

# A Large N Expansion for Minimum Bias

Based on: Andrew Larkoski, TM, JHEP 2110 094 (2021) [arXiv:2107.04041]

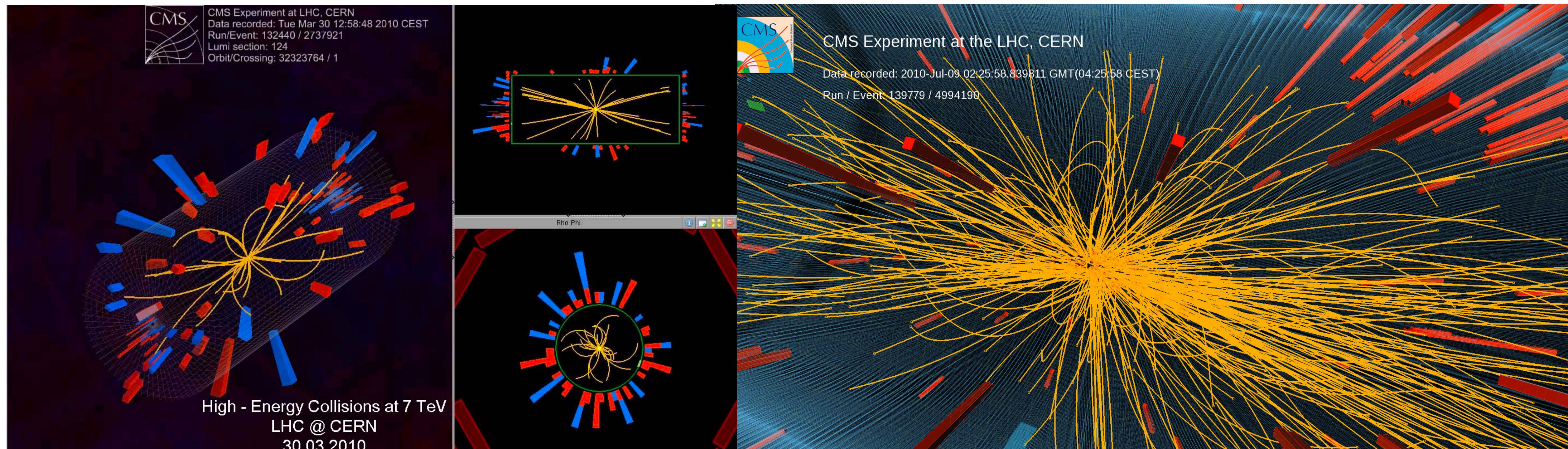
2nd AEI Workshop for BSM and 10th KIAS Workshop on Particle Physics and  
Cosmology



# Propose and discuss a framework that can provide a first principles effective description of minimum bias events

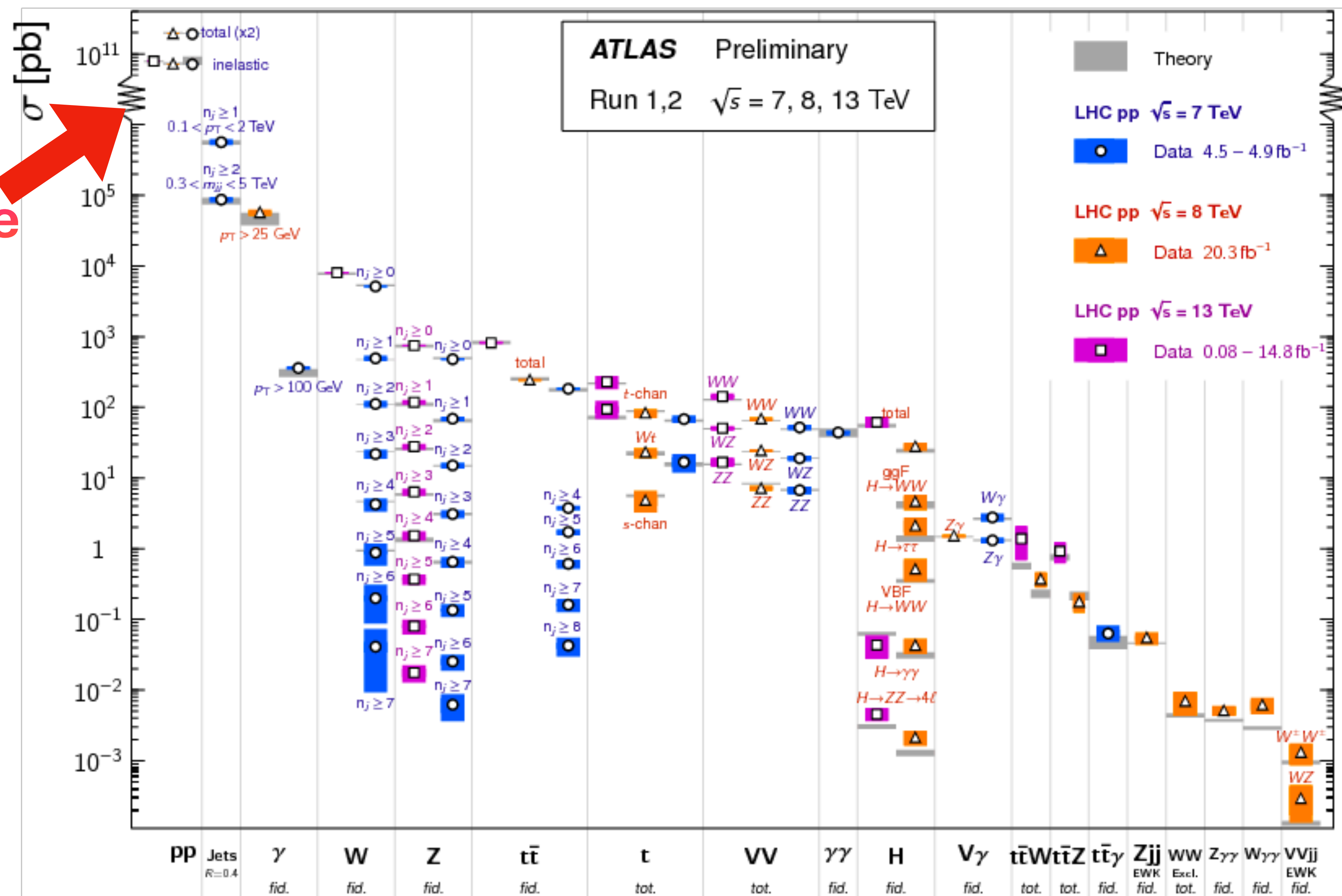
Minimum bias: experimentally, some minimal trigger, typically some forward calorimeter activity

Soft QCD, where strong nature of interactions dominate. *Ergodic*





Up Here



# From first principles?

## EFT is a powerful symmetry based approach

This one power counts using more unusual expansion parameter  $1/N$ , with  $N$  number of particles in the event

Shift symmetry (goldstone boson story?)

Fractional dispersion (non-locality?)



# Reasons to seek first principles approach

From the theory side connect to large 'N' (~large charge) approaches; asymptotic analyses; bootstrap (not this talk)

## From the pheno side

### Equal footing

Treat both small and large systems, at both low and high energy, all within the same framework.

Potential to aid in elucidation of nature of small scale (p p collision) collective phenomena in QCD; jet quenching. Not relying on any particular model



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$$d\sigma(p_a, p_b, p_1, \dots, p_N) = \sigma_N(p_a, p_b, p_1, \dots, p_N) \delta^{(4)}(p_a + p_b - p_1 - \dots - p_N) \prod_{i=1}^N \delta(p_i^2 - m_i^2)$$

Momentum conservation

On-shell



Compact (Stiefel)  
Manifold

Henning, TM  
arxiv:1902.06747



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Momentum conservation

On-shell

Nice to have

$$= 1 + \sum_{l=1} c_l Y_l(\{p_i\})$$

Harmonics

Compact (Stiefel)  
Manifold

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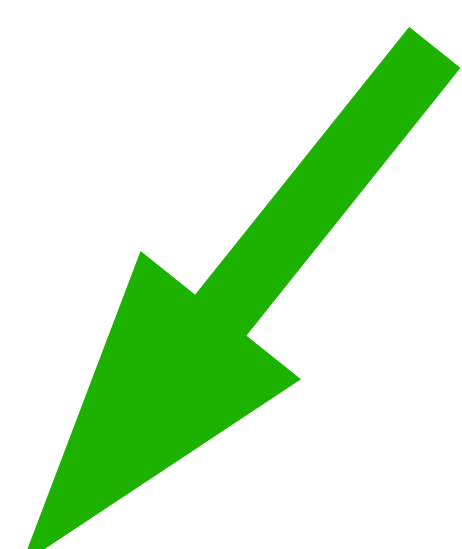




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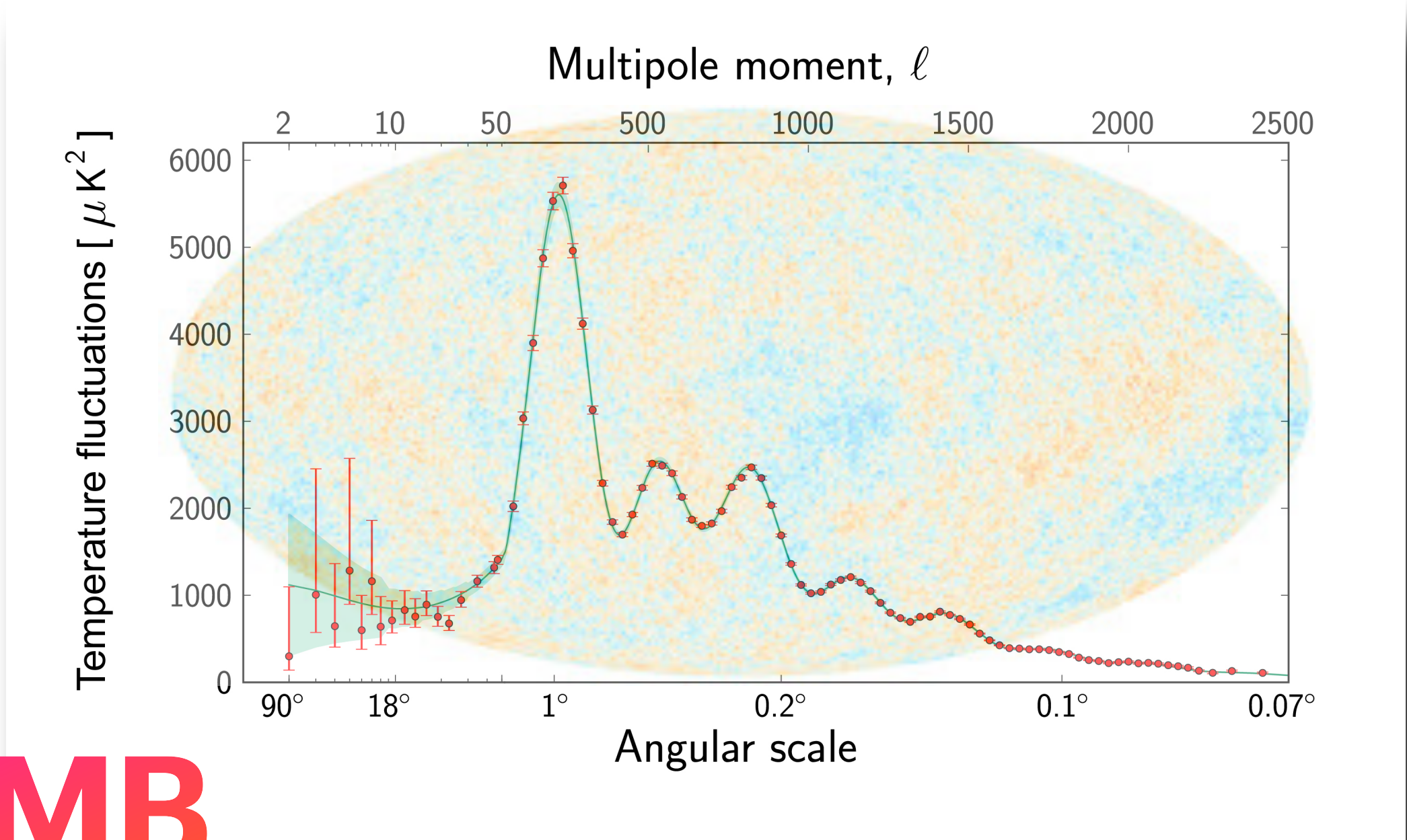
Momentum conservation      On-shell



$$= 1 + \sum_{l=1} c_l Y_l(\{p_i\})$$

Harmonics

C.f. the CMB





# Reasons to seek first principles approach

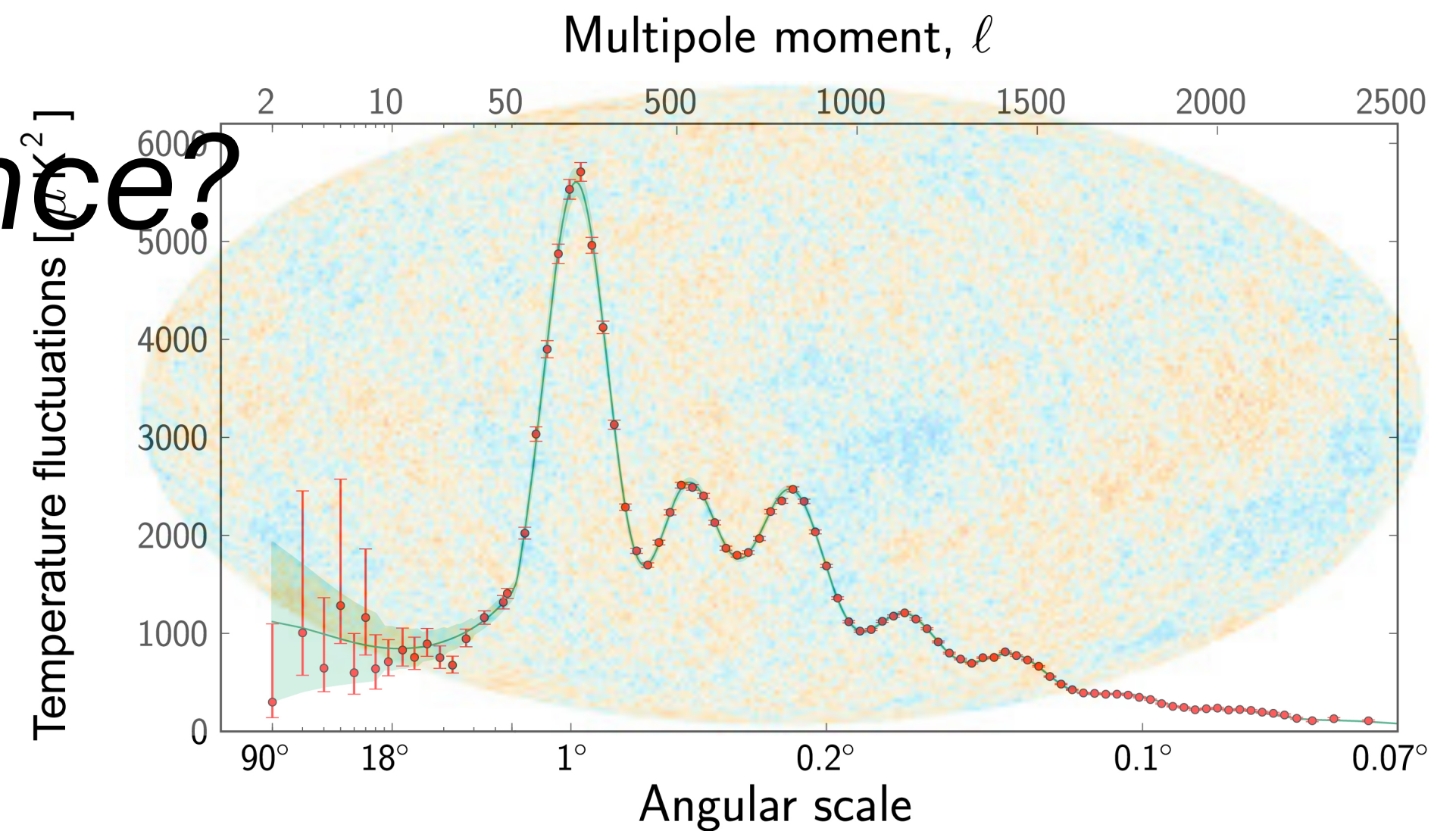
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*“Track a harmonic” as evidence?*

$$= 1 + \sum_{l=1} c_l Y_l(\{p_i\})$$



# What will be addressed; what will not

Assume that events are binned in multiplicity,  $N$

i.e. **Not** attempt a description of fluctuations in multiplicity

Therefore, can capture how *normalized* distributions, binned in  $N$ , change as a function of  $N$ , and as a function of  $Q$

