

Experimental Status of the Chiral Magnetic Effect



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OUTLINE

- Brief introduction to CME
- The background issue
- A few selected experimental observables
 - Event-shape engineering
 - Invariant mass
 - The R variable
- New STAR measurement by spectator/participant planes
 - STAR data (arXiv:2106.09243)
 - Study of remaining nonflow effects (arXiv:2106.15595)
- Outlook (isobar and beyond)
- Summary

CHIRAL MAGNETIC EFFECT (CME)

The strong interaction

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \sum_q \left(\underbrace{\bar{\psi}_{qi} i\gamma^\mu \left[\delta_{ij} \partial_\mu + ig \left(G_\mu^\alpha t_\alpha \right)_{ij} \right]}_{\text{quarks}} \underbrace{\psi_{qj}}_{\text{quarks}} - m_q \bar{\psi}_{qi} \psi_{qj} \right) - \underbrace{\frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^\alpha G_\alpha^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{gluons}} = \frac{1}{2} (E_\alpha^2 - B_\alpha^2)$$

't Hooft vacuum

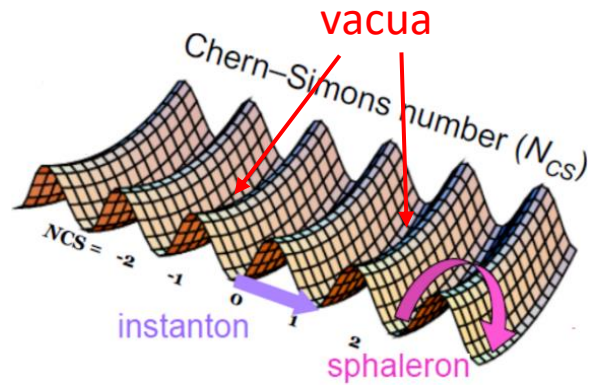
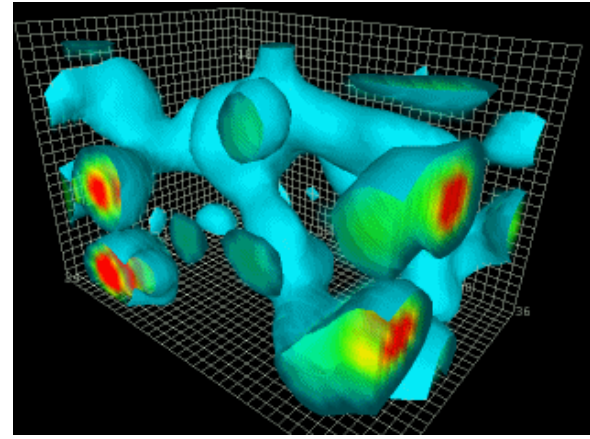
$$+ \theta \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_{\mu\nu}^\alpha \tilde{G}_\alpha^{\mu\nu} = -\theta \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \vec{E}_\alpha \cdot \vec{B}_\alpha$$

to solve the $U(1)_A$ problem (1976)

E: C-odd, P-odd, T-even
B: C-odd, P-even, T-odd

Explicitly breaks CP

Early universe ultraviolet $\theta \approx 1$?? \gg current infrared $\theta \approx 0$



Kharzeev, Pisarski, Tytgat, PRL81(1998)512

QCD vacuum fluctuation, chiral anomaly, topological gluon field

Reaction plane (Ψ_R)

\vec{B}

$B \sim 10^{15} \text{ T}$

X (defines Ψ_R)

1 2 3

$Q_w \neq 0$

u_L, d_R, u_R, d_L

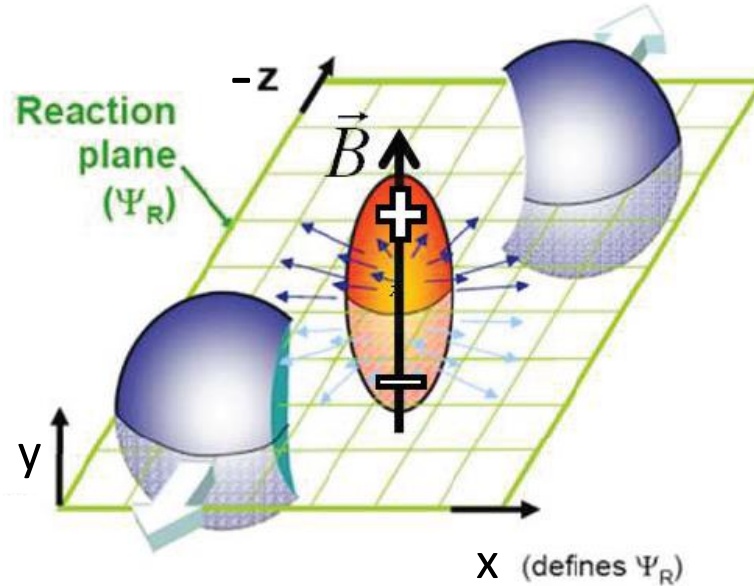
Kharzeev, et al. NPA 803 (2008) 227

Chiral Magnetic Effect (CME)

Discovery of the CME would imply: Chiral symmetry restoration (current-quark DOF & deconfinement);
Local P/CP violation that may solve the strong CP problem (matter-antimatter asymmetry)

THE COMMON γ VARIABLE

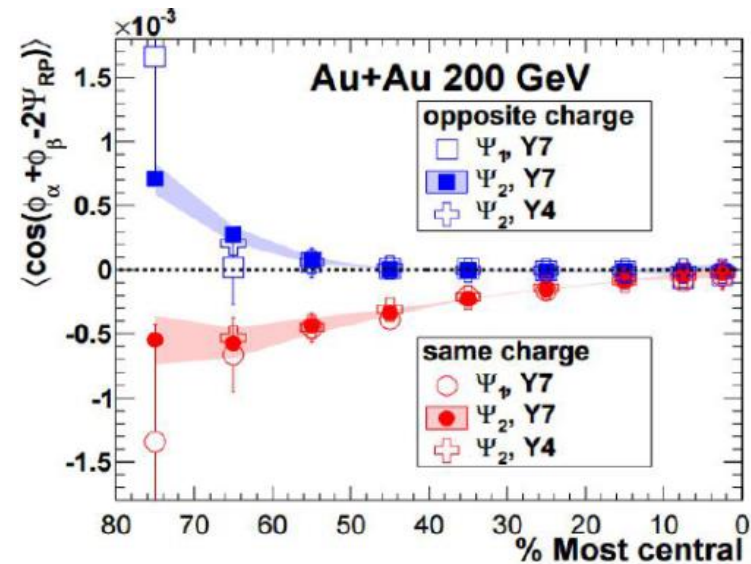
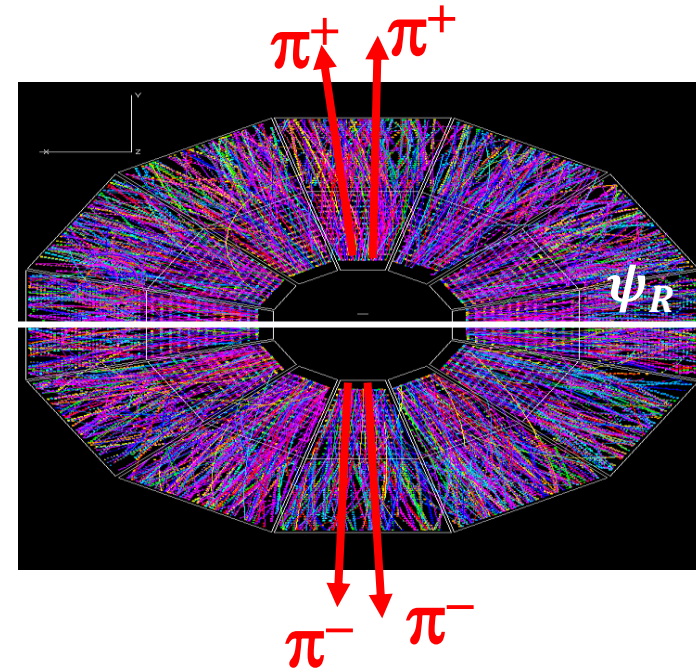
Voloshin, PRC 70 (2004) 057901



$$\gamma_{\alpha\beta} = \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha + \varphi_\beta - 2\psi_R) \rangle$$

$$\gamma_{+-} > 0, \quad \gamma_{++} < 0$$

$$\gamma_{-+} < 0, \quad \gamma_{--} > 0$$

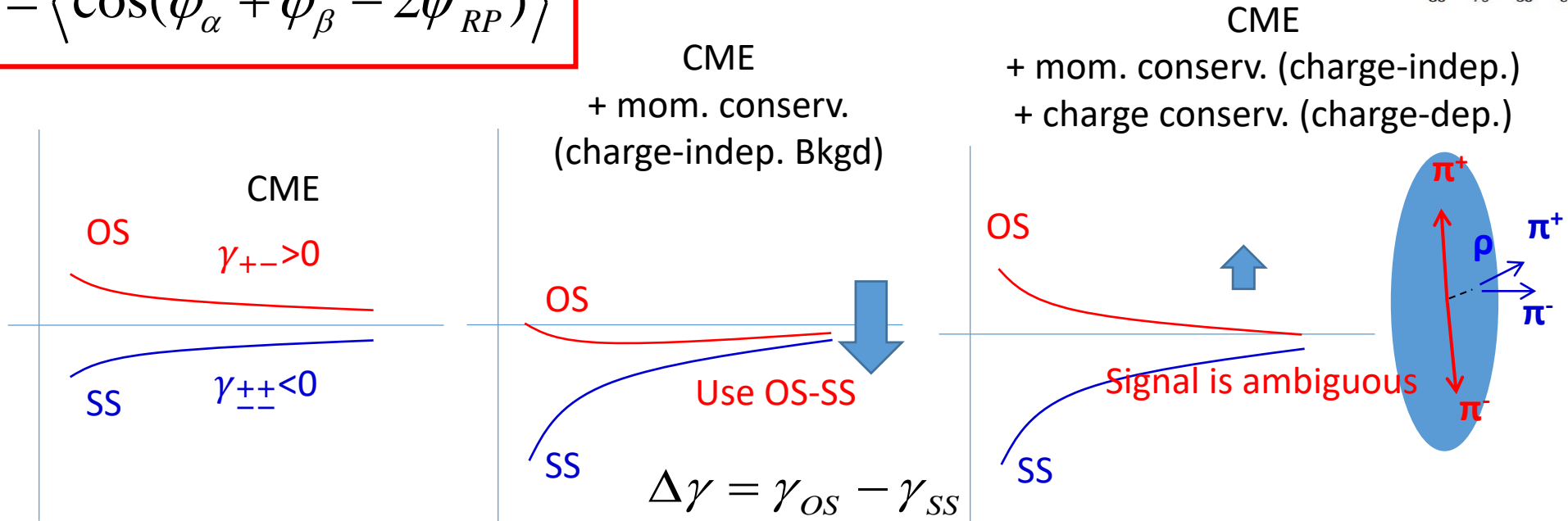
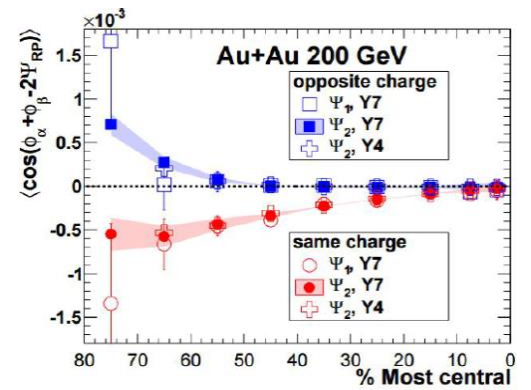


STAR'09,'10;
STAR, PRC 88
(2013) 064911

BACKGROUNDS IN γ CORRELATORS

Voloshin 2004; FW 2009; Bzdak, Koch, Liao 2010; Pratt, Schlichting 2010; ...

$$\gamma_{\alpha\beta} = \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha + \varphi_\beta - 2\psi_{RP}) \rangle$$



$$dN_{\pm} / d\varphi \propto 1 + 2v_1 \cos \varphi^{\pm} + 2a_{\pm} \cdot \sin \varphi^{\pm} + 2v_2 \cos 2\varphi^{\pm} + \dots$$

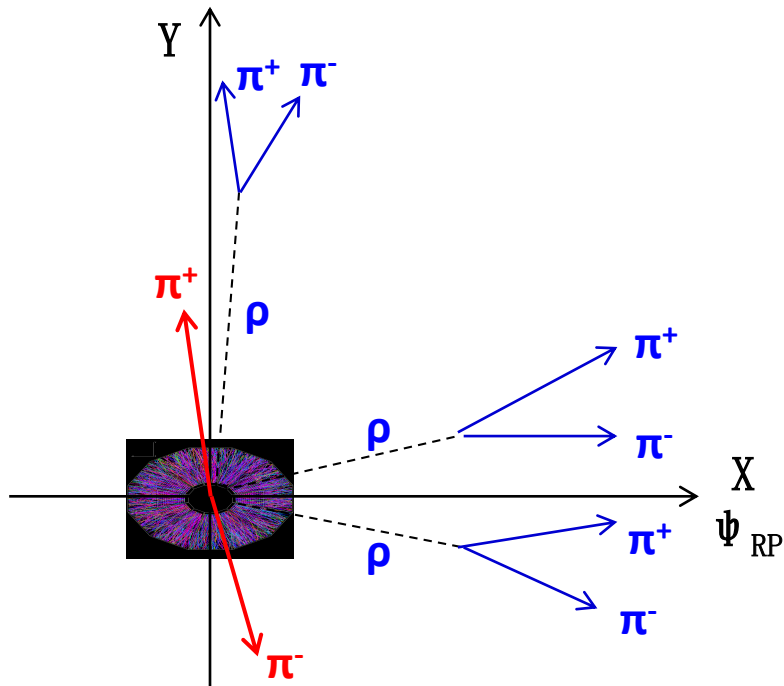
$$\gamma_{\alpha\beta} = \underbrace{\left[\langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha - \psi_{RP}) \cos(\varphi_\beta - \psi_{RP}) \rangle - \langle \sin(\varphi_\alpha - \psi_{RP}) \sin(\varphi_\beta - \psi_{RP}) \rangle \right]}_{\langle v_{1,\alpha} v_{1,\beta} \rangle \approx 0} + \underbrace{\left[\frac{N_{cluster}}{N_\alpha N_\beta} \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha + \varphi_\beta - 2\varphi_{cluster}) \cos(2\varphi_{cluster} - 2\varphi_{RP}) \rangle \right]}_{\text{CME: } \langle a_\alpha a_\beta \rangle \text{ charge-indep. + charge-dep.}}$$

BACKGROUND IN $\Delta\gamma$ CORRELATOR

Voloshin 2004; FW 2009; Bzdak, Koch, Liao 2010; Pratt, Schlichting 2010; ...

$$\Delta\gamma = \gamma_{OS} - \gamma_{SS}$$

$$\gamma_{\alpha\beta} = \left[\langle v_{1,\alpha} v_{1,\beta} \rangle - \langle a_\alpha a_\beta \rangle \right] + \frac{N_{cluster}}{N_\alpha N_\beta} \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha + \varphi_\beta - 2\varphi_{cluster}) \rangle v_{2,cluster}$$



$$\Delta\gamma = 2 \langle a_1^2 \rangle + \frac{N_\rho}{N_\alpha N_\beta} \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha + \varphi_\beta - 2\varphi_\rho) \rangle v_{2,\rho}$$

Flow-induced charge-dependent background:
nonflow coupled with flow

$$\propto v_2 / N$$

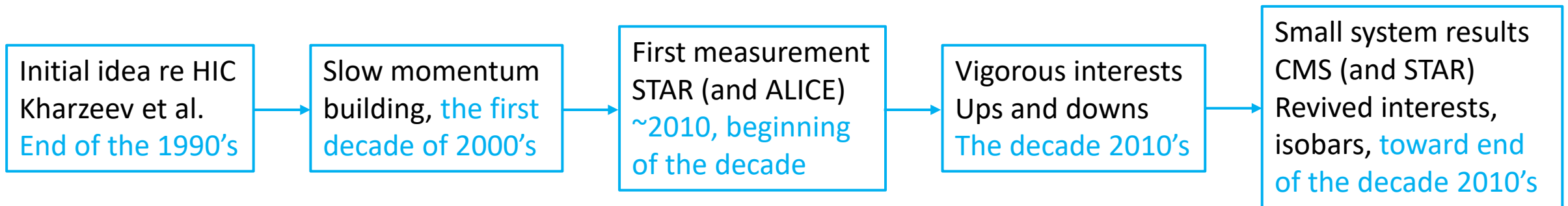
HANDLING BACKGROUND

- When background is small

- Can be a bit sloppy in background estimation. Imprecision can be afforded by syst. uncertainty
- Can be somewhat model-dependent (theo. syst. uncertainty)

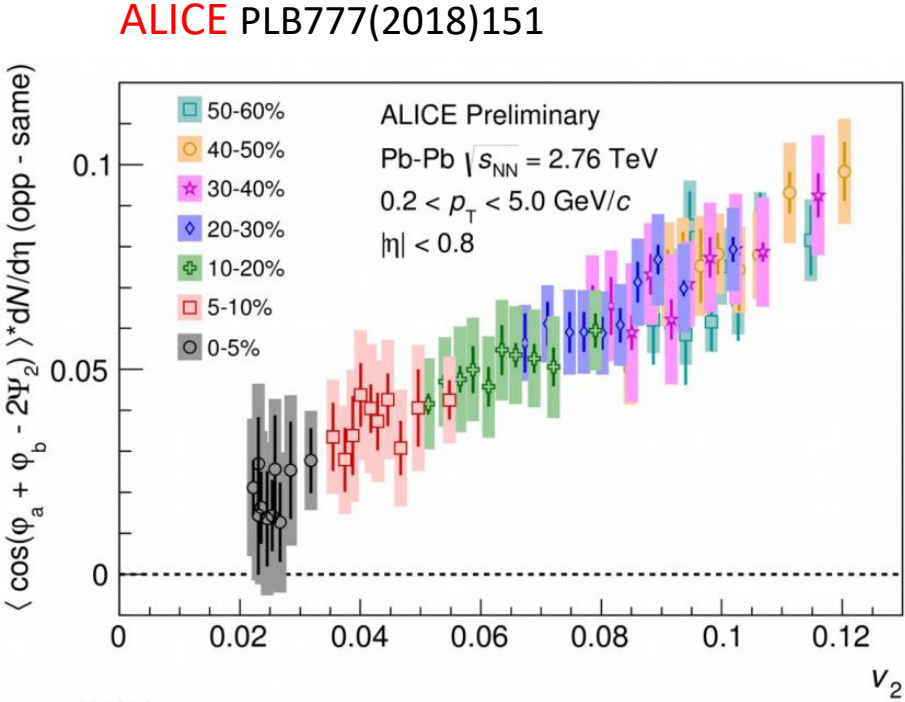
- **When background is large**

- Have to cleanly remove background
- Extreme care should be taken. Small error in background can result in big mistake in signal
- Should not rely on theory/model/trends (unless theory is very precise)
- Better be data-driven, often leading to new observables and methods

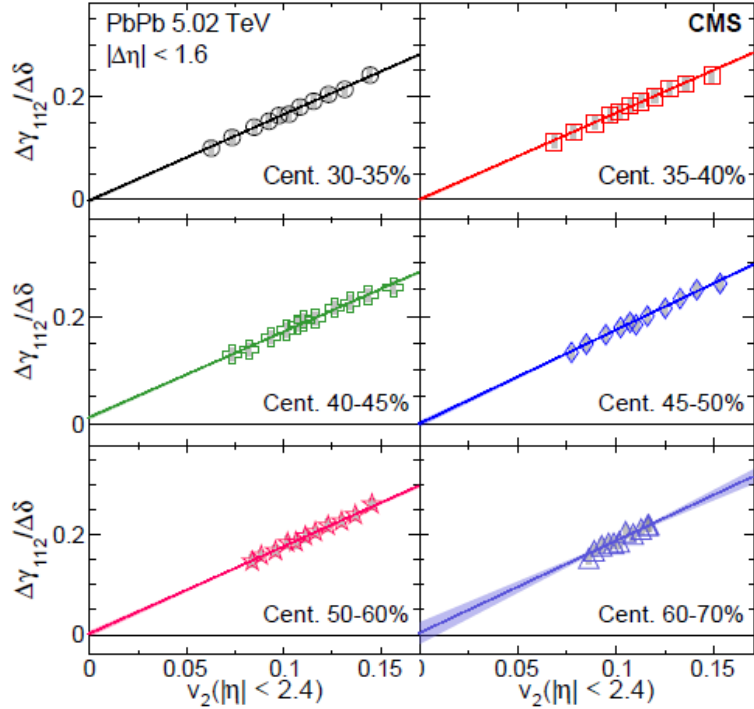


EVENT-SHAPE ENGINEERING METHOD

Schukraft, Timmins, Voloshin, PLB719 (2013) 394



CMS PRC97(2018)044912



Pb+Pb upper limits at 95% CL:

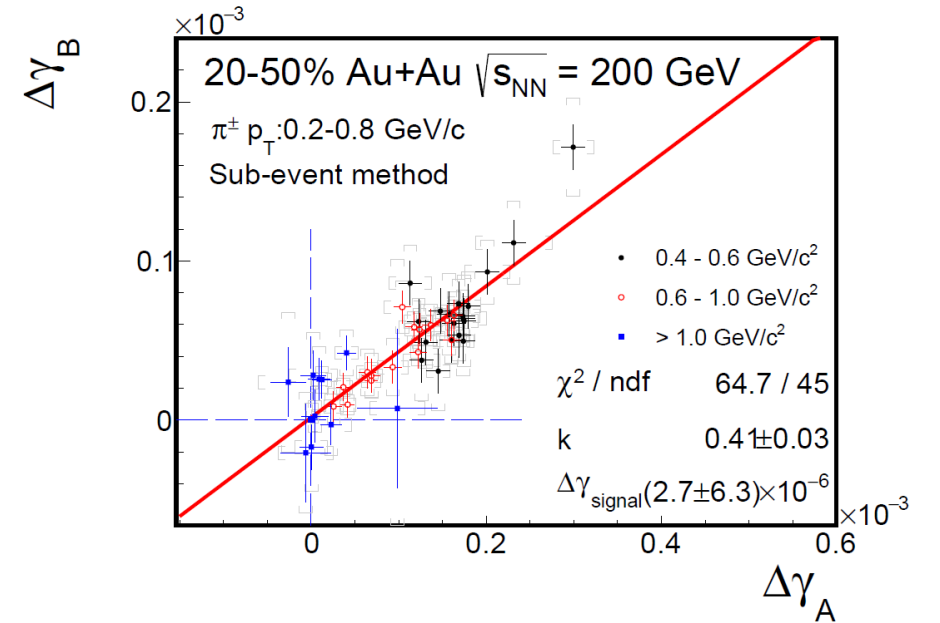
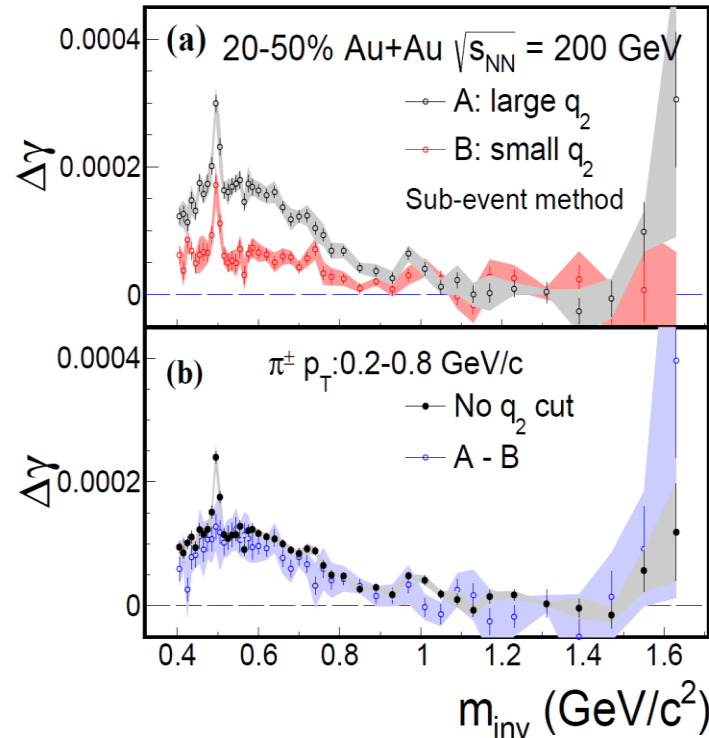
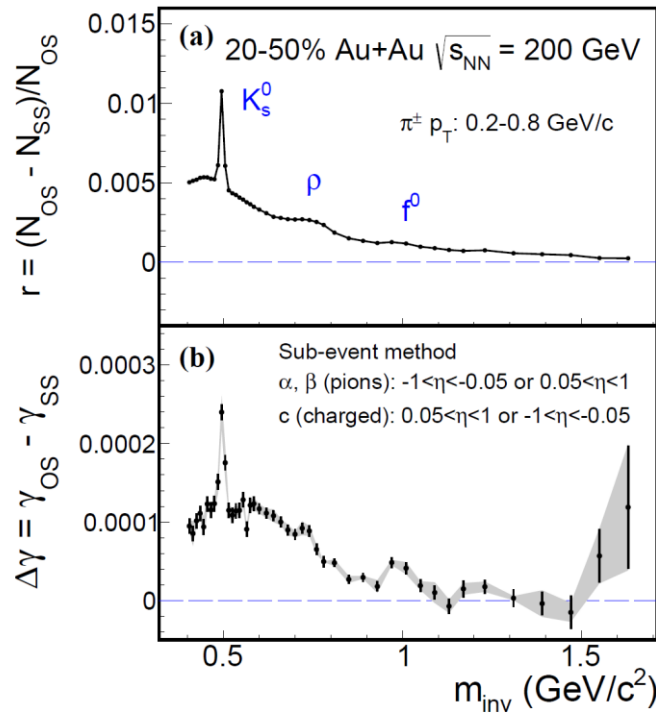
ALICE: 26% (10-50%, MC-KLN CGC)
 CMS: 7% (MB)

THE INVARIANT MASS METHOD

Zhao, Li, Wang, Eur.Phys.J.C 79 (2019) 2, 168

$$\frac{N_\rho}{N_\alpha N_\beta} \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha + \varphi_\beta - 2\varphi_{clus}) \rangle \times v_{2,clus}$$

STAR, arXiv:2006.05035



CME fraction = $(2 \pm 4 \pm 5)\%$
 CME upper limit 15% at 95% CL

THE R-VARIABLE

Ajitanand, Lacey, et al., PRC **83** (2011) 011901

Magdy, Lacey, et al., PRC **97** (2018) 061901(R)

$$\Delta S = \frac{\sum_1^p \sin\left(\frac{m}{2} \Delta\varphi_m\right)}{p} - \frac{\sum_1^n \sin\left(\frac{m}{2} \Delta\varphi_m\right)}{n}$$

$$R(\Delta S_m) \equiv \frac{N(\Delta S_{m,\text{real}})}{N(\Delta S_{m,\text{shuffled}})} / \frac{N(\Delta S_{m,\text{real}}^\perp)}{N(\Delta S_{m,\text{shuffled}}^\perp)}, \quad m = 2, 3, \dots,$$

Width of $R(\Delta S)$ distribution reduces to variance $\sin^* \sin, \cos^* \cos \rightarrow$ equivalently the $\Delta\gamma$ variable

$$\frac{S_{\text{concavity}}}{\sigma_{R2}^2} \approx -\frac{M}{2} (M - 1) \Delta\gamma_{112}$$

The STAR experiment

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Submitted May 14, 2021
e-Print Archives (2105.06044) : [Abstract](#) | [PS](#) | [PDF](#)

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Except the R-variable proponents, all other CME experts are convinced that R and the inclusive $\Delta\gamma$ are similar.

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Ajitanand, Lacey, et al., PRC **83** (2011) 011901

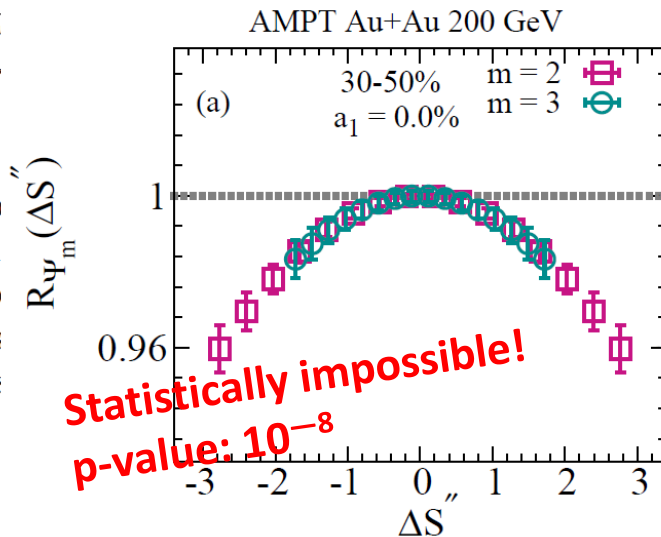
Magdy, Lacey, et al., PRC **97** (2018) 061901(R)

Charge separation measurements in $p(d)+Au$ and $Au+Au$ collisions; implications for the chiral magnetic effect

(STAR Collaboration)

The convex to flat distributions observed for $R_{\Psi_3}(\Delta S'')$ at all centrality intervals and the sizable $R_{\Psi_2}(\Delta S'')$ centrality dependence indicated in Fig. 4(e), cannot be reconciled with any of the background-driven charge separation models. Here, it is important to recall that Fig. 2(a) gives a strong indication that $R_{\Psi_2}(\Delta S'')$ is relatively insensitive to collisions become more per-

zation. An important corollary of background-driven charge separation is to be expected regardless of background-driven distribution or concave-shaped [36, 41].



$$\Delta S = \frac{\sum_1^p \sin\left(\frac{m}{2} \Delta \varphi_m\right)}{p} - \frac{\sum_1^n \sin\left(\frac{m}{2} \Delta \varphi_m\right)}{n}$$

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The STAR experiment

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arXiv.org > nucl-ex > arXiv:2006.04251

Nuclear Experiment

[Submitted on 7 Jun 2020 (v1), last revised 17 May 2021 (this version, v2)]

Charge separation measurements in $p(d)+Au$ and $Au+Au$ collisions; implications for the chiral magnetic effect

STAR Collaboration

Charge separation (ΔS) measurements, obtained relative to the 2nd-order (Ψ_2) and 3rd-order (Ψ_3) event planes with a new charge-sensitive correlator $R_{\Psi_m}(\Delta S)$, are presented for $p(d)+Au$ and $Au+Au$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200\text{--}GeV$. The correlator, which is sensitive to the hypothesized Chiral Magnetic Effect (CME), show the expected patterns of background-driven charge separation for the measurements relative to Ψ_3 and those relative to Ψ_2 for the $p(d)+Au$ systems. By contrast, the $Au+Au$ measurements relative to Ψ_2 , show event-shape-independent $R_{\Psi_2}(\Delta S)$ distributions consistent with a CME-driven charge separation, quantified by widths having an inverse relationship to the Fourier dipole coefficient \tilde{a}_1 , which evaluates the CME. The extracted values of these widths and their dependencies on centrality and event-shape give new constraints for possible CME-driven charge separation in relativistic heavy-ion collisions.

Comments: Due to the identification of a programming error that impacts the results of the $R_{\Psi_3}(\Delta S)$ correlator, the authors have withdrawn this paper. The data for the $R_{\Psi_2}(\Delta S)$ correlator are unaffected. A revised manuscript is currently under preparation within the collaboration

Subjects: **Nuclear Experiment (nucl-ex)**; High Energy Physics - Experiment (hep-ex); High Energy Physics - Phenomenology (hep-ph); Nuclear Theory (nucl-th)

Cite as: [arXiv:2006.04251](https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.04251) [nucl-ex]

(or [arXiv:2006.04251v2](https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.04251v2) [nucl-ex] for this version)

Submission history

From: Roy Lacey [[view email](#)]

[v1] Sun, 7 Jun 2020 20:20:31 UTC (44 KB)

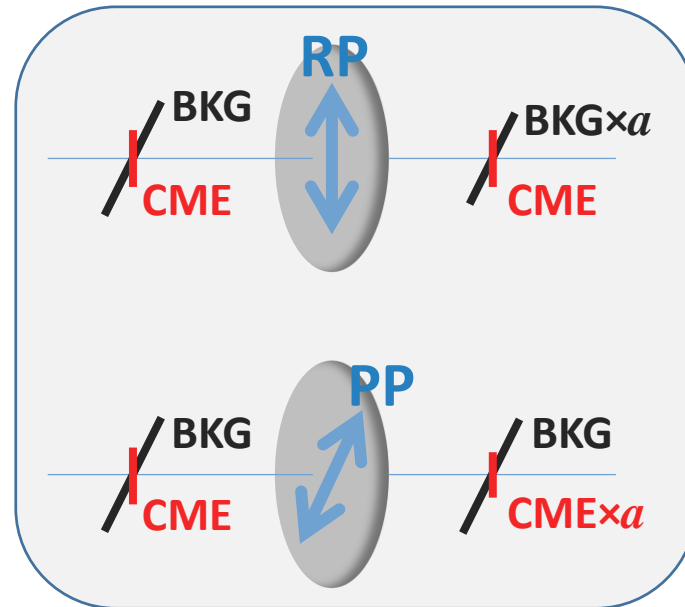
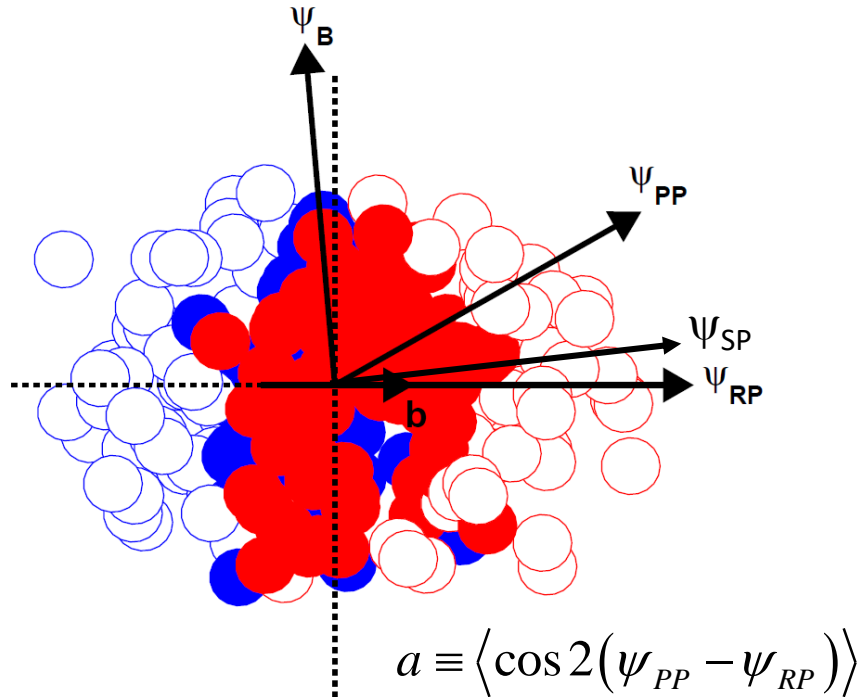
[v2] Mon, 17 May 2021 17:13:58 UTC (0 KB)

The STAR arXiv preprint has now been retracted.
Unfortunately not many people are aware of it.

Experts
similar.

SP/PP METHOD: INTRA-EVENT “CME- v_2 FILTER”

H. Xu et al., CPC 42 (2018) 084103, arXiv:1710.07265



IN THE SAME EVENT

$$A = \Delta\gamma_{\{SP\}} / \Delta\gamma_{\{PP\}}$$

$$a = v_2_{\{SP\}} / v_2_{\{PP\}}$$

$$\Delta\gamma_{\{SP\}} = a\Delta\gamma_{Bkg\{PP\}} + \Delta\gamma_{CME\{PP\}} / a$$

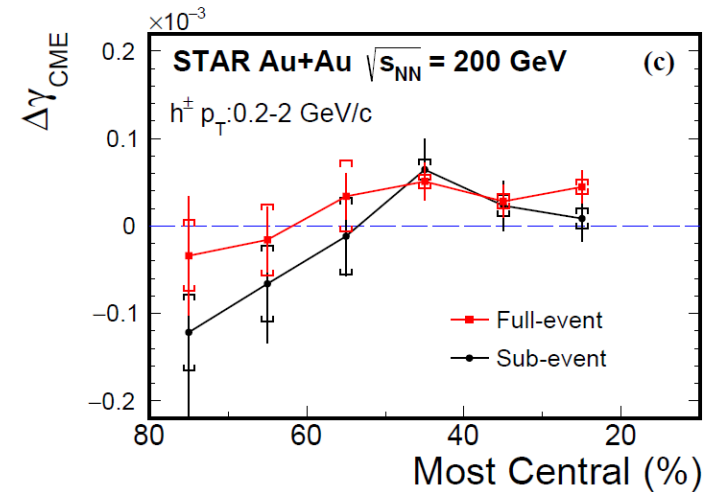
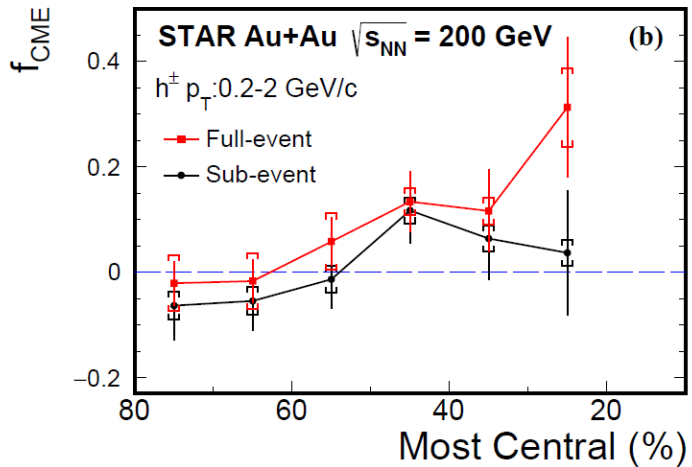
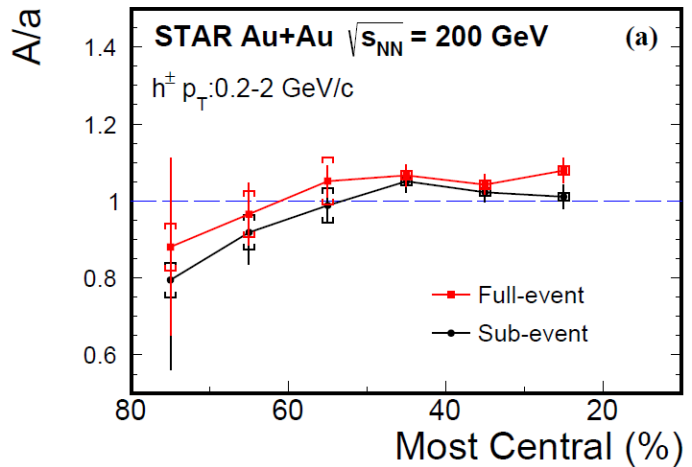
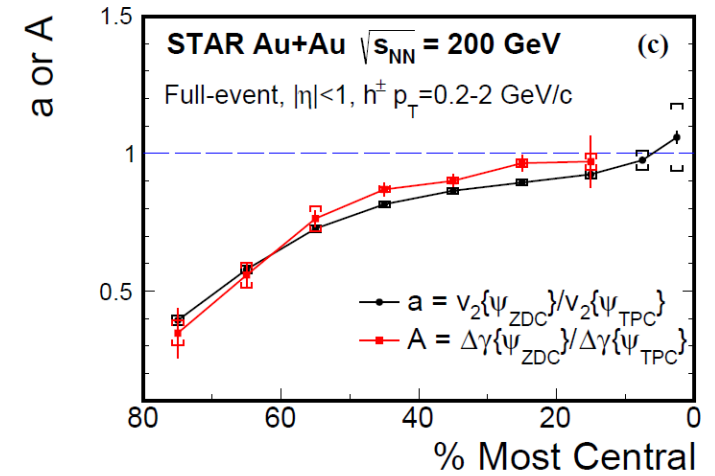
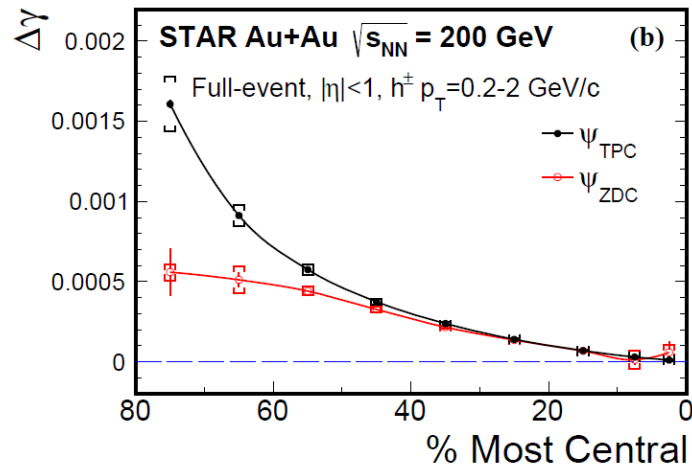
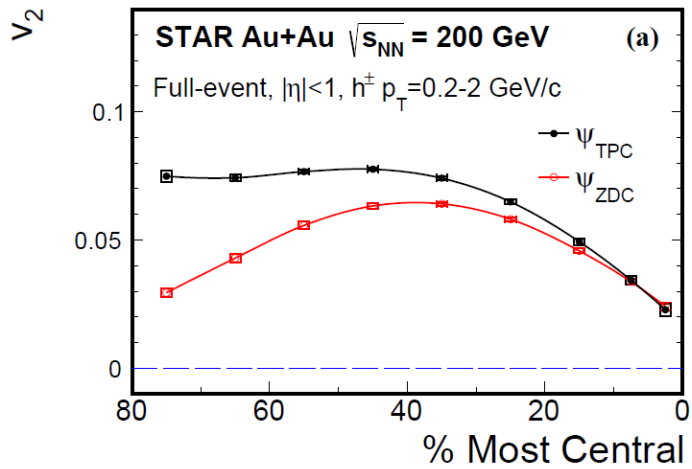
$$\Delta\gamma_{\{PP\}} = \Delta\gamma_{Bkg\{PP\}} + \Delta\gamma_{CME\{PP\}}$$

$$\Delta\gamma_{\{SP\}} / a - \Delta\gamma_{\{PP\}} = (1/a^2 - 1)\Delta\gamma_{CME\{PP\}}$$

$$f_{CME} = \frac{\Delta\gamma_{CME\{PP\}}}{\Delta\gamma_{\{PP\}}} = \frac{A/a - 1}{1/a^2 - 1}$$

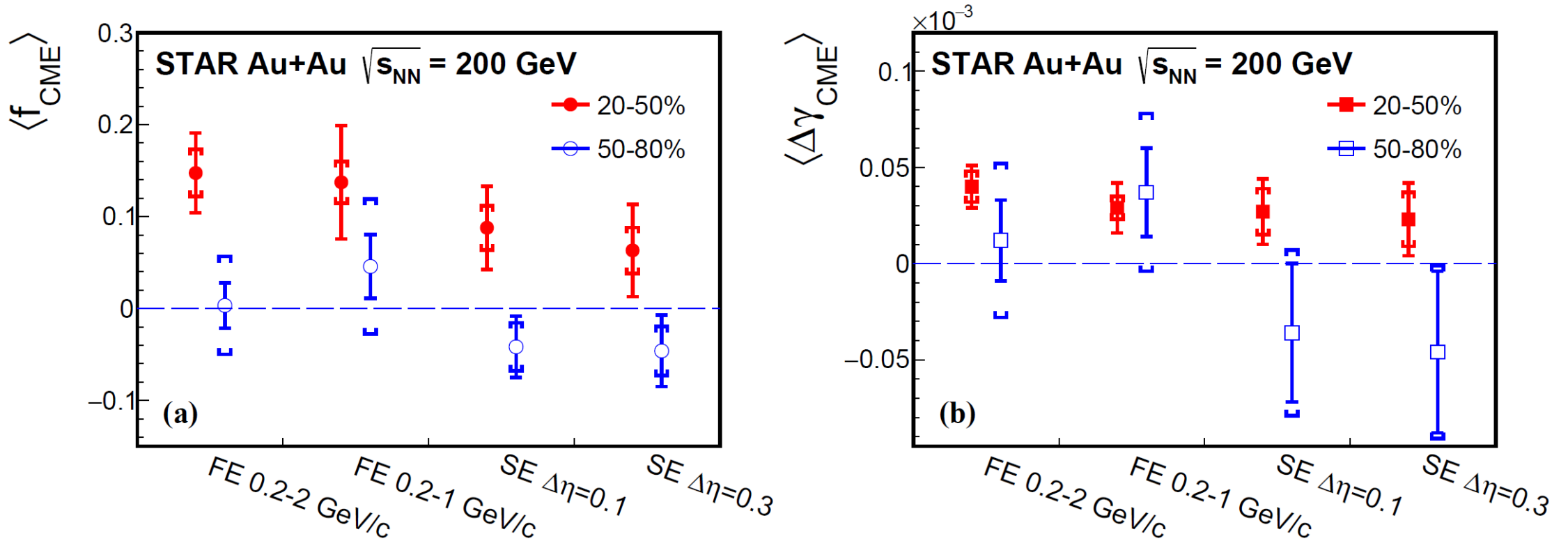
Au+Au Collisions at 200 GeV (2.4B MB)

STAR, arXiv:2106.09243



Au+Au Collisions at 200 GeV (2.4 B MB)

STAR, arXiv:2106.09243



- Consistent-with-zero signal in peripheral 50-80% collisions with relatively large errors
- Indications of finite signal in mid-central 20-50% collisions, with 1-3 σ significance
- Possible remaining nonflow effects

REMAINING NONFLOW EFFECTS

Feng et al., arXiv:2106.15595

$$f_{\text{CME}} = \frac{\Delta\gamma_{\text{CME}}\{\text{PP}\}}{\Delta\gamma\{\text{PP}\}} = \frac{A/a - 1}{1/a^2 - 1}$$

$$\frac{A}{a} = \frac{\Delta\gamma\{\text{SP}\}}{v_2\{\text{SP}\}} \cdot \frac{v_2\{\text{PP}\}^*}{\Delta\gamma\{\text{PP}\}^*} = \frac{C_3\{\text{SP}\}}{v_2^2\{\text{SP}\}} \cdot \frac{v_2^2\{\text{PP}\}^*}{C_3\{\text{PP}\}^*} = \frac{1 + \epsilon_{\text{nf}}}{1 + \frac{\epsilon_3/\epsilon_2}{Nv_2^2\{\text{PP}\}}}$$

$$C_3\{\text{SP}\} = \frac{C_{2\text{p}}N_{2\text{p}}}{N^2} v_{2,2\text{p}}\{\text{SP}\}v_2\{\text{SP}\},$$

Nonflow in $\Delta\gamma$
→ negative f_{CME}

$$C_3^*\{\text{EP}\} = \frac{C_{2\text{p}}N_{2\text{p}}}{N^2} v_{2,2\text{p}}\{\text{EP}\}v_2\{\text{EP}\} + \frac{C_{3\text{p}}N_{3\text{p}}}{2N^3}.$$

$$\epsilon_2 \equiv \frac{C_{2\text{p}}N_{2\text{p}}v_{2,2\text{p}}}{Nv_2} \quad \epsilon_3 \equiv \frac{C_{3\text{p}}N_{3\text{p}}}{2N}$$

$$\Delta\gamma_{\text{bkgd}} = \frac{N_{2\text{p}}}{N^2} \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\phi_{2\text{p}}) \rangle v_{2,2\text{p}}$$

$$C_{2\text{p}} = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\phi_{2\text{p}}) \rangle$$

$$C_{3\text{p}} = \langle \cos(\phi_\alpha + \phi_\beta - 2\phi_c) \rangle_{3\text{p}}$$

$$v_2^*\{\text{EP}\} = \sqrt{v_2^2\{\text{EP}\} + v_{2,\text{nf}}^2}$$

$$\epsilon_{\text{nf}} \equiv v_{2,\text{nf}}^2/v_2^2$$

Nonflow in v_2
→ positive f_{CME}

$$f_{\text{CME}}^* \approx \left(\epsilon_{\text{nf}} - \frac{\epsilon_3/\epsilon_2}{Nv_2^2\{\text{EP}\}} \right) / \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon_{\text{nf}}}{a^2} - 1 \right)$$

$$f_{\text{CME}}^* = \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon_{\text{nf}}}{1 + \frac{\epsilon_3/\epsilon_2}{Nv_2^2\{\text{EP}\}}} - 1 \right) / \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon_{\text{nf}}}{a^2} - 1 \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon_{\text{nf}}}{1 + \frac{(1 + \epsilon_{\text{nf}})\epsilon_3/\epsilon_2}{Nv_2^{*2}\{\text{EP}\}}} - 1 \right) / \left(\frac{1}{a^{*2}} - 1 \right)$$

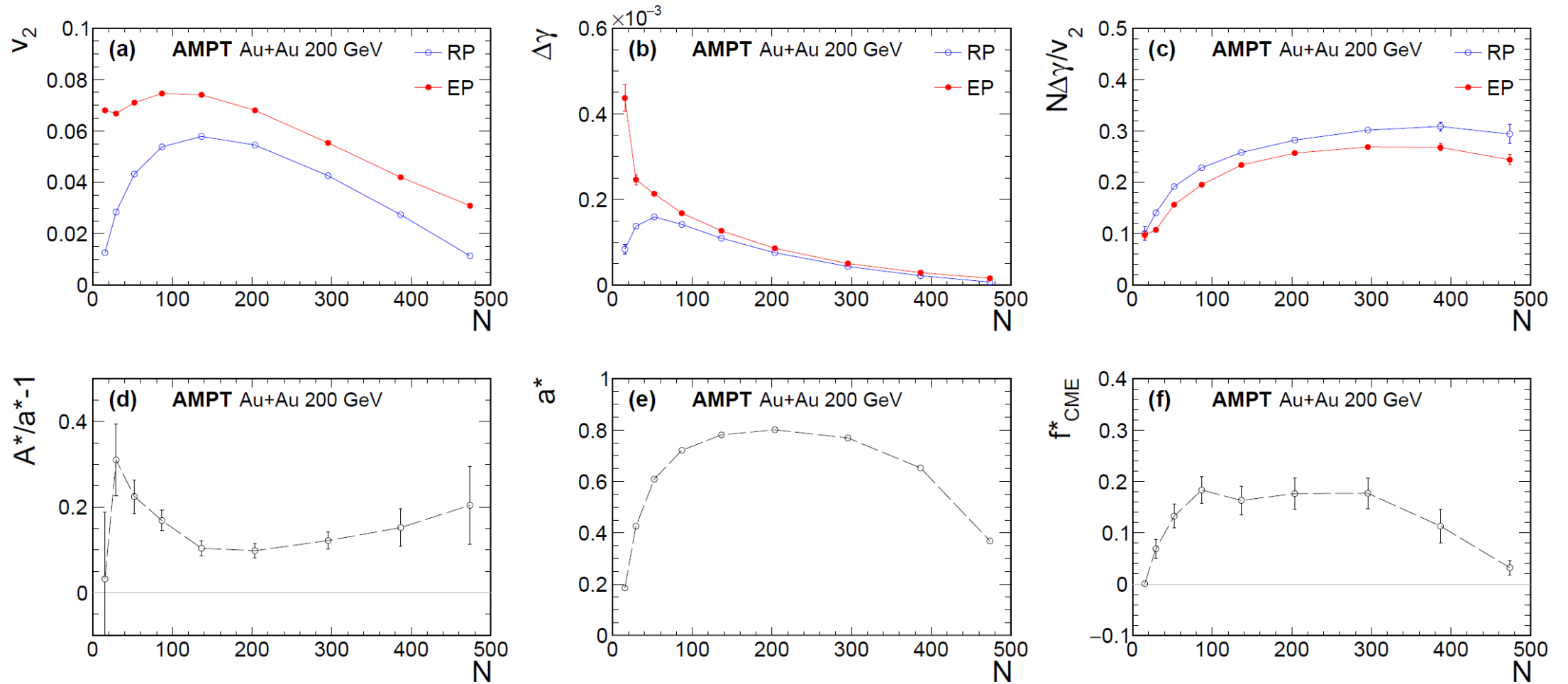


FIG. 1. AMPT simulation results as functions of $N = (N_+ + N_-)/2$, the POI single-charge multiplicity, in 200 GeV Au+Au collisions: (a) elliptic flow v_2 , (b) charge-dependent 3p correlator $\Delta\gamma$, (c) $N\Delta\gamma/v_2$ w.r.t. RP and EP (the former is referred to as ϵ_2^{AMPT} , see Eqs. (2) and (13)), (d) $A^*/a^* - 1$ ($\equiv \epsilon_{\text{AMPT}}$, which approximately equals to the nonflow contamination ϵ_{nf} in v_2 , see Eqs. (15) and (17)), (e) a^* by Eq. (18), and (f) the calculated f_{CME}^* by Eq. (3). The POI and particle c (for EP) are from $|\eta| < 1$ and $0.2 < p_T < 2$ GeV/ c . All errors are statistical, with total 377 million AMPT mini-bias events.

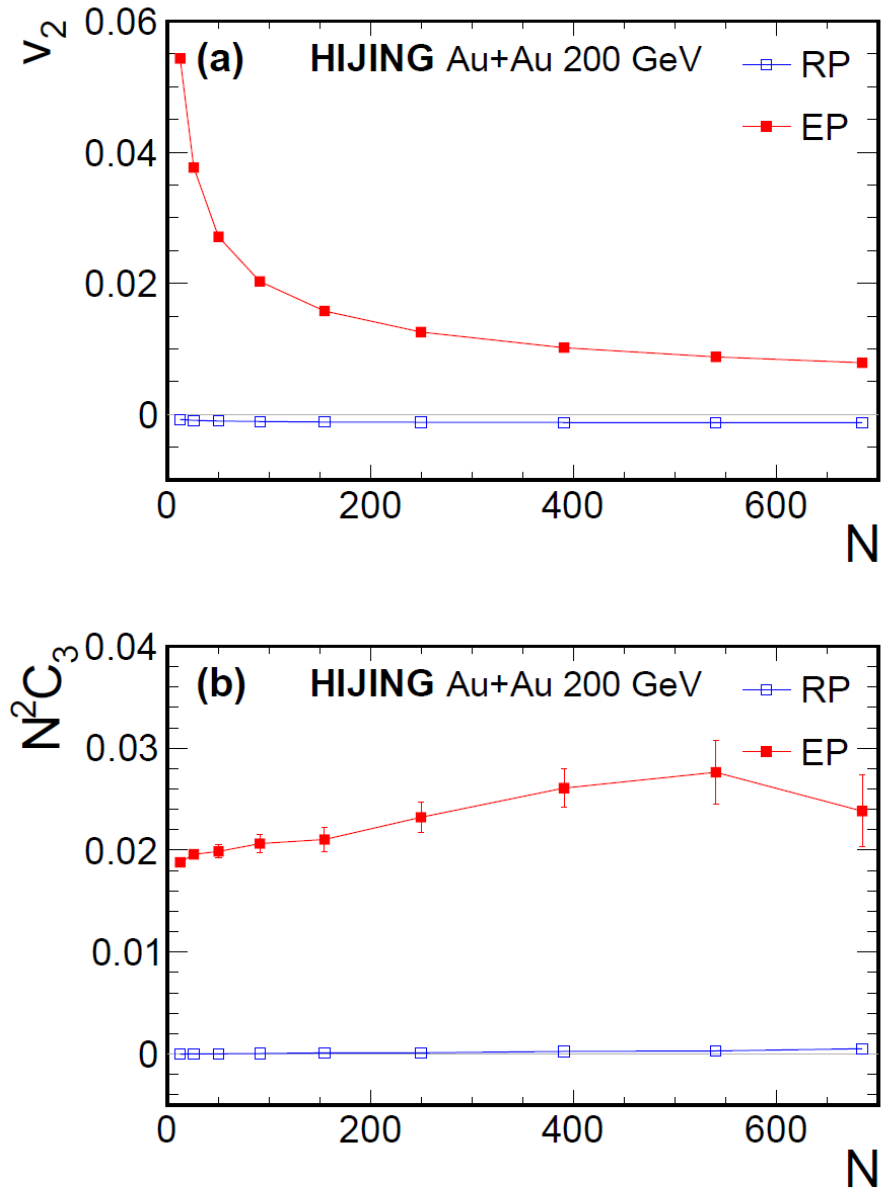
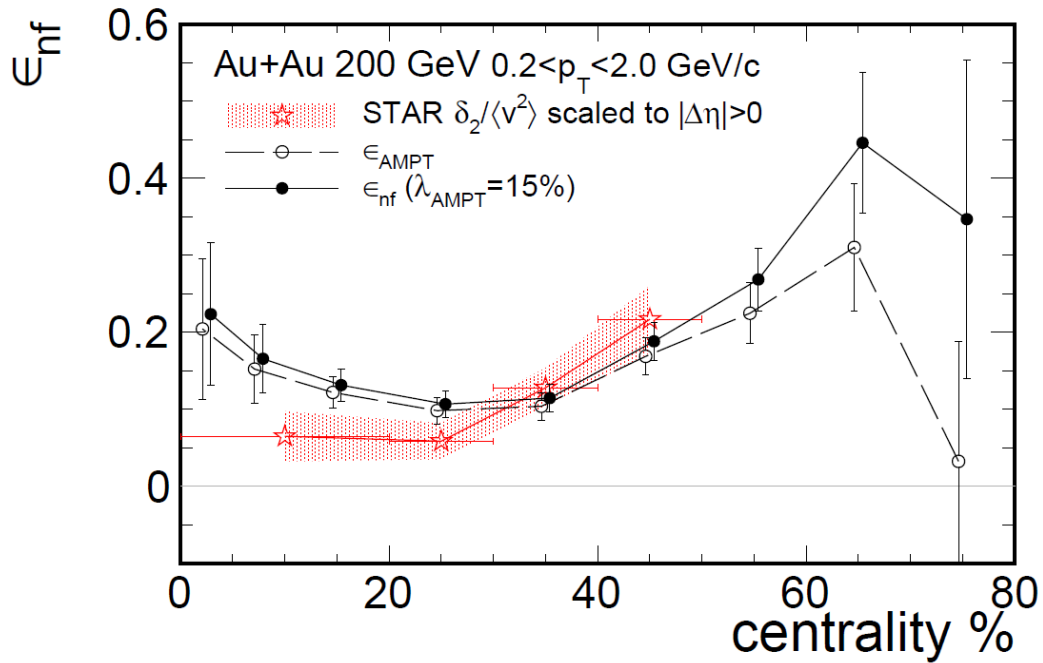


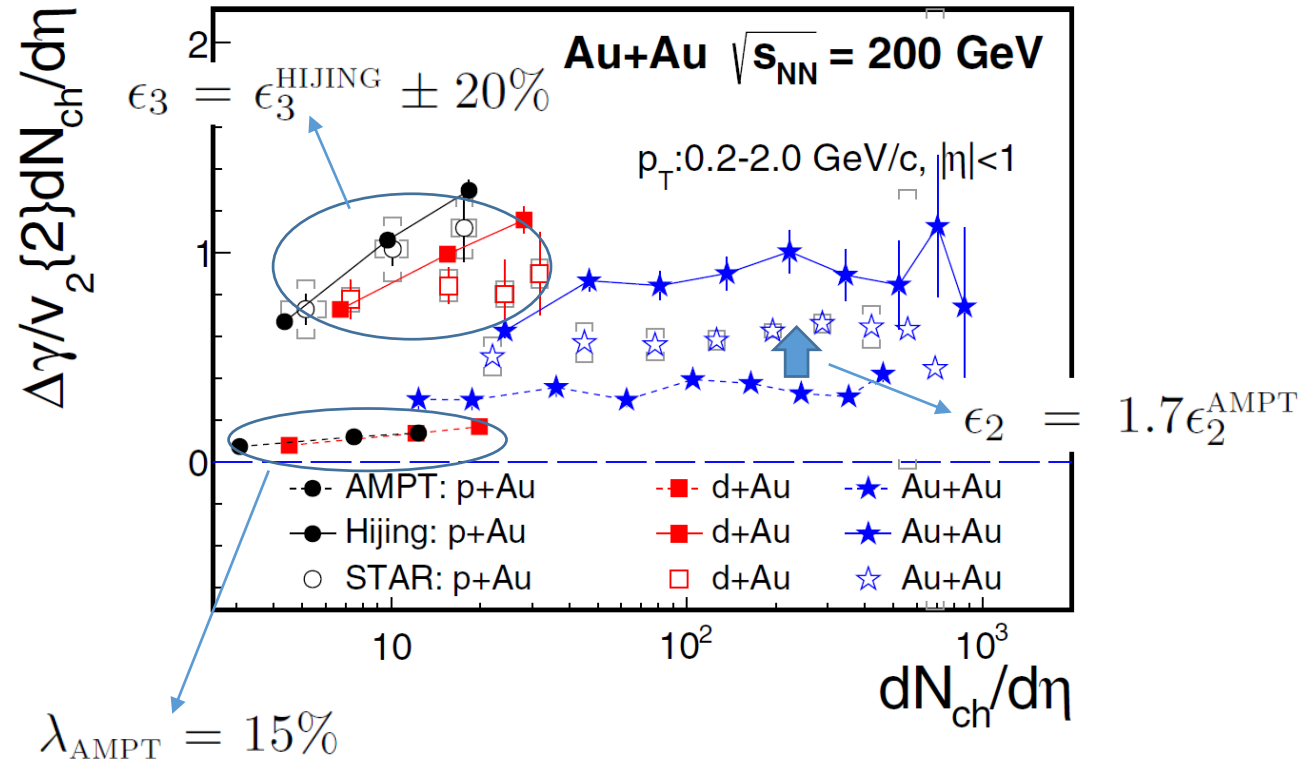
FIG. 2. HIJING simulation results as functions of $N = (N_+ + N_-)/2$, the POI single-charge multiplicity, in 200 GeV Au+Au collisions: (a) elliptic anisotropy v_2 , and (b) charge-dependent 3p correlator $N^2 C_3$ w.r.t. RP and EP (the latter is referred to as $\epsilon_3 = \epsilon_3^{\text{HIJING}}$, see Eqs.(11), (12b), and (19)). The POI and particle c are from $|\eta| < 1$ and $0.2 < p_T < 2$ GeV/ c . All errors are statistical, with 592 million HIJING mini-bias events.

USE DATA WHEREVER POSSIBLE



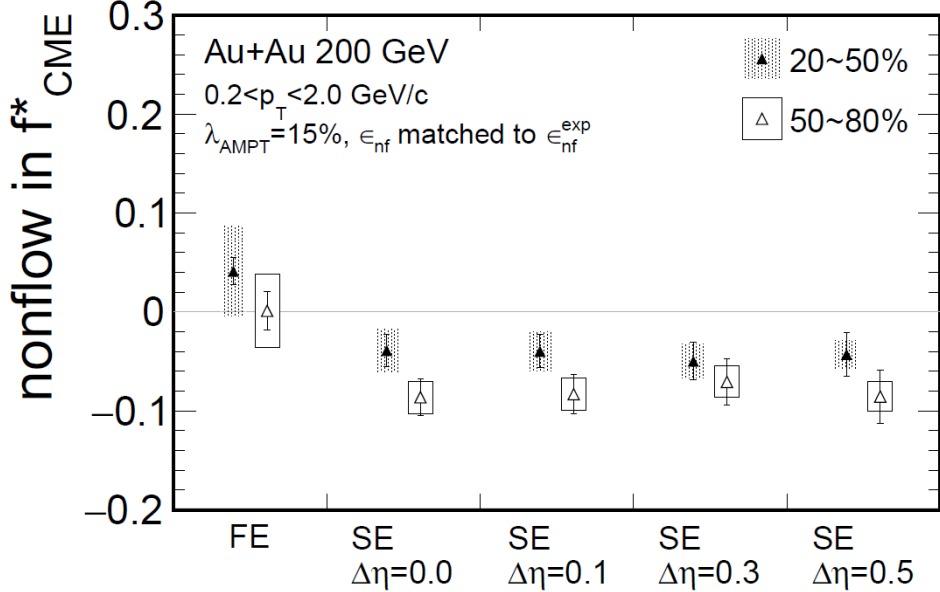
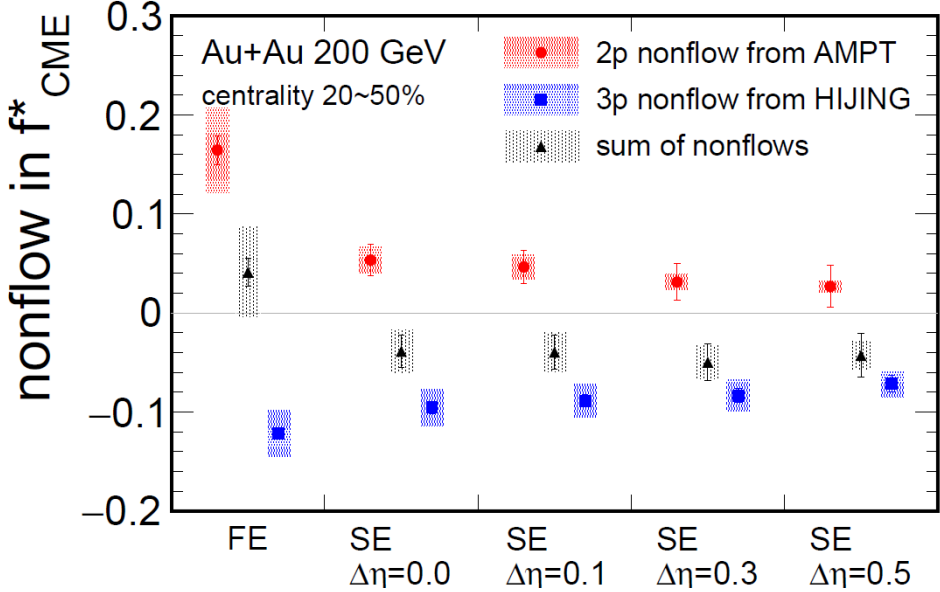
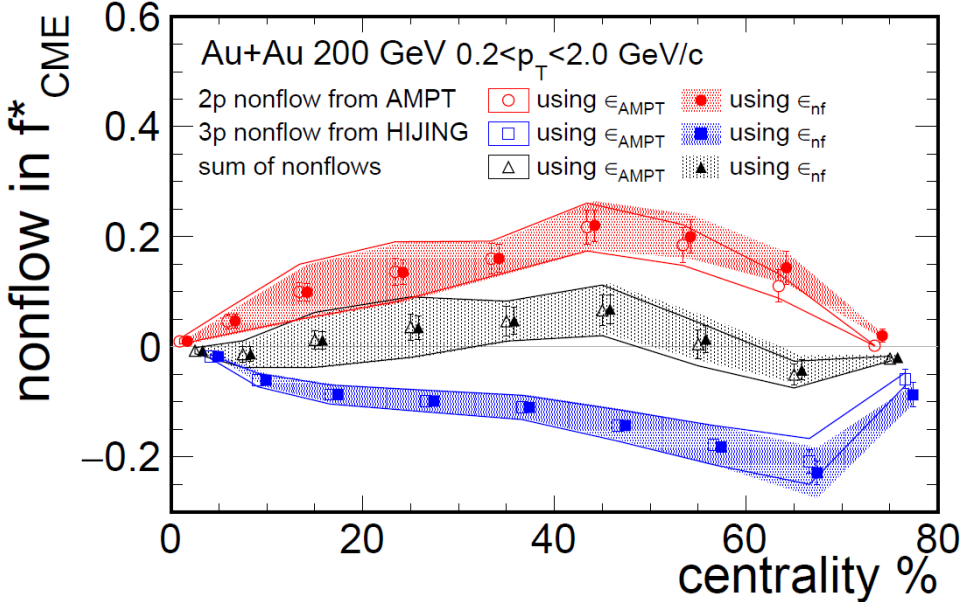
STAR, PLB 745 (2015) 40

Zhao, Feng, et al. PRC 101, 034912 (2020)

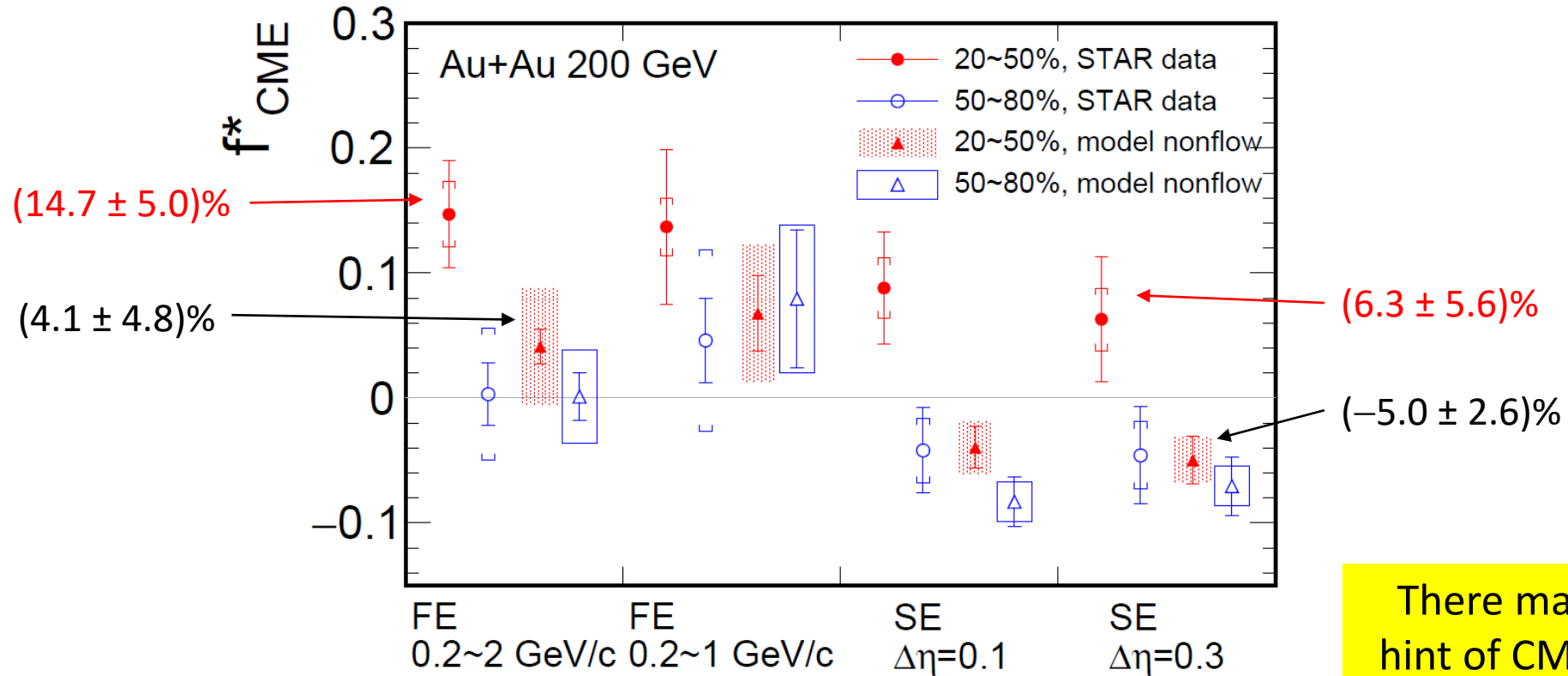


MODEL ESTIMATES

Feng et al., arXiv:2106.15595



IMPLICATIONS TO DATA



There may indeed be hint of CME in the data

STAR, arXiv:2106.09243

Feng et al., arXiv:2106.15595

	FE ($p_T=0.2-2$ GeV/c)	FE ($p_T=0.2-1$ GeV/c)	SE ($\Delta\eta = 0.1$)	SE ($\Delta\eta = 0.3$)
STAR data	$(14.7 \pm 4.3 \pm 2.6)\%$	$(13.7 \pm 6.2 \pm 2.3)\%$	$(8.8 \pm 4.5 \pm 2.4)\%$	$(6.3 \pm 5.0 \pm 2.5)\%$
ϵ_{nf} matched to ϵ_{nf}^{exp} , $\lambda_{AMPT} = 15\%$	$(4.1 \pm 1.4 \pm 4.6)\%$	$(6.8 \pm 3.0 \pm 5.5)\%$	$(-4.0 \pm 1.7 \pm 2.1)\%$	$(-5.0 \pm 1.9 \pm 1.2)\%$

SP/PP VS. ISOBAR: PROS & CONS

$$\Delta\gamma = \frac{N_{2p}}{N^2} \left\langle \cos(\alpha + \beta - 2\varphi_{2p}) \right\rangle \frac{v_{2,2p}}{v_2} \cdot \left(\frac{v_2}{v_2^*} \right)^2 \cdot v_2^* + \frac{N_{3p}}{2N^3} \left\langle \cos(\alpha + \beta - 2\varphi_c) \right\rangle_{3p}$$

SP/PP:

- All in magenta are identical
- 2p nonflow v_2^*/v_2 differ
- 3p nonflow differ
- ZDC EP resolution poor; need more statistics

Nonflow studies, model estimates...

ISOBAR:

- All terms slightly differ
- TPC EP resolution is good

➤ $\frac{N^2}{N_{2p}} \frac{\Delta\gamma}{v_2^*}$ might be better than $N \frac{\Delta\gamma}{v_2^*}$

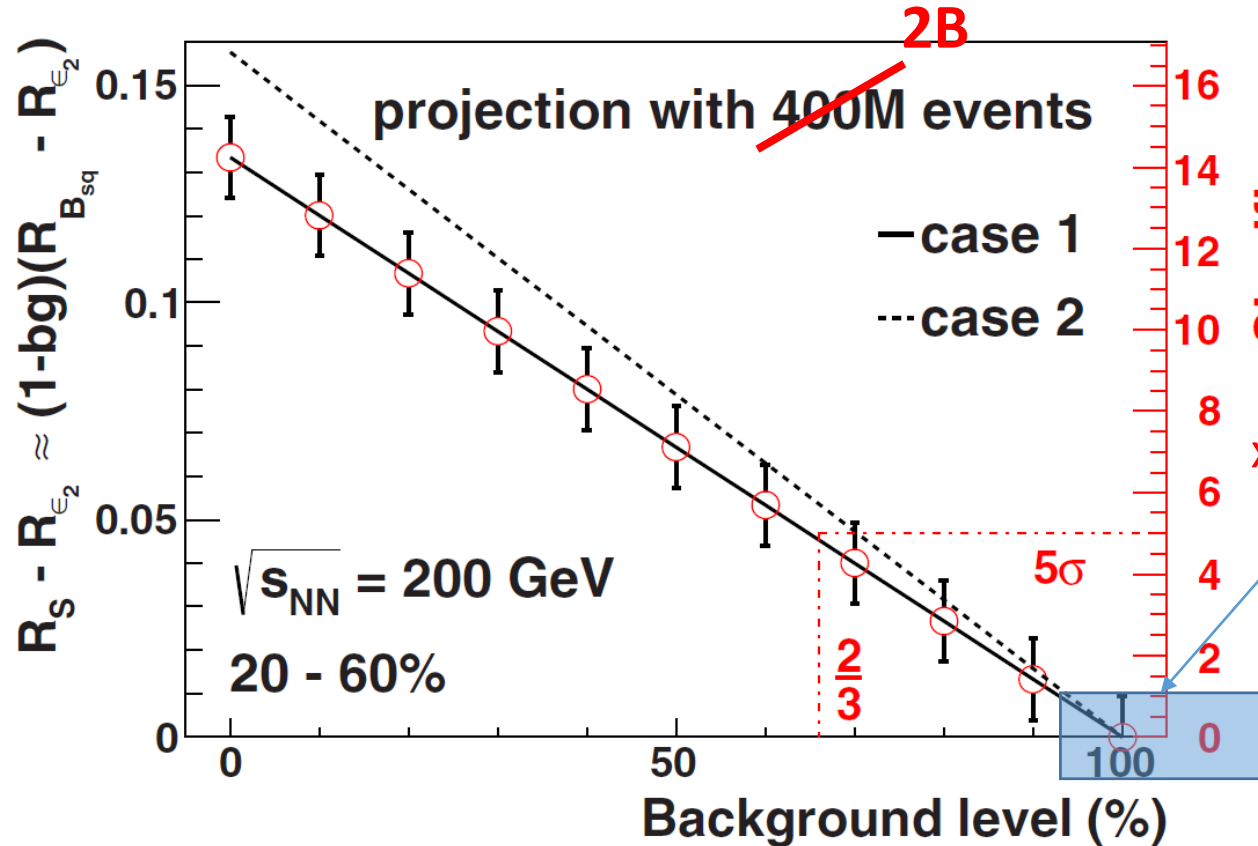
➤ Nonflow partially cancel: $\left\langle \cos(\alpha + \beta - 2\varphi_{2p}) \right\rangle / \left(v_2^* / v_2 \right)^2$?

➤ $\kappa = \frac{\Delta\gamma}{v_2^* \Delta\delta} = \frac{\left\langle \cos(\alpha + \beta - 2\varphi_{2p}) \right\rangle}{\left\langle \cos(\alpha - \beta) \right\rangle_{2p}} \cdot \left(\frac{v_2}{v_2^*} \right)^2$: nonflow overcounted?

Isobar conclusion will need detailed nonflow studies

ISOBAR EXPECTATION

Deng et al. PHYSICAL REVIEW C **94**, 041901(R) (2016)



Background $\propto 1/N$ Mag. field $B \sim A/A^{2/3} \sim A^{1/3}$
 isobar/AuAu ~ 2 $\Delta\gamma_{CME} \sim B^2 \sim A^{2/3}$
 Signal: AuAu/isobar ~ 1.5

x3 reduction!

If AuAu $f_{CME}=10\%$, then **isobar 3% (1 σ effect)**

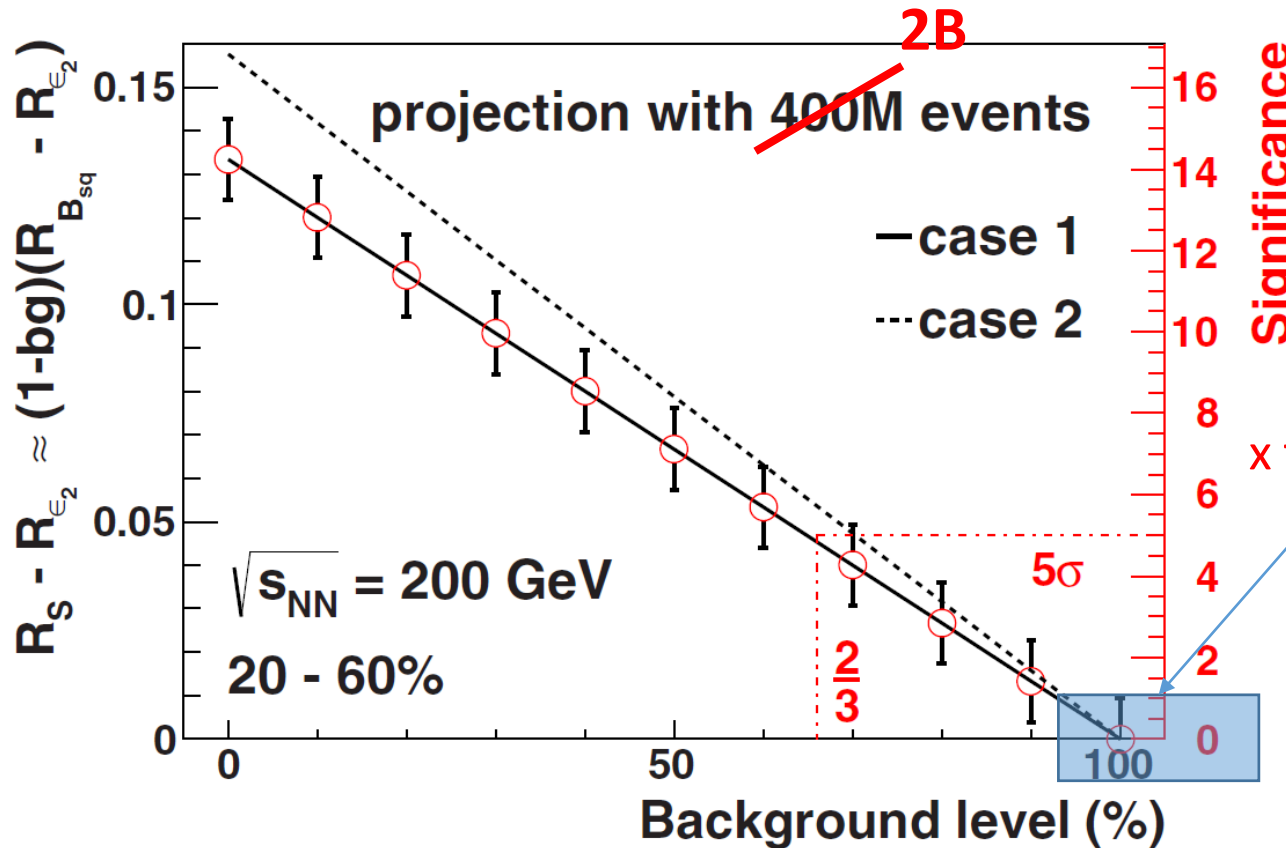
AVFD-glasma μ_5/s : **isobar/AuAu ~ 1.5**
 $\Delta\gamma_{CME} \sim (\mu_5/s)^2 \rightarrow$ x2 gain in signal

If AuAu $f_{CME}=10\%$, then **isobar 7% (2 σ effect)**

x $\sqrt{5}$ **This is going to be only 1-2 σ effect! ☹**
 $5\sigma \times \sqrt{5} / 33\% \times 10\%/3 = 1\sigma$, Ru/Zr = $1 + 15\% \times 3\% = 1.005$

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Signal differs by 15%, but still background in isobar: v_2 differs by 2-3% (Xu etal PRL121(2018)022301, Lin etal PRC98(2018)054907)

CME Signal (isobar x0.15)	x 1	x 1/1.5	x 1.5 ² /1.5
Background (isobar x0.025)	x 1	x 2	x 2
Isobar S/B improvement	x 6	x 2	x 4.5
Isobar S/ \sqrt{B} improvement	x 1	x 1/2	x 1

OUTLOOK

- Isobar data will be available soon...
- Current data (2.4 B MB Au+Au) yield $\sim 5\%$ statistical uncertainties
Expect 20 B from 2023+25 runs $\rightarrow 1.7\%$ stat uncertainty
- Systematic uncertainties should be small (ratios of ratios), and can be beaten down to 1% level.
- Total 2% uncertainty can be achieved in Au+Au collisions.
- Depending on Mother Nature, we should have a firm conclusion by 2025 at latest.

SUMMARY

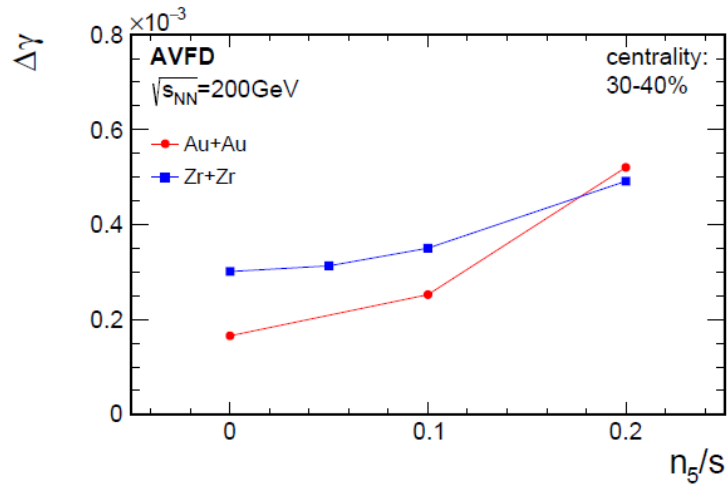
- CME is a very important physics
- Backgrounds dominate in inclusive $\Delta\gamma$;
Rigorous treatment of backgrounds is essential.
- STAR data **indicate a finite CME signal** with $1-3\sigma$ significance;
nonflow does not seem to fully account for it.
- Looking forward to isobar data, but it will not be the end of journey.

AVFD

Yicheng Feng, Yufu Lin, et al.,
 PLB 820 (2021) 136549, arXiv:2103.10378

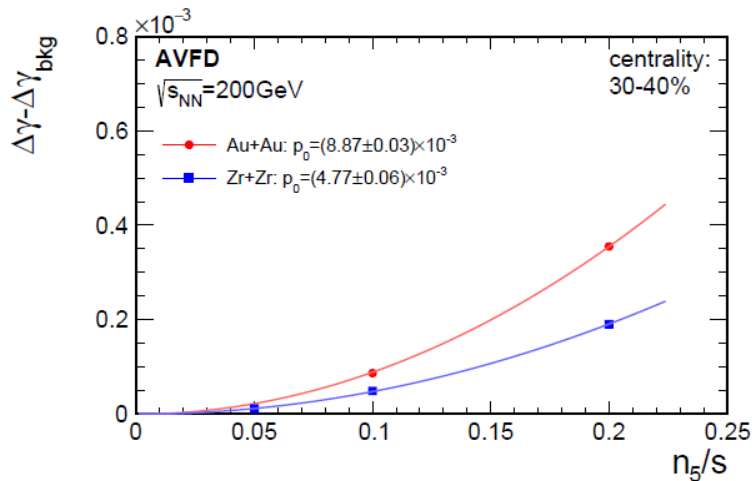
Results from Yufu and Yicheng.

Each has run both AuAu and Isobar, and results are consistent.



Background $\propto 1/N$
 $ZrZr/AuAu \sim A_{Au}/A_{Zr} \sim 2$

$$f_{CME} = 1 - \Delta\gamma_{bkg} / \Delta\gamma$$



CME signal: $AuAu/ZrZr \sim 1.8$

This may make sense because:

$$B \sim A^{1/3}; \Delta\gamma_{CME} \sim B^2 \sim A^{2/3}$$

$$AuAu/ZrZr \sim 2^{2/3} \sim 1.5$$

Final-state effects may alter it

