

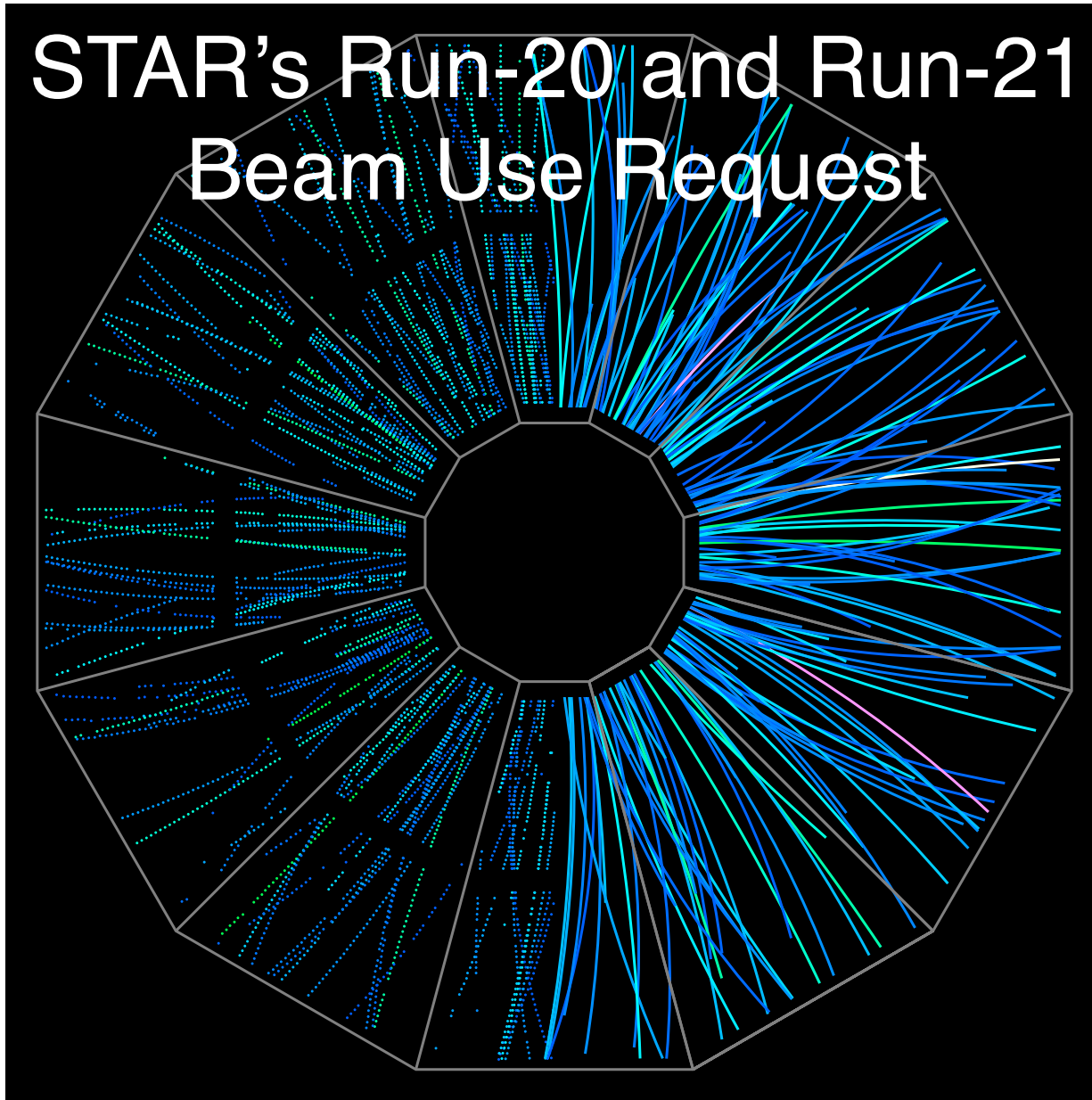


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science



# STAR's Run-20 and Run-21 Beam Use Request



Helen Caines - Yale - on behalf of the STAR Collaboration

# Executive Summary



STAR's highest priority is the collection of the remaining BES-II data

Beam Energy (GeV/nucleon)	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	$\mu_B$ (MeV)	Run Time	Number Events	Status
9.8	19.6	205	4.5 weeks	400M	Run-19 (finished)
7.3	14.6	260	5.5 weeks	300M	Run-19 (finished)
8.35	16.7	235	5 weeks	250M	LReC availability? <sup>1</sup>
5.75	11.5	315	9.5 weeks	230M	
4.55	9.1	370	9.5 weeks	160M	
3.85	7.7	420	12 weeks	100M	
31.2	7.7 (FXT)	420	2 days	100M	Run-19 (scheduled)
9.8	4.5 ( FXT)	589	2 days	100M	Run-19 (scheduled)
7.3	3.9 (FXT)	633	2 days	100M	Run-19 (scheduled)
19.5	6.2 (FXT)	487	2 days	100M	
13.5	5.2 (FXT)	541	2 days	100M	
5.75	3.5 (FXT)	666	2 days	100M	
4.55	3.2 (FXT)	699	2 days	100M	
3.85	3.0 (FXT)	721	2 days	100M	

<sup>1</sup> At the time of this writing, the availability of LReC for the 11.5 GeV energy is not clear. Consequently, the run time for this energy is changed from last year's BUR. The new estimate is based on the 14.6 GeV performance in Run-19. A more optimistic estimate, based on the 19.6 GeV performance, would be 7.5 weeks.

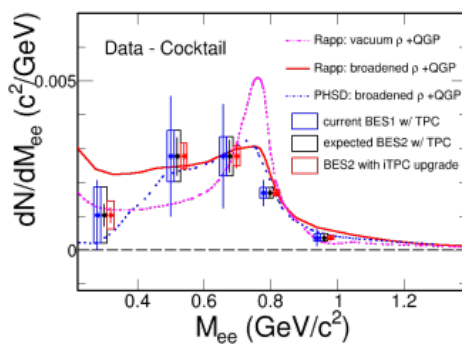
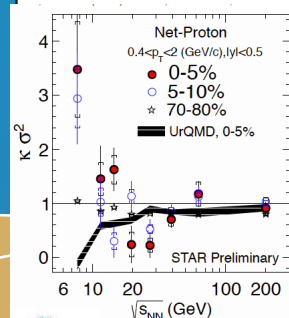
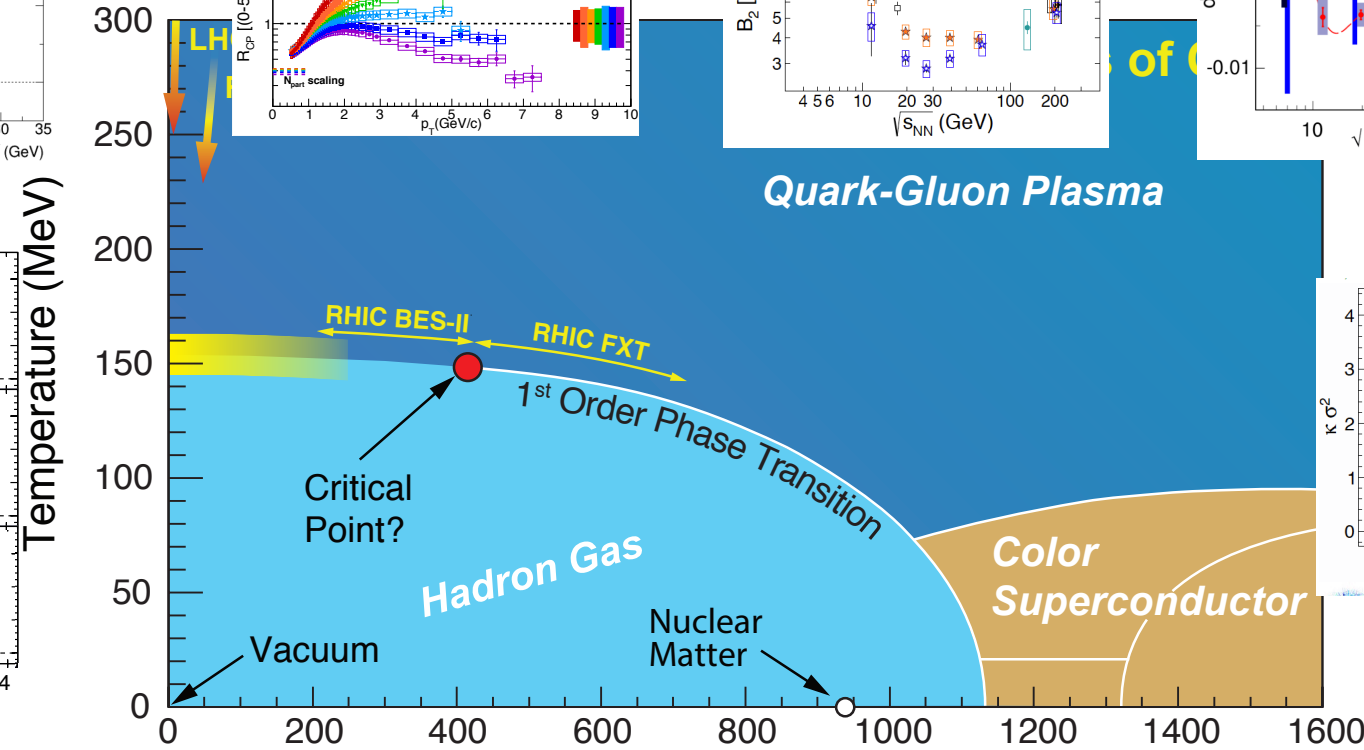
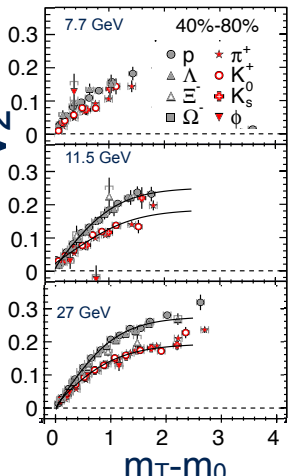
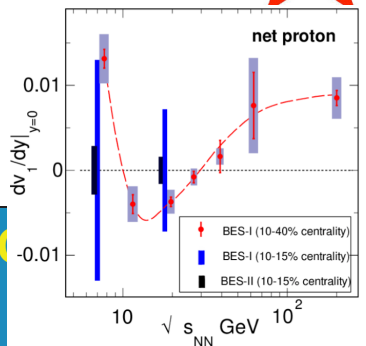
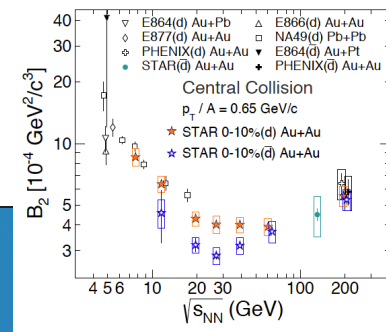
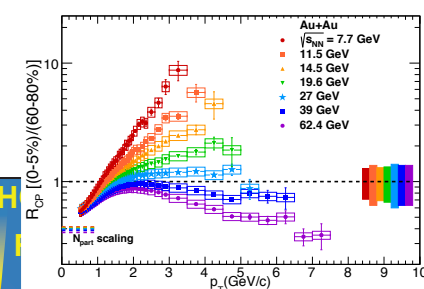
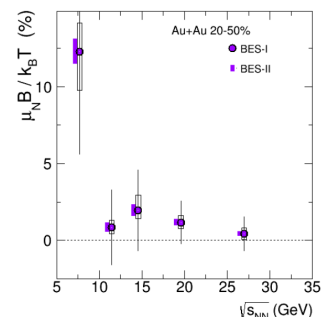
Additionally, the STAR collaboration proposes a small system run to study the emergence of collectivity and the mechanism for early-time *hydrodynamization* in large collisions systems.

BES-II will dramatically enhance our understanding of the QCD phase diagram. The proposed program involves dedicated low beam energy running and high precision measurements of the observables which have been proposed as sensitive to the phase structure of QCD matter. In addition to the five lower collider energies that have been put forward in past BURs, STAR proposes a sixth collider beam energy at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 16.7$  GeV. These data will provide for a finer scan in a range where the energy dependence of the net-proton kurtosis and neutron density fluctuations appears to undergo a sudden change.

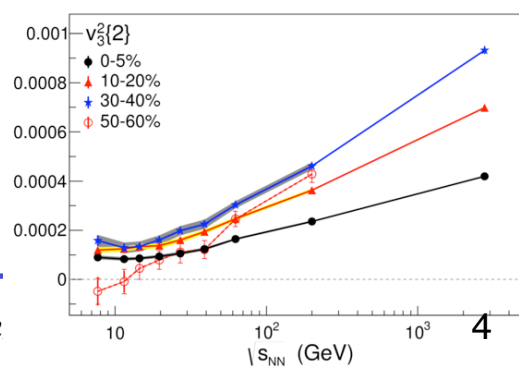
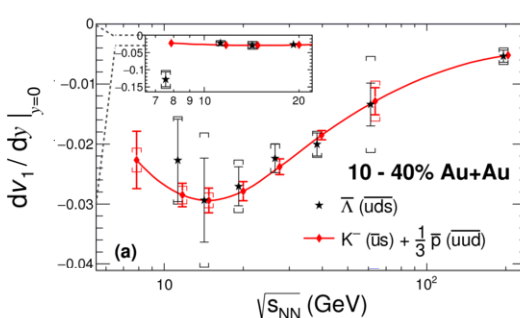
O+O	200 GeV	400 M minbias, 200 M Central	(1 week)
Au+Au	16.7** GeV	250 M minbias	(5 weeks)

\*\* Discussions with C-AD since BUR submission indicate 17.1 GeV is preferred. This change does not affect STAR's physics goals, so we are changing our request to 17.1 GeV

# The Case for Continuing BES-II

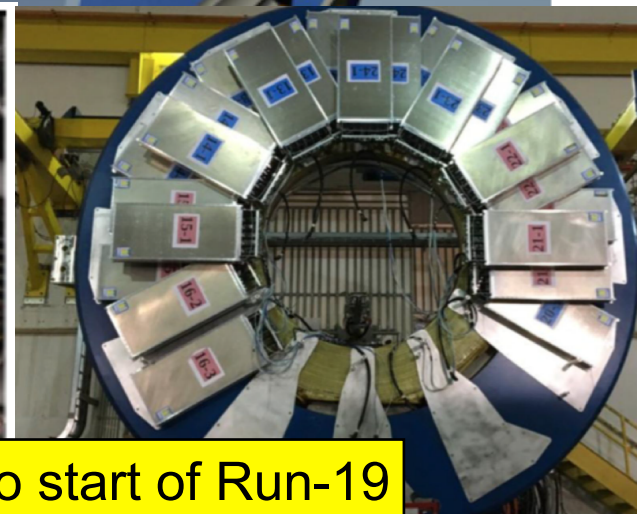
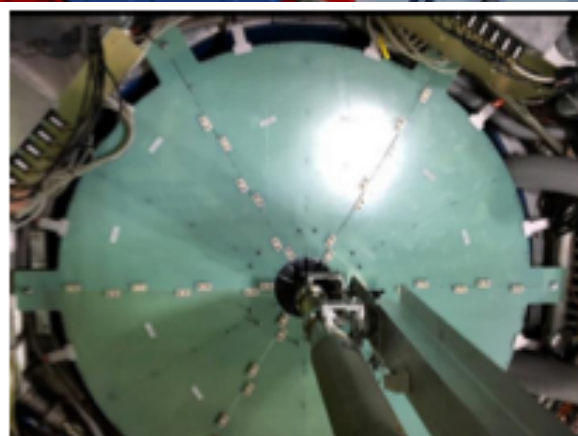
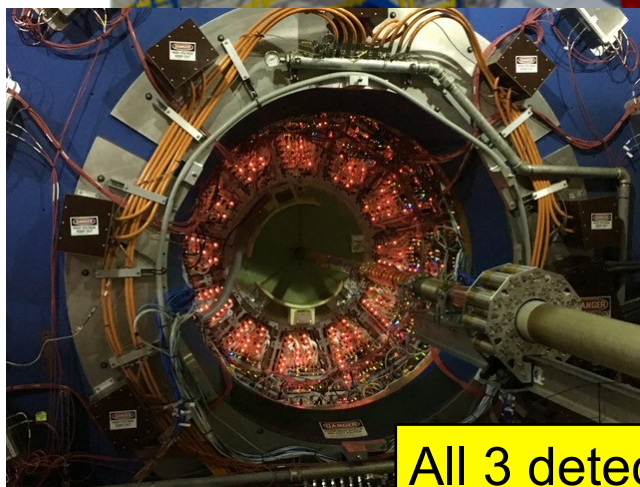
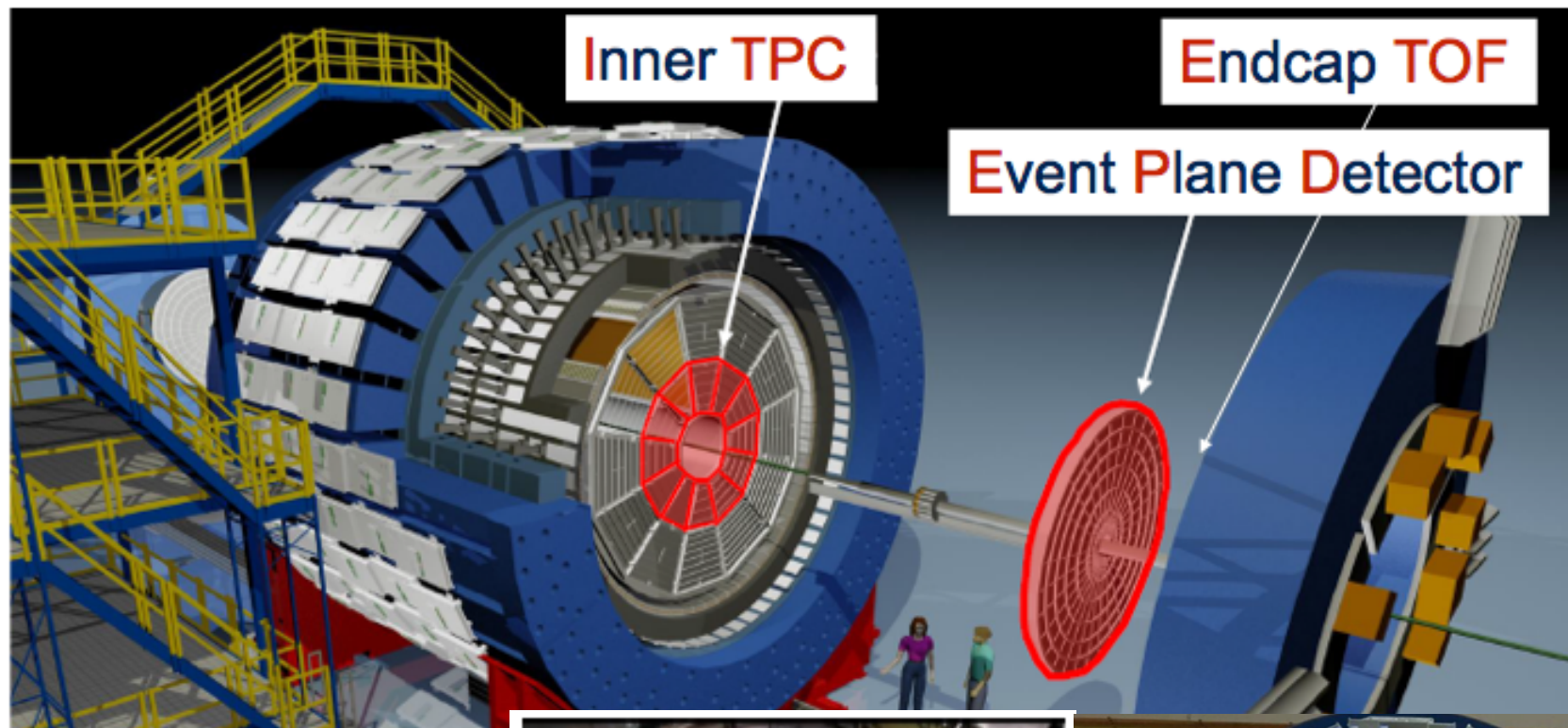


