

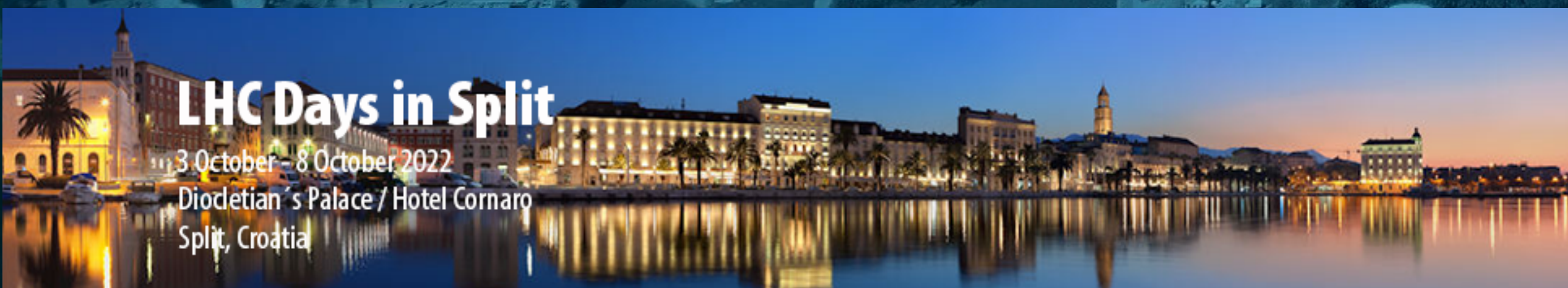


# RHIC Results

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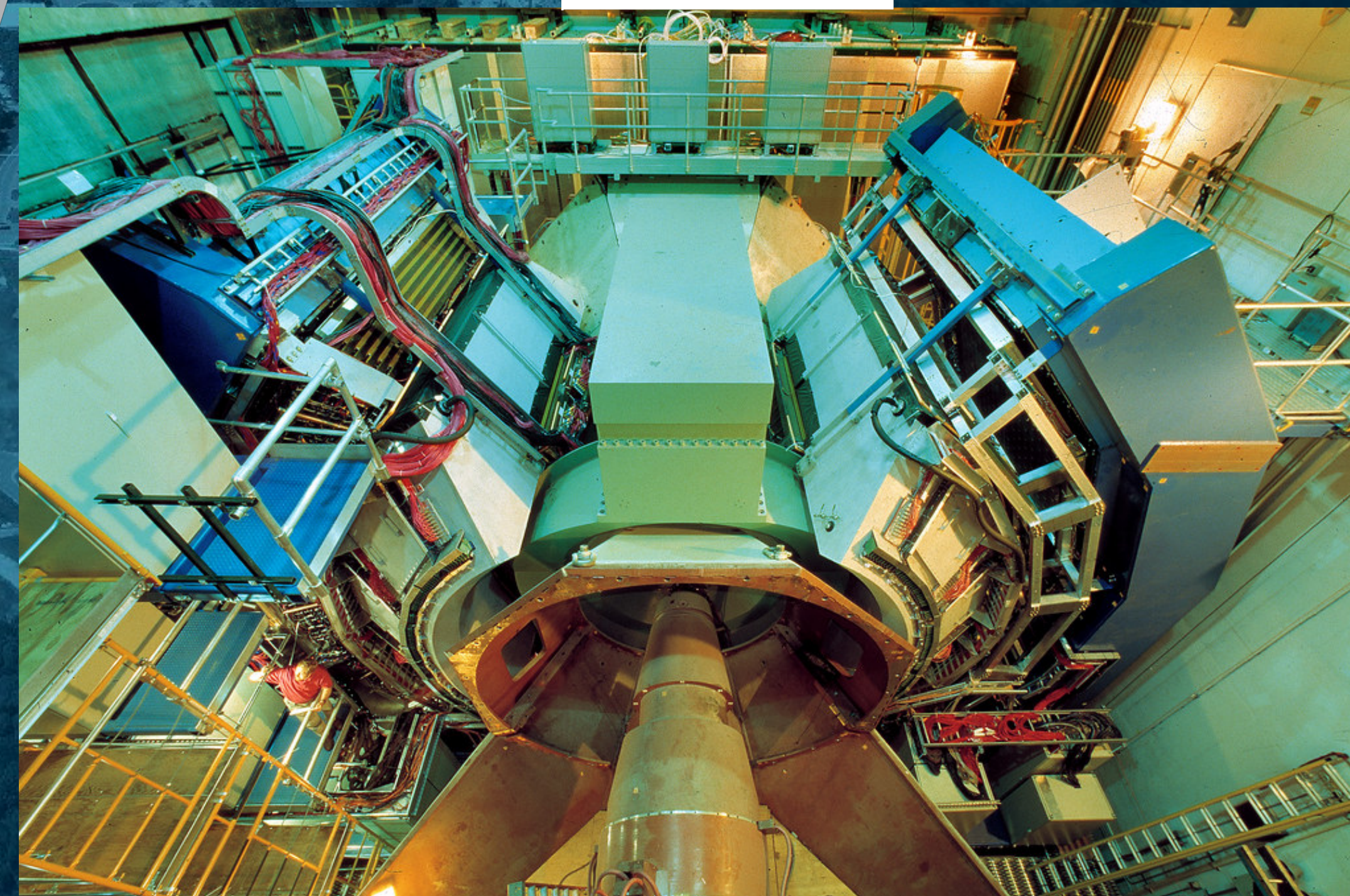


## LHC Days in Split

3 October – 8 October 2022

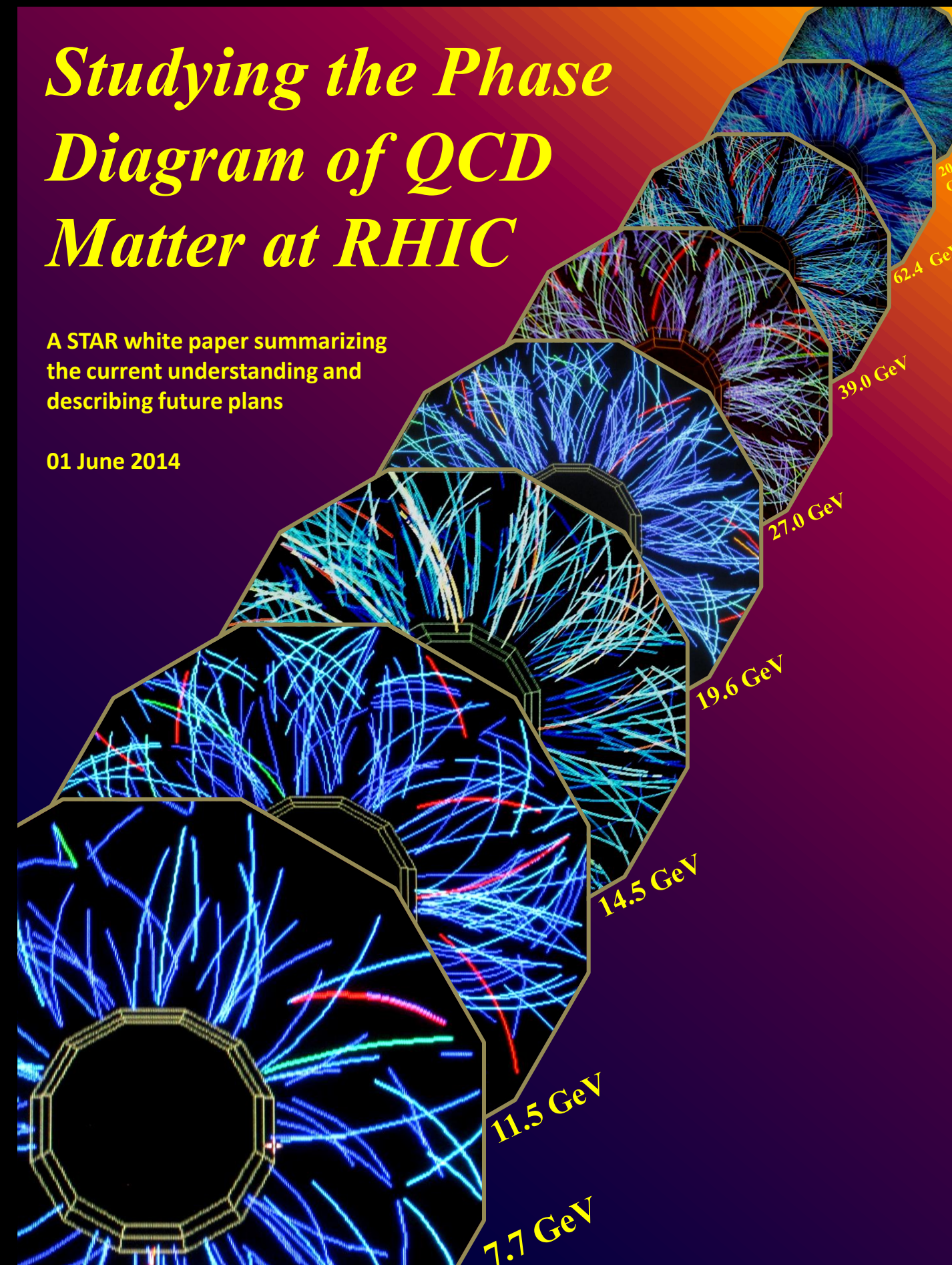
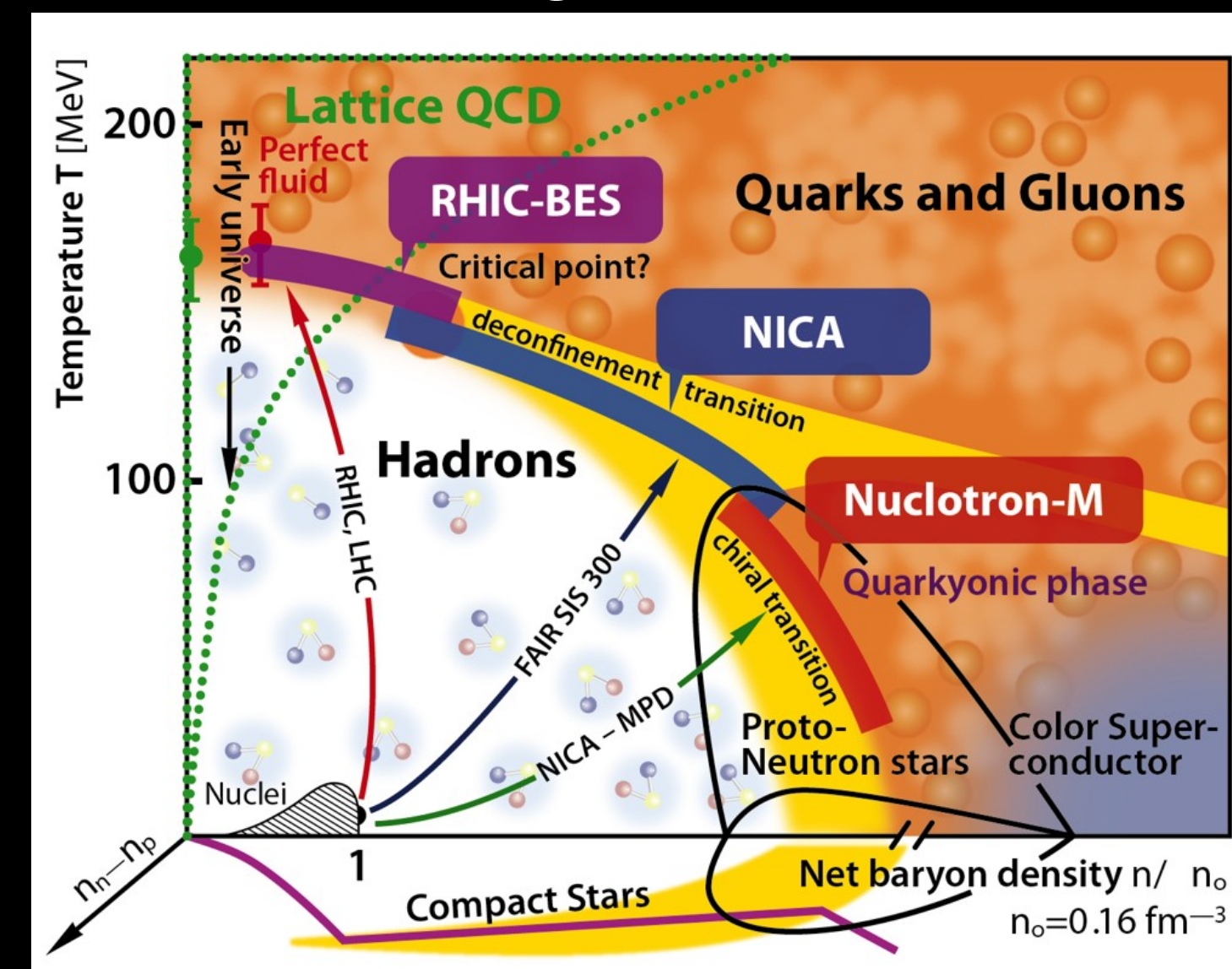
Dioctetian's Palace / Hotel Cornaro

Split, Croatia

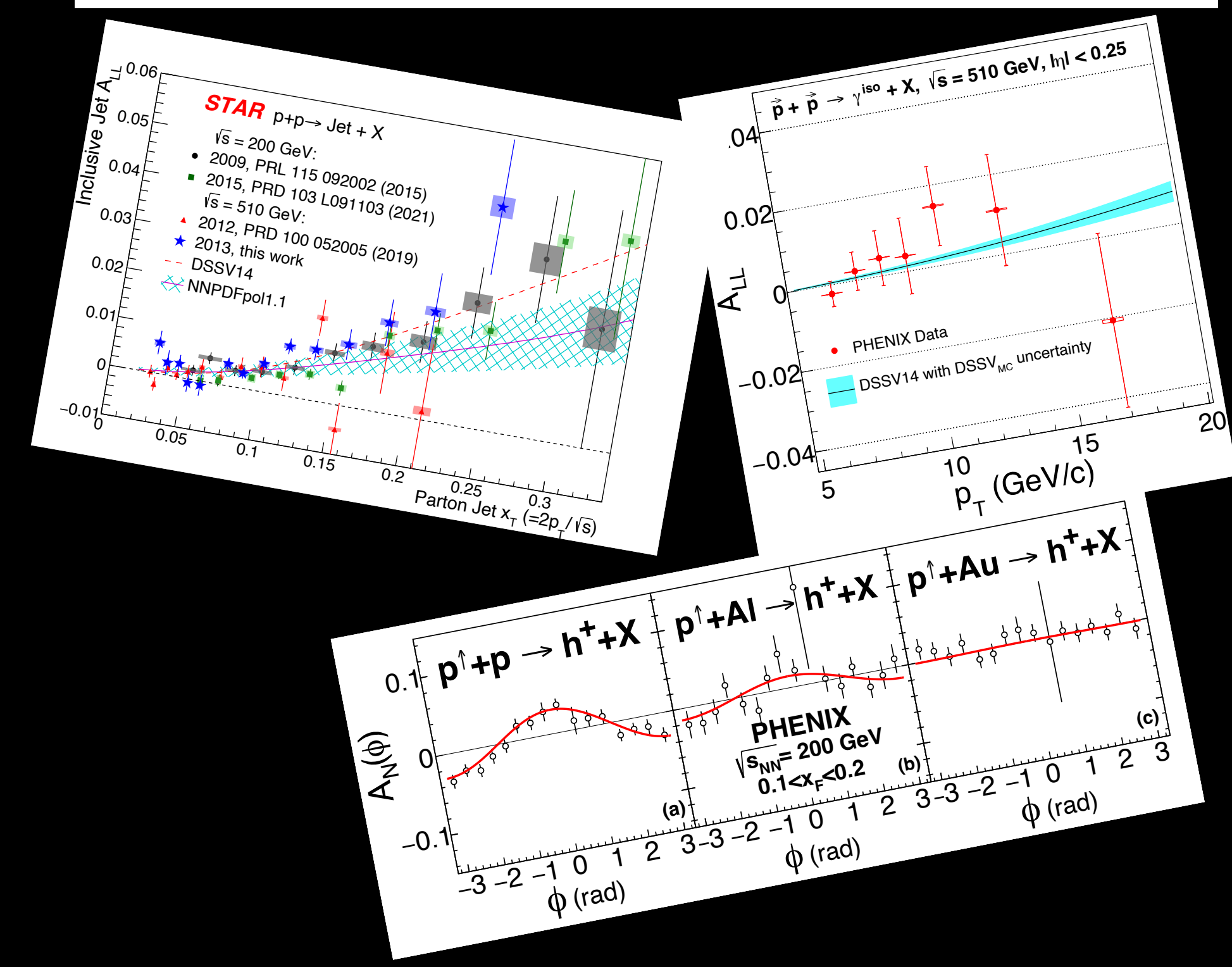
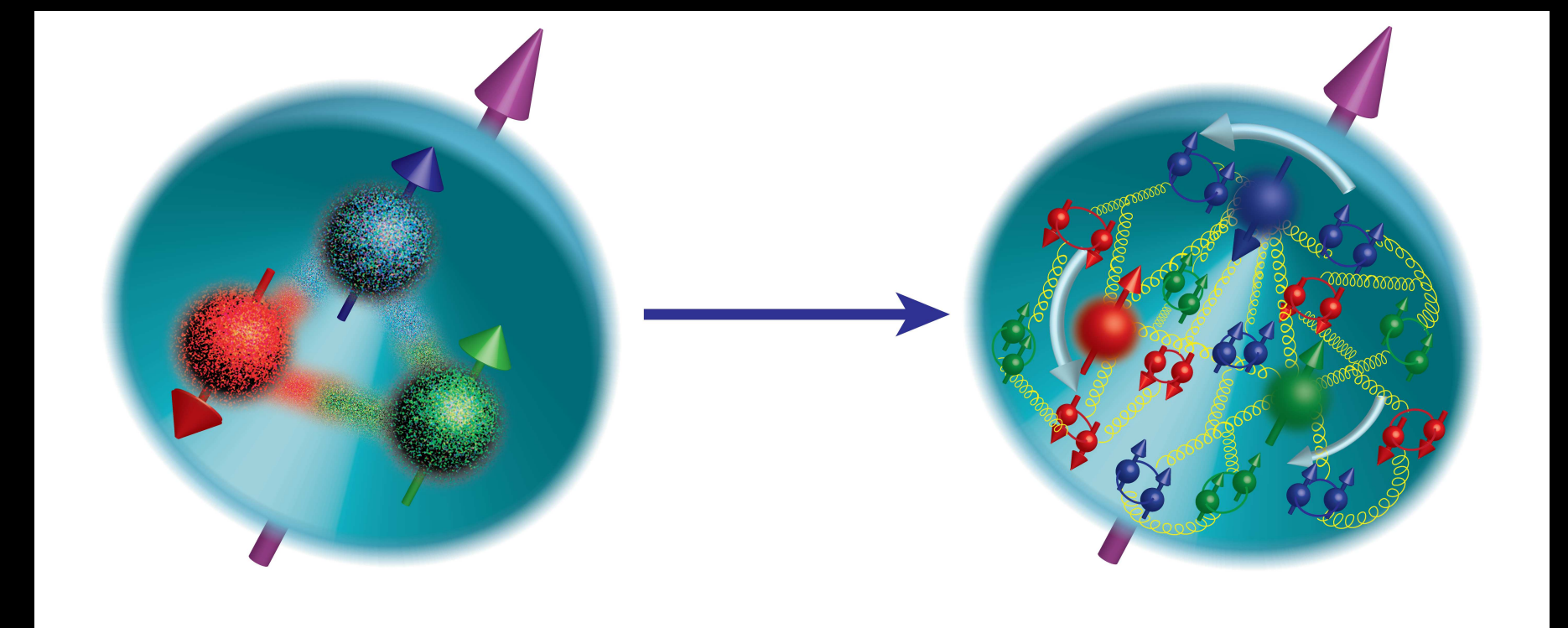


# RHIC physics program at glance

## 1. Phase diagram of hot and dense QCD matter



## 2. Origin of nucleon spin



For an introduction and broader ramifications of this field see e.g.  
 Universe 3(2017)1, 7  
 Universe 7(2021)9, 330  
 Universe 8(2022)9, 451

<https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/public/sn0598>

### Standard Model of ultrarelativistic heavy ion collisions:

- ① All hard hadronic process are strongly quenched
- ② All soft particles emerge from the common flow field

