



University  
of Regina

# Winter Nuclear and Particle Physics Conference 2025



## Photon contributions to parton energy loss at high $Q^2$

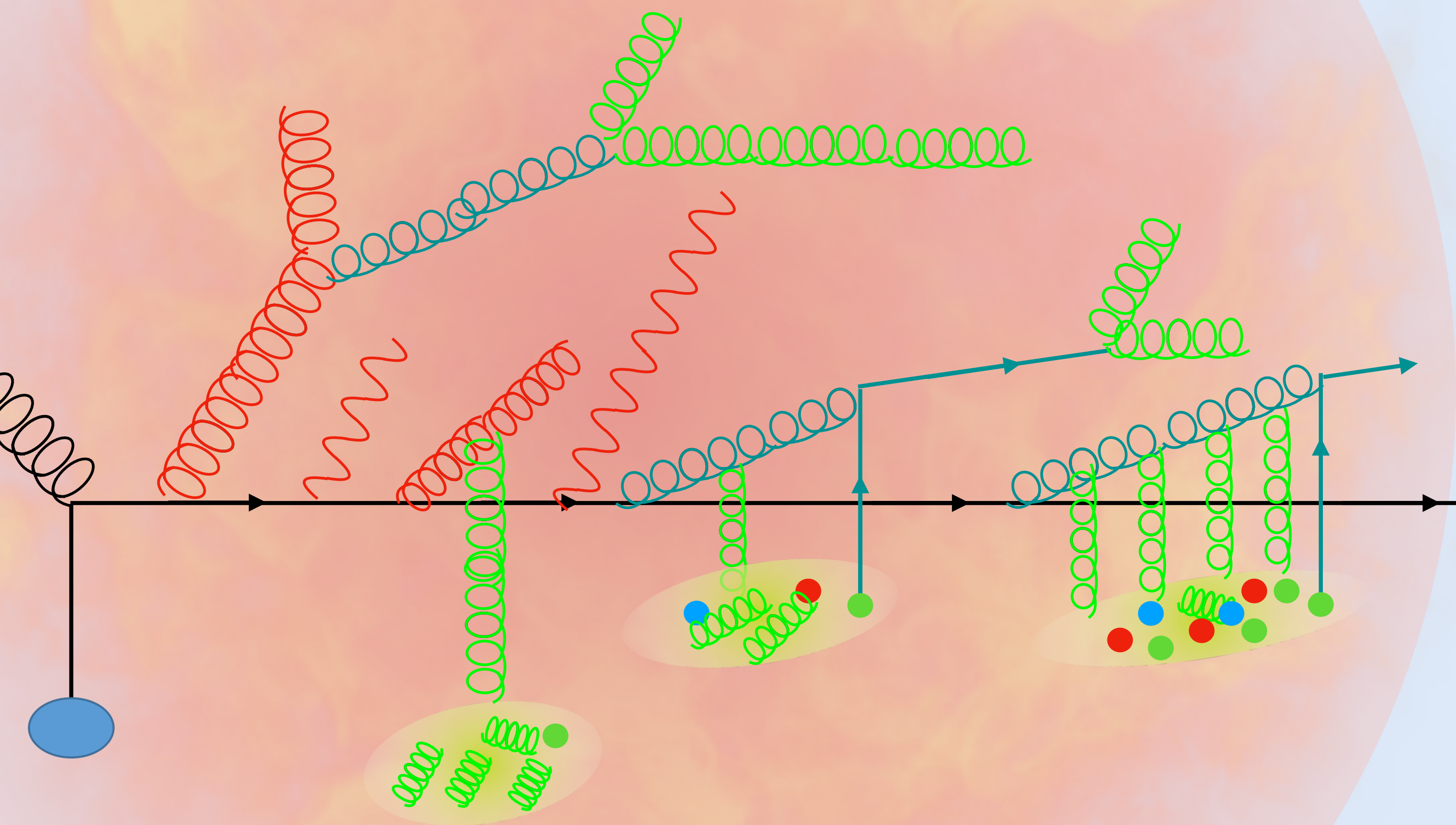
Amit Kumar

Department of Physics  
University of Regina

Based on ([arXiv:2502.02667](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.02667))

In collaboration  
with Gojko Vujanovic

Feb 16th, 2025



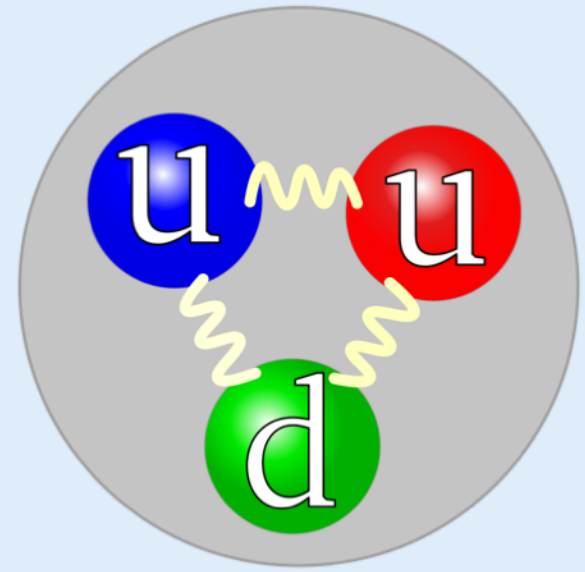
CANADA  
RESEARCH CHAIRS  
CHAIRES DE  
RECHERCHE DU  
CANADA

# Outline

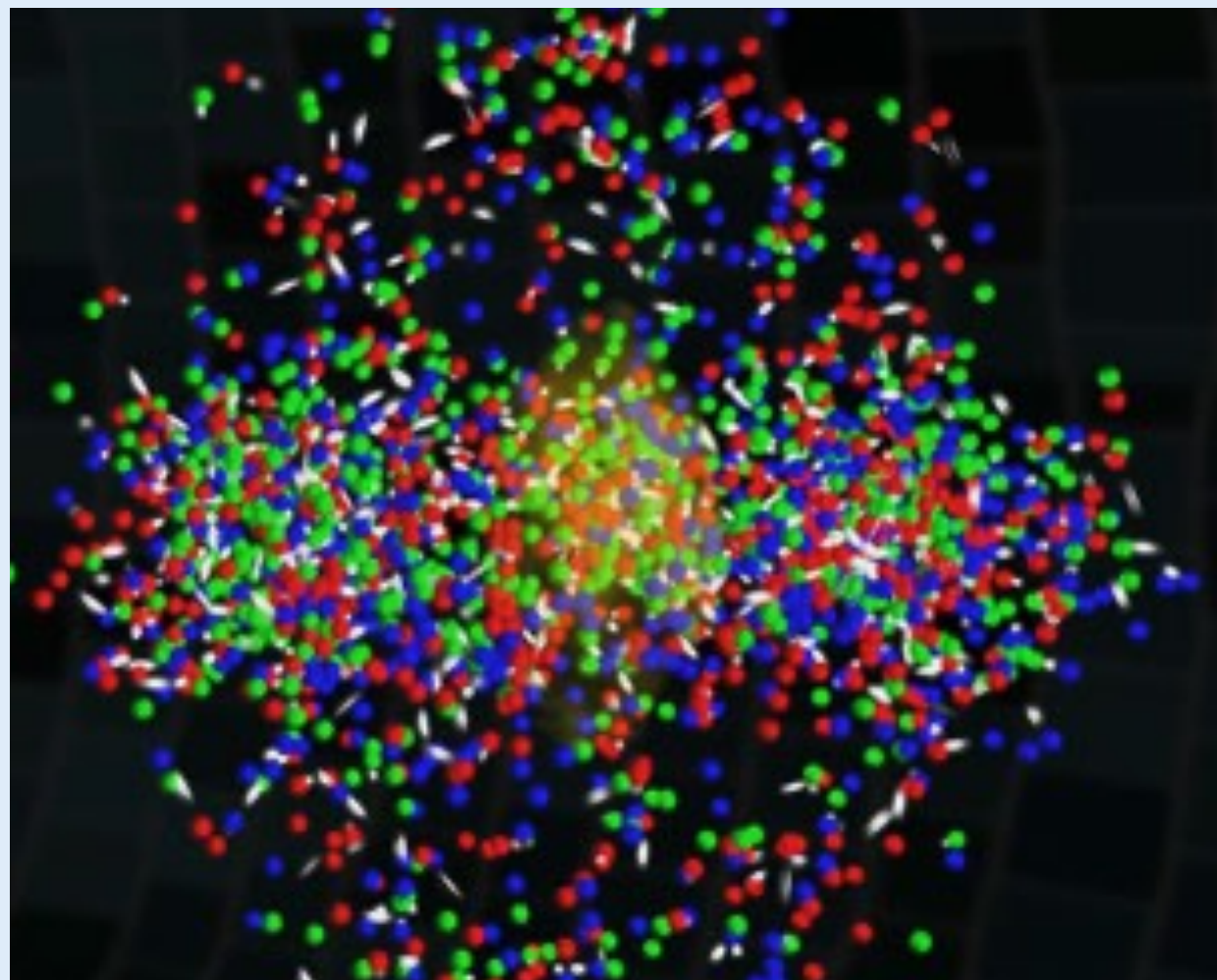
- ❑ Introduction to Quark-Gluon plasma and jet quenching
- ❑ Stages of a parton shower and high virtuality sector
- ❑ Medium-induced single photon emission scattering kernel using perturbative QCD
- ❑ Fermion-to-Boson conversion process
- ❑ Heavy-quark energy loss and coherence effects
- ❑ Connections to Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) physics

# Nuclear matter under extreme condition

Hadrons: (At ordinary temperature)  
Bound state of Quarks-Gluons



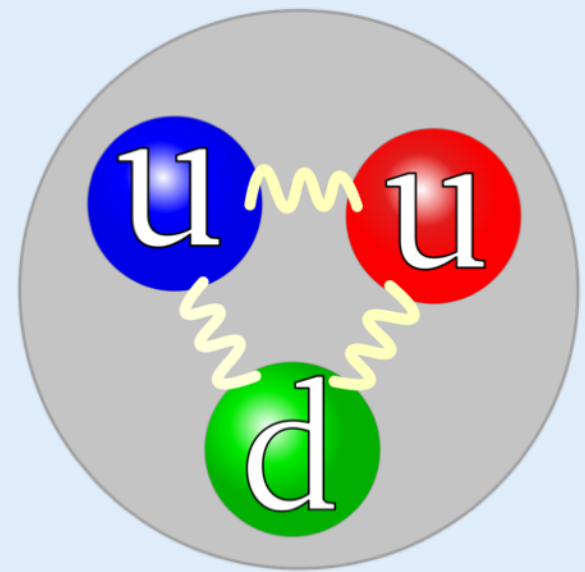
Quarks-Gluon Plasma



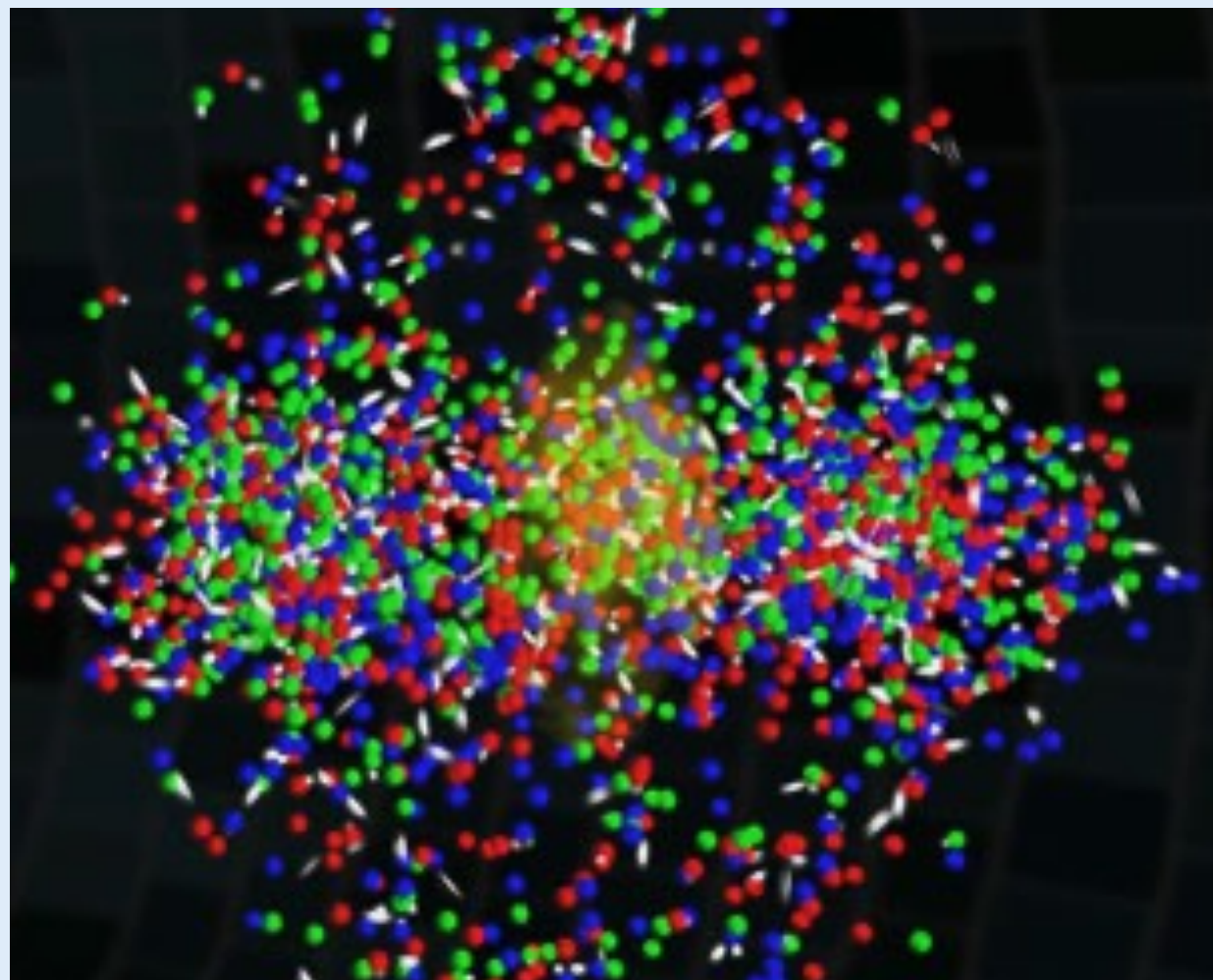
$T \gtrsim 200 \text{ MeV}$

# Nuclear matter under extreme condition

Hadrons: (At ordinary temperature)  
Bound state of Quarks-Gluons

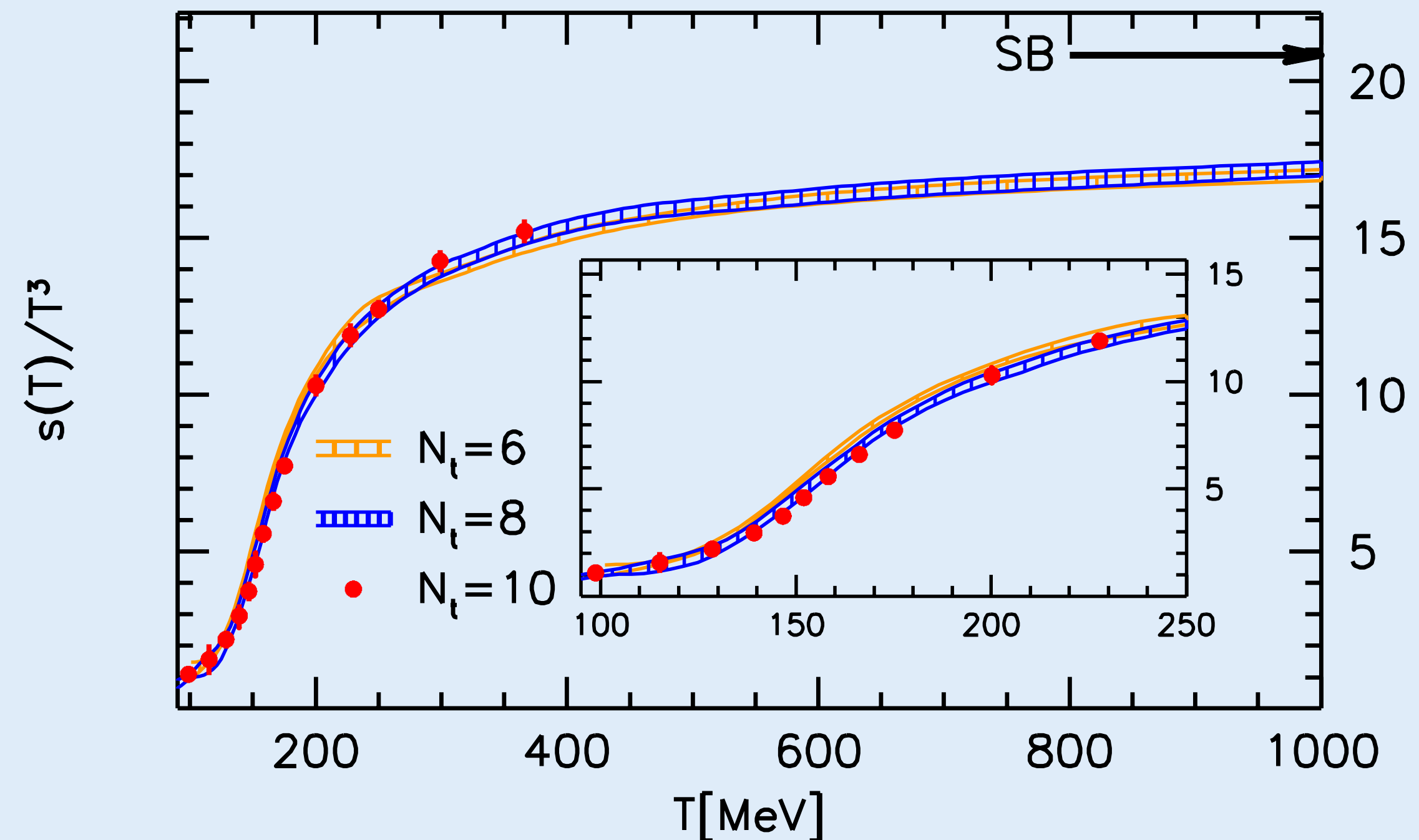


Quarks-Gluon Plasma



$T \gtrsim 200 \text{ MeV}$

Entropy density prediction Lattice QCD  
(Equation of State)

