

# Overview of the EIC experimental program

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# Disclaimer and bias disclosure

The content of the talk represent my own, biased opinion. It is not in any way trying to represent anyone other than yours truly.



# The Electron-Ion Collider

- New facility to be located at BNL, partially based on RHIC
- Project started officially in 2020  
Project baseline expected in ~2024  
First collisions expected ~2032

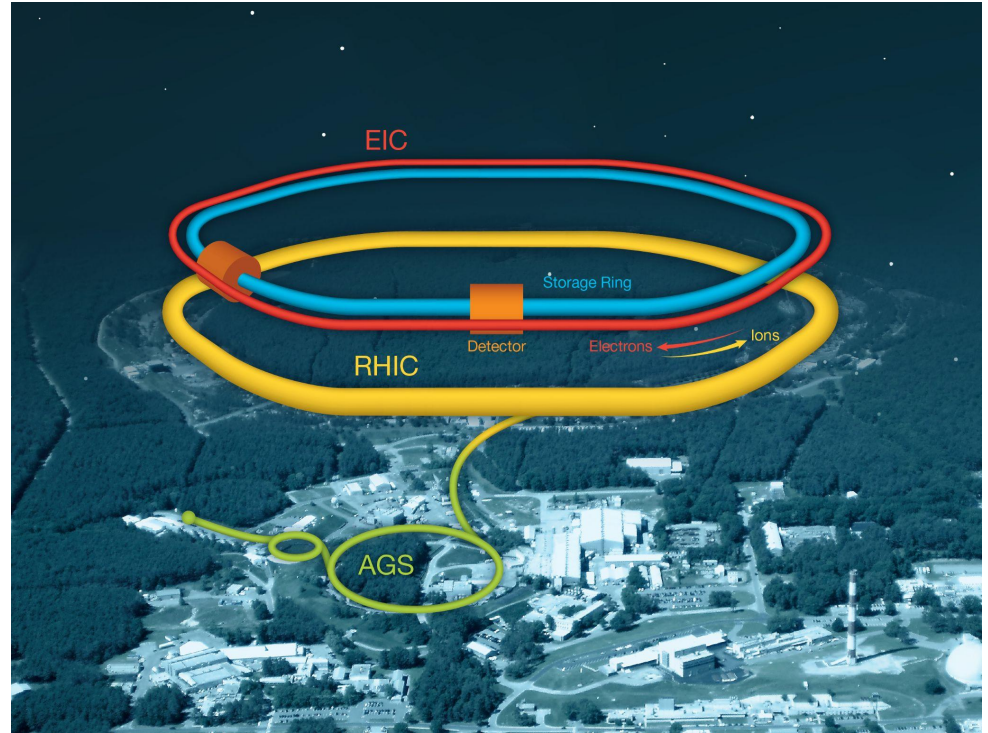
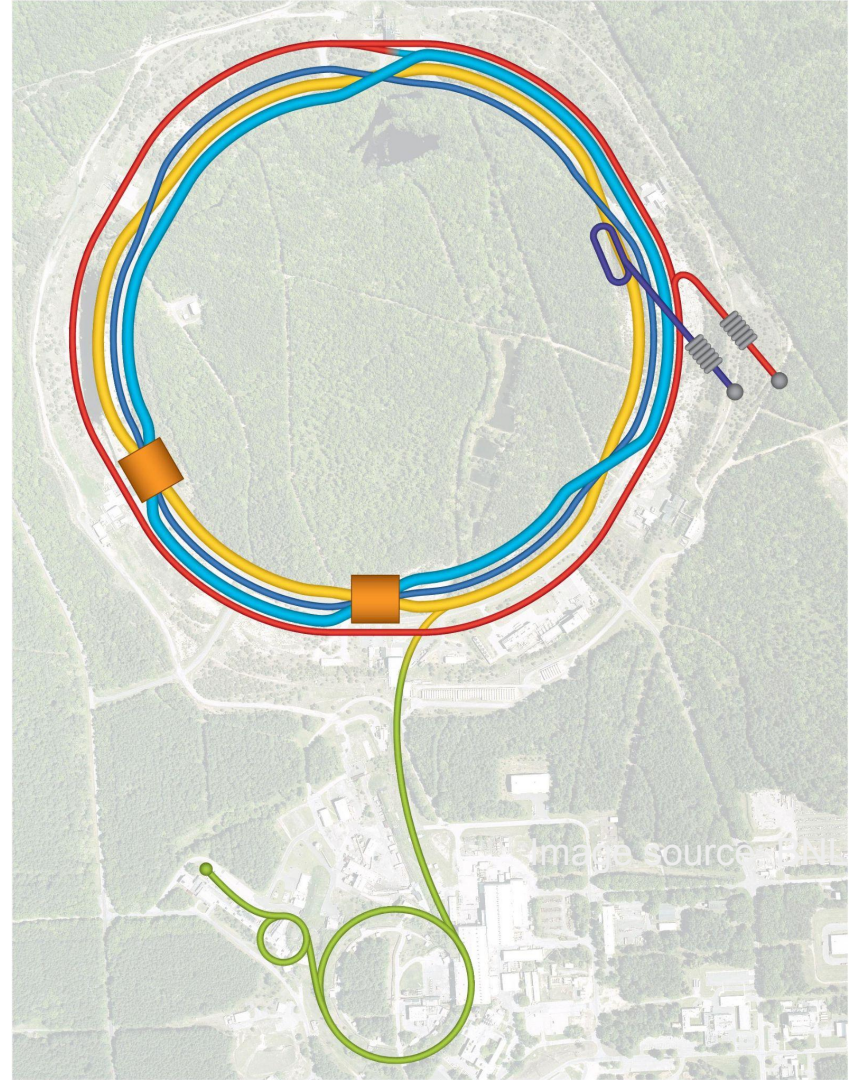


Image source: BNL

## What is unique about EIC?

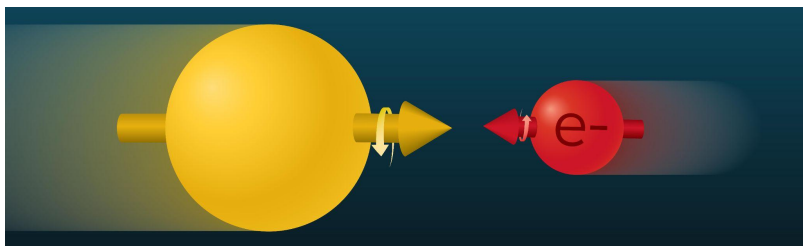
**First-ever accelerator** to yield collisions of **electrons and polarized-protons** (and polarized light ions)

**First-ever accelerator** to yield collisions of **electrons and nuclei**

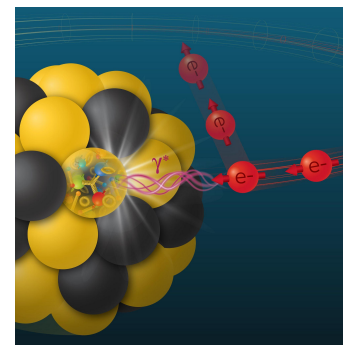


## EIC: the first of its kind.

A high-luminosity (x1000 HERA), high-polarization, precision machine to yield electron-scattering from



Polarized protons (and light ions)  
both longitudinal and transverse



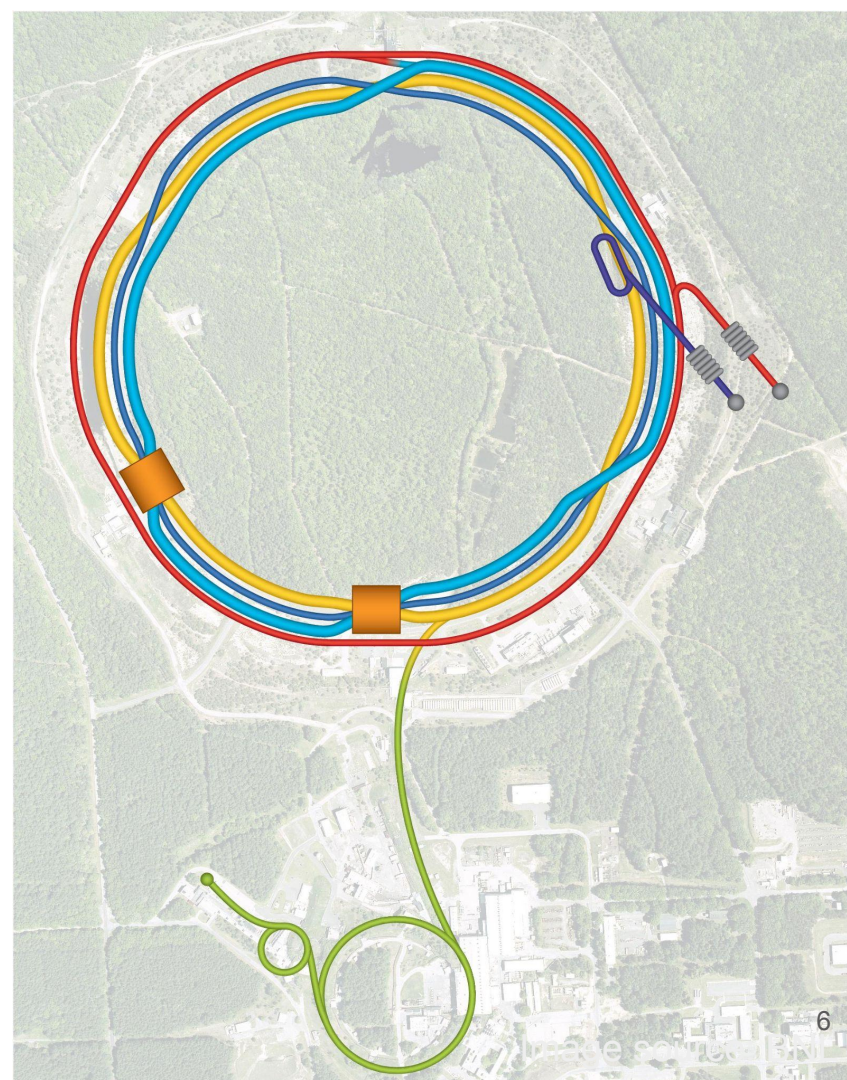
Heavy nuclei  
(including with a wide variety of species)

**With CM energy from 40 to 140 GeV, or 90 GeV for nuclear  
(great leap from fixed-target experiments)**

## Why is interesting?

EIC will be the first collider of its kind,  
so it will offer **great discovery potential**

Most likely, the most-exciting  
discovery will be unexpected.



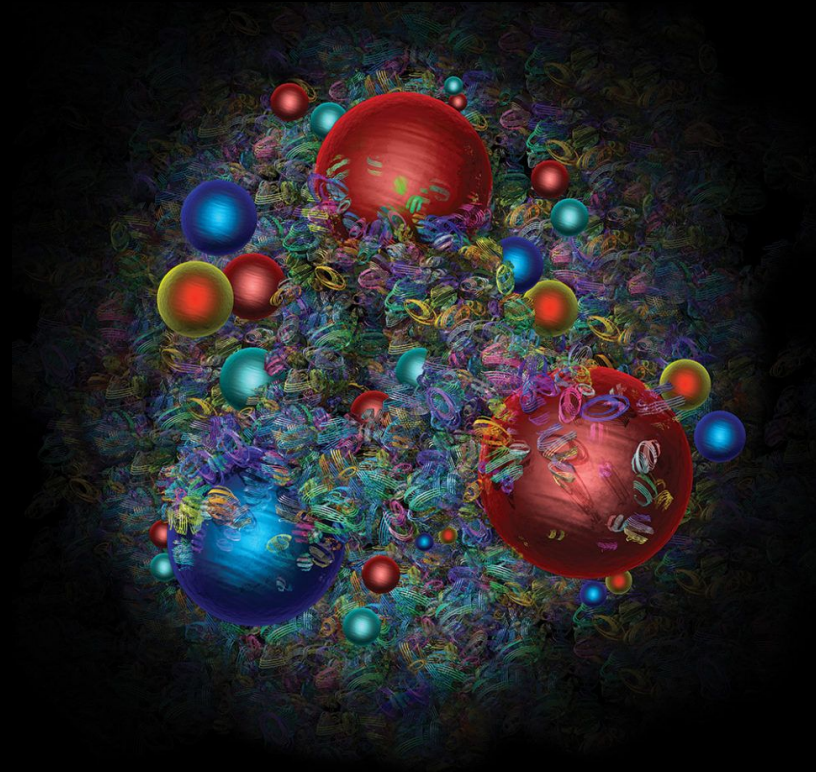
# Official motivation is to address:

- What is the origin of mass?
- What is the origin of the proton spin?
- What are the properties of an ultradense system of gluons?

