

Transport Model Evaluation Project (TMEP): Status and Perspectives

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NUSYM2024, GANIL, Caen, France, Sep. 9-13, 2024



On behalf of the Transport Model Evaluation Project (TMEP) Collaboration

Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 125 (2022) 103962



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ppnp



Review

Transport model comparison studies of intermediate-energy heavy-ion collisions



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Outline:

- Motivation: Increase impact of HIC studies on determination of EOS
- TMEP strategy: Comparison of transport codes under controlled conditions, similar input -> similar output(?)
- box calculations: test individual ingredients, comparison to exact results,
- HIC: open systems, much less agreement, explanations, but no solid error estimates
- Intermediate conclusions: lessons learned and desirables for more robust conclusions
- Uncertainty quantification: Bayesian inference with many codes, BMA (Bayesian model averaging)
- Alternative: collaboration to construct modular common code

Motivation: Increase impact of HIC in EOS studies

Importance of intermediate-energy heavy-ion collisions for the exploration of equation-of-state (EOS)

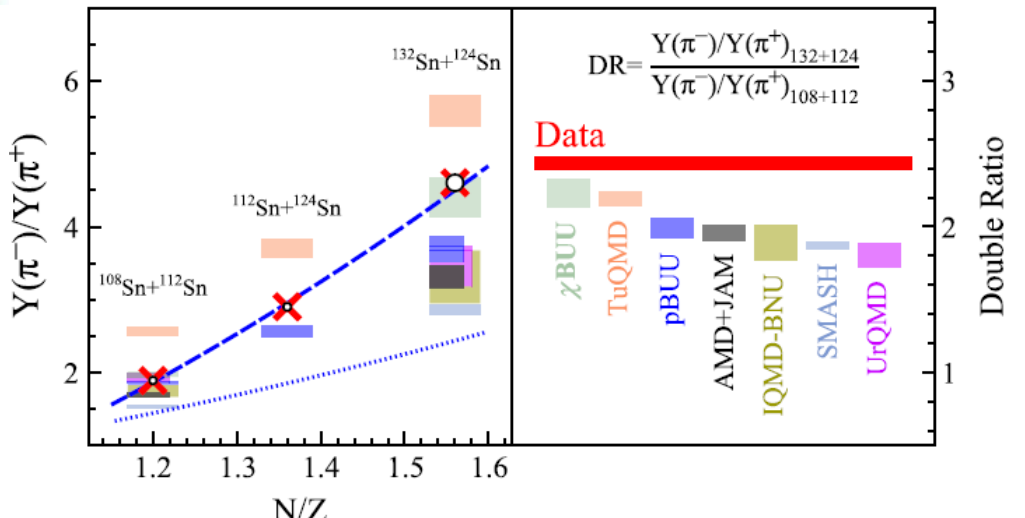
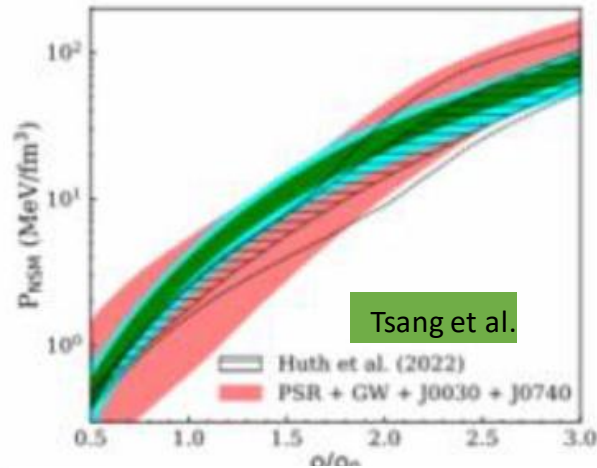
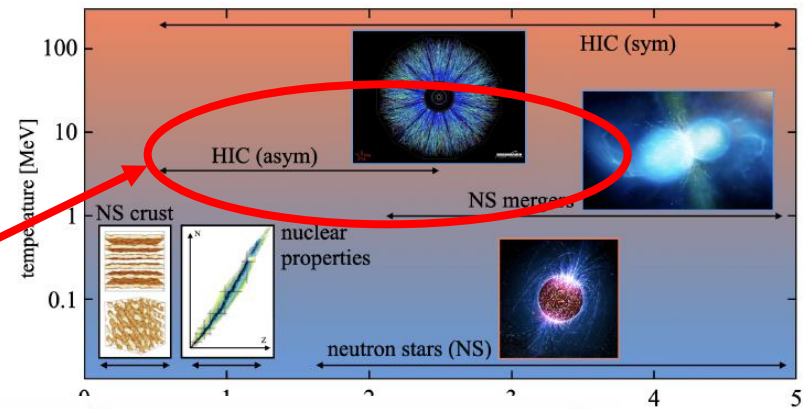
→ filling the gap between information from nuclear structure ($\rho \leq \rho_0$) and neutron star observations ($\rho \geq 2.5 \rho_0$)

- > can make a contribution to constrain EOS
- > **only astrophysics**
- > xEFT, Astro and HICs (Huth, et al., Nature 602 (22))
- > **structure, HICs and Astro (C.Y.Tsang, et al., Nat.Astro 8 (24))**

model dependence of HIC results:

π RIT data, Sn+Sn, 270 MeV/A,
 Jhang, et al., PLB 813 (21)
 predictions: best physics model of each code

large spread of results
 sensitivity to symmetry energy (size of boxes) relatively small



Transport theory: kinetic equation Boltzmann-Uehling-Uhlenbeck (BUU)

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\vec{p}}{m} \vec{\nabla}^{(r)} f - (\vec{\nabla}^{(r)} U(r, p) \vec{\nabla}^{(p)} + \vec{\nabla}^{(p)} U(r, p) \vec{\nabla}^{(r)}) f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}; t) = I_{coll} + \delta I_{fluc}$$

$$I_{coll} = \int d\vec{p}_2 d\vec{p}_1 d\vec{p}_2' v_{21} \sigma_{12}^{in-med}(\Omega) (2\pi)^3 \delta(p_1 + p_2 - p_1' - p_2') [f_1' f_2' \bar{f}_1 \bar{f}_2 - f_1 f_2 \bar{f}_1' \bar{f}_2']$$

$\bar{f}_i := (1 - f_i)$ Pauli blocking factors,

$I_{coll} \rightarrow I_{el} (NN \leftrightarrow NN) + I_{inel} (NN \leftrightarrow N\Delta) + I_{decay} (\Delta \leftrightarrow N\pi)$

Physical model:
 mean field \rightarrow EOS,
 in-medium xsec
 inelastic collisions

Two main reasons of model dependence: **1) fluctuations**, **2) simulation strategies**

1) **Two families**, depending on representation of phase space density $f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}; t)$

BUU phase space density represented by test particles (TP) $f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}; t) = \sum_{TP} \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i(t)) \tilde{\delta}(\vec{p} - \vec{p}_i(t))$,
 deterministic and exact for $\#TP \rightarrow \infty$;

introduce fluctuations explicitly, Boltzmann-Langevin, add term δI_{fluc}

QMD product of wave packets in coordinate space $f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}; t) = \left(\frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{L}}\right)^3 \sum_i \exp\left[-\frac{(\vec{r} - \vec{R}_i(t))^2}{2L}\right] \delta(\vec{p} - \vec{P}_i(t))$
 fluctuations on classical level by ansatz, fluctuations parametrized by width parameter L, „events“

