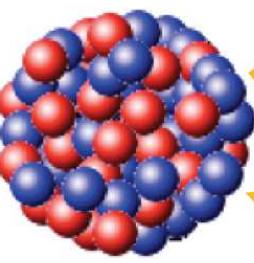




# The isobar collisions at RHIC : a tool for precision studies

Jiangyong Jia

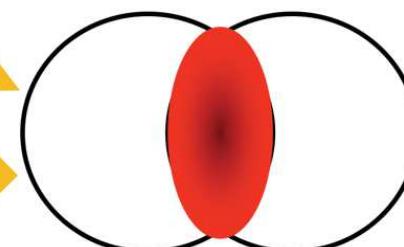
Nuclear Structure



Nucleus

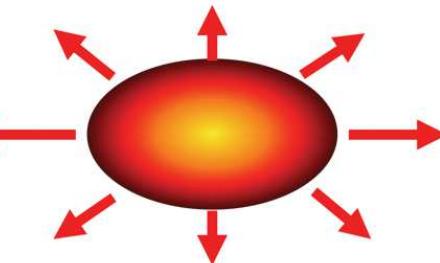
High-energy heavy-ion collisions

Initial condition



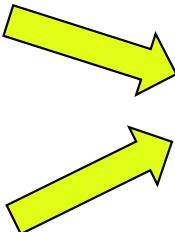
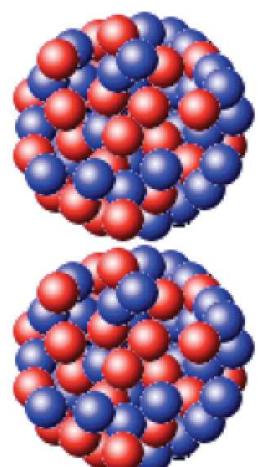
hydro

Final state

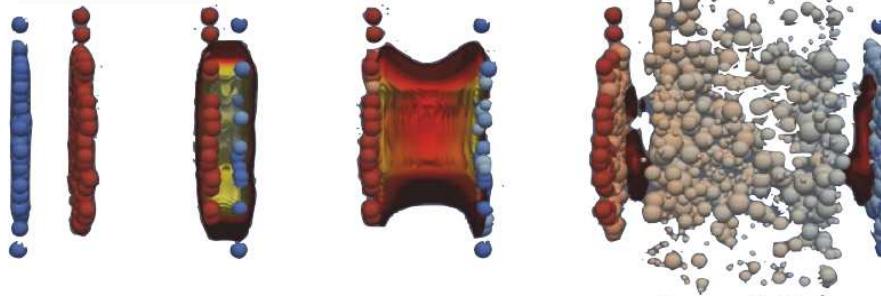


# High-energy heavy ion collision

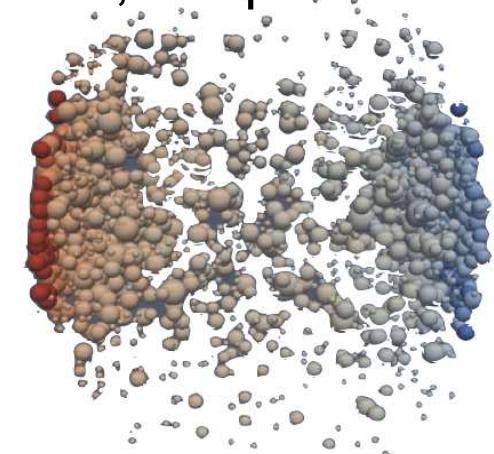
400 nucleons



$$\tau < \frac{R}{\gamma} \approx 0.01 \text{ fm}/c$$

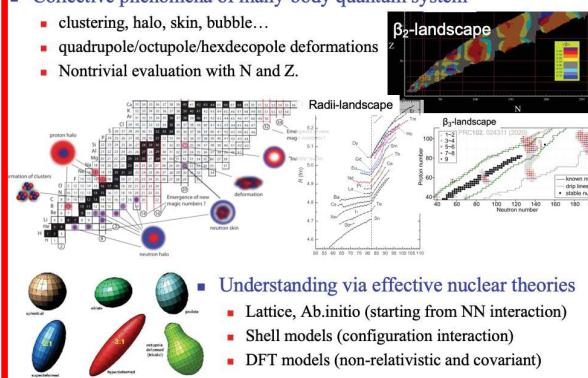


30,000 particles



## Rich structure of atomic nuclei

- Collective phenomena of many-body quantum system
  - clustering, halo, skin, bubble...
  - quadrupole/octupole/hexadecapole deformations
  - Nontrivial evolution with N and Z.



initial stages

QGP medium expansion

freeze-out

$\tau_{\text{hydro}} \sim 1 \text{ fm}/c$

$\tau_{\text{fo}} \sim 10 \text{ fm}/c$

QGP response,  
a smooth function of  $N+Z$

Flow observable

= k

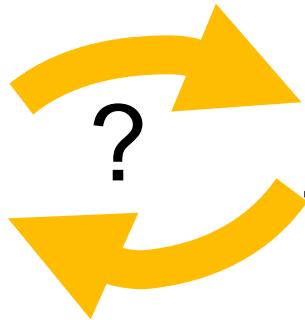
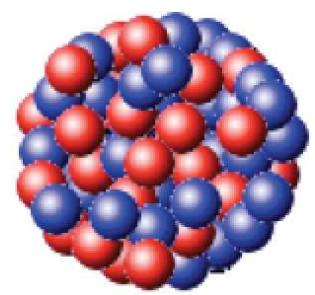
Structure of colliding nuclei,  
non-monotonic function of N and Z

x  
f(initial condition)

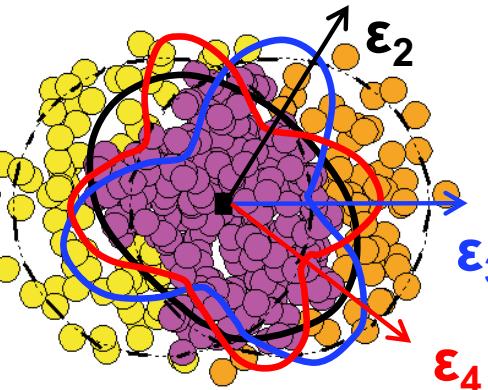
Are HI probing the same thing as low-energy structure exp? Can HI provides competitive constraints on nuclear shape and radial profile?

# From nuclear structure to Quark Gluon Plasma<sup>3</sup>

Nucleus

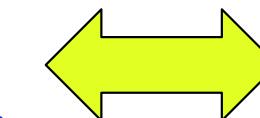


Initial condition

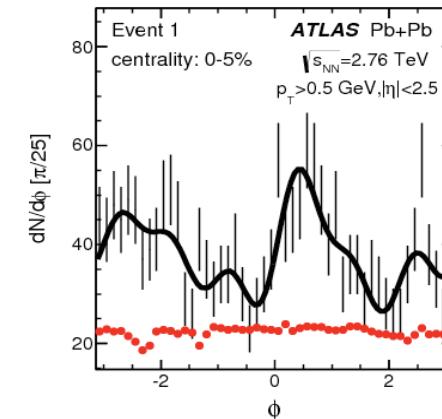


Fixed impact parameter

hydro

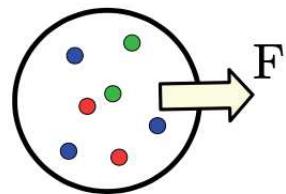


Final state

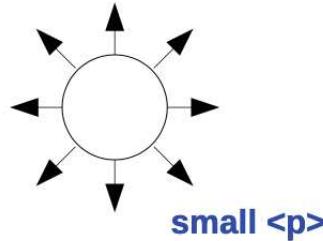


Shape-flow transmutation via pressure-gradient force:

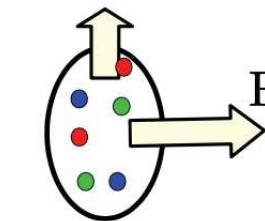
initial state (x)



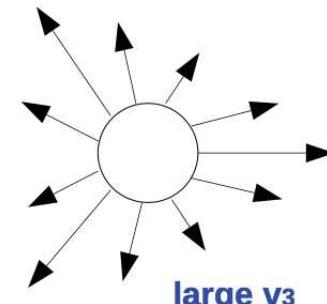
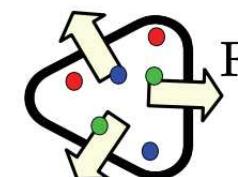
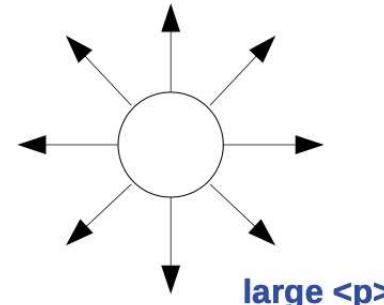
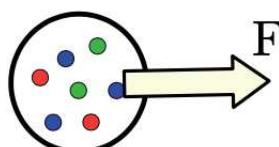
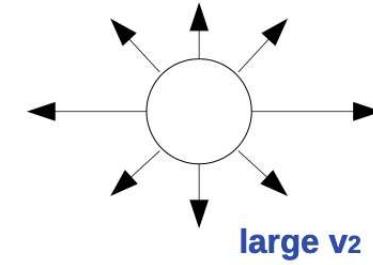
final state (p)



initial state (x)

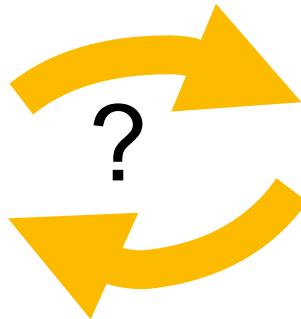
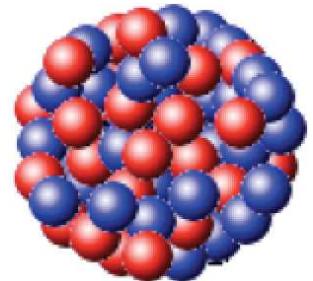


final state (p)

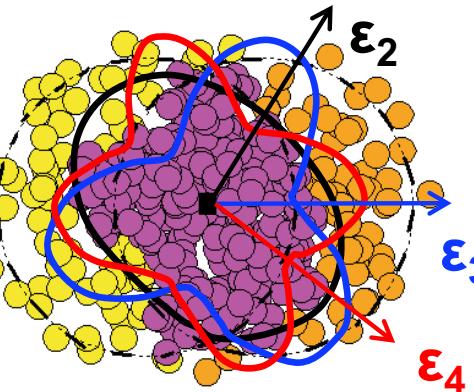


# From nuclear structure to Quark Gluon Plasma<sup>4</sup>

Nucleus

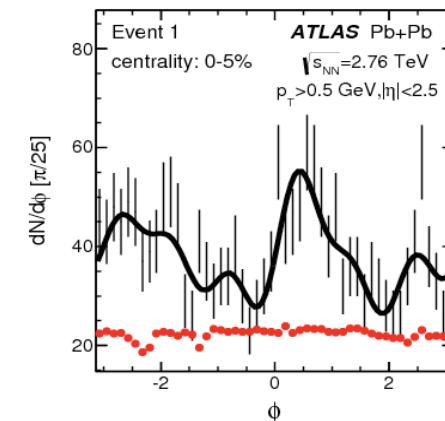


Initial condition



hydro

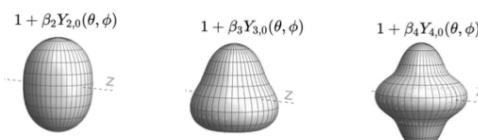
Final state



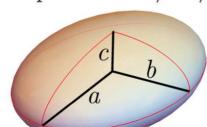
Nuclear structure

$$\rho(r, \theta, \phi) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + e^{(r - R(\theta, \phi))/a_0}}$$

$$R(\theta, \phi) = R_0 \left( 1 + \beta_2 [\cos \gamma Y_{2,0} + \sin \gamma Y_{2,2}] + \beta_3 \sum_{m=-3}^3 \alpha_{3,m} Y_{3,m} + \beta_4 \sum_{m=-4}^4 \alpha_{4,m} Y_{4,m} \right)$$



Triaxial spheroid:  $a \neq b \neq c$ .



$$0 \leq \gamma \leq \pi/3$$

Fixed impact parameter

Initial volume

Initial Size

Initial Shape

Multiplicity

Radial Flow

Harmonic Flow

$N_{\text{part}}$

$R_\perp^2 \propto \langle r_\perp^2 \rangle$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_2 \propto \langle r_\perp^2 e^{i2\phi} \rangle$

$\mathcal{E}_3 \propto \langle r_\perp^3 e^{i3\phi} \rangle$

$\mathcal{E}_4 \propto \langle r_\perp^4 e^{i4\phi} \rangle$

...

$$N_{\text{ch}} \quad \frac{d^2 N}{d\phi dp_T} = N(p_T) \left( \sum_n V_n e^{-in\phi} \right)$$

High energy: approx. linear response in each event:

$$\tau < \frac{R}{\gamma}$$

$$N_{\text{ch}} \propto N_{\text{part}} \quad \frac{\delta[p_T]}{[p_T]} \propto -\frac{\delta R_\perp}{R_\perp} \quad V_n \propto \mathcal{E}_n$$

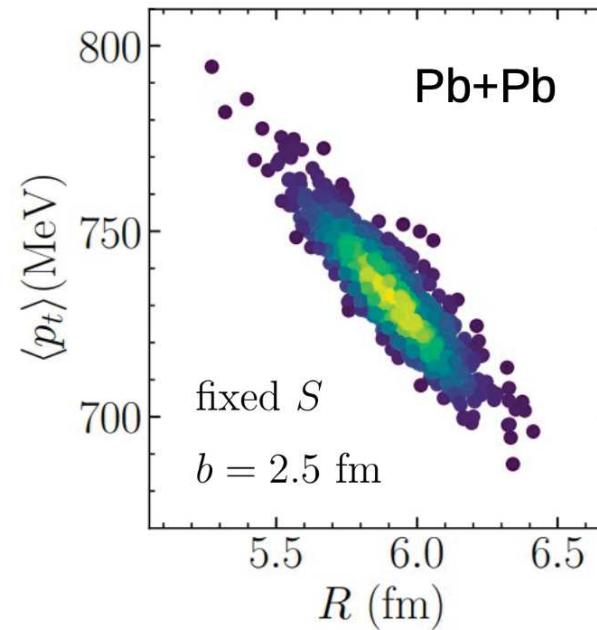
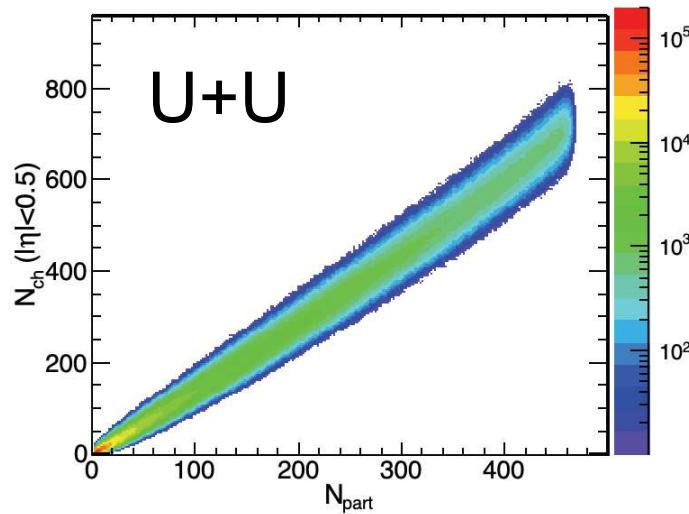
Large event by-event analyzing power

# Linear corr. between initial & final state

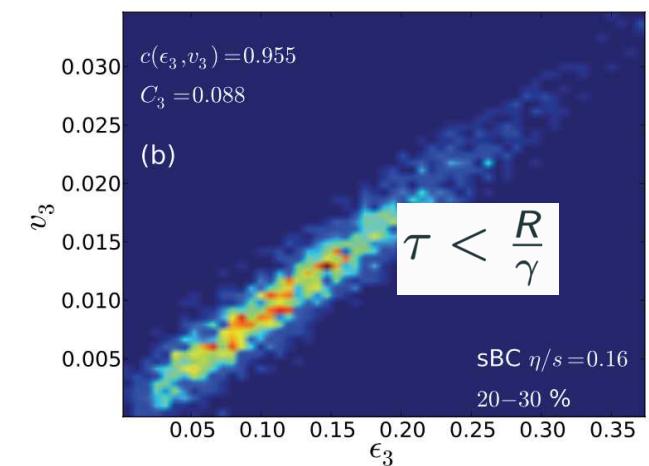
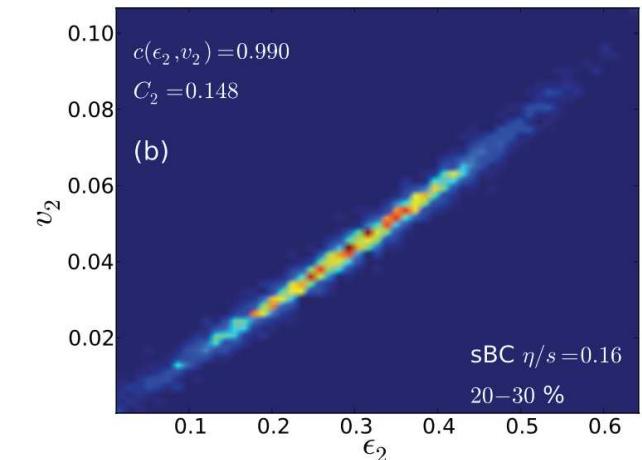
$$N_{ch} \propto N_{part}$$

$$\frac{\delta[p_T]}{[p_T]} \propto -\frac{\delta R_\perp}{R_\perp}$$

$$V_n \propto \mathcal{E}_n$$



nice correlation at very high energy  
breaks down at low energy

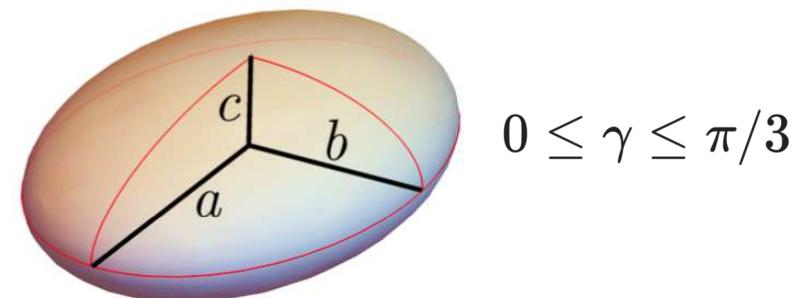
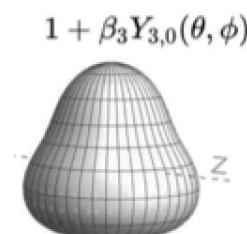
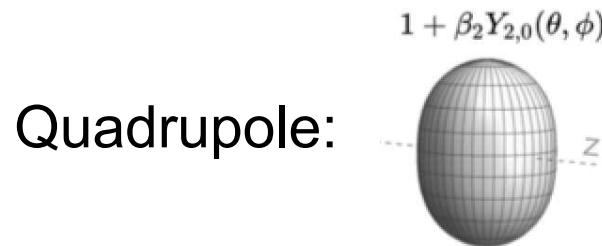


# Long-range collective structure of nuclei

<sup>6</sup>

$$\rho(r, \theta, \phi) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + e^{(r - R(\theta, \phi))/a_0}}$$

$$R(\theta, \phi) = R_0 \left( 1 + \beta_2 [\cos \gamma Y_{2,0} + \sin \gamma Y_{2,2}] + \beta_3 \sum_{m=-3}^3 \alpha_{3,m} Y_{3,m} + \beta_4 \sum_{m=-4}^4 \alpha_{4,m} Y_{4,m} \right)$$



Prolate:  $a=b<c \rightarrow \beta_2, \gamma=0$

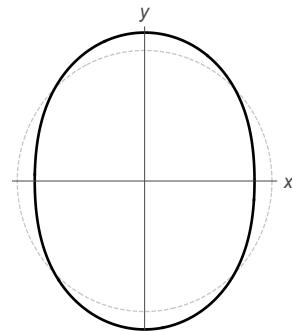
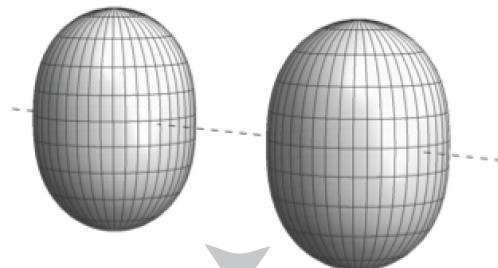
Oblate:  $a<b=c \rightarrow \beta_2, \gamma=\pi/3$

Triaxial:  $a< b< c \rightarrow \beta_2, \gamma=\pi/6$

# How deformation influence HI initial state

7

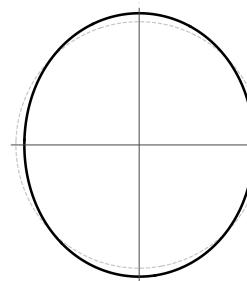
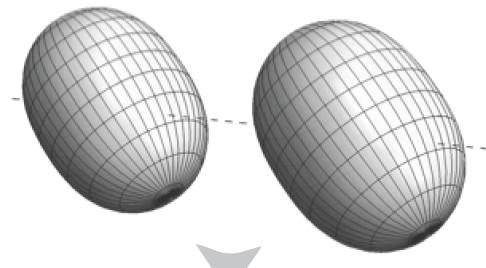
Body-Body



