

46th CBM Collaboration meeting (19-24/Oct/2025), PIFI-day

STAR measurements and outlook for future experiments

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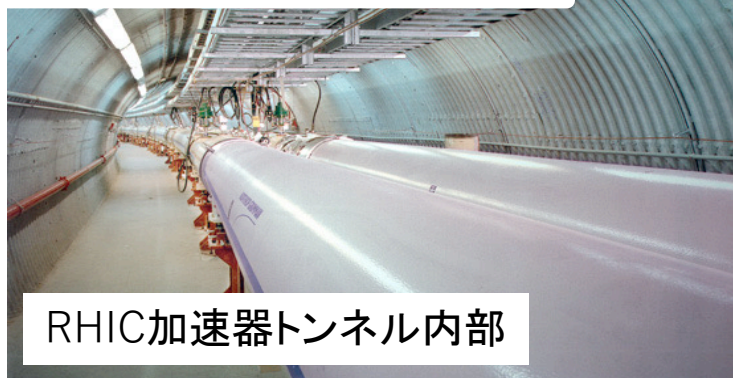
Contents

- STAR experiment and detectors
- Tracking, particle identification, reaction plane and centrality
- Temperature measurements and Freeze-out
- Anisotropic flow, correlation, fluctuation
- Next plan and Outlook

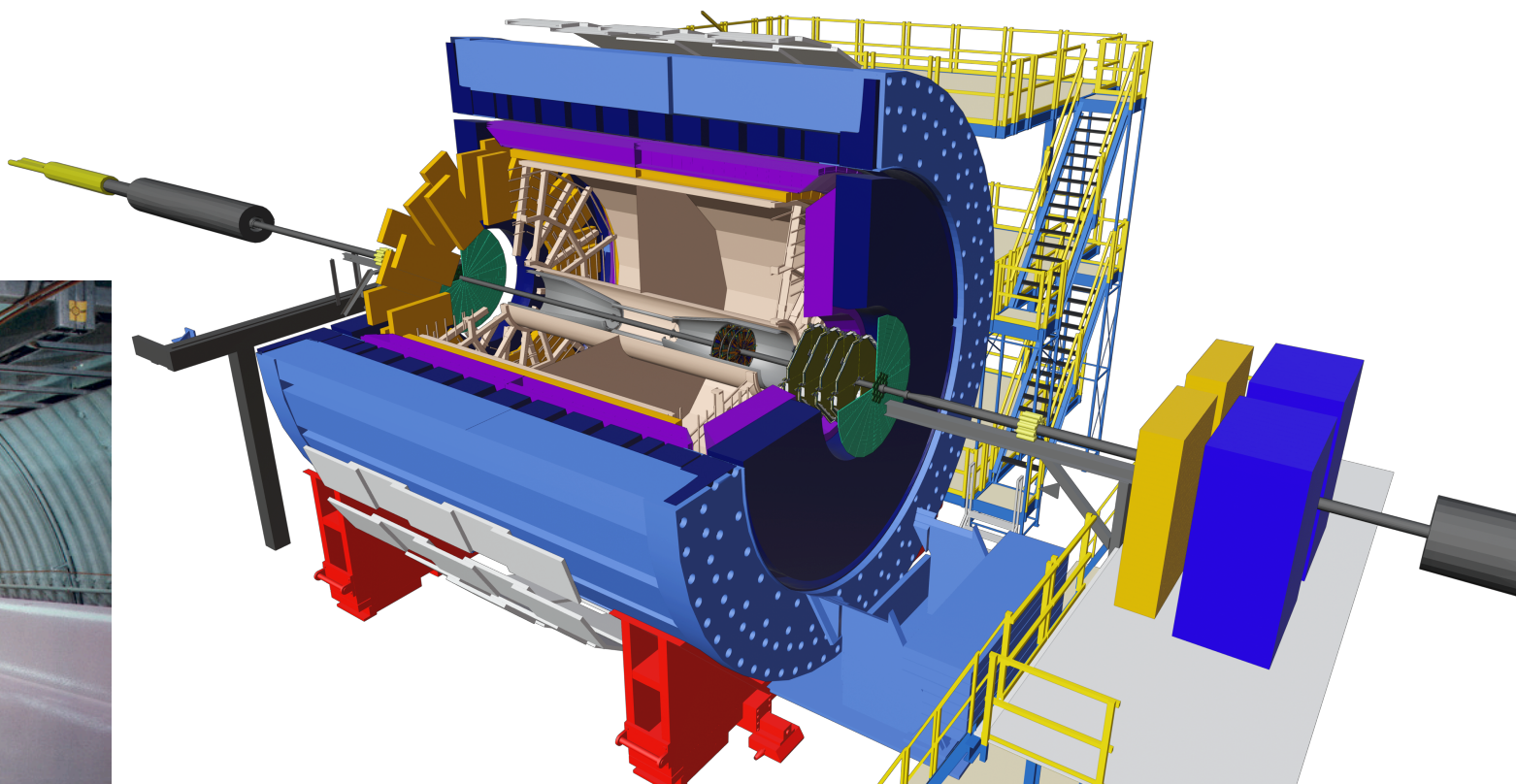


The STAR experiment
at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, Brookhaven National Laboratory

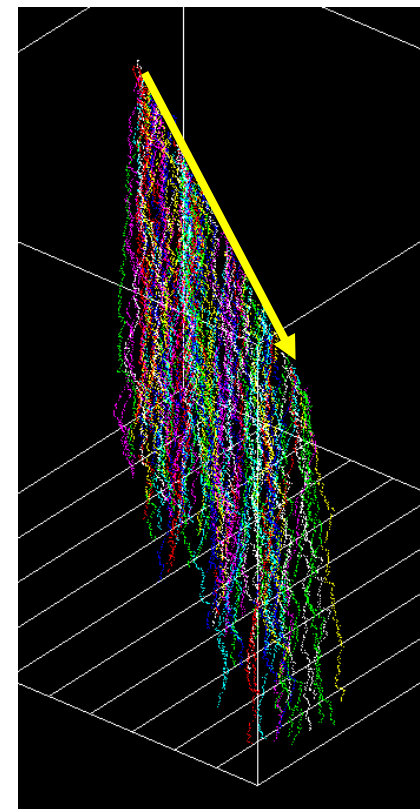
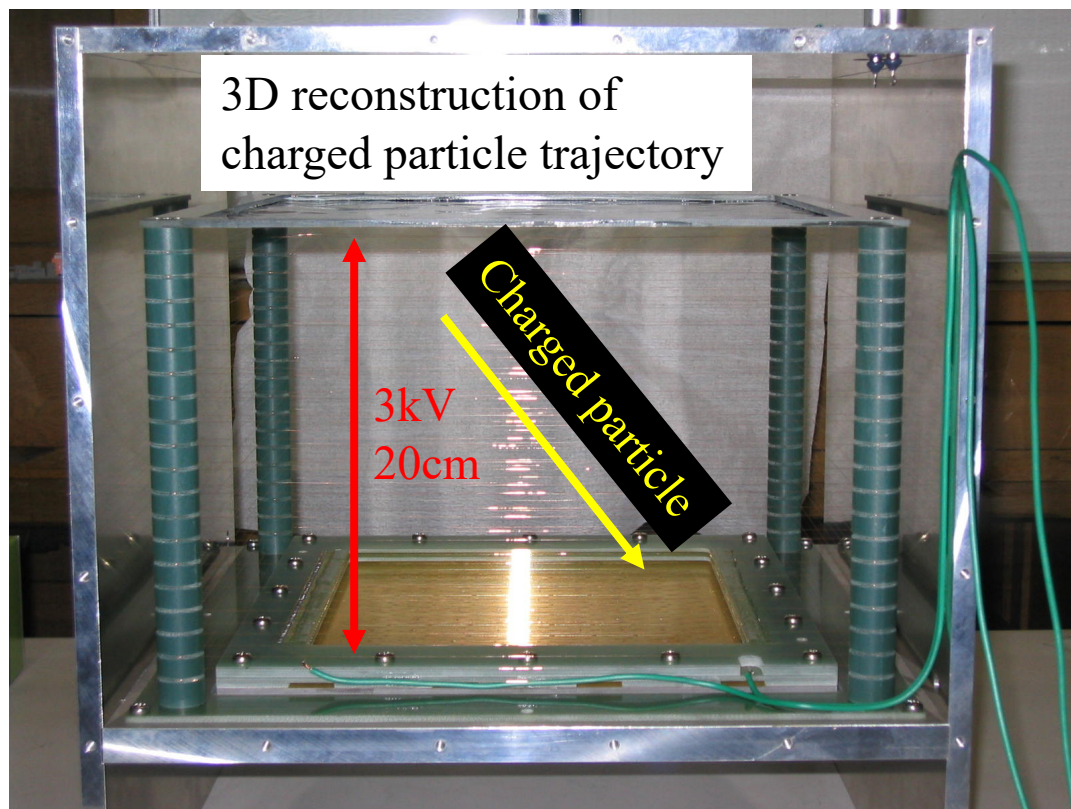
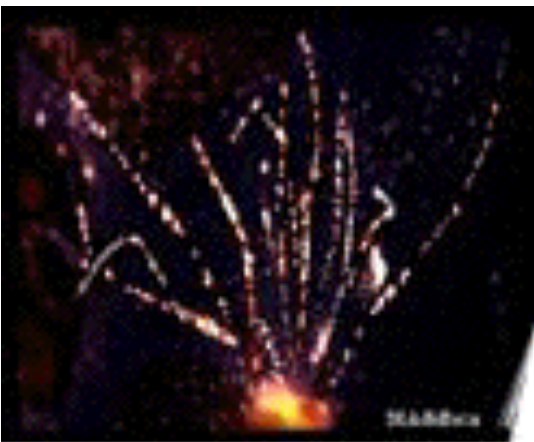




STAR experiment (Solenoidal Tracker at RHIC) with Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collider (RHIC) at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL)

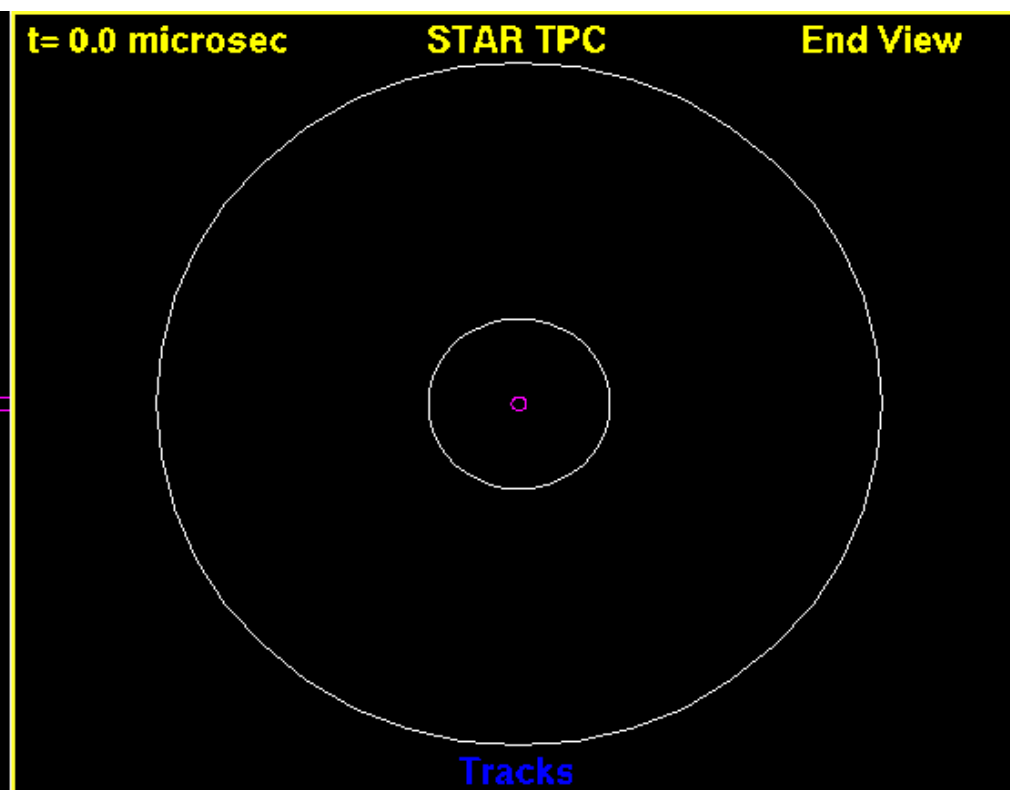
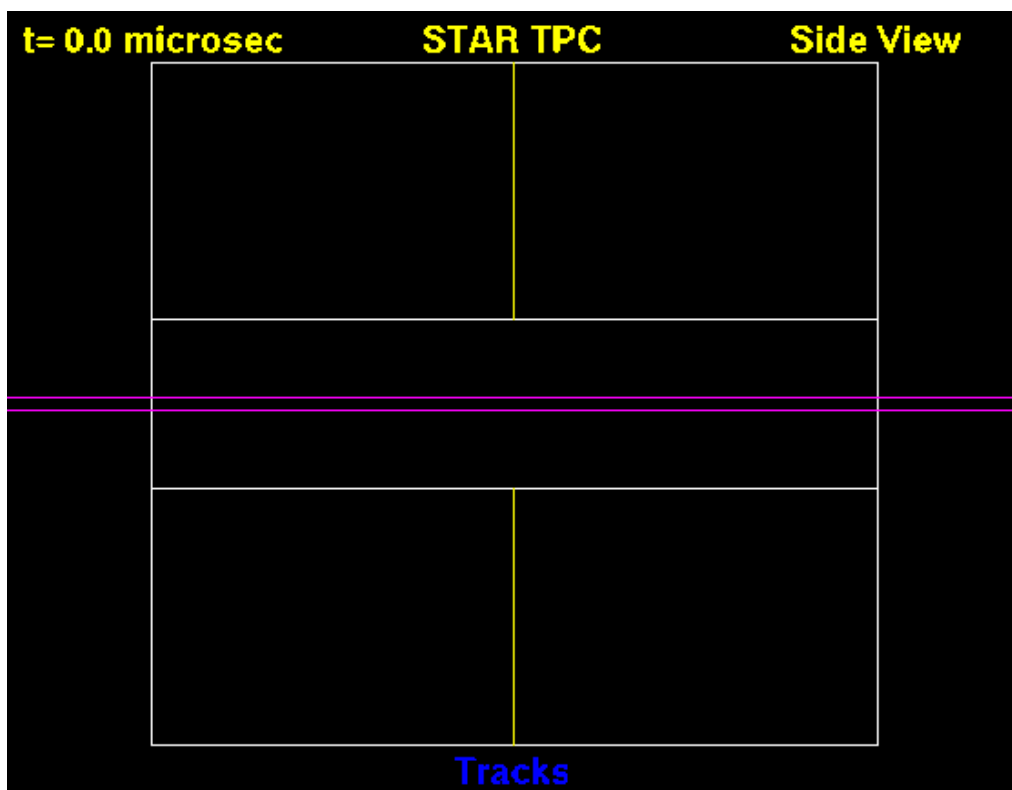
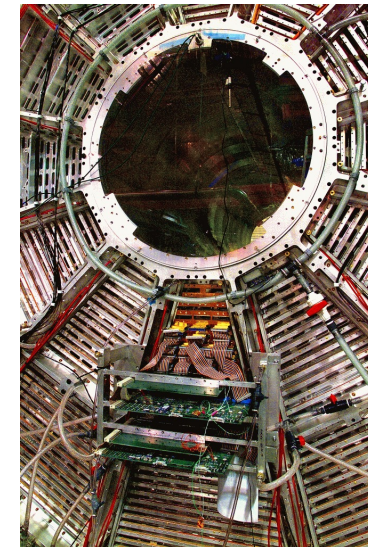
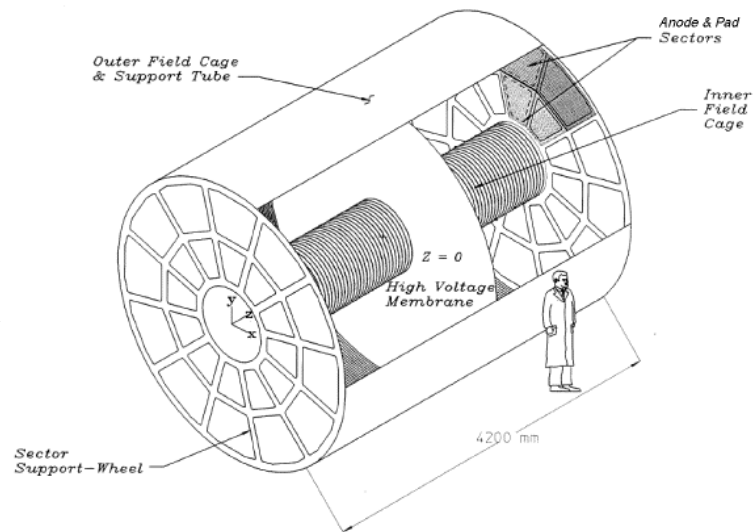


TPC (Time Projection Chamber) for 3D tracking of charged particles



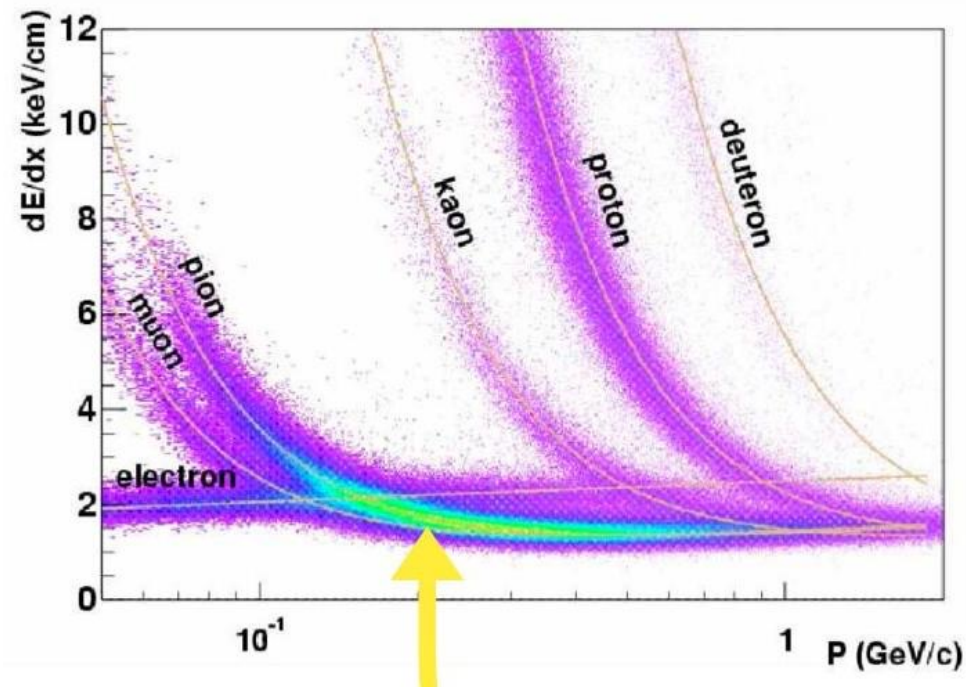
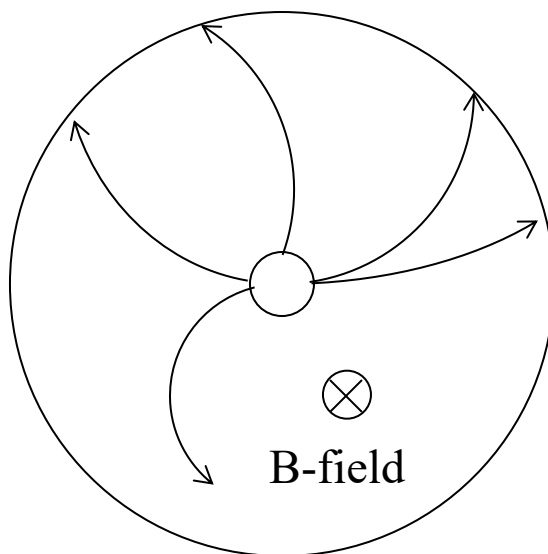
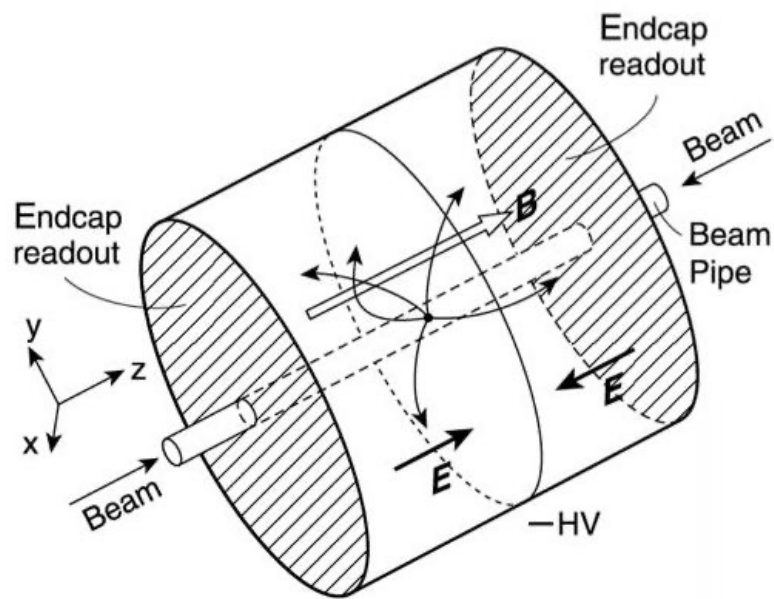
STAR TPC

charged particle trajectory



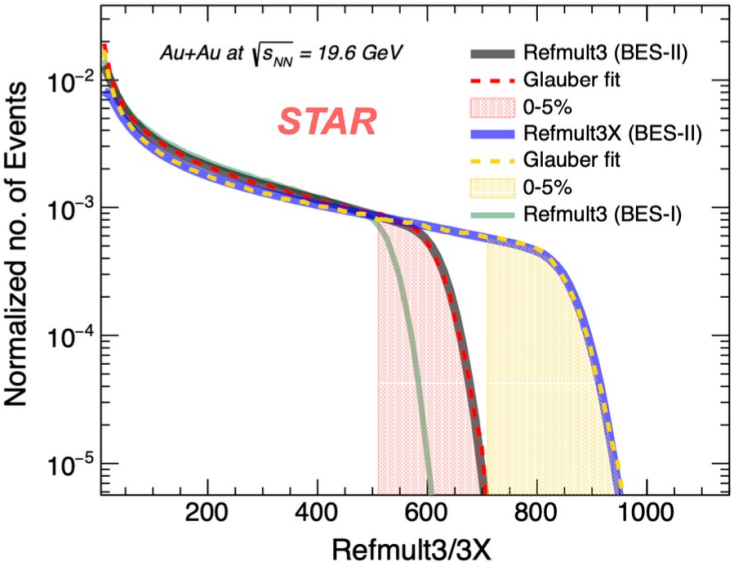
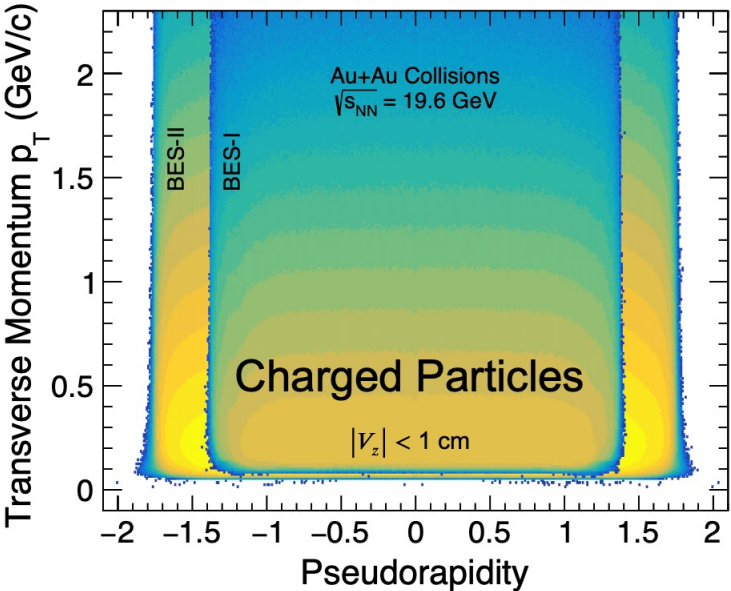
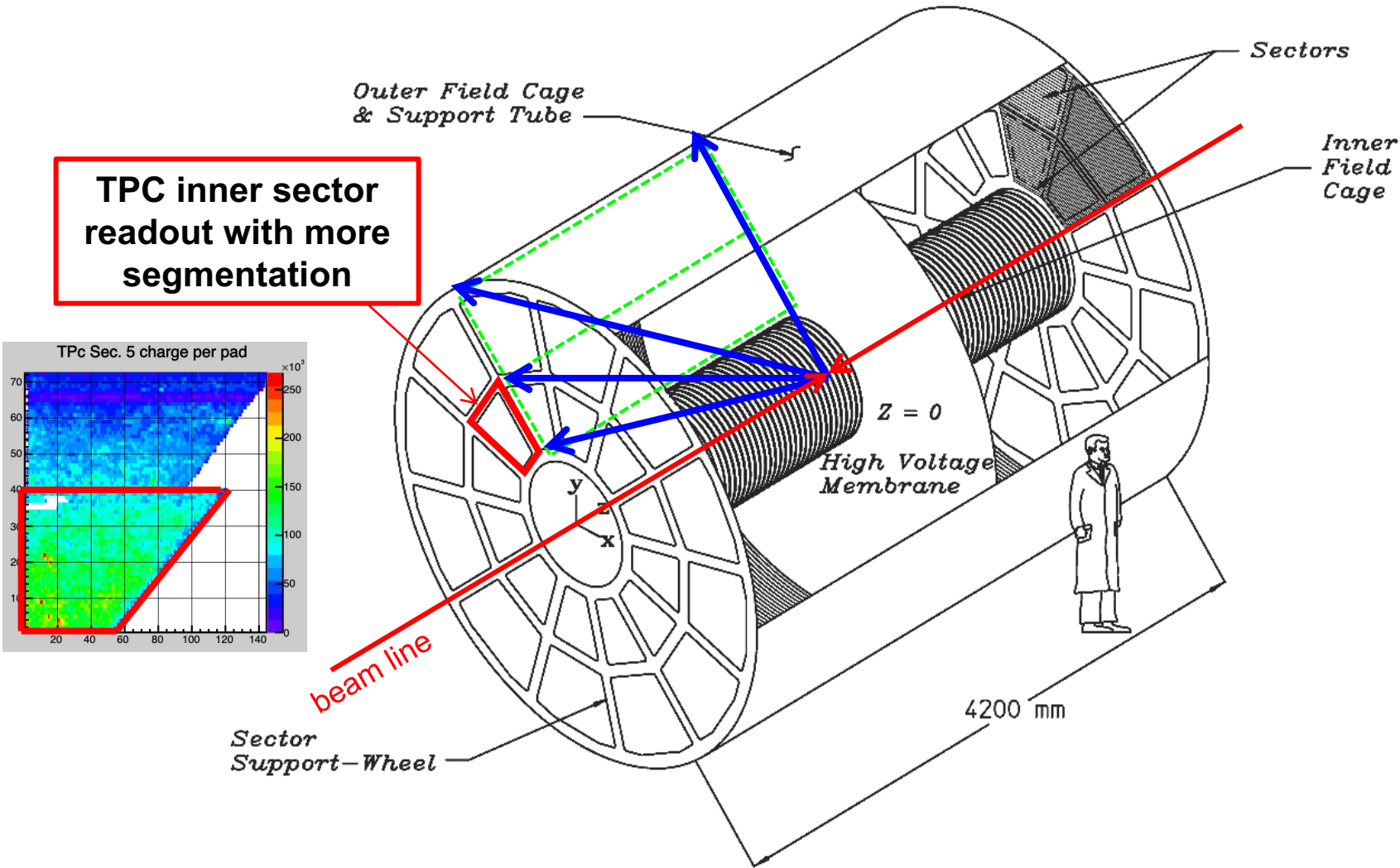
STAR TPC