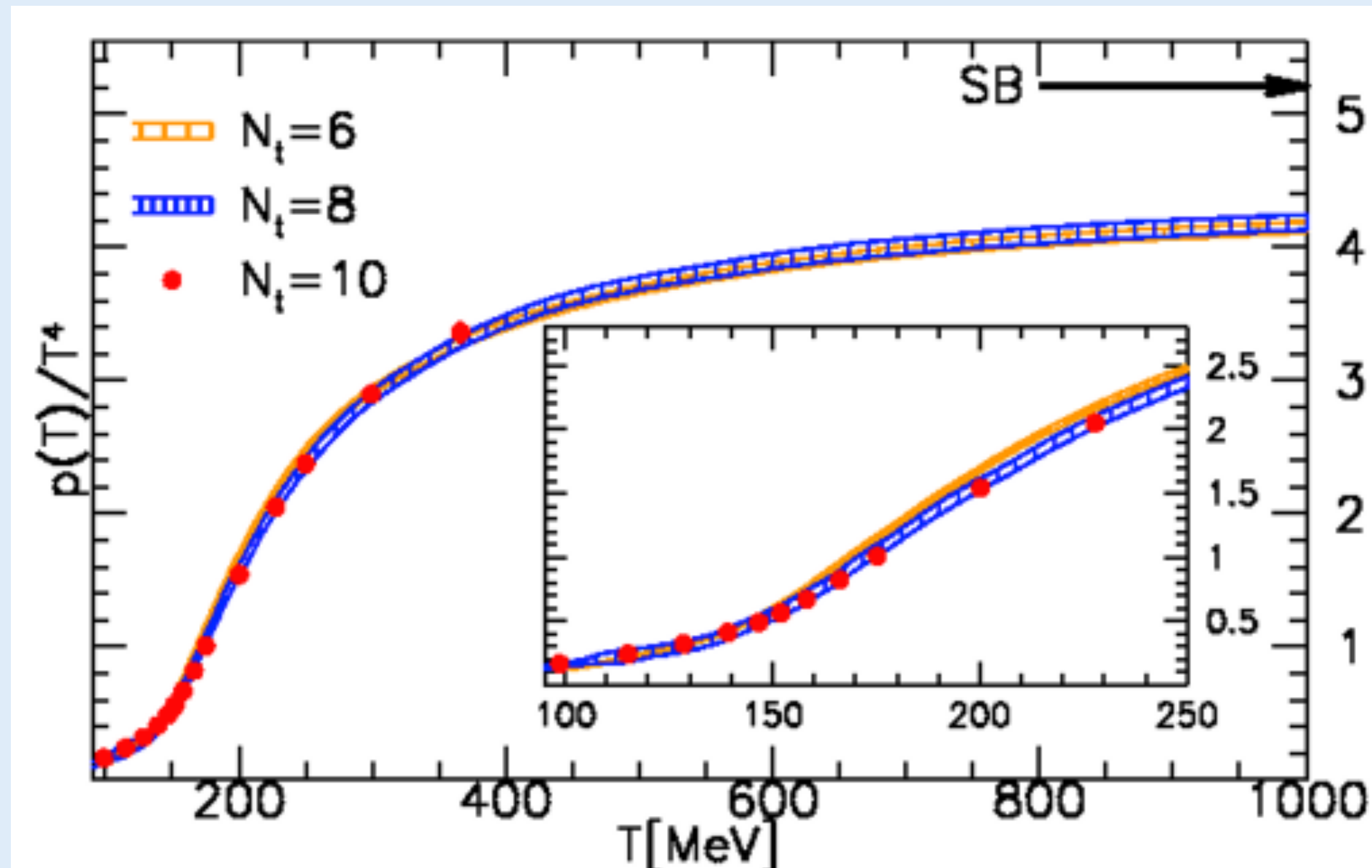


S. Borsanyi et al.,  
JHEP 1011, 077 (2010)

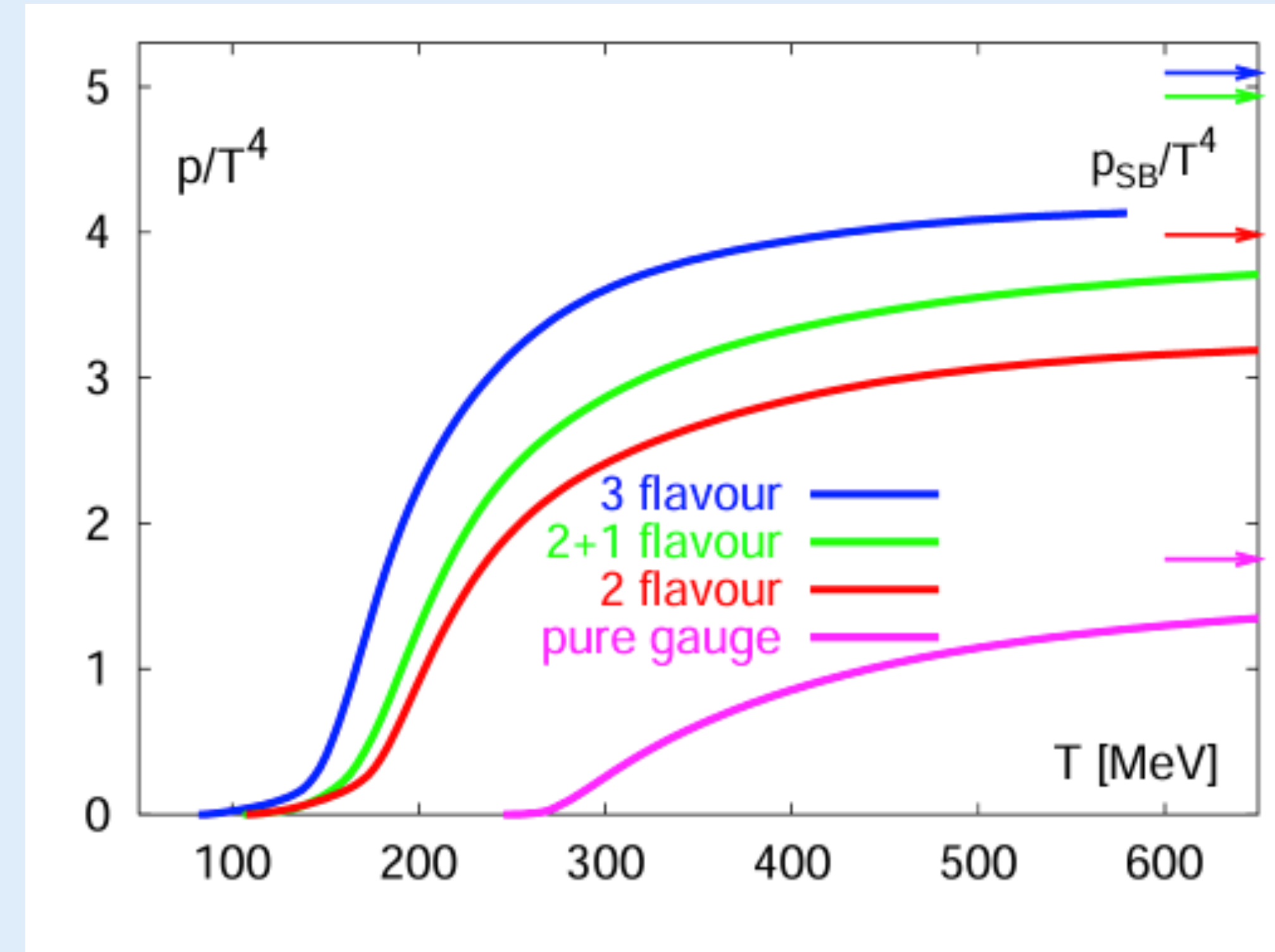
- ❑ Sudden increase in entropy density near the transition region
- ❑ Due to increase in the number of degrees of freedom (DOF)
- ❑ Interpreted as deconfinement of quarks and gluons

# Nuclear matter under extreme condition

## Pressure density prediction Lattice QCD (Equation of State)



S. Borsanyi et al.,  
JHEP 1011, 077 (2010)

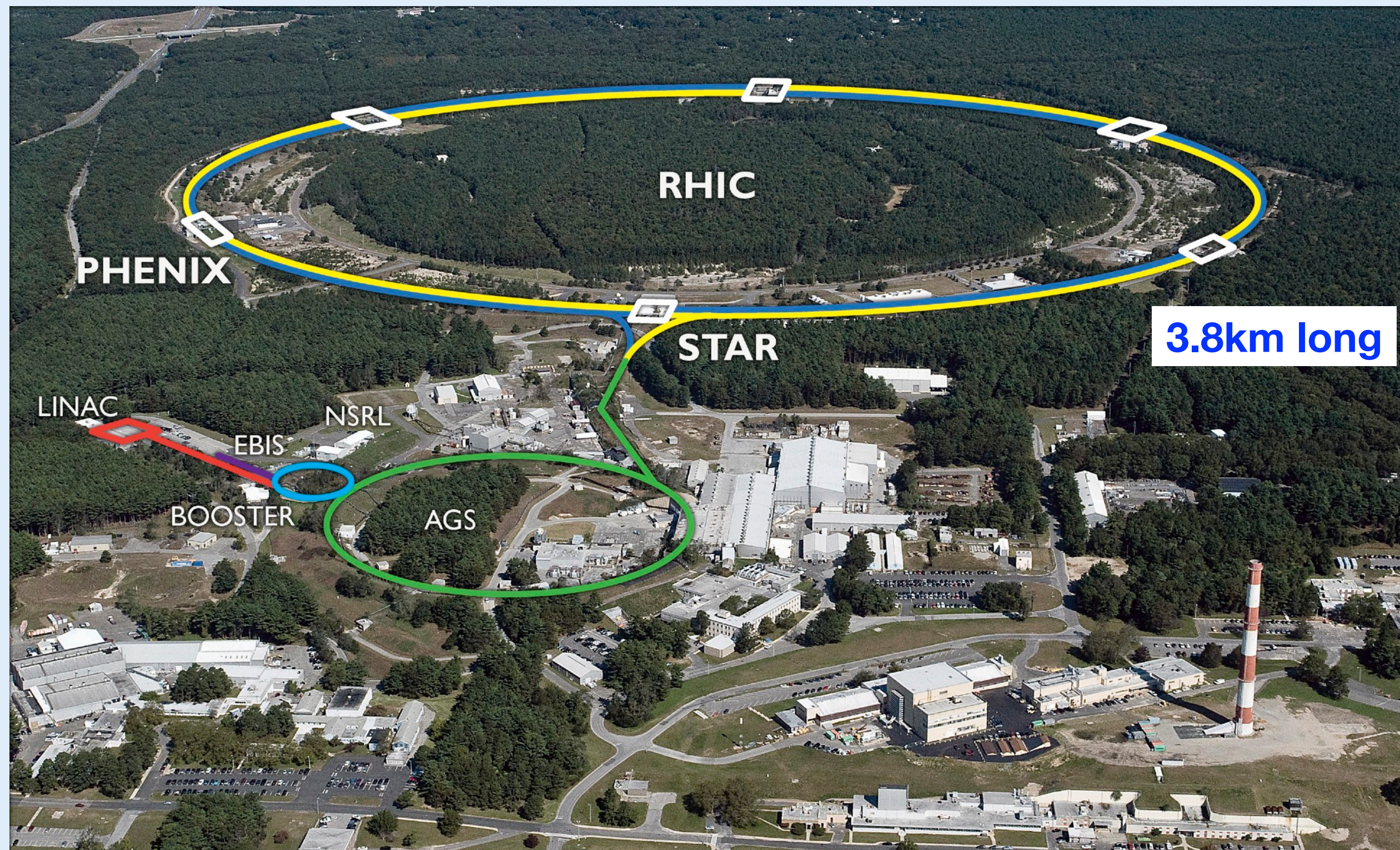


- ❑ Sudden increase in pressure density near the transition region
- ❑ Due to increase in the number of degrees of freedom (DOF)
- ❑ Interpreted as deconfinement of quarks and gluons

Quarks play significant role

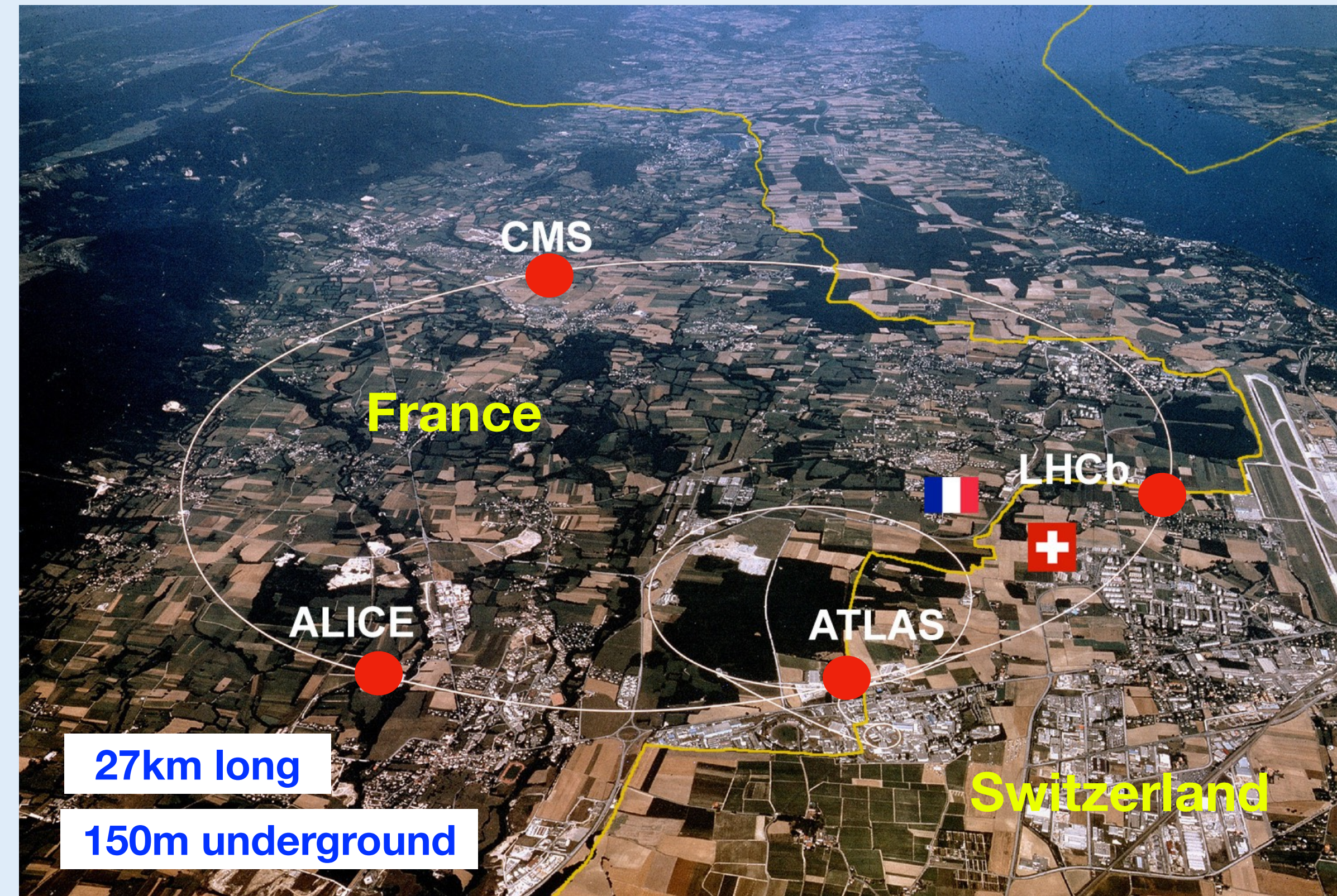
# Creation of the Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)

Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collider (RHIC) at BNL, New York, USA



