

## Search for the chiral magnetic effect with isobar collisions

Based on: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2109.00131> Phys. Rev. C 105, 014901 (2022)

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New vistas in Photon Physics in Heavy-Ion Collisions, Sep 19 – 22, 2022  
Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences & AGH University of Science and Technology

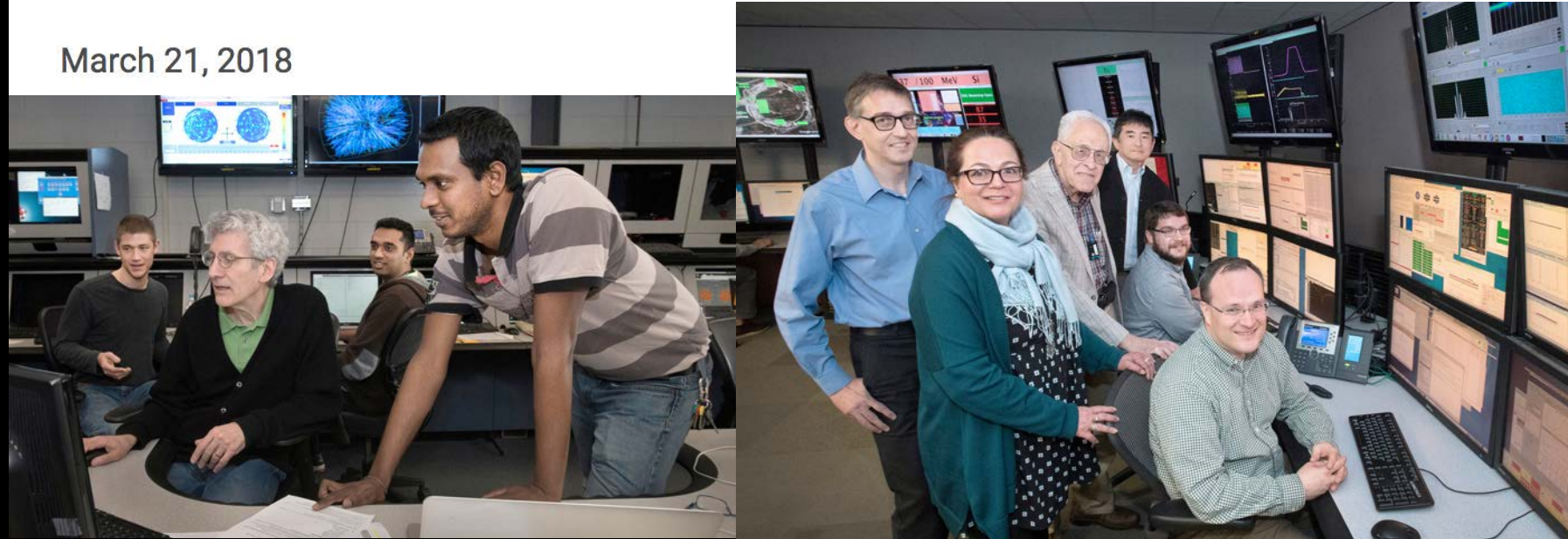


# Isobar program at RHIC: journey since 2018

## Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider Begins 18th Year of Experiments

First smashups with 'isobar' ions and low-energy gold-gold collisions will test earlier hints of exciting discoveries as accelerator physicists tune up technologies to enable future science

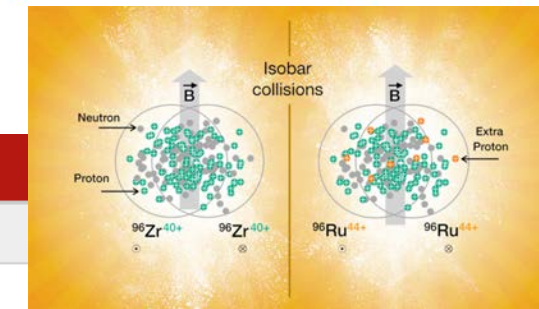
March 21, 2018



## Results from Search for 'Chiral Magnetic Effect' at RHIC

Collisions of 'isobars' test effect of magnetic field, searching for signs of a broken symmetry

August 31, 2021



arXiv.org > nucl-ex > arXiv:2109.00131

### Nuclear Experiment

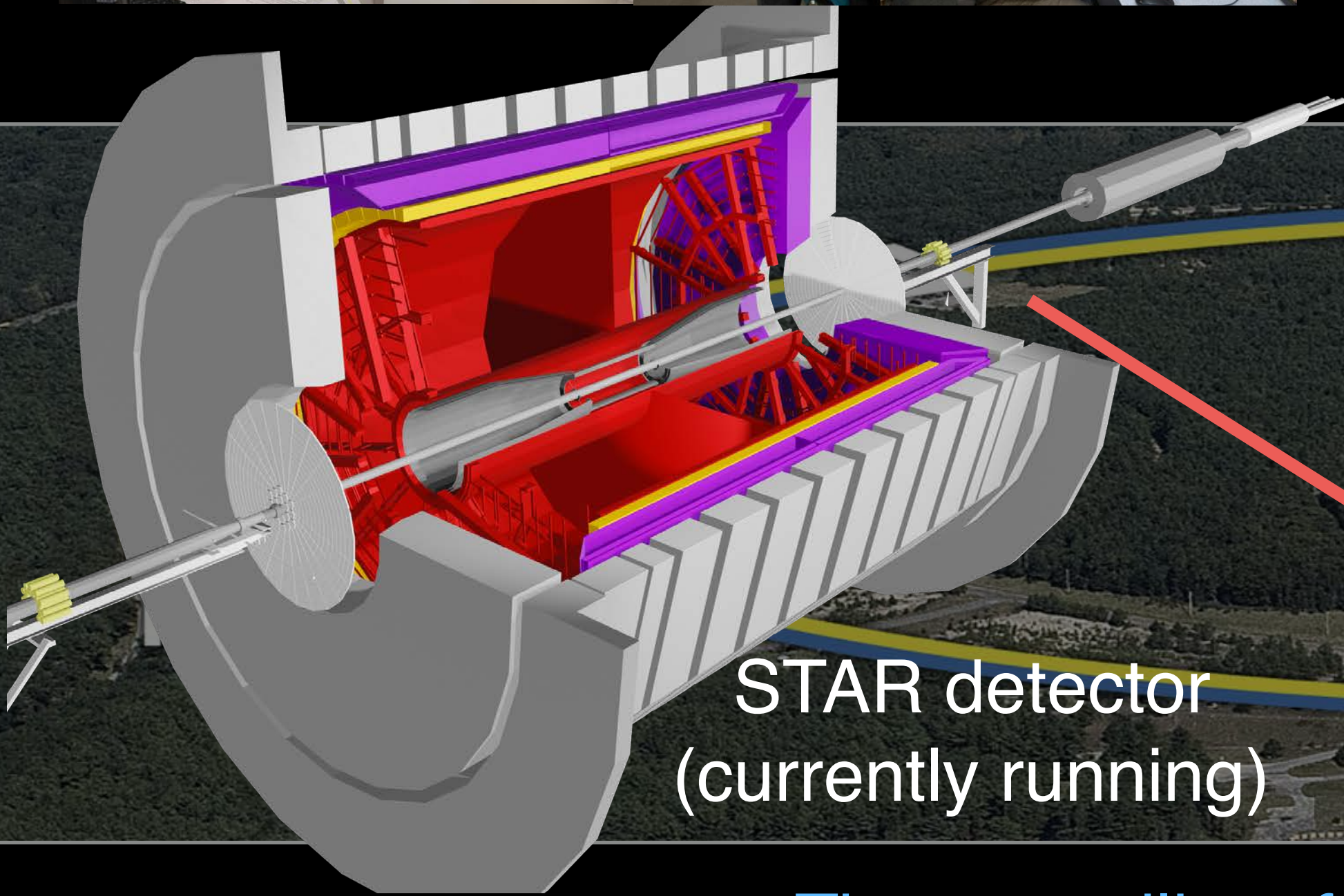
[Submitted on 1 Sep 2021]

### Search for the Chiral Magnetic Effect with Isobar Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV by the STAR Collaboration at RHIC

STAR Collaboration: M. S. Abdallah, B. E. Aboona, J. Adam, L. Adamczyk, J. R. Adams, J. K. Adkins, G. Agakishiev, I. Aggarwal, M. M. Aggarwal, Z. Ahammed, I. Alekseev, D. M. An, Ashraf, F. G. Atetalla, A. Attri, G. S. Averichev, V. Bairathi, W. Baker, J. G. Ball Cap, K. Barish, A. Behera, R. Bellwied, P. Bhagat, A. Bhasin, J. Bielcik, J. Bielcikova, I. G. Bordyuzhin, J. X. Z. Cai, H. Caines, M. Calderón de la Barca Sánchez, D. Cebra, I. Chakaberia, P. Chaloupka, B. K. Chan, F-H. Chang, Z. Chang, N. Chankova-Bunzarova, A. Chatterjee, S. Chattop, Chen, Z. Chen, J. Cheng, M. Chevalier, S. Choudhury, W. Christie, X. Chu, H. J. Crawford, M. Csanád, M. Daugherty, T. G. Dedovich, I. M. Deppner, A. A. Derevschikov, A. Dhamija, J. L. Drachenberg, E. Duckworth, J. C. Dunlop, N. Elsey, J. Engelage, G. Eppley, S. Esumi, O. Evdokimov, A. Ewigleben, O. Eyser, R. Fatemi, F. M. Fawzi, S. Fazio, P. Federic, J. Fedori, Fisyak, A. Francisco, C. Fu, L. Fulek, C. A. Gagliardi, T. Galatyuk, F. Geurts, N. Ghimire, A. Gibson, K. Gopal, X. Gou, D. Grosnick, A. Gupta, W. Guryn, A. I. Hamad et al. (298 addit

Search for the chiral magnetic effect with isobar collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV by the STAR Collaboration at the BNL Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider

M. S. Abdallah *et al.* (STAR Collaboration)  
Phys. Rev. C **105**, 014901 – Published 3 January 2022



STAR detector (currently running)

RHIC: known for species (U, Au, Ru, Zr, Cu, Al..) and energy ( $\gamma \sim 100-3.85$ ) maneuver capability

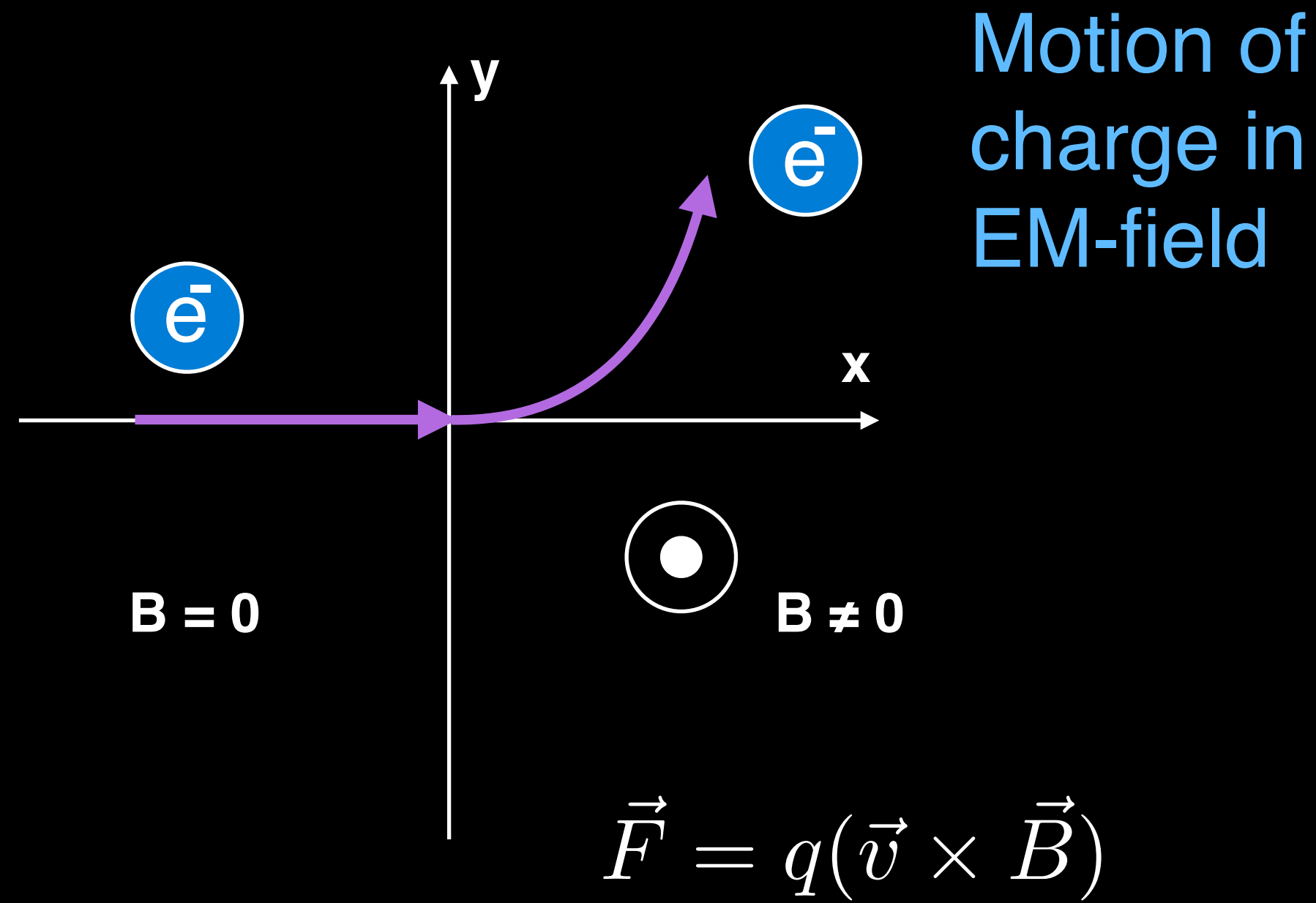
STAR: known for precision measurement capability of hadrons over wide acceptance

The versatility of RHIC and the unique capabilities of the STAR detector were crucial to the success of our program

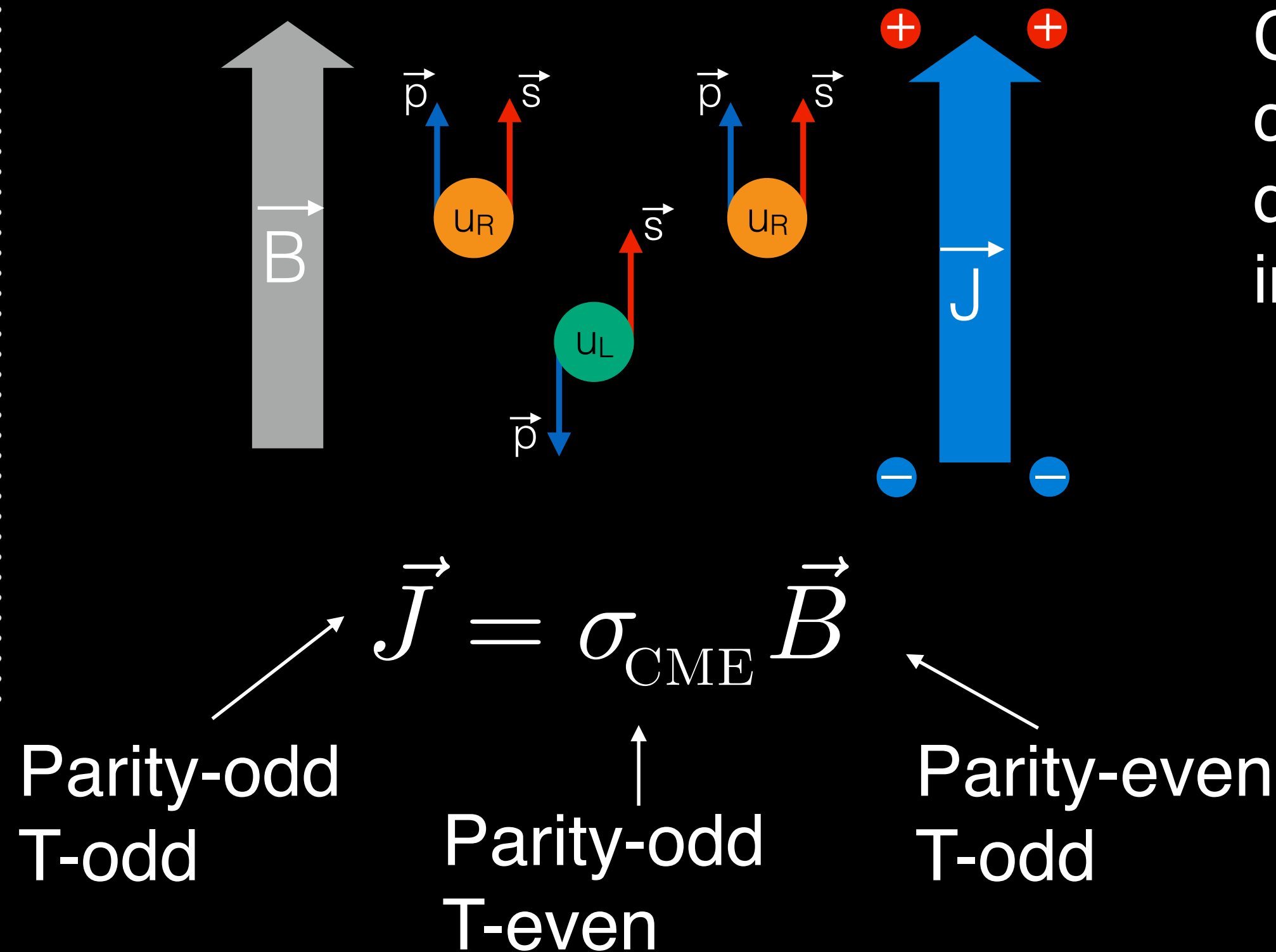


# Chiral Magnetic Effect : why unique?

A phenomenon different from everyday motions of charge in EM-field



## Chiral Magnetic Effect



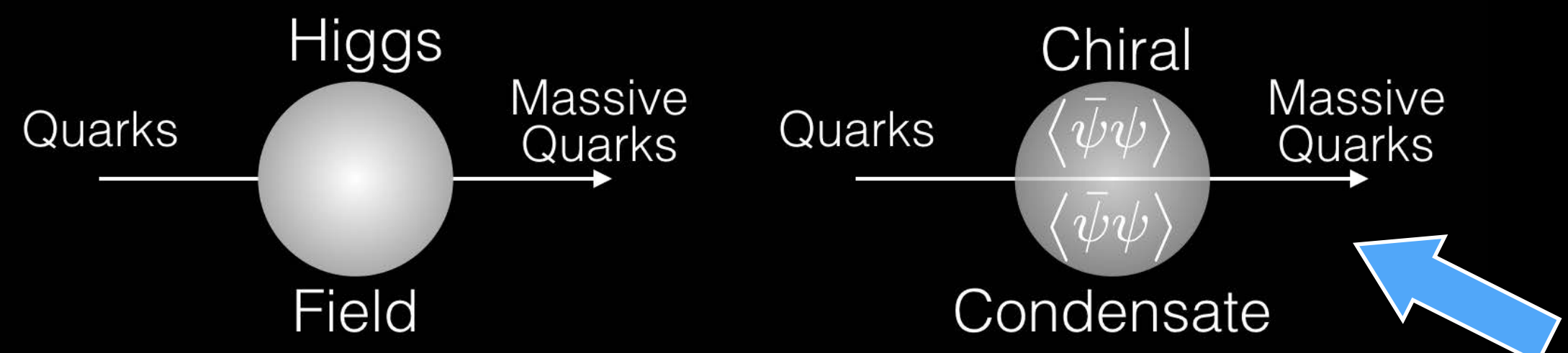
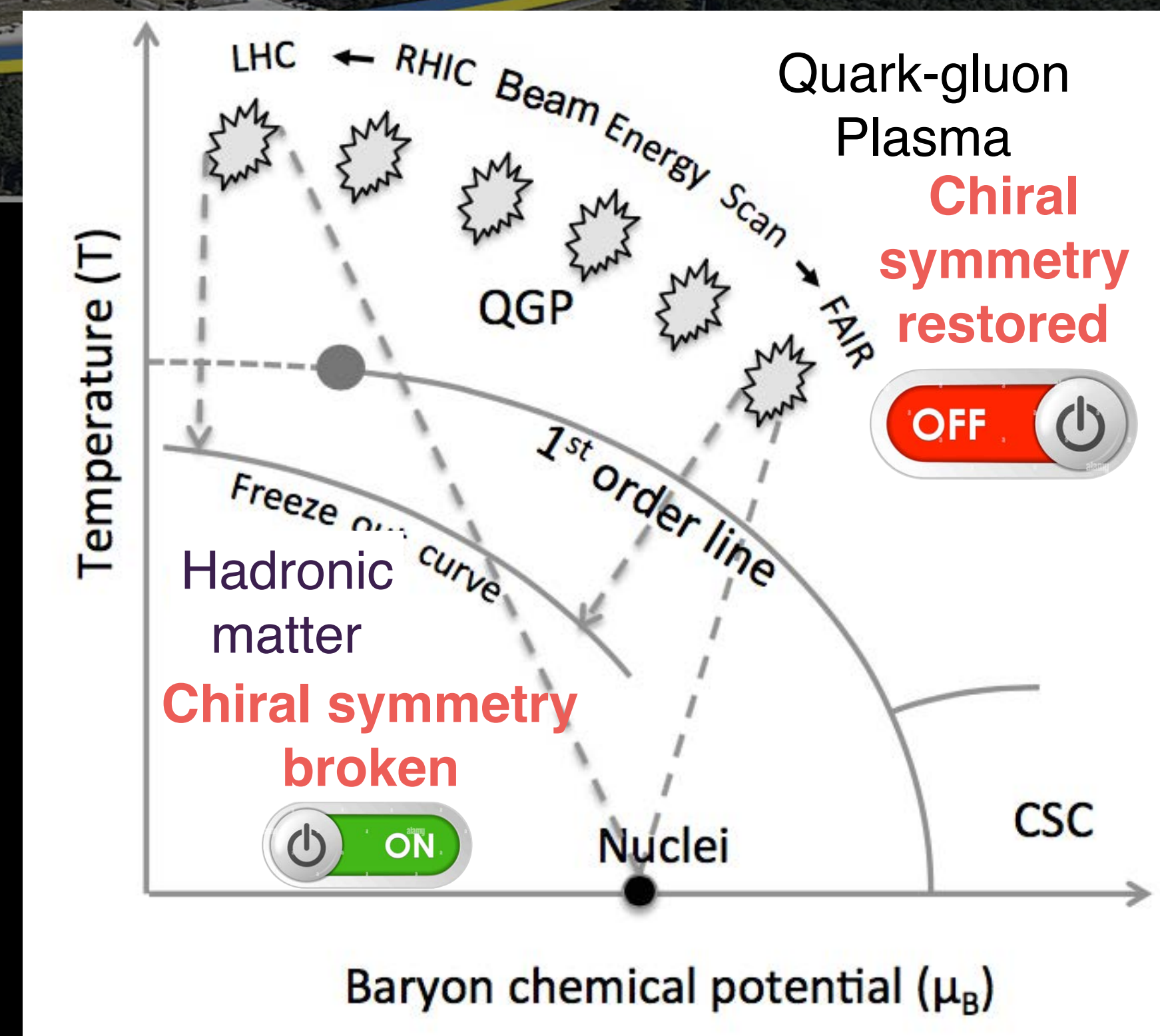
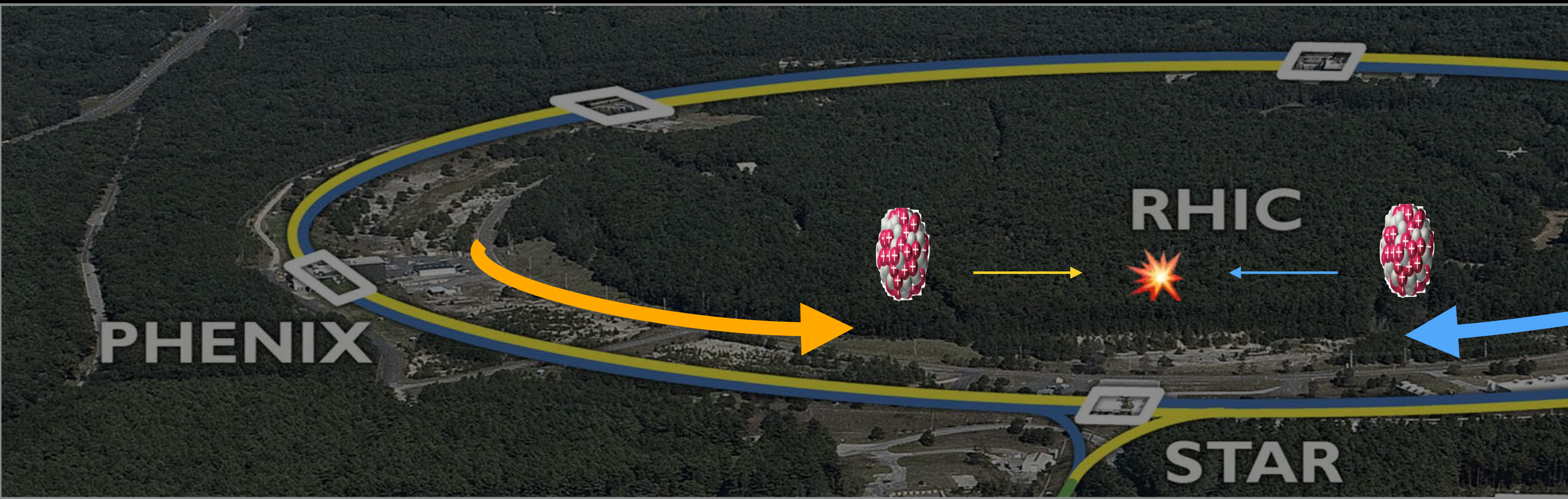
CME: Generation of current along B-field due to chirality imbalance

CME is related to local parity violation in strong interactions

Earliest Reference :  
 "Equilibrium Parity Violating Current In A Magnetic Field", A. Vilenkin,



# RHIC: A machine to play with the vacuum



Turn this OFF

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \bar{\psi}_a (i(\gamma^\mu D_\mu)_{ab}) \psi_b - \cancel{m\delta_{ab} \bar{\psi}_a \psi_b} - \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^c G_c^{\mu\nu}$$

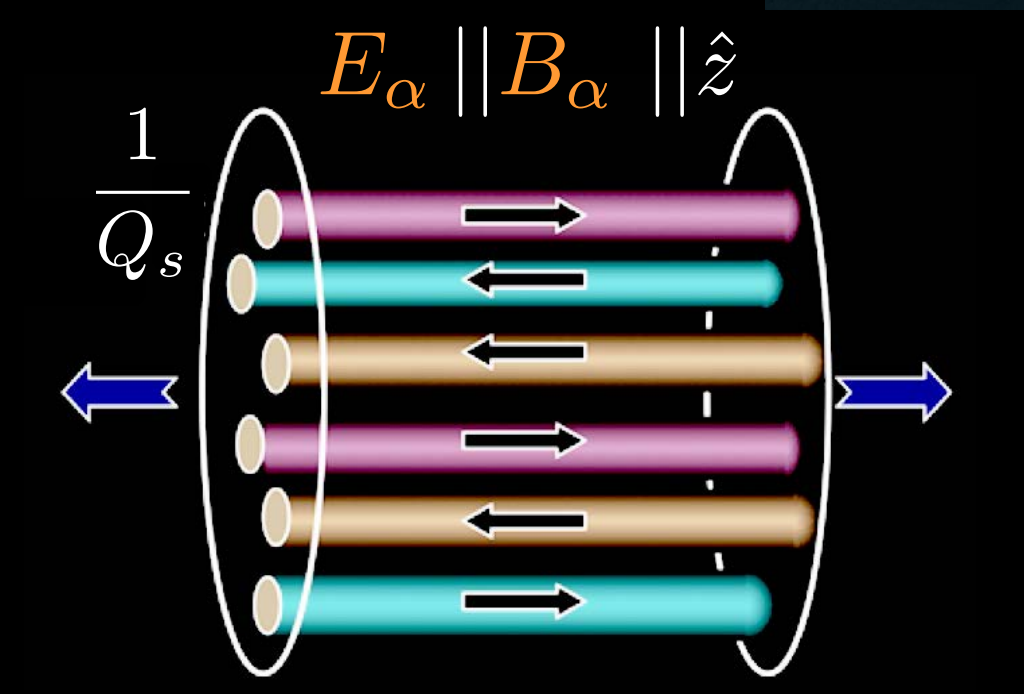
Collisions aim to produce a medium of de-confined gluons and nearly massless quarks (chiral symmetry restored)