As detailed in a decade worth of reports:

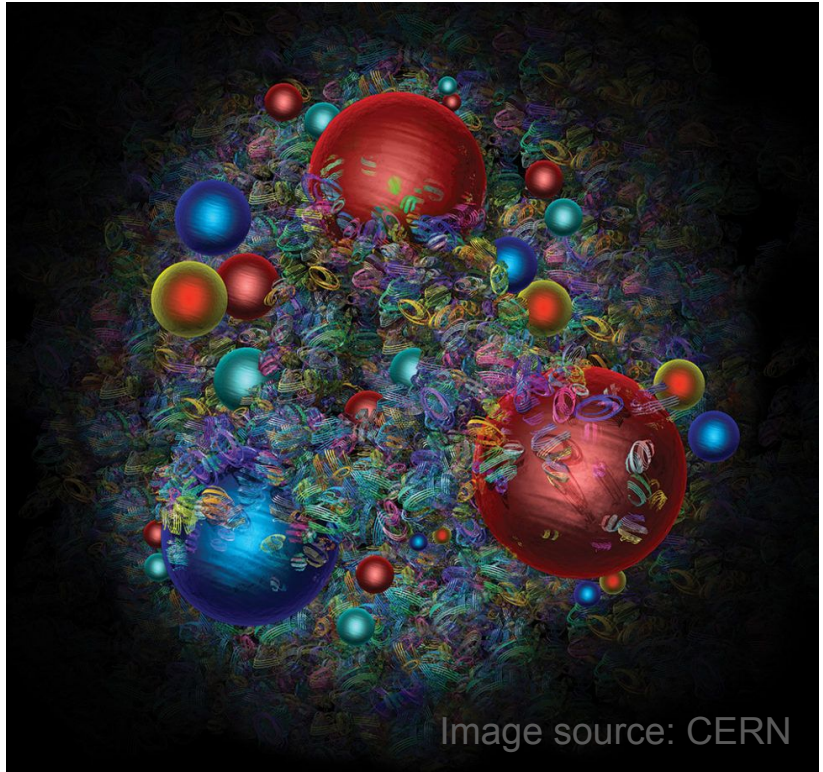
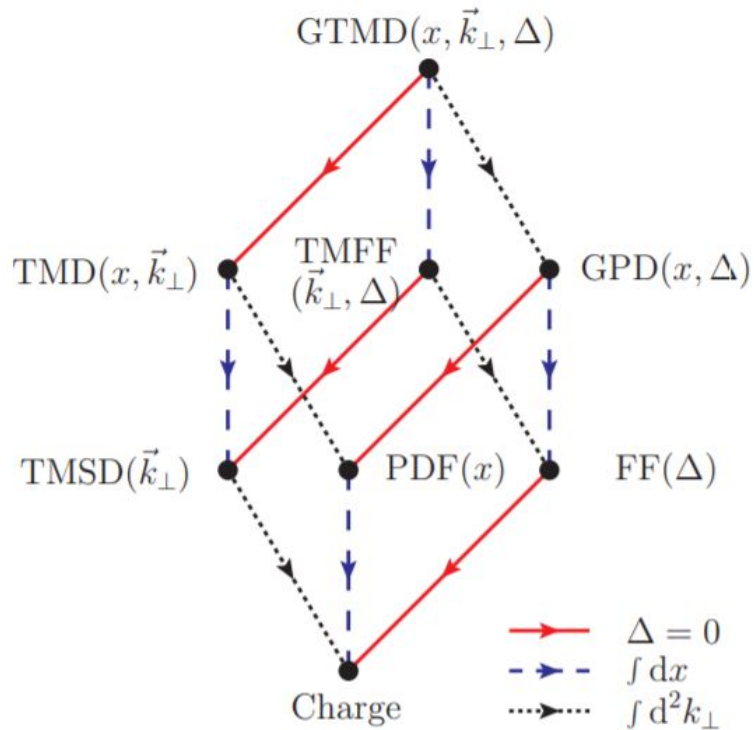


# The EIC will explore

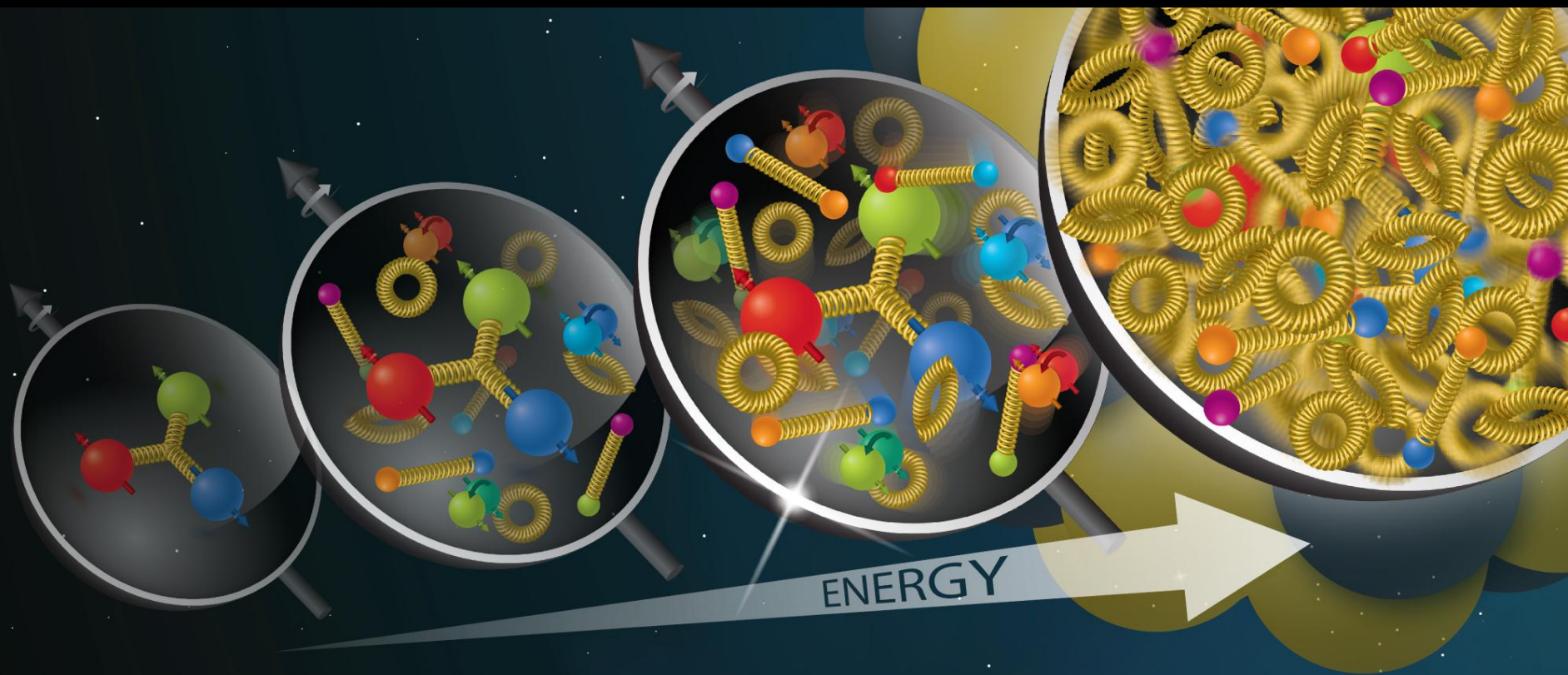




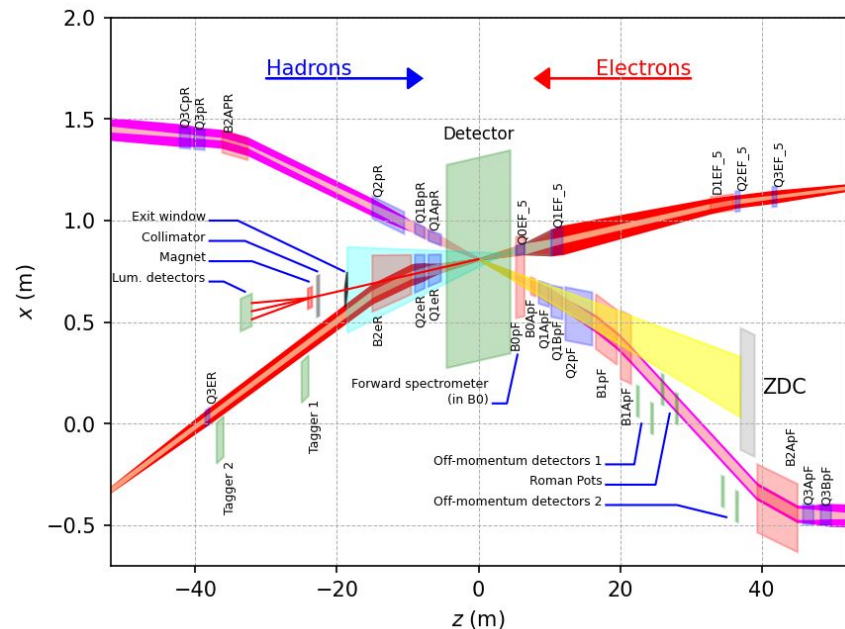
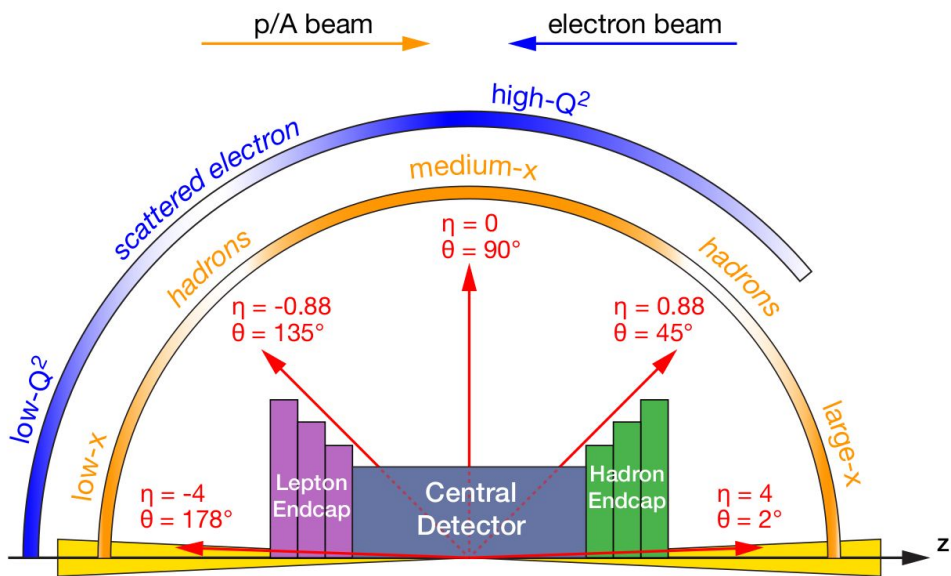
# The EIC will provide a **quantum tomography** of the nucleon (and nuclei)



# The EIC will explore

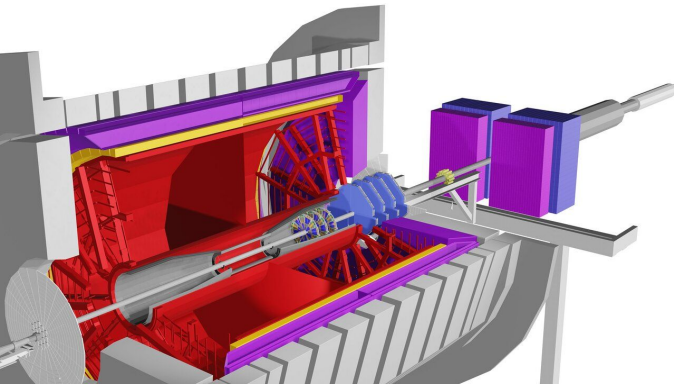


# The physics calls for a $4\pi$ general purpose detector, plus far-forward detectors highly-integrated with accelerator

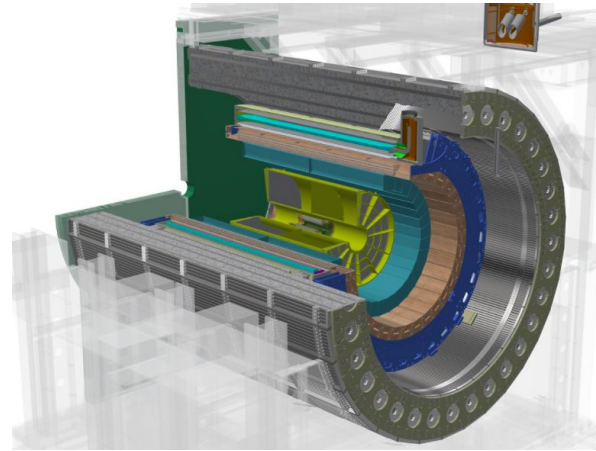


# A “ $4\pi$ detector” is a new concept in the history of “Nuclear Physics”

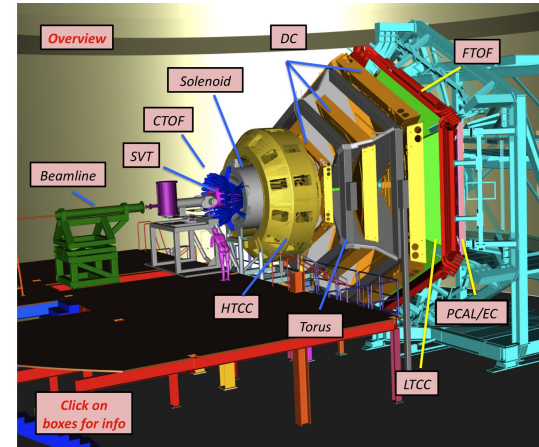
For perspective, look at some running examples at RHIC and JLab



