# **Exploring QCD Matter**

at high baryon density



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**FAIRNESS: FAIR Next Generation Scientists** 

20-24 May 2019 Grand Hotel Arenzano, Genova, Italy

#### Talk Outline

#### Introduction

- O Big Questions: Why Study QCD Matter?
- The QCD Phase Diagram
- What Theory can tell us (experimentalists perspective)

#### **Studying QCD Matter with Heavy Ion Collisions**

- Basics of Heavy Ion Collisions
- Scanning the phase diagram
- Search for 1<sup>st</sup> Order phase transition & Critical point
- Search for Chiral Symmetry Restoration

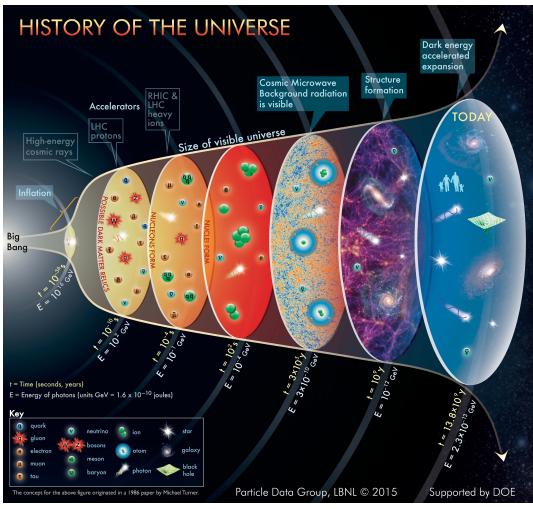
#### **Summary & Outlook**

#### Why study QCD Matter?

The history of the Universe (as we currently understand it)

#### Early Universe:

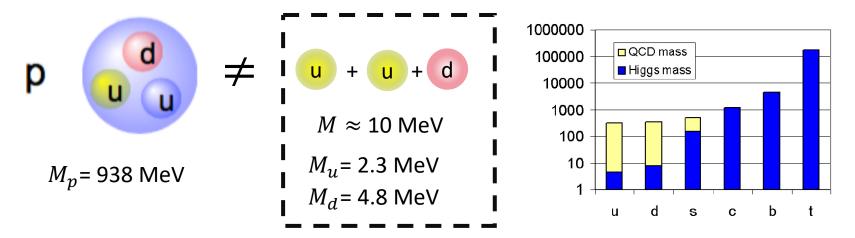
- High temperature / energy density
- low density
- Too hot for "normal" matter to form
- How did the earliest forms of normal matter form?



We study QCD matter to understand the physical evolution of the early Universe and emergence of structure

## Chiral Symmetry and the Proton

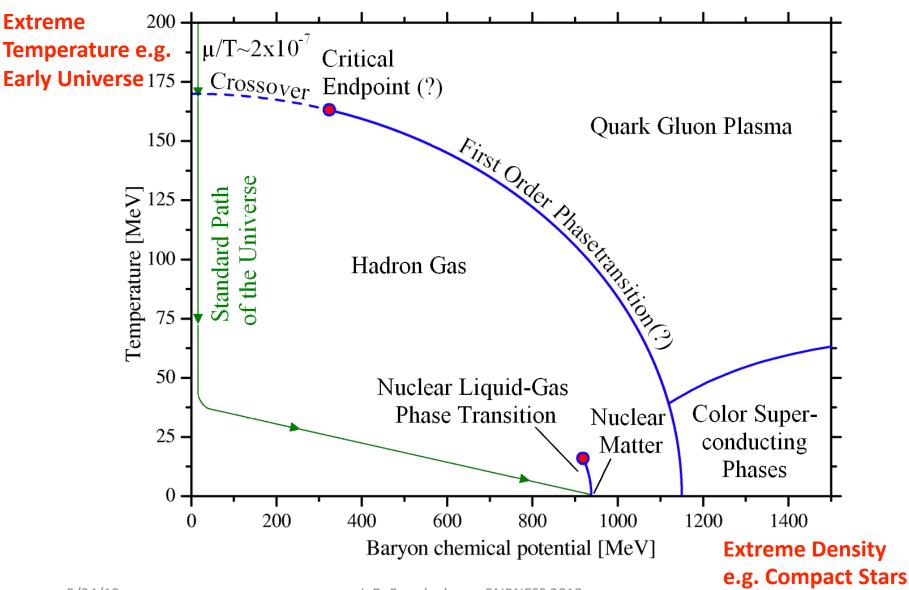
- The proton (and neutron) make up almost <u>all visible matter</u>
- The proton is (much) more than the sum of its parts!



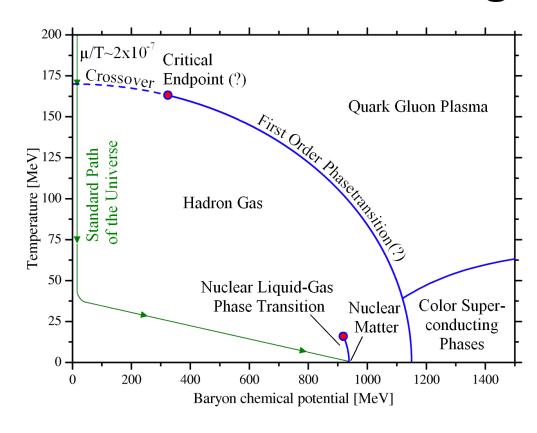
- Higgs Boson only explains the mass of fundamental particles!
- The remaining 99% of proton mass:
  - Kinetic energy
  - Gluon self interaction
  - Quark Interactions (chiral symmetry breaking)

We study QCD matter to understand the mass of normal matter

## The QCD Phase Diagram



## The QCD Phase Diagram



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \bar{q}(i\gamma^{\mu}D_{\mu} - m)q - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^{a}F_{a}^{\mu\nu}$$

But we know QCD, why not just calculate it!

## Big questions = questions about the QCD Phase Diagram

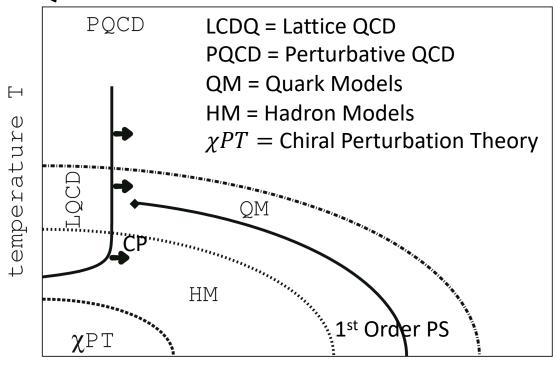
Is there a 1<sup>st</sup> Order Phase transition between the hadron gas and the Quark Gluon Plasma phases?

Is there a critical endpoint between phase transition and crossover region?

Does the transition to a chiraly symmetric phase coincide with the deconfinement transition?

What is the equation of state for these types of matter?

#### QCD Calculations



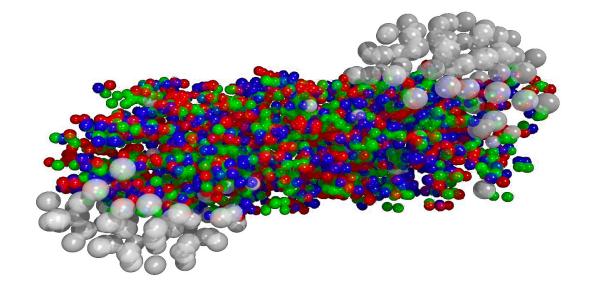
#### Theoretical Approaches:

- Lattice QCD: "first principles"
- Chiral Perturbation Theory :
   Systematic approach
- Hadron Gas Models & Quark Models : Can be verified in overlap region with LQCD and  $\chi PT$
- Many other models Sorry, I cannot possible list them all

chemical potential  $\mu$ 

- Only Lattice QCD is really QCD from first principles though some caveats
- o Sign problem prevents direct calculations at large baryon chemical potential
  - Progress is being made
  - Regions of overlap with LQCD can help verify other models

Experimental measurements are needed to determine key features of phase diagram

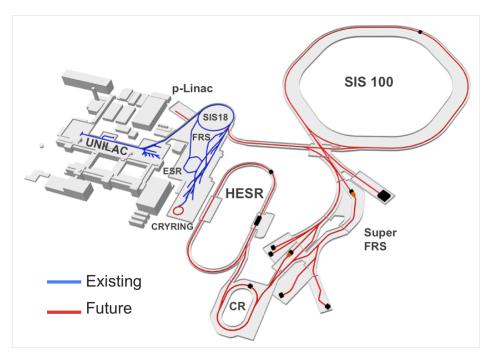


# Studying QCD Matter with Heavy Ion Collisions

## Facilities for Heavy Ion Collisions



## FAIR Complex at GSI



#### **Currently Running**

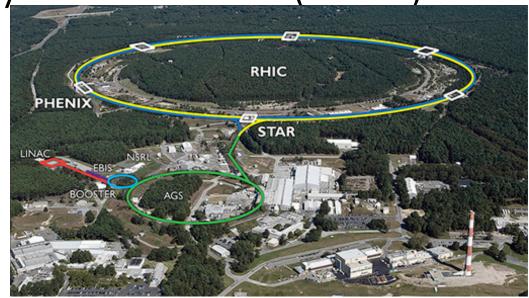
#### **SIS18**

- $\circ$  Fixed target with ions, protons and  $\pi$  beams
- $\circ \sqrt{s_{NN}} \approx 2.4 2.6 \text{ GeV}$
- $\circ \mu_B$  range : ~880 670
- O Active experiments:
  - HADES (start 2012 )
  - o miniCBM (start 2018)

More about the Future near the end of the talk

Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC)

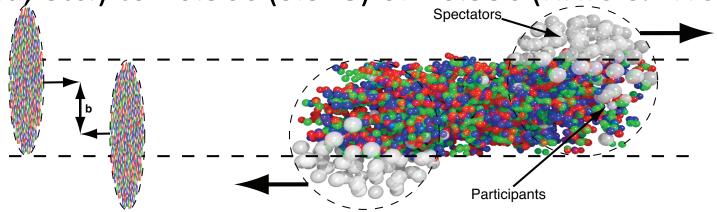
- Located at Brookhaven
   National Laboratory, Long Island, NY, USA
- $\circ$  lons accelerated with  $\vec{E}$ , steered with  $\vec{B}$
- Uses >1,700 dipole magnets in two 3.8 km rings



