

**Giuliano Giacalone**

September 12, 2024



NUSYM 2024, XIIth  
International  
Symposium on  
Nuclear Symmetry  
Energy



**Probing nuclear symmetry energy in  
heavy-ion collisions at RHIC and LHC**

09–14 set 2024  
Caen

# OUTLINE

1 – Basics of nuclear collisions at high energy

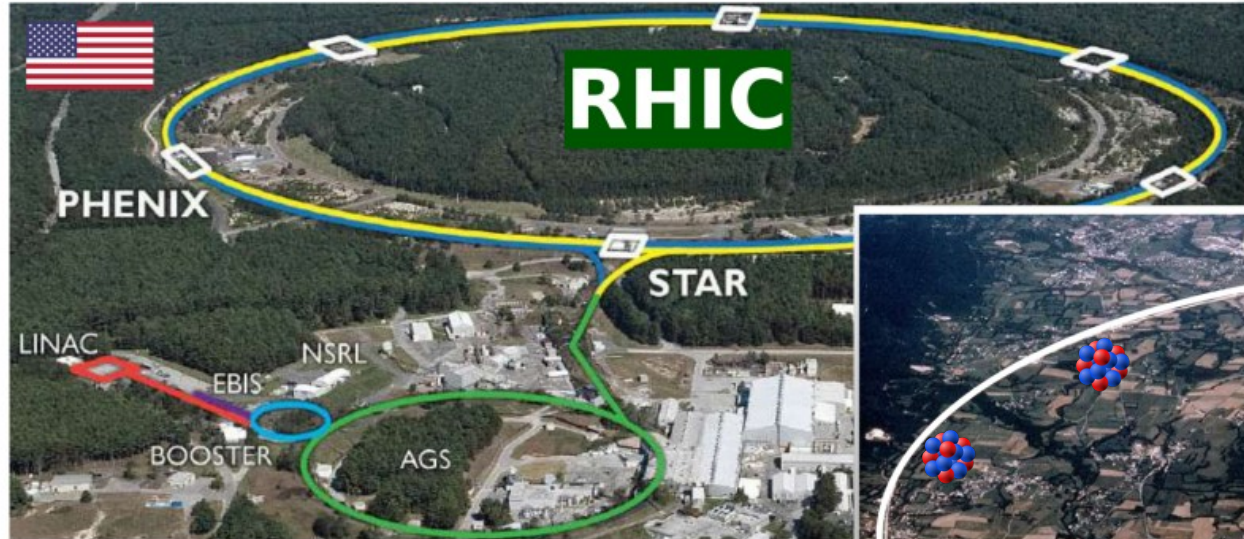
2 – Bayesian inference of the  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  neutron skin

3 – Prospects

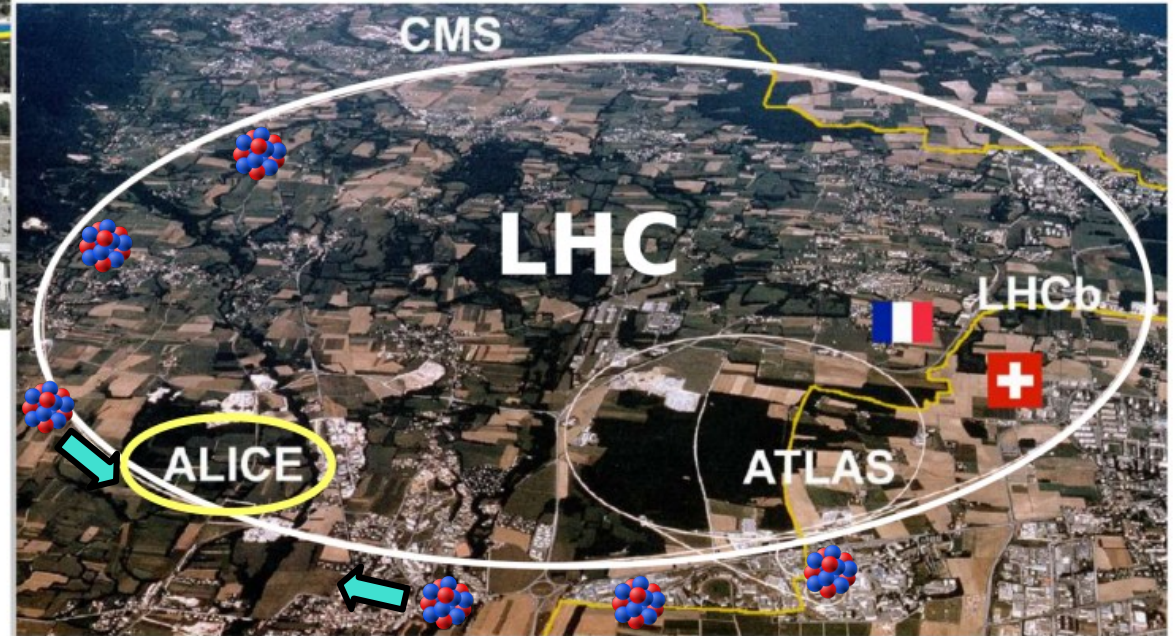
# 1 – Basics of nuclear collisions at high energy

# Ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collisions

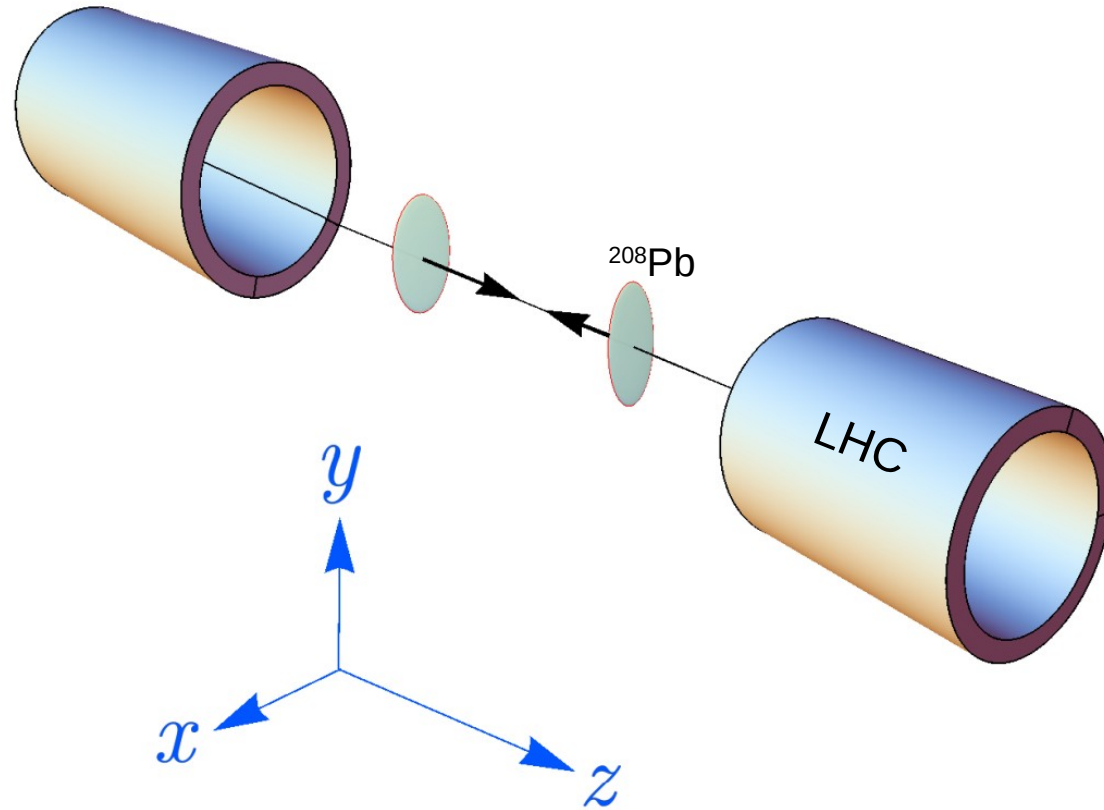
Long Island (NY)



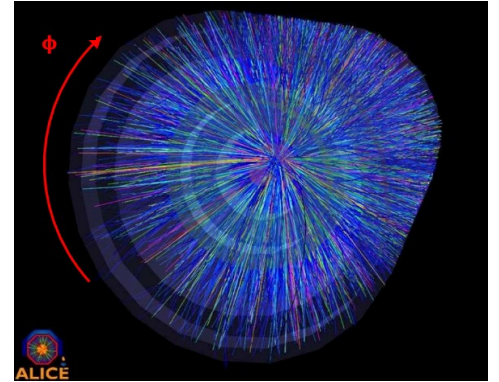
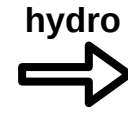
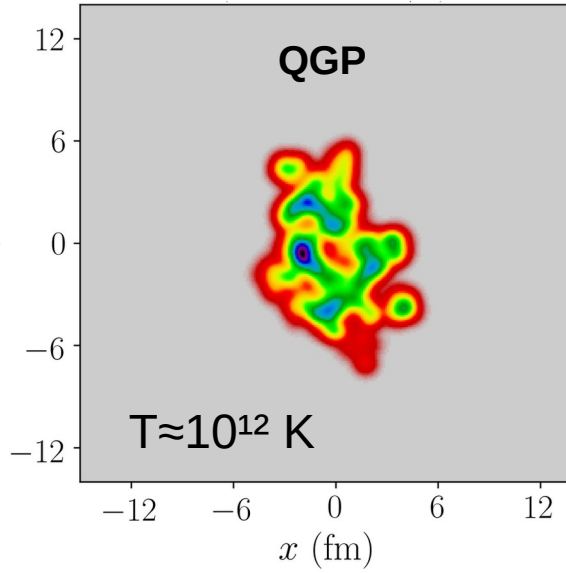
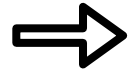
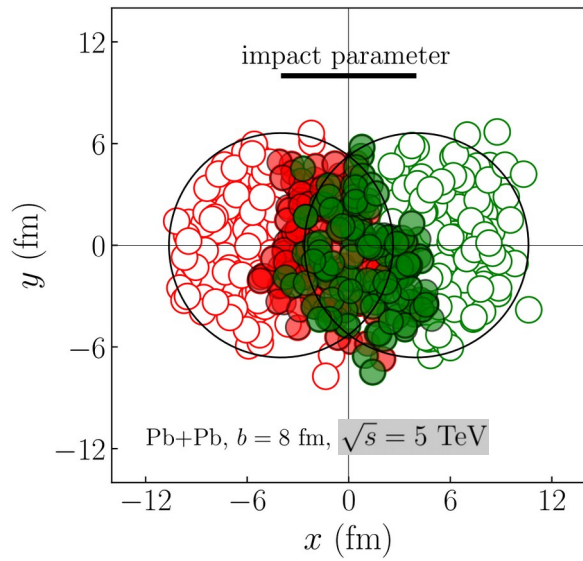
Geneva (CH)