## Baryon Chemical Potential $\mu_B$ (MeV)



Helen Caine

# The BES-II Upgrades

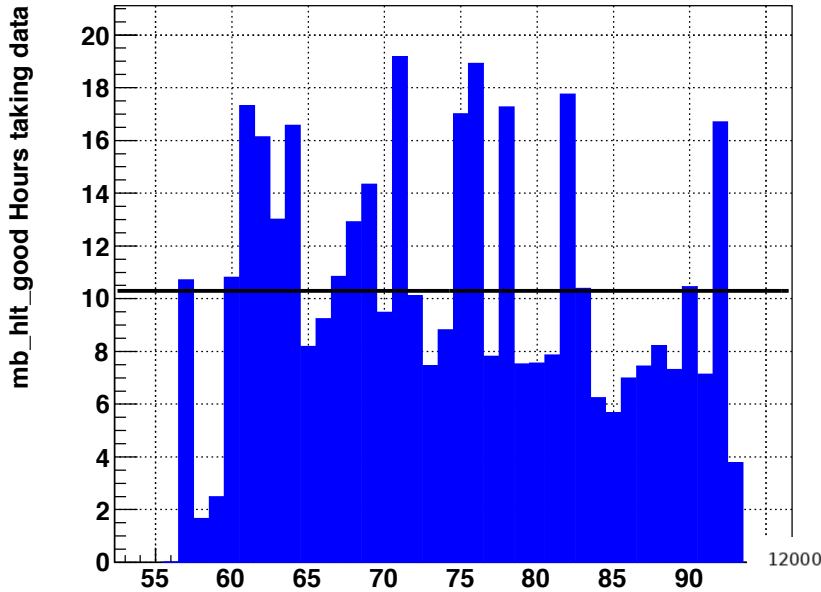


All 3 detectors fully installed prior to start of Run-19

# Run-19 Progress Report



hours\_perday\_mb\_hlt\_good.txt

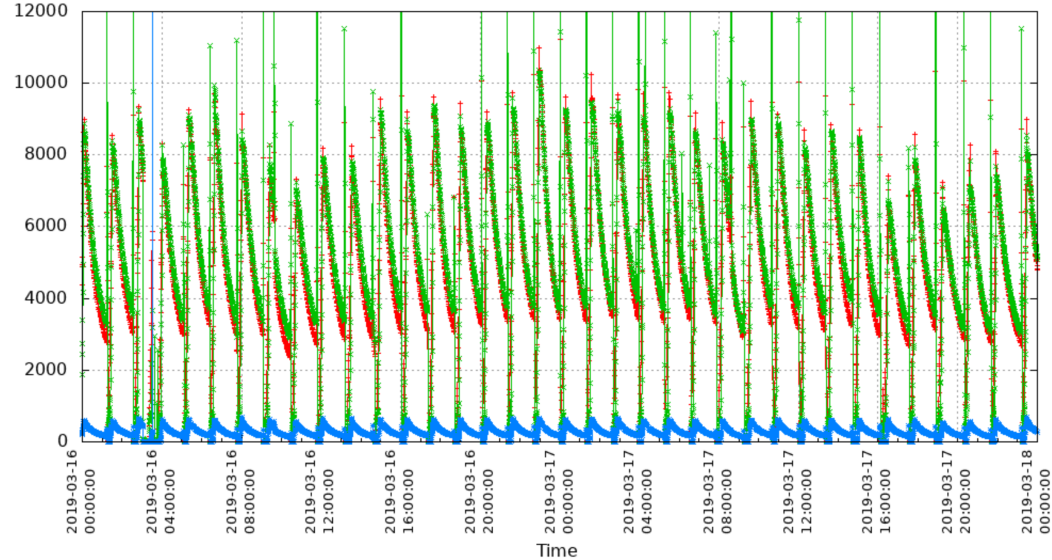


STAR running interspersed with LEReC

Averaging ~10 hours/day of collisions at STAR

Thu Apr 4 11:04:12 2019

C-AD provided very stable, low background beam with fast turn-around times



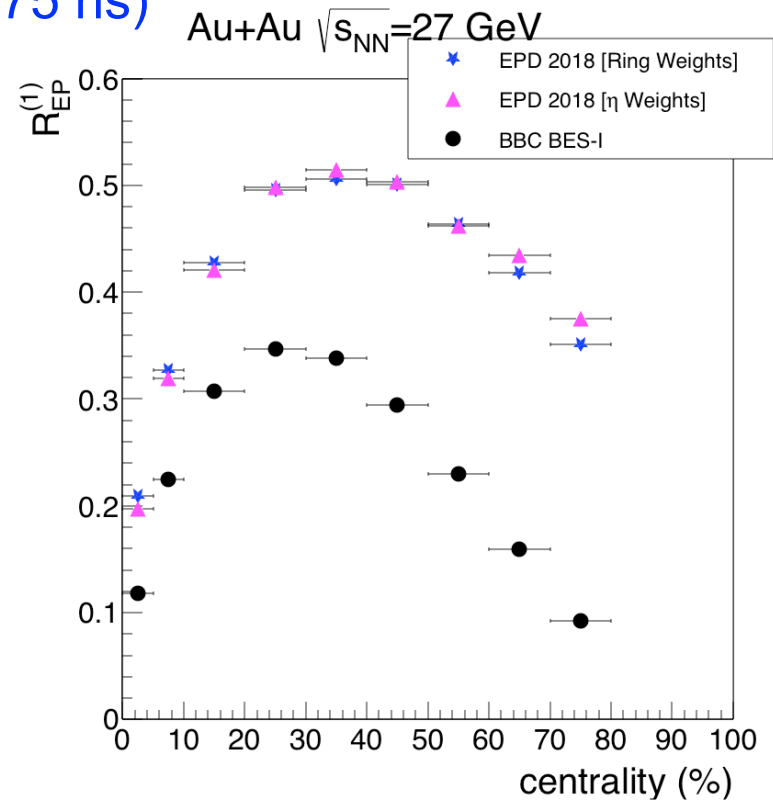
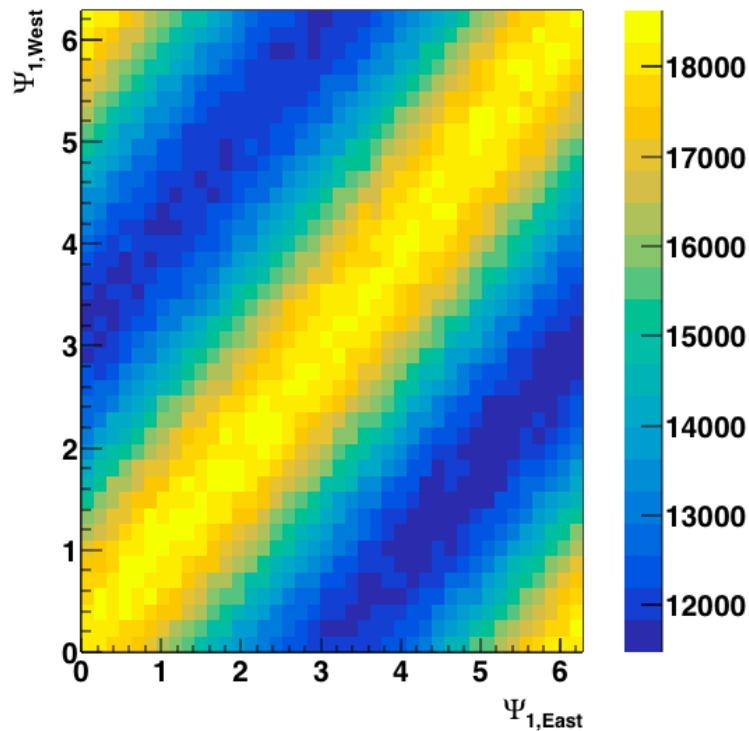
# EPD: Enhanced Event Plane Resolution

All tiles operational for Run-18 and Run-19 :  $2.1 < |\eta| < 5.1$

Run-19: Main trigger detector

Greater acceptance than VPD or ZDC

Better timing resolution than BBC (0.75 ns)



Event plane (and centrality) outside of iTPC acceptance

# *iTPC: Enhanced Acceptance*

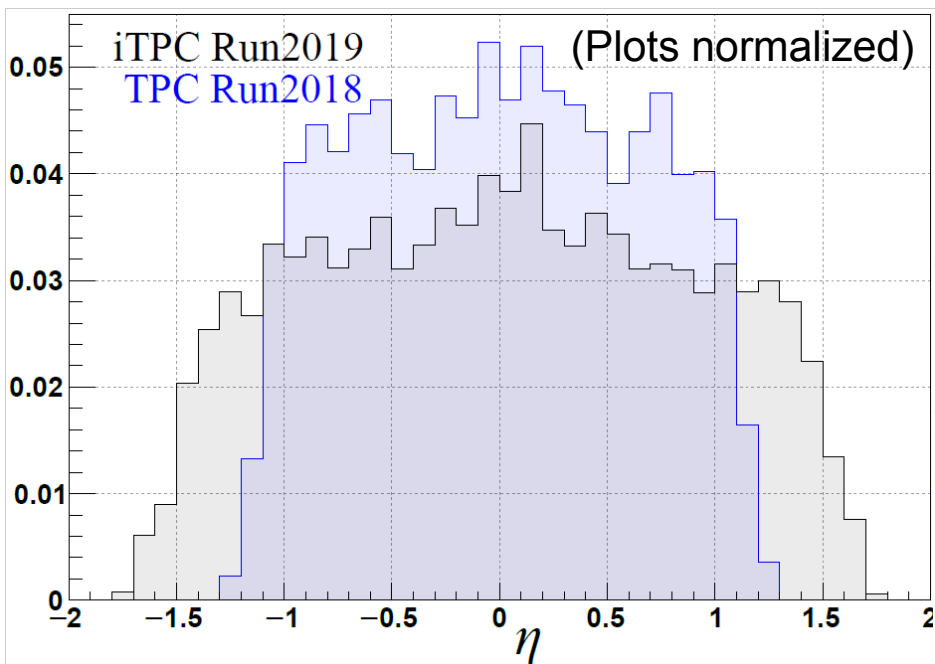


Successfully integrated into data-taking since day 1 of Run-19

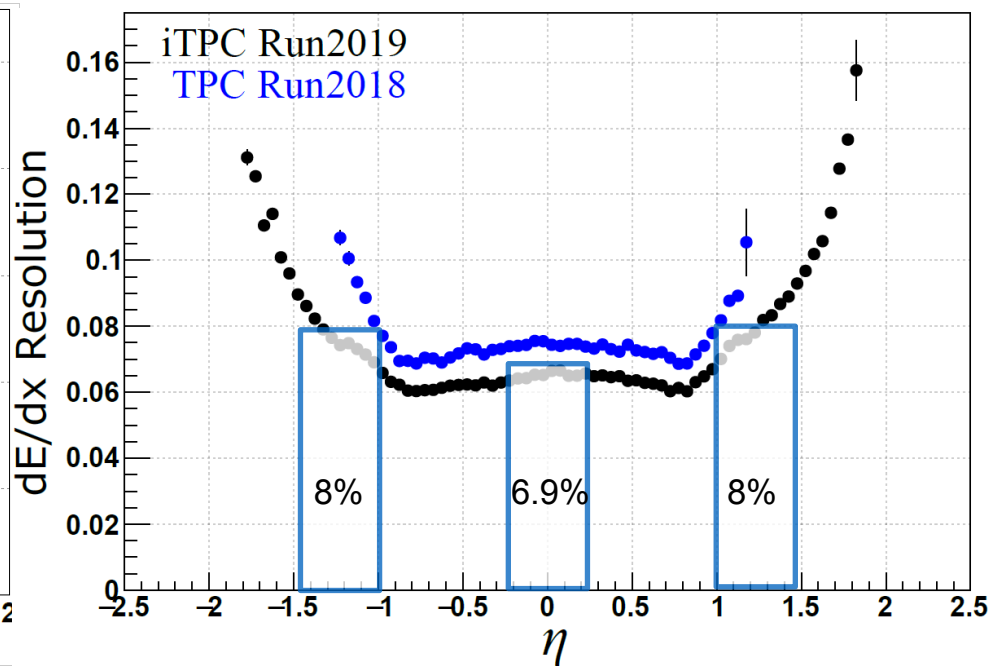
Passed DoE close-out review  
All KPP and UPPs met or passed

Demonstrated improvement:

Increased pseudorapidity coverage



Improved dE/dx resolution





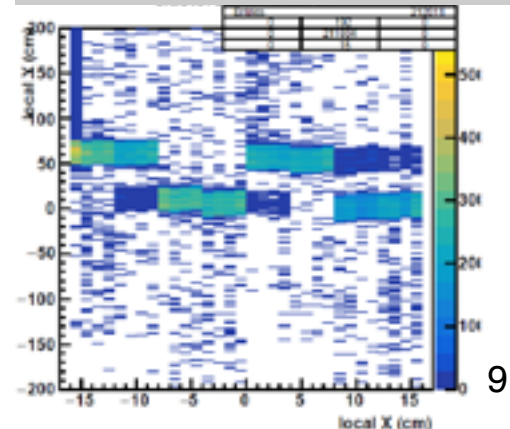
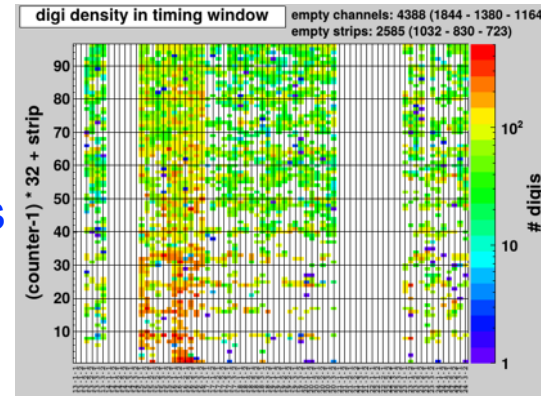
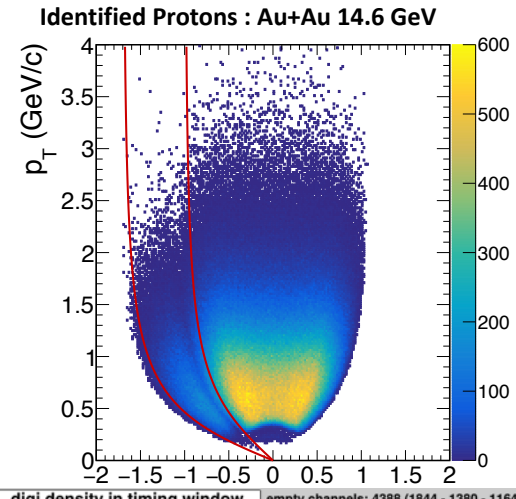
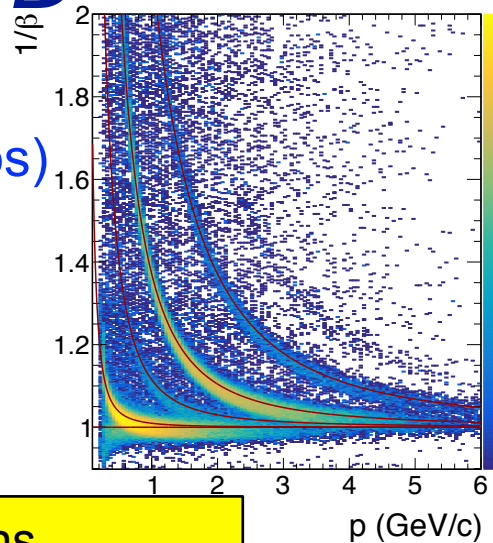
# eTOF: Enhanced PID



- Initially: Channels 100% working
- Good timing resolution (80ps)
- Clear PID bands
- Extended coverage

Joint FAIR Phase-0 CBM project

- Operate detector under real conditions
- Challenges integrating into STAR/collider mode



System started to lose performance  
Loss of ~50% of readout channels (PADI) - beam related events

Work ongoing to enhance stability of long term operation:

Occurrence and handling of noisy channels - Gas mixture changed and improved channel masking