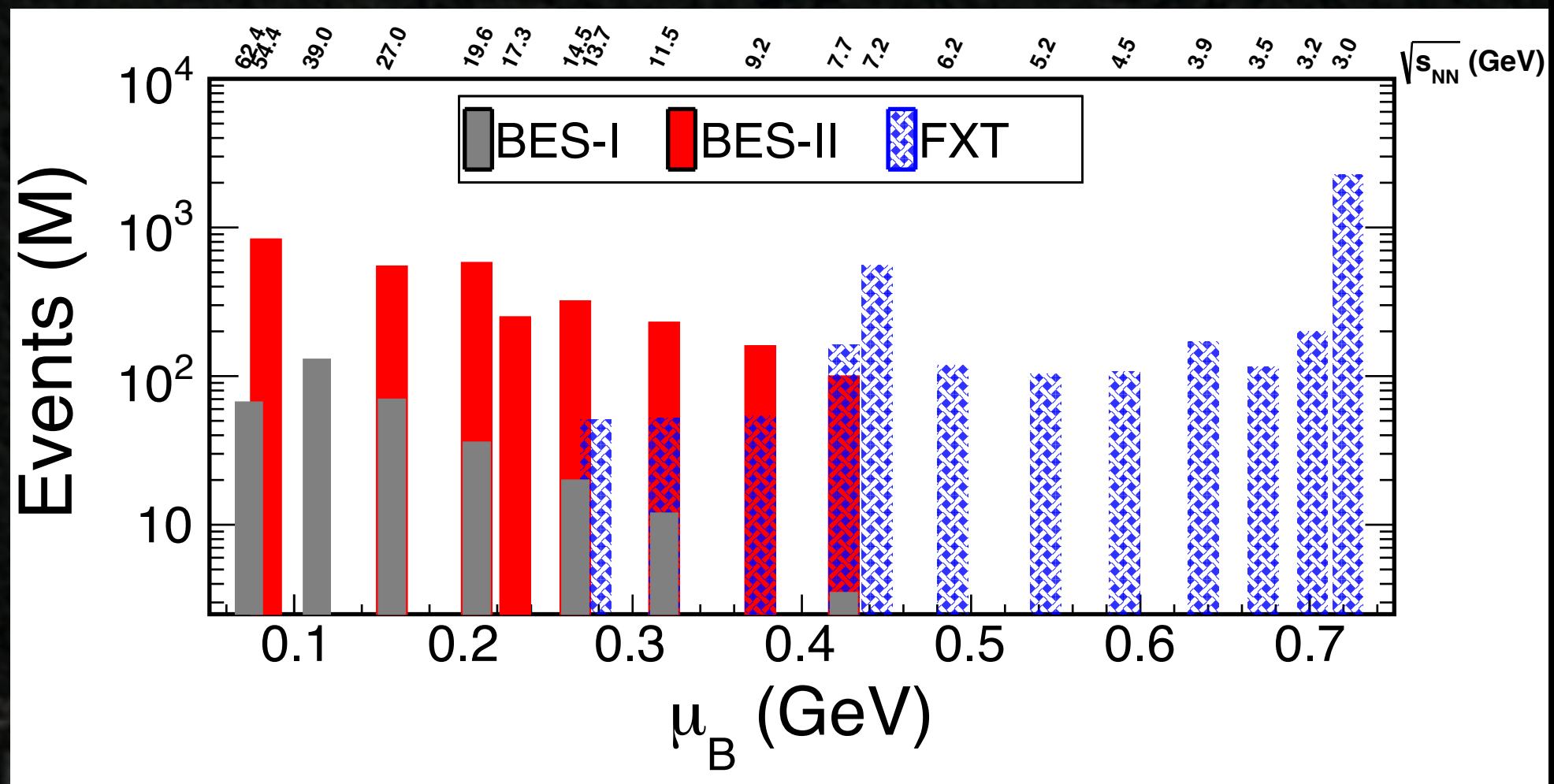
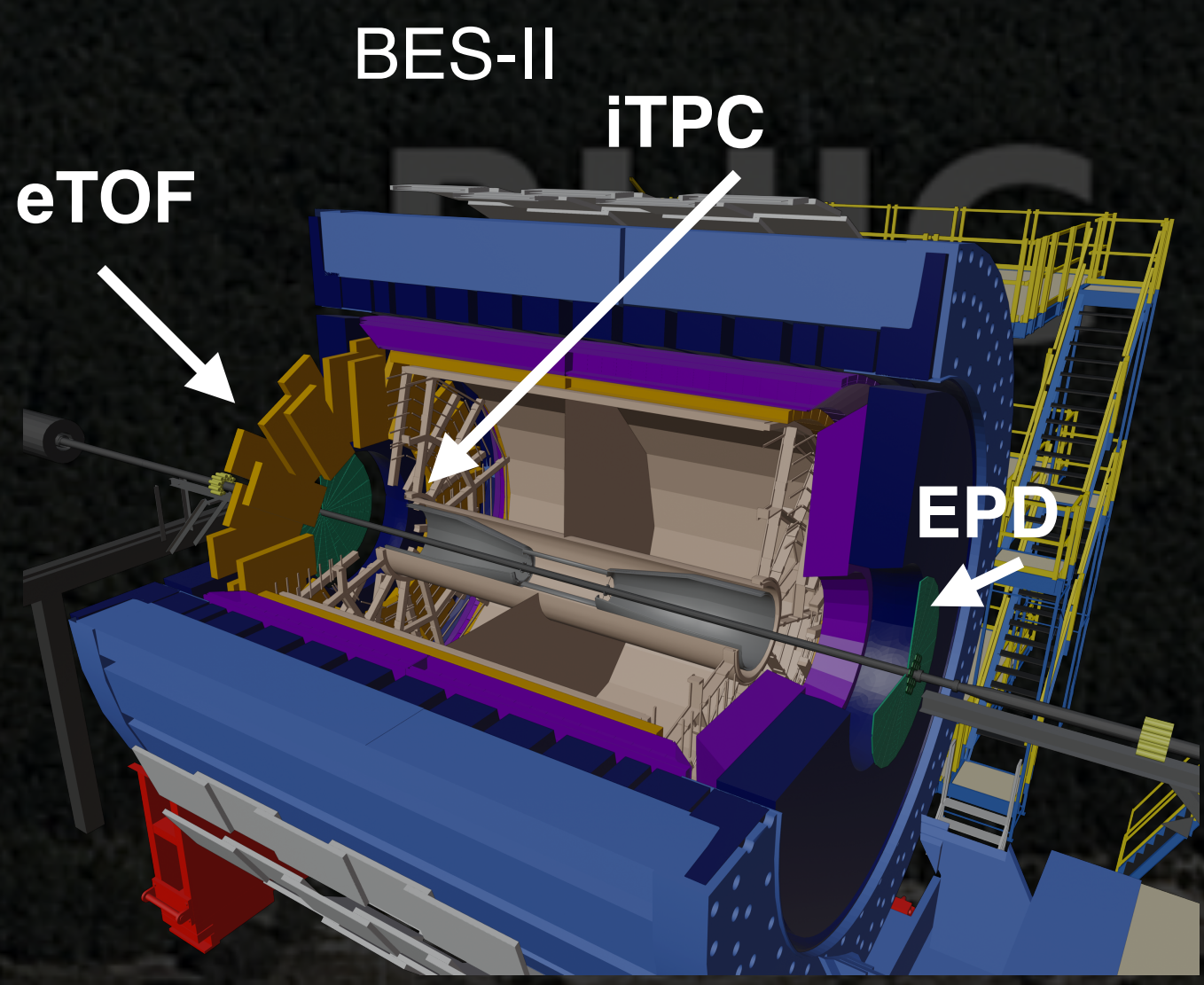
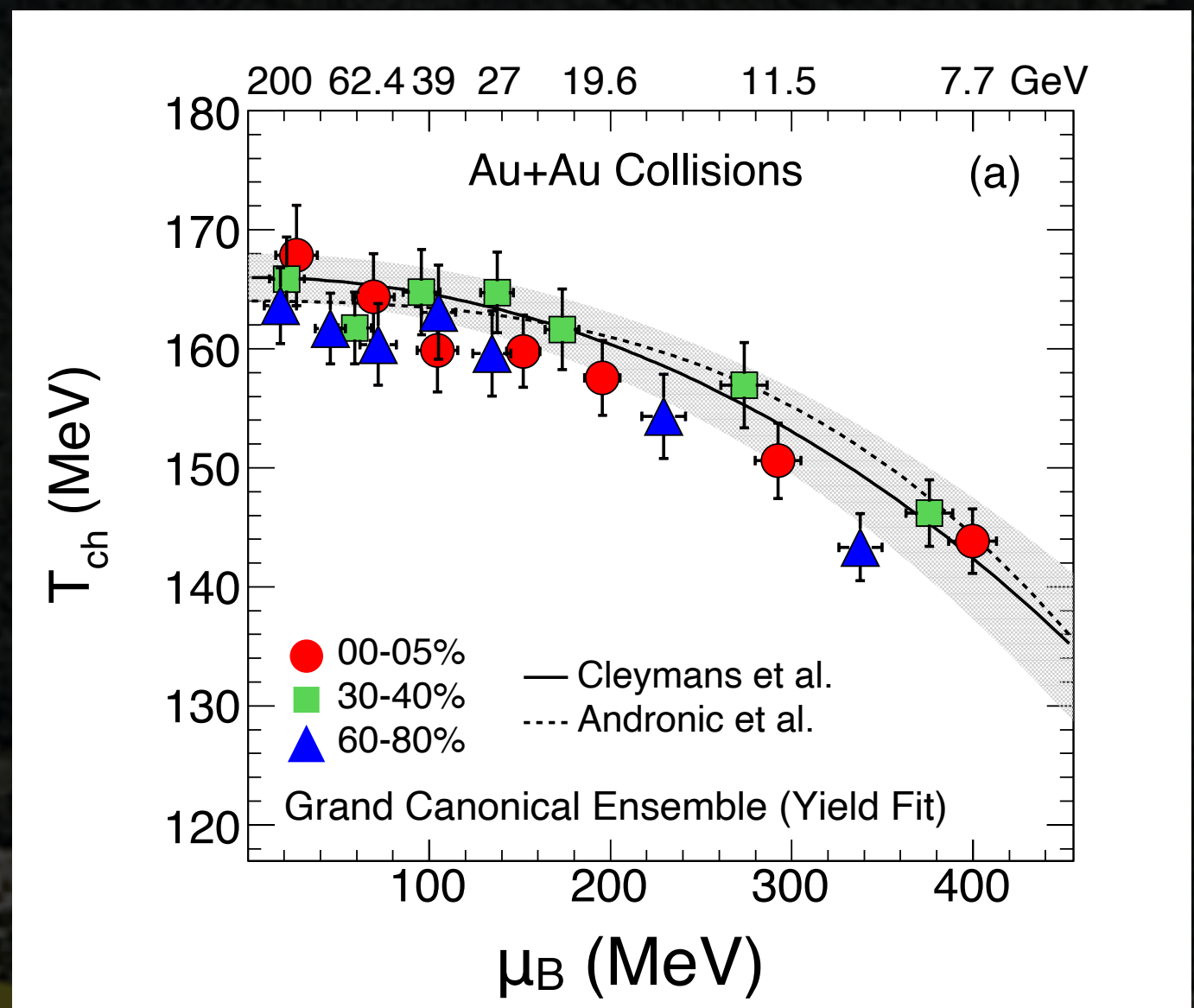
# Successful Operation of STAR in Years 2020-21



RHIC Beam Energy Scan II and p+p 510 run with fully installed forward upgrade

Run 20 and 21 completed successfully: enhanced collision rates due to Low Energy RHIC Electron Cooling system, smooth & desired performance of BES-II upgrades (iTTPC, eTOF, EPD)

STAR: Phys.Rev.C 96 (2017) 4, 044904



Accessing phase diagram of QCD by varying  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$  changes  $T$  and  $\mu_B$

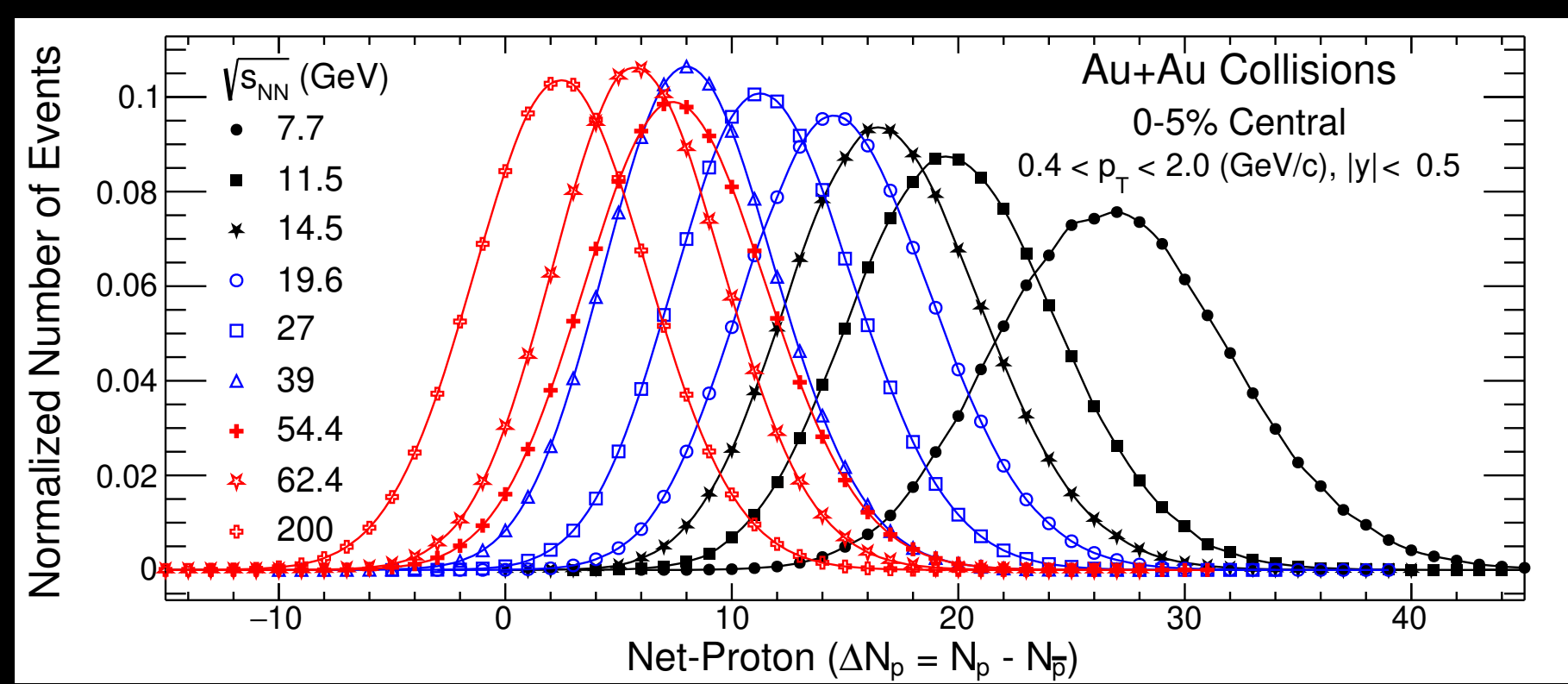
7 energies between 7.7 - 27 GeV (collider mode)  
12 energies between 3.0 - 13.7 GeV (FXT mode)

# Search for the QCD critical point using cumulants



STAR: Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 092301

STAR: 2207.09837 [nucl-ex]



## Connect to Theory:

Correlation length  $\xi$   
 Susceptibility  $\chi_q$

Sensitive to:

- (1) Nature of transition
- (2) Critical point
- (3) Freeze-out
- (4) Thermalization
- (5) Initial EM fields

$$C_2 \sim \xi^2 \quad C_4 \sim \xi^7$$

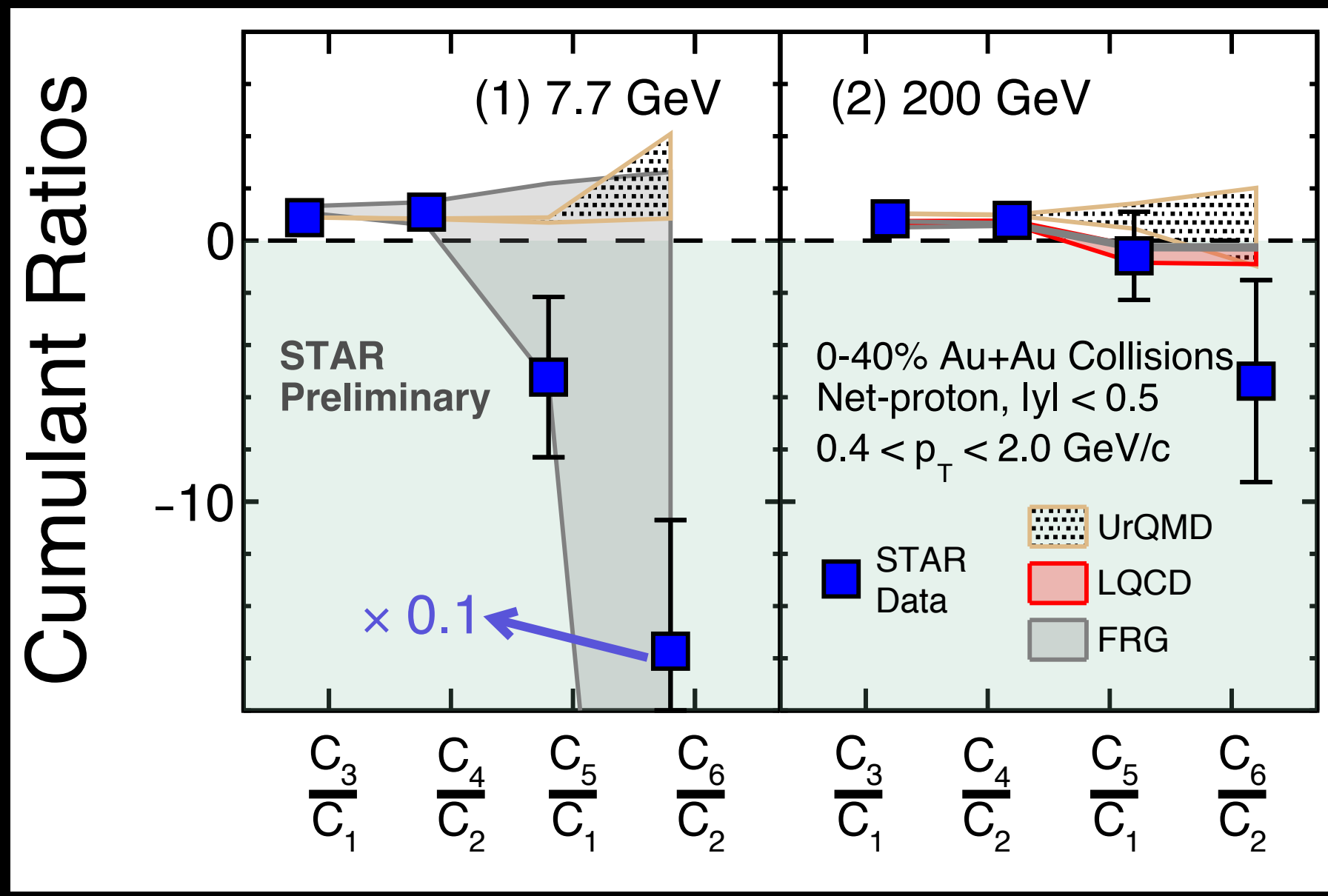
$$\chi_q^{(n)} = \frac{\partial^n (p/T^4)}{\partial (\mu_q/T)^n}$$

$$q = B, Q, S$$

$$C_n = VT^3 \chi_q^{(n)}$$

$$\frac{\chi_q^{(4)}}{\chi_q^{(2)}} = \kappa \sigma^2 = \frac{C_{4,q}}{C_{2,q}}$$

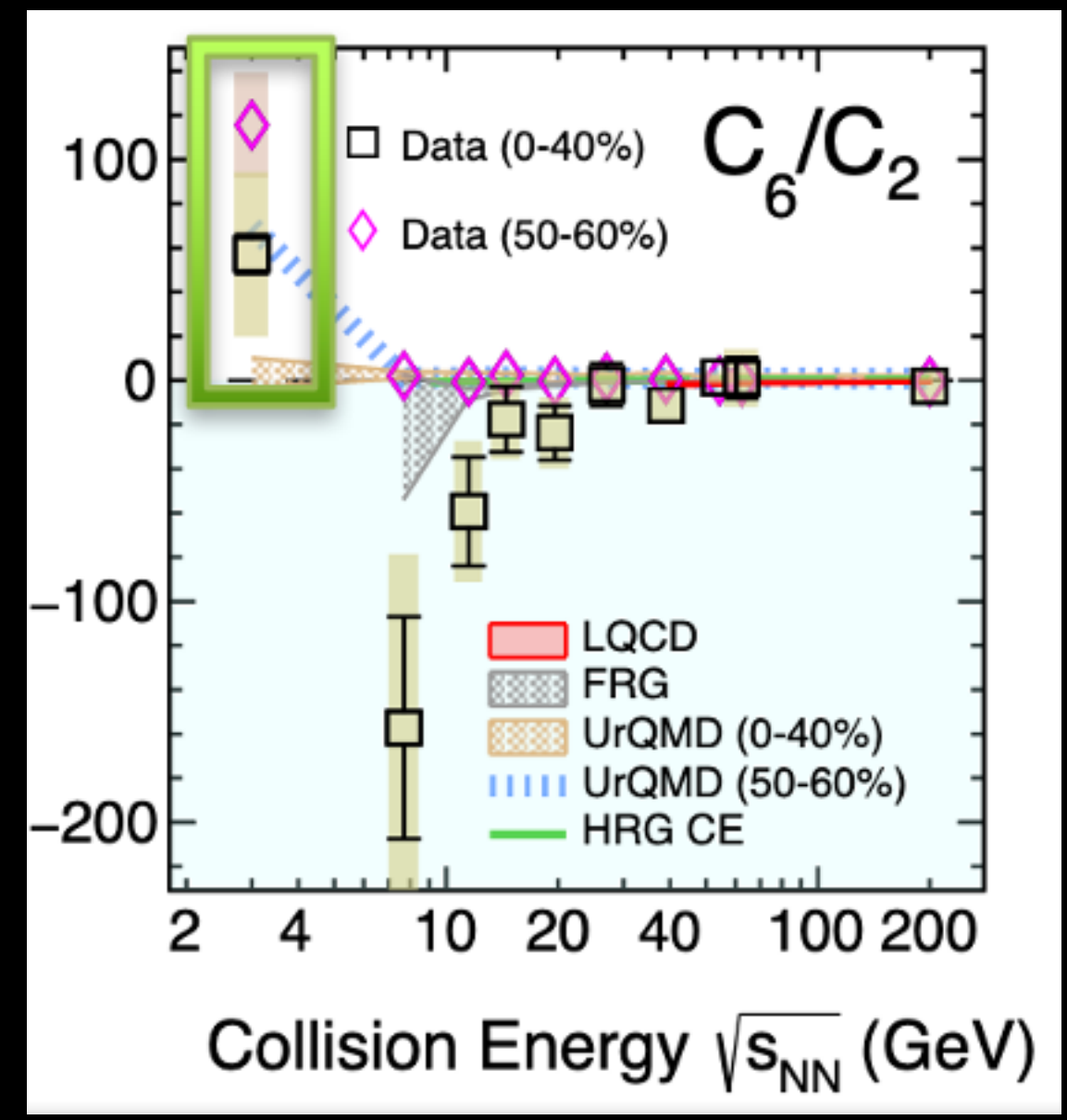
$$\frac{\chi_q^{(3)}}{\chi_q^{(2)}} = S \sigma = \frac{C_{3,q}}{C_{2,q}}$$



$$C_3/C_1 > C_4/C_2 > C_5/C_1 > C_6/C_2$$

Susceptibility ratio (cumulants) ordering expected from QCD thermodynamics  
 Phys. Rev. D 101, 074502 (2020)

N.B. Cumulants  $C_n$  are additive combination of central moments  $\mu_n$ .  
 The n-th-order cumulant of the sum of independent random variables equals the sum of their n-th-order cumulants.



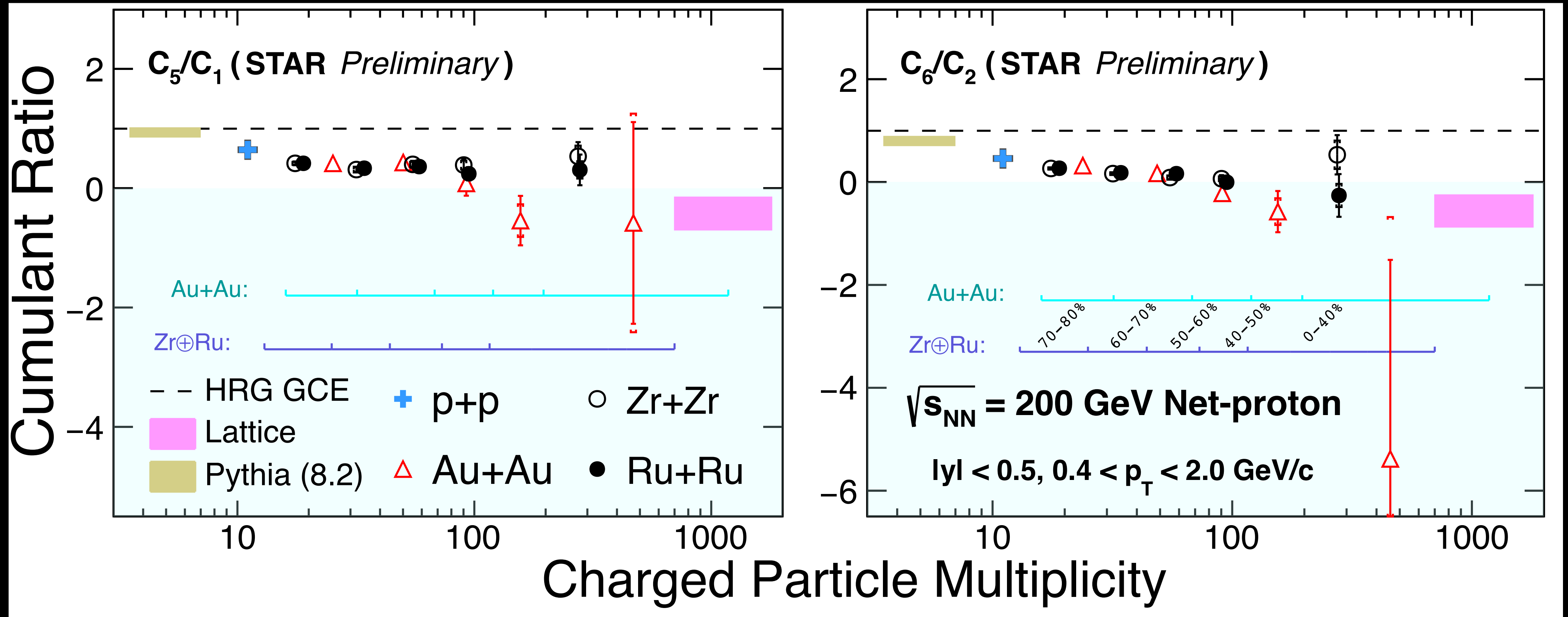
In 40% most central collisions sign change at the lowest  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$  (Significance  $\sim 1.7\sigma_{tot}$ )  
 Consistent with LQCD  
 Absent in more peripheral data

M.A.Stephanov, PRL 107 (2011), 052301

# Search for the chiral crossover transition

Cumulant ratios  $C_5/C_1$  and  $C_6/C_2$  of net-proton measured with p+p, Au+Au and high statistics isobar data at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV show decreasing trend with multiplicity, approaching LQCD predictions

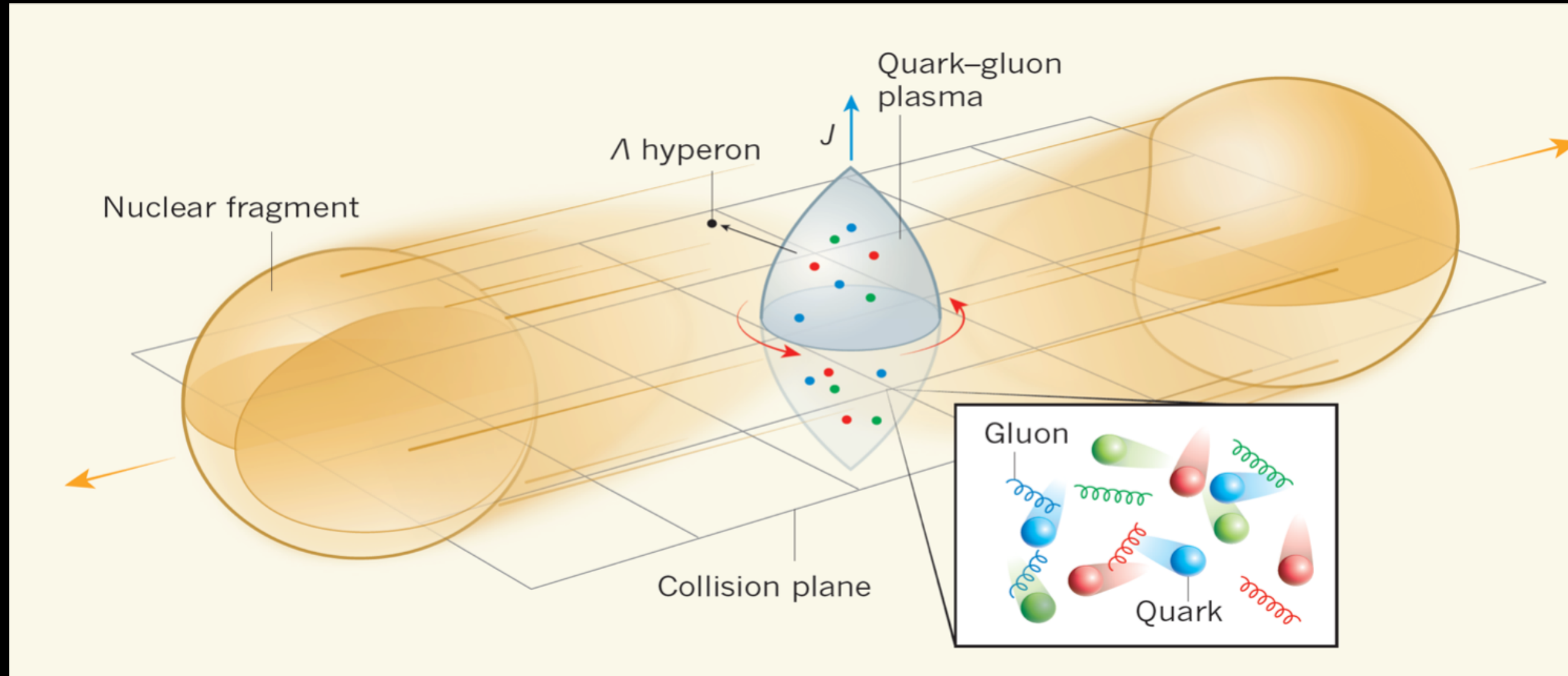
STAR: Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 262301



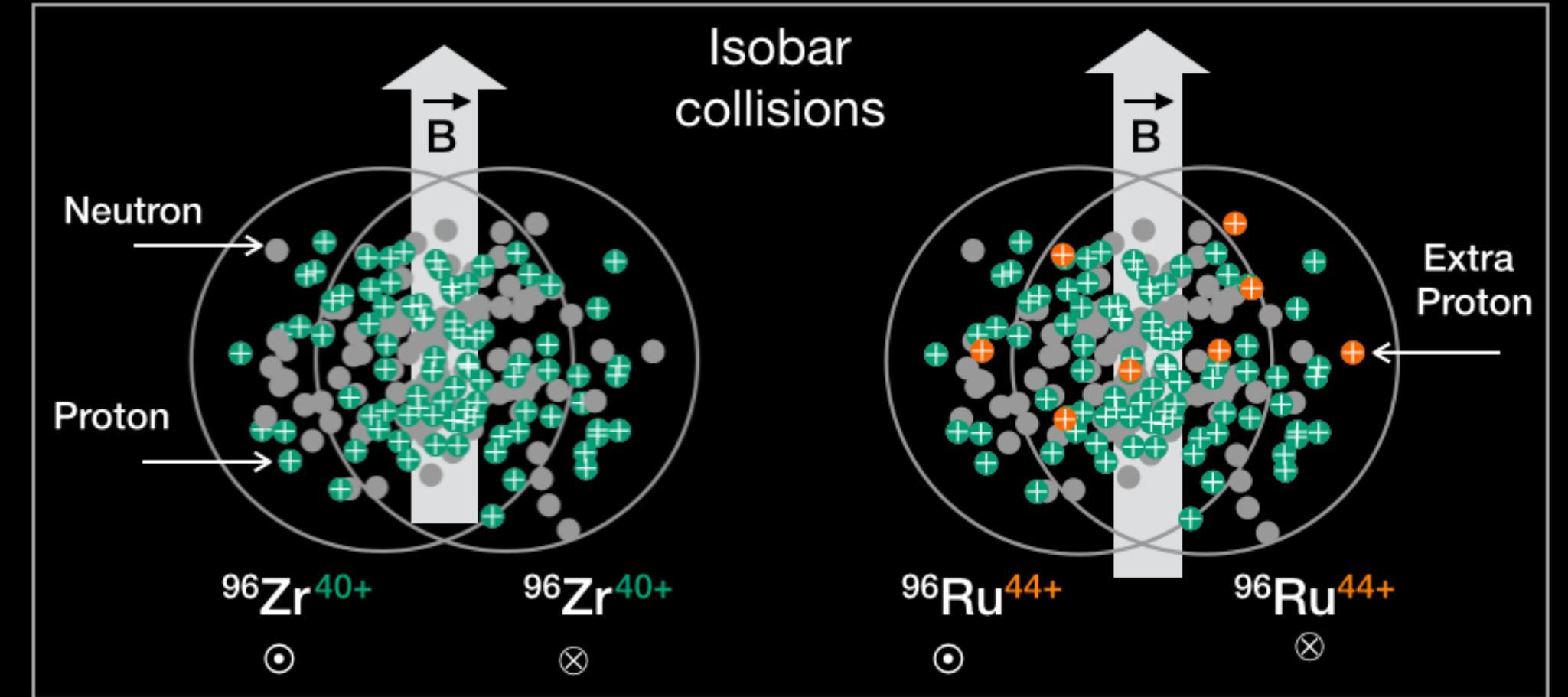
High multiplicity measurements are consistent with results from lattice QCD that predicts crossover at  $\mu_B = 0$

# Non-trivial interplay between hydrodynamics and magnetic field

Experiment: STAR, Nature 548, 34–35 (03 August 2017)



Theory: Becattini, Lisa, Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 70 (2020) 395



B-field square is 10-15% larger in Ru+Ru than Zr+Zr

★ Total angular momentum in non-central heavy ion collisions:  $J \sim 10^5 \hbar \approx N_{\text{part}} \times (\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}}/2) \times b$  (Carruthers 1984)

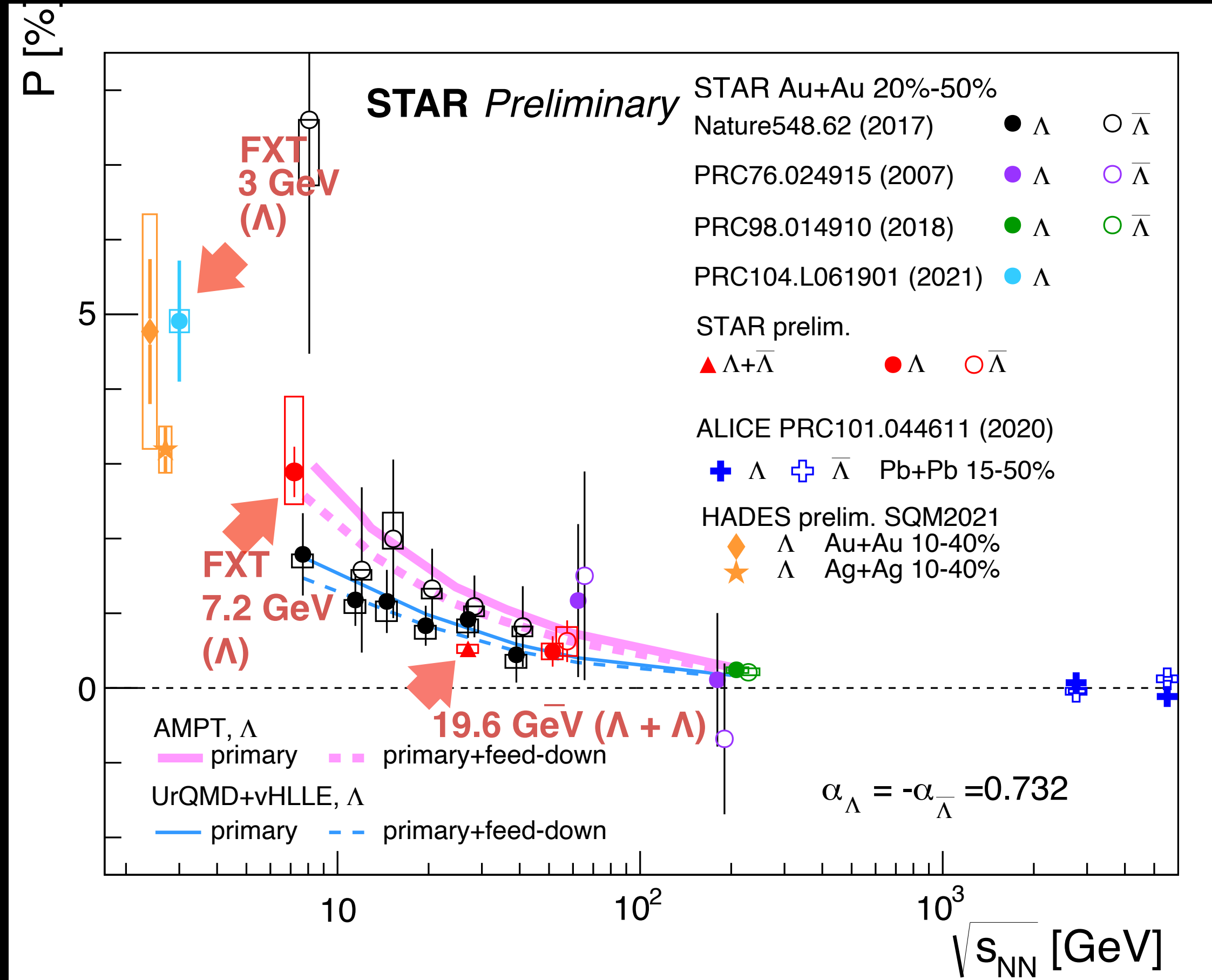
★ In hydrodynamical picture relevant quantity is vorticity  $\vec{\omega} = \frac{1}{2} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} \approx \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial x}$

★ Fine-scale vorticity at the “point” cell is reflected in the spin of emitted particles

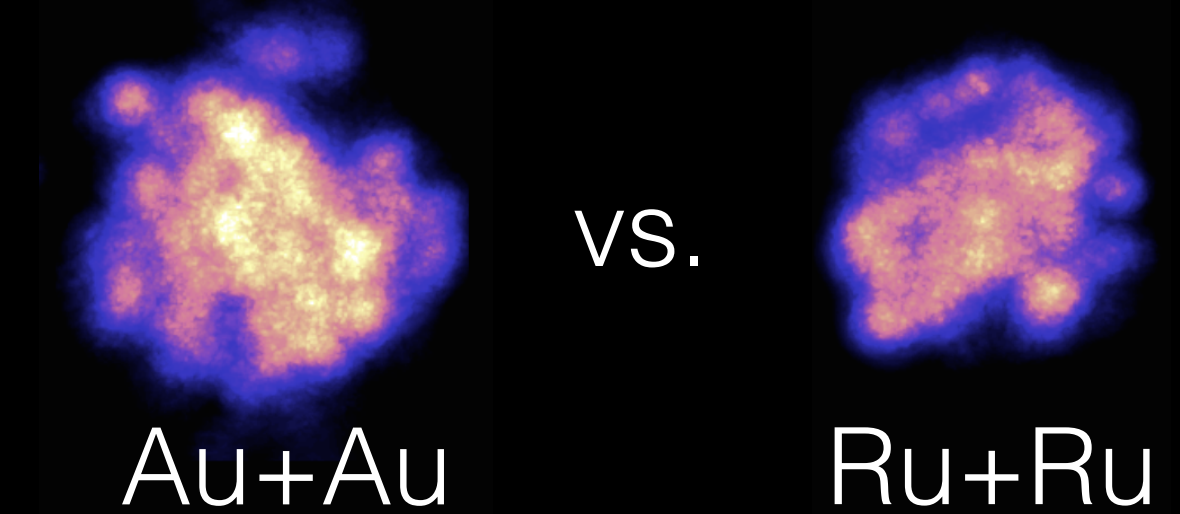
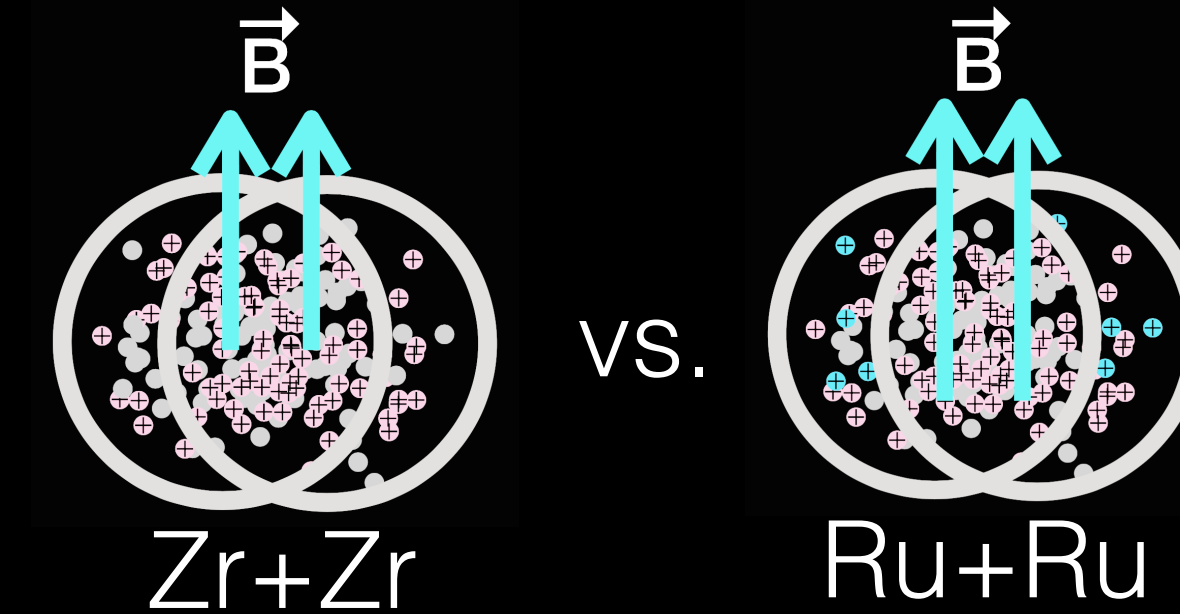
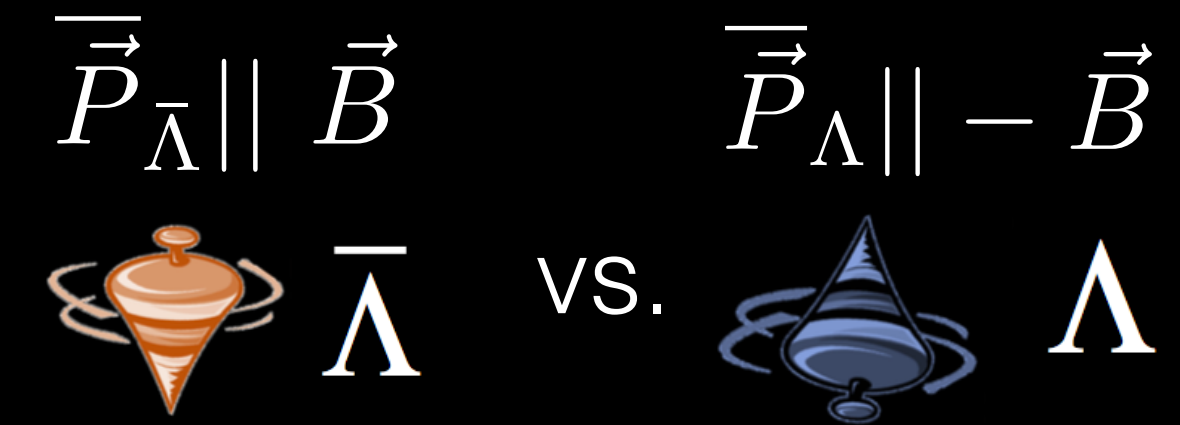
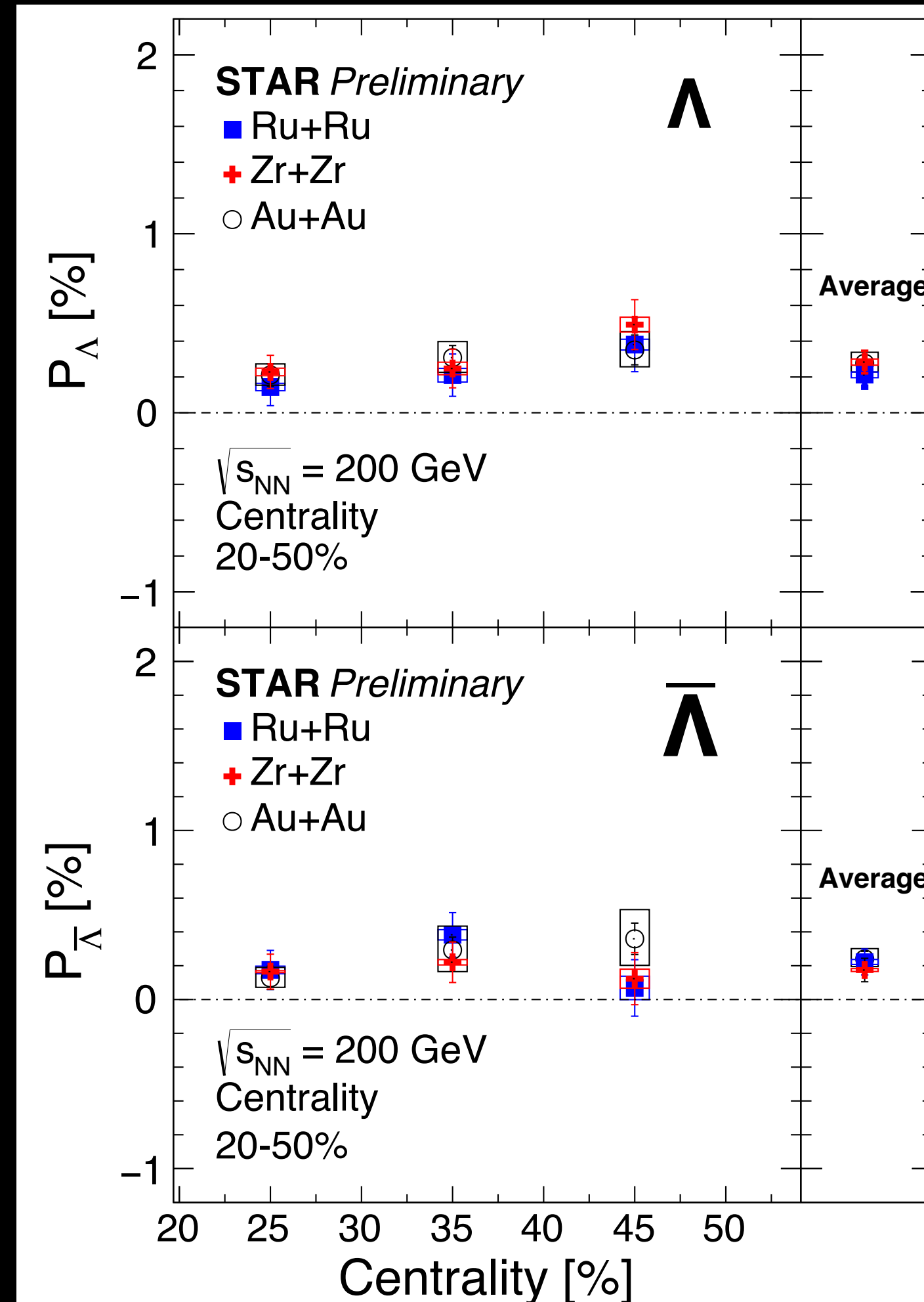
★  $\Lambda$  spin polarization  $P = \langle \vec{S} \rangle / |\vec{S}|$ ,  $\langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{1}{4} \vec{\omega}_{\text{cell}}$ ,  $\Lambda - \bar{\Lambda}$  splitting due to strong magnetic fields

★ Biot-Savart  $B_{\perp} = \gamma Z e \frac{b}{R^3} = \frac{\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}}}{2m_N} Z e \frac{b}{R^3}$ ,  $\gamma = 100$ ,  $Z = 79$ ,  $b = R_A = 7 \text{ fm} \Rightarrow eB = 10^{18} \text{ G}$

# Global lambda polarization with the isobars



Various predictions tested with high statistics isobar & Au+Au data at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV



No system dependence at fixed centrality or B-field driven splitting seen in isobar 200 GeV collisions

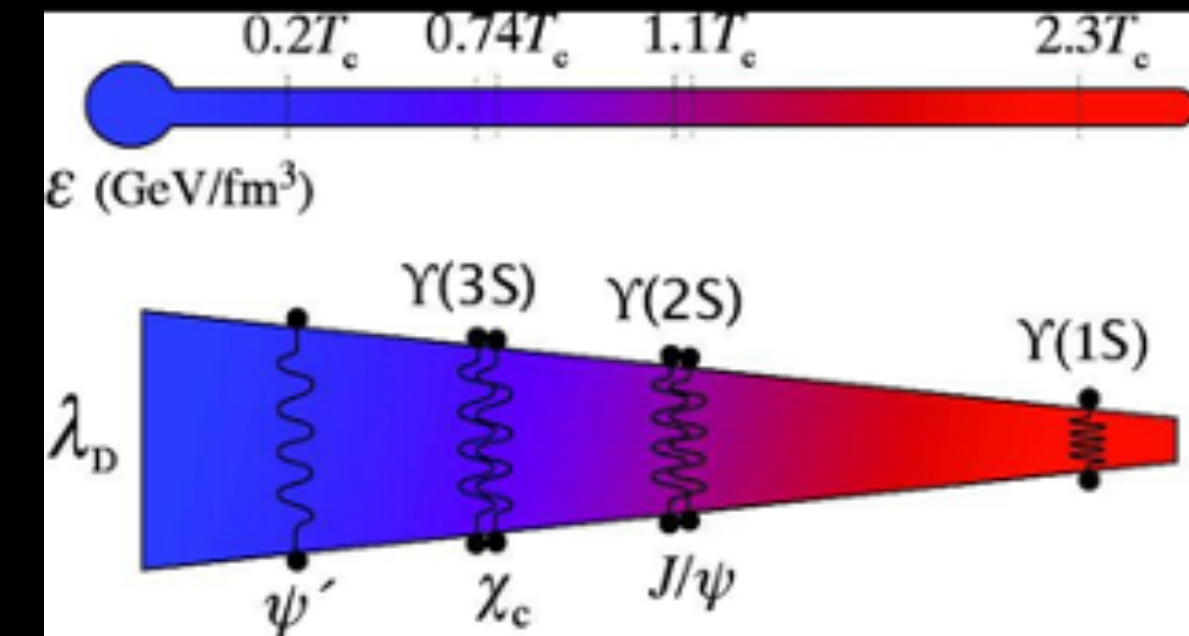
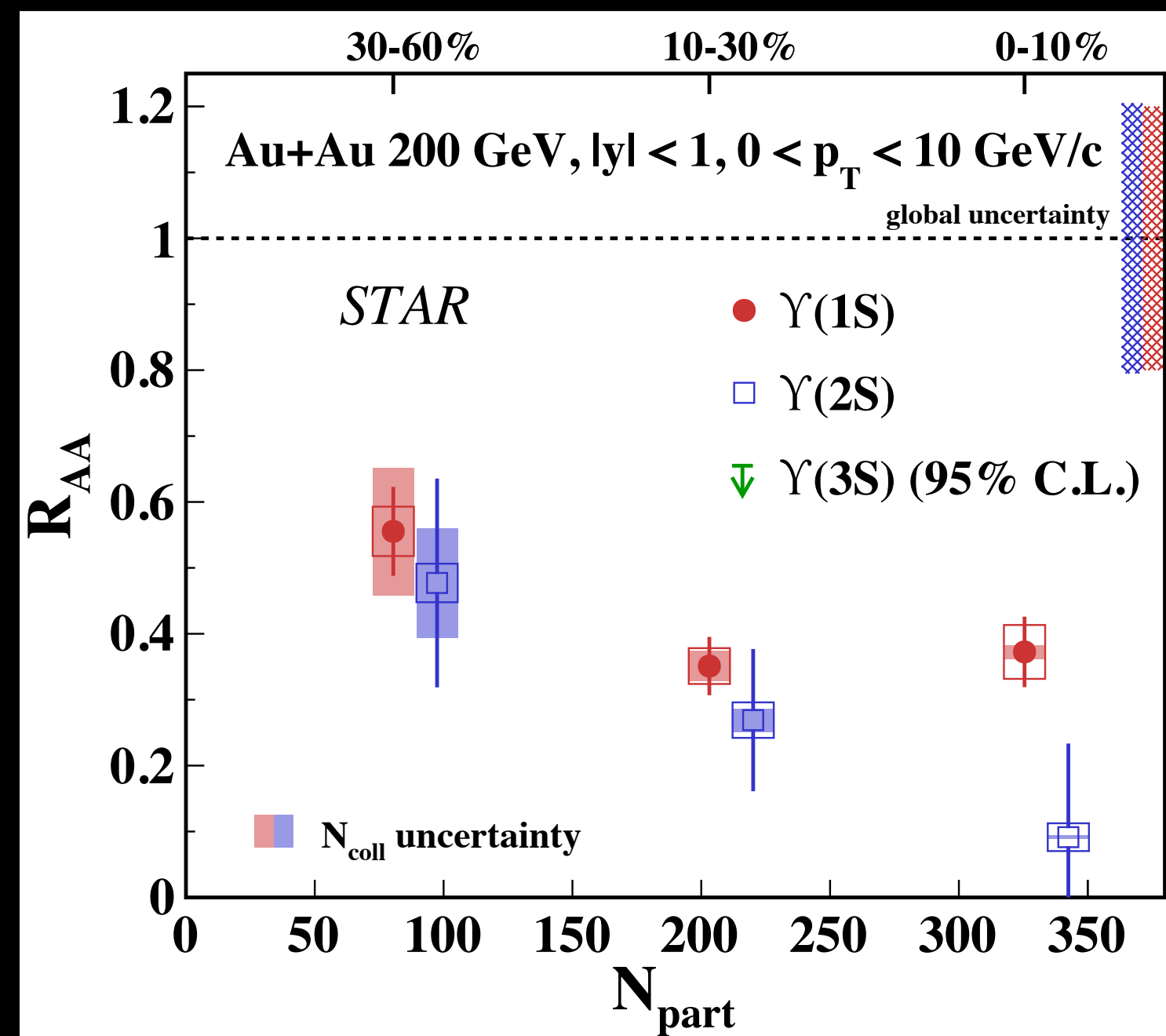
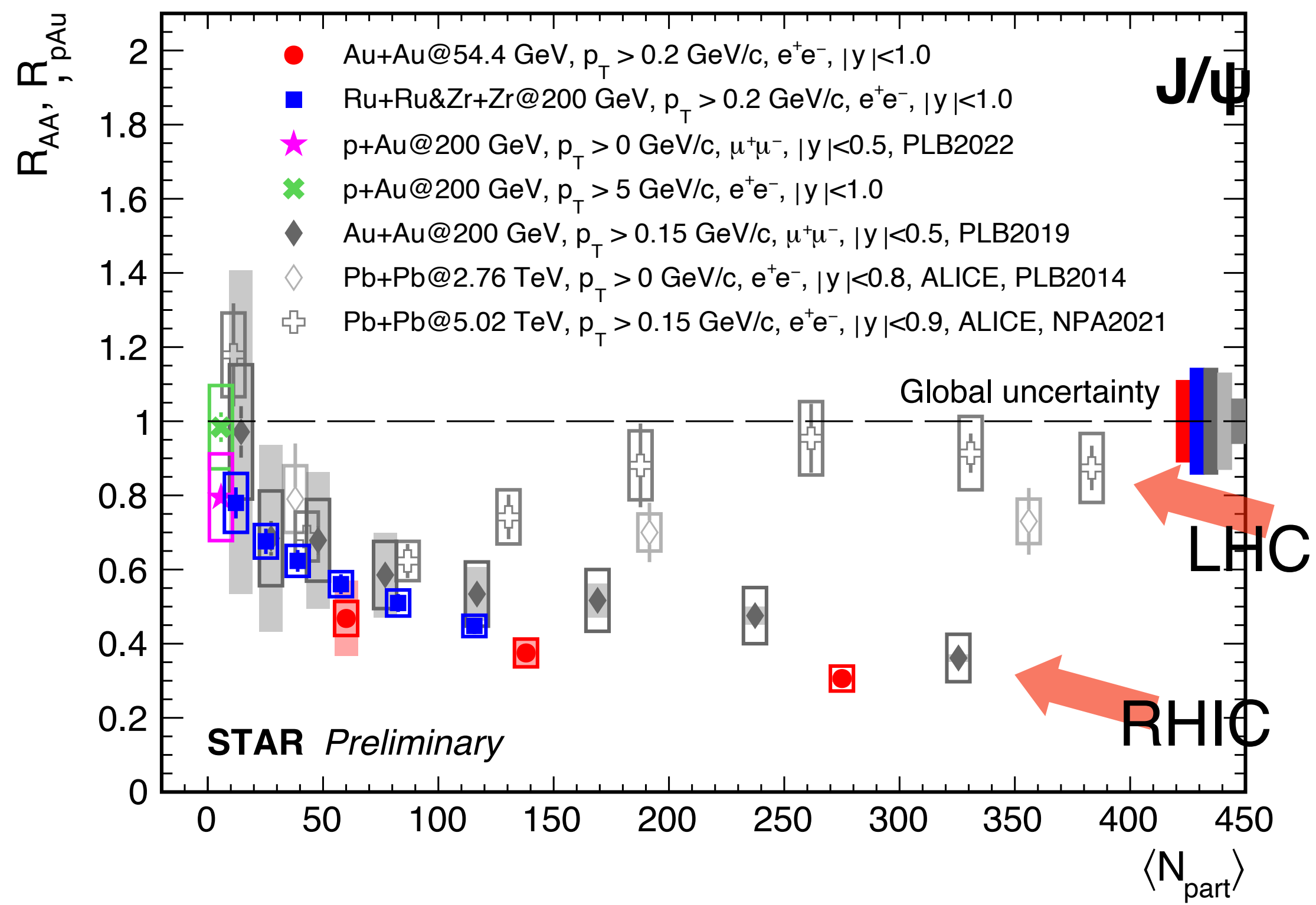
Perhaps due to nuclear structure difference? (nuclear deformation, neutrons skin) [2208.06941 \[nucl-ex\]](#)

# $J/\psi$ and $\Upsilon$ in medium at RHIC energies

Quarkonia dissociate in QGP due to color screening of potential between heavy-quarks, Matsui&Satz (1986)

Medium modification of  $J/\psi$  studied via  $R_{AA}$  in isobar and Au+Au 54.4 GeV, new baseline measurement of  $R_{pA}$

STAR: 2207.06568 [nucl-ex]



Differences in binding energies lead to a sequential melting of quarkonia with increasing temperature of the QGP

Sequential  $\Upsilon$  suppression

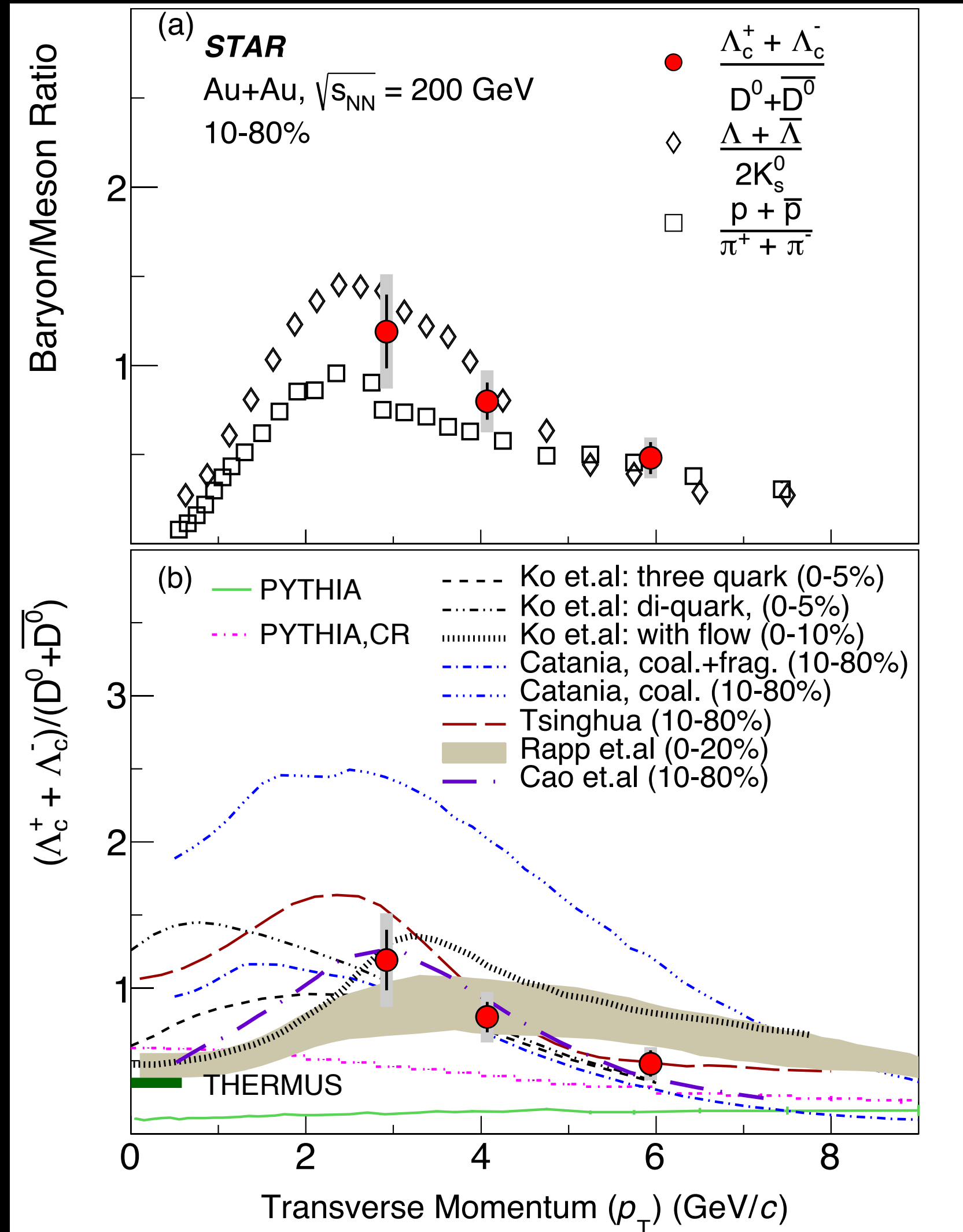
$\Upsilon(1S): R_{AA}@RHIC \approx R_{AA}@LHC$

$J/\psi$  suppression at RHIC scales with  $N_{part}$

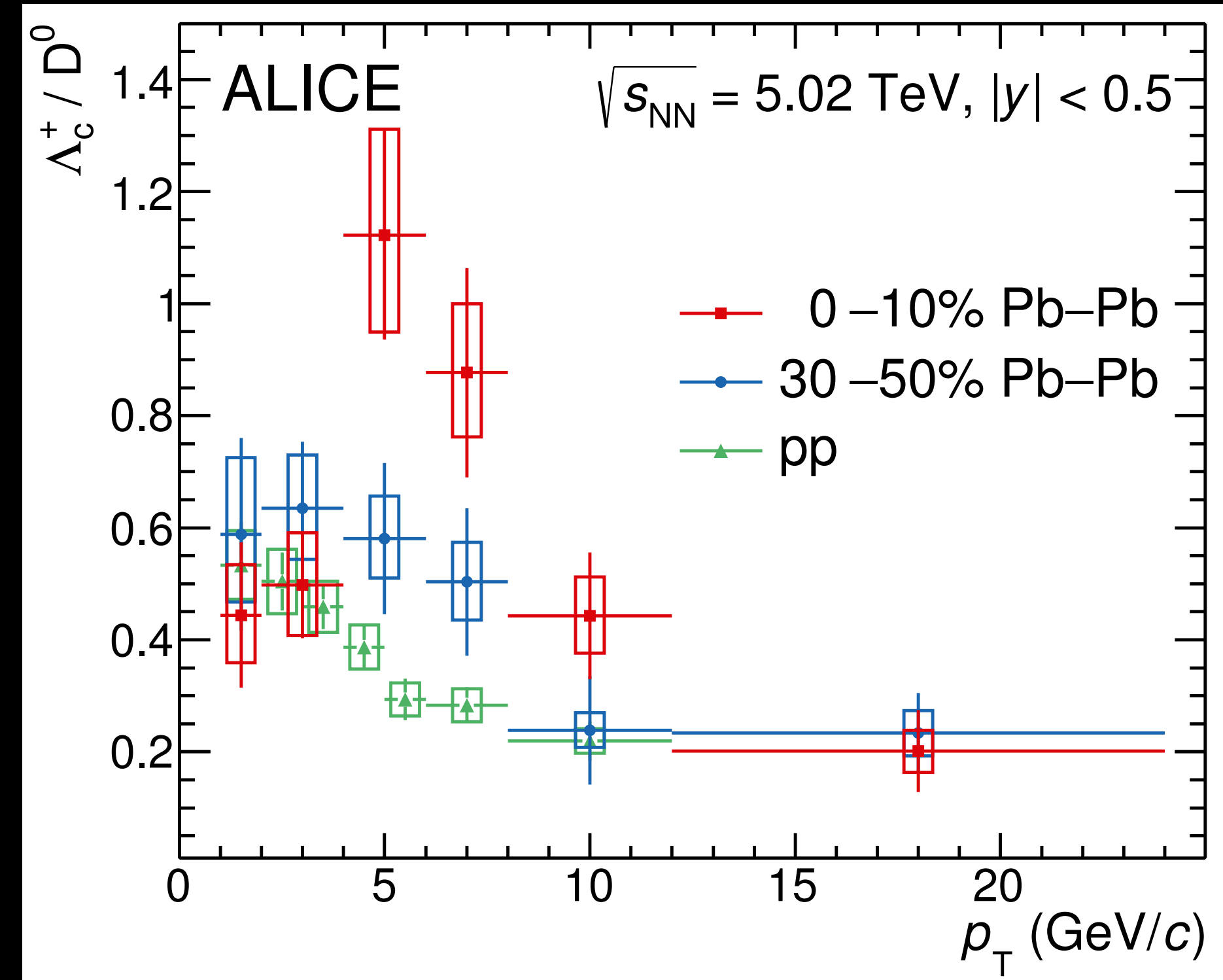


# Hadronization of charm quarks in medium

STAR: PRL 124 (2020) 17, 172301



STAR: 2112.08156 [nucl-ex]



## Additional dynamics in QGP:

$\Lambda_c/D^0$  enhancement at intermediate  $p_T$  relative to pp present from RHIC to LHC

→ similar to light flavor hadrons

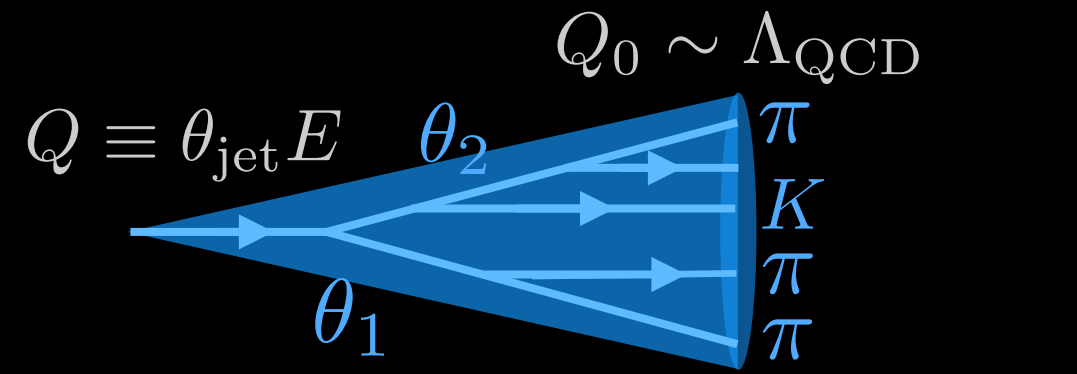
→ parton recombination at play also for c quarks

# Medium-induced broadening of jets

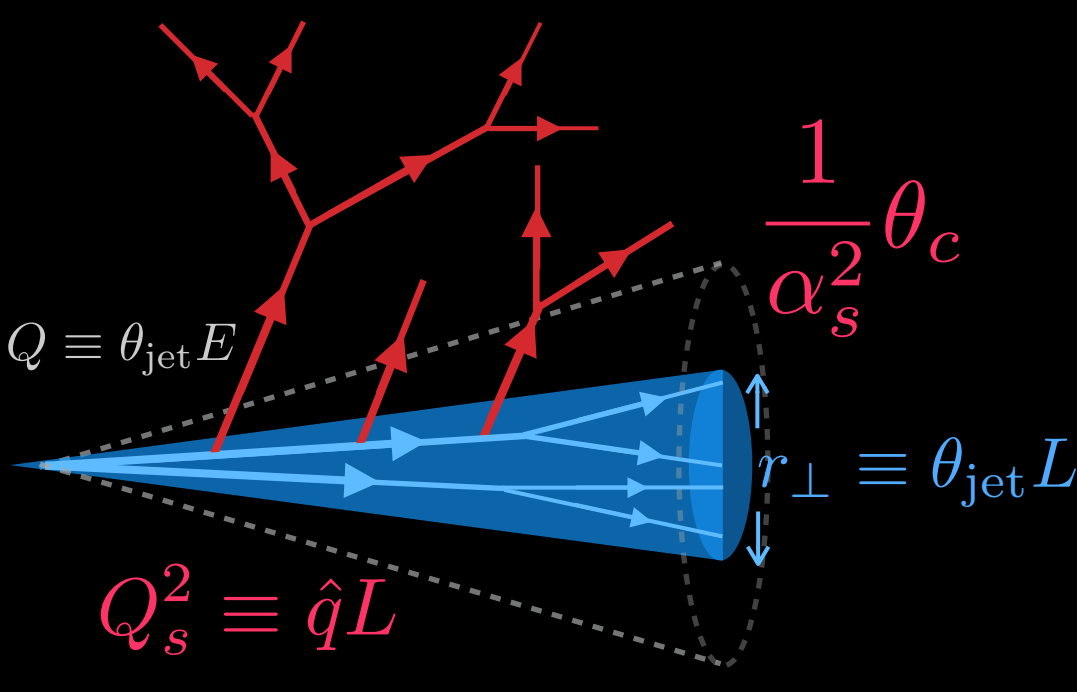


Ratio of jet spectra for two cone sizes  
For semi-inclusive  $\pi^0/\gamma$ +jets is lower in Au+Au than p+p measurements

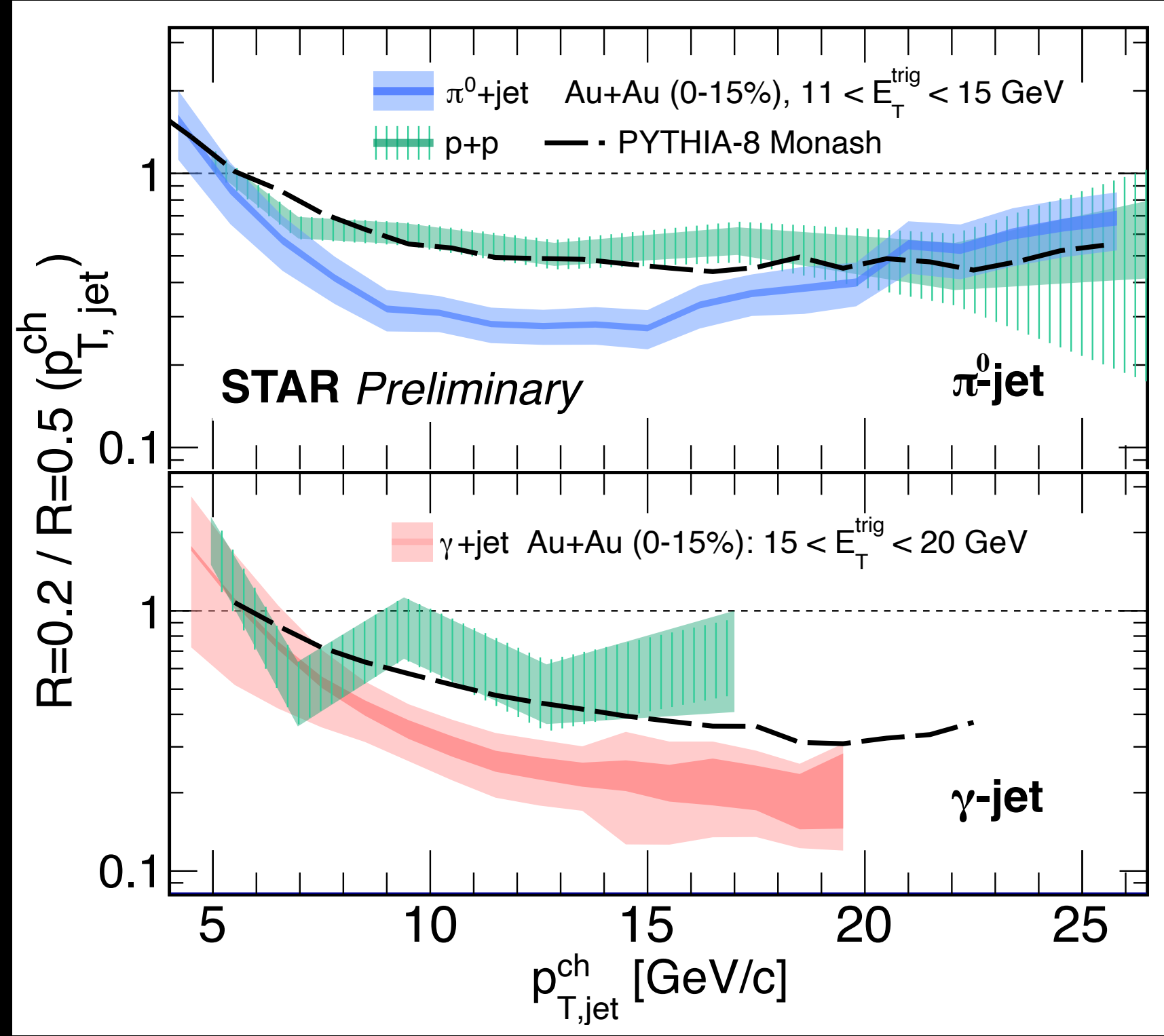
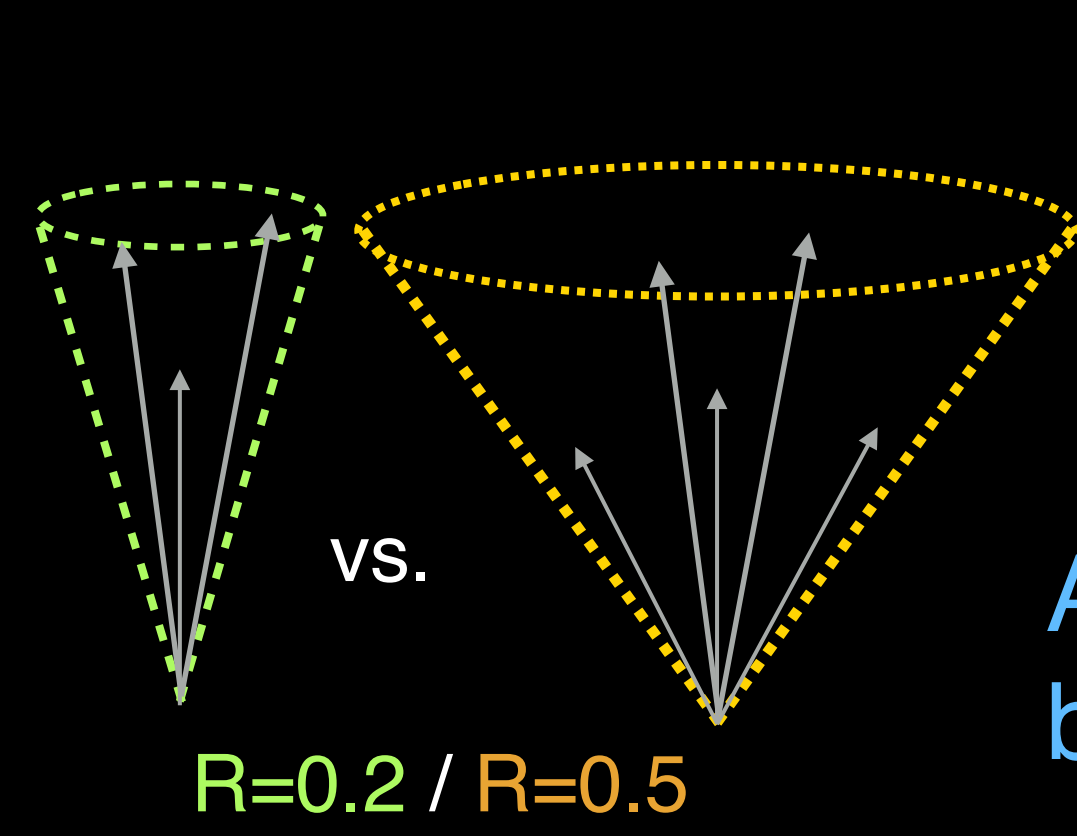
Excess yield at large angle for  $\pi^0/\gamma$ +jet in Au+Au observed compared to p+p PYTHIA baseline



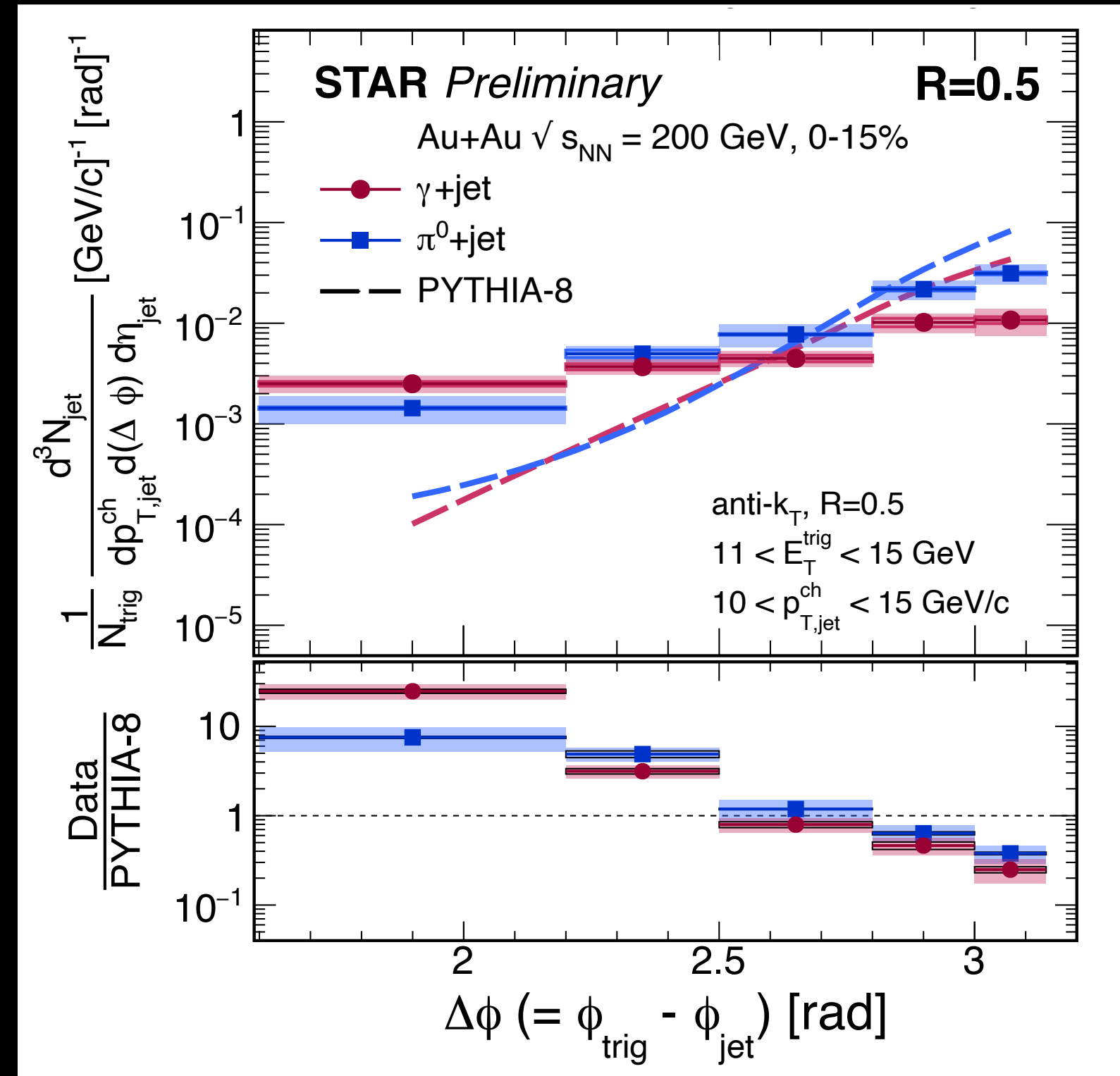
Vacuum shower (p+p)



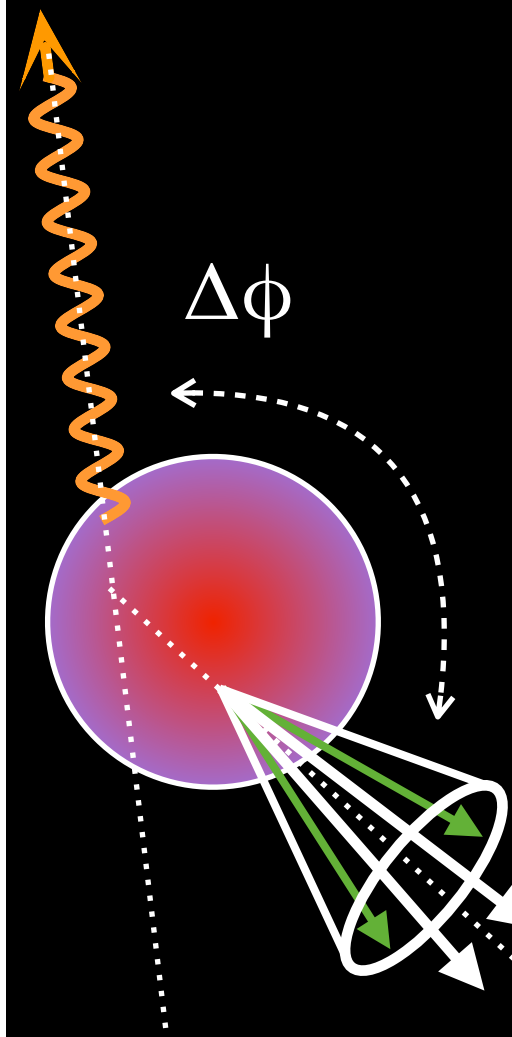
Medium induced gluon radiation (Au+Au)



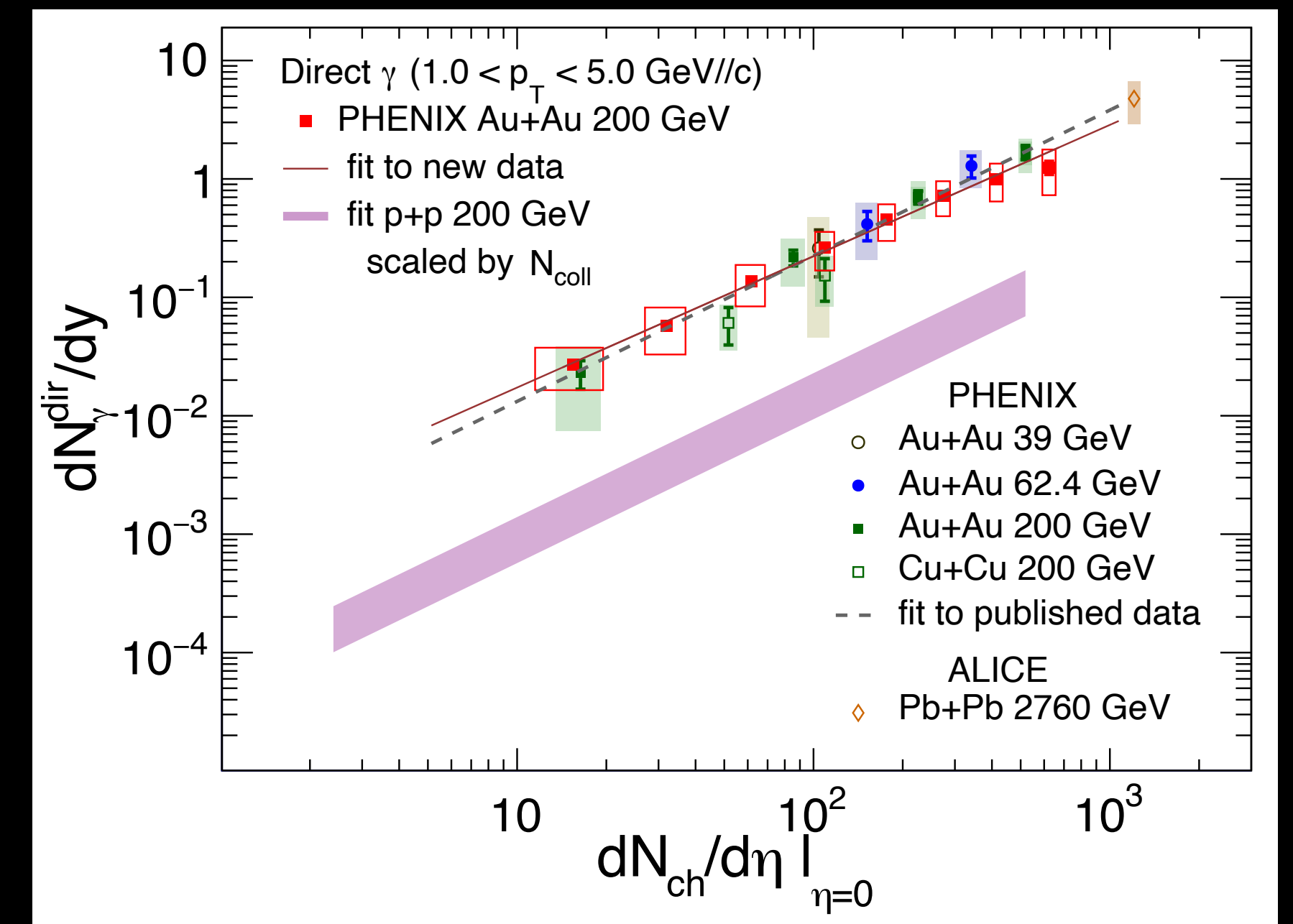
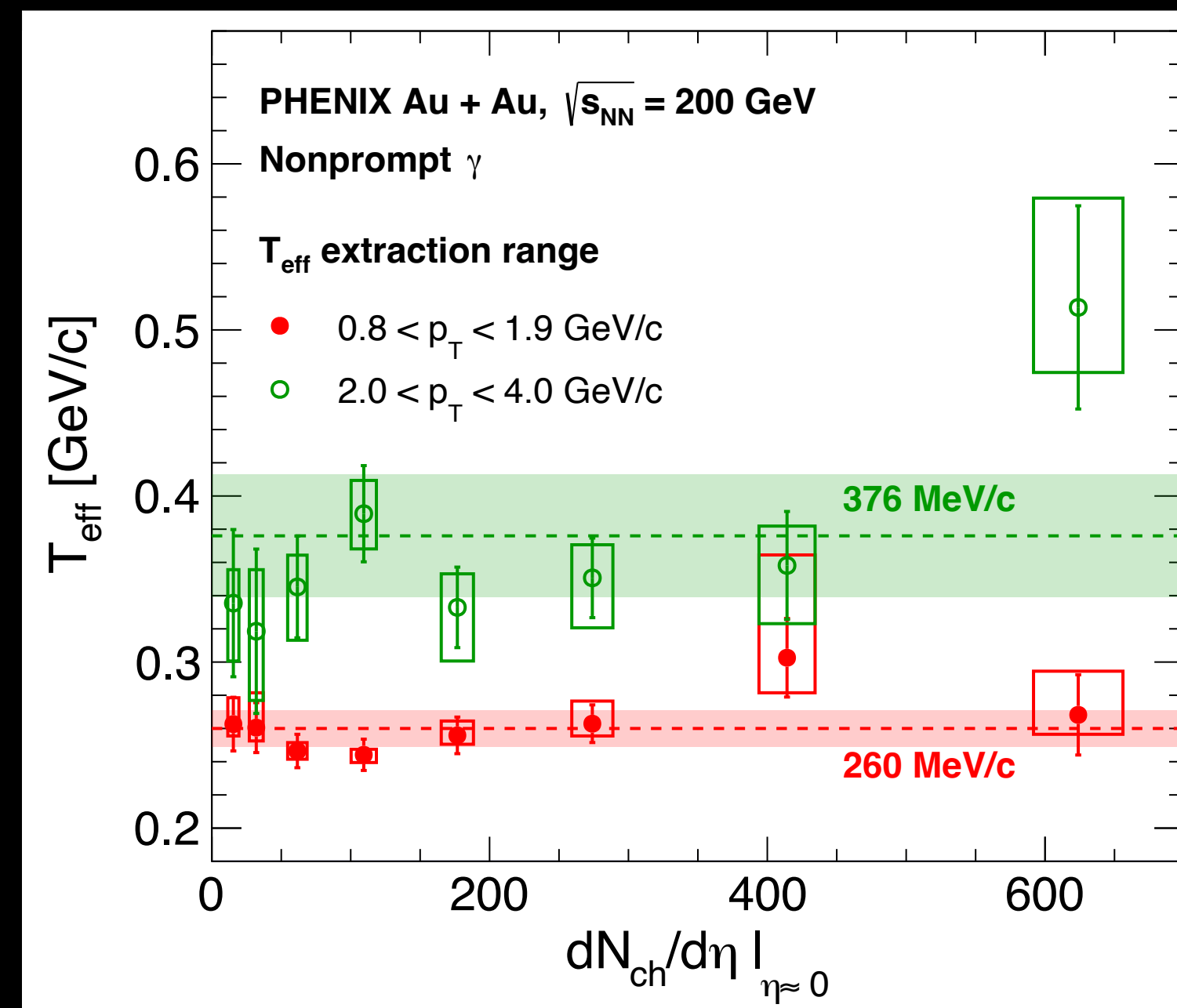
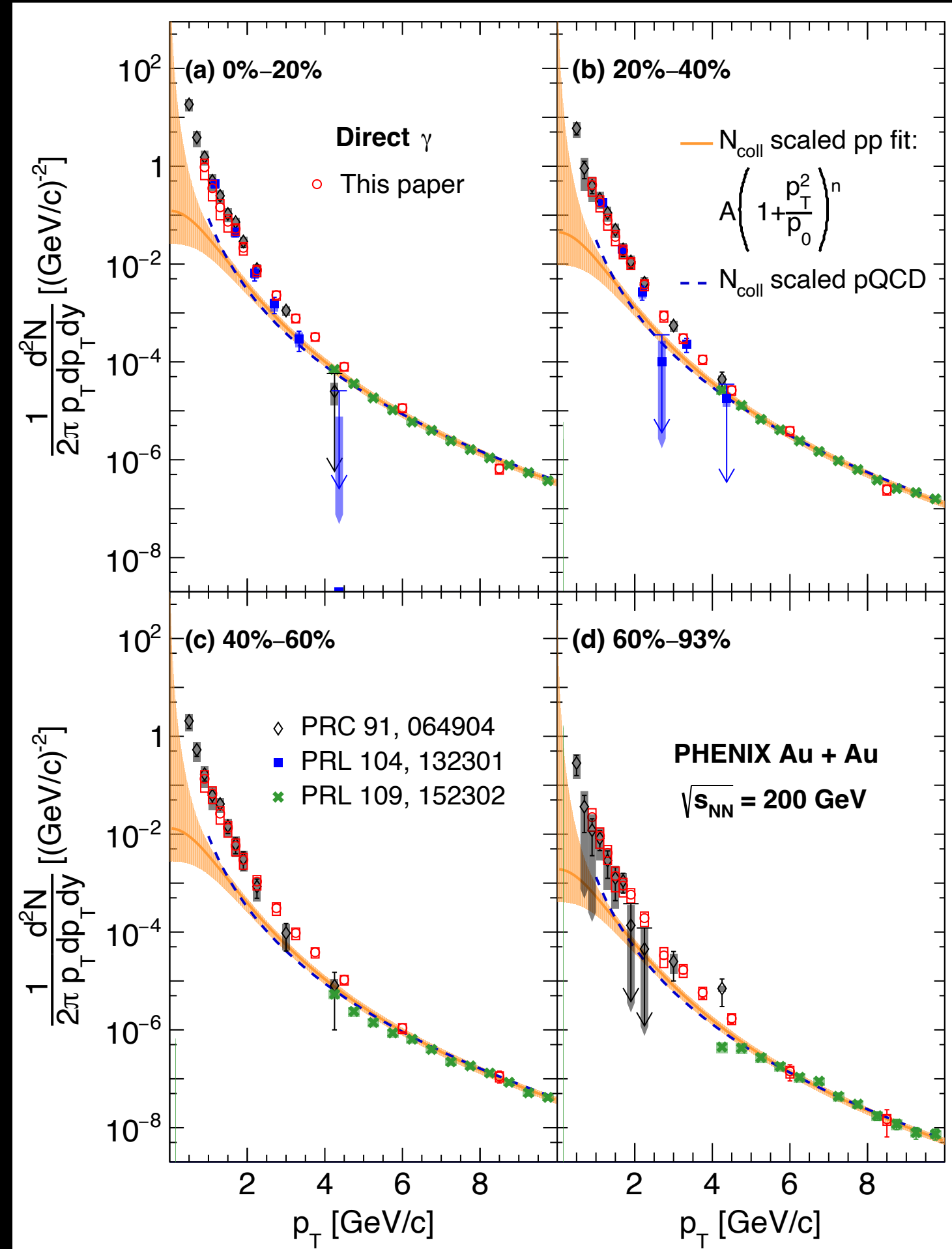
A clear observation of medium-induced broadening of jet-shower at RHIC



First observation of medium-induced broadening of acoplanarity



# Nonprompt direct photon production in Au+Au@ $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200\text{GeV}$



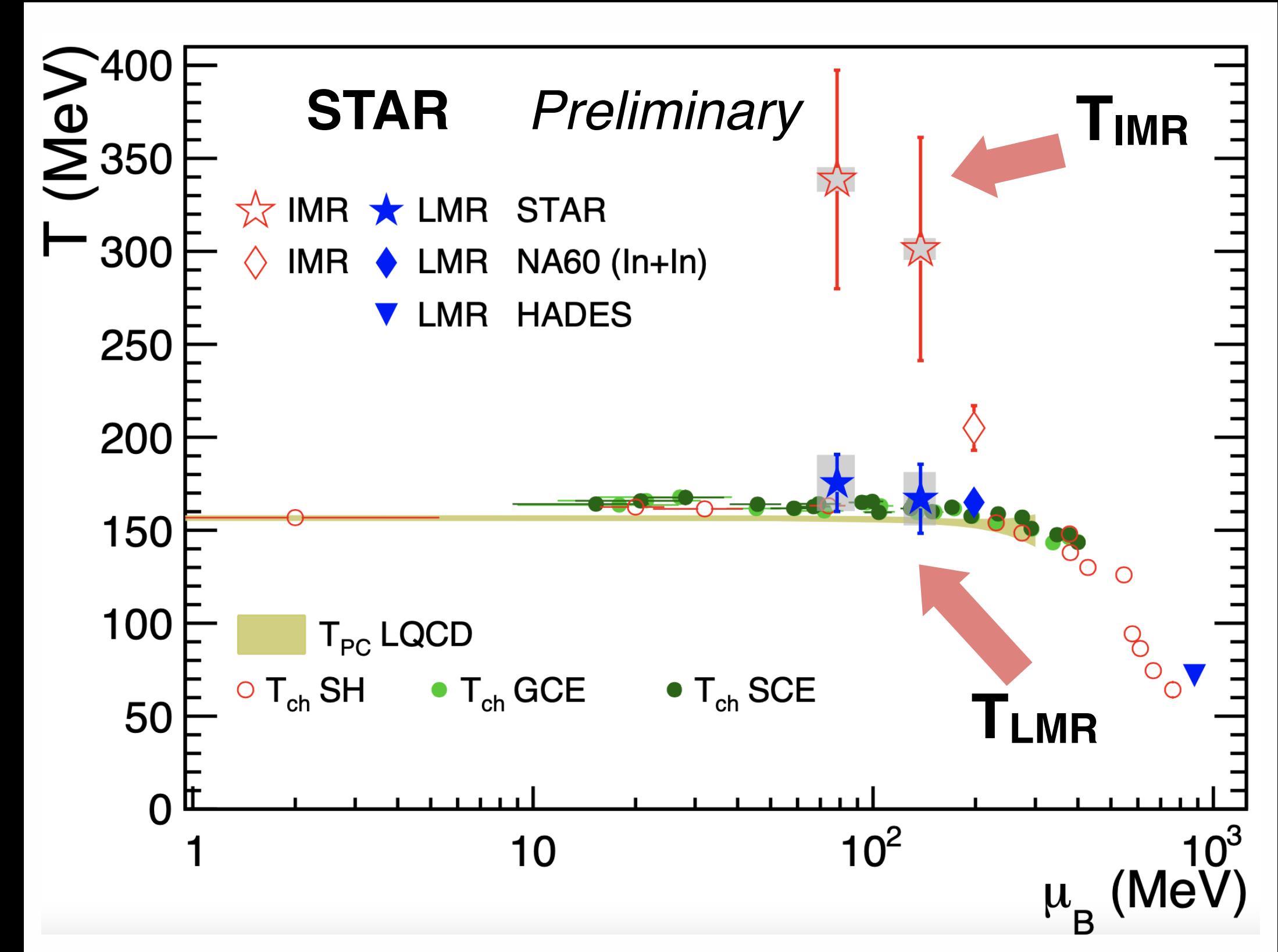
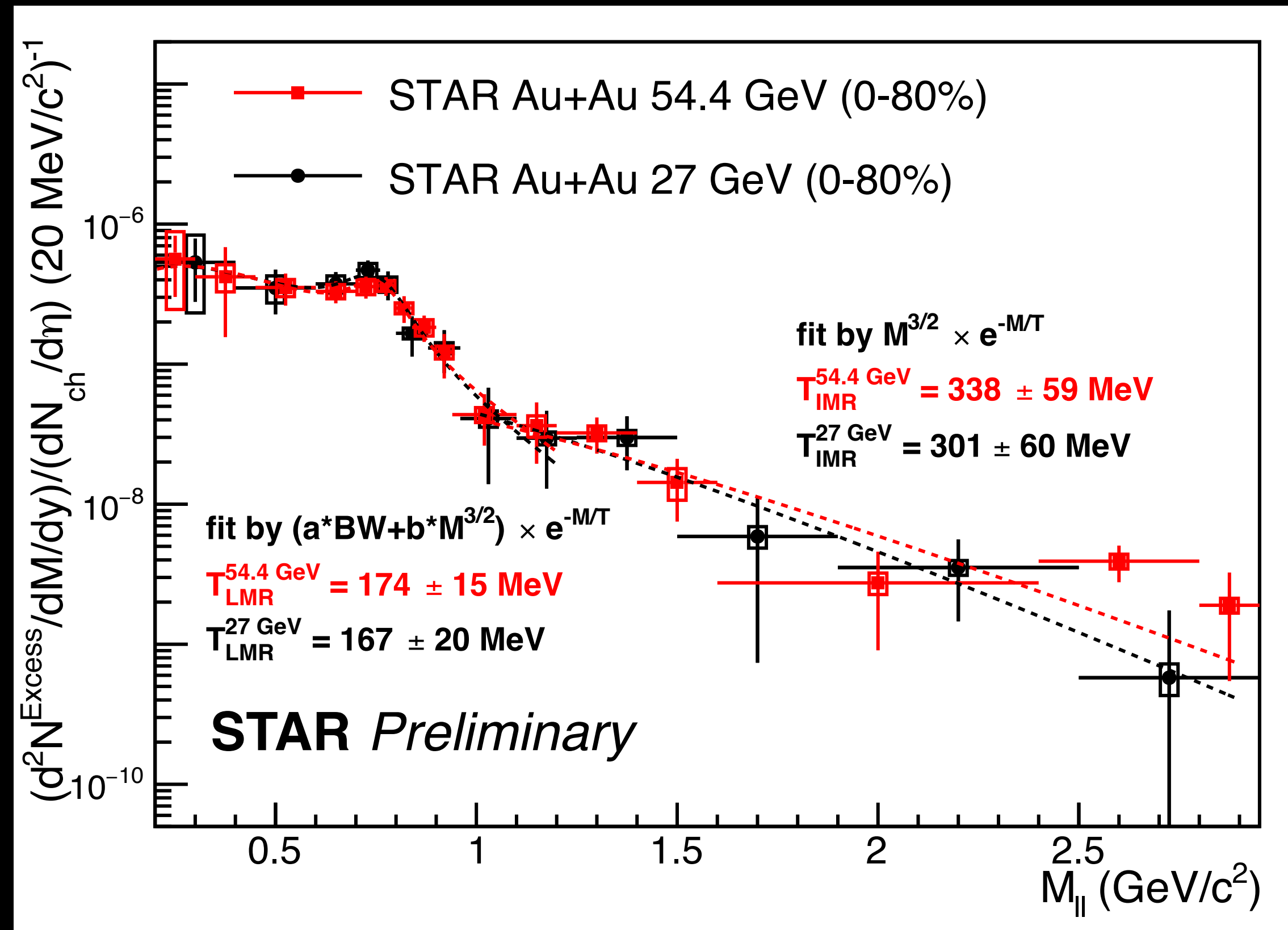
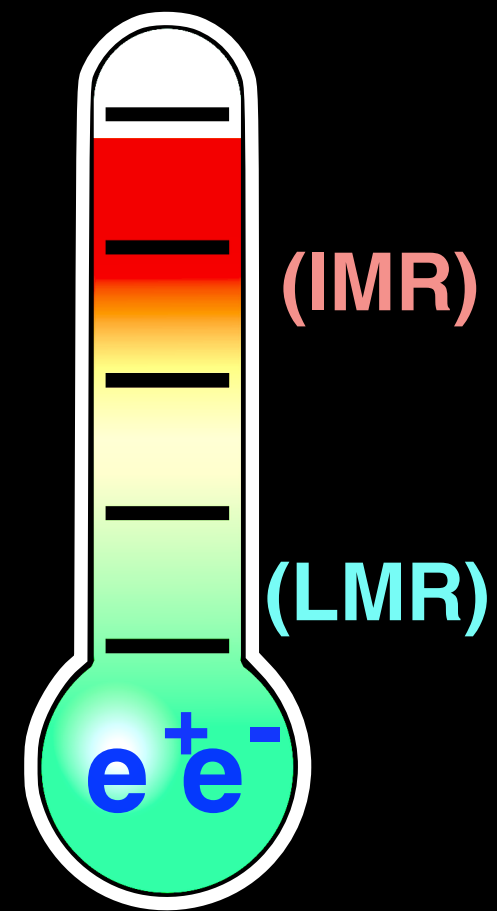
- Nonprompt direct  $\gamma$  obtained by subtracting the prompt component ( $N_{\text{coll}}$ -scaled direct  $\gamma$  from p+p collisions).
- Direct photon excess, above prompt-photon production from hard-scattering processes, observed for  $p_T < 6 \text{ GeV}/c$ .

- ◉ Excess can be described by two exponentials with average inverse slopes  $T_{\text{eff}} = (260 \pm 11) \text{ MeV}/c$  and  $T_{\text{eff}} = (376 \pm 37) \text{ MeV}/c$  for  $(0.8 < p_T < 1.9) \text{ GeV}/c$  and  $(2.0 < p_T < 4.0) \text{ GeV}/c$ , respectively.
- ◉ Integrated photon yield scales as  $(dN_{\text{ch}}/d\eta)^\alpha$ ,  $\alpha = 1.12 \pm 0.06(\text{stat}) \pm 0.14(\text{sys})$  with no apparent dependence on  $p_T$ .

# Medium temperature with di-leptons



Precision di-lepton spectra measured with Au+Au 27 GeV (2018) and 54.4 GeV data (2017) blue-shift free average temperatures extracted: IMR systematically above LMR temperature



$$T_{LMR} \sim T_{PC, LQCD}$$

$$T_{IMR} > T_{LMR}$$

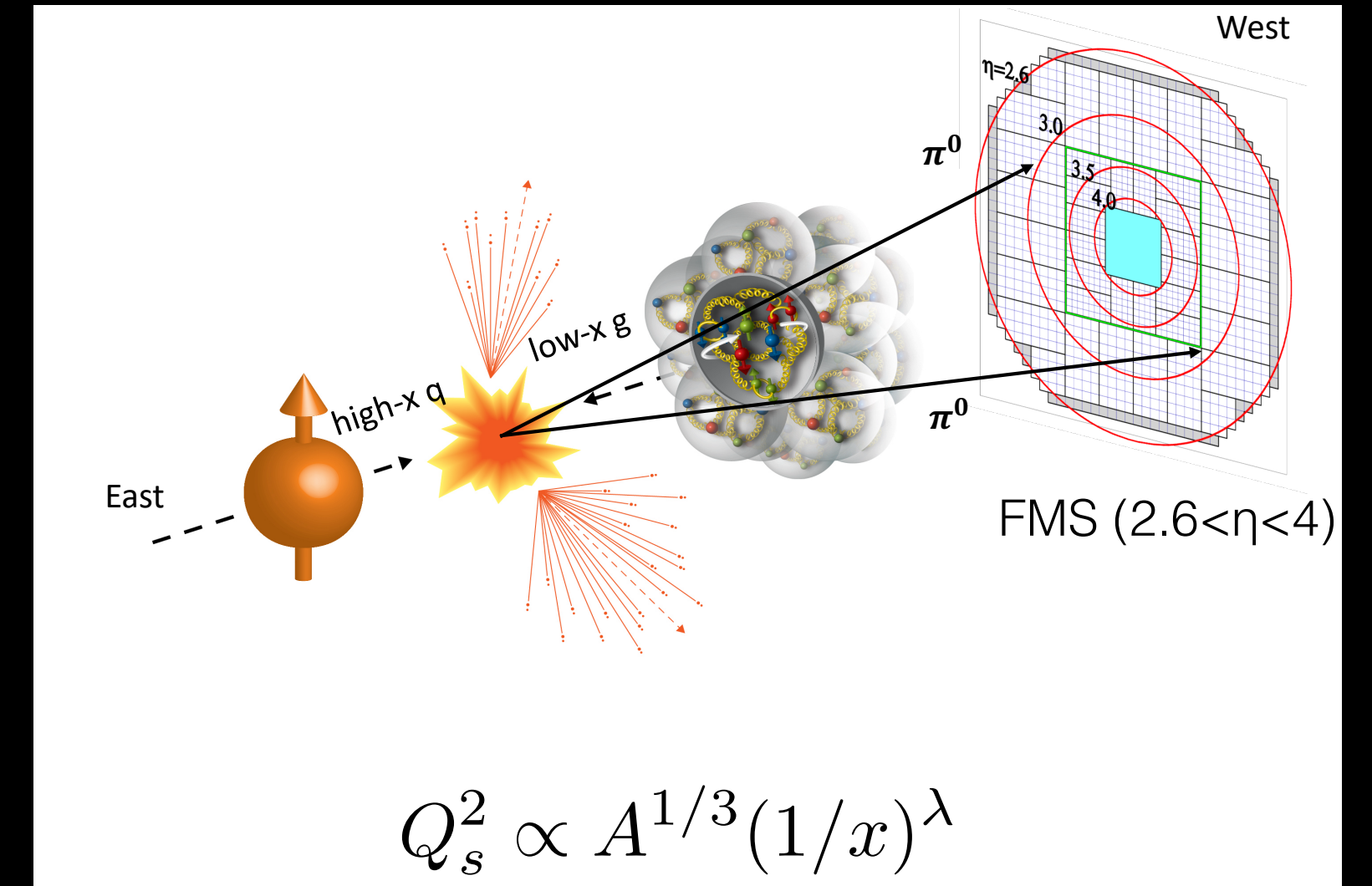
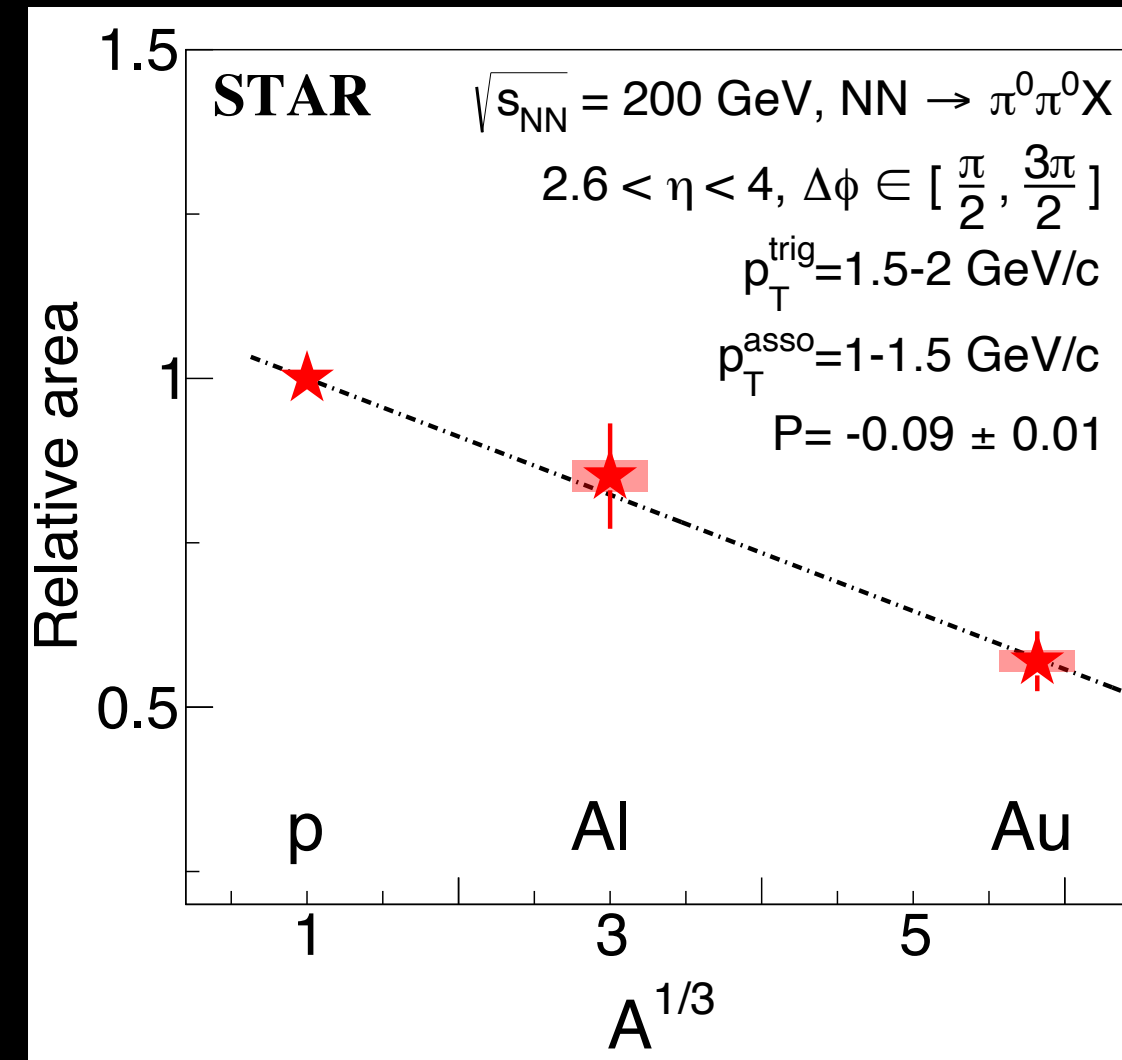
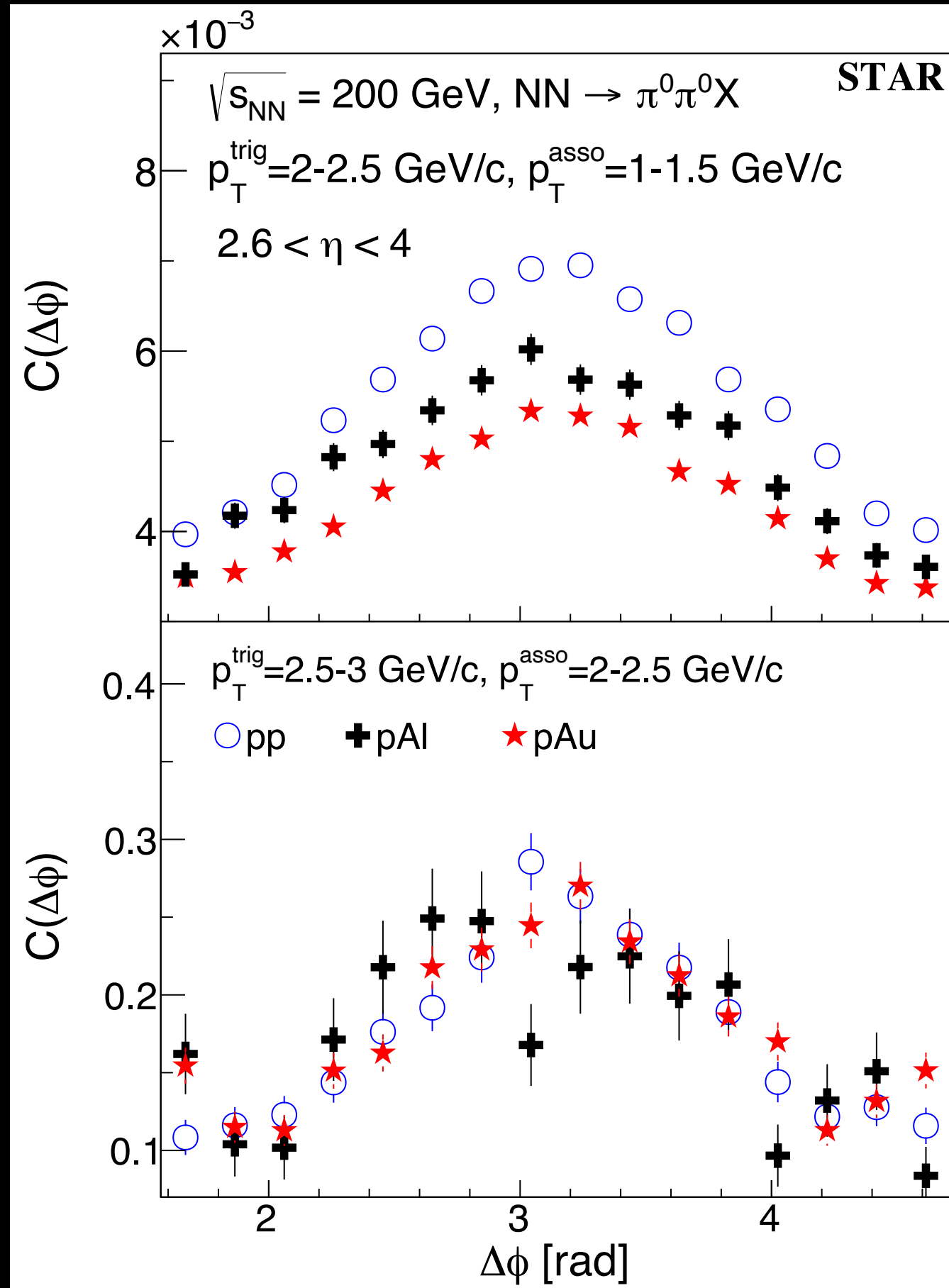
QGP temperature of  $\sim 300 \text{ MeV}$  at 27 & 54.4 GeV extracted,  $\rho$  mediated di-leptons dominate near pseudo-critical temperature  $T_{PC}$  of the QCD chiral transition.

Hot QCD Coll., Phys.Lett.B 795 (2019)15

# Evidence for nonlinear gluon effects at small $x$



STAR: Phys.Rev.Lett. 129 (2022) 092501



- $\pi^0$ - $\pi^0$  azimuthal correlations at forward rapidity ( $2.6 < \eta < 4$ ) probe high-density gluon field.
- Suppression of back-to-back pairs in pAl and pAu compared to pp with relative area  $\sim A^{1/3}$ , consistent with the expectation from gluon saturation.
  - ▶ No broadening of the away-side peak.
- Suppression decreases with increasing  $p_T$ .
- Future measurements: h-h and  $\gamma$ -h azimuthal correlations\*.

I. Vitev, Phys. Lett. B 562, 36 (2003)

L. Frankfurt and M. Strikman, Phys. Lett. B 645, 412 (2007)

C. Marquet, Nuclear Physics A 796, 41 (2007), 0708.0231

L. Zheng, E. C. Aschenauer, J. H. Lee, and B.-W. Xiao, Phys. Rev. D 89, 074037 (2014), 1403.2413

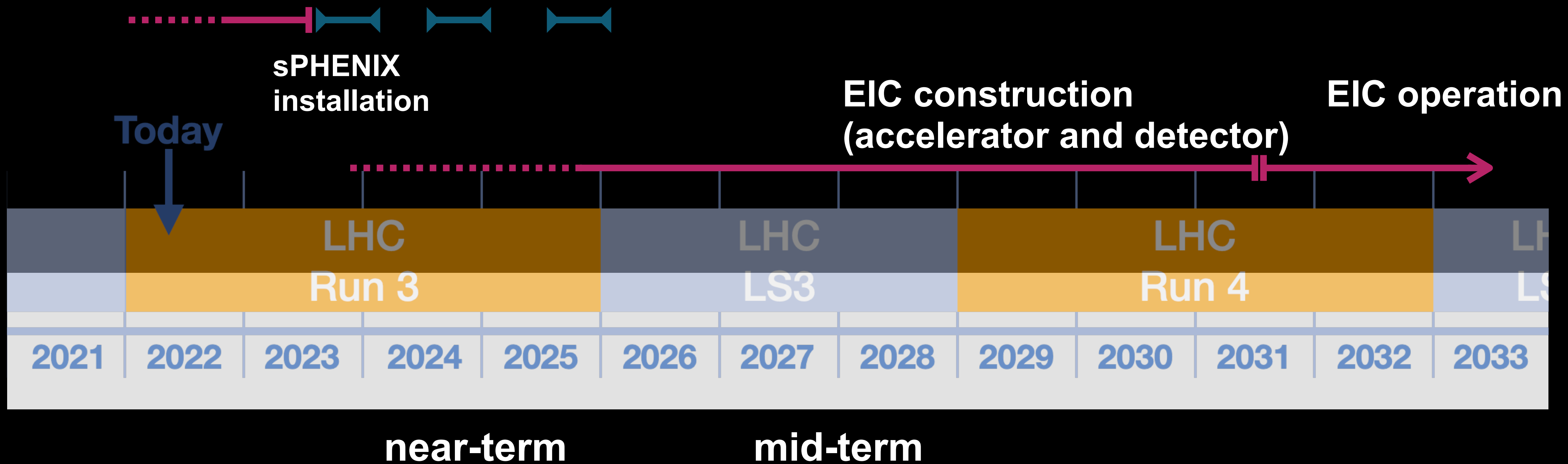
\*) For  $\gamma(\gamma^*)$ -h azimuthal correlations a small dip at the maximum of  $C(\Delta\phi)$  is expected (Stasto et al. 2012, Basso et al. 2016, Goncalves et al. 2020).

# RHIC & EIC future schedule on the LHC timeline

RHIC in 2023-2025: sPHENIX & STAR

Unprecedented statistics to be collected for pp, pAu and AuAu collisions at 200 GeV

→ completion of RHIC mission



# Forward upgrade program of STAR

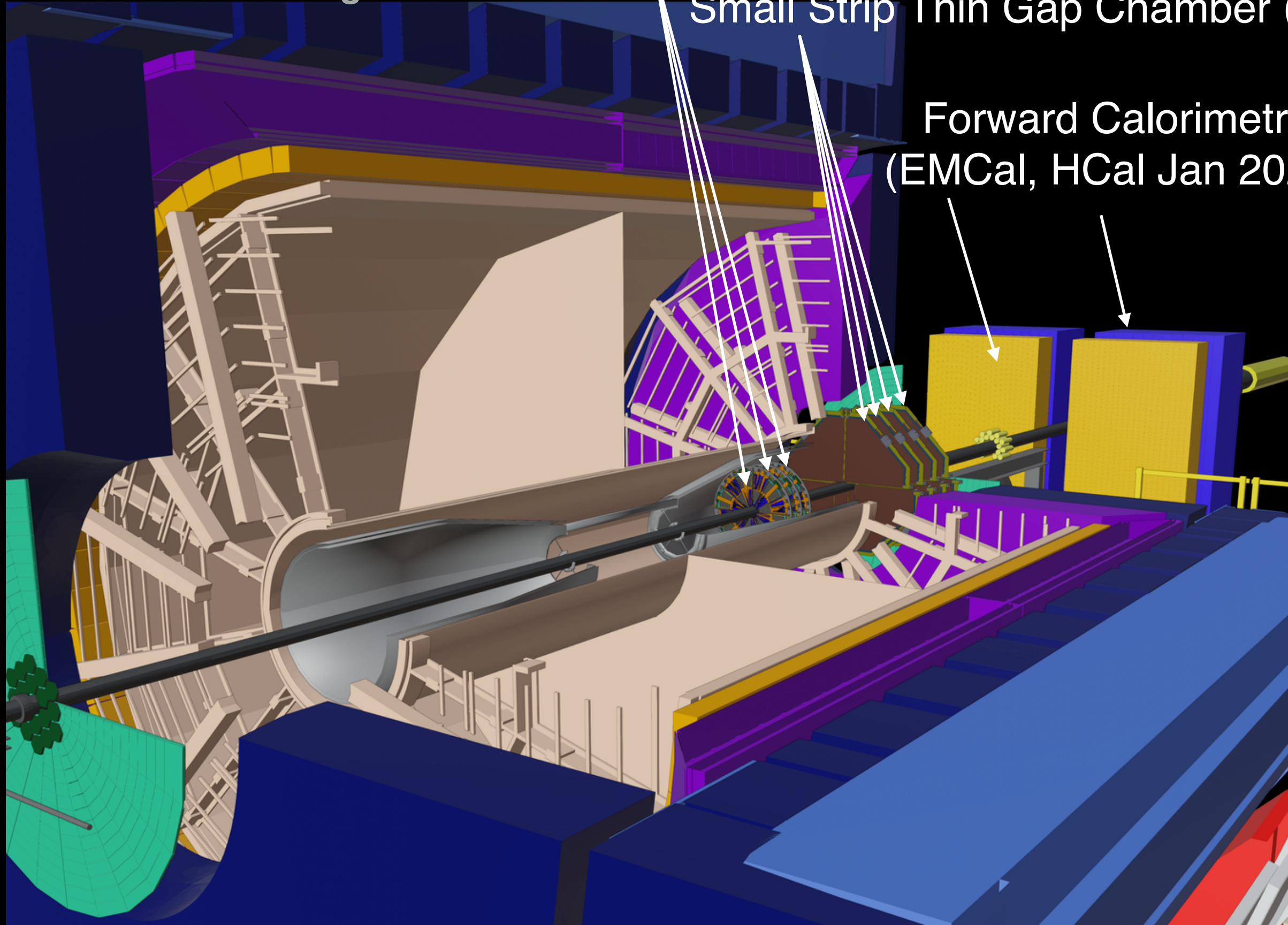


SN0773 : The STAR BUR for Run-22 & data taking in 2023-25

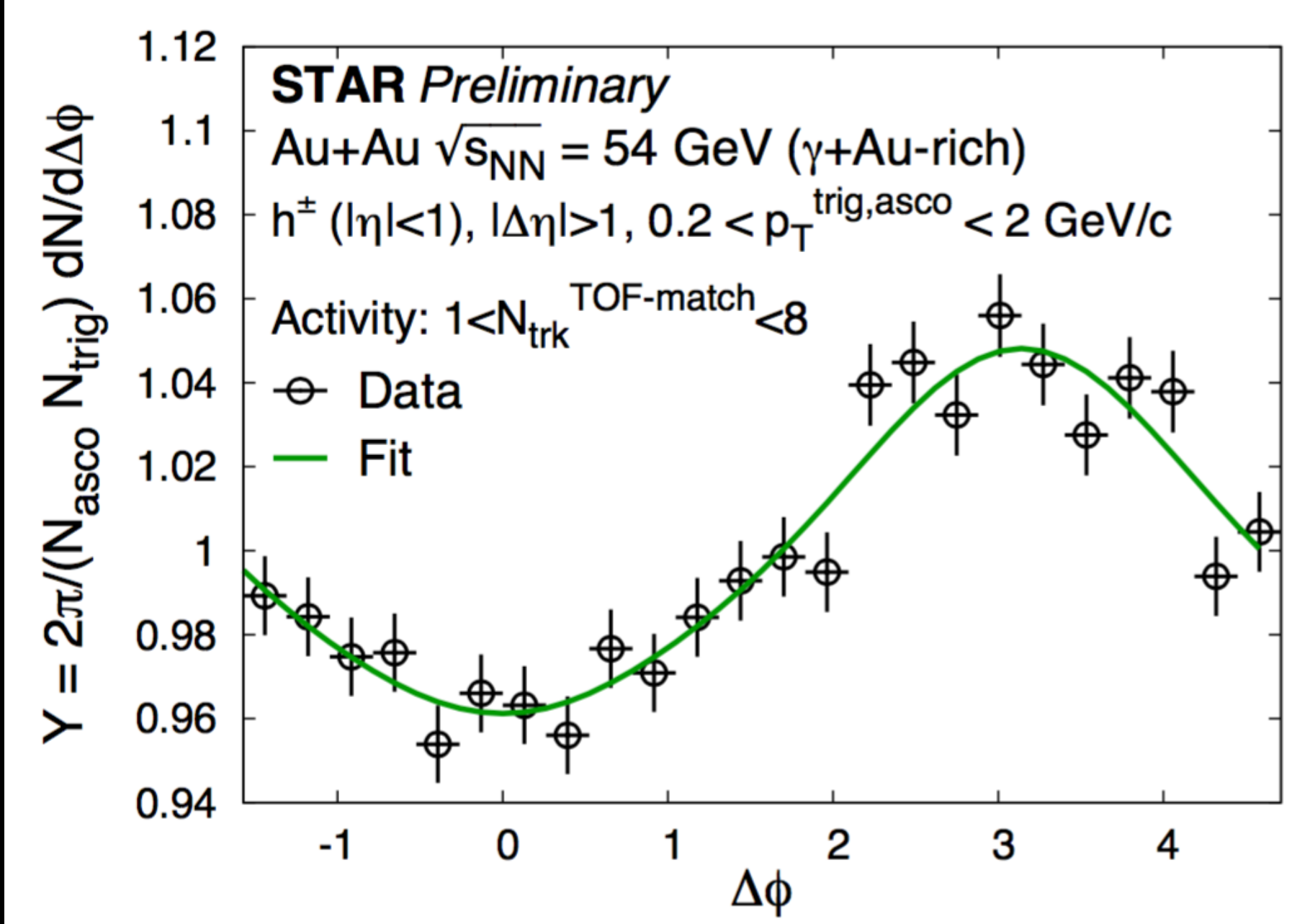
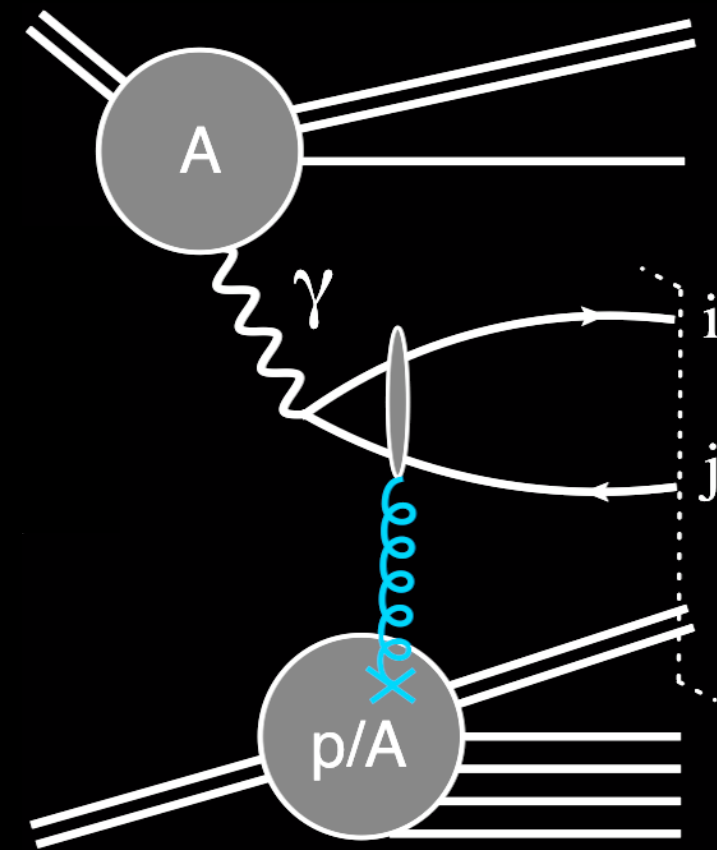
Forward Silicon Tracker (fall 2021)

