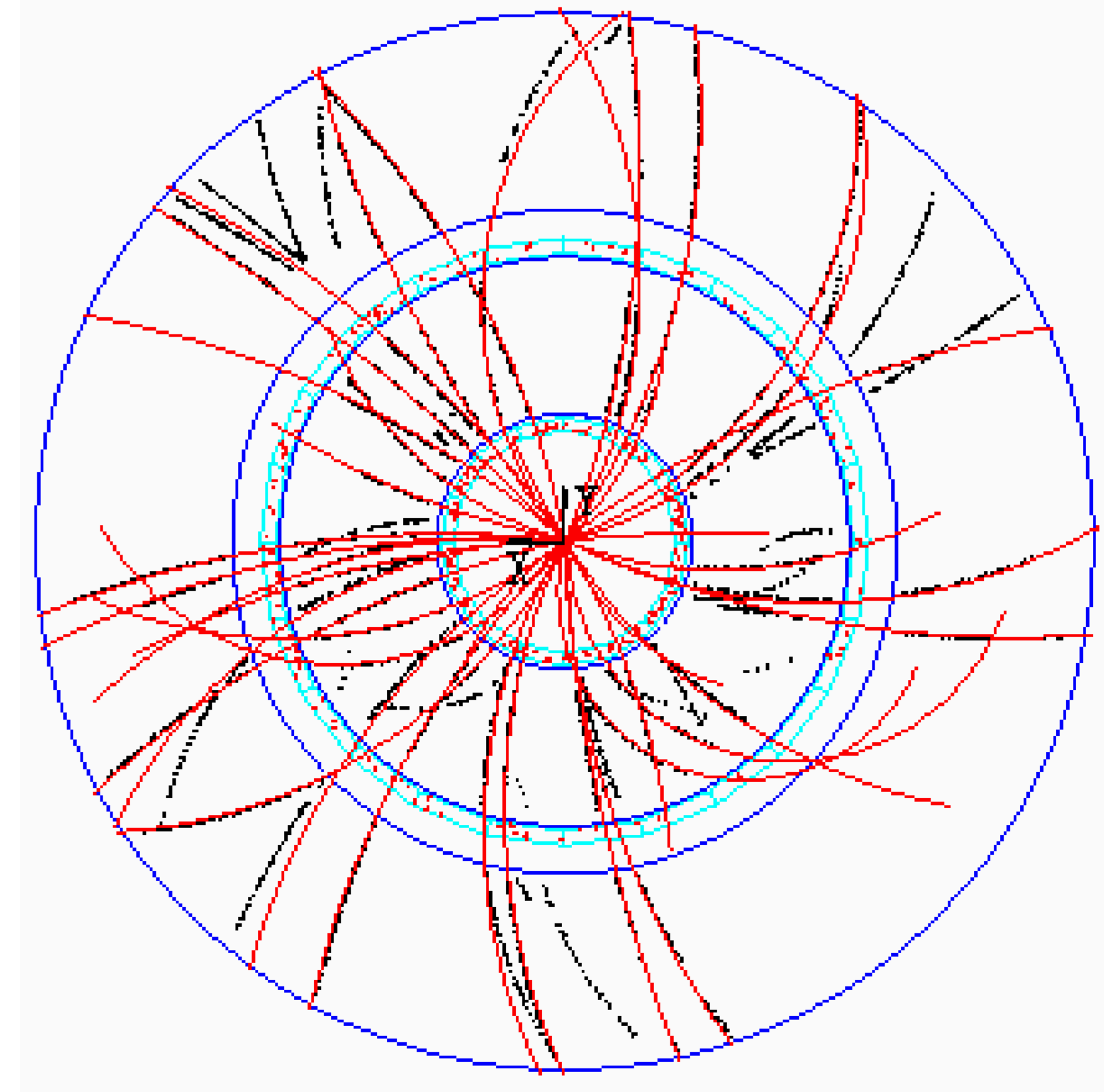
# Electron identification

- Electrons will leave negative tracks
  - Eliminate neutral, positive particles



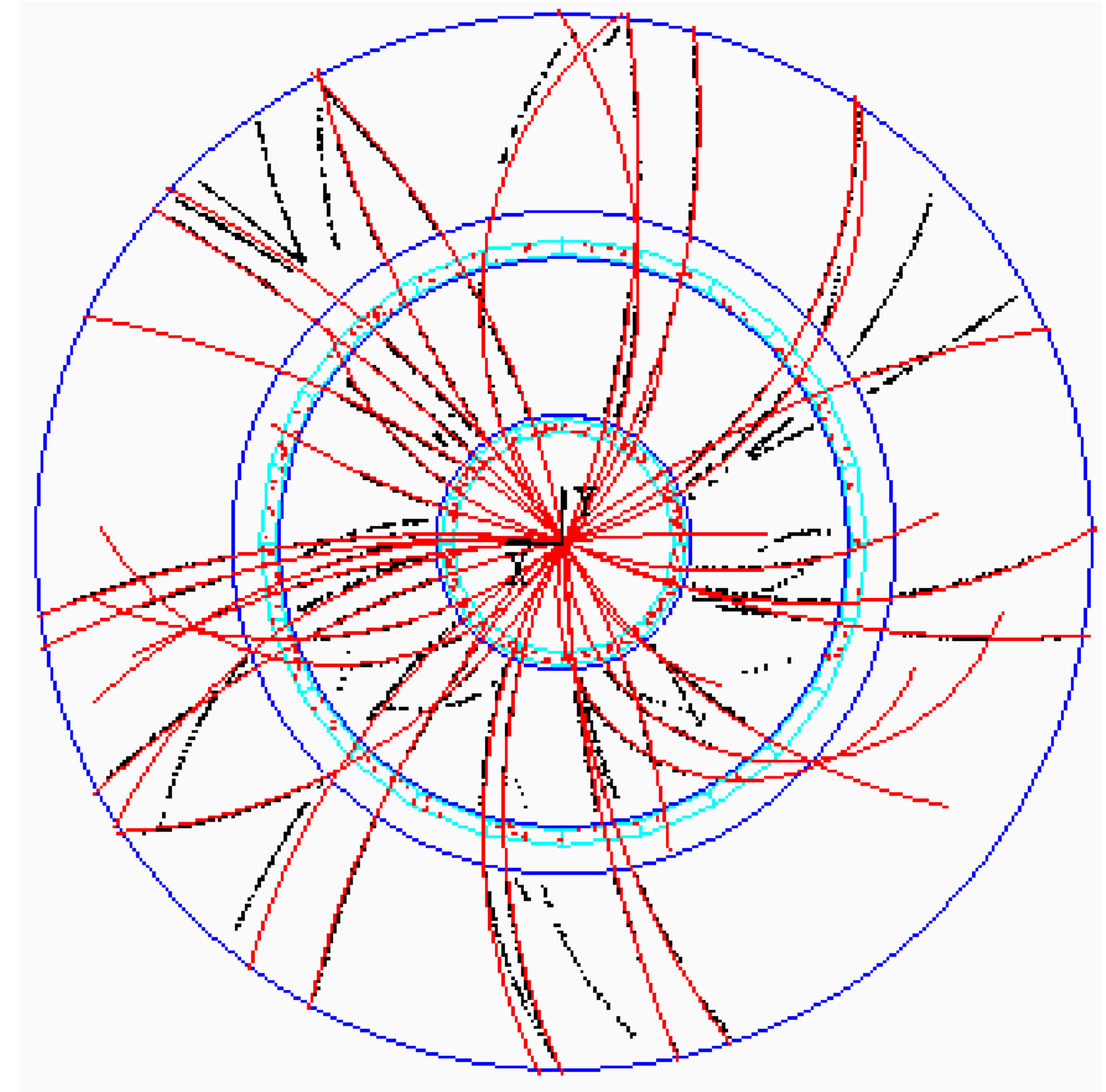
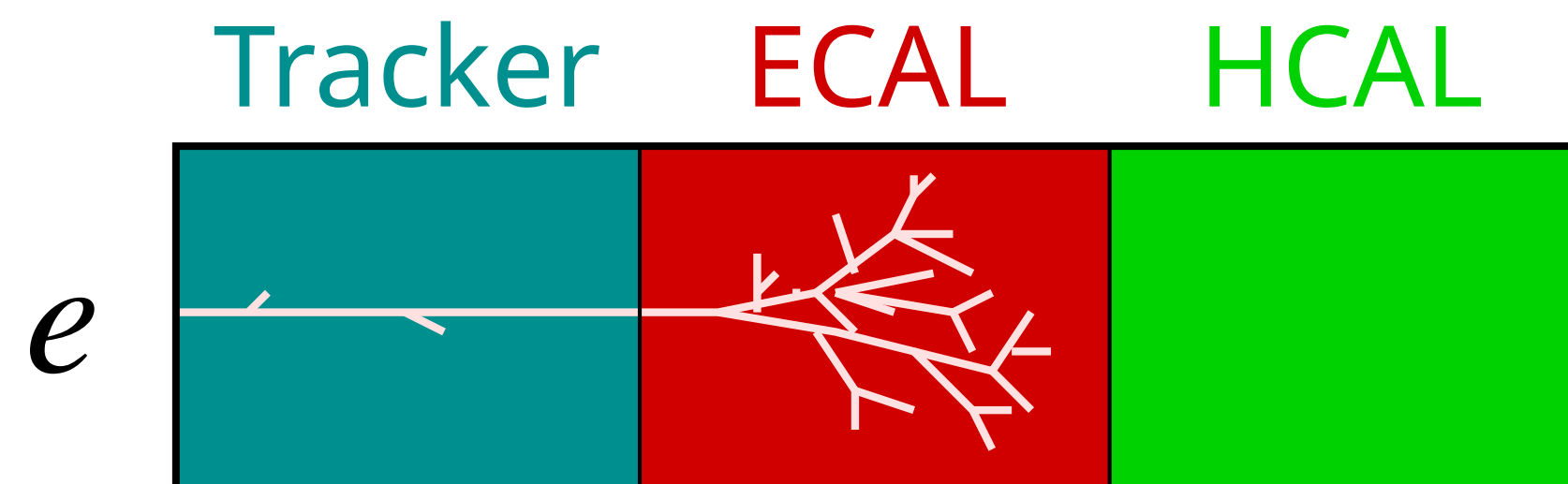
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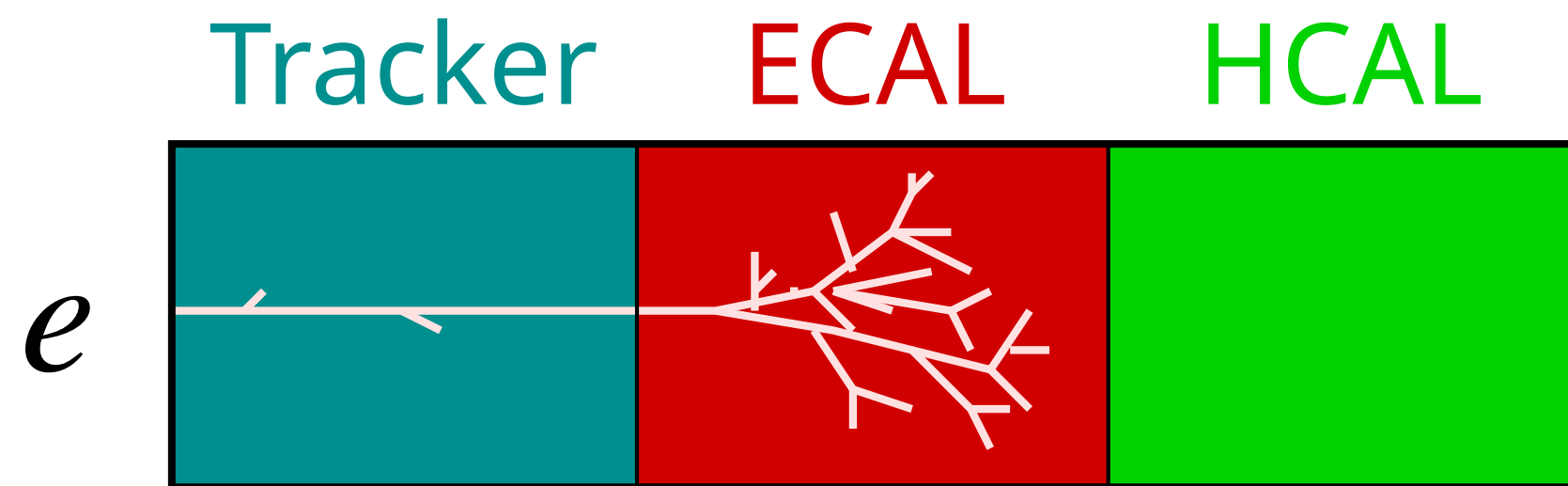
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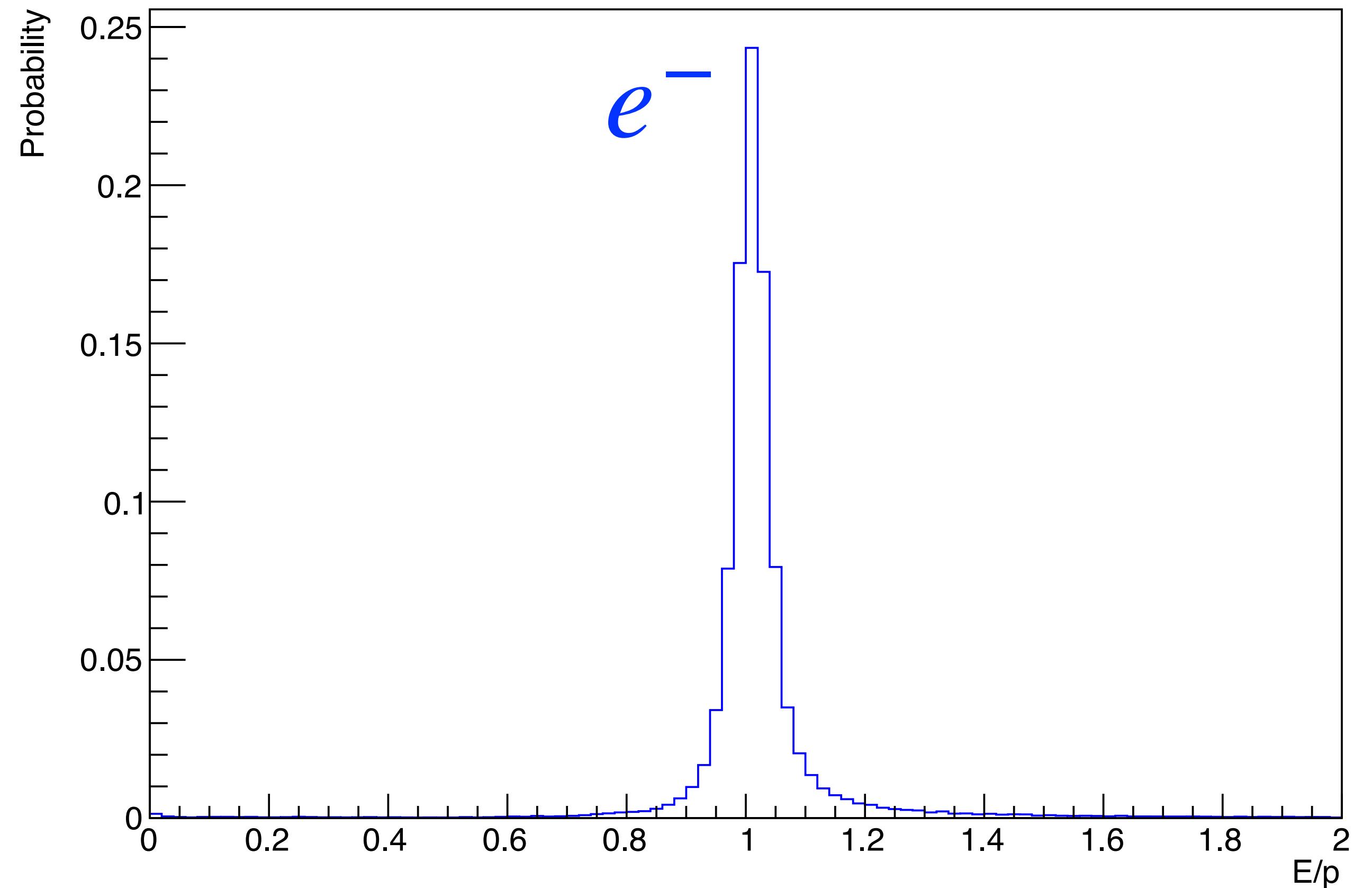


