

# Small systems: Theory overview – energy loss

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Centre of Excellence  
in Quark Matter



Yocto/LHC  
Technological Imaging of QCD Collectivity  
Using Jet Characterisation  
An ERC Advanced Grant 2018 – 2024



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

09 May 2025

Introduction

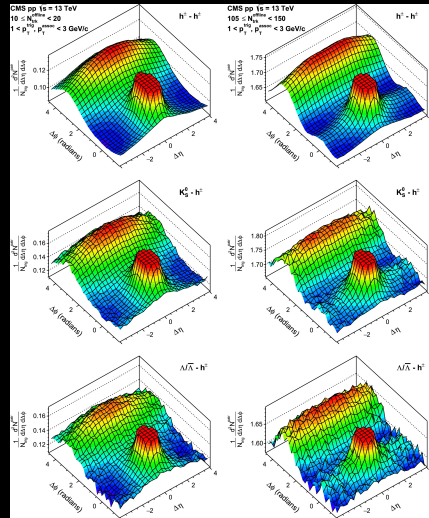
Correlation due to Energy Conservation

Transverse Momentum Correlations

# Introduction

*“Evidence for collectivity in pp collisions at the LHC”:*

- Collective flow



CMS:2016fnw

Small systems: Theory overview – energy loss

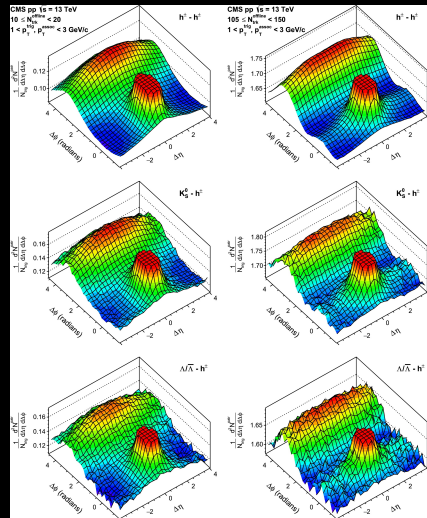
3/30

# Introduction

*“Evidence for collectivity in pp collisions at the LHC”:*

- Collective flow

! No Jet quenching observed

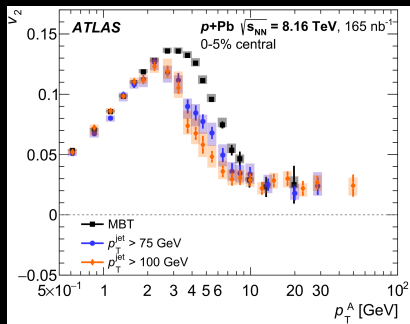


CMS:2016fnw

Small systems: Theory overview – energy loss

3/30

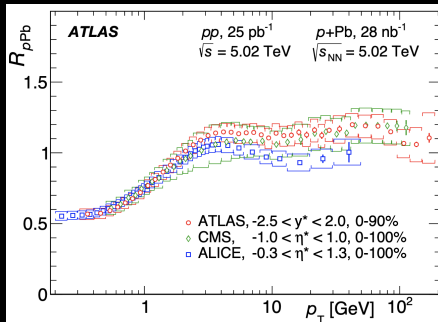
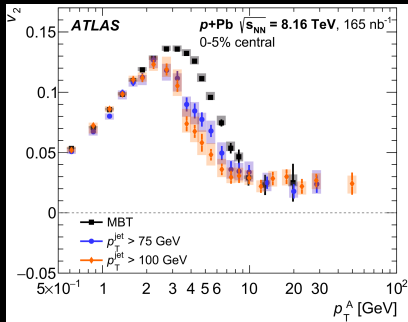
# Jet quenching vs Flow



ATLAS:2019vcm

# Jet quenching vs Flow

- $R_{pPb}$  vs  $v_2$  puzzle

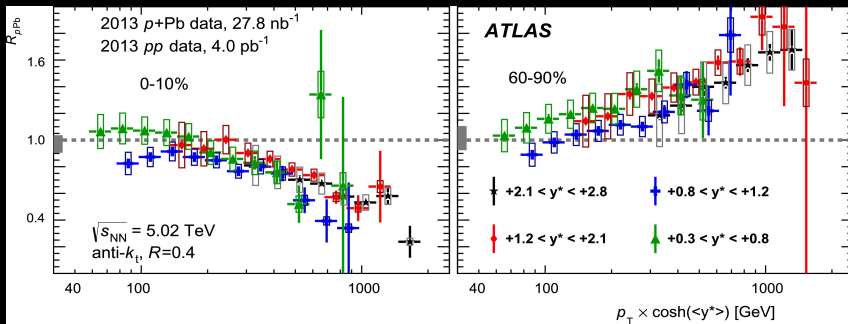


ATLAS:2019vcm

ATLAS:2022kqu  
CMS:2016xef  
ALICE:2018vu

# Jet quenching vs Flow

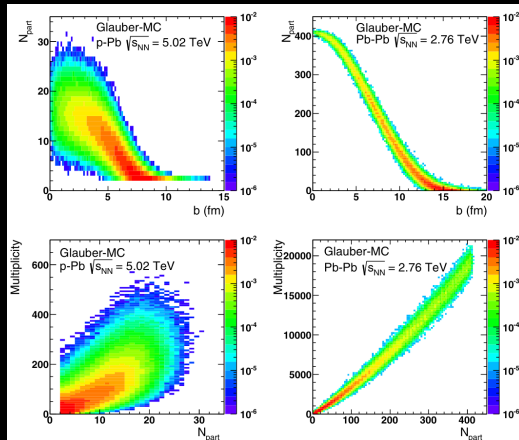
- $R_{pPb}$  vs  $v_2$  puzzle
- $R_{pPb}$  vs centrality



