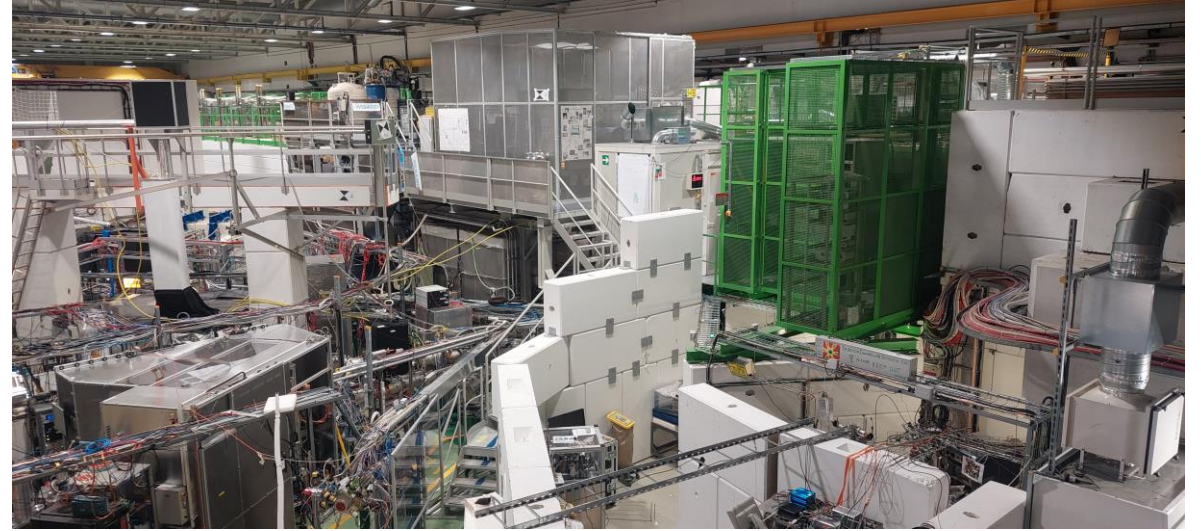




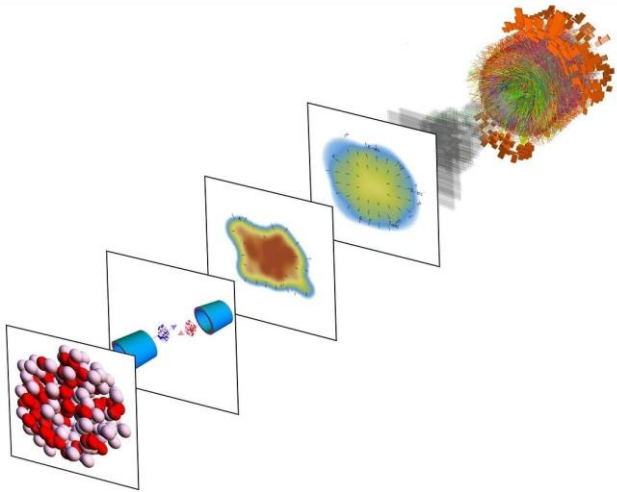
Universiteit Utrecht



Determination of the neutron skin of ^{208}Pb from ultrarelativistic nuclear collisions

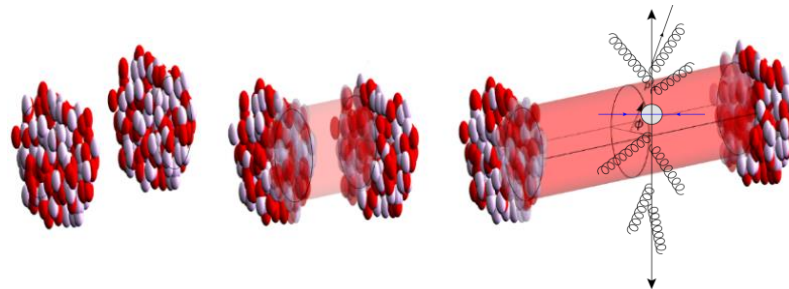
From nuclear structure from quark-gluon plasma

[2305.00015 \(PRL\)](#) with Govert Nijs and Giuliano Giacalone



aleksasmaz en 7.983 anderen vinden dit leuk

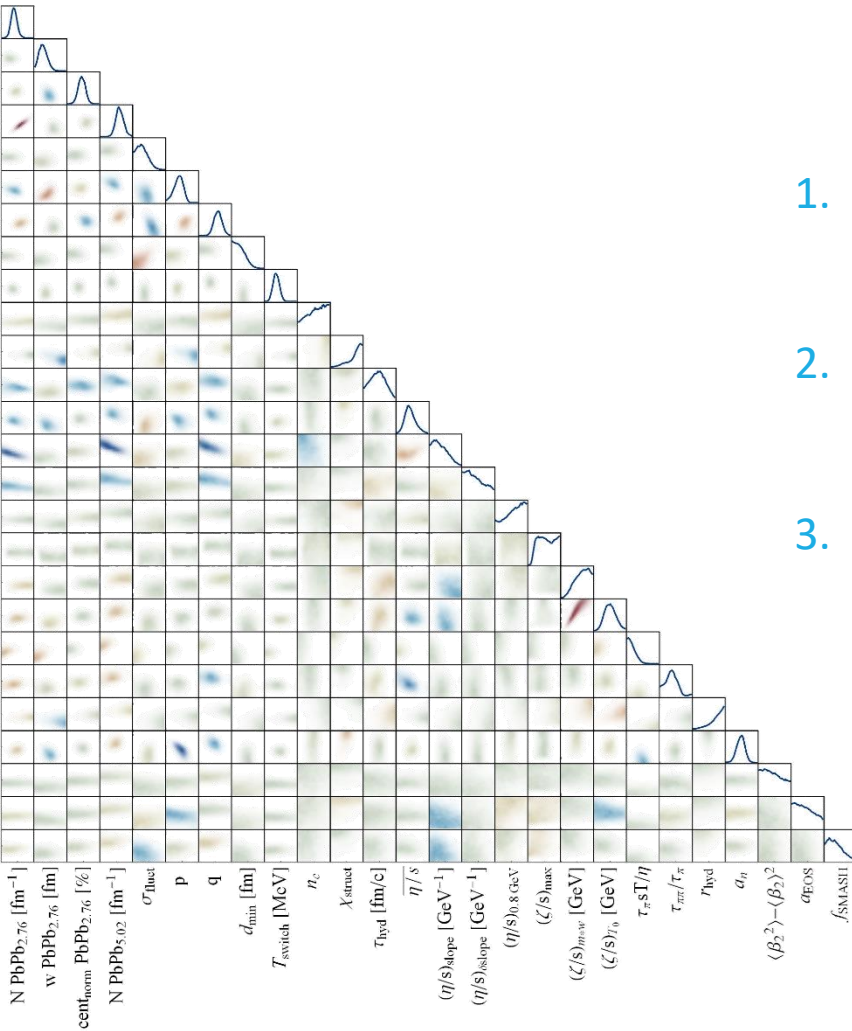
cern Using heavy-ion collisions at the #LHC, scientists determine the thickness of the neutron skin. This is the first measurement of the neutron skin of lead-208 using the strong force as a probe which can provide an insight into the structure of nuclei and neutron stars.



Wilke van der Schee
Isolde Workshop, CERN
30 November 2023

In this process, when lead nuclei (left) are collided, the neutron distribution affects the shape of the

Outline

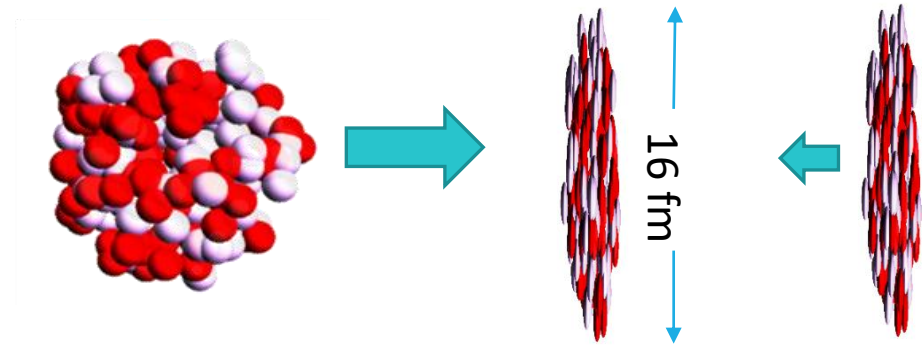


1. Brief introduction on relativistic heavy ion collisions
2. Neutron skin, also as an illustration of Bayesian analyses
3. The shape of nuclei and preparing for oxygen collisions

How to create QGP

Colliding heavy nuclei (Pb) at high energies

Lorentz gamma factor up to 2500

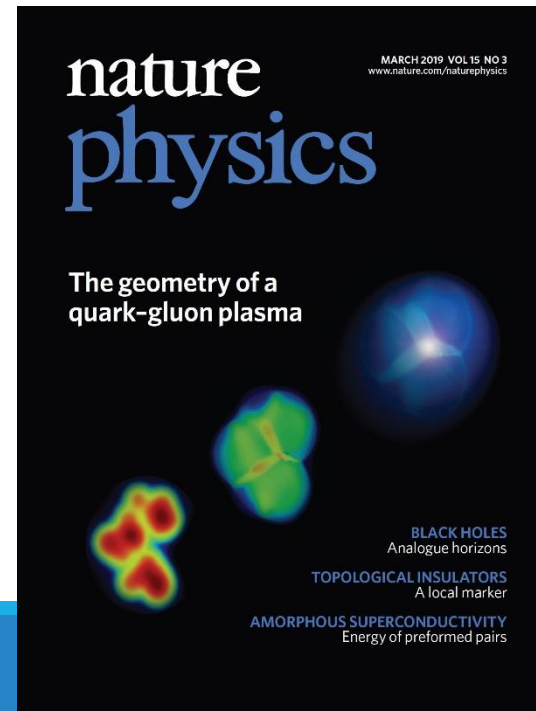
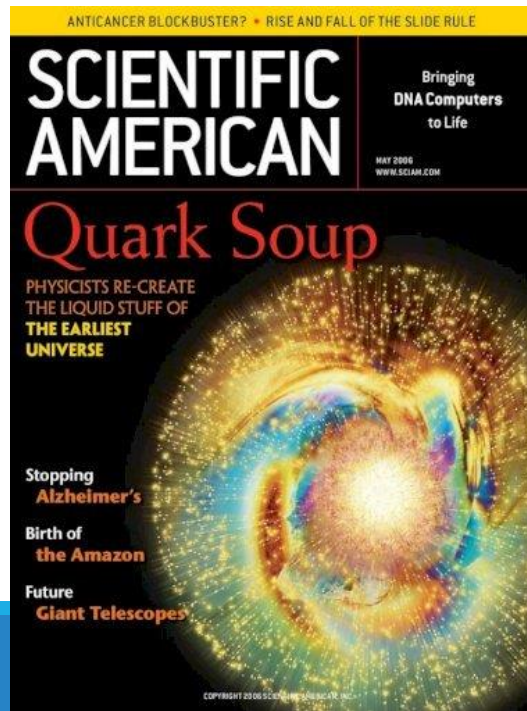


Hottest fluid:
 10^{12} K

Smallest fluid:
 ~ 2 fm living 10^{-23} s

Most perfect/strange:
 $\eta/s \sim 0.08$

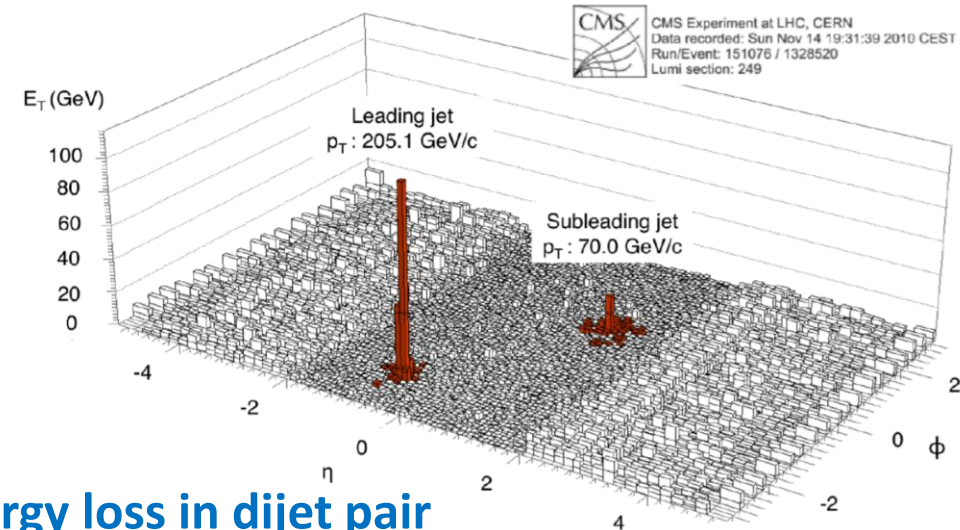
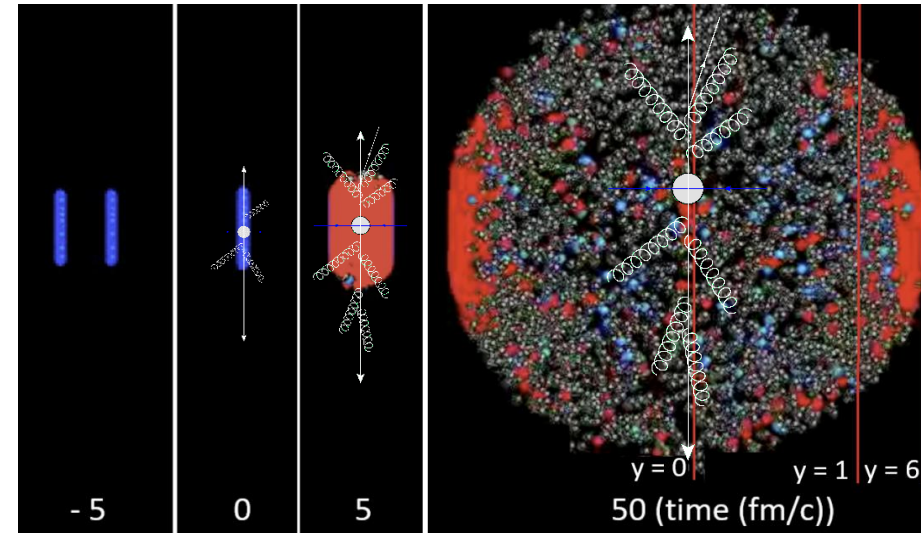
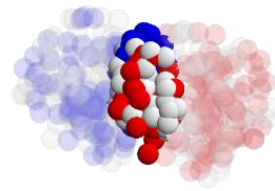
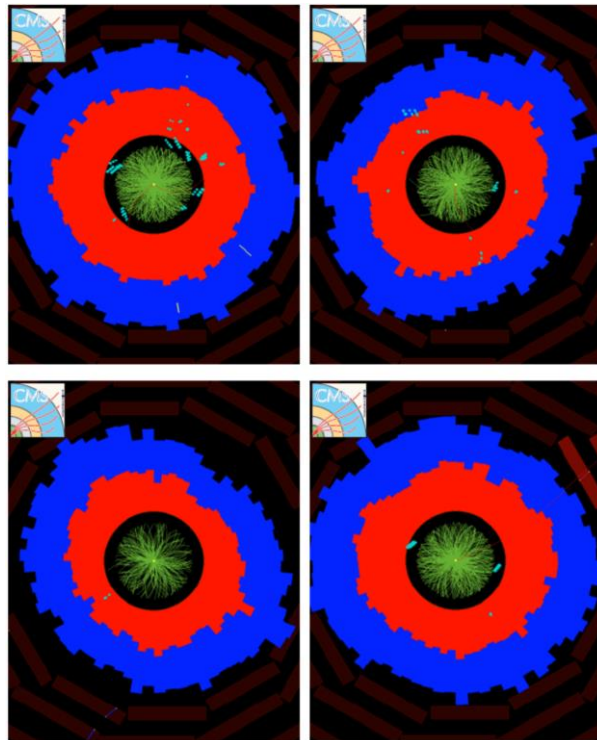
Most vortical fluid:
 $\omega \sim 10^{22}/s$



Quark-gluon plasma is strongly coupled

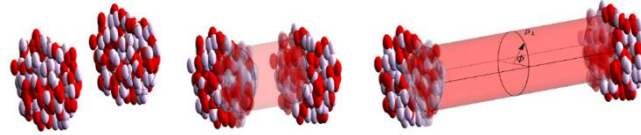
Initial stage - QGP - hadronic phase

Anisotropic flow (small viscosity)



Jet energy loss in dijet pair

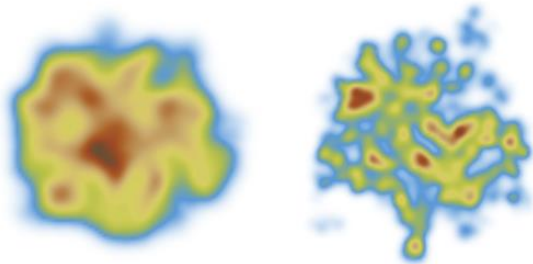
Standard model of heavy ion collisions



(# parameters)

Initial stage (13)

Subnucleonic structure? (8)



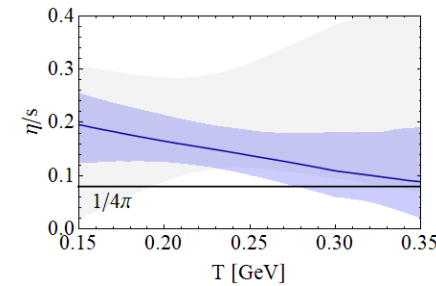
Non-thermal flow? (2)
with hydrodynamised initial stage

Fluctuations? (1)

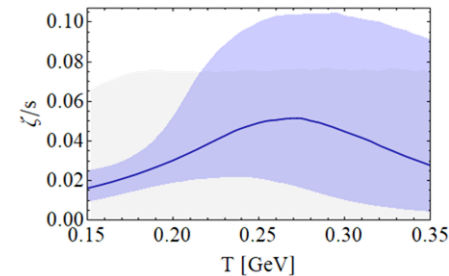
Shape (2)

Viscous hydrodynamics (10)

Shear viscosity (4)



Bulk viscosity (3)

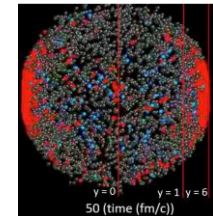


Second order transports: 2

EOS: 1

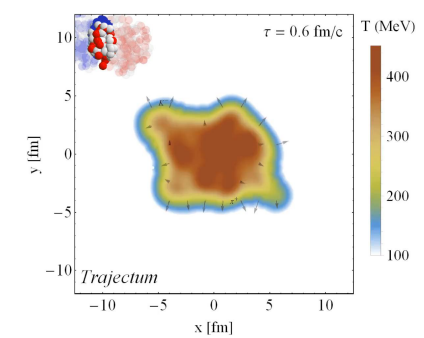
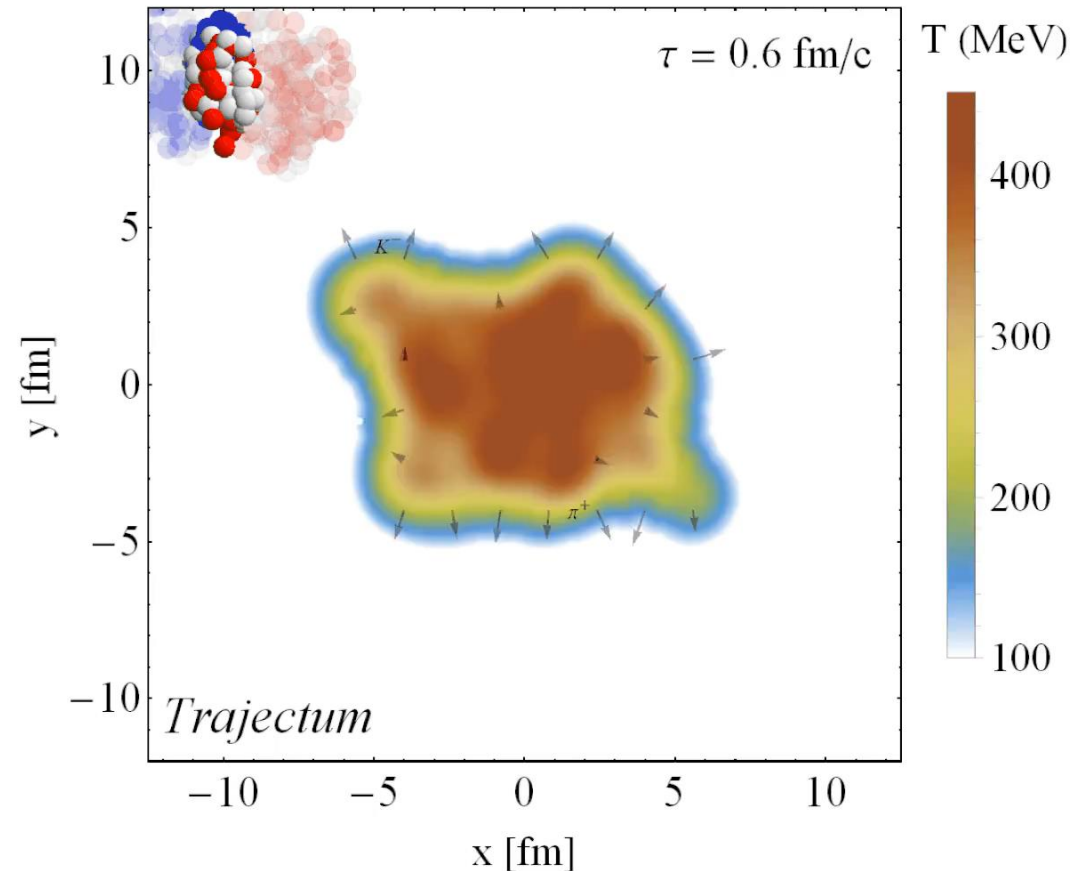
Cascade of hadrons (2)

SMASH



Trajectum

1. Quite straightforward to use (see param file, right)
2. Includes analyse routine
 - Parallelised: can analyse unlimited number of events



```
general{
  output=out
  format=smash
  f0500=false
  numevents=1
  seed=7398984.747399307
  debugoutput=true
  numthreads=2
}
entropyacceptanceprobability{
  0:0.0
  24:0.0
  24.5:0.05
  25.5:0.05
  26:0.0
  100:0.0
}
trentosubstructurePbPb{
  dmin=0.63933
  w=0.701919
  sigmann=70.0
  sigmafluct=0.73579
  p=0.14388
  q=1.0
  Eref=0.2
  norm=23.507
  freestreamingreferencetime=1.1708
  freestreamingvelocity=0.62672
  weaktostrong=0.0
  nref=20
  alpha=0
  nc=3.2747
  voverw=0.4892041602706295
}
secondorderhydro{
  numlatticesites=166.0
  latticesize=33.2
}
musclsolverktminmodfastmidpoint{
  cflconstant=0.08
}
LatticeE0StempdepDuke{
  shearhg=0.0895066
  shearmin=0.0895066
  shearslope=0.43252
  shearcrv=0.231195
  shearrelaxationtime=6.318855
  bulkmax=0.0030138
  bulkT0=0.21471
  bulkwidth=0.10906
  bulkrelaxationtime=0.0687
  deltapiiovertaupi=1.3333333333333333
  phi7overpressure=0.128571
  taupiovertaupi=1.61033
  lambdapiiovertaupi=1.2
  deltaPiiovertaupi=0.6666666666666666
  lambdaPiiovertaupi=1.6
  phi1overpressure=0
  phi3overpressure=0
  phi6overpressure=0
}
cooperfryehadronizer{
  freezeouttemp=153.456
  rapidityrange=0.1
}
```

Neutron skin

The background features a dark blue space with a faint, glowing neutron star on the left, emitting light rays. On the right, there is a detailed 3D model of a nucleus, represented as a cluster of red and blue spheres.

WITH A SHORT INTRO ON BAYESIAN ANALYSIS

Performing a global analysis

Model depends on parameters non-linearly

- Run model on 3000 'design' points
- Use an emulator for any point in parameter space (**GP**)

Markov Chain Monte Carlo

- 653 data points
- Obtain posterior probability density of parameters

Compare posterior with data

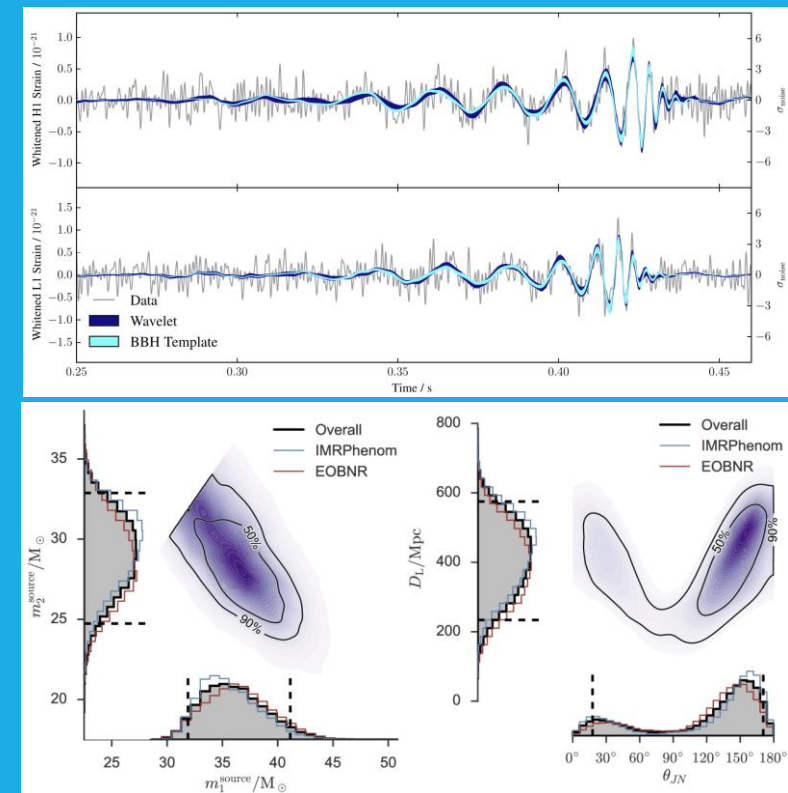
- Can include high statistics run

Bayes theorem:

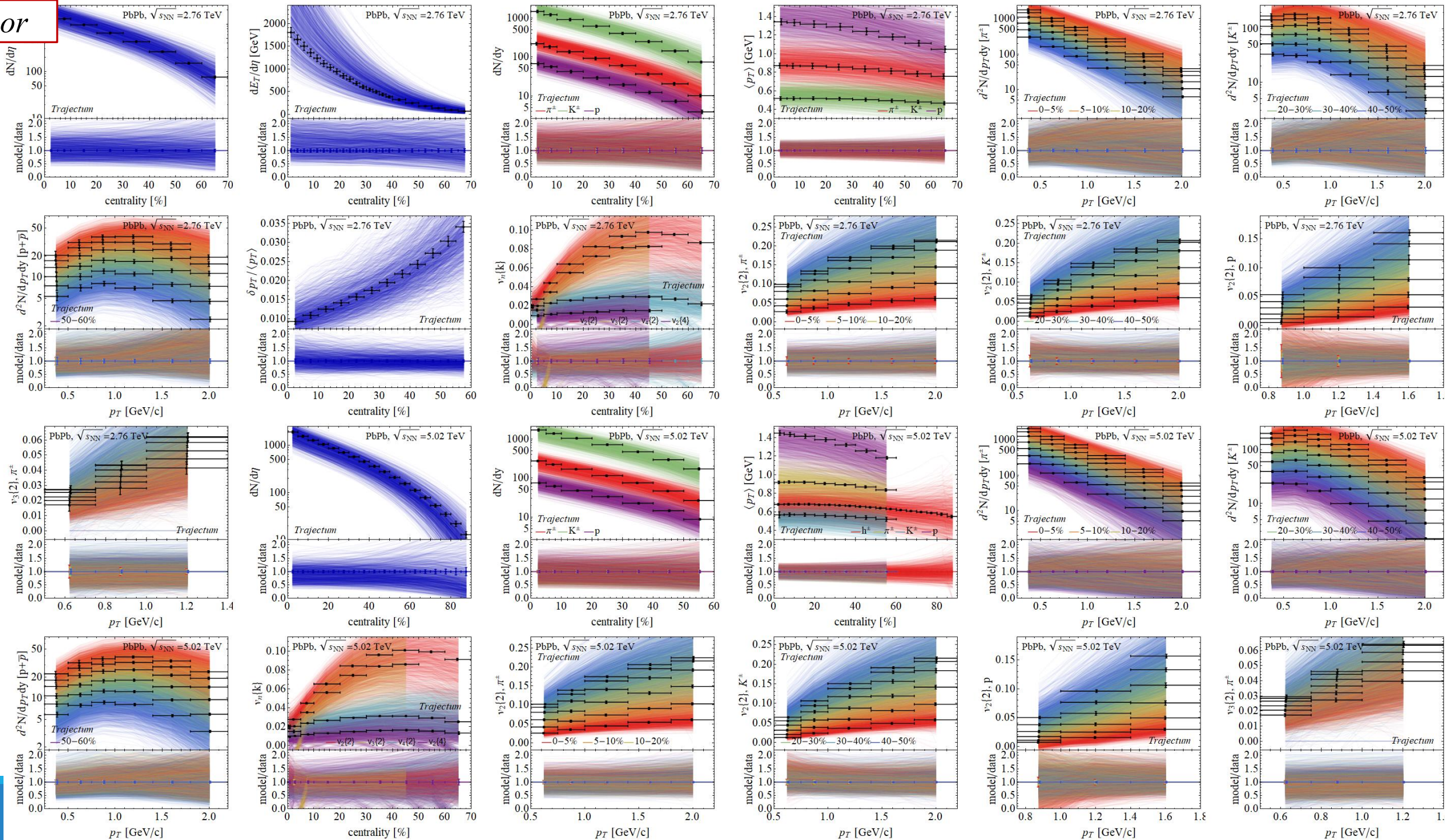
$$\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}_{\text{exp}}) = \frac{e^{-\Delta^2/2}}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n \det(\Sigma(\mathbf{x}))}} \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\text{with } \Delta^2 = (\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}_{\text{exp}}) \cdot \Sigma(\mathbf{x})^{-1} \cdot (\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}_{\text{exp}})$$

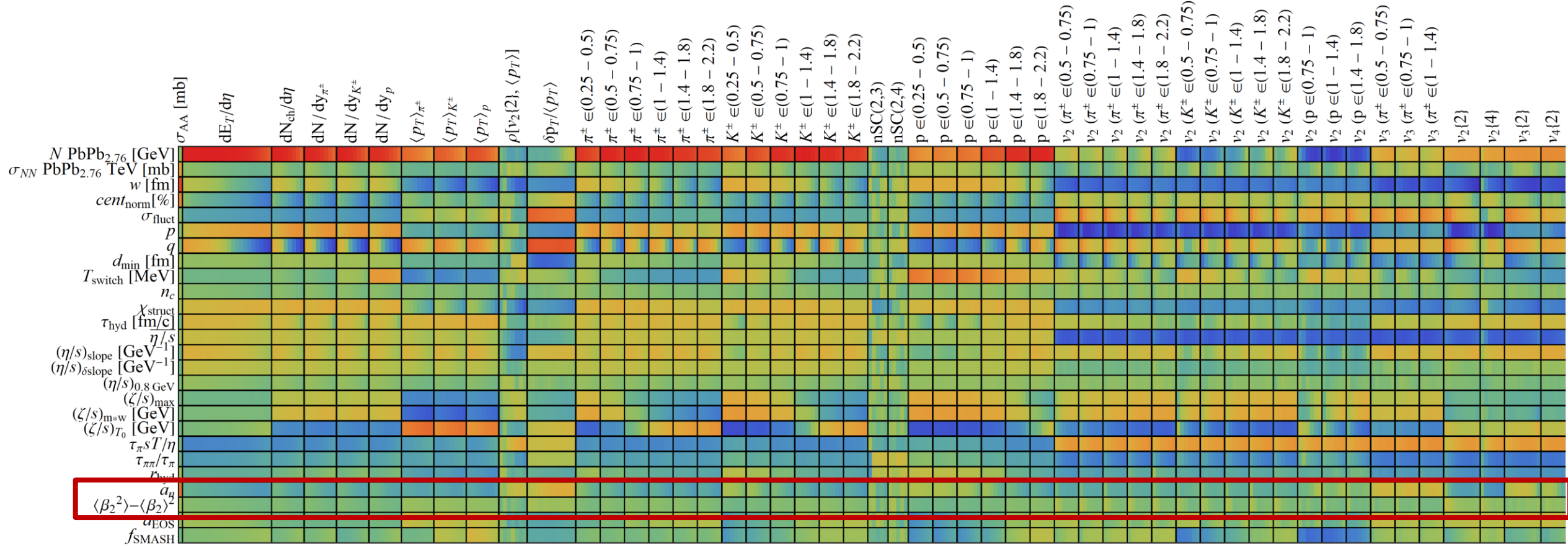
Same technique: gravitational waves

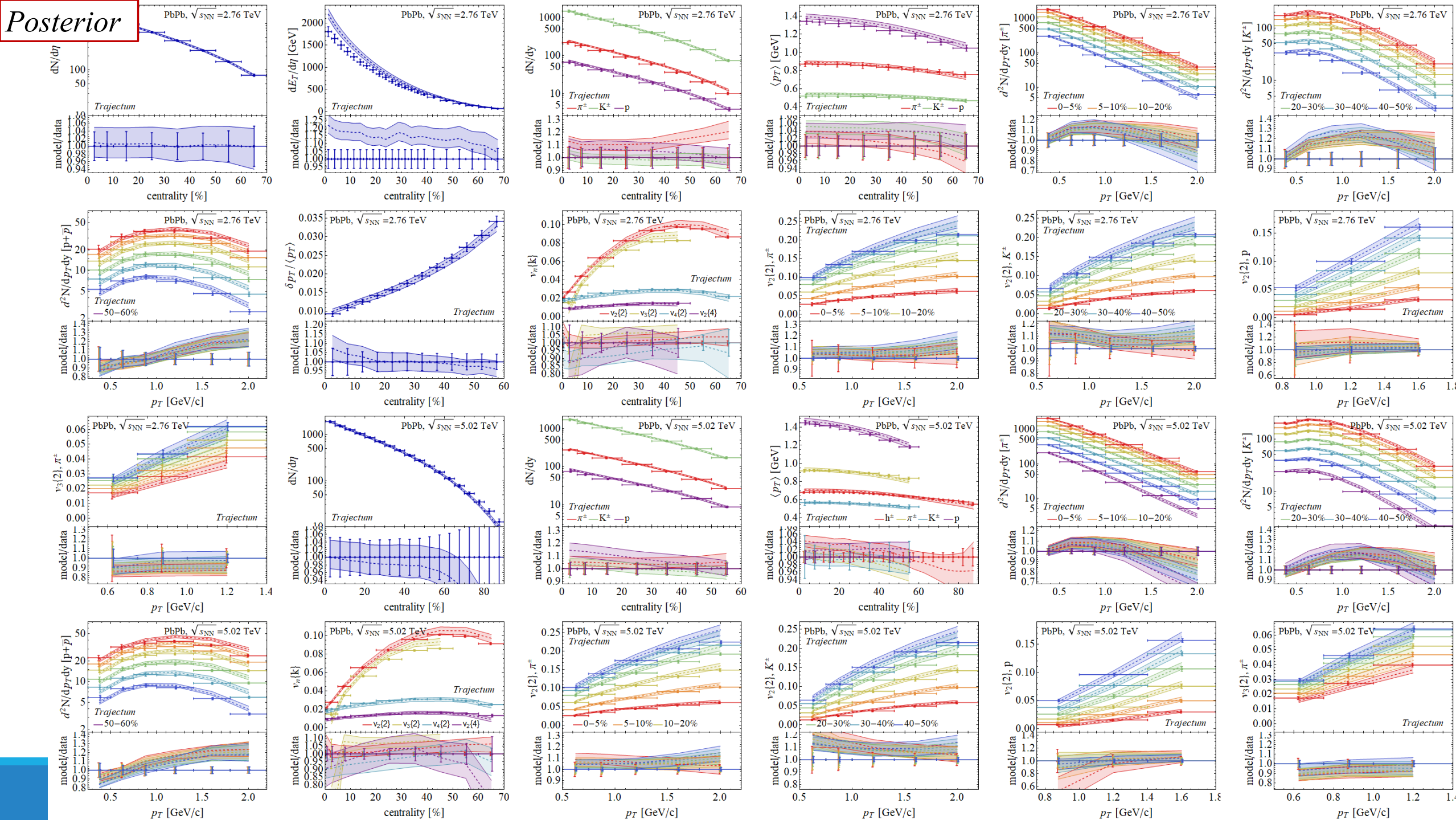


Prior



Design parameter-observable correlations:

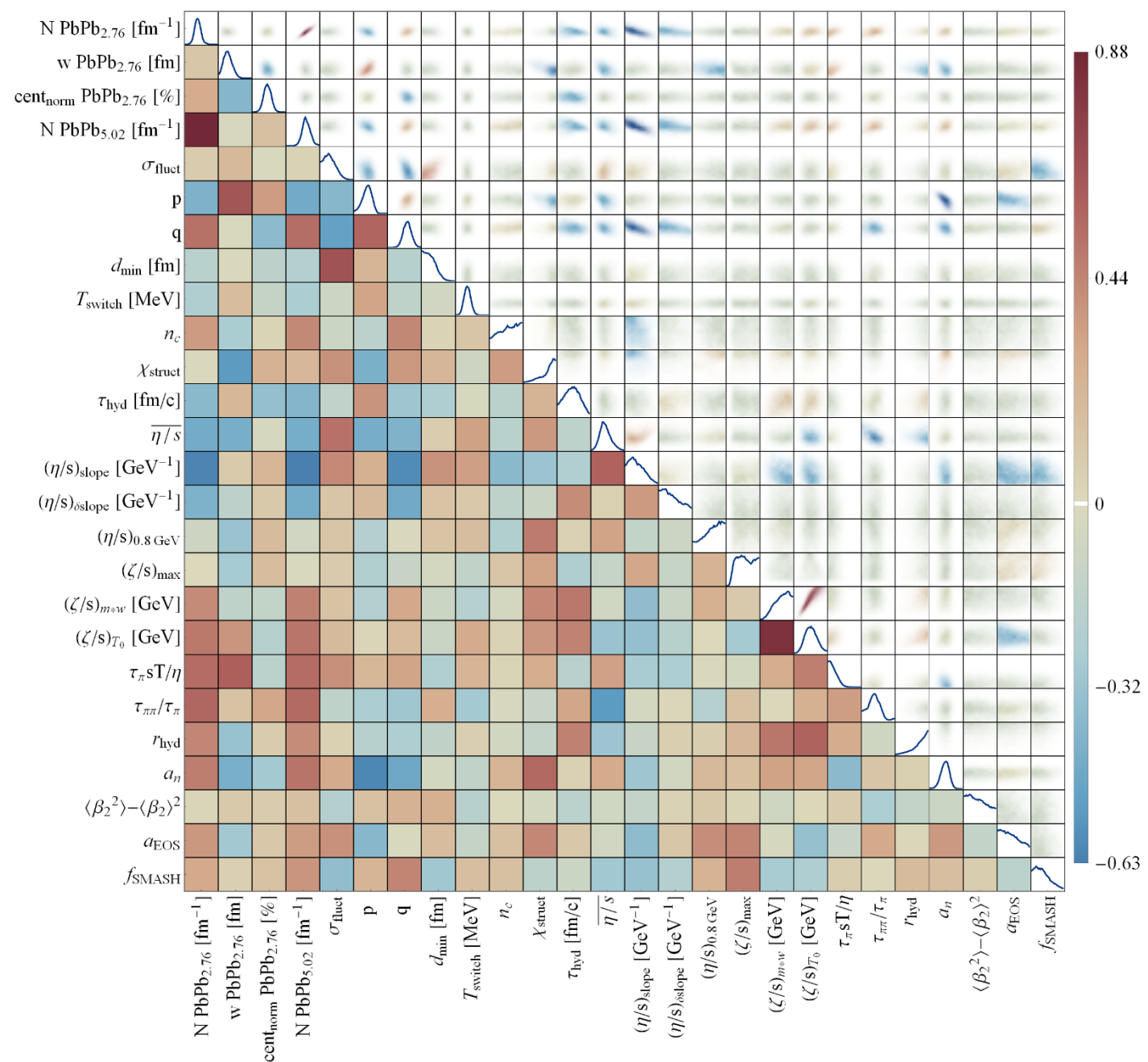




Full posterior distributions

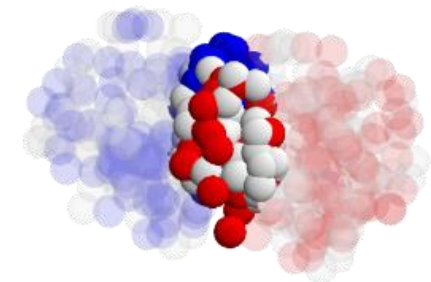
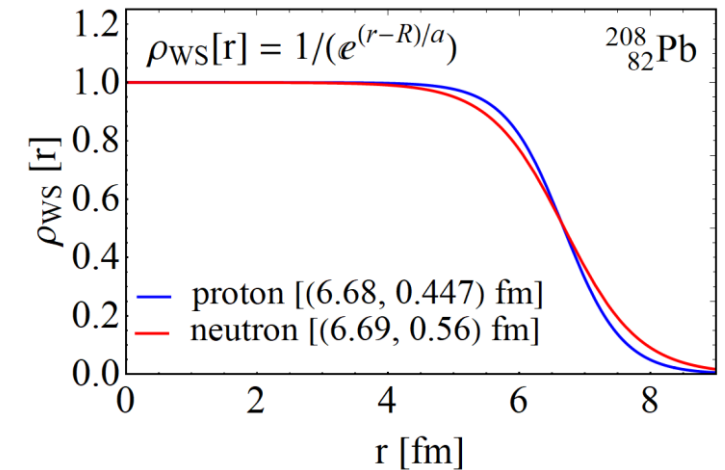
1. Some parameters better constrained than others

- Correlations add important information, e.g. width constrained much more accurately if q parameter is known



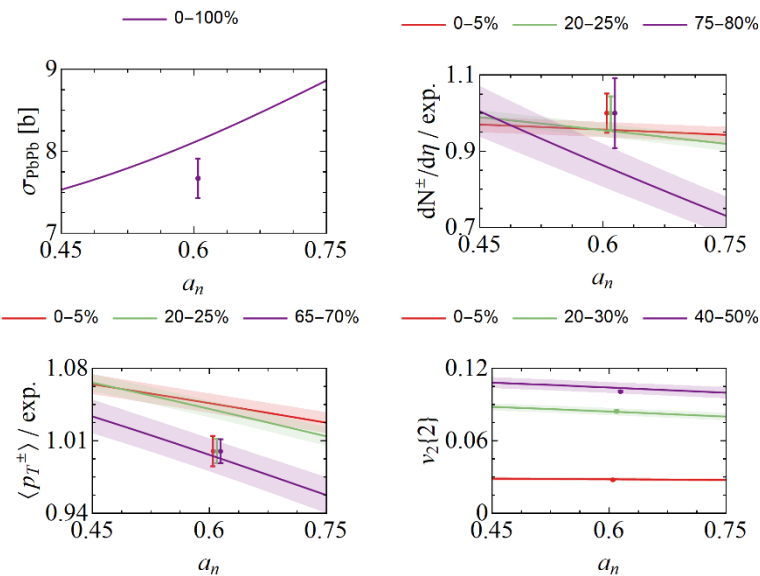
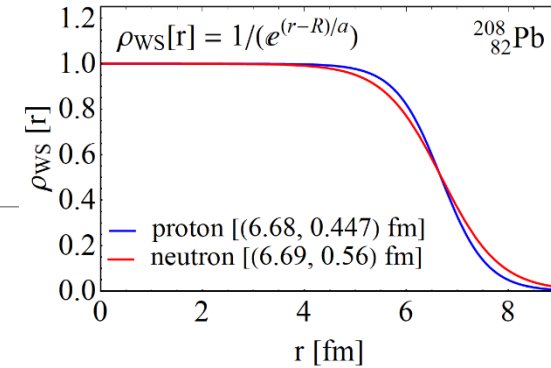
The neutron skin

1. Nucleus charge profile can be measured very accurately
 - Much more uncertainty in the profile of the neutrons
 - Relevant to understand cold QCD: EOS for neutron stars
2. Can we make progress using heavy ion collisions?
 - Isospin symmetry makes distinction neutron/proton difficult
 - Leverage accurate proton knowledge and obtain profile of nucleus?
3. How to obtain the profile of a nucleus?
 - Wood-Saxon + MC-Glauber + (model like Trento) → dynamics
 - Currently state-of-the-art ...
4. Profile influences many observables
 - Interplay with bulk viscosity, Trento model etc
 - Likely need a full global analysis

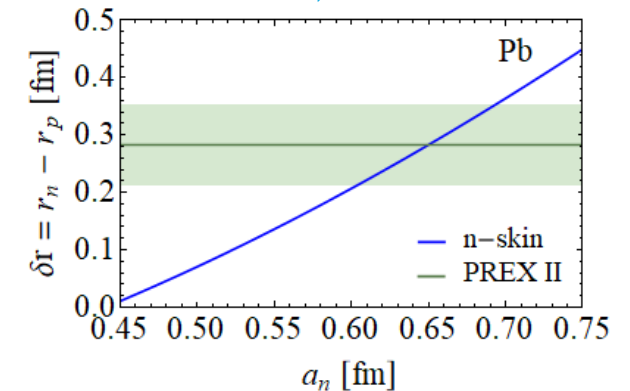


The neutron skin - emulator

- Plan is to vary a for neutrons and see if HIC can constrain it
 - a determines the neutron radius (approx. linear for RMS radius)
- First step: what does the emulator say?
 - Using a precise global analysis (26 parameters, 3000 design points)



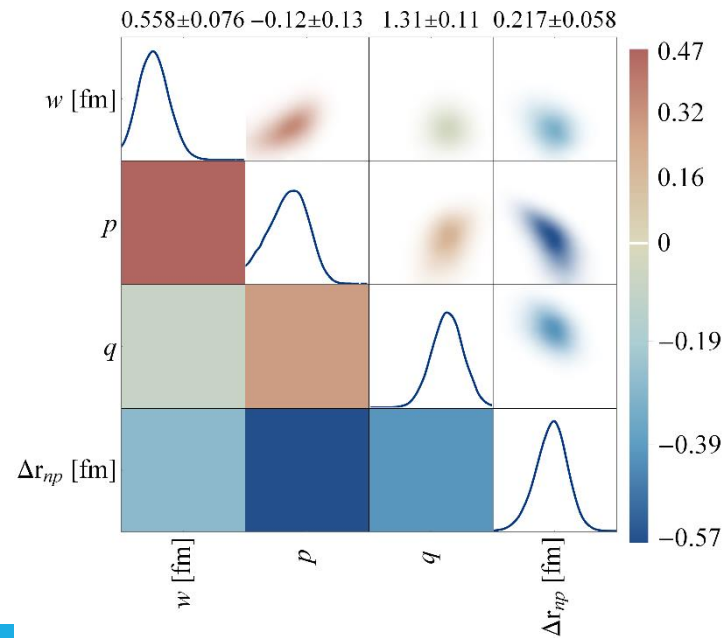
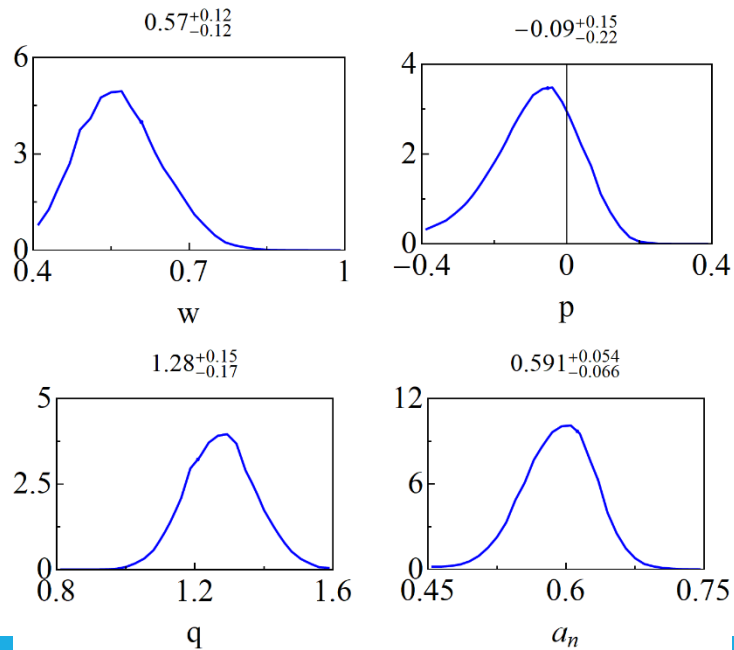
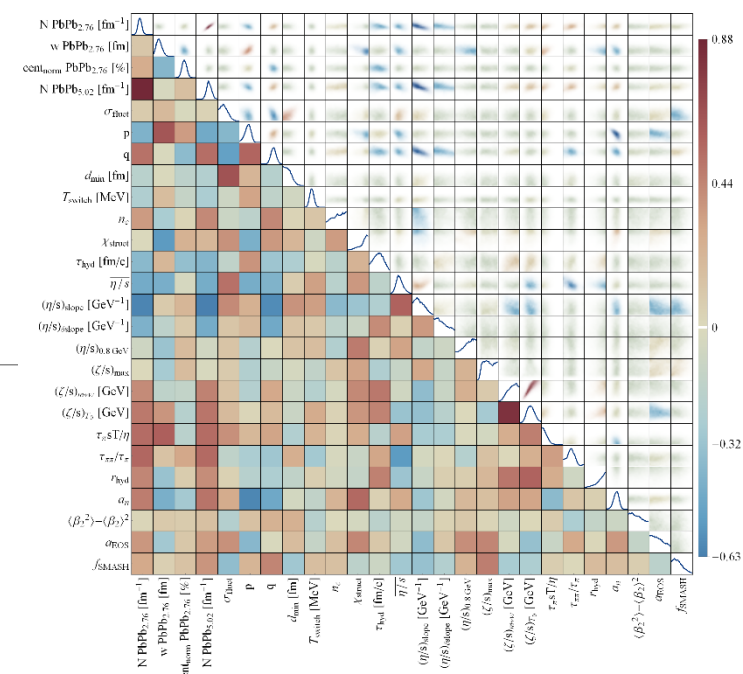
- Main change: cross section
 - Measures 'size' of nucleus
- Both multiplicity and mean p_T change
 - Mainly for peripheral ('skin effect')
- Small changes for other observables



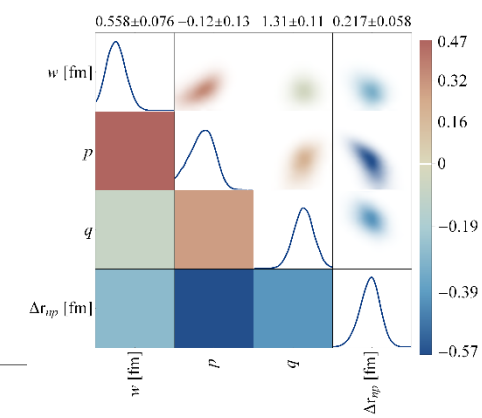
$$\mathcal{E} \propto \left(\frac{1}{2} T_A^p + \frac{1}{2} T_B^p \right)^{q/p} = (T_A T_B)^{q/2} \Big|_{p=0}$$

The neutron skin - posterior

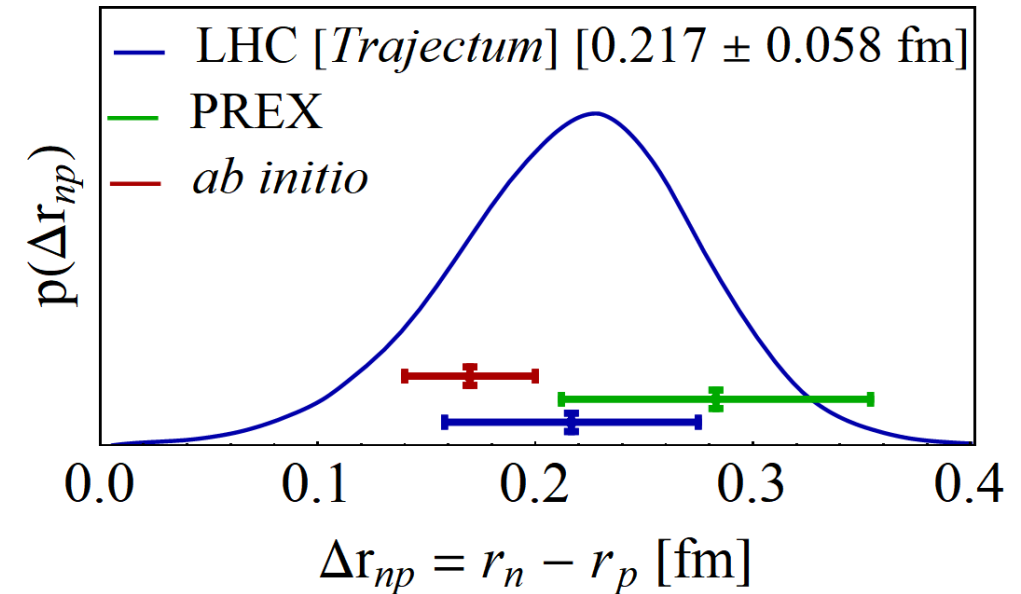
- Three parameters are most sensitive to the neutron skin:
 - The nucleon width and the Trento parameters p and q
 - Small correlation with width (cross section is highly sensitive to w)
 - Very strong anticorrelation with p ; centrality dependence is important



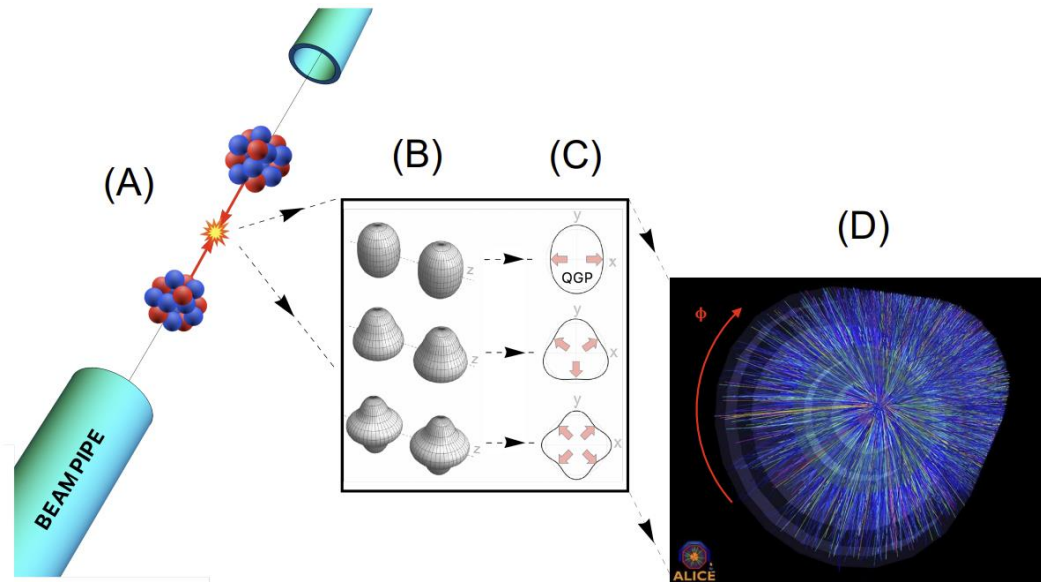
The neutron skin – final result



1. Transform to neutron radius minus proton radius
2. Final result consistent but smaller than PREX II
3. Uncertainty is about 20% smaller than PREX II
4. Cross section is crucially important, but also centrality dependence
 - Important to vary Trento parameters in particular

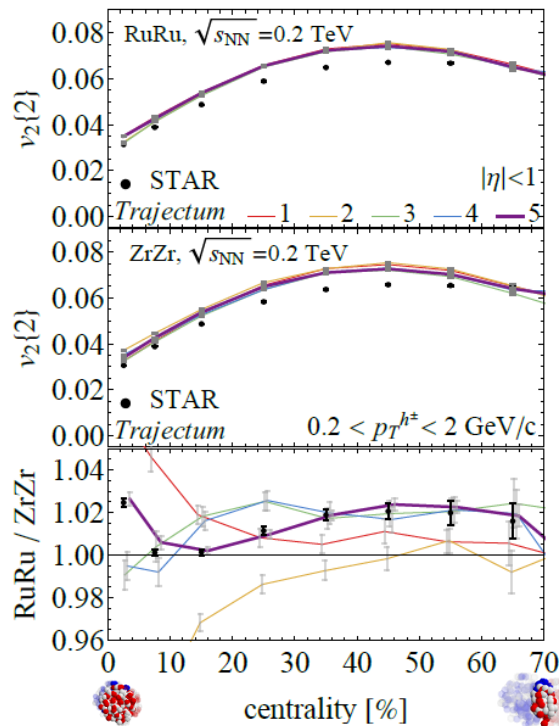


The shape of nuclei

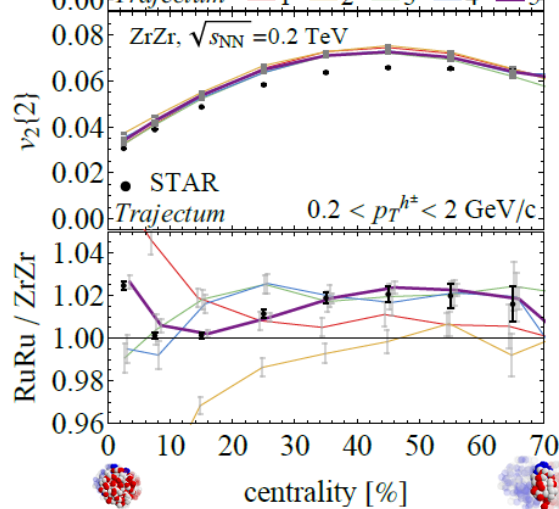


Isobar collisions at STAR – Flow and mean p_T $v_2\{2\}$ $v_3\{2\}$ $\langle p_{T,h^\pm} \rangle$

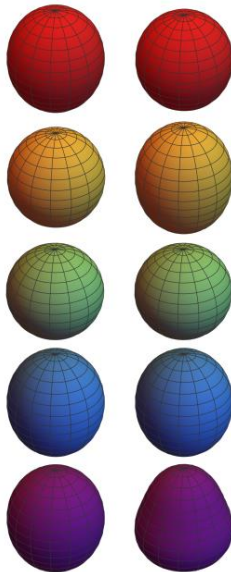
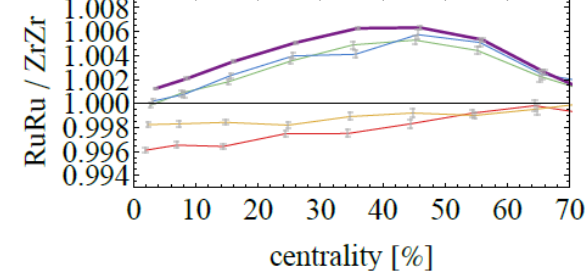
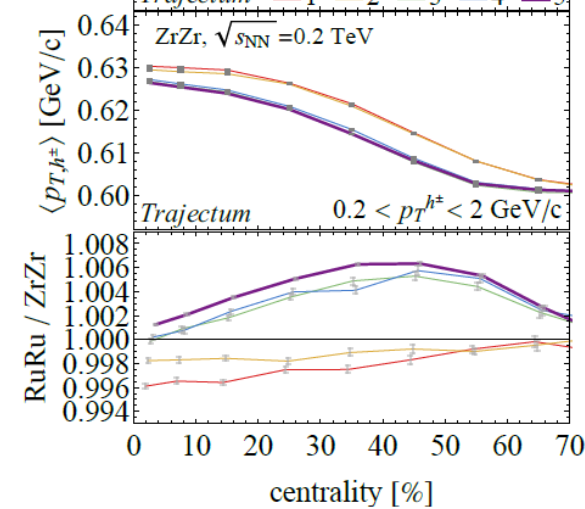
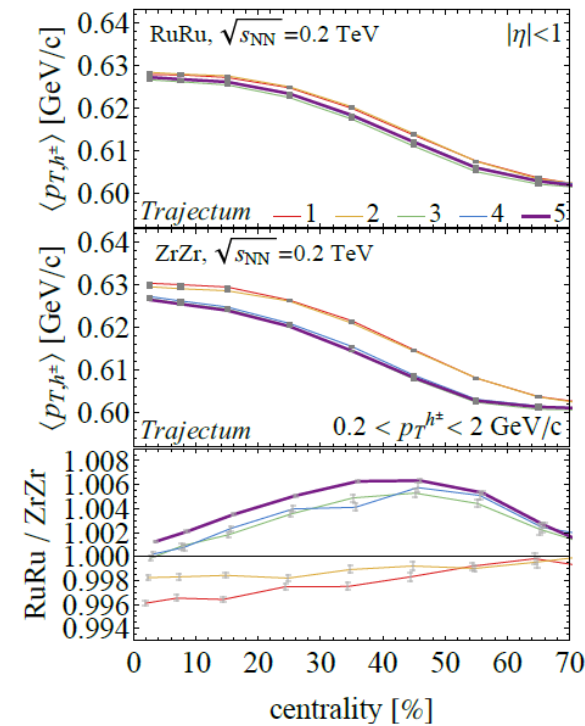
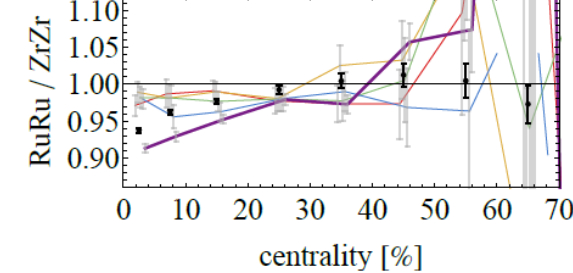
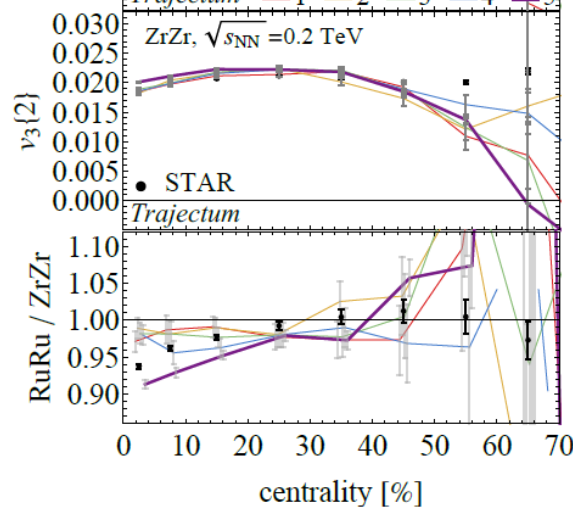
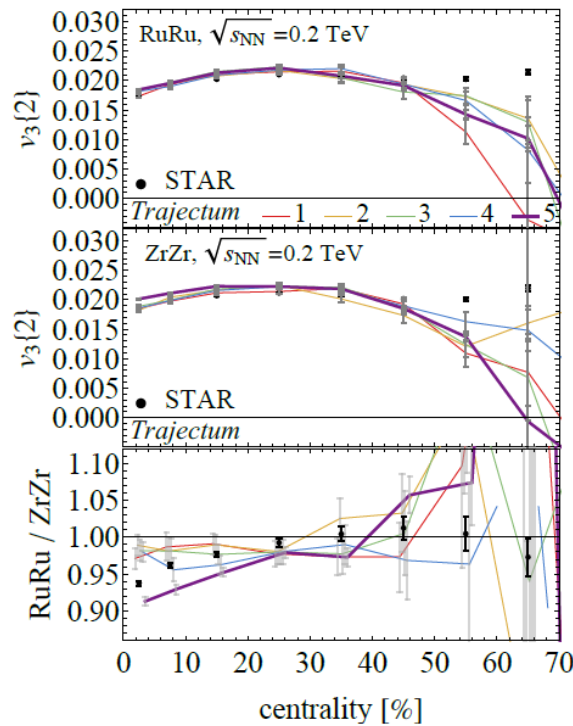
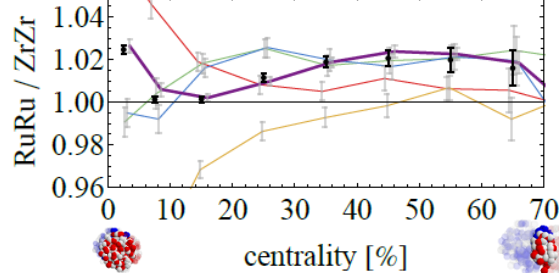
RuRu



ZrZr



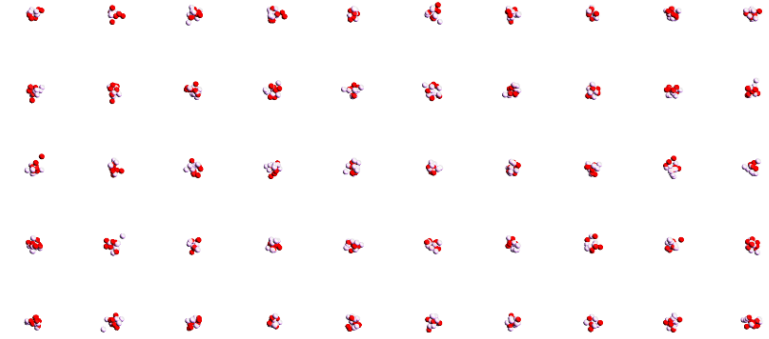
Ratio



Original motivation was to study Chiral Magnetic Effect (CME, not found...)

- Turns out that the background is significant, can be studied with **hydro** only
- Note that *Trajectum* is not fitted to RHIC energies, no absolute agreement
- Requires many events, percent level accuracy

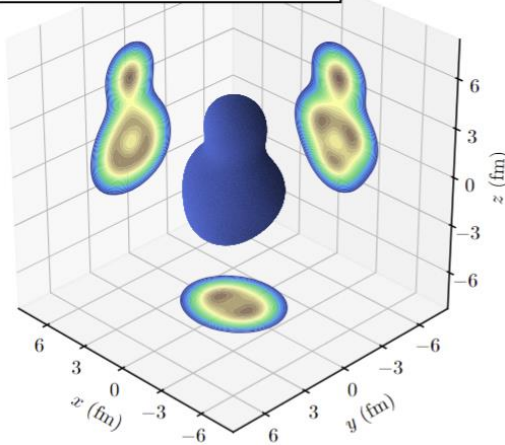
^{16}O and ^{20}Ne nuclear structure



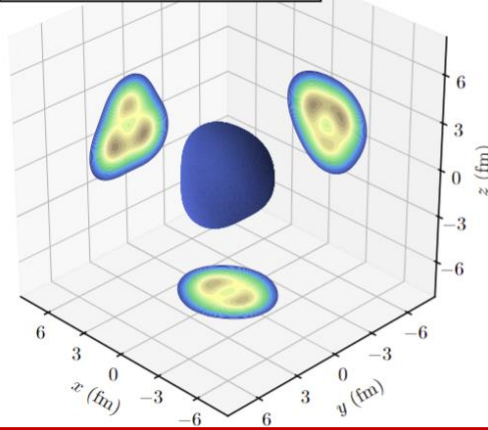
Do we understand and/or need to understand the shape of O and Ne?

- Naively it seems so: large uncertainty
- Interesting by itself: combination of 4 or 5 alpha particles
- State-of-the-art Projected Generator Coordinate Method (PGCM) and NLEFT results:

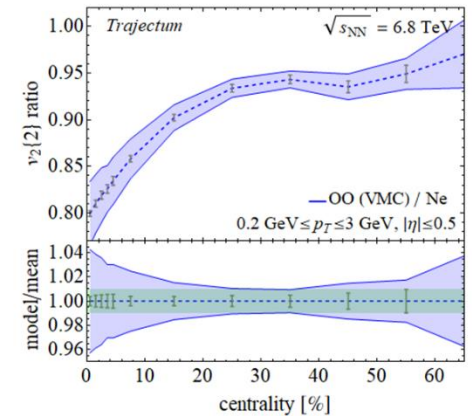
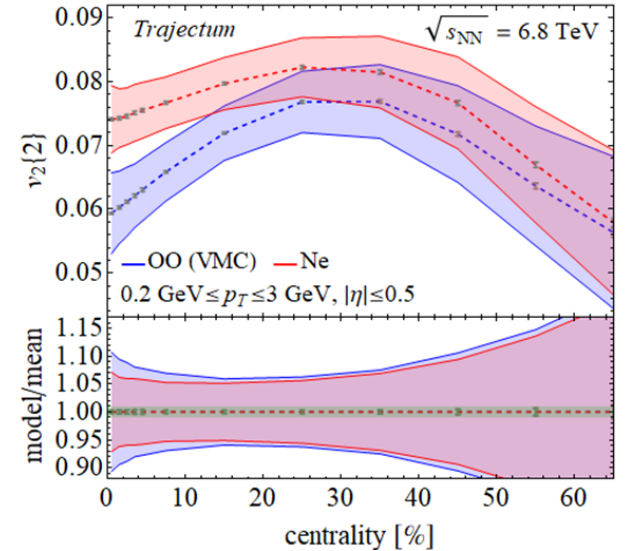
^{20}Ne , $\bar{\rho}_m(x, y, z)$ - PGCM



^{16}O , $\bar{\rho}_m(x, y, z)$ - PGCM



Work in process with B. Bally, D. Lee et al



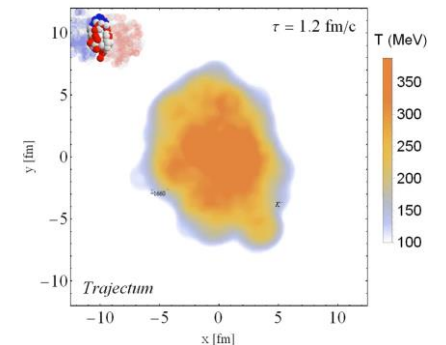
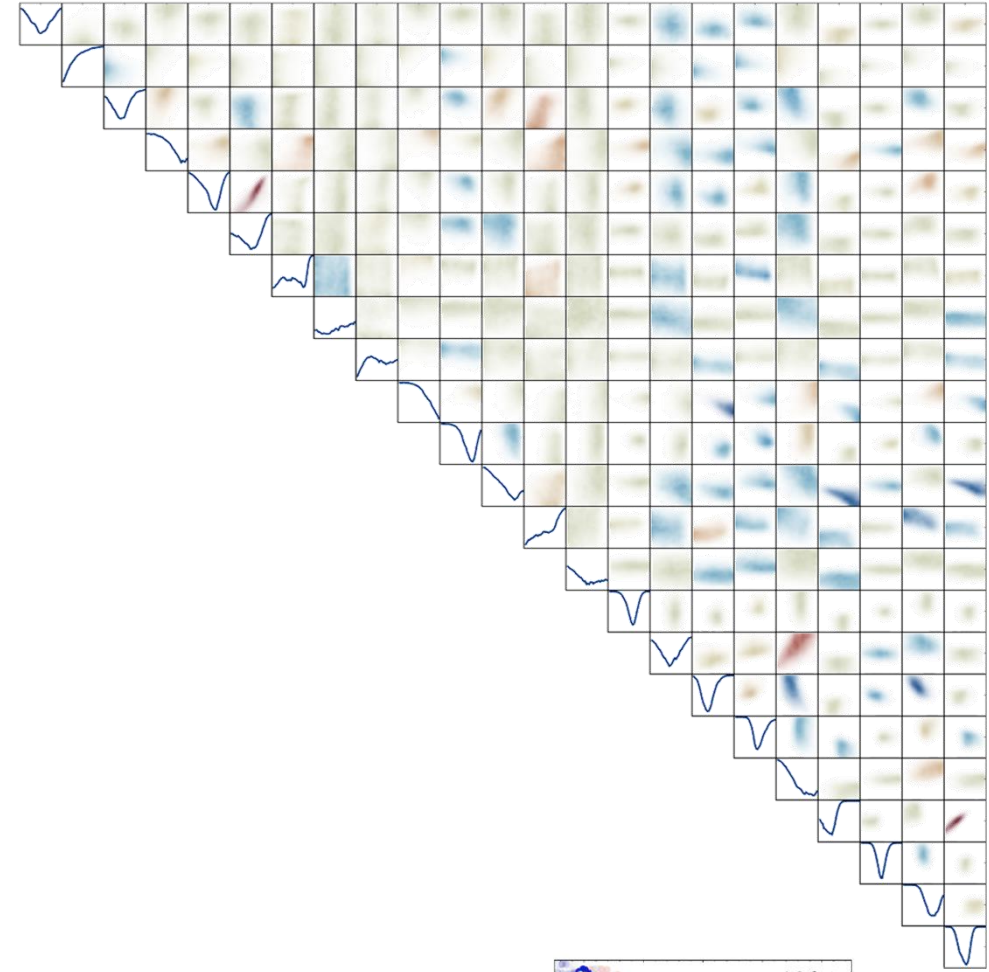
Discussion

Exciting progress using global analyses

- Heavy ion collisions towards percent level precision
- Nuclear structure becoming relevant and interesting

First study for neutron skin, many improvements possible

Oxygen collisions to be performed at the LHC summer 2024!

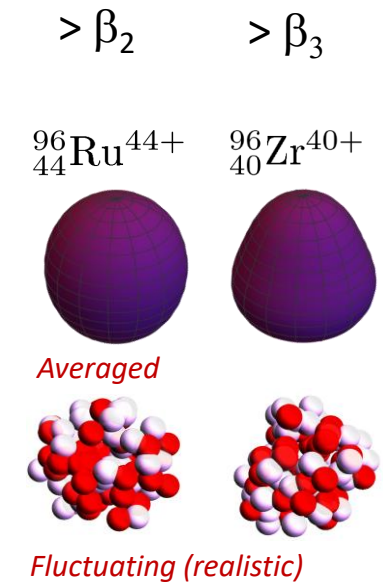
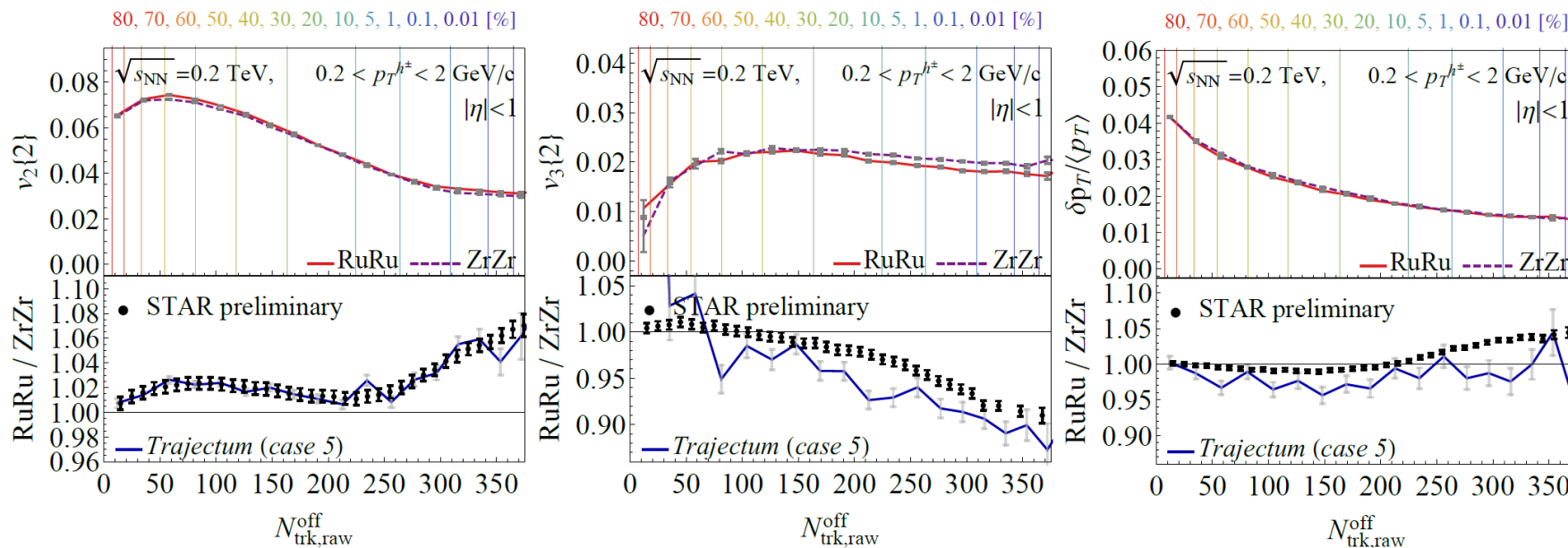


Back-up

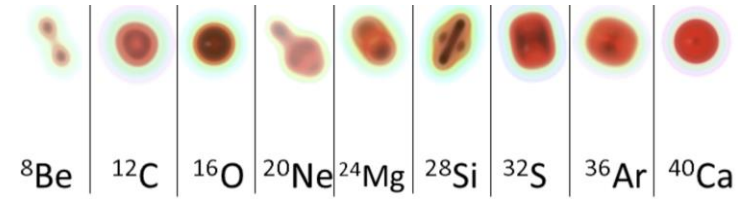
Extremely ultracentral collisions

Going to 0.01% centrality (we sample from 250M Trento events)

- Excellent match v_2 , v_3 and pt fluct somewhat overpredicted
- Extremely ultracentral is ideal regime to probe nuclear structure (also: better hydro!)



Nuclear structure and heavy ion collisions



Isobar collisions raise several questions:

- Are HIC sensitive to nuclear structure? Yes, but at percent level accuracy
- Are HIC understood at percent level? Historically likely not...

A more systematic approach

- Vary several approaches to nuclear structure
- Vary parameter settings within current posterior distribution
- **Do we need an (isobar) ratio to make progress?**

Oxygen (and Neon?) at CERN

- Independently interesting: the smallest droplet of QGP, cosmic rays (p-O collisions)
- Oxygen (Neon) specifically interesting: can we see 4 (5) clusters of alpha-particles?
- Neon – Lead beam gas collisions foreseen at LHCb fixed target mode

