

# Selected results from Isobar collisions at RHIC

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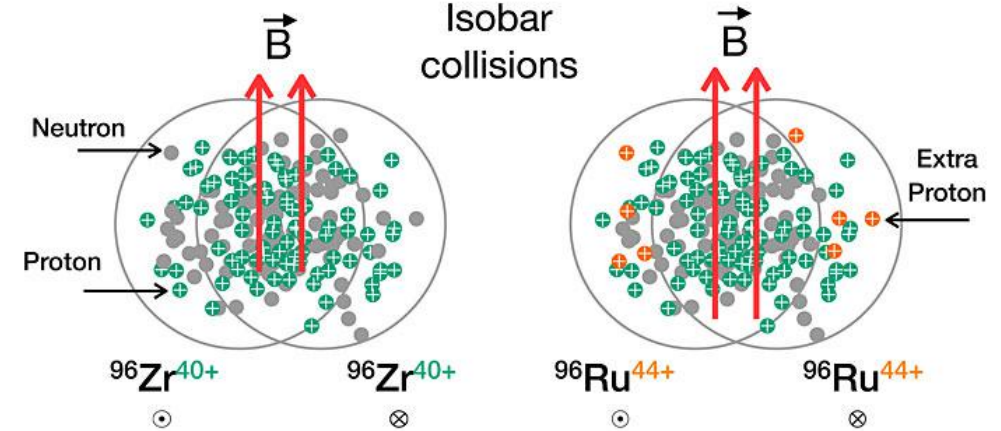
# Motivation: Isobar collisions

## Isobar Nuclei: $^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$ and $^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$

- Same mass number ( $A = 96$ ) but different number of protons
- Size between large (U/Au) and small (Cu/O) systems
- Subtle difference in nuclear structure

## Isobar collisions: Zr+Zr and Ru+Ru at RHIC

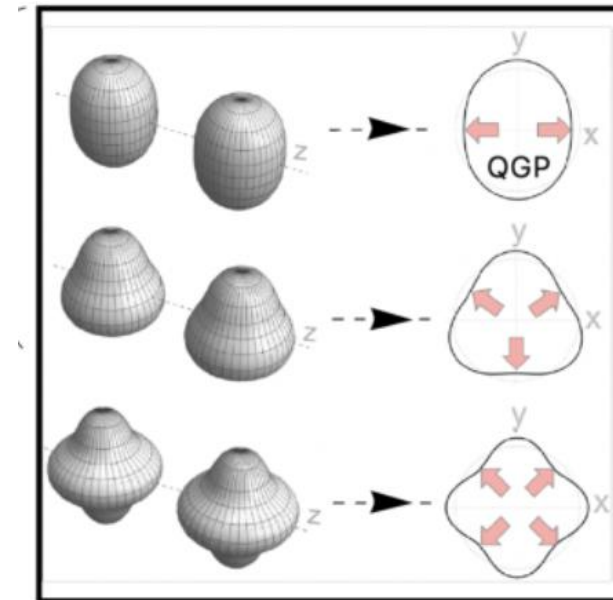
- Performed at RHIC-STAR experiment in year 2018
- Large statistics: 2B Zr & 1.8B Ru (MinBias) events collected
- Controlled run conditions, resulting in minimized systematics
- High precision & multi-differential studies on QGP properties



❖ Exploring differences in nuclear structures between Ru and Zr nuclei can reveal valuable insights. Potential impacts include:

- Variations in charged particle multiplicity and  $p_T$ -spectra
- Differences in collective flow

❖ These differences could arise from variations in the initial state and the final state



# Charge Particle Multiplicity

Various deformation configurations of the Isobar Nuclei  ${}^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$  and  ${}^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$  in the AMPT model

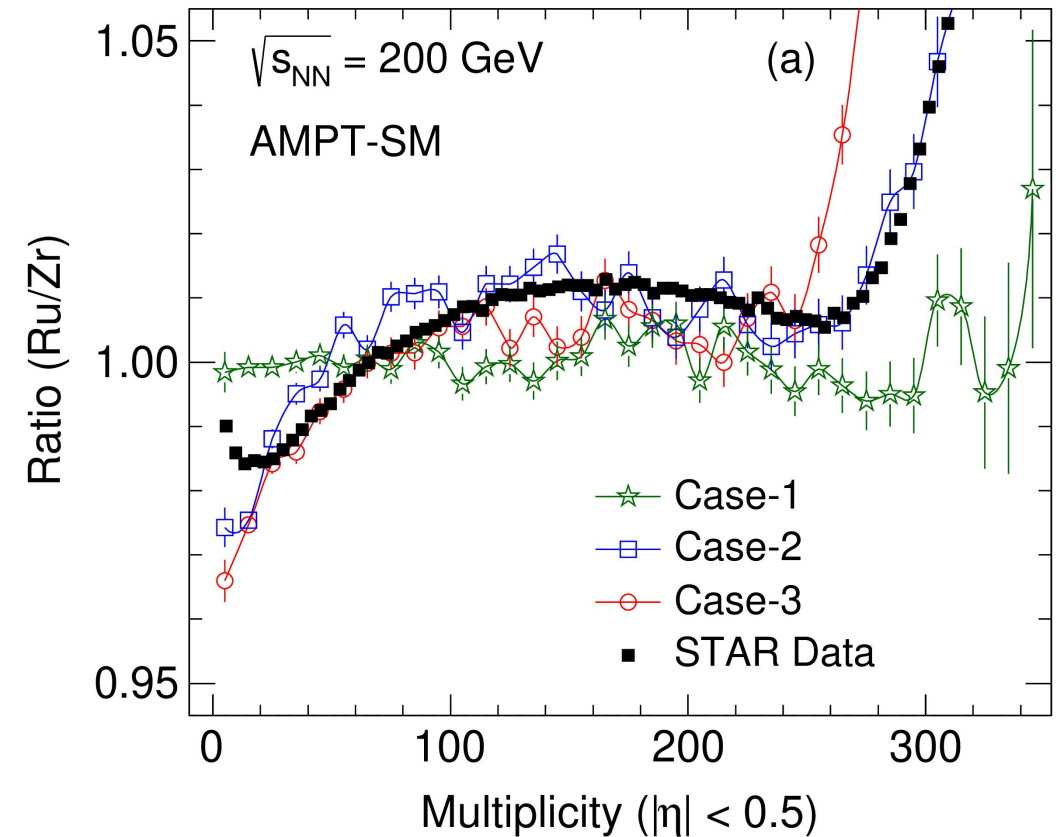
| Parameter | Ru     |        |        | Zr     |        |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|           | case 1 | case 2 | case 3 | case 1 | case 2 | case 3 |
| $R_0$     | 5.096  | 5.067  | 5.090  | 5.096  | 4.965  | 5.090  |
| $a$       | 0.540  | 0.500  | 0.460  | 0.540  | 0.556  | 0.520  |
| $\beta_2$ | 0      | 0      | 0.162  | 0      | 0      | 0.060  |
| $\beta_3$ | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0.200  |