Phase diagram of QCD

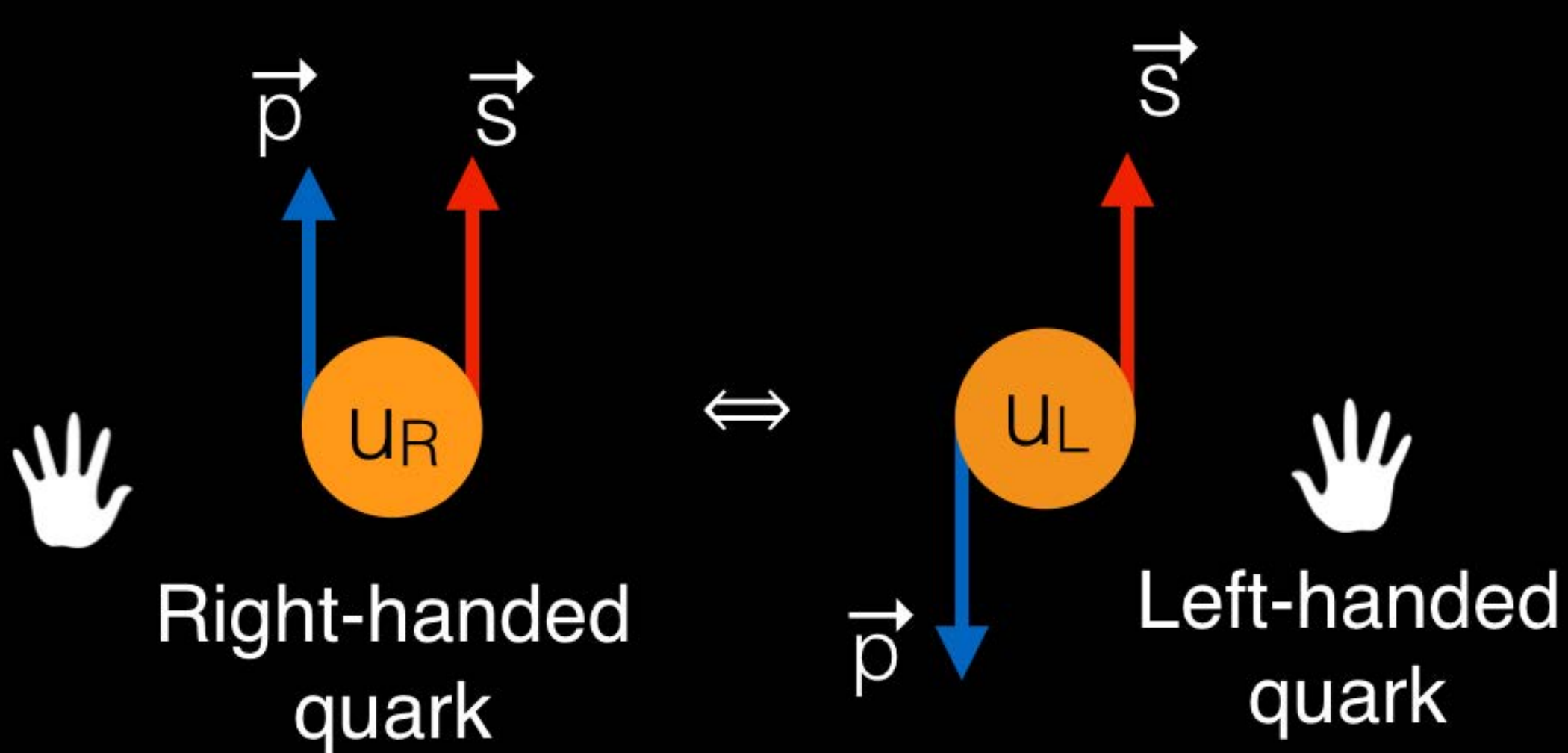


# Local violation of the CP symmetry of QCD

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \bar{\psi}_a (i(\gamma^\mu D_\mu)_{ab}) \psi_b - \cancel{m\delta_{ab} \bar{\psi}_a \psi_b} - \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^c G_c^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\theta}{32\pi^2} g^2 F_\alpha^{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\alpha\mu\nu} = -\frac{\theta}{8\pi^2} g^2 \vec{E}_\alpha \cdot \vec{B}_\alpha$$



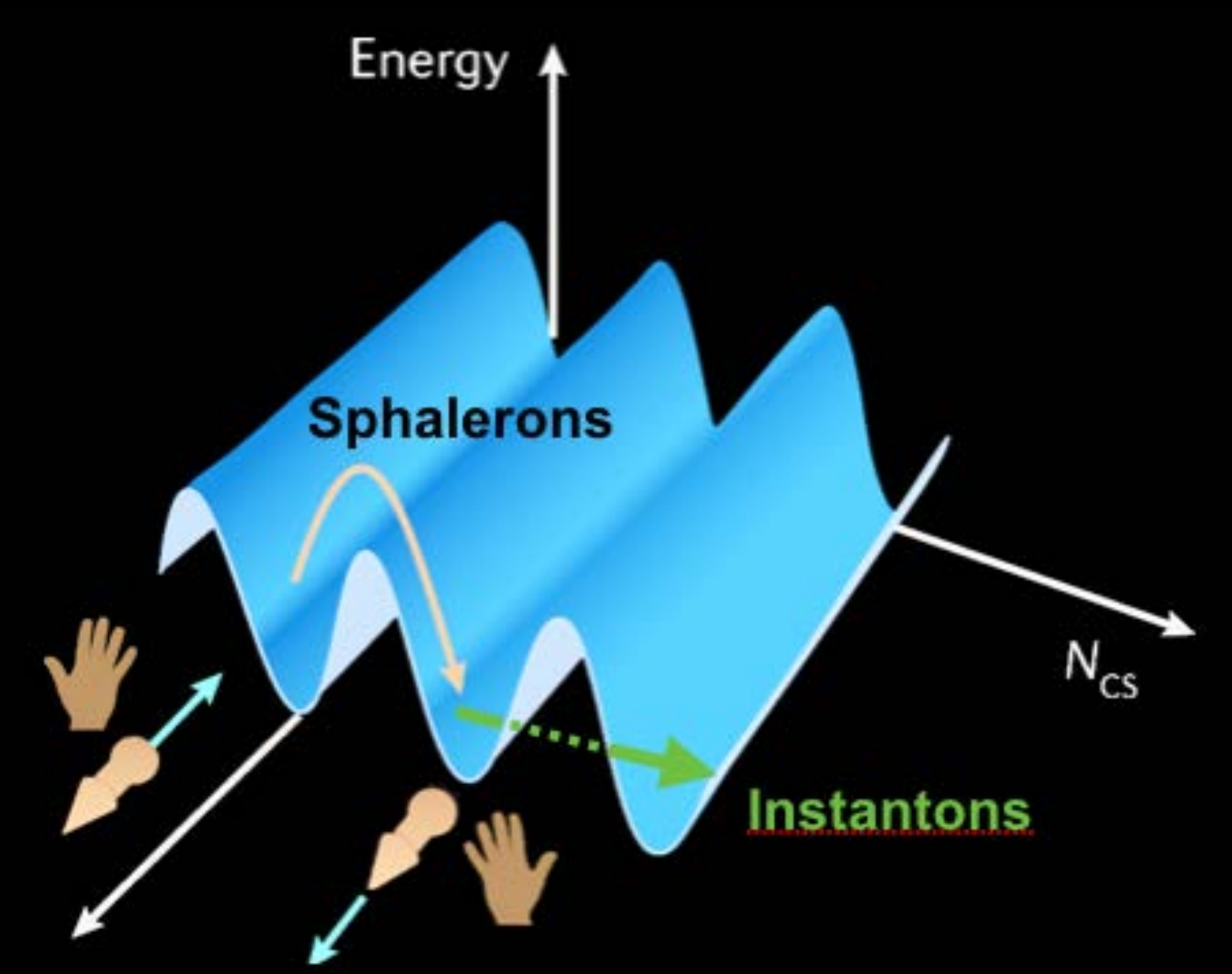
Massless QCD does not distinguish between R.H. & L.H.



$$\frac{dN_{CS}}{dt} = \frac{g^2}{8\pi^2} \int d^3x \vec{E}_\alpha \cdot \vec{B}_\alpha$$

Quantum anomaly:  $U_A(1)$  symmetry breaking: chirality imbalance

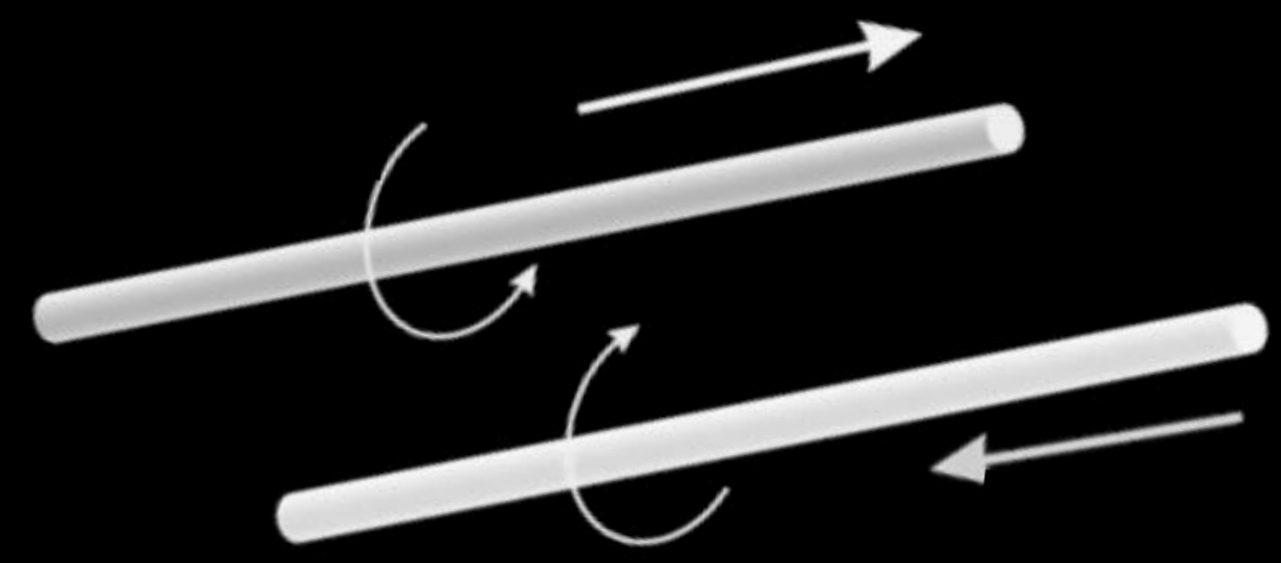
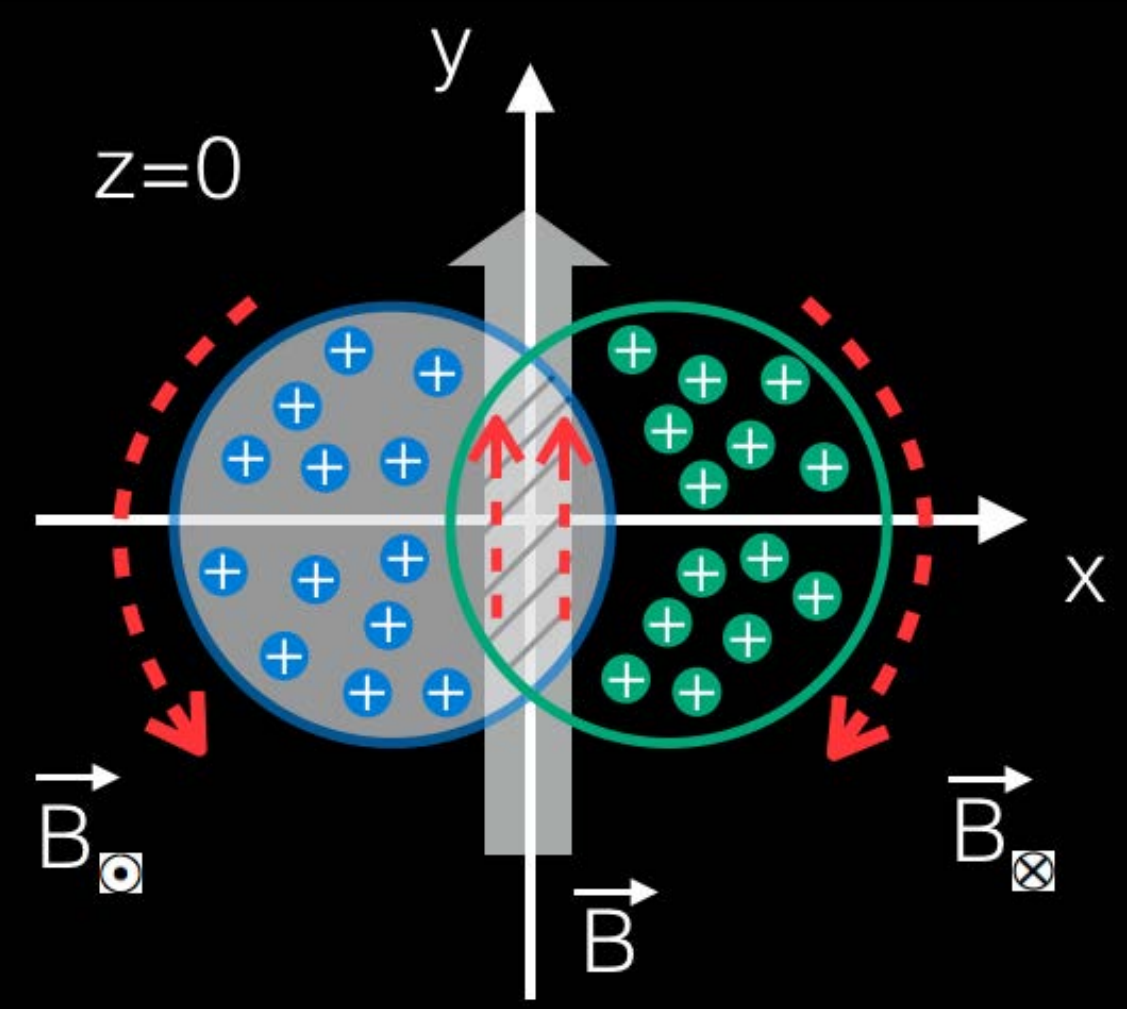
Quantum fluctuations break P & CP symmetry locally and create chirality imbalance  $\rightarrow$  **chirality-genesis**



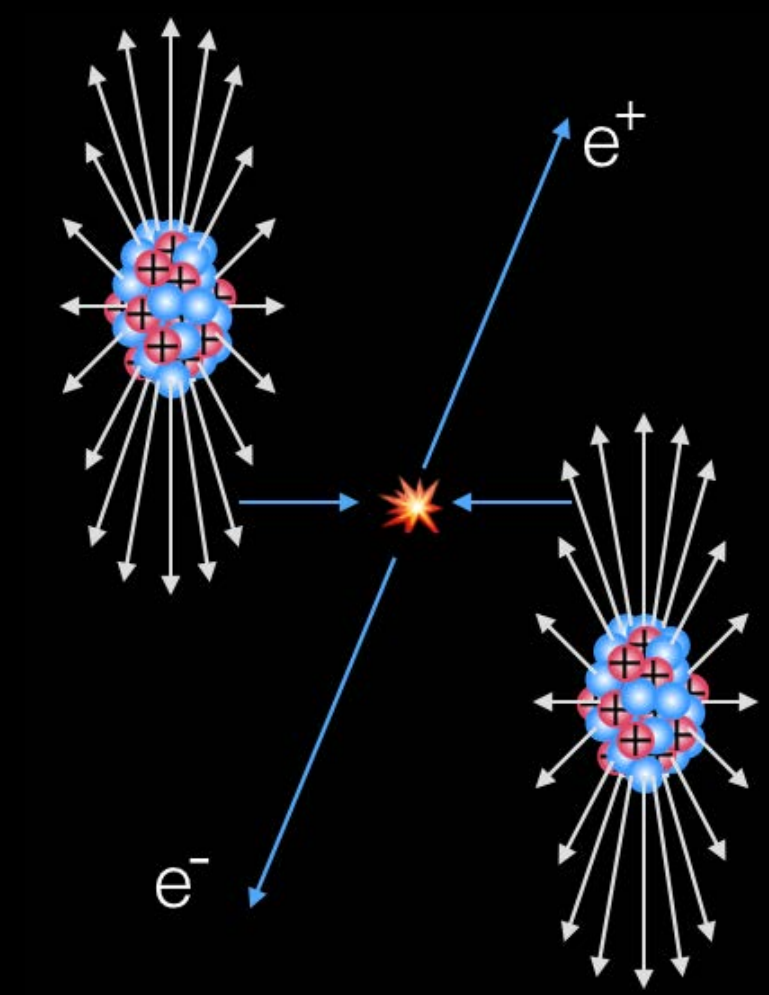


# Creation of strong electro-magnetic fields

Strongest EM field in the nature:  $B \sim 10^{18}$  Gauss ( $\sim$  pion-mass<sup>2</sup>)



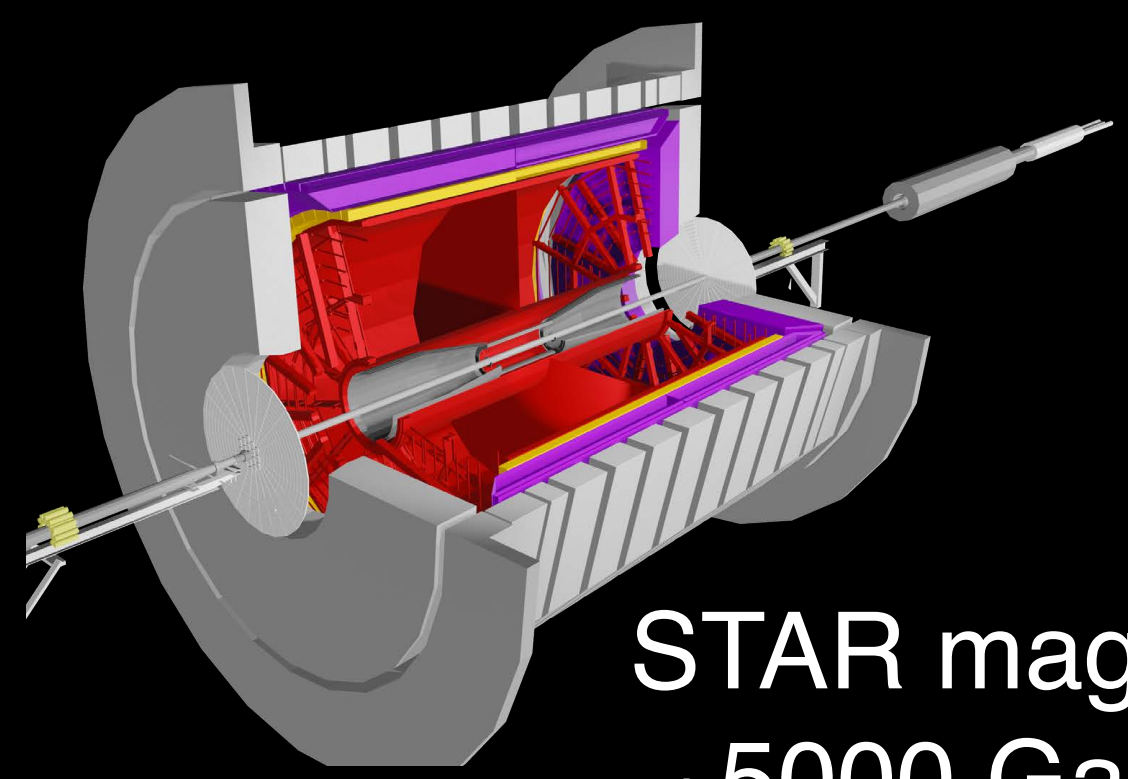
Kharzeev et al 0711.0950, Skokov et al 0907.1396 McLerran, Skokov, 1305.0774



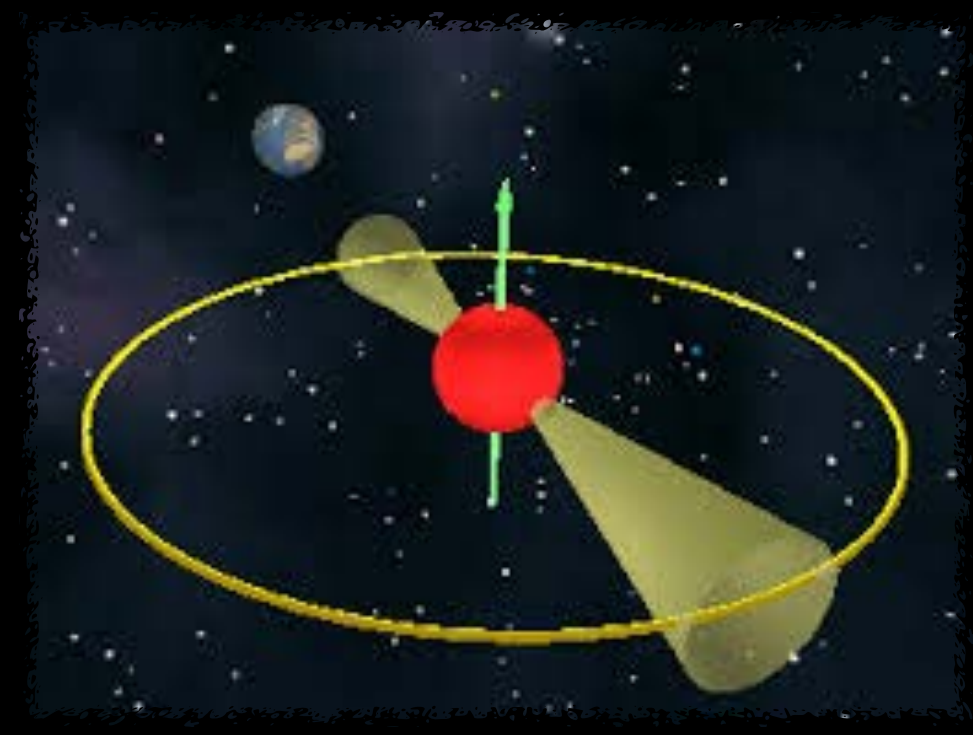
$$eB > eB_C \approx m_e^2 \sim 10^{12} \text{ Gauss}$$



Earth  
~0.5 Gauss



STAR magnet  
~ 5000 Gauss

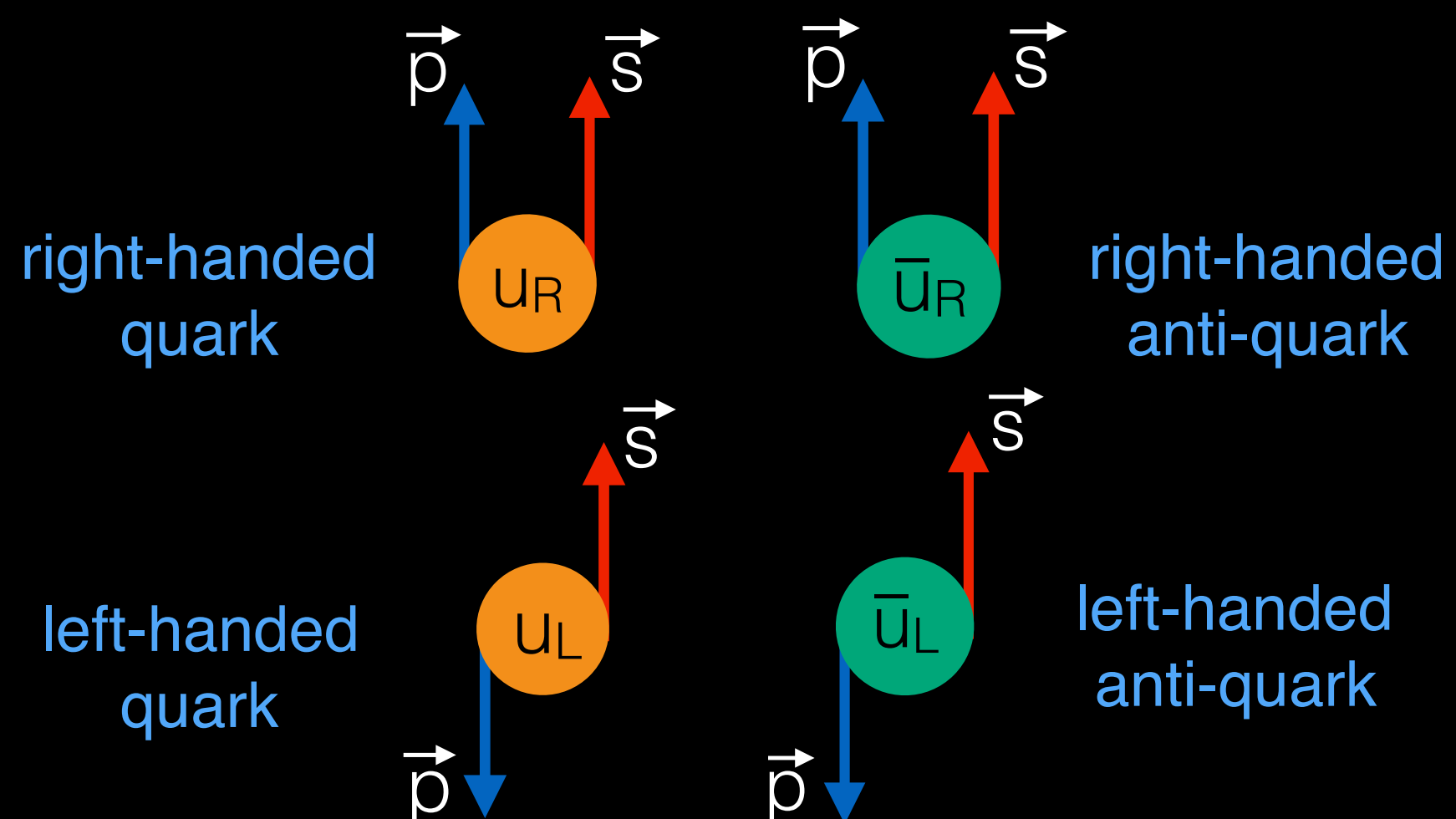


Neutron Star  
~ 10<sup>15</sup> Gauss



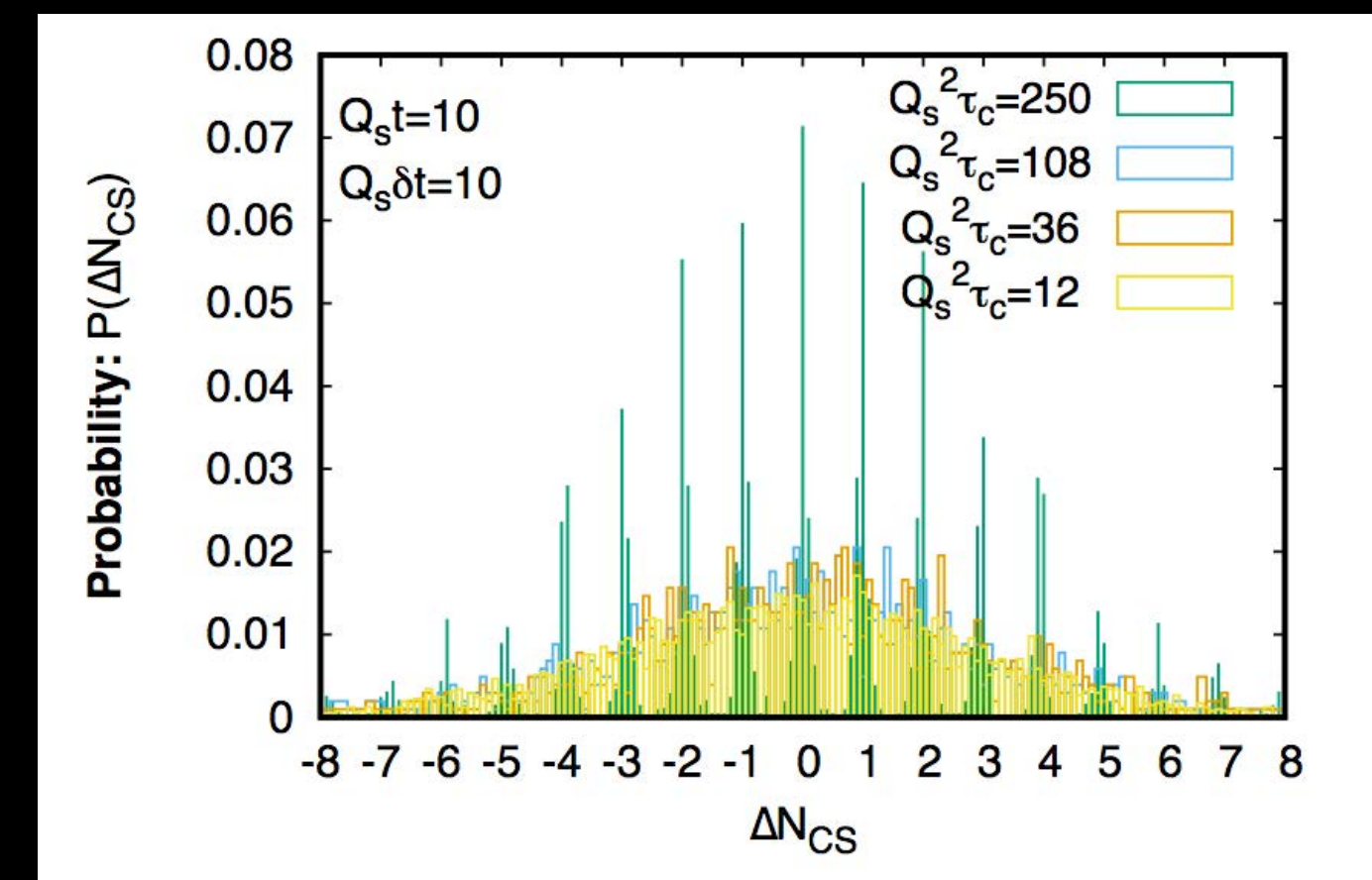
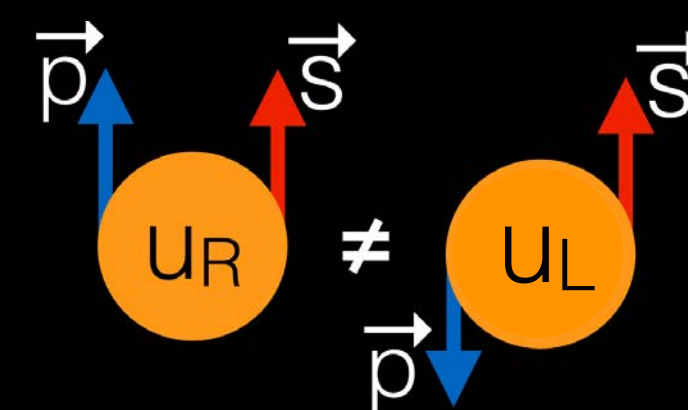
# The chiral magnetic effect (CME) in four steps