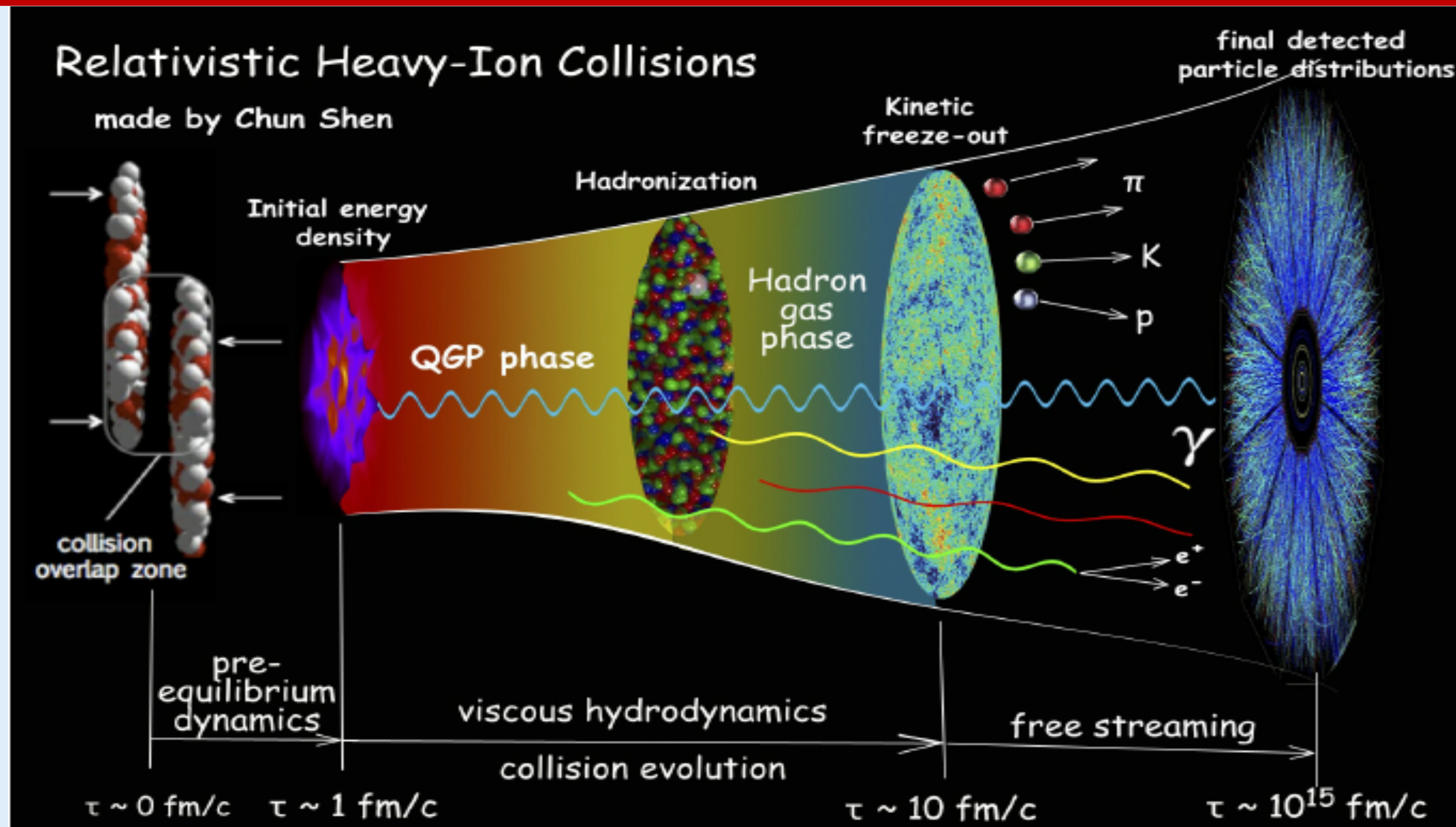
Collide two nuclei @ 5-200 GeV per nucleon pair

Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, France-Switzerland border



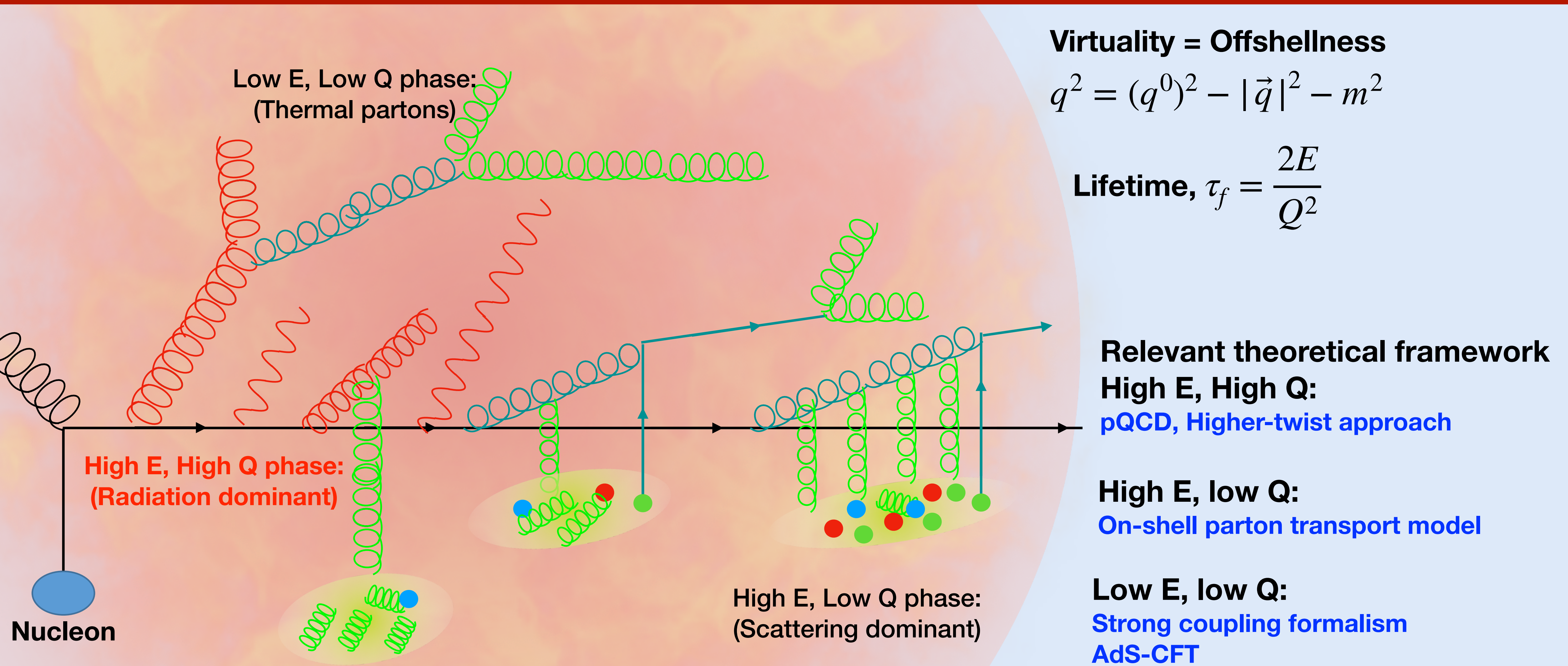
Collide two nuclei @ 2.76 TeV/5 TeV per nucleon pair

# Creation of the Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)



- ❑ **Initial state:** Two Lorentz-contracted nuclei approach each other
- ❑ **Pre-equilibrium state:** undergo hard collisions produce hard probes and drive the system to thermalization in the form of QGP matter (quark density increases rapidly)
- ❑ **QGP phase:** the QGP expands hydrodynamically
- ❑ **Hadronization:** the QGP cools down and new hadrons are formed
- ❑ **Freeze-out:** hadron gas is so dilute that the interactions cease

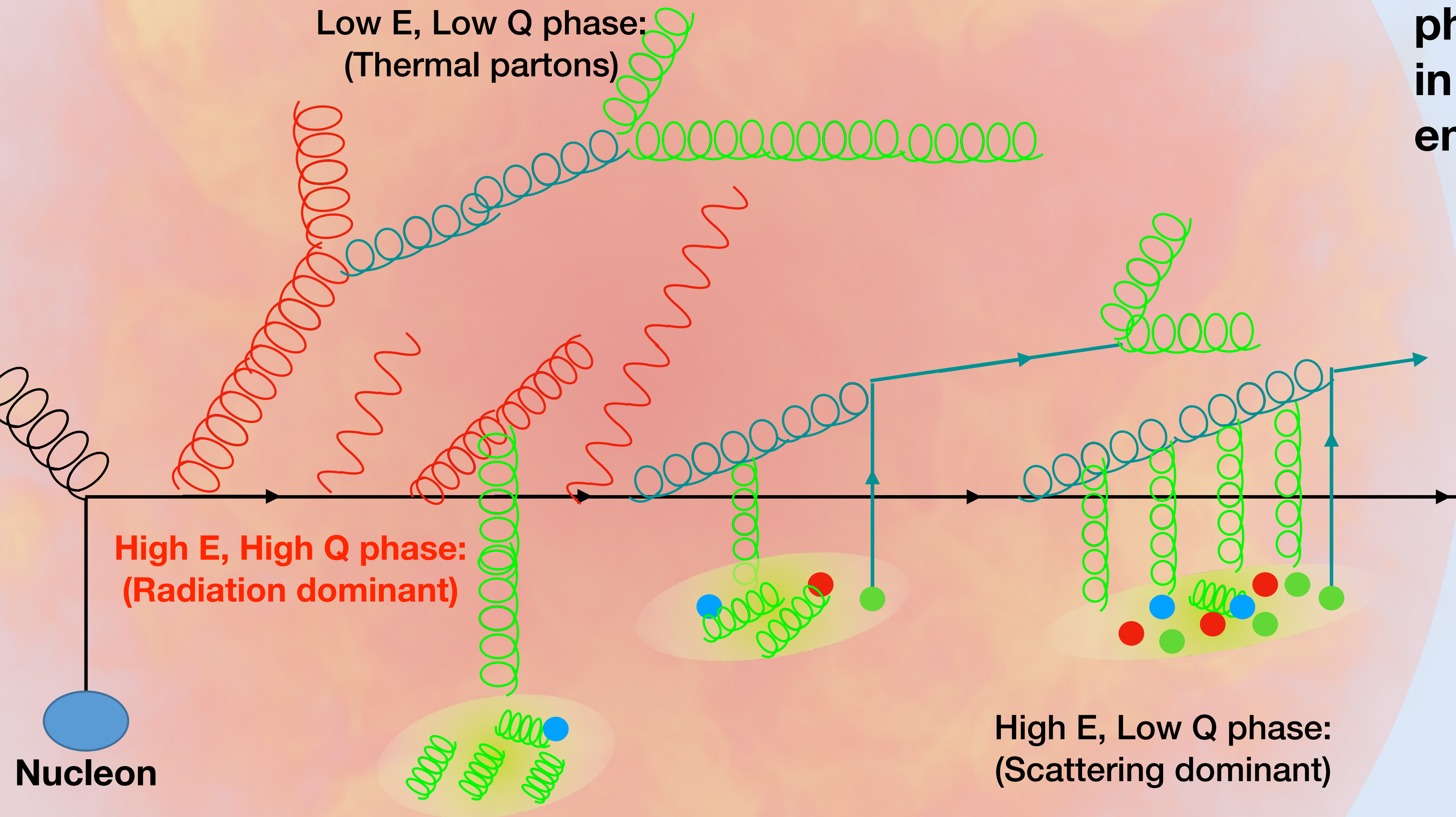
# Jet evolution in QGP a multi-scale phenomenon



QGP is gluon dominant in early stage.  
 Quark density increases in evolution



# Jet evolution in QGP a multi-scale phenomenon



**(1) Incomplete medium-induced photon emission rates are present in current Monte Carlo simulations energy loss models**

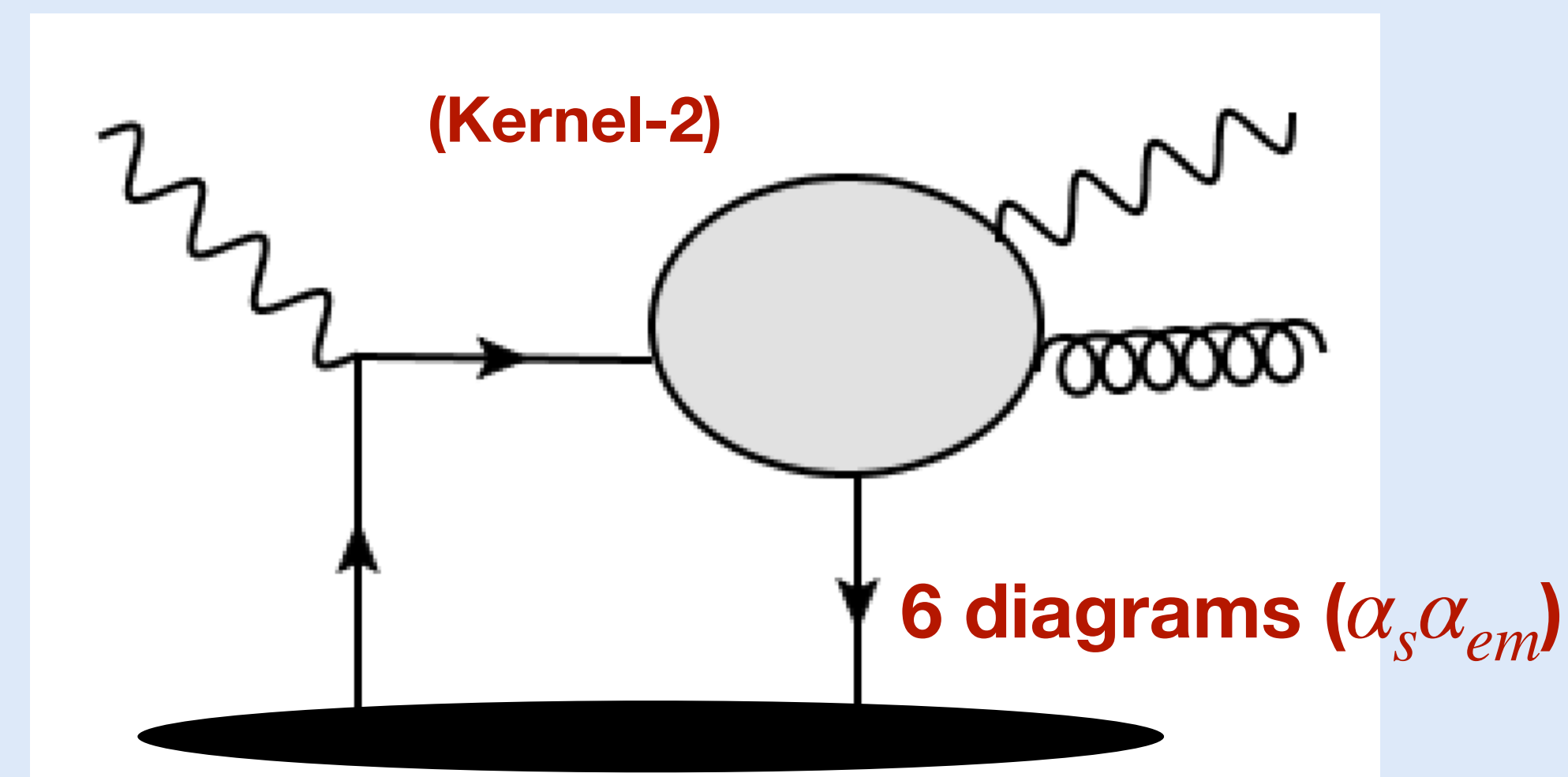
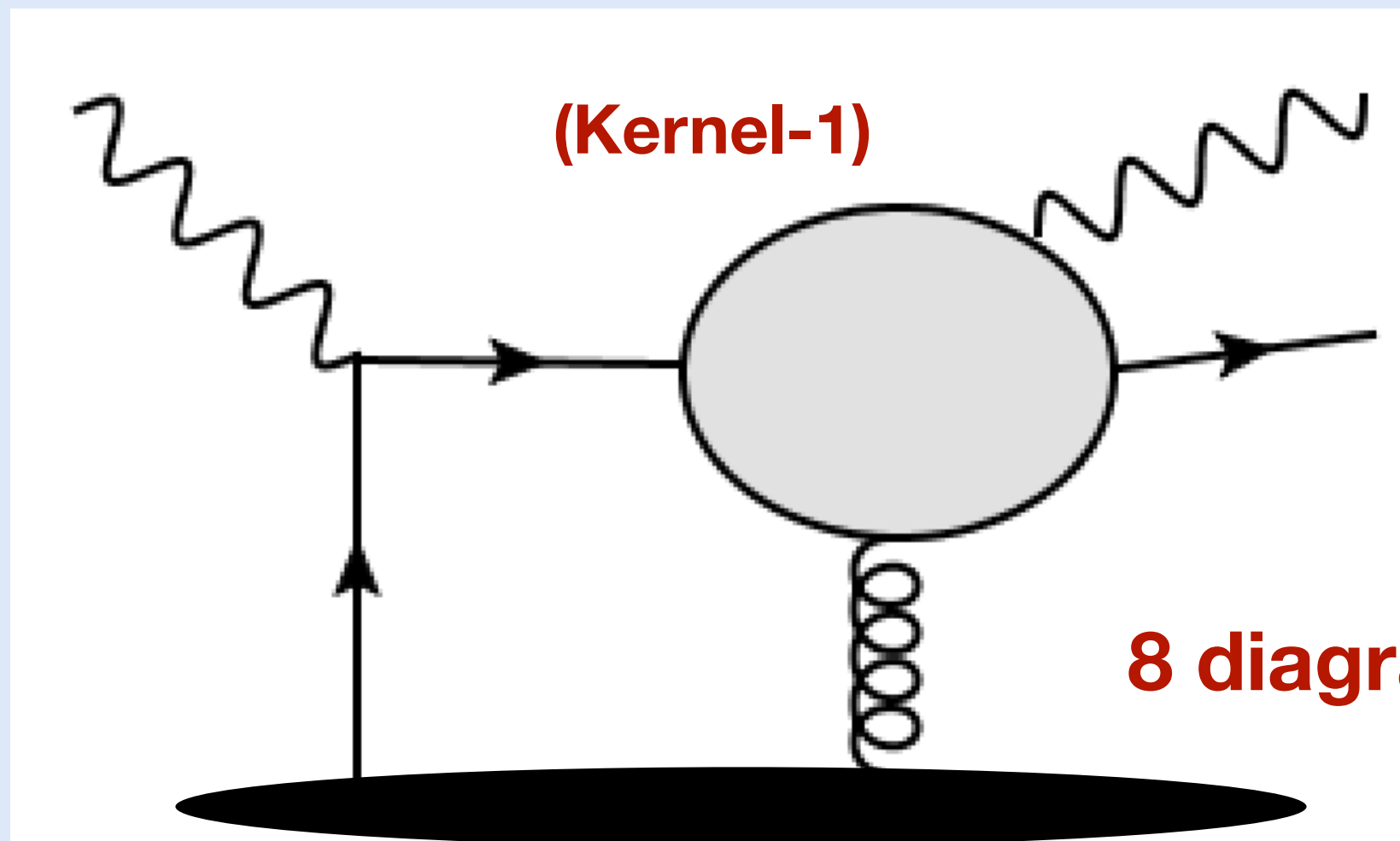
**(2) Mechanism for heavy-quark energy loss in QGP?**

