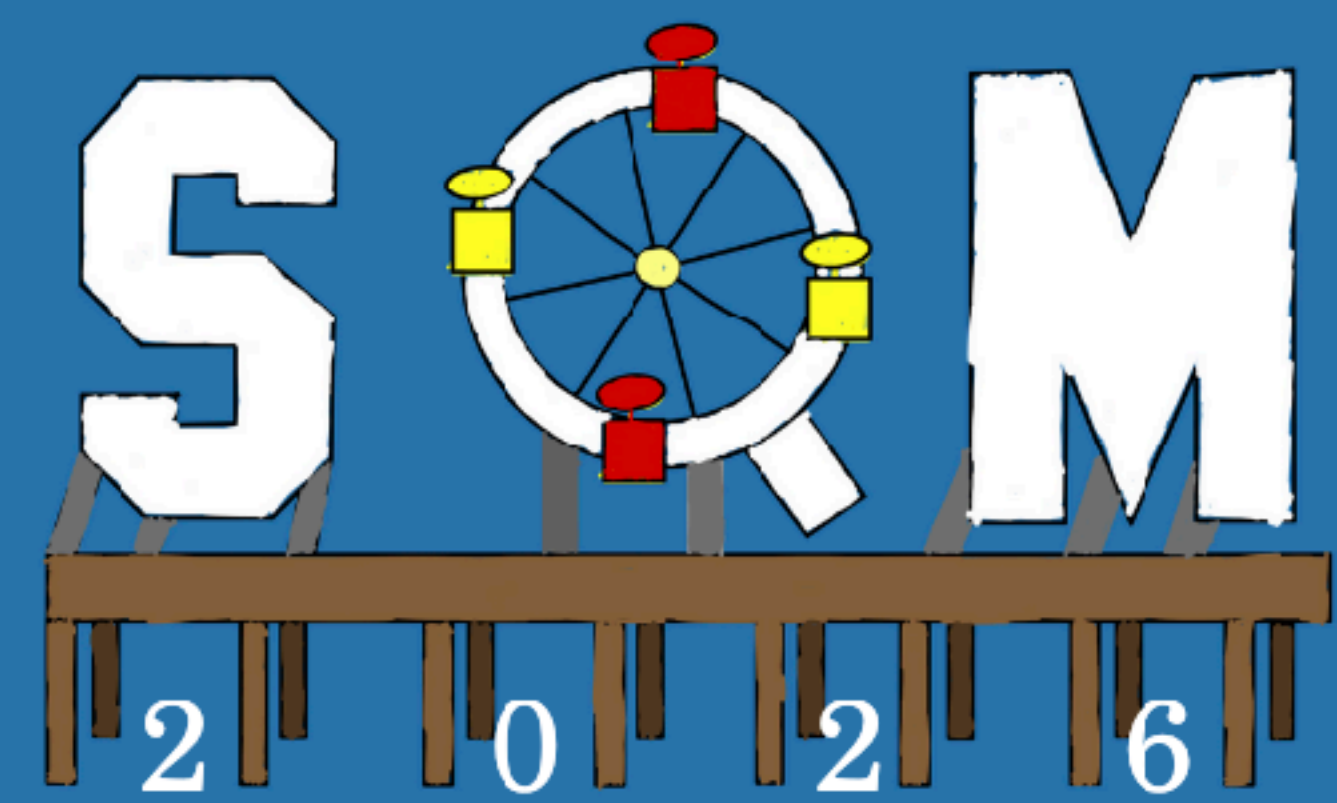


The 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on  
**Strangeness in Quark Matter**  
22-27 March, 2026, Los Angeles, CA



# Chirality, Polarization, and Spin Alignment in Heavy-Ion Collisions

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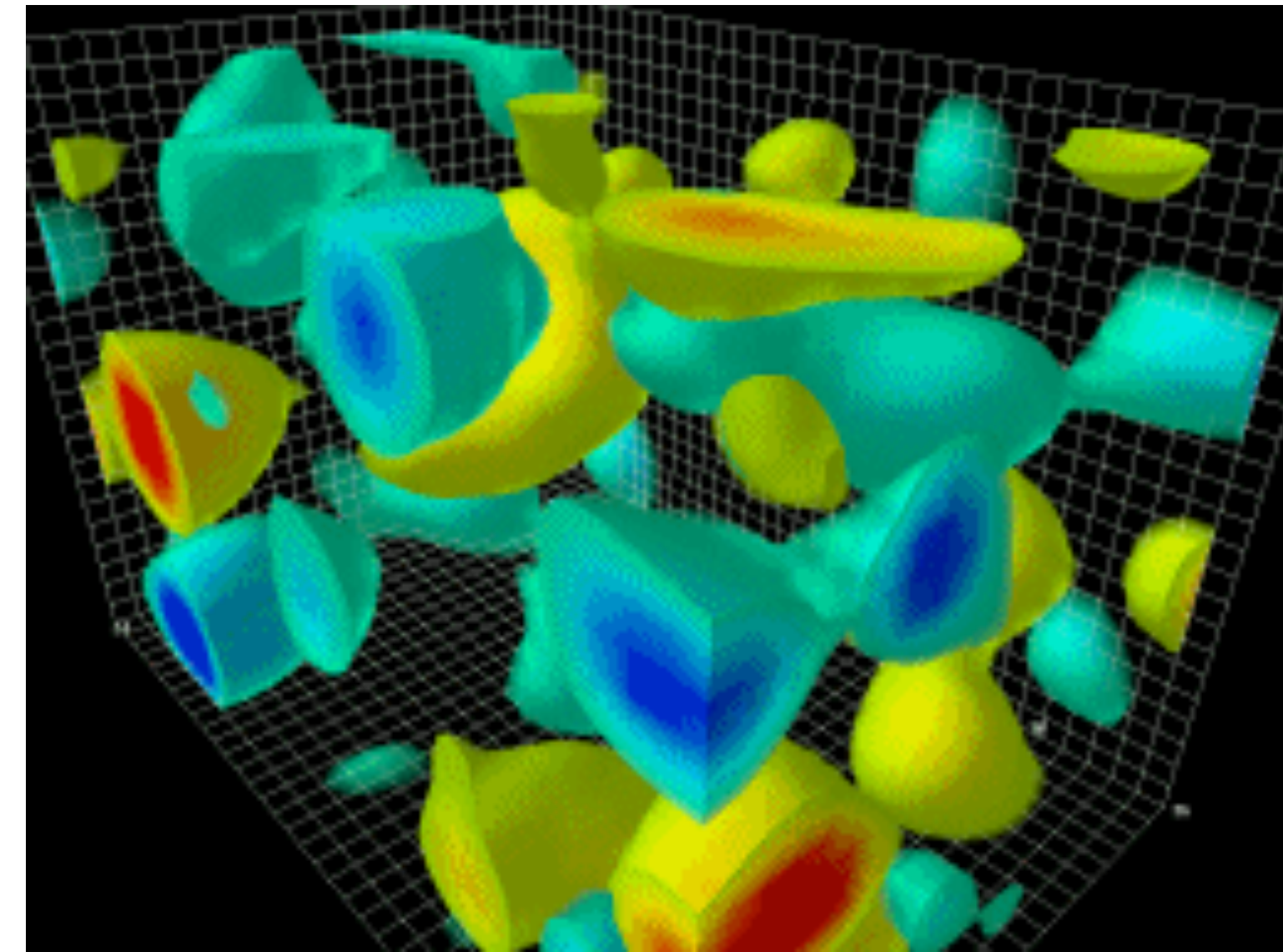
Shuzhe Shi (施舒哲)

Tsinghua Univ.



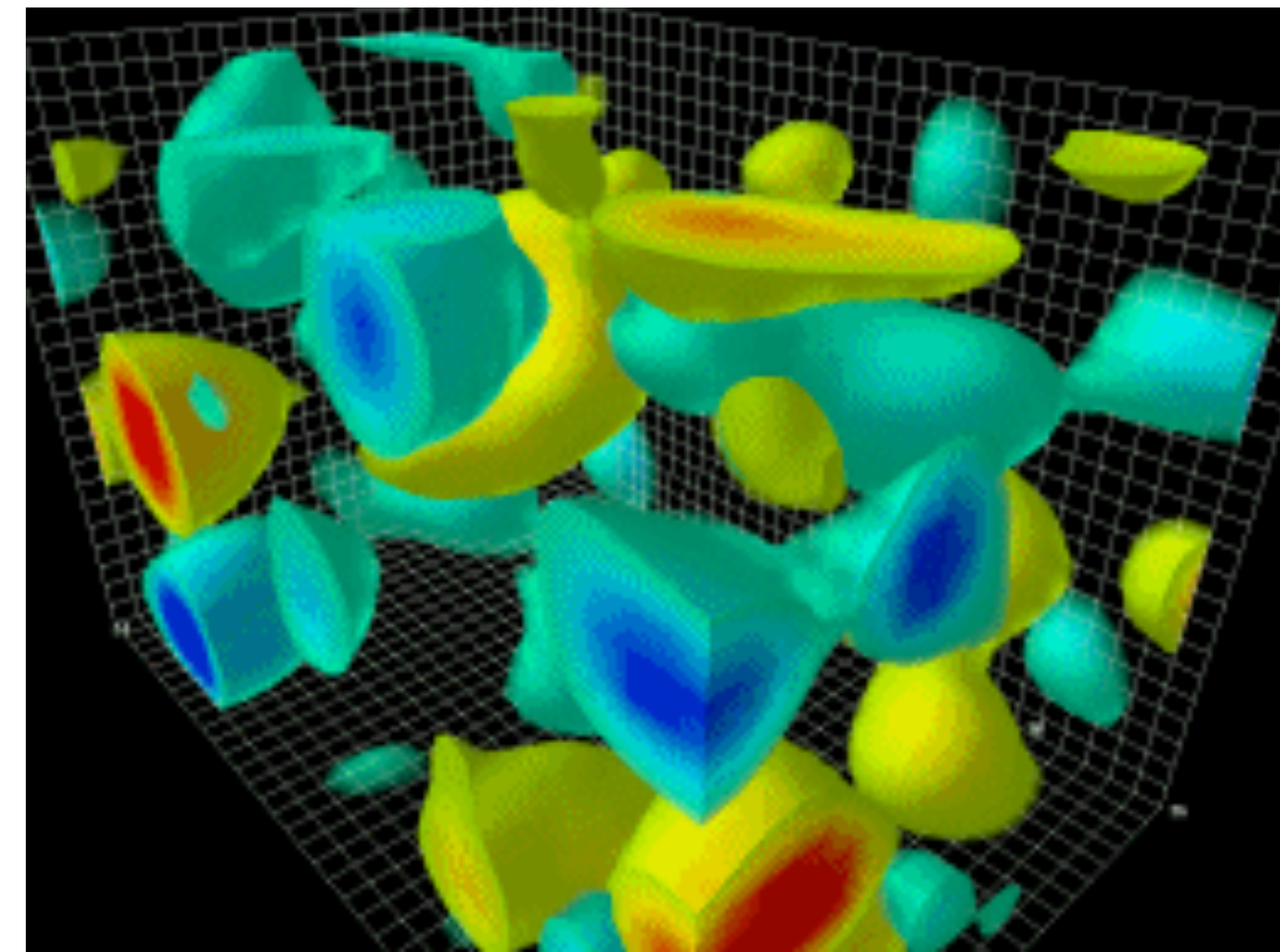
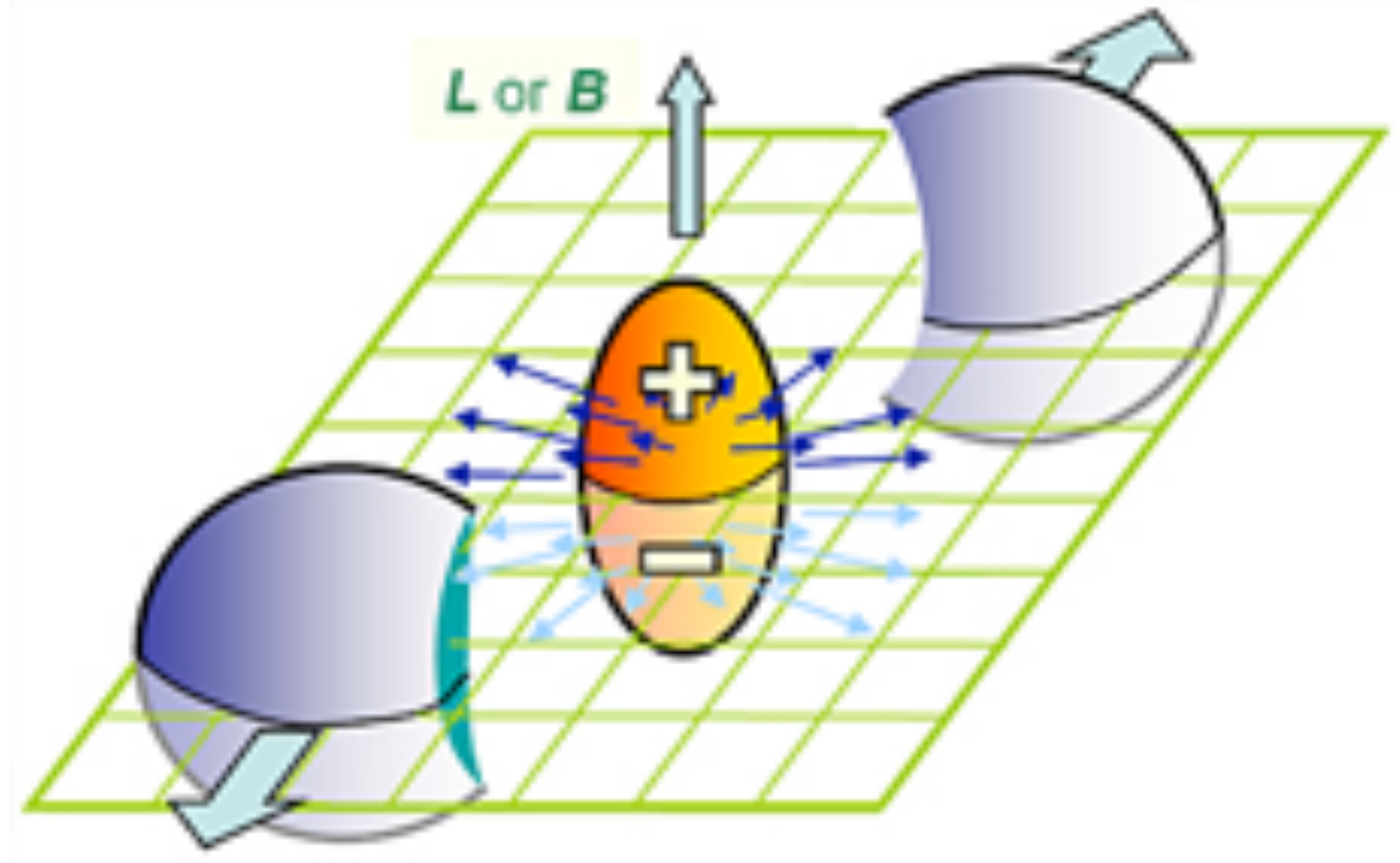
清華大學

Tsinghua University



Topology  
⊗ Chiral  
⊗ Anomaly

$$Q_w = \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x F_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{F}_a^{\mu\nu}$$



Magnetic Field

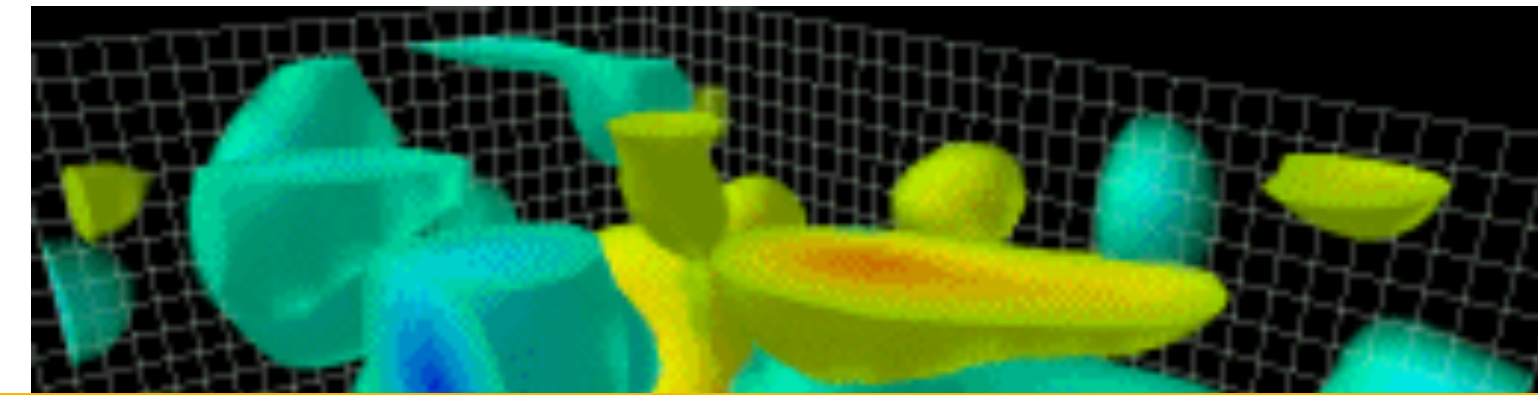
$$B \sim \gamma Z Q b / R^3$$

( $10^{15}$  T @ 200 GeV Au-Au)



Topology  
⊗ Chiral  
⊗ Anomaly

$$Q_w = \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x F_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{F}_a^{\mu\nu}$$



## The Chiral Magnetic Effect

Kenji Fukushima, Dmitri Kharzeev, H.Warringa, PhysRevD.78.074033

recent reviews:

Chiral magnetic effect reveals the topology of gauge fields in heavy-ion collisions

Dmitri Kharzeev, Jinfeng Liao, Nature Review Physics 3 (2021) 1, 55-63

Chapter in QGP6

Dmitri Kharzeev, Jinfeng Liao, Prithwish Tribedy, 2405.05427

$$B \sim \gamma Z Q b / R^3$$

( $10^{15}$  T @ 200 GeV Au-Au)

⊗ Anomaly

$$Q_w = \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x F_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{F}_a^{\mu\nu}$$

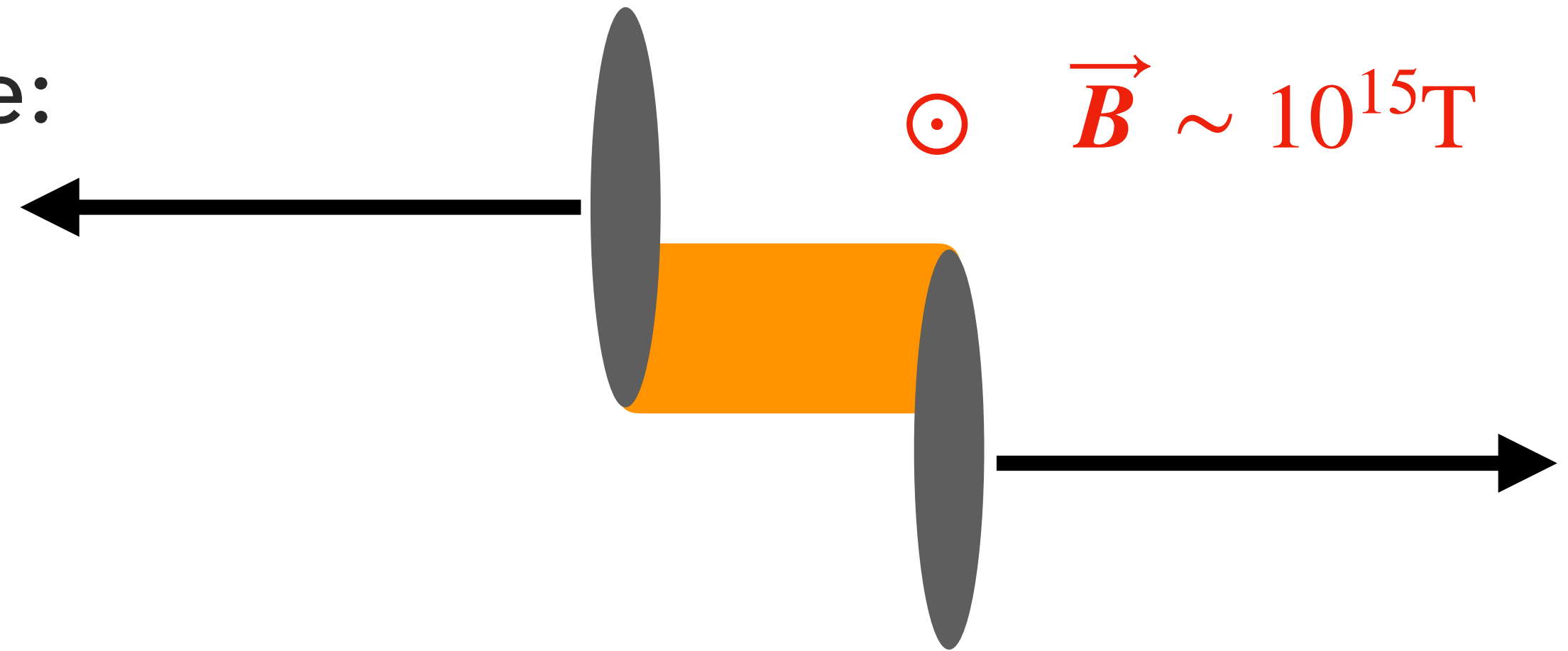
For right-handed particles w/ positive charge:

1.  $\vec{p} \parallel \vec{S} \parallel \vec{\mu}$

2. Energy =  $-\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B} \propto -\vec{p} \cdot \vec{B}$

⇒ lower energy if moving along B field direction

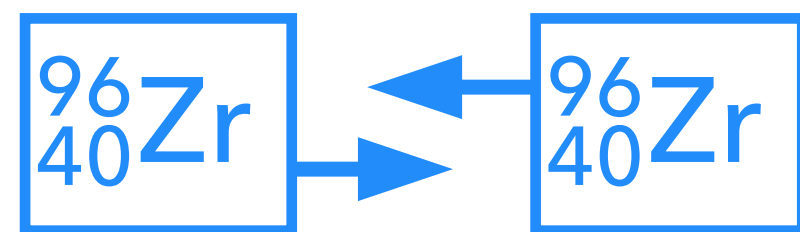
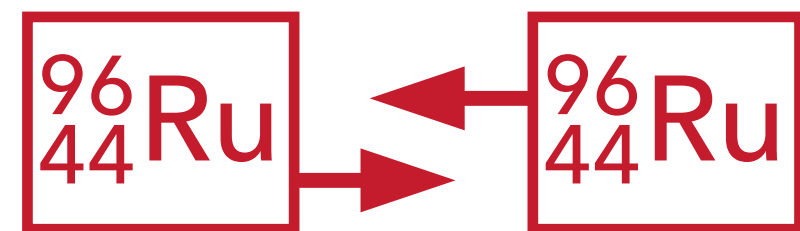
$$\vec{J} = \sigma_A \mu_A \vec{B}$$



*expectation before the isobar collisions:*

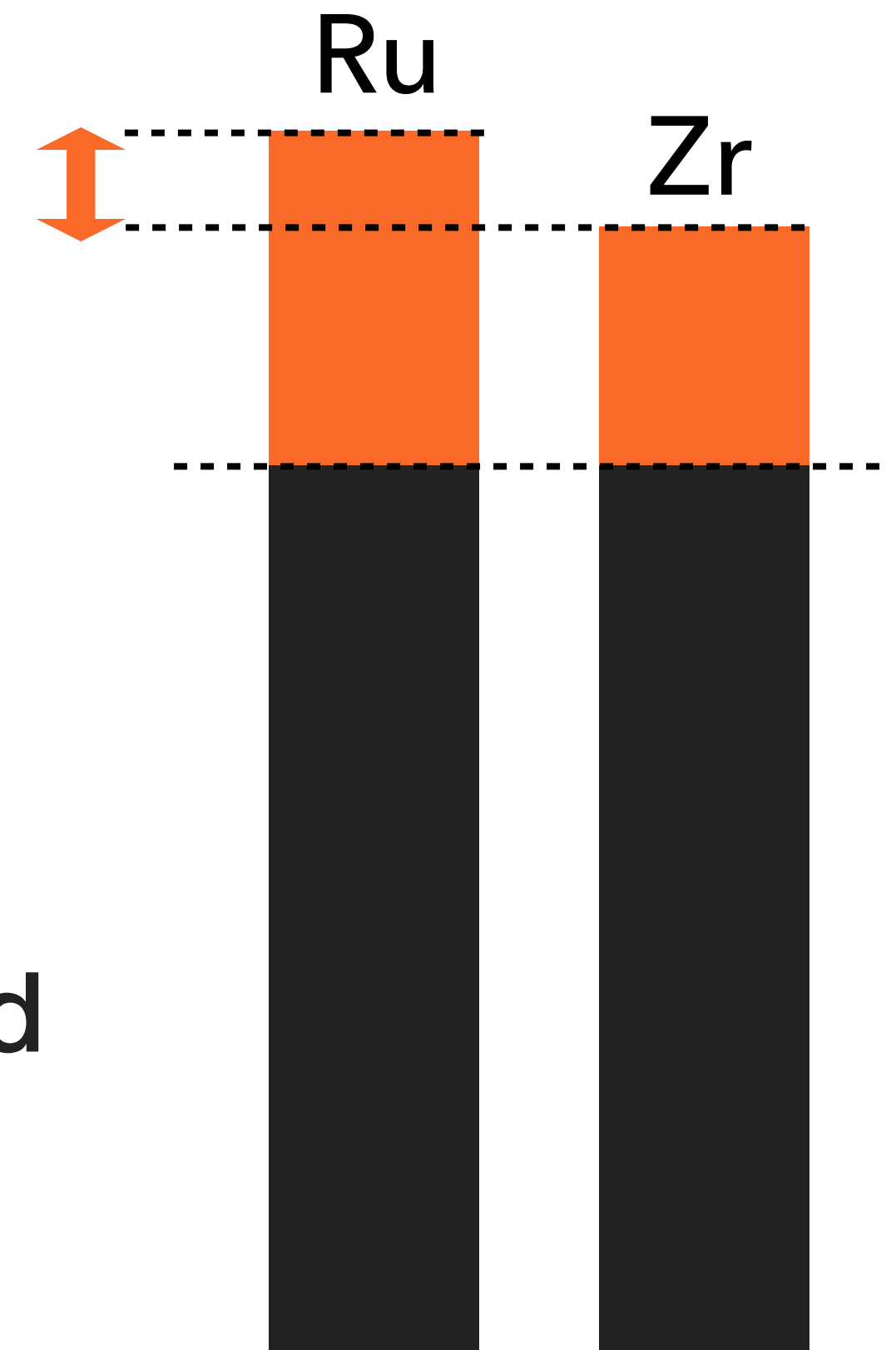
$Correlator[Ru] > Correlator[Zr]$   $\longrightarrow$  **CME**

