STAR Muon Telescope Detector

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Lecture for NuSteam Program

About myself

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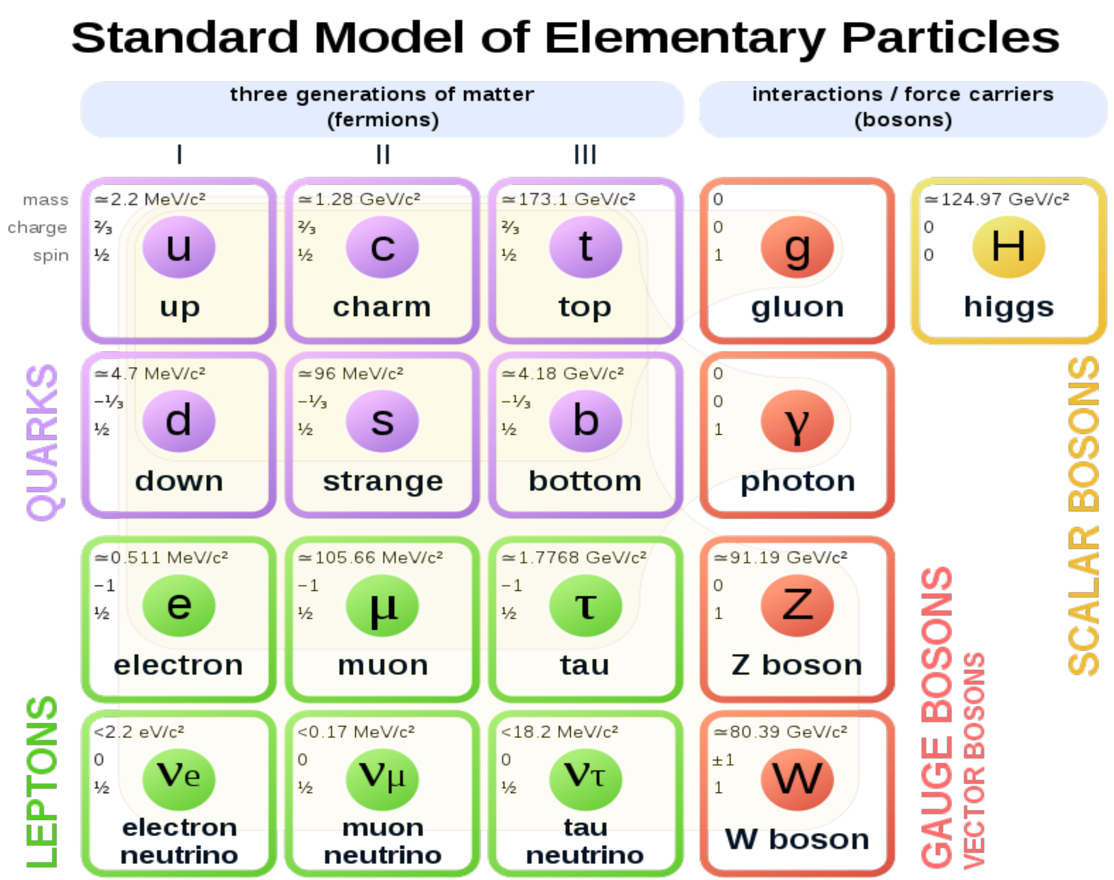
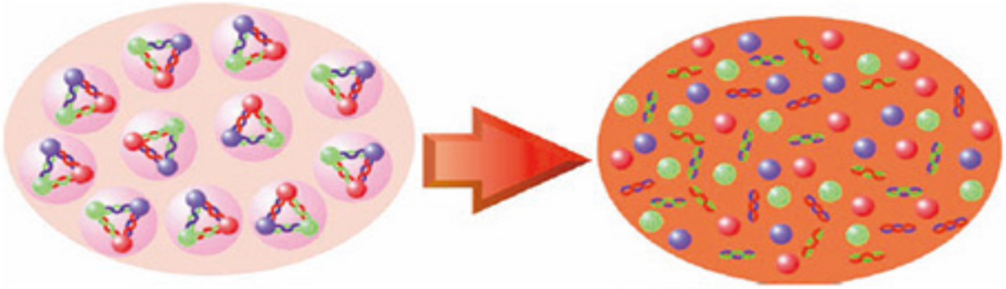


- Color-confinement: all visible matter are color neutral

What is the QGP?

- **Quark-gluon plasma**: a state of QCD matter, consisting of asymptotically *free moving quarks and gluons* which are ordinarily confined within nucleons by color confinement.

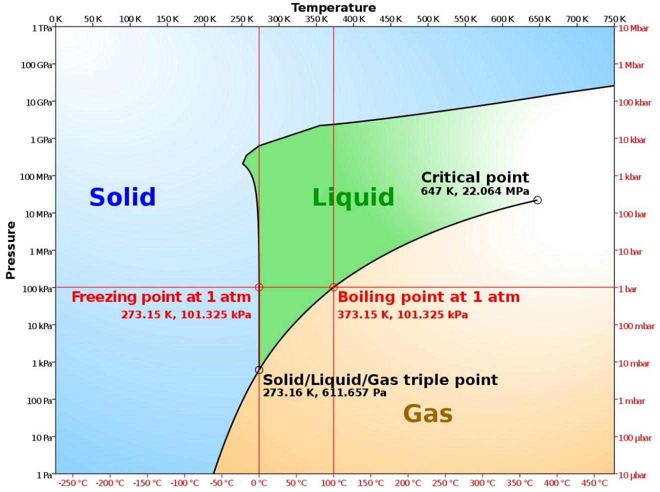


https://www.bnl.gov/riken/research/QGP.php

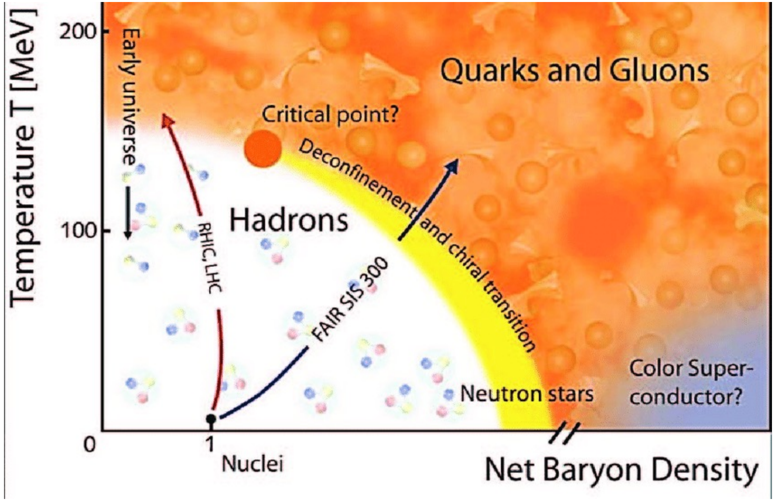
- **Believed to have existed at Early Universe**

