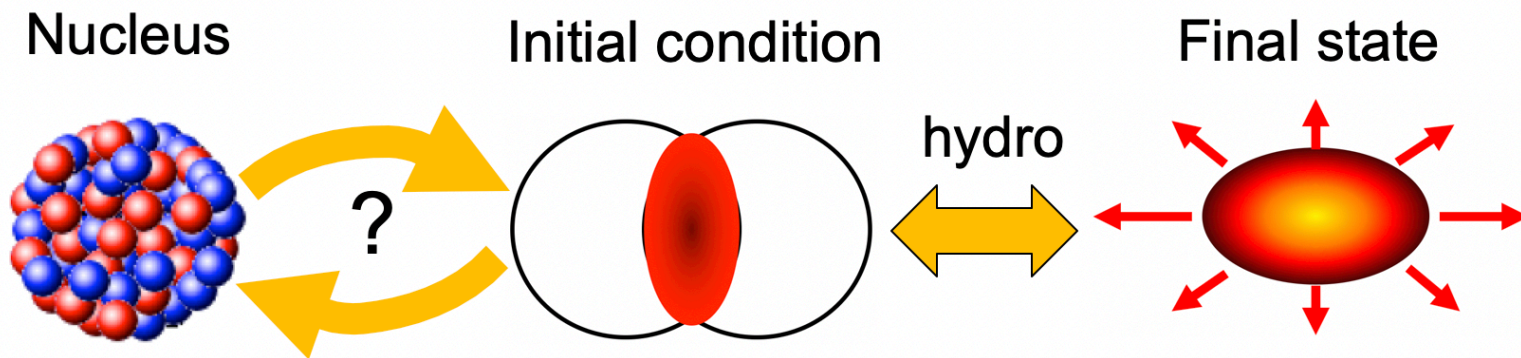


# Isobar collisions at RHIC: a precision tool in nuclear physics

Jiangyong Jia

Nuclear Structure

High-energy heavy-ion collisions

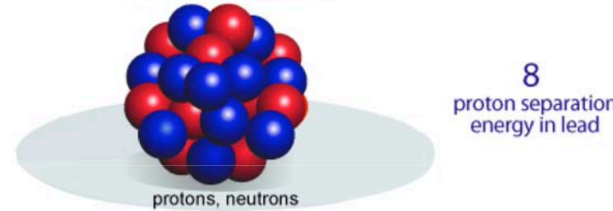


# Landscape of nuclear physics

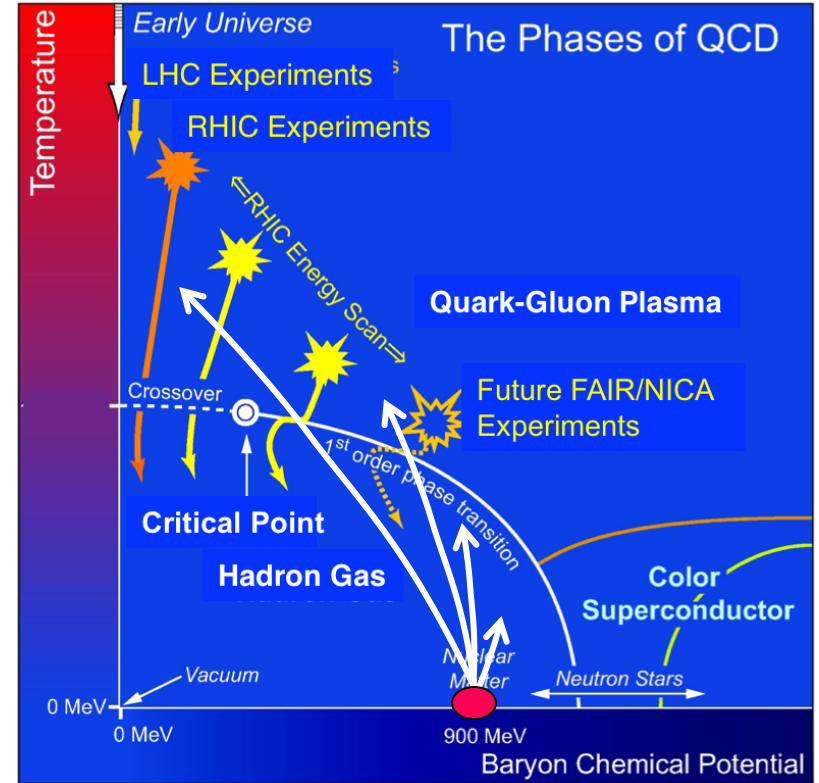
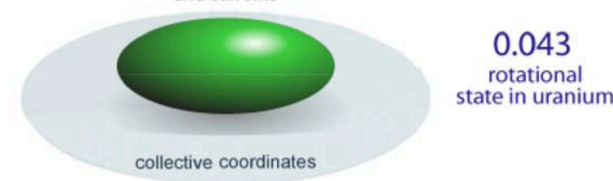
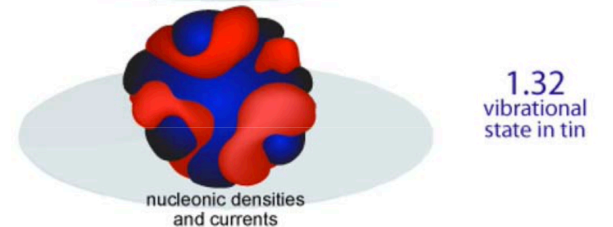
Quark-gluon plasma



hadrons



nuclei

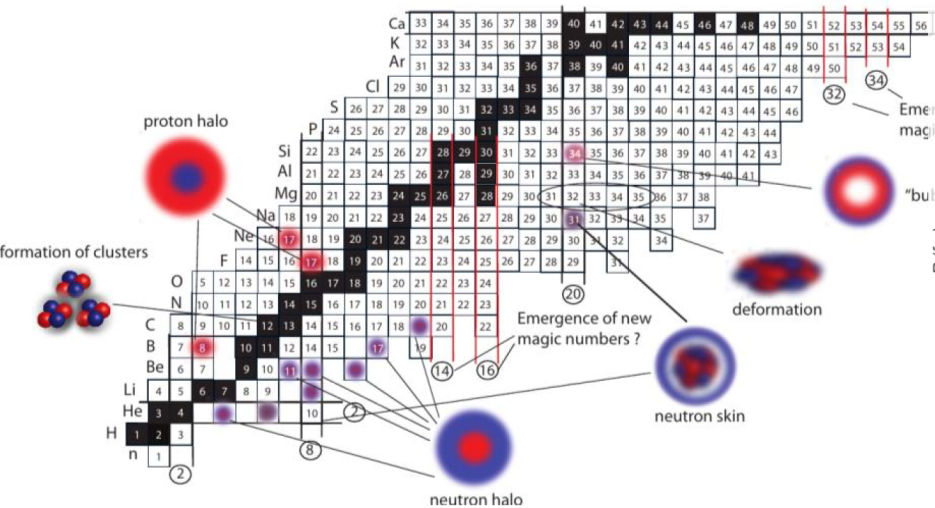
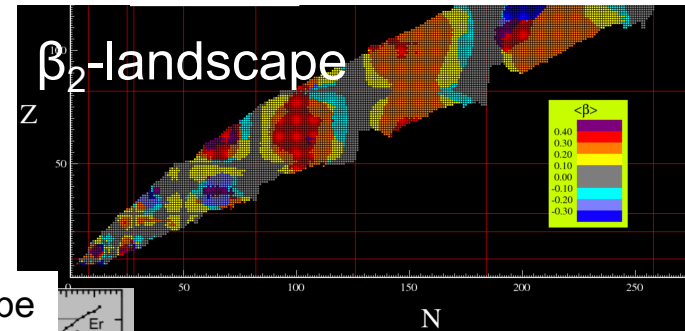


Most nuclear experiments starts with nuclei

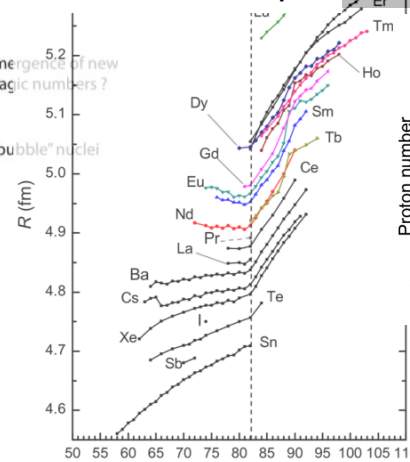
# Rich structure of atomic nuclei

## ■ Collective phenomena of many-body quantum system

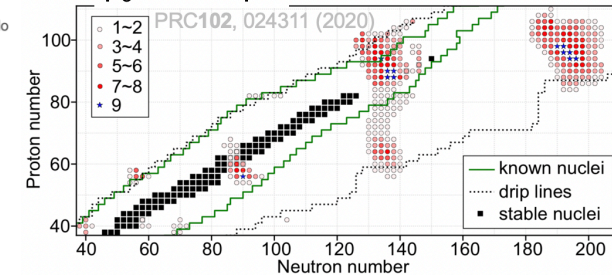
- clustering, halo, skin, bubble...
- quadrupole/octupole/hexadecapole deformations
- Nontrivial evaluation with N and Z.



## Radii-landscape

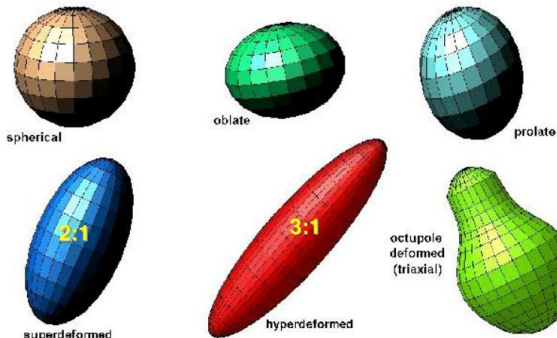


## $\beta_3$ -landscape

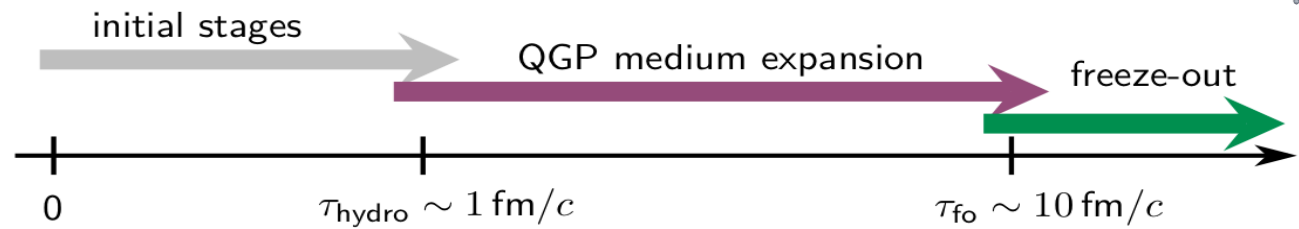
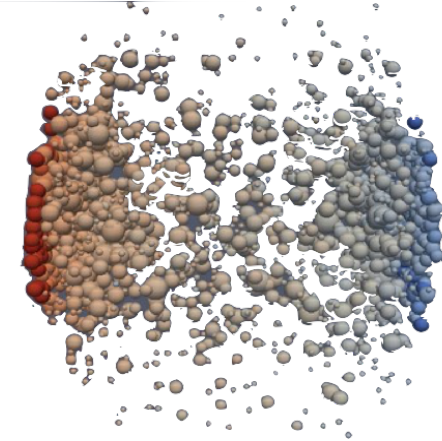
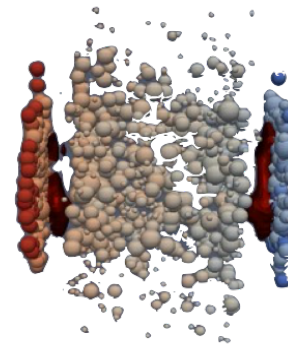
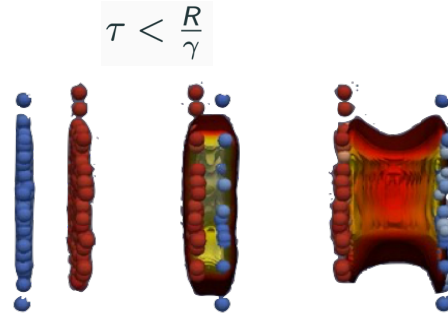
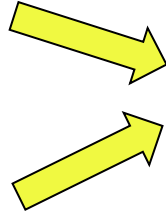
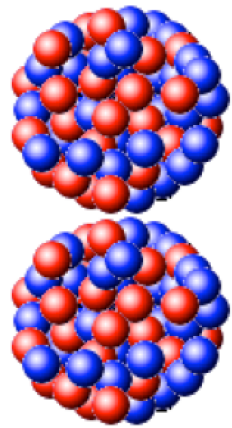


## ■ Understanding via effective nuclear theories

- Lattice, Ab.initio (starting from NN interaction)
- Shell models (configuration interaction)
- DFT models (non-relativistic and covariant)



# High-energy heavy ion collision



400 nucleons

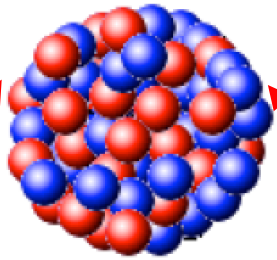


in  $10^{-23}$  seconds

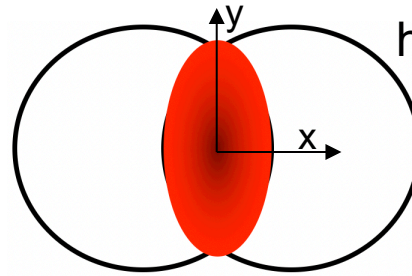
30000 hadrons

# High-energy heavy ion collision

Nucleus

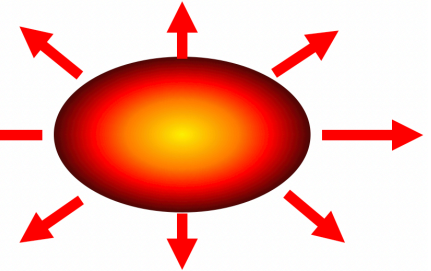


Initial condition



hydrodynamics

Final state



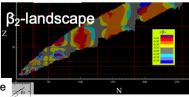
Asymmetric distribution

Anisotropic expansion

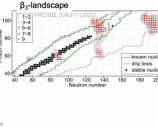
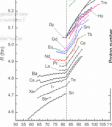
## Rich structure of atomic nuclei

### Collective phenomena of many-body quantum system

- clustering, halo, skin, bubble...
- quadrupole/octupole/hexadecapole deformations
- Nontrivial evaluation with N and Z.



Radii-landscape

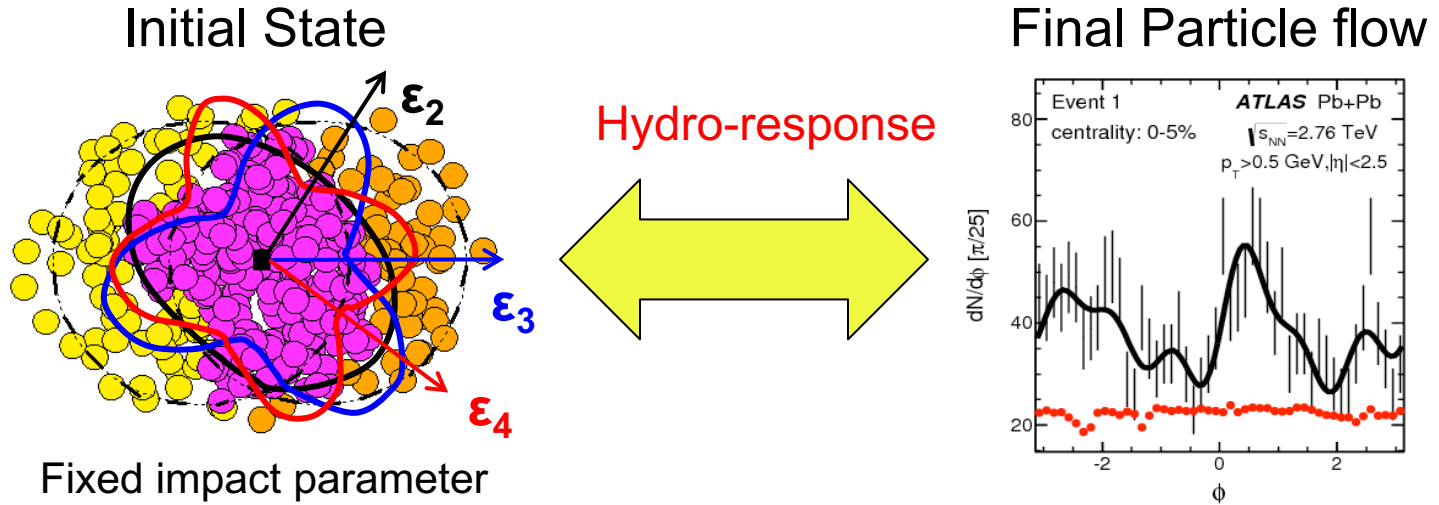


### Understanding via effective nuclear theories

- Lattice, Ab.initio (starting from NN interaction)
- Shell models (configuration interaction)
- DFT models (non-relativistic and covariant)

- 1) Are nuclear structures important for HI initial condition and final state evolution?
- 2) What HI experimental observables can be used to infer structure information?
- 3) Can HI provides competitive constraints on nuclear shape and radial profile? can consideration of nuclear structure improves understanding of HI initial condition?

