

**“Describing the incoherent  
exclusive diffraction  $t$ -spectrum  
with hotspot evolution”**

**DIS2024, Grenoble**

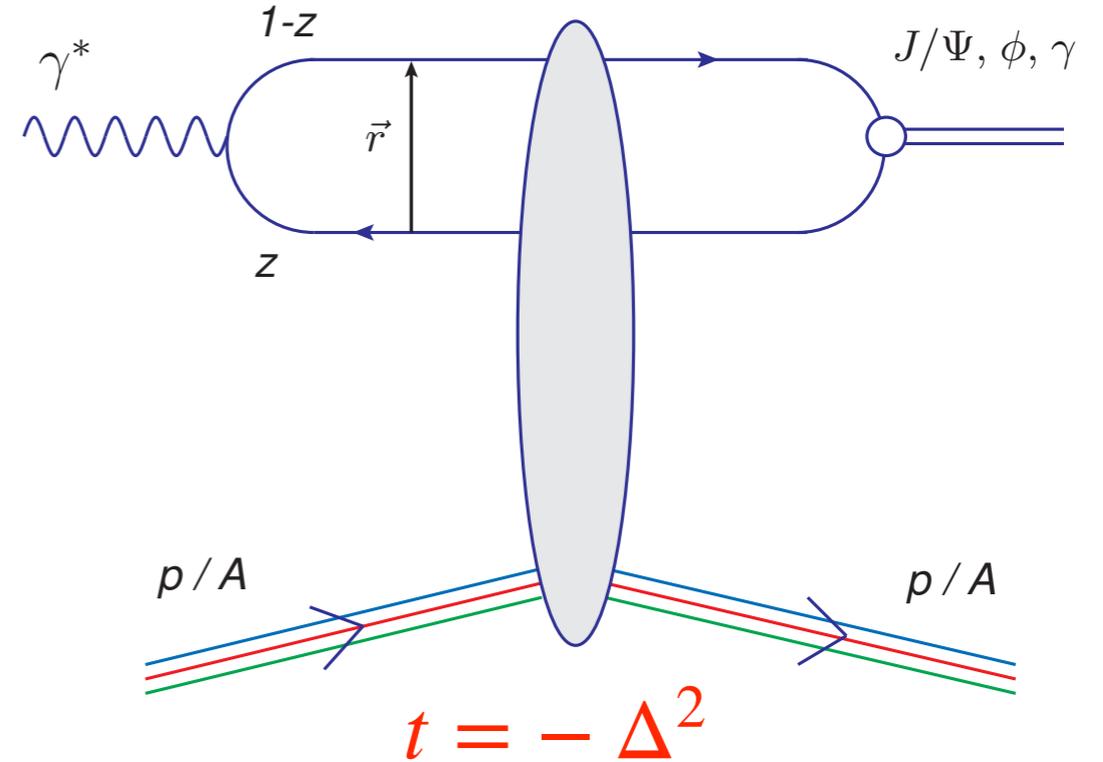
April 10, 2024

Tobias Toll with Arjun Kumar

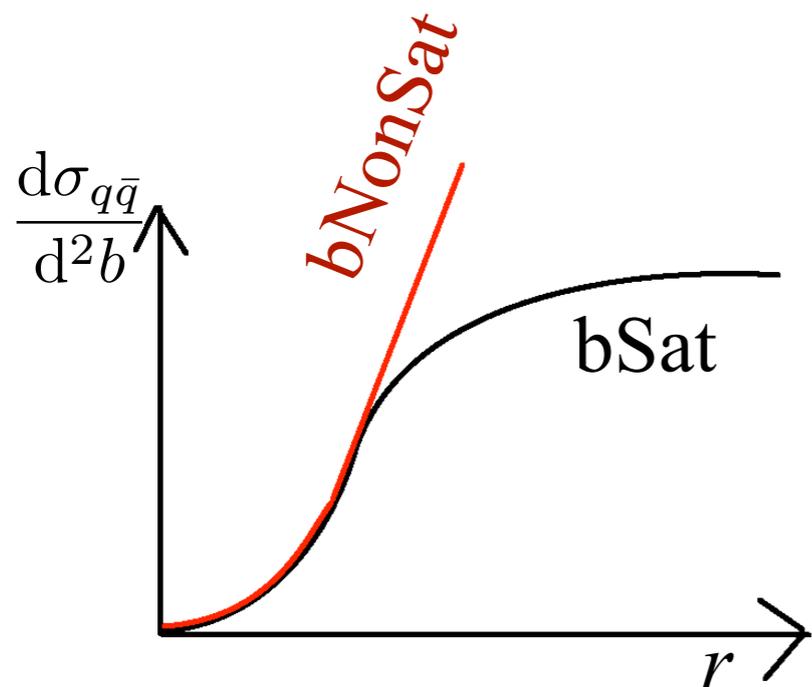
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

# Exclusive diffraction in the Dipole Model

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\gamma^* p \rightarrow Vp}}{dt} = \frac{1}{16\pi} \left| \mathcal{A}_{T,L}^{\gamma^* p \rightarrow Vp} \right|^2$$



$$\mathcal{A}_{T,L}^{\gamma^* p \rightarrow Vp}(x_{IP}, Q^2, \Delta) = i \int 2\pi r dr \int \frac{dz}{4\pi} \int d^2\vec{b} (\Psi_V^* \Psi)(r, z) J_0([1-z]r\Delta) e^{-\vec{b} \cdot \vec{\Delta}} \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}}{d^2\vec{b}}(x_{IP}, r, \vec{b})$$



$$\frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}}{d^2\mathbf{b}} = 2 \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -\frac{\pi^2}{2N_c} r^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T(b) \right) \right]$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{\text{nosat}}}{d\mathbf{b}} = \frac{\pi^2}{N_c} r^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T(b)$$

# Exclusive diffraction in the Dipole Model

$$\mathcal{A}_{T,L}^{\gamma^* p \rightarrow Vp}(x_{\mathbb{P}}, Q^2, \Delta) = i \int 2\pi r dr \int \frac{dz}{4\pi} \int d^2\vec{b} (\Psi_V^* \Psi)(r, z) J_0([0.5 - z]r\Delta) e^{-\vec{b} \cdot \vec{\Delta}} \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}}{d^2\vec{b}}(x_{\mathbb{P}}, r, \vec{b})$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}}{d^2\mathbf{b}} = 2 \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -\frac{\pi^2}{2N_c} r^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T(b) \right) \right] = 2 \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -\frac{\Omega}{2} \right) \right]$$

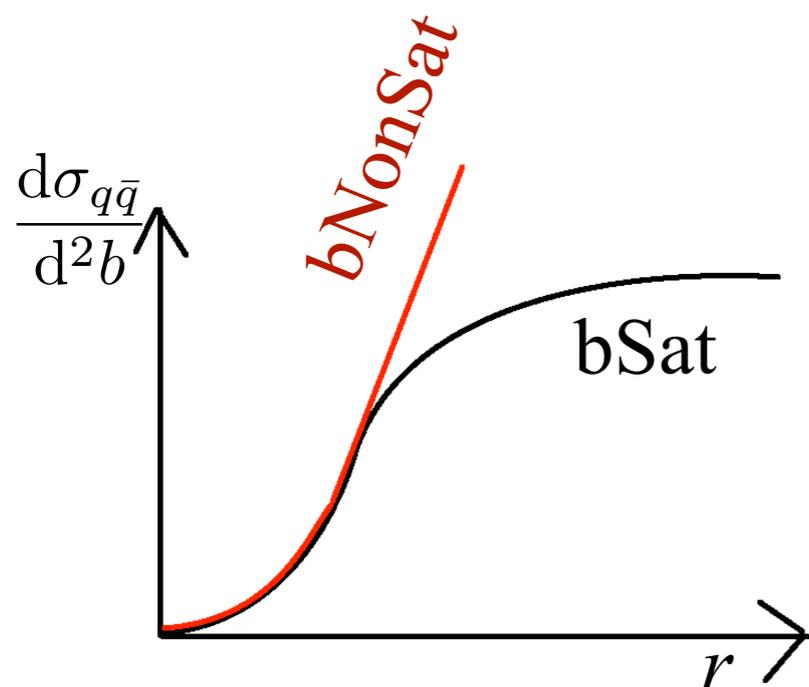
Saturation Scale:

$$Q_S^2 = \frac{2}{r_S^2}$$

$$1 = \frac{\pi^2}{N_c} r_S^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2(r_S)) x g(x, \mu^2(r_S)) T(b)$$

$$\mu^2(r) = \frac{C}{r^2} + \mu_0^2$$

$$Q_S^2 \simeq T(b)$$



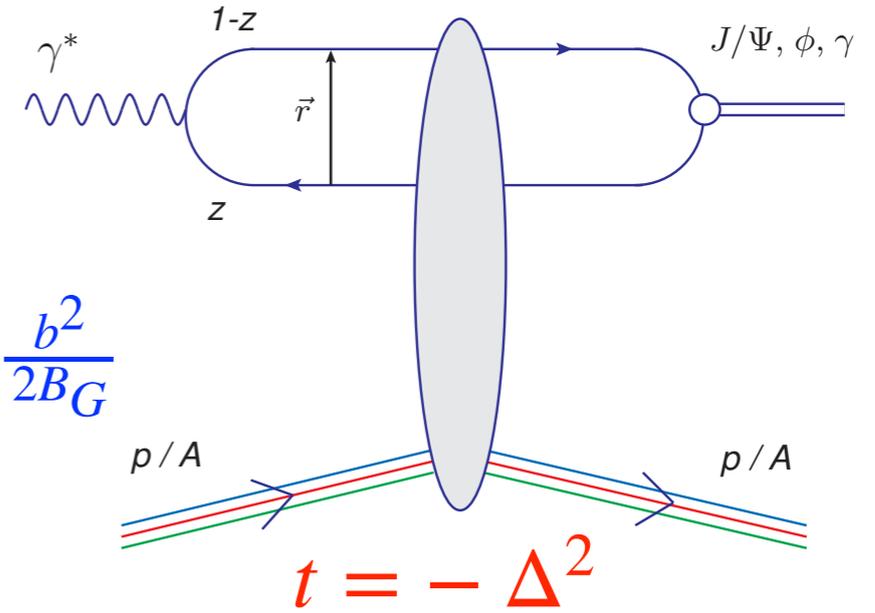
$$\frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{\text{nosat}}}{d\mathbf{b}} = \frac{\pi^2}{N_c} r^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T(b)$$

