

# A New Era of Discovery

Guided by the New Long Range Plan  
for Nuclear Science

## Theoretical progress in small systems calculations

Wenbin Zhao

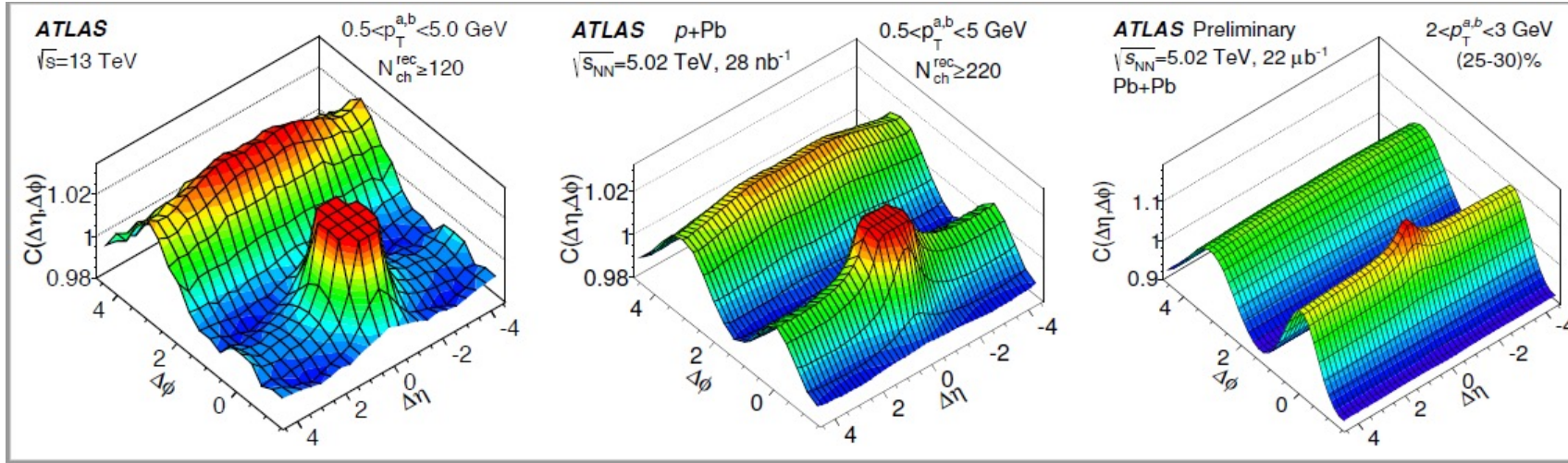
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

University of California, Berkeley

June 11-14, 2024, RHIC/AGS

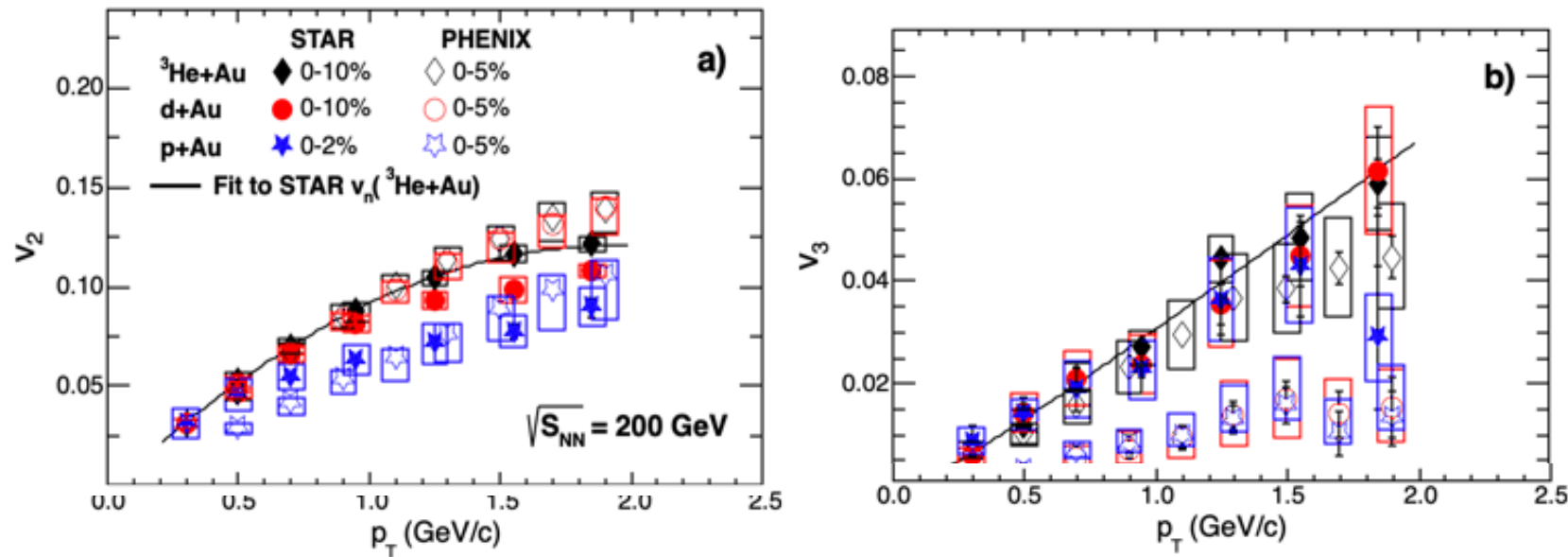


# Collectivity in large and small systems



- Collective flow in p-p, p-Pb and Pb-Pb at the LHC.

ATLAS, Phys. Lett. B789, 444.



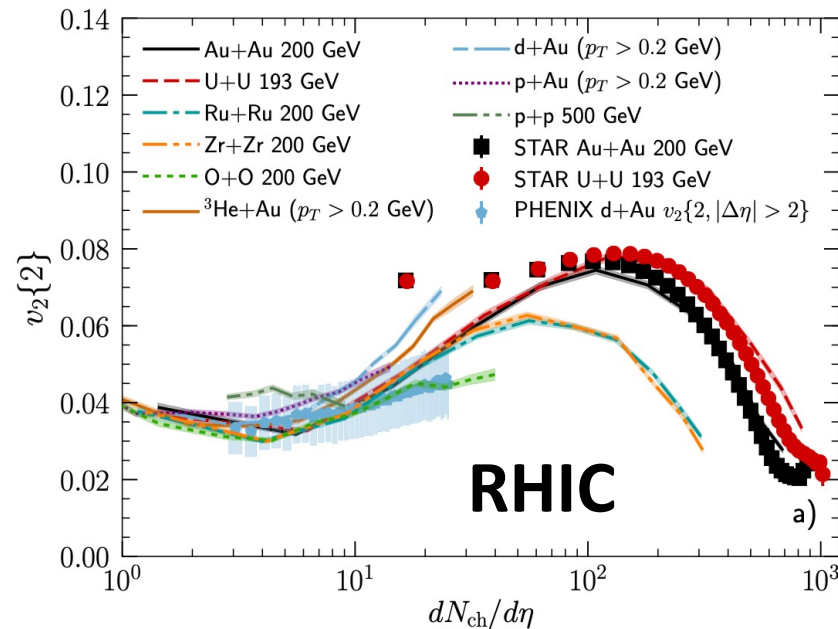
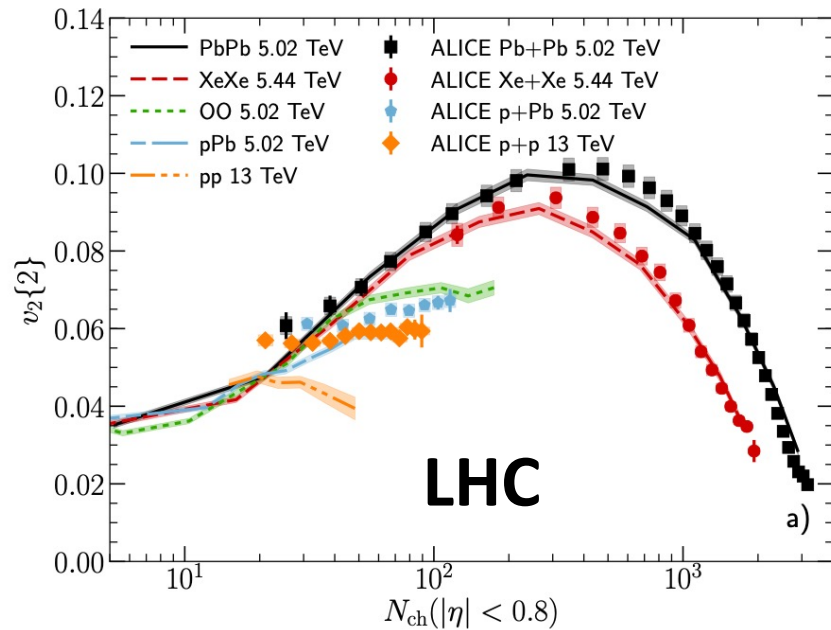
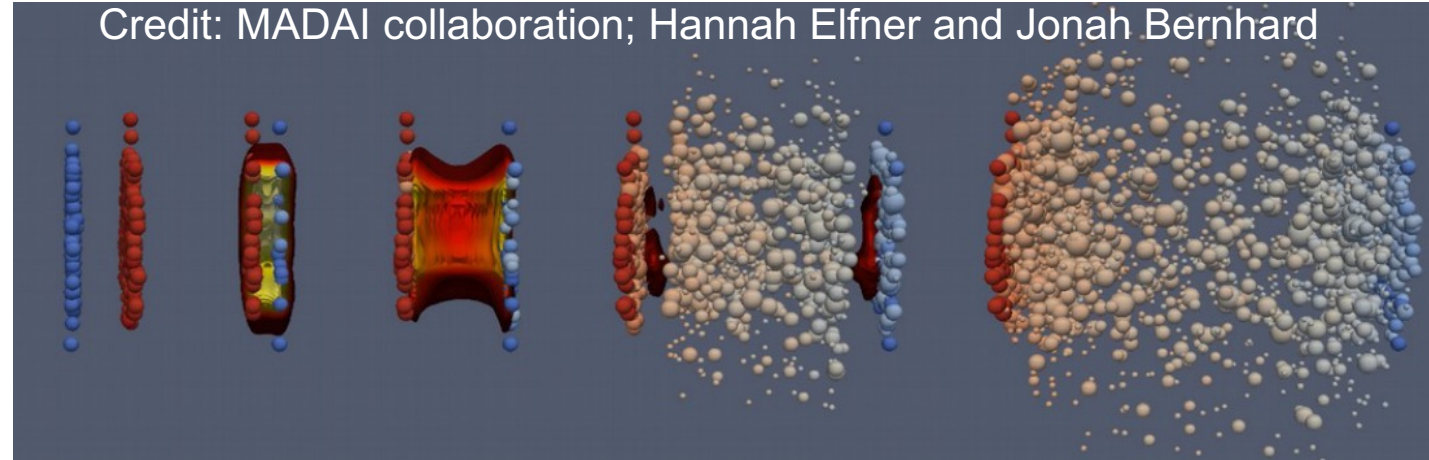
- Collective flow in p-Au, d-Au and He3-Au in RHIC.

PHENIX: Nature Physics, **15**, pages214–220 (2019);  
STAR: PhysRevLett.130.242301.

- Collective flow observed from large to small systems.

# Standard model of Heavy-Ion Collisions

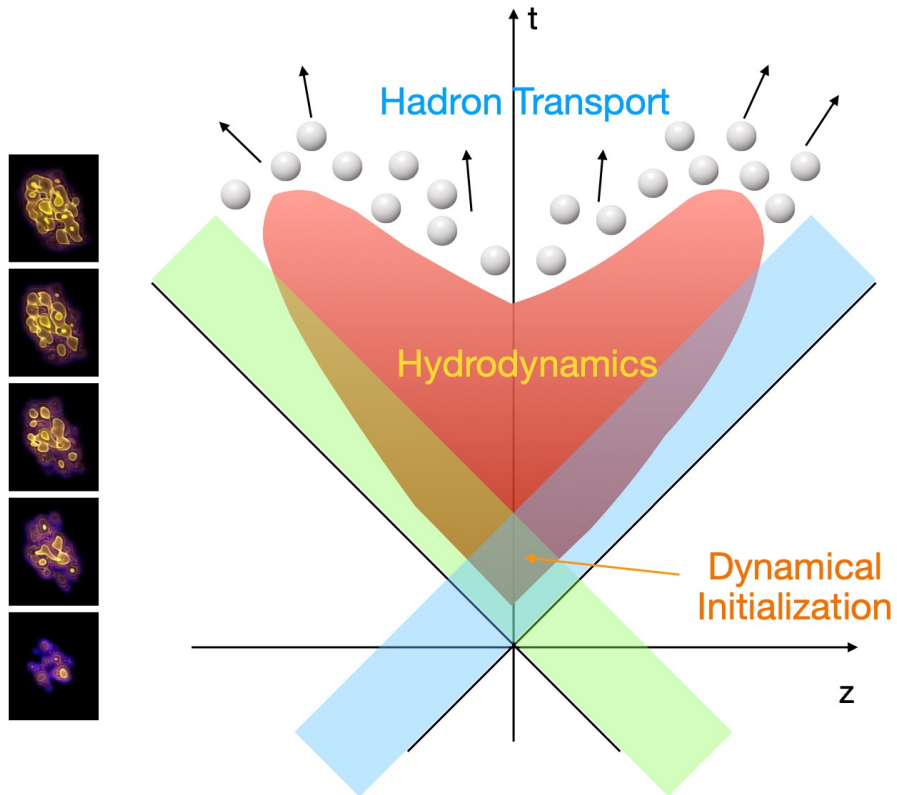
- **Initial conditions** (3D-Glauber, TRENTo, IP-Glasma, AMPT...)
- **Viscous hydrodynamics** (MUSIC, VISHew, CLVis, Trajectum...)
- **Hadron cascade afterburner** (UrQMD, SMASH, JAM...)



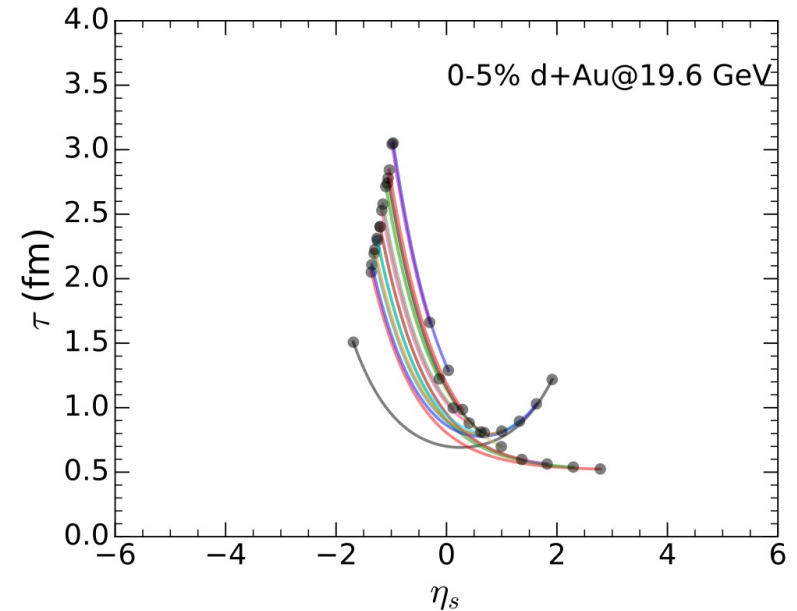
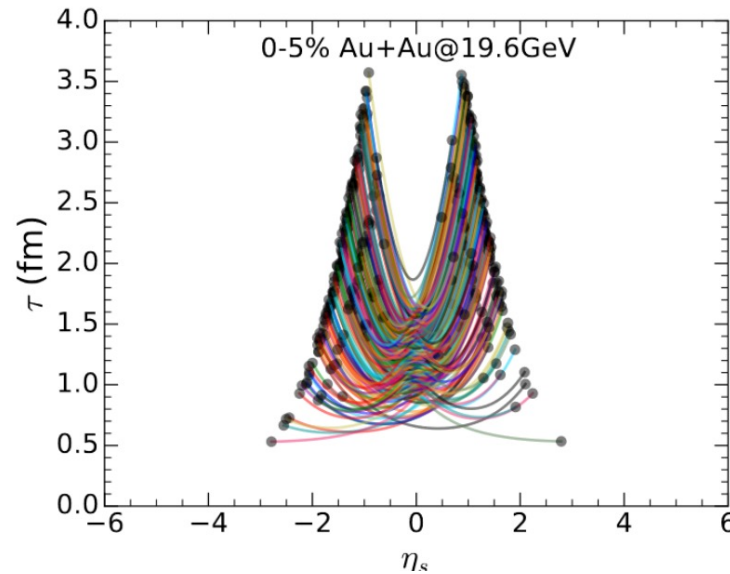
• **One fluid rules them all.**