ATLAS:2014cpa

# Multiplicity? I

- Large fluctuations in  $p$ -Pb  $\Rightarrow$  Biased multiplicity selection

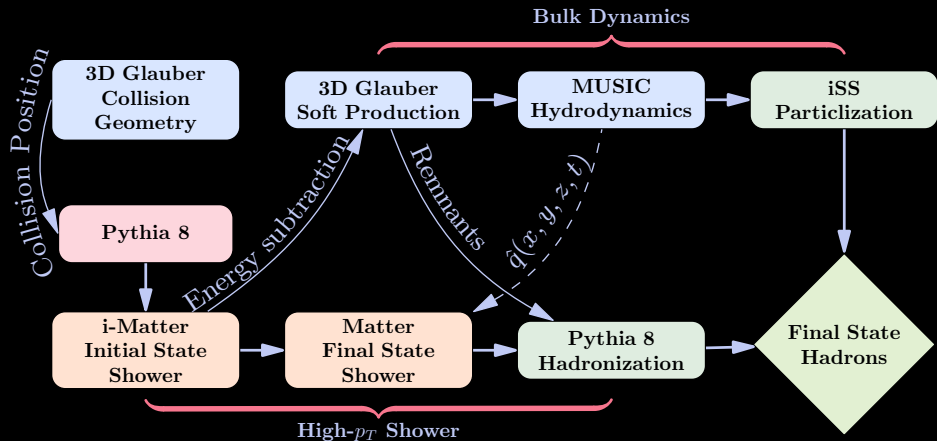


ALICE:2014xsp

Introduction

Correlation due to Energy Conservation

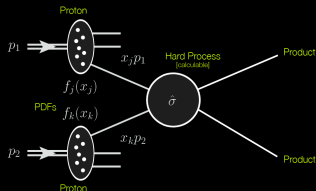
Transverse Momentum Correlations



# Hard/Soft

## Hard

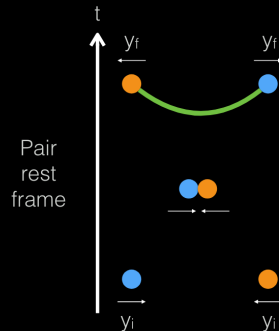
- Pythia Hard Process



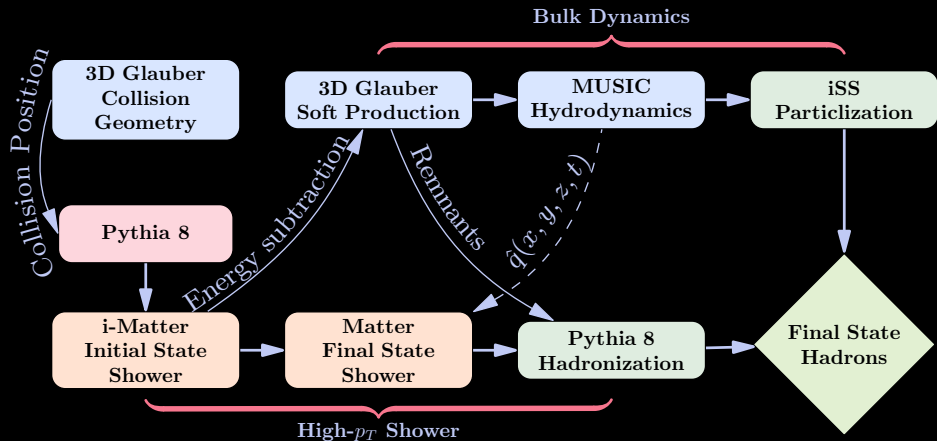
- i-Matter ISR + Matter FSR



## Soft

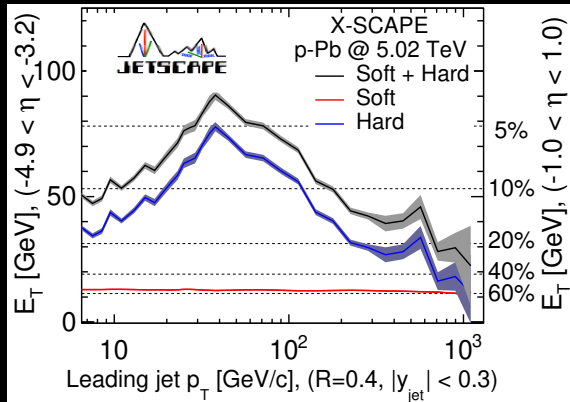


$$\frac{dE}{dz} = -\sigma, \quad \frac{dp_z}{dt} = -\sigma \quad (1)$$

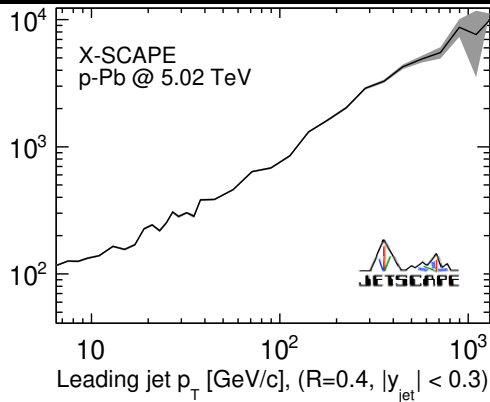


# Correlations

Forward



Mid

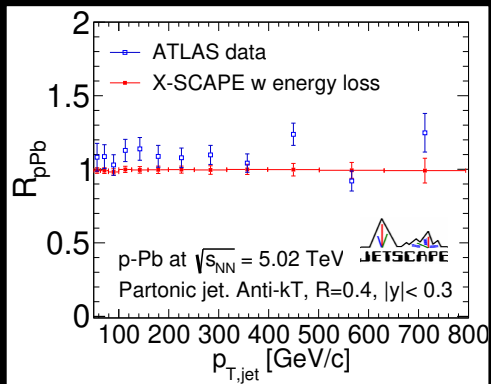


## Competing effects

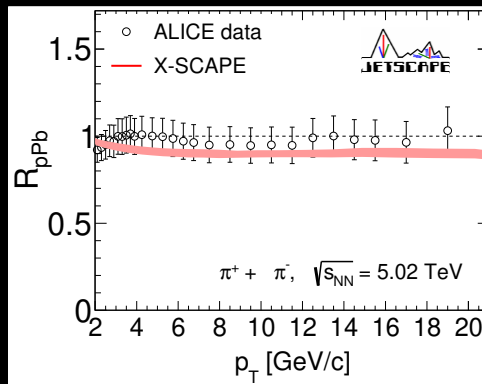
- »  $E_T$  increases with leading jet  $p_T$