Momentum (pT) measurement
Particle identification (dE/dx)

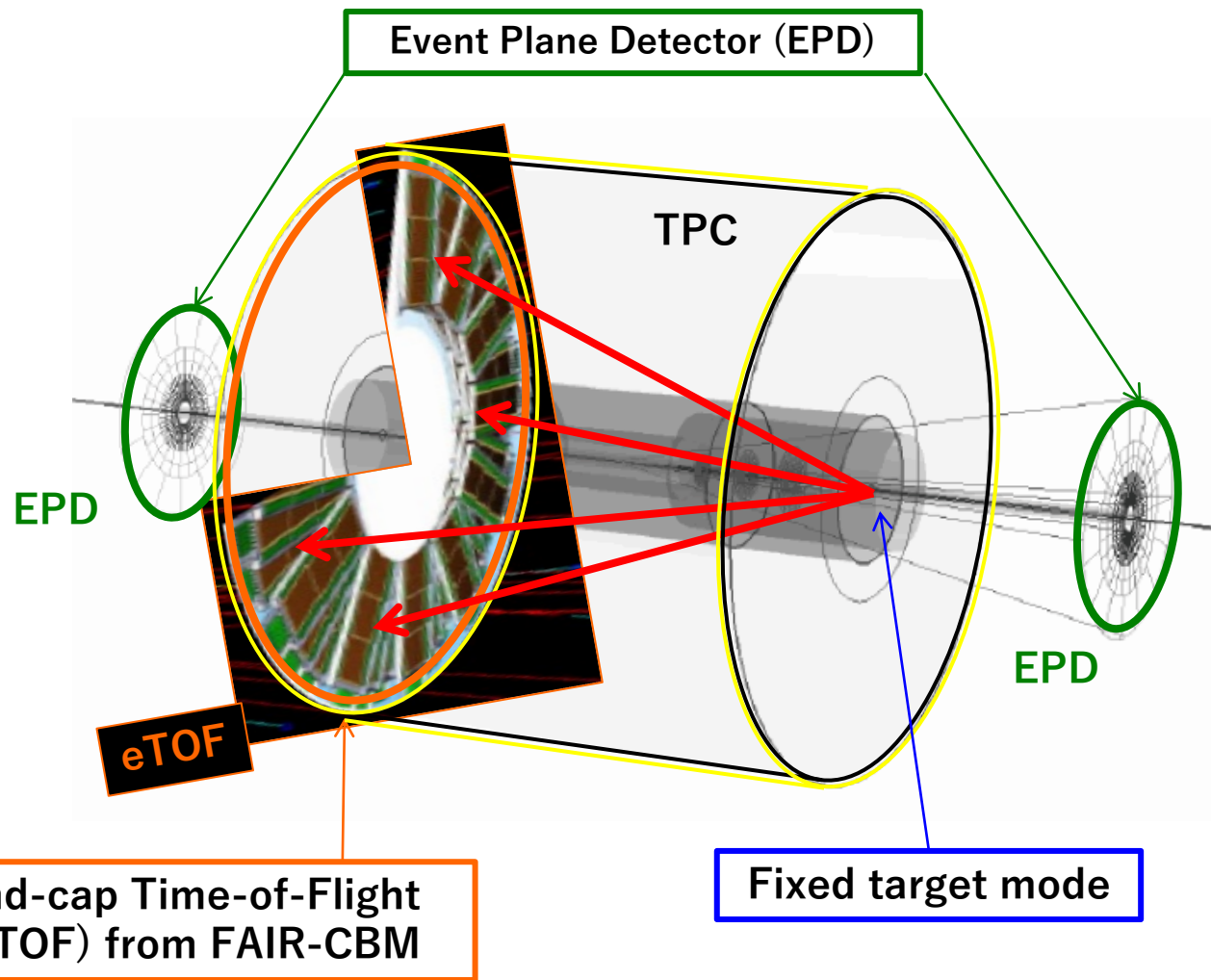
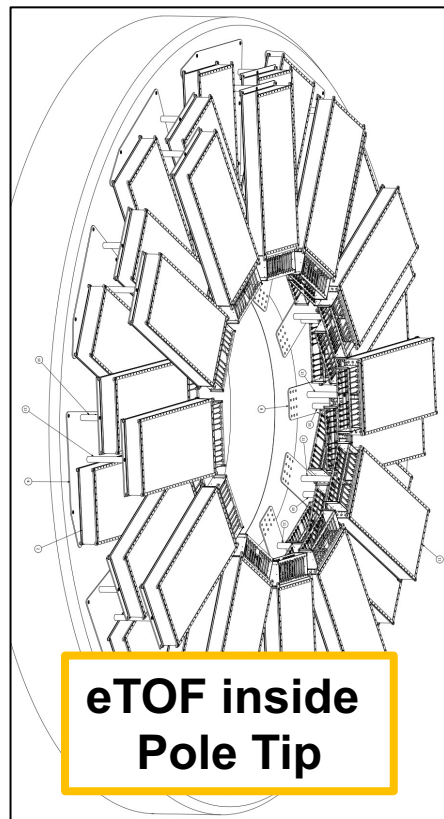
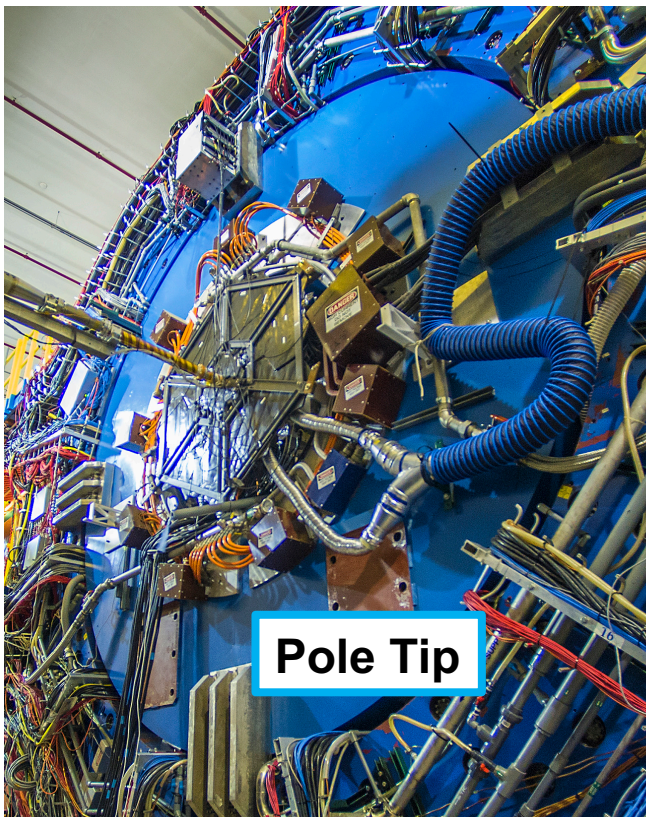


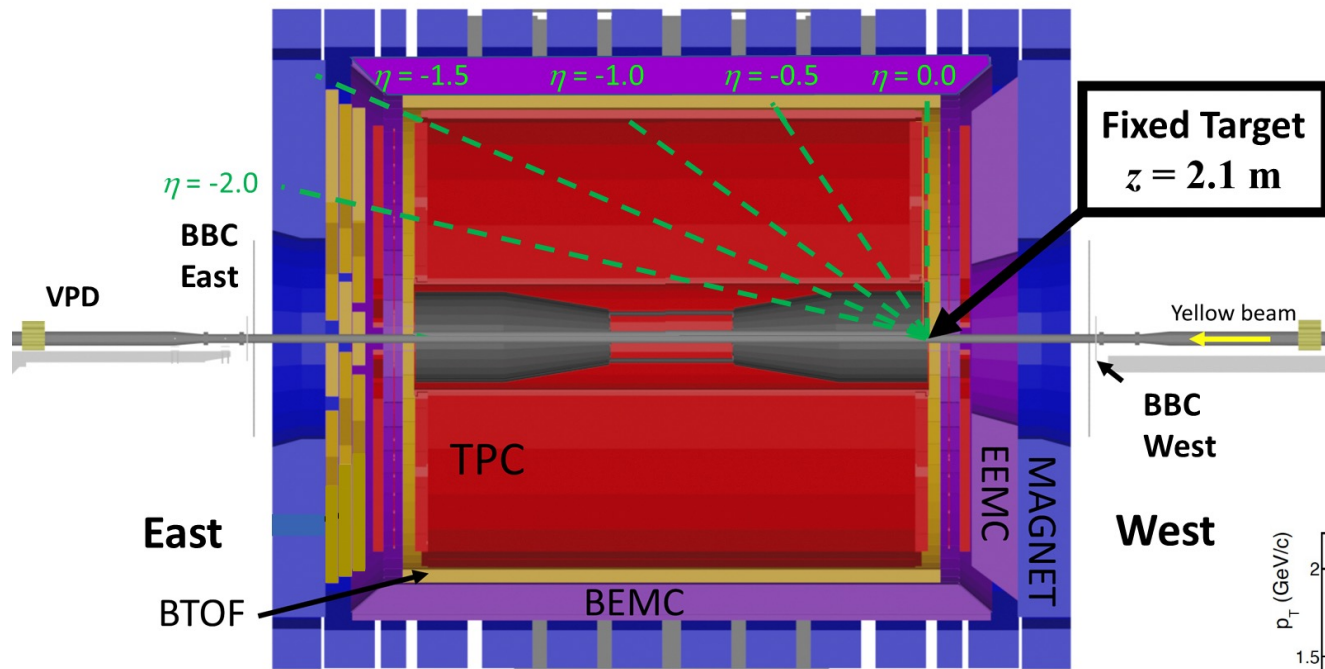
**minimum ionization
(Bethe-Bloch) velocity and charge**

STAR TPC upgrade for BES2

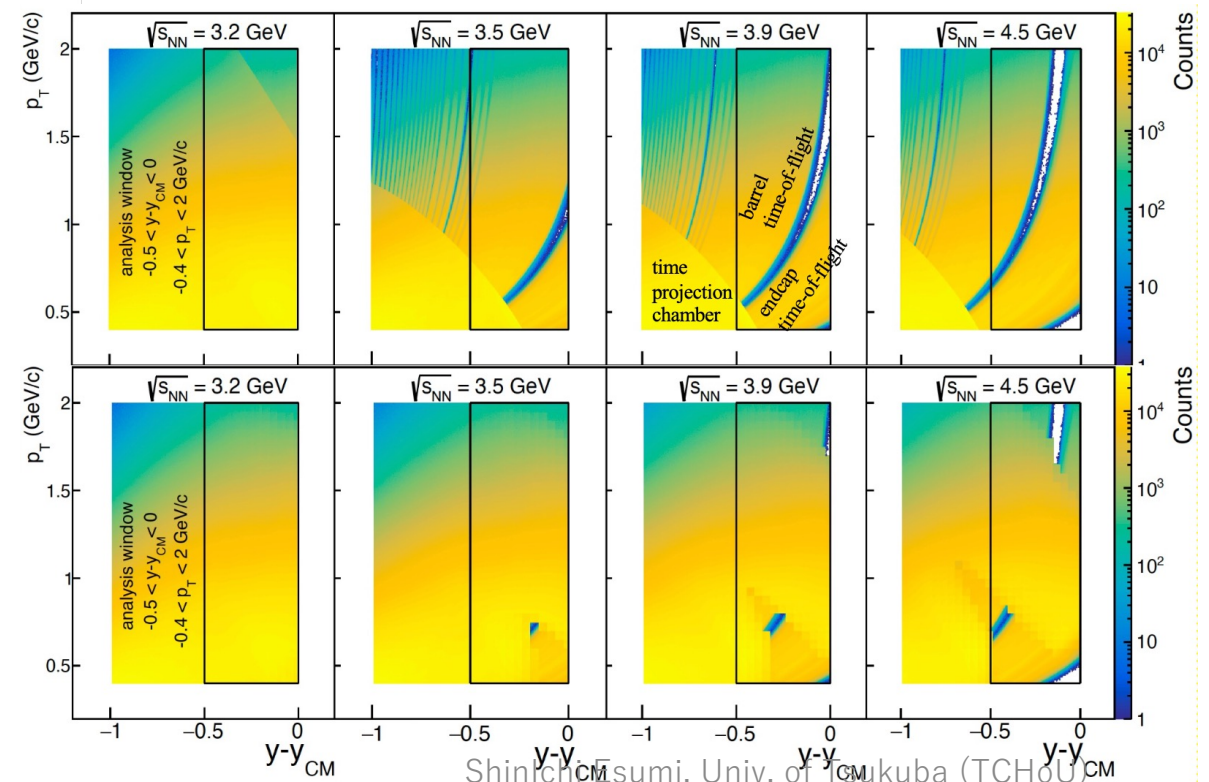
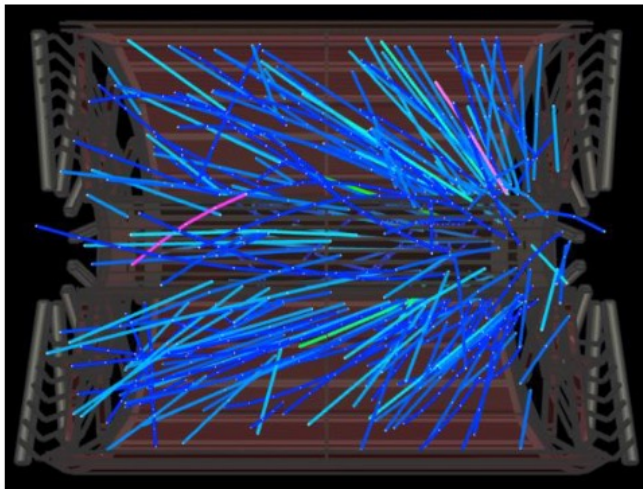
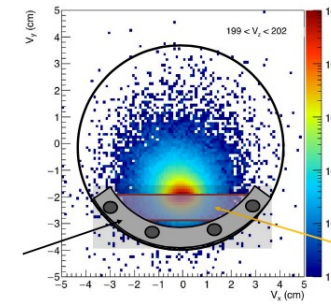


STAR eTOF (end-cap TOF, MRPC)

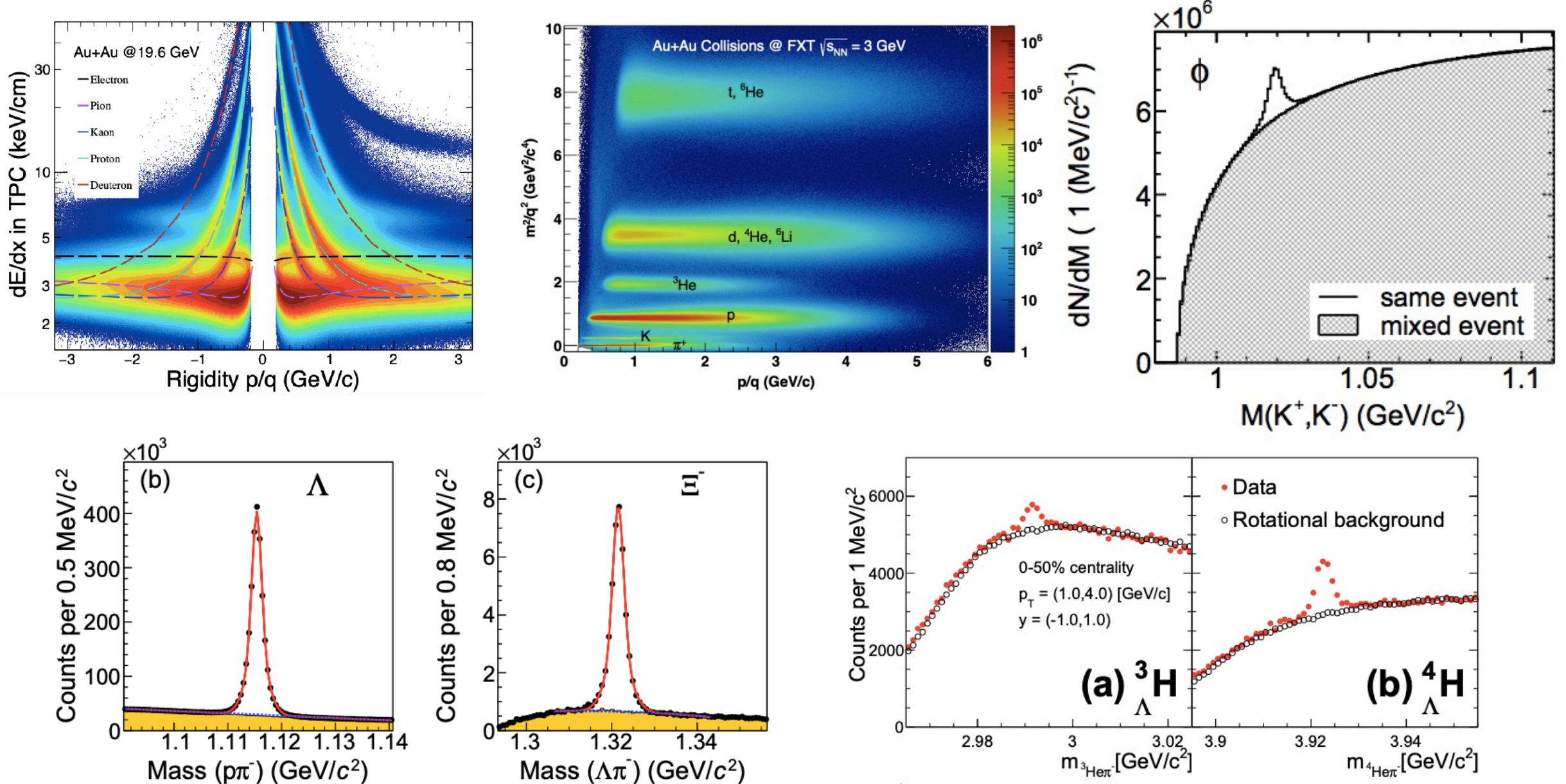




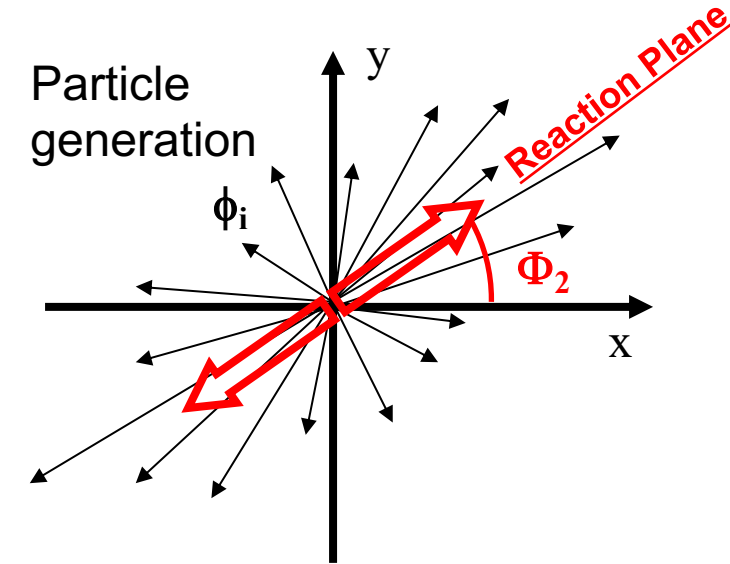
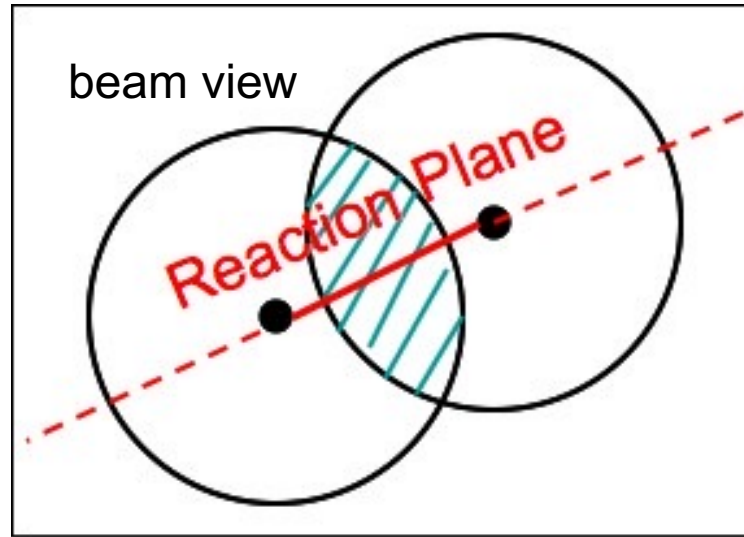
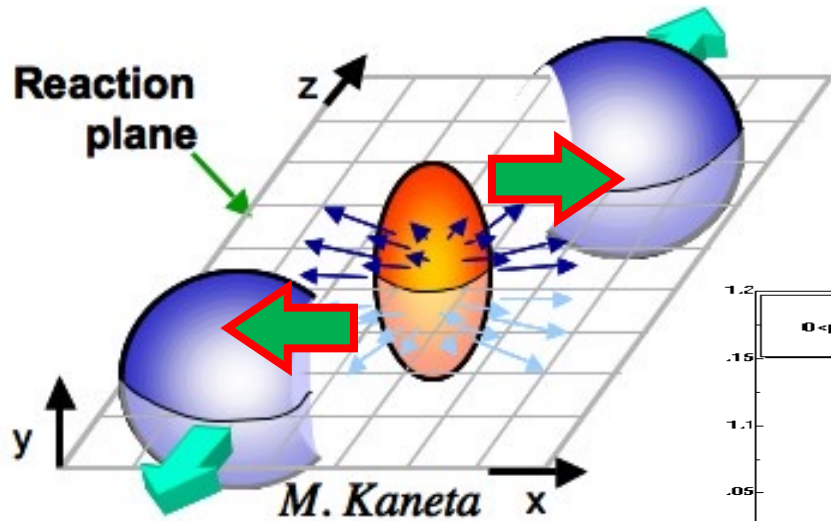
STAR Fixed Target setup



Particle identification in STAR



Reaction plane, Event plane, Event anisotropy

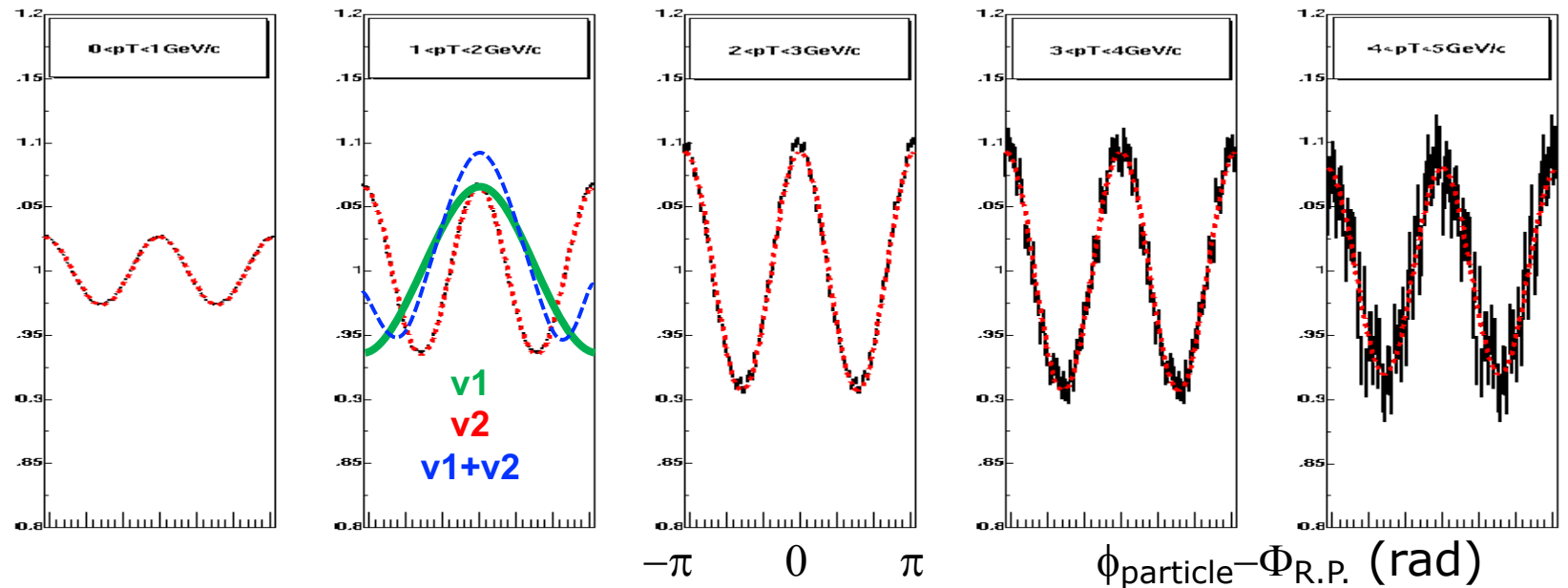


$$Q_{nx} = \sum_i \{w_i \cos n\phi_i\}$$

$$Q_{ny} = \sum_i \{w_i \sin n\phi_i\}$$

$$\Phi_n = \text{atan2}(Q_{ny}, Q_{nx})/n$$

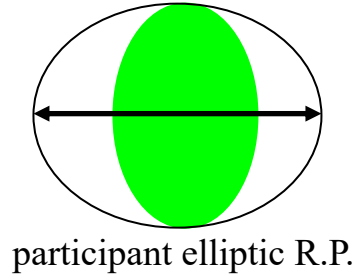
$$Q_{nvec} = |Q_n| / \sqrt{\sum_i \{w_i\}}$$



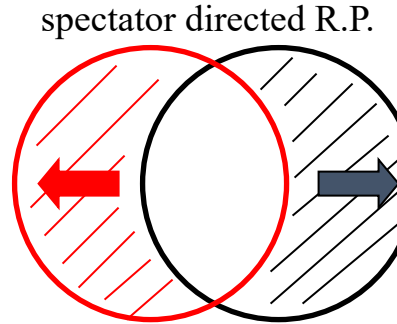
V0 (ALICE)