# Collective flow in fluctuating events



Initial volume

Initial Size

Initial Shape

Multiplicity

Radial Flow

Harmonic Flow

$$N_{\text{part}}$$

$$R_{\perp}^2 \propto \langle r_{\perp}^2 \rangle,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_2 \propto \langle r_{\perp}^2 e^{i2\phi} \rangle$$

$$N_{\text{ch}}$$

$$\frac{d^2 N}{d\phi dp_T} = N(p_T) \left( \sum_n V_n e^{-in\phi} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{E}_3 \propto \langle r_{\perp}^3 e^{i3\phi} \rangle$$

$$\mathcal{E}_4 \propto \langle r_{\perp}^4 e^{i4\phi} \rangle$$

...

Bozek, Broniowski, 1203.1810

Y. Li, D. Teany, 1206.1905

High energy: approx. linear response in each event:

$$N_{\text{ch}} \propto N_{\text{part}}$$

$$\frac{\delta[p_T]}{[p_T]} \propto -\frac{\delta R_{\perp}}{R_{\perp}} \quad V_n \propto \mathcal{E}_n$$

# Zoo of Flow observables

- Single particle distribution

Flow vector:  $\mathbf{V}_n = v_n e^{in\Psi_n}$

$$\frac{d^2 N}{d\phi dp_T} = N(p_T) \left[ 1 + 2 \sum_n v_n(p_T) \cos n(\phi - \Psi_n(p_T)) \right]$$

$$= N(p_T) \left[ \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} V_n(p_T) e^{in\phi} \right]$$

Radial flow  $\nearrow$        $\nwarrow$  Anisotropic flow

- Two-particle correlation function

$$\left\langle \frac{d^2 N_1}{d\phi dp_T} \frac{d^2 N_2}{d\phi dp_T} \right\rangle \Rightarrow \langle \mathbf{V}_n(p_{T1}) \mathbf{V}_n^*(p_{T2}) \rangle \quad n - n = 0$$

- Multi-particle correlation function

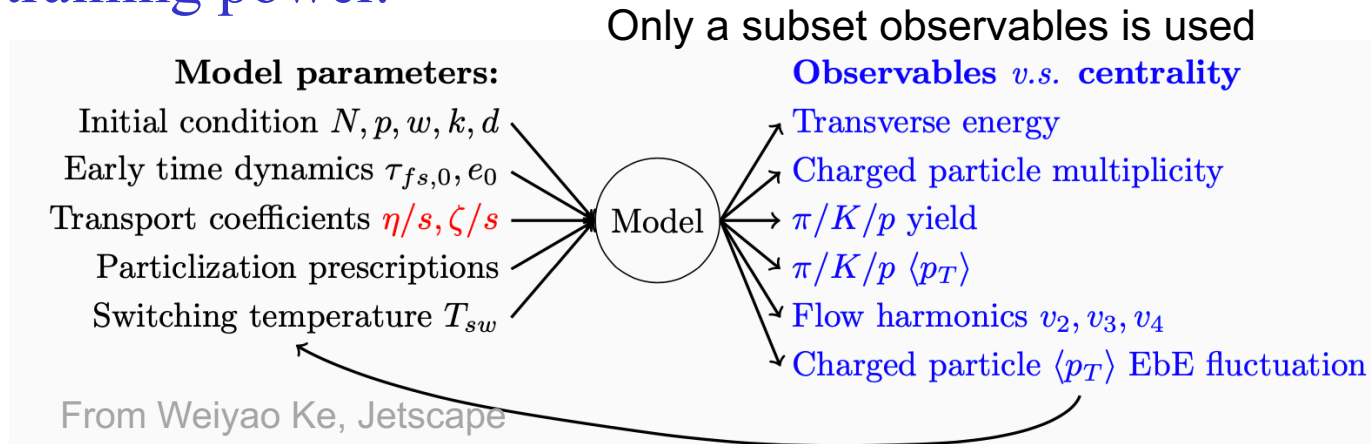
$$\left\langle \frac{d^2 N_1}{d\phi dp_T} \cdots \frac{d^2 N_m}{d\phi dp_T} \right\rangle \Rightarrow \langle \mathbf{V}_{n_1} \mathbf{V}_{n_2} \cdots \mathbf{V}_{n_m} \rangle \quad n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_m = 0$$

$$\downarrow$$

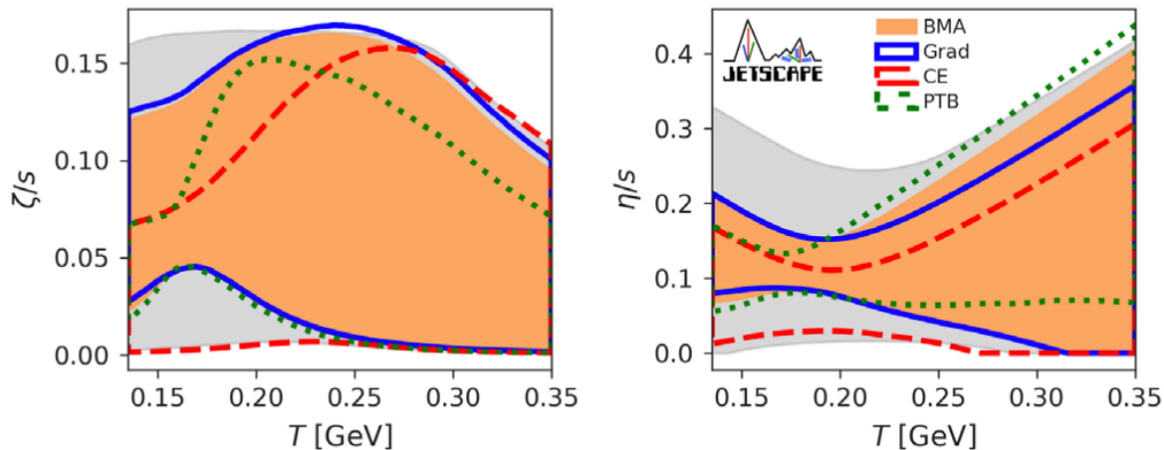
$$p(\delta[p_T], \mathbf{V}_2, \mathbf{V}_3 \dots) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{evts}}} \frac{dN_{\text{evts}}}{d\delta[p_T] d\mathbf{V}_2 d\mathbf{V}_3 \dots}$$

# State-of-the-art modeling of HI collisions

- Data-model comparison via Bayesian inference to optimize constraining power.



- Detailed temperature dependence of viscosity!



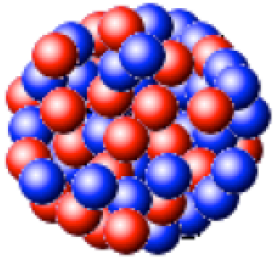
Jetscape PRL.126.242301  
Trjactum PRL.126.202301

Major uncertainty: initial condition and pre-hydro phase

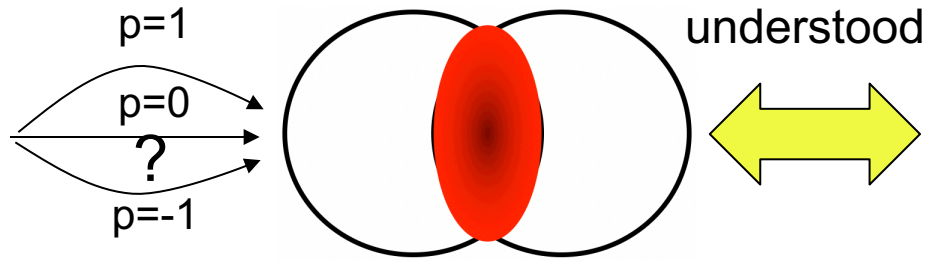


# The role of nuclear structure

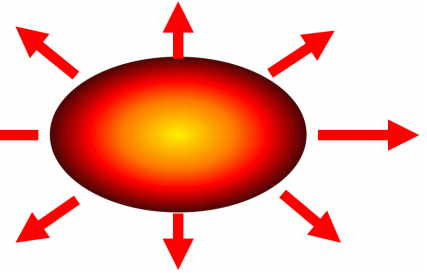
Nucleus



Initial condition



Final state



$$T_A(x, y) = \int \rho(x, y, z) dz$$

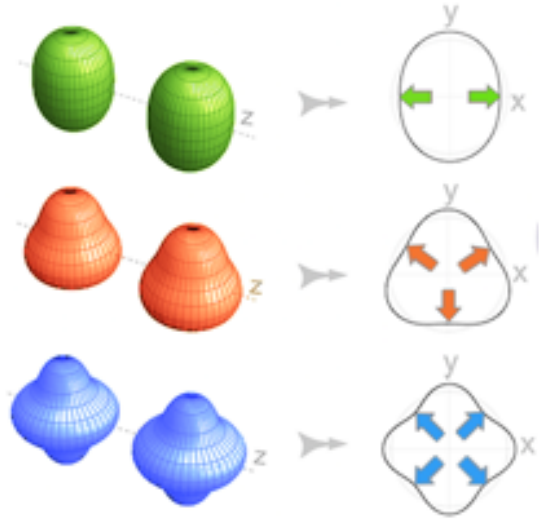
- Different ways of depositing energy  $T \propto \left( \frac{T_A^p + T_B^p}{2} \right)^{q/p}$

$$e(x, y) \sim \begin{cases} T_A + T_B & N_{\text{part}} - \text{scaling}, p = 1 \\ T_A T_B & N_{\text{coll}} - \text{scaling}, p = 0, q = 2 \\ \sqrt{T_A T_B} & \text{Trento default}, p = 0 \\ \min\{T_A, T_B\} & \text{KLN model}, p \sim -2/3 \\ T_A + T_B + \alpha T_A T_B & \text{two-component model,} \\ & \text{similar to quark-glauber model} \end{cases}$$

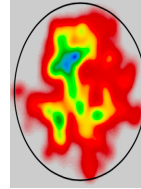
- Use nuclear structure to provide extra lever-arm for initial condition?

# The role of nuclear structure

Nuclear shape:



Initial condition

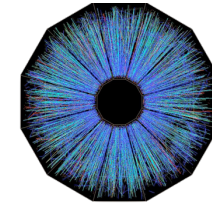


$\epsilon_2 \nearrow$

$\epsilon_3 \nearrow$

$\epsilon_4 \nearrow$

Final state

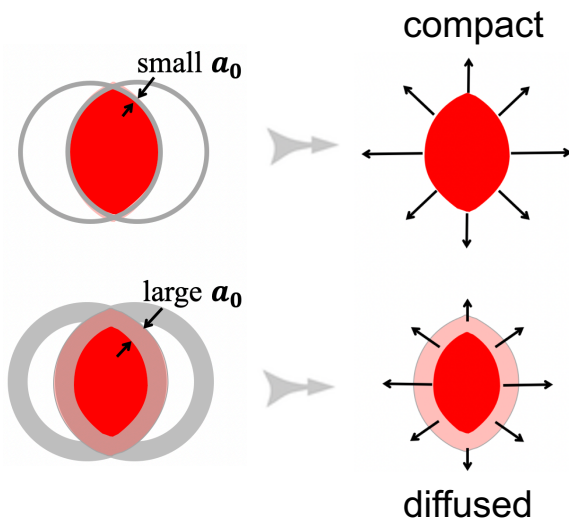


$v_2 \nearrow$

$v_3 \nearrow$

$v_4 \nearrow$

Radial profile:



$\epsilon_2 \nearrow$   $R \searrow$

$\epsilon_2 \searrow$   $R \nearrow$

$v_2 \nearrow$   $\rho_T \nearrow$

$v_2 \searrow$   $\rho_T \searrow$

# Parametric form

- In principle, can measure any moments of  $p(1/R, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3 \dots)$

■ Mean	$\langle d_{\perp} \rangle$		$\langle p_T \rangle$
■ Variances:	$\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle, \langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle$	$d_{\perp} \equiv 1/R_{\perp}$	$\langle v_n^2 \rangle, \langle (\delta p_T/p_T)^2 \rangle$
■ Skewness	$\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp} \rangle, \langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^3 \rangle$		$\langle v_n^2 \delta p_T/p_T \rangle, \langle (\delta p_T/p_T)^3 \rangle$
■ Kurtosis	$\langle \varepsilon_n^4 \rangle - 2\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle^2, \langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^4 \rangle - 3\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle^2$		$\langle v_n^4 \rangle - 2\langle v_n^2 \rangle^2, \langle (\delta p_T/p_T)^4 \rangle - 3\langle (\delta p_T/p_T)^2 \rangle^2$
	...		

- All with rather simple connection to deformation, for example:

- Variances

$$\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle \approx a_n + \sum_{m,m'} b_{n;m,m'} \beta_m \beta_{m'}$$

$$\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle \approx a_0 + \sum_{m,m'} b_{0;m,m'} \beta_m \beta_{m'}$$

Specifically:

$$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle \sim a_2 + b_2 \beta_2^2 + b_{2,3} \beta_3^2$$

$$\langle \varepsilon_3^2 \rangle \sim a_3 + b_3 \beta_3^2 + b_{3,2} \beta_2^2 + b_{3,4} \beta_4^2$$

$$\langle \varepsilon_4^2 \rangle \sim a_4 + b_4 \beta_4^2 + b_{4,2} \beta_2^2$$

$$\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle \sim a_0 + b_0 \beta_2^2 + b_{0,3} \beta_3^2$$

- Skewness

$$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp} \rangle \sim a_1 - b_1 \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3$$

$$\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^3 \rangle \sim a_2 + b_2 \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3$$

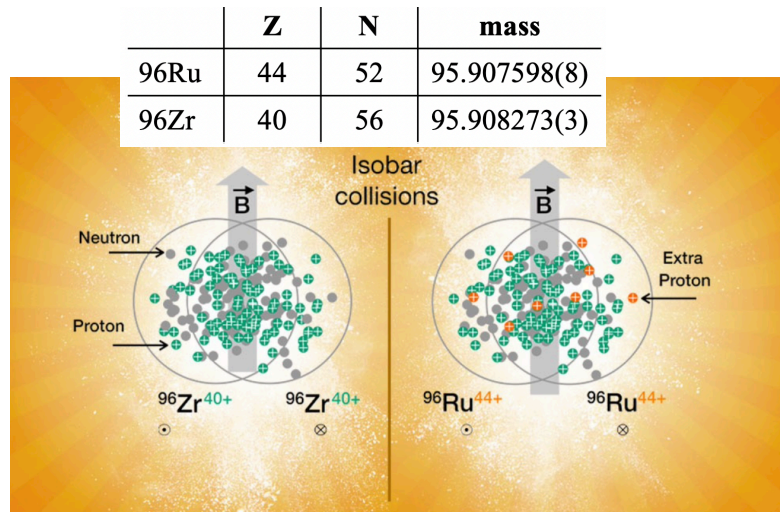
- Kurtosis

$$\langle \varepsilon_2^4 \rangle - 2\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle^2 \sim a_3 - b_3 \beta_2^4$$

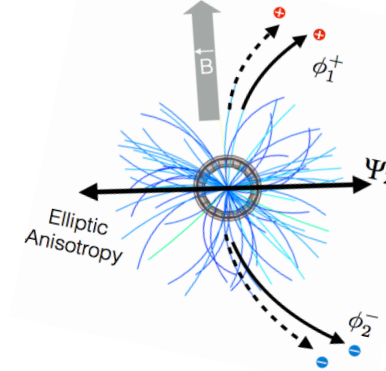
$$\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^4 \rangle - 3\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle^2 \sim a_4 - b_4 \beta_2^4$$

But how to achieve precision?

