



PHYSICS OPPORTUNITIES FROM RELATIVISTIC ISOBAR COLLISIONS

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第20届全国中高能核物理大会暨第十四届全国中高能核物理专题研讨会

2025.04.24-28, 上海



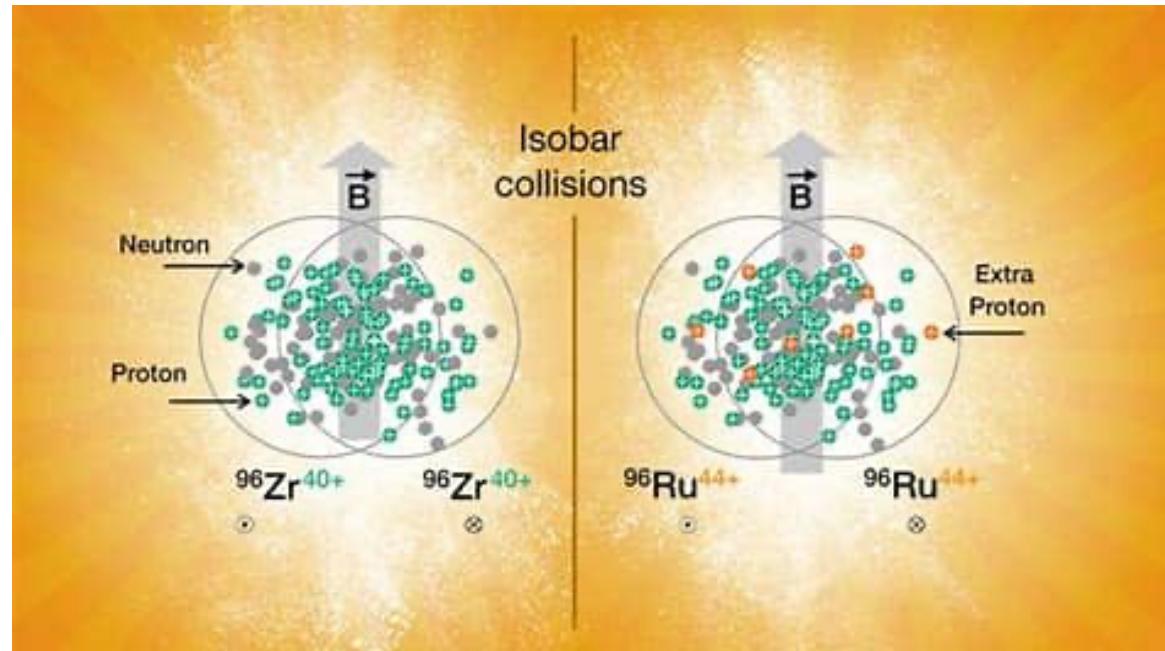
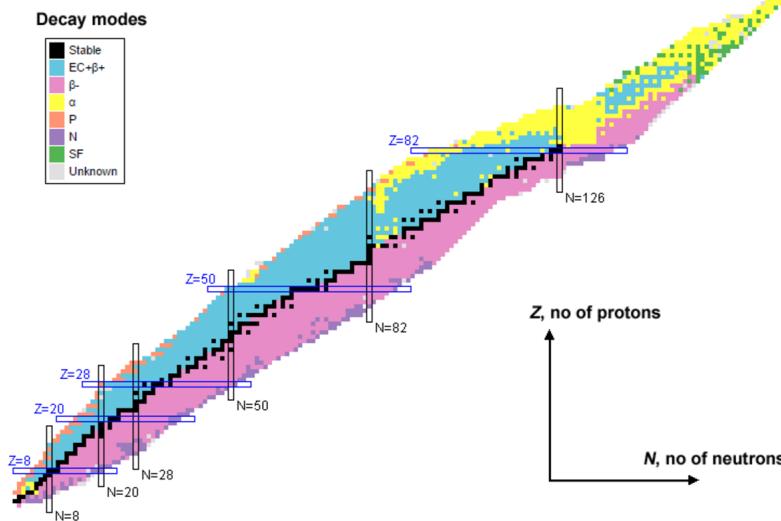
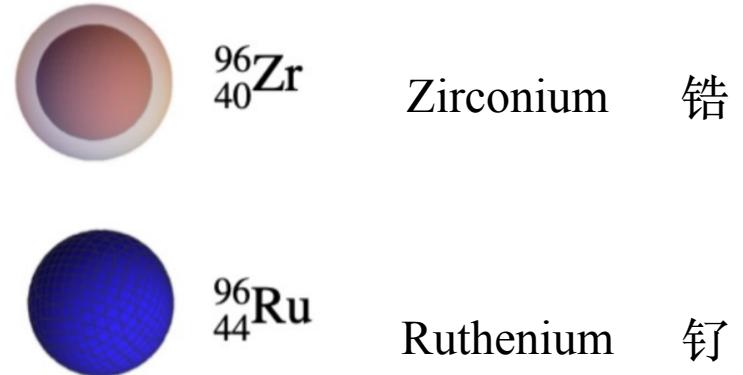
Outline

I Introduction

II Nuclear structure measurements

III Solve the flow puzzle with nuclear structure

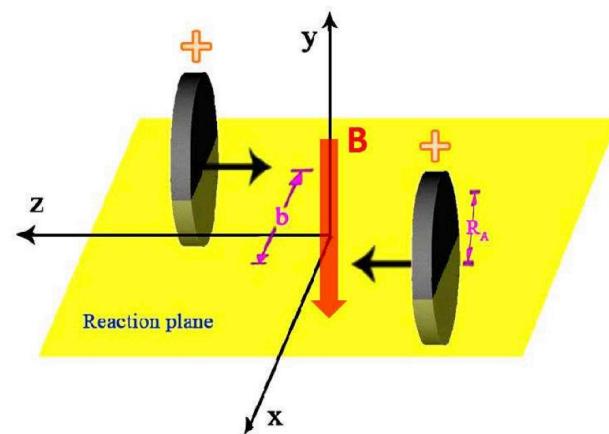
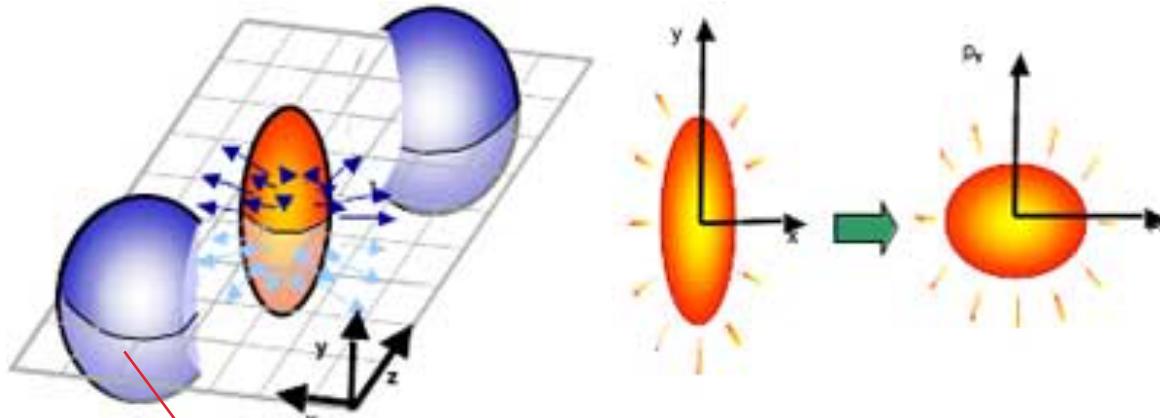
IV Summary



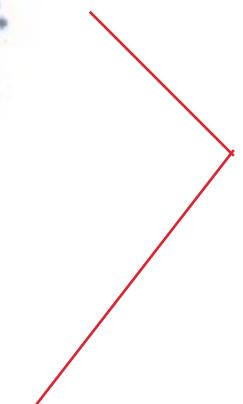
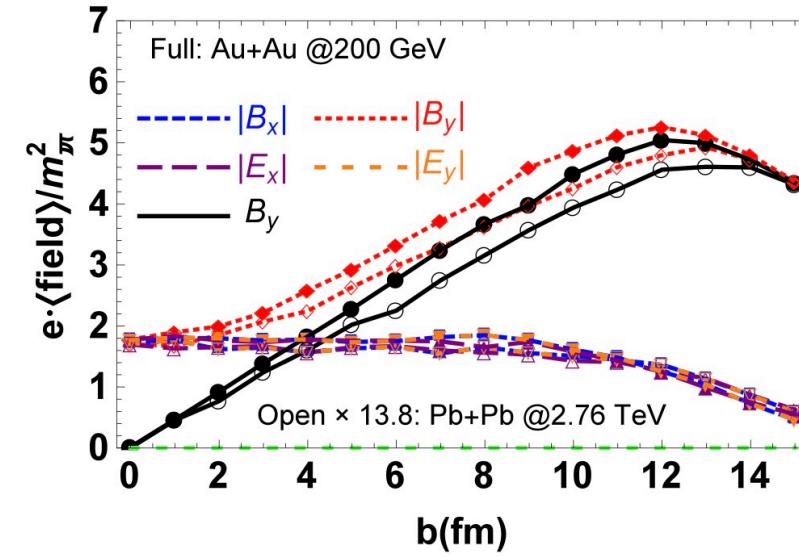
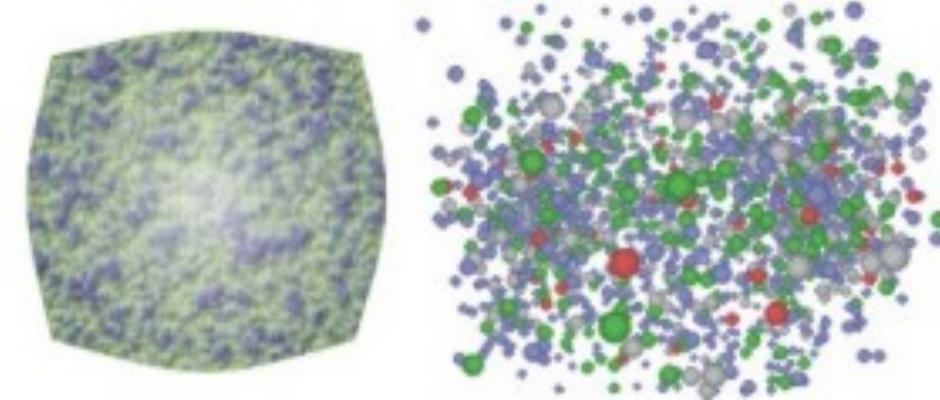


