

# High-Energy Nuclear Collisions & the QCD Phase Structure

Nu Xu<sup>(1,2)</sup>

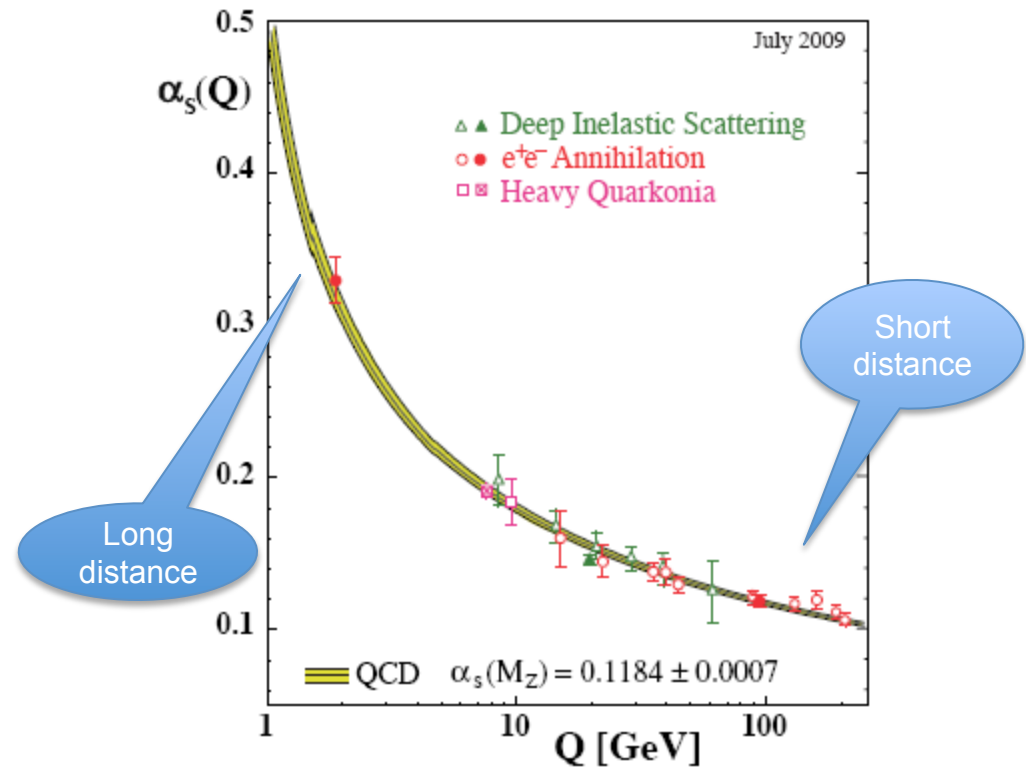