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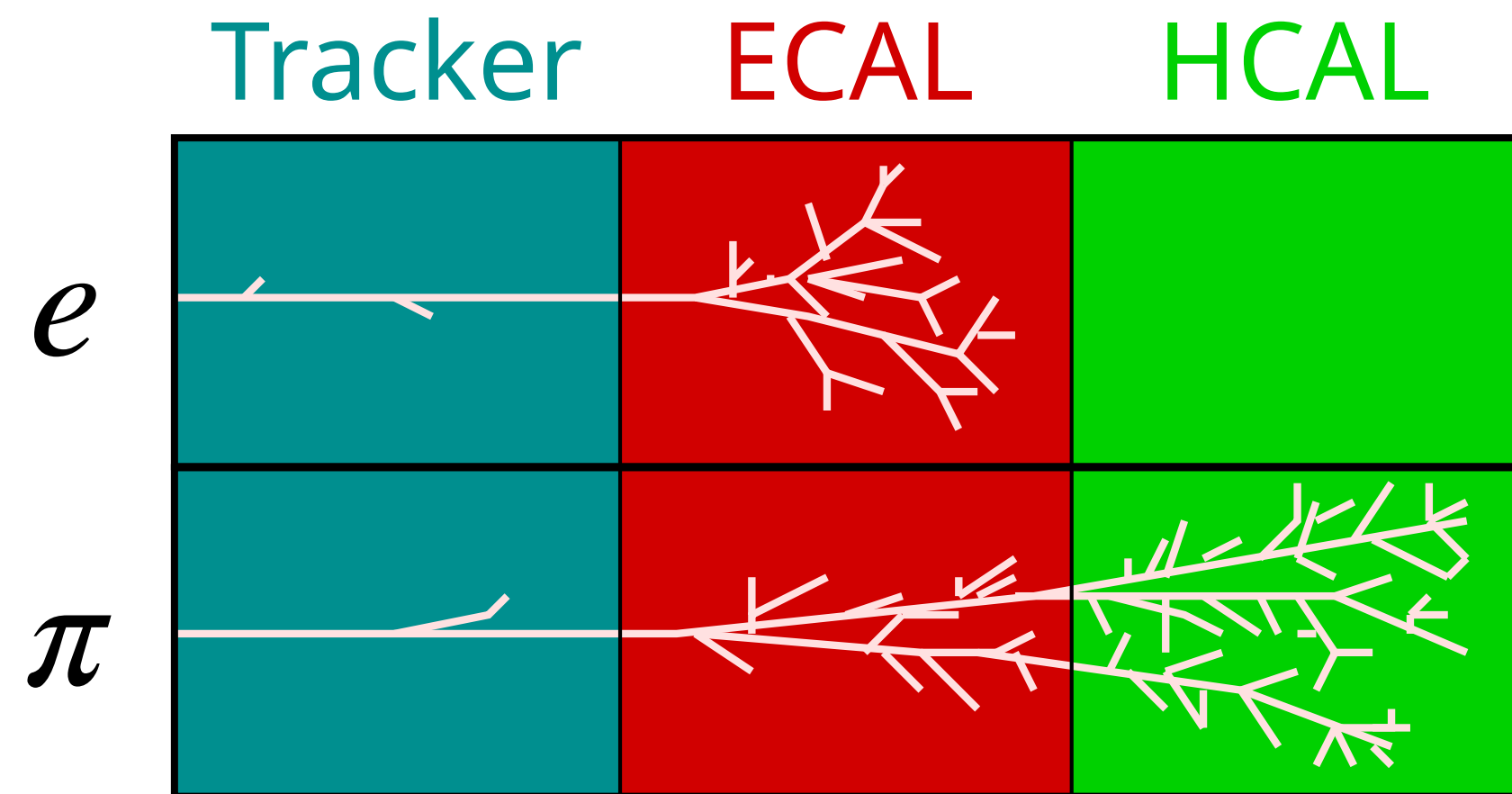


ePIC single-particle simulation  
( $E = 10 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $160^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ$ )