- » At higher  $p_T$  energy conservation leads to decrease in  $E_T$

# Energy Loss?

Jets



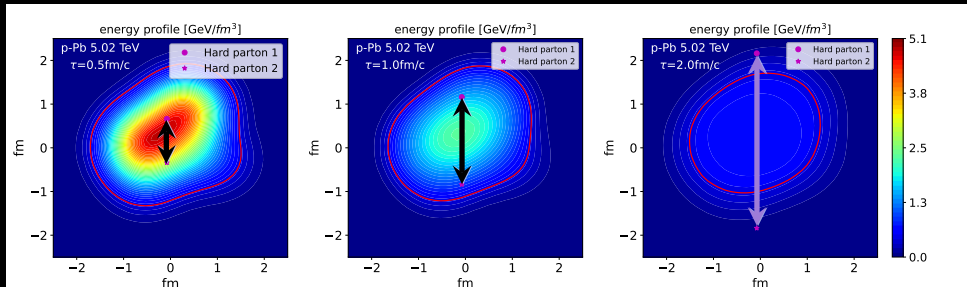
Pions



Matter Energy loss in  $p$ -Pb collisions

» No evidence for jet quenching

# Energy Loss: Explanation



Medium extent small

» Hard partons spend limited time in medium

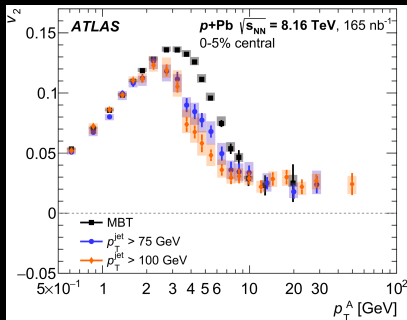
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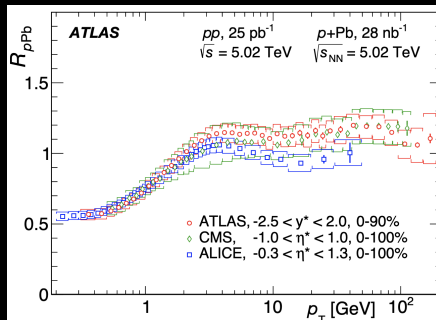
Transverse Momentum Correlations

# Jet quenching vs Flow

- $R_{pPb}$  vs  $v_2$  puzzle



ATLAS:2019vcm



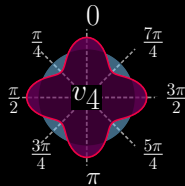
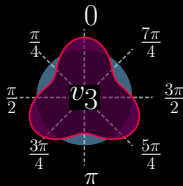
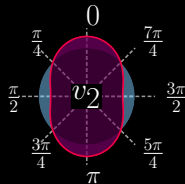
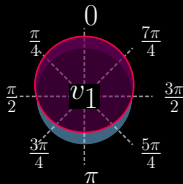
ATLAS:2022kqu  
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# $v_n$ Azimuthal Anisotropy