Phase transition

- Lattice-QCD predicts a phase transition from confined hadrons to the QGP
  - $\varepsilon_c \sim 1$ GeV/fm^3; $T_c \sim 165$ MeV



Water

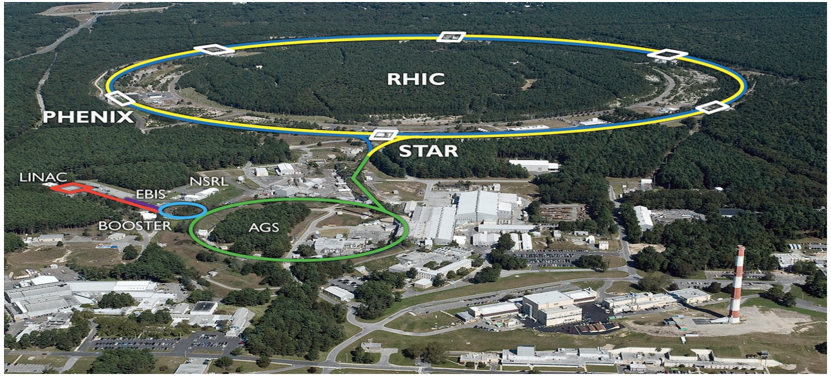


QCD matter

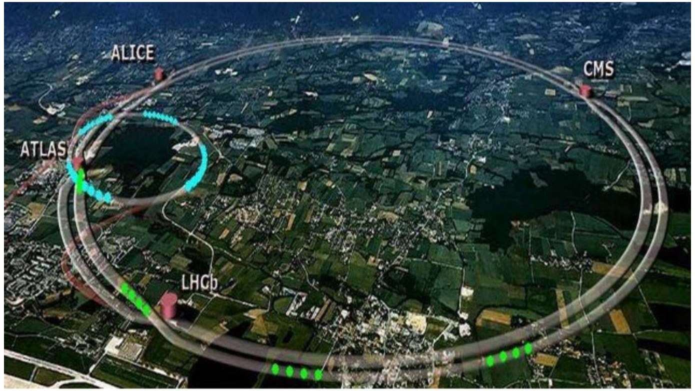
How to create the QGP in a lab?

- **Heavy-ion collisions**
  - T.D. Lee, 1974: We should investigate phenomena by distributing high energy or high nucleon density over a relatively large volume

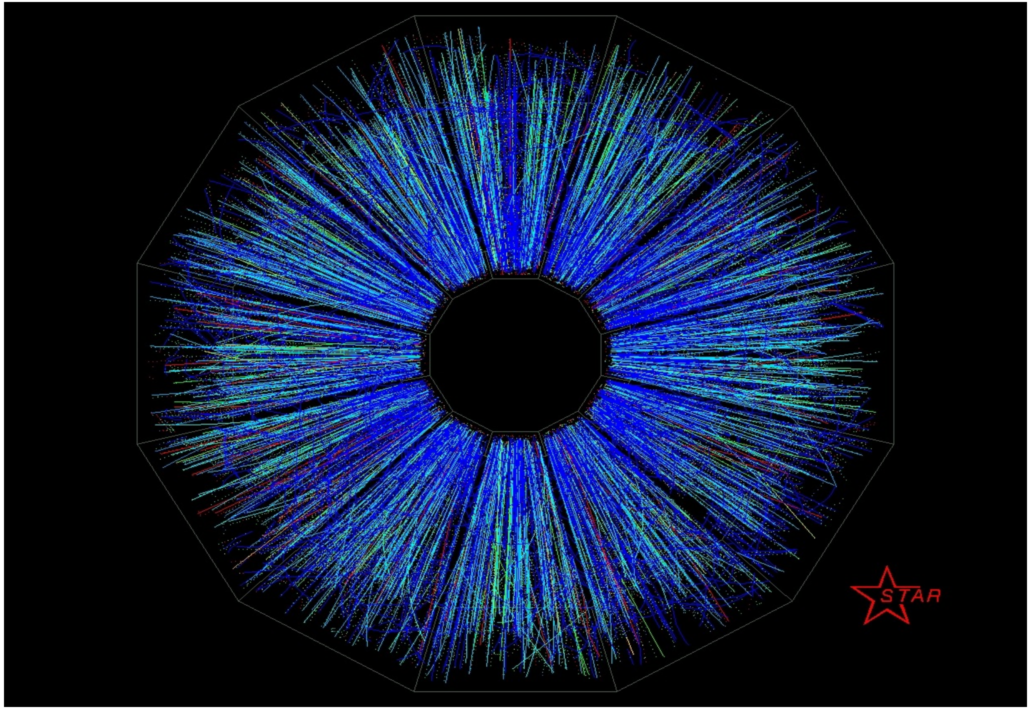
RHIC: Au+Au



LHC: Pb+Pb

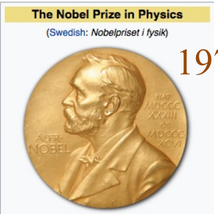


A real collision recorded by STAR



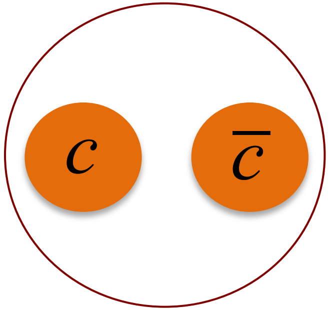
What is a quarkonium?

- A quarkonium is a meson made up of a pair of heavy quark and its anti-quark.

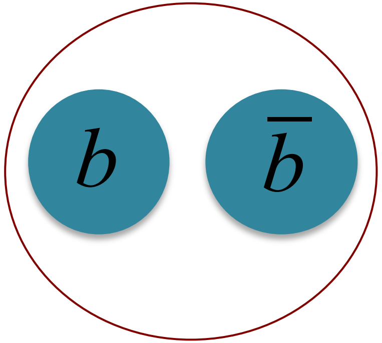


1976

J/ψ



Υ

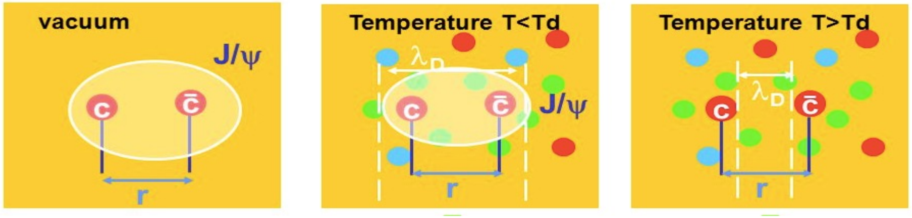


Discovered in 1974 at both SLAC (Burton Richter) and BNL (Samuel Ting)

Discovered in 1977 at Fermilab (Leon Lederman)

Use quarkonia to study the QGP

- **QGP lifetime ~ 10^{-21} s**
- **Early creation:** experience entire evolution of quark-gluon plasma
- **Evidence of deconfinement**: quark-antiquark potential color-screened by surrounding partons → *(static) dissociation/suppression*



$$r_{q\bar{q}} \sim 1/E_{binding} > r_D \sim 1/T$$

T. Matsui and H. Satz
PLB 178 (1986) 416

How to detect a J/ψ?