- Since beginning operation in 2000:
  - o p+p, p+Au, p+Al, d+Au,  $^3$ He+Au, Cu+Cu, Cu+Au, Au+Au and U+U at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ =7.7 200 GeV, p+p at  $\sqrt{s}$  = 510 GeV
- o Four experiments:
  - STAR, PHENIX('16), BRAHMS('06), PHOBOS ('05) STAR is only active experiment now

#### Studying the QCD Phase with Heavy Ion Collisions

Use SIS18 / RHIC / LHC to accelerate heavy ions (gold, lead, etc.) to >0.90c (SIS18) or >0.99c (RHIC & LHC)

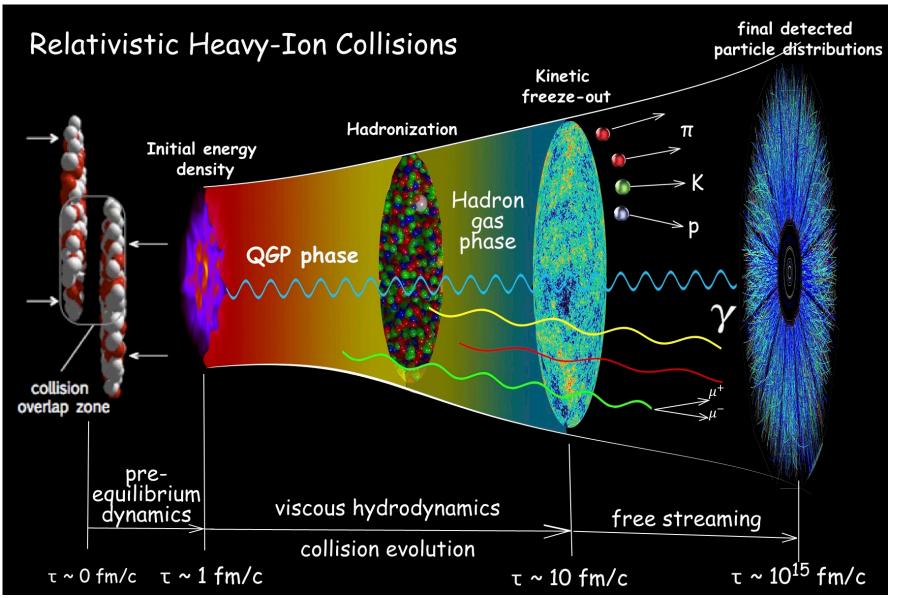


$$\gamma^{RHIC}\approx 108$$
 
$$\gamma^{LHC}\approx 7000$$

At large  $\gamma$  - lons are compressed into thin "pancakes"  $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$ ,  $L' = L/\gamma$ ,  $\beta = v/c$ 

- Each HIC follows a specific trajectory through the QCD phase diagram
- Varying collision energy and impact parameter we can control:
  - $\circ$  Initial temperature, initial  $\mu_B$ , system size, lifetime

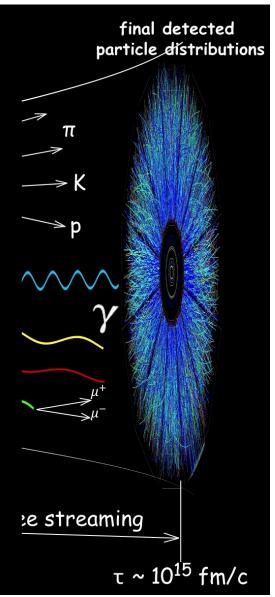
## Life of a Heavy Ion Collision



## Life of a Heavy Ion Collision

Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions

As we actually observe them



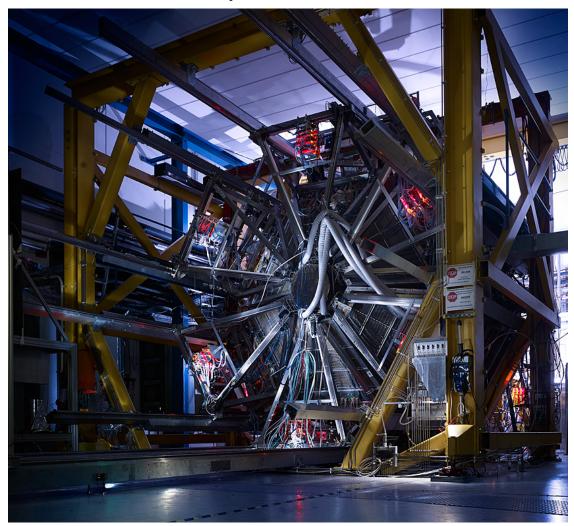
#### The HADES Detector

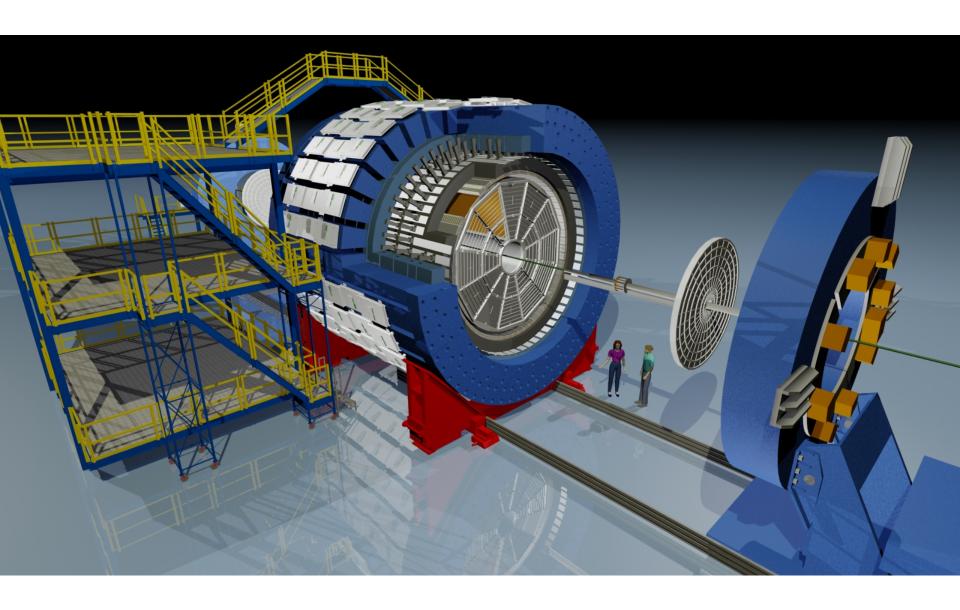
#### HADES = High Acceptance Dielectron Spectrometer

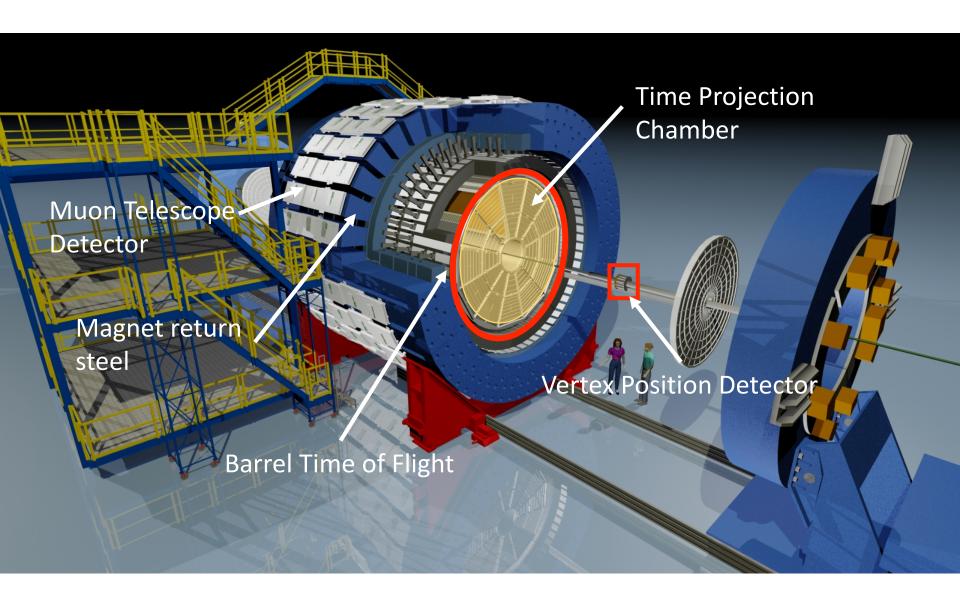
- Full azimuthal acceptance
- 18 to 85 degrees in Polar
- $\circ e^+e^-$  par acceptance : 35%
- $\circ$  Mass resolution : 2% ( $\rho$ ,  $\omega$ )

#### Physics Program:

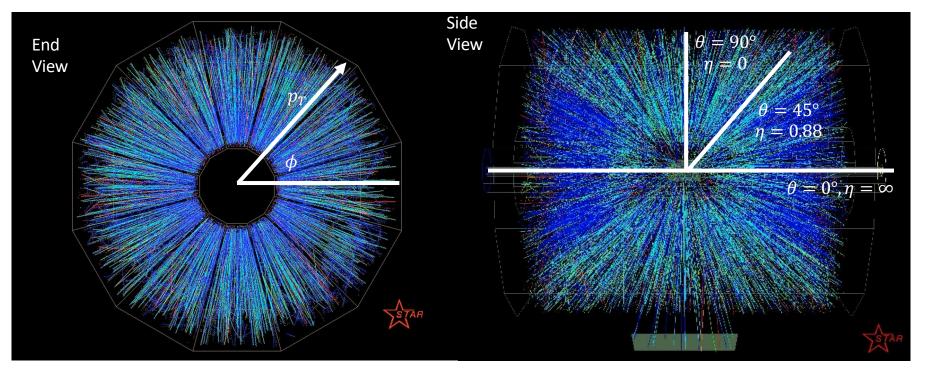
- Excitation function for lowmass dielectron pairs
- Excitation function for (multi-)strange baryon/mesons







#### Heavy Ion Collision: Common Terms



Transverse Momentum:

$$p_T = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2}$$

Rapidity:  $y = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{E + P_z}{E - P_z} \right)$ Additive under Lorentz boost

Pseudo-Rapidity (y for m=0):

$$\eta = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{P + P_z}{P - P_z} \right) = -\ln \left( \tan \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$

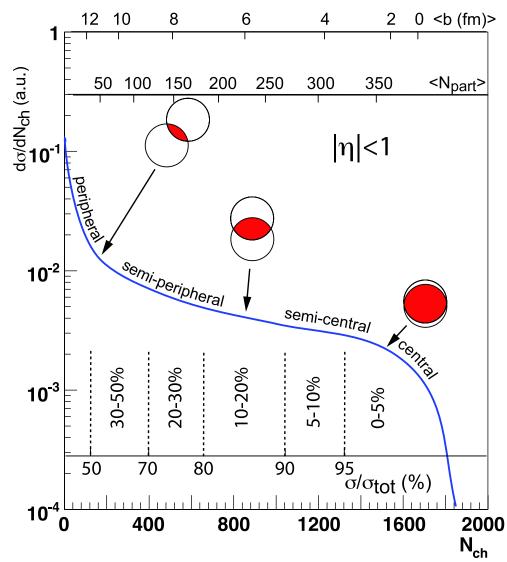
#### Centrality in HICs

We cannot measure impact parameter (b) directly!

