

# The Project of an Electron-Ion Collider in USA

**Vadim Guzey**



Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute (PNPI),  
National Research Center "Kurchatov Institute"



## Outline:

- EIC: goals, fundamental problems, main parameters
- Key experiments of EIC physics program
- EIC realization at BNL
- Status of EIC project

# Electron-Ion Collider: goals

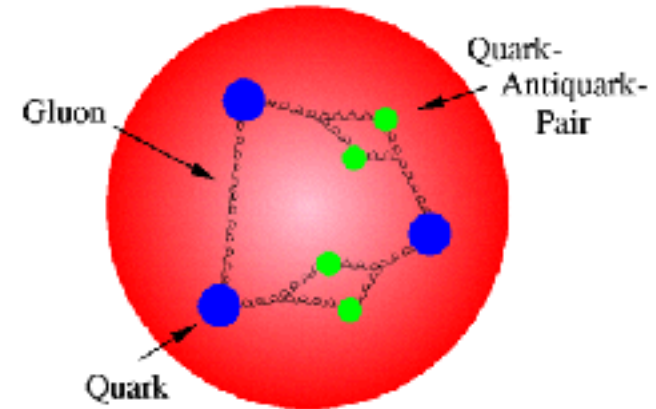
**Electron-Ion Collider in USA** is the project of a new collider of polarized electrons and ions on the base of RHIC@BNL (**eRHIC**).

- To provide continuity of the U.S. high-energy nuclear physics program after **2025-2030**, when RHIC and JLab@12 GeV will complete their programs.
- To unite RHIC and JLab users and attract the international community.
- To have a facility to test new concepts and technologies in accelerator physics.
- To answer a central question of nuclear physics on the nature of visible matter around us: **How do quarks and gluon form nucleons and nuclei?**
- To expand kinematic boundaries and precision of planned measurements: EIC should be a discovery and precision machine and a world-leading facility to study Quantum Chromodynamics (**QCD**).

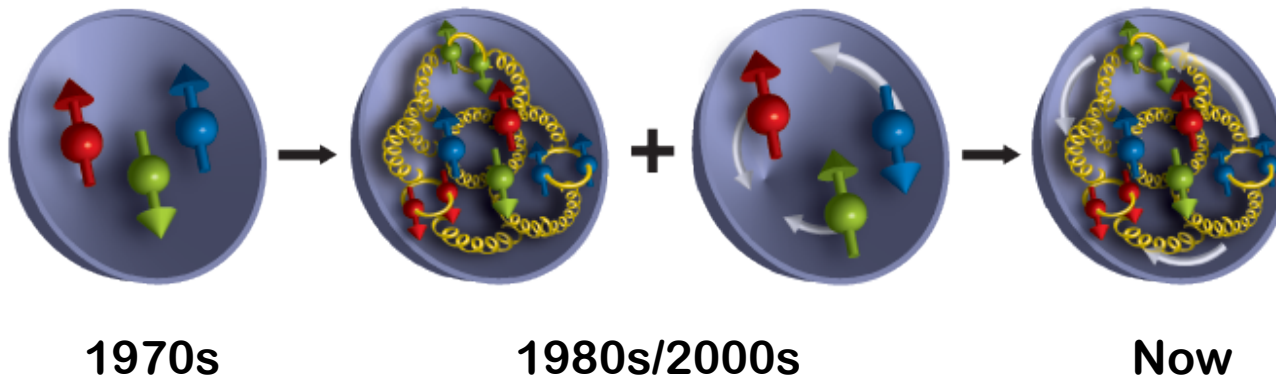
# EIC: fundamental problems

- **Proton mass puzzle:** current quarks of the QCD Lagrangian carry  $\sim 10\%$  of the proton mass. What is the role of quark-antiquark quantum fluctuations and gluons?

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \bar{\psi}_i (i(\gamma^\mu D_\mu)_{ij} - m\delta_{ij}) \psi_j - \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G_a^{\mu\nu}$$

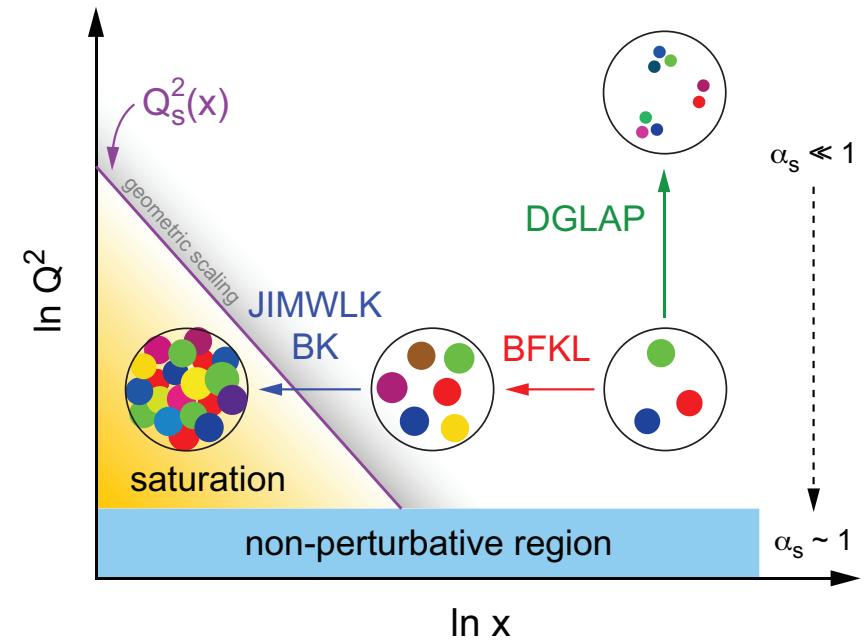


- **Proton spin puzzle:** quarks carry  $\sim 30\%$  of the proton spin. What is the role of gluons and parton orbital motion? How are quarks and gluons distributed in coordinate and momentum space?

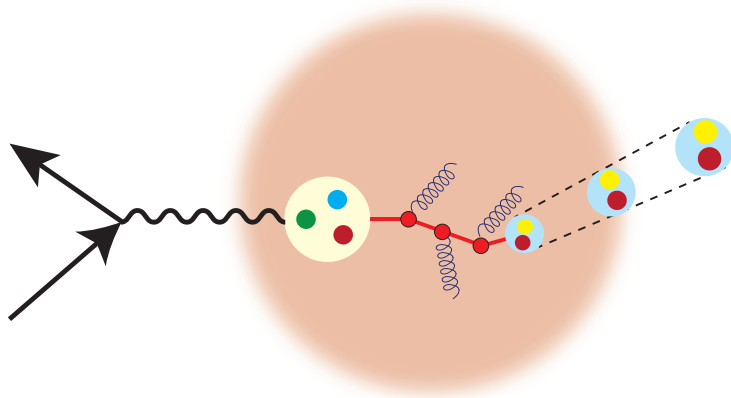


# EIC: fundamental problems (2)

- **Gloun density in nuclei at high energies:** How does nuclear matter effect the gluon density? Does gluon saturation take place at high gluon density and what are its properties?



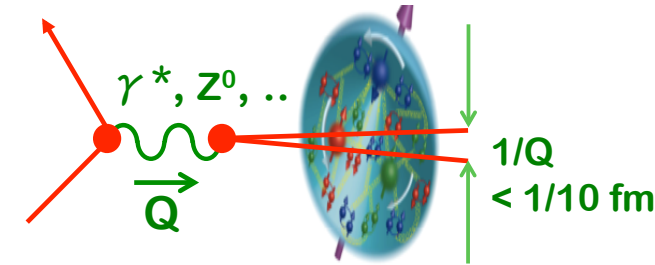
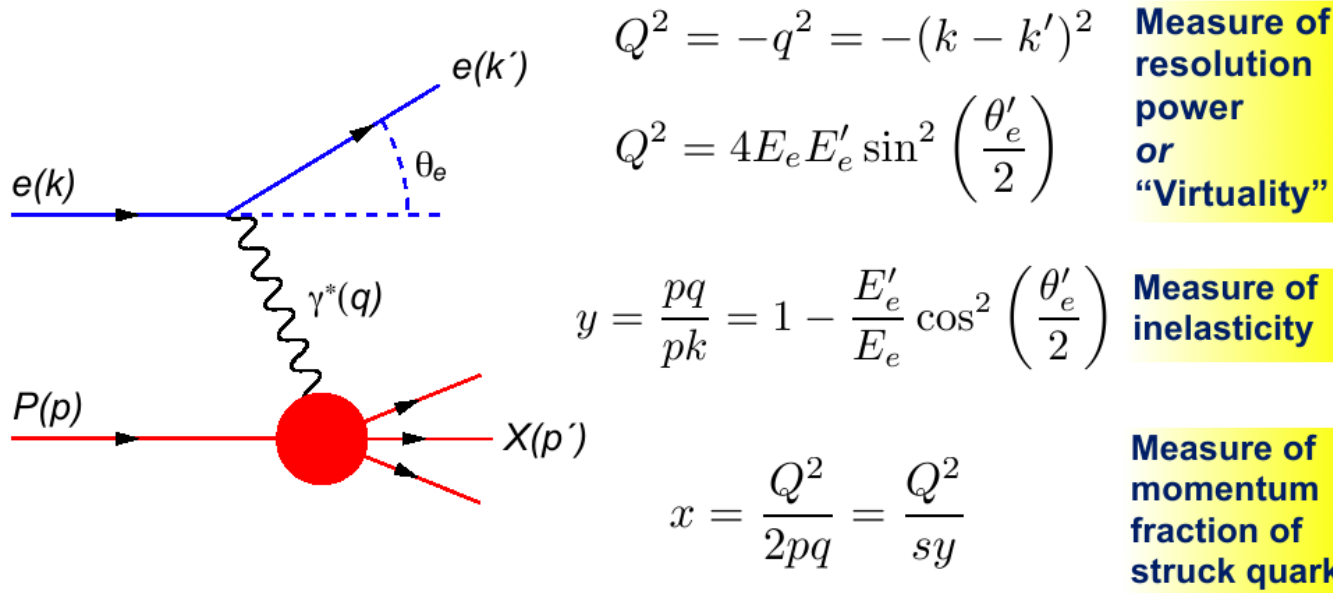
- **Nature of hadronization and confinement:** How do fast color changes interact with nuclear medium?