$R_0$ : Radius parameter

$\beta_2$ : Quadruple deformity

$\beta_3$ : Octupole deformity

$Y_{l,m}(\theta,\varphi)$ : Spherical harmonics



## Charge particle multiplicity ratio:

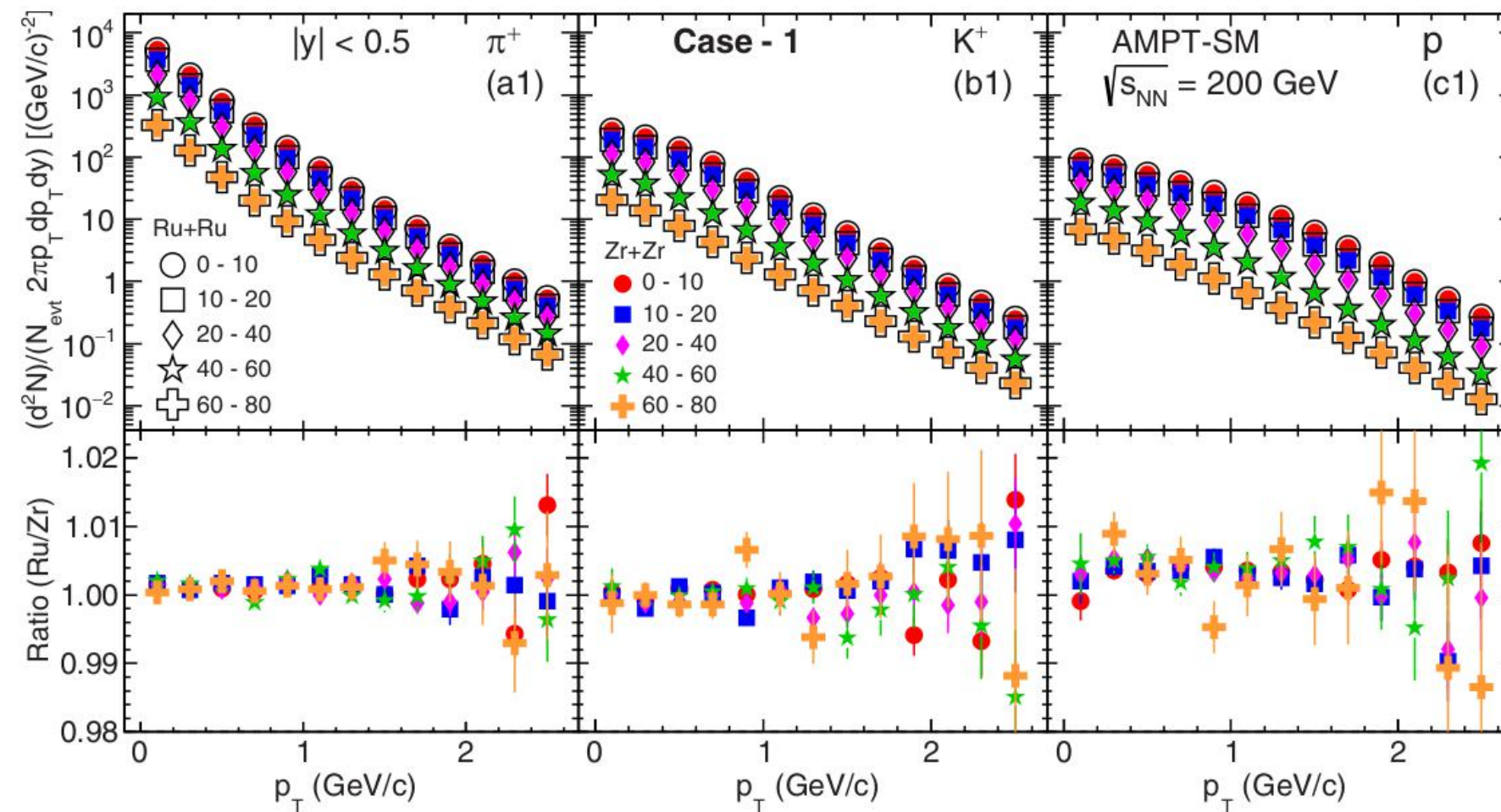
In central collisions, case-2 of the AMPT model better describes the STAR experimental data, whereas in peripheral collisions, case-3 of the AMPT model describes the data better.

➤ Indicates influence of the nuclear size and thickness variation

AMPT: P. Sinha et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 108, 024911 (2023)  
 STAR: M. S. Abdallah et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 105, 014901 (2022)



# Transverse Momentum Spectra



- Case 1: same nuclear size w/o deformation
- Case 2: different nuclear size w/o deformation
- Case 3: different nuclear size with deformation

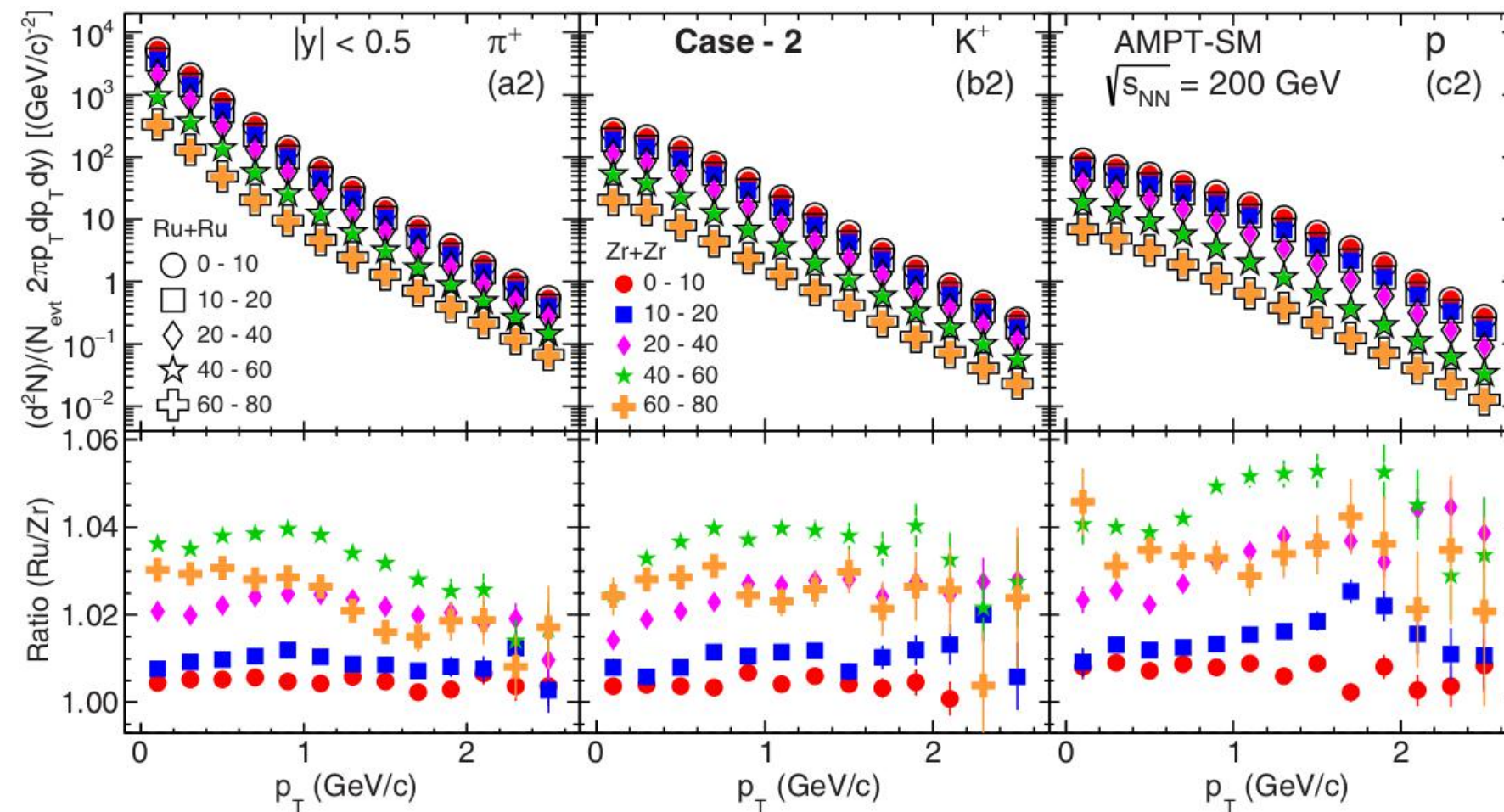
Transverse momentum ( $p_T$ ) spectra of identified hadrons ( $\pi$ ,  $K$ , and  $p$ ) at midrapidity ( $|y| < 0.5$ ) in isobar (Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr) collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV using the AMPT model.

➤ Case 1: No deviation observed from unity between the  $p_T$  spectra of identified hadrons in Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions within statistical uncertainties.

*P. Sinha et al., Phys. Rev. C 108, 024911 (2023)*



# Transverse Momentum Spectra



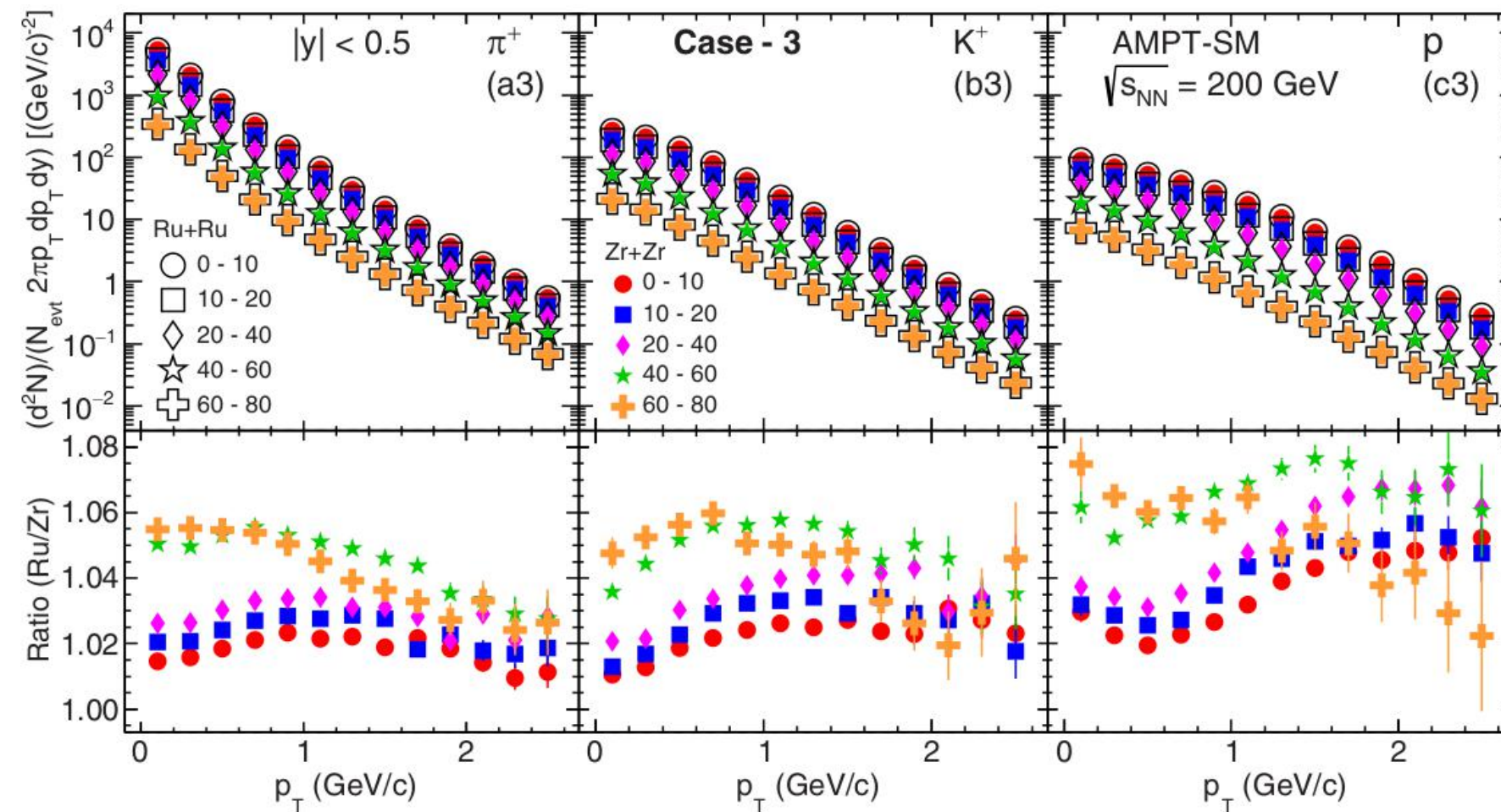
- Case 1: same nuclear size w/o deformation
- Case 2: different nuclear size w/o deformation
- Case 3: different nuclear size with deformation