# Exclusive diffraction in the Dipole Model

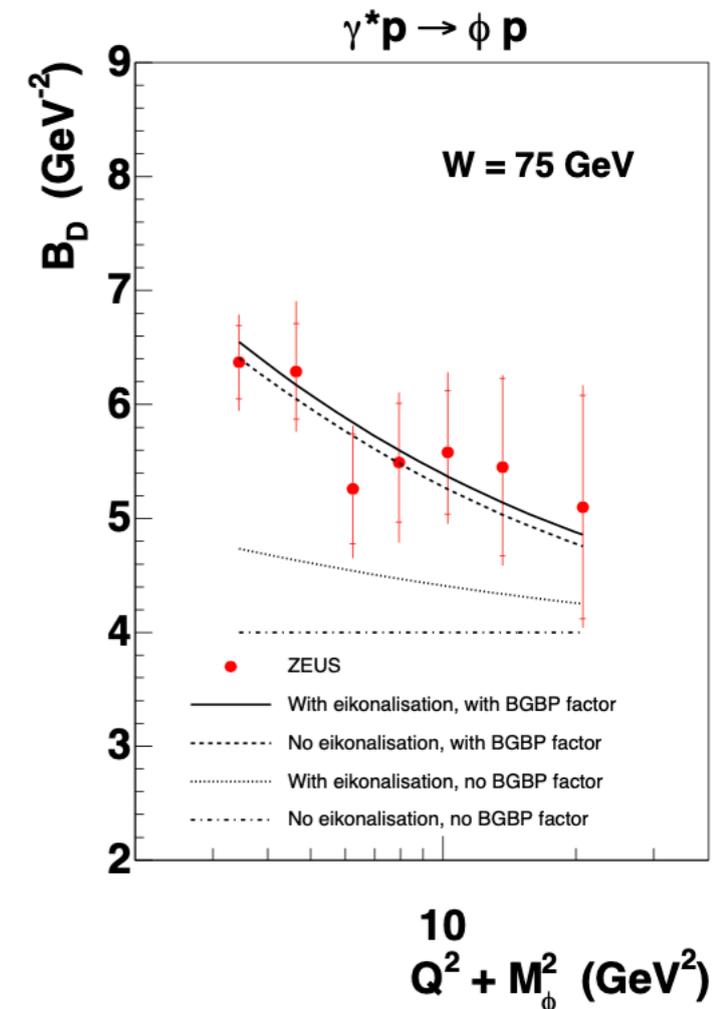
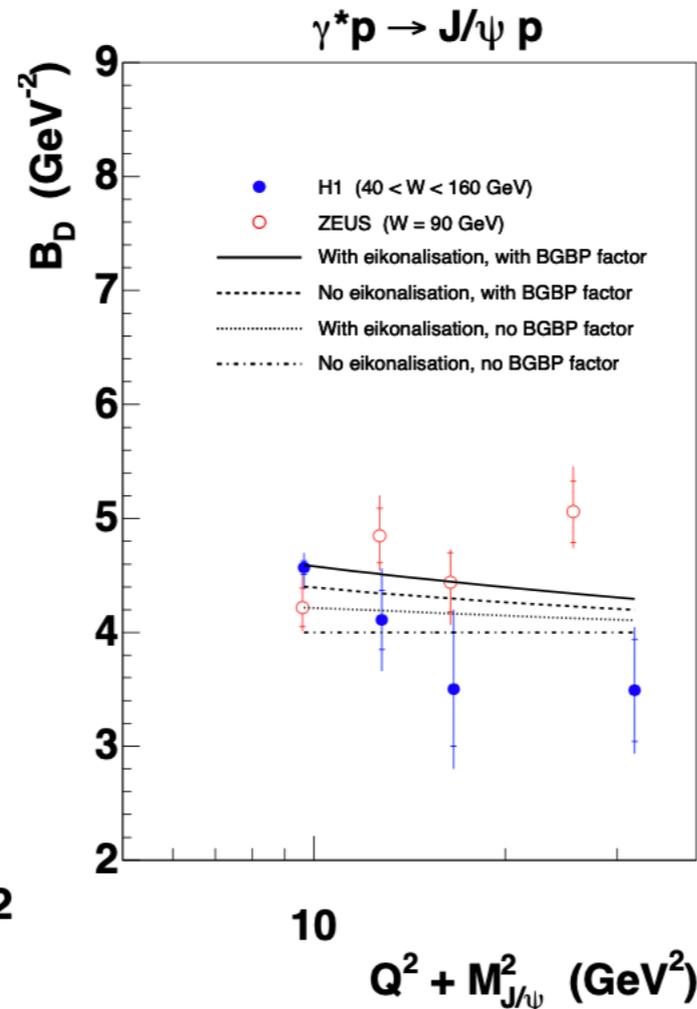
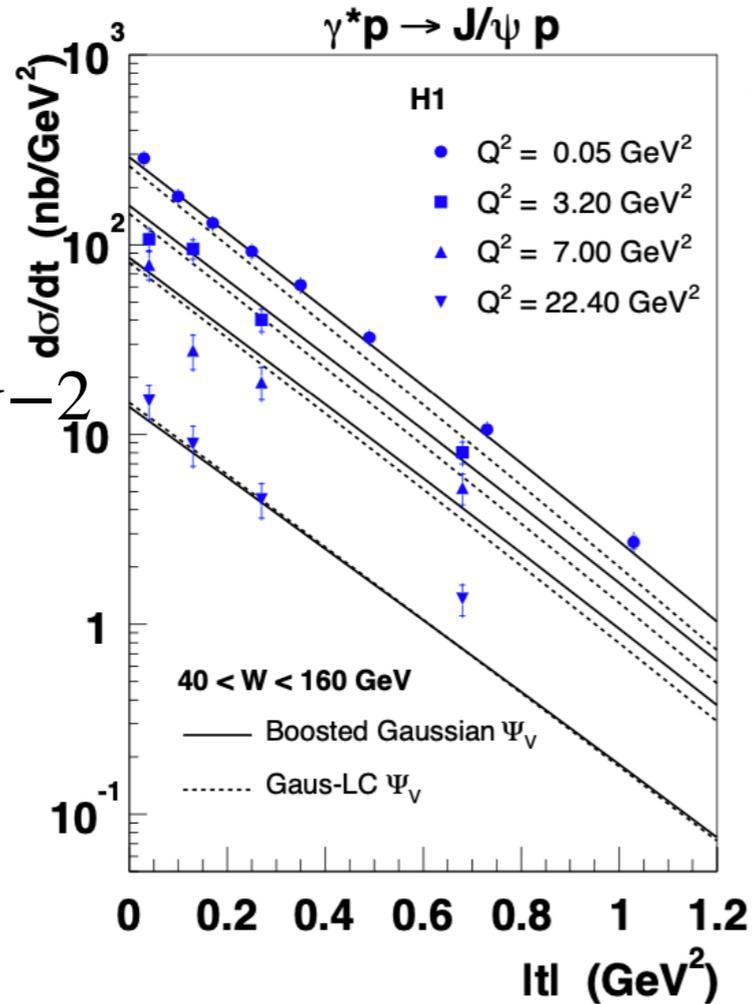
$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{nosat}}}{dt} \propto \left| \mathcal{F}\text{ourier}(T(b)) \right|^2$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} \propto e^{Bt} = e^{-B\Delta^2}$$

$$T_p(b) = \frac{1}{2\pi B_G} e^{-\frac{b^2}{2B_G}}$$



$$B_G = 4 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$$

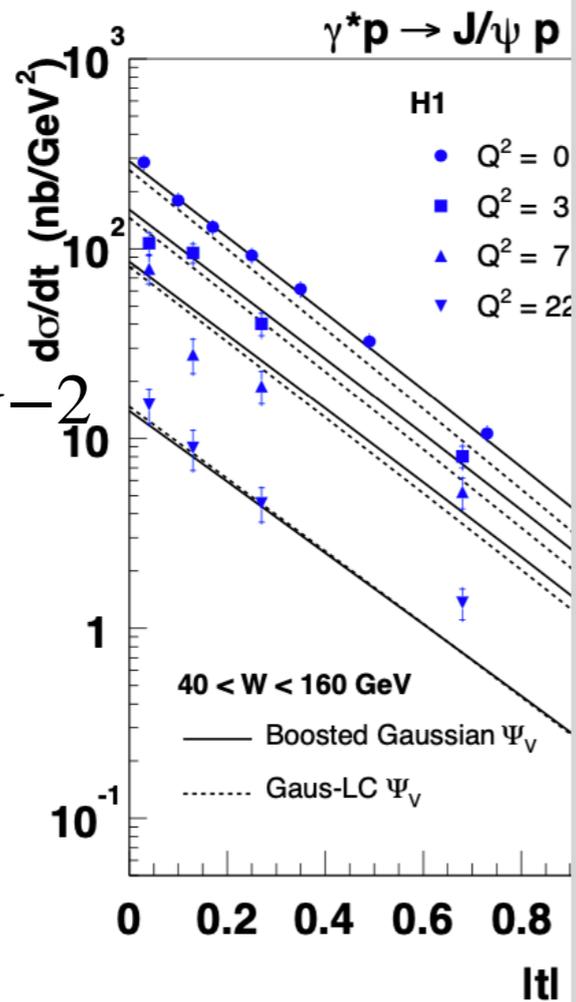


# Exclusive diffraction in the Dipole Model

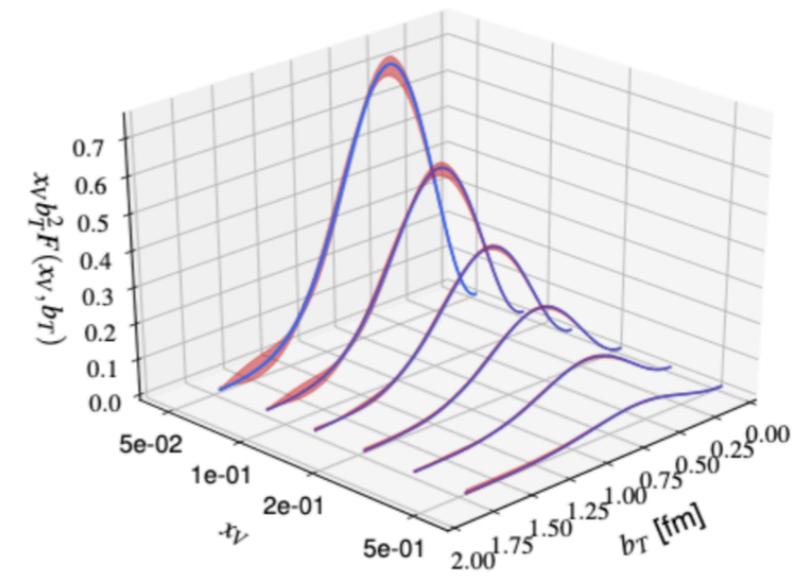
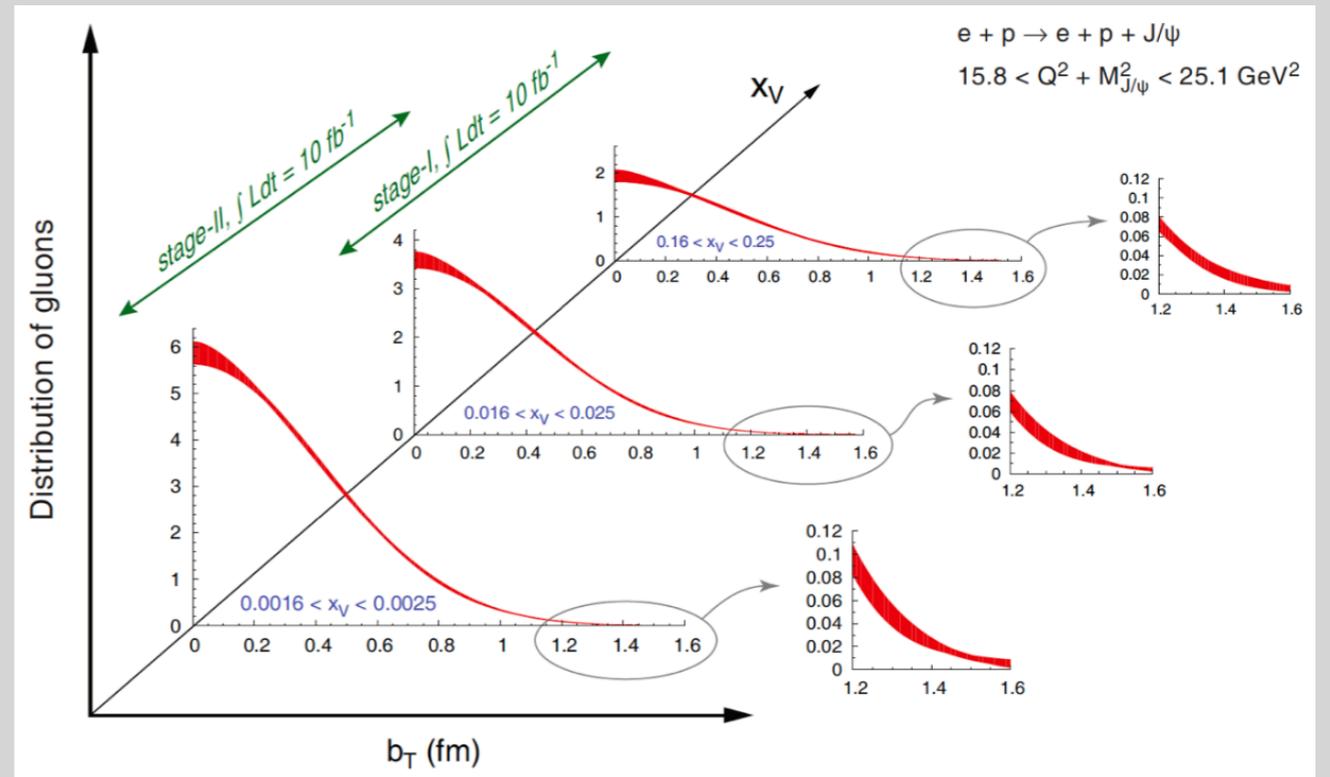
$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{nosat}}}{dt} \propto \left| \mathcal{F}\text{ourier}(T_p) \right|^2$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} \propto e^{Bt} = e^{-B\Delta^2} \quad T_p$$

$$B_G = 4 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$$



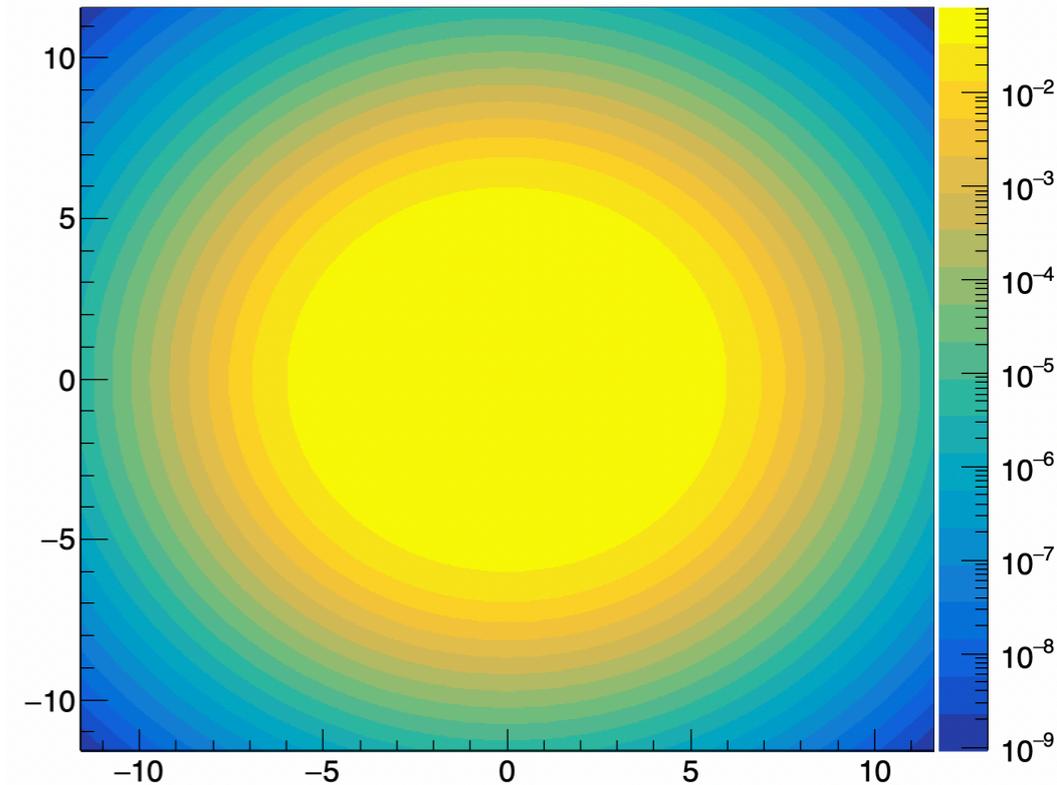
## GPDs with EIC:



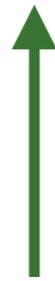
# The nucleus thickness

Naively, use a Woods-Saxon distribution:

$$T_A(\vec{b}) = \int dz \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{\sqrt{\vec{b}^2 + z^2} - R_0}{d}\right)}$$



$$\frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}}{d^2\mathbf{b}} = 2 \left[ 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{\pi^2}{2N_c} r^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T(b)\right) \right]$$



Nuclear PDF

# The nucleus thickness

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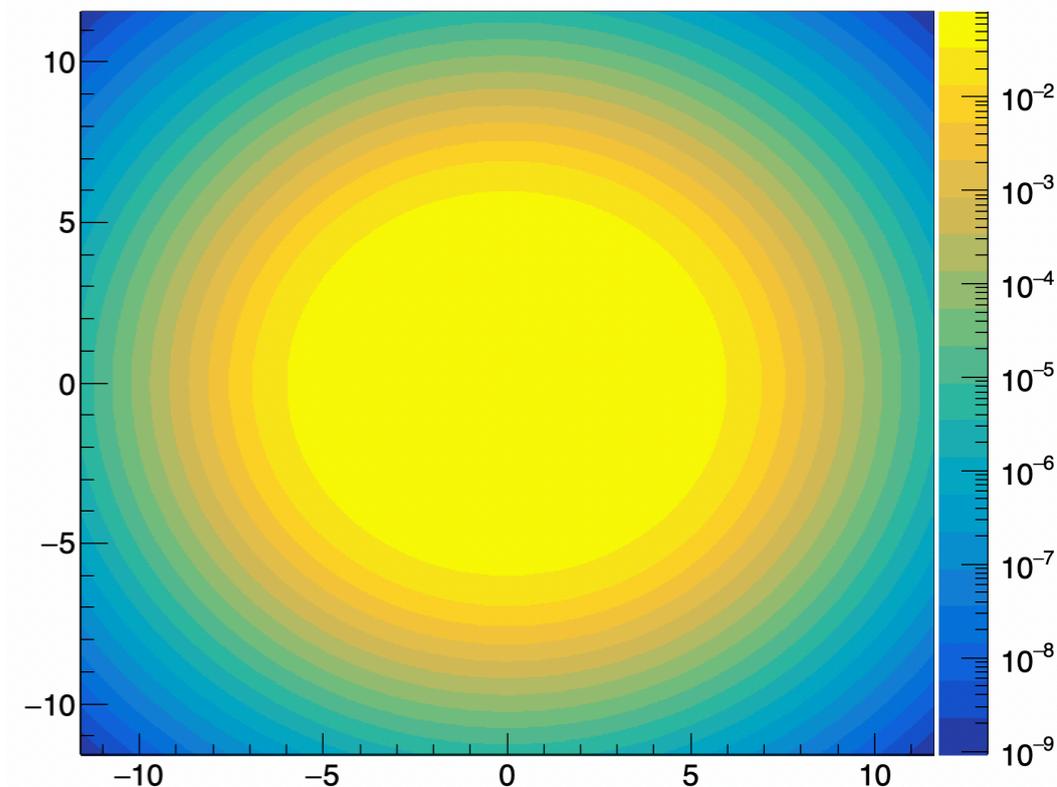
$$\frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}}{d^2\mathbf{b}} = 2 \left[ 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{\pi^2}{2N_c} r^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T(b)\right) \right]$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{1}{16\pi} \langle |\mathcal{A}|^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{16\pi} |\langle \mathcal{A} \rangle|^2 + \frac{1}{16} \left( \langle |\mathcal{A}|^2 \rangle - |\langle \mathcal{A} \rangle|^2 \right) \frac{d\sigma}{dt}$$

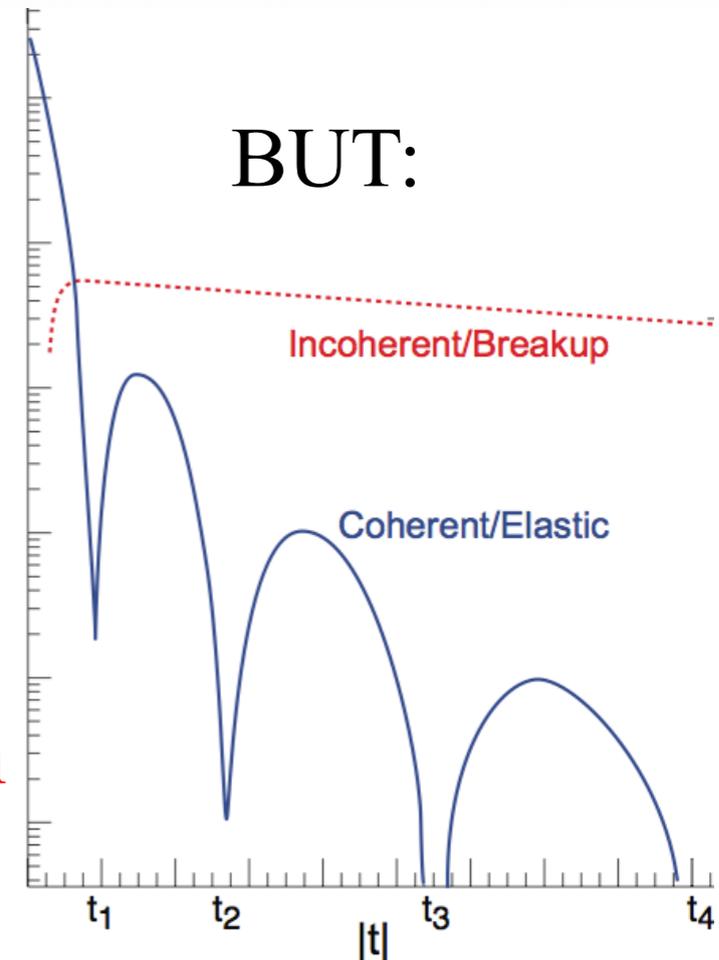
Coherent

Incoherent

Averaged over initial state gluon distribution



BUT:



# The nucleus as a collection of nucleons

TT, Thomas Ullrich

Phys.Rev.C 87 (2013) 2, 024913, arXiv: 1211.3048

Comput.Phys.Commun. 185 (2014) 1835-1853 arXiv:1307.8059

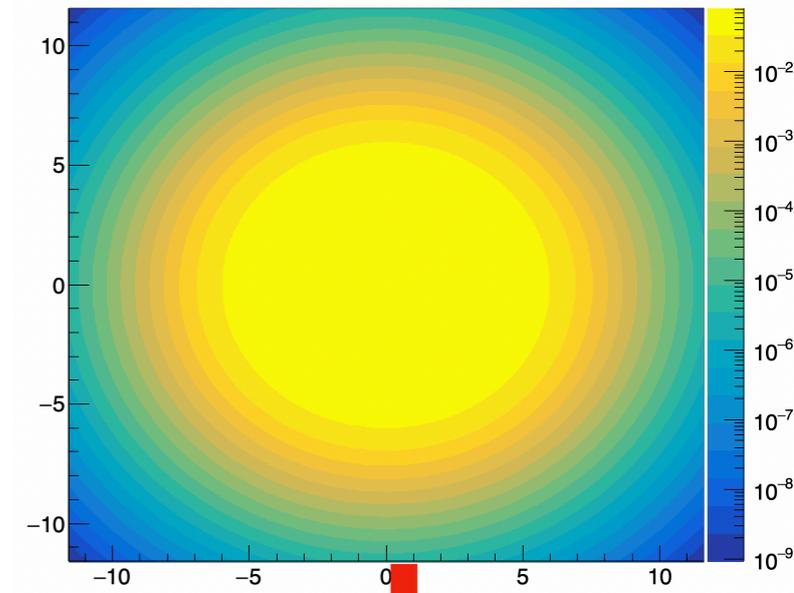
Independent scattering approximations:

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(A)}}{d^2\vec{b}}(x_{\mathbb{P}}, r, \vec{b}) = \prod_{i=1}^A \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(p)}}{d^2\vec{b}}(x_{\mathbb{P}}, r, |\vec{b} - \vec{b}_i|) \right)$$

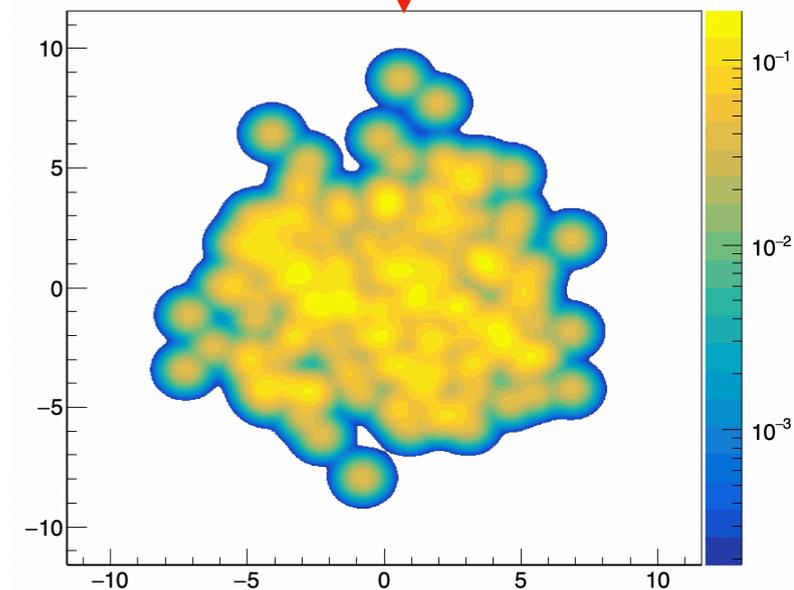
$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(A)}}{d^2\vec{b}}(x_{\mathbb{P}}, r, \vec{b}) = 1 - \exp \left( - \frac{\pi^2}{2N_C} r^2 \alpha_S(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) \sum_{i=1}^A T_p(|\vec{b} - \vec{b}_i|) \right)$$

$$T_A(\vec{b}) = \int dz \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp \left( \frac{\sqrt{\vec{b}^2 + z^2} - R_0}{d} \right)}$$

$$T_A(\vec{b}) = \sum_{i=1}^A T_p(|\vec{b} - \vec{b}_i|) \quad T_p(b) = \frac{1}{2\pi B_G} e^{-\frac{b^2}{2B_G}}$$



Proton PDF



# The nucleus as a collection of nucleons

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Phys.Rev.C 87 (2013) 2, 024913, arXiv: 1211.3048

Comput.Phys.Commu

Independent scattering approximations:

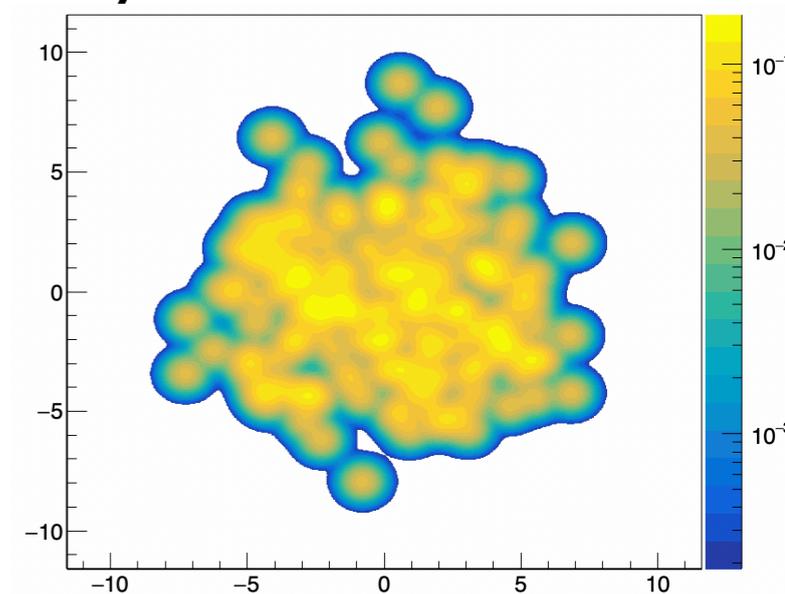
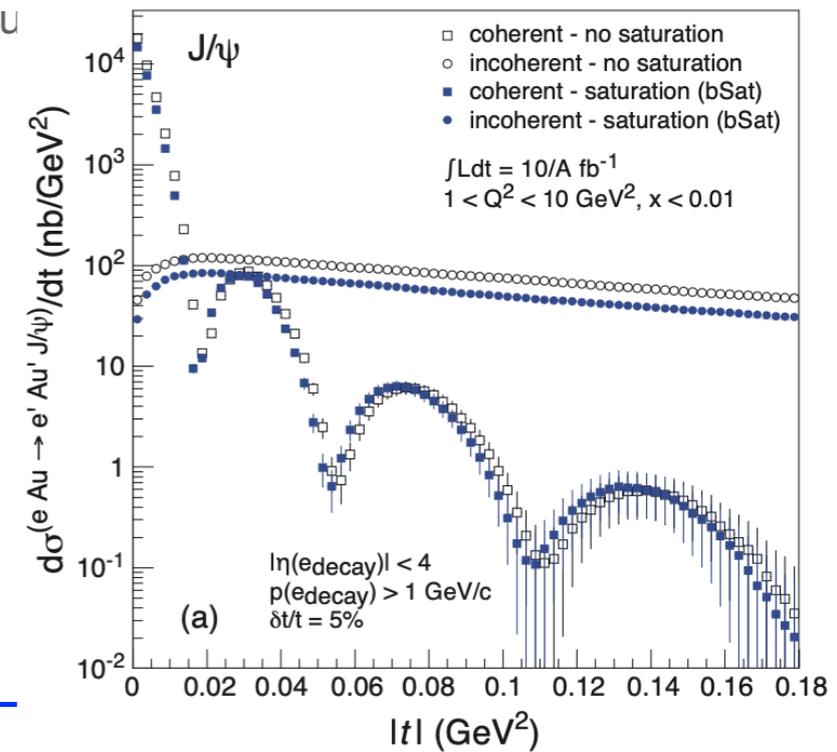
$$1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(A)}}{d^2\vec{b}}(x_{IP}, r, \vec{b}) = \prod_{i=1}^A \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(p)}}{d^2\vec{b}}(x_{IP}, r, |\vec{b} - \vec{b}_i|) \right)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(A)}}{d^2\vec{b}}(x_{IP}, r, \vec{b}) = 1 - \exp \left( - \frac{\pi^2}{2N_C} r^2 \alpha_S(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) \sum_{i=1}^A T_p(|\vec{b} - \vec{b}_i|) \right)$$

$$T_A(\vec{b}) = \int dz \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp \left( \frac{\sqrt{\vec{b}^2 + z^2} - R_0}{d} \right)}$$

$$T_A(\vec{b}) = \sum_{i=1}^A T_p(|\vec{b} - \vec{b}_i|) \quad T_p(b) = \frac{1}{2\pi B_G} e^{-\frac{b^2}{2B_G}}$$

Proton PDF



# Hotspot model for incoherent $ep$ -scattering

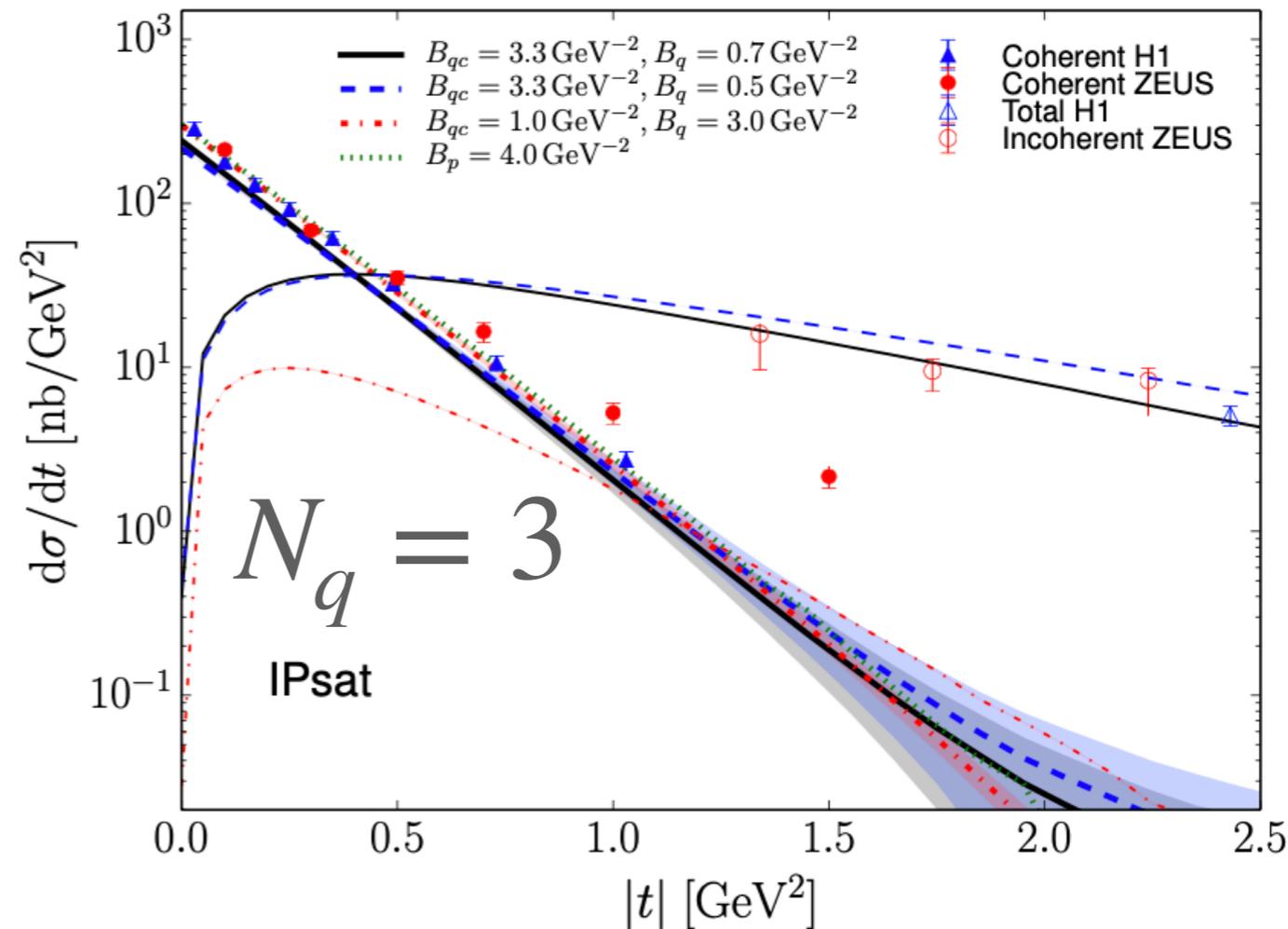
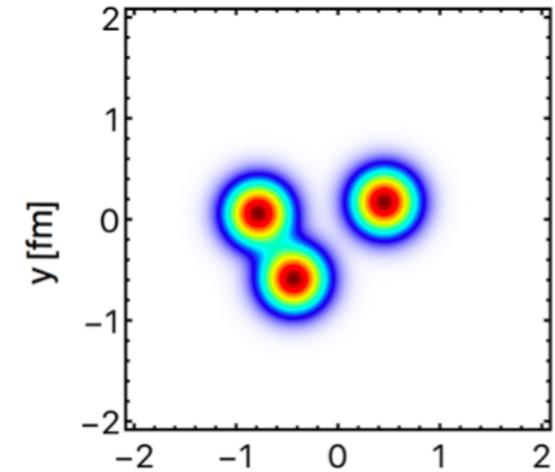
$$\frac{d\sigma_{q\bar{q}}}{d^2\mathbf{b}} = 2 \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -\frac{\pi^2}{2N_c} r^2 \alpha_s(\mu^2) x g(x, \mu^2) T(b) \right) \right]$$

$$T_p(b) = \frac{1}{2\pi B_G} e^{-\frac{b^2}{2B_G}}$$



$$T_p(b) = \frac{1}{2\pi N_q B_q} \sum_{i=1}^{N_q} e^{-\frac{(\vec{b} - \vec{b}_i)^2}{2B_q}}$$