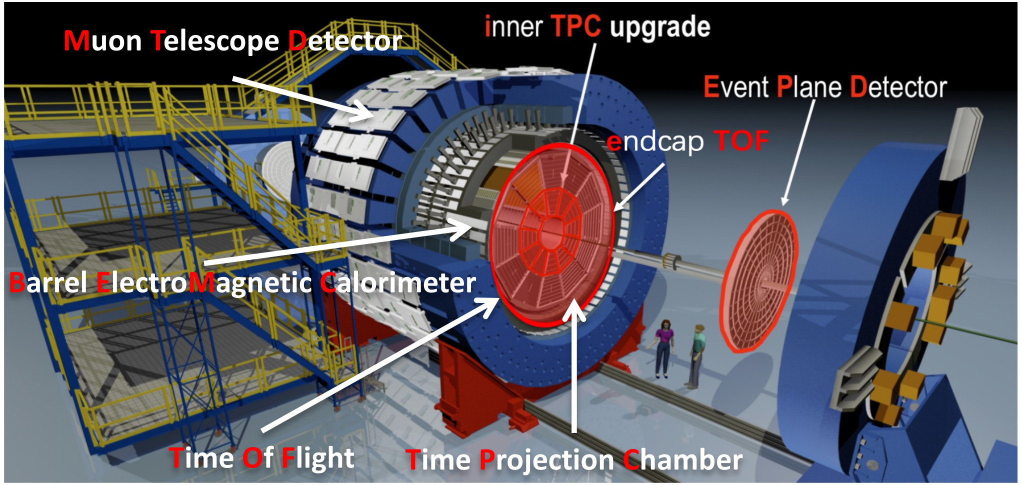
- Mass = 3.0969 GeV/c^2 = 5.52*10^{-27} kg
- Mean lifetime = 7.2*10^{-12} s

- Decay into electron and muon pairs, which can be measured in detectors and used to reconstruct the J/ψ
- Both channels have been used to measure J/ψ, and we will focus on the muon channel in this lecture

$$J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^{+} + \mu^{-}$$

STAR @ RHIC

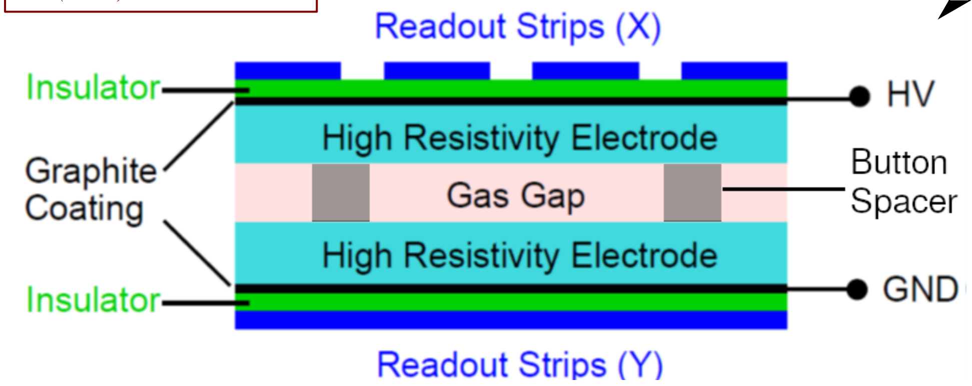
- Heavy-ion collisions happen at the center of STAR
- Cylindrical shape; magnet sits at a radius ~ 3 m



- Sub-detectors
  - **Heavy Flavor Tracker**
  - **Time Projection Chamber**
  - **Time-Of-Flight detector**
  - **Barrel ElectroMagnetic Calorimeter**
  - **Muon Telescope Detector**
  - …

Resistive Plate Chambers (RPC)

S. Mondal, et al JINST 14 (2019) 04009



- Working principle:
  - a traversing particle ionizes the gas atoms
  - knocked out electrons drift in the external electric field and ionize more atoms
  - moving electrons induce signals on readout strips

- Timing resolution

$$\sigma(t) = \frac{1.28}{(\alpha - \eta) \times v}$$

- $\alpha = 1/\lambda$, λ is mean distance between ionizing collisions
- v: drift velocity

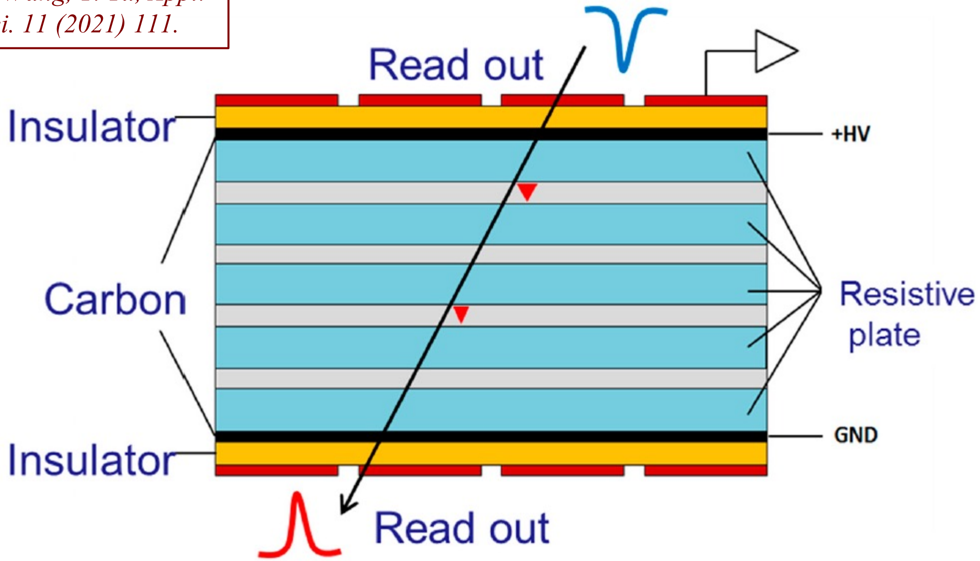
W. Riegler, et al, NIM A 500 (2003) 144

✧ To improve resolution, one can decrease gap width (increase electric field), which however leads to lower efficiency