**STAR at BNL (non-hermetic barrel  
+ some forward endcap  
+ far-forward detectors)**



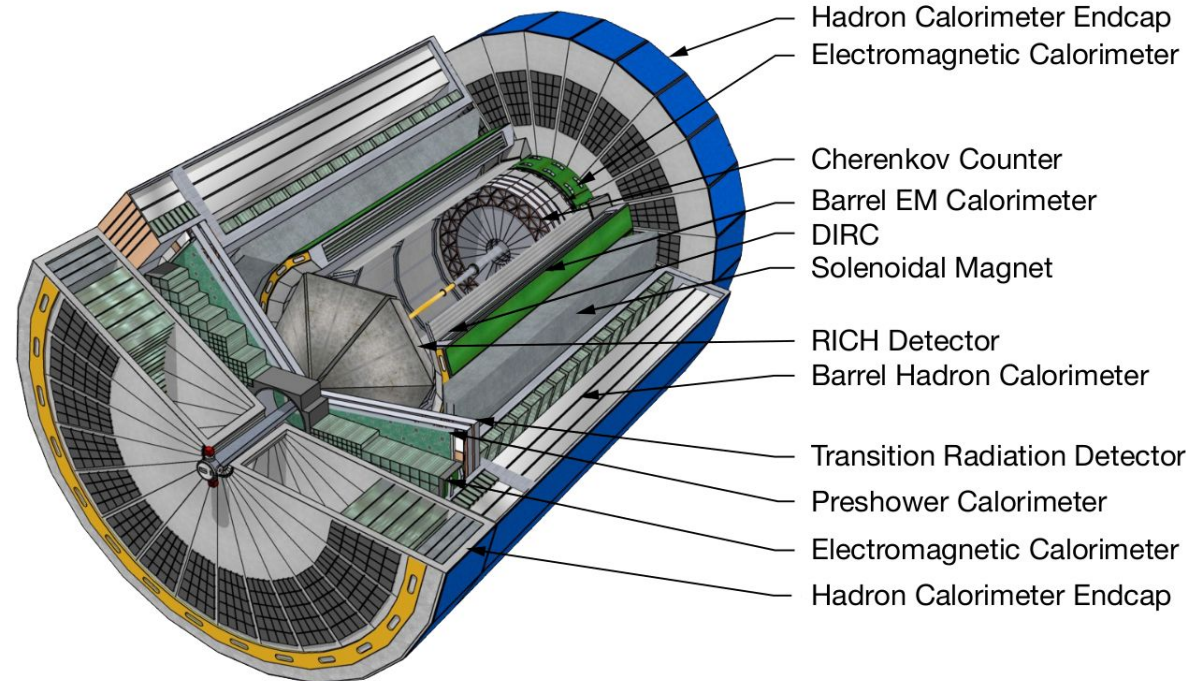
**sPHENIX at BNL  
(hermetic barrel  
+ far-forward detectors)**



**CLAS12 at JLab  
(forward spectrometer)**

# The EIC “central detectors” will look something like

The concept in EIC yellow report:



- After proposal review, plan looks fairly similar in the grand scheme of things. Now called “EPIC”
- Solenoidal magnet ~1.5 T (maybe up to ~2.0 T) with bore diameter of ~2.8 m

# The EIC “far-forward detectors” will look something like:

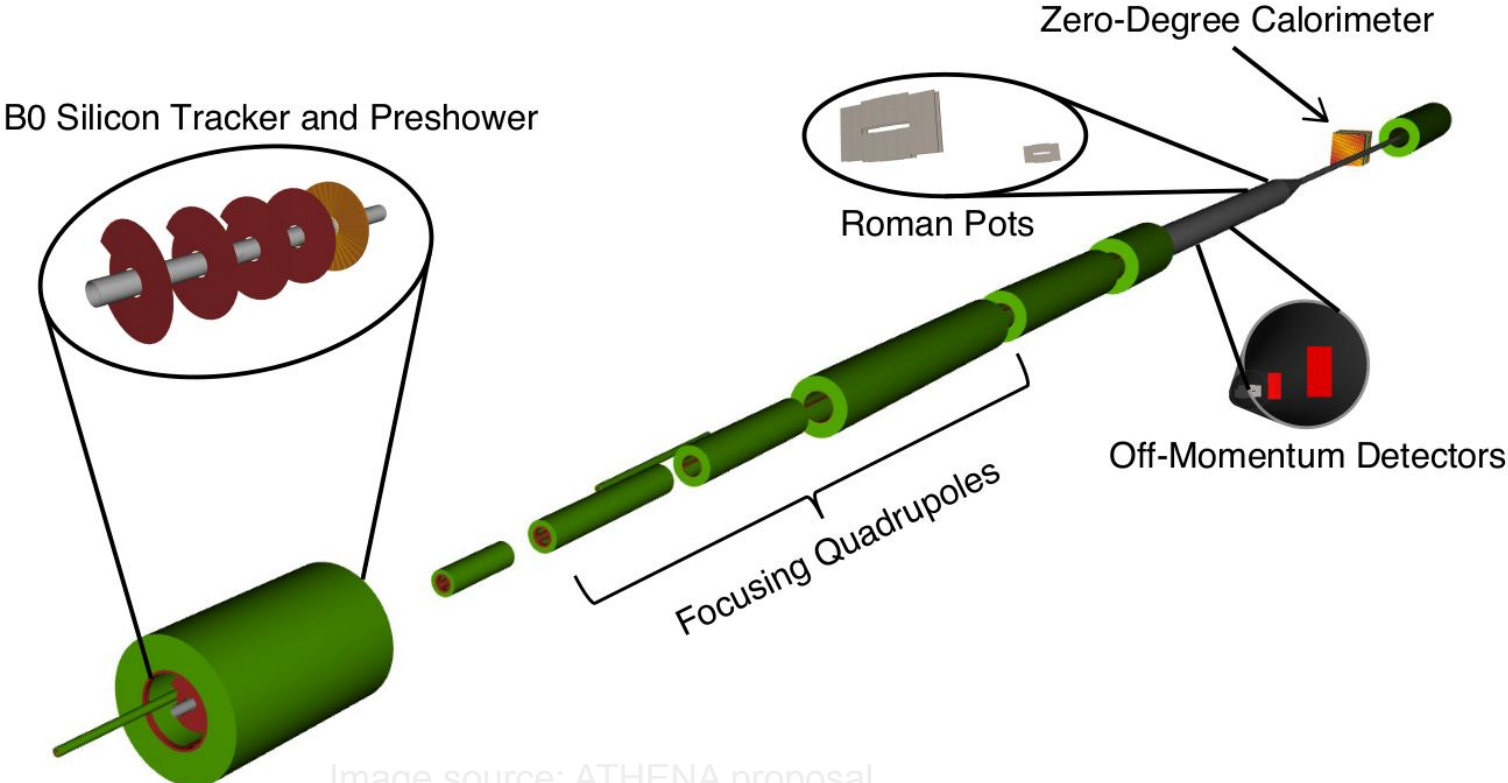
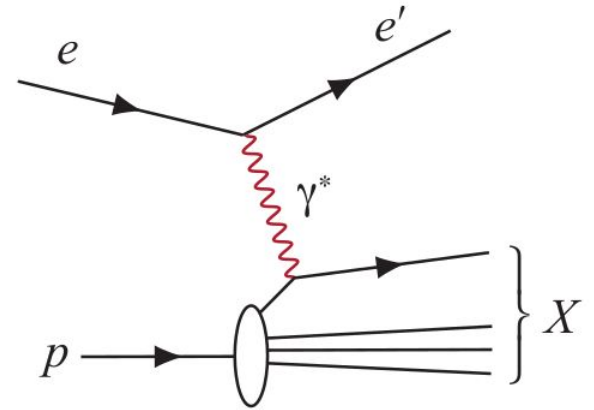


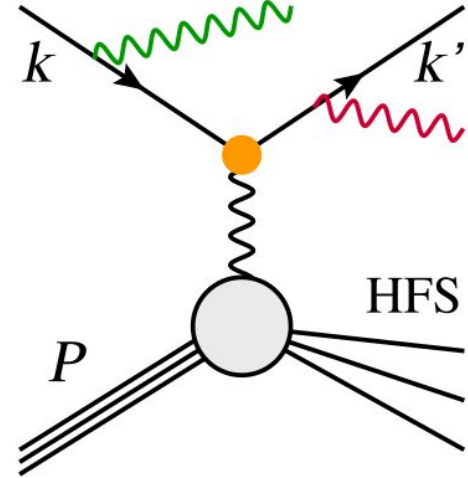
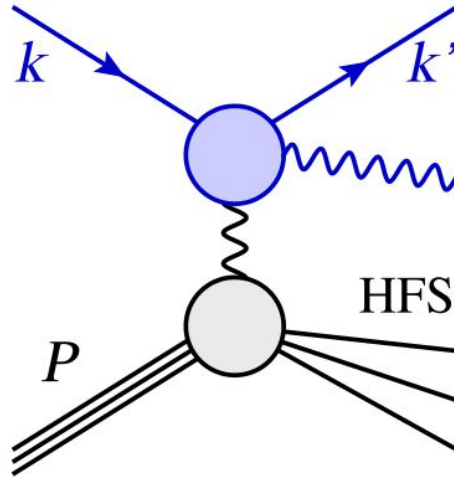
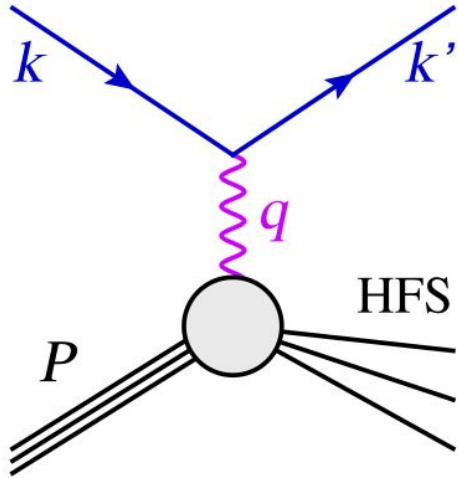
Image source: ATHENA proposal

**Neutral-current Inclusive DIS:**  $e + p/A \rightarrow e' + X$ ;  
for this process, it is essential to detect the scattered electron,  $e'$ , with high precision. All other final state particles ( $X$ ) are ignored. The scattered electron is critical for all processes to determine the event kinematics.



Source: EIC YR

# But QED radiation...

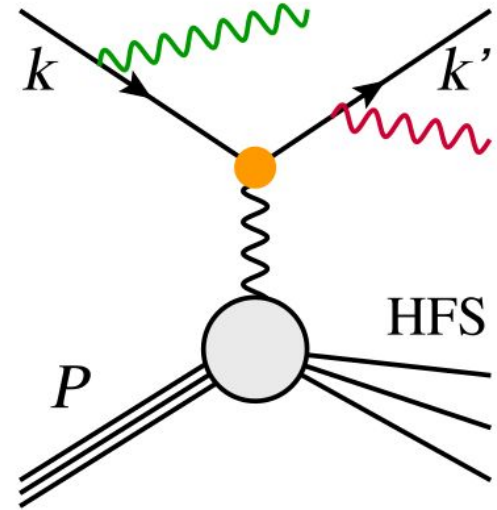




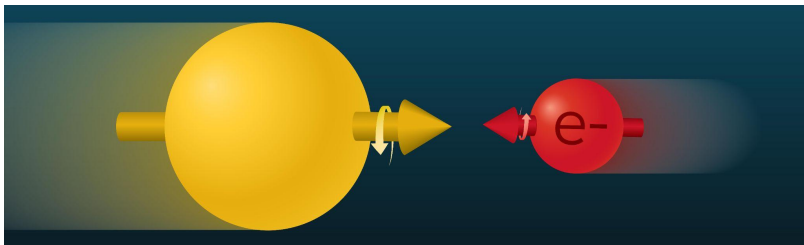
## What we will most likely actually do

**Neutral-current Inclusive DIS:**  $e + p/A \rightarrow e' + X$ ;  
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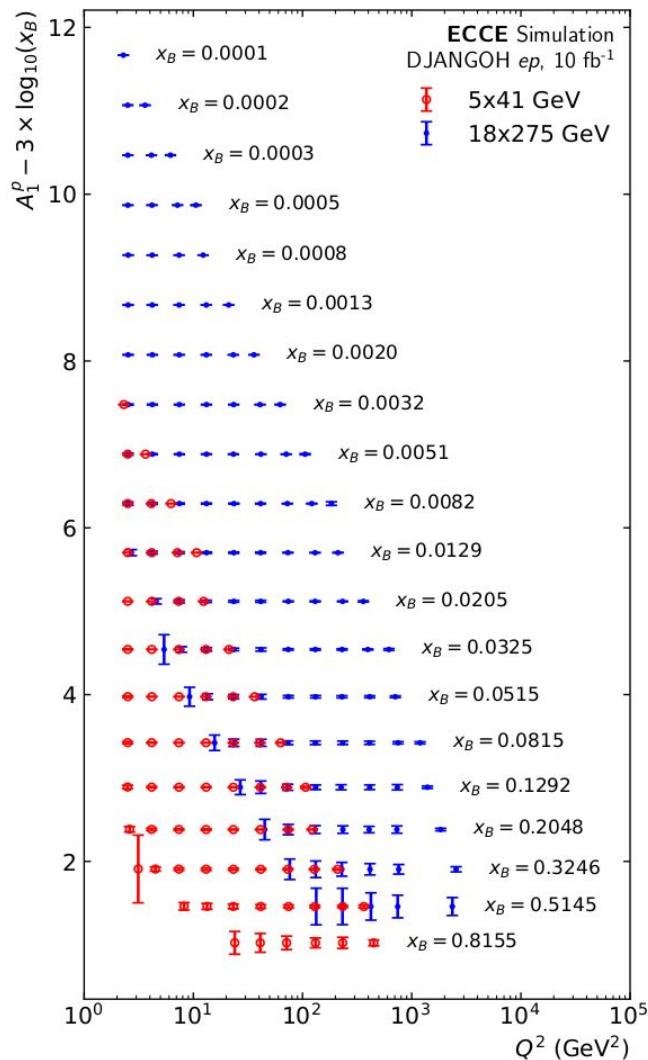
**used to constrain QED radiation via missing-energy measurements (using Bayesian “kinematic fit” or AI/ML methods)**