# Isobar collisions at RHIC: context



*arXiv:2109.00131*



Voloshin, hep-ph/0406311

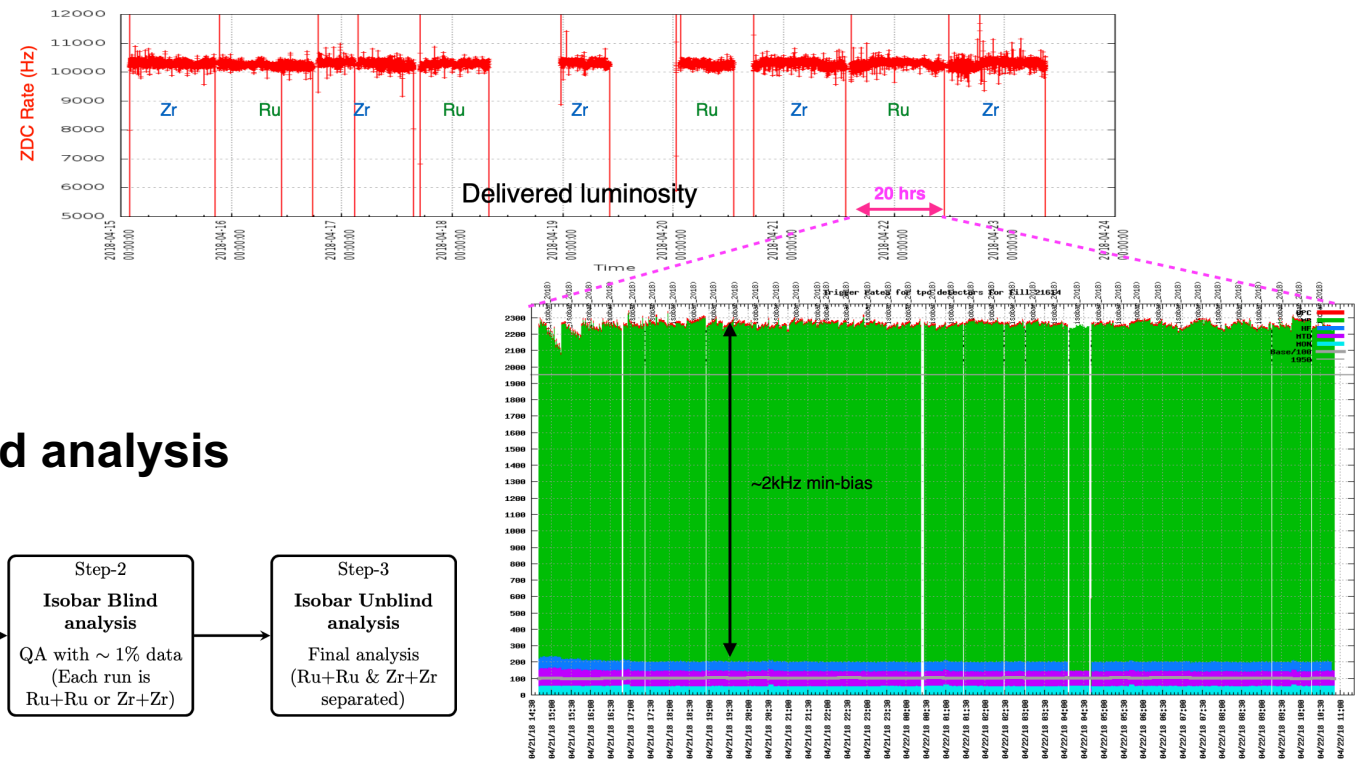
- Designed to search for the chiral magnetic effect: strong P & CP violation in the presence of EM field. Experimental signature is a spontaneous separation of + and - hadrons along EM direction, vertical to  $\mathcal{E}_2$
- Turns out the CME signal is small, and isobar-differences are dominated by the nuclear structure differences.
- and turns out to be a precision tool for both NS physics & HI initial condition

# Isobar collisions at RHIC/STAR

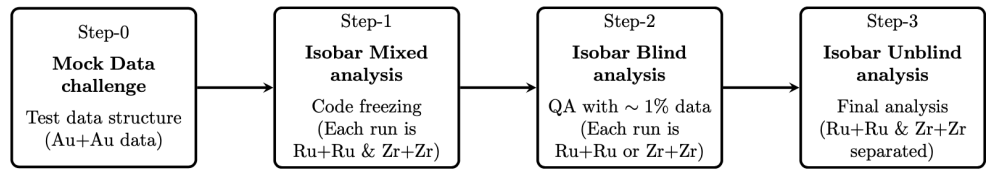
From J Drachenberg

## RHIC Running

- Switch isobar species each time beam is inserted into RHIC
- Stable luminosity (matched between species) with long (~20 hour) beam circulation time
- Adjust and level luminosity to optimize data collection rate while minimizing backgrounds and systematics
- Restrict species-related information to those necessary for successful data-taking
- Calibration experts (recused from CME analyses) evaluate data quality “in real time”



## STAR : predefined blind analysis



STAR Data Acquisition Rates

<0.4% precision is achieved in ratio of many observables between  $^{96}\text{Ru}+^{96}\text{Ru}$  and  $^{96}\text{Zr}+^{96}\text{Zr}$  systems → precision imaging tool

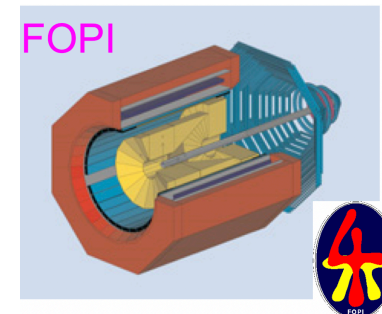
# Isobar collisions as precision tool

- A key question for any HI observable  $O$ :

$$\frac{O_{^{96}\text{Ru}+^{96}\text{Ru}}}{O_{^{96}\text{Zr}+^{96}\text{Zr}}} \stackrel{?}{=} 1$$

Deviation from 1 must have origin in the nuclear structure, which impacts the initial state and then survives to the final state.

- Many such pairs of isobars in the nuclear chart.
  - Small system isobar such as  $^{36}\text{Ar}$  and  $^{36}\text{S}$ .
  - Large system isobar such as  $^{204}\text{Hg}$  and  $^{204}\text{Pb}$
- Isobar also done at low energy, e.g. FOPI, with different physics focus
  - Baryon stopping and isospin sensitive observables.
  - No clear separation between initial and final state
  - Smaller hadron multiplicity limits the precision



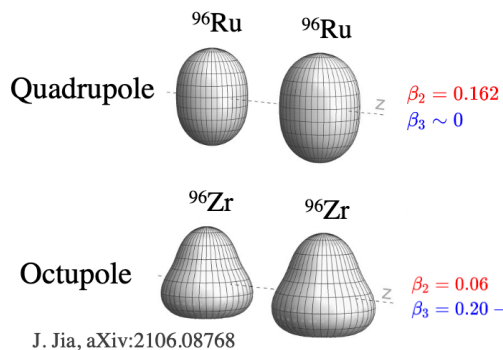
# Isobar collisions as precision tool

- A key question for any HI observable  $\mathcal{O}$ :

$$\frac{O_{^{96}\text{Ru}+^{96}\text{Ru}}}{O_{^{96}\text{Zr}+^{96}\text{Zr}}} \stackrel{?}{=} 1$$

Deviation from 1 must have origin in the nuclear structure, which impacts the initial state and then survives to the final state.

- Expectation



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

$$R(\theta, \phi) = R_0 \left( 1 + \beta_2 [\cos \gamma Y_{2,0} + \sin \gamma Y_{2,2}] + \beta_3 \sum_{m=-3}^3 \alpha_{3,m} Y_{3,m} + \beta_4 \sum_{m=-4}^4 \alpha_{4,m} Y_{4,m} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{O} \approx b_0 + b_1 \beta_2^2 + b_2 \beta_3^2 + b_3 (R_0 - R_{0,\text{ref}}) + b_4 (a - a_{\text{ref}})$$

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

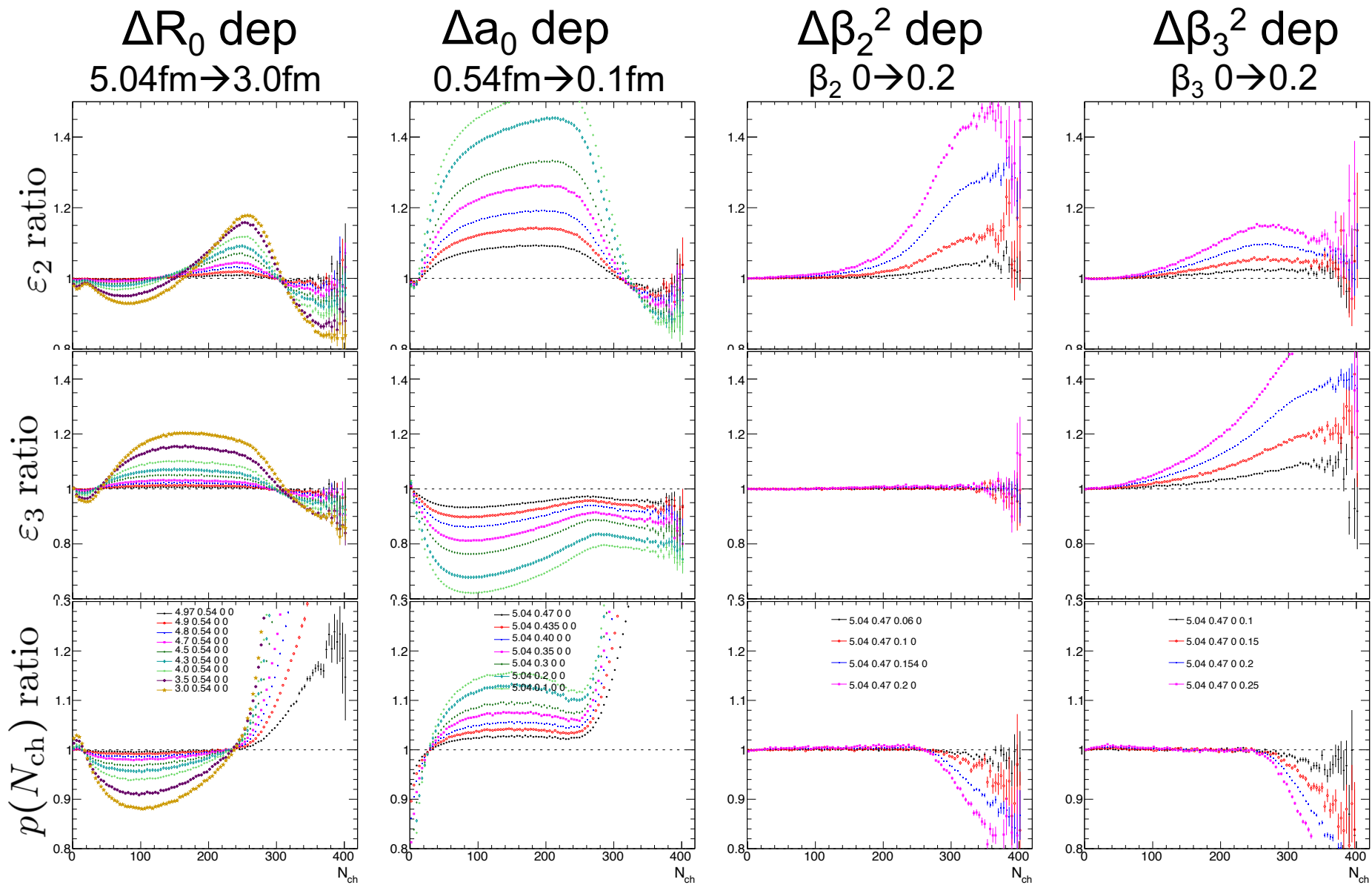
Species	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$	$a_0$	$R_0$
Ru	0.162	0	0.46 fm	5.09 fm
Zr	0.06	0.20	0.52 fm	5.02 fm
difference	$\Delta \beta_2^2$	$\Delta \beta_3^2$	$\Delta a_0$	$\Delta R_0$
	0.0226	-0.04	-0.06 fm	0.07 fm

Valid for most single- and two-particle observable:  $v_2, v_3, p(N_{\text{ch}}), \langle p_T \rangle, \langle \delta p_T^2 \rangle \dots$

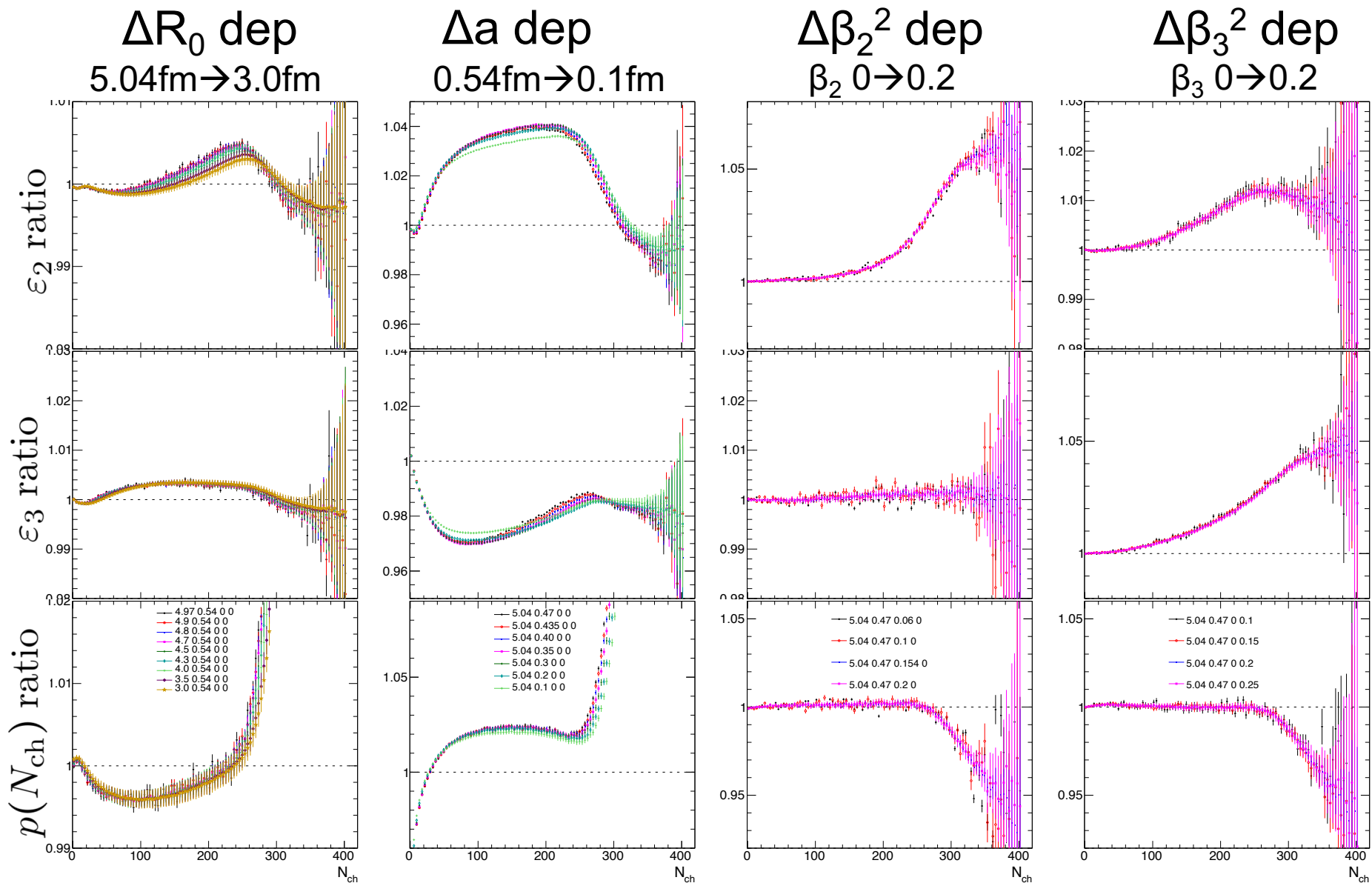
Only probes isobar differences



# Glauber results

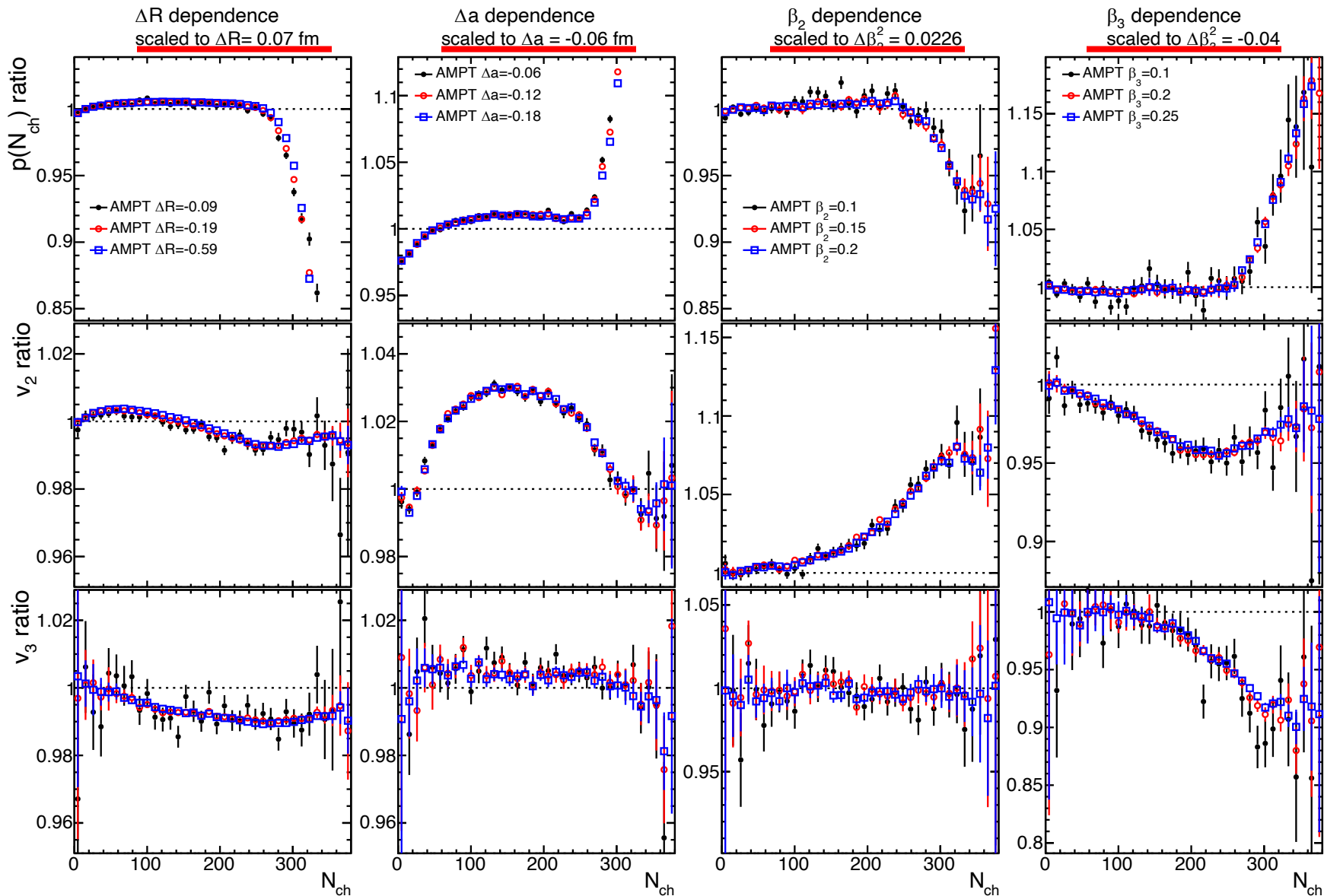


# Glauber results: scaled



Verifies the relation:  $1 + c_1 \Delta\beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta\beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta a + c_4 \Delta R$