Azimuthal momentum correlated with soft bulk (event plane)

$$\frac{dN}{d\phi} \propto 1 + \sum_n 2v_n \cos[n(\phi - \Psi_n)] \quad (2)$$

$$v_n = 1 + 0.25 \cos(n\theta)$$



# Transverse Dependent Distributions

| Table of TMD PDFs |   |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| N \ Q             |   | U                                                                                                             | L                                                                                                                | T                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                       |
|                   | U | $f_1$<br>number density<br>  |                                                                                                                  | $h_1^\perp$<br>Boer-Mulders<br> |                                                                                                                       |
|                   | L |                                                                                                               | $g_1$<br>helicity<br>          | $h_{1L}^\perp$<br>worm-gear<br> |                                                                                                                       |
| T                 | T | $f_{1T}^\perp$<br>Sivers<br> | $g_{1T}^\perp$<br>worm-gear<br> | $h_1$<br>transversity<br>       | $h_{1T}^\perp$<br>pretzelosity<br> |

=> Collins

<sup>1</sup>Fig from PHENIX Spin Physics Overview

<sup>0</sup>D. Boer, P. J. Mulders, J. C. Collins, J. Rodrigues, C. Pisano, S. J. Brodsky, M. Anselmino, M. Boglione, U. D'Alesio, E. Leader, D.W. Sivers, F. G. Celiberto...

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# Cross Section

Cross section for<sup>1</sup>  $p + p \rightarrow \pi + X$ :

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dyd^2P_T} = \sum_{a,b,c,d} \int \frac{dx_a dx_b dz}{2\pi^2 z^3 s} d^2k_{\perp a} d^2k_{\perp b} d^3k_{\perp C} \delta(\mathbf{k}_{\perp C} \cdot \hat{p}_c) \mathcal{J}(\mathbf{k}_{\perp C}) \Gamma^{\sigma\mu}(x_a, k_{\perp a}) \Gamma^{\alpha\nu}(x_b, k_{\perp b})$$

$$\hat{M}_{\mu\nu\rho} (\hat{M}_{\sigma\alpha\beta})^* \Delta^{\rho\beta}(z, k_{\perp C}) \delta(\hat{s} + \hat{t} + \hat{u}) , \quad (3)$$

With generalized correlators:

$$\Gamma_P^{\mu\nu}(x, k_{\perp}) = \int \frac{d(\xi \cdot P) d^2\xi_T}{(2\pi)^3} e^{i(p \cdot \xi)} \frac{\langle P | \text{Tr} [F^{\mu\rho}(0) F^{\nu\sigma}(\xi)] | P \rangle n_{\rho} n_{\sigma}}{(p \cdot n)^2}$$

$$= \frac{-g_T^{\mu\nu} f_g(x, k_{\perp}) + \left( \frac{k_{\perp}^{\mu} k_{\perp}^{\nu}}{M_p^2} + g_T^{\mu\nu} \frac{k_{\perp}^2}{2M_p^2} \right) h_g^{\perp}(x, k_{\perp}^2)}{2x} , \quad (4)$$

---

<sup>1</sup>Anselmino:2004ky, Anselmino:2005sh

# Transverse Momentum Dependent Distributions



$$\Phi^{\alpha\beta} \epsilon_{\alpha}^{\lambda_1}(k) \epsilon_{\beta}^{\lambda_2}(k) = \frac{1}{2x} \left\{ \delta^{\lambda_1, \lambda_2} f_g(x, k_{\perp}) + \delta^{\lambda_1, -\lambda_2} \frac{k_{\perp}^2}{2M^2} h_g^{\perp}(x, k_{\perp}) \right\}$$

The **Boer-Mulders/Collins** flips helicity between amplitude and conjugate

Requires two flips for unpolarized pion production =>

For  $gg \rightarrow gg$ :



: Unpolarized gluon/unpolarized hadron



: Polarized gluon/unpolarized hadron

# Transverse Momentum Dependent Distributions

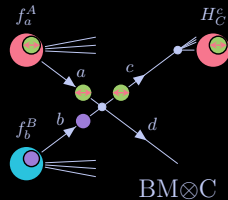
$$\Phi^{\alpha\beta} \epsilon_{\alpha}^{\lambda_1}(k) \epsilon_{\beta}^{\lambda_2}(k) = \frac{1}{2x} \left\{ \delta^{\lambda_1, \lambda_2} f_g(x, k_{\perp}) + \delta^{\lambda_1, -\lambda_2} \frac{k_{\perp}^2}{2M^2} h_g^{\perp}(x, k_{\perp}) \right\}$$

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$$\bullet \text{ } BM \otimes C \Rightarrow M_{\lambda, \lambda}^{\lambda, \lambda} \left( M_{-\lambda, \lambda}^{-\lambda, \lambda} \right)$$



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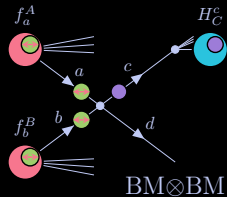
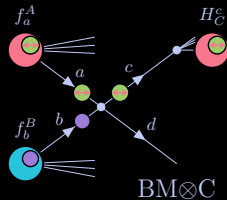
- $BM \otimes C \Rightarrow M_{\lambda, \lambda}^{\lambda, \lambda} \left( M_{-\lambda, \lambda}^{-\lambda, \lambda} \right)$
- $BM \otimes BM \Rightarrow M_{\lambda, \lambda}^{\lambda, \lambda} \left( M_{-\lambda, -\lambda}^{\lambda, \lambda} \right)$