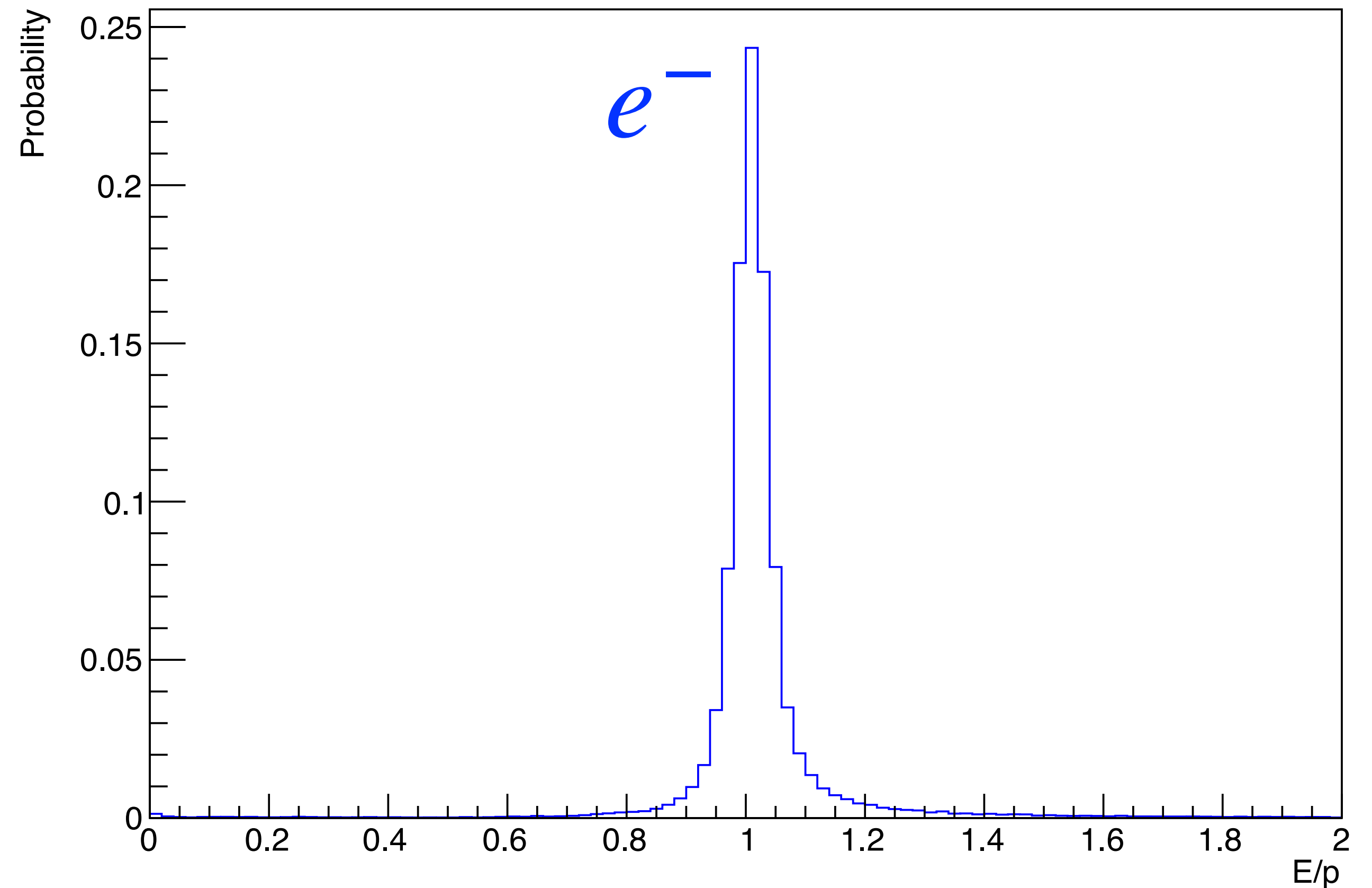


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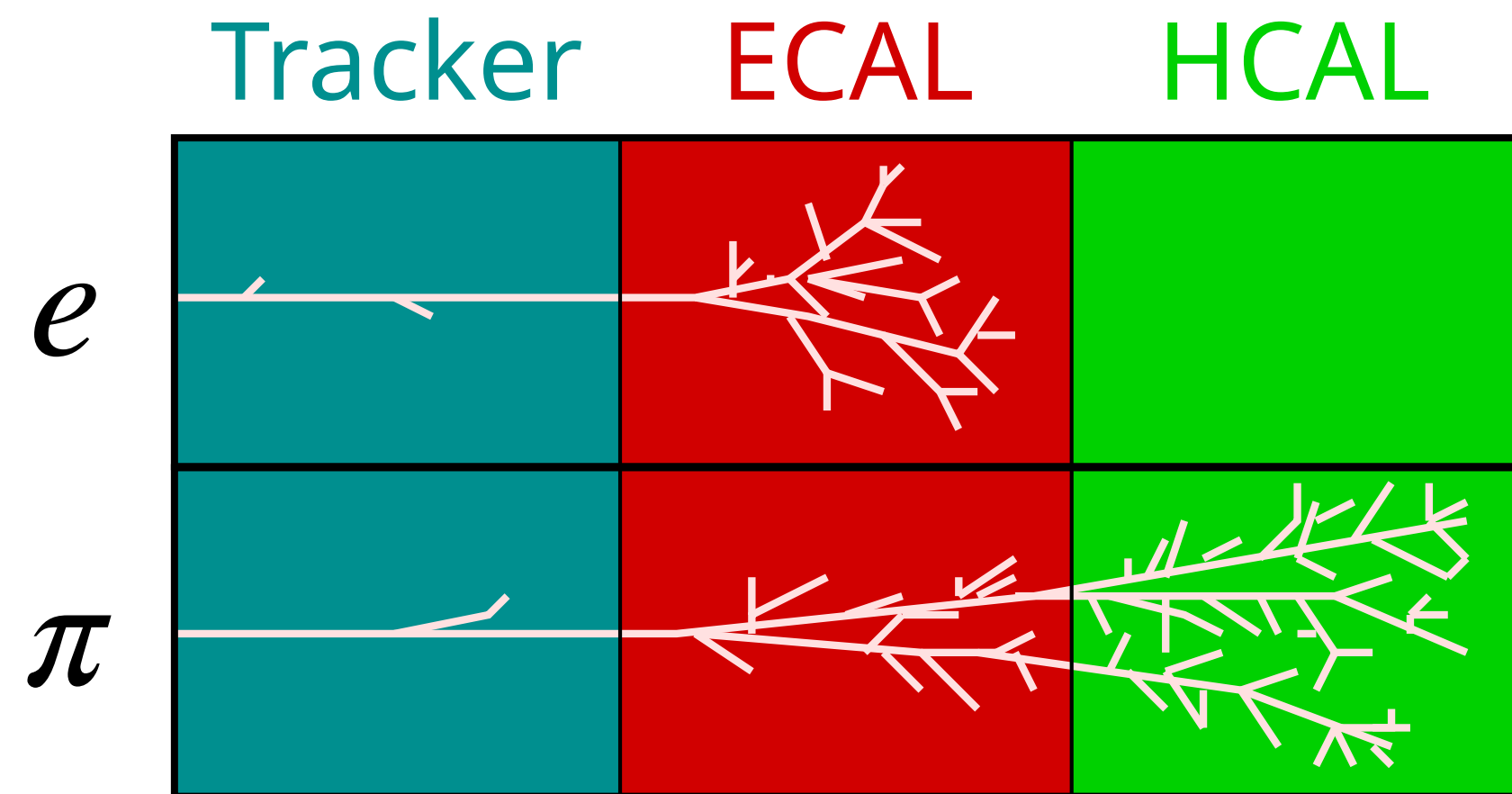


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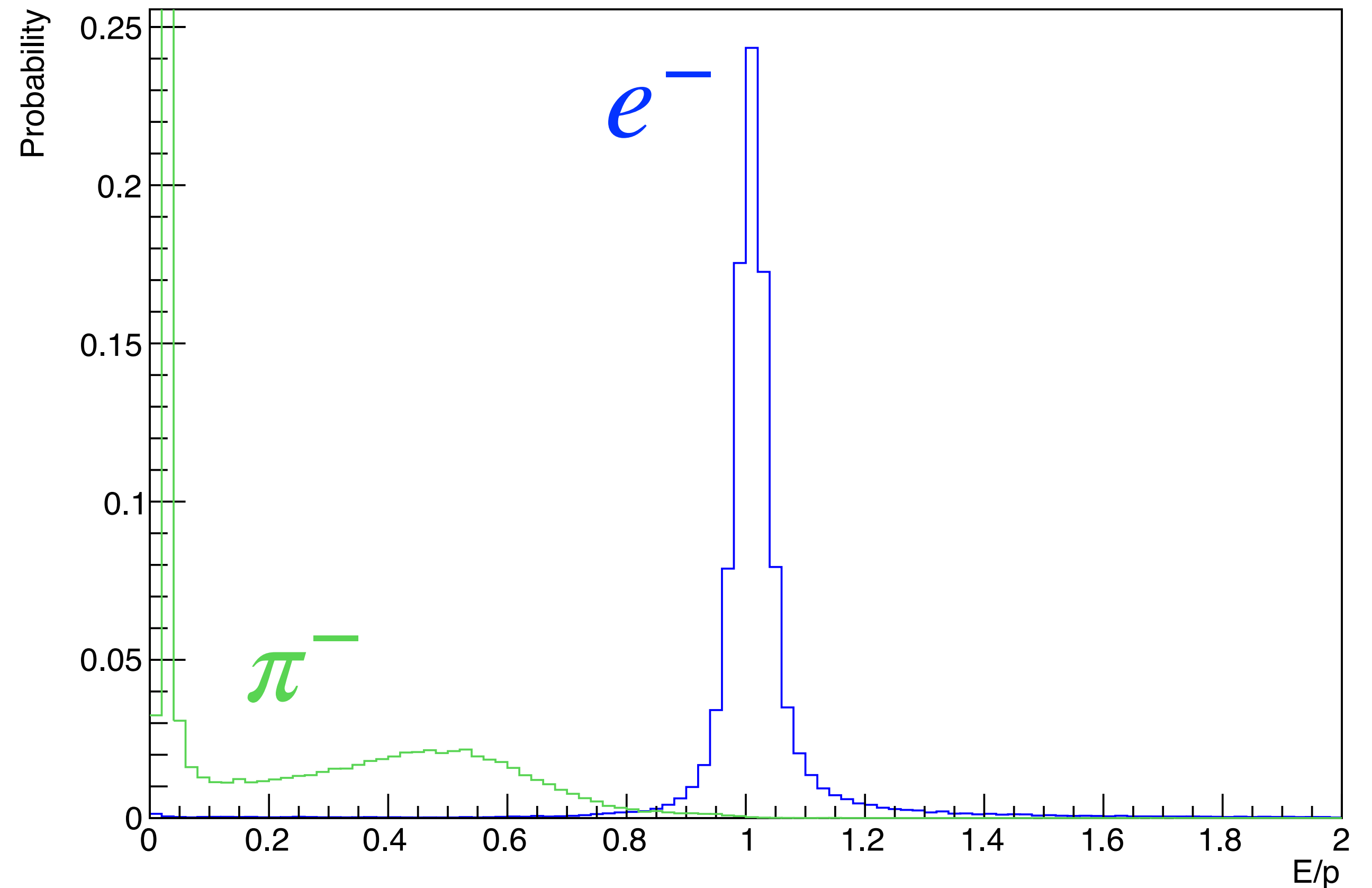