**High energy = Nuclei in the lab frame are squeezed in beam direction**



**Interaction is instantaneous – Relevant dynamics in the plane transverse to the beam**



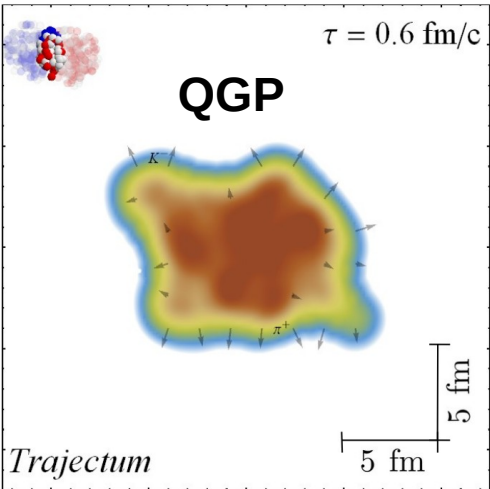
**Relativistic fluid description:**  $T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu - P g^{\mu\nu}$

**Equation of state from lattice QCD**

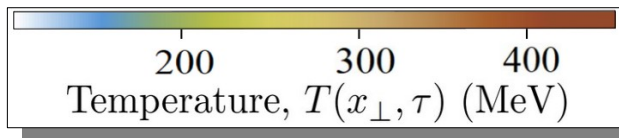
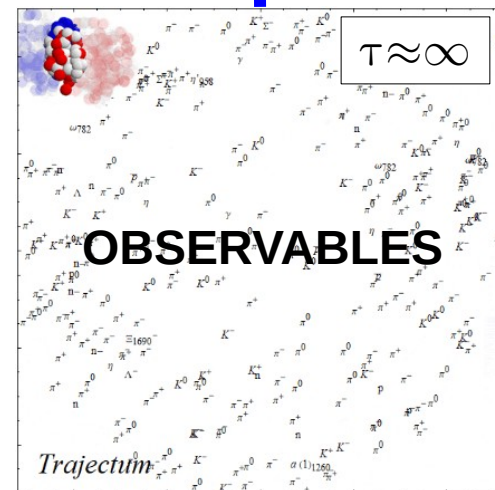
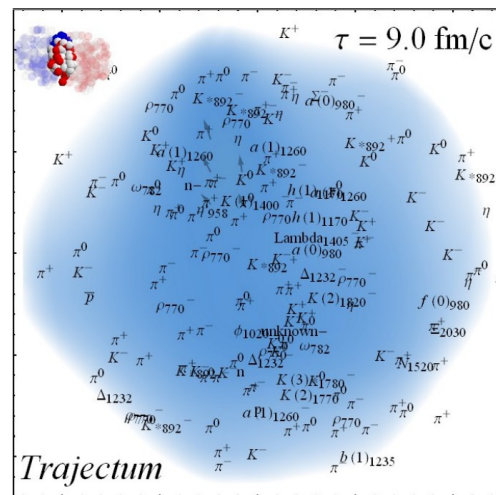
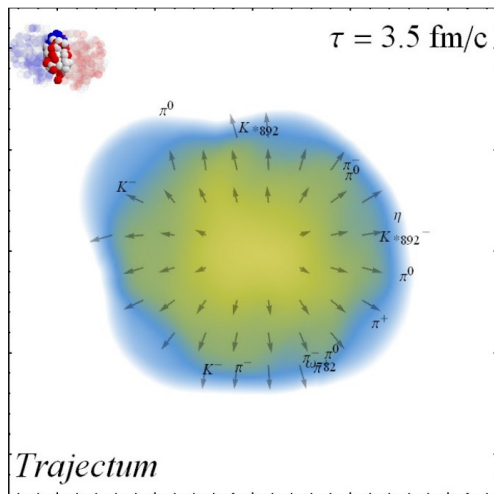
[HoTQCD collaboration, PRD **90** (2014) 094503]

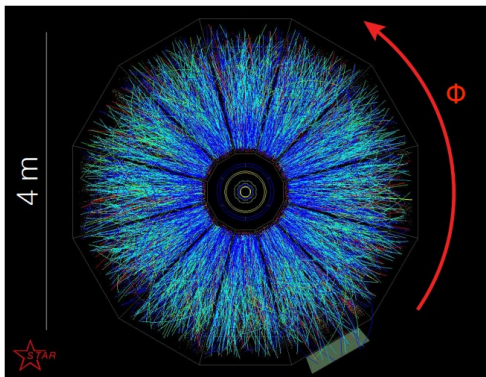
[Romatschke & Romatschke, arXiv:1712.05815]

**Fluid is viscous ( $\eta/s, \zeta/s, \dots$ )**



## RECONSTRUCTING THE INITIAL STATE?





# The art of event-by-event analysis

**SPECTRUM**

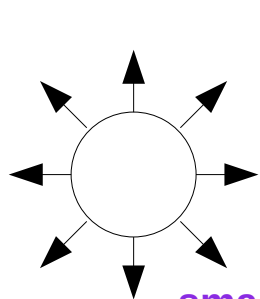
$$\frac{dN_{\text{ch}}}{d\phi dp_t dp_t}$$

**CHARGED MULTIPLICITY**

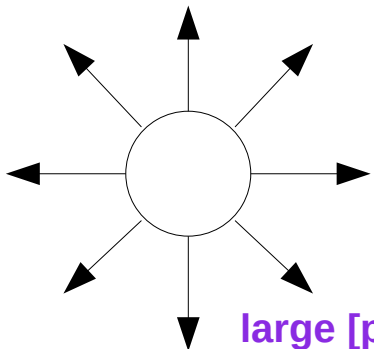
$$N_{\text{ch}} = \int d\phi p_t dp_t \frac{dN_{\text{ch}}}{d\phi p_t dp_t}$$

**MEAN MOMENTUM**

$$[p_t] = \frac{1}{N_{\text{ch}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{ch}}} p_{t,i}$$



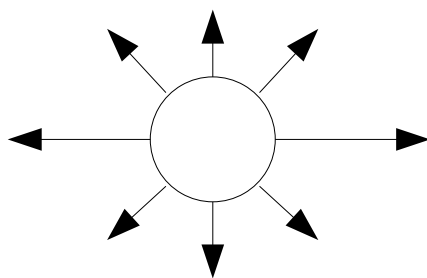
small  $[p_t]$



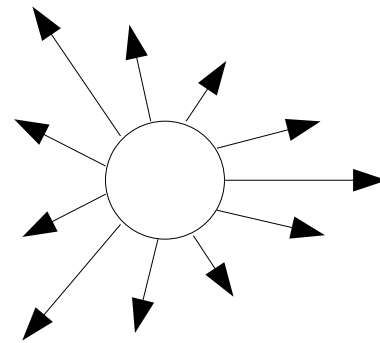
large  $[p_t]$

**FOURIER HARMONICS**

$$V_n = \frac{1}{N_{\text{ch}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{ch}}} e^{-in\phi_i}$$