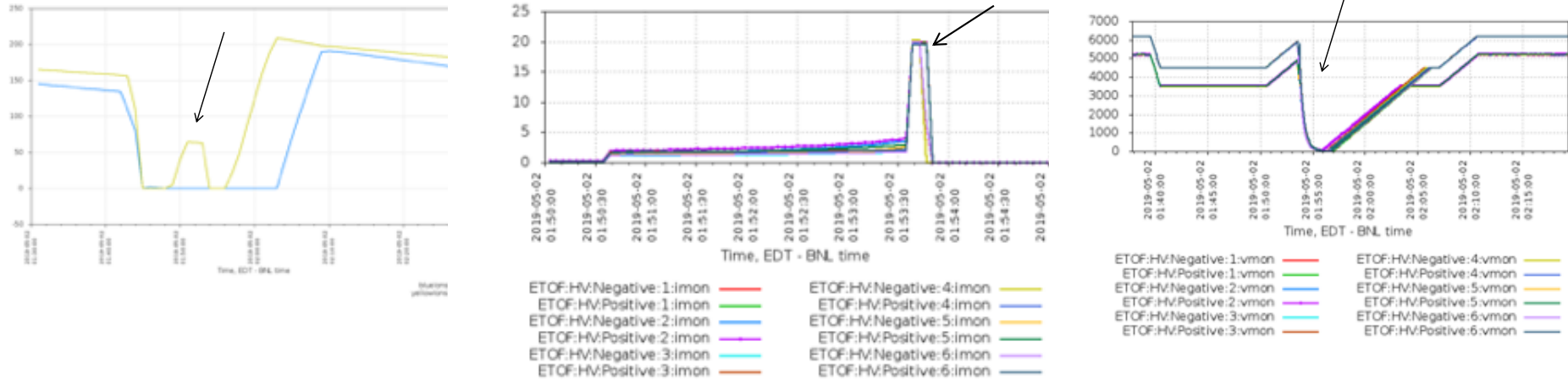
Intermittent failure of GBTx boards configuring - Improvements of eTOF/DAQ code

Clock jumps in data occur - Improvement to clock distribution, offline handling of eTOF timing

# eTOF: Beam Loss Induced Damage



Loss of yellow beam causes instantaneous high current in readout electrode and power supply in turn caused HV trip



Hypothesis: beam loss events → high flux of particles → induced high current in very short time in readout electrodes → damaged PADI input stage

More damaged channels on USTC counters than Tsinghua counters

- due to larger E-field energy (~30% more at operating voltage)
- Threshold behavior in channel destruction
- Distinct pattern of damaged channels is visible on USTC counters
- Not all beam loss events caused damage

# eTOF: Avoiding Future Damage



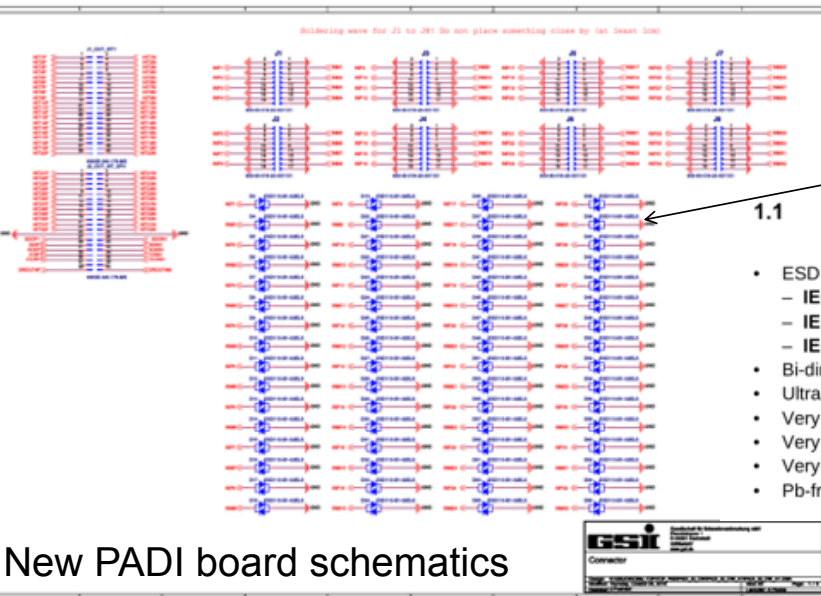
- Replace all PADI preamplifier boards
- New preamplifier boards have protection diode (ESD 113-B1)
- Prototype boards exist and are being tested



Protection Device  
TVS (Transient Voltage Suppressor)  
ESD113-B1 Series  
Features

1.1

- ESD / transient protection of high speed data lines according to:
  - IEC61000-4-2 (ESD):  $\pm 20$  kV (air / contact)
  - IEC61000-4-4 (EFT):  $\pm 2.5$  kV /  $\pm 50$  A (5/50 ns)
  - IEC61000-4-5 (surge):  $\pm 3$  A (8/20  $\mu$ s)
- Bi-directional, working voltage up to:  $V_{RWM} = \pm 3.6$  V
- Ultra low capacitance  $C_L = 0.20$  pF (typical) at  $f = 1$  GHz
- Very low clamping voltage:  $V_{CL} = 14$  V (typical) at  $I_{TLP} = 16$  A
- Very low reverse current:  $I_R < 1$  nA (typical)
- Very low dynamic resistance:  $R_{DYN} = 0.45$   $\Omega$  (typical)
- Pb-free and halogen-free package (RoHS compliant)



Mitigation plans in place

- Change gas mixture to include 1% SF6
- Ramp to full voltage only after both beams are stable
- Lower standby voltage

# eTOF: Preparing for Run-20 and Run-21

Run-19 commissioning highlighted critical issues with stable collider operations

Hardware → exchange all PADI boards and GBTx back-planes in Fall 2019

- improved overload protection
- improved clocking scheme with more flexibility
- extended slow control features (temp, on board voltages)

Firmware → development ongoing based on experience gained from eTOF and miniTOF during run 2019

- improve DAQ stability (noisy channel handling)
- eliminate data losses under high local rate conditions

Software → improve and test with Run-18 and Run-19 data

- handling of clock cycle jumps on data calibration level
- usage of pulser data for phase stability monitoring and correction

## Time line

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| now         | - PADI boards ordered                        |
| End of July | - Return of module 18.1 to Heidelberg        |
| End of Sept | - PADI boards available and tested           |
| Beg of Oct  | - New GBTx back-planes available and tested  |
| Oct/ Nov    | - Maintenance work at BNL (~3 weeks on-site) |
| afterwards  | - Commissioning                              |

eTOF can provide expected timing and PID

# Cosmic Commissioning



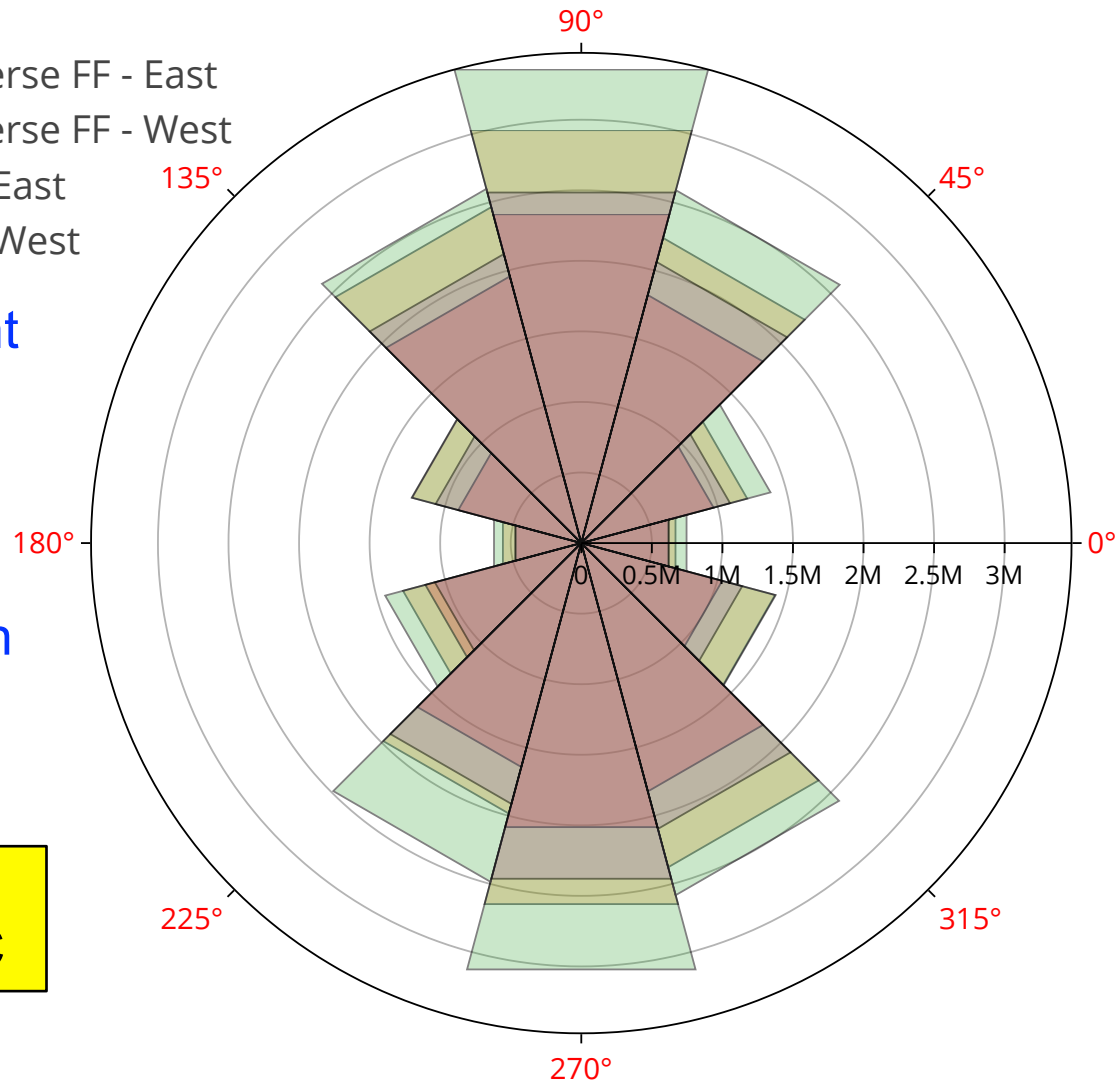
Fully commissioned iTPC prior to BES-II data taking

To eliminate B-field dependent effects both field polarities used

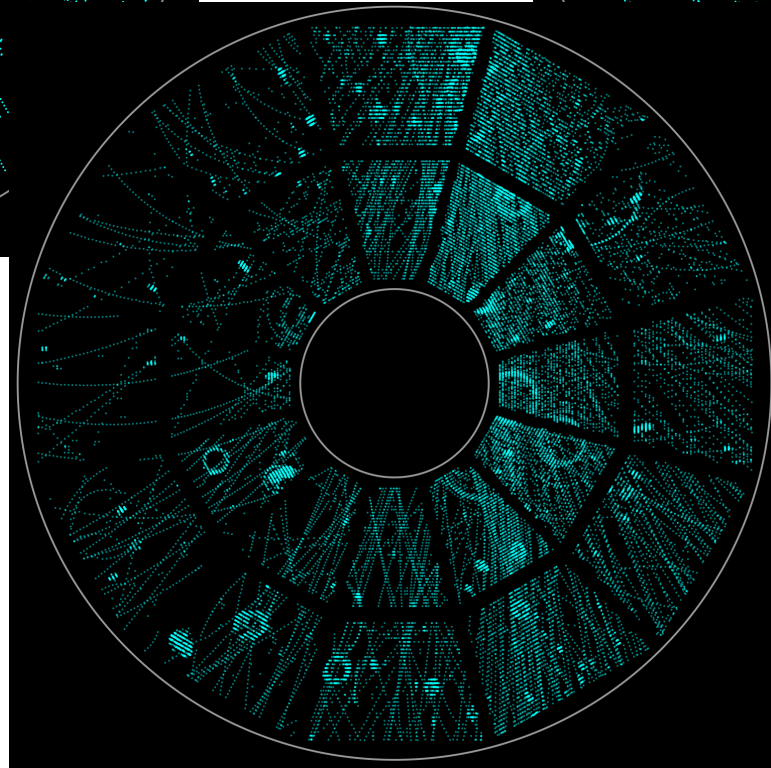
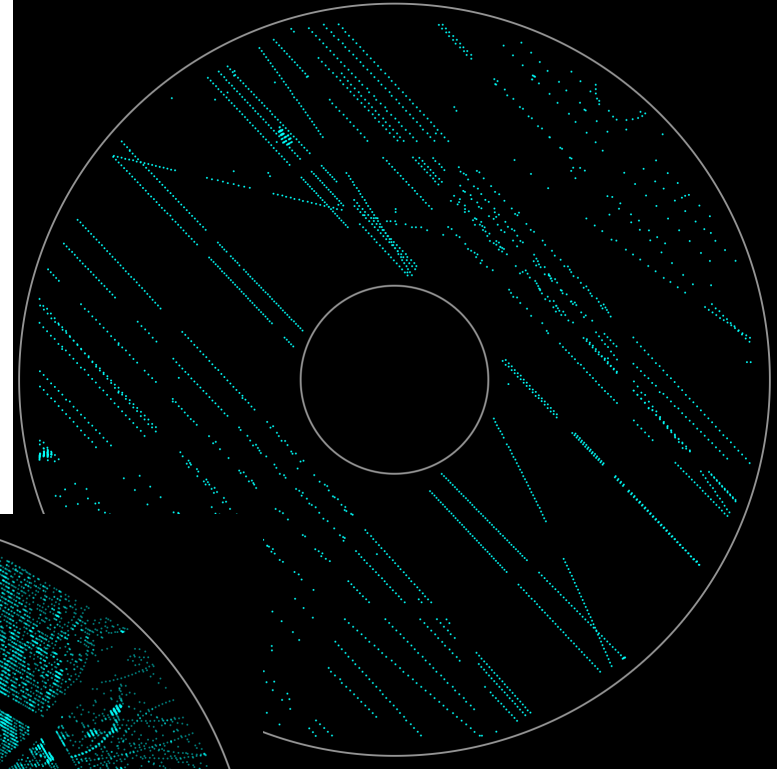
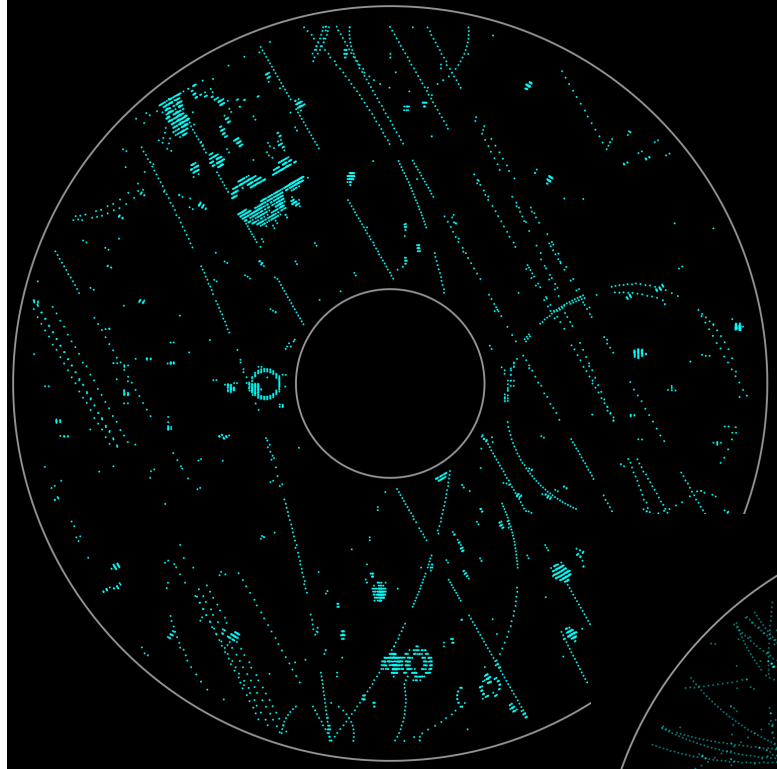
Collected >0.5M cosmic events in each sector for each field

Enables alignment of new inner sectors with outer TPC

- Reverse FF - East
- Reverse FF - West
- FF - East
- FF - West



# Cosmic Examples



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

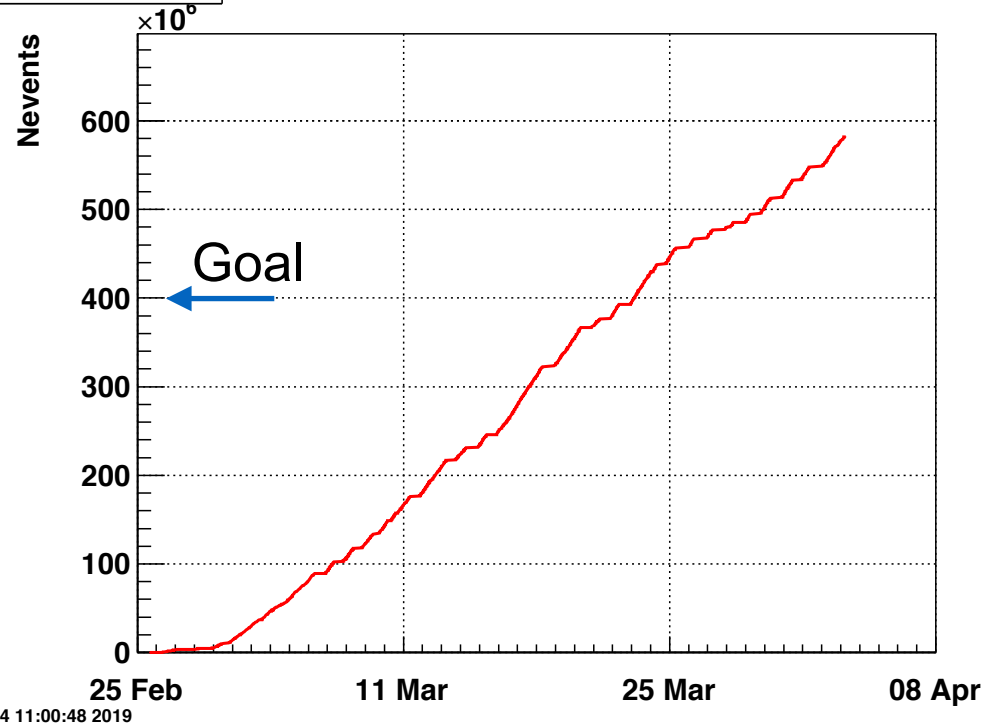
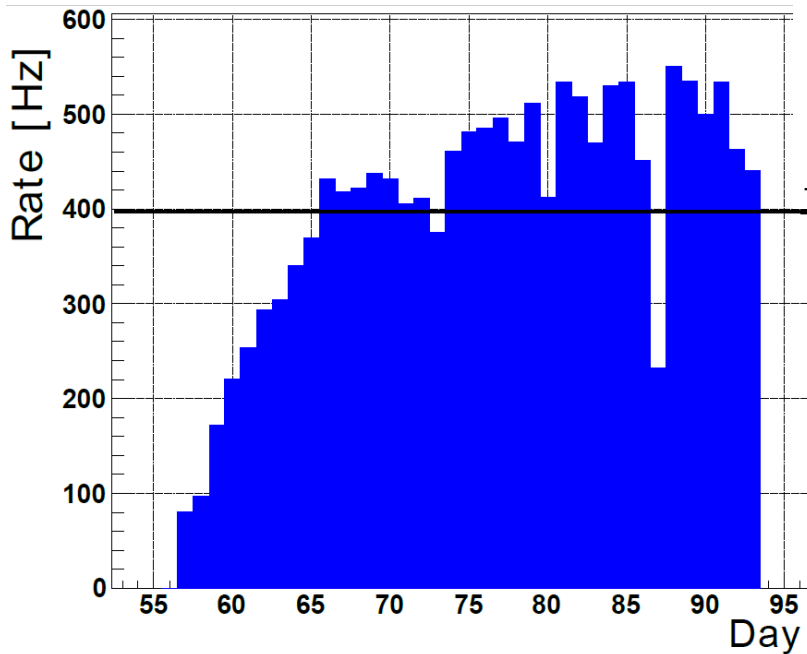


minbias-hltgood

Efficient data-taking and high quality stable beams

~60 min fills,  
turn around ~20mins

Good event fraction 40-55%



Thu Apr 4 11:00:48 2019

Concluded on April 4<sup>th</sup>  
580 M minbias “good” events collected

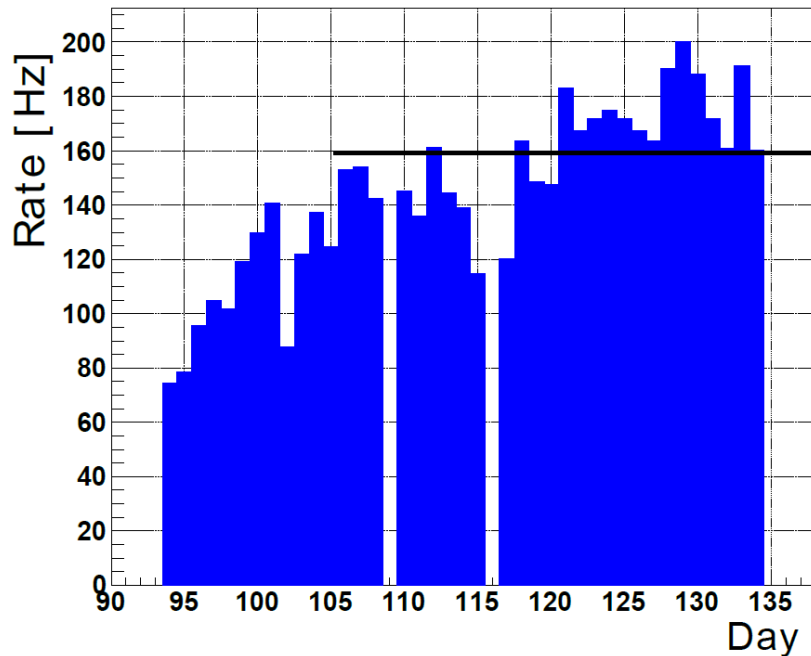
# Au+Au $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 14.6$ GeV



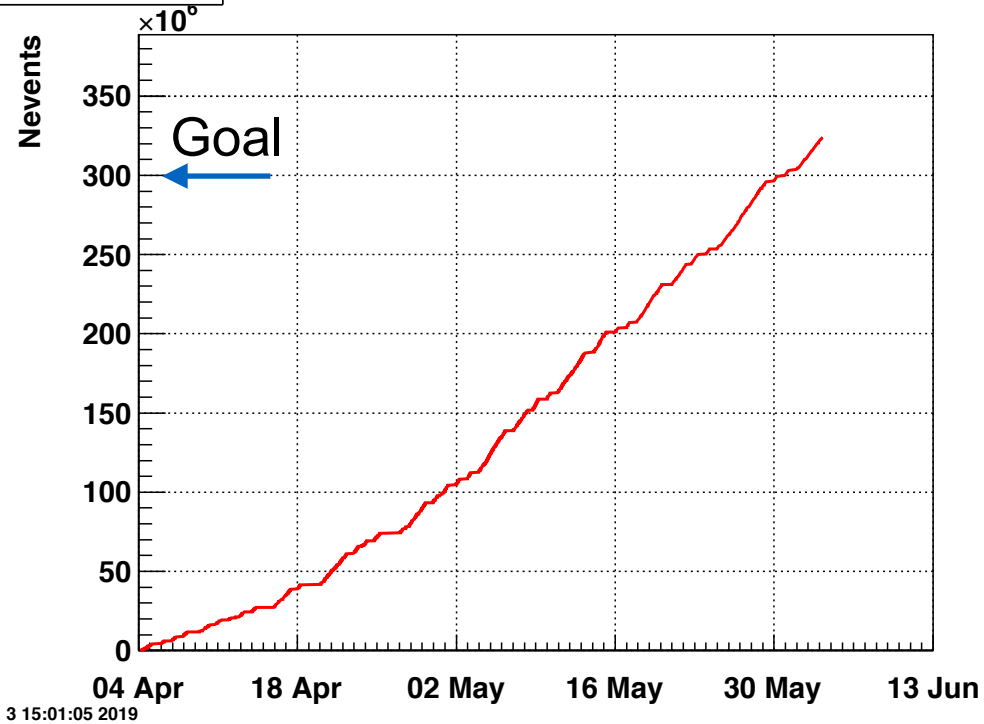
Ever-increasing collision rate as C-AD enhanced beam

~45 min fills,  
turn around ~20mins

Good event fraction 35-40%



minbias-hltgood



Concluded on June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
324 M minbias “good” events collected

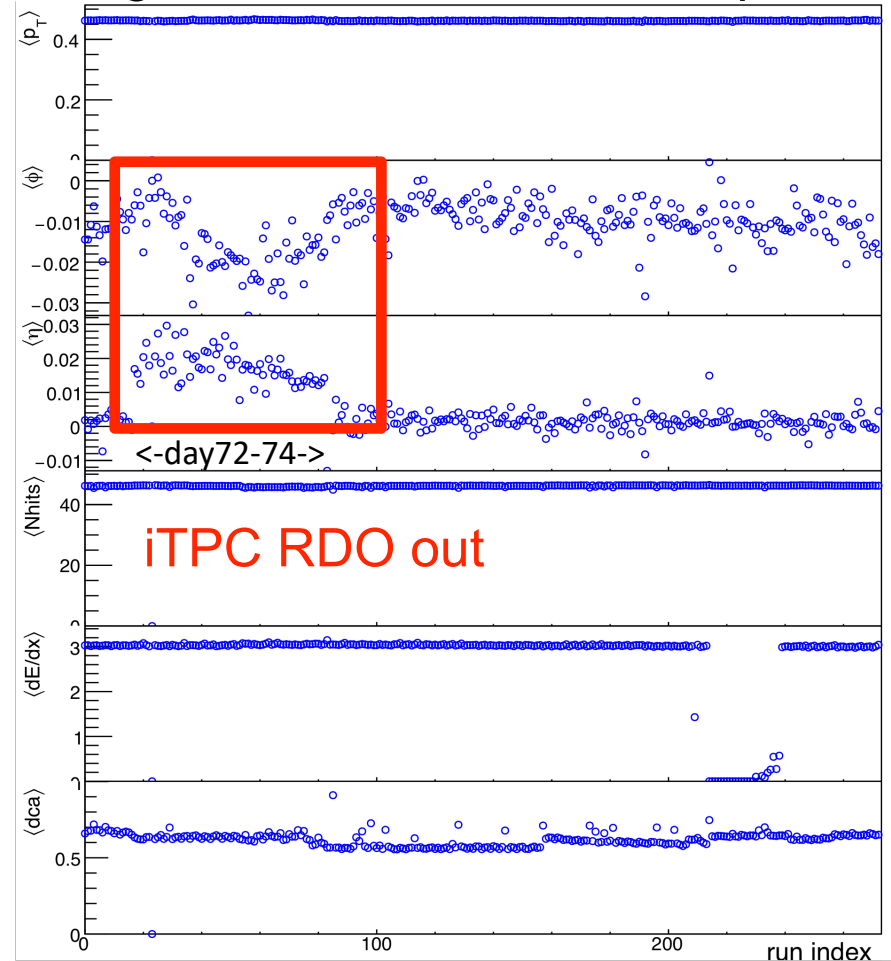
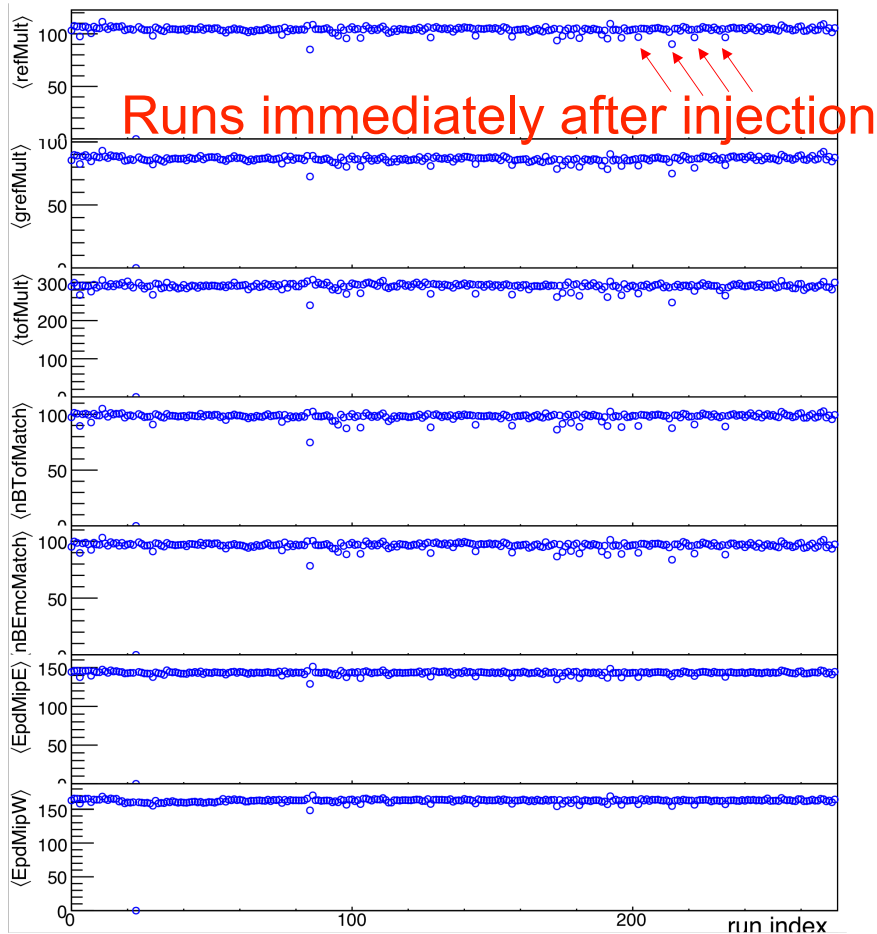
<sup>1</sup>In 2014, collisions were run at a collider energy of 14.546 GeV, which was rounded to 14.5 GeV. This year, we are running at a slightly different energy, 14.618 GeV, which is rounded to 14.6 GeV.



# Continuous Data QA



Data QA occurs: On shift while data being taken, via fast offline reconstruction  
QA shift, HLT monitoring and weekly meeting of detector and PWG experts



Issues rapidly identified, fast feedback to C-AD and/or shift crew

# Au+Au $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3.9$ GeV: FXT test

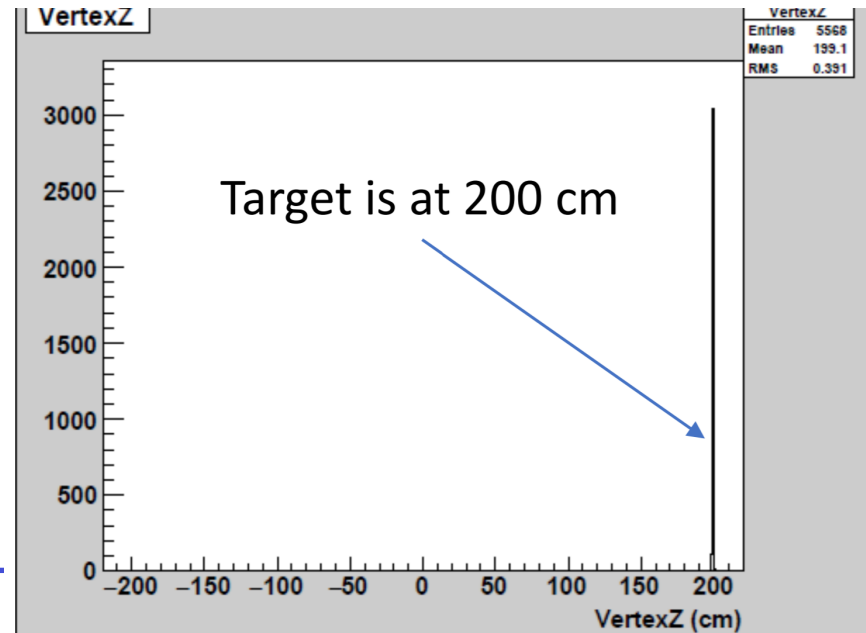
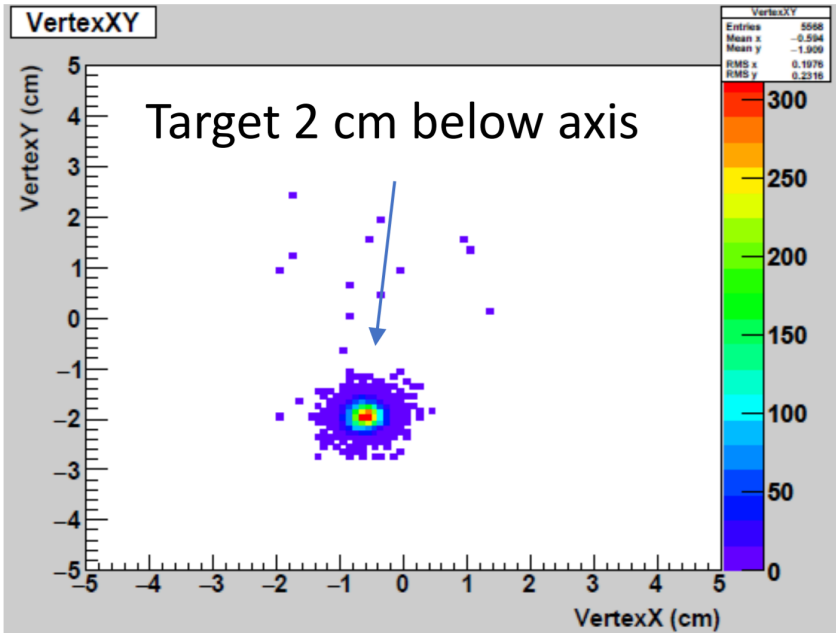
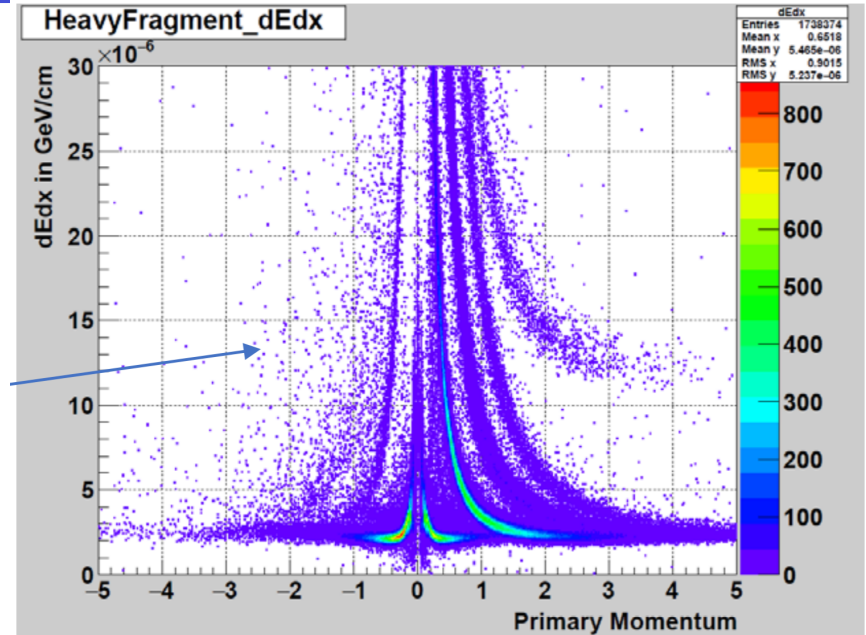