Transverse momentum ( $p_T$ ) spectra of identified hadrons ( $\pi$ , K, and p) at midrapidity ( $|y| < 0.5$ ) in isobar (Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr) collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV using the AMPT model.

➤ Case 2: Deviation of 4% to 6% observed between the  $p_T$  spectra of identified hadrons in Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions. Deviation increases from central to peripheral collisions.

*P. Sinha et al., Phys. Rev. C 108, 024911 (2023)*

# Transverse Momentum Spectra



- Case 1: same nuclear size w/o deformation
- Case 2: different nuclear size w/o deformation
- Case 3: different nuclear size with deformation

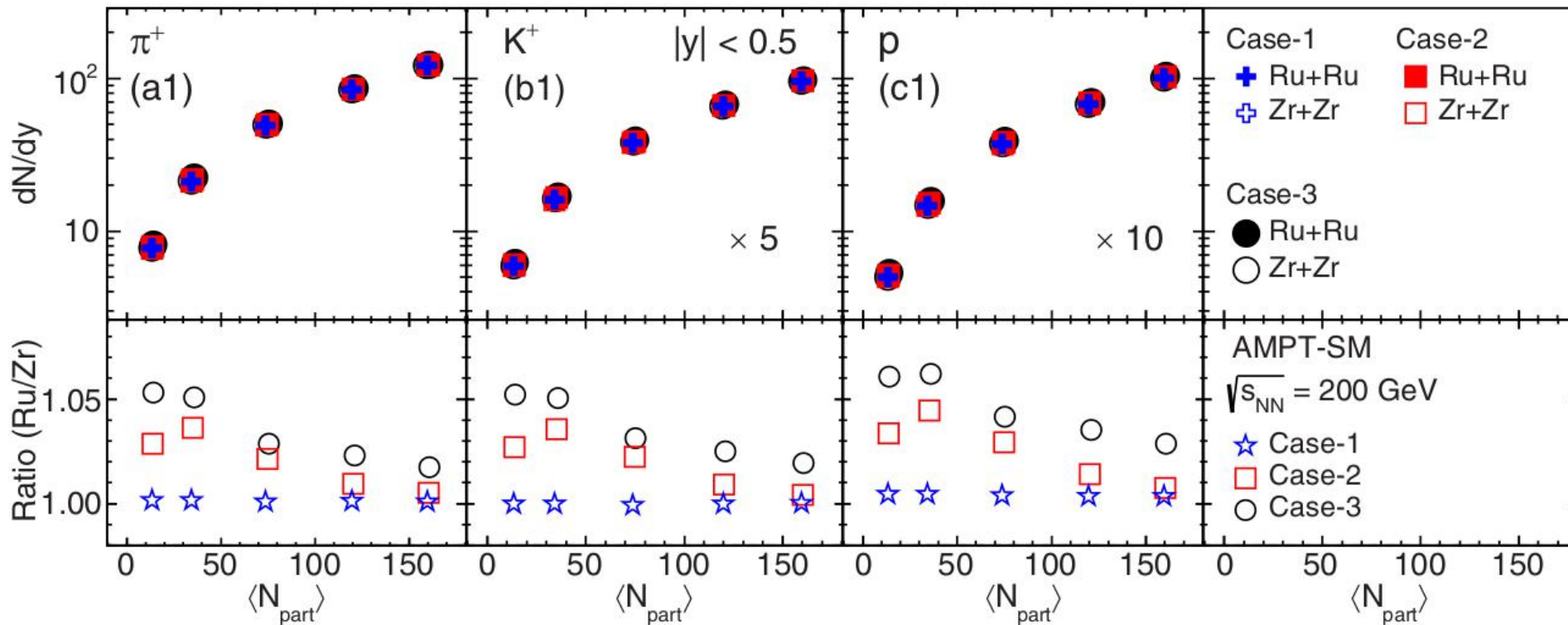
Transverse momentum ( $p_T$ ) spectra of identified hadrons ( $\pi$ , K, and p) at midrapidity ( $|y| < 0.5$ ) in isobar (Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr) collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV using the AMPT model.

➤ Case 3: Inclusion of deformation causes deviation to increase upto 6%-8% between the  $p_T$  spectra of identified hadrons in Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions.

*P. Sinha et al., Phys. Rev. C 108, 024911 (2023)*



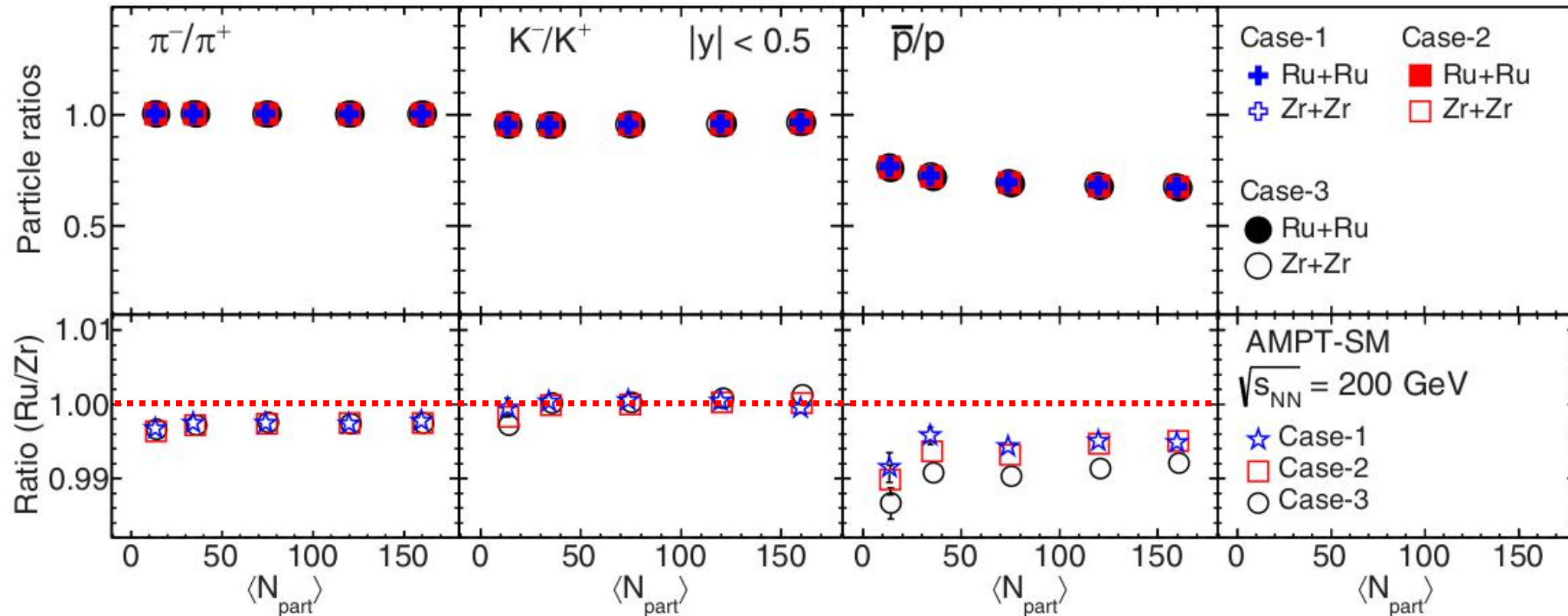
# Particle Yield



$p_T$ -integrated yield ( $dN/dy$ ) of identified hadrons ( $\pi$ ,  $K$ , and  $p$ ) at midrapidity ( $|y| < 0.5$ ) in isobar (Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr) collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV using the AMPT model.