# AMPT results: scaled



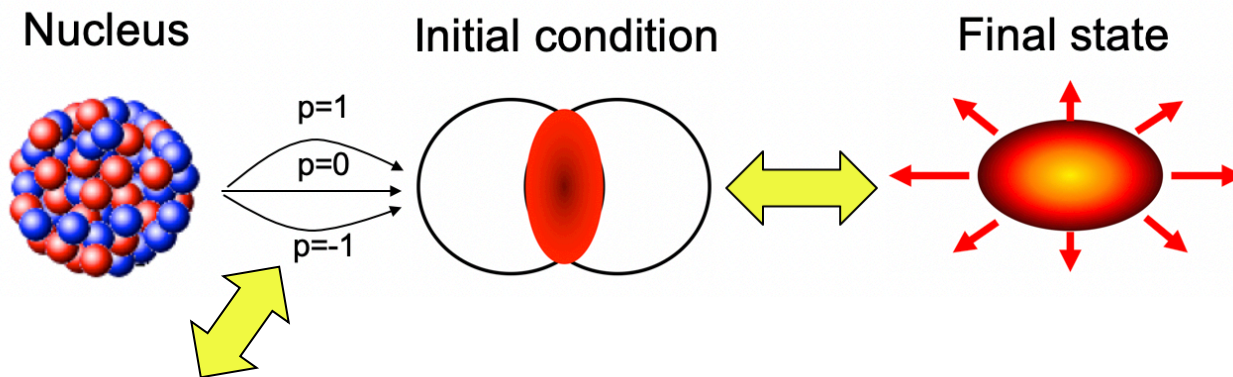
Verifies the relation:  $1 + c_1 \Delta\beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta\beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta a + c_4 \Delta R$

# Scaling approach to nuclear structure

arXiv:2111.15559

Valid for most single- and two-particle observable:  $v_2, v_3, p(N_{ch}), \langle p_T \rangle, \langle \delta p_T^2 \rangle ..$

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

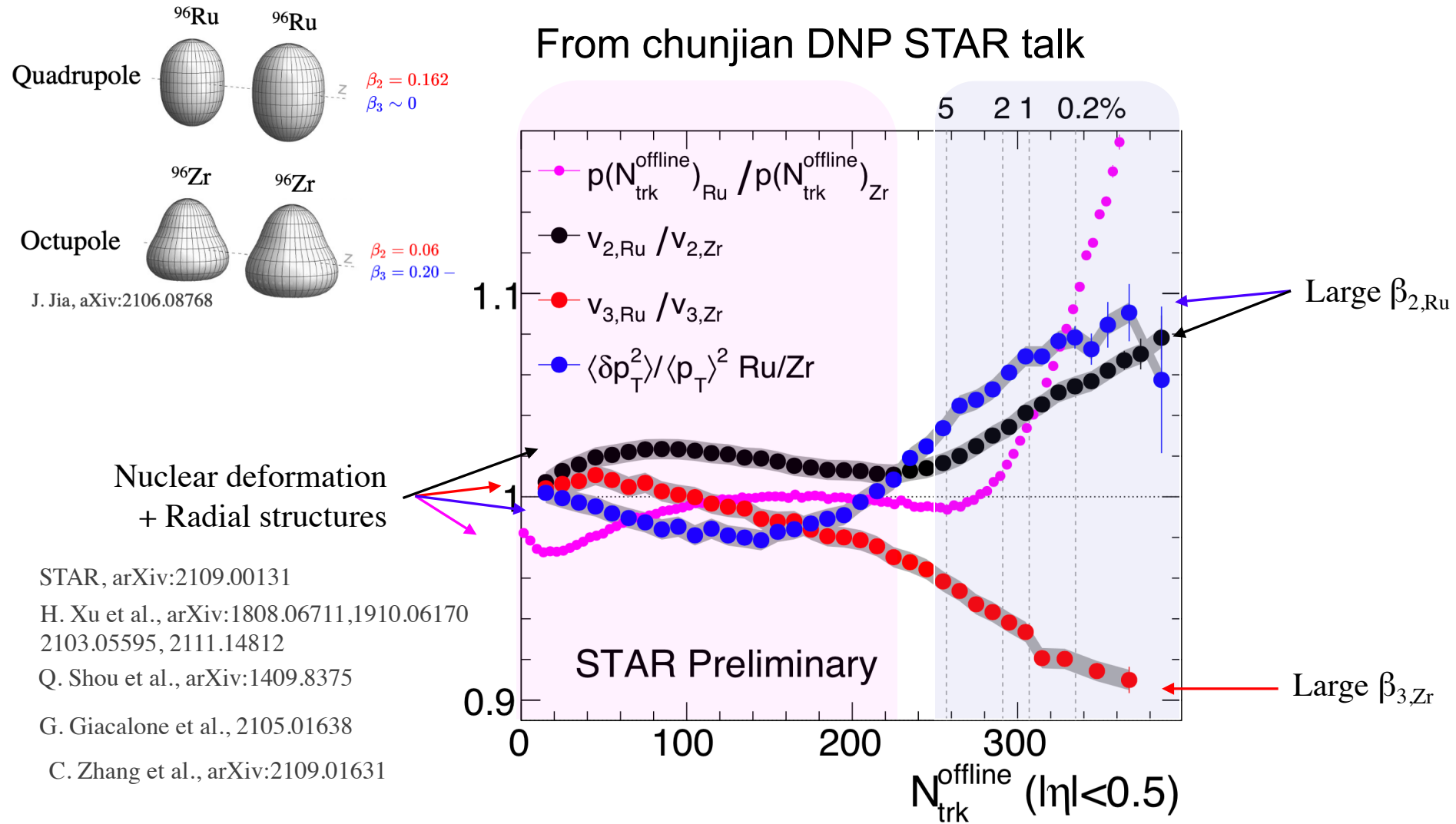


$c_n$  relates nuclear structure  
and initial condition

- Determine  $c_n$  once, and predict ratios for other NS parameter values.
- Constrain parameters via  $\chi^2$  analysis or Bayesian inference.

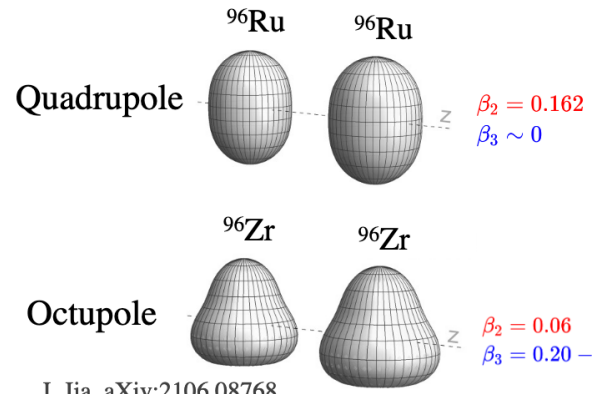
# Compare with isobar data

From chunjian DNP STAR talk



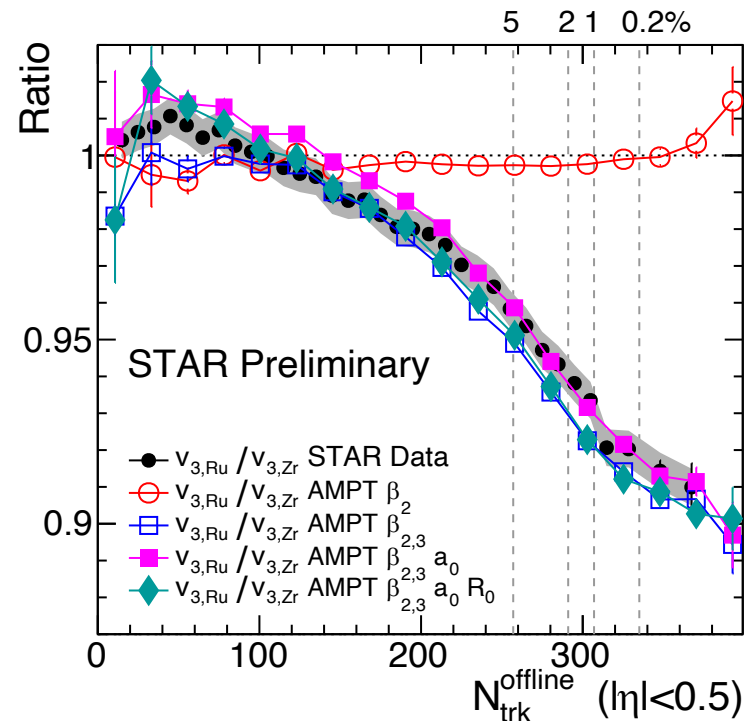
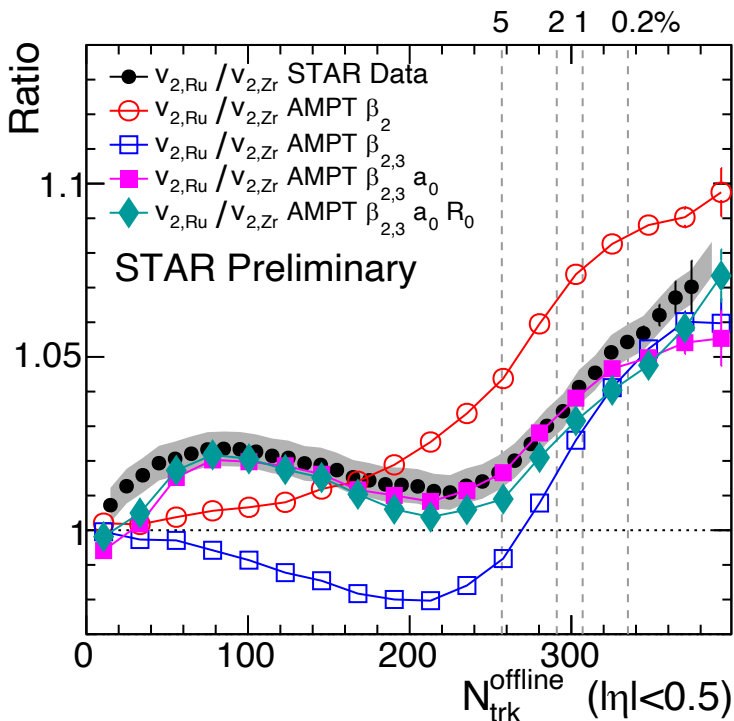
Use these ratios to probe shape and radial structure of nuclei.

# Nuclear structure via $v_n$ -ratio



J. Jia, aXiv:2106.08768

- $\beta_{2\text{Ru}} \sim 0.16$  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 influ. on  $v_3$ .
- Radius  $\Delta R_0 = 0.07\text{fm}$  only slightly affects  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  ratio.



Simultaneously constrain these parameters using different  $N_{\text{ch}}$  regions

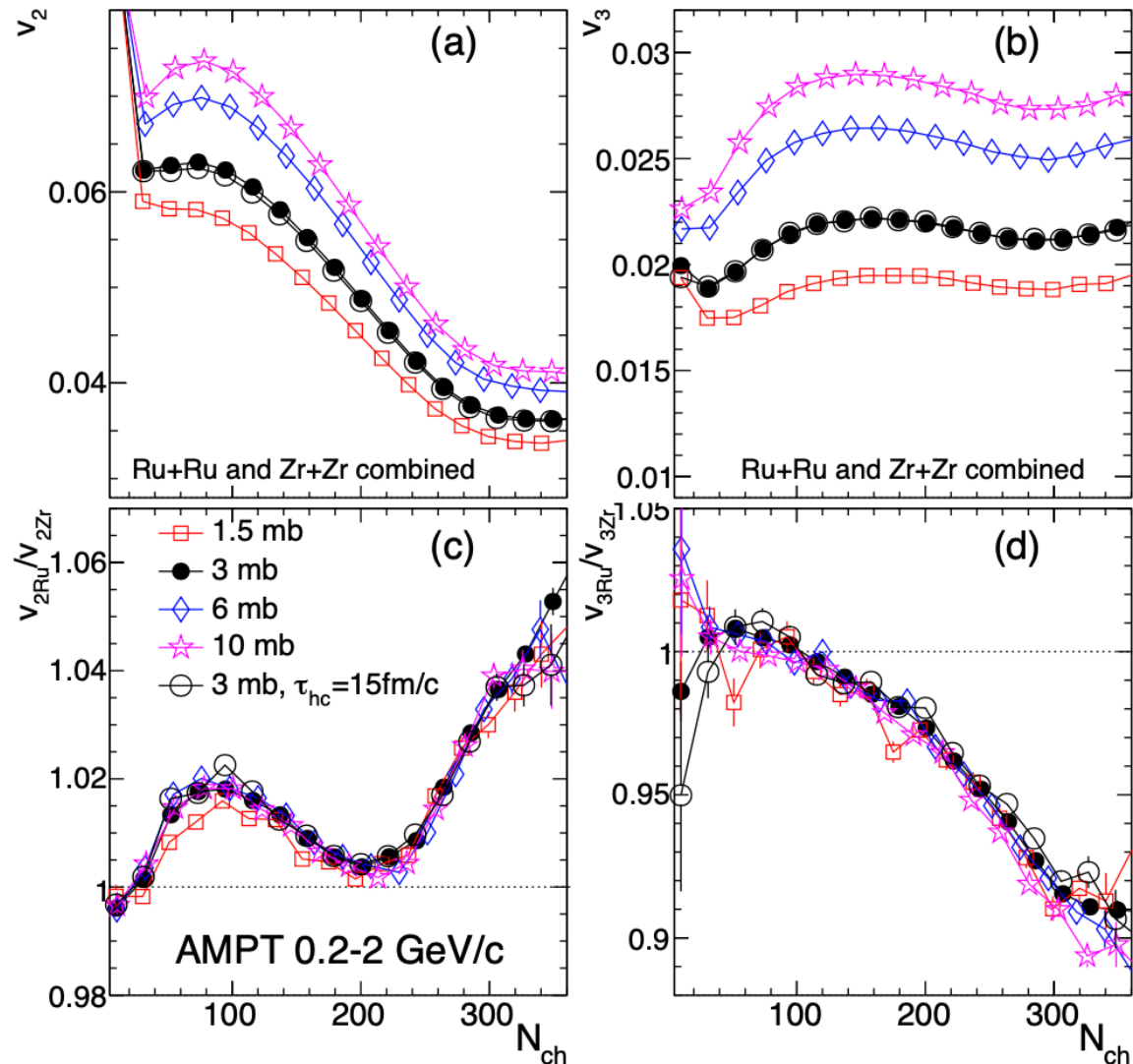
# Not affected by final state

- Vary the shear viscosity via partonic cross-section
  - Flow signal change by 30-50%, the  $v_n$  ratio unchanged.

$$v_n = k_n \varepsilon_n$$

↓

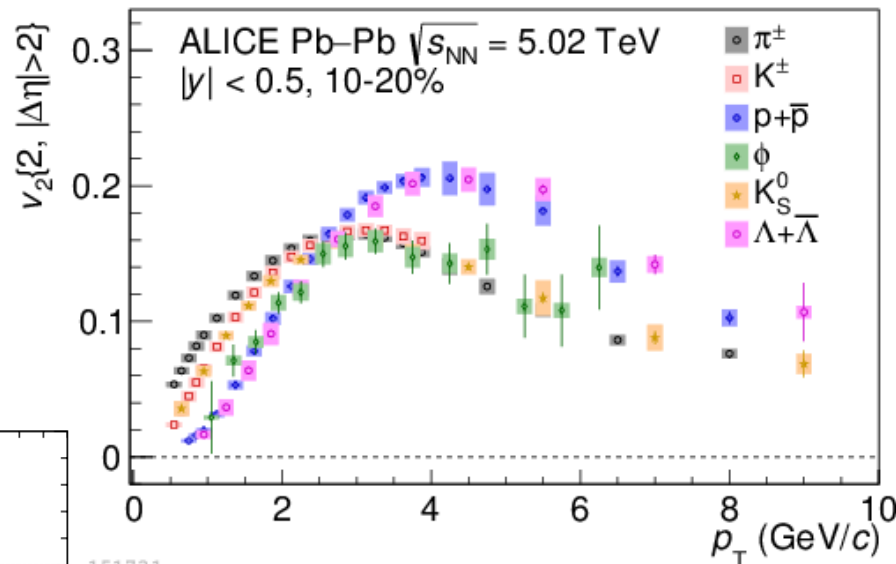
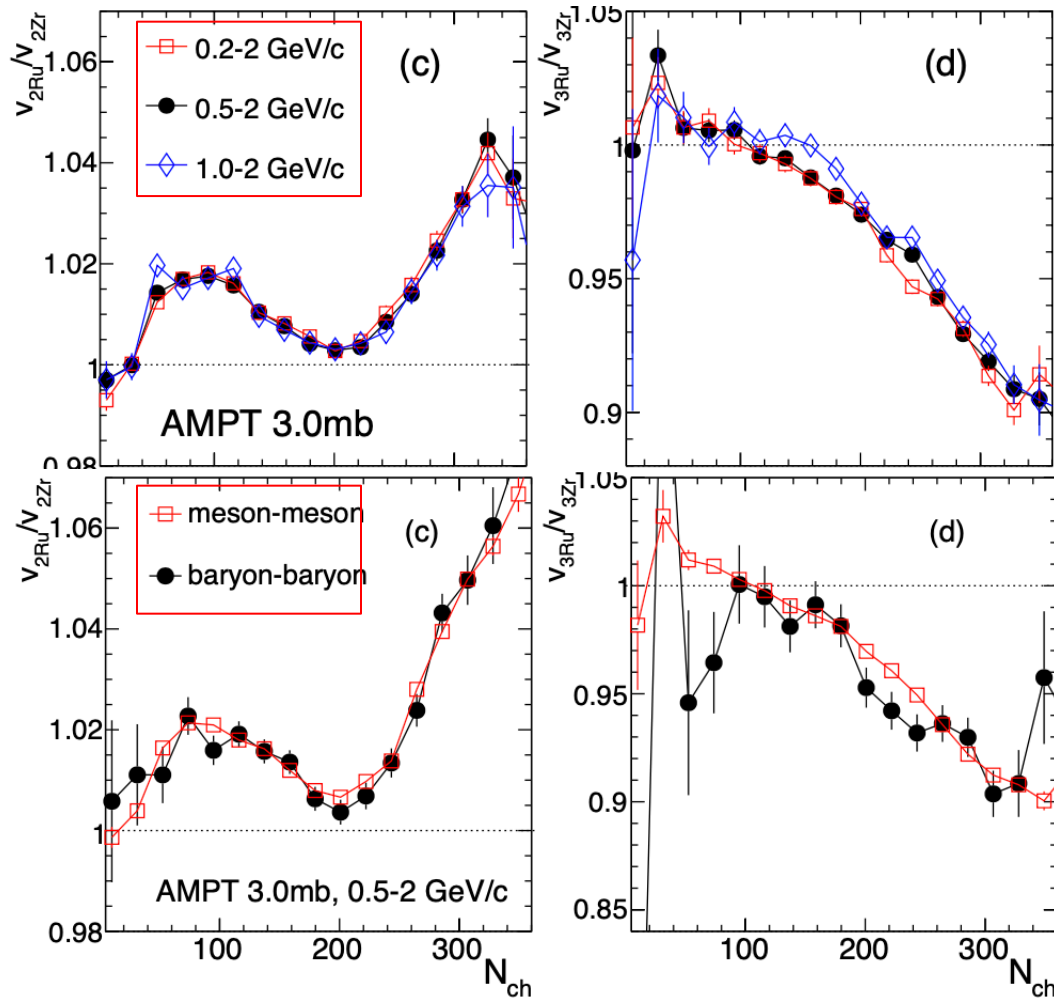
$$\frac{v_{n,Ru}}{v_{n,Zr}} \approx \frac{\varepsilon_{n,Ru}}{\varepsilon_{n,Zr}}$$