\rightarrow Fluctuations influence many aspects of simulation

Transport theory: kinetic equation Boltzmann-Uehling-Uhlenbeck (BUU)

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\vec{p}}{m} \vec{\nabla}^{(r)} f - (\vec{\nabla}^{(r)} U(r, p) \vec{\nabla}^{(p)} + \vec{\nabla}^{(p)} U(r, p) \vec{\nabla}^{(r)}) f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}; t) = I_{coll}$$

$$I_{coll} = \int d\vec{p}_2 d\vec{p}_1 d\vec{p}_2' d\vec{p}_1' v_{rel} \sigma_{12}^{in-med}(\Omega) (2\pi)^3 \delta(p_1 + p_2 - p_1' - p_2') [f_1' f_2' \bar{f}_1 \bar{f}_2 - f_1 f_2 \bar{f}_1' \bar{f}_2']$$

$\bar{f}_i = (1 - f_i)$ Pauli blocking factors,

Physical model:
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 in-medium xsec
 inelastic collisions

Two main reasons of model dependence: **1) fluctuations, 2) simulation strategies**

2) Transport equation solved by **simulations, involves strategies**

mf dynamics: - Hamiltonian equations-of-motion (for TP or nucleons)

finite-size TP, use of lattice Hamiltonian,

non-linear density functionals $\propto \rho^\sigma$, often approximated in QMD

collision term: - stochastic two-body collisions

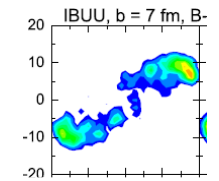
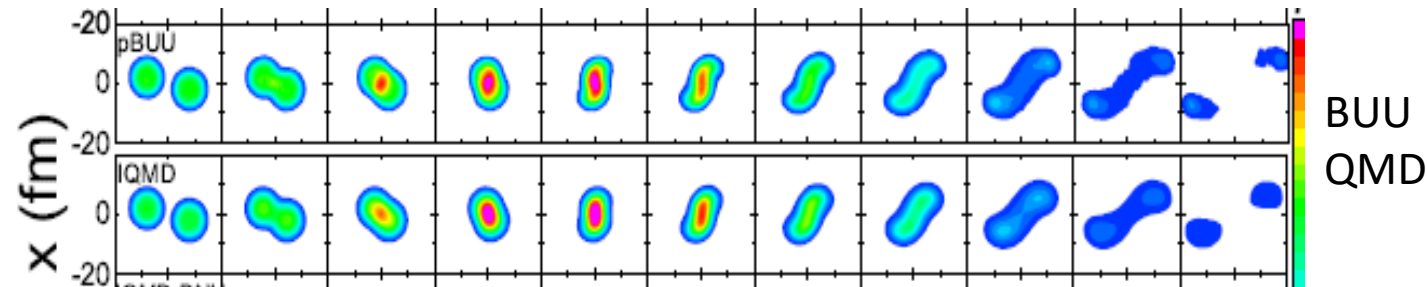
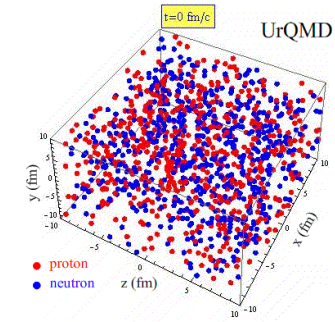
geometric coll Kriterien $d < \sqrt{\sigma(\sqrt{s})/\pi} \leftrightarrow$ local thermal equilibrium

blocking: need for averaging, coarse graining, surface

TMEP: compare different transport models und controlled conditions,
 same physical model and similar calculational parameters -> similar results??

two modes of comparisons:

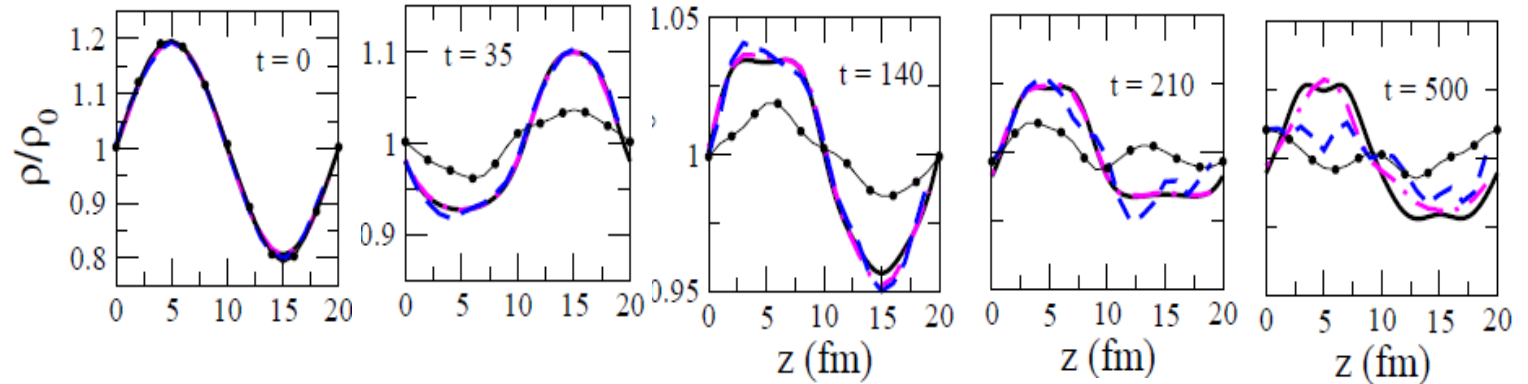
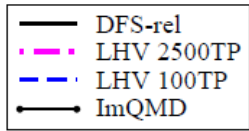
1. box calculations, periodic boundary conditions, simulates infinite nuclear matter, study individually different part of physical model, compare to exact limits
- 2, full heavy-ion collisions (HICs), compare codes between each other , convergence or amount of disagreement



QMD event

Box 1: Mean field evolution (M. Colonna, et al., PRC104 (2021))