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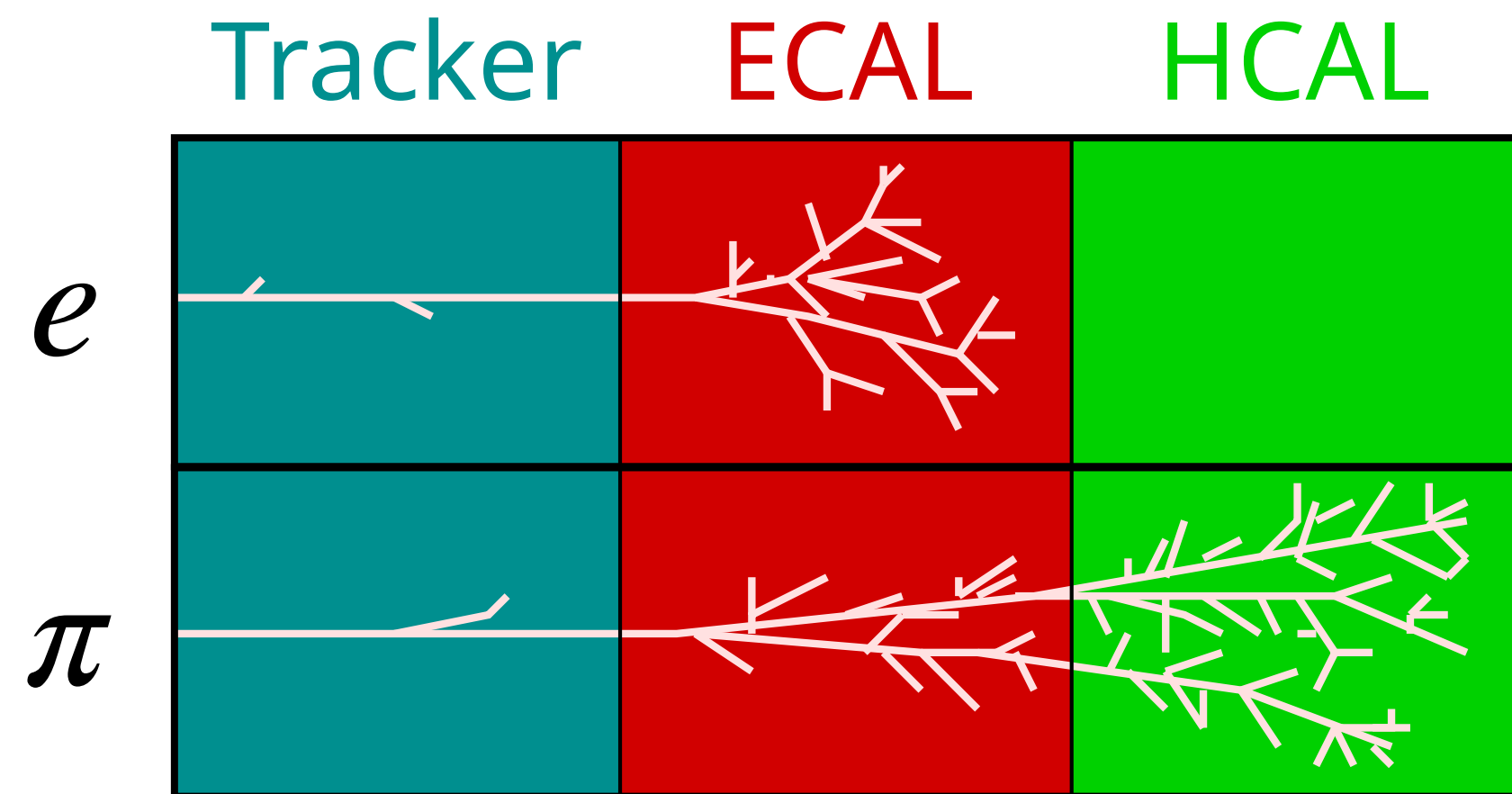


ePIC single-particle simulation  
( $E = 10 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $160^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ$ )

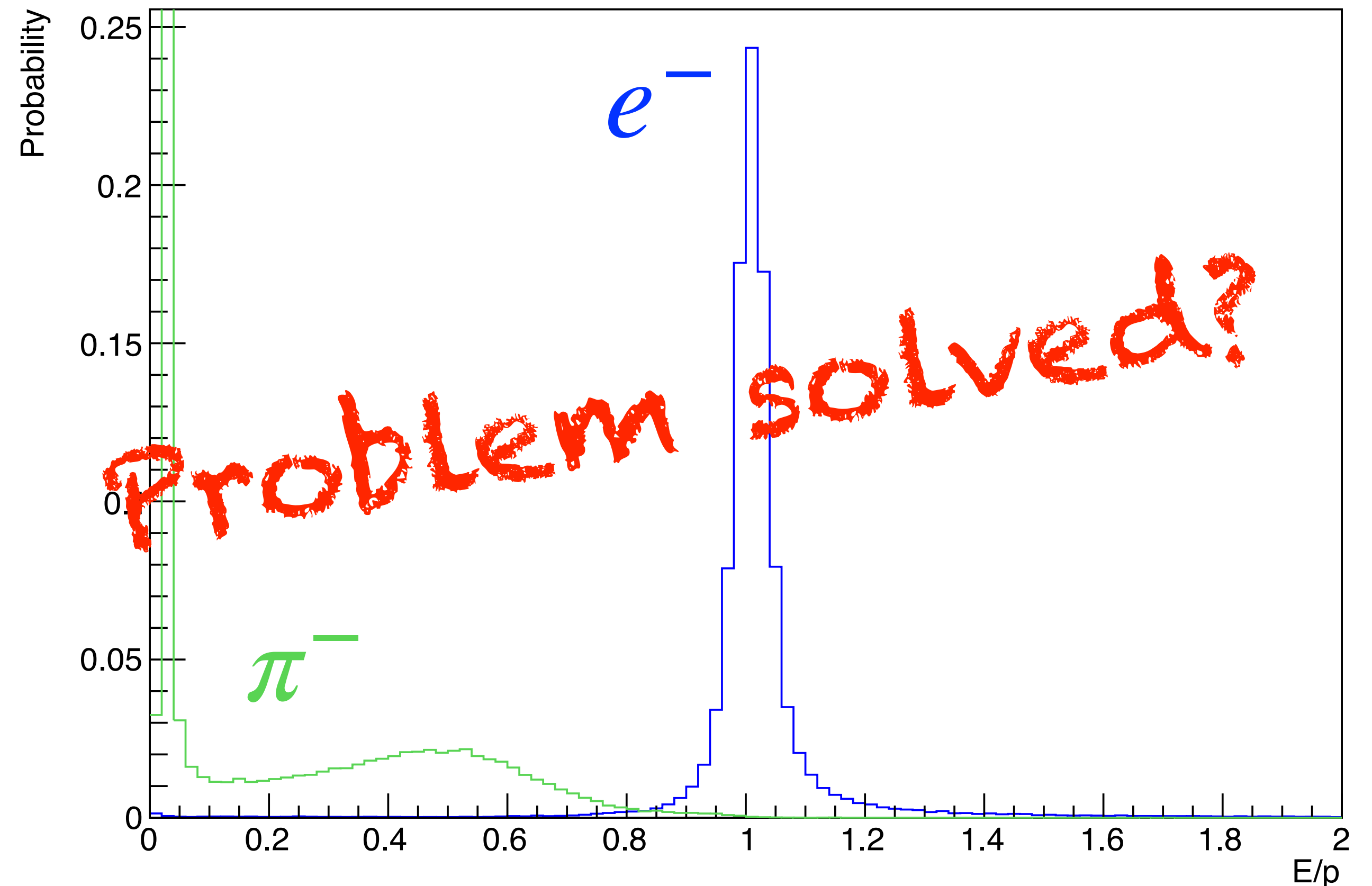


# Electron identification

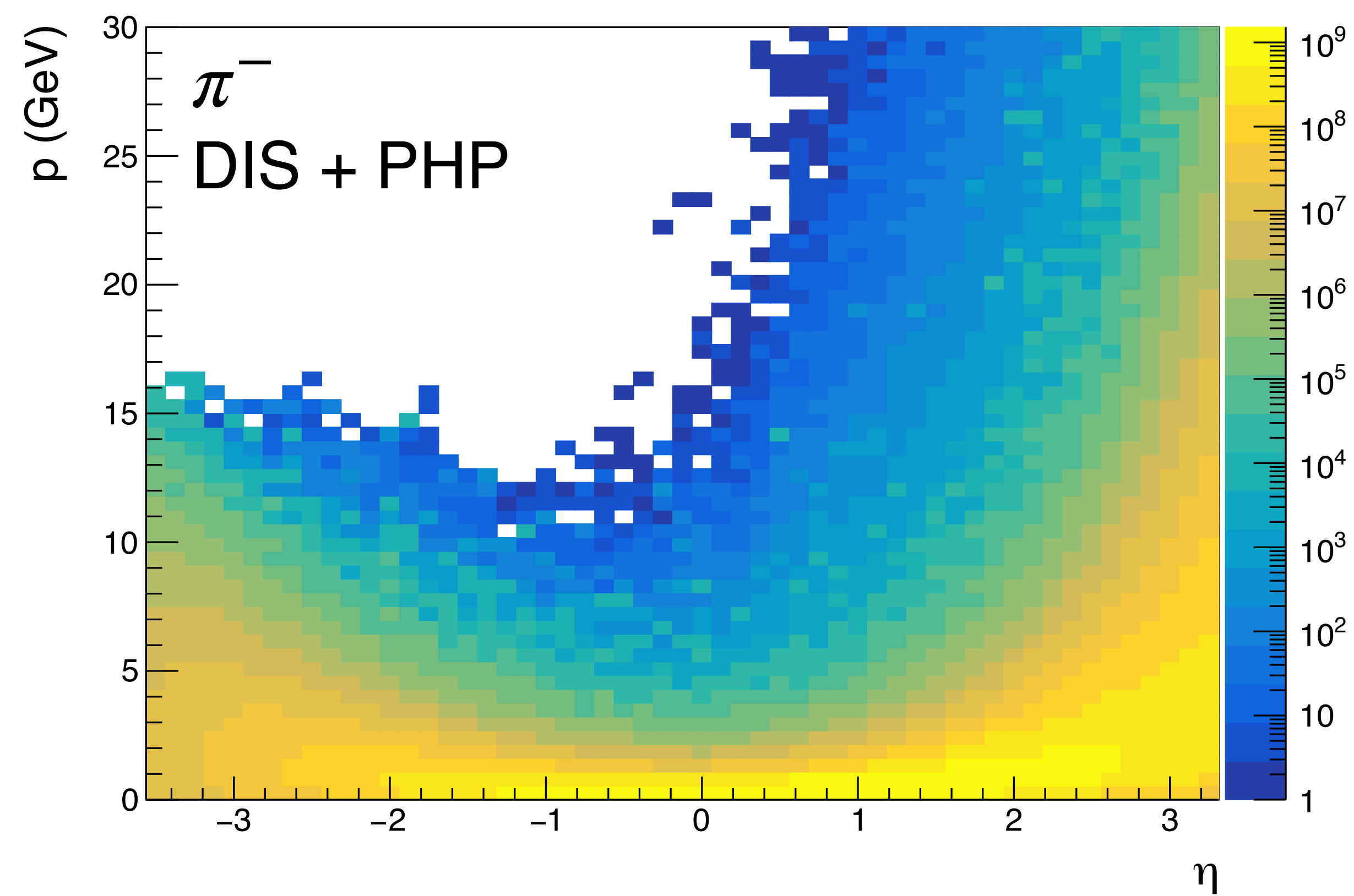
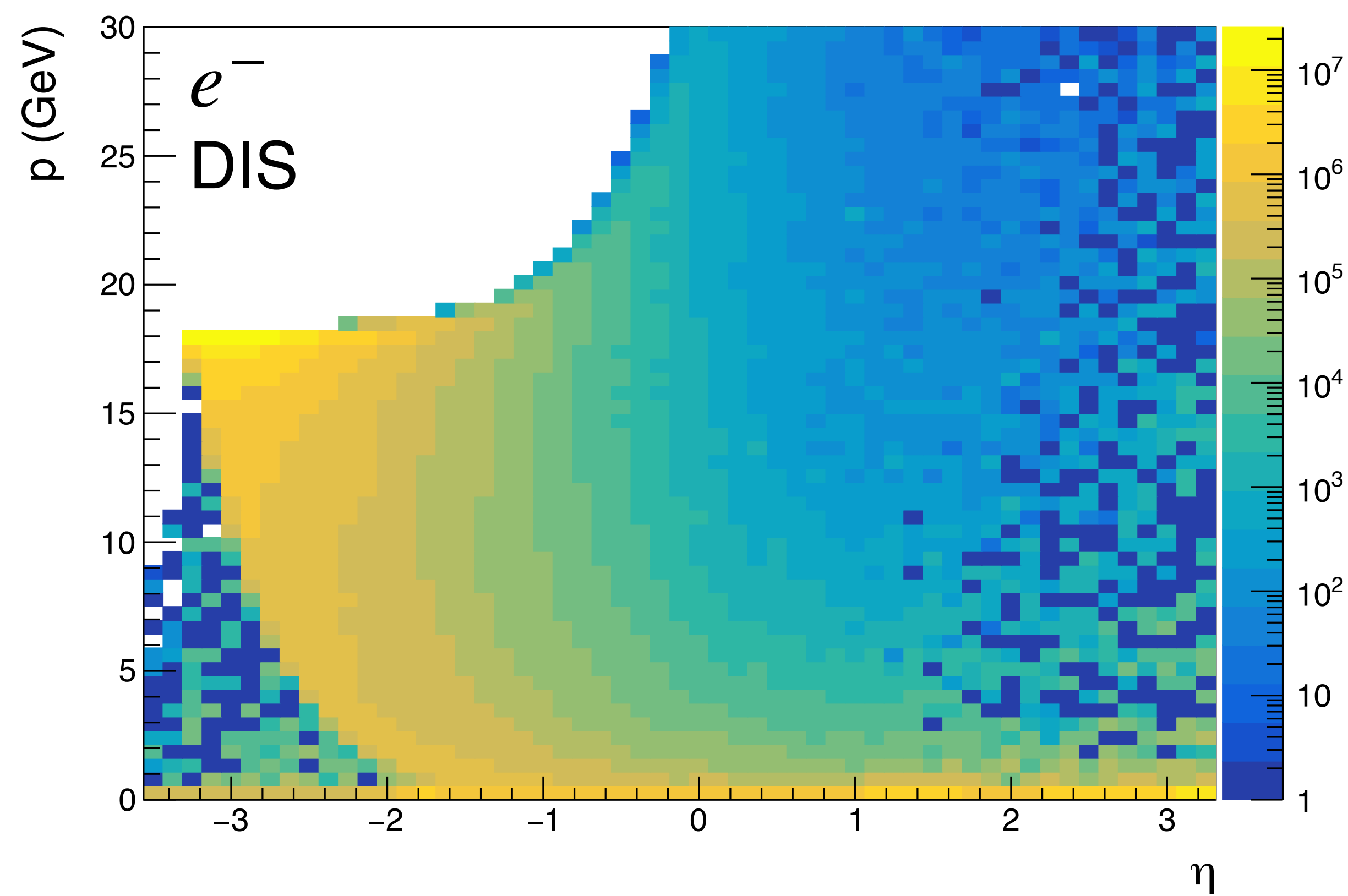
- Electrons will leave negative tracks
  - Eliminate neutral, positive particles
  - Still need to contend with  $\pi^-$
- Electrons typically deposit all their energy in electromagnetic calorimeter