We take the large  $N$  limit at fixed  $Q$ , meaning we do not consider a scaling of  $Q$  and  $N$  such that  $Q/N$  (c.f. 't Hooft coupling) remains finite. (Although this could be interesting)



# What will be addressed; what will not

Proto-EFT approach: power-counting, symmetries

But no sense of framework in which to calculate e.g. quantum corrections (yet)

Testing self-consistency of assumptions, understanding their consequences to explain broad features of data

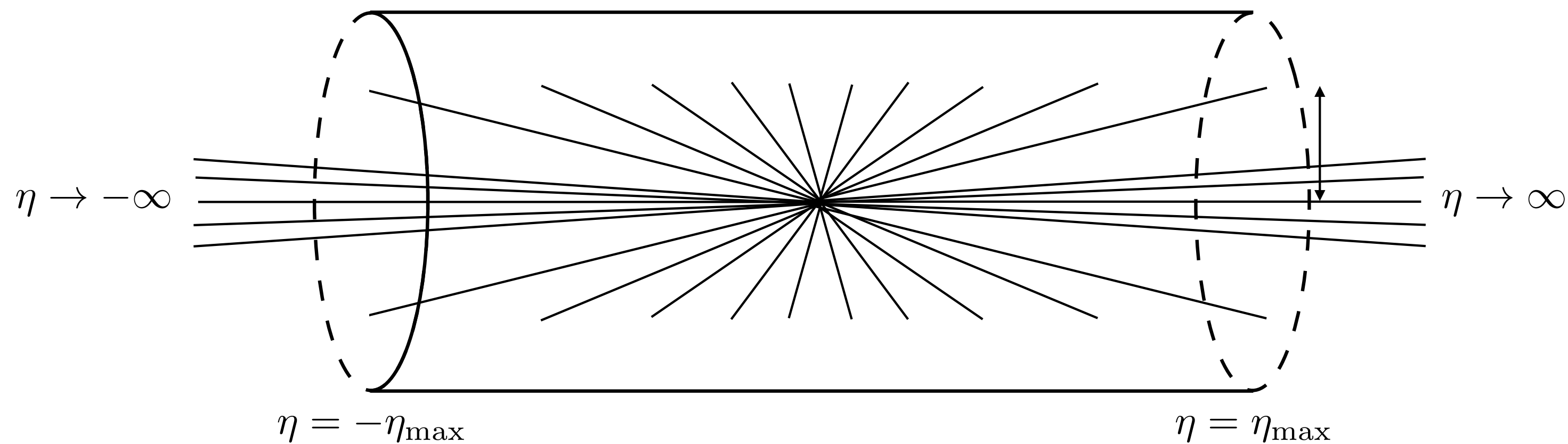
Physical / directly measurable quantities only (e.g. no 'centrality')

# Outline

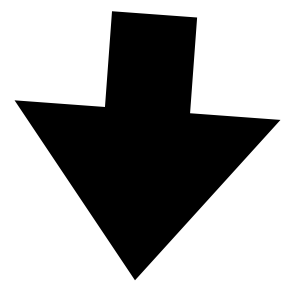
**Power Counting and Symmetries**

**Simple Predictions, comparison to data**





# Power counting and symmetries for pp/AA min bias



1. We focus on  $\eta \sim 1 \ll \eta_{\max}$
2. Everything massless  $p_{\perp} \gg m_{\pi}$
3. Beam momentum is O(1) of CoM
4. Number of  $\eta \ll \eta_{\max}$  particles  $N \gg 1$

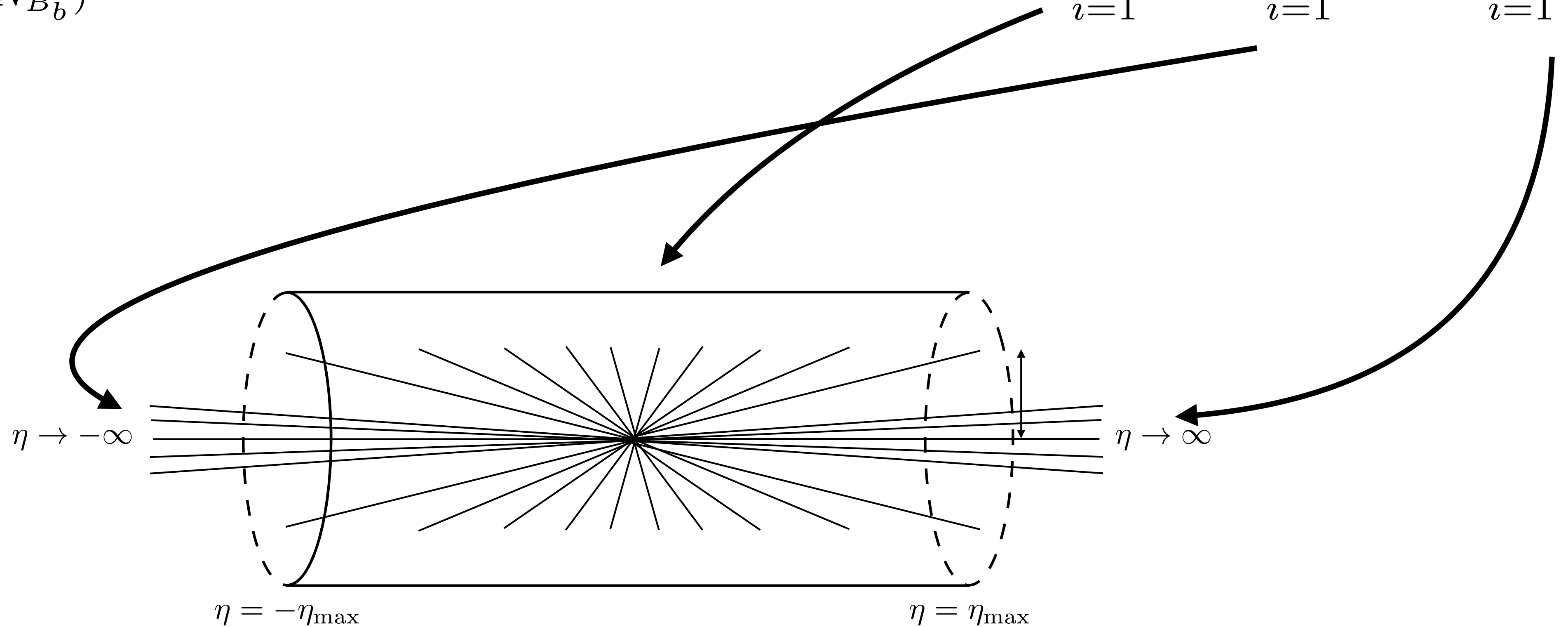
5.  $\langle p_{\perp} \rangle \sim \sqrt{\langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle}$  Mean transverse momentum  
representative of all particles' momentum

1. O(2) symmetry about beam
2.  $\eta \rightarrow -\eta$  along the beam
3.  $S_N$  permutation sym in all detected particles Blind to all but momentum
4.  $\eta \rightarrow \eta + \Delta\eta$  symmetry

Never move particles out of detection  
region into beam, and vice versa

# Effective matrix element

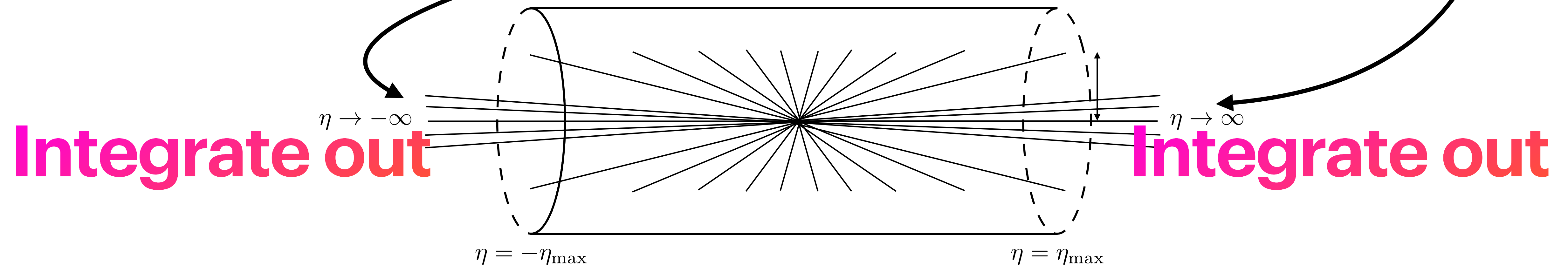
$$\sigma = \int_{\text{LIPS}(N+N_{B_a}+N_{B_b})} \sigma_N(p_1, \dots, p_N, \{p_{a_i}\}, \{p_{b_i}\}) \delta^{(4)}(p_a + p_b - \sum_{i=1}^N p_i - \sum_{i=1}^{N_{B_a}} p_{a_i} - \sum_{i=1}^{N_{B_b}} p_{b_i})$$





# Effective matrix element

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$$= \int_0^Q dk^+ \int_0^Q dk^- \int_{\text{LIPS}(N)} f(k^+ k^-) \tilde{\sigma}_N(p_1, \dots, p_N; k^+ k^-) \delta(k^- - \sum_{i=1}^N k_i^-) \delta(k^+ - \sum_{i=1}^N k_i^+) \delta^{(2)}(\sum_{i=1}^N \vec{p}_{\perp i})$$

Light cone momentum

$$k^\pm = E \pm p_z$$

$$= p_\perp e^{\pm \eta}$$

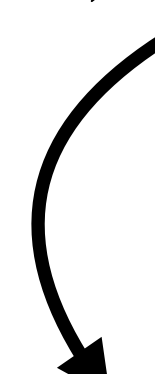
Integrate over boosts and  
energy of available  
energy

Effective “cross section”,  
pulled out factor f

Transverse momentum  
conservation in large N limit



# Expansion of matrix element

$$\sigma = \int_0^Q dk^+ \int_0^Q dk^- \int_{\text{LIPS}(N)} f(k^+ k^-) \tilde{\sigma}_N(p_1, \dots, p_N) \delta(k^- - \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i} e^{\eta_i}) \delta(k^+ - \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i} e^{-\eta_i}) \delta^{(2)}(\sum_{i=1}^N \vec{p}_{\perp i})$$


$$= 1 + \frac{c_1^{(2)}}{Q^2} \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i}^2 + \mathcal{O}(Q^{-4})$$

(After momentum conservation identities)

$$0 = \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \vec{p}_{\perp i} \right)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i}^2 + \sum_{i \neq j}^N p_{\perp i} p_{\perp j} \cos(\phi_i - \phi_j),$$

$$k^+ k^- = \left( \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i} e^{-\eta_i} \right) \left( \sum_{j=1}^N p_{\perp j} e^{\eta_j} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i}^2 + \sum_{i \neq j}^N p_{\perp i} p_{\perp j} \cosh(\eta_i - \eta_j)$$

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**In powers of 1/N**

Ergodicity

$$p_{\perp} \sim Q/N$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{Q^2} \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i}^2 \sim \frac{1}{N}$$

N terms in the sum



# Expansion of matrix element

$$\sigma = \int_0^Q dk^+ \int_0^Q dk^- \int_{\text{LIPS}(N)} f(k^+ k^-) \tilde{\sigma}_N(p_1, \dots, p_N) \delta(k^- - \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i} e^{\eta_i}) \delta(k^+ - \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i} e^{-\eta_i}) \delta^{(2)}(\sum_{i=1}^N \vec{p}_{\perp i})$$

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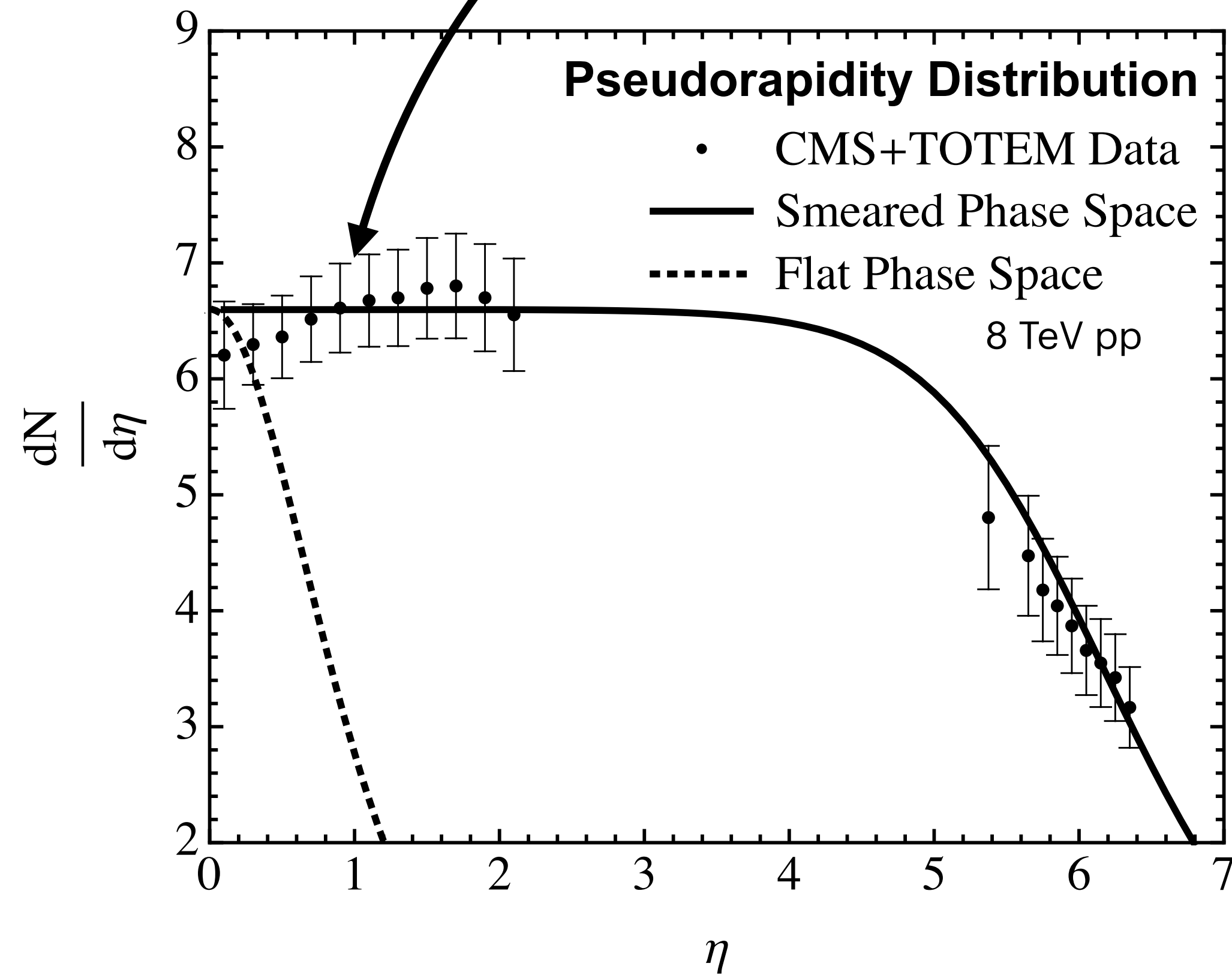
## The inevitable 'flatness' of large N