Small Strip Thin Gap Chamber (fall 2021)

Forward Calorimetry (EMCal, HCal Jan 2021)



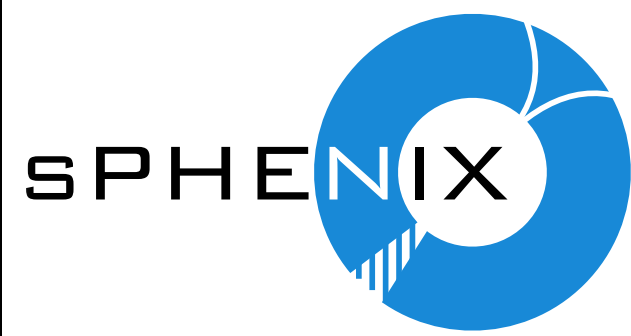
Di-hadron correlations studied in photonuclear processes using Au+Au  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 54.4$  GeV data



No signature of collectivity (near side ridge) in the  $\gamma$ +Au, higher energy and activity events under exploration with STAR forward upgrades

Anticipated runs with forward upgrades:  
 High statistics Au+Au in 2023 and 2025  
 Polarized p+p, p+Au in 2024

Focus will be on study of microstructure of QGP & RHIC measurements informative towards EIC science



# - barrel detector with $4\pi$ coverage

$$(0 < \phi < 2\pi, |\eta| < 0.85)$$

(Superconducting 1.4T magnet)

SC magnet

flux return door

(Intermediate Tracker) INTT

MVTX

(MAPS Vertex detector)

support carriage

cryogenic chimney

outer HCal

(Hadronic Calorimeter)

inner HCal

EMCal

(Electromagnetic Calorimeter)

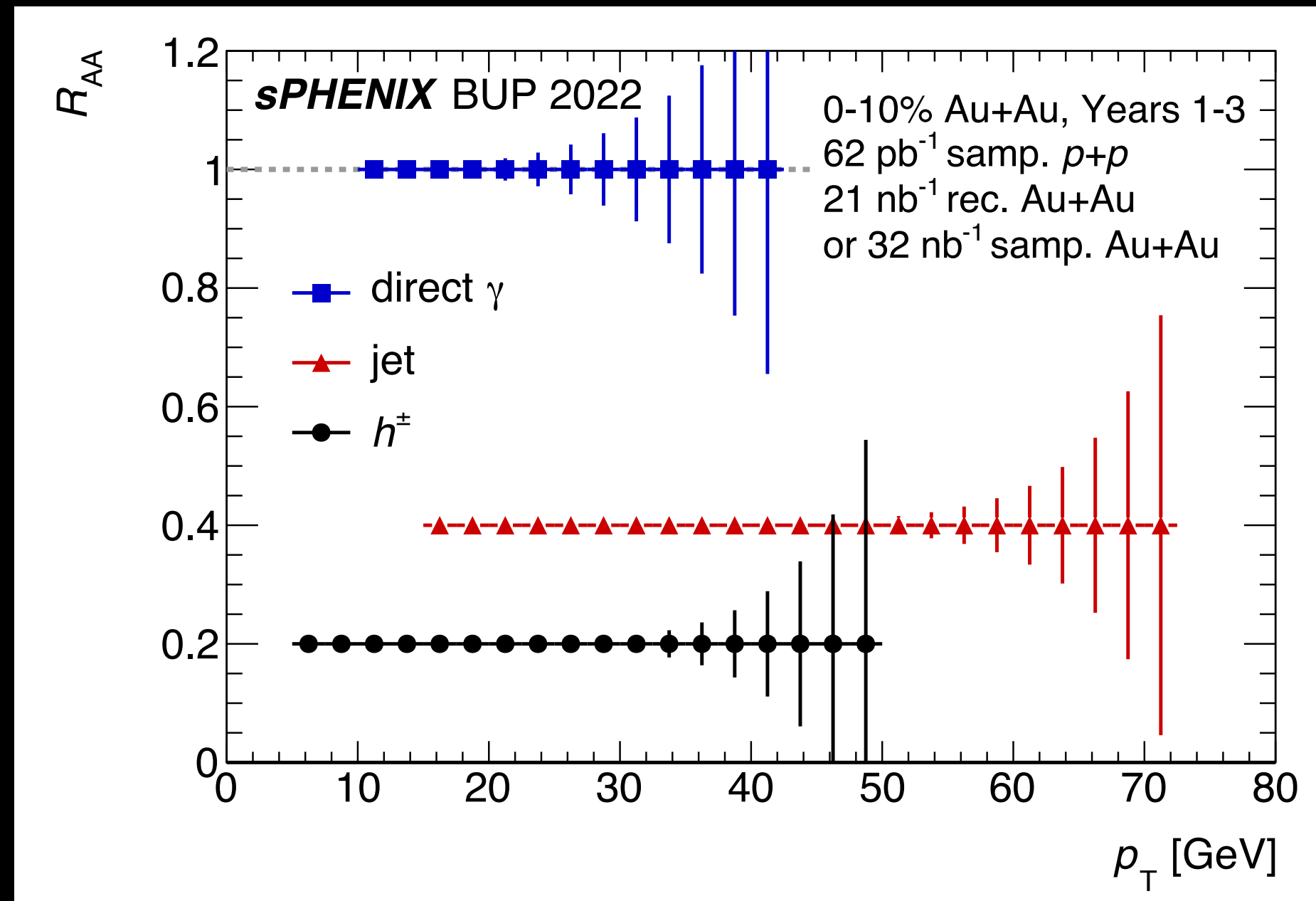
TPC

(Time Projection Chamber)

- \* sEPD(Event Plane Detector),
- \* MBD(Minimum-bias detector),
- \* TPOT(TPC Outer Tracker) not shown in the figure



# Hard process yields



Signal	Au+Au 0–10% Counts	$p+p$ Counts
Jets $p_T > 20$ GeV	22 000 000	11 000 000
Jets $p_T > 40$ GeV	65 000	31 000
Direct Photons $p_T > 20$ GeV	47 000	5 800
Direct Photons $p_T > 30$ GeV	2 400	290
Charged Hadrons $p_T > 25$ GeV	4 300	4 100

**Table 4.1:** Projected counts for jet, direct photon, and charged hadron events above the indicated threshold  $p_T$  from the sPHENIX proposed 2023–2025 data taking. These estimates correspond to the 28 cryo-week scenarios.

◎ Large luminosity for inclusive  $R_{AA}$  measurements (*left*) and detailed study (*right*)

- ➔ **reconstructed jets** to  $\sim 70$  GeV - fate of  $R_{AA}$  at very high  $p_T$
- ➔ **charged particles** to  $\sim 45$  GeV - fragmentation functions out to high- $z$
- ➔ **direct photons** to  $\sim 40$  GeV - precise check of nuclear geometry

Thank you

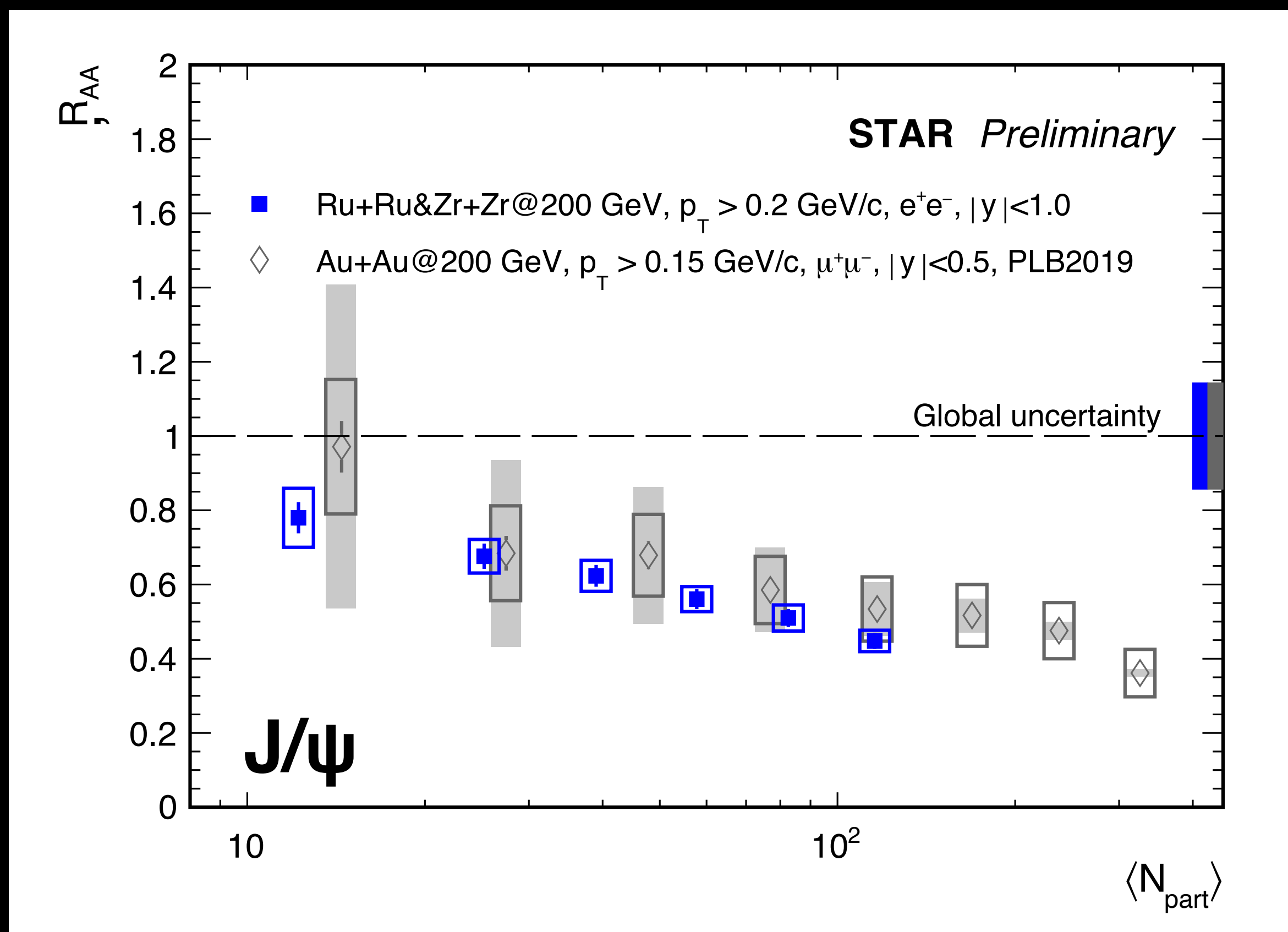
# Backup slides

# Charged hadron $R_{AA}$ at high $p_T$

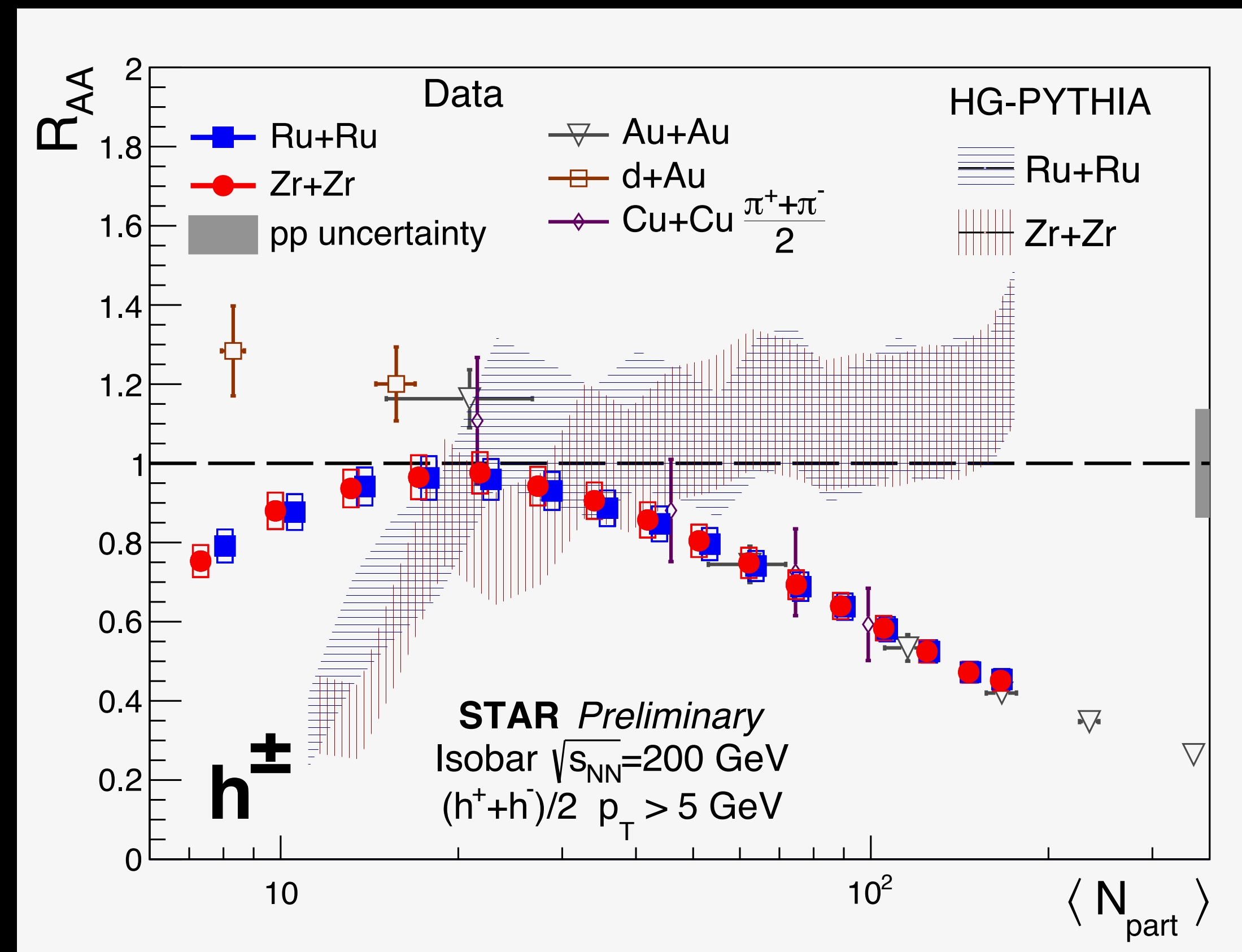


Medium modification of  $J/\psi$  studied via  $R_{AA}$  in various systems at RHIC, new baseline measurement of  $R_{pA}$

Medium modification of high  $p_T > 5$  GeV/c hadrons studied via  $R_{AA}$  in isobars



Clear indications of  $J/\psi$  suppression at RHIC that scales with  $N_{part}$



Suppression of charged hadrons at high  $p_T$  possible centrality bias in peripheral events

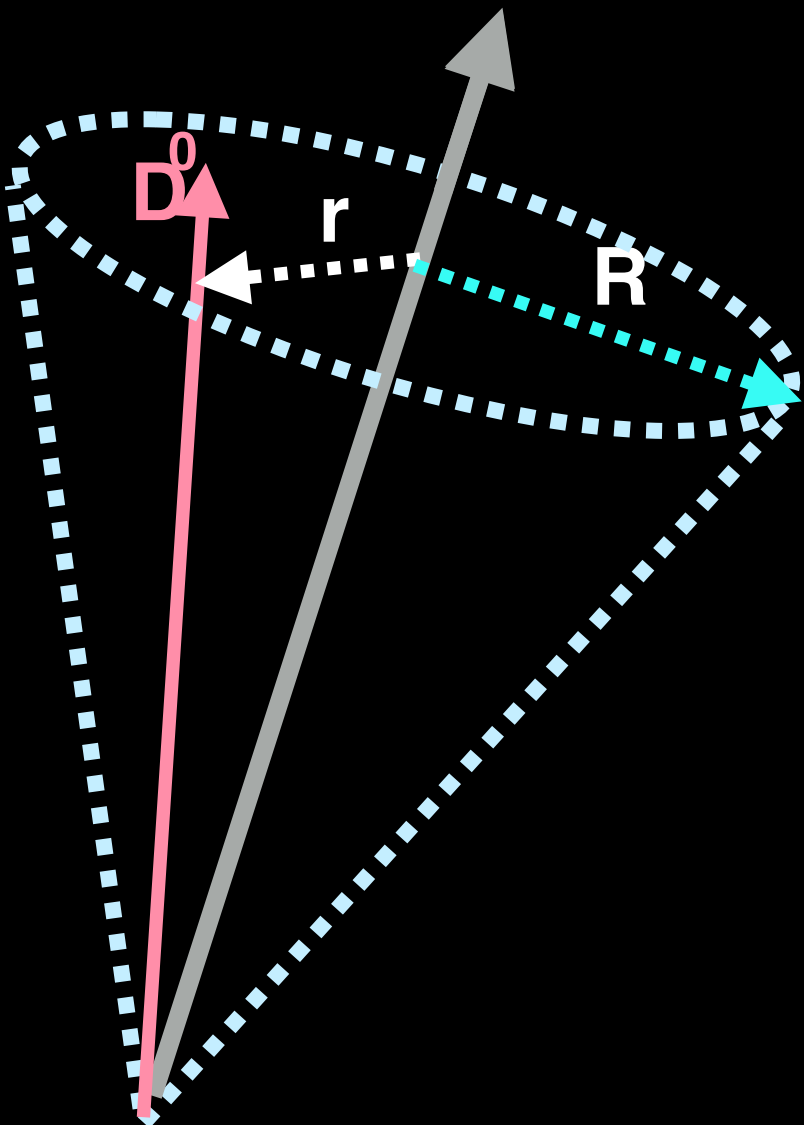
# Open heavy flavor tagged jets



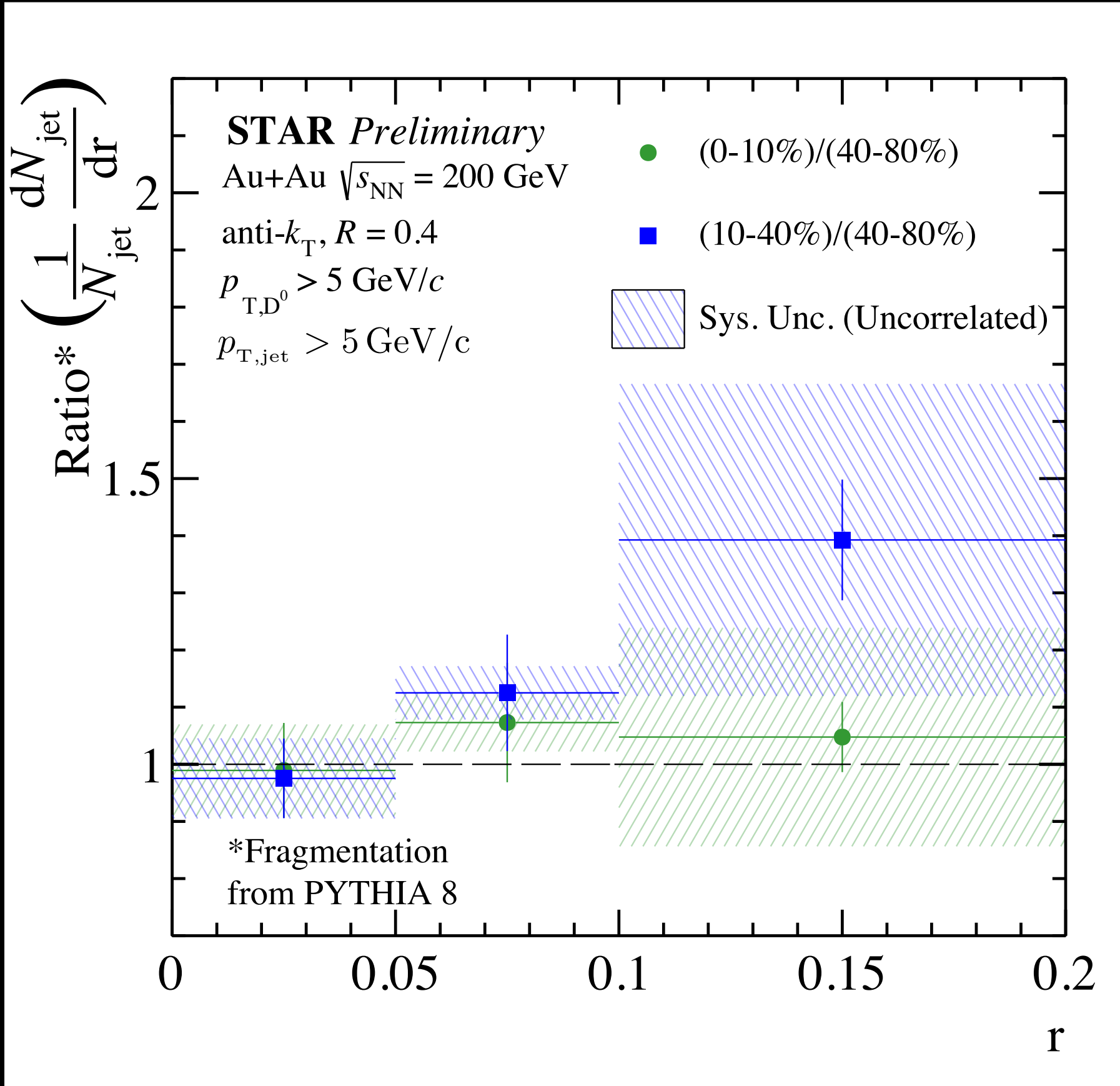
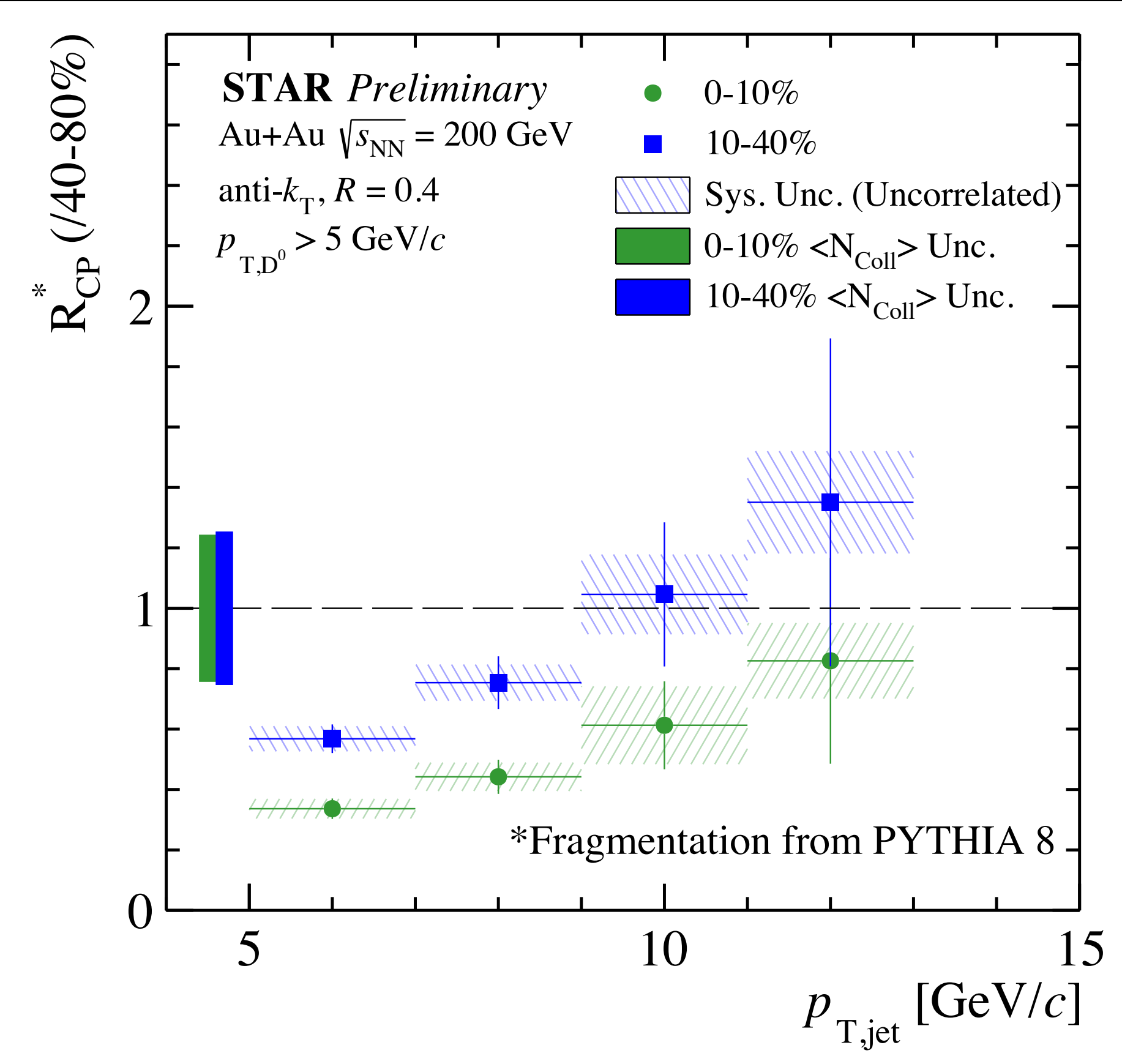
First measurement of  $D^0$ -tagged jets@RHIC using STAR HFT

