

# 极端核物质前沿研讨会

## 重离子碰撞中径向流与平均横动量高阶涨落的实验研究

张春健

复旦大学

宜昌，2026年4月24-28日

# Outline

## □ Imaging nuclear structure in heavy ion physics

- Nuclear deformation in  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{96}\text{Ru}/^{96}\text{Zr}$

STAR, *Rep. Prog. Phys.* 88,108601 (2025)

- Cluster pattern in  $^{16}\text{O}$

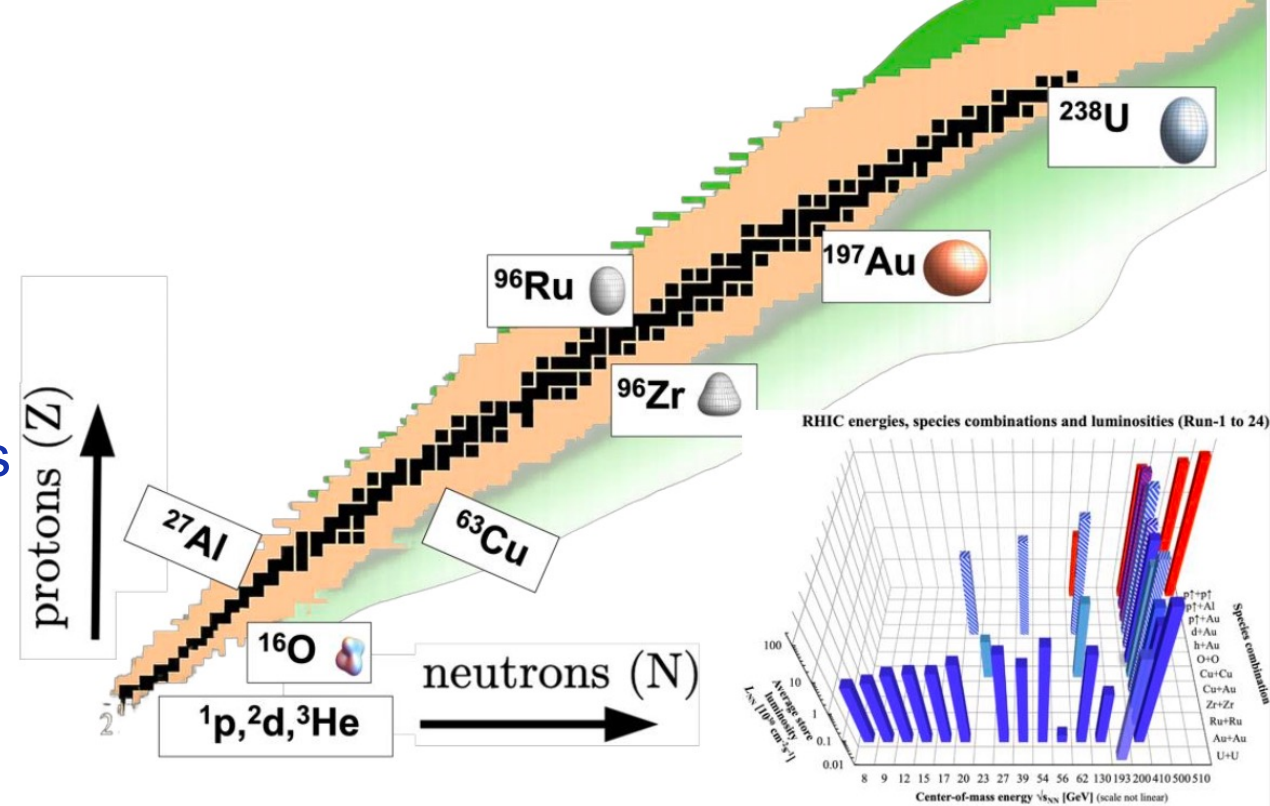
STAR, *arXiv*: 2510.19645

## □ New measurements of radial flow and its fluctuations: system-size and energy dependence

- Second-order fluctuation (Radial flow) in  $^{197}\text{Au}$  and  $^{16}\text{O}$

STAR, *arXiv*: 2604.06434

- High-order fluctuations



# Nuclear deformation in $^{238}\text{U}$ , $^{96}\text{Ru}/^{96}\text{Zr}$

*STAR, Rep. Prog. Phys. 88,108601 (2025)*

# Analogy to the snapshot imaging technique

First-ever image of a black hole



MRI CT image

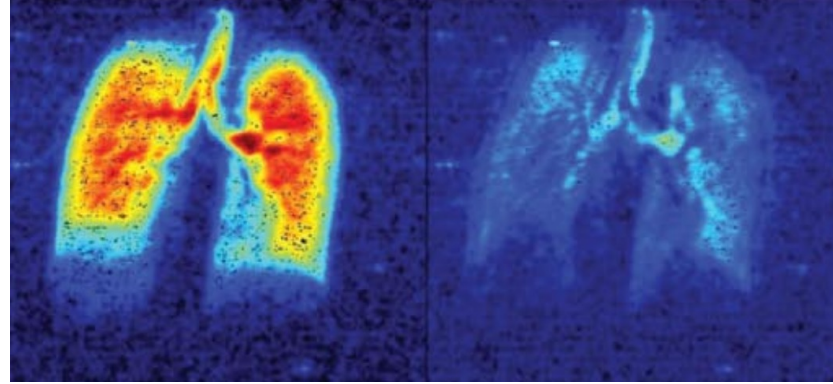
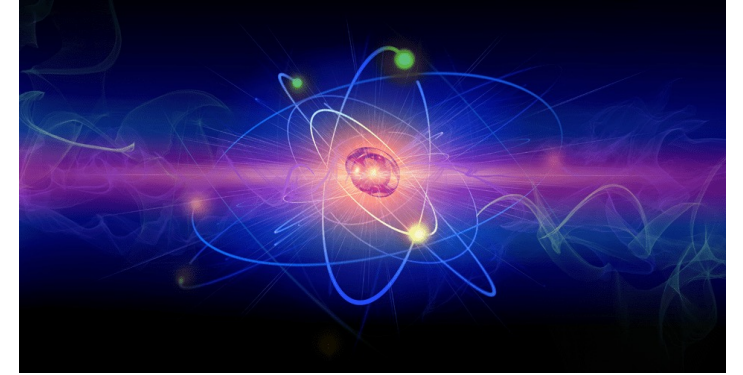


Image of electrons at attosecond



Astronomical scale

Microscopic scale

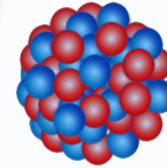
J. Jia et al., *Nucl. Sci. Tech.* 35, 220 (2024), G. Giacalone, *EPJA* 59, 297 (2023), T. Duguet et al., *PRL* 135, 182301 (2025) W. Ke, 2509.09549, ...

Emergent seeing shape directly require access to instantaneous nucleon distributions

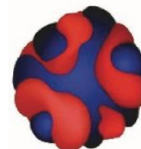
Will see all DOFs longer than exposure timescale:

nucleons, hadrons, quark, gluons, gluon saturations

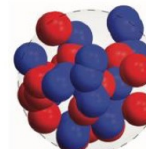
$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2 \dots)$$



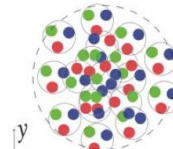
$\ll 1$  MeV



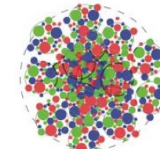
$\sim 1-10$  MeV



$\sim 100$  MeV

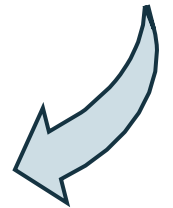


$\sim 1$  GeV



$\gtrsim 100$  GeV

$\rightarrow \sqrt{s_{NN}}$

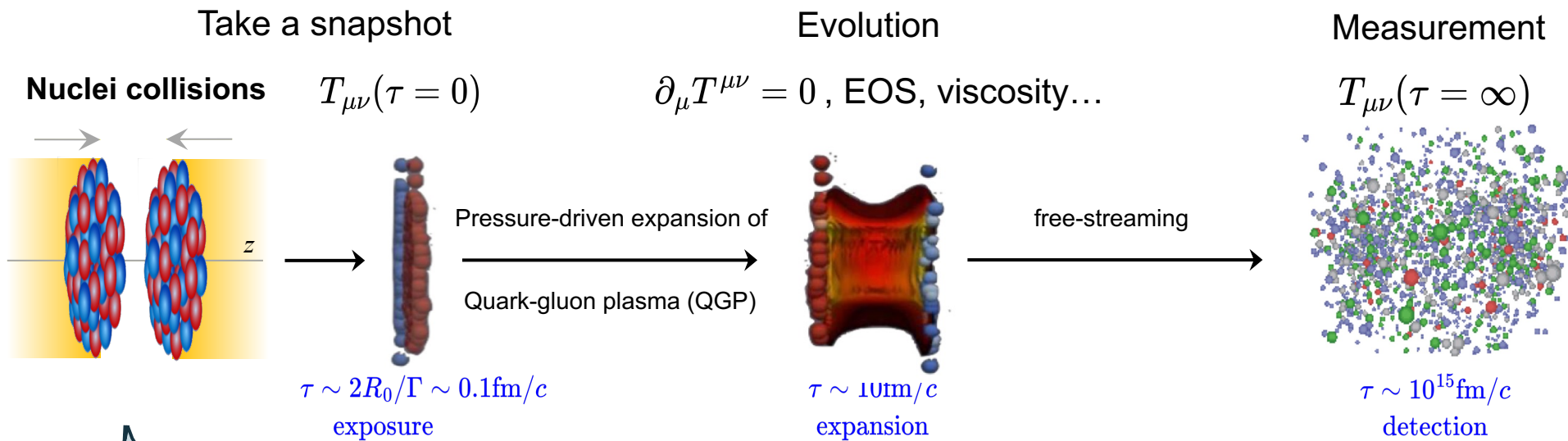


Yoctosecond scale

$$\begin{aligned} 1\text{fm}/c &= 3 \times 10^{-24} \text{ seconds} \\ &= 3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ attoseconds} \\ &= 3 \text{ yoctoseconds} \end{aligned}$$

A new, complementary, and independent of low-energy experiments

# Imaging by smashing method



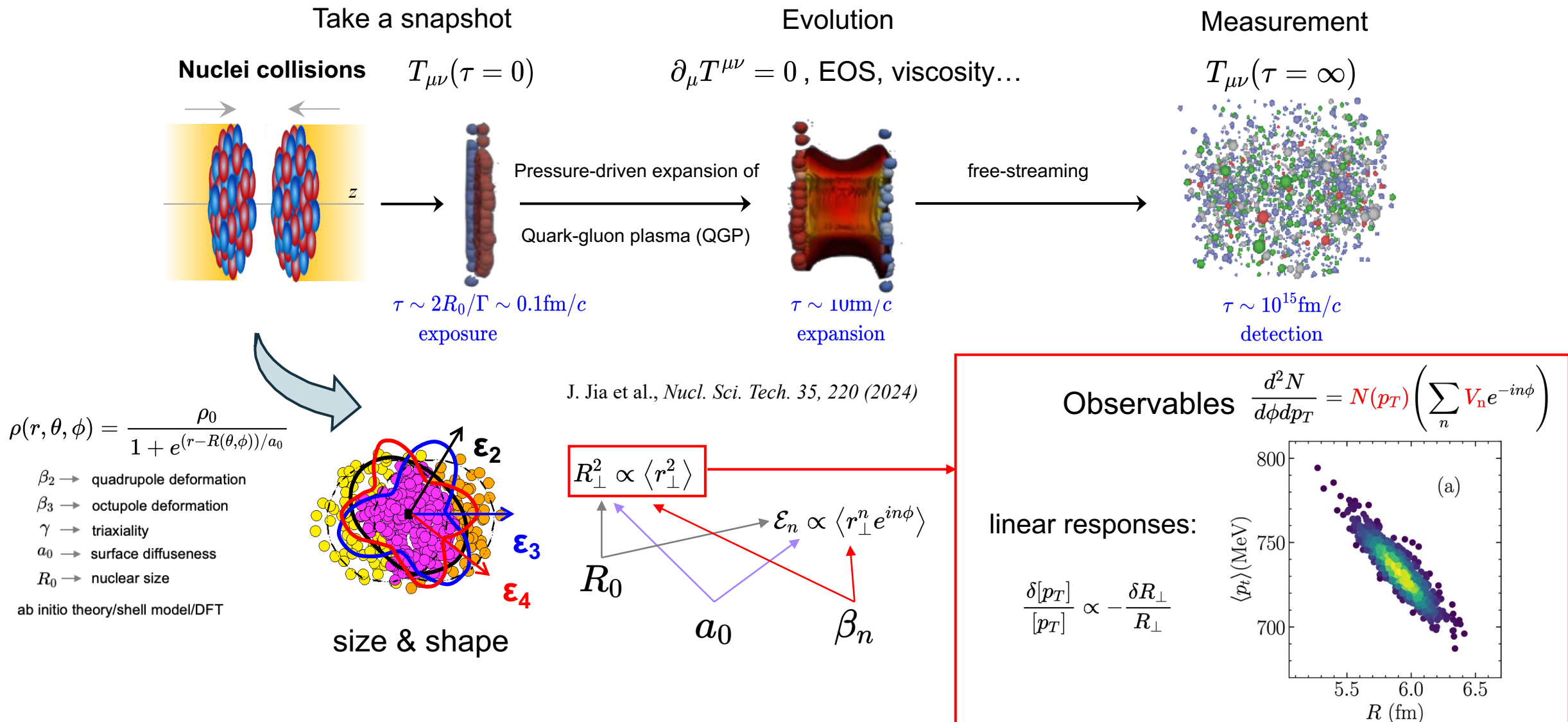
J. Jia et al., *Nucl. Sci. Tech.* 35, 220 (2024)

$$\rho(r, \theta, \phi) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + e^{(r-R(\theta, \phi))/a_0}}$$

- $\beta_2 \rightarrow$  quadrupole deformation
- $\beta_3 \rightarrow$  octupole deformation
- $\gamma \rightarrow$  triaxiality
- $a_0 \rightarrow$  surface diffuseness
- $R_0 \rightarrow$  nuclear size

ab initio theory/shell model/DFT

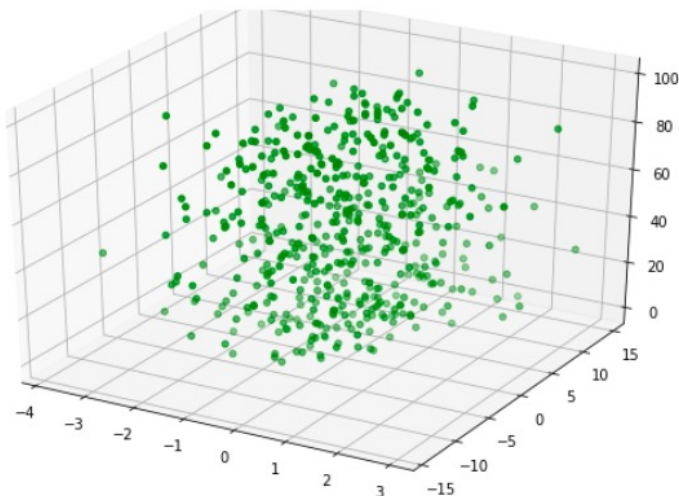
# Imaging by smashing method



Key: 1) fast snapshot, 2) linear response, 3) large multiplicity for many-body correlation

# Mean transverse momentum fluctuations

$$f(p_{x1}, p_{y1}, p_{z1}, p_{x2}, p_{y2}, p_{z2} \dots)$$



## Event-by-event temperature fluctuations

J. Jia, S. Huang, C. Zhang, *PRC* 105, 014906 (2022)

S. Bhatta, C. Zhang, J. Jia, *PRC* 106, L031901 (2022)

C. Zhang, A. Behera, S. Bhatta, J. Jia, *PLB* 822, 136702 (2021)

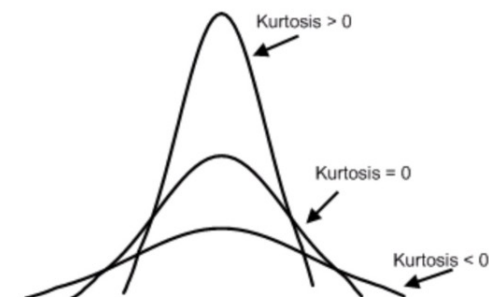
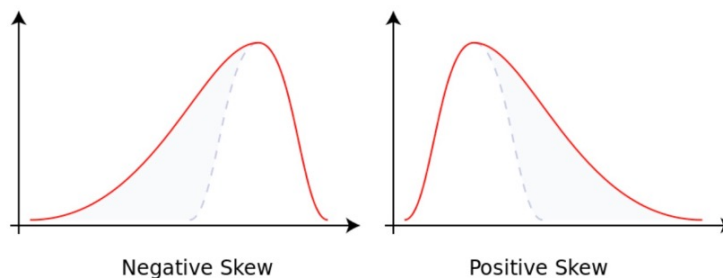
Mean: 
$$\langle\langle p_t \rangle\rangle = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N_{\text{events}}} \langle p_t \rangle_k}{N_{\text{events}}} \quad \text{where} \quad \langle p_t \rangle_k = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_k} p_{t,i}}{N_k}$$