$Correlator[Ru] = Correlator[Zr]$   $\longrightarrow$  **no CME**



Different Proton #  $\longrightarrow$  Different CME Signal

Same Baryon #  $\longrightarrow$  Same Background

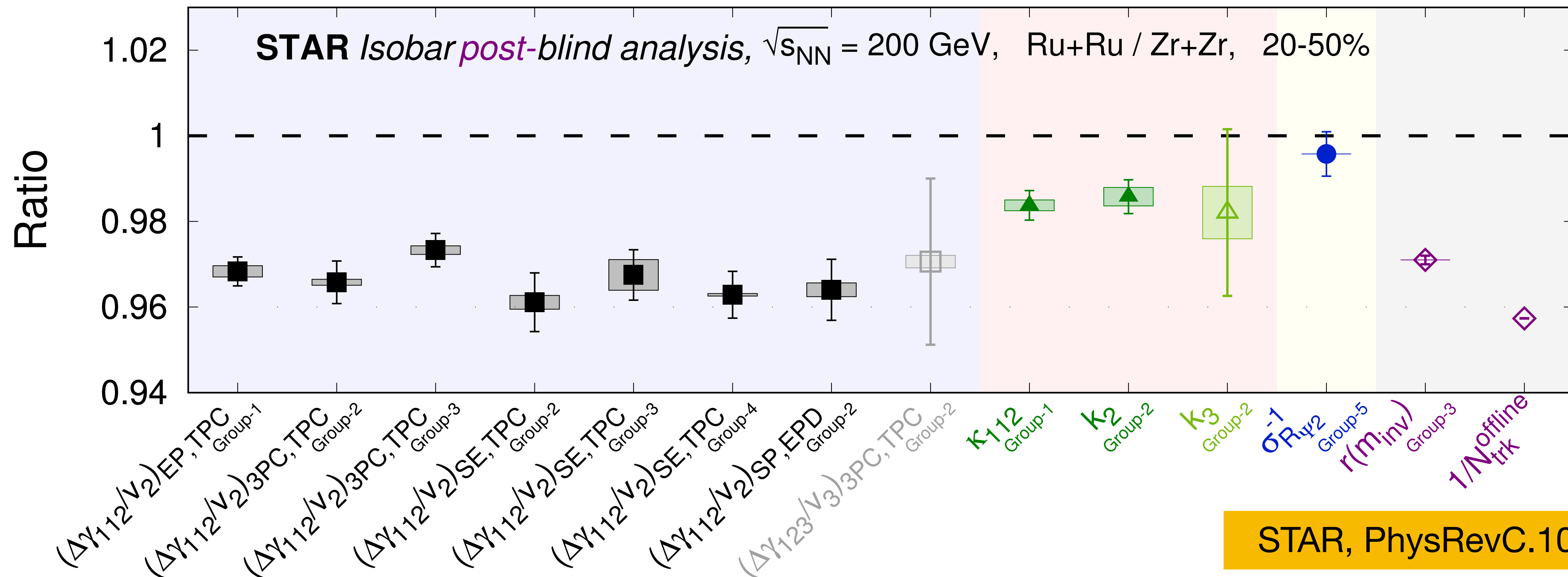


*expectation before the isobar collisions:*

$Correlator[Ru] > Correlator[Zr] \longrightarrow$  **CME**

$Correlator[Ru] = Correlator[Zr] \longrightarrow$  **no CME**

*measurement:*  $Correlator[Ru] < Correlator[Zr]$

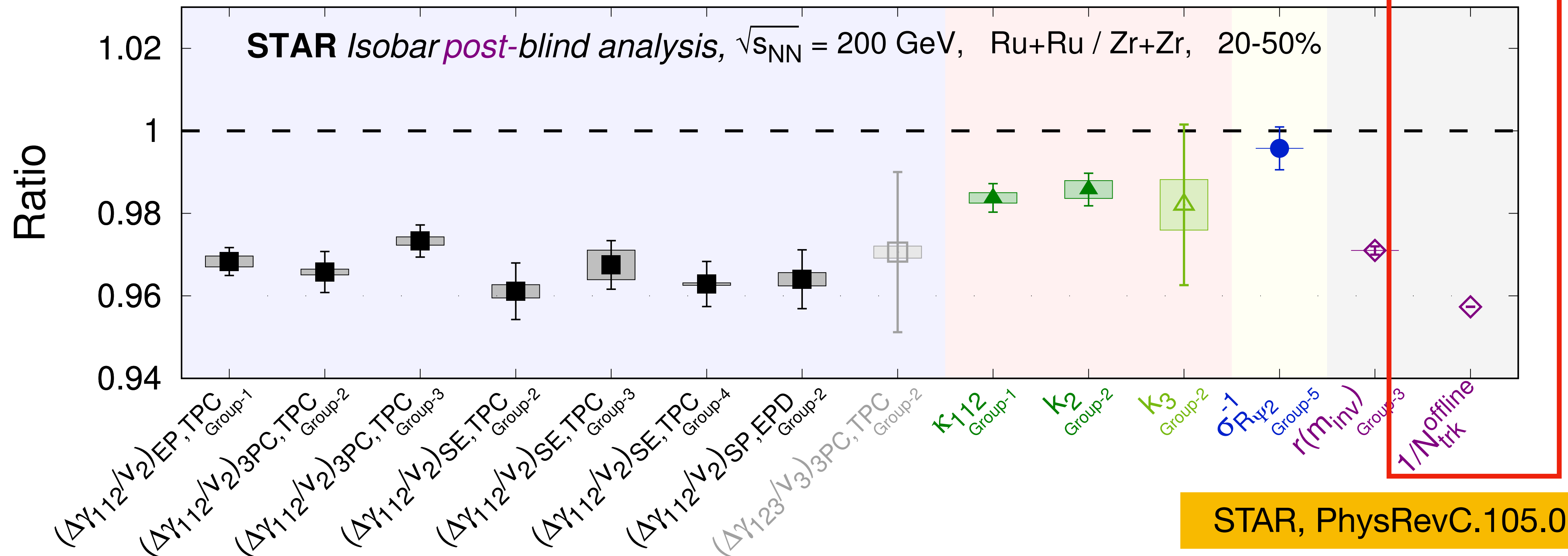


*expectation before the isobar collisions:*

$Correlator[Ru] > Correlator[Zr] \longrightarrow$  **CME**

$Correlator[Ru] = Correlator[Zr] \longrightarrow$  **no CME**

*measurement:*  $Correlator[Ru] < Correlator[Zr]$

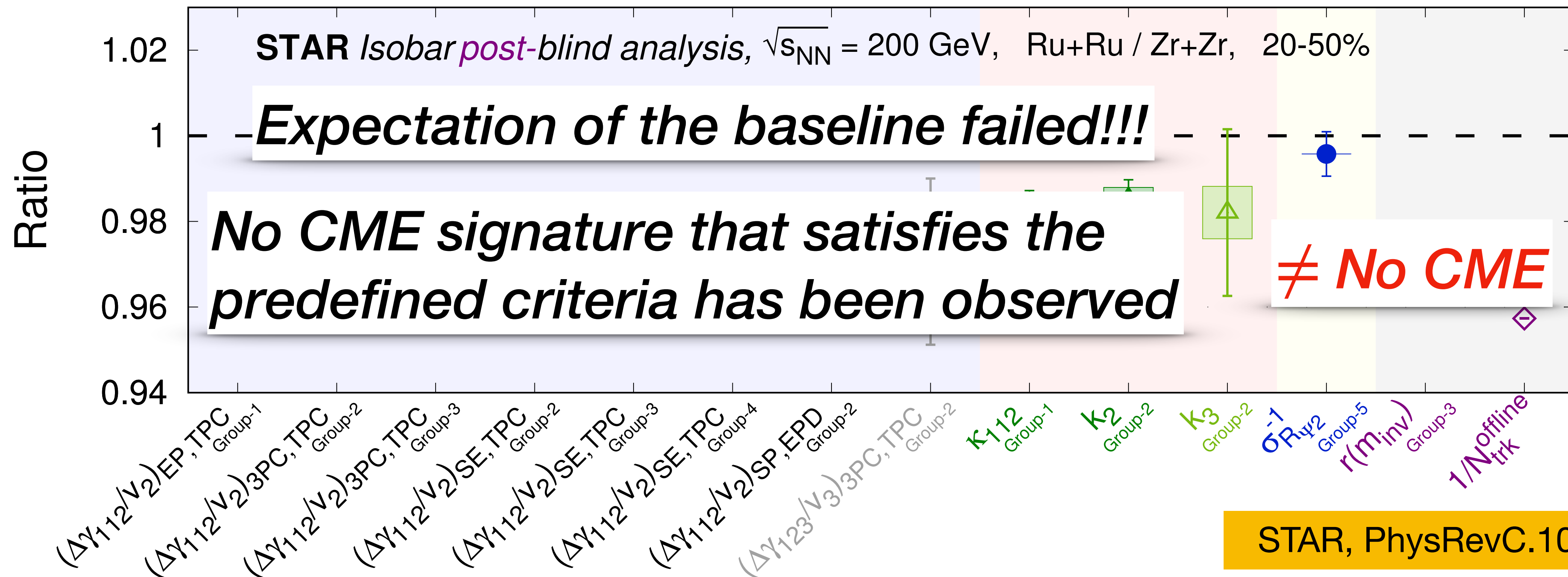


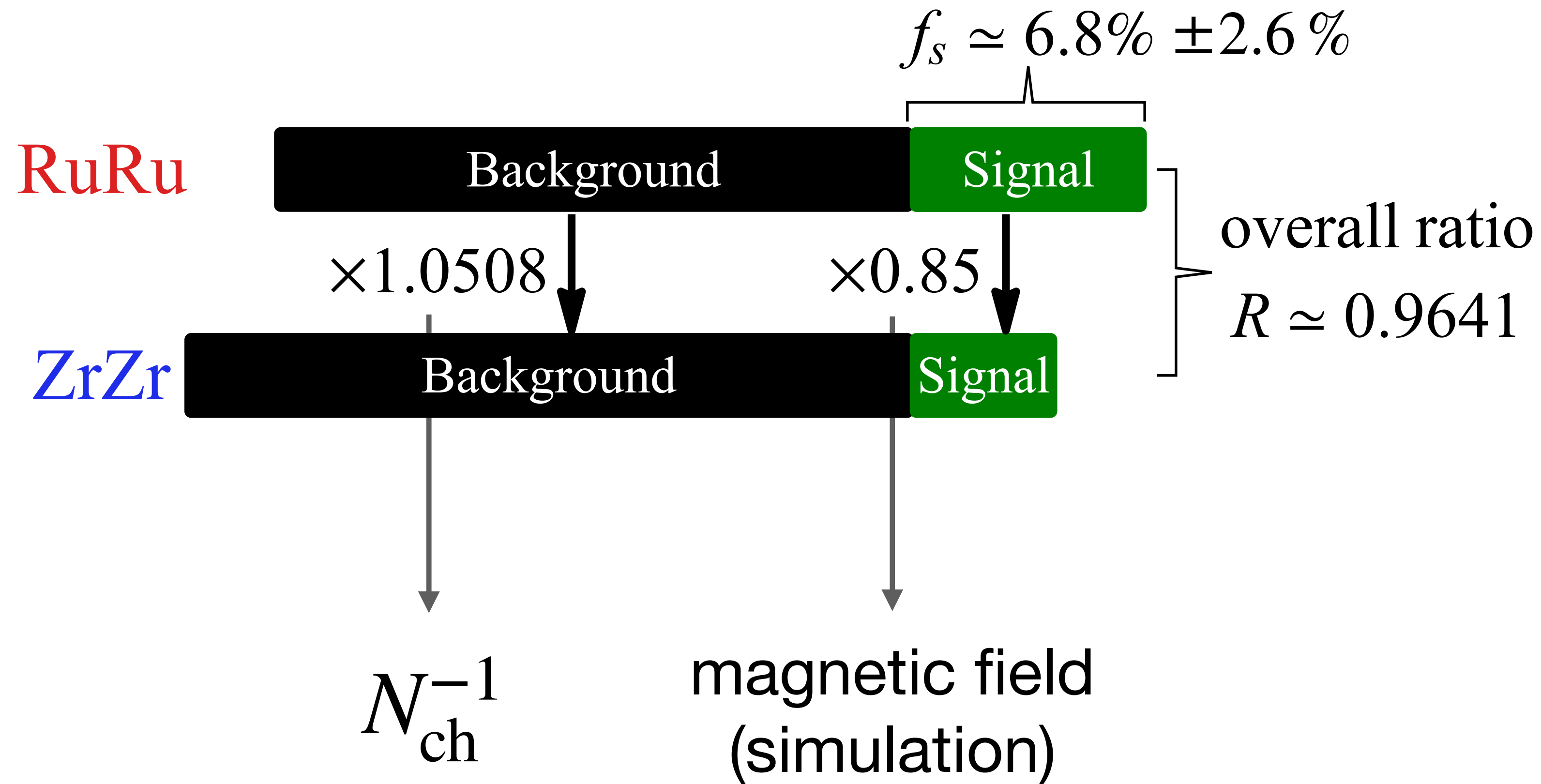
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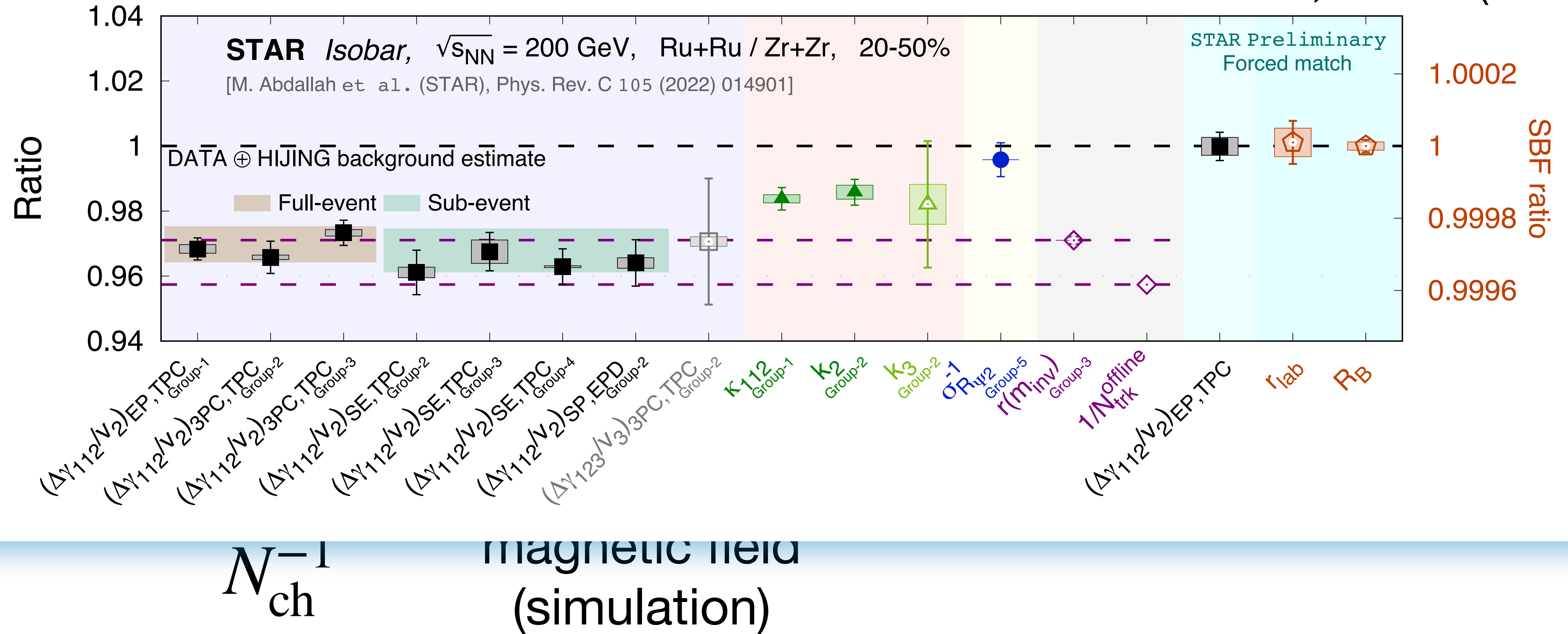




updates in experiment: controlling background

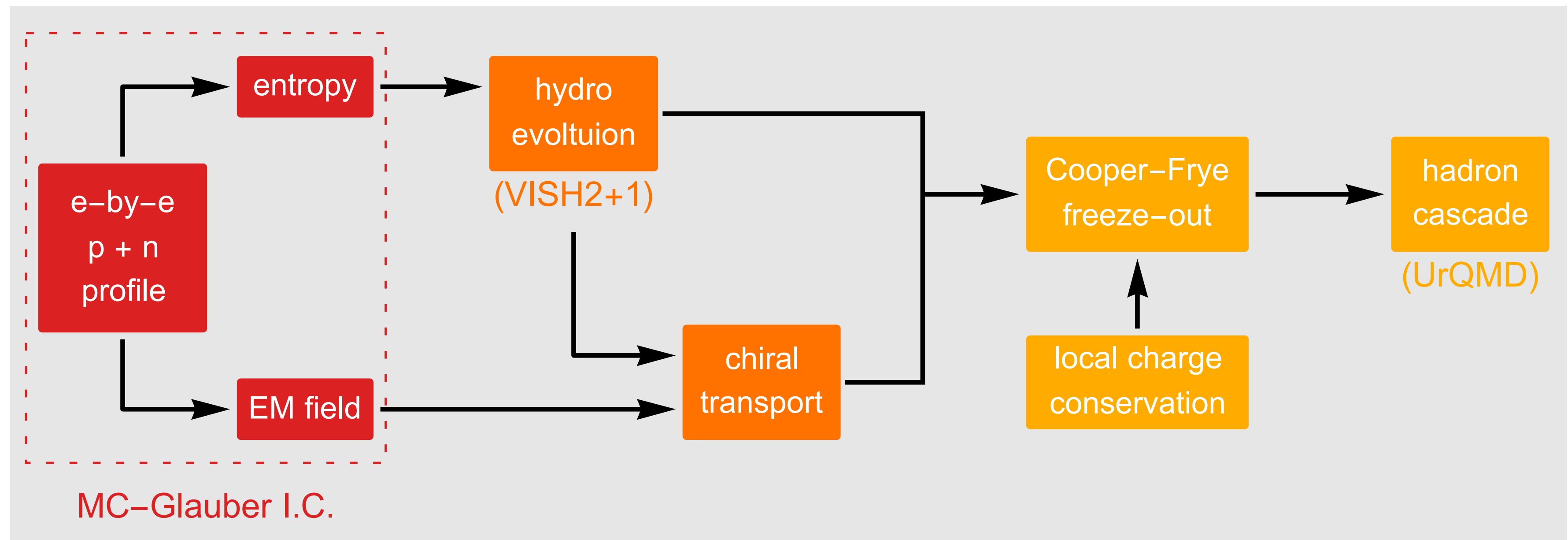
Tang, QM2023

EPJ Web of Conferences 296, 01024 (2024)



$$\vec{J} = \sigma_A \mu_A \vec{B}$$

↑ axial charge  
↓ magnetic field: life time  $\sim R/\gamma_{\text{beam}}$  + medium feedback



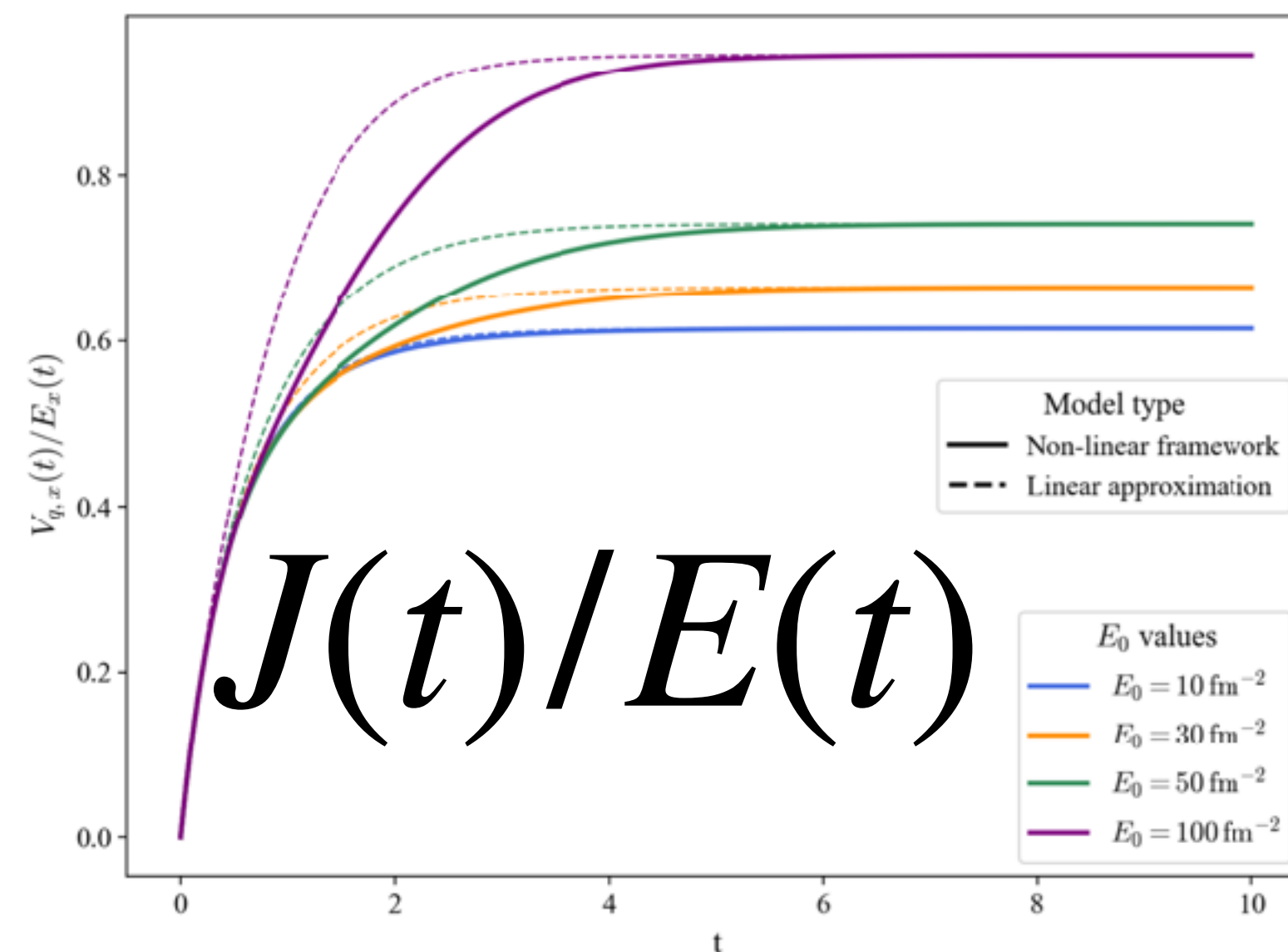
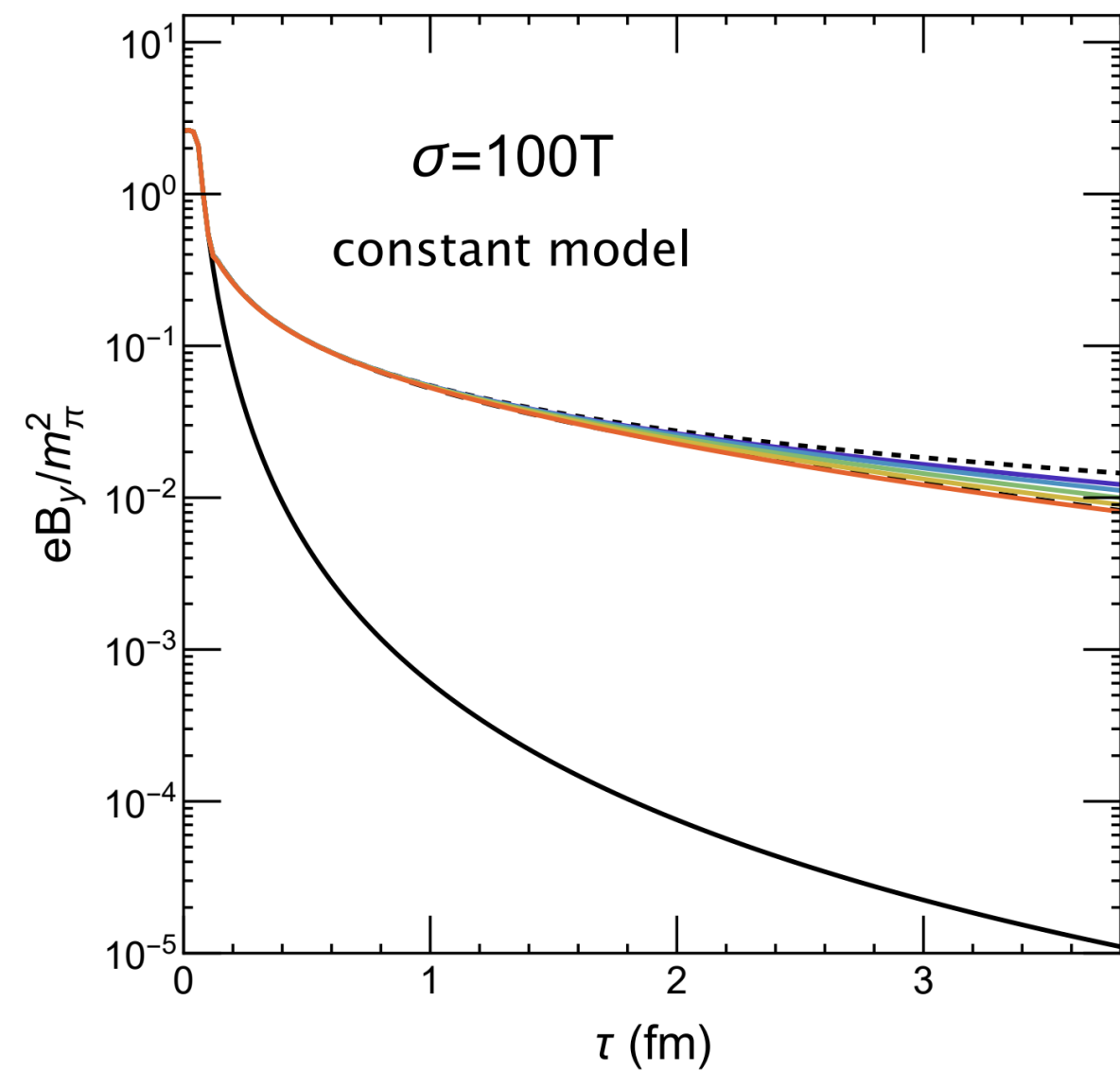
AVFD model: Jinfeng Liao, SS + Hou, Jiang, Lilleskov, Yin, Zhang,  
 ChinPhysC.42.011001, Annals Phys.394.50, PhysRevLett.125.242301

$$\vec{J} = \sigma_A \mu_A \vec{B}$$

↑ axial charge  
↓ magnetic field: life time  $\sim R/\gamma_{\text{beam}}$  + medium feedback

magnetic field: life time  $\sim R/\gamma_{\text{beam}}$  + medium feedback

## Maxwell equation / Magnetohydrodynamics



Huang, She, SS, Huang, Liao,  
PhysRevC.107.034901

K. Kushwah, TUE 11:35, Parellel IV

N. Benoit, TUE 12:15, Parellel IV

### iebe-Relativistic Resistive MagnetoHydrodynamics

We present the first model of:

1) iebe

2) RRMHD

N J Benoit, et al., Phys. Rev. C 112, 024911, arXiv:2502.04611 [nucl-th]

=

2) Relativistic Resistive Magneto-Hydrodynamics

Thermal photons, Direct photons, Dilute hadron Gas, Hadron Gas phase, Pre-equilibrium phase, Collision axis

With this model we can study

- Do **thermal photons** carry a local snapshot of the EM fields (magnetometer)?