Relativistic heavy ion collisions

Participants



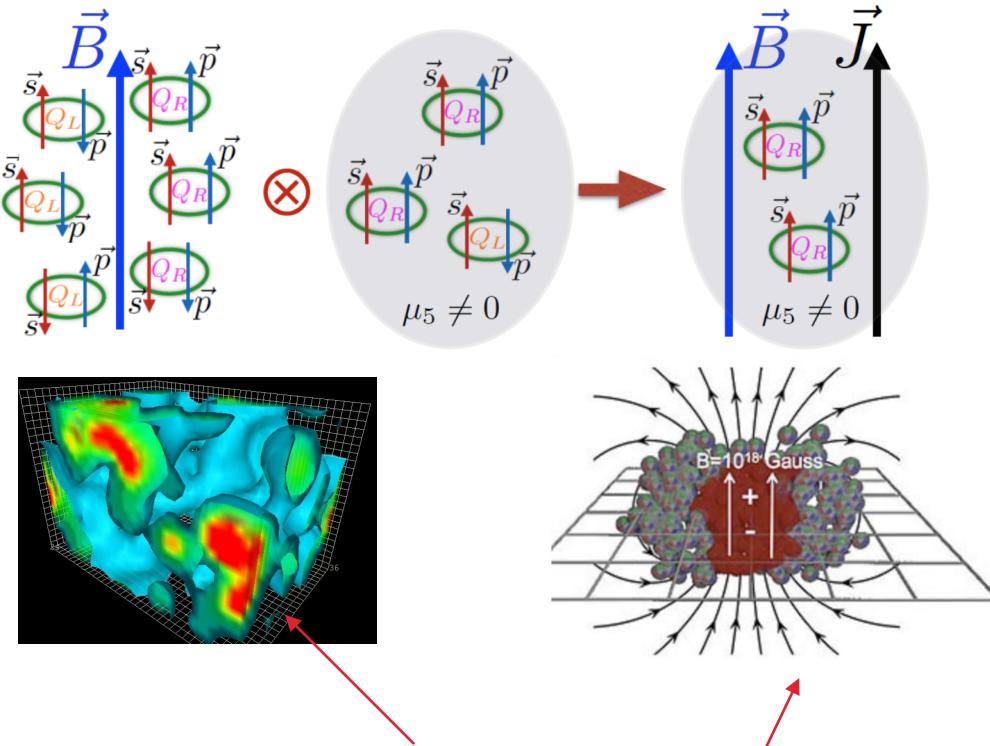
Spectators





Chiral magnetic effect

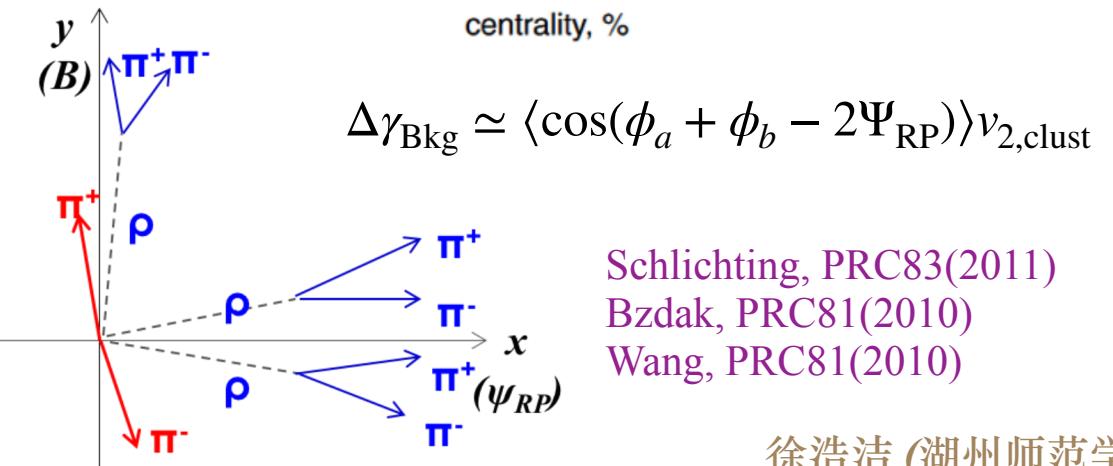
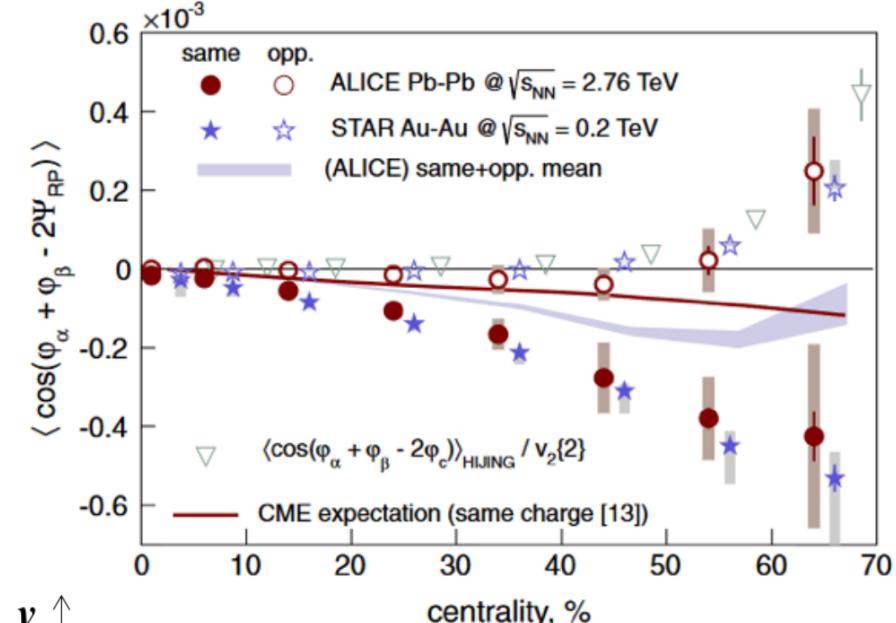
Chiral magnetic effect (CME)



$$\mathbf{J}_{\text{cme}} = \sigma_5 \mathbf{B} = \left(\frac{(Qe)^2}{2\pi^2} \mu_5 \right) \mathbf{B},$$

D. Kharzeev, et.al., PPNP88, 1(2016)

CME signal vs background STAR, PRL103, 251601 (2009)
ALICE, PRL110, 012301 (2013)

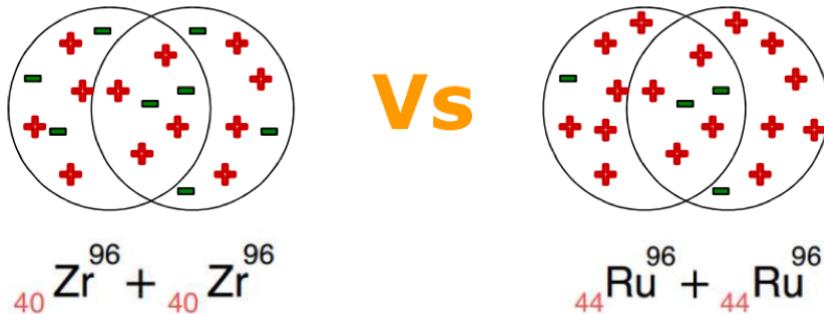




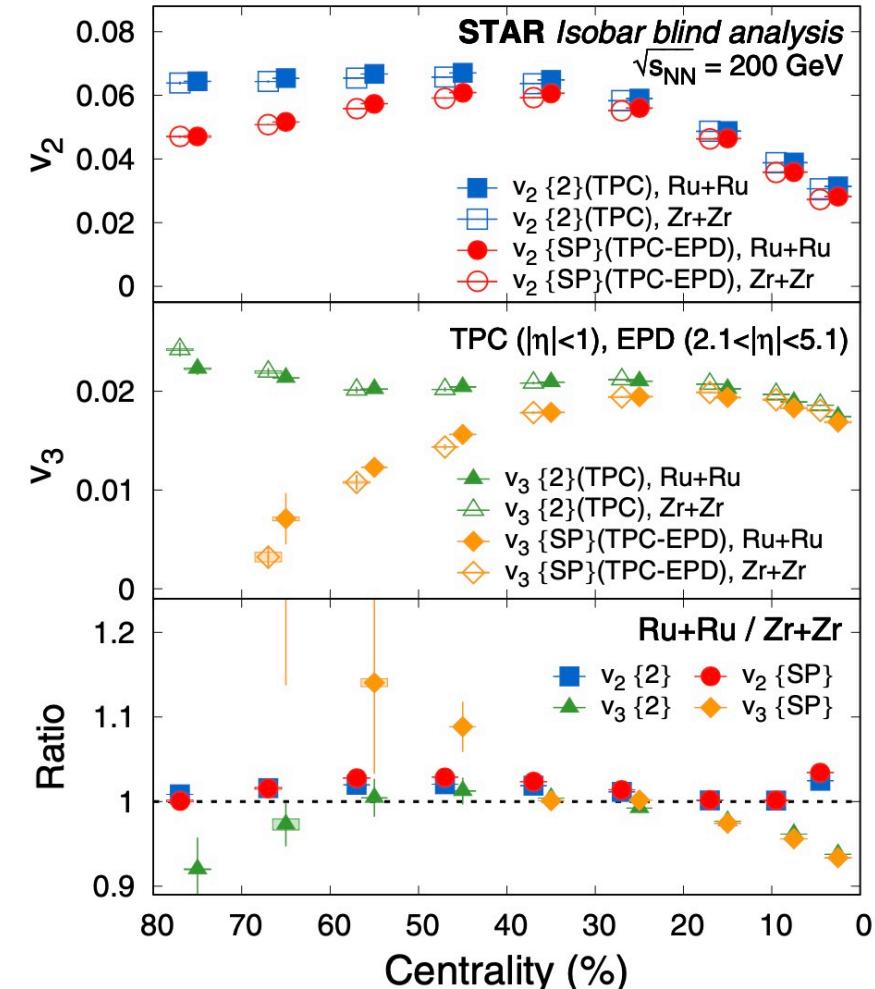
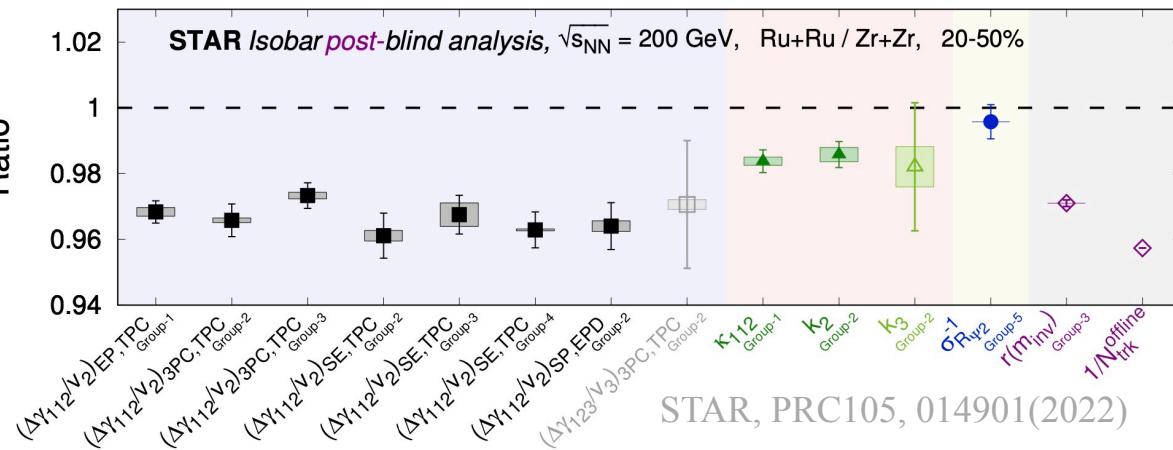
Relativistic isobaric collisions

The isobar collisions were proposed to measure the chiral magnetic effect.

S. Voloshin, PRL105, 172301 (2010)



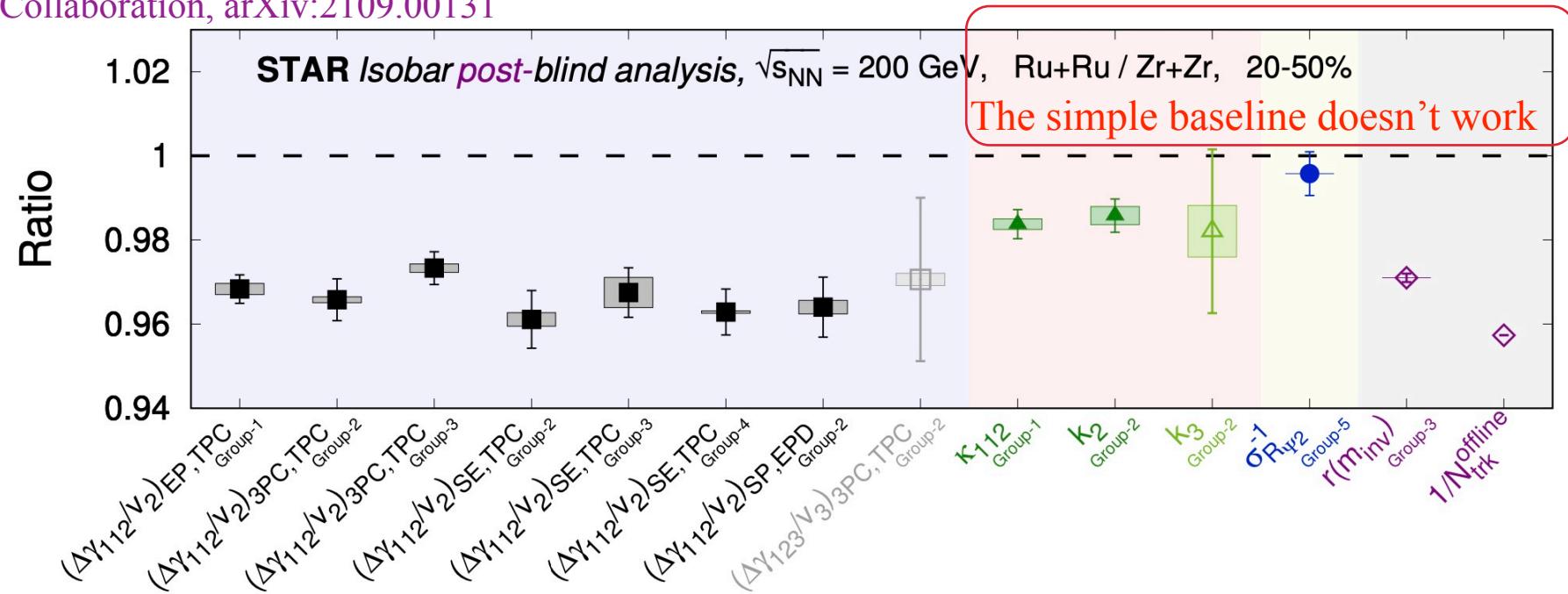
- Same background
- Different magnetic field => different CME signals