Variance: 
$$\langle(\delta p_T)^2\rangle = \frac{\sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_i \omega_j (p_{T,i} - \langle p_T \rangle) (p_{T,j} - \langle p_T \rangle)}{\sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_i \omega_j},$$

Skewness: 
$$\langle(\delta p_T)^3\rangle = \frac{\sum_{i,j \neq i, k \neq j \neq i} \omega_i \omega_j \omega_k (p_{T,i} - \langle p_T \rangle) (p_{T,j} - \langle p_T \rangle) (p_{T,k} - \langle p_T \rangle)}{\sum_{i,j \neq i, k \neq j \neq i} \omega_i \omega_j \omega_k},$$

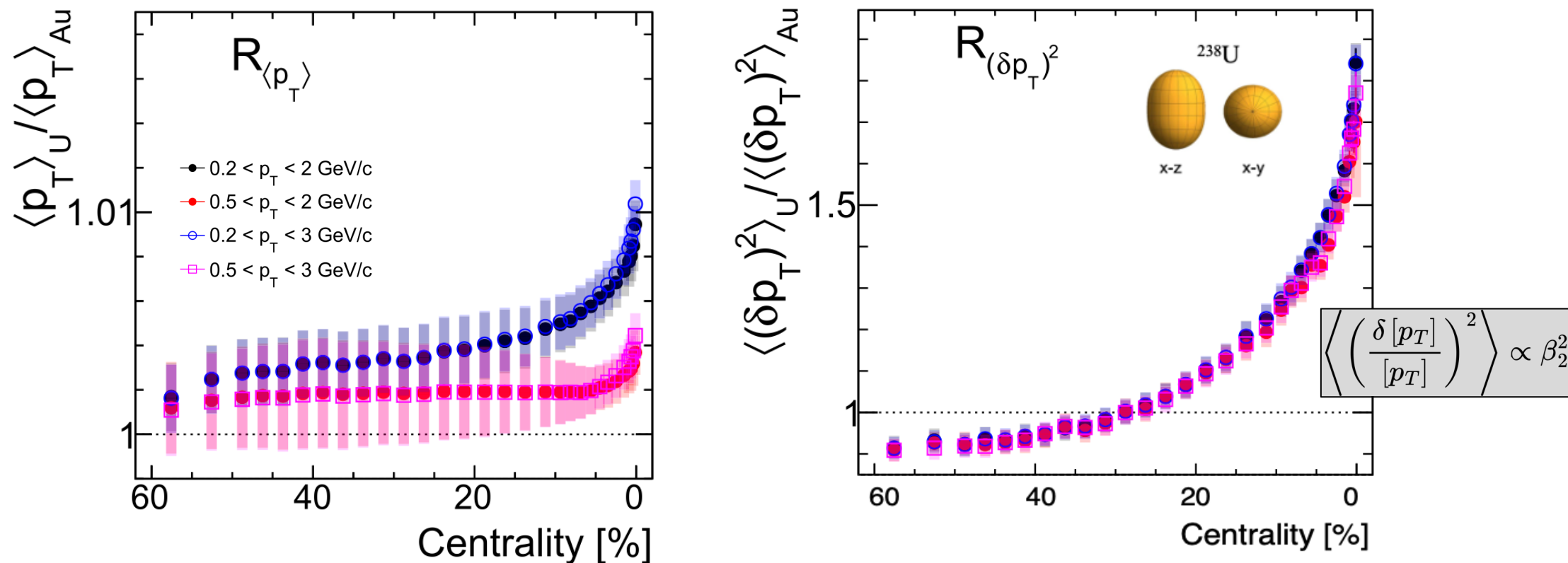
Kurtosis: 
$$\langle(\delta p_T)^4\rangle = \frac{\sum_{i,j \neq i, k \neq j \neq i, l \neq k \neq j \neq i} \omega_i \omega_j \omega_k \omega_l (p_{T,i} - \langle p_T \rangle) (p_{T,j} - \langle p_T \rangle) (p_{T,k} - \langle p_T \rangle) (p_{T,l} - \langle p_T \rangle)}{\sum_{i,j \neq i, k \neq j \neq i, l \neq k \neq j \neq i} \omega_i \omega_j \omega_k \omega_l}$$

Related to the entropy of the initial source presumably deposited early in the collision before thermalization and interactions with QGP



# Size fluctuation sensitive to nuclear deformation

STAR, *Rep. Prog. Phys.* 88,108601 (2025)

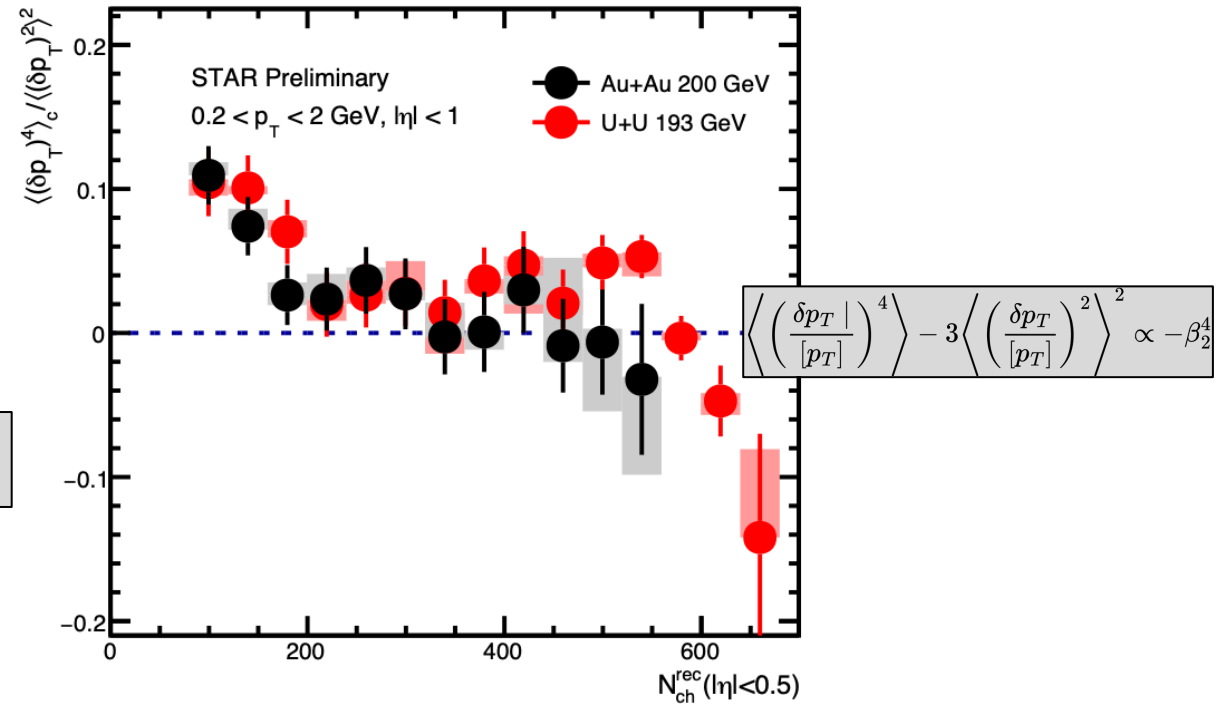
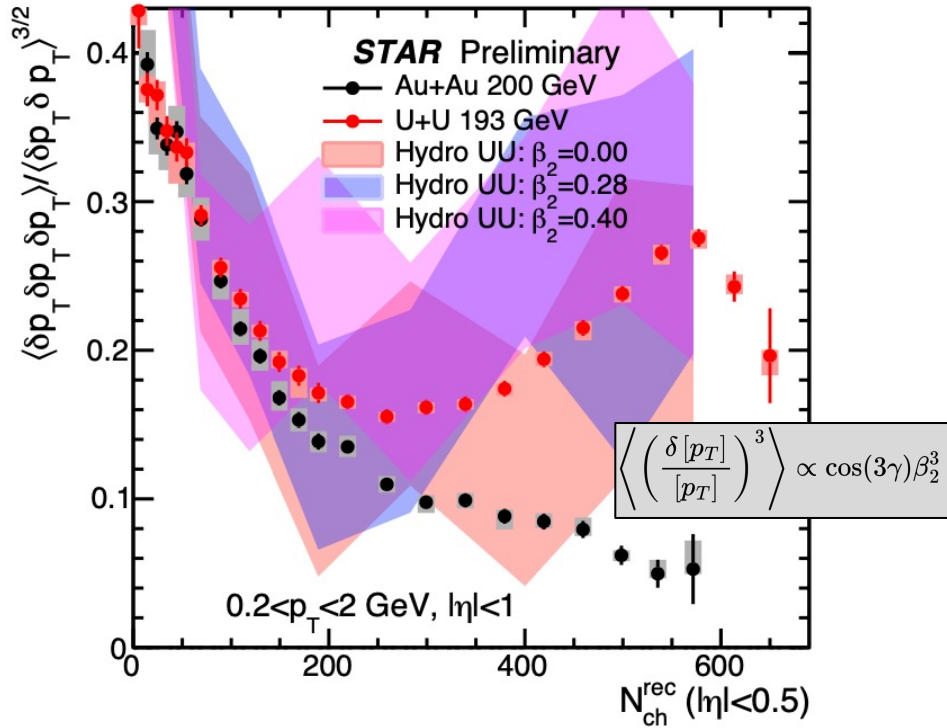


large enhancement in mean and variance  $\rightarrow$  size fluctuations enhanced

A good probe to image nuclear deformation.

# Size fluctuation sensitive to nuclear deformation

C. Zhang (STAR), *IJPE* 32, 2341001 (2023)



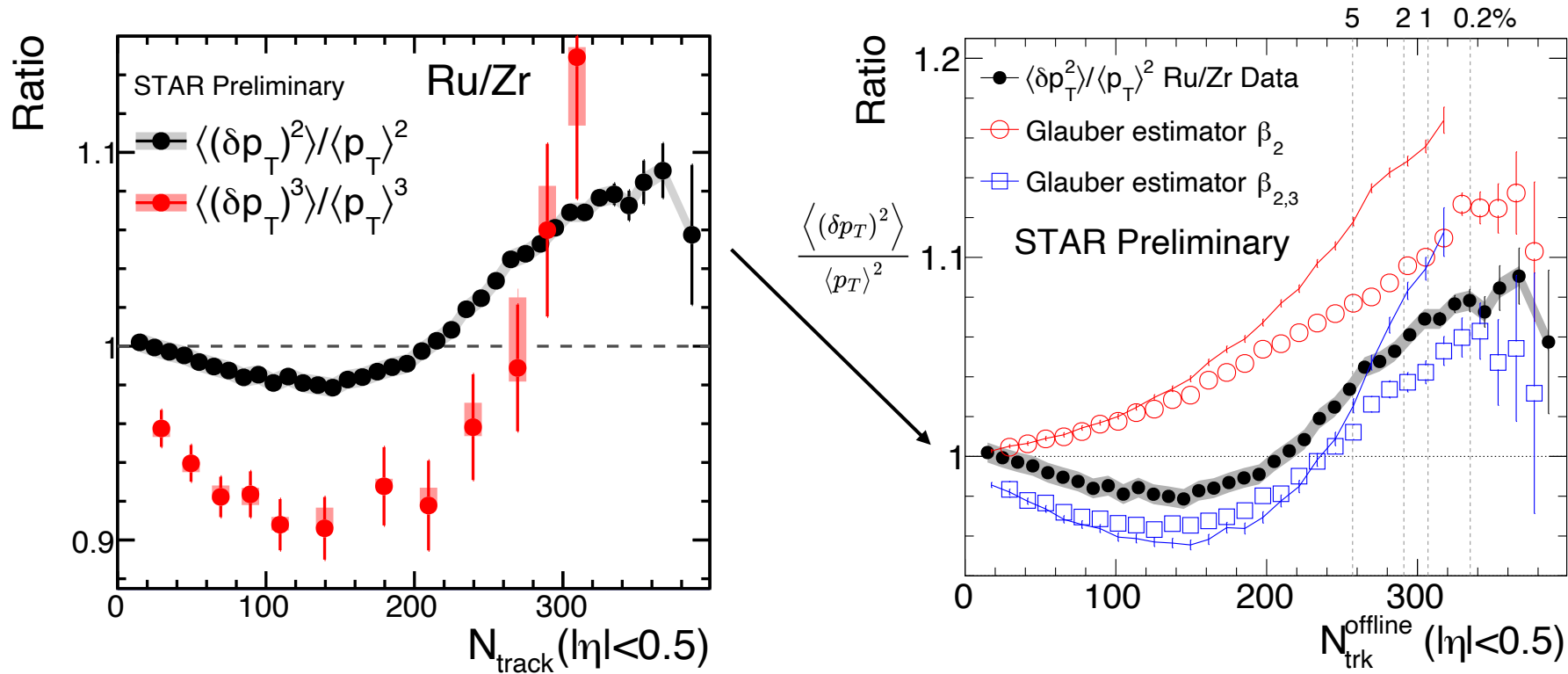
**Independence source model:** following  $1/N_s^{n-1}$  within power-law decrease in high-order

M. Cody et. al., *Phys. Rev. C* 107, (2023)

**Size fluctuations enhanced:** large enhancement in skewness and **sign-change** in kurtosis

confirmed by hydro, but statistics hungry.

# Size fluctuation sensitive to nuclear deformation



$$\left\langle \left( \frac{\delta [p_T]}{[p_T]} \right)^2 \right\rangle \propto \beta_2^2$$

$$\left\langle \left( \frac{\delta [p_T]}{[p_T]} \right)^3 \right\rangle \propto \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3$$

$$\frac{\langle \delta p_T^2 \rangle_{\text{Ru}}}{\langle \delta p_T^2 \rangle_{\text{Zr}}} \approx 1 + \frac{b_0}{a_0} (\beta_{2,\text{Ru}}^2 - \beta_{2,\text{Zr}}^2) - \frac{b_{0,3}}{a_0} \beta_{3,\text{Zr}}^3$$

Cancellation expected in non-central collisions

C. Zhang, J. Jia, *PRL* 128, 022301 (2022)

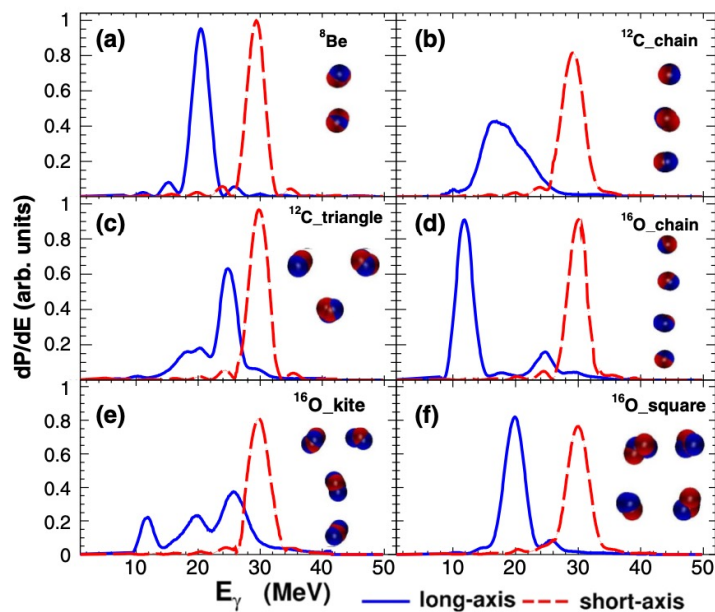
indicate octupole deformation: large enhancement in skewness and sign-change in kurtosis

# Cluster pattern in $^{16}\text{O}$

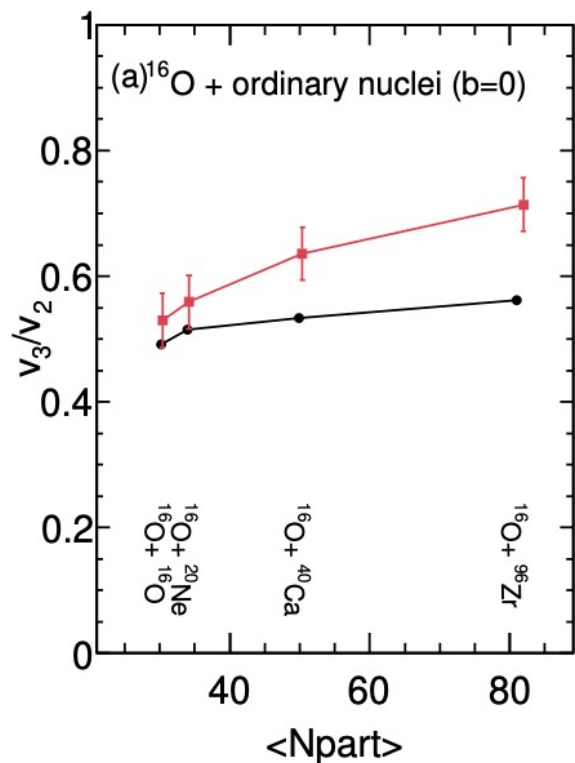
STAR, *arXiv: 2604.06434*

# Pioneer theory instructions of the nucleonic clustering

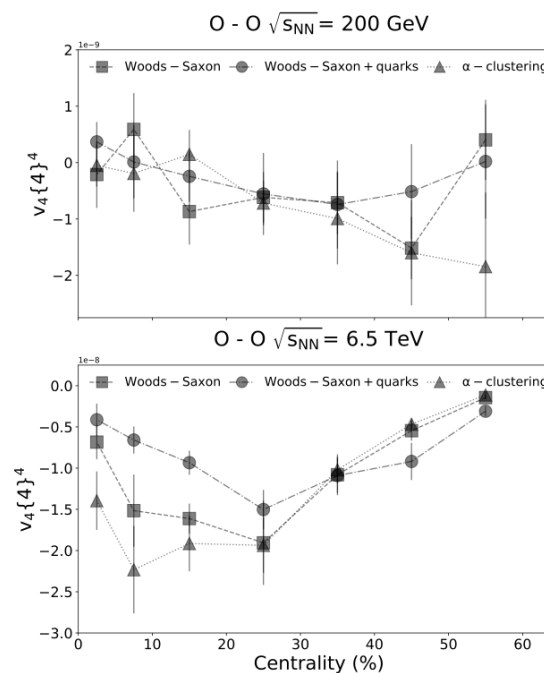
“Double magic number” in  $^{16}_8\text{O}$  nuclei, possible alpha cluster in low-energy studies.