elliptic flow,  $v_2$

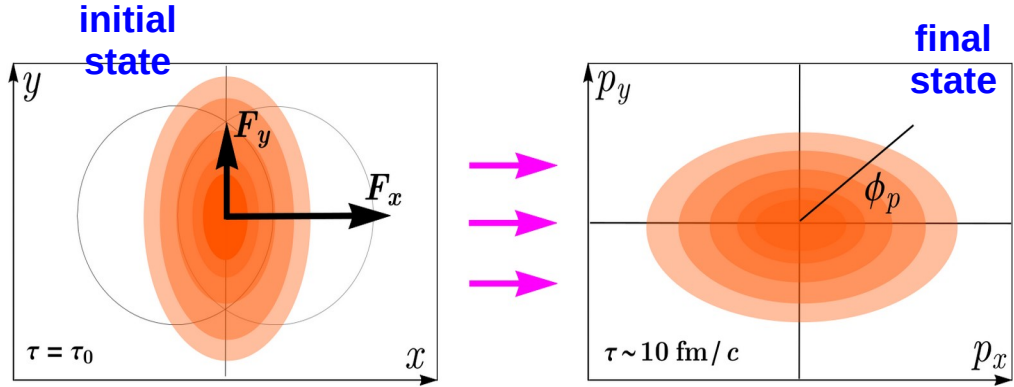


triangular flow,  $v_3$



# What we see in the final state reflects properties in the initial state

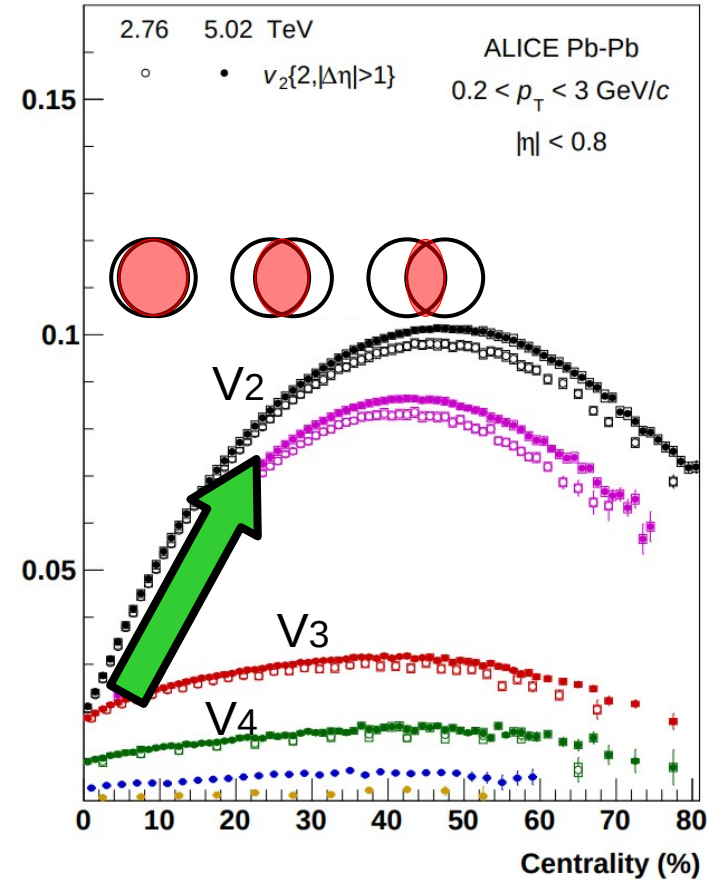
## ELLIPTIC FLOW MEASURES THE INITIAL DEFORMATION



$$F = -\nabla P$$

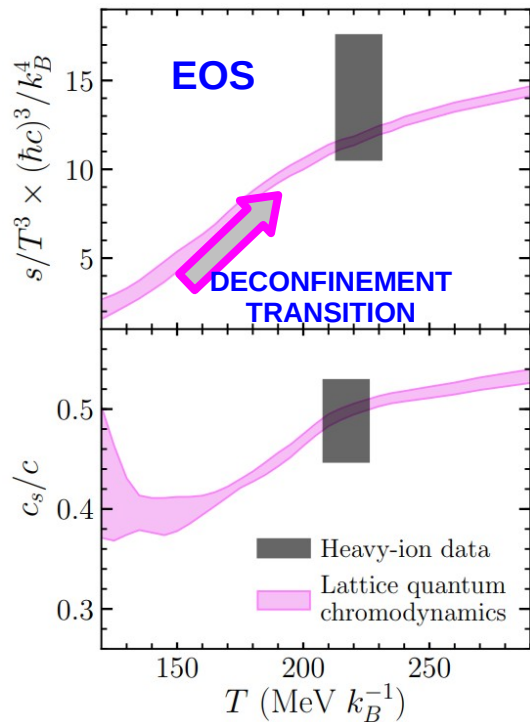
↓  
1/R

$$V_2 = \frac{1}{N} \int_{\mathbf{p}_t} \frac{dN}{d^2\mathbf{p}_t} e^{-i2\phi_p}$$



Hydrodynamics preserves information about the initial geometry

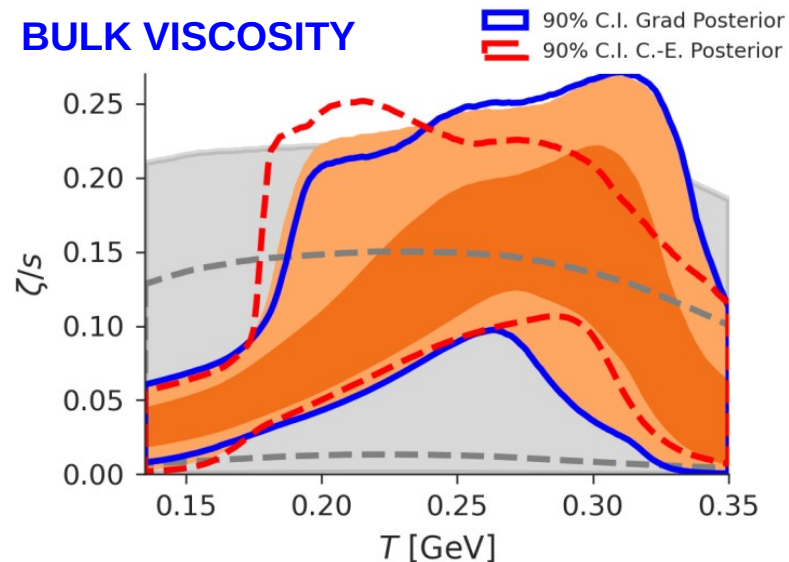
# Highly successful program!



[Gardim *et al.*,  
Nature Phys. **16** (2020) 6, 615-619]

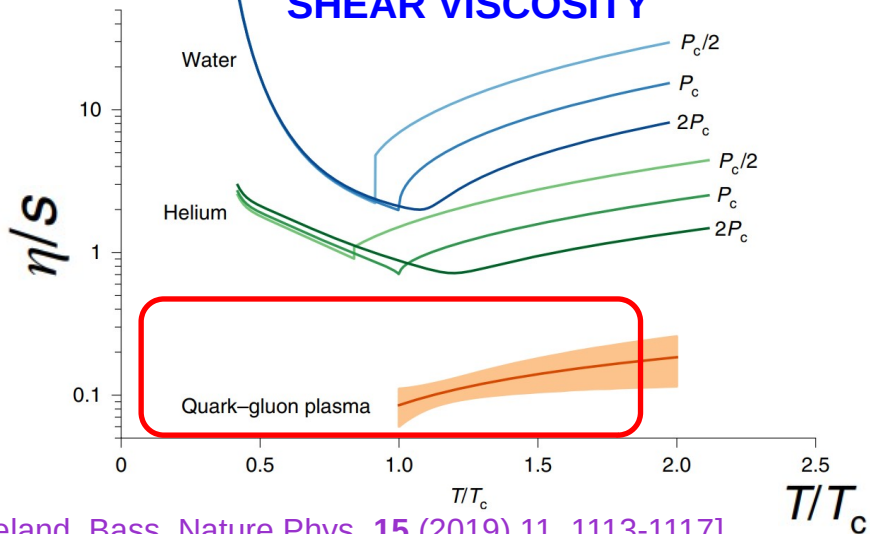
[Bernhard, Moreland, Bass, Nature Phys. **15** (2019) 11, 1113-1117]

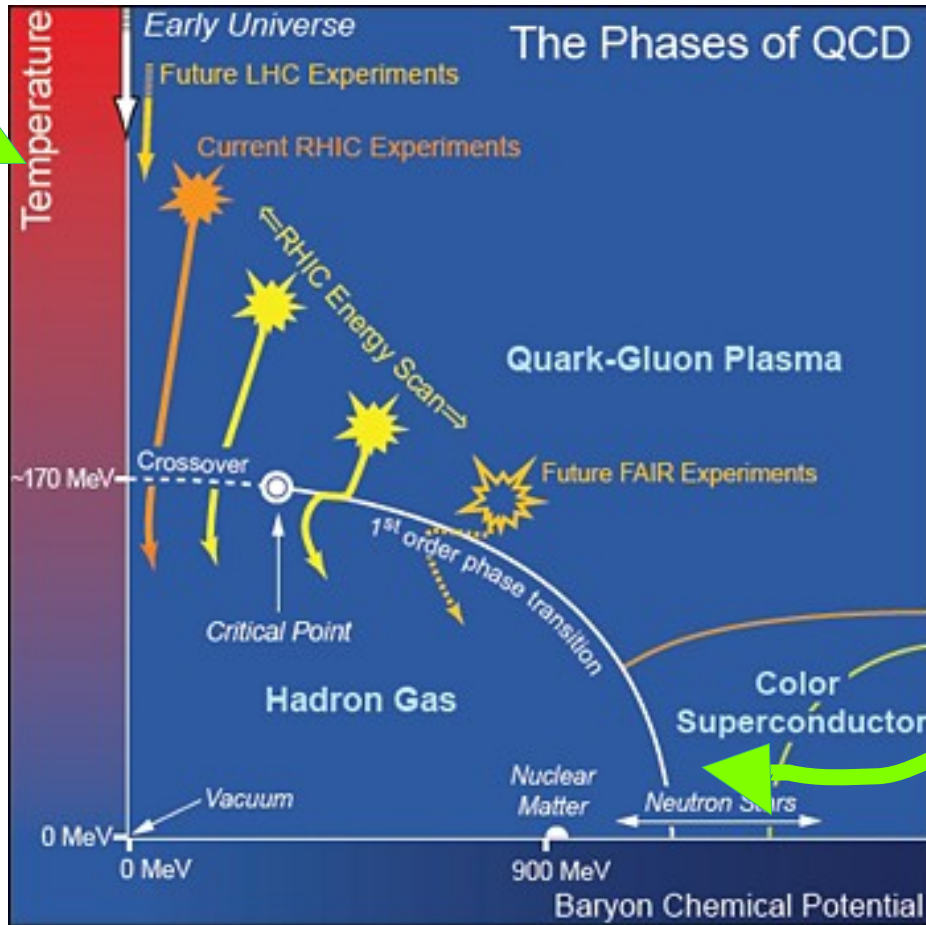
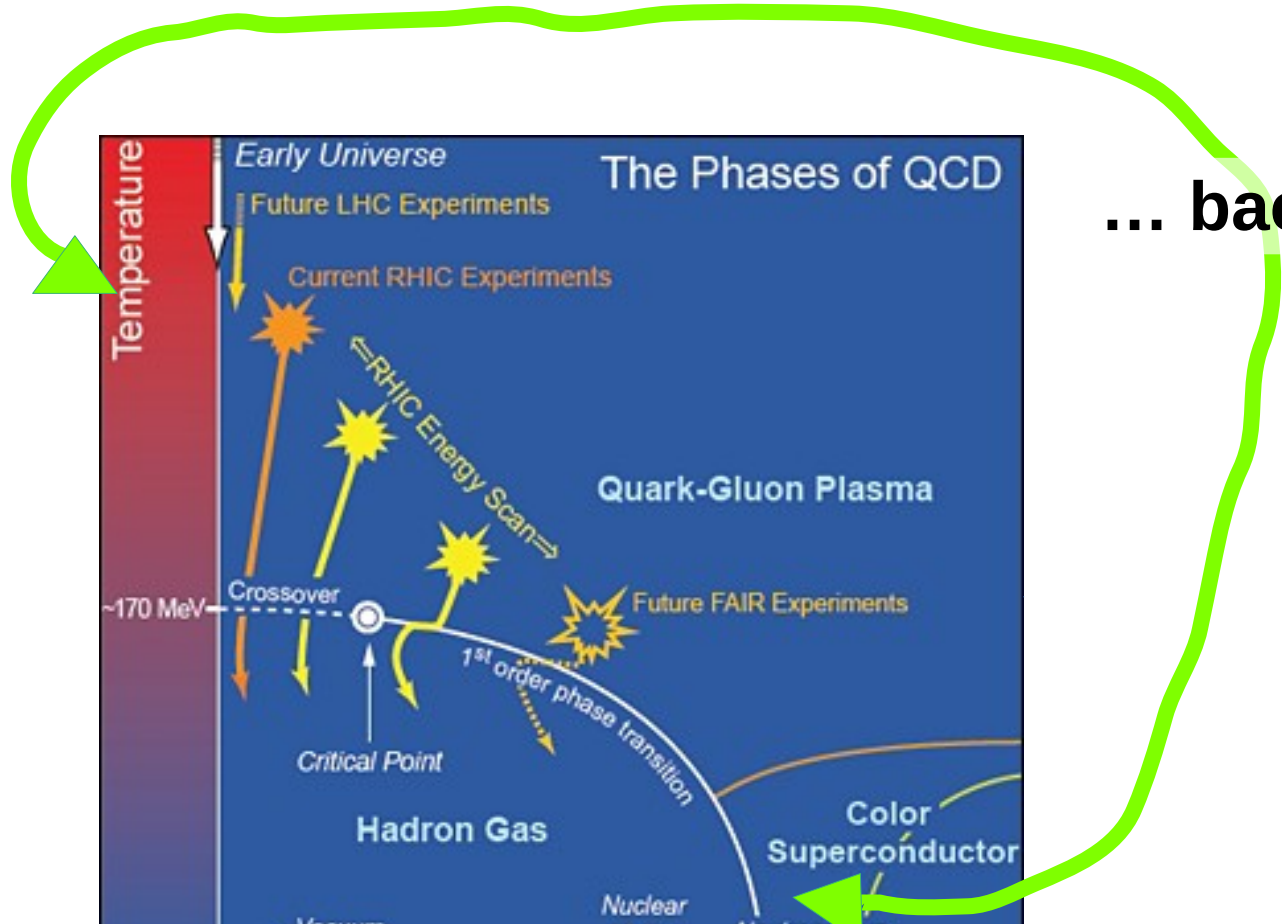
## BULK VISCOSITY