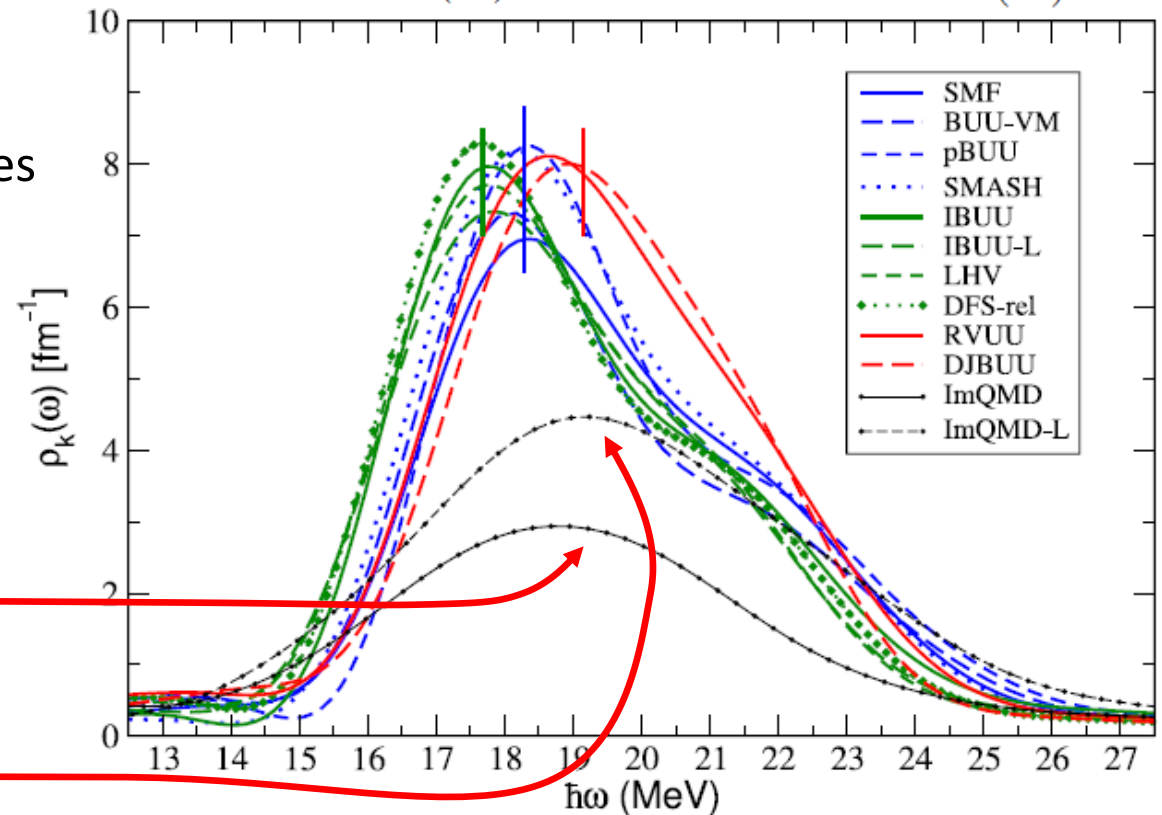
evolution of a standing wave

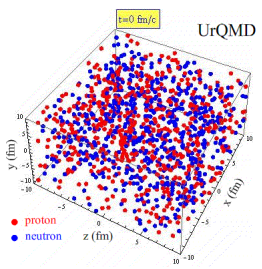


strength function, power spectrum
exact results from Landau theory: horizontal lines

Understanding diff's:
treatment of relativity (diff colors)
fluctuations affects forces, damping
treatment of non-linear term (QMD)

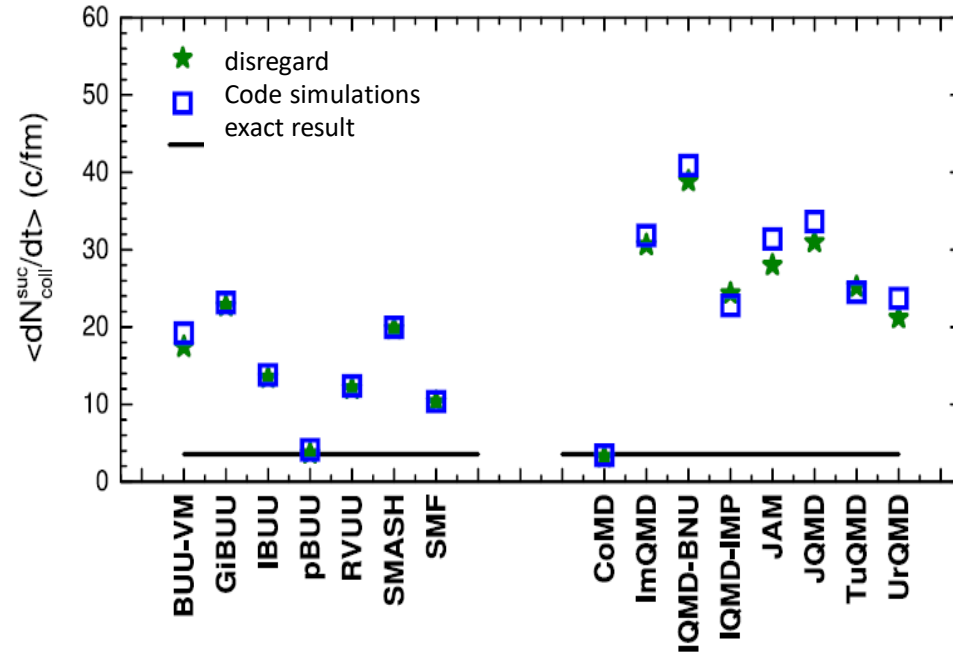
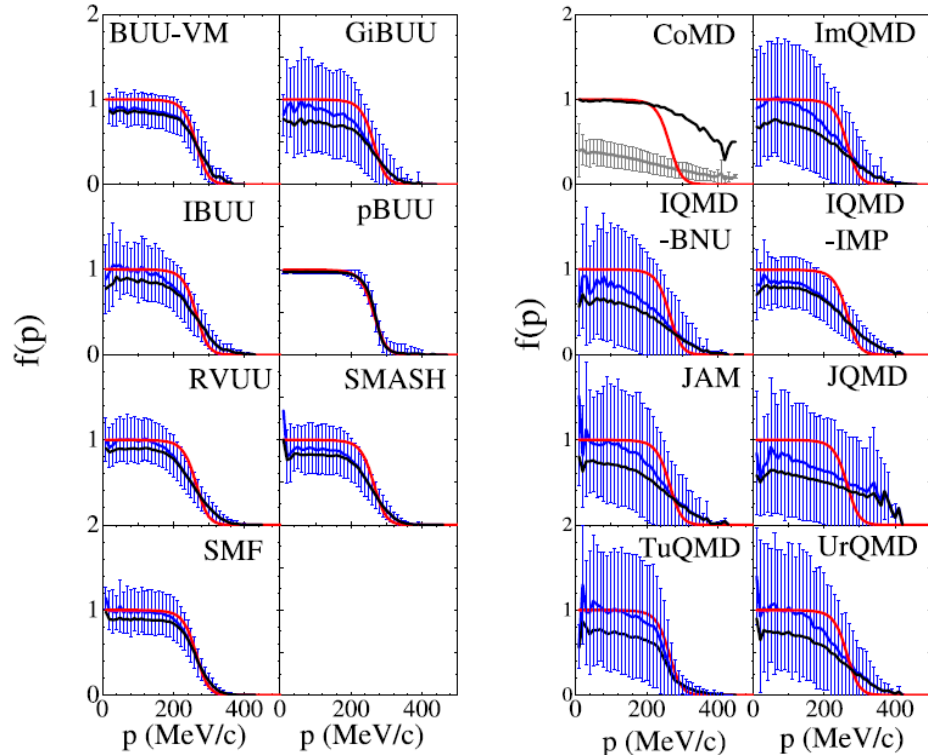
QMD traditional ($\Delta x=1.4$ fm) — more damping than BUU due to fluctuations, shift due to approx in non-linear term
QMD-lattice, no approx. —



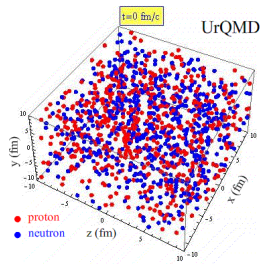


Box2: Collision intergral (only nucleons, with Pauli blocking, initialize at T=5 MeV)
 (YX. Zhang, et al., PRC 97 (2018))

Collision rates, compared to exact result:
 Systematic difference between BUU and QMD results