$E_k \frac{dR^{EM}}{d^3k} \propto \int d^4X$

1) Fluctuating EM-fields + MC-Glauber

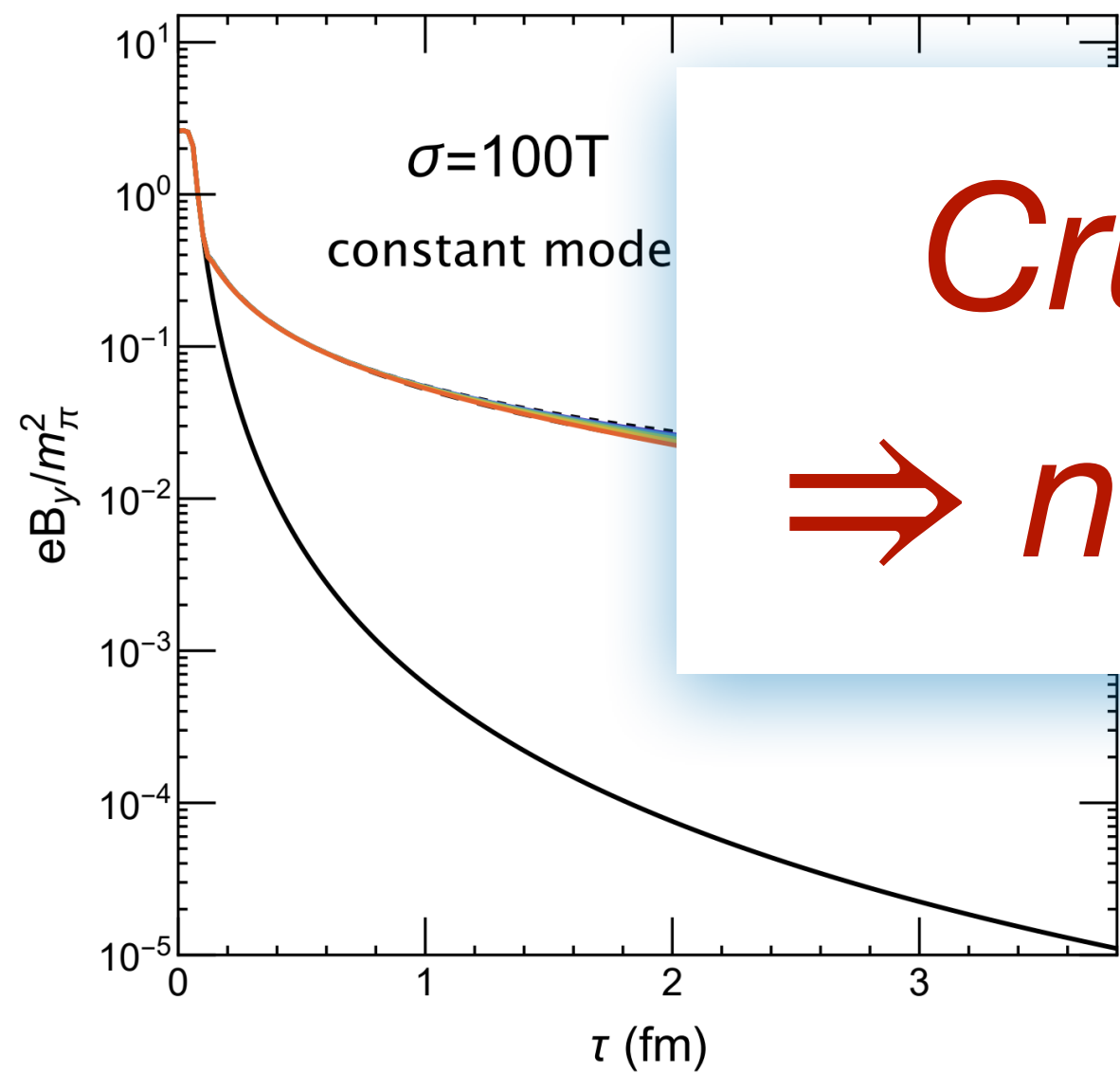
$$\vec{J} = \sigma_A \mu_A \vec{B}$$

↑ axial charge  
↓ magnetic field: life time  $\sim R/\gamma_{\text{beam}}$  + medium feedback

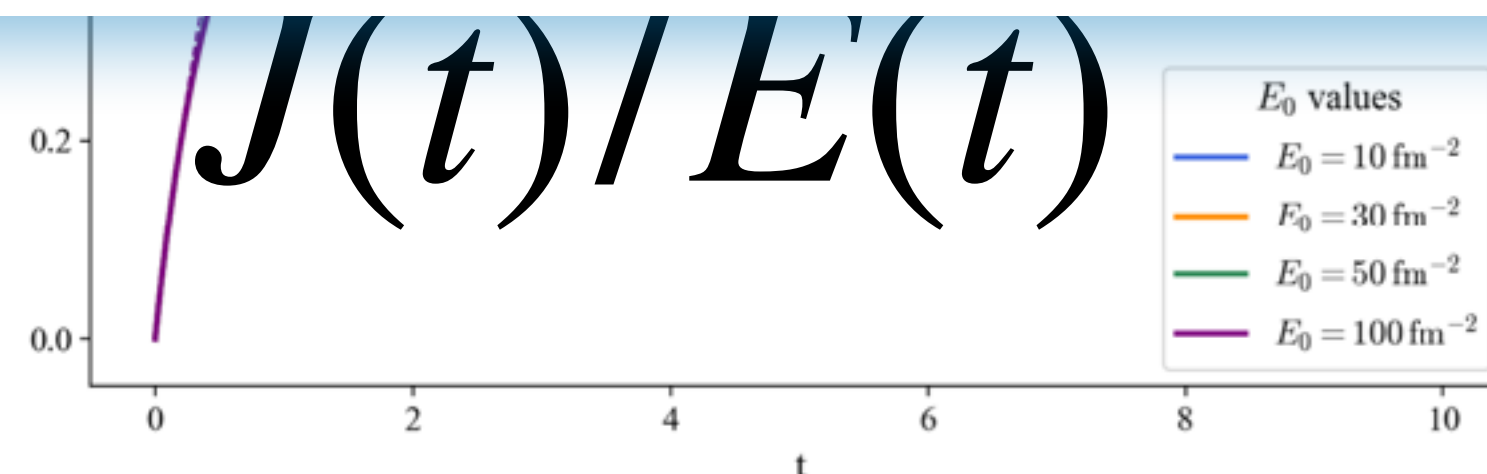
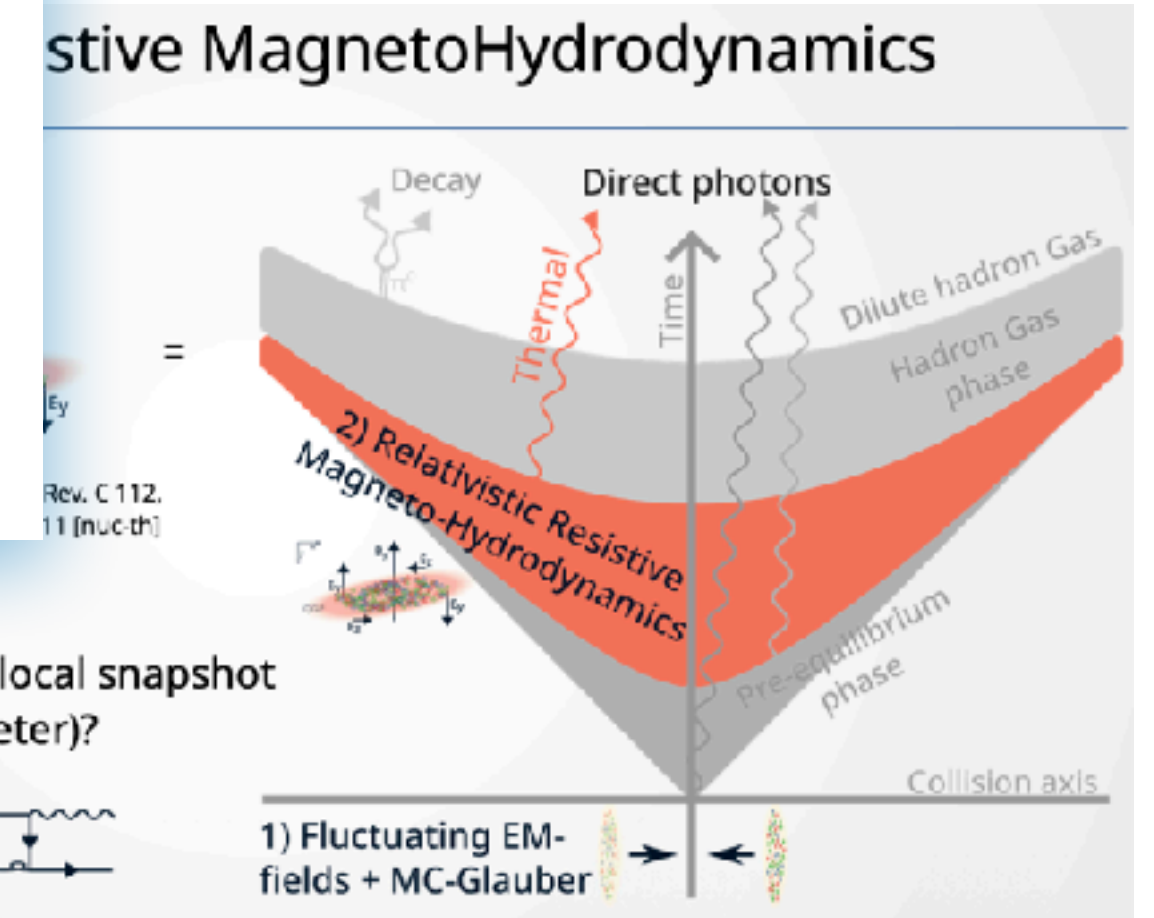
magnetic field: life time  $\sim R/\gamma_{\text{beam}}$  + medium feedback

## Maxwell equation / Magnetohydrodynamics

N. Benoit, TUE 12:15, Parellel IV



**Crucial: short vacuum life time**  
 **$\Rightarrow$  non-equilibrium magnetohydro**

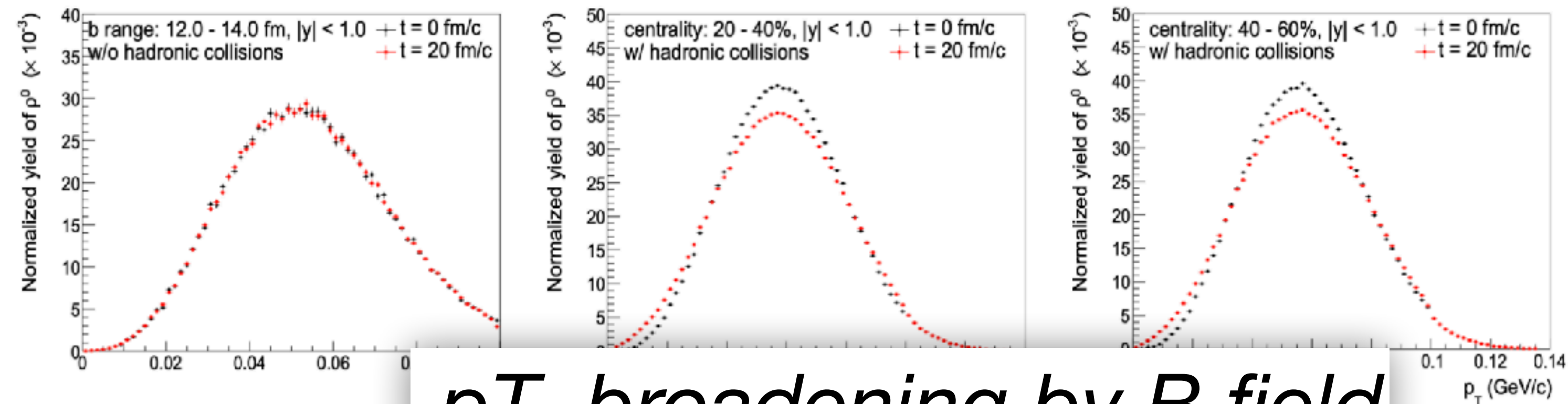


With this model we can study

- Do thermal photons carry a local snapshot of the EM fields (magnetometer)?

$$E_k \frac{dR^{\text{EM}}}{d^3k} \propto \int d^4X$$

## Effect on pair $p_T$ spectrum



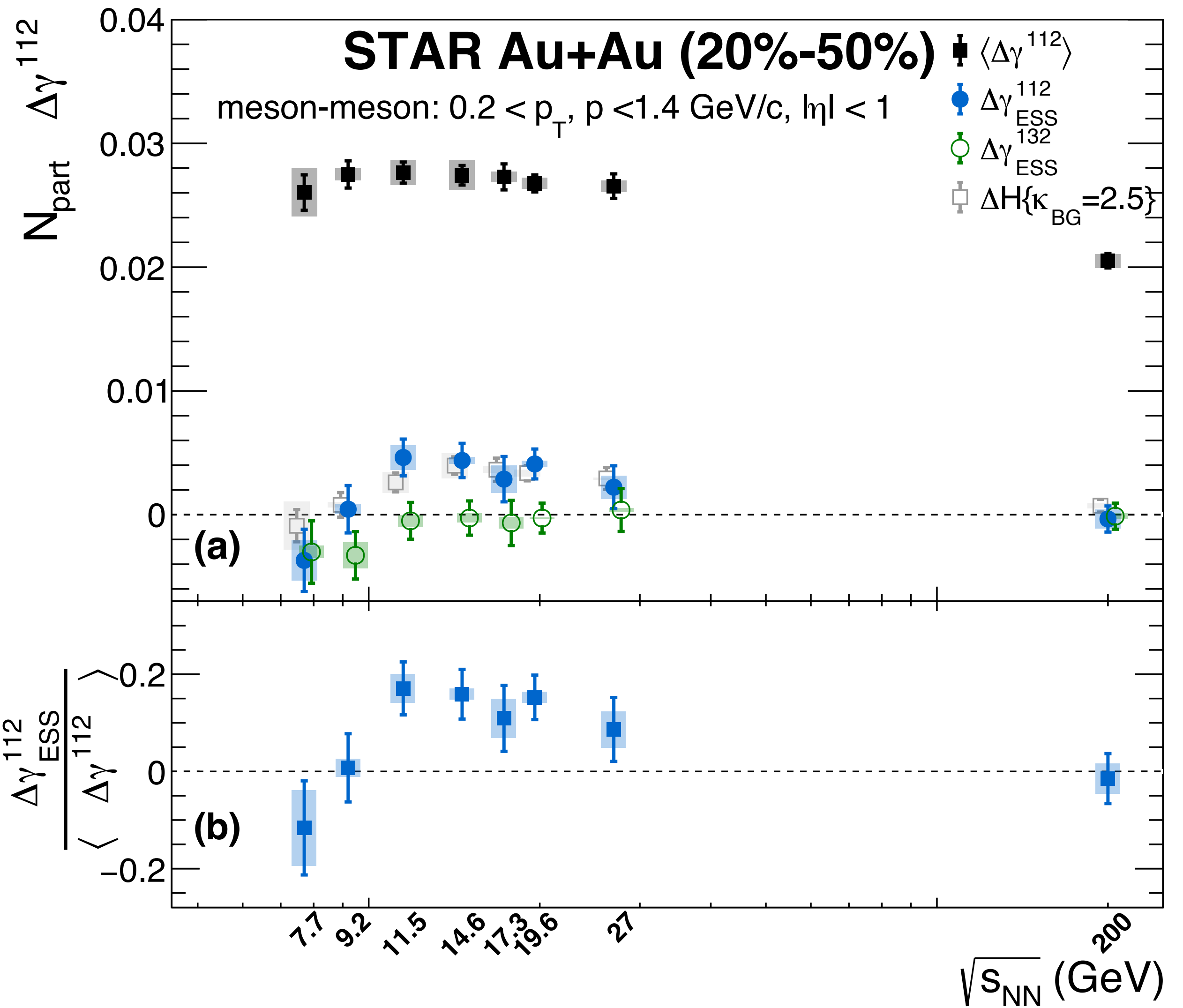
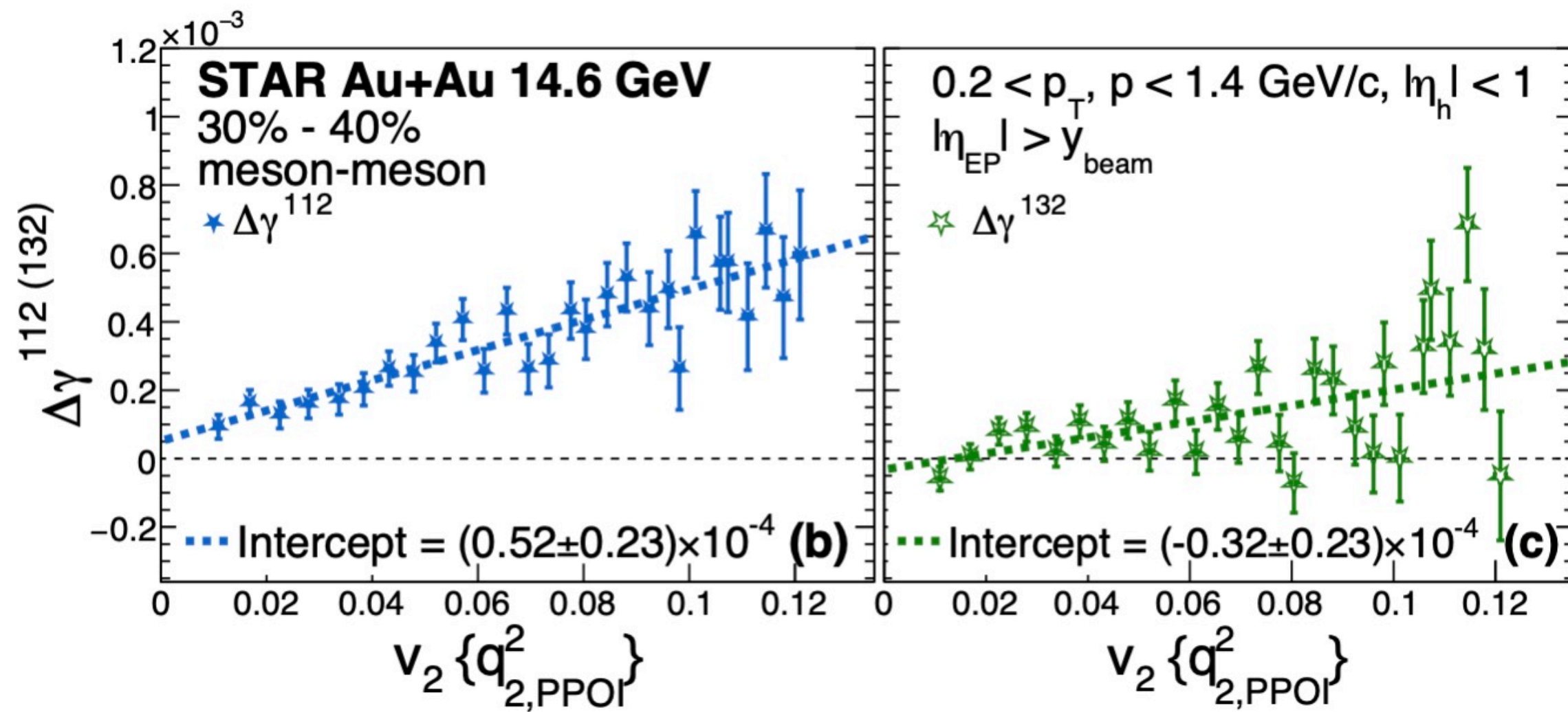
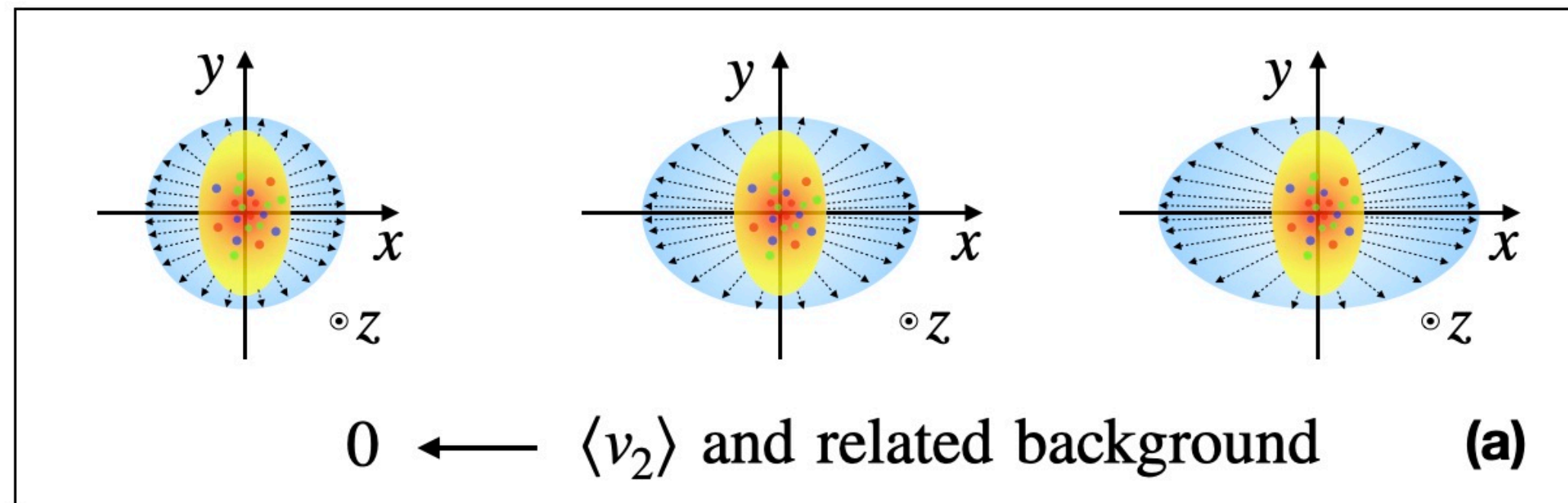
*$p_T$  broadening by  $B$  field  
(in photonuclear process)*

- The magnetic field also
- Some methods for extracting nuclear shape parameters are **highly sensitive to the peak position** in the  $p_T$  spectrum, so this broadening effect may also need to be taken into account.