: Unpolarized gluon/unpolarized hadron



: Polarized gluon/unpolarized hadron



# Spin-Helicity Formalism

Matrix element for  $BM \otimes C$  Naturally contains asymmetries

$$\Sigma^{\text{BM} \otimes C} = \hat{H}^{\perp(1)}(z, k_{\perp C}) 2 \left[ \hat{h}_{g/A}^{\perp(1)}(x_a, k_{\perp a}) \hat{f}_{g/B}(x_b, k_{\perp b}) \hat{M}_1^0 \hat{M}_2^0 \cos(4(\phi_{ab} - \phi_{bc})) \right. \\ \left. + \hat{f}_{g/A}(x_a, k_{\perp a}) \hat{h}_{g/B}^{\perp(1)}(x_b, k_{\perp b}) \hat{M}_1^0 \hat{M}_3^0 \cos(4(\phi_{ab} - \phi_{ac})) \right] , \quad (5)$$

$$\text{with } \hat{M}_1^0 \hat{M}_2^0 = g_s^4 \frac{N_c^2}{N_c^2 - 1} \frac{t^2 + tu + u^2}{t^2} ,$$

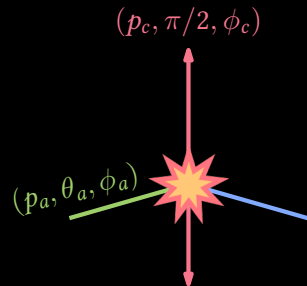
$$\hat{M}_1^0 \hat{M}_3^0 = g_s^4 \frac{N_c^2}{N_c^2 - 1} \frac{t^2 + tu + u^2}{u^2} ,$$

$$\text{and } \tan \phi_{ij} = \tan \frac{\phi_j - \phi_i}{2} \frac{\sin \frac{\theta_j + \theta_i}{2}}{\sin \frac{\theta_j - \theta_i}{2}} .$$

# Spin Independent

TMD matrix element contains angular correlations as well

$$\frac{\hat{s}}{\hat{t}} \stackrel{\theta_1 \ll 1}{\sim} \frac{-\hat{s}}{2p_a p_c (1 - \theta_a \cos(\phi_a - \phi_c))}$$
$$\simeq \frac{-\hat{s}}{4p_a p_c} \left[ 2 + \theta_a^2 + 2\theta_a \cos(\phi_a - \phi_c) + \theta_a^2 \cos[2(\phi_a - \phi_c)] \right] .$$

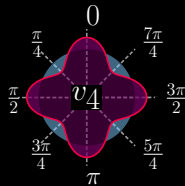
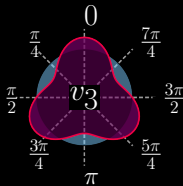
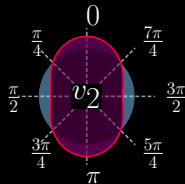
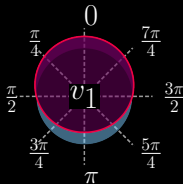


# $v_n$ Azimuthal Anisotropy

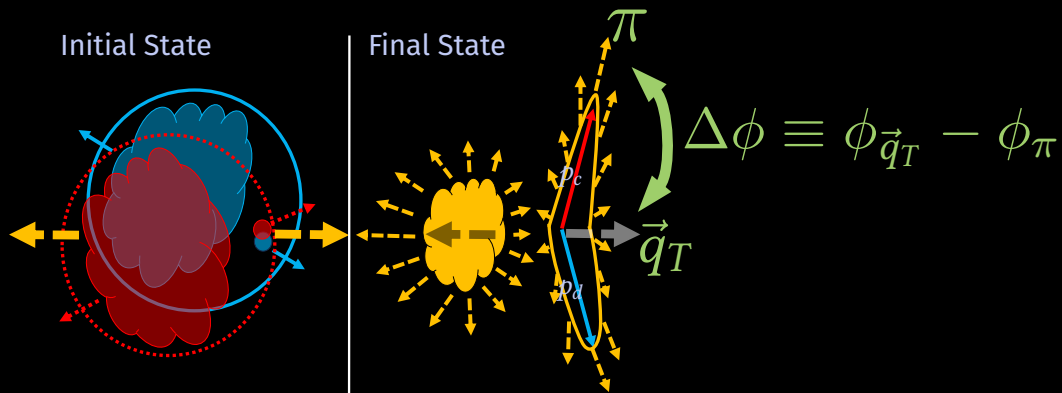
Azimuthal momentum correlated with soft bulk (event plane)

$$\frac{dN}{d\phi} \propto 1 + \sum_n 2v_n \cos[n(\phi - \Psi_n)] \quad (6)$$

$$v_n = 1 + 0.25 \cos(n\theta)$$



# TMD Scattering



# Pythia Simulation

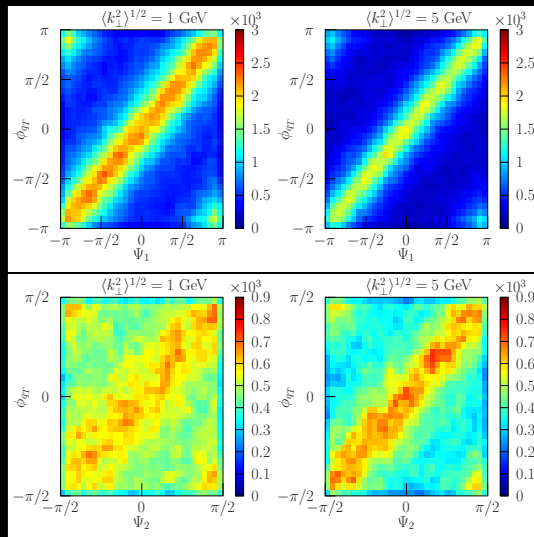
Simple Pythia Simulation:

- Single Hard Scattering => 2 initiating partons + 2 remnants
- Generate  $k_T$  for each initiating parton => Each balanced by its remnant
- Lund String Hadronization connects final parton to remnant

# Pythia Simulation

Correlation:

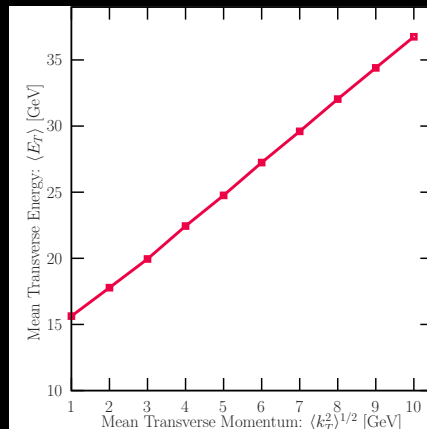
- » Event plane  $\Psi = \frac{1}{n} \arg[Q]$   
with  $Q_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_j^M e^{in\phi_j}$ ,
- » Balance momentum  $\phi_{\vec{q}}$ .



# Pythia Simulation

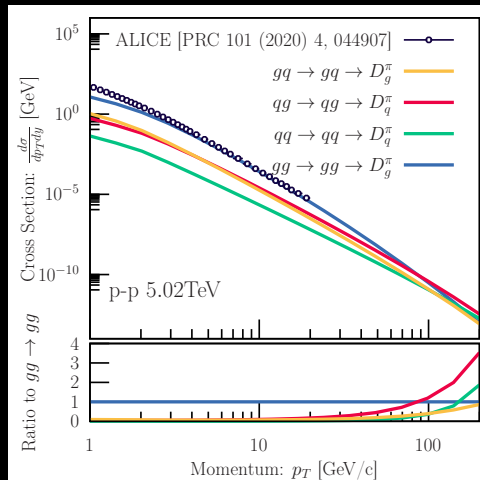
Correlation:

- »  $\langle E_T \rangle$  at FoCal  $3.9 \leq \eta \leq 5.0$
- » Mean transverse momentum  $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$  of hard parton



# Setup

$gg \rightarrow gg \Rightarrow$  Most relevant for kinematics



<sup>0</sup>Guo:1997it, Fries:2002mu, Majumder:2007hx

# Setup

Factorization  $x \otimes k_{\perp} \Rightarrow$  Approximate to  $p - A$

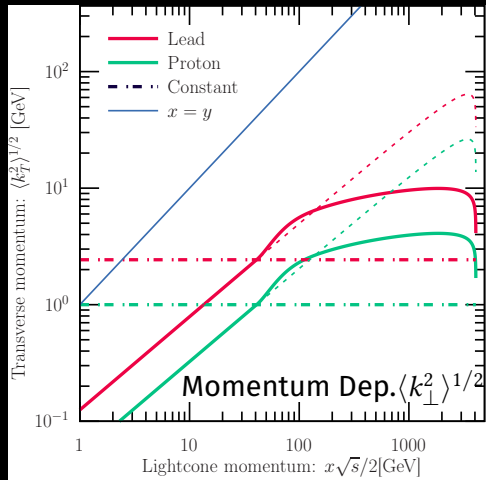
$$f(x, k_{\perp}) = \frac{4\pi}{\langle k_{\perp}^2 \rangle} e^{-k_{\perp}^2 / \langle k_{\perp}^2 \rangle} f(x), \quad (7)$$

$$\langle k_{\perp}^2 \rangle_{p-Pb} = A^{1/3} \langle k_{\perp}^2 \rangle_{p-p}. \quad (8)$$