[Heffernan *et al.*,  
PRL **132** (2024) 25, 252301]

## SHEAR VISCOSITY





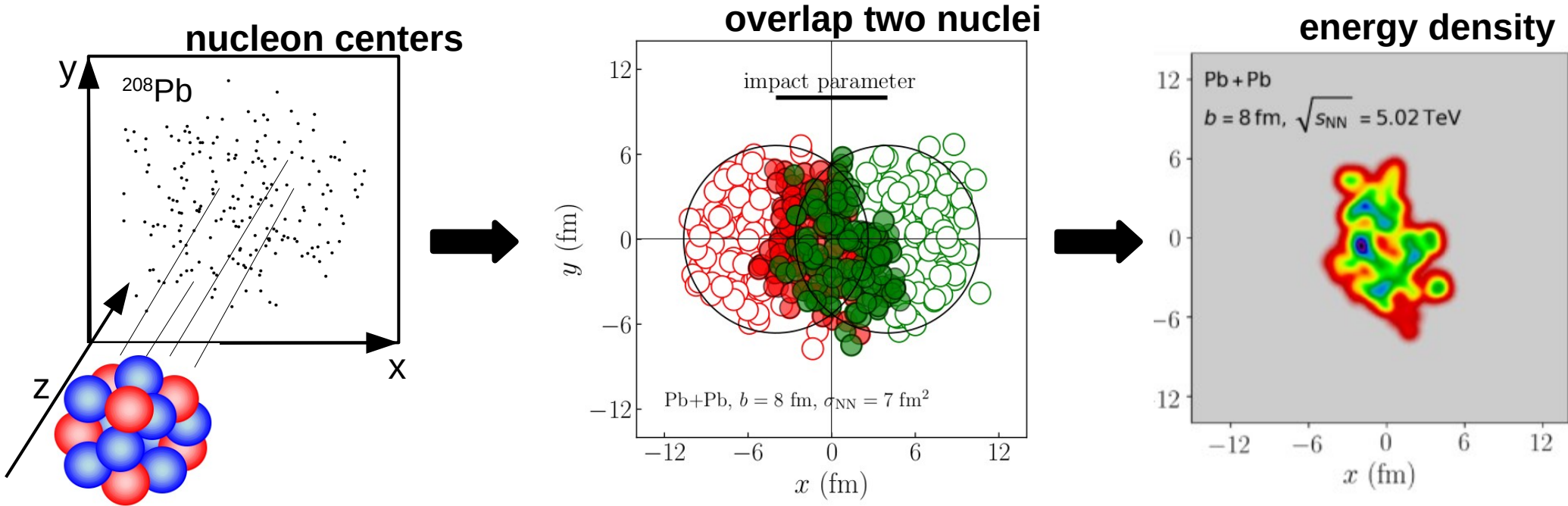
... back to this workshop

???

How do we connect them?

## 2 – Bayesian inference of the $^{208}\text{Pb}$ neutron skin

# How do we probe nuclear matter? We probe nuclear structure



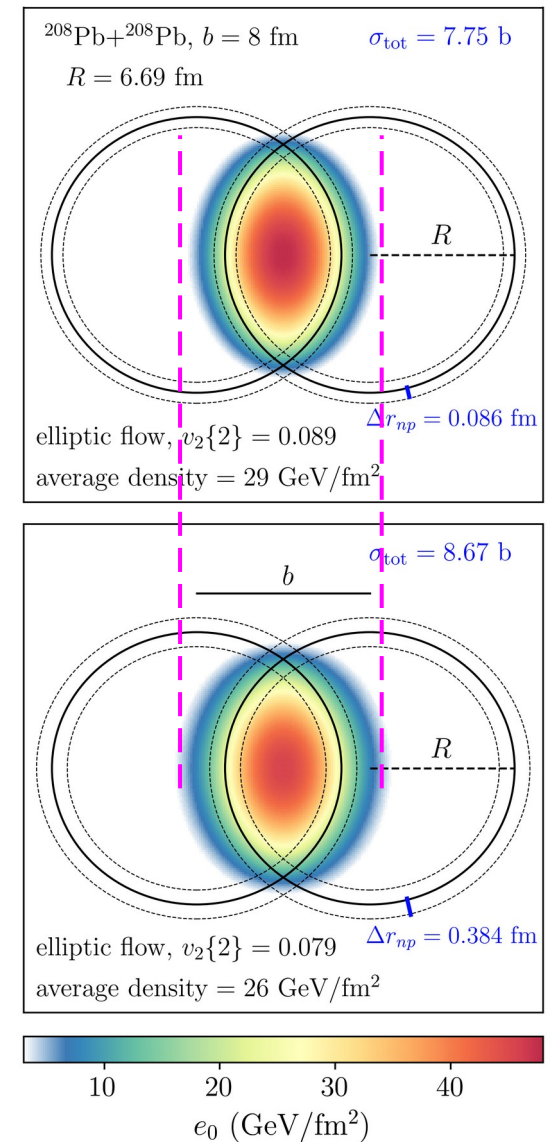
Input is number of nucleons and radial profile

**Skin thickness is an input of the model!**

$$\rho(r) \propto \frac{1}{1 + e^{(r-R)/a}}$$

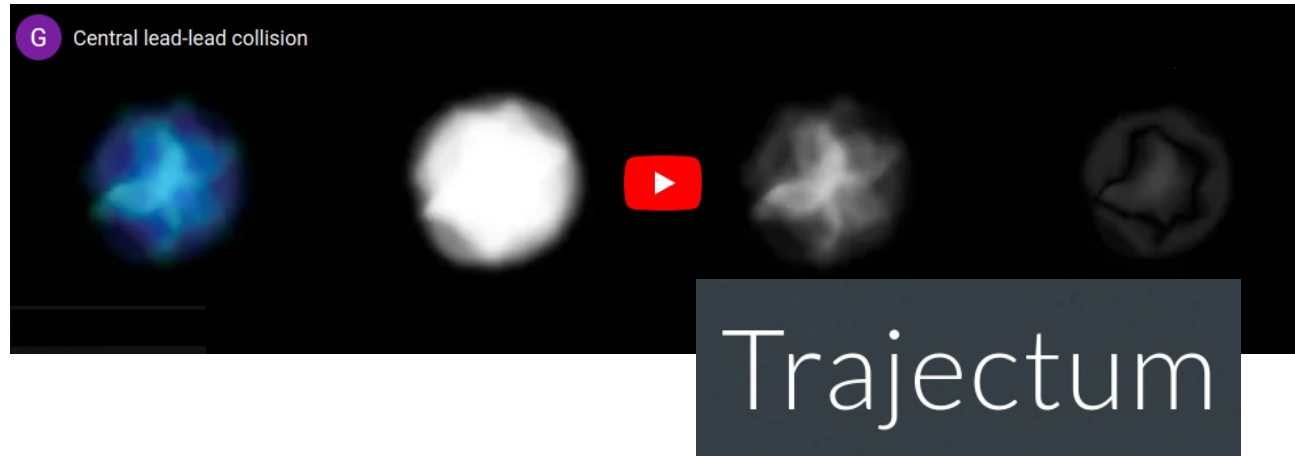
## Expected signatures of the neutron skin