1 Deconfined medium of massless quark (chiral symmetry restored)



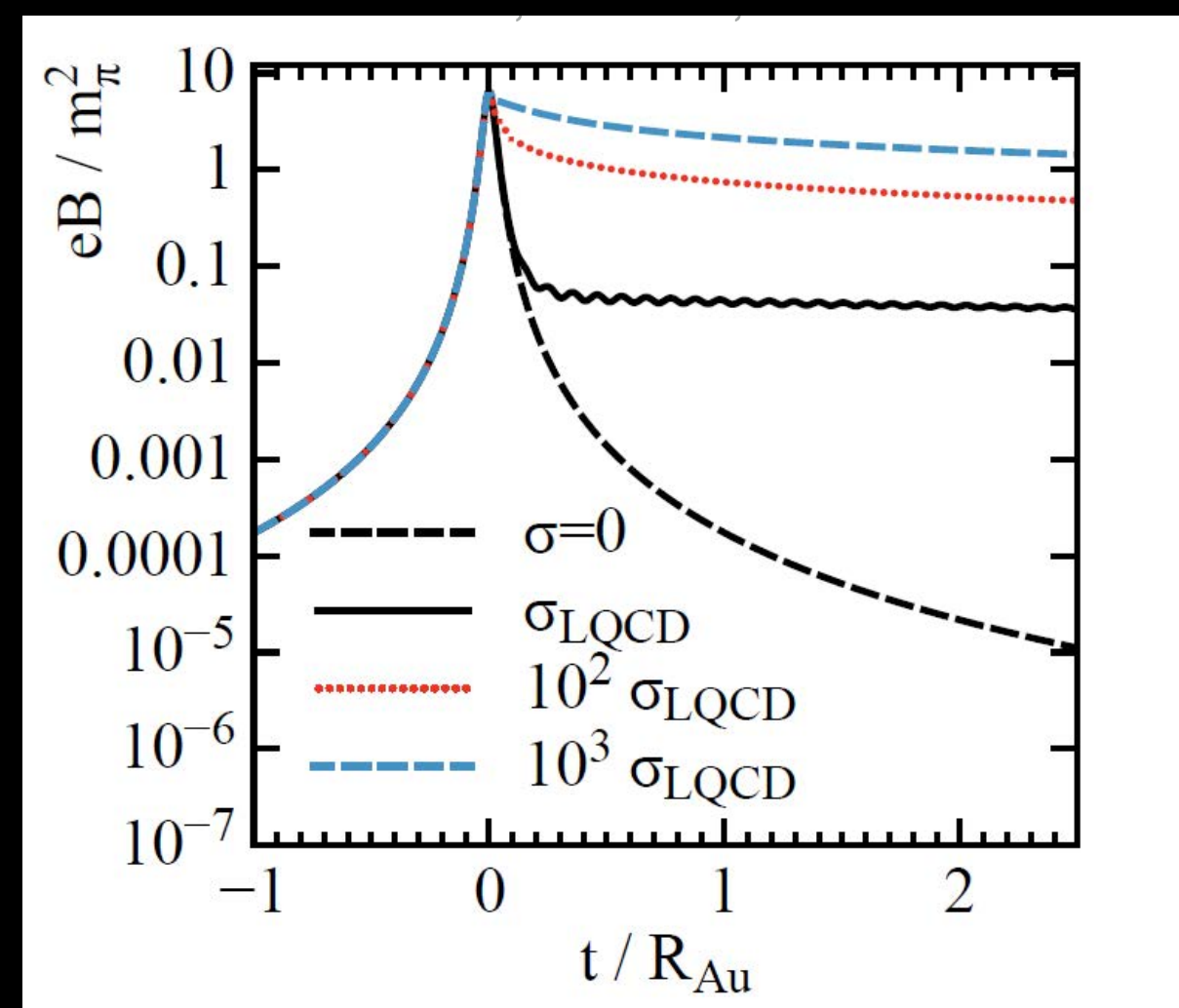
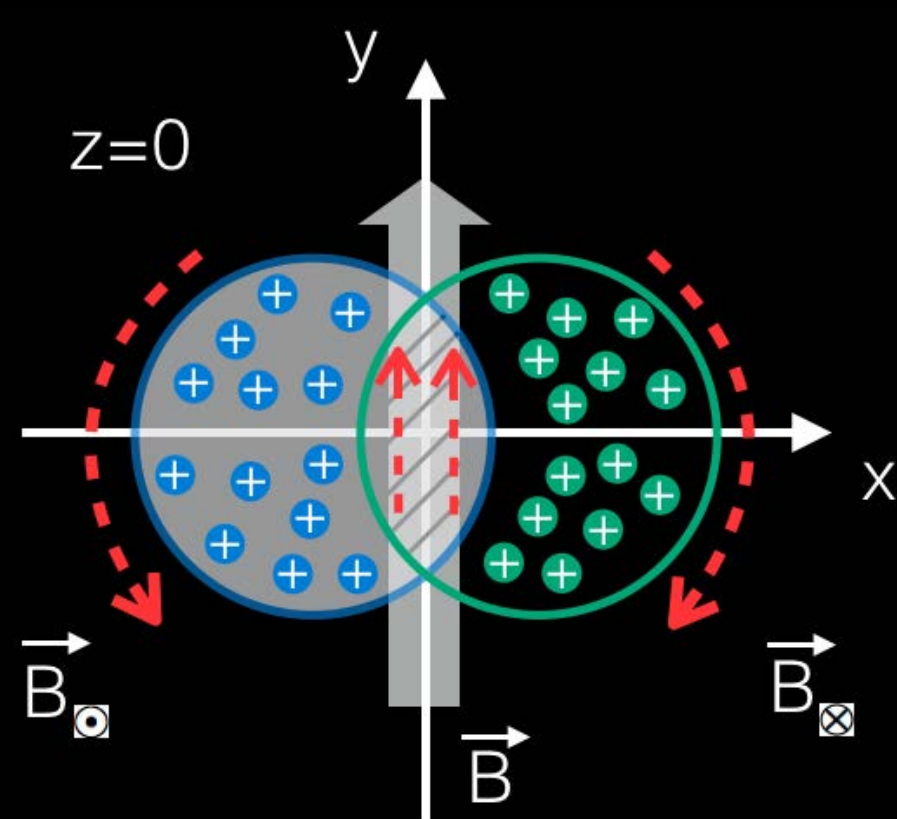
Kharzeev, McLerran, Warringa 0711.0950

2 Mechanism to create imbalance of left & right handed quarks

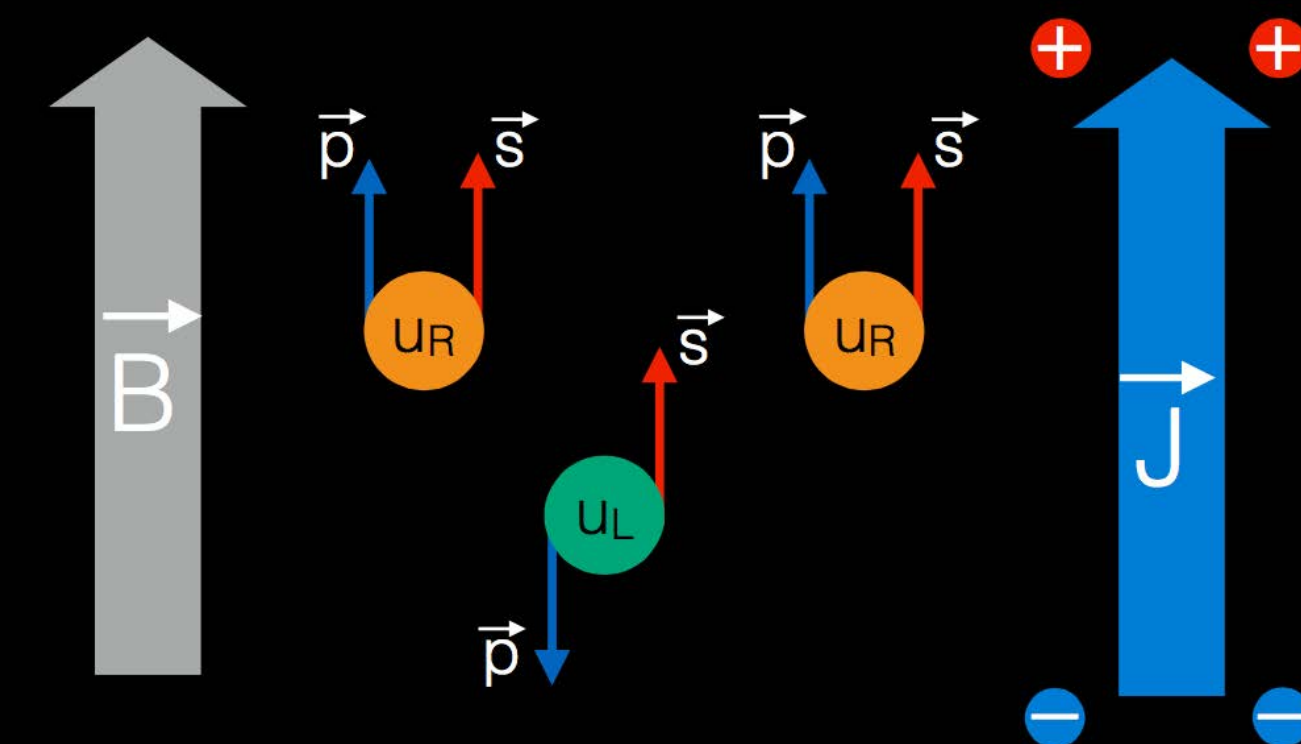


Kharzeev et al, hep-ph/0109253, Mace et al, 1601.07342, Muller et. al.1606.00342, Lappi et al,1708.08625

3 Strong B-field



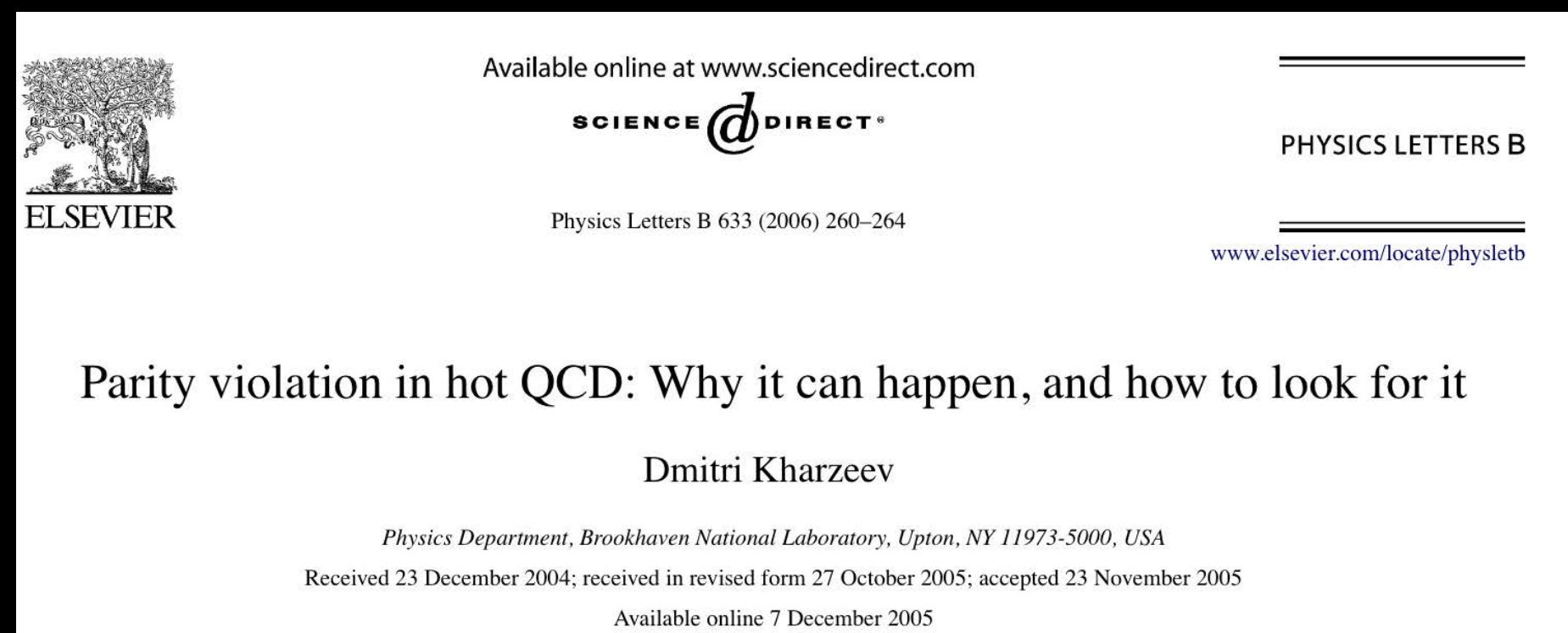
4 The Chiral Magnetic Effect ( $J \parallel B$ )



Kharzeev, arXiv:hep-ph/0406125

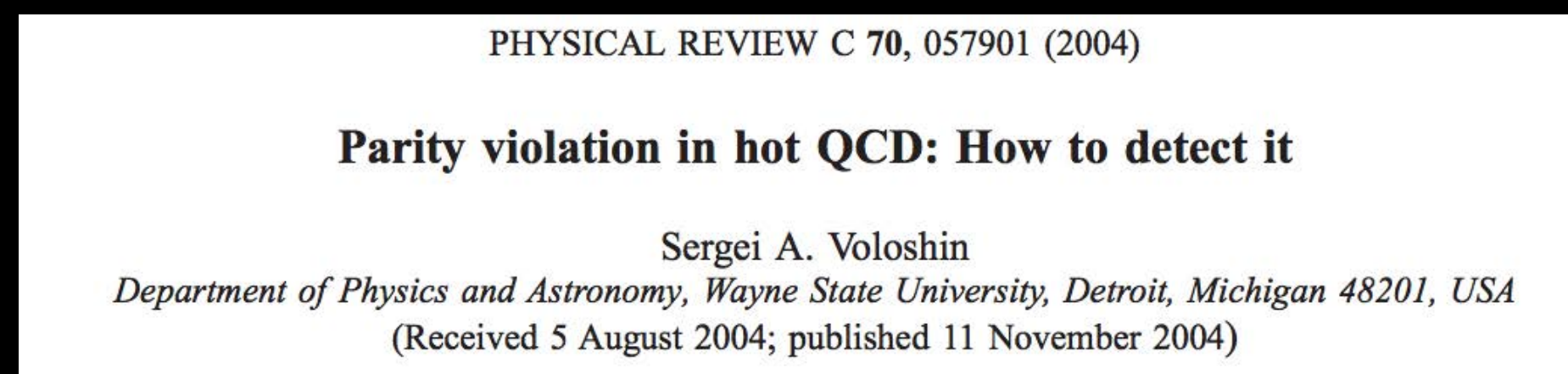
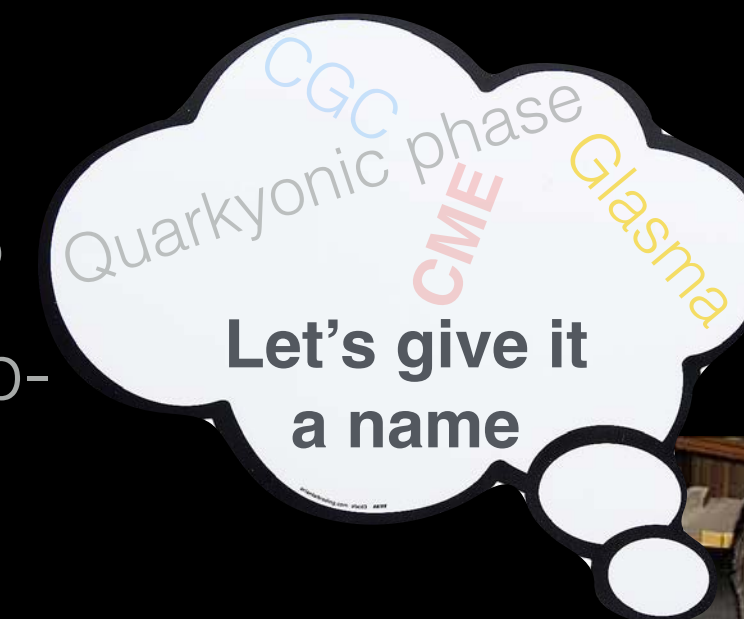


# Parity Violation in Hot QCD: Chiral Magnetic Effect



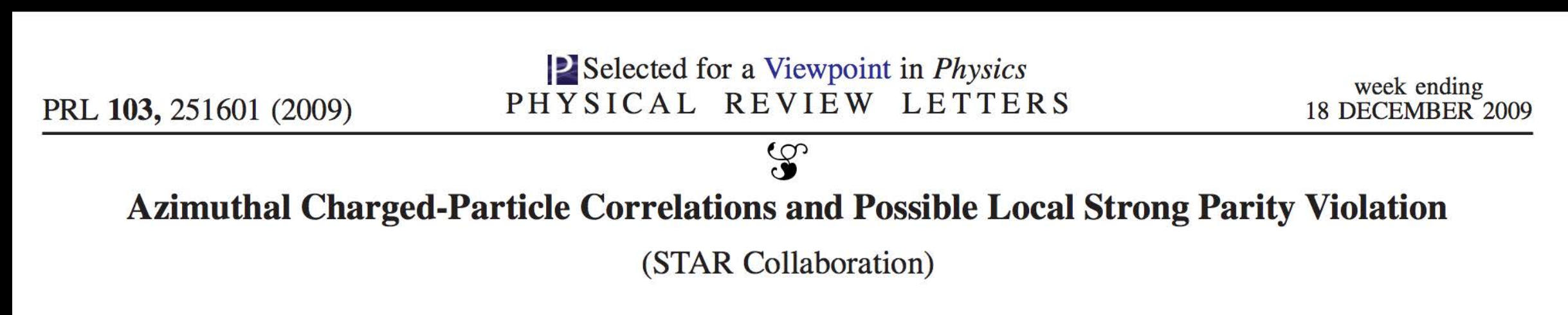
## Early theory paper

Kharzeev, hep-ph/0406125  
Also see : Kharzeev et al, hep-ph/9906401, Kharzeev et al, hep-ph/9804221



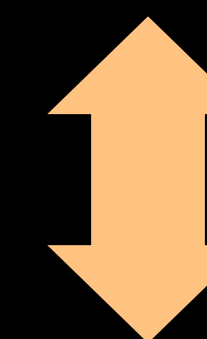
## First method paper

Voloshin, hep-ph/0406311  
Also: Finch et al Phys.Rev.C 65 (2002) 014908

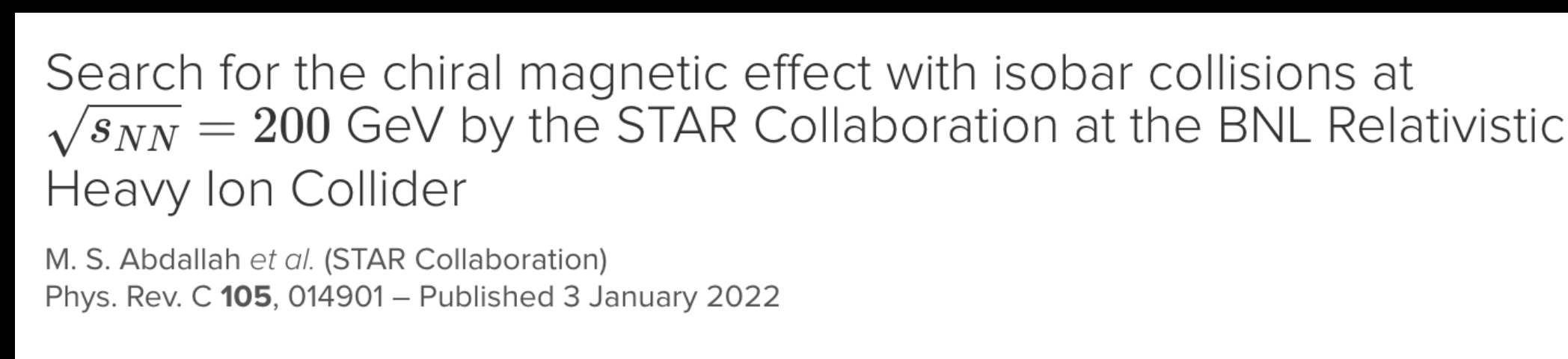


## First experimental paper

STAR collaboration, arXiv:0909.1739



~12 years



## Blind analysis of the Isobar data

STAR collaboration, arXiv:2109.00131

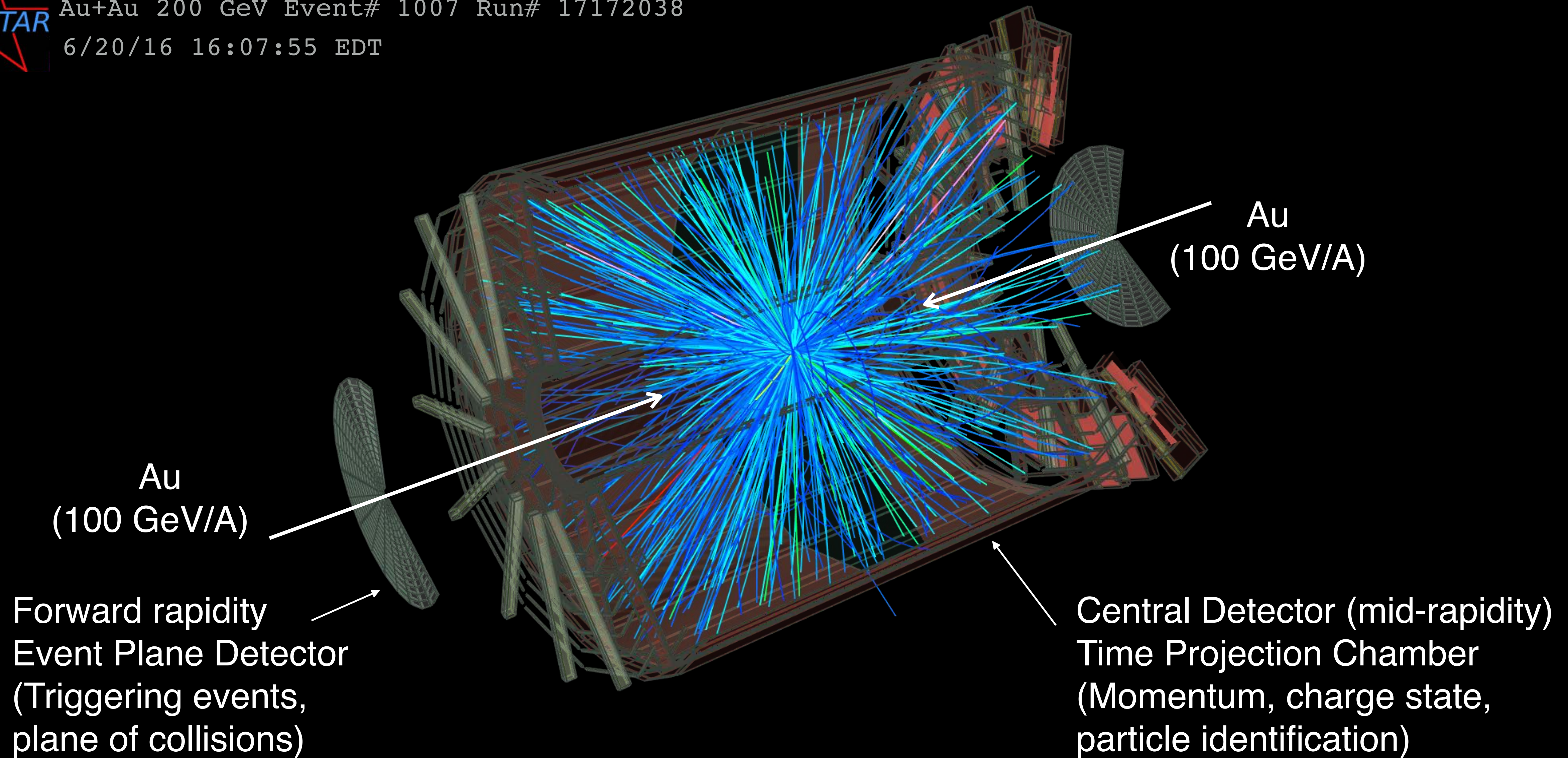


# A gold-gold collision @ STAR detector



Au+Au 200 GeV Event# 1007 Run# 17172038  
6/20/16 16:07:55 EDT

<https://www.star.bnl.gov/~dmitry/edisplay/>

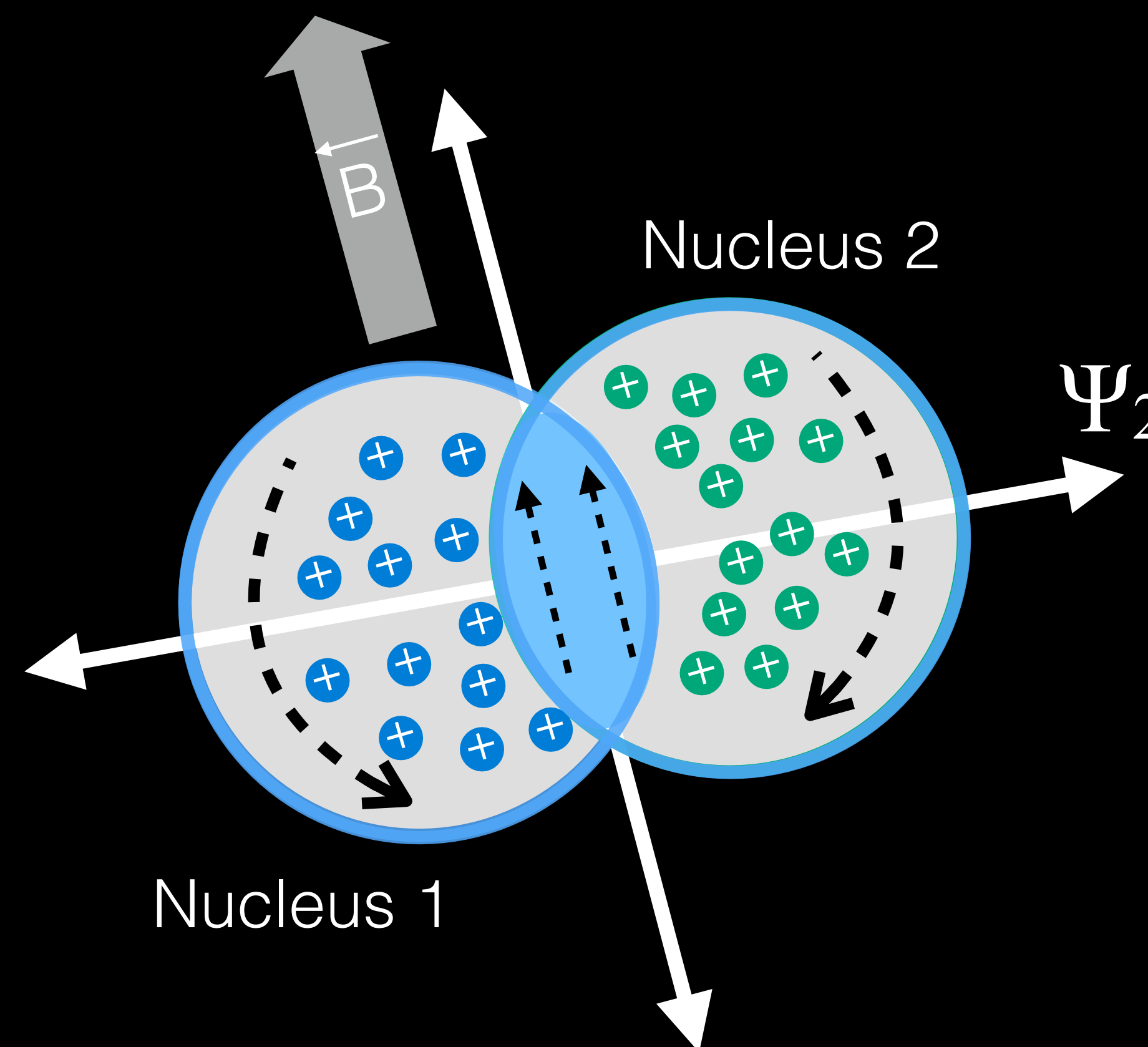
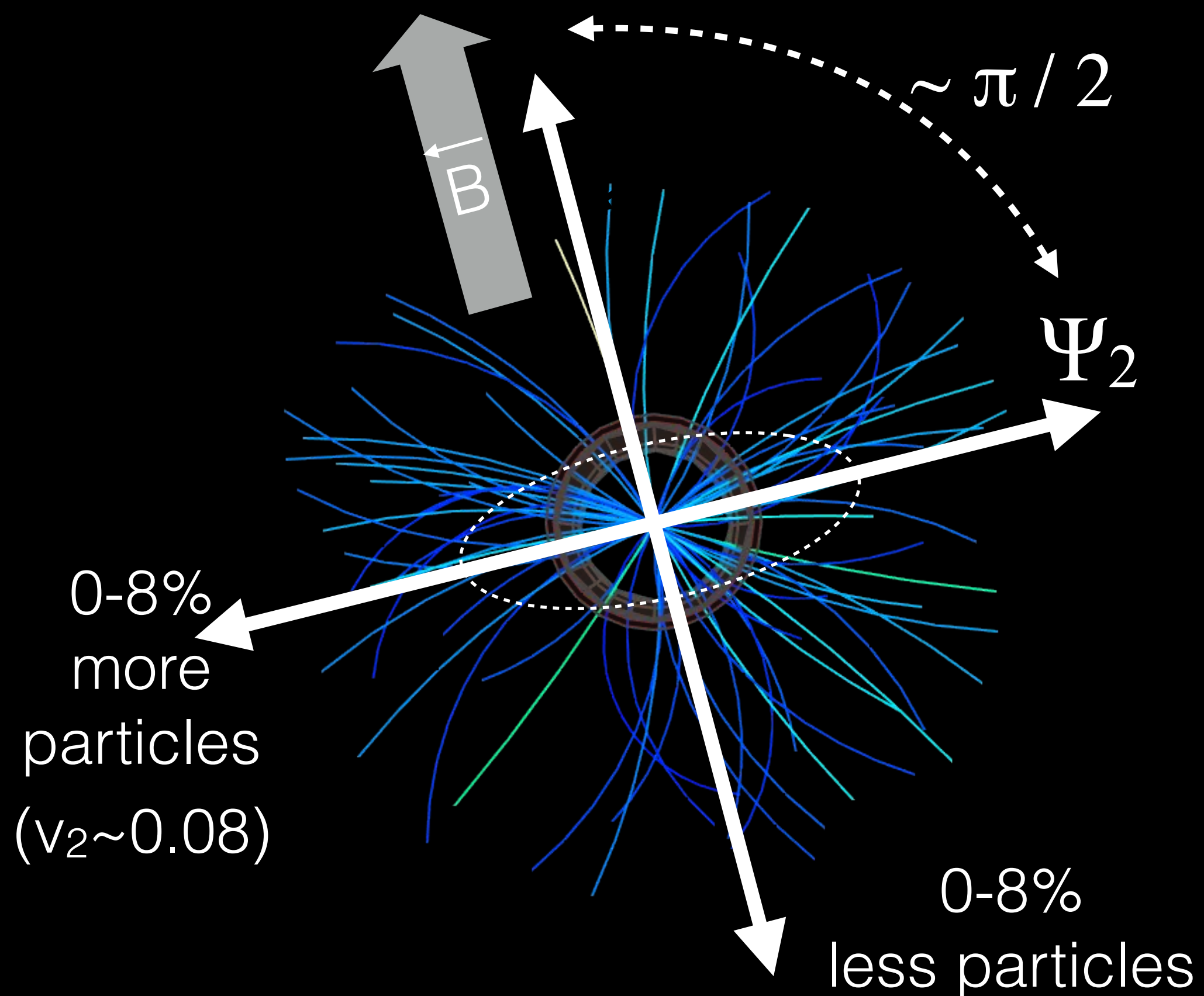




# Elliptic anisotropy and B-field direction

Elliptic anisotropy is measured by correlation between two particles

$$v_2\{EP\} = \langle \cos(2\phi_1 - 2\Psi_2) \rangle \quad v_2\{2\}^2 = \langle \cos(2\phi_1 - 2\phi_2) \rangle$$



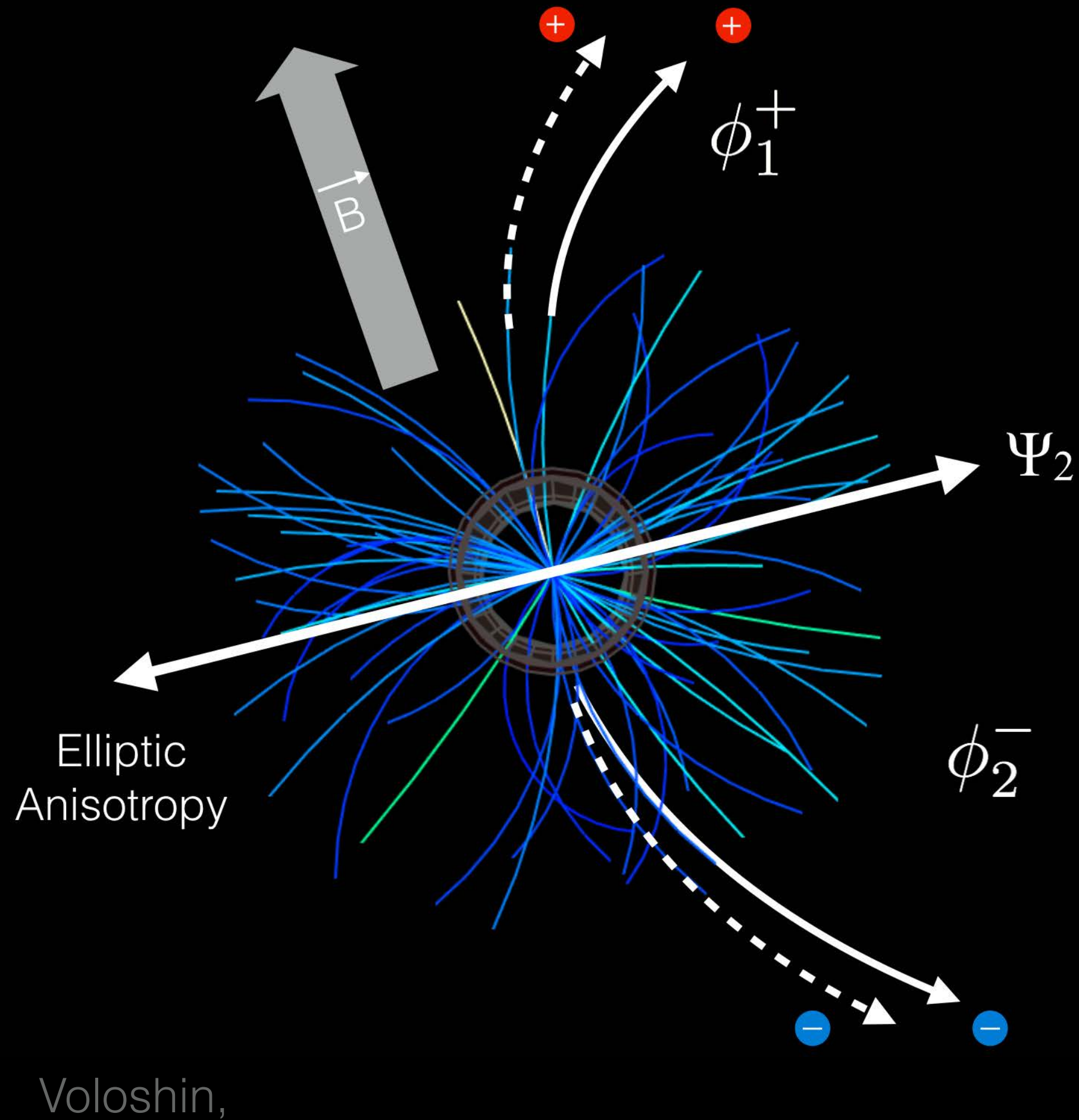
Distributions of particles look elliptic in every event: major axis is elliptic anisotropy plane  $\Psi_2$

The plane of elliptic anisotropy  $\Psi_2$  is correlated to B-field direction



# How to measure charge separation due to CME ?

Measure charge separation across  $\Psi_2$  using the correlator:



$$\gamma^{\alpha,\beta} = \langle \cos(\phi_1^\alpha + \phi_2^\beta - 2\Psi_2) \rangle$$

CME case :  $\gamma^{SS} \neq \gamma^{OS}$

$$\gamma^{+-} = \cos(\pi/2 - \pi/2 + 0) = 1$$

$$\gamma^{++,- -} = \cos(\pi/2 + \pi/2 + 0) = -1$$

Quantity of interest:

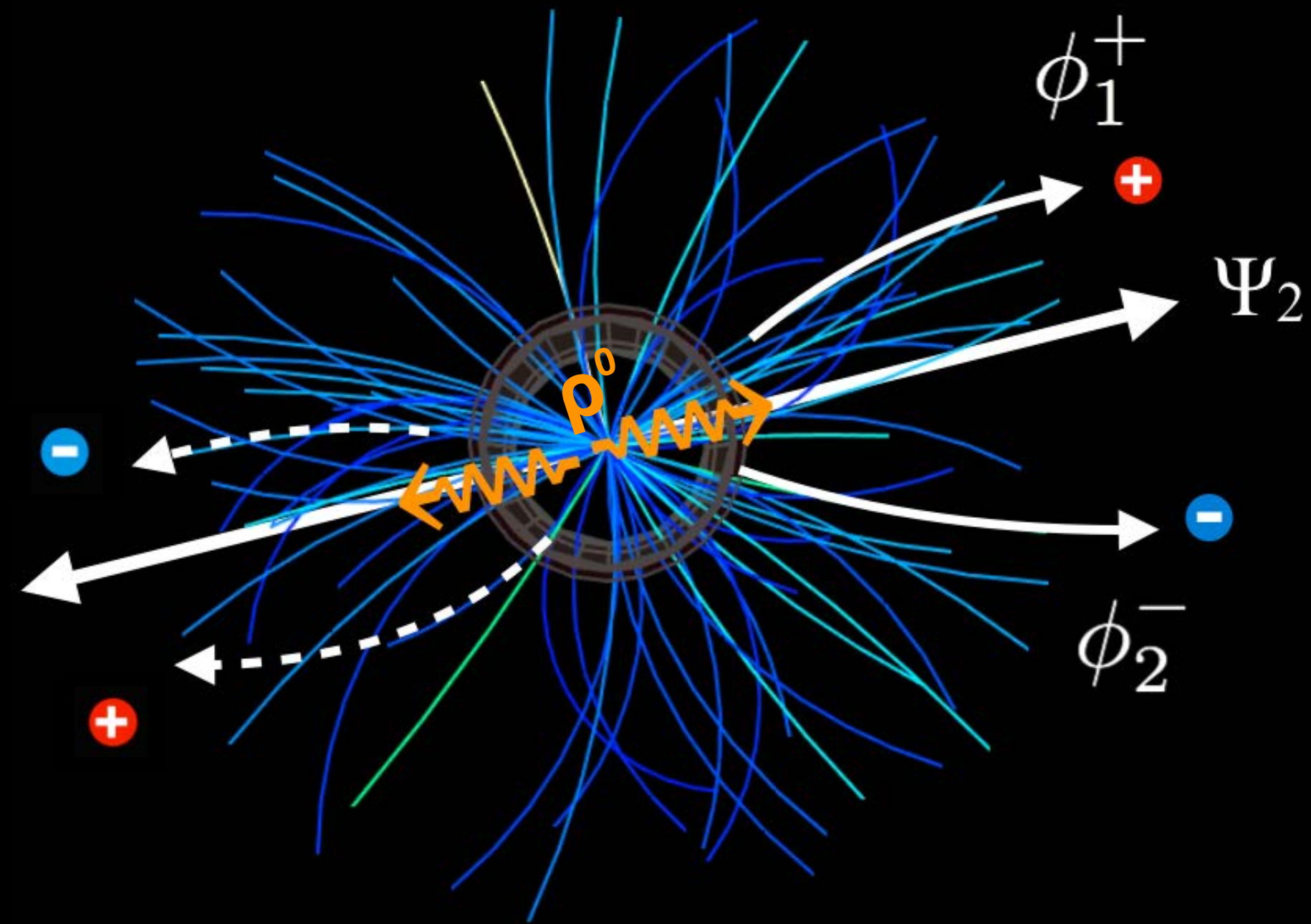
$$\Rightarrow \Delta\gamma^{CME} = \gamma^{OS} - \gamma^{SS} > 0$$

CME causes difference in opposite-sign & same-sign correlation



# Major source of background: decay of neutral clusters

Measure charge separation across  $\Psi_2$  using the correlator:



$$\gamma^{\alpha,\beta} = \langle \cos(\phi_1^\alpha + \phi_2^\beta - 2\Psi_2) \rangle$$

Flowing resonance decay:  $\gamma^{ss} \neq \gamma^{os}$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^{+-} &= \cos(0 + 0 + 0) = 1 \\ \gamma^{++,--} &= \cos(0 + \pi + 0) = -1 \end{aligned}$$

Voloshin,

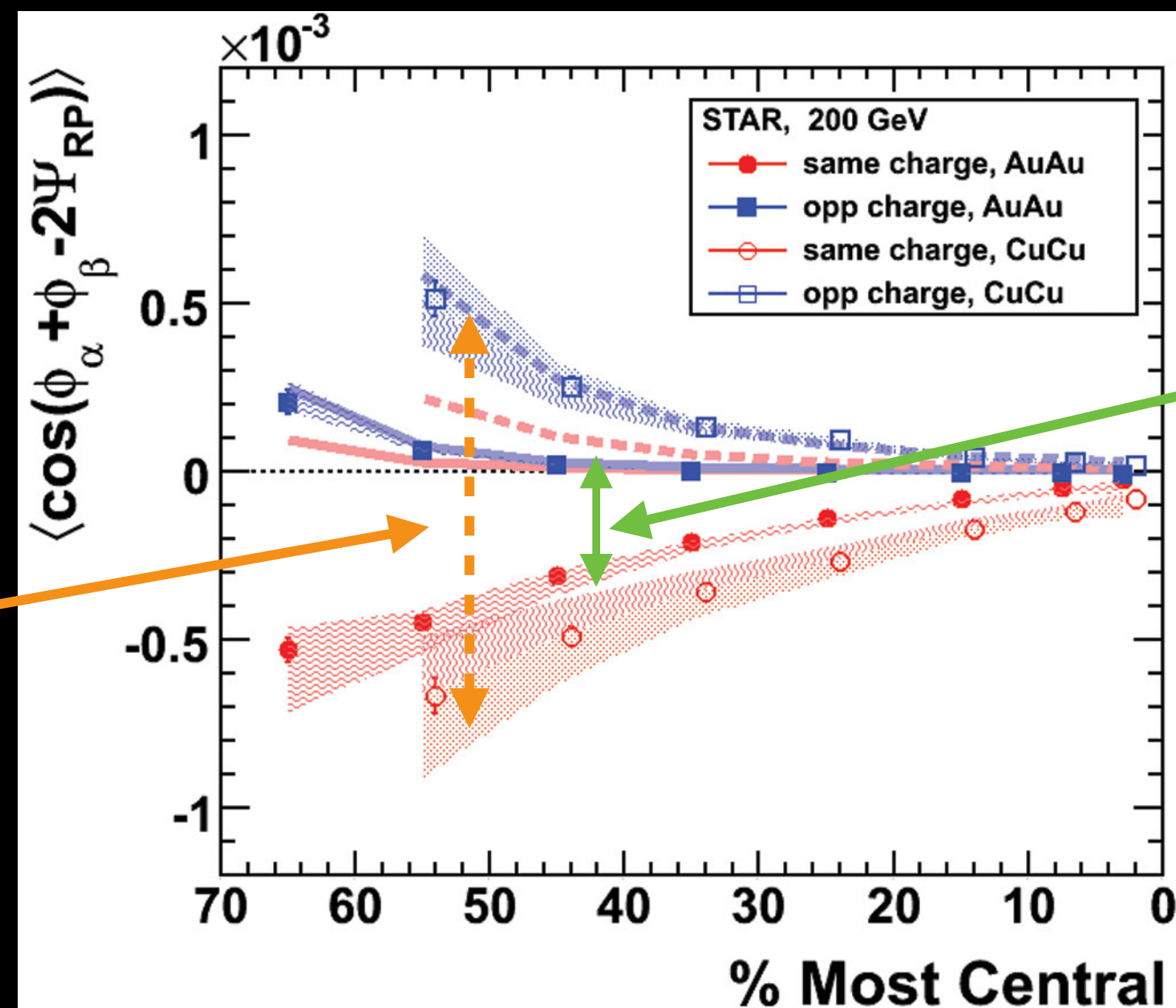
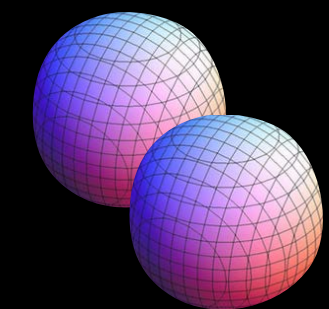
Non-CME effect such as flowing resonance decay can lead to difference

$$\Rightarrow \Delta\gamma^{reso} = \gamma^{os} - \gamma^{ss} \propto \frac{v_2^{reso}}{N}$$

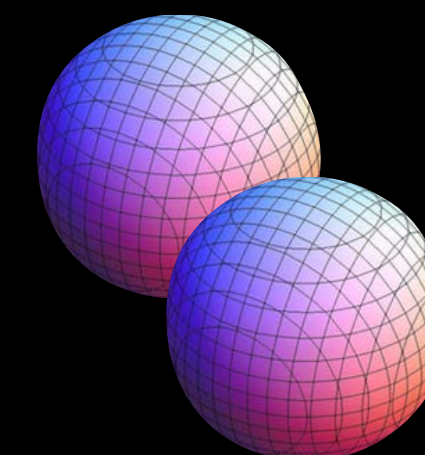


# The first measurements at RHIC

Cu+Cu

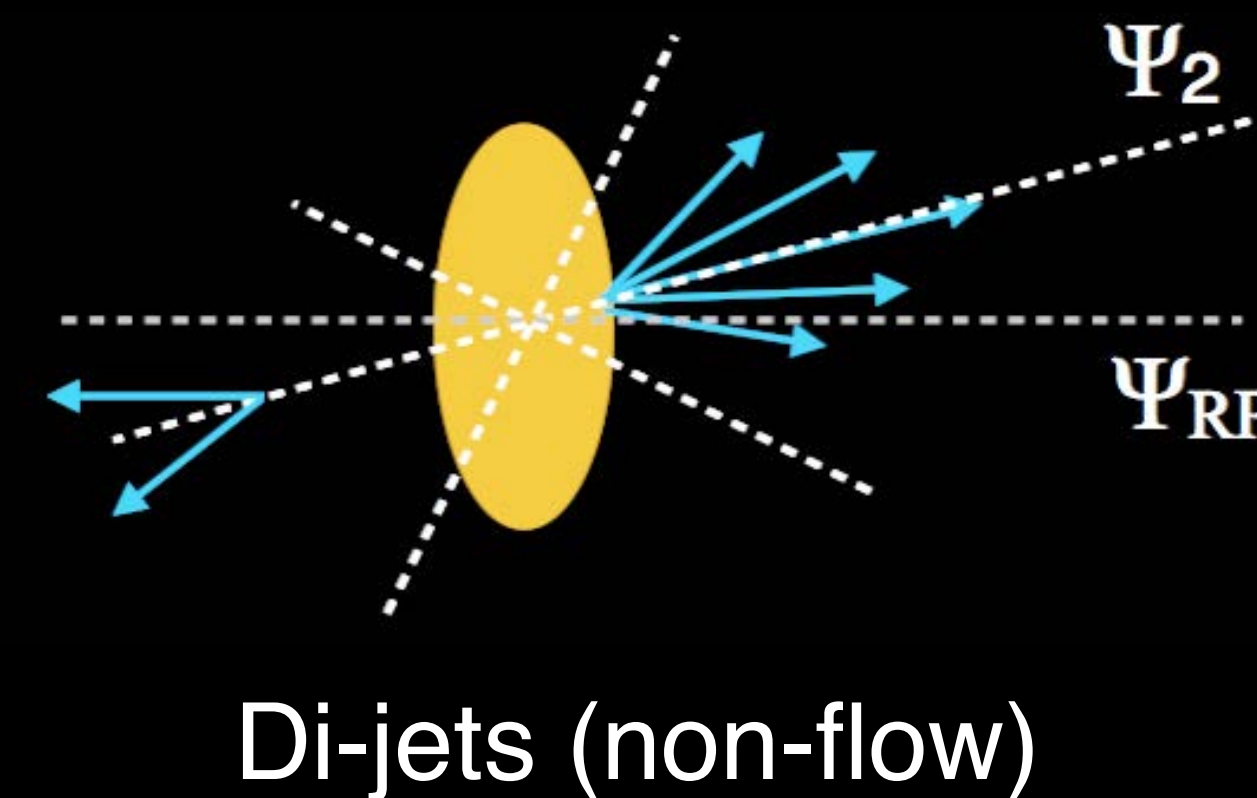
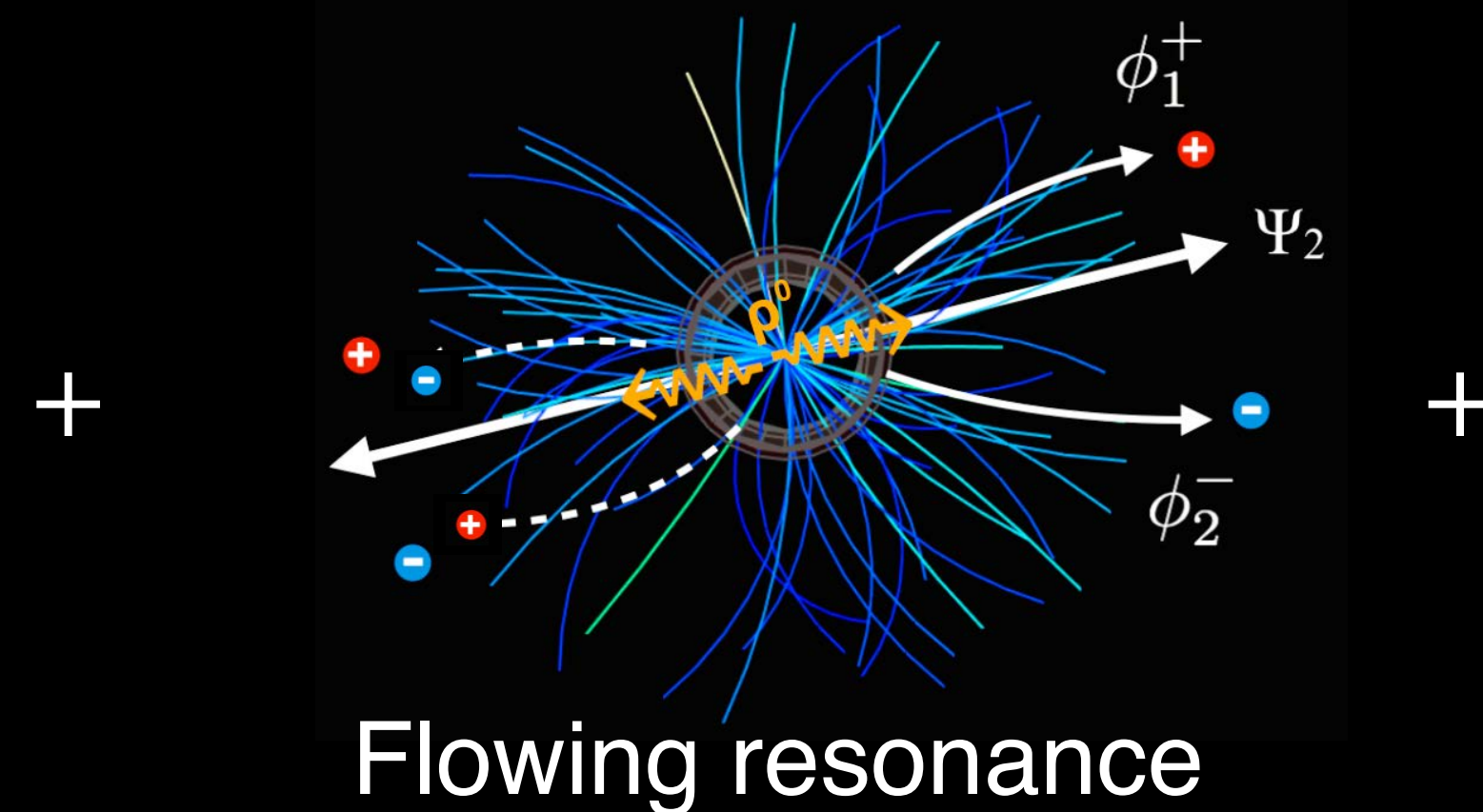
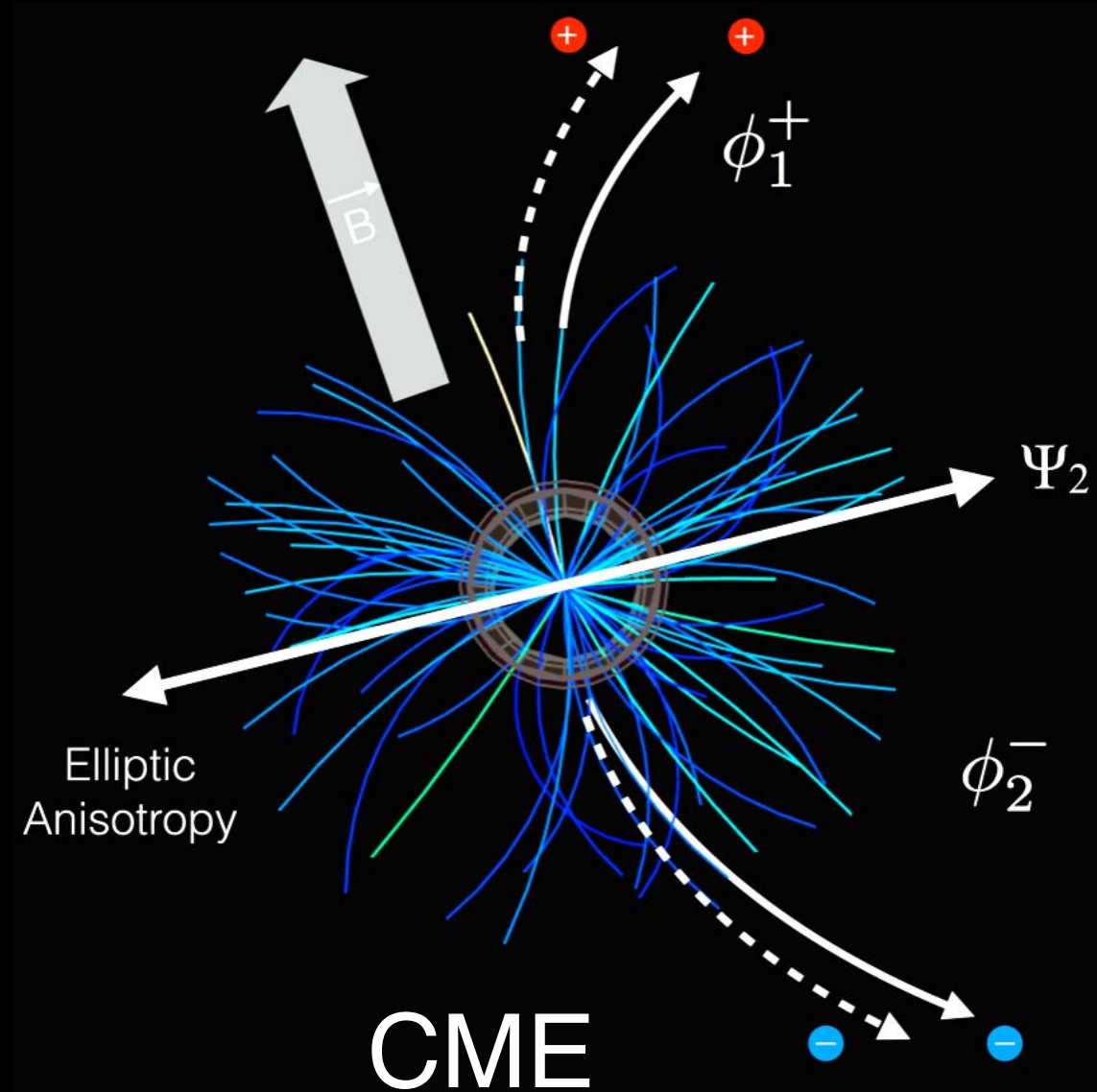


Au+Au



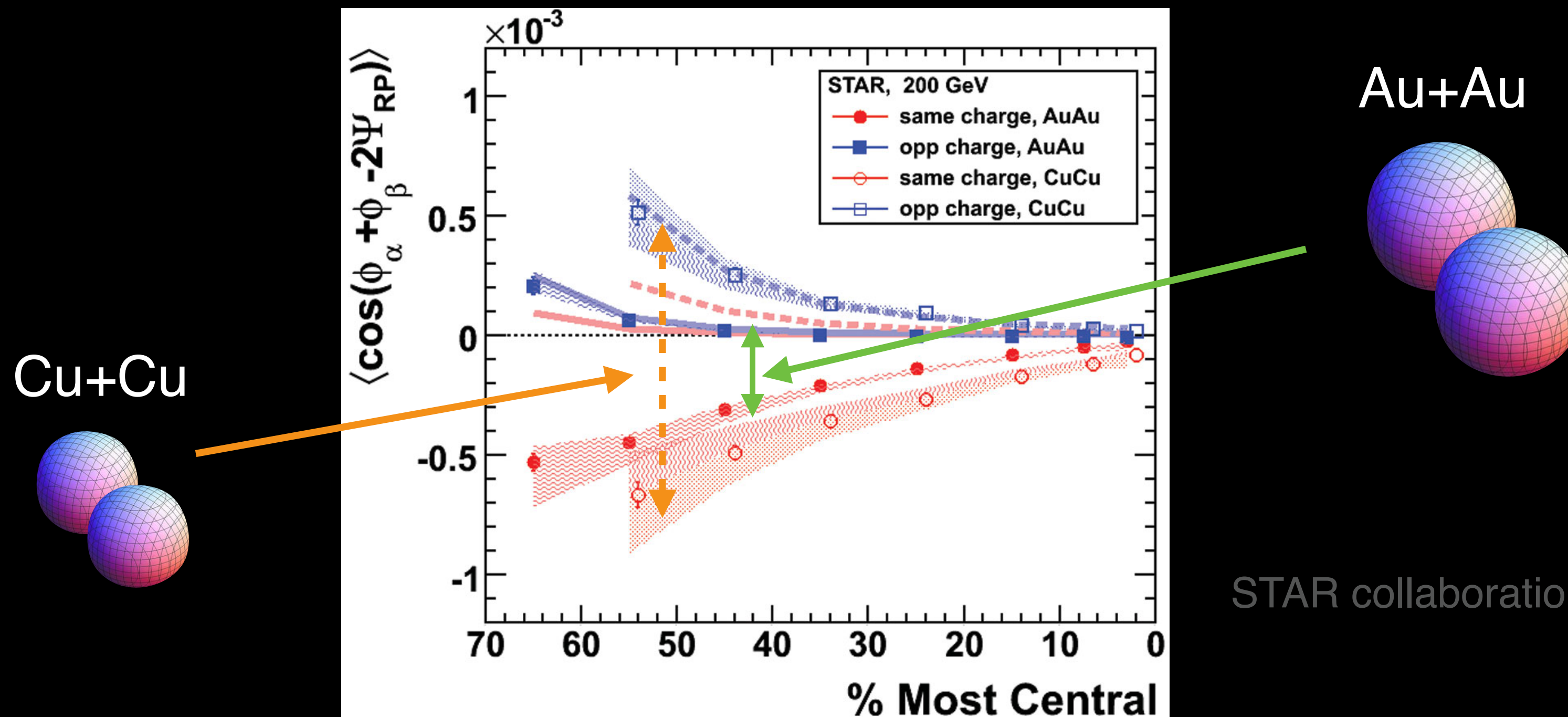
STAR collaboration, PRL 103, 251601 (2009)

Three possible sources of charge separation





# The first measurements at RHIC



STAR collaboration, PRL 103, 251601 (2009)

Significant charge separation observed, consistent with CME+ Background

$$\Delta\gamma = \Delta\gamma^{CME} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} + \Delta\gamma^{non-flow}$$

Measurement      Signal      Background-1      Background-2



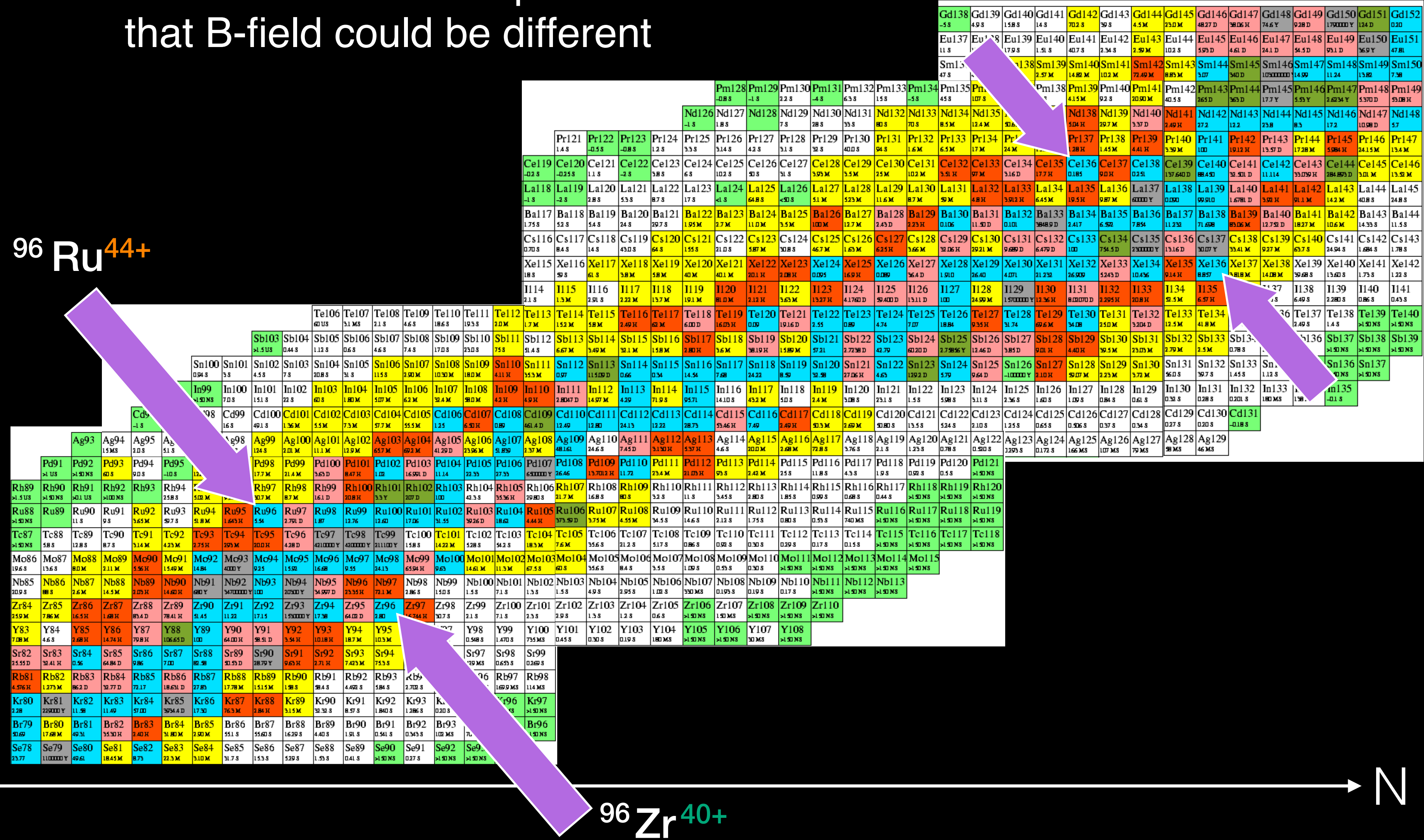
# Isobar in the chart of nuclides

Z



Looking for elements which have similar size but different protons so that B-field could be different

© <http://www.nuclear.csdb.cn/nuclear/chart9.asp>



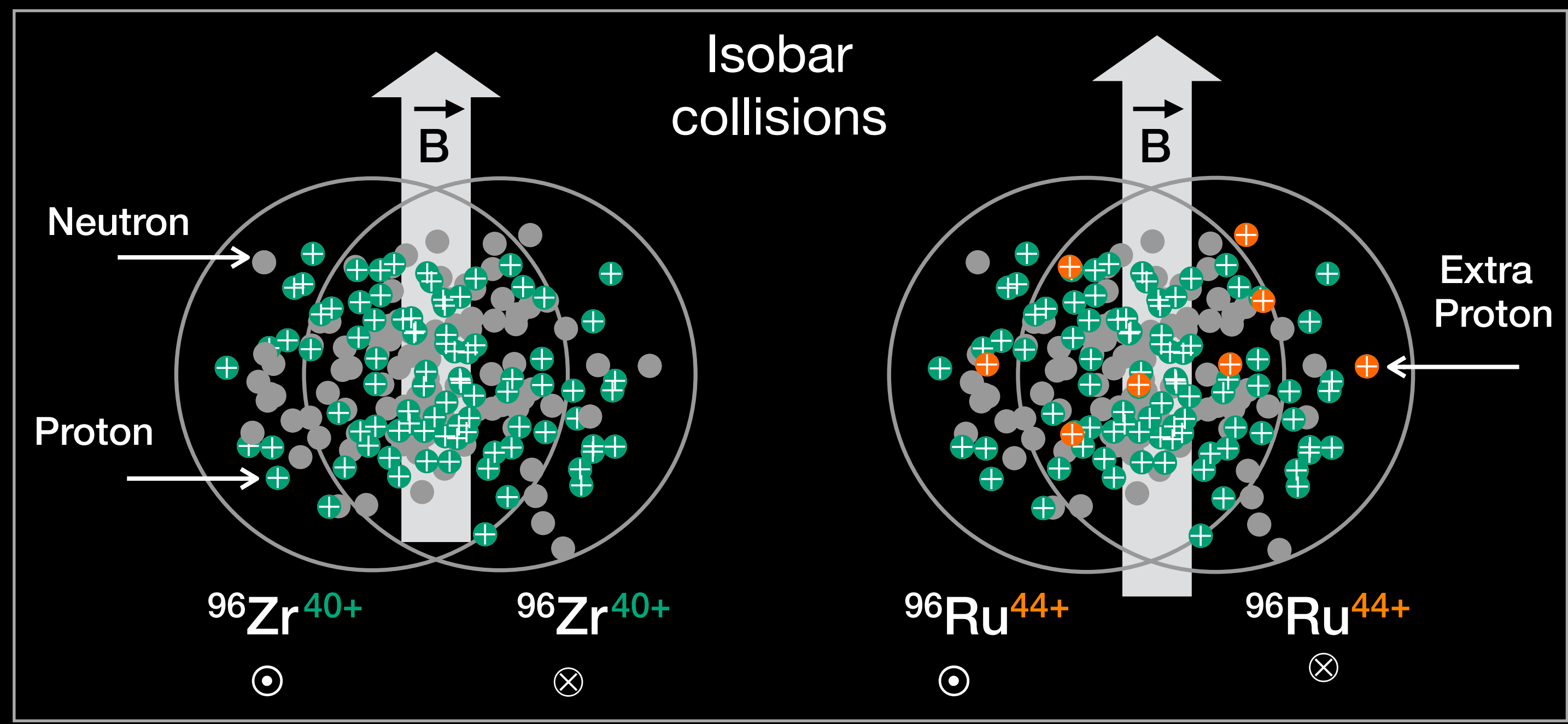
$^{96}\text{Ru}^{44+}$

$^{96}\text{Zr}^{40+}$

N



# Isobar collisions



Voloshin,

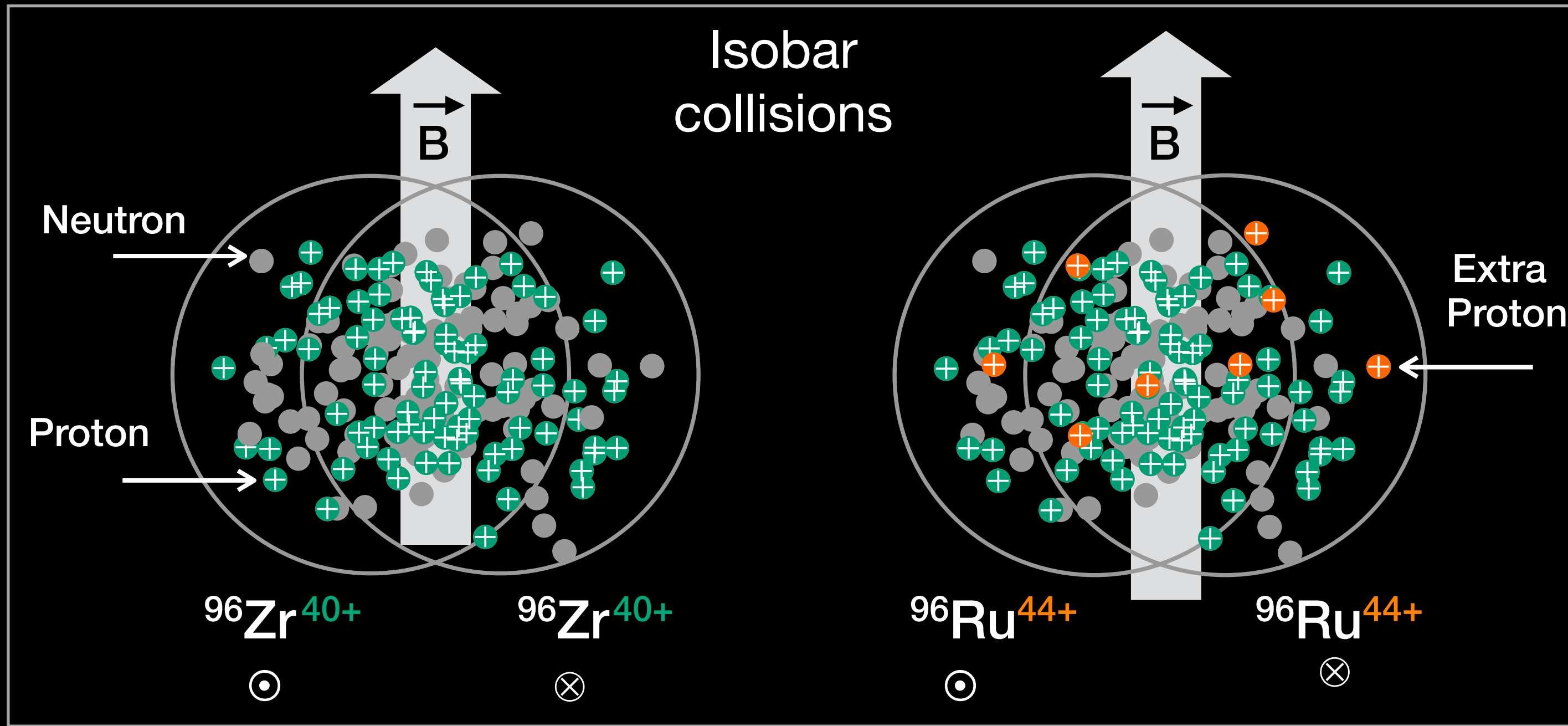
B-field square is 10-18% larger in Ru+Ru

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta\gamma^{\text{Ru+Ru}} &= \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} + \Delta\gamma^{\text{non-flow}} \\
 \text{??} & \quad \text{H} \quad \text{??} \quad \text{||} \\
 \Delta\gamma^{\text{Zr+Zr}} &= \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} + \Delta\gamma^{\text{non-flow}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Isobar collisions provide the best possible control of signal and background compared to all previous experiments



# Isobar collisions



Voloshin,

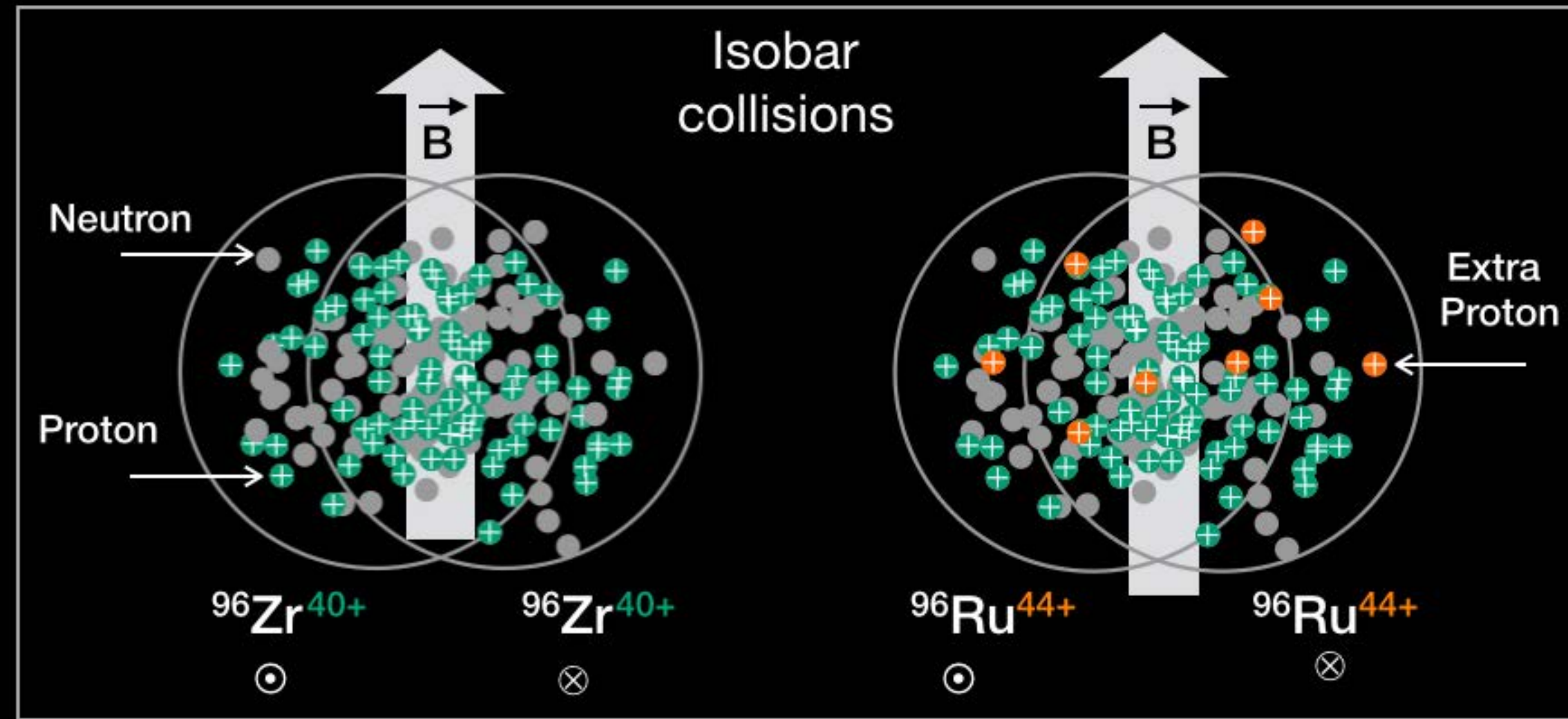
B-field square is 10-18% larger in Ru+Ru

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta\gamma_{\text{Ru+Ru}} &= \Delta\gamma^{CME} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} \\
 \Delta\gamma_{\text{Zr+Zr}} &= \Delta\gamma^{CME} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N}
 \end{aligned}$$

Isobar collisions provide the best possible control of signal and background compared to all previous experiments



# Isobar collisions



Voloshin,

B-field square is 10-18% larger in Ru+Ru

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\gamma^{\text{Ru+Ru}} &= \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} \\ \text{??} & \quad \dagger \quad \text{??} \\ \Delta\gamma^{\text{Zr+Zr}} &= \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} \end{aligned}$$

Isobar collisions provide the best possible control of signal and background compared to all previous experiments

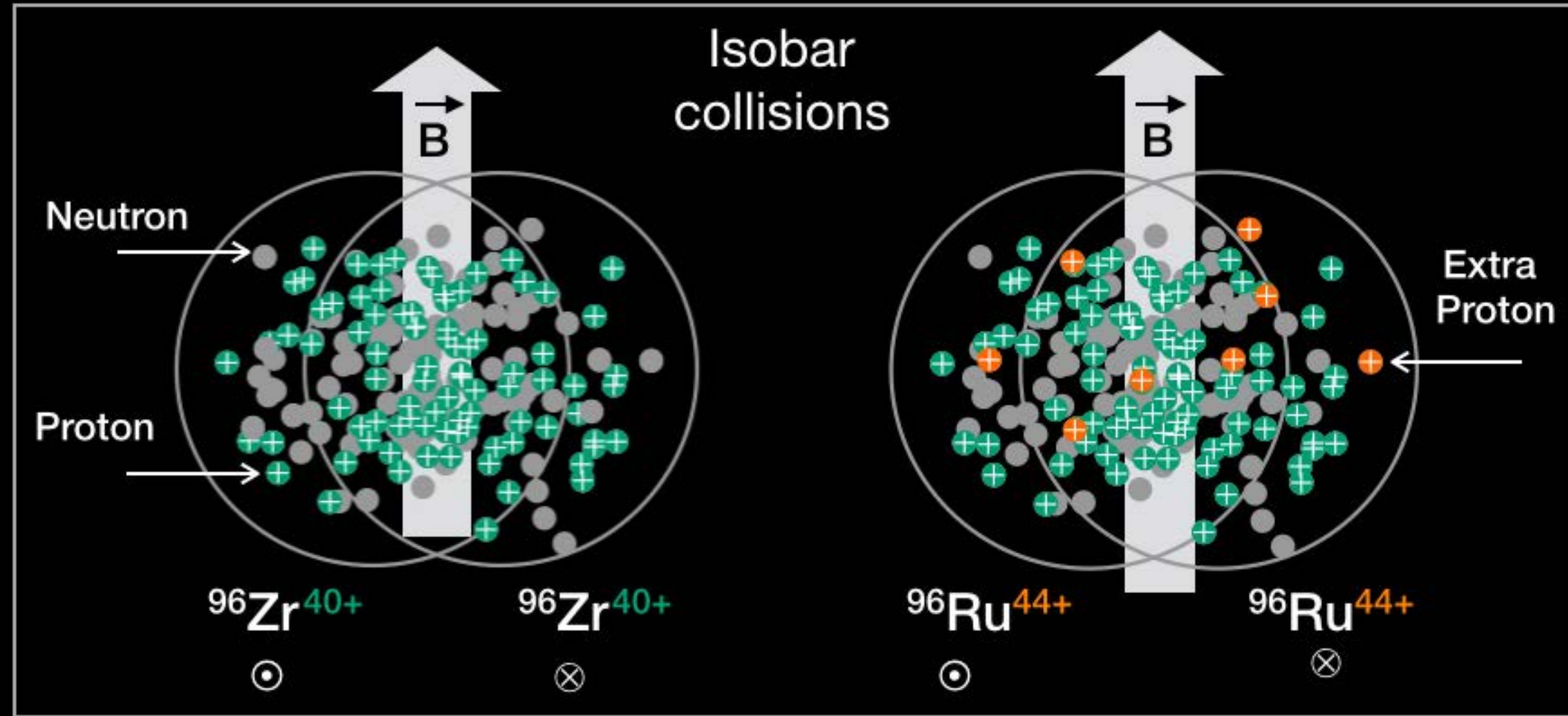
If multiplicity (N) is same in two isobars:

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} \approx 1 + f_{\text{CME}}^{\text{Zr+Zr}} \left[ \underbrace{(B_{\text{Ru+Ru}}/B_{\text{Zr+Zr}})^2 - 1}_{0.18} \right] > 1 \text{ (for CME)}$$

Unknown



# Isobar collisions



Voloshin,

B-field square is 10-18% larger in Ru+Ru

[https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/system/files/STAR\\_BUR\\_Run1718\\_v22\\_0.pdf](https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/system/files/STAR_BUR_Run1718_v22_0.pdf)

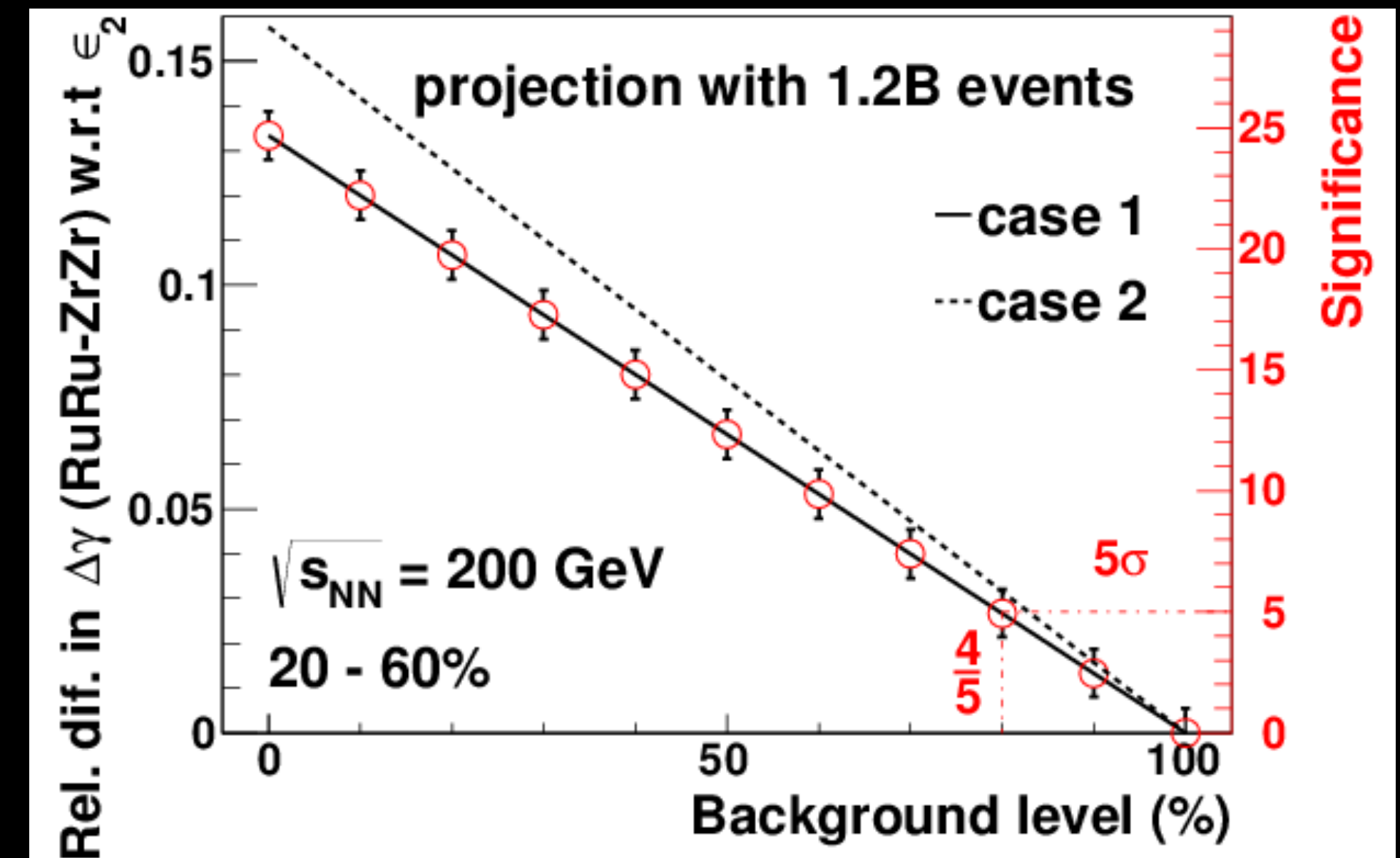
$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} \approx 1 + f_{\text{CME}}^{\text{Zr+Zr}} \left[ \underbrace{\left( \frac{B_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{B_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} \right)^2 - 1}_{0.18} \right]$$

Unknown

> 1 (for CME)

1.2 B collision events for each species can give 5σ significance for 20% signal level ( $f_{\text{CME}} \sim 0.2$ )

(A precision of 0.5% is needed !!)



$$(1 - f_{\text{CME}}) \times 100\%$$



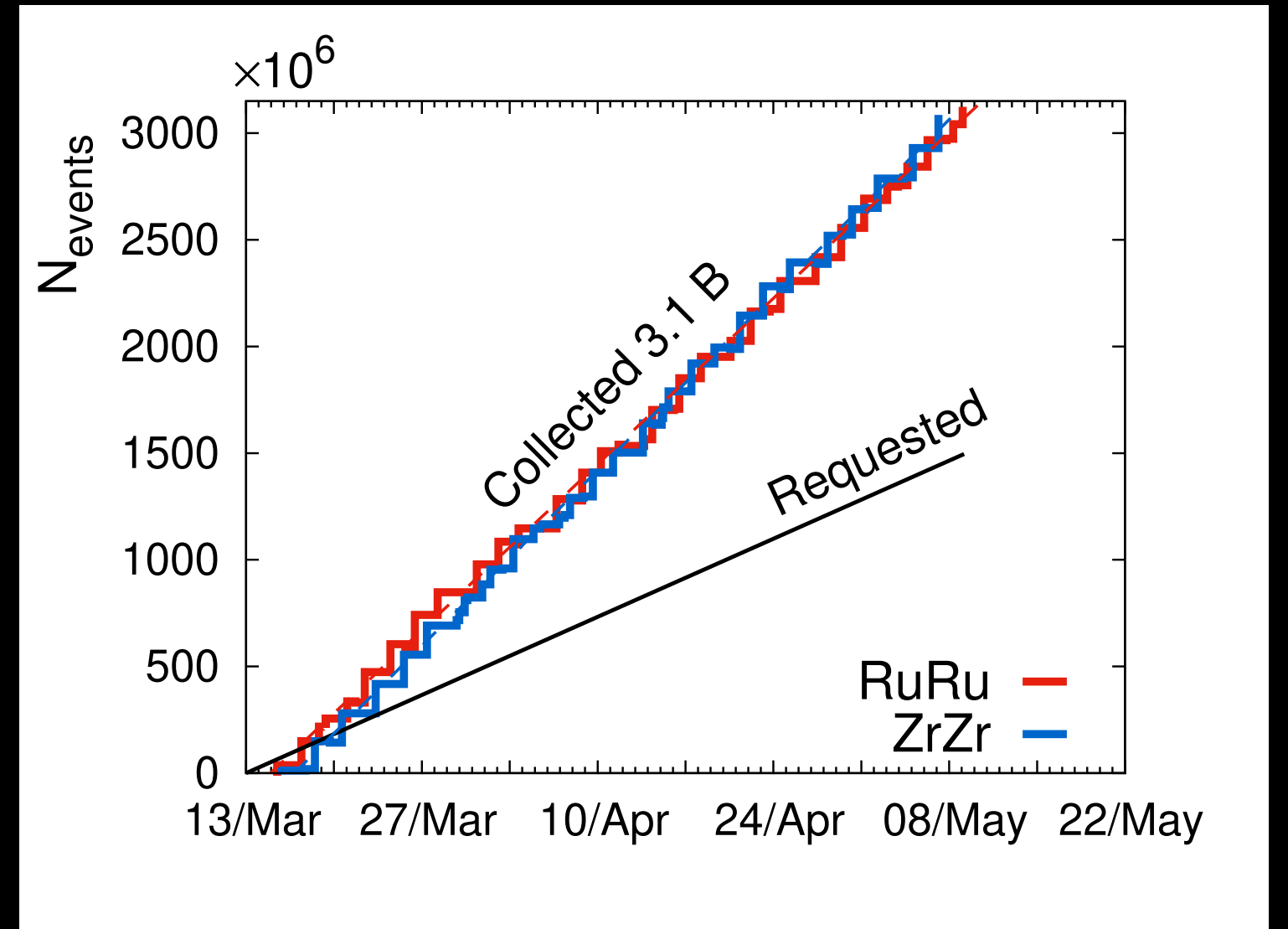
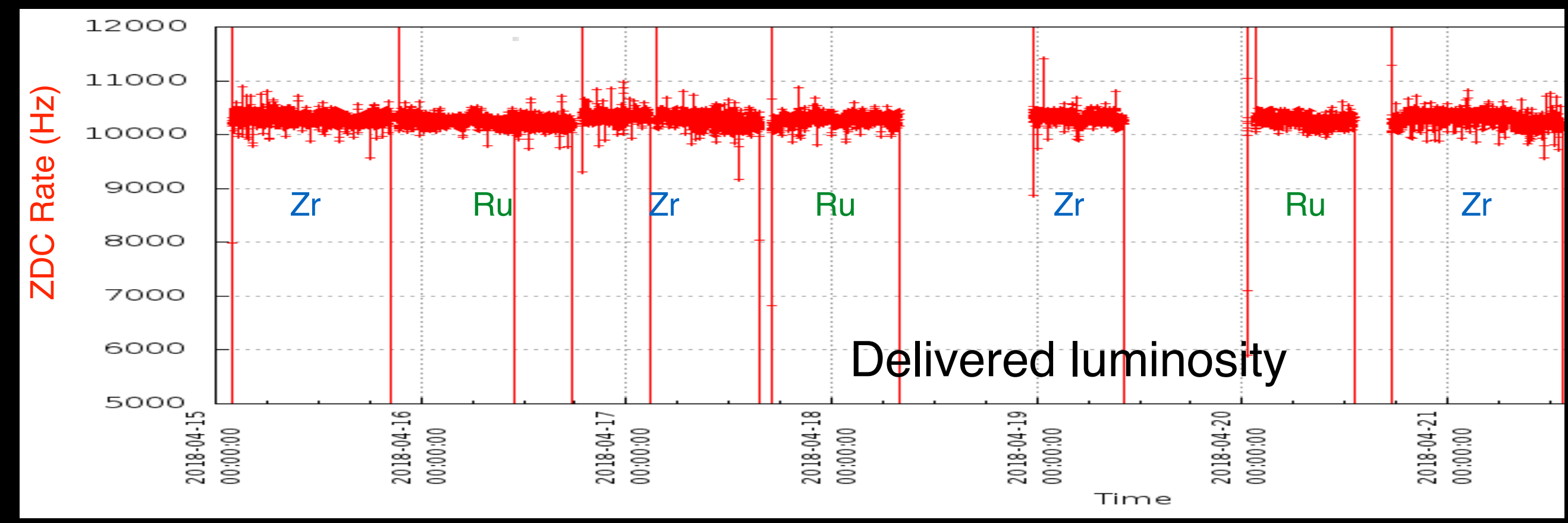
# Details Of The Data Taking Of The Isobar Run

G. Marr et al., in 10th International Particle Accelerator Conference (2019) pp. 28–32.

**PHENIX**

Goal: minimize the systematics in observable ratios, similar run conditions for both species

Two important steps:  
 1) Fill-by-fill switching  
 2) Level luminosity



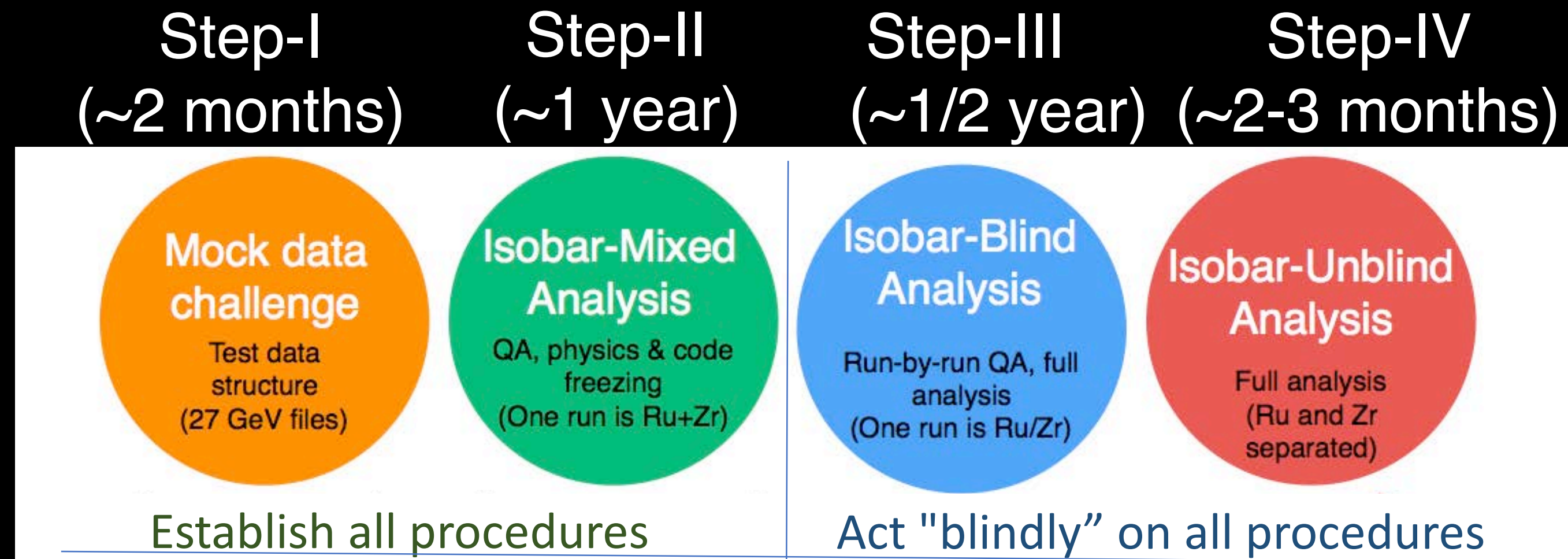


## Blind analysis of the isobar data





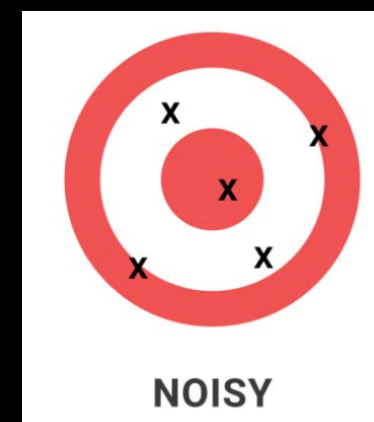
# Steps of Isobar blind analysis



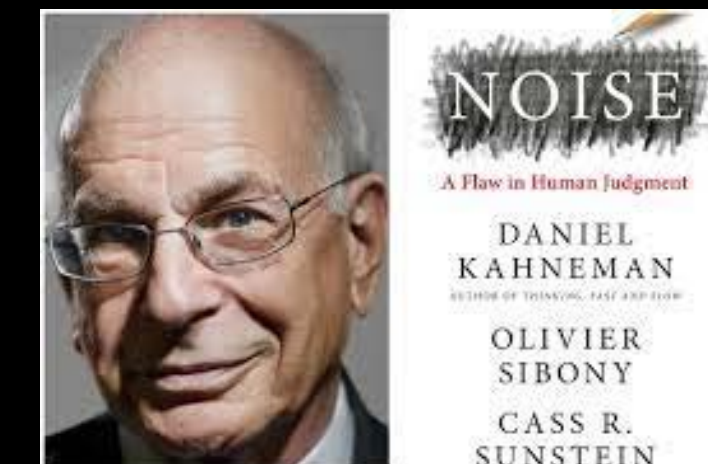
STAR Collaboration  
Nucl.Sci.Tech. 32 (2021) 5, 48  
arXiv:1911.00596 [nucl-ex]

- NPP PAC recommended a blind analysis of isobar data Blinding
- No access to species-specific information before last step
- Everything documented (not written → not allowed)
- Case for CME & interpretation must be pre-defined

Quality assurance is done by pattern recognition algorithms to remove bias & noise



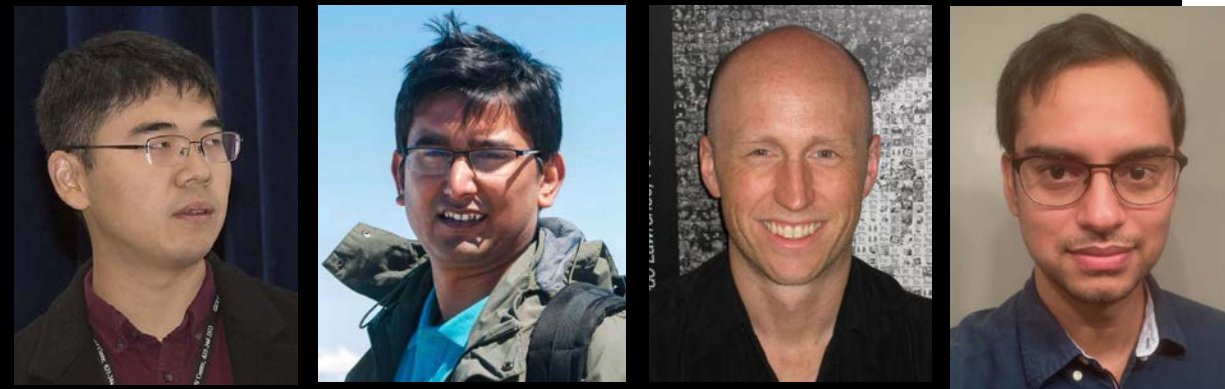
Algorithms





# Five independent groups did isobar blind analysis

Purdue-Huzhou (group-3)  
Yicheng Feng, Haojie Xu, Jie Zhao, Fuqiang Wang



BNL-Fudan (group-2)  
Yu Hu, Subikash Choudhury, Paul Sorensen, Prithwish Tribedy



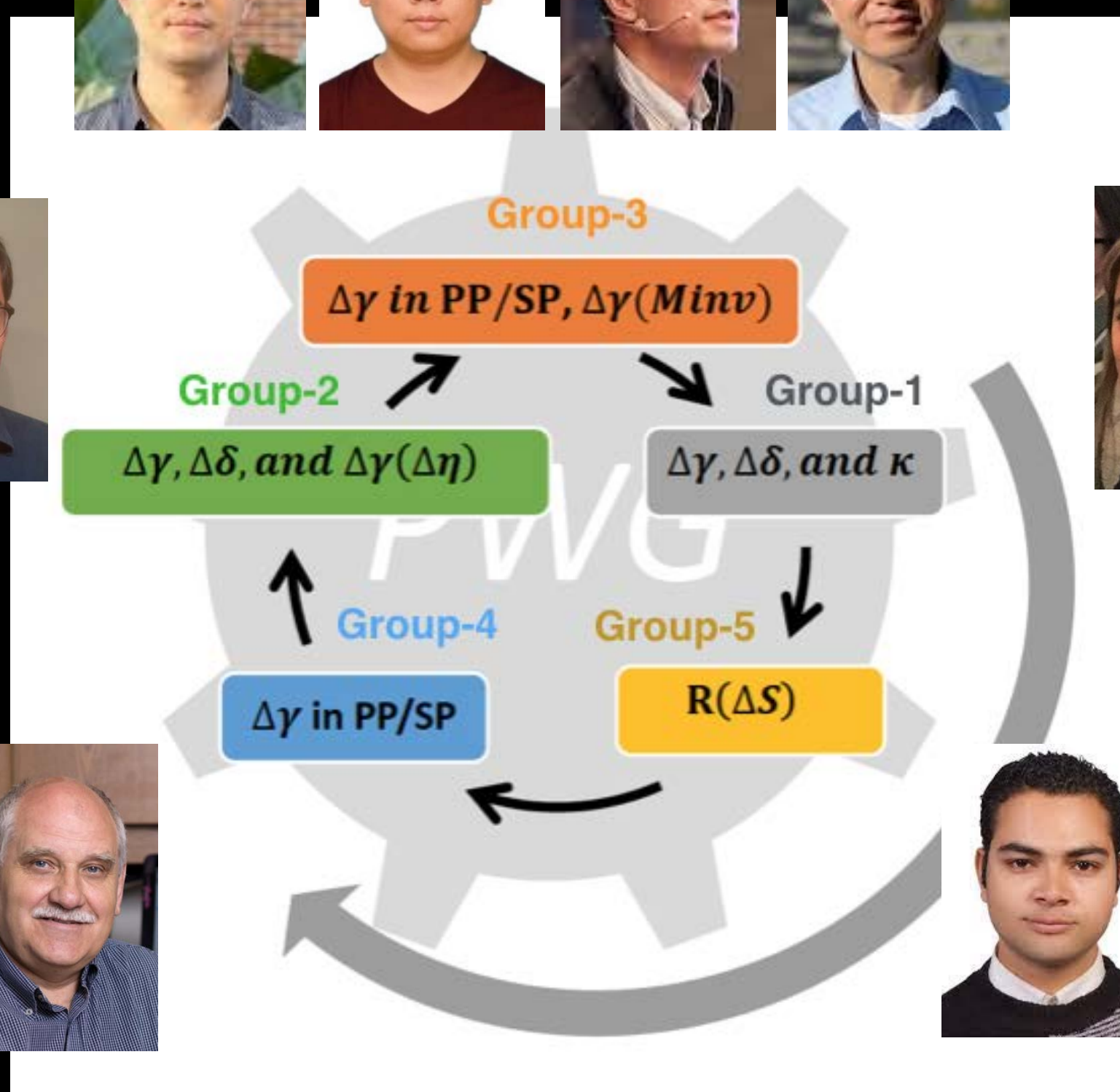
UCLA (group-1)  
Maria Sergeeva, Gang Wang



WSU-Tsukuba (group-4)  
Takafumi Niida, Sergei Voloshin



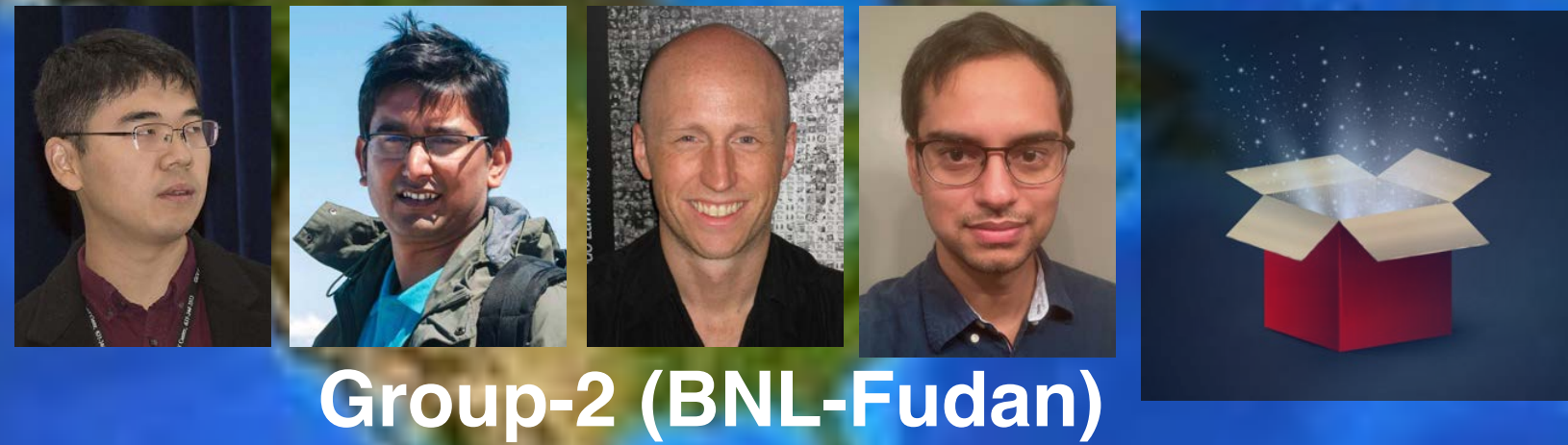
SBU-UIC (group-5)  
Niseem Magdy, Roy Lacey



Five independent groups will perform analysis, all codes must be frozen and run by another person, results have to directly sent for publication



# How the isobar blind analysis was done



Independent STAR collaborator 1



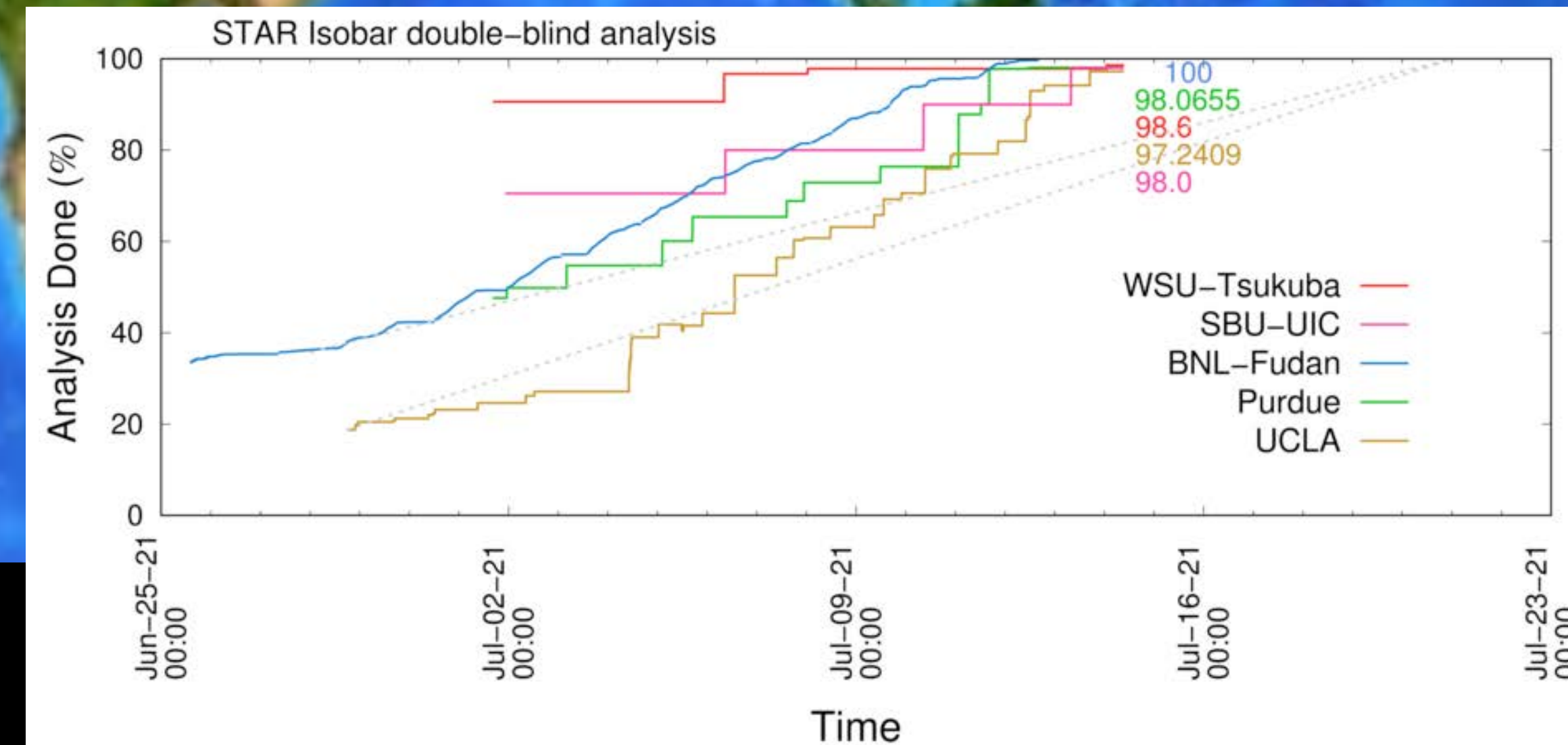
Independent STAR collaborator 2



Different people run frozen codes

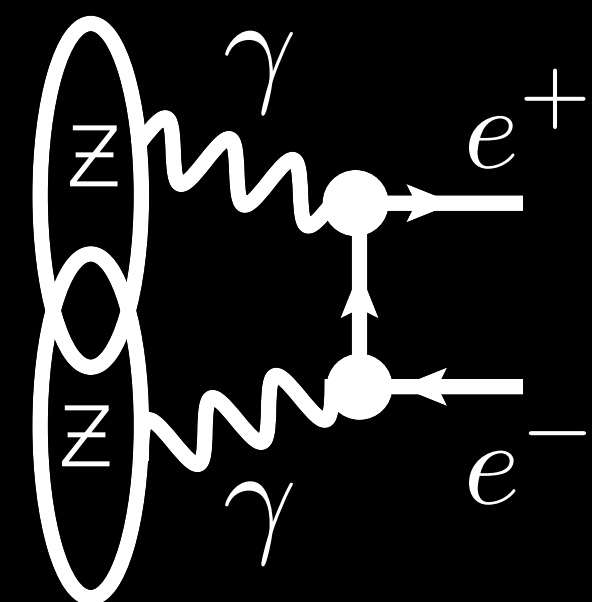
→ Analyzers open box → Directly publish the result

(Took all nodes of RHIC comp. facility for a month)





# Independent test of B-field difference in isobars

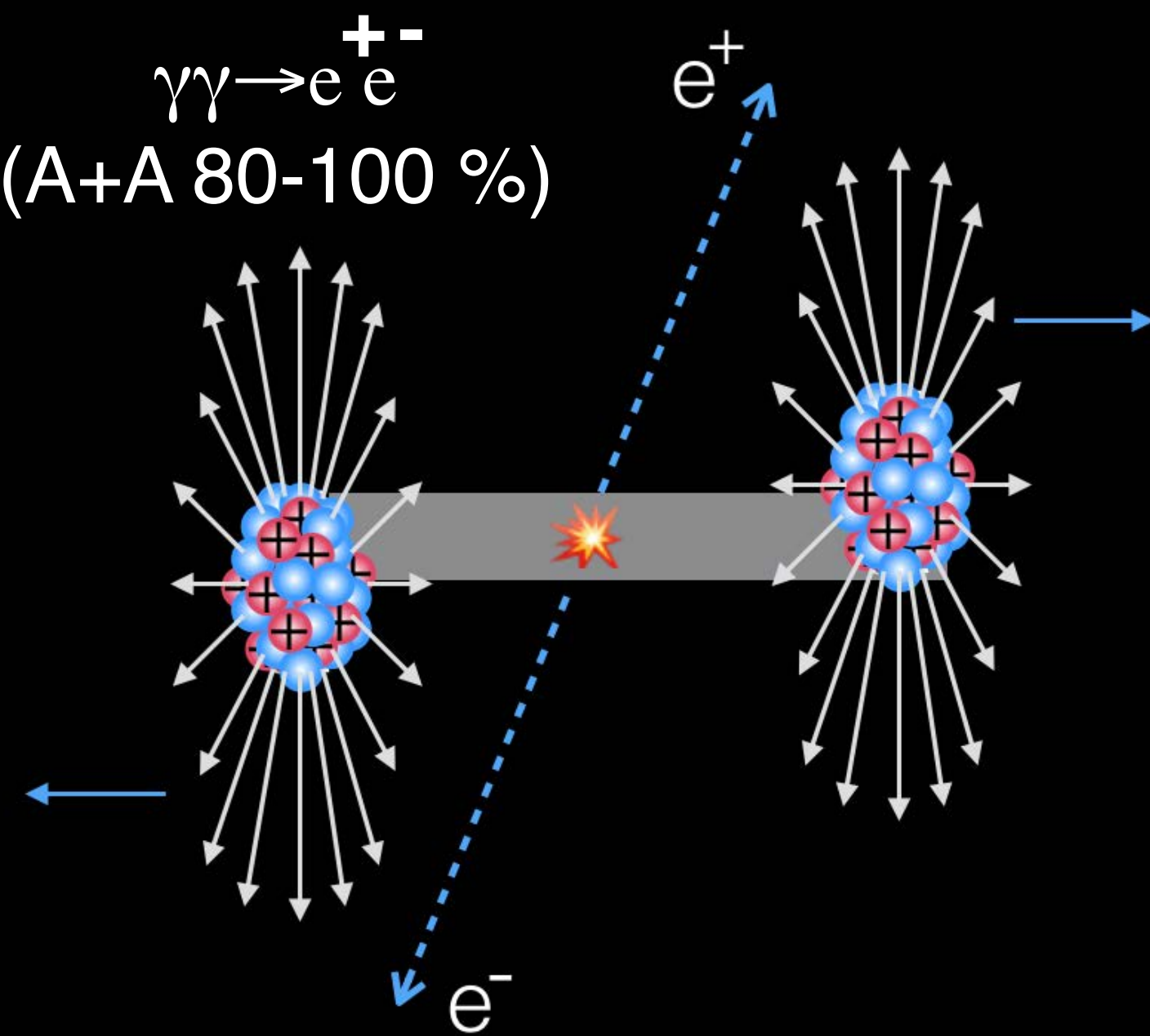


Low  $p_T$  di-electron (Breit-Wheeler)

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

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

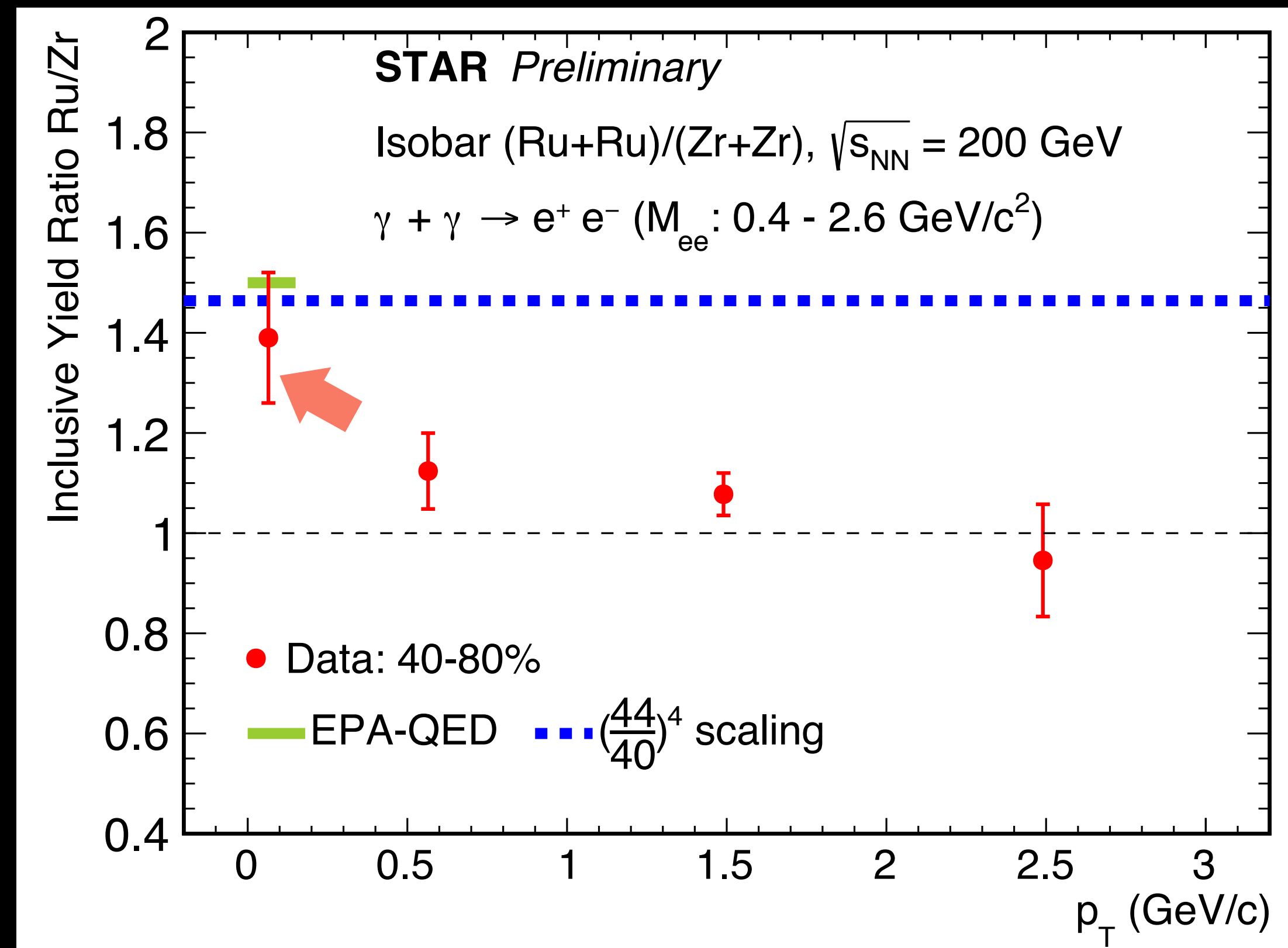
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$   
(A+A 80-100 %)



$$eB > eB_C \approx m_e^2$$

$\sim 10^{12}$  Gauss

Ru+Ru indeed produces larger B-field than Zr+Zr



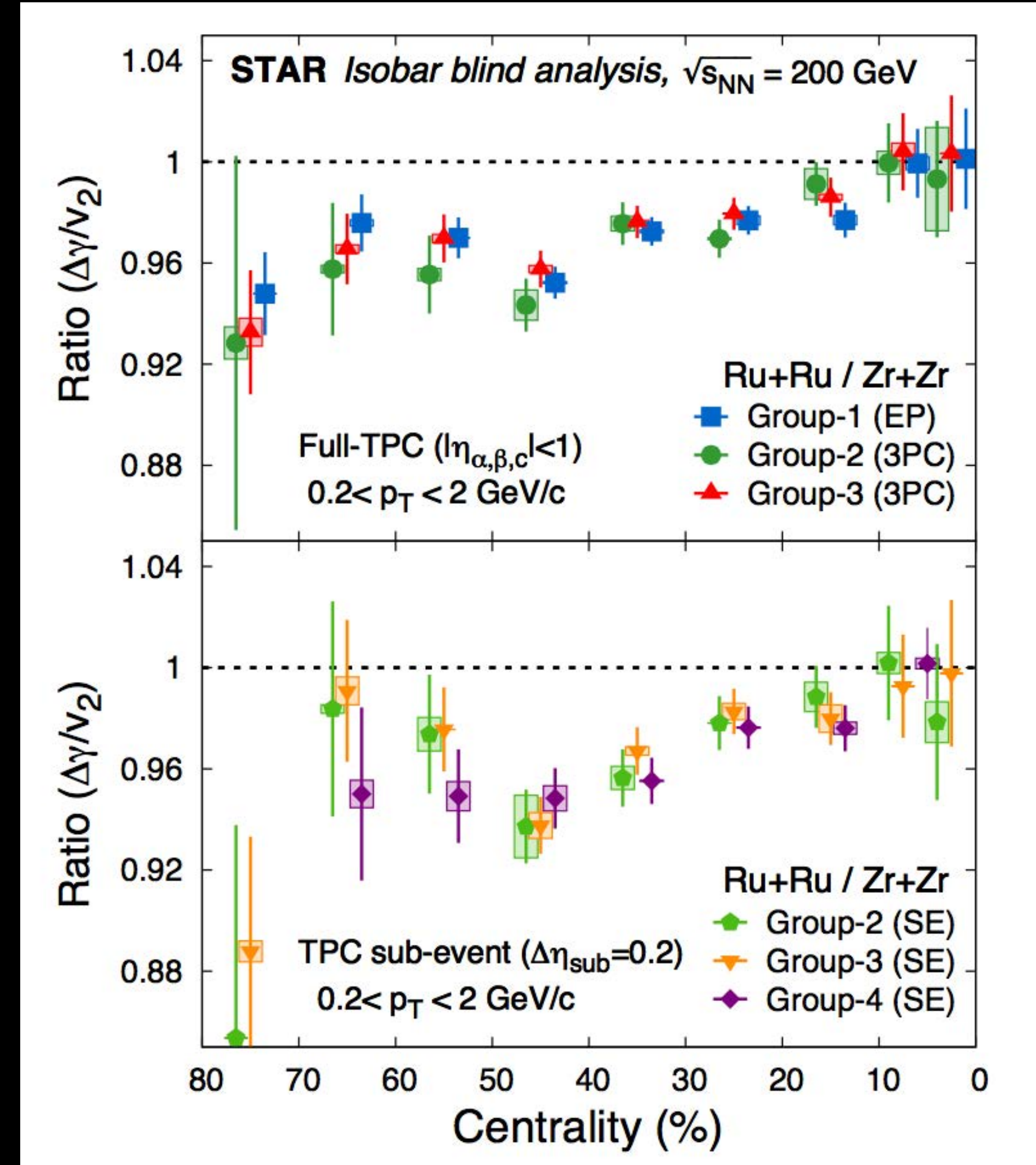
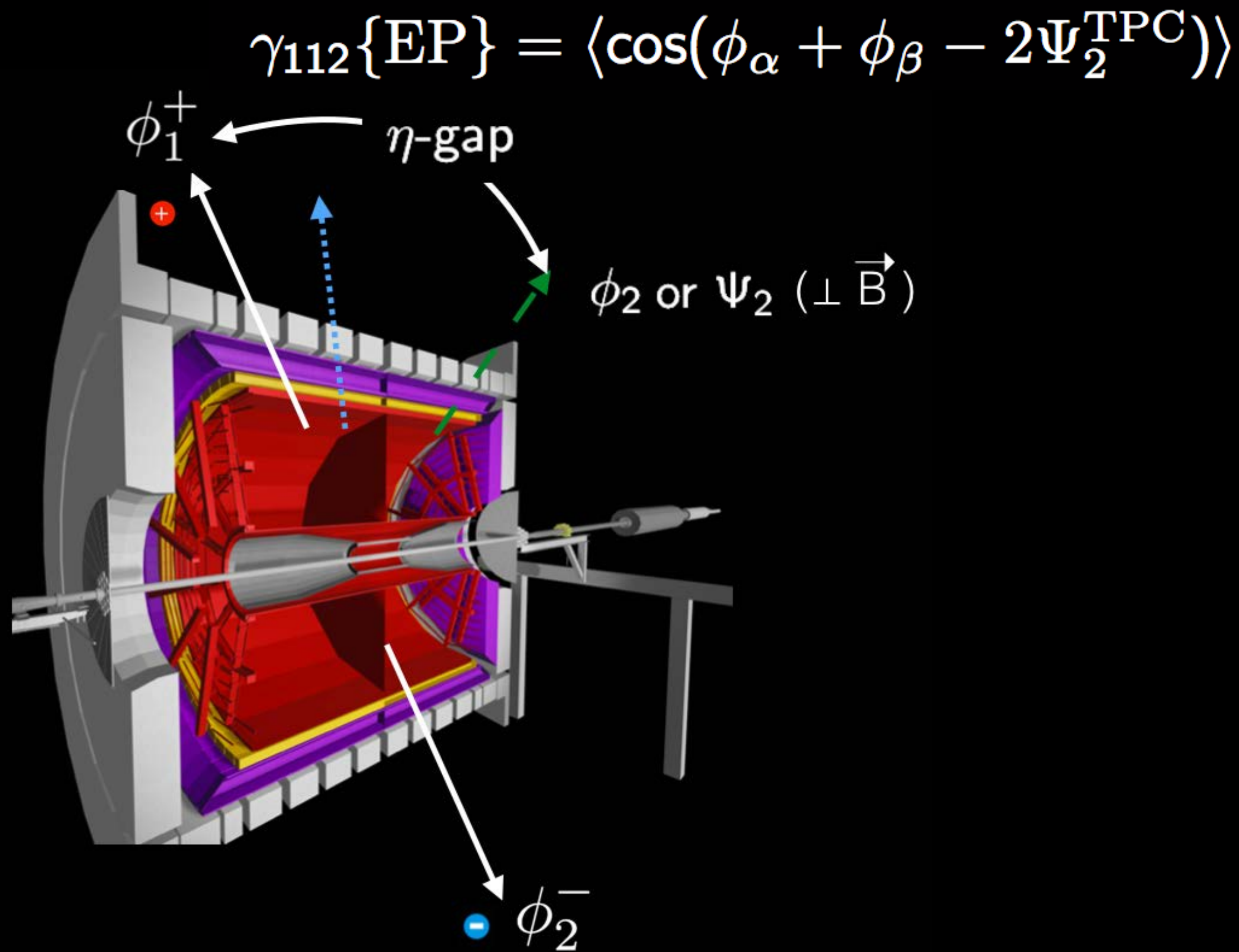
Data suggest low  $p_T$  photon induced processes follow “Z” scaling of EM-fields for isobars



# CME sensitive observables



# Charge separation scaled by elliptic flow



$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} \approx 1 + f_{\text{CME}}^{\text{Zr+Zr}} \left[ \underbrace{\left( \frac{B_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{B_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} \right)^2 - 1}_{0.18} \right]$$

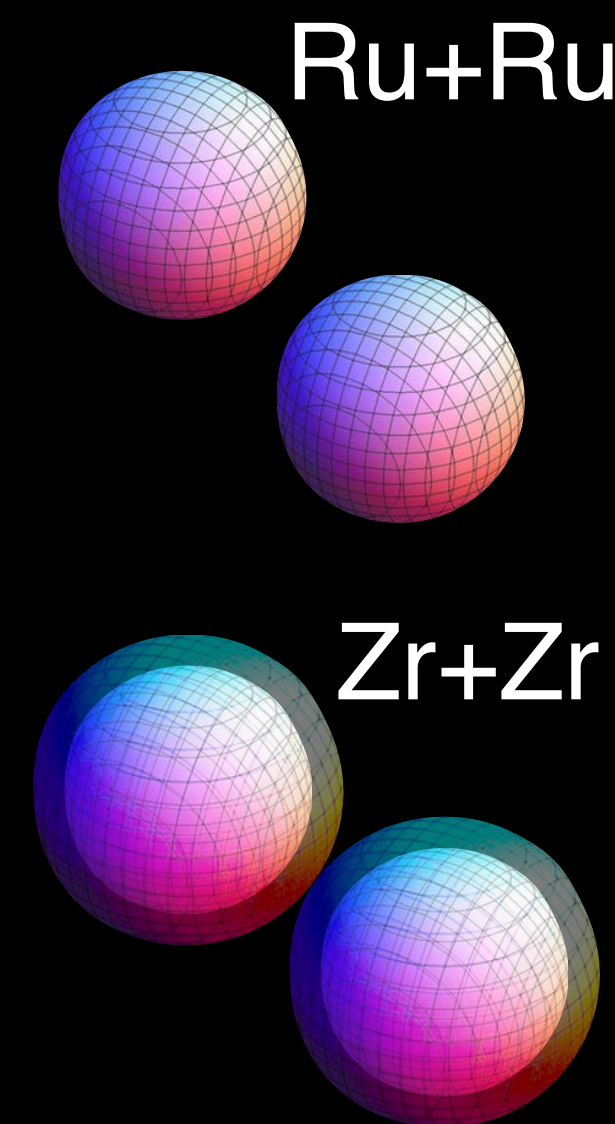
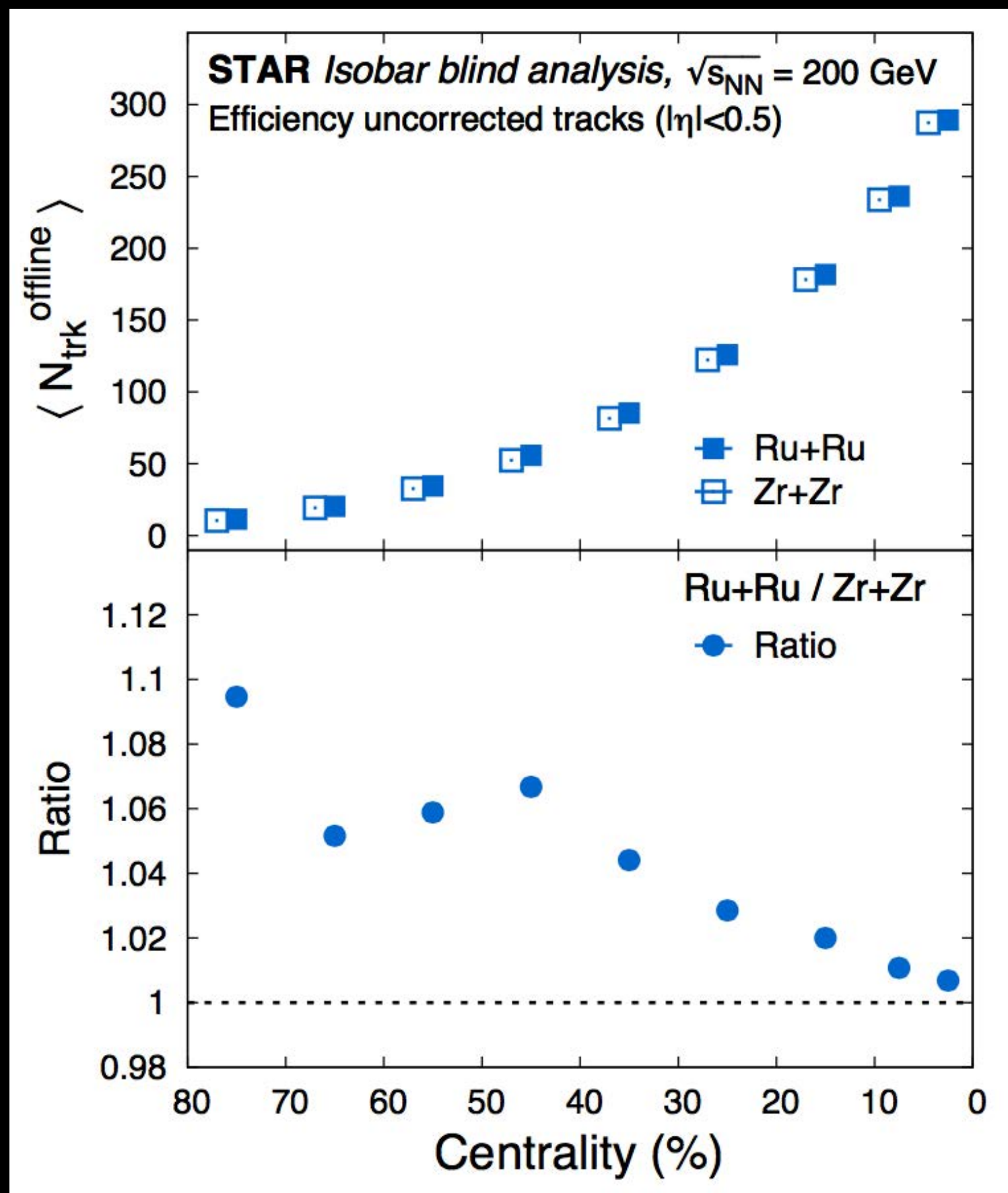
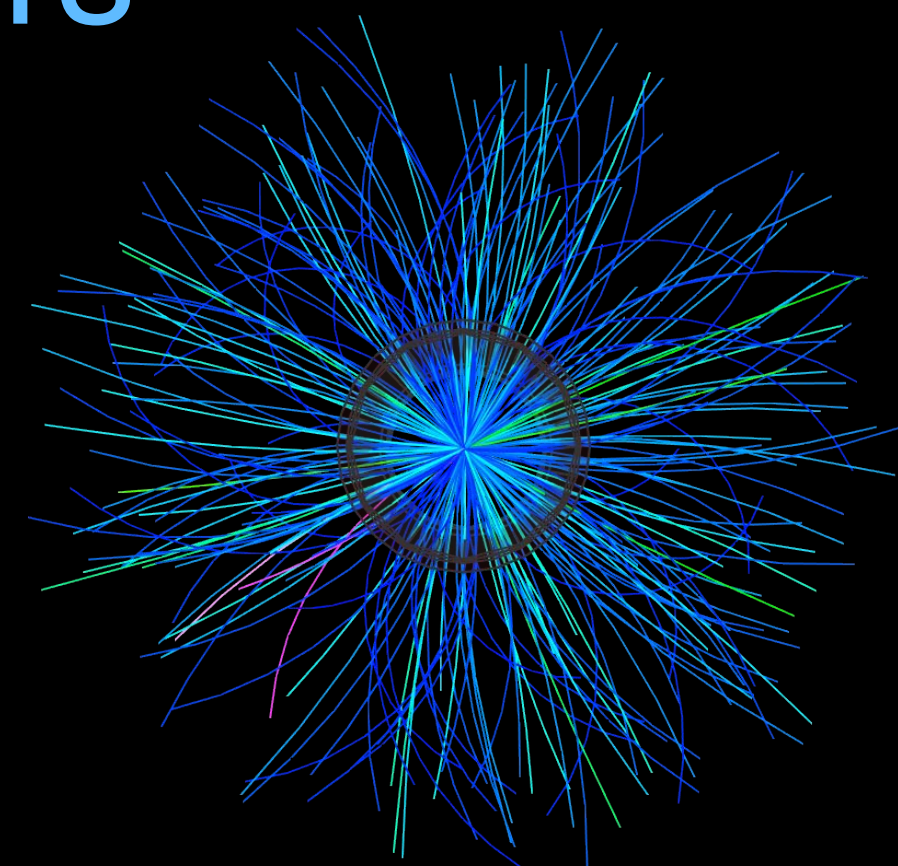
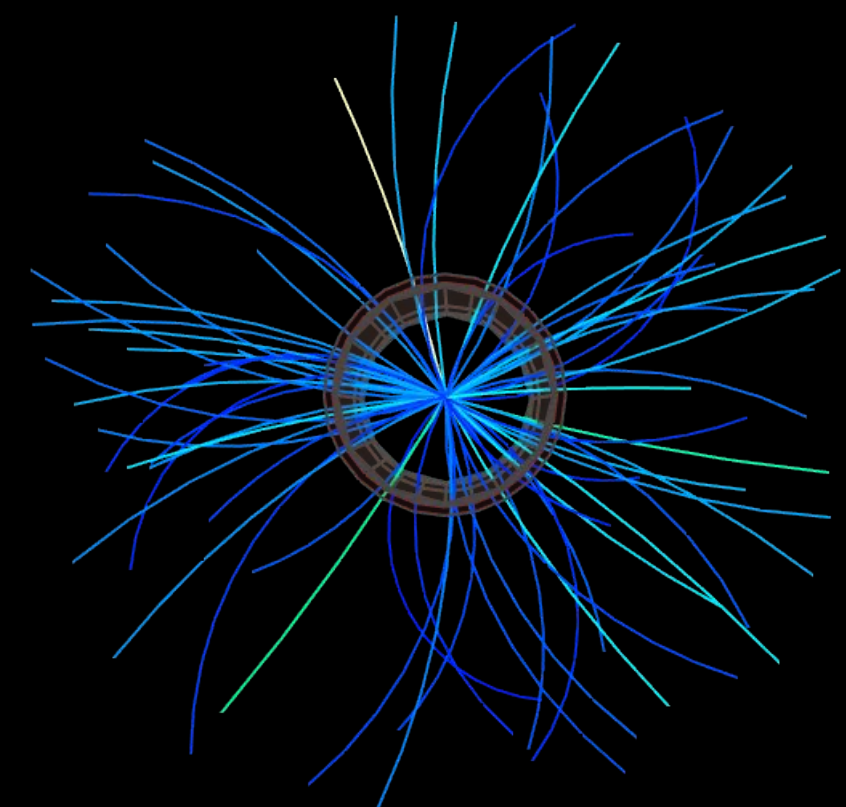
Unknown

Pre-defined criteria for CME

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{RuRu}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{ZrZr}}} > 1 \quad \text{NOT seen!!}$$



# Multiplicity difference between the isobars



Neutron skin:  
 $\Delta r_{\text{np}}(\text{Zr}) > \Delta r_{\text{np}}(\text{Ru})$

Mean efficiency uncorrected multiplicity density is larger in Ru than in Zr in a matching centrality, this can affect signal and background difference between isobars

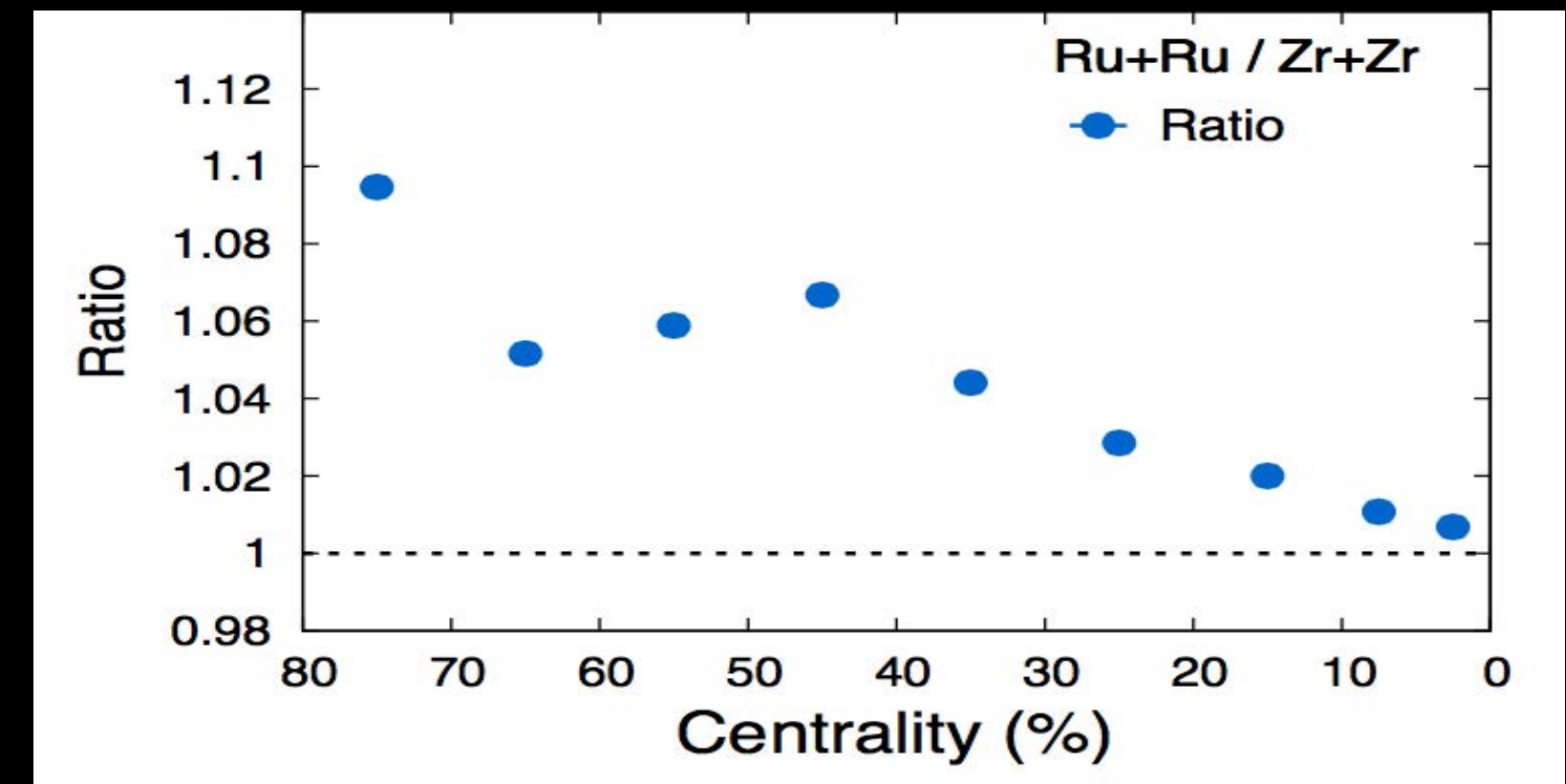
Quite unexpected result!! Points to larger neutron skin of Zr



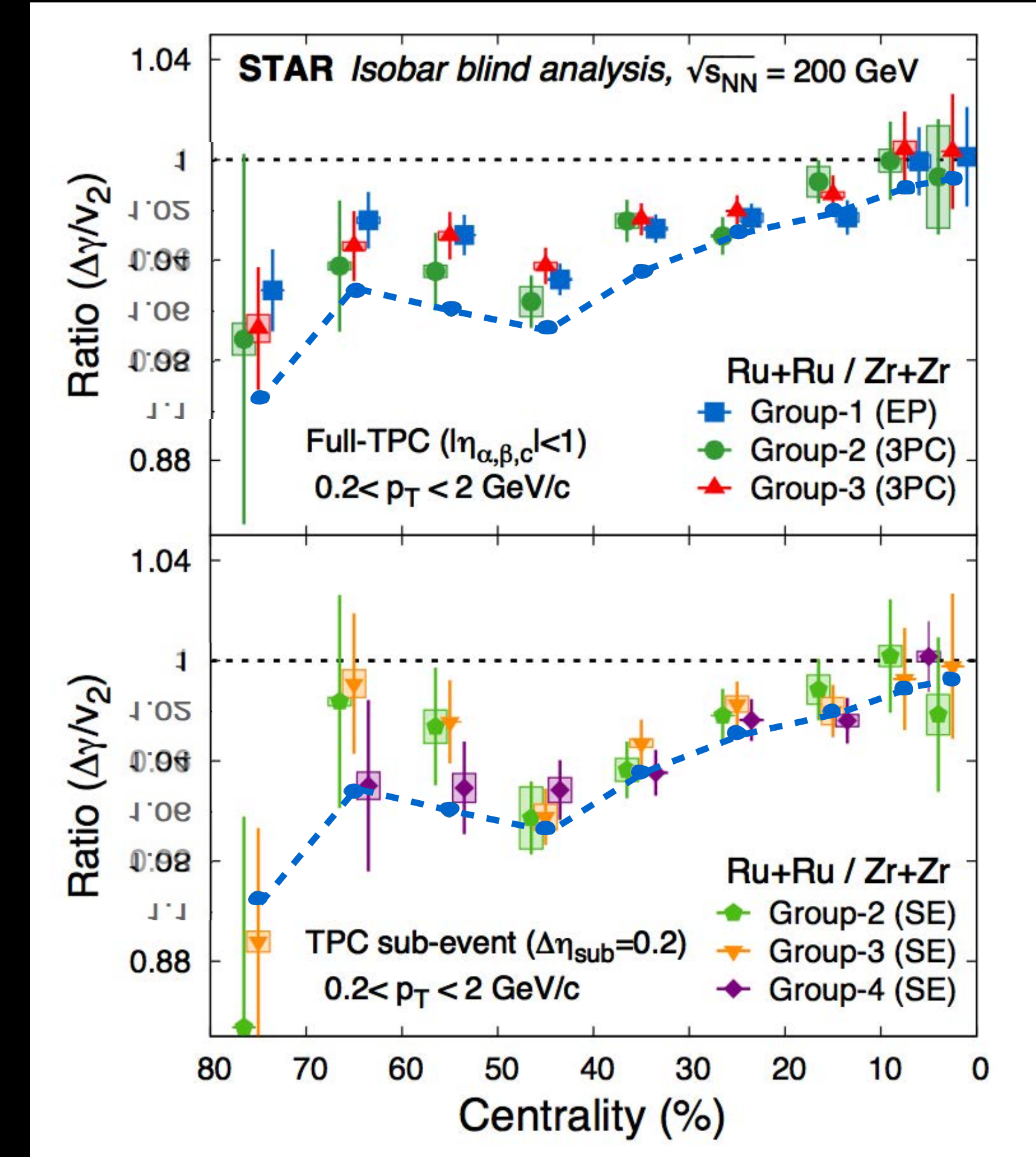
# Limited Post-blind analysis: modified CME baseline

$$\frac{(N_{ch})_{RuRu}}{(N_{ch})_{ZrZr}}$$
 Multiplicity is larger in Ru+Ru

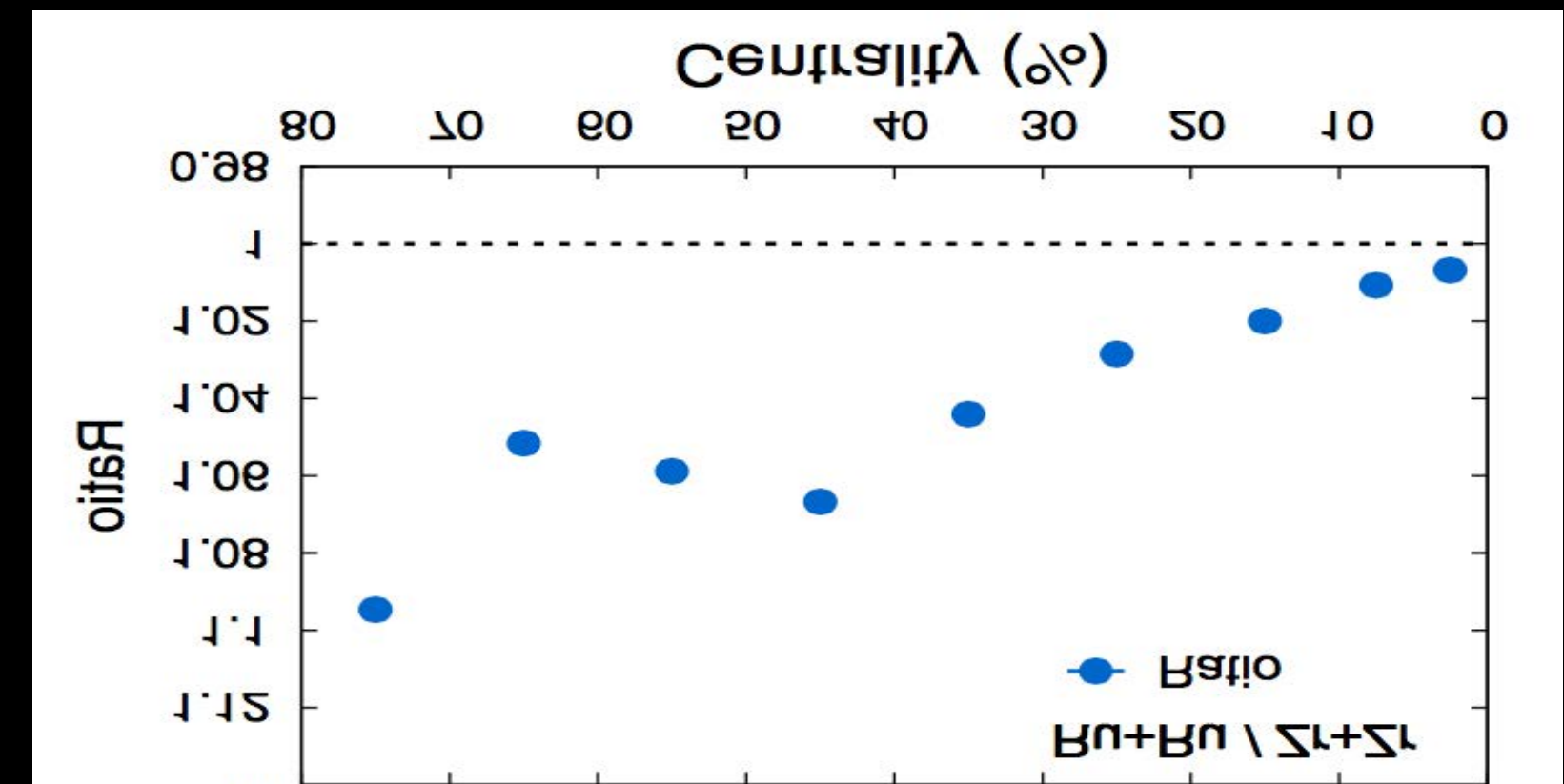
Change of baseline from "1" to 1/multiplicity
 
$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Ru+Ru}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Zr+Zr}} \leftrightarrow \frac{N_{Zr+Zr}}{N_{Ru+Ru}}$$



overlay



Flip



Dilution  $\sim 1/\text{multiplicity}$  is more in Ru+Ru
 
$$\frac{(1/N_{ch})_{RuRu}}{(1/N_{ch})_{ZrZr}}$$

Inverse of multiplicity ratio explain the qualitative trend



# Limited Post-blind analysis: modified CME baseline

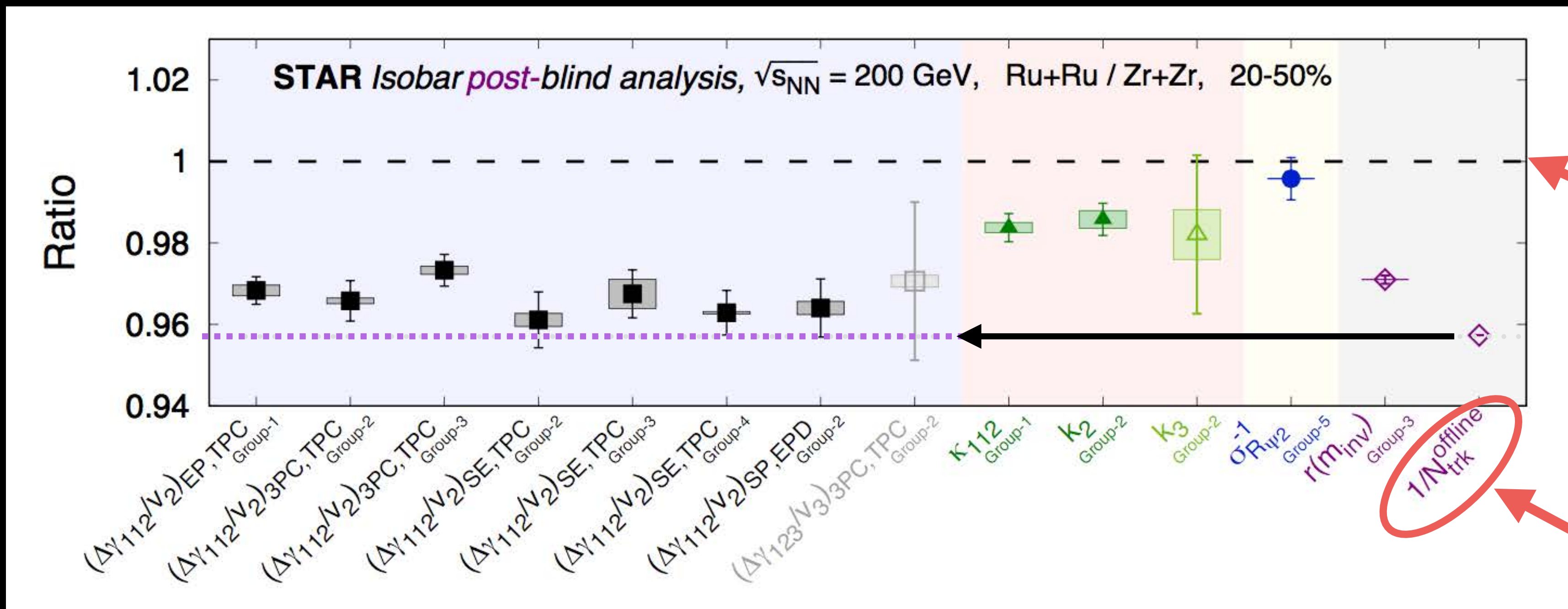
Challenge: Multiplicity turned out to be different for the two isobar, was not know before blind analysis, dilution of signal & background  $\sim 1/\text{multiplicity}$ , this effect is different for two species

Blind analysis criterion for CME:  $\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{RuRu}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{ZrZr}}} > 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\gamma^{\text{Ru+Ru}} &= \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} \\ \Delta\gamma^{\text{Zr+Zr}} &= \Delta\gamma^{\text{CME}} + k \times \frac{v_2}{N} \end{aligned}$$

Post-blinding criterion for CME:

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{RuRu}}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{\text{ZrZr}}} > \frac{(1/N_{\text{ch}})_{\text{RuRu}}}{(1/N_{\text{ch}})_{\text{ZrZr}}}$$



Blind analysis baseline

Post-blinding modified baseline



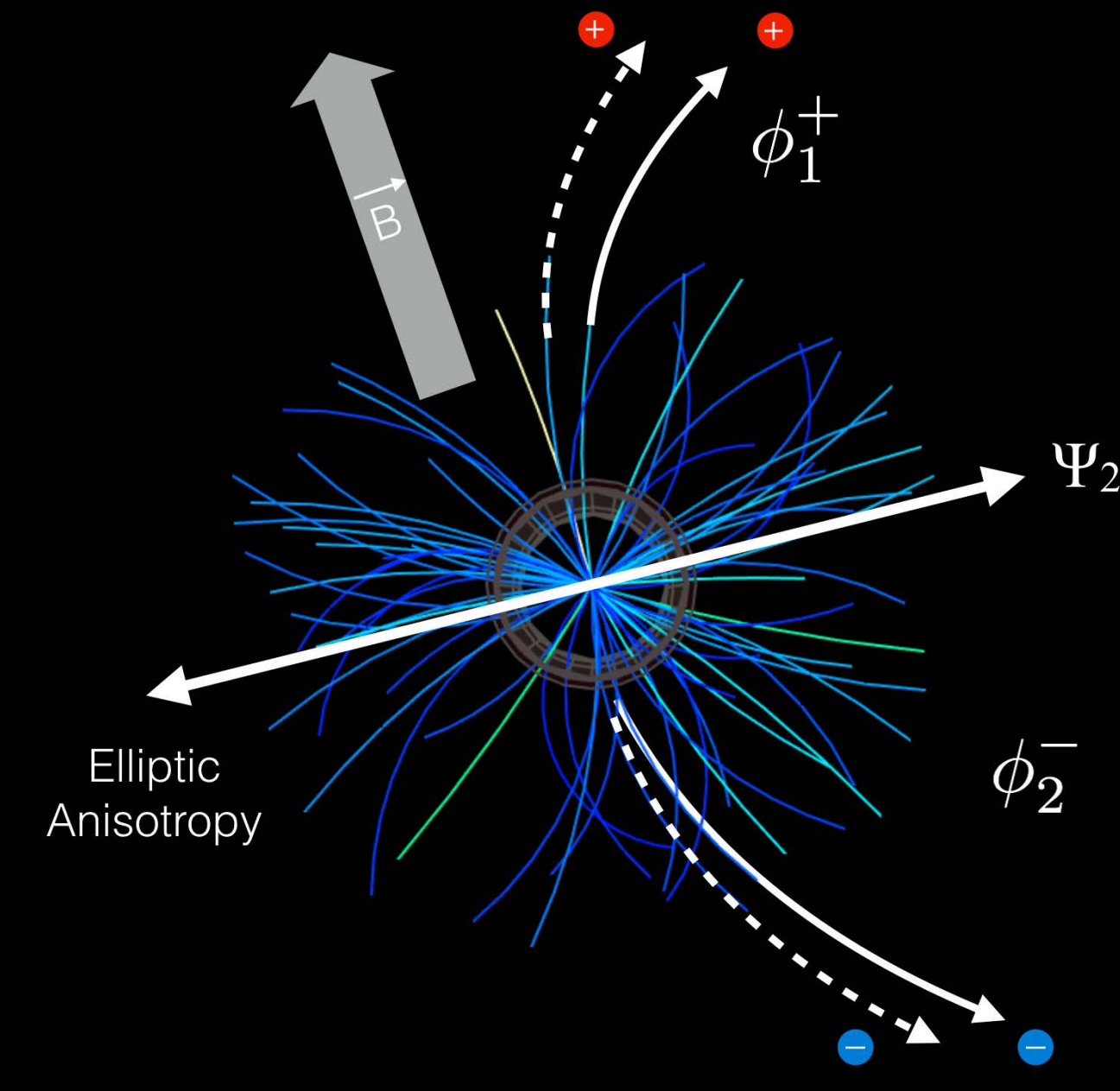
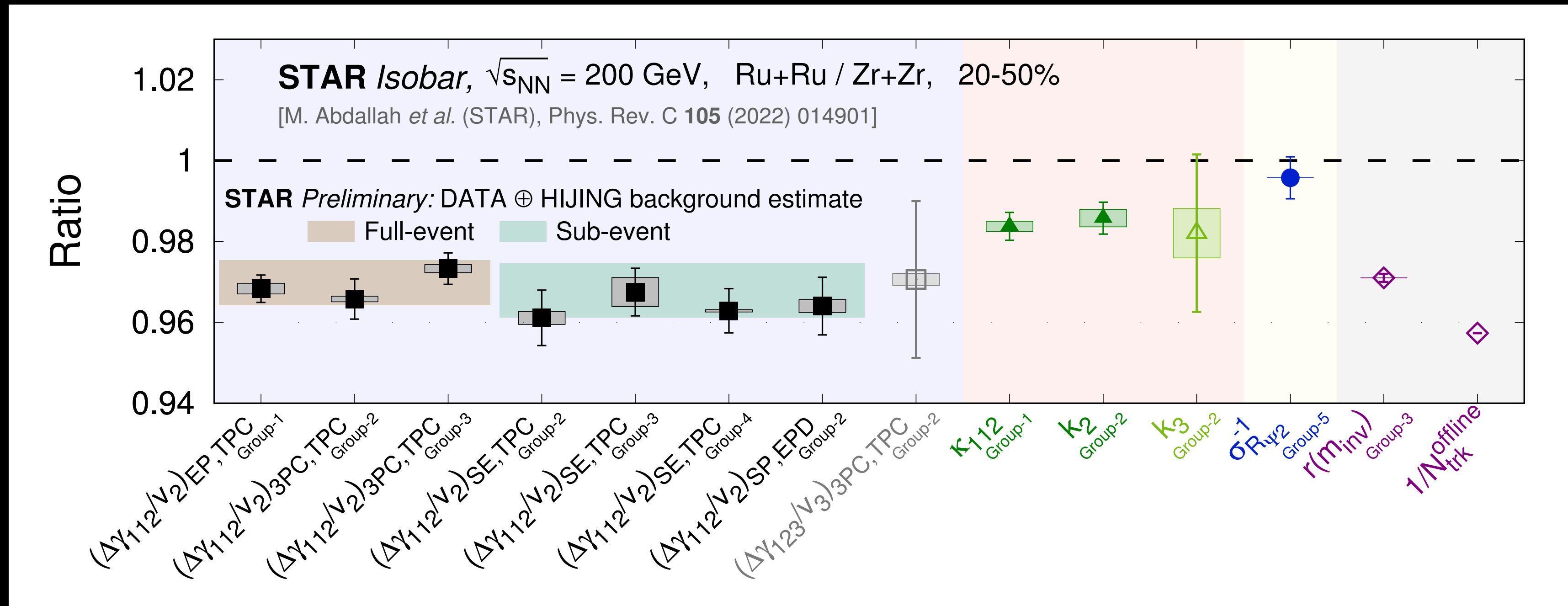
# Compilation of results

M. Abdallah et al. (STAR Collaboration),  
Phys. Rev. C 105 (2022) 1, 014901

Blind analysis performed with pre-defined criteria for primary CME sensitive observable:

$$\frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Ru+Ru}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Zr+Zr}} \approx 1 + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{Unknown}}}{f_{CME}^{Zr+Zr}} \left[ \underbrace{\left( \frac{B_{Ru+Ru}}{B_{Zr+Zr}} \right)^2 - 1}_{0.1-0.15} \right] > 1 \text{ (for CME)}$$

Precision of 0.4% achieved



Yicheng Feng (STAR Collaboration), QM 2022

No pre-defined signature of CME is observed in isobar collisions, possible residual signal due to change of baseline & non-flow effects are under study



# Remaining signal estimates

## 1. STAR isobar blind analysis (most precision measurement):

M. Abdallah et al. (STAR Collaboration), Phys. Rev. C 105 (2022) 1, 014901

$$R = \frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Ru+Ru}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Zr+Zr}} = 0.9683 \pm 0.0034 \pm 0.0013$$

$$\frac{(1/N_{ch})_{Ru+Ru}}{(1/N_{ch})_{Zr+Zr}} = 0.957337 \pm 0.000017$$

## 2. STAR background estimate including non-flow:

Yicheng Feng, STAR collaboration, QM 2022

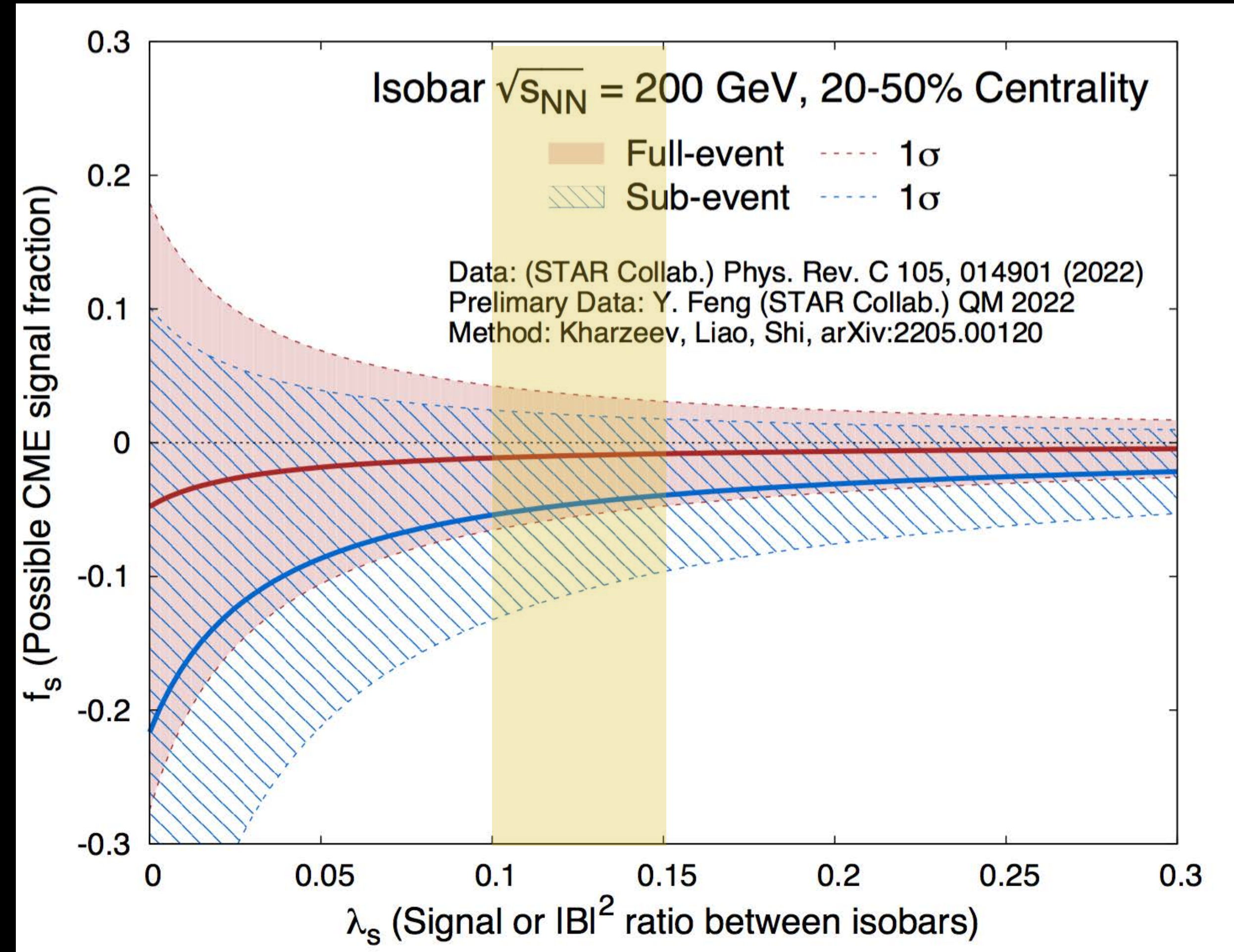
$$\frac{(N_{ch} \Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Ru+Ru}^{bkg}}{(N_{ch} \Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Zr+Zr}^{bkg}} = 1.013 \pm 0.003 \pm 0.005$$

$$R^{bkg} = \frac{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Ru+Ru}}{(\Delta\gamma/v_2)_{Zr+Zr}} = 0.9698 \pm 0.003 \pm 0.005$$

## 3. Estimates of Possible CME signal:

Kharzeev, Liao, Shi, 2205.00120 [nucl-th]

$$f_s = \frac{1/R^{bkg} - 1/R}{\lambda_s + 1/R^{bkg} - 1}$$



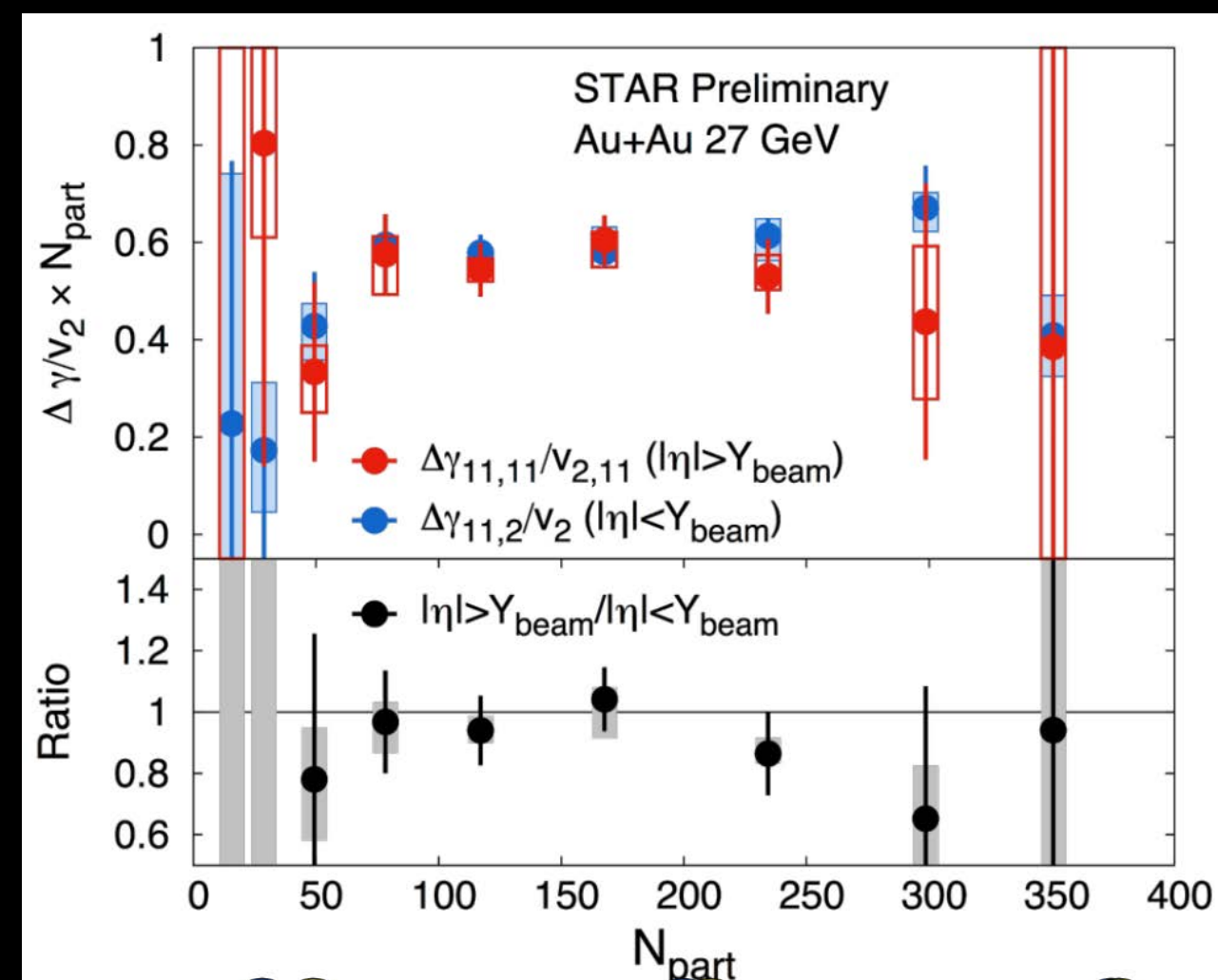
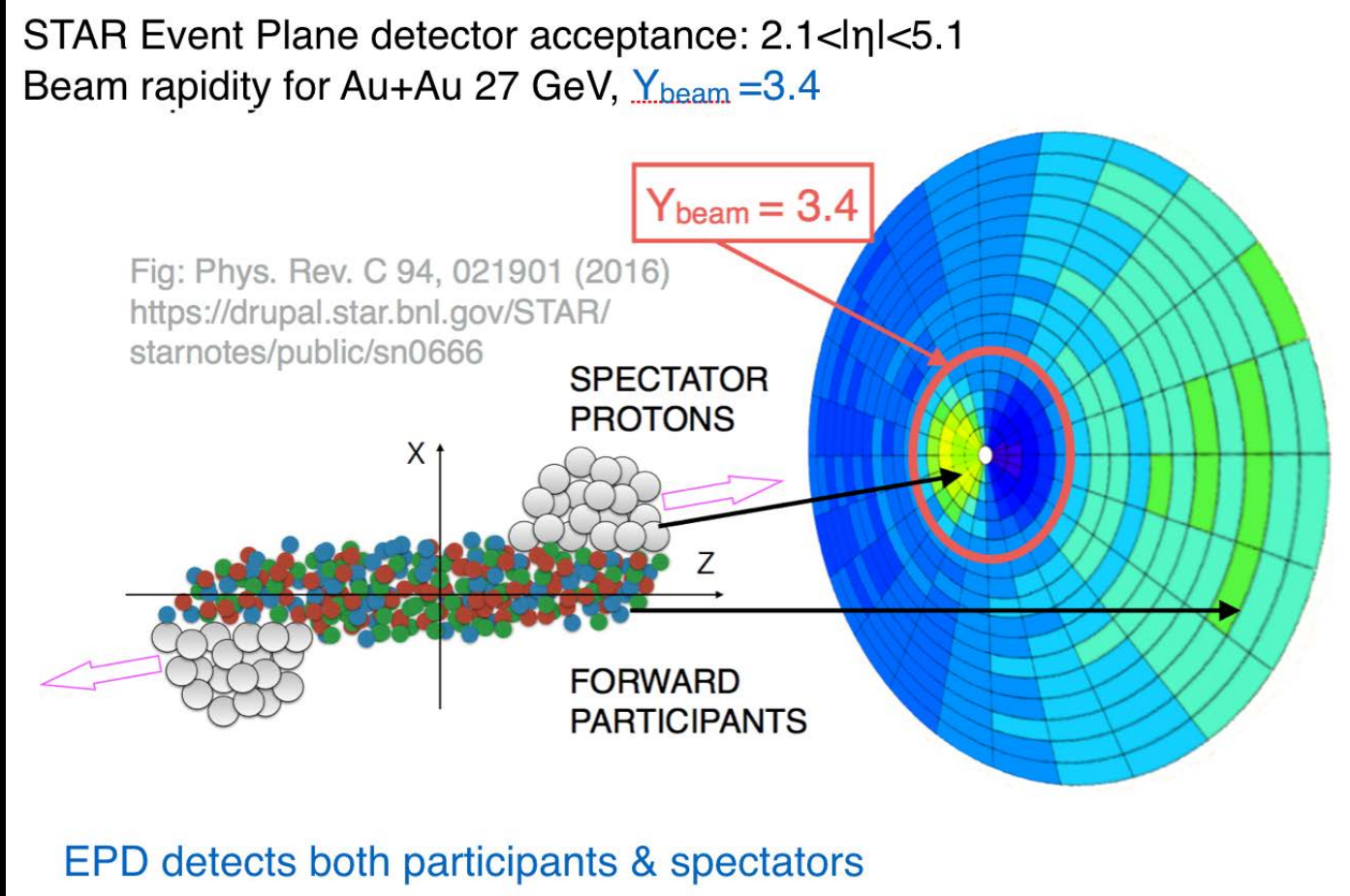
More work from STAR collaboration is underway



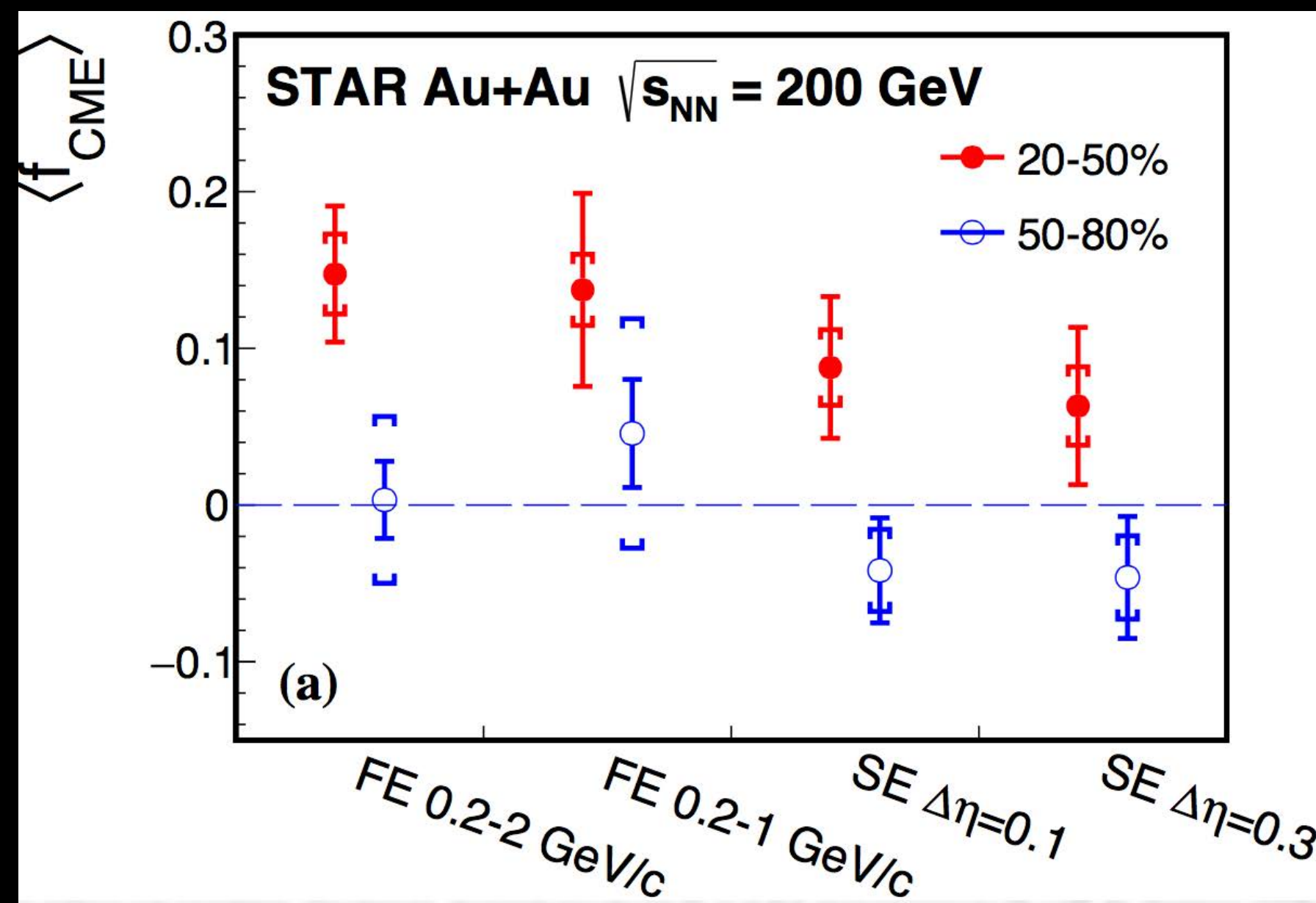
# What is the future of CME search?

STAR EPD: better handle on B-field direction (1912.05243)

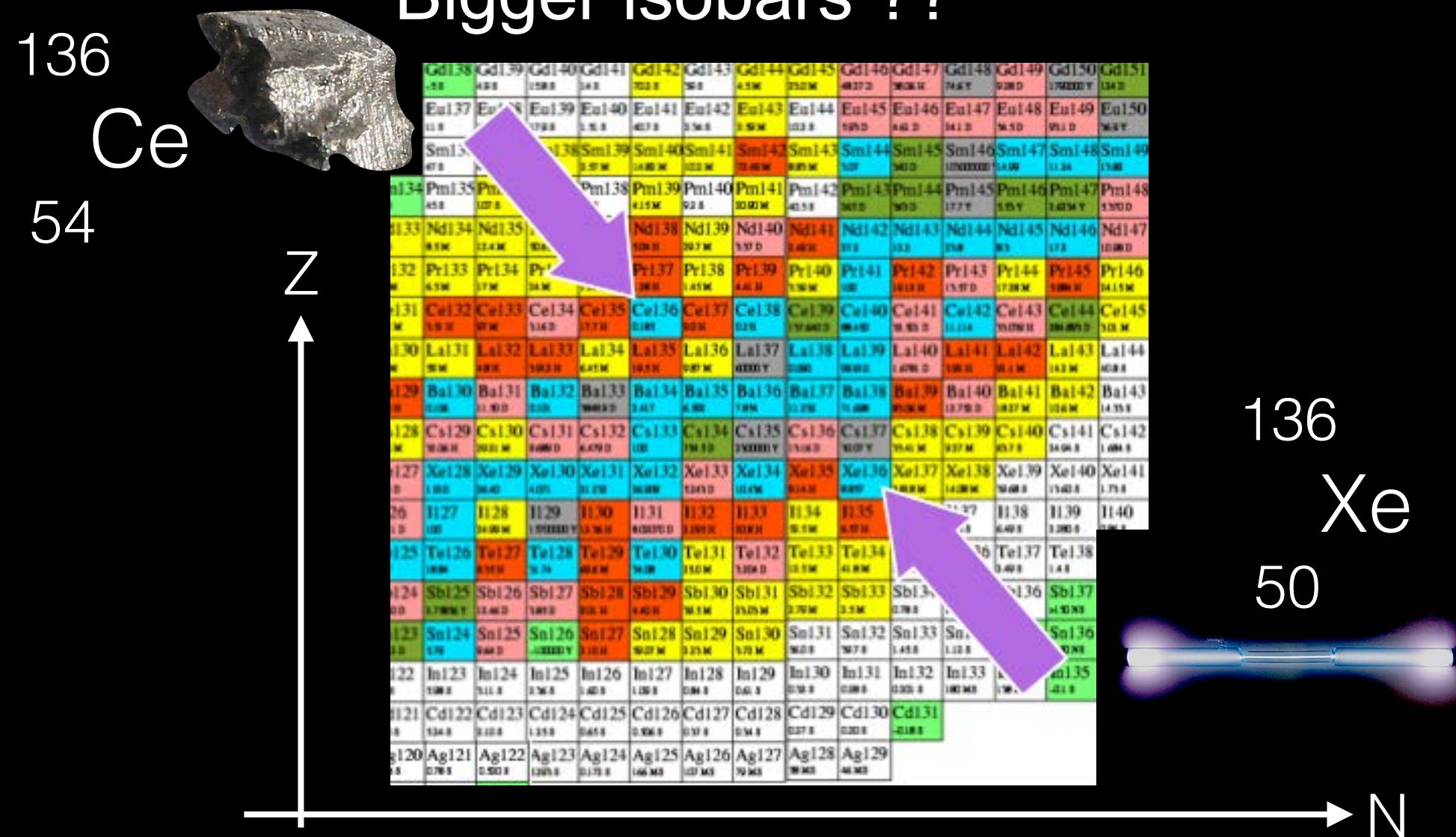
CME @ BES-II data arXiv:2110.15937  
 Criticality & CME 2012.02926



High statistics RHIC 2023 run  
 CME in Au+Au (2106.09243)



Bigger isobars ??



CME search with AIML  
 (2105.13761)





# Summary

Experimental test of CME in isobar collisions performed using a blind analysis

A precision down to 0.4% achieved but no pre-defined signature of CME is observed

Primary CME observable  $\Delta\gamma/v_2$  baseline is affected by the multiplicity difference (4% in 20-50%), post-blind analysis is needed to search for residual CME signal

Possible residual signal due to change of baseline & non-flow effects are under study