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^N p_{\perp i}^2 \rightarrow N \langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle + \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{N} \langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle)$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} |\mathcal{M}(1, 2, \dots, N)|^2 \rightarrow 1 + \frac{c_1^{(2)}}{Q^2} N \langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle + \dots$$

# Fixing the function f to give flat-in-rapidity

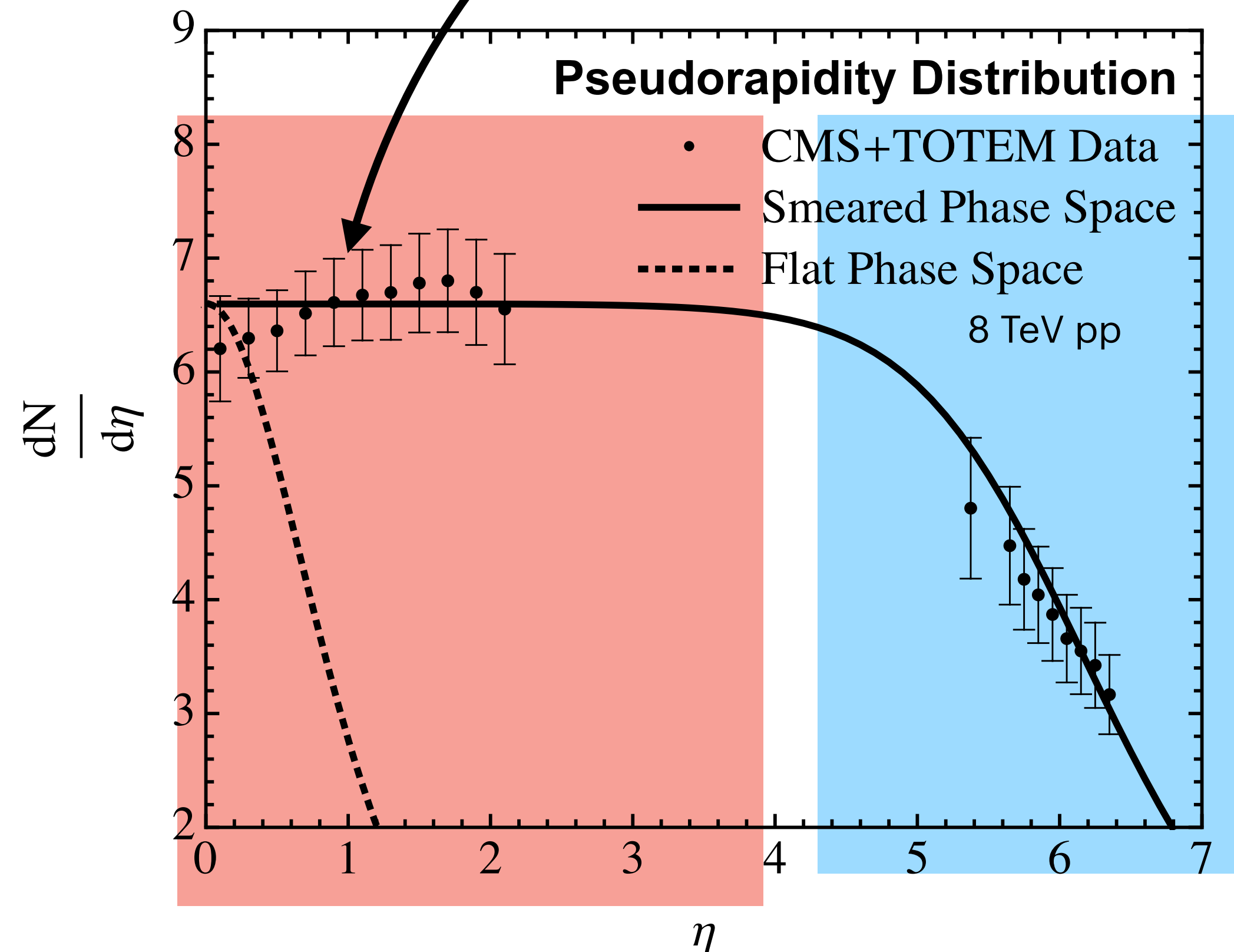
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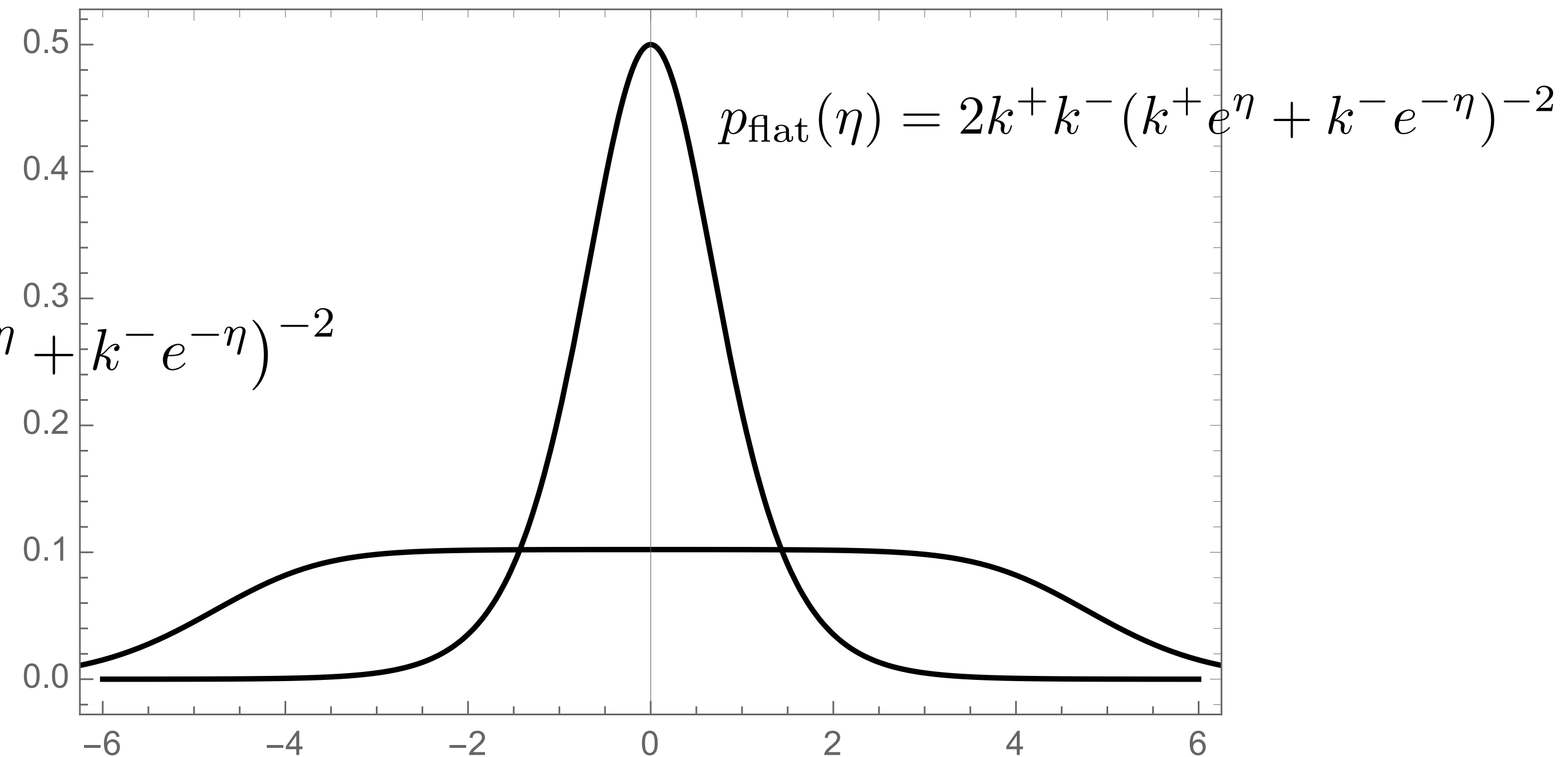


Any function  $f(x)$  that is analytic and highly peaked at  $x=0$  produces the 'Feynman' plateau. Effective description is an Expansion around this

Fall-off can be fitted for useful self-consistency check, but it is outside effective description, so general results are agnostic to it

# Flat phase space to flat rapidity

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\eta) &= \frac{1}{Q^2} \int_0^Q dk^+ \int_0^Q dk^- f(k^+ k^-) p_{\text{flat}}(\eta) \\
 &= \frac{1}{Q^2} \int_0^Q dk^+ \int_0^Q dk^- f(k^+ k^-) 2k^+ k^- (k^+ e^\eta + k^- e^{-\eta})^{-2} \\
 &= \int_0^1 dx f(x) \frac{1 - x^2}{1 + x^2 + 2x \cosh(2\eta)} .
 \end{aligned}$$



Take e.g.

$$f(k^+ k^-) = \frac{n}{\gamma_E + \log n} e^{-n \frac{k^+ k^-}{Q^2}}$$

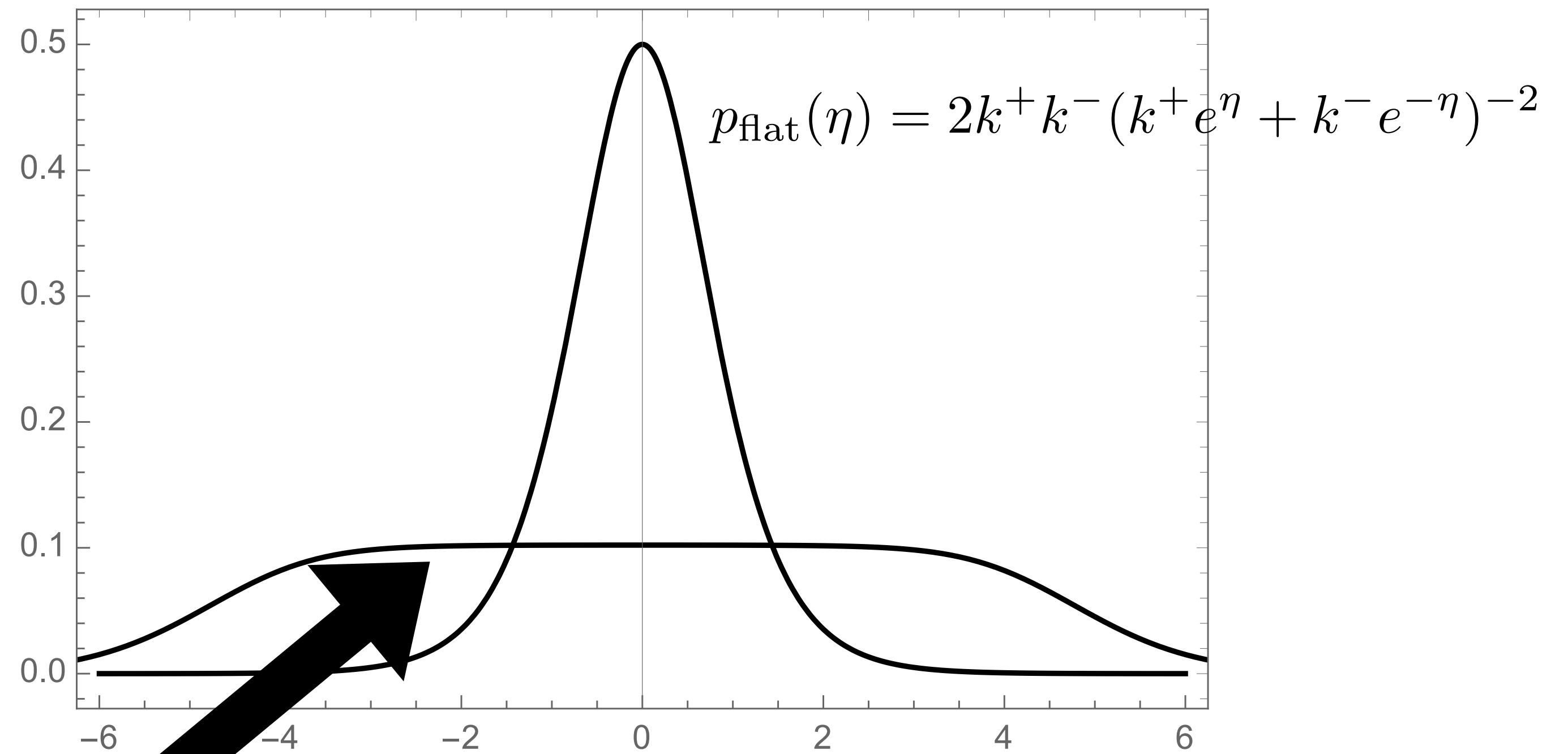
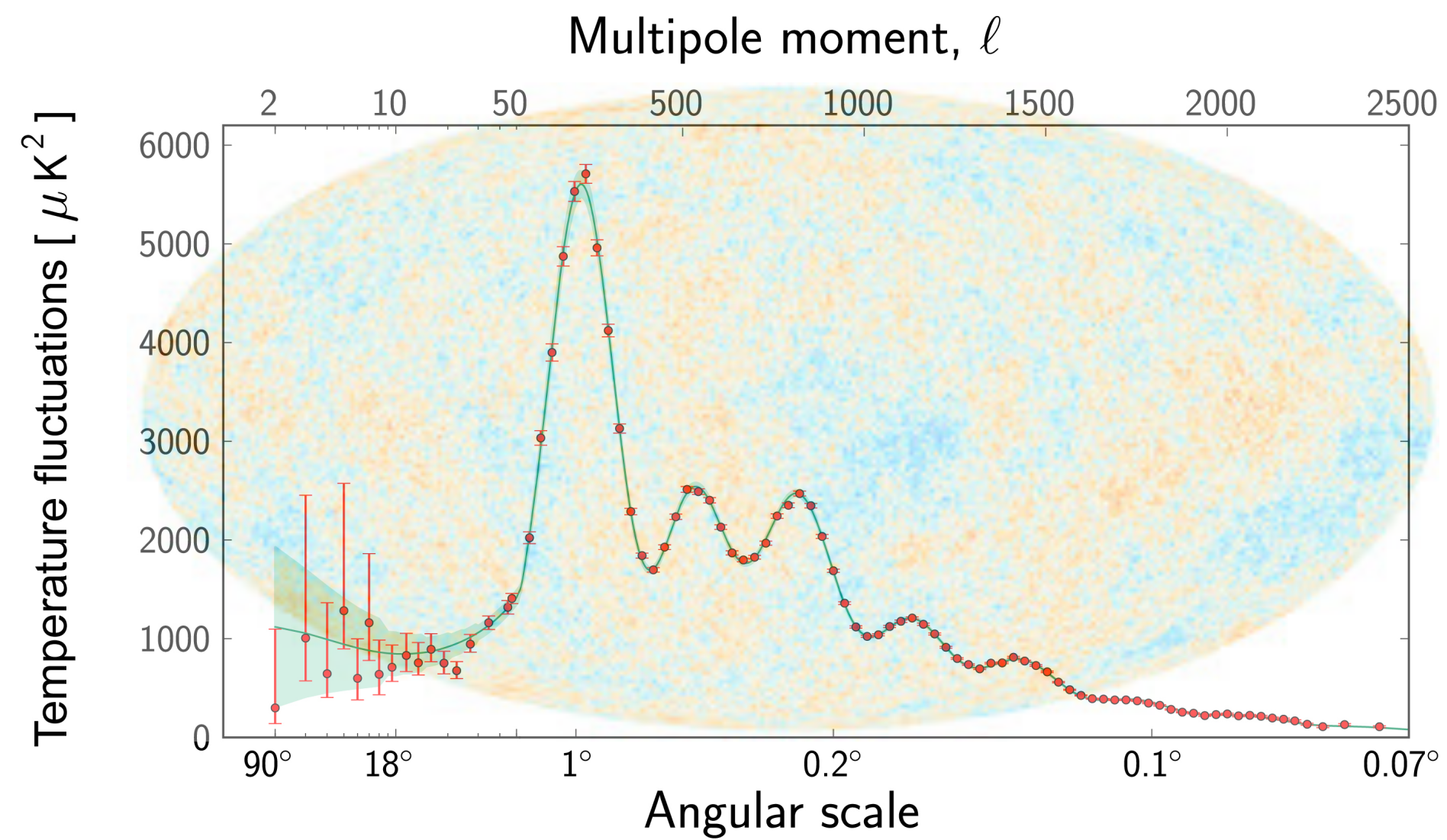
$n$  now parameterises the 'cutoff' of the theory