- Significant deviation (upto 6%) observed in the ratio of particle yields with the inclusion of different deformation and nuclear size in Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions.
- Deviation increases towards peripheral collisions.

# Particle Ratios



Ratio of  $\pi^-/\pi^+$  between the two isobars is lower than unity

- Indicating effect of isospin

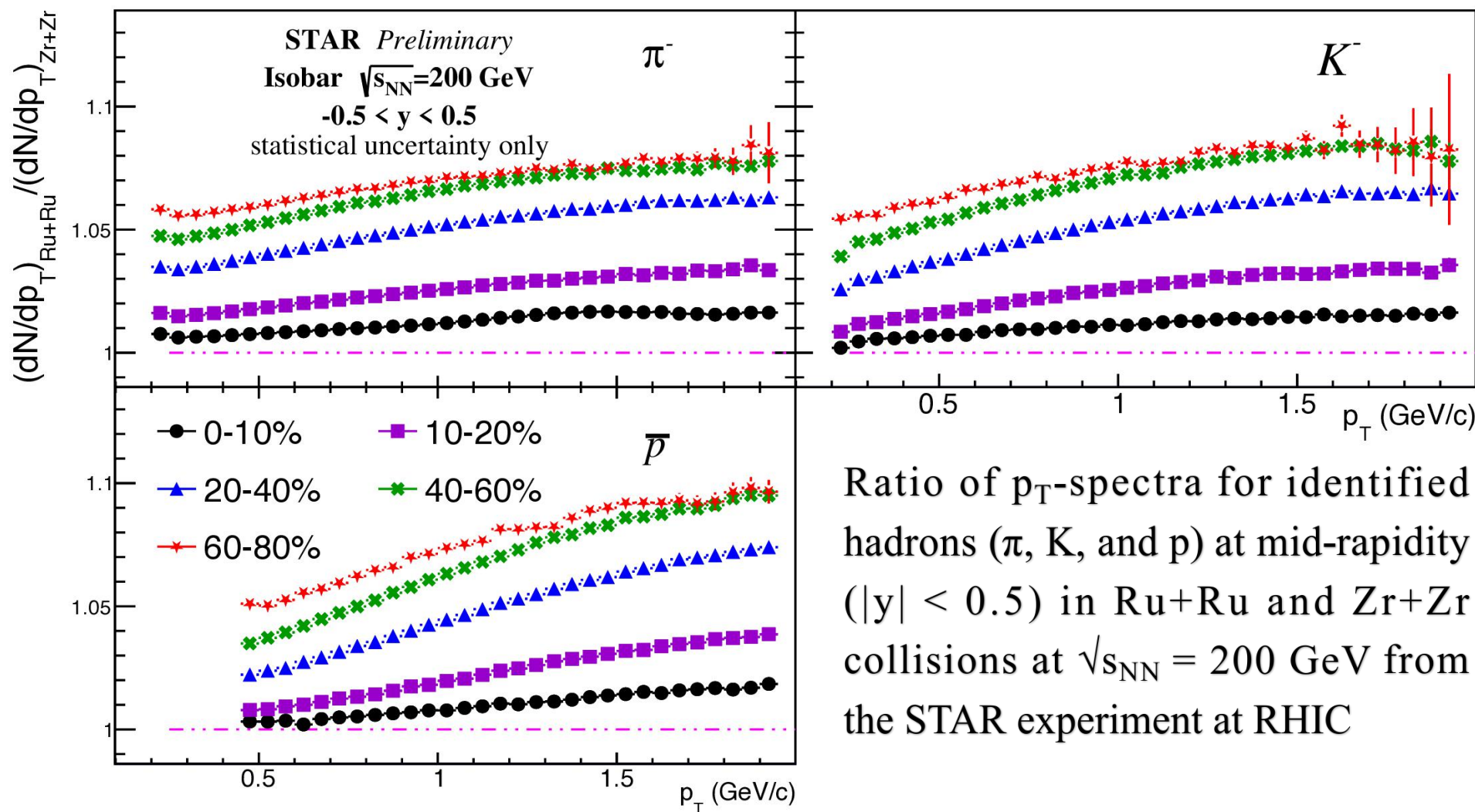
Ratio of  $\bar{p}/p$  is further lower than unity compared to  $\pi^-/\pi^+$

- Indicating additional baryon stopping effect

Ratio of  $K^-/K^+$  is close to unity between the two isobars

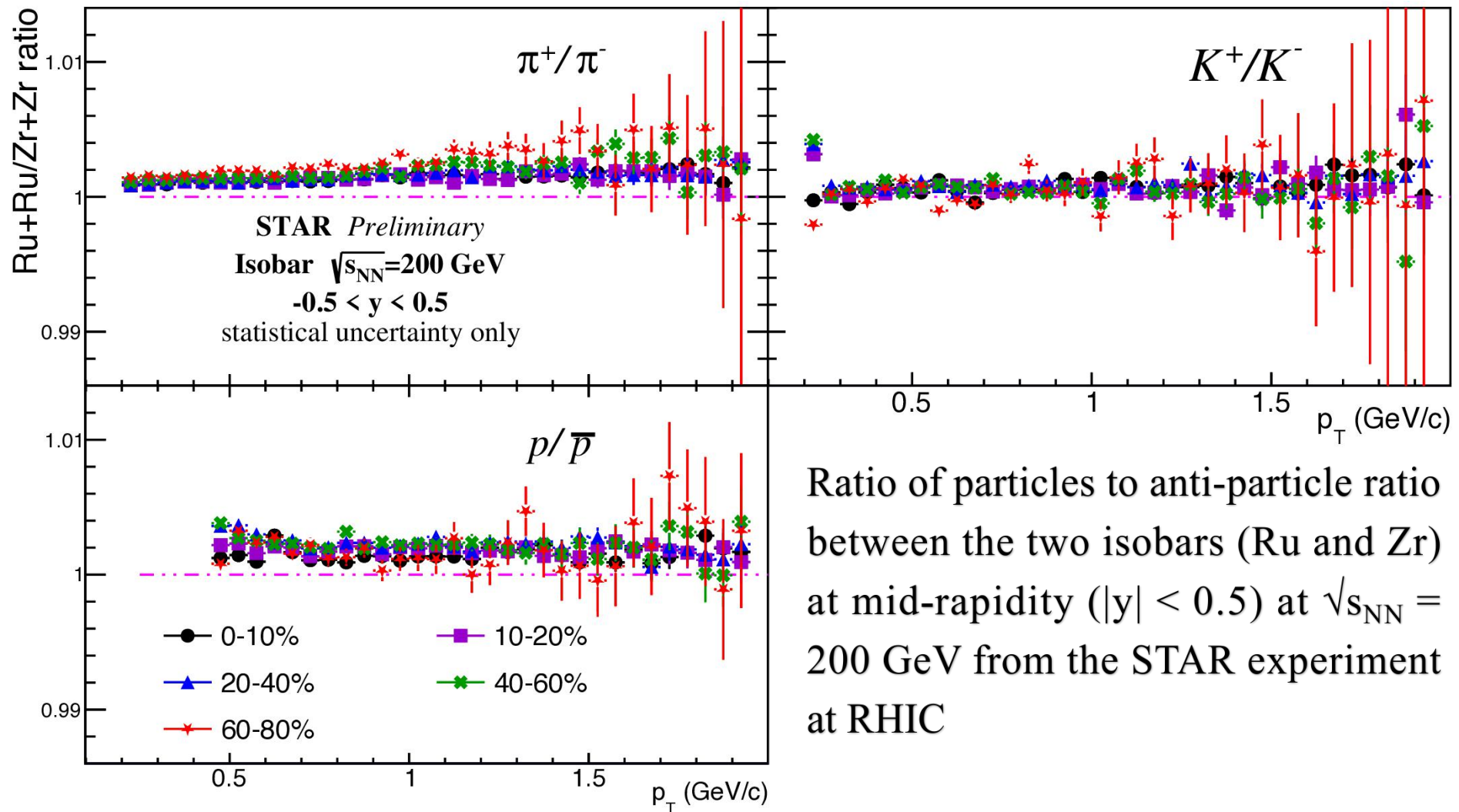
- Indicating dominance of pair production mechanism





Ratio of  $p_T$ -spectra for identified hadrons ( $\pi$ ,  $K$ , and  $p$ ) at mid-rapidity ( $|y| < 0.5$ ) in Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV from the STAR experiment at RHIC