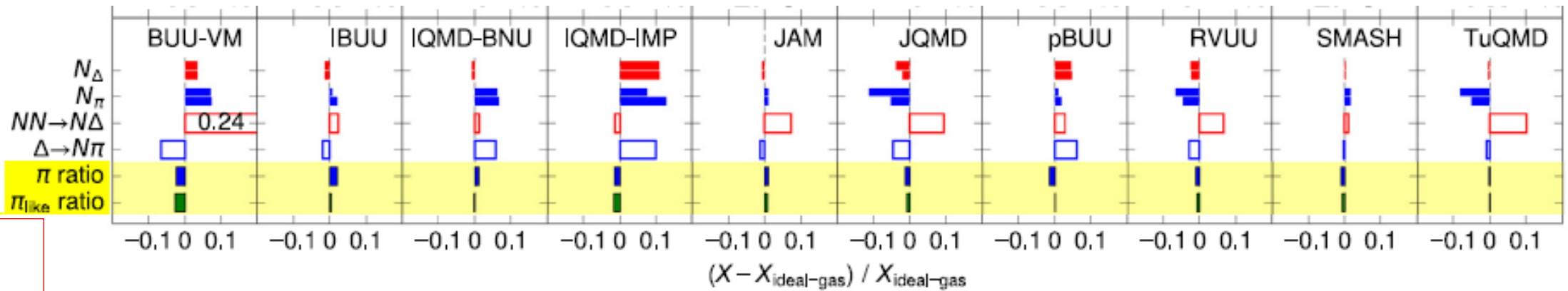
Reason: Fluctuations in Pauli blocking factor (1-f)
 exact: red
 average: blue
 effective (enforce $f \leq 1$): black
 generally underblocking (black \leftrightarrow red)



Box3: Pion production in a box (w/o Pauli blocking, (A. Ono, et al., PRC 100 (2019))

extrapolation to time step zero

multiplicities and multiplicity ratios (relative difference to exact result)



determines π^-/π^+ ratio in a HIC

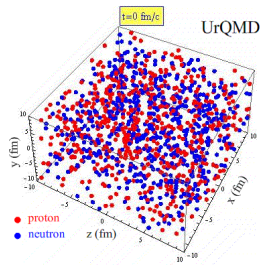
Understanding differences:

correlations between collisions (non-Markovian behavior)

geometric criterion not optimal, statistical criteria better

strategies in handling sequence of elastic and inelastic collisions

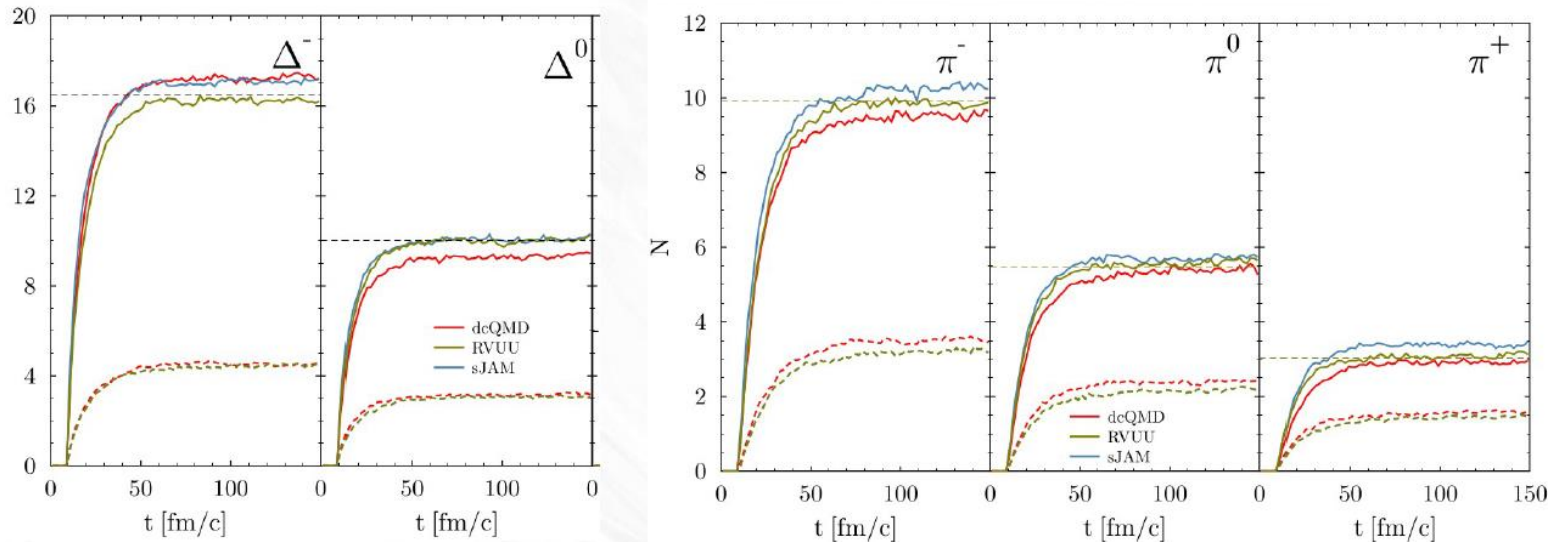
Cancel rather well in ratios



Box4: Collision integral with momentum-dependent interactions (D. Cozma, et al., in preparation)

threshold shift in inelastic collisions with momentum dependent mean fields

- 4) **full_mdi_th**: - mean field ($K_0=230$ MeV; $m^*=0.70$; $\Delta m^*_{np}/m_N=-0.33\delta$; $S_0=32$ MeV; $L=60$ MeV);
 threshold effects included
 - initialization uses effective masses (Boltzmann $T=60$ MeV)
 - results: dcQMD, RVUU, sJAM



— dcQMD
 — RVUU
 — sJAM

solid lines: with threshold effect
 dashed lines: without

thin dashed line: exact result
 (thermal model)

rather good agreement between codes, but some deviations (being investigated)
 demonstrates importance of considering threshold shift

Lessons from box calculations:

learn much about simulations,

- comparison to exact results: absolute measure of quality, but strategies optimized for box, may not be equally good for HIC

- largely understand differences between codes

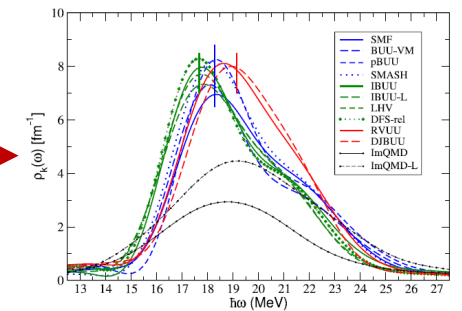
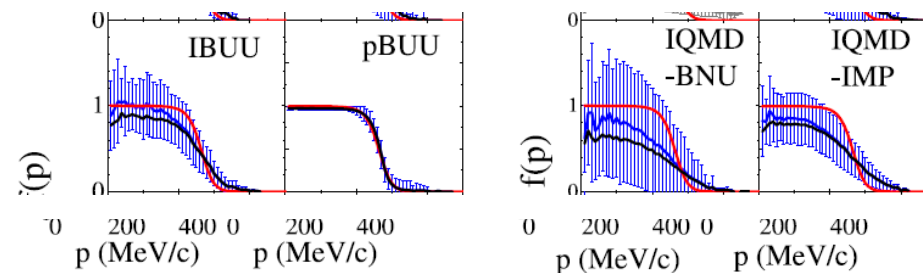
- recommend **optimal strategies**, e.g.