→ More gaps

Multigap Resistive Plate Chambers (MRPC)

Y. Wang, Y. Yu, Appl. Sci. 11 (2021) 111.



- Ionization can happen in multiple gaps, and readout strips pick up signals from all gaps
- Improve timing resolution and efficiency
- Resistive plates prevent cross-talk between gaps

High rate, easy construction, large area, cost effective

Muon Telescope Detector

- MTD consists of 122 trays
- Each tray is made of a MRPC, electronics and supporting structure

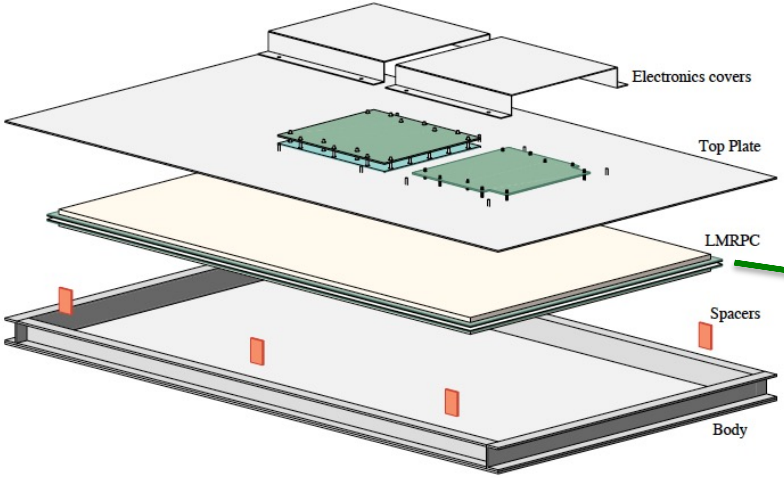
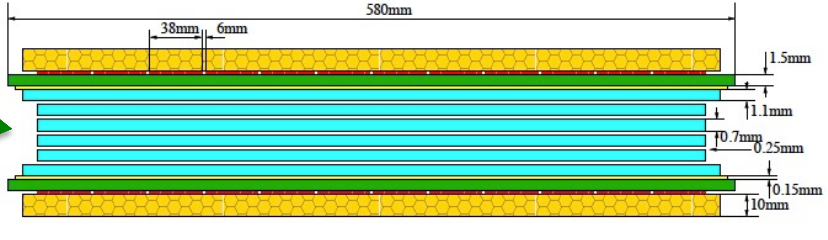


Figure 33. An exploded view of an MTD tray.

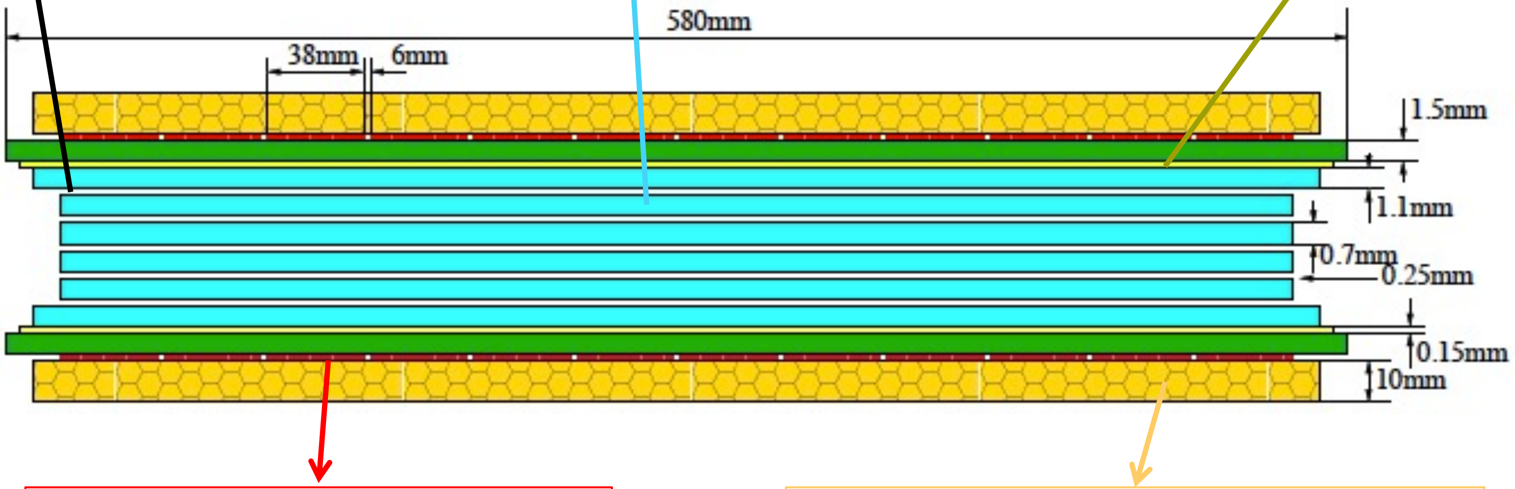


MRPC in MTD

5 gas gaps ~ 0.25 mm, realized with fishing line

glasses used as resistive plates

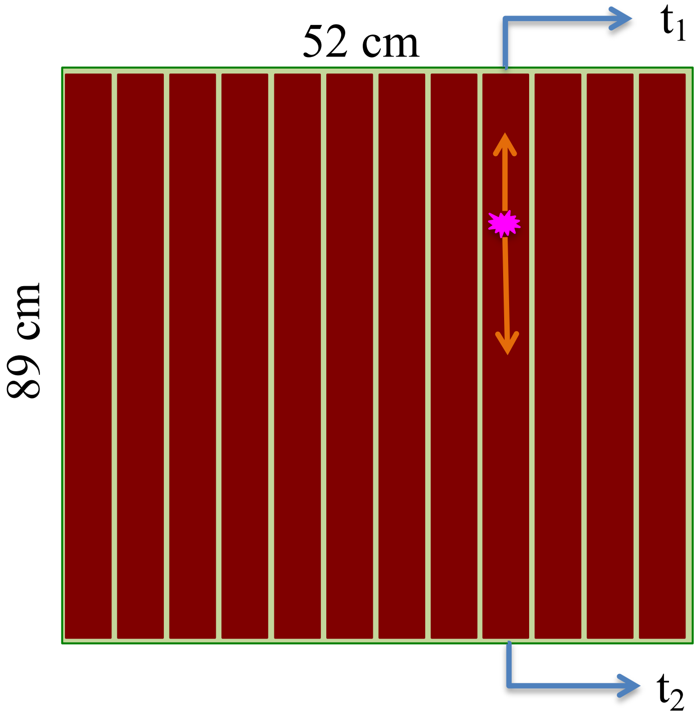
Electrodes formed with paint



Readout strips on PCB

Honeycomb as protection

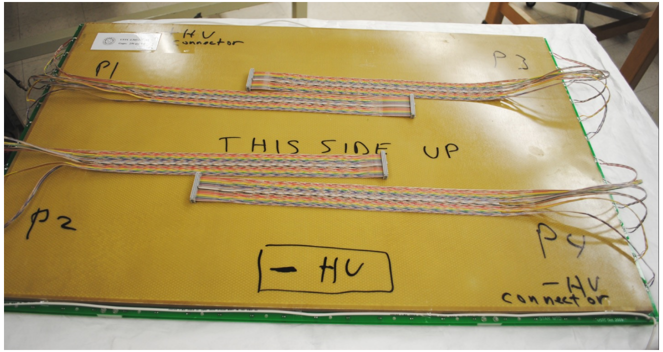
Double-ended readout strips

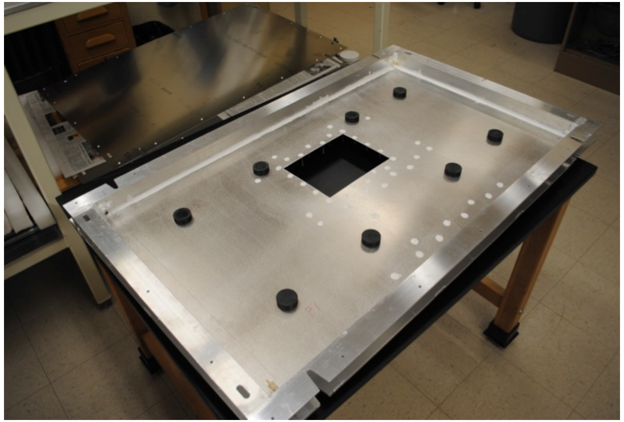


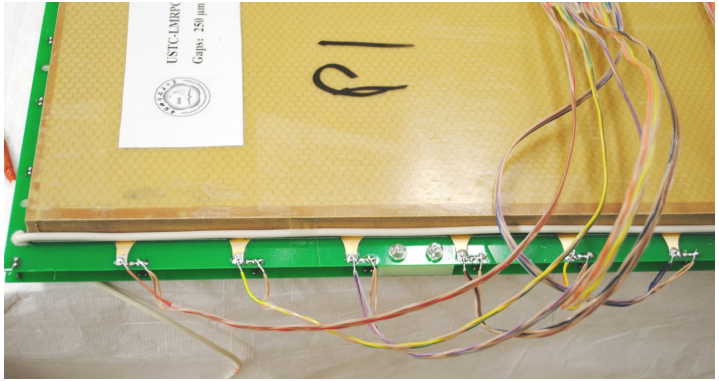
- Each tray has 12 strips
- Each strip is 38 mm wide, with a 6 mm gap in between, and 89 cm long
- Double-ended readout to measure hit time and position

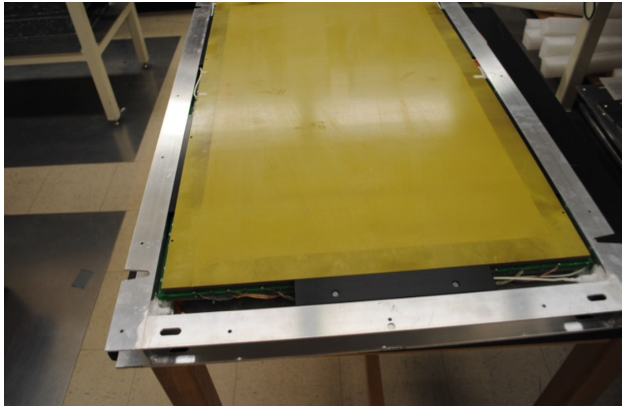
HW: given that the time signals for a particle hitting a strip of length L are t_1 and t_2, and the signal travel velocity in the strip is v, what is the time and position of the hit?