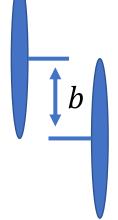
Instead we measure charged particle multiplicity  $(N_{ch})$  and correlate to b

Same technique is used for:

- $\circ$   $N_{part}$  number of participating nucleons
- o  $N_{coll}$  number of binary collisions between nucleons



## Centrality in HICs

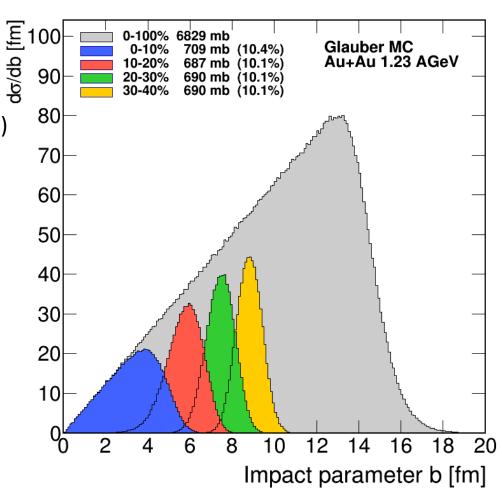


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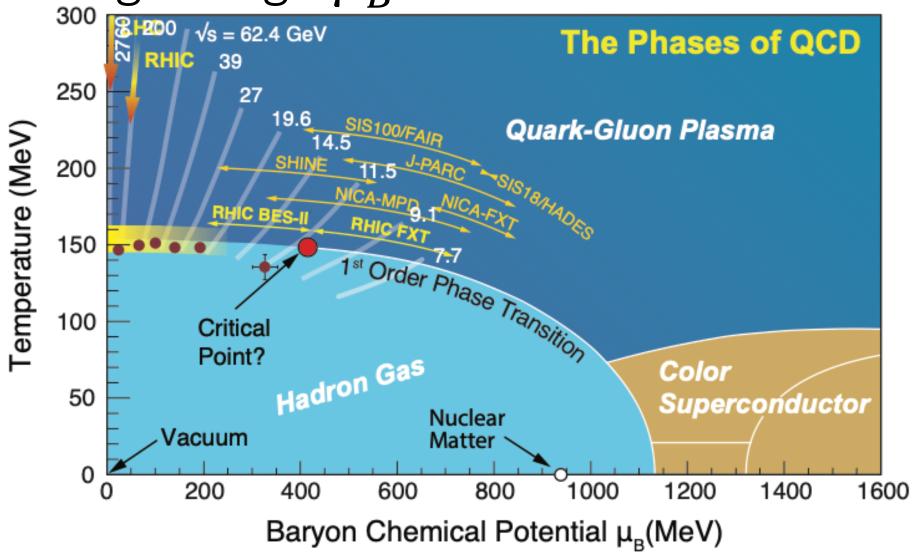
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Going to high  $\mu_B$ 



## Effect of Collision Energy on $\mu_B$

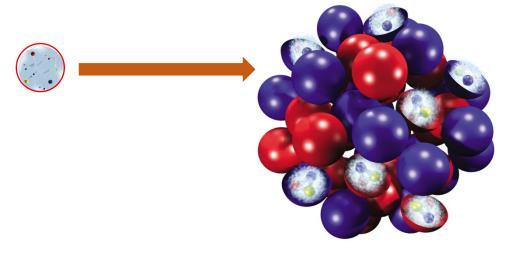
Beam energy effects deBroglie wavelength of partons.

Wavelength determines the scale observed by colliding parton :

- Whole nucleus
- Individual nucleons
- Individual partons

Low collision energy

Nucleons are opaque Valence quarks are stopped Excess quarks = high  $\mu_B$  Baryon dominated



High collision energy

Nucleons are transparent Valence quarks pass through Equal quark / anti-quarks = low  $\mu_B$  Meson dominated

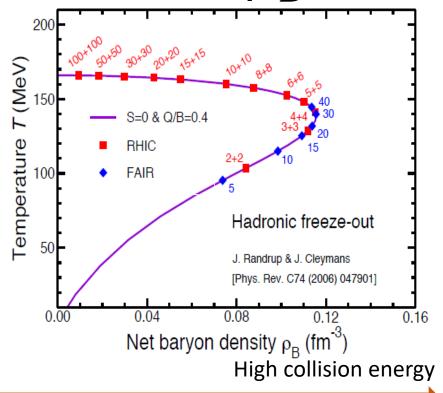
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Low collision energy



Nucleons are opaque Valence quarks are stopped Excess quarks = high  $\mu_B$ Baryon dominated Nucleons are transparent Valence quarks pass through Equal quark / anti-quarks = low  $\mu_B$  Meson dominated

## Where in the phase diagram?

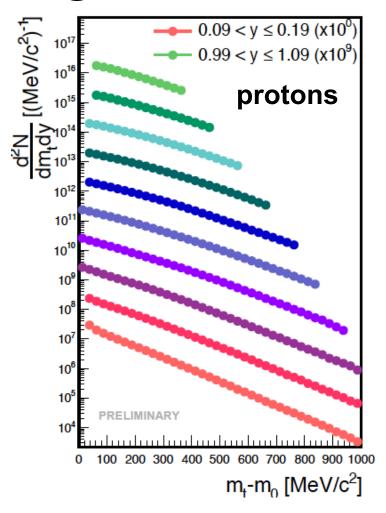
Experimentally how do we measure where we are in the phase diagram for a given:

- Collision energy
- Centrality
- Rapidity range

Using a model which assumes statistical equilibrium (Statistical Hadronization Models): Relate the measured particle yields ( $\pi$ , K, p,  $\Lambda$ ,  $\Xi$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\Omega$ ) and their ratios, to the location in the phase diagram

$$\ln Z^{GC}(T, V, \{\mu_i\}) = \sum_{\text{species } i} \frac{g_i V}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3 p \ln \left(1 \pm e^{-\beta (E_i - \mu_i)}\right)^{\pm 1}$$

$$\mu_i = B_i \mu_B + S_i \mu_S + Q_i \mu_Q$$



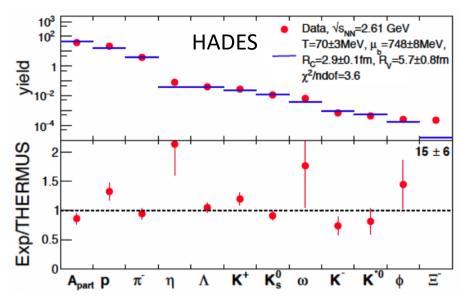
Step 1: Measure Particle Spectra

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$$\mu_i = B_i \mu_B + S_i \mu_S + Q_i \mu_O$$

Step 2: Fit with SHM

## Where in the phase diagram?

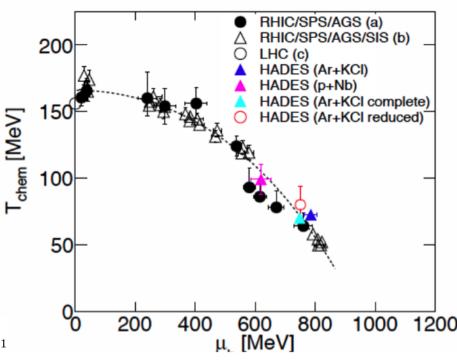
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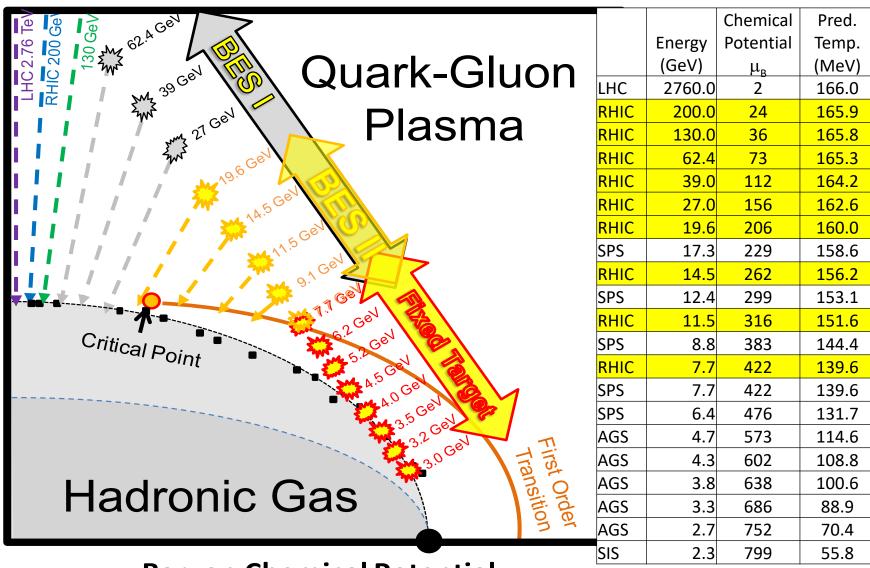
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$$\mu_i = B_i \mu_B + S_i \mu_S + Q_i \mu_Q$$