- important for heavy ion physics
- EIC allows us to control the photon energy and the size of nuclear matter

# EIC: “QCD microscope”

- The cleanest way to study microscopic structure of hadrons is to use **deep inelastic scattering (DIS)**:



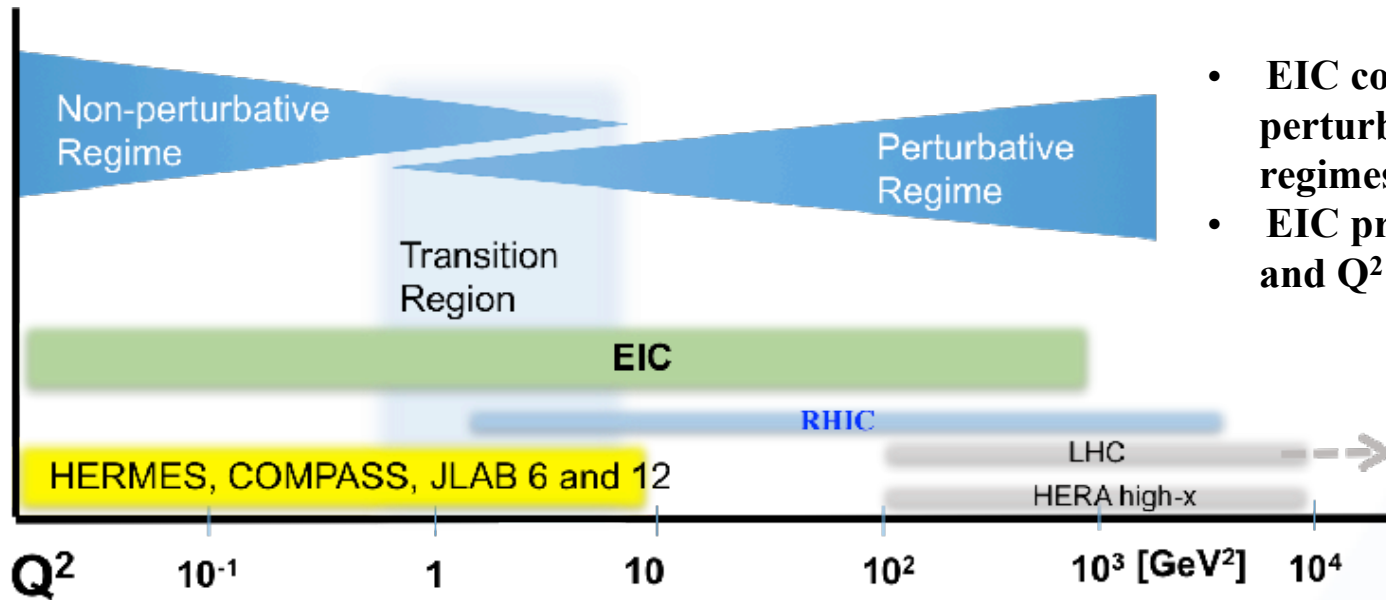
$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{ep \rightarrow eX}}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha_{e.m.}^2}{xQ^4} \left[ \left( 1 - y + \frac{y^2}{2} \right) F_2(x, Q^2) - \frac{y^2}{2} F_L(x, Q^2) \right]$$

- Main characteristics and advantages:**

- point-like probe → clean theoretical description and interpretation
- control over parton kinematics
- possibility to study semi-inclusive and exclusive (elastic) final states → 3D parton structure.

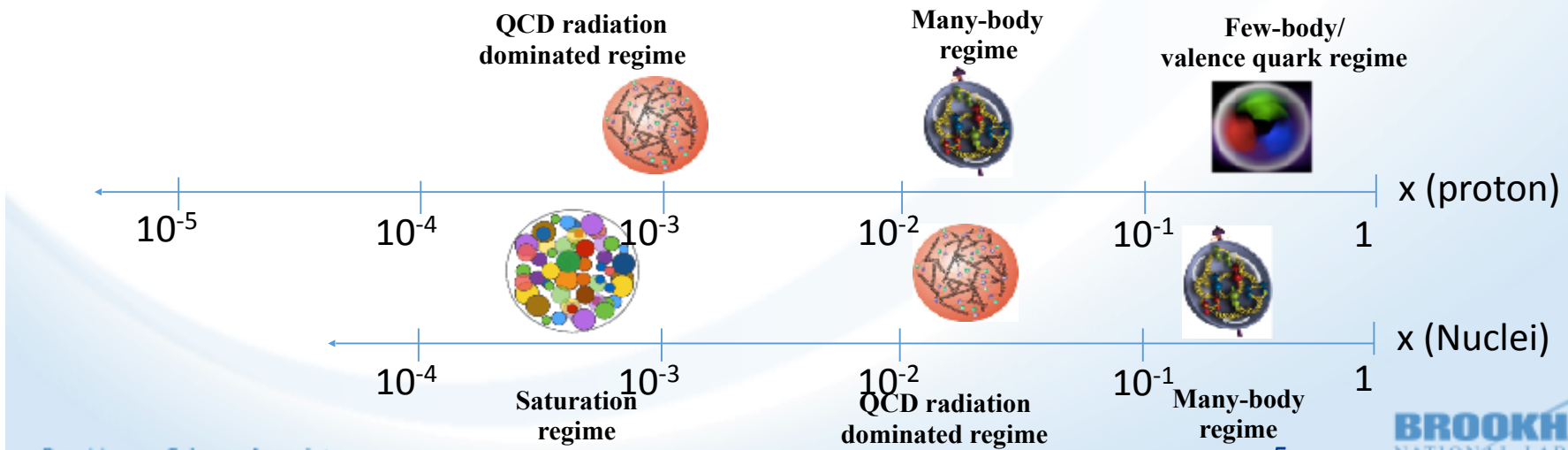
# Main EIC parameters: energy

- Center of mass energy  $\sqrt{s} \sim 20\text{-}140 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow$  wide coverage in  $Q^2$  and  $x$ .



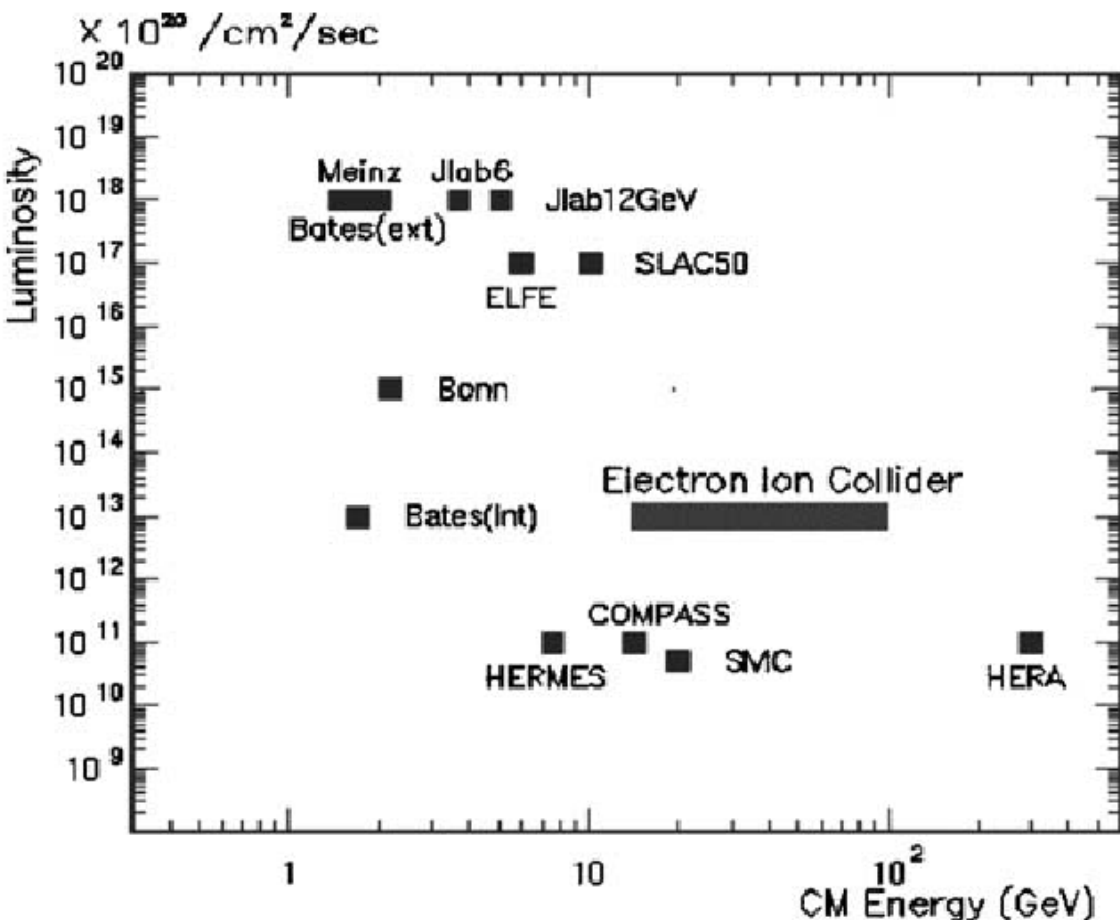
- EIC covers non-perturbative, perturbative and transition regimes
- EIC provides long evolution range and  $Q^2$  up to  $\sim 1000 \text{ GeV}^2$  (0.01 fm)

Going from large to small  $x$  nucleons and nuclei reveal their full structure

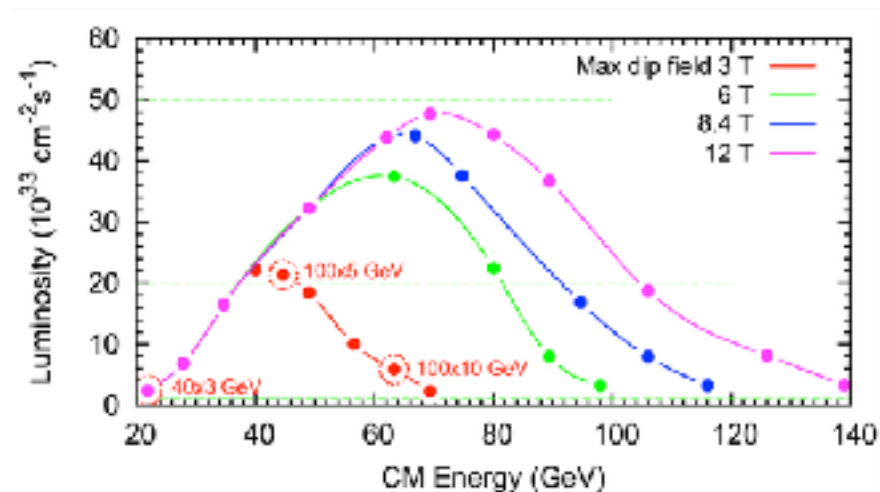


# Main EIC parameters: luminosity

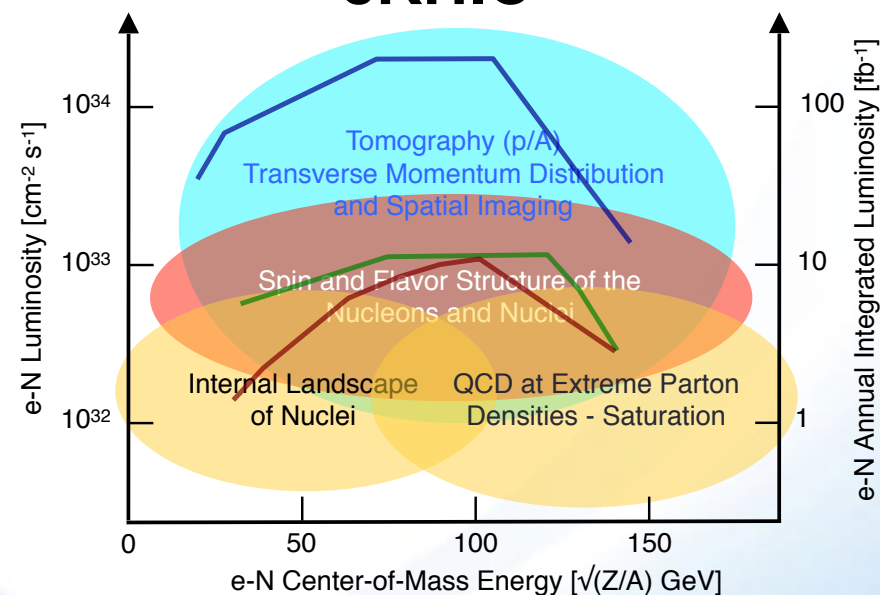
- High luminosity  $10^{33-34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  → precision measurement of semi-inclusive and exclusive processes.