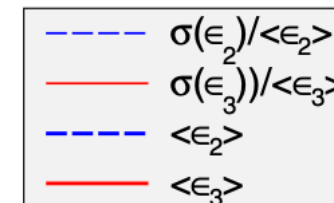
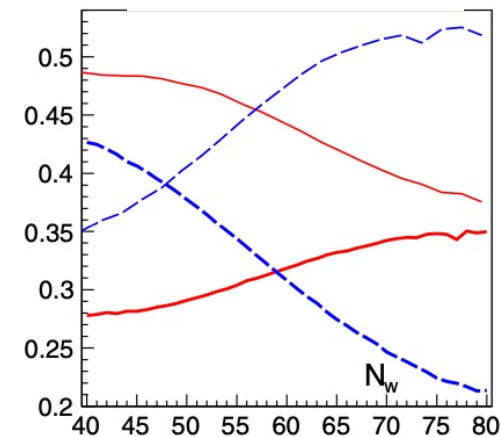
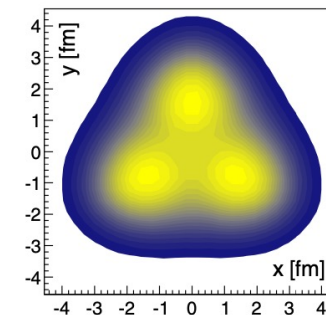
W. He, Y.-G. Ma et al., *PRL 113, 032605 (2014)*



Y.-G. Ma and S. Zhang, *Handbook of Nuclear Physics, 2206.08218*



Nicholas et al., *PRC 104, L041901 (2021)*



- $^{16}\text{O}$  nucleus could have different intrinsic topological structures.

W. Broniowski, E. Arriola, *PRL 112, 112501 (2014)*

- The initial configurations straightforwardly affect the final state observables in high energies.

# Nucleon-nucleon correlations in quantum many-body system

*Possible cluster in ground-state  $^{16}_8\text{O}$  nuclei in low energy*

1) *Woods-Saxon: without many-body nuclear correlation*

2) *Nuclear Lattice Effective Field theory (NLEFT):  
model with many-nucleon correlation including  $\alpha$  clusters*

Lu et al., *PLB* 797, 134863 (2019)

M. Freer et al., *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 90, 035004 (2018)

S. Elhatisari et al., *Nature* 630, 59 (2024)

3) *Variational auxiliary field diffusion Monte Carlo (VMC):*

*MC solution of Schrödinger eq. from the time evolution of trial wave function.*

A. Lonardonì et al., *PRC* 97, 044318 (2018)

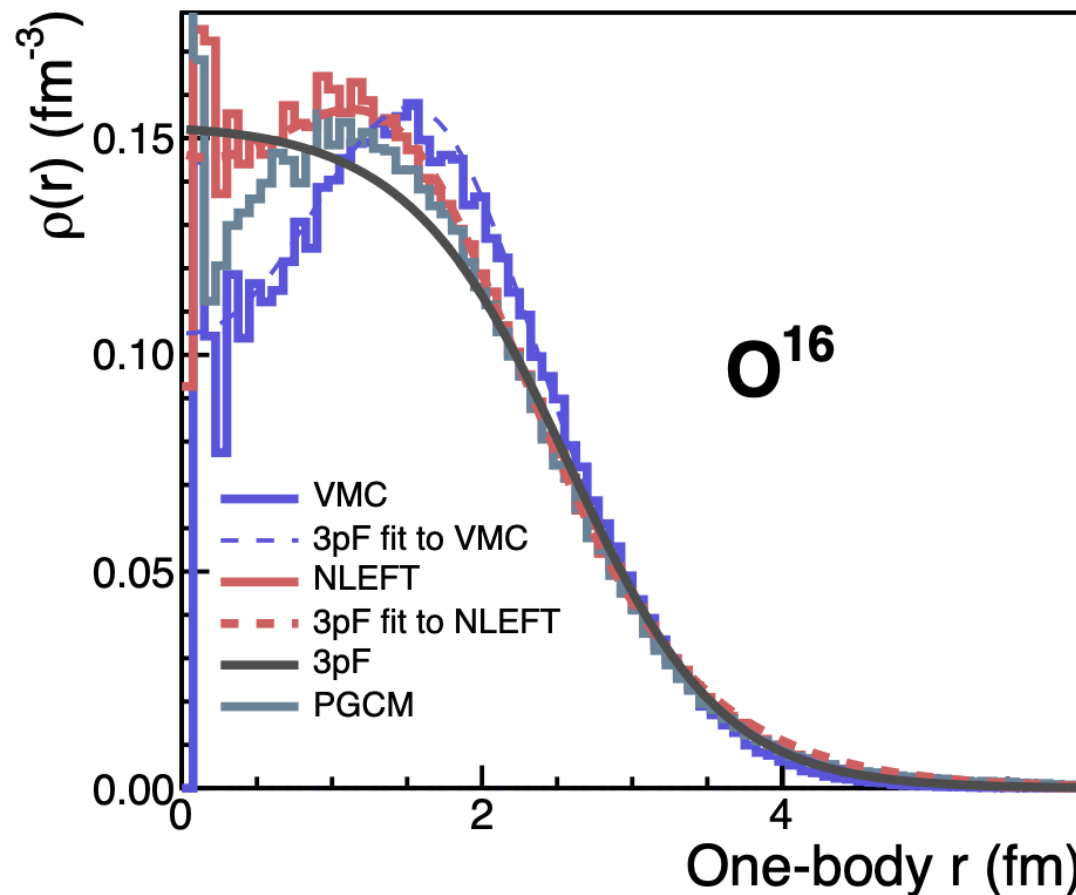
J. Carlson and R. Schiavilla, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 70, 743 (1998)

4) *ab-initio Projected Generator Coordinate Method (PGCM):*

*Wave function from variational calculation (as in density functional theory)*

Frosini et al., *EPJA* 58, 62 (2022); *EPJA* 58, 63 (2022); *EPJA* 58, 64 (2022)

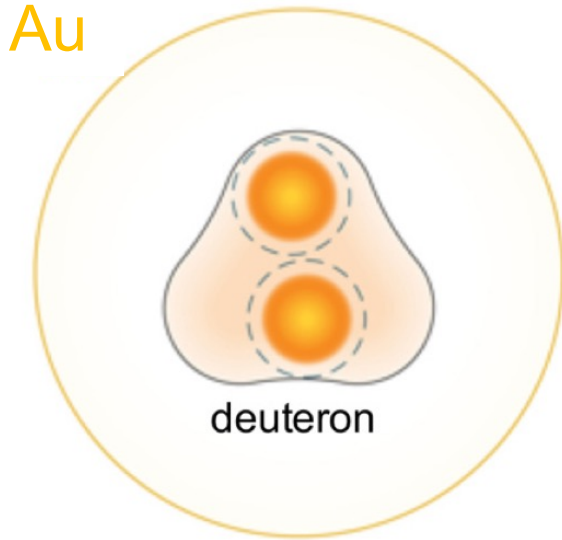
5) *Some other micro models...*



C. Zhang, J. Chen, G. Giacalone, S. Huang, J. Jia, Y.-G. Ma, *PLB* 862, 139322 (2025)

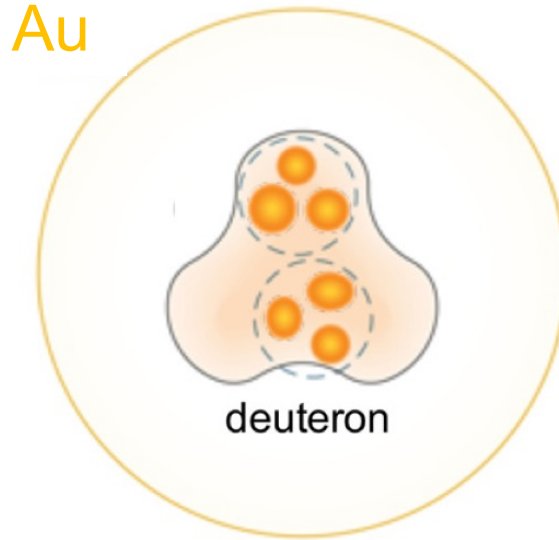
# Nucleon/sub-nucleon fluctuation vs. nucleon-nucleon correlations

Nucleon fluctuation

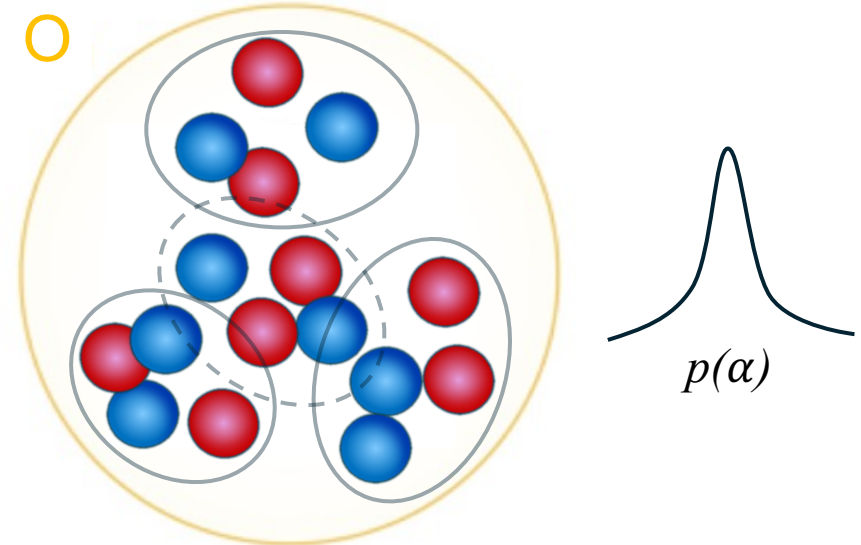


STAR, *PRL* 130, 242301 (2023)  
 STAR, *PRC* 110, 064902 (2024)

subnucleon fluctuation



$NN$  correlation (cluster pattern)



ab initio calculations

- Y.-G. Ma, S. Zhang, *Handbook of Nuclear Physics* (2022)
- C. Zhang, J. Chen, G. Giacalone, S. Huang, J. Jia, Y.-G. Ma, *PLB* 862, 139322 (2025)
- S. Huang, J. Jia, C. Zhang, *PLB* 870, 139926 (2025)
- X. Zhao, G. Ma, Y. Zhou, Z. Lin and C. Zhang, *PLB* 874, 140254 (2026)
- P. Li, B. Zhou, G.-L. Ma, *PRL* 136, 082302 (2026)
- S. Jahan, Roch, C. Shen, *PRC* 113, 024919 (2026)
- Y. Wang, S. Zhao, B. Cao, H. Xu and H. Song, *PRC* 109, L051904 (2024)
- H. Wang, S. Li, J. Xu, Z. Ren, *PLB* 866, 139516 (2025)
- J. Hu, H. Xu, X. Wang, S. Pu, 2507.01493

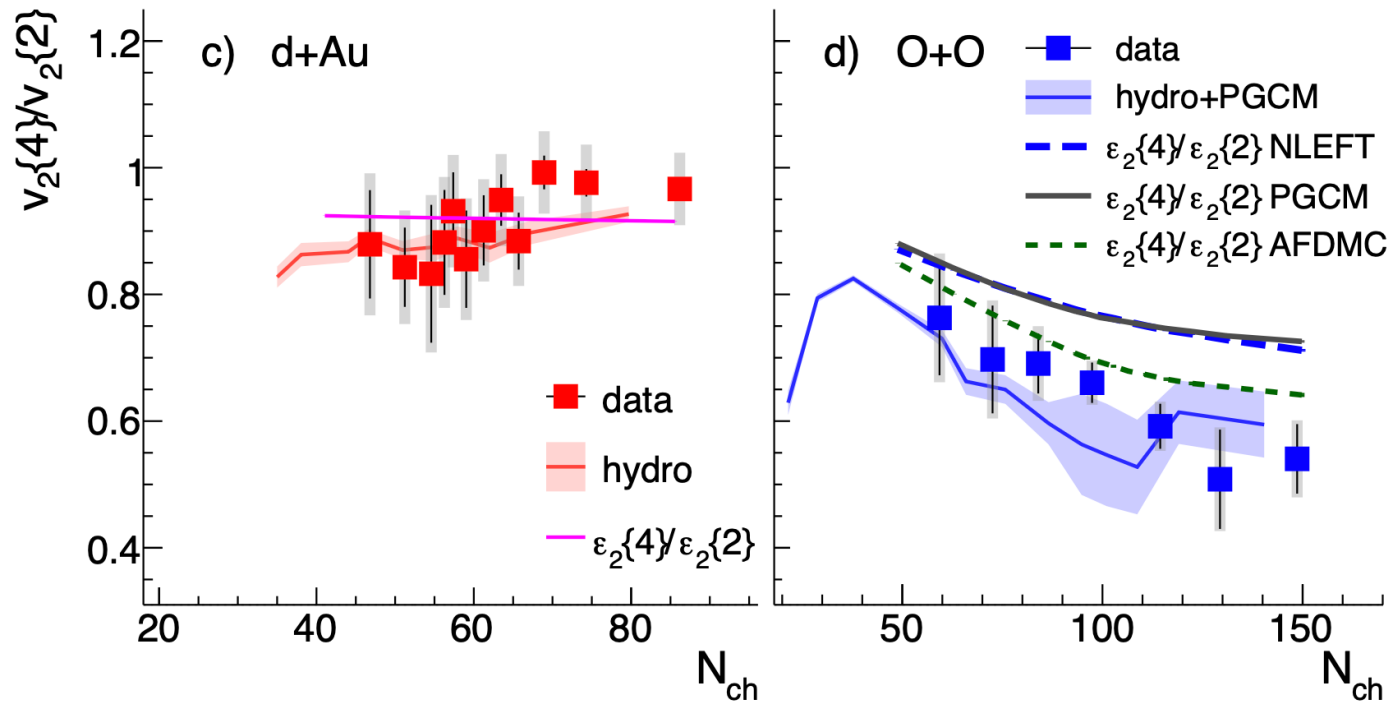
d+Au collision, 200 GeV

Nearly same  $N_{ch}$

O+O collision, 200 GeV

# Benchmarking geometric tomography of $^{16}\text{O}$ nucleus

STAR, 2510.19645



$\varepsilon_2\{4\} / \varepsilon_2\{2\}$  from three models:

**AFDMC vs. EFT/PGCM has a visible difference.**

**Nucleon-nucleon correlations impact initial-state fluctuations.**

Y.-G. Ma, S. Zhang, *Handbook of Nuclear Physics* (2022)

C. Zhang et al., *PLB* 862, 139322 (2025)

G. Giacalone, B. Bally, et al., *PRL* 135, 012302 (2025)

G. Giacalone, W. Zhao et al., *PRL* 134, 082301 (2025)

P. Li, B. Zhou, G.-L. Ma, *PRL* 136, 082302 (2026)

S. Jahan, Roch, C. Shen, *PRC* 113, 024919 (2026) NLEFT from D. Lee, PGCM from B. Bally, T. Duguet

**Small fluctuation in d+Au**

**large fluctuation in O+O**

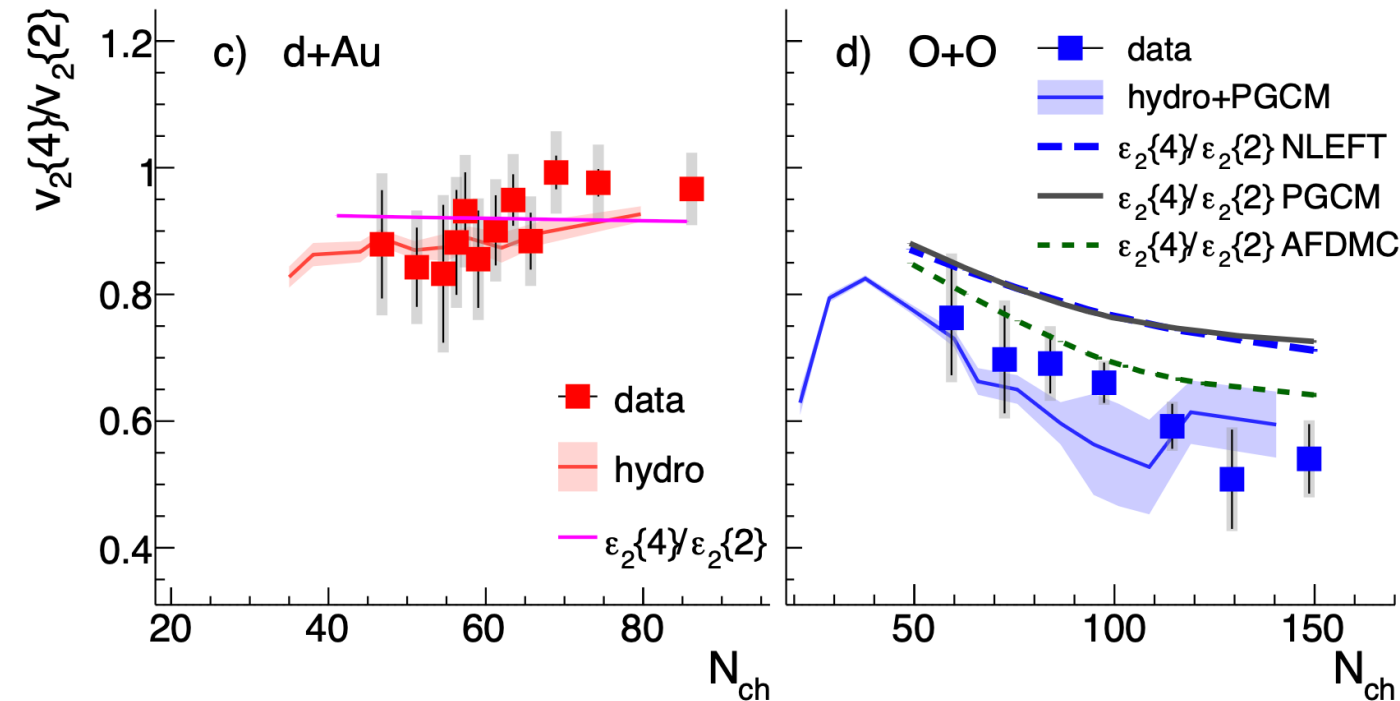
$$\frac{v_2^{dAu}\{4\}}{v_2^{dAu}\{2\}} \approx \frac{\varepsilon_2^{dAu}\{4\}}{\varepsilon_2^{dAu}\{2\}} \approx 0.9$$

$$\frac{v_2^{OO}\{4\}}{v_2^{OO}\{2\}} \approx \frac{\varepsilon_2^{OO}\{4\}}{\varepsilon_2^{OO}\{2\}} \sim 0.6$$

**d+Au is flat; Large enhancement in O+O with continuous decrease**

# Benchmarking geometric tomography of $^{16}\text{O}$ nucleus

STAR, 2510.19645



S. Jahan, Roch, C. Shen, *PRC* 113, 024919 (2026) NLEFT from D. Lee, PGCM from B. Bally, T. Duguet

Small fluctuation in d+Au

large fluctuation in O+O

$$\frac{v_2^{dAu}\{4\}}{v_2^{dAu}\{2\}} \approx \frac{\epsilon_2^{dAu}\{4\}}{\epsilon_2^{dAu}\{2\}} \approx 0.9$$

$$\frac{v_2^{OO}\{4\}}{v_2^{OO}\{2\}} \approx \frac{\epsilon_2^{OO}\{4\}}{\epsilon_2^{OO}\{2\}} \sim 0.6$$

**d+Au is flat; Large enhancement in O+O with continuous decrease**

$\epsilon_2\{4\}/\epsilon_2\{2\}$  from three models:

**AFDMC vs. EFT/PGCM has a visible difference.**

**Nucleon-nucleon correlations impact initial-state fluctuations.**

Y.-G. Ma, S. Zhang, *Handbook of Nuclear Physics* (2022)

C. Zhang et al., *PLB* 862, 139322 (2025)

G. Giacalone, B. Bally, et al., *PRL* 135, 012302 (2025)

G. Giacalone, W. Zhao et al., *PRL* 134, 082301 (2025)

P. Li, B. Zhou, G.-L. Ma, *PRL* 136, 082302 (2026)

The interplay between nucleon/sub-nucleon fluctuation and many-nucleon correlation.

STAR, *PRL* 130, 242301 (2023)

S. Huang, J. Jia, C. Zhang, *PLB* 870, 139926 (2025)

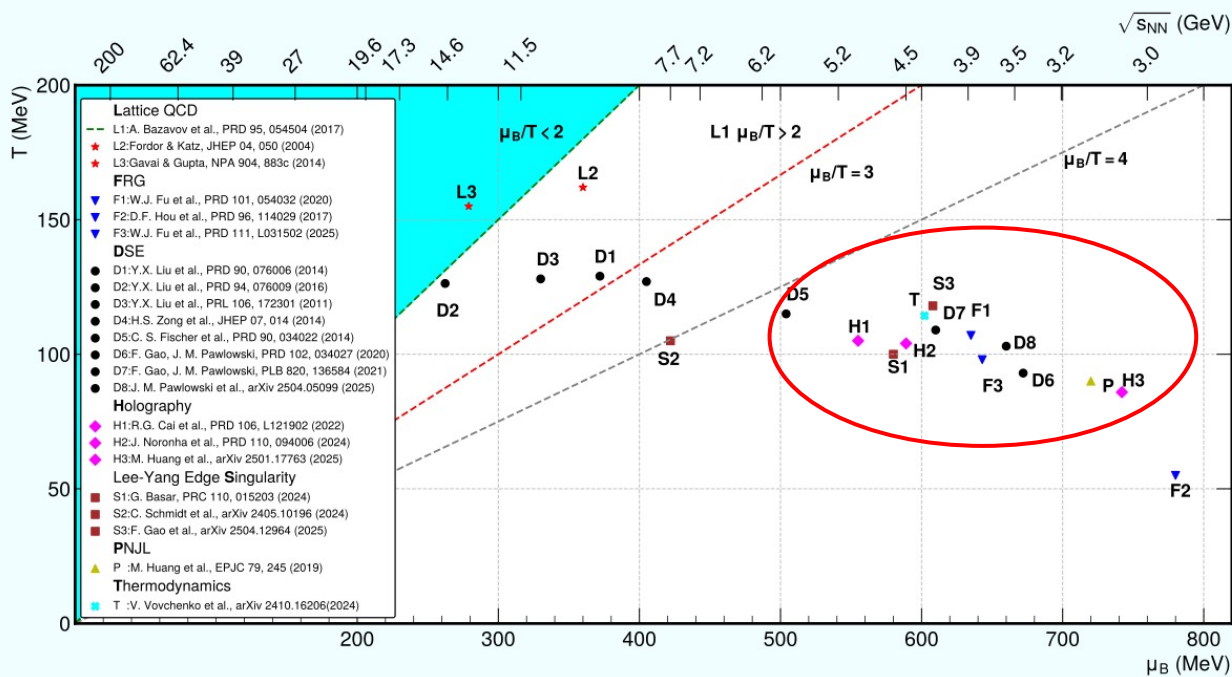
**Geometric scan elucidates nuclear tomography and strong nuclear force?**

New 2025-2026 dataset: ~10 X High multiplicity

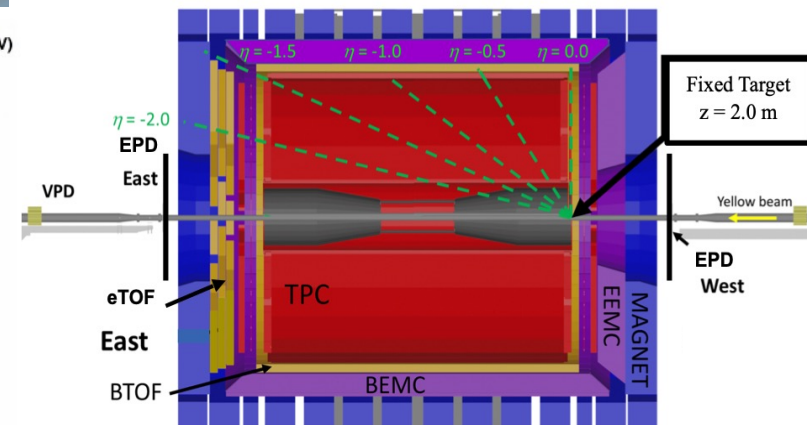
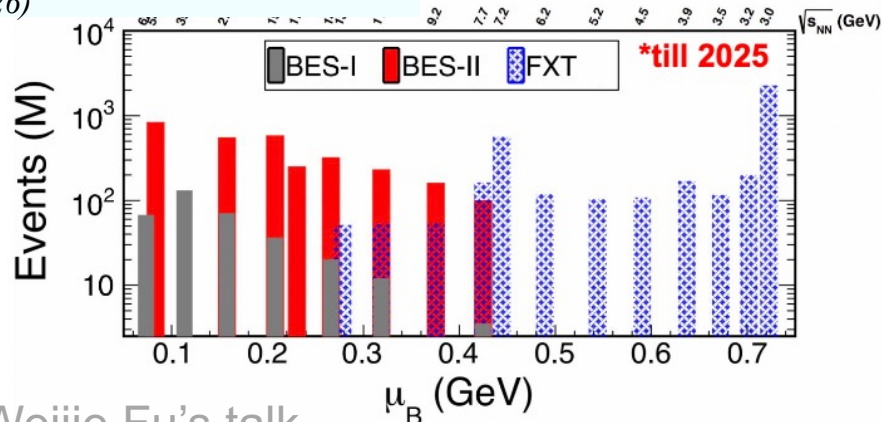
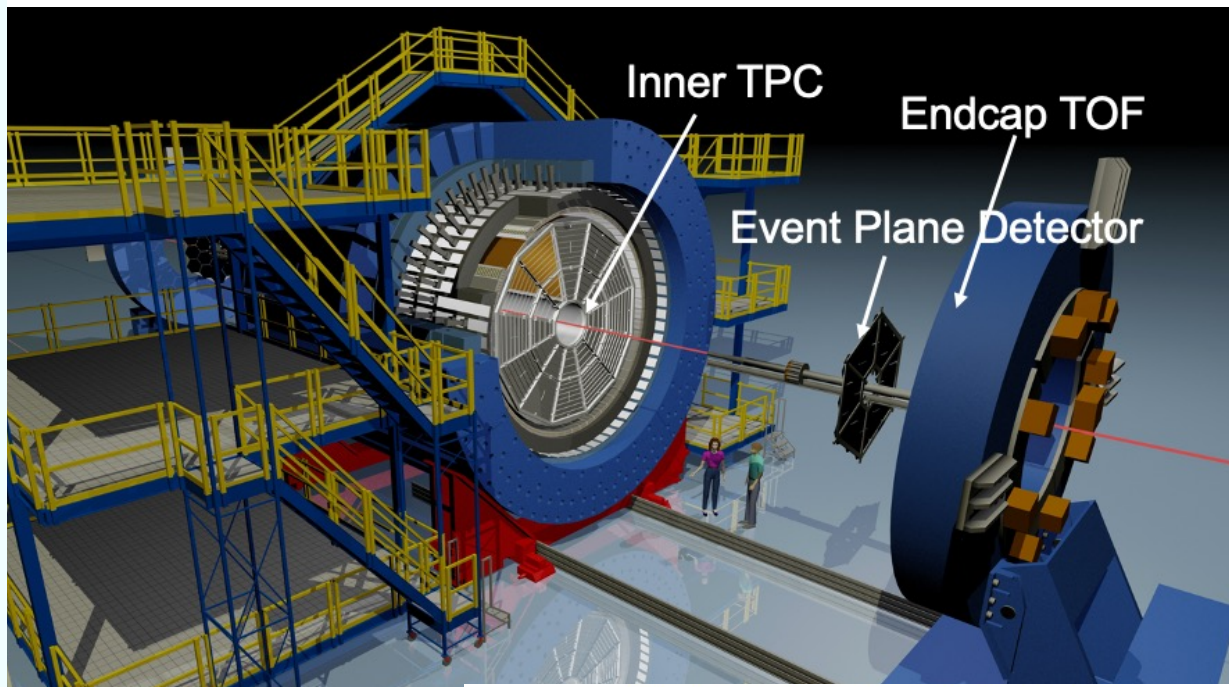
## New measurements of radial flow and its fluctuations: system-size and energy dependence