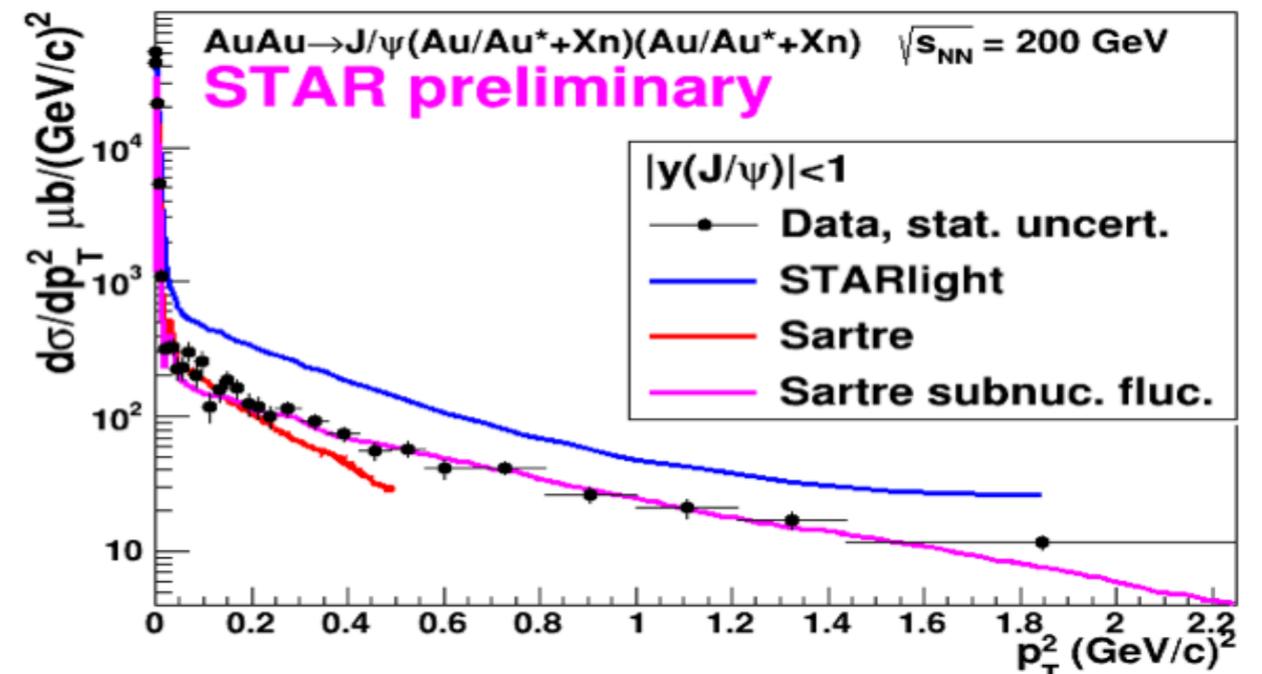
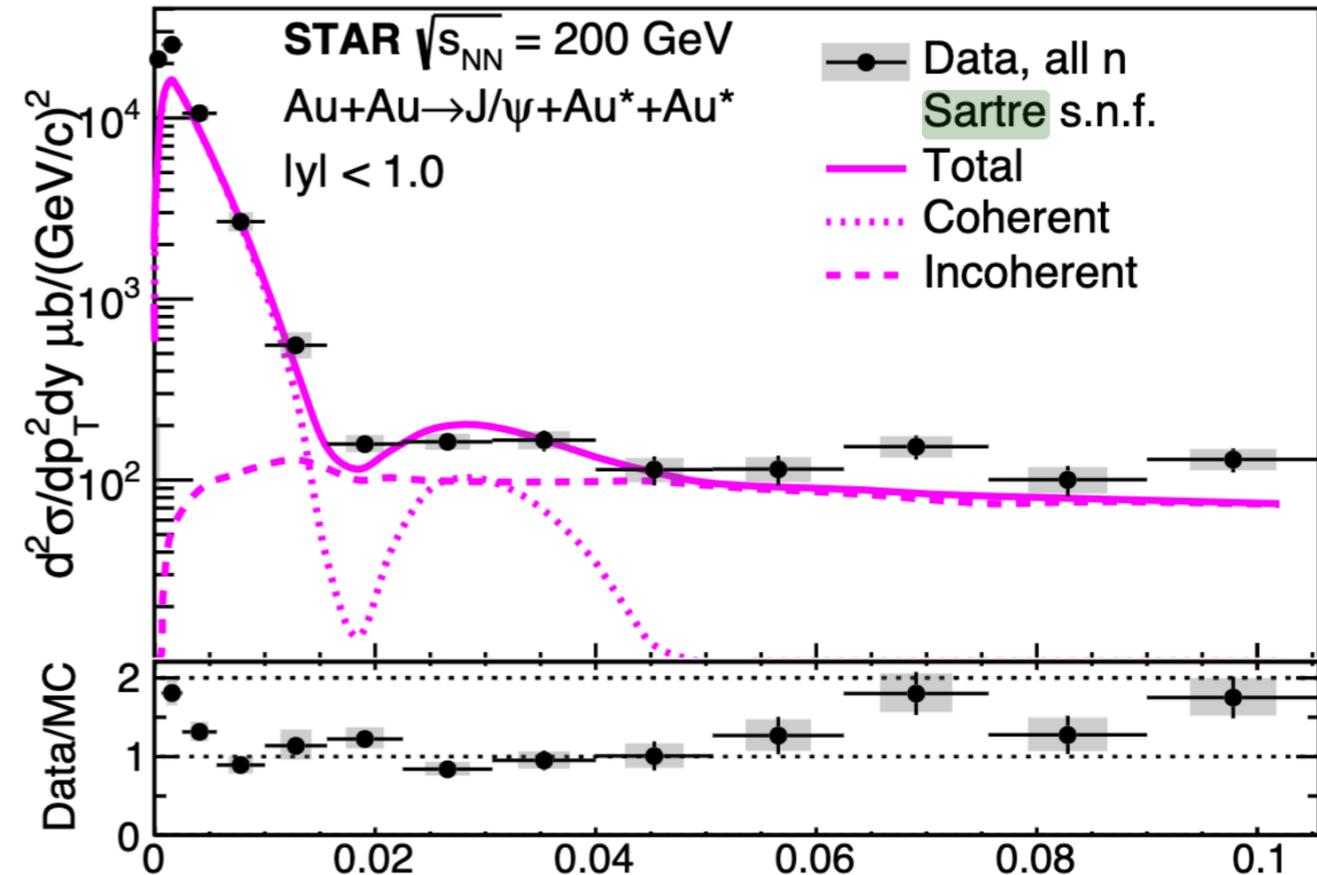
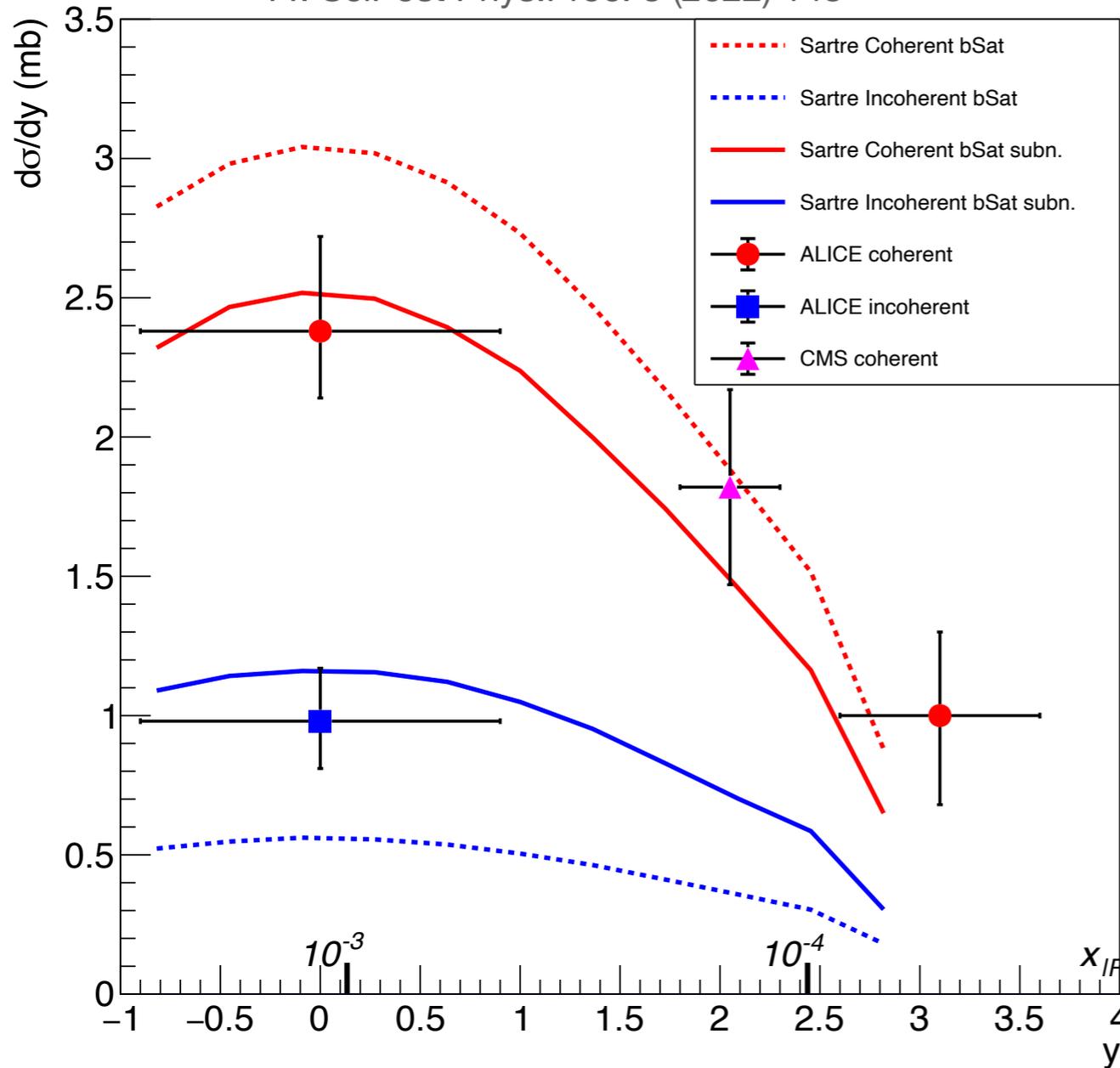
$\vec{b}_i$  with a Gaussian distribution of width  $B_{qc}$



# A-A UPC at the LHC & RHIC

STAR Collaboration, e-Print: [2311.13632](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.13632) [nucl-ex]

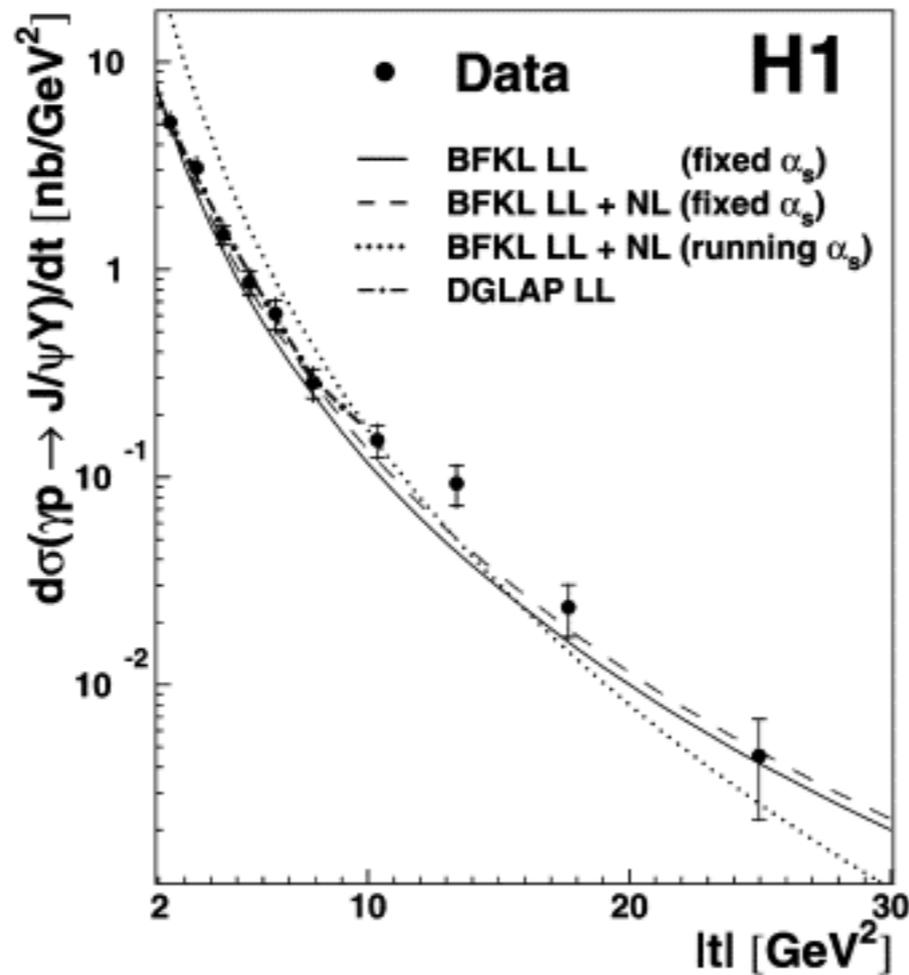
TT: SciPost Phys.Proc. 8 (2022) 148



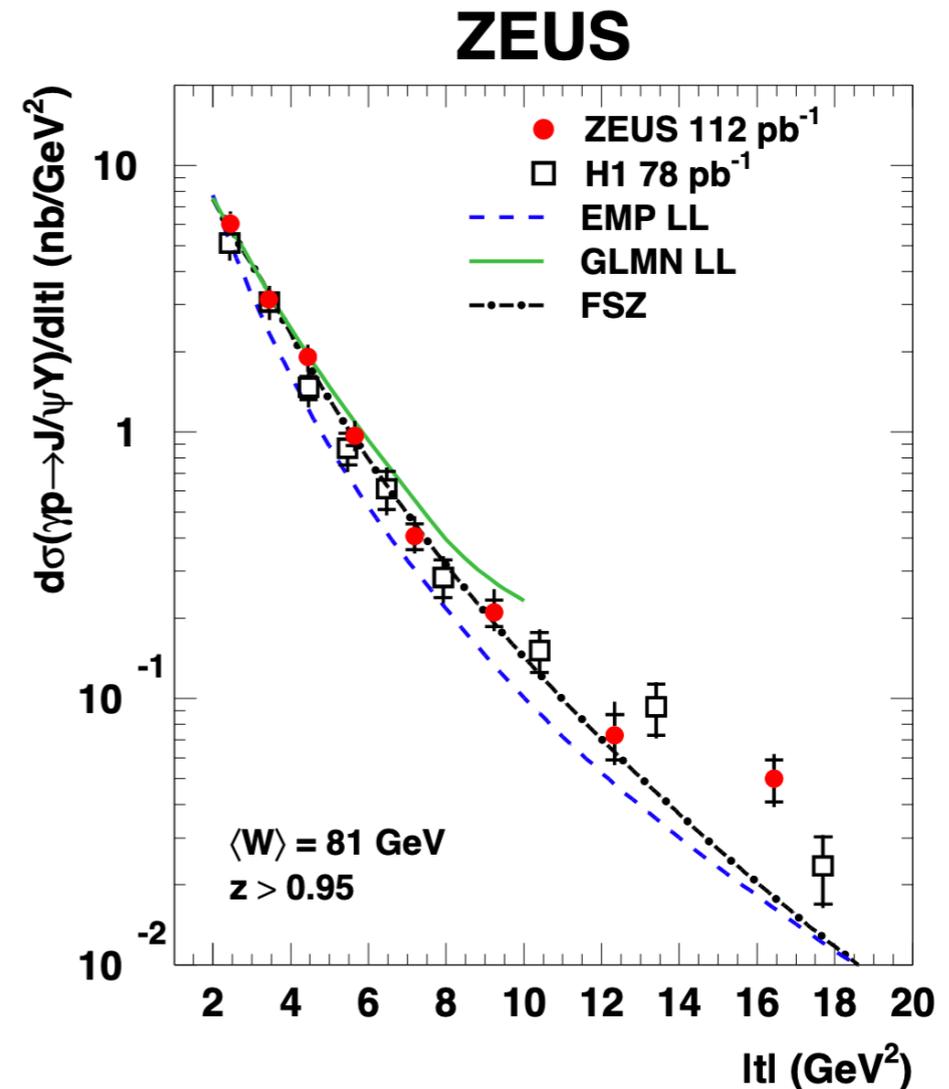
Even though coherent events dominate, the large  $|t|$  tails have a significant effect on the cross sections!