- Larger skin yields larger system size
- Consequently, fireball density decreases
- Hydro will develop less radial and elliptic flow



# OUR COMPUTATIONAL FRAMEWORK

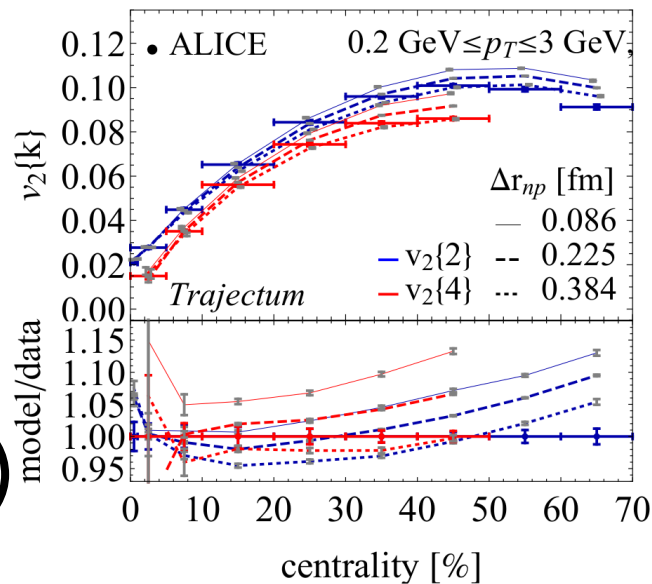
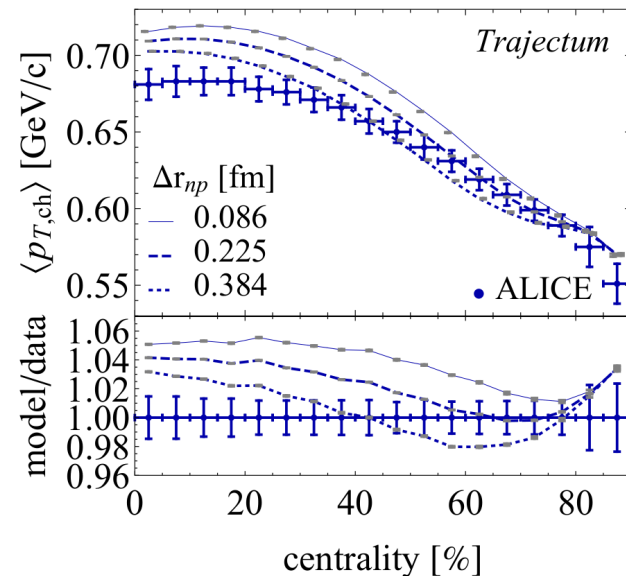
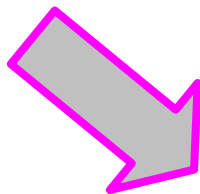
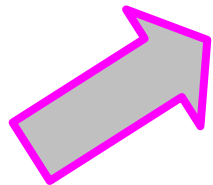
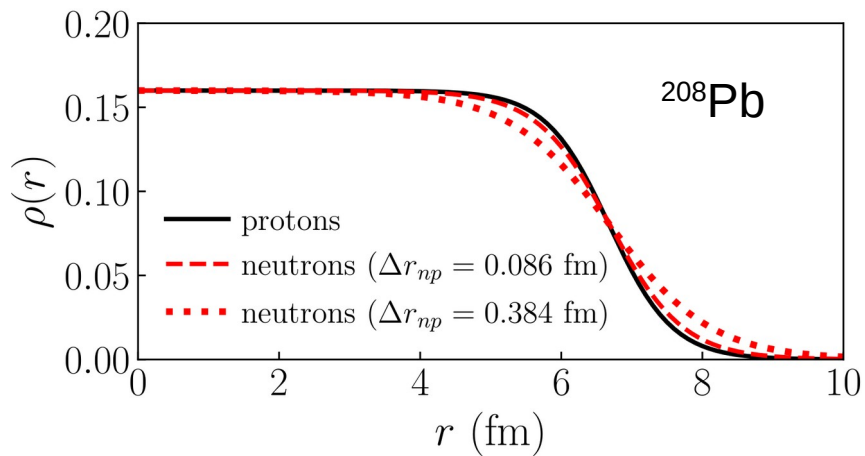
<https://sites.google.com/view/governnijs/trajectum?authuser=0>



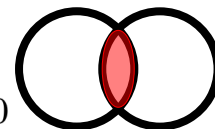
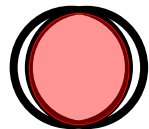
**Developed in Utrecht by Govert Nijs (CERN) and Wilke van der Schee (CERN/Utrecht)**

[Nijs, van der Schee, Gürsoy, Snellings, PRC **103** (2021) 5, 054909 – PRL **126** (2021) 20, 202301]

# Test on observables in hydro



Promising... global analysis?





## OUR STRATEGY: BAYESIAN ANALYSIS

$$\Pr(p \& D) = \Pr(p) \times \Pr(D|p) = \Pr(D) \times \Pr(p|D)$$

prior  $\times$  likelihood = evidence  $\times$  posterior

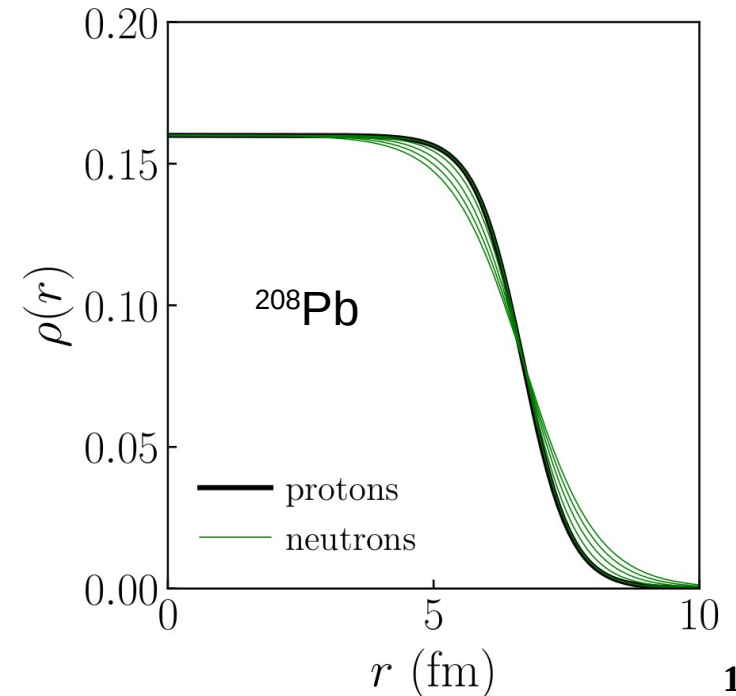
**Promote neutron diffuseness to a model parameter**

$$\rho(r) \propto \frac{1}{1 + e^{(r-R)/a}}$$

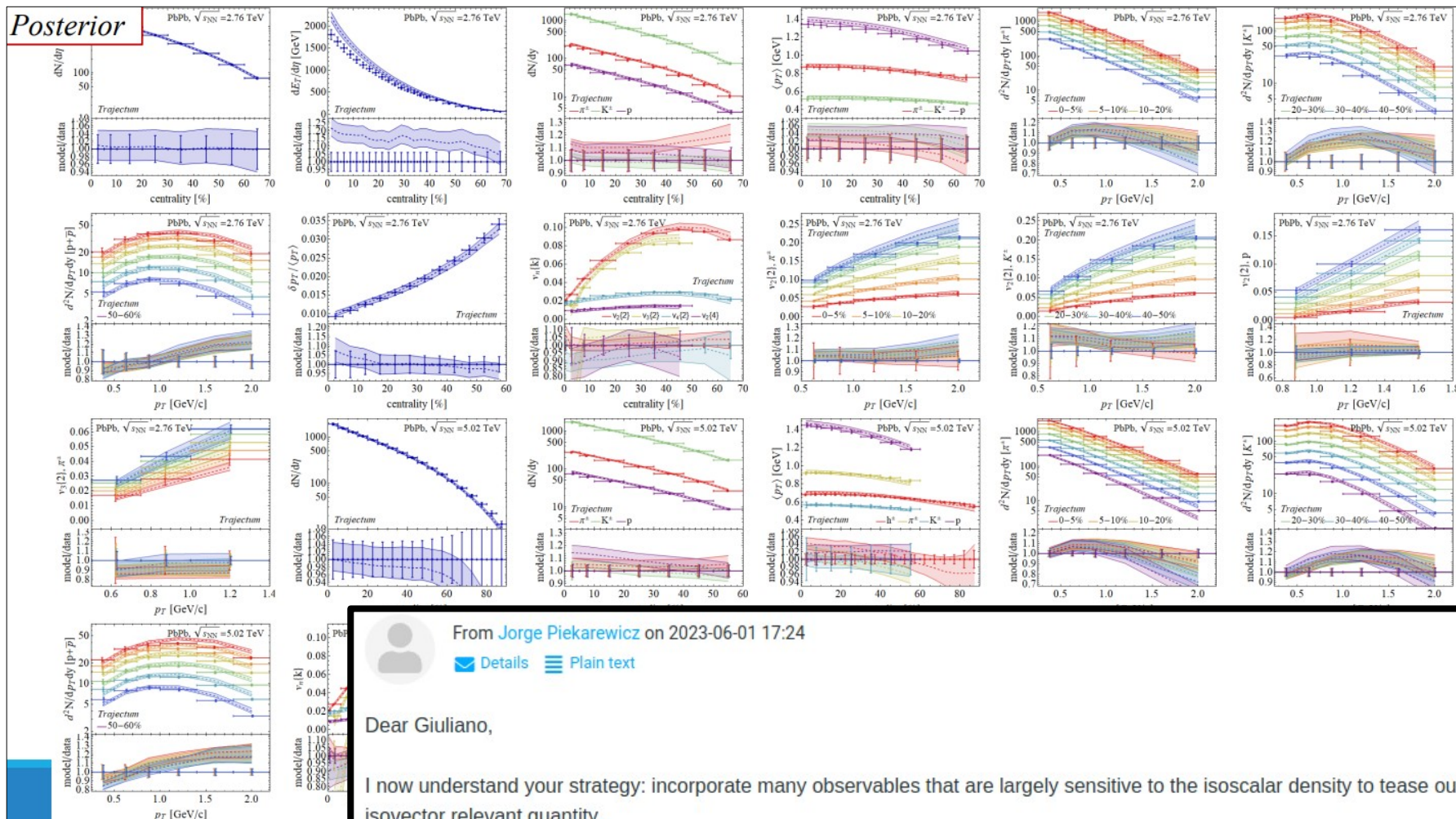
**Protons:** density from low-energy scattering