*can independent probes nail down uncertainties in  $B$  field?*

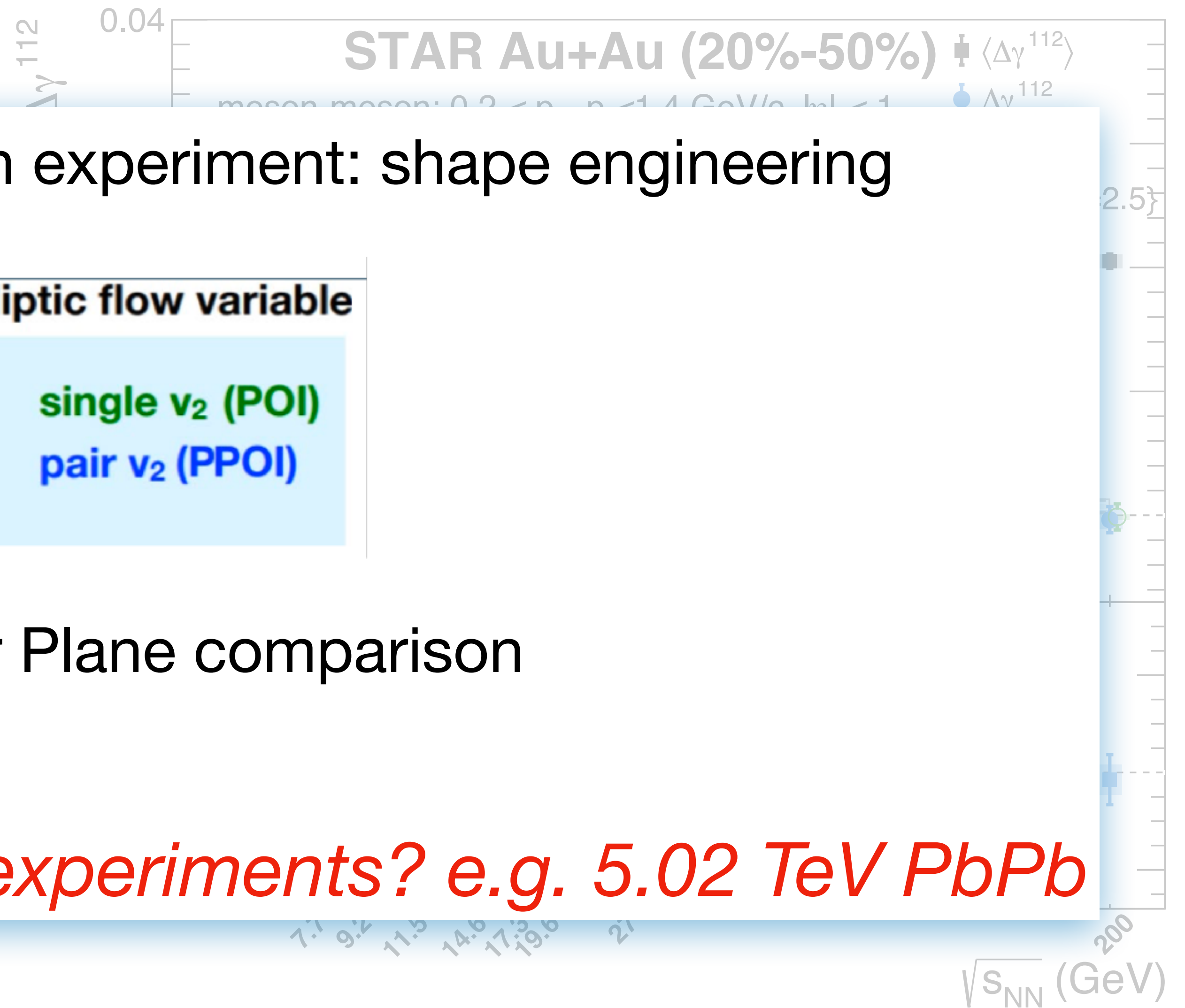
Zhan Zhang, TUE 11:15, Parellel IV  
 + K. Kushwah, TUE 11:35, Parellel IV  
 + N. Benoit, TUE 12:15, Parellel IV

STAR, 2506.00265+PhysRevC.113.014912

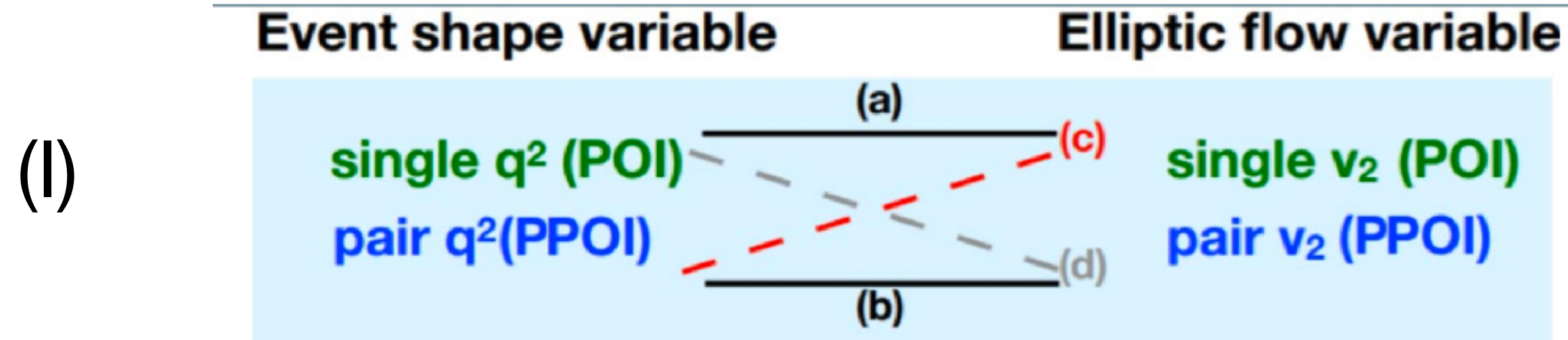


STAR:  $\sim 3\sigma$  significance @ 11.5-19.6 GeV

STAR, 2506.00265+PhysRevC.113.014912



background subtraction methods in experiment: shape engineering



(II) Event Plane vs Spectator Plane comparison

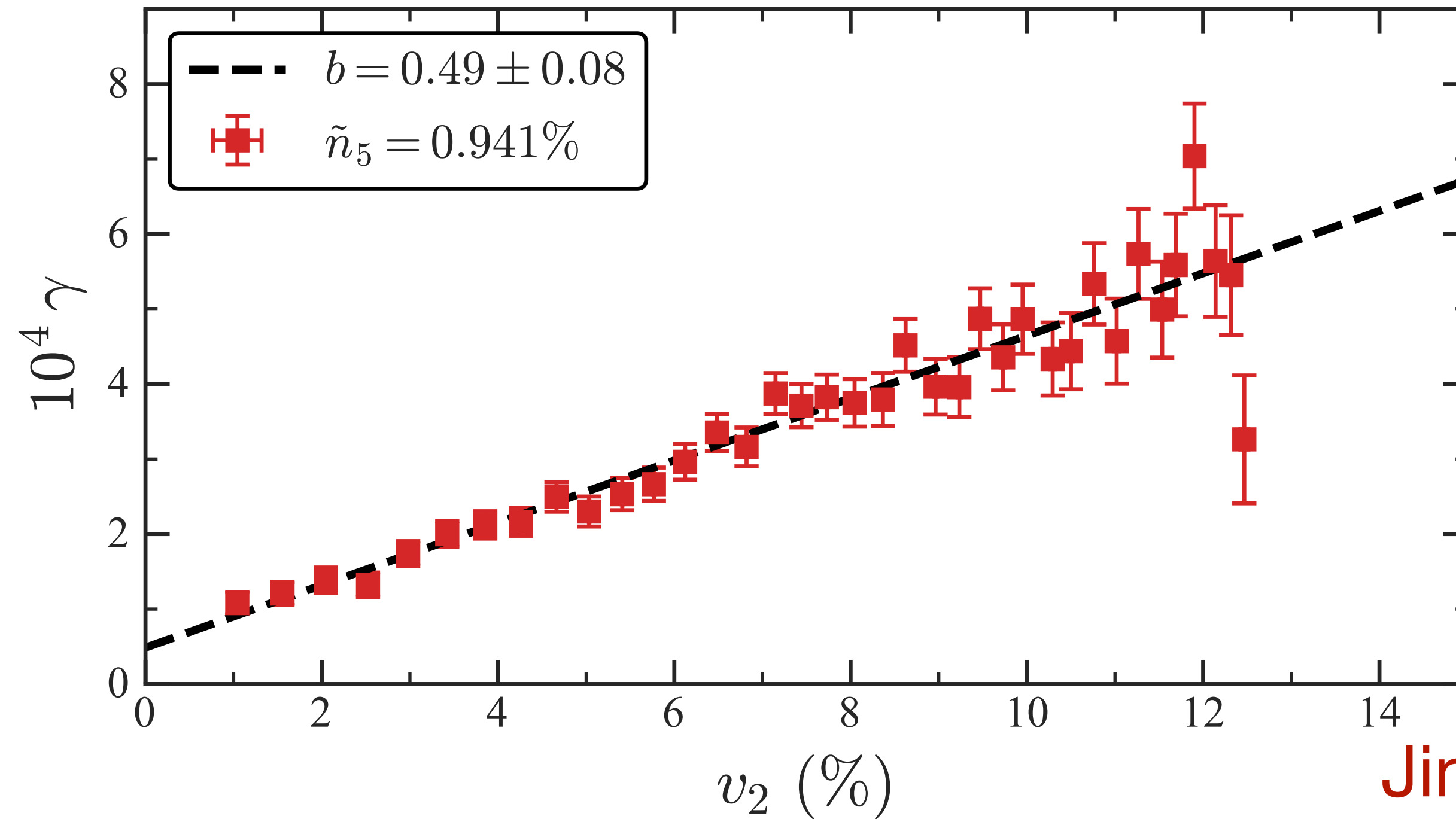
*Test background in no-CME experiments? e.g. 5.02 TeV PbPb*

STAR:  $\sim 3\sigma$  significance @ 11.5-19.6 GeV

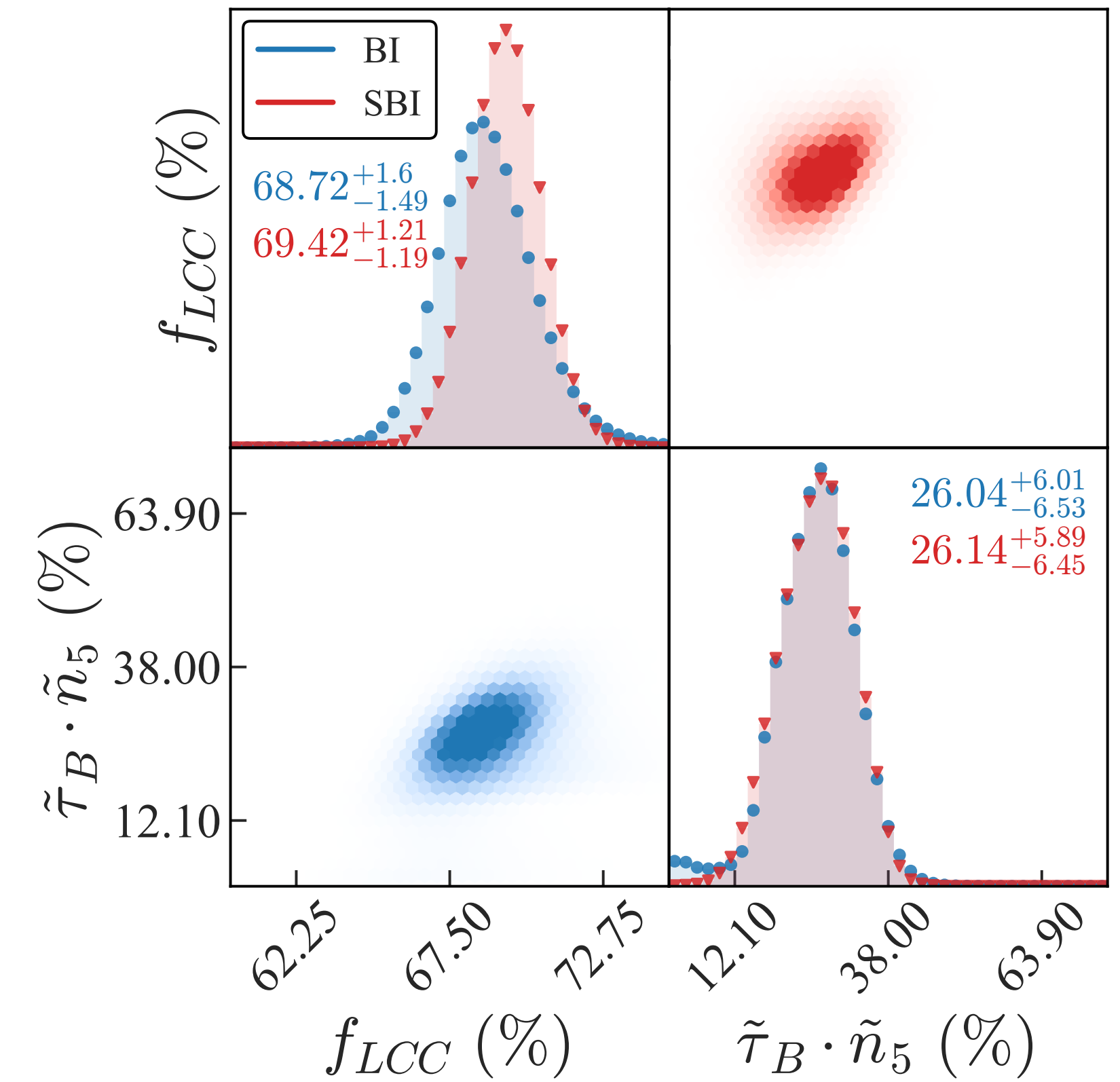
STAR, 2506.00265+PhysRevC.113.014912

### A machine-learning extraction

$$\Delta\gamma, \Delta\delta \rightarrow f_{LCC}, \tau_B, n_5$$



STAR Au+Au (20%-50%)  $\langle \Delta\gamma^{112} \rangle$



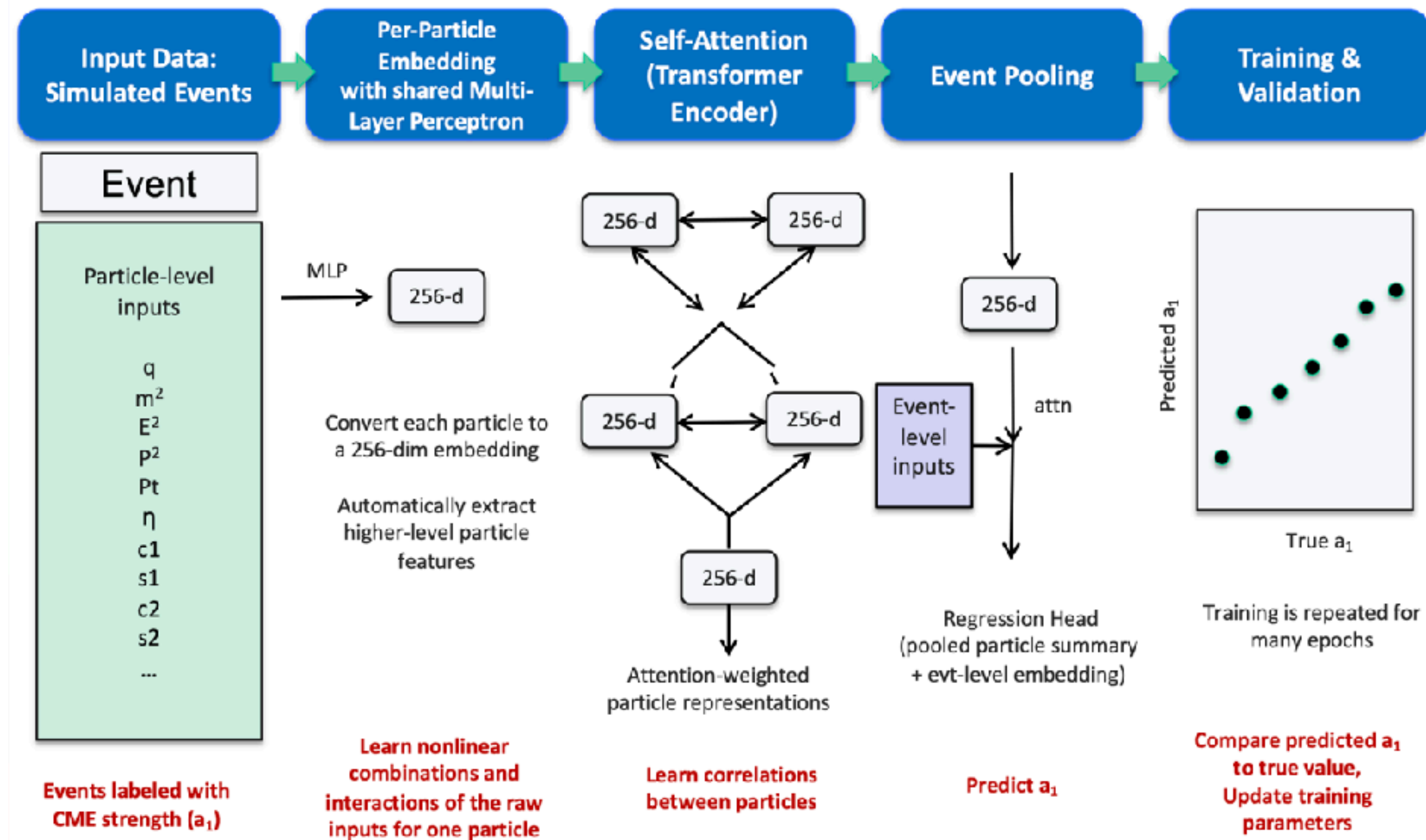
Jinfeng Liao, TUE 15:15, Parellel IV

Alex Akridge, Yu Guo, J. Liao, SS, Hongxi Xing, Hui Zhang, in prep.

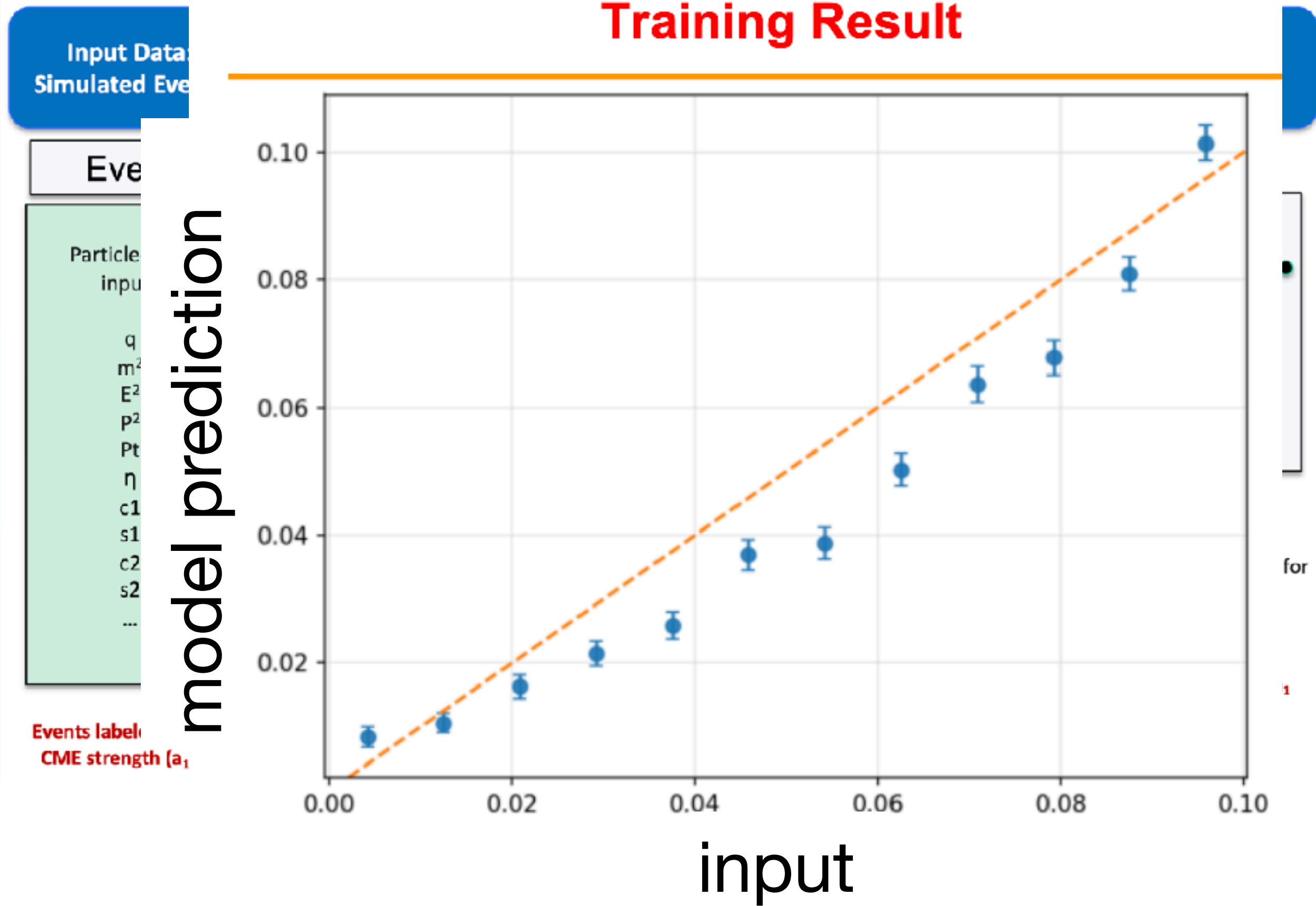
STAR:  $\sim 3\sigma$  significance @ 11.5-19.6 GeV



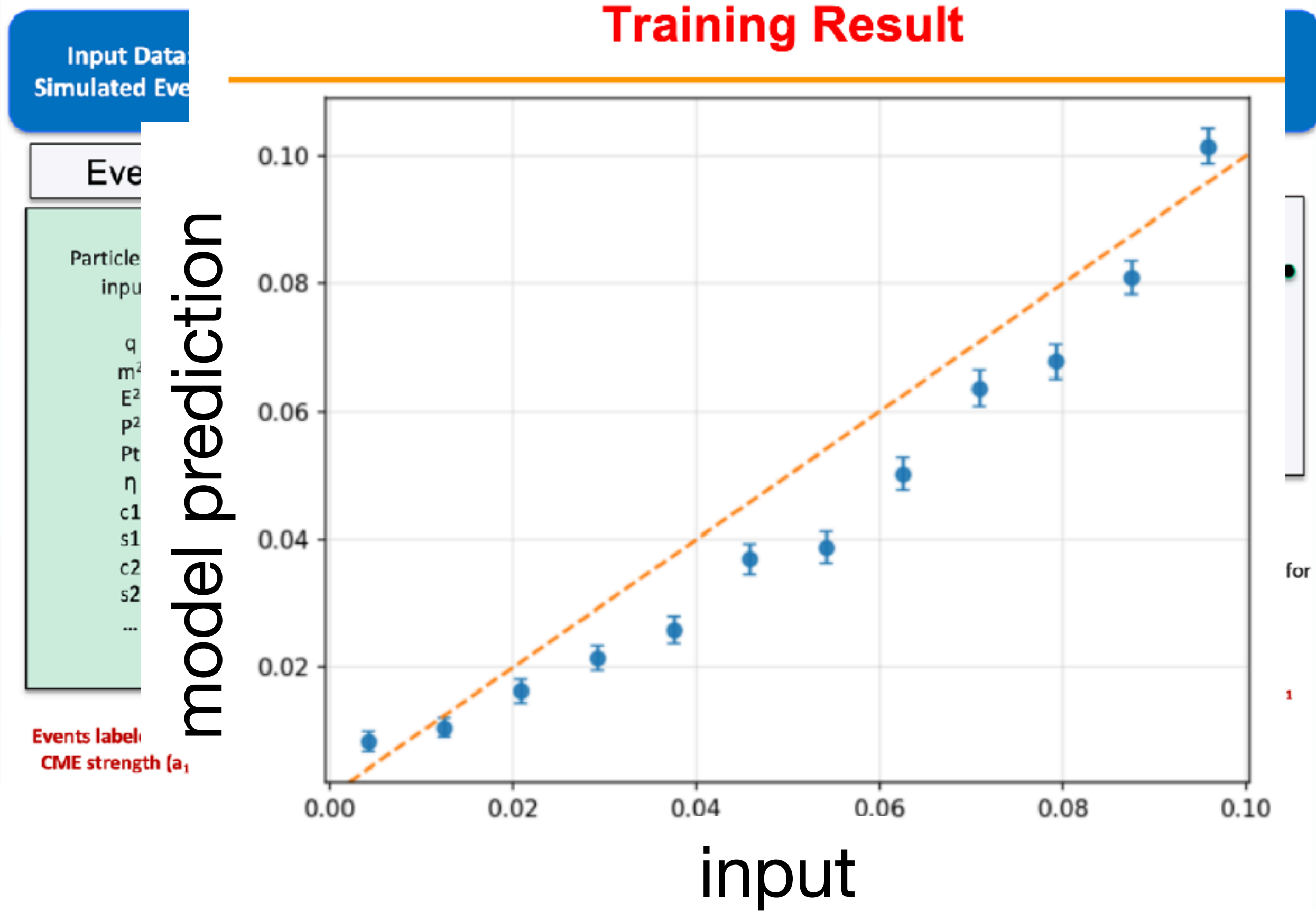
## signal extraction w/ Transformer



# signal extraction w/ Transformer



signal extraction w/ Transformer



“optimal” obs. trained w/ exp.