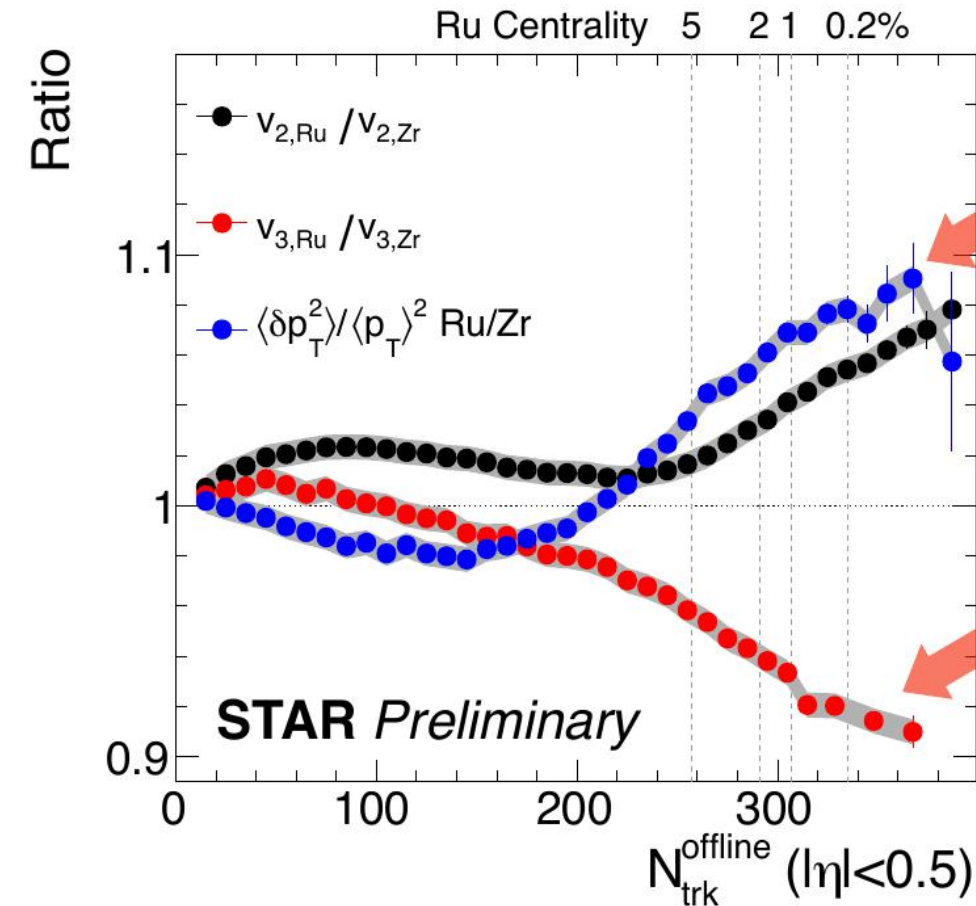
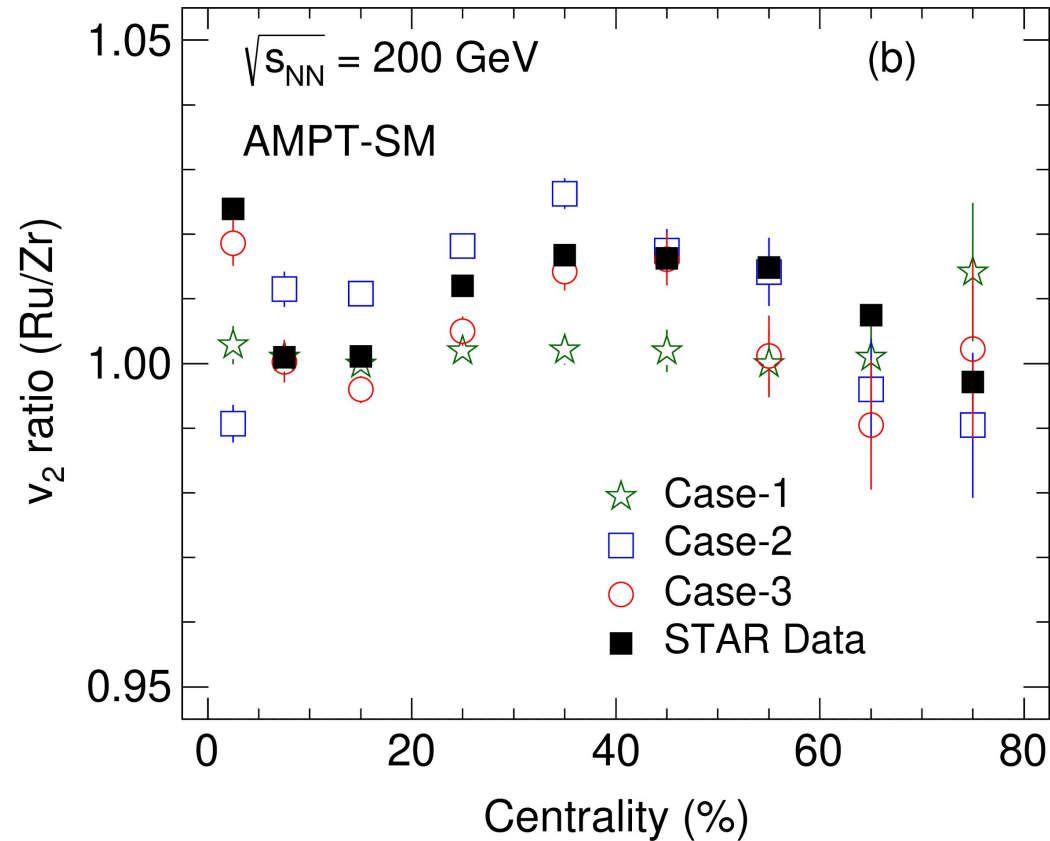
- A deviation of upto 8-10% between the  $p_T$  spectra of identified hadrons similar to the AMPT model is observed.
- Deviation increases from central to peripheral collisions.



- A deviation from unity of the ratio of particle to anti-particle between the two isobars similar to the case of AMPT model is observed.



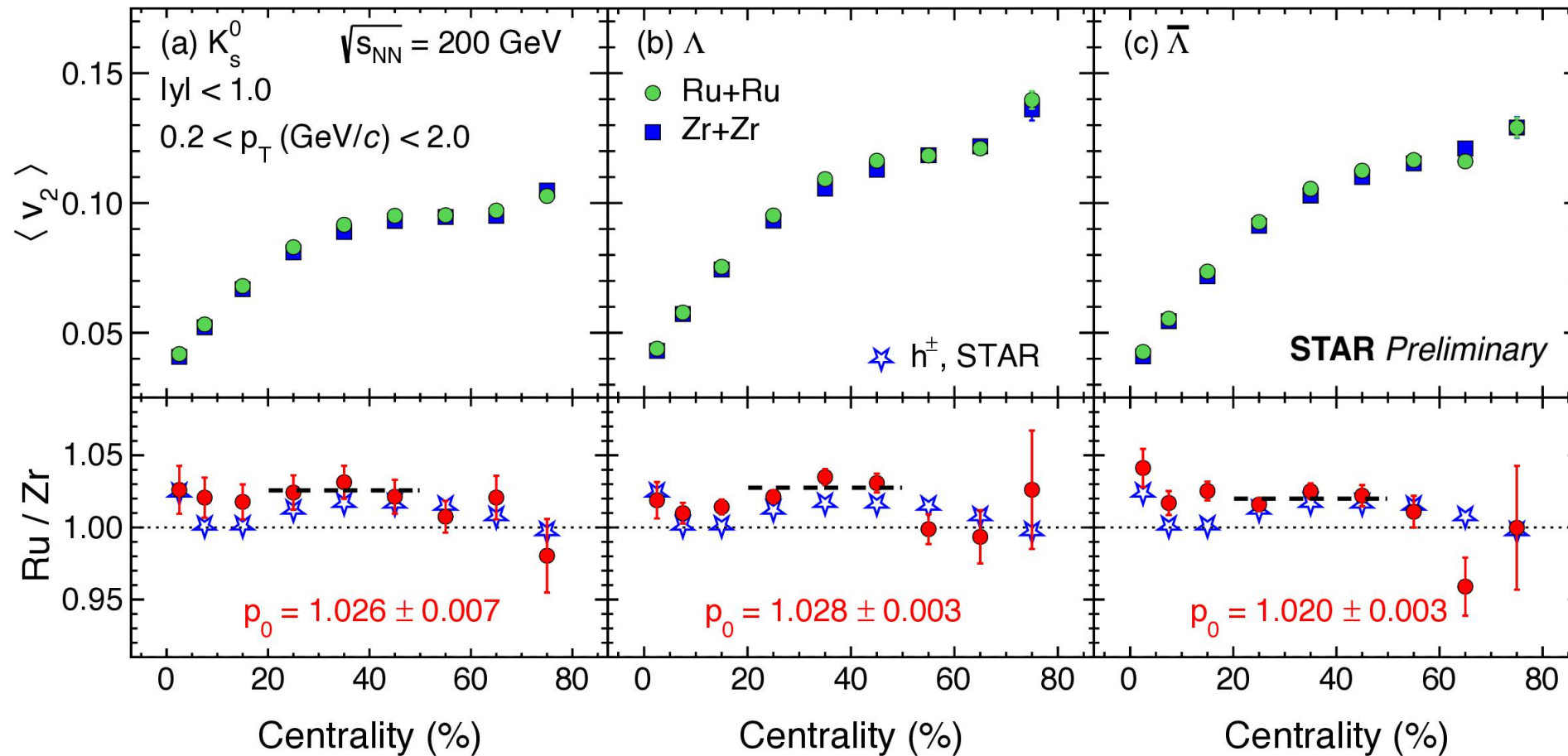
# Collective Flow



Ratio of integrated  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  between Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions differs from unity