## JLEIC

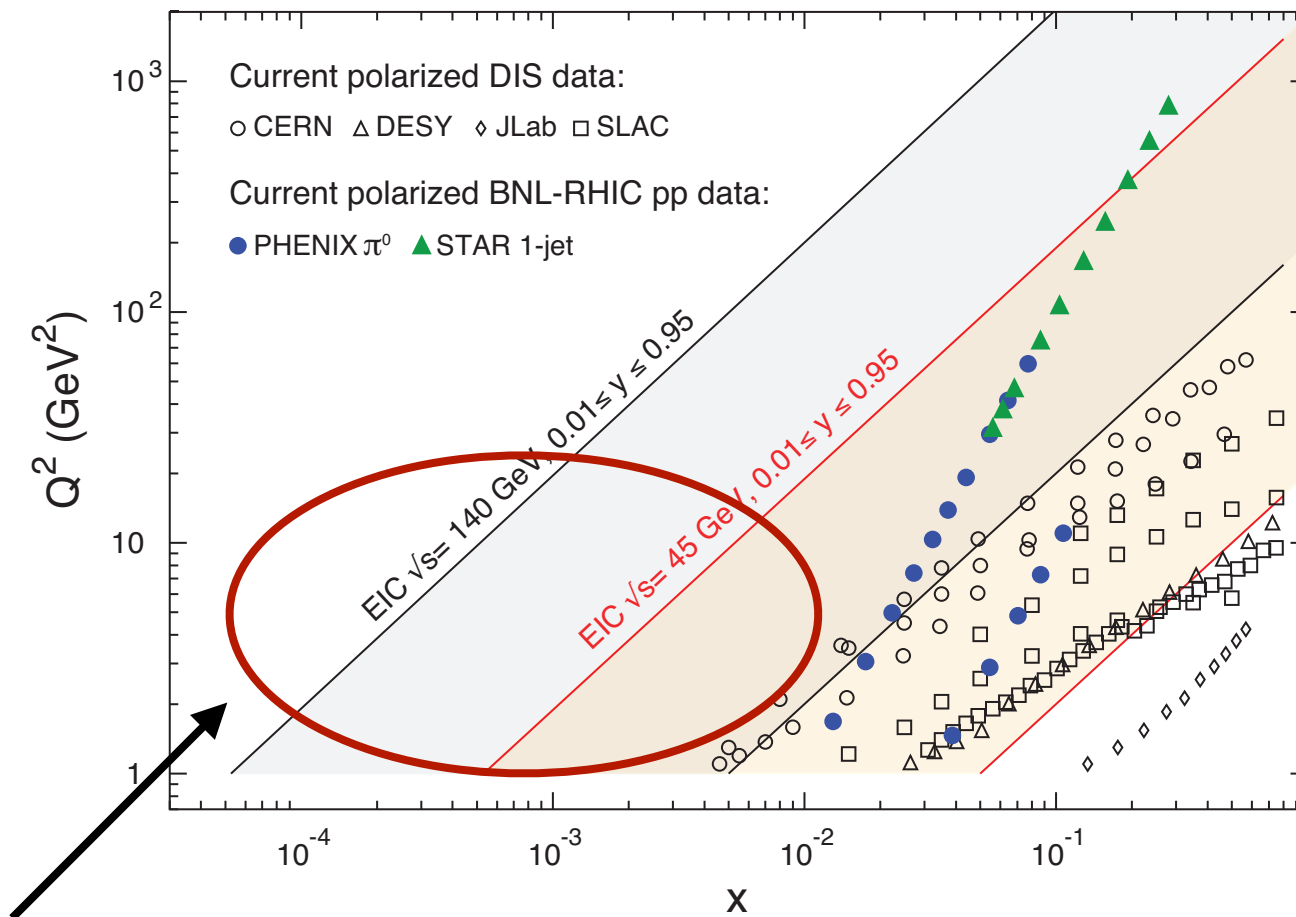


## eRHIC



# Main EIC parameters: polarization

- High degree of polarization  $\sim 70\%$  of beams of electrons, protons, light nuclei (D, He-3)  $\rightarrow$  polarized DIS, 3D parton distributions from semi-inclusive (TMDs) and exclusive processes (GPDs).

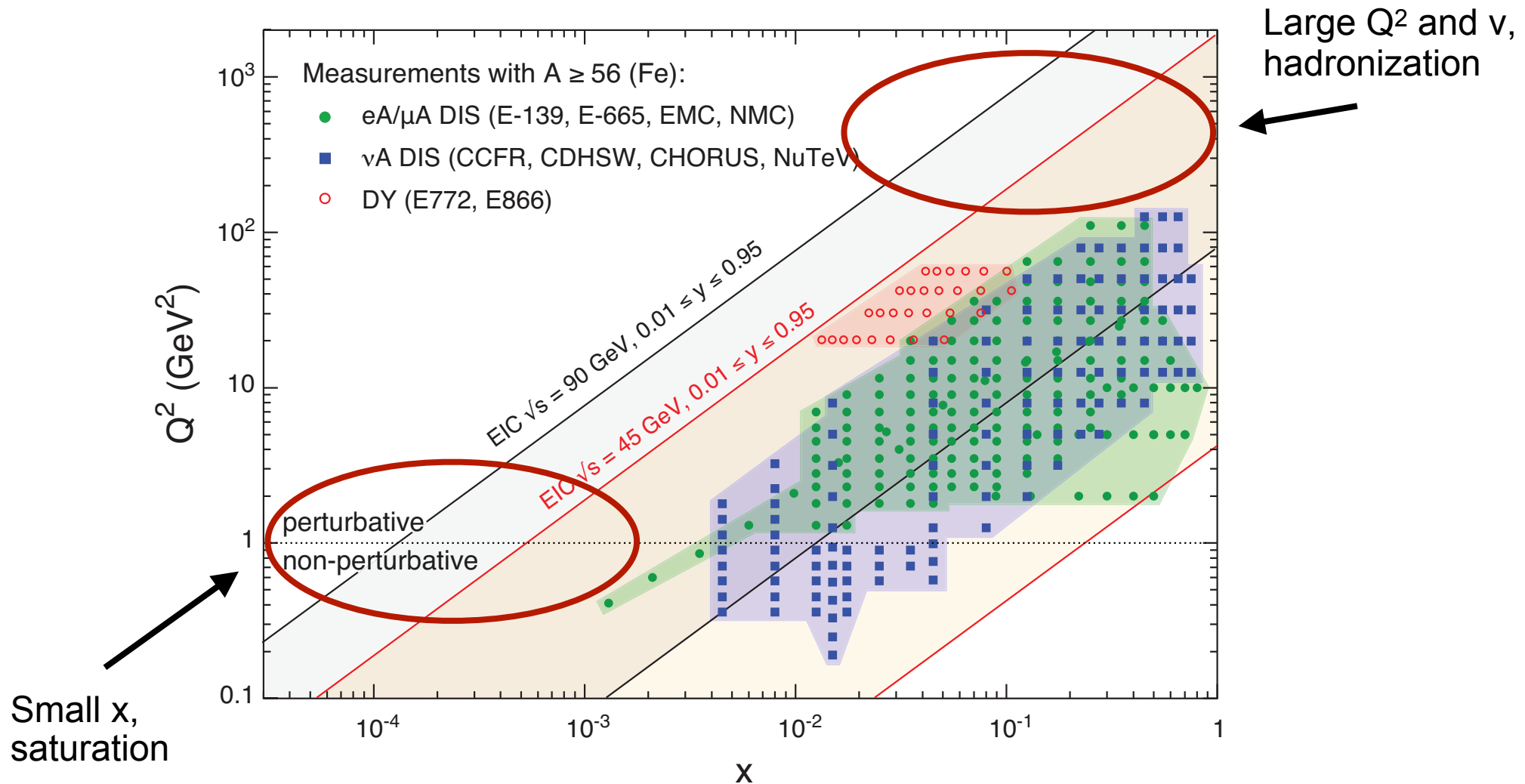


- Wide region of  $Q^2$  and small  $x$  in polarized DIS  $\rightarrow$  determination of the gluon contribution  $\Delta G$  to the proton spin.



# Main EIC parameters: nuclei

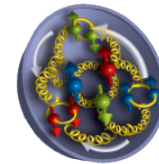
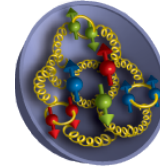
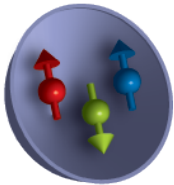
- Acceleration of light (D, He-3) and heavy (U, Pb) nuclei → **for the first time nuclear DIS at a collider** → quark and gluon nuclear densities at small x, search for possible saturation of the gluon density.



# Key experiments: gluon polarization

- Proton spin in QCD:

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



**Orbital angular momentum of partons:**  
unknown, access via GPD  
and TMD calculations in  
lattice QCD

## Quark polarization:

measured well with fixed targets

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{q=u,d,s} \int dx (\Delta q(x) + \Delta \bar{q}(x)) \sim 30\%$$

→ “spin crisis”.

**Gluon polarization:** RHIC spin physics, large uncertainty due to small-x region contribution

$$\Delta G = \int_{x_{min}}^{x_{max}} dx \Delta g(x) \sim 0 \pm 20\%$$

# Key experiments: gluon polarization (2)

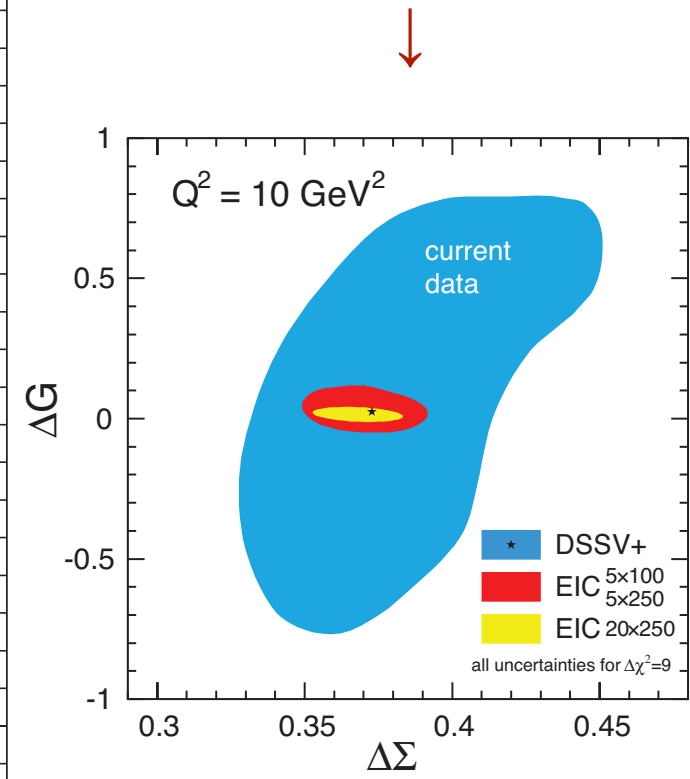
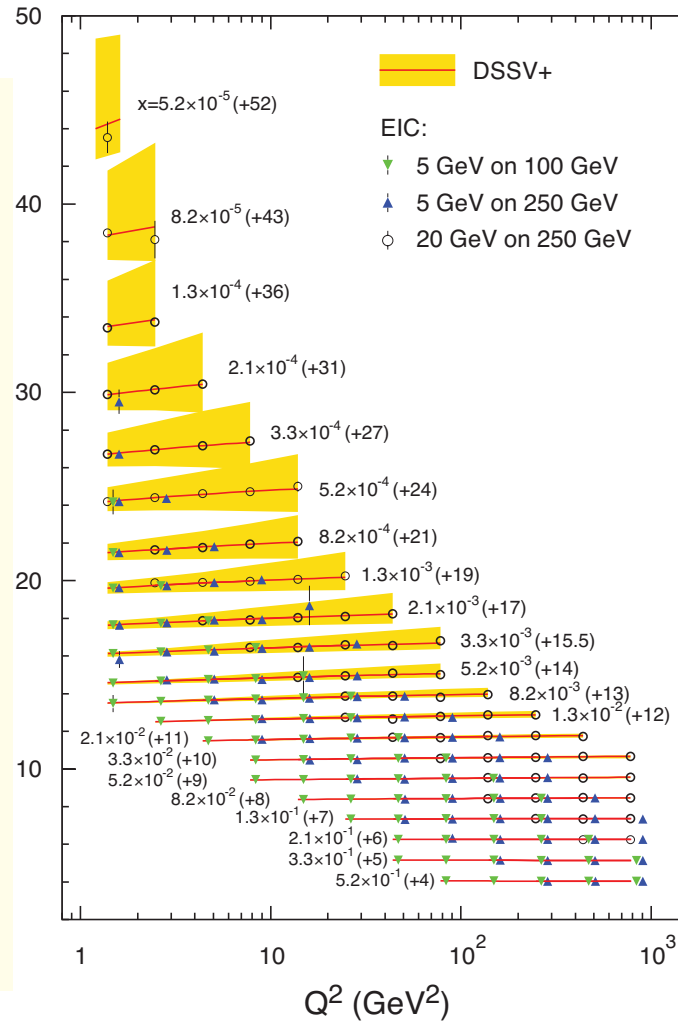
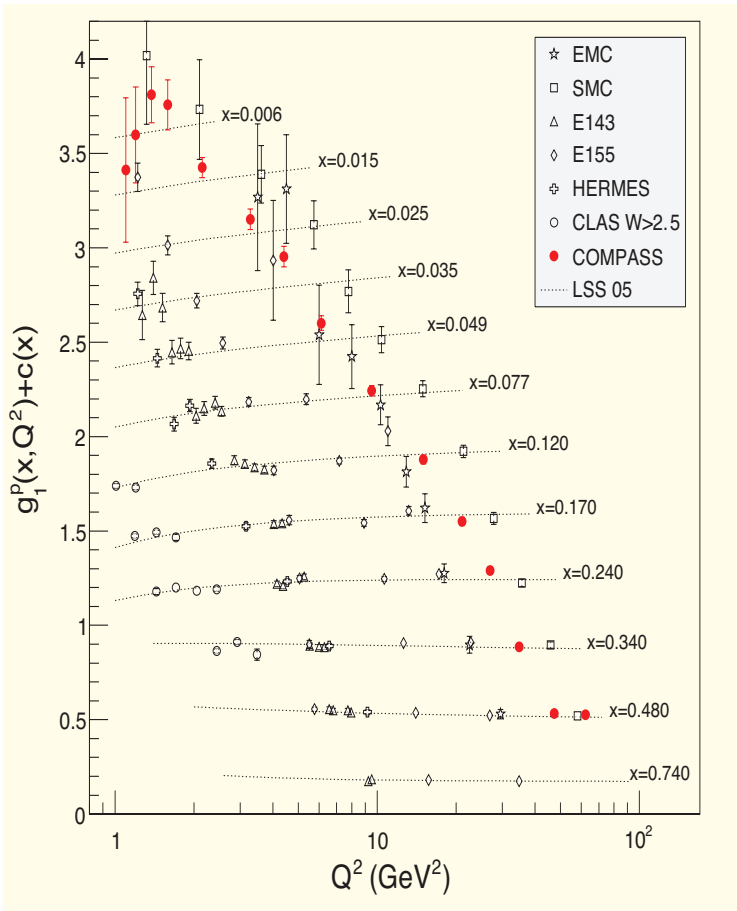
- Measurement of proton spin-dependent structure function  $g_1^p(x, Q^2)$  and extraction of  $\Delta g(x)$  using scaling violations:

EIC



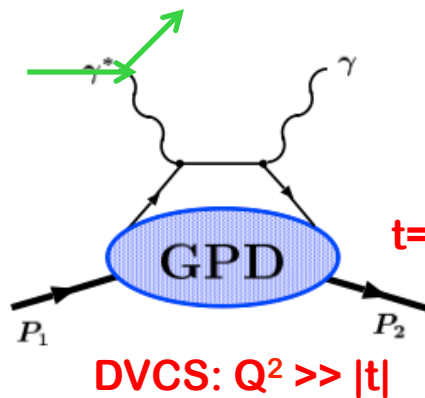
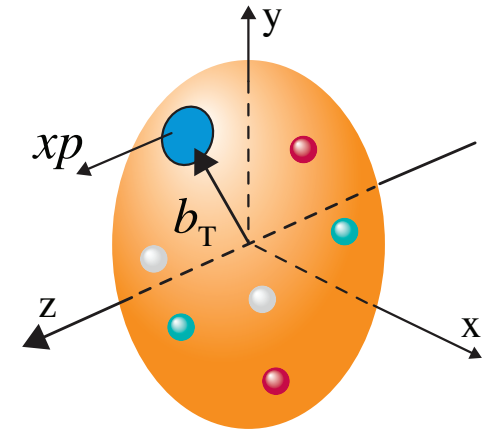
$$\frac{dg_1^p(x, Q^2)}{d \log Q^2} \propto -\Delta g(x, Q^2)$$

World data

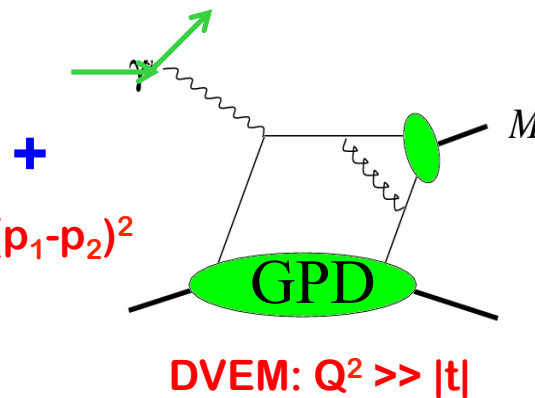


# Key experiments: 3D parton distributions

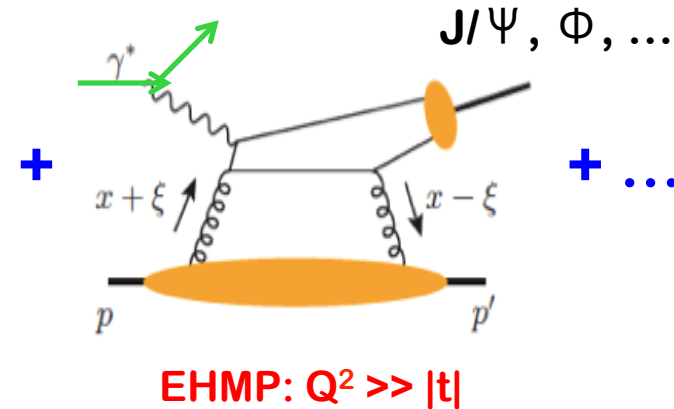
- Determination of 3D parton distributions requires two scales: **large  $Q^2$**  for parton localization and small ( $t, kT$ ) for distances  $O(\text{fm})$ .
- Examples: hard exclusive processes, hybrid between inclusive and elastic scattering



Deeply virtual Compton scattering (DVCS)



Deeply virtual meson production (DVMP)



- Fourier transformation w/respect momentum transfer  $t$  gives  **$b_T$ -dependence**.

# Key experiments: 3D parton distributions (2)

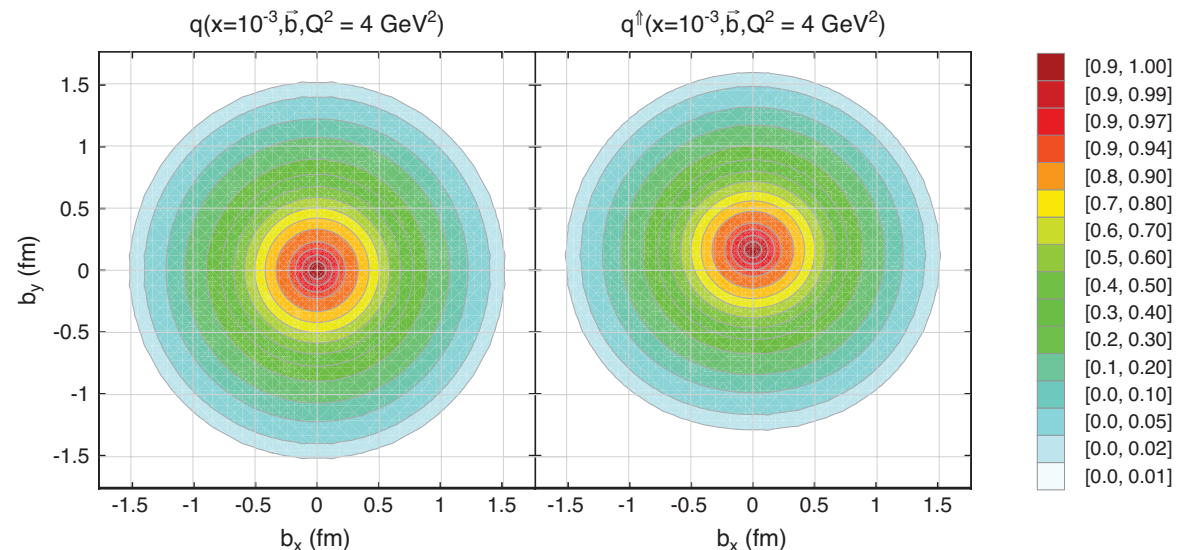
- Cross sections are expressed in terms of generalized parton distributions (GPDs), encoding QCD tomography of the target.
- GPDs are important for resolution of the proton “spin crisis”:

$$J^q = \frac{1}{2} \int dx x [H^q(x, \xi, t = 0) + E^q(x, \xi, t = 0)] = \frac{1}{2} \Delta q + L_q$$

- GPDs contain information on **sheer forces** experienced by partons in proton/ nuclei and also possible **non-nucleonic** degrees of freedom in nuclei.

- In the case of **transversely-polarized target**,  $b_T$ -dependence of GPDs depends on spin-orbit correlations:

$$f^{\uparrow}(x, \mathbf{b}_T) = f(x, \mathbf{b}_T^2) + \frac{(\mathbf{S}_T \times \mathbf{b}_T)^z}{M} \frac{\partial}{\partial b_T^2} e(x, \mathbf{b}_T^2)$$



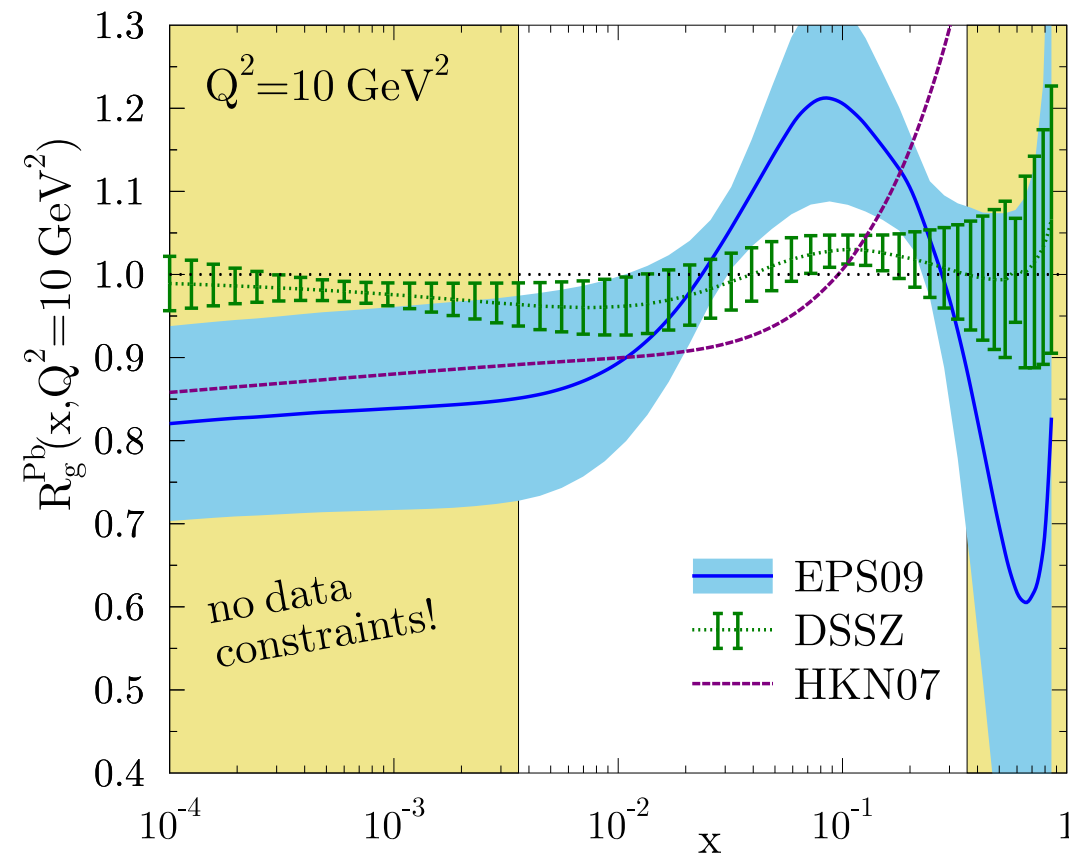
# Key experiments: nuclear gluon distribution