Step 3 : Get  $T_{chem}$  (chemical freeze-out temp) and  $\mu_B$ 

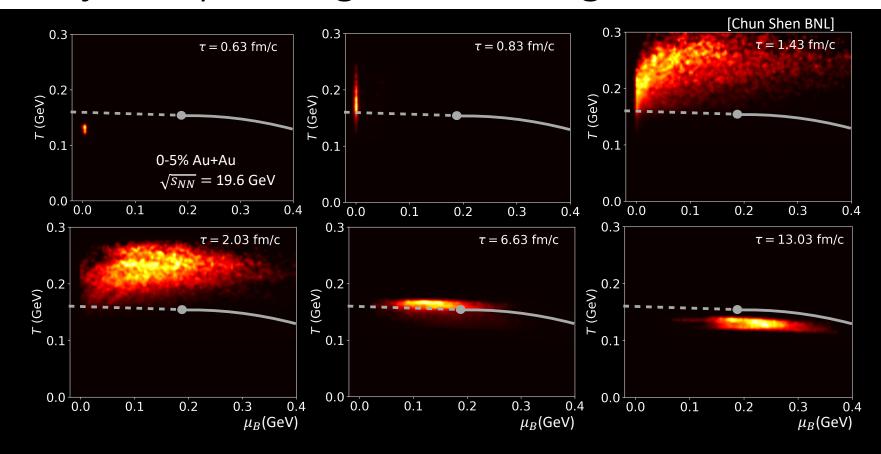
#### RHIC Beam Energy Scan



Baryon Chemical Potential  $\mu_B$ 

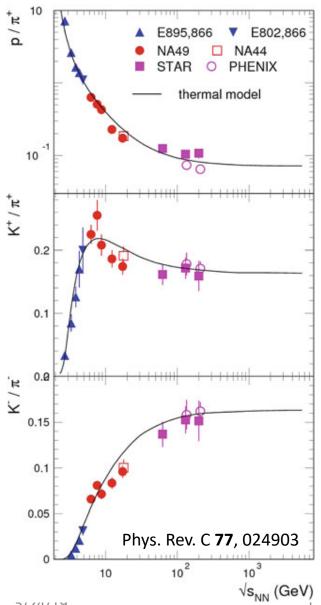
**Temperature** 

#### Trajectory through Phase Diagram of a HIC



Keep in mind: Path through the phase diagram is not as trivial and localized as we often depict

#### Particle Ratio



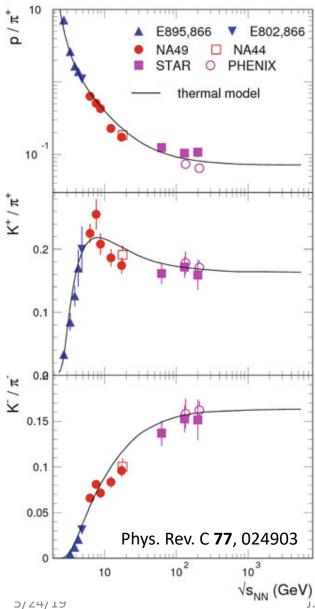
Steep decrease in  $p/\pi^+$ : decreasing  $\mu_B$  and transition from baryon dominated to meson dominated

Peak in  $K^+/\pi^+$ : competing effects. 1) decreasing light quark fraction, 2) increasing  $\bar{q}q$  production  $(u\ \bar{s})$  in kaon

Interpreted as indication of the onset of deconfinement

Peak in  $K^-/\pi^-$ : Both are produced particles. Steep increase corresponds to the rapid rise in temperature

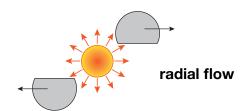
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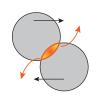


Something interesting is happening for  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} < \sim 20 \text{ GeV}$ 

Now, Lets look for the 1st order Phase Transitions and Critical point

## Measuring the Flow





#### directed flow

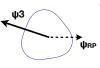
$$v_1 = \langle \cos(\phi) \rangle$$
$$= \left\langle \frac{p_x}{p_t} \right\rangle$$



#### elliptic flow

$$v_2 = \langle \cos(2\phi) \rangle$$

$$= \left\langle \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p_t^2} \right\rangle$$



#### triangular flow

$$= \langle \cos(3\phi) \rangle$$

$$= \left\langle \frac{p_x^3 - 3p_x p_y^2}{p_t^3} \right\rangle$$

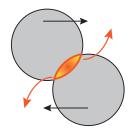
Behruz Kardan

## Look at the collective behavior of the medium

$$\frac{dN}{d\varphi} \propto 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2v_n \cos\left[n(\varphi - \Psi_n)\right]$$

Where  $\psi$  is the azimuthal angle and  $\Psi_n$  is the  $n^{th}$  order event plane

#### Proton v1



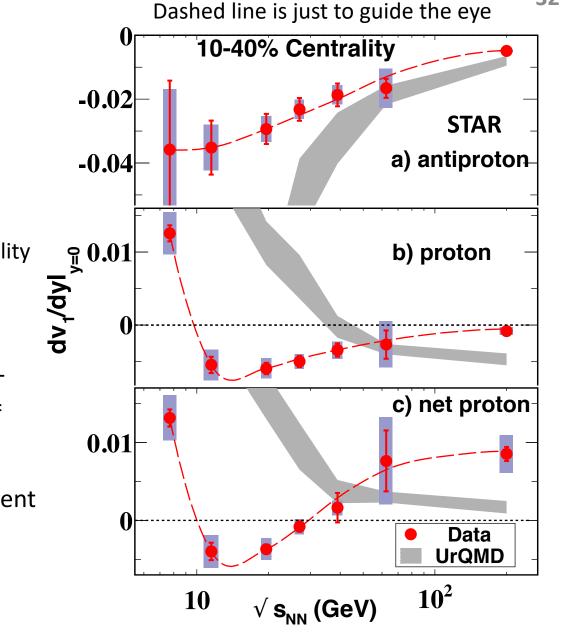
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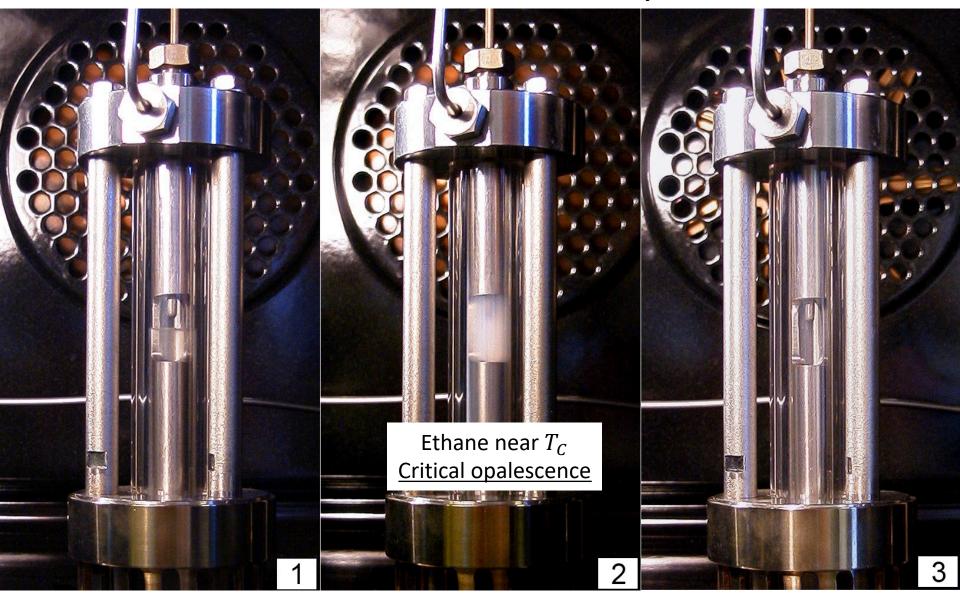
 $v_1$  is Sensitive to the compressibility

First order phase transition produces a **spinoidal region** – region of phase coexistence = softest point in EoS

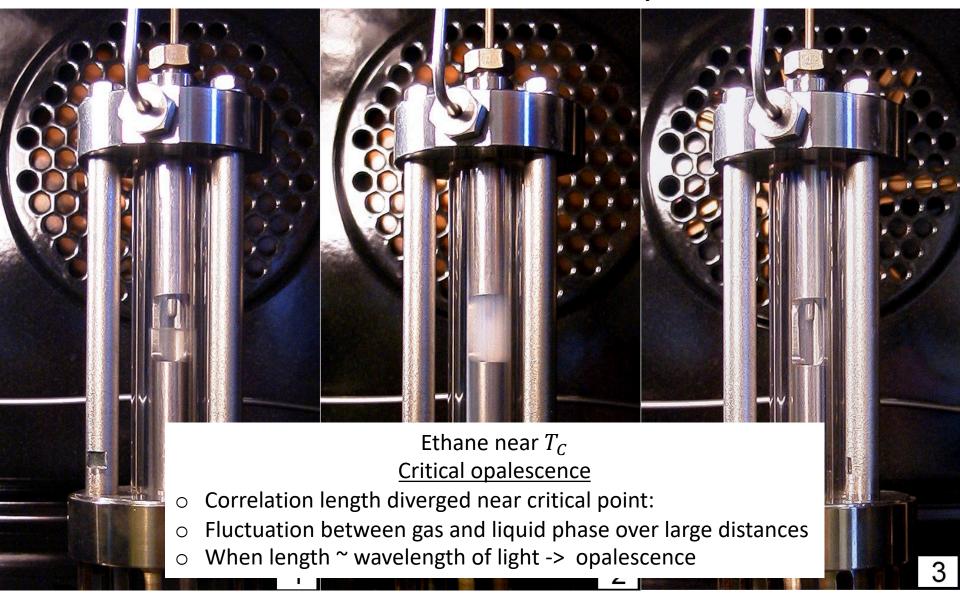
Minimum in dv1/dy is consistent with predictions for a softest point in EoS due to 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition



## Fluctuations and Criticality



## Fluctuations and Criticality



#### Fluctuations in QCD

# Q: Fluctuations of what? A: Conserved quantities Charge(C), Baryon Number(B), Strangeness(S)

- Look for event-by-event fluctuations in a fixed volume
- Corresponds to divergence in susceptibilities

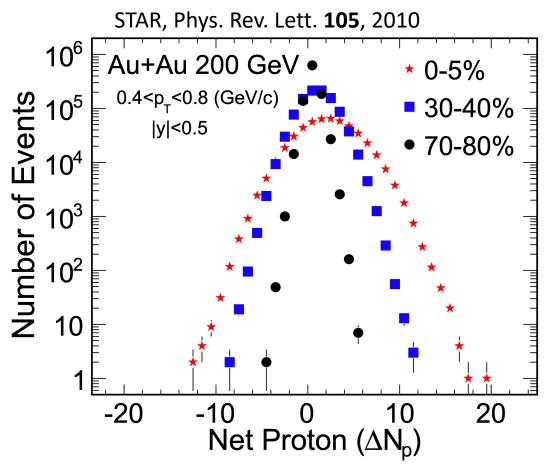
$$\chi_{lmn}^{BSQ} = \frac{\partial^{l+m+n} (P/T^4)}{\partial (\mu_B/T)^l \partial (\mu_S/T)^m \partial (\mu_S/T)^n} \qquad \mu_i = \langle (\delta N)^i \rangle$$

$$\delta N = N - \langle N \rangle$$

$$M = K_1 = \mu = \langle N \rangle = VT^3 \cdot \chi_1$$
  
 $\sigma^2 = K_2 = \mu_2 = \langle (\delta N)^2 \rangle = VT^3 \cdot \chi_2$   
 $S = K_3/\sigma^3 = \mu_3/\sigma^3 = \langle (\delta N)^3 \rangle/\sigma^3 = VT^3 \cdot \chi_3/(VT^3 \cdot \chi_2)^{3/2}$   
 $\kappa = K_4/\sigma^4 = (\mu_4 - 3\mu_2^2)/\mu_2^2 = \langle (\delta N)^4 \rangle/\sigma^4 - 3 = (VT^3 \cdot \chi_4)/(VT^3 \cdot \chi_2)^2$ 

