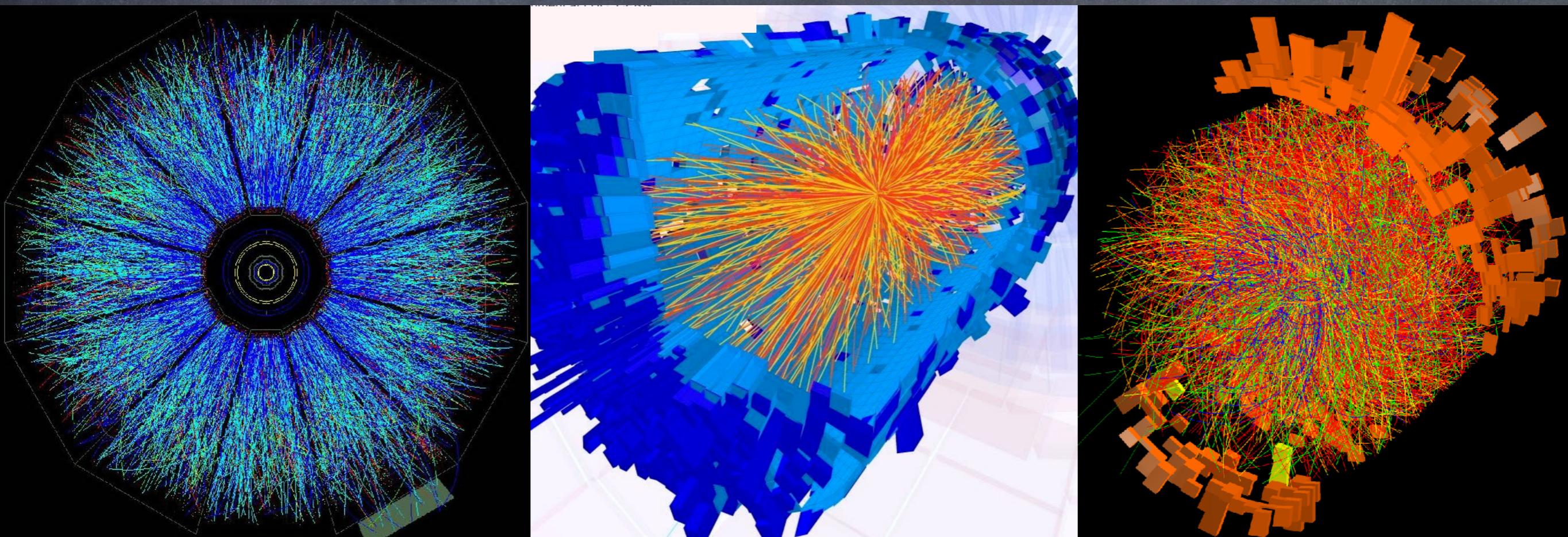


# Introduction to soft probes: an experimental overview



# QCD matter

“Ordinary” matter  $\rightarrow$  color confinement

Cabibbo, Parisi “Exponential hadronic spectrum and quark liberation” PLB 59 (1975) 67

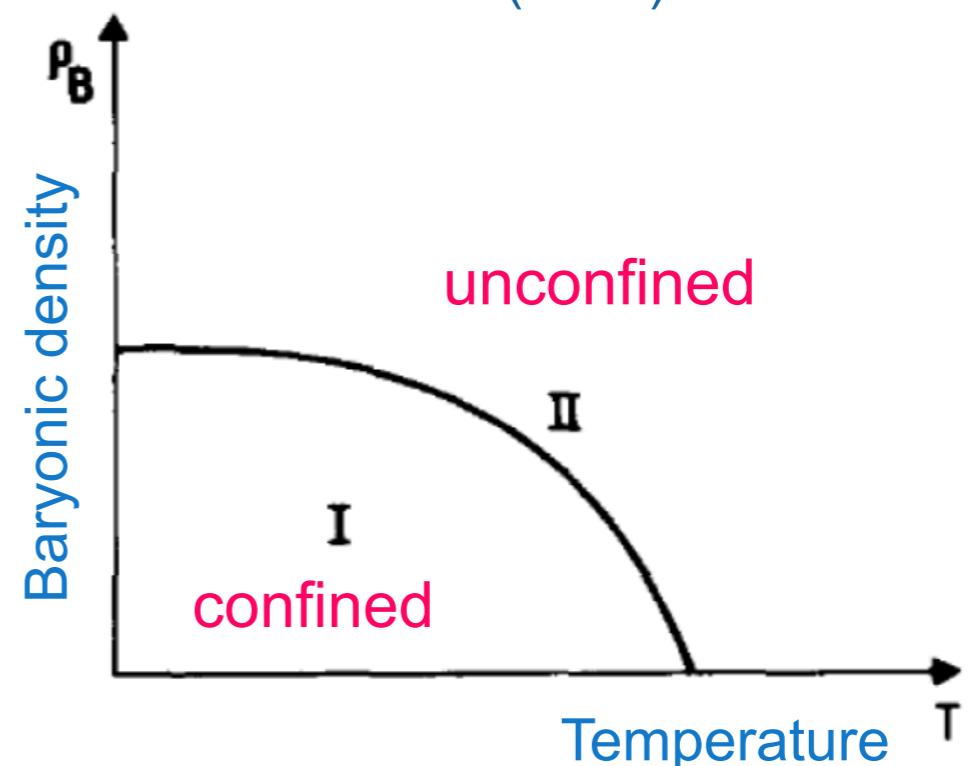


Fig. 1. Schematic phase diagram of hadronic matter.  $\rho_B$  is the density of baryonic number. Quarks are confined in phase I and unconfined in phase II.

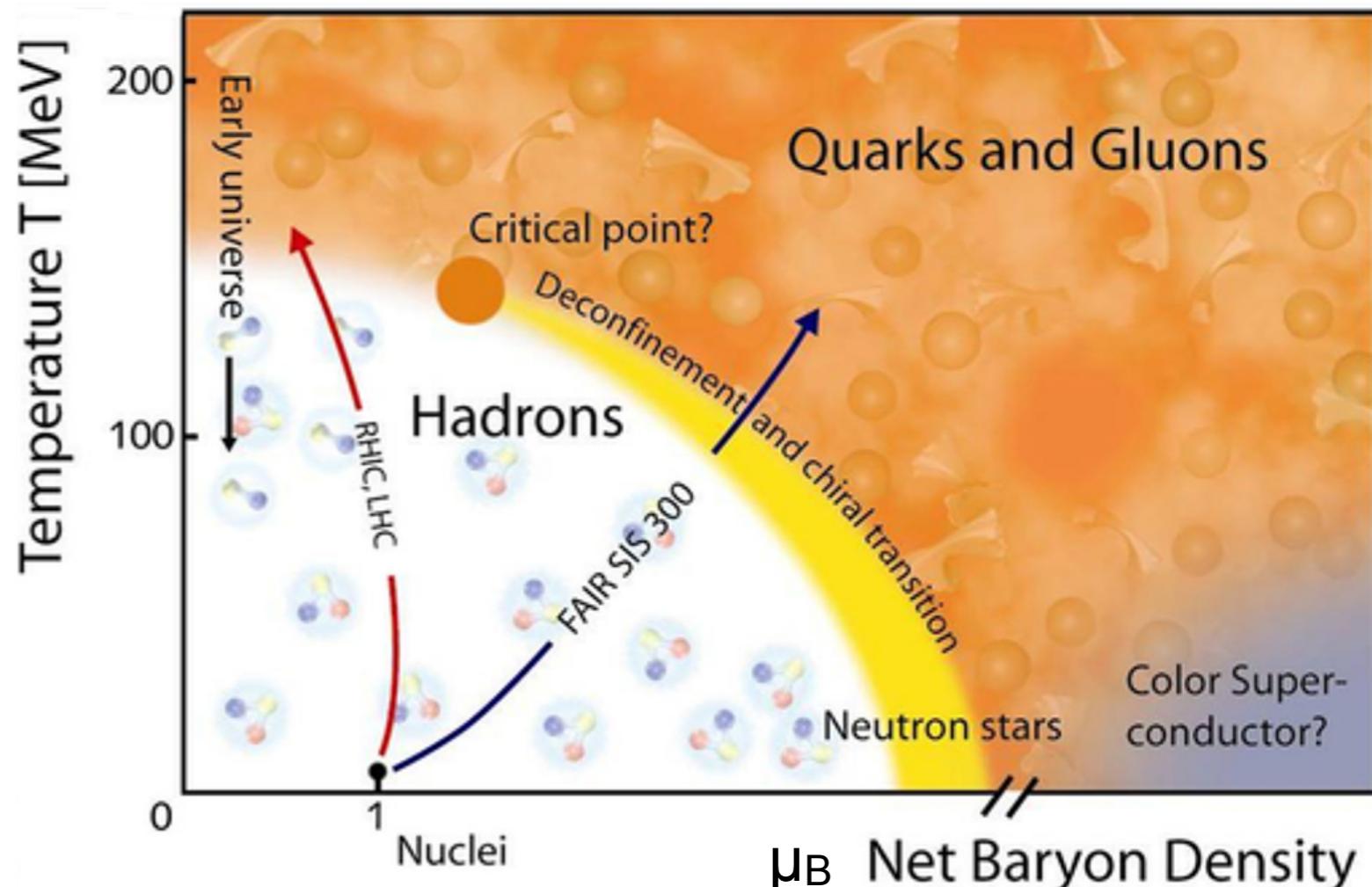
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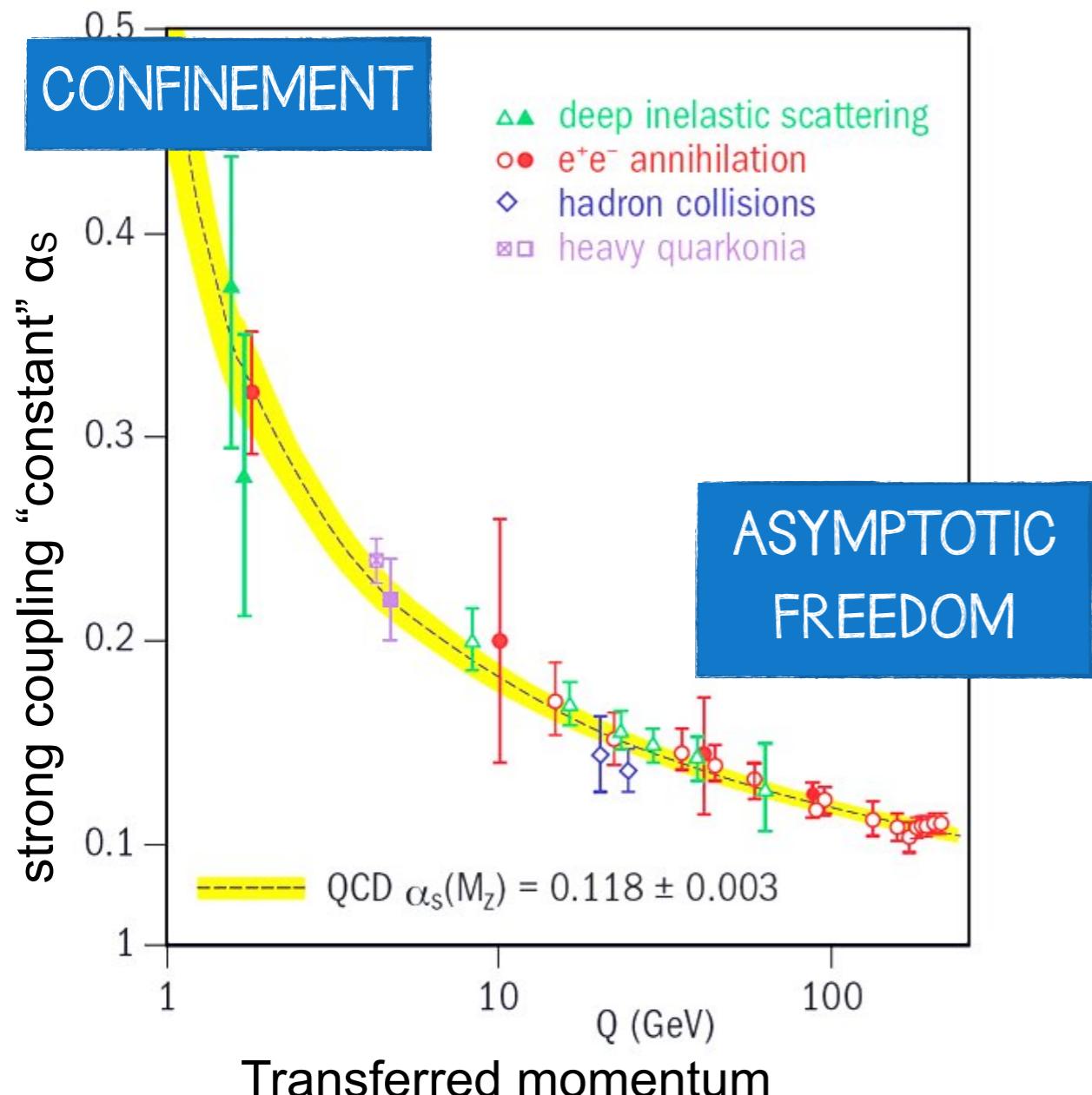
Phase transition from confined quark matter (hadron gas) to Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)  $\rightarrow$  DECONFINEMENT

Lattice QCD predictions for transition at  $\mu_B \sim 0$ :

- $\rightarrow T_c \sim 155 \pm 9$  MeV
- $\rightarrow \epsilon_c \sim 0.2\text{-}0.7$  GeV/fm $^3$
- $\rightarrow$  smooth crossover



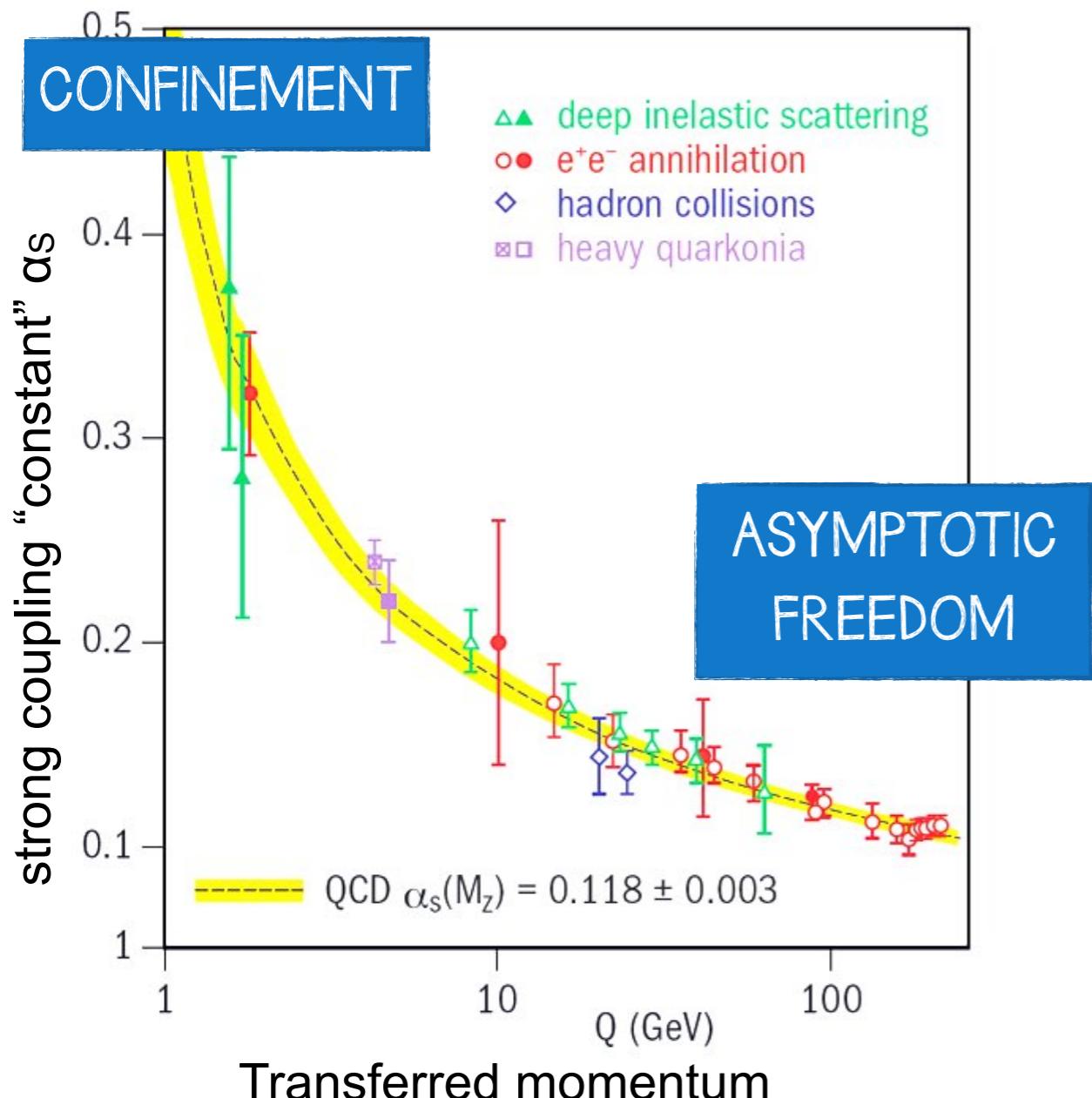
Ultra-relativistic heavy-ion physics  $\rightarrow$  study QCD at high temperature and density (QCD thermodynamics)



Gluons interact with quarks and with gluons, leading to antiscreening with increasing  $Q$

high  $Q$ , low  $\alpha_s$   $\rightarrow$  ASYMPTOTIC FREEDOM  
free quarks and gluons at high energies  
high  $Q$ , small  $\alpha_s$   
 $\rightarrow$  perturbative QCD applicable

low  $Q$ , high  $\alpha_s$   $\rightarrow$  confinement

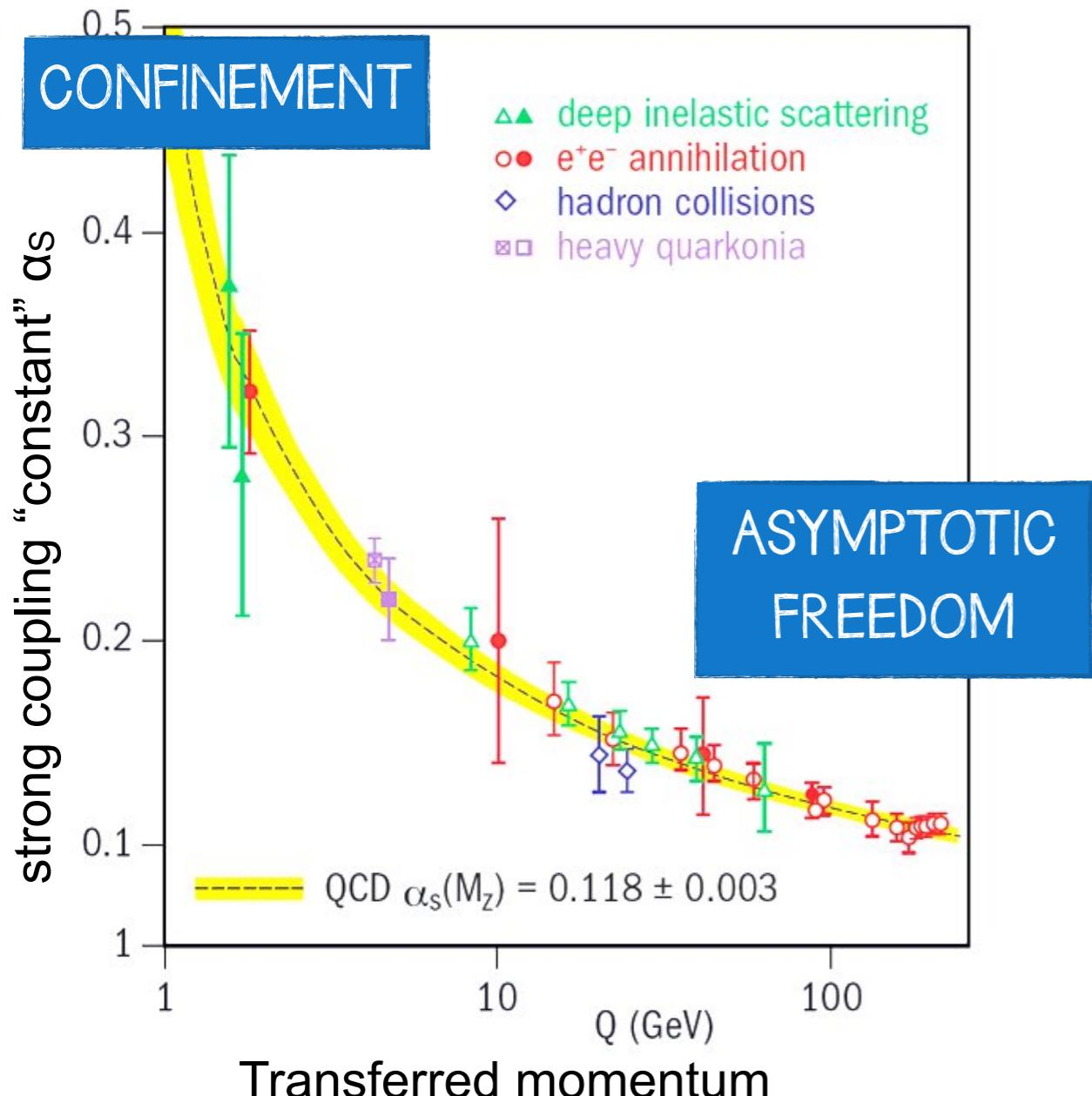


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**SOFT** = not hard!

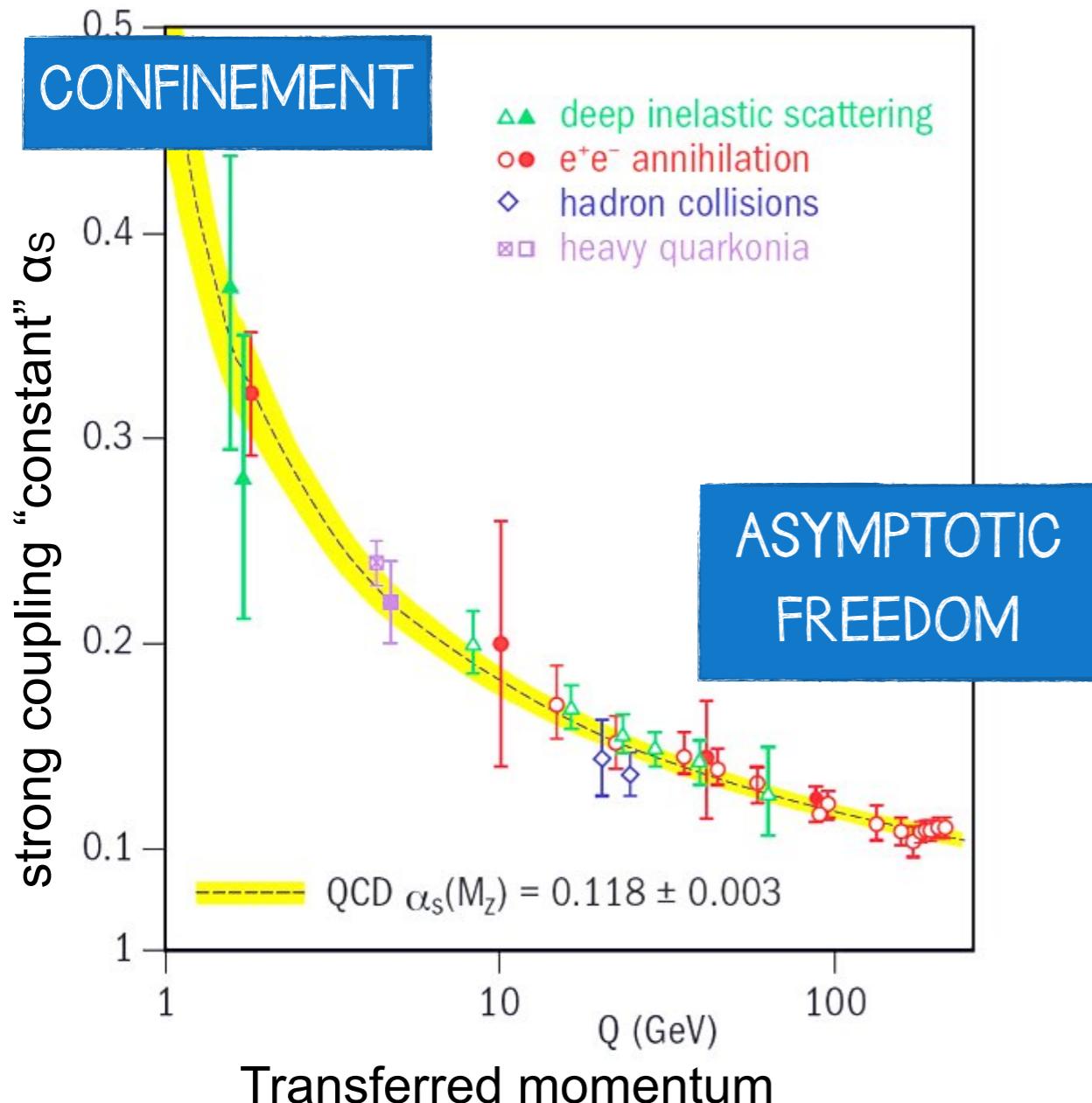


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**SOFT** = not hard!  $\rightarrow$  small exchanged momentum  $Q$   $\rightarrow$  pQCD not applicable  
 $\rightarrow$  effective theories, transport models, statistical models...



Gluons interact with quarks and with gluons, leading to antiscreening with increasing  $Q$

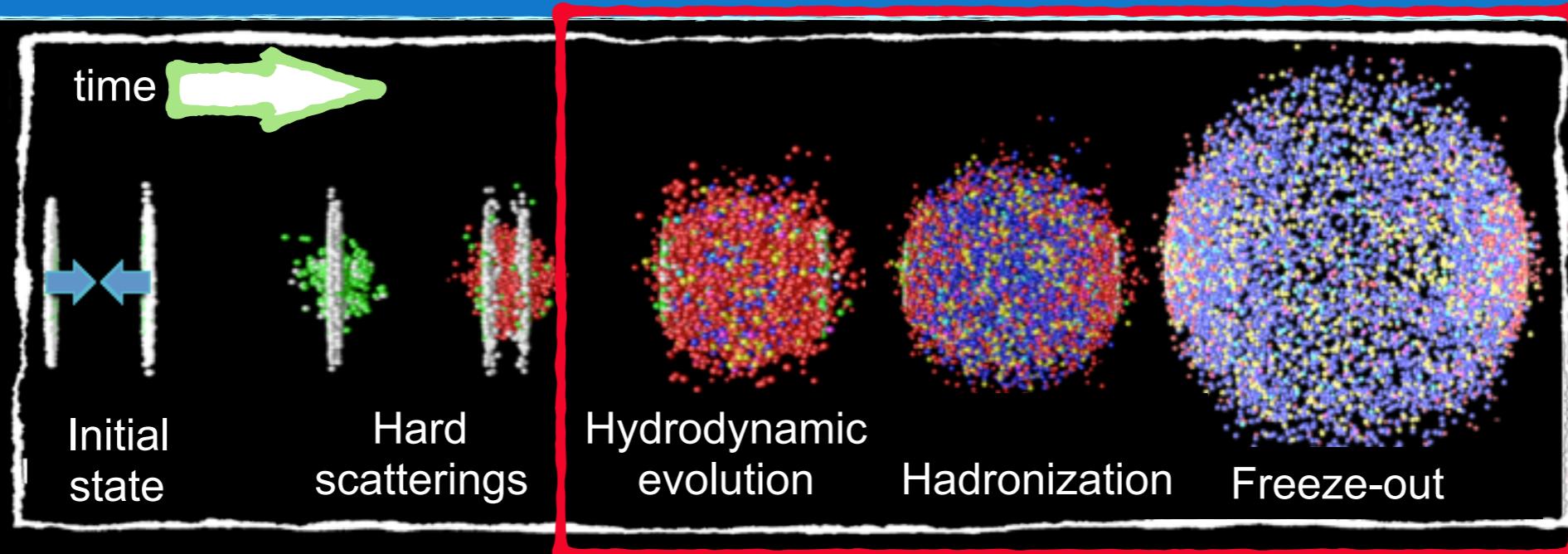
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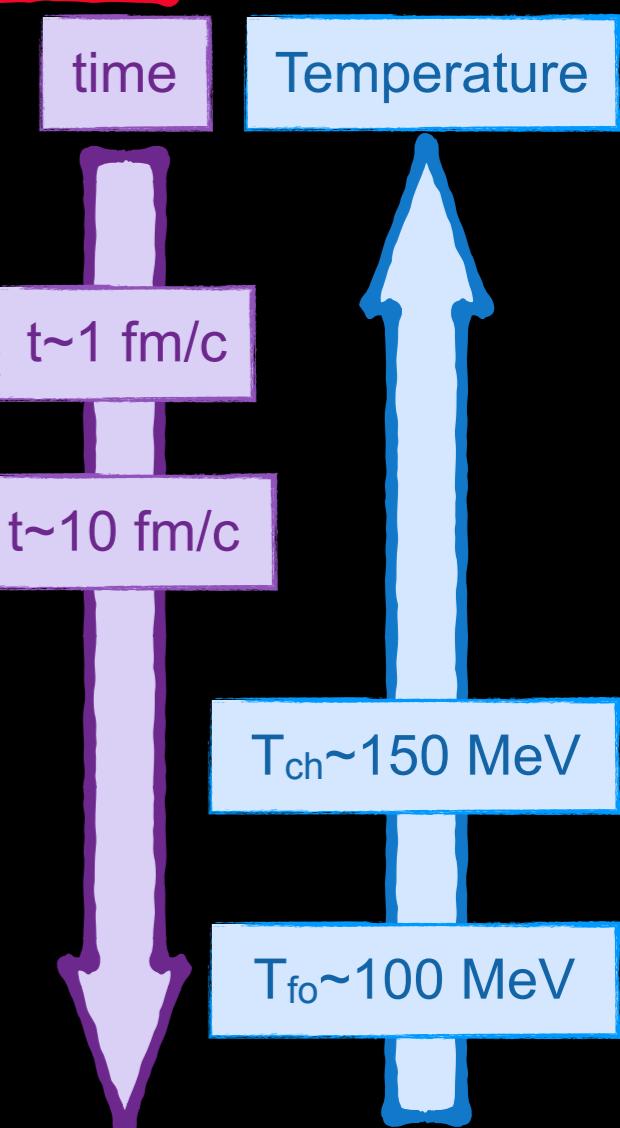
**SOFT** = not hard!  $\rightarrow$  small exchanged momentum  $Q$   $\rightarrow$  pQCD not applicable  
 $\rightarrow$  effective theories, transport models, statistical models...

**SOFT** = harder!

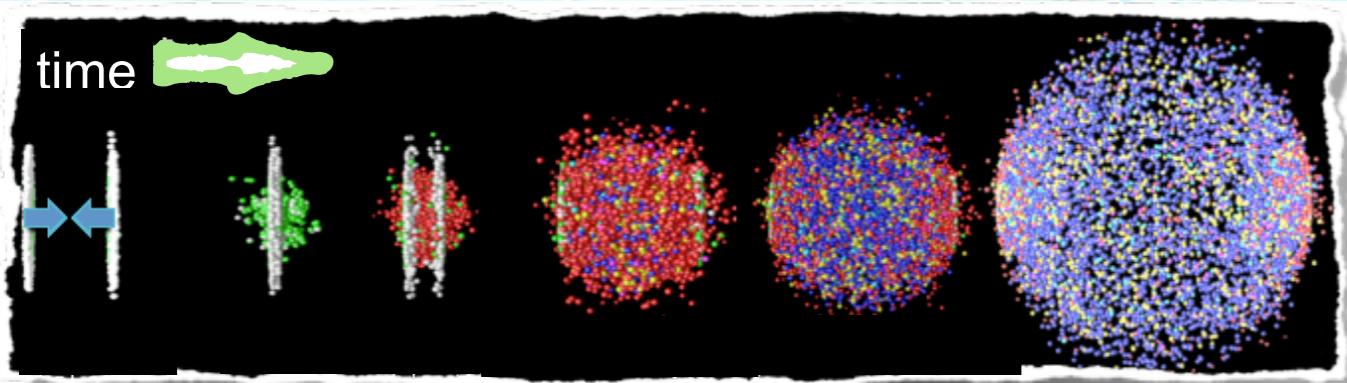
# Evolution of the collision



- **INITIAL STATE** → saturated partonic system
- Local **THERMAL EQUILIBRIUM** rapidly ( $\tau \sim 1$  fm/c) reached
- **HYDRODYNAMICS** → system expansion and cooling described by almost ideal fluid dynamics
- **HADRONIZATION** → transition from QGP to hadrons
- **CHEMICAL FREEZE-OUT** → inelastic interactions cease, particle abundances frozen
- **KINETIC FREEZE-OUT** → elastic interactions cease, particle dynamics (spectra) frozen



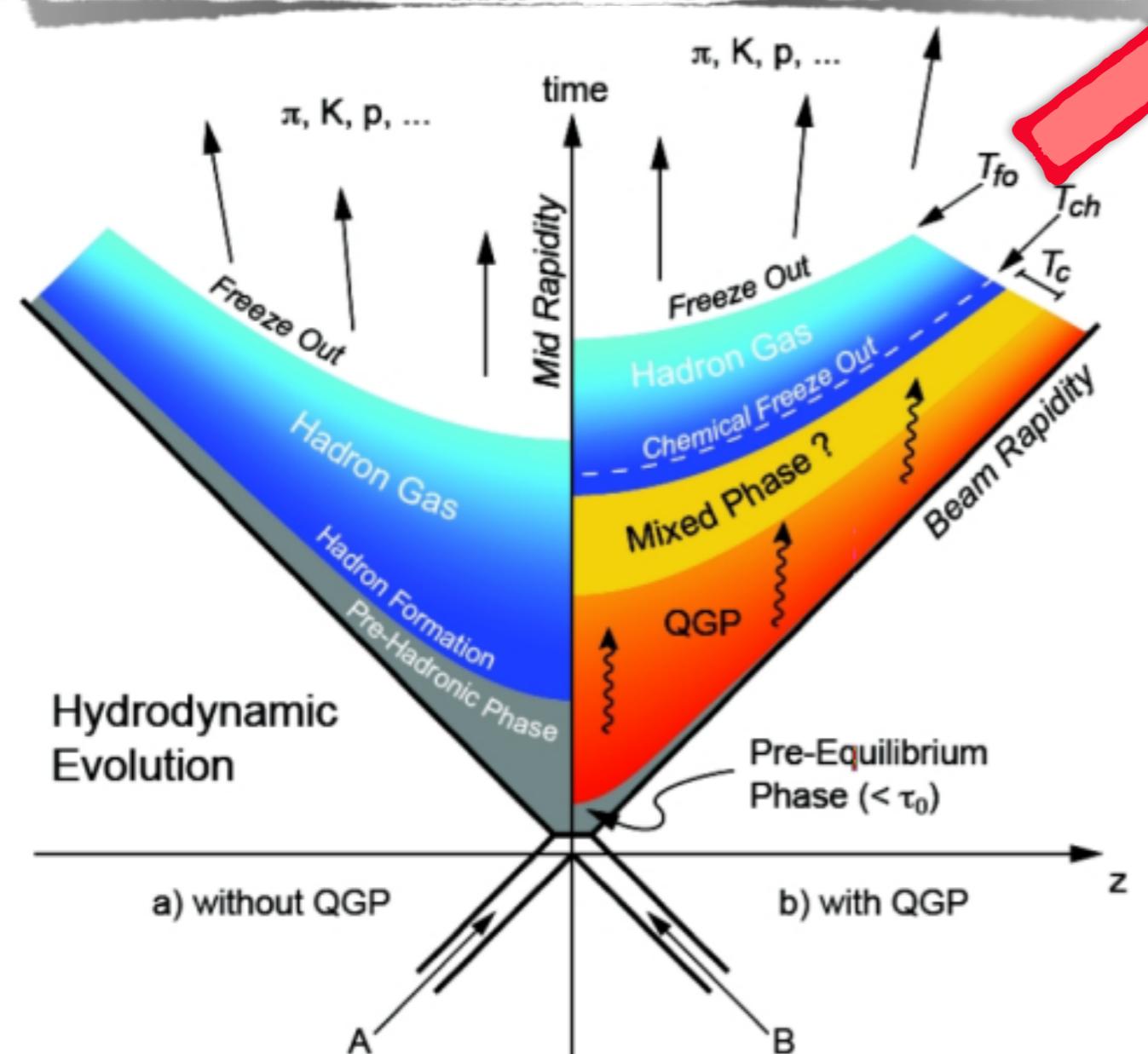
# Observables



time



Soft probes produced at late stages with low transverse momentum,  $p_T$ , are a tool to characterize the produced medium



Hydrodynamic  
Evolution

a) without QGP

b) with QGP

A

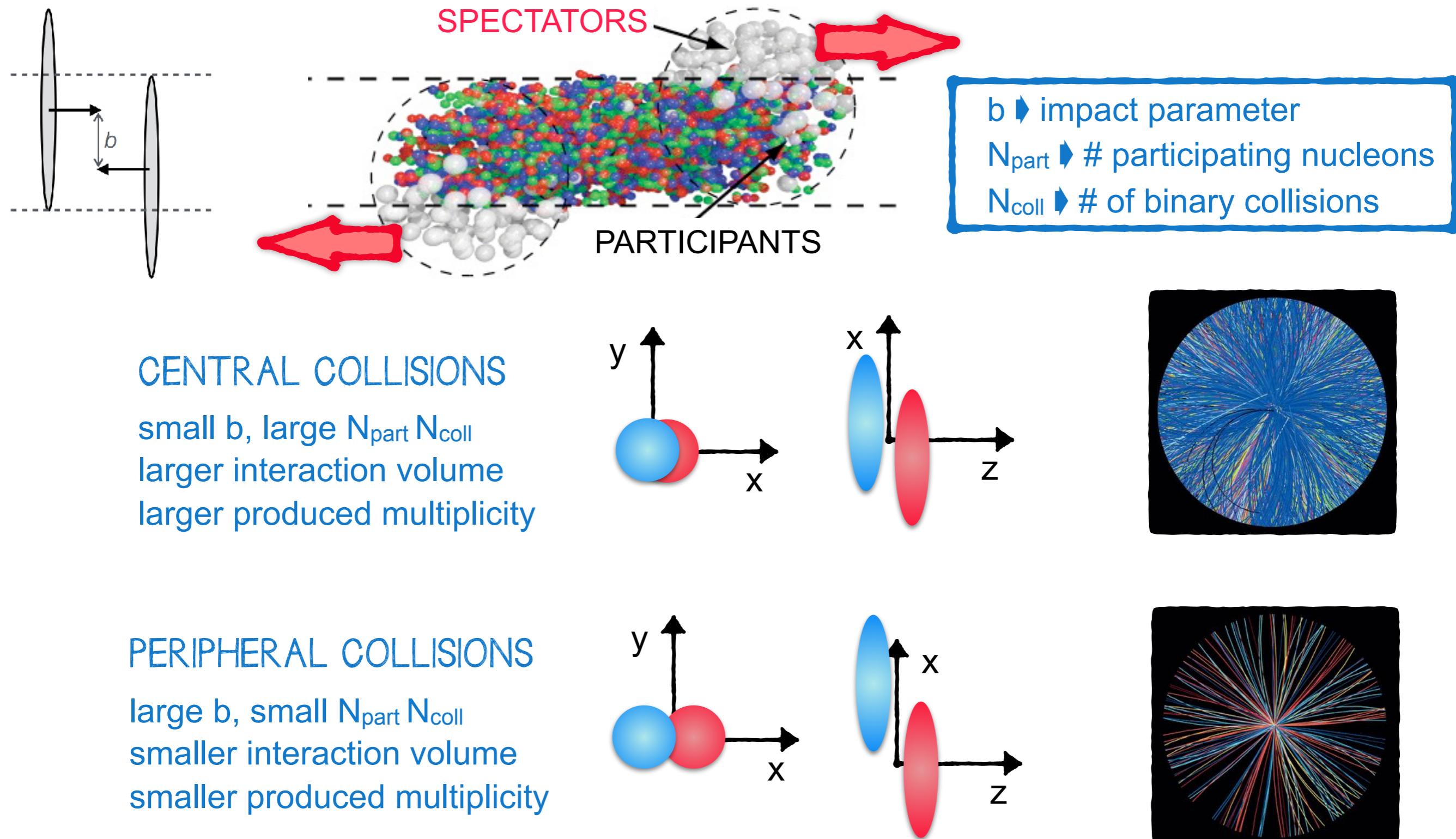
z

B

## OBSERVABLES

- multiplicity
- transverse energy
- HBT femtoscopy
- direct photons
- fluctuations
- thermal photons
- particle yields
- particle spectra
- particle correlations
- flow
- strangeness production
- nuclei production

# Global properties

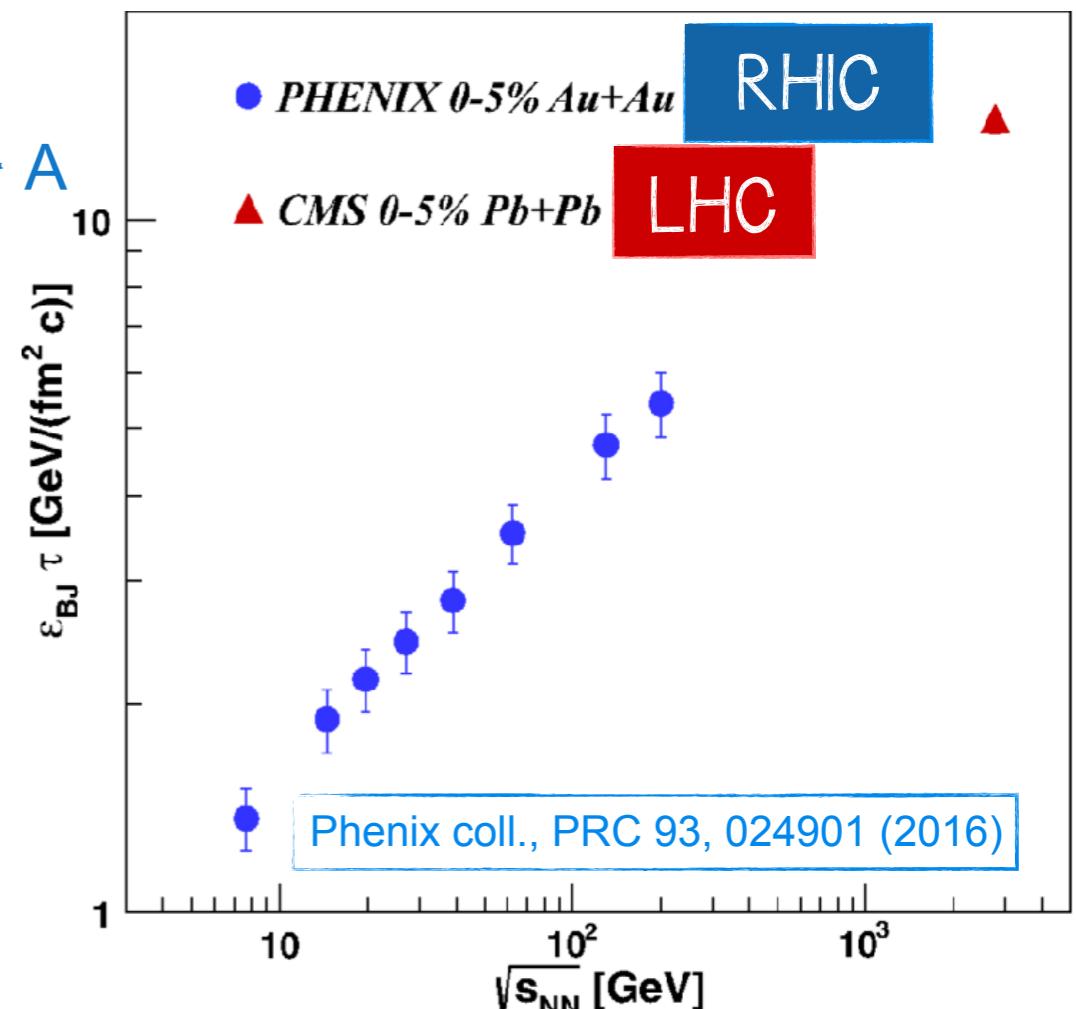
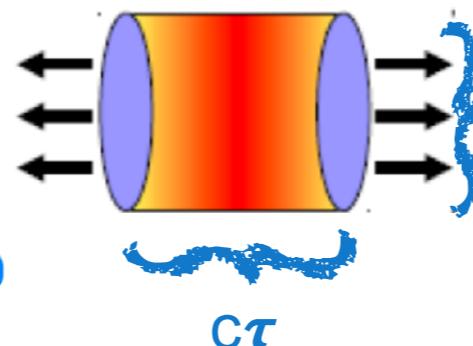


# Global properties

Bjorken estimate of initial energy density in central A-A collisions

$$\epsilon_{Bj} = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Volume}} = \frac{1}{\tau A} \frac{dE_T}{dy} \Big|_{y=0}$$

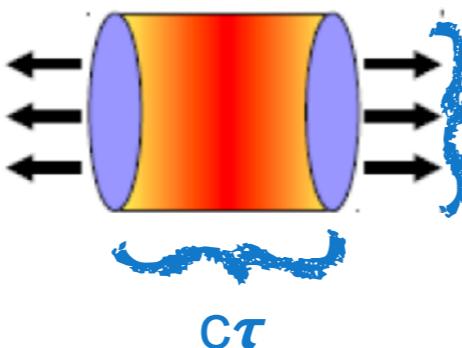
$$\epsilon_{LHC} \sim 14 \text{ GeV/fm}^3$$



# Global properties

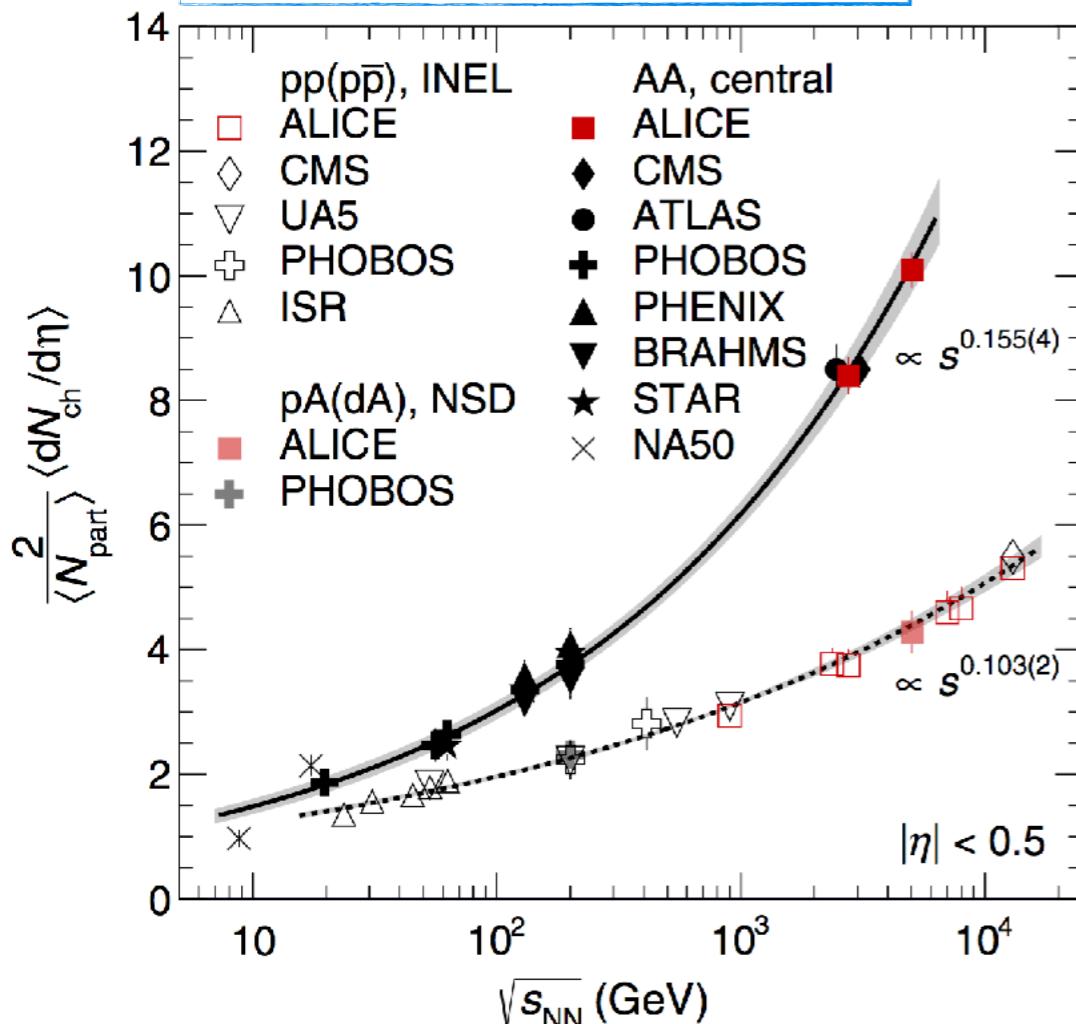
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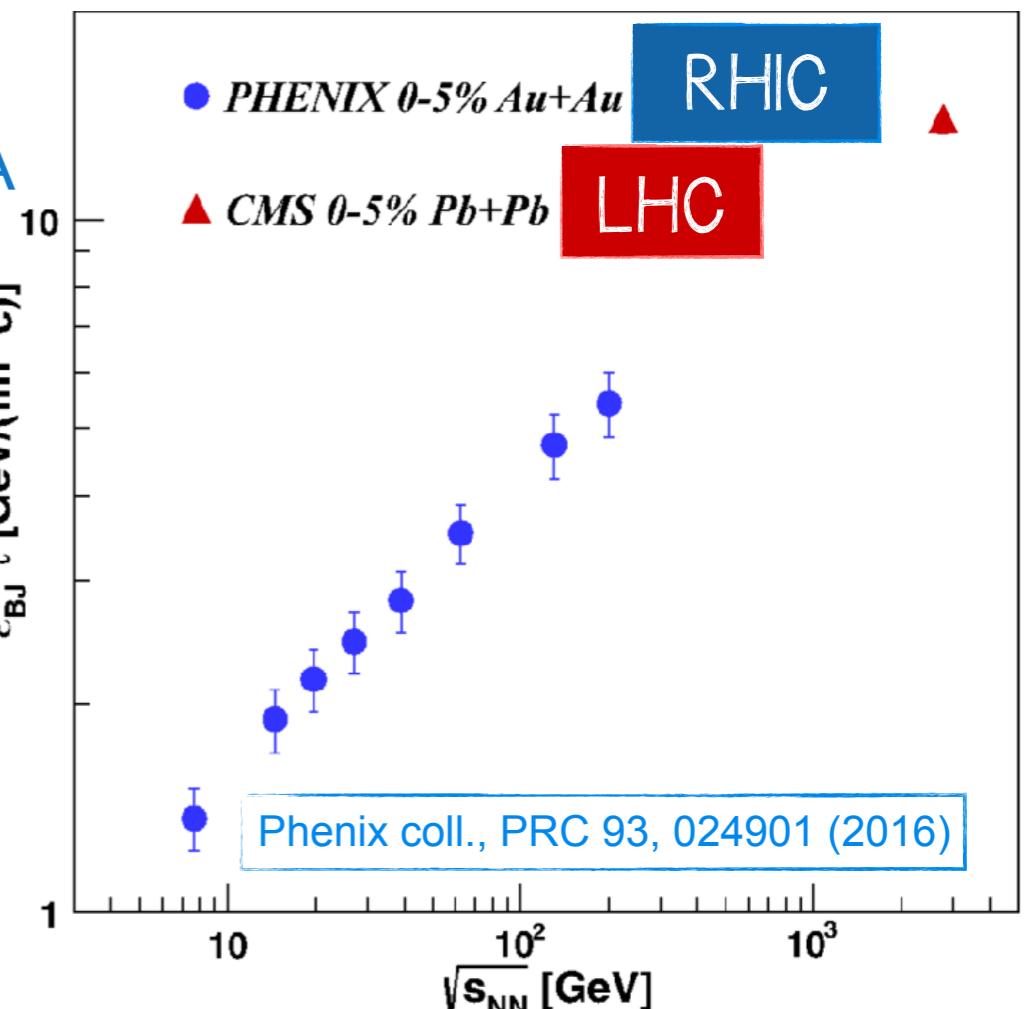


$$\epsilon_{LHC} \sim 14 \text{ GeV/fm}^3$$

ALICE coll., PRL116, 222302 (2016)



Bjorken, PRD 27 (1983) 140



Charged particle multiplicity densities  
 ▶ scales with  $s^\alpha$   
 ▶ increase in central A-A is stronger than in pp,  
 p-A collisions

# Initial conditions



Density of gluons rises rapidly for decreasing  $x$

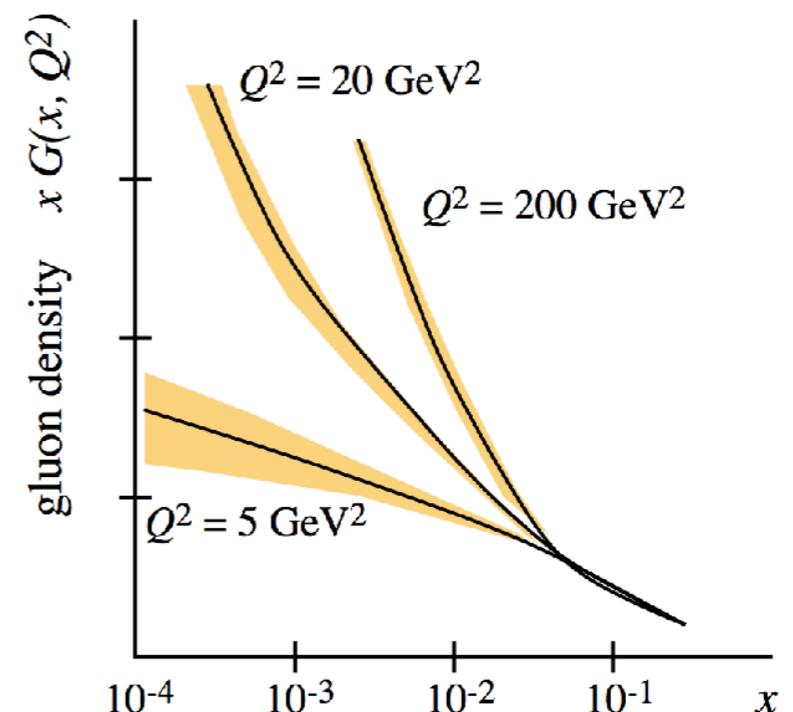
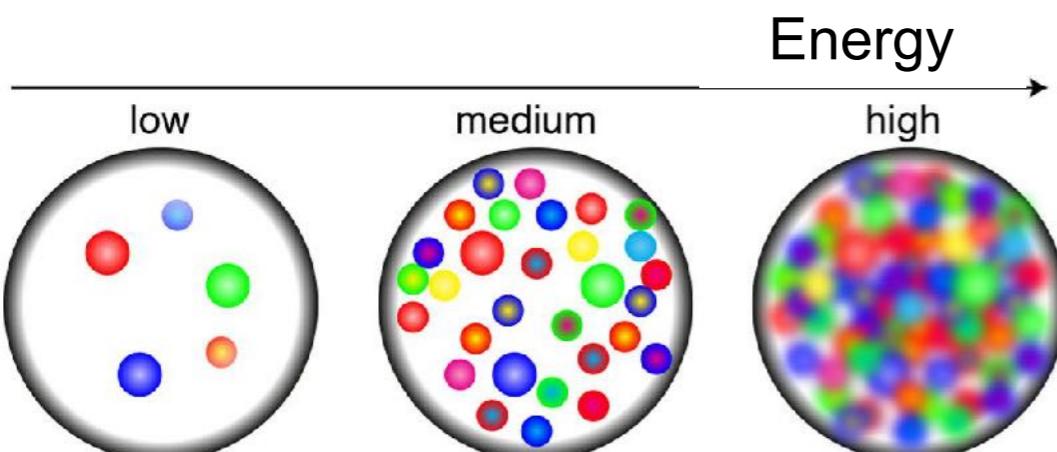
(increasing energy)

Cross-sections at high energies rise slowly

↳ gluon must “fit” inside hadron size

↳ gluon density limited ↳ **SATURATION**

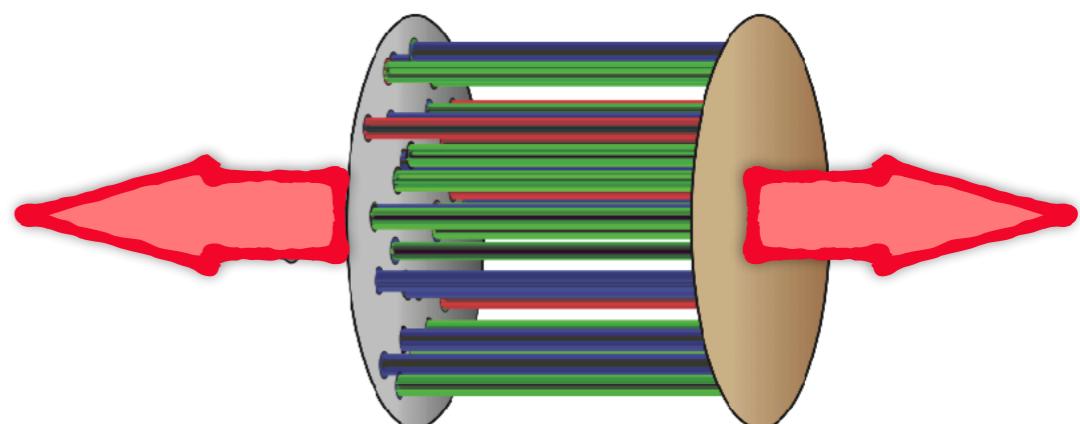
saturation scale  $\sim Q_s$  occupation number  $\sim \alpha_s$



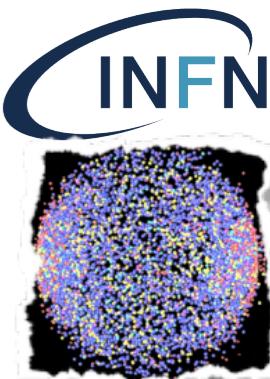
Weakly interacting tightly packed small- $x$  gluons ↳ strong color fields between nuclei

**Color Glass Condensate (CGC):** effective field theory describing universal properties of saturated gluons in hadron wave functions

CGC dynamics produces **GLASMA** gluon field configurations at early time



# Chemical freeze-out



Assuming thermal and chemical equilibrium

## ► STATISTICAL HADRONIZATION (THERMAL) MODEL

GRAND-CANONICAL ENSEMBLE: large number of produced particles ( $>10^4$  full rapidity range at LHC) ► conservation on average of additive quantum numbers

Yield per species:

$$N_i = V \frac{g_i}{2\pi^2} \int \frac{p^2 dp}{e^{\frac{E_i - \mu_i}{T}} \pm 1}$$

$$\mu_i = \mu_B B_i + \mu_S S_i + \mu_{I_3} I_{3,i}$$

Conservation laws to constrain  $V$ ,  $\mu_S$ ,  $\mu_{I_3}$

baryon number  $V \sum_i n_i B_i = Z + N$

strangeness  $V \sum_i n_i S_i = 0$

isospin charge  $V \sum_i n_i I_{3,i} = \frac{Z-N}{2}$

► yields determined by 3 parameters:  $V$ ,  $T$ ,  $\mu_B$

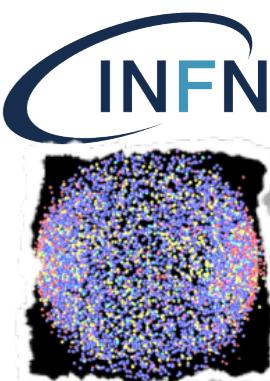
► comparing particle ratios,  $V$  term cancels out

► fit experimental data to extract  $T$ ,  $\mu_B$

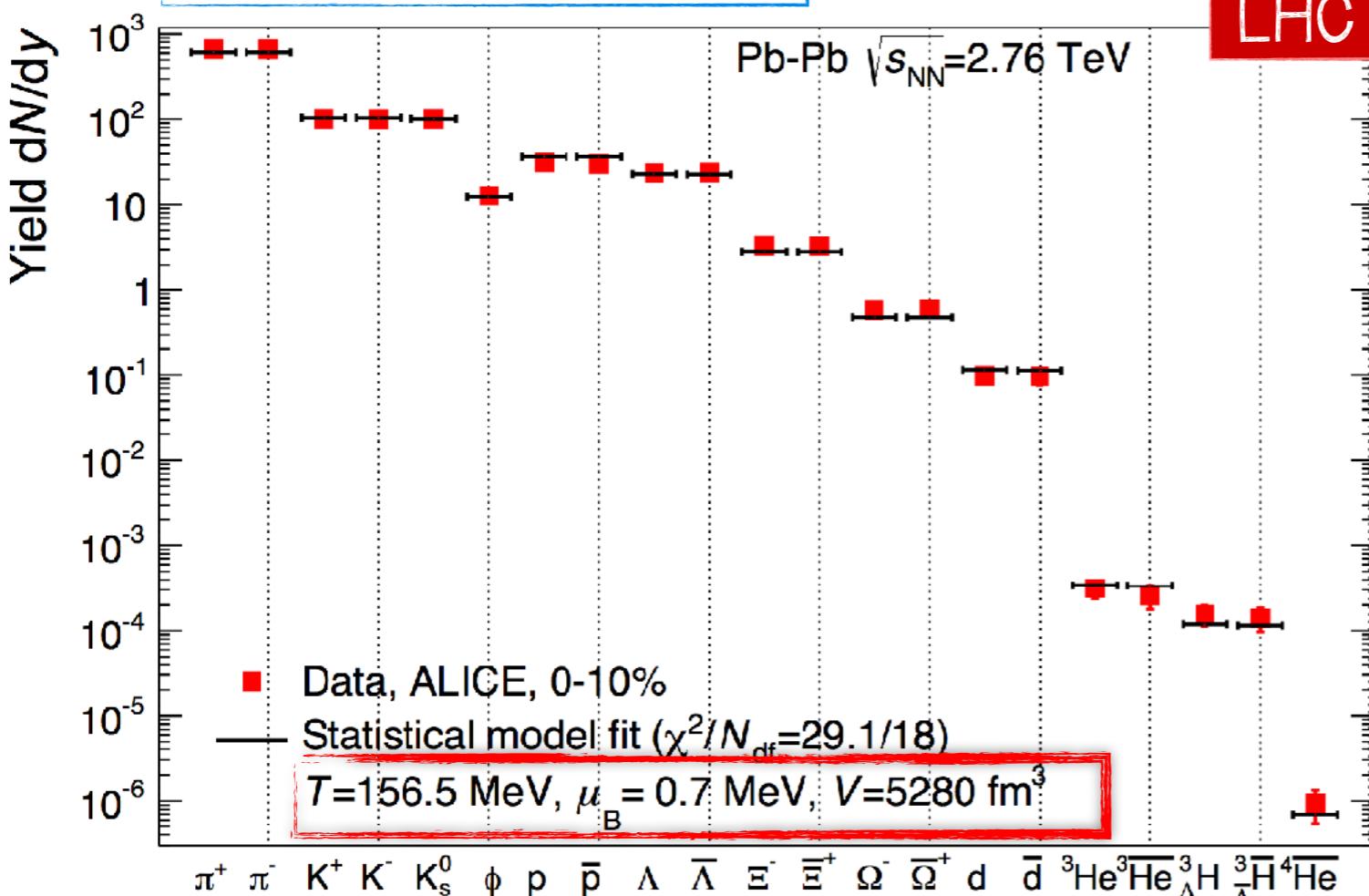


$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{N_i^{data} - N_i^{model}}{\sigma_i^2}$$

# Statistical model: yields

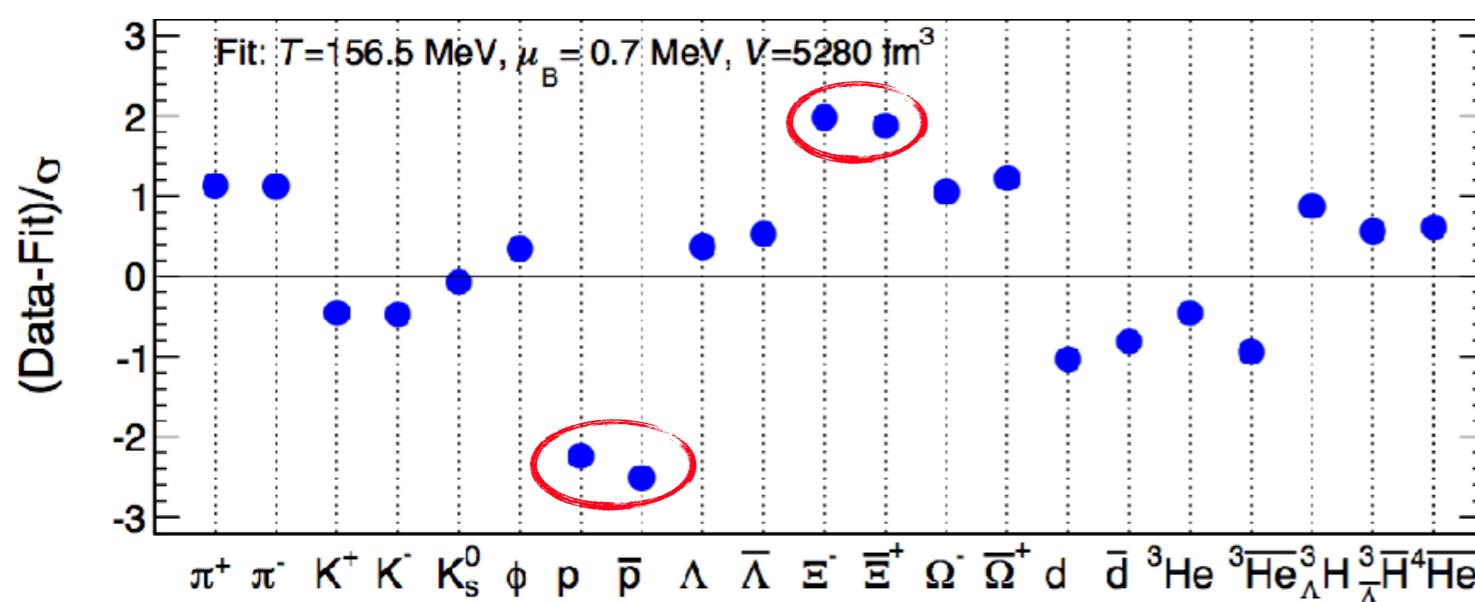


A. Andronic et al., arXiv:1611.01347



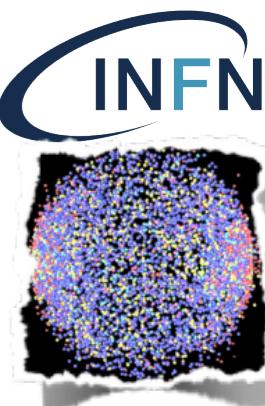
- ▶ hadron abundancies in reasonable agreement with a chemically-equilibrated system

- what is the origin of equilibrium?
- ▶ general property of QCD hadronization process?
- ▶ hadron gas thermalizes through particle scattering in the high particle density environment?

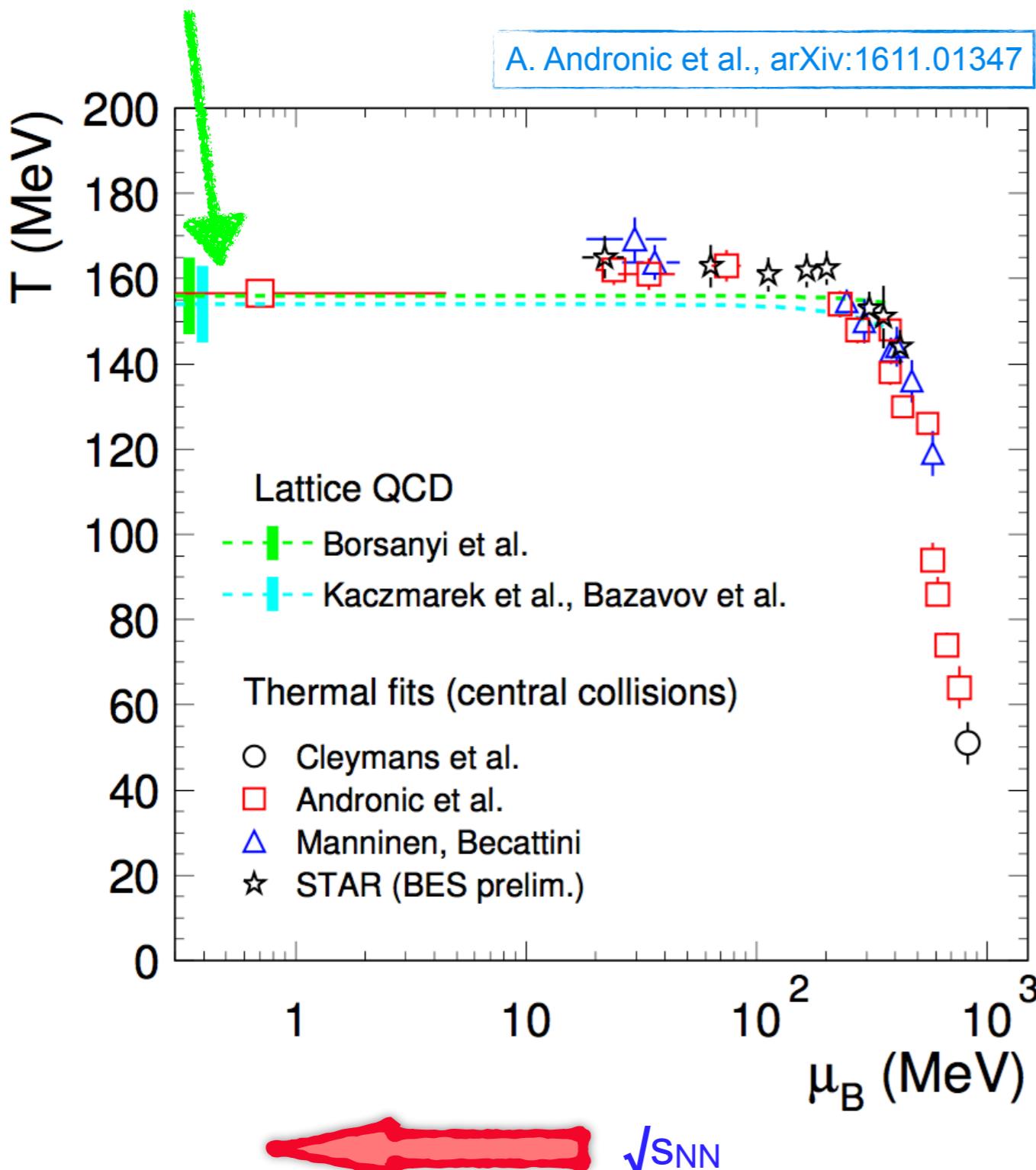


- Tensions for  $p[\text{uud}]$  (favour lower  $T_{\text{ch}}$ )
- $\Xi[\text{dss}]$  (favour higher  $T_{\text{ch}}$ )
- ▶ re-scattering in hadronic phase?
- ▶ flavor-dependent freeze-out?

# Freeze-out and QCD phase diagram

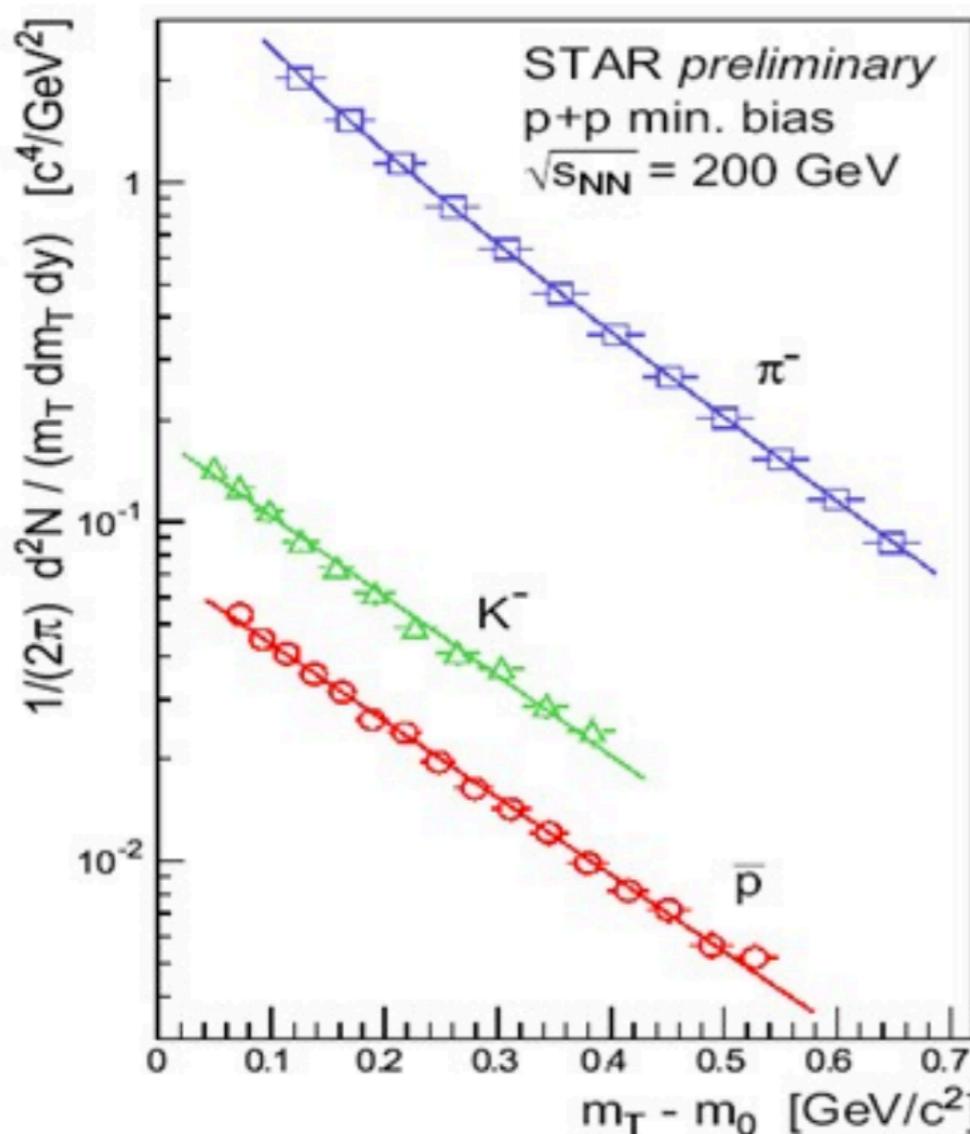
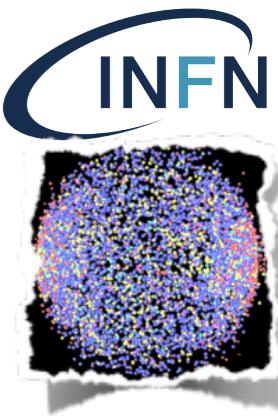


crossover T value from lattice QCD



- $T, \mu_B$  from thermal fits to hadron yields at different collision energies  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}}$ 
  - hadron freeze-out curve
  - at low  $\mu_B$  chemical freeze-out  $T$  coincides with  $T_c$
  - hadron formation from deconfined matter
- at LHC  $\mu_B \sim 0$ : (anti)matter production as in early Universe

# Kinetic equilibrium

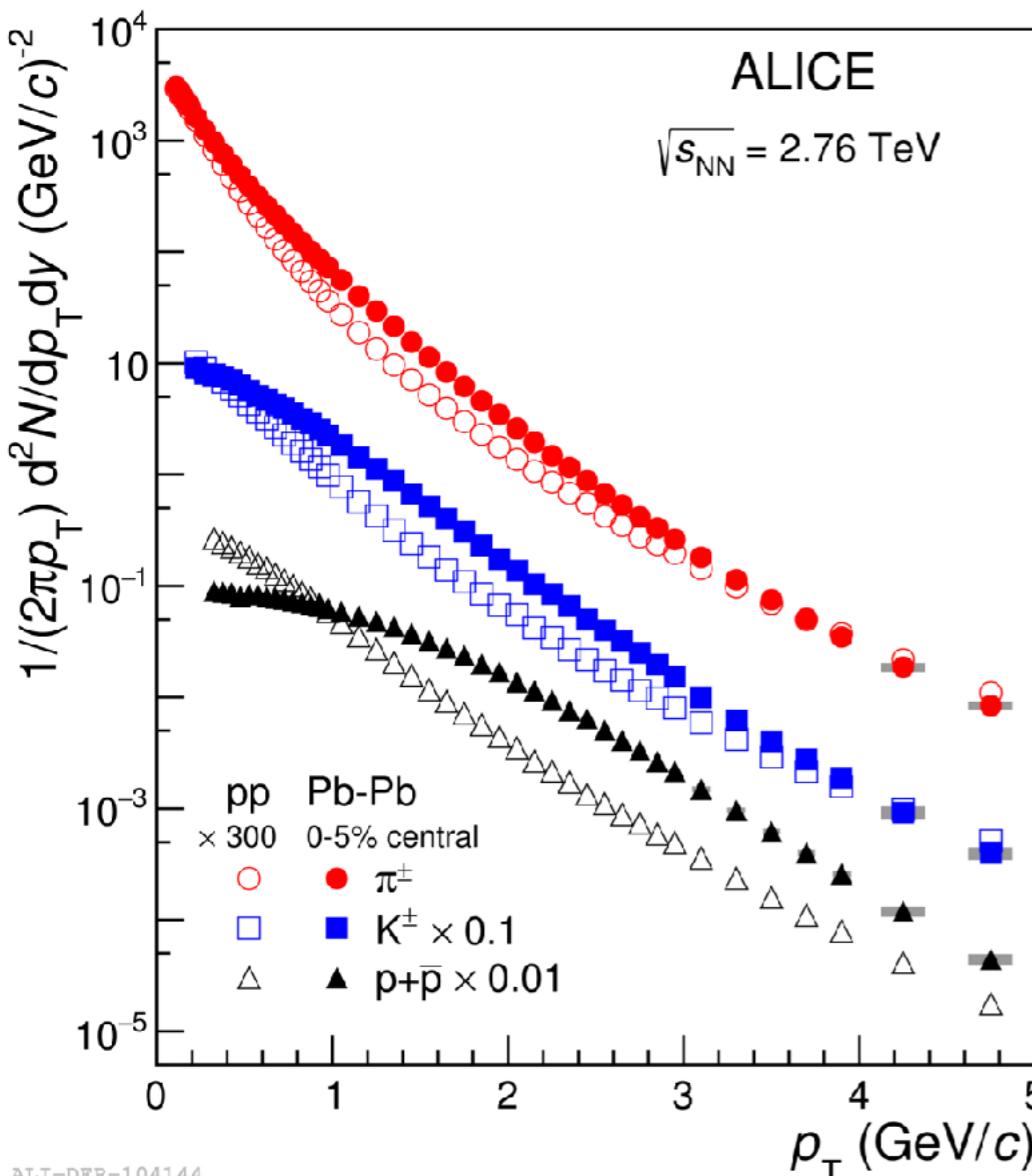
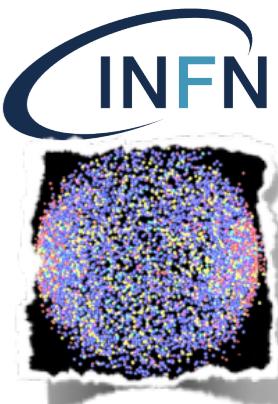


pp collisions at low  $p_T$  show transverse mass ( $m_T = m^2 + p_T^2$ ) scaling  $\rightarrow$  thermal spectra

$$\frac{dN}{m_T dm_T} \propto e^{-\frac{m_T}{T_{slope}}}$$

- $\rightarrow$  same inverse slope  $T_{slope}$  for all particles
- $\rightarrow T_{slope} = T$  at kinetic freeze-out  $T_{fo}$

# Kinetic equilibrium



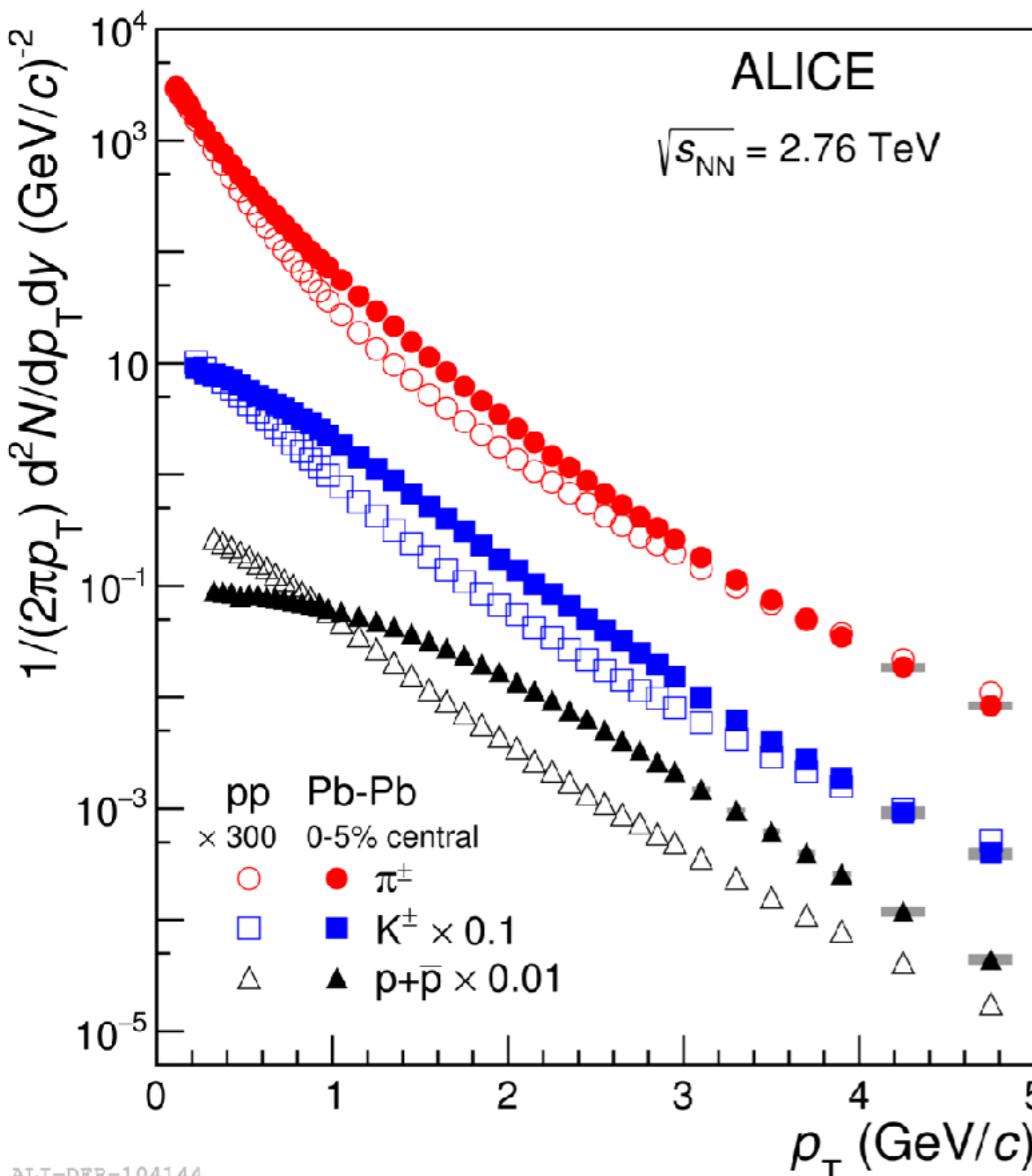
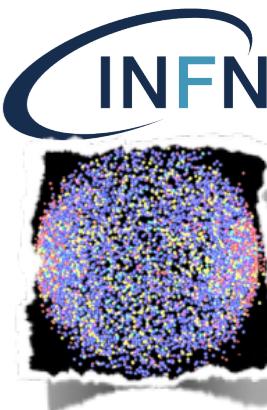
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- A-A collisions, low  $p_T$ :  $m_T$  scaling is broken
- $\rightarrow$  harder spectra in A-A
  - $\rightarrow$  heavier particles are shifted to larger  $p_T$  (harder spectra)

# Kinetic equilibrium



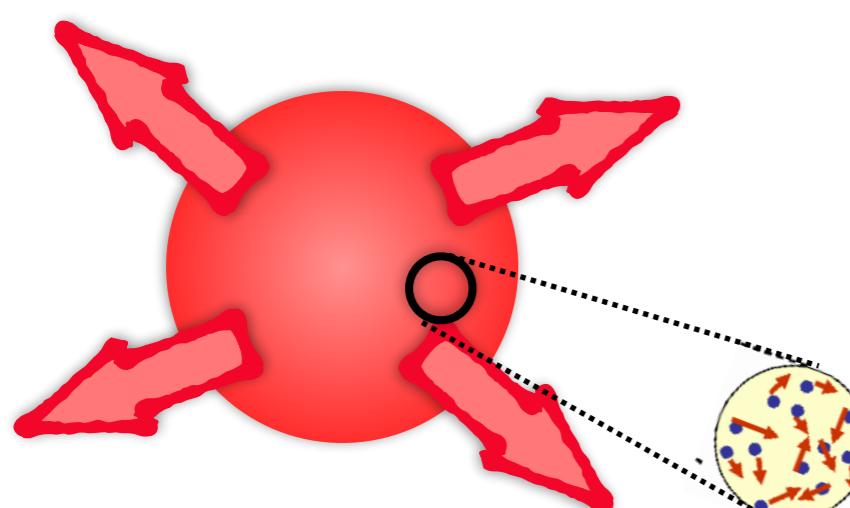
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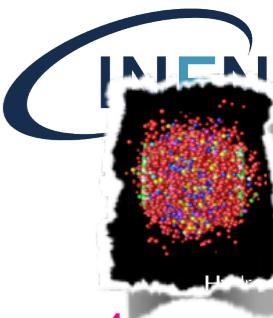


Random thermal motion + collective motion of expanding system driven by pressure gradient  $\rightarrow$  RADIAL FLOW  
 Particles moving in a common flow field

$\rightarrow$  blue-shift

$$T_{slope} = T_{fo} \sqrt{\frac{1 + \beta_T}{1 - \beta_T}}$$

# Hydrodynamic evolution

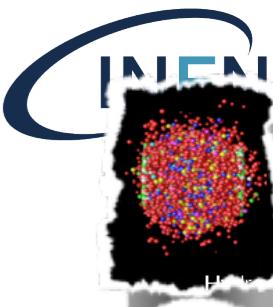


Hydrodynamic applicability  $\rightarrow$  medium in local thermodynamic equilibrium, with mean free path  $\lambda_{\text{MFP}} \ll$  size of the system  $L \rightarrow$  small Knudsen number  $\text{Kn} = \lambda_{\text{MFP}}/L \ll 1$

Energy-momentum conservation  $\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \epsilon u^\mu u^\nu - (p + \Pi) \Delta^{\mu\nu} + \pi^{mu\nu}$$

# Hydrodynamic evolution



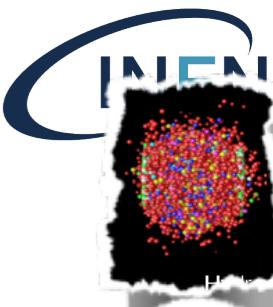
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Equilibrium terms  
energy density and pressure  
related by EOS  $P=P(\epsilon)$   
microscopic DOF

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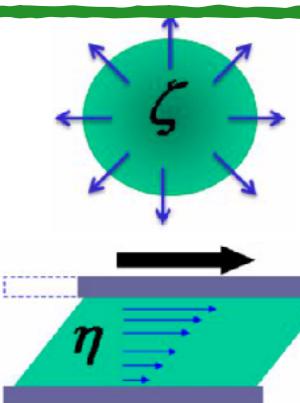
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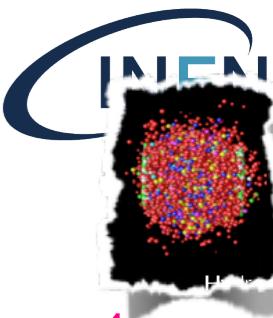
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Dissipative terms  
Bulk pressure  $\Pi=\Pi(\zeta)$   
 $\zeta$  = bulk viscosity  
Shear stress tensor  
 $\pi^{\mu\nu} = \pi^{\mu\nu}(\eta)$   
 $\eta$  = shear viscosity

$\zeta$  = bulk viscosity  
resistance to expansion  
 $\eta$  = shear viscosity  
resistance to flow gradients



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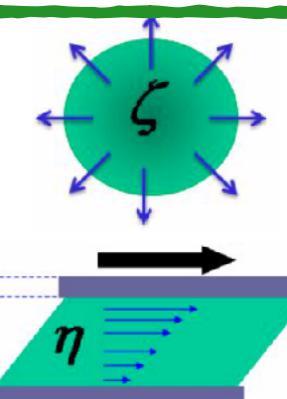
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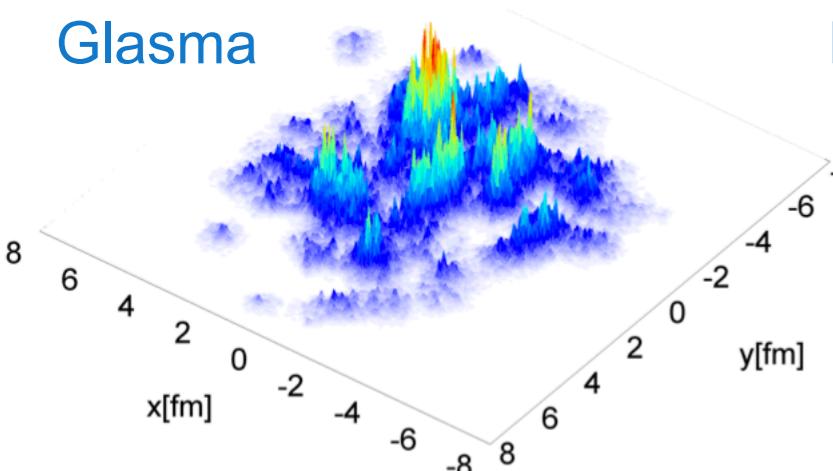
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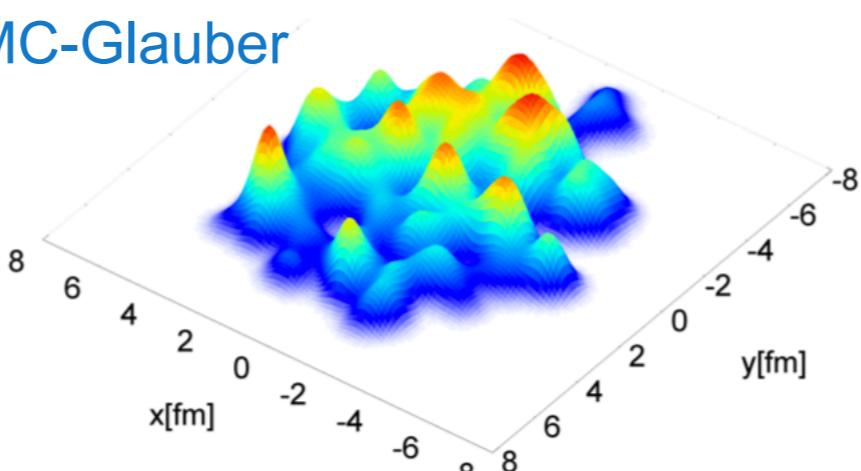
Event by event initial conditions fluctuations

Schenke et al., PRL 108 (2012) 252301

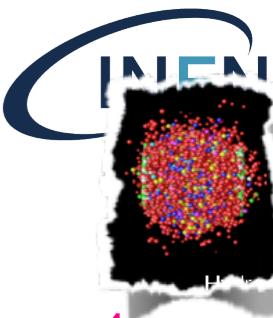
Glasma



MC-Glauber



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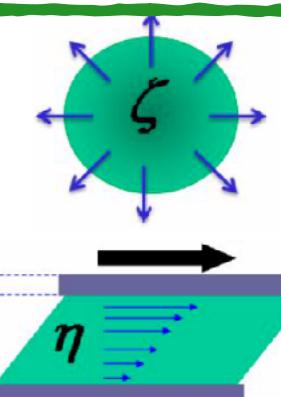
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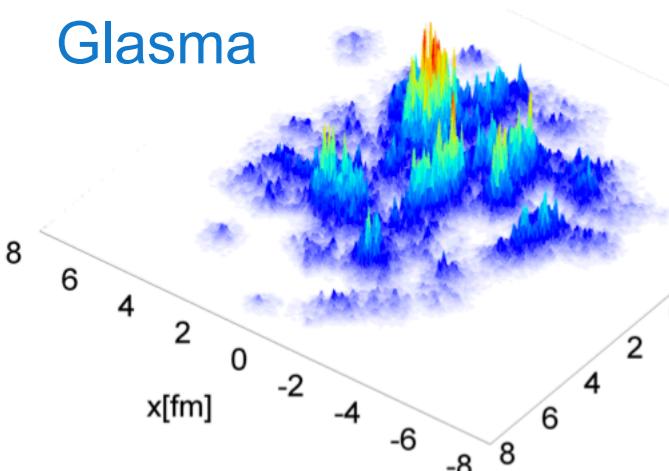
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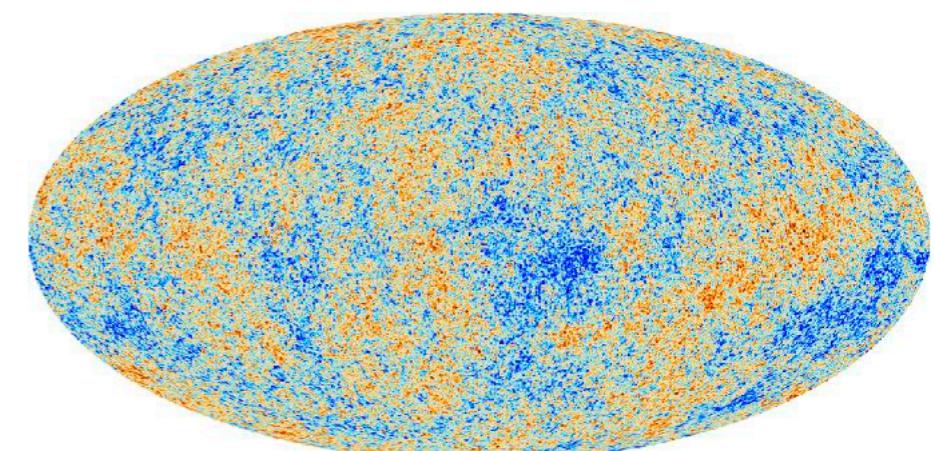
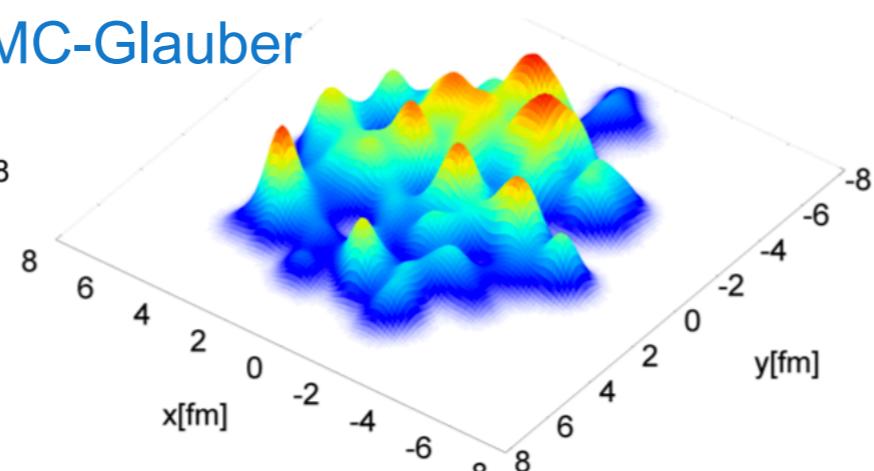
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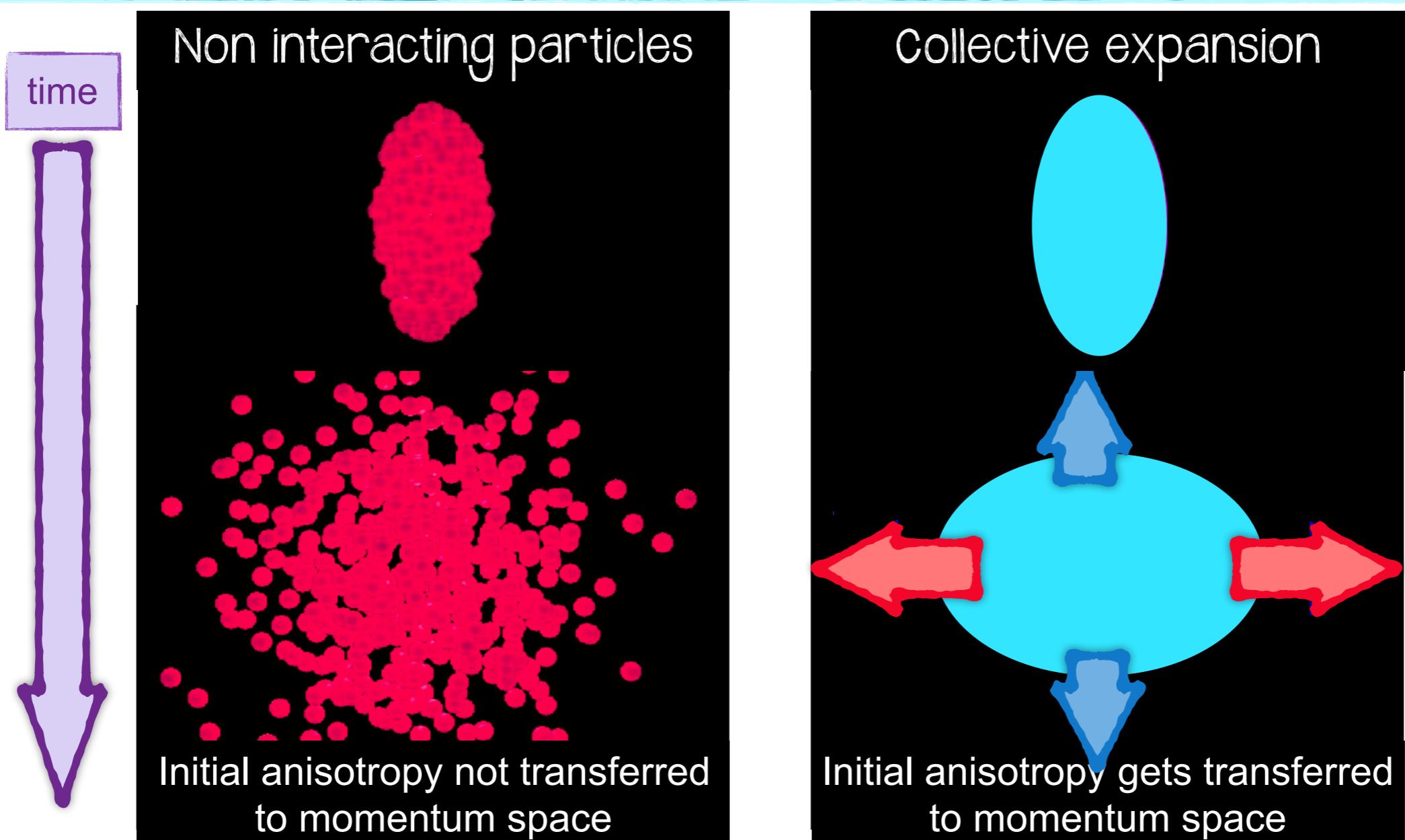
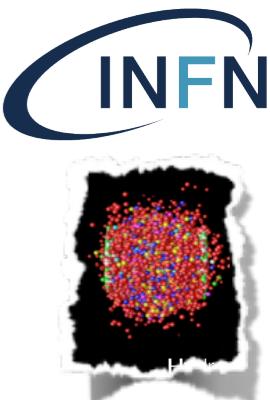
Glasma



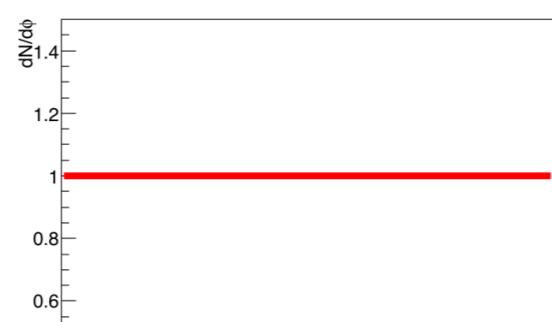
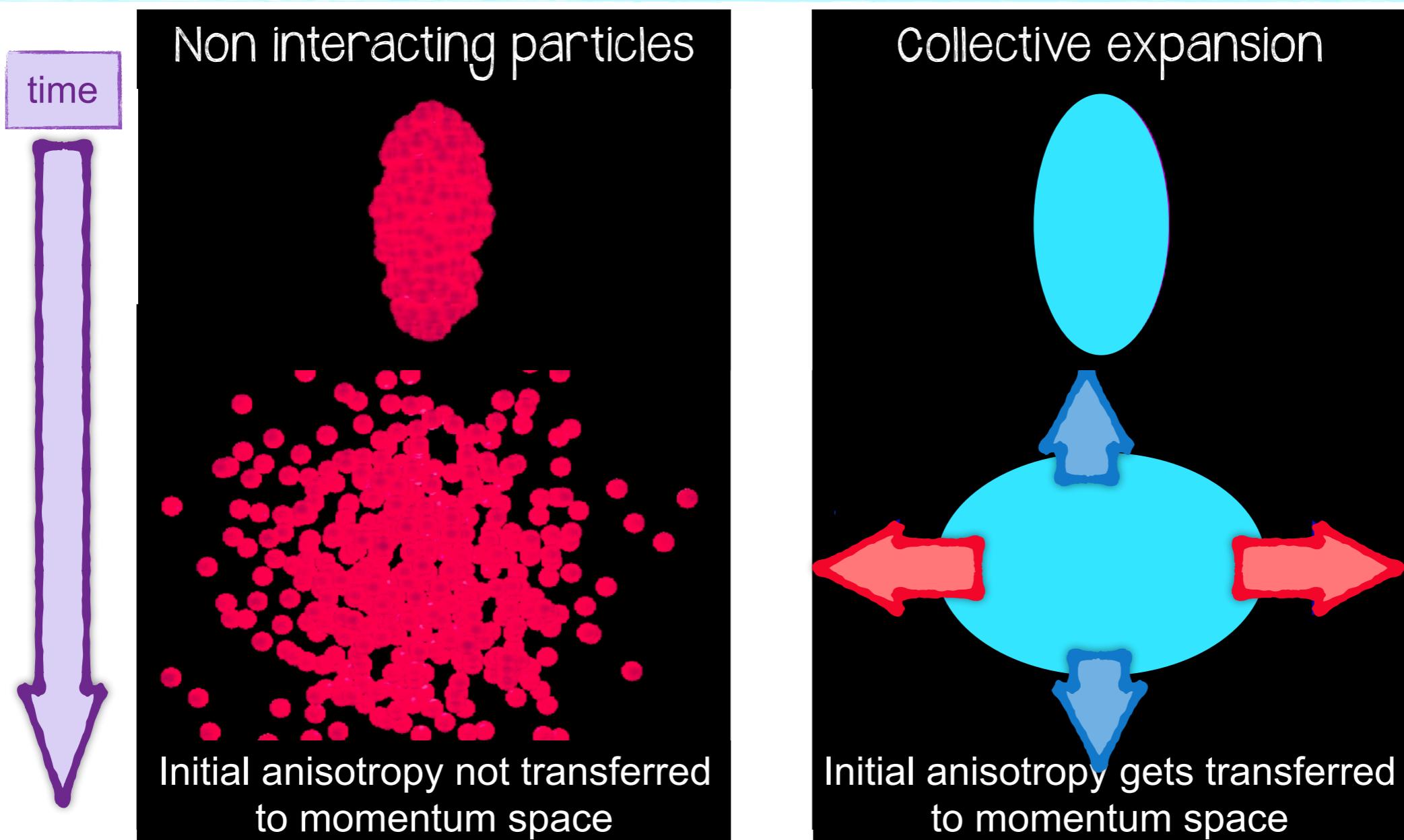
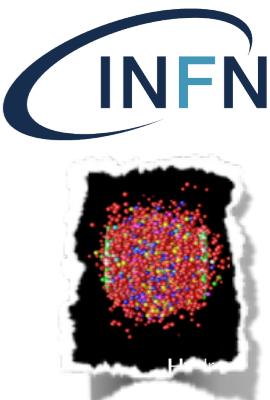
MC-Glauber



# Hydrodynamic evolution

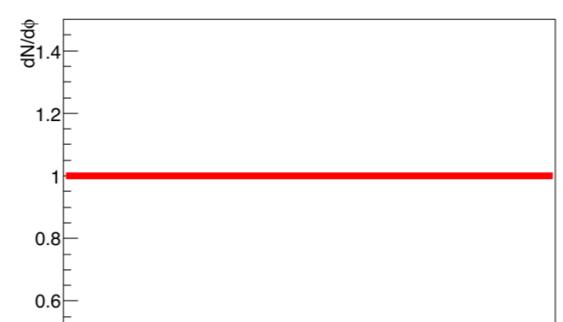
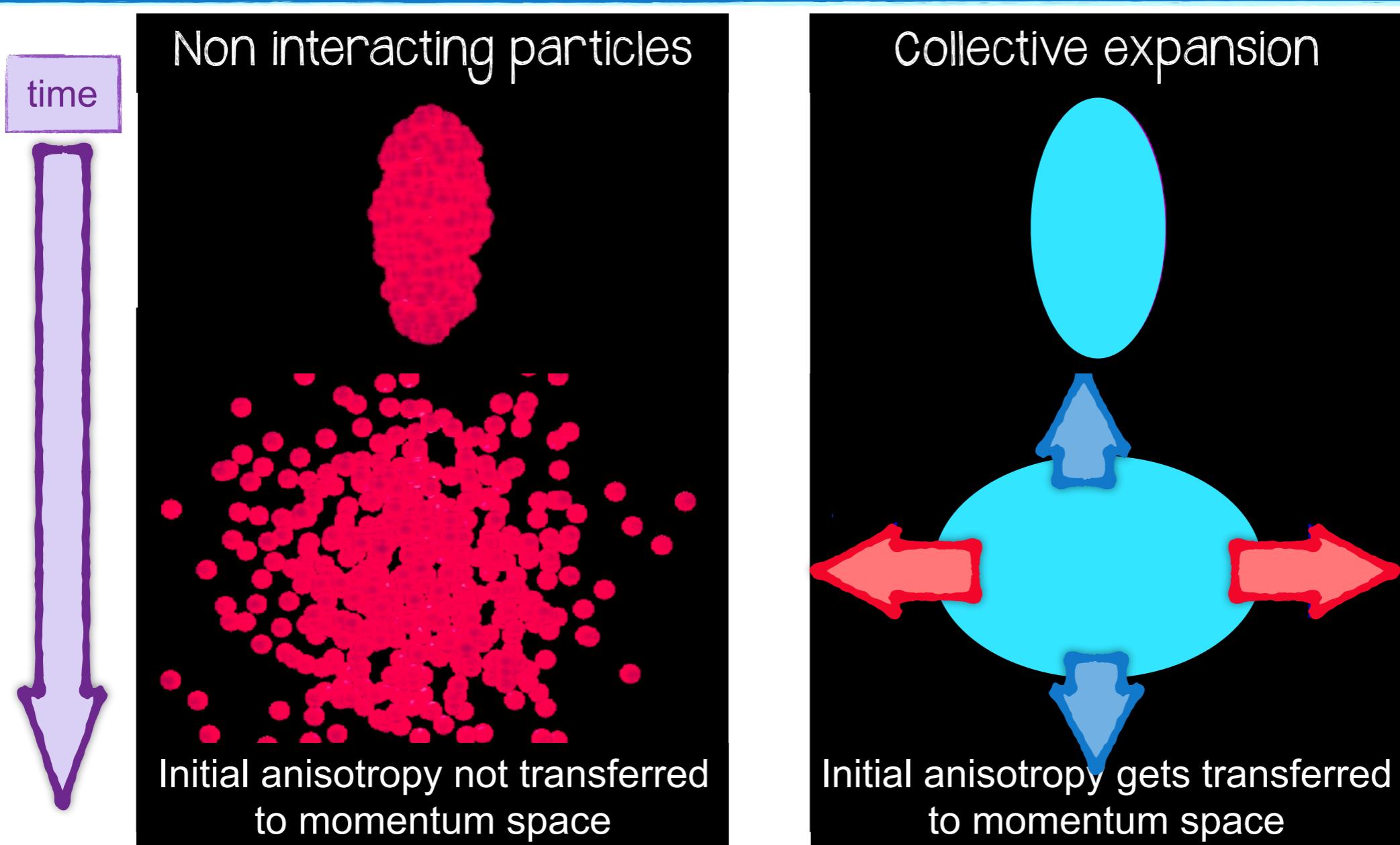
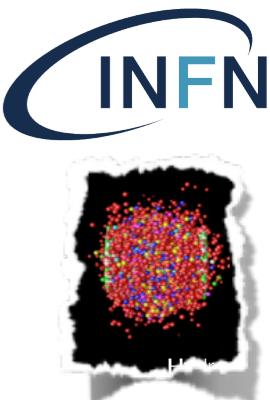


# Hydrodynamic evolution

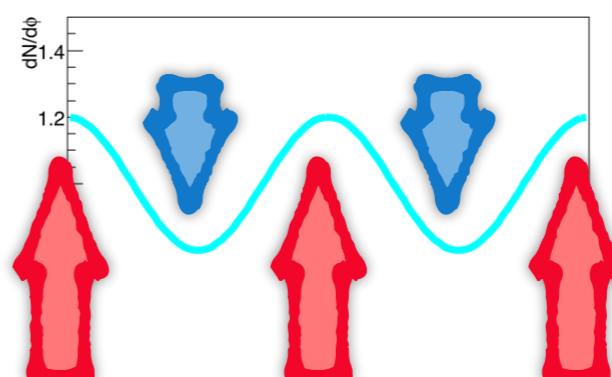


Flat azimuthal distribution

# Hydrodynamic evolution

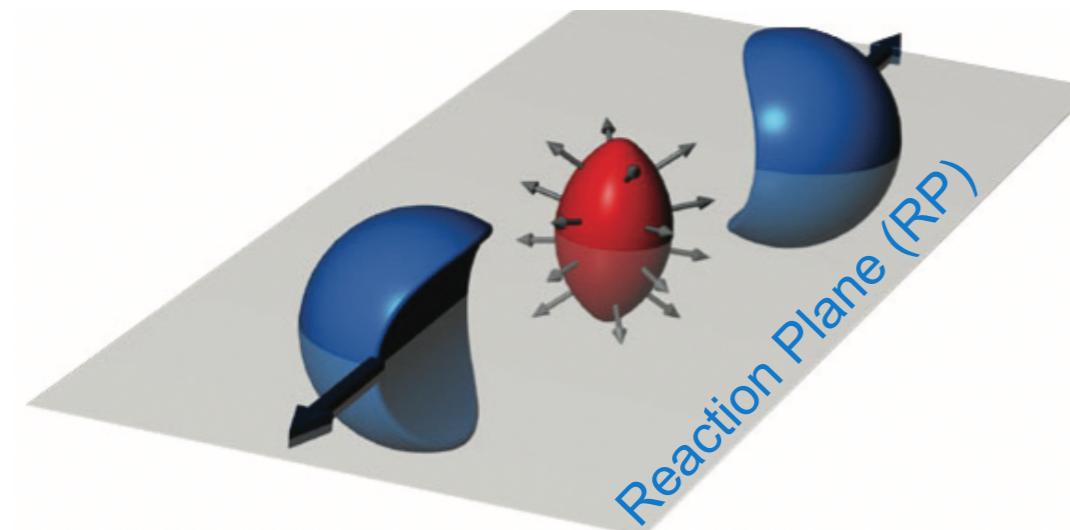


Flat azimuthal distribution



Modulated ( $\cos\phi$ ) azimuthal distribution

# Hydrodynamic evolution

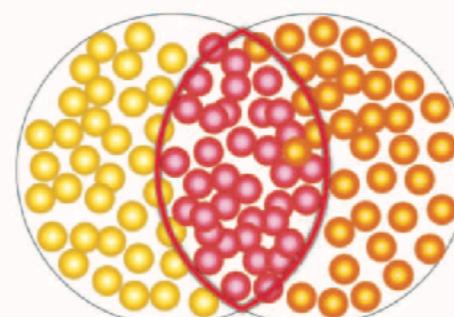


Initial anisotropies are mapped in final hadron spectra, can be quantified through a Fourier decomposition of azimuthal distributions relative to RP:

$$\frac{dN}{d\phi} \sim 1 + 2 \sum_n v_n \cos [n(\phi - \Psi_{RP})]$$

Fourier coefficients  $v_n(p_T, y) = \langle \cos[n(\phi - \Psi_{RP})] \rangle$

$v_2 \rightarrow$  elliptic flow

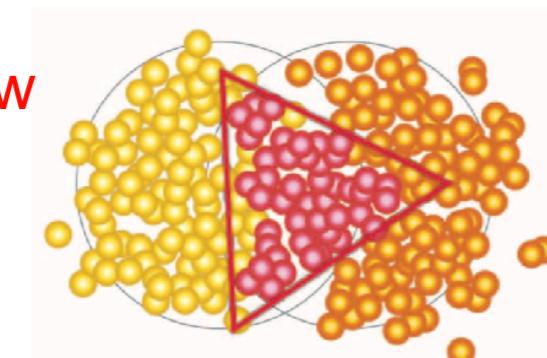


related to the geometry of the overlap zone  
expansion tends to dilute initial space asymmetry  
(pressure gradients are stronger in the first stages)

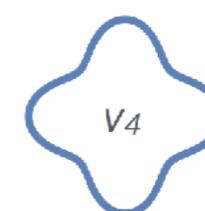
Higher order coefficients due to fluctuations in the initial state

Odd coefficients are expected to vanish on average for a symmetric system

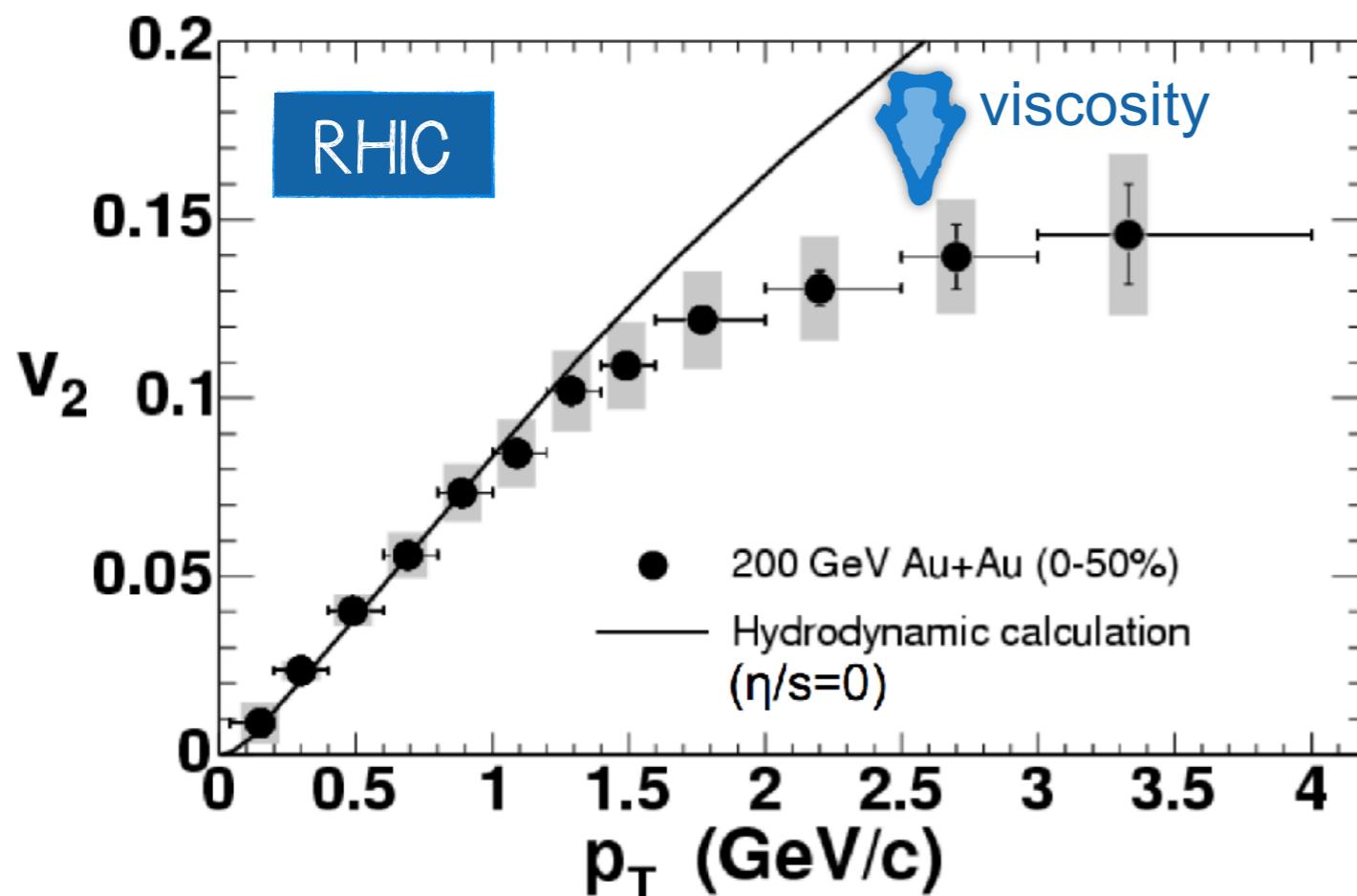
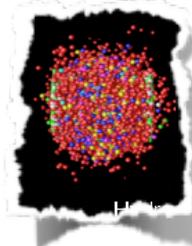
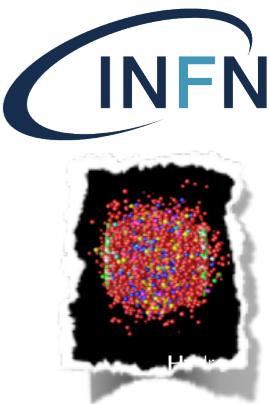
$v_3 \rightarrow$  triangular flow



viscosity tends to suppress higher harmonics  
 $\rightarrow$  sensitivity to initial conditions and to  $\eta/s$  ratio

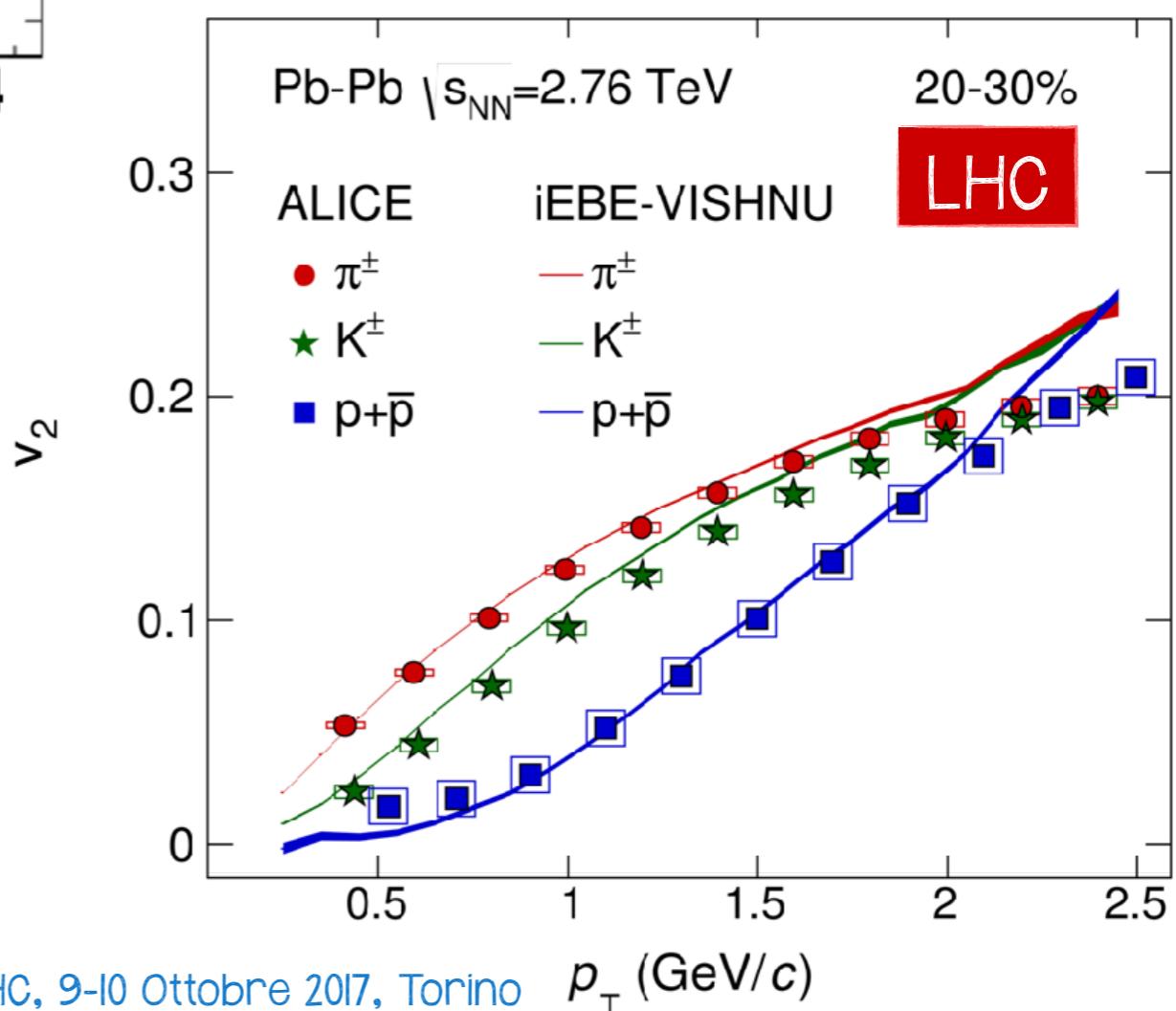


# Elliptic flow $V_2$



m dependence of  $v_2$  at low  $p_T$   
 ▶ consistent with hydrodynamic predictions

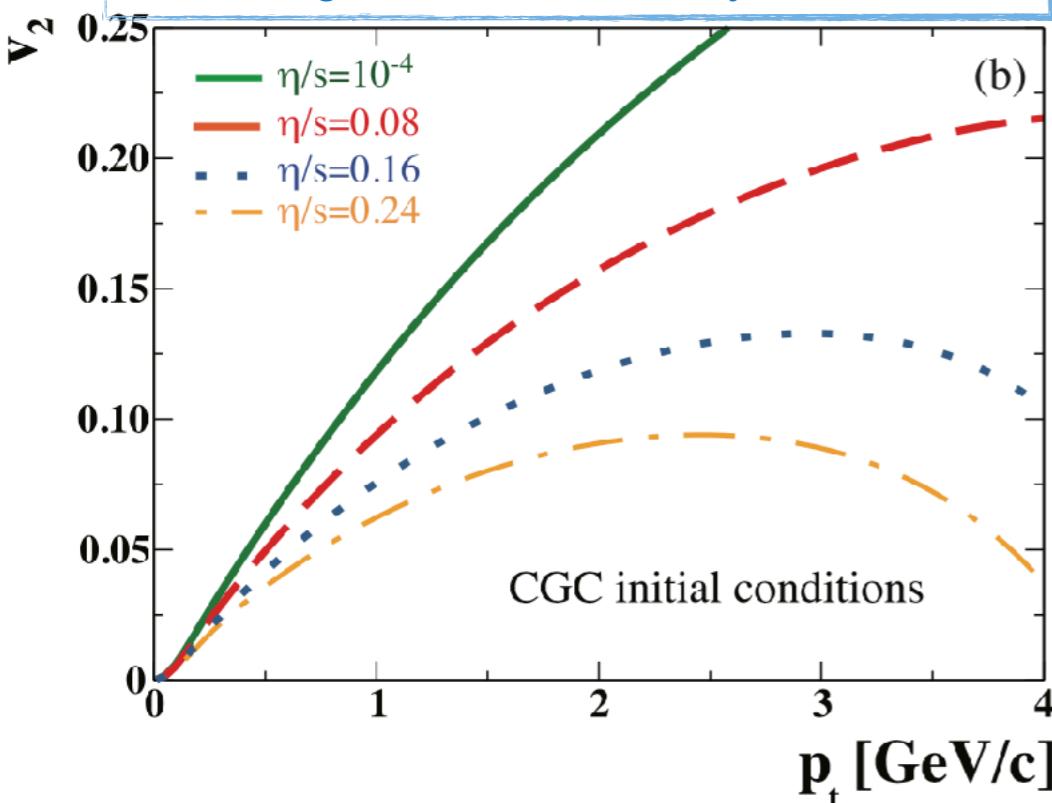
Large  $p_T$  values measured at RHIC  
 ▶ reproduced by hydrodynamic calculations with dissipative terms  
 ▶ point to early system thermalization fastly reached ( $\tau \sim 1$  fm/c)



# Higher order harmonics

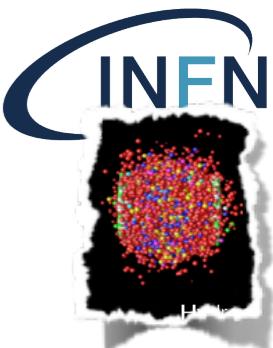


R.Snellings, 2011 New J. Phys. 13 055008

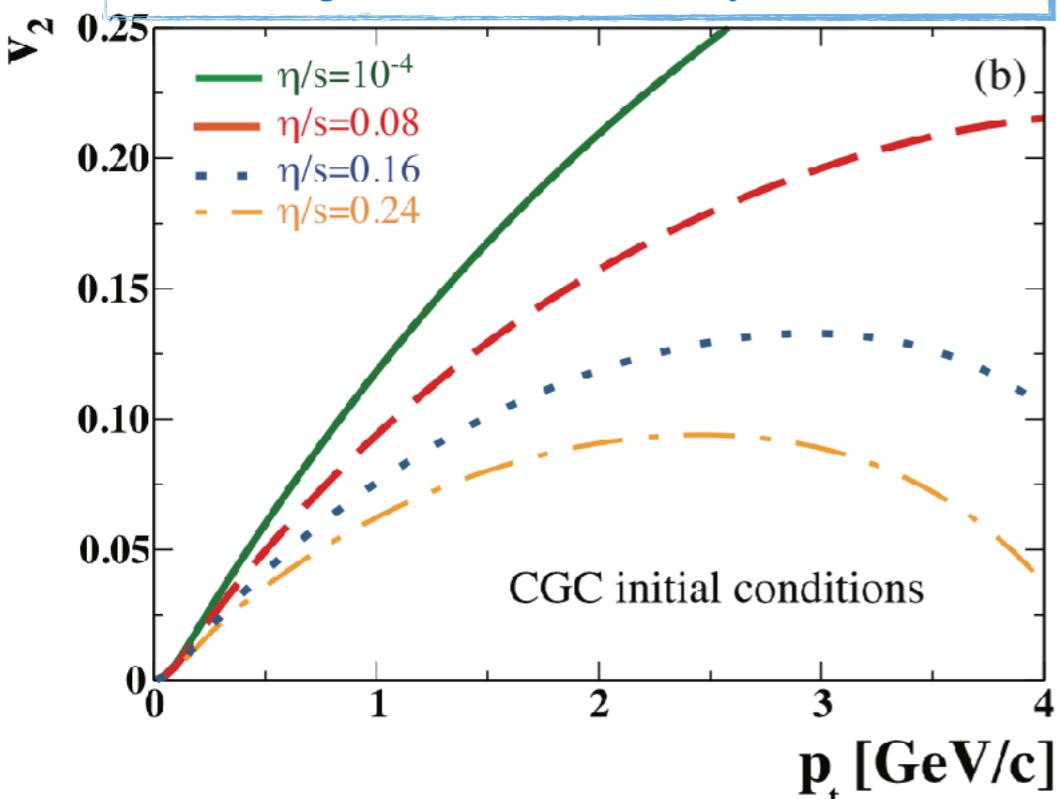


Viscosity tends to suppress higher order harmonics  
 $v_n$  sensitive to transport in the medium  
→  $v_2(p_T)$  to constrain shear viscosity to entropy density ratio  $\eta/s$

# Higher order harmonics



R.Snellings, 2011 New J. Phys. 13 055008



Viscosity tend to suppress higher order harmonics  
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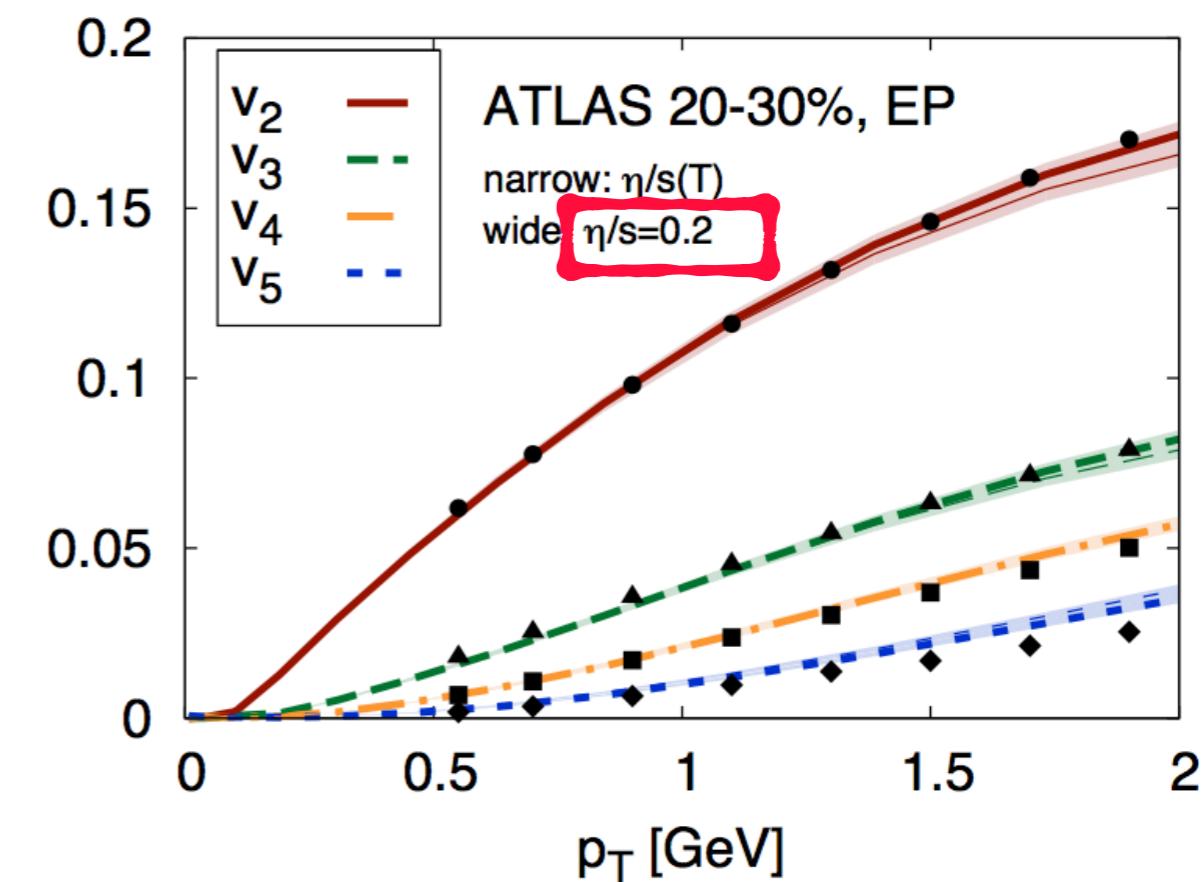
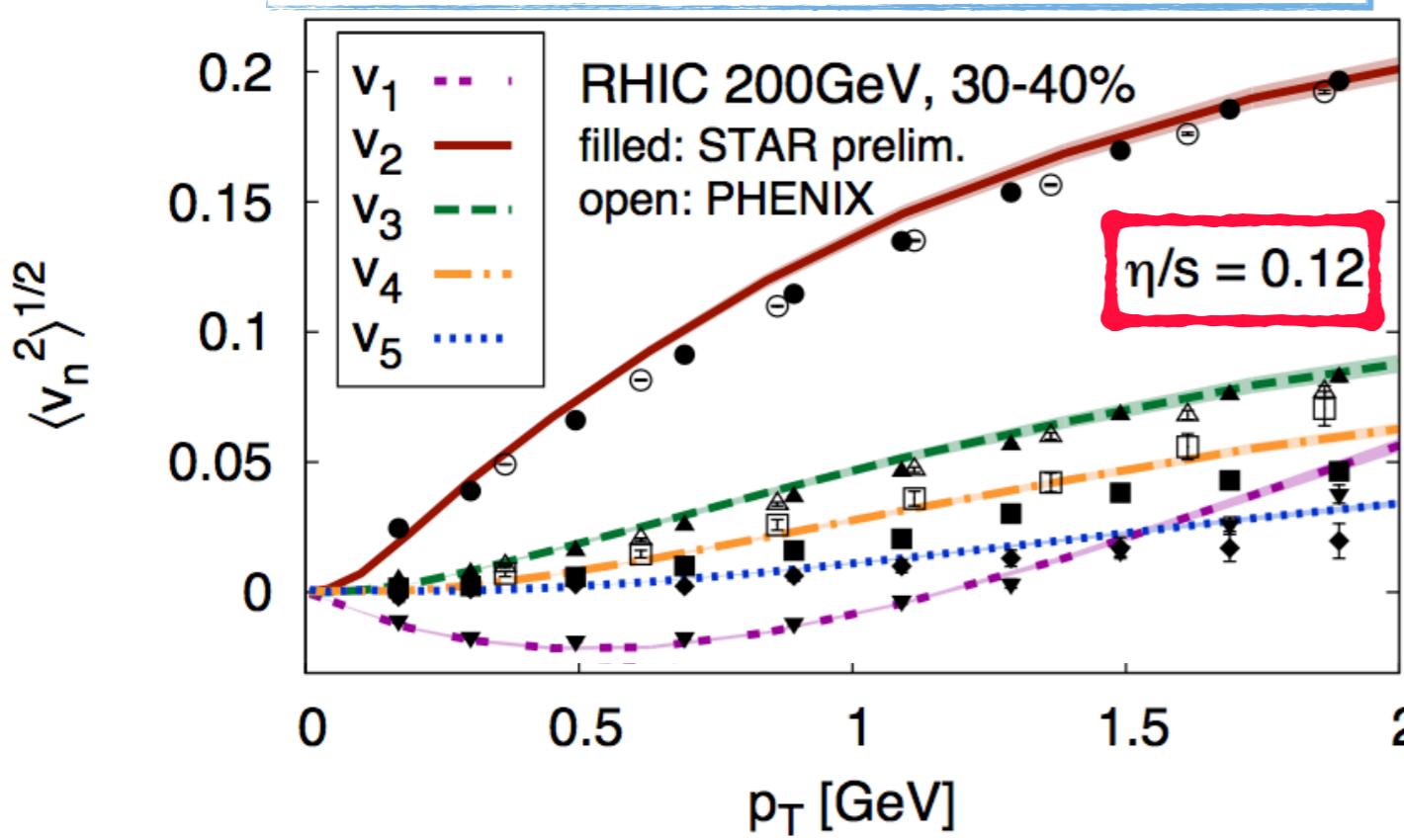
RHIC

LHC

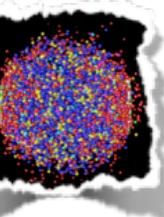
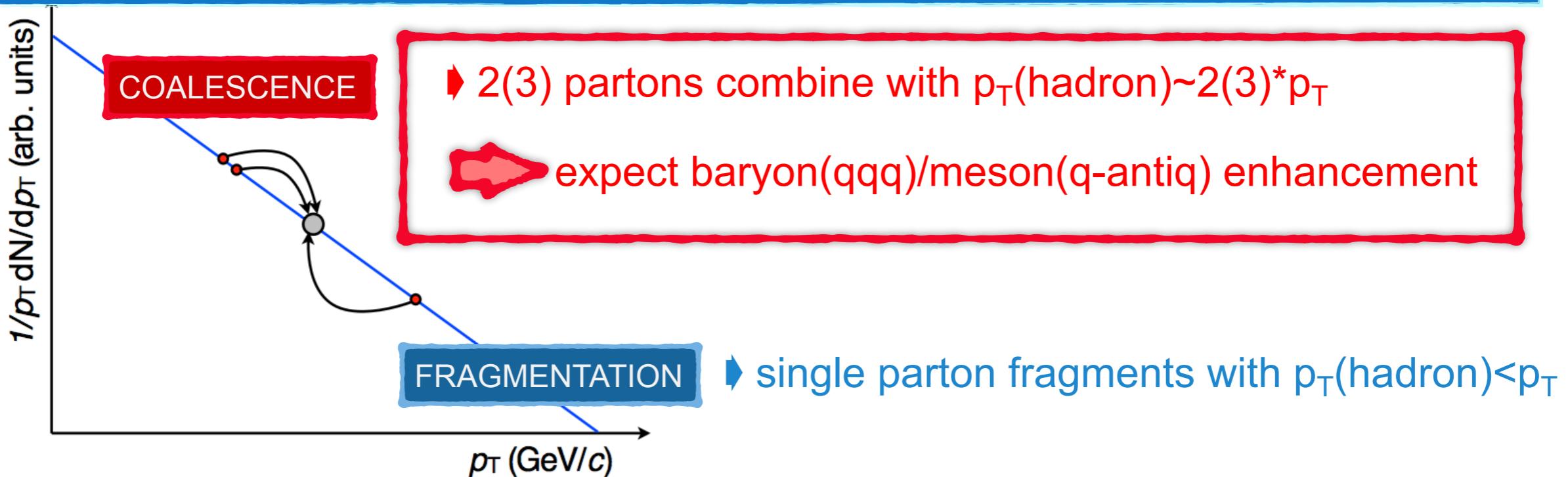
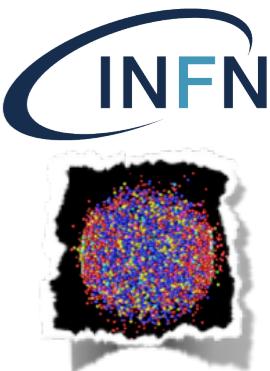
$\eta/s = 0.12$

$\eta/s = 0.2$

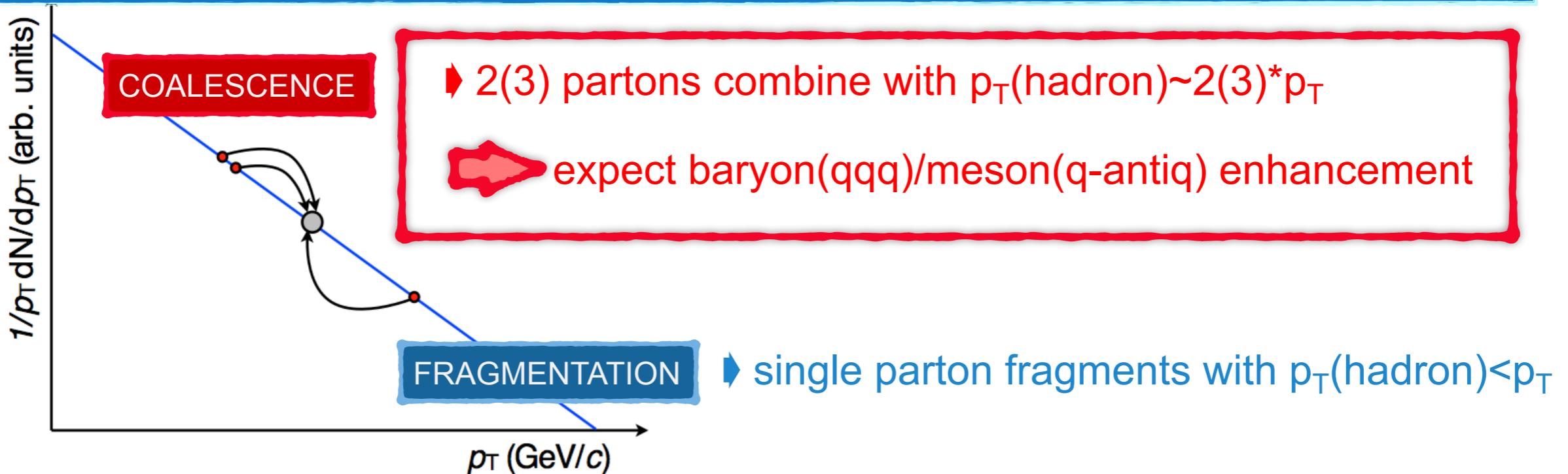
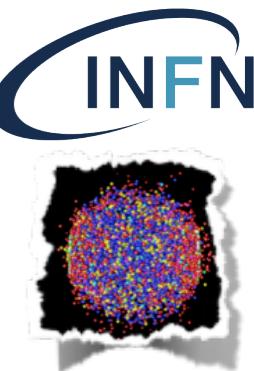
C. Gale et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 110 (2013) 012302



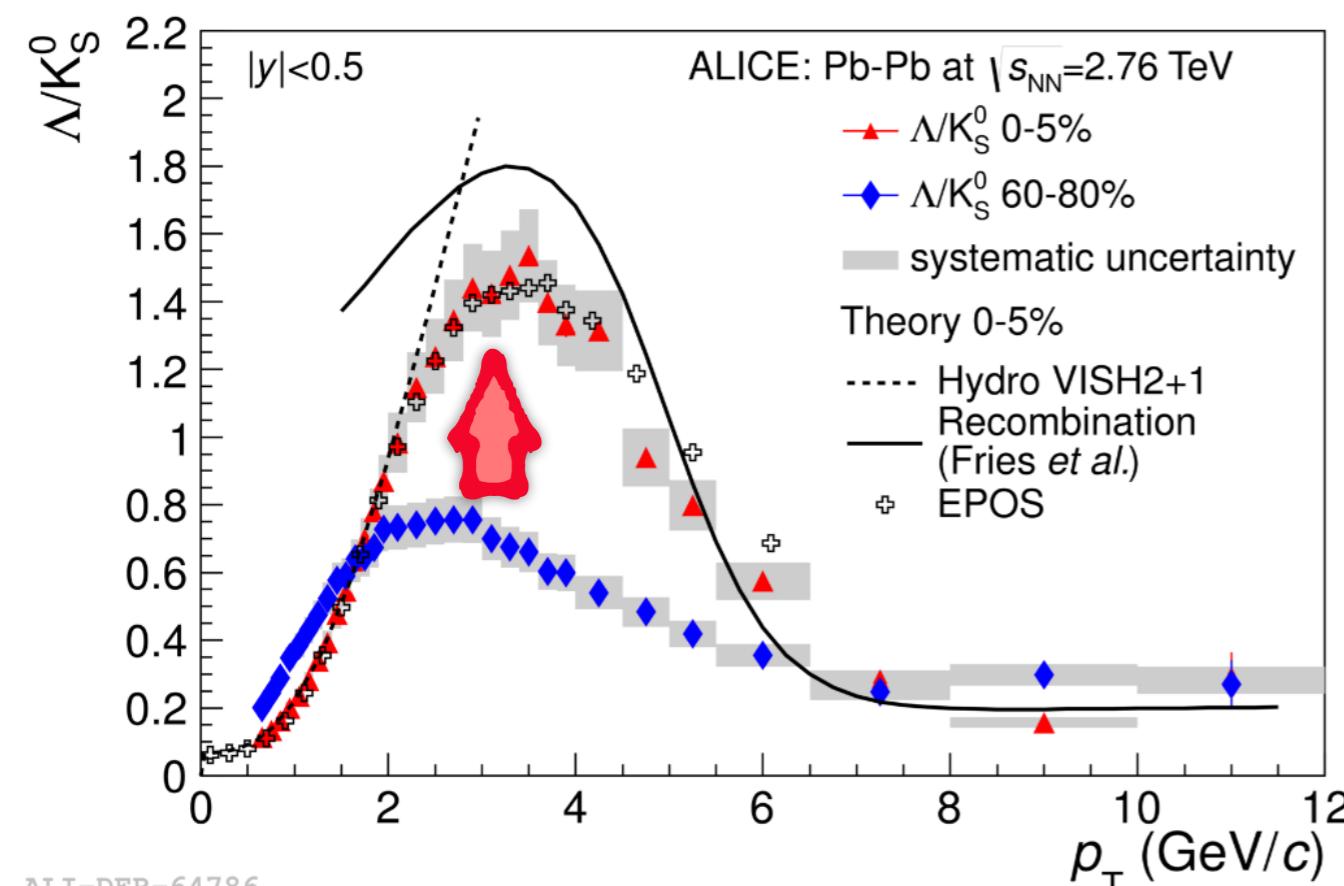
# Hadronization



# Hadronization



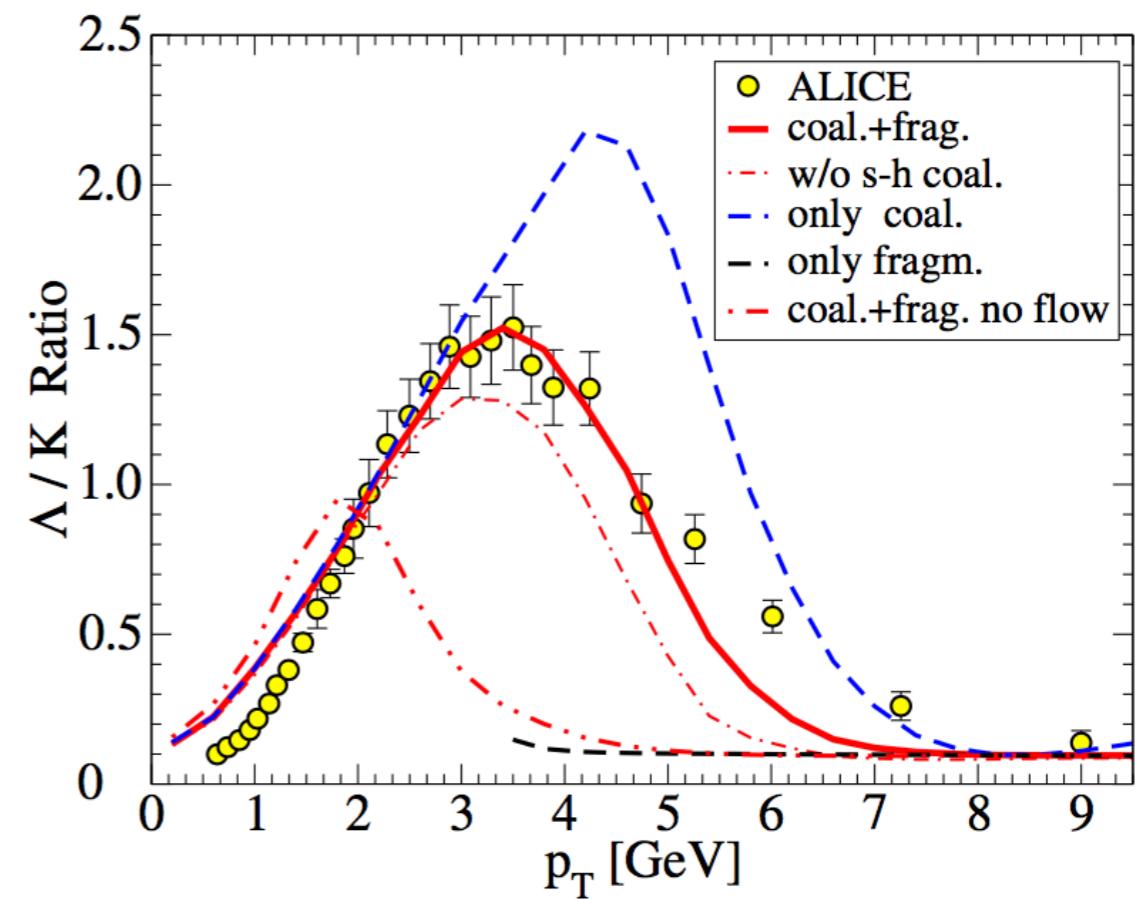
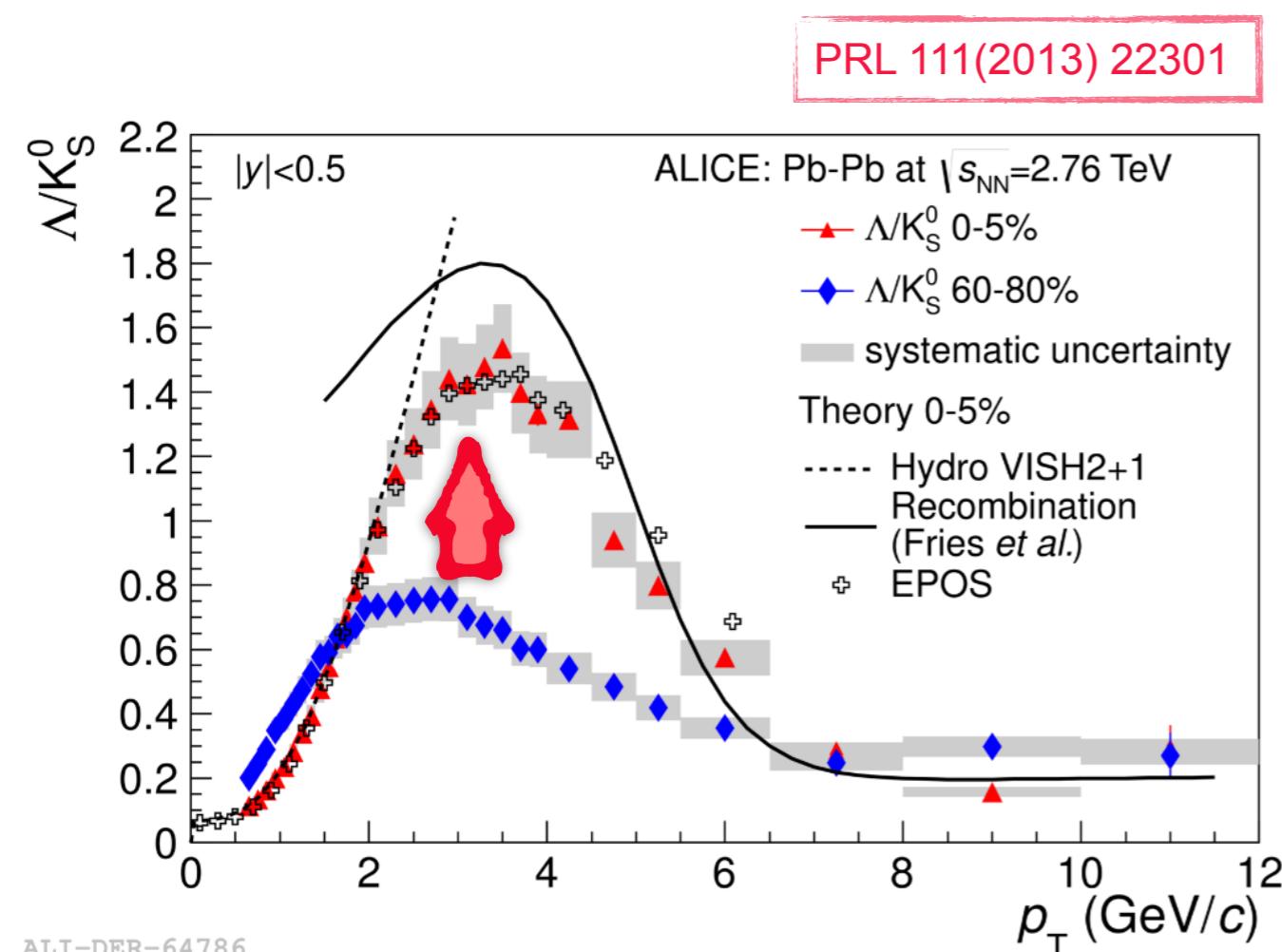
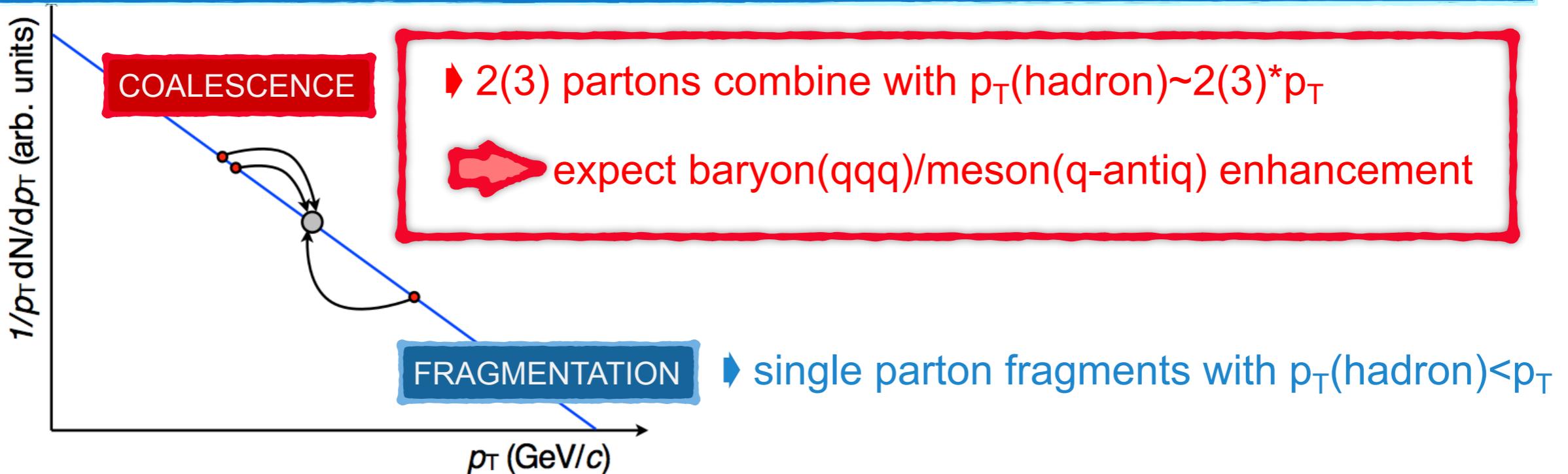
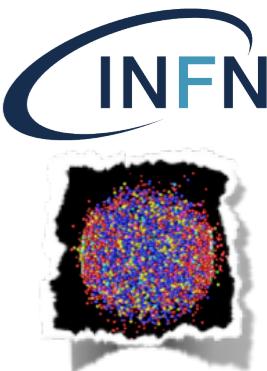
PRL 111(2013) 22301



- ▶ baryon/meson enhanced in central A-A collisions at intermediate  $p_T$
- ▶ hydrodynamics at low  $p_T$
- ▶ coalescence+fragmentation or hydrodynamics+jets (EPOS) able to reproduce data

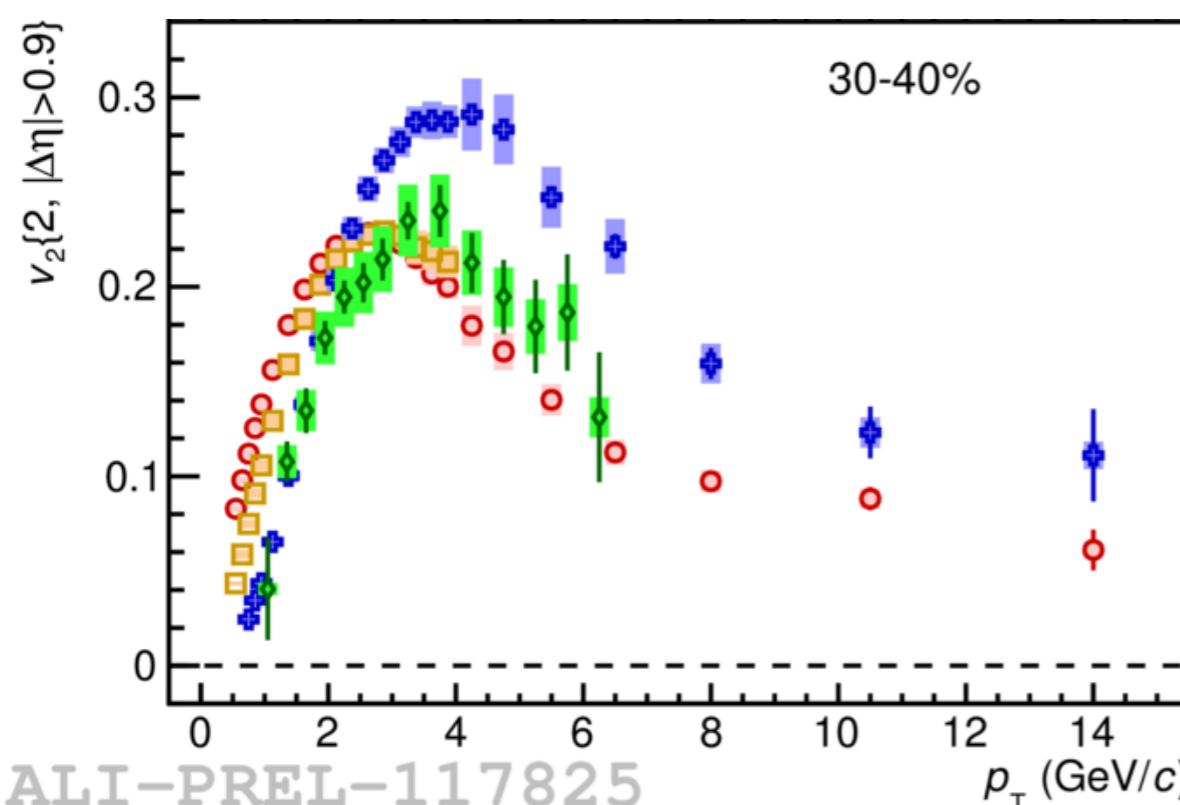
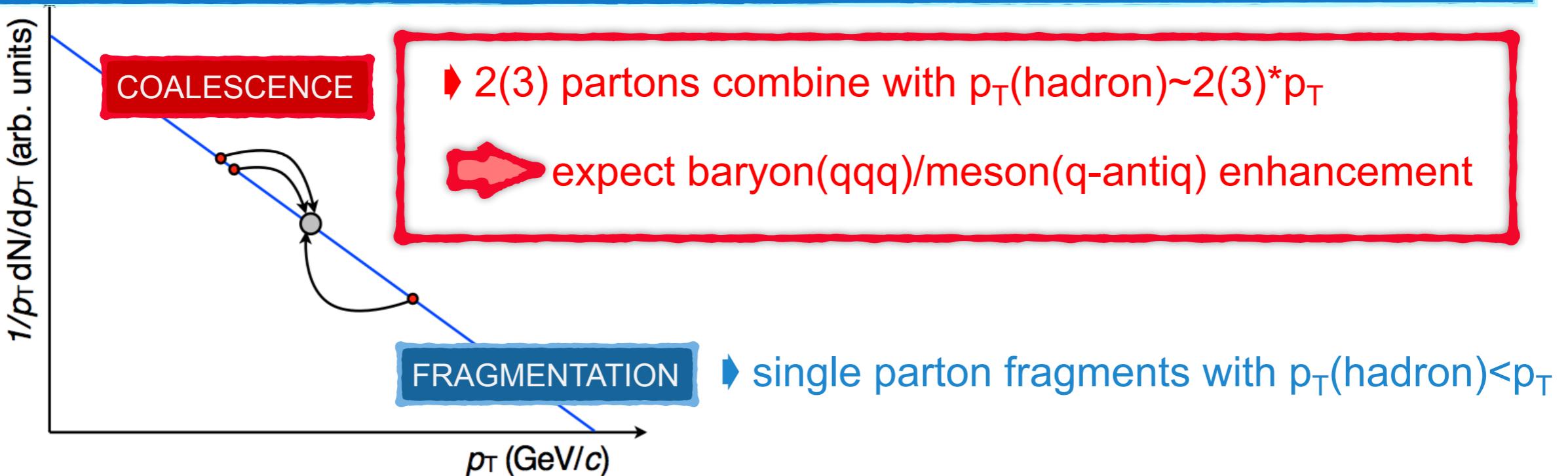
T.Pierog et al., Phys. Rev. C 92, 034906 (2015)

# Hadronization



V.Minissale et al., Phys.Rev. C92 (2015) no.5, 054904

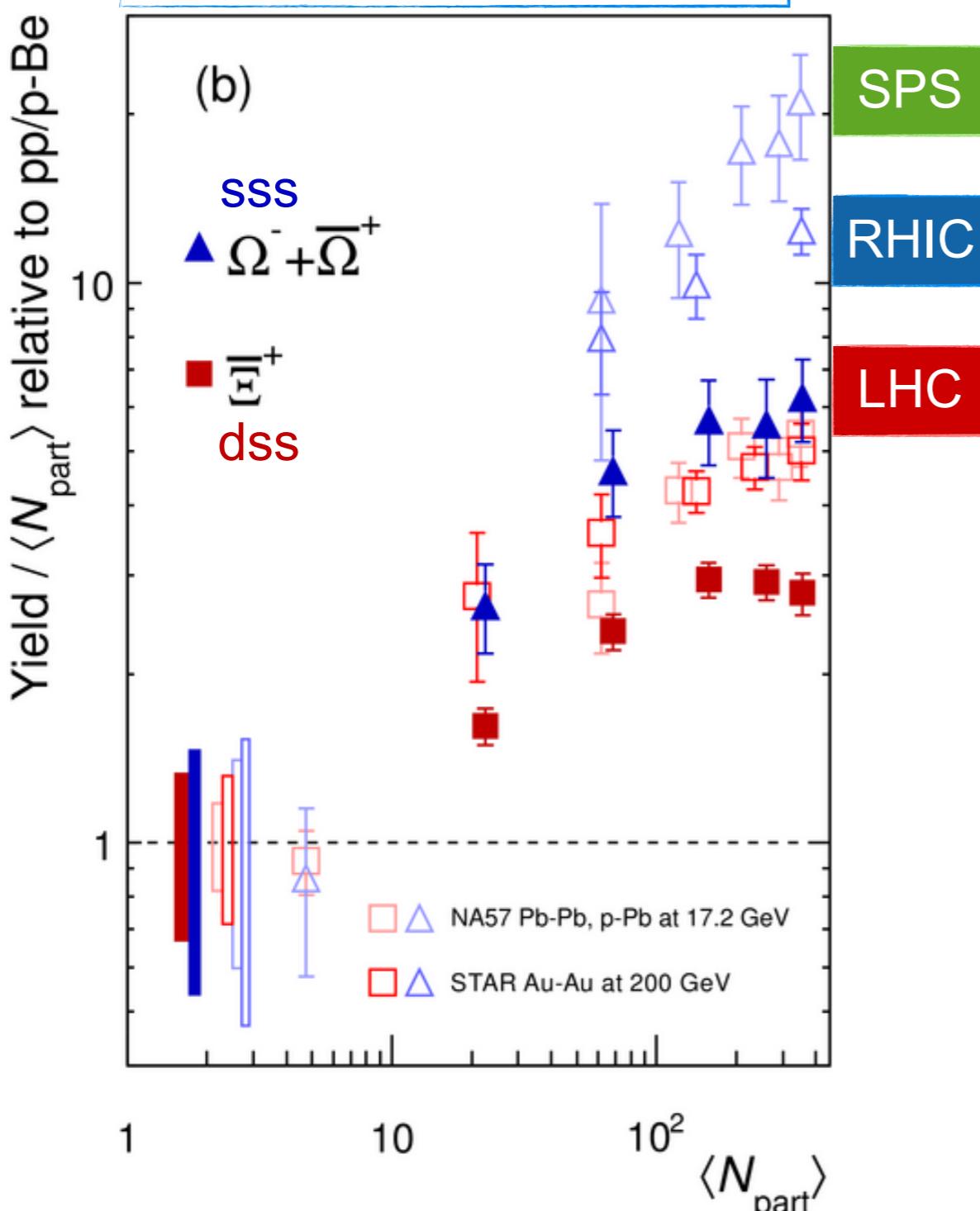
# Hadronization



# Strangeness

Enhancement of strangeness production in QGP w.r.t. hadron gas

ALICE coll., Phys. Lett. B 728 (2014) 216



Enhancement of strange baryons production  
in A-A relative to pp (p-A) collisions

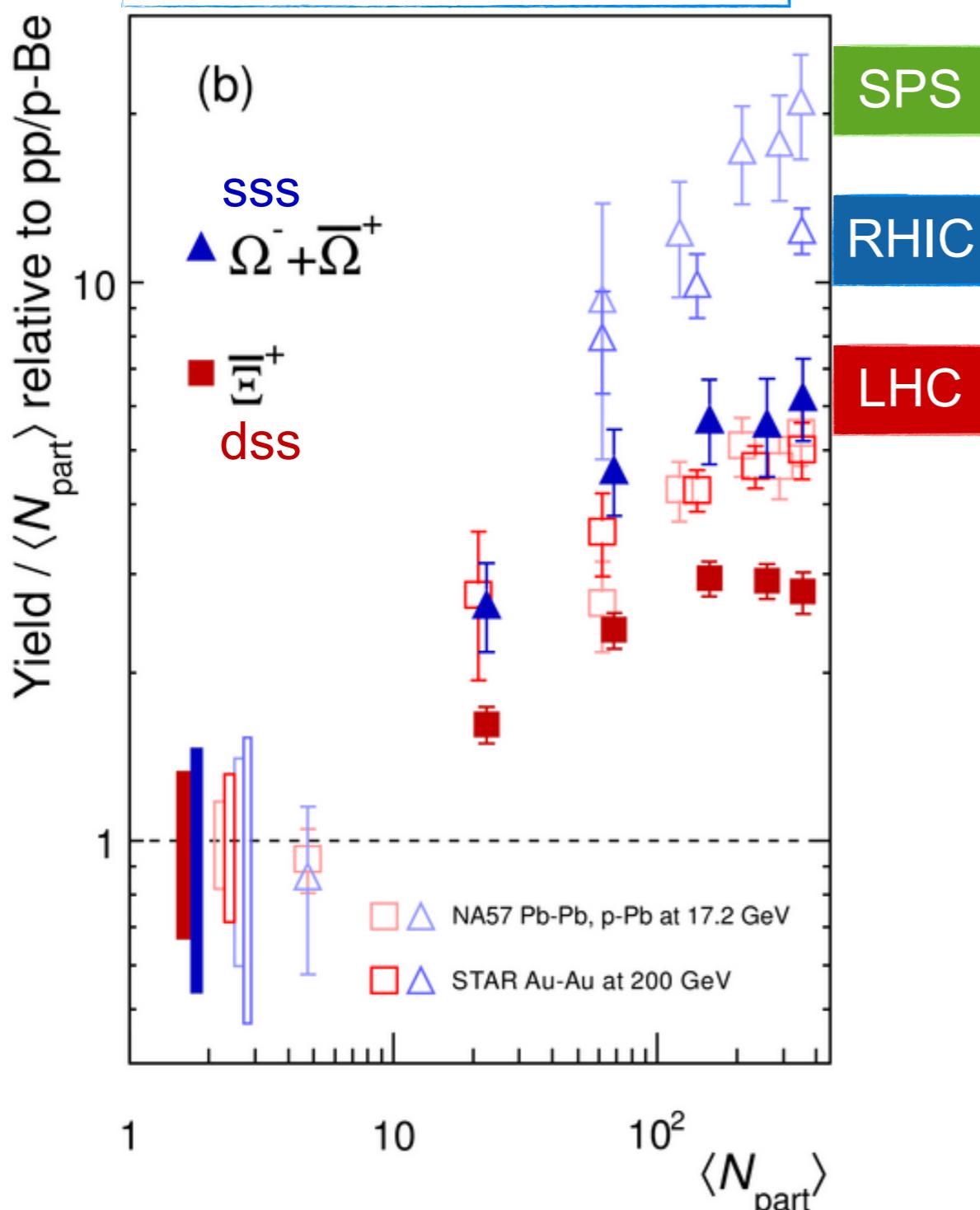
- reduced with increasing  $\sqrt{s}$
- increased with s quark content

# Strangeness

Rafelski, Muller, PRL 48 (1982) 1066

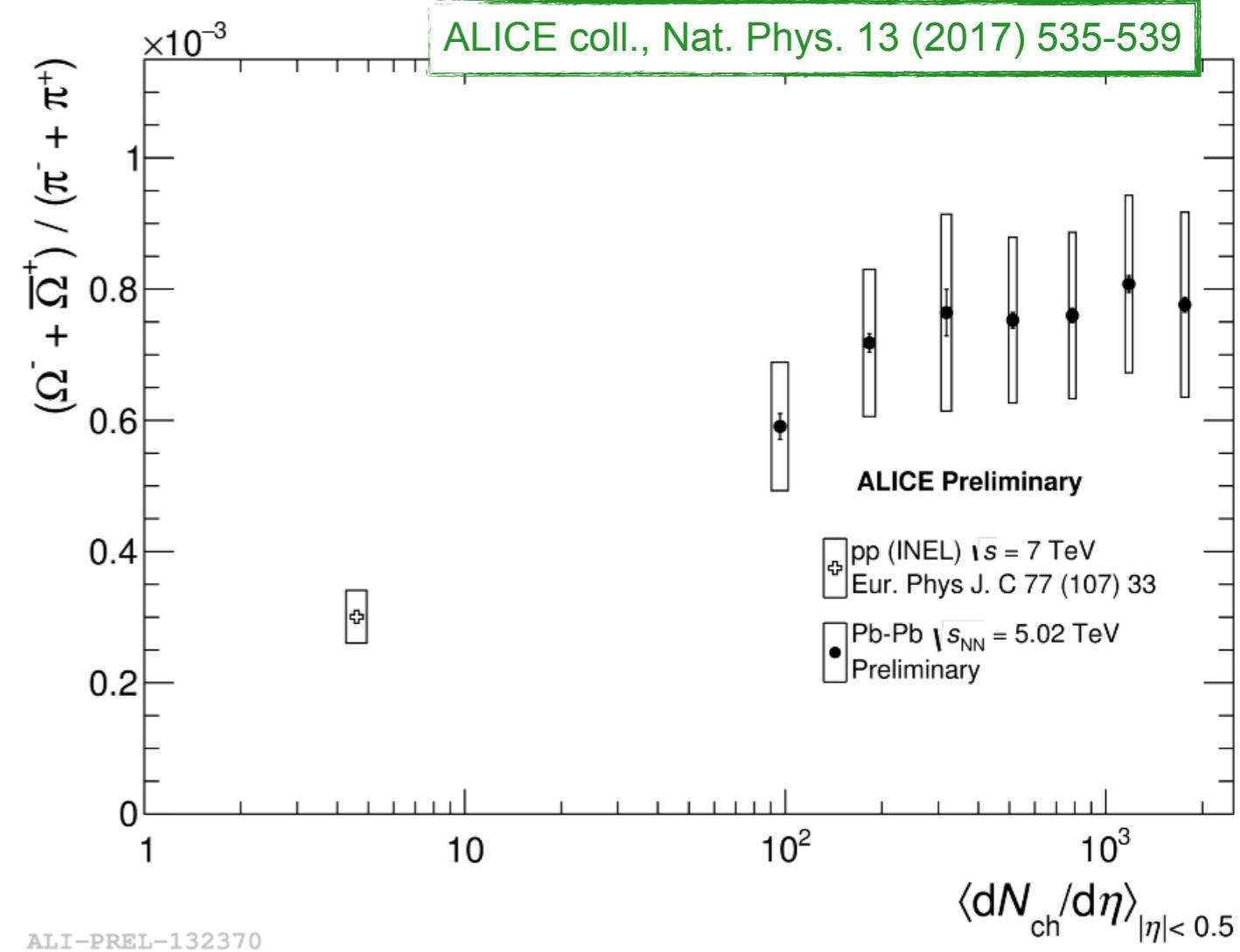
Enhancement of strangeness production in QGP w.r.t. hadron gas

ALICE coll., Phys. Lett. B 728 (2014) 216



Enhancement of strange baryons production  
in A-A relative to pp (p-A) collisions

ALICE coll., Nat. Phys. 13 (2017) 535-539

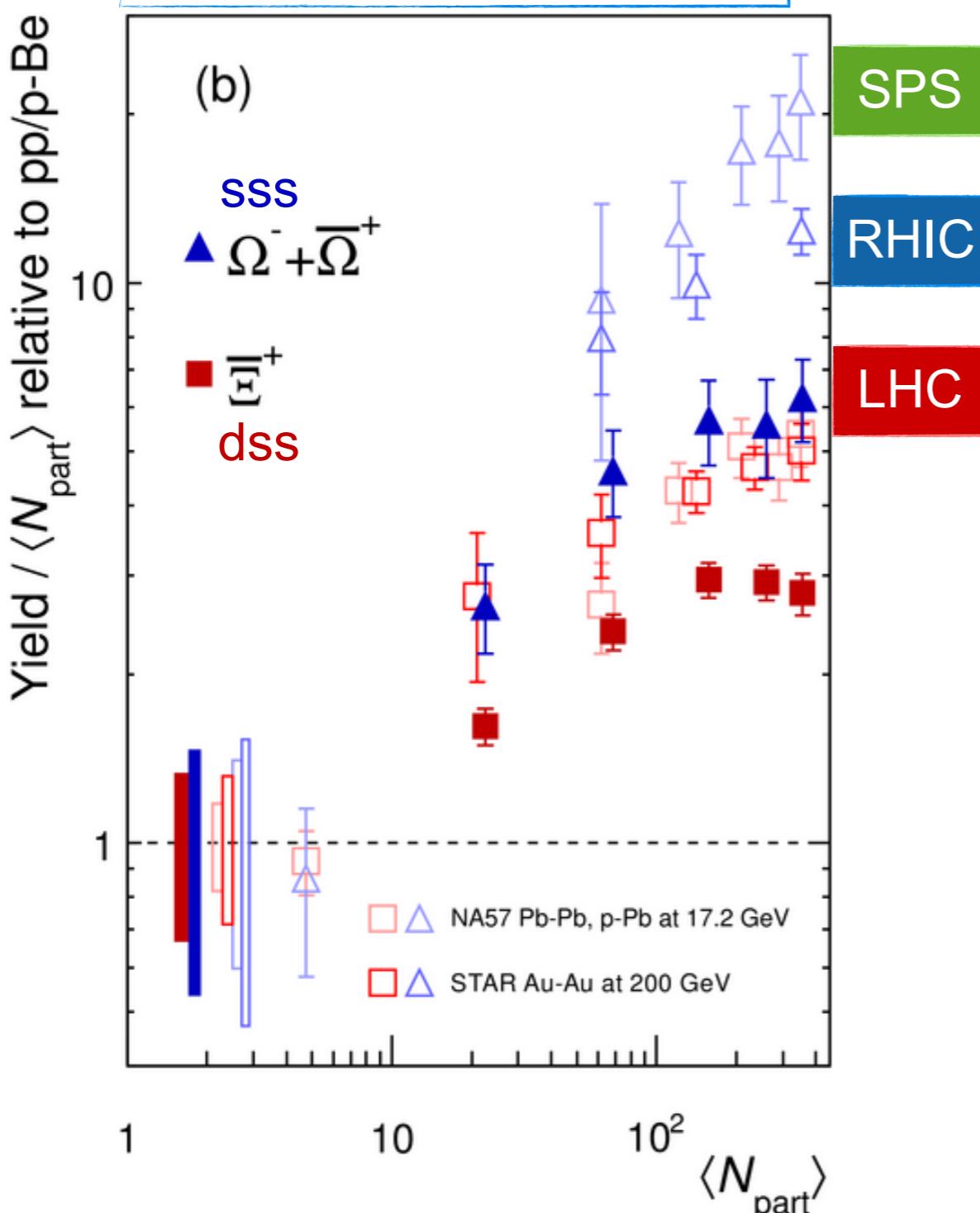


# Strangeness

Rafelski, Muller, PRL 48 (1982) 1066

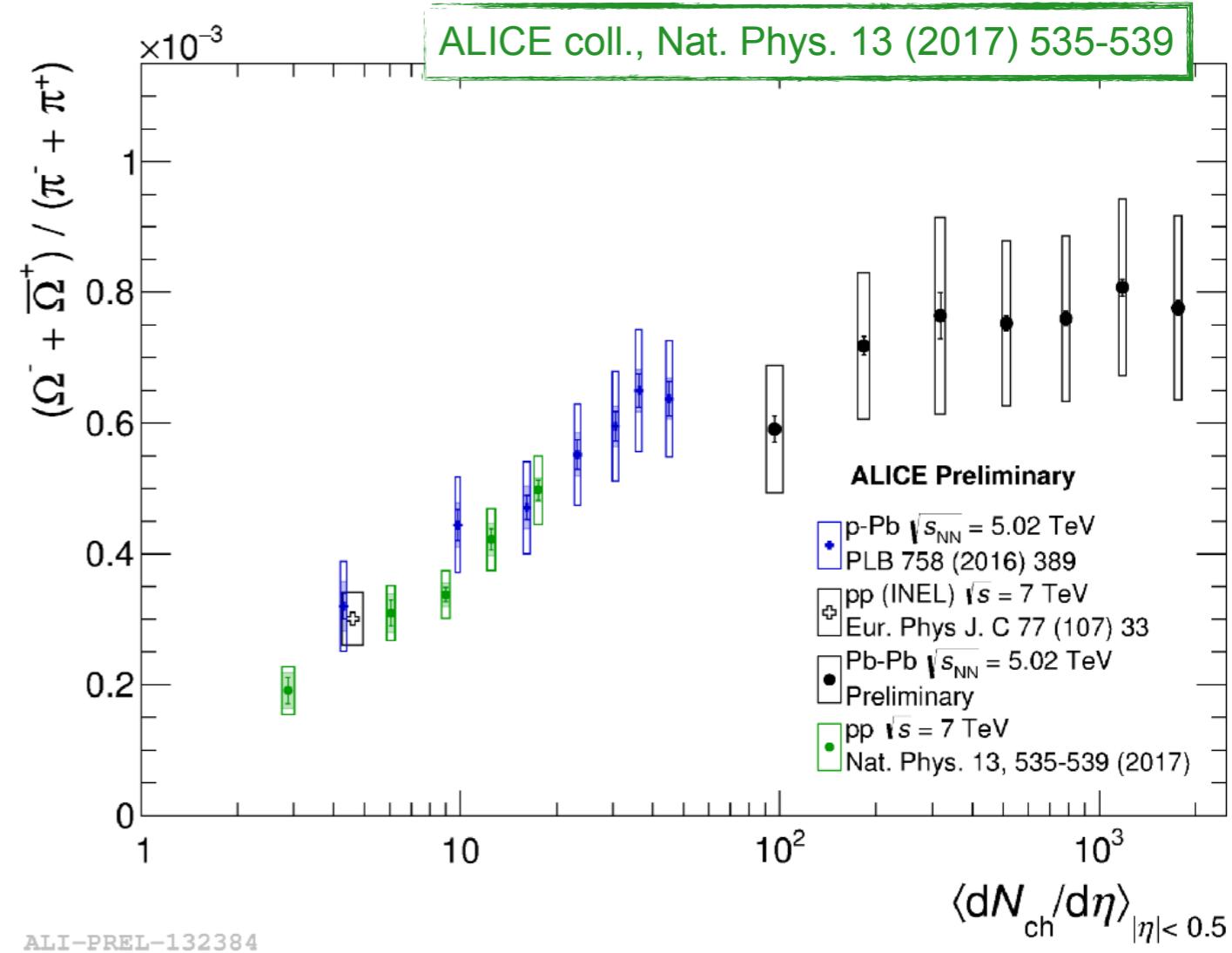
Enhancement of strangeness production in QGP w.r.t. hadron gas

ALICE coll., Phys. Lett. B 728 (2014) 216



Enhancement of strange baryons production  
in A-A relative to pp (p-A) collisions

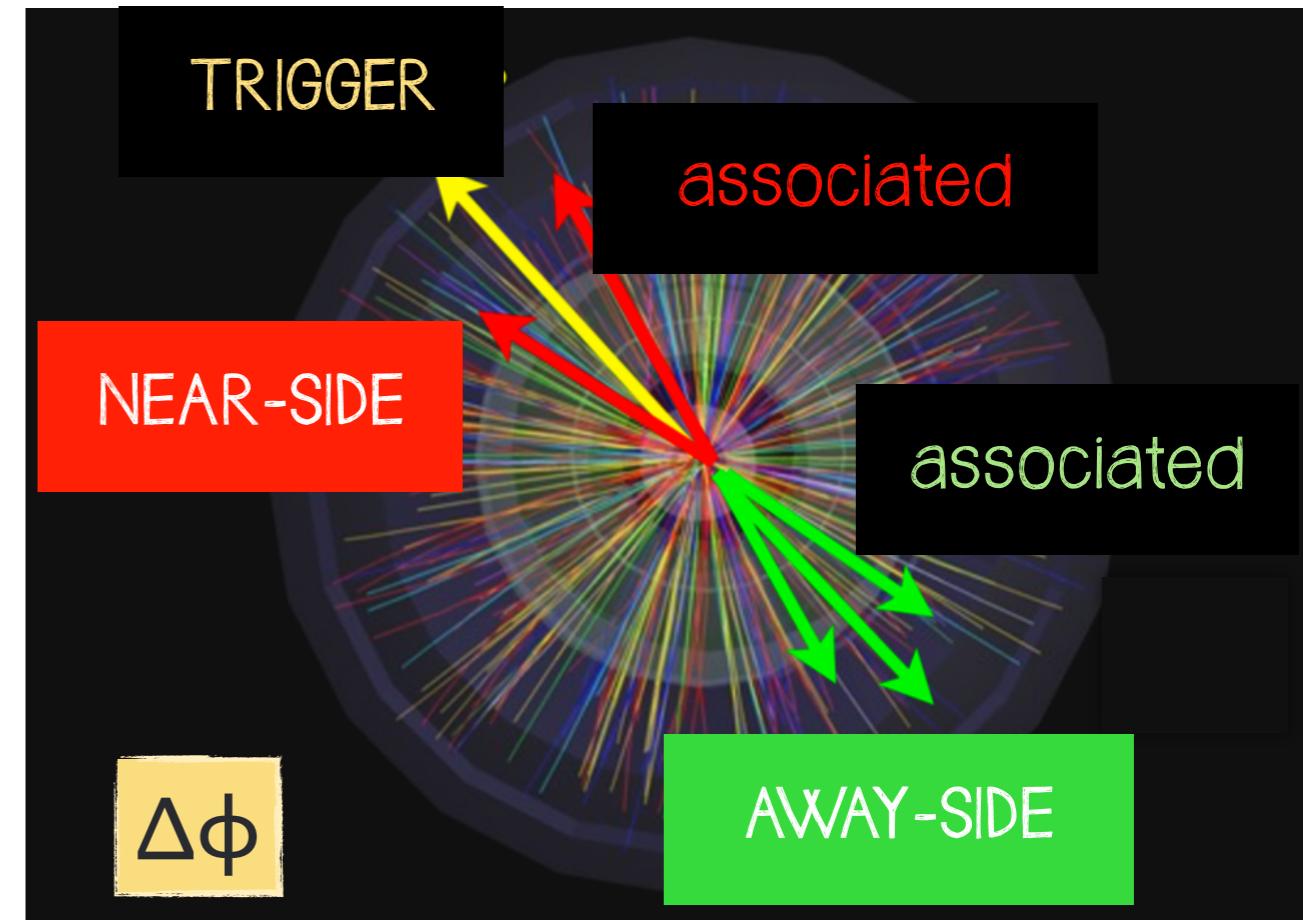
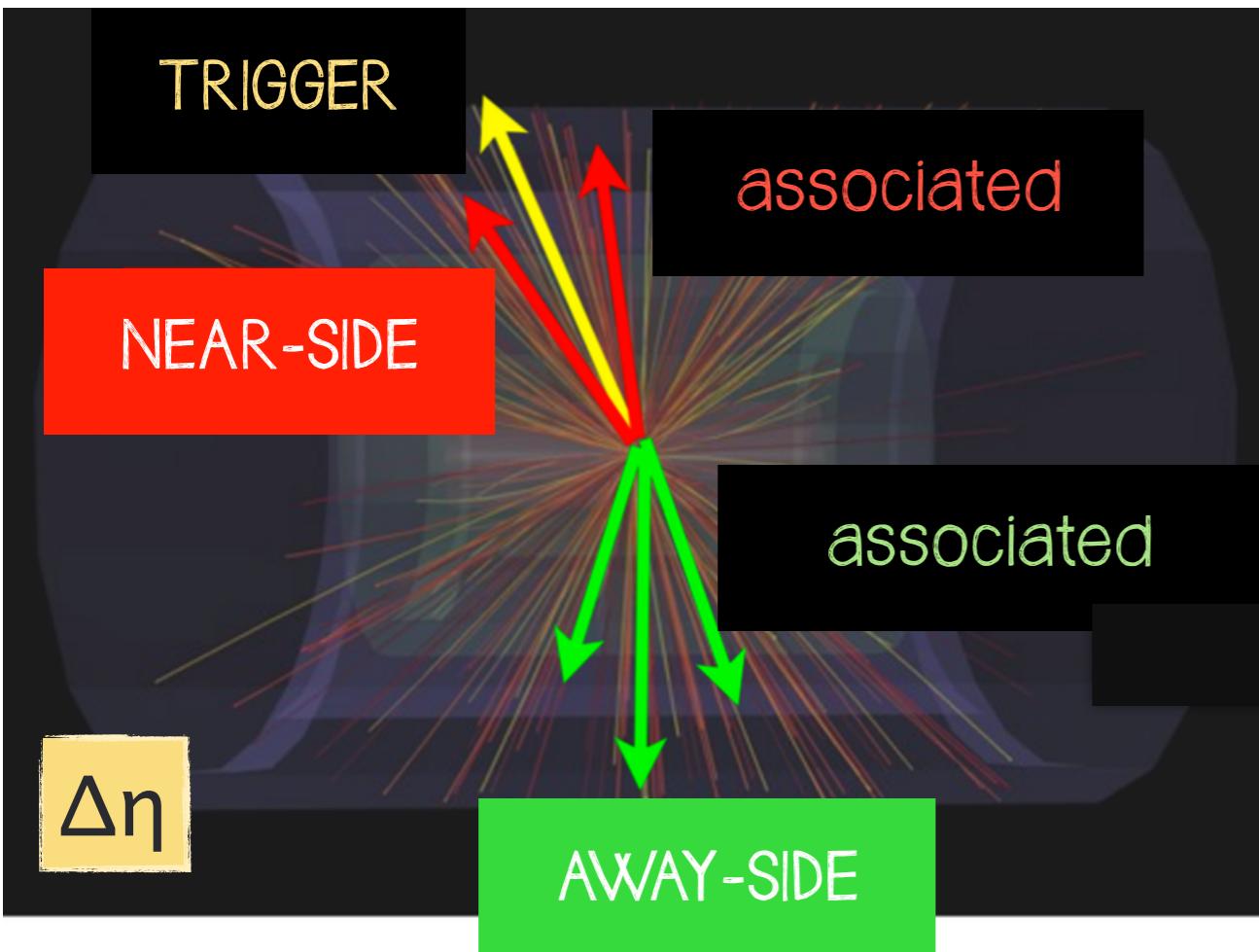
ALICE coll., Nat. Phys. 13 (2017) 535-539



smooth “transition” from pp to p-Pb to Pb-Pb  
► driven by multiplicity?

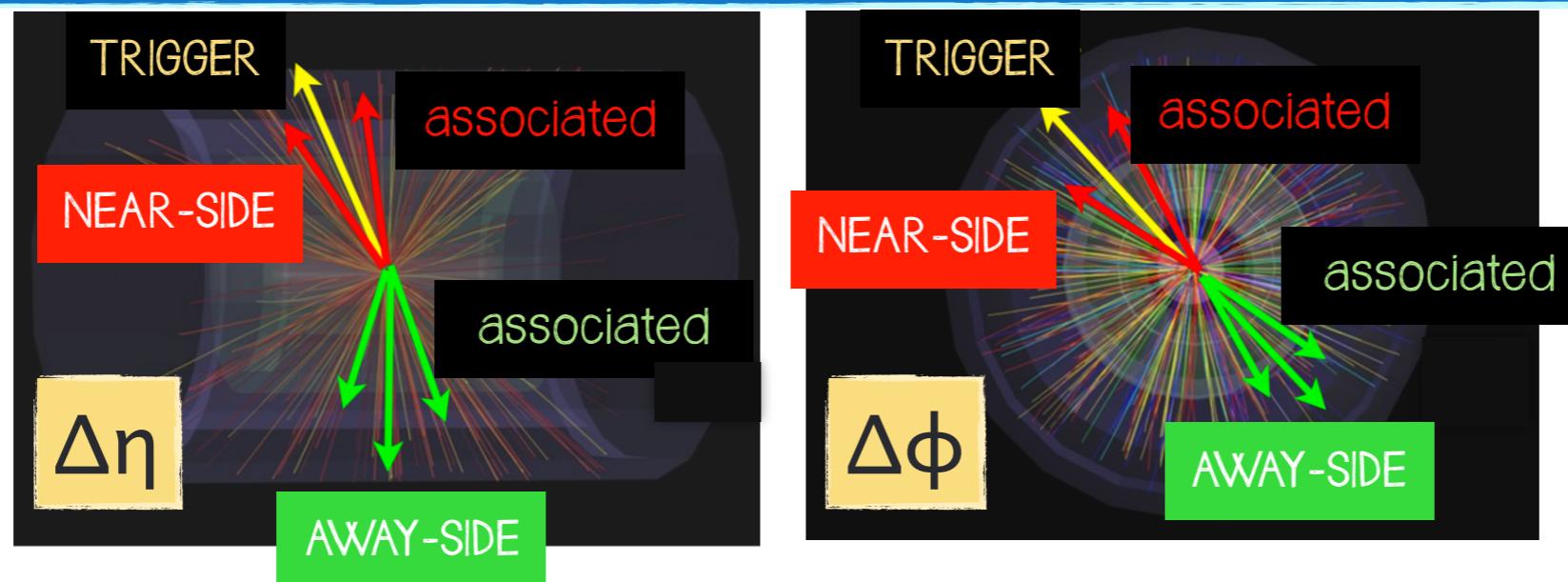
# Two-particle correlations

Distributions of relative angles  $\Delta\phi$  and  $\Delta\eta$  between pairs of particles: TRIGGER particle in a certain  $p_{T,\text{trig}}$  interval and ASSOCIATED particles in a  $p_{T,\text{assoc}}$  range



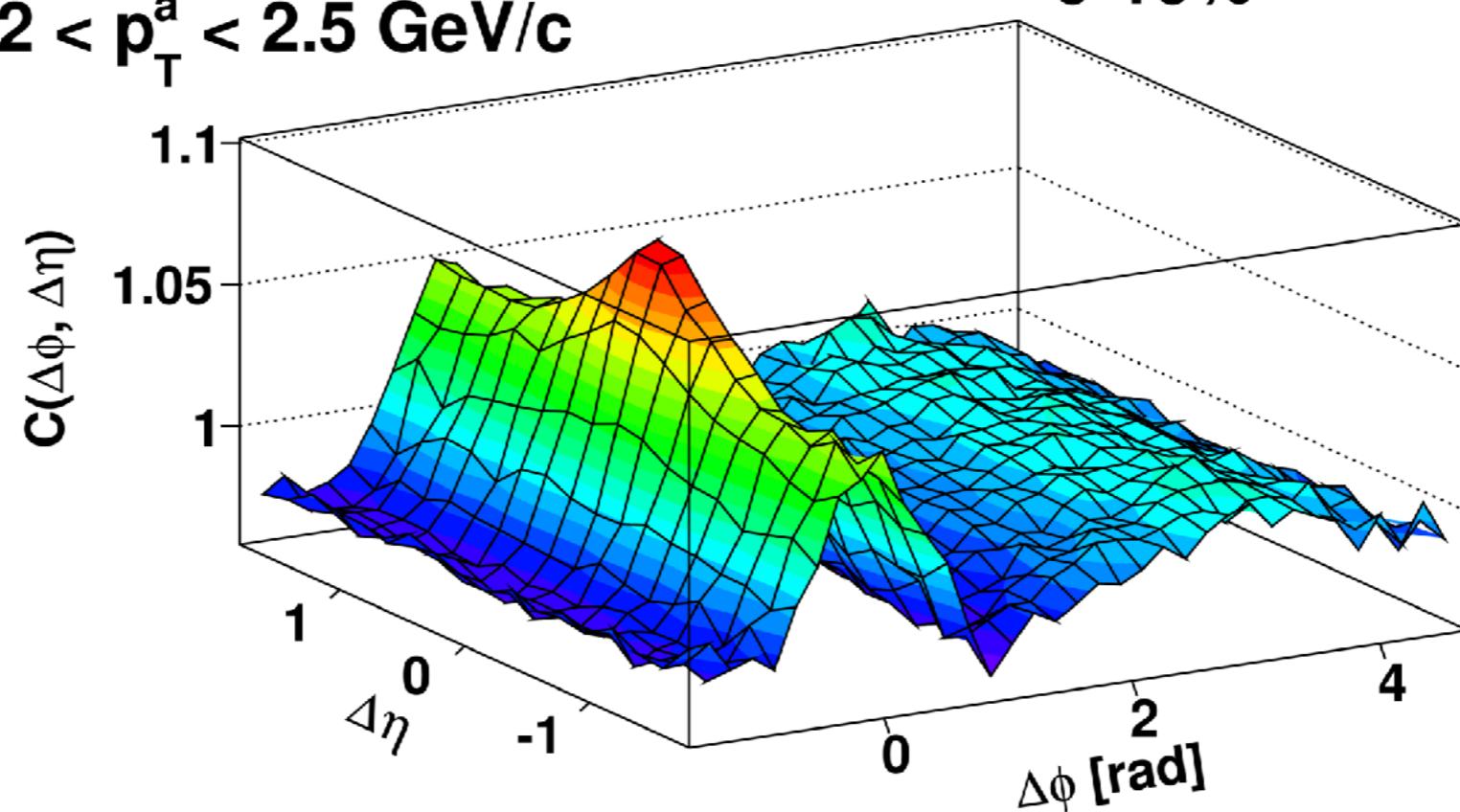
- ▶ test long range correlations between particles

# Two-particle correlations

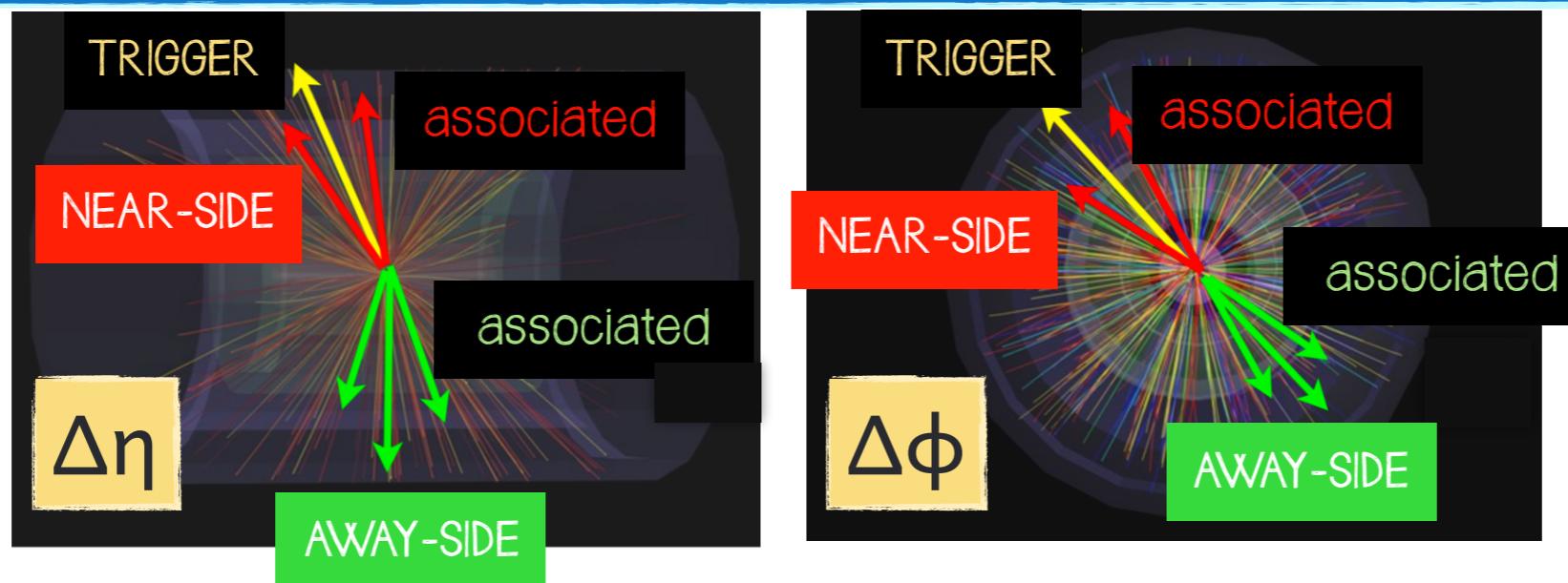


$3 < p_T^t < 4 \text{ GeV}/c$   
 $2 < p_T^a < 2.5 \text{ GeV}/c$

Pb-Pb 2.76 TeV  
0-10%

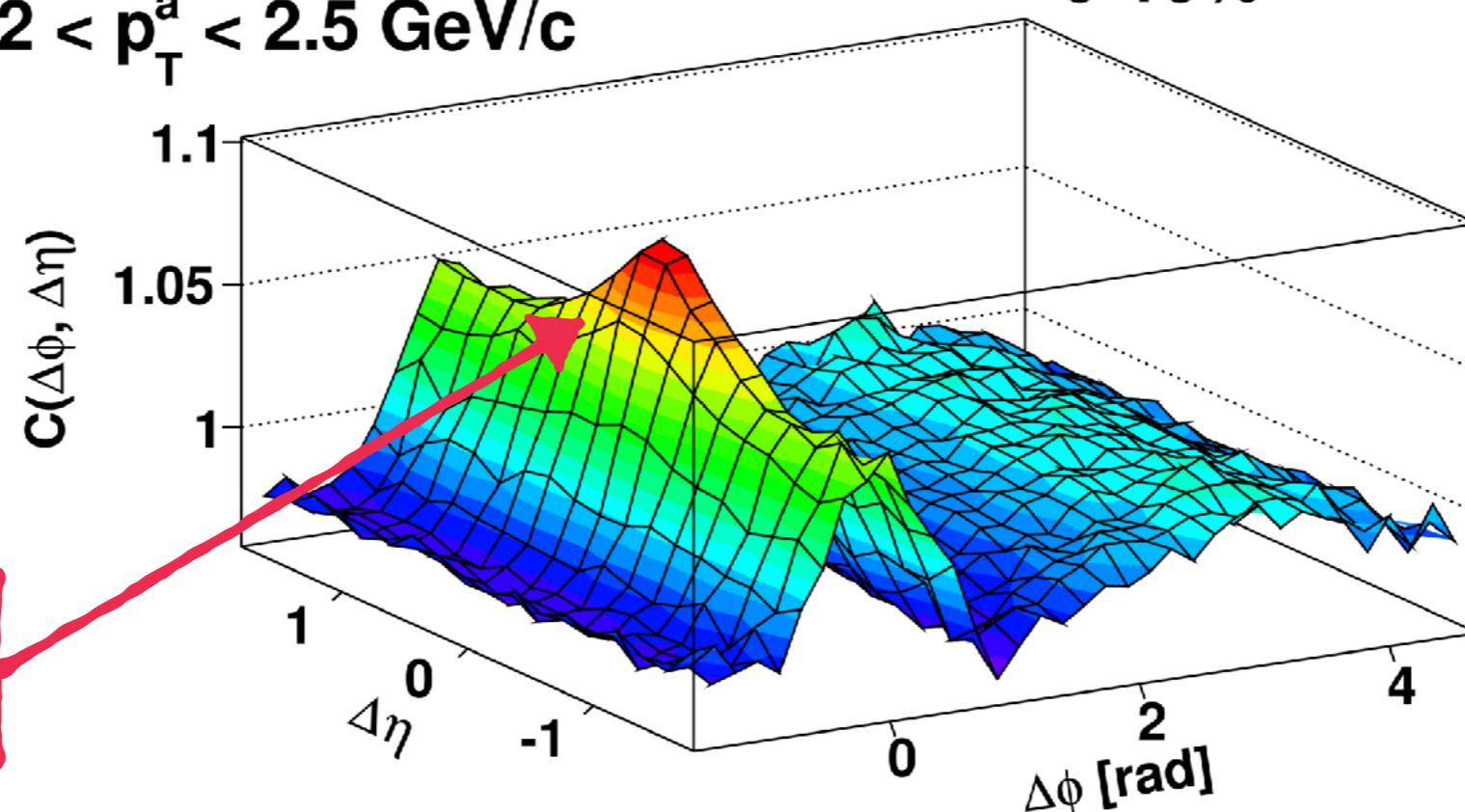


# Two-particle correlations

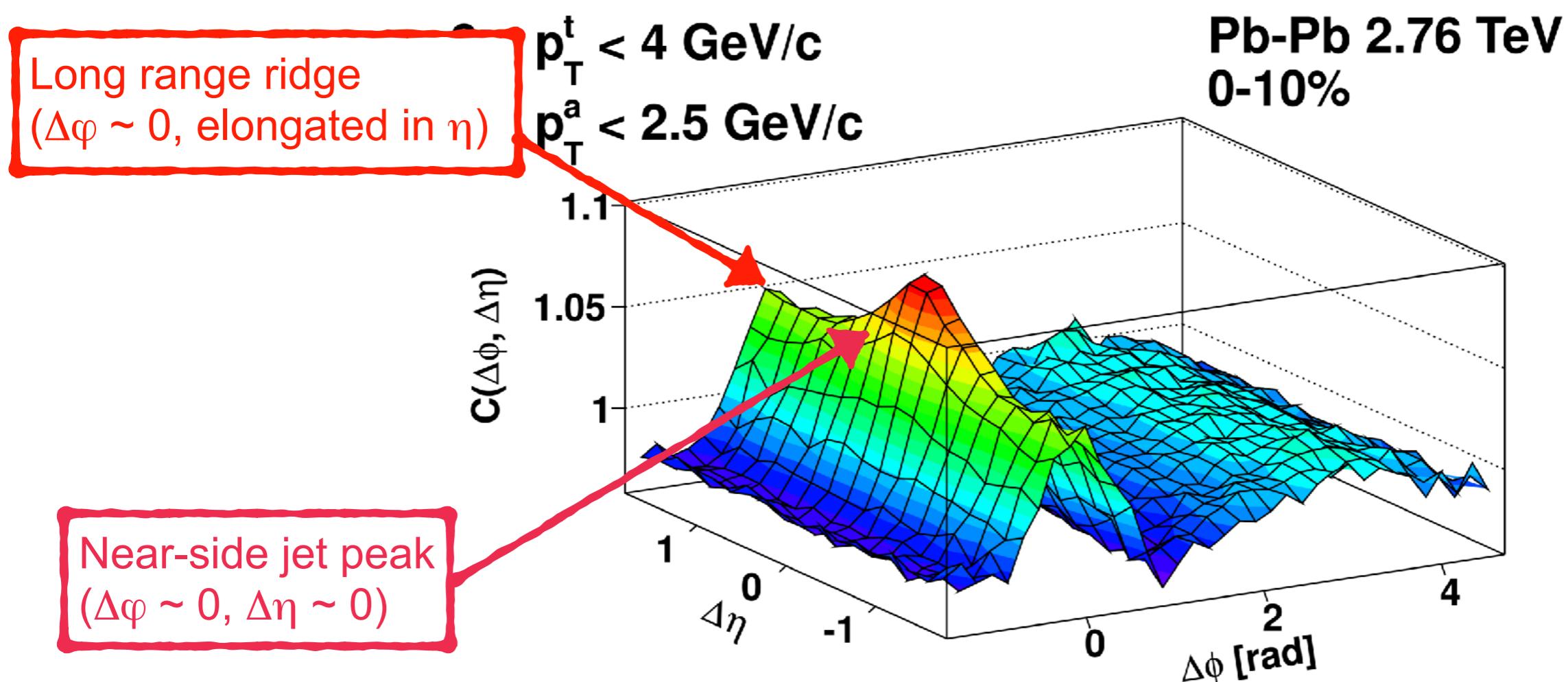
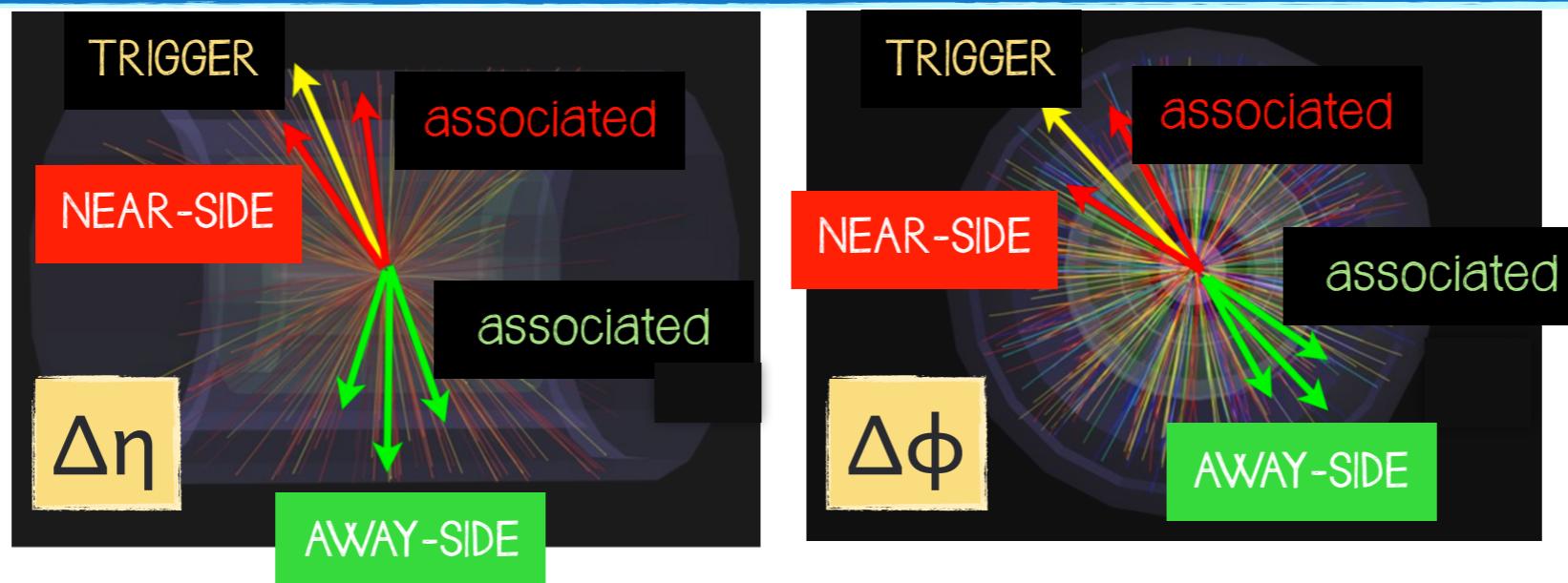


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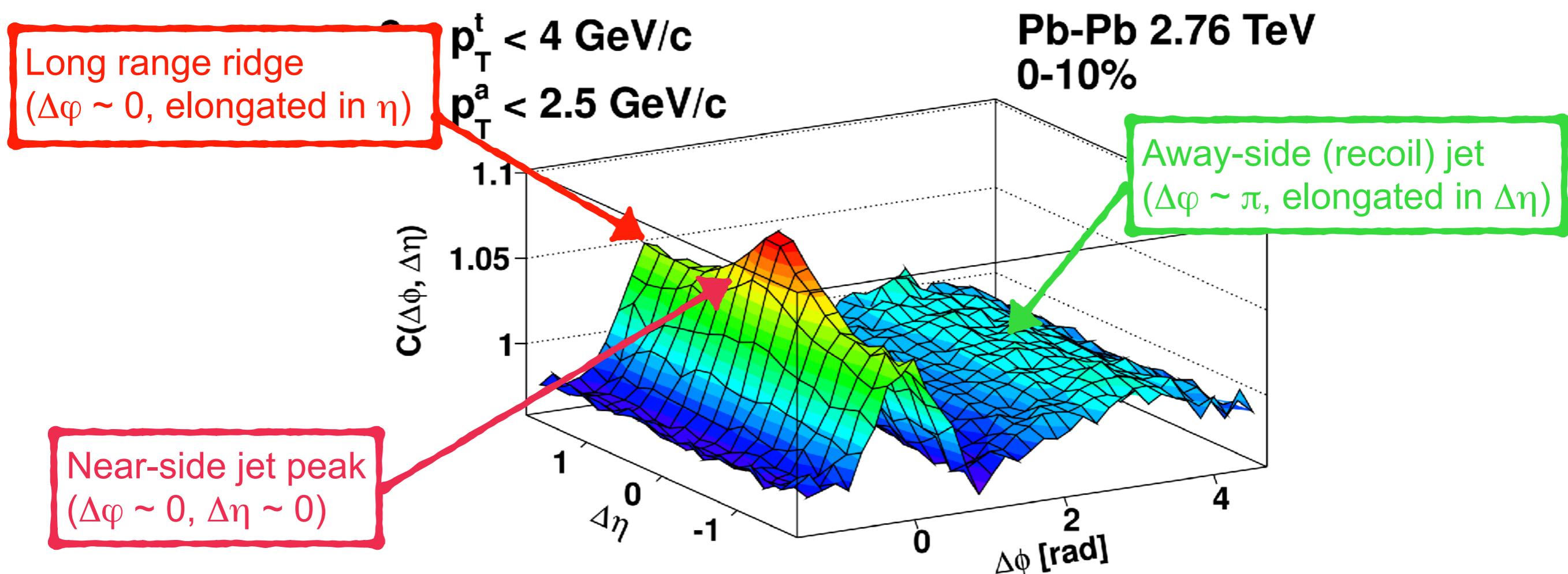
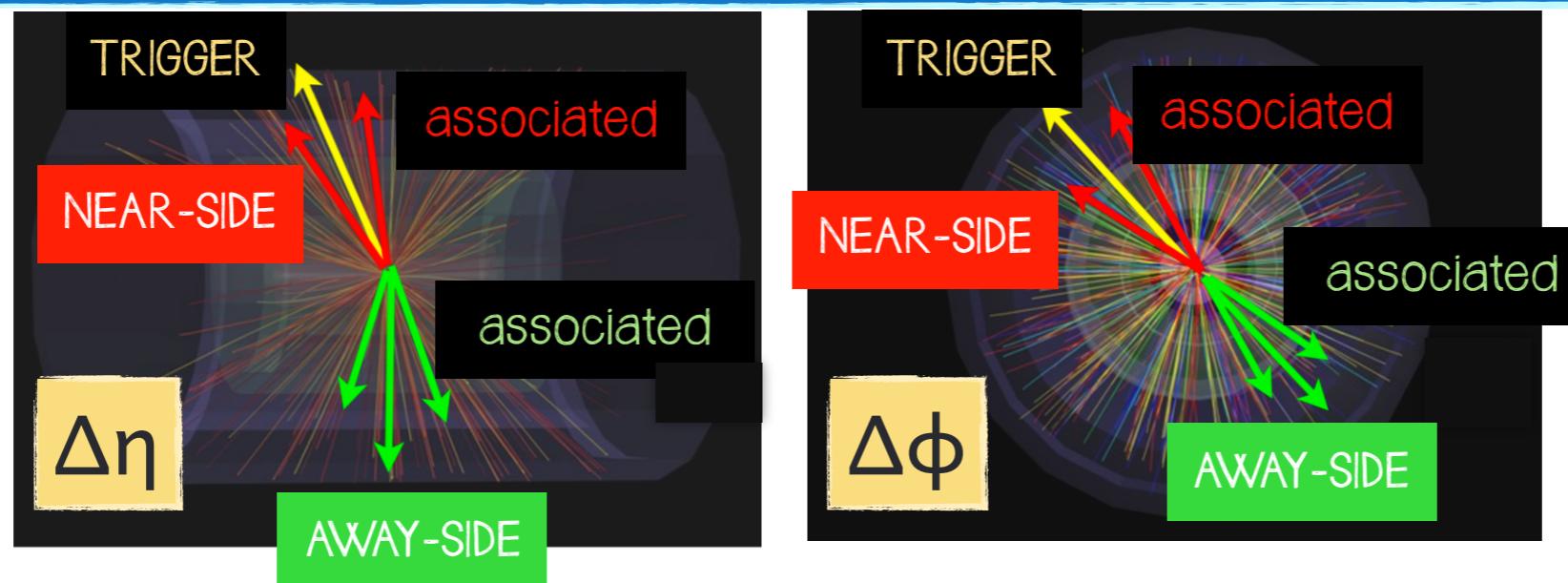
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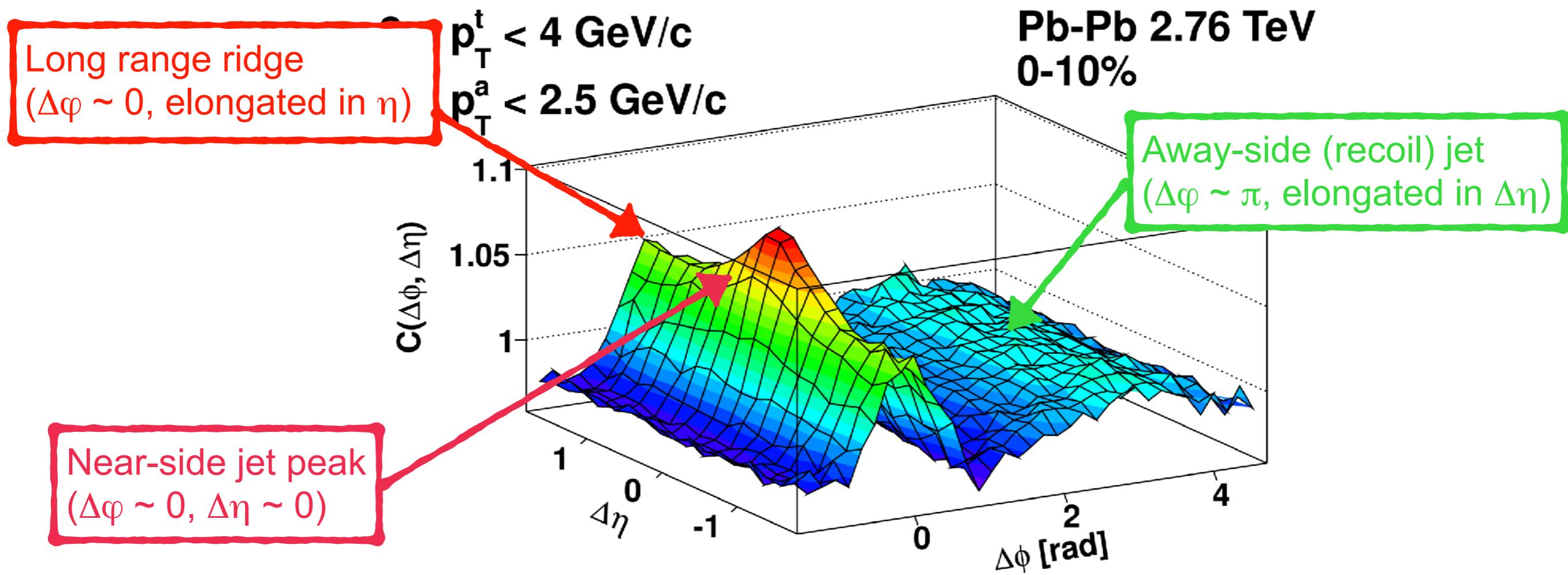
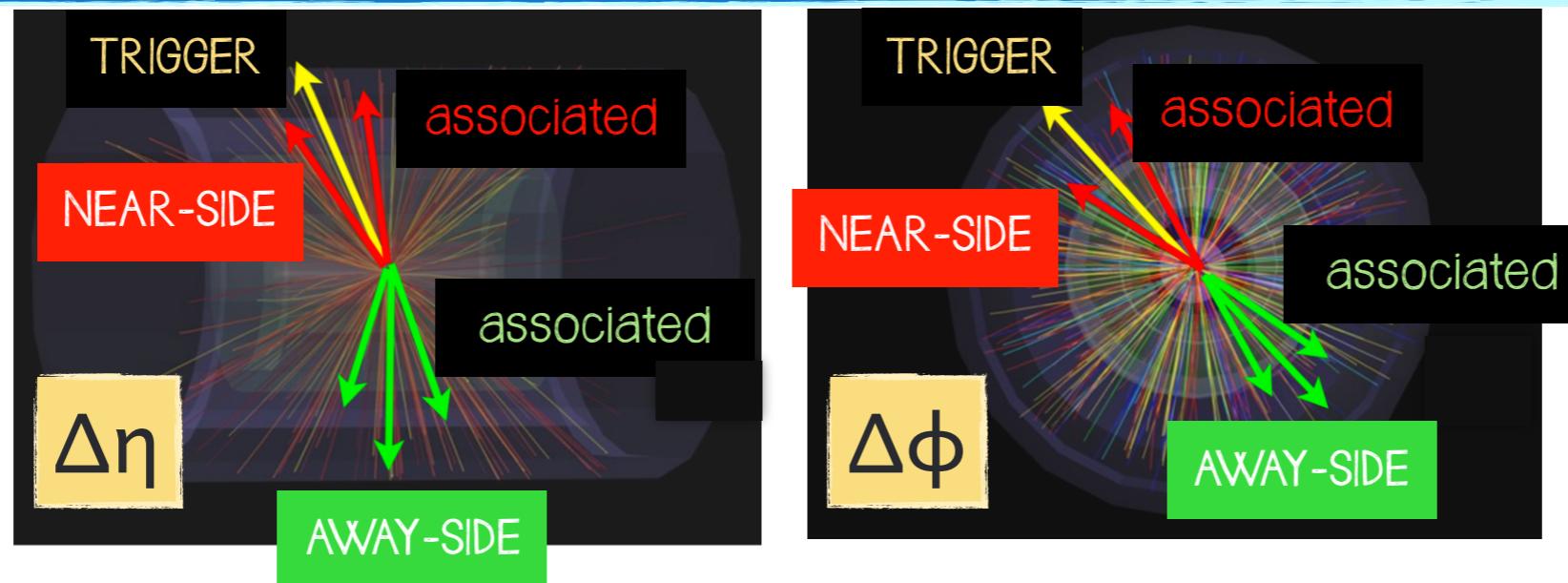
# Two-particle correlations



# Two-particle correlations



# Two-particle correlations



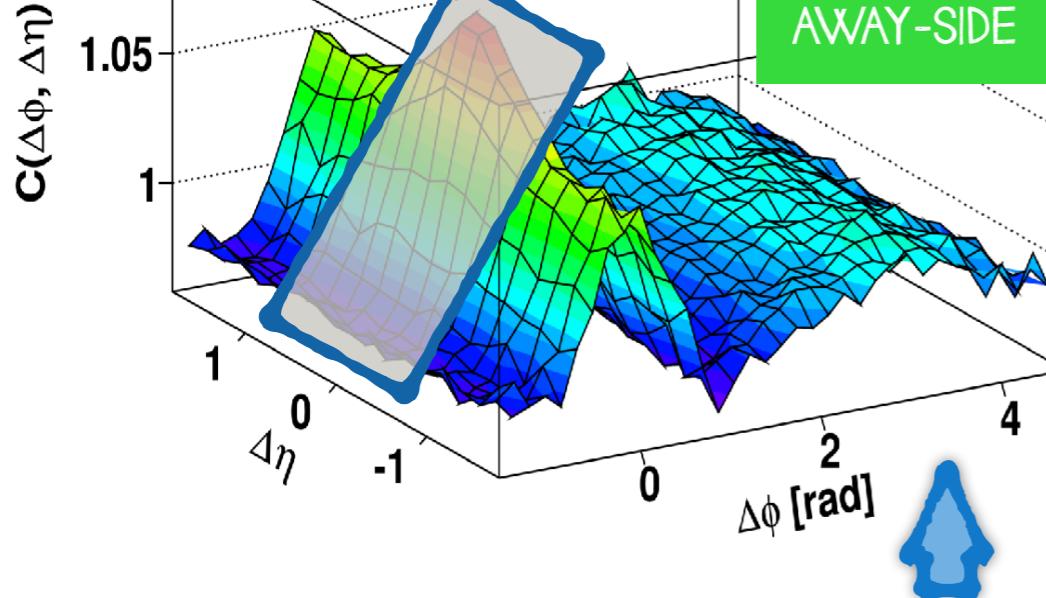
long range “ridges” in  $\Delta\eta$  → evidence of collective behavior in the dense medium

# Long range correlations

$3 < p_T^t < 4 \text{ GeV}/c$

$2 < p_T^a < 2.5 \text{ GeV}/c$

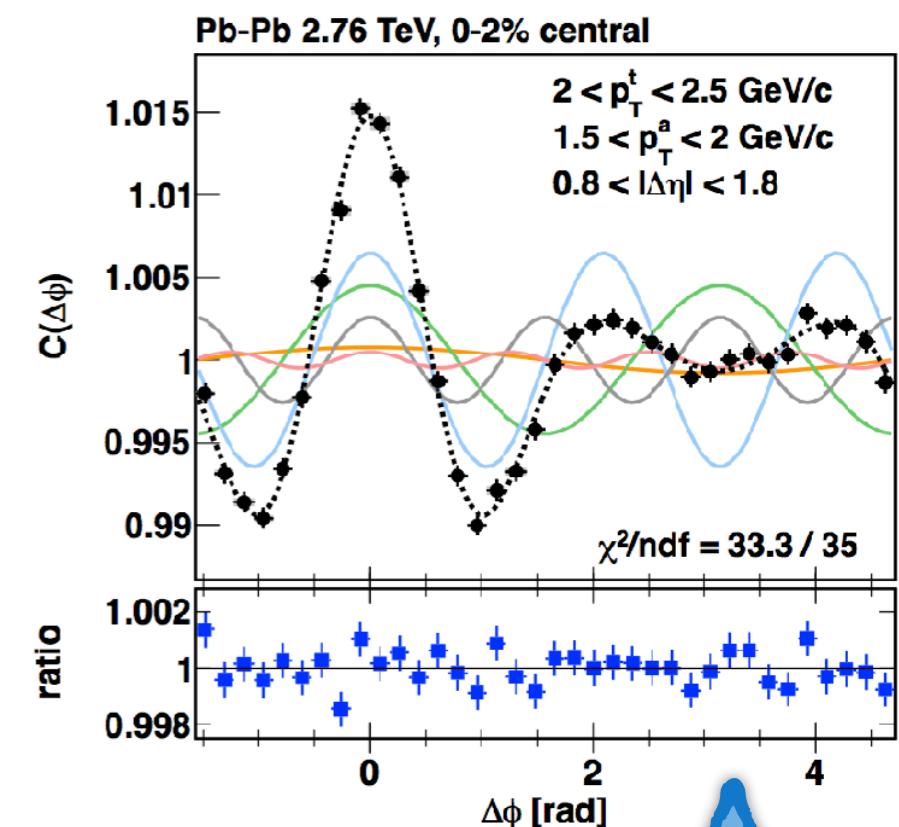
NEAR-SIDE



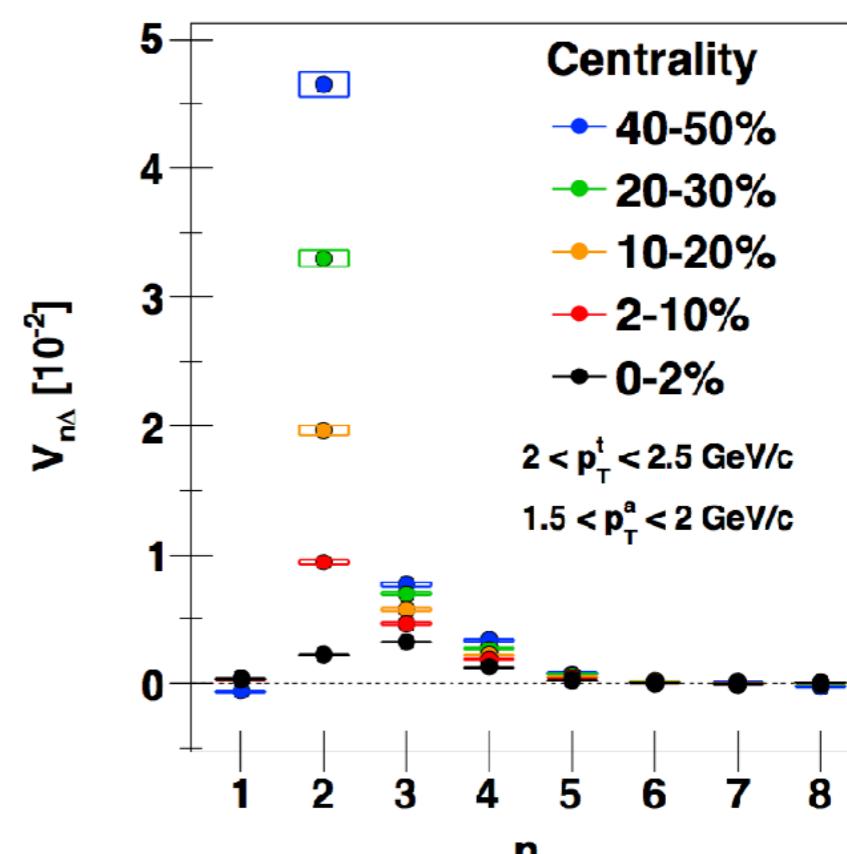
Pb-Pb 2.76 TeV  
0-10%

ALICE coll., Phys. Lett. B 708 (2012) 249

project along  $\phi$   
removing jet peak

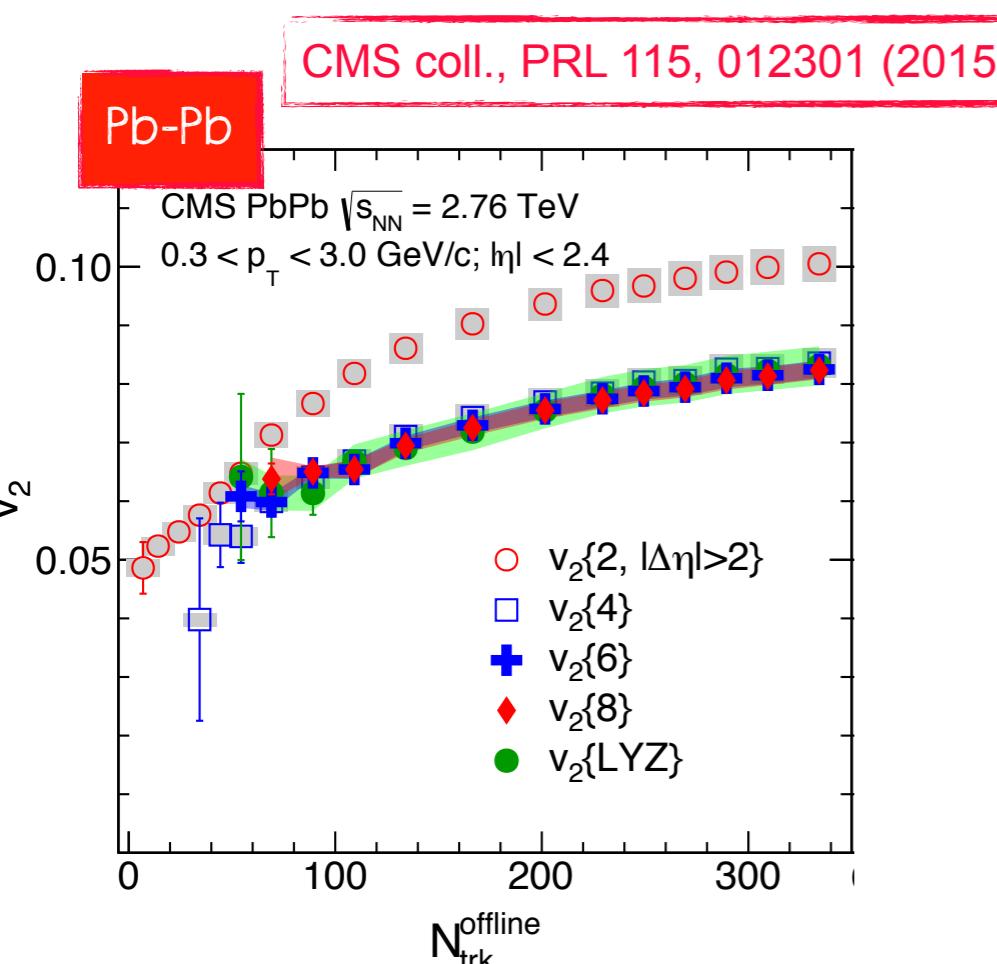


Decomposition of correlations (after jet peak subtraction) in Fourier harmonics  
→ extract  $v_n(p_T)$  from 2-particle correlations



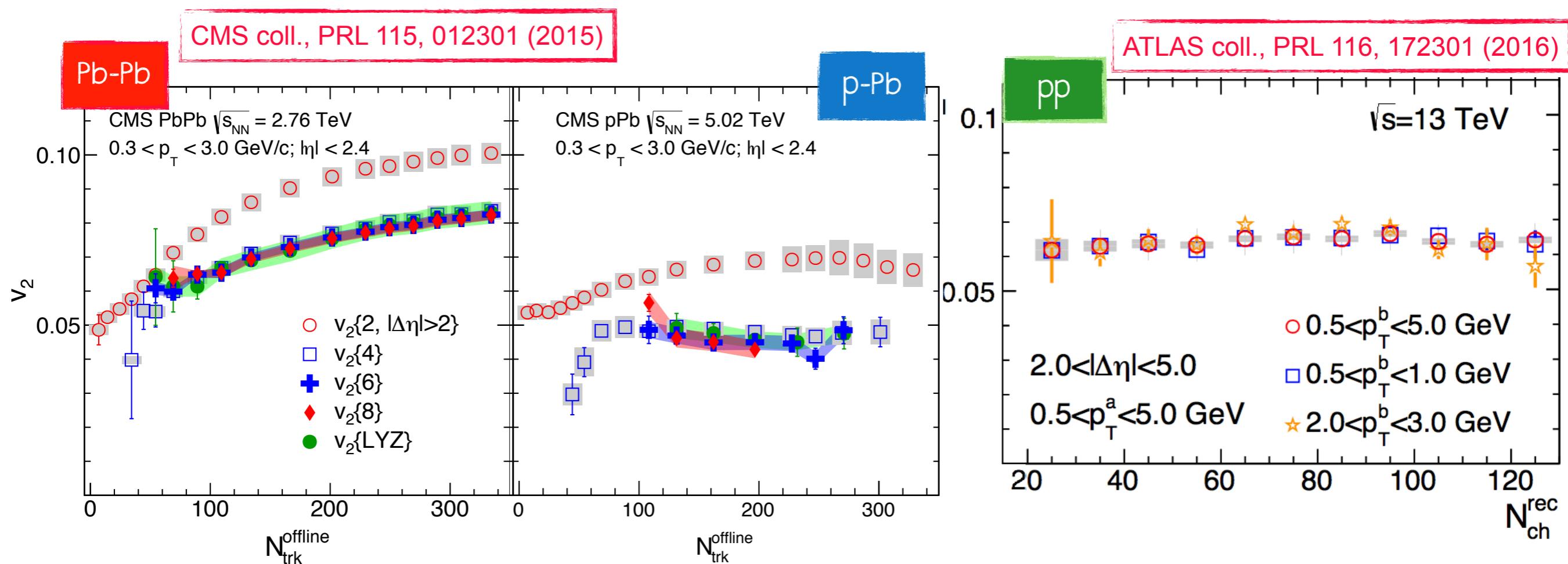
# Multi-particle correlations

Multi-particle correlations  $\rightarrow$  contribution from jet fragmentation strongly suppressed



# Multi-particle correlations

Multi-particle correlations → contribution from jet fragmentation strongly suppressed



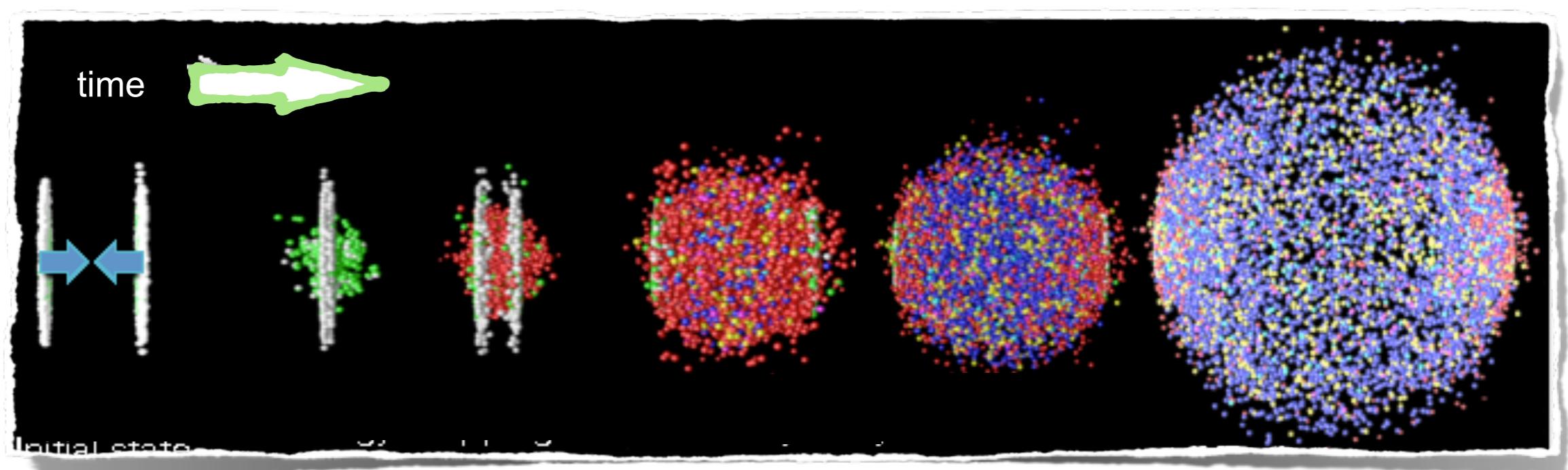
Large elliptic flow already in small system as p-Pb and high multiplicity pp collision

- hydrodynamics at work or partonic interactions?
- hydrodynamics assumptions at the edge of validity:  $\lambda_{\text{MFP}}/L \sim 1$

# Soft probes: what have we learnt?

- matter formed in the collision has very low  $\eta/s$  ratio, close to minimum value  $1/4\pi$
- early thermalization
- multi-particle anisotropic flow  $\rightarrow$  soft particles flow
- long-range correlation in anisotropic flow  $\rightarrow$  system collective response to initial fluctuations

A strongly coupled nearly perfect liquid  $\rightarrow$  sQGP

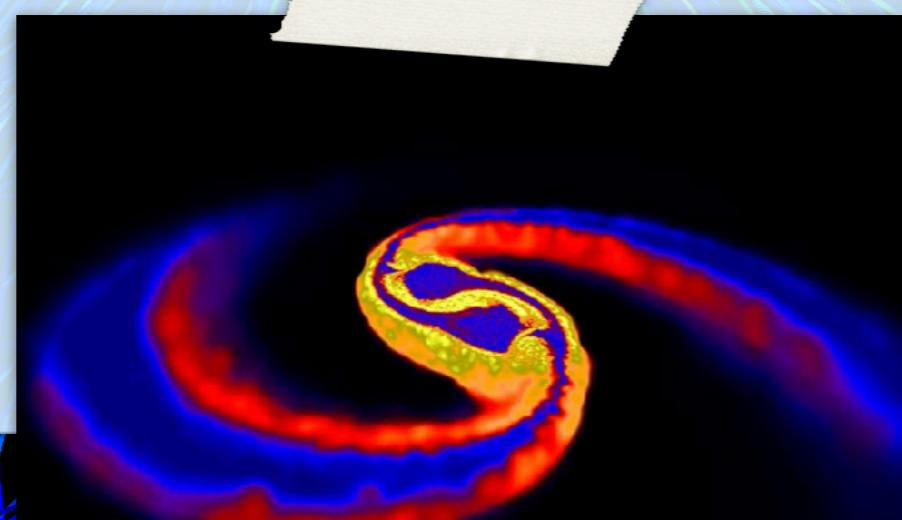


# Soft probes: what can we learn?

- pre-equilibrium: weakly or strongly coupled system?
- mechanism driving fast thermalization?
- QCD medium transport properties
- deviations from perfect fluid to understand underlying physics
- perfect fluid for all probes? Hard probes flow
- origin of strangeness enhancement? Flavor-dependent freeze-out?
- QGP in small systems? Same physic origin or only similar appearance?  
Do we need different models or different physics?
- ...what else?

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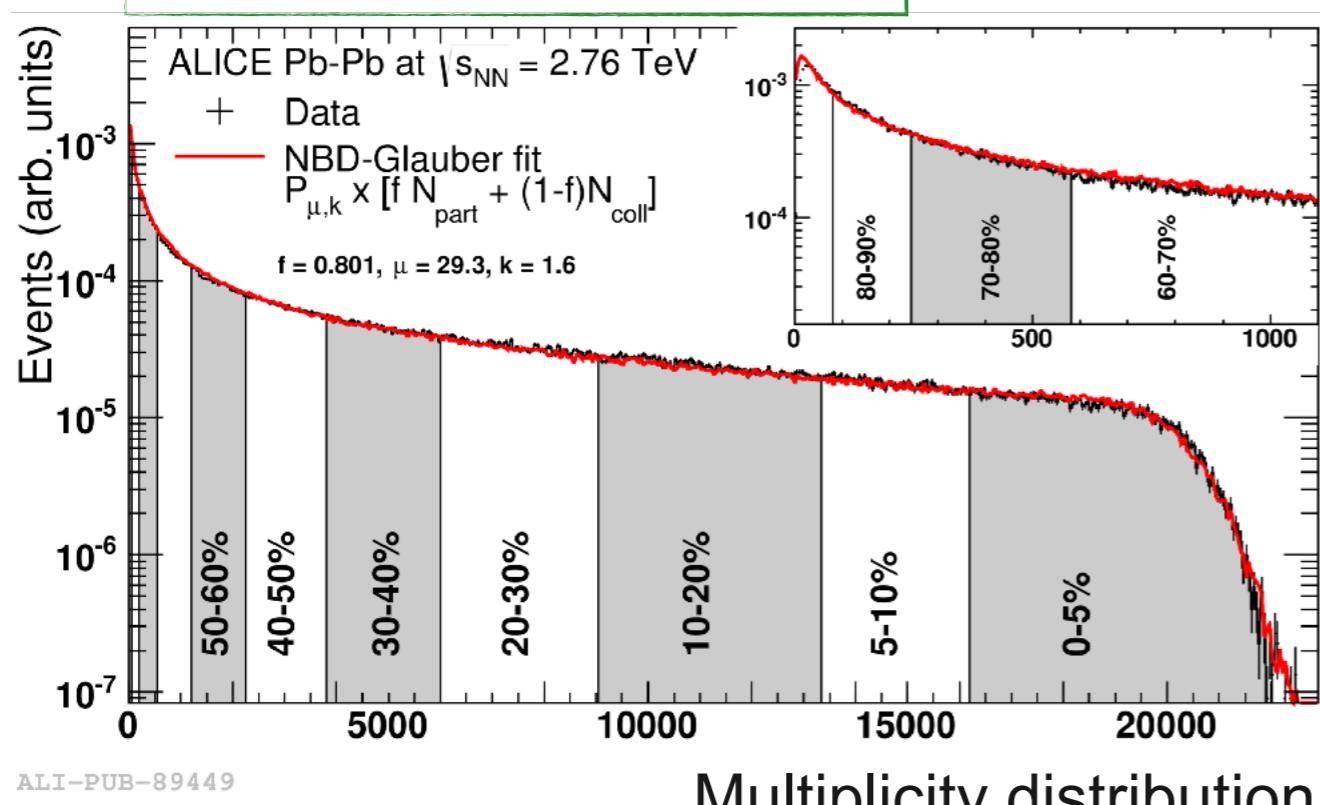
The end...  
.

# Centrality determination



# Centrality determination

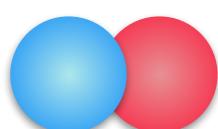
ALICE coll., Phys. Rev. C 88, 044909



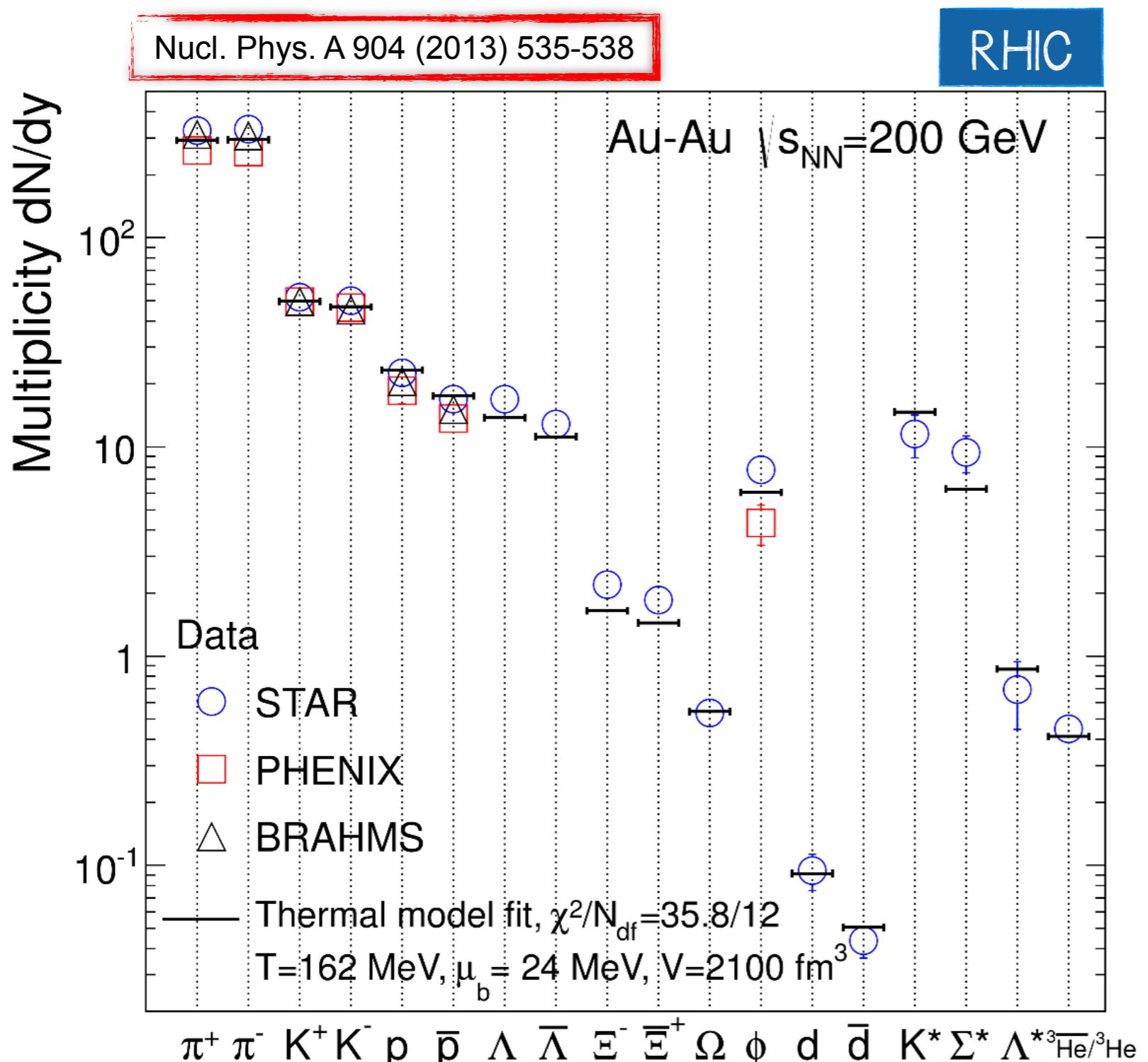
Measured charged particle multiplicity  $N_{\text{ch}}$  assuming  $\langle N_{\text{ch}} \rangle(b)$  increases monotonically with decreasing  $b$

Glauber fit model

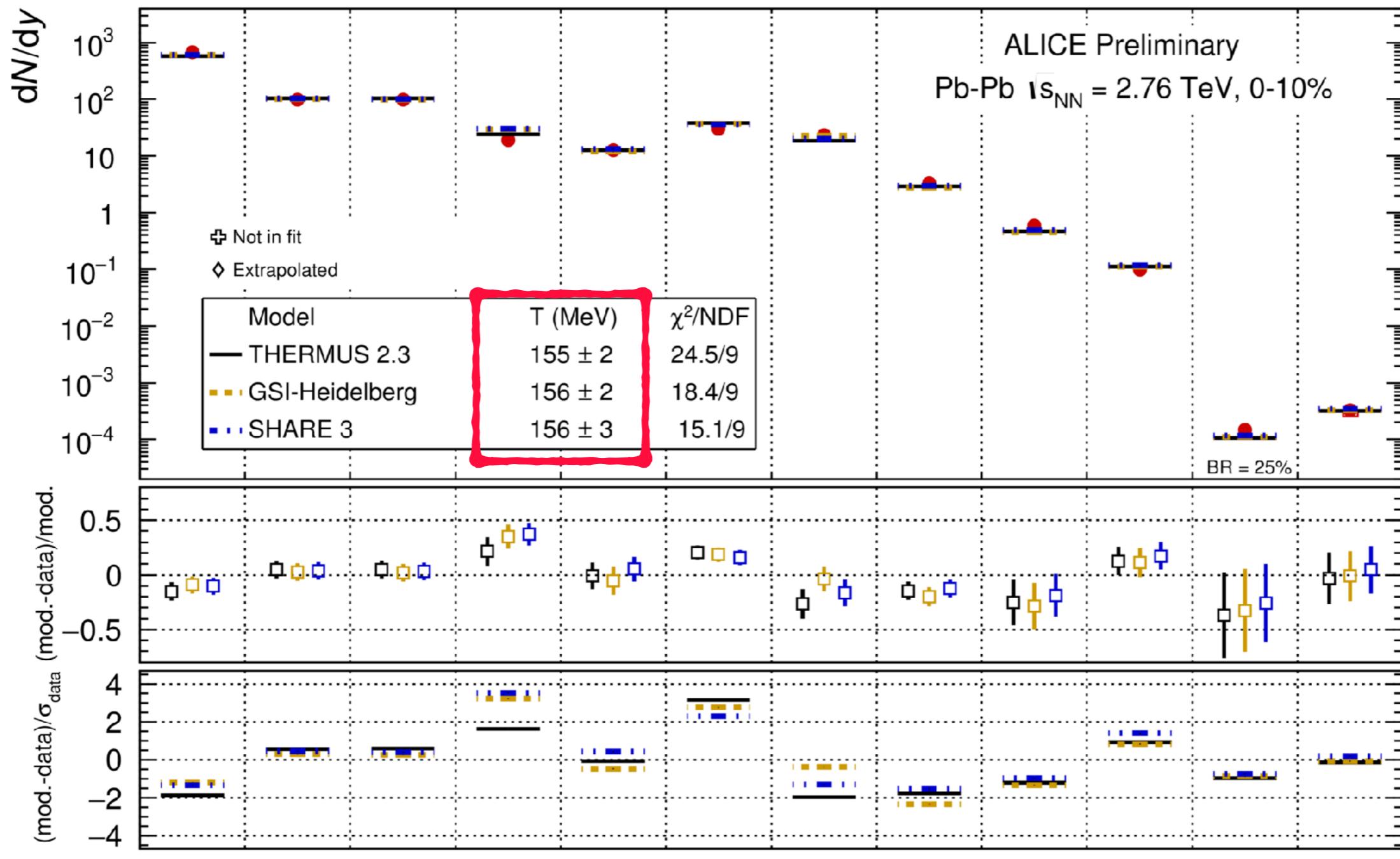
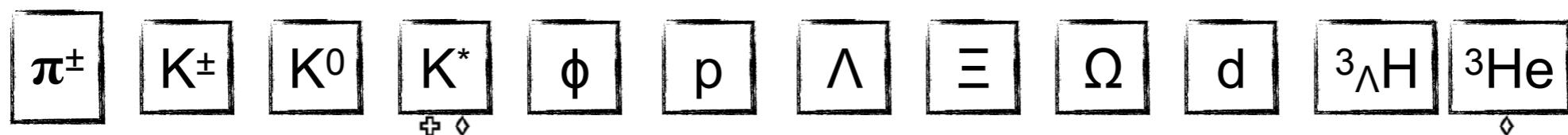
Define centrality classes selecting percentile of the measured distribution



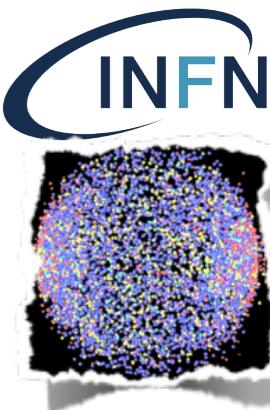
# Statistical models



# Statistical models

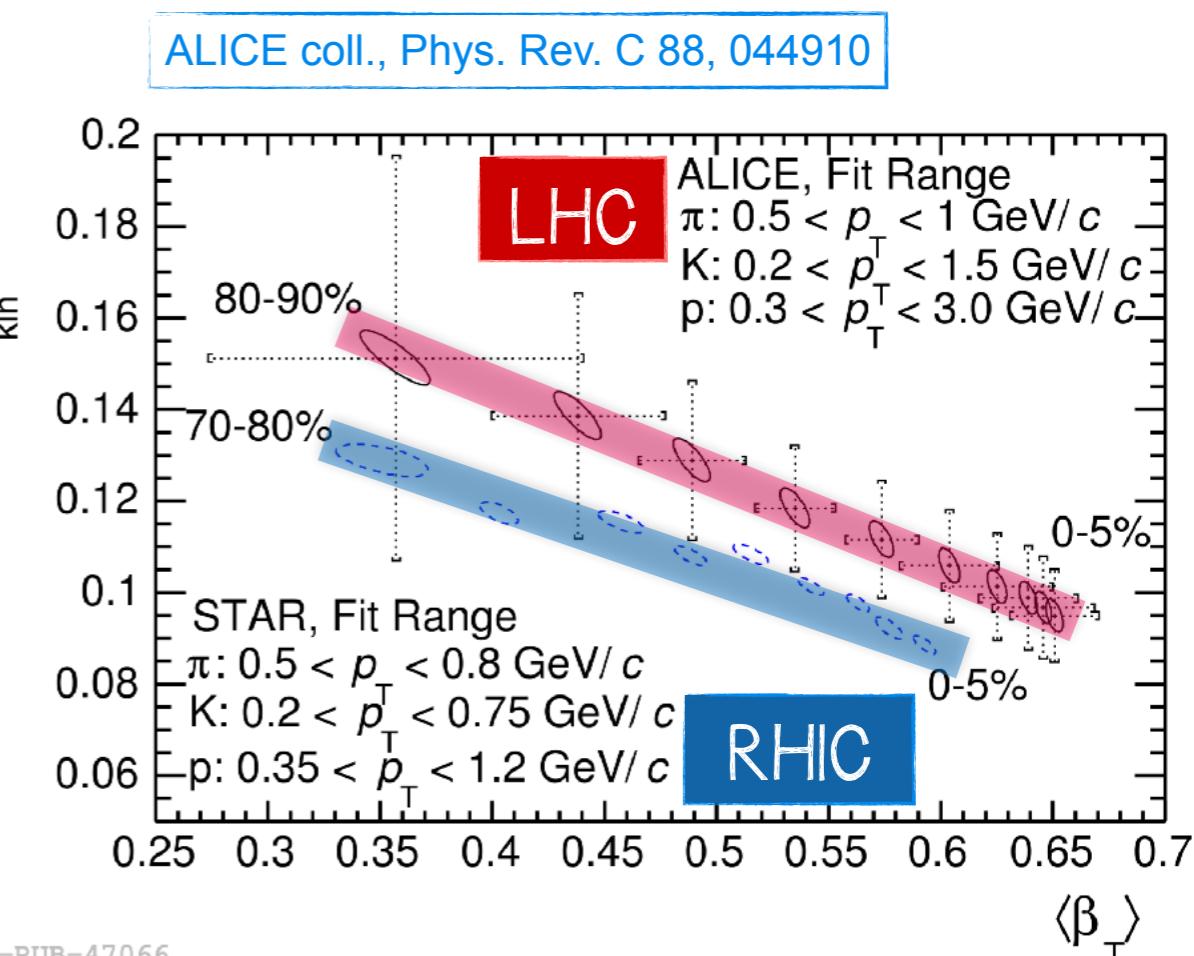
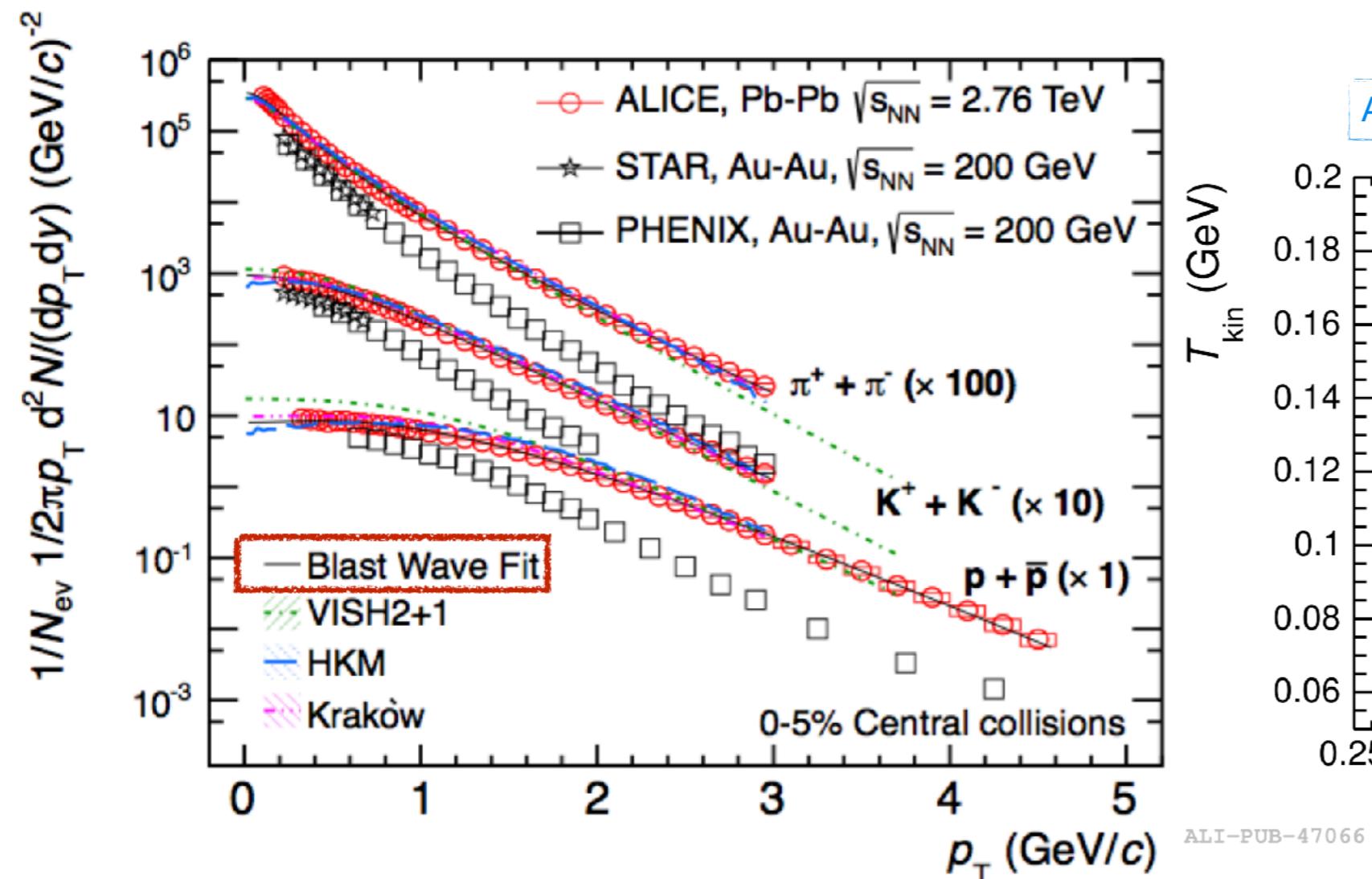


# Kinetic freeze-out



Fit particle spectra to disentangle thermal component from collective motion

→  $T_{\text{fo}}$ ,  $\beta_T$  from simultaneous fit to  $p$ ,  $K$ ,  $\pi$



- average radial flow velocity  $\langle \beta_T \rangle \sim 0.65$  (10% larger than at RHIC)
- kinetic freeze-out temperature  $T_{\text{fo}} \sim 100$  MeV (compatible with RHIC within errors)

# Blast wave description

- Consider a thermal Boltzman source

$$E \frac{d^3 N}{dp^3} \propto E e^{-E/T} \quad E = m_T \cosh(y)$$

- Boost source radially with velocity  $\beta$  and evaluate at midrapidity

$$\frac{1}{m_T} \frac{dN}{dm_T} \propto m_T I_0 \left( \frac{p_T \sinh(\rho)}{T} \right) K_1 \left( \frac{m_T \cosh(\rho)}{T} \right)$$

with  $\rho = \tanh^{-1}(\beta)$

- Consider a uniform sphere of radius  $R$

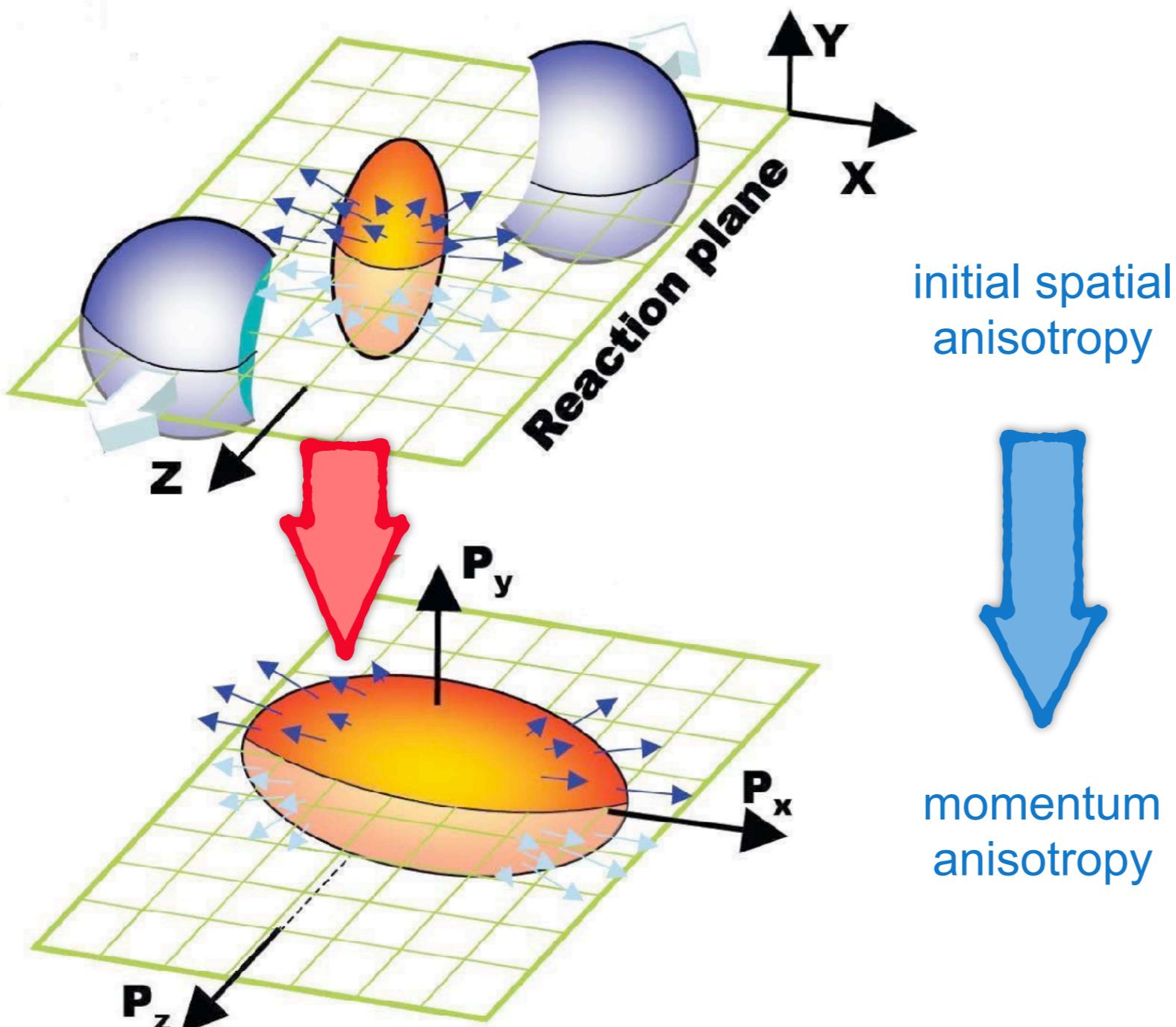
$$\frac{1}{m_T} \frac{dN}{dm_T} \propto \int_0^R dr m_T I_0 \left( \frac{p_T \sinh(\rho(r))}{T} \right) K_1 \left( \frac{m_T \cosh(\rho(r))}{T} \right)$$

parametrize surface velocity with

$$\beta(r) = \beta_s (r/R)^n$$

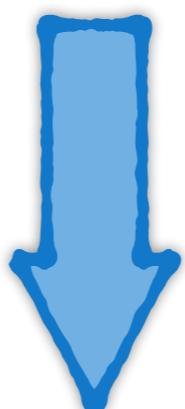
► 3 parameters:  $T$ ,  $\beta_s$  and  $n$

# Hydrodynamics



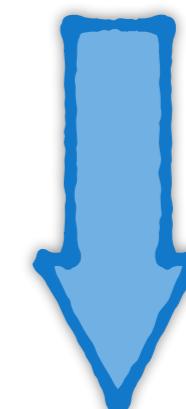
eccentricity

$$\epsilon = \frac{\sigma_y^2 - \sigma_x^2}{\sigma_y^2 + \sigma_x^2}$$



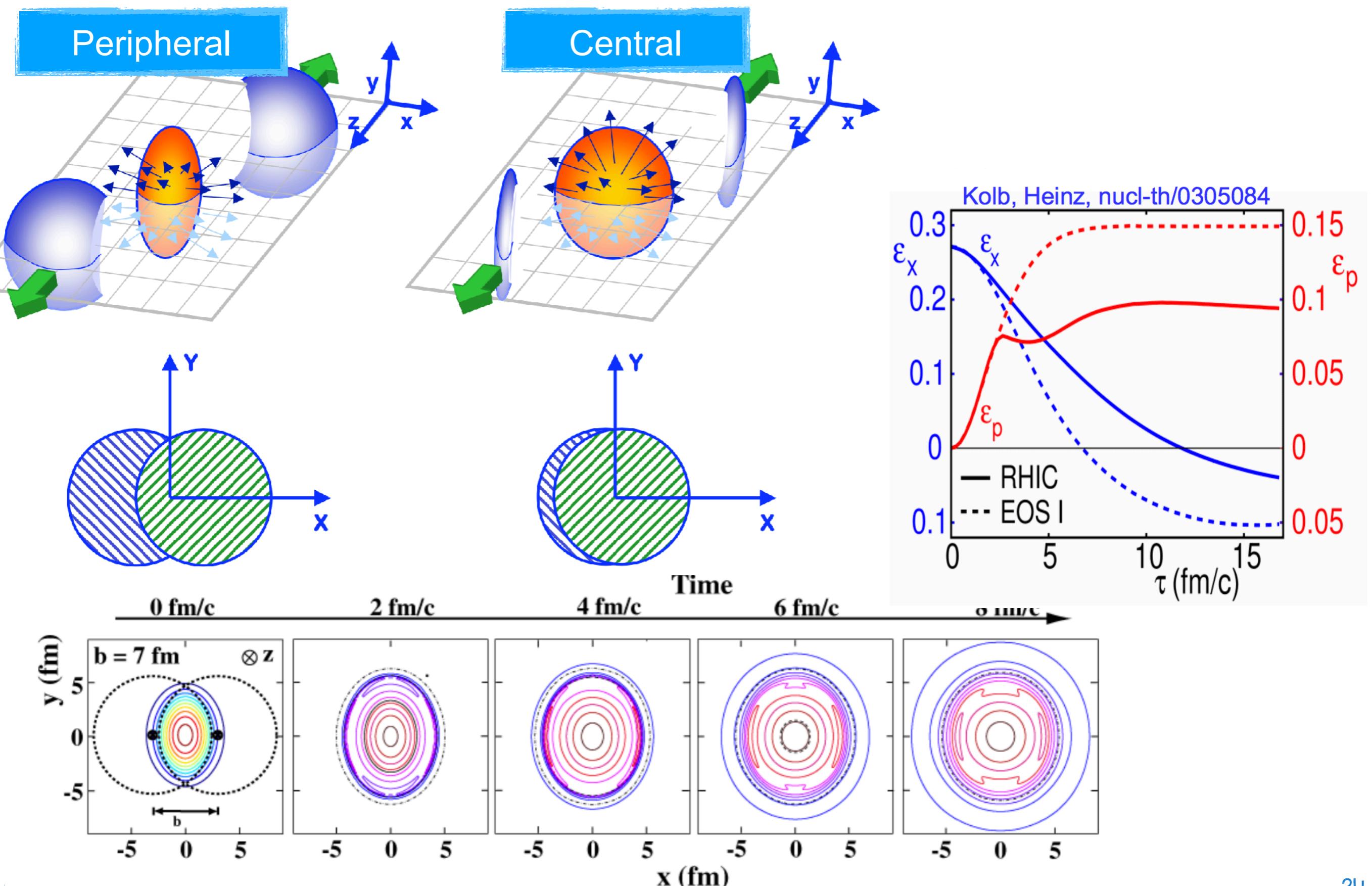
initial spatial  
anisotropy

momentum  
anisotropy

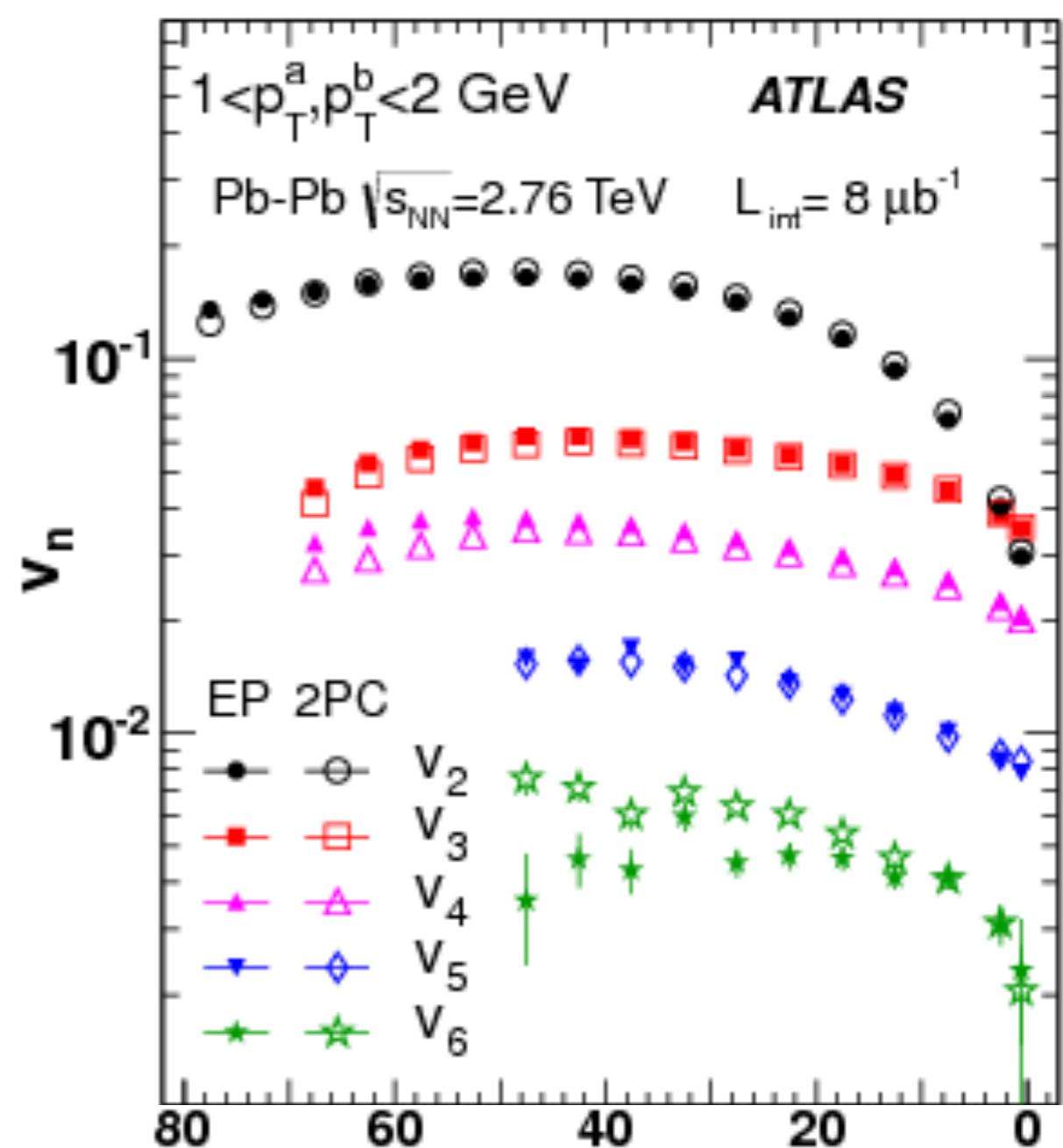


elliptic flow  
 $v_2$

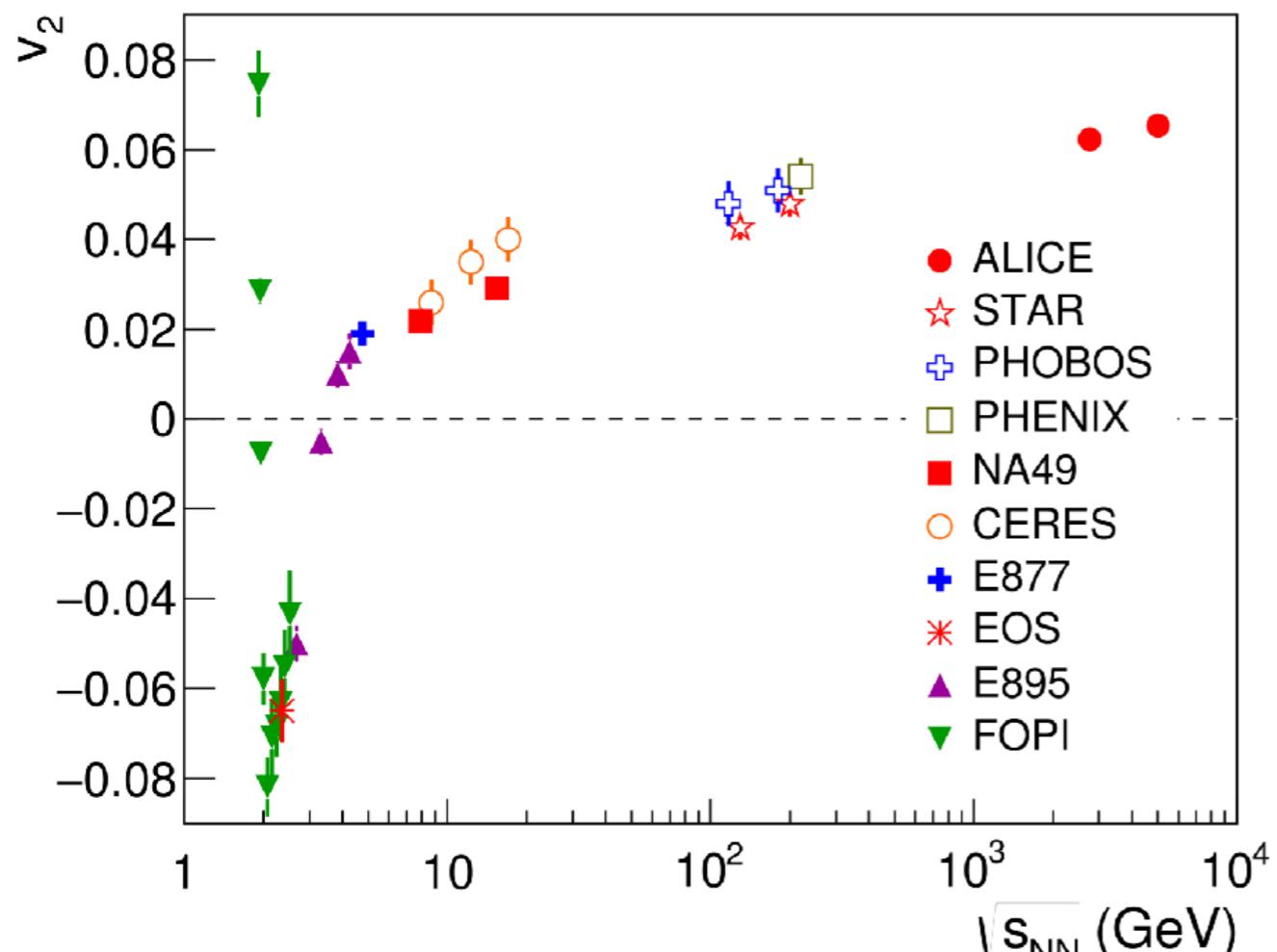
# Hydrodynamics



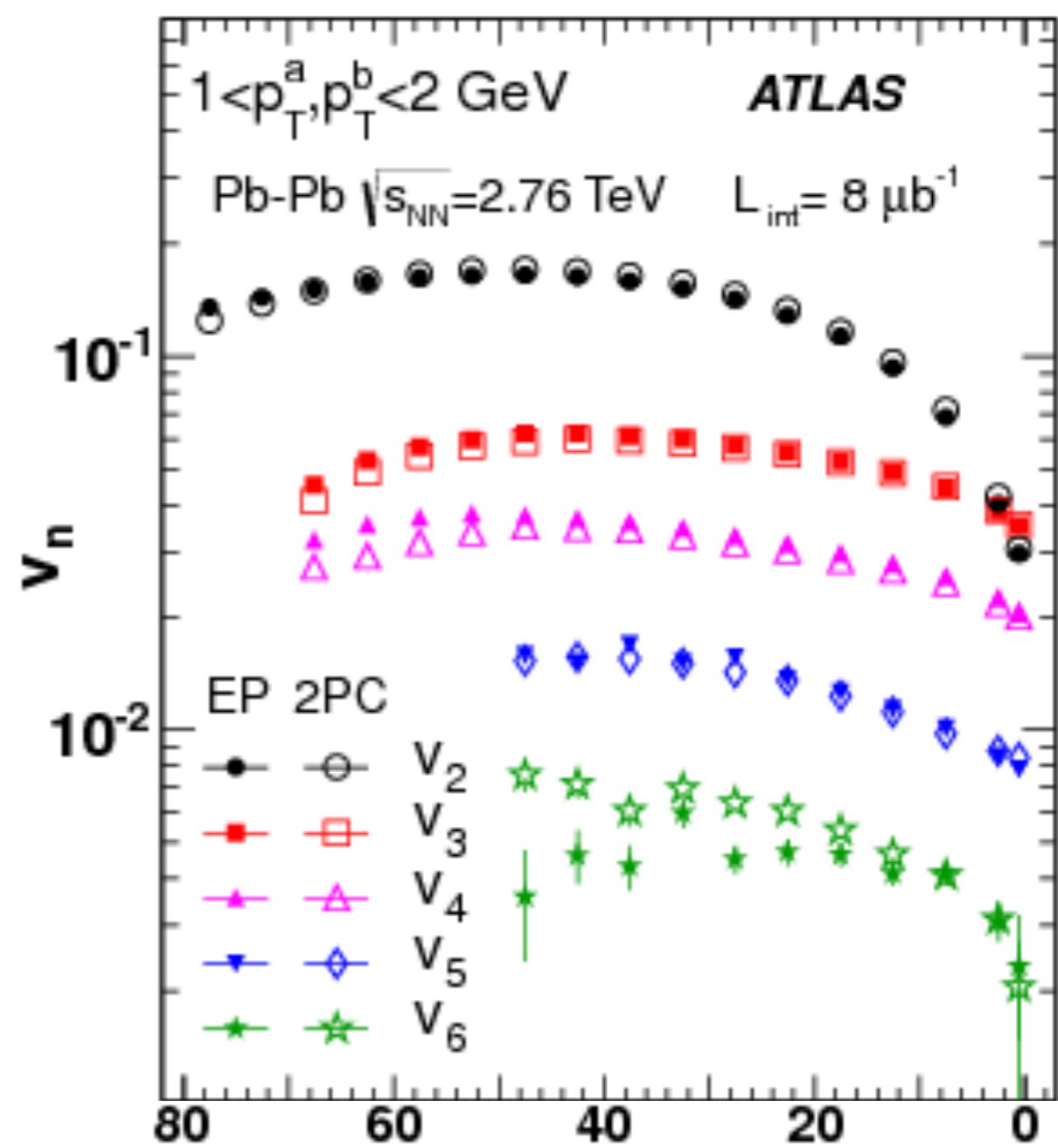
# Hydrodynamics



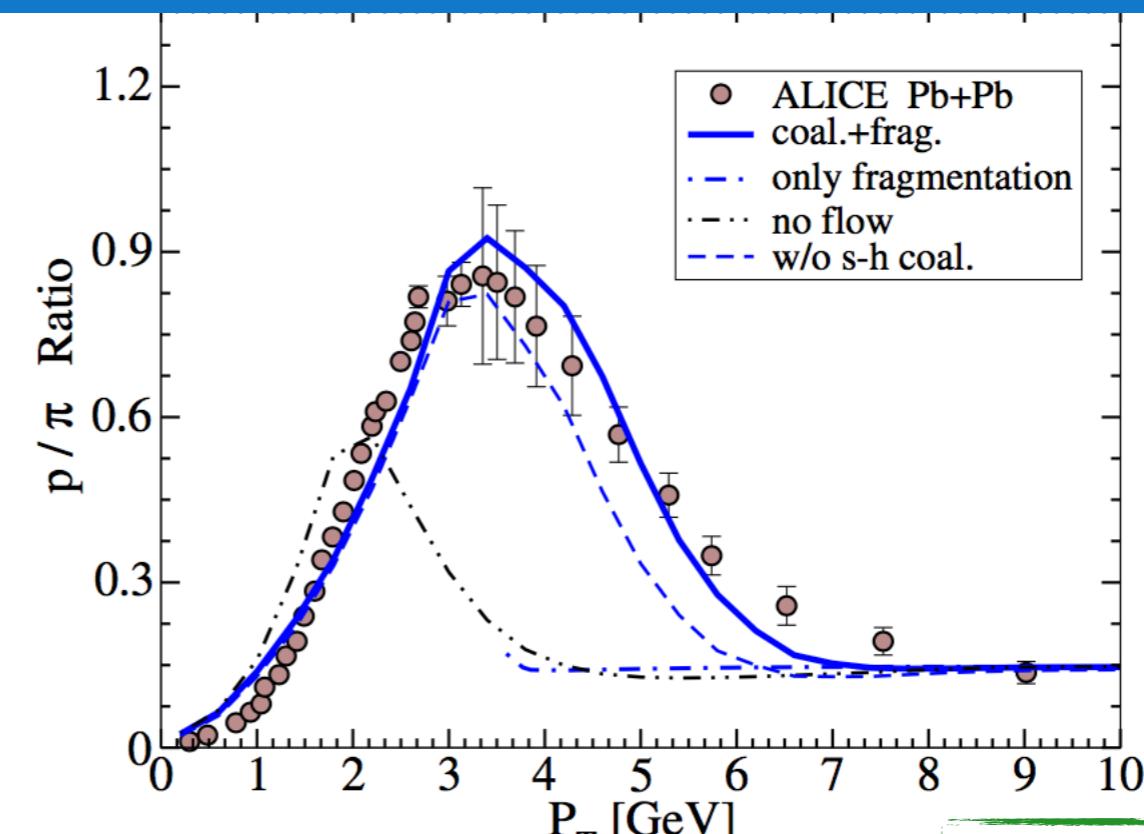
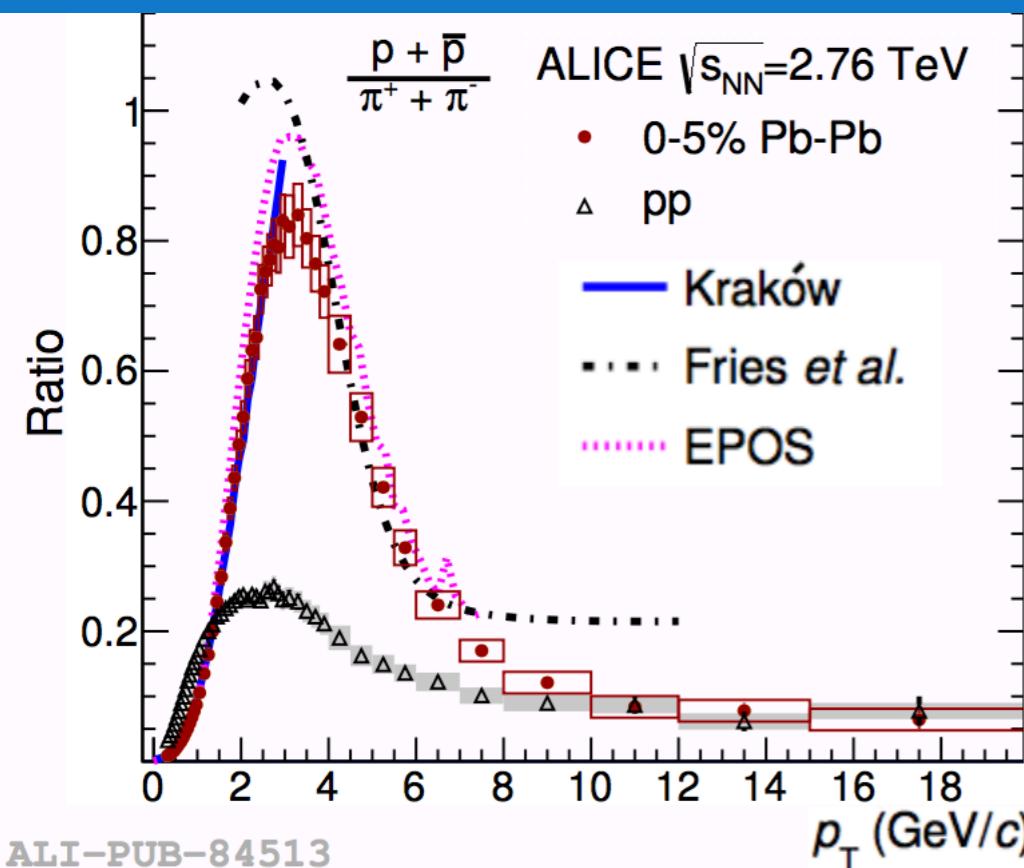
# Hydrodynamics



-PUB-105802



# Hadronization



$p_T$  dependent baryon/meson enhancement in central Pb-Pb collisions

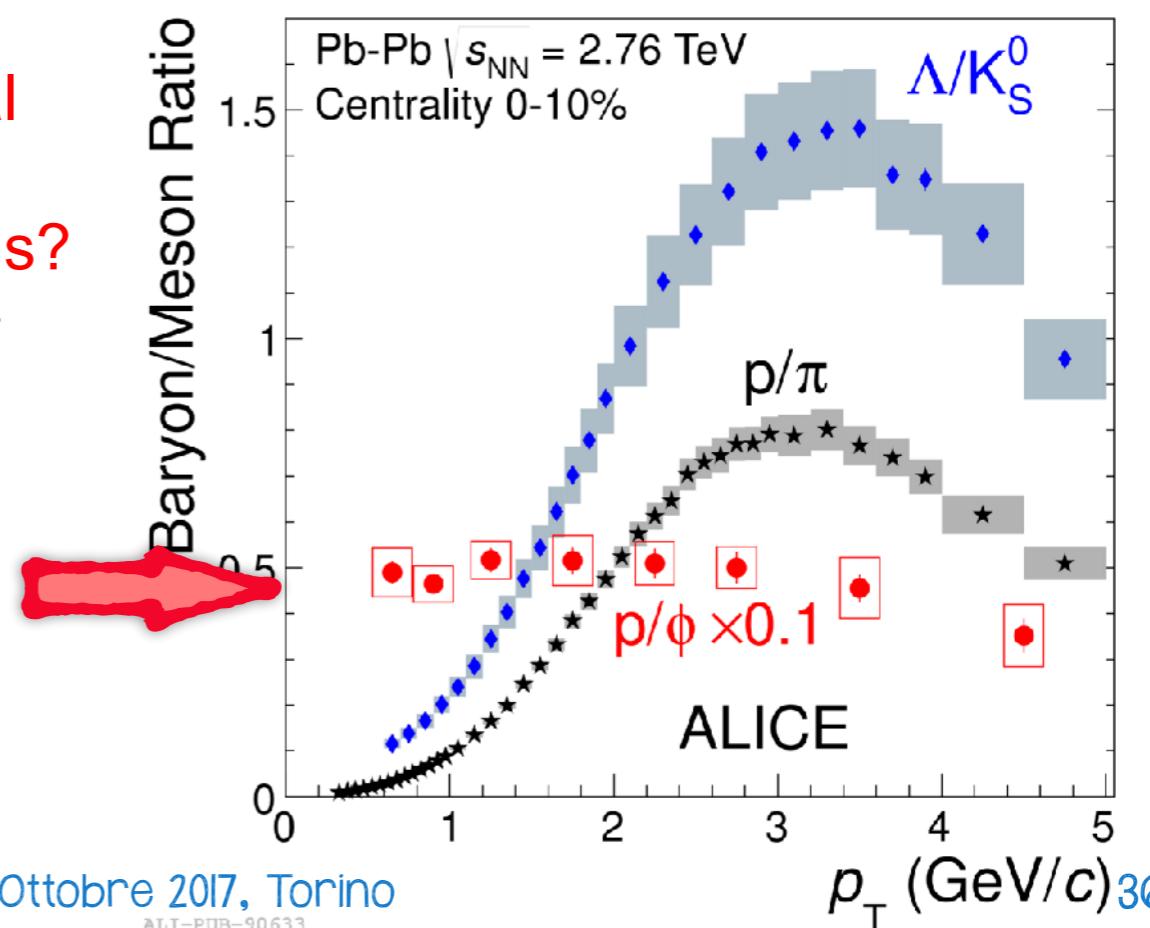
- q coalescence: different  $p_T$  for baryons and mesons?
- hydrodynamic flow: mass-dependent (blue-shift)  $p_T$  spectra

$p$  (uud) 938 MeV

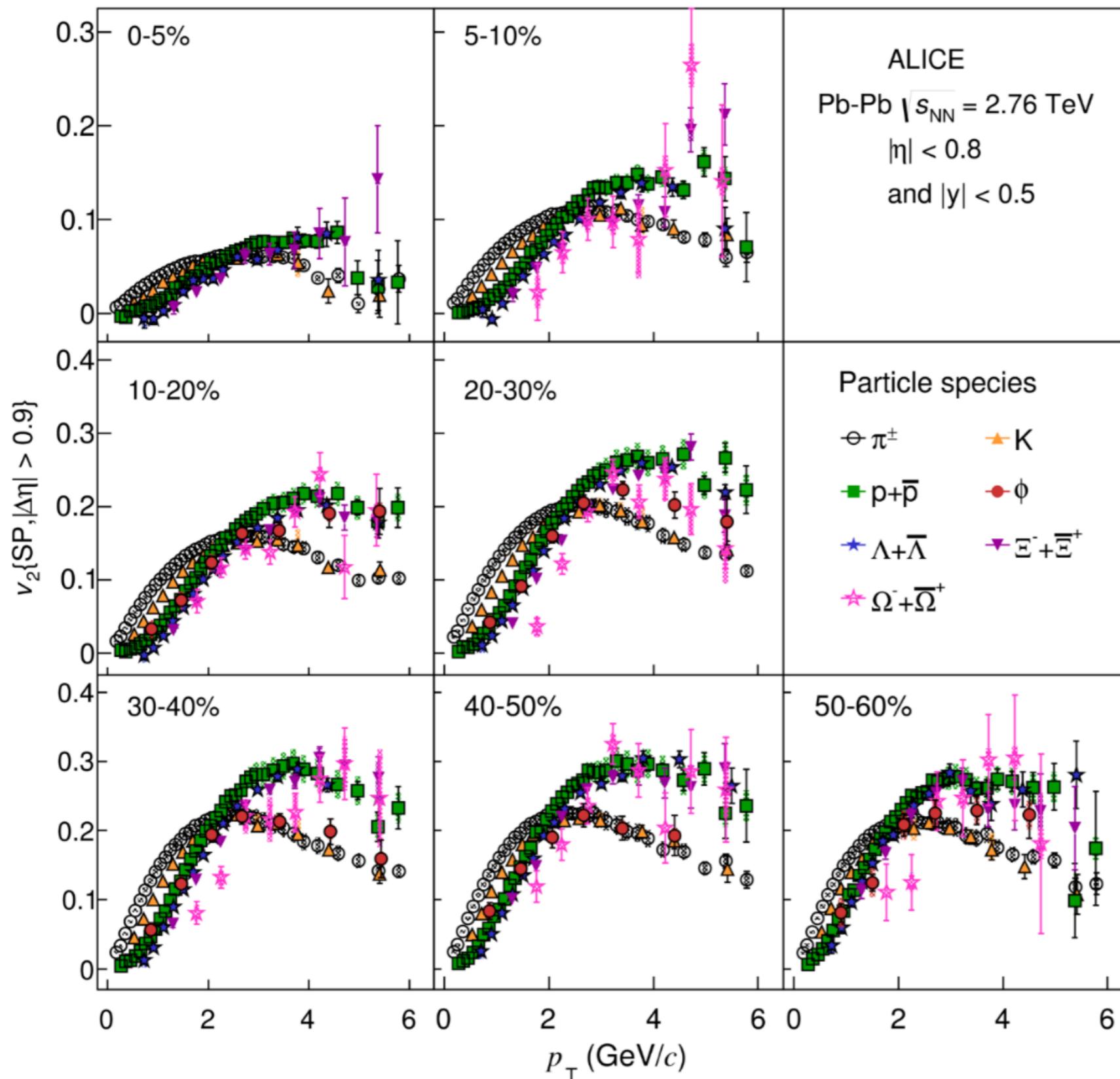
$\phi$  (s anti-s) 1020 MeV

Coalescence production ► different  $p_T$  spectra

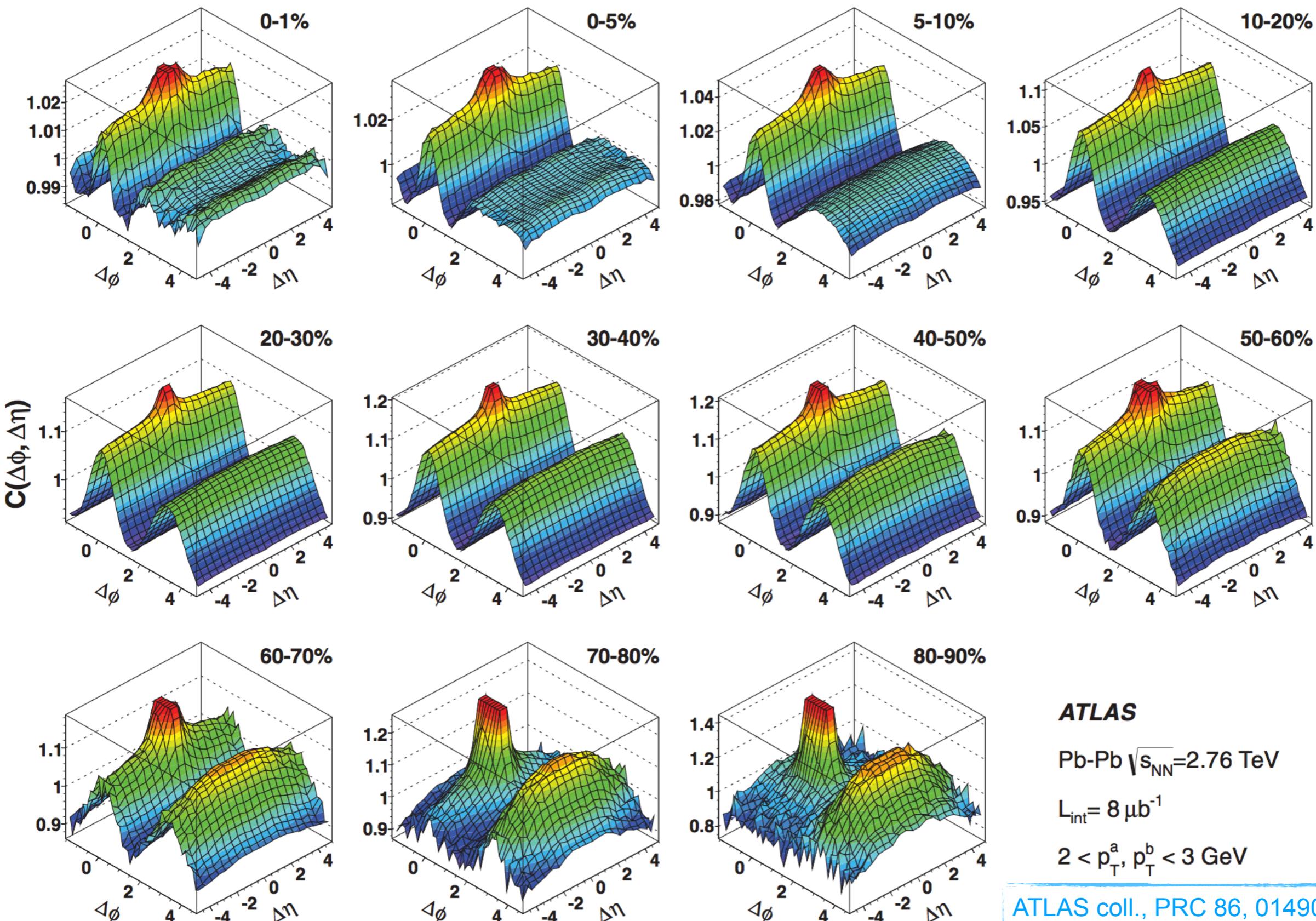
Hydrodynamics ► similar  $p_T$  spectra



# Hadronization



# Hadronization



**ATLAS**

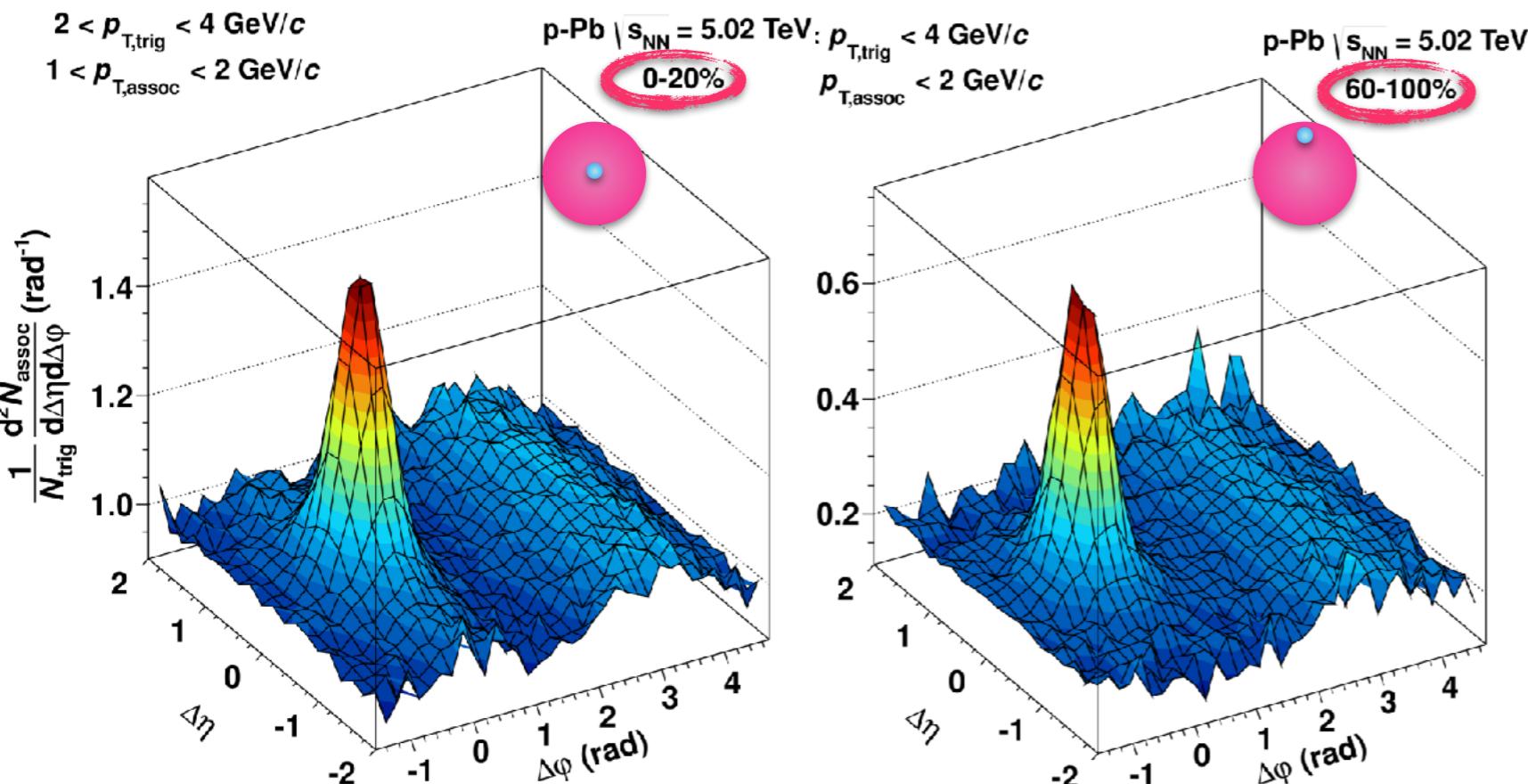
Pb-Pb  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=2.76$  TeV

$L_{int}=8 \mu b^{-1}$

$2 < p_T^a, p_T^b < 3$  GeV

ATLAS coll., PRC 86, 014907 (2012)

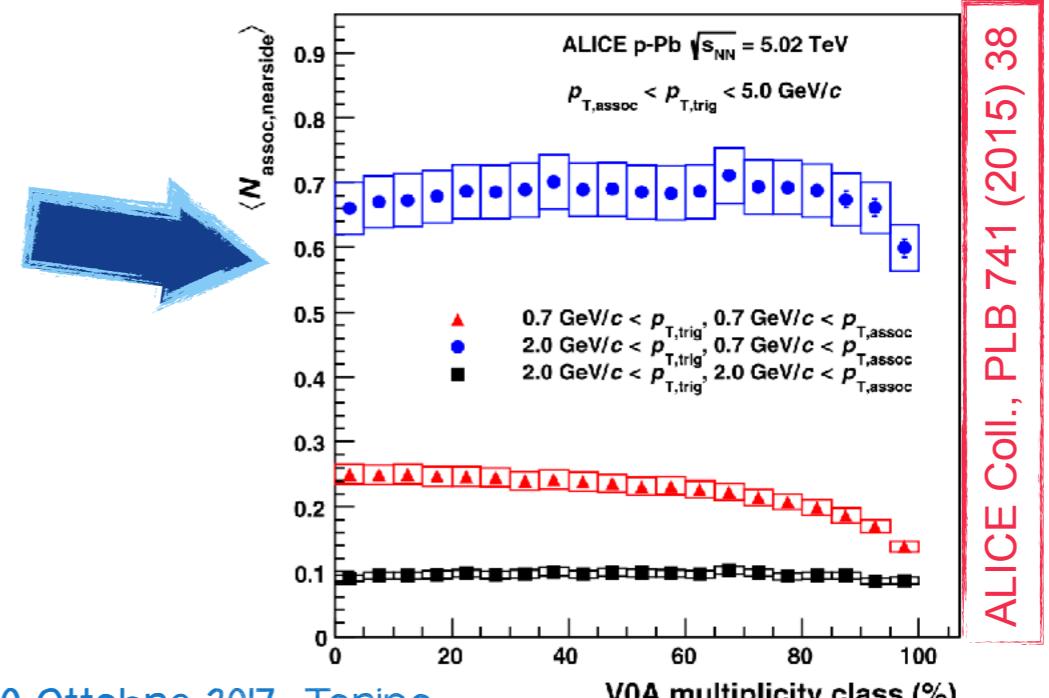
# Two-particle correlations in p-Pb



Subtraction of the contribution from jet fragmentation:

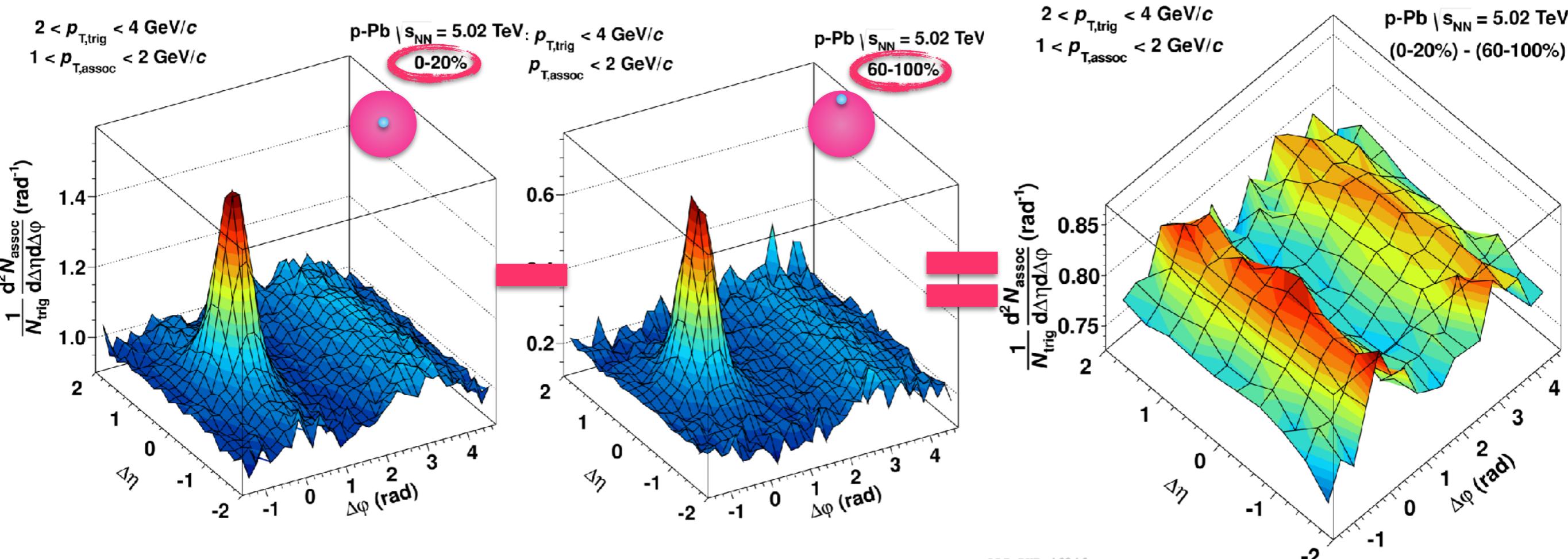
0-20% - 60-100%

→ justified by the observation that the near side peak yield does not depend on particle multiplicity



ALICE Coll., PLB 741 (2015) 38

# Two-particle correlations in p-Pb



ALI-PUB-46246

- ▶ symmetric double ridge observed in p-Pb collisions where collective behaviors were not expected (no flowing medium formed)!

# Shear viscosity

Analytic: Csernai, Kapusta and McLerran PRL 97, 152303 (2006)  
 Lattice: H. Meyer, PR D76, 101701R (2007)