Normalized prob

$$1 = \frac{1}{Q^2} \int_0^Q dk^+ \int_0^Q dk^- f(k^+ k^-) = \int_0^1 dx \log \frac{1}{x} f(x)$$



# Flat phase space to flat rapidity



$$= 1 + \sum_{l=1} c_l Y_l(\{p_i\})$$

Fluctuations about *this*

# Outline

Power Counting and Symmetries

Simple Predictions, comparison to data

# The predictions include (From power counting and symmetries)

- In the  $N \rightarrow \infty$  limit, the symmetries of min bias events and central limit theorem require the matrix element is exclusively a function of the total energy of the observed final state particles
- The distribution of particle transverse momentum is universal, and depends on a single parameter, with fractional dispersion relation
- Scaling of multiplicity with collider energy
- By a positivity condition, all azimuthal correlations vanish as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  at fixed collision energy



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# Transverse momentum distribution

The distribution on unsmeared phase space can be shown to be a Bessel function

$$p_{\text{flat}}(p_{\perp}) = p_{\perp} K_0 \left( \frac{2Np_{\perp}}{\sqrt{k^+k^-}} \right) \quad K_0(z) \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2z}} e^{-z}$$

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The function  $f$  is now fixed, no wiggle-room

$$p(p_{\perp}) = \frac{1}{Q^2} \int_0^Q dk^+ \int_0^Q dk^- f(k^+k^-) p_{\text{flat}}(p_{\perp})$$



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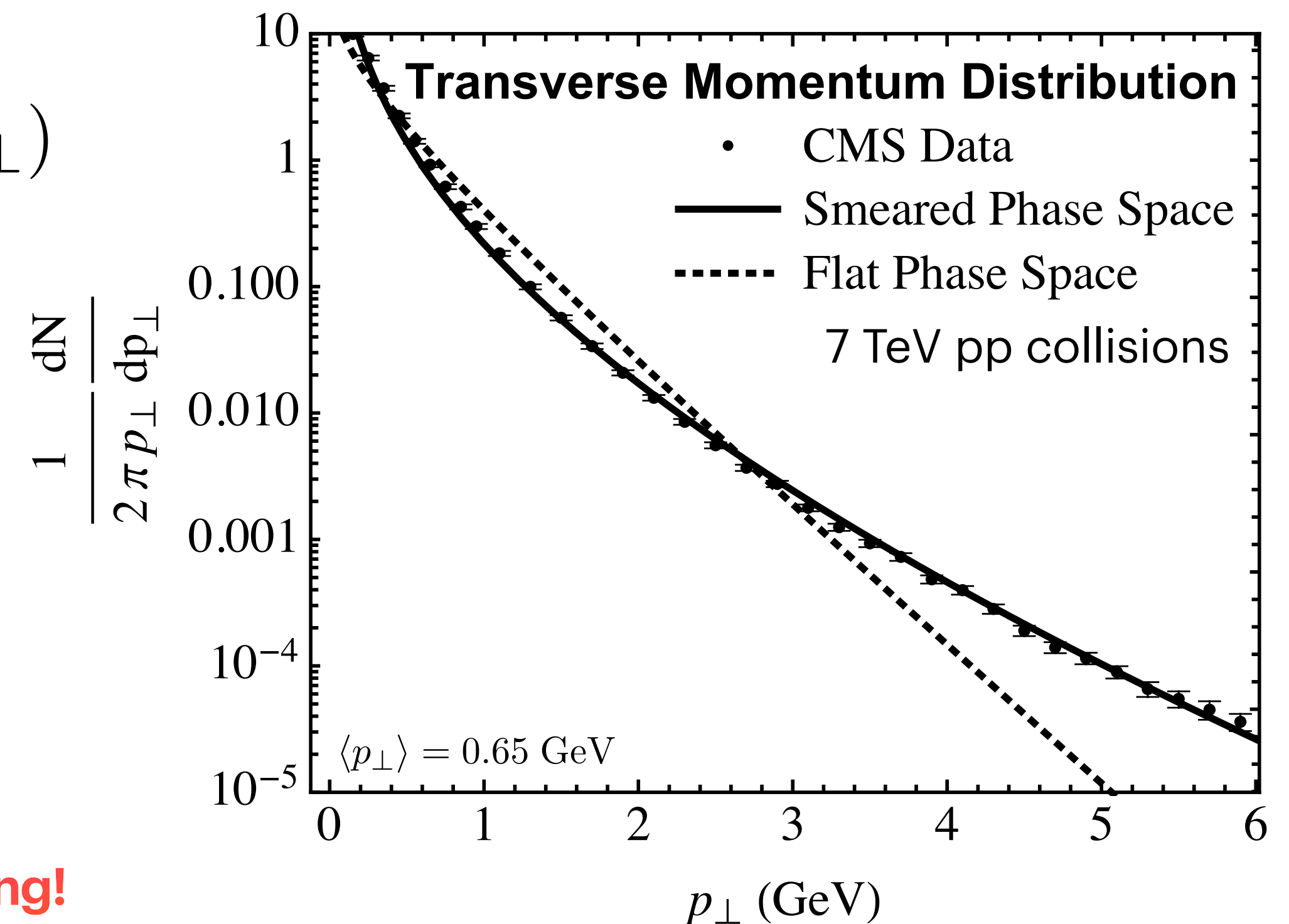
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Expression for distribution depends only on variable = average pT

$$p(p_{\perp}) \sim e^{-\frac{3\pi}{4} \frac{p_{\perp}^{2/3}}{\langle p_{\perp} \rangle^{2/3}}}$$

Fractional dispersion...interesting!

$$\langle p_{\perp} \rangle \simeq \frac{\pi^{3/2} Q}{8\sqrt{n}N}$$



# Transverse momentum distribution

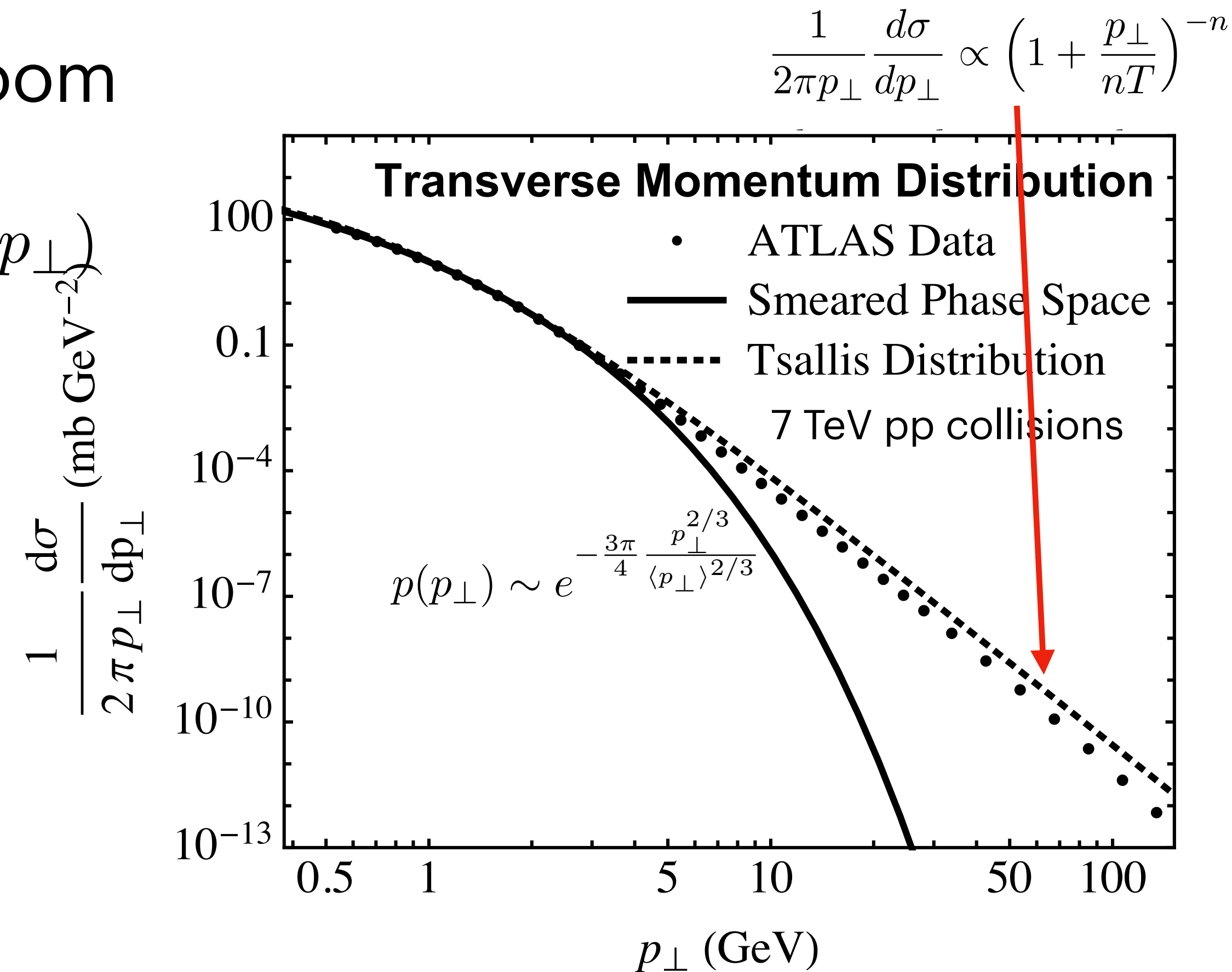
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See edge of validity of the effective min bias description, does not agree at high pT as one would expect



# Transverse momentum distribution

Consistency 1

$$\langle p_{\perp} \rangle \simeq \frac{\pi^{3/2} Q}{8\sqrt{n}N}$$

$$\langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle = \int_0^{\infty} dp_{\perp} p_{\perp}^2 p(p_{\perp}) = \frac{Q^2}{nN^2}$$

Satisfies power counting  $\sqrt{\langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle} \sim \langle p_{\perp} \rangle$

$$\sqrt{\langle p_{\perp}^2 \rangle} = \frac{8}{\pi^{3/2}} \langle p_{\perp} \rangle \simeq 1.44 \langle p_{\perp} \rangle$$



# Transverse momentum distribution

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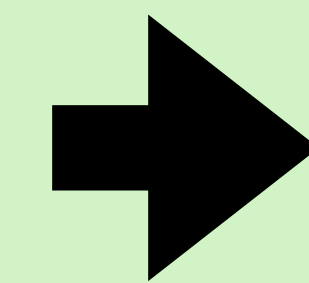
## Consistency 2

$$N \simeq \frac{\pi^{3/2} Q}{8\sqrt{n} \langle p_{\perp} \rangle}$$

Eta fit  $n = 1.6 \times 10^5$

$$\langle p_{\perp} \rangle = 0.65 \text{ GeV}$$

8 TeV



$$N \simeq 21$$

# The predictions include (From power counting and symmetries)

- In the  $N \rightarrow \infty$  limit, the symmetries of min bias events and central limit theorem require the matrix element is exclusively a function of the total energy of the observed final state particles
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- Scaling of multiplicity with collider energy
- By a positivity condition, all azimuthal correlations vanish as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  at fixed collision energy

# In conclusion

**Min bias is theoretically interesting: there is a curious setup for an EFT (fractional dispersions/partition functions/unusual expansion parameter)**

**Provide a collection of first principles predictions e.g.: particular scalings in  $N$ ; dispersion relations; scalings in  $s$**





**Extra**

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# Scaling of multiplicity with collider energy