Quick test during LEReC operations

Data taking for 1 hr  
recorded ~4M good events  
Trigger effic. 90%

Clear PID, including heavy fragments

Confident can trigger and collect data requested



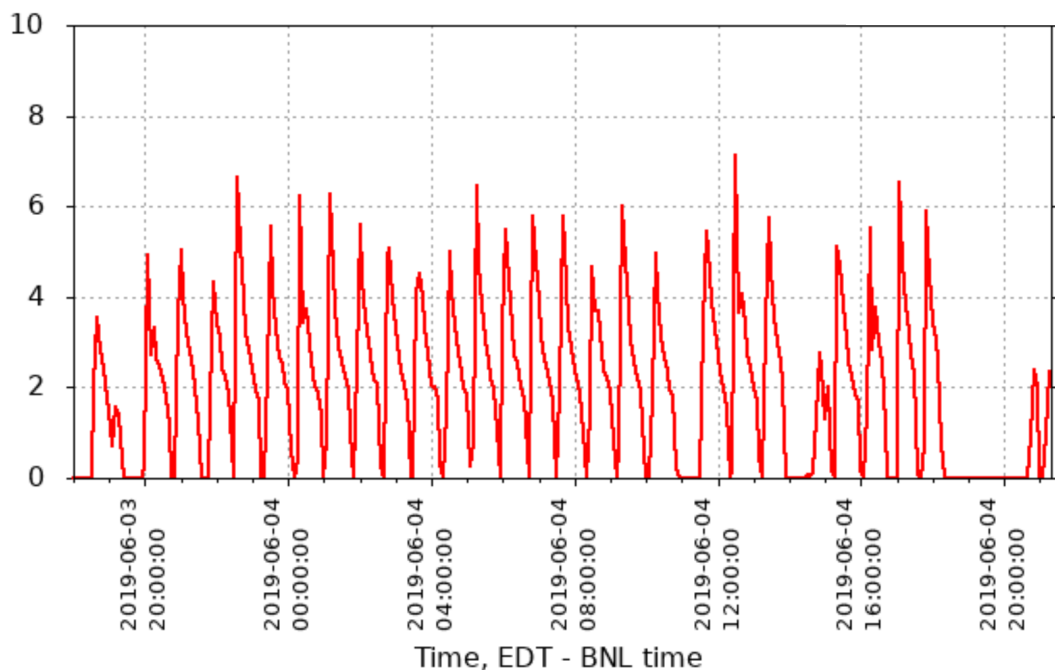
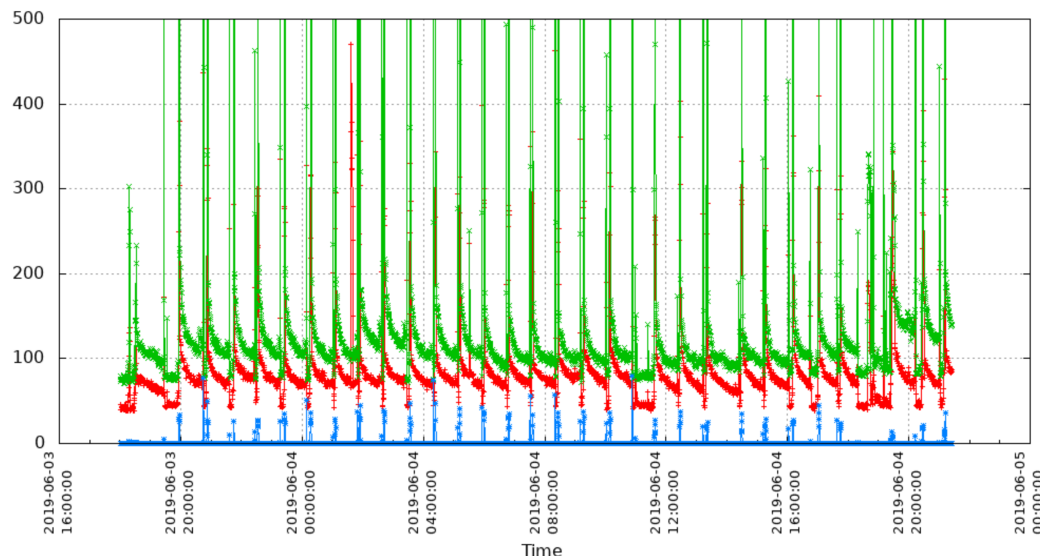
# Remainder of Run-19



Au+Au 7.7 GeV (collider mode)

STAR: Commissioning for Run-20  
LEReC: commissioning during real physics running

Run until ~June 20<sup>th</sup>



starEventTrigger.rate - HLT good —

Remainder of this year's run:  
FXT at 3.85, 4.55, 7.3, and 31.2 GeV  
Au+Au 200 GeV collider during RHIC APEX

# STAR BES-II (projected) Performance



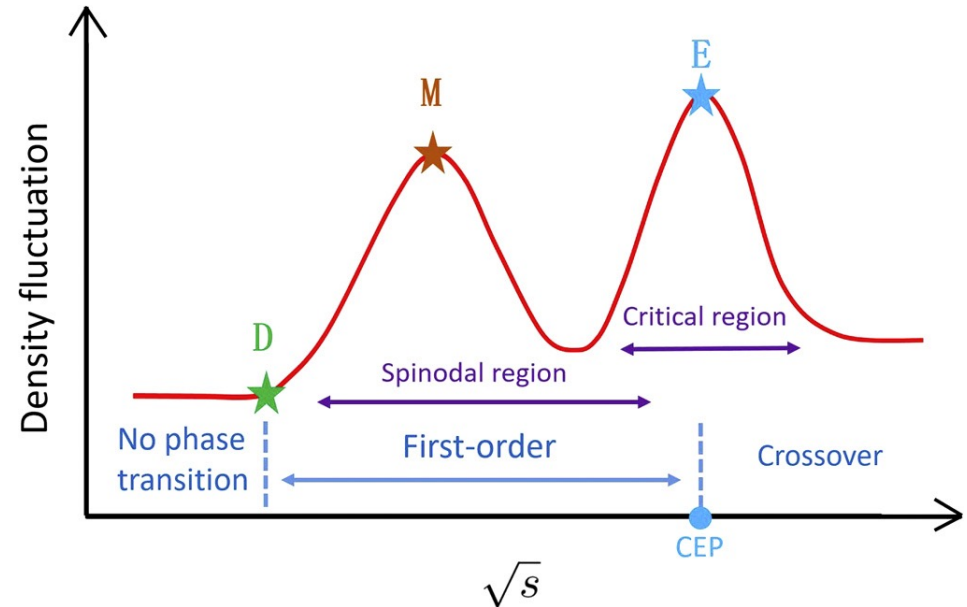
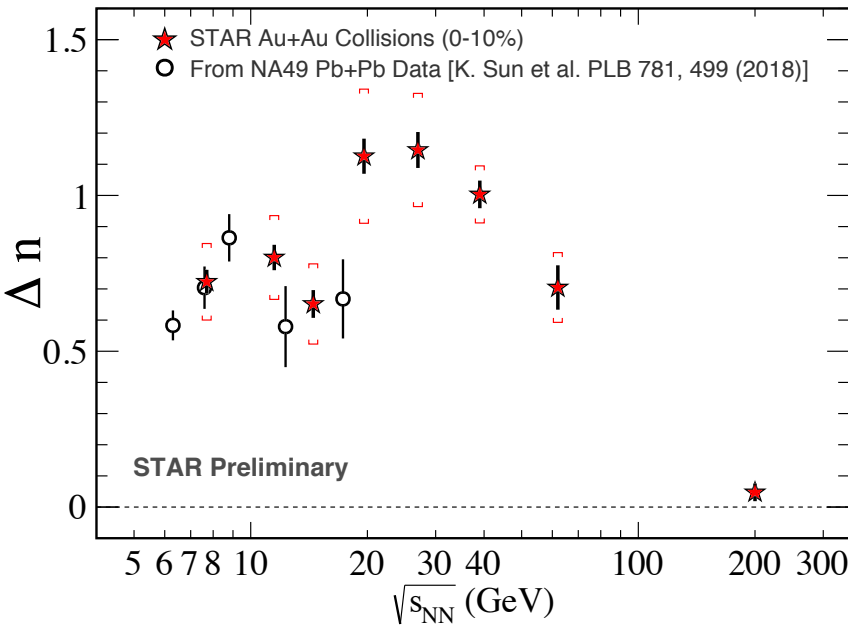
**Table 9:** Achieved and projected experiment performance criteria for the BES-II collider program.

Collision Energy (GeV)	7.7	9.1	11.5	14.5	16.7**	19.6	27
Performance in BES-I							
Good Events (M)	4.3	NA	11.7	12.6	NA	36	70
Days running	19	NA	10	21	NA	9	8
Data Hours per day	11	NA	12	10	NA	9	10
Fill Length (min)	10	NA	20	60	NA	30	60
Good Event Rate (Hz)	7	NA	30	17	NA	100	190
Max DAQ Rate (Hz)	80	NA	140	1000	NA	500	1200
Performance in BES-II ( <b>achieved</b> or projected)							
Required Number of Events	100	160	230	300	250	400	NA
<b>Achieved Number of Events</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	<b>324</b>	TBD	<b>580</b>	<b>560</b>
fill length (min)	20	30	40	<b>45</b>	50	<b>60</b>	<b>120</b>
Good Event Rate (Hz)	20-33	33-53	60-80	<b>160</b>	245	<b>400</b>	<b>620</b>
Max DAQ rate (Hz)	125	160	250	<b>800</b>	1300	<b>1800</b>	<b>2200</b>
Data Hours per day	12	14	15	<b>10</b>	15	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>
weeks to reach goals	16-10	14-8.5	10.2-7.6	<b>9.5</b>	2.7	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>

Projection ranges from optimistic/pessimistic assumptions

Below injection energy luminosity scales with  $\gamma^3$

# Case for Au+Au $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 17.1$ GeV



Ratio of light nuclei yields sensitive to neutron relative density fluctuations  
 Neutron relative density fluctuations increase near CP and/or 1st order PT

$$\Delta(n) = \frac{\langle (\delta n)^2 \rangle}{\langle n \rangle^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{g} \frac{N_t \times N_p}{N_d^2} - 1$$

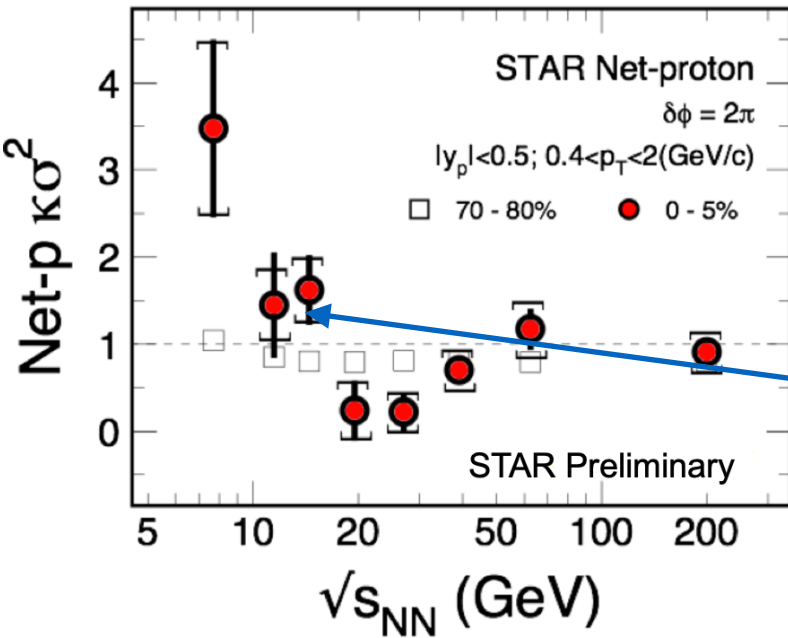
**Clear non-monotonic energy dependence**

Sudden drop below 19.6 GeV

- Consistent with NA49

Second peak?

# Case for Au+Au $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 17.1$ GeV



First order phase transition could also cause large increase in net-p kurtosis  
 Entering spinoidal region (mixed phase)

2<sup>nd</sup> peak?

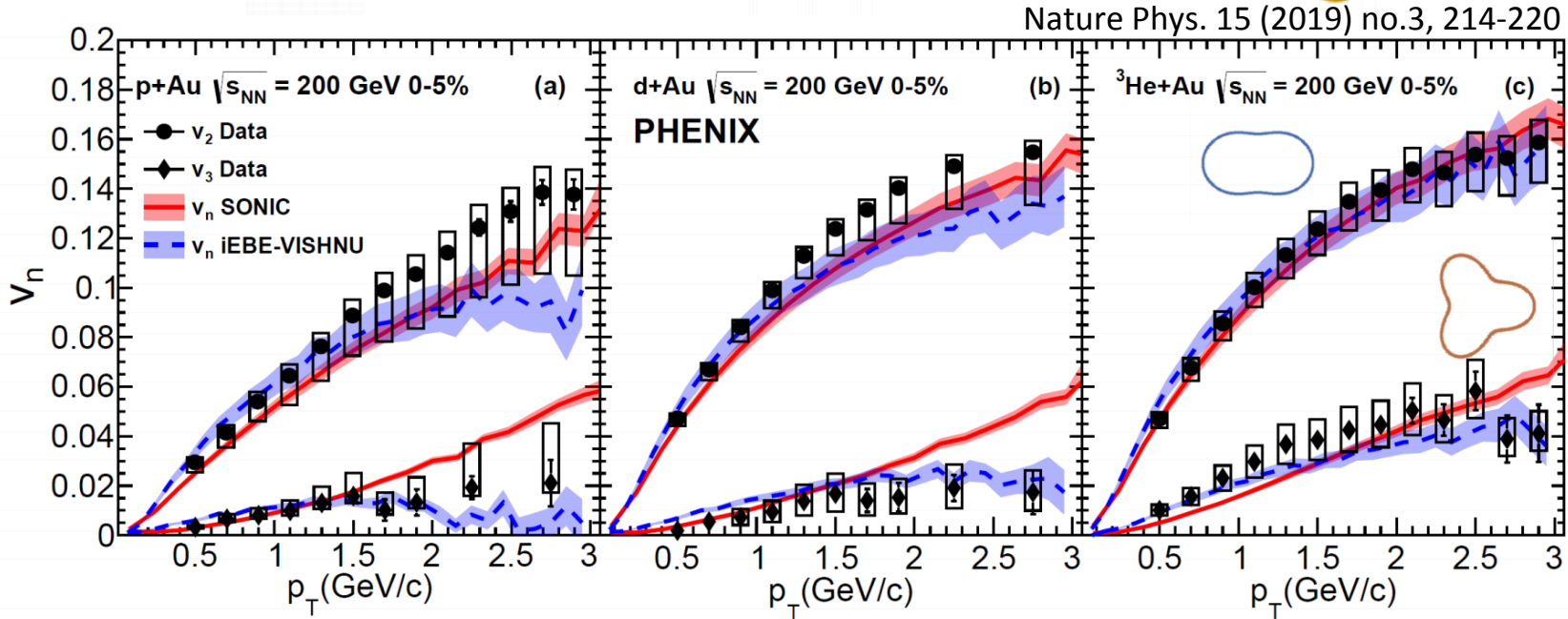
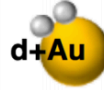
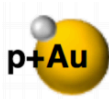
Therefore propose a 17.1 GeV ( $\mu_B = 235$  MeV) run

Equal spacing in  $\mu_B$

**Table 10:** Event statistics (in millions) needed in a Au+Au run at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 16.7$  GeV for fourth order net-proton fluctuations ( $\kappa\sigma^2$ ) and neutron density fluctuation ( $\Delta n$ ) measurements.

Triggers	Minimum Bias	Net-proton $\kappa\sigma^2$ (0-5% Cent.)	$\Delta n$ (0-10% Cent.)
Number of events	250 M	6% error level	3.6% error level

# Studying Small Systems



Hydro calculations reproduce  $v_n$  measurements

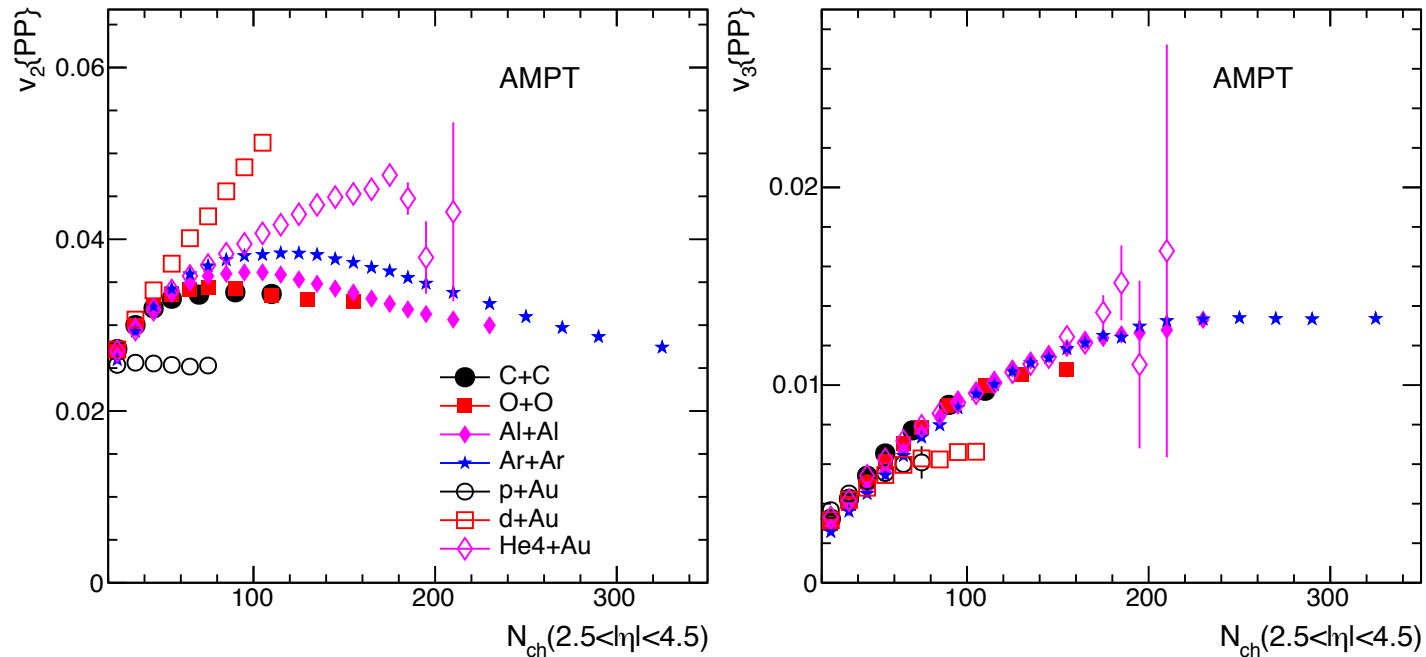
Effect of pre-equilibrium flow?