Soffer Bound:  $b \leq 1$  and  $B \leq 1$

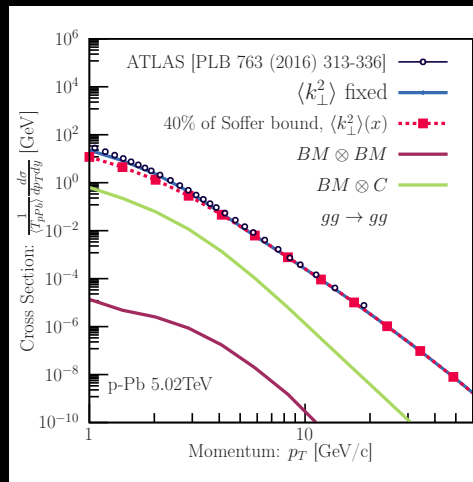
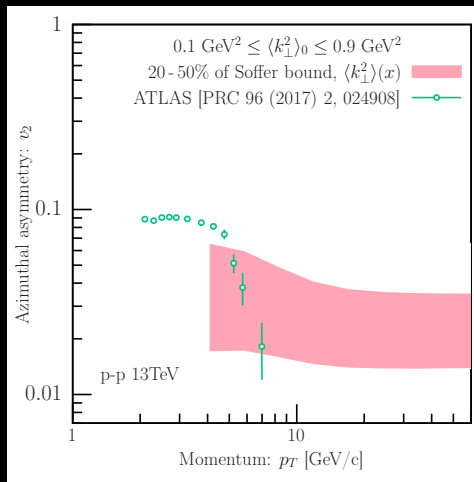
$$\frac{k_{\perp}^2}{2M^2} \left| h^{\perp g}(x, k_{\perp}) \right| = b \cdot f(x, k_{\perp}), \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{k_{\perp}^2}{2M^2} \left| H^{\perp g}(x, k_{\perp}) \right| = B \cdot D(x, k_{\perp}). \quad (10)$$

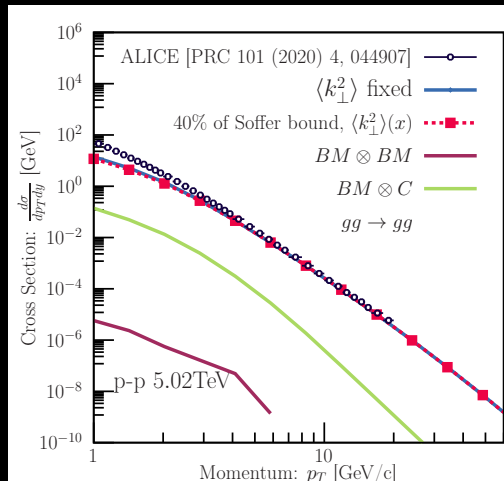
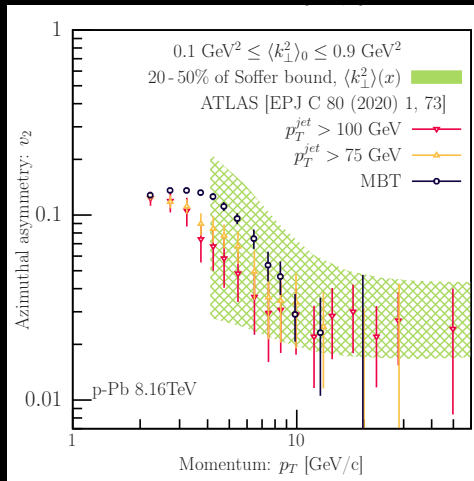


<sup>0</sup>Guo:1997it, Fries:2002mu, Majumder:2007hx

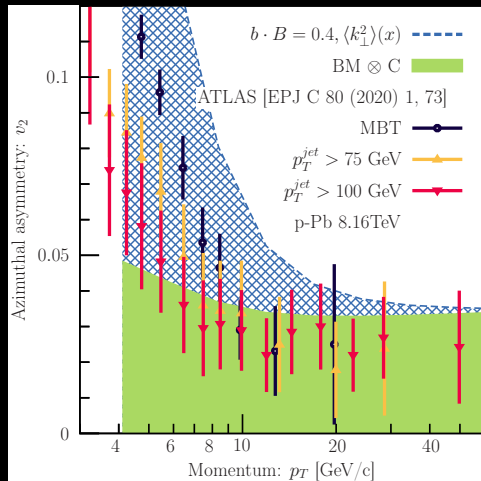
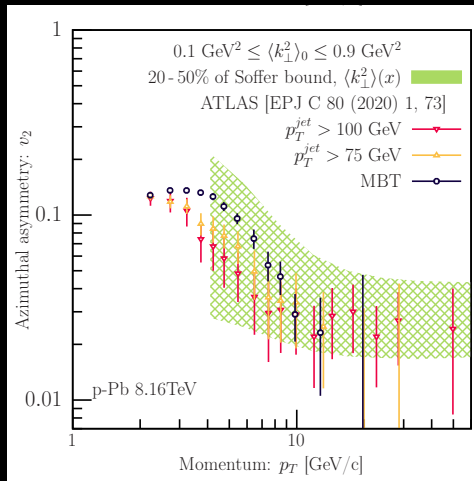
# $p - p$ Results



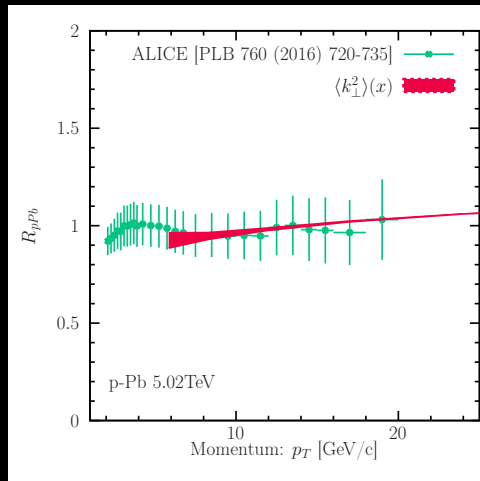
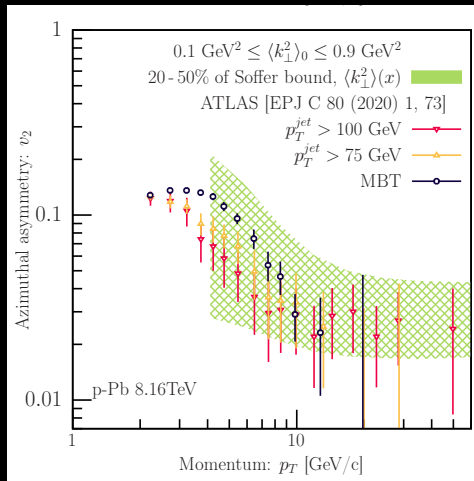
# $p - Pb$ Results