**(3) Path length dependence of energy loss?**

**(4) Conversion processes: (QGP is gluon dominant at early stage then quarks generated)**

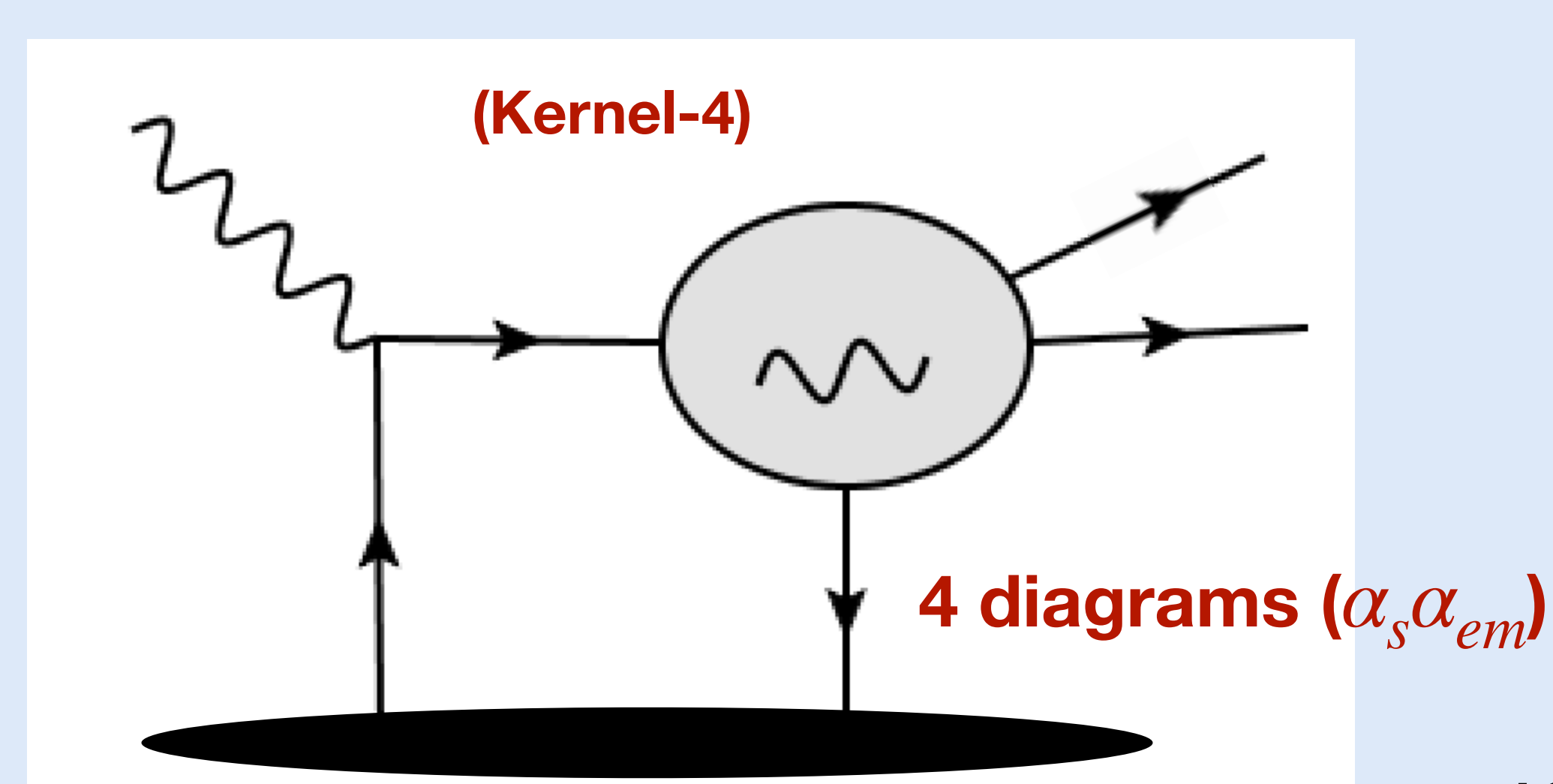
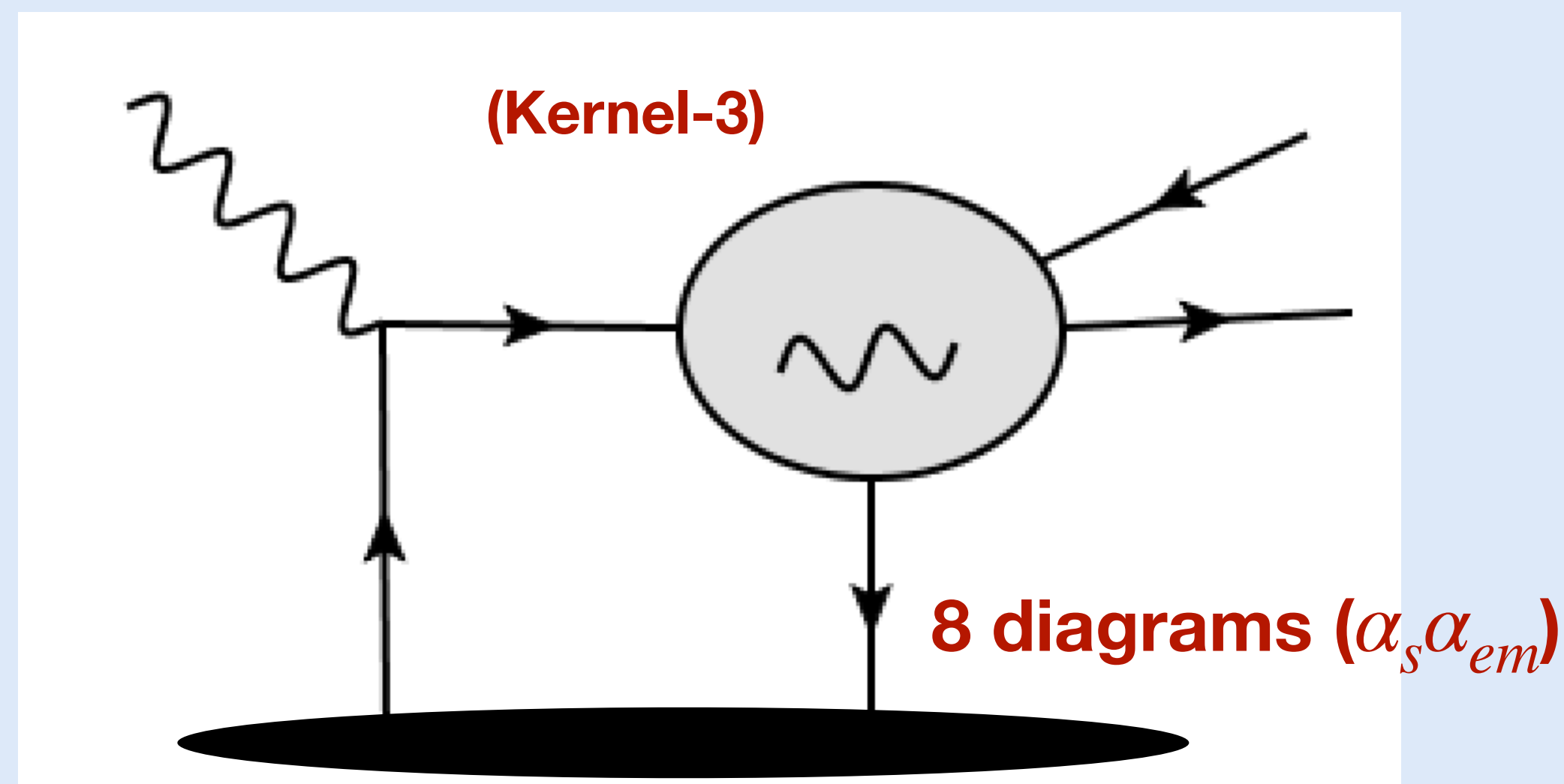
# Medium-induced single photon emission scattering kernels ( $\alpha_{em}\alpha_s$ )

## □ Bremsstrahlung photon emission Kernel



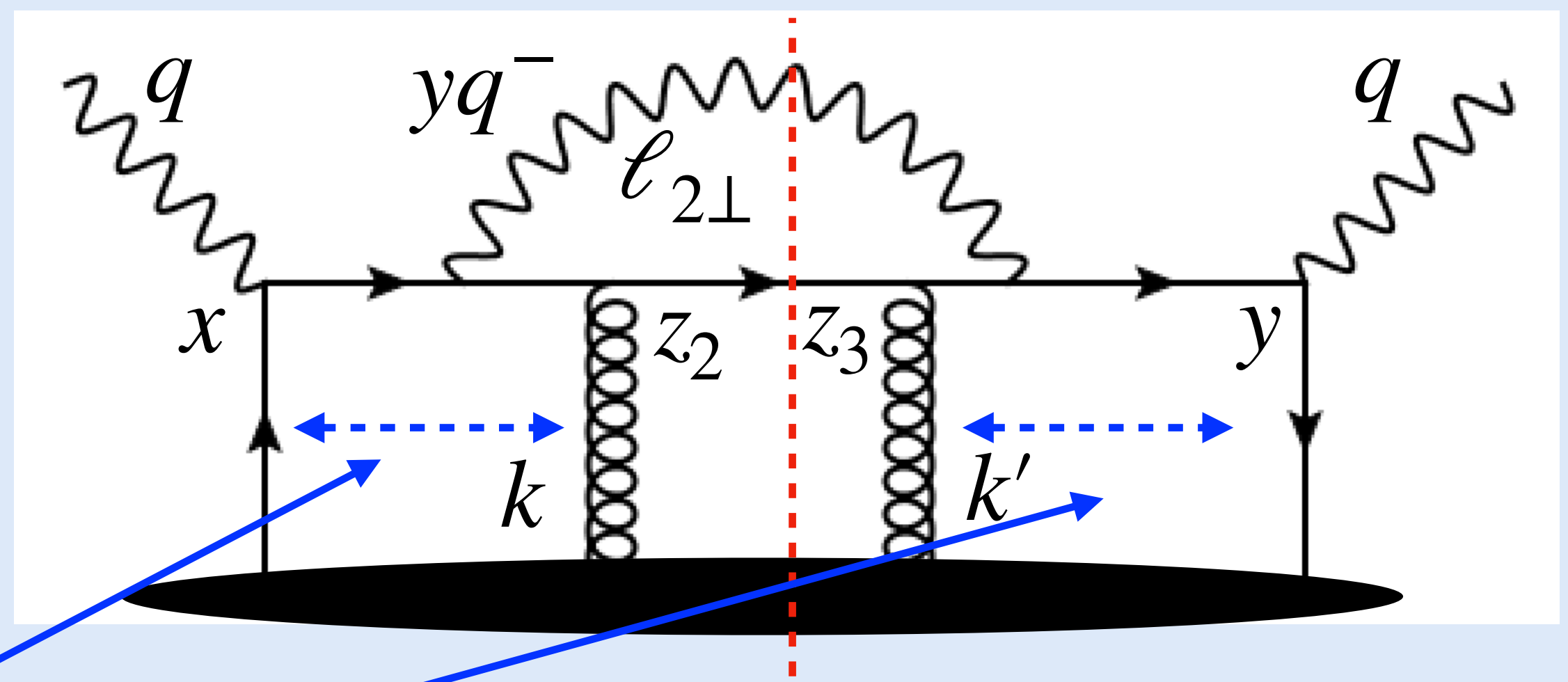
## □ Virtual photon emission Kernel

(Use perturbative QCD to evaluate Feynman Diagrams)



# Single emission and single scattering kernel at high $Q^2$

□ Important Terms in the Scattering kernel:



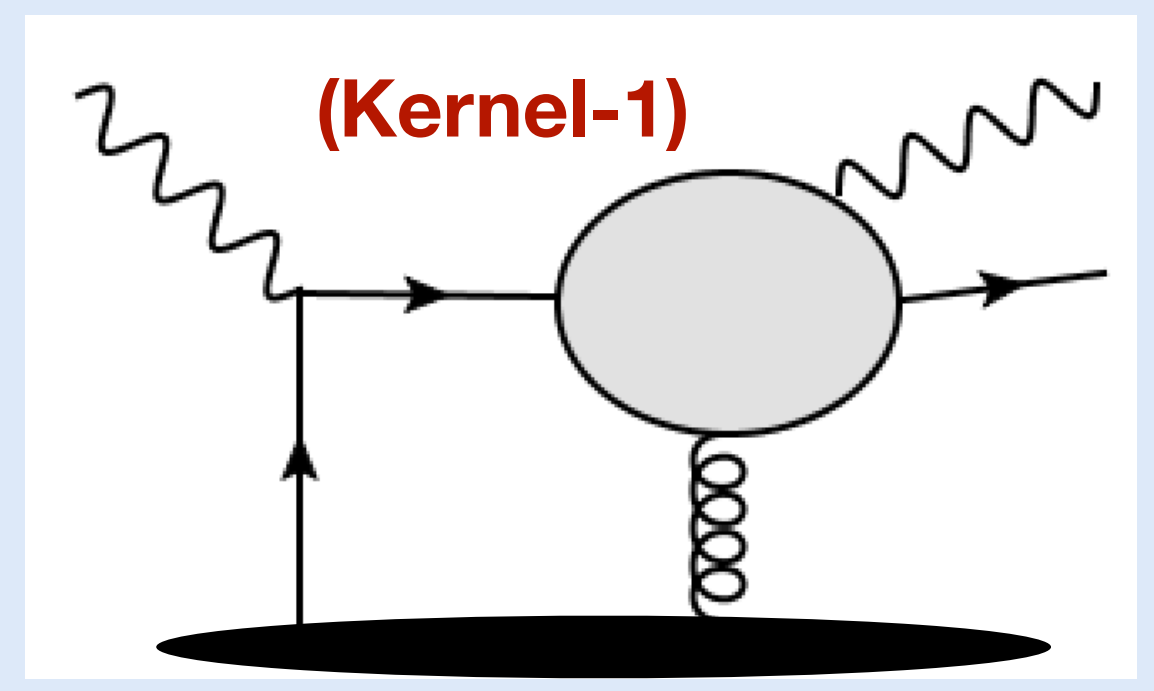
Path length

Forwad scattering diagram (Kernel-1)

Momentum scaling of in-medium parton (Glauber)

Quark Mass effects

§



A. Kumar and G. Vujanovic  
([arXiv:2502.02667](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.02667)) (2025)

# Single emission and single scattering kernel at high $Q^2$

## Important Terms in the Scattering kernel:

◆ Splitting Function  $\left[ \frac{1 + (1 - y)^2}{y} \right]$

◆ Phase interference (positive definite)

$$\left[ \frac{2 - 2 \cos \left\{ \frac{(\ell_{2\perp}^2 + y^2 M^2)}{2y(1-y)q^-} \zeta^- \right\}}{\ell_{2\perp}^2} \right]$$