B. Schenke, C. Shen, and P. Tribedy, Phys. Rev. C. 102(4), 044905 (2020).

# Dynamic 3+1D simulation



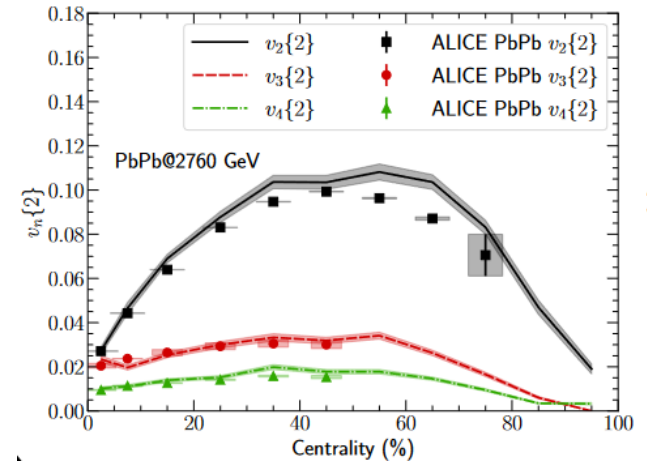
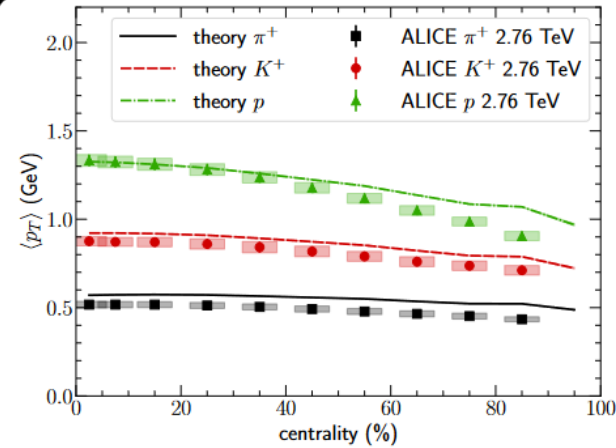
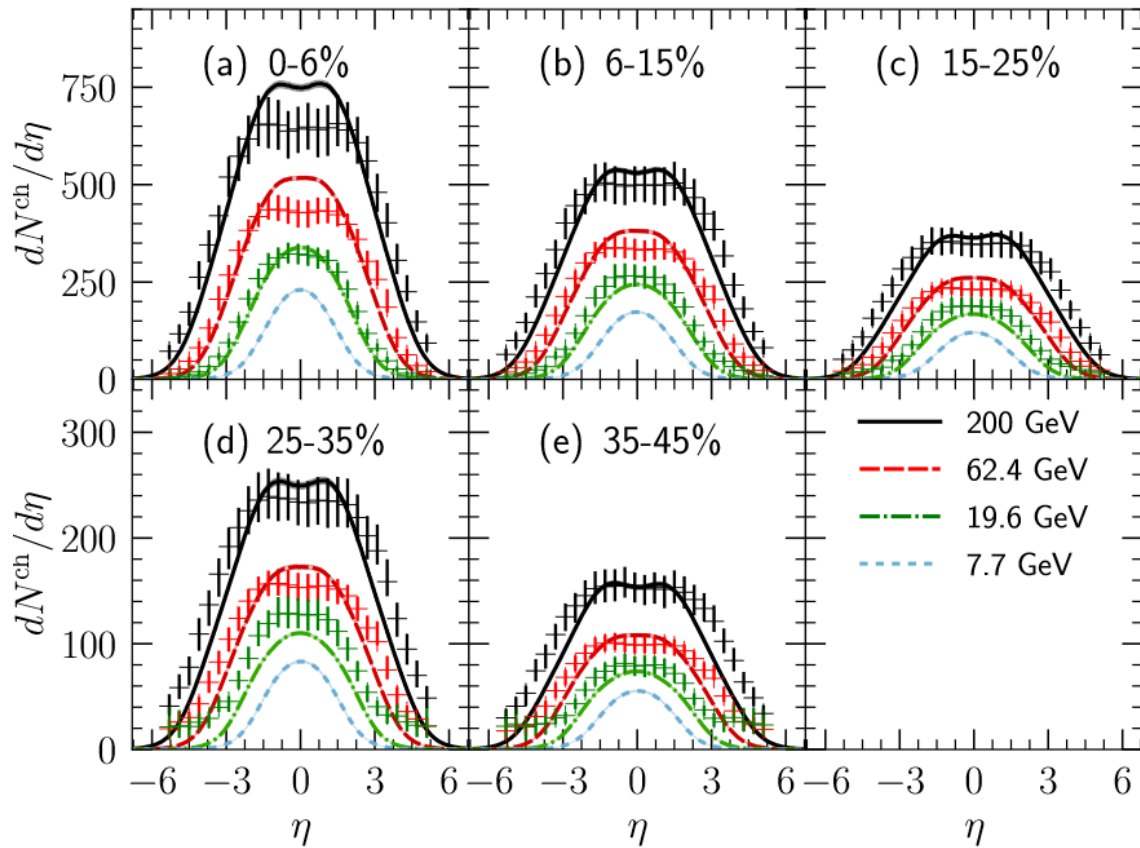
- Collision geometry is determined by MC-Glauber model.
- Incoming quarks are decelerated with a classical string tension with the source terms in hydro.
- Provides e-b-e transverse and longitudinal fluctuations.



C. Shen and B. Schenke, Phys. Rev. C 97, 024907 (2018), Phys. Rev. C,105 (2022), 064905.



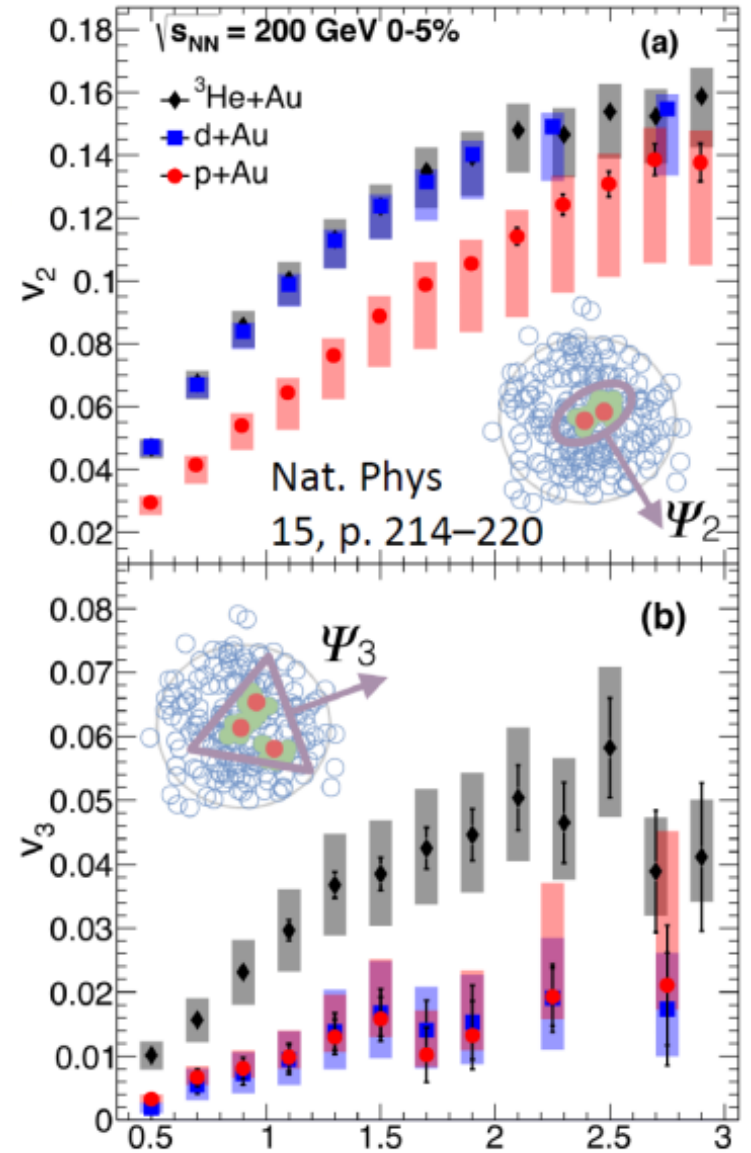
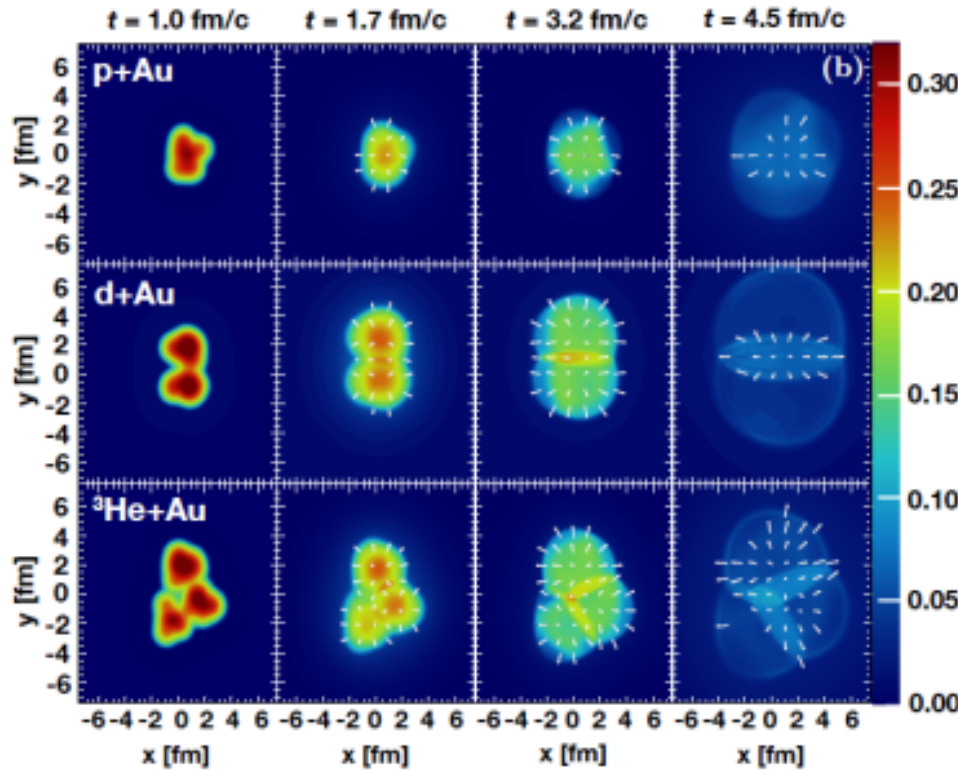
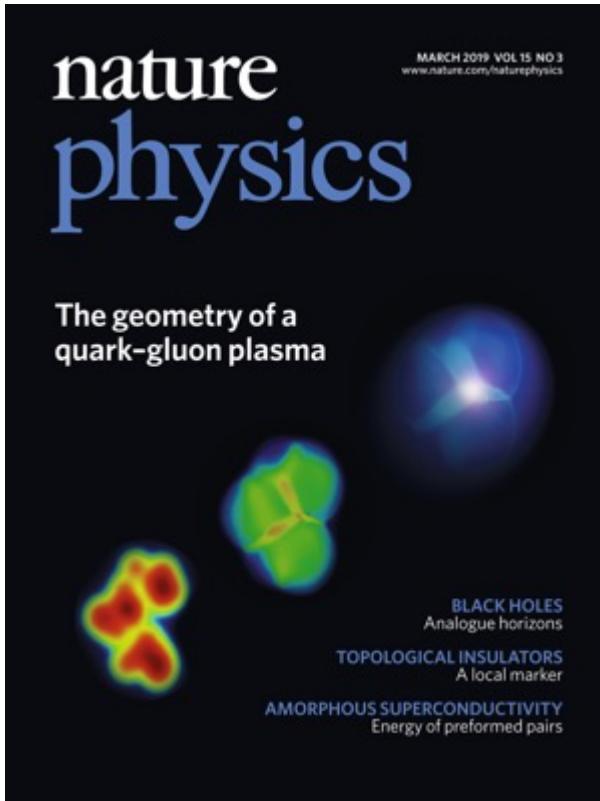
# 3DGlauber + MUSIC + UrQMD



C. Shen and B. Schenke, Phys. Rev. C,105 (2022), 064905.  
 C. Shen and B. Schenke Phys. Rev. C 97, 024907 (2018).

- 3D-Glauber + MUSIC + UrQMD works well in describing bulk dynamics observables low energies to high energies in heavy-ion collisions.

# Small System Scan at RHIC (PHENIX)



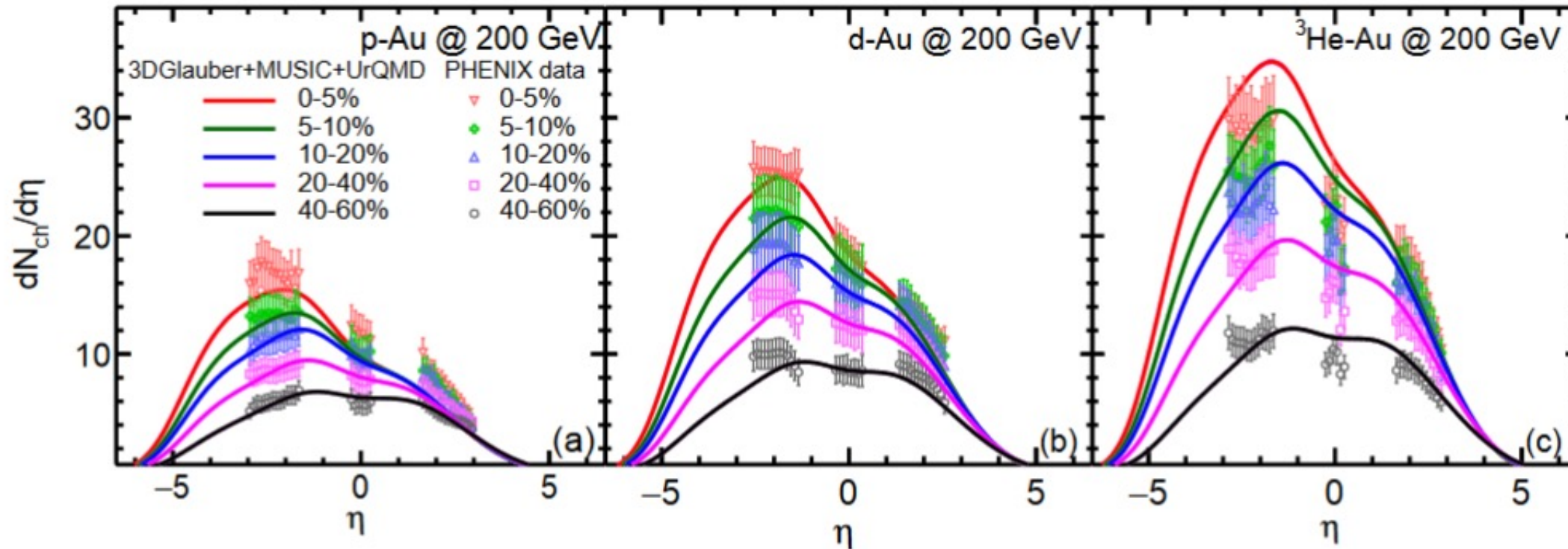
Lower  $v_2$  in p+Au

Higher  $v_3$  in  $^3\text{He}+\text{Au}$

[Nature Physics](#) **15**, pages 214–220 (2019)

Clear hierarchy of  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  among three systems in  $p_T$  (GeV/c)  
PHENIX measurements

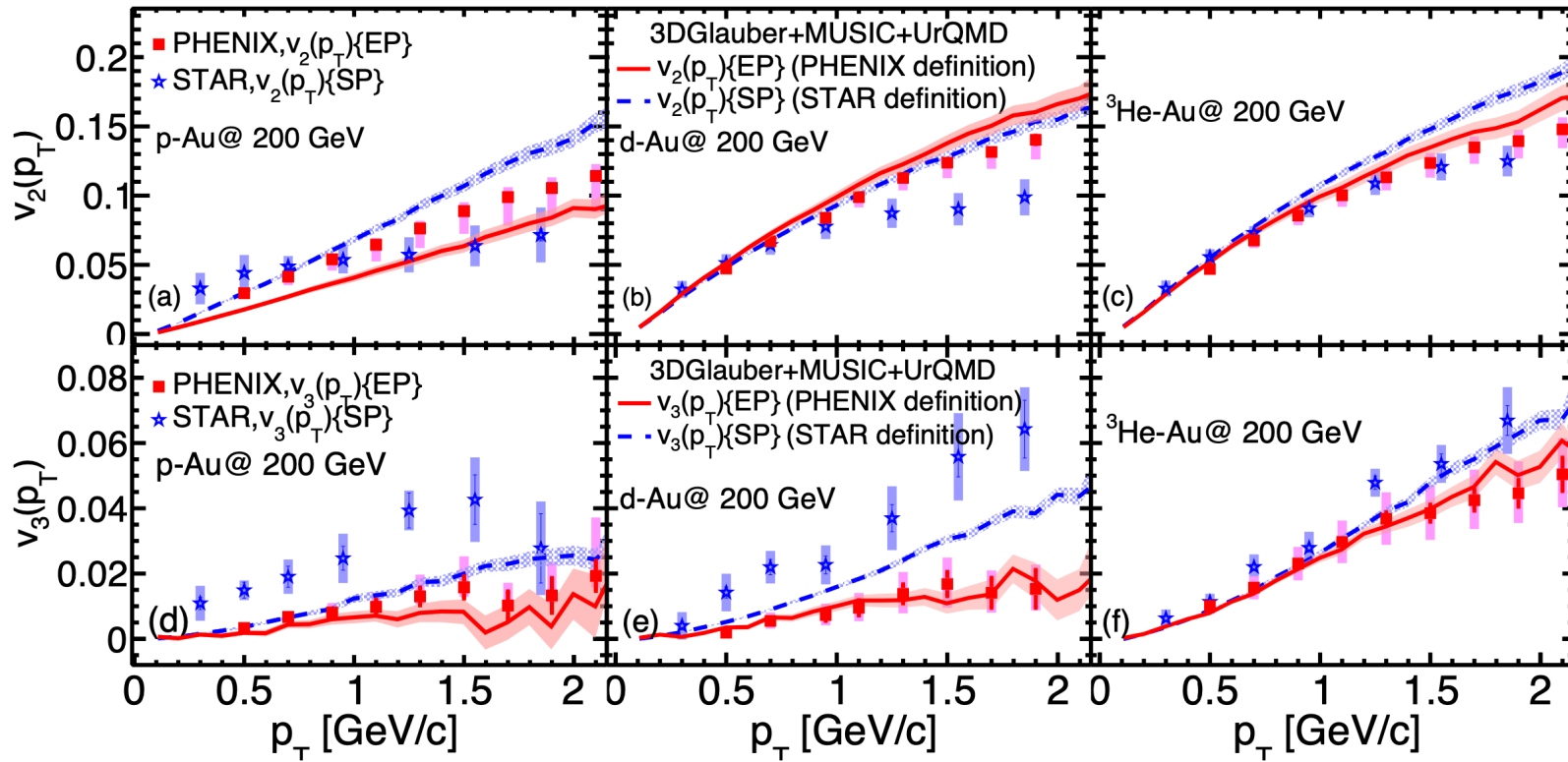
# Full (3+1)D simulations in asymmetric systems



W. Zhao, S. Ryu, C. Shen and B. Schenke, Phys. Rev. C 107, 014904 (2023).

- The (3+1)D hybrid model describes the yields and  $\eta$ -dependent  $dN_{ch}/d\eta$  for all asymmetric systems
- The asymmetric shape from central to peripheral collisions is well captured.