[Zenihro *et al.*, PRC **82** (2010) 044611]

**Neutrons:** same  $R$  as protons, infer  $a$  from data



# ~ 700 data points on Pb+Pb collisions



From Jorge Piekarewicz on 2023-06-01 17:24

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

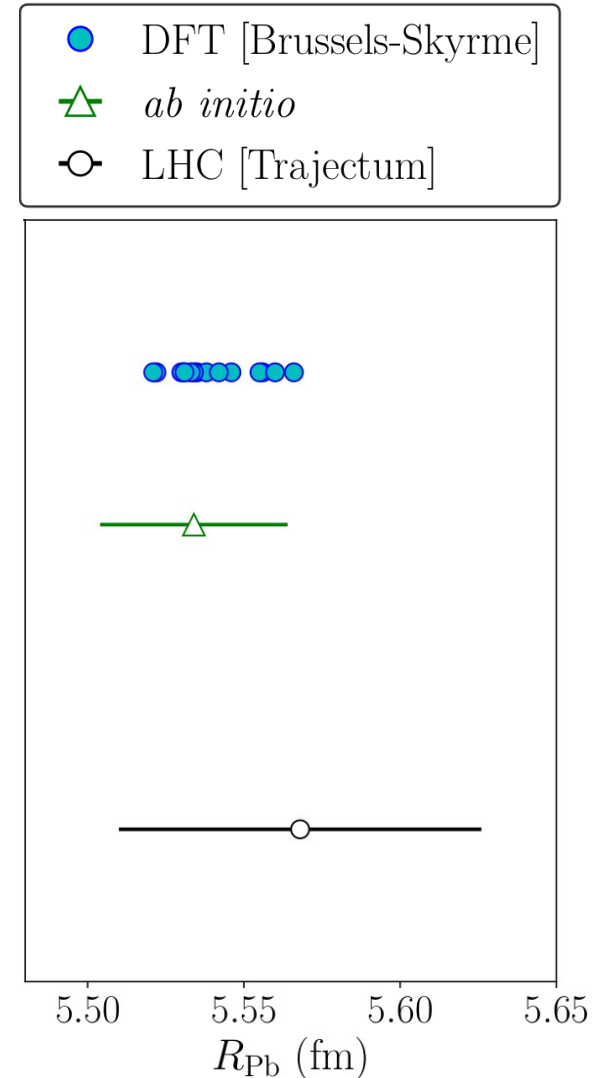
Dear Giuliano,

I now understand your strategy: incorporate many observables that are largely sensitive to the isoscalar density to tease out the isovector relevant quantity.

## Extracting the radial profile – Matter radius

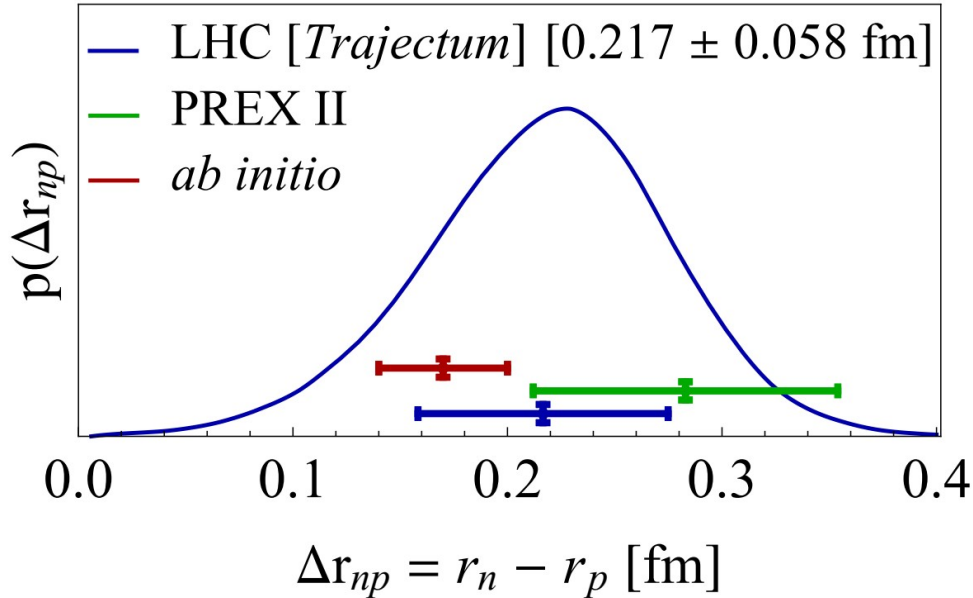
$$R_{\text{Pb}}^2 = \frac{1}{208} \left( \underset{\text{LHC data}}{126 \langle r_n^2 \rangle} + \underset{\text{low-energy data}}{82 \langle r_p^2 \rangle} \right)$$

- 18 tuned DFT Brussels-Skyrme results  
[BSkG2 functional by W. Ryssens]
- $R_{\text{Pb}}(ab\text{ initio}) = 5.534 \pm 0.030$  fm  
[Hu *et al.*, Nature Phys. **18** (2022) 10, 1196-1200]
- $R_{\text{Pb}}(\text{LHC}) = 5.568 \pm 0.058$  fm  
[Giacalone, Nijs, van der Schee, PRL **131** (2023) 20, 20]

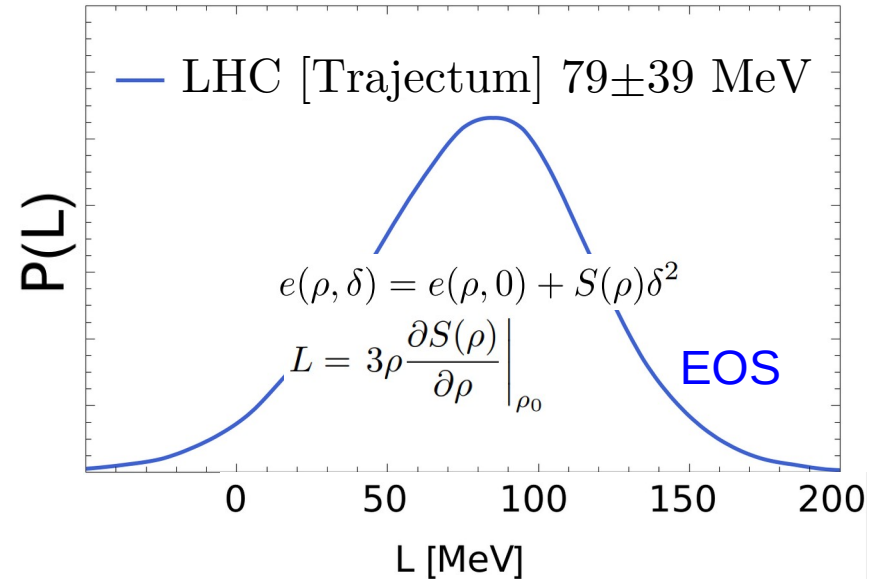


# Extracting the radial profile – Neutron skin

[Giacalone, Nijs, van der Schee, PRL **131** (2023) 20, 20]



[using Viñas et al., EPJA **50** (2014) 27]

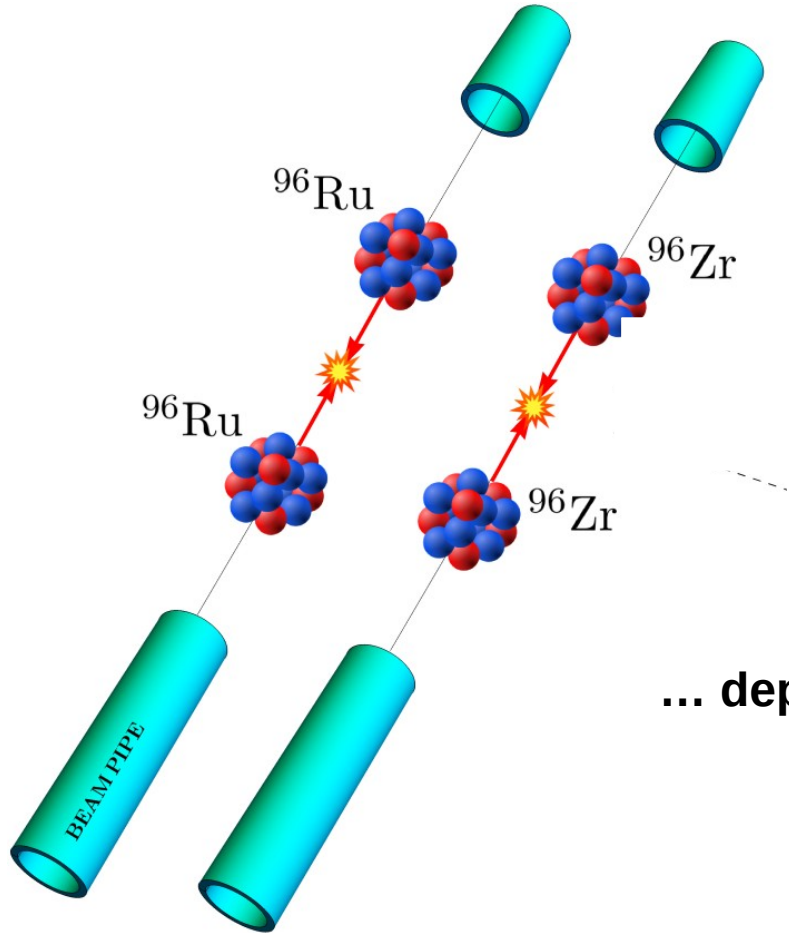


**PREX II**  $0.278 \pm 0.078$  (exp.)  $\pm 0.012$  (theo.) fm

**LHC**  $0.217 \pm 0.058$  (theo.) fm

[PREX Collaboration, PRL **126** (2021) 17, 172502]