(Positive matrix element)

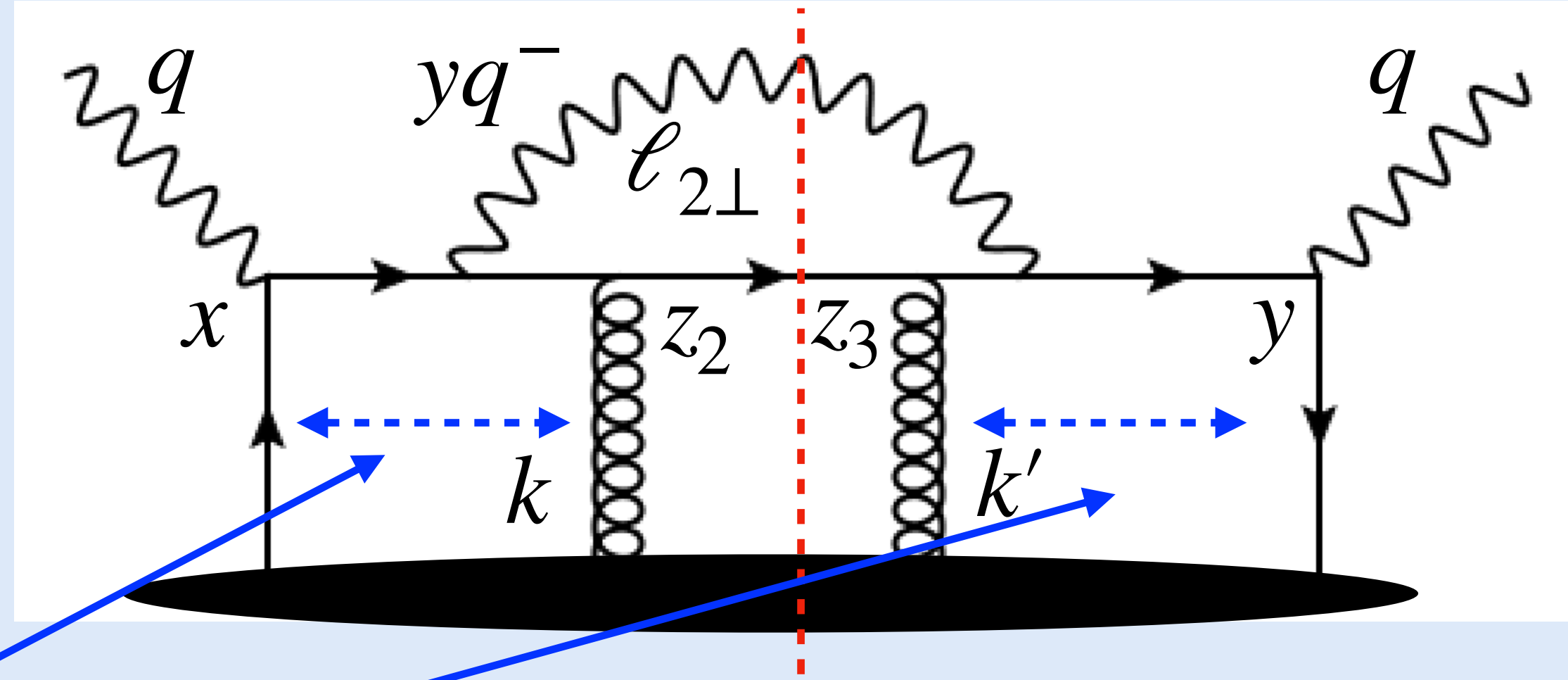
◆ Non-perturbative in-medium operators

$$\langle P_{A-1} | A^+(\zeta^-, \Delta z^-, \Delta z_{\perp}) A^+(\zeta^-, 0) | P_{A-1} \rangle e$$

$$i\Delta z^- \left[ \frac{\vec{\ell}_{2\perp}^2 - yM^2}{2yq^-} + \frac{(\vec{\ell}_{2\perp} - \vec{k}_{\perp})^2 + M^2}{2q^-(1-y+\eta y)} \right]$$

Contains transverse momentum dependence in addition to collinear momentum

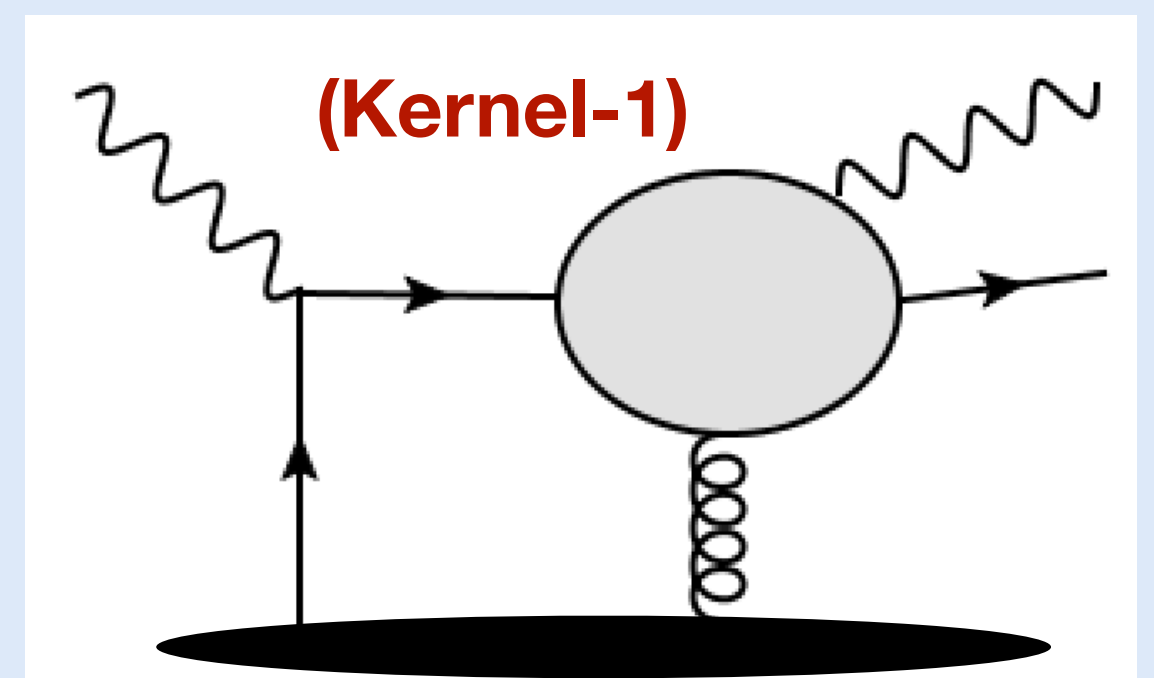
(TMD-like phase space)



Forward scattering diagram (Kernel-1)

Momentum scaling of in-medium parton (Glauber)

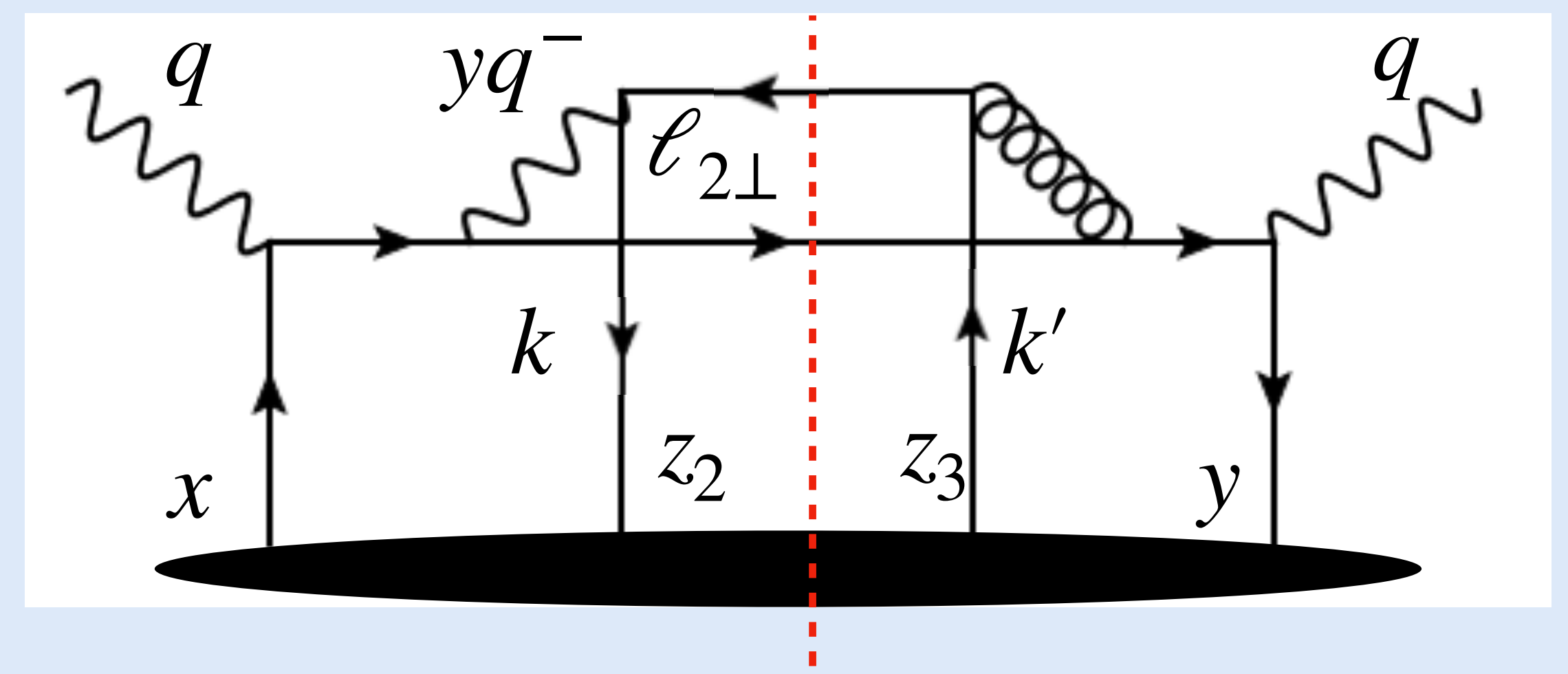
Quark Mass effects



A. Kumar and G. Vujanovic  
(arXiv:2502.02667) (2025)

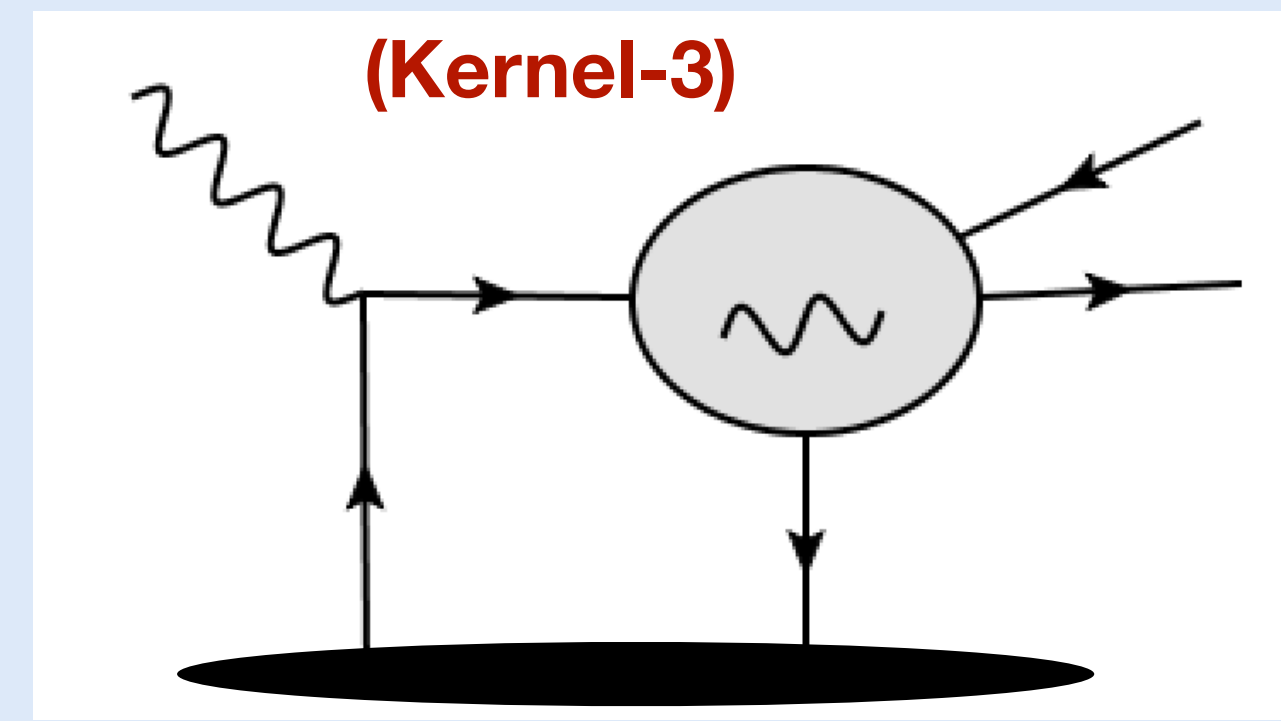
# Single emission and single scattering kernel at high $Q^2$

□ Important Terms in Scattering kernel:



Forward scattering diagram (Kernel-3)

- Momentum scaling of in-medium parton (Glauber)
- Quark Mass effects
- Conversion processes (Suppressed by energy )



TMD-like phase space

# Single emission and single scattering kernel at high $Q^2$

## Important Terms in Scattering kernel:

◆ Splitting Function  $\left[ \frac{1 + (1 - y)^2}{y} \right]$

◆ Phase coherence effect

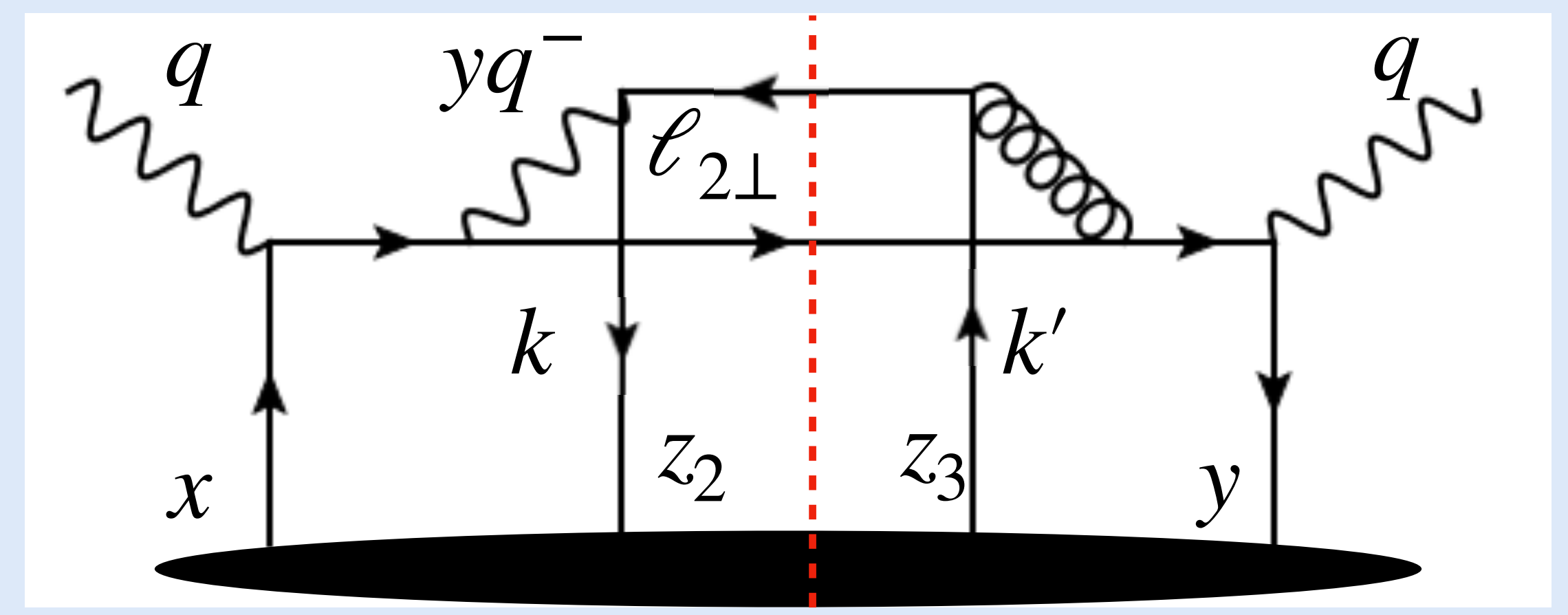
$$\left[ \frac{2 - 2 \cos \left\{ \frac{(\ell_{2\perp} - k_{\perp})^2 + y^2 M^2}{2y(1 - y)q^-} \zeta^- \right\}}{(\ell_{2\perp} - k_{\perp})^2} \right]$$

$\ell_{2\perp} \approx k_{\perp}$ , amplitude square is maximum  
In-medium quark can resolve the splitting