Susceptibilities are directly accessible in lattice QCD! **BUT** – cannot predict behavior near Critical Point

#### Fluctuations in QCD

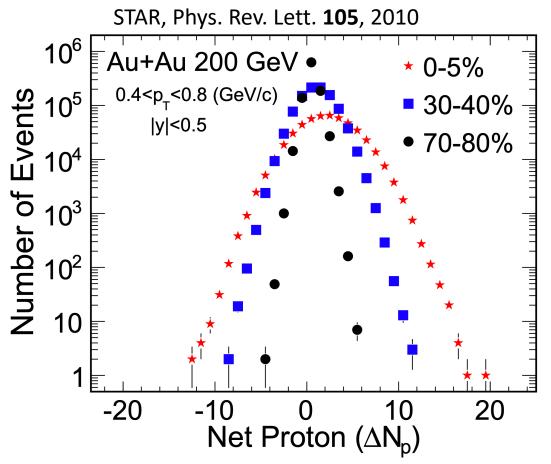


**Experimentally**, we cannot measure baryon number **directly** 

**Proxy**: net-protons =  $p - \bar{p}$ 

Also, we don't know the volume...

#### Fluctuations in QCD



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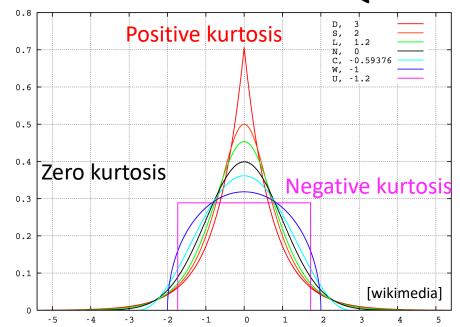
Also, we don't know the volume...

Make ratios or products that cancel volume term:

$$\kappa \sigma^2 = \frac{\chi_B^{(4)}}{\chi_B^{(2)}/T^2}$$

Independent of volume!

### Fluctuations in QCD



Very sensitive to the "tails" of distribution: Very statistics hungry

**Experimentally**, we cannot measure baryon number **directly** 

**Proxy**: net-protons =  $p - \bar{p}$ 

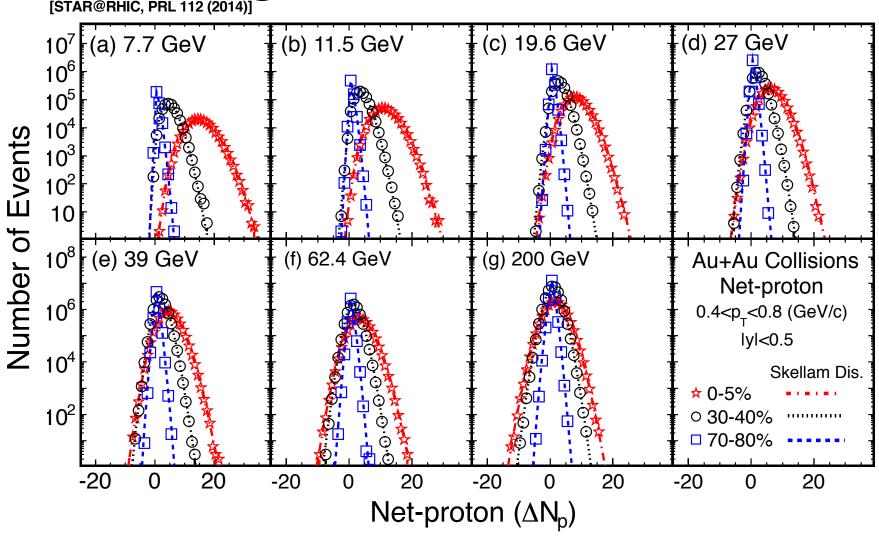
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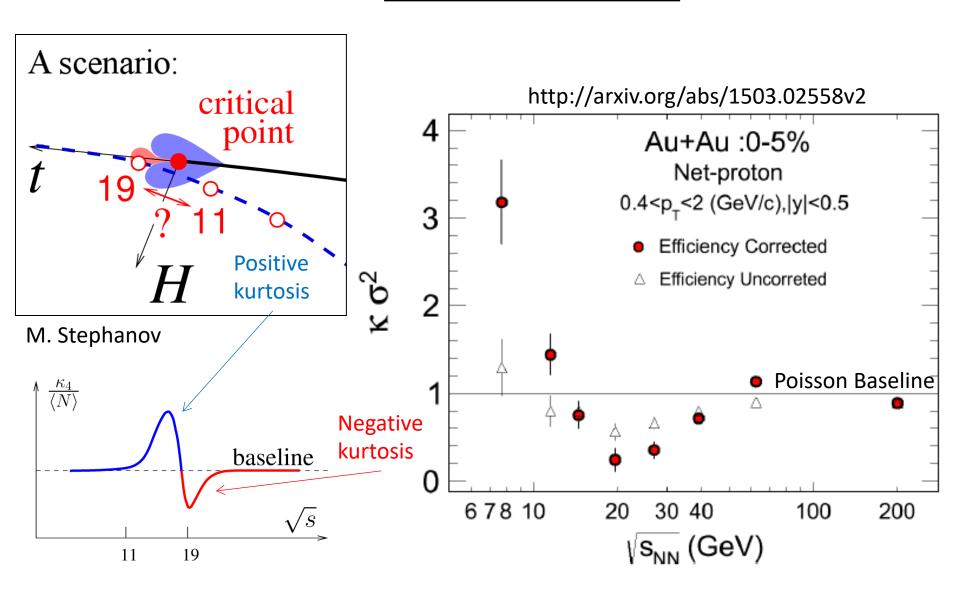
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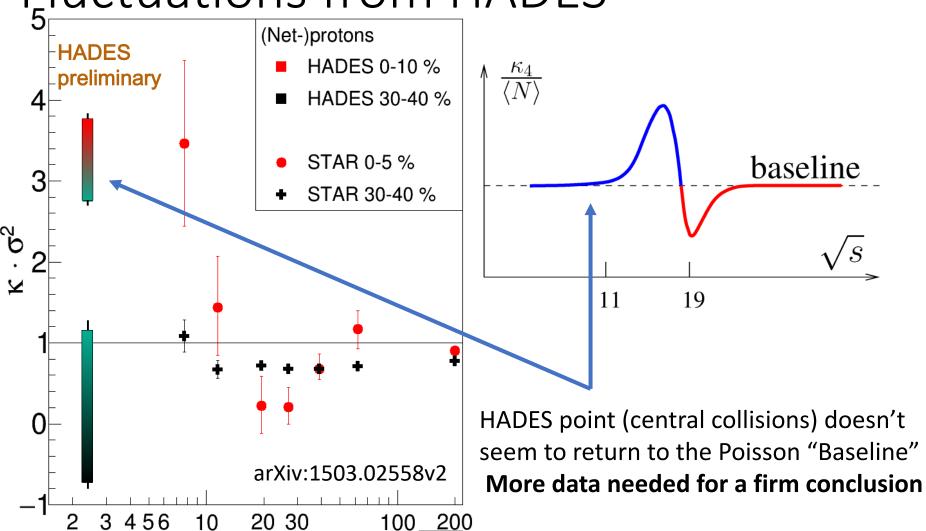
# Measuring Fluctuations [STAR@RHIC, PRL 112 (2014)]



## Search for the Critical Point



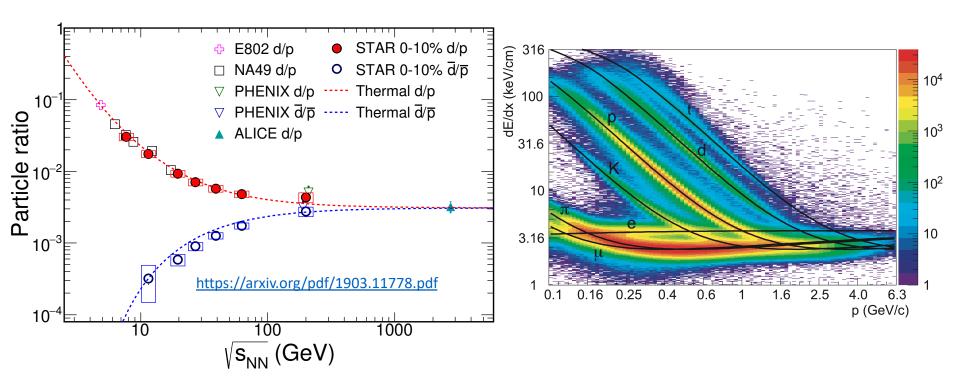
# Fluctuations from HADES



- red/black = unfolding (preferred method) + vol. flucs. corr.
- green = evt-by-evt eff correction of factorial moments + vol. flucs. corr. 5/24/19

  J. D. Brandenburg: FAIRNESS 2019

## Experimental Complications

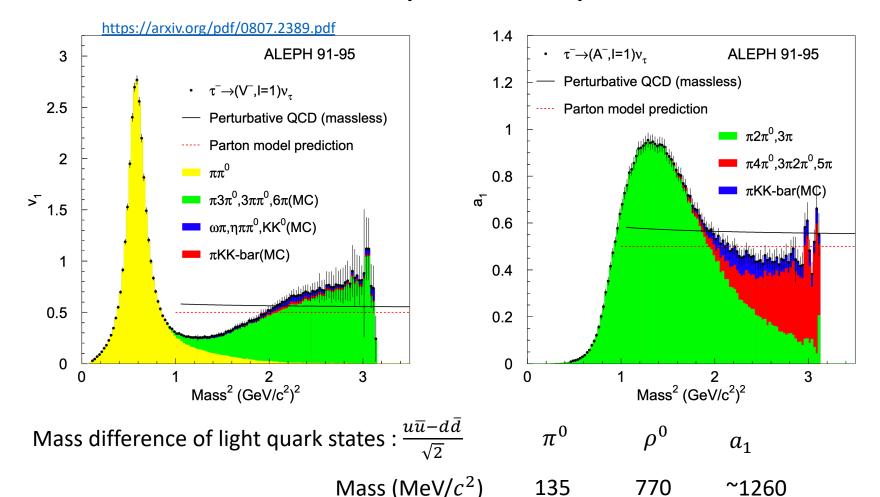


Substantial fraction of protons are bound in heavy fragments : d, t, He, etc.