# Double-helicity asymmetry On DIS off proton and light nuclei

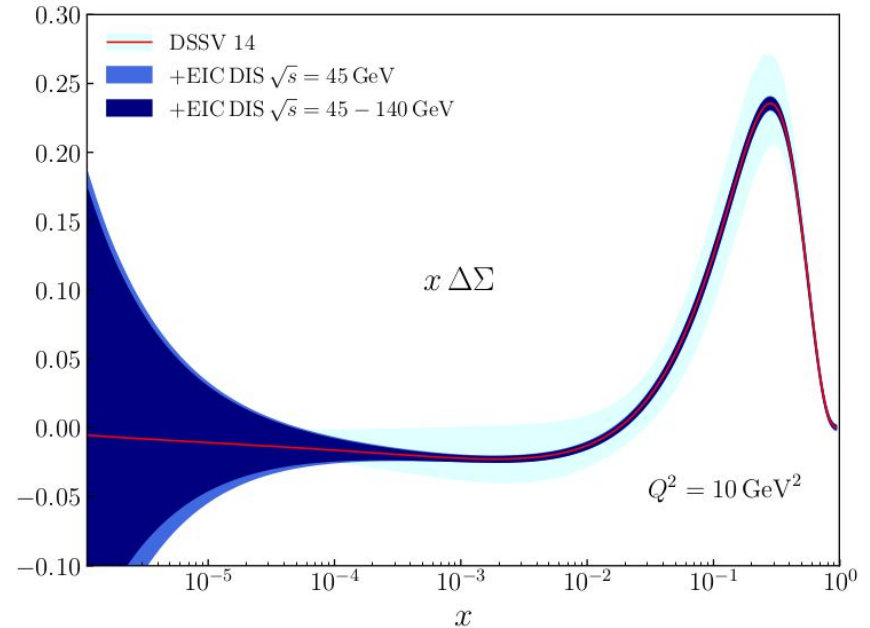
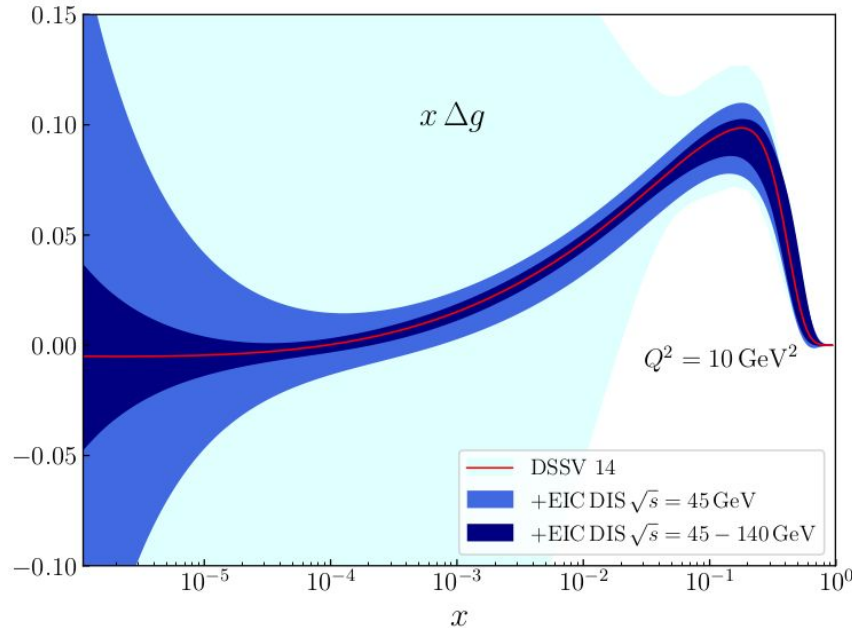


Source: BNL



Source: ECCE  
proposal

# Impact on gluon and quark helicity PDFs



Source: EIC YR

Will be precise enough to constrain possible “orbital angular momentum” indirectly

**Semi-inclusive DIS:**  $e + p/A \longrightarrow e' + h^{\pm,0} + X$ , which requires measurement of *at least one* identified hadron in coincidence with the scattered electron.

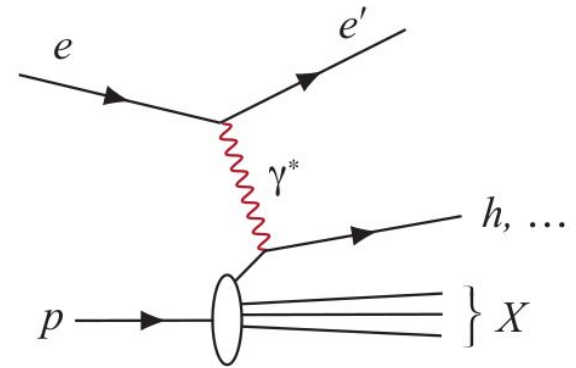
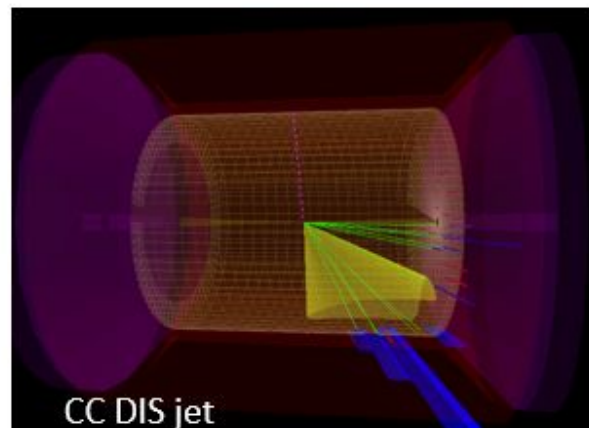
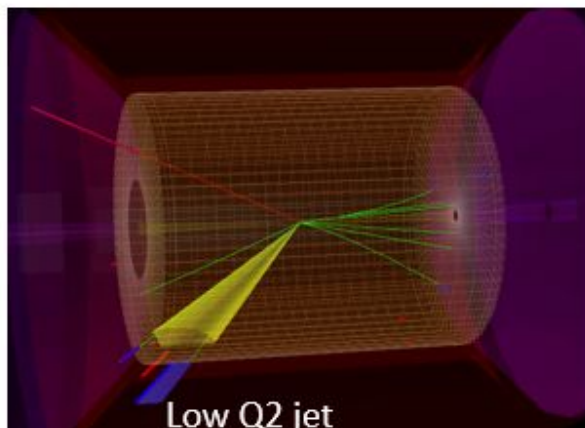
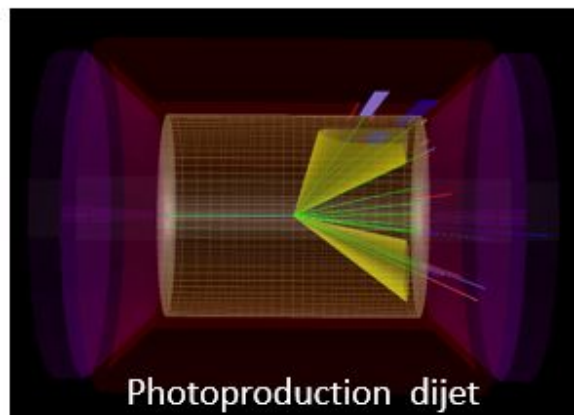
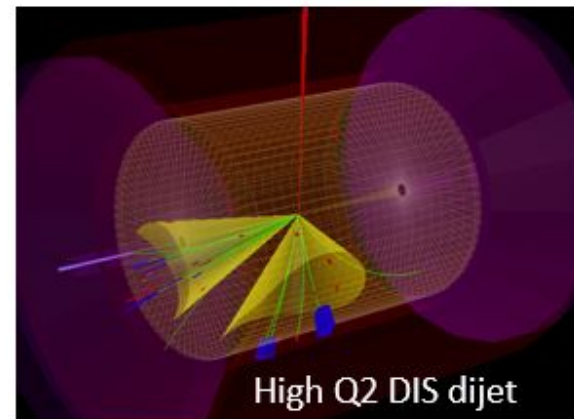
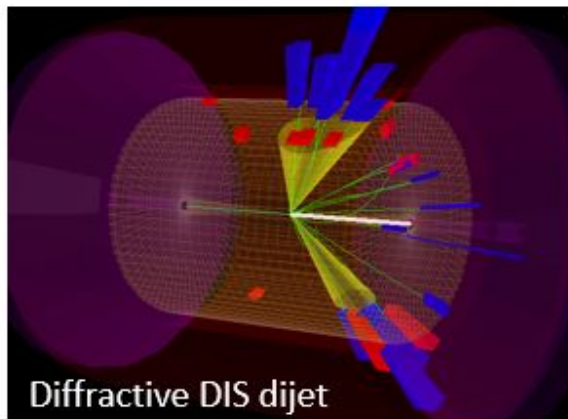
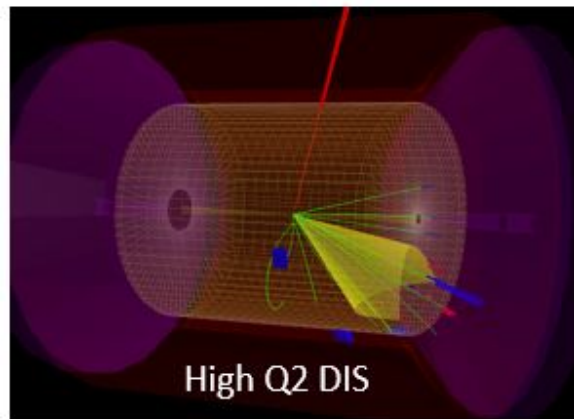


Image source: EIC YR

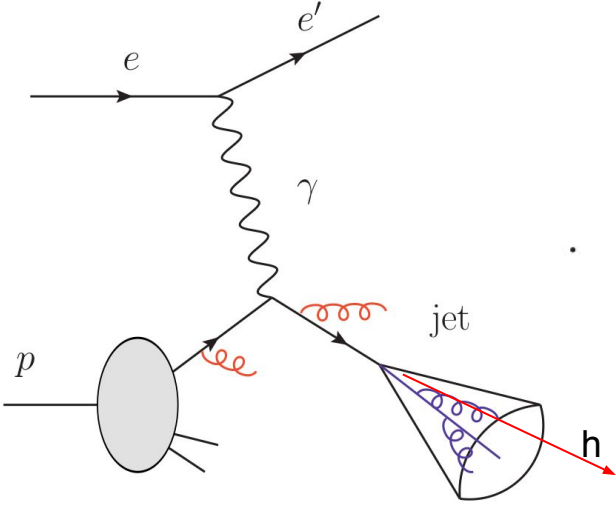
# The EIC, a jet factory, will make the first jets in nuclear DIS and proton-polarized DIS



