

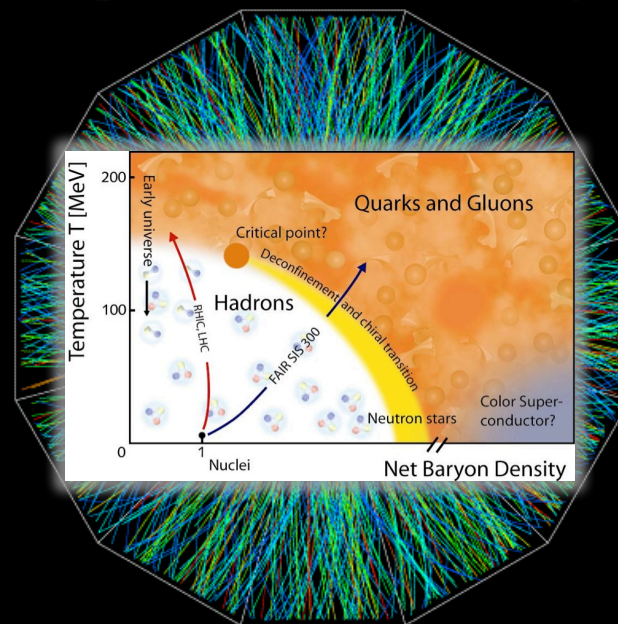


# RHIC

## Beam Energy Scan Program: an Update

*Michal Šumbera*

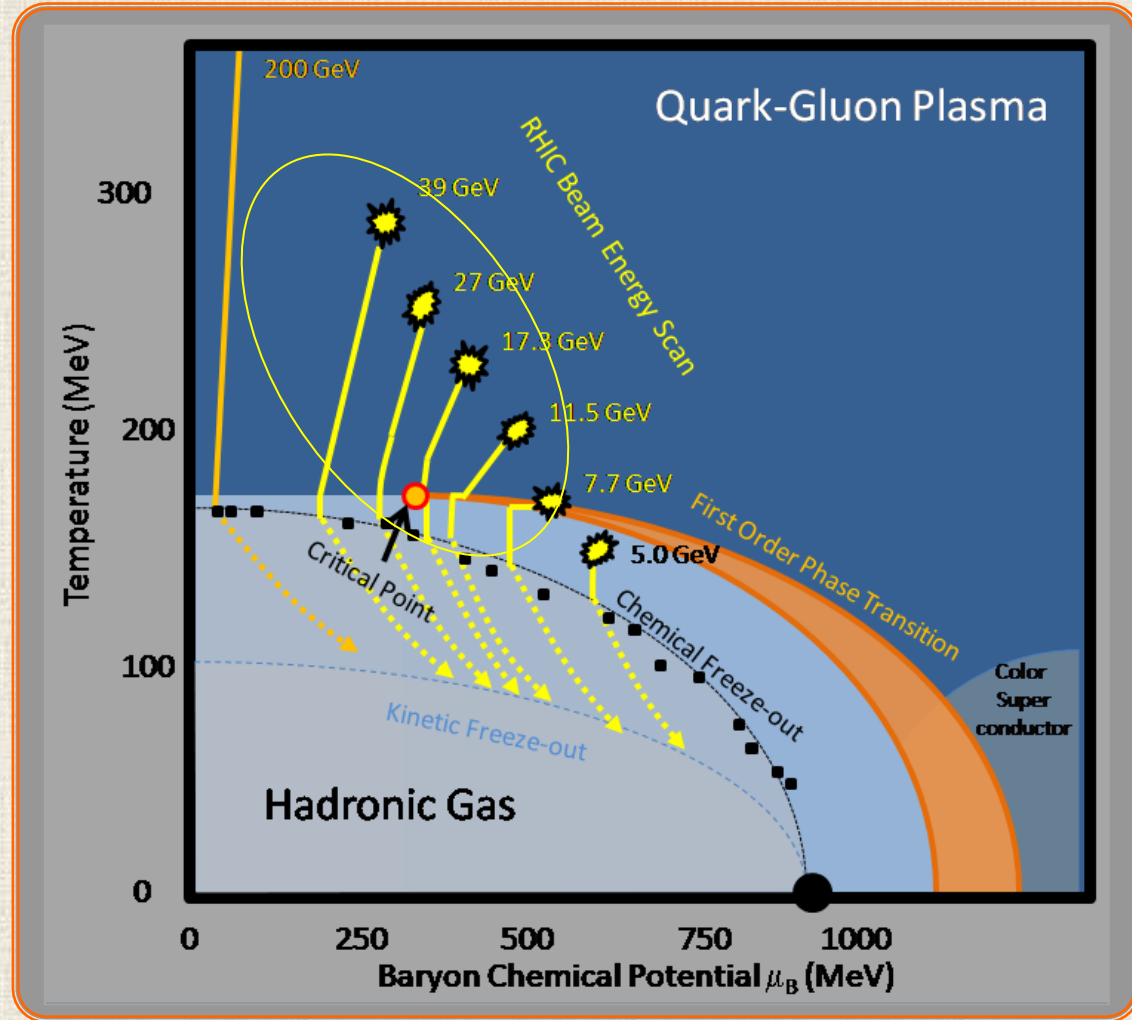
*Nuclear Physics Institute AS CR, Řež/Prague  
(for the STAR Collaboration)*





# The RHIC Beam Energy Scan Motivation

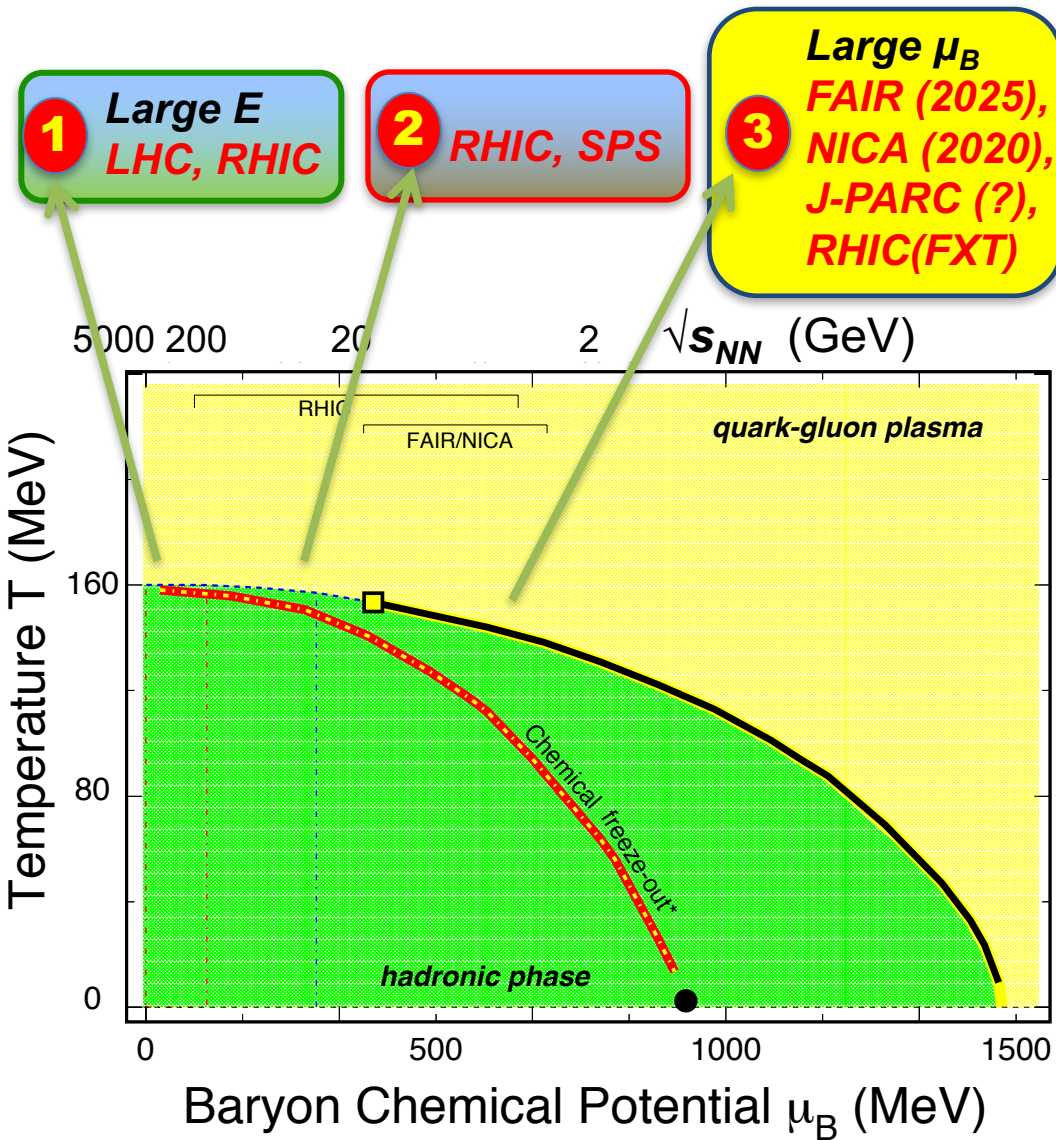
- 1) Turn-off of sQGP signatures
- 2) Search for the signals of phase boundary
- 3) Search for the QCD critical point



<http://arxiv.org/abs/1007.2613>



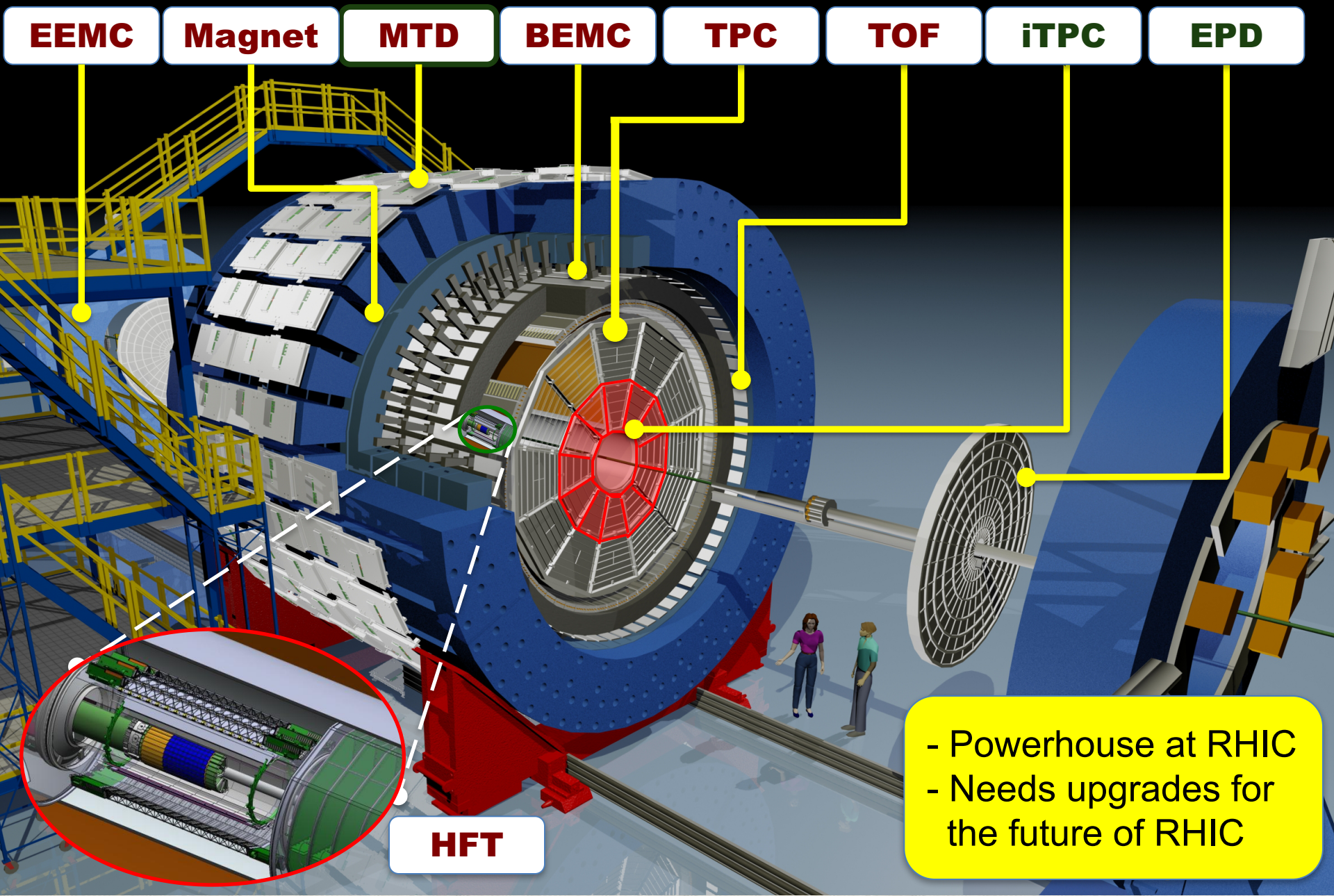
# The QCD Phase Diagram and BES



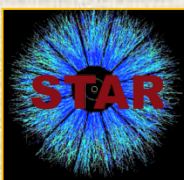
- 2000–2012: RHIC+LHC**  
Top energy program  
Discovery of sQGP
- QCD **Critical Point?**
- Chiral effects?
- 2010–2017: RHIC BES-I**  
7.7, 11.5, 14.5, 19.6, 27, 39, 54.4 GeV
- 2019–2020: RHIC BES-II**  
7.7, 11.5, 9.1, 14.5, 19.6 GeV  
FXT\*: 3.0, 3.5, 3.9, 4.5, 7.7 GeV
- 2022 – : RHIC+FAIR BES-III**  
Fixed-target programs



# The STAR Detector System

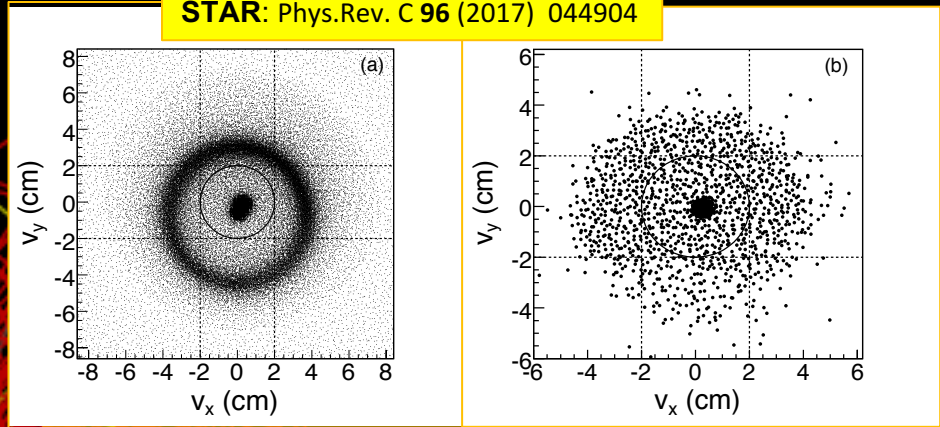


- Powerhouse at RHIC  
- Needs upgrades for the future of RHIC



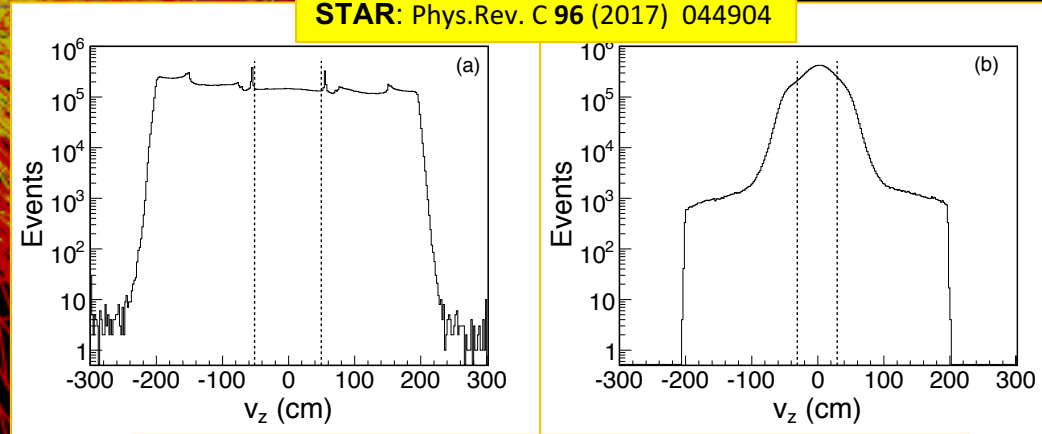
# BES-I Au+Au Data Taking

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



x and y distribution of reconstructed vertex at  $v_{s_{NN}}=7.7$  GeV (a) and  $v_{s_{NN}}=39$  GeV (b)

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



z distribution of reconstructed vertex at  $v_{s_{NN}}=7.7$  GeV (a) and  $v_{s_{NN}}=39$  GeV (b)

Largest data sets versus collision energy!!!