Reaction plane detectors



$RXN \cdot V0 \cdot EPD$

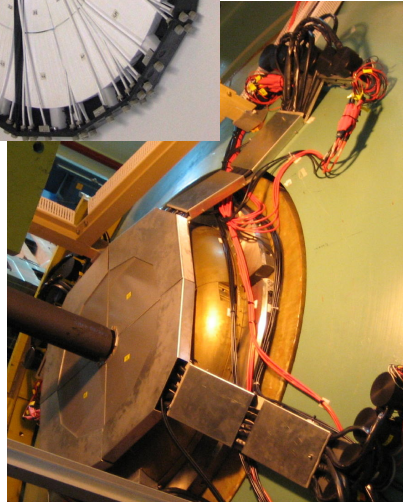


SMD/ZDC

ZDC/SMD
(PHENIX/STAR)

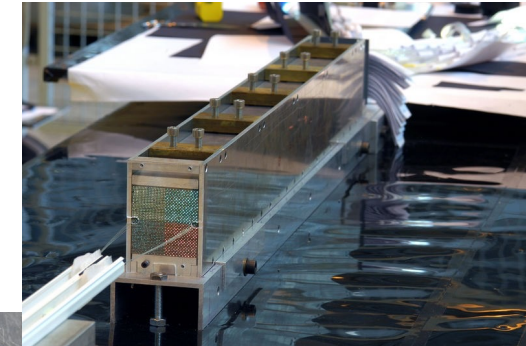


RXN
(PHENIX)



$BBC \cdot T0 \cdot VPD$

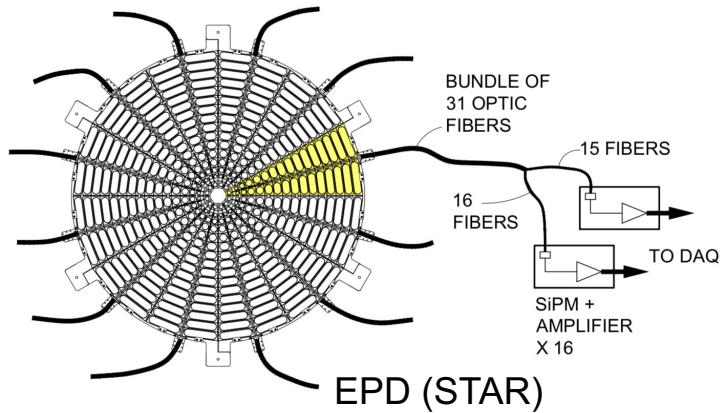
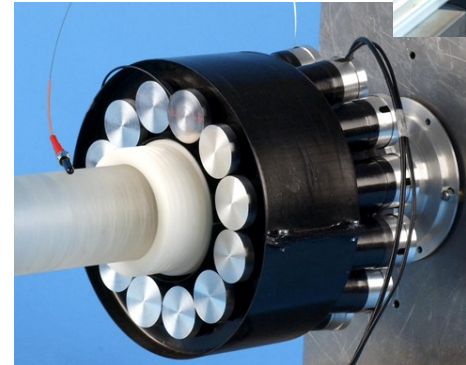
ZDC (ALICE)



BBC (PHENIX)



T0 (ALICE)

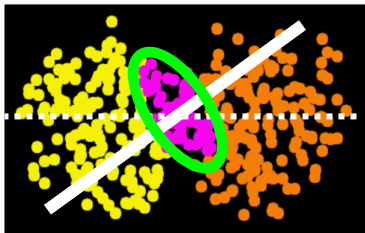
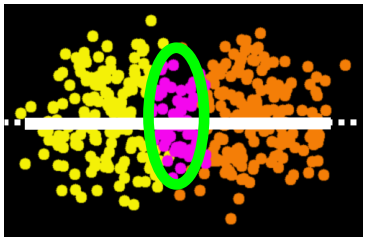


Higher order event anisotropy --- v_3 ---

black-disk collision, sign-flipping v_3 like v_1
initial geometrical fluctuation, no-sign-flipping v_3

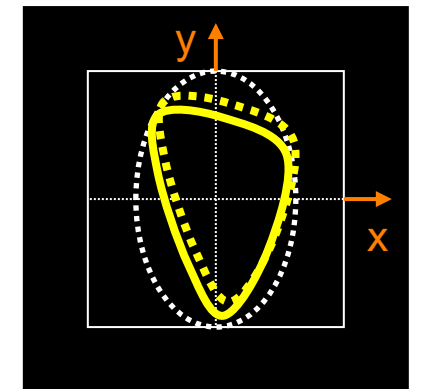
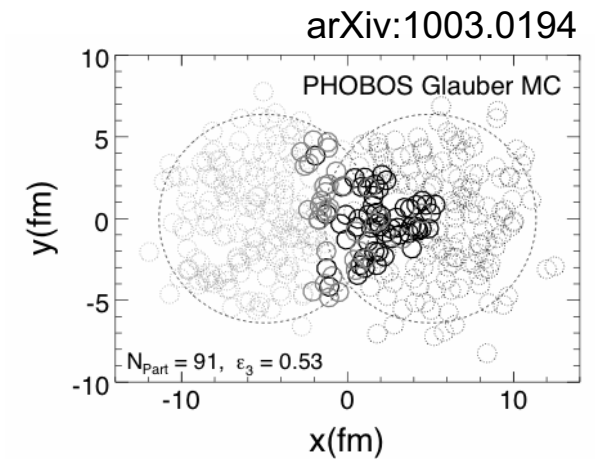
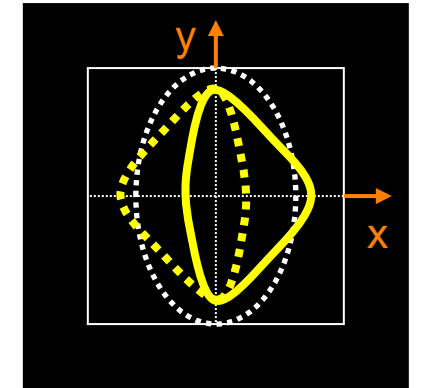
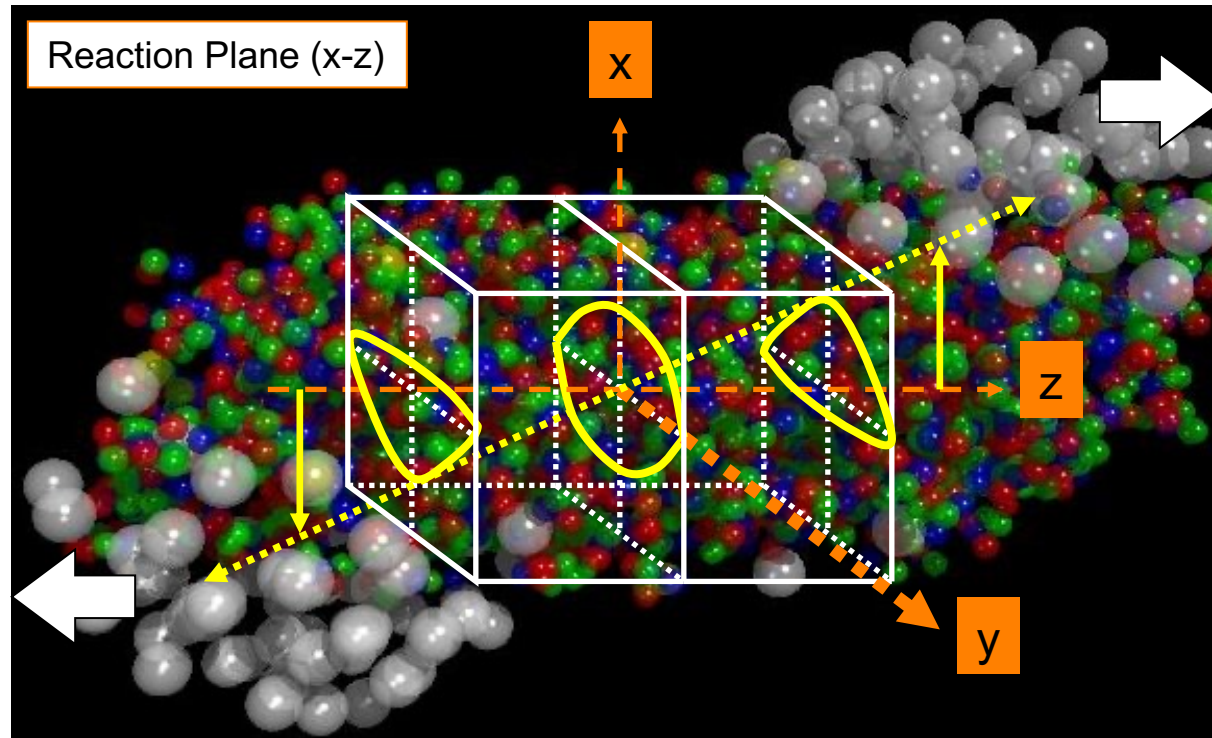
standard eccentricity

ϵ_{std}

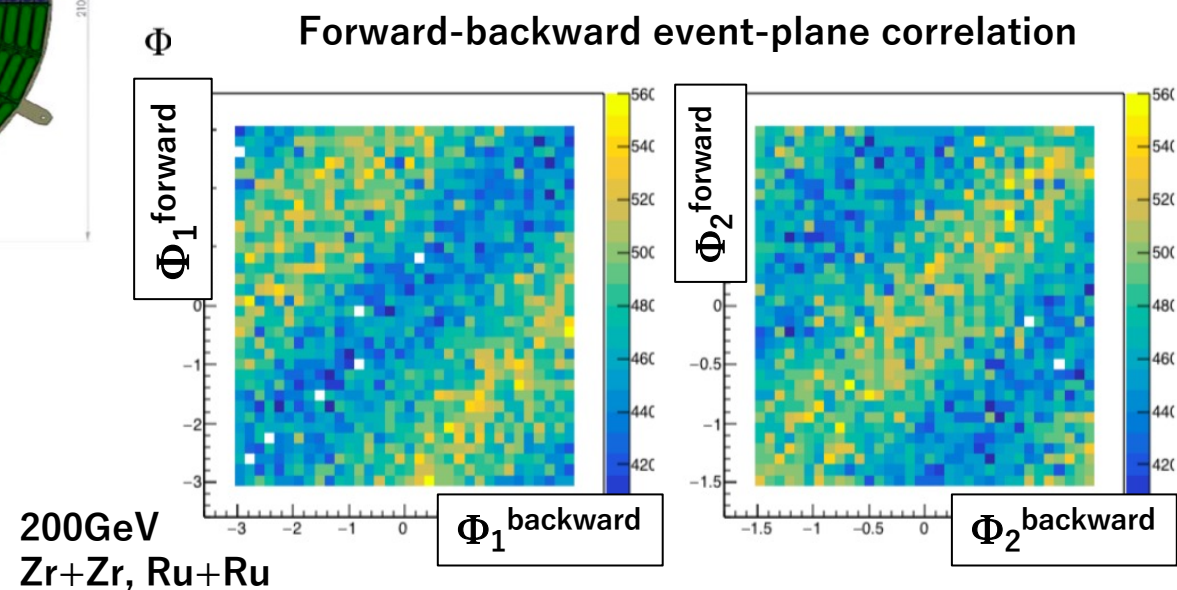
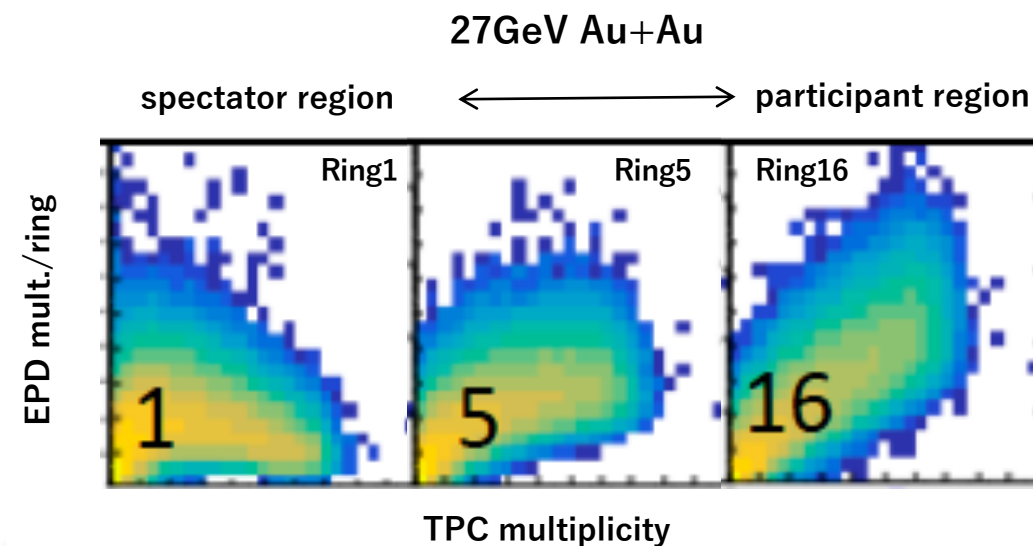
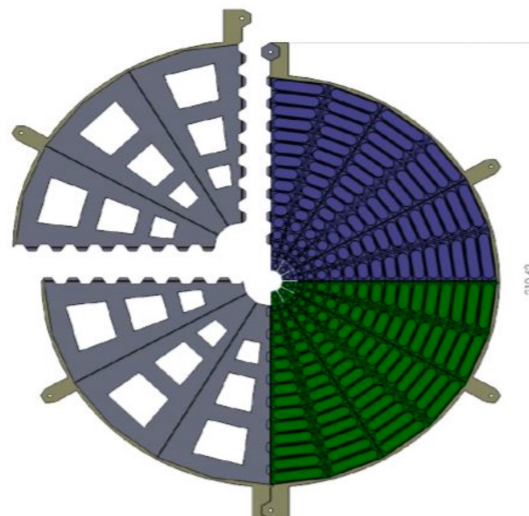
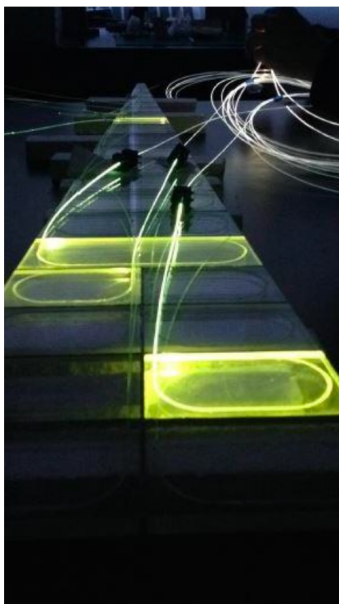
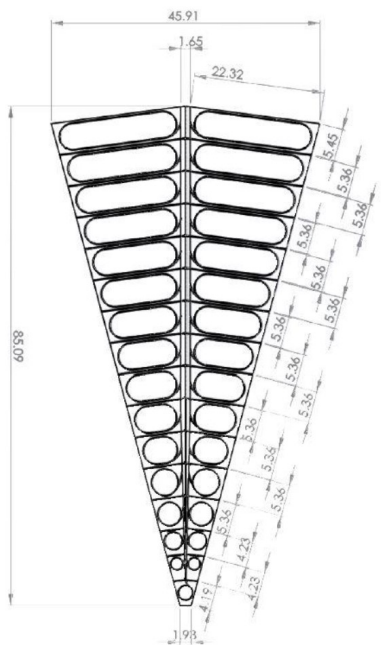


participant eccentricity

ϵ_{part}

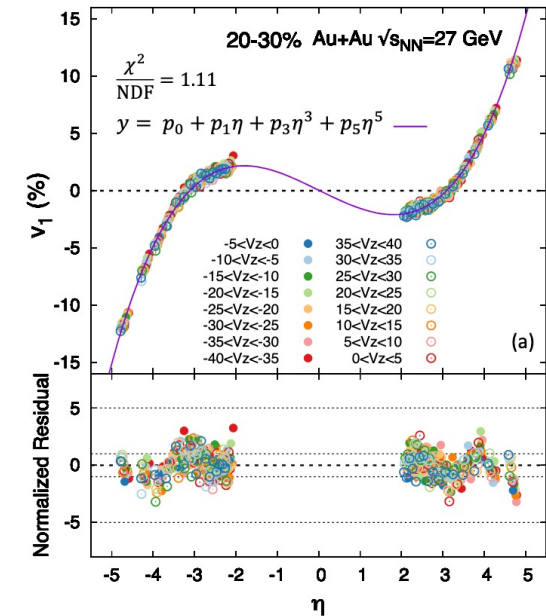
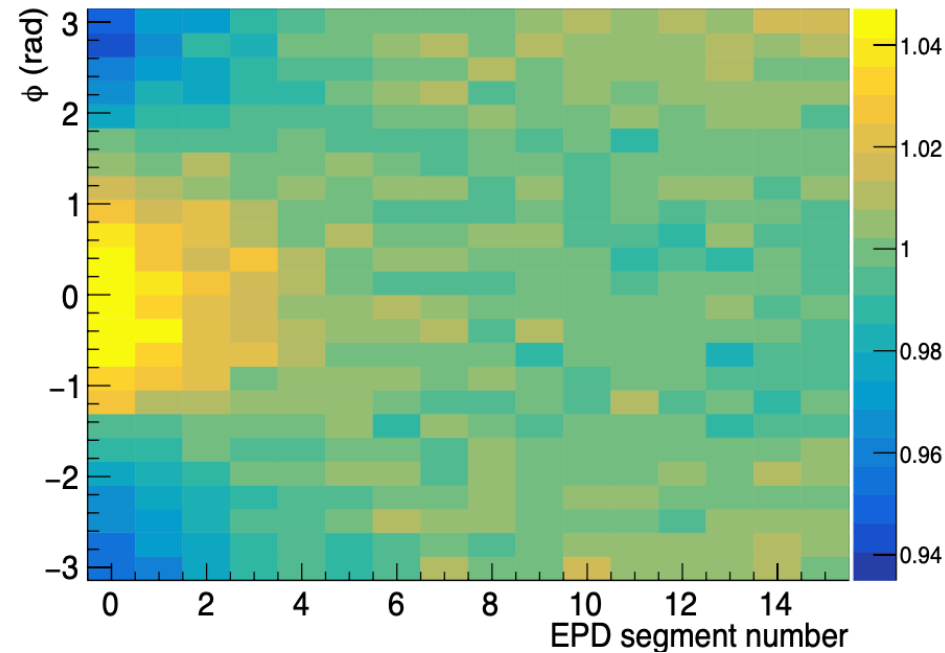
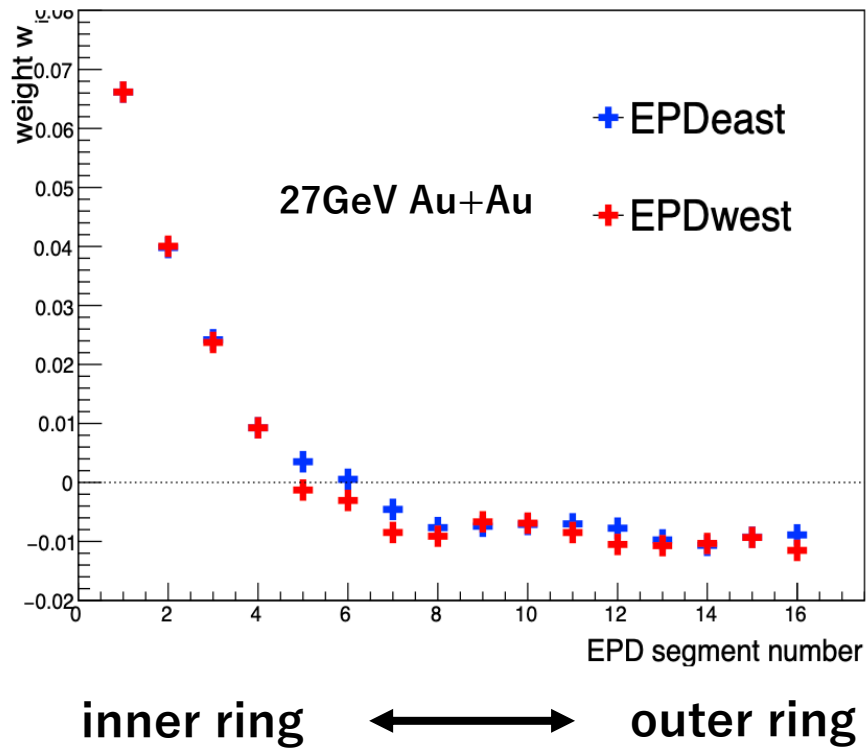
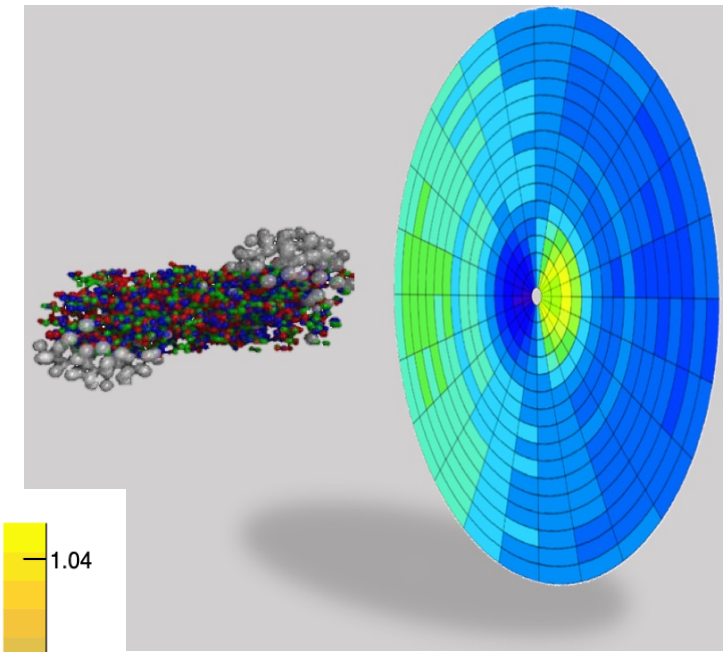


Event Plane Detector (EPD) $|\eta|=2 - 5$



Event Plane Detector (EPD)

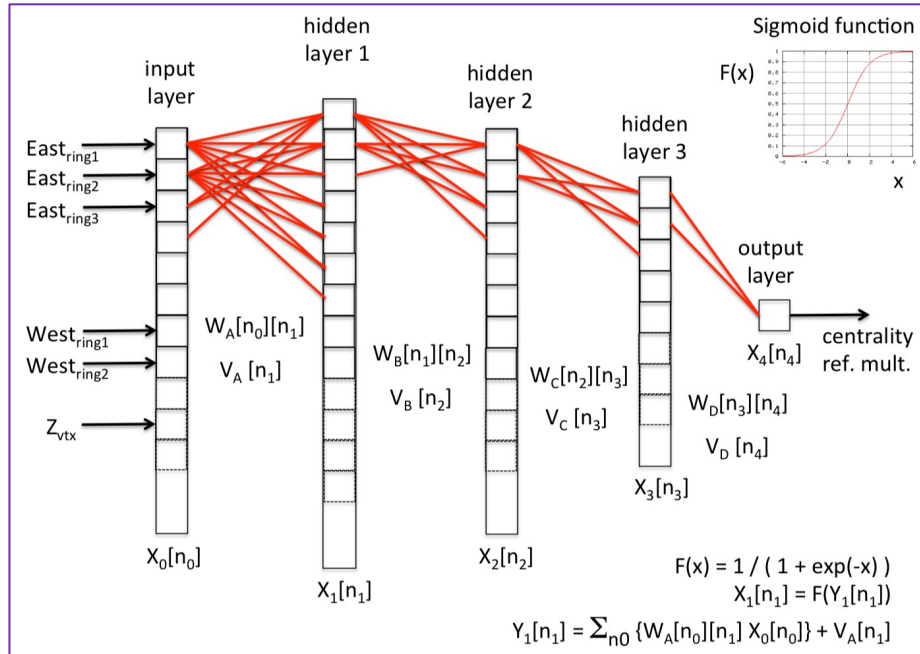
~50% of signal from secondaries
flow measurements with EPD with Geant simulation



PRC111 (2025)
14906

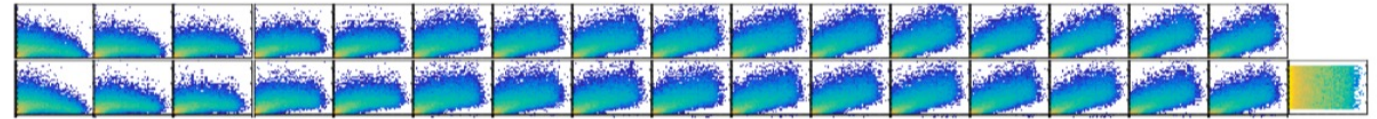
Centrality determination with Event Plane Detector (EPD)

Machine learning approach



27GeV Au+Au 50k education events and 50k test events (EPD+TPC)

16 ADC sum values from 2 arms + zvertex = 33 input neurons



3 hidden layers (n1=66, n2=30, n3=10 neurons)

back-propagation to modify weight W and bias V

Error (target-output) : $E = 0.5 (X_T[n_4] - X_4[n_4])^2$

$dE/dX_4 = X_T - X_4$, $dX_4/dY_4 = F'(X_4)$, $dY_4/dW_D = X_3$

$dE/dW_D = (dE/dX_4) (dX_4/dY_4) (dY_4/dW_D)$

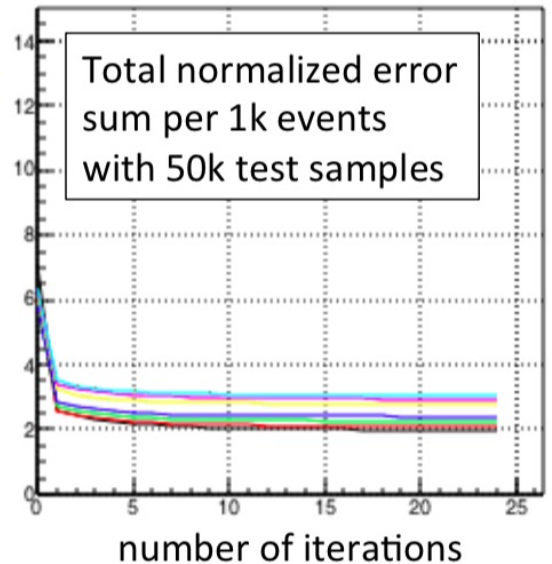
$W_D = W_D + \alpha (X_T - X_4) F'(X_4) X_3$