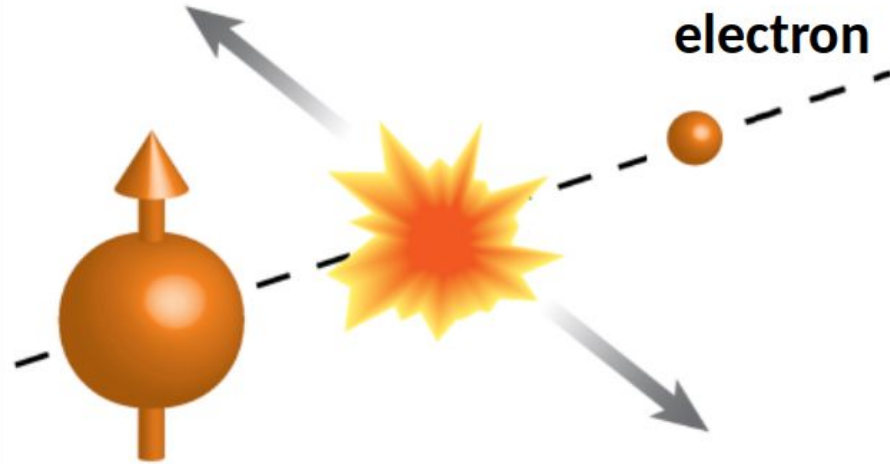
# What we will most likely actually do

$$e + p/A \longrightarrow e' + \mathbf{+h (in jet) + X}$$

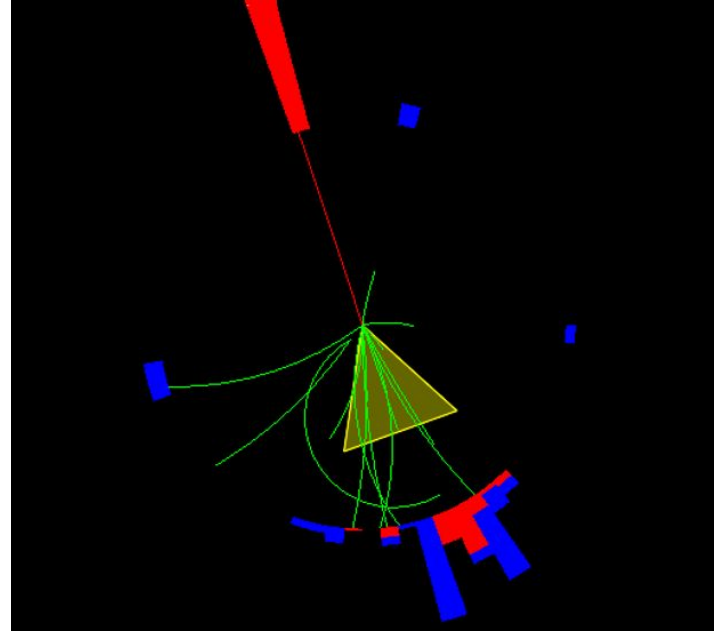
**Semi-inclusive DIS:**  $e + p/A \longrightarrow e' + h^{\pm,0} + X$ , which requires measurement of *at least one* identified hadron in coincidence with the scattered electron. **and a jet**



# Spin-induced azimuthal asymmetries

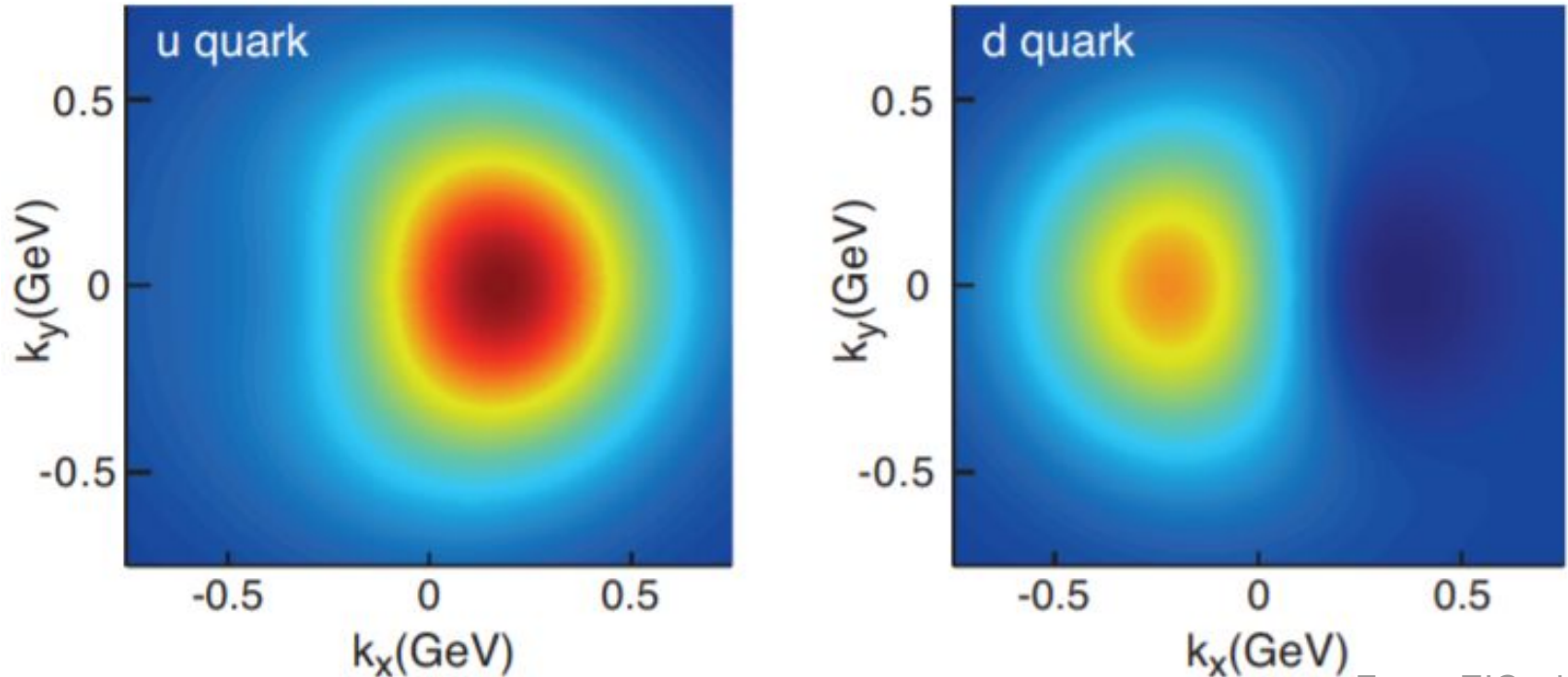


Transversely-polarized proton



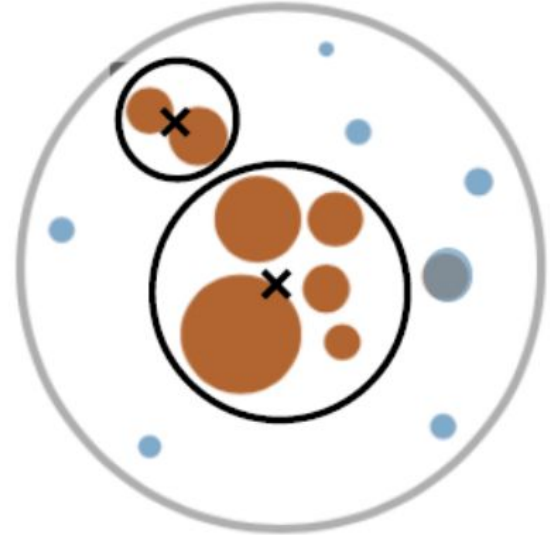
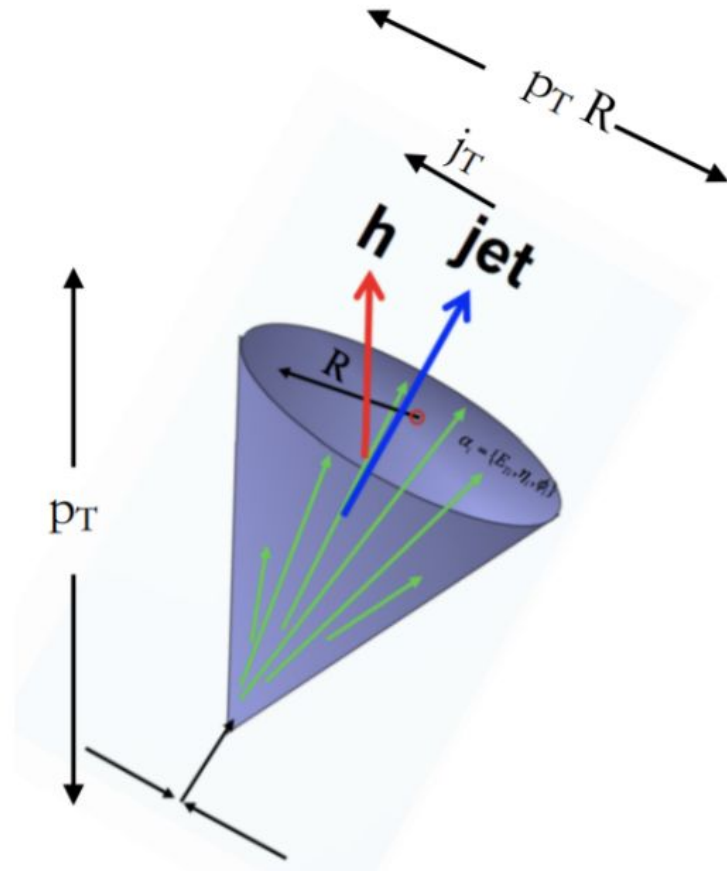
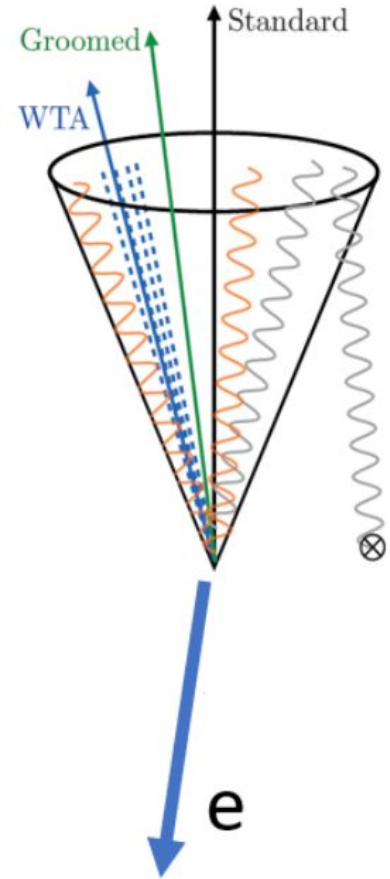
The asymmetry strength reflects a correlation between proton spin and quark momentum, “Sivers function”

$$x f_1(x, k_T, S_T)$$



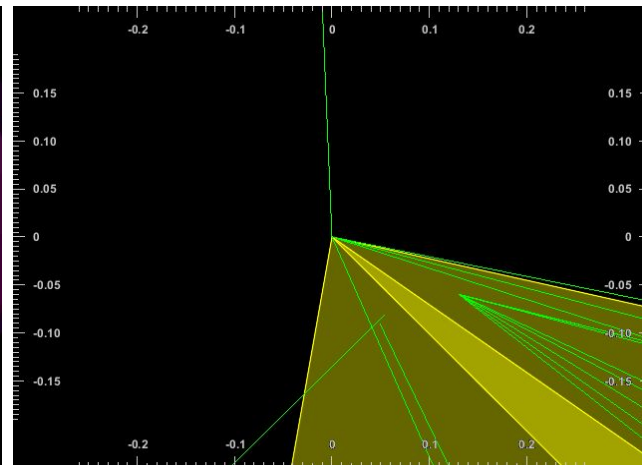
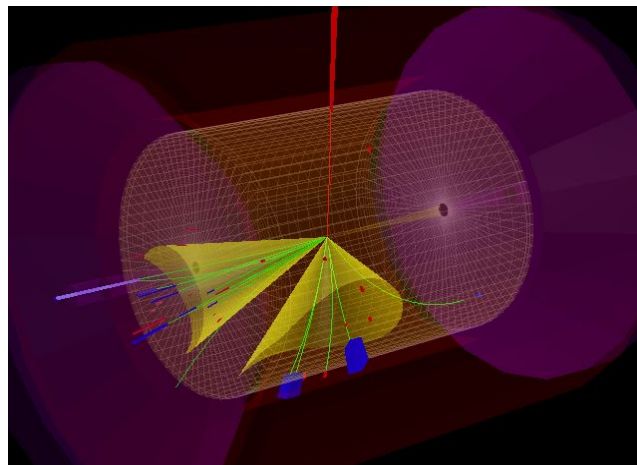
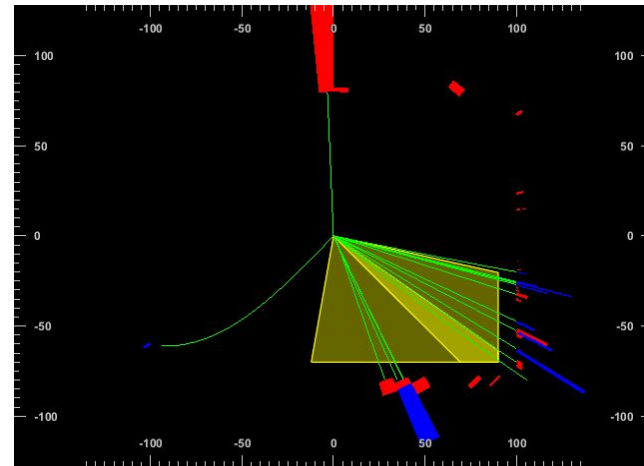
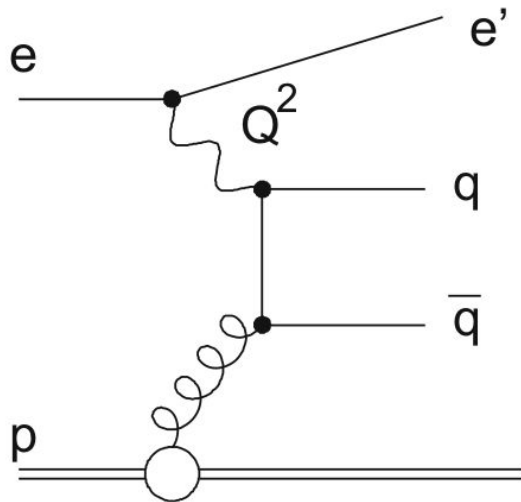