Subnucleon structure becomes important for  $|t| > 0.2 \text{ GeV}^2$

# Large $|t|$ ?



Phys. Lett. B 568 (2003) 205–218



JHEP 05 (2010) 085

Hotspot model: **Non-perturbative phenomenology**. Only valid for  $|t| \lesssim 1$  GeV<sup>2</sup>.  
 What about larger  $|t|$ ?

# Insights

1.  $t$ -spectrum can be described by a self-similar structure of hotspots within hotspots

2. Small- $x$  partons are maximally entangled (described by the same wave function)

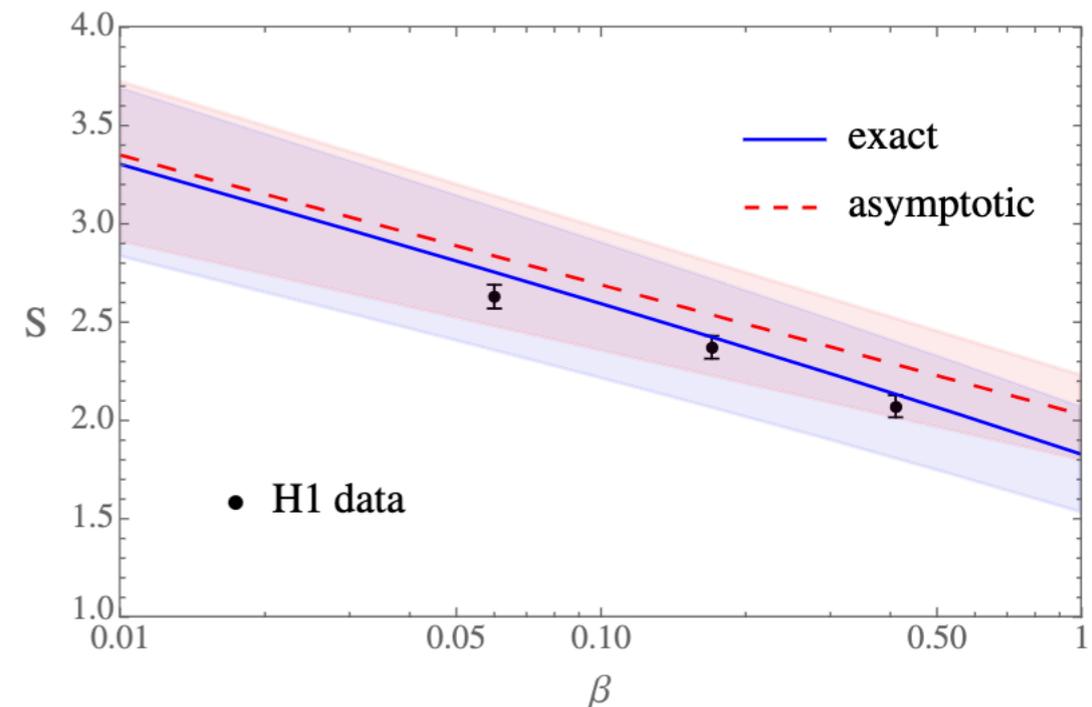
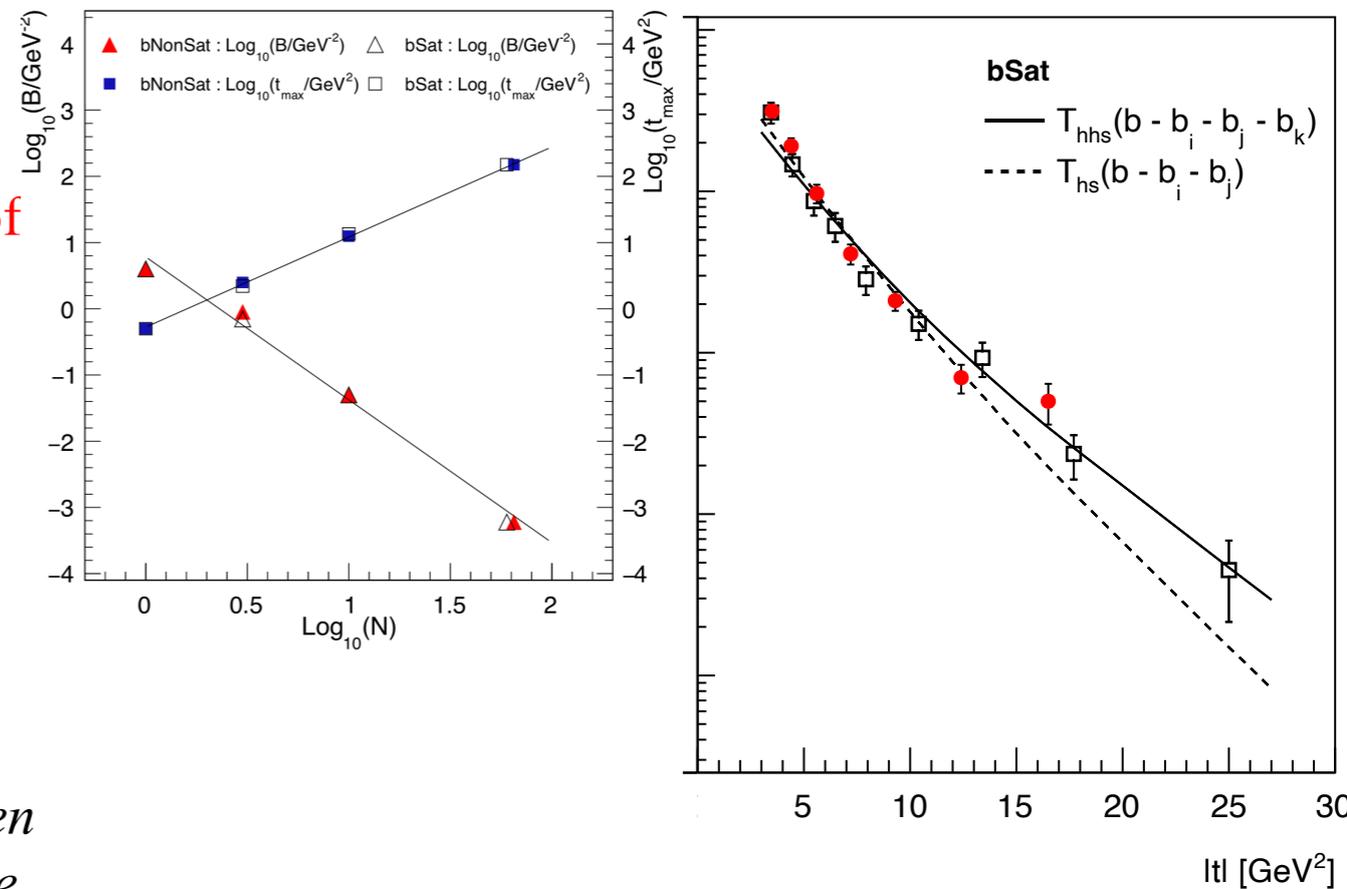
S. Demirci, T. Lappi, S. Schlichting  
Phys. Rev. D 106 (7) (2022) 074025:

*“While the  $t$ -dependence of the cross section is well reproduced in our model, the relative normalization between the coherent and the incoherent cross sections points to the need for additional fluctuations in the proton.”*

This suggests that we can describe the hotspot  $t$ -spectrum with a linear, scale-independent (in  $\log |t|$ ) evolution

**Picture:** Transverse part of gluon wavefunction probed with areal resolution  $\delta b^2 \sim \frac{1}{|t|}$

Wavefunction collapses into this area.  
Increased resolution appears as hotspots splittings.



*Probing the Onset of Maximal Entanglement inside the Proton in Diffractive Deep Inelastic Scattering,*  
Hentschinski, Kharzeev, Kutak, Tu: Phys.Rev.Lett. 131 (2023) 24, 241901

# Hotspot Evolution

Initial State at  $t = t_0$ :

$$T_p(\vec{b}) = \frac{1}{N_q} \sum_{i=1}^{N_q} T_q(|\vec{b} - \vec{b}_i|)$$

$$T_q(\vec{b}) = \frac{1}{2\pi B_q} e^{-\frac{b^2}{2B_q}}$$

Initial State Parameters:

$$B_{qc} = 3.1 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$$

$$B_q = 1.25 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$$

$$N_q = 3$$

Probability of a hotspot created at  $t_0$  splitting at  $|t| > |t_0|$

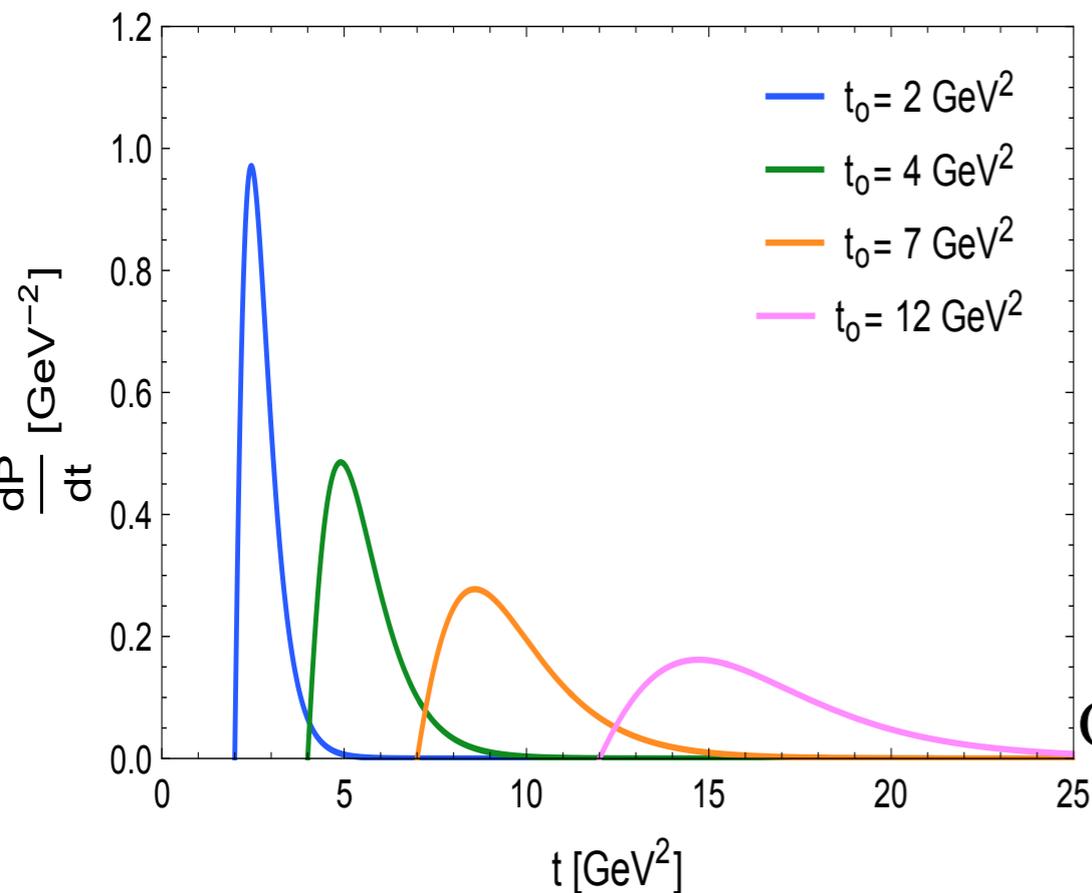
$$\frac{dP_{\text{split}}}{dt} = \frac{\alpha}{|t|} \frac{t-t_0}{t}$$

$$\frac{dP_{\text{nosplit}}}{dt} = \exp\left(-\int_{t_0}^t dt' \frac{dP_{\text{split}}}{dt'}\right)$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{\alpha}{|t|} \frac{t-t_0}{t} \exp\left[-\alpha \left(\frac{t_0}{t} - \ln \frac{t_0}{t} - 1\right)\right]$$

# Hotspot Evolution

We consider a parton shower-like evolution based on resolution, where a hotspot may split into two as the resolution increases.



Probability of a hotspot created at  $t_0$  splitting at  $|t| > |t_0|$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{\alpha}{|t|} \frac{t-t_0}{t} \exp \left[ -\alpha \left( \frac{t_0}{t} - \ln \frac{t_0}{t} - 1 \right) \right]$$

Generate offspring  $\vec{b}_{i,j}$  from parent  $T_{\text{parent}}(\vec{b}_{i,j})$ .

Conserve Normalisation in each splitting.