harmonic coefficients

$$O = L_{2i} c_{2i} + B_{i,j} c_i c_j$$

param. to be trained

$$O_{\text{Pb+Pb@5.02TeV}} \rightarrow 0$$

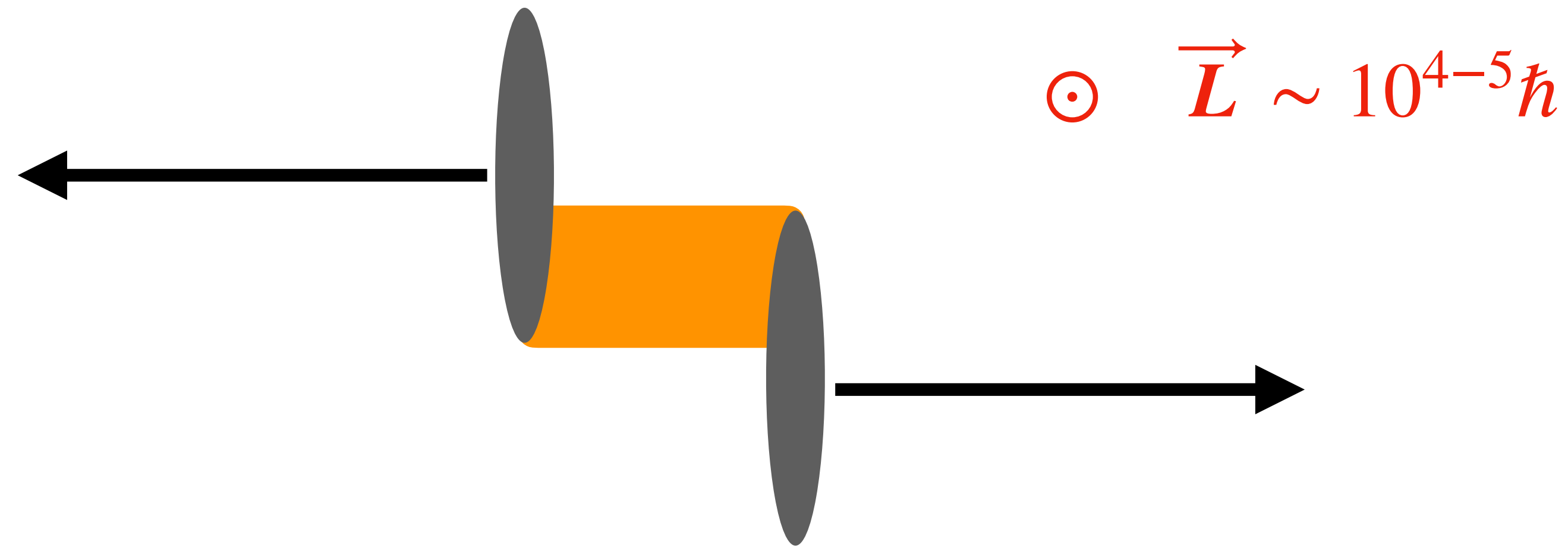
maximize  $O_{\text{RuRu}} - O_{\text{ZrZr}}$

check:  $O_{\text{RuRu}} \approx 1.2 O_{\text{ZrZr}}?$

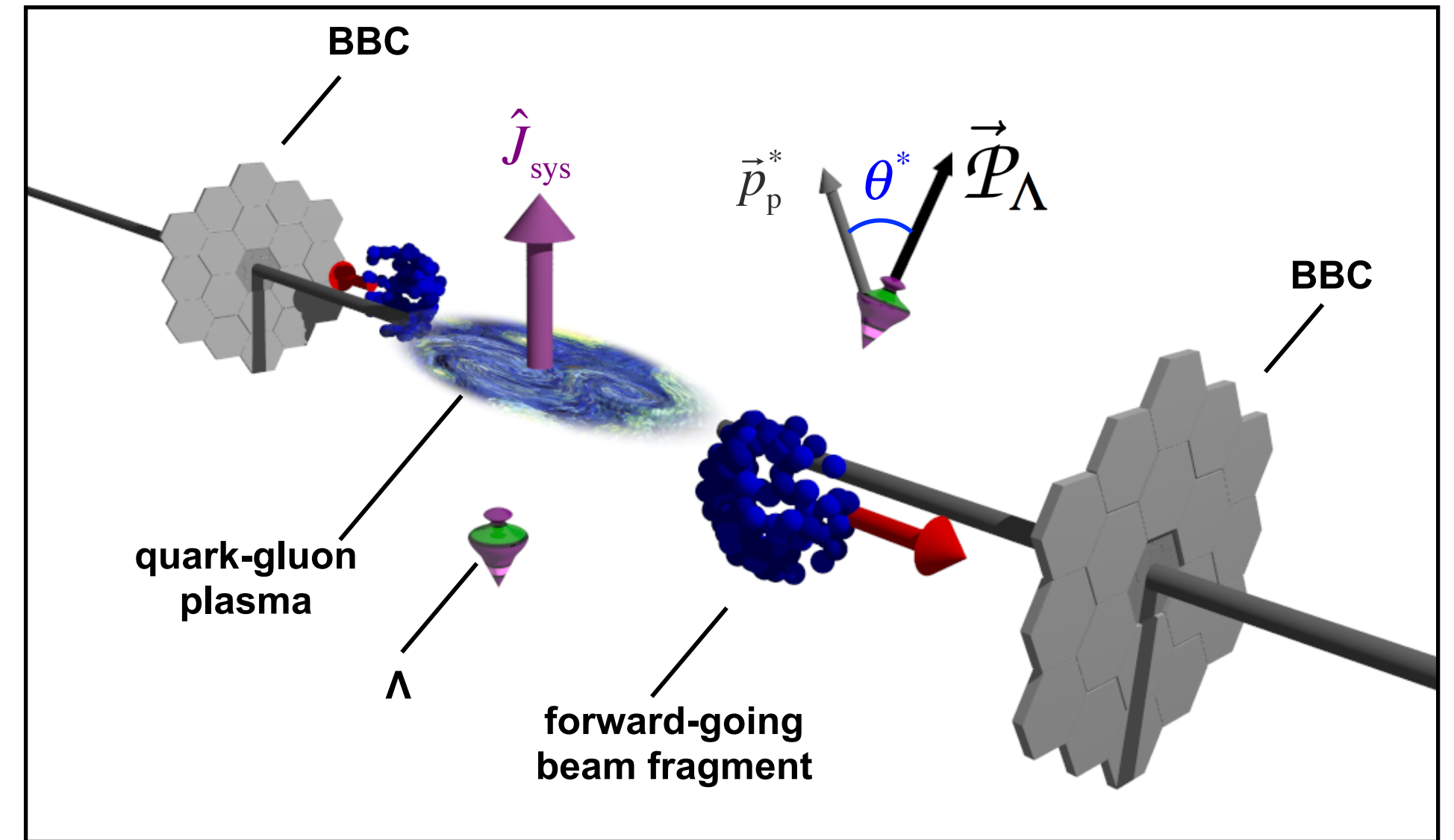
Hirono, Ikeda, Kharzeev, Ziyi Liu, SS,  
PhyRevC.112.L051904

$$a_1^+ \propto \mu_5$$

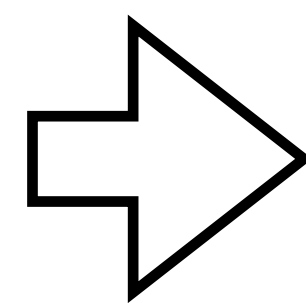
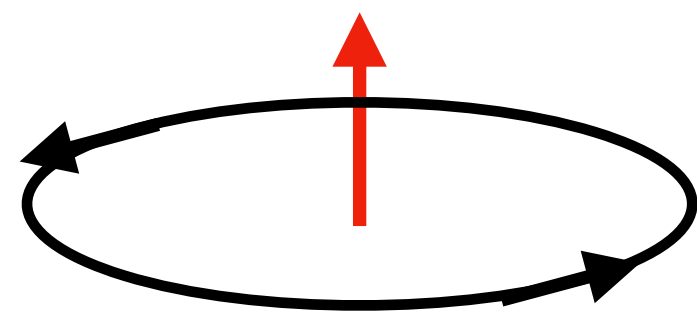
correlation between  $a_1^+$  and  $\Lambda$  helicity?



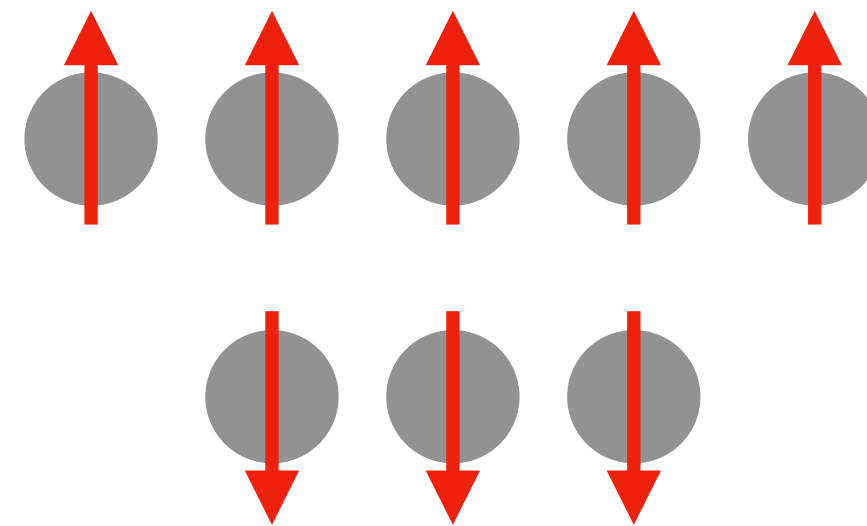
Angular Velocity:  $\omega \sim 10^{21}$  Hz

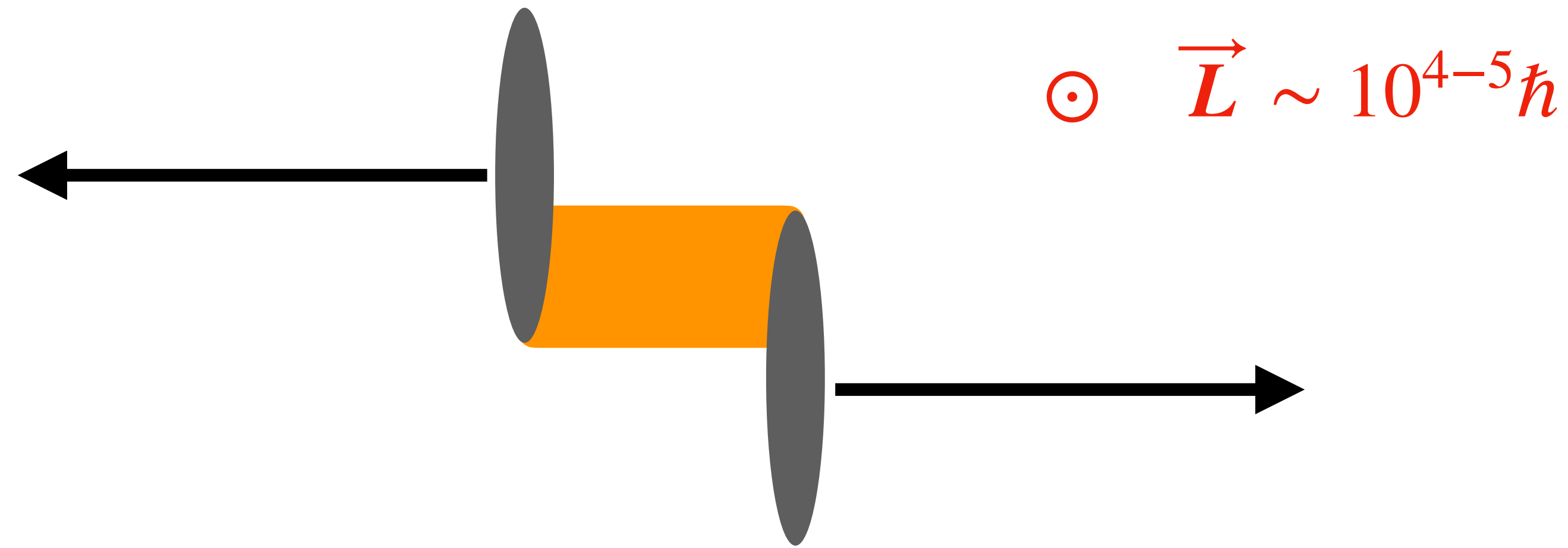


rotation

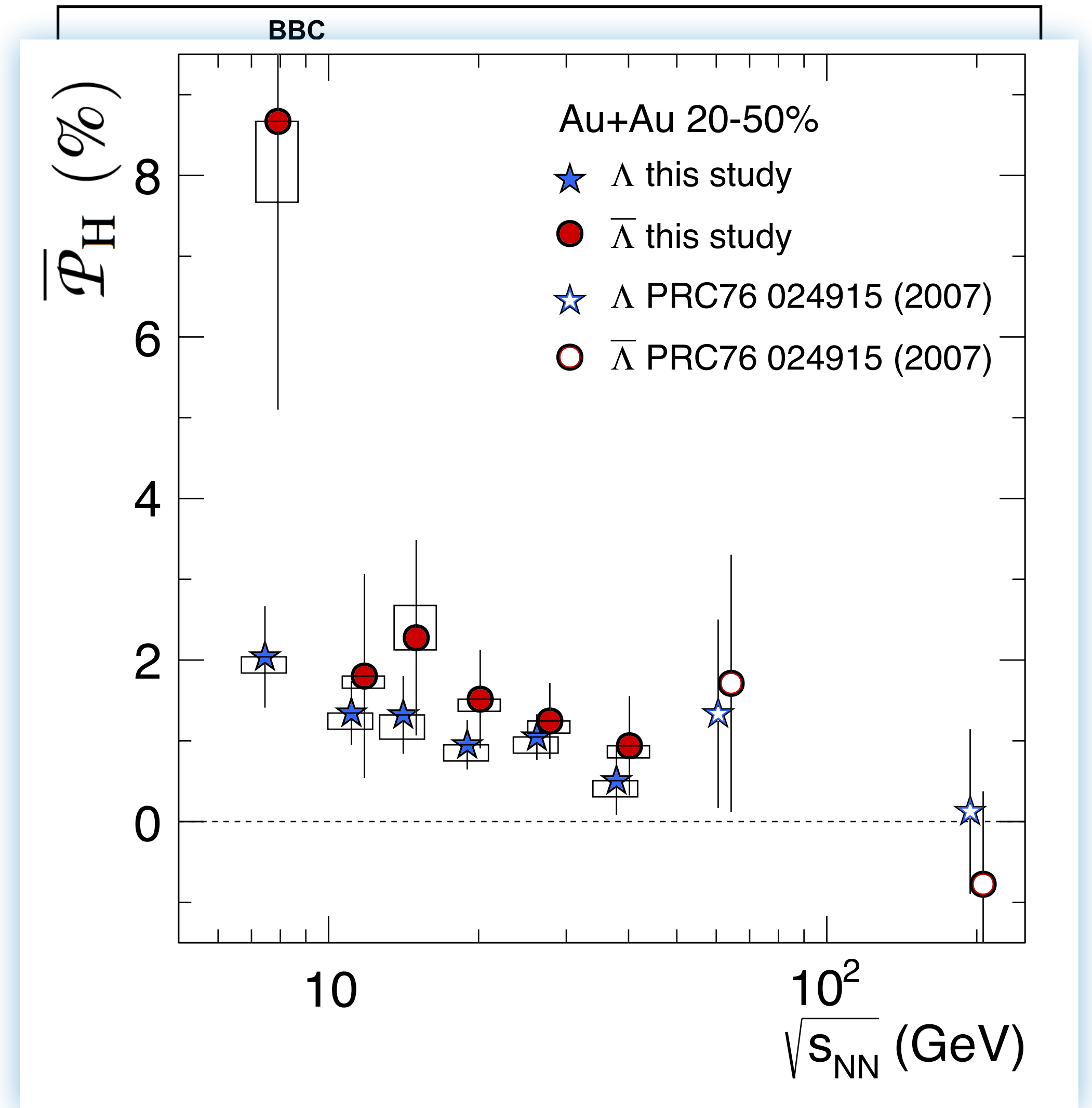
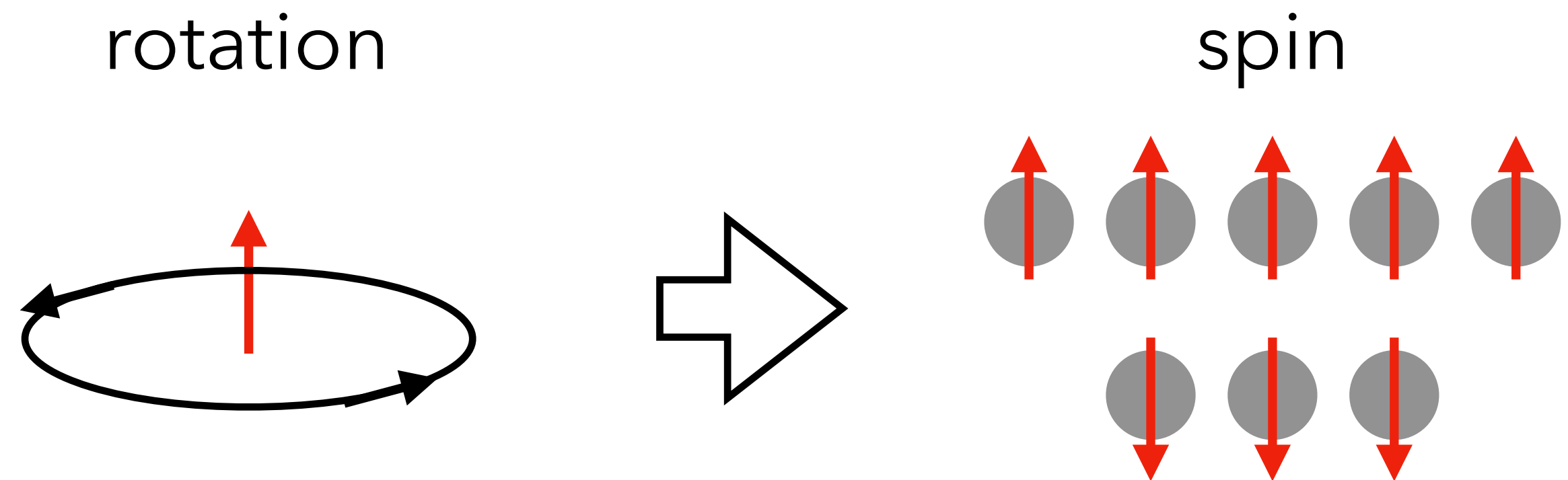


spin



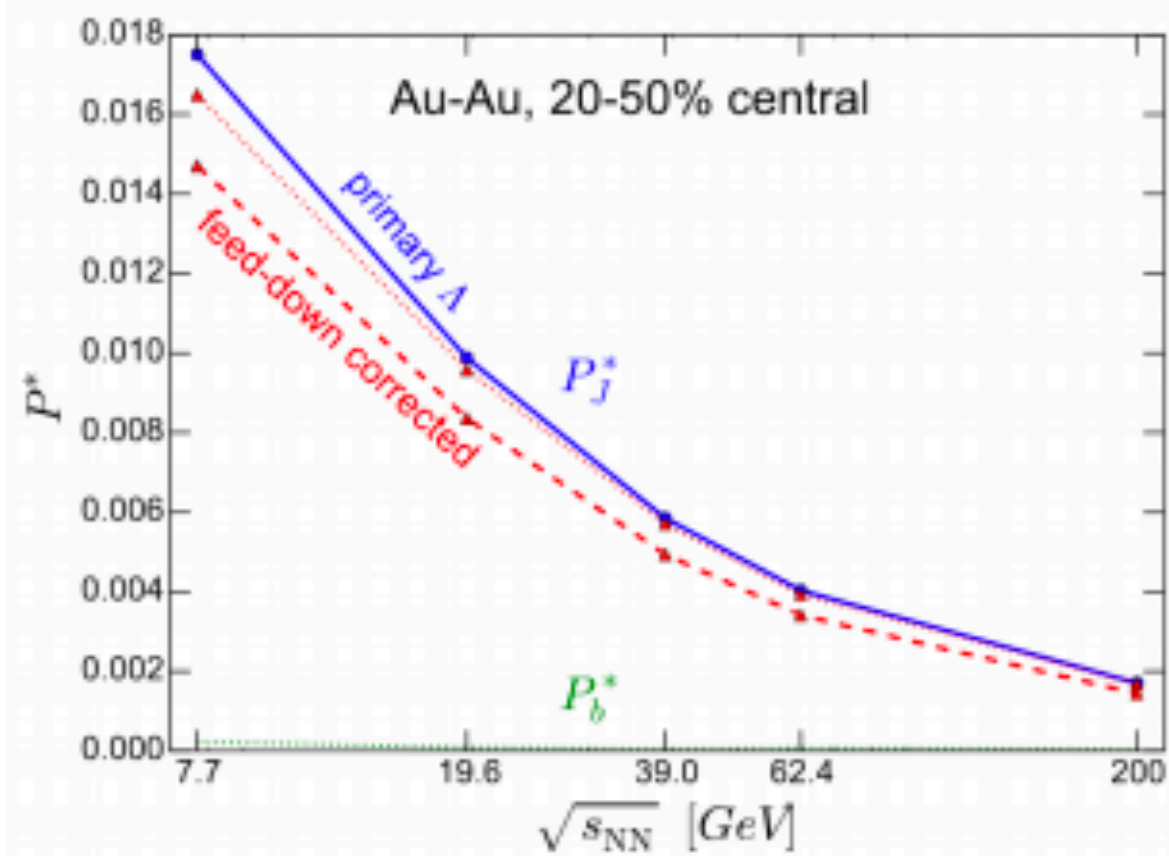


Angular Velocity:  $\omega \sim 10^{21}$  Hz

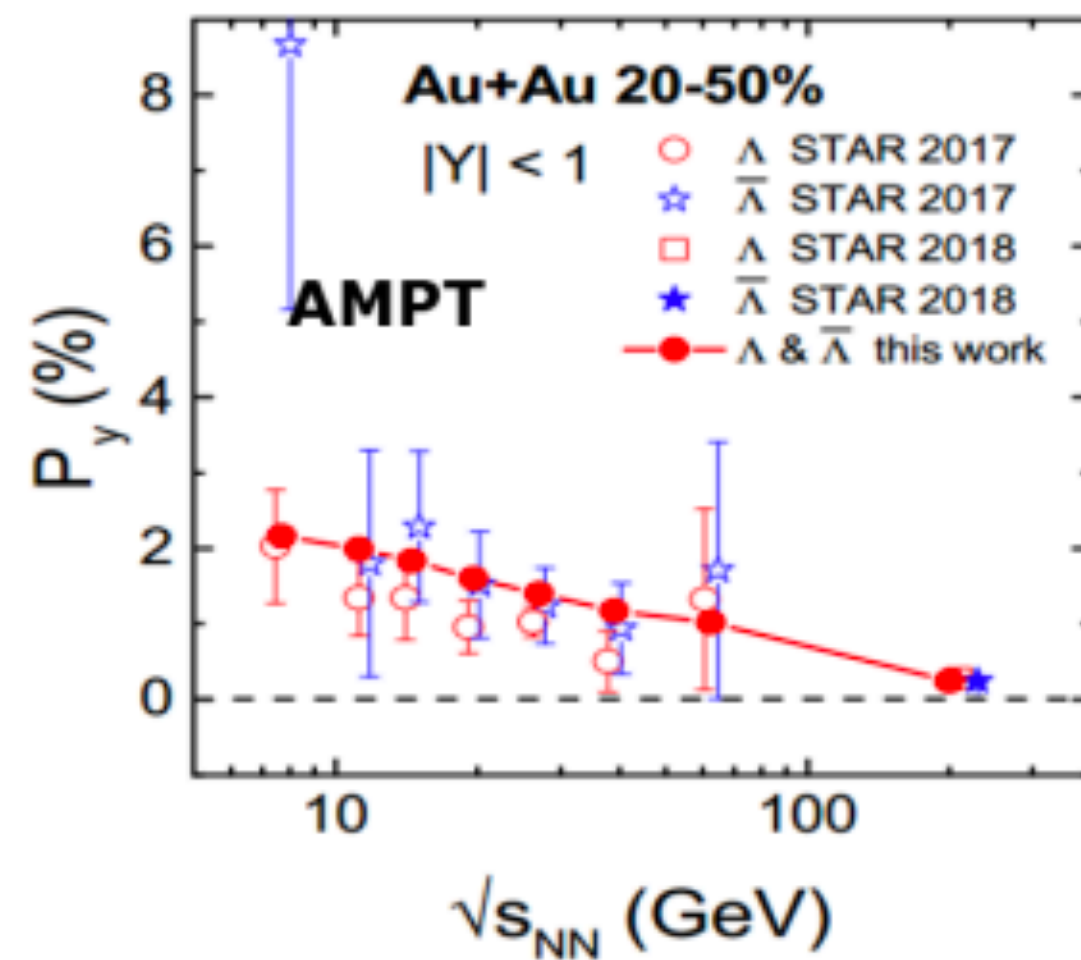


# polarization along out-of-plane direction

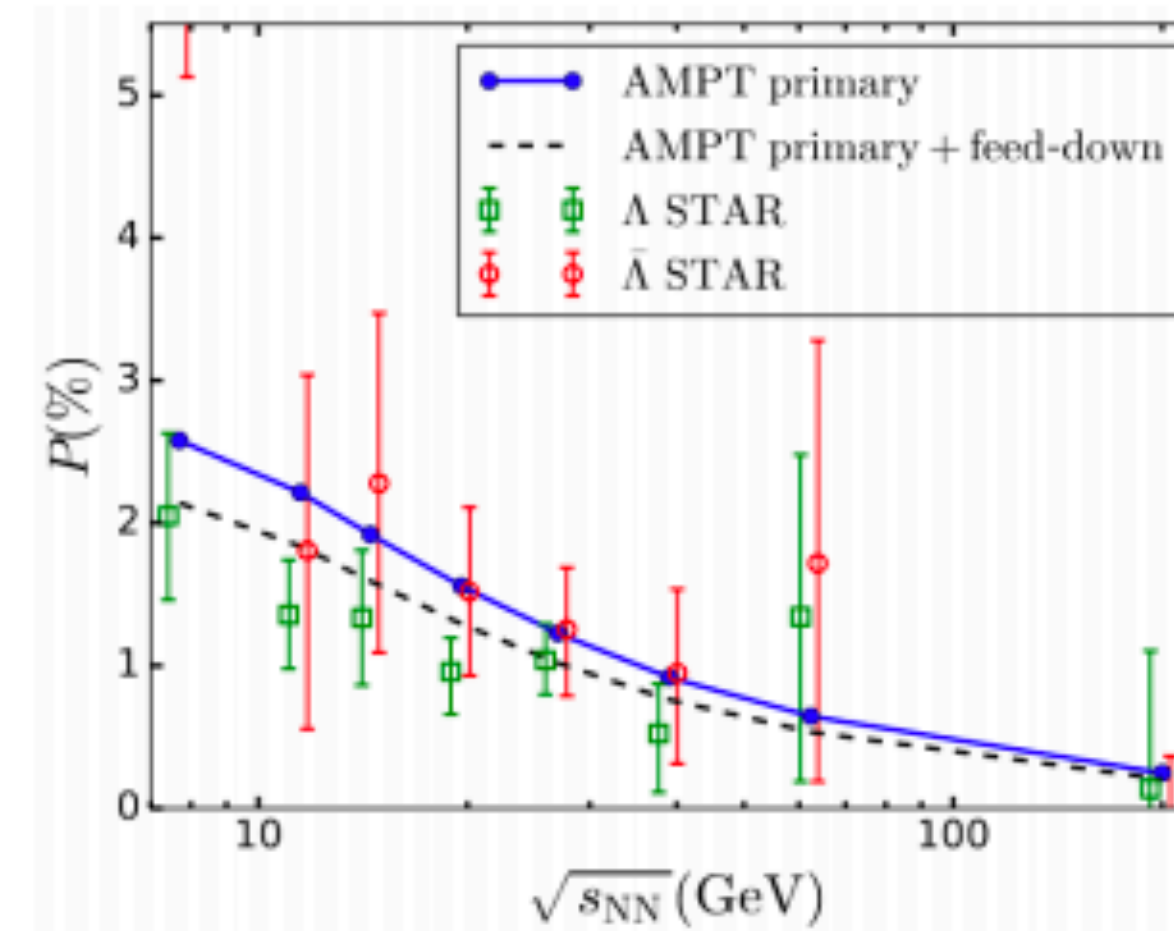
(Karpenko-Becattini EPJC2016)