- Nuclear gluon distribution  $g_A(x, \mu^2)$  = density of gluons in nuclei as function of momentum fraction  $x$  at resolution  $\mu$ , necessary input for phenomenology of hard processes with nuclei at high energies (RHIC, LHC).

$$R_g(x, Q^2) = \frac{g_A(x, Q^2)}{Ag_p(x, Q^2)}$$

- $g_A(x, \mu^2)$  is known from available data with significant uncertainties (fixed-target DIS, dA@RHIC, pA@LHC) due to:

- limited range of energies,  $Q^2$  and  $x$
- indirect determination using scaling violation ( $Q^2$  dependence  $F_{2A}(x, Q^2)$ )



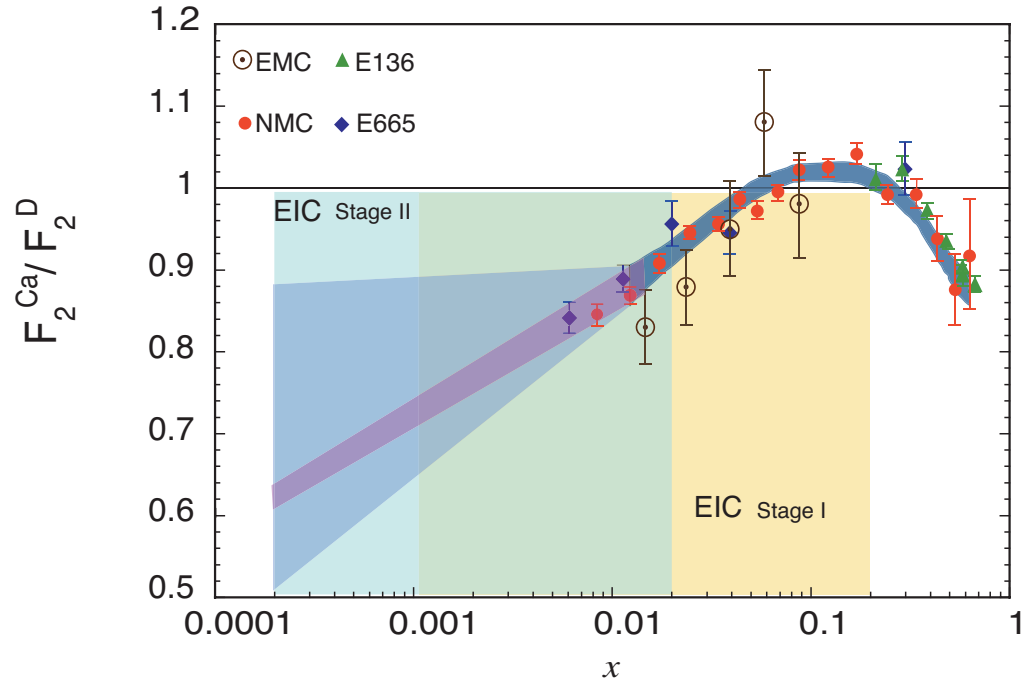
# Key experiments: nuclear gluon distribution (2)

- High and *variable* energies at EIC will allow one to measure the nuclear structure functions  $F_{2A}(x, Q^2)$  and  $F_{LA}(x, Q^2)$  in a wide range of  $x$ ,  $Q^2$  - “first-day measurement”

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{xQ^4} \left[ \left(1 - y + \frac{y^2}{2}\right) F_2(x, Q^2) - \frac{y^2}{2} F_L(x, Q^2) \right]$$

- Longitudinal structure function  $F_{LA}(x, Q^2)$  directly probes  $g_A(x, \mu^2)$ .

$$F_L(x, Q^2) = \frac{2\alpha_s(Q^2)}{\pi} \int_x^1 \frac{dy}{y} \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2 \sum_q^{n_f} e_q^2 \left[ \left(1 - \frac{x}{y}\right) yg(y, Q^2) + \frac{2}{3} (q(x, Q^2) + \bar{q}(x, Q^2)) \right]$$



# Nuclear gluon density from $J/\psi$ photoproduction on nuclei at the LHC

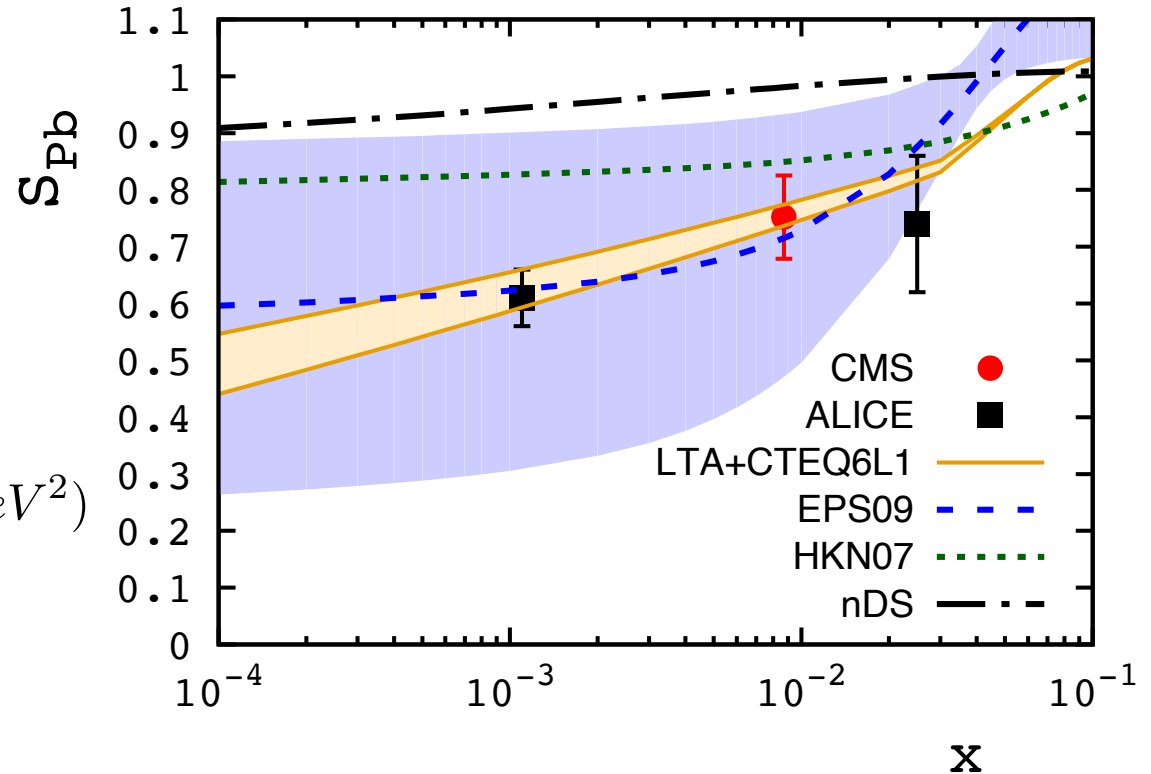
- Before EIC, new constraints on  $g_A(x, \mu^2)$  at small  $x$  were obtained by analyzing the data on coherent photoproduction  $J/\psi$  on nuclei in Pb-Pb ultraperipheral collisions (UPCs), [Guzey Zhalov, Kryshen, Strikman, 2012-2017](#)

- The cross section is proportional to the gluon density squared  $\rightarrow$  the ratio of cross sections of the nucleus/proton = factor of nuclear modification/suppression of  $g_A(x, \mu^2)$ .

$$S(W_{\gamma p}) \equiv \left[ \frac{\sigma_{\gamma Pb \rightarrow J/\psi Pb}^{\text{exp}}(W_{\gamma p})}{\sigma_{\gamma Pb \rightarrow J/\psi Pb}^{\text{IA}}(W_{\gamma p})} \right]^{1/2}$$



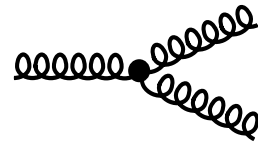
$$S_{Pb}(W_{\gamma p}) = R_g(x = \frac{M_{J/\psi}^2}{W_{\gamma p}^2}, Q^2 = 3 \text{ GeV}^2)$$



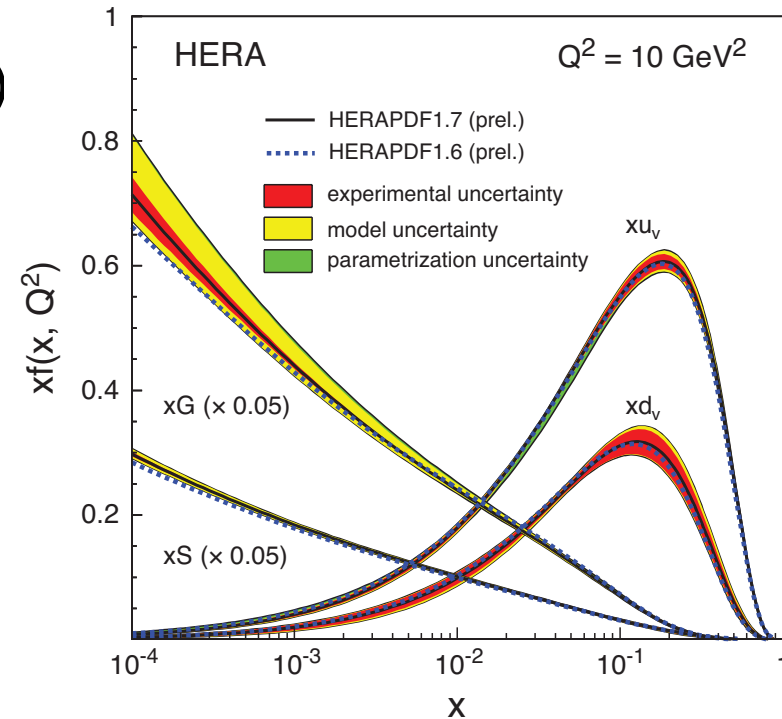
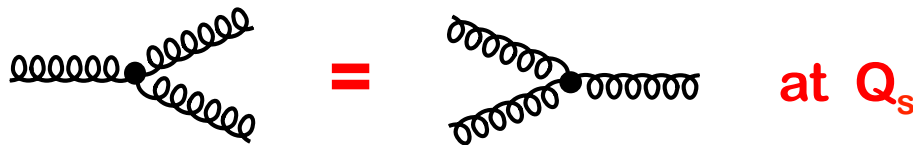


# Key experiments: gluon saturation

- As the collision energy increases ( $x$  decreases) the gluon density increases due to gluon radiation (DGLAP, BFKL):



- At some point, radiation is compensated by recombination  $\rightarrow$  saturation



- A new dynamical **saturation scale  $Q_s$**  from the estimate  $\rho \times \sigma_{gg \rightarrow g} \sim 1$