Initial State Correlations (ISM) or Final State Interaction (FSM) in p+A?

If FSM: is collectivity fluid-like or off-equilibrium few scatterings?

[1] [http://www.int.washington.edu/talks/WorkShops/int\\_19\\_1b/People/Mace\\_M/Mace.pdf](http://www.int.washington.edu/talks/WorkShops/int_19_1b/People/Mace_M/Mace.pdf)  
[2] [https://indico.cern.ch/event/771998/contributions/3339235/subcontributions/276910/attachments/1813022/2961981/talk\\_smallsystems\\_SHEN.pdf](https://indico.cern.ch/event/771998/contributions/3339235/subcontributions/276910/attachments/1813022/2961981/talk_smallsystems_SHEN.pdf)

# Case for O+O $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV



AMPT (FSM):  $v_n$  from geometry:

$v_2$ : asymmetric systems behave differently to symmetric systems

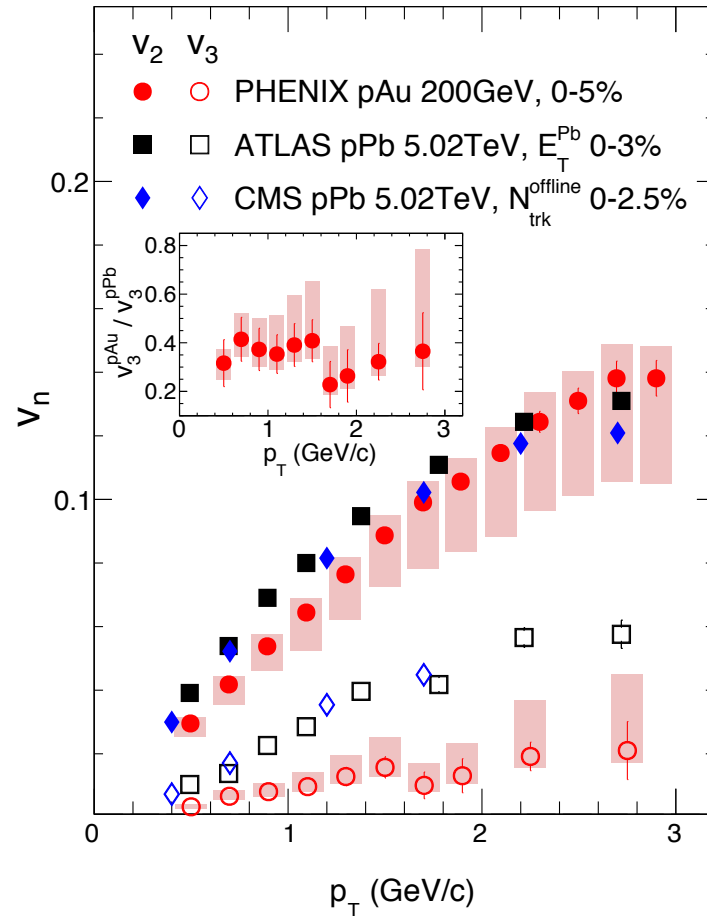
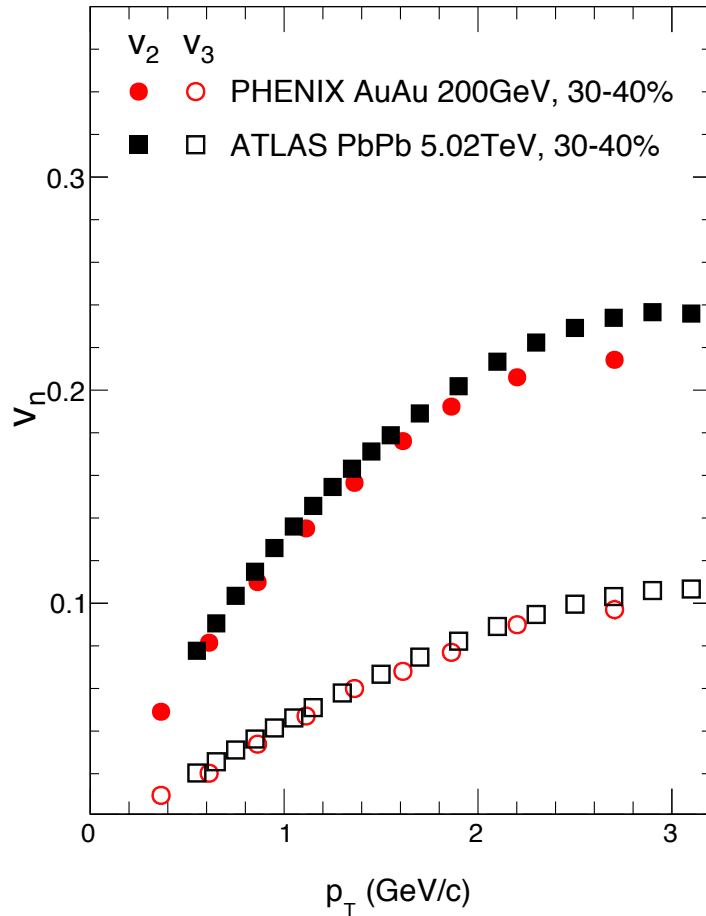
$v_3$ : all systems behave similarly

If system driven by ISM: signals smaller with increasing system size

Potential to constrain transport vs hydro



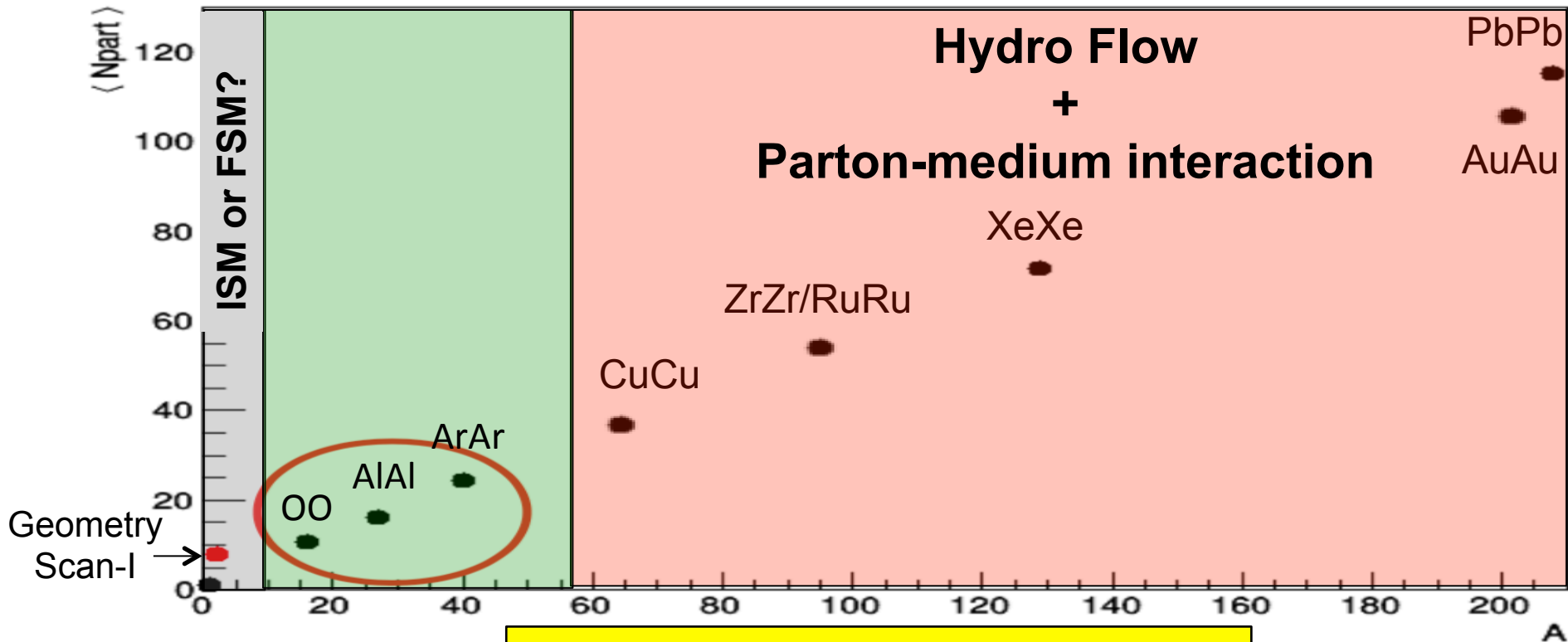
# Case for $O+O \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$



$v_3$ : Energy invariance for symmetric heavy systems  
 $v_3$ : Energy dependence for asymmetric systems

What about small symmetric systems?

# Mind the Gap



Propose O+O:  
400M MB, 200M Central (1-2 weeks)

Why Oxygen and why now?:

Better control of  $N_{part}$  and  $\epsilon_n$  than in peripheral Au+Au

Larger acceptance from BES-II upgrades, better control of non-flow

Synergy with LHC

Evidence of jet quenching?

# Run-20: 28 Cryo-weeks



**Table 2: Proposed Run-20** assuming 28 cryo-weeks, including five weeks of LEReC commissioning, an initial one week of cool-down and a one week set-up time for each collider energy.

Single-Beam Energy (GeV/ $n$ )	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	Run Time	Species	Events (MinBias)	Priority	Sequence
5.75	11.5	9.5 weeks	Au+Au	230M	1	1
4.55	9.1	9.5 weeks	Au+Au	160M	1	3
19.5	6.2 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	2	5
13.5	5.2 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	2	6
5.75	3.5 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	2	2
4.55	3.2 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	2	4
3.85	3.0 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	2	7
100	200	1 week <sup>2</sup>	O+O	400M 200M (central)	3	8

<sup>2</sup> Available run time for the proposed small system run using O+O will directly depend on the the run time for the 11.5 GeV system. In the case the combined performance of C-AD and STAR resembles that of last year's 19.6 GeV data set, then approximately 2 cryo-weeks would be available to complete the small system program.

**Top priority: Collider program and commissioning of LEReC (5 weeks) - impact on yet to come 7.7 GeV running**

# Run-20: 24 Cryo-weeks



**Table 3: Proposed Run-20** assuming 24 cryo-weeks, including three to four weeks of LEReC commissioning, an initial one week of cool-down and less than one week set-up time for each collider energy.

Single-Beam Energy (GeV/ $n$ )	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	Run Time	Species	Events (MinBias)	Priority	Sequence
5.75	11.5	7.5 weeks <sup>3</sup>	Au+Au	230M	1	1
4.55	9.1	9.5 weeks	Au+Au	160M	1	3
19.5	6.2 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	3	5
13.5	5.2 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	3	6
5.75	3.5 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	2	2
4.55	3.2 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	2	4
3.85	3.0 (FXT)	2 days	Au+Au	100M	3	7

<sup>3</sup> In this 24 cryo-week scenario an optimistic view on the performance of the 11.5 GeV run is presumed, based on combined performance of C-AD and STAR resembling that of last year's 19.6 GeV run.

**Top priority: Collider program and commissioning of LEReC (3-4 weeks) - impact on yet to come 7.7 GeV running**

Optimistic projection for the non-cooled 11.5 GeV and e-cooled 9.1 GeV - FXT could be finished in Run-21 along with O+O running

# Run-21: 20 Cryo-weeks



Single-Beam Energy (GeV/n)	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	Run Time	Species	Events (MinBias)	Priority	Sequence
3.85	7.7	12 weeks	Au+Au	100M	1	1
8.35	16.7	5 weeks	Au+Au	250M	2	2
100	200 <sup>**</sup>	1 week <sup>4</sup>	O+O	400M 200M (central)	2	3

<sup>4</sup> In the case the proposed small system run can not take place in Run-20, the cryo-week budget for Run-21 could potentially permit this run to take place depending on the Run-20 LEReC performance.

**Top priority: Completion of BES-II**

Bulk of running dedicated to 7.7 GeV

Time estimate will be refined as Run-19 and Run-20 continue

New Requests: Au+Au at 17.1 GeV (collider data)

O+O at 200 GeV

STAR's highest priority requests

Run-20 & Run-21: completion of BES-II

Run-22: p+p 500 GeV - next talk by Jim D

Significant progress towards this goal made in Run-19

iTPC and EPD working beyond expectations

eTOF commissioning progressing, improvements planned for Run-20

Request to add Au+Au at 17.1 GeV to BES-II program

Probing potential “double bump” signals

Request for short O+O (small system) run at 200 GeV

Good control of geometry for comparison to p+A data

Beyond BES-II

Run-22: p+p 500 GeV

Co-running with sPHENIX

Depending on pending results:

Further Isobar, BES, small system running

# BACK UP

**Table 7:** Event statistics (in millions) needed in the collider part of the BES-II program for various observables. This table updates estimates originally documented in STAR Note 598.

Collision Energy (GeV)	7.7	9.1	11.5	14.5	19.6
$\mu_B$ (MeV) in 0-5% central collisions	420	370	315	260	205
Observables					
$R_{CP}$ up to $p_T = 5$ GeV/ $c$	-	-	160	125	92
Elliptic Flow ( $\phi$ mesons)	80	120	160	160	320
Chiral Magnetic Effect	50	50	50	50	50
Directed Flow (protons)	20	30	35	45	50
Azimuthal Femtoscopy (protons)	35	40	50	65	80
Net-Proton Kurtosis	70	85	100	170	340
Dileptons	100	160	230	300	400
$>5\sigma$ Magnetic Field Significance	50	80	110	150	200
<b>Required Number of Events</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>400</b>

Typically factor 20 more than for BES-I

dileptons drive the event request



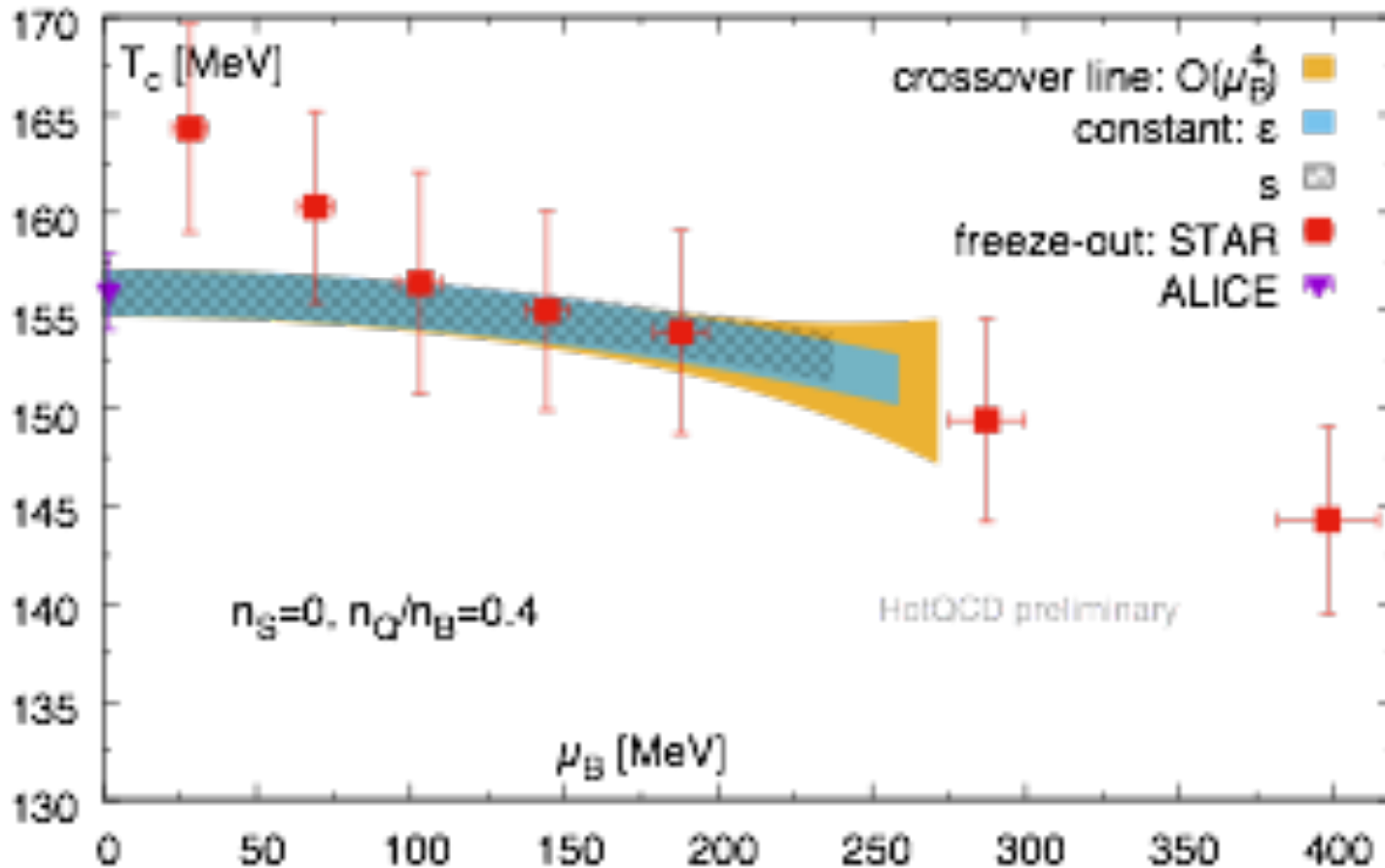
**Table 8:** Event statistics (in millions) needed in the fixed-target part of the BES-II program for various observables.