# $v_n(p_T)$ ( $n = 2, 3$ ) from two-particle correlations



PHENIX  $\eta$  range:

$[-3.9, -3.1]$  v. s.  $[-0.35, 0.35]$   
 $[-3.0, -1.0]$  v. s.  $[-0.35, 0.35]$  ;

STAR  $\eta$  range:

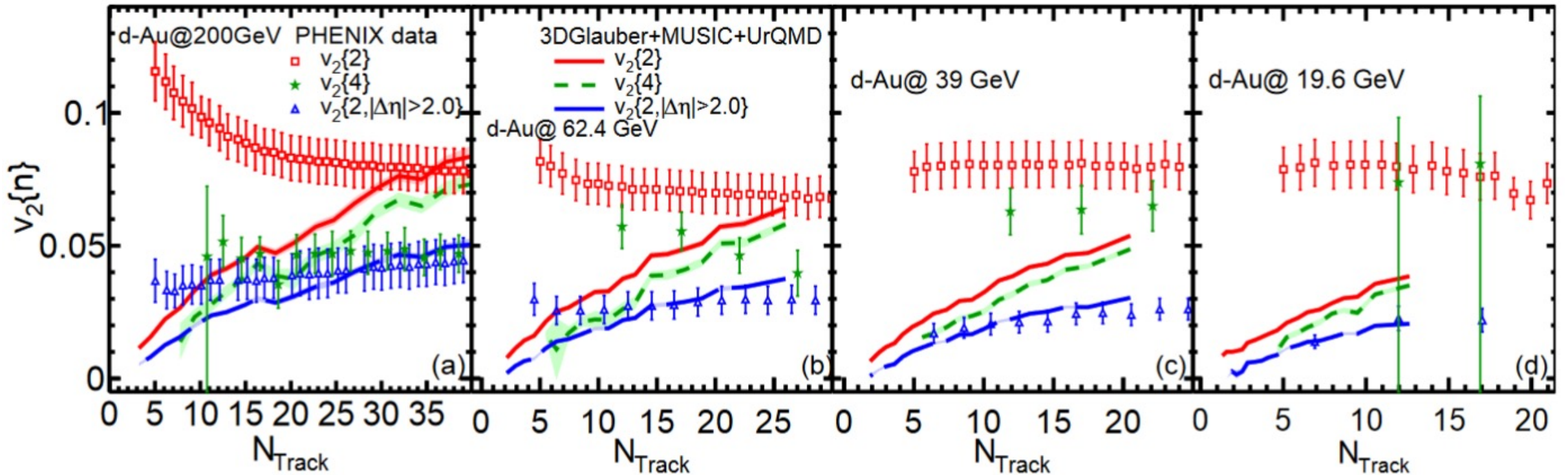
$[-0.9, 0.9]$  and  $|\Delta\eta| > 1.0$

W. Zhao, S. Ryu, C. Shen and B. Schenke Phys. Rev. C 107, 014904 (2023).

- Using the PHENIX definition, our 3D hybrid model reproduces the  $v_2(p_T)$  and  $v_3(p_T)$  for all three systems.
- The 3D hybrid model gives larger  $v_3(p_T)$  with the STAR definition in (p, d)+Au collisions than those from PHENIX.
- The longitudinal decorrelation explains 50% difference between PHENIX and STAR  $v_3$  measurements.



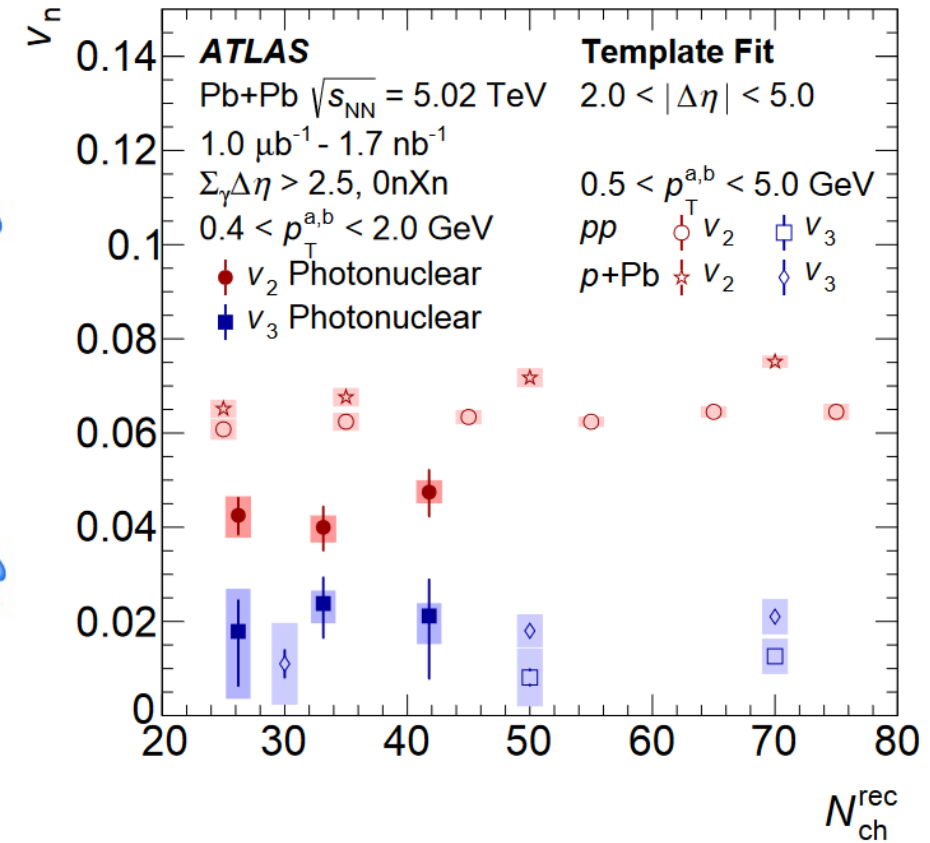
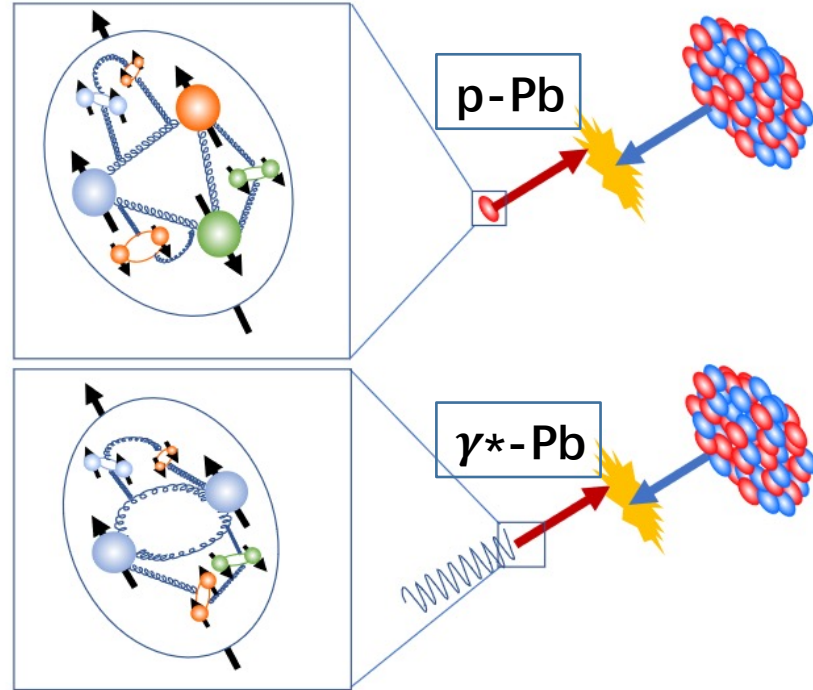
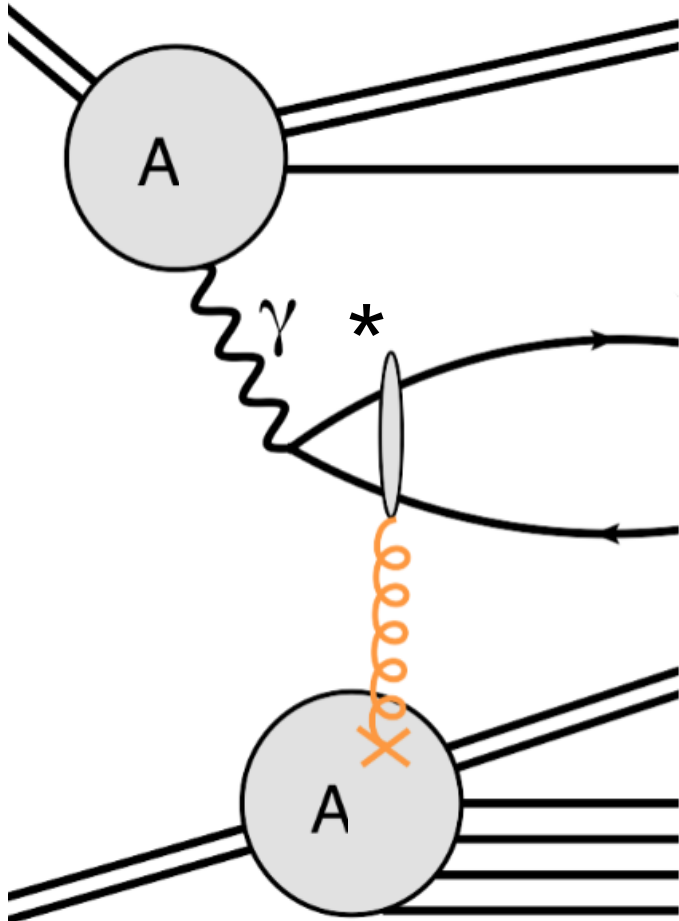
# Collective flow in small systems at low energies



W. Zhao, S. Ryu, C. Shen and B. Schenke Phys. Rev. C 107, 014904 (2023).

- Collectivity is observed even in small systems at low collision energies.

# “Collectivity” in UPC

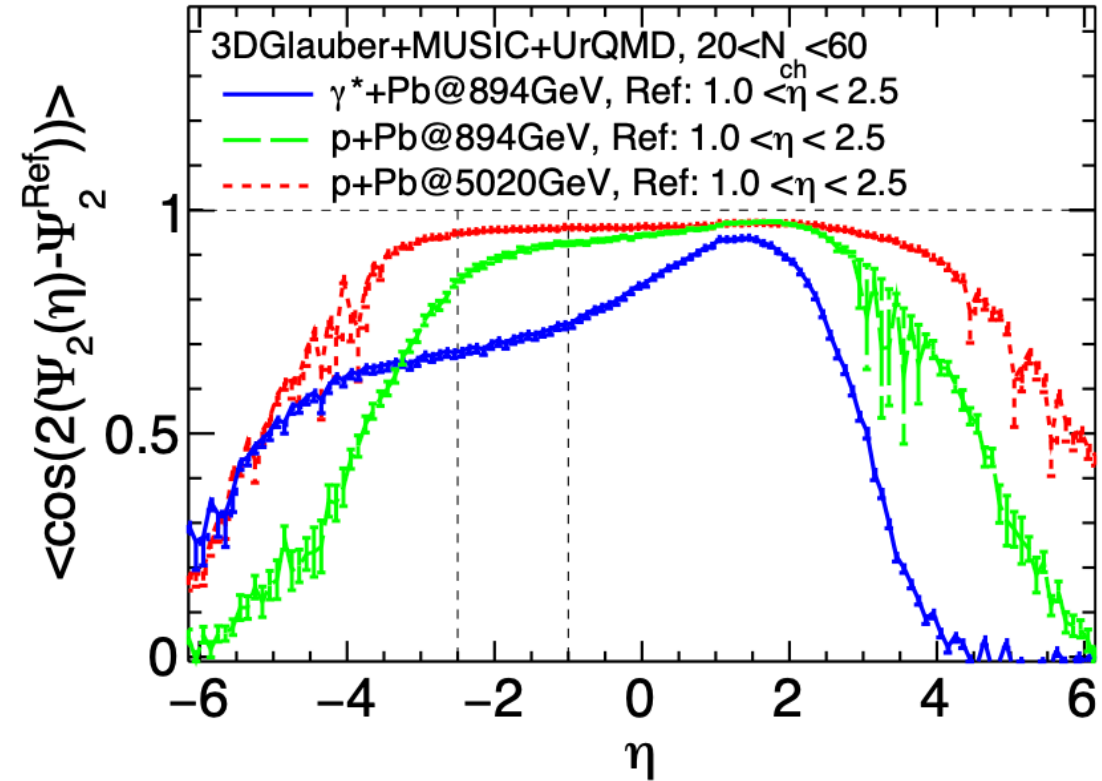
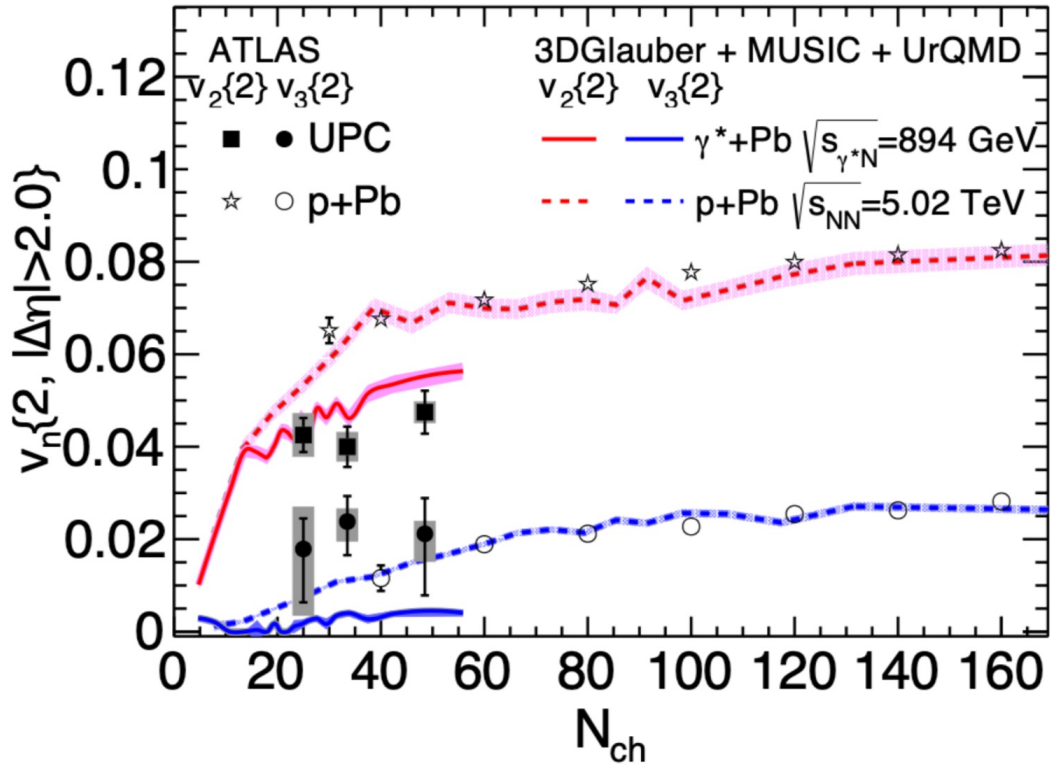
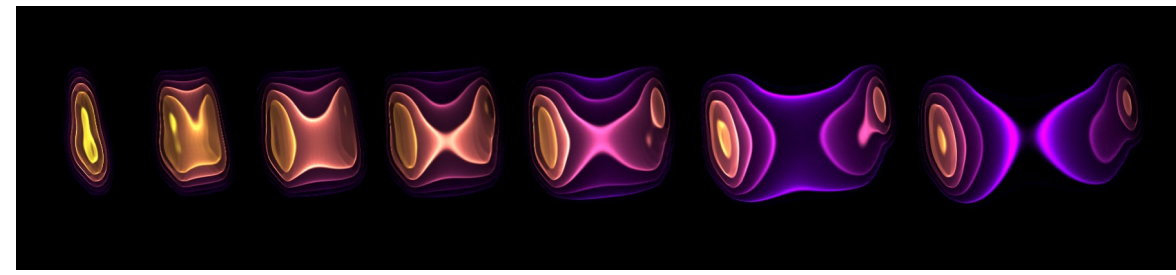


ATLAS Phys. Rev. C 104, 014903 (2021). Y. Shi, etc.al, Phys. Rev. D 103, 054017 (2021).

- UPCs have a similar order of magnitude and trends of collectivity as other previously measured hadronic systems

Taken from Nicole Lewis's slide

# Hydrodynamic simulations

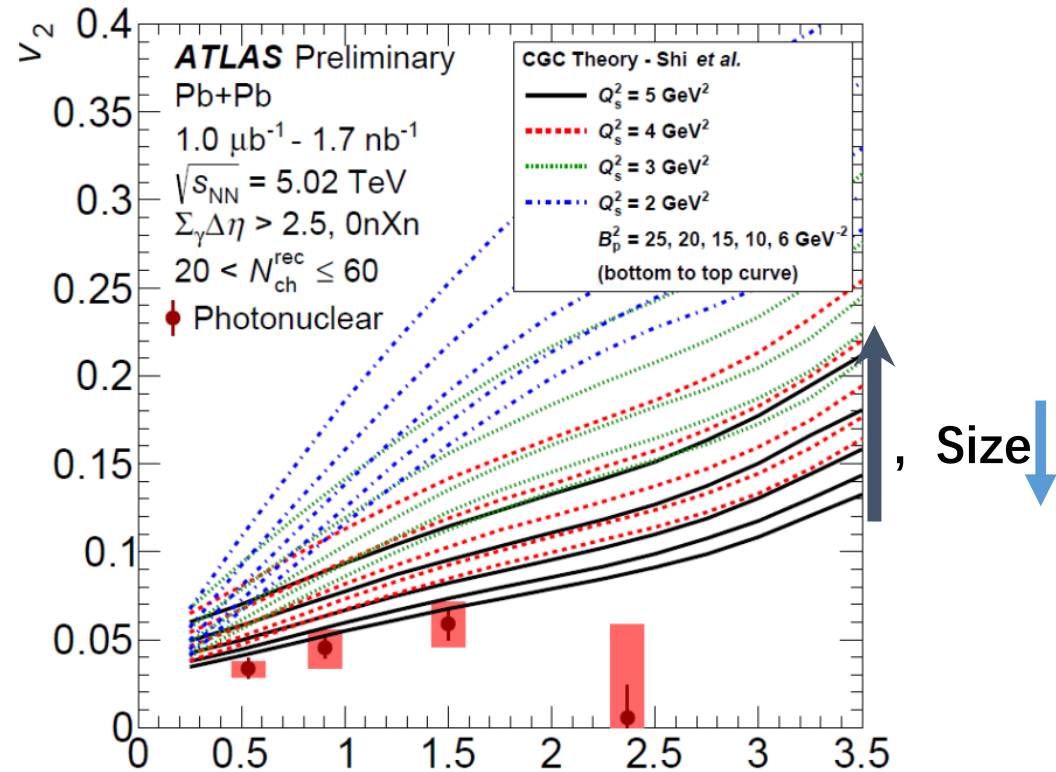
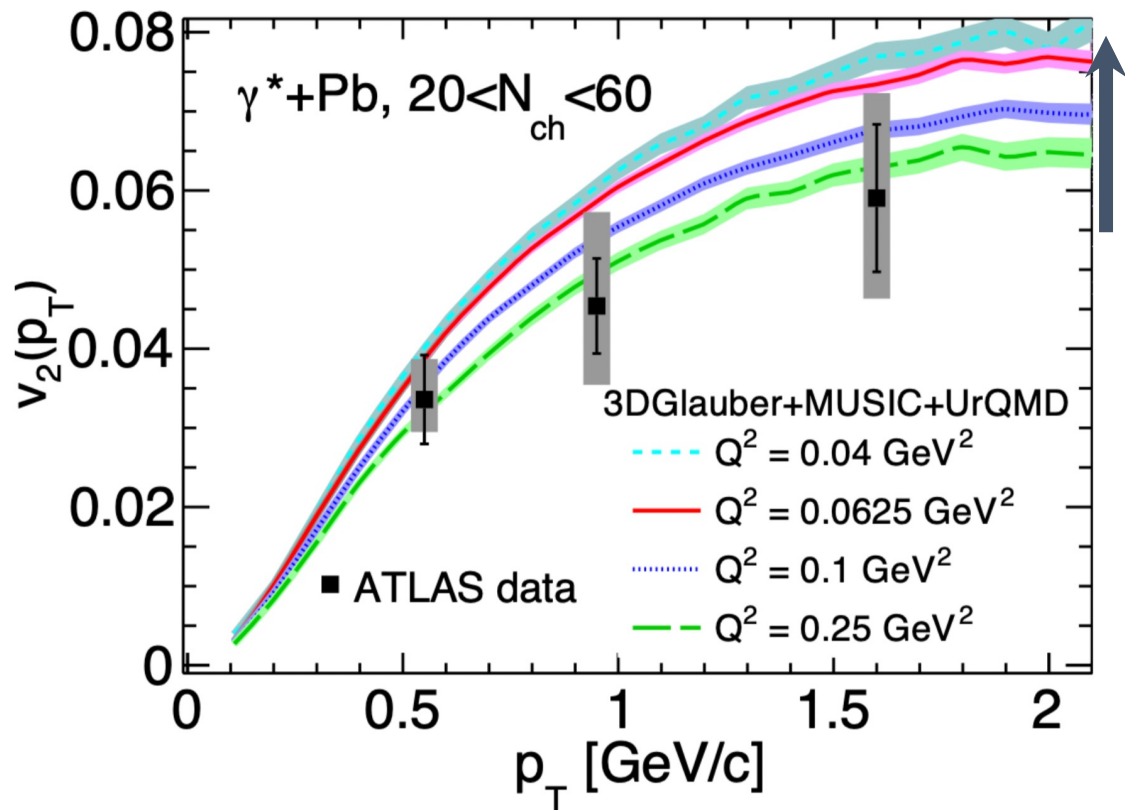


- 3D hydrodynamics describes the  $v_2\{2\}$  and hierarchy in  $\gamma^*+\text{Pb}$  and p+Pb well.
- The longitudinal flow decorrelation is stronger in the  $\gamma^*+\text{Pb}$  than p+Pb, resulting in the  $v_2$  hierarchy between  $\gamma^*+\text{Pb}$  and p+Pb .

W. Zhao, C. Shen and B. Schenke PhysRevLett.129.252302.

C. Shen and B. Schenke, Phys. Rev. C,105 (2022), 064905. 11

# Photon virtuality dependence of flow



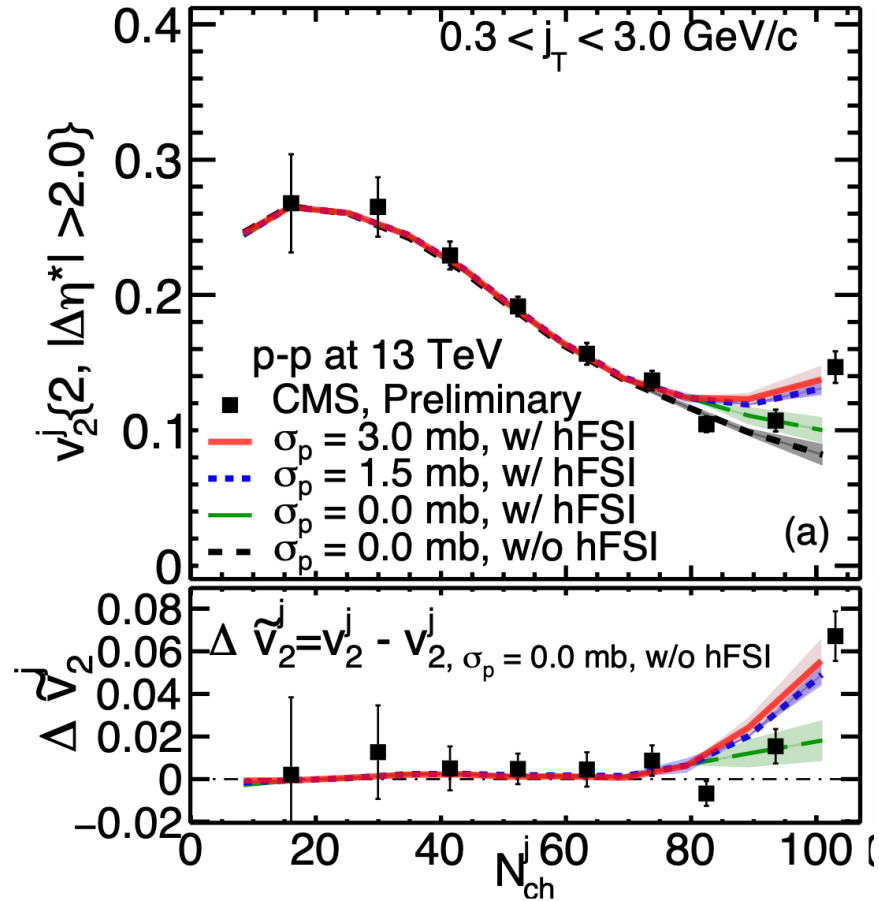
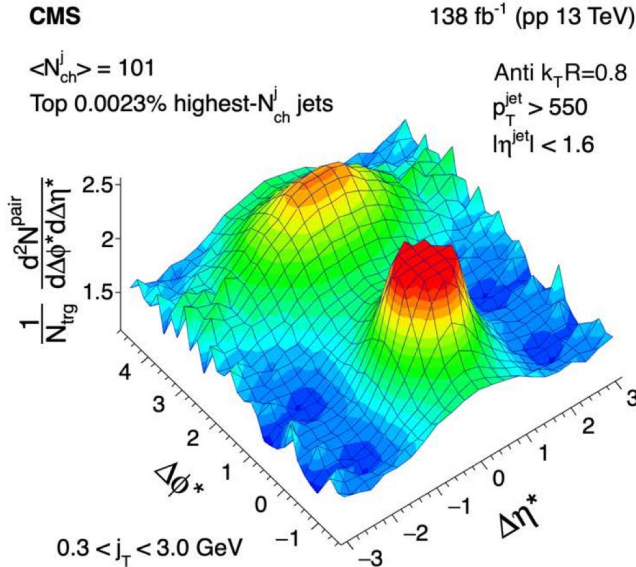
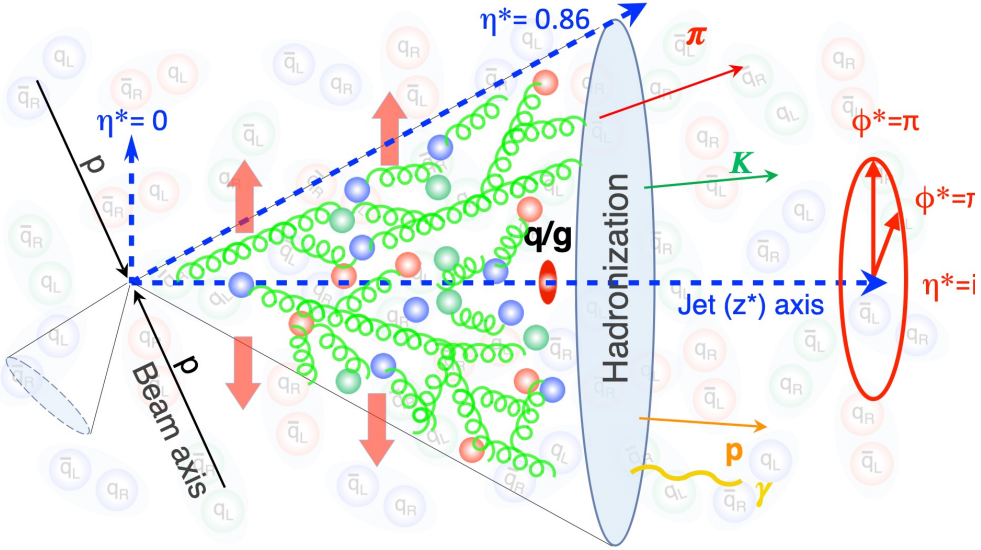
The transverse positions of the valence partons are sampled from a 2D Gaussian  $P(x, y) \propto \exp\left[-\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2} Q^2\right]$

- Hydro: larger transverse space of the geometry allows more shape fluctuations and the  $v_2$  are larger.
- CGC: Larger number of independent domains leads to lower  $v_2$ .
- Hydro predicts the opposite trend with  $Q^2$  than the CGC.



**Smallest QGP droplet?**

# “Collectivity” inside the high multiplicity jet in p-p

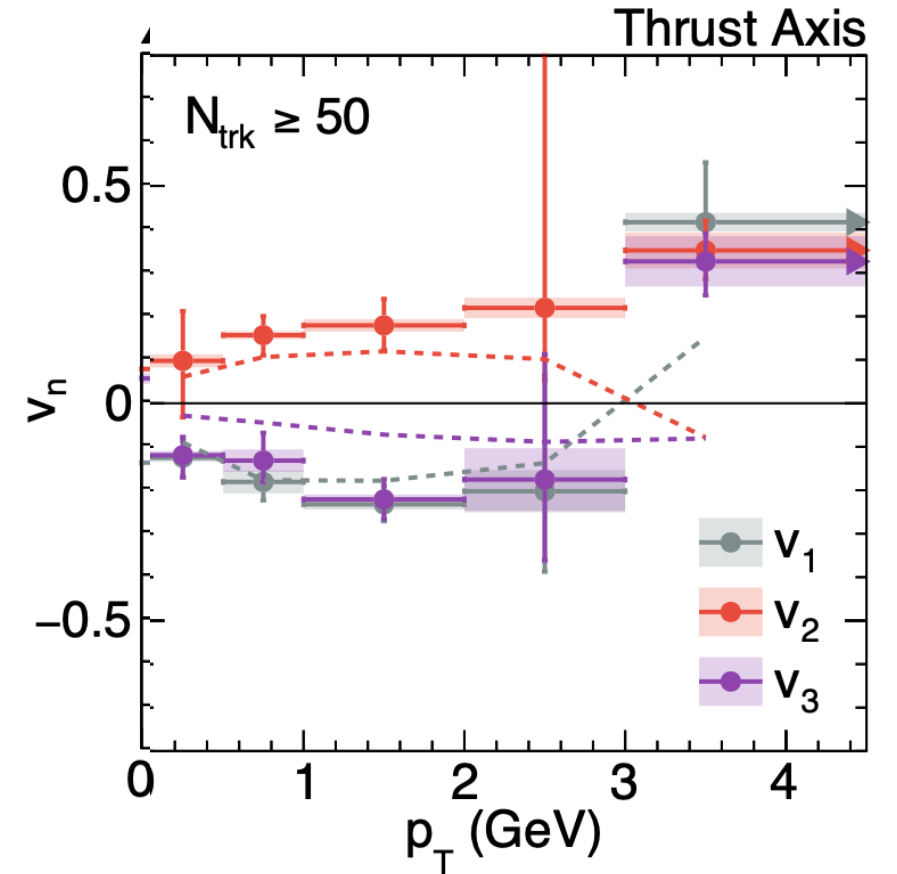
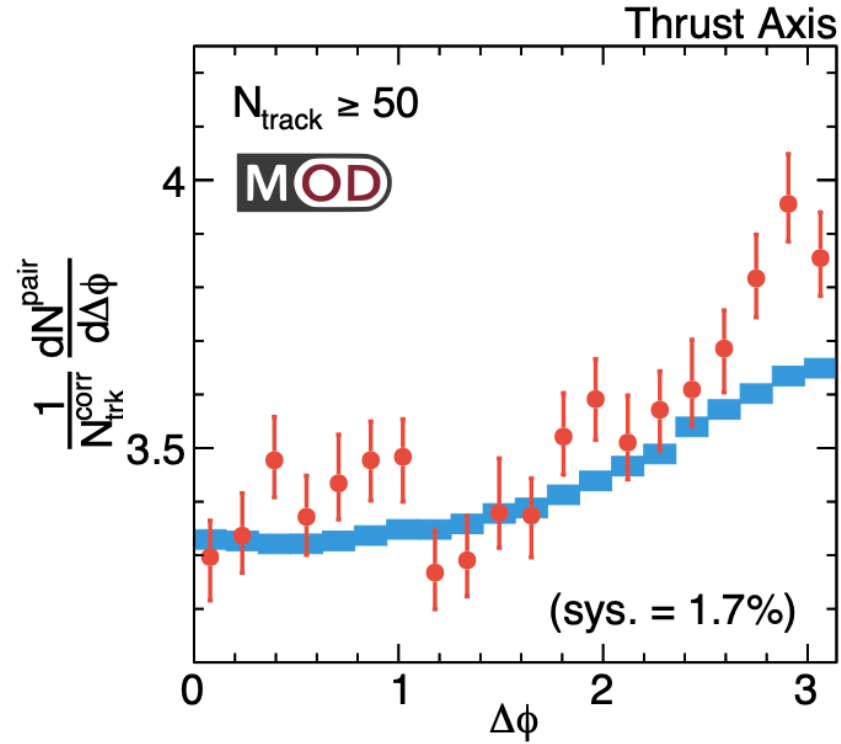
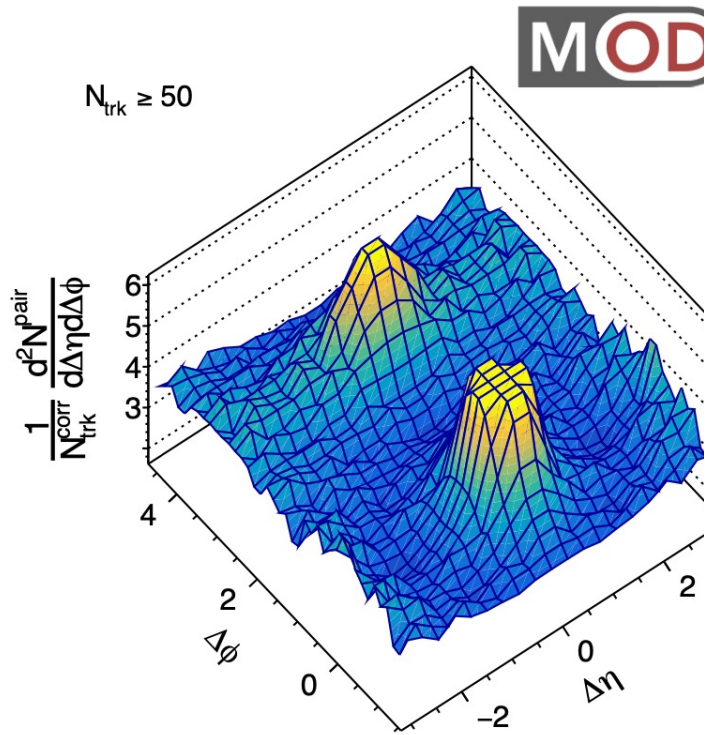


CMS, [arXiv:2312.17103 [hep-ex]].

W. Zhao, Zi-Wei Lin and Xin-Nian Wang [arXiv:2401.13137].

- “Collectivity” features inside high multiplicity jets in p-p.
- Final state interaction enhances the  $v_2$  inside high multiplicity jet in p-p. QGP droplet?

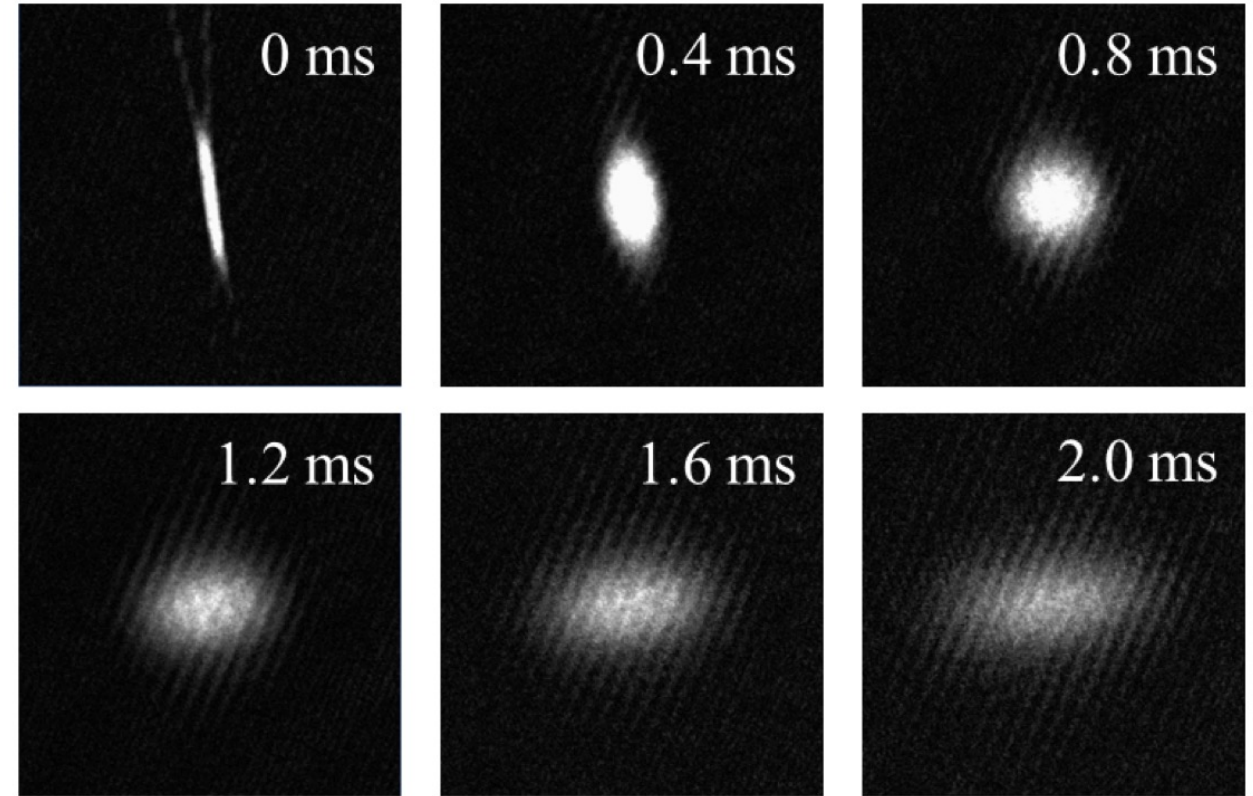
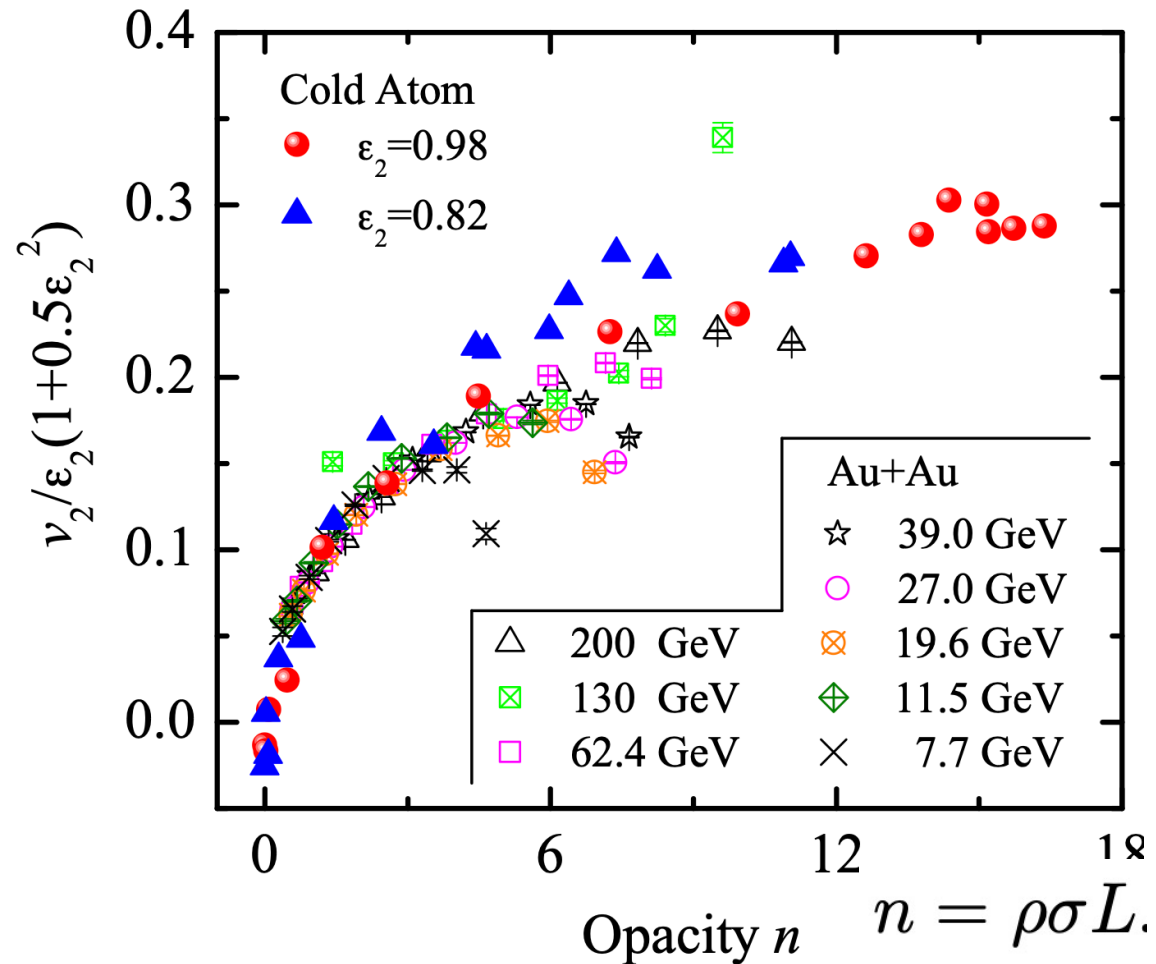
# “Collectivity” in high multiplicity $e^+e^-$



ALEPH, [arXiv:2312.05084 [hep-ex]].

- Pythia8 without long range correlations underestimates the  $v_2$  at high multiplicity  $e^+e^-$ .
- Smallest QGP droplet?

# “Collectivity” in Cold Atom Systems



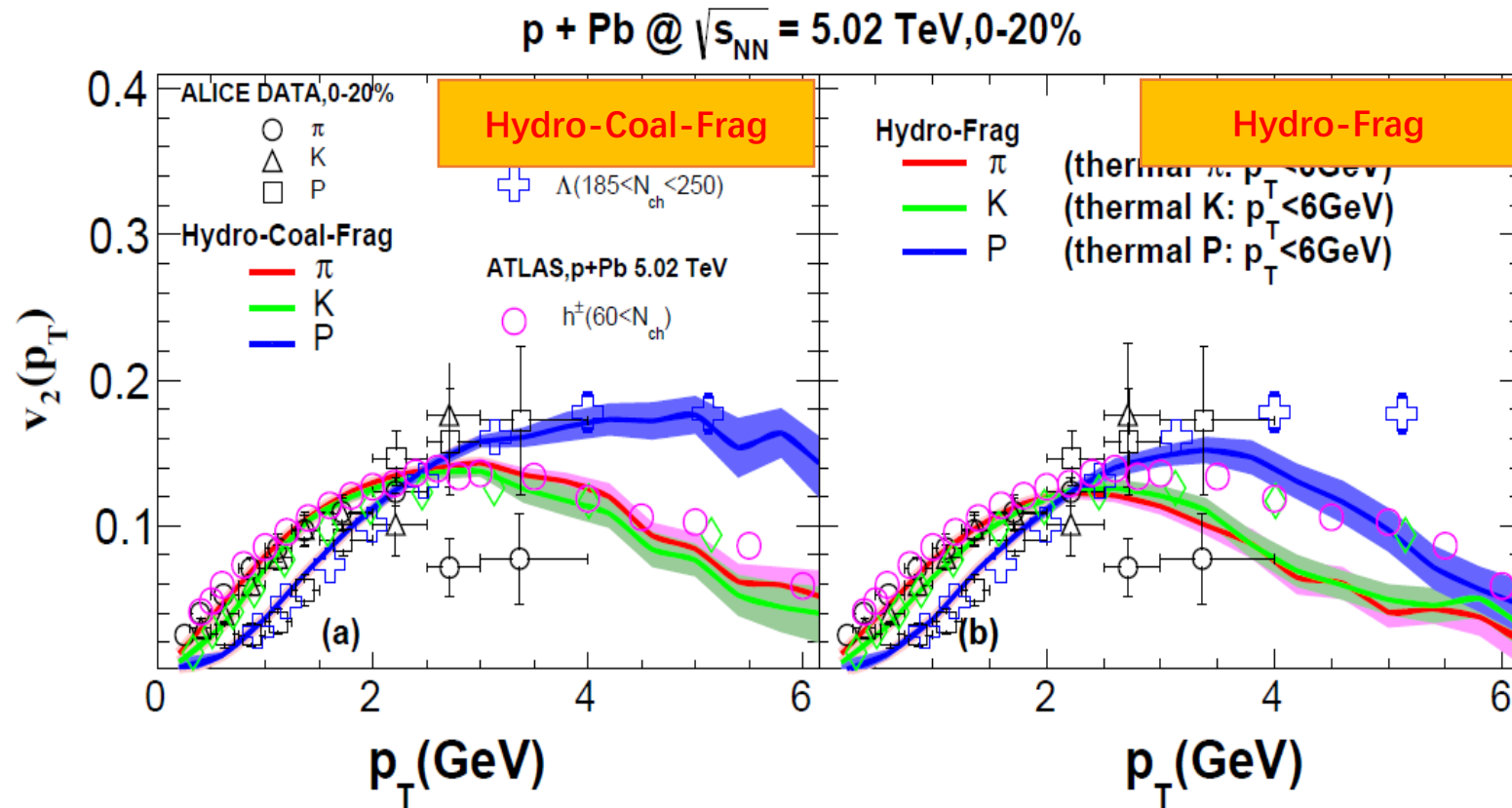
Snapshots of the strongly interacting Fermi gas

K. Li, H. F. Song, Y. L. Sun, H. J. Xu and F. Wang, [arXiv:2405.02847 [cond-mat.quant-gas]]

- A universal behavior is observed between the systems of cold-atom gases and heavy-ion collisions.



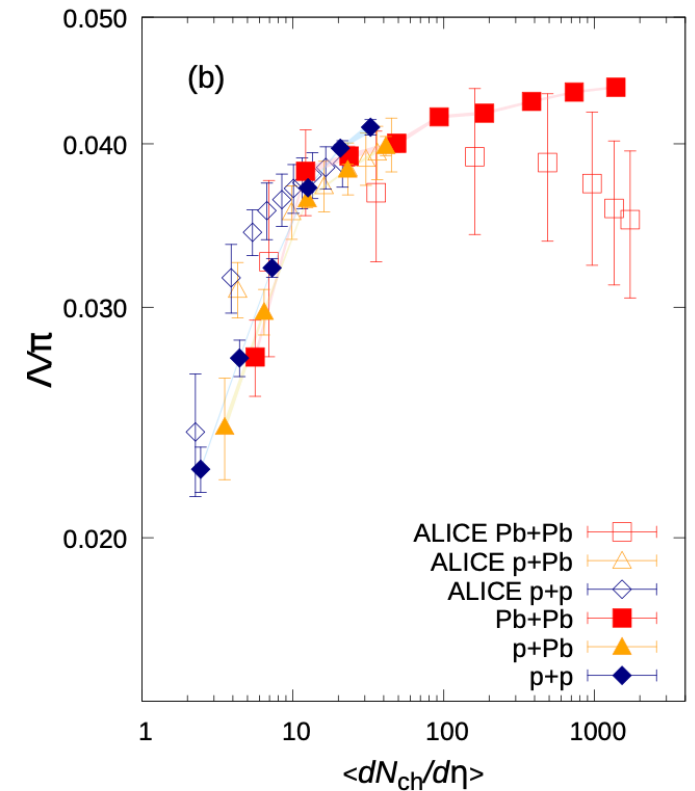
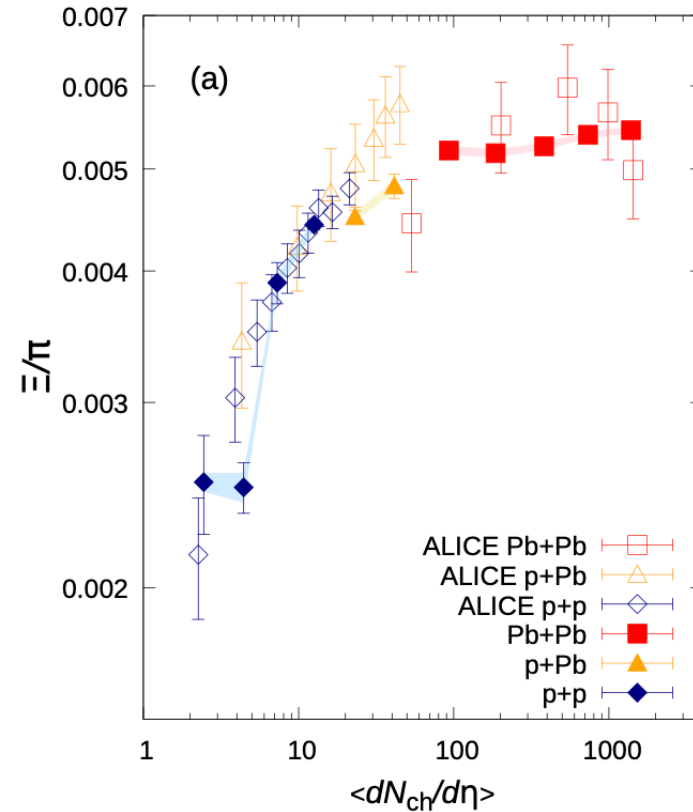
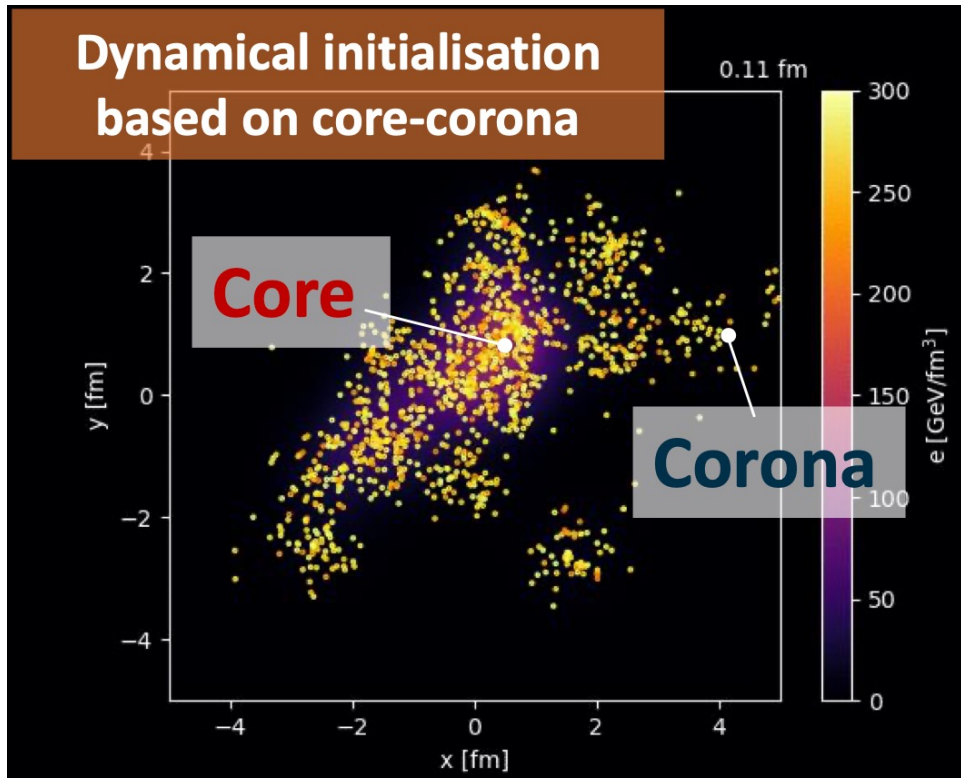
# Collectivity at intermediate $p_T$ in small systems



W. Zhao, Ko, Liu, Qin and Song, Phys.Rev.Lett. 125, 072301 (2020).

- Hydro-Coal-Frag hybrid model well describe the  $v_2(p_T)$ , Quark coalescence is essential in p-Pb collisions.

# Core-Corona model and Strangeness Enhancement

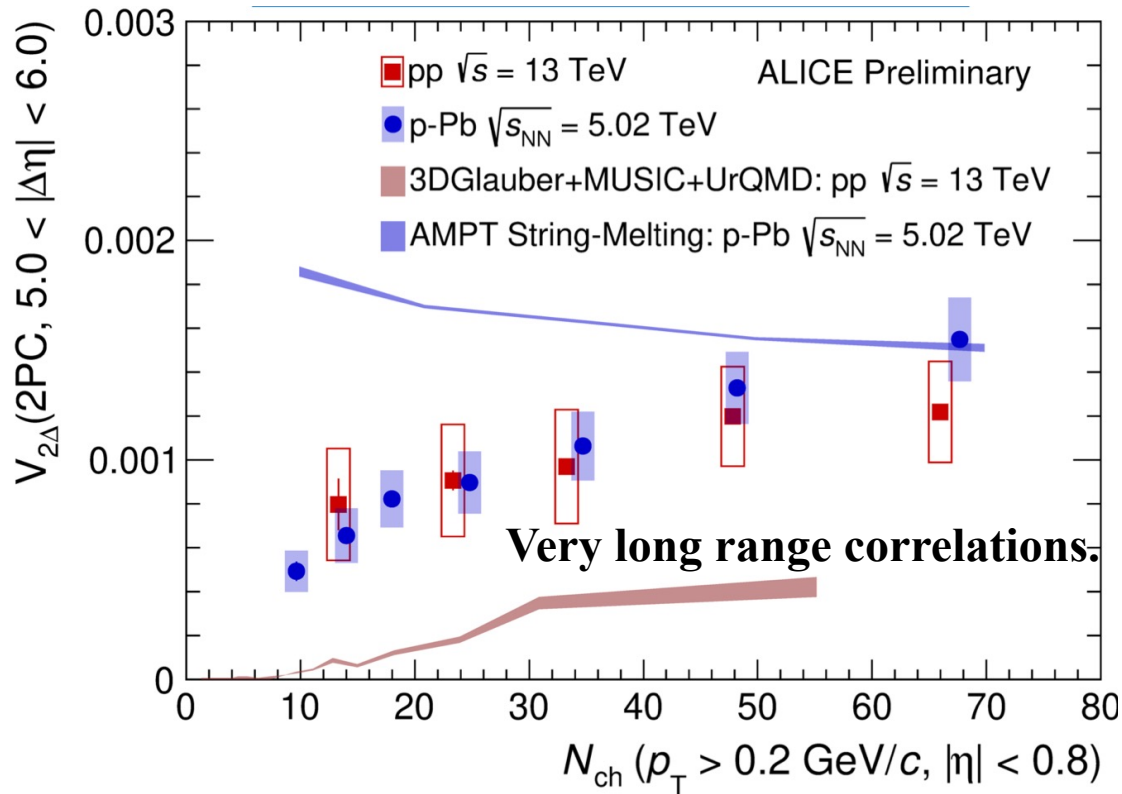


Y. Kanakubo, Y. Tachibana and T. Hirano, PhysRevC.101.024912

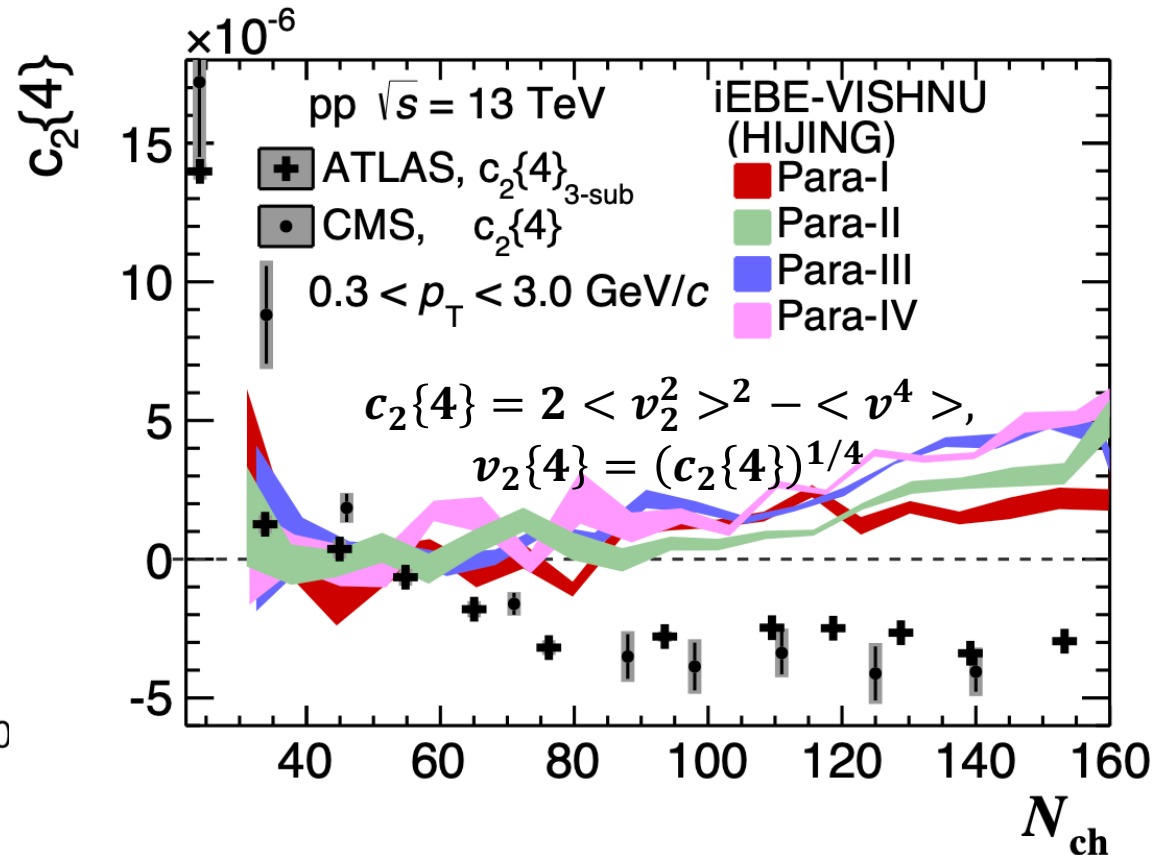
- Hydro-like core dominates at high Multiplicity.
- Because of the interplay between core and corona components, it reasonably describes the strangeness of hadron yield ratios to pions from p-p, pA to AA.

**BUT.....**

# Collectivity in proton-proton collisions



Debojit Sarkar, SQM 2024

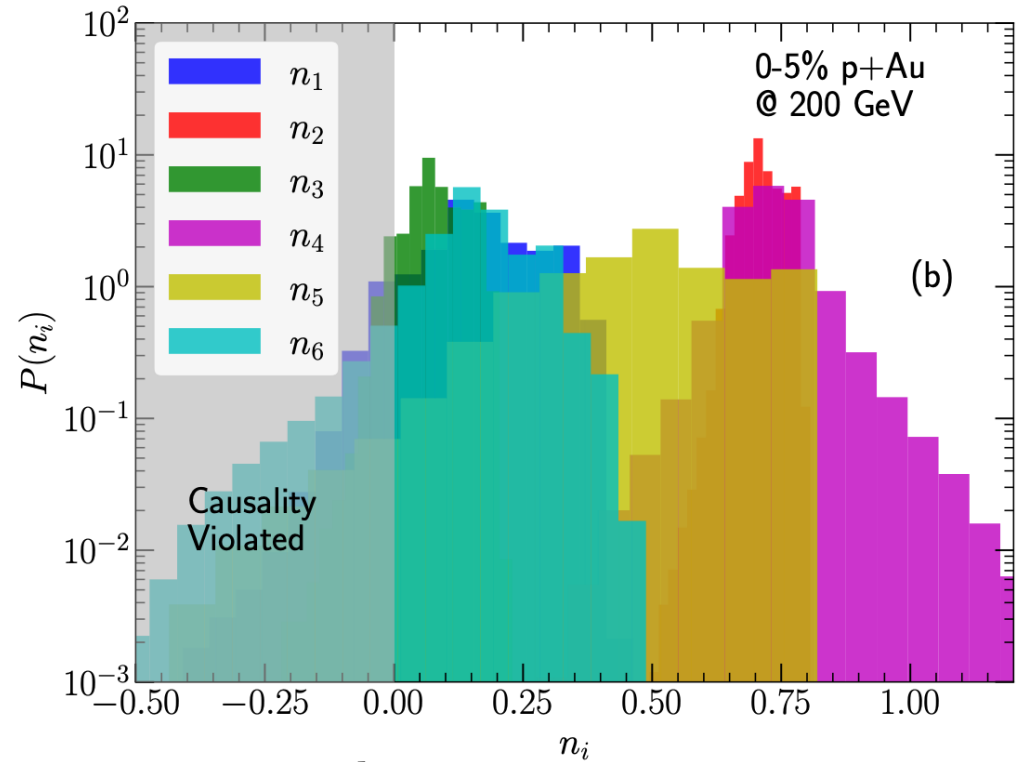
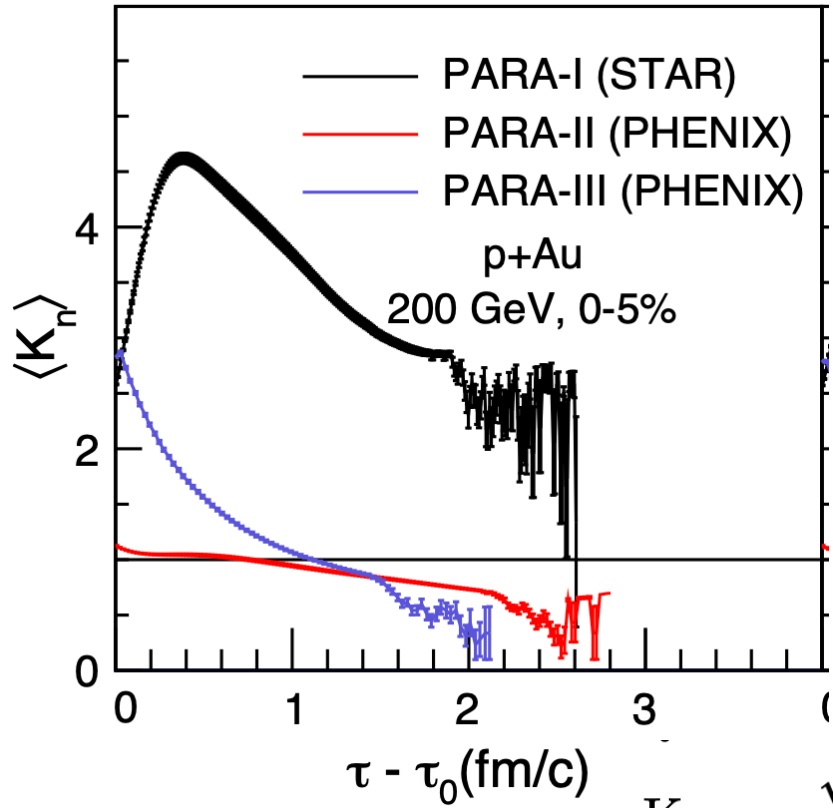


W. Zhao, Y. Zhou, H. Xu, W. Deng and H. Song, Phys. Lett. B 780 (2018), 495-500.

- Models extrapolated from AA do not describe the p-p data. Need better description of 3D geometry.
- The sign of  $c_2\{4\}$  is opposite between hydro calculations and the data in p-p. Maybe transport model could help (X. L. Zhao, Z. W. Lin, L. Zheng and G. L. Ma, PLB.2023.137799).



# Applicability of Hydrodynamics

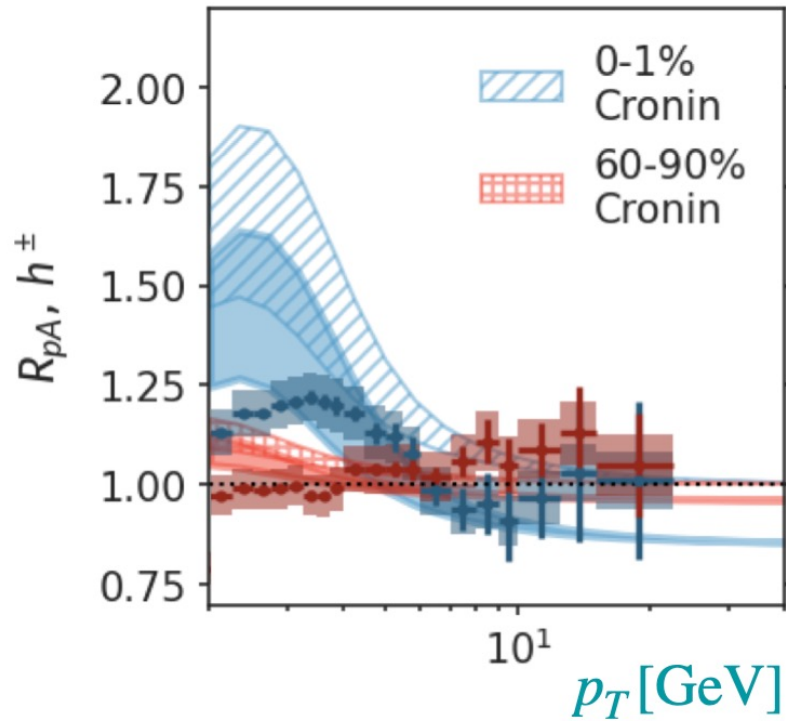


$$Kn_\sigma \sim \frac{\sqrt{|\sigma_{\mu\nu}\sigma^{\mu\nu}|}}{T} \sim \frac{\text{microscopic scale}}{\text{macroscopic scale}}$$

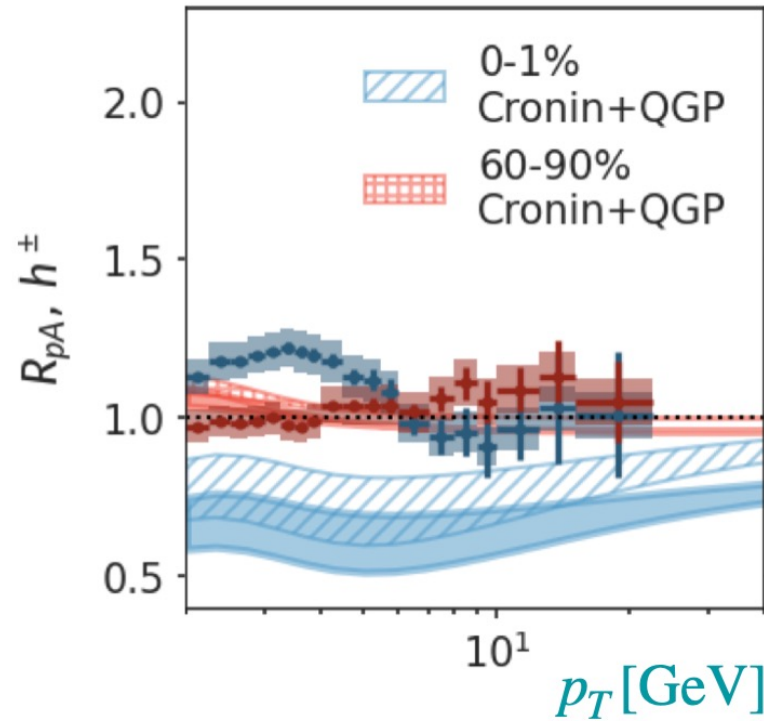
Z. Wu, B. Fu, S. Zhao, R. Liu and H. Song [arXiv:2307.02995]. C. Chiu and C. Shen, Phys. Rev. C. 103(6), 064901 (2021). Eur.Phys.J.C 82 (2022) 9, 796. Phys. Rev. Lett. 122(12), 122302. Phys. Rev. X. 12(2), 021044 (2022). JHEP 10 (2019) 034.

- Large Knudsen is observed in small systems. Far from equilibrium, causality could be violated
- Use non-equilibrium component: Early time free streaming, effective kinetic theory, or core-corona models, Alternative to Israel-Stewart like theories, BDNK, can help.

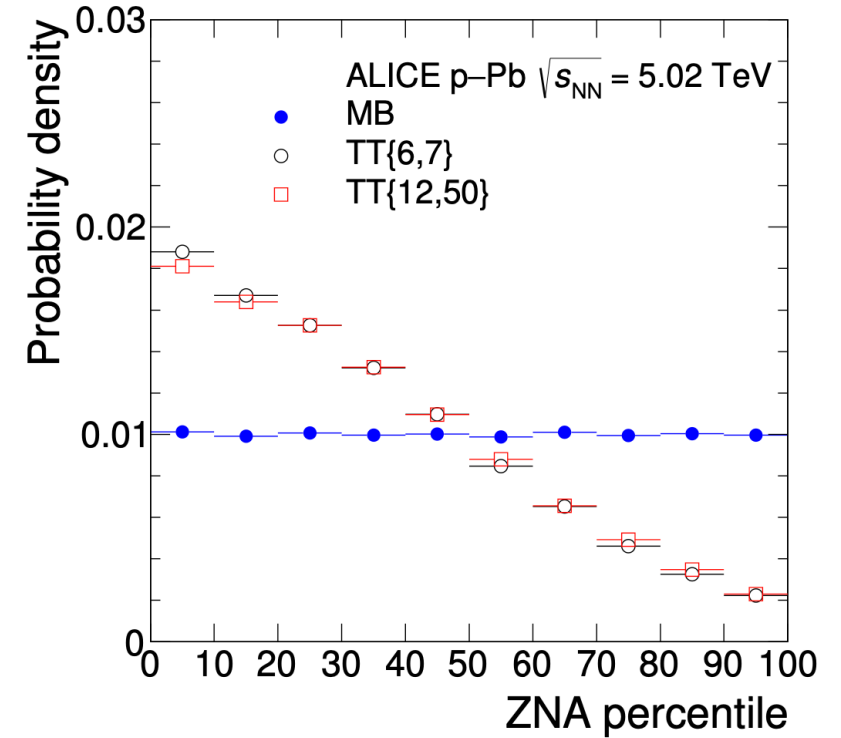
# Hard Probes in small systems



**Cold nuclear matter only**



**Cold nuclear matter + QGP**



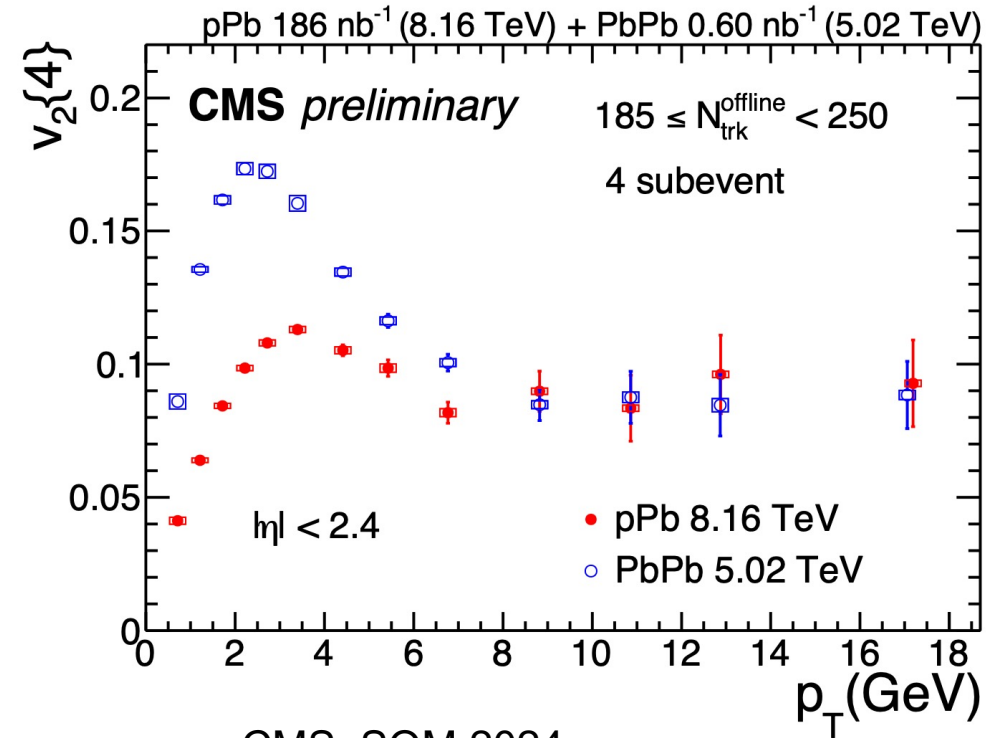
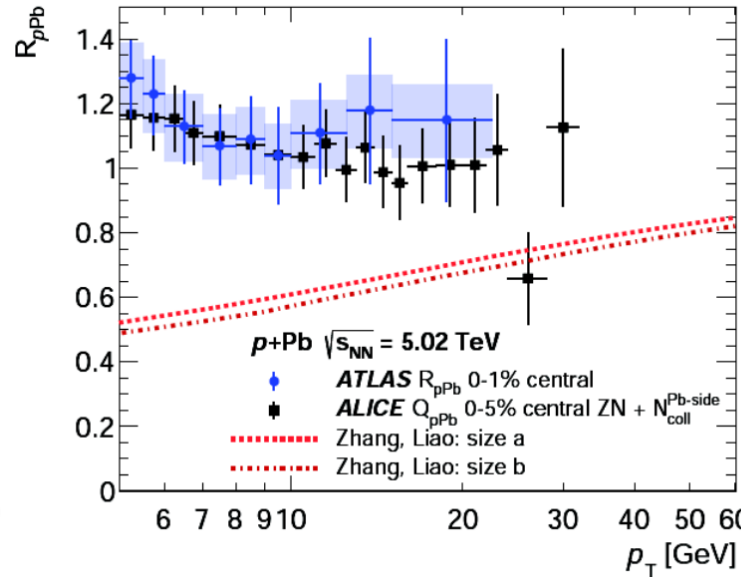
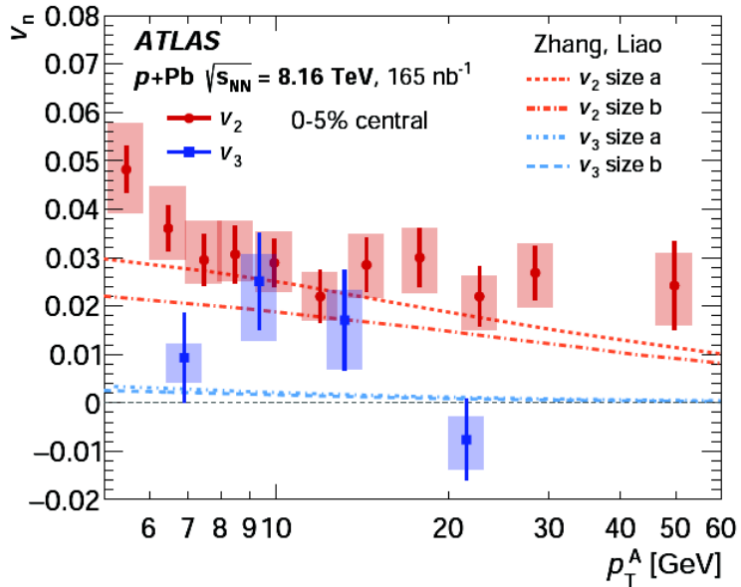
**Event activity selection with high- $p_T$  trigger hadron.**

W. Ke, I. Vitev, Phys.Rev.C 107 (2023) 6, 064903. ALICE, PLB: 783 (2018)95-113.

- Model of QGP formation in p+A described by hydrodynamics leads to quenching of hadron spectra that is inconsistent with the p+Pb data.
- In small systems, **Centrality determination is critical !**

see arXiv: [2308.02650] for soft-hard correlations.

# $R_{pPb}$ v.s. $v_2(p_T)$ in pA



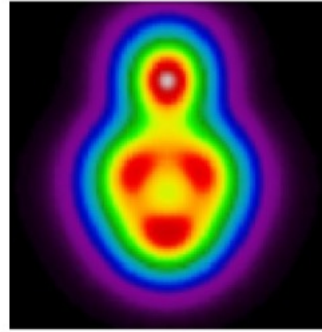
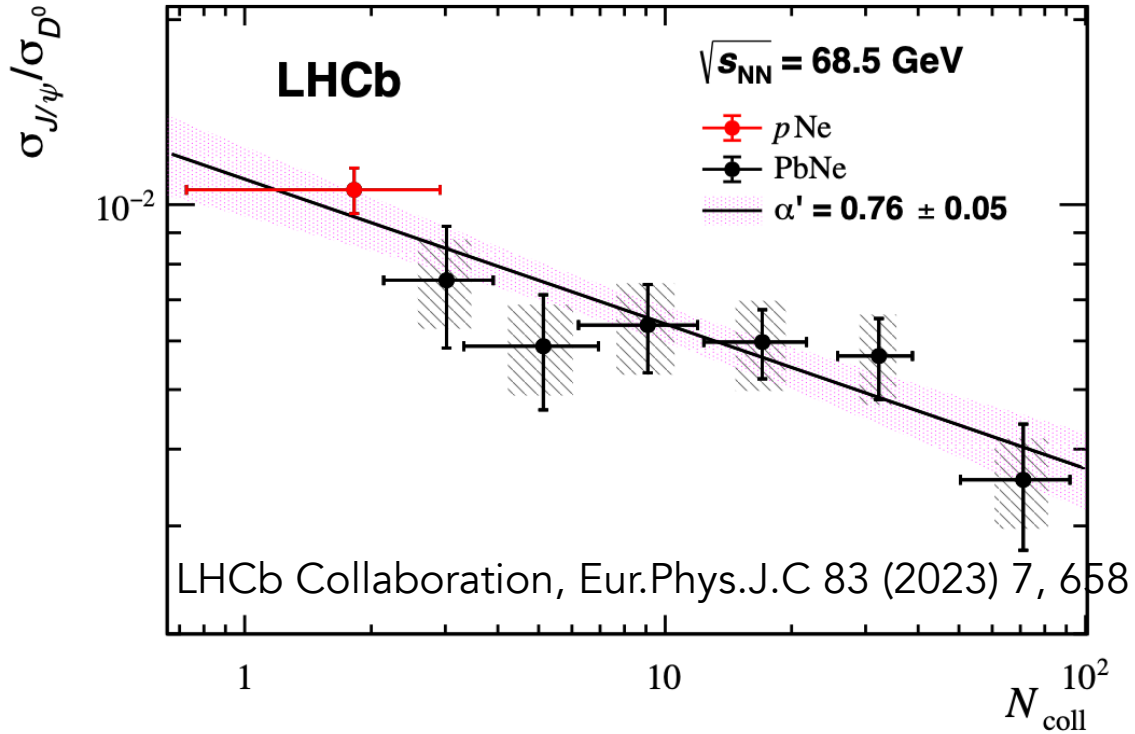
CMS, SQM 2024.

ATLAS: arXiv:1910.13978. Model: arXiv:1311.5463.

- High  $p_T R_{pPb}$  v.s.  $v_2(p_T)$  “puzzle” in p-Pb.
- How to understand new CMS measurements of high  $p_T$  flow in pPb?

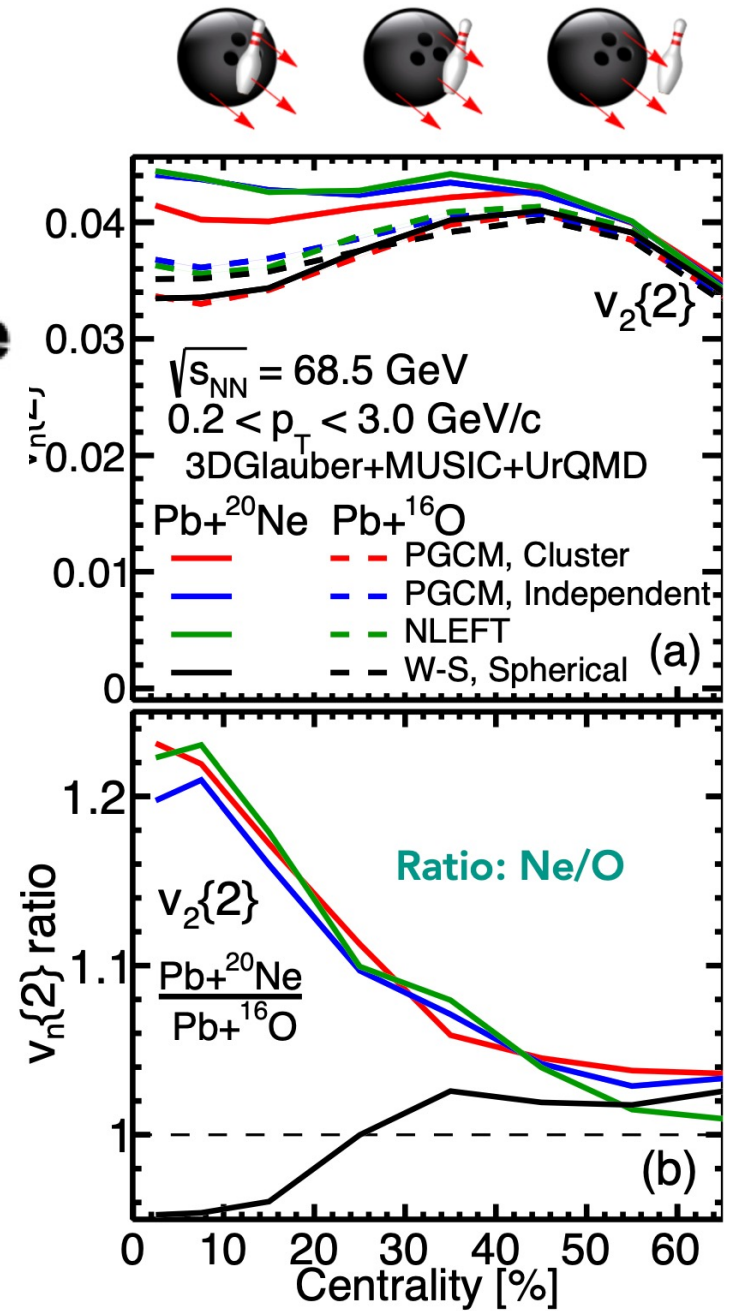
See I. Soudi, A. Majumder, arXiv:2308.14702, 2404.05287 for recent progresses.

# Bonus



G. Giacalone et al, arXiv:2405.20210

- No QGP-like  $J/\psi$  suppression in  $\text{Pb}+\text{Ne}$ .
- Flow sensitive to shapes of Ne and O
- Searching the QGP at LHCb.





# Summary

- Hydrodynamics works well in describing collectivity from Pb+Pb, p+Pb to p+p and  $\gamma$  \* +Pb collisions.
- There are some issues of applicability of hydrodynamics: accuracy, causality, stability
- Jet quenching does not seem to be observed in small systems.  $R_{pPb}$  v.s.  $v_2(p_T)$  puzzle in pA.
- Where is the QGP smallest boundary?



See contribution to Quark-Gluon  
Plasma 6 (World Scientific):

Progress and Challenges  
in Small Systems

Jorge Noronha, Björn Schenke,  
Chun Shen, Wenbin Zhao

**e-Print: 2401.09208 [nucl-th]**

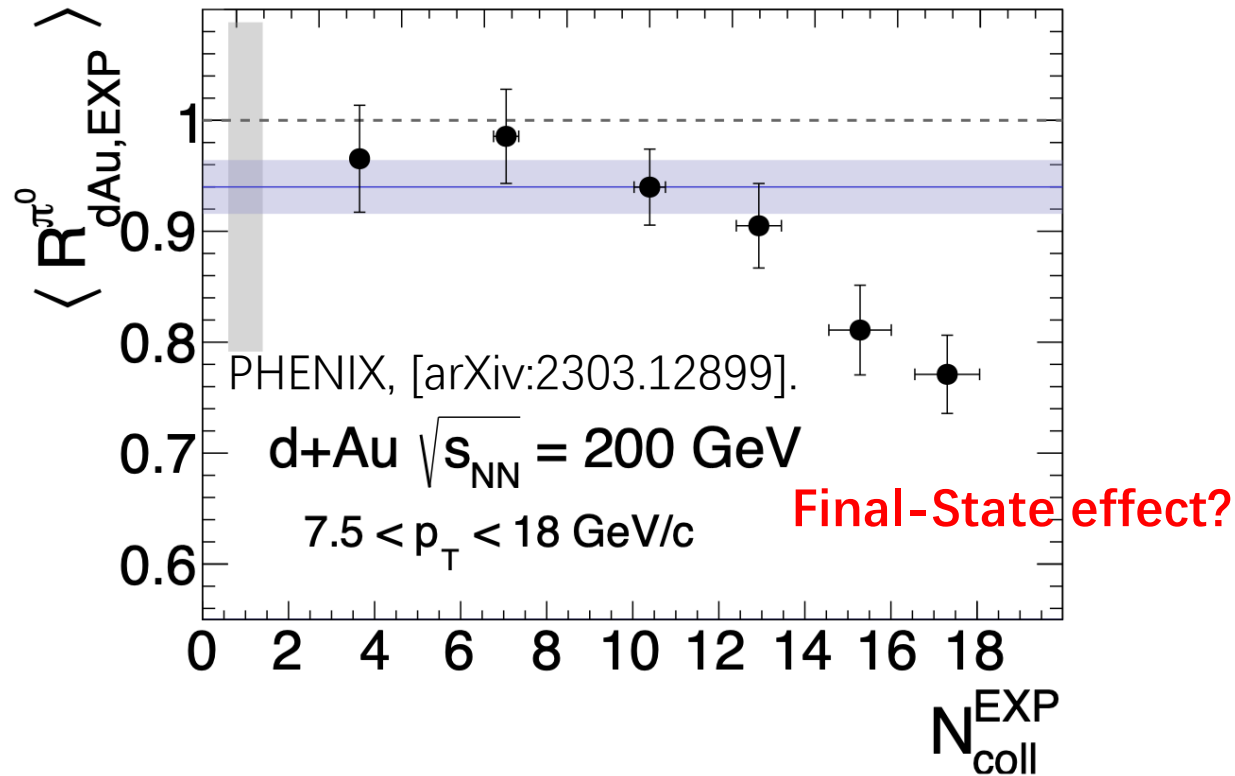
**Thanks for Your Attention!**  
**Questions ?**



**Back Up**

Back Up

# Event-activity with jet events



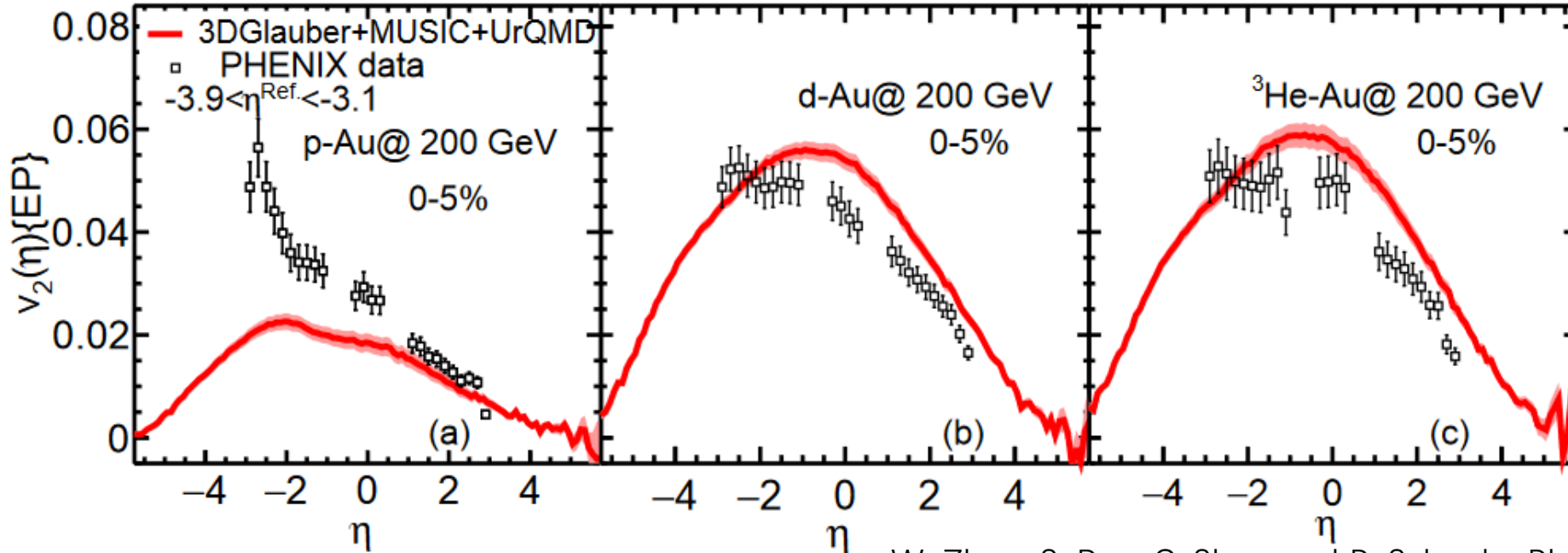
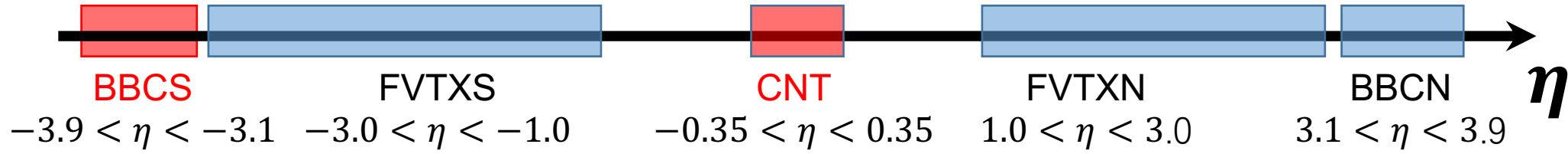
$$N_{coll}^{EXP}(p_T) = \frac{Y_{dAu}^{\gamma^{dir}}(p_T)}{Y_{pp}^{\gamma^{dir}}(p_T)}$$

$$R_{dAu,EXP}^{\pi^0} = \frac{Y_{dAu}^{\pi^0}}{N_{coll}^{EXP} Y_{pp}^{\pi^0}} = \frac{Y_{dAu}^{\pi^0} / Y_{pp}^{\pi^0}}{Y_{dAu}^{\gamma^{dir}} / Y_{pp}^{\gamma^{dir}}}$$

- PHENIX use the direct-photon yields to estimate the number of binary collisions ( $N_{coll}^{EXP}$ ) to reduce the event-selection bias.
- Using a Glauber model  $N_{coll}$  led to enhancement at low  $N_{coll}$  is removed now.
- Suppression at large  $N_{coll}$  remains.



# $v_2(\eta)\{EP\}$



$v_2(\eta)\{EP\}$ :  
 correlations: BBCS-CNT

W. Zhao, S. Ryu, C. Shen and B. Schenke Phys. Rev. C 107, 014904 (2023).

- Our 3D hybrid model reproduces the pseudo-rapidity dependence of  $v_2(\eta)\{EP\}$  in d+Au and  $^3\text{He} + \text{Au}$  collisions.
- The elliptic flow in  $\eta < 1$  in p+Au collision is underestimated because of the strong longitudinal decorrelation in our model and potential non-flow in the data.

# Final state interactions inside the high multiplicity jet in p-p



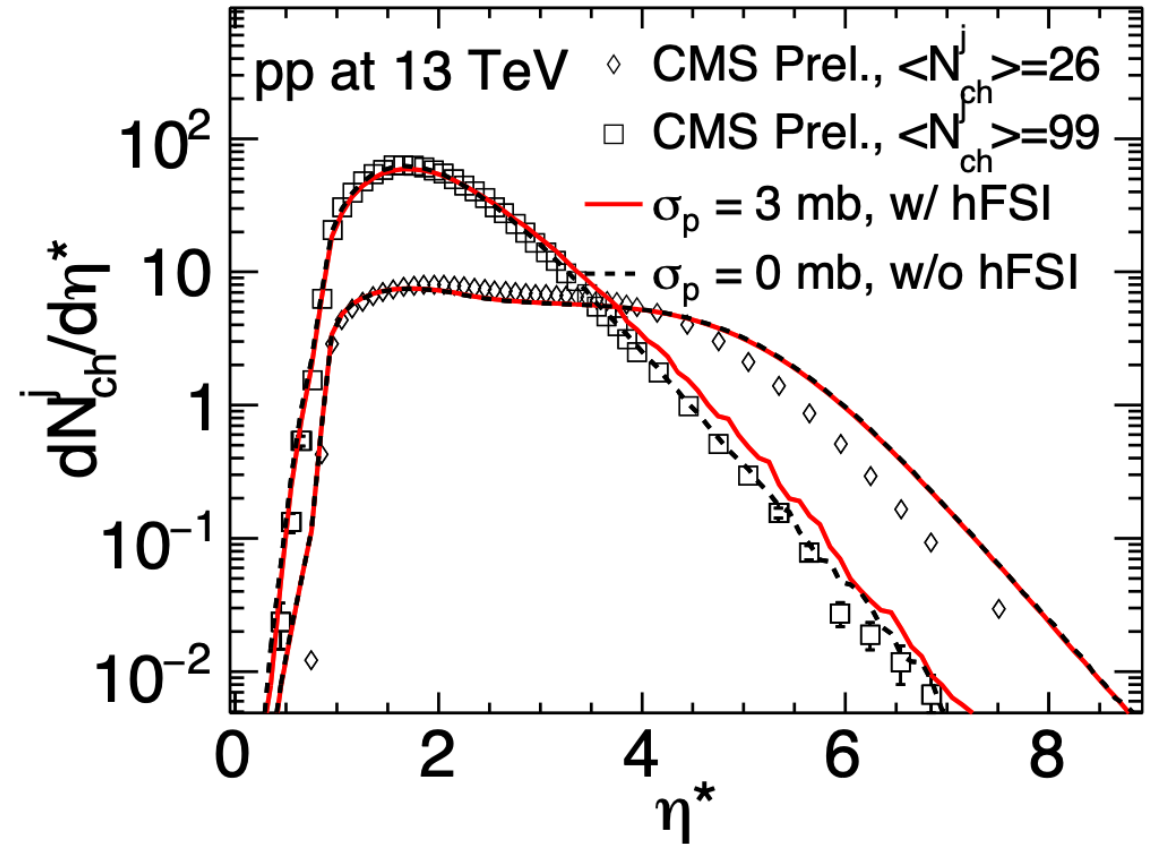
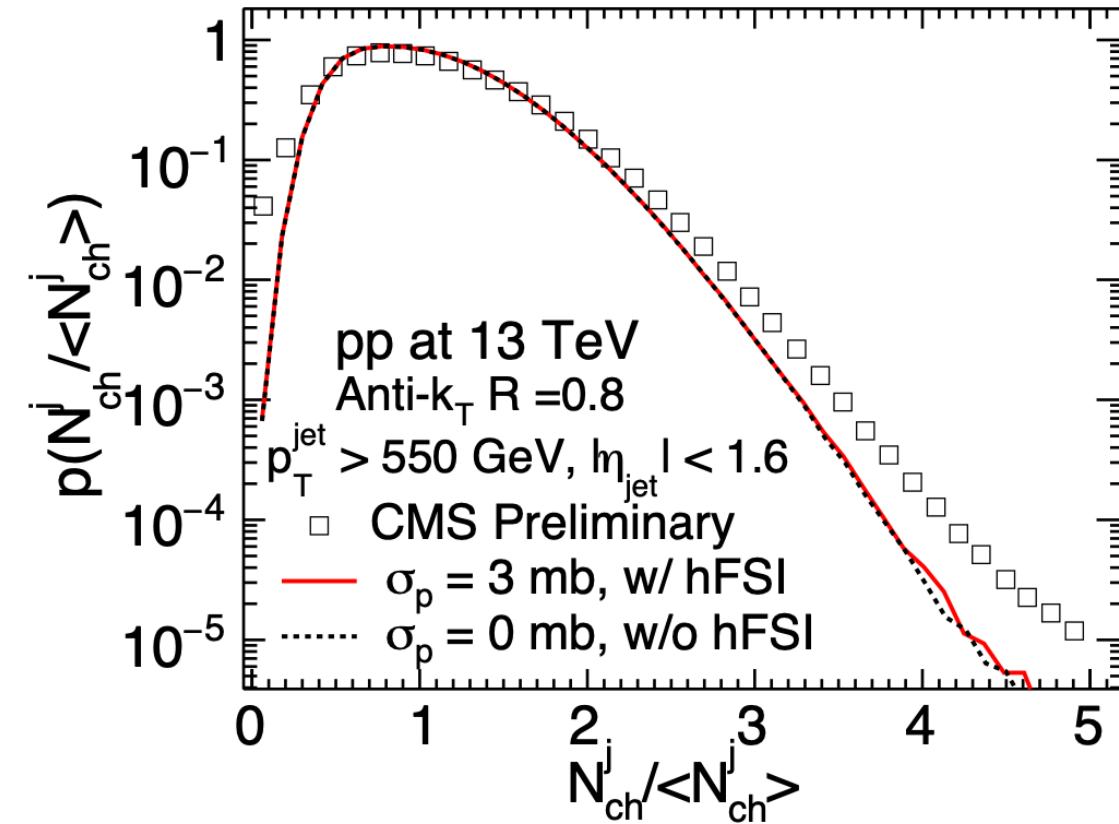
- Initial shower partons generated by the Pythia8 with CP5 tune, the formation time:
- Partonic elastic rescattering modeled by ZPC with the parton-parton scatter cross section  $\sigma_p$ .
- Colored hadronization.
- Hadronic rescattering modeled by UrQMD.
- It returns to pythia8 by turning off FSI.

- Initial shower partons generated by the Pythia8 with CP5 tune, the formation time:
$$t_f = \sum_i 2E_i x_i (1 - x_i) / k_{\perp i}^2$$
- Partonic elastic rescattering modeled by ZPC with the parton-parton scatter cross section  $\sigma_p$ .
- Colored hadronization.
- Hadronic rescattering modeled by UrQMD.
- It returns to pythia8 by turning off FSI.

CMS, [arXiv:2312.17103 [hep-ex]].

W. Zhao, Zi-Wei Lin and Xin-Nian Wang [arXiv:2401.13137].

# Hadron distributions inside jets in p-p

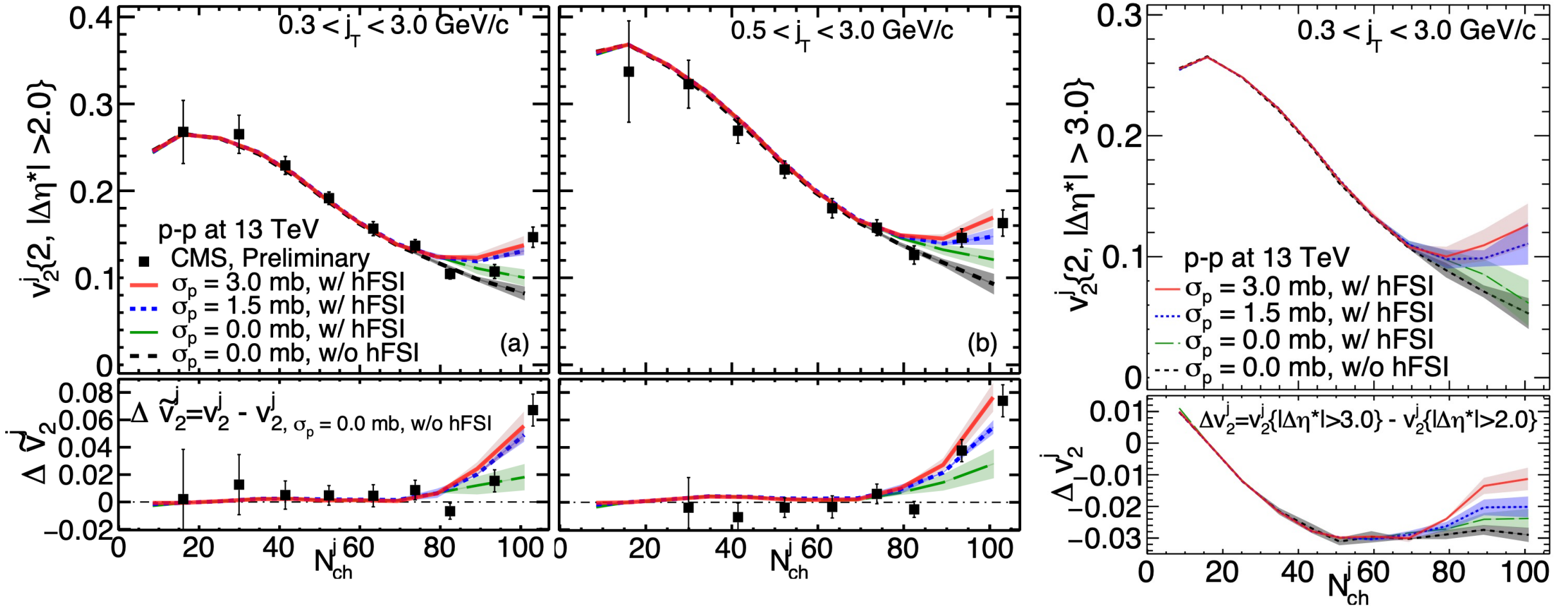


- Pythia8 gives narrower multiplicity distributions. Next step: include inelastic rescattering.
- Higher multiplicity events have the larger initial emission angles.

CMS, [arXiv:2312.17103 [hep-ex]].

W. Zhao, Zi-Wei Lin and Xin-Nian Wang [arXiv:2401.13137].

# Collectivity inside high-multiplicity jets in p-p



- Final state interaction enhances the  $v_2$  inside high multiplicity jet in p-p. QGP droplet?
- We predict that the  $\Delta v_2$  between different  $\eta$  –gaps increases at  $N_{ch}^j > 70$ .

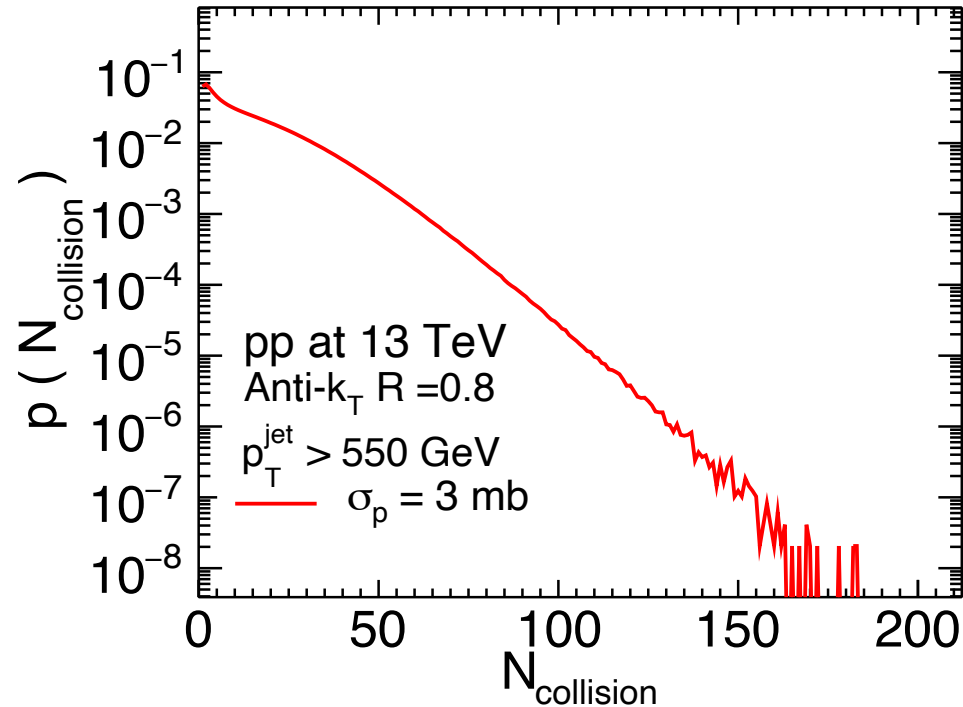
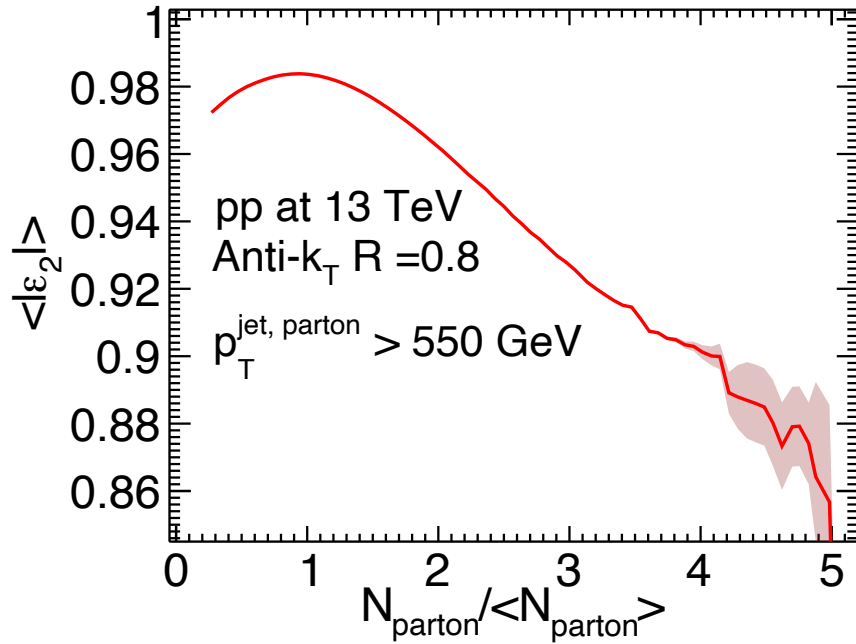
CMS, [arXiv:2312.17103 [hep-ex]].

W. Zhao, Zi-Wei Lin and Xin-Nian Wang [arXiv:2401.13137].



# Collisions inside high-multiplicity jets in p-p

$$\varepsilon_n e^{in\Phi_n} = - \frac{\int r dr d\varphi r^n e^{in\phi} e(r, \varphi)}{\int r dr d\varphi r^n e(r, \varphi)}$$



- Low multiplicity jet has large initial spatial anisotropy, but it doesn't have enough final state interactions to translate into momentum anisotropy
- The high multiplicity jets can have around 100 partonic collision times, which translate initial spatial anisotropy into momentum space.