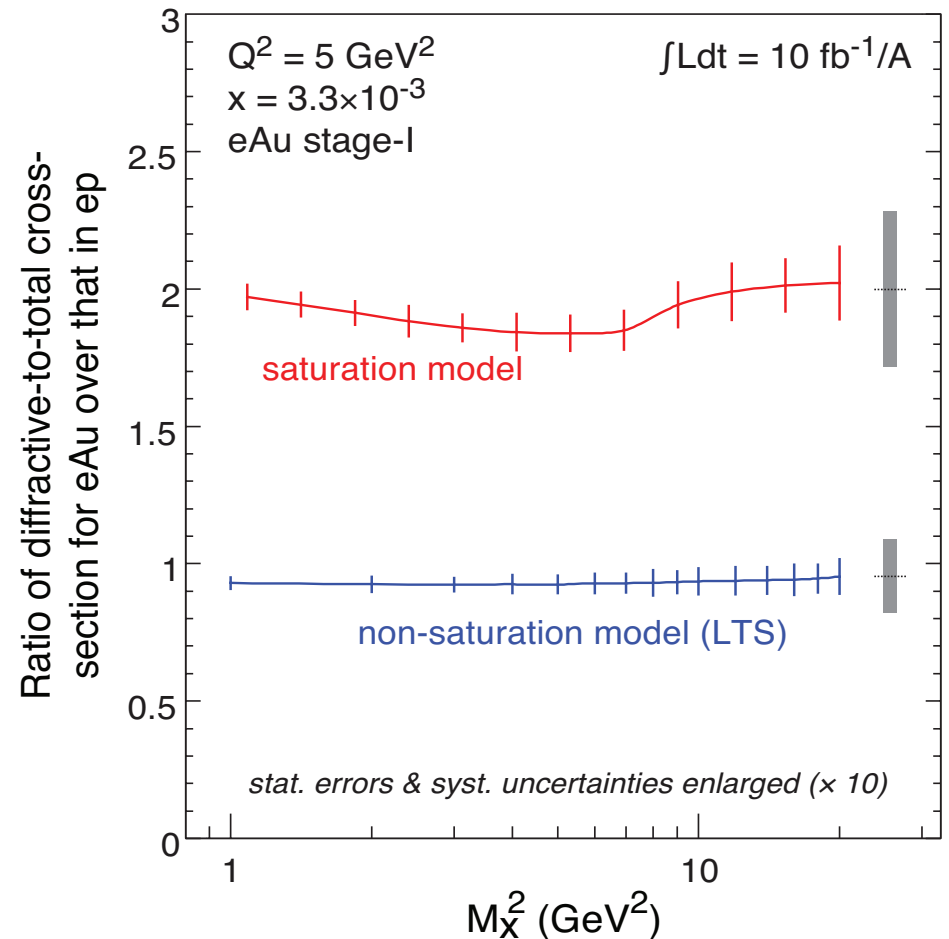
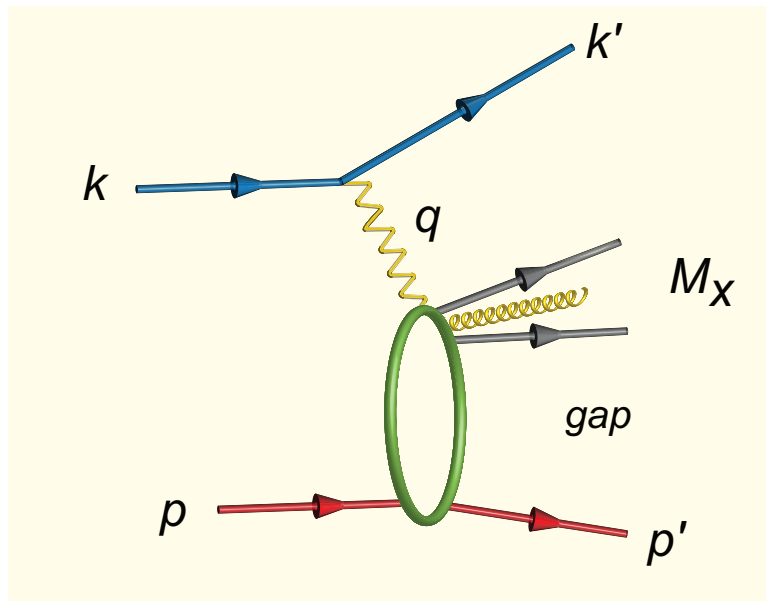
$$Q_s^2 \sim \frac{\alpha_s x G_A(x, Q_s^2)}{\pi R_A^2} \sim A^{1/3} \frac{1}{x^{0.3}}$$

- Nuclear enhancement of  $Q_s$  is a key factor for EIC!

# Key experiments: gluon saturation (2)

- The regime of gluon saturation was theoretically predicted in the color glass condensate (CGC) framework.
- Despite many successful phenomenological applications at RHIC and LHC, there is no convincing evidence of onset of this new regime of low- $x$  QCD.
- At EIC, it is proposed to look for saturation by studying inclusive, diffractive and exclusive DIS.

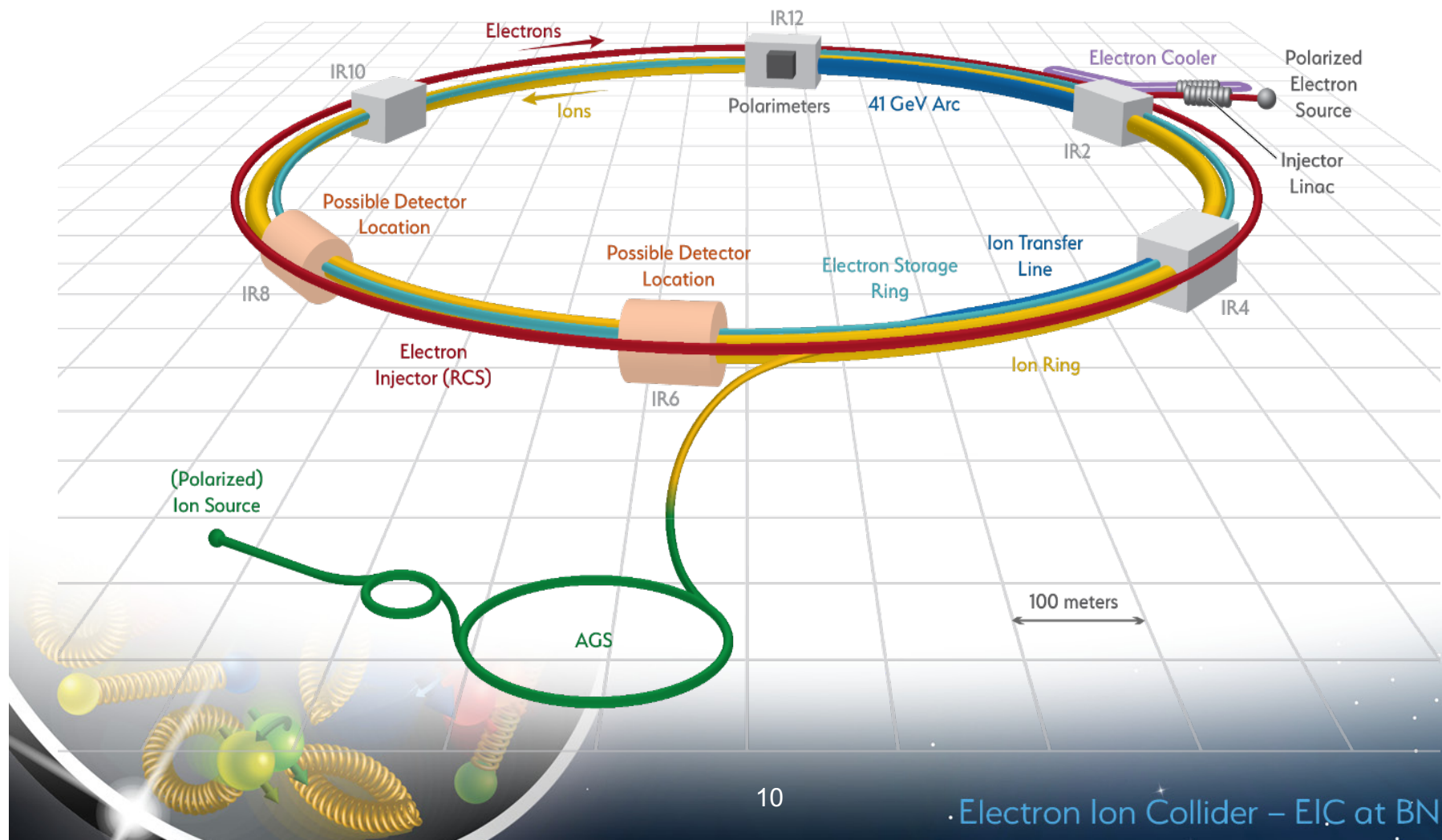
Diffractive DIS



# Realization of EIC at BNL

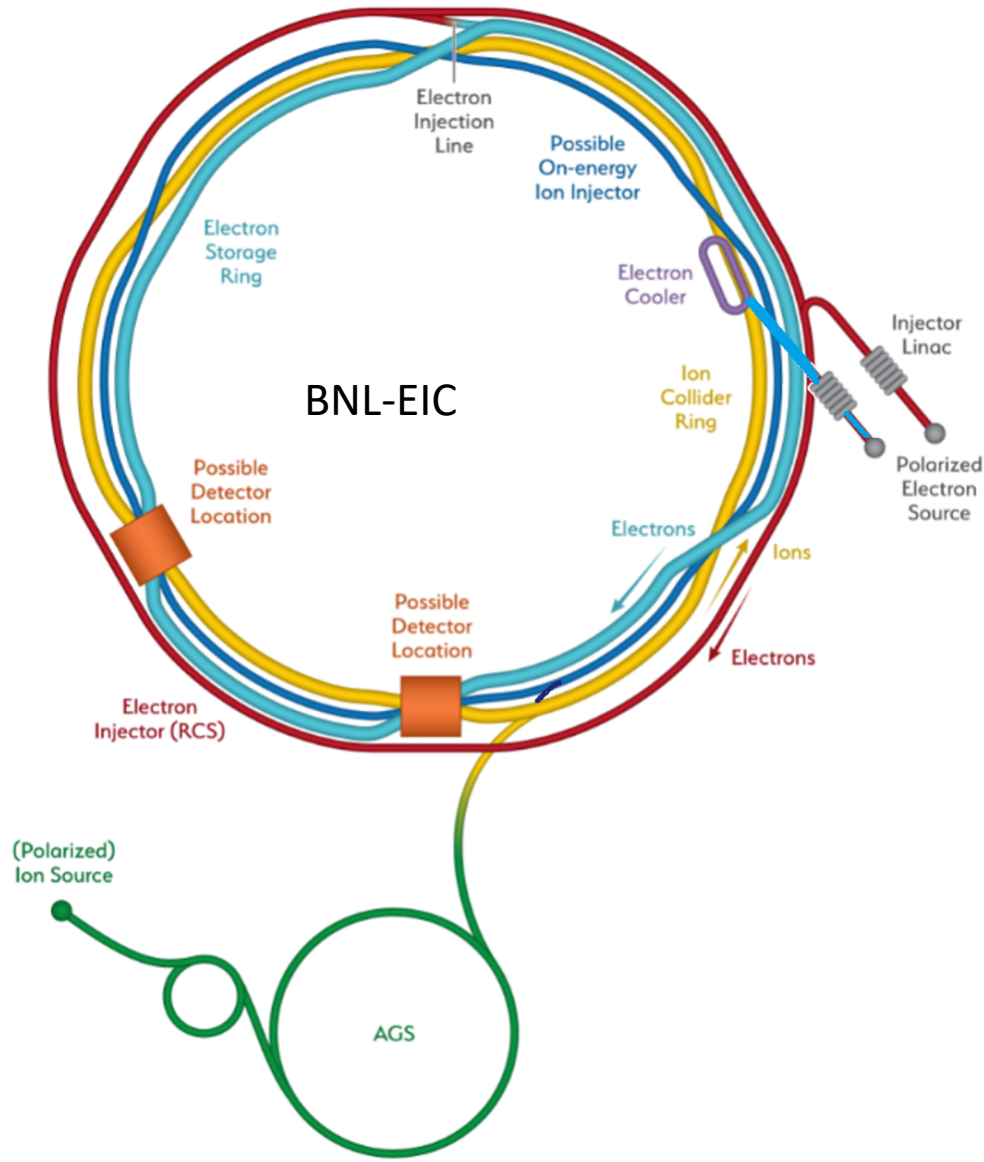
## EIC @ BNL

The design aims at the construction of an Electron-Ion-Collider (eRHIC) leveraging the existing RHIC accelerator complex and its infrastructure.