 How does this effect the baryon number fluctuations measured through protons?

Particle identification techniques do not give 100% purity/efficiency

### Search for Chiral Symmetry Restoration



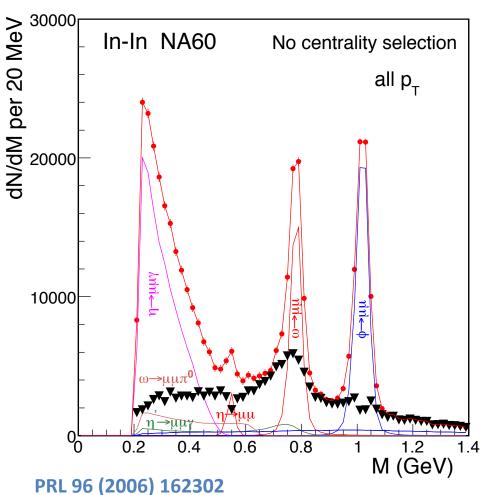
Chiral symmetry restoration: mass of chiral partners will become the same

#### Search for Chiral Symmetry Restoration

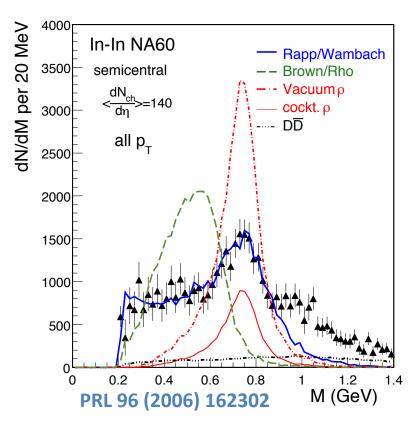
NA60 Measured  $\mu^+\mu^$ in In+In collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$  = 17.3 GeV

Extremely high precision

- $\rightarrow$  Isolate  $\rho^0$  meson
- →Thermal dileptons



## NA60 Thermal Dileptons

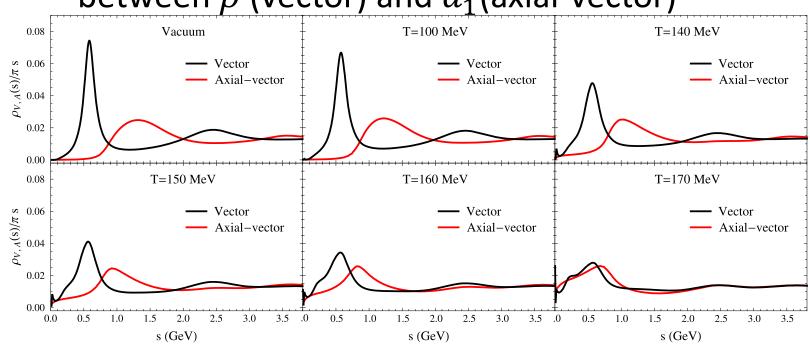


- ρ-mesonbroadening/meltingthrough mediuminteractions
- Possible link to chiral symmetry restoration

How does low mass excess evolve with collision energy?

## Chiral Symmetry Restoration

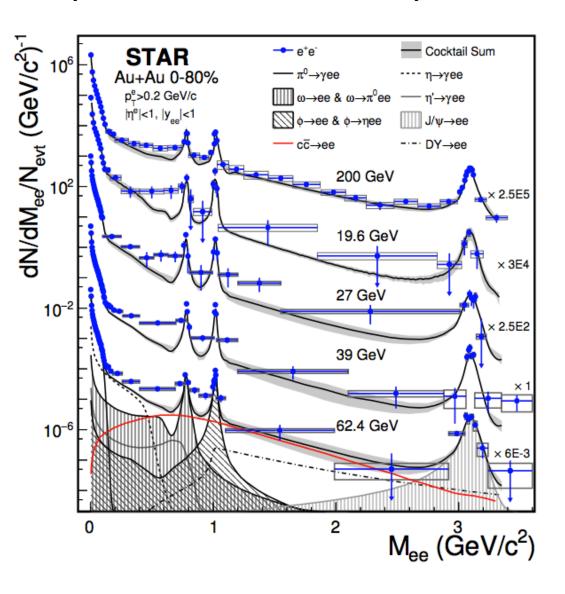
 $\circ$  Phenomenological description of mass splitting between  $\rho$  (vector) and  $a_1$  (axial-vector)



○ Use experimentally verified  $\rho$  spectral function(SF)  $\rightarrow$  search for  $a_1$  SF satisfying QCD & Weinberg sum rules

(QCD) 
$$\frac{1}{M^2} \int ds \frac{\rho_{V/A}(s)}{s} e^{-s/M^2} = \sum_n C_n \langle O_n \rangle \qquad \text{(Weinberg)} \quad \int ds (\rho_V - \rho_A) s^n = f_n$$

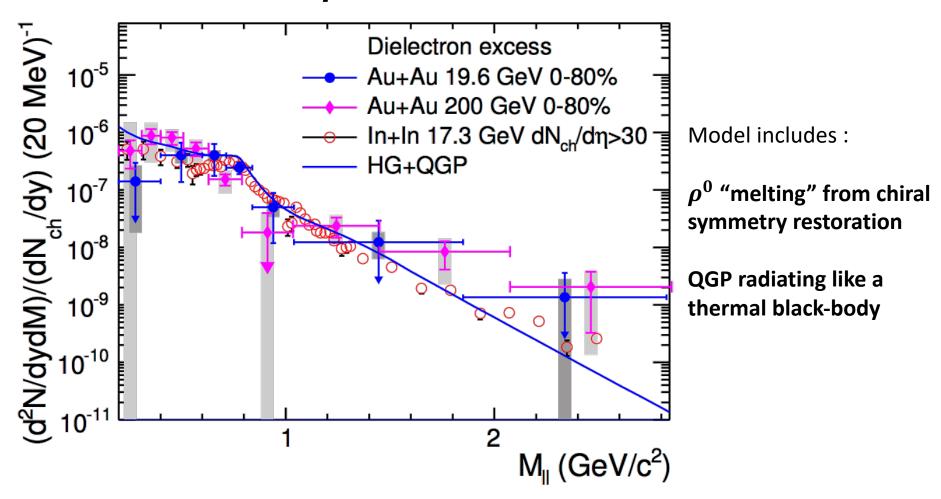
# Systematic study of $e^+e^-$



# STAR measurements of $e^+e^-$ in BES 1

- Away from  $\rho$  spectra well described by "hadronic cocktail"
- $\circ$  Sustained excess observed in  $\rho$  meson region

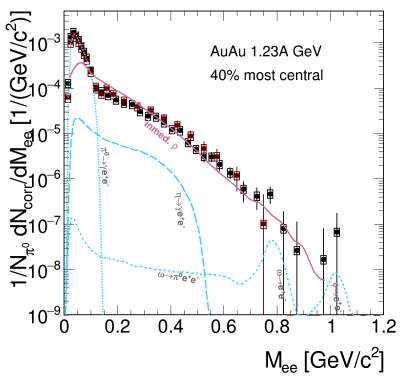
## The Melted ho



NA60 & STAR excess yields are well described by melted ho+QGP model

Strong experimental evidence that  $\rho$ -meson "melts"  $\rightarrow$  Hohler & Rapp: "Is  $\rho$ -meson melting compatible with chiral restoration?"

#### HADES High Precision Measurements



Significant excess observed over expected sources

But 
$$T \approx 80 \text{ MeV} < T_C!$$

At high  $\mu_B$  the Chiral transition may proceed at lower T than deconfinement transition

$$T_C^{\chi} < T_C^{QGP}$$

Excess is well described by the same in-medium broadened  $\rho$  as for higher energies

HADES in CBM: Measure the  $\rho-a_1$  mixing

### Summary

Heavy Ion Collisions gives us the tool we need to systematically exploring the QCD Phase Diagram

#### 1st Order Phase Transition

Net-Proton  $v_1$  shows double sign change  $\rightarrow$  softest point in EoS (phase coexistance region)

#### **Critical End Point**

Fluctuations in conserved quantities  $\rightarrow$  access susceptibilities  $\kappa\sigma^2$  for net-p shows possible deviation from Poisson Baseline

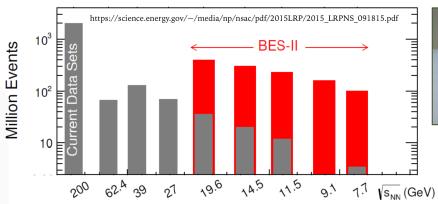
#### **Chiral Symmetry Restoration**

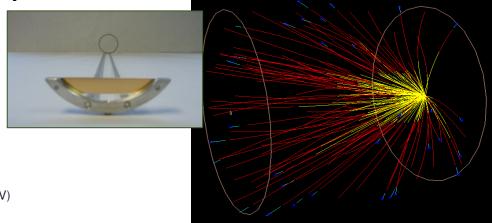
Melting of the  $ho^0$  meson may be linked to Chiral Symmetry restoration Model consistently describes excess from HADES to RHIC energies

Conclusive results need more data → Outlook

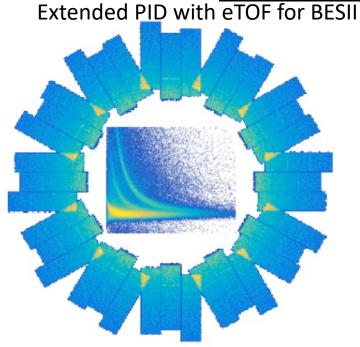
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RHIC Beam Energy Scan II