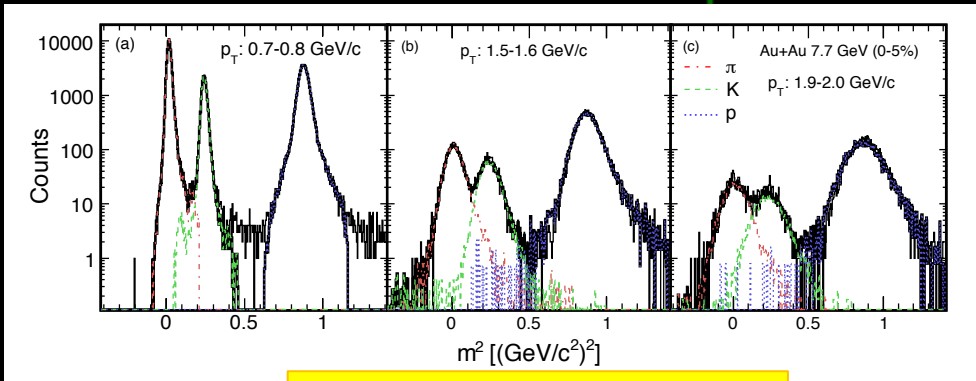
$v_{s_{NN}}$ [GeV]	events( $10^6$ )	Year
200	350	2010
62.4	67	2010
54.4	300	2017
39	130	2010
27	70	2011
19.6	36	2011
14.5	20	2014
11.5	12	2010
7.7	5	2010
4.9 (FXT)	3.4	2015
4.5 (FXT)	1.3	2015

Geometric acceptance @ collider mode remains the same, track density gets lower.

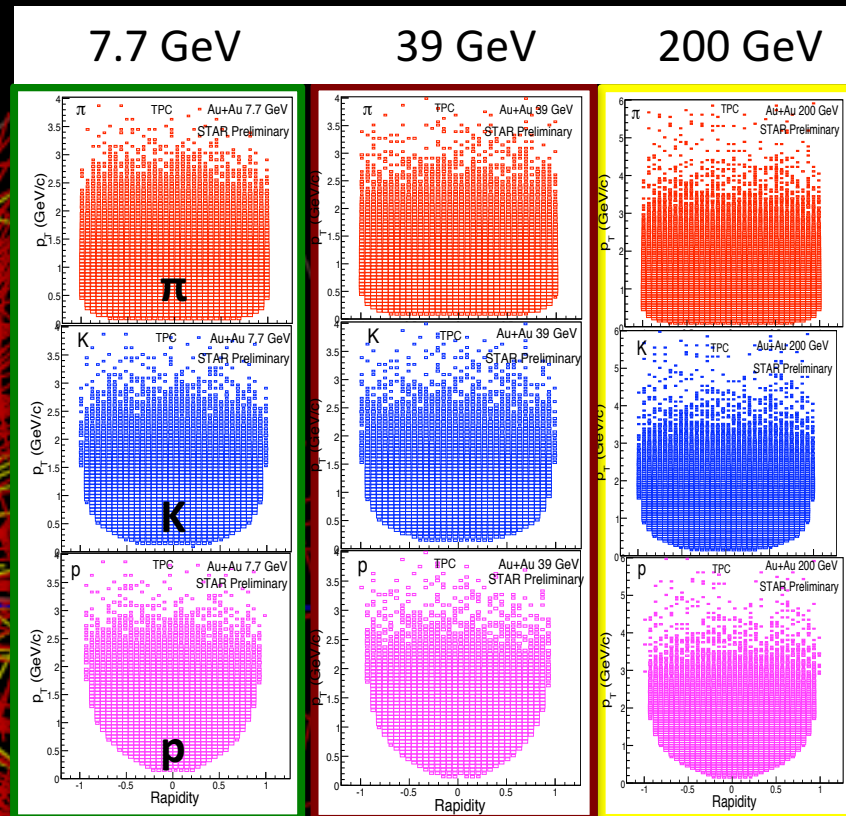
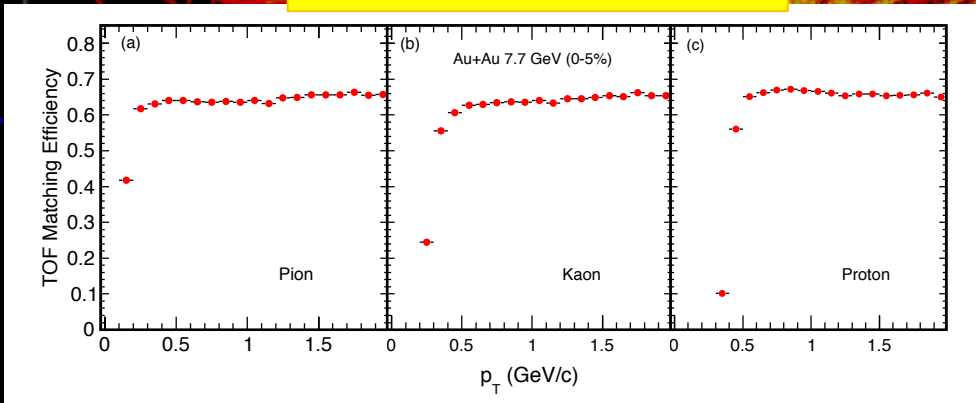
Detector performance generally improves at lower energies.



# BES-I Au+Au Data Taking



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

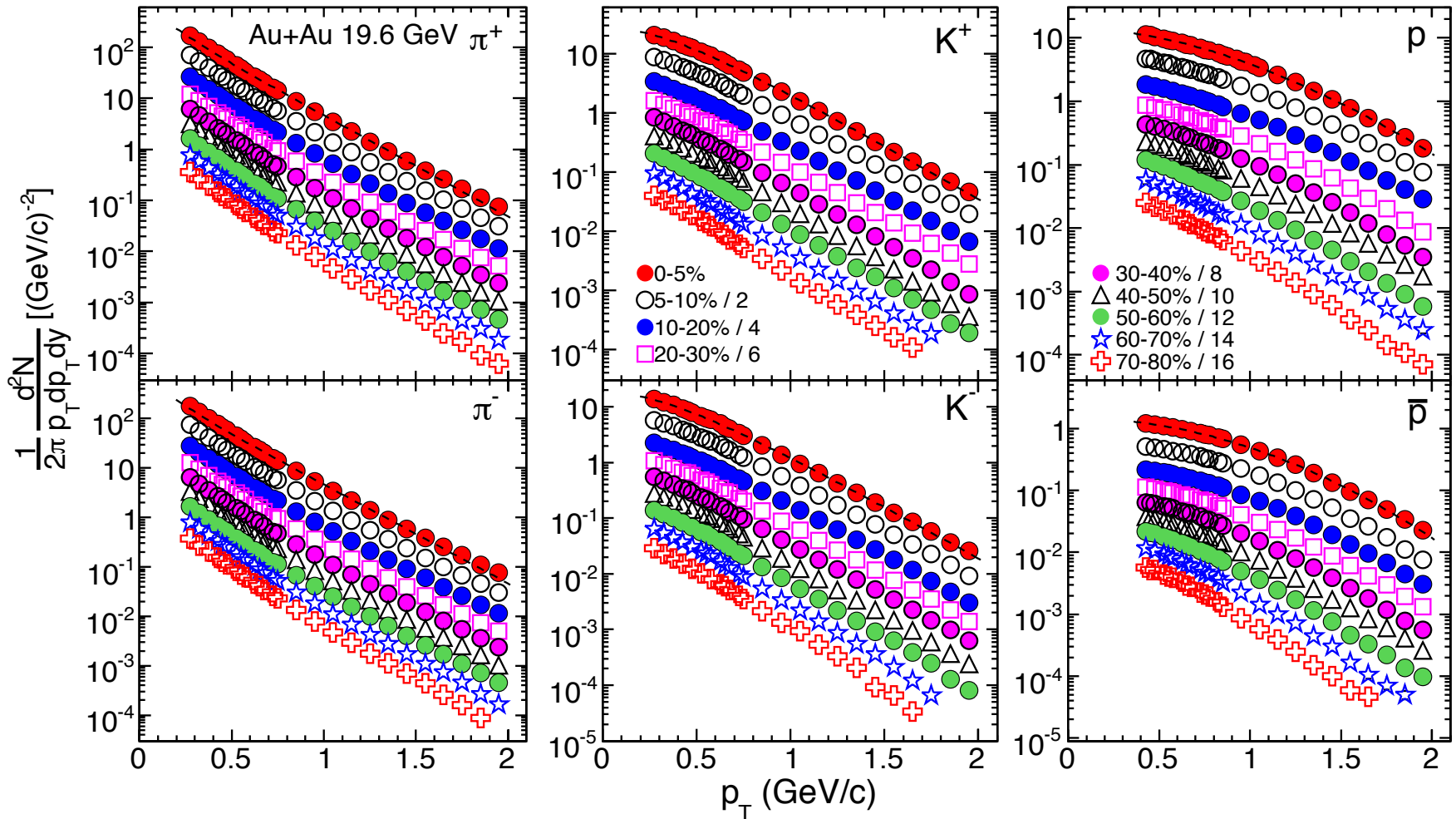


Excellent particle identification capabilities. Large and homogeneous acceptance.  
Especially important for fluctuation analysis



# Hadron Spectra from BES-I

$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 19.6$  GeV Au+Au Collisions

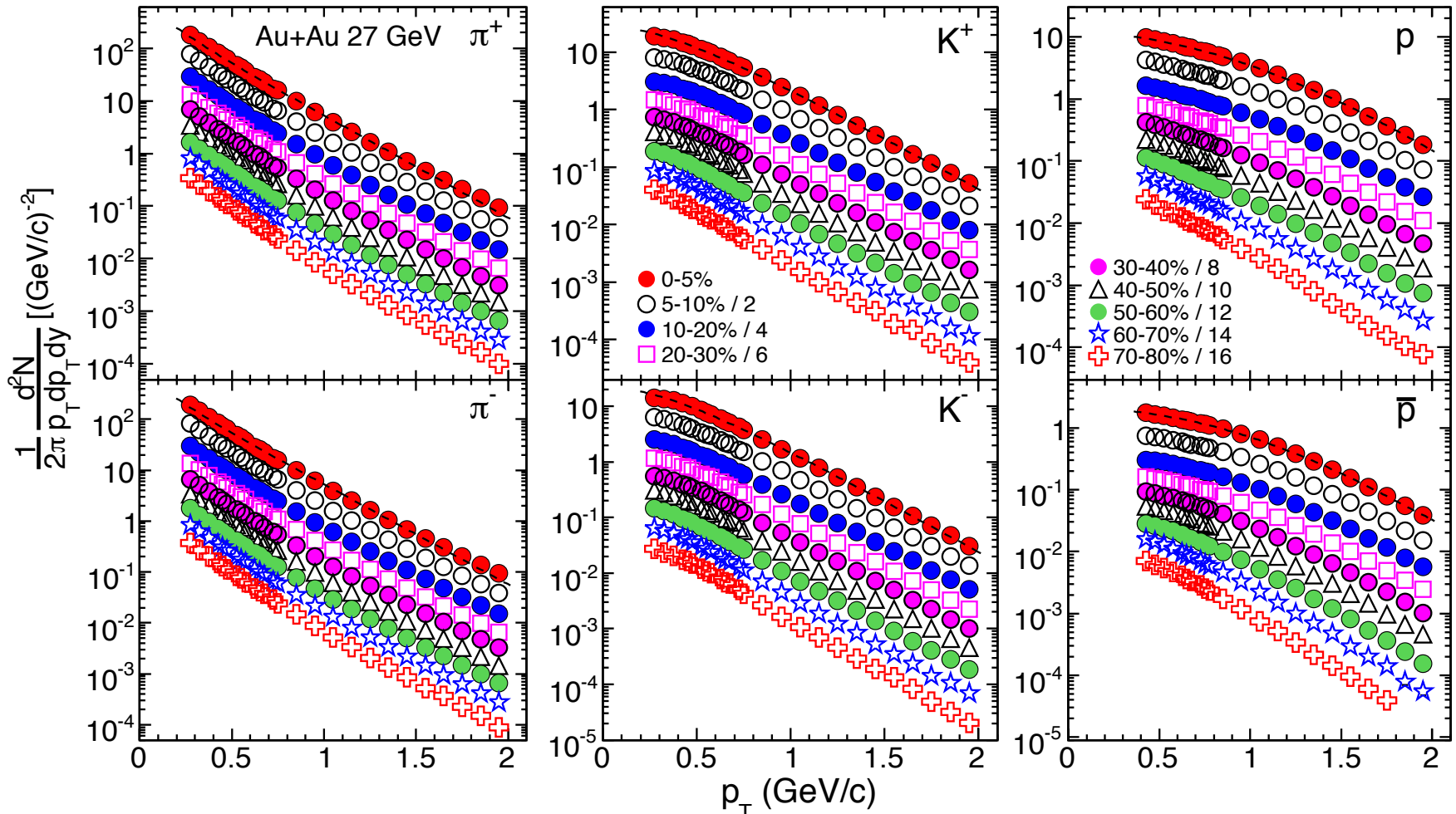


STAR: Phys.Rev. C 96 (2017) 044904



# Hadron Spectra from BES-I

$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$  GeV Au+Au Collisions



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





# STAR publications on BES results

1. Inclusive charged hadron elliptic flow in Au + Au collisions at  $v_{s_{NN}} = 7.7-62.4$  GeV ,  
Phys. Rev. C **86** (2012) 54908
2. Observation of an energy-dependent difference in elliptic flow between particles and antiparticles in relativistic heavy ion collisions, Phys. Rev. Lett. **110** (2013) 142301
3. Elliptic flow of identified hadrons in Au+Au collisions at  $v_{s_{NN}} = 7.7-62.4$  GeV ,  
Phys. Rev. C **88** (2013) 14902

at the time of my last talk at this conference in 2013



# STAR publications on BES results

1. Inclusive charged hadron elliptic flow in Au + Au collisions at  $v_{s_{NN}} = 7.7-62.4$  GeV ,  
Phys. Rev. C **86** (2012) 54908
2. Observation of an energy-dependent difference in elliptic flow between particles and antiparticles in relativistic heavy ion collisions, Phys. Rev. Lett. **110** (2013) 142301
3. Elliptic flow of identified hadrons in Au+Au collisions at  $v_{s_{NN}} = 7.7-62.4$  GeV ,  
Phys. Rev. C **88** (2013) 14902
4. Energy Dependence of Moments of Net-proton Multiplicity Distributions at RHIC ,  
Phys.Rev.Lett. **112** (2014) 032302
5. Beam-Energy Dependence of the Directed Flow of Protons, Antiprotons, and Pions in Au+Au Collisions , Phys.Rev.Lett. **112** (2014) 162301
6. Beam energy dependence of moments of the net-charge multiplicity distributions in Au+Au collisions at RHIC , Phys.Rev.Lett. **113** (2014) 092301
7. Beam-energy-dependent two-pion interferometry and the freeze-out eccentricity of pions measured in heavy ion collisions at the STAR detector , Phys.Rev. C **92** (2015) 014904



# STAR publications on BES results

8. Energy dependence of acceptance-corrected dielectron excess mass spectrum at mid-rapidity in Au+Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 19.6$  and 200 GeV, Phys.Lett. B **750** (2017) 64
9. Beam-energy dependence of charge separation along the magnetic field in Au+Au collisions at RHIC , Phys.Rev.Lett. **113** (2014) 052302
10. Energy Dependence of  $K/\pi$ ,  $p/\pi$ , and  $K/p$  Fluctuations in Au+Au Collisions from  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7$  to 200 GeV , Phys.Rev. C **92** (2015) 021901
11. Observation of charge asymmetry dependence of pion elliptic flow and the possible chiral magnetic wave in heavy-ion collisions , Phys.Rev.Lett. **114** (2015) 252302
12. Probing parton dynamics of QCD matter with  $\Omega$  and  $\varphi$  production, Phys.Rev. C **93** (2016) 021903
13. Beam-energy dependence of charge balance functions from Au + Au collisions at energies available at the BNL Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider , Phys.Rev. C **94** (2016) 024909
14. Centrality dependence of identified particle elliptic flow in relativistic heavy ion collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7$ –62.4 GeV , Phys.Rev. C **93** (2016) 014907
15. Beam Energy Dependence of the Third Harmonic of Azimuthal Correlations in Au+Au Collisions at RHIC , Phys.Rev.Lett. **116** (2016) 112302



# STAR publications on BES results

16. Measurement of elliptic flow of light nuclei at  $v_{s_{NN}} = 200, 62.4, 39, 27, 19.6, 11.5,$  and  $7.7$  GeV at the BNL Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, Phys.Rev. C **94** (2016) 034908
17. Energy dependence of  $J/\psi$  production in Au+Au collisions at  $v_{s_{NN}} = 39, 62.4$  and  $200$  GeV, Phys.Lett. B **771** (2017) 13
18. Harmonic decomposition of three-particle azimuthal correlations at RHIC, arXiv:1701.06496
19. Global  $\Lambda$  hyperon polarization in nuclear collisions: evidence for the most vortical fluid, **Nature 548**, 62 (2017)
20. Bulk Properties of the Medium Produced in Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions from the Beam Energy Scan Program, Phys.Rev. C **96** (2017) 044904
21. Beam Energy Dependence of Jet-Quenching Effects in Au+Au Collisions at  $v_{s_{NN}} = 7.7, 11.5, 14.5, 19.6, 27, 39,$  and  $62.4$  GeV , arXiv:1707.01988
22. Beam-Energy Dependence of Directed Flow of  $\Lambda, \text{anti}\Lambda, K^\pm, K^0_s$  and  $\varphi$  in Au+Au Collisions , arXiv:1708.07132, accepted to Phys.Rev.Lett.
23. Collision Energy Dependence of Moments of Net-Kaon Multiplicity Distributions at RHIC, arXiv:1709.00773

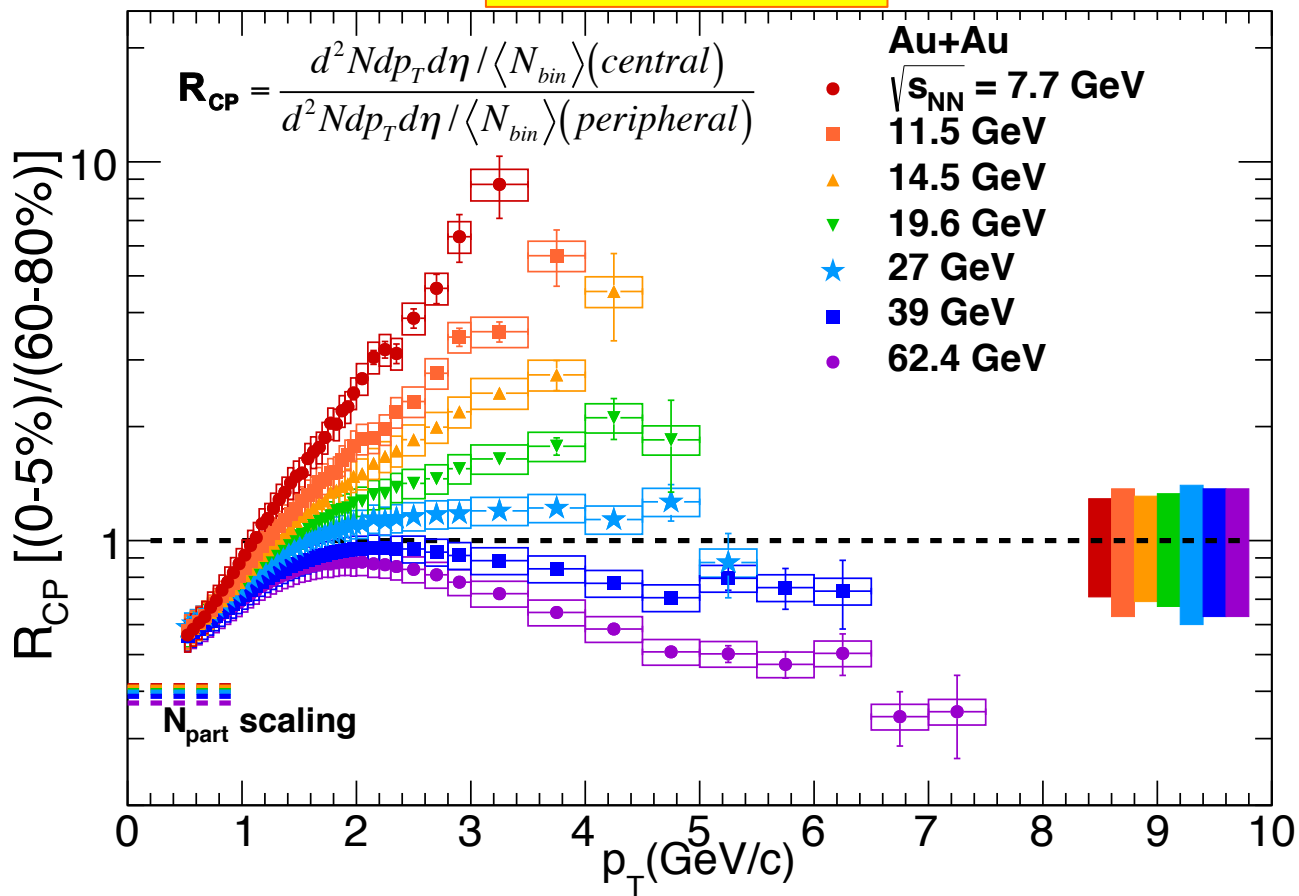


# 1. Turn-off of sQGP signatures



# Suppression of Charged Hadrons and its Disappearance

STAR: arXiv:1707.01988



$$N_{bin}(b) = N_{coll}(b) = \sigma_{NN}^{in} T_{AB}(b)$$

$$T_{AB}(\mathbf{b}) \equiv \int d^2\mathbf{s} T_A(\mathbf{s}) T_B(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{s})$$

$$T_A(\mathbf{b}) \equiv \int dz \rho_A(z, \mathbf{s})$$

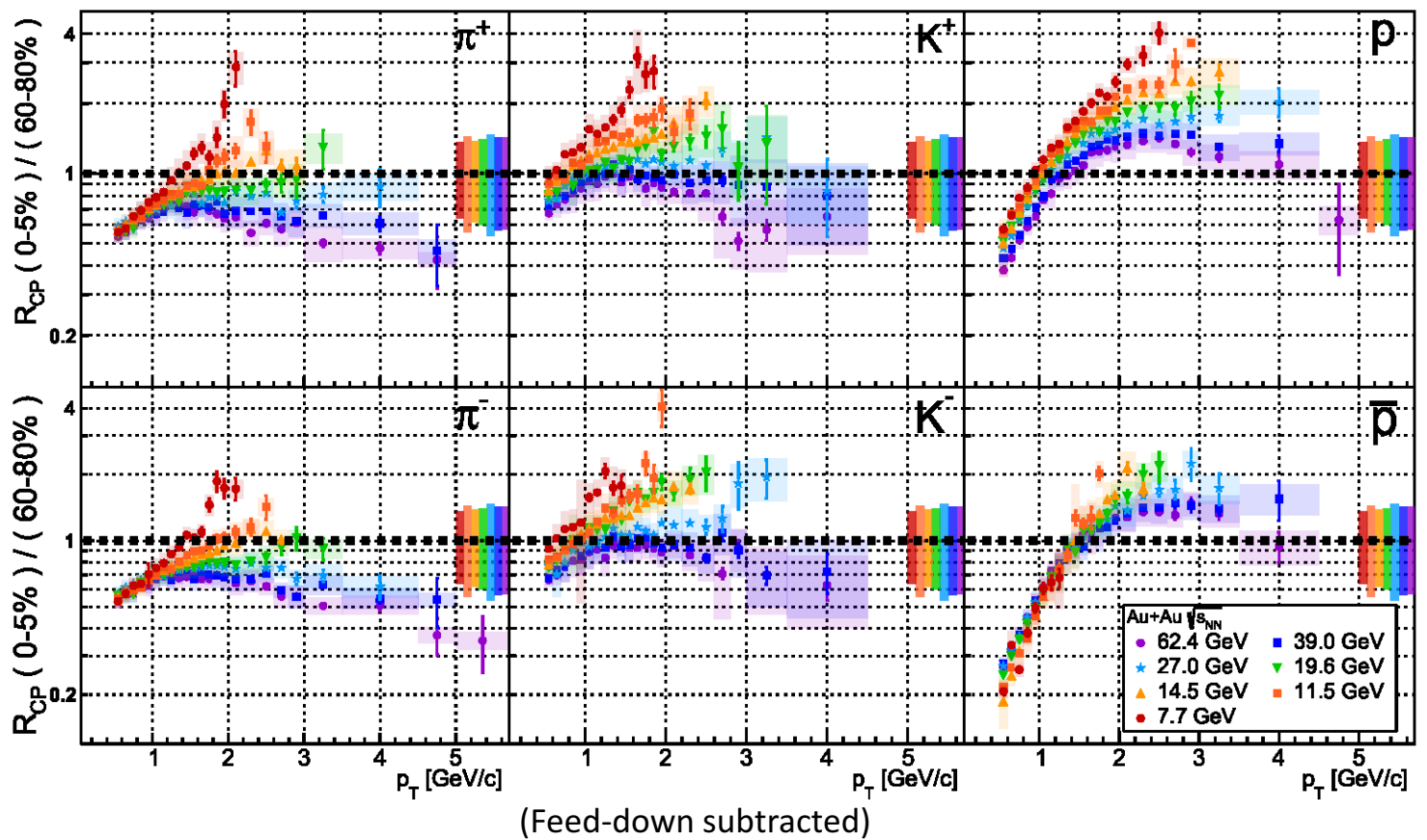
$$N_{part}(b) = \int d^2\mathbf{s} T_A(\mathbf{s}) (1 - e^{-\sigma_{NN}^{in} T_B(\mathbf{s})}) + \int d^2\mathbf{s} T_B(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{b}) (1 - e^{-\sigma_{NN}^{in} T_A(\mathbf{s})})$$

R.P.+M.Š.: arXiv:1611.01533

$R_{CP} \geq 1$  at lower energies - Cronin effect?

# Identified particles $R_{CP}$

STAR: arXiv:1707.01988



High- $p_T$  suppression and its further evolution into enhancement at lower energies is driven by mesons. Baryons remain enhanced up to  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=62.4$  GeV  $\Rightarrow$  Mass driven phenomenon?



# Binary collision scaled yield $Y(\langle N_{part} \rangle)$

Take the numerator from  $R_{CP}$  and plot it versus centrality:

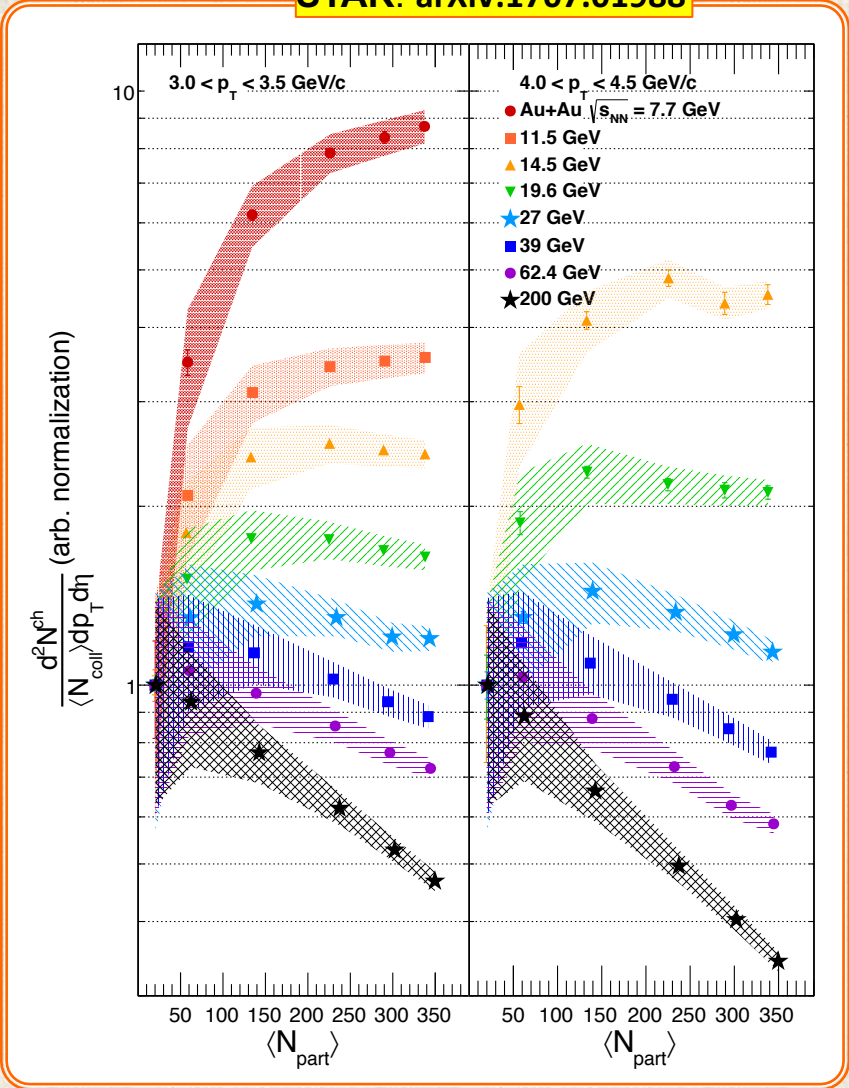
$$Y(\langle N_{part} \rangle) = \frac{1}{\langle N_{coll} \rangle} \frac{d^2 N}{dp_T d\eta}(\langle N_{part} \rangle)$$

N.B. The peripheral bin contents are in the first bin at low  $\langle N_{part} \rangle$  and the central bin's contents are in the last point at high  $\langle N_{part} \rangle$ .

😊 Examining the full centrality evolution allows determine whether the processes leading to enhancement increase faster or slower than the processes leading toward suppression as a function of  $\langle N_{part} \rangle$ .

⇒ The non-monotonic shape results from the faster increase of jet-quenching compared to the combined phenomena leading to enhancement.\*

STAR: arXiv:1707.01988



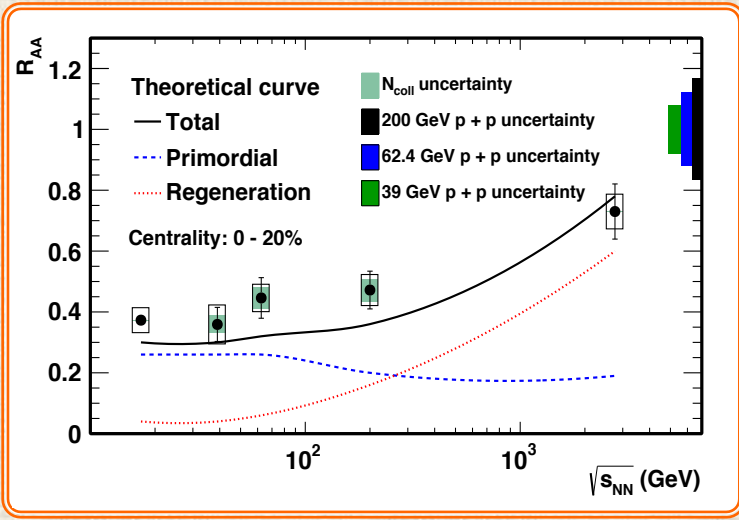
\*) Does not rule out the possibility that QGP is also formed @  $v_{SNN} < 14.5 \text{ GeV}$





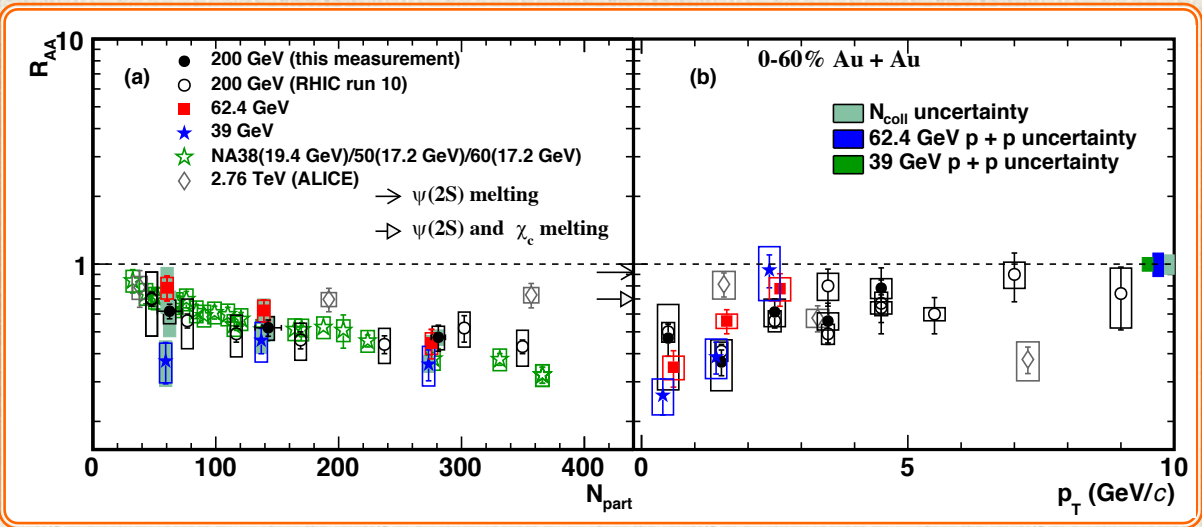
# J/ψ Suppression at 39, 62.4 and 200 GeV

STAR: Phys.Lett. B771 (2017) 13-20



$$R_{AA} = \frac{\sigma_{inel}^{pp}}{\langle N_{coll} \rangle} \frac{d^2 N_{AA}/dpTdy}{d^2 \sigma_{pp}/dpTdy}$$

- ★ At all three energies  $R_{AA} < 1$ .
- ★ Consistent\* with the suppression of directly produced J/ψ mesons.
- ★ No significant energy dependence of  $R_{AA}$  is found within uncertainties.
- ★ Model calculations\*, which include direct suppression and regeneration, describe reasonably well the (centrality and) energy dependence of J/ψ production.

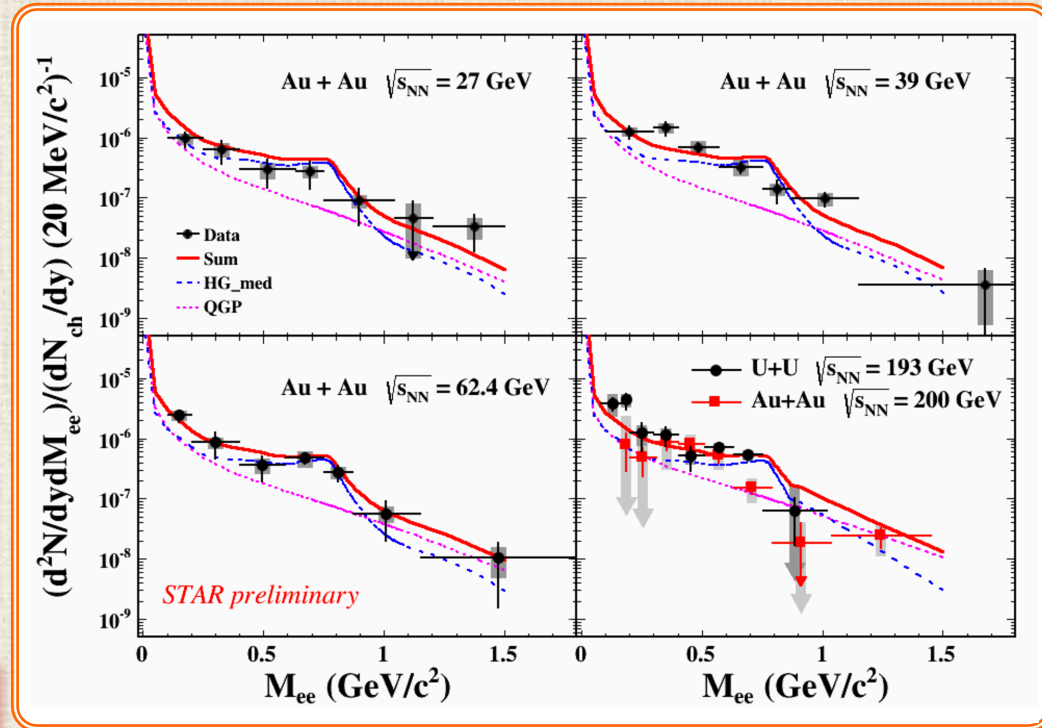
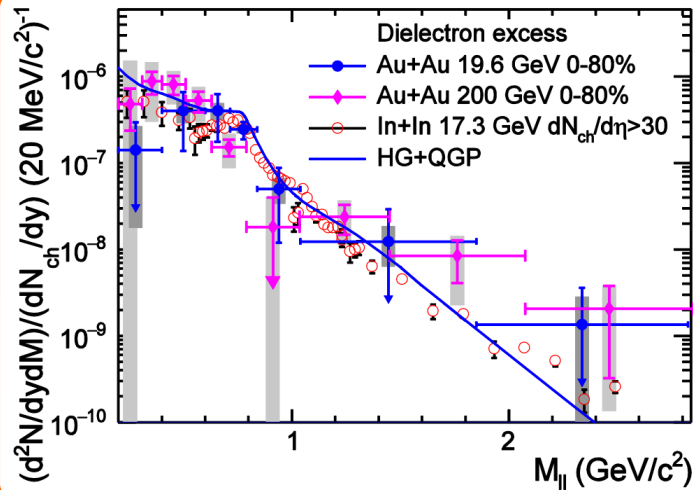


NA38: M.C. Abreu et al., Phys. Lett. B 477, 28 (2000)  
 ALICE: B. Abelev et al., Phys. Lett. B 734, 314 (2014)

\*) Model: X. Zhao and R. Rapp, Phys. Rev. C 82, 064905 (2010)

# $e^+e^-$ production at 27,39, 62.4 and 200 GeV

STAR: Phys.Lett. B750 (2015) 64-71

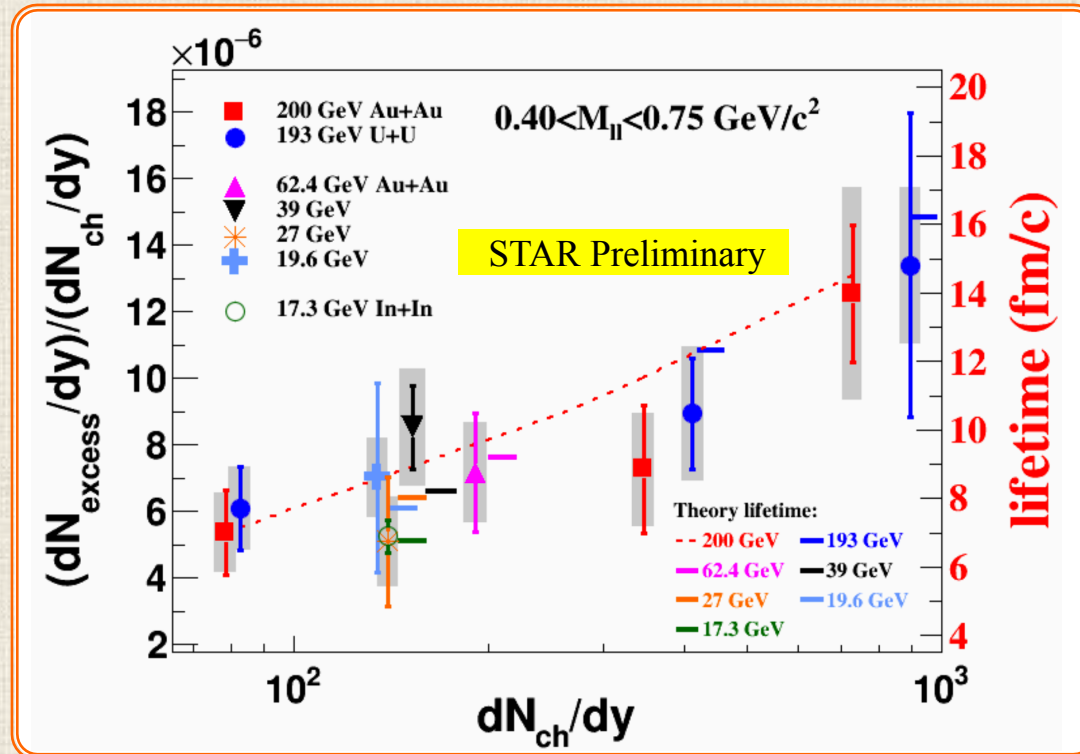


★ Acceptance-corrected excess mass spectra are well described by an effective many body calculations\* that incorporate a broadened  $\rho$  spectral function in various collision systems and energies.

\*) Theory:  
R. Rapp, PRC 63 (2001) 054907  
and private communication

☛ The QGP contribution is still significant in the LMR at the lowest energy.  
⇒ The integrated yield can be used as a probe for the turn-off of the QGP in the future BES-II program at RHIC.

# Connection to fireball lifetime



Theory:  
*R. Rapp, H. van Hees*  
*PLB 753 (2016) 586-590*

- ★ From  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 17.3 \text{ GeV}$  to  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$  the integrated excess yield, normalized by  $dN_{ch}/dy$ , is proportional to lifetime of the fireball.
- ★ The fireball lifetime also increases linearly with the collision centrality (40-80%, 10-40%, 0-10%) is observed too.

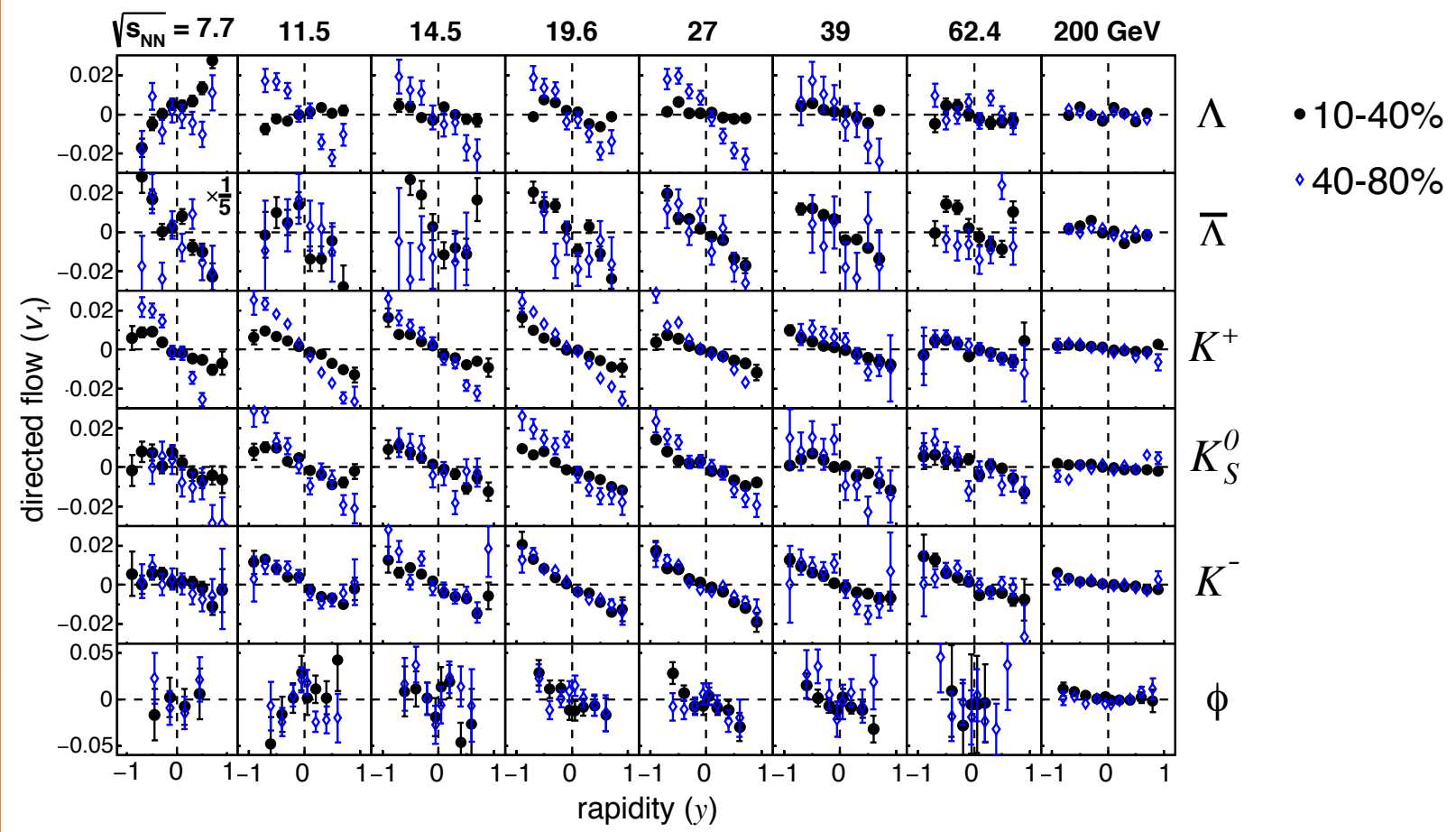


## 2. Search for the signals of phase boundary: Azimuthal correlations



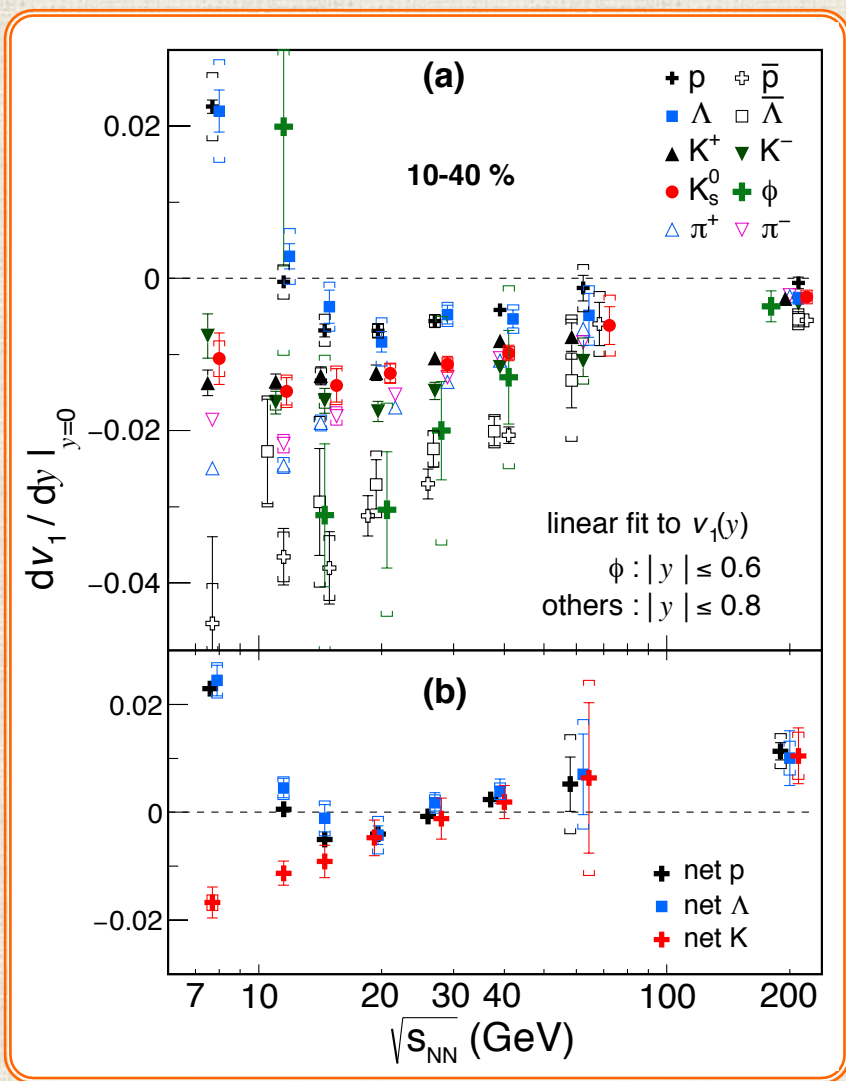
# Directed Flow of $\Lambda$ , $K^\pm, K^0_s$ and $\phi$

STAR: arXiv:1708.07132, PRL (accepted)

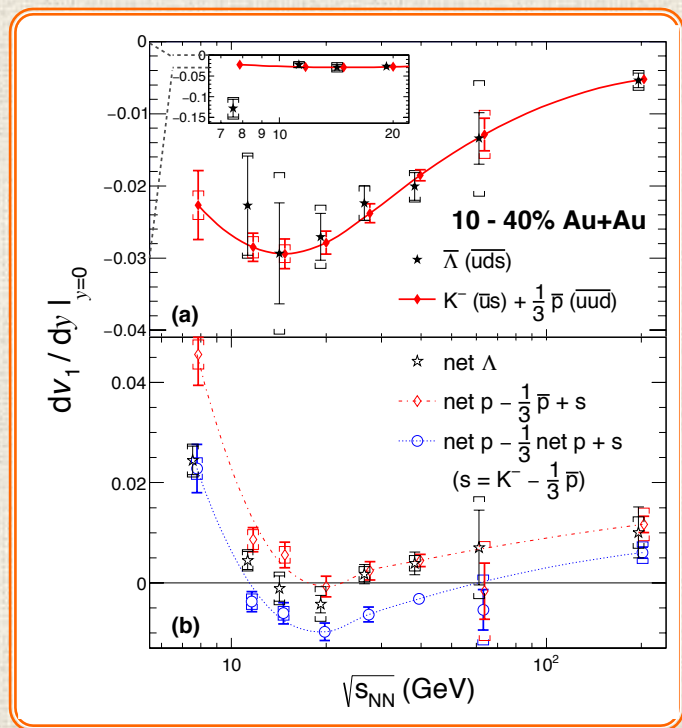




# Directed Flow of $\Lambda$ , $K^\pm, K_s^0, \phi$ and $p, \pi$



- ★ Proton and  $\Lambda$   $v_1$  slope: agree within errors and change sign near 11.5 GeV
- ★ Pion, anti-proton, anti-lambda,  $K^\pm$  and  $K_s^0$   $v_1$  slope: always negative.  $K^+ > K^-$ .
- ★ Net-proton and net- $\Lambda$   $v_1$  slope: shows double sign change.

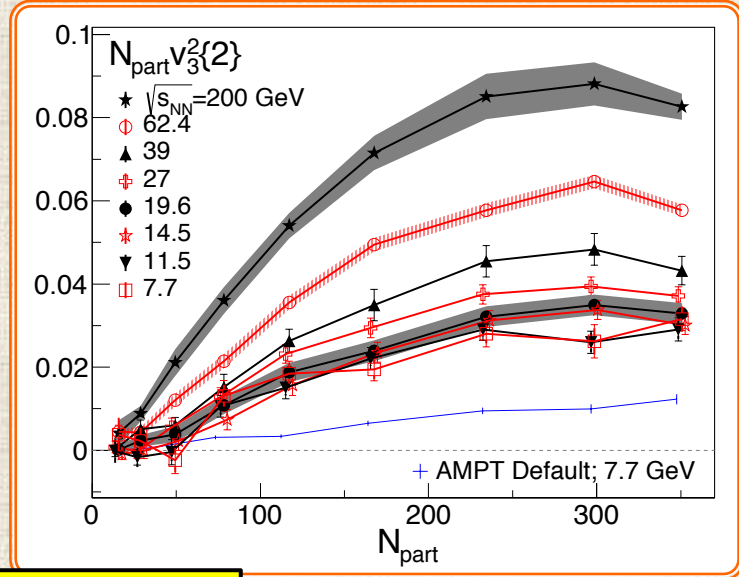
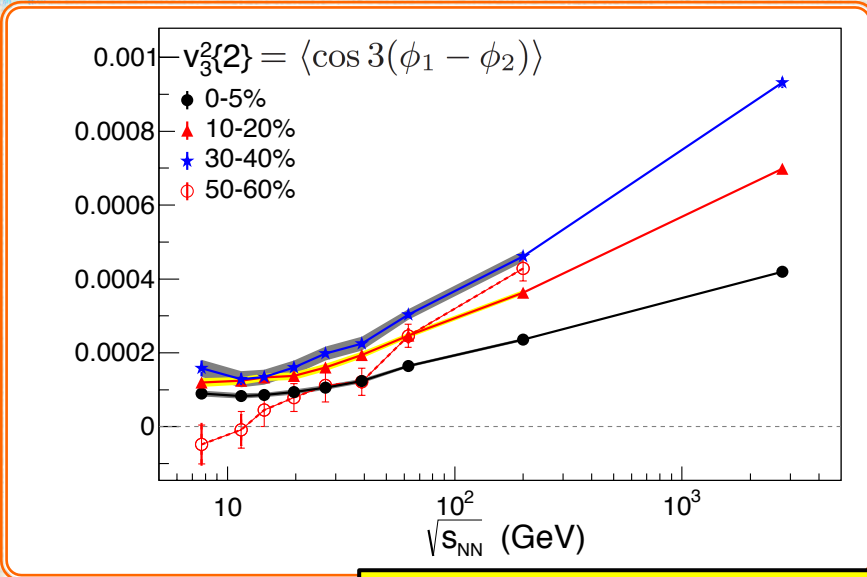


STAR: arXiv:1708.07132, PRL (accepted)

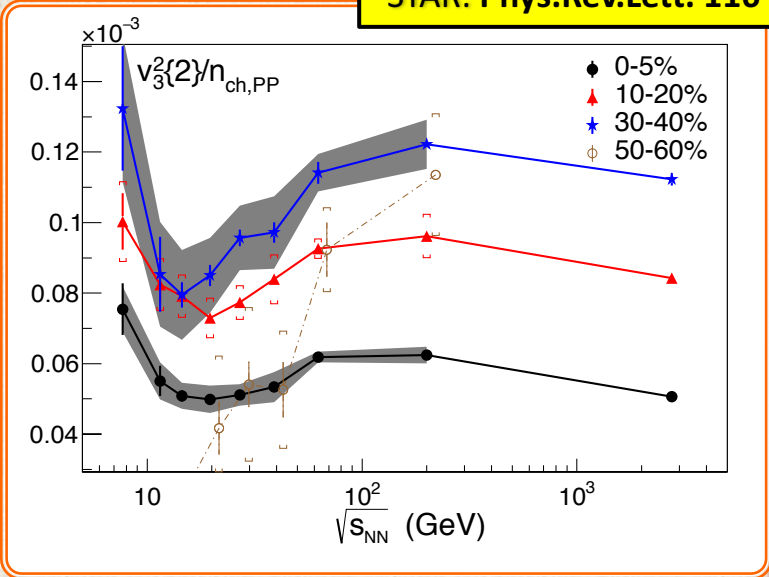
★ Consistent with hadron coalescence of constituent quarks



# Energy Dependence of $v_3$



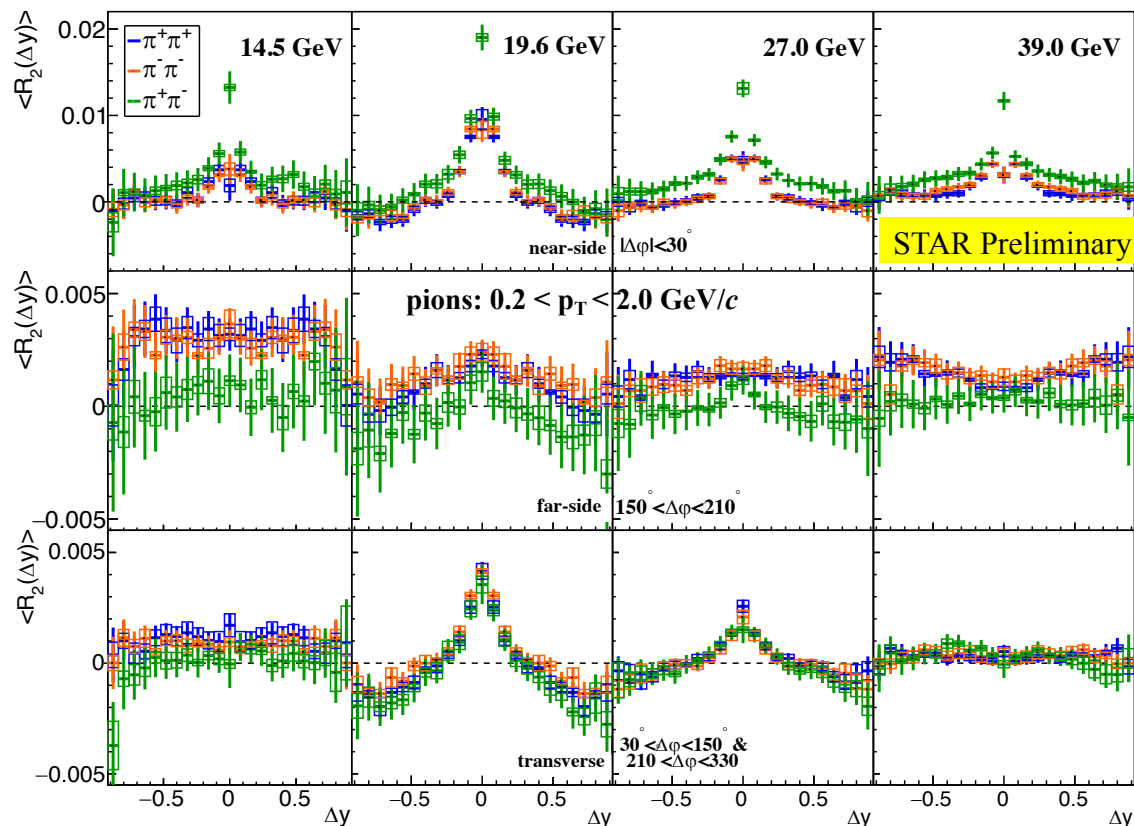
STAR: Phys.Rev.Lett. 116 (2016) no.11, 112302



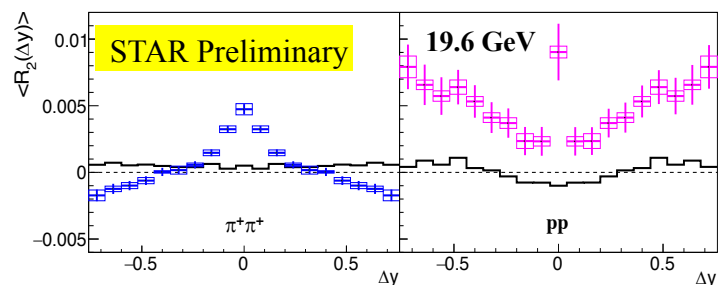
- $v_3^2\{2\}$  - directly related to conversion of **initial density anisotropies** in the overlap region into momentum space correlations through subsequent interactions in the expansion (as revealed via large- $\Delta\eta$  narrow- $\Delta\phi$  **ridge correlations**).
- In hydro  $v_3^2\{2\}$  is sensitive to **low viscosity state** of QGP. (Reduction in the pressure expected during a mixed phase should lead to a reduction in the observed correlations.)
- ★ **For centralities below 40% down to 7.7 GeV  $v_3^2\{2\} \neq 0$ . In disagreement with non-QGP models. May the QGP be created even in these low energy collisions !?**
- ★  **$v_3^2\{2\}/n_{ch,PP}$  shows a minimum near  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=20$  GeV.**

# Rapidity correlations of $\pi^\pm$ in (0-5)% Au-Au

$$R_2(y_1, y_2) = \frac{\langle \rho_2(y_1, y_2) \rangle}{\langle \rho_1(y_1) \rangle \langle \rho_1(y_2) \rangle} - 1$$



[arXiv:1708.03364](https://arxiv.org/abs/1708.03364)



- ★ Near-side  $|\Delta\phi| < 30^\circ$  peak around  $y \approx 0$  observed for all energies is stronger in  $\pi^+\pi^-$  than in  $\pi^\pm\pi^\pm$ . Results from the short-range correlation mechanisms dominant in this  $\Delta\phi$  range.
- ★ No significant structure seen in  $150^\circ < \Delta\phi < 210^\circ$  (far-side) projection.
- ★ Charge-independent and **beam-energy localized** (19.6 and 27 GeV) structure observed in  $R_2(\Delta y)$  extending as a ridge in  $30^\circ < \Delta\phi < 150^\circ$  &  $210^\circ < \Delta\phi < 330^\circ$  !!!
- ★ The UrQMD ( $0^\circ \leq \Delta\phi \leq 360^\circ$ ) does not reproduce the effect neither for  $\pi^+\pi^+$  nor for pp.

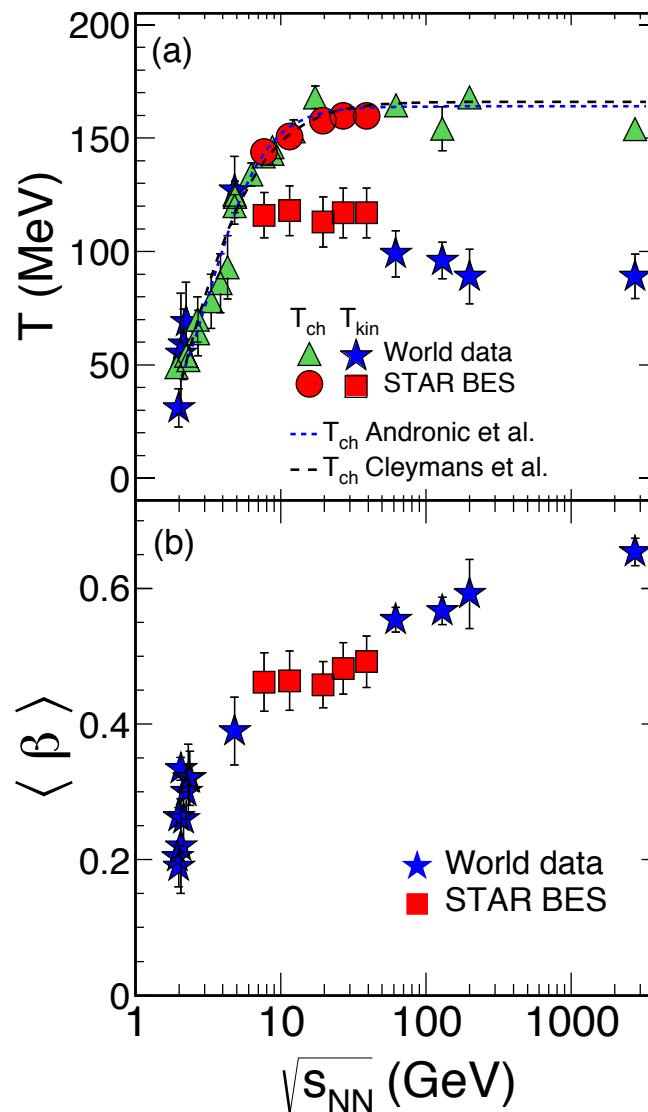
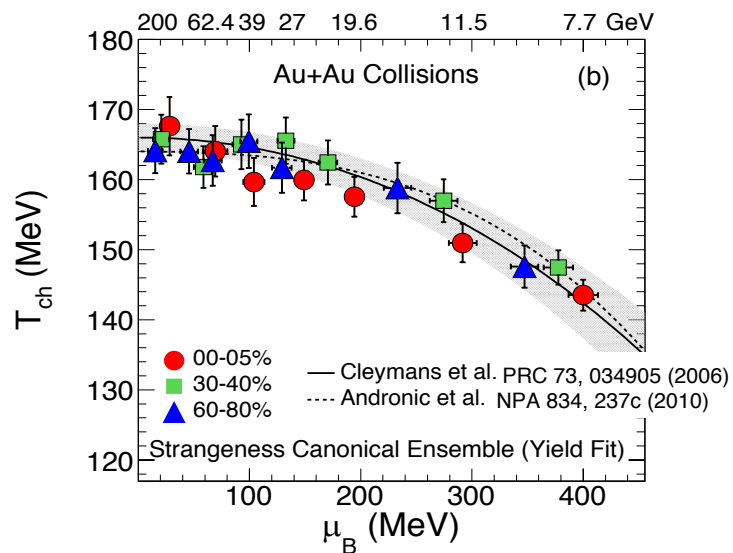
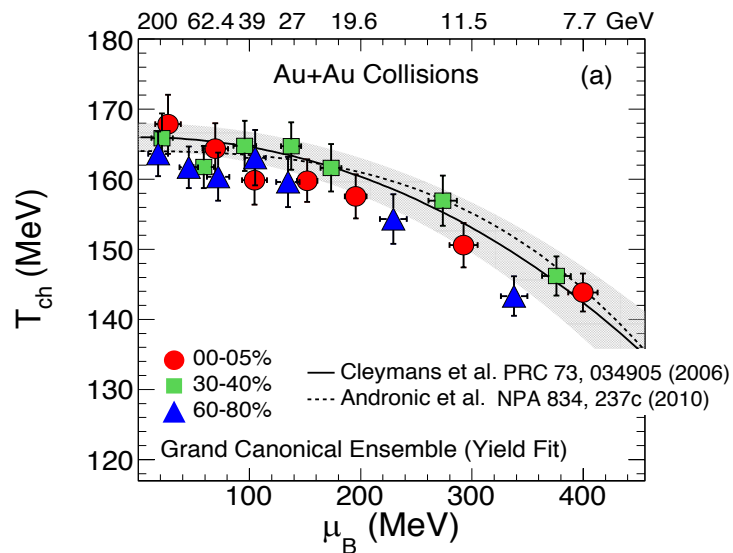