$V_D = V_D + \alpha (X_T - X_4) F'(X_4)$

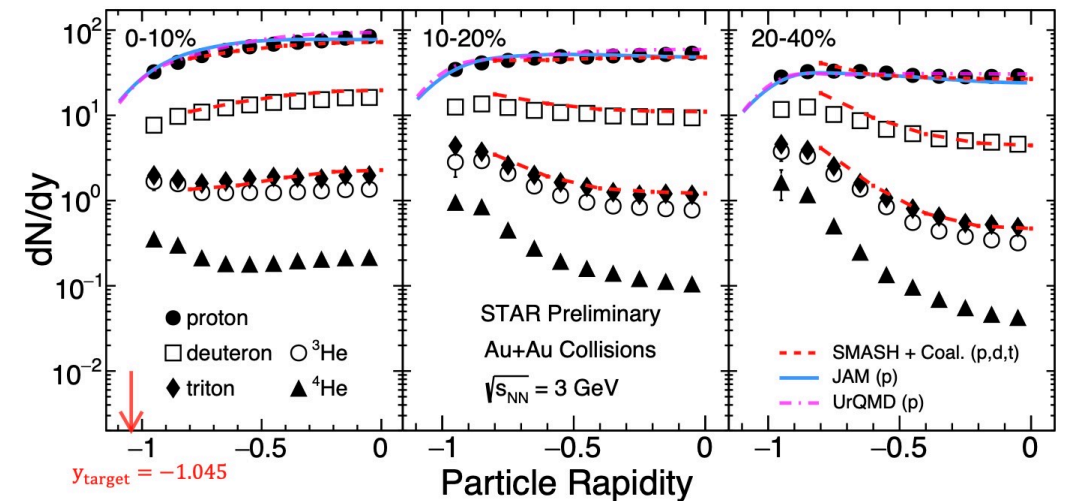
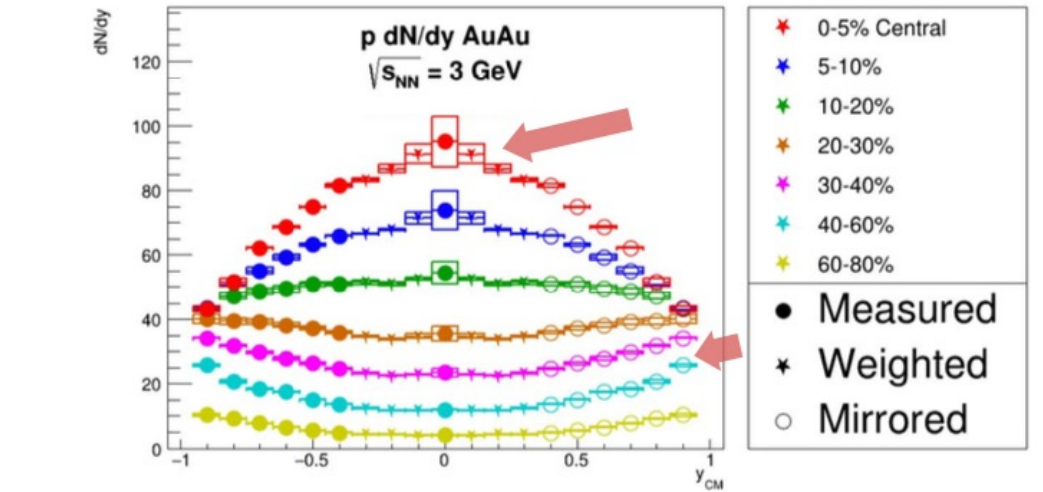
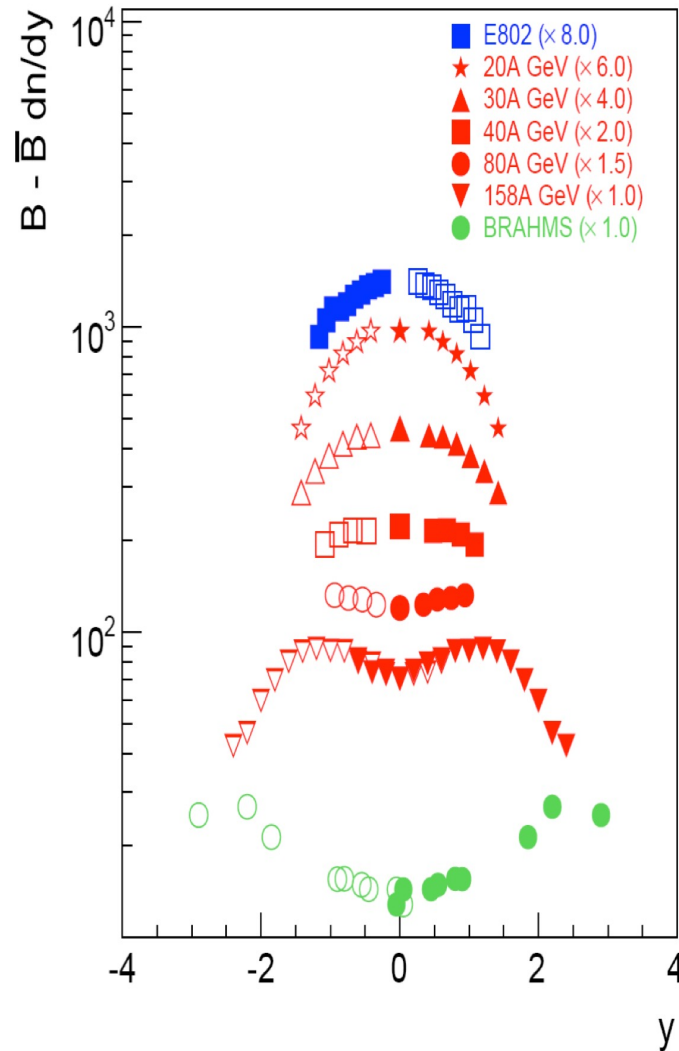
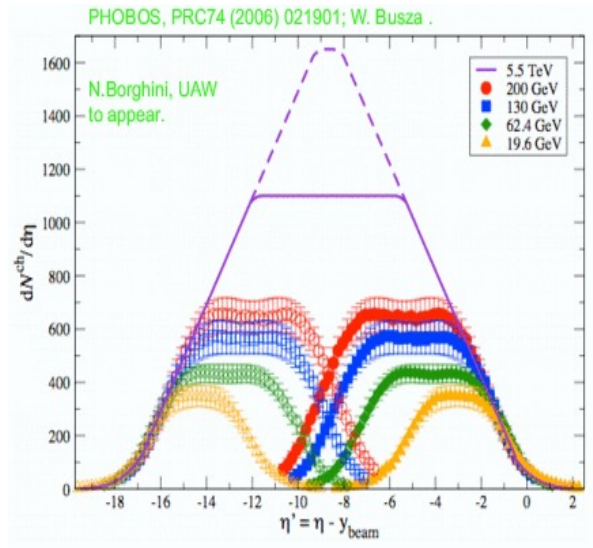
$dE/dX_3 = (X_T - X_4) F'(X_4) W_D$

.....

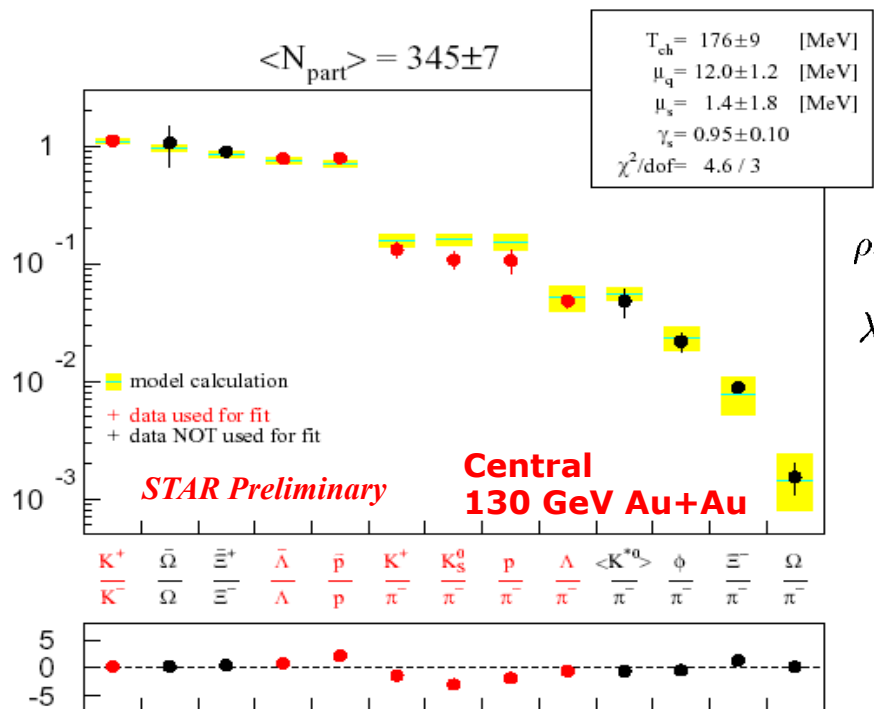
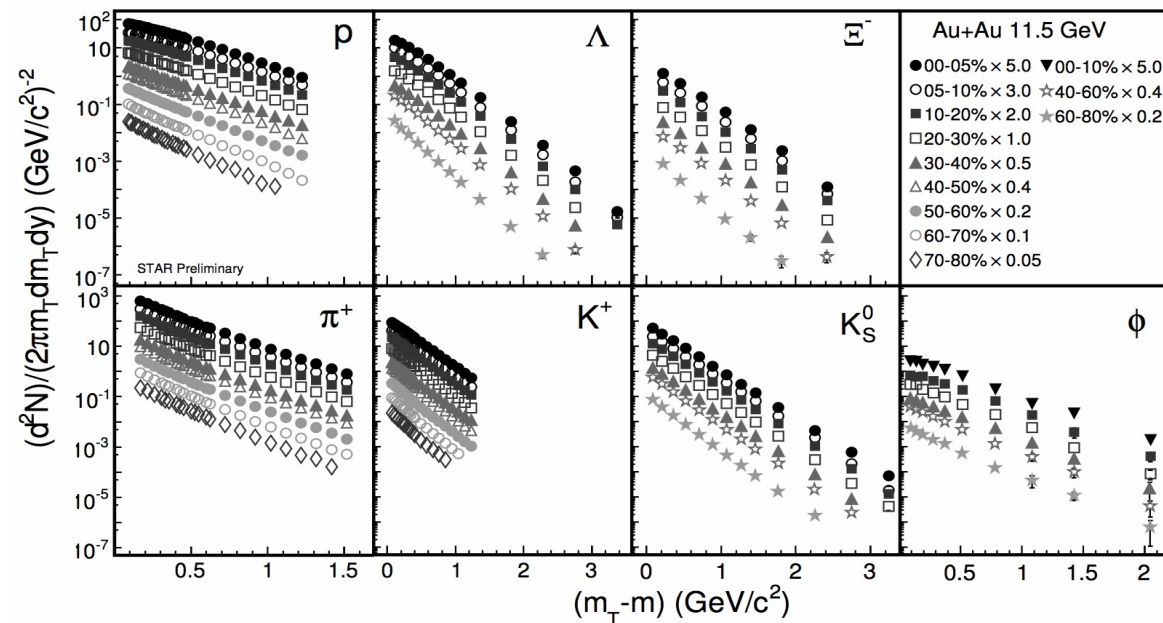
1 output layer with 1 neuron (as refmult)



Baryon stopping and rapidity distribution



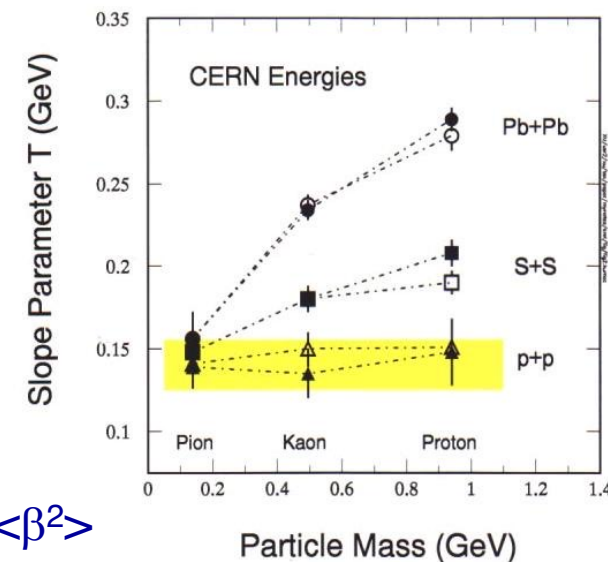
Particle yields and Transverse momentum distributions



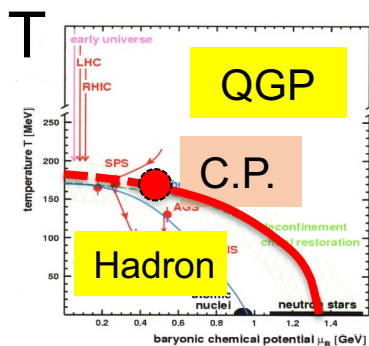
$$\rho_i = \gamma_s^{|s_i|} \frac{g_i}{2\pi^2} T_{ch}^3 \left(\frac{m_i}{T_{ch}} \right)^2 K_2(m_i/T_{ch}) \lambda_q^{Q_i} \lambda_s^{s_i}$$

$$\lambda_q = \exp(\mu_q/T_{ch}), \quad \lambda_s = \exp(\mu_s/T_{ch})$$

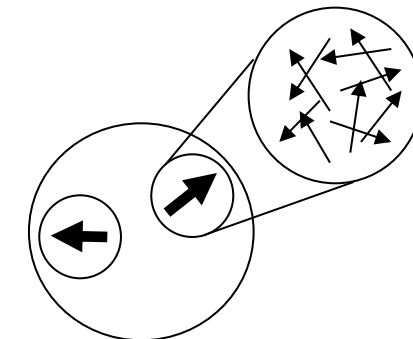
$$T \sim T_0 + m \langle \beta^2 \rangle$$



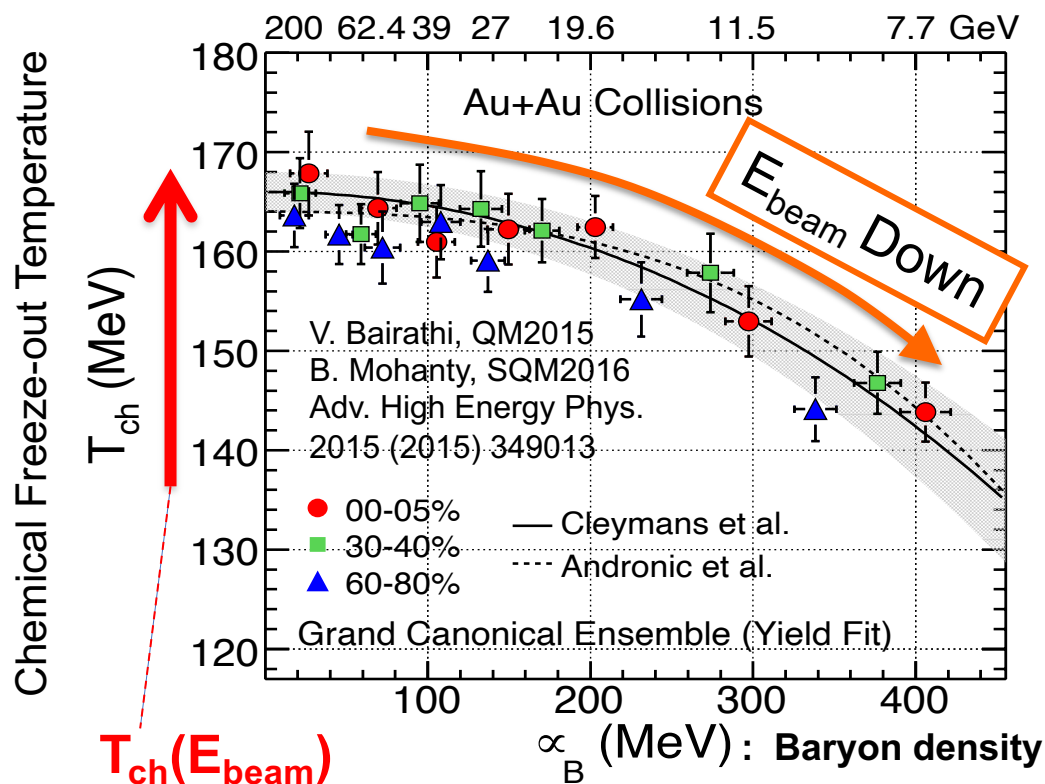
$$E = E_{\text{thermal}} + E_{\text{collective}}$$



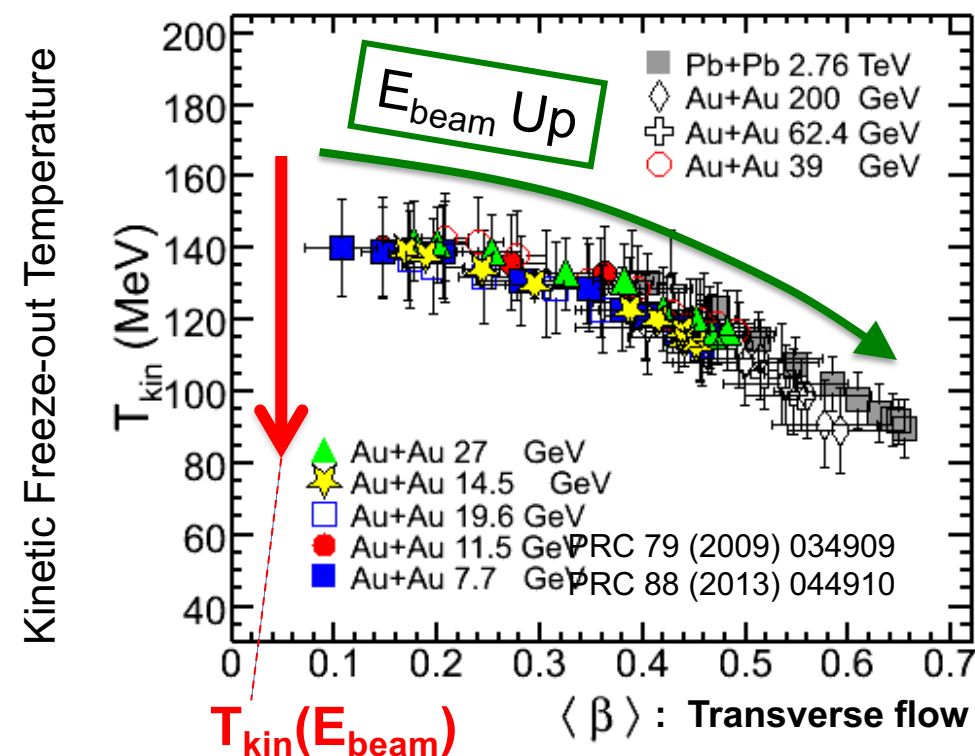
Chemical and Thermal model fitting

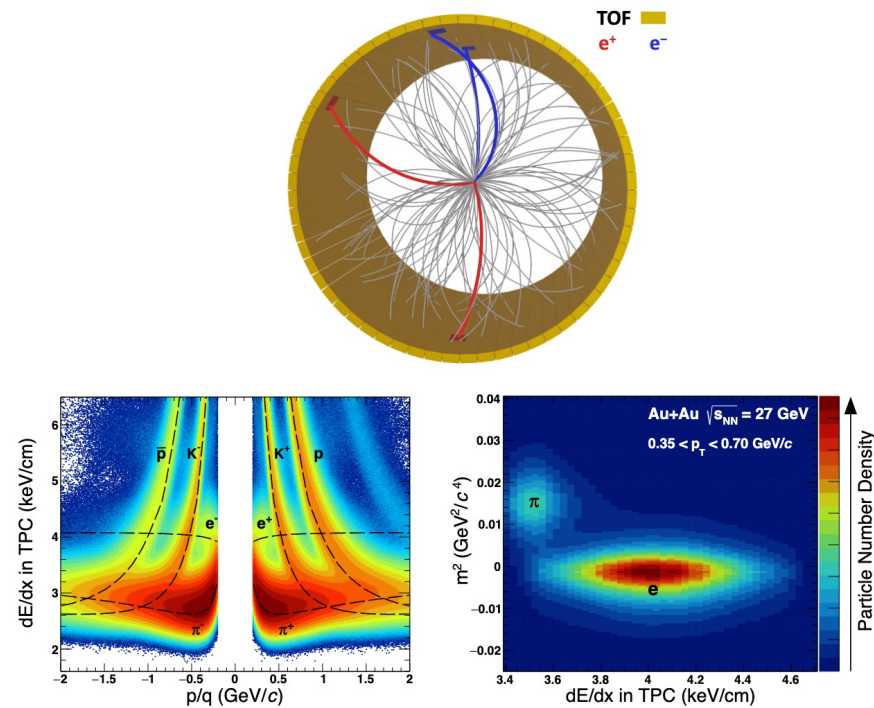
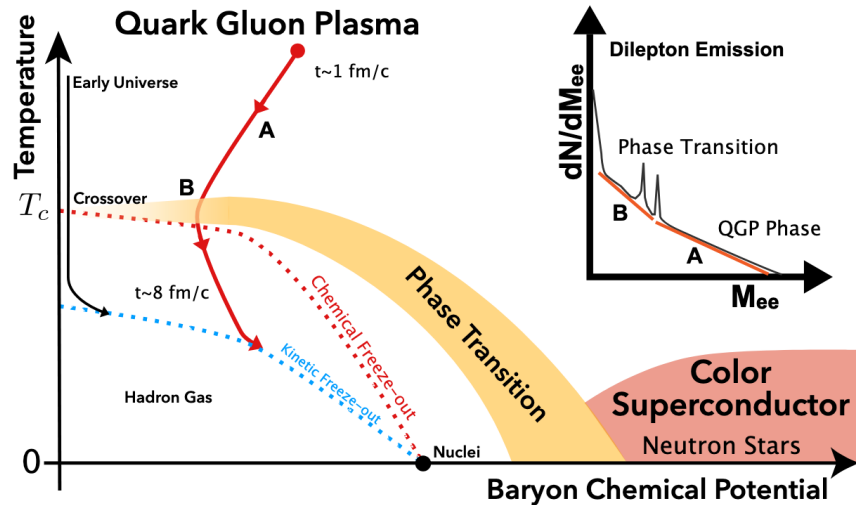


μ_B From the hadron yields and ratios
Chemical Freeze-out at the end of inelastic interaction



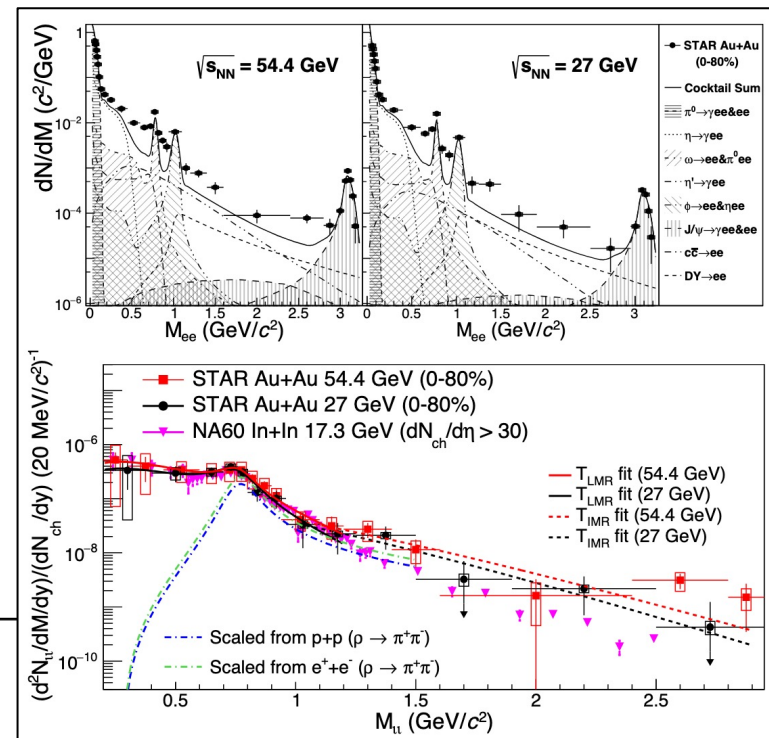
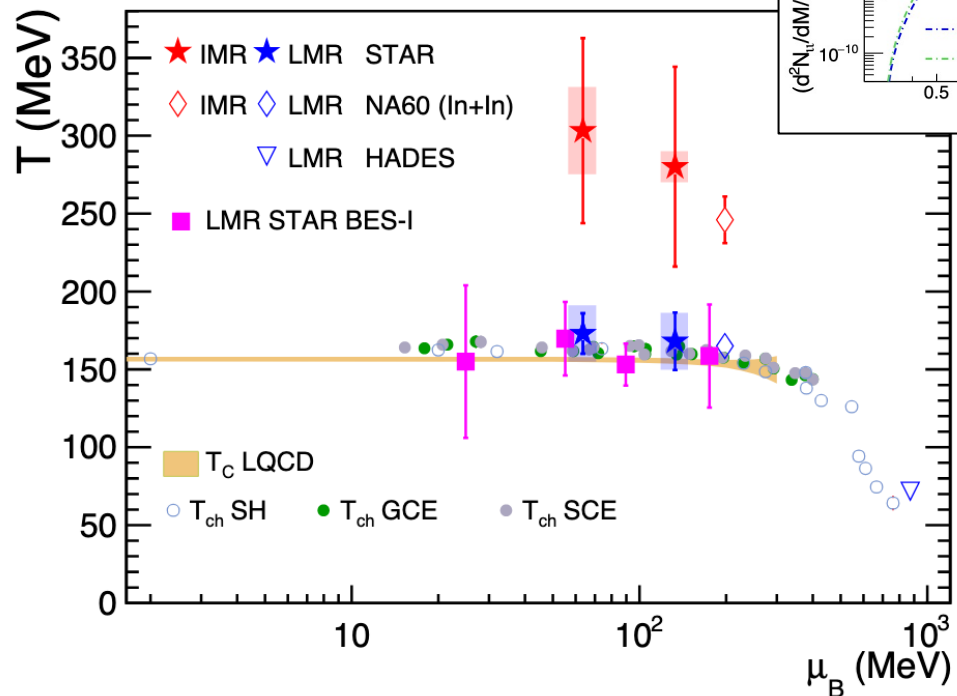
From the hadron transverse momentum spectra
Kinetic Thermal Freeze-out at the end of elastic interactions