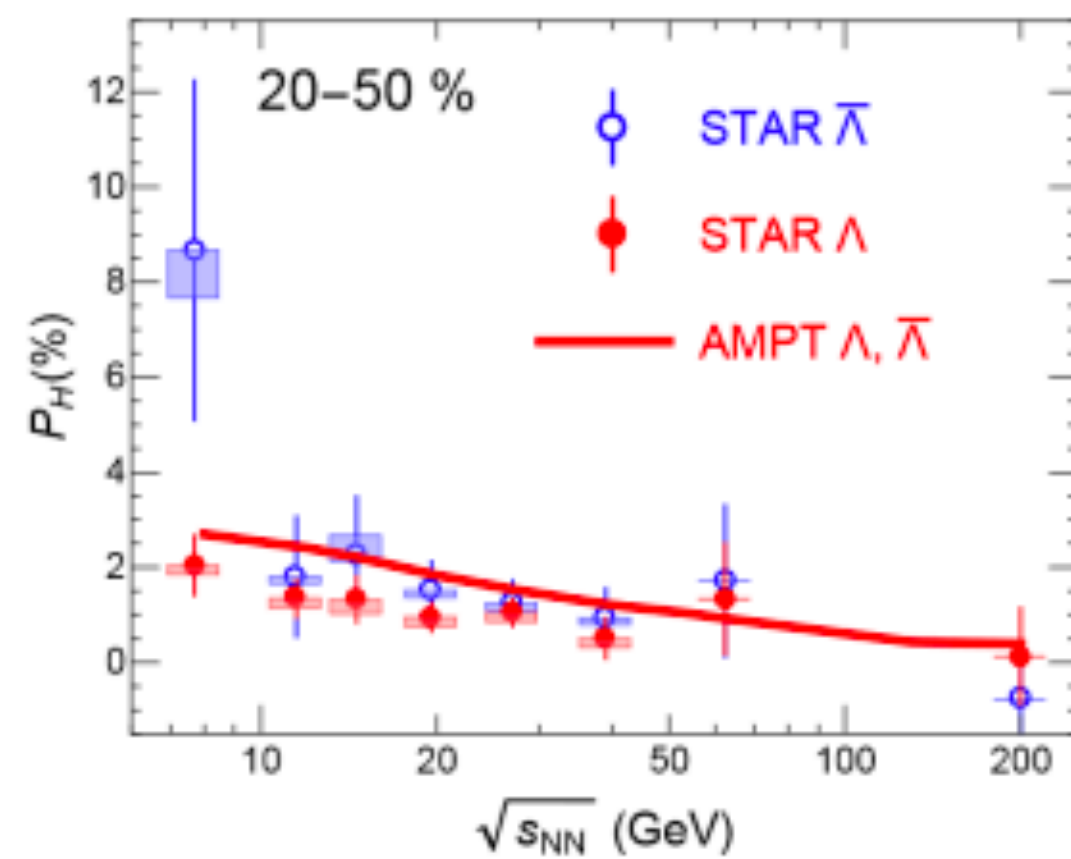
(Wei-Deng-XGH PRC2019)



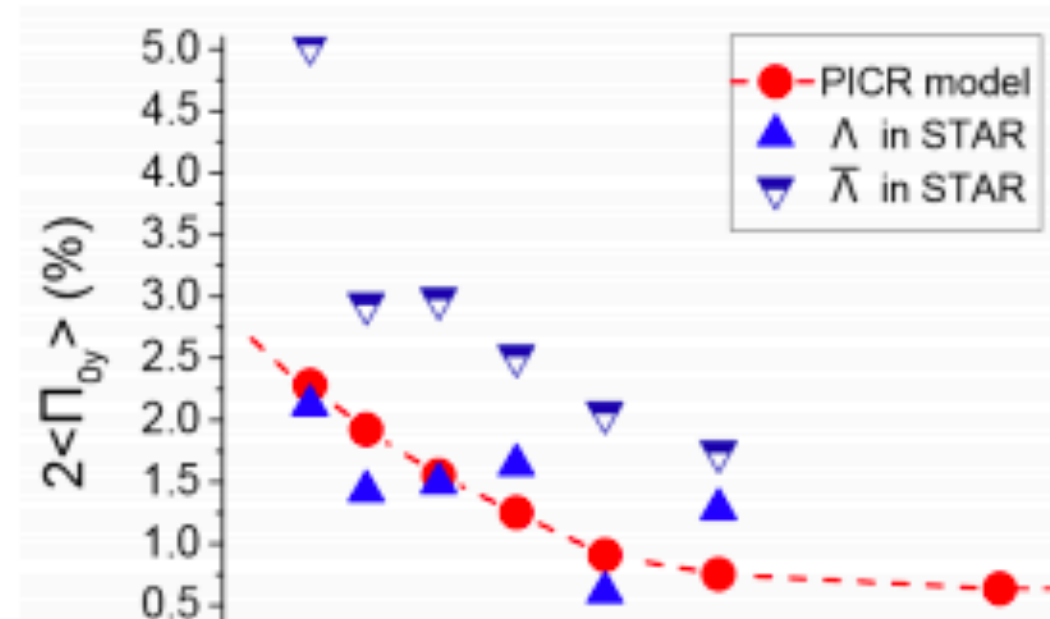
(Li-Pang-Wang-Xia PRC2017)



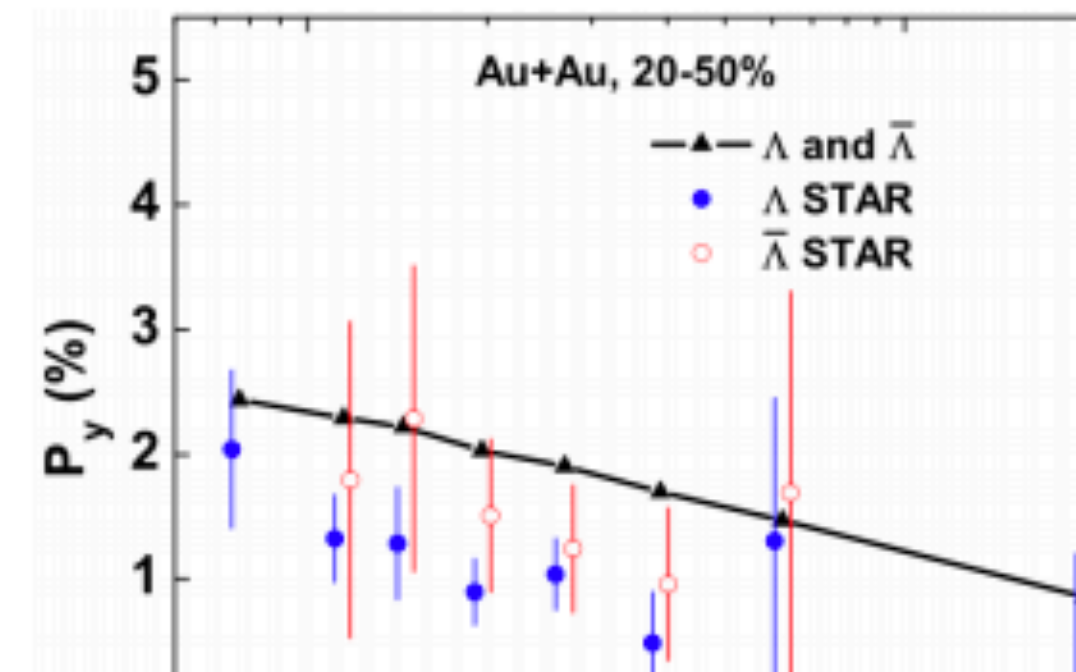
(Shi-Li-Liao PLB2018)



(Xie-Wang-Csernai PRC2017)



(Sun-Ko PRC2017)

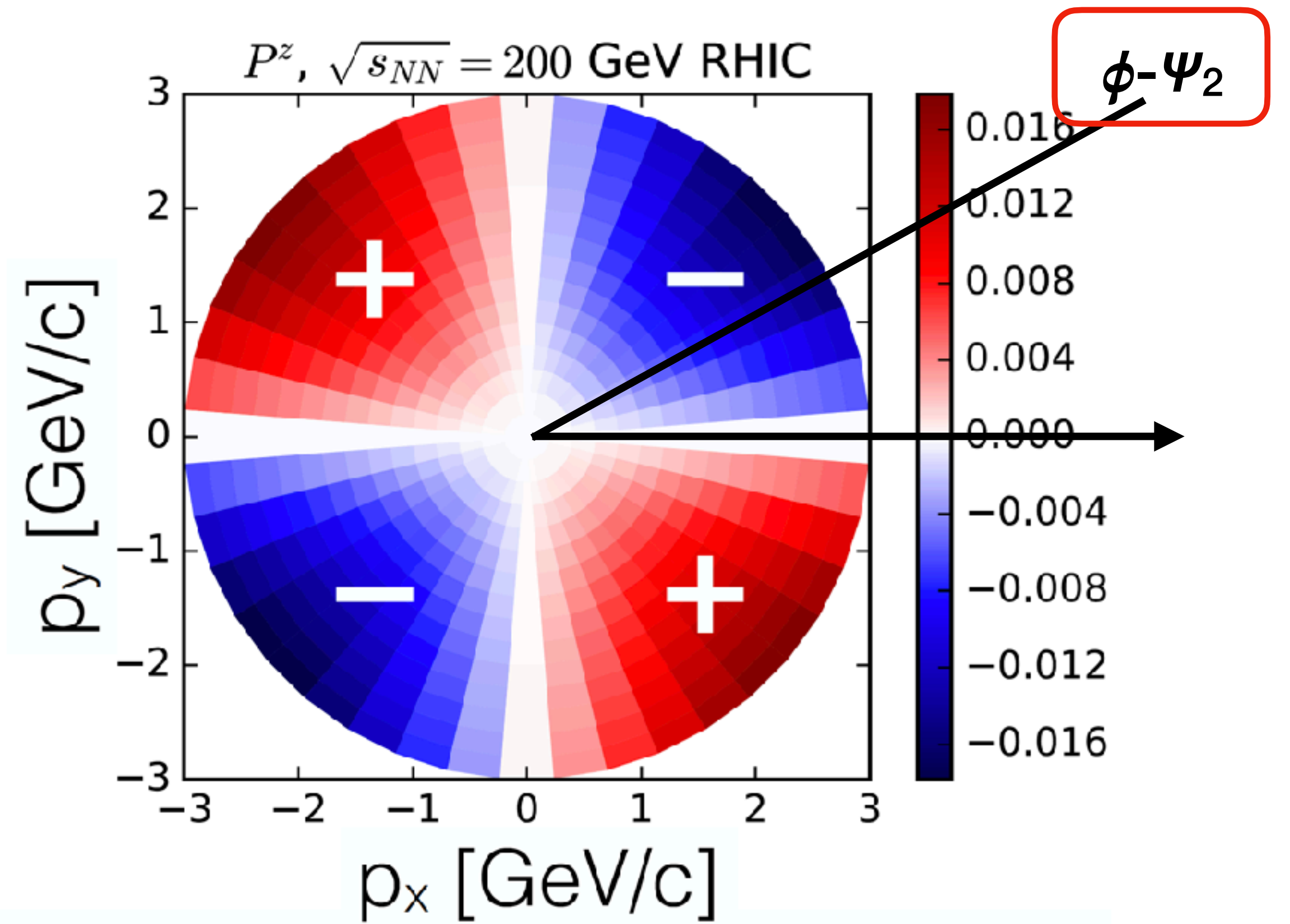
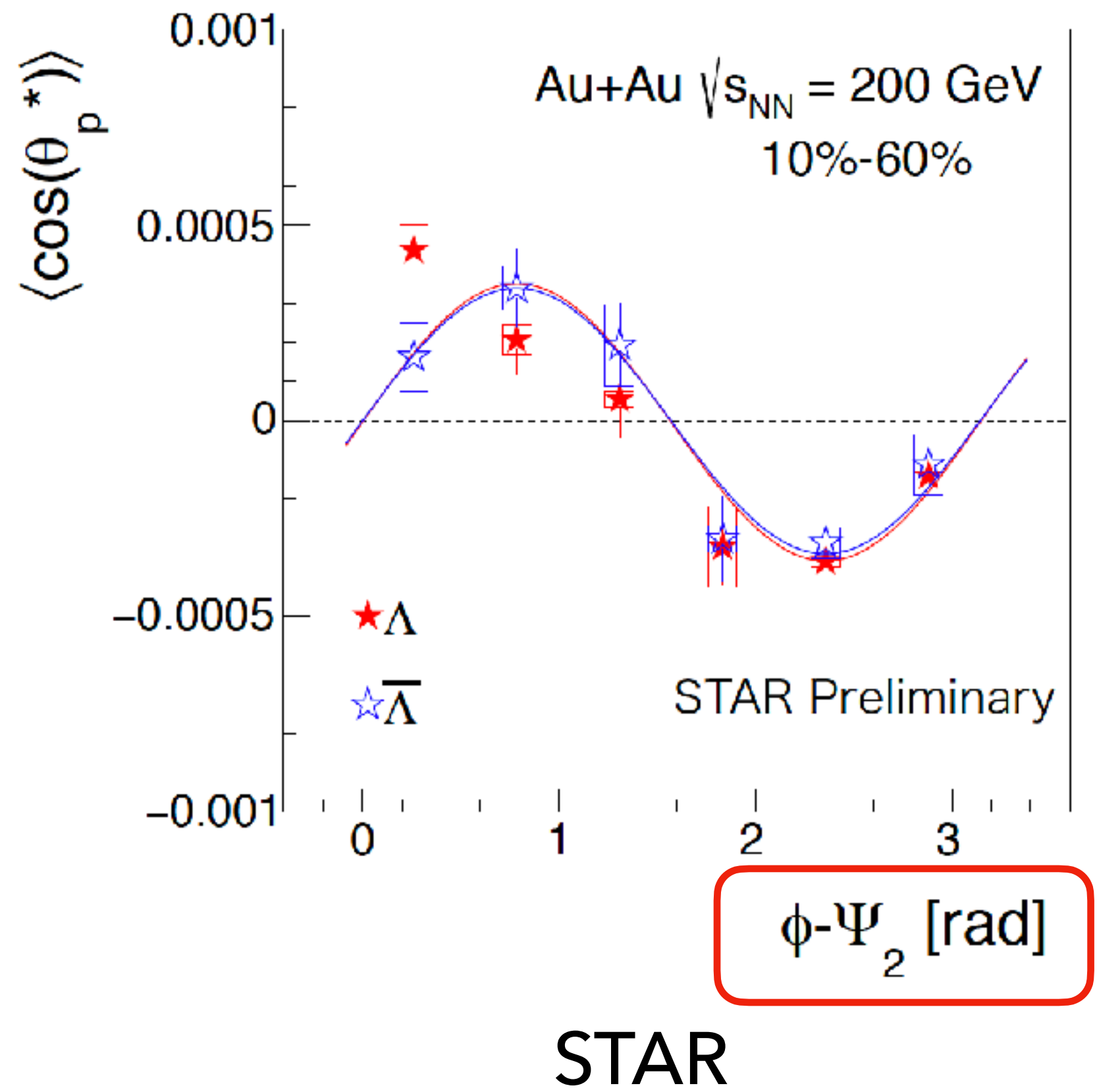


Slide from Xu-Guang Huang's QM19 Plenary Talk

Assuming equilibrium of the spin degrees of freedom, global polarization rate can be well understood by theo. models.

$$\varpi^{\mu\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left( \partial_\nu \frac{u_\mu}{T} - \partial_\mu \frac{u_\nu}{T} \right)$$

### Local longitudinal polarization due to collective flow



- (Hydro) F. Becattini & I. Karpenko, PRL 2018  
Similarly in other models

macroscopic approach: conservation law + second law of thermodynamics

Fate of spin polarization in a relativistic fluid: An entropy-current analysis

Koichi Hattori, M.Hongo, Xu-Guang Huang, M.Matsuo, H.Taya, Phys.Lett.B 795 (2019) 100-106

Spin hydrodynamics and symmetric energy-momentum tensors – A current induced by the spin vorticity

Kenji Fukushima, Shi Pu, Phys.Lett.B 817 (2021) 136346

Cross effects in spin hydrodynamics: Entropy analysis and statistical operator

Jin Hu, PhysRevC.107.024915

Relativistic viscous hydrodynamics with angular momentum

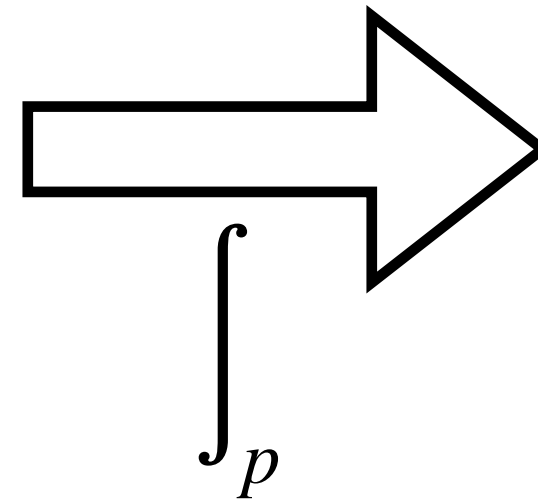
Duan She, Anping Huang, Defu Hou, Jinfeng Liao, Sci.Bull. 67 (2022) 2265

*Transport coefficients are sensitive to microscopic details*

**Microscopic:**

distribution function

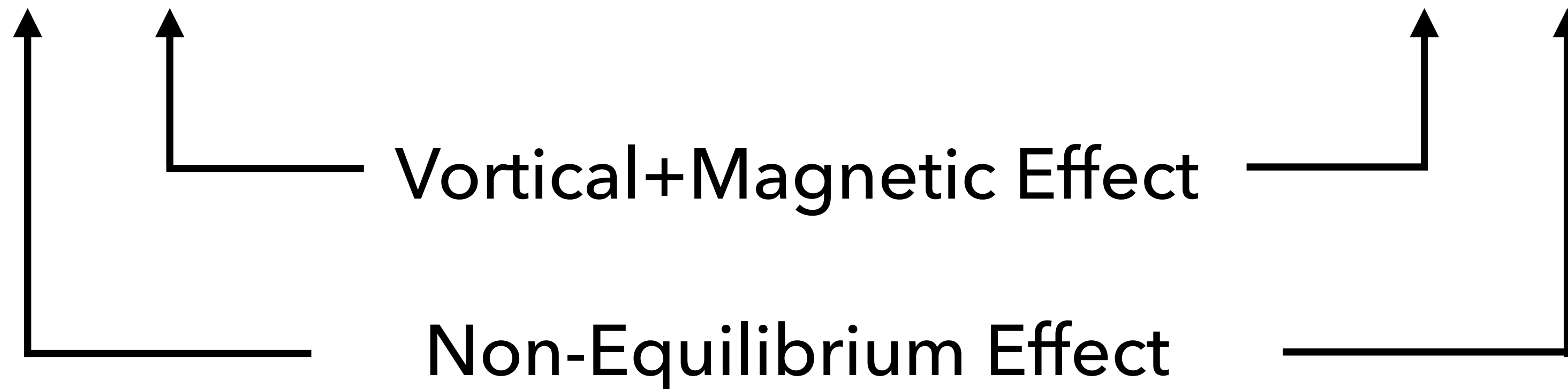
$$W_{ab}(x, p) \equiv \left\langle \int d^4y e^{i\frac{p \cdot y}{\hbar}} \bar{\psi}_b(x + \frac{y}{2}) \psi_a(x - \frac{y}{2}) \right\rangle,$$



**Macroscopic:**

conserved (hydrodynamic) currents

$$J^\mu(x), \quad T^{\mu\nu}(x), \quad S^{\mu\nu\lambda}(x)$$



## Wigner Function

$$W_{ab}(x, p) \equiv \left\langle \int d^4y e^{i\frac{p \cdot y}{\hbar}} \bar{\psi}_b(x + \frac{y}{2}) \psi_a(x - \frac{y}{2}) \right\rangle,$$

a 4×4 matrix, decomposed in Clifford basis

$$W = \frac{1}{4} \left( \mathcal{F} + i\mathcal{P}\gamma^5 + \mathcal{V}_\mu \gamma^\mu + \mathcal{A}_\mu \gamma^5 \gamma^\mu + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \right),$$

## Wigner Function

$$W_{ab}(x, p) \equiv \left\langle \int d^4y e^{i\frac{p \cdot y}{\hbar}} \bar{\psi}_b(x + \frac{y}{2}) \psi_a(x - \frac{y}{2}) \right\rangle,$$

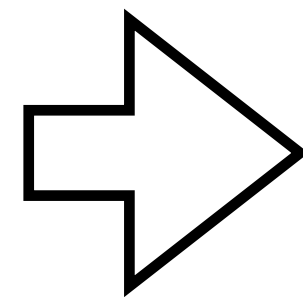
a 4x4 matrix, decomposed in Clifford basis

$$W = \frac{1}{4} \left( \mathcal{F} + i\mathcal{P}\gamma^5 + \mathcal{V}_\mu \gamma^\mu + \mathcal{A}_\mu \gamma^5 \gamma^\mu + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \right),$$

- Boltzmann equation
- Lorentz force
- chiral vortical effect + spin polarization
- chiral magnetic effect

### Dirac Equation

$$\gamma^\mu (i\hbar \partial_\mu - QA_\mu) \psi(x) = 0$$



$$\mathcal{F}_\pm^\mu \equiv \frac{\mathcal{V}^\mu \pm \mathcal{A}^\mu}{2} = \left[ p^\mu \delta(p^2) \pm \hbar \delta(p^2) \frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} p_\nu n_\lambda}{2p \cdot n} \nabla_\rho \pm \hbar Q \delta'(p^2) \widetilde{F}^{\mu\nu} p_\nu \right] f_\pm,$$

$$0 = \delta \left( p^2 \mp \hbar Q \frac{p \cdot B}{p \cdot n} \right) \left[ p \cdot \partial - Q p^\mu F_{\mu\nu} \partial_p^\nu \pm \hbar \left( \partial_\mu \frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} p_\nu n_\lambda}{2p \cdot n} \right) \nabla_\rho \right.$$

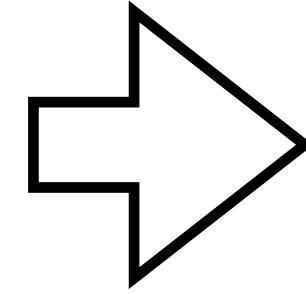
$$\left. \mp \hbar Q \frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} E_\mu n_\nu p_\lambda}{2(p \cdot n)^2} \nabla_\rho \pm \hbar \frac{Q}{2p \cdot n} p_\lambda \left( \partial_\sigma \widetilde{F}^{\lambda\nu} \right) n_\nu \partial_p^\sigma \right] f_\pm.$$

## Wigner Function

$$W_{ab}(x, p) \equiv \left\langle \int d^4y e^{i\frac{p \cdot y}{\hbar}} \bar{\psi}_b(x + \frac{y}{2}) \psi_a(x - \frac{y}{2}) \right\rangle,$$

a 4x4 matrix, decomposed in Clifford basis

$$W = \frac{1}{4} \left( \mathcal{F} + i\mathcal{P}\gamma^5 + \mathcal{V}_\mu \gamma^\mu + \mathcal{A}_\mu \gamma^5 \gamma^\mu + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \right),$$



## Hydrodynamic Quantities:

$$J^\mu \equiv \langle \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi \rangle = \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \mathcal{V}^\mu,$$

$$T^{\mu\nu} \equiv \langle \bar{\psi} (i\gamma^\mu \partial^\nu) \psi \rangle = \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} p^\mu \mathcal{V}^\nu,$$

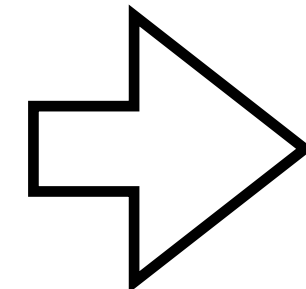
$$S^{\lambda\mu\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{4} \langle \bar{\psi} \{ \gamma^\lambda, \sigma^{\mu\nu} \} \psi \rangle = \frac{\epsilon^{\lambda\mu\nu\sigma}}{2} \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \mathcal{A}_\sigma,$$

## Wigner Function

$$W_{ab}(x, p) \equiv \left\langle \int d^4y e^{i\frac{p \cdot y}{\hbar}} \bar{\psi}_b(x + \frac{y}{2}) \psi_a(x - \frac{y}{2}) \right\rangle,$$

a 4x4 matrix, decomposed in Clifford basis

$$W = \frac{1}{4} \left( \mathcal{F} + i\mathcal{P}\gamma^5 + \mathcal{V}_\mu \gamma^\mu + \mathcal{A}_\mu \gamma^5 \gamma^\mu + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \right),$$

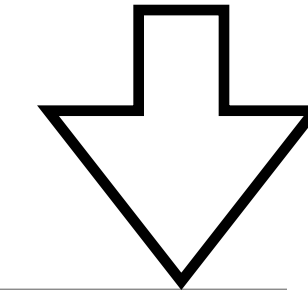


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Substituting the distribution function in the definitions (13)–(15), we find the RH and LH particle currents and energy-momentum stress tensor,

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \epsilon u^\mu u^\nu - P \Delta^{\mu\nu} + \pi^{\mu\nu} + \frac{4\hbar}{5} \omega^\mu (v_+^\nu - v_-^\nu)$$

$$+ \frac{\hbar n_A}{4} (8\omega^\mu u^\nu + T \epsilon^{\mu\nu\sigma\lambda} \omega_{\sigma\lambda})$$

## Chiral-viscous hydrodynamic equations

$$\begin{aligned} & \pm \frac{\hbar}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\rho\sigma\lambda} u_\rho \partial_\sigma \left( \frac{G_{4,1}^{(1),\pm}}{D_{3,1}^\pm} v_{\pm,\lambda} \right) \\ & \pm \frac{\hbar J_{2,2}^\pm}{4J_{4,2}^\pm} (\epsilon^{\mu\rho\sigma\lambda} u_\rho \sigma_\sigma^\xi \pi_{\lambda\xi} - \pi^{\mu\lambda} \omega_\lambda) \\ & \equiv n_\pm u^\mu + v_\pm^\mu + \hbar J_{\text{quantum},\pm}^\mu \end{aligned} \quad (67)$$

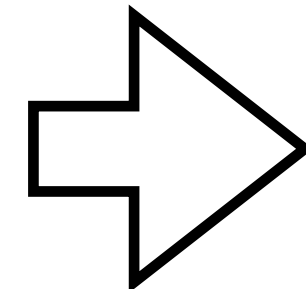
$$\begin{aligned} & + \frac{\hbar}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\rho\sigma\lambda} u_\rho u^\nu \partial_\sigma (v_\lambda^+ - v_\lambda^-) \\ & - \frac{\hbar}{10} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} u_\rho (\partial_\sigma u^\lambda) (v_\lambda^+ - v_\lambda^-) \\ & + \frac{2\hbar}{5} \epsilon^{\mu\lambda\rho\sigma} u_\rho (\partial_\sigma u^\nu) (v_\lambda^+ - v_\lambda^-) \end{aligned}$$

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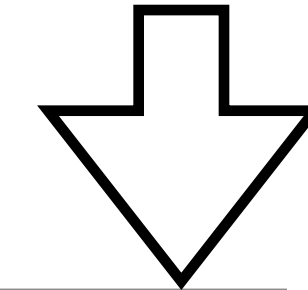


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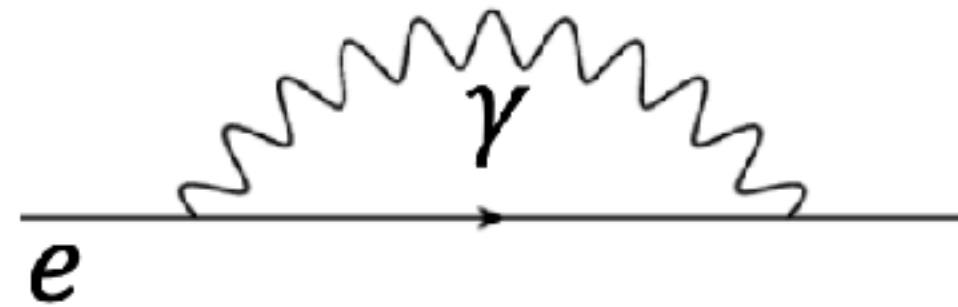
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many other references:

Cracow, Florence, Frankfurt, Fudan,  
Shandong Univ., SYSU, Tsinghua, USTC, ...