Tray assembly

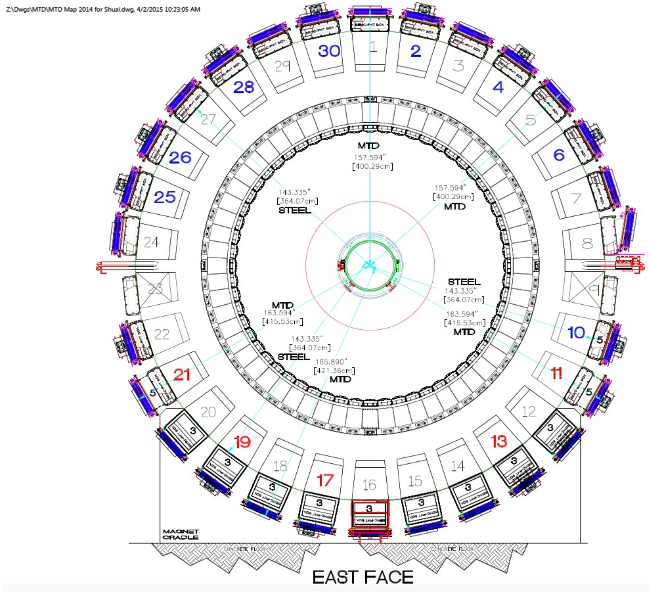


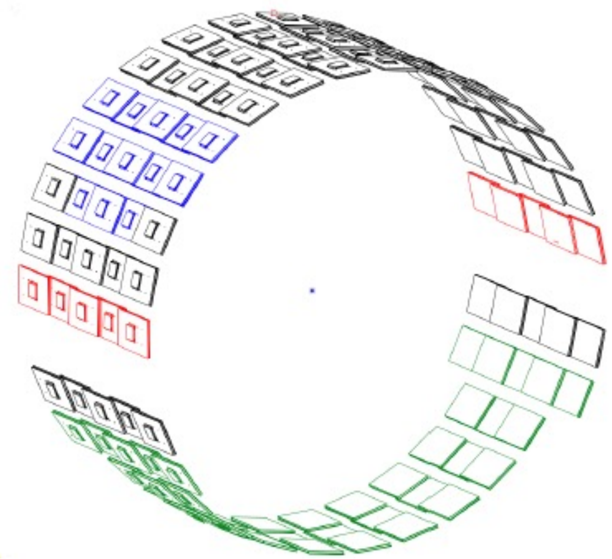






MTD geometry

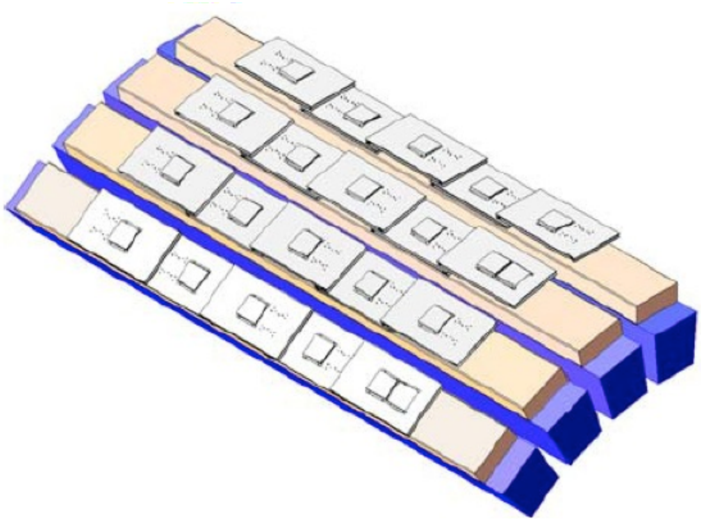


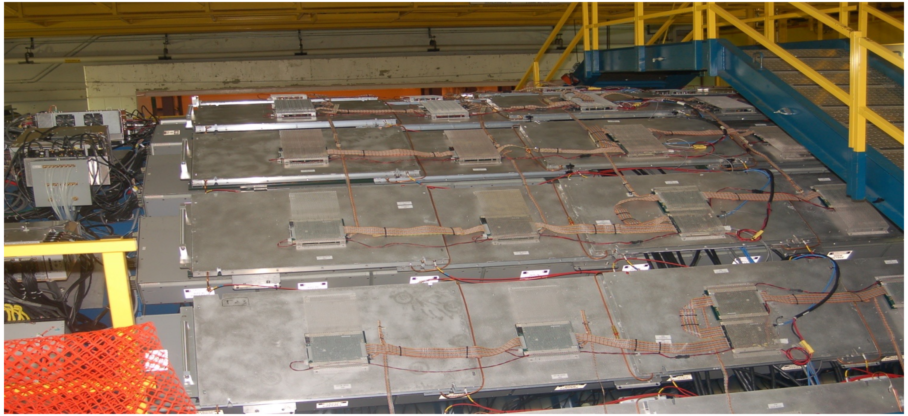


- Located outside of the STAR magnet (~5 interaction lengths), acting as an absorber
- 122 trays on 28 backlegs; 1439 readout strips

HW: what is the interaction length? Why is important for MTD analysis?

MTD installation





Event trigger

- A trigger is used to select (rare) events of interest during online data-taking
  - Increase signal counts for limited data-taking bandwidth
  - Save disk space
  - Facilitate offline analysis

- For example, a $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^{+}+\mu^{-}$ is produced in every ~10k Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV
  - 1 measured J/ψ in every 3M events

MTD dimuon trigger

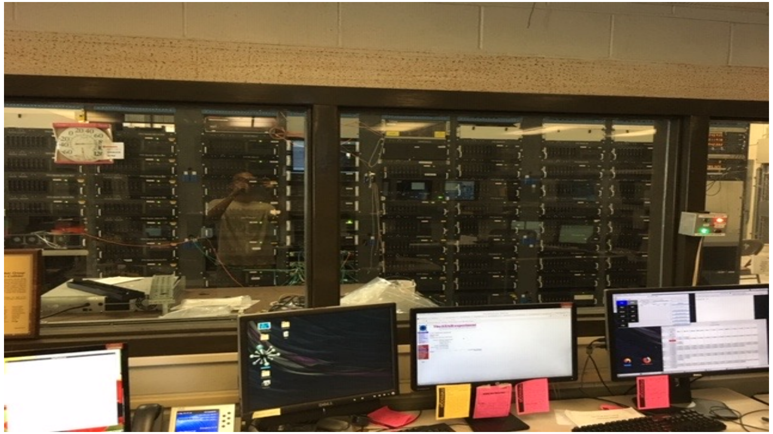
- Process: $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^{+}+\mu^{-}$
- Trigger condition: two signals in the MTD based on timing
- Rejection power: 1 to 30
  - Still dominated by background
- Triggered events are saved in dedicated files for later processing

MTD operation

- Gas mixture: 95% Freon + 4.5% Isobutane + 0.5% SF_6
  - Isobutane and SF_6 are used to control ionization process
- High voltage: +6300V, -6300V
- 24/7 on-call experts

Go from electronic signal to data

- **Data-taking**
  - Usually in the first half of a year
  - 24/7 4-person shift to take data and monitor the status of detectors (reduced during pandemic)
  - Rates: ~2 kHz for Au+Au @ 200 GeV, 500 TB/week



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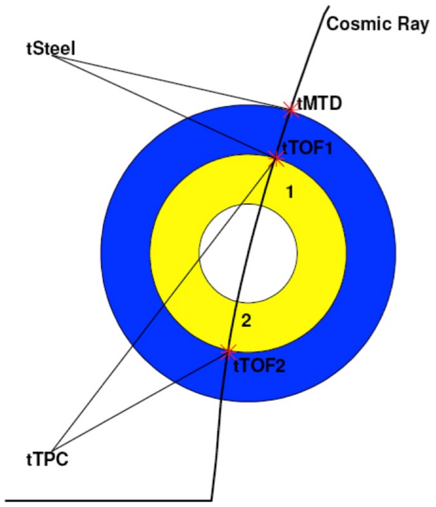
- **Data-taking**
  - Usually in the first half of a year
  - 24/7 4-person shift to take data and monitor the status of detectors
  - Rates: ~2 kHz for Au+Au @ 200 GeV, 500 TB/week
- **Calibration**
  - Convert electronics signal to physical quantities (TDC → time)
  - Detector alignment
  - T0 calibration



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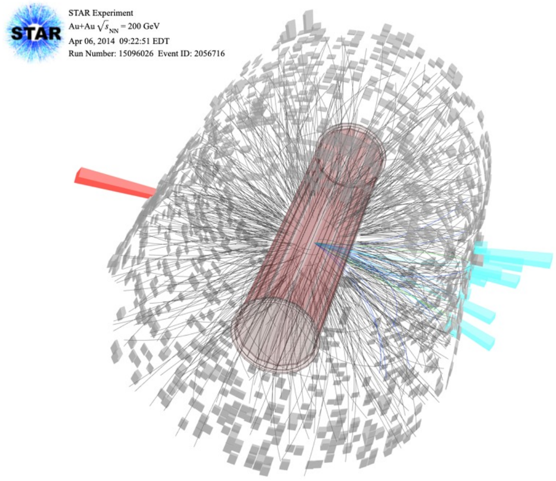
  - Rates: ~2 kHz for Au+Au @ 200 GeV, 500 TB/week
- **Calibration**
  - Convert electronics signal to physical quantities (TDC
  - Detector alignment
  - T0 calibration
- **Data production**
  - Vertex: position where the collision happens
  - Tracks: momentum, position, charge …
  - Hits: energy, position, timing …