Isobar structures are important for the CME search

STAR Collaboration, arXiv:2109.00131



$$\Delta\gamma_{\text{bkg}} = \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha + \varphi_\beta - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle = \frac{N_{\text{cluster}}}{N_\alpha N_\beta} \times \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha + \varphi_\beta - 2\Psi_{\text{cluster}}) \times v_{2,\text{cluster}} \rangle$$

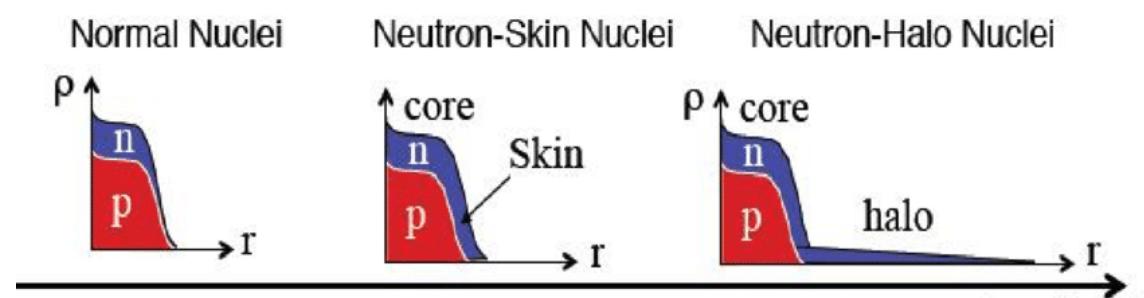
Multiplicity differences

Flow differences

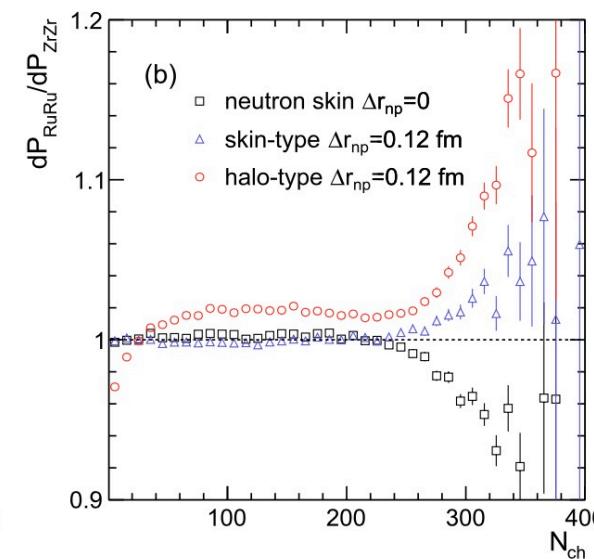
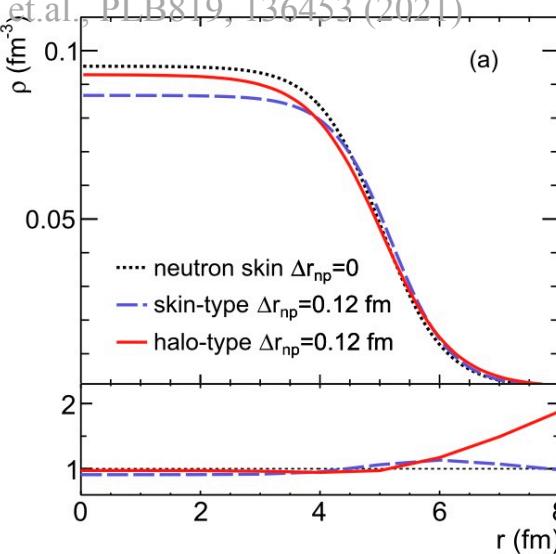
The multiplicity and v2 differences from isobar structure are crucial for the CME search in the isobar collisions at RHIC



Neutron skin

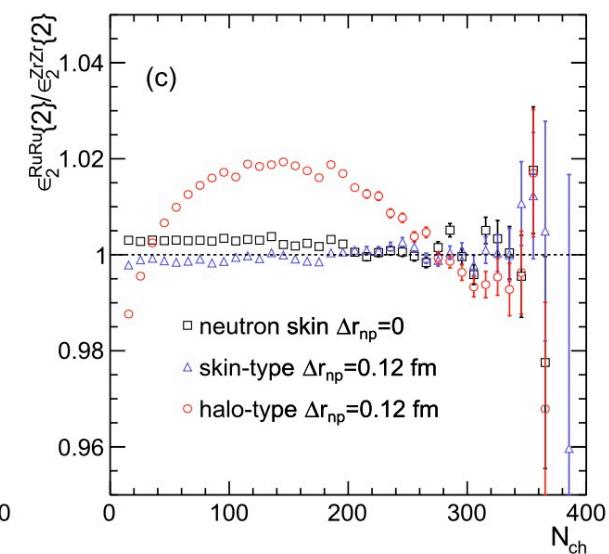


HJX, et.al. PLB819, 136453 (2021)



● Neutron-skin nuclei and neutron-halo nuclei for Zr

	⁹⁶ Ru	⁹⁶ Zr	⁹⁶ Ru	⁹⁶ Zr
p	5.085	5.021	0.523	0.523
skin-type n	5.085	5.194	0.523	0.523
halo-type n	5.085	5.021	0.523	0.592



$$\rho(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp[(r - R)/a]}$$

The shapes of the Ru+Ru/Zr+Zr ratios of the multiplicity and eccentricity in mid-central collisions can distinguish between skin-type and halo-type neutron densities.

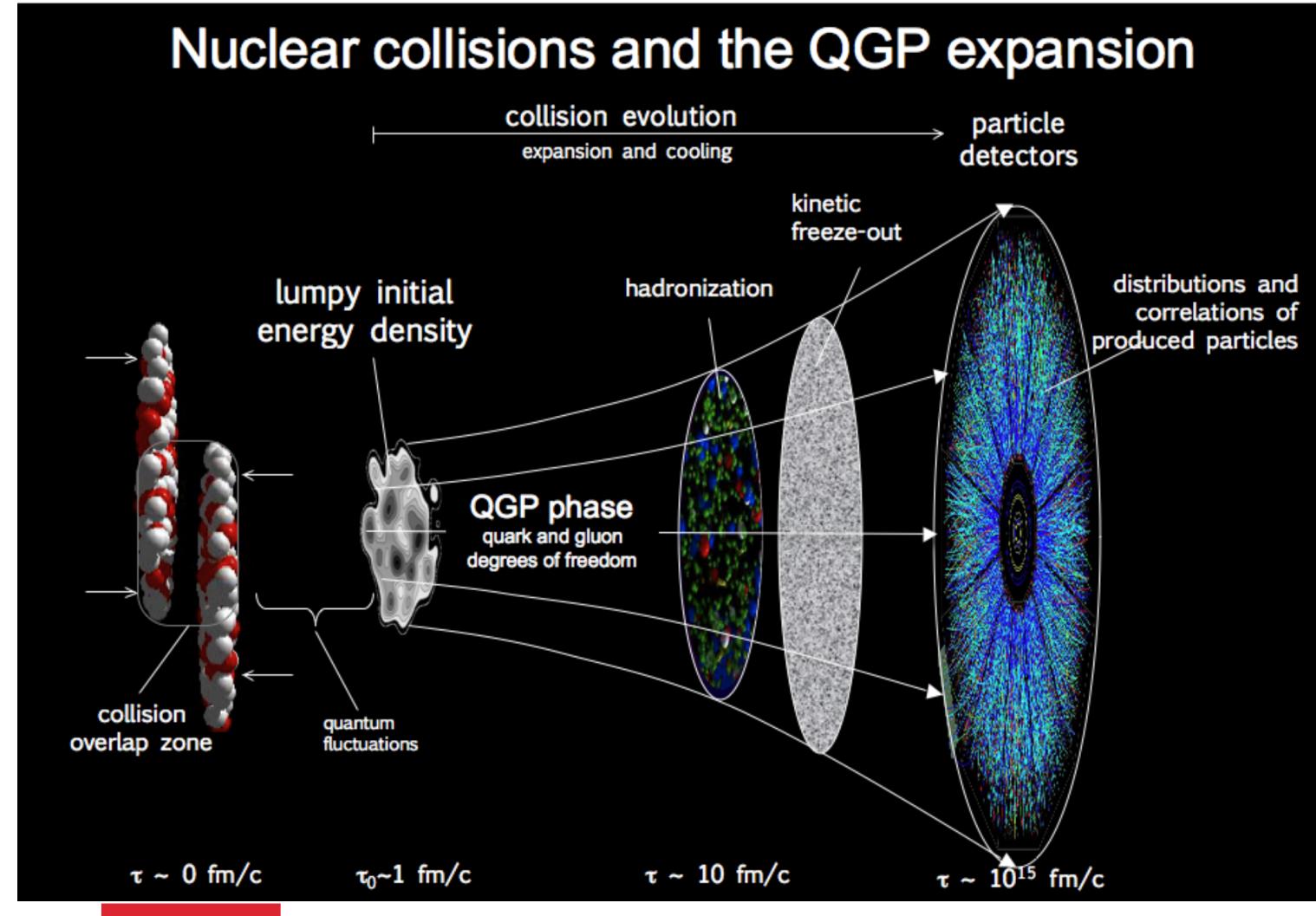
Nuclear structure measurements



Relativistic heavy ion collisions

The
“Little
Bang”

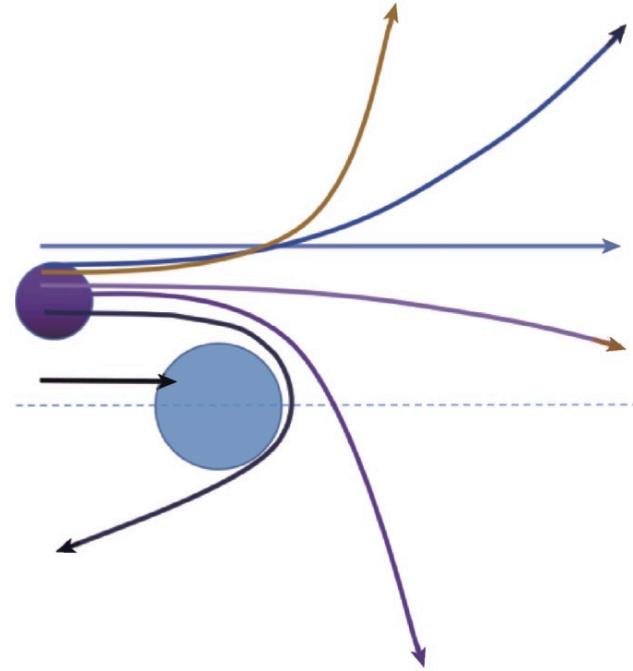
$$\sqrt{s} = 100 \text{ GeV} \sim \text{TeV}$$





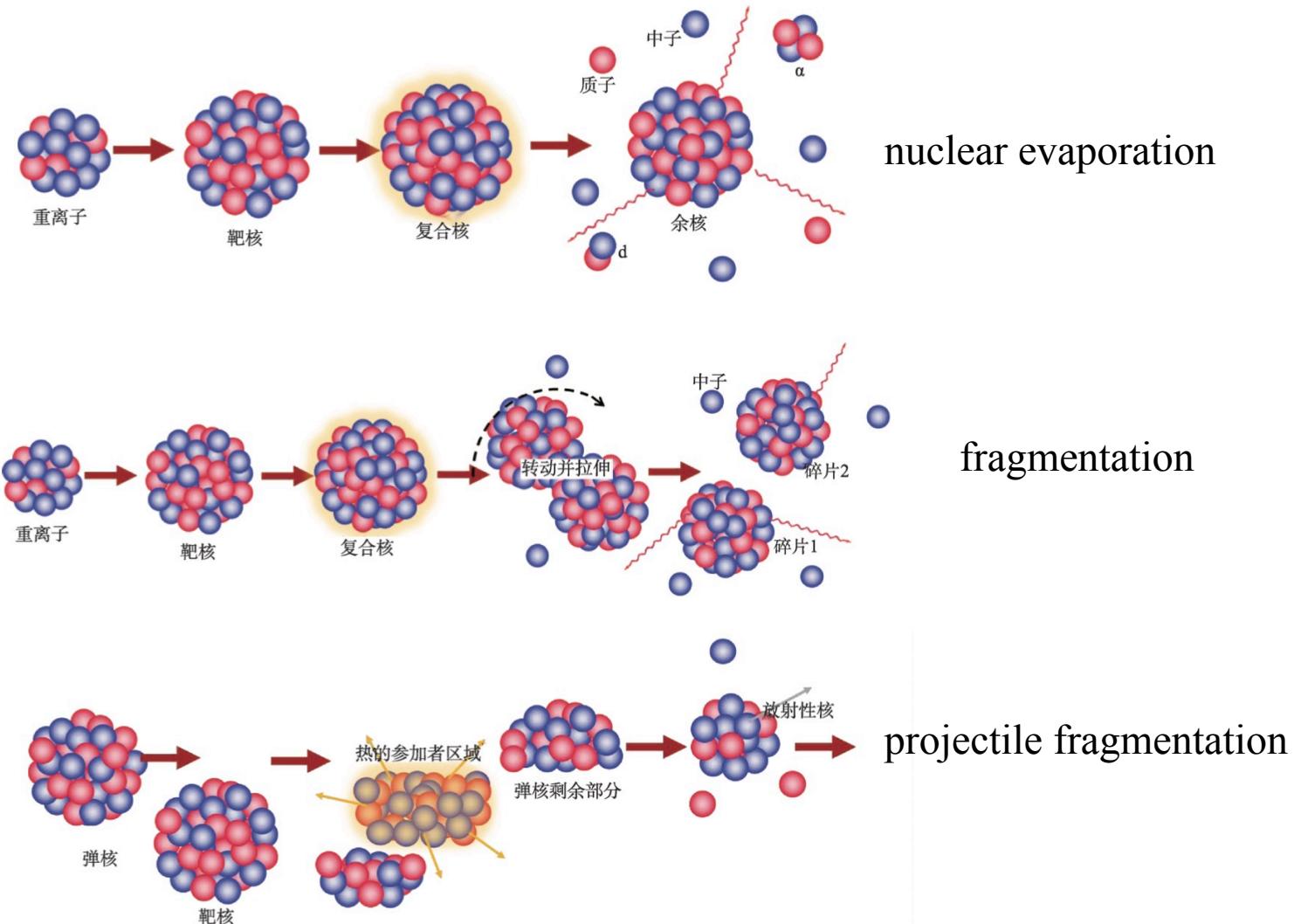
Nucleus-Nucleus Reactions (Collisions)