# Jets have rich substructure, which encodes rich TMD dynamics



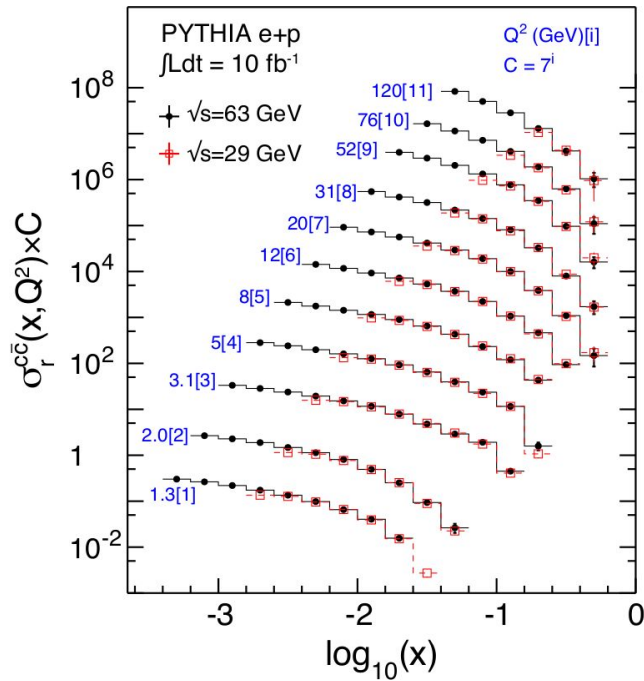
# Heavy flavour

Via vertexing and PID

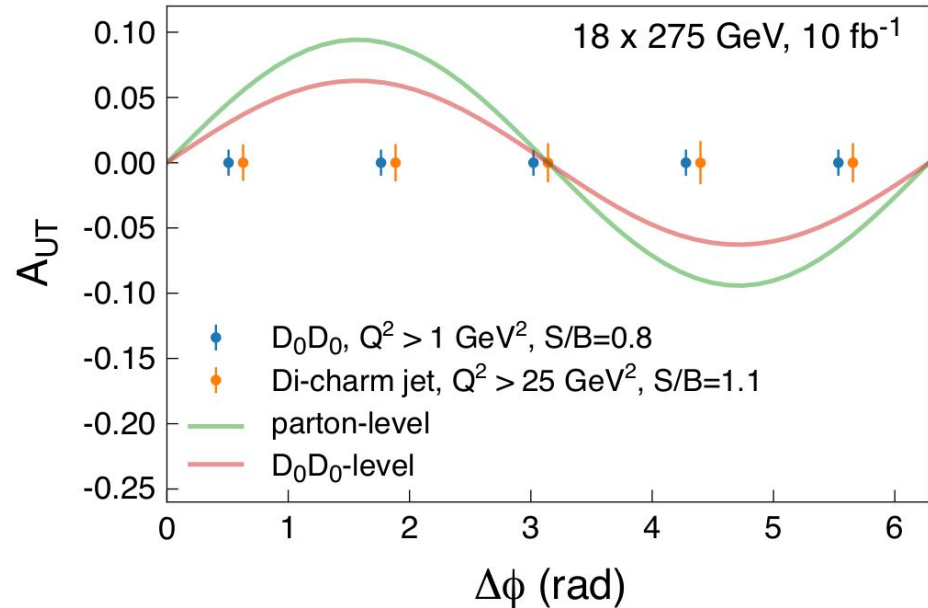


**To explore:**  
**gluon PDFs** (very poorly known in nuclei)  
**and gluon TMDs** (essentially unknown)

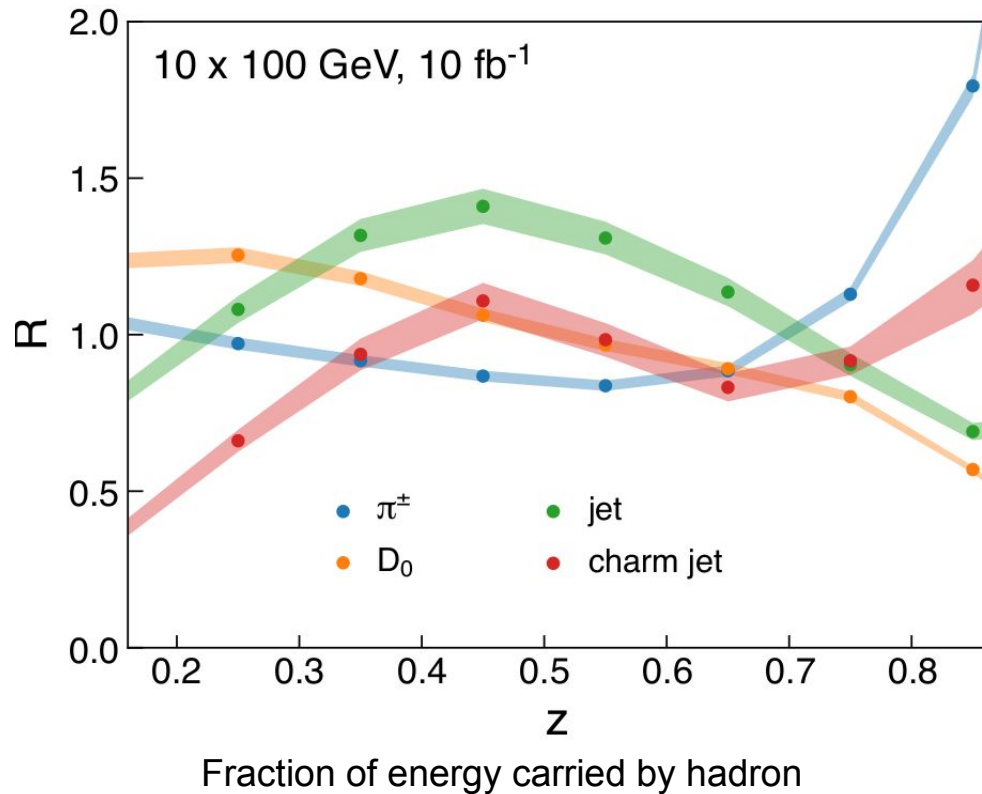
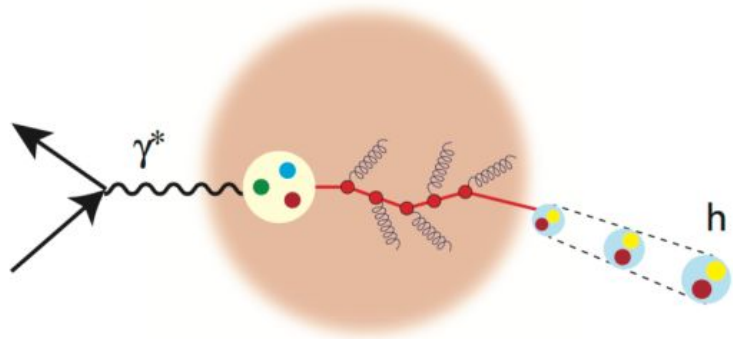
Cross-section for gluon PDFs



Transverse-spin asymmetry for gluon TMD



# To answer: How does the nucleus react to a fast quark?



**Exclusive DIS:**  $e + p/A \longrightarrow e' + p'/A' + \gamma/h^{\pm,0}/VM$ , which require the measurement of *all* particles in the event with high precision.

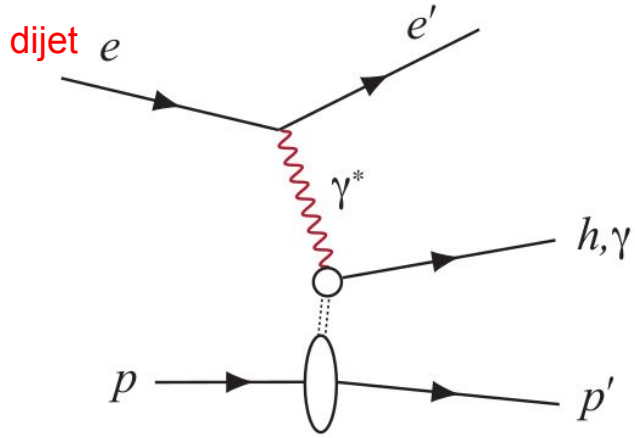


Image source: EIC YR

# Real photon or meson production to measure density profile of quarks and gluons in momentum space

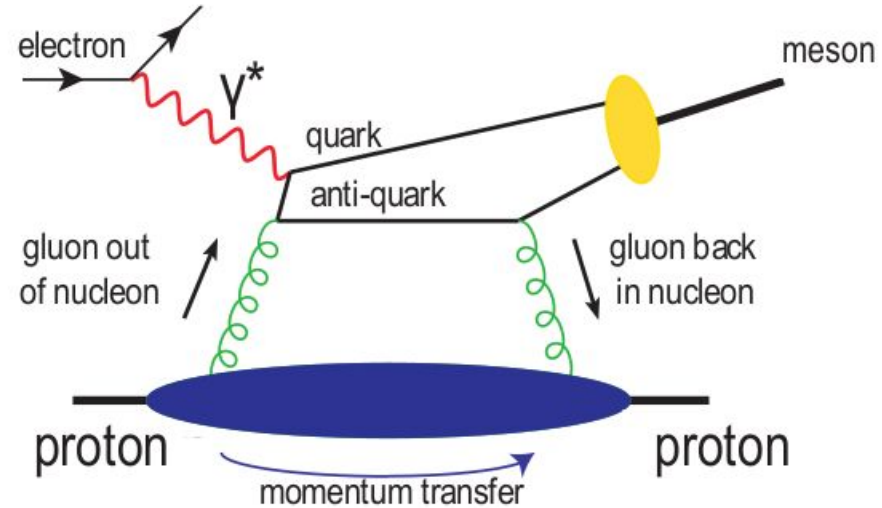
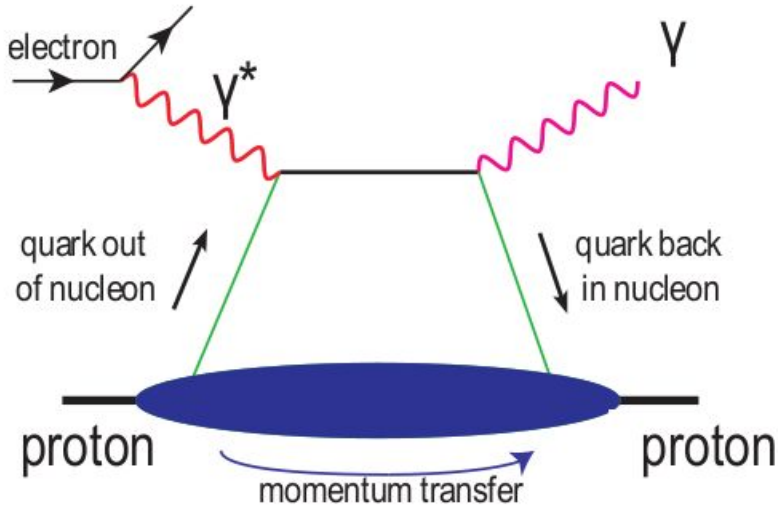
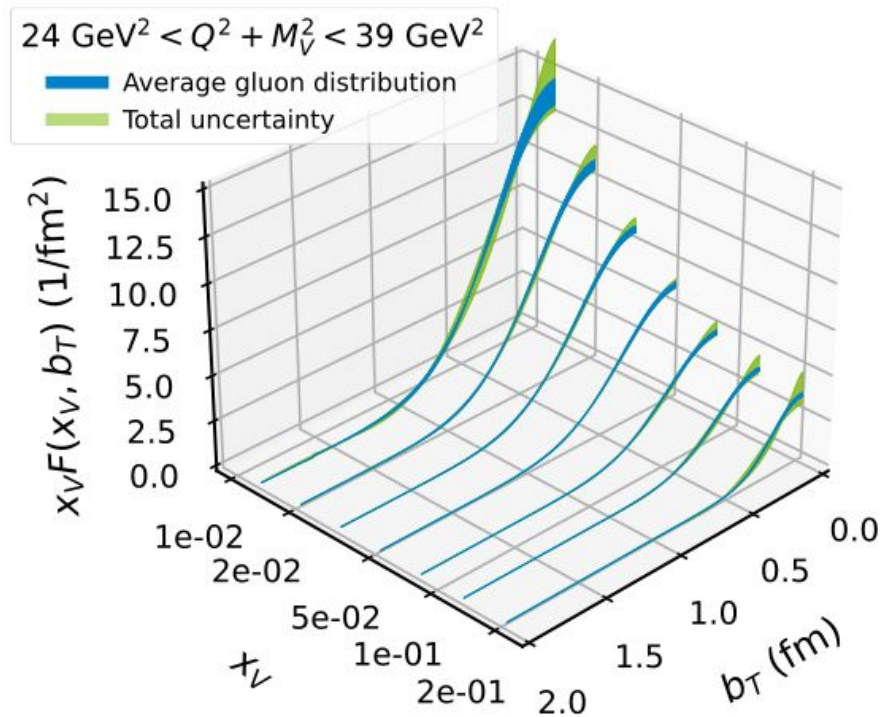
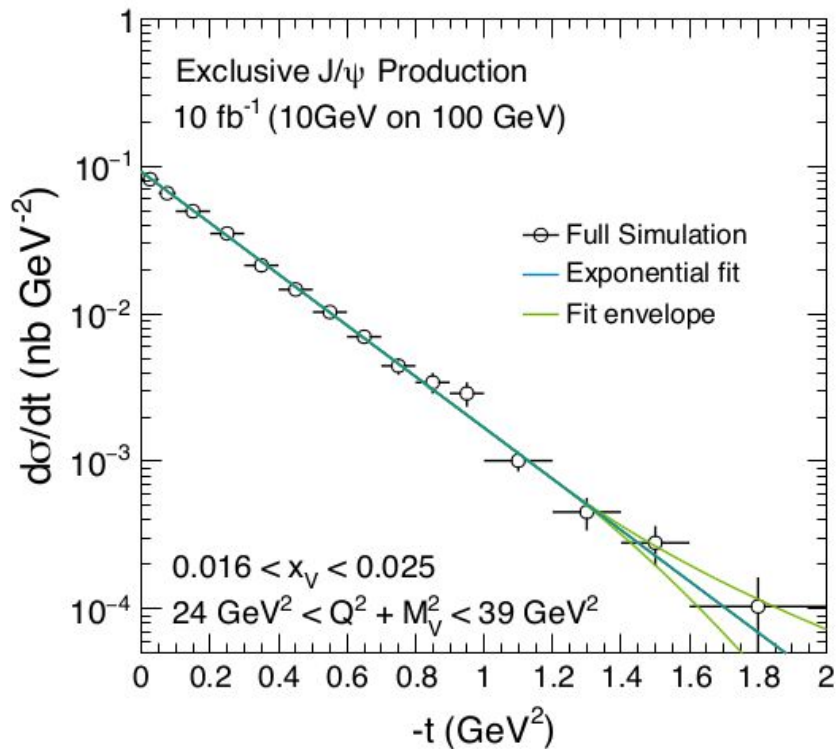