STAR, *arXiv: 2604.06434*

# The BES-II Upgrades and fixed-target (FXT) mode



Y. Zhang, Z. Wang, X. Luo, N. Xu, *Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top.* (2026)



Mid-rapidity for 3.0 GeV is  $y = 1.049$

a strong convergence of predicted points within the 3–6 GeV energy range

Also see Xiaofeng Luo, Gaoqing Cao, Weijie Fu's talk

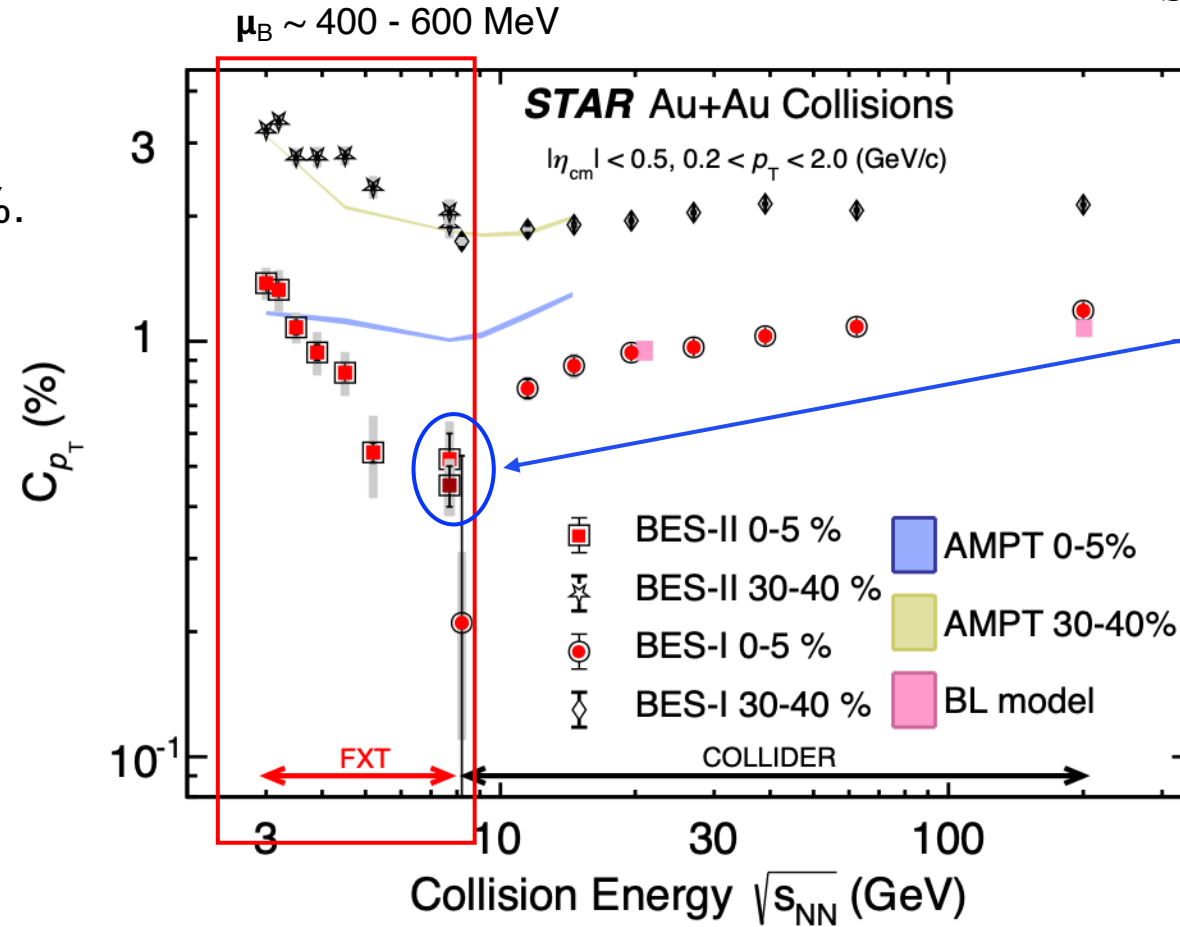
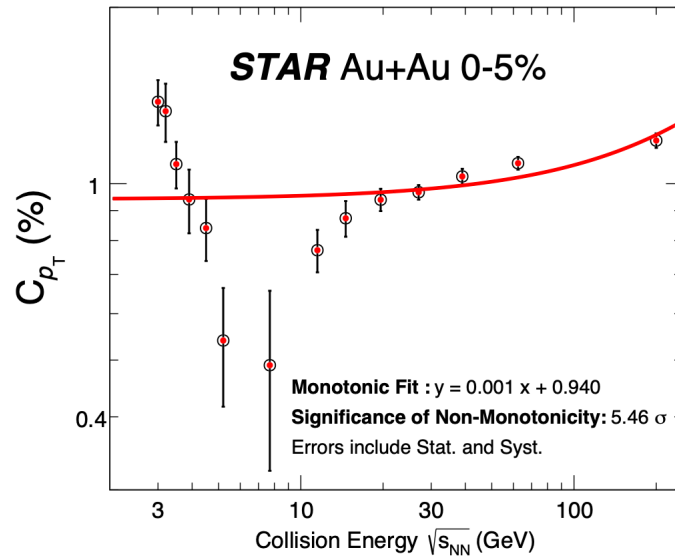
Large datasets with iTPC upgrade  $\sim 10 \times$  BES-I

# Correlator $\sqrt{\Delta p_{T,i} \Delta p_{T,j}} / \langle \langle p_T \rangle \rangle$ vs collision energy in FXT mode

STAR, arXiv: 2604.06434

BES-II results show a **significant non-monotonic behavior** in 0–5% central collisions, but not in 30–40%.

STAR 0-5 %	$\sim 5.5 \sigma$
AMPT 0-5 %	$\sim 1.4 \sigma$
STAR 30-40 %	$\sim 2 \sigma$



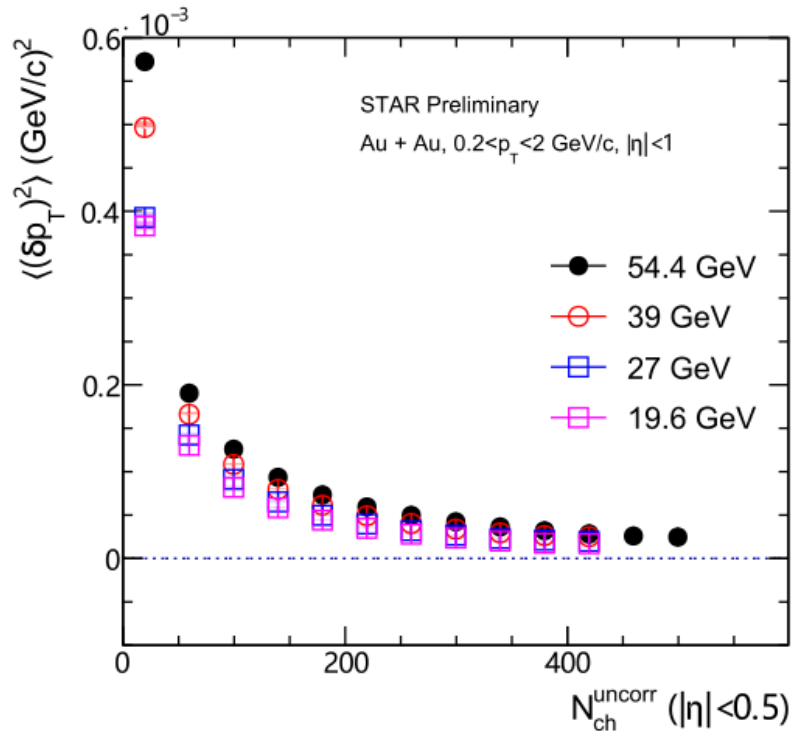
**No acceptance effect:**  
 at 7.7 GeV, BES-II is consistent with BES-I.

Useful for constraining EoS and understanding the phase diagram.

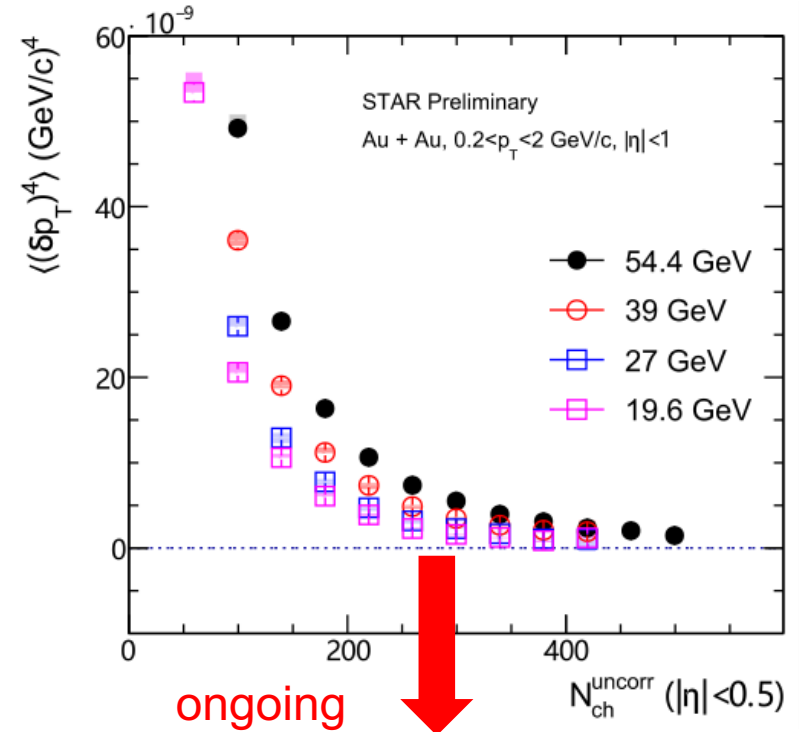
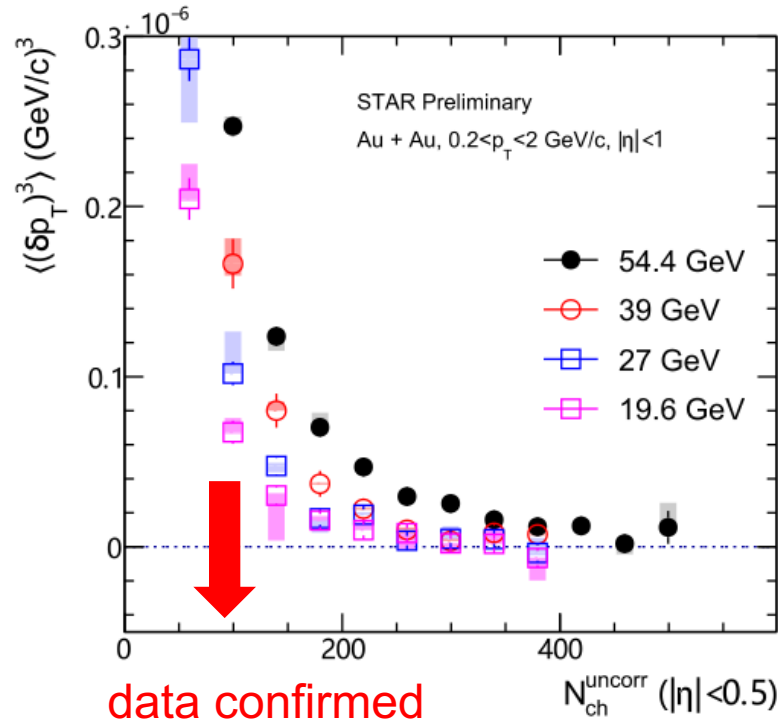
**Boltzmann–Langevin model:** S. Gavin et. al., *Phys. Rev. C* 95, (2017)

**AMPT:** L. Zhang, J. Chen, C. Zhang, *PRC* 111, 024911 (2025)

# Correlator $\langle(\delta p_T)^n\rangle$ vs centrality in collider mode



Efficiency-uncorrected  $N_{ch}$

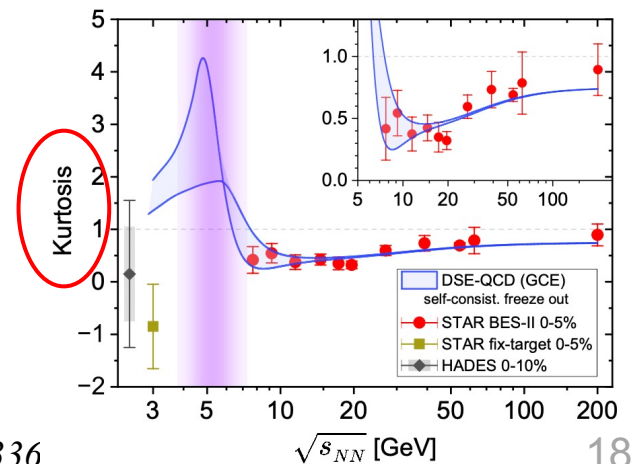


- Values of correlators of variance, skewness and kurtosis increase towards peripheral collisions.
- Slight energy dependence is observed.

J. Chen, W. Fu, S. Yin, C. Zhang, *arXiv:2504.06886*

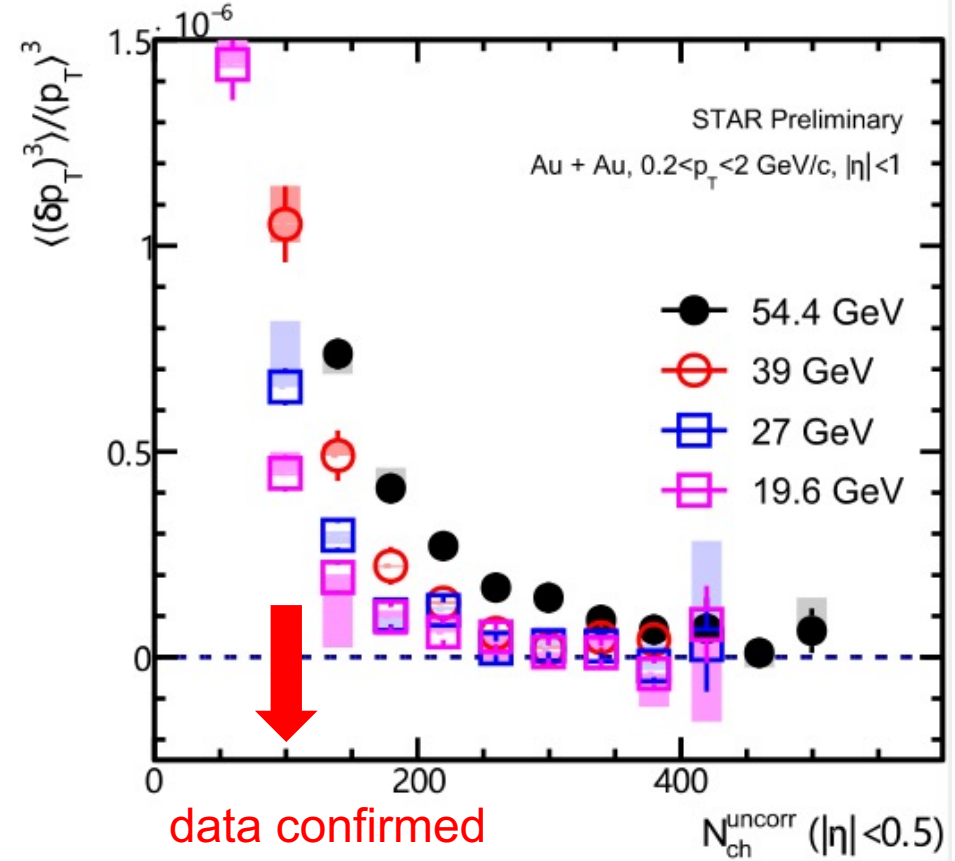
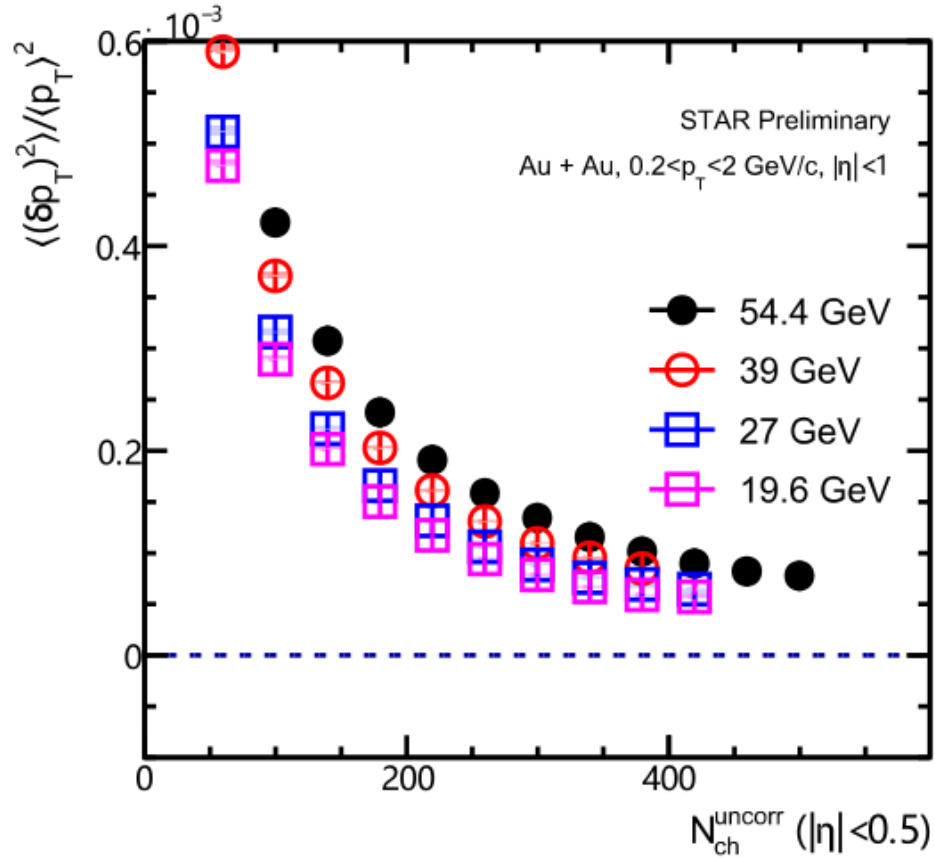
Also see Weijie Fu's talk

**Analog:** Interesting to study such energy dependence



Y. Lu, C.S. Fischer, F. Gao, Y.X. Liu, J.M. Pawlowski, *arXiv:2603.09336*

# Correlator $\langle(\delta p_T)^n\rangle$ vs centrality in collider mode



- With increasing charge-multiplicity, the normalized correlators of variance and skewness decrease in magnitudes.

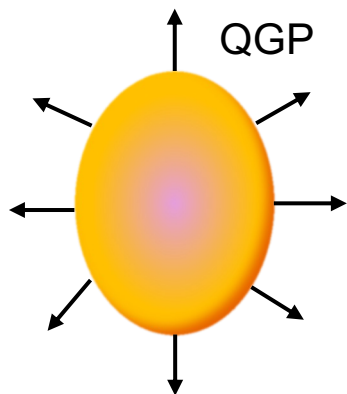
J. Chen, W. Fu, S. Yin, C. Zhang, *arXiv:2504.06886*

- Energy dependence that increases towards peripheral collisions are observed.