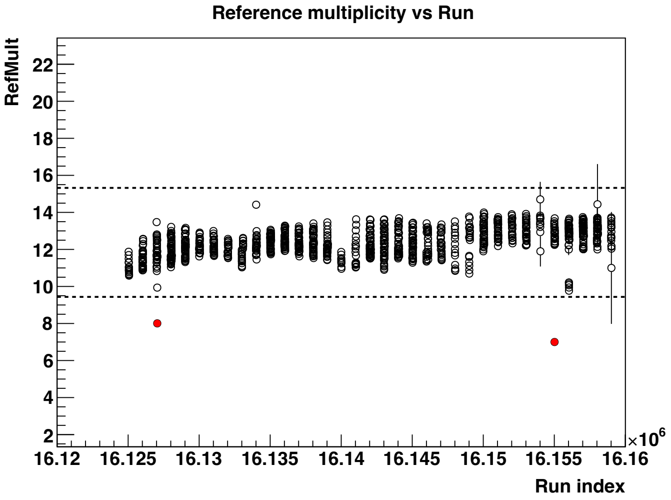


Data analysis

- Quality assurance
- Signal extraction
- Detector effect correction
- Physics results

Quality assurance

- To make sure the detector performance is stable across all the runs
  - A run is a period of time (30-45 min) during data taking



➢ Typical procedure

1) Plot physics quantity of interest against run indices
   - Left: number of reconstructed charged particles
2) Project the figure to y-axis and obtain the distribution of the quantity. Fit the distribution with a Gaussian distribution, and define exclusion zone, e.g. 4σ
3) Check records to find out the cause of the abnormal behavior.
   - If understood, these runs could be used in principle
4) Runs in exclusion zone are labeled "bad", and removed for further analysis

HW: what is fraction of runs excluded with 4σ cut due to statistical fluctuations?

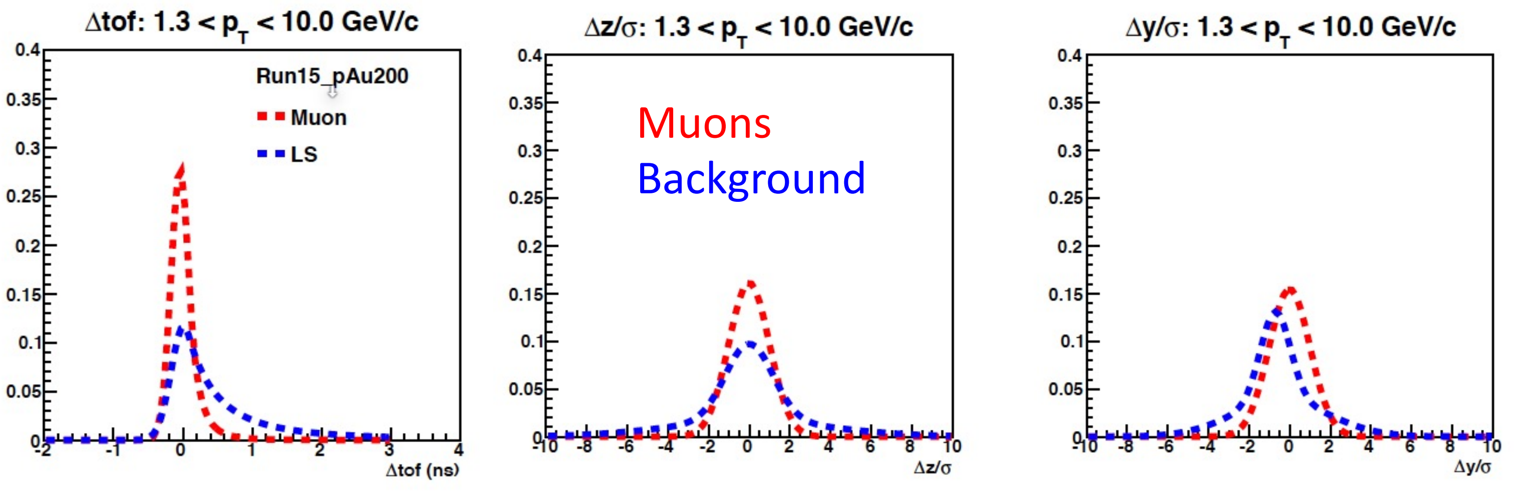
Signal extraction

- Process of interest: $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^{+}+\mu^{-}$
- Signal reconstruction
  - Identify muons
  - Calculate invariant mass, i.e. rest mass (3.0969 GeV/c^2 for J/ψ), of the dimuon pairs. It is conserved during particle decay.
  - Fit the invariant mass distribution to obtain J/ψ counts

HW: how to calculate the invariant mass from decay daughters' momenta?

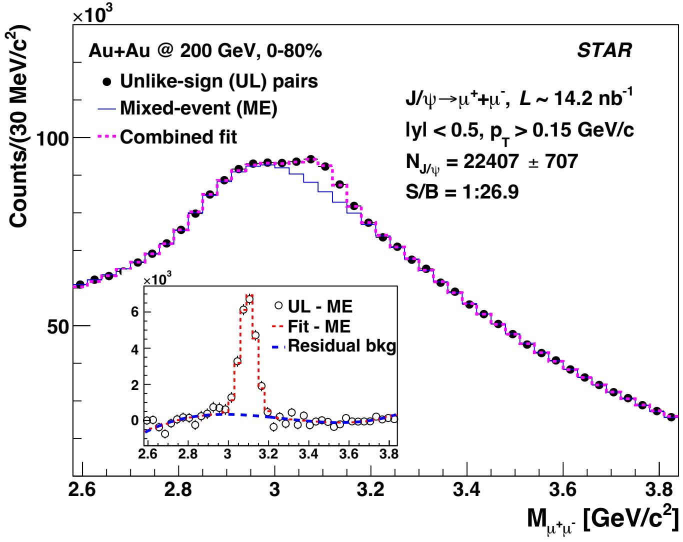
Muon identification

- PID: cut on measured quantities related to particle characteristics, e.g. mass, interaction with material, etc.
- Remaining contamination in the selected sample



Signal extraction

STAR, PLB 797 (2019) 134917



- Black circles: invariant mass of $\mu^+\mu^-$ pairs (unlike-sign, UL)
- Background
  - Random combination of $\mu^+\mu^-$ pairs: combine candidate μ^+ and μ^- from different collisions (ME, blue histogram)
  - Other physical sources of residual background
- Fit UL-ME distribution with a Gaussian (J/ψ) plus polynomial (res. bkg.) function
- J/ψ counts: integral of the Gaussian function

22k J/ψ in ~2B triggered events

Corrections for detector effects

- Detector effects
  - Acceptance: a detector covers limited phase space
  - Efficiency: probability to measure a given particle in the acceptance
  - Resolution: the accuracy of the measured quantities, such as a particle's momentum or energy
- All these need to be corrected for, in order to obtain physics results, which should not depend on the specific experiment measuring it.