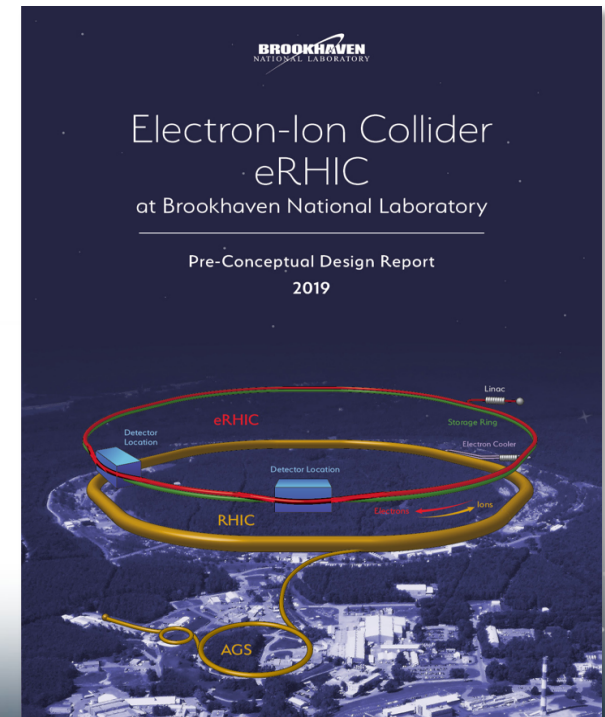


# Realization of EIC at BNL (2)

## How RHIC is transformed into an EIC

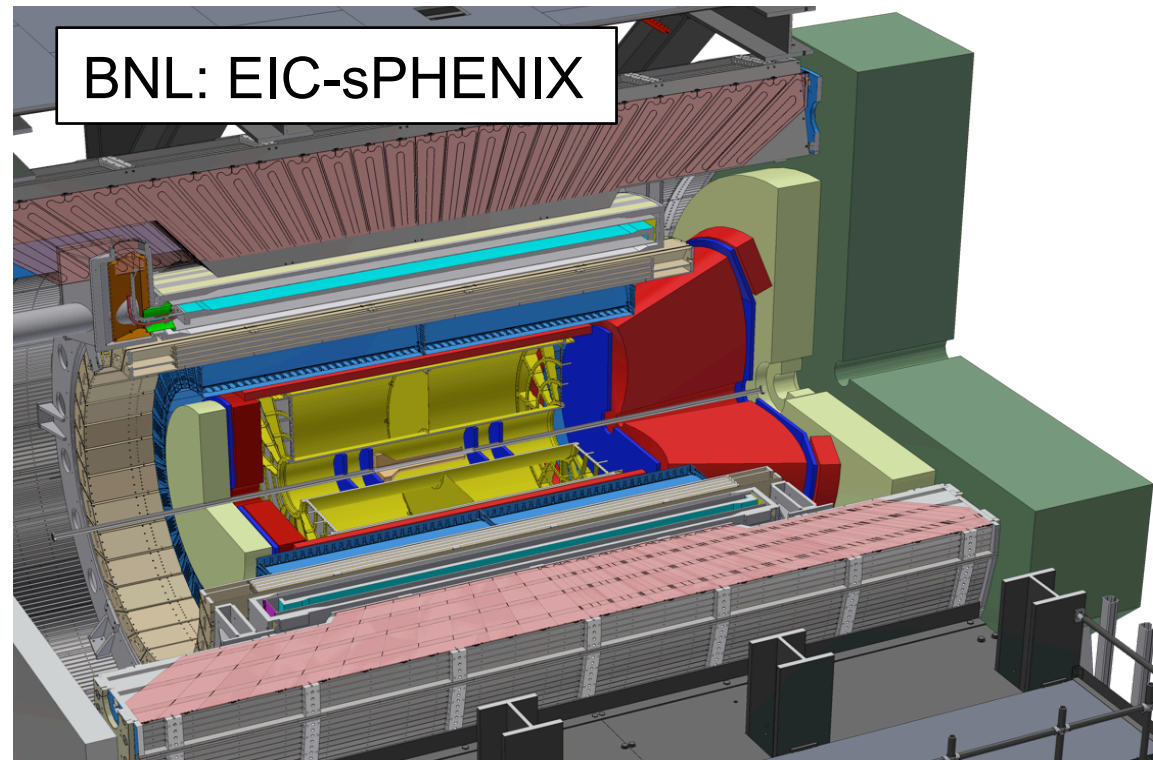


- Hadron Storage Ring
- Electron Storage Ring
- Electron Injector Synchrotron
- Possible on-energy Hadron injector ring
- Hadron injector complex



# EIC Detector

- Pre-conceptual designs from JLab and BNL
- Option at BNL: sPHENIX → ePHENIX
- Possibility of a second, possibly differently optimized detector in existing Hall 2



Ongoing studies: optimizing inclusive, semi-inclusive and exclusive DIS

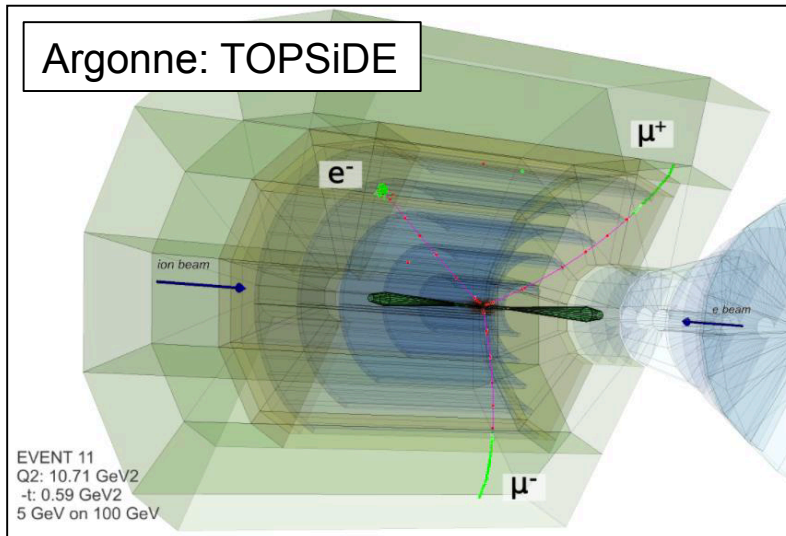
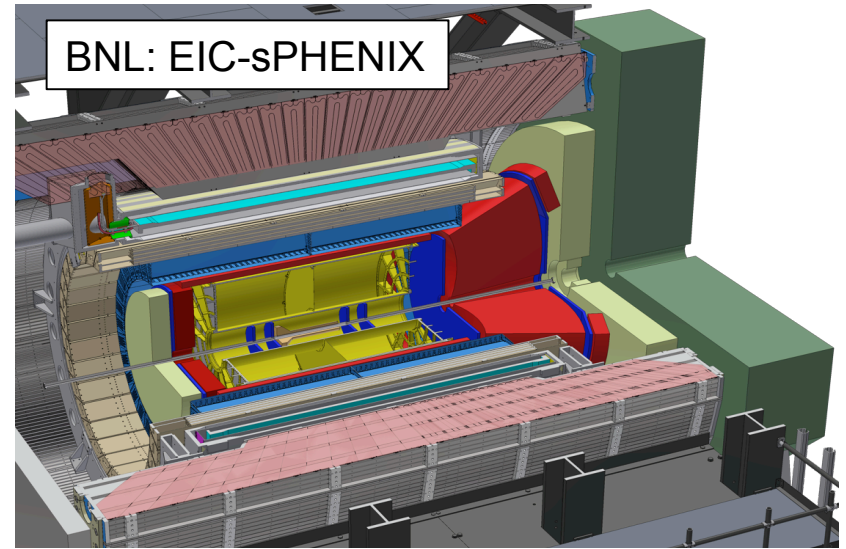
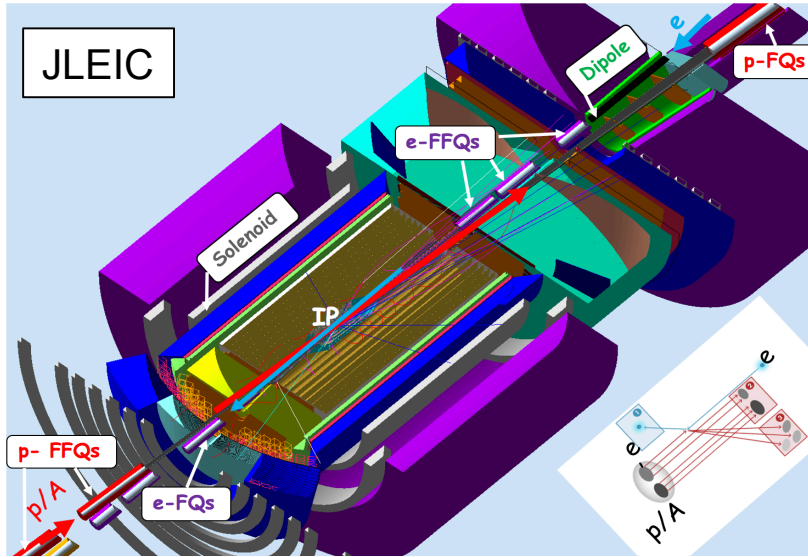
measurements: *Particle tracking, Electromagnetic calorimetry, hadronic calorimetry, particle identification technologies: for flavor separation/heavy-light quarks, jets, Interaction region design and integration with the EIC detector, background studies, synchrotron radiation issues near and far from the IR, beam-gas interactions....*

**Additionally:** *Electron and proton beam polarimetry, precision polarimetry measurements*

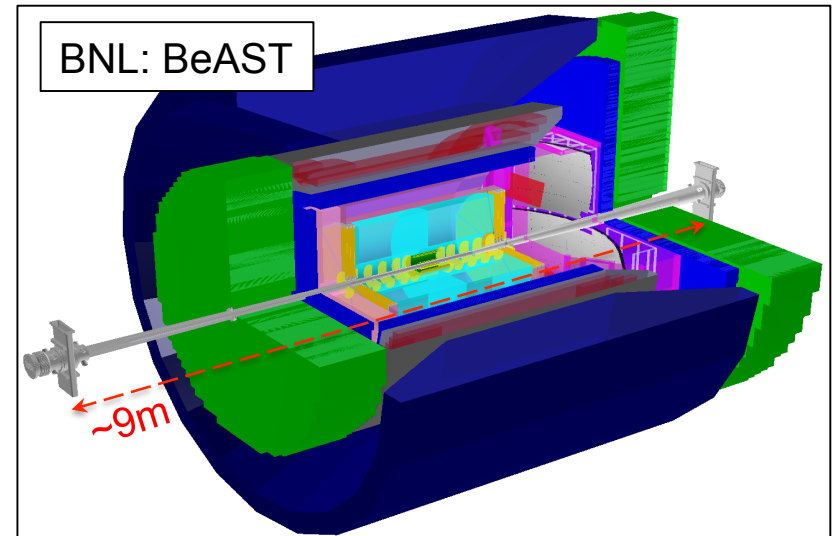
Various preliminary concepts for EIC detector exist, design optimization on-going