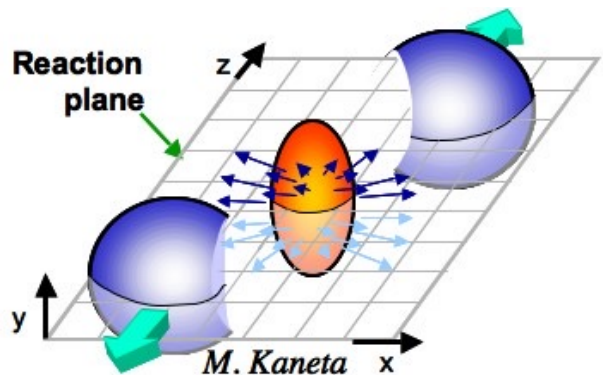




Earlier temperature of QGP with di-lepton

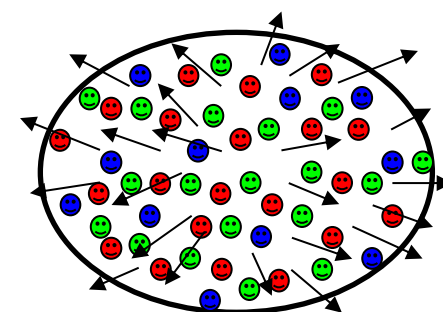
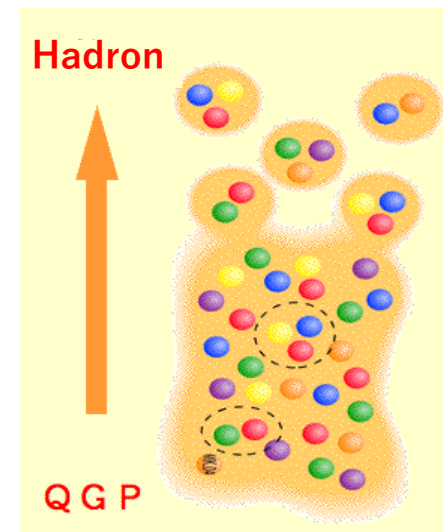
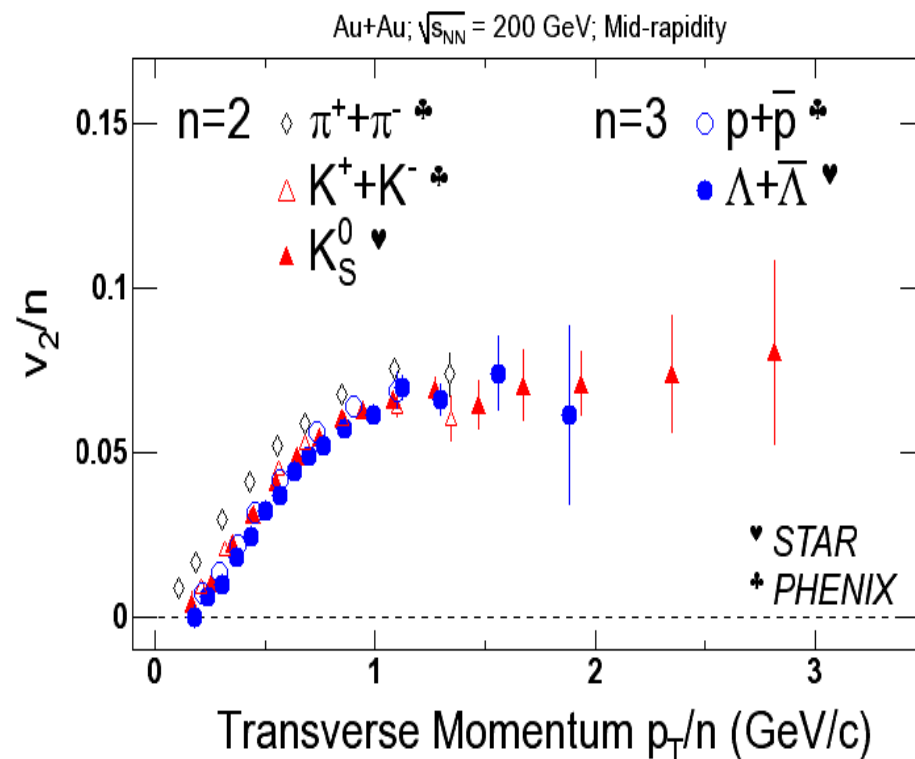
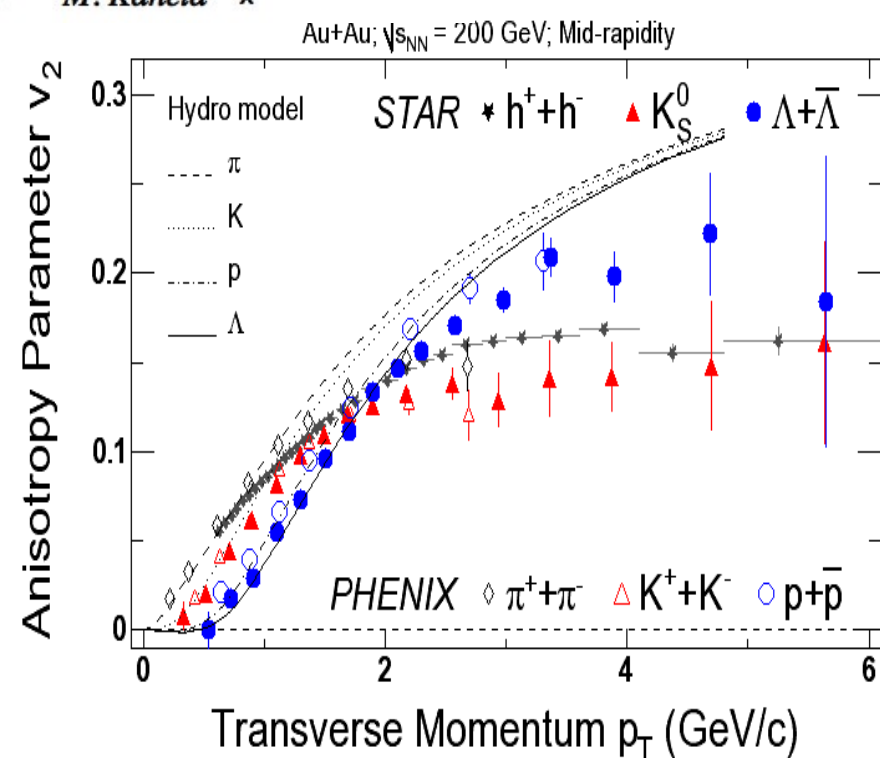
arXiv:2402.01998
accepted in Nature Communications





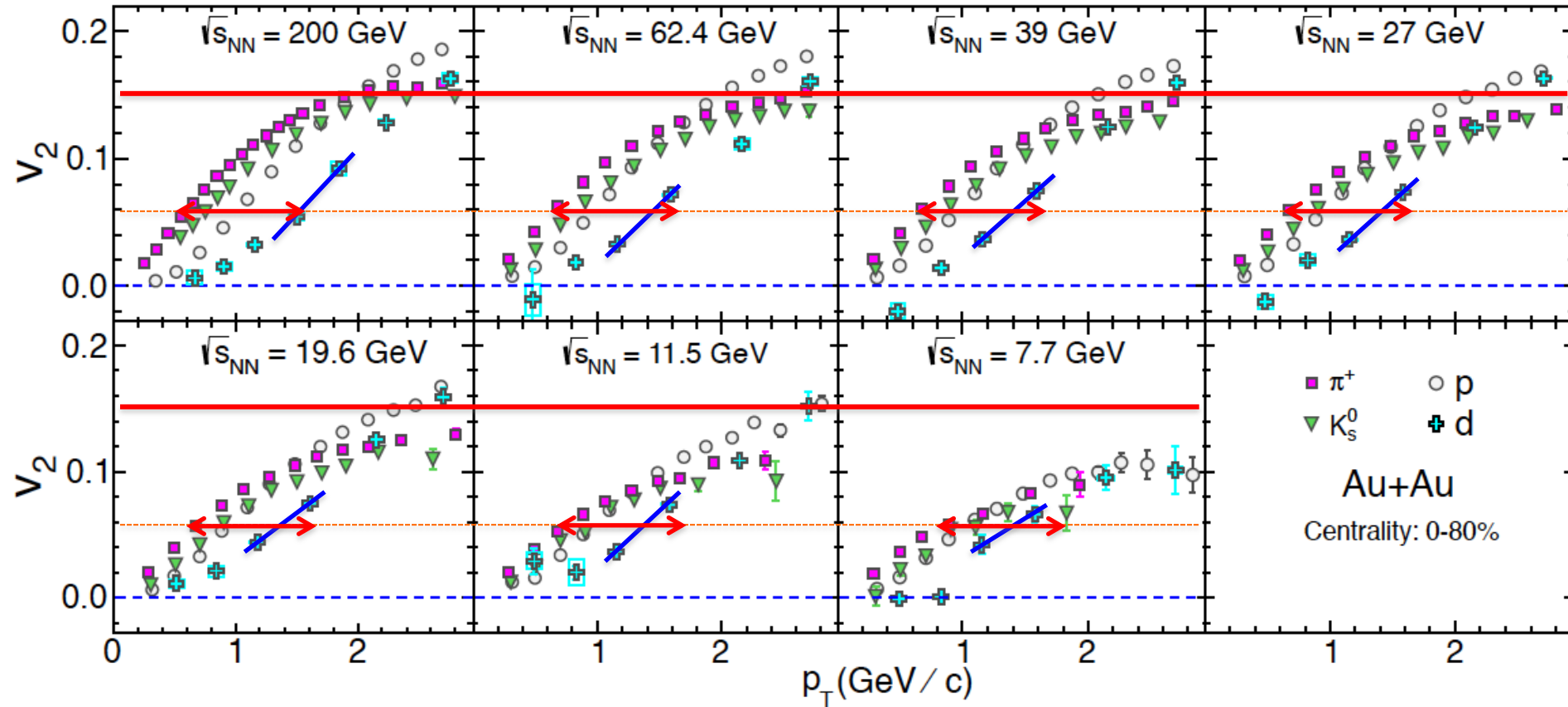
Elliptic flow and NCQ-scaling

(Number of Constituents Quarks : NCQ)



Elliptic flow and radial flow

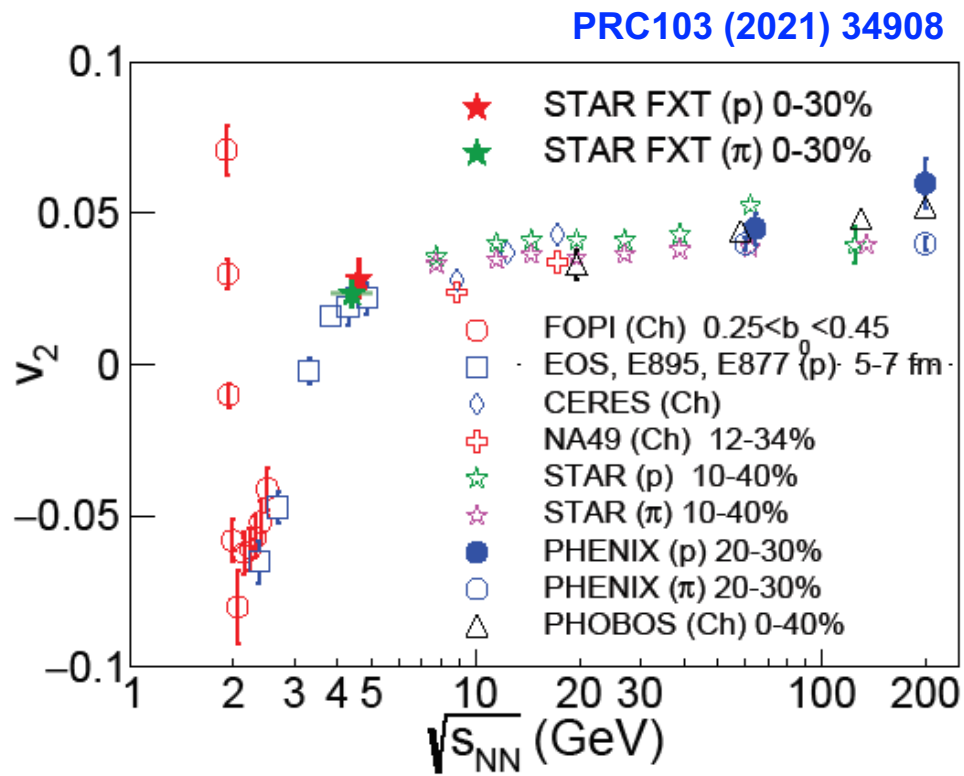
PRC94 (2016) 34908



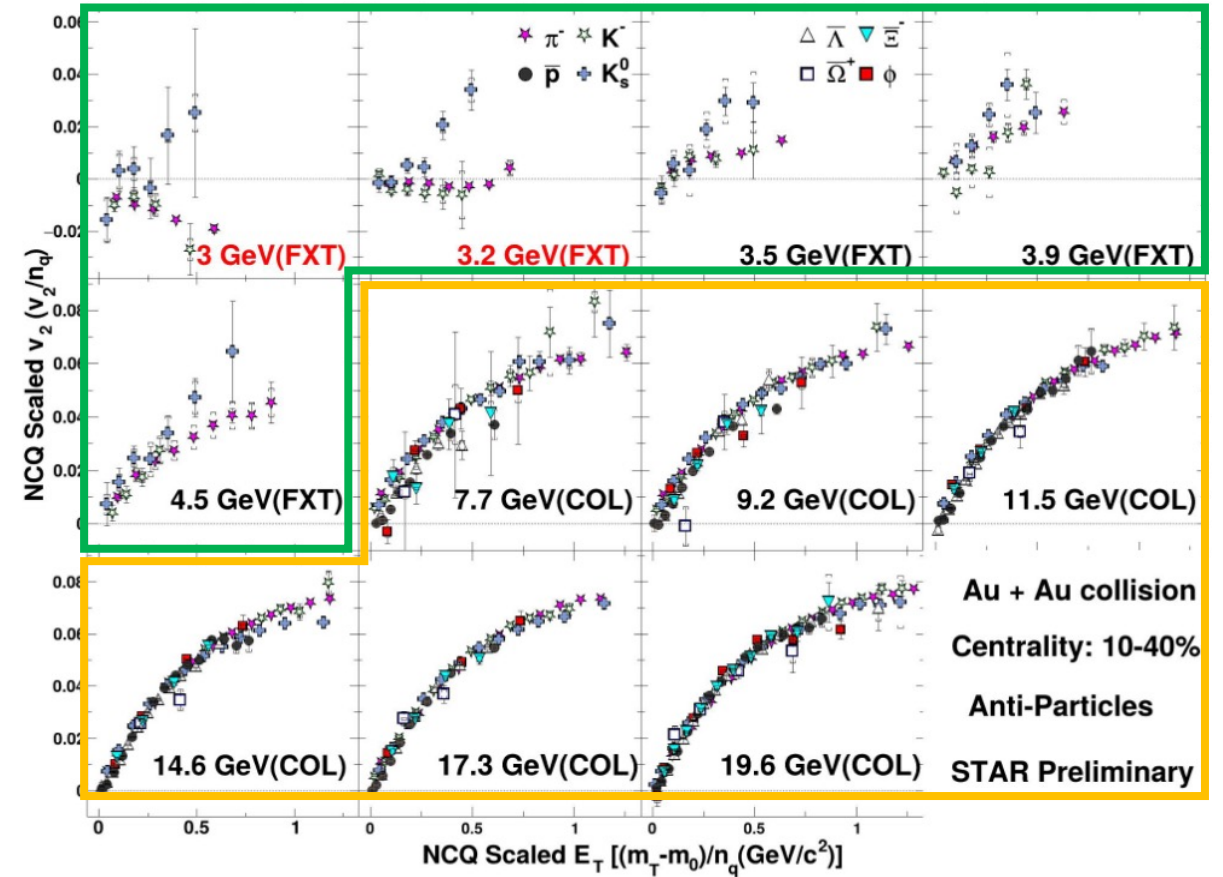
increasing radial and elliptic flow with beam energy

Elliptic flow - energy dependence

from hadronic to partonic system

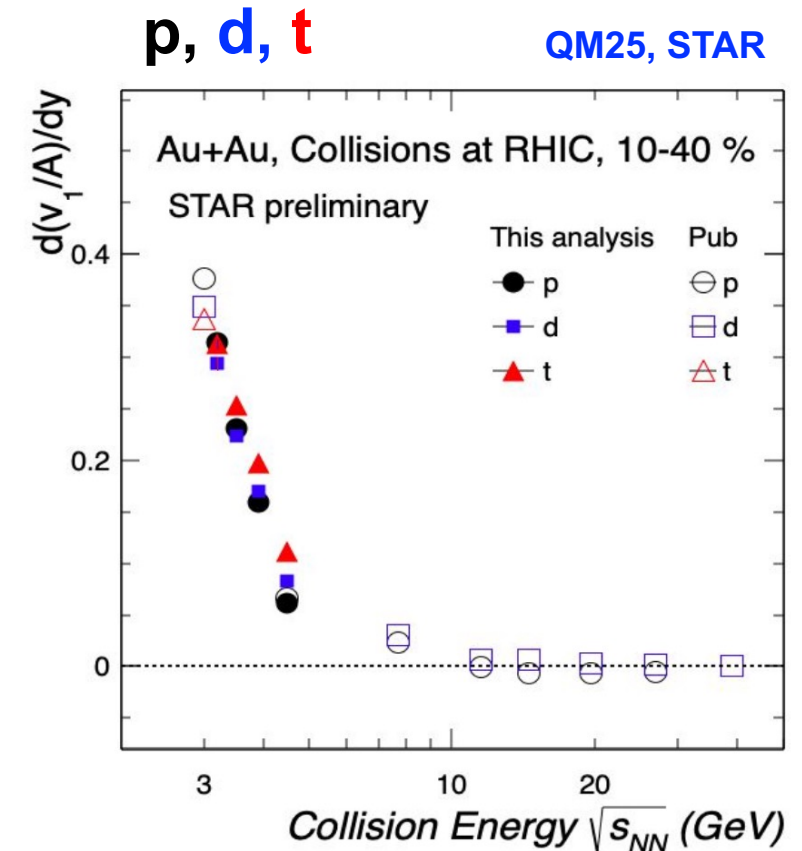
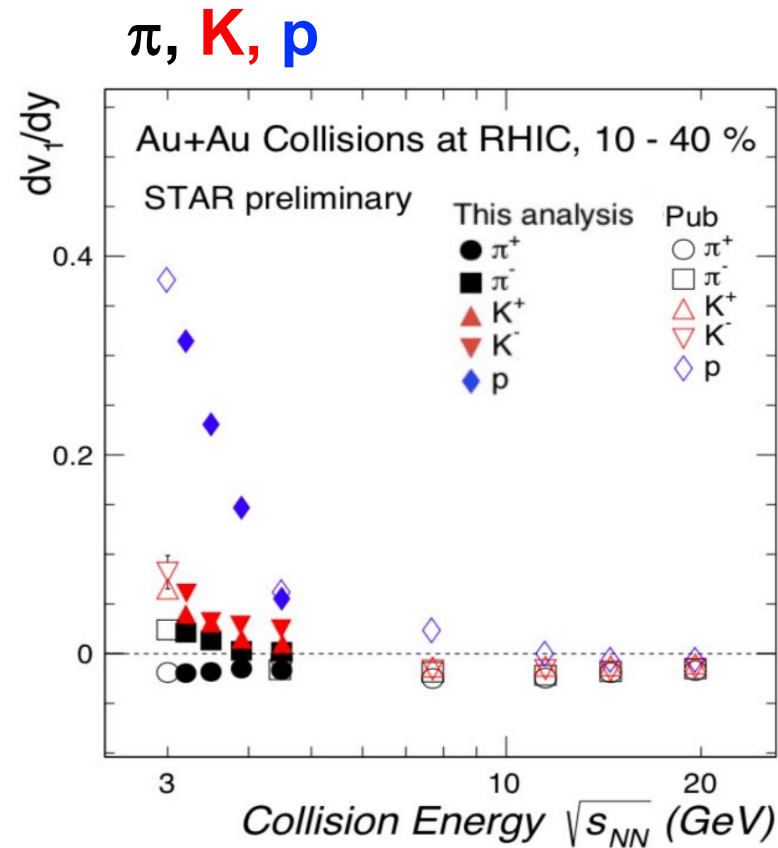
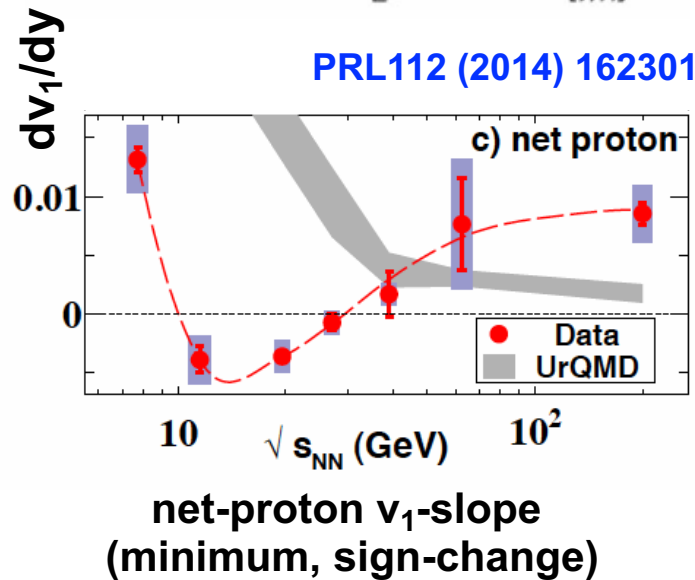
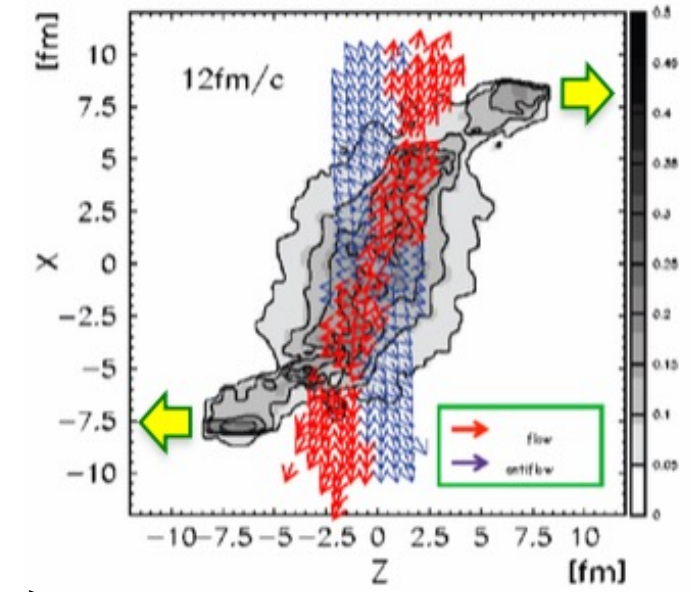


QM25, STAR
PRL135 (2025) 72301

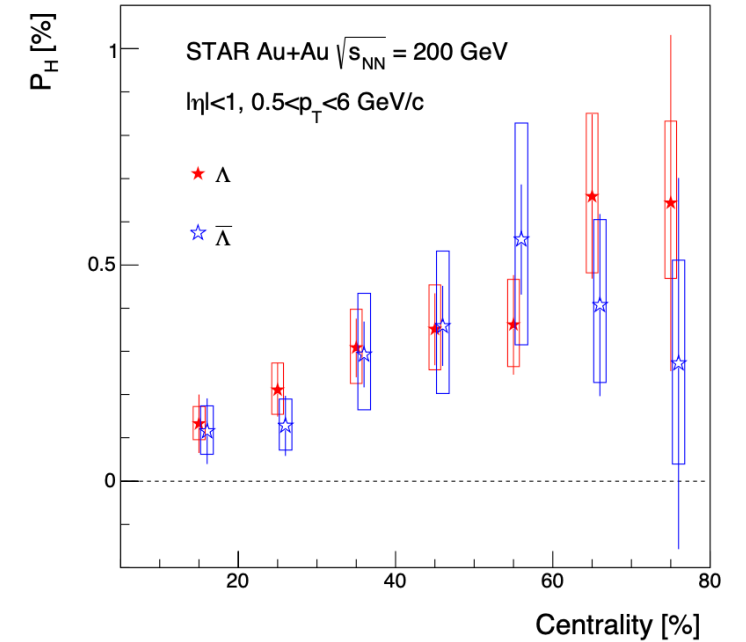
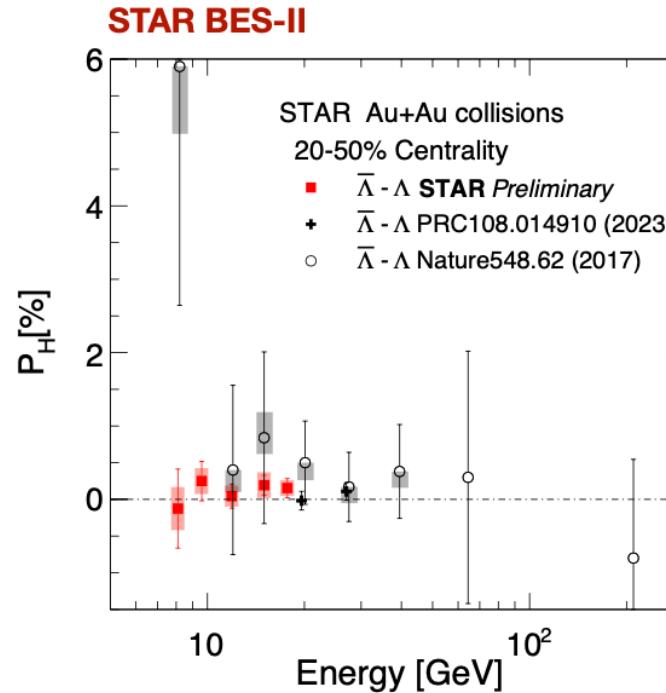
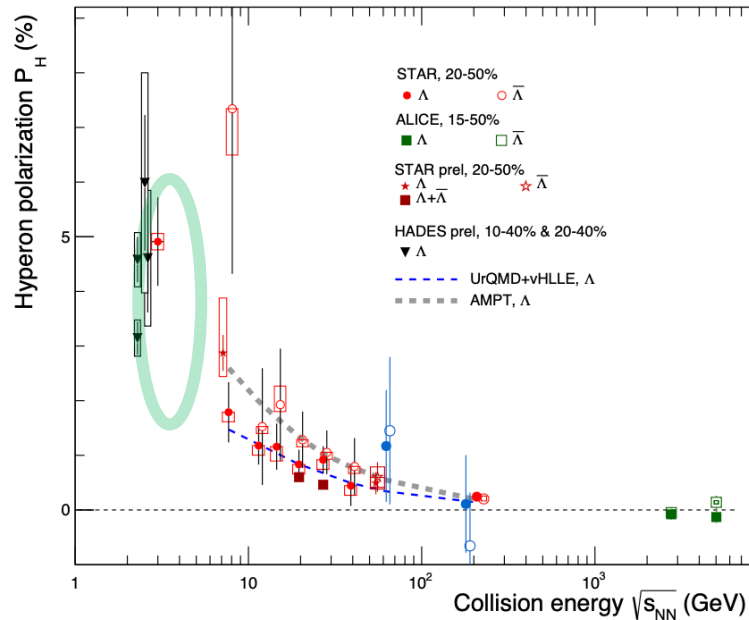
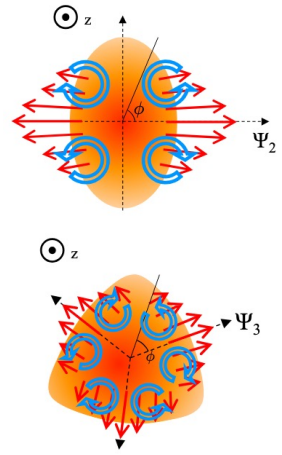
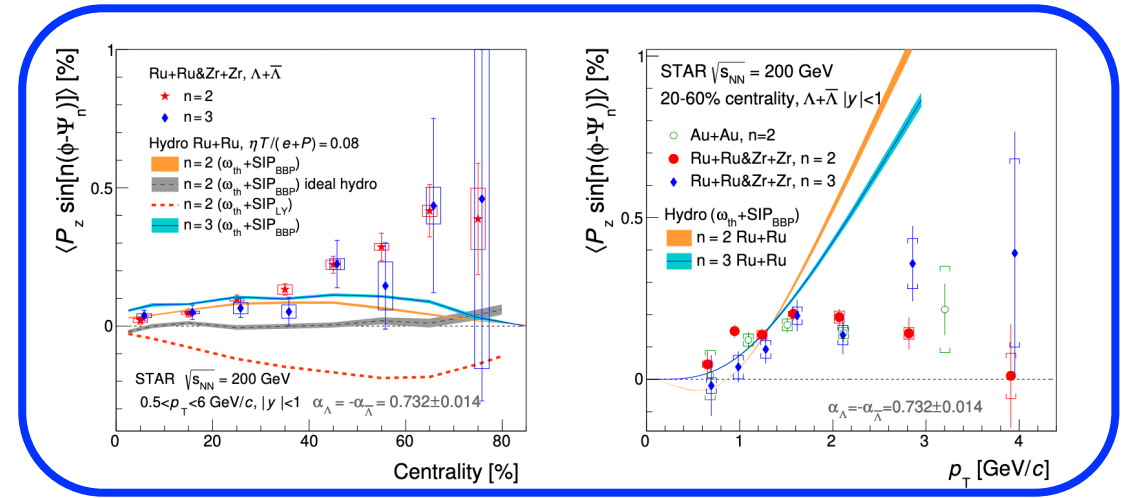
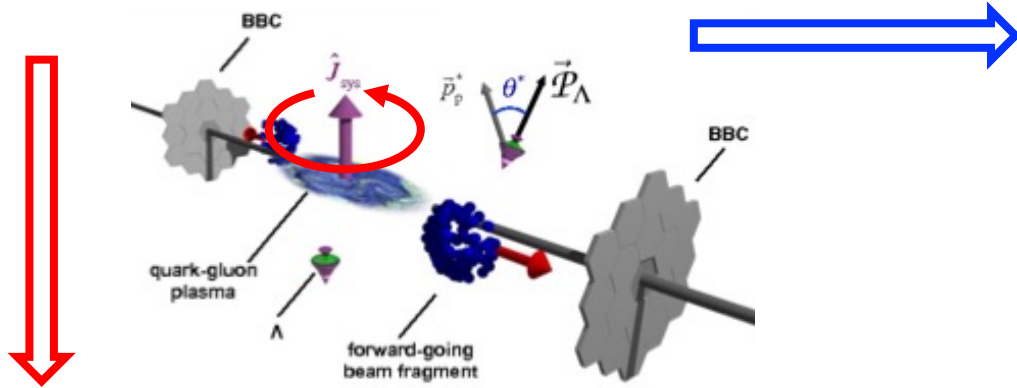


v_2 - N_{CQ} scaling breaks around 3-7 GeV

Directed flow (v_1 -slope) as a function of energy

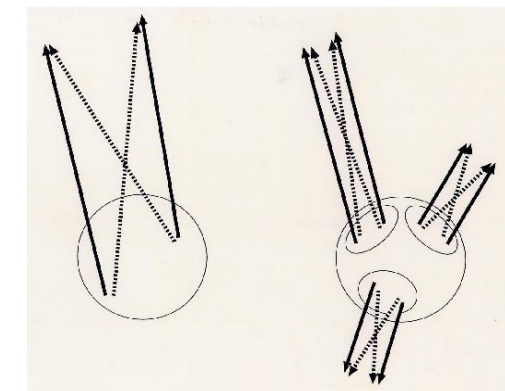
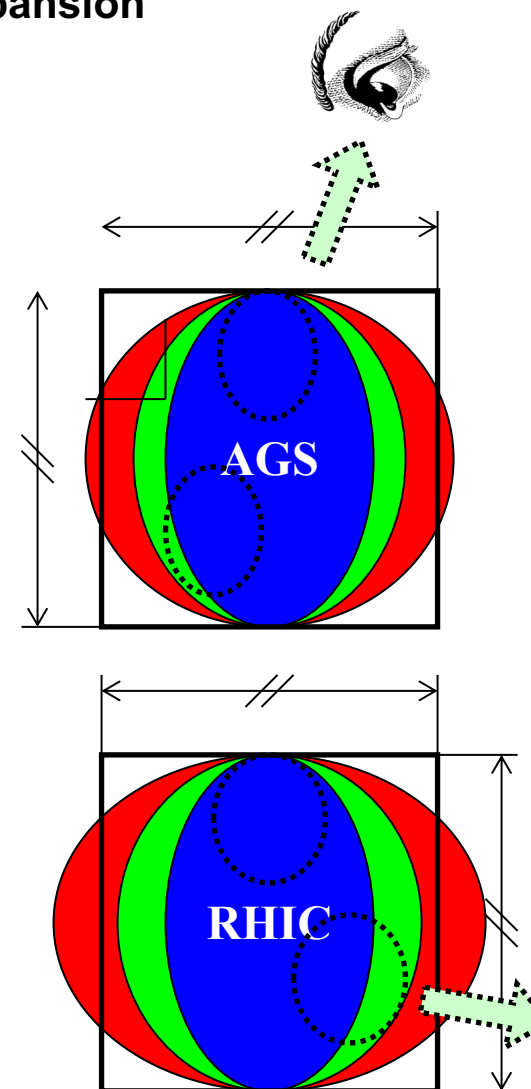
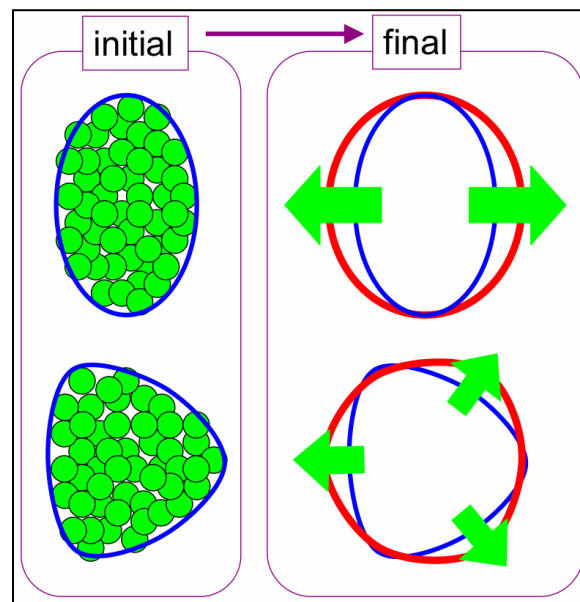
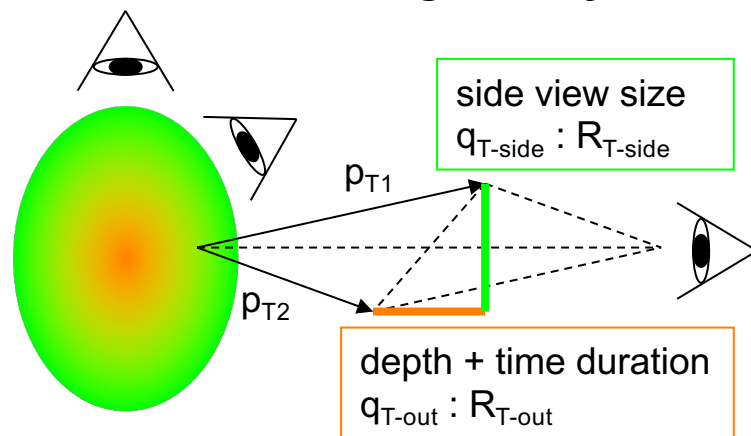
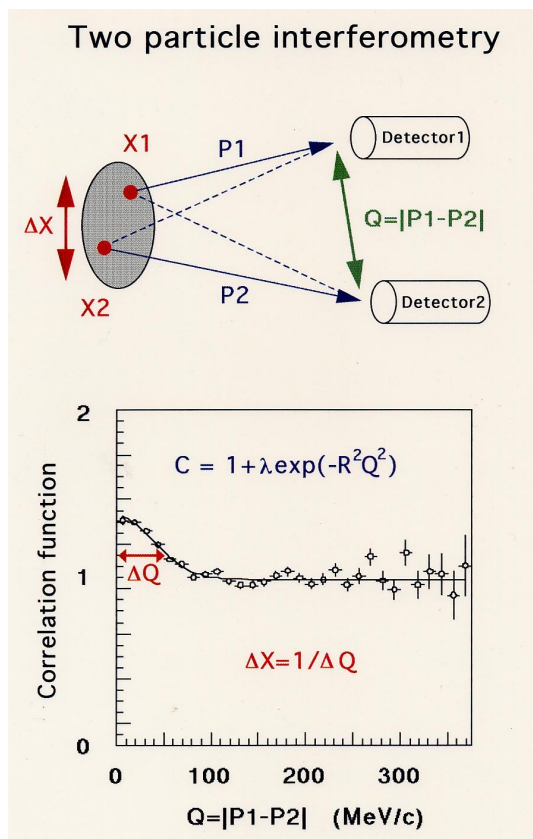


Global and Local polarization via vorticity, B-field and v_2 , v_3 expansion

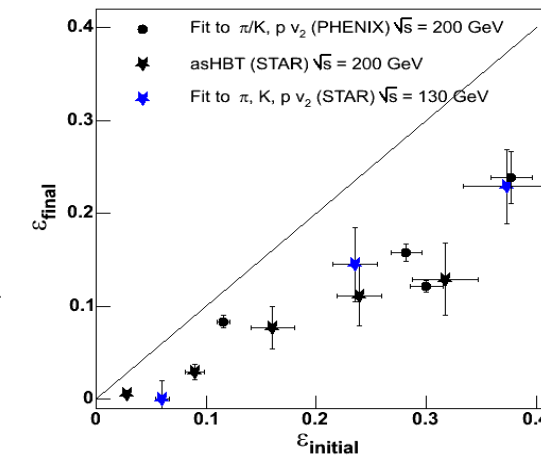


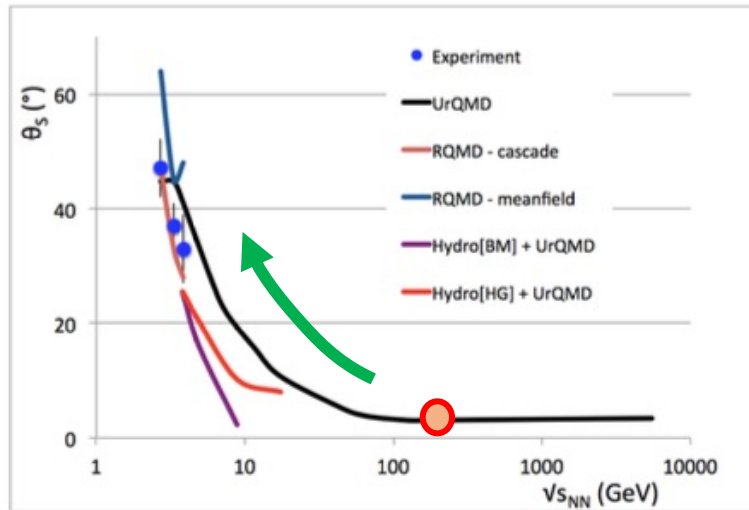
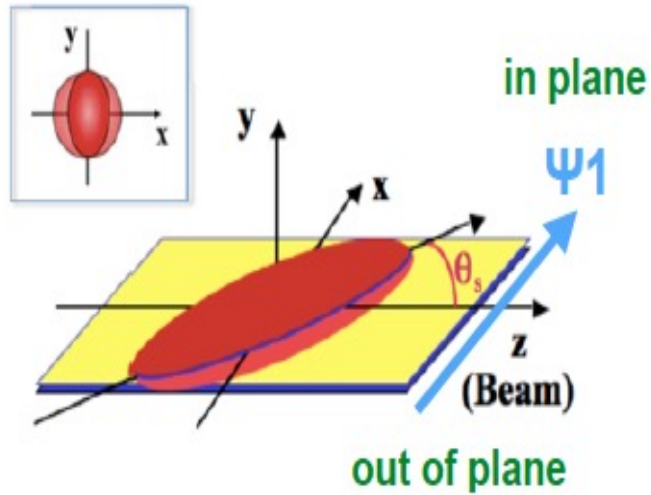
Femto-scopic two-particle correlation (HBT)

space-time dynamics, transverse source geometry and expansion



p_T (m_T) dependence of source radius

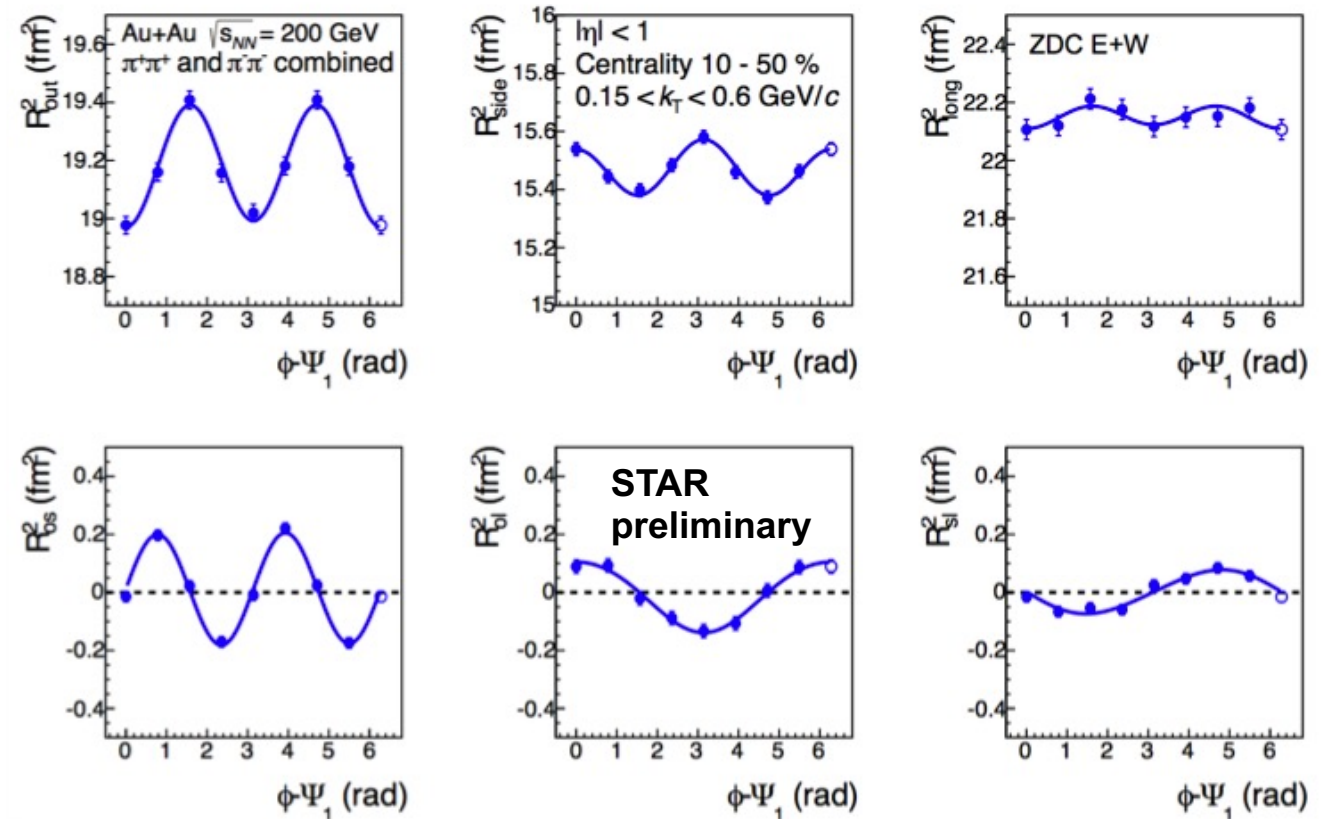




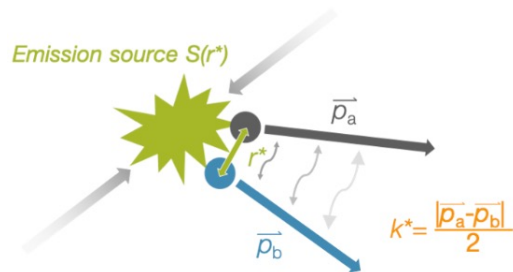
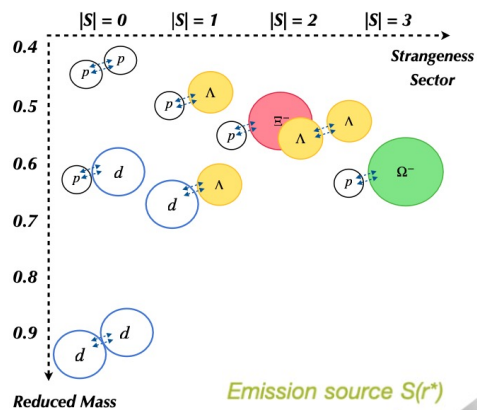
Energy dependence of the tilt angle θ

Femto-scopic HBT correlation with Φ_1

3D source geometry including tilt-angle
relation with the directed flow



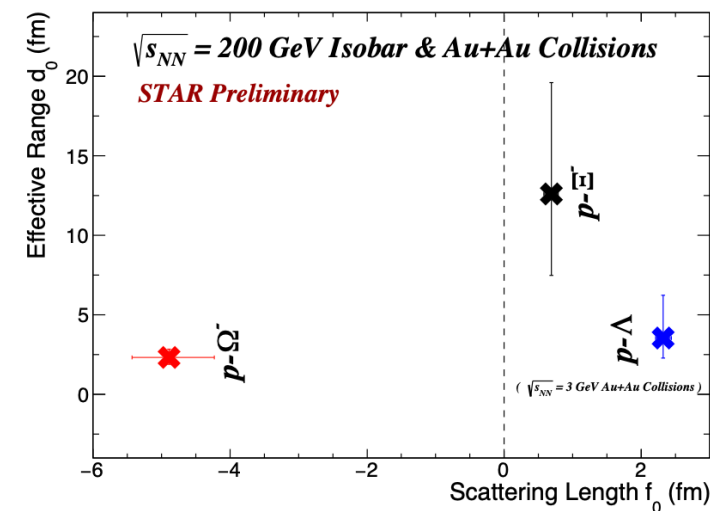
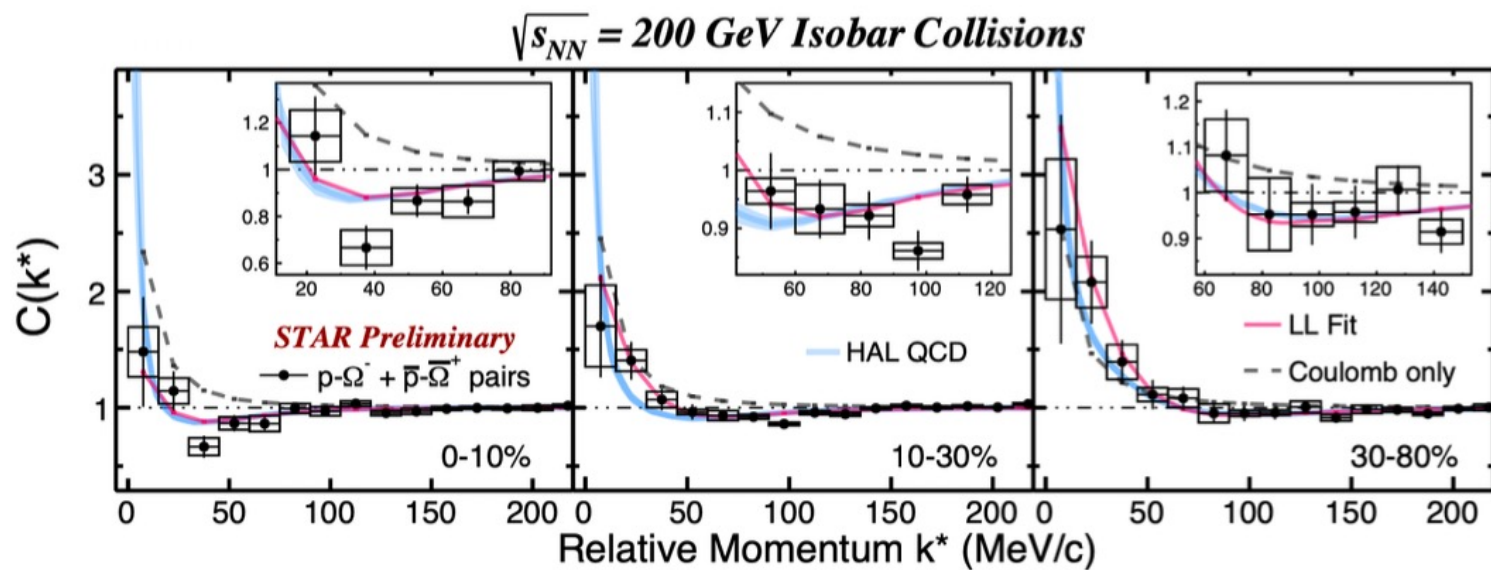
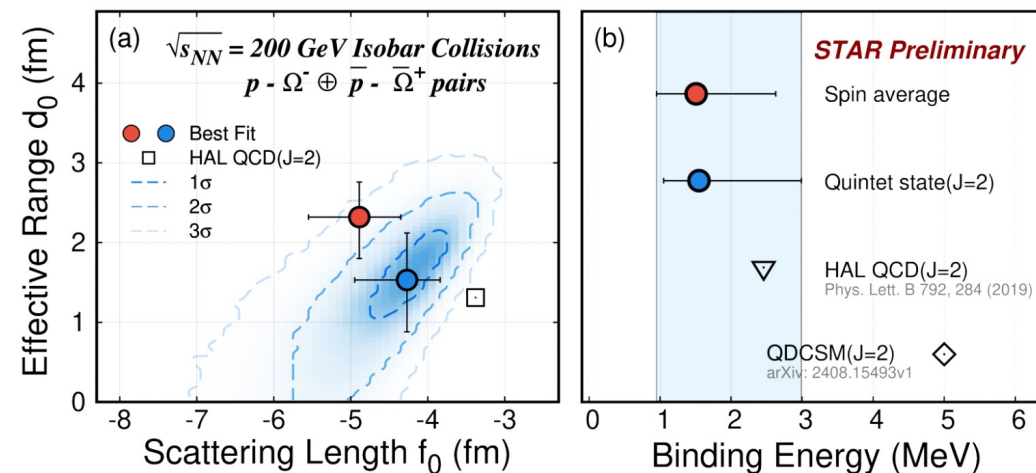
Femto-scopic two-particle correlation for Baryon-interaction



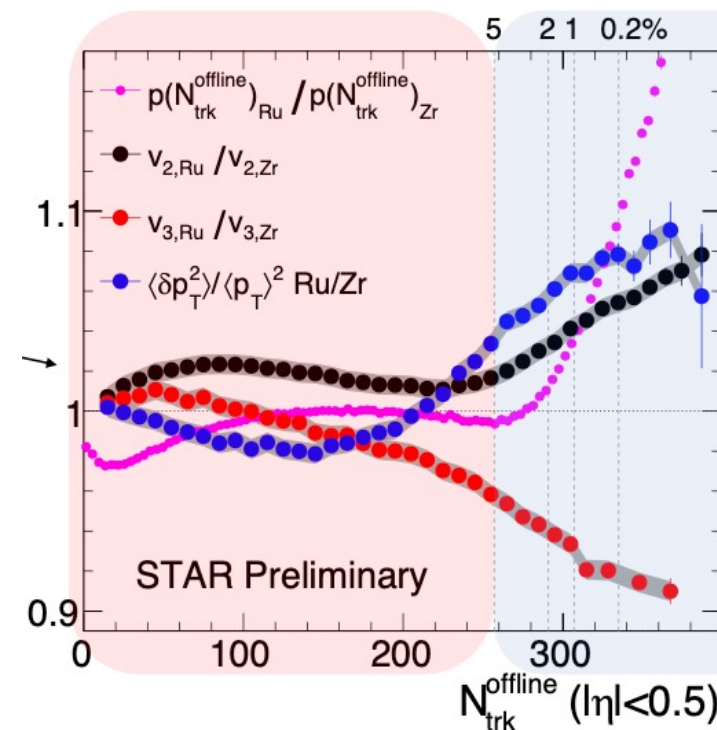
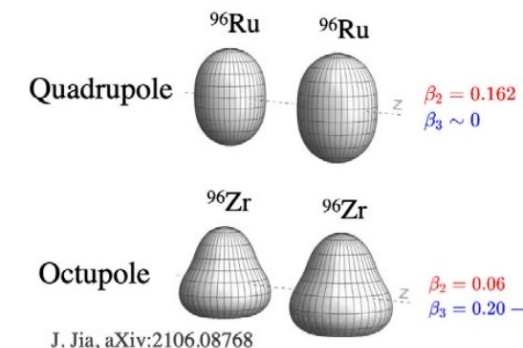
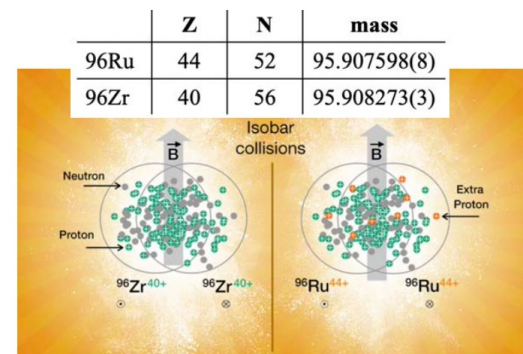
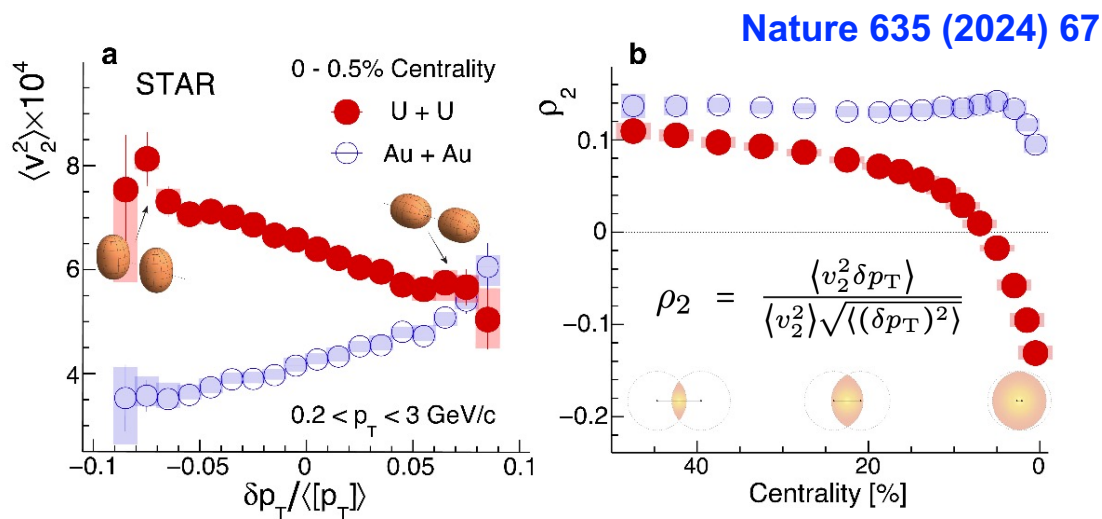
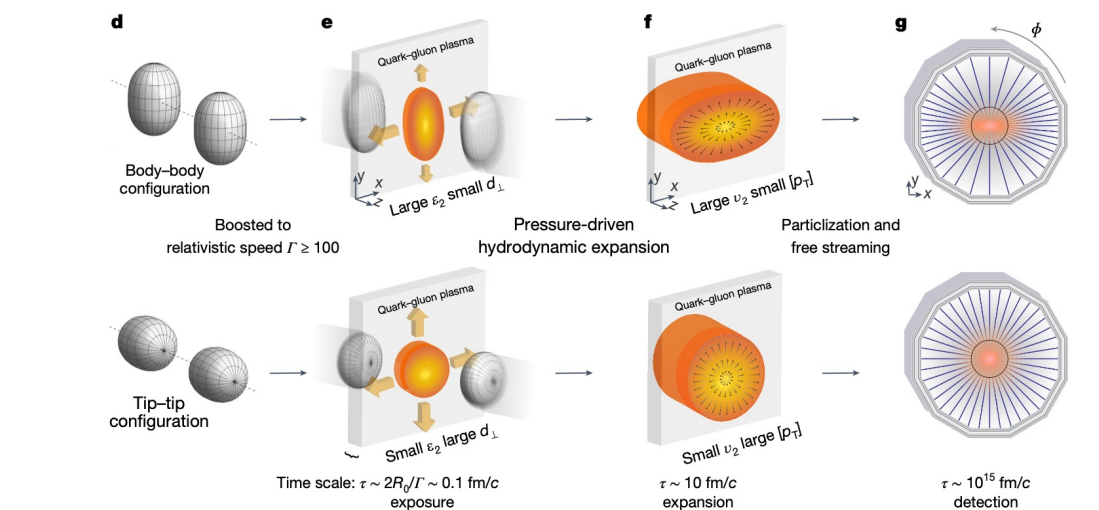
Source size FSI

$$C(k^*) = \frac{\int S(\vec{r}) |\Psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r})|^2 d^3\vec{r}}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k^*)} = \frac{N_{\text{same}}(k^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k^*)}$$