$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.9	4.5	5.2	6.2	7.7
Single Beam Energy (GeV)	3.85	4.55	5.75	7.3	9.8	13.5	19.5	31.2
$\mu_B$ (MeV)	721	699	666	633	589	541	487	420
Rapidity $y_{CM}$	1.06	1.13	1.25	1.37	1.52	1.68	1.87	2.10
<b>Observables</b>								
Elliptic Flow (kaons)	300	150	80	40	20	40	60	80
Chiral Magnetic Effect	70	60	50	50	50	70	80	100
Directed Flow (protons)	20	30	35	45	50	60	70	90
Femtoscscopy (tilt angle)	60	50	40	50	65	70	80	100
Net-Proton Kurtosis	36	50	75	125	200	400	950	NA
Multi-strange baryons	300	100	60	40	25	30	50	100
Hypertritons	200	100	80	50	50	60	70	100
<b>Requested Number of Events</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

# Is there a Critical Point?

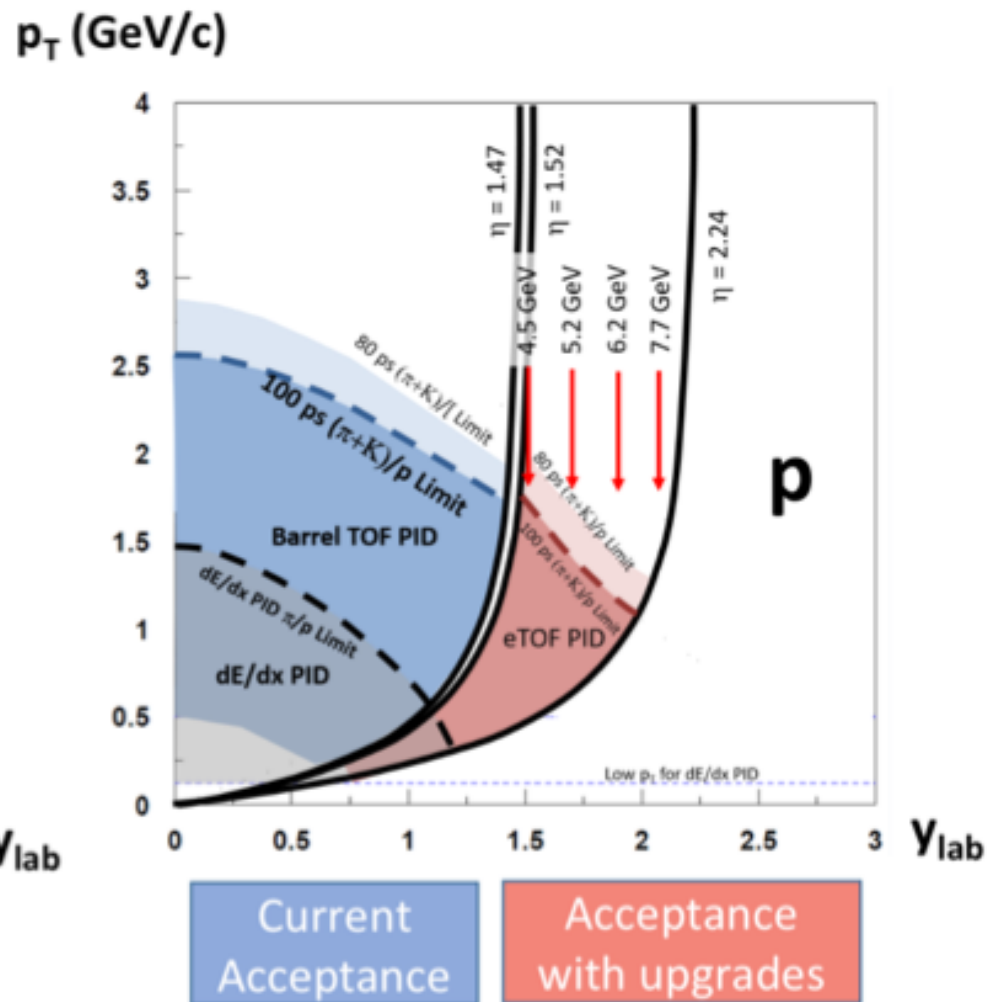
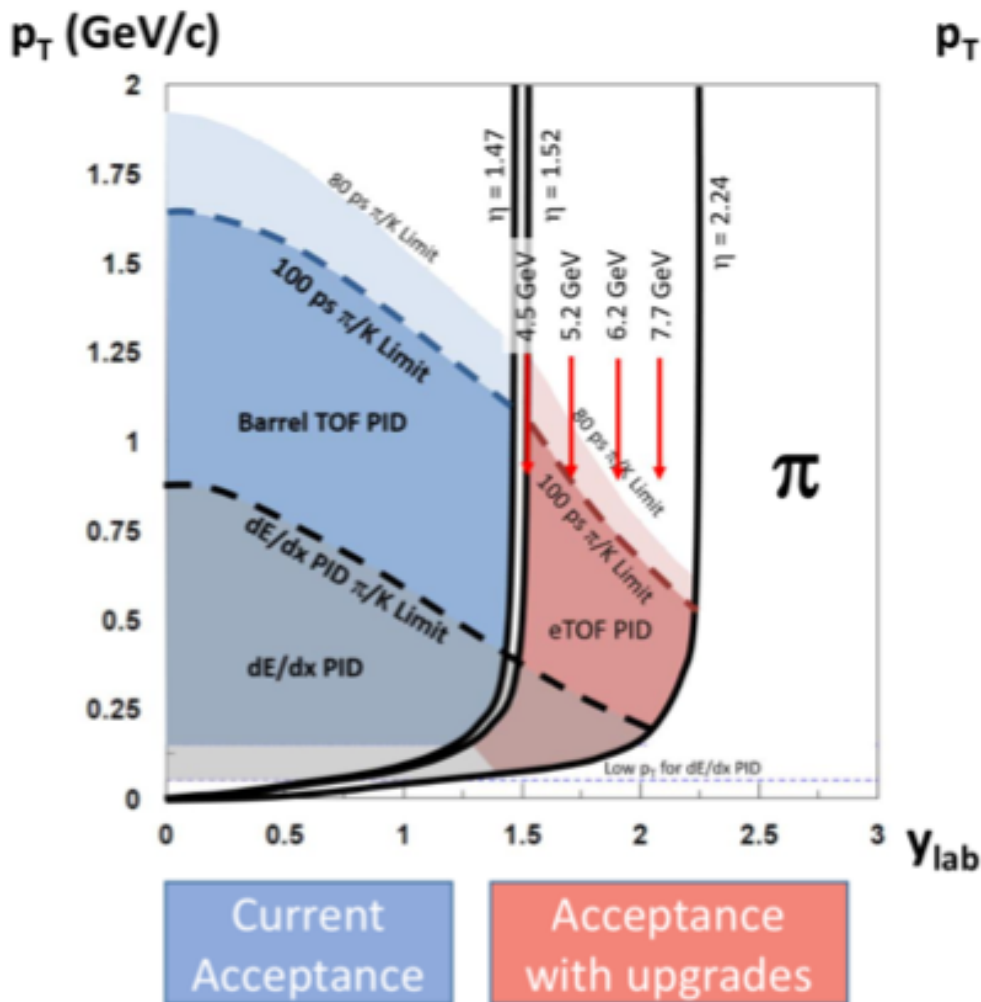


Latest from the lattice: Cross-over starts at  $T_0 = 156.5$  (1.5) MeV  
 $\epsilon_0 \sim 1 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3$

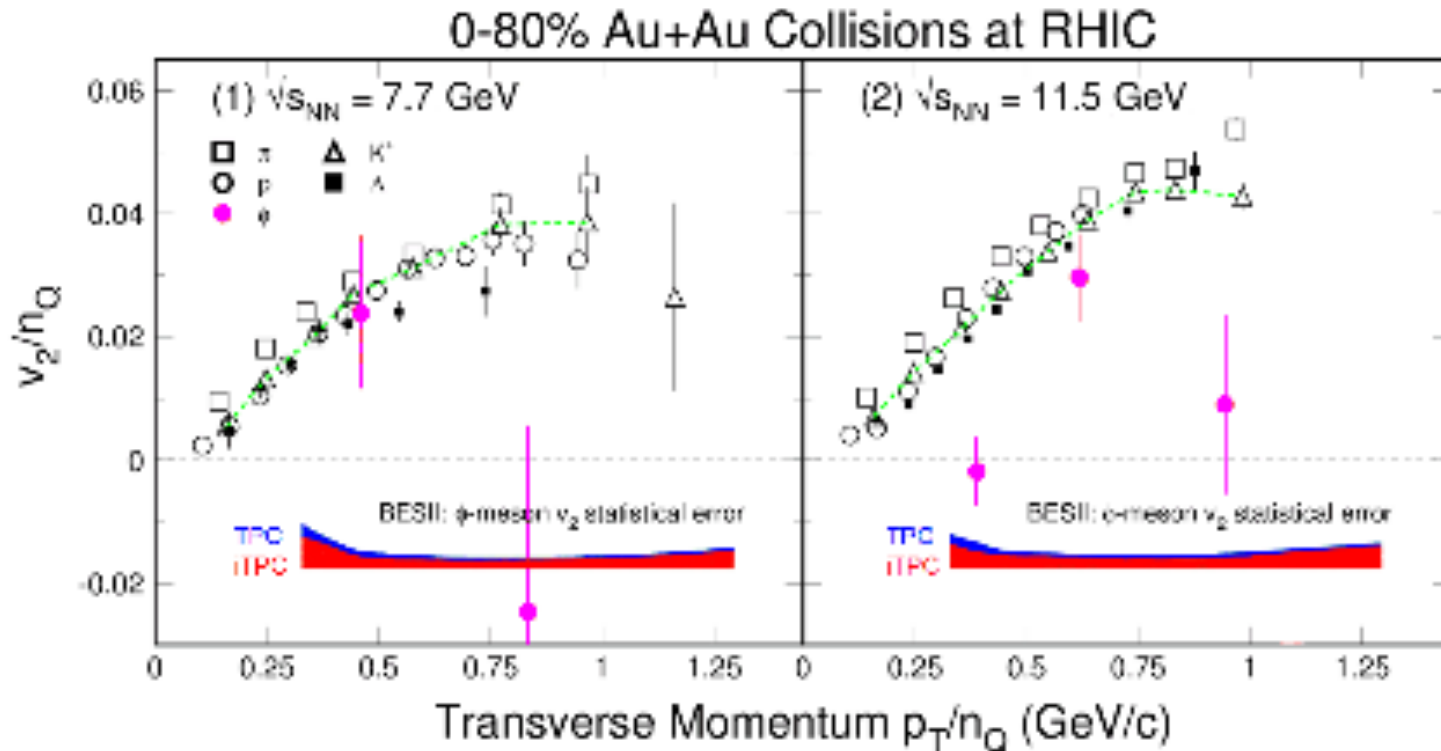


No indication of CP for  $\mu_B < 250$  MeV

# FXT: energy “upgrade”

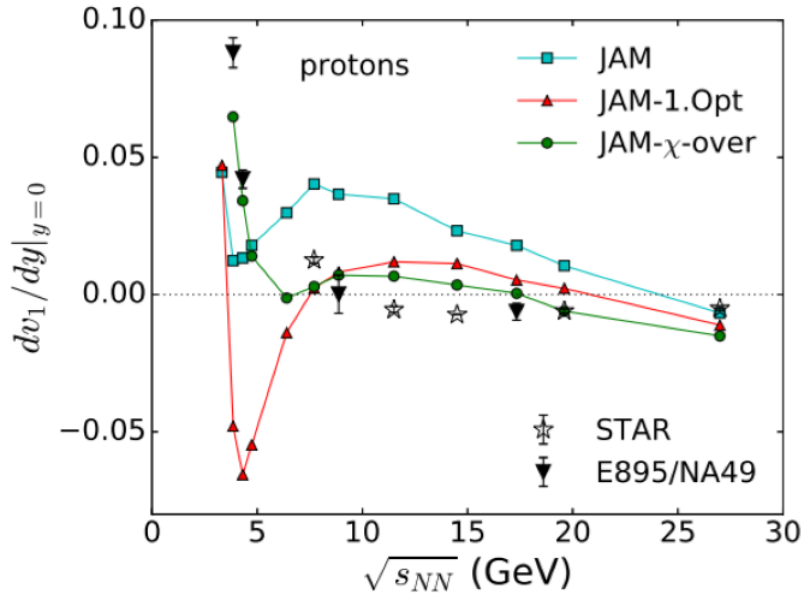


Detector upgrades improve STAR PID and acceptance performance, for FXT energies up to 7.7 GeV, overlap energy with the collider mode



Precision measurement of the  $\phi$  (and other) flow

# Softest point in EOS



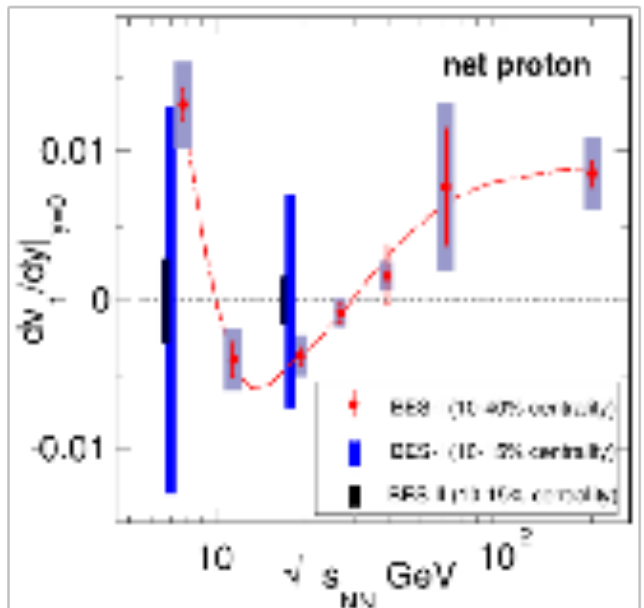
net-proton directed flow

Recent calculations consistent with original 2005 prediction

**JAM 1.0pt: First order phase transition strong "wobble"**

**JAM X-over - Cross over weaker "wobble"**

**JAM - No transition no "wobble"**



Theoretical calculations do not yet match data

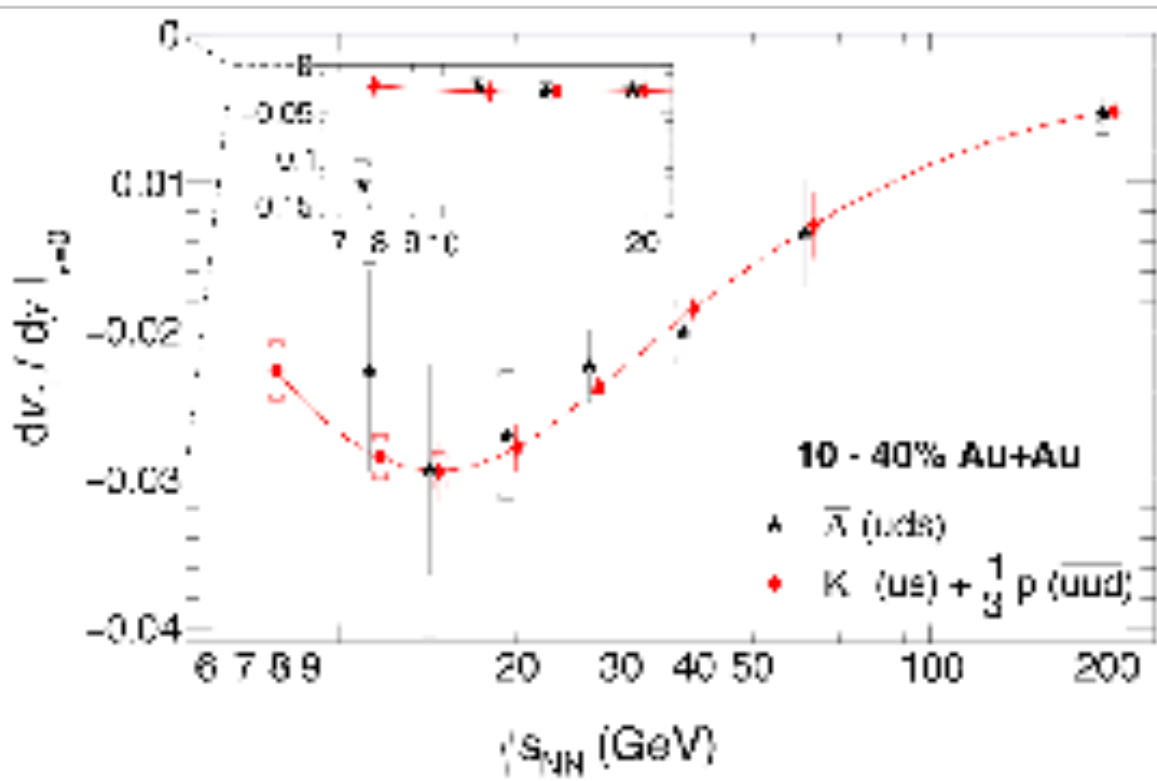
Fine centrality binning possible with BES-II data

# Coalescence of “produced” particles



## Assumptions:

- $v_1$  is developed in prehadronic stage
- Hadrons are formed via coalescence:  $(v_n)_{\text{hadron}} = \sum (v_n)_{\text{constituent quarks}}$
- $(v_1)_{\bar{u}} = (v_1)_{\bar{d}}$  and  $(v_1)_s = (v_1)_{\bar{s}}$

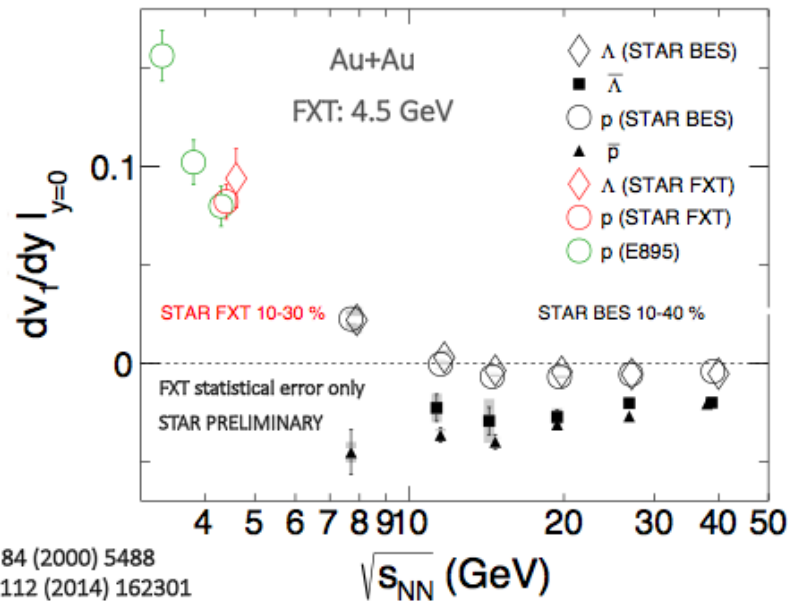
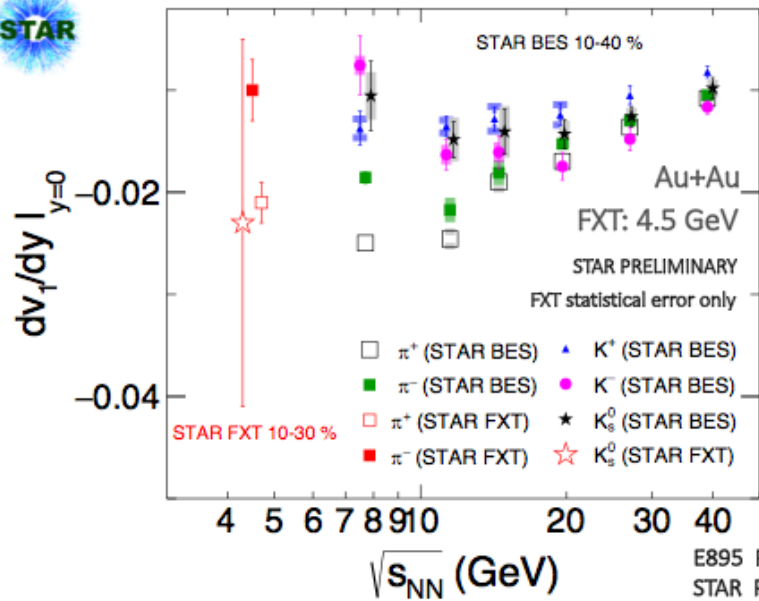


anti- $\Lambda$  predicted from quark values deduced from K and p

Fails for 7.7 GeV -  
At least one assumption incorrect

What happens at lower  $\sqrt{s}$ ?  
Finer centrality bins?