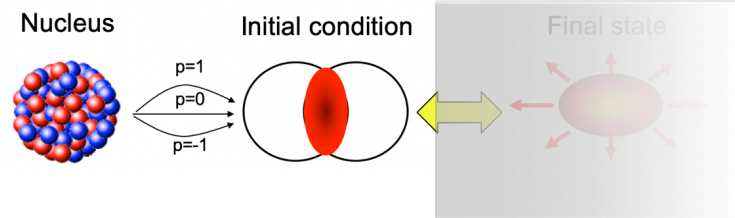
# Not affected by final state

$$v_n = k_n \varepsilon_n$$

$k_n$  is a function of  $p_T$  and PID,  
But fully cancels in the ratio

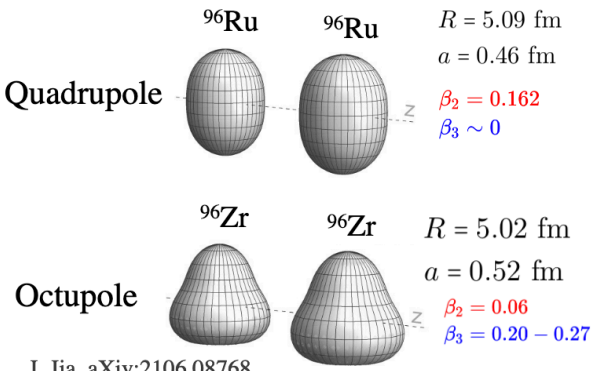


Robust probe of  
initial state!





# Nuclear structure via $p(N_{ch})$ , $\langle p_T \rangle$ -ratio



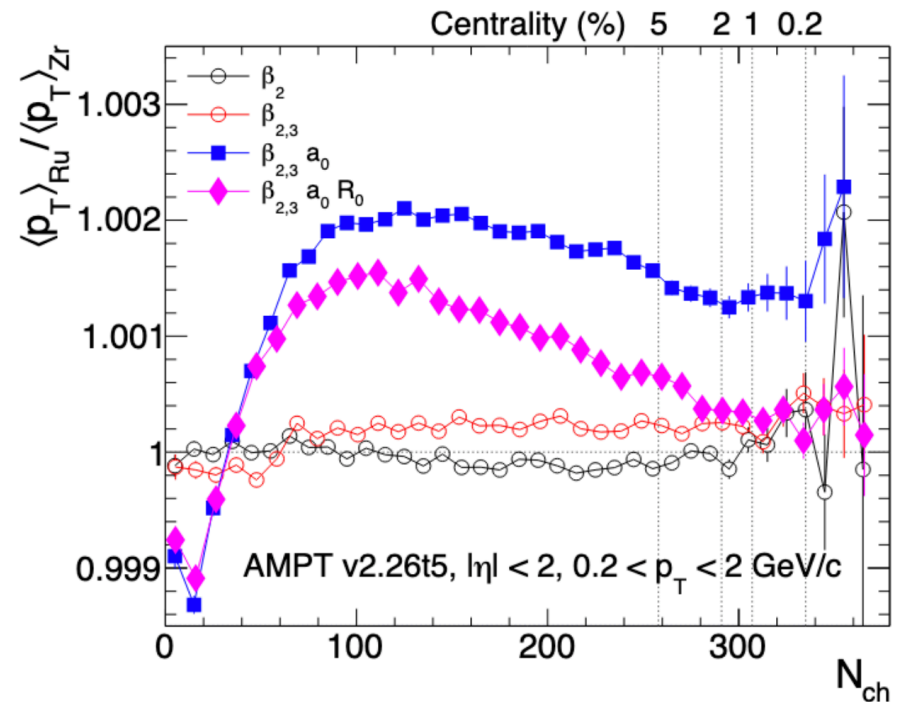
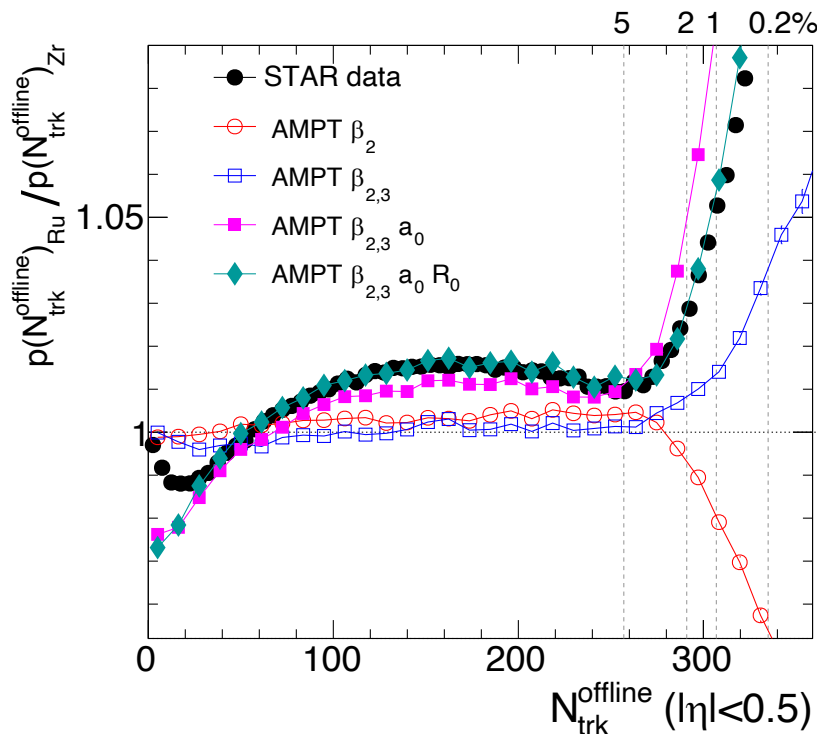
## ■ For $N_{ch}$ ratio:

- $\beta_{2\text{Ru}} \sim 0.16$  decrease ratio, increase after considering  $\beta_{3\text{Zr}} \sim 0.2$
- The bump structure in non-central region from  $\Delta a_0$  and  $\Delta R_0$

## ■ For $\langle p_T \rangle$ ratio:

- Strong influence from  $\Delta a_0$  and  $\Delta R_0$

J. Jia, aXiv:2106.08768

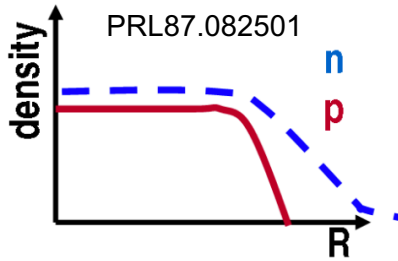
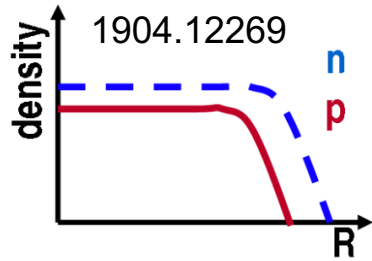


# Relating to the Neutron Skin

$$\rho = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + e^{-(r-R_0)/a}}$$

Neutron skin:

$$\Delta r_{np} = \langle r_n^2 \rangle^{1/2} - \langle r_p^2 \rangle^{1/2}$$



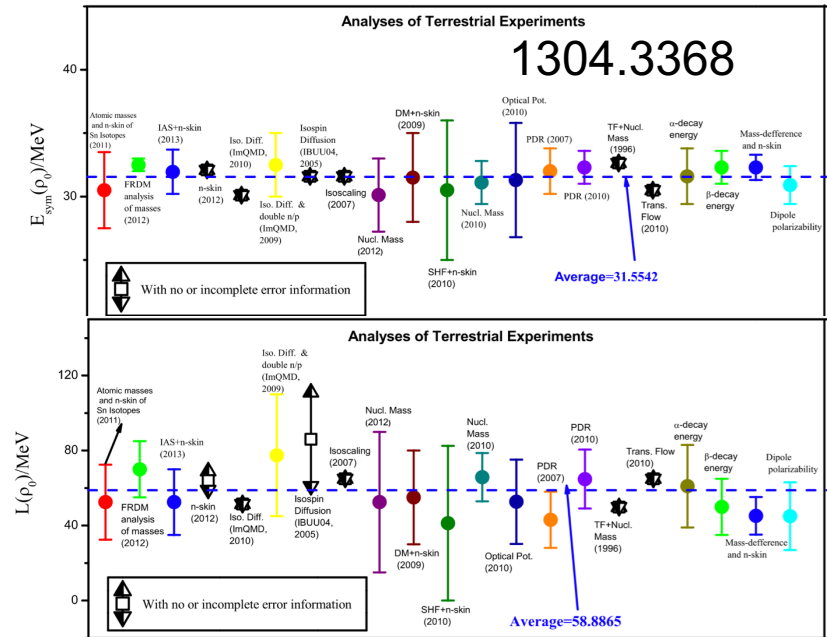
skin-type: larger  $R_0$

halo-type: larger  $a_0$

Related to the EOS of symmetry energy, in particular the slope parameter “L”

$$E_{\text{sym}}(\rho) \approx J + Lx + \frac{1}{2}K_{\text{sym}}x^2 \quad x = (\rho - \rho_{\text{sat}})/3\rho_{\text{sat}}$$

Many constraints from structure and low-energy heavy-ion experiments



# Relating to neutron skin: $\Delta r_{np} = \langle r_n \rangle^{1/2} - \langle r_p \rangle^{1/2}$ 27

arXiv:2111.15559

Neutron skin  $\Delta r_{np}$  can be expressed by  $R_0$  and  $a_0$  for nucleons and protons:

$$\Delta r_{np} \approx \frac{\langle r^2 \rangle - \langle r_p^2 \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle}(\delta + 1)} \quad \delta = (N - Z)/A$$

For Woods-Saxon:  $\langle r^2 \rangle \approx \left( \frac{3}{5} R_0^2 + \frac{7}{5} \pi^2 a^2 \right)$   $\langle r_p^2 \rangle \approx \left( \frac{3}{5} R_{0,p}^2 + \frac{7}{5} \pi^2 a_p^2 \right)$

Isobar collision measure “**difference of neutron skin**” from  $\Delta R_0 \Delta a$  for nucleons, and known  $\Delta R_0 \Delta a$  for protons:

$$\Delta(\Delta r_{np}) = \Delta r_{np,1} - \Delta r_{np,2} \approx \frac{\Delta Y - \frac{7\pi^2 \bar{a}^2}{3 \bar{R}_0^2} \left( \frac{\Delta Y}{2} + \bar{Y} \left( \frac{\Delta a}{\bar{a}} - \frac{\Delta R_0}{\bar{R}_0} \right) \right)}{\sqrt{15} \bar{R}_0 (1 + \bar{\delta})}$$

$$\Delta x = x_1 - x_2$$

$$\bar{x} = (x_1 + x_2)/2$$

$$Y \equiv 3(R_0^2 - R_{0,p}^2) + 7\pi^2(a^2 - a_p^2)$$

# Hydro-response to Neutron skin

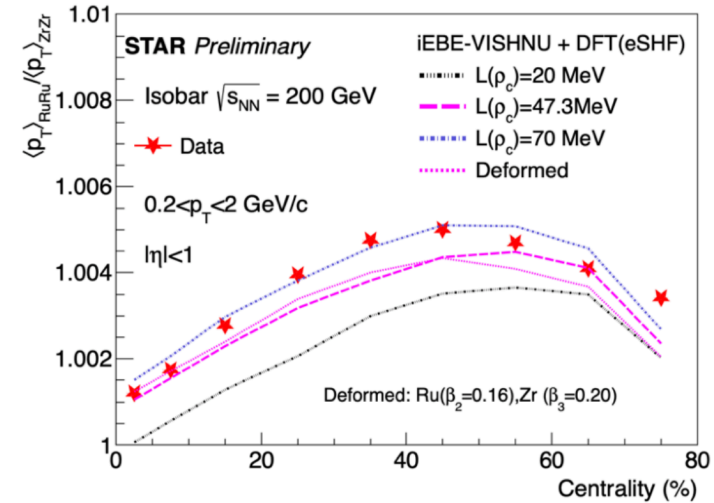
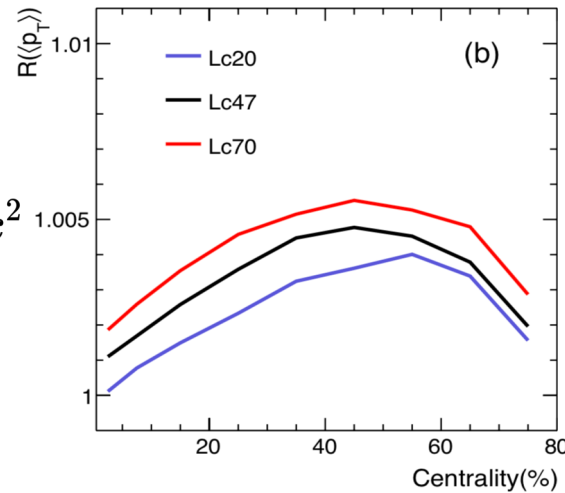
Sensitive to L parameter via hydro response:

$$\langle p_{\perp} \rangle \sim d_{\perp} \equiv \sqrt{N_{\text{part}} / S_{\perp}}$$

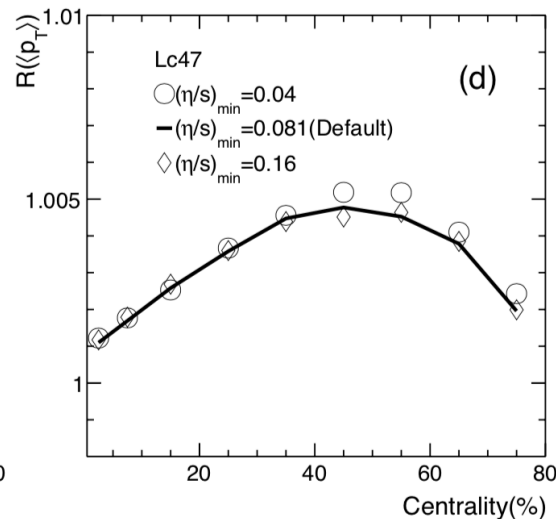
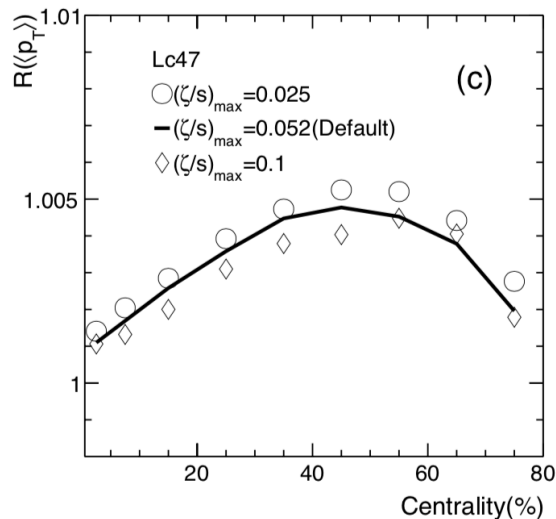
H. Xu et.al.2111.14812

$$E_{\text{sym}}(\rho) \approx J + Lx + \frac{1}{2} K_{\text{sym}} x^2$$

$$x = (\rho - \rho_{\text{sat}}) / 3\rho_{\text{sat}}$$



Small sensitivity to final state effects,  
mostly a probe of the initial state:



H. Xu, QM2022

Extracted value from 0-5%

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

Need to quantify the  
model uncertainties

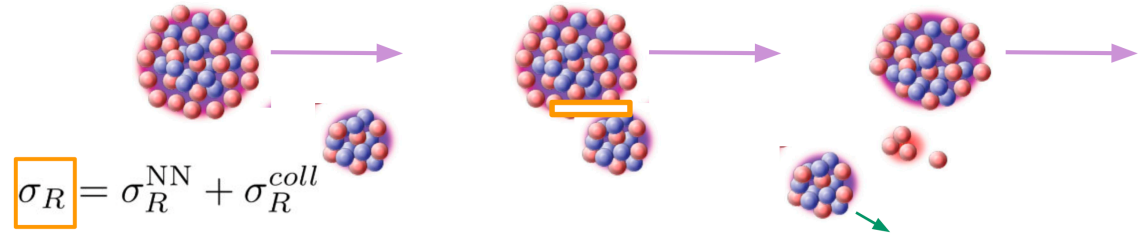
# Directly peeling off the skin matter

- Similar to low energy fragmentation reaction

Andrea Jedele



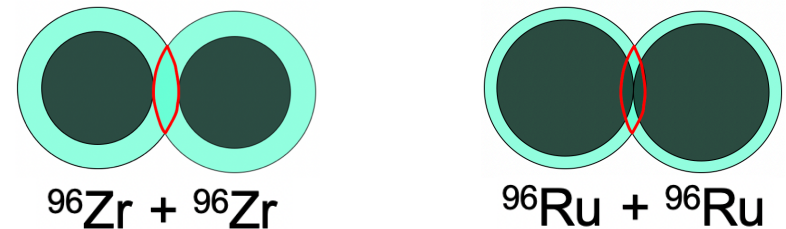
NuSym2021



$$\sigma_R = \sigma_R^{NN} + \sigma_R^{coll}$$

- Enhanced skin contribution in peripheral collisions reduces net charge in mid-rapidity

H. Xu et.al. 2105.04052

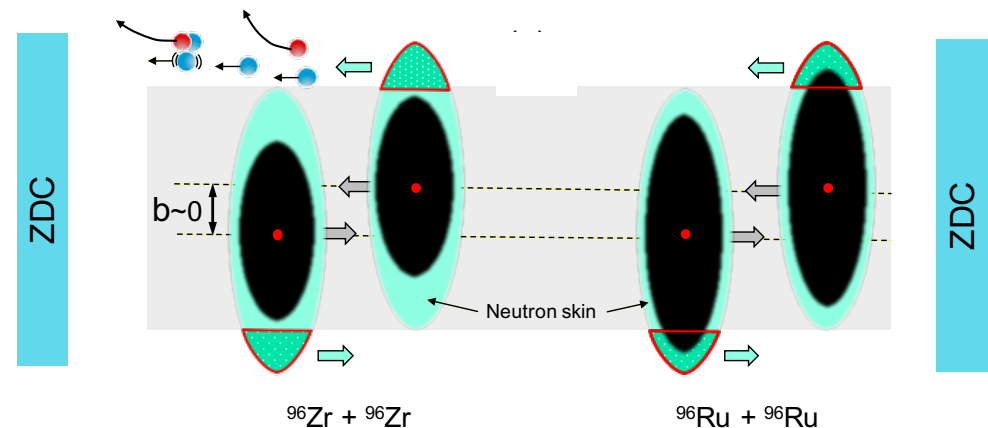


- Spectator neutrons in ultra-central isobar collisions is enhanced by neutron skin

N.Kozyrev, I. Pshenichnov 2204.07189

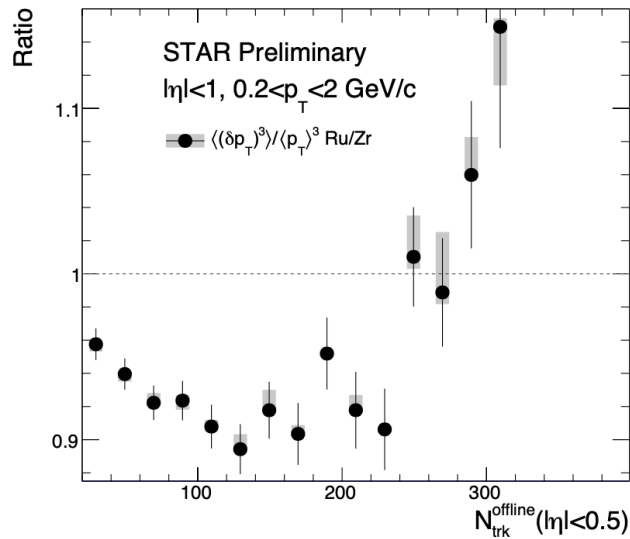
L. Liu, J. Xu et.al 2203.09924

Complete separation between participant and spectator matter

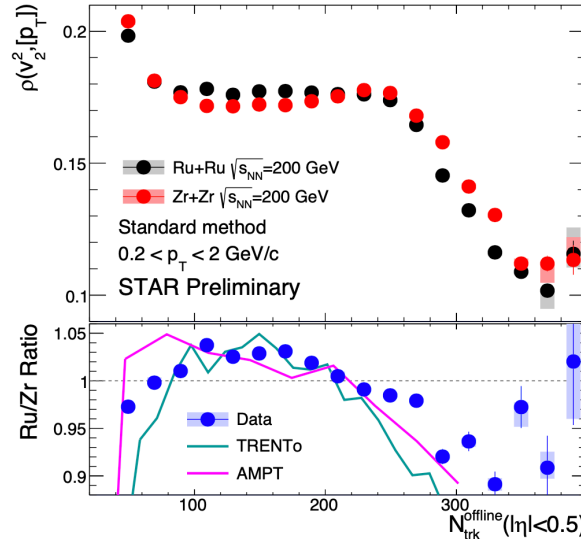


# Three-particle observables

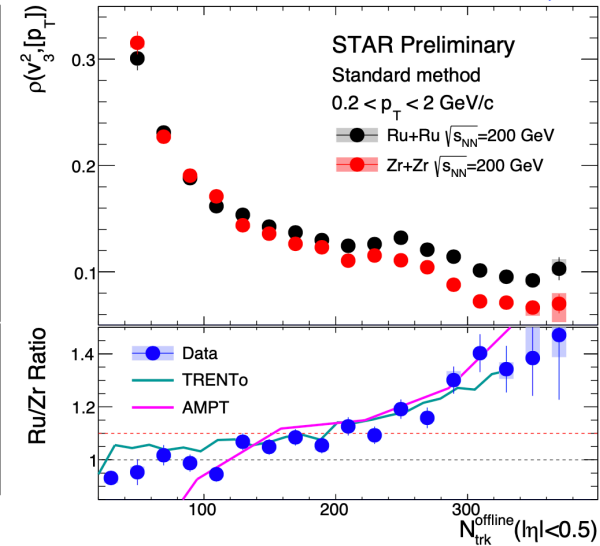
$$\langle (\delta p_T)^3 \rangle$$



$$\langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle$$



$$\langle v_3^2 \delta p_T \rangle$$



- $V_4$  driven by  $\epsilon_4$  plus non-linear modes

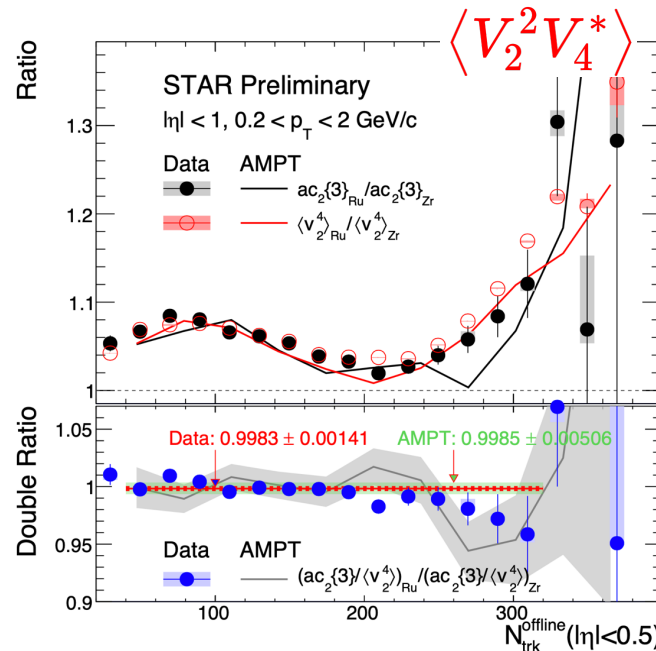
$$V_4 = V_{4L} + \chi_4 (V_2)^2$$



$$\langle V_2^2 V_4^* \rangle = \chi_4 \langle v_2^4 \rangle$$



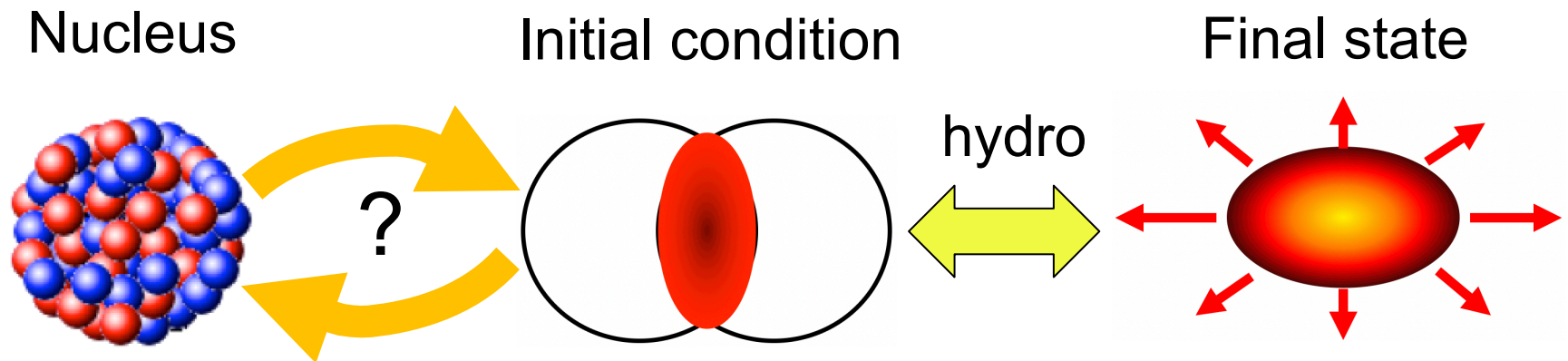
$$\frac{\langle V_2^2 V_4^* \rangle_{\text{Ru}}}{\langle V_2^2 V_4^* \rangle_{\text{Zr}}} = \frac{\chi_{4\text{Ru}}}{\chi_{4\text{Zr}}} \frac{\langle v_2^4 \rangle_{\text{Ru}}}{\langle v_2^4 \rangle_{\text{Zr}}}$$



All indicate NS effects.  
Much more expected from higher-order correlators

See Giuliano's talk

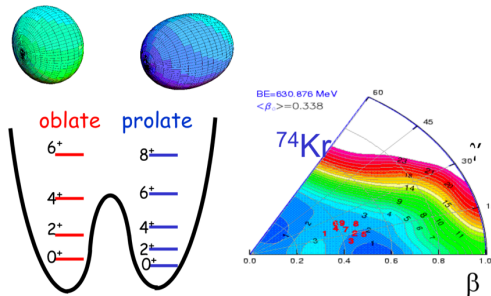
# What are the next steps?



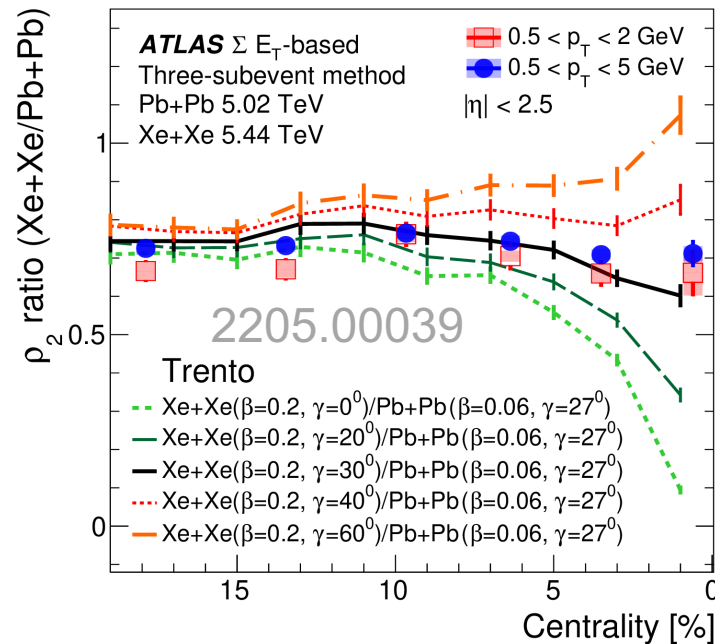
# Direction I: exploration

- Further explore connections between NS and HI, more observables
  - More case studies with Ru/Zr, Au/U, Pb/Xe. cancel most final state effect
  - Shape fluctuations and shape coexistence

## Shape coexistence



$$R = \frac{\langle v_2^2 \delta[p_T] \rangle_{129Xe}}{\langle v_2^2 \delta[p_T] \rangle_{208Pb}}$$



Bally et.al 2108.09578

## Large shape fluct., esp along $\gamma$

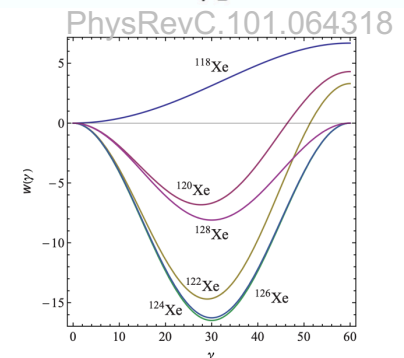
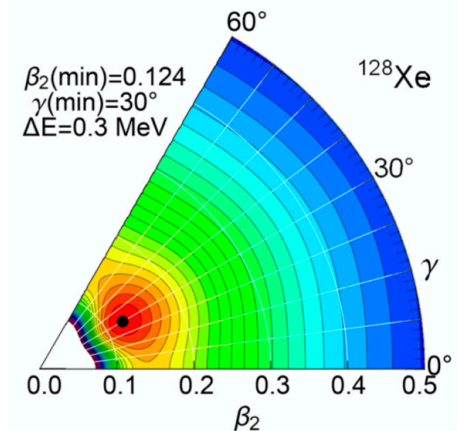


FIG. 3. The evolution of the  $\gamma$  potential defined by Eq. (7) with fitted parameters  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ , along the isotopic chain  $^{118-128}\text{Xe}$ .

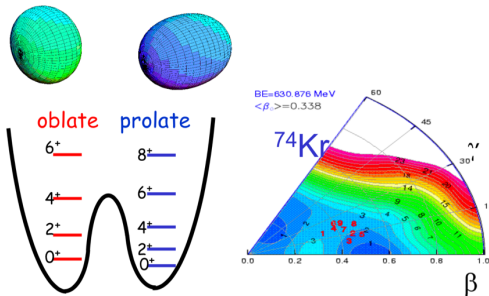


# Direction I: exploration

## Further explore connections between NS and HI, more observables

- More case studies with Ru/Zr, Au/U, Pb/Xe. cancel most final state effect
- Shape fluctuations and shape coexistence

### Shape coexistence



quadrupole operator  $\hat{Q}$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle \beta^2 \rangle = \frac{16\pi^2}{9A^2 R_0^4} \langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle \longleftarrow \text{2-p correlation} \\ \sigma^2(\langle \beta^2 \rangle) / \langle \beta^2 \rangle = \sigma^2(\langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle) / \langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle \longleftarrow \text{4-p correlation} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle \cos 3\gamma \rangle = -\sqrt{\frac{7}{2}} \frac{\langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle}{\langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle^{3/2}} \longleftarrow \text{3-p correlation} \\ \frac{\sigma^2(\cos 3\gamma)}{(\cos 3\gamma)^2} = \frac{\sigma^2 \langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle}{\langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle^2} + \frac{9}{4} \frac{\sigma^2 \langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle}{\langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle^2} - 3 \frac{\langle \hat{Q}^5 \rangle - \langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle \langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle}{\langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle \langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle} \longleftarrow \text{6-p correlation} \end{array} \right.$$

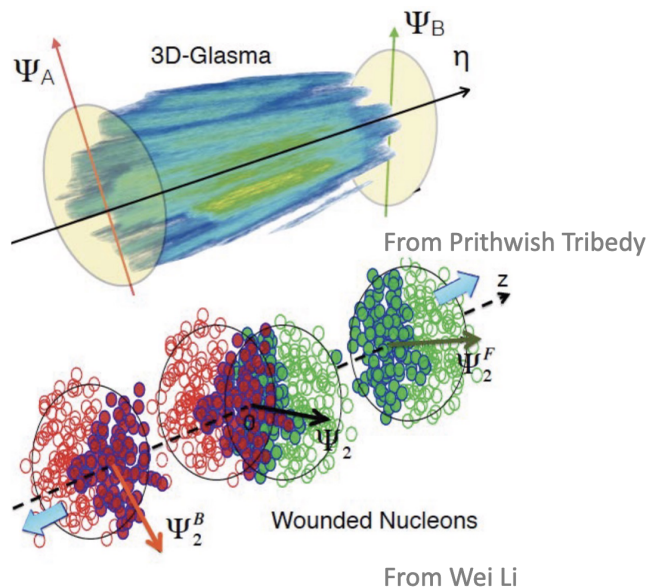
Heavy ion  
observables:

$$\frac{\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle}{\frac{3}{4\pi} \beta_2^2} \longleftrightarrow \frac{\langle \varepsilon_2^4 \rangle - 2 \langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle^2}{-\frac{9}{56\pi^2} \beta_2^4}$$

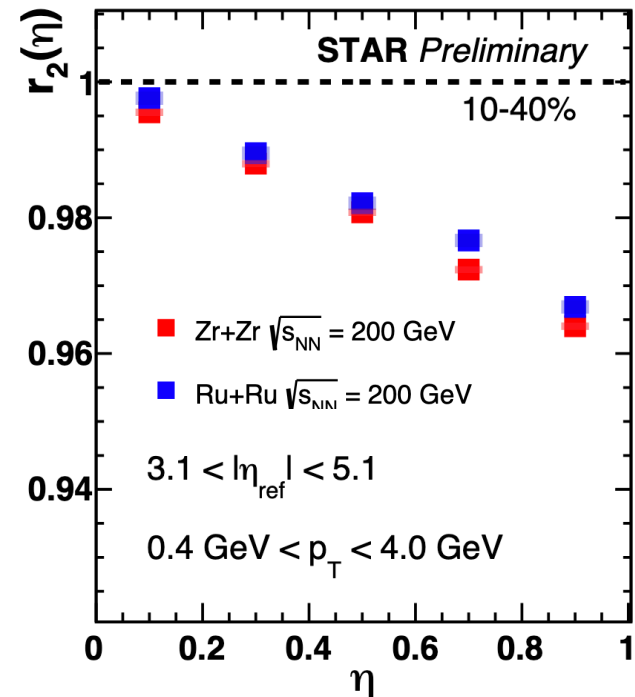
$$\frac{\langle \varepsilon_2^2(\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp}) \rangle}{-\frac{3\sqrt{5}}{112\pi^{3/2}} \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3} \longleftrightarrow \frac{\left( \langle \varepsilon_2^6 \rangle - 9 \langle \varepsilon_2^4 \rangle \langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle + 12 \langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle^3 \right) / 4}{\frac{27(373 - 25 \cos(6\gamma))}{32 \times 8008\pi^3} \beta_2^6}$$

# Direction I: exploration

- Further explore connections between NS and HI, more observables
  - More case studies with Ru/Zr, Au/U, Pb/Xe. cancel most final state effect
  - Shape fluctuations and shape coexistence
  
- Energy dependence of the nuclear structure RHIC vs LHC
  - Will gluon saturation modifies the impact of nuclear structure to initial state?
  