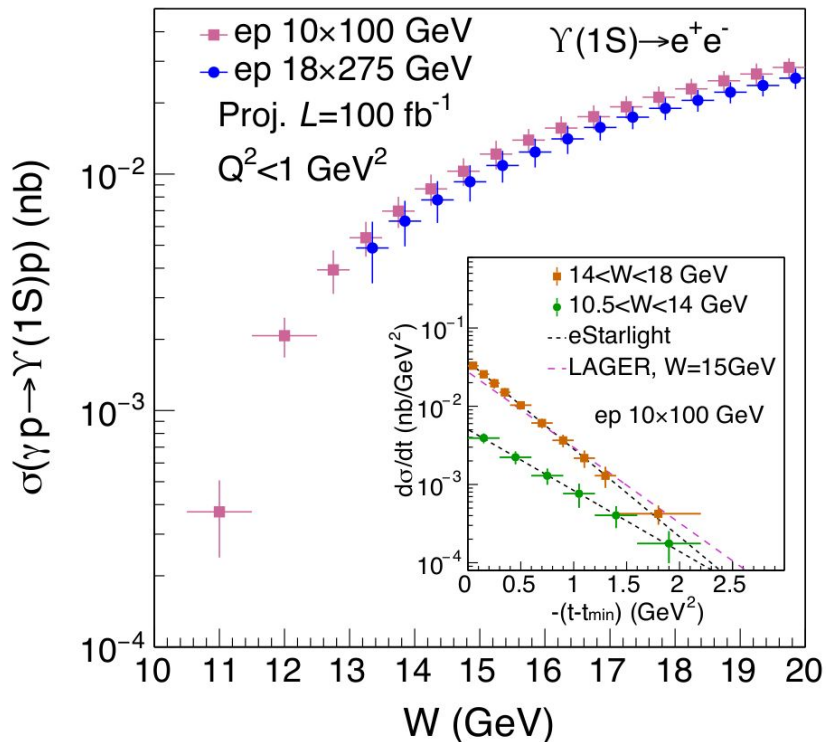
Image source: NAS

Photon (meson) detected in coincidence with far-forward proton

# From Fourier transform to momentum-transfer distribution yields density profile in impact parameter



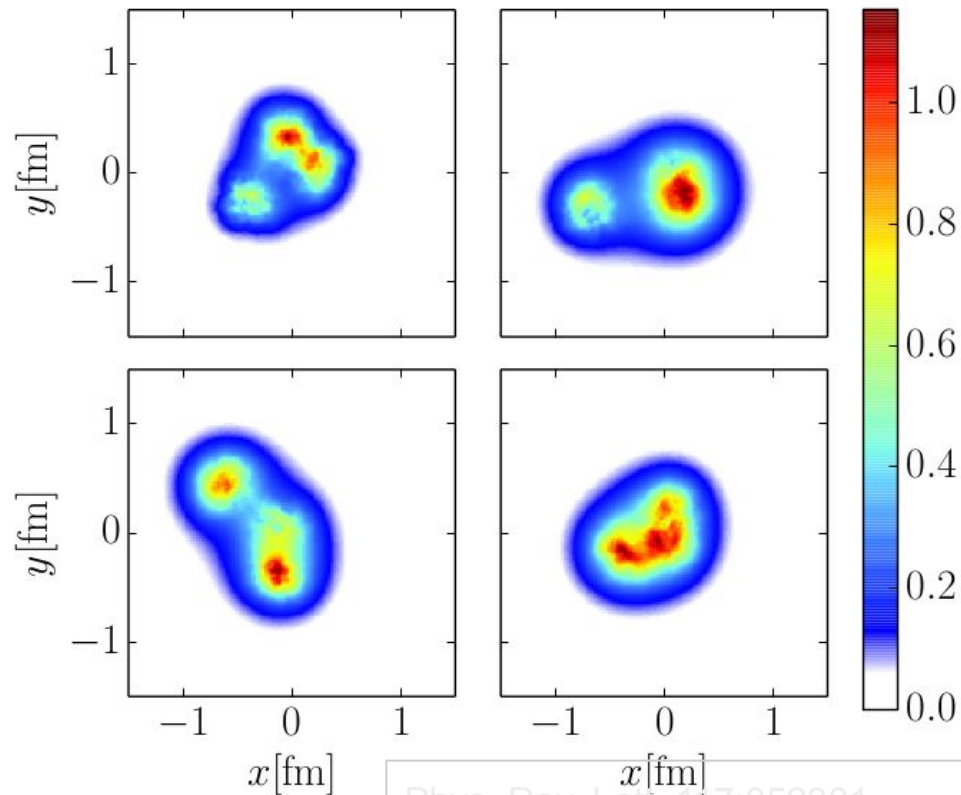
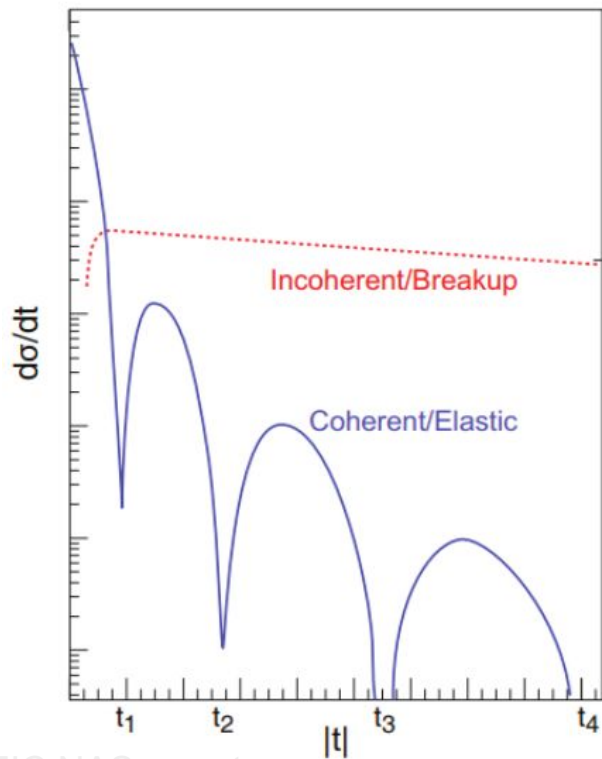
# Quarkonia measurements at threshold sensitive to “trace anomaly”



Which might be linked to  
“Gravitational form factors”  
And thus “origin of mass”



# Exclusive meson production on nuclei to probe gluon density and its fluctuations (key for saturation searches)



# Summary

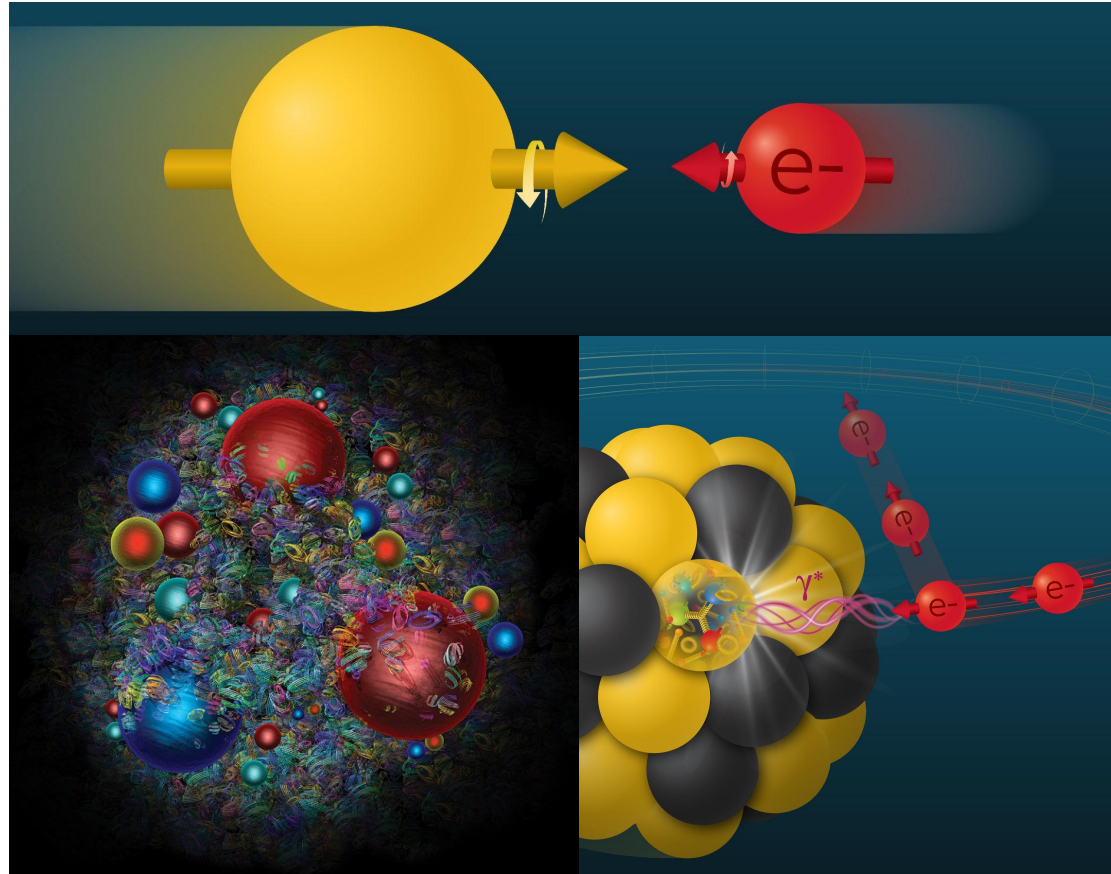
The EIC experimental program will be enabled by  $4\pi$  general-purpose detectors to measure nearly all particles measured in various types of reactions.