# EIC Detector (2)

## Current EIC detector concepts



Time Optimized Silicon Detector for EIC



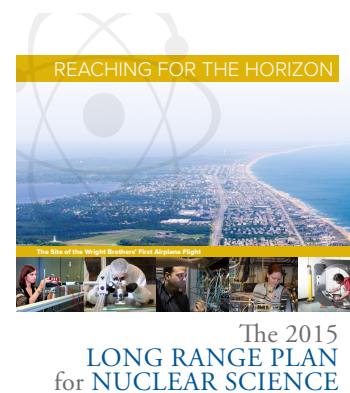
# A U.S.-based EIC: status

- **2007 NSAC Long Range Plan:** recommendation to develop a conceptual of the accelerator and detector guided by the physics program
- **2010:** 10-week INT program (Seattle, USA) “Gluons and quark sea at high energies”, [arXiv:1108.1713](https://arxiv.org/abs/1108.1713)

- **2013:** EIC White Paper, [arXiv:1212.1701](https://arxiv.org/abs/1212.1701), EPJ A52 (2016) 268

- **2015 NSAC Long Range Plan:**

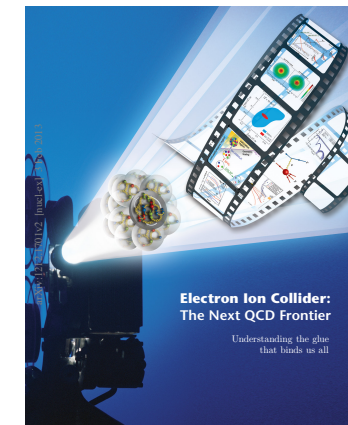
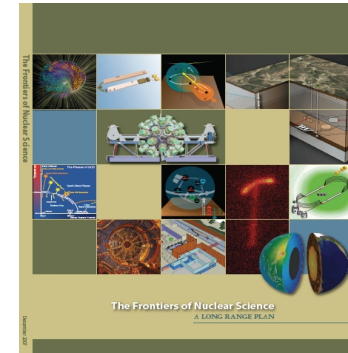
*“We recommend a high-energy high-luminosity polarized EIC as the highest priority for new facility construction following the completion of FRIB.”*



- **2017 assessment of NAS:** Full support.

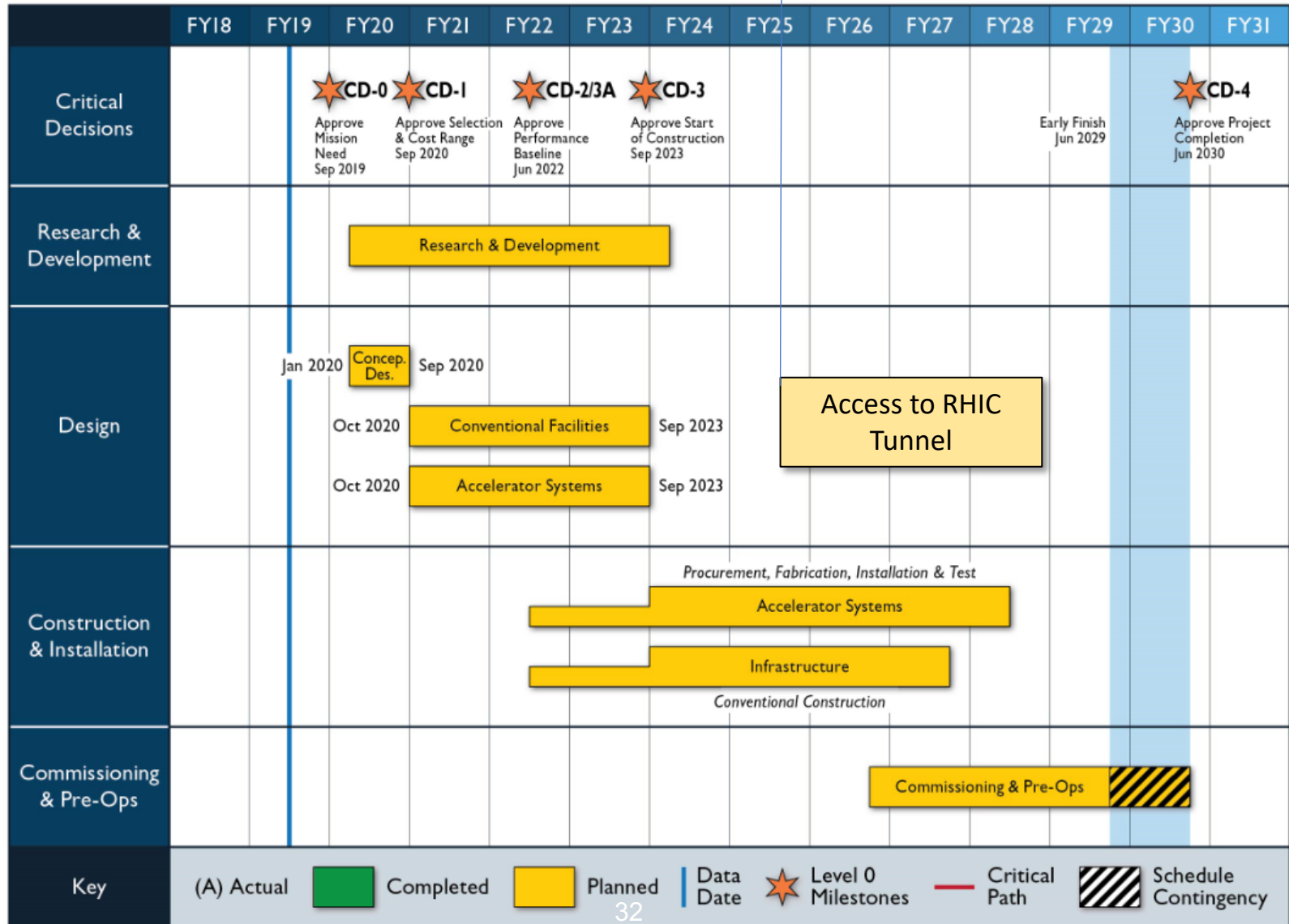
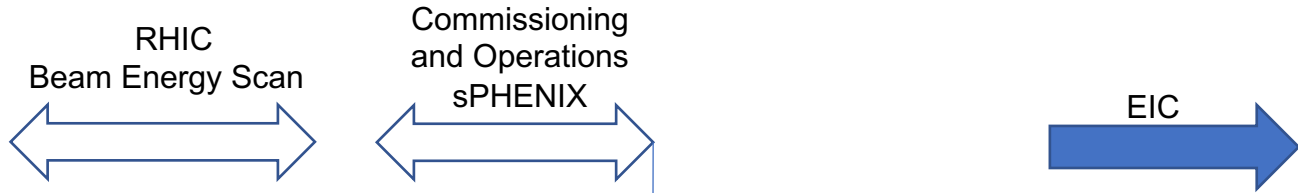
*“An EIC is timely and has the support of the nuclear science community. The science that it will achieve is unique and world leading...”*

- **Dec. 2019, CD-0** “Approve Mission Need”: DOE selects BNL for building EIC.



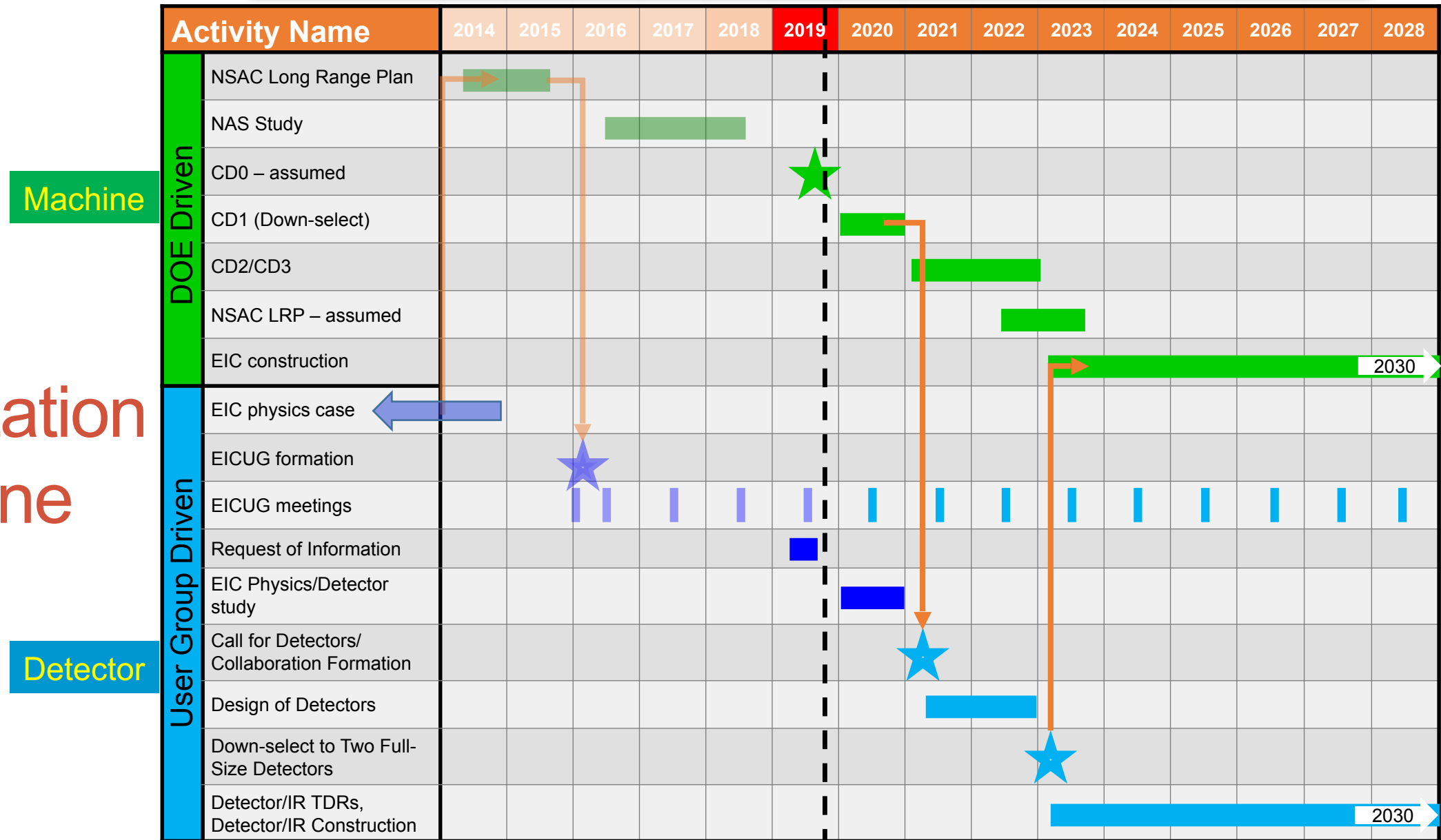
# EIC timeline

## Notional Schedule





# EIC timeline



# EIC: organization

- EIC working groups at BNL, <https://wiki.bnl.gov/eic/> and JLab, [https://eic.jlab.org/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://eic.jlab.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)
- Electron-Ion Collider User Group since 2016: > 950 scientists from > 189 institutes and universities, <http://www.eicug.org/web/> : Steering Committee, Institutional Board, Speaker's Committee
- Yearly POETIC (Physics Opportunities at an Electron-Ion Collider) conferences.
- EIC talks at all major particle and nuclear physics conferences.
- EIC Yellow Report for EIC Physics and Detectors, 2020:
  - quantify measurements for EIC physics (existing and new)
  - study detector concepts based on those physics measurements
  - series of workshops
  - final document Jan - Apr 2021

# Summary

- High-energy and high-luminosity polarized EIC is viewed as a key facility to study fundamental questions of QCD.
- The main aim of the EIC physics program is to understand the microscopic nature of the visible matter in the language of quarks and gluons of QCD.
- In particular, it is planned to study:
  - the spin- and 3D-structure of the proton
  - the role of nuclear matter in the distribution of quarks and gluons
  - propagation of color charges (hadronization)
  - possible onset of a new regime of high-density saturated gluonic matter.
- EIC has full support of the U.S. nuclear physics community. Next steps is to prepare the EIC Yellow Report and obtain CD1 (design choice).