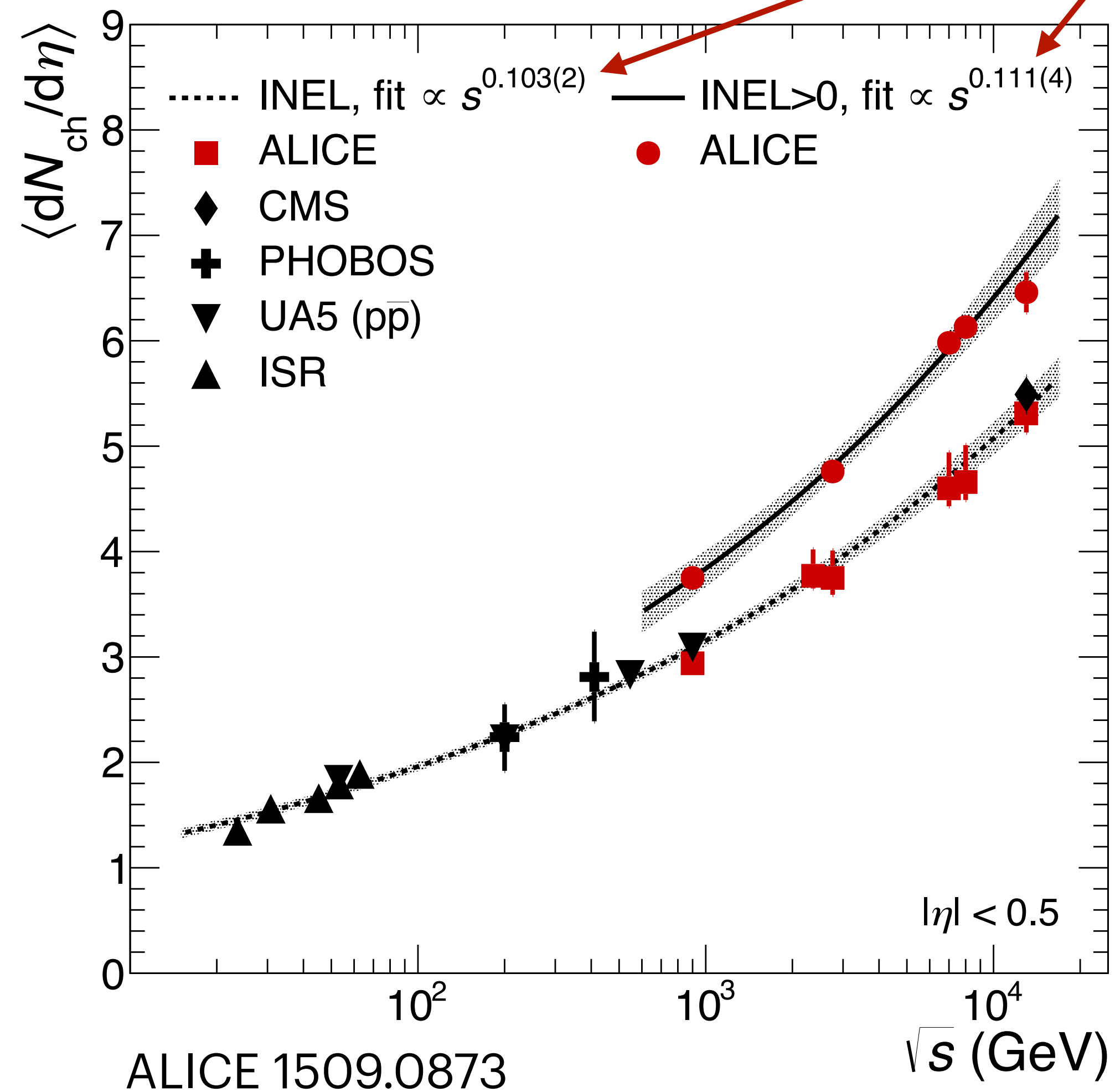
$$\langle p_{\perp} \rangle \simeq \frac{\pi^{3/2} Q}{8\sqrt{n}N} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad N = \frac{\pi^{3/2} Q}{8\sqrt{n} \langle p_{\perp} \rangle}$$

Little n was fixed by pseudorapidity falloff

$$\eta_{\max} \simeq \log \frac{Q}{p_{\perp \text{cut}}} \simeq \log n \quad \Longrightarrow \quad N \sim \frac{\pi^{3/2} \sqrt{p_{\perp \text{cut}}} Q^{1/2}}{8 \langle p_{\perp} \rangle}$$

# Scaling of multiplicity with collider energy

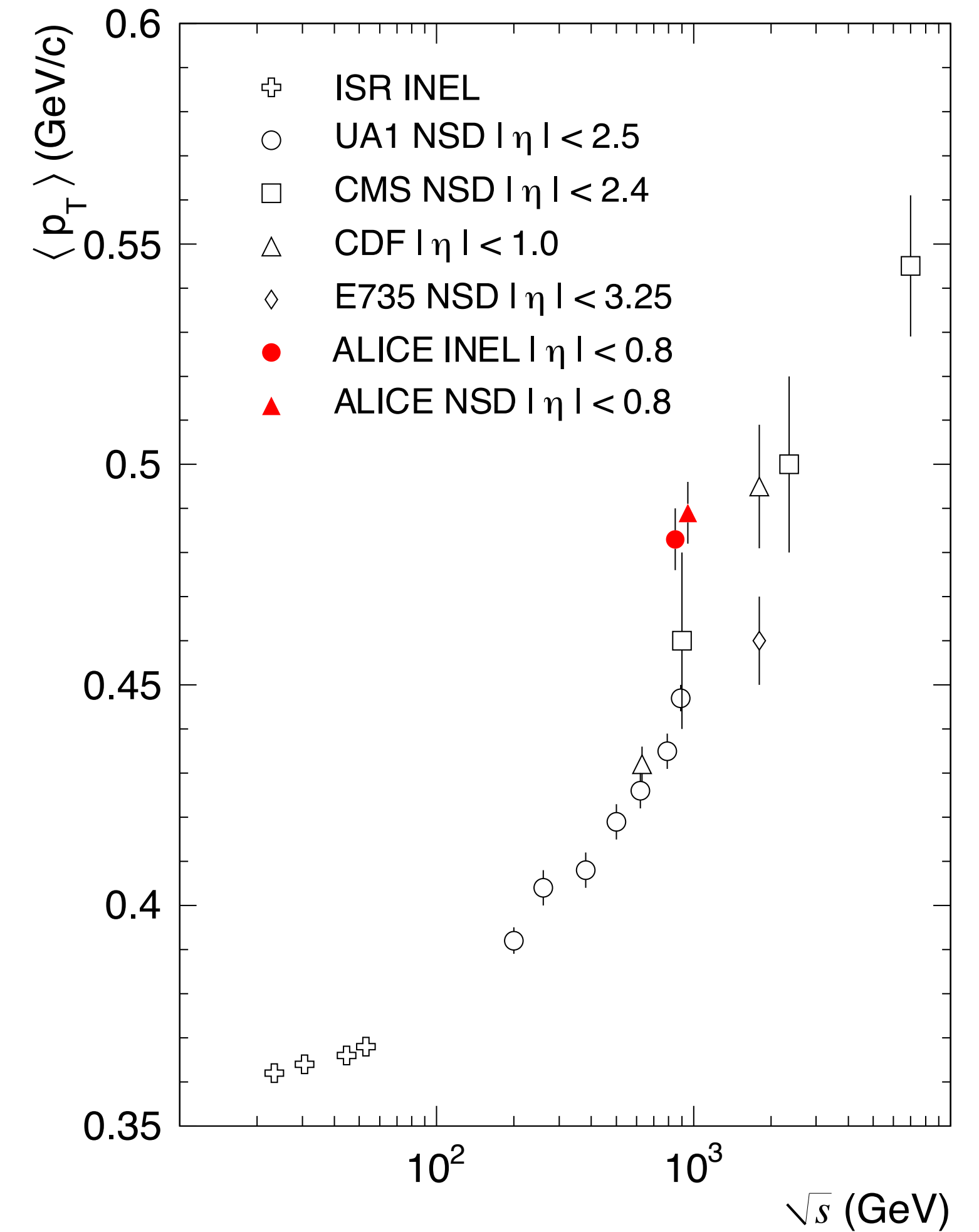
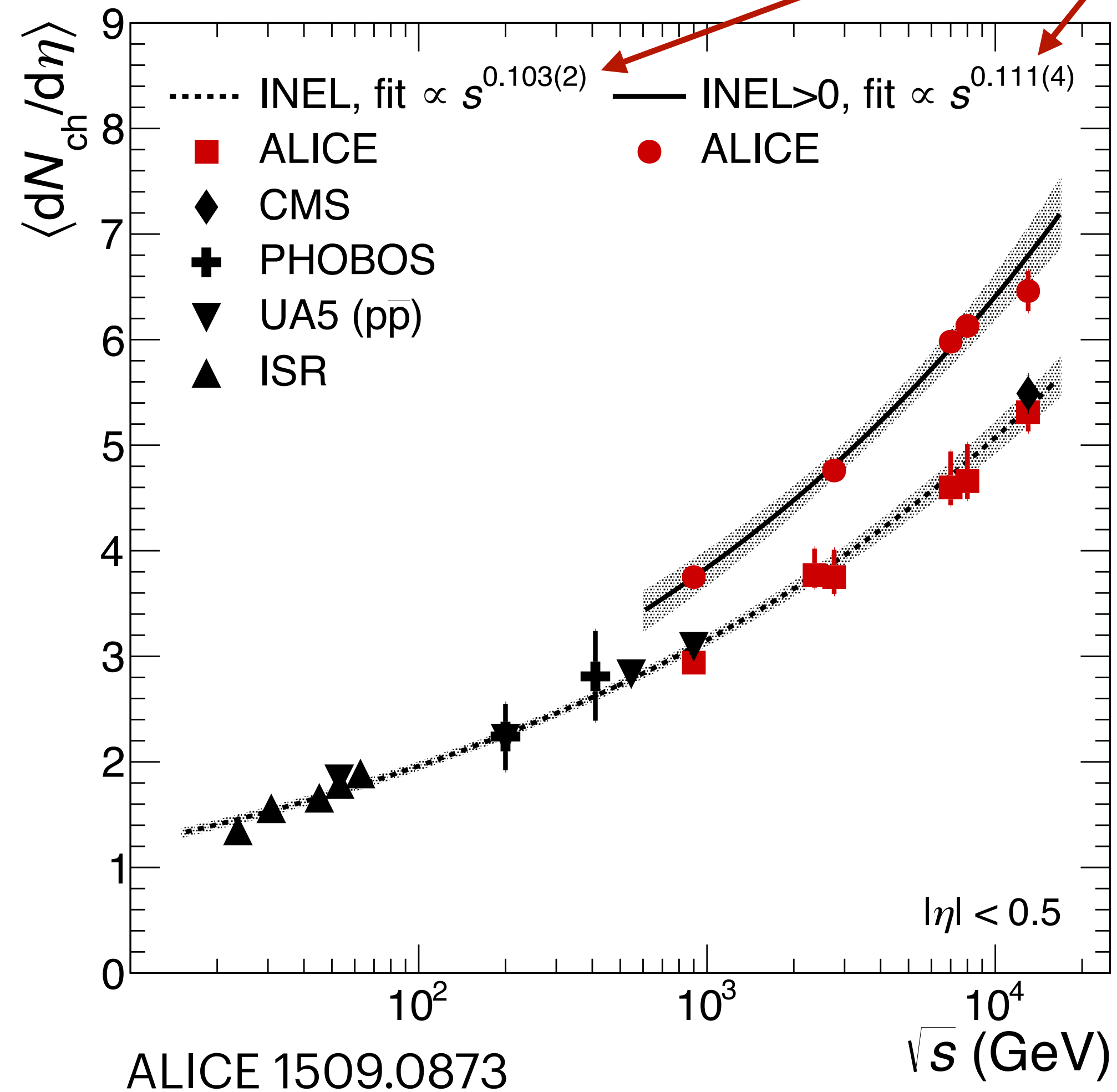
$$N \sim \frac{\pi^{3/2} \sqrt{p_{\perp \text{cut}}} Q^{1/2}}{8 \langle p_{\perp} \rangle} \quad N \sim Q^{1/2} = s^{1/4}$$



# Scaling of multiplicity with collider energy

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This framework connects the scaling of average pT with this measurement