$R_{CP}^*$  in mid-central & central events indicate suppression at low jet- $p_T$

No jet substructure modification seen in central & mid-central events within uncertainties

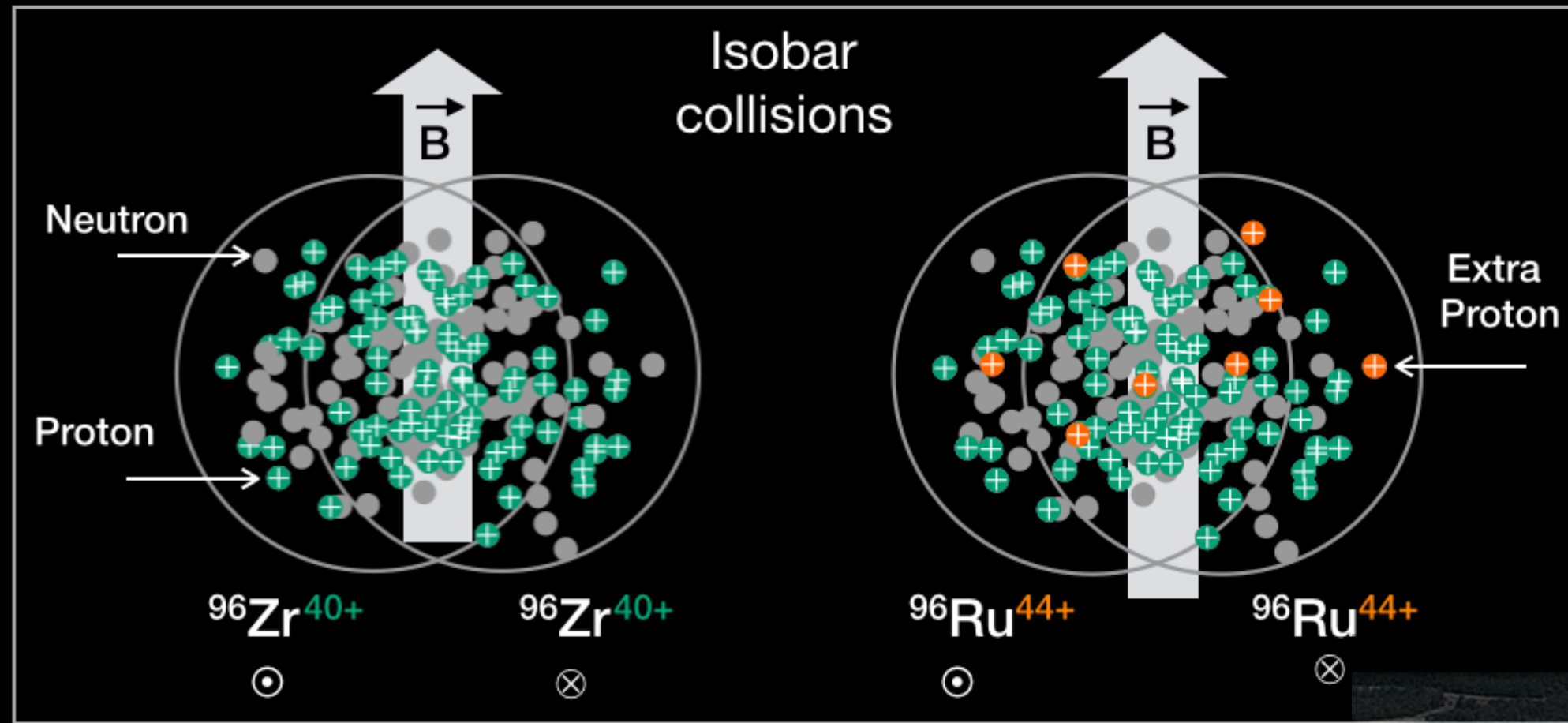


PYTHIA fragmentation is used for unfolding



Access to mechanisms of heavy quark diffusion & ene

# Chiral magnetic effect search in isobar collisions

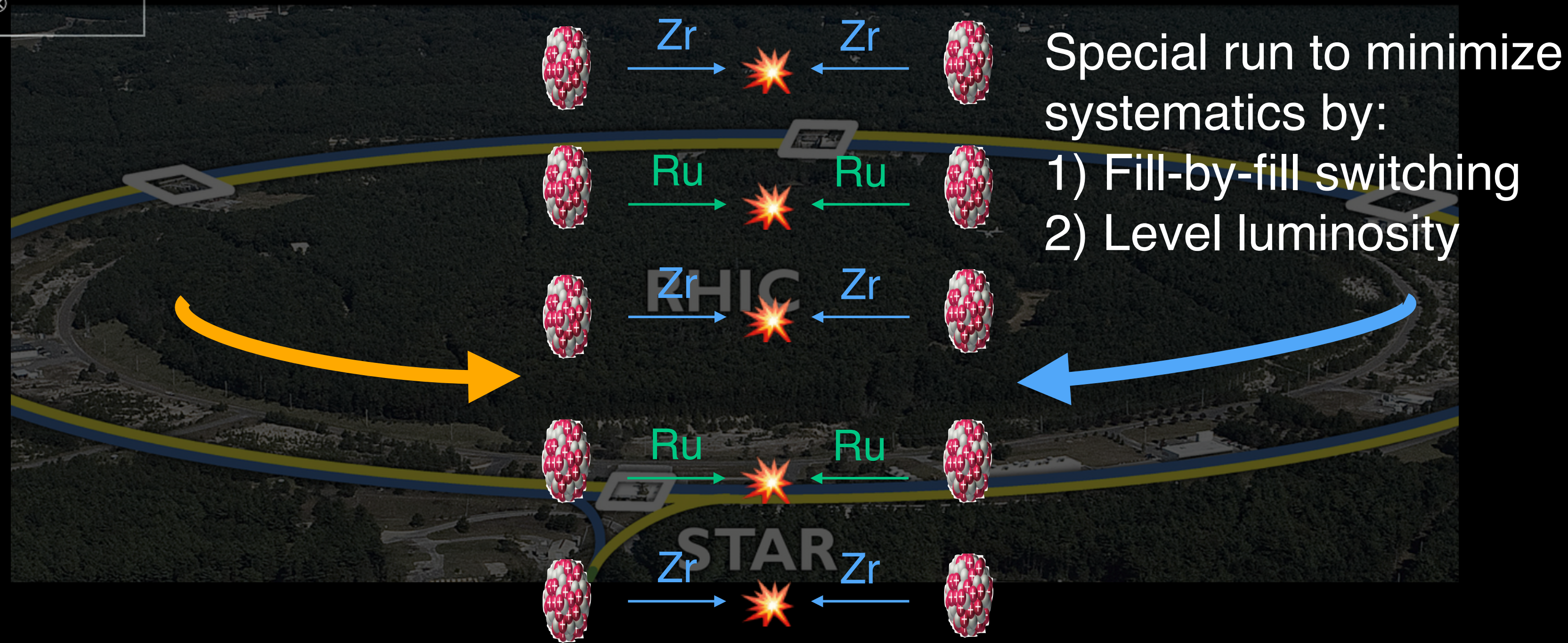


$$\text{Biot-Savart: } B_{\perp} = \gamma Ze \frac{b}{R^3} = \frac{\sqrt{s_{NN}}}{2m_N} Ze \frac{b}{R^3}$$

$$\text{Au+Au: } \gamma = 100, Z = 79, b = R_A = 7\text{fm} \Rightarrow eB = 10^{18}\text{G}$$

B-field square is 10-15% larger in Ru+Ru than Zr+Zr

$$\frac{\langle \text{Observable} \rangle_{\text{Ru+Ru}}}{\langle \text{Observable} \rangle_{\text{Zr+Zr}}} > 1$$



Best possible control of signal and background compared to all previous experiments for CME search

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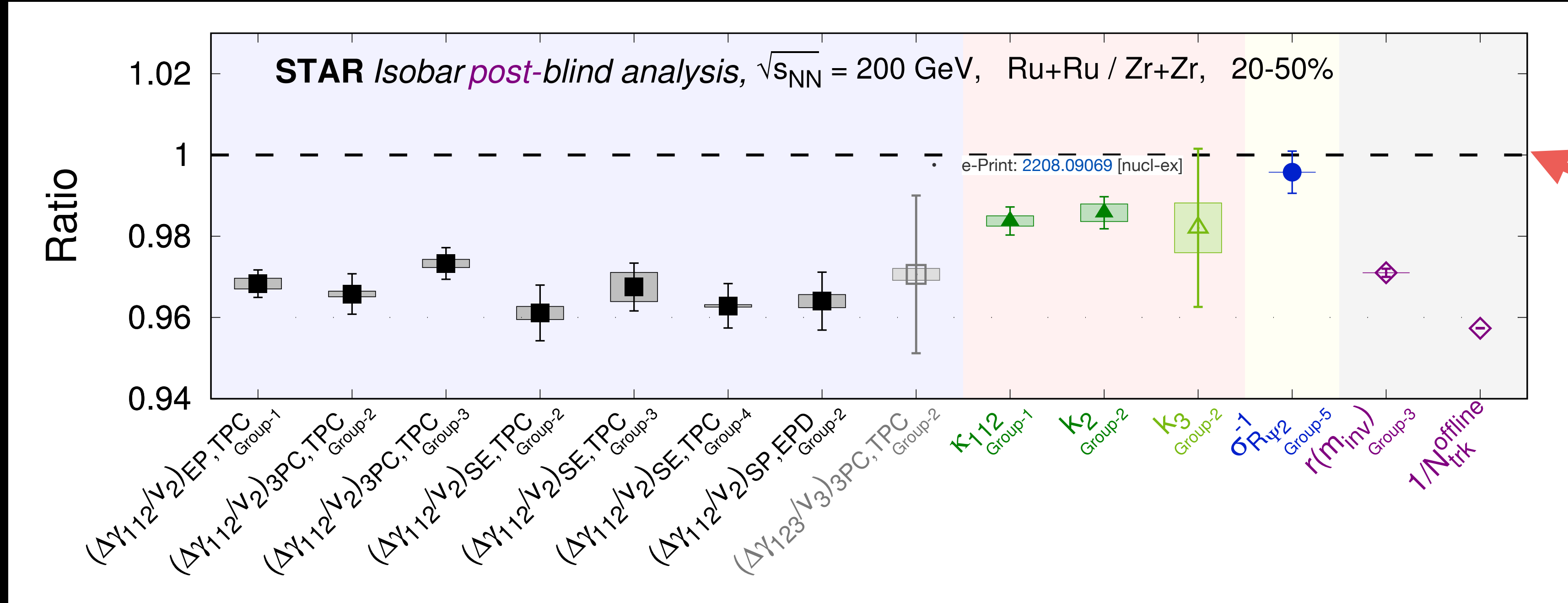
Blind analysis performed with pre-defined criteria for primary CME sensitive observable:

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

Unknown
0.1-0.15

Precision of 0.4% achieved

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



Blind  
analysis  
baseline

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

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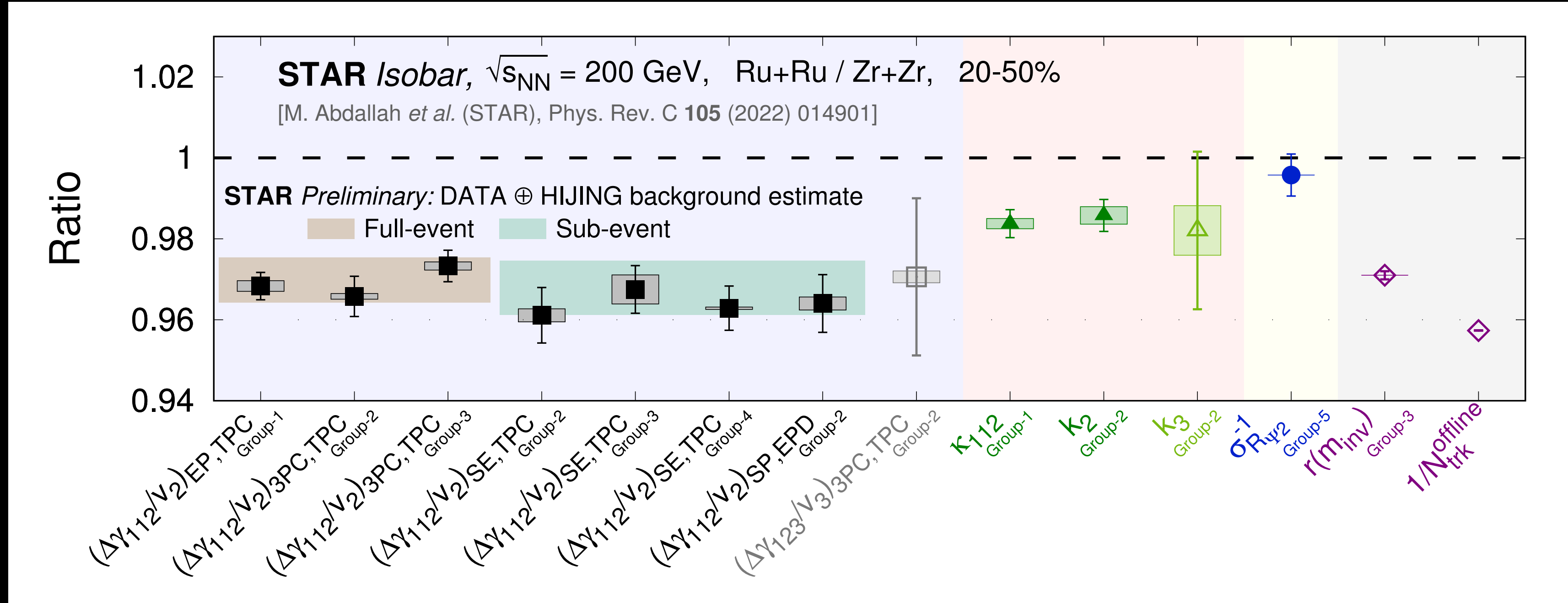
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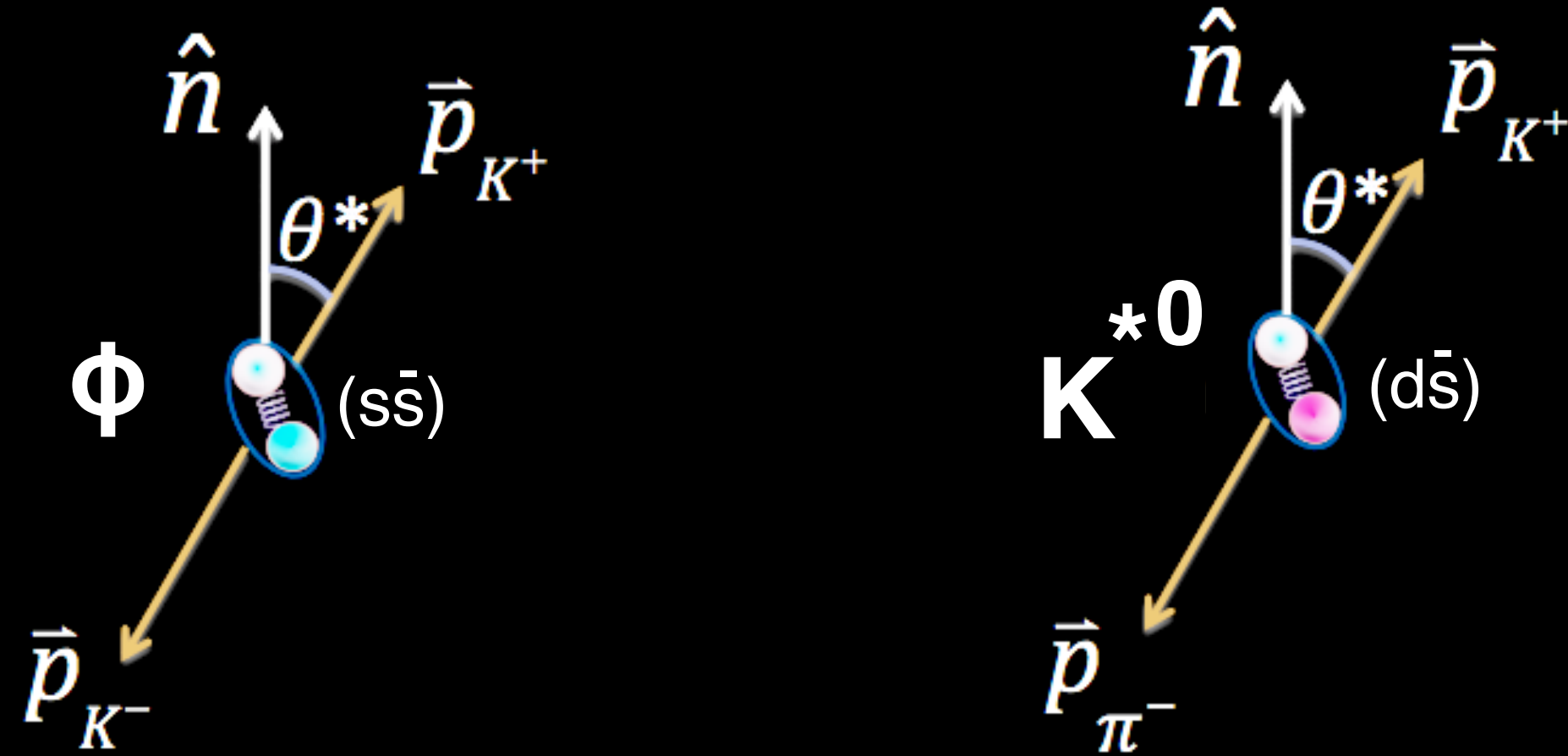
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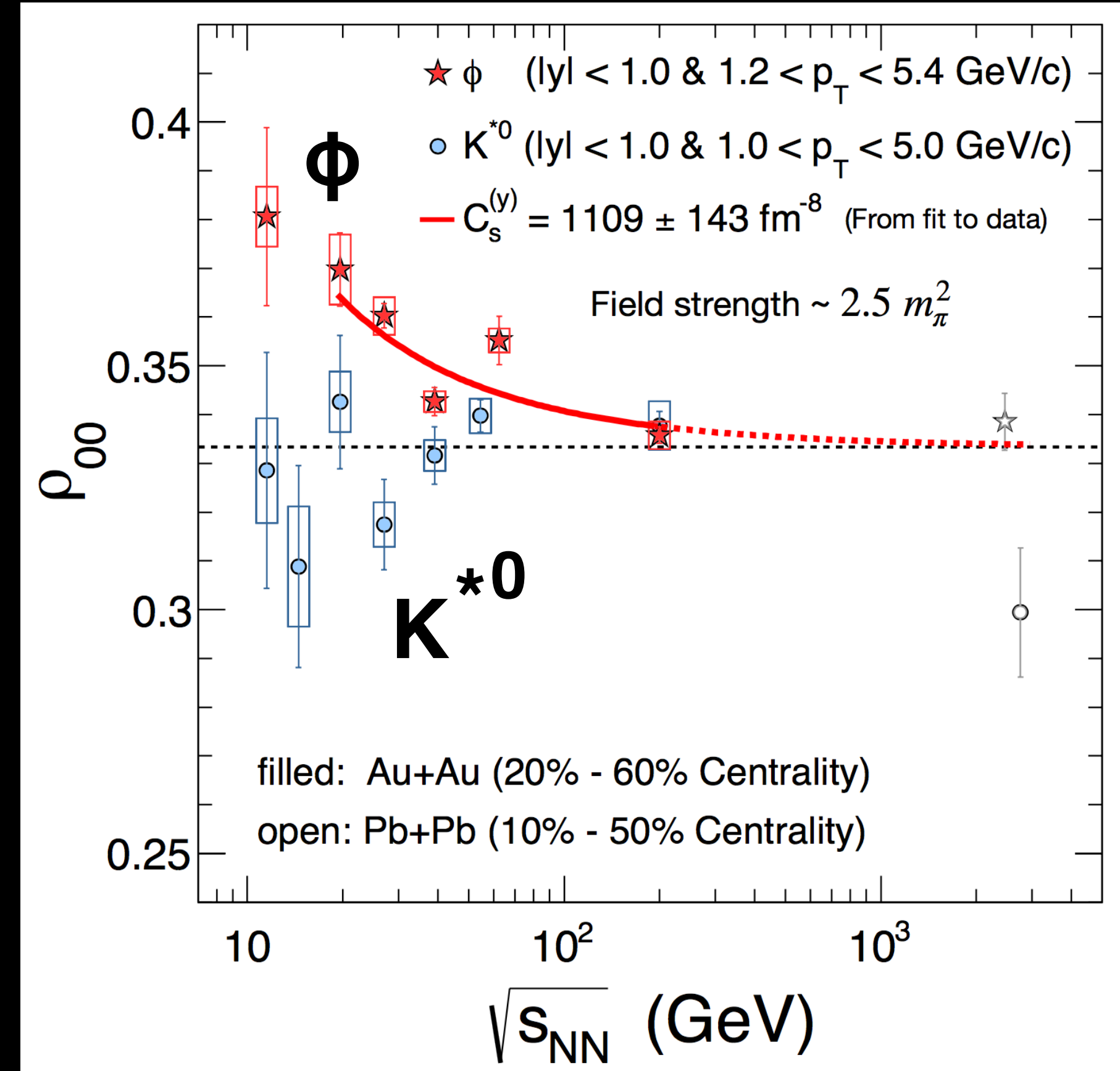


# Global spin alignment of vector mesons



$K^{*0}$  meson consistent with  $1/3$   
 $8.4\sigma$  positive deviation from  $1/3$  for  $\phi$  meson

M. Abdallah et al (STAR Collaboration), arXiv: 2204:XXYY



What causes vector meson spin alignment? Strong force field?

Like  $\Lambda$  polarization ( $-10^{-5}$ )      Electric field ( $-10^{-4}$ )

$$\rho_{00}^{\phi} \approx \frac{1}{3} + c_{\Lambda} + c_{\epsilon} + c_E + c_{\phi}$$

Sheng et al, Phys. Rev. D 101 096005 (2020), Phys. Rev. D 102, 056013 (2020)

Vorticity tensor ( $-10^{-4}$ )      Vector meson field

Charged  $K^{*+}$  measurements in will provide more insights

Model with strong vector meson force field ( $\sim 2.5 m_{\pi}^2$ ) provides a possible explanation