➤ Indication of larger quadruple deformity in Ru nuclei than in the Zr nuclei

# Nuclear size and deformation

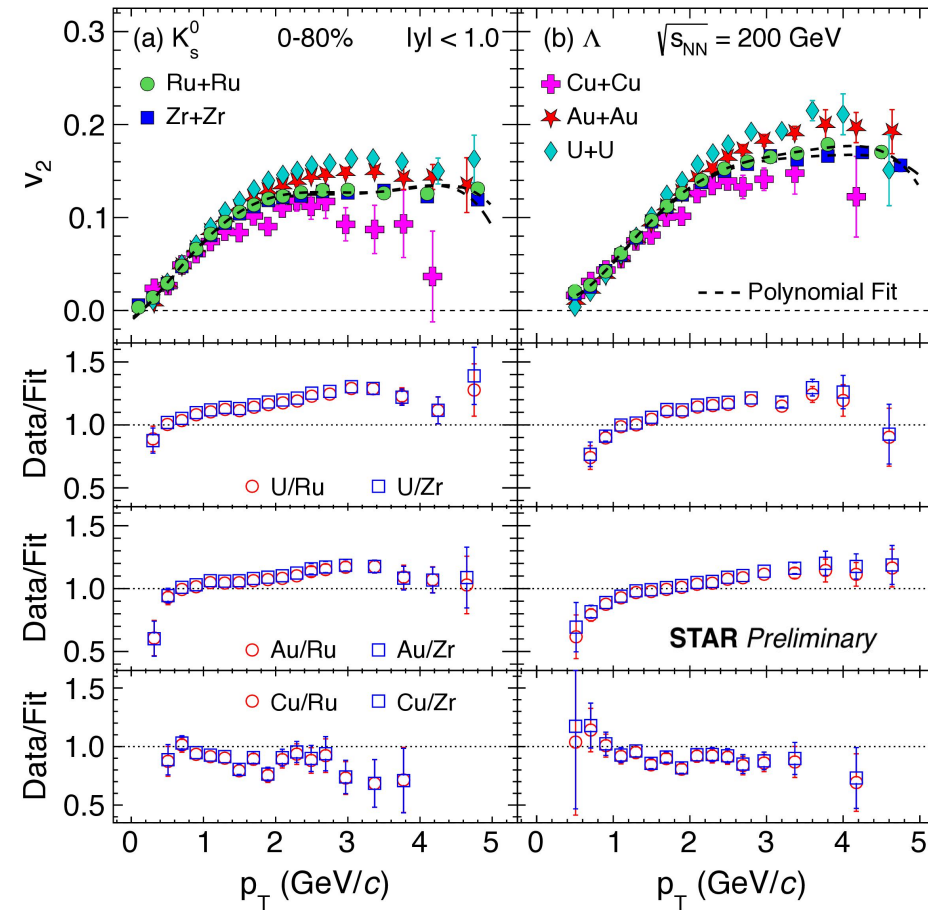


Ratio of integrated  $v_2$  between Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$  for strange hadrons ( $K_s^0$ ,  $\Lambda$ , and  $\bar{\Lambda}$ ) show deviation from unity by 2% with  $\geq 2\sigma$  significance in mid-central (10-60%) collisions.

➤ Indication of larger quadrupole deformity in Ru nuclei than in the Zr nuclei



# Nuclear size and deformation

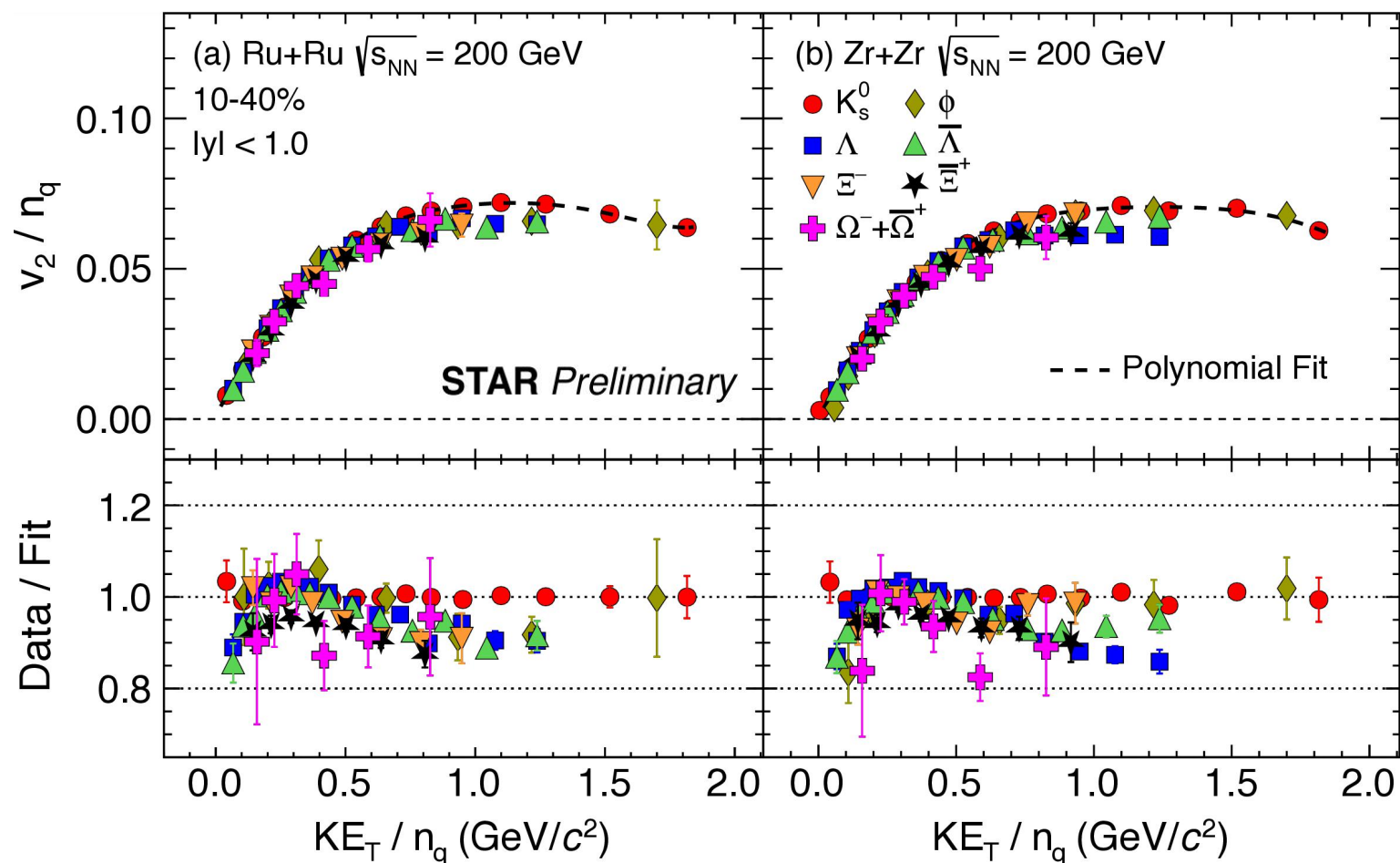


Elliptic flow at high  $p_T$  increases with atomic mass number of nuclei

➤ Indicating a nuclear size dependence

- [1] B. I. Abelev et al. (STAR Collaboration) Phys. Rev. C 77, 054901 (2008) [2] B. I. Abelev et al. (STAR Collaboration), Phys. Rev. C 81, 044902 (2010)  
 [3] M. S. Abdallah et al. (STAR Collaboration) Phys. Rev. C 103, 064907 (2021)

# NCQ scaling and collectivity



Elliptic flow ( $v_2$ ) scaled by number of constituent quarks falling on a universal curve. The scaling hold good to  $\pm 10\%$  within uncertainties in both Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV.

➤ Indicating partonic collectivity in smaller systems (Ru and Zr) as in the larger systems (Au or U).



## ❖ Influence of the nuclear size and structure

- Charge particle multiplicity, transverse momentum spectra, and elliptic flow of identified hadrons reveal differences in the nuclear structure of Ru and Zr nuclei. This information could be used to refine models that simulate collisions between nuclei of varying sizes and structures.
- Ratio of  $v_2$  and  $p_T$  correlation between different collision system provide access to nuclei deformation.

## ❖ Collectivity in small system at 200 GeV

- Number of constituent quark scaling hold good to  $\pm 10\%$  within uncertainties in both Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV, indicate partonic collectivity in such small systems.

## ❖ System size dependence and its evolution

- Elliptic flow at high  $p_T$  increases with atomic mass number of nuclei indicating nuclear size dependence.

More exciting results to come from the high statistics data of Isobar collisions at RHIC.....