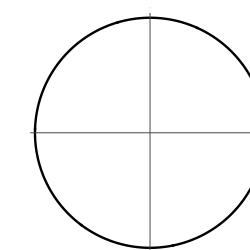
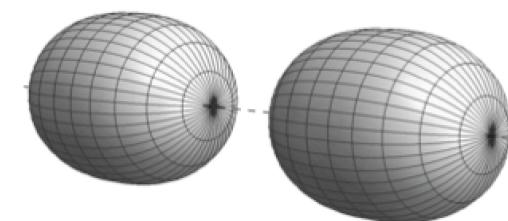
$$\epsilon_2 \sim 0.95\beta_2$$

$$\mathcal{E}_2 = \epsilon_2 e^{i2\Phi} \propto \langle \mathbf{r}_\perp^2 e^{i2\phi} \rangle$$

Tip-Tip



$$\epsilon_2 \sim 0.48\beta_2$$



$$\epsilon_2 \sim 0$$

$$\epsilon_2 = \underbrace{\epsilon_0}_{\text{undeformed}} + \underbrace{p(\Omega_1, \Omega_2)\beta_2}_{\text{phase factor}} + \mathcal{O}(\beta_2^2) \longrightarrow \langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle \approx \langle \epsilon_0^2 \rangle + 0.2\beta_2^2$$

Shape depends on Euler angle  $\Omega = \varphi \theta \psi$

# How deformation influence HI initial state

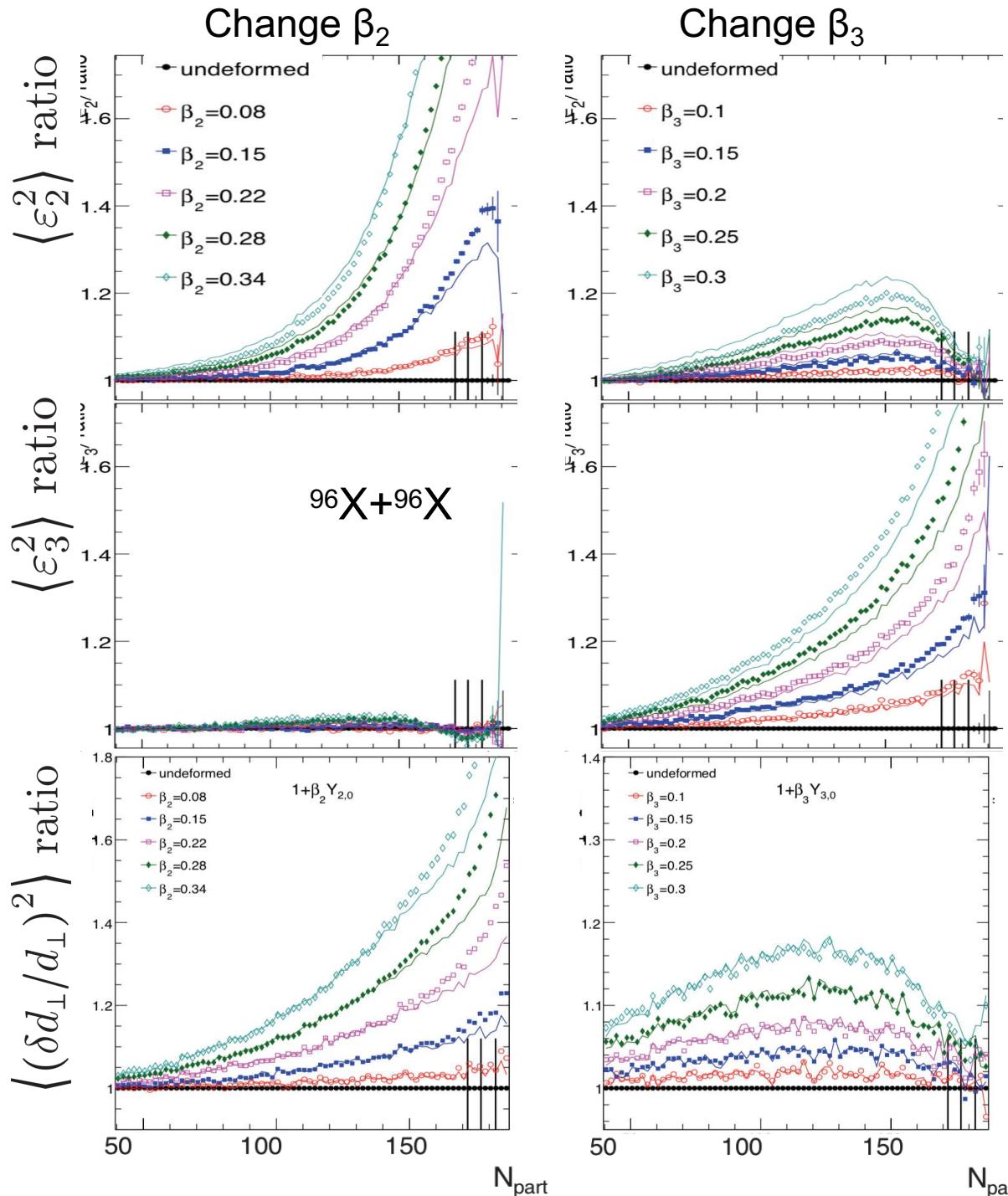
<sup>8</sup>

- $\epsilon_n$  has the form  $\epsilon_n = \underbrace{\epsilon_{n;0}}_{\text{undeformed}} + \sum_{m=2}^4 \underbrace{p_{n;m}(\Omega_1, \Omega_2)}_{\text{phase factor}} \beta_m + \mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$   
$$\mathcal{E}_n = \epsilon_n e^{in\Phi} \propto \langle \mathbf{r}^2 Y_{n,n} \rangle$$
- $R_\perp^2 = \langle x^2 \rangle + \langle y^2 \rangle$  has the form  $\delta d_\perp/d_\perp = \delta_d + \sum_{m=2}^4 p_{0;m}(\Omega_1, \Omega_2) \beta_m + \mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$   
 $d_\perp \equiv 1/R_\perp$   
$$R_\perp^2 \propto \langle \mathbf{r}^2 Y_{2,0} \rangle$$
- Two particle correlation (two-body distribution)  
$$\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle \approx \langle \varepsilon_{n;0}^2 \rangle + \sum_m \langle \mathbf{p}_{n;m} \mathbf{p}_{n;m}^* \rangle \beta_m^2 \quad \left\langle \left( \frac{\delta d_\perp}{d_\perp} \right)^2 \right\rangle \approx \langle \delta_d^2 \rangle + \sum_m \langle p_{0;m}^2 \rangle \beta_m^2$$
- In reality for medium size nucleus and ignore  $\beta_4$ .

$$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle = a'_2 + b'_2 \beta_2^2 + b'_{2,3} \beta_3^2 \quad \langle \varepsilon_3^2 \rangle = a'_3 + b'_3 \beta_3^2$$

$$\left\langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^2 \right\rangle = a'_0 + b'_0 \beta_2^2 + b'_{0,3} \beta_3^2$$

# Glauber simulation

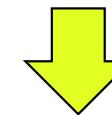


medium size system:

$$\varepsilon_2^2 = a'_2 + b'_2 \beta_2^2 + b'_{2,3} \beta_3^2$$

$$\varepsilon_3^2 = a'_3 + b'_3 \beta_3^2$$

$$(\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^2 = a'_0 + b'_0 \beta_2^2 + b'_{0,3} \beta_3^2$$



$$v_2^2 = a_2 + b_2 \beta_2^2 + b_{2,3} \beta_3^2$$

$$v_3^2 = a_3 + b_3 \beta_3^2$$

$$(\delta p_T/p_T)^2 = a_0 + b_0 \beta_2^2 + b_{0,3} \beta_3^2$$

# Application in $^{197}\text{Au} + ^{197}\text{Au}$ vs $^{238}\text{U} + ^{238}\text{U}$

10

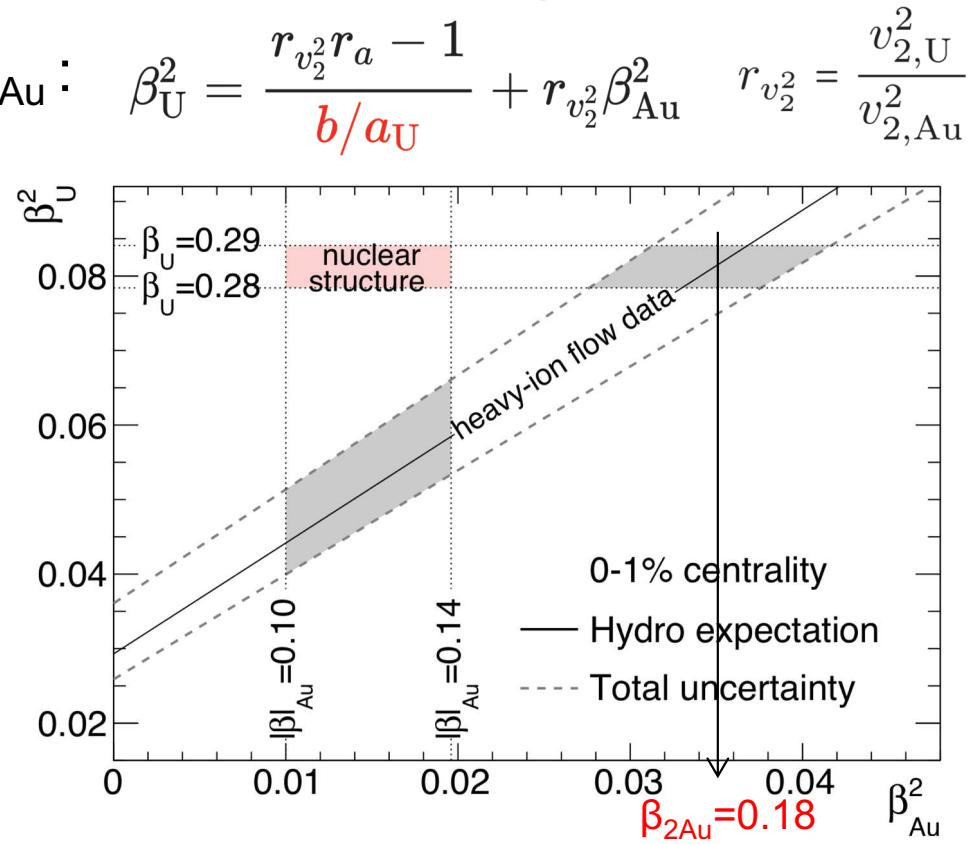
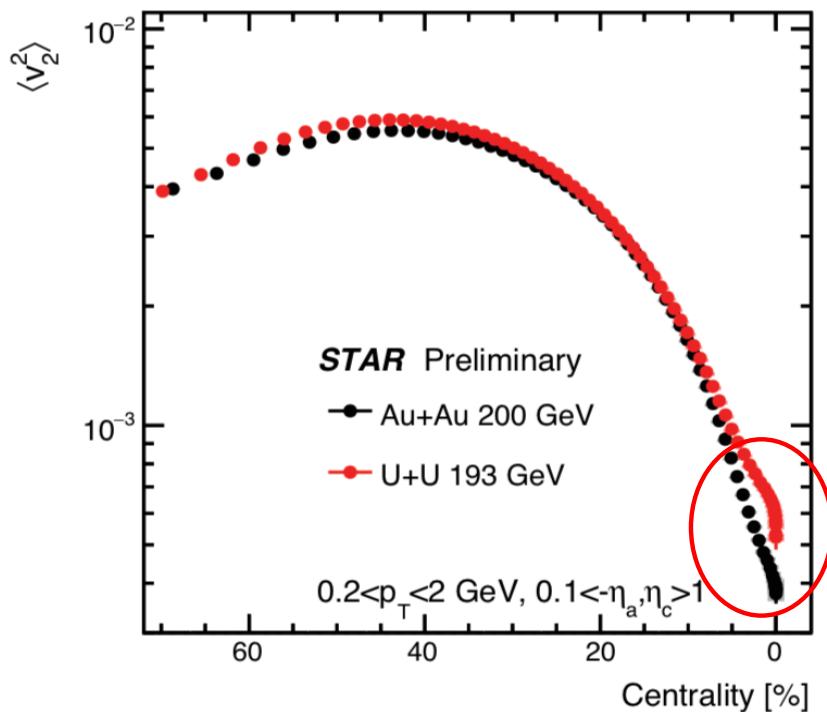
Ultra-central Collisions at  
 $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 193\text{-}200 \text{ GeV}$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} v_{2,\text{Au}}^2 = a_{\text{Au}} + b\beta_{2,\text{Au}}^2 \\ v_{2,\text{U}}^2 = a_{\text{U}} + b\beta_{2,\text{U}}^2 \end{array} \right. \quad b \sim 0.014$$

arXiv:2105.01638

Need to correct for slightly different size:  $a \propto 1/A$ ,  $r_a = \frac{a_{\text{Au}}}{a_{\text{U}}} = \frac{238}{197} = 1.21$

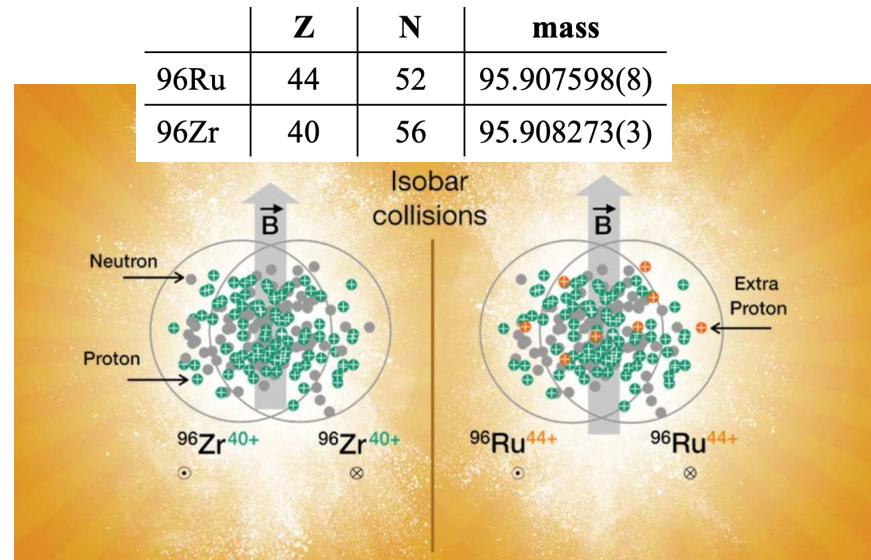
A linear relation for  $\beta_{2\text{U}}$  and  $\beta_{2\text{Au}}$ :  $\beta_{\text{U}}^2 = \frac{r_{v_2^2} r_a - 1}{b/a_{\text{U}}} + r_{v_2^2} \beta_{\text{Au}}^2$   $r_{v_2^2} = \frac{v_{2,\text{U}}^2}{v_{2,\text{Au}}^2}$



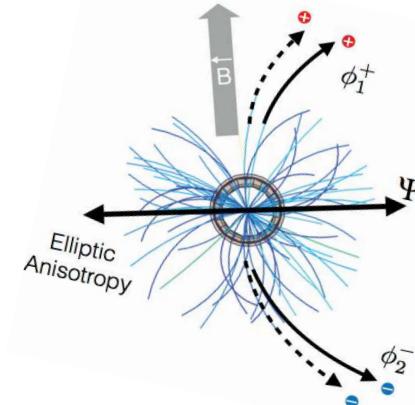
Suggests  $|\beta_2|_{\text{Au}} \sim 0.18 \pm 0.02$ , larger than NS model of  $0.13 \pm 0.02$

But how to achieve precision?

# Isobar collisions at RHIC: context



*arXiv:2109.00131*



Voloshin, hep-ph/0406311

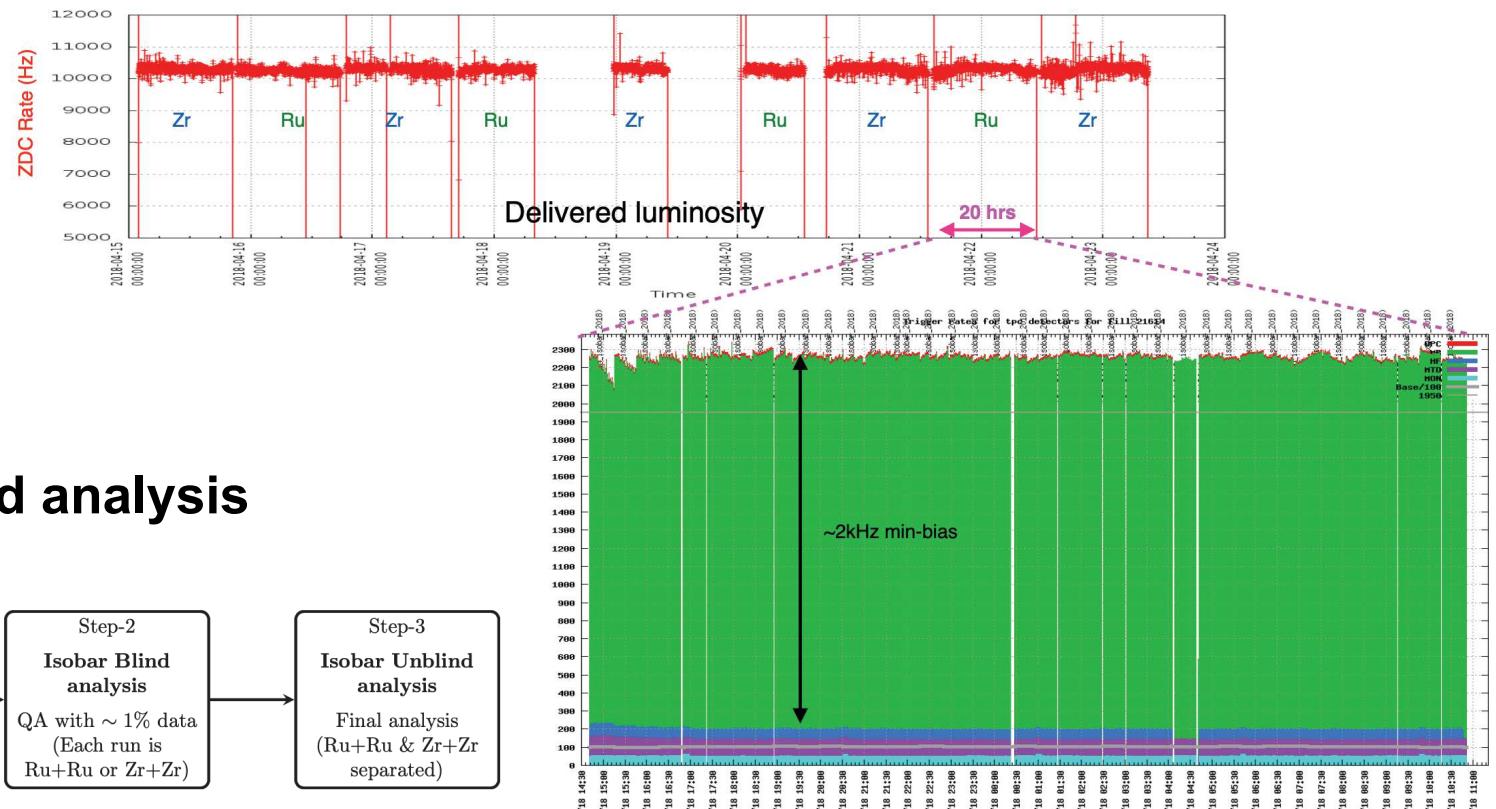
- Designed to search for the chiral magnetic effect: strong P & CP violation in the presence of EM field. Experimental signature is a spontaneous separation of + and - hadrons along EM direction, vertical to  $\mathcal{E}_2$
- Turns out the CME signal is small, and isobar-differences are dominated by the nuclear structure differences.
- and turns out to be a precision tool for both NS physics & HI initial condition

# Isobar collisions at RHIC/STAR

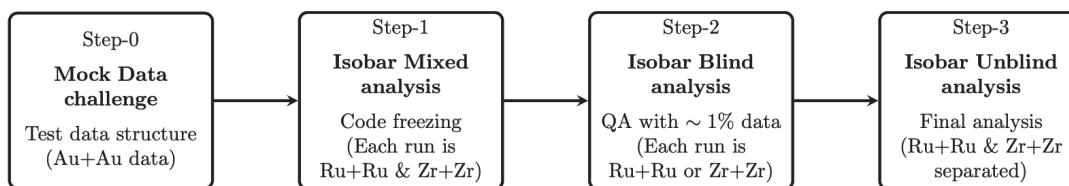
## RHIC Running

- Switch isobar species each time beam is inserted into RHIC
- Stable luminosity (matched between species) with long ( $\sim 20$  hour) beam circulation time
- Adjust and level luminosity to optimize data collection rate while minimizing backgrounds and systematics
- Restrict species-related information to those necessary for successful data-taking
- Calibration experts (recused from CME analyses) evaluate data quality “in real time”

From J Drachenberg



## STAR : predefined blind analysis



STAR Data Acquisition Rates

<0.4% precision is achieved in ratio of many observables between  $^{96}\text{Ru} + ^{96}\text{Ru}$  and  $^{96}\text{Zr} + ^{96}\text{Zr}$  systems → precision imaging tool

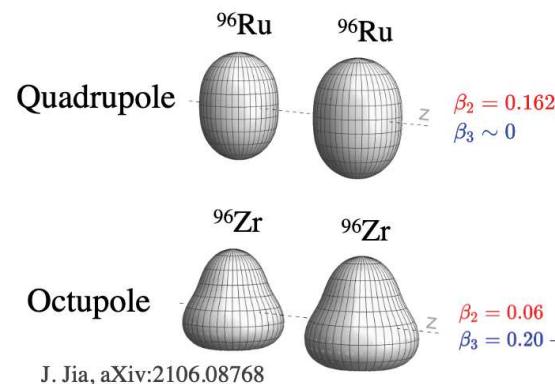
# Isobar collisions as a precision tool

- A key question for any HI observable  $O$ :

$$\frac{O_{^{96}\text{Ru}+^{96}\text{Ru}}}{O_{^{96}\text{Zr}+^{96}\text{Zr}}} = ? = 1$$

Deviation from 1 must have origin in the nuclear structure, which impacts the initial state and then survives to the final state.