➤ changing onshell condition :  $q^2 = 0 \rightarrow q^2 = 2q \cdot \bar{\Sigma} = m_{\text{th}}^2$



➤ KB equation :  $(\not{D} - m)S^< + \gamma^\mu \frac{i\hbar}{2} \nabla_\mu S^< + \bar{\Sigma} \star S^< \propto e^2 = \frac{i\hbar}{2} (\Sigma^< \star S^> - \Sigma^> \star S^<) \propto e^4$

■ QKT with the self-energy corrections :

N. Yamamoto, DY, PRD 109, 056010 (2024)

S. Fang, S. Pu, DY, PRD 109, 034034 (2024)

❖ For  $\bar{\Sigma}_V^\mu \neq 0 \Rightarrow F_{\mu\nu}^{eff} : \bar{F}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{[\mu} \bar{\Sigma}_{V\nu]}$

effective background EM fields

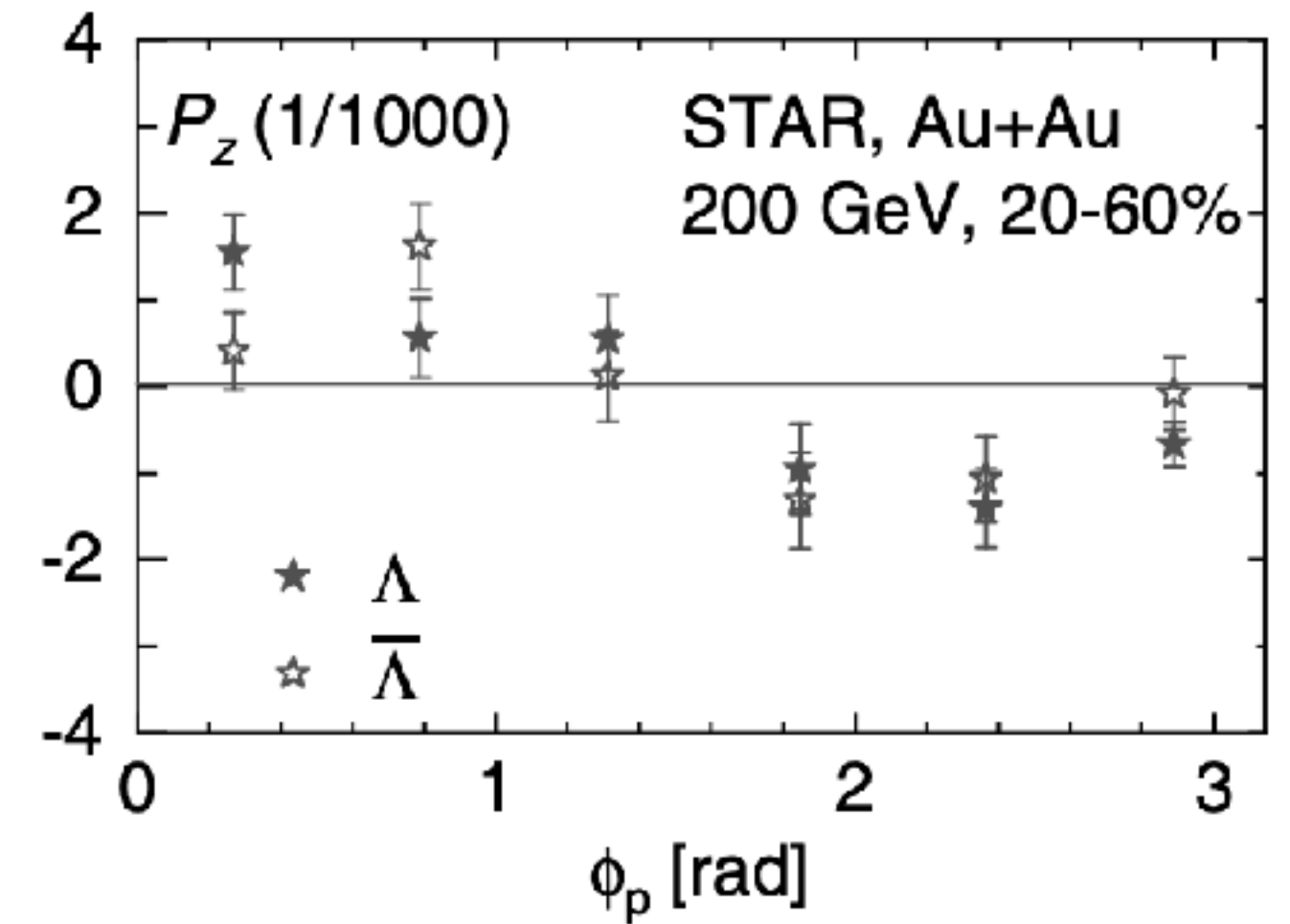
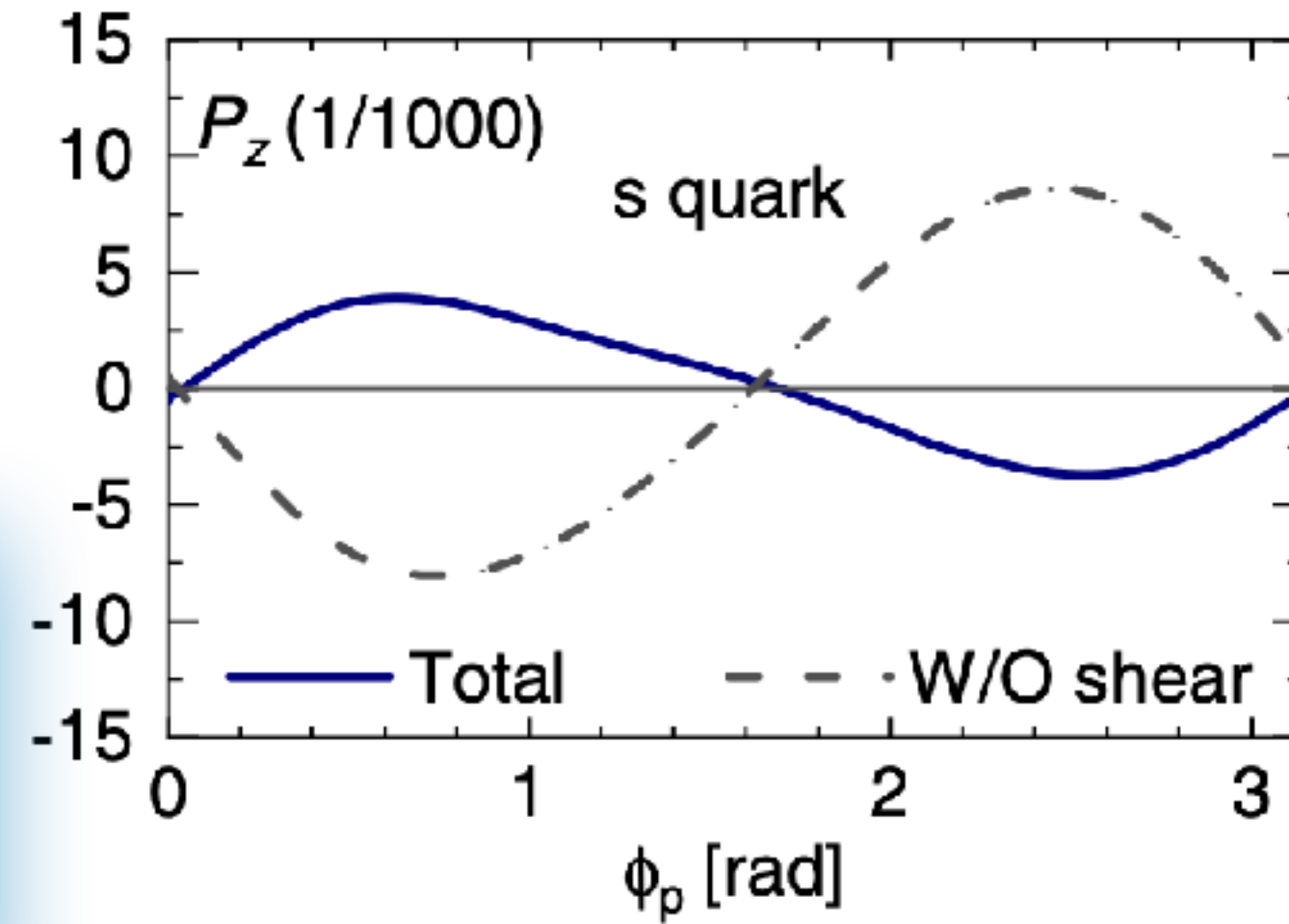
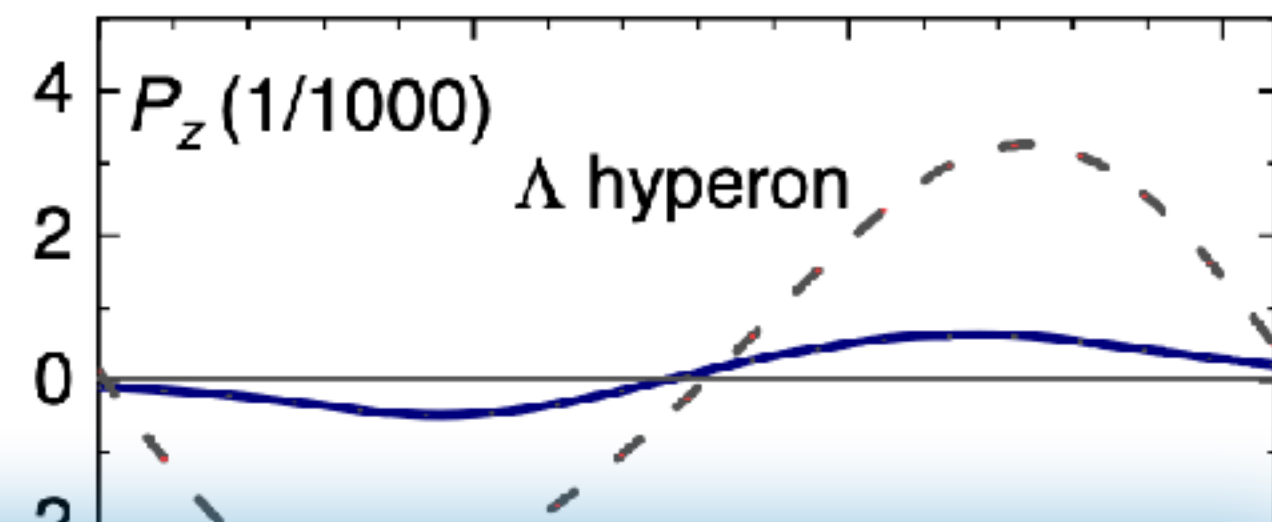
$\Rightarrow$  spin polarization

Di-Lun Yang, TUE 11:55, Parellel IV

energy-momentum stress tensor,

many other references:

Cracow, Florence, Frankfurt, Fudan,  
Shandong Univ., SYSU, Tsinghua, USTC, ...



$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{SIP}}^\mu = -\beta n_0 (1 - n_0) \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\rho} u_\nu p_\rho p^\lambda \partial_{(\alpha}^\perp u_{\lambda)}$$

$$= -\beta n_0 (1 - n_0) \frac{p_\perp^2}{\varepsilon_0} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\rho} u_\nu Q_\alpha^\lambda \sigma_{\rho\lambda}.$$

Spin polarization induced by the hydrodynamic gradients

Shuai Y.F. Liu, Yi Yin, JHEP 07 (2021) 188

Shear-Induced Spin Polarization in Heavy-Ion Collisions

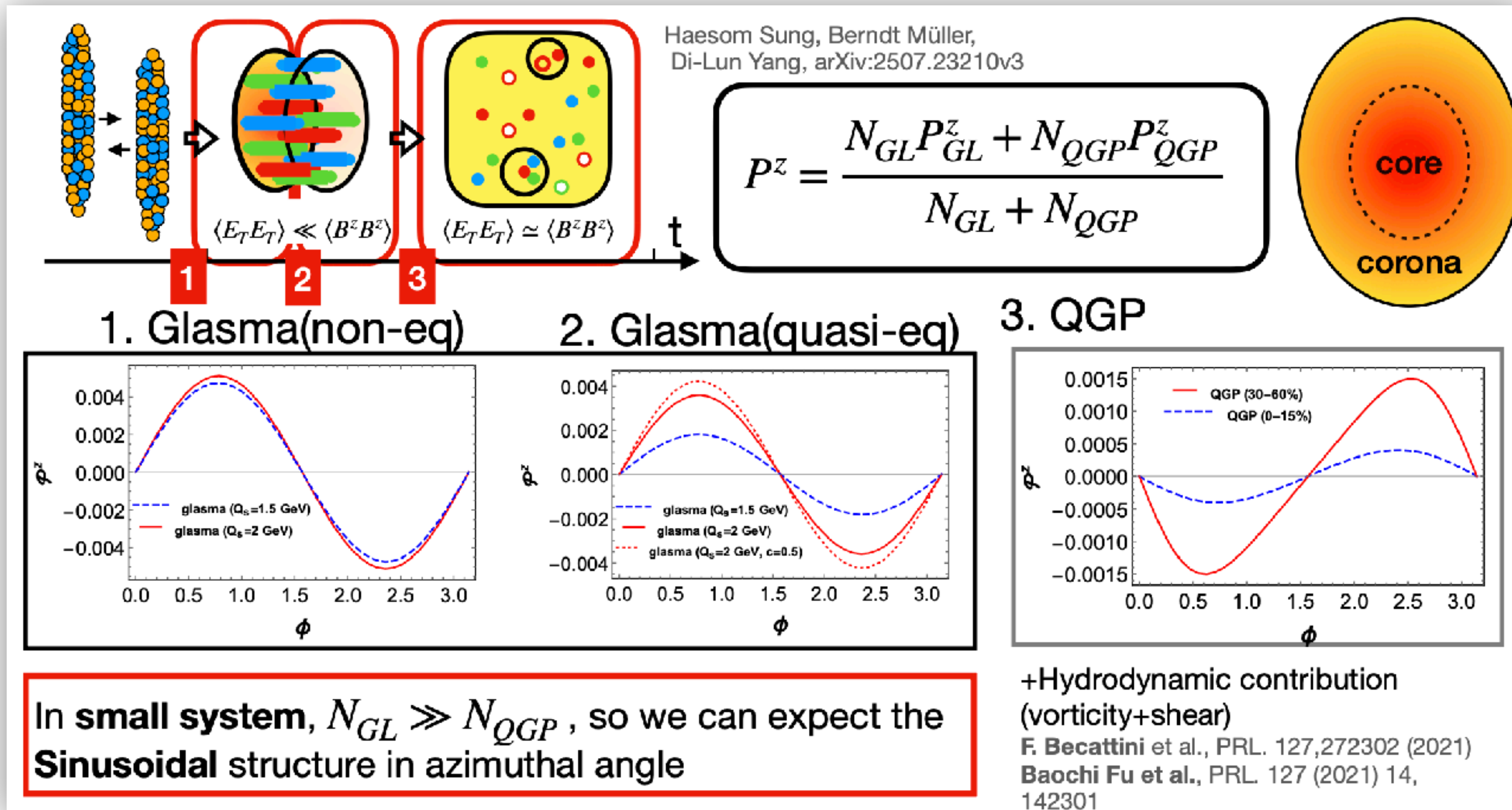
Baochi Fu, Shuai Y.F. Liu, Long-Gang Pang, Huichao Song, Yi Yin, PhysRevLett.127.142301

Local Polarization and Isothermal Local Equilibrium in Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions

F. Becattini, M. Buzzegoli, G. Inghirami, I. Karpenko, A. Palermo, PhysRevLett.127.272302

Spin-thermal shear coupling in a relativistic fluid

F. Becattini, M. Buzzegoli, A. Palermo, Phys.Lett.B 820 (2021) 136519

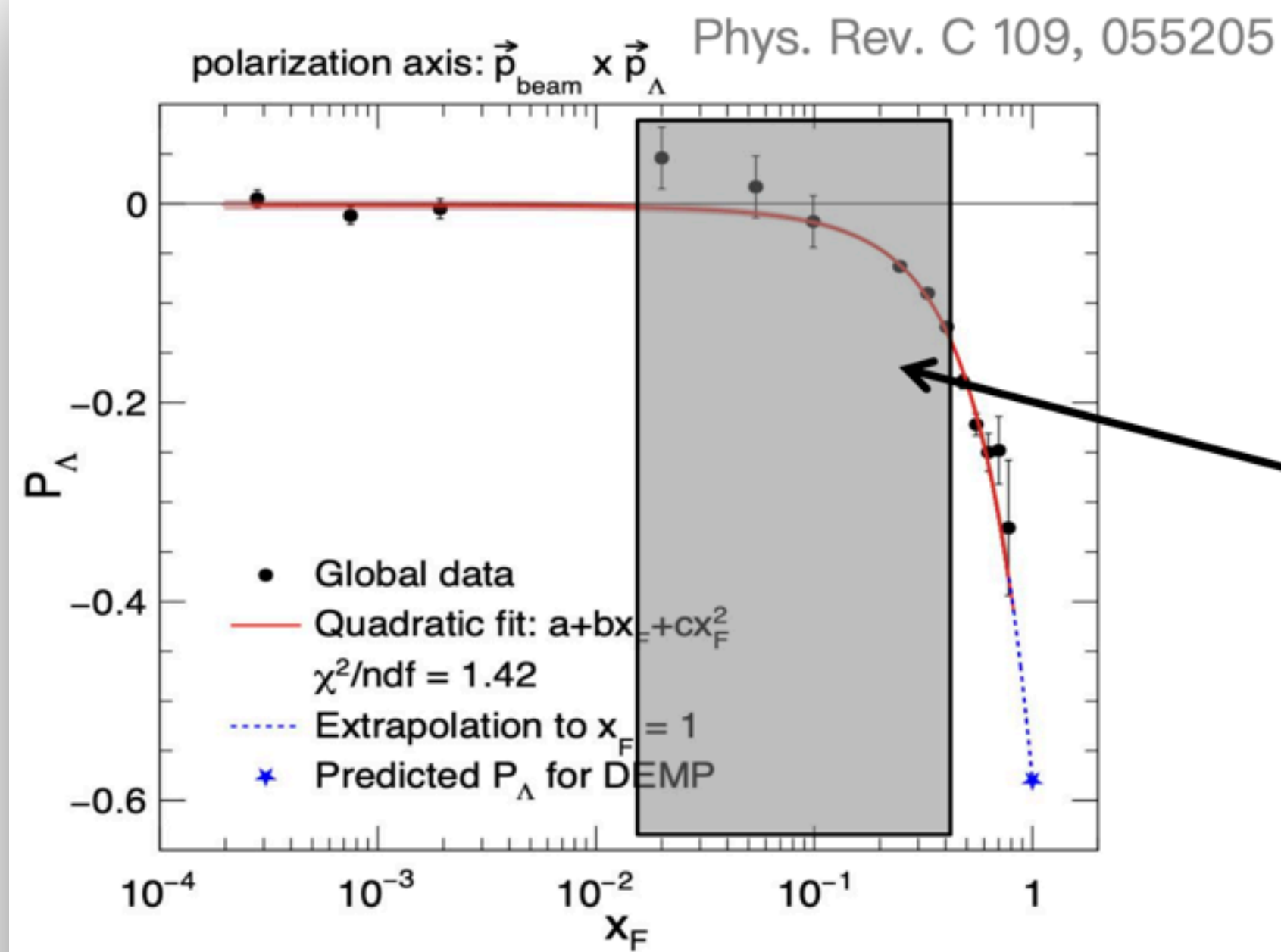


color-glasma field polarize the quark spin with sinusoidal structure

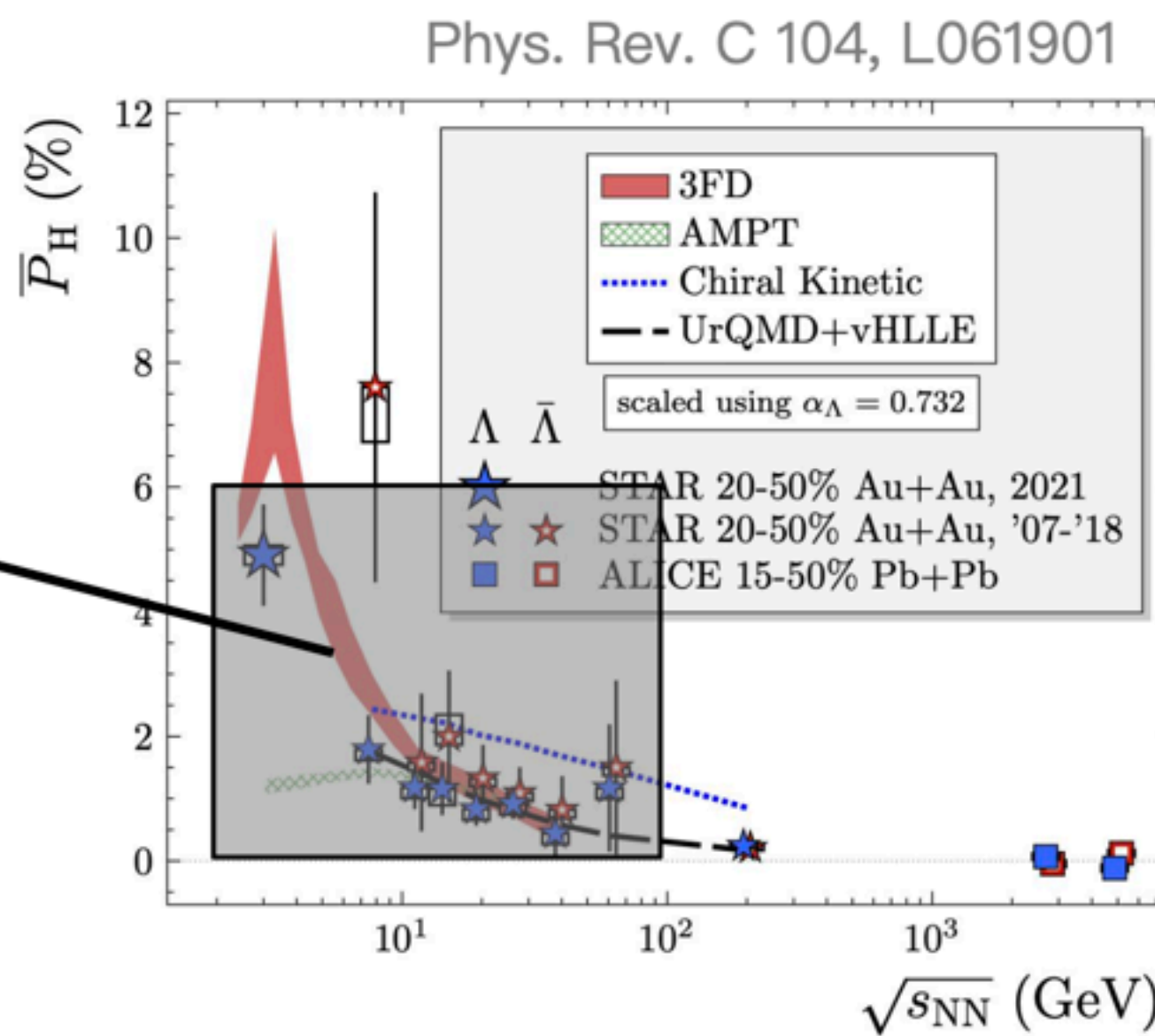
# $\Lambda$ Polarization Puzzle: Transverse Polarization

- Unpolarized proton beam and Beryllium target.