- Longitudinal dependence?

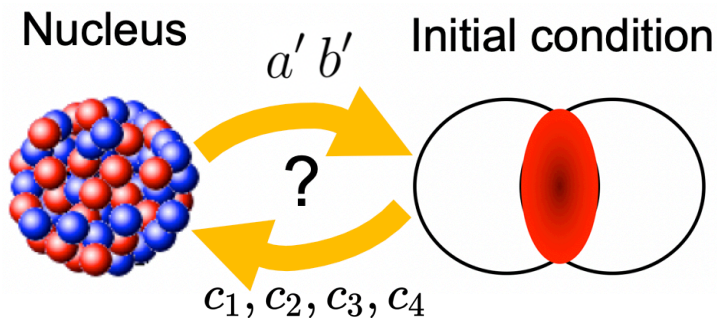


STAR, QM2022



# Direction II: calibration

- Calibrating the response coefficients using species with well known properties such as Pb and U.
  - This is also important to understand the HI initial condition, e.g. testing different energy deposition mechanisms.
  - What kinds of ultimate precision in HI can be achieved? Require systematic theoretical efforts from both communities.

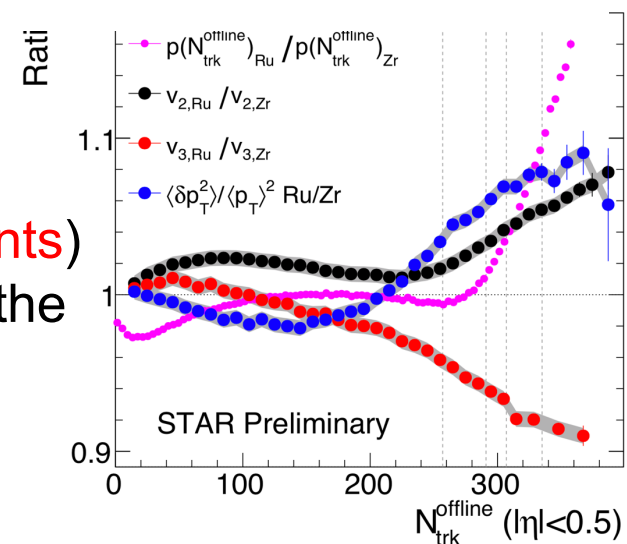


e.g.  $\langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle = a' + b' \beta_2^2$

$$R_O \equiv \frac{O_{Ru}}{O_{Zr}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a$$

Many HI observables ( $N_{ch}$ ,  $\langle p_T \rangle$ ,  $v_{2,3,4}$ , higher cumulants) + their full centrality dependence can over-constrain the collective structure parameters

Are NS & HI measuring same thing?



# Direct III : heavy system (isobar) scan

- Make predictions for “heavy species of interest”
  - Precision with isobar species: evolution of shape/skin.
  - Odd mass vs even mass given same information?

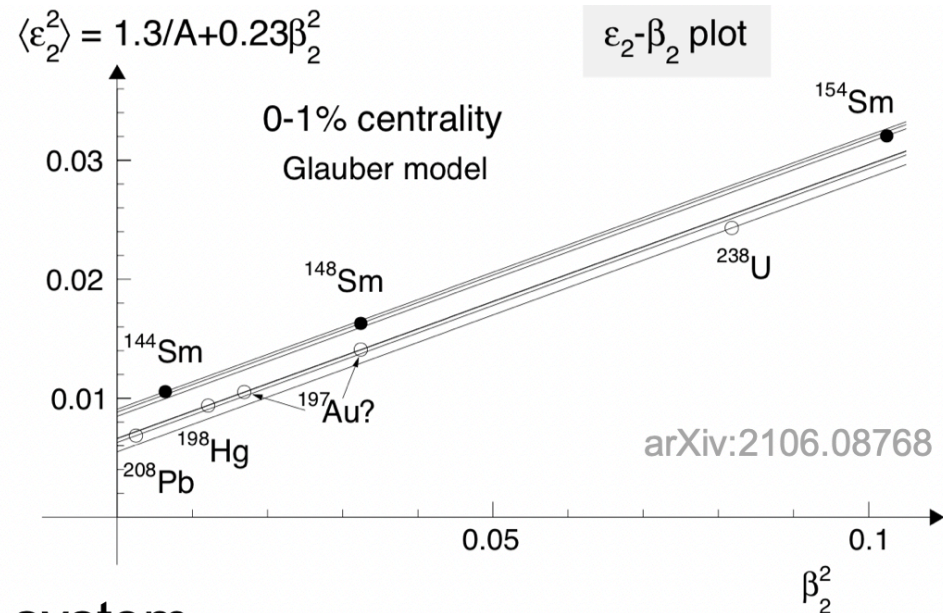
$$\langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle = a' + b' \beta_2^2$$

$$\langle v_2^2 \rangle = a + b \beta_2^2$$

In central collisions

$$a' = \langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle_{|\beta_2=0} \propto 1/A$$

$$a = \langle v_2^2 \rangle_{|\beta_2=0} \propto 1/A$$



$b'$ ,  $b$  are  $\sim$  independent of system

Systems with similar  $A$  fall on the same curve.

Fix  $a$  and  $b$  with two isobar systems with known  $\beta_2$ ,  
then make predictions for the third one

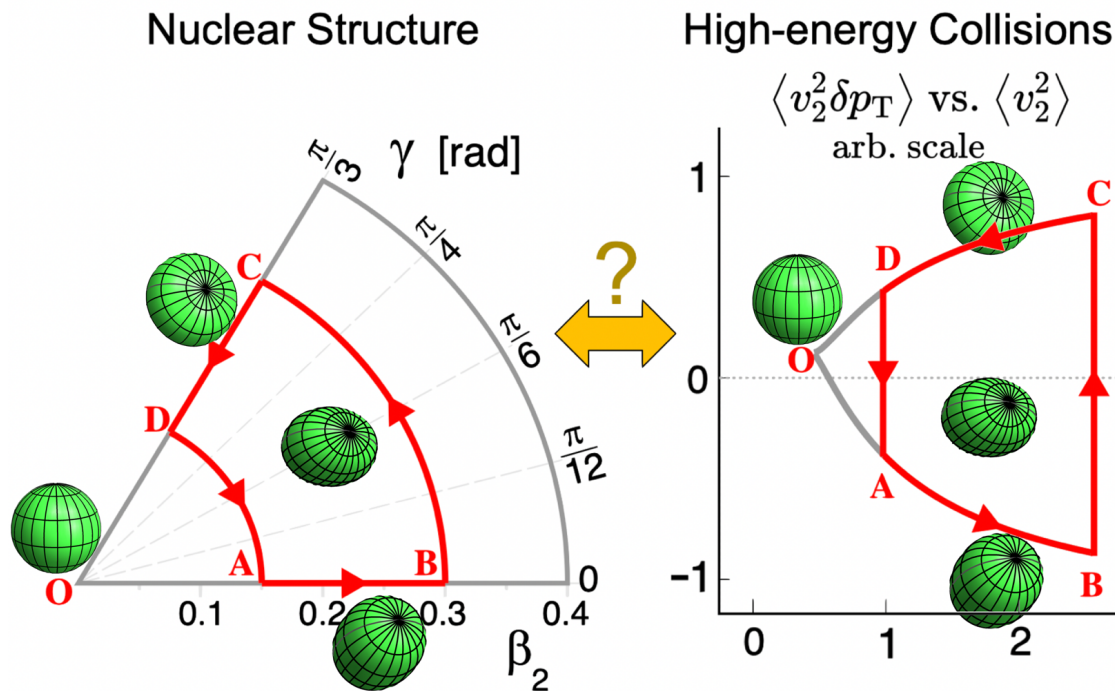
# Direct III : heavy system (isobar) scan

## ■ Make predictions for “heavy species of interest”

- Precision with isobar species: evolution of shape/skin.
- Odd mass vs even mass given same information?

$$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \delta d_{\perp} \rangle = c' + d' \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3 \quad d', d \text{ are } \sim \text{independent of system}$$

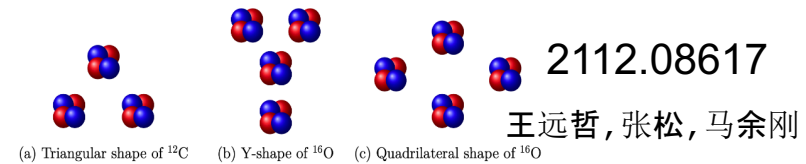
$$\langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle = c + d \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3 \quad c', c \text{ depend only on } A$$



calibrate coefficients with species with known  $\beta, \gamma$ ,  
then predict for species of interest.

# Direction IV: light system (isobar) scan

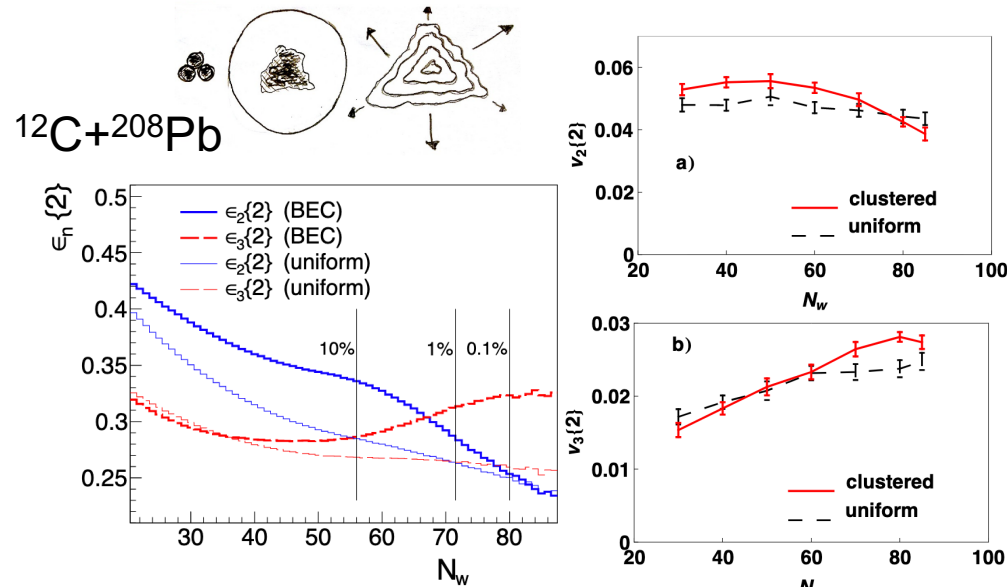
- Alpha clustering, halo etc from structure side
- Sub-nucleonic fluctuations will be important
- New handle on origin of collectivity, role of HI early time dynamics.



Isobar (or close to) is probably the best way to achieve precision

P. Bozek, W. Broniowski, E. Arriola 1312.0289, 1410.7434, 1411.5807

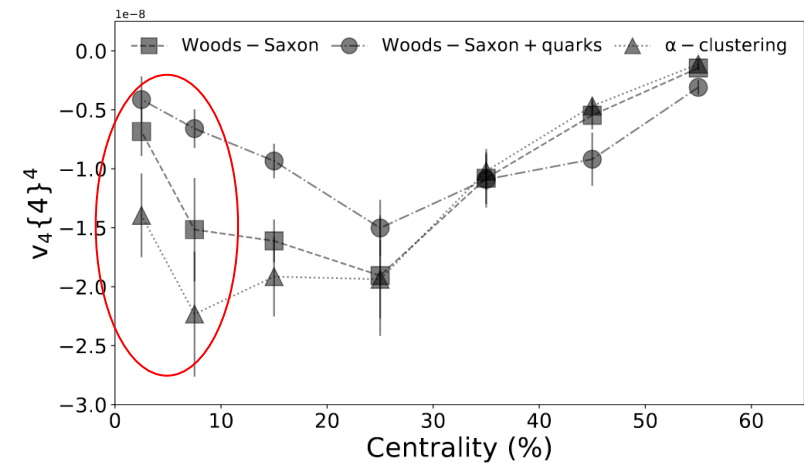
Analyzing  $^{12}\text{C}$  structure via collisions with a “disk” of Pb



Isobar+Pb collisions?

Flow fluctuations in  $^{16}\text{O} + ^{16}\text{O}$ ,

C. Plumberg, Jaki, Lee, et.al 2103.03345

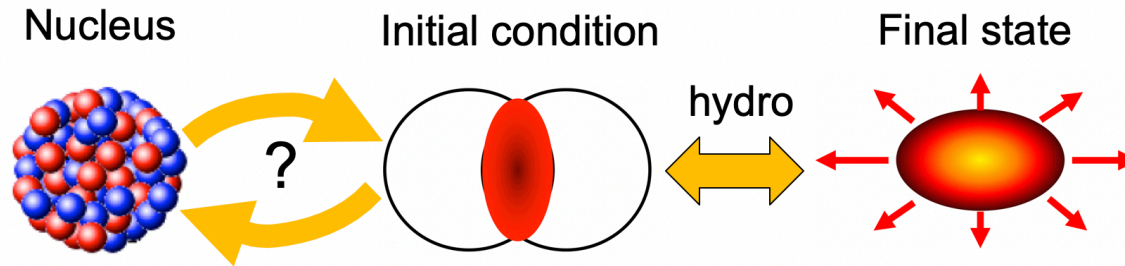


Very subtle effects: Need light isobars to verify the sensitivity e.g.  $^{40}\text{Ca} + ^{40}\text{Ca}$  vs  $^{40}\text{Ar} + ^{40}\text{Ar}$ .

# Summarizing questions

- How the nuclear shape and radial profile extracted from HI collisions relate to properties measured in nuclear structure experiments?
- How the uncertainties in nuclear structure impact the initial state of HI collisions and extraction of QGP transport properties?
- What are the most interesting stable isobar species to collide?

arXiv:2102.08158



A	isobars	A	isobars	A	isobars
36	Ar, S	106	Pd, Cd	148	Nd, Sm
40	Ca, Ar	108	Pd, Cd	150	Nd, Sm
46	Ca, Ti	110	Pd, Cd	152	Sm, Gd
48	Ca, Ti	112	Cd, Sn	154	Sm, Gd
50	Ti, V, Cr	113	Cd, In	156	Gd, Dy
54	Cr, Fe	114	Cd, Sn	158	Gd, Dy
64	Ni, Zn	115	In, Sn	160	Gd, Dy
70	Zn, Ge	116	Cd, Sn	162	Dy, Er
74	Ge, Se	120	Sn, Te	164	Dy, Er
76	Ge, Se	122	Sn, Te	168	Er, Yb
78	Se, Kr	123	Sb, Te	170	Er, Yb
80	Se, Kr	124	Sn, Te, Xe	174	Yb, Hf
84	Kr, Sr, Mo	126	Te, Xe	176	Yb, Lu, Hf
86	Kr, Sr	128	Te, Xe	180	Hf, W
87	Rb, Sr	130	Te, Xe, Ba	184	W, Os
92	Zr, Nb, Mo	132	Xe, Ba	186	W, Os
94	Zr, Mo	134	Xe, Ba	187	Re, Os
96	Zr, Mo, Ru	136	Xe, Ba, Ce	190	Os, Pt
98	Mo, Ru	138	Ba, La, Ce	192	Os, Pt
100	Mo, Ru	142	Ce, Nd	198	Pt, Hg
102	Ru, Pd	144	Nd, Sm	204	Hg, Pb
104	Ru, Pd	146	Nd, Sm		

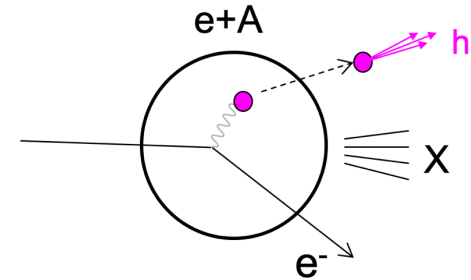
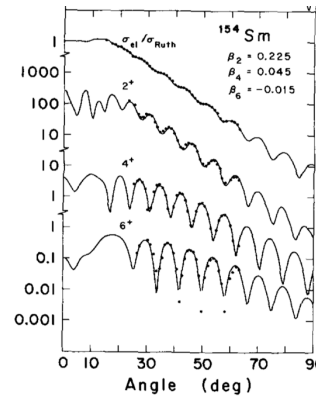
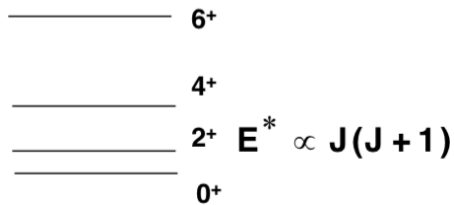




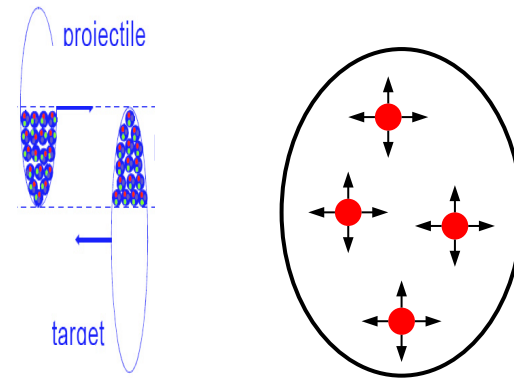
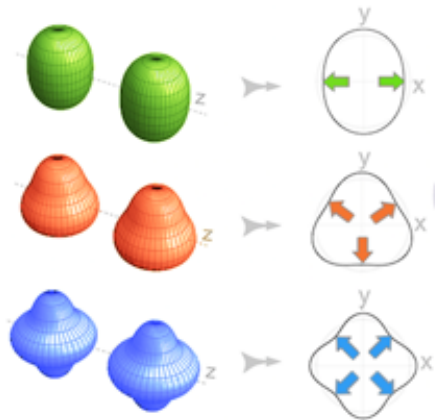
# Low-energy vs high-energy HI method

- Shape from  $B(E_n)$ , radial profile from  $e^+A$  or ion- $A$  scattering

«rotational» spectrum



- Shape frozen in crossing time ( $<10^{-24}\text{s}$ ), probe entire mass distribution via multi-point correlations.



Collective flow response to nuclear structure

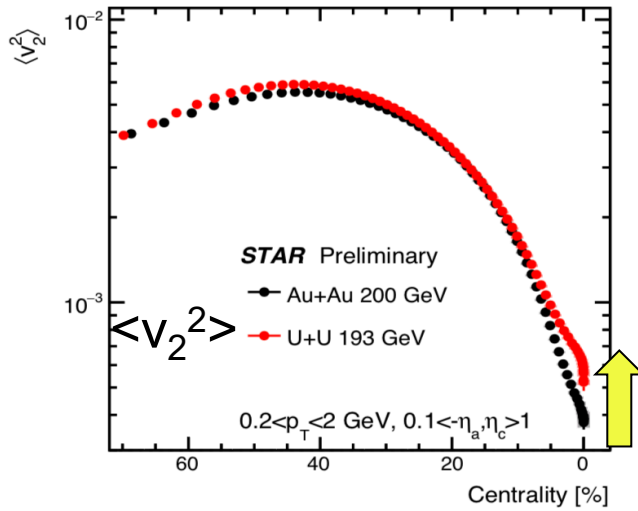
$$\begin{aligned}
 S(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) &\equiv \langle \delta\rho(\mathbf{s}_1)\delta\rho(\mathbf{s}_2) \rangle \\
 &= \langle \rho(\mathbf{s}_1)\rho(\mathbf{s}_2) \rangle - \langle \rho(\mathbf{s}_1) \rangle \langle \rho(\mathbf{s}_2) \rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

# Evidence of deformation in U+U vs Au+Au<sup>42</sup>

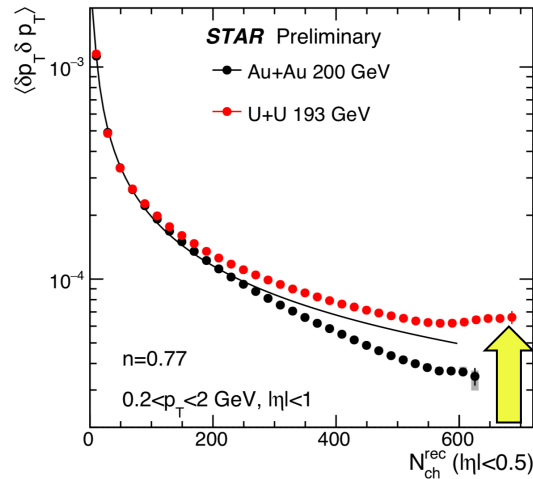
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/854124/contributions/4135480/>

Collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=193-200$  GeV

## $v_2$ variance



## $[p_T]$ variance



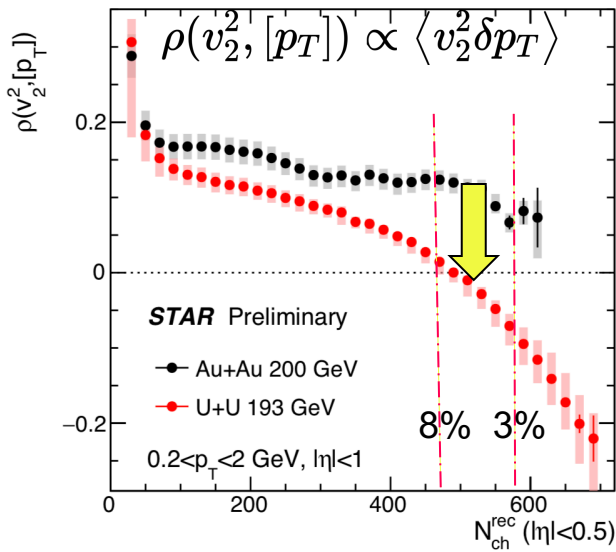
Large deformation in  $^{238}\text{U}$  relative to  $^{197}\text{Au}$  strongly influence flow signals

$$\beta_{2U} \sim 0.28$$

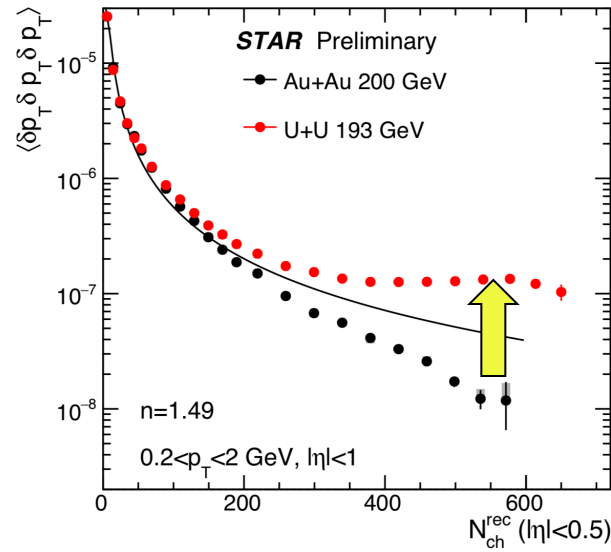
$$\beta_{2Au} \sim -0.13?$$

Trends easily understood

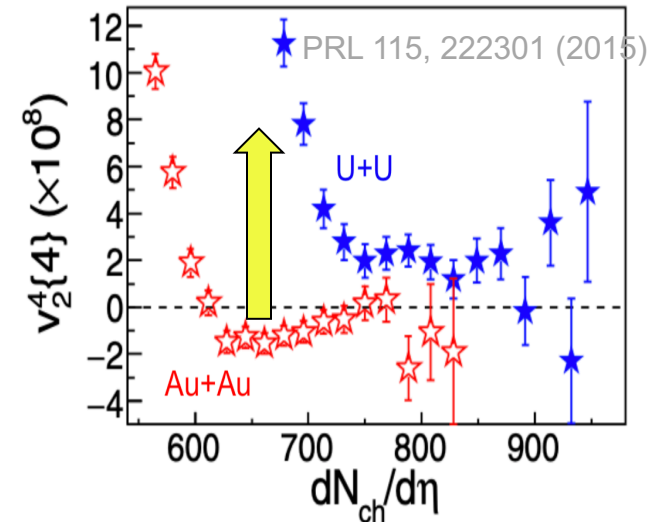
## $v_2$ - $[p_T]$ covariance



## $[p_T]$ skewness



## $v_2$ kurtosis

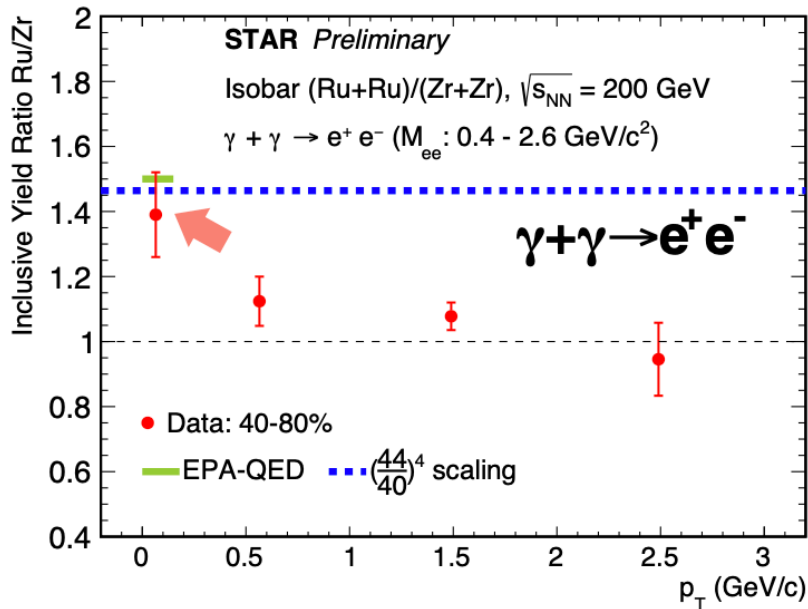


# EM field effects in isobar

Low  $p_T$  di-electron (Breit-Wheeler)

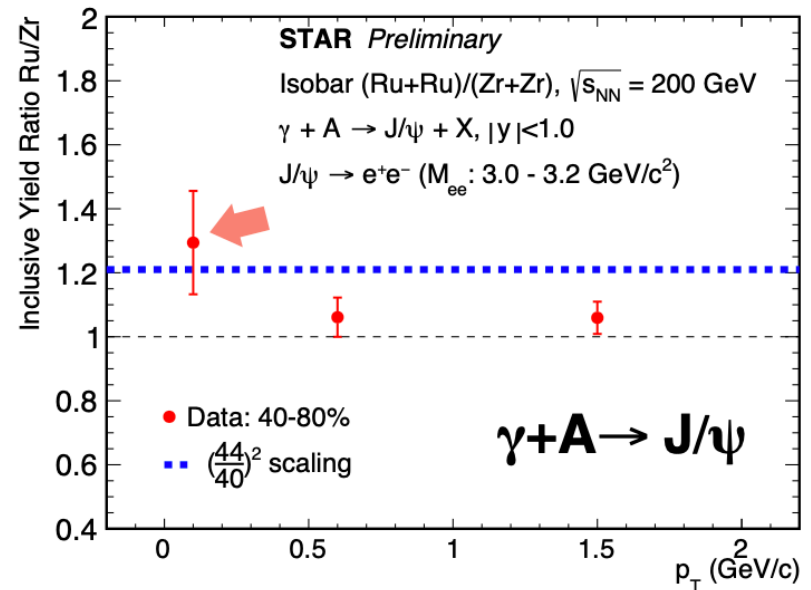
$$\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-) \sim Z^4$$

$$\frac{\sigma_{\text{Ru+Ru}}(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-)}{\sigma_{\text{Zr+Zr}}(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-)} \sim \left(\frac{44}{40}\right)^4$$



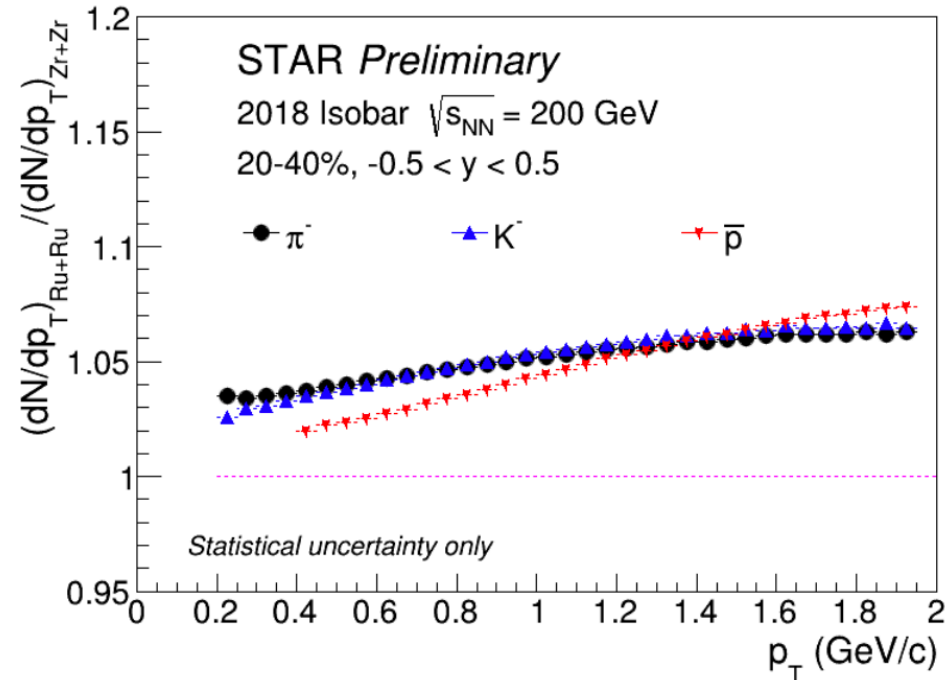
$$\sigma(\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi) \sim Z^2$$

$$\frac{\sigma_{\text{Ru+Ru}}(\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi)}{\sigma_{\text{Zr+Zr}}(\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi)} \sim \left(\frac{44}{40}\right)^2$$

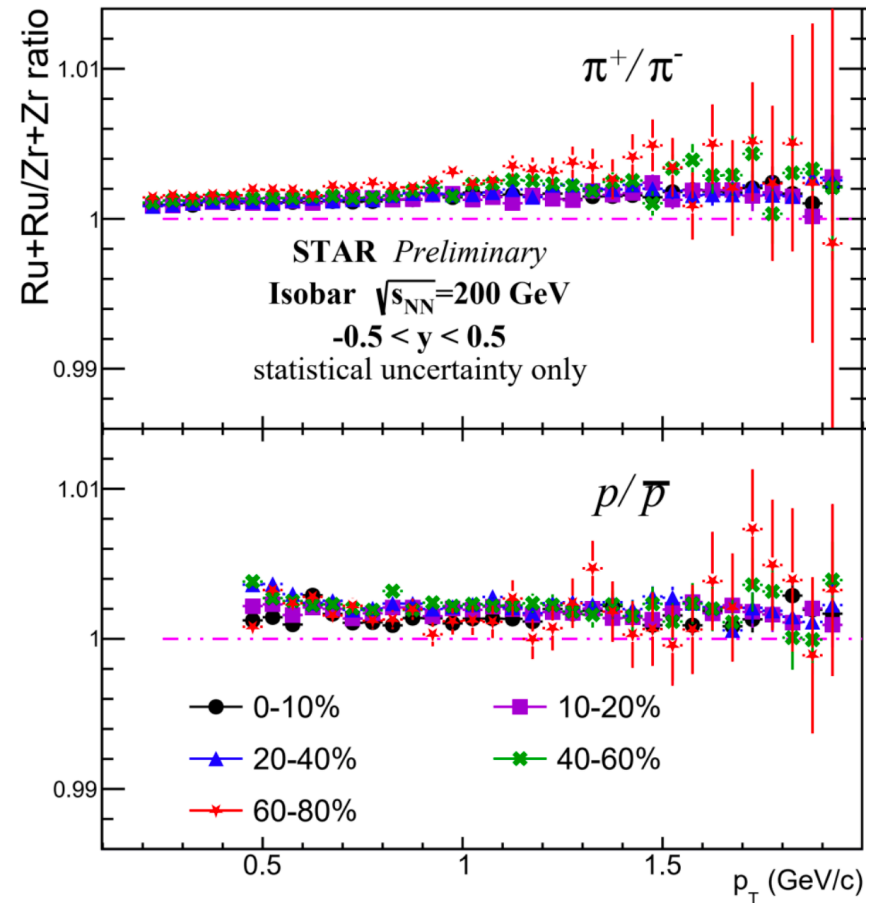


# Other interesting results from isobar

Mass-dependence from radial flow



Baryon and charge transport



**Search for baryon junctions in photonuclear processes and isobar collisions at RHIC**

James Daniel Brandenburg, Nicole Lewis, Prithwish Tribedy, Zhangbu Xu

arXiv: 2205.05685.

Assume net-charge carried by valence quarks:

$$B \approx 0.044N_\pi \quad \Delta Q_{\text{expected}} = \frac{\Delta Z}{A} B \approx \frac{4}{96} 0.044N_\pi = 0.002N_\pi \quad \text{Twice as large}$$