- Expectation



$$\rho(r, \theta, \phi) \propto \frac{1}{1 + e^{[r - R_0(1 + \beta_2 Y_2^0(\theta, \phi) + \beta_3 Y_3^0(\theta, \phi))] / a_0}}$$

$$\mathcal{O} \approx b_0 + b_1 \beta_2^2 + b_2 \beta_3^2 + b_3 (R_0 - R_{0,\text{ref}}) + b_4 (a - a_{\text{ref}})$$

$$R_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Ru}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Zr}}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a$$

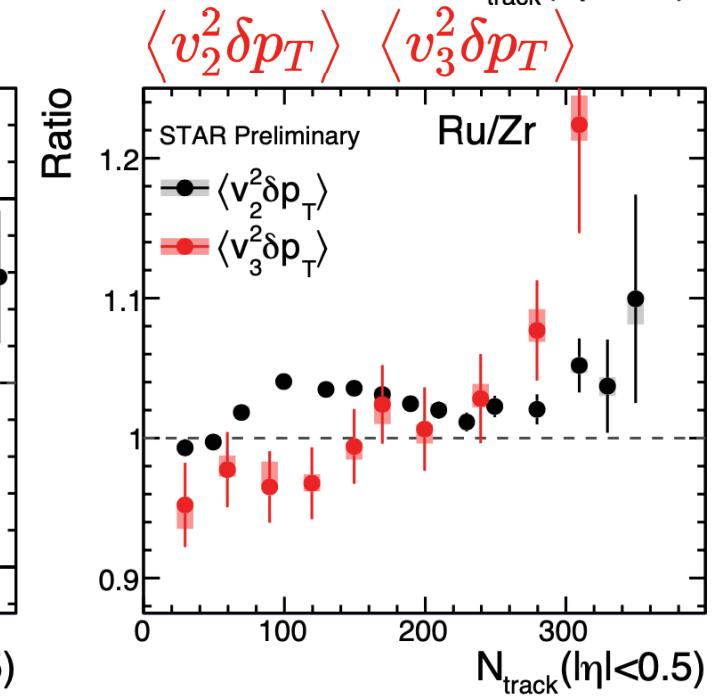
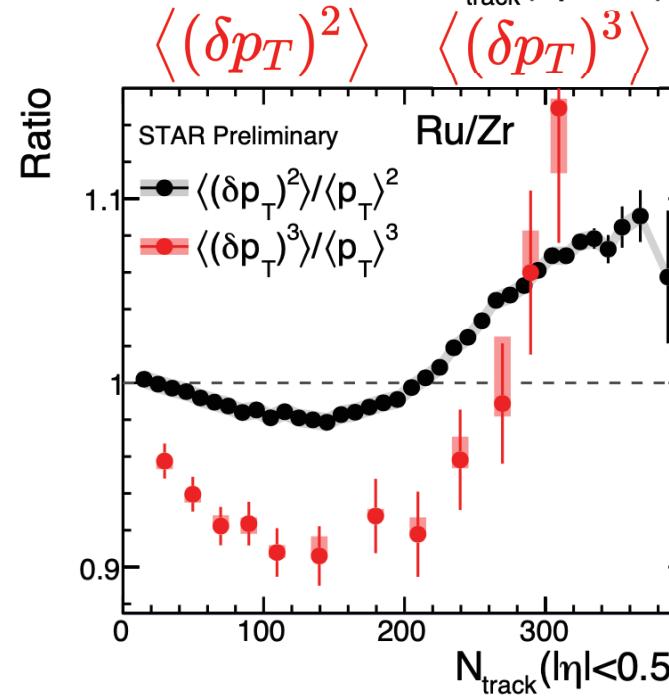
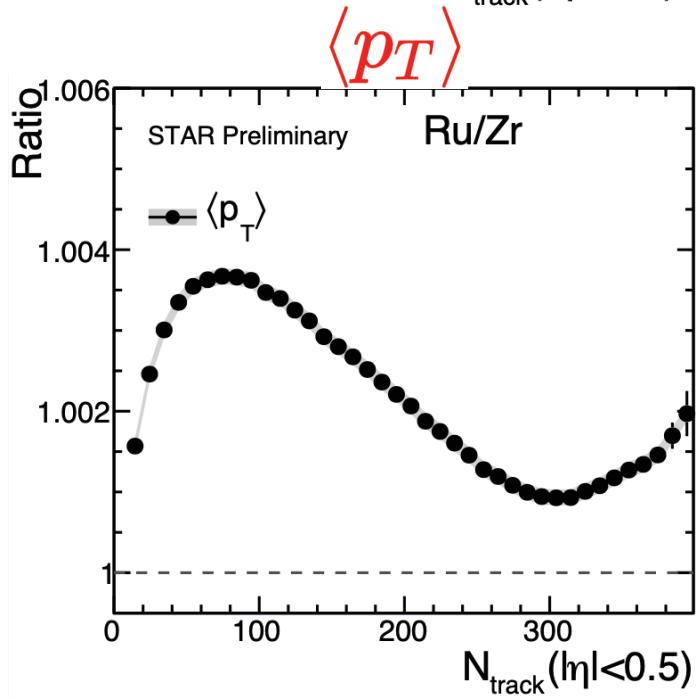
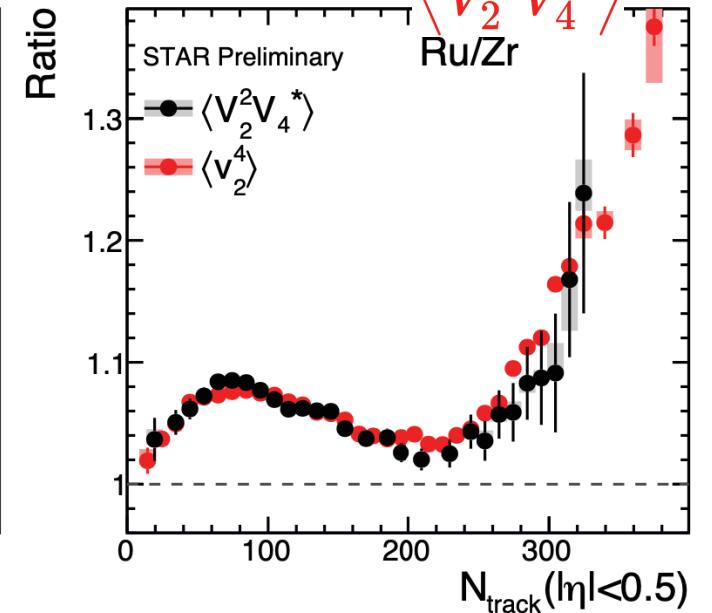
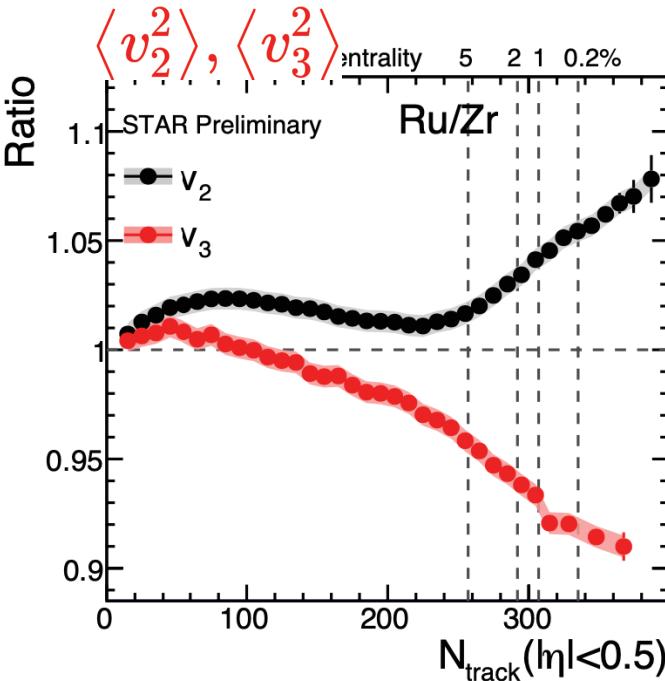
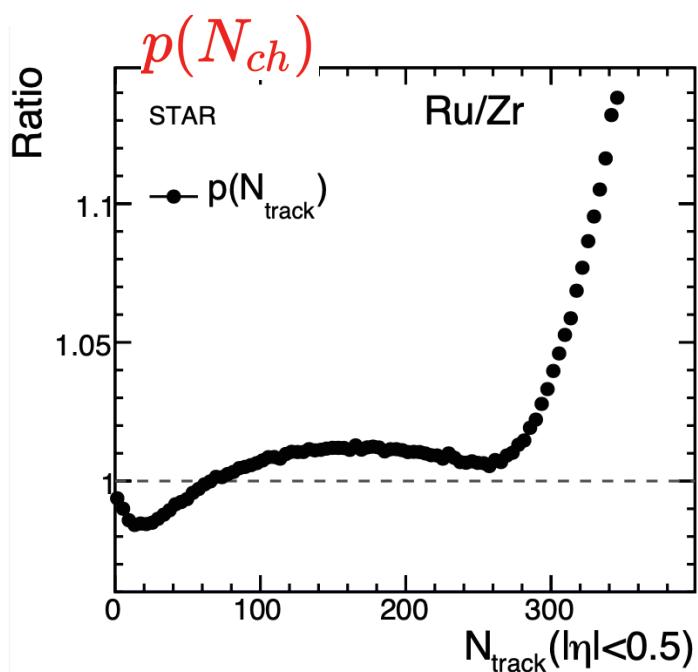
Species	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$	$a_0$	$R_0$
Ru	0.162	0	0.46 fm	5.09 fm
Zr	0.06	0.20	0.52 fm	5.02 fm
difference	$\Delta \beta_2^2$	$\Delta \beta_3^2$	$\Delta a_0$	$\Delta R_0$
	0.0226	-0.04	-0.06 fm	0.07 fm

Only probes isobar differences

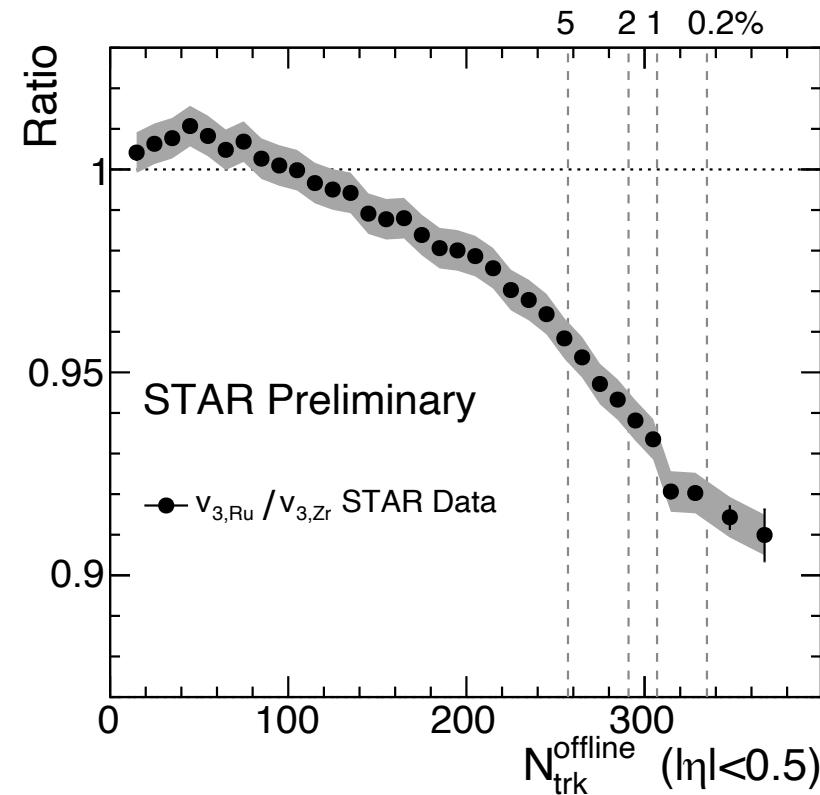
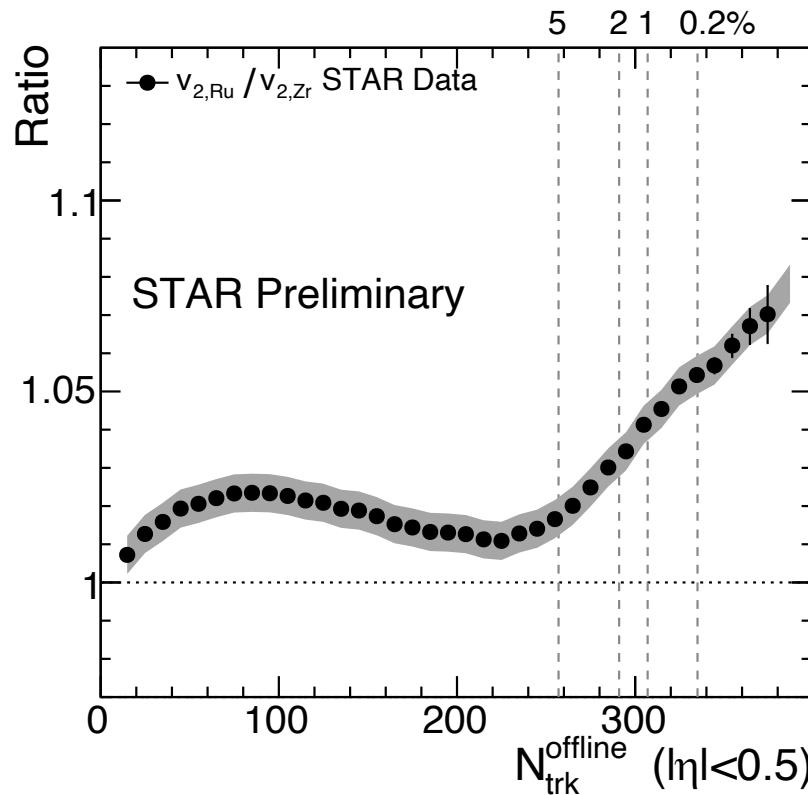
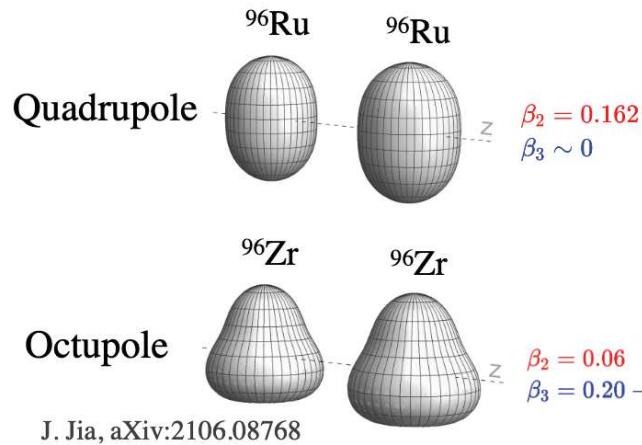
2109.00131

# Structure influences everywhere

$$R_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Ru}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Zr}}} \quad 15$$



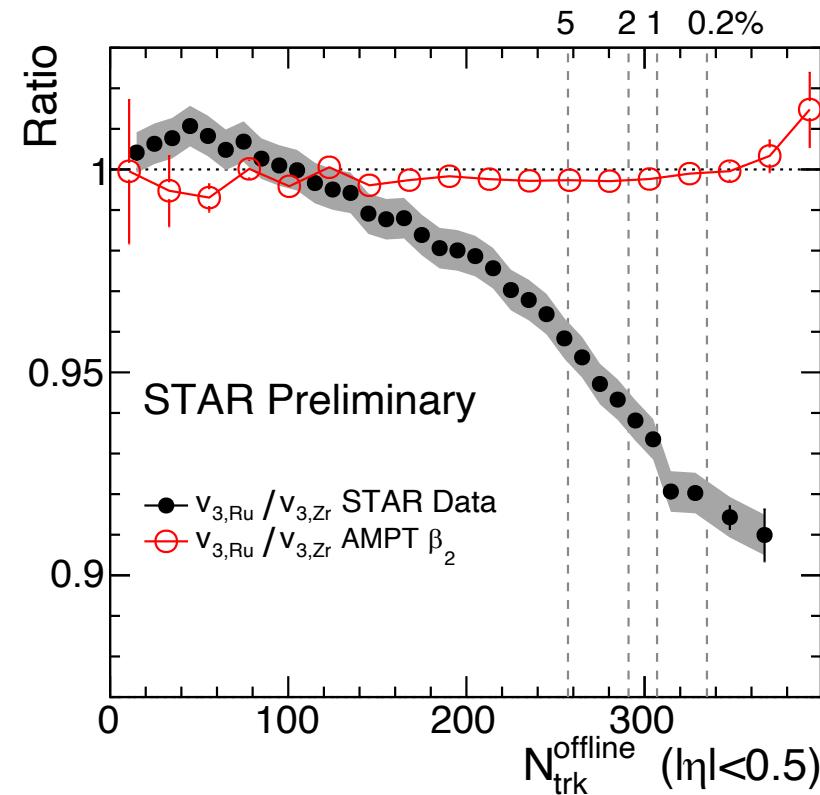
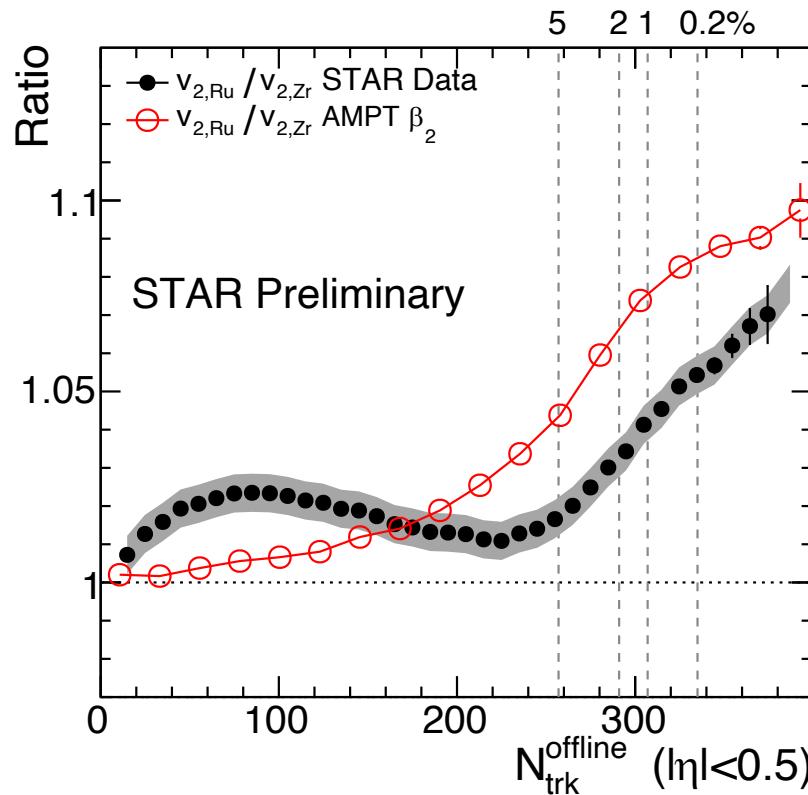
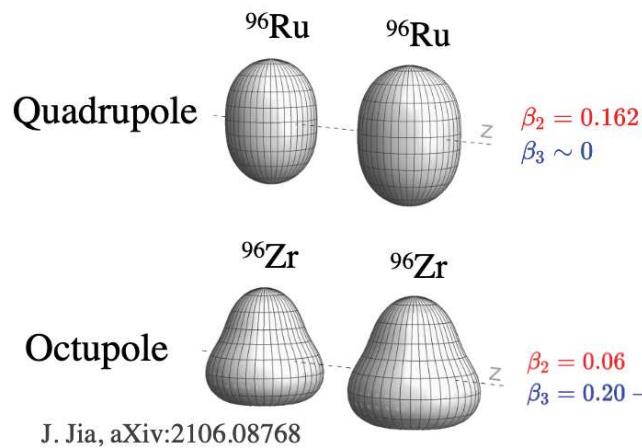
# Nuclear structure via $v_n$ -ratio



Simultaneously constrain these parameters using different  $N_{\text{ch}}$  regions