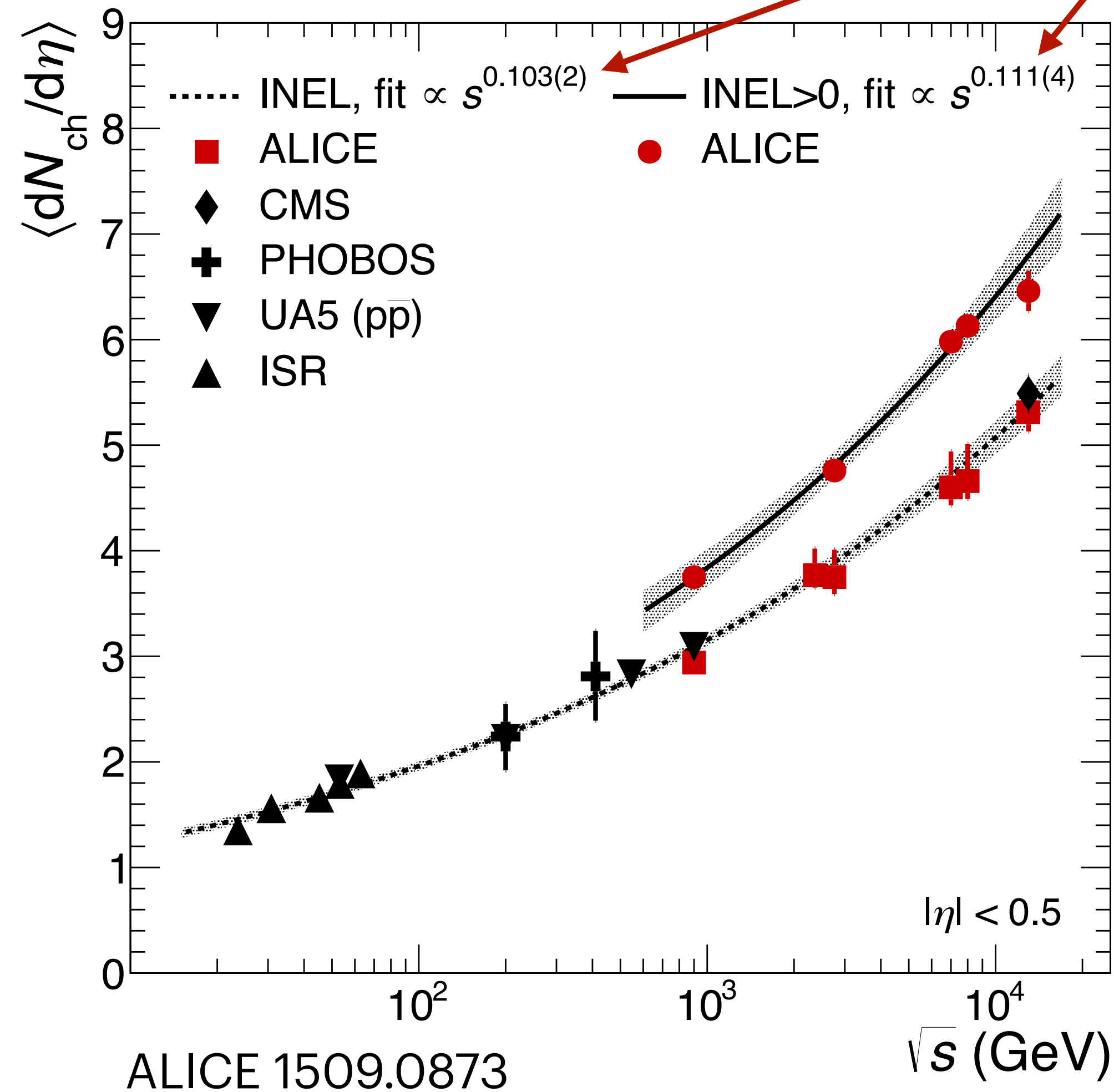


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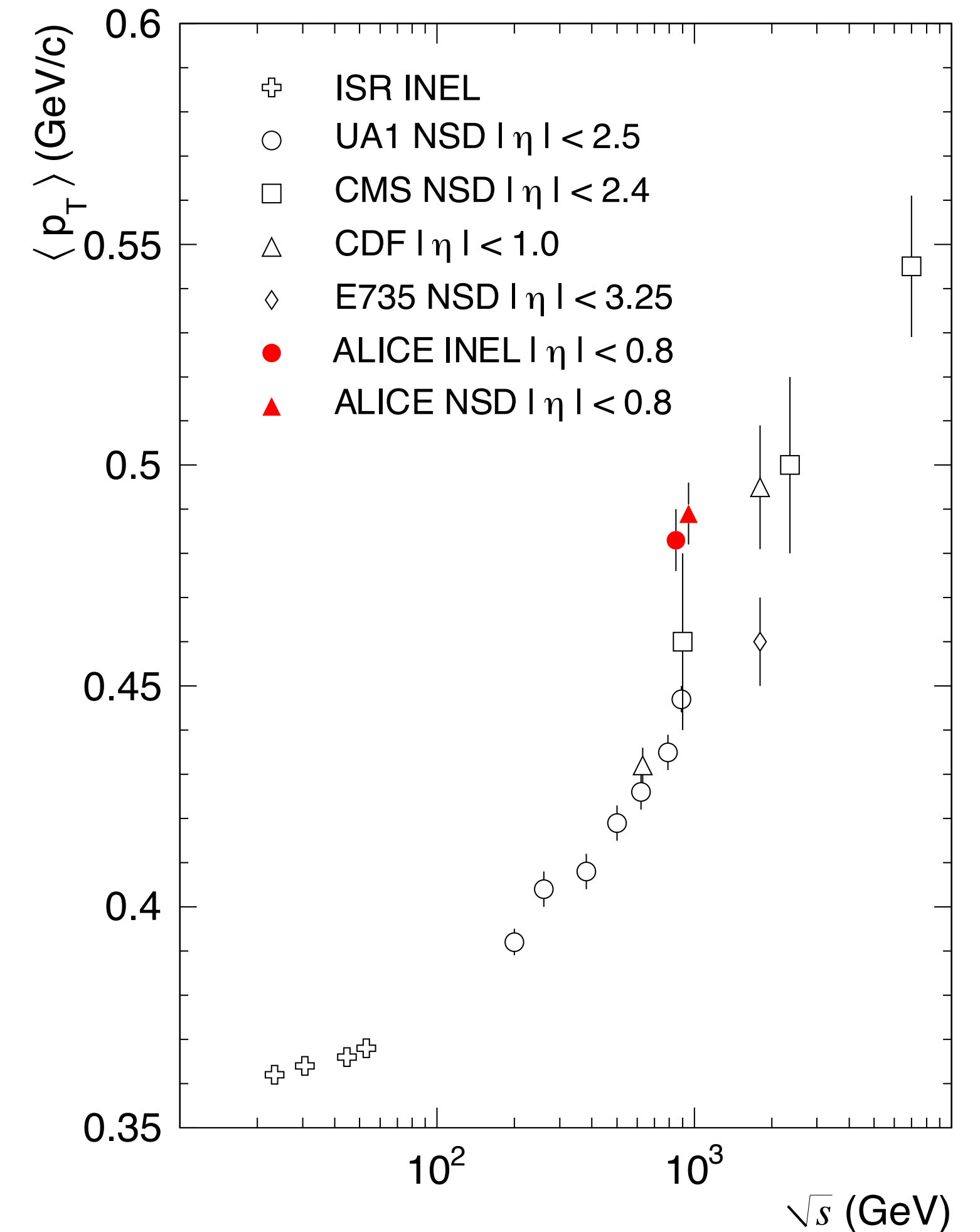


(Very) rough fit

$$\langle p_{\perp} \rangle \propto s^{0.1}$$

And so

$$N \propto s^{0.15}$$



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# Azimuthal correlations

Correlations between pairs of particles come from terms in the matrix element of the form

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{M}|^2 &\supset 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} g_n(k^+ k^-, N) \sum_{i \neq j}^N \frac{(\vec{p}_{\perp i} \cdot \vec{p}_{\perp j})^n}{Q^{2n}} \\ &\supset 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} g_n(k^+ k^-, N) \sum_{i \neq j}^N \frac{p_{\perp i}^n p_{\perp j}^n}{Q^{2n}} \cos(n(\phi_i - \phi_j)) \end{aligned}$$

Which, by ergodic assumption and power counting

$$\sim 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{g_n(k^+ k^-, N)}{N^{2n}} \sum_{i \neq j}^N \cos(n(\phi_i - \phi_j))$$

# Azimuthal correlations

Now, azimuthal part of flat phase space as  $N \rightarrow \text{Infinity}$

$$\int d\Pi_N \rightarrow \int_0^{2\pi} \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{d\phi_i}{2\pi}$$

Mean of sum of azimuthal correlations vanishes in this limit

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{d\phi_i}{2\pi} \sum_{j \neq k}^N \cos(n(\phi_j - \phi_k)) = 0$$

The variance, on the other hand

$$\sigma^2 \equiv \int_0^{2\pi} \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{d\phi_i}{2\pi} \left[ \sum_{j \neq k}^N \cos(n(\phi_j - \phi_k)) \right]^2 = N^2 \int_0^{2\pi} \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{d\phi_i}{2\pi} \cos^2(n(\phi_1 - \phi_2)) = \frac{N^2}{2}$$



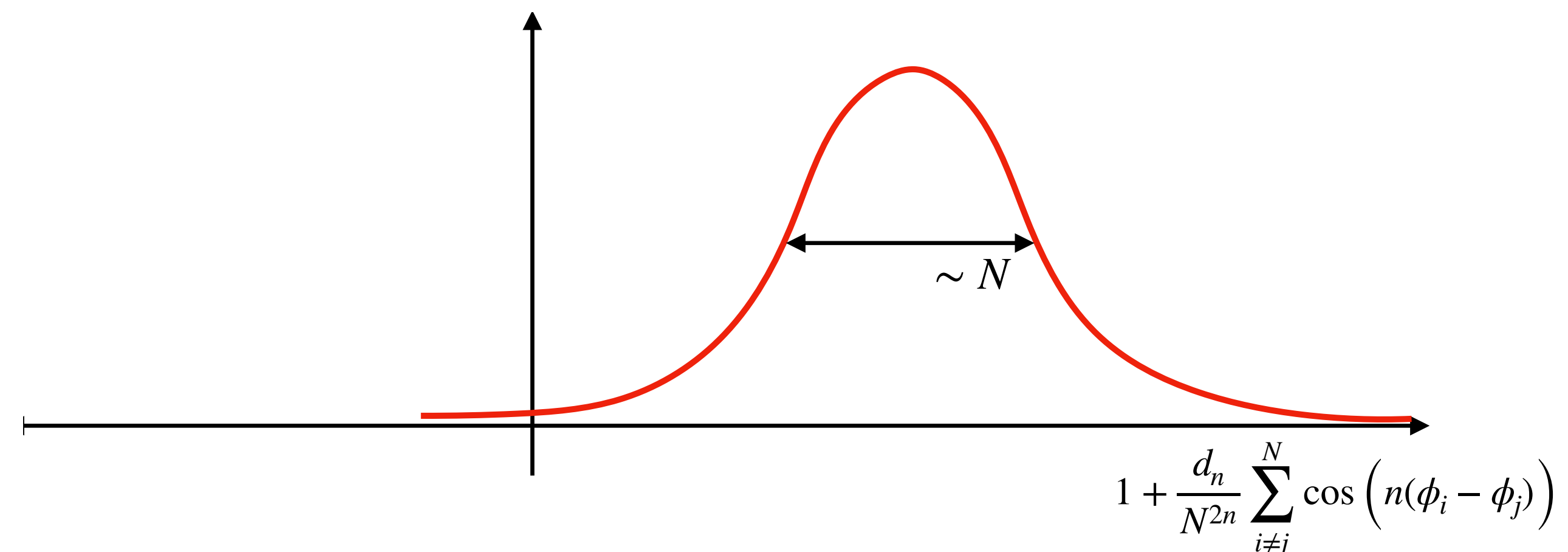
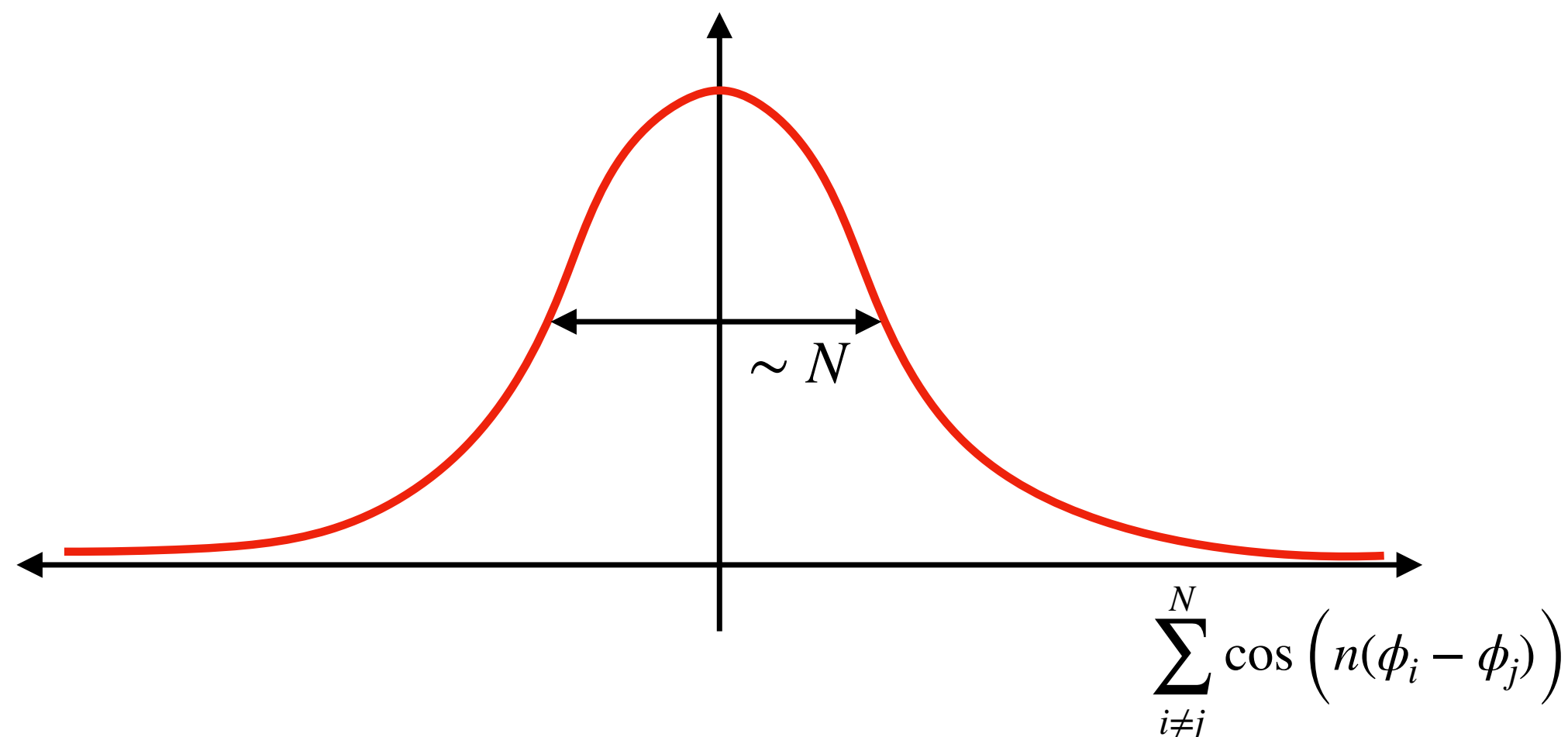
# Azimuthal correlations

Going back to the matrix element

$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 \sim 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{g_n(k^+ k^-, N)}{N^{2n}} \sum_{i \neq j}^N \cos(n(\phi_i - \phi_j))$$

Positivity at *all* points in phase space requires

$$1 \gtrsim \frac{g_n(k^+ k^-, N)}{N^{2n}} \sum_{i \neq j}^N \cos(n(\phi_i - \phi_j)) \sim \frac{g_n(k^+ k^-, N)}{N^{2n}} \sigma \sim \frac{g_n(k^+ k^-, N)}{N^{2n-1}}$$



Figs from A Larkoski

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And so scaling with N of the coefficients to retain matrix element squared positivity in large N limit

$$g_n(k^+ k^-, N) \lesssim N^{2n-1}$$

# Azimuthal correlations

Fourier expansion of probability distribution

$$p(\Delta\phi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} + \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{d_n(N)}{N^{2n}} \cos(n \Delta\phi)$$

In terms of matrix element coefficients

$$d_n(N) = \frac{1}{2Q^2} \int_0^Q dk^+ \int_0^Q dk^- f(k^+ k^-) g_n(k^+ k^-, N)$$

$$g_n(k^+ k^-, N) \lesssim N^{2n-1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad d_n(N) \lesssim N^{2n-1}$$

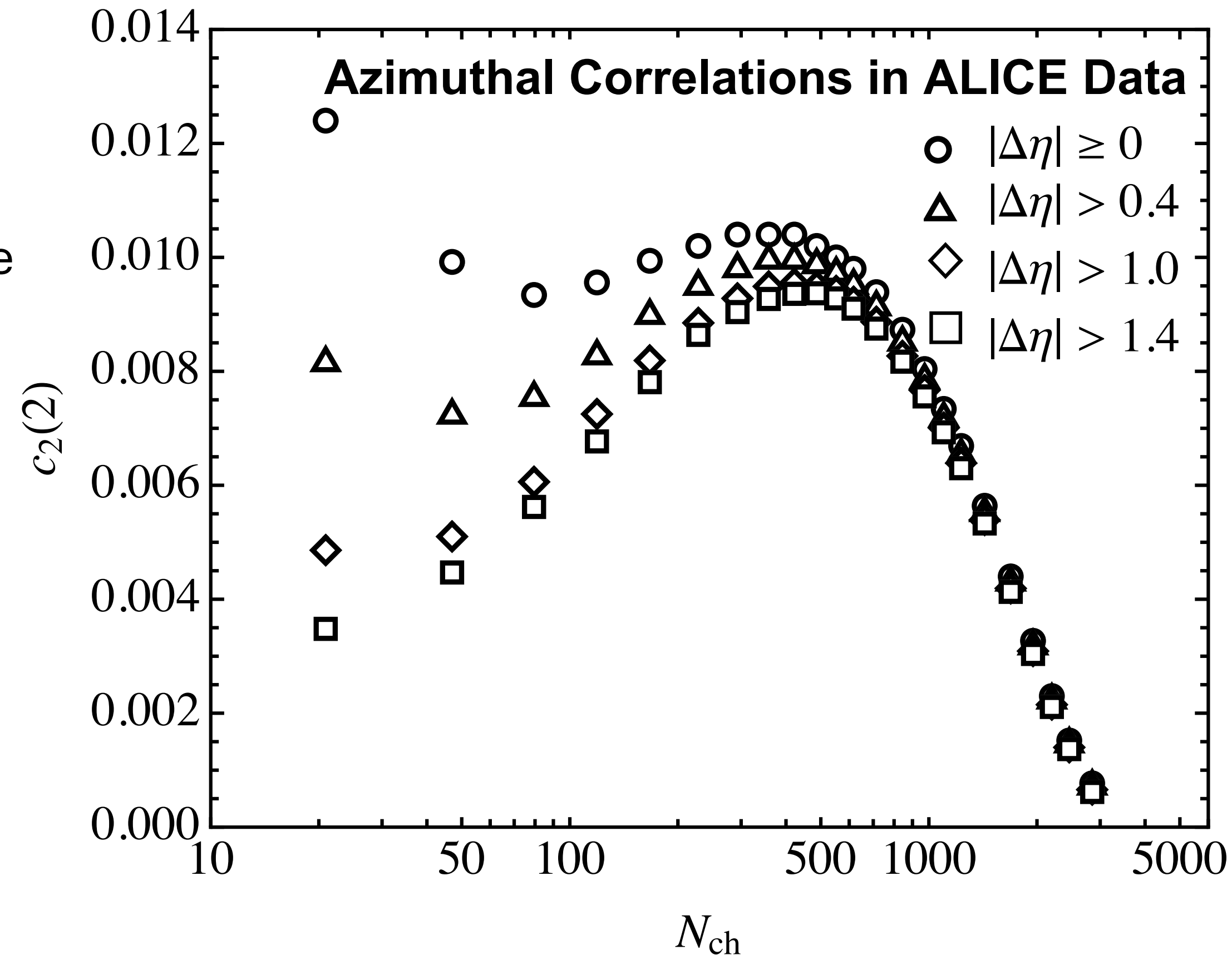
i.e. Azimuthal correlations vanish at large N