G. Jin, Modern Physics



Hard scattering

$$\sqrt{s} < \text{GeV}$$





Nuclear deformation

PHYSICAL REVIEW C, VOLUME 61, 021903(R)

Uranium on uranium collisions at relativistic energies

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Department of Chemistry and Physics, Arkansas State University, P.O. Box 419, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72467-0419

(Received 12 October 1999; published 12 January 2000)

PHYSICAL REVIEW C, VOLUME 61, 034905

High energy collisions of strongly deformed nuclei: An old idea with a new twist

E. V. Shuryak

Department of Physics and Astronomy, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York 11794

(Received 14 July 1999; published 22 February 2000)

PRL 94, 132301 (2005)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
8 APRIL 2005

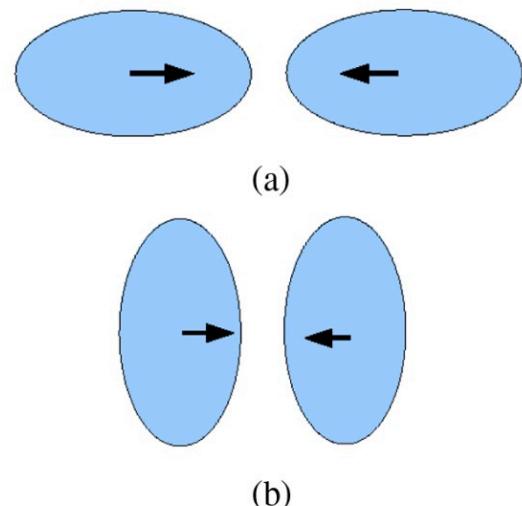
Anisotropic Flow and Jet Quenching in Ultrarelativistic U+U Collisions

Ulrich Heinz and Anthony Kuhlman

Department of Physics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210, USA

(Received 16 November 2004; published 6 April 2005)

S. Voloshin, PRL95, 122301 (2010)

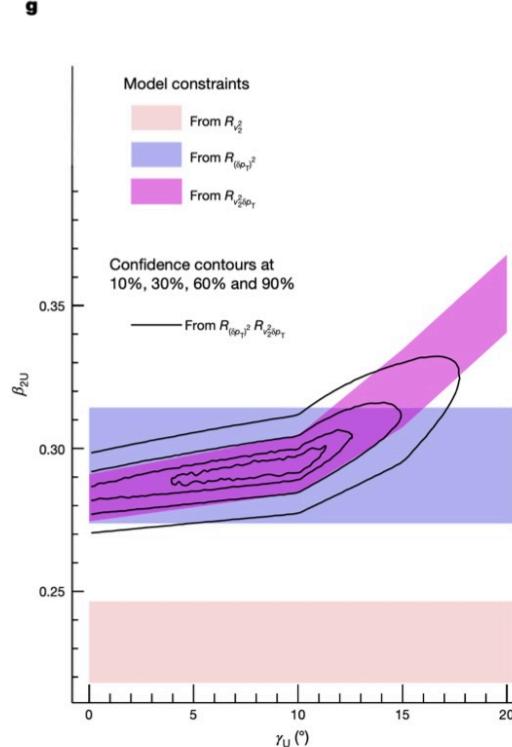
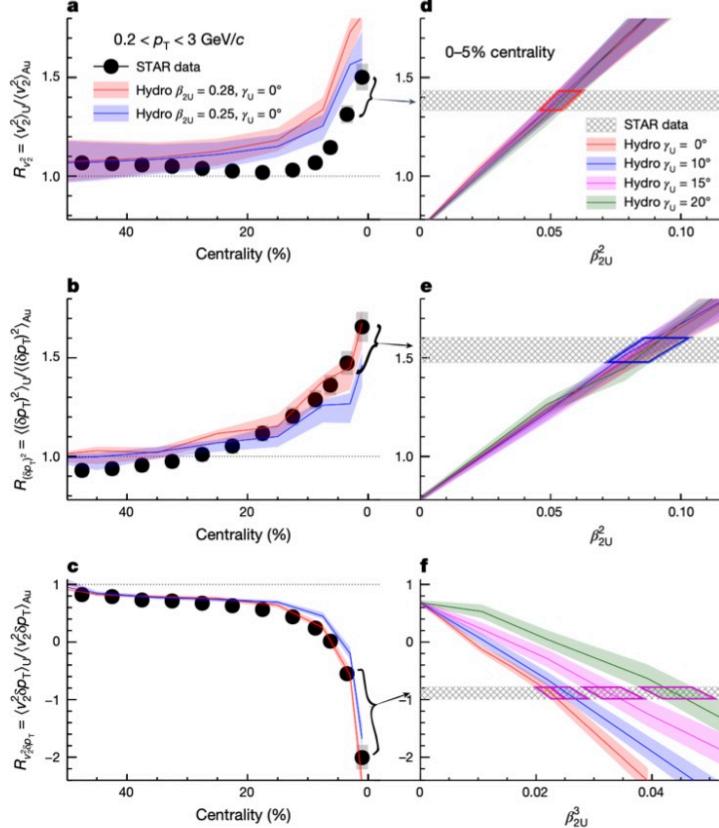


- H. Masui, B. Mohanty, N. Xu, PLB679, 440(2009)
- G. Giacalone, PRC99, 024910 (2019)
- G. Giacalone, J. Jia, C. Zhang, PRL127, 242301(2021)
- J. Jia, PRC105, 014905 (2022)
- B. Bally, et.al, PRL128, 082301(2022)
- C. Zhang, J. Jia, PRL128, 022301(2022)
- H. Mantysaari, et.al, PRL131, 062301(2023)



Semi-isobar collisions

Imaging shape of the ground-state ^{238}U : β_2 and γ



Sufficient precision is achieved from ratios in ultra-central collisions

Relation confirmed from hydro

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v_2^2 \rangle &= a_1 + b_1 \beta_2^2 \\ \langle (\delta p_T)^2 \rangle &= a_2 + b_2 \beta_2^2 \\ \langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle &= a_3 - b_3 \beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma) \end{aligned}$$

C. Zhang
QM25

Constraints on β_2 and γ of ^{238}U simultaneously with data-hydro-comparison

$$\beta_{2\text{U}} = 0.297 \pm 0.015$$

$$\gamma_{\text{U}} = 8.5^\circ \pm 4.8^\circ$$

STAR, Nature 635, 67-72 (2024)
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-024-08097-2>

A large deformation with a slight deviation from axial symmetry in the nuclear ground-state



April 6-12, 2025, Quark Matter, Frankfurt, Germany

Chunjian Zhang (Fudan University)

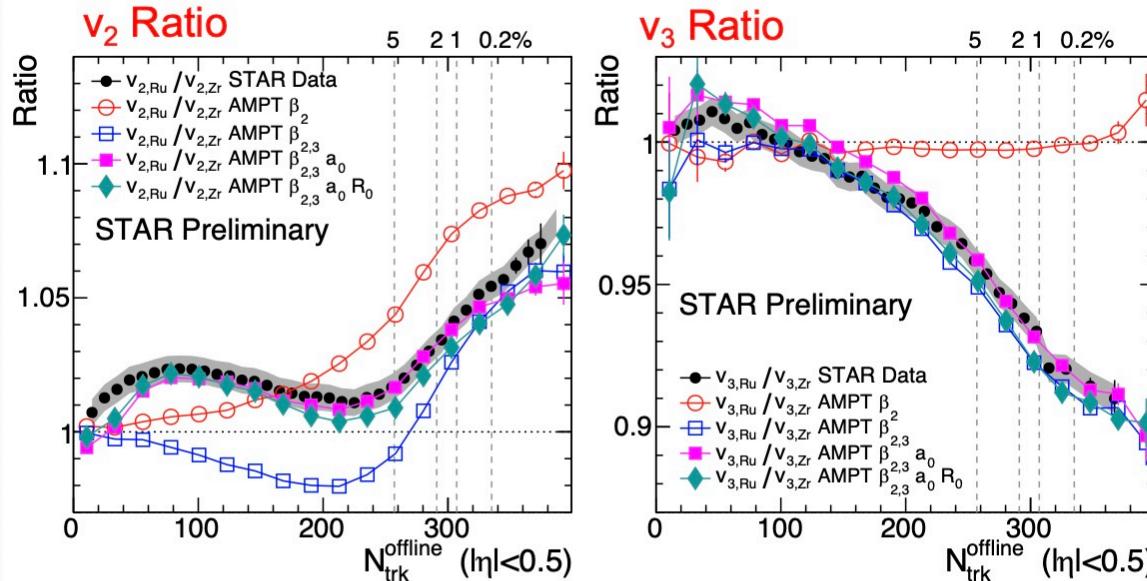
11



Isobar collisions

Nuclear structure via collectivity v_n ratio

$$\frac{\mathcal{O}_{^{96}\text{Ru}} + \mathcal{O}_{^{96}\text{Zr}}}{\mathcal{O}_{^{96}\text{Zr}} + \mathcal{O}_{^{96}\text{Zr}}} = ? = 1$$



- Direct observation of octupole deformation in ^{96}Zr nucleus
- Imply the neutron skin difference between ^{96}Ru and ^{96}Zr
- Simultaneously constrain parameters using Bayesian analysis

$$R_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Ru}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Zr}}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a$$

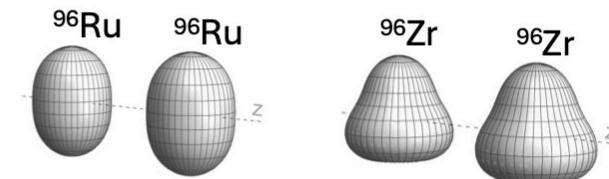
C. Zhang and J. Jia, PRL128, 022301(2022); J. Jia, C. Zhang, PRC 107, L012901(2023)

$\beta_{2,\text{Ru}} \sim 0.16$ increase v_2 , no influence on v_3 ratio

$\beta_{3,\text{Zr}} \sim 0.2$ decrease v_2 in mid-central, decrease v_3 ratio

$\Delta a_0 = -0.06 \text{ fm}$ increase v_2 mid-central, small impact on v_3

Radius $\Delta R_0 = 0.07 \text{ fm}$ only slightly affects v_2 and v_3 ratio.



$$\beta_{2,\text{Ru}} = 0.16 \pm 0.02 \quad \beta_{3,\text{Zr}} = 0.20 \pm 0.02$$

difference	$\Delta \beta_2^2$	$\Delta \beta_3^2$	Δa_0	ΔR_0
	0.0226	-0.04	-0.06 fm	0.07 fm

Current estimation is from transport model

C. Zhang
QM25



Neutron skin: sensitive probe of symmetry energy

$$^{96}_{40}\text{Zr} : (N - Z)/A = 0.167$$

$$^{96}_{44}\text{Ru} : (N - Z)/A = 0.083$$

$$\Delta r_{\text{np}}^{\text{Zr}} \gg \Delta r_{\text{np}}^{\text{Ru}}$$

DFT(eSHF): State-of-the-art DFT calculation using extended Skyrme-Hartree-Fock (eSHF) model.

Z. Zhang, L. Chen, PRC94, 064326(2016)

$$E(\rho, \delta) = E_0(\rho) + \textcolor{red}{E_{\text{sym}}}(\rho)\delta^2 + O(\delta^4); \quad \rho = \rho_n + \rho_p; \quad \delta = \frac{\rho_n - \rho_p}{\rho};$$

Slope parameter :

$$L \equiv L(\rho) = 3\rho \left[\frac{dE_{\text{sym}}(\rho)}{d\rho} \right]_{\rho=\rho_0} \text{saturation density}$$

$$L(\rho_c) = 3\rho_c \left[\frac{dE_{\text{sym}}(\rho)}{d\rho} \right]_{\rho=\rho_c=0.11\rho_0/0.16}$$

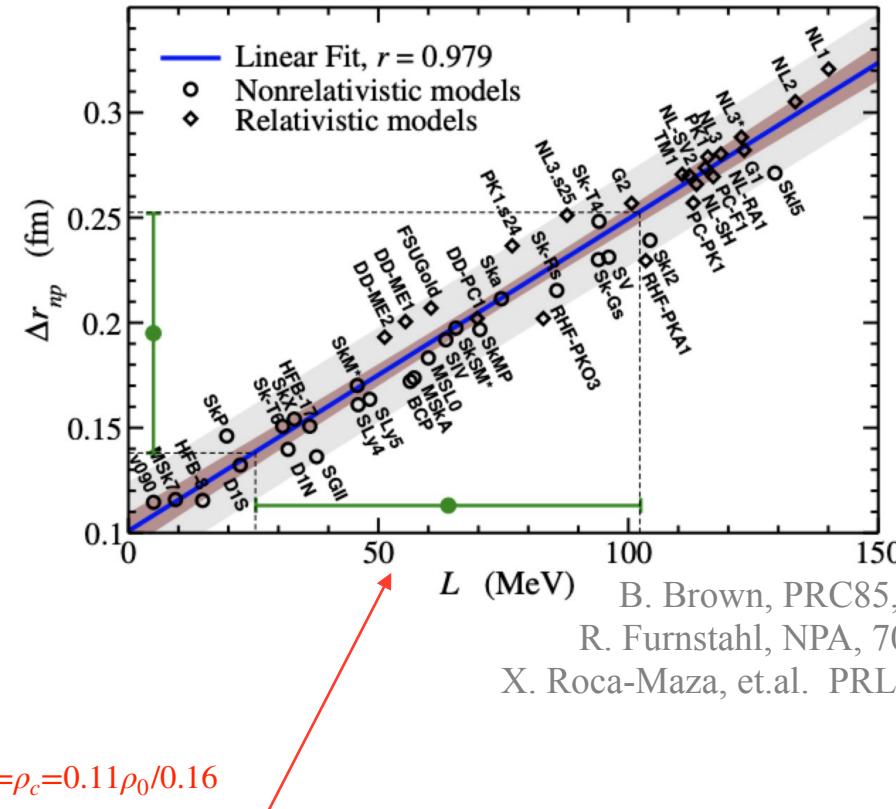
Larger L Harder EOS

1

Need small δ to lower E

1

Smaller ρ_n , larger Δr



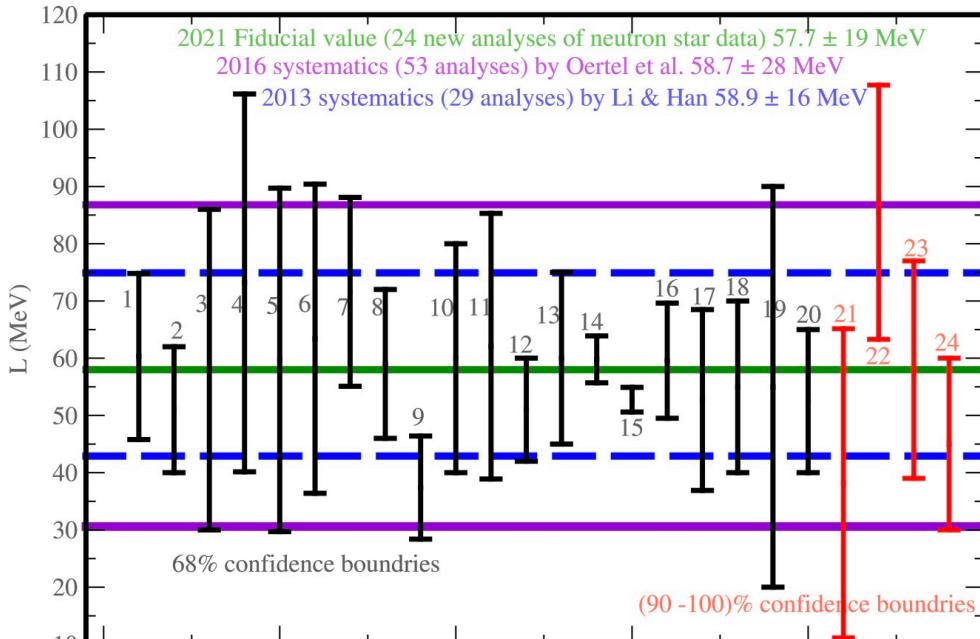
徐浩洁(湖州师范学院)

The symmetry energy is crucial to our understanding of the masses and drip lines of neutron-rich nuclei and the equation of state (EOS) of nuclear and neutron star matter.

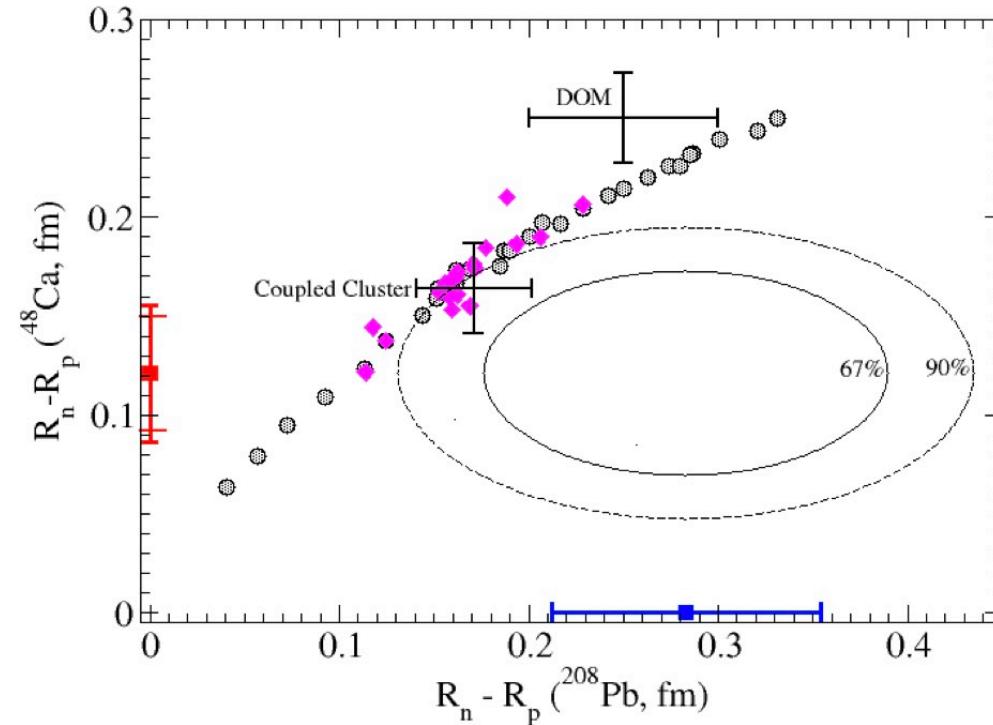


Nuclear symmetry energy

B. Li, et.al, Universe 7, 182 (2021)



CREX Collaboration, PRL129, 042501 (2022)



Symmetry energy is transitionally measured by low energy nuclear experiment. Over many decades, the issue is still not fully settled; e.g. world average L parameter is about 50 MeV, PREX electroweak measurement favors 100 MeV whereas CREX favors 30 MeV.



Probing the neutron skin thickness

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **125**, 222301 (2020)

Observables sensitive to neutron skin thickness

Probing the Neutron Skin with Ultrarelativistic Isobaric Collisions

Hanlin Li¹, Hao-jie Xu^{2,*}, Ying Zhou,³ Xiaobao Wang,² Jie Zhao,⁴ Lie-Wen Chen,^{3,†} and Fuqiang Wang^{2,4,‡}

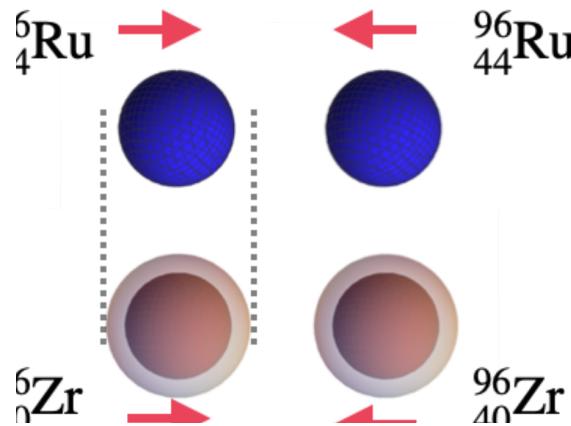
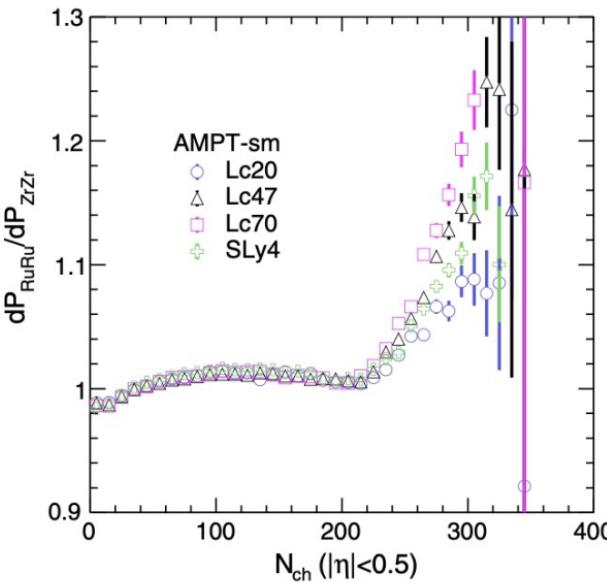
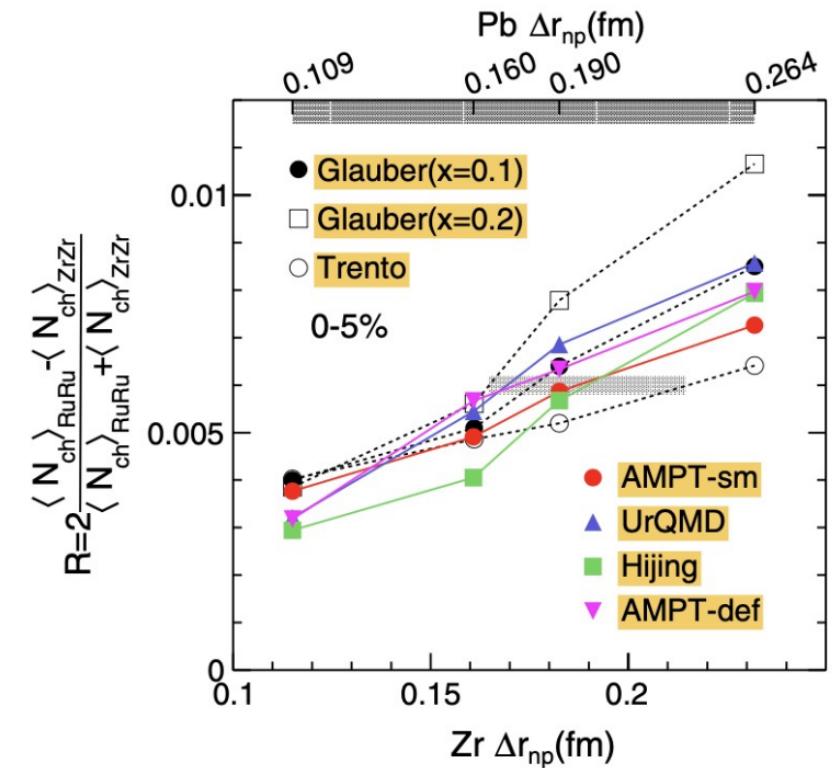


FIG. 3. Ratio of the N_{ch} distribution in $\text{Ru} + \text{Ru}$ to that in $\text{Zr} + \text{Zr}$ for various densities in AMPT-sm. The other models are similar.





Mean transverse momentum

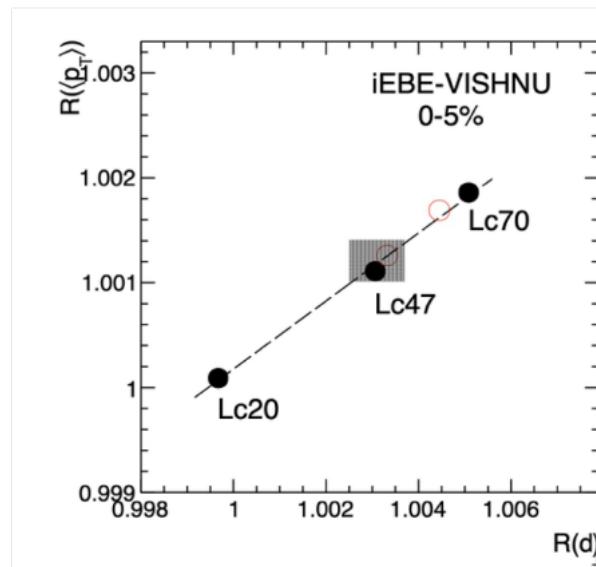
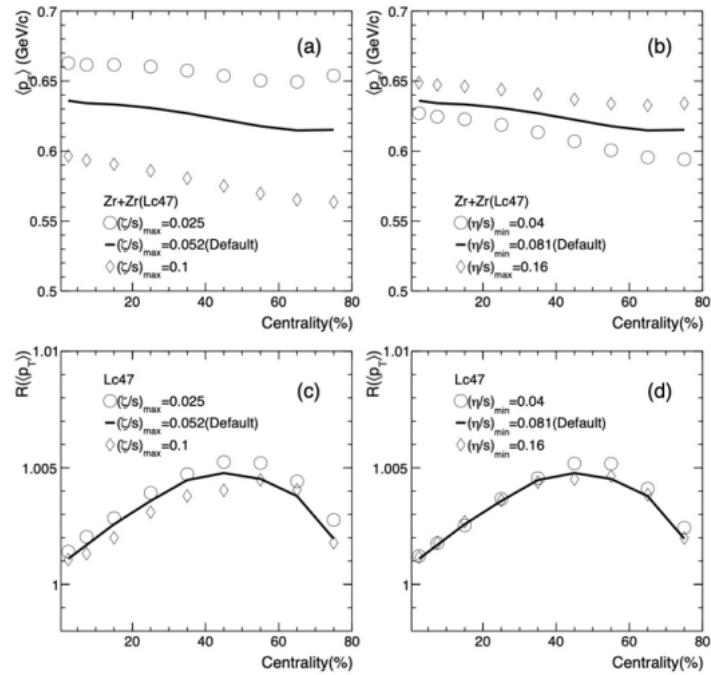
PHYSICAL REVIEW C 108, L011902 (2023)

Letter

Probing nuclear structure with mean transverse momentum in relativistic isobar collisions

Hao-jie Xu ^{1,2}, Wenbin Zhao ³, Hanlin Li, ⁴ Ying Zhou, ⁵ Lie-Wen Chen ^{1,5}, and Fuqiang Wang ^{1,2,6}

$$\kappa(\langle p_T \rangle) \propto \kappa(a_\perp) \propto 1/\kappa(\langle \sqrt{r^-} \rangle)$$



The $R(\langle p_T \rangle)$ is inversely proportional to nuclear size ratio in most central collisions.



STAR Preliminary results



Compare to world wide data

State-of-the-art **spherical** DFT with eSHF nuclear potential

Zhang, Chen, PRC94, 064326 (2016)

- Multiplicity ratio:

$$L(\rho_c) = 53.8 \pm 1.7 \pm 7.8 \text{ MeV}$$

$$L(\rho) = 65.4 \pm 2.1 \pm 12.1 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Delta r_{\text{np},\text{Zr}} = 0.195 \pm 0.019 \text{ fm}$$

$$\Delta r_{\text{np},\text{Ru}} = 0.051 \pm 0.009 \text{ fm}$$

- $\langle p_T \rangle$ ratio:

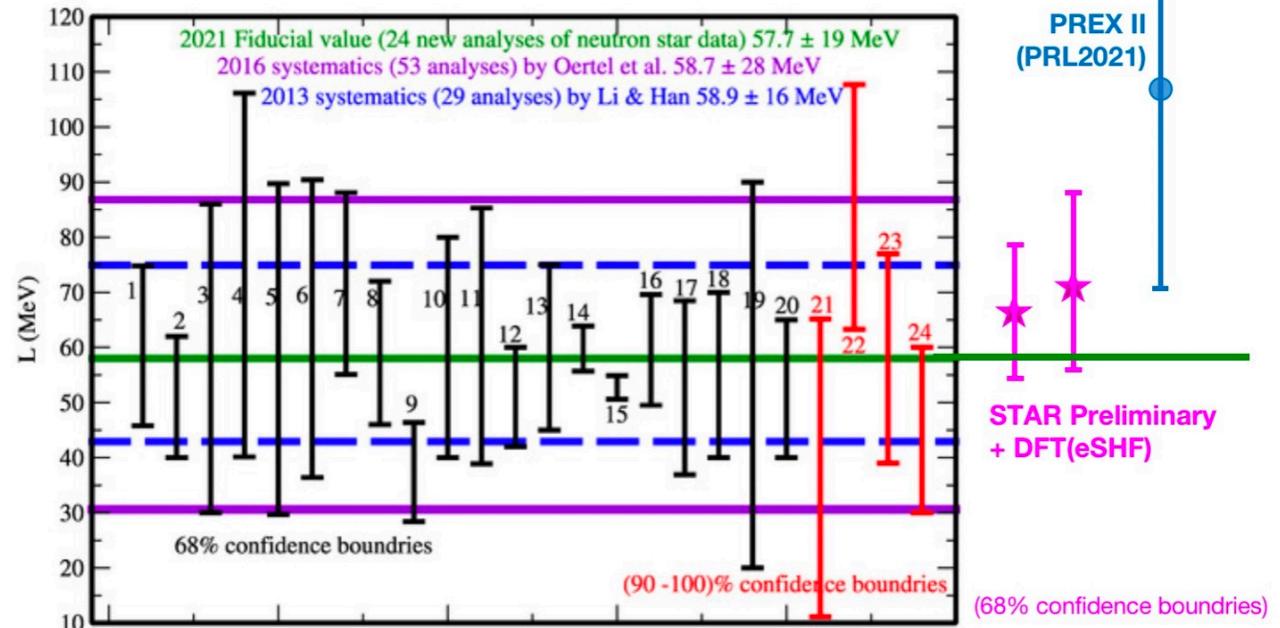
$$L(\rho_c) = 56.8 \pm 0.4 \pm 10.4 \text{ MeV}$$

$$L(\rho) = 69.8 \pm 0.7 \pm 16.0 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Delta r_{\text{np},\text{Zr}} = 0.202 \pm 0.024 \text{ fm}$$

$$\Delta r_{\text{np},\text{Ru}} = 0.052 \pm 0.012 \text{ fm}$$

B. Li, et.al Universe 7, 182 (2021)



Consistent with world wide data with good precision

Haojie Xu

第二十届中高能核物理大会



徐浩洁 (湖州师范学院)



More studies

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评述

高能核-核碰撞和原子核结构专题



通过相对论重离子碰撞研究中子皮和核对称能

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贾江涌¹, 马余刚², 宋慧超³, 周善贵⁴

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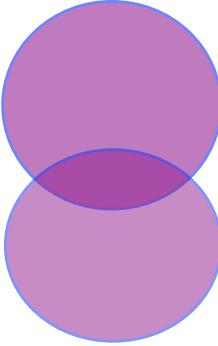
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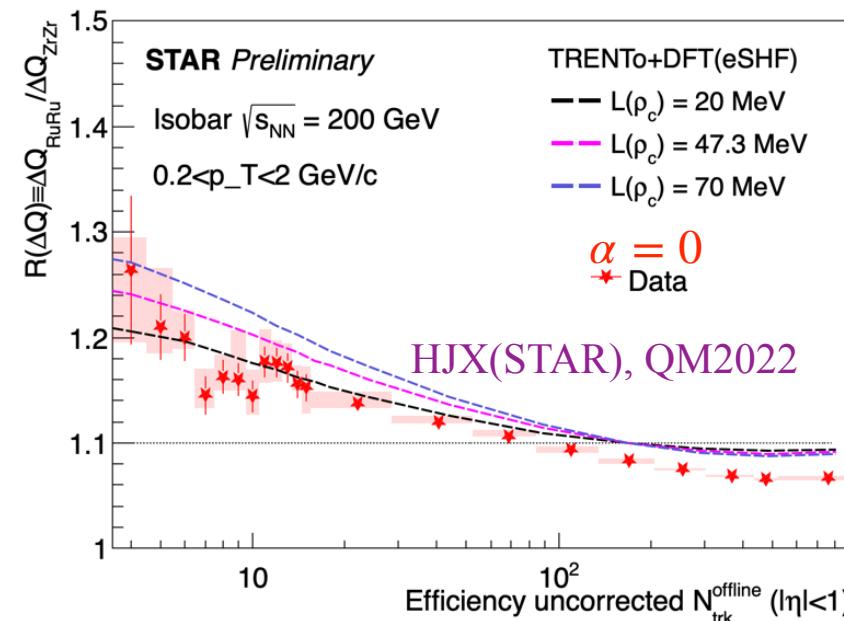
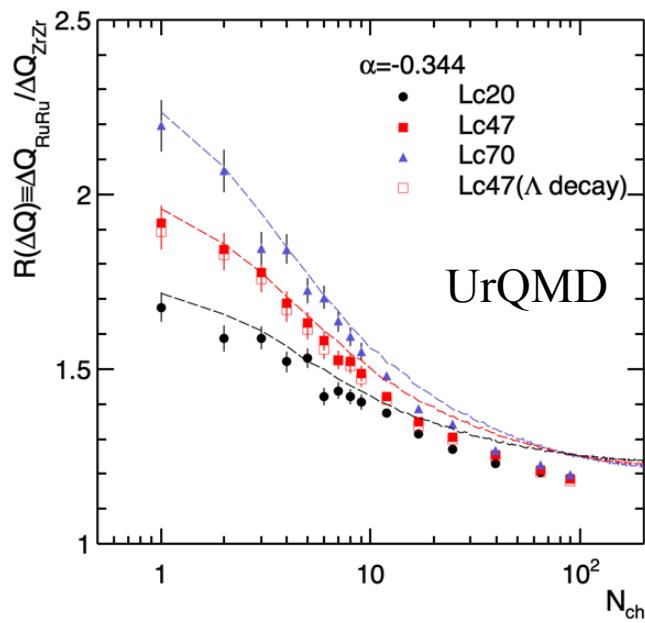
Net charges

HJX, et.al., PRC105, L011901 (2022)

For the colliding nuclei with large neutron skin thickness



more n+n collisions at most peripheral collisions;
Less participant charges,
thus less final net-charges



The curves are calculated by superimposition assumption

$$R(\Delta Q) = \frac{q_{RuRu} + \alpha/(1 - \alpha)}{q_{ZrZr} + \alpha/(1 - \alpha)}$$

where $q_{RuRu/ZrZr}$ are the fraction of protons among the participant nucleons, obtained by the Trento model.

α is the ΔQ ratio in nn to pp interaction:

Pytha: $\alpha = -0.352$

Hijing: $\alpha = -0.389$

UrQMD: $\alpha = -0.344$

STAR data: $\alpha \simeq 0$

Baryon junction? Zebo Tang's talk

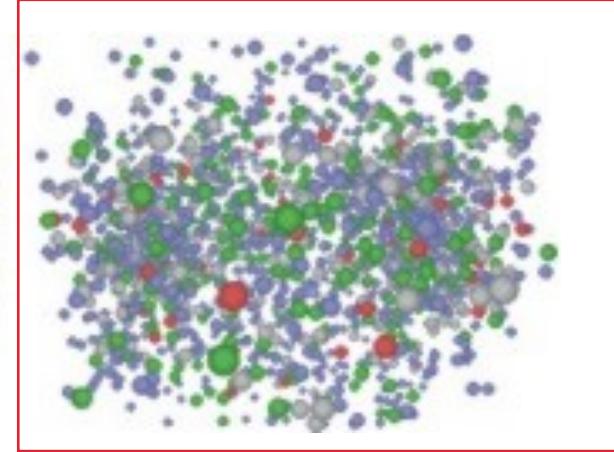
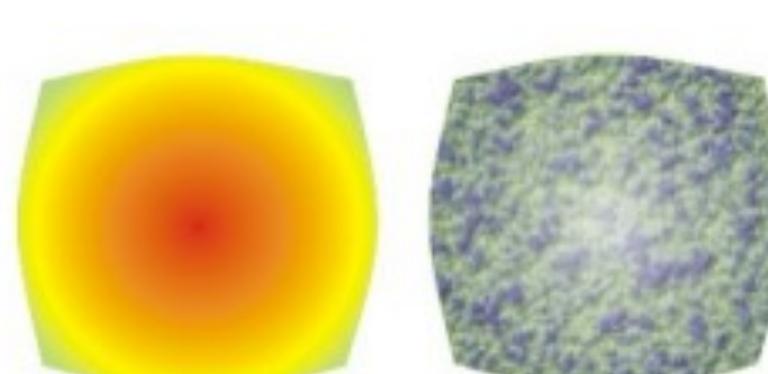
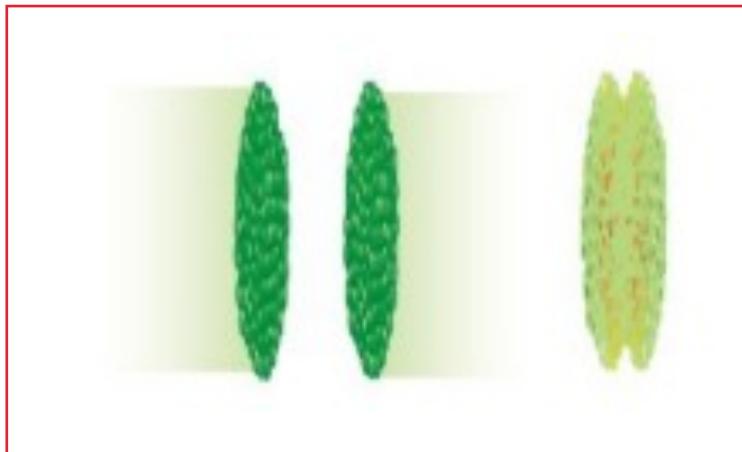
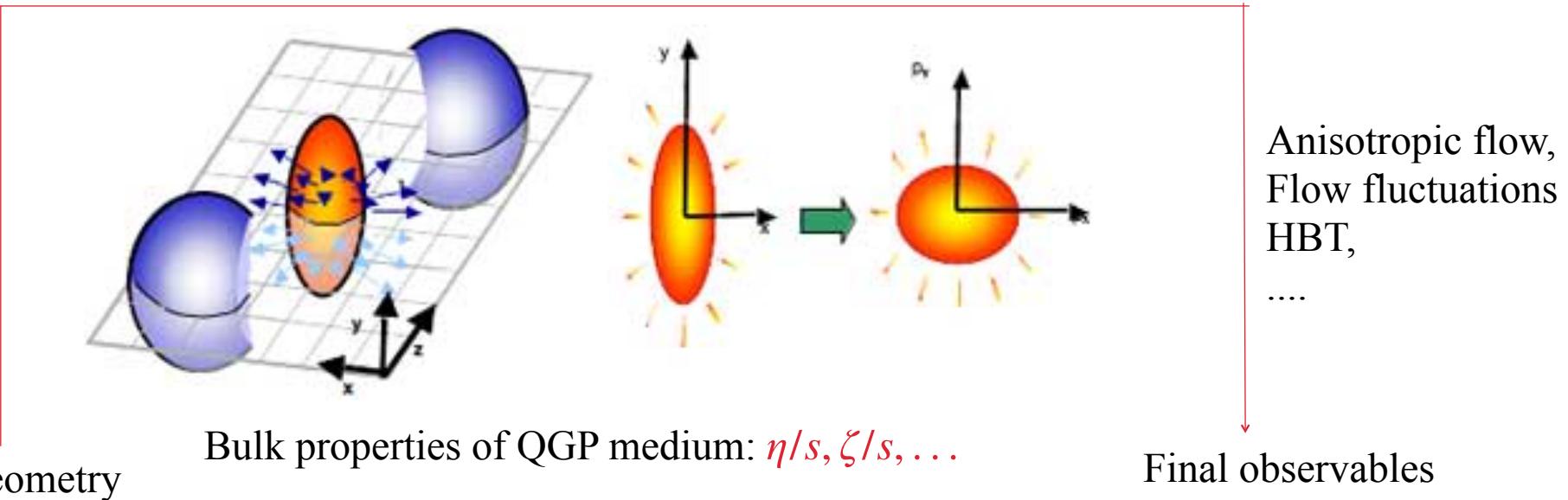
Solve the flow puzzle with nuclear structure



Solve the flow puzzle with nuclear structure

$$\rho(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp[(r - R)/\alpha]}$$

$$R = R_0 [1 + \beta_2 Y_2^0(\theta) + \beta_4 Y_4^0(\theta)]$$

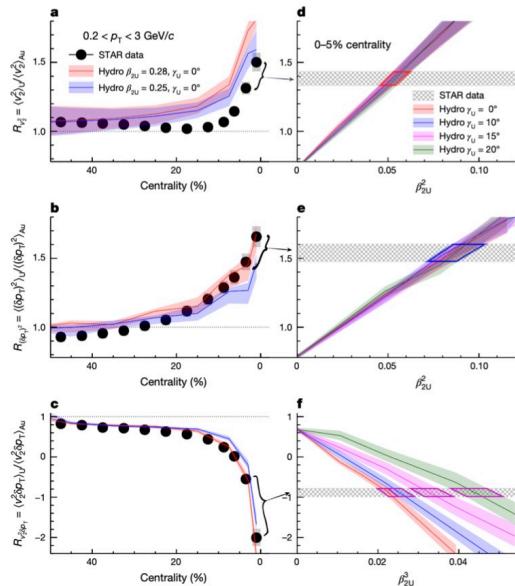




Semi-isobar collisions

C. Zhang QM25

Imaging shape of the ground-state ^{238}U : β_2 and γ



A large deformation with a slight deviation from axial symmetry in the nuclear ground-state

Sufficient precision is achieved from ratios in ultra-central collisions

Relation confirmed from hydro

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v_2^2 \rangle &= a_1 + b_1 \beta_2^2 \\ \langle (\delta p_T)^2 \rangle &= a_2 + b_2 \beta_2^2 \\ \langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle &= a_3 - b_3 \beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma) \end{aligned}$$

Constraints on β_2 and γ of ^{238}U simultaneously with data-hydro-comparison

$$\beta_{2\text{U}} = 0.297 \pm 0.015$$

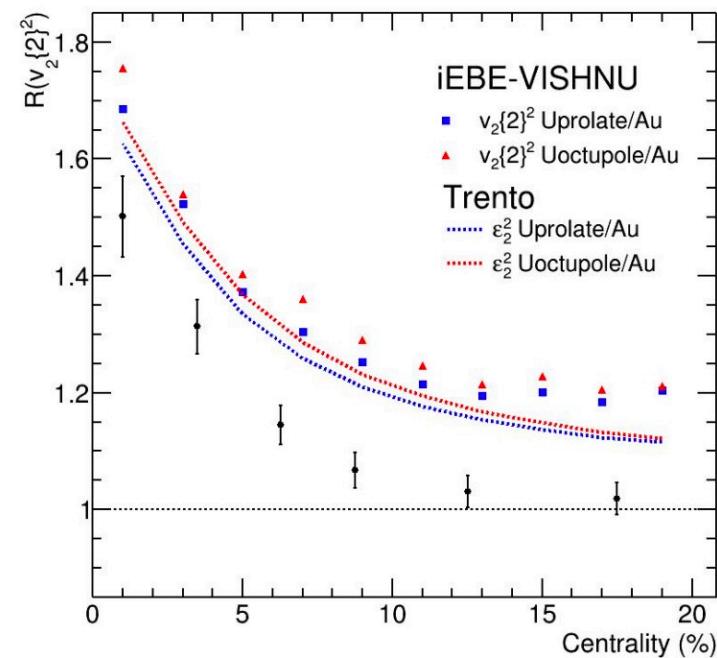
$$\gamma_{\text{U}} = 8.5^\circ \pm 4.8^\circ$$

STAR, Nature 635, 67-72 (2024)
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-024-08097-2>

$R(v_2^2)$ is not used for the above β_2 extractions
 $R(v_2^2) - \beta_2 = 0.234 \pm 0.014$

Yuan Li Poster 184

Probing octupole deformation in U-238 via relativistic heavy-ion collisions



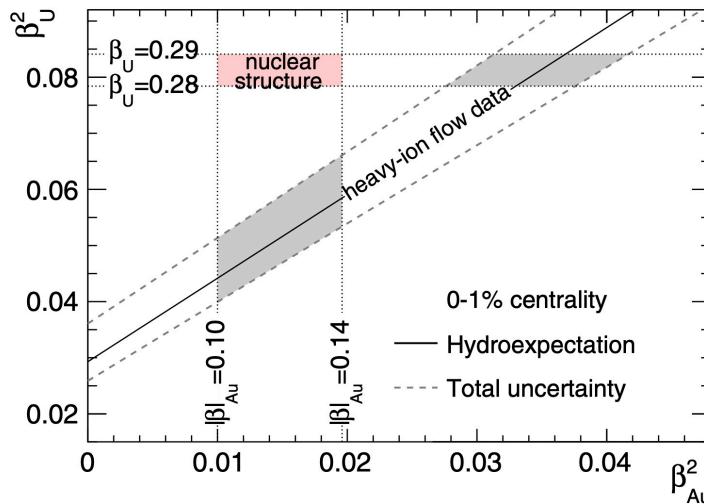
$$\beta_2 = 0.29$$

CDFT density instead of Woods-Saxon density
 $R(v_2^2)$ is consistent with data



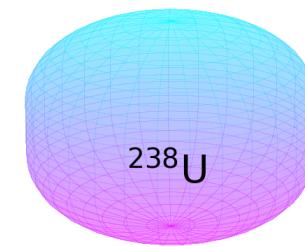
Hexadecapole deformation

G. Giacalone, et.al, PRL127, 242301 (2021)

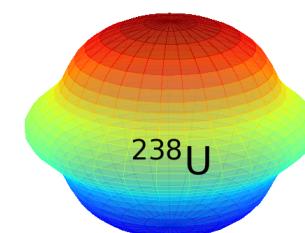


$$\beta_2^* \propto BE(2)$$

$$BE(2,U) = 12.09 \pm 0.02 \quad e^2 b^2$$



or



$$\beta_{2,U} \sim 0.28, \quad \beta_{4,U} \sim 0$$

$$\beta_2^* \propto (\beta_2 + \frac{2}{7} \sqrt{\frac{5}{\pi}} \beta_2^2 + \frac{12}{7\sqrt{\pi}} \beta_2 \beta_4 + \dots)$$

$$\beta_{2,U} \sim 0.25, \quad \beta_{4,U} \sim 0.1$$

$$\beta_{2,Au} \sim 0.17$$

$$R = R_0 [1 + \beta_2 Y_{20} + \beta_4 Y_{40}]$$

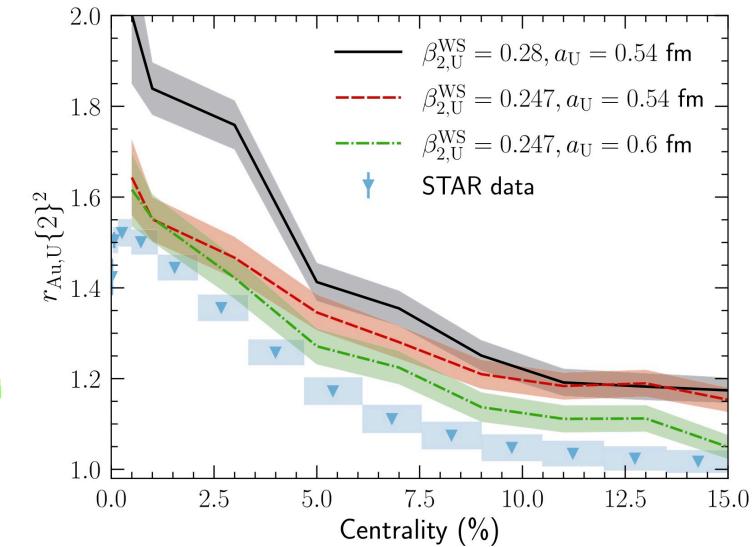
$$\beta_{2,Au} \sim 0.14$$

$\beta_{4,U}$ is poorly known from low-energy nuclear experiments, can it be measured in relativistic heavy ion collisions? **YES!**

Zhi-jie Yang Poster 140

Systematic study of nonlinear response coefficients for the fourth-to-second flow harmonics in relativistic U+U collisions

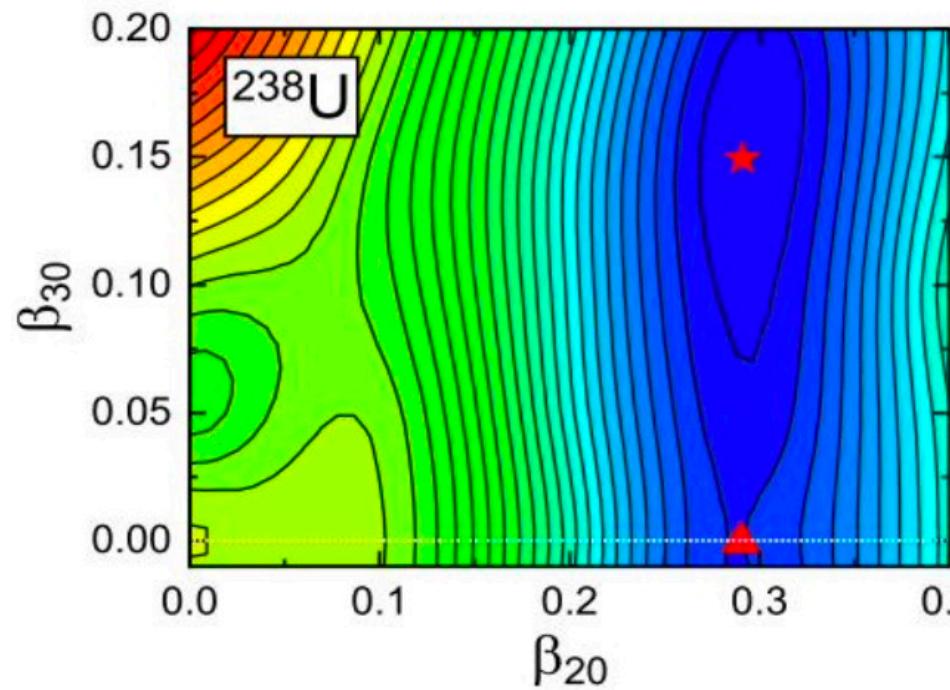
W. Ryssens, et.al, PRL130, 212302 (2023)





Octupole deformation

D. Zhang, et.al, Phys.Rev., C109, 024609(2024)



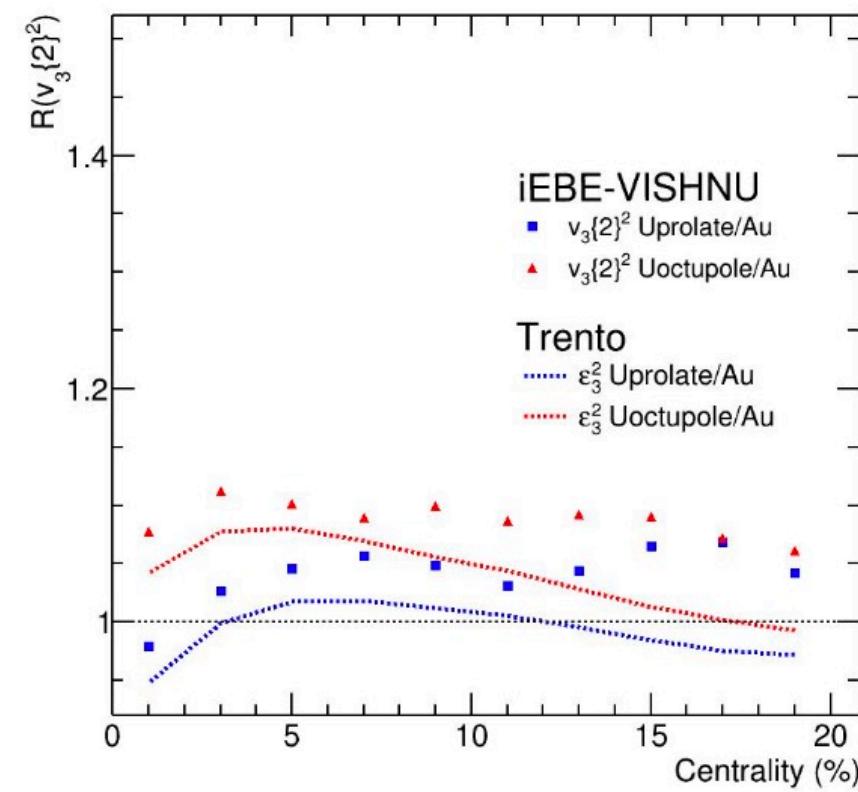
Covariant density functional theory:

$$\beta_{20} = 0.29$$

$$\beta_{30} = 0.15$$

Yuan Li Poster 184

Probing octupole deformation in U-238 via relativistic heavy-ion collisions



CDFT density instead of Woods-Saxon density

$R(v_2^3)$ can be used to determine the octupole deformation.



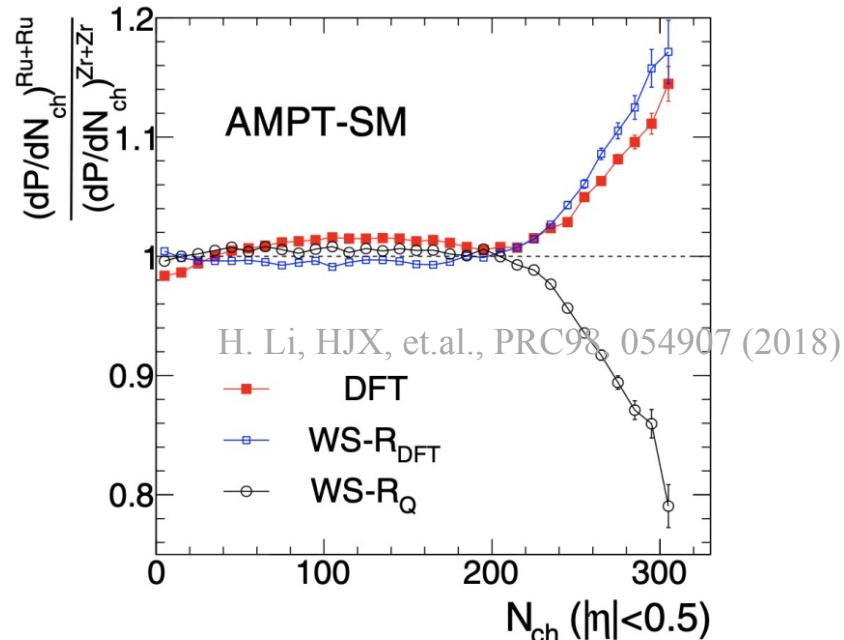
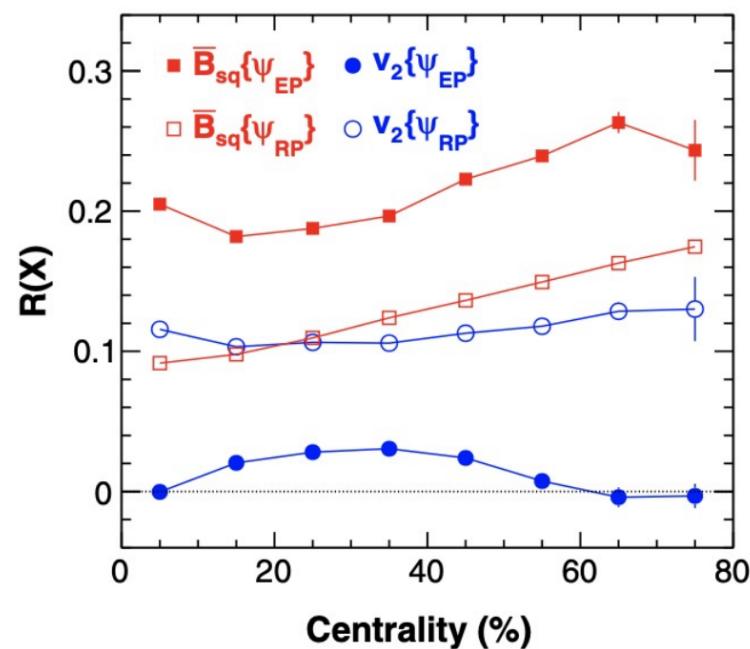
Solve the flow puzzle with nuclear structure

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 121, 022301 (2018)

Instead of WS densities, we use the nuclear densities obtained from density functional theory calculations

Importance of Isobar Density Distributions on the Chiral Magnetic Effect Search

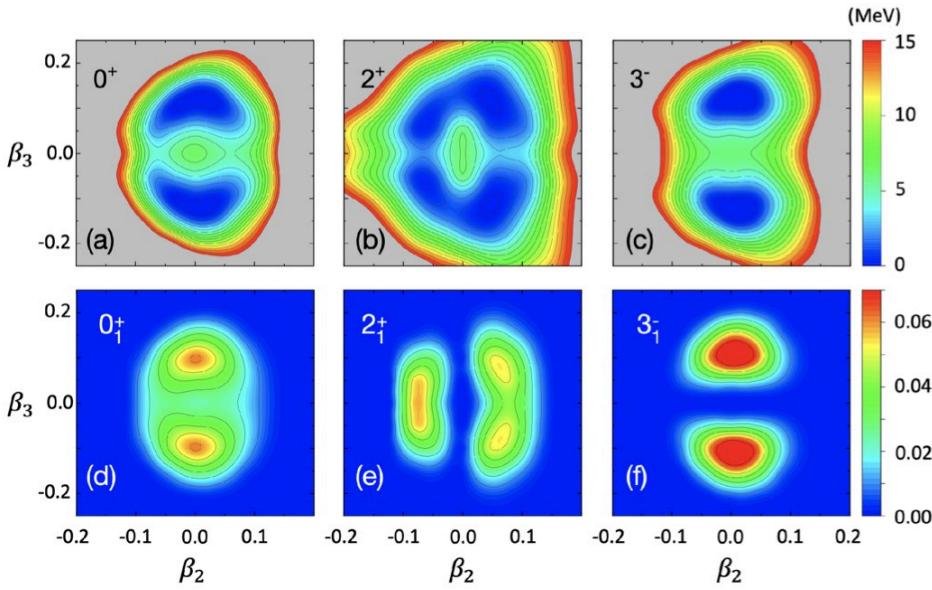
Hao-jie Xu,¹ Xiaobao Wang,¹ Hanlin Li,² Jie Zhao,³ Zi-Wei Lin,^{4,5} Caiwan Shen,¹ and Fuqiang Wang^{1,3,*}



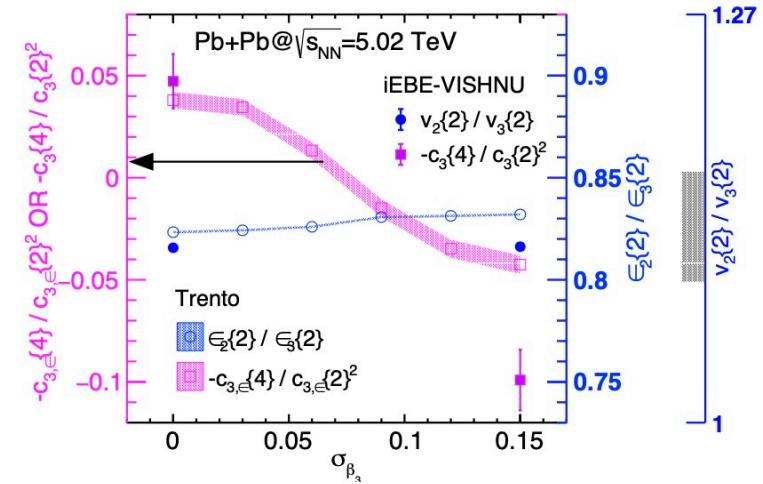
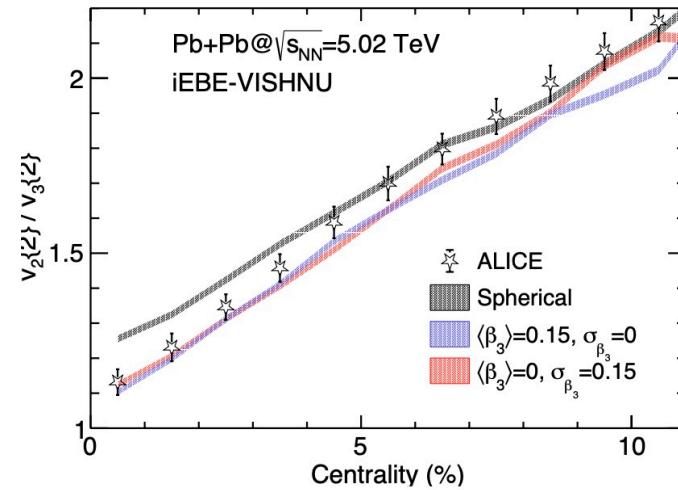


Solve the flow puzzle with nuclear structure

J. Henderson, PRL134, 062502 (2025)



$$P(\beta_3) \propto \exp \left[-\frac{(\beta_3 - \langle \beta_3 \rangle)^2}{2\sigma_{\beta_3}^2} \right].$$



A “breathing” octupole ^{208}Pb nucleus: resolving the elliptical-to-triangular azimuthal anisotropy puzzle in ultracentral relativistic heavy ion collisions



Summary



**Thank you for
your attention!**

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