The program will begin centred on to key thrusts:

- Quantum tomography
- Searches for saturated-gluon matter

With a multipronged effort with various

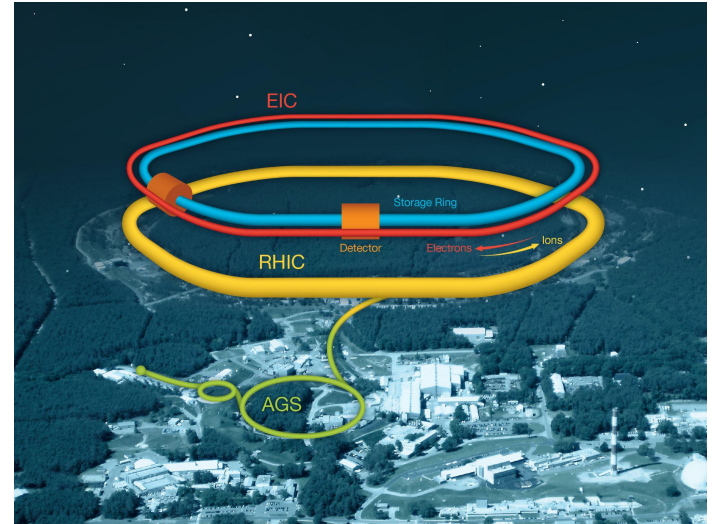
- observables
- beam species
- reaction types



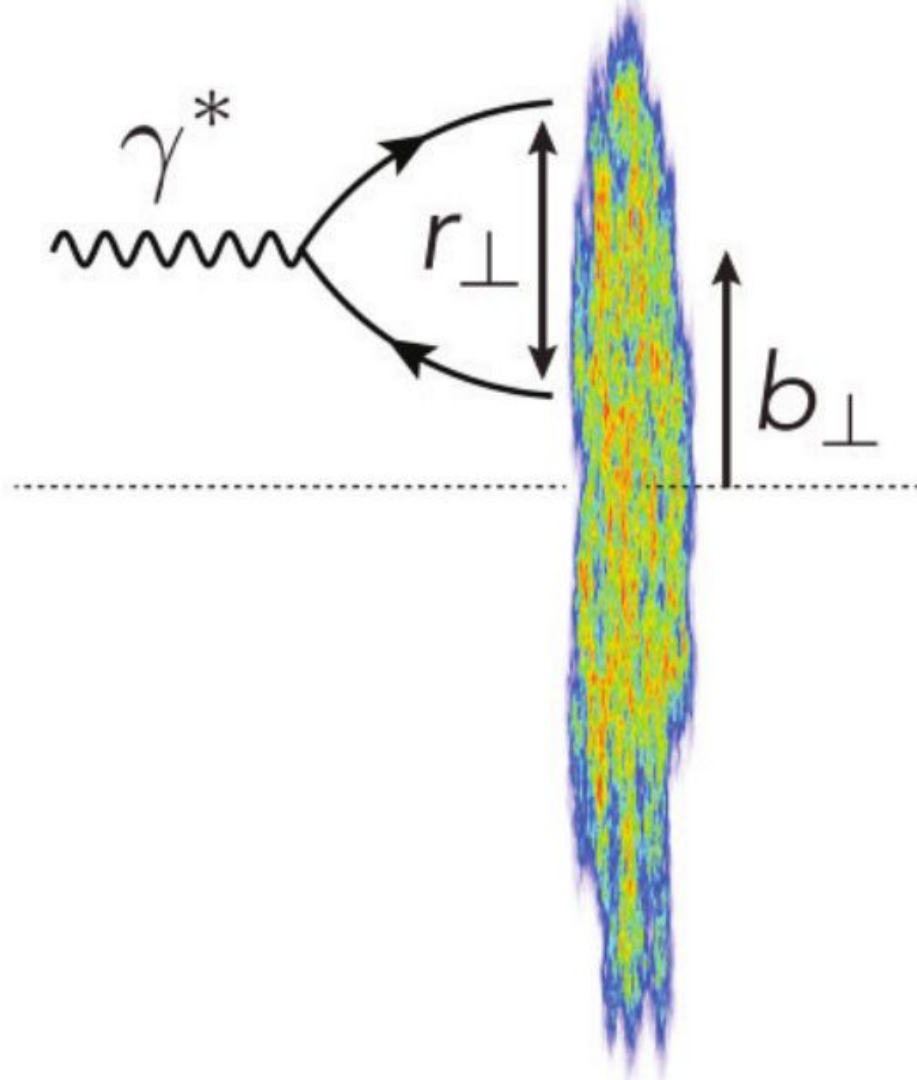
# Final words

EIC: a new collider in American soil, with great discovery potential, which will run at least until the 2050s

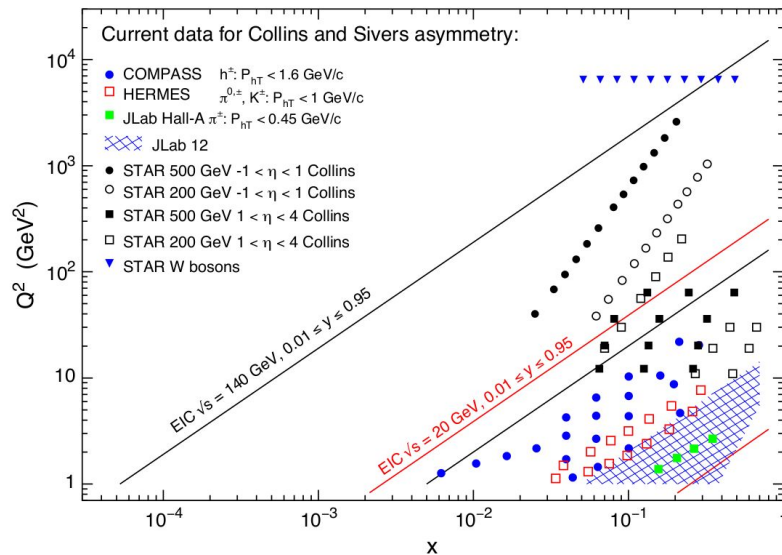
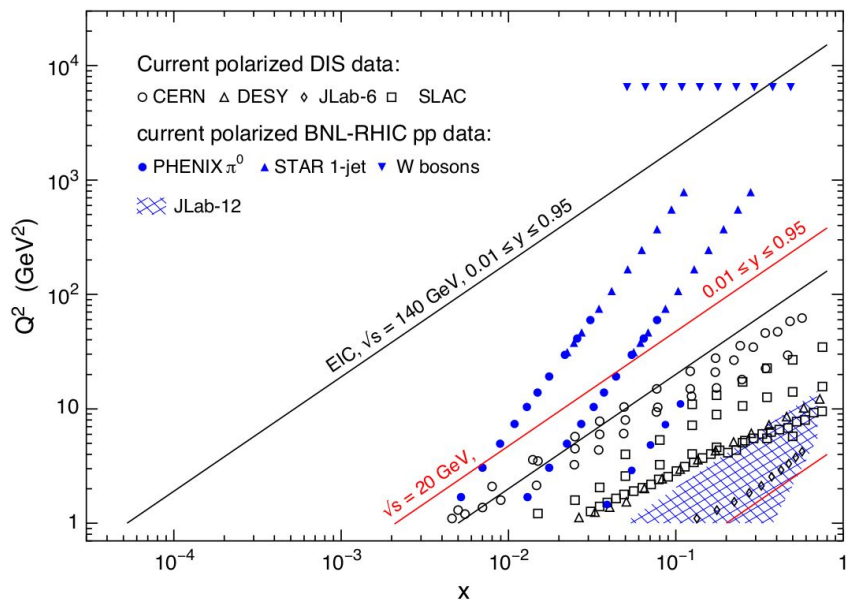
Plenty of opportunities for HEP people to migrate to EIC!  
Come join us, the future is bright



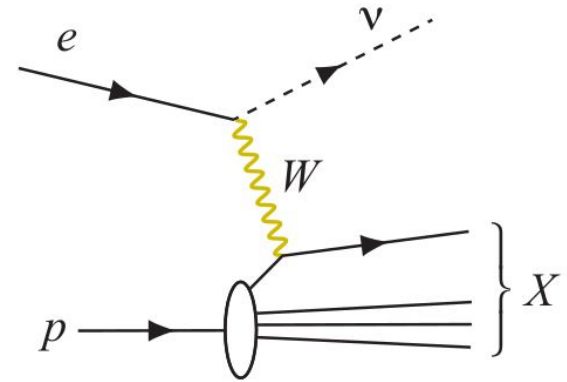
# Backup



# Pushing the envelope in polarized deep-inelastic scattering



**Charged-current Inclusive DIS:**  $e + p/A \rightarrow \nu + X$ ;  
at high enough momentum transfer  $Q^2$ , the electron-quark interaction is mediated by the exchange of a  $W^\pm$  gauge boson instead of the virtual photon. In this case the event kinematic cannot be reconstructed from the scattered electron, but needs to be reconstructed from the final state particles.



# “Gluon saturation” searches at low x

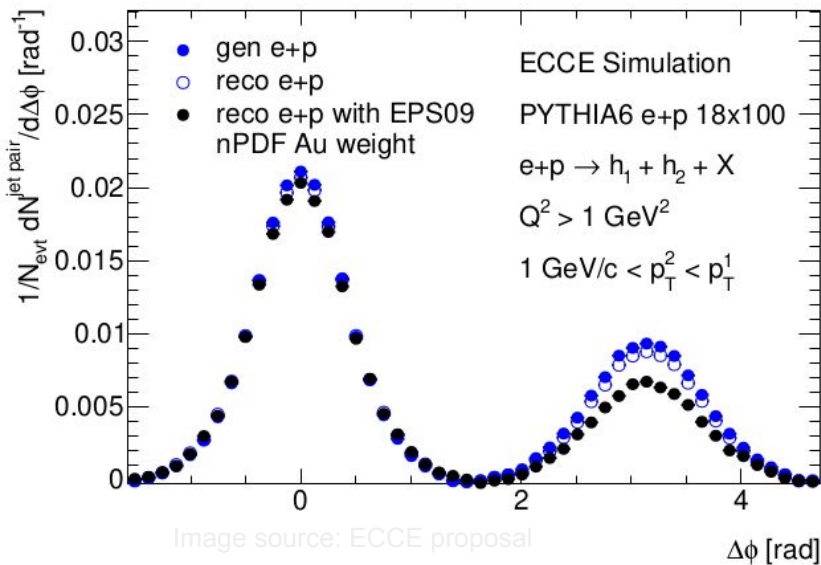
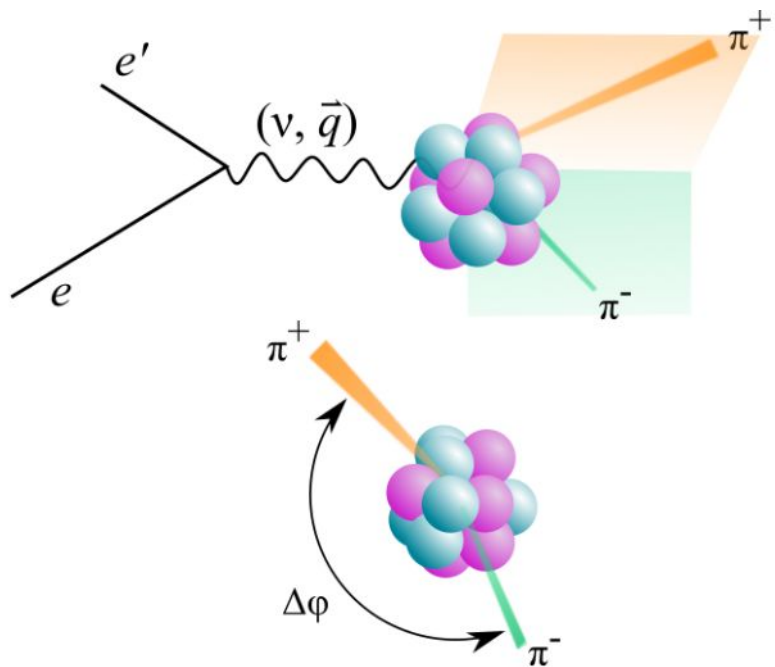


Image source: ECCE proposal

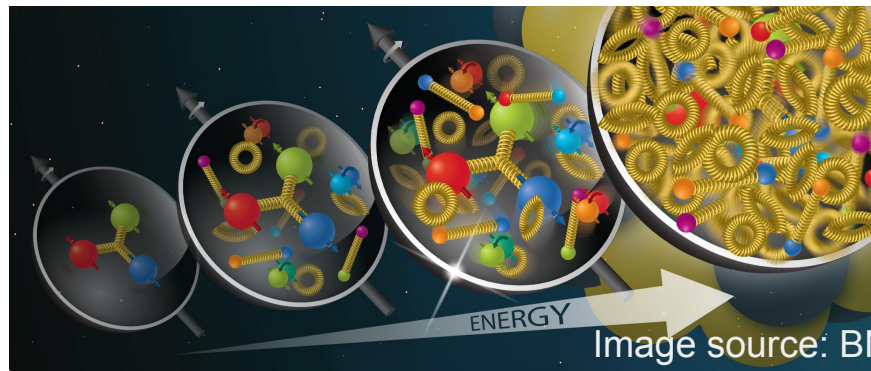


Image source: BNL