## 2. Search for the signals of phase boundary: Bulk properties of matter at freeze-out

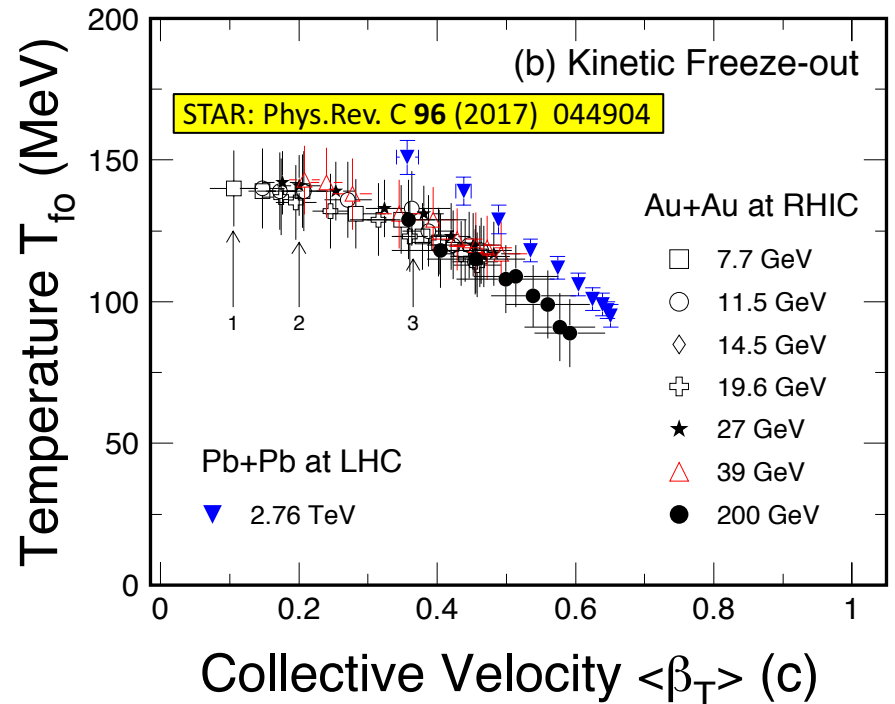
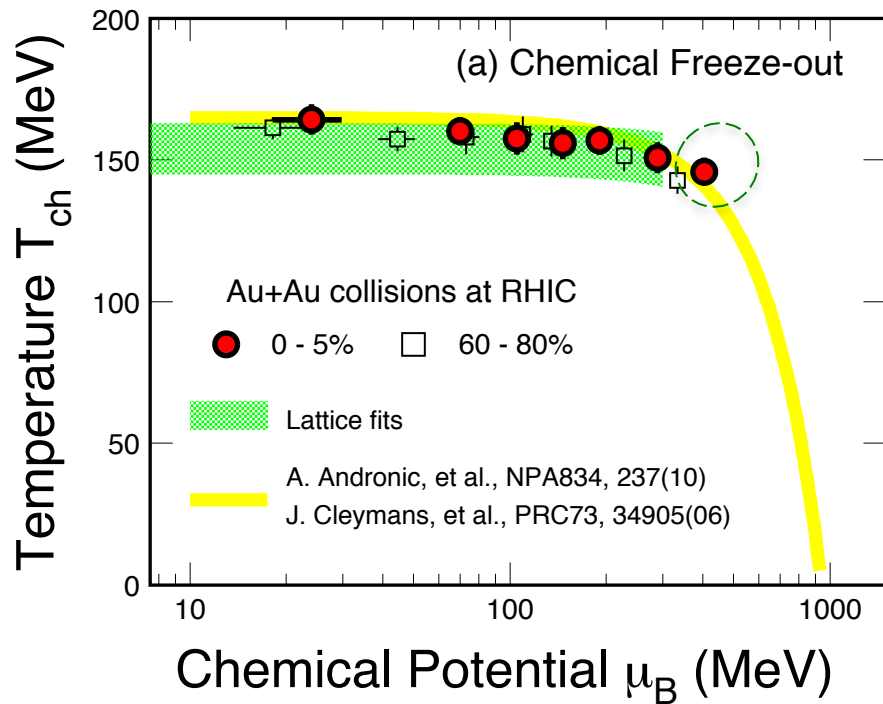


# Bulk Properties at Freeze-out



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

# Bulk Properties at Freeze-out



## Chemical Freeze-out: (GCE)

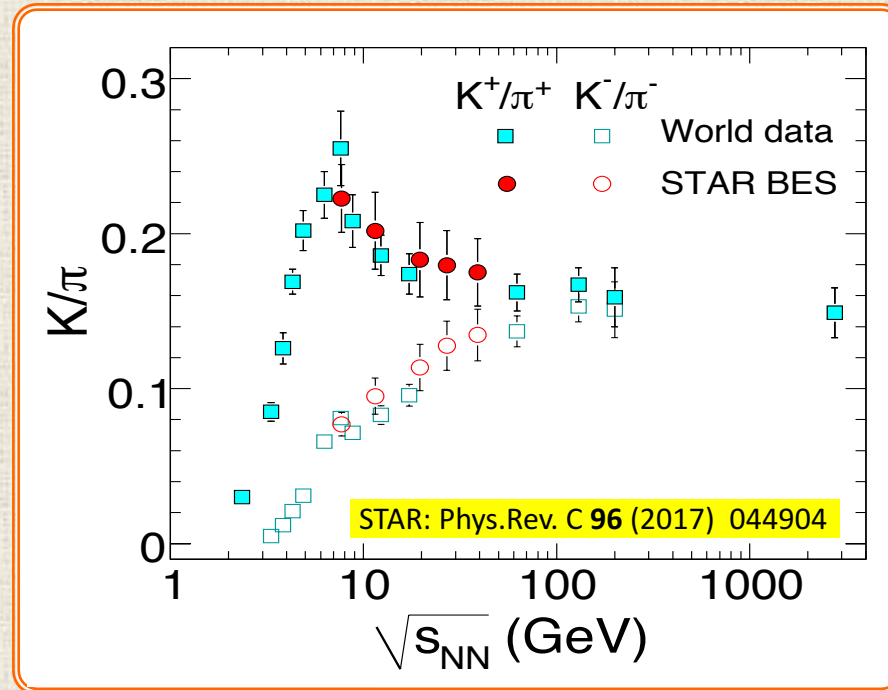
- Weak temperature dependence
- Centrality dependence  $\mu_B$ !
- LGT calculations indicate the Critical Region around  $\mu_B \sim 300$  MeV?

## Kinetic Freeze-out:

- Central collisions => lower value of  $T_{fo}$  and larger collectivity  $\beta_T$
- **Stronger collectivity at higher energy, even for peripheral collisions**

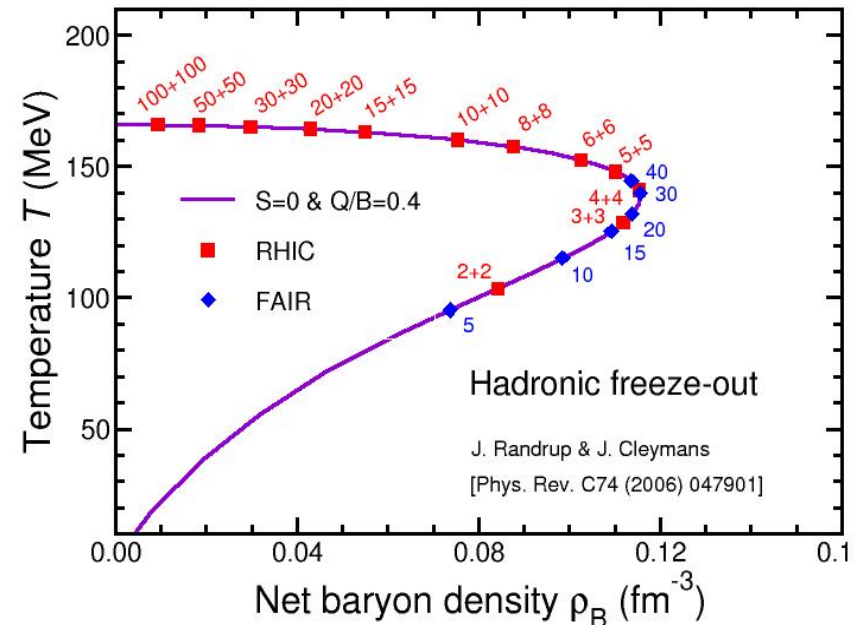
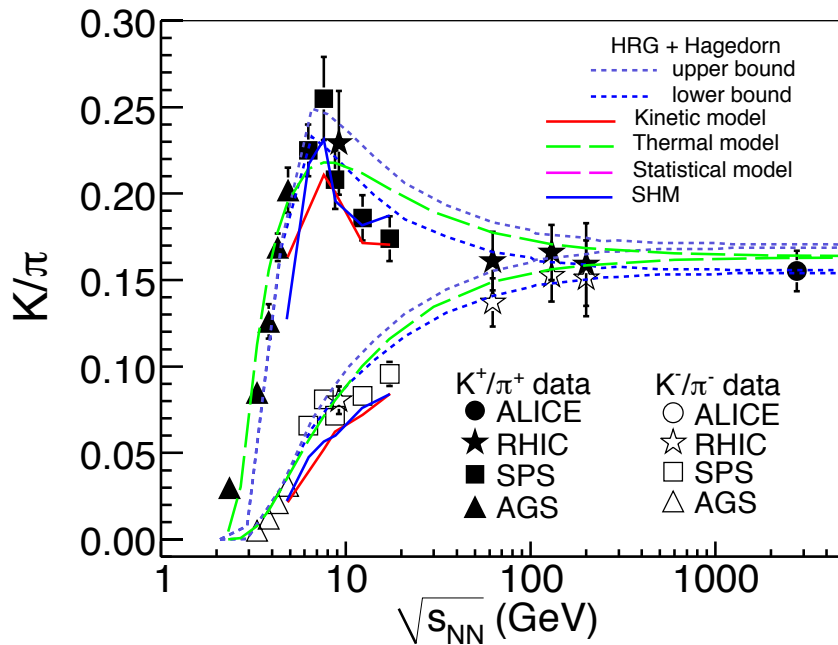
- ALICE: B.Abelev et al., PRL109, 252301(12); Phys.Rev. C88, 044910(2013).
- STAR: J. Adams, et al., NPA757, 102(05); STAR: Phys.Rev. C96 (2017) 044904
- S. Mukherjee: Private communications. August, 2012

# K/ $\pi$ Ratios and Baryon Density



- 1) The  $K^+/\pi$  ratio peaks at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \sim 8$  GeV,  
 $K^-/\pi$  ratio merges with  $K^+/\pi$  at higher collision energy

# K/ $\pi$ Ratios and Baryon Density



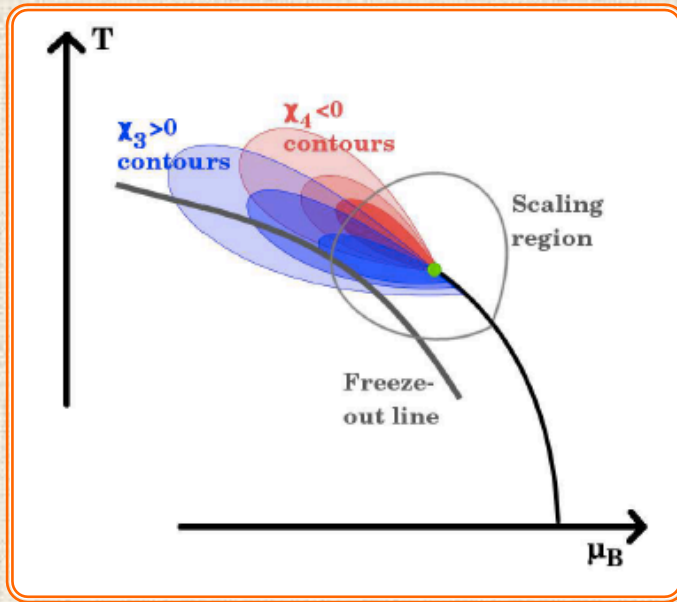
- 1) The  $K^+/\pi$  ratio peaks at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \sim 8$  GeV,  
 $K^-/\pi$  ratio merges with  $K^+/\pi$  at higher collision energy
- 2) Model: **Net baryon density peaks at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \sim 8$  GeV**
- 3) At  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} > 8$  GeV, pair production becomes important

**3. Search for the QCD  
critical endpoint:  
Fluctuations of conserved  
quantities and**

# Expectation from Model Calculations

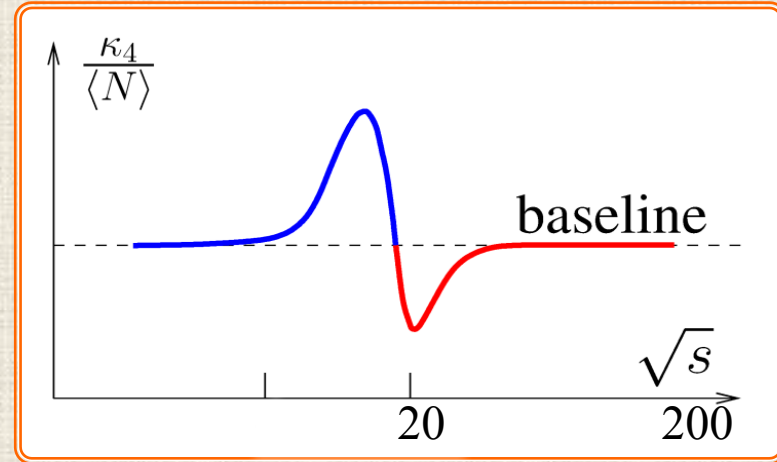
$$\frac{p}{T^4} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \ln Z(T, \mu_u, \mu_d, \mu_s) = \sum_{ijk} \frac{1}{i!j!k!} \chi_{ijk}^{uds} \left(\frac{\mu_u}{T}\right)^i \left(\frac{\mu_d}{T}\right)^j \left(\frac{\mu_s}{T}\right)^k$$

$$\chi_2^X = \frac{1}{VT^3} \langle N_X^2 \rangle, \quad \chi_4^X = \frac{1}{VT^3} \left( \langle N_X^4 \rangle - 3 \langle N_X^2 \rangle^2 \right)$$



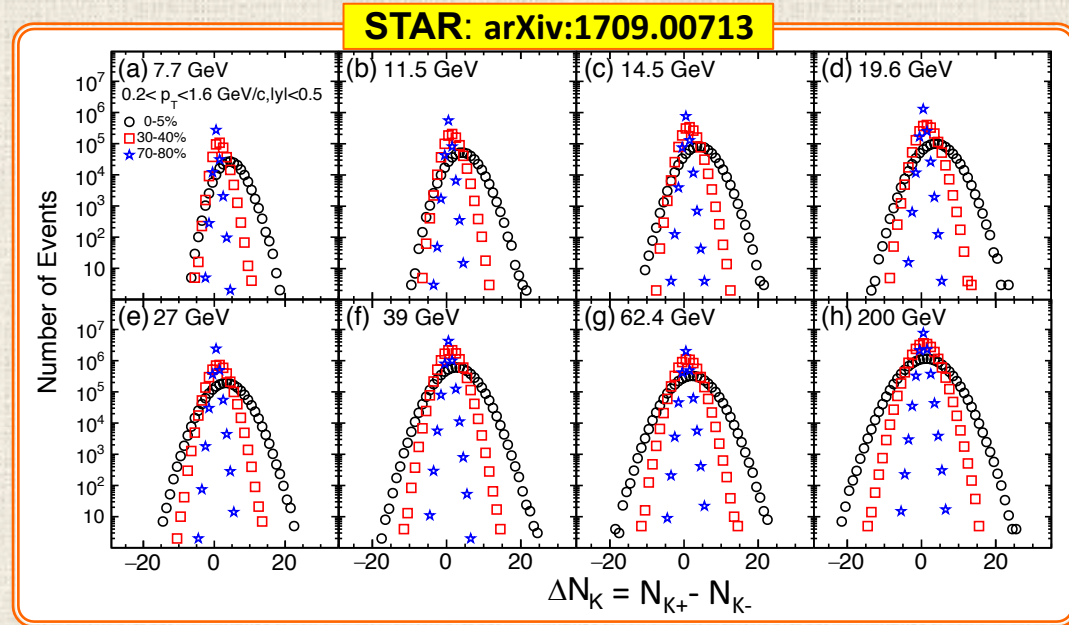
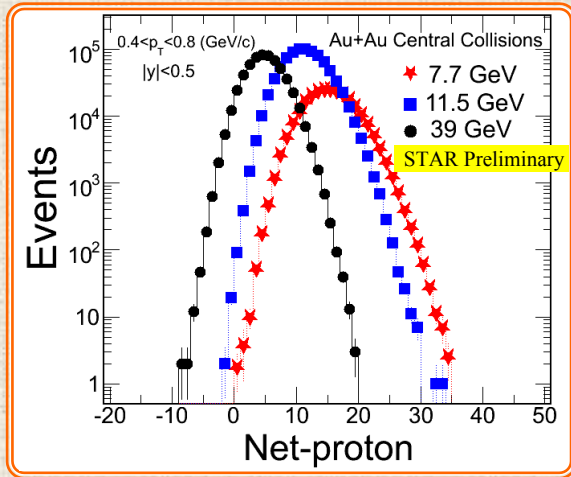
N.B. For  $\mu_q = \mu_s = 0$  the leading-order correction to the pressure at non-vanishing  $\mu_B$  is proportional to the quadratic fluctuations of the net baryon number:

$$\frac{p(T, \mu_B) - p(T, 0)}{T^4} = \frac{1}{2} \chi_2^B(T) \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T}\right)^2 \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{12} \frac{\chi_4^B(T)}{\chi_2^B(T)} \left(\frac{\mu_B}{T}\right)^2 \right] + \mathcal{O}(\mu_B^6)$$



- Characteristic “Oscillating pattern” is expected for the QCD critical point but *the exact shape depends on the location of freeze-out with respect to the location of CEP*
- M. Stephanov, **PRL** **107**, 052301(2011)
- V. Skokov, Quark Matter 2012
- J.W. Chen, J. Deng, H. Kohyyama, arXiv: 1603.05198, Phys. Rev. **D93** (2016) 034037

# Net-K and net-p distributions



$N$  = net-proton or  $\Delta N_K$

From  $P(N)$  to cumulants

$$\delta N = N - \langle N \rangle$$

$$C_1 = \langle N \rangle$$

$$C_2 = \langle (\delta N)^2 \rangle$$

$$C_3 = \langle (\delta N)^3 \rangle$$

$$C_4 = \langle (\delta N)^4 \rangle - 3\langle (\delta N)^2 \rangle^2$$

Mean ( $M$ ), variance ( $\sigma$ ), skewness  $S$  and kurtosis ( $\kappa$ )

$$M = C_1, \quad \sigma^2 = C_2, \quad S = C_3 / (C_2)^{3/2}, \quad \kappa = C_4 / (C_2)^2$$

From cumulants to multi-particle correlators

$$\hat{k}_1 = C_1$$

$$\hat{k}_2 = C_2 - C_1^2$$

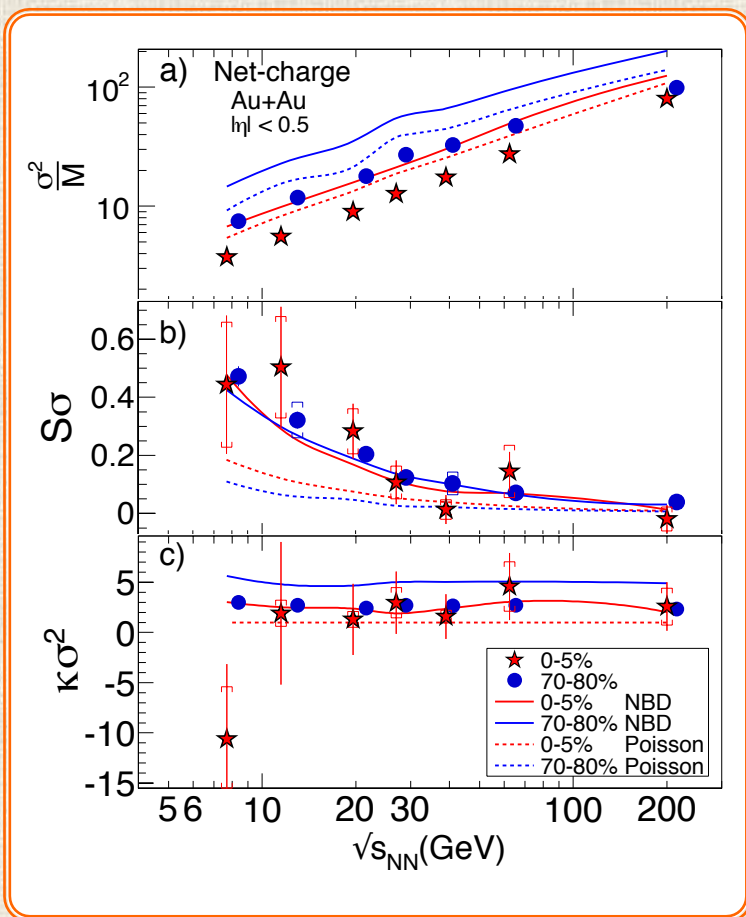
$$\hat{k}_3 = C_3 - 3C_2 C_1 + 2C_1^3$$

$$\hat{k}_4 = C_4 - 6C_3 C_1 + 11C_2^2 - 6C_1^4$$



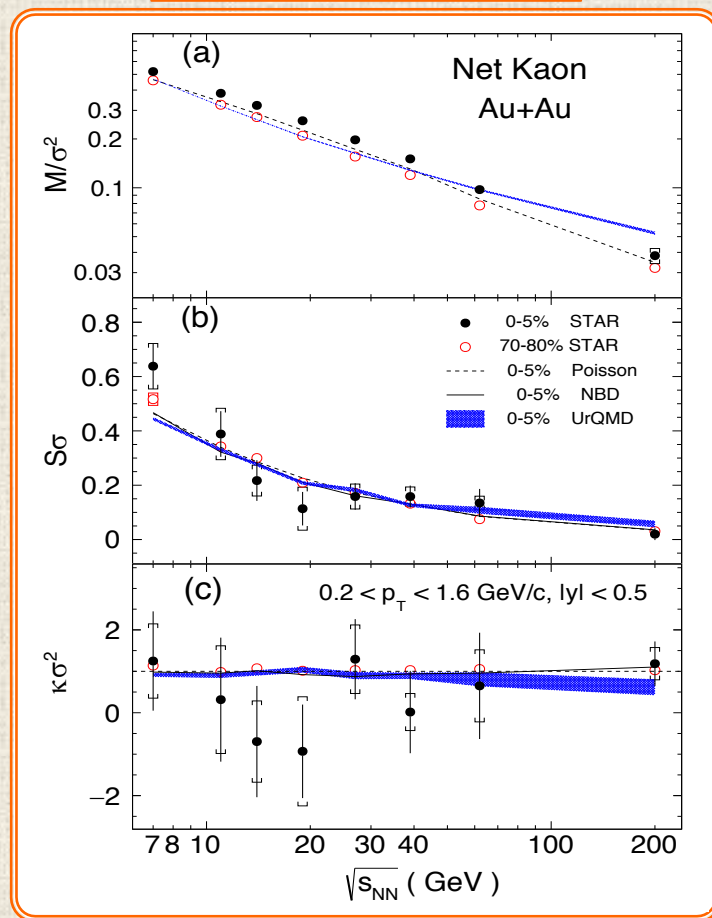
# Higher Moments of Net-Q, -K, -p

STAR: PRL. 113 (2014) 092301



$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^2/M &= C_2/C_1 \\ M/\sigma^2 &= C_1/C_2 \\ S\sigma &= C_3/C_2 \\ \kappa\sigma^2 &= C_4/C_2 \end{aligned}$$

STAR: arXiv:1709.00713



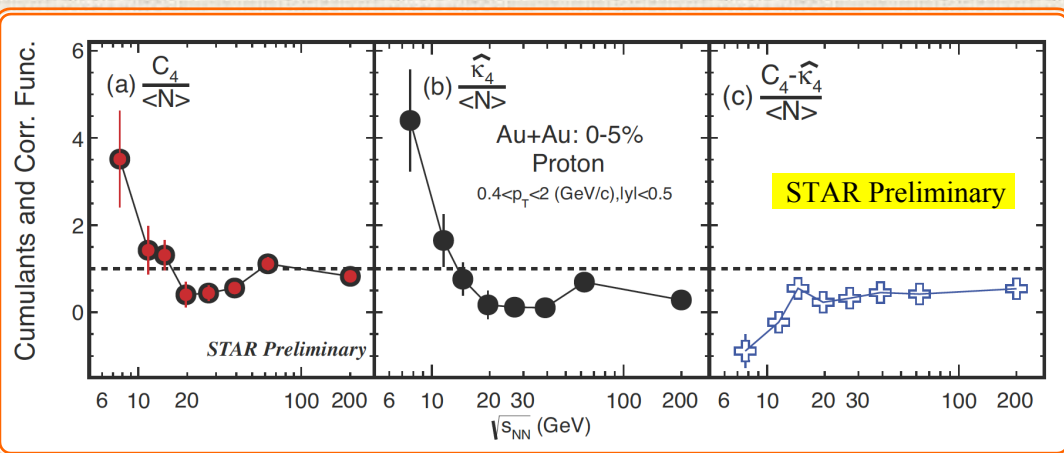
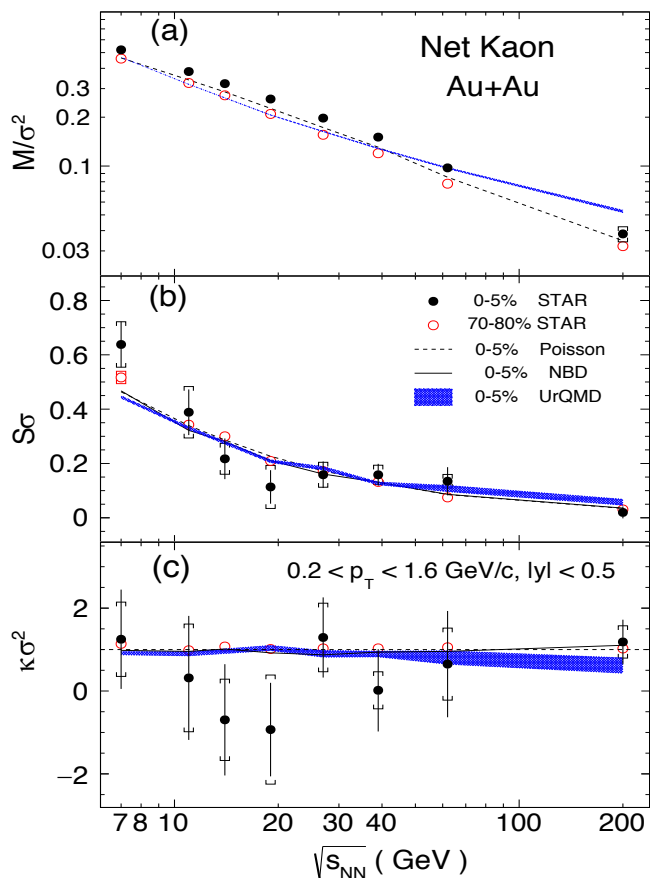
The net-Q shows flat energy dependence.



The net-Kaon shows flat energy dependence.

# Higher Moments of Net-Q, -K, -p

STAR: arXiv:1709.00713



$$\begin{aligned} M/\sigma^2 &= C_1/C_2 \\ S\sigma &= C_3/C_2 \\ \kappa\sigma^2 &= C_4/C_2 \end{aligned}$$



The net-Kaon shows flat energy dependence.



Net-p shows **non-monotonic energy dependence** in the most central Au+Au collisions starting at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} < 27$  GeV!



# Beam Energy Scan Phase- II



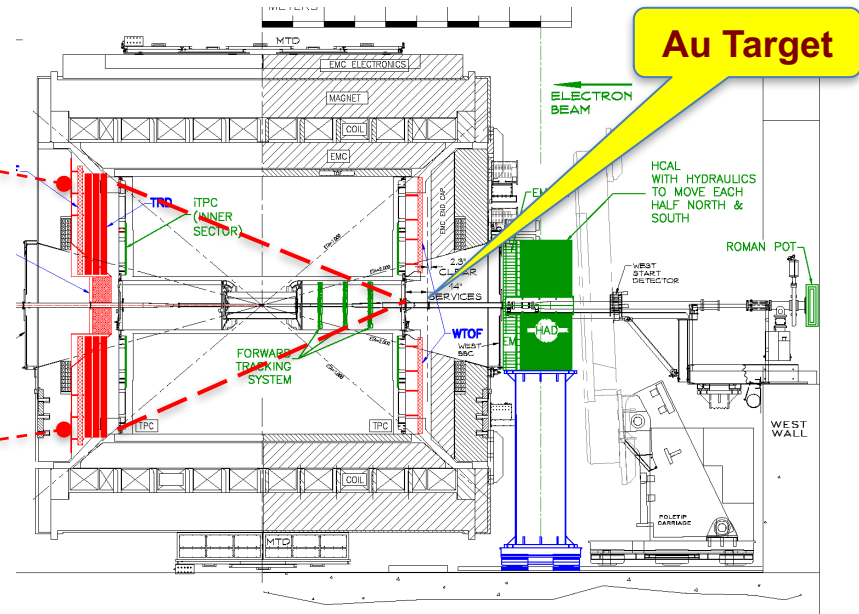
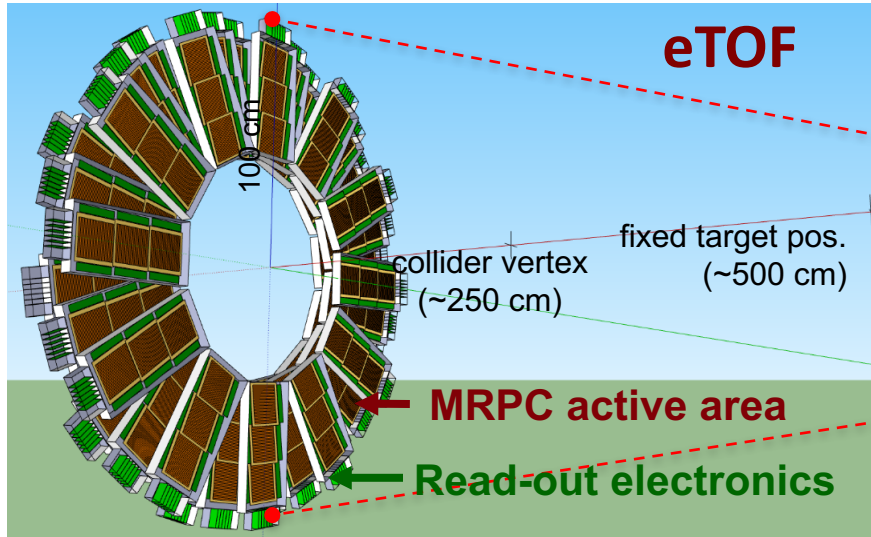
# 2019-2020: BES-II at RHIC

$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	Events ( $10^6$ )	BES-II / BES-I	Weeks	$\mu_B$ (MeV)	$T_{CH}$ (MeV)
200	350	2010		25	166
62.4	67	2010		73	165
<b>54.4</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>2017</b>			
39	39	2010		112	164
27	70	2011		156	162
19.6	<b>400</b> / 36	<b>2019-20</b> / 2011	<b>3</b>	206	160
14.5	<b>300</b> / 20	<b>2019-20</b> / 2014	<b>2.5</b>	264	156
11.5	<b>230</b> / 12	<b>2019-20</b> / 2010	<b>5</b>	315	152
9.1	<b>160</b> / 0.3	<b>2019-20</b> / 2008	<b>9.5</b>	355	140
7.7	<b>100</b> / 4	<b>2019-20</b> / 2010	<b>14</b>	420	140