**Thank you for your attention!**



# Backup

# Introduction: AMPT Model

- A multi-phase transport model (AMPT) string melting version 2.26t9 with a partonic cross-section of 3 mb.
- Nucleon distribution of nuclei in AMPT model is modeled using the Wood-Saxon function as:

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

$R_0$ : Radius parameter  
 $\beta_2$ : Quadruple deformity  
 $\beta_3$ : Octupole deformity  
 $Y_{1,m}(\theta, \phi)$ : Spherical harmonics

- Nuclear deformation is characterized by modified radius parameter:

$$R(\theta, \phi) = R_0[1 + \beta_2 Y_{2,0}(\theta, \phi) + \beta_3 Y_{3,0}(\theta, \phi)]$$

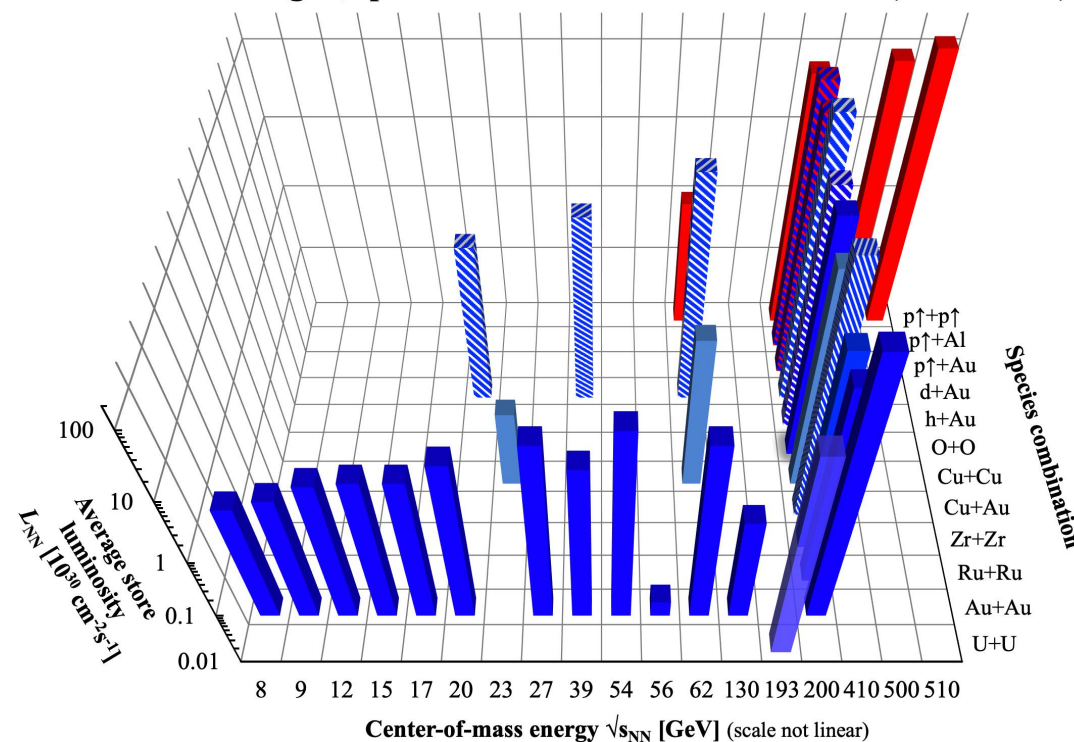
- Various deformation configurations for the isobar nuclei ( $^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$  and  $^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$ ) in the AMPT model:

| Parameter | Ru     |        |        | Zr     |        |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|           | case 1 | case 2 | case 3 | case 1 | case 2 | case 3 |
| $R_0$     | 5.096  | 5.067  | 5.090  | 5.096  | 4.965  | 5.090  |
| $a$       | 0.540  | 0.500  | 0.460  | 0.540  | 0.556  | 0.520  |
| $\beta_2$ | 0      | 0      | 0.162  | 0      | 0      | 0.060  |
| $\beta_3$ | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0.200  |

# Beam energies and colliding systems at STAR

- Wide range of collision beam energies to explore QCD phase diagram
  - Beam Energy Scan Phase II (BES-II):  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7 - 54.4$  GeV
  - Fixed Target (FXT):  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3.0 - 7.7$  GeV
- Different collision species to study the QCD medium at top RHIC energy  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV
  - U+U, Au+Au, Ru+Ru, Zr+Zr, Cu+Cu, O+O, Cu+Au,  $He^3$ +Au, d+Au, p+Au etc
- Increase in statistics over the years for precision measurement

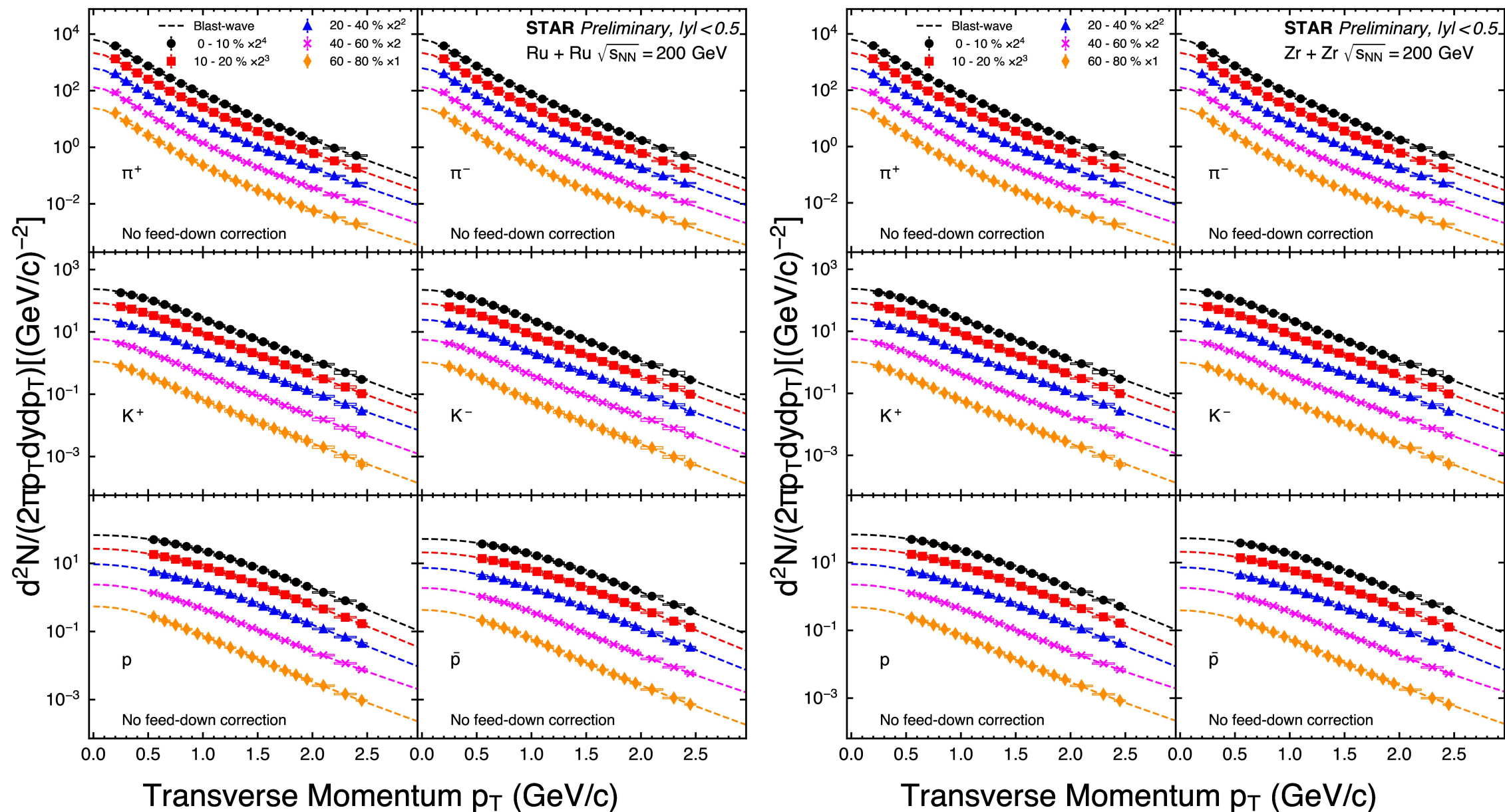
RHIC energies, species combinations and luminosities (Run-1 to 22)