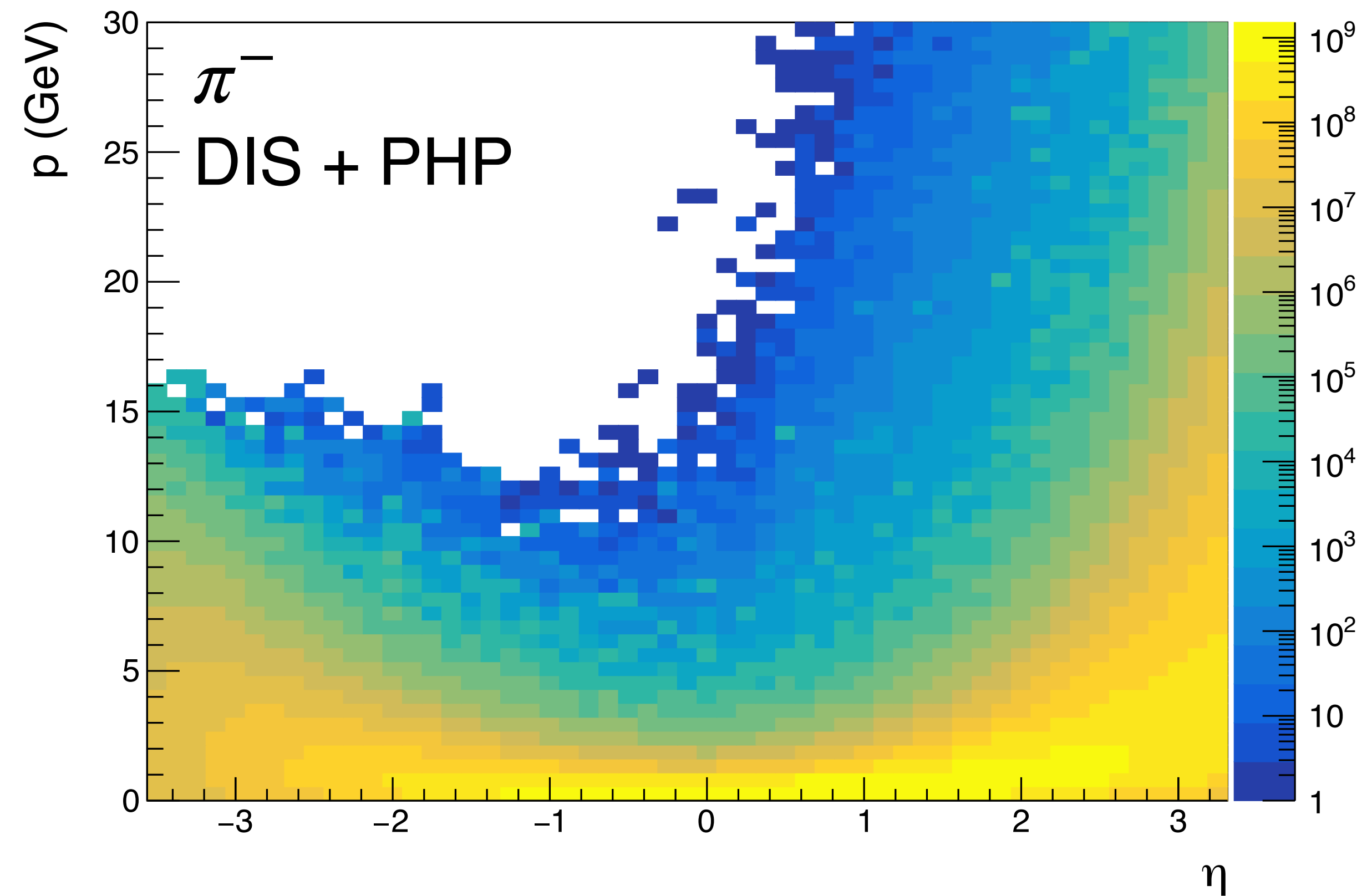
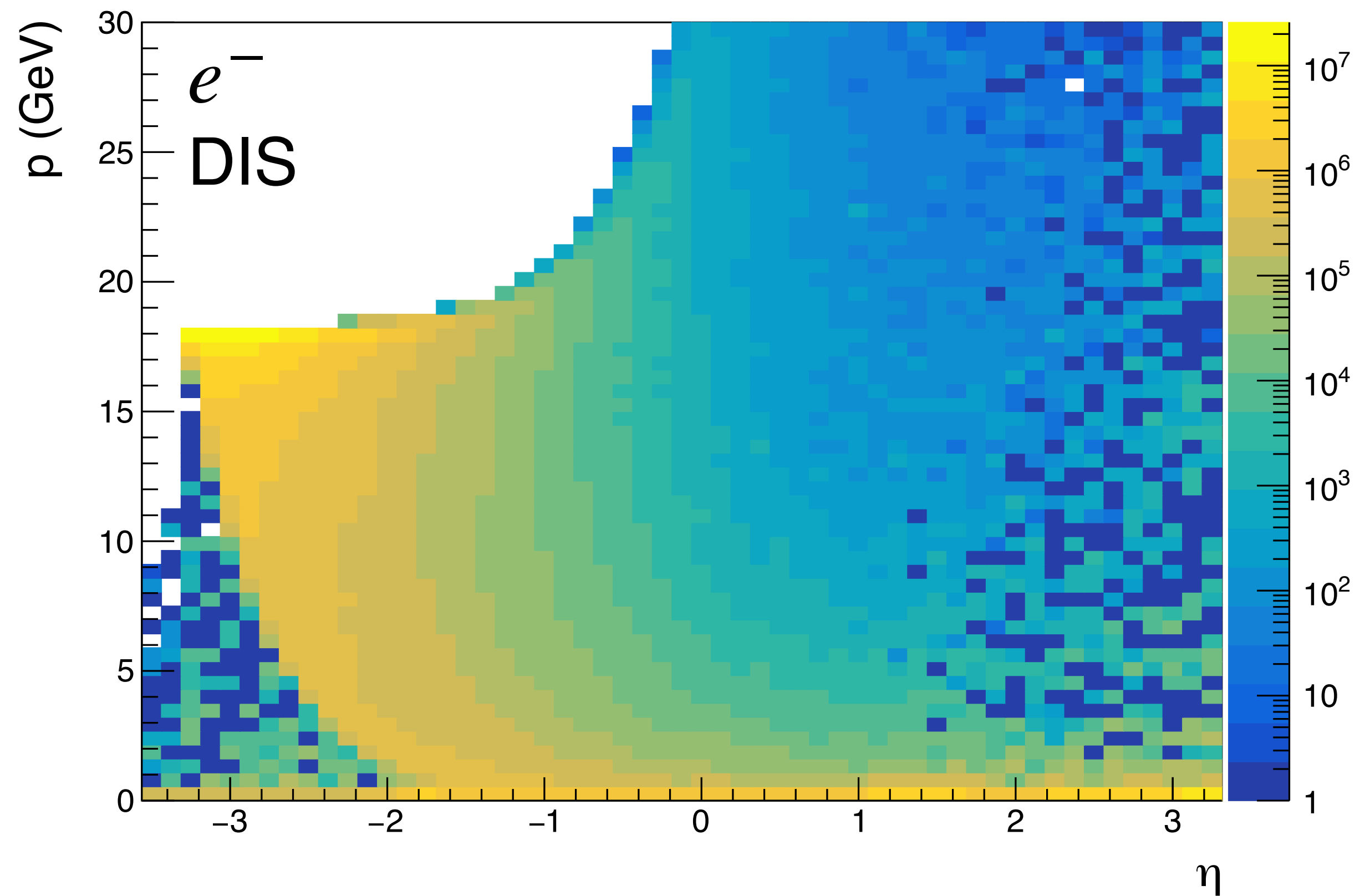
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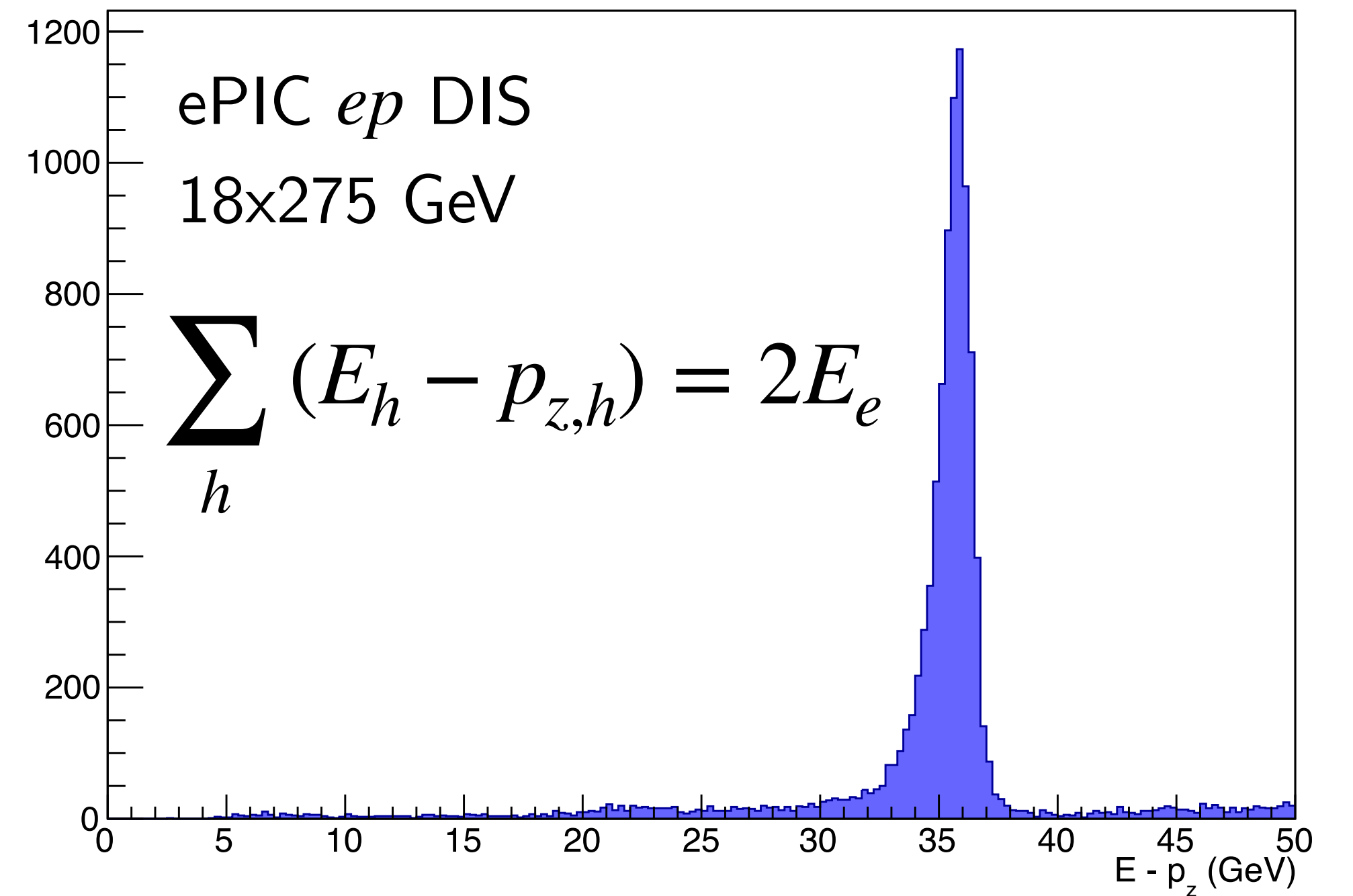