# How about RHIC data? We can look at isobar collisions



X and Y are isobars

Ratios of observables (O) should be unity...

$$\frac{O_{X+X}}{O_{Y+Y}} \stackrel{?}{=} 1$$

[Giacalone, Jia, Somà, PRC **104** (2021) 4, L041903]

... departure from unity mainly due to nuclear structure

Extremely precise measurements

# Accessing the skin difference... Neutrons matter!

$$\rho(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{r-R}{a}\right)}$$

- $^{96}\text{Zr}$ , more diffuse **due to larger N**
- $^{96}\text{Ru}$ , sharper surface

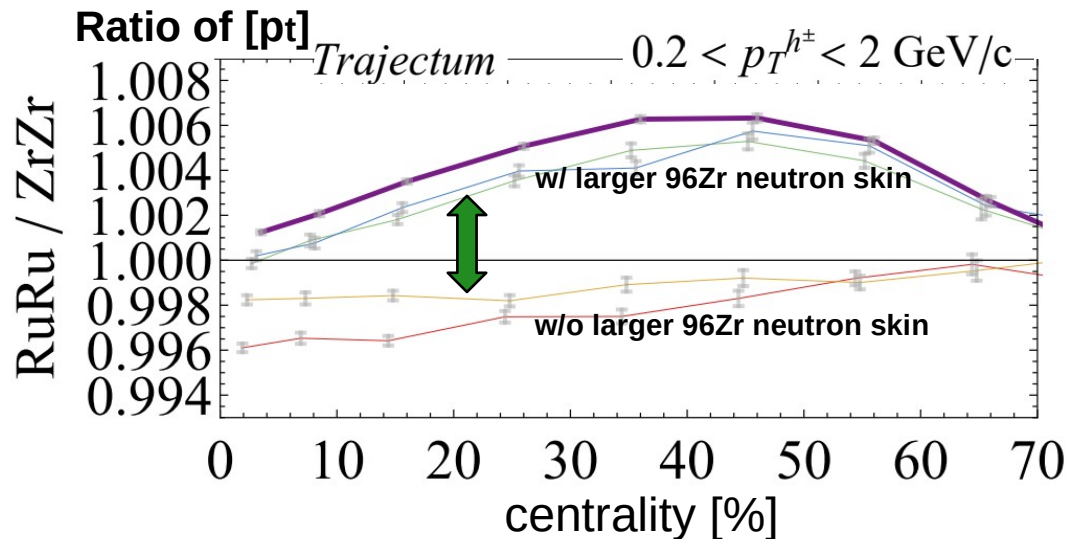
Ru+Ru systems are more compact...



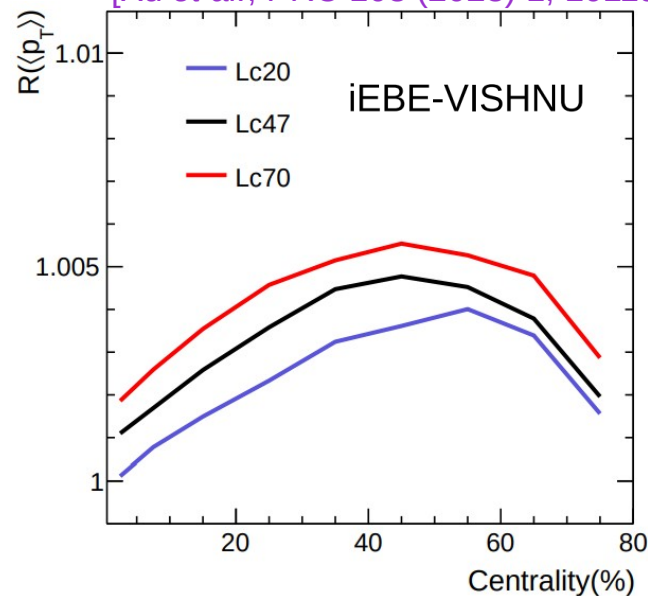
...  $p_t$  is enhanced

$$F = -\nabla P \rightarrow \frac{1}{R}$$

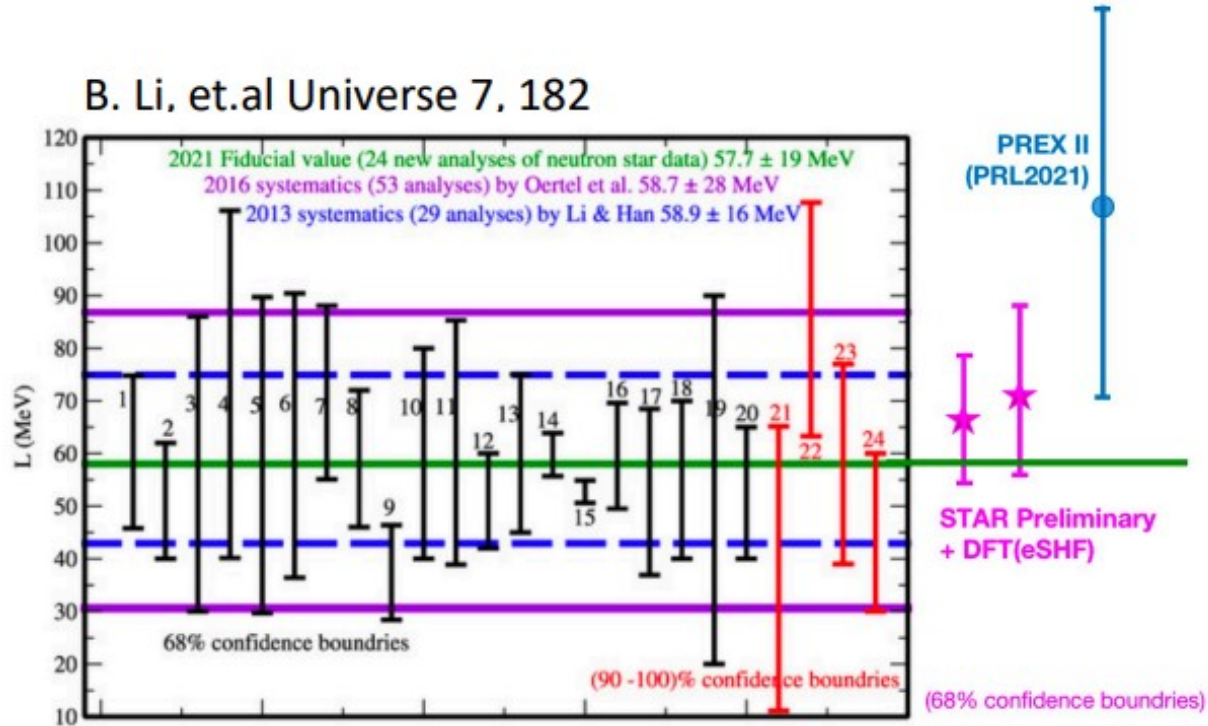
[Nijs, van der Schee, SciPost Phys. 15, 041 (2023)]



[Xu et al., PRC 108 (2023) 1, L011902]



# Preliminary determinations from STAR data [Haojie Xu]



**NB: Bayesian analysis is required for rigorous error validation**

# 3 – Prospects

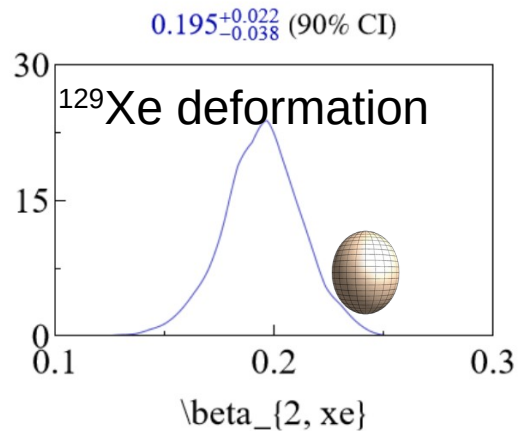
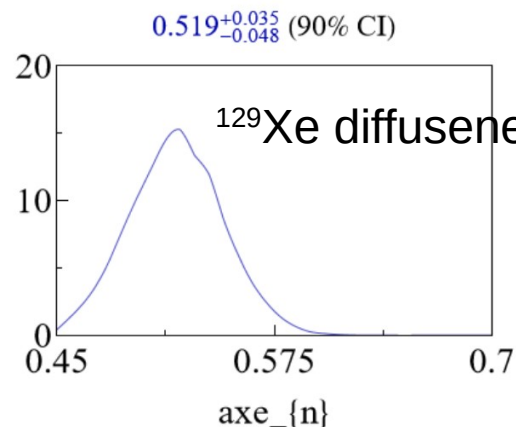
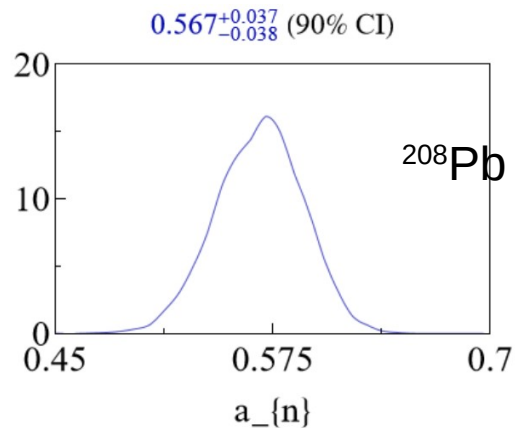
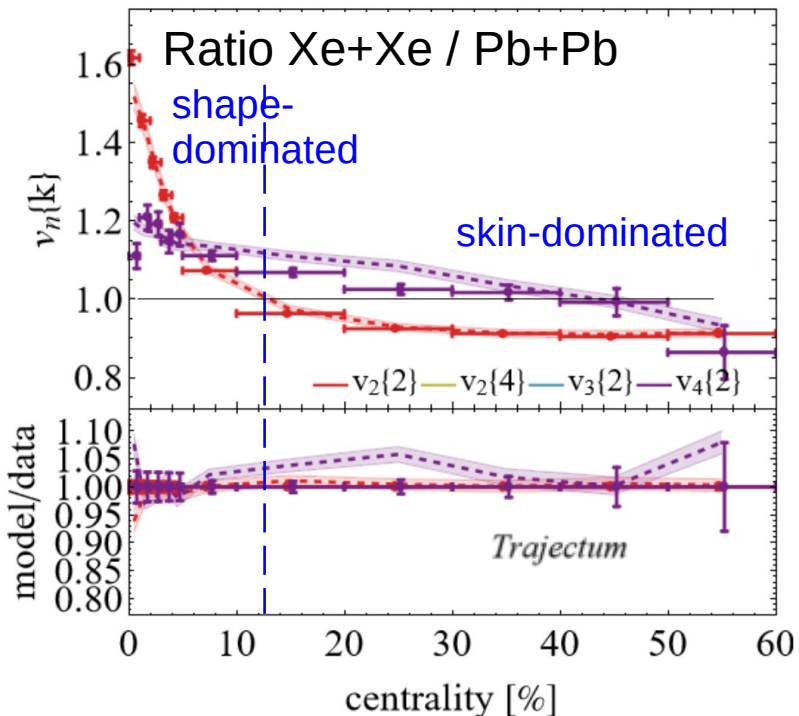