Offspring hotspots  $i, j$  created at distance  $d_{ij} = |\vec{b}_i - \vec{b}_j|$ ,

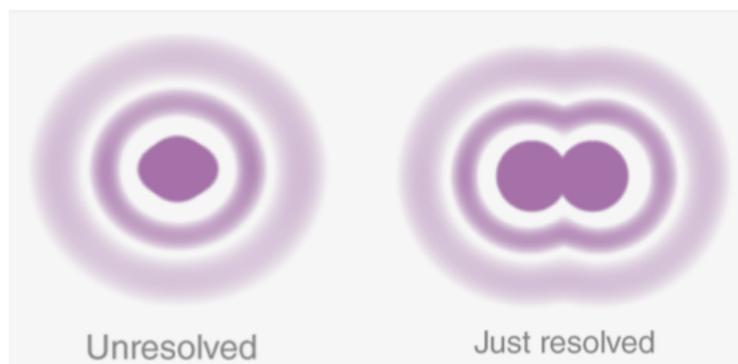
with widths  $B_{i,j} = \frac{1}{|t|}$

Conditions for resolution:

Probe resolution:  $d_{ij} > \frac{2}{|\vec{\Delta}|}$     Geometry:  $d_{ij} > 2\sqrt{B_{i,j}}$

Reject if not resolved.

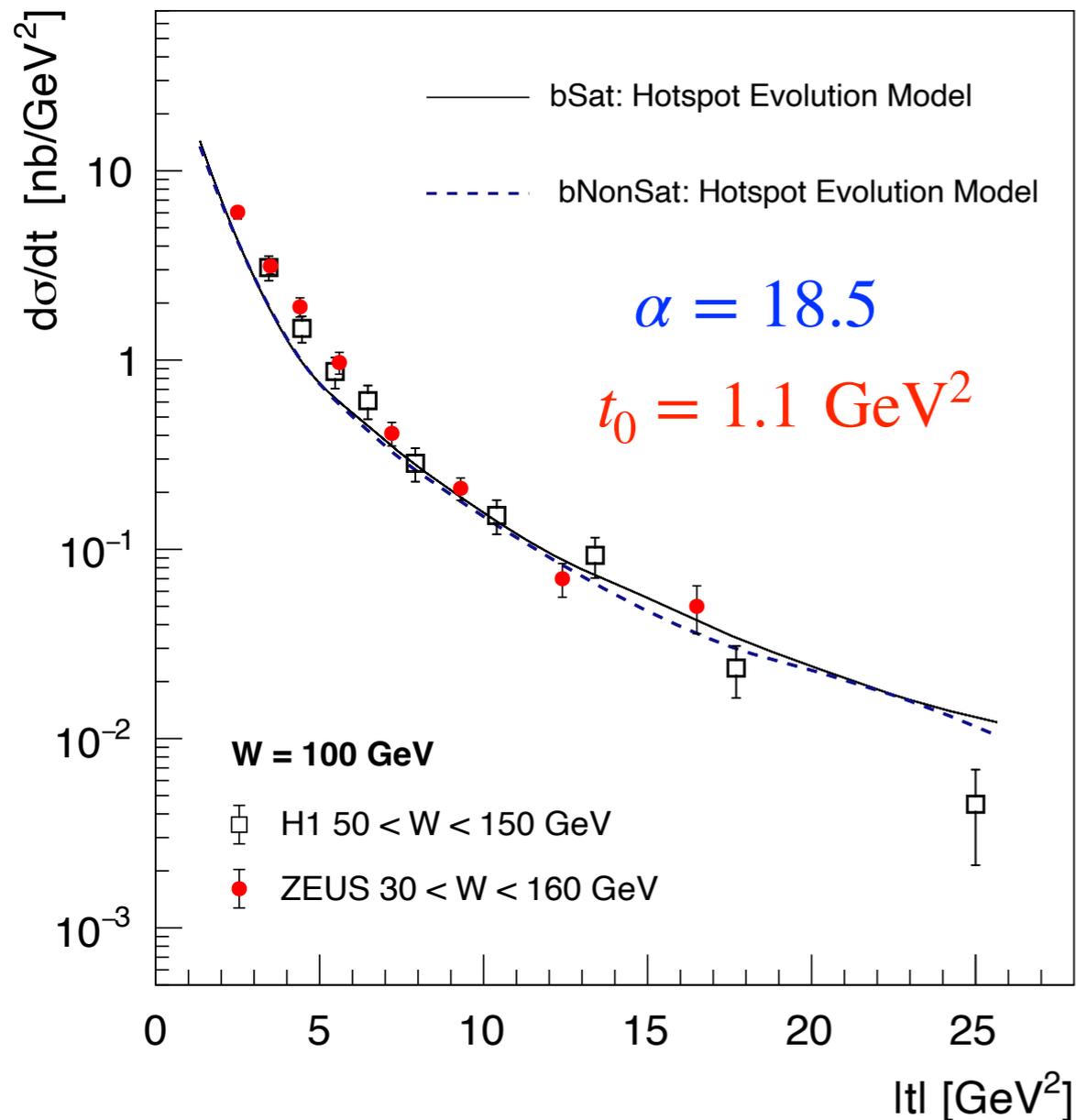
This becomes an effective hotspot repulsion.



Hotspot repulsion:

# Hotspot Evolution

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{\alpha}{|t|} \frac{t-t_0}{t} \exp \left[ -\alpha \left( \frac{t_0}{t} - \ln \frac{t_0}{t} - 1 \right) \right]$$



Models can describe all data points for  $|t| > |t_0| = 1.1 \text{ GeV}^2$  with only one extra parameter  $\alpha$ .

Checked that description unchanged for  $|t_0| \in [0.8, 1.2] \text{ GeV}^2$

Sources of event-by-event fluctuations:

Number of hotspots

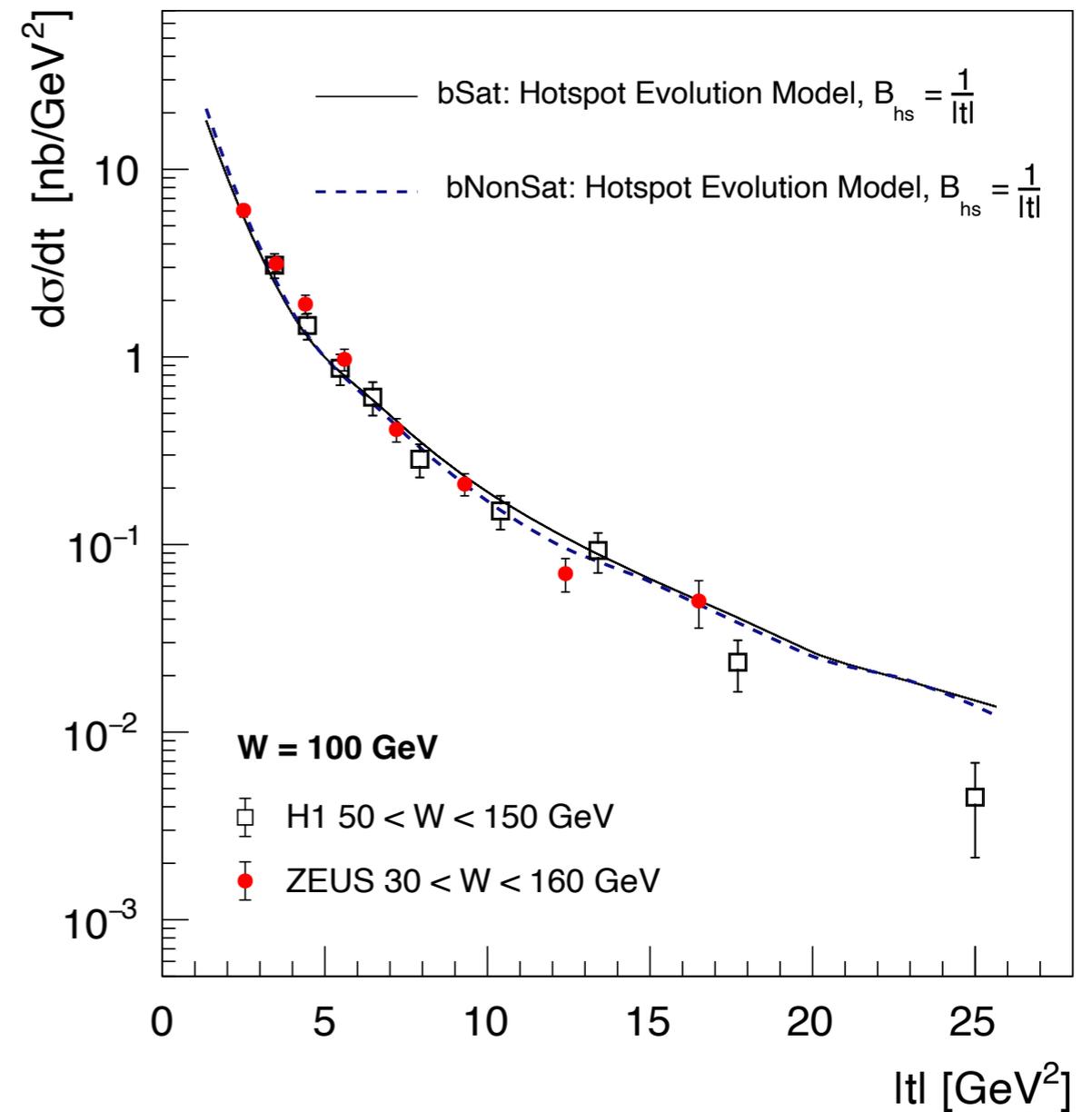
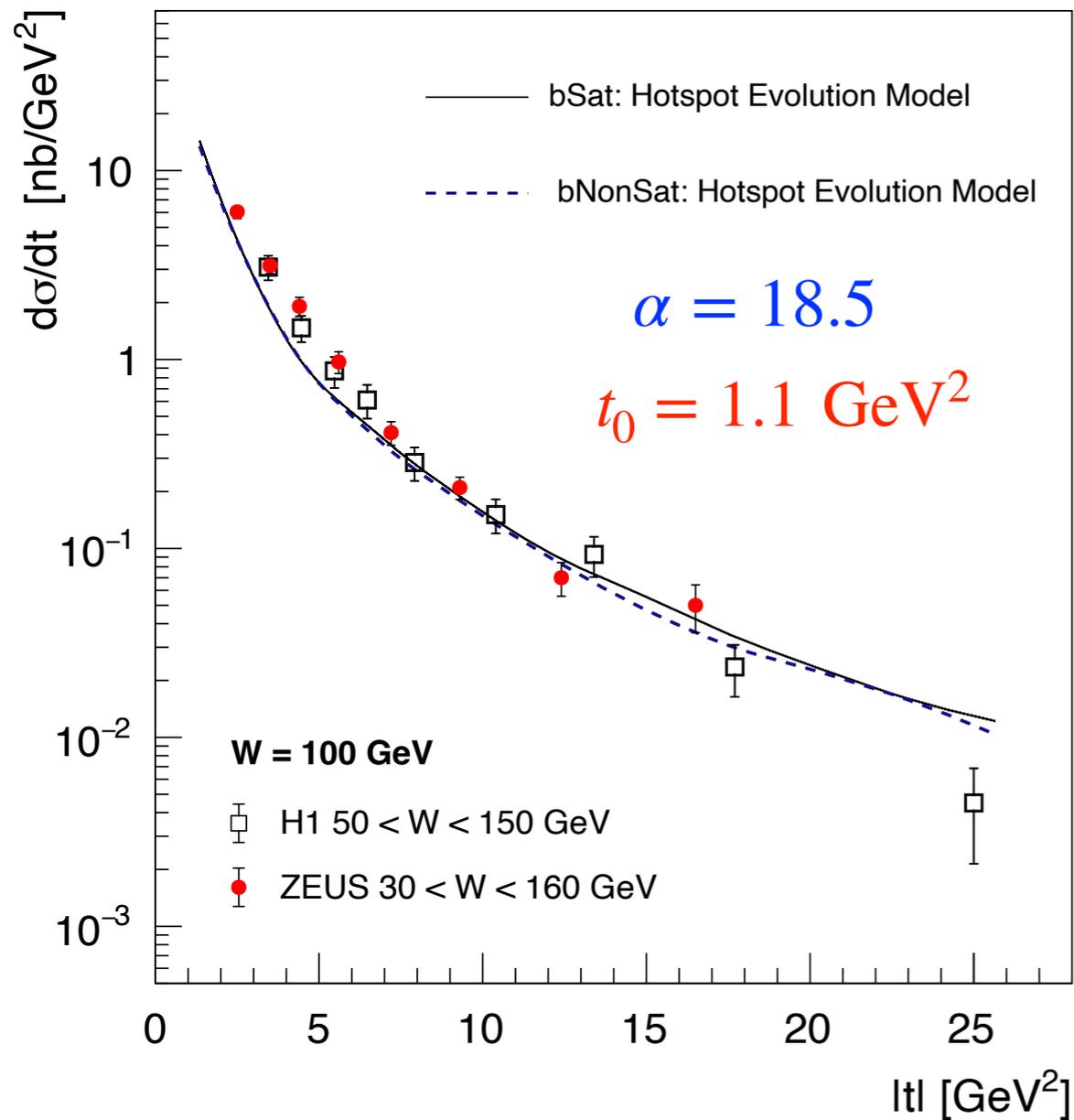
Hotspot Width