- geometric criterion to determine next collision $d < \sqrt{\sigma(\sqrt{s})/\pi}$ may induce non-Markovian effects
- choose next collisions by statistical criteria (only implemented in some codes)

- **strong evidence of importance of fluctuations**

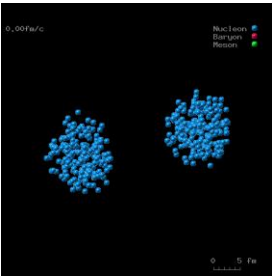
- effect on calculations of mean field forces

- effect on Pauli blocking



- affect **clustering** (not yet tested)

Now look at full heavy-ion collisions (HIC)

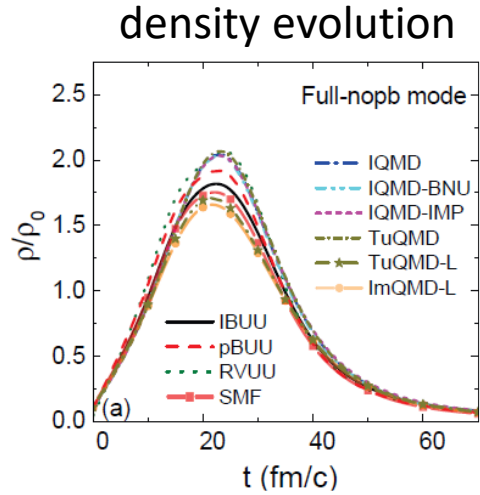


HIC: Sn+Sn@270 MeV/A (J. Xu, et al., PRC 109, 044609 (2024))

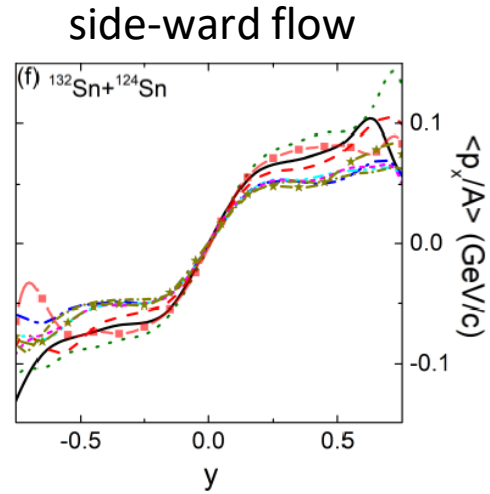
similar to Au+Au@100,400 MeV/A + pion observables

controlled input: common initializ., simple mom.-indep. EOS, $\sigma_{el} = \text{const}$, $NN \leftrightarrow N\Delta$, $\Delta \leftrightarrow N\pi$

- with PB w/o cou
- with PB with cou
- w/o PB w/o cou
- w/o PB with cou



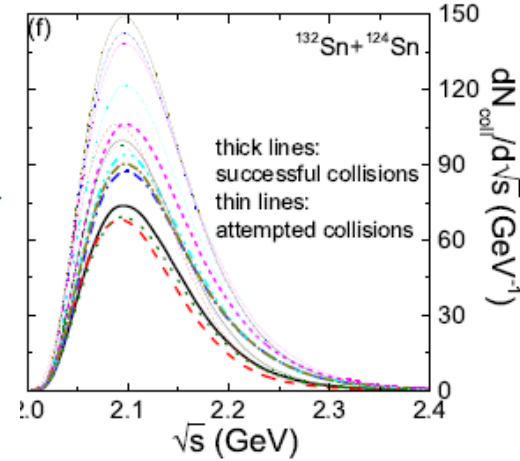
nucleon evolution not identical, BUU codes have lower density fluctuations, approx. in non-linear term in QMD, weaker repulsion



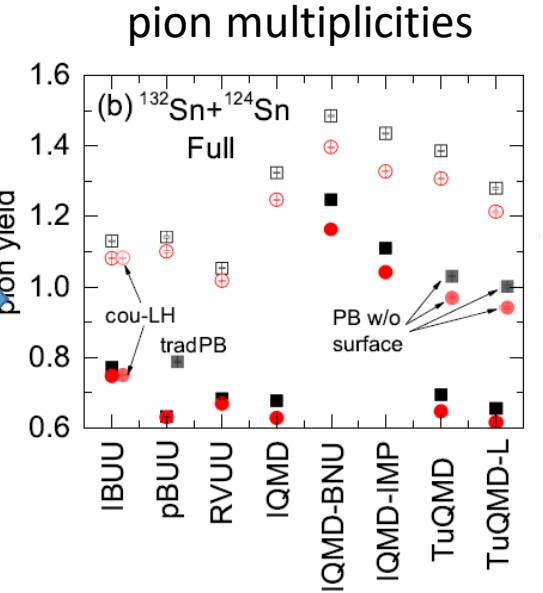
correspondingly different stopping and flow BUU codes have stronger flow



inelastic reaction rates $NN \rightarrow N\Delta$



inelastic reaction rates are correspondingly weaker in BUU



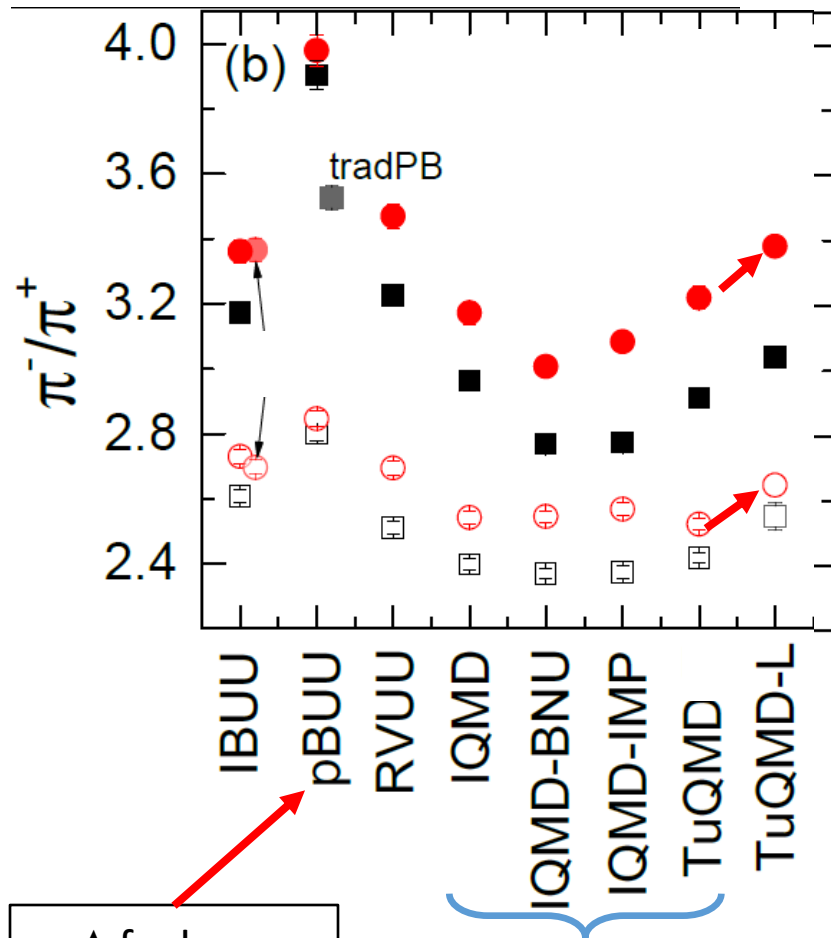
pion multiplicities (w and w/o Pauli and Coulomb generally weaker for BUU)