Corrections for detector effects

- How to estimate detector effects?

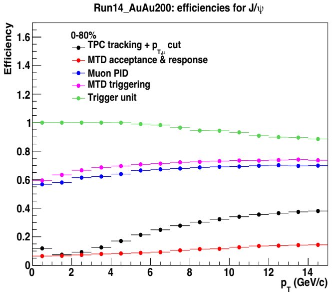
1. Simulate physics process with Monte Carlo generators, e.g. PYTHIA

2. Pass simulated signal through detector simulations, e.g. GEANT, and embed it into real data

3. Reconstruct embedded events the same way as real data

4. Evaluate detector effects:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\text{output}}{\text{input}}$$



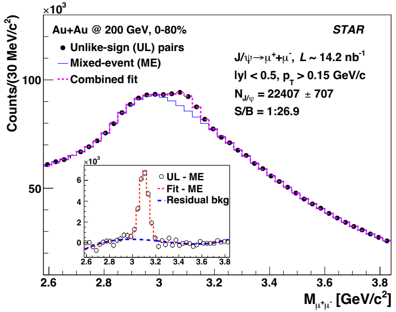
Nuclear Modification Factor (R_{AA})

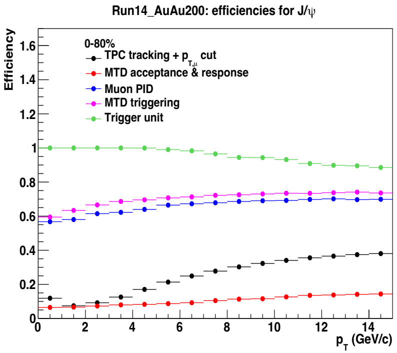
- Used to quantify modification to J/ψ production by the QGP

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

$$\begin{cases} R_{AA} < 1\text{: suppression} \\ R_{AA} = 1\text{: no (net) medium effects} \\ R_{AA} > 1\text{: enhancement} \end{cases}$$

Physics results





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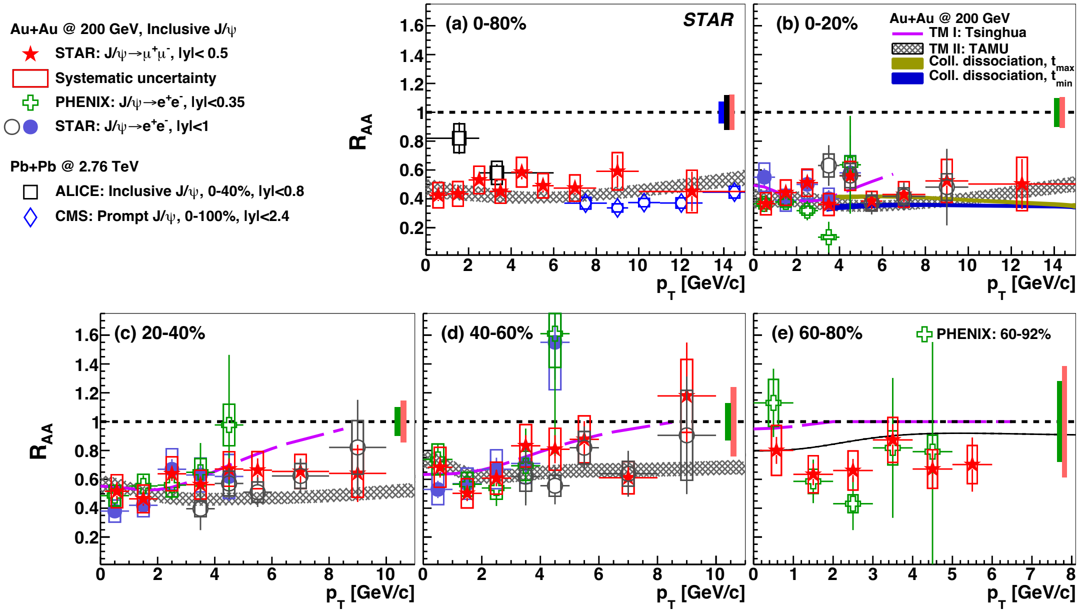


dissociation → QGP formation

Summary

- One of the main goals of heavy-ion physics is **to study the properties of the QGP** created in these collisions.
  - QGP: consisting of deconfined quarks and gluons
- Use J/ψ as a probe to study the QGP → dissociation/suppression expected
- Measure J/ψ → $\mu^+ + \mu^-$ process with the MTD: dimuon trigger and muon identification
  - MTD is based on MRPC technology
- ***Suppression of J/ψ yields is observed in central Au+Au collisions, compared to pp collisions***

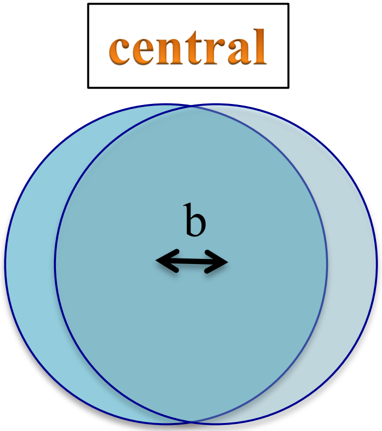
Homework

1) Slide 16: given that the time signals for a particle hitting a strip of length L are t_1 and t_2, and the signal travel velocity in the strip is v, what is the time and position of the hit?
2) Slide 18: what is the interaction length? Why is important for MTD analysis?
3) Slide 27: what is fraction of runs excluded with 4σ cut due to statistical fluctuations?
4) Slide 28: how to calculate the invariant mass from decay daughters' momenta?

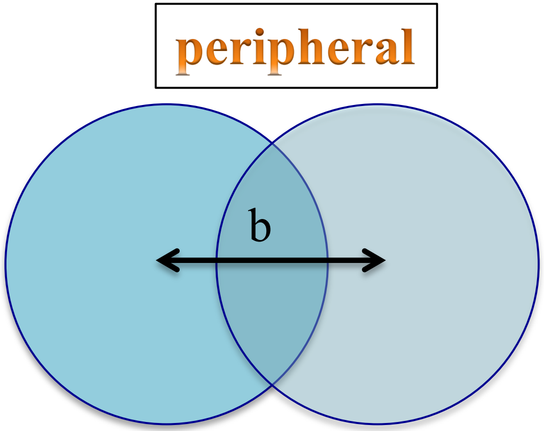
Backup

What is Centrality?

- Used to quantify the collision geometry/impact parameter



- Small impact parameter
- Large N_{coll}
- Larger/hotter medium



- Large impact parameter
- Small N_{coll}
- Smaller/no medium