◆ Non-perturbative in-medium operators

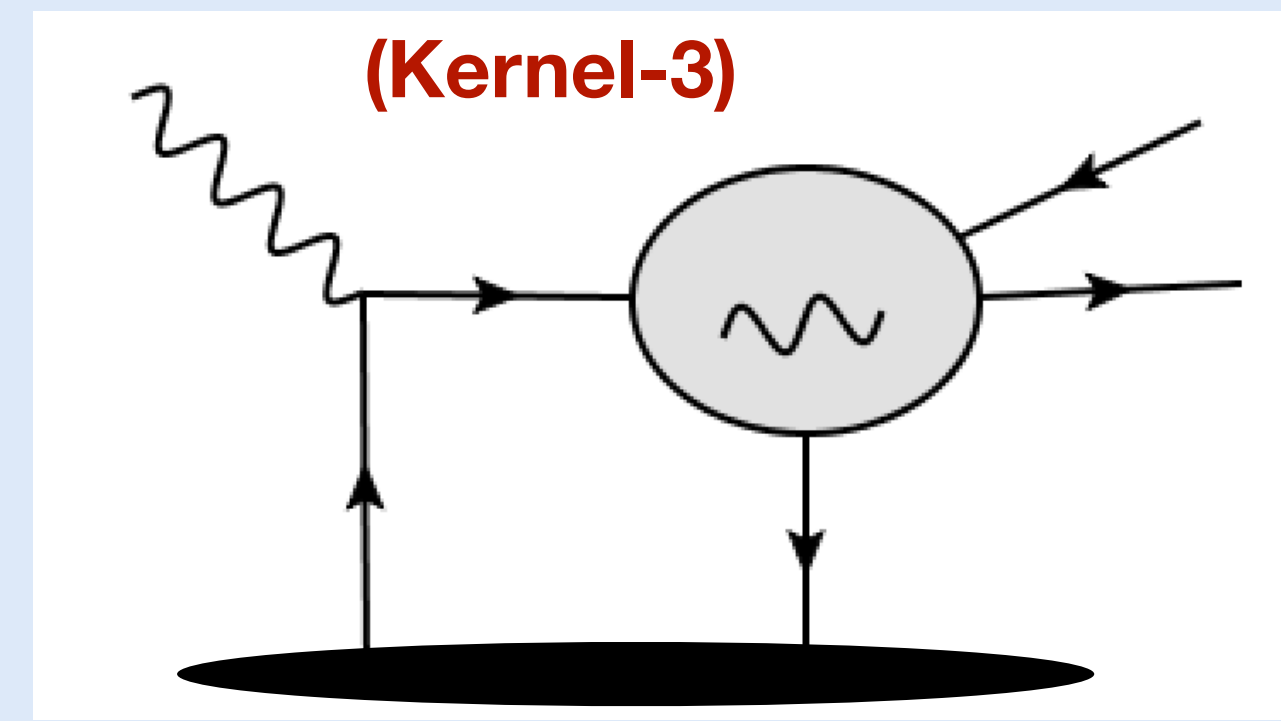
$$\frac{1}{yq^-} \left\langle P_{A-1} \left| \bar{\psi}(\zeta^-, 0) \frac{\gamma^+}{4} \psi(\zeta^-, \Delta z^-, \Delta \vec{z}_{\perp}) \right| P_{A-1} \right\rangle e^{i\Delta z^- \left[ \frac{\vec{\ell}_{2\perp}^2 - yM^2}{2yq^-} + \frac{(\vec{\ell}_{2\perp} - \vec{k}_{\perp})^2 + M^2}{2q^-(1 - y + \eta y)} \right]}$$

Contains transverse momentum dependence in addition to collinear momentum



Forward scattering diagram (Kernel-3)

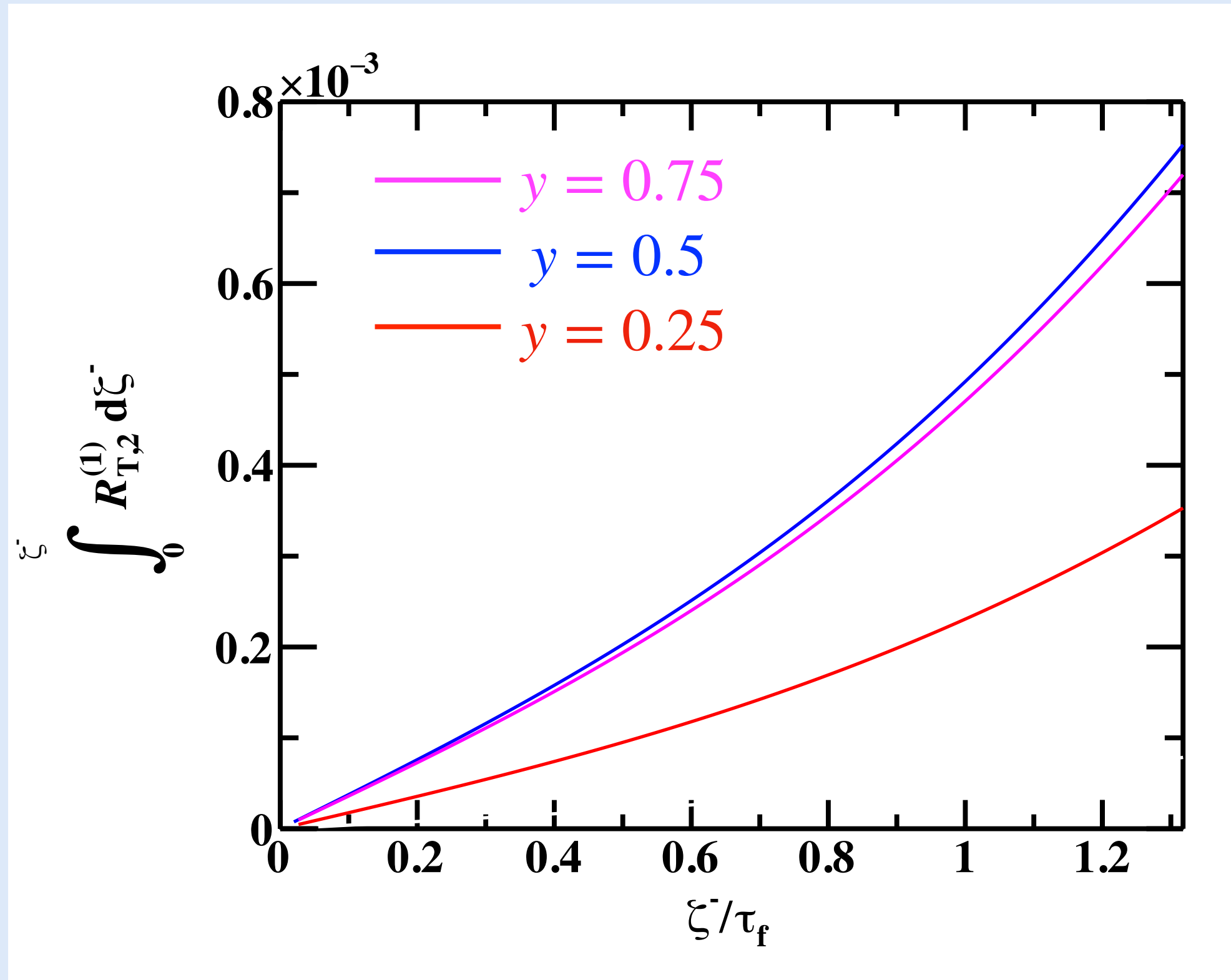
- Momentum scaling of in-medium parton (Glauber)
- Quark Mass effects
- Conversion processes (Suppressed by energy)



TMD-like phase space

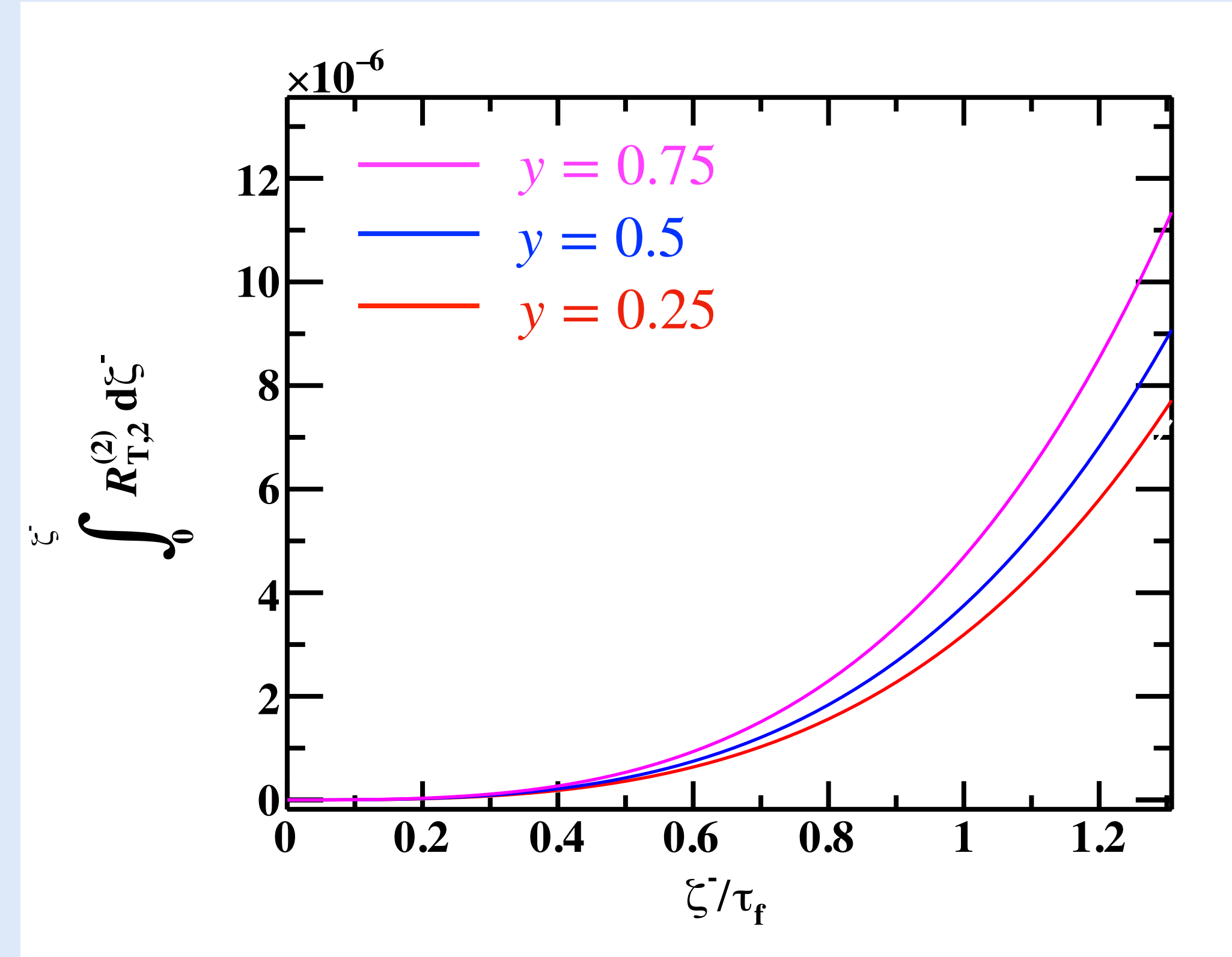
# Path length dependence of scattering kernel

□ Bremsstrahlung photon emission, single scattering kernel for quark mass  $M = 0$



Kernel-1

(Length integrated kernel)



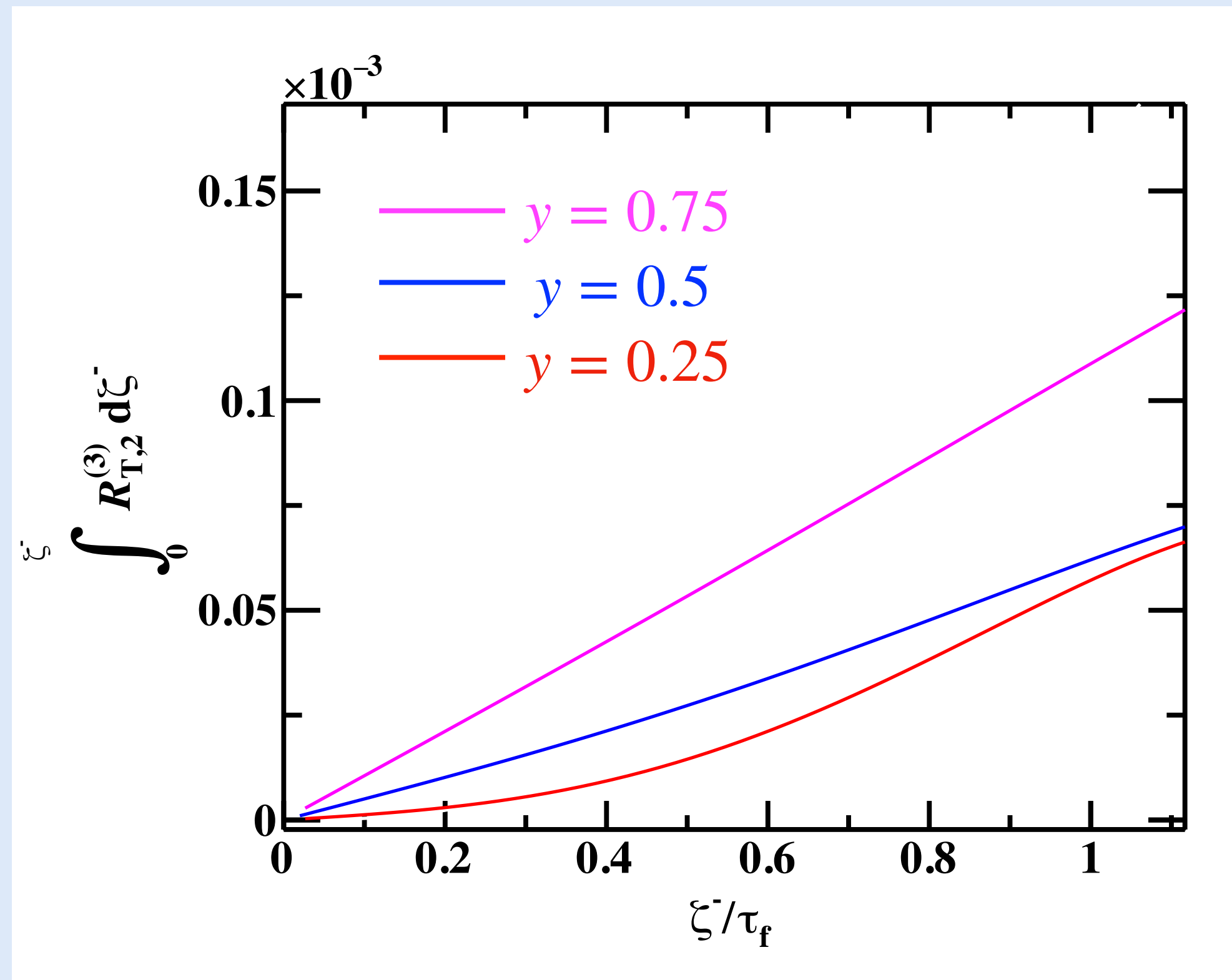
Kernel-2

□ Kernel shows positive and increasing trend with the path length traversed

A. Kumar and G. Vujanovic  
([arXiv:2502.02667](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.02667)) (2025)

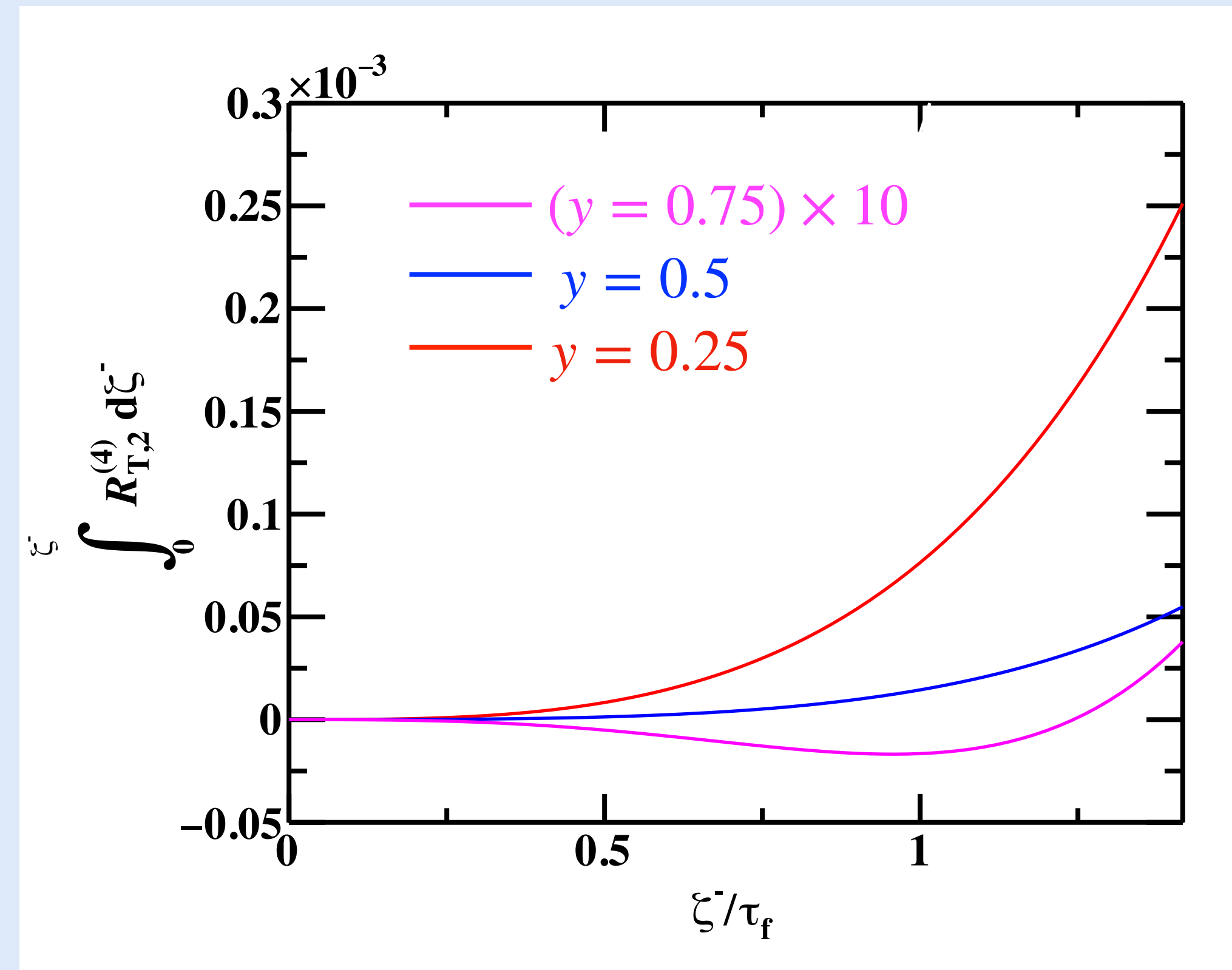
# Path length dependence of scattering kernel (conti.)