Precision measurements,  
map the QCD phase diagram  **$200 < \mu_B < 420\text{MeV}$**



# CBM Phase-0 Exp: eTOF@STAR



Install, commission and use 10% of the CBM TOF modules, including the read-out chains at STAR, starting in 2019

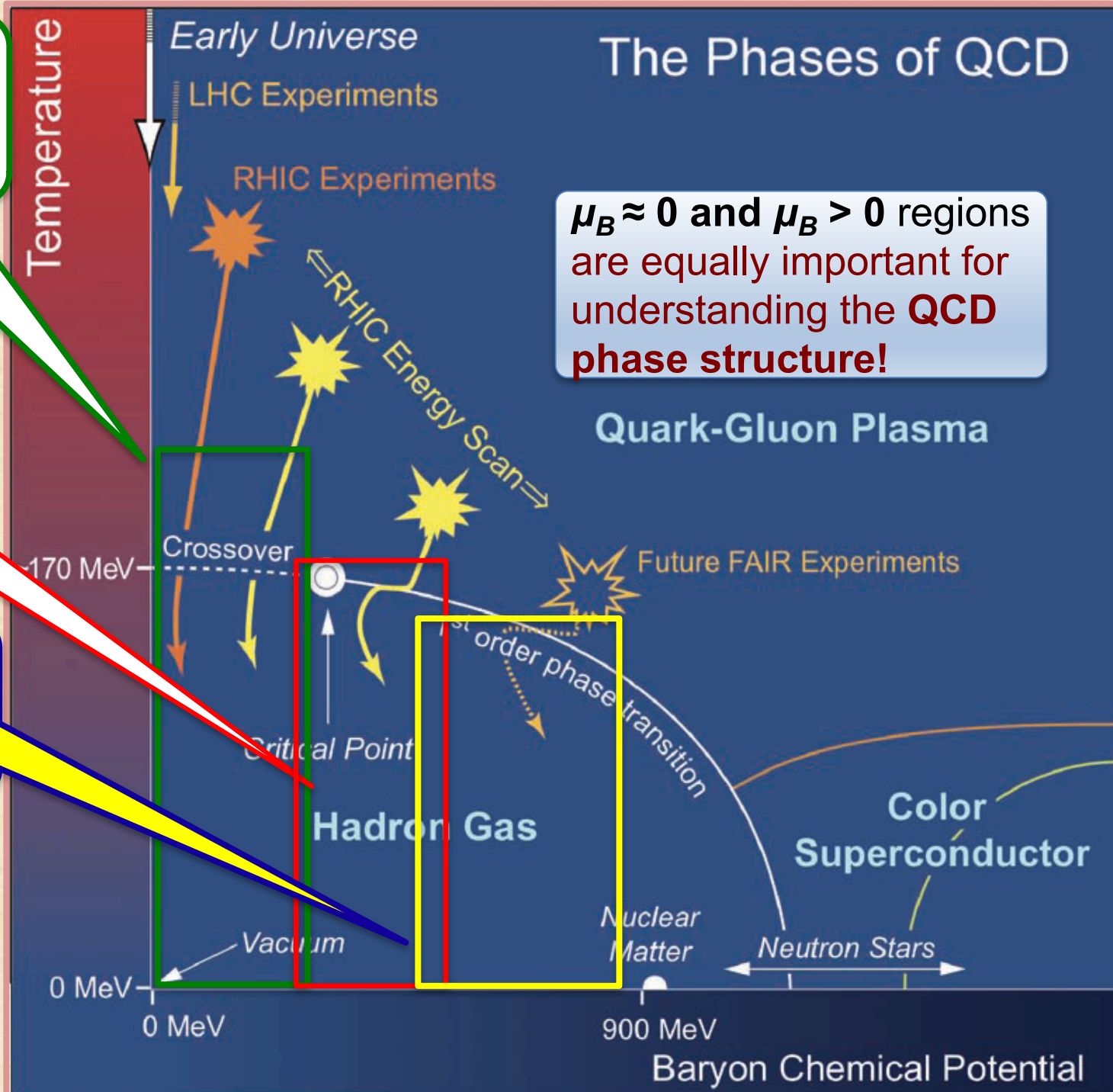
## CBM participating in RHIC Beam Energy BES-II in 2019-2020:

- Complementary to part of CBM's physics program:

$$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3, 3.5, 3.9, 4.5, 7.7 \text{ GeV } (750 \leq \mu_B \leq 420 \text{ MeV})$$

especially for *B*- & *s-hadrons* production and fluctuations

# The Phases of QCD



**LHC+RHIC**  
**QGP properties**  
 $\mu_B \approx 0$   
now - **2026**

**RHIC BES-II**  
collider mode  
 $200 < \mu_B < 420$  MeV  
**2019 & 2020**

**Fixed-target**  
**BES-III**  
 $350 < \mu_B < 750$  MeV  
2019 – **CBM**

$\mu_B \approx 0$  and  $\mu_B > 0$  regions  
are equally important for  
understanding the **QCD**  
**phase structure!**

Adapted from Nu Xu

# Summary

## ★ STAR results from BES program covering large $\mu_B$ range provide important constraint on the QCD phase diagram:

- High- $p_T$  suppression and its further evolution into enhancement at lower  $v_{s_{NN}}$  is driven by mesons. Baryons up to  $v_{s_{NN}}=62.4$  GeV remain enhanced.
- No significant energy dependence of the  $J/\psi$  suppression from SPS to RHIC was found.
- Integrated excess yield of LMR di-electrons normalized by  $dN_{ch}/dy$ , is proportional to lifetime of fireball from  $v_{s_{NN}} = 17.3$  GeV to  $v_{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV.
- Directed flow slopes of net-proton and net- $\Lambda$   $dv_1/dy|_{y=0}$  show double sign change.
- For centralities < 40% down to  $v_{s_{NN}}=7.7$  GeV  $v_3^2\{2\} \neq 0$ . In disagreement with non-QGP models.  $v_3^2\{2\}/n_{ch,pp}$  shows a minimum near  $v_{s_{NN}}=20$  GeV.
- Charge-independent and beam-energy localized (19.6 and 27 GeV) structure observed in  $R_2(\Delta y)$  extending as a ridge in  $30^\circ < \Delta\phi < 150^\circ$  &  $210^\circ < \Delta\phi < 330^\circ$
- $K^+/\pi$  ratio peaks at  $v_{s_{NN}} \sim 8$  GeV, i.e. @ maximal net-baryon density.
- Net-p shows non-monotonic energy dependence in the most central collisions starting at  $v_{s_{NN}} < 27$  GeV.

## ★ Search for the critical endpoint continues:

- BES-II program is scheduled for 2019-20.
- Fixed target program executed jointly with the CBM is scheduled for 2019. It will extend the measurements up to  $\mu_B \approx 750$  MeV.



# STAR Collaboration

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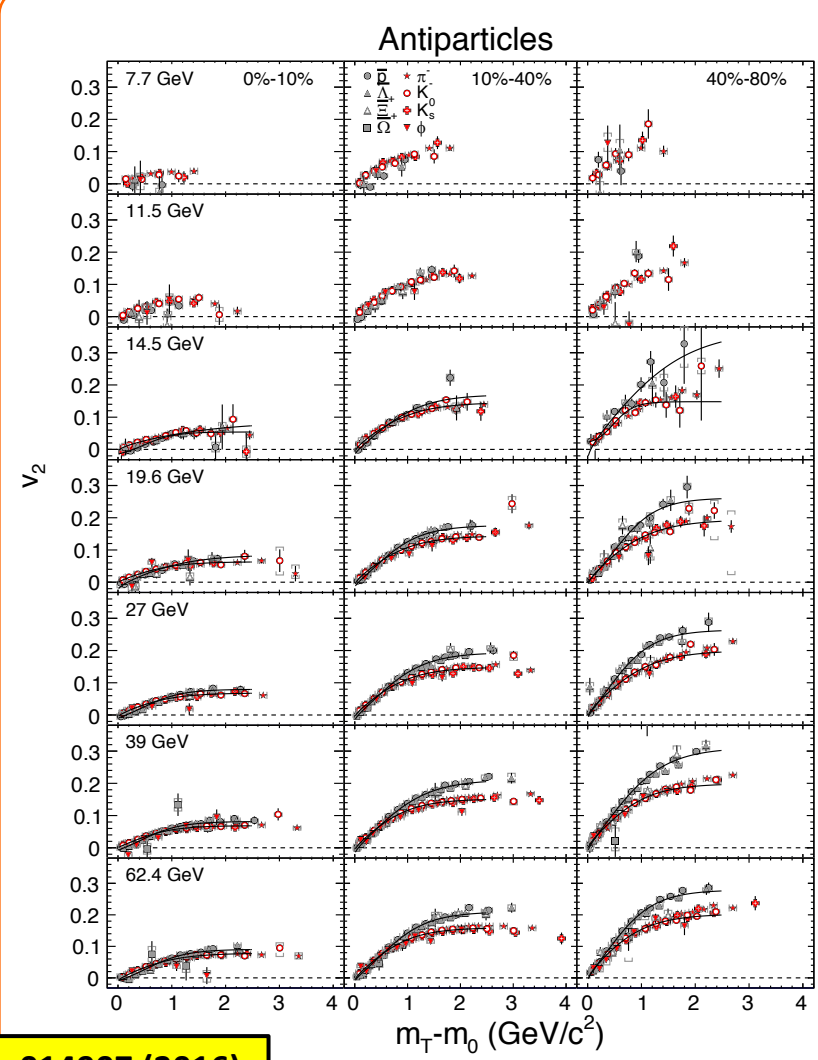
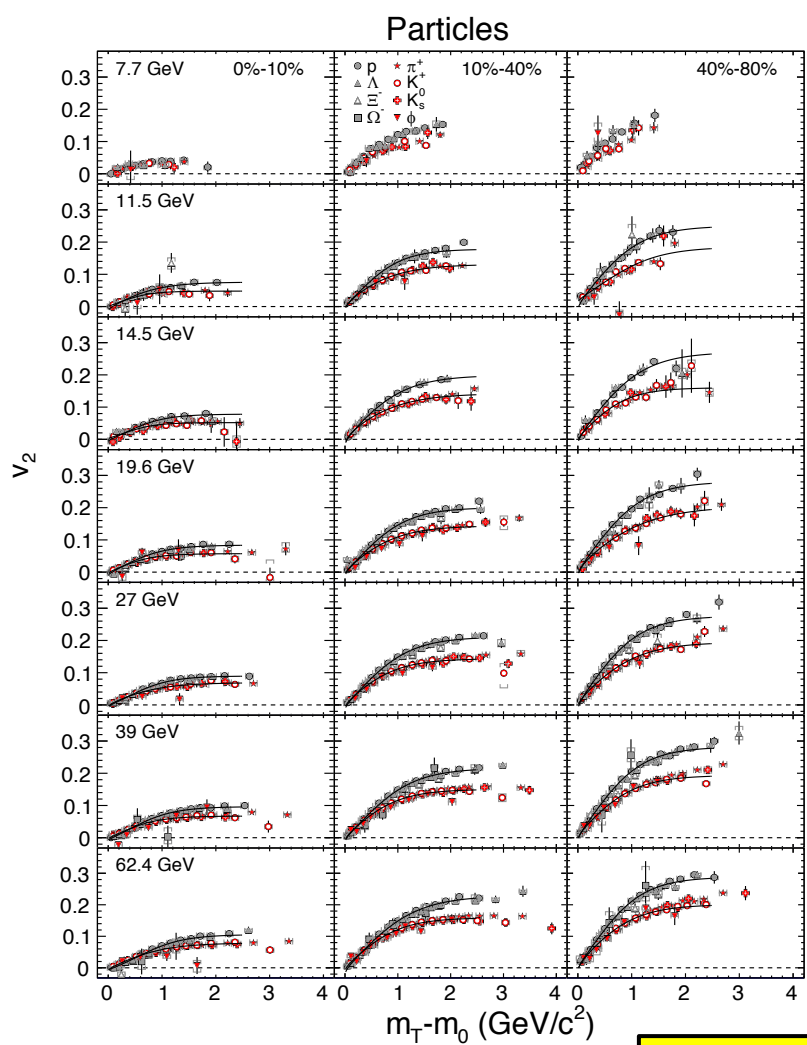




# Backup slides



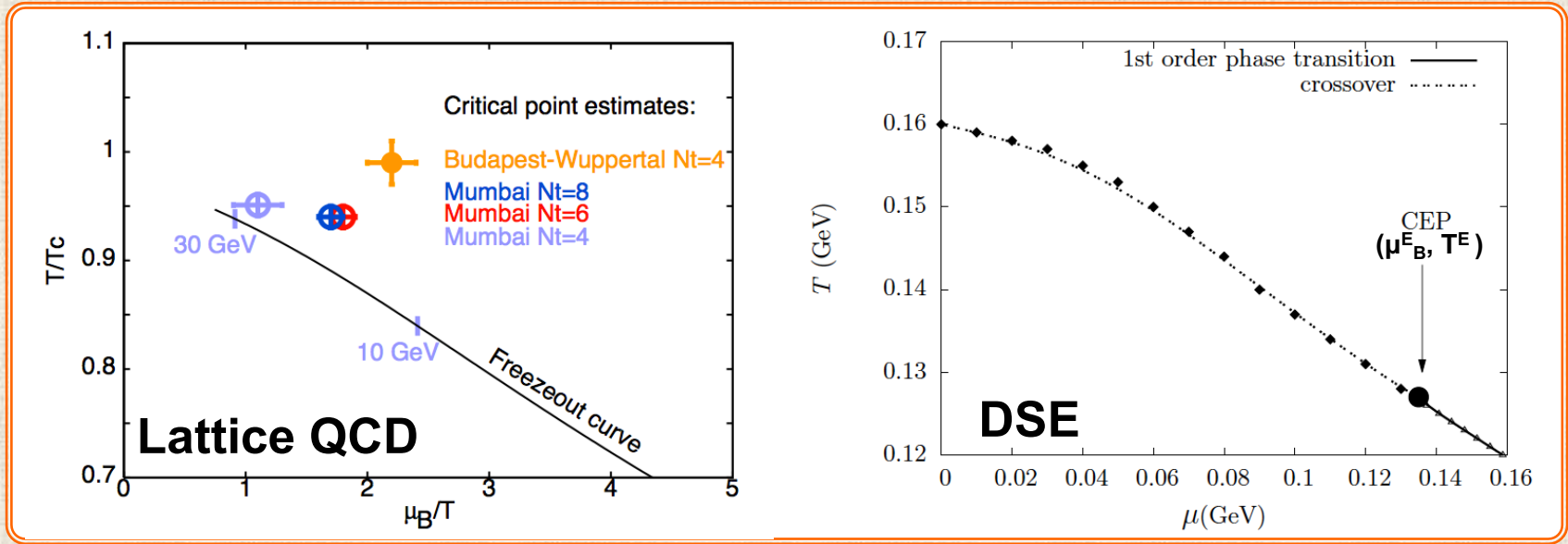
# Elliptic flow of identified (anti)particles



STAR: Phys.Rev. C93, 014907 (2016)

Starting from 14.5 GeV similar relative  $v_2$  baryon-meson splitting is observed for all centralities (and agrees within 15% with the NCQ quark scaling – see line fits).  
 The larger  $v_2$  for most particles relative to antiparticles shows a clear centrality dependence.

# Status on Predictions



## Lattice QCD:

- 1) Fodor and Katz, JHEP 0404,050 (04)  
 $(\mu_B^E, T_E) = (360, 162)$  MeV (Re.)
- 2) Gavai and Gupta, NPA 904, 883c (13)  
 $(\mu_B^E, T_E) = (279, 155)$  MeV (Taylor)
- 3) F. Karsch ( $\mu_B^E/T_E > 2$ , CPOD2016)

## Dyson-Schwinger Equation:

- 1) Y. X. Liu, et al., PRD90, 076006(14)  
 $(\mu_B^E, T^E) = (372, 129)$  MeV
- 2) H.S. Zong et al., JHEP 07, 014(14)  
 $(\mu_B^E, T_E) = (405, 127)$  MeV
- 3) C.S. Fischer et al., PRD90, 034022(14)  
 $(\mu_B^E, T^E) = (504, 115)$  MeV

$$\mu_B^E = 300 \sim 504 \text{ MeV}, T_E = 115 \sim 162 \text{ MeV}, \mu_B^E/T_E > 2.5$$