Normalisation

**Saturation?**

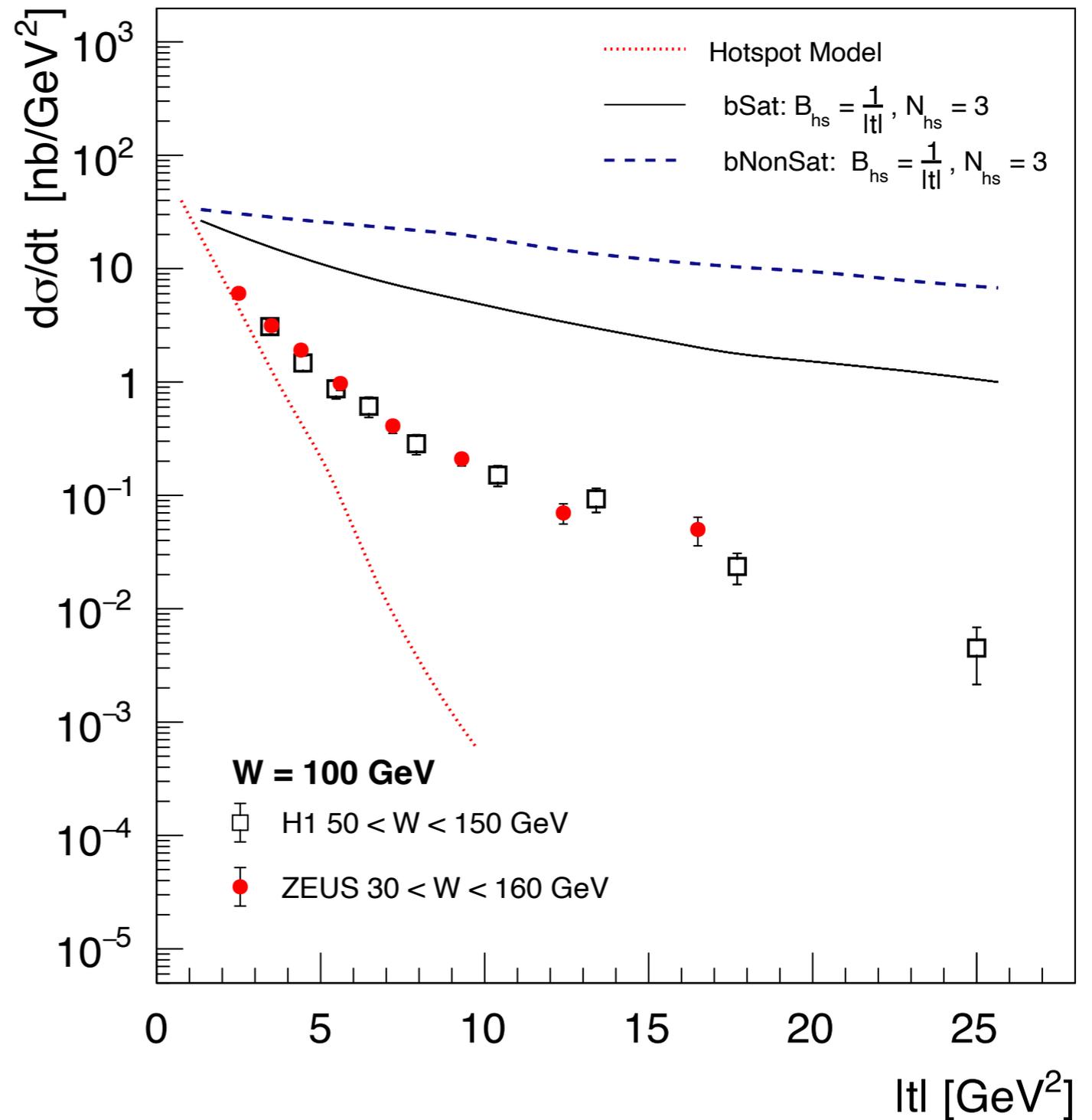
# Hotspot Evolution

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{\alpha}{|t|} \frac{t-t_0}{t} \exp \left[ -\alpha \left( \frac{t_0}{t} - \ln \frac{t_0}{t} - 1 \right) \right]$$



# Hotspot Evolution

Saturation?



# Saturation Scale

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{\alpha}{|t|} \frac{t-t_0}{t} \exp \left[ -\alpha \left( \frac{t_0}{t} - \ln \frac{t_0}{t} - 1 \right) \right] \quad Q_S^2 \simeq T(b)$$

$$\alpha = 18.5 \quad T(b) \rightarrow T(b, t)$$

$$t_0 = 1.1 \text{ GeV}^2$$

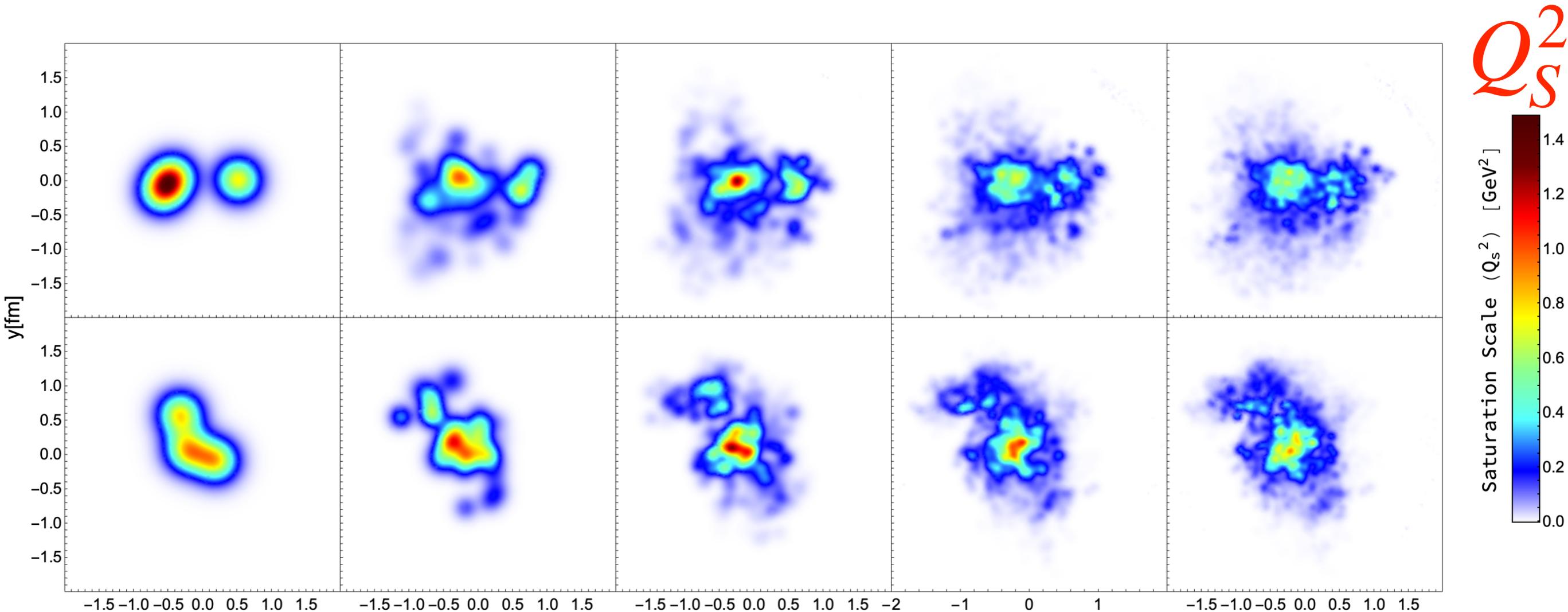
$t = -1.0 \text{ GeV}^2$

$t = -3.0 \text{ GeV}^2$

$t = -7.0 \text{ GeV}^2$

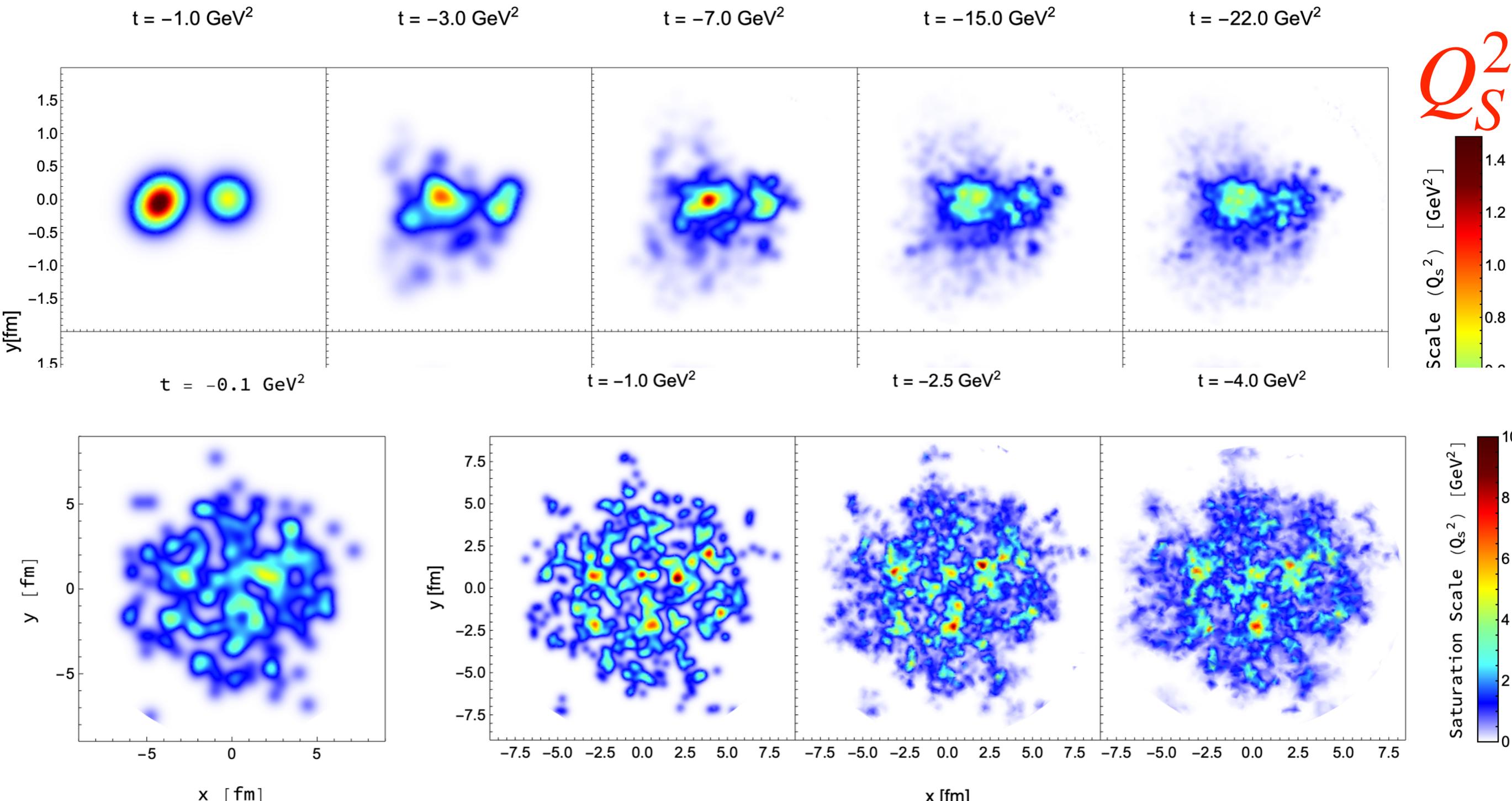
$t = -15.0 \text{ GeV}^2$

$t = -22.0 \text{ GeV}^2$



# Saturation Scale

$$T(b) \rightarrow T(b, t) \quad Q_S^2 \simeq T(b) \quad Q_{S,\text{Pb}}^2 \sim 7 Q_{S,p}^2$$



# Summary & Outlook

We have developed a “classical evolution” of the hotspot model to large  $|t|$  using  $t$  as a parameter of resolution.  $T(b) \rightarrow T(\vec{b}) \rightarrow T(\vec{b}, t)$

**We can describe the entire  $t$ -spectrum with 1 extra parameter**

For large  $|t|$  the physics is perturbative, in principle possible to calculate the hotspot shape and splitting function from first principle (0 extra parameters)

Then, the parameters of the initial state (hotspot model) can be constrained from the large  $|t|$  evolution ( $N_q, B_q, B_{qc} \dots$ )



**Further measurements possible at the EIC:**

Different final states  $\rho, \phi, J/\psi$

Different initial states,  $p, Ca, Zr, Pb$

Multidimensional in  $t, W, Q^2$