Cannot rely on  $E/p$  alone

# What other handles do we have?

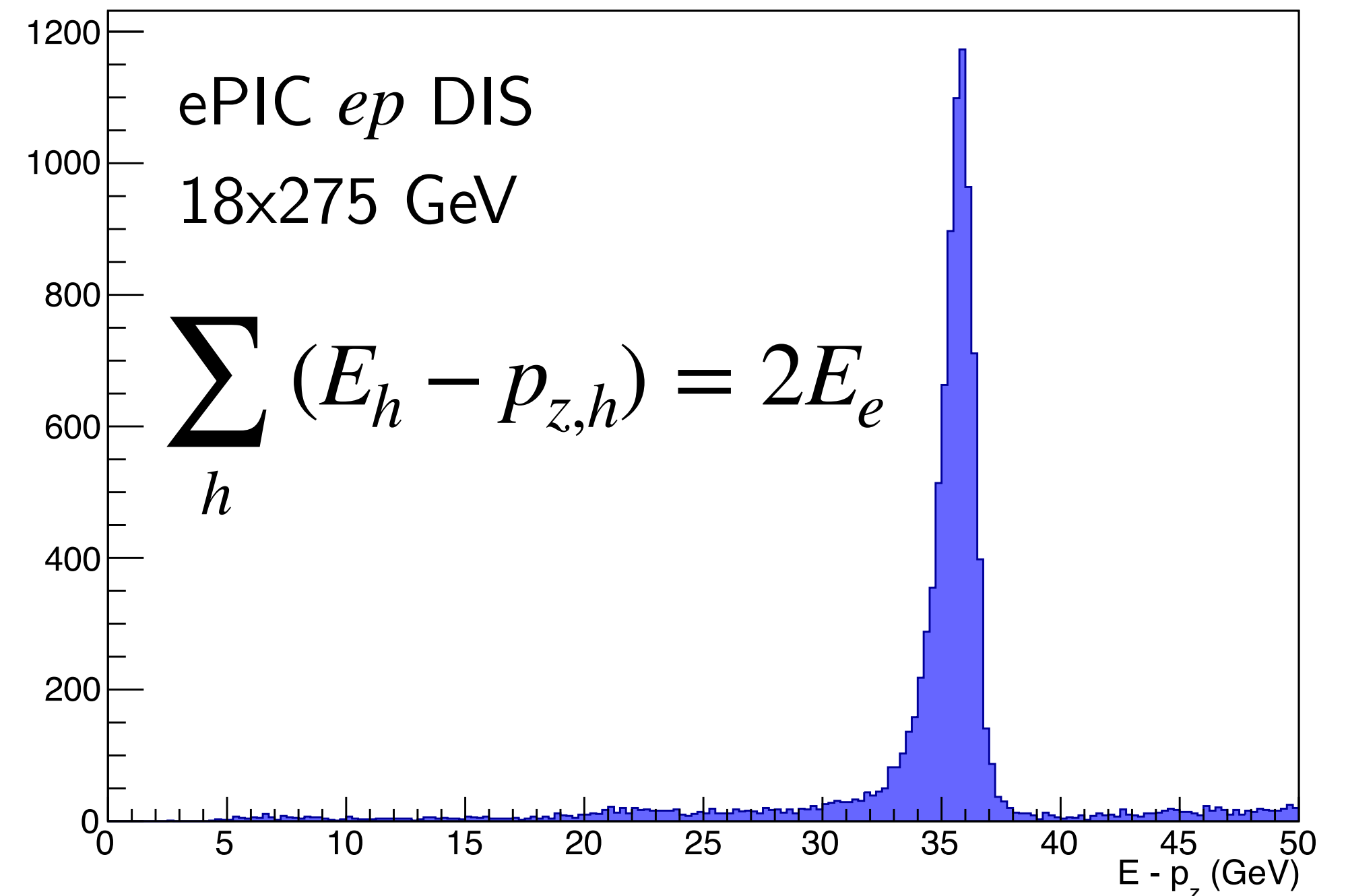
# What other handles do we have?