Conclusion: differences in the evolution of the system (caused here by approx. in averaging of force) leads to difference in pion observables

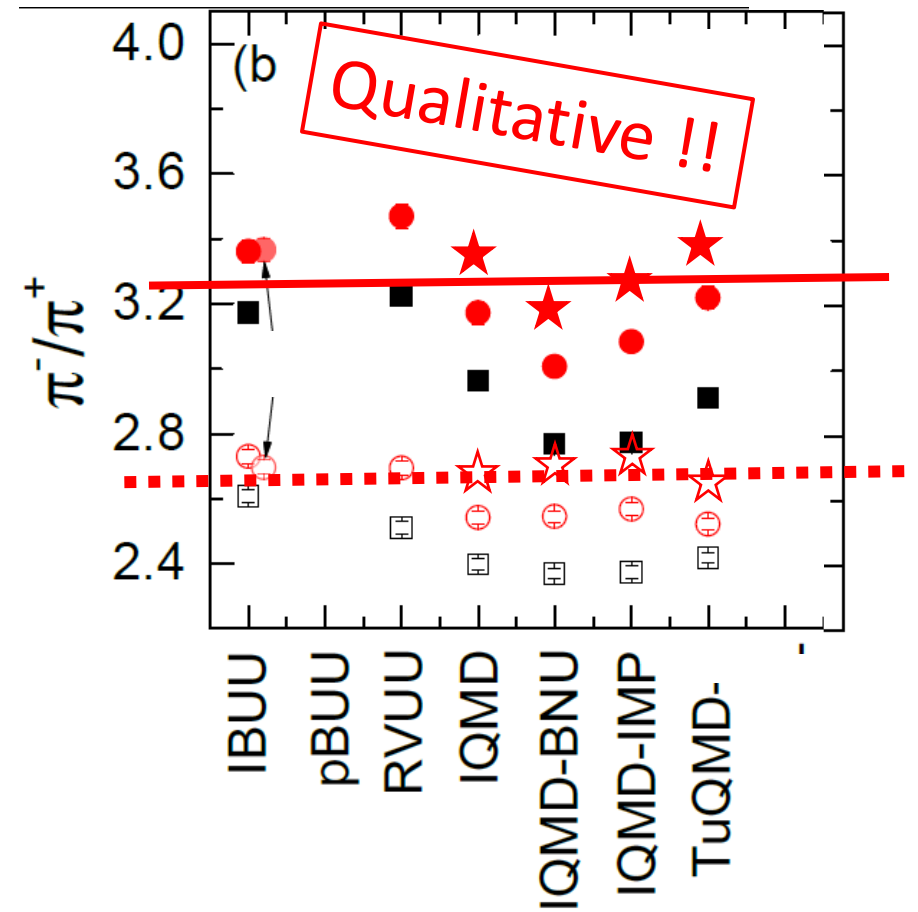
HIC are open systems: small differences can propagate and lead to larger final results, ingredients interact (unlike in box) no exact results, comparison between codes, not to experiment, since (here) models are simplistic

But differences can be understood

Look closer at charged pion ratio, assumed to be a good probe for the symmetry energy



correct approximately for this effect (stars)



π, Δ feel symmetry energy not comparable

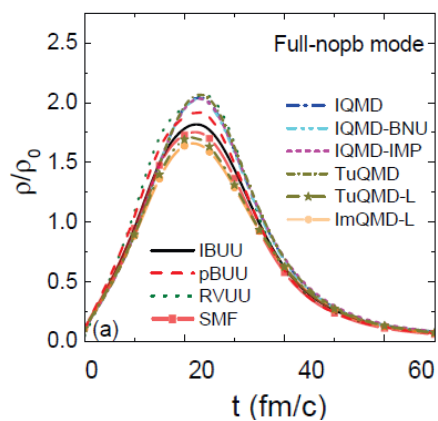
QMD codes, approx. for ρ^γ weaker repulsion, reduced pion ratio, correct by TuQMD diff.

agreement w/o Pauli-blocking very good with Pauli-blocking differences $< \approx 10\%$ (remaining differences due to Pauli blocking surface correction)

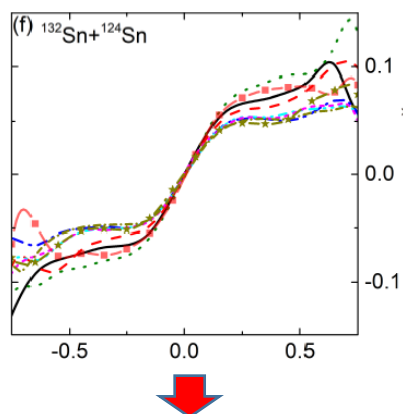
Lessons and intermediate conclusions from Code comparisons

- Code comparisons are very interesting and teach us a lot about simulation physics. In most cases the differences can be explained, but the codes often **cannot be made to converge sufficiently** to determine physical parameters, like J , L , K_{sym} , etc
- Difficult to assign an error to transport results as a whole, i.e. to determine the uncertainty due to the model dependence, The mean and variance in code comparisons do not represent a reasonable error estimate.
- There are no exact results for HIC and code-to-code comparisons do not decide about the reliability of a code. **But there is experiment.** One can estimate the reliability of a code on its ability to describe a **relevant set of experimental data** (relevant to the physical question asked).
- chain of observables

density evolution

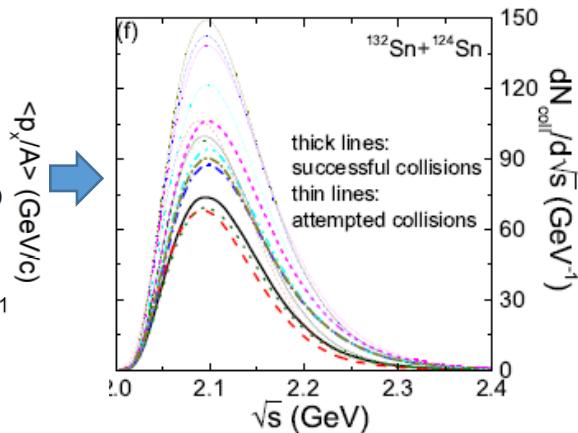


side-ward flow

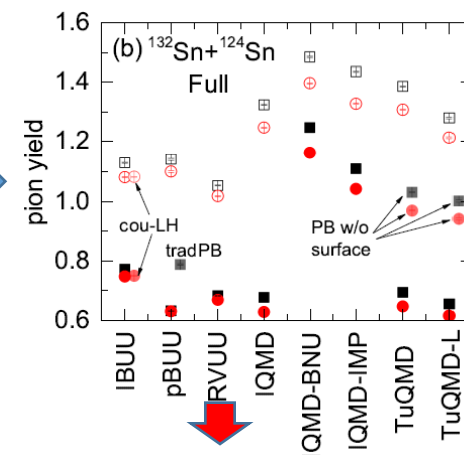


check with experiment

inelastic rates $NN \rightarrow N\Delta$

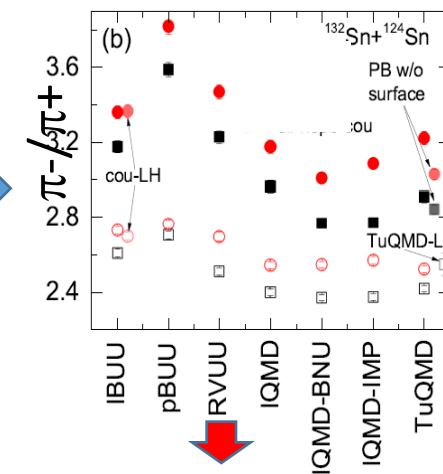


pion multiplicities



check with experiment

charged pion ratios



- Note, that agreement with experiment is not sufficient that code is „correct“, but agreement with a **relevant and sufficiently wide set of data** does make this more probable

What is necessary for this program?

1. a **realistic model**, containing all necessary ingredients for the physical question, (i.e. momentum dependence of isoscalar and isovector forces, threshold shift effects, energy conservation),
2. robust **computational strategies**, such as converged propagation of particles, correct treatment of coarse graining, etc.
3. **realistic fluctuations** (strong dependence of simulation results on the amount of fluctuations),
-> make the BUU and QMD approaches compatible:
Boltzmann-Vlasov (BUU) + fluctuation term → Boltzmann-Langevin (approximations SMF, BLOB) } need to agree !
Molecular dynamics (QMD) -> heuristic fluctuations and correlations, depending on a parameter (Δx) }
4. clustering and correlation
influences directly emission of light clusters (LC) and as seeds intermediate mass fragments (IMF)
but indirectly may influence the evolution of the system, and observables as pion production

many issues:

dynamical clustering
(affect evolution, e.g. pBUU, Z.Zhang, R. Wang)

explicit degree of freedom
(pBUU, Z.Zhang, R. Wang)

Phase-space rearrangement
(AMD)

coalescence (does not affect evolution),

late (freeze-out)
(Gemini,..)

early, „dynamical“
(MST, FRIGA)

Medium modification of clusters (Burello)

Method to implement this program: Bayesian Model Averaging (BMA).

Bayesian model inference is standard for one model, where the likelihood is taken from this model.

What about obtaining the uncertainty for analyses with several models?

-> Bayesian model mixing with weights, which are determined from the ability of each model to describe a set of data.

example: from determination of Nuclear Symmetry Energy from nuclear structure:

see talk of Mengying Qiu later

Could be applied to transport analyses of HIC to constrain the Nuclear Symmetry Energy (NSE).

1. Inference of NSE from Bayesian model analysis for several codes from isospin-sensitive observable.
2. Use as weights for model averaging ability to describe a **relevant and sufficiently large of data on nucleon observables**, e.g., stopping, flow, nucleon emission, to make sure, that reaction evolution is sufficiently well described.
3. Only then inferences from **secondary observables**, like pion observables, can be reasonably believed, and the averaged probability distribution gives the uncertainty of transport analyses as a whole.
4. Bayesian model mixing (P. Giuliani): essentially the same, except one wants to make predictions; Uses PCA (**principal component analysis**) to use only essentially different models. Also useful here.
5. Possibility to also use different sets of data from structure, HIC and astrophysics

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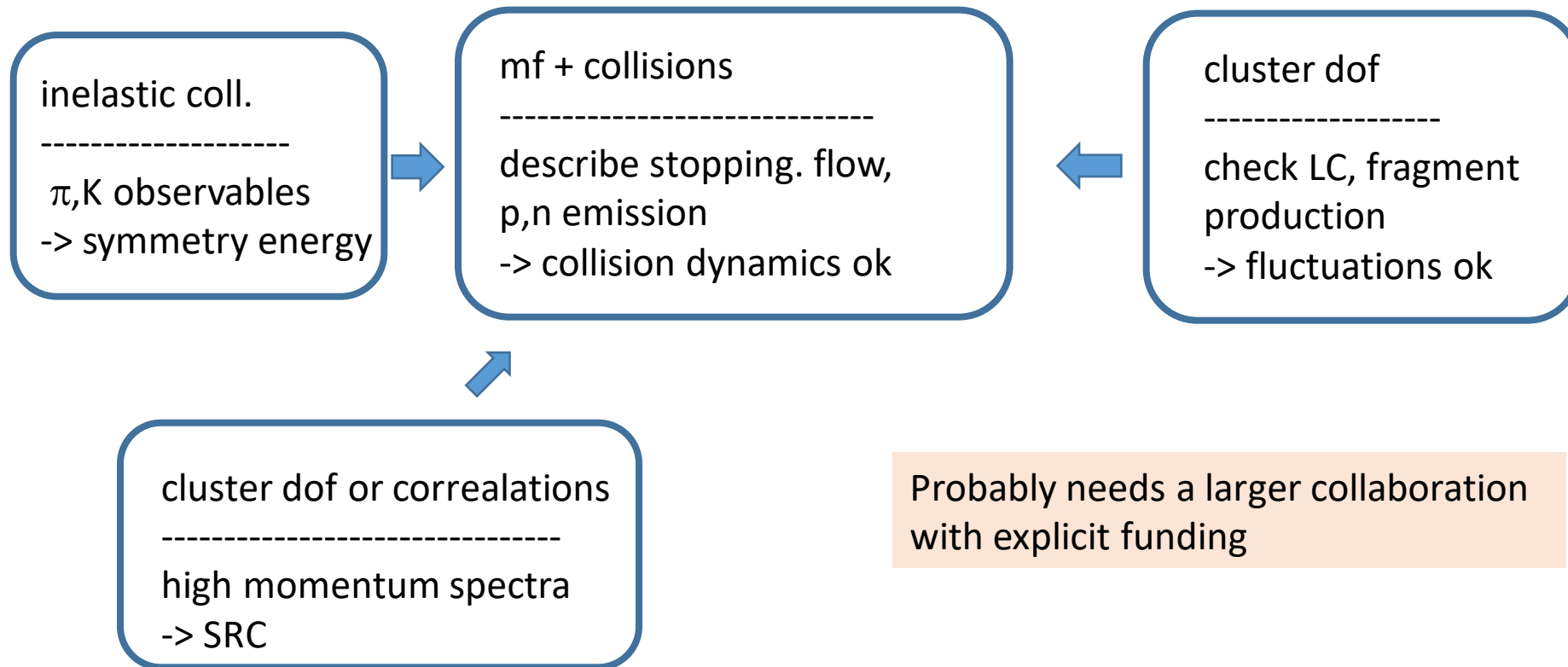
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Alternatives:

1. Many codes, BMM
2. Construct common code in a modular approach



Summary and perspective

EOS of dense matter from HIC: extract a rather simple quantity (the bulk EOS of infinite matter) from a complicated non-equilibrium process.

However, it is the only way to obtain this information in an intermediate density regions above saturation.

bonus: obtain information not only on bulk EOS, but detailed information, like the composition, response, phase transitions, etc.

mandatory, to make use of the impressive (and costly) development of facilities and detectors

TMEP: Estimate and reduce the **systematical theoretical error (the model dependence)** of conclusions of transport model simulations to extract information on the EOS from heavy-ion collisions.

method: **code comparisons** of HIC under controlled conditions.