$S(\vec{r})$: Source function
 $\Psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r})$: Pair wave function
 $k^* = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_b|$, relative momentum
 \vec{r} : relative distance

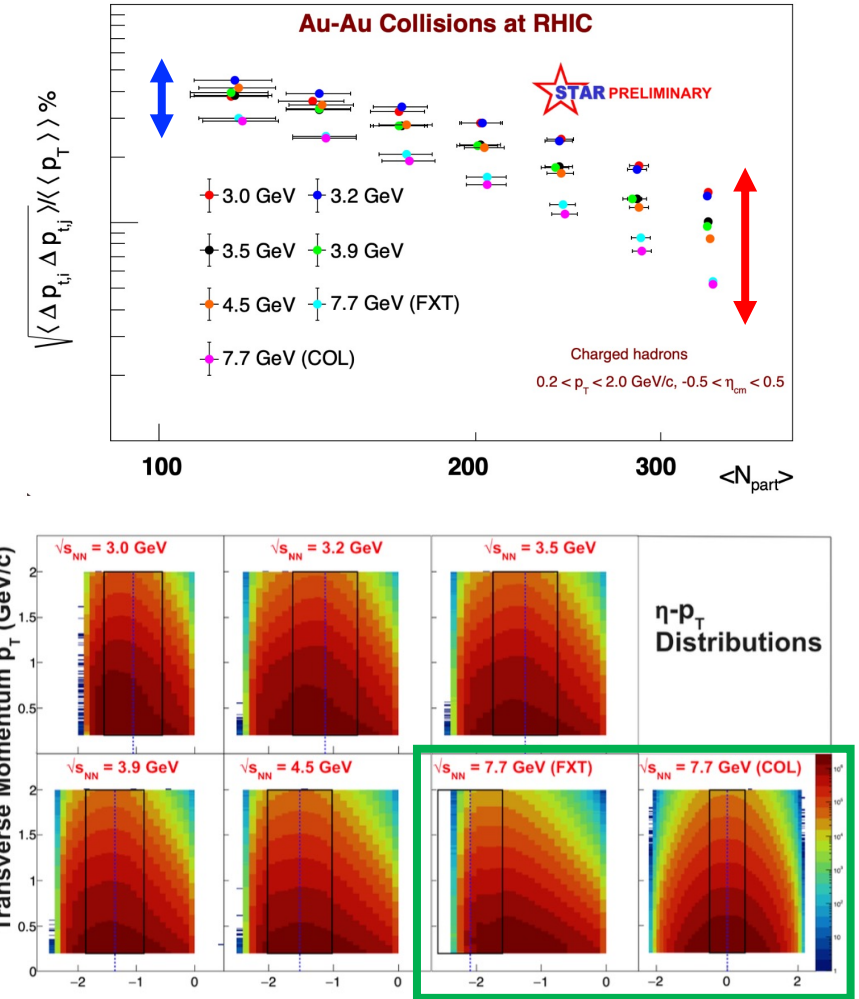
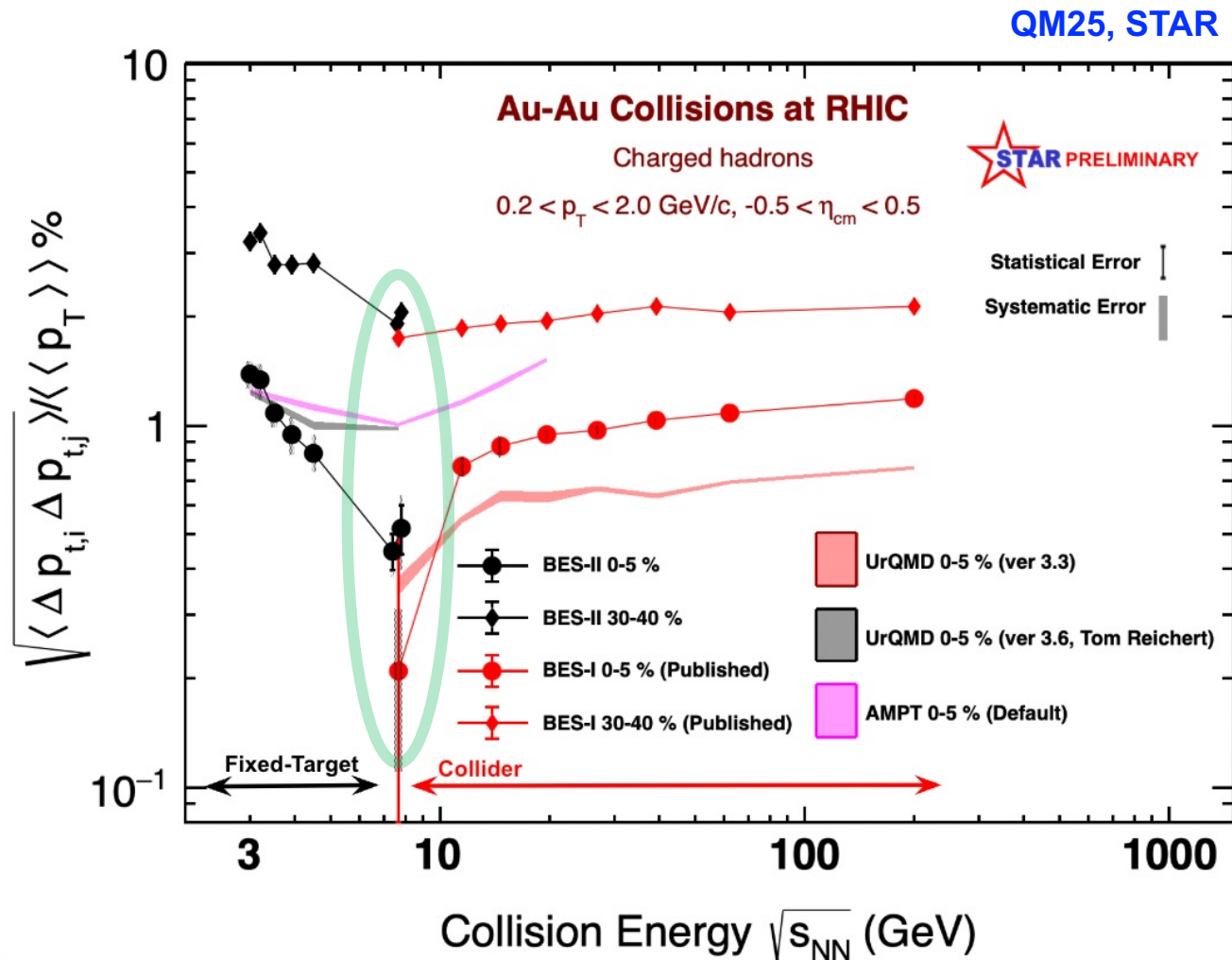


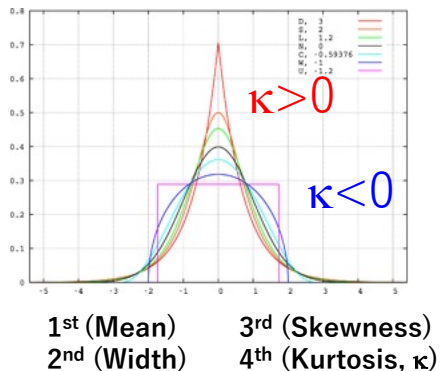
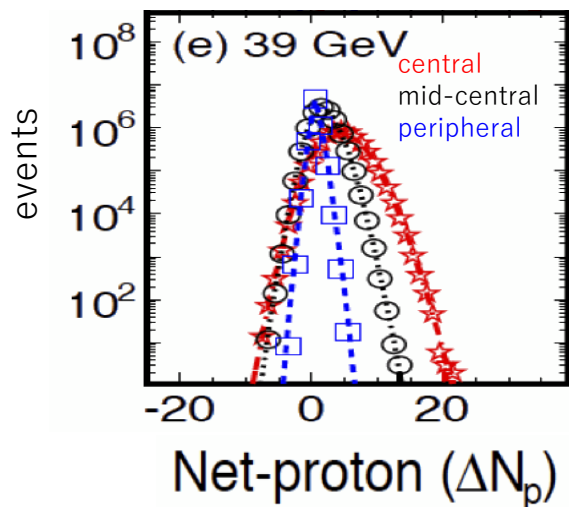
$v_2 - \Delta p_T$ correlation for Nuclear Imaging



2nd order p_T correlation mean p_T fluctuation

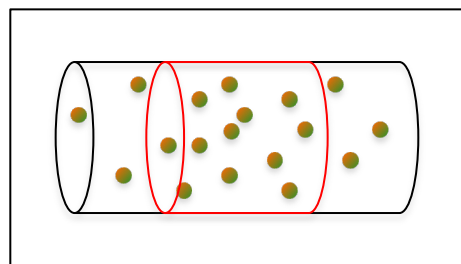
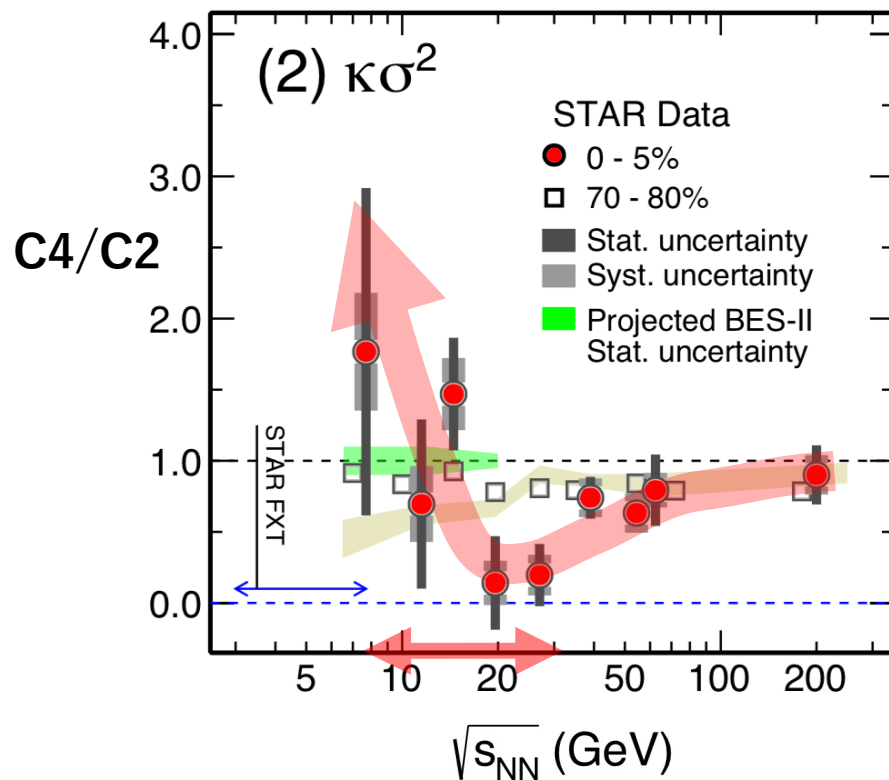
$$\langle \Delta p_{t,i} \Delta p_{t,j} \rangle = \langle (p_{t,i} - \langle p_t \rangle)(p_{t,j} - \langle p_t \rangle) \rangle_{i \neq j}$$





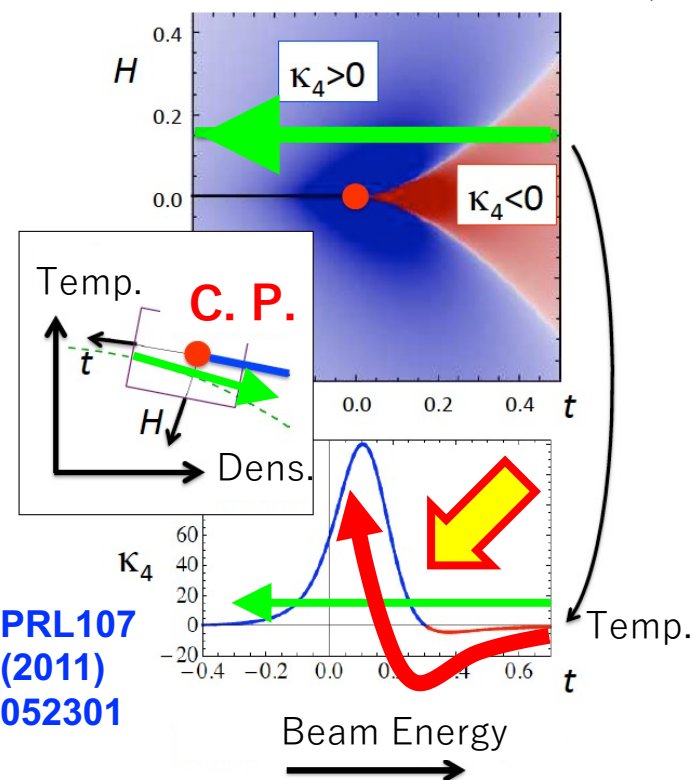
Higher Order Fluctuation of Conserved Quantity (net-Baryon) to look for Critical Point and Phase Transition

PRL126 (2021) 092301



change of correlation length
expected at critical point

Higher order fluctuation (4th order κ_4)



PRL107
(2011)
052301

Non-binomial efficiency correction (Unfolding method)

Reconstructing particle number distributions with convoluting volume fluctuations

Shinichi Esumi,^{1,*} Kana Nakagawa,¹ and Toshihiro Nonaka^{1,2,†}

¹Yonago Center for the History of the Universe, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan

²Key Laboratory of Quark & Lepton Physics (MOE) and Institute of Particle Physics, Central China Normal University, Wuhan 430079, China

propose methods to reconstruct particle distributions with and without considering initial volume fluctuations. This approach enables us to correct for detector efficiencies and initial volume fluctuations simultaneously. Our study suggests such a tool could investigate the possible bimodal nature of net-proton distribution in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7$ GeV as a signature of order phase transition and critical point of hadronic matter [1][2].

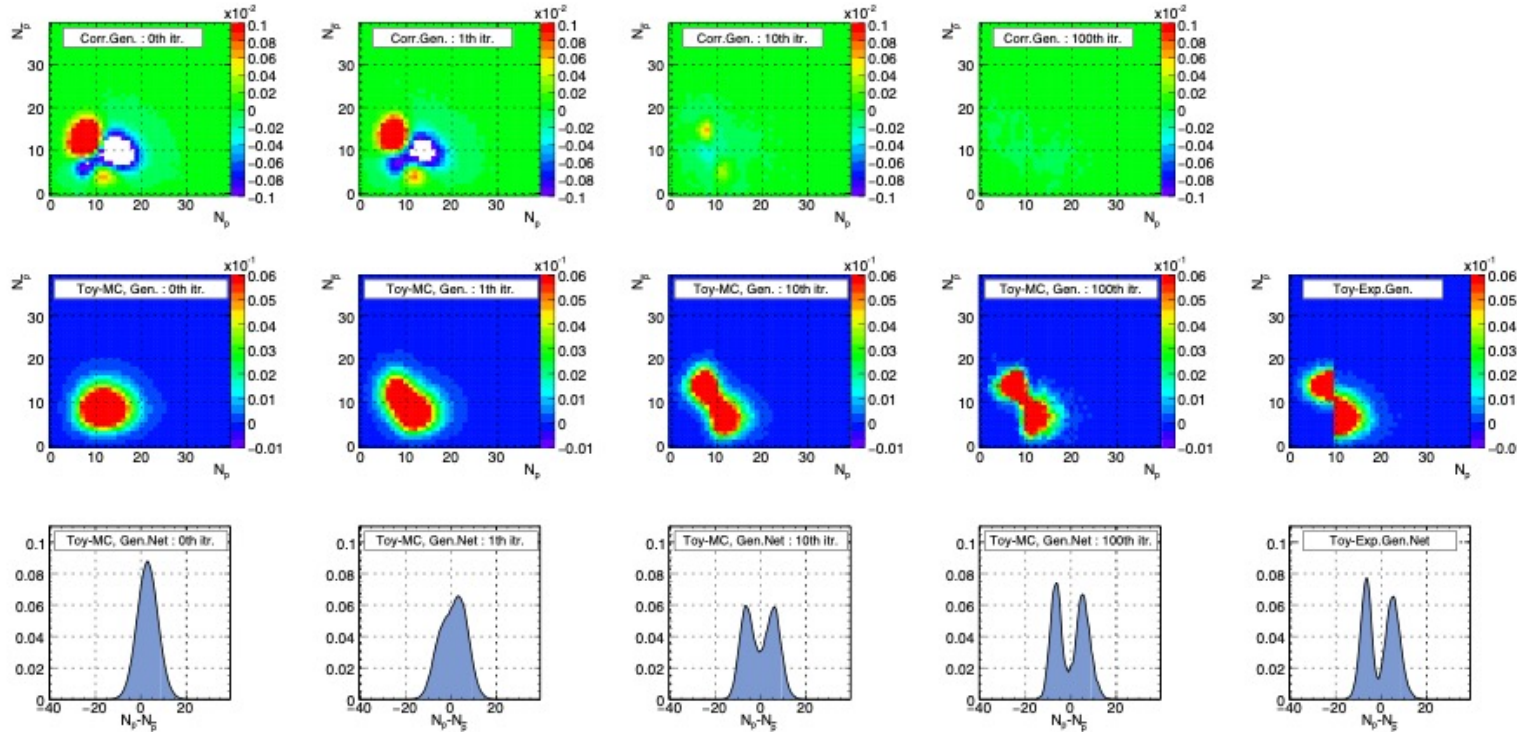
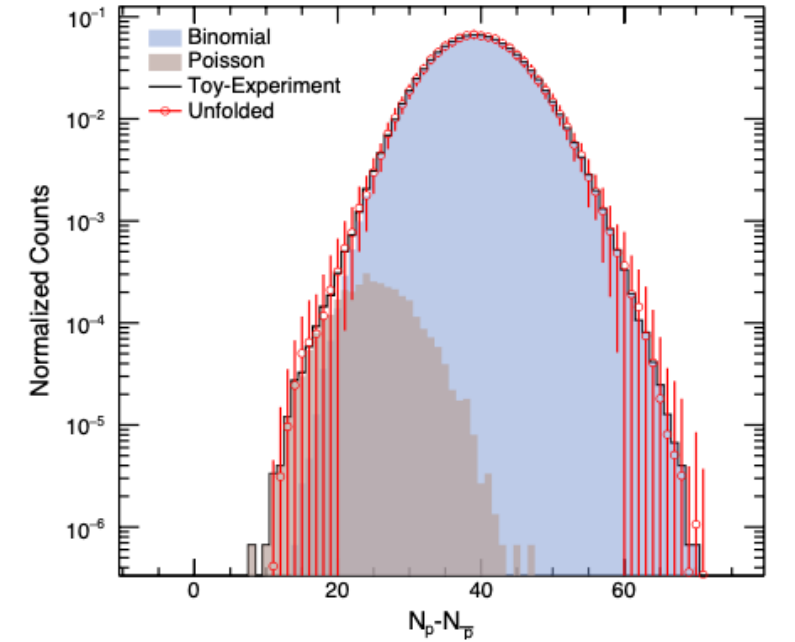
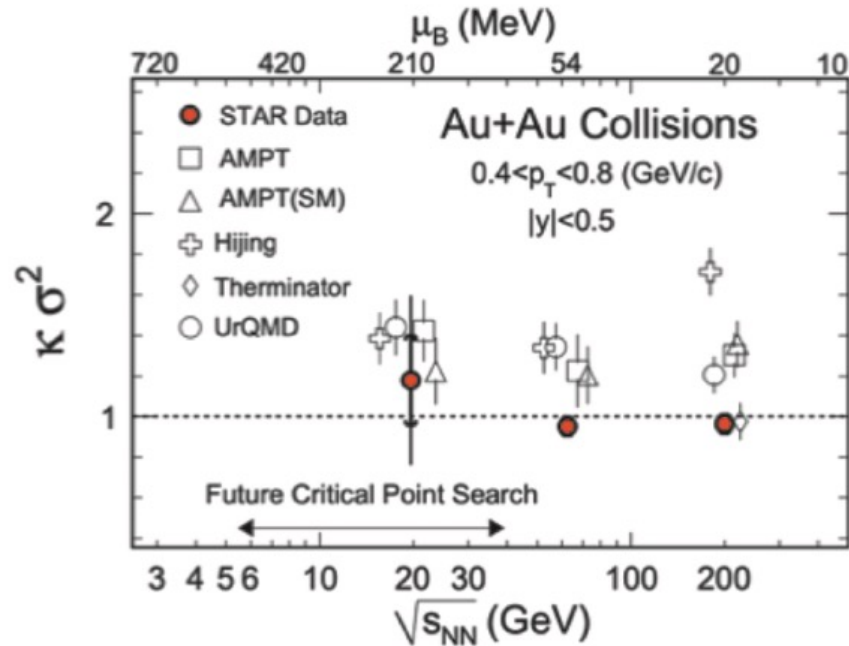


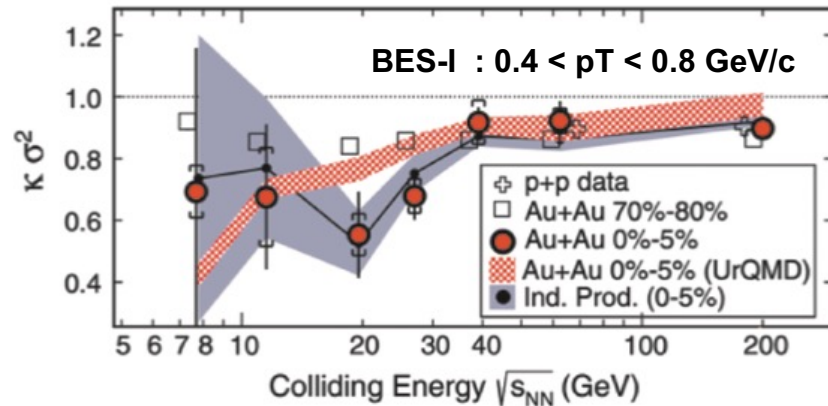
FIG. 4. (Top) Correction functions in the generated coordinates. White-colored bins represent the large negative value outside the z-axis range. (Middle) Toy-MC distributions in the generated coordinates. (Bottom) Toy-MC net-particle distributions in the generated coordinates. The 1st to 4th row from left to right show distributions at the 0th (initial condition), 1st, 10th and 100th iteration. The most right panels show distributions for the toy-experiment sample.