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_n(N)}{N^{2n}} = 0$$

# Ellipticity

First non-trivial azimuthal correlation used as evidence for collective flow/ QGP

Proxy to flow in reaction plane often used is pairwise azimuthal correlation moment



$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76 \text{ TeV}$

$|\eta| < 1$

$0.2 < p_{\perp} < 3.0 \text{ GeV}$

arXiv:1406.2474

The vanishing at large  $N$  predicted by the above analysis is borne out in data. May be interpreted in models with collision parameter (centrality)  $\rightarrow 0$

$$c_2(2) = \frac{1}{N} + \int_0^{2\pi} d\Delta\phi p(\Delta\phi) \cos(2\Delta\phi) = \frac{1}{N} + \frac{d_2(N)}{N^4}$$

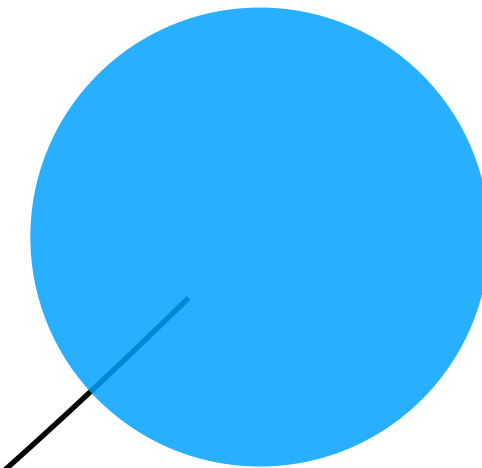
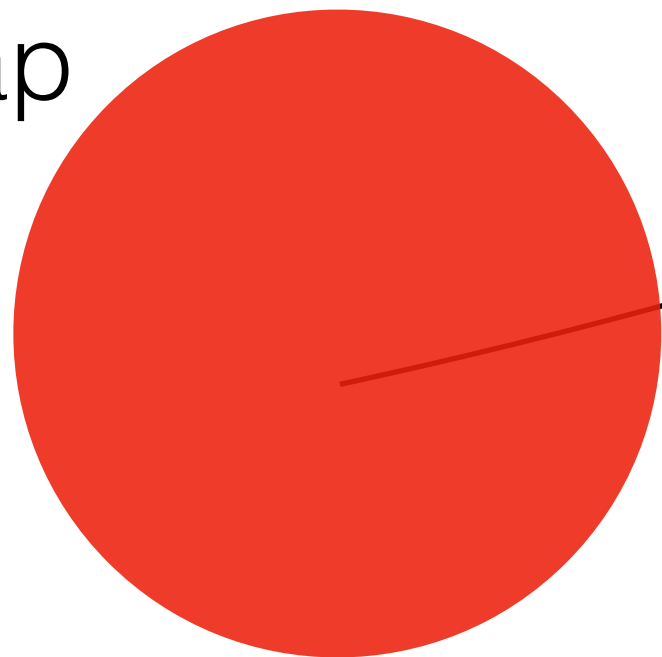




**What does large N buy us?**

# Analytic probes of S-matrix

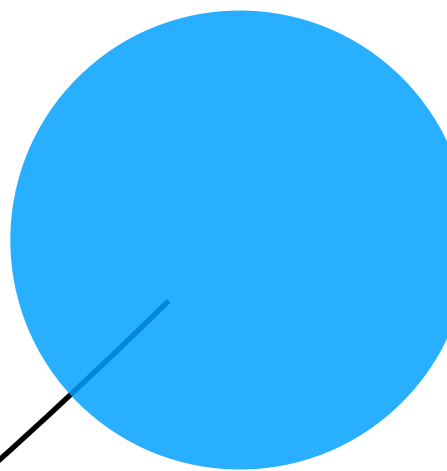
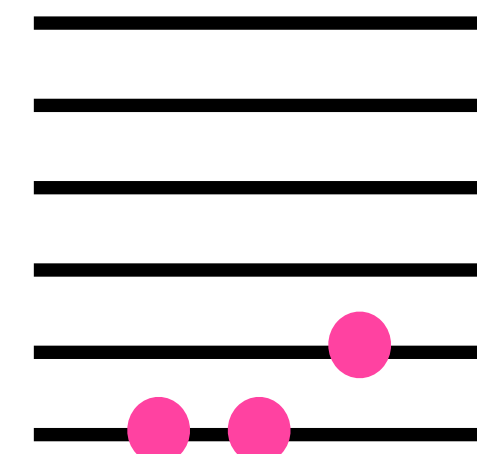
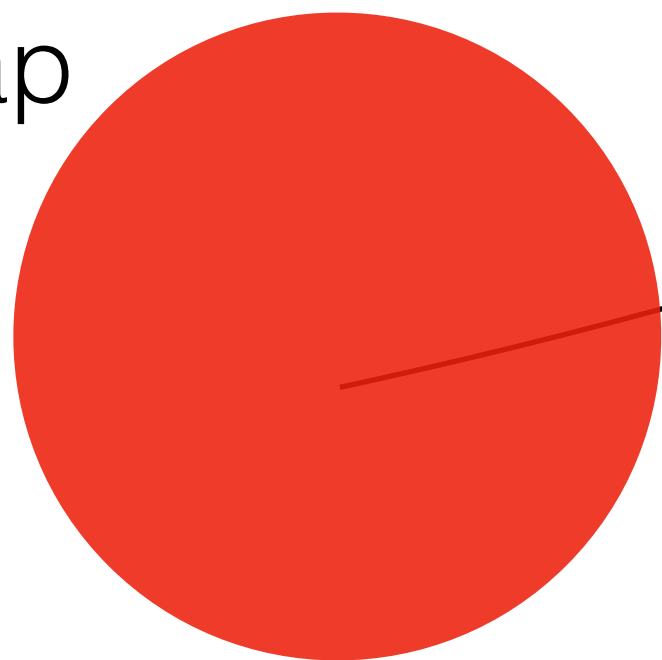
Low point amplitudes,  
Positivity bounds, S-matrix  
theory/ Bootstrap



Asymptotic analytic  
understanding of density  
of states of the theory

# Analytic probes of S-matrix

Low point amplitudes,  
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Asymptotic analytic  
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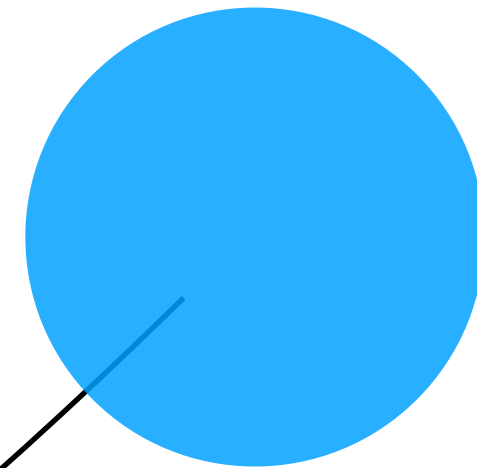
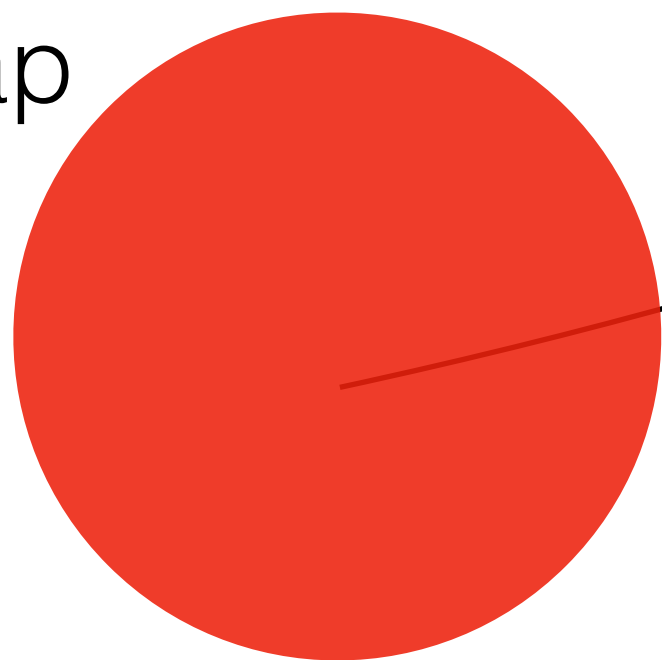
$p(E)$

Integer partitions

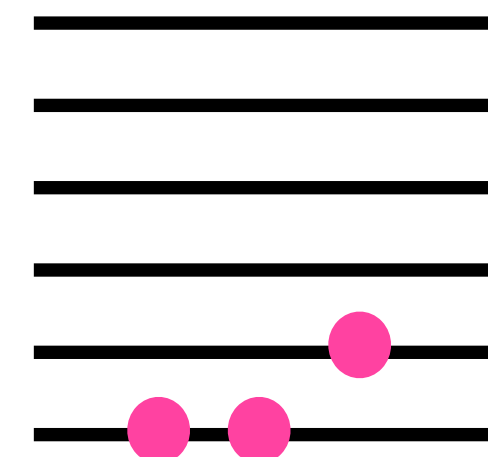


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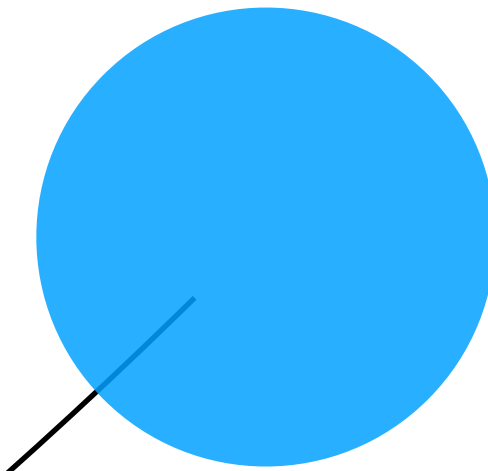
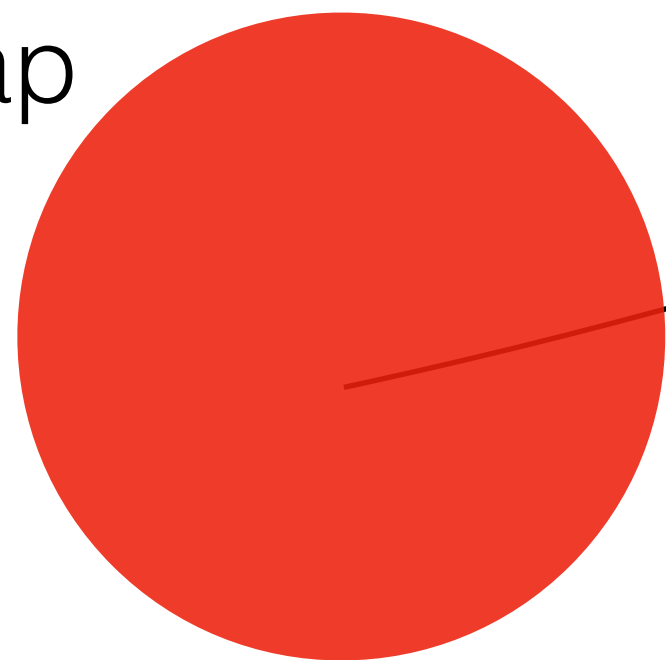
$p(E)$

Integer partitions

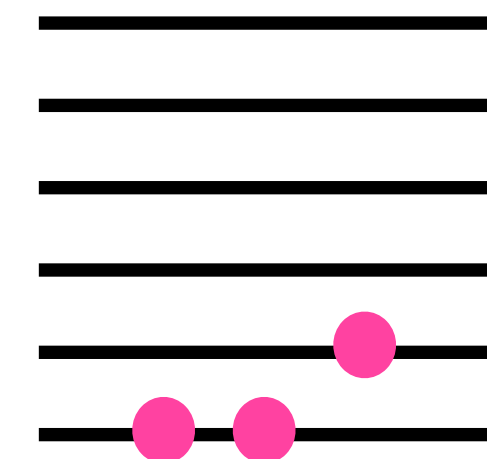
$$p(E) \sim \frac{1}{4E\sqrt{3}} \exp\left(\pi\sqrt{\frac{2E}{3}}\right)$$

# Analytic probes of S-matrix

Low point amplitudes,  
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$p(E)$