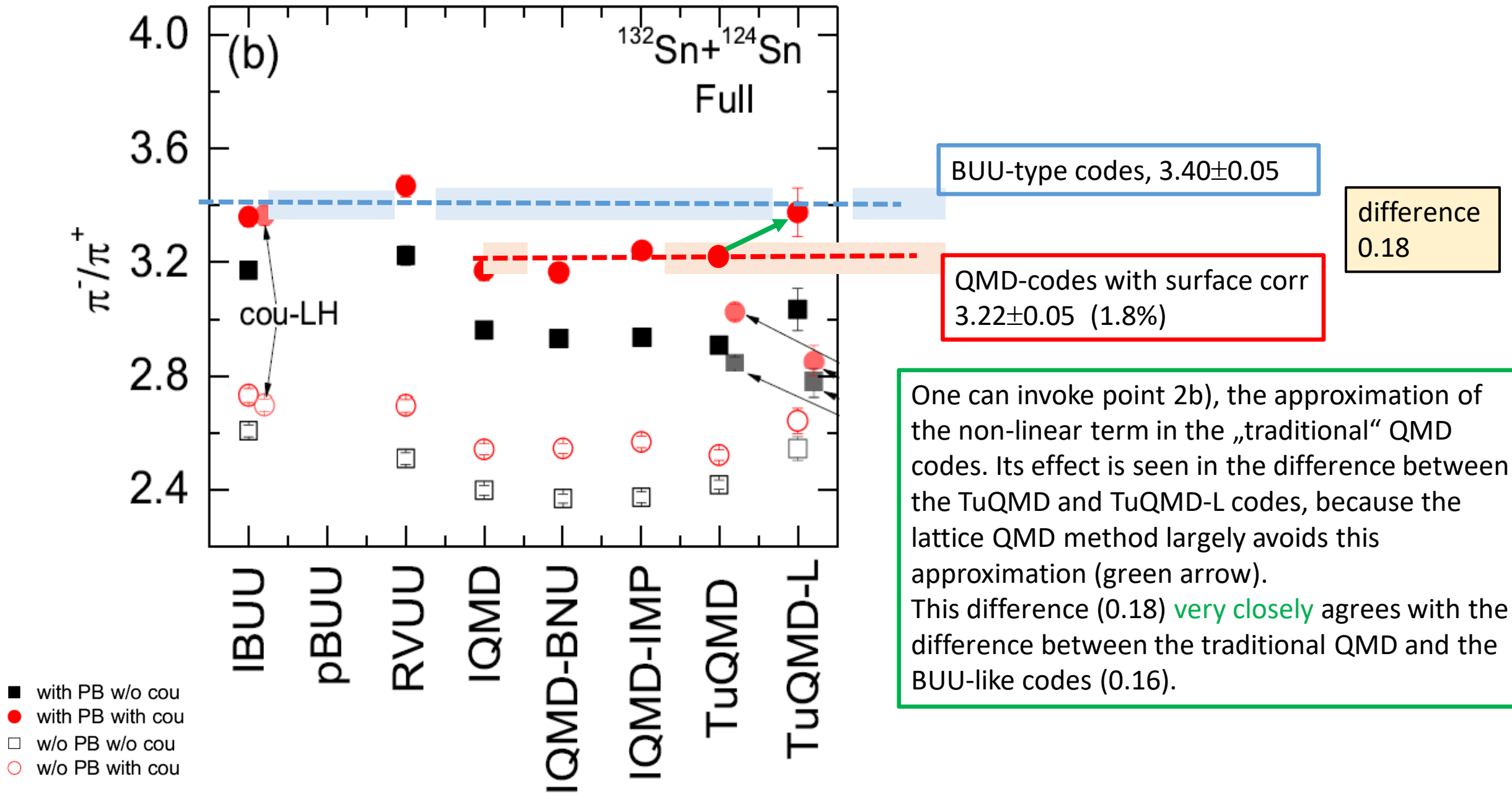
difficult to achieve sufficient convergence of codes to make deductions on small effects , like the nuclear symmetry energy.

Possible ways to make progress:

- ❖ uncertainty quantification of transport analyses using Bayesian Model averaging
 - ❖ code development constructing a common code in a modular approach in a dedicated collaboration
- probably funded collaboration needed

Thank you for your attention

backup



Bayesian model averaging: Example from nuclear structure.

“Bayesian model averaging for nuclear symmetry energy from effective proton-neutron chemical potential difference of neutron-rich nuclei”, Mengying Qiu, Bao-Jun Cai Lie-Wen Chen, Cen-Xi Yuan, Zhen Zhang, PLB 849 (24) 183435

“to extract the symmetry energy around $2\rho_0/3$ from the measured $\Delta\mu_{pn}^*$ of 5 doubly magic nuclei ^{48}Ca , ^{68}Ni , ^{88}Sr , ^{132}Sn and ^{208}Pb ”

using two models: Skyrme and RMF, each with a number of parameters.

Correlation coefficient between $E_{\text{sym}}(\rho)$ calculated for a sampling of the model space for each model and the $\Delta\mu_{pn}^*$:

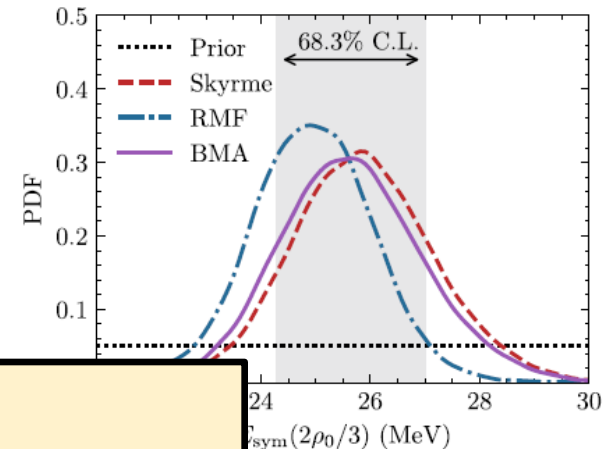
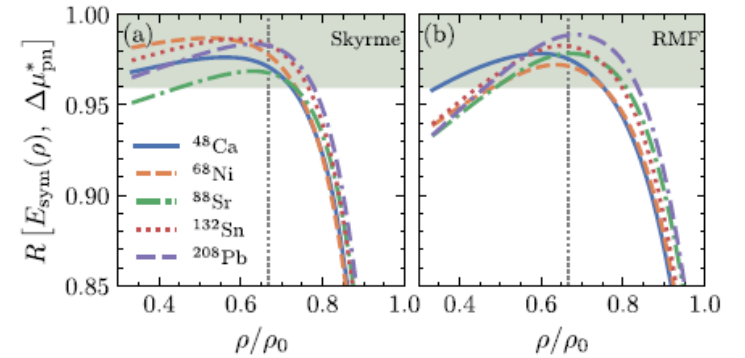
-> strongest correlation with E_{sym} at $\frac{2}{3}\rho_0$

Perform Bayesian inference for each model and obtain posterior probability distribution for $E_{\text{sym}}(2/3\rho_0)$: different for the two models: mean and width.

Now average the two model with weights given by the evidence of fitting the chemical potential differences by each model \mathcal{M}_i

$$p(\mathbf{y} | \mathcal{M}_i) = \int \underbrace{p(\mathbf{y} | \theta_i, \sigma_i, \mathcal{M}_i)}_{\text{likelihood}} \underbrace{\pi(\theta, \sigma | \mathcal{M}_i)}_{\text{prior}} d\theta_i d\sigma_i.$$

(Skyrme has a higher evidence, because the correlation is tighter, factor 3.)



→ Obtain probability distribution of for anylsis of two models (solid line)

is Skyrme the better model? No, because evidence based on very small data set.

but if data set is enlarged, e.g. BE, radii, sp energies, the weight would be more meaningful