- Virtual photon emission scattering kernel for quark mass  $M = 0$



Kernel-3

(Length integrated kernel)



Kernel-4

Here,  $y$  is momentum fraction carried away by radiated photon

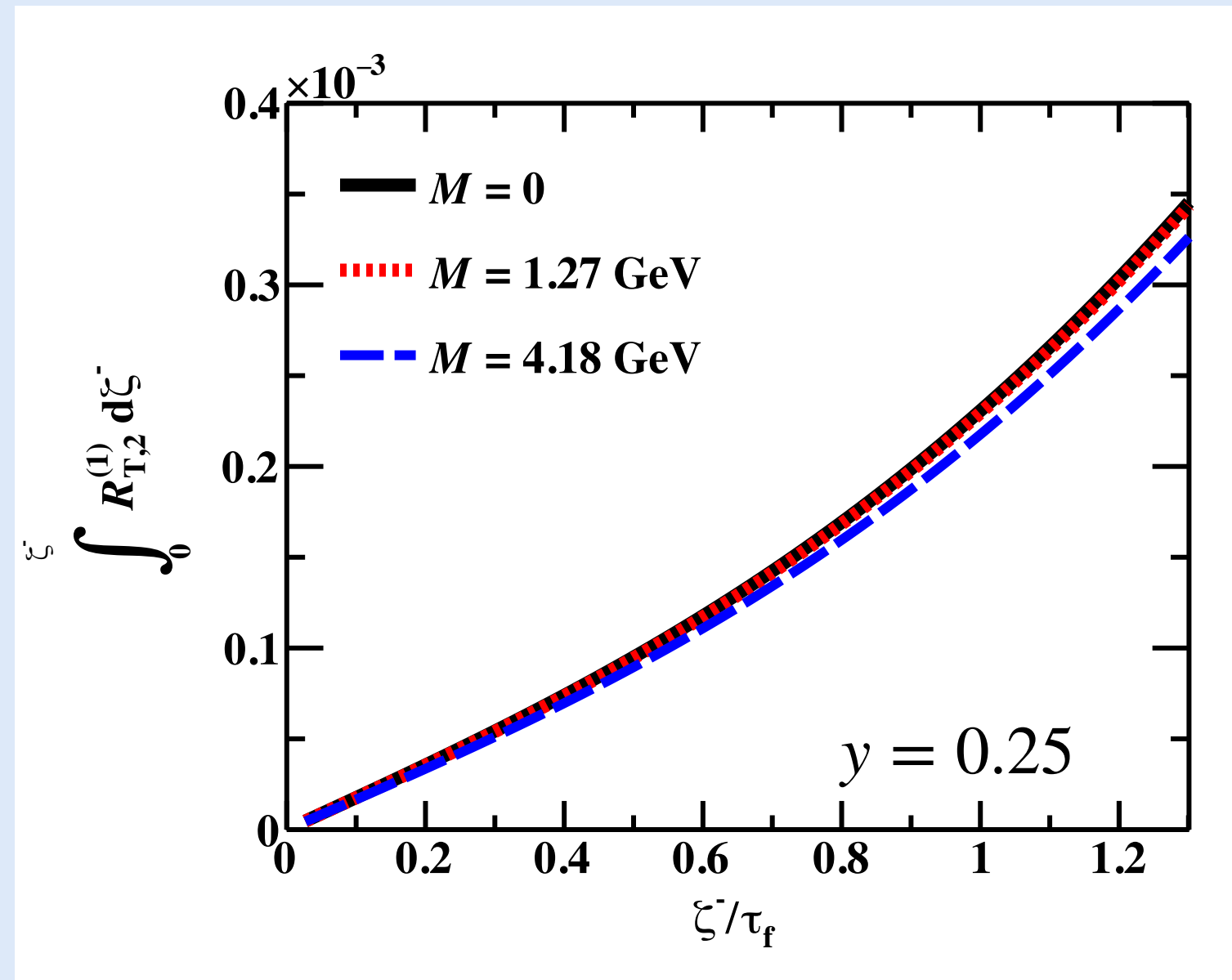
- Kernel shows positive and increasing trend with the path length traversed
- Interference term

A. Kumar and G. Vujanovic  
([arXiv:2502.02667](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.02667)) (2025)

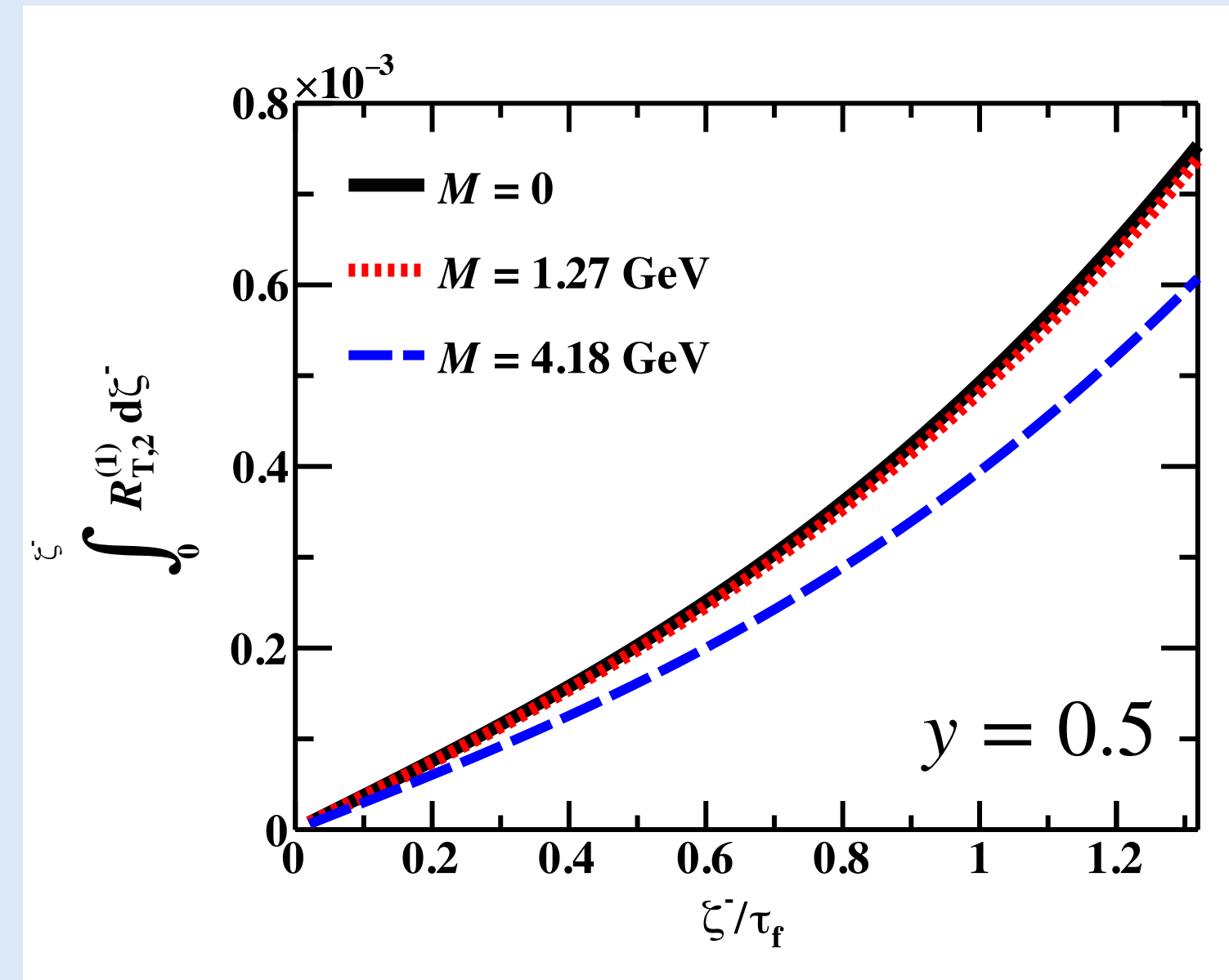


# Path length dependence of scattering kernel for heavy-quarks

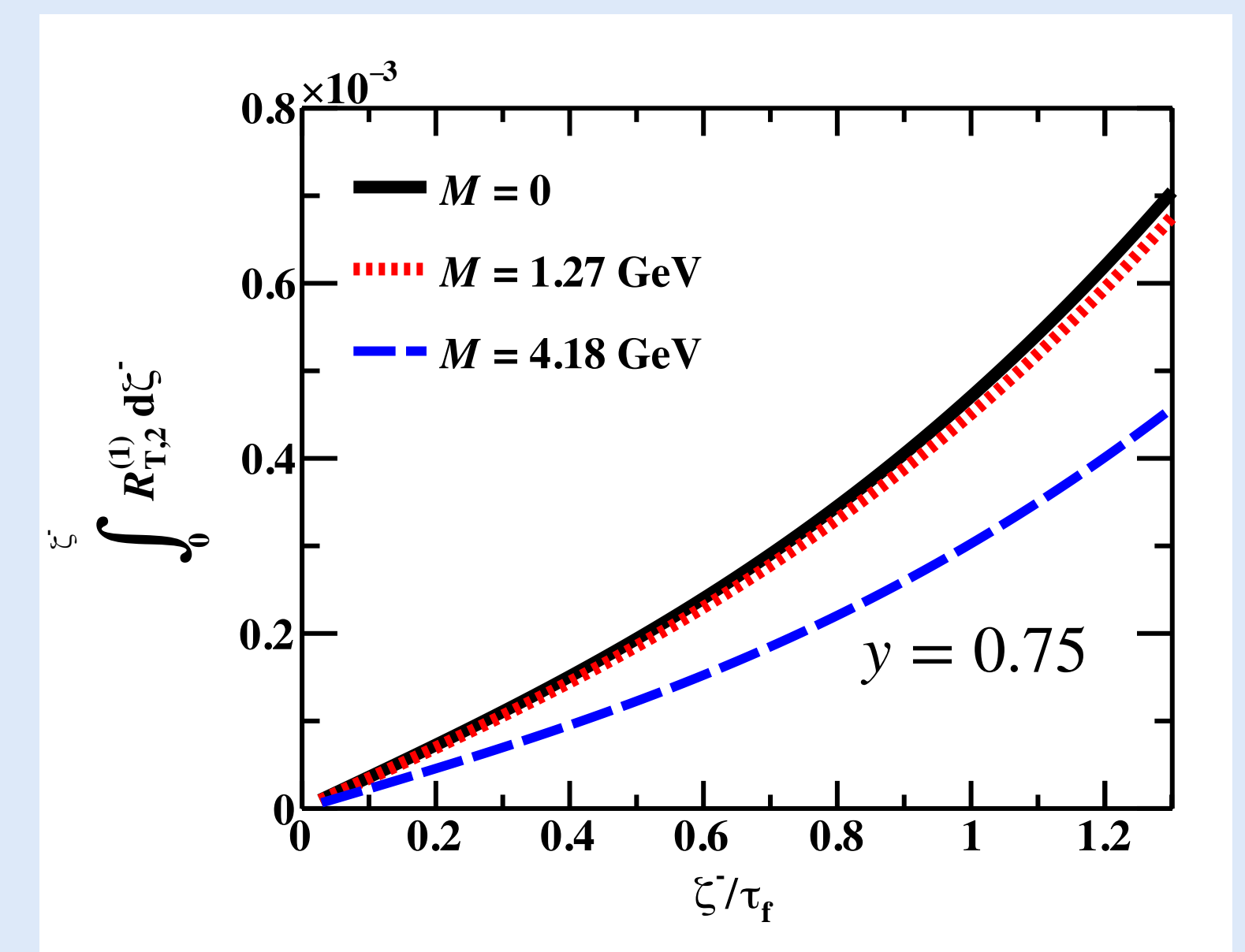
□ Bremsstrahlung photon emission, single scattering kernel for charm and bottom quark mass



Kernel-1



(Length integrated kernel)