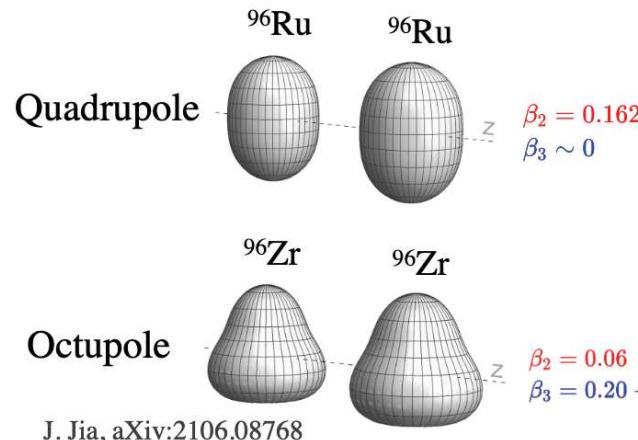
# Nuclear structure via $v_n$ -ratio

- $\beta_{2,\text{Ru}} \sim 0.16$  increase  $v_2$ , no influence on  $v_3$  ratio

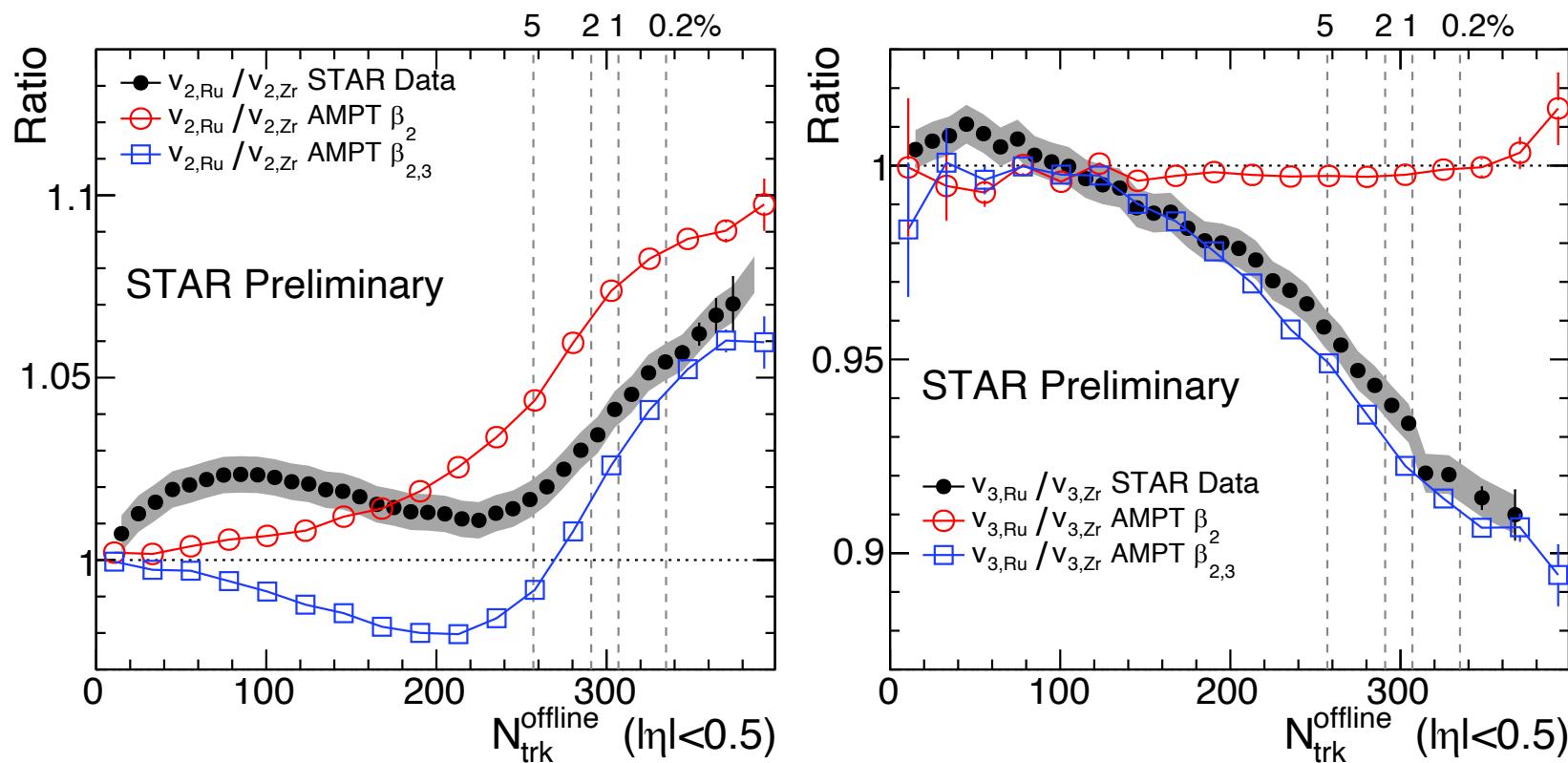


Simultaneously constrain these parameters using different  $N_{\text{ch}}$  regions

# Nuclear structure via $v_n$ -ratio

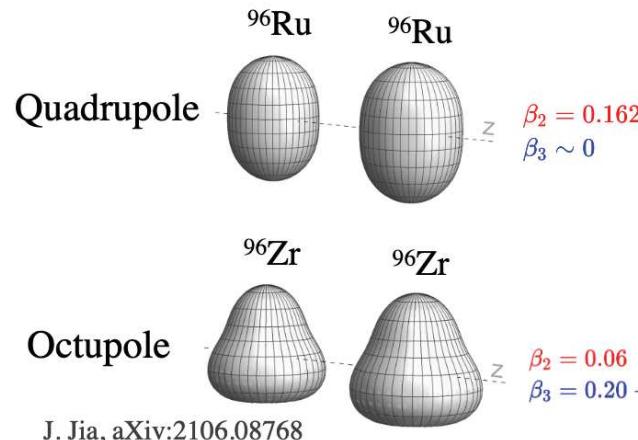


- $\beta_{2\text{Ru}} \sim 0.16$  increase  $v_2$ , no influence on  $v_3$  ratio
- $\beta_{3\text{Zr}} \sim 0.2$  decrease  $v_2$  in mid-central, decrease  $v_3$  ratio

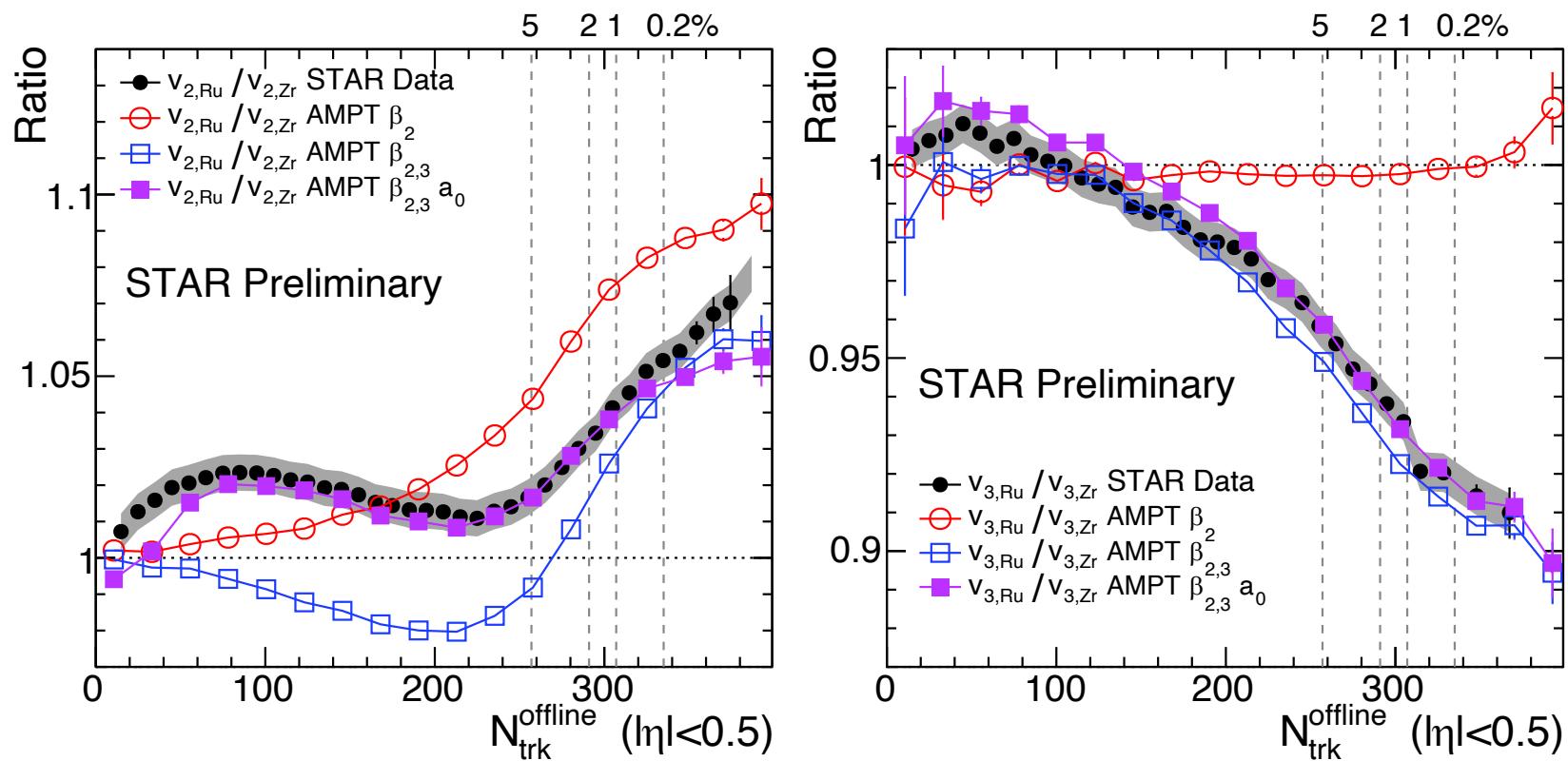


Simultaneously constrain these parameters using different  $N_{\text{ch}}$  regions

# Nuclear structure via $v_n$ -ratio

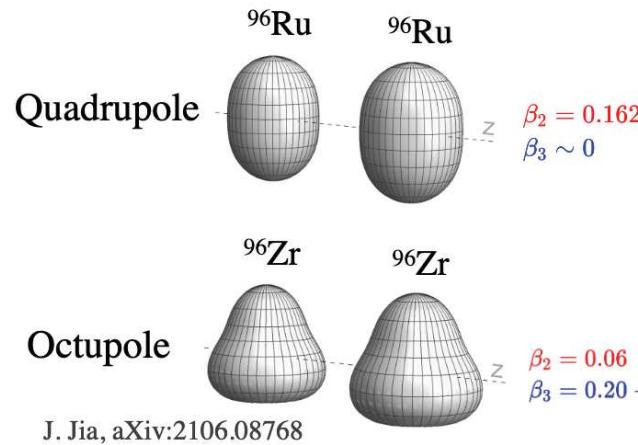


- $\beta_{2\text{Ru}} \sim 0.16$  increase  $v_2$ , no influence on  $v_3$  ratio
- $\beta_{3\text{Zr}} \sim 0.2$  decrease  $v_2$  in mid-central, decrease  $v_3$  ratio
- $\Delta a_0 = -0.06\text{fm}$  increase  $v_2$  mid-central, small influ. on  $v_3$ .



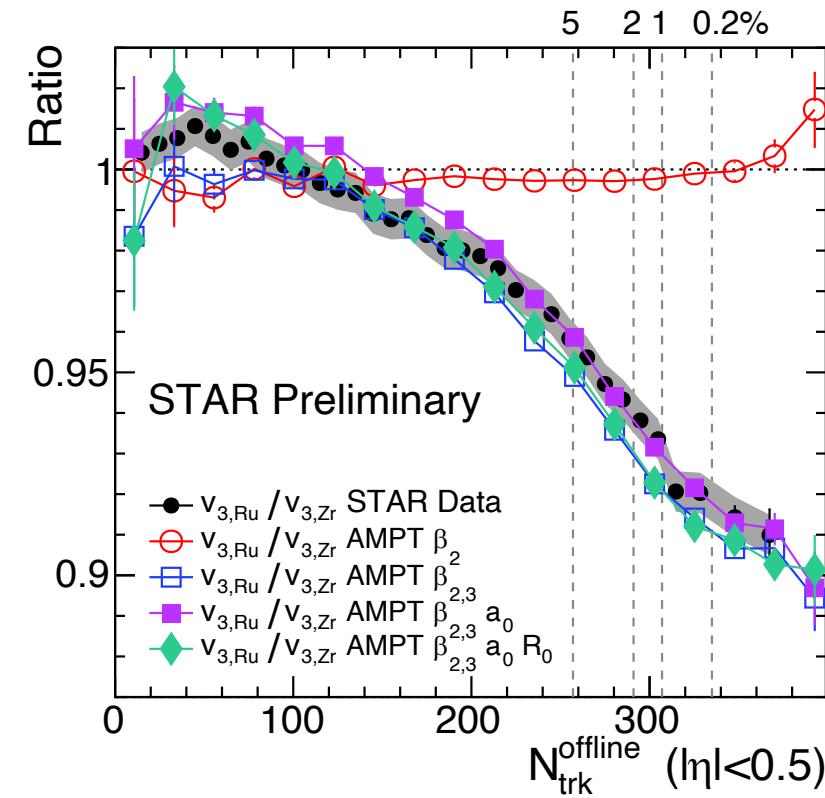
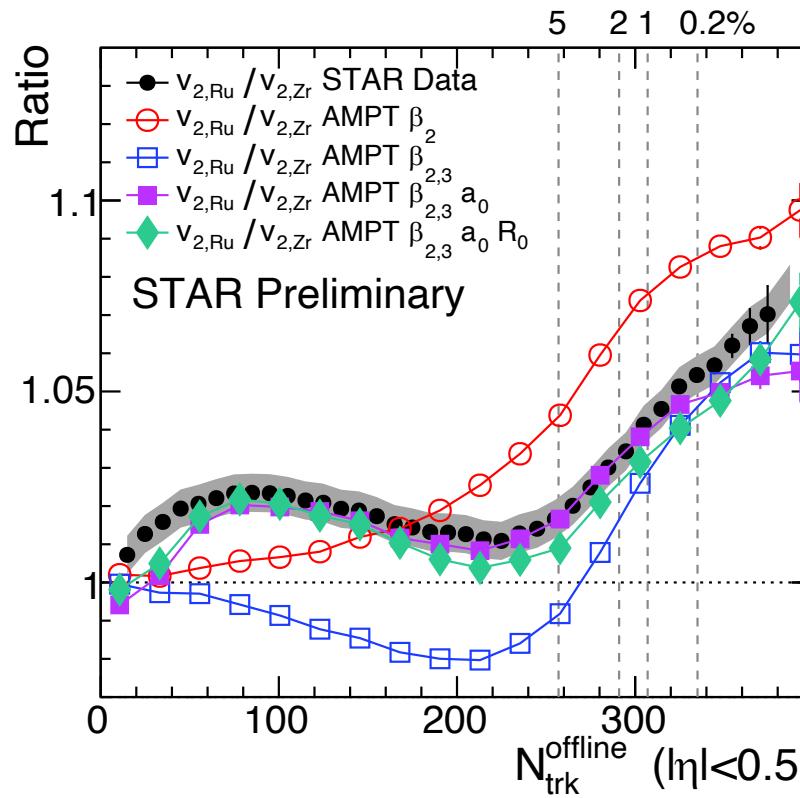
Simultaneously constrain these parameters using different  $N_{\text{ch}}$  regions

# Nuclear structure via $v_n$ -ratio



- $\beta_{2\text{Ru}} \sim 0.16$  increase  $v_2$ , no influence on  $v_3$  ratio
- $\beta_{3\text{Zr}} \sim 0.2$  decrease  $v_2$  in mid-central, decrease  $v_3$  ratio
- $\Delta a_0 = -0.06\text{fm}$  increase  $v_2$  mid-central, small influ. on  $v_3$ .
- Radius  $\Delta R_0 = 0.07\text{fm}$  only slightly affects  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  ratio.

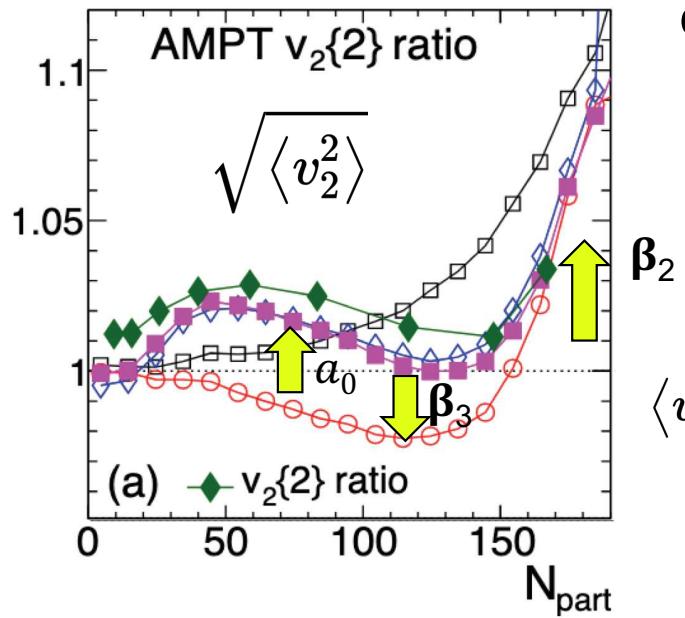
$$R_O \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Ru}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Zr}}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a$$



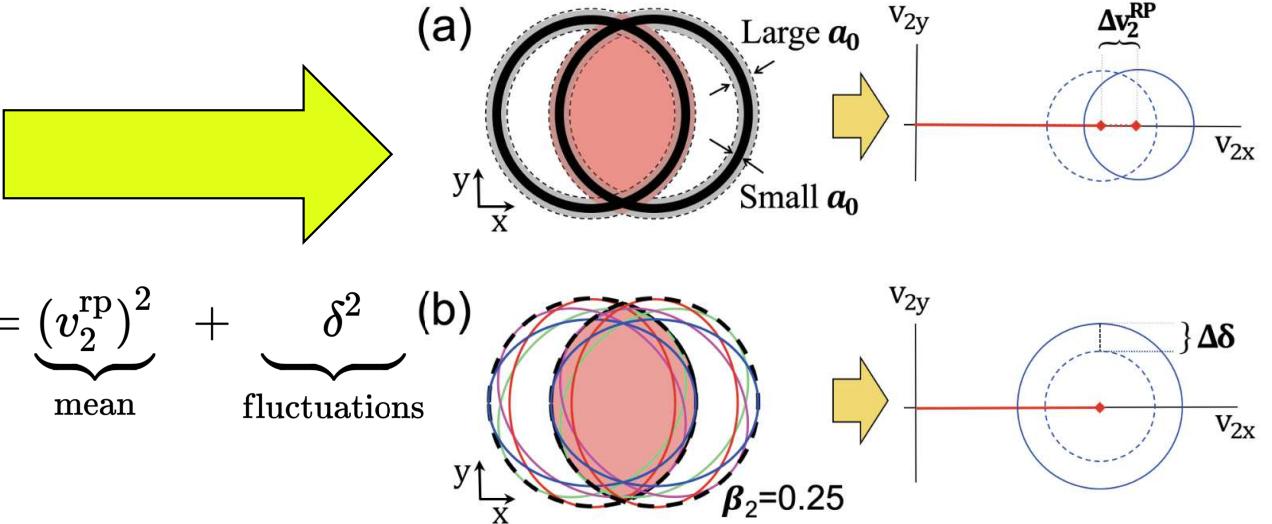
Simultaneously constrain these parameters using different  $N_{\text{ch}}$  regions

# Separating shape and size effects

Nuclear skin contributes to  $v_2^{\text{rp}} \sim v_2\{4\}$ ,  
deformation contribute to fluctuations



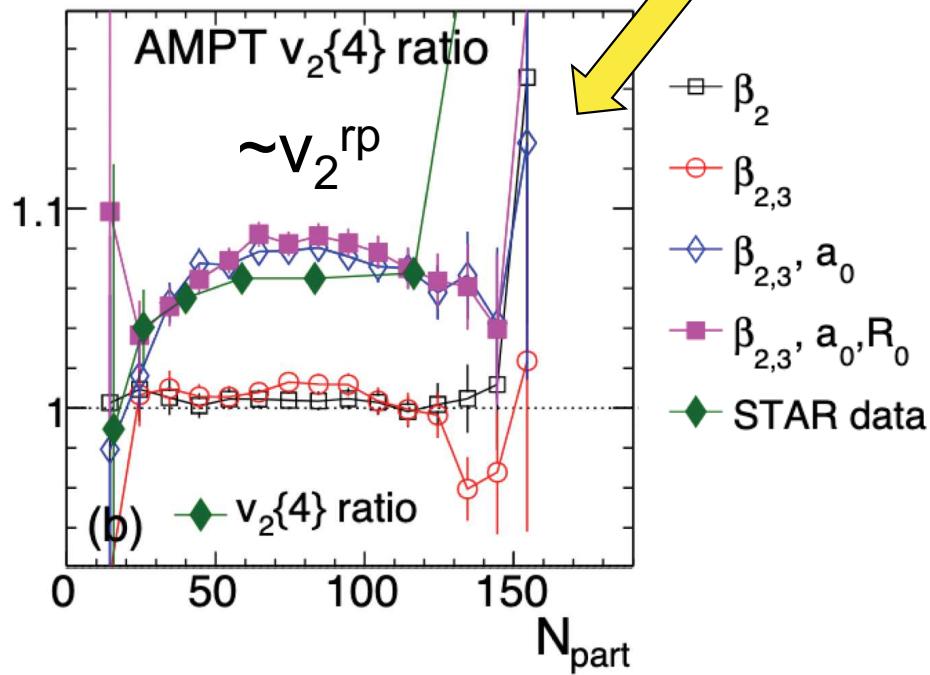
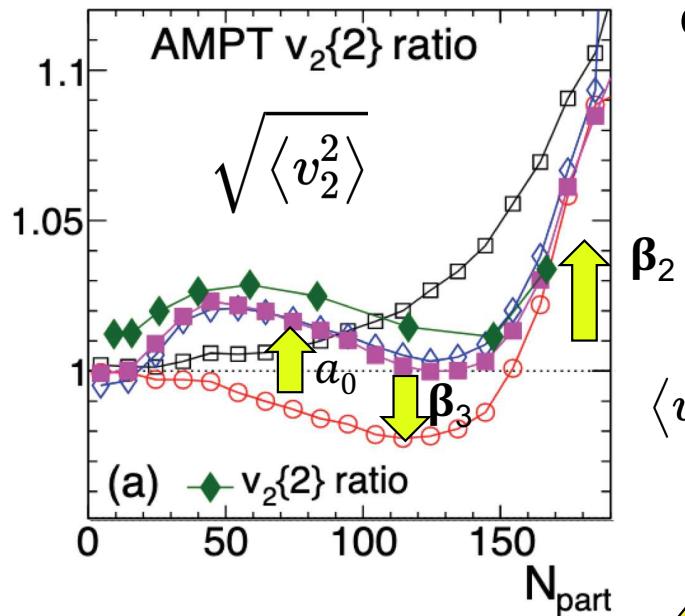
$$\langle v_2^2 \rangle = \underbrace{(v_2^{\text{rp}})^2}_{\text{mean}} + \underbrace{\delta^2}_{\text{fluctuations}}$$



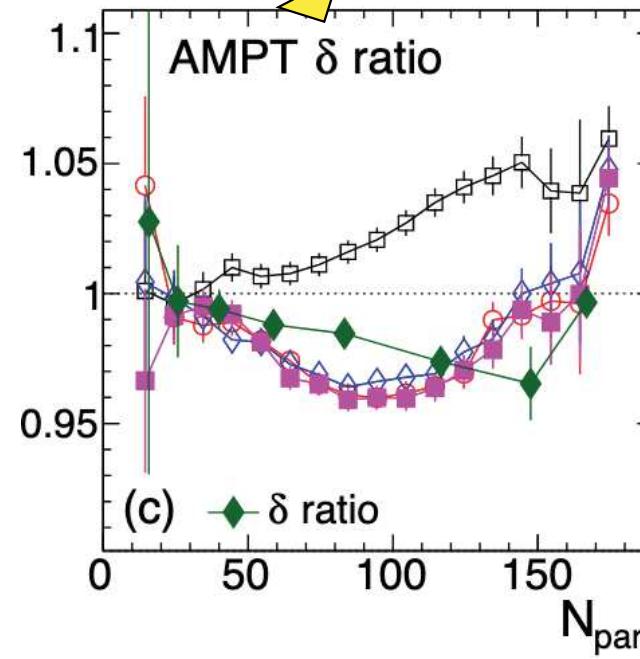
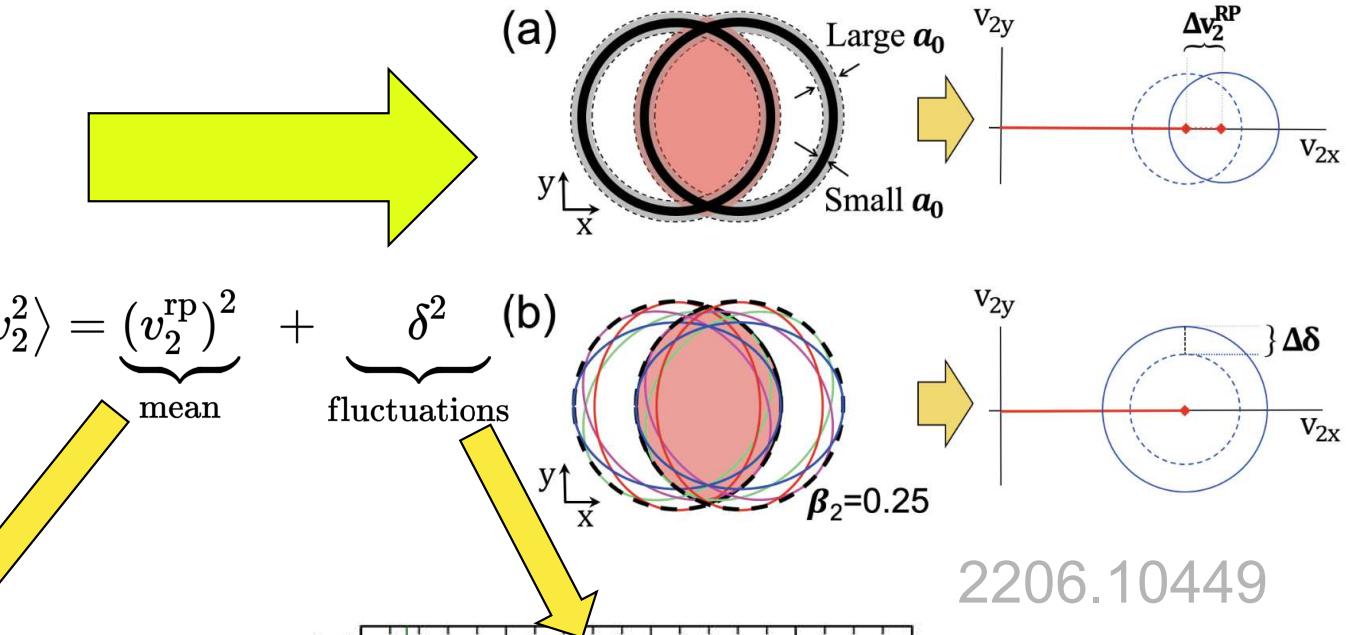
- $\beta_2$
- $\beta_{2,3}$
- ◇—  $\beta_{2,3}, a_0$
- $\beta_{2,3}, a_0, R_0$
- ◆— STAR data

# Separating shape and size effects

Nuclear skin contributes to  $v_2^{\text{rp}} \sim v_2\{4\}$ ,  
deformation contribute to fluctuations



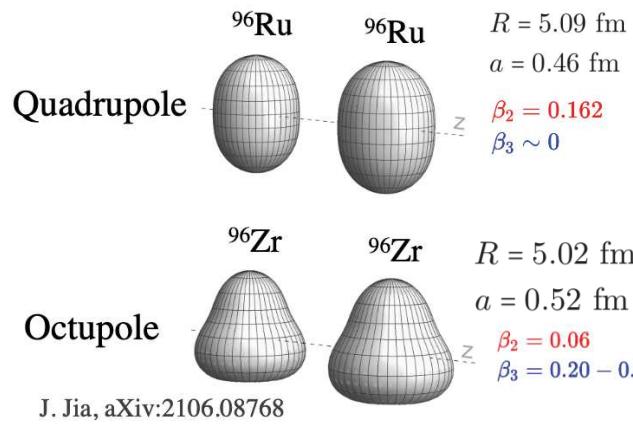
$$\langle v_2^2 \rangle = \underbrace{(v_2^{\text{rp}})^2}_{\text{mean}} + \underbrace{\delta^2}_{\text{fluctuations}}$$



2206.10449

# Nuclear structure via $p(N_{ch})$ , $\langle p_T \rangle$ -ratio

Earlier studies on this from H.Li, H.J Xu, PRL125, 222301 (2020) arXiv:2111.14812



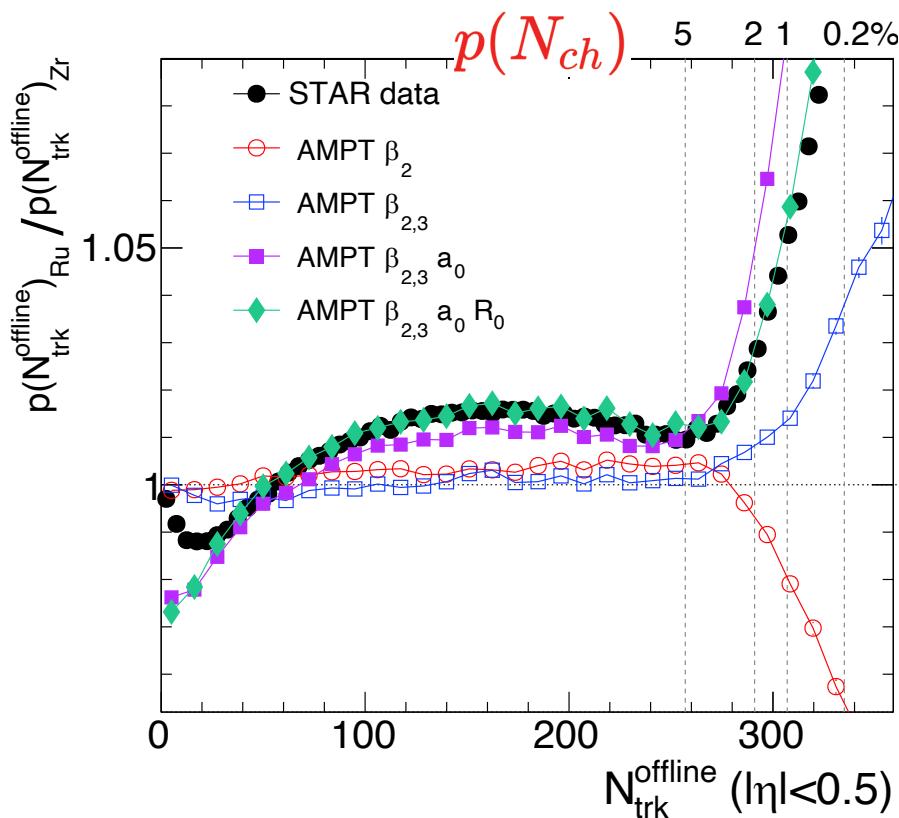
- For  $N_{ch}$  ratio:

- $\beta_{2\text{Ru}} \sim 0.16$  decrease ratio, increase after considering  $\beta_{3\text{Zr}} \sim 0.2$
- The bump structure in non-central region from  $\Delta a_0$  and  $\Delta R_0$

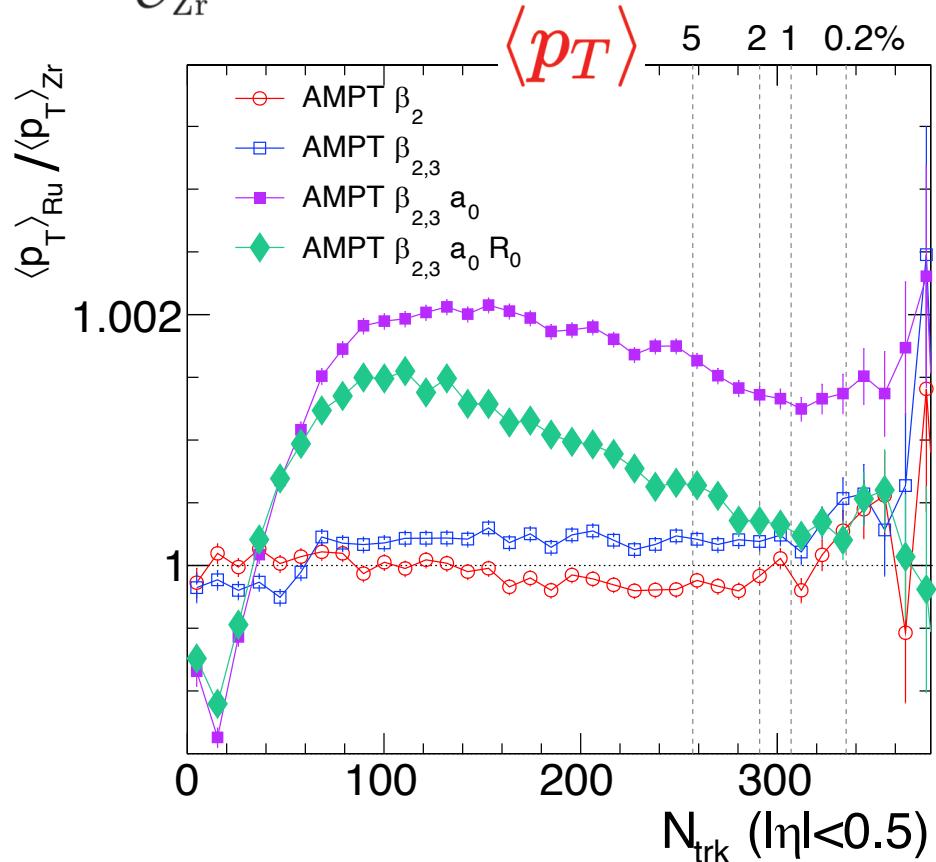
- For  $\langle p_T \rangle$  ratio:

- Strong influence from  $\Delta a_0$  and  $\Delta R_0$

$$R_O \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Ru}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Zr}}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a$$

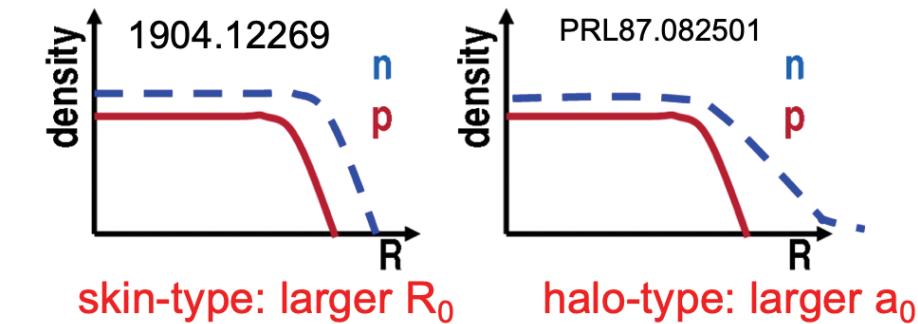


$\Delta a_0$  and  $\Delta R_0$  influences add up



$\Delta a_0$  and  $\Delta R_0$  influences cancel

# Relating to neutron skin: $\Delta r_{np} = \langle r_n \rangle^{1/2} - \langle r_p \rangle^{1/2}$



$$\Delta r_{np} \approx \frac{\langle r^2 \rangle - \langle r_p^2 \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle}(\delta + 1)}$$

arXiv:2111.15559

$\delta = (N - Z)/A$

Neutron skin  $\Delta_{np}$  expressed by  $R_0$  and  $a_0$  for nucleons and protons:

$$R_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Ru}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Zr}}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a$$

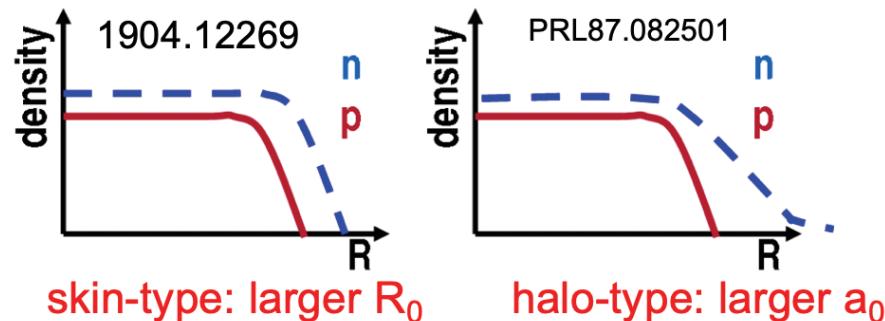
For Woods-Saxon:

$$\langle r^2 \rangle \approx \left( \frac{3}{5} R_0^2 + \frac{7}{5} \pi^2 a^2 \right)$$

$$\langle r_p^2 \rangle \approx \left( \frac{3}{5} R_{0,p}^2 + \frac{7}{5} \pi^2 a_p^2 \right)$$

# Relating to neutron skin: $\Delta r_{np} = \langle r_n \rangle^{1/2} - \langle r_p \rangle^{1/2}$

25



$$\Delta r_{np} \approx \frac{\langle r^2 \rangle - \langle r_p^2 \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle}(\delta + 1)}$$

arXiv:2111.15559

$\delta = (N - Z)/A$

Neutron skin  $\Delta_{np}$  expressed by  $R_0$  and  $a_0$  for nucleons and protons:

$$R_O \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{Ru}}{\mathcal{O}_{Zr}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a$$

For Woods-Saxon:

$$\langle r^2 \rangle \approx \left( \frac{3}{5} R_0^2 + \frac{7}{5} \pi^2 a^2 \right)$$

$$\langle r_p^2 \rangle \approx \left( \frac{3}{5} R_{0,p}^2 + \frac{7}{5} \pi^2 a_p^2 \right)$$

Isobar collision measure “difference of neutron skin” from  $\Delta R_0 \Delta a$  for nucleons, and known  $\Delta R_0 \Delta a$  for protons:

$$\Delta(\Delta r_{np}) = \Delta r_{np,1} - \Delta r_{np,2} \approx \frac{\Delta Y - \frac{7\pi^2}{3} \frac{\bar{a}^2}{\bar{R}_0^2} \left( \frac{\Delta Y}{2} + \bar{Y} \left( \frac{\Delta a}{\bar{a}} - \frac{\Delta R_0}{\bar{R}_0} \right) \right)}{\sqrt{15} \bar{R}_0 (1 + \bar{\delta})}$$

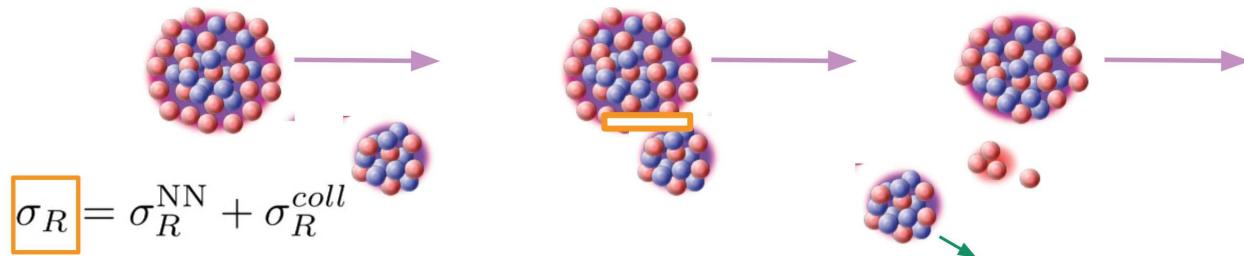
$$\begin{aligned} \Delta x &= x_1 - x_2 \\ \bar{x} &= (x_1 + x_2)/2 \end{aligned}$$

$$Y \equiv 3(R_0^2 - R_{0,p}^2) + 7\pi^2(a^2 - a_p^2)$$

# Directly peeling off the skin matter

- Similar to low energy fragmentation reaction

Andrea Jedelev  
 TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT  
NuSym2021

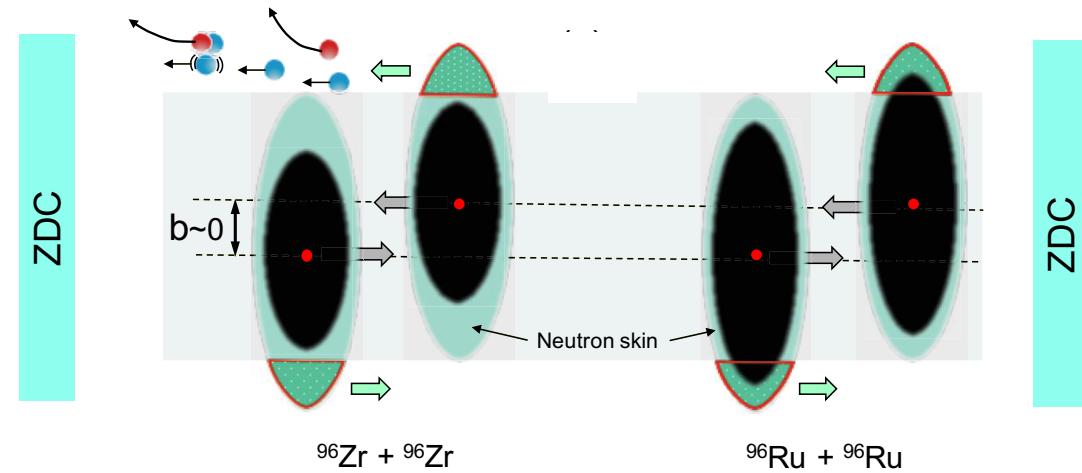


- Spectator neutrons in ultra-central isobar collisions is enhanced by neutron skin

N.Kozyrev, I. Pshenichnov 2204.07189

L. Liu, J. Xu et.al 2203.09924

Complete separation between participant and spectator matter



# Isobar ratios not affected by final state

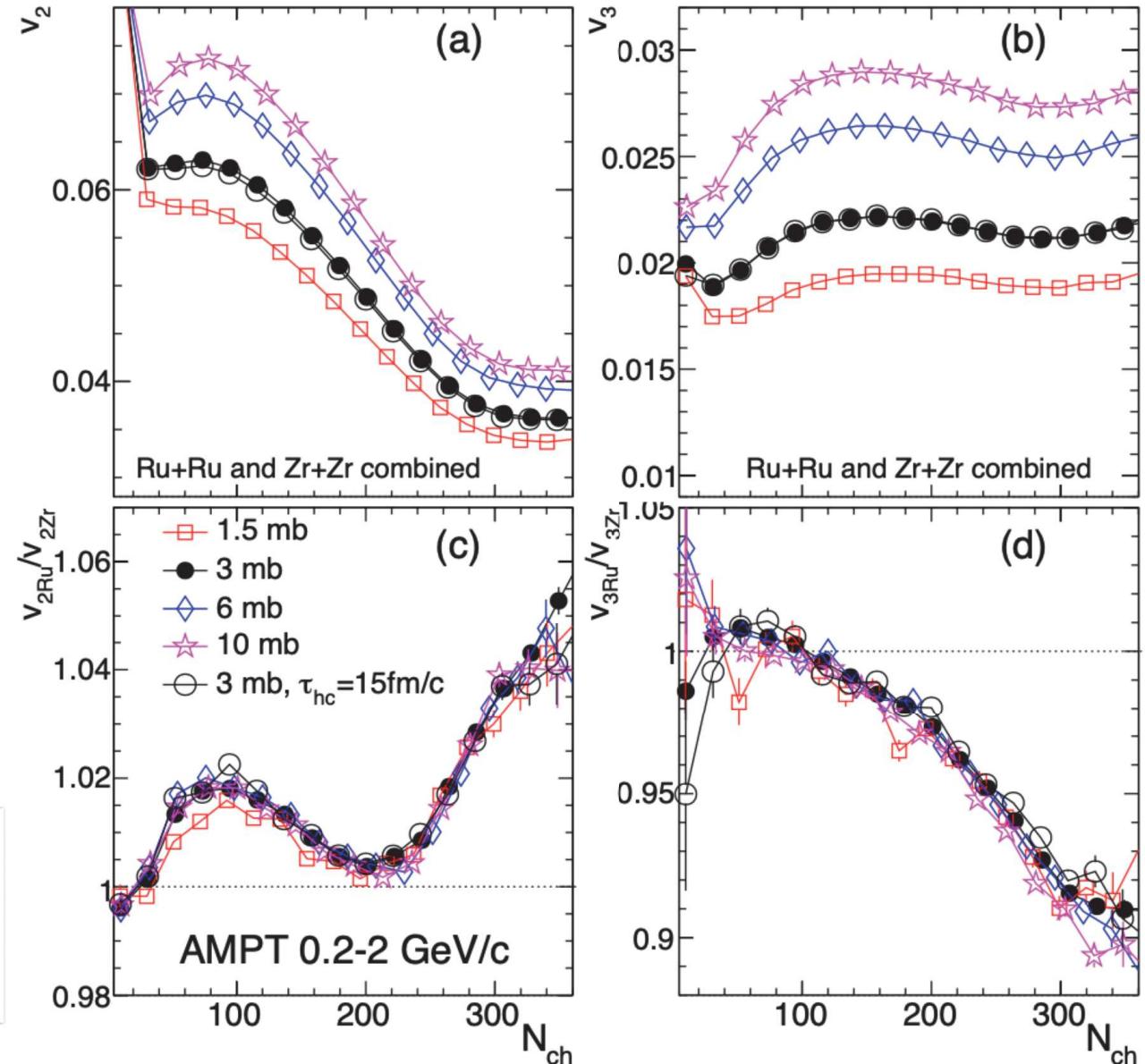
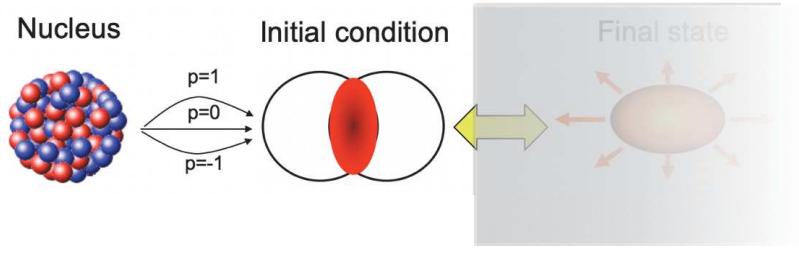
- Vary the shear viscosity via partonic cross-section
  - Flow signal change by 30-50%, the  $v_n$  ratio unchanged.

$$v_n = k_n \epsilon_n$$

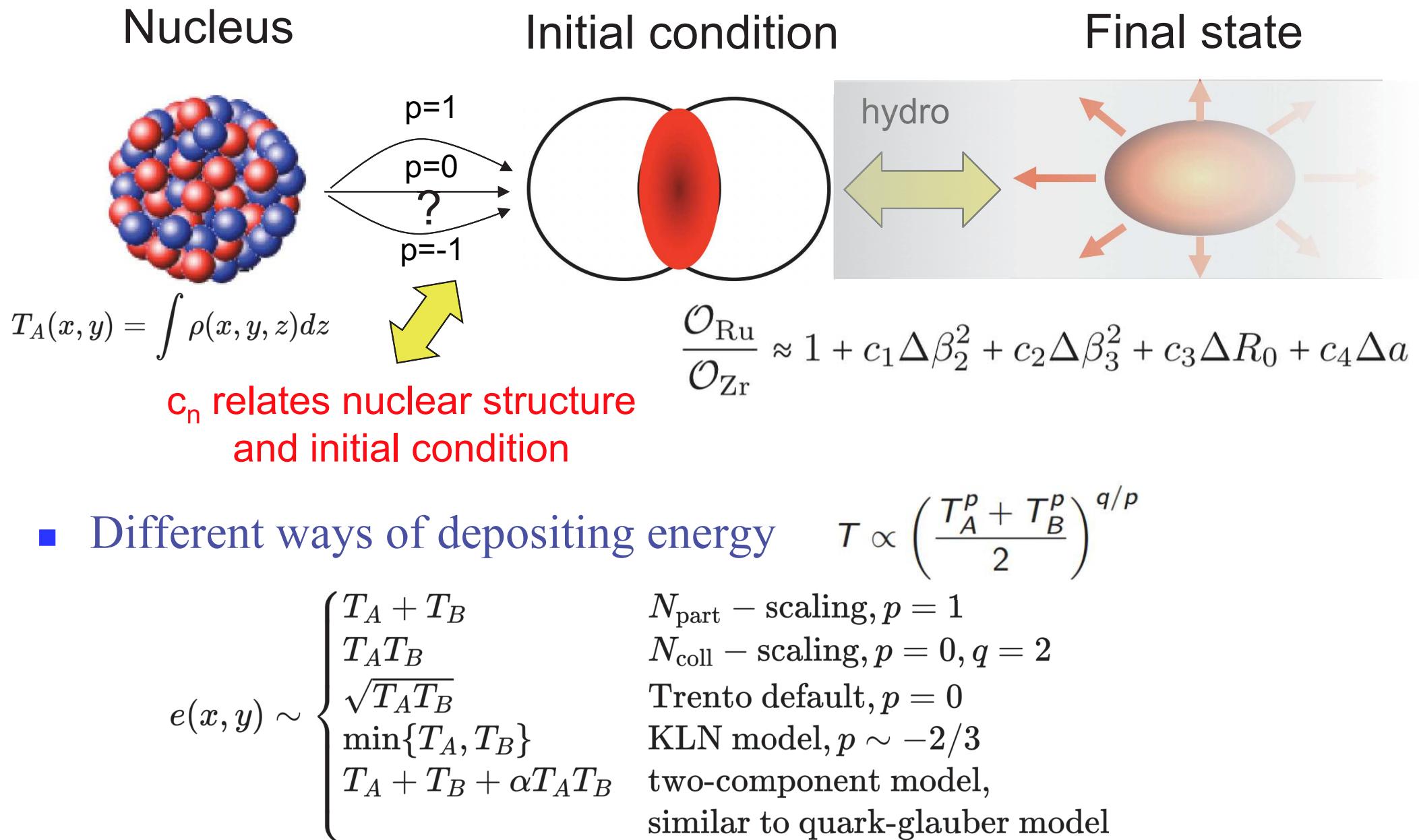
↓

$$\frac{v_{n,Ru}}{v_{n,Zr}} \approx \frac{\epsilon_{n,Ru}}{\epsilon_{n,Zr}}$$

**Robust probe of initial state!**



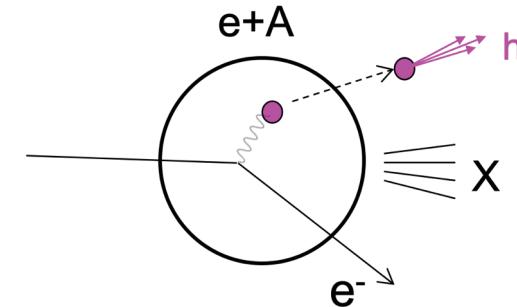
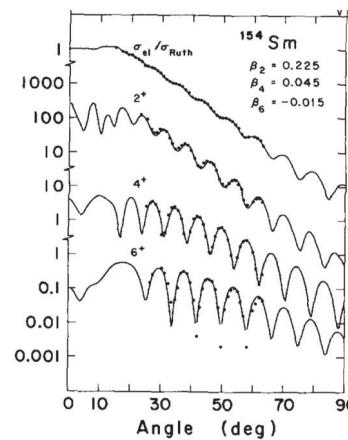
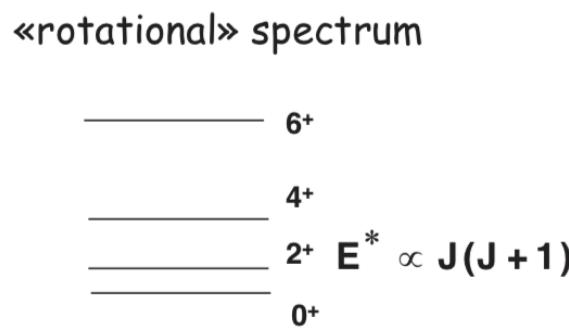
# Isobar to constrain initial condition



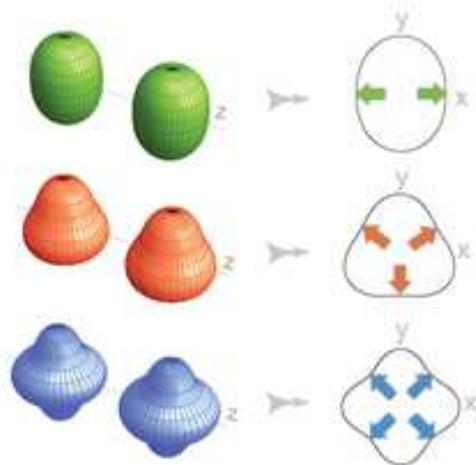
Use nuclear structure as extra lever-arm for initial condition

# Low-energy vs high-energy HI method

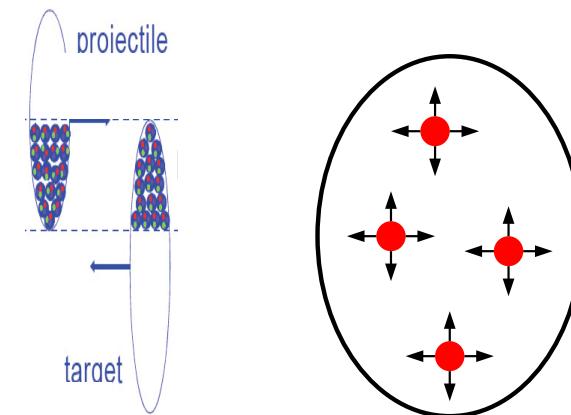
- Shape from  $B(En)$ , radial profile from  $e+A$  or ion-A scattering



- Shape frozen in crossing time ( $<10^{-24}\text{s}$ ), probe entire mass distribution via multi-point correlations.



Collective flow response to nuclear structure



$$\begin{aligned} S(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) &\equiv \langle \delta\rho(\mathbf{s}_1)\delta\rho(\mathbf{s}_2) \rangle \\ &= \langle \rho(\mathbf{s}_1)\rho(\mathbf{s}_2) \rangle - \langle \rho(\mathbf{s}_1) \rangle \langle \rho(\mathbf{s}_2) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

# higher-order correlations

- In principle, can measure any moments of  $p(1/R, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3\dots)$ 
  - Mean  $\langle d_\perp \rangle \rightarrow \langle p_T \rangle$
  - Variances:  $\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle, \langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^2 \rangle \quad d_\perp \equiv 1/R_\perp \rightarrow \langle v_n^2 \rangle, \langle (\delta p_T/p_T)^2 \rangle$
  - Skewness  $\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \delta d_\perp/d_\perp \rangle, \langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^3 \rangle \rightarrow \langle v_n^2 \delta p_T/p_T \rangle, \langle (\delta p_T/p_T)^3 \rangle$
  - Kurtosis  $\langle \varepsilon_n^4 \rangle - 2\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle^2, \langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^4 \rangle - 3\langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^2 \rangle^2 \rightarrow \langle v_n^4 \rangle - 2\langle v_n^2 \rangle^2, \langle (\delta p_T/p_T)^4 \rangle - 3\langle (\delta p_T/p_T)^2 \rangle^2$
  - ...
- All with rather simple expressions, for example:
  - Skewness
 
$$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \delta d_\perp/d_\perp \rangle \sim a_1 - b_1 \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3$$

$$\langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^3 \rangle \sim a_2 + b_2 \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3$$
  - Kurtosis
 
$$\langle \varepsilon_2^4 \rangle - 2\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle^2 \sim a_3 - b_3 \beta_2^4$$

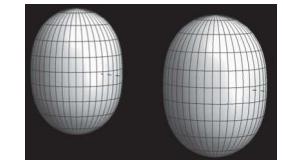
$$\langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^4 \rangle - 3\langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^2 \rangle^2 \sim a_4 - b_4 \beta_2^4$$

# Liquid-drop model estimate in head-on collisions

1811.03959, 2109.00604

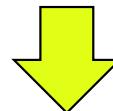
Estimate with liquid drop model →

Nucleus with a sharp surface:  $\rho(r, \theta, \phi) = \begin{cases} 1 & r < R(\theta, \phi) \\ 0 & r > R(\theta, \phi) \end{cases}$



UCC collisions and ignoring nucleon fluctuations →

$$\frac{\delta d_{\perp}}{d_{\perp}} = \sqrt{\frac{5}{16\pi}} \beta_2 \left( \cos \gamma D_{0,0}^2 + \frac{\sin \gamma}{\sqrt{2}} [D_{0,2}^2 + D_{0,-2}^2] \right), \quad \epsilon_2 = -\sqrt{\frac{15}{2\pi}} \beta_2 \left( \cos \gamma D_{2,0}^2 + \frac{\sin \gamma}{\sqrt{2}} [D_{2,2}^2 + D_{2,-2}^2] \right)$$



$$\langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle = \frac{3}{4\pi} \beta_2^2 \quad \langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{32\pi} \beta_2^2$$

$\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^3 \rangle$	$\langle \epsilon_2^2 (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp}) \rangle$	$\langle \epsilon_2^2 (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle - \langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle \langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle$
$\frac{\sqrt{5}}{896\pi^{3/2}} \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3$	$-\frac{3\sqrt{5}}{112\pi^{3/2}} \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3$	$-\frac{3}{896\pi^2} \beta_2^4$
$\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^4 \rangle - 3 \langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle^2$	$\langle \epsilon_2^4 \rangle - 2 \langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle^2$	$(\langle \epsilon_2^6 \rangle - 9 \langle \epsilon_2^4 \rangle \langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle + 12 \langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle^3) / 4$
$-\frac{3}{7168\pi^2} \beta_2^4$	$-\frac{9}{56\pi^2} \beta_2^4$	$\frac{27(373 - 25 \cos(6\gamma))}{32 \times 8008\pi^3} \beta_2^6$

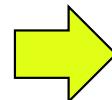
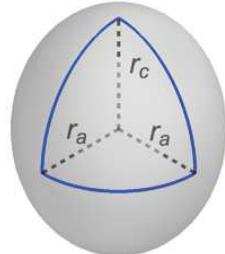
# Triaxility

$$R(\theta, \phi) = R_0 \left( 1 + \beta_2 [\cos \gamma Y_{2,0} + \sin \gamma Y_{2,2}] \right)$$

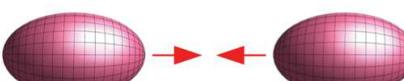
1910.04673, 2004.14463

Prolate

$$\beta_2 = 0.25, \cos(3\gamma) = 1$$



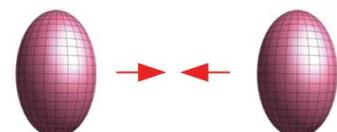
tip-tip



small  $v_2$   
small area  
large  $[p_T]$

$$v_2 \searrow \quad p_T \nearrow$$

body-body



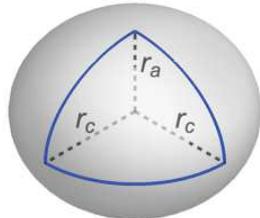
large  $v_2$   
large area  
small  $[p_T]$

$$v_2 \nearrow \quad p_T \searrow$$

Need 3-point correlators to probe the 3 axes

Triaxial

$$\beta_2 = 0.25, \cos(3\gamma) = 0$$



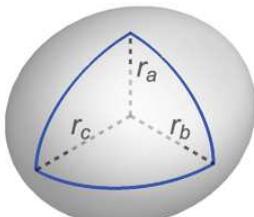
$$\langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle \sim -\beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma)$$

$$\langle (\delta p_T)^3 \rangle \sim \beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma)$$

$$2109.00604$$

Oblate

$$\beta_2 = 0.25, \cos(3\gamma) = -1$$



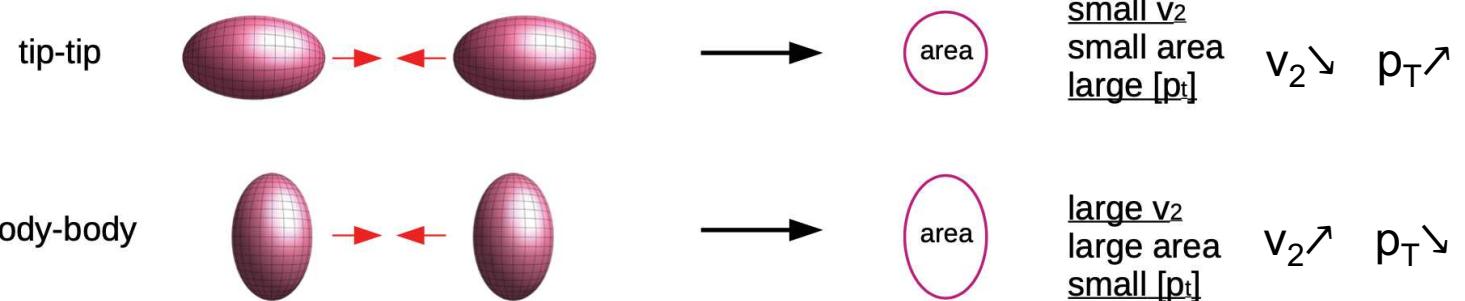
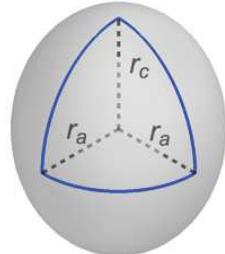
# Triaxility

$$R(\theta, \phi) = R_0 \left( 1 + \beta_2 [\cos \gamma Y_{2,0} + \sin \gamma Y_{2,2}] \right)$$

1910.04673, 2004.14463

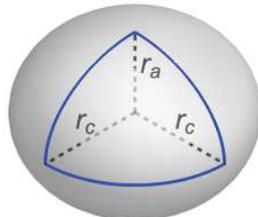
Prolate

$$\beta_2 = 0.25, \cos(3\gamma) = 1$$



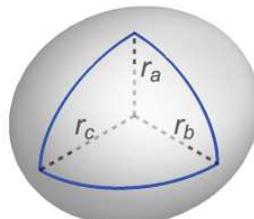
Triaxial

$$\beta_2 = 0.25, \cos(3\gamma) = 0$$



Oblate

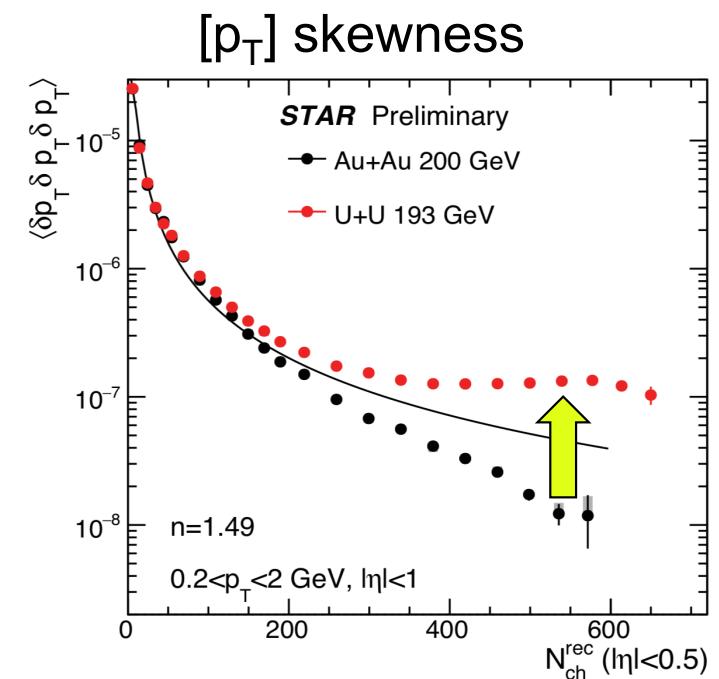
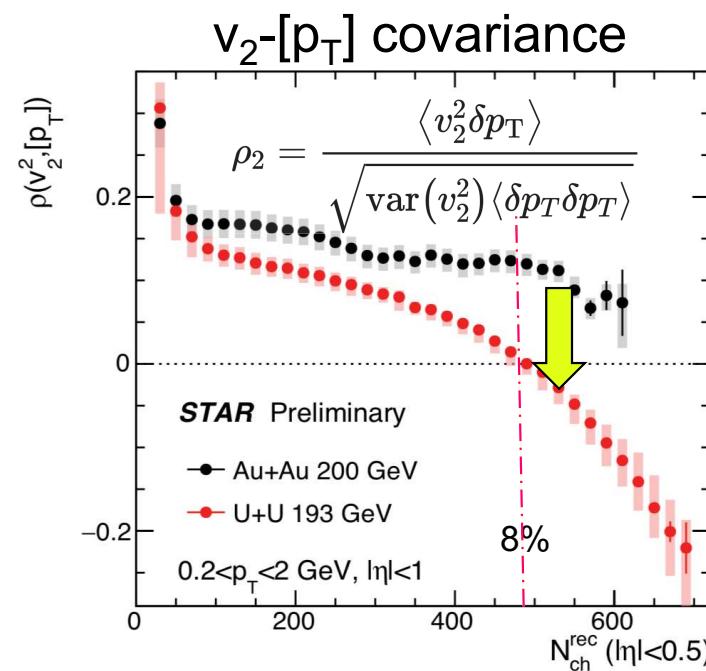
$$\beta_2 = 0.25, \cos(3\gamma) = -1$$



Need 3-point correlators to probe the 3 axes

$$\langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle \sim -\beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma) \quad \langle (\delta p_T)^3 \rangle \sim \beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma) \quad 2109.00604$$

Compare U+U vs Au+Au:  $\beta_{2U} \sim 0.28$ ,  $\beta_{2Au} \sim 0.13$ :



# Influence of triaxiality: Glauber model

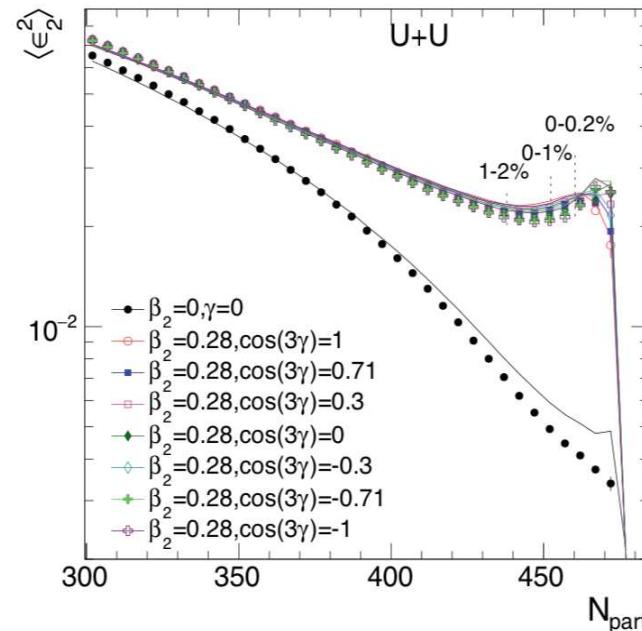
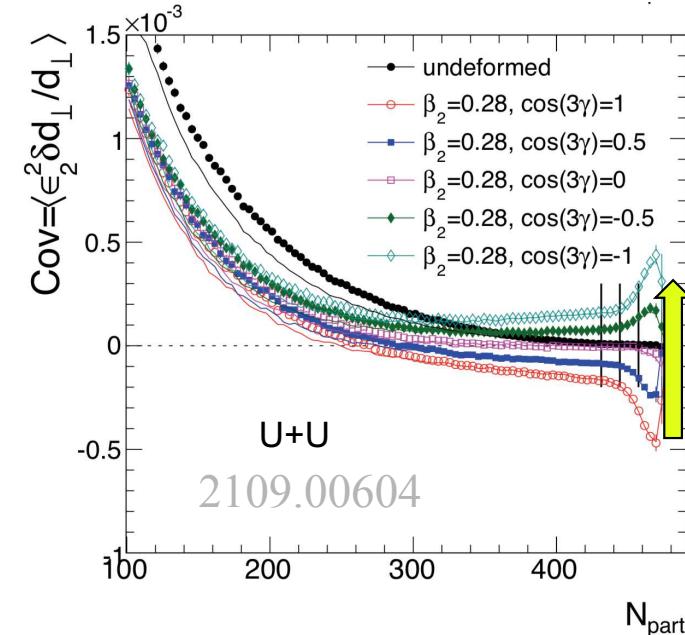
Skewness super sensitive

Described by

$$\left\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \frac{\delta d_{\perp}}{d_{\perp}} \right\rangle \propto \left\langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \right\rangle \propto a + b \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3$$

variances insensitive to  $\gamma$

$$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle \propto \langle v_2^2 \rangle \propto a + b \beta_2^2$$



Use variance to constrain  $\beta_2$ , use skewness to constrain  $\gamma$

# $(\beta_2, \gamma)$ diagram in heavy-ion collisions

The  $(\beta_2, \gamma)$  dependence is 0-1%  
U+U Glauber model can be  
approximated by:

$$d_{\perp} \propto 1/R_{\perp}$$

$$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle \approx [0.02 + \beta_2^2] \times 0.235$$

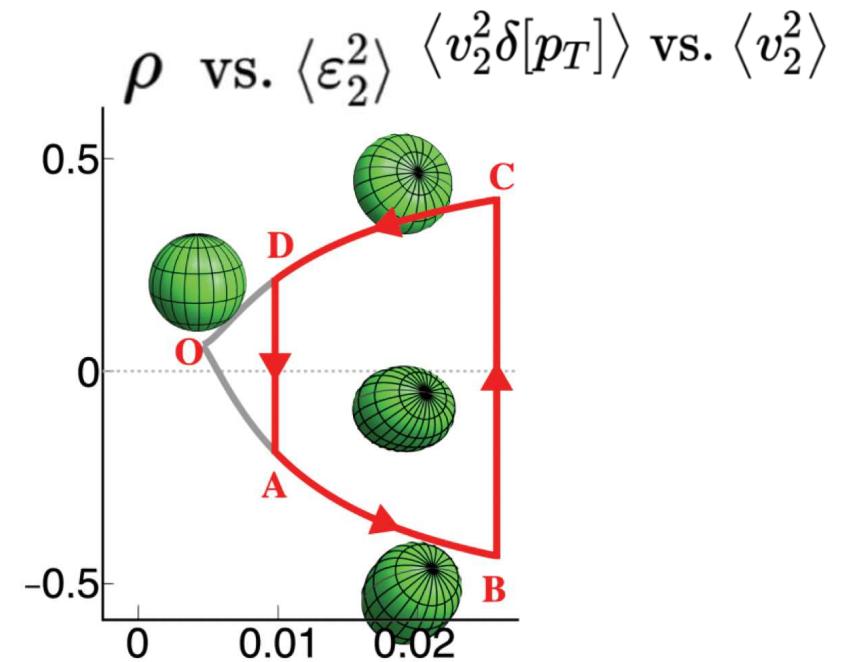
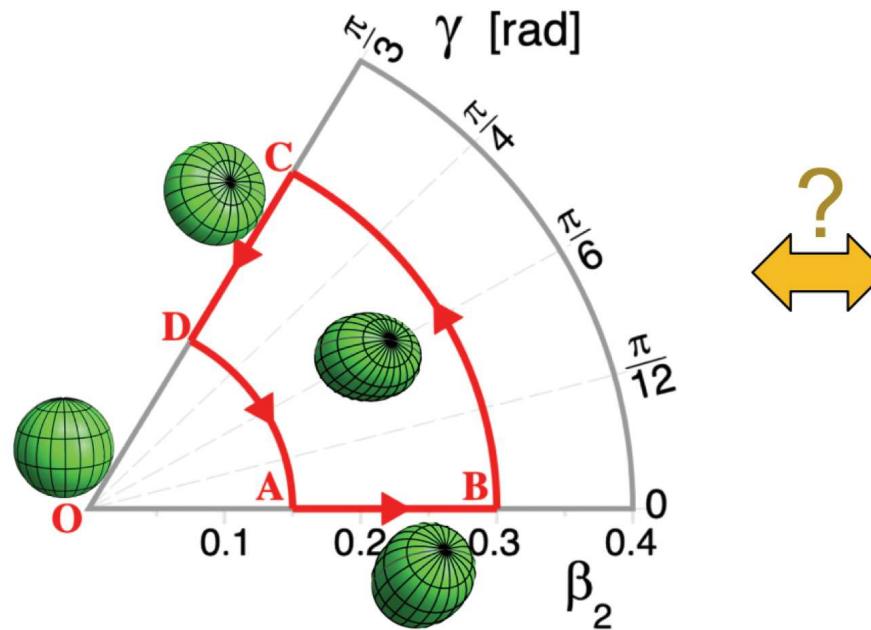
$$\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle \approx [0.035 + \beta_2^2] \times 0.0093$$

$$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp} \rangle \approx [0.0005 - (0.07 + 1.36 \cos(3\gamma)) \beta_2^3] \times 10^{-2}$$

$$\rho = \frac{\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \delta d_{\perp} \rangle}{\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle \sqrt{\langle (\delta d_{\perp})^2 \rangle}}$$

Map from  $(\beta_2, \gamma)$  plane to HI observables

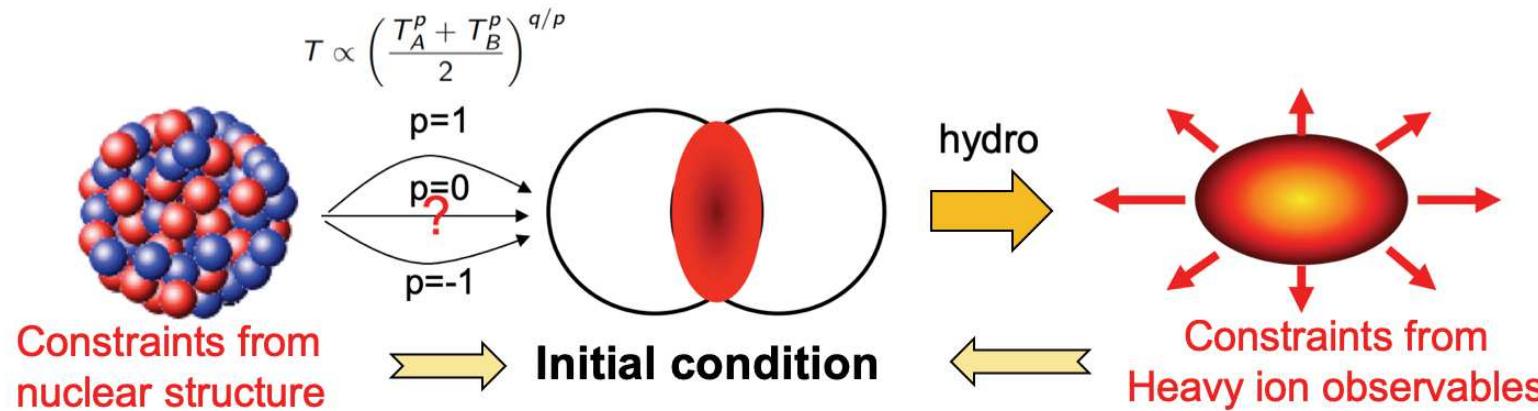
How about



Collision system scan to map out this trajectory: calibrate coefficients with species with known  $\beta, \gamma$ , then predict for species of interest.

# What future collisions can bring?

Future well-motivated system-scan to use heavy-ion collisions into a precision tool for both nuclear structure and initial condition, and ultimately improve the study of QGP.



More than 250 stable (long-lived nuclei), about 140 of them in isobar pairs or triplets

$A$	isobars	$A$	isobars	$A$	isobars	$A$	isobars	$A$	isobars	$A$	isobars
36	Ar, S	80	Se, Kr	106	Pd, Cd	124	Sn, Te, Xe	148	Nd, Sm	174	Yb, Hf
40	Ca, Ar	84	Kr, Sr, Mo	108	Pd, Cd	126	Te, Xe	150	Nd, Sm	176	Yb, Lu, Hf
46	Ca, Ti	86	Kr, Sr	110	Pd, Cd	128	Te, Xe	152	Sm, Gd	180	Hf, W
48	Ca, Ti	87	Rb, Sr	112	Cd, Sn	130	Te, Xe, Ba	154	Sm, Gd	184	W, Os
50	Ti, V, Cr	92	Zr, Nb, Mo	113	Cd, In	132	Xe, Ba	156	Gd,Dy	186	W, Os
54	Cr, Fe	94	Zr, Mo	114	Cd, Sn	134	Xe, Ba	158	Gd,Dy	187	Re, Os
64	Ni, Zn	96	Zr, Mo, Ru	115	In, Sn	136	Xe, Ba, Ce	160	Gd,Dy	190	Os, Pt
70	Zn, Ge	98	Mo, Ru	116	Cd, Sn	138	Ba, La, Ce	162	Dy,Er	192	Os, Pt
74	Ge, Se	100	Mo, Ru	120	Sn, Te	142	Ce, Nd	164	Dy,Er	196	Pt, Hg
76	Ge, Se	102	Ru, Pd	122	Sn, Te	144	Nd, Sm	168	Er,Yb	198	Pt, Hg
78	Se, Kr	104	Ru, Pd	123	Sb, Te	146	Nd, Sm	170	Er,Yb	204	Hg, Pb

# What future collisions can bring?

Future well-motivated system-scan to use heavy-ion collisions into a precision tool for both nuclear structure and initial condition, and ultimately improve the study of QGP.

Representative cases were identified in a dedicated EMMI taskforce among HI and structure experts.

<https://indico.gsi.de/event/14430/contributions/64193/>

The discussion lead to the identification of three science cases that may readily lead to breakthrough observations via relativistic collision experiments. They involve nuclides belonging, respectively, to the mass regions  $A \sim 20$ ,  $A \sim 40$ , and  $A \sim 150$ .

Stress test small system collectivity  
with extreme deformability

Inferring the neutron skin by  
comparing  $^{40}\text{Ca}$  and  $^{48}\text{Ca}$

$A \sim 200$

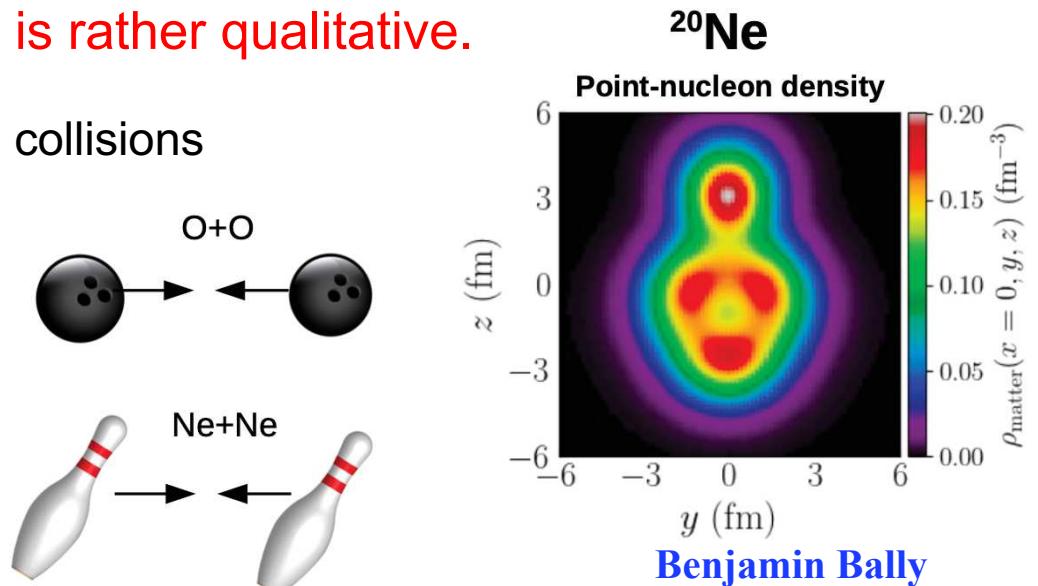
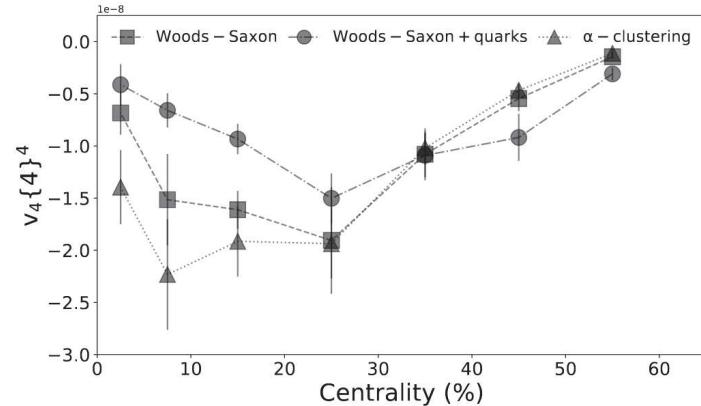
Cross-calibrate the initial condition  
of Pb+Pb and Au+Au collisions

Imaging strong shape evolution of  
 $^{144-154}\text{Sm}$  isotopic chain

# Stress-testing small system collectivity with 20Ne

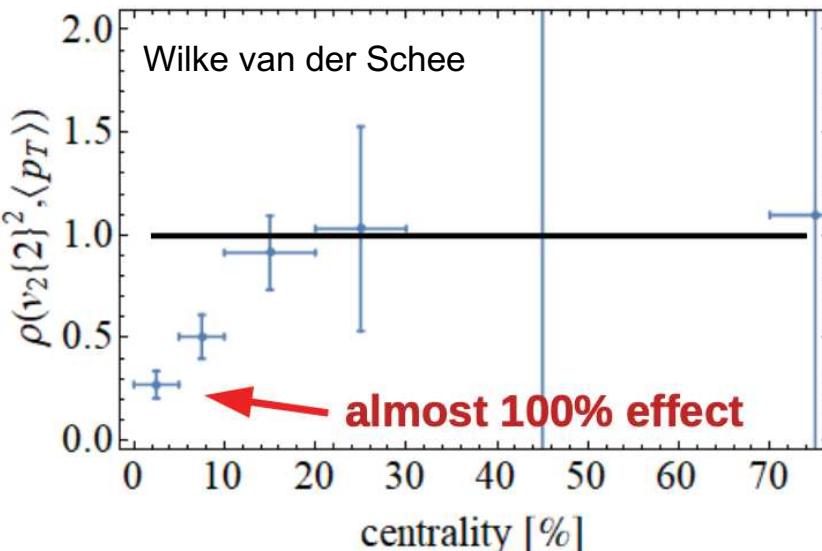
Geometric origin of small system program is rather qualitative.

Very subtle effects if one only have 16O+16O collisions



20Ne with 5 alpha has the most extreme ground state shape:  $\beta_2 \sim 0.7$ ,  $\beta_3 \sim 0.5$ . Use O+O and Ne+Ne to observe “strong” purely-geometric effects at  $dN/dy \sim 100$ .

Trajectum framework  
Ratio 20Ne+20Ne / 16O+16O



# Imaging strong shape evolution of $^{144\text{--}154}\text{Sm}$ isotopic chain

Transition from nearly-spherical to well-deformed nuclei when size increase by less than 7%. Using HI to access the multi-nucleon correlations leading to such shape evolution, as well as dynamical  $\beta_3$  and  $\beta_4$  shape fluctuations.