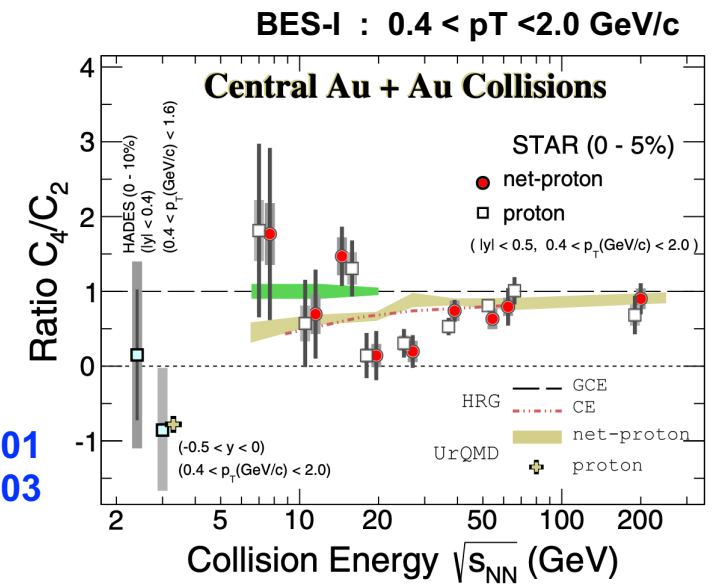
History of net-proton kurtosis results in STAR



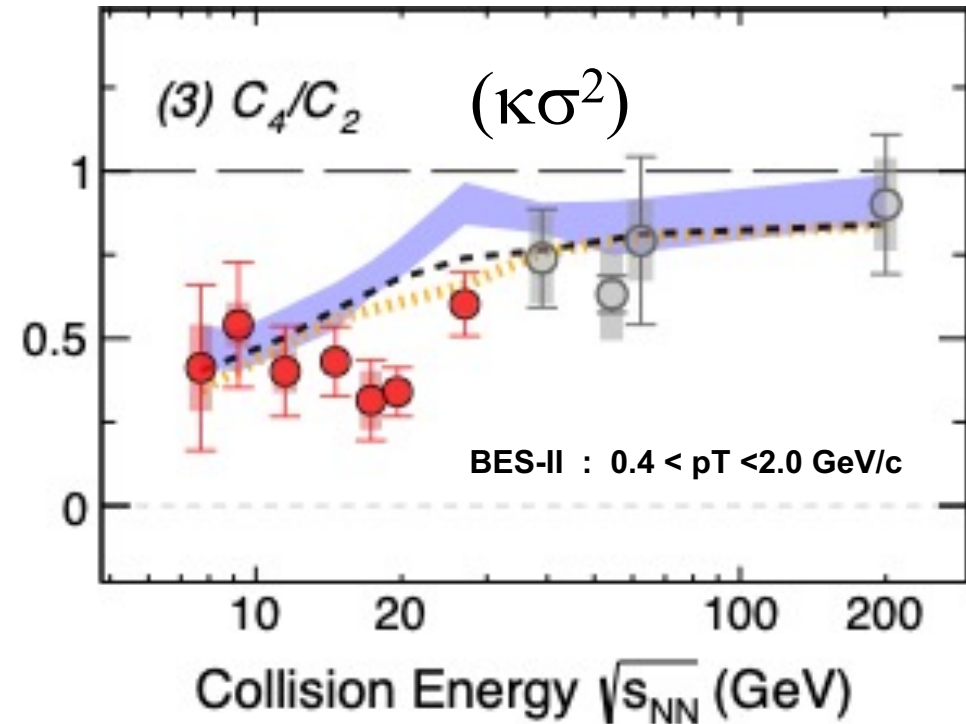
PRL 105
(2010) 022302



PRL 112
(2014) 032302

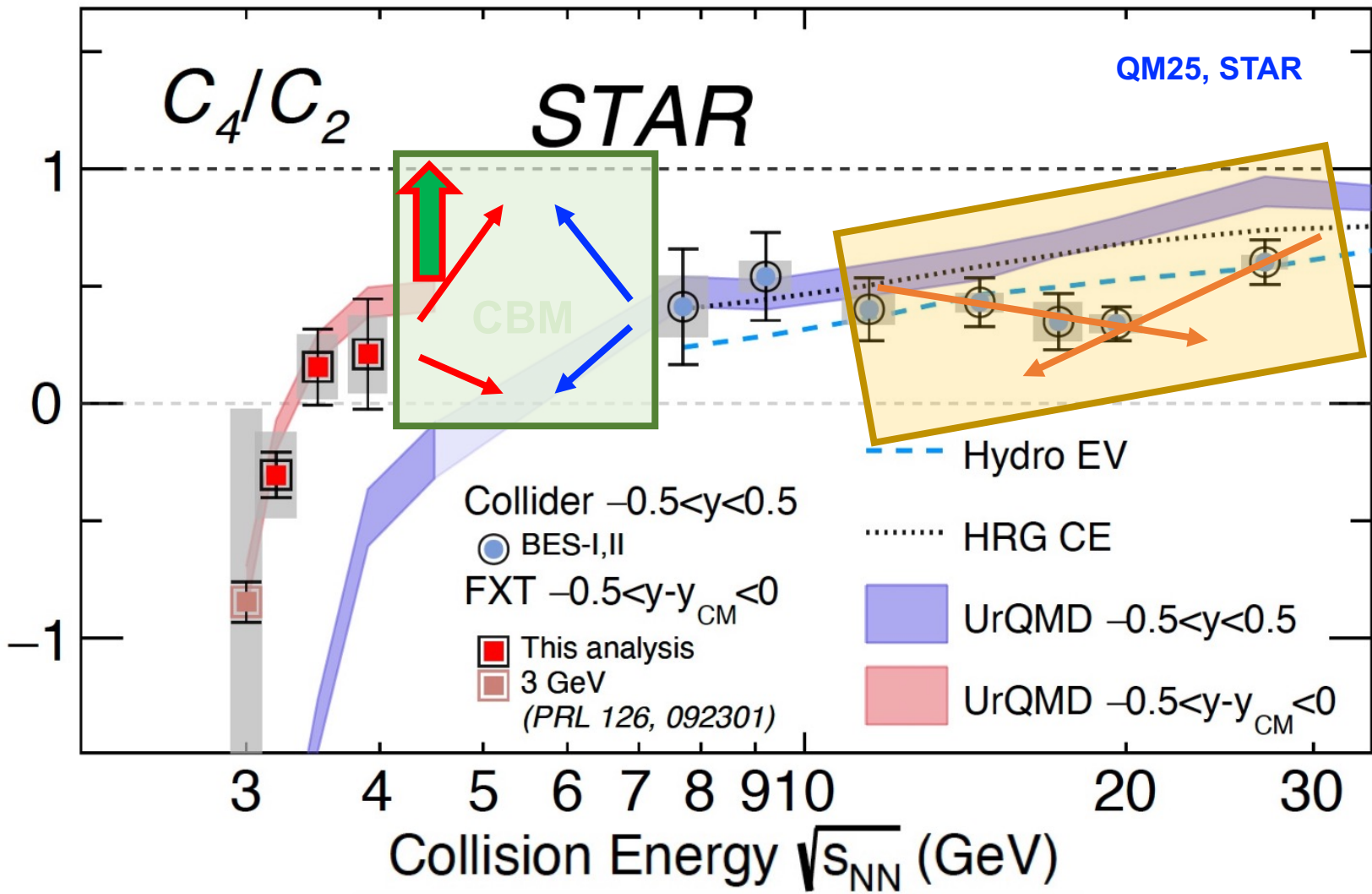


PRL 126 (2021) 092301
PRL 128 (2022) 202303



CPD2024
SQM2024
PRL135 (2025)
142301

Beam energy dependence of (net-) proton C_4/C_2

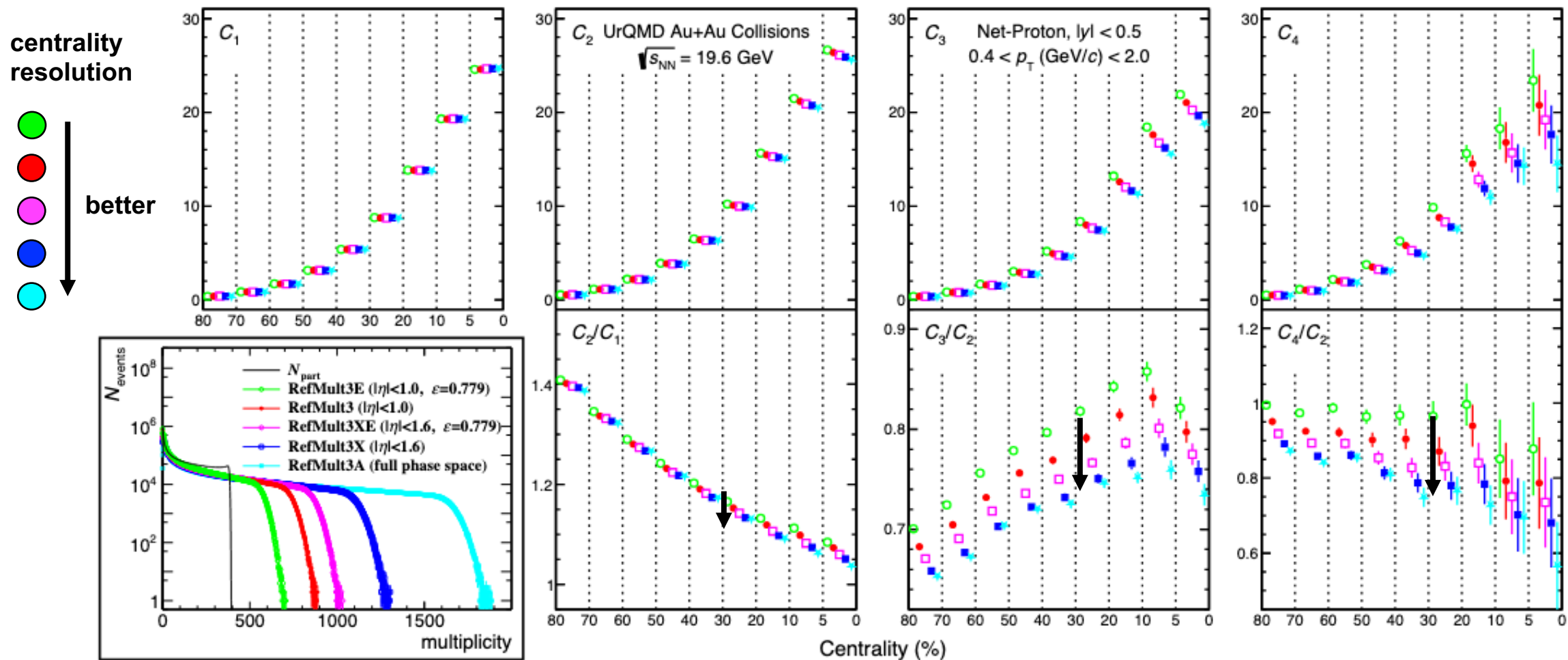


RUN25 plan at RHIC

- 200GeV Au+Au
- 200GeV p+p
- 200GeV p+Au
- 4.2/4.5 GeV Au+Au
- 27/62 GeV Isobar (Zr+Zr, Ru+Ru)

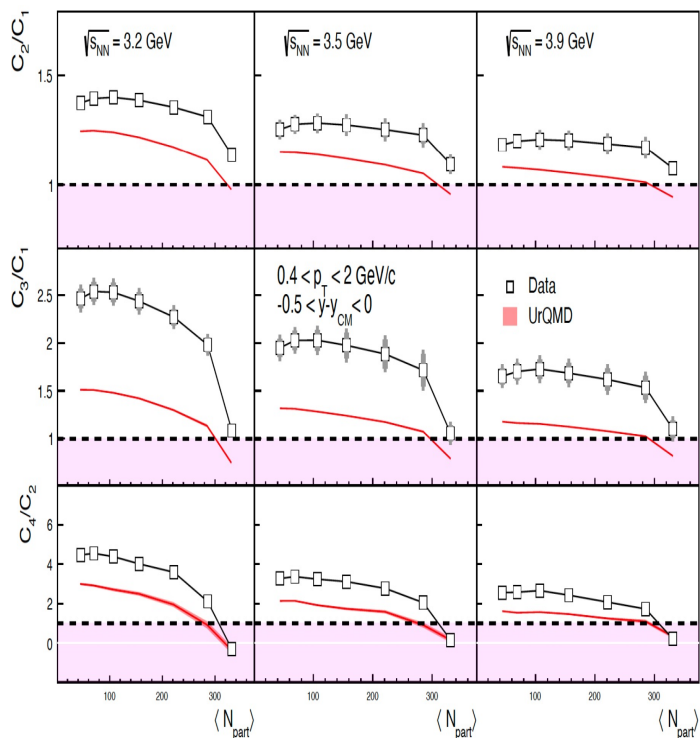
$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	Beam Energy (GeV/nucleon)	Collider or Fixed Target	$y_{center\ of\ mass}$	μ_B (MeV)	Run Time (days)	No. Events Collected (Request)	Date Collected
200	100	C	0	25	2.0	138 M (140 M)	Run-19
27	13.5	C	0	156	24	555 M (700 M)	Run-18
19.6	9.8	C	0	206	36	582 M (400 M)	Run-19
17.3	8.65	C	0	230	14	256 M (250 M)	Run-21
14.6	7.3	C	0	262	60	324 M (310 M)	Run-19
13.7	100	FXT	2.69	276	0.5	52 M (50 M)	Run-21
11.5	5.75	C	0	316	54	235 M (230 M)	Run-20
11.5	70	FXT	2.51	316	0.5	50 M (50 M)	Run-21
9.2	4.59	C	0	372	102	162 M (160 M)	Run-20+20b
9.2	44.5	FXT	2.28	372	0.5	50 M (50 M)	Run-21
7.7	3.85	C	0	420	90	100 M (100 M)	Run-21
7.7	31.2	FXT	2.10	420	0.5+1.0+scattered	50 M + 112 M + 100 M (100 M)	Run-19+20+21
7.2	26.5	FXT	2.02	443	2+Parasitic with CEC	155 M + 317 M	Run-18+20
6.2	19.5	FXT	1.87	487	1.4	118 M (100 M)	Run-20
5.2	13.5	FXT	1.68	541	1.0	103 M (100 M)	Run-20
4.5	9.8	FXT	1.52	589	0.9	108 M (100 M)	Run-20
3.9	7.3	FXT	1.37	633	1.1	117 M (100 M)	Run-20
3.5	5.75	FXT	1.25	666	0.9	116 M (100 M)	Run-20
3.2	4.59	FXT	1.13	699	2.0	200 M (200 M)	Run-19
3.0	3.85	FXT	1.05	721	4.6	259 M > 2B(100 M > 2B)	Run-18+21

Improvement on centrality resolution (volume fluctuation), UrQMD test at Au+Au 19.6 GeV



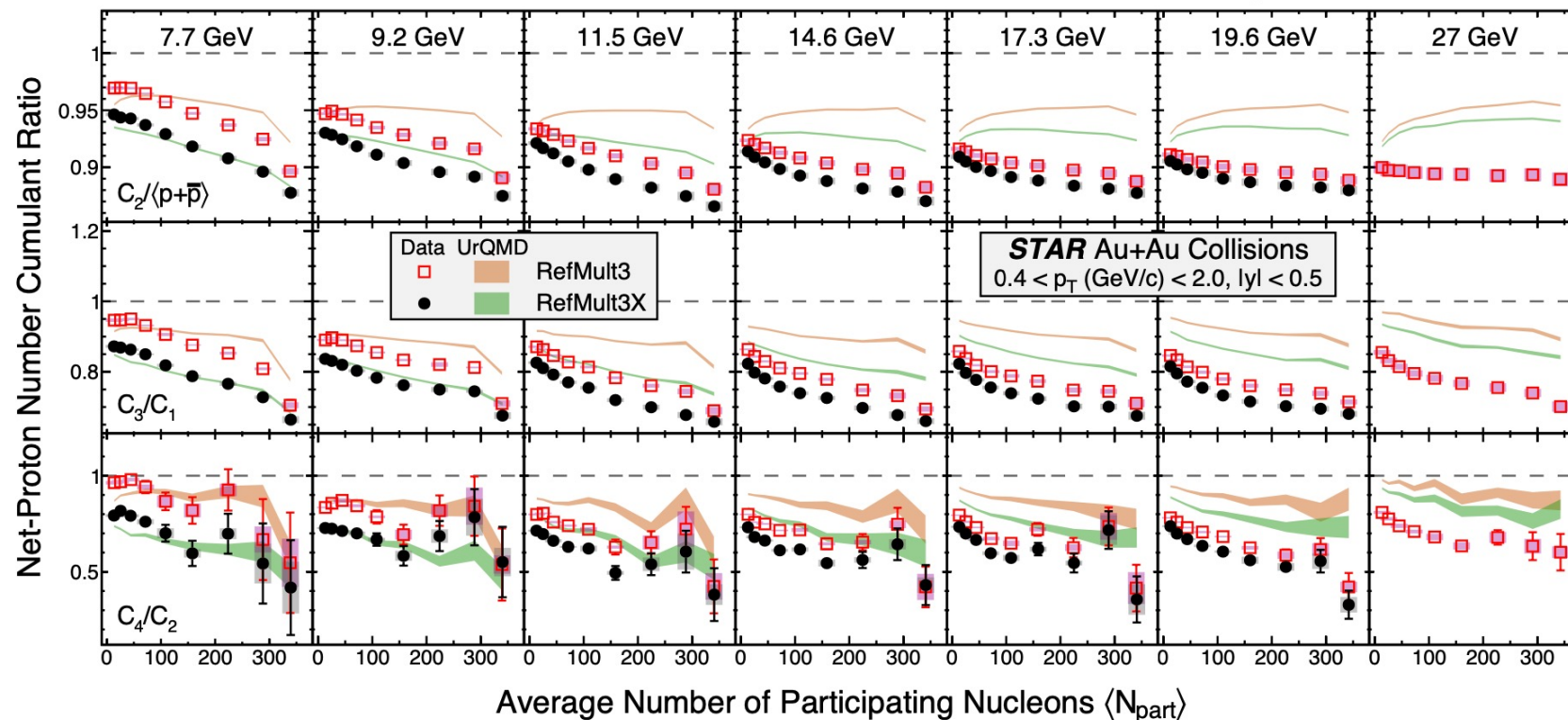
Beam energy and centrality dependence of cumulant ratios

FXT : 3.2 ~ 3.9 GeV

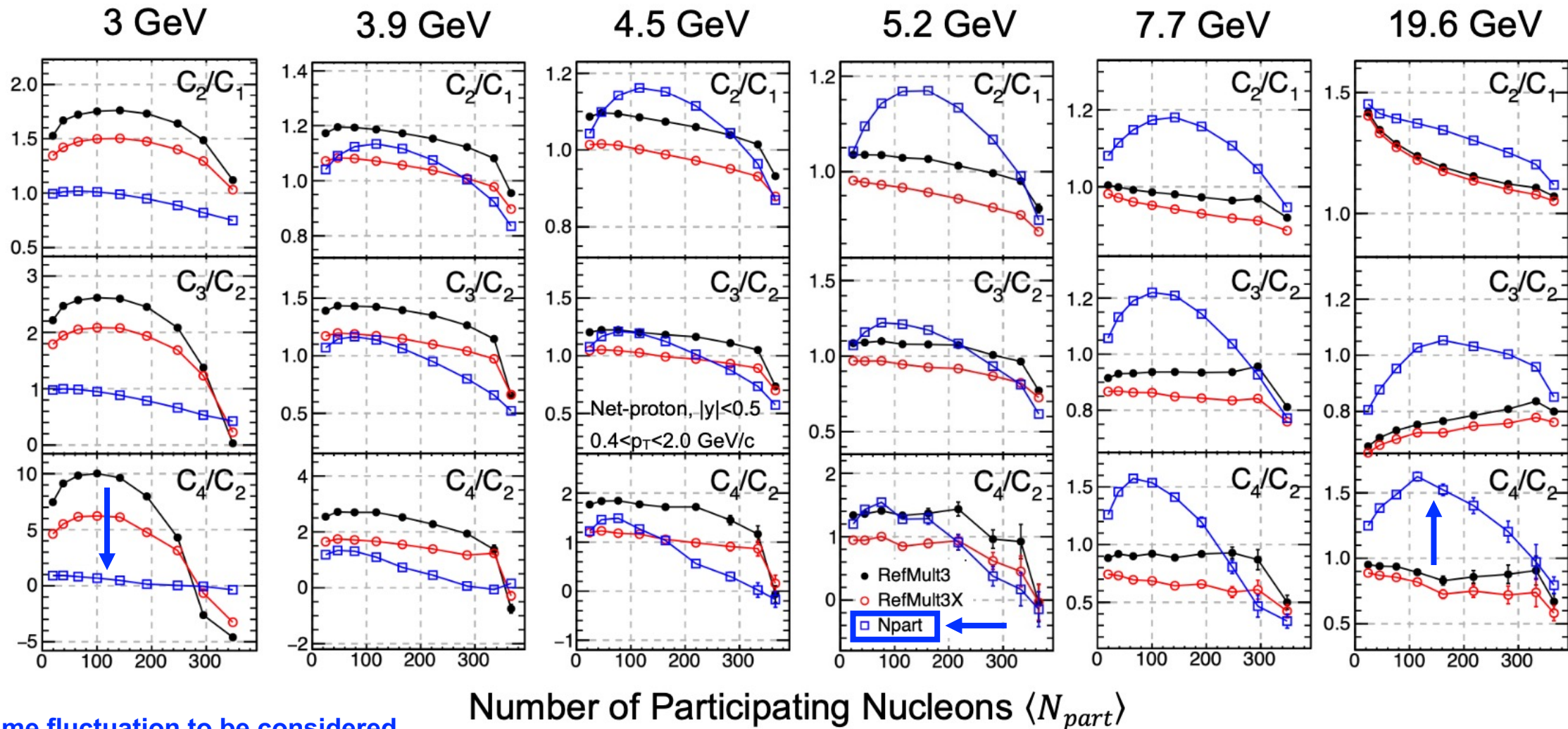


COL : 7.7 ~ 27 GeV

CPOD2024, QM2025

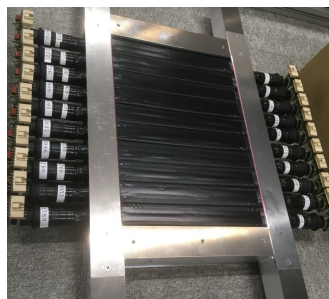
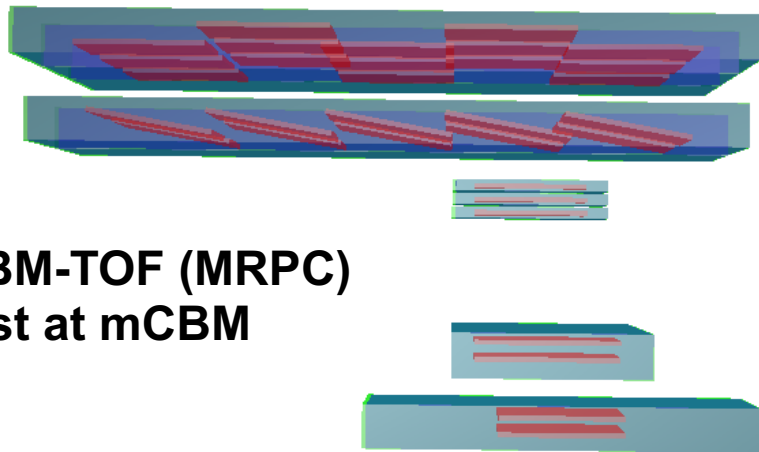


Some more UrQMD tests at different energies

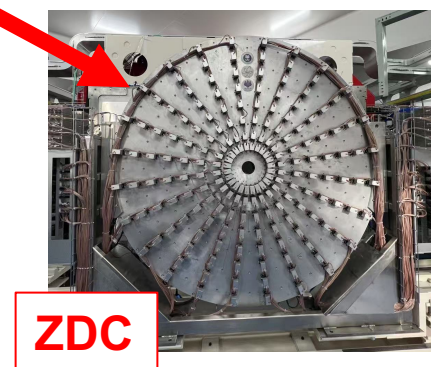
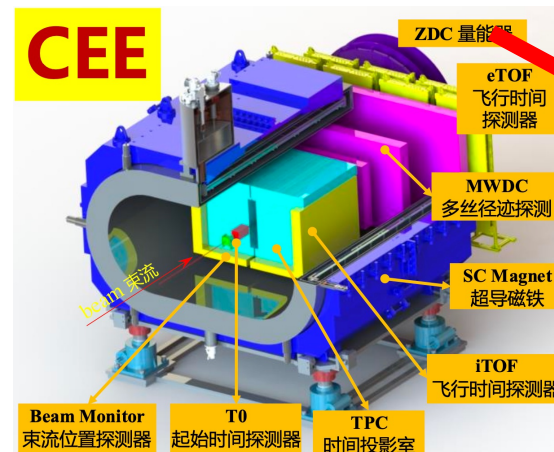
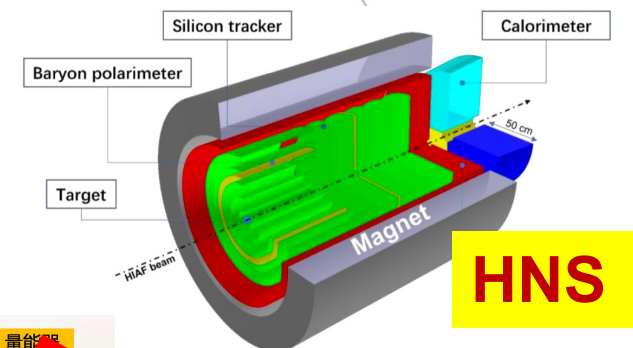
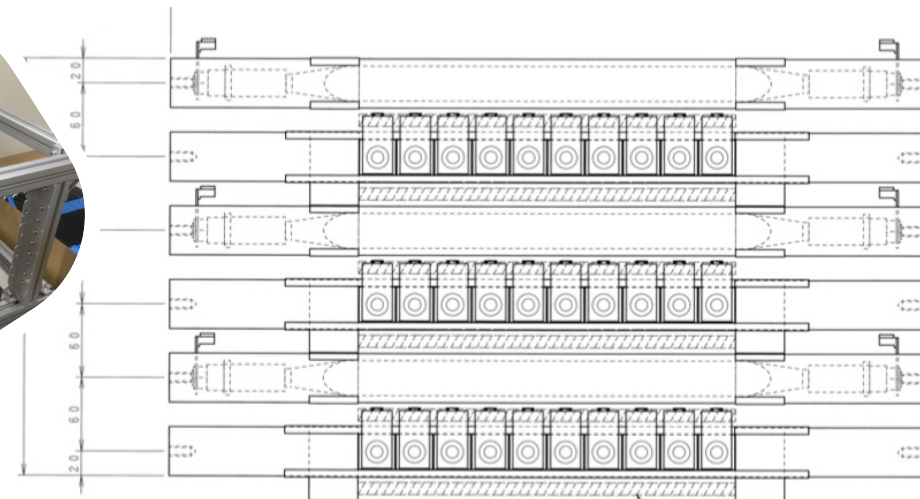
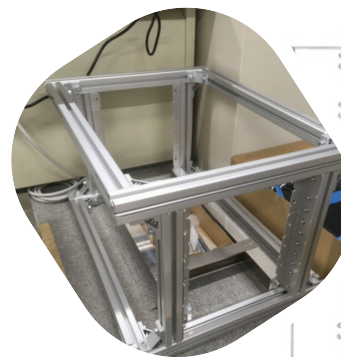


Volume fluctuation to be considered...

**CBM-TOF (MRPC)
test at mCBM**



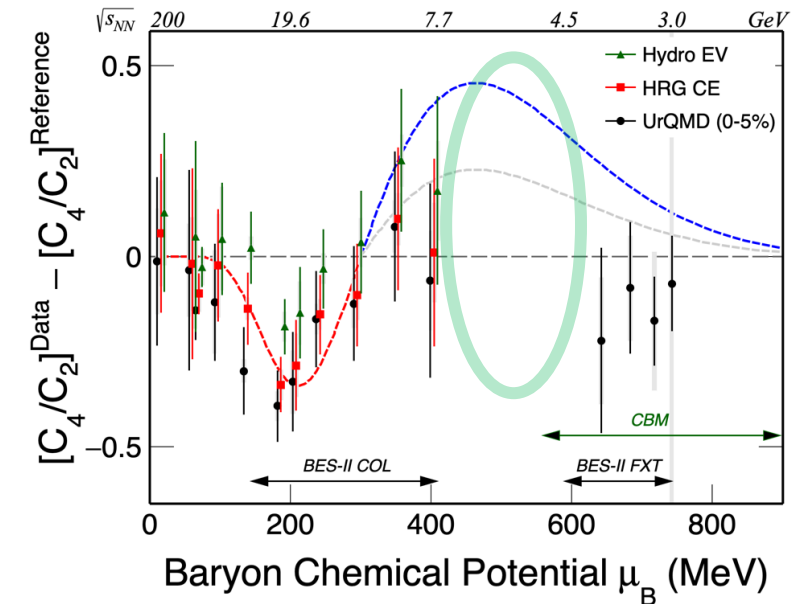
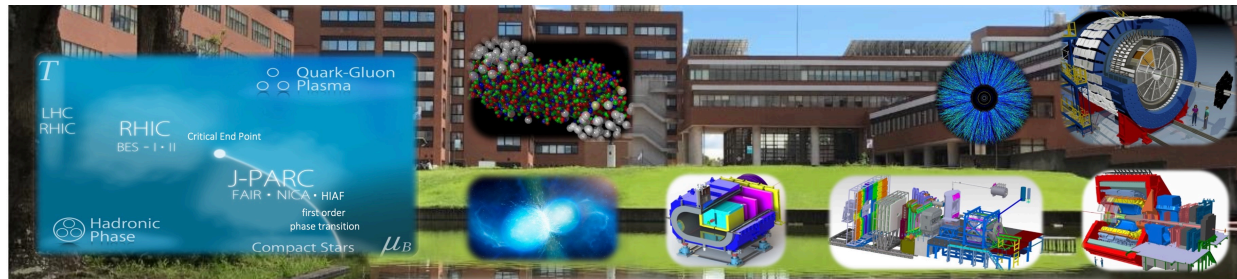
**Neutron detector proto-type with scintillator
Stacks of MRPC modules considered as well**



Summary

- STAR experiment and detectors
- Tracking, particle identification, reaction plane and centrality
- Temperature measurements and Freeze-out
- Anisotropic flow, correlation, fluctuation
- Next plan and Outlook

WHBM2023 and WHBM2025 at Tsukuba



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