- Cuts on hadronic final state



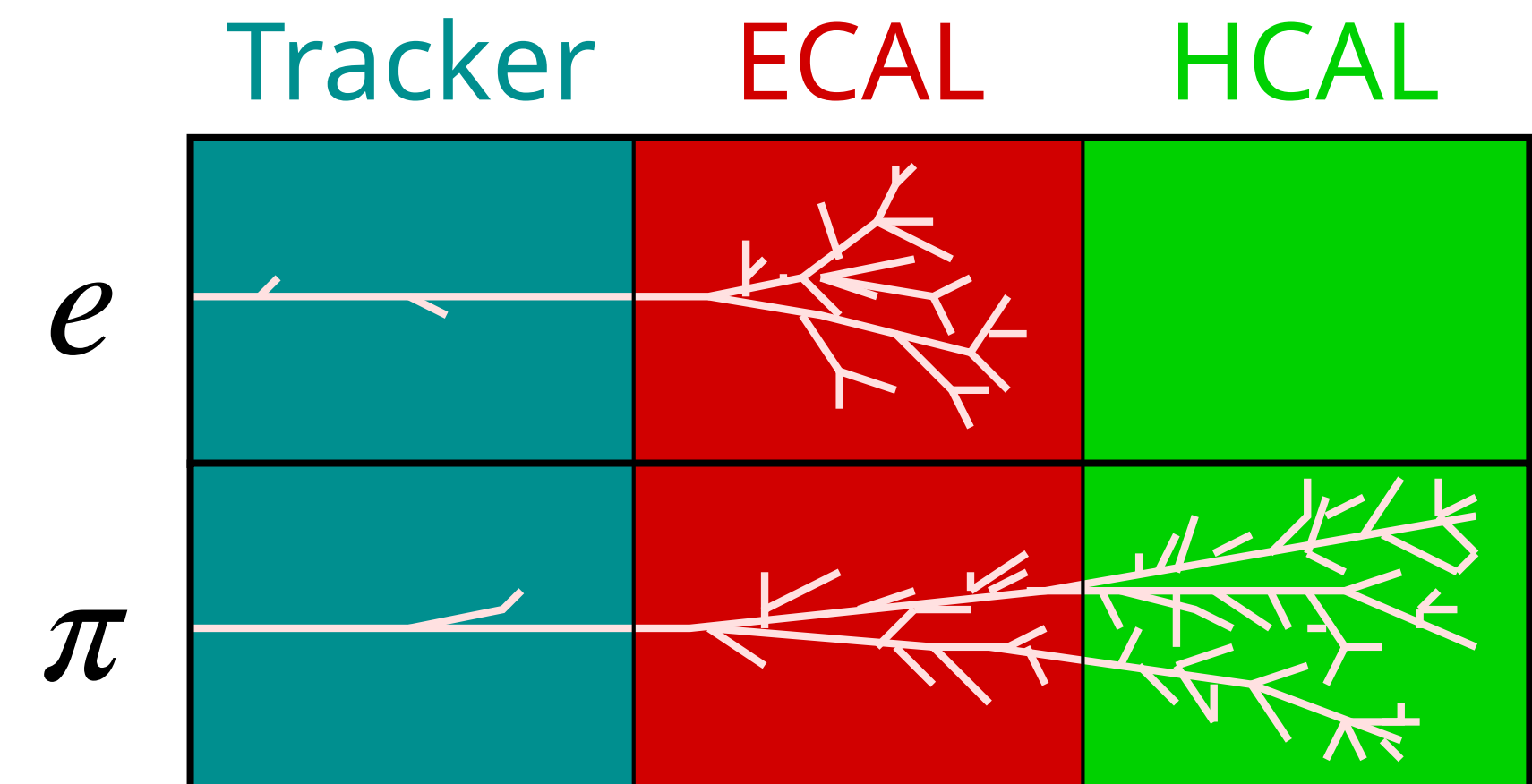
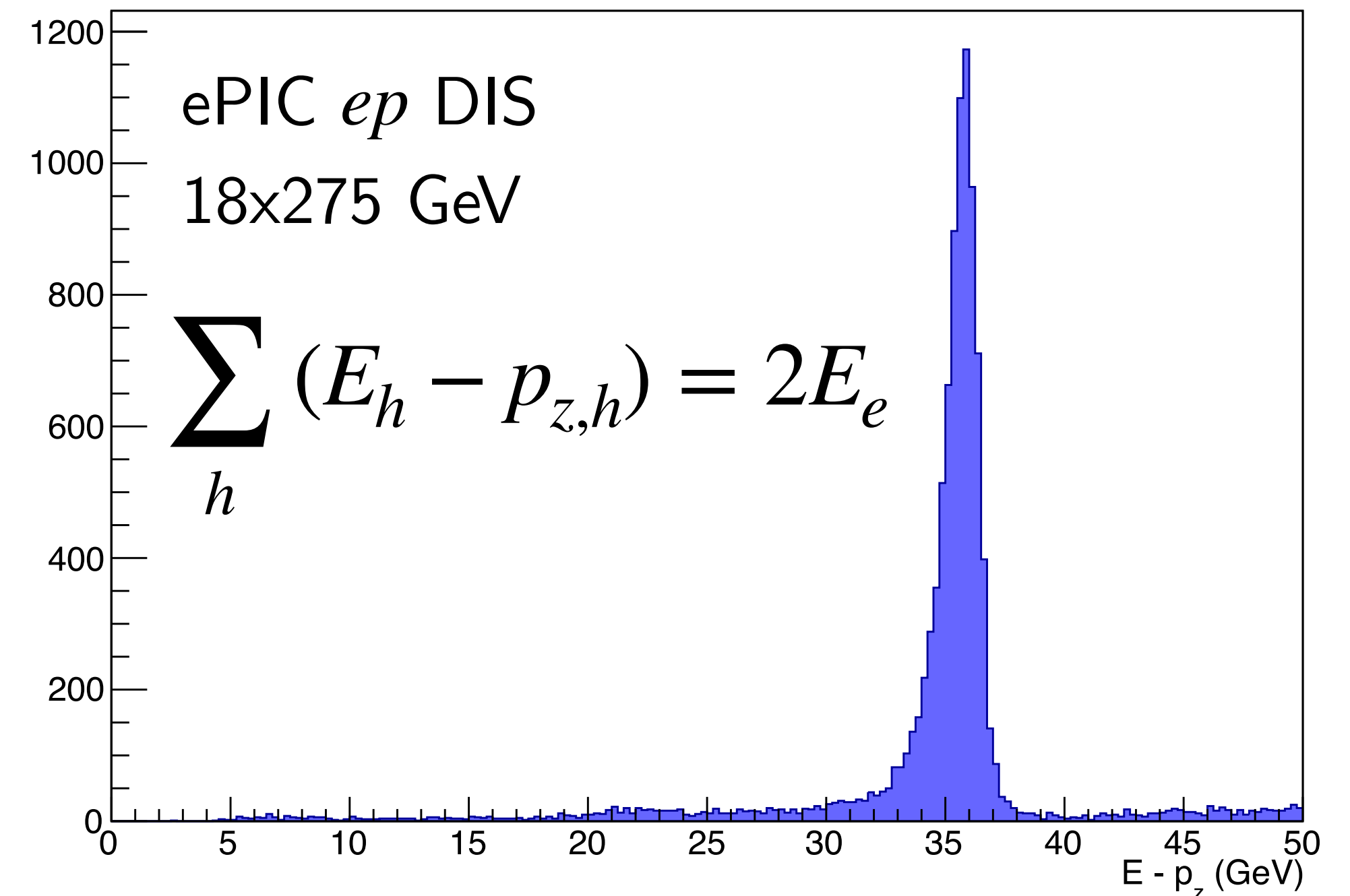
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(key at low momentum)



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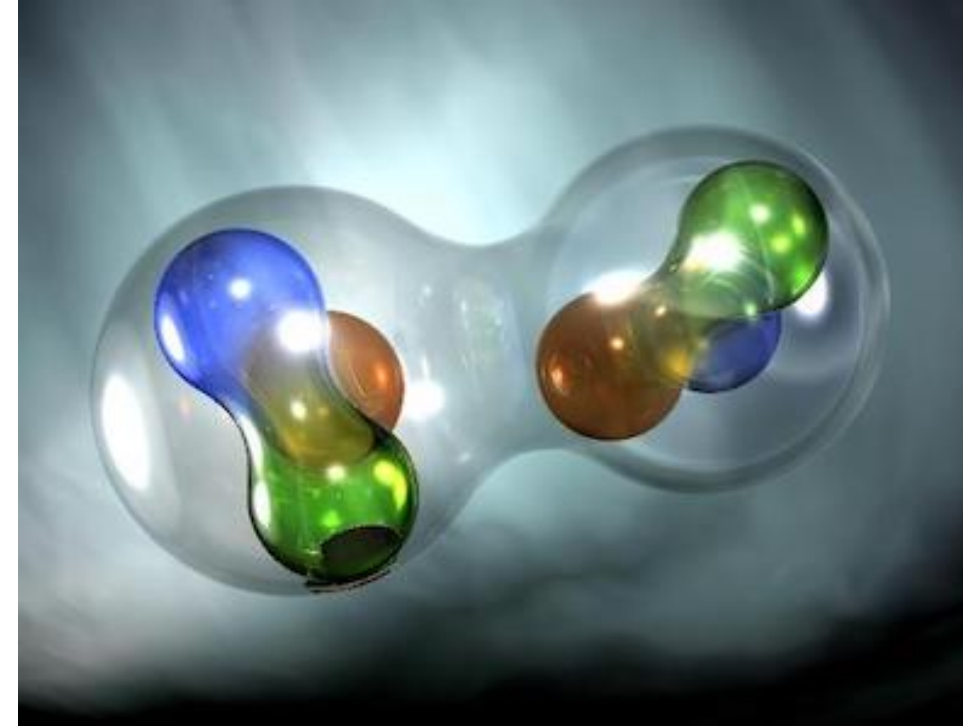
- Cuts on hadronic final state
- Cherenkov and TOF detectors (key at low momentum)
- Shape of calorimeter showers



# Beyond the proton...

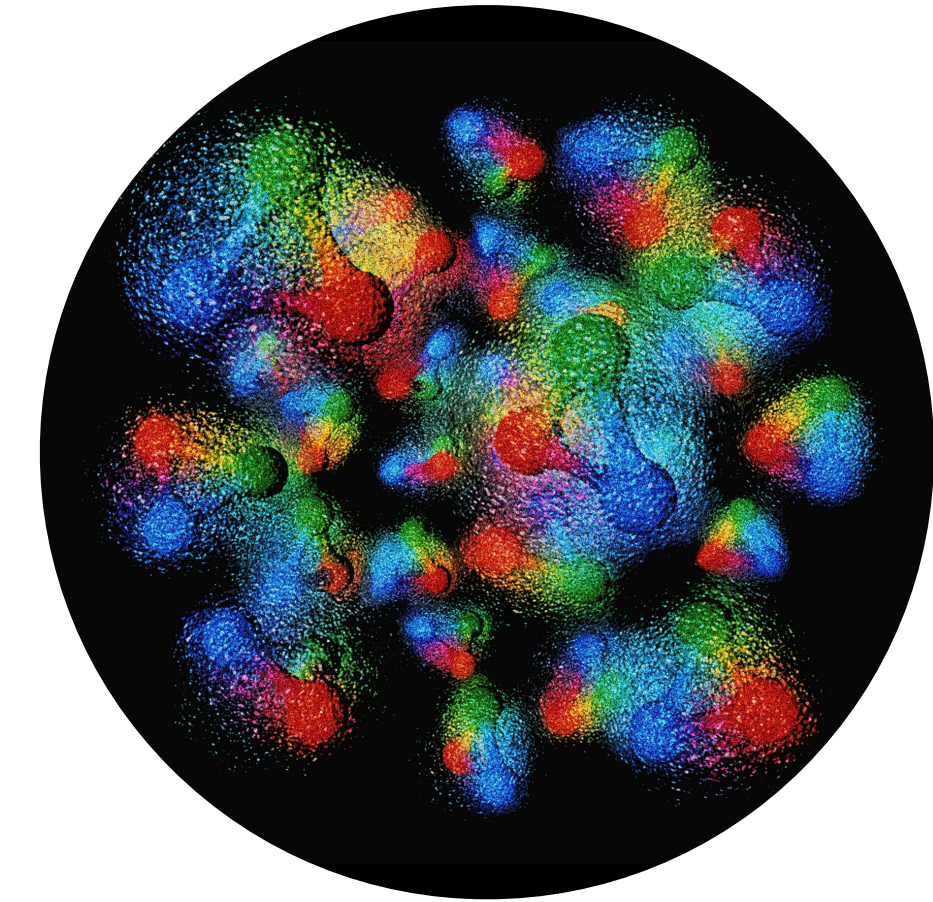
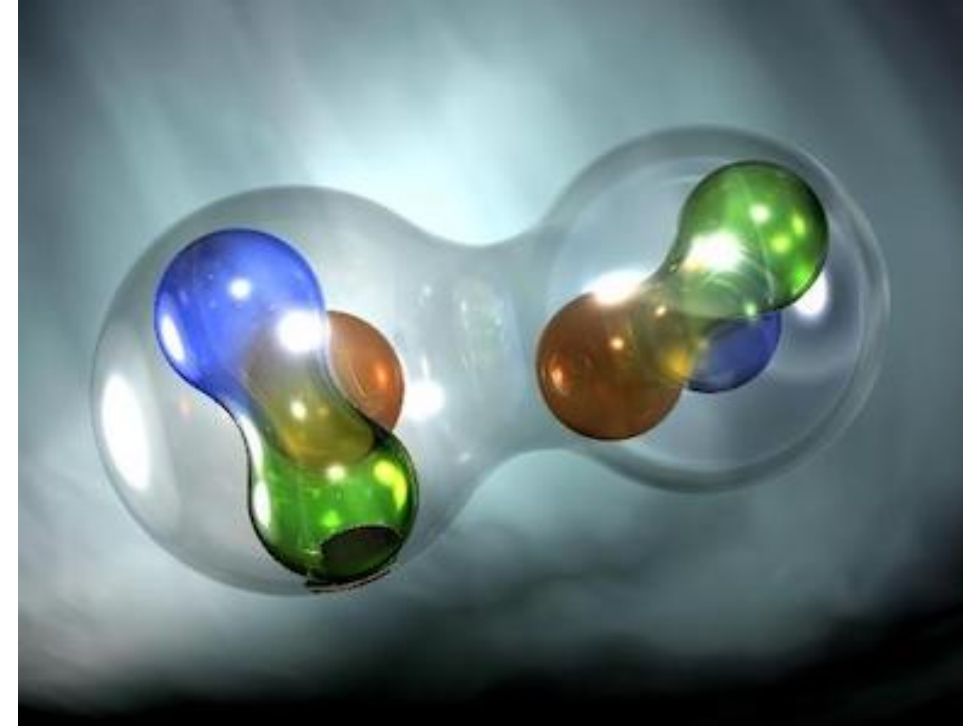
# Beyond the proton...