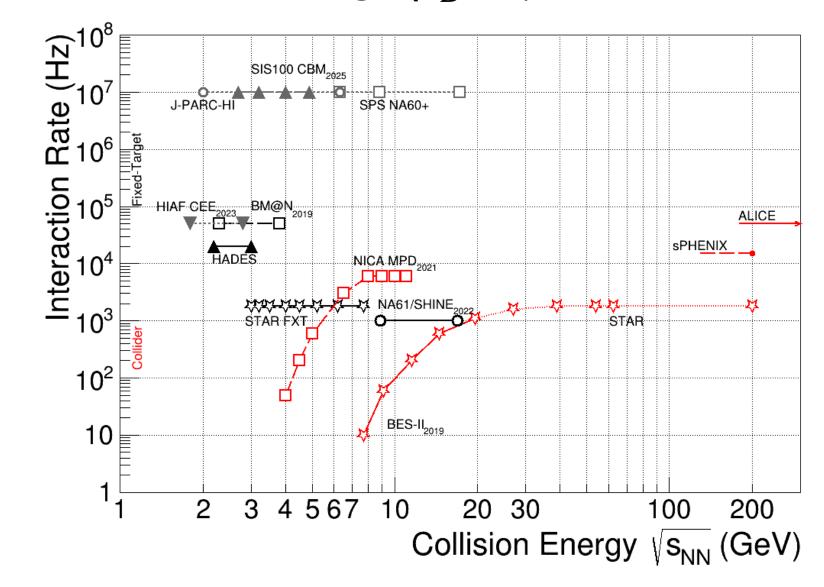






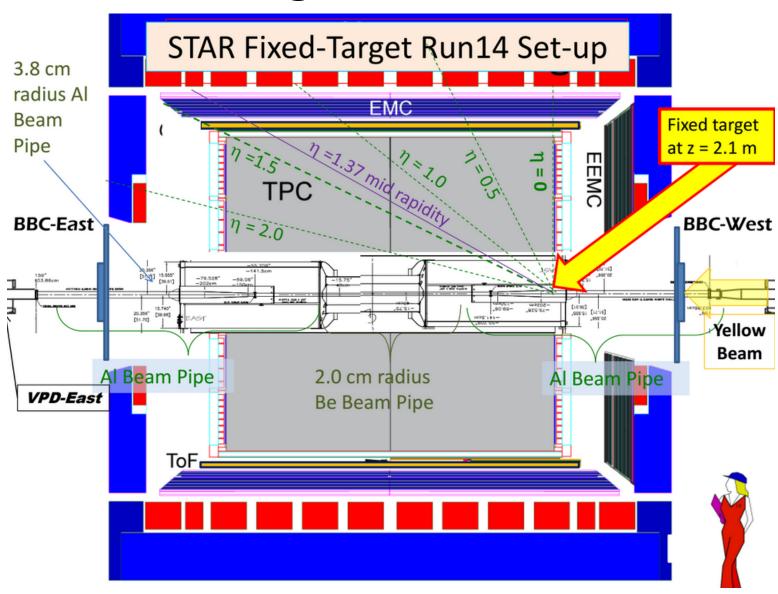


#### The Next Era of high- $\mu_B$ Experiments



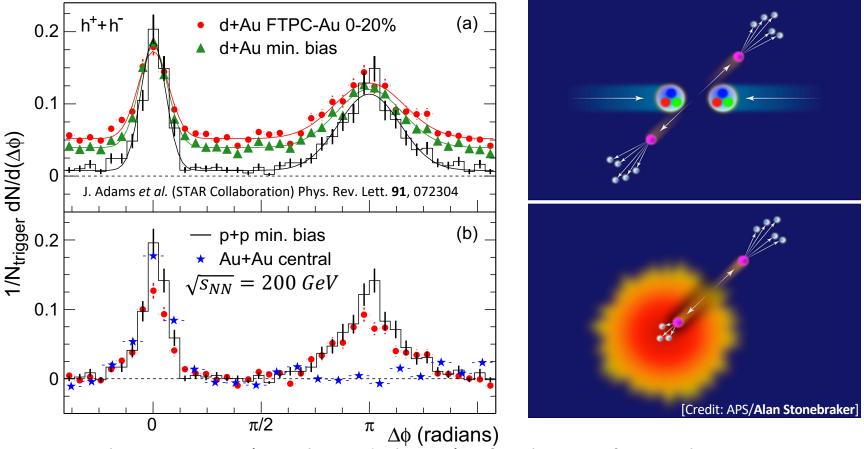
# Thank you!

## STAR Fixed Target



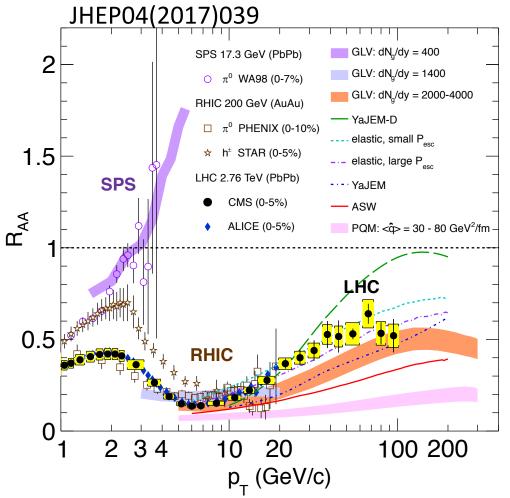
# Setting the Scene

#### Jet Quenching in the Quark Gluon Plasma



- High- $p_T$  partons (quarks and gluons) forebears of jets lose energy via strong interactions with the partonic medium
- Clear signature of the Quark Gluon Plasma observed by all 4 RHIC experiments in 2003 (cover of PRL!)

#### Jet Quenching in the Quark Gluon Plasma

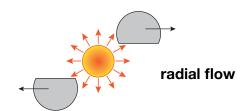


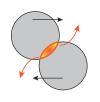
#### Quantify jet quenching:

Significant Jet quenching ( $R_{AA} \ll 1$ ) has identified as a clear signature of QGP formation

Clear evidence for QGP formation at RHIC and LHC

## Finding the QGP





#### directed flow

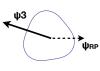
$$v_1 = \langle \cos(\phi) \rangle$$
$$= \left\langle \frac{p_x}{p_t} \right\rangle$$



#### elliptic flow

$$p_2 = \langle \cos(2\phi) \rangle$$

$$= \left\langle \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p_t^2} \right\rangle$$



#### triangular flow

$$g = \langle cos(3\phi) \rangle$$

$$= \left\langle \frac{p_x^3 - 3p_x p_y^2}{p_t^3} \right\rangle$$

Behruz Kardan

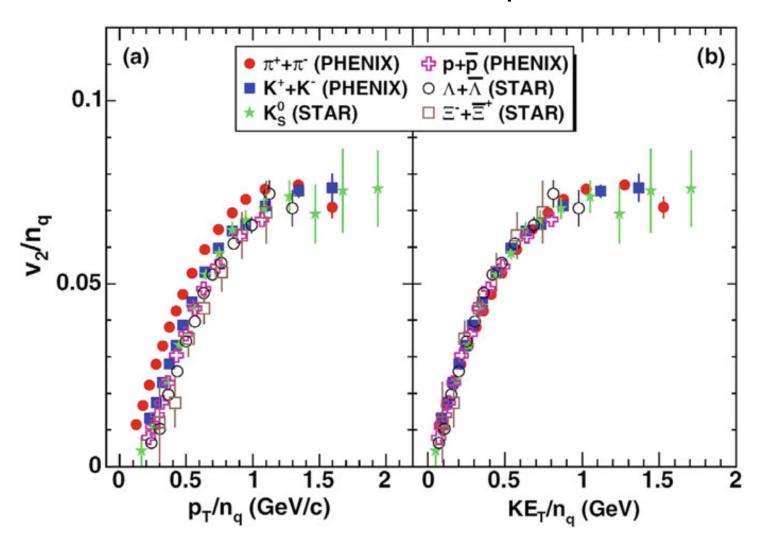
# Look at the collective behavior of the medium

$$\frac{dN}{d\varphi} \propto 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2v_n \cos\left[n(\varphi - \Psi_n)\right]$$

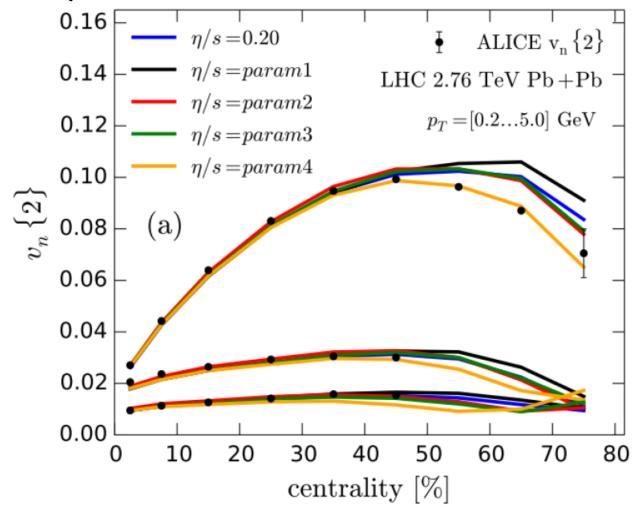
Where  $\psi$  is the azimuthal angle and  $\Psi_n$  is the  $n^{th}$  order event plane

## Finding the QGP

OHow do we know the medium is partonic?



QGP :Ideal Gas or Perfect Liquid?



Fit and Bayesian Analysis give most likely value of  $\eta/s \approx 0.07^{+0.05}_{-0.04} + c(T-T_c)$ 

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Note, *c* is mostly unconstrained [0, 1.6] /GeV

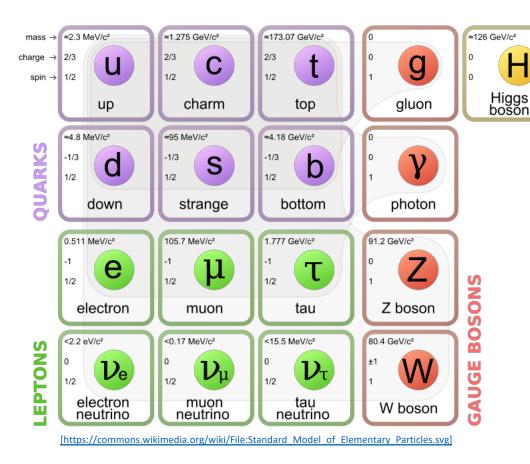
Average  $^{\eta}/_{s}$  strikingly close the theoretical limit from holography:

$$(^{1}/_{4\pi} \approx 0.08)$$

If QGP were a weakly interacting gas of quarks and gluons: expect isotropic distribution

Hydrodynamic flow converts spatial anisotropies into momentum anisotropy

### Why Study QCD Matter?



#### **Standard Model of Physics**

Fundamental building blocks of matter:

- Quarks
- Leptons

And their fundamental interactions:

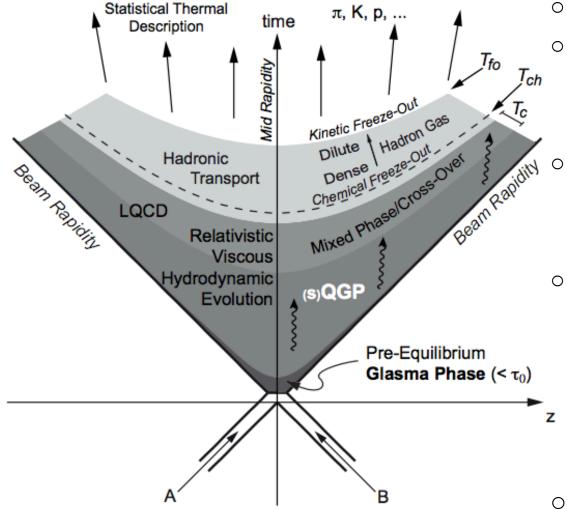
- o Electromagnetic
- Weak interaction
- Strong interaction
- Gravity (not yet!)