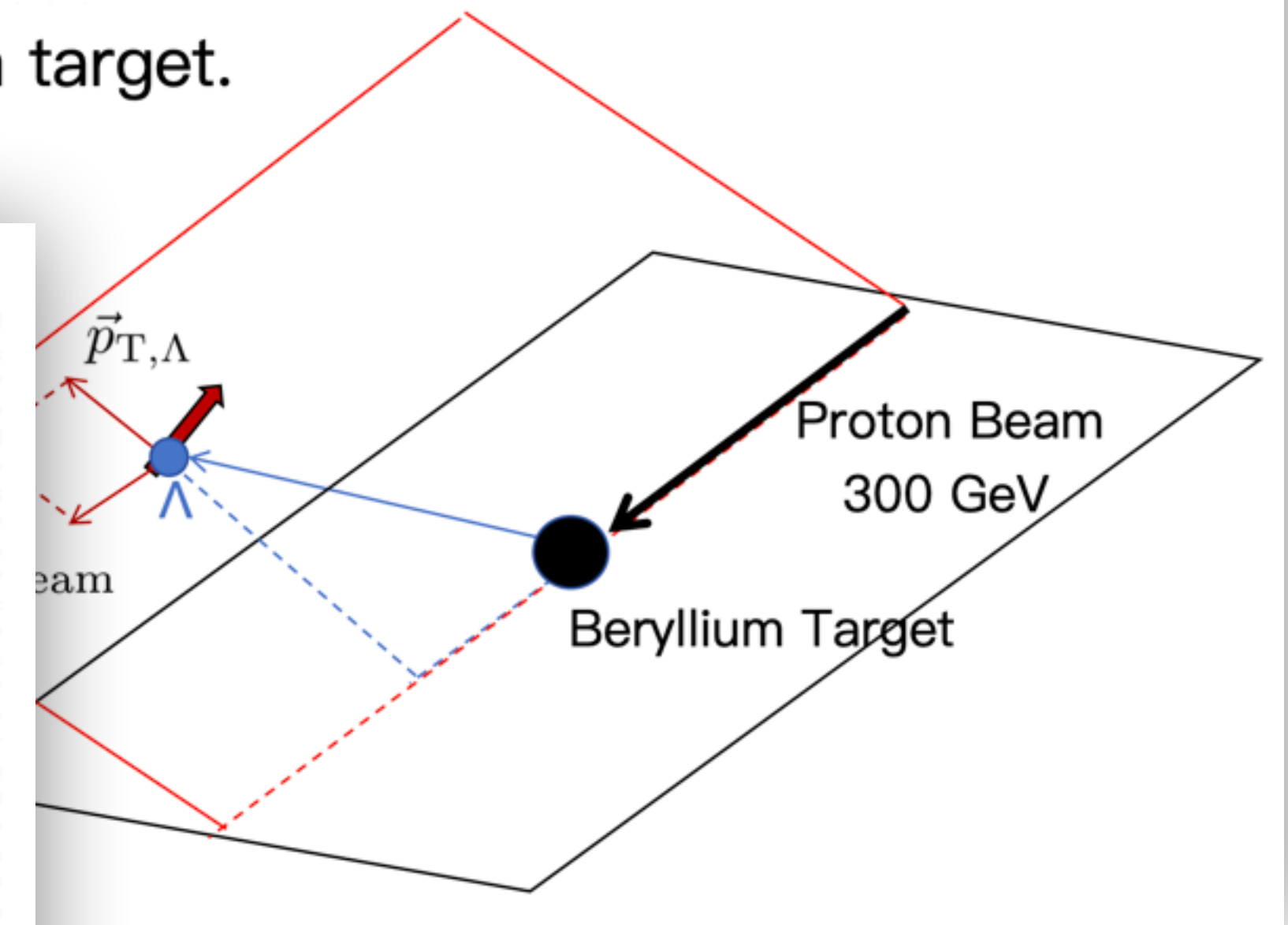
- Transverse polarization was measured



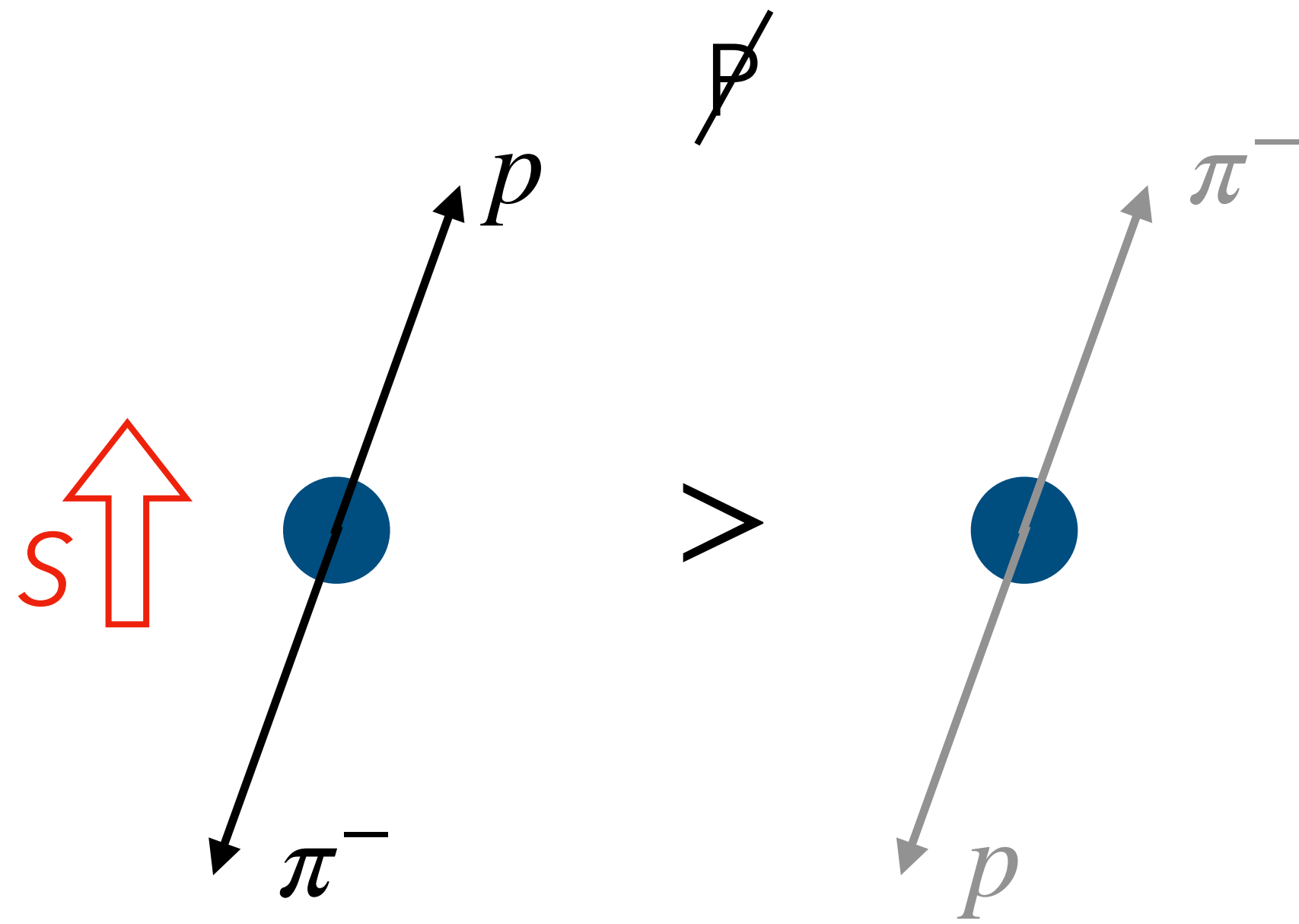
*A few %, similar in magnitude*



$\Lambda$  measured by STAR TPC at this energy range has  $\langle x_F \rangle$  of 0.01 - 0.3.

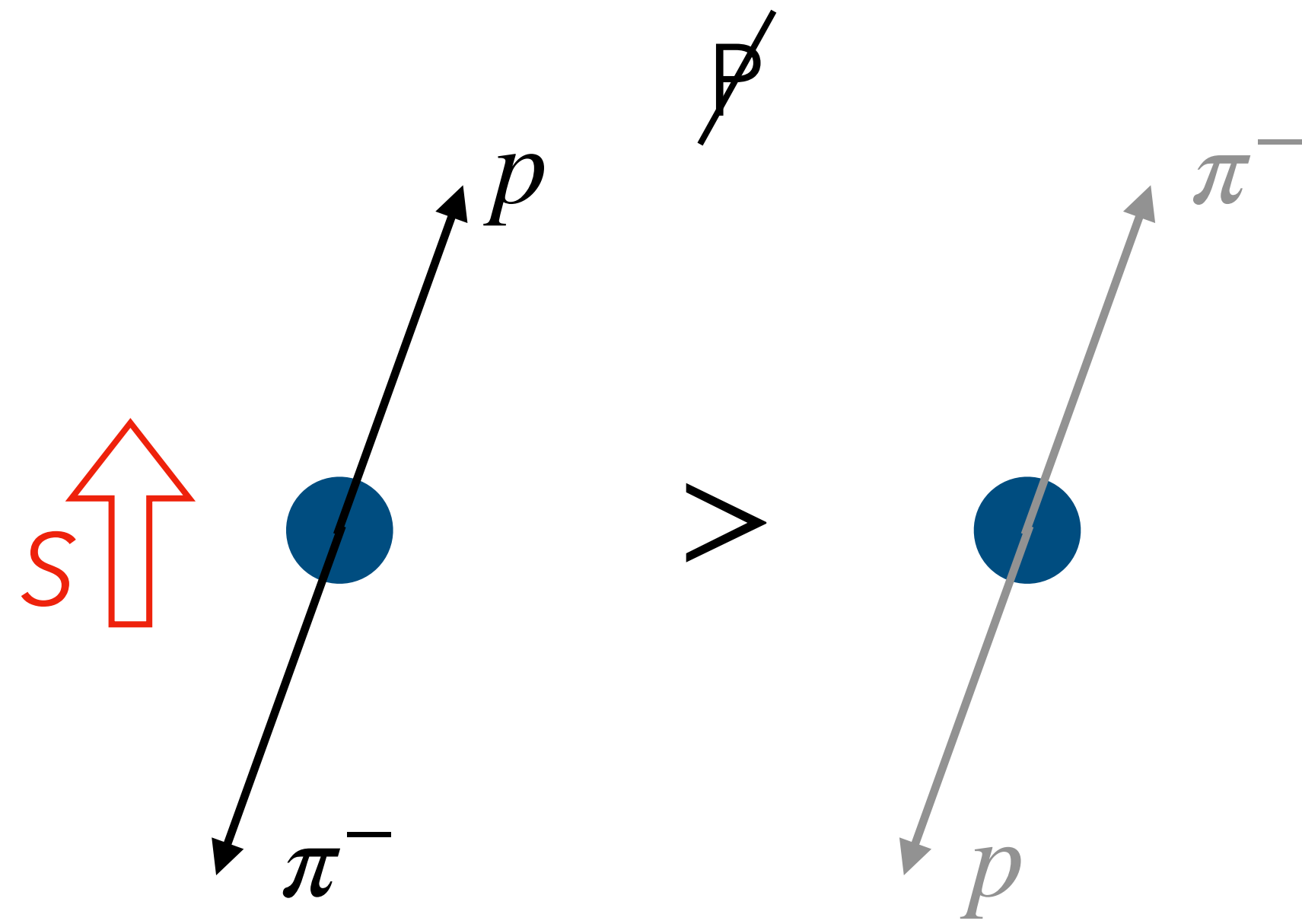


*weak decay ( $\Lambda$ )*



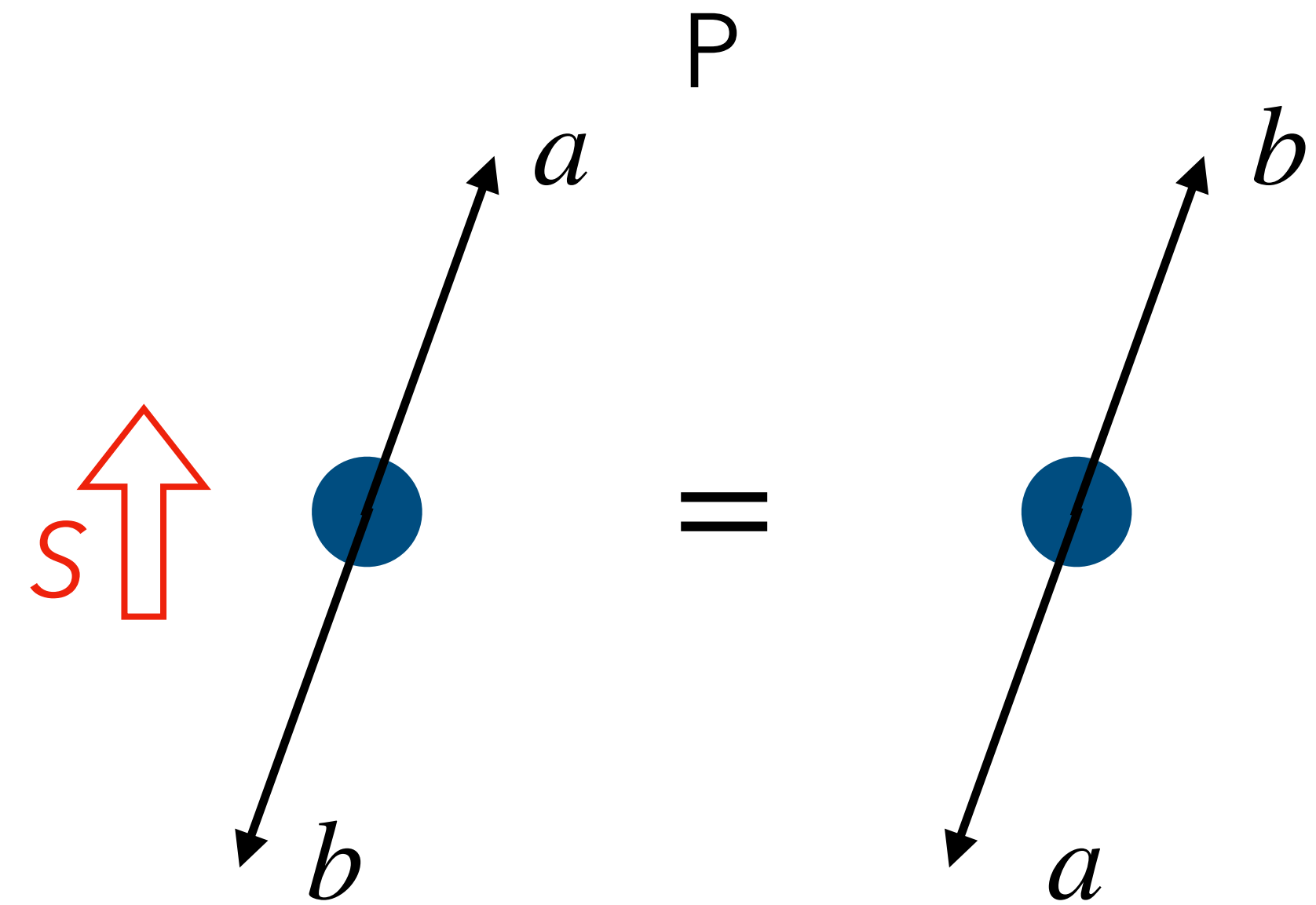
$$P \propto \frac{\omega}{T}$$

weak decay ( $\Lambda$ )



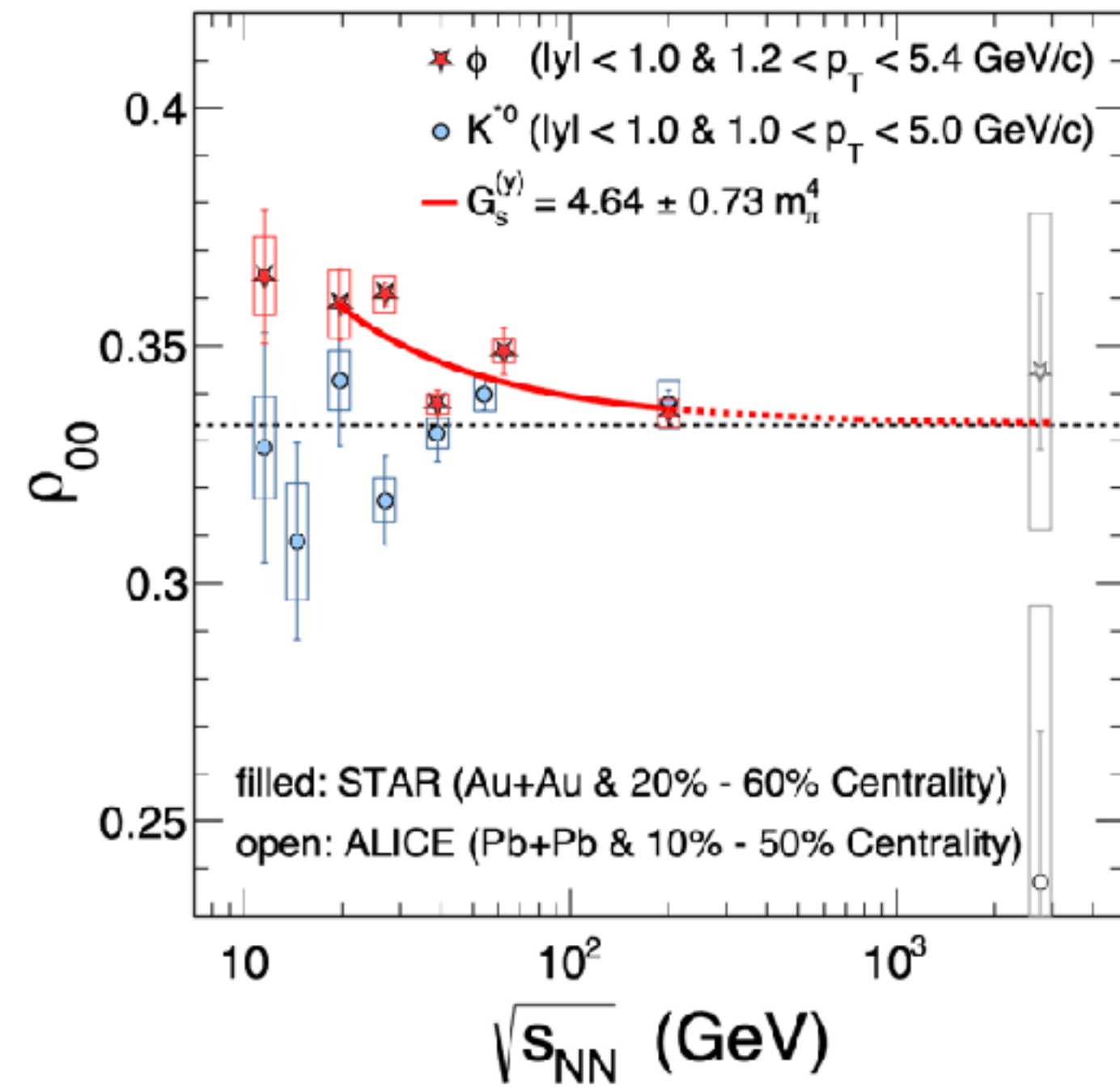
$$P \propto \frac{\omega}{T}$$

strong/EM decay ( $\phi, \rho, K^*, J/\psi$ )



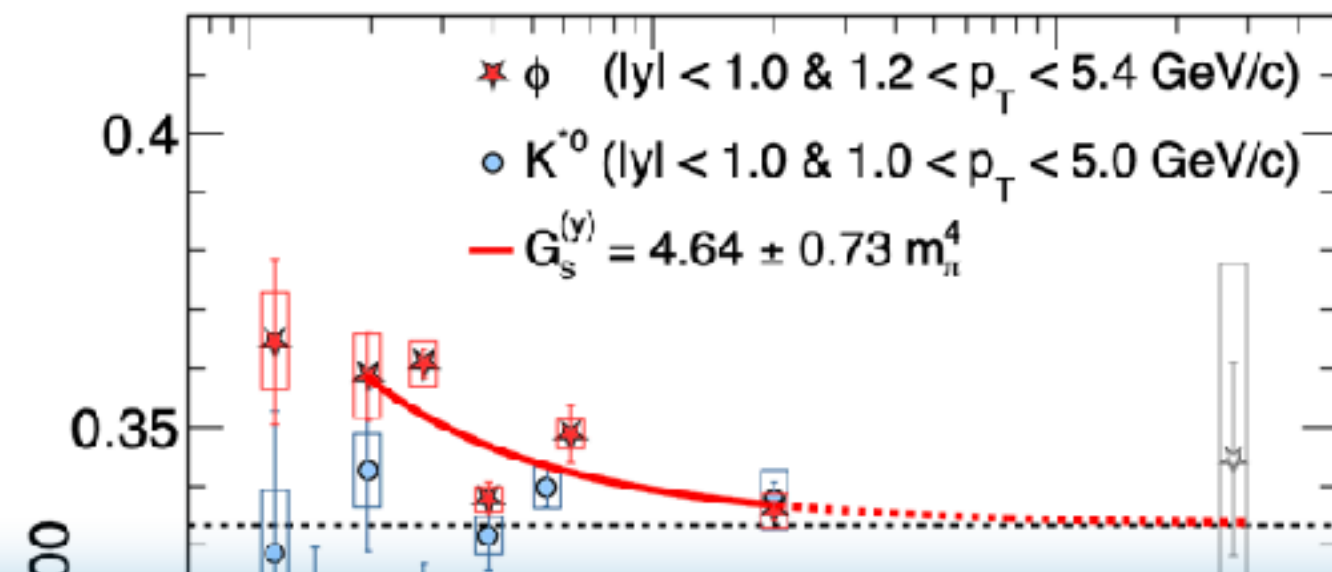
$$\hat{\rho} = \sum_{i,j=-1}^{+1} \rho_{ij} |i\rangle\langle j|$$

$$\Delta\rho_{00} \propto \left(\frac{\omega}{T}\right)^2$$



$$\Delta\rho_{00} \gg \left(\frac{\omega}{T}\right)^2$$

STAR, Nature 614 (2023) 244



$$\Delta\rho_{00} \gg \left(\frac{\omega}{T}\right)^2$$

meson field:

Spin Alignment of Vector Mesons in Heavy-Ion Collisions

Xin-Li Sheng, Lucia Oliva, Zuo-Tang Liang, Qun Wang, Xin-Nian Wang, PhysRevLett.131.042304

shear-induced modification of polarization tensor:

Tensor Polarization and Spectral Properties of Vector Meson in QCD Medium

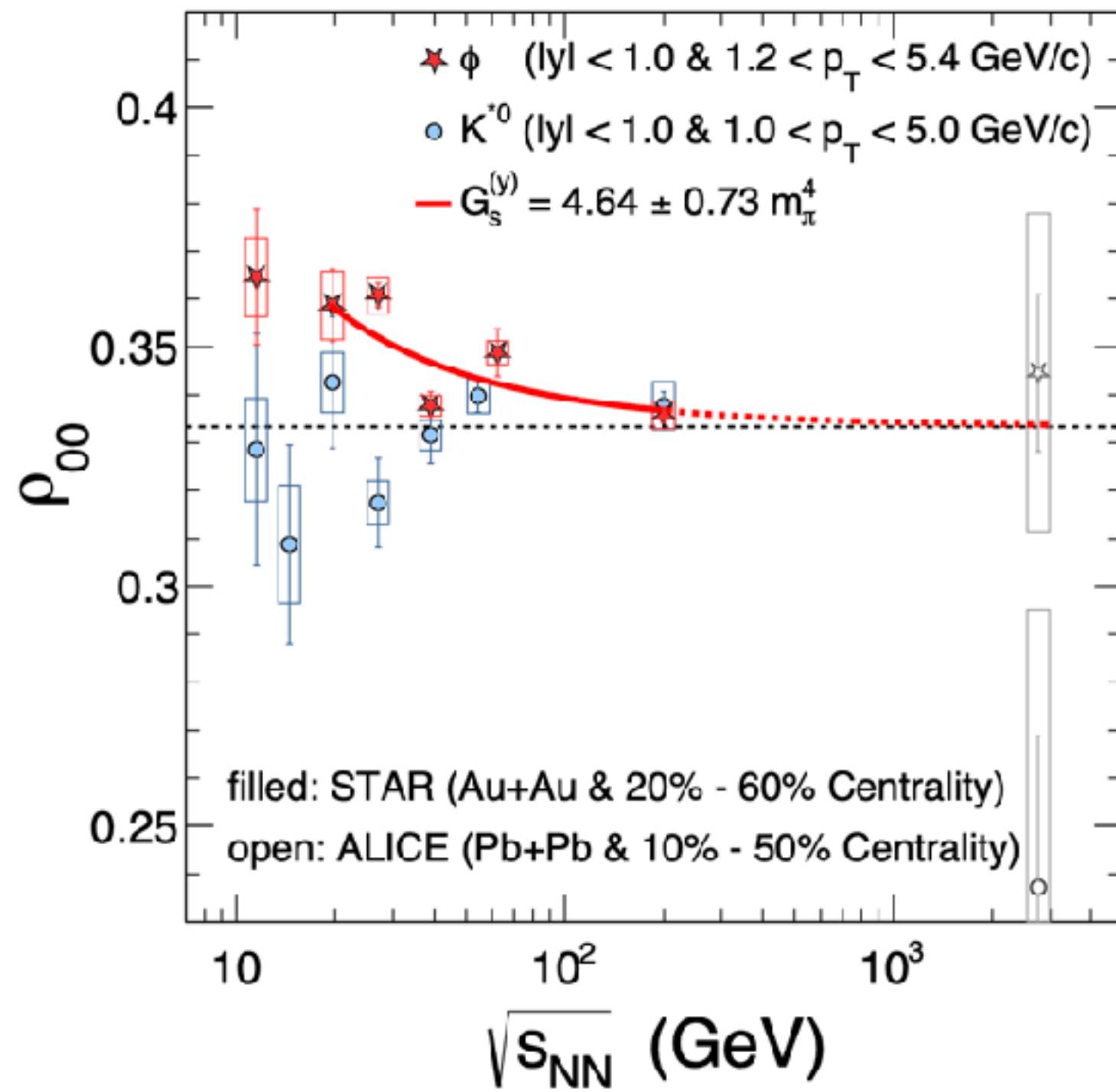
Feng Li, Shuai Y.F. Liu, 2206.11890

color field correlators:

Tensor Polarization and Spectral Properties of Vector Meson in QCD Medium

Avdhesh Kumar, Berndt Müller, Di-Lun Yang, PhysRevD.107.076025

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•  
•



- non-equilibrium magnetohydrodynamics
- background models of CME can/shall be tested
- systematic understanding vector meson spin alignment