Further understand initial conditions and EbE fluctuations across different collision energies.

# New measurement: radial flow $v_0(p_T)$

## Radial expansion: the $n=0$ modulation



$\zeta/s$  and EoS sensitive

Response to size fluctuations

$$\delta p_T / \langle [p_T] \rangle \approx -\delta R / \langle R \rangle$$

Spectra slope quantified by  $[p_T]$  in each event:  
**Fluctuation in  $[p_T]$   $\rightarrow$  Fluctuation in spectra.**

Quantify the correlation induced by radial flow using  
**covariance between  $n(p_T)$  and  $[p_T]$** :  $\langle \delta n(p_T) \delta [p_T] \rangle$

B. Schenke, C. Shen, D. Teaney, *PRC* 102, 034905 (2020)

T. Parida, R. Samanta, J.Y. Ollitrault, *PLB* 857, 138985 (2024)

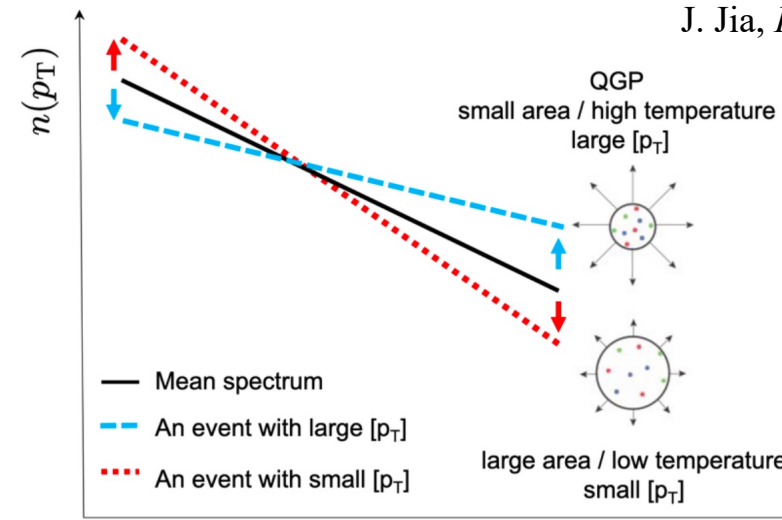
S. A. Jahan, H. Roch, C. Shen, *arXiv*: 2507.11394

L. Du, 2508.07184

J. Zhu, X.-Y. Wu, G.-Y. Qin, 2602.04148

Also see Shusu Shi's talk

J. Jia, *PRL* 136, 112301 (2026)



$$v_0(p_T) = \frac{\langle \delta n(p_T) \delta [p_T] \rangle}{\langle n(p_T) \rangle \langle [p_T] \rangle} \times \frac{1}{v_{0,int}}$$

Calculated within a reference range,  $p_T$ -independent.

$$v_{0,int} \equiv \frac{\sqrt{\langle (\delta [p_T])^2 \rangle}}{\langle [p_T] \rangle}$$

**Pearson Correlations** between local possibility of particle yield and reference mean  $p_T$  from spectra

Remove influence from **global fluctuations**

Verify the signatures of radial flow, like for anisotropic flow ( $n \geq 1$ )

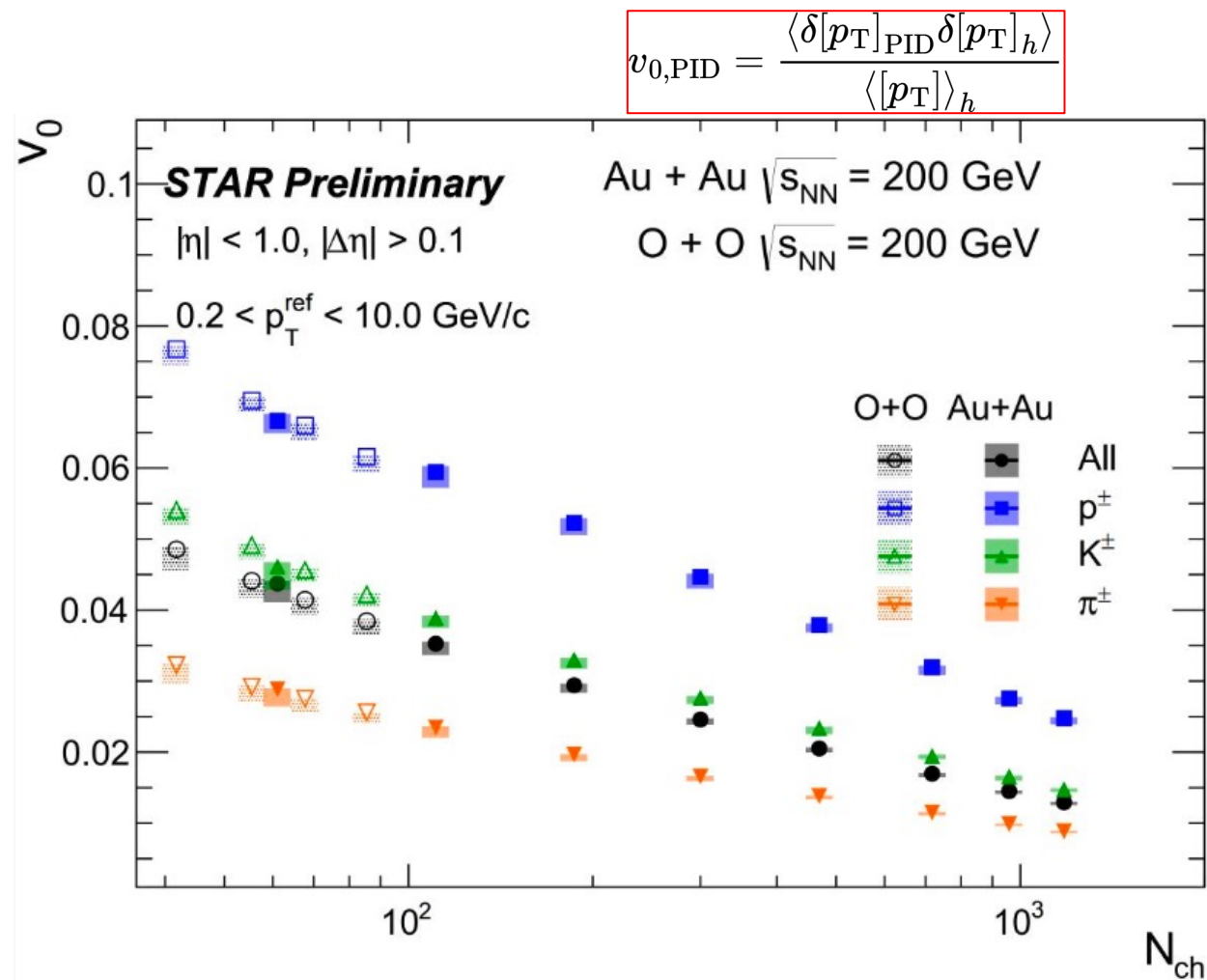
# Integral $p_T$ fluctuation $v_0$ at 200 GeV

- Measured for charged hadrons, protons, kaons and pions in O+O to Au+Au.

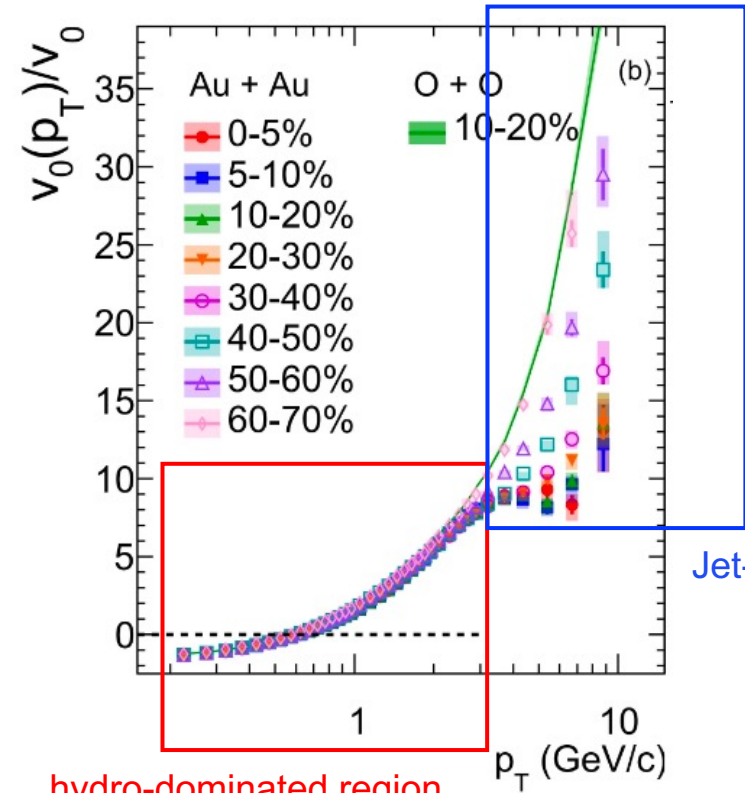
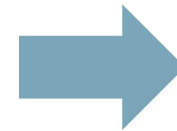
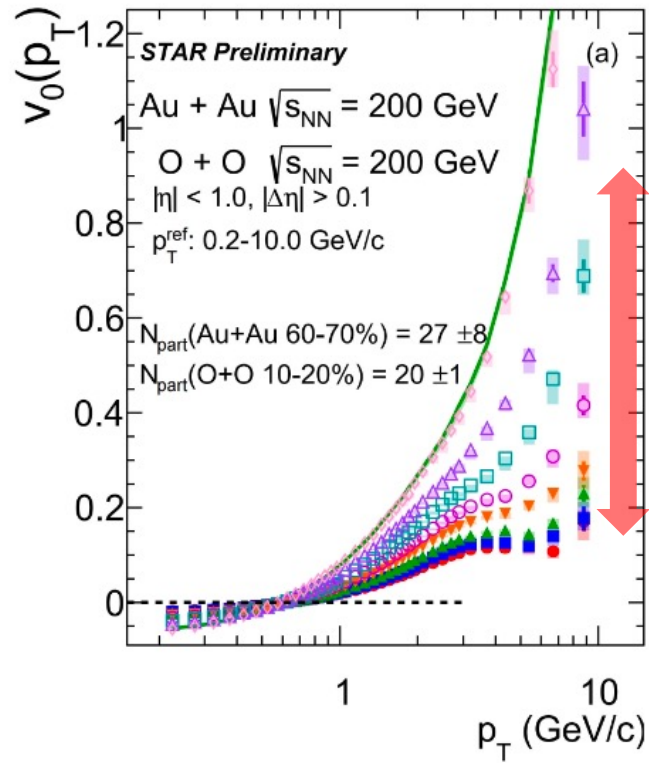
- larger fluctuation signals for heavier particles.

- $v_0$  follows an approximate power scaling

$$v_0 \sim 1/\sqrt{N_{\text{ch}}}$$



# $v_0(p_T)$ in Au+Au and O+O at 200 GeV



Jet-dominated region

hydro-dominated region

Strong centrality-dependence: size-driven radial flow fluctuations

$$\frac{\delta \langle p_T \rangle}{\langle p_T \rangle} = \kappa_0 \left( -\frac{\delta R}{R} \right)$$

$$v_0(p_T) = \kappa_0(p_T) \left( -\frac{\delta R}{R} \right)$$

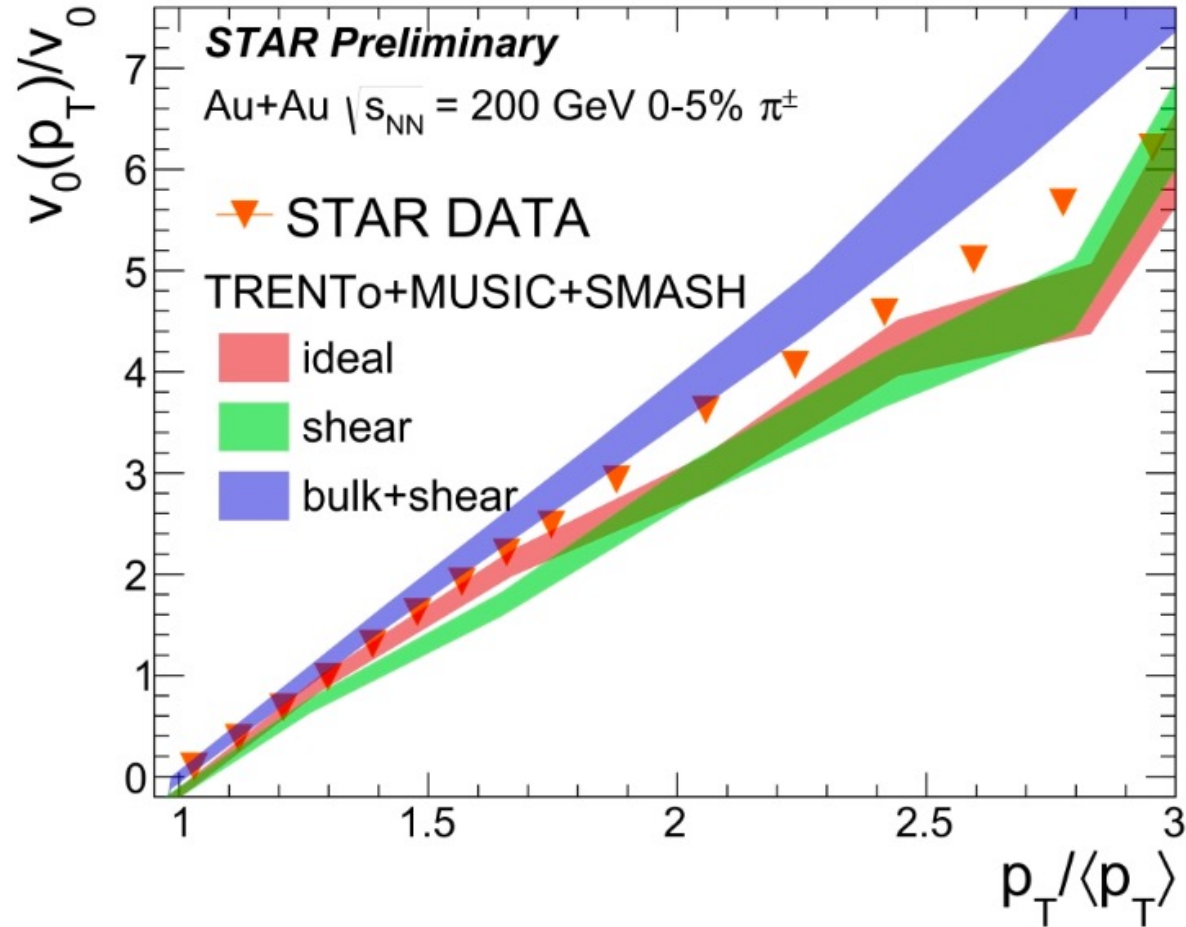
$$v_0 = \kappa_0 \left( -\frac{\delta R}{R} \right)$$