- Neutron
  - Same complexity, harder to study
  - New observables, methods required



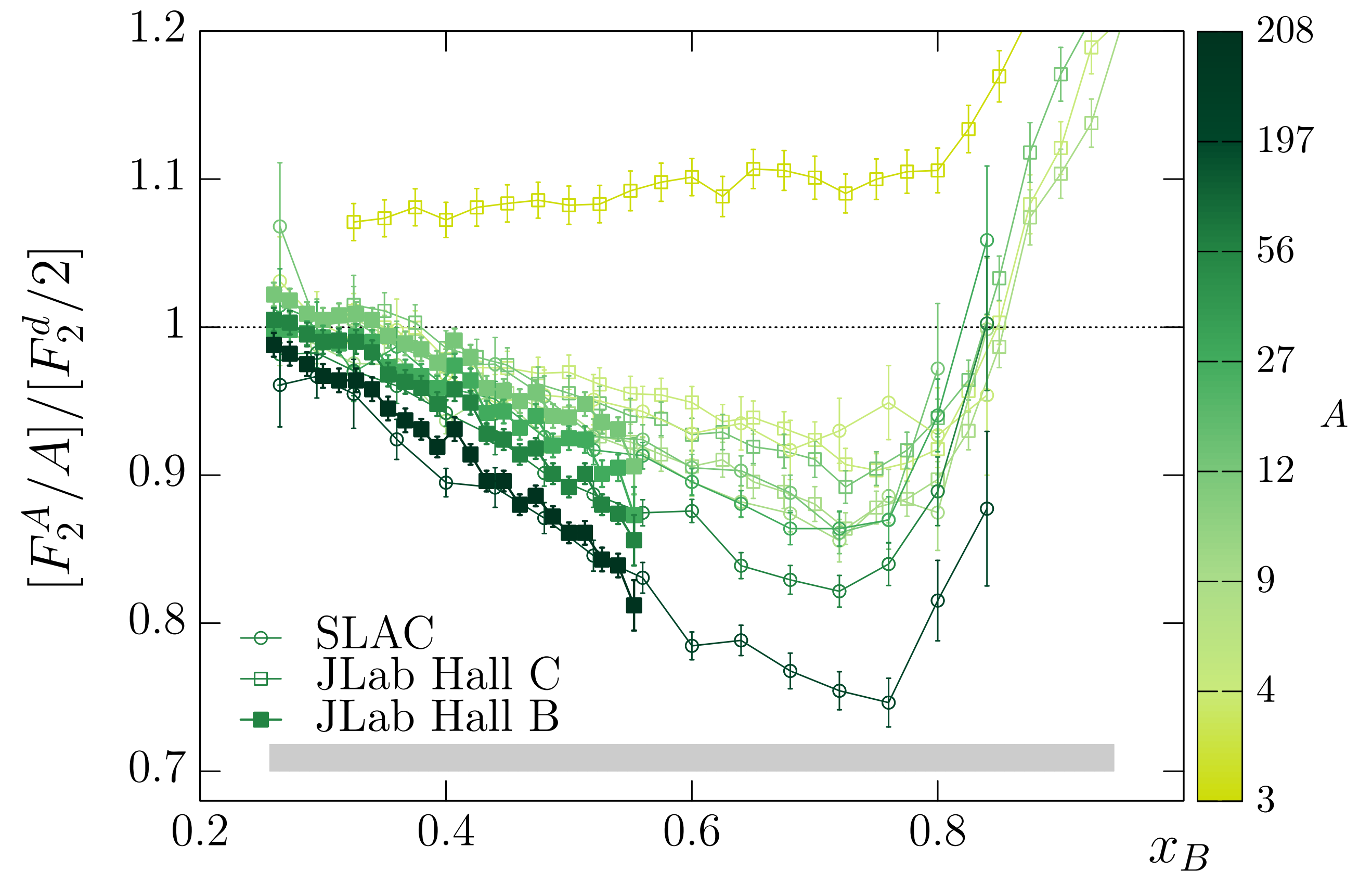
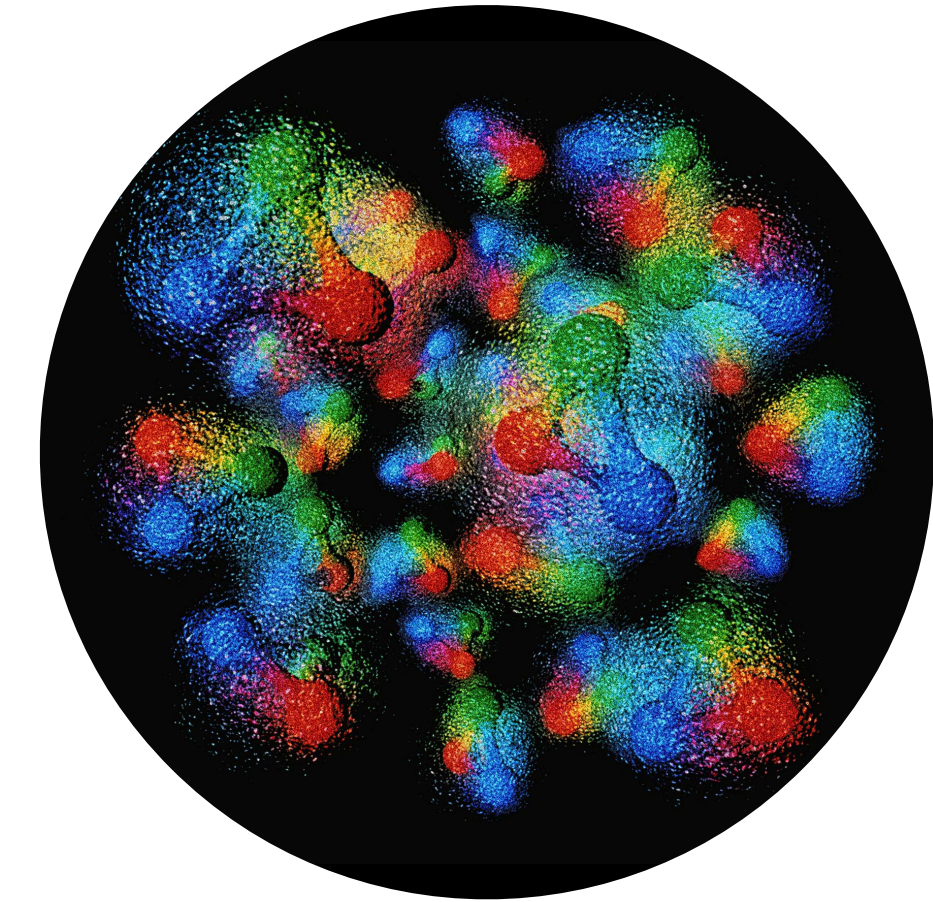
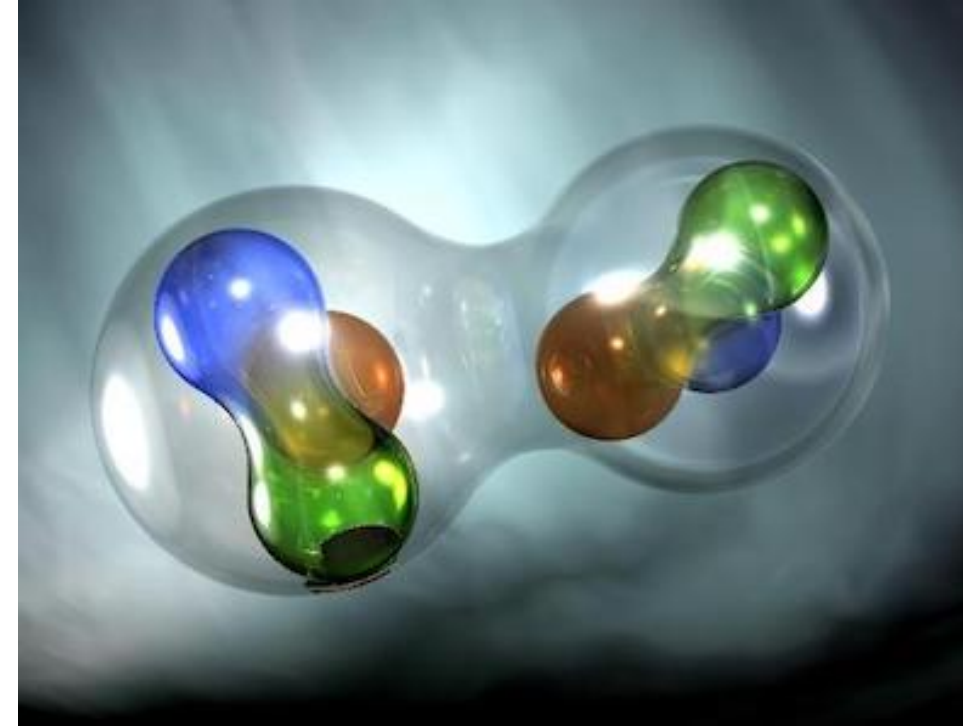
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  - Modified structure  
→ “EMC effect”
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# Summary and outlook

- Electron scattering is an old tool, but continues to be invaluable for studying nuclear physics
- Despite being extensively studied, the proton still contains many mysteries!
- JLab: active 12 GeV electron program, with possible positron and 22 GeV upgrades in the next decade
- MESA: under construction, first beam expected next year
- EIC: under construction, first collisions expected mid-2030s