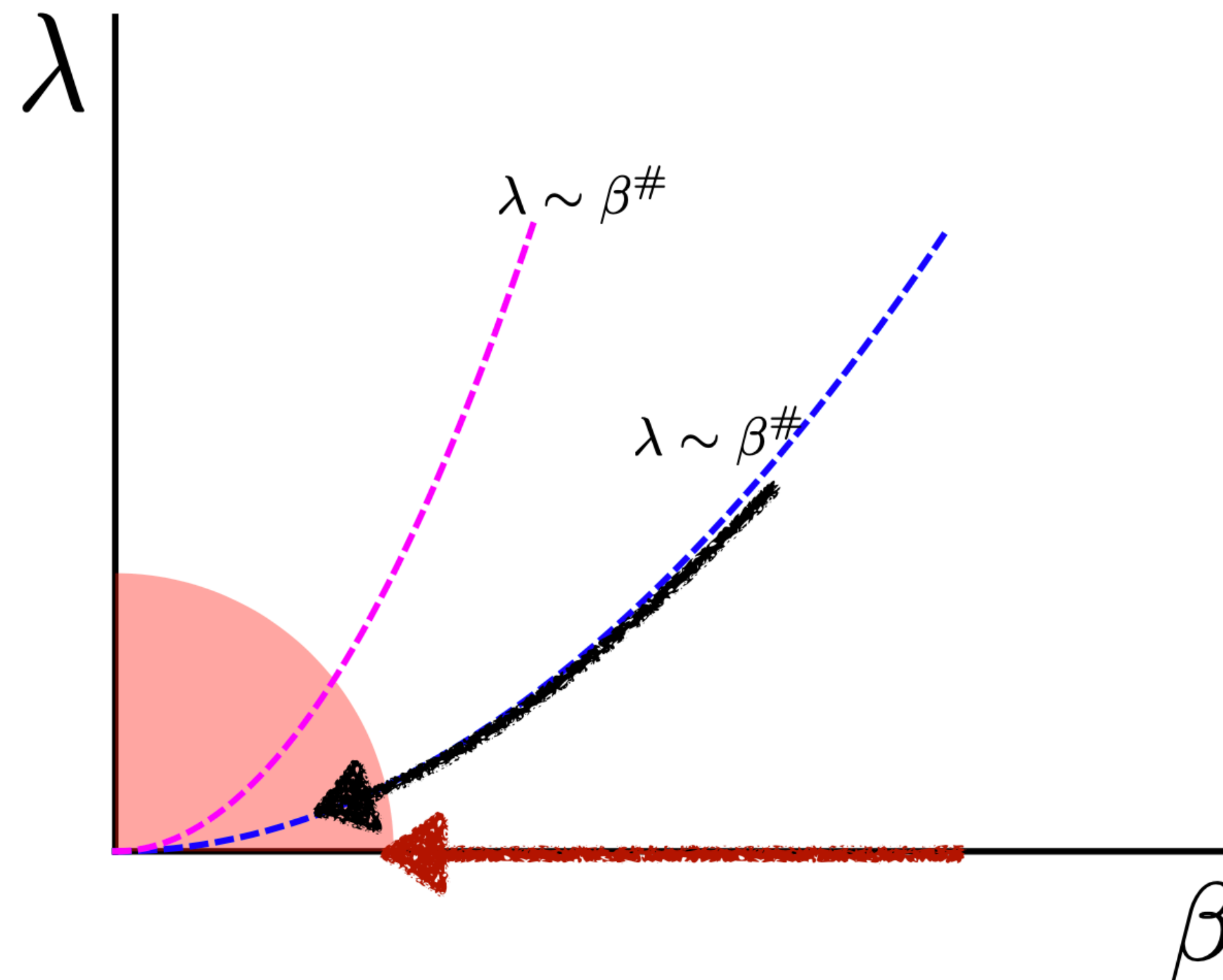
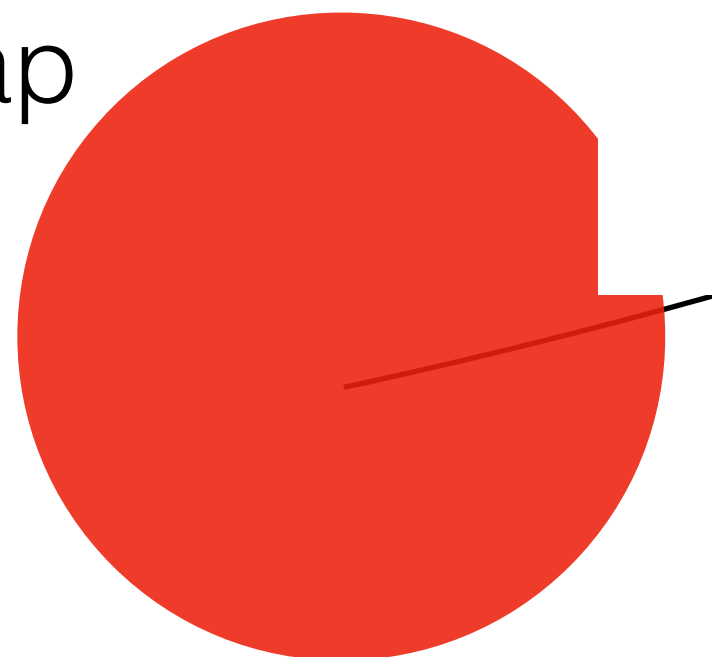
Integer partitions

For the standard model, TM, Pal 2010.08560

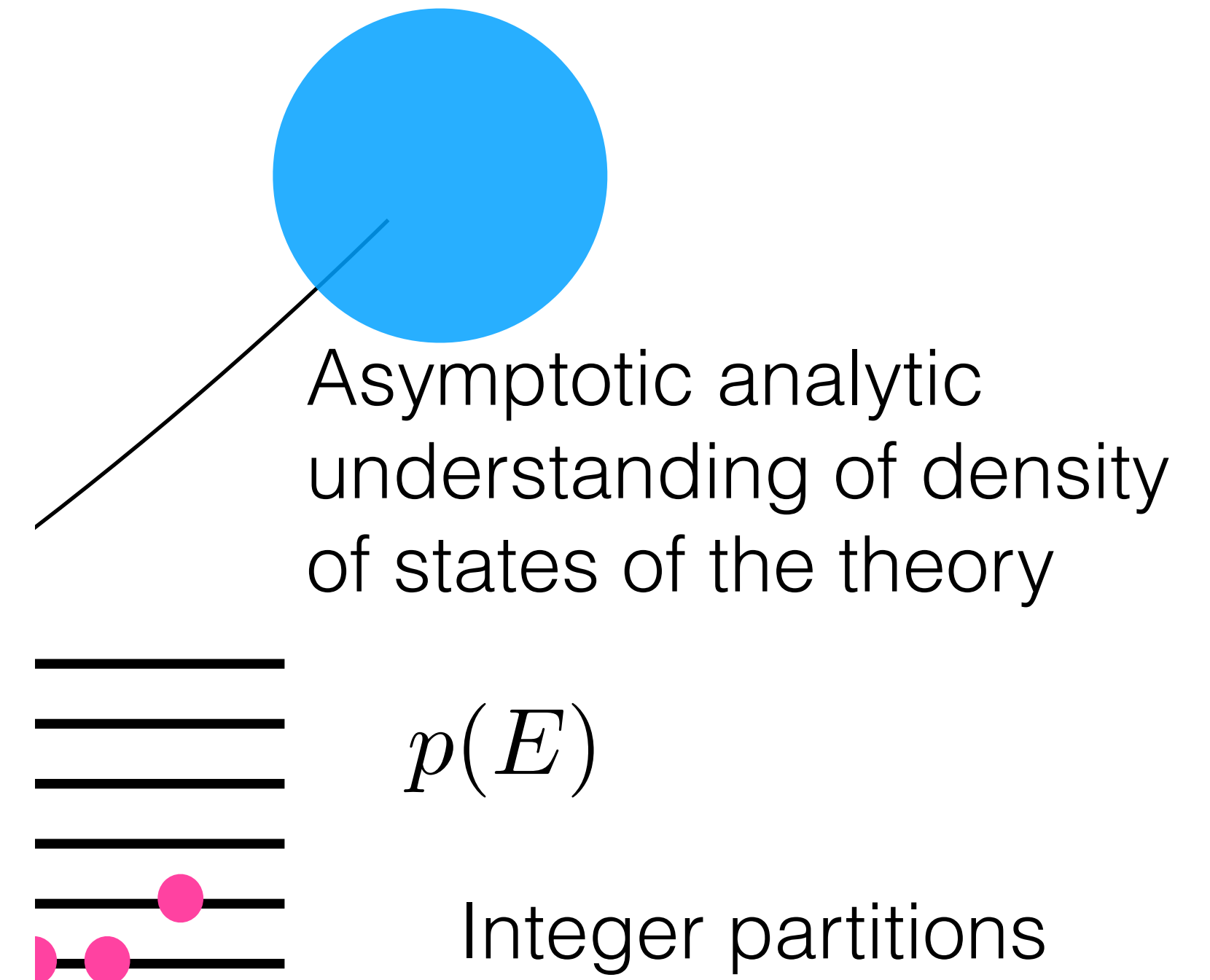
$$p(\Delta) \sim \frac{50674491 \cdot 3^{5/8} \left(\frac{31}{5}\right)^{3/8} 7^{7/8} \pi^{10}}{131072000 \sqrt[4]{2} \sqrt{13} \Delta^{55/8}} \exp \left( \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{2} \sqrt[4]{\frac{217}{15}} \pi \Delta^{3/4} - \frac{37 \sqrt[4]{\frac{15}{217}} \pi}{4 \sqrt{2}} \Delta^{1/4} + 28 \zeta'(-2) \right)$$

# Analytic probes of S-matrix

Low point amplitudes,  
Positivity bounds, S-matrix  
theory/ Bootstrap



Also for weakly coupled theories, Cao, TM, Pal 2111.07472



# Analytic probes of S-matrix

## Bootstrap approach?

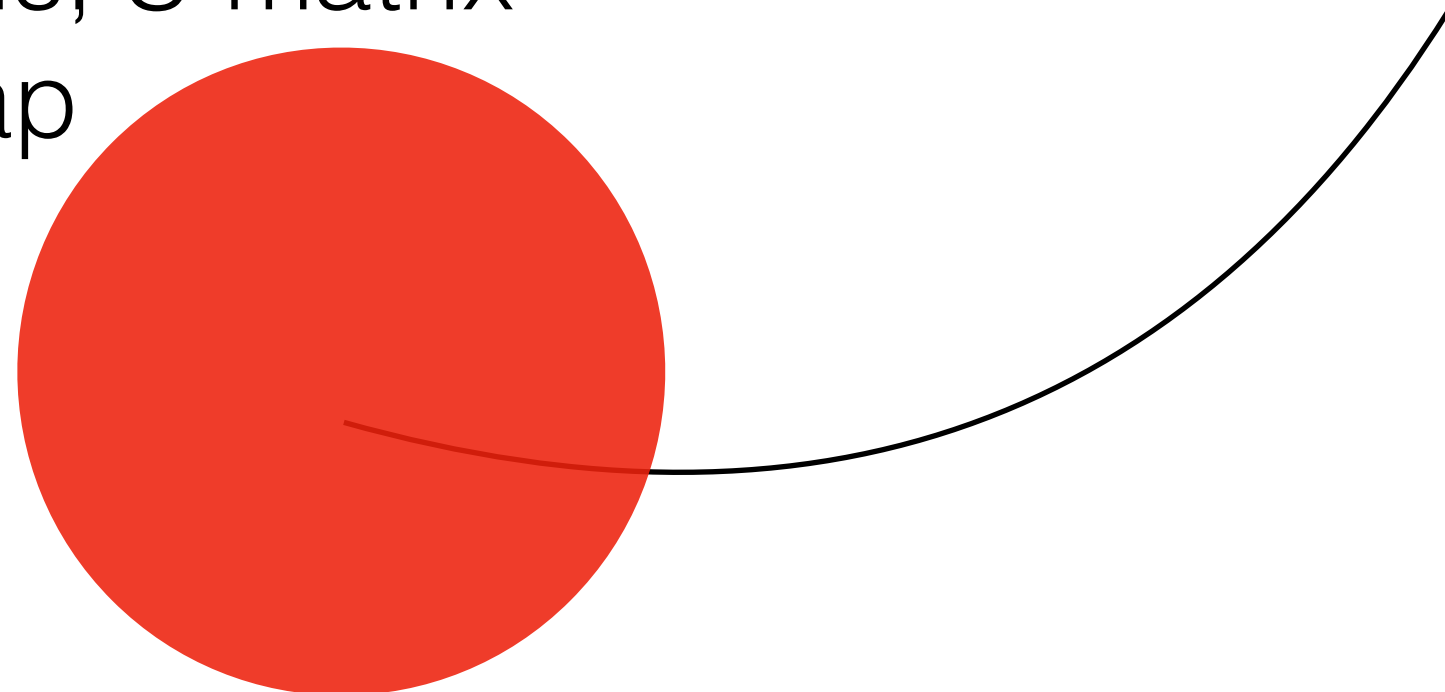
pp or AA to N hadrons has *some* S-matrix element, that has to obey certain symmetries

Understanding of strongly coupled theories from a bootstrap approach, recently been applied to QFT, i.e. to the S-matrix

Recent: M. F. Paulos, J. Penedones, J. Toledo, B. C. van Rees, and P. Vieira, '16, '17. More recently e.g. L. Cordova and P. Vieira, '18; D. Mazac and M. Paulos '18,'19; Cordova, He, Kruczenski, Vieira, '19; Karateev, Kuhn, Penedones '19; Correia, Sever, Zhiboedov, '20; Homrich, Penedones, Toledo, van Rees, Vieira, '20 ...

Those are 2 to 2. This is 2 to  $N \gg 1$

Low point amplitudes,  
Positivity bounds, S-matrix  
theory/ Bootstrap



# Addendum: manipulating flat phase space in the Large N limit

Pseudorapidity

$$\int d\Pi_N = (2\pi)^{4-3N} Q^{2N-4} \frac{2\pi^{N-1}}{(N-1)!(N-2)!}$$

$$Q^2 = k^+ k^-$$

$$\begin{aligned} p_{\text{flat}}(\eta) &\sim \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \int \prod_{i=1}^N \left[ p_{\perp i} dp_{\perp i} d\eta_i \frac{d\phi_i}{2\pi} \right] \delta(\eta - \eta_1) \\ &\quad \times \delta \left( k^- - \sum_i p_{i\perp} e^{\eta_i} \right) \delta \left( k^+ - \sum_i p_{i\perp} e^{-\eta_i} \right) \delta^{(2)} \left( \sum_i \vec{p}_{i\perp} \right) \\ &\propto \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \int dp_{\perp 1} p_{\perp 1} d\eta_1 \delta(\eta - \eta_1) \left[ (k^+ - p_{\perp 1} e^{-\eta_1})(k^- - p_{\perp 1} e^{\eta_1}) - p_{\perp 1}^2 \right]^N \\ &\propto \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \int dp_{\perp} p_{\perp} \left( 1 - \frac{k^+ e^{\eta} + k^- e^{-\eta}}{k^+ k^-} p_{\perp} \right)^N \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} dp_{\perp} p_{\perp} e^{-\frac{k^+ e^{\eta} + k^- e^{-\eta}}{k^+ k^-} N p_{\perp}} \\ &= \frac{(k^+ k^-)^2}{N^2} (k^+ e^{\eta} + k^- e^{-\eta})^{-2} . \end{aligned}$$

Transverse mom

$$p_{\text{flat}}(p_{\perp}) \propto p_{\perp} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\eta e^{-\frac{k^+ e^{\eta} + k^- e^{-\eta}}{k^+ k^-} N p_{\perp}} = p_{\perp} K_0 \left( \frac{2N p_{\perp}}{\sqrt{k^+ k^-}} \right)$$



# Lorentz invariant phase space is a Stiefel Manifold

Henning, TM arxiv:1902.06747

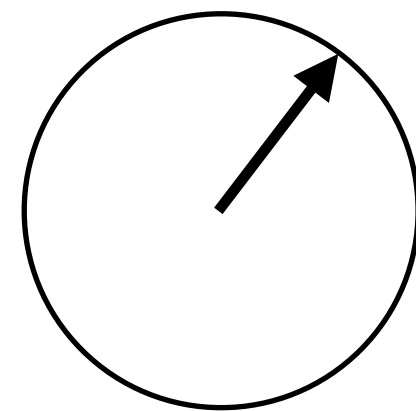
$$\delta^{(4)}(p_a + p_b - p_1 - \dots - p_N) \prod_{i=1}^N \delta(p_i^2 - m_i^2)$$

Momentum conservation

On-shell

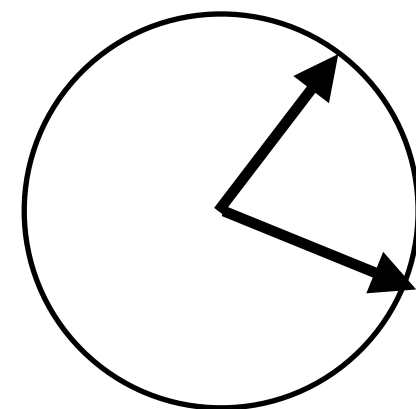
Sphere

$$\frac{O(N)}{O(N-1)}$$



Stiefel

$$\frac{O(N)}{O(N-2)}$$



(& then Complexified, O -> U)