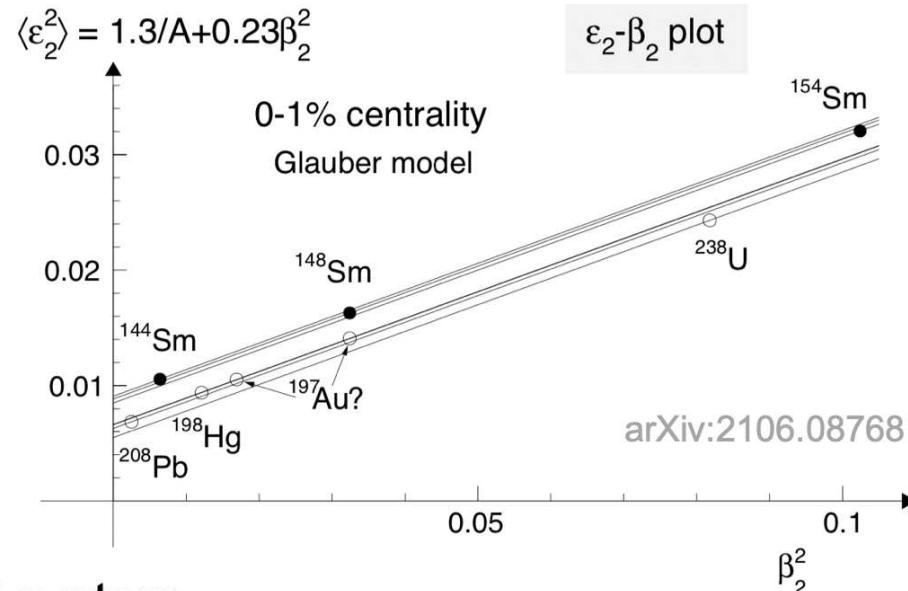
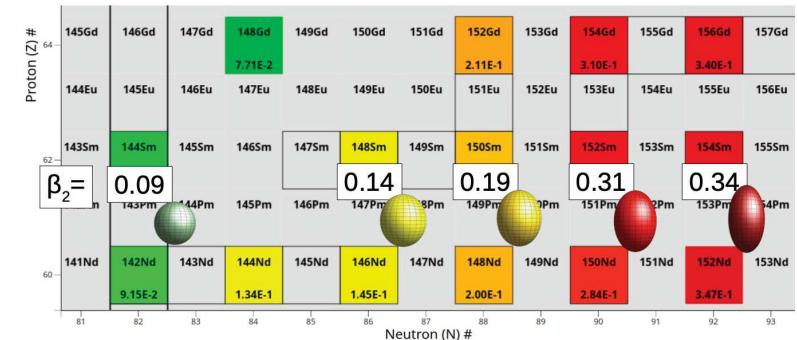
$$\begin{aligned}\langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle &= a' + b' \beta_2^2 \\ \langle v_2^2 \rangle &= a + b \beta_2^2\end{aligned}$$

In central collisions

$$a' = \langle \epsilon_2^2 \rangle_{|\beta_2=0} \propto 1/A$$

$$a = \langle v_2^2 \rangle_{|\beta_2=0} \propto 1/A$$

$b'$ ,  $b$  are  $\sim$  independent of system



Systems with similar A fall on the same curve.

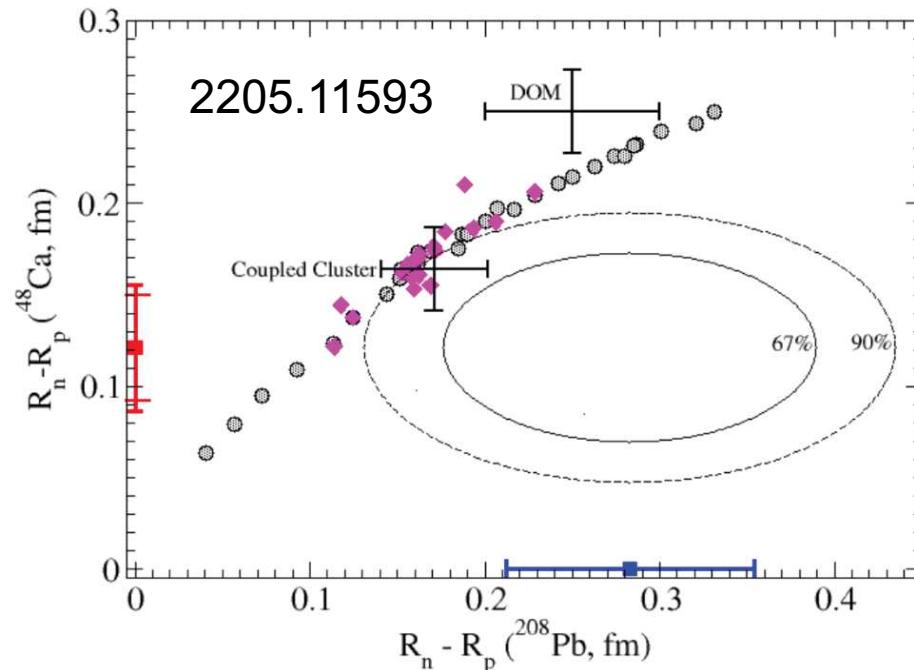
Fix a and b with two isobar systems with known  $\beta_2$ , then make predictions for the third one

# Neutron skin in high-energy collisions

The famous PREX and CREX has tension with theory and previous exp.  
Indicate a larger L value.

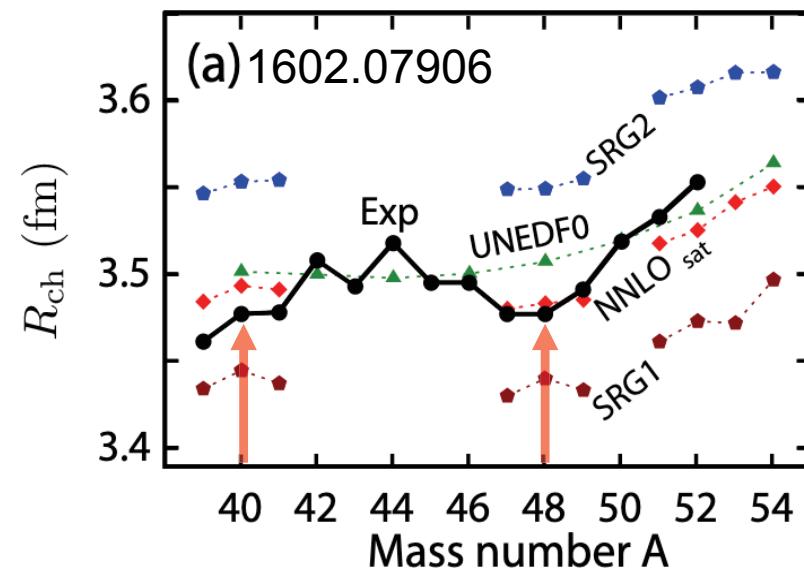
$$\Delta r_{\text{np}, \text{Pb}} = 0.28 \pm 0.07 \text{ fm}$$

$$\Delta r_{\text{np}, \text{Ca}} = 0.14 \pm 0.03 \text{ fm}$$



- Access the difference of neutron skin by comparing  $^{40}\text{Ca}+^{40}\text{Ca}$  and  $^{48}\text{Ca}+^{48}\text{Ca}$

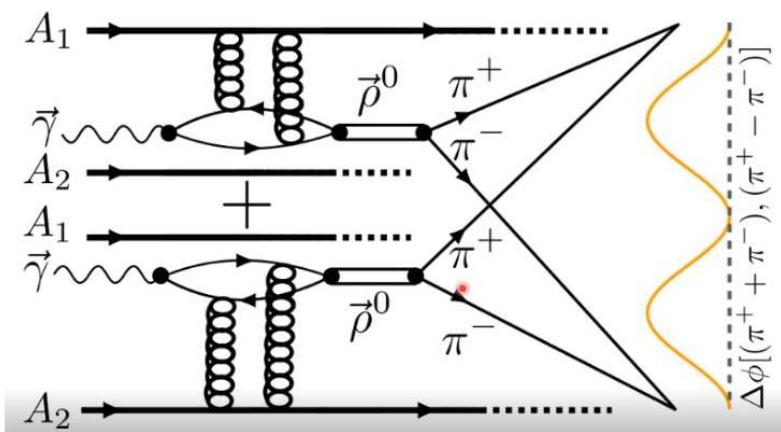
$$\Delta_{\text{np}}(^{48}\text{Ca}) - \Delta_{\text{np}}(^{40}\text{Ca}) \simeq \Delta_{\text{np}}(^{48}\text{Ca})$$



# Neutron skin for $^{208}\text{Pb}$

- Extract skin of  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  in UPC or by comparing with  $^{197}\text{Au}$

## Photo-nuclear in UPC

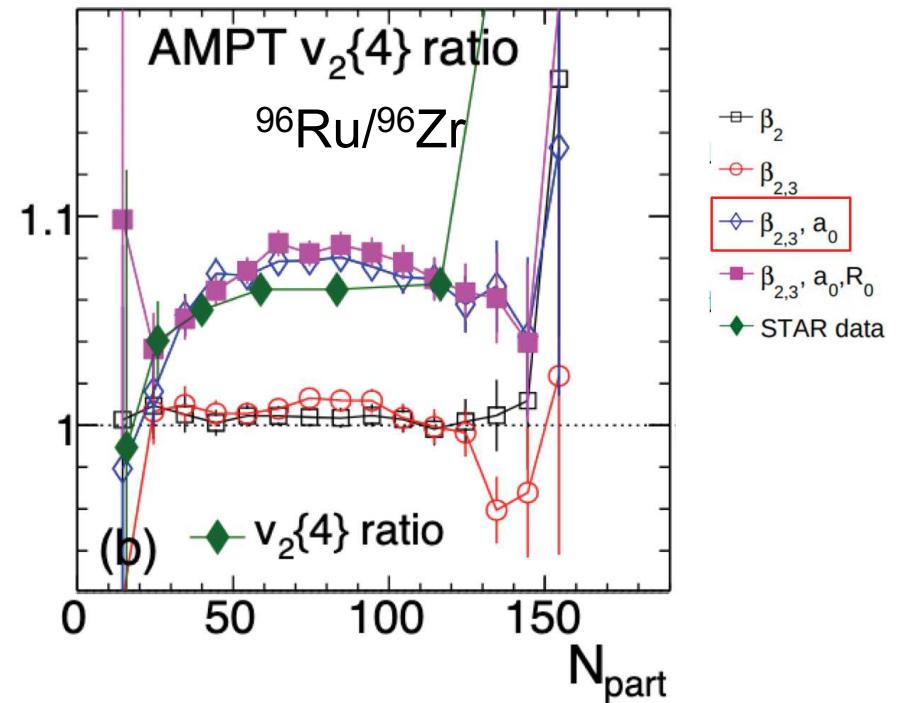


Neutron skin: STAR: 2204.01625

$0.44 \pm 0.05(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.08(\text{syst.}) \text{ fm}$  for  $^{238}\text{U}$

$0.17 \pm 0.03(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.08(\text{syst.}) \text{ fm}$  for  $^{197}\text{Au}$

## reaction-plane elliptic flow

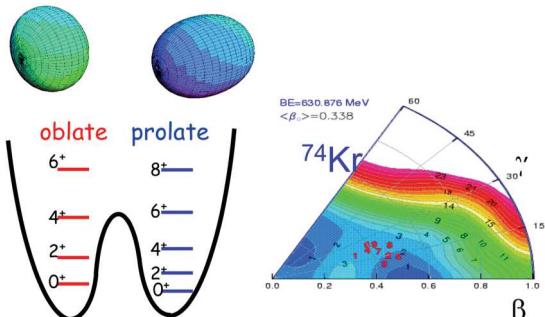


2206.10449

# Shape-fluctuation or shape-mixing

- Further explore connections between NS and HI, more observables
  - More case studies with Ru/Zr, Au/U, Pb/Xe. cancel most final state effect
  - Shape fluctuations and shape coexistence

**Shape coexistence**



quadrupole operator  $\hat{Q}$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle \beta^2 \rangle = \frac{16\pi^2}{9A^2R_0^4} \langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle \\ \sigma^2(\langle \beta^2 \rangle)/\langle \beta^2 \rangle = \sigma^2(\langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle)/\langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle \end{array} \right. \begin{array}{l} \xleftarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \text{2-p correlation} \\ \xleftarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \text{4-p correlation} \end{array}$$
  

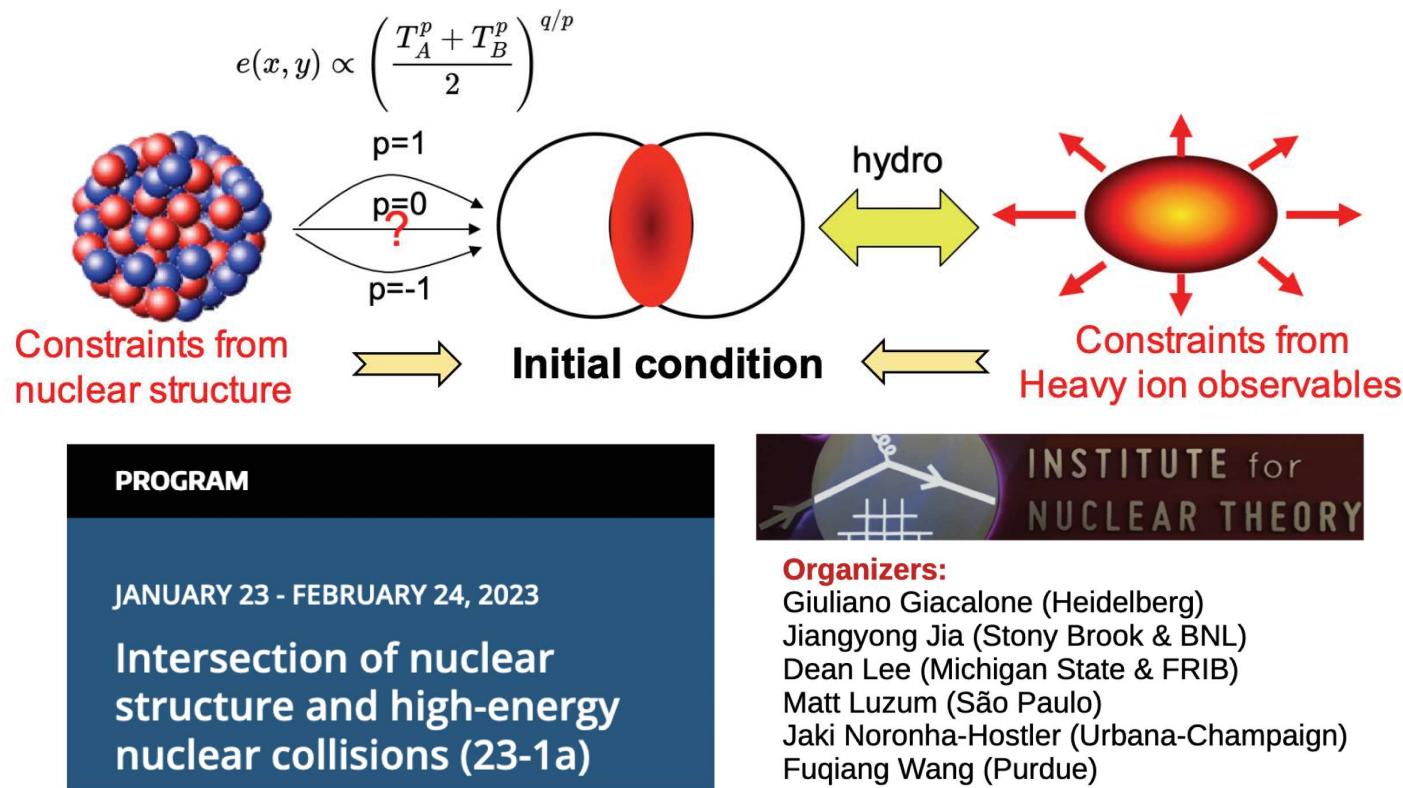
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1906.07542 \\ \langle \cos 3\gamma \rangle = -\sqrt{\frac{7}{2}} \frac{\langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle}{\langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle^{3/2}} \\ \frac{\sigma^2(\cos 3\gamma)}{(\cos 3\gamma)^2} = \frac{\sigma^2 \langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle}{\langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle^2} + \frac{9}{4} \frac{\sigma^2 \langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle}{\langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle^2} - 3 \frac{\langle \hat{Q}^5 \rangle - \langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle \langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle}{\langle \hat{Q}^3 \rangle \langle \hat{Q}^2 \rangle} \end{array} \right. \begin{array}{l} \xleftarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \text{3-p correlation} \\ \xleftarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \text{6-p correlation} \end{array}$$

Heavy ion observables:

$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle$ $\frac{3}{4\pi} \beta_2^2$		$\langle \varepsilon_2^4 \rangle - 2 \langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle^2$ $-\frac{9}{56\pi^2} \beta_2^4$
$\langle \varepsilon_2^2 (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp) \rangle$ $-\frac{3\sqrt{5}}{112\pi^{3/2}} \cos(3\gamma) \beta_2^3$		$(\langle \varepsilon_2^6 \rangle - 9 \langle \varepsilon_2^4 \rangle \langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle + 12 \langle \varepsilon_2^2 \rangle^3) / 4$ $\frac{27(373 - 25 \cos(6\gamma))}{32 \times 8008\pi^3} \beta_2^6$

# Summary

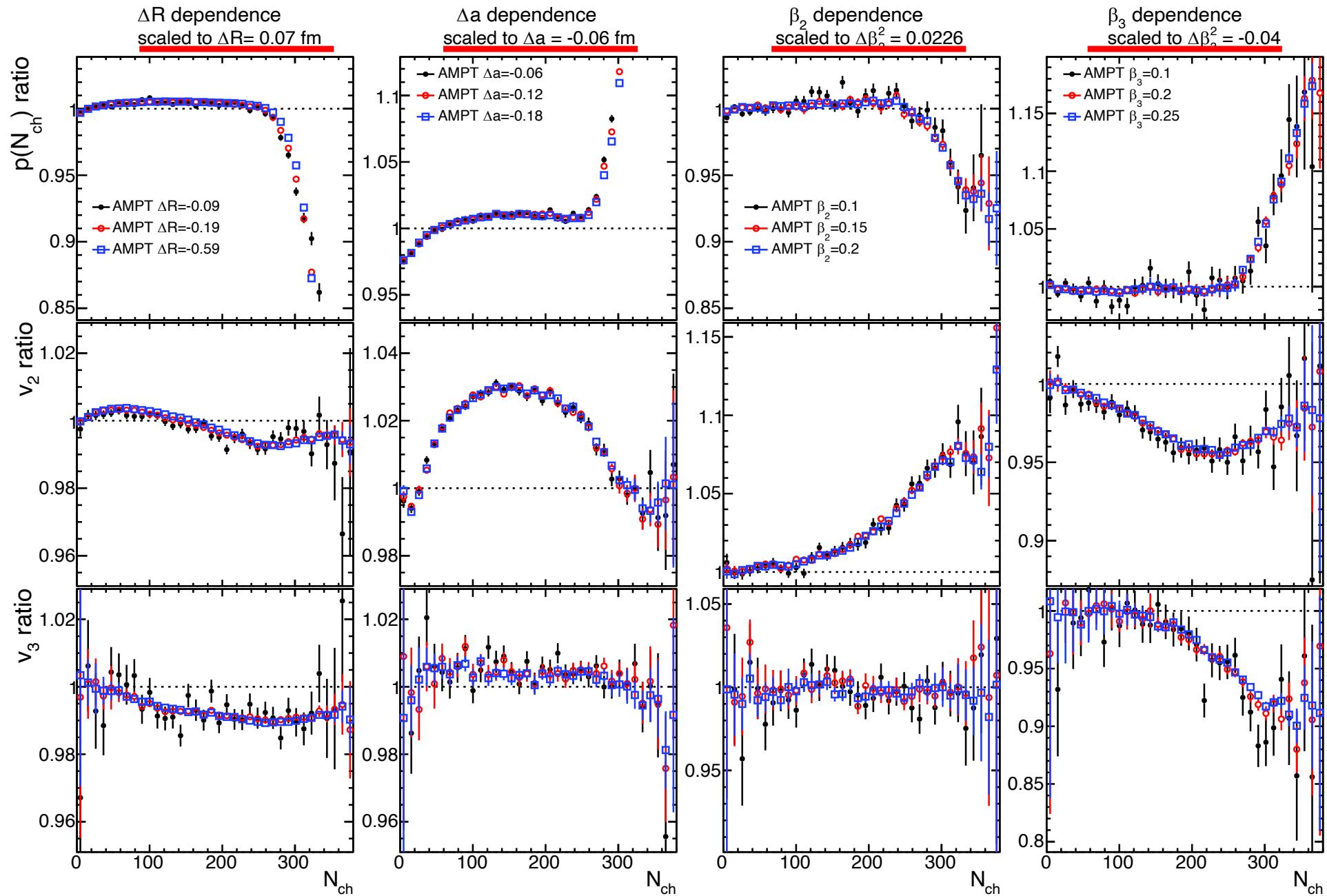
- Precision QGP initial condition via constraints from both NS input and HI observables → Improve the extraction of QGP properties.
- Understanding how initial condition respond to NS in turn allow us to probe novel nuclear structure properties and compliment low-energy experiments
- Identify interesting isobar species across nuclear chart to map out initial condition from small to larger system (250 stable isotopes, 141 isobar pairs or triplets )



arXiv:2102.08158

$A$	isobars	$A$	isobars	$A$	isobars
36	Ar, S	106	Pd, Cd	148	Nd, Sm
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54	Cr, Fe	114	Cd, Sn	158	Gd, Dy
64	Ni, Zn	115	In, Sn	160	Gd, Dy
70	Zn, Ge	116	Cd, Sn	162	Dy, Er
74	Ge, Se	120	Sn, Te	164	Dy, Er
76	Ge, Se	122	Sn, Te	168	Er, Yb
78	Se, Kr	123	Sb, Te	170	Er, Yb
80	Se, Kr	124	Sn, Te, Xe	174	Yb, Hf
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86	Kr, Sr	128	Te, Xe	180	Hf, W
87	Rb, Sr	130	Te, Xe, Ba	184	W, Os
92	Zr, Nb, Mo	132	Xe, Ba	186	W, Os
94	Zr, Mo	134	Xe, Ba	187	Re, Os
96	Zr, Mo, Ru	136	Xe, Ba, Ce	190	Os, Pt
98	Mo, Ru	138	Ba, La, Ce	192	Os, Pt
100	Mo, Ru	142	Ce, Nd	198	Pt, Hg
102	Ru, Pd	144	Nd, Sm	204	Hg, Pb
104	Ru, Pd	146	Nd, Sm		

# Test scaling in AMPT



Verifies the relation:  $1 + c_1 \Delta\beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta\beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta a + c_4 \Delta R$