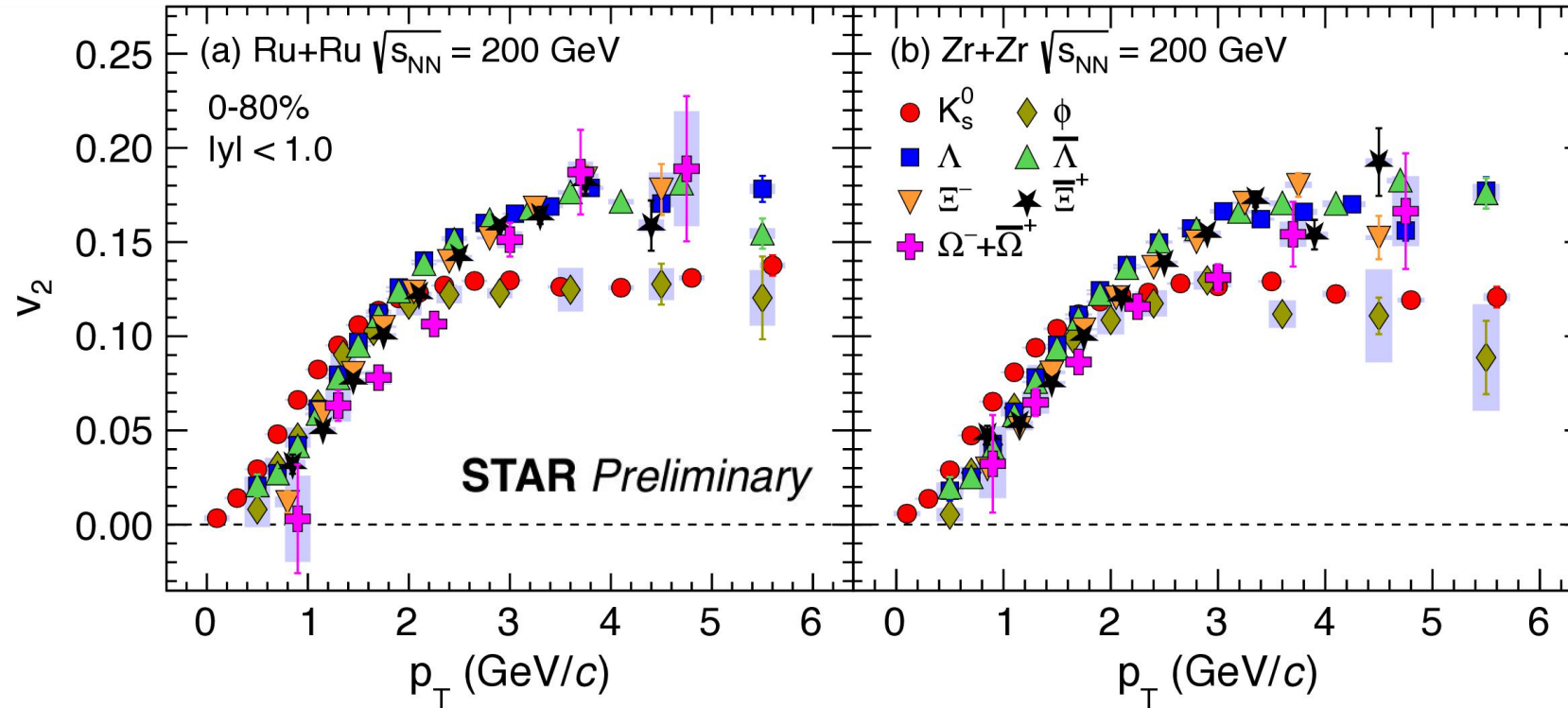
<https://www.agsrhichome.bnl.gov/RHIC/Runs/>



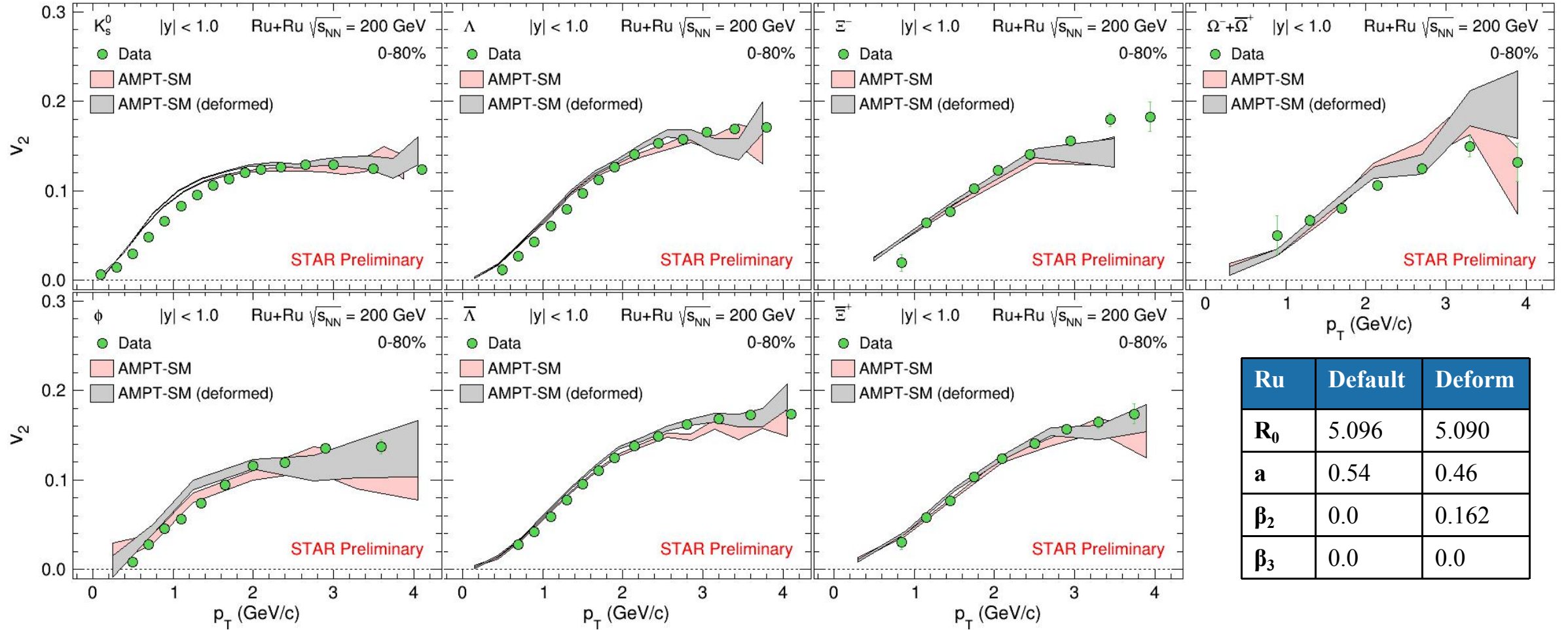
# Transverse Momentum Spectra



# Elliptic Flow



# Model Comparison

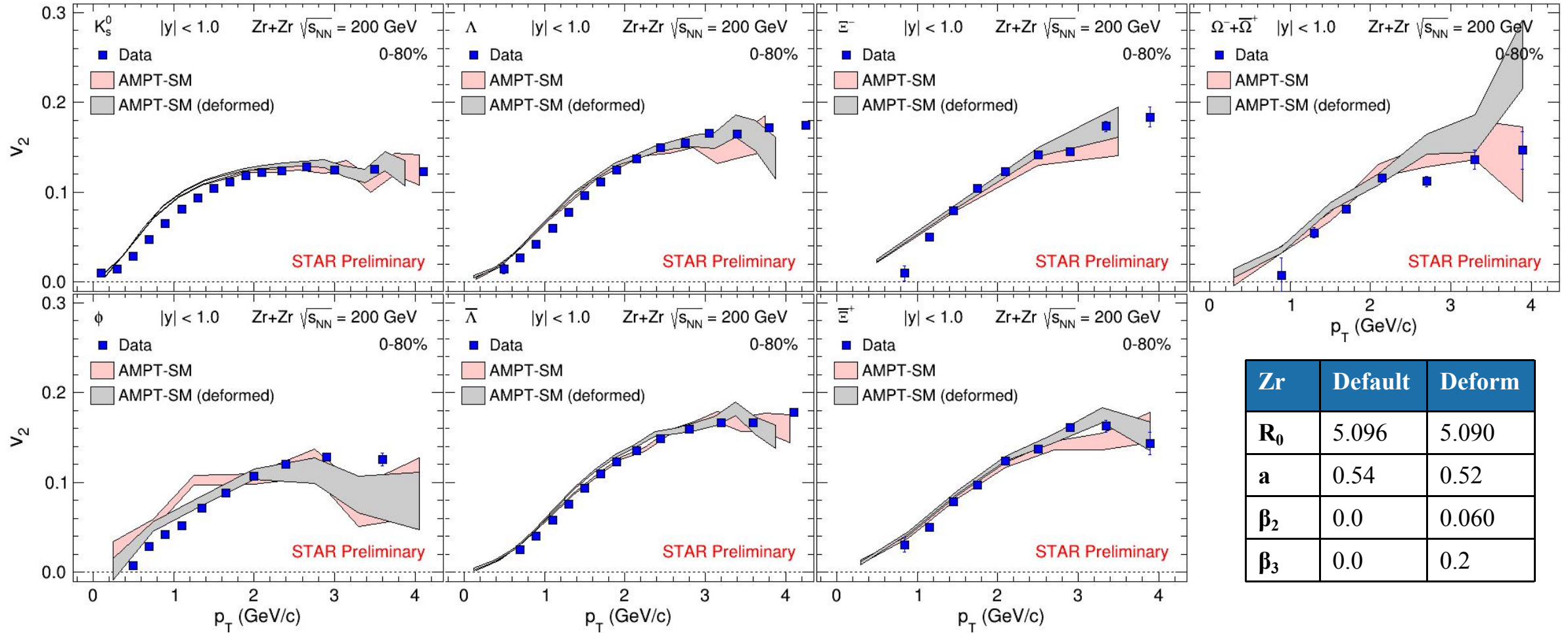


| Ru        | Default | Deform |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| $R_0$     | 5.096   | 5.090  |
| $a$       | 0.54    | 0.46   |
| $\beta_2$ | 0.0     | 0.162  |
| $\beta_3$ | 0.0     | 0.0    |

AMPT-SM model with and without nuclear deformation describe the data well in the measured  $p_T$  range for minimum-bias isobar collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV



# Model Comparison



AMPT-SM model with and without nuclear deformation describe the data well in the measured  $p_T$  range for minimum-bias isobar collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV