

Equation of State of Neutron-Rich Matter from Heavy-Ion Reactions

Bao-An Li



- (1) Basics of transport models for heavy-ion reactions**
- (2) Probes of symmetric nuclear matter EOS**
- (3) Probes of nuclear symmetry energy**

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Looking at the big picture

Quantum ChromoDynamics of strong interactions among quarks and gluons

subfemto...

QCD

Effective field theory

- Origin of NN interaction
- Many-nucleon forces

nano...

Complex
Systems

femto...

Physics
of Nuclei

Giga...

Cosmos

Quantum many-
body physics

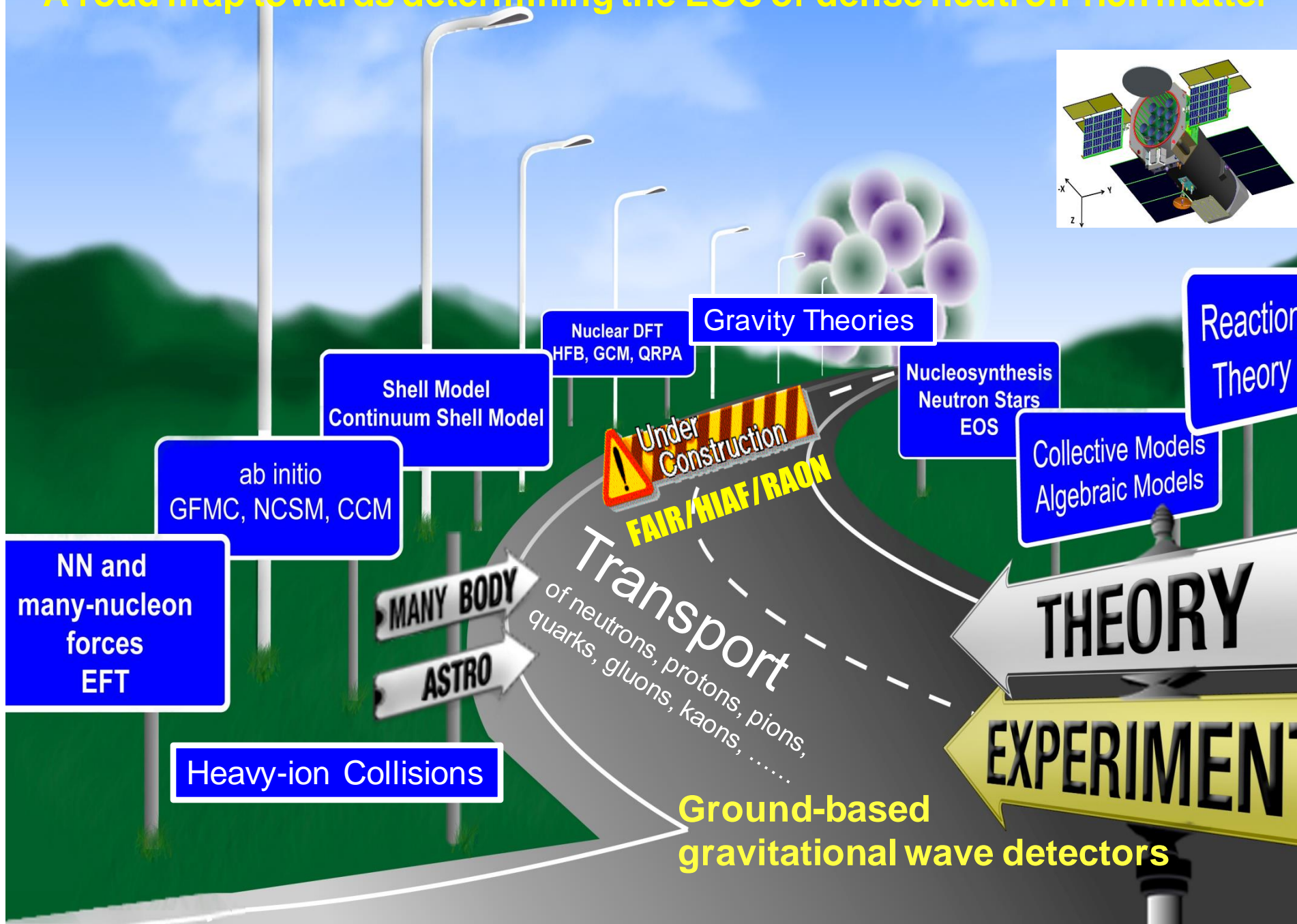
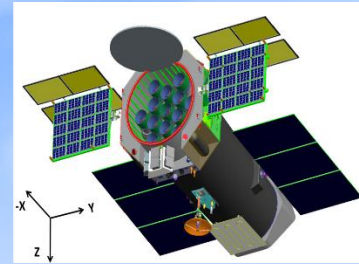
Nuclear
Astrophysics

Quantum
transport
of electrons
in mesoscopic
systems

- In-medium interactions
- Symmetry breaking
- Collective dynamics
- Phases and phase transitions
- Chaos and order
- Dynamical symmetries
- Structural evolution

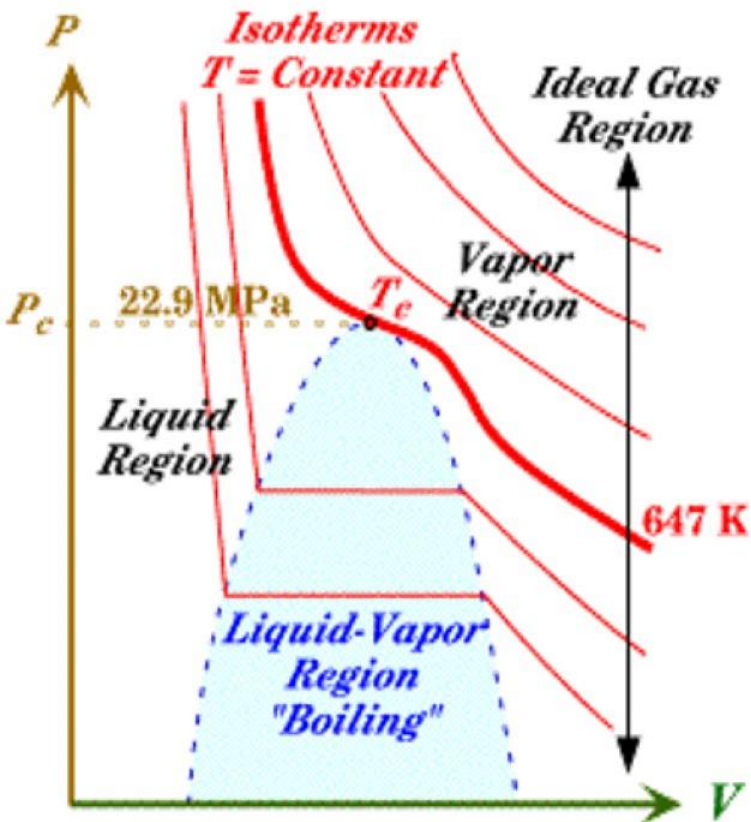
- Origin of the elements
- Energy generation in stars
- Stellar evolution
- Cataclysmic stellar events
- Neutron-rich nucleonic matter
- Electroweak processes
- Nuclear matter equation of state

A road map towards determining the EOS of dense neutron-rich matter



Equation of State: a relationship among several state variables

Van Der Waals EOS:
$$\left[p + a \left(\frac{n}{v} \right)^2 \right] (v - nb) = nRT$$



- The EOS depends on the interactions and properties of the particles in the matter.
- It describes how the state of the matter changes under different conditions

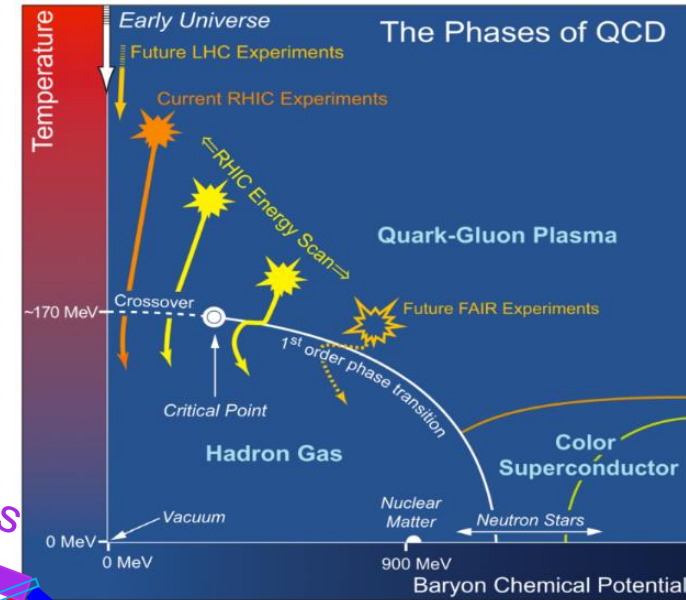
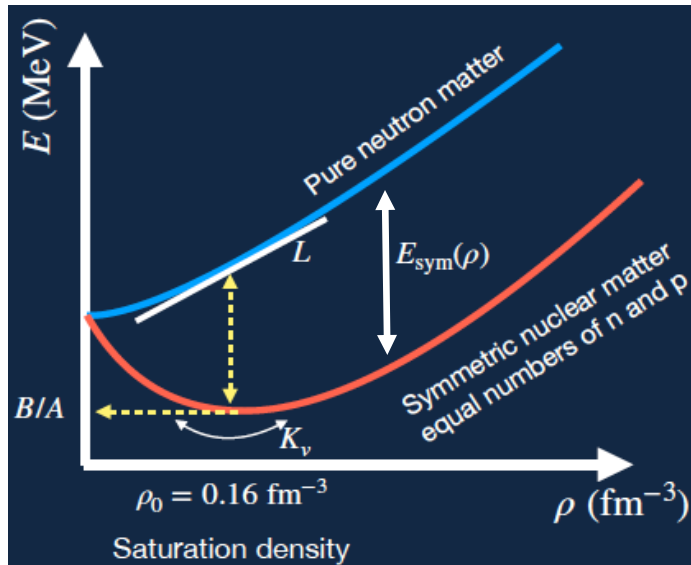
Empirical parabolic law of the EOS of cold, neutron-rich nucleonic matter

$$E(\rho_n, \rho_p) = E_0(\rho_n = \rho_p) + E_{\text{sym}}(\rho) \left(\frac{\rho_n - \rho_p}{\rho} \right)^2 + o(\delta^4)$$

symmetry energy
Isospin asymmetry δ

Energy per nucleon in symmetric matter

Energy in asymmetric nucleonic matter



strangeness

Isospin chemical potential $\mu_I = E_{\text{sym}}(\rho) \cdot \delta$ in n-rich matter

Spin & magnetic field

New opportunities

Structures and collisions of heavy-ions
Structures and mergers of neutron stars

Fundamental Microphysics Theories
underlying each term in the EOS ,
what ..., why, where ...how

Experimental and Observational Macrophysics
underlying each observable and phenomenon,
what ..., why, where ...how



Empirical parameterizations especially useful for meta-modeling of EOS

Transport model simulations of heavy-ion collisions, energy density functionals for nuclear structures, Bayesian inferences of EOS, properties of neutron stars, waveforms of gravitational waves,

$$E(\rho, \delta) = E_0(\rho) + E_{\text{sym}}(\rho) \cdot \delta^2 \quad \text{Assuming no hadron-quark phase transition}$$

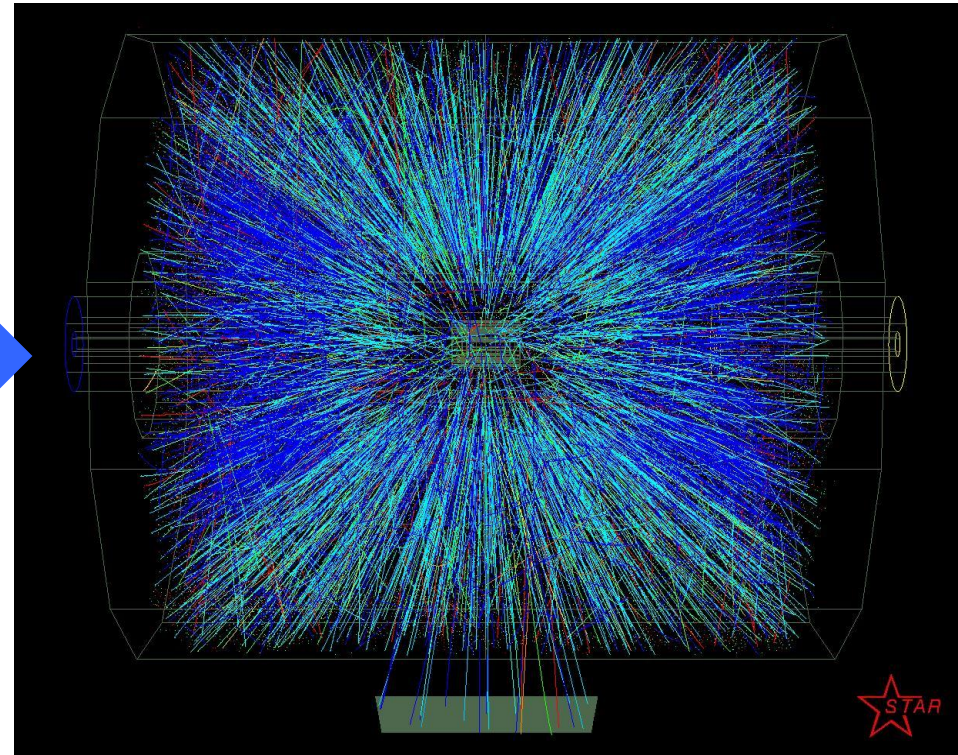
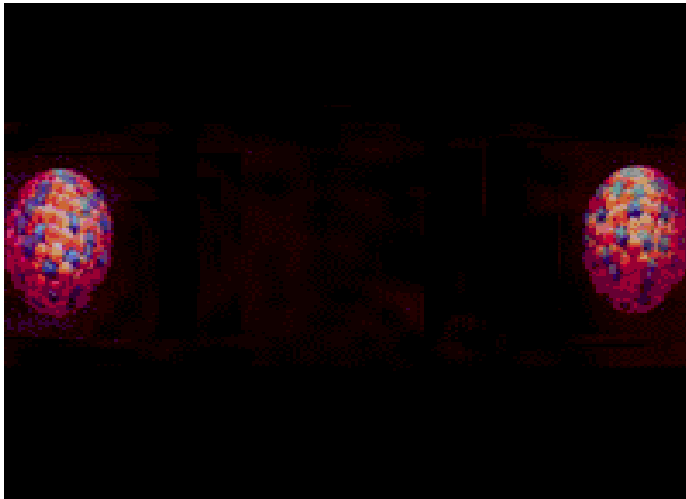
$$E_0(\rho) = E_0(\rho_0) + \frac{K_0}{2} \left(\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right)^2 + \frac{J_0}{6} \left(\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right)^3 + \frac{Z_0}{24} \left(\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right)^4,$$

$$E_{\text{sym}}(\rho) = E_{\text{sym}}(\rho_0) + \frac{L}{3} \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} - 1 \right) + \frac{K_{\text{sym}}}{18} \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} - 1 \right)^2 + \frac{J_{\text{sym}}}{162} \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} - 1 \right)^3 + \mathcal{O} \left[\left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} - 1 \right)^4 \right]$$

Near the saturation density ρ_0 , they are Taylor expansions, appropriate for structure studies.
Just parameterizations when applied to heavy-ion collisions and the core of neutron stars

Simulation as the Third Branch of Science

(Experiment/observation, theory and simulation)

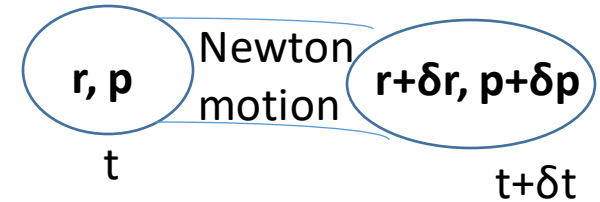


Formation of hot and dense matter
in energetic nucleus-nucleus collisions

Basics from standard statistical mechanics textbooks

Particle number conservation \rightarrow Boltzmann transport Eq. for 1-body density distribution function $f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t)$ in phase space

Without collisions: $f(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{v} \delta t, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{F} \delta t, t + \delta t) = f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t)$



With collisions: $f(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{v} \delta t, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{F} \delta t, t + \delta t) = f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t) + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{coll}} \delta t$

Expand to first order in δt , cancel $f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t)$ on both sides

Example 1:
Kerson Huang, 2nd edition,
Statistical Mechanics, 1987

Boltzmann transport equation: $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathbf{p}}{m} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} \right) f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{coll}}$

Example 2:
L. Kadanoff and G. Baym, 2nd edition
Quantum Statistical Mechanics, 1989

Neglecting correlations, $f_2 = f(p_1)f(p_2)$

Truncating the BBGKY hierarchy for N-body correlation functions or density matrices

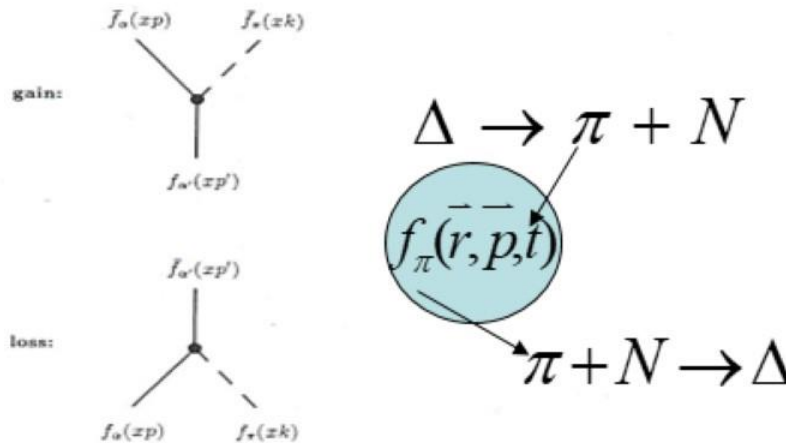
Hadronic transport equations for the reaction dynamics of nucleus-nucleus collisions:

Baryons: $\frac{\partial f_b}{\partial t} + \frac{\vec{p}}{E_b} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_r f_b - \vec{\nabla}_r U_b \cdot \vec{\nabla}_p f_b = I_{bb}^b + I_{bm}^b$ U_b is the mean-field potential for baryons

Mesons: $\frac{\partial f_m}{\partial t} + \frac{\vec{k}}{E_m} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_r f_m = I_{mm}^m + I_{bm}^m$ The phase space distribution functions, mean fields and collisions integrals are all isospin dependent

An example:

Collision integral $I_{b\pi}^\pi$: changing rate of pion phase space distribution $f_\pi(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t)$ due to baryon-pion scatterings



Simulate solutions of the coupled transport equations using test-particles and Monte Carlo:

$$f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) \equiv \frac{1}{N_t} \sum_i \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i) \delta(\vec{p} - \vec{p}_i)$$

The evolution of $f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t)$ is followed on a 6D lattice

$I_{b\pi}^\pi(xk) =$ **Bao-An Li, Wolfgang Bauer and George F. Bertsch, Phys. Rev. C44, (1991) 2095.**

$$\frac{\pi}{16} \sum_{\alpha\alpha'} \int \int \frac{M_\alpha M_{\alpha'}}{E_\alpha(p) E_{\alpha'}(p')} W_{b\pi}^\pi(\alpha p, \alpha' p', \pi k) \cdot \delta^{(4)}(p' - p - k) \frac{1}{(2\pi)^6} d\vec{p} d\vec{p}'$$

$[(1 + f_\pi(xk)) f_{\alpha'}(xp') (1 - f_\alpha(xp))]$ (gain)

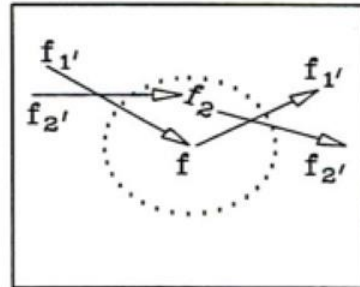
$- f_\pi(xk) f_\alpha(xp) (1 - f_{\alpha'}(xp'))]$ (loss)

Main features:

Pauli blocking $(1 - f_\alpha)$ for Fermions and Bose enhancement $(1 + f_\pi)$ for bosons are included.

S.J. Wang, B.A. Li, W. Bauer and J. Randrup, Ann. Phys. 209, 251 (1991)

A one-component model based on the Boltzmann-Uehling-Uhlenbeck (BUU) transport theory



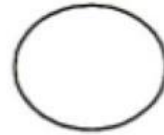
$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_r f - \vec{\nabla}_r U(\rho) \cdot \vec{\nabla}_p f \\ &= \int \frac{d^3 p_{1'} d^3 p_2 d^3 p_{2'}}{(2\pi)^9} \sigma_{12} v_{12} (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{p} + \vec{p}_2 - \vec{p}_{1'} - \vec{p}_{2'}) \\ & \quad \times \{f_{1'} f_{2'} (1-f)(1-f_2) - f f_2 (1-f_{1'})(1-f_{2'})\} \end{aligned}$$

- $f_i(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t)$: probability density of finding particle i at position \vec{r} and momentum \vec{p} at time t ,
the density distribution $\rho(\vec{r}, t) = \int f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) d\vec{p}$
- left: convection terms in \vec{r} and \vec{P} space
- $U(\rho)$: mean field potential, determined by the equation of state.
- right: changing rate of f due to particle-particle scatterings with cross section σ_{12} at relative velocity v_{12}
- Pauli blocking for Fermions in the collision integral:
 $(1-f)(1-f_2)$ and $(1-f_{1'})(1-f_{2'})$.

Solving the coupled, partial-differential-integral equations for a many-particle system using testparticle approach

- Discretizing the continuous distribution function $f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t)$ using testparticles

$$f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) \cong \frac{1}{N_t} \sum_i \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i) \delta(\vec{p} - \vec{p}_i)$$



where $N_t \sim 10^3$ is the number of testparticles per nucleon.

- Equations of motion of test particles

$$\frac{d\vec{p}_i}{dt} = -\vec{\nabla}_r U(\rho) + \sum_j \vec{D}^i(i, j)$$

$$\frac{d\vec{r}_i}{dt} = \frac{\vec{p}_i}{E_i}$$

- Simulator equations

$$\vec{p}_i(t + \delta t) = \vec{p}_i(t) - \delta t \vec{\nabla}_r U(\rho) + \sum_j \delta \vec{p}_i(i, j)$$

$$\vec{r}_i(t + \frac{1}{2}\delta t) = \vec{r}_i(t - \frac{1}{2}\delta t) + \delta t \frac{\vec{p}_i}{E_i}$$

where $i, j = 1, \dots, N_t \times (A_{projectile} + A_{target})$

- Monte Carlo sampling the collision terms $\sum_j \delta \vec{p}_i(i, j)$ using experimental nucleon-nucleon elastic scattering cross sections and their angular distributions

- $\rho(I_x, I_y, I_z)$ and $\vec{\nabla}_r U(\rho)$ are evaluated on a $L_x \times L_y \times L_z = 20 \times 20 \times 25$ lattice of 1 fm^3 cubes.

$$\nabla_r f = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \delta'(r - r_i) \delta(p - p_i)$$

$$\nabla_p f = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \delta(r - r_i) \delta'(p - p_i)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \left(\delta'(r - r_i) \delta(p - p_i) \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial t} + \delta(r - r_i) \delta'(p - p_i) \frac{\partial p_i}{\partial t} \right)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathbf{p}}{m} \cdot \nabla_r + \mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla_p \right) f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{coll}}$$

Or just use the Hamiltonian Eq. of motion:

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}} = -\nabla_r U$$

and

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{\mathbf{p}}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} + \nabla_p U.$$

The simplest Skyrme potential still widely used

Much more complicated, isospin-momentum dependent potentials are available

$$V_q(\rho, \delta) = a(\rho/\rho_0) + b(\rho/\rho_0)^\sigma + V_{\text{asy}}^q(\rho, \delta) + V_{\text{Coulomb}}^q.$$

a, b and σ are fixed by (1) $E_{\text{bin}}(\rho_0) = -16$ MeV, (2) $P(\rho_0) = 0$ and (3) a specified incompressibility K

$$a = -29.81 - 46.90 \frac{K + 44.73}{K - 166.32} \text{ (MeV)},$$

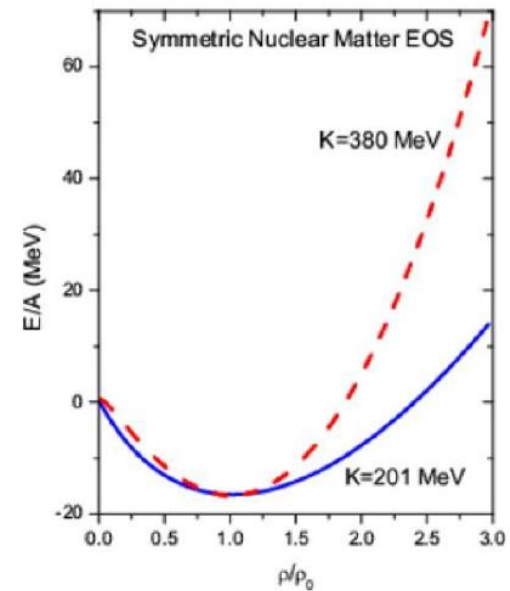
$$b = 23.45 \frac{K + 255.78}{K - 166.32} \text{ (MeV)},$$

$$\sigma = \frac{K + 44.73}{211.05}.$$

K, J_0 and Z_0 are degenerate, i.e., once K is fixed, the other 2 are fixed, leading to confusions

$$P(\rho) = \rho^2 \frac{dE_0(\rho)}{d\rho} = \frac{\rho^2}{\rho - \rho_0} \left[K \left(\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right)^2 + \frac{J_0}{2} \left(\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right)^3 + \frac{Z_0}{6} \left(\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right)^4 \right].$$

EOS of symmetric matter



Symmetry energy

$$E_{\text{sym}}(\rho) = E_{\text{sym}}(\rho_0)u^\gamma, \quad u = \rho / \rho_0$$

The simplest Symmetry energy/potential still widely used

Symmetry Potential

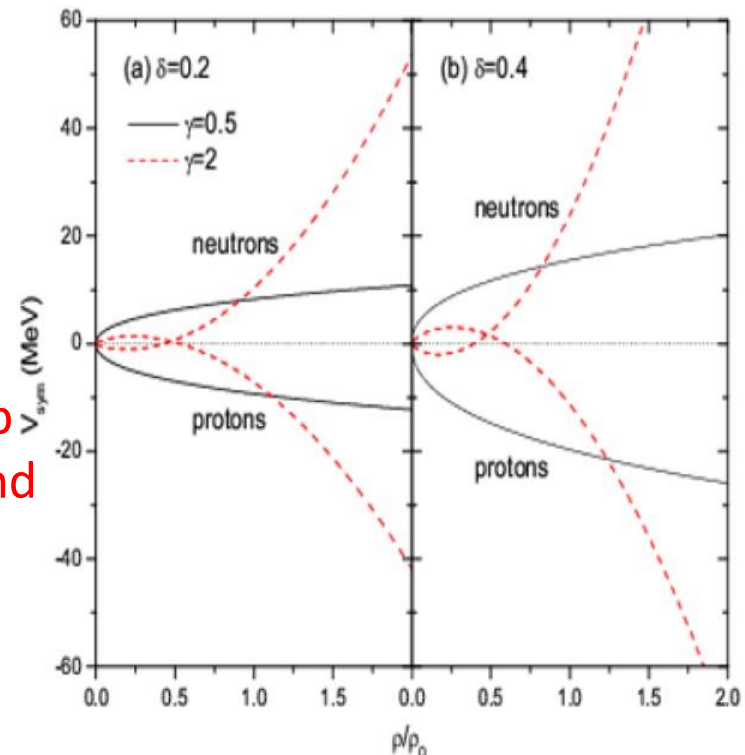
$$V_{\text{sym}}(\rho, \delta) = \frac{\partial(\rho E_{\text{sym}}^{\text{pot}})}{\partial \rho_{\text{n/p}}}$$

$$= \pm 2[E_{\text{sym}}(\rho_0)u^\gamma - 12.7u^{2/3}]\delta$$

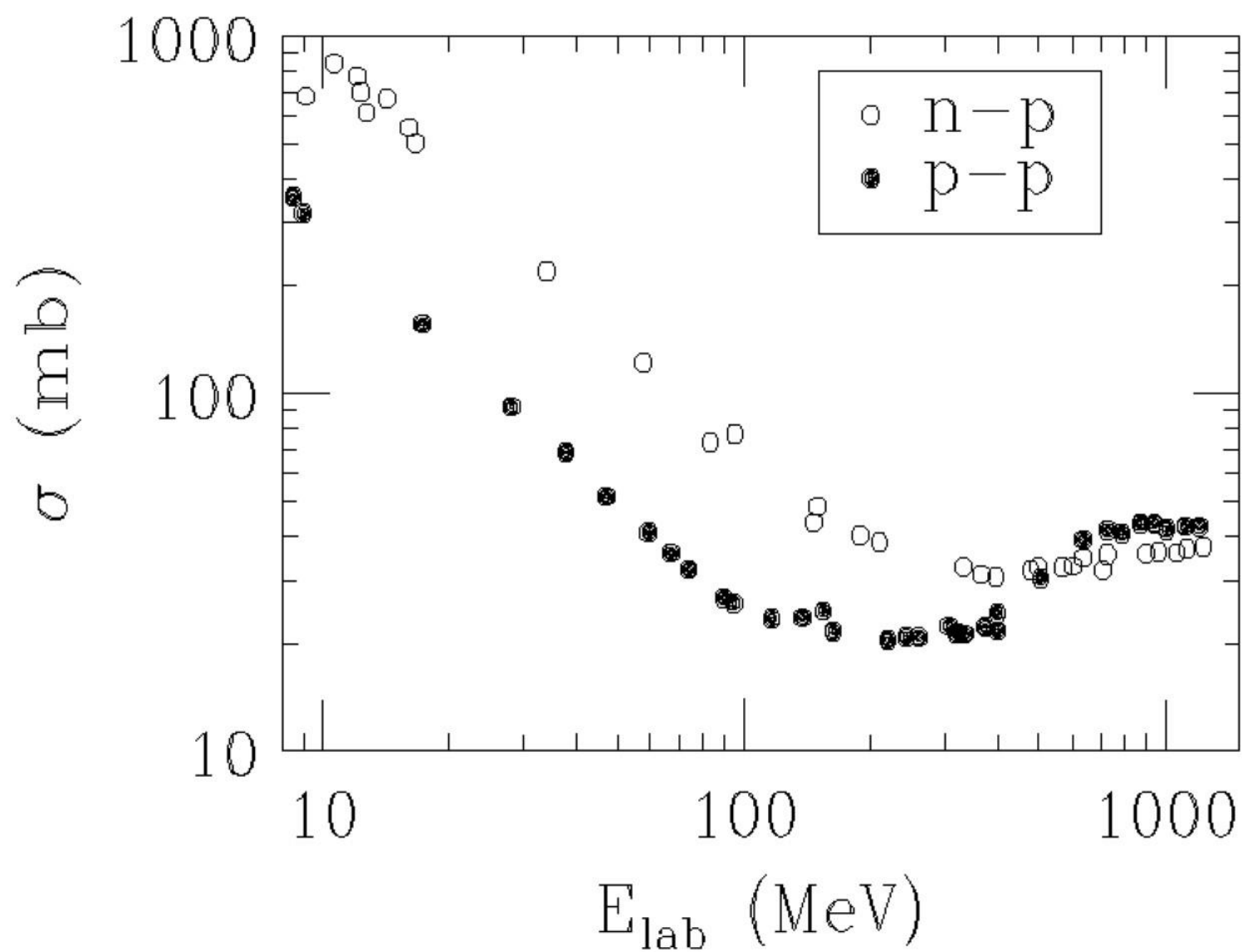
$$+ [E_{\text{sym}}(\rho_0)(\gamma - 1)u^\gamma + 4.2u^{2/3}]\delta^2$$

Main feature: neutrons and protons have OPPOSITE symmetry potential (balancing the positive Coulomb potential for protons, just as the Coulomb energy and symmetry energy in the mass formula are balancing each other in determining the beta-stability line)

Symmetry Potential



Nucleon-nucleon cross sections in free-space



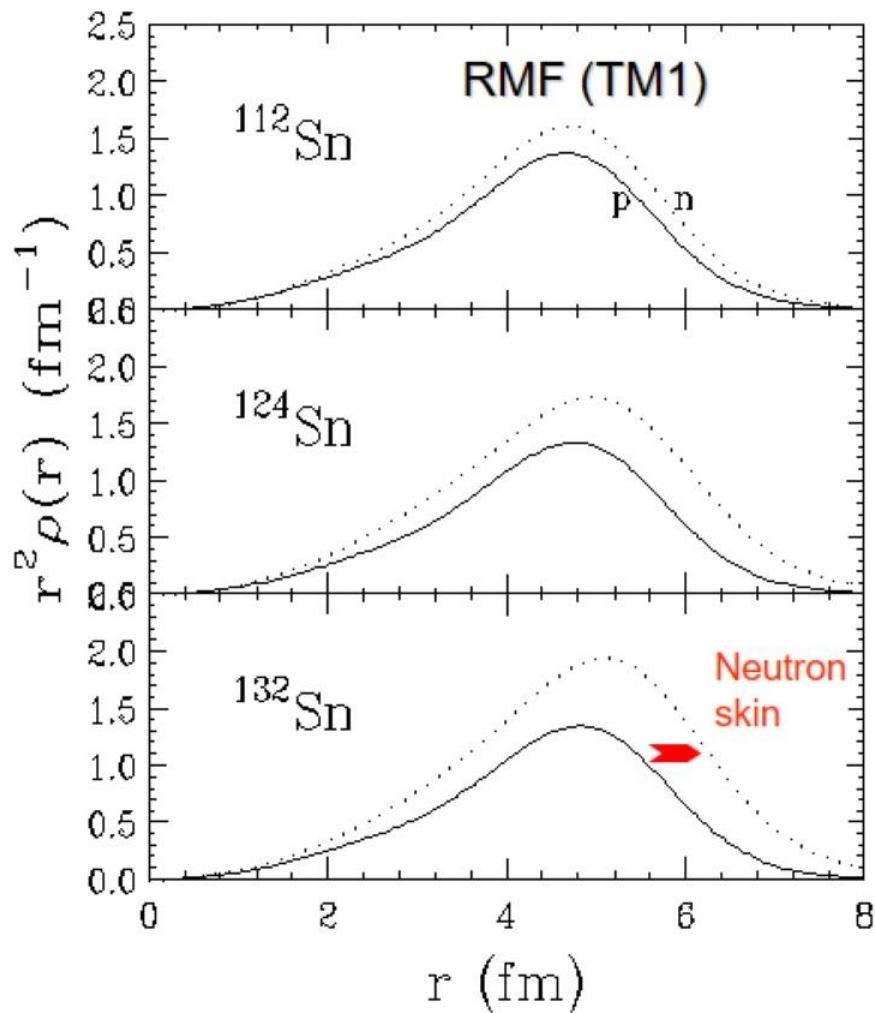
Attempts you may not approve, suggestions are more than welcome

Initialization procedures:

- (1) r-space: distribute n and p according to predictions by structure models**, e.g., RMF
- (2) p-space: using local Thomas-Fermi
- (3) check stability

** Trade-off: drawbacks/advantages

- The initial state may not be the ground state corresponding to the effective interactions used in the subsequent reactions.



- None of the existing transport models can generate the initial nucleon density profiles BETTER than dedicated structure models for radioactive nuclei, and there is no data to constrain the neutron density profiles.

- If one insists on using the same effective interactions in generating the initial state and carrying out the subsequent reactions, it is then hard to tell whether differences in final observables obtained from using different interactions, e.g., symmetry energies, are from the different initial states or from the reaction dynamics.

A compromise has to be made before better approaches are found

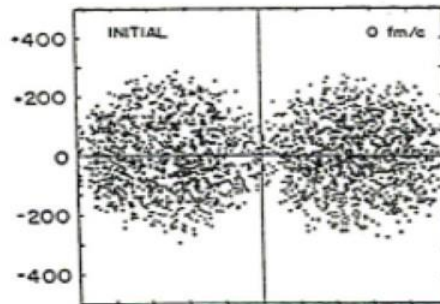
Initialization in phase space (\vec{r}, \vec{p})

- Initial momentum due to Fermi motion

$$\begin{aligned}P &= P_F(X_1)^{1/3} \\ \cos\theta &= 1 - 2X_2 \\ \phi &= 2\pi X_3\end{aligned}$$

where $X_i = \text{Ran}(\text{Iseed})$, $i=1,2,3$ and $P_F = 270 \text{ MeV}/c$.

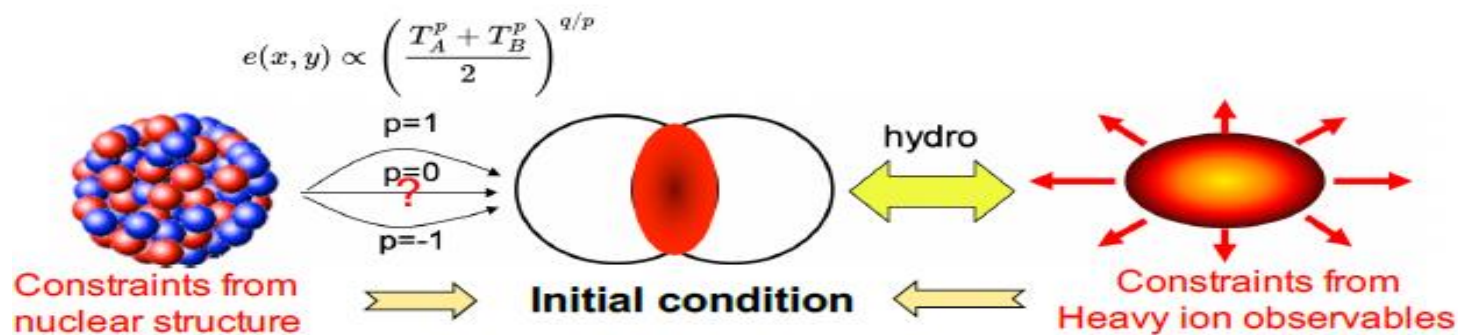
$$\begin{aligned}p_x &= P \cdot \sin\theta \cdot \cos\phi \\ p_y &= P \cdot \sin\theta \cdot \sin\phi \\ p_z &= P \cdot \cos\theta\end{aligned}$$



- Initial coordinates

Replace P_F with $R_A = 1.2A^{1/3}$, and P with R to generate (x,y,z) coordinates.

MANY interesting issues related to nuclear structure in the initial state!



Imaging the initial condition of heavy-ion collisions and nuclear structure across the nuclide chart, arXiv:2209.11042v1, [B. Bally](#) et al.

Examples: deformation, neutron-skin in coordinate, proton-skin in momentum, short-range correlation, bubbles in nuclei...

[Separating the Impact of Nuclear Skin and Nuclear Deformation in High-Energy Isobar Collisions](#)

Jiangyong Jia, G. Giacalone, and Chunjian Zhang PRL 131, 022301 (2023)

[Evidence of Hexadecapole Deformation in Uranium-238 at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider](#),

W. Ryssens, G. Giacalone, B. Schenke and Chun Shen, PRL 130, 212302 (2023)

Evidence of quadrupole and octupole deformations in $96\text{Zr}+96\text{Zr}$ and $96\text{Ru}+96\text{Ru}$ collisions at ultra-relativistic energies, [Chunjian Zhang](#), [Jiangyong Jia](#), PRL 128, 022301 (2022)

[Impact of Nuclear Deformation on Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions](#),

G. Giacalone, Jiangyong Jia and Chunjian Zhang, PRL 127, 242301 (2021)

Modeling Particle - Particle Collisions



Will P_1 and P_2 collide during the time interval δt ?

G.F. Bertsch and S. Das Gupta
Phys. Rep. 160, 189 (1988)

MANY interesting issues!

- **Before the collision:** Calculate the $E_{cms}(p_1, p_2)$, look up a nuclear database to get the corresponding collision cross section σ_{12} .
- **Collision criteria:**
 1. If $r_{12} \leq r_g (\equiv \sqrt{(\sigma_{12}/\pi)}$, is the geometrical collision radius).
 2. If p_1 and p_2 will pass their closet approach r_c in δt .
- **During the collision:** Determine the reaction channel
If $X < \sigma_{elastic}/(\sigma_{elastic} + \sigma_{inelastic}) \Rightarrow$ elastic collision
else inelastic collision \Rightarrow further branching.
- **After the collision:**
 1. Find the final momenta p'_1 and p'_2
 2. Generate the outgoing angles using $f(\cos\theta)$
Example: to generate θ , $X = \frac{\int_0^\theta f(\cos\theta) d\cos\theta}{\int_0^\pi f(\cos\theta) d\cos\theta}$
 3. Generate masses for various resonances ($\Delta, N^*, \rho, \omega, \dots$) using $F(\text{mass})$ and rejection method.
 4. Assign new positions for p'_1, p'_2 and newly created particles.
 5. Check quantum statistics (Pauli blocking) of final states

Inelastic baryon-baryon collisions included in ART:

$$NN \leftrightarrow N\Delta, \quad (1)$$

$$NN \leftrightarrow NN^*(1440), \quad (2)$$

$$NN \leftrightarrow NN^*(1535), \quad (3)$$

$$NN \leftrightarrow \Delta\Delta, \quad (4)$$

$$NN \leftrightarrow \Delta N^*(1440), \quad (5)$$

$$NN \rightarrow NN\rho, \quad (6)$$

$$NN \rightarrow NN\omega, \quad (7)$$

$$NN \rightarrow \Delta\Delta\pi, \quad (8)$$

$$NN \rightarrow \Delta\Delta\rho, \quad (9)$$

$$NN \rightarrow \Delta\Delta\omega, \quad (10)$$

$$N\Delta \leftrightarrow NN^*(1440), \quad (11)$$

$$N\Delta \leftrightarrow NN^*(1535), \quad (12)$$

$$\Delta\Delta \leftrightarrow NN^*(1440), \quad (13)$$

$$\Delta\Delta \leftrightarrow NN^*(1535), \quad (14)$$

$$\Delta N^*(1440) \leftrightarrow NN^*(1535), \quad (15)$$

and those producing kaons:

$$NN \rightarrow N\Lambda(\Sigma)K, \quad (16)$$

$$NN \rightarrow \Delta\Lambda(\Sigma)K, \quad (17)$$

$$NR \rightarrow N\Lambda(\Sigma)K, \quad (18)$$

$$NR \rightarrow \Delta\Lambda(\Sigma)K, \quad (19)$$

$$RR \rightarrow N\Lambda(\Sigma)K, \quad (20)$$

$$RR \rightarrow \Delta\Lambda(\Sigma)K, \quad (21)$$

where R is Δ , $N^*(1440)$ or $N^*(1535)$.

Meson-baryon collisions:

1. elastic:

$$\pi N \leftrightarrow \Delta(N^*)$$

$$\eta N \leftrightarrow N^*(1535)$$

$$KN \rightarrow KN$$

2. Inelastic:

$$\pi \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Delta} \pi, +[N\rho, \Delta\rho, N]$$

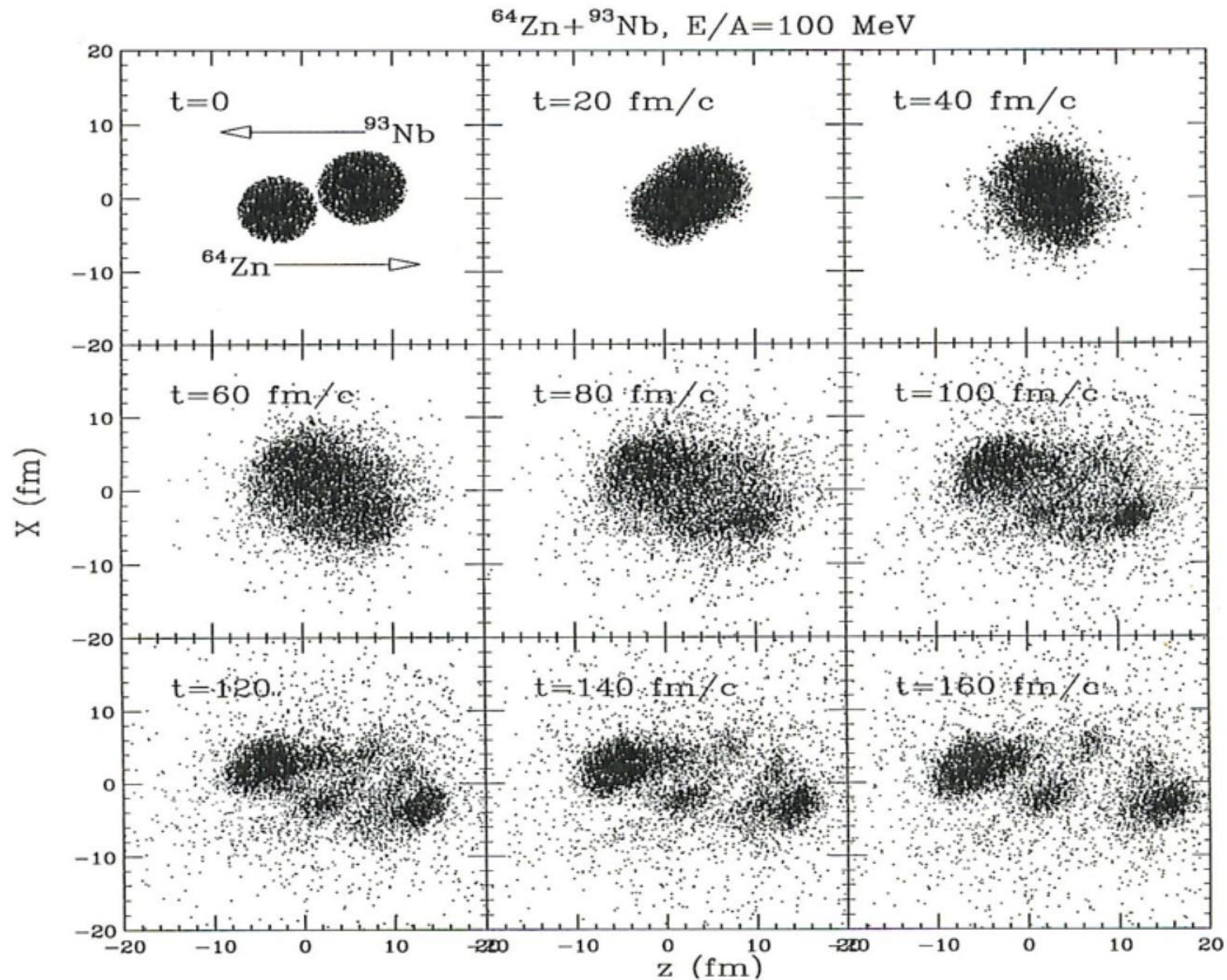
$$\pi N \rightarrow \Lambda(\Sigma)K$$

$\pi - \pi$ collisions:

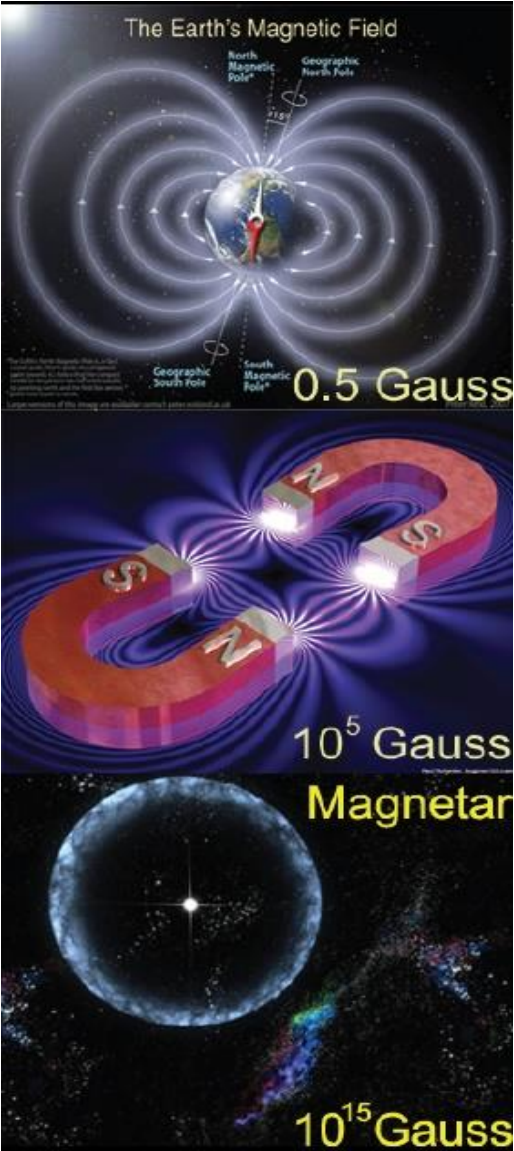
1. elastic: $\pi\pi \rightarrow \pi\pi$

2. inelastic $\pi\pi \rightarrow K^+K^-$

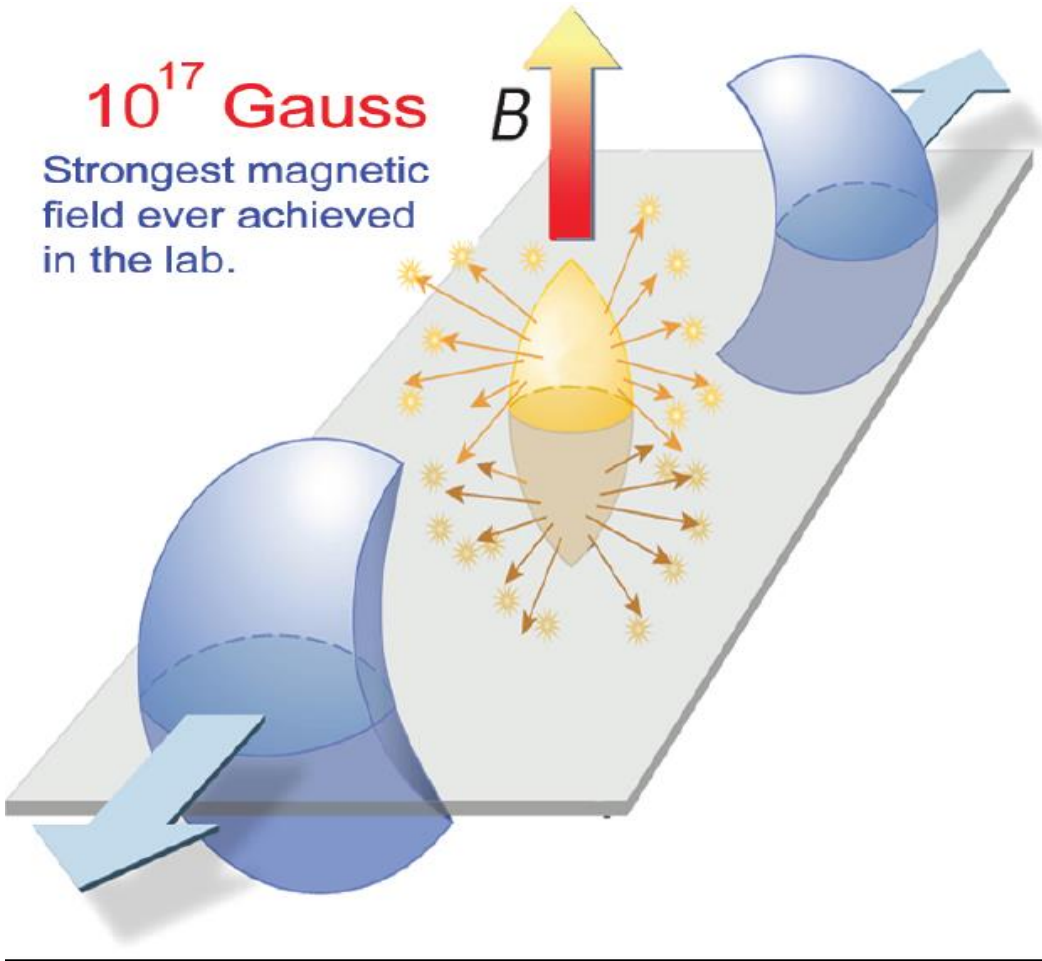
Motion of Test Particles in the Reaction Plane



Super-strong magnetic field formation in heavy-ion collisions



*In off-central Au+Au collisions at RHIC,
D. Kharzeev, L. McLerran and H. Warringa, NPA803:227 (2008)*



In sub-Coulomb barrier U+U collisions, the magnetic field B is on the order of 10^{14} G
J. Rafelski and B. Muller, PRL 36, 517 (1976)

Terrestrial laboratory to study properties of nuclear matter under extreme magnetic field

Model

The Boltzmann-Uhling-Uhlenbeck transport equation including electromagnetic fields:

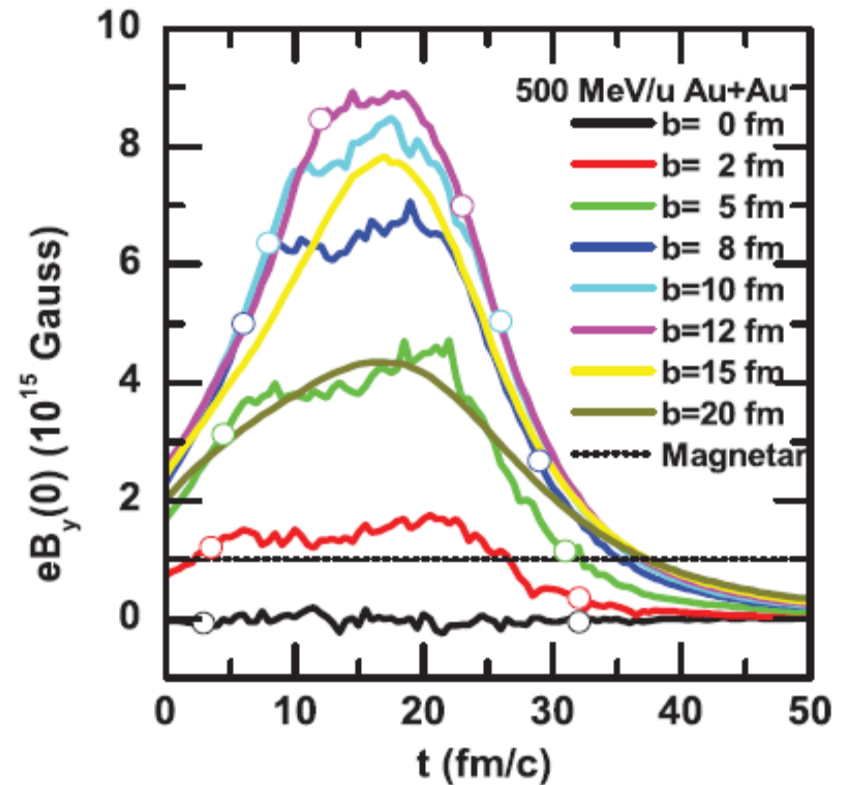
$$\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathbf{P}}{E} \nabla_r - (\nabla_r U - q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} - q\mathbf{E}) \nabla_p \right] f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t) = I(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t). \quad (1)$$

Electric and magnetic field strength with Liénard-Wiechert potentials and the retardation effect are calculated according to

$$e\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_n Z_n \frac{c^2 - v_n^2}{(cR_n - \mathbf{R}_n \cdot \mathbf{v}_n)^3} (c\mathbf{R}_n - \mathbf{R}_n \mathbf{v}_n); \quad (2)$$

$$e\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c} \sum_n Z_n \frac{c^2 - v_n^2}{(cR_n - \mathbf{R}_n \cdot \mathbf{v}_n)^3} \mathbf{v}_n \times \mathbf{R}_n. \quad (3)$$

$\mathbf{R}_n = \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'_n$, \mathbf{r}'_n is the position vector of particle, \mathbf{v}_n is particle velocity. \mathbf{v}_n and \mathbf{R}_n are taken at the retarded time $t_{rn} = t - |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'_n(t_{rn})|/c$.

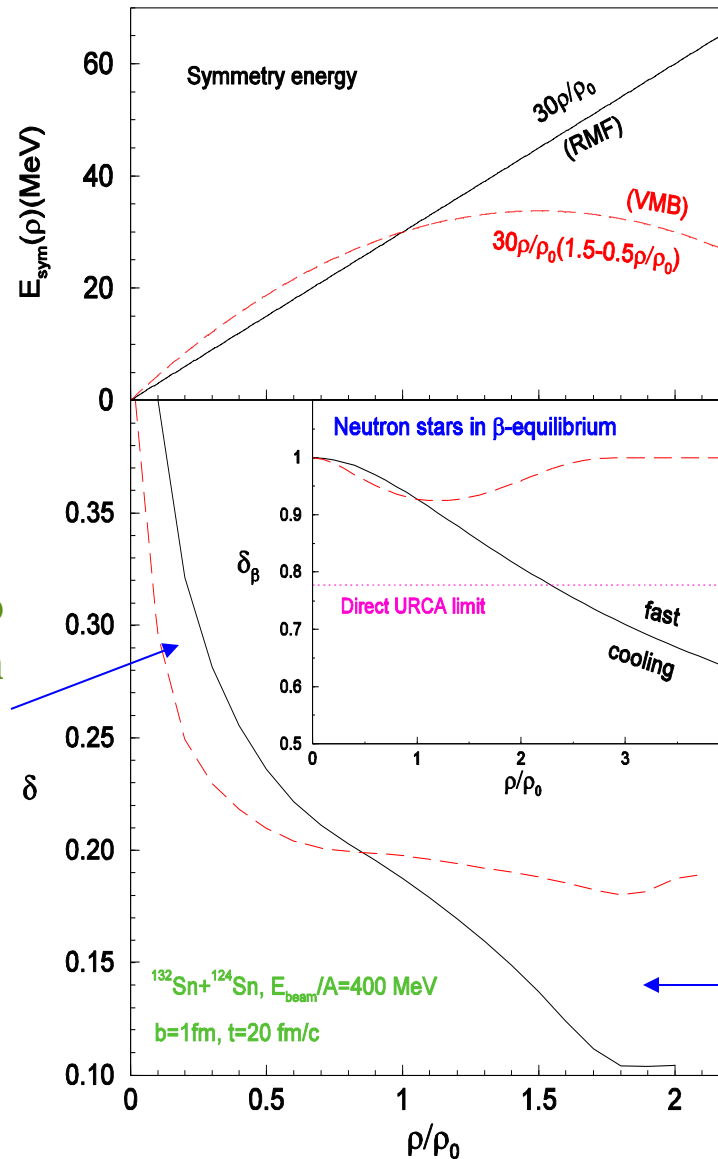


Li Ou and Bao-An Li, Physical Review C84, 064605 (2011)

Effects of symmetry energy on isospin fractionation

$$E(\rho, \delta) = E(\rho, 0) + E_{\text{sym}}(\rho)\delta^2$$

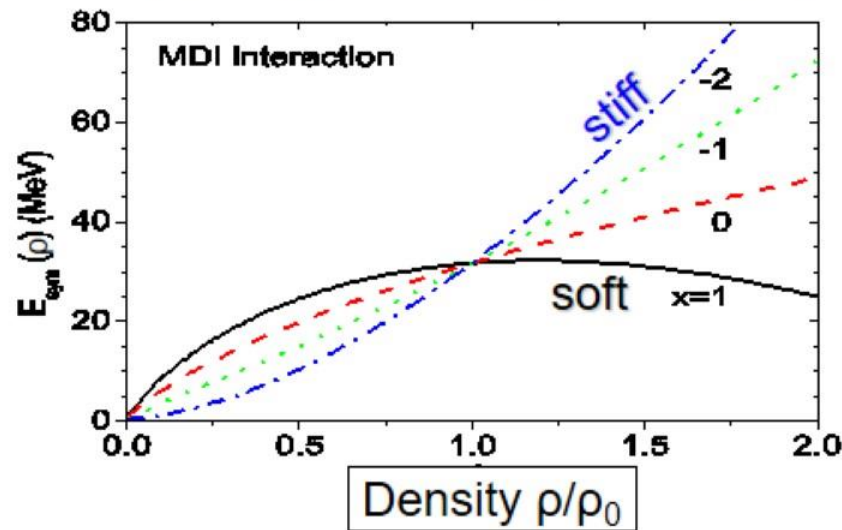
high density region is more neutron-rich with soft symmetry energy



The density dependence of isospin asymmetry in neutron stars and heavy-ion reactions are similar

π^-/π^+ ratio at freeze-out and neutron-proton differential flow probing high-density E_{sym}

Symmetry energy and single nucleon potential used in the IBUU04 transport model



The x parameter is introduced to mimic various predictions by different microscopic Nuclear many-body theories using different Effective interactions

Single nucleon potential within the HF approach using a modified Gogny force:

$$U(\rho, \delta, \bar{p}, \tau, x) = A_u(x) \frac{\rho_{\tau'}}{\rho_0} + A_l(x) \frac{\rho_{\tau}}{\rho_0} + B \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^{\sigma} (1 - x \delta^2) - 8\tau x \frac{B}{\sigma + 1} \frac{\rho^{\sigma-1}}{\rho_0^{\sigma}} \delta \rho_{\tau'} \\ + \frac{2C_{\tau, \tau}}{\rho_0} \int d^3 p' \frac{f_{\tau}(r, p')}{1 + (p - p')^2 / \Lambda^2} + \frac{2C_{\tau, \tau'}}{\rho_0} \int d^3 p' \frac{f_{\tau'}(r, p')}{1 + (p - p')^2 / \Lambda^2}$$

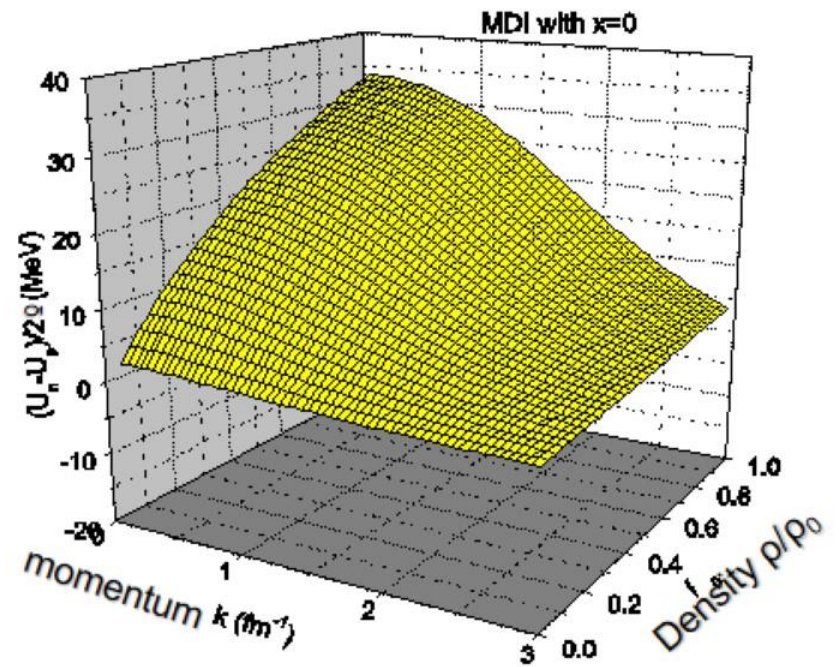
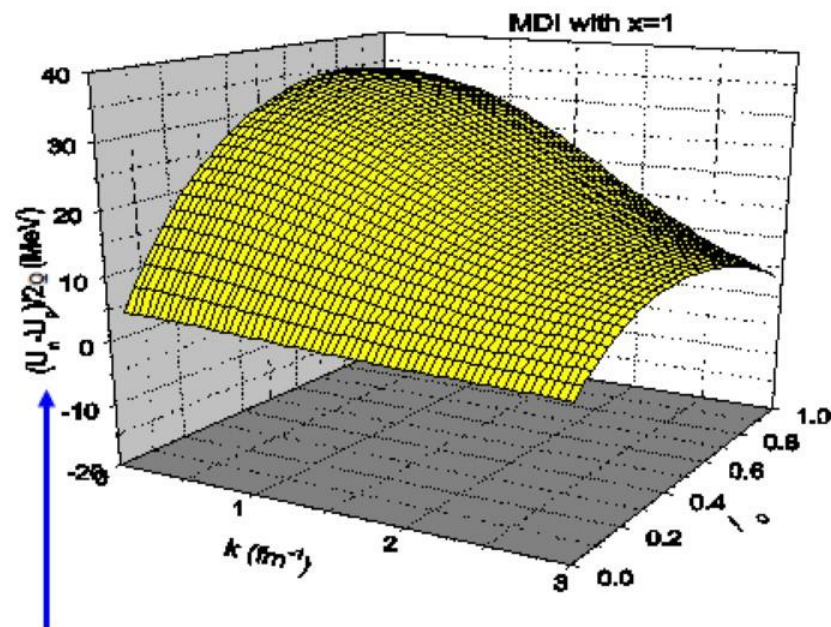
$$\tau, \tau' = \pm \frac{1}{2}, A_l(x) = -121 + \frac{2Bx}{\sigma + 1}, A_u(x) = -96 - \frac{2Bx}{\sigma + 1}, K_0 = 211 \text{ MeV}$$

The momentum dependence of the nucleon potential is a result of the non-locality of nuclear effective interactions and the Pauli exclusion principle

C.B. Das, S. Das Gupta, C. Gale and B.A. Li, PRC 67, 034611 (2003).

B.A. Li, C.B. Das, S. Das Gupta and C. Gale, PRC 69, 034614; NPA 735, 563 (2004).

Momentum and density dependence of the symmetry potential $U_{n/p} \approx U_{\text{isoscalar}} \pm U_{\text{Lane}} \square \delta$



Lane potential extracted from n/p-nucleus scatterings and (p,n) charge exchange reactions provides only a constraint at ρ_0 :

$$U_{\text{Lane}} \equiv (U_n - U_p)/2\delta \approx V_1 - \varepsilon_R \cdot E_{\text{kin}},$$

$$V_1 \square 28 \pm 6 \text{ MeV}, \varepsilon_R \approx 0.1 - 0.2$$

for $E_{\text{kin}} < 100 \text{ MeV}$

P.E. Hodgson, The Nucleon Optical Model, World Scientific, 1994

G.W. Hoffmann et al., PRL, 29, 227 (1972).

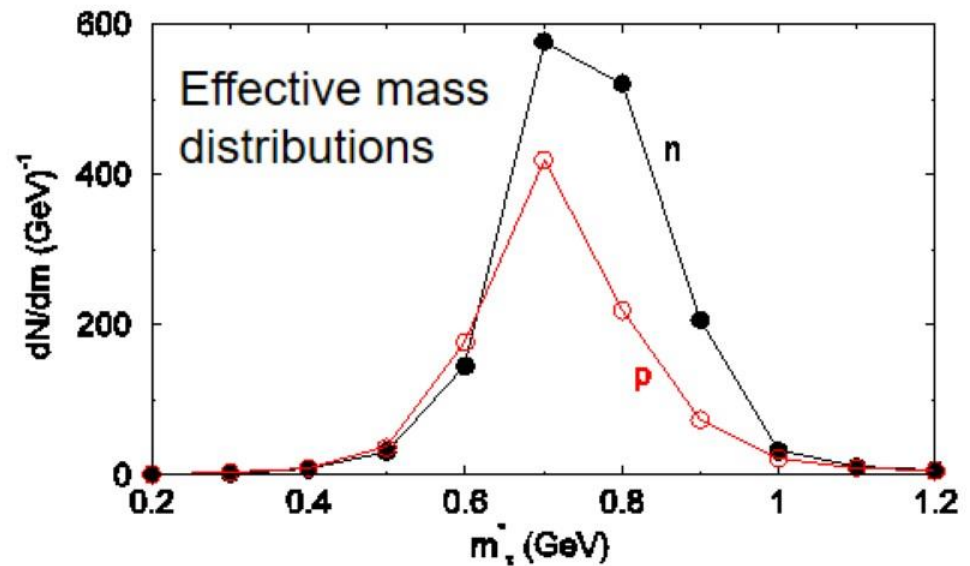
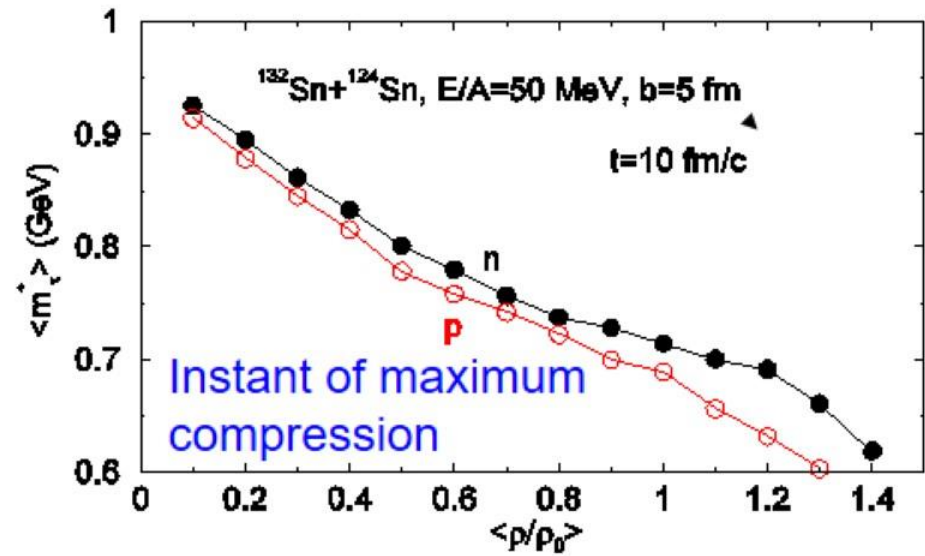
G.R. Satchler, Isospin Dependence of Optical Model Potentials, 1968

Although the uncertainties are large, NOT a single experiment was analyzed assuming the symmetry potential would INCREASE with energy because then the errors will be even larger

Nucleon effective k-masses during heavy-ion reactions

B.A. Li and L.W. Chen, Phys. Rev. C72, 064611 (2005).

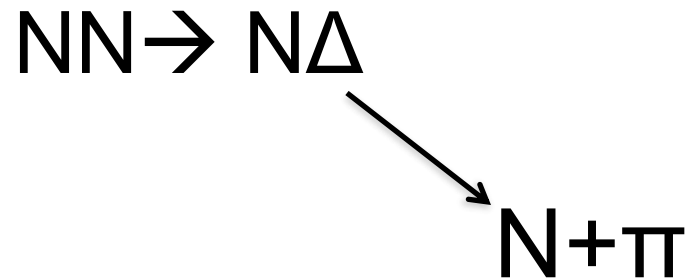
$$\frac{m_{\tau}^*}{m_{\tau}} = \left[1 + \frac{m_{\tau}}{p} \frac{\partial U}{\partial p} \right]_{p_F^{\tau}}^{-1}$$



Probing the symmetry energy at supra-saturation densities

- π^-/π^+ , n/p ratio of squeezed-out nucleons
 - Neutron-proton differential flow
 - Neutrino flux of supernova explosions
 - Strength and frequency of gravitational waves
-

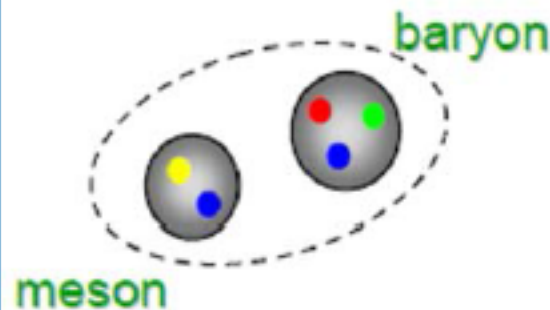
Clarifying effects of the completely unknown isovector potential for $\Delta(1232)$ resonances



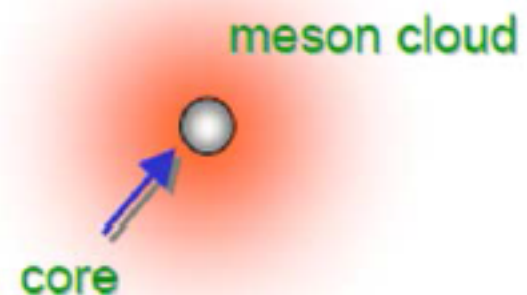
QCD Aspects of Resonances:

- hadronic (soft scale) molecular-type components $|N_s\rangle$
- QCD (hard scale) confined components $|N_h\rangle$

$$|N^*\rangle = |N_s^*\rangle + |N_h^*\rangle = x_1 |mB\rangle + x_2 |qqq\rangle + x_3 |qqq\rangle \otimes |q\bar{q}\rangle + \dots$$



$$|N_s^*\rangle = |MB\rangle$$

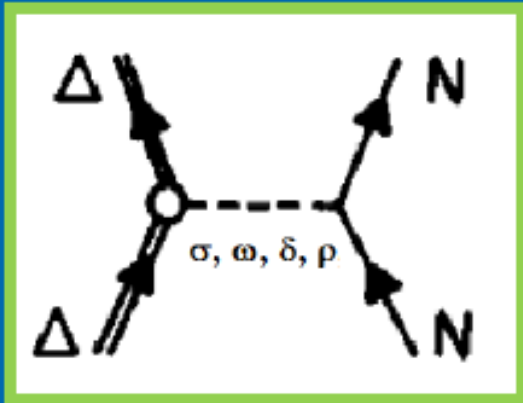


$$|N_h^*\rangle = |qqq\rangle + |m.c.\rangle$$

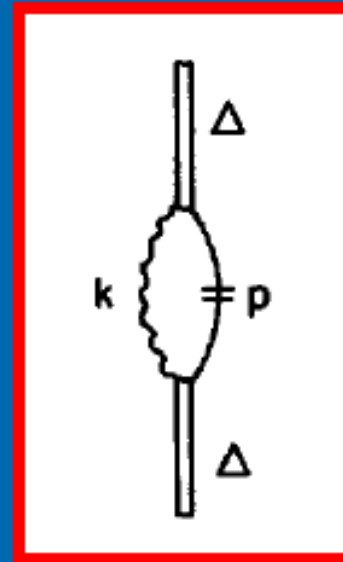
Strong Medium Dependence

Weak Medium Dependence

Delta Self-Energy in Nuclear Matter



+



Direct Self-energy →
Hartree-Potential

$$U_{\Delta}^{(H)} = U_0 + U_1 \tau_{\Delta} \cdot \tau_N$$

$$U_{\Delta}^{(H)} \sim U_0 + U_1 t_z^{(\Delta)} \cdot \frac{N-Z}{A}$$

Polarization Self-Energy →
dispersive (optical) potential

$$\Sigma_{\text{pol}}^{(\Delta)} \sim \Sigma_0 + \Sigma_1 t_z^{(\Delta)} \frac{N-Z}{A}$$

$$\Sigma_{\alpha} = V_{\alpha} - iW_{\alpha}$$

...see e.g.:

E. Oset, L.L. Salcedo, NPA 468 (1987) 631; G.E. Brown, W. Weise, Phys. Rept. 22 (1975) 279

$U_0(\Delta)$ is 0-30 MeV deeper than $U_0(N)$ at p_0 from $e+A$, $\pi+A$ and $\gamma+A$ scattering, **but nothing is known about the $U_1(\Delta)$**

In the pi-N molecule model, assuming pions have no mean-field, the Delta isovector potential is linked to the nucleon isovector potential

Bao-An Li, PRL88, 192701 (2002) and NPA 365 (2002)

$$v_{asy}(\Delta^-) = v_{asy}(n),$$

$$v_{asy}(\Delta^0) = \frac{2}{3}v_{asy}(n) + \frac{1}{3}v_{asy}(p) = \frac{1}{3}v_{asy}(n),$$

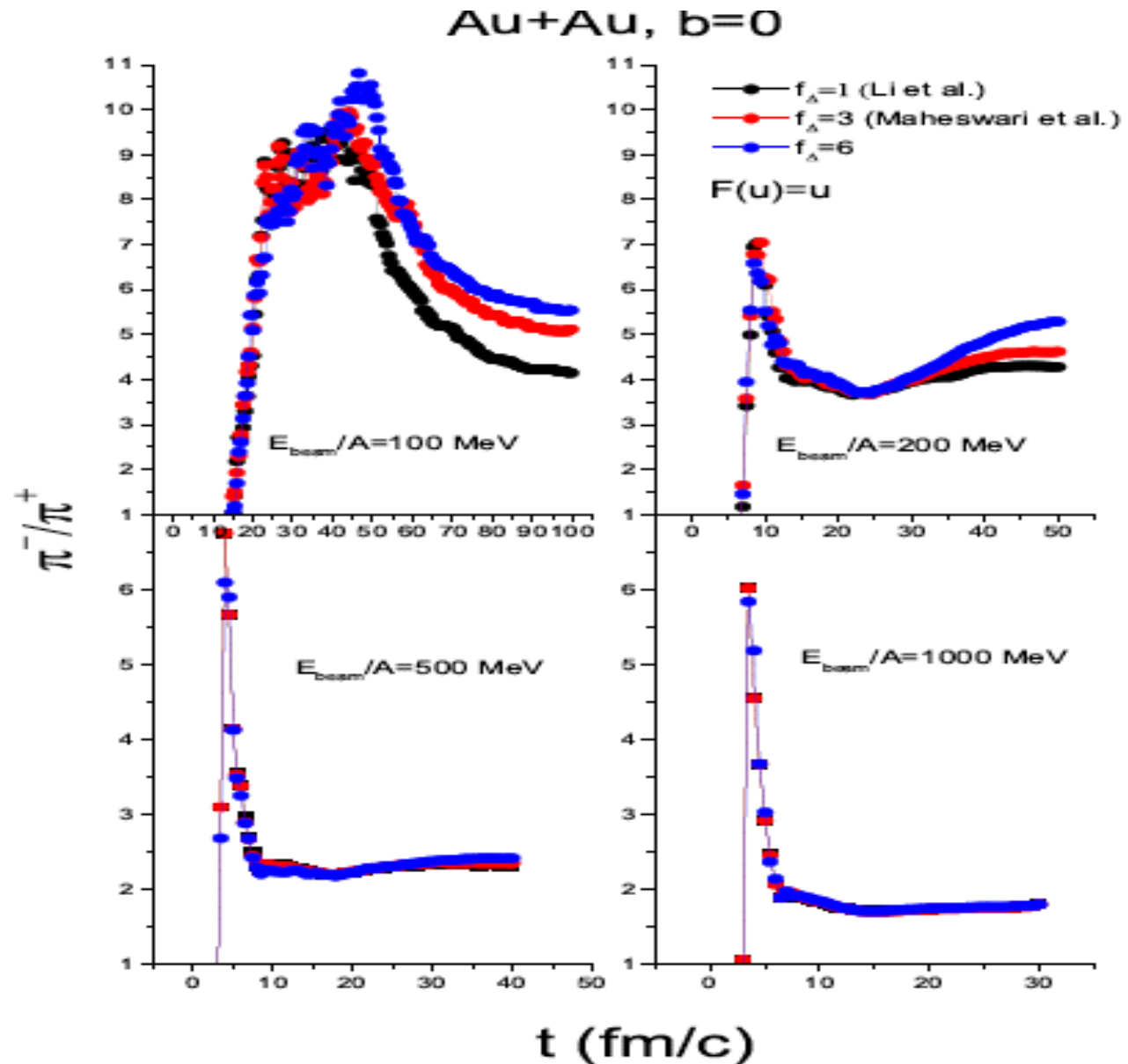
$$v_{asy}(\Delta^+) = \frac{1}{3}v_{asy}(n) + \frac{2}{3}v_{asy}(p) = -\frac{1}{3}v_{asy}(n),$$

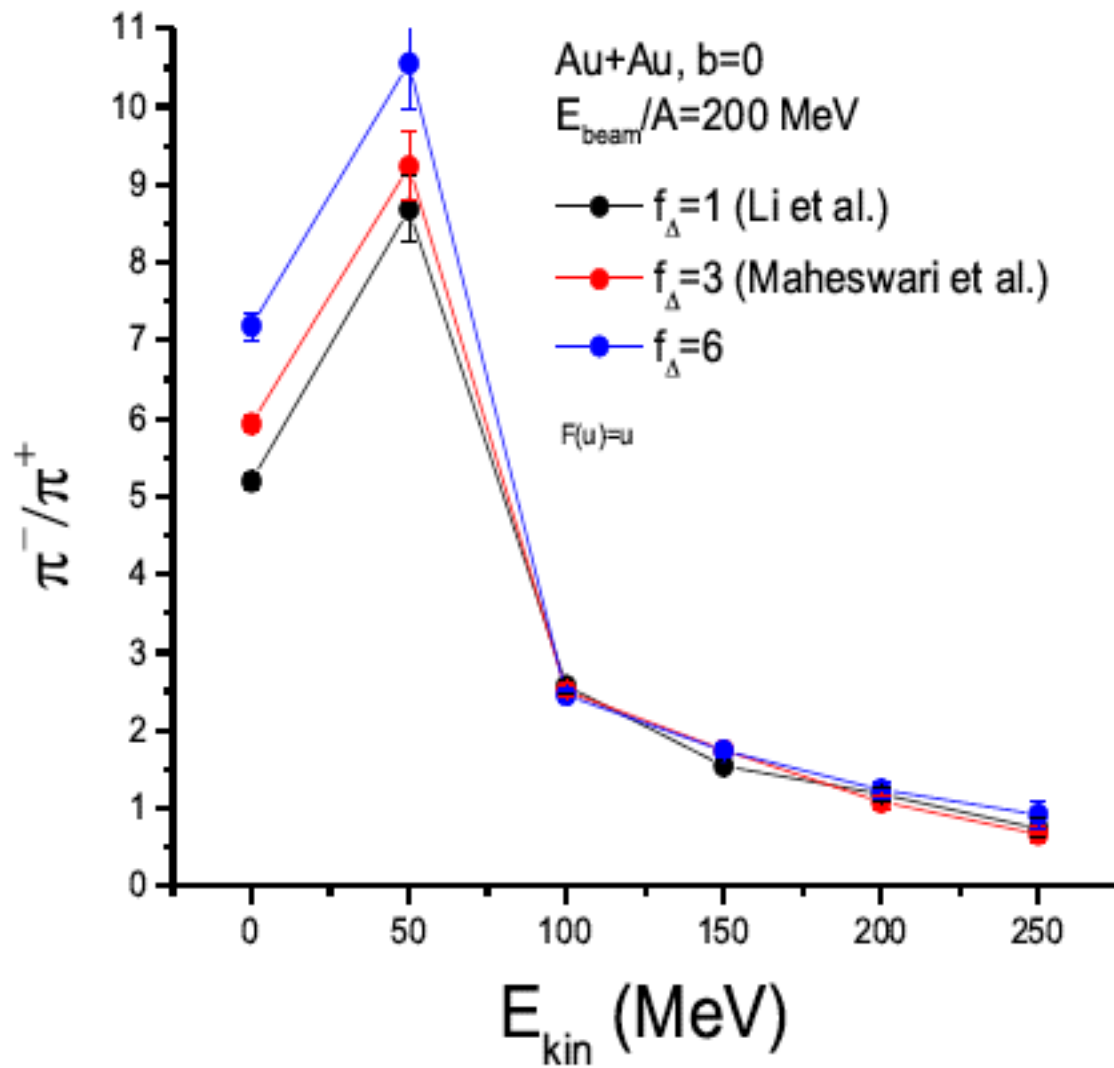
$$v_{asy}(\Delta^{++}) = v_{asy}(p) = -v_{asy}(n).$$

To study effects of the completely unknown Delta isovector potential, multiply the above with a Delta-probing-factor:

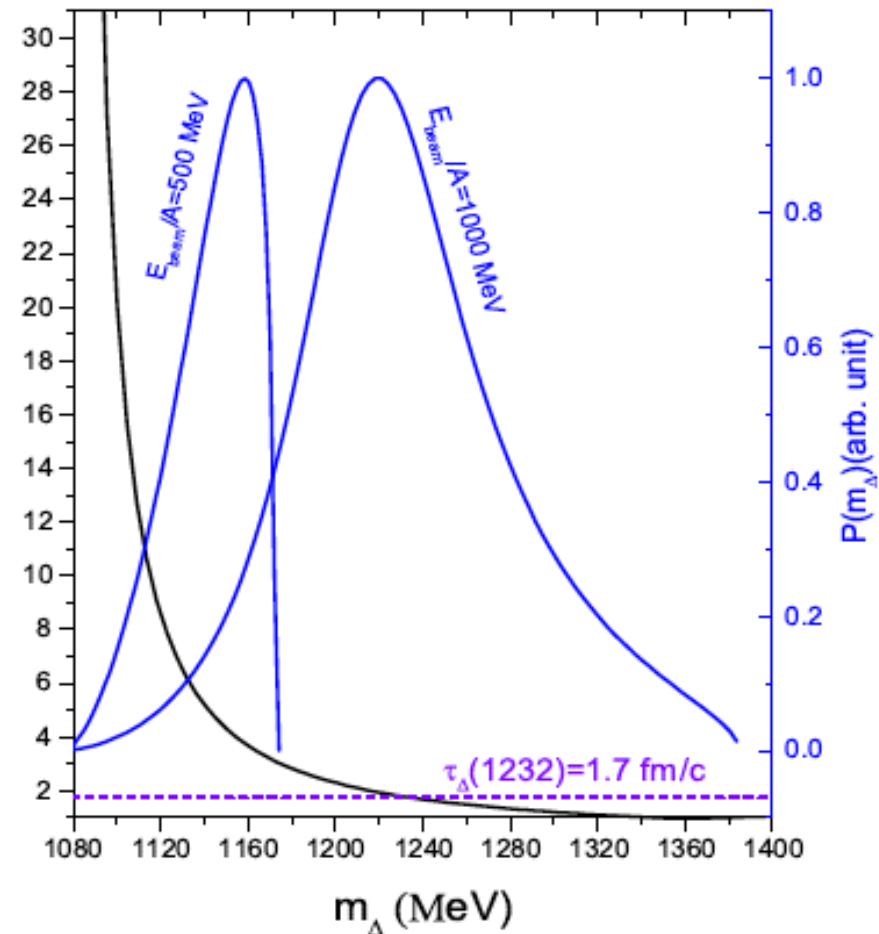
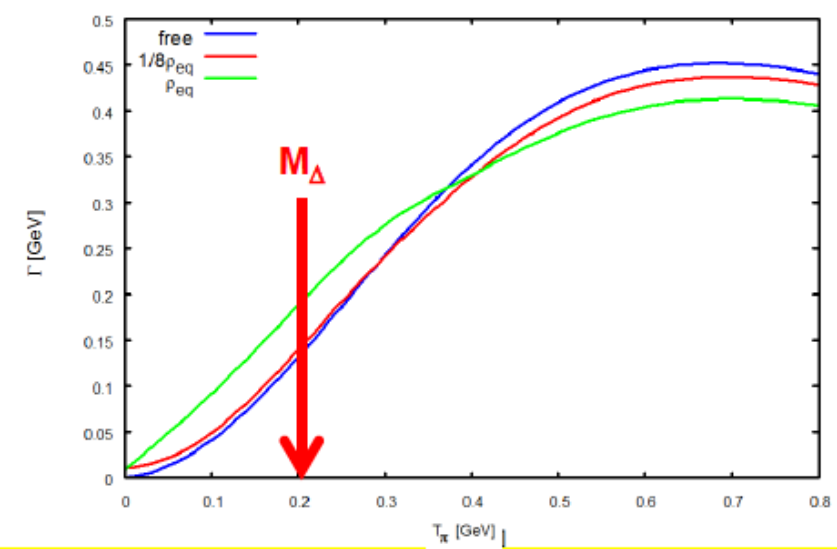
$$f_{\Delta} = 1, 3 \text{ and } 6,$$

Symmetry potential of $\Delta(1232)$ resonance and its effects on the π^-/π^+ ratio in heavy-ion collisions near the pion-production threshold, B.A. Li, *PRC* 92 (2015), 034603





Delta isovector potential has NO effect on the high-energy spectrum!



$$\tau_\Delta = \hbar/\Gamma(m_\Delta)$$

WHY?

High-mass Delta produced in energetic collisions dies too quickly to feel any mean-field effect!

Recent Review:

[Transport model comparison studies of intermediate-energy heavy-ion collisions](#)

[TMEP](#) Collaboration, [Hermann Wolter](#) et al. *Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys.* 125 (2022) 103962

White Papers for 2023 US Nuclear Physics Long Range Plan:

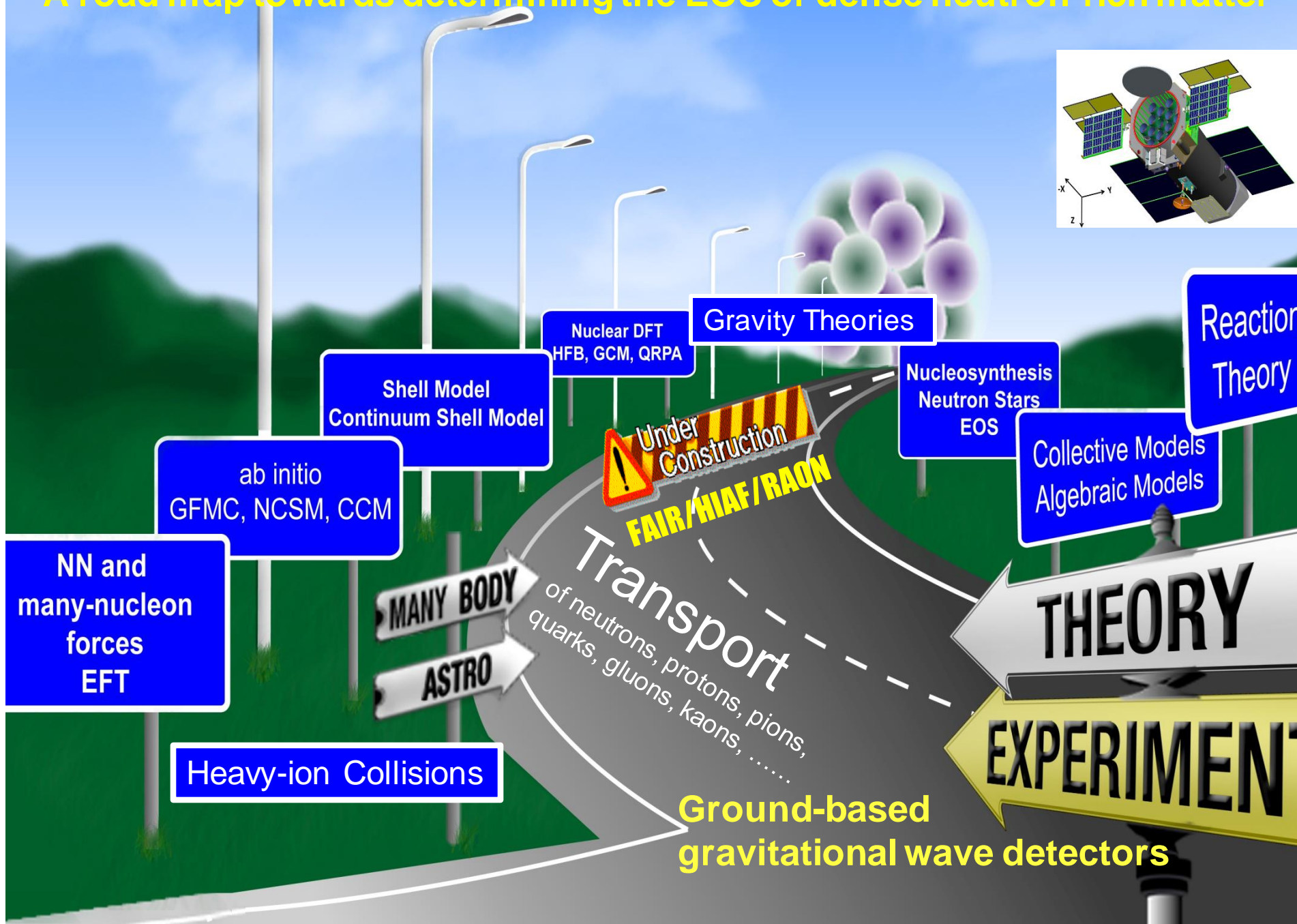
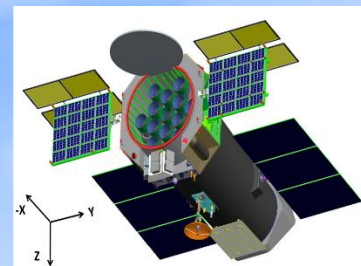
[Long Range Plan: Dense matter theory for heavy-ion collisions and neutron stars](#)

[Alessandro Lovato](#) et al., [2211.02224](#) [nucl-th]

[Dense Nuclear Matter Equation of State from Heavy-Ion Collisions](#)

[Agnieszka Sorensen](#) et al., [2301.13253](#) [nucl-th]

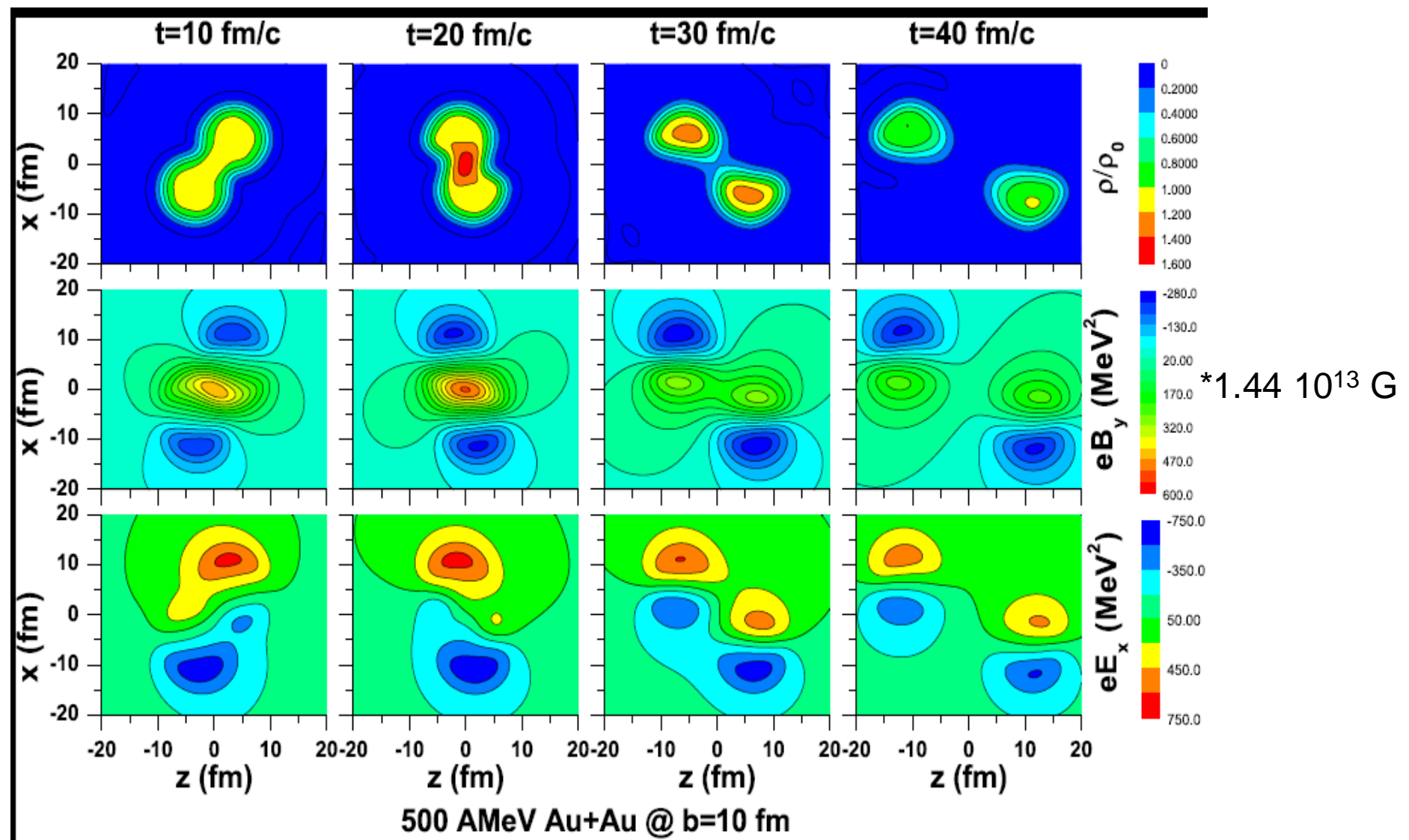
A road map towards determining the EOS of dense neutron-rich matter

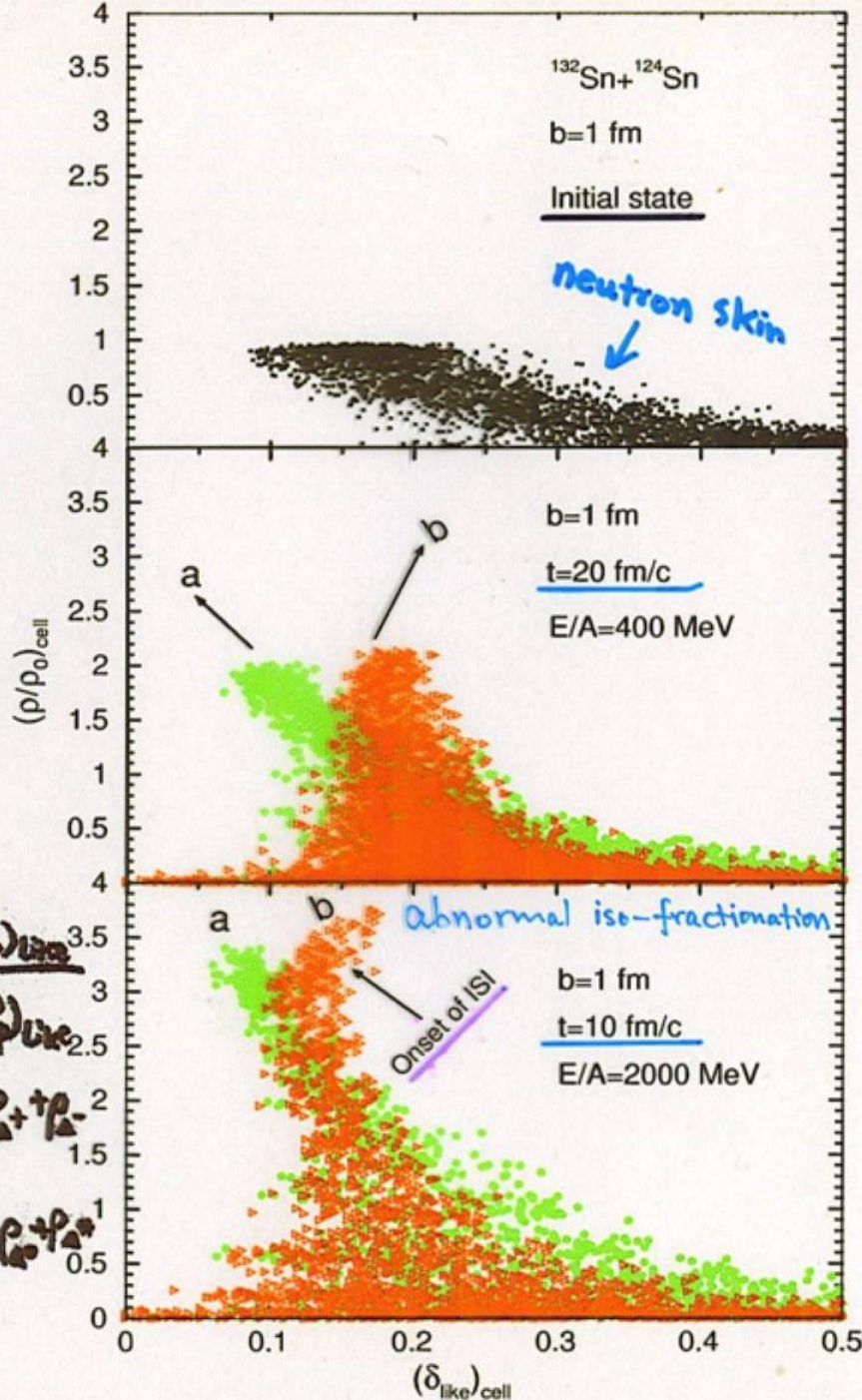


Formation of neutron-star matter in terrestrial nuclear laboratories

Li Ou and Bao-An Li, Physical Review C84, 064605 (2011)

Highly-magnetized high-density matter is formed in heavy-ion reactions





$$\delta_{\text{Like}} = \frac{(p_n)_{\text{like}} - (p_p)_{\text{like}}}{(p_n)_{\text{like}} + (p_p)_{\text{like}}}$$

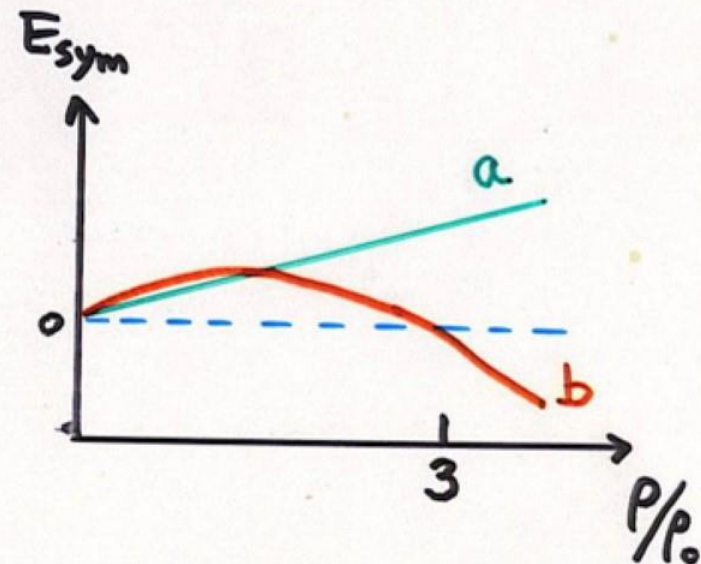
$$(p_n)_{\text{like}} = p_n + \frac{2}{3}p_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{3}p_{\Delta} + p_{\Delta^*}$$

$$(p_p)_{\text{like}} = p_p + \frac{2}{3}p_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{3}p_{\Delta} + p_{\Delta^*}$$

Calculations are done on a density matrix with cells of 1 fm^3 in size.

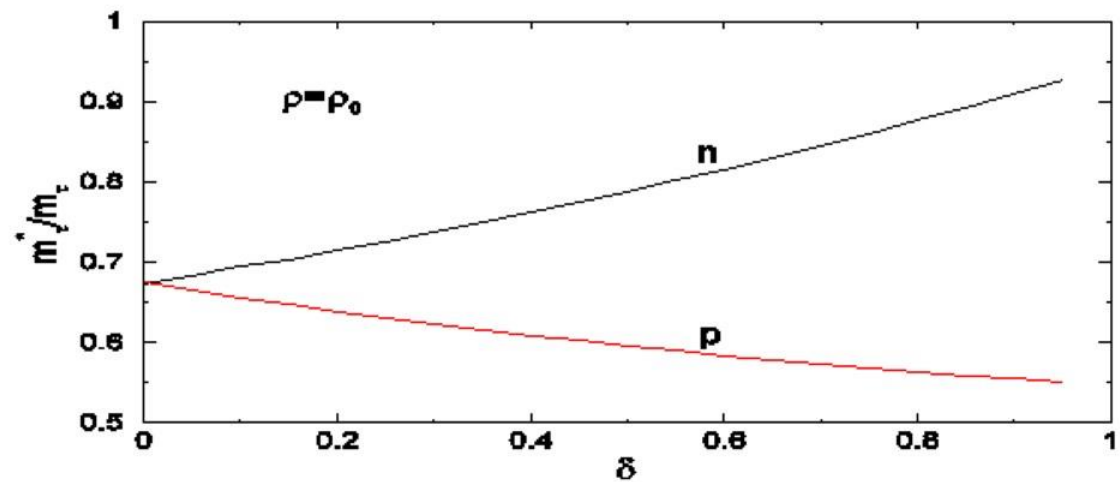
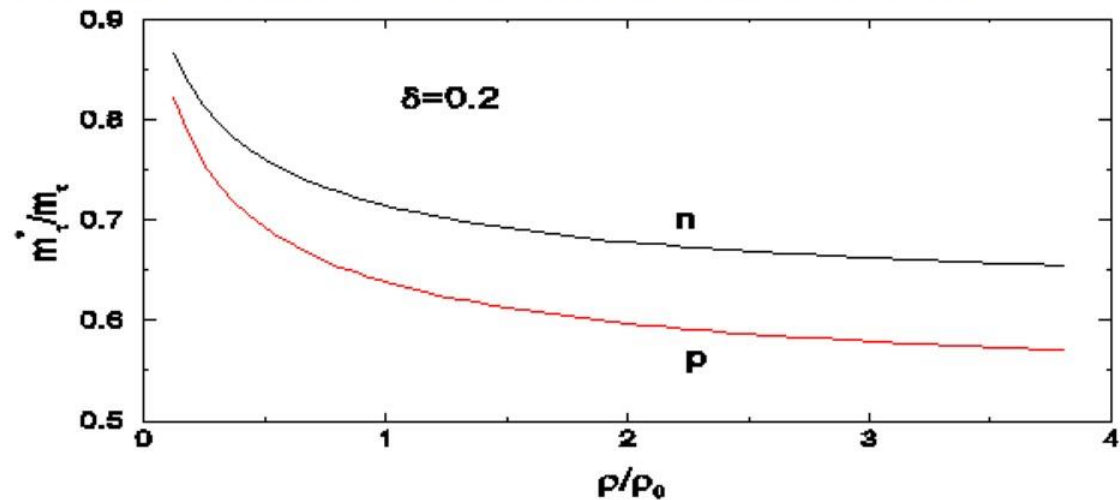
• each point represents one cell

Density – isospin asymmetry correlation at the instants of maximum compression



Neutron-proton effective k-mass splitting in neutron-rich matter at zero temperature

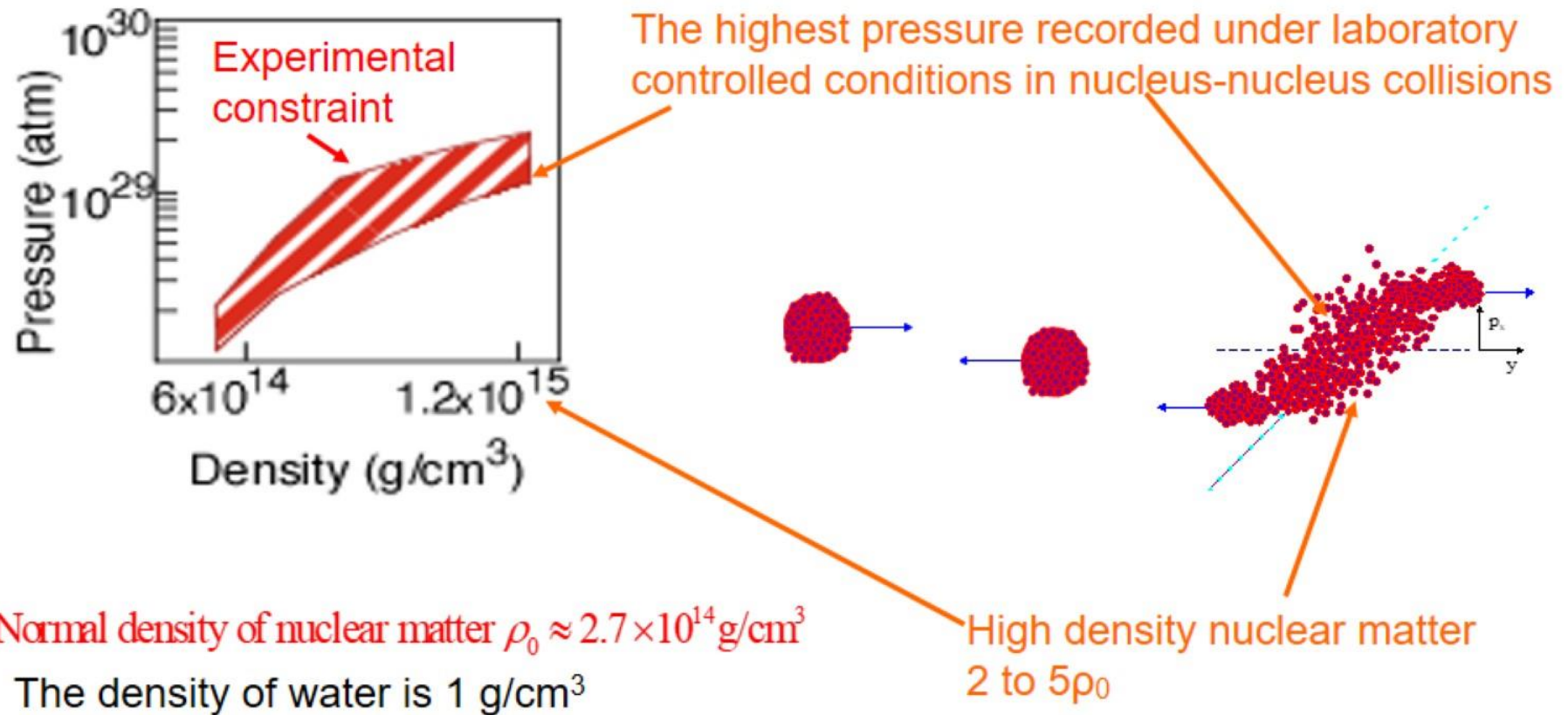
$$\frac{m_\tau^*}{m_\tau} = \left[1 + \frac{m_\tau}{p} \frac{\partial U}{\partial p} \right]_{p_F^\tau}^{-1}$$



With the modified Gogny effective interaction

Equation of State of symmetric nuclear matter is relatively well determined
after 30 years of hard work of many people in the nuclear physics community

P. Danielewicz, R. Lacey and W.G. Lynch, *Science* 298, 1592 (2002).



1st Law of thermodynamics:

$$dU = Tds - PdV + \mu dN, E = U/N, \rho = N/V \rightarrow \text{Pressure } P(\rho) = \rho^2 \left[\frac{\partial E}{\partial \rho} \right]_s$$

EOS of cold matter: $P(\rho)$ or $P(\rho E)$ for studying neutron stars

Development and applications of Transport Theory

1. Development of transport models

Transport codes often implement extra physical assumptions and dynamical mechanisms which go beyond the equations used to motivate their designs. These algorithms often undergo evolutions with time as we make progresses in our R&D efforts and also as our needs for including new processes arise. They may involve many phenomenological parameters which are not all well experimentally constrained yet because of the lack of the relevant experimental data, and some of them are exactly what we want to infer because they can not be measured directly.

2. Applications of transport models

Widely used in astrophysics, plasma physics, semiconductor and nanostructures, particle and nuclear physics, nuclear stockpile stewardship.

Isospin-dependence of nucleon-nucleon cross sections in neutron-rich matter

The effective mass scaling model:

$$\sigma_{medium} / \sigma_{free} \approx \left(\frac{\mu_{NN}^*}{\mu_{NN}} \right)^2$$

μ_{NN}^* is the reduced effective mass of the colliding nucleon pair NN

valid for $\rho \leq 2\rho_0$ and relative momenta ≤ 240 MeV/c according to Dirac-Brueckner-Hatree-Fock calculations
F. Sammarruca and P. Krastev, nucl-th/0506081;
Phys. Rev. C73, 014001 (2005).

Applications in symmetric nuclear matter:

J.W. Negele and K. Yazaki, PRL 47, 71 (1981)
V.R. Pandharipande and S.C. Pieper, PRC 45, 791 (1992)
M. Kohno et al., PRC 57, 3495 (1998)
D. Persram and C. Gale, PRC65, 064611 (2002).

Application in neutron-rich matter:
nn and pp xsections are splitted due to the neutron-proton effective mass splitting

Bao-An Li and Lie-Wen Chen, nucl-th/0508024,
Phys. Rev. C72, 064611 (2005).

$\sigma_{medium} / \sigma_{free}$ in neutron-rich matter at zero temperature