But normal matter isn't just bare quarks

We study QCD to understand the emergence and organization of "normal" matter from quarks and gluons

## Life of a Heavy Ion Collision

U.W. Heinz, (2004). 63 http://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0407360.



 $\circ \tau = 0$ : initial collision

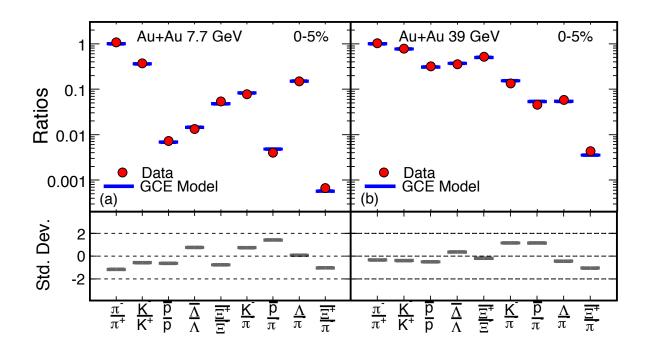
o  $\tau < \sim 1$  fm/c : pre-equilibrium – not much is known about the dynamics. Assume fast approach to thermal equilibrium

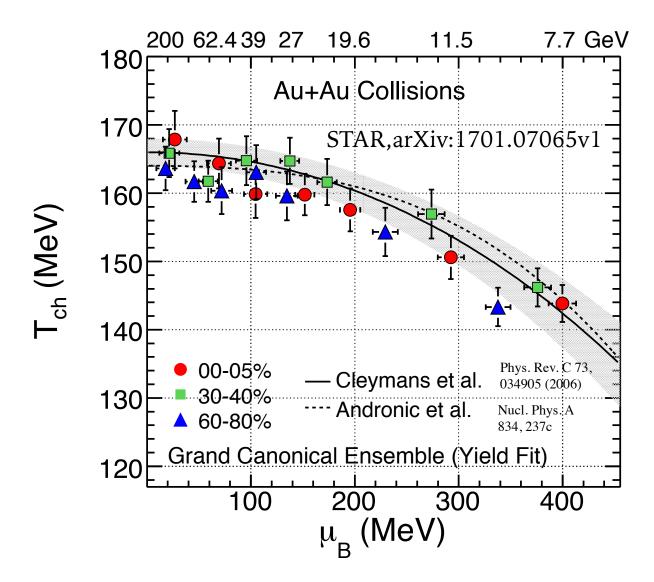
o  $1 < \tau < \approx 15$  fm/c : QGP is formed if  $\varepsilon > \varepsilon_c$ ,  $T > T_c$ 

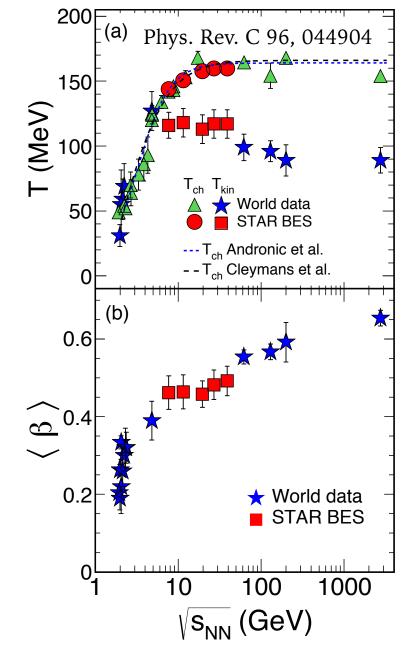
 Viscous hydrodynamic expansion and cooling

o  $\tau > 10 - 15$  fm/c : Freeze-out

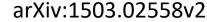
- $\circ$  T drops below  $T_c$
- Chemical freeze-out : inelastic scatterings cease - particle species are fixed
- Kinetic freeze-out : elastic scatterings cease – particle momenta are fixed
- Free stream to detectors

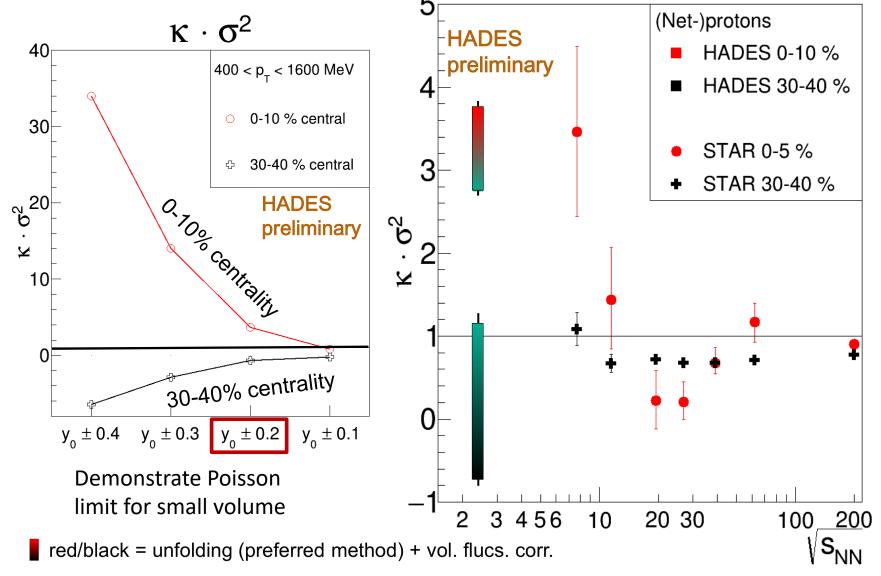






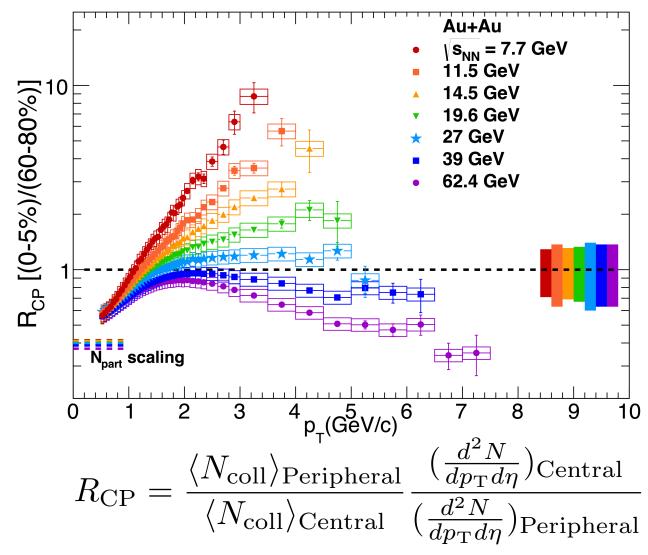
Fluctuations from HADES





green = evt-by-evt eff correction of factorial moments + vol. flucs. corr.

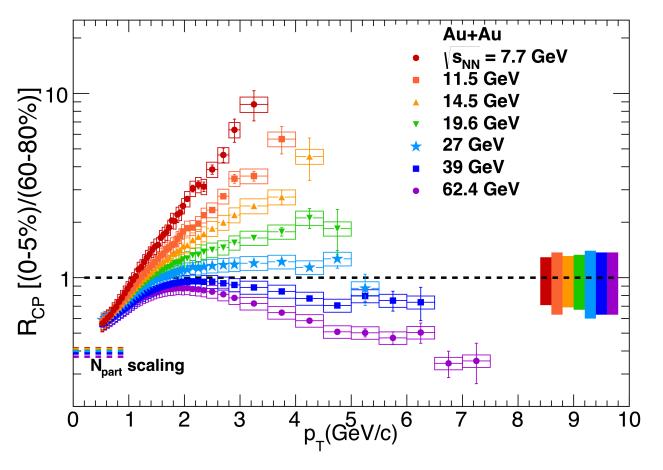
#### Nuclear Modification Factor in BES 1



Smooth transition from suppression  $(R_{CP} < 1)$  at highest energies to enhancement  $(R_{CP} > 1)$  at lowest energies

Turn off of the QGP?

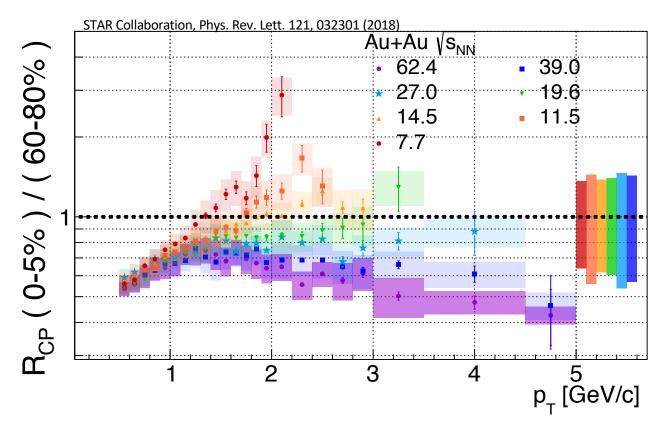
#### Nuclear Modification Factor in BES 1



What can we say from this measurement?

- $\circ$   $R_{CP} \ll 1$  (at high  $p_T$  ) : QGP is definitely formed
- If  $R_{CP} \ge 1$ : QGP may be formed or may not competing effects

# $R_{CP}$ for Identified Hadrons



- Pions are more sensitive probes of suppression than heavy particles
- No sign of suppression above ~19.6 GeV