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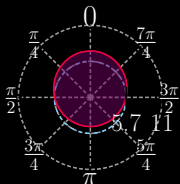


# $p - Pb$ Results

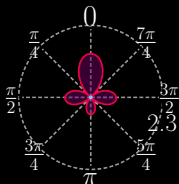


# Angular Distribution $\Delta\phi = \phi_q - \phi_\pi$

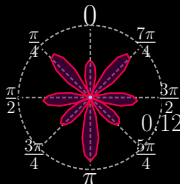
pp



Unpolarized



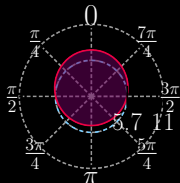
$\text{BM} \otimes C$



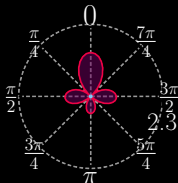
$\text{BM} \otimes \text{BM}$

# Angular Distribution $\Delta\phi = \phi_q - \phi_\pi$

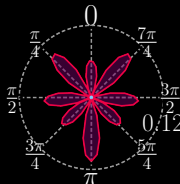
pp



Unpolarized

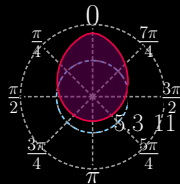


$\text{BM} \otimes \text{C}$

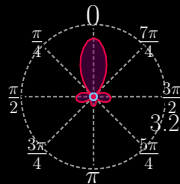


$\text{BM} \otimes \text{BM}$

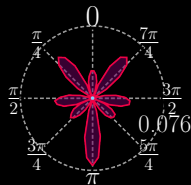
pPb



Unpolarized

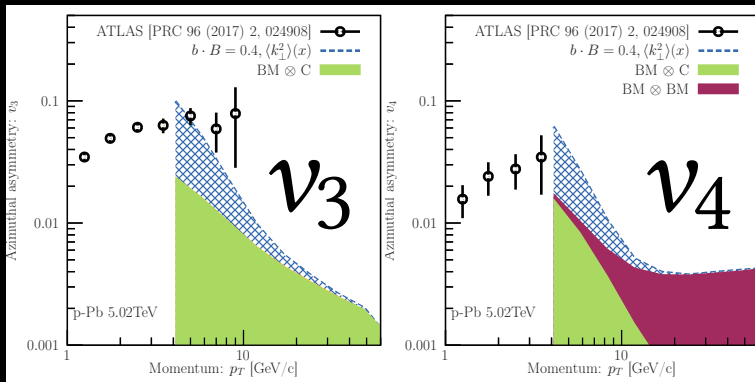


$\text{BM} \otimes \text{C}$



$\text{BM} \otimes \text{BM}$

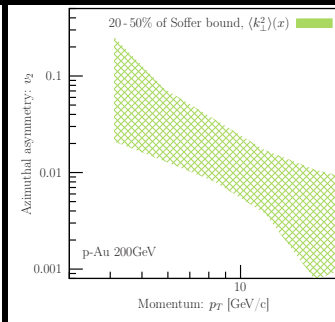
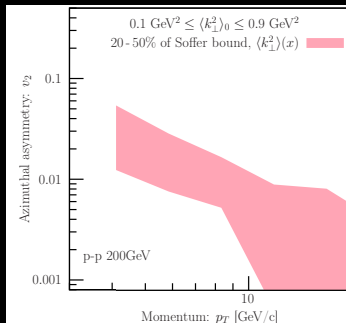
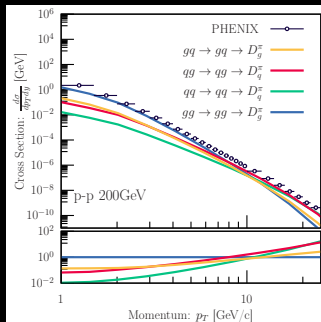
# Higher Harmonics: $v_3$ & $v_4$



Non-zero  $v_3$  and  $v_4$  at high- $p_T$

- » BM  $\otimes$  C important for  $v_3$
- » BM  $\otimes$  BM becomes more important for  $v_4$

# RHIC Predictions



- Quark becomes more important at RHIC
- Contributions from  $\text{BM} \otimes \text{BM}$  for quarks

# Conclusions

- Small systems constitute a unique opportunity to understand hard/soft correlation in the initial state
- Initial state correlations can allow for access to TMDs
- Going beyond simple  $A^{1/3}$  approximation => Compute Spin-Dependent rescatterings