# FXT directed flow



$v_1$  at 4.5 GeV:

$p$  and  $\Lambda$  similar values

First identified  $\pi$  results

Suggestion of difference between  $\pi^+$  and  $\pi^-$

Transported quarks have stronger effect on  $\pi$

Run 18 (with EPD):

1 B events at 7.2 GeV

100 M events at 3.0 GeV

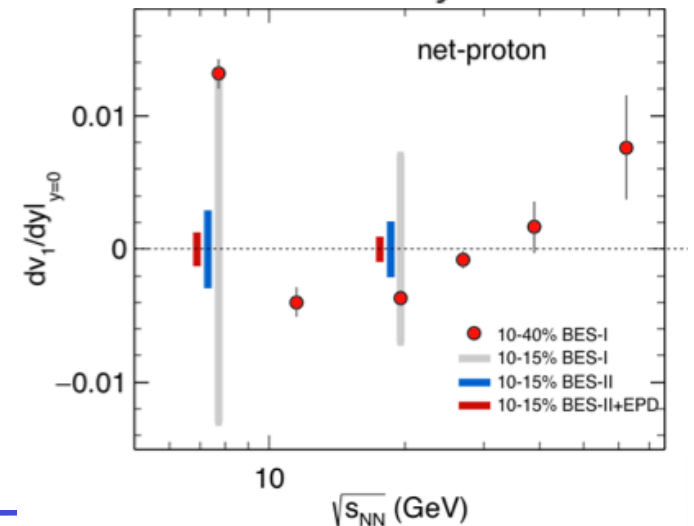
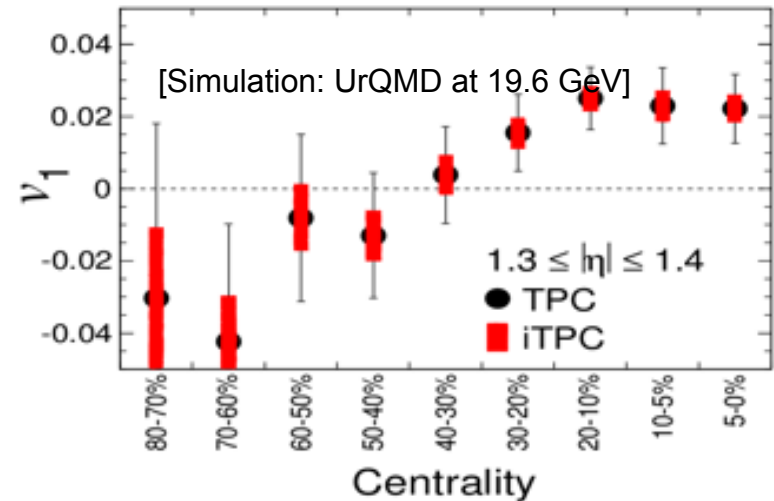
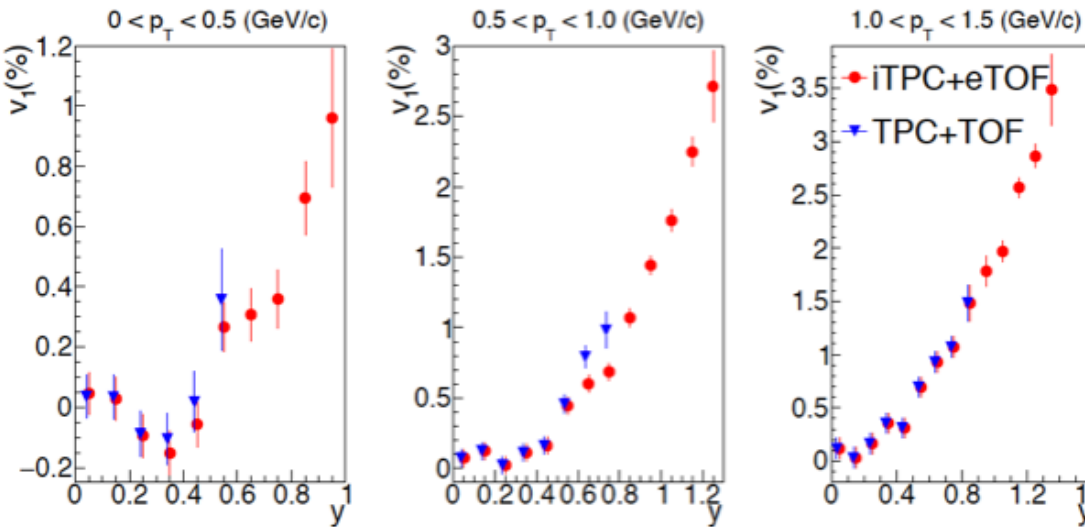
Fluctuation measurements below 7 GeV

# BES-II: directed flow improvements



Current data: Double sign change of  $v_1$

Precision measurement of  $dv_1/dy$  as function of centrality



iTPC+ eTOF:

Enhanced coverage at forward  $y$

Signal larger - role of baryon stopping

EPD:

Enhanced 1<sup>st</sup> order EP resolution

Reduced systematics



# BES-II: Critical fluctuations



Current data: Suggestive of non-trivial  $\sqrt{s}$  dependence of net

iTPC:

Increase  $\Delta y_p$  acceptance

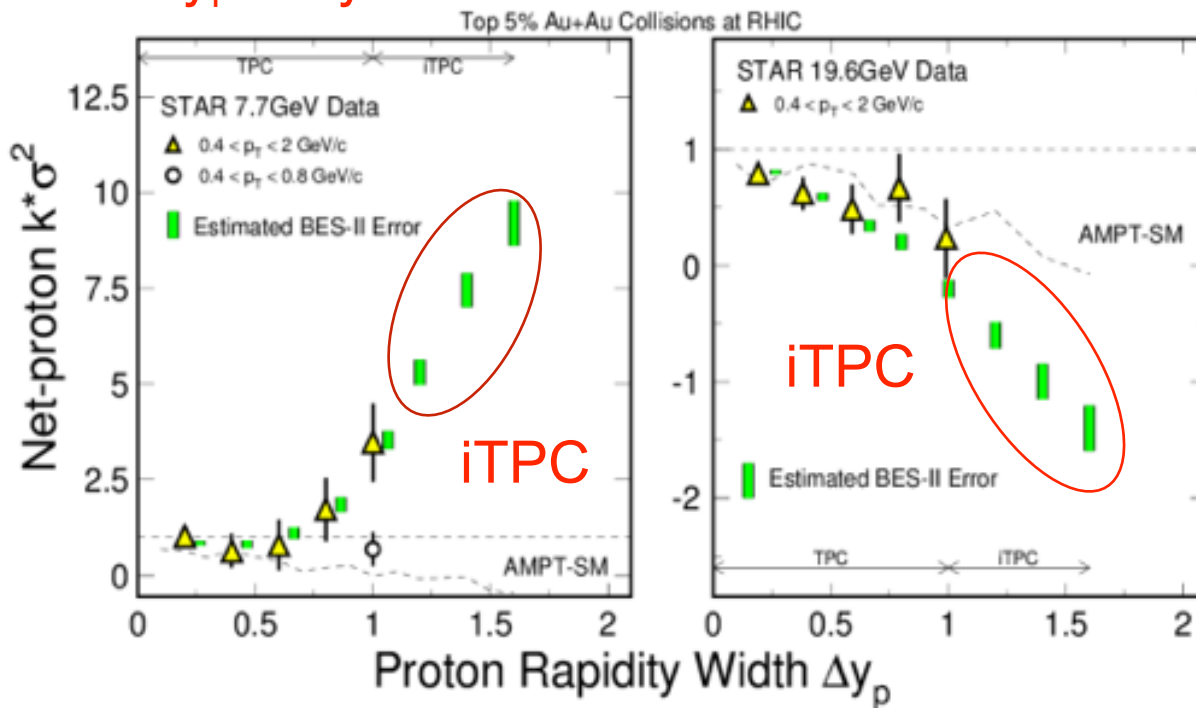
proton cumulant ratios

EPD:

Improved centrality selection

Use all TPC for measurement

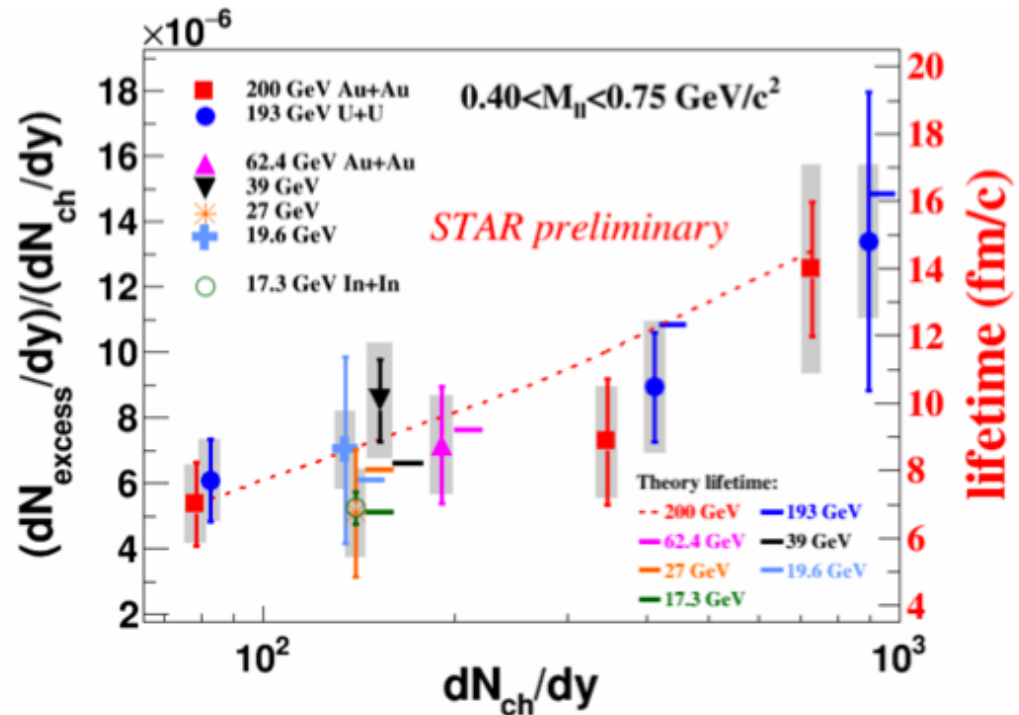
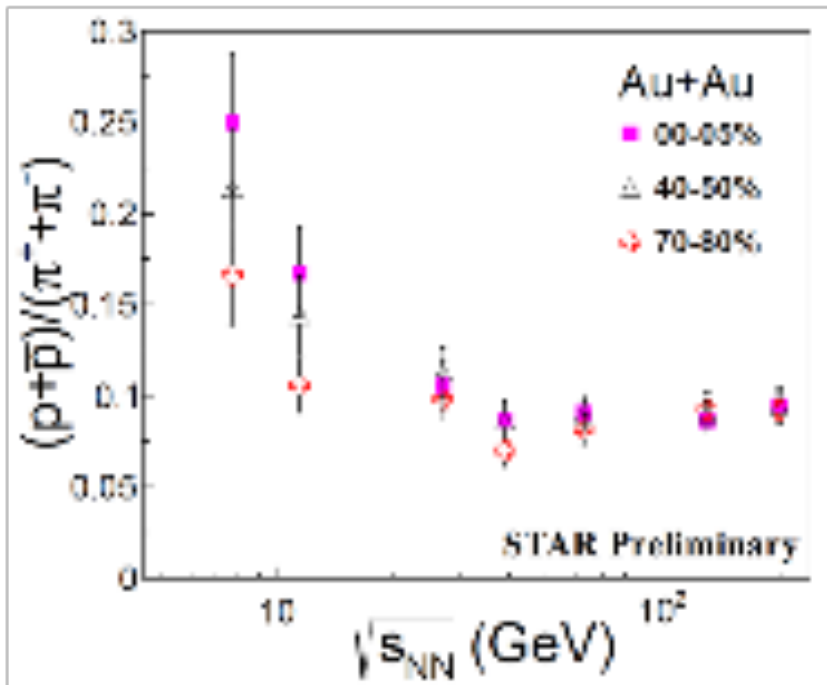
$\Delta y_p > \Delta y$  correlation



Establish true nature  
of correlation

Subject actively pursued  
theoretically

# Low mass di-lepton excess



Above 20 GeV  
Total baryon density  $\sim$  constant

Low mass excess  $\propto$  fireball lifetime  
for large range of beam energies and centralities

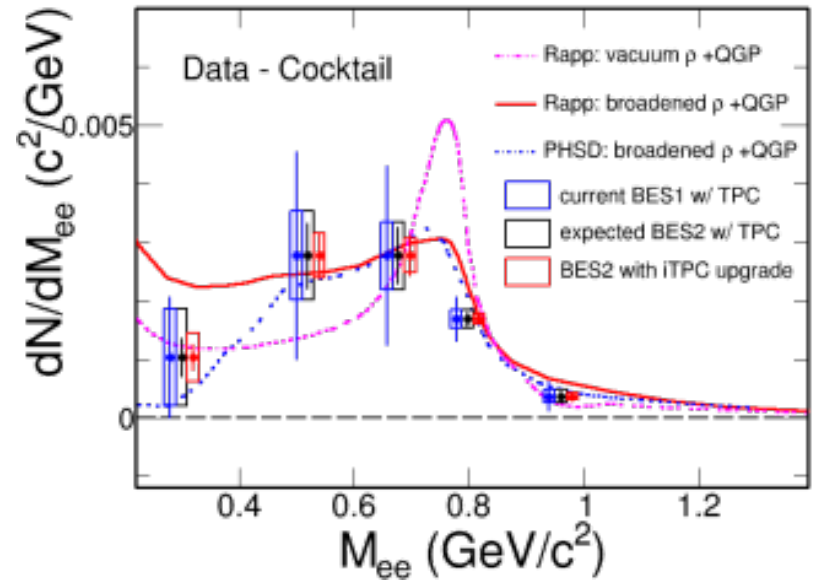
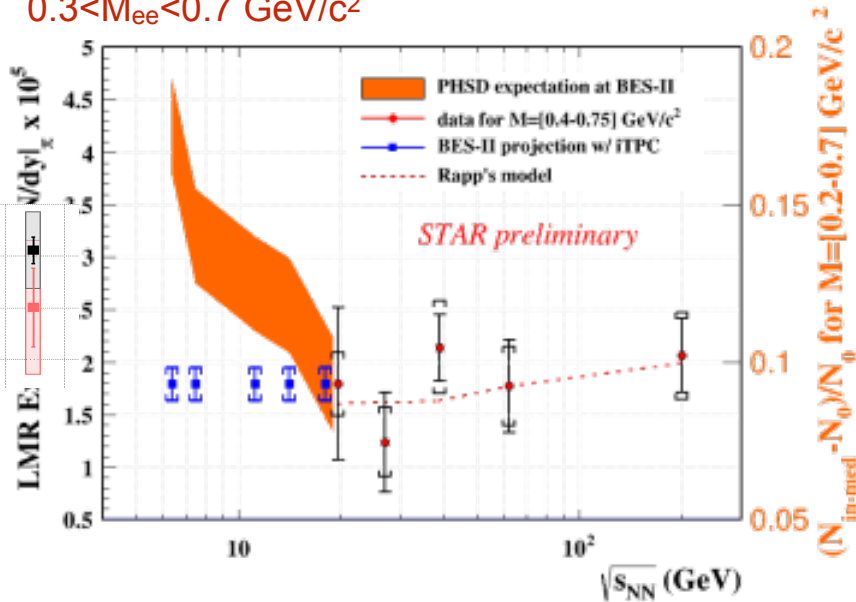
Excess driven by convolution of **total baryon** density, **hot dense** medium effects and the medium's **lifetime**

Need to add more low energy data

# BES-II: change total baryon number



HADES Prelim. 0-40%  
 $0.3 < M_{ee} < 0.7 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



Low Mass Region:

iTPC: Significant reduction in sys. and stat. uncertainties

Disentangle total baryon density effects

$\rho$ -meson broadening:

different predictions for di-electron continuum (Rapp vs PHSD)

iTPC: Significant reduction in sys. and stat. uncertainties

Enables to distinguish between models for  $\sqrt{s} = 7.7-19.6 \text{ GeV}$