$$\frac{v_0(p_T)}{v_0} = \frac{\kappa_0(p_T)}{\kappa_0}$$

Access medium properties

Universal shape scaling across centrality and systems, except at high  $p_T$

# Access the bulk properties



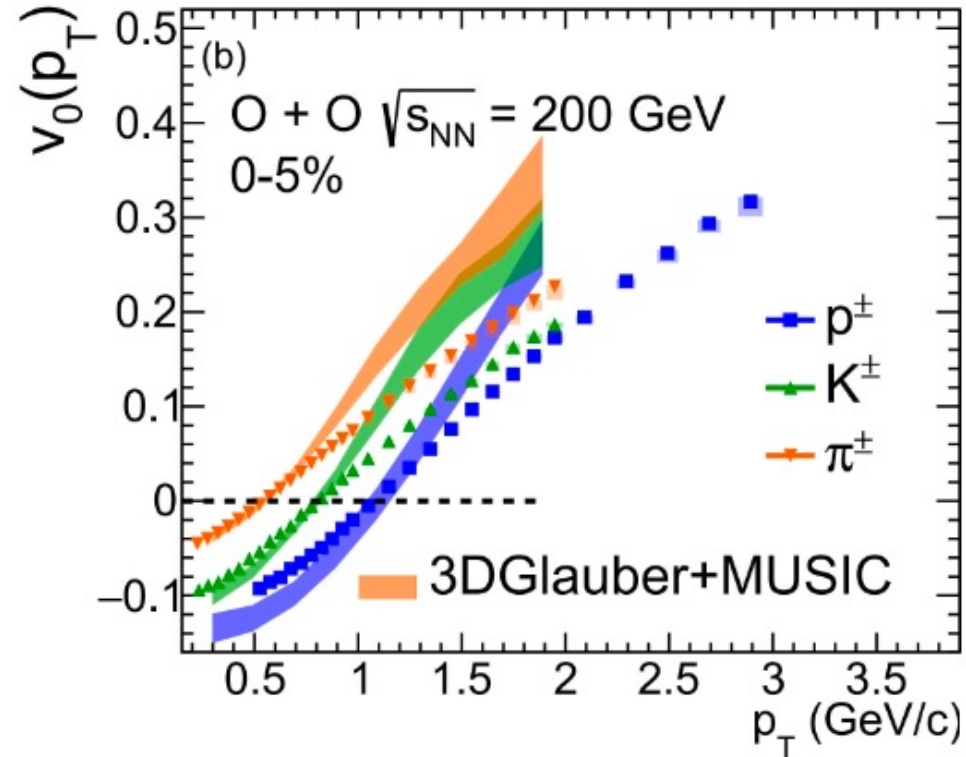
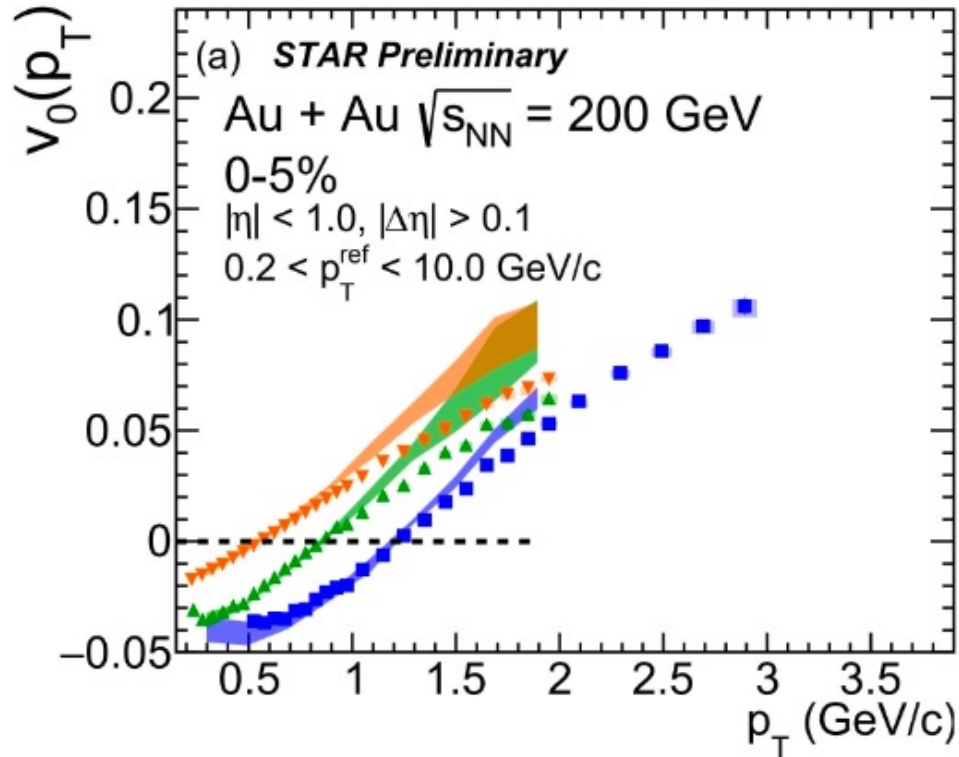
$$\frac{v_0(p_T)}{v_0} = \frac{\kappa_0(p_T)}{\kappa_0}$$

Access medium properties

providing a new approach to constrain bulk properties in hydrodynamic models.

# Particle mass-ordering and model comparison

$$v_0(p_T) = \frac{\langle \delta n(p_T) \delta [p_T]_{p_T^{\text{ref}}} \rangle}{\langle \delta n(p_T) \rangle (\langle \delta [p_T] \rangle v_0)_{p_T^{\text{ref}}}}$$

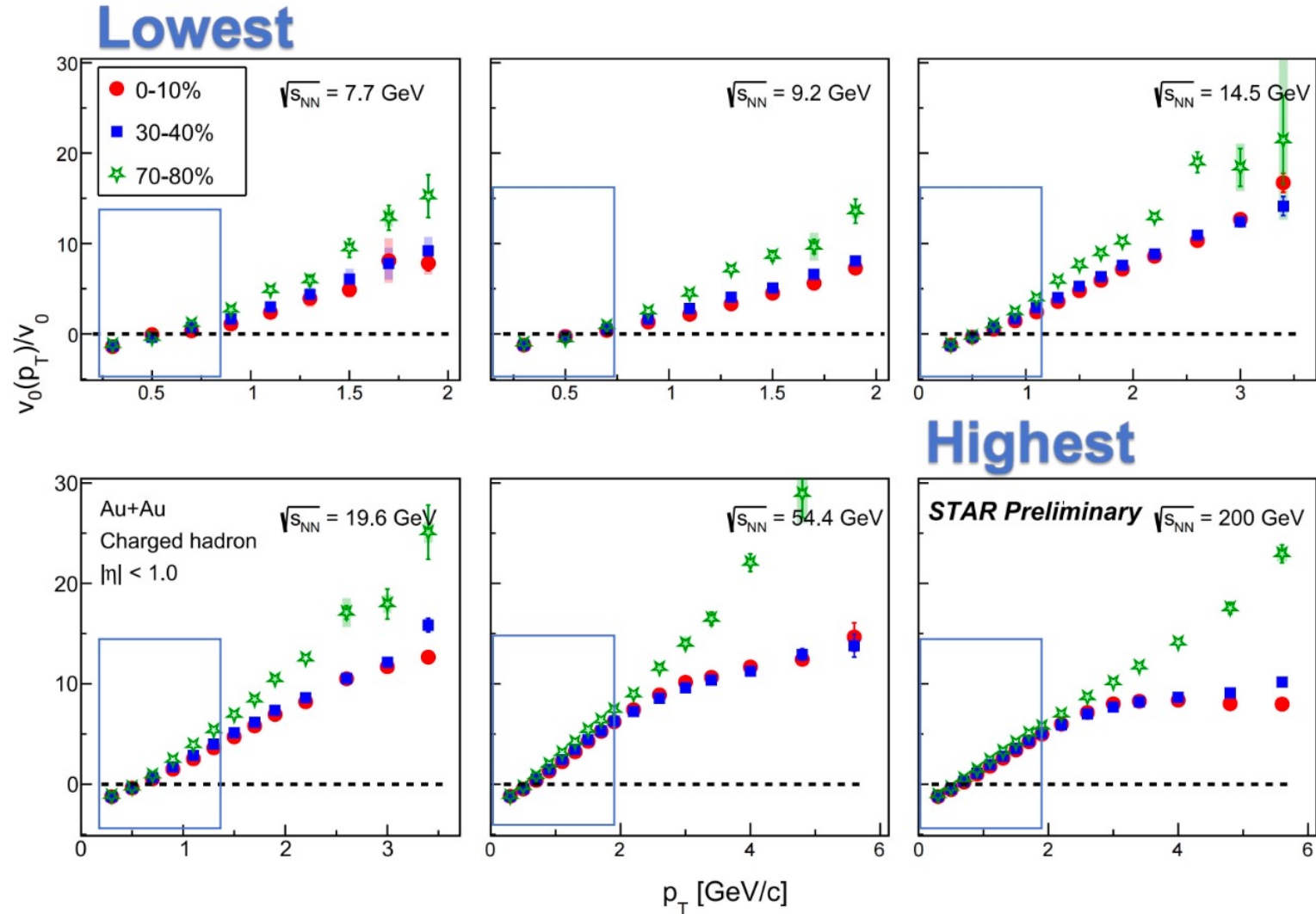


The stronger boost experienced by heavier particles gives rise to a clear mass ordering

3D-Glauber+MUSIC+UrQMD model also show clear mass ordering, but quantitative differences compared to data

**3D-Glauber+MUSIC+UrQMD:** S.A. Jahan, H. Roch, C. Shen, *PRC113*, 024919 (2026)

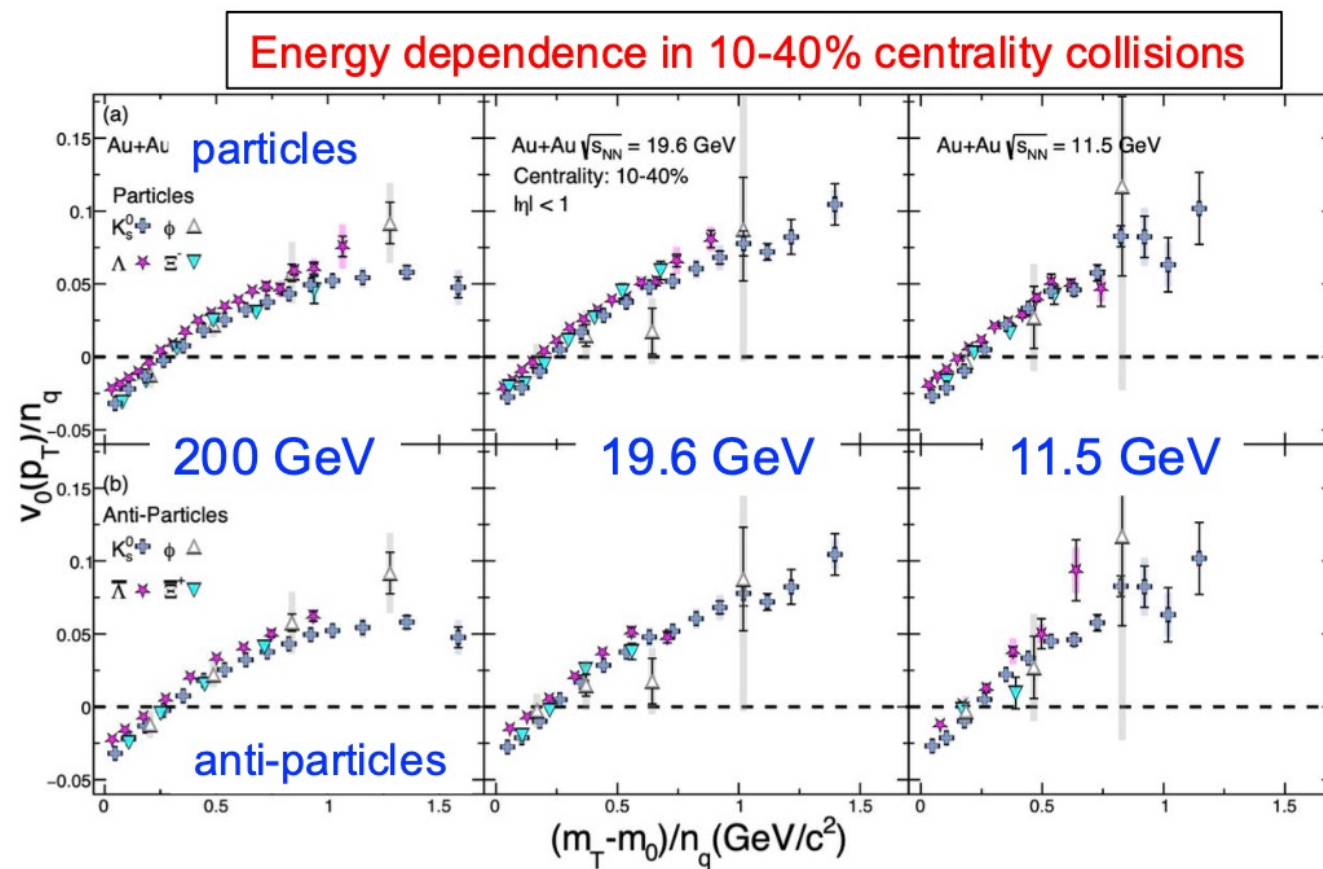
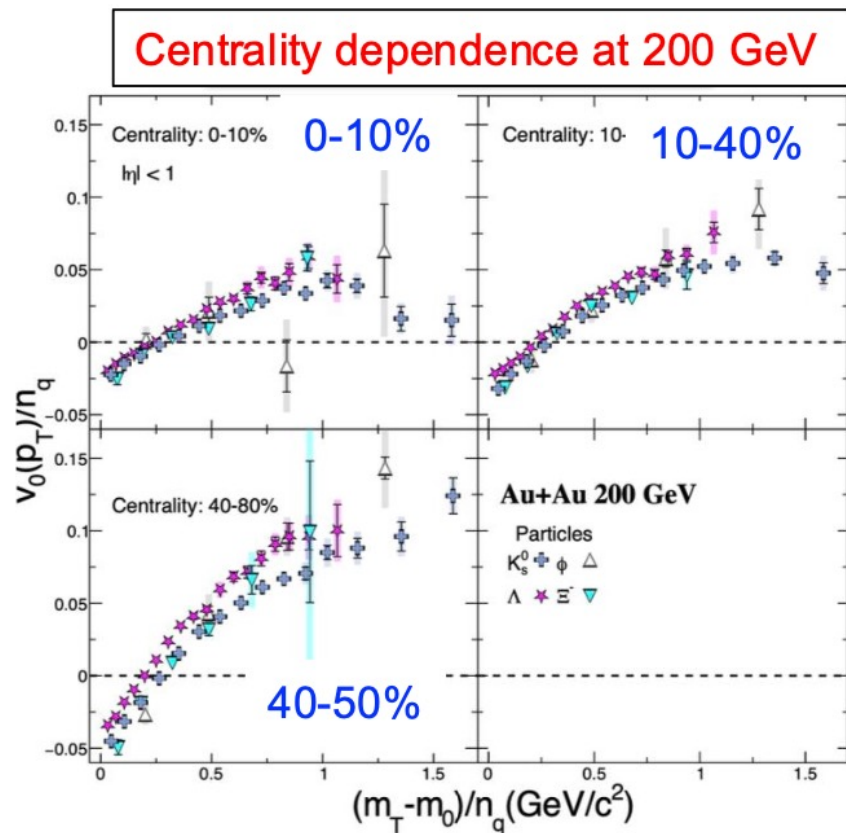
# Energy-dependence of radial expansion



**Structure persists down to lower energies:** with response coefficients similar to those at higher energies.

# Strange hadrons and its energy dependence

PID (strange meson and baryons) dependence allows a detailed test of NCQ scaling



deviation in more peripheral collisions

Also see Shusu Shi's talk

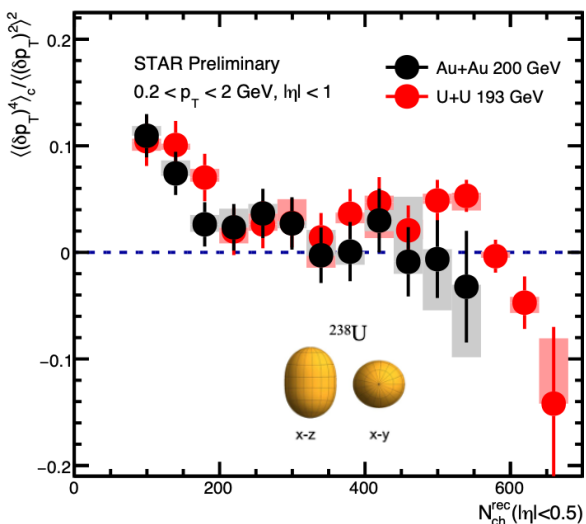
approximately hold in broad  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$  range  
 signal also change weakly with  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$  range

# Conclusions and Outlooks

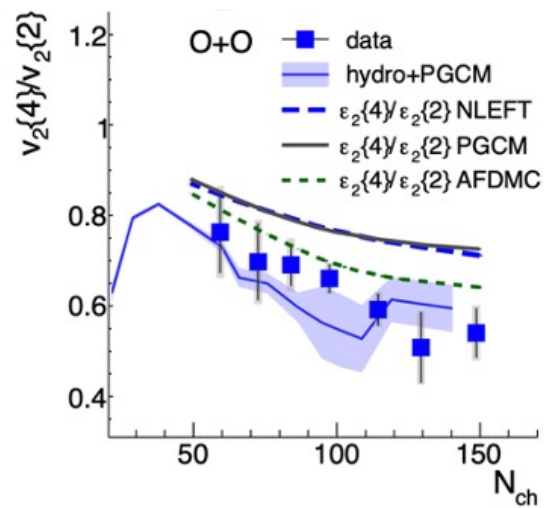
Data: nature of mean  $p_T$  fluctuations

Theoretical model calculations/interpretations

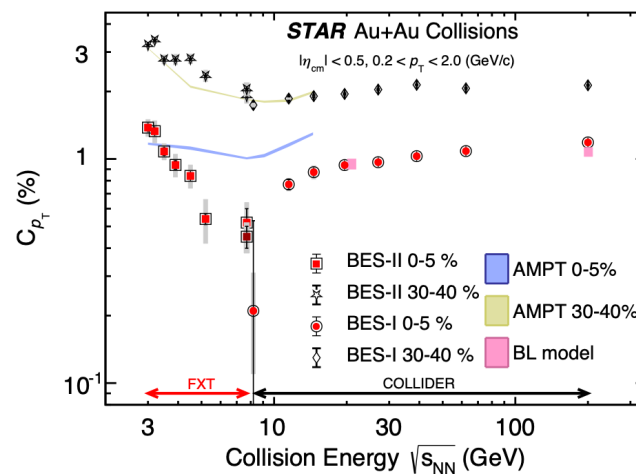
- **Negative kurtosis** in highly deformed  $^{238}\text{U}$  indicates the nuclear structure effect.
- Light ion  $^{16}\text{O}$  is a good connection to investigate **nucleon-nucleon correlations and cluster patterns**.
- Observation of **non-monotonic dependence** of second-order mean  $p_T$  fluctuations at high  $\mu_B$ .
- $v_0(p_T)$  as a new approach to constrain bulk properties in energy-, system-size, and PID-dependences.