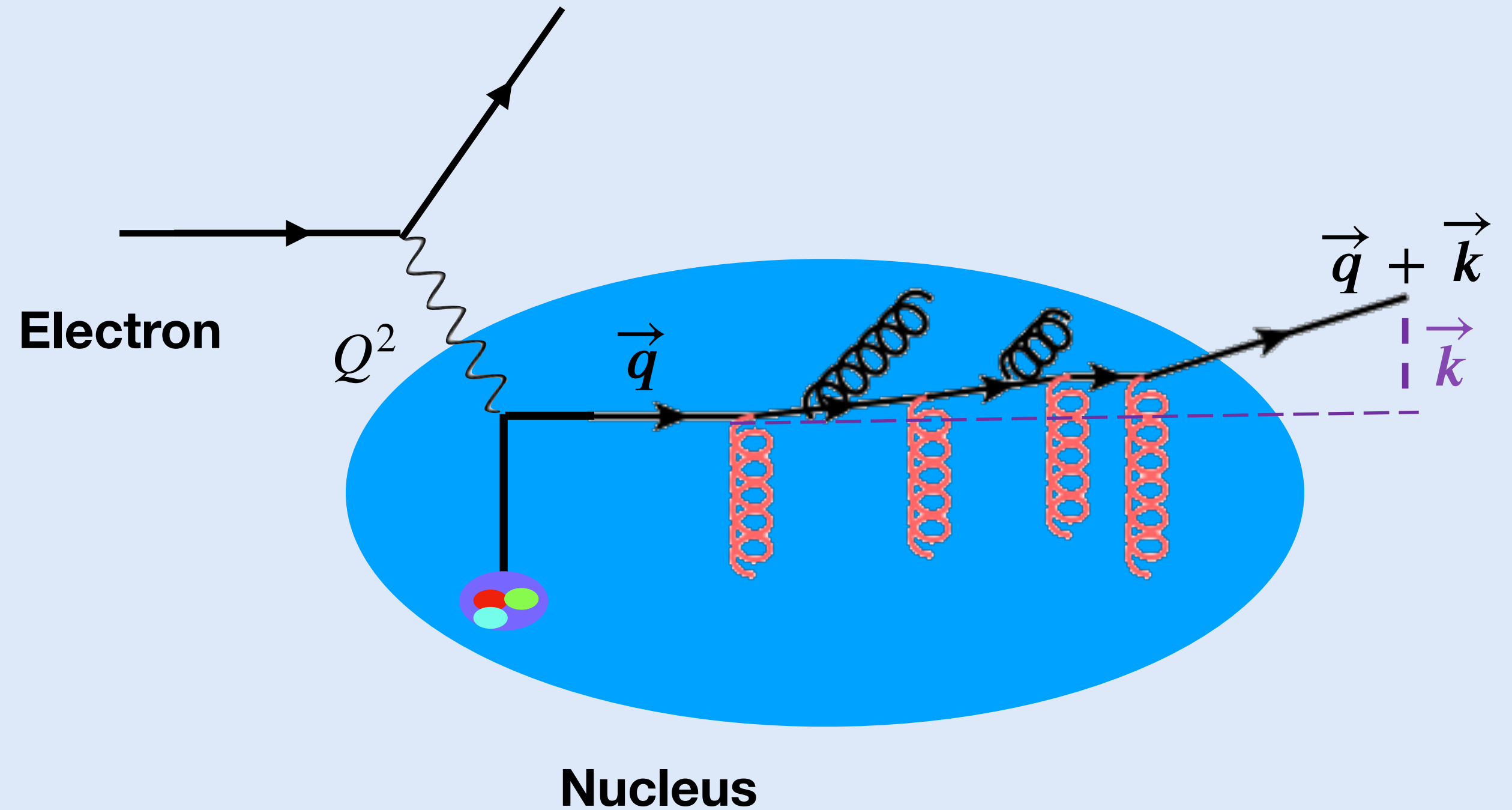
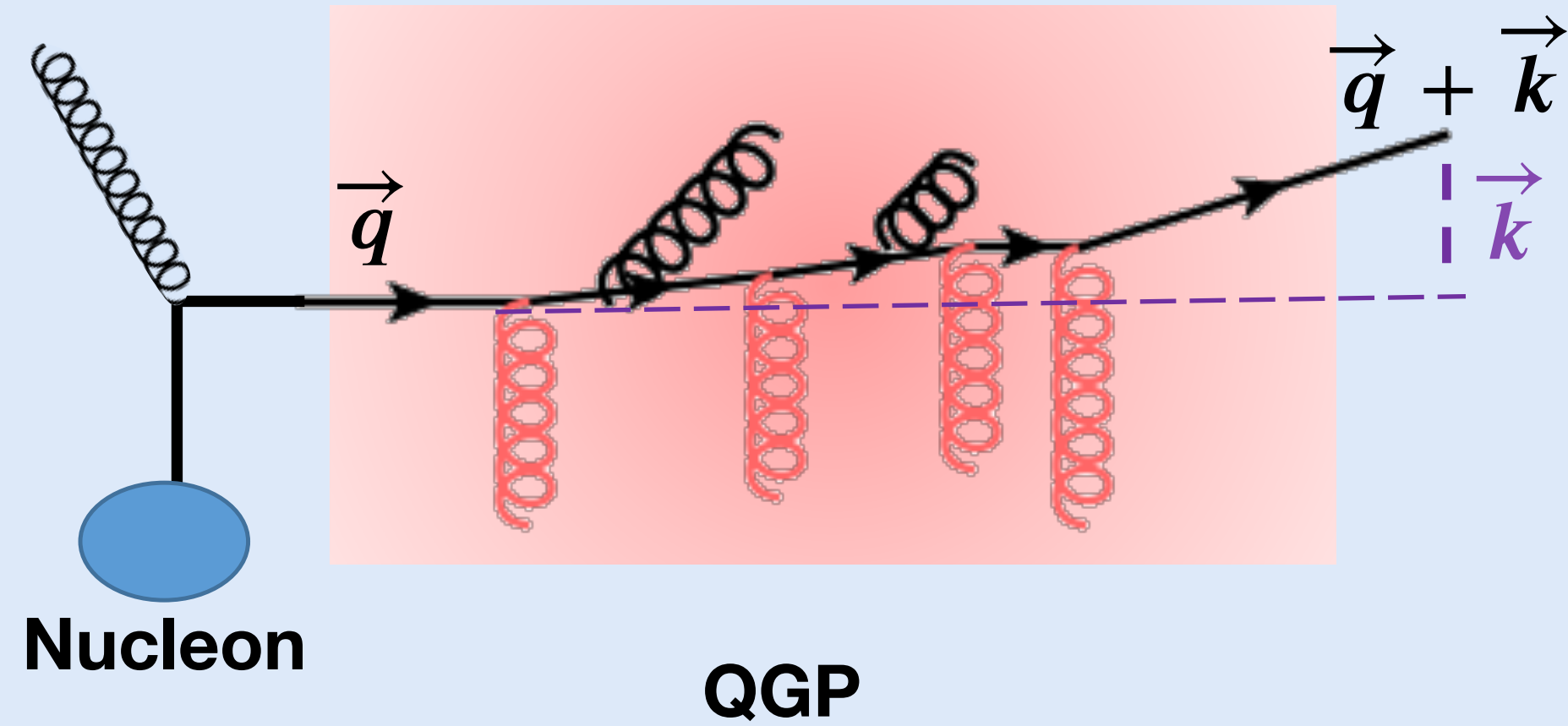


- Bottom quark demonstrates large mass effects compared to charm quark
- Kernel-3 and kernel-4 also show similar behavior

A. Kumar and G. Vujanovic  
([arXiv:2502.02667](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.02667)) (2025)

# Jet transport coefficients in cold nuclear medium

- Factorized approach to jet evolution



- Transport coefficient  $\hat{q}$ :

$$\hat{q}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\langle \vec{k}_\perp^2 \rangle}{L} \propto \langle M | F_\perp^+(y^-, y_\perp) F^{+\perp}(0) | M \rangle$$

- Transport coefficient  $\hat{e}$ :

$$\hat{e}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\langle k_z \rangle}{L} \propto \langle M | \partial^- A^+(y^-, y_\perp) A^+(0) | M \rangle$$

- Transport coefficient  $\hat{e}_2$ :

$$\hat{e}_2(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\langle k_z^2 \rangle}{L} \propto \langle M | F^{+-}(y^-, y_\perp) F^{+-}(0) | M \rangle$$

◆ Transport coefficient arise from pQCD based calculations

◆ Replace QGP thermal state with hadronic nuclear state

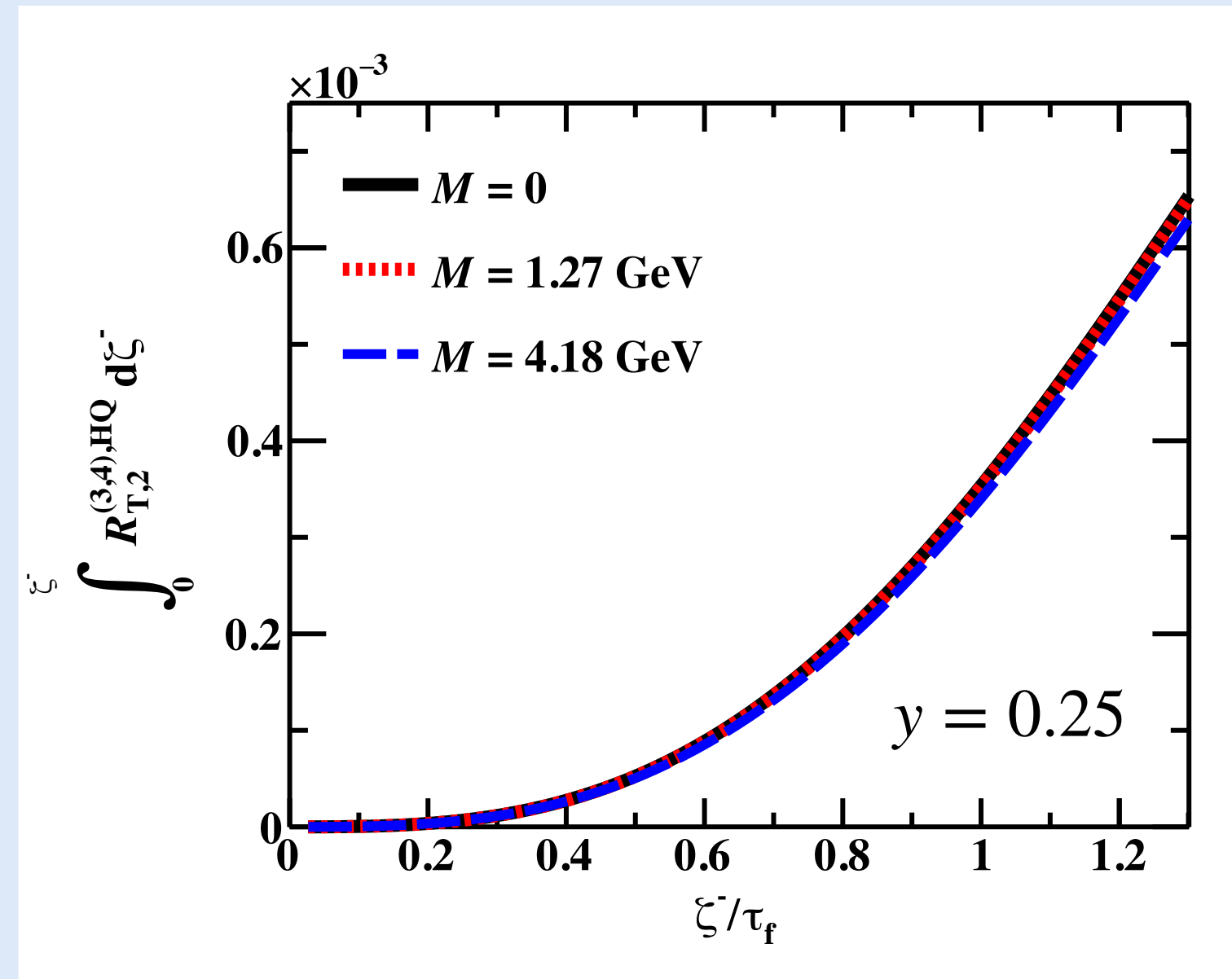
⇒ Energy loss calculation can be extended to Electron-Ion Physics

# Summary

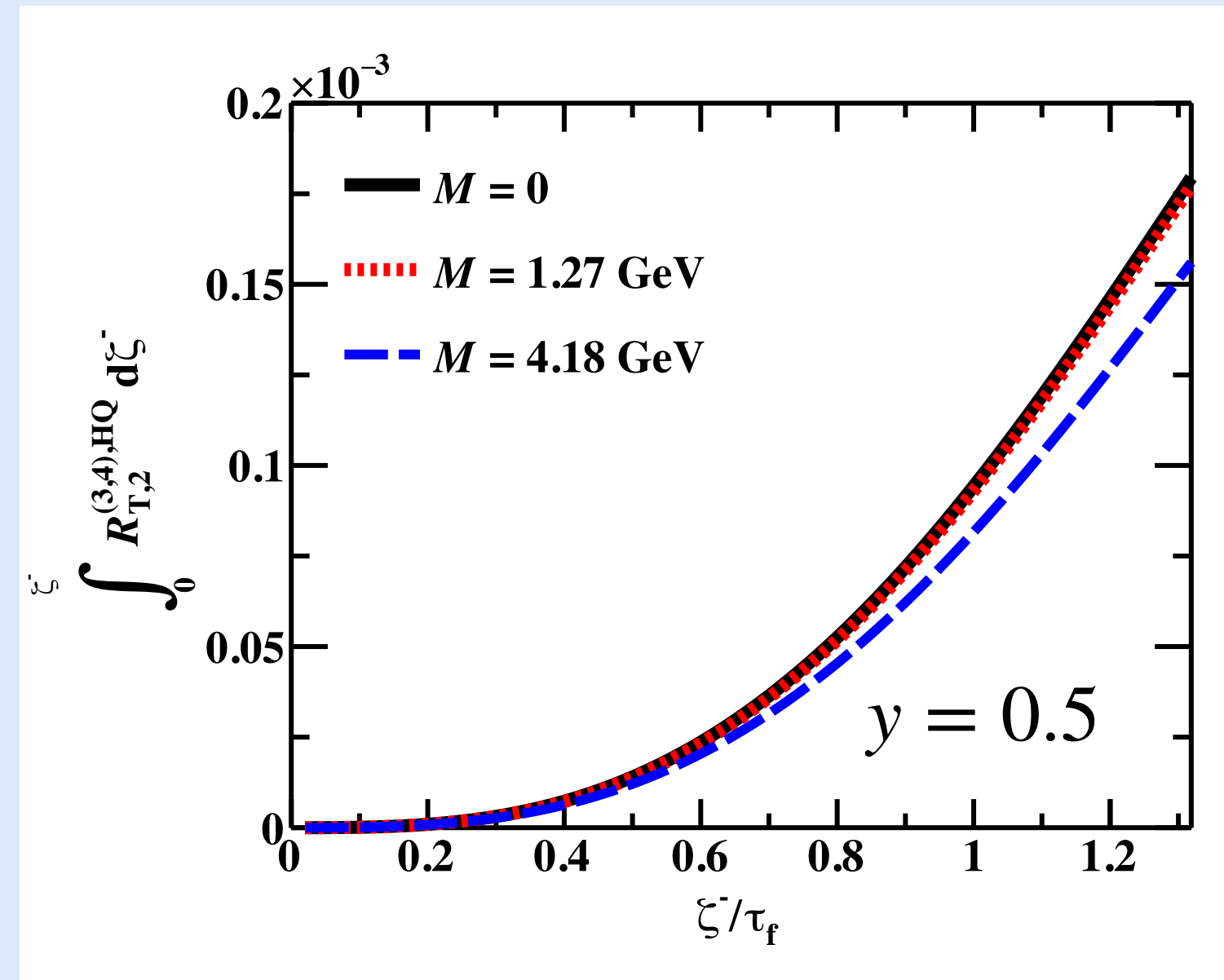
- ❑ **First effort to derive Bremsstrahlung photon scattering kernel at high  $Q^2$** 
  - ◆ **Real photon and a quark final state**
  - ◆ **Real photon and a gluon final state**
  - ◆ **virtual photon contributions**
- ❑ **Interference/coherence effects**
- ❑ **Incorporated Fermion-to-Boson conversion processes**
- ❑ **Demonstrated Heavy-quark energy loss effects on scattering kernel**
- ❑ **Connections to Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) physics**

# Path length dependence of scattering kernel for heavy-quarks

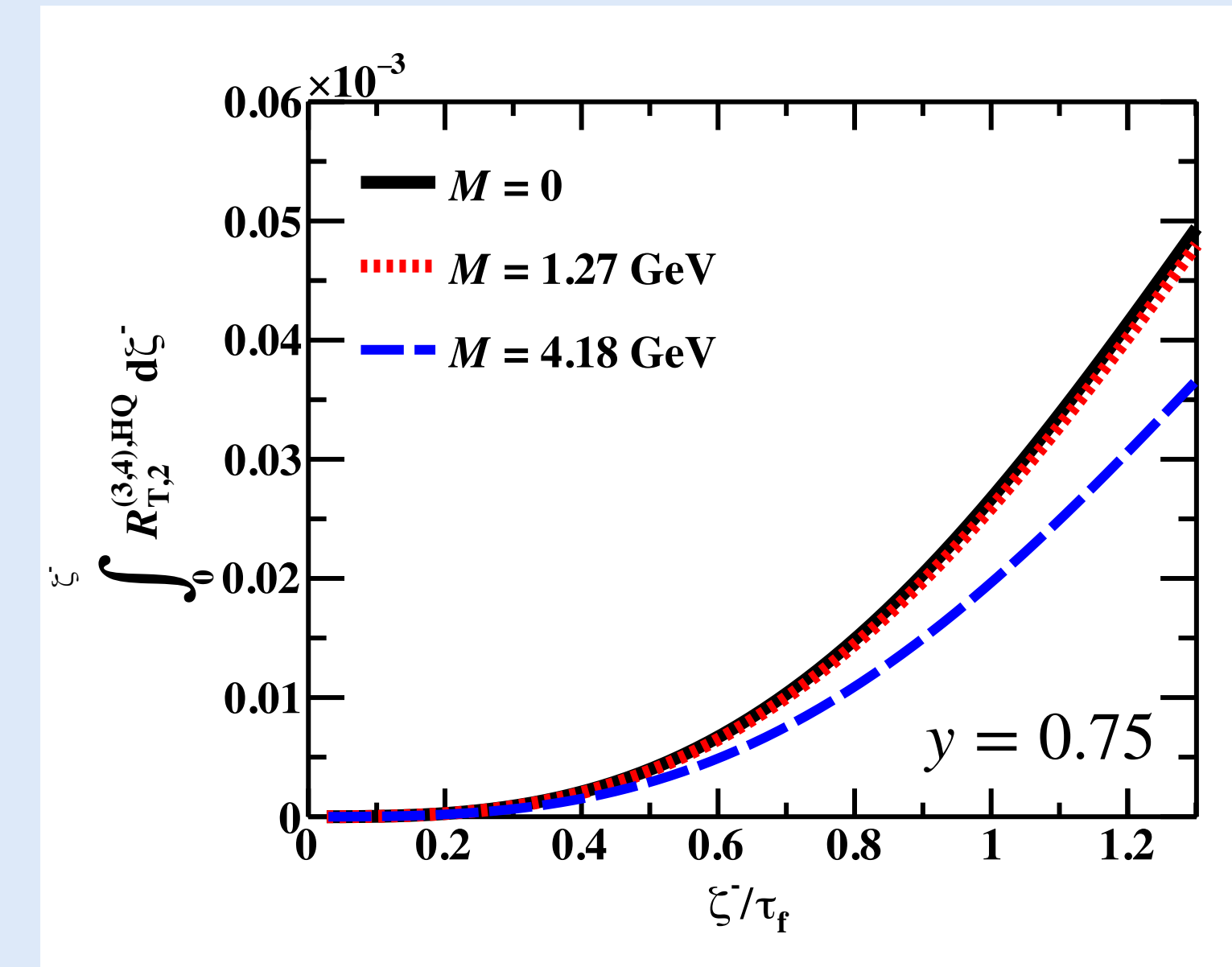
Virtual photon emission scattering kernel for charm and bottom quark mass



Kernel-3 and 4



(Length integrated kernel)



Bottom quark demonstrates large mass effects compared to charm quark