# Improved constrains from more than one system

## Use Xe+Xe data

[e.g, ALICE collaboration, PLB 784 (2018) 82-95]

PRELIMINARY RESULTS



# Tension between PREX and CREX results?

[CREX collaboration, PRL **129** (2022) 4, 042501]

[Reinhard, Roca-Maza, Nazarewicz, PRL **127** (2021) 23, 232501 – PRL **129** (2022) 23, 232501]

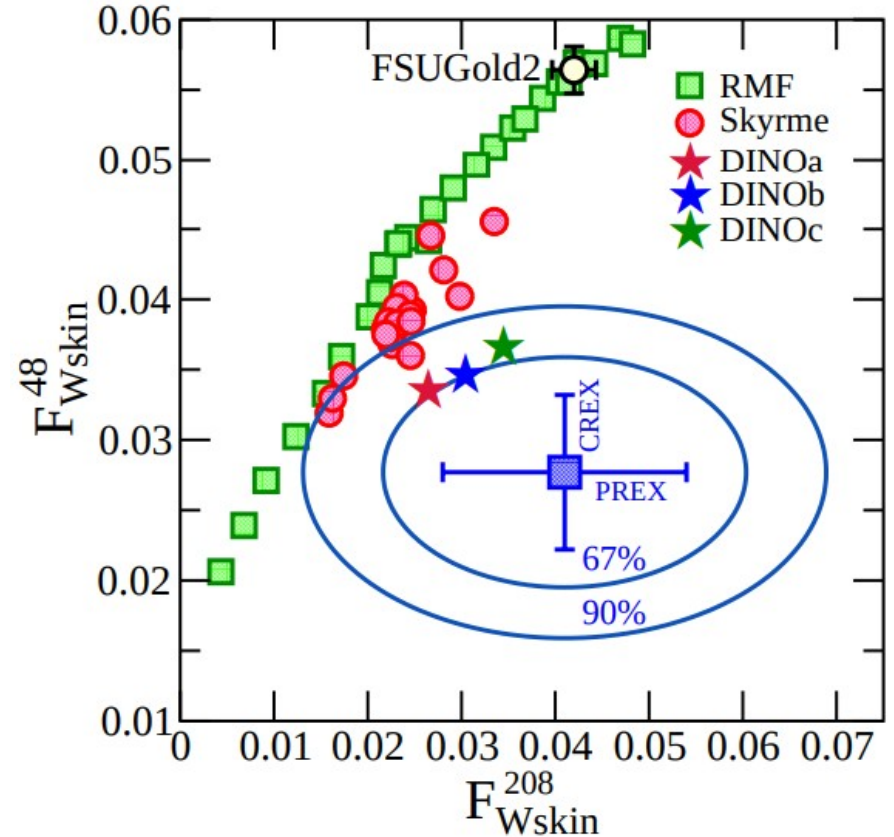
[Reed et al., PRC **109** (2024) 3, 035803]

Case for running  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  at LHC?

Isobar pair  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  and  $^{40}\text{Ca}$  proposed

“zero skin” of  $^{40}\text{Ca}$  should enable precision extraction of  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  skin

NLEFT calculations in progress... stay tuned

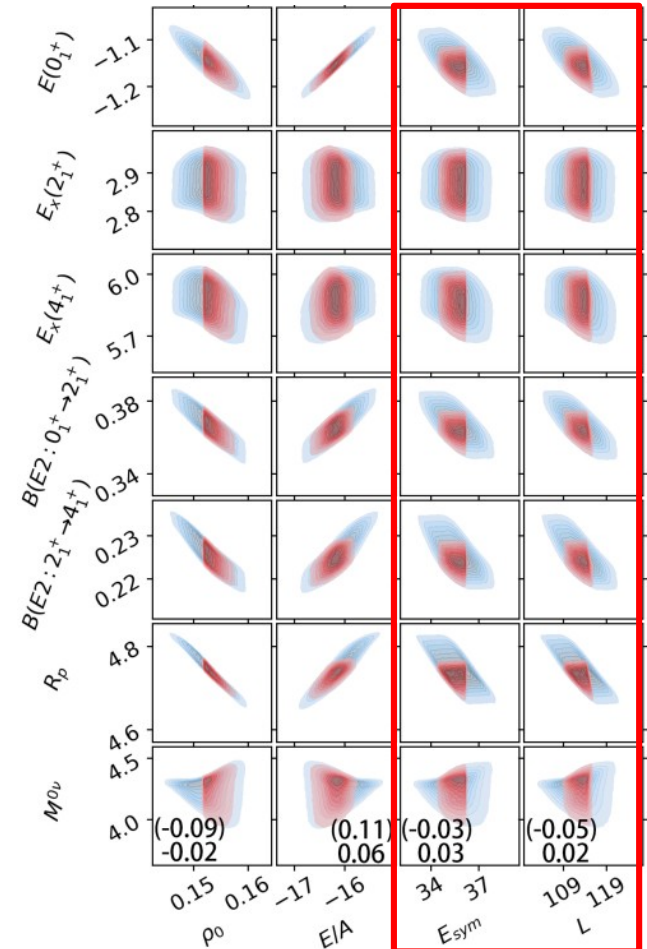
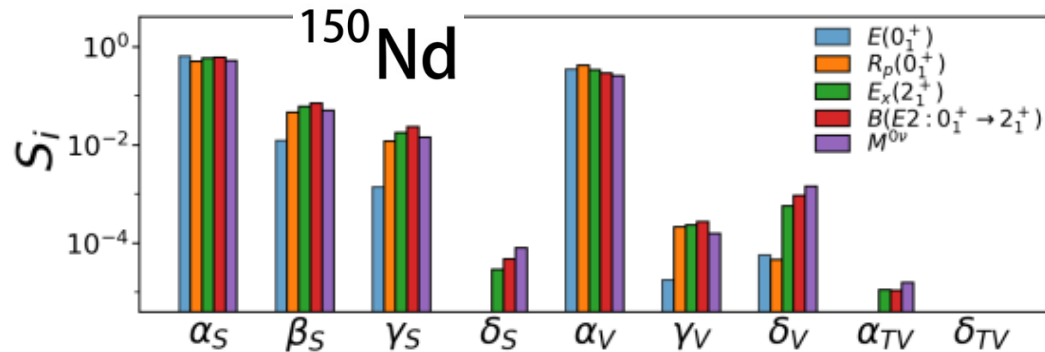


# Probing the EOS beyond the neutron skin

$^{150}\text{Nd}$

Emulator technology and global sensitivity analysis

[Zhang et al., arXiv:2408.13209]

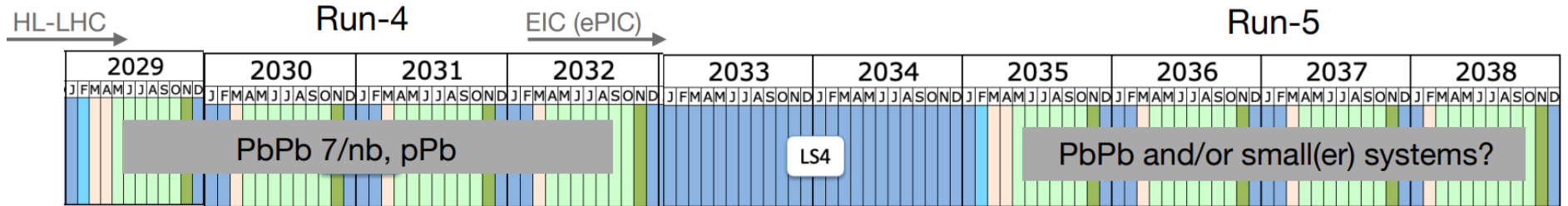


Global sensitivity of RHIC/LHC data to pin down the effective interaction (and L)?

# Probing the EOS beyond the symmetry energy?

How about correlations, three-body forces, .... ?

Good cases for additional species @ LHC Run 5? Input is highly timely / wanted



# **SUMMARY**

- Highly developed understanding of particle production in heavy-ion collisions
- Point-matter profile of  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  extracted from LHC data – More from other systems soon
- Results consistent with low-energy determinations!
- Looking forward to future progress and collaborations