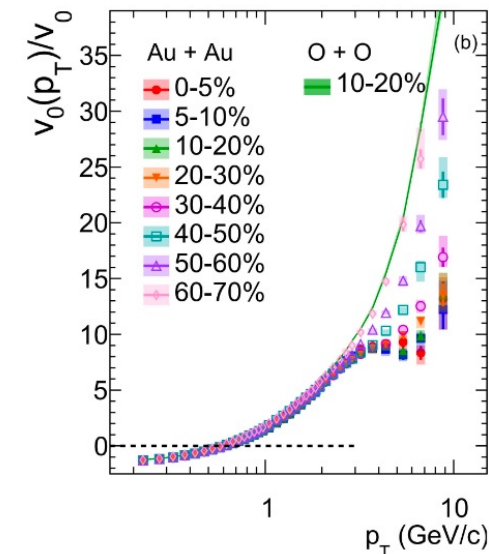
STAR, *Rep. Prog. Phys.* 88,108601 (2025)  
High-order fluctuation is ongoing



STAR, *arXiv: 2510.19645*  
Other observables are ongoing



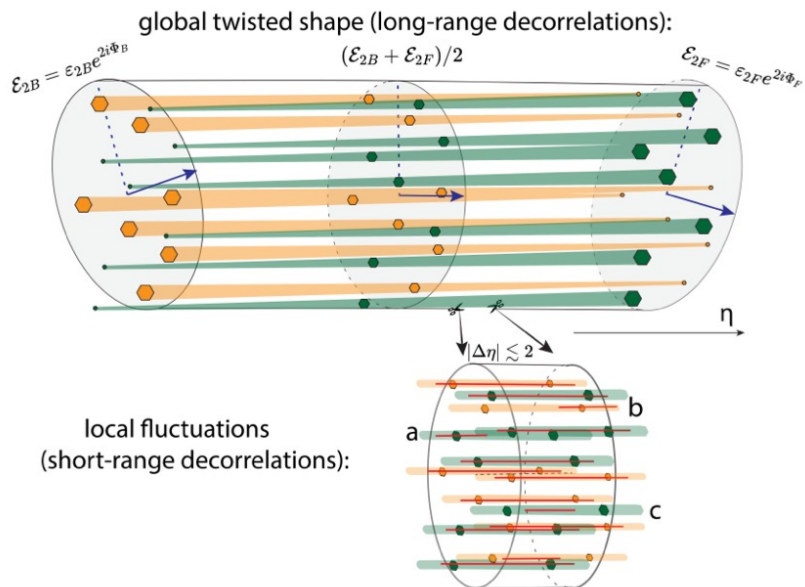
STAR, *arXiv: 2604.06434*  
High-order is ongoing



First  $v_0(p_T)$  measurement at RHIC 27

# Conclusions and Outlooks

## 1) 3D QGP initial conditions



### Decorrelation map:

$v_n$  decorrelations (deformation-induced component):

C. Zhang, S. Huang, J. Jia, 2405.08749

J. Jia, S. Huang, C. Zhang, S. Bhatta, 2408.15006

$p_T$  decorrelations and EoS:

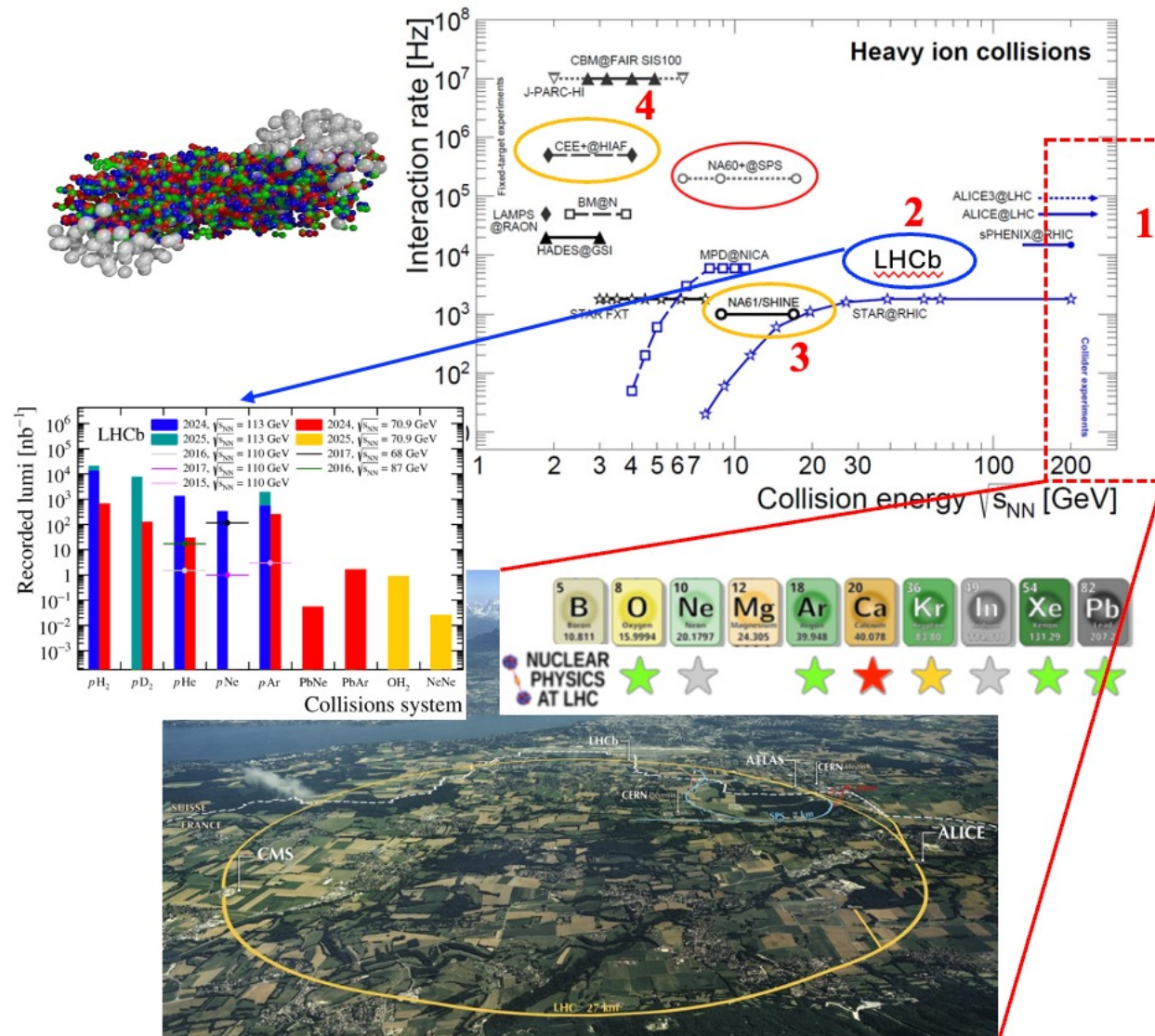
L. Liu, J. Chen, X.-G. Huang, J. Jia, C. Shen, C. Zhang, 2511.11094

J. Zhu, X.-Y. Wu, G.-Y. Qin, 2602.04148

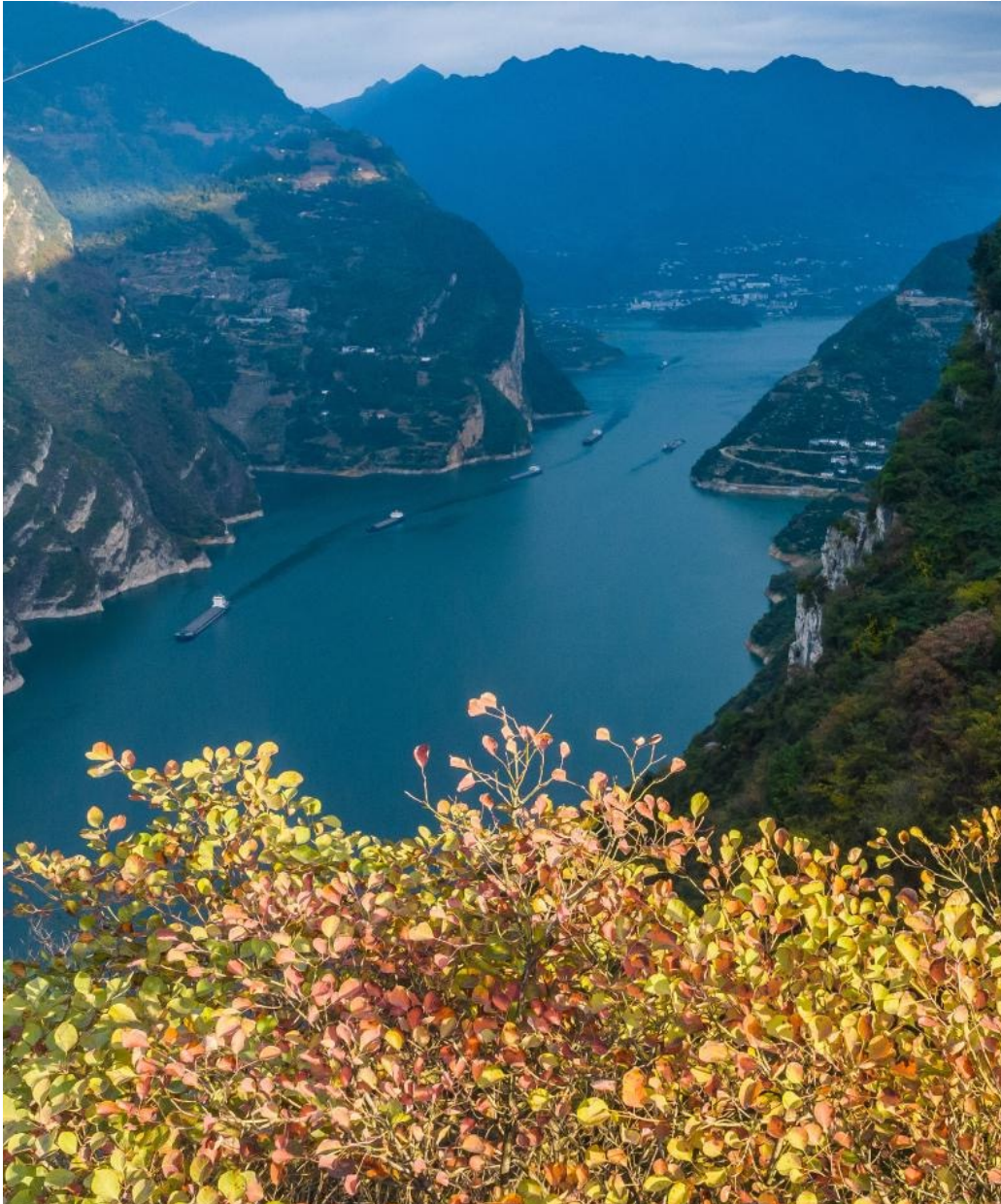
S. Jahan, Roch, C. Shen, *PRC* 113, 024919 (2026)

...

## 2) Energy evolution, system scan in nuclear reaction



# Acknowledgement

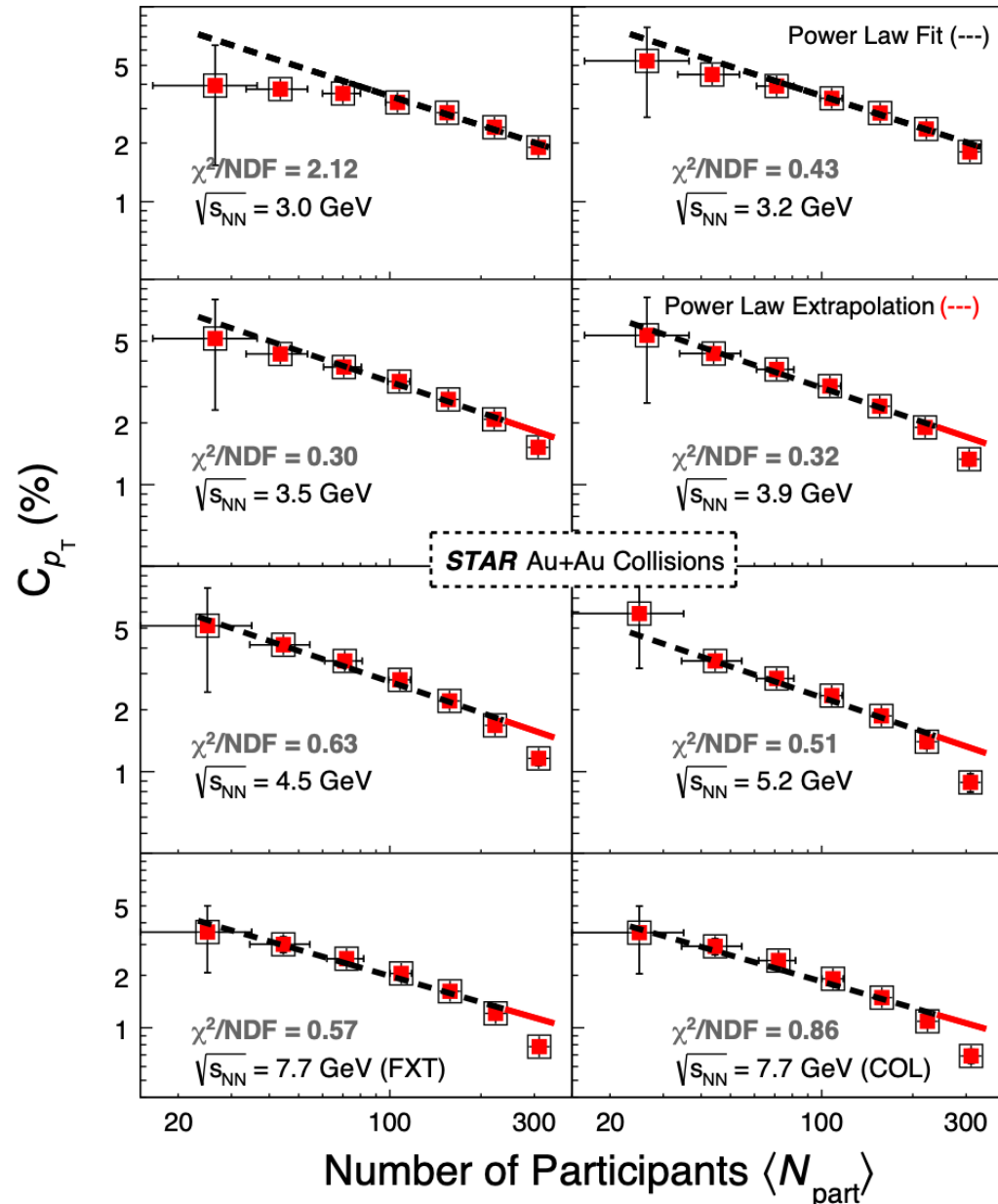


Thank you

Backup

# Correlator $\sqrt{\Delta p_{T,i} \Delta p_{T,j}} / \langle \langle p_T \rangle \rangle$ vs centrality in FXT mode

STAR, *arXiv: 2604.06434*



- correlations larger in the peripheral collisions and decrease with centrality
- Measurements deviate from power law behavior, implying the centrality dependence does not follow a simple superposition scenario
- Independent of the collision mode: good agreement between measurements made at 7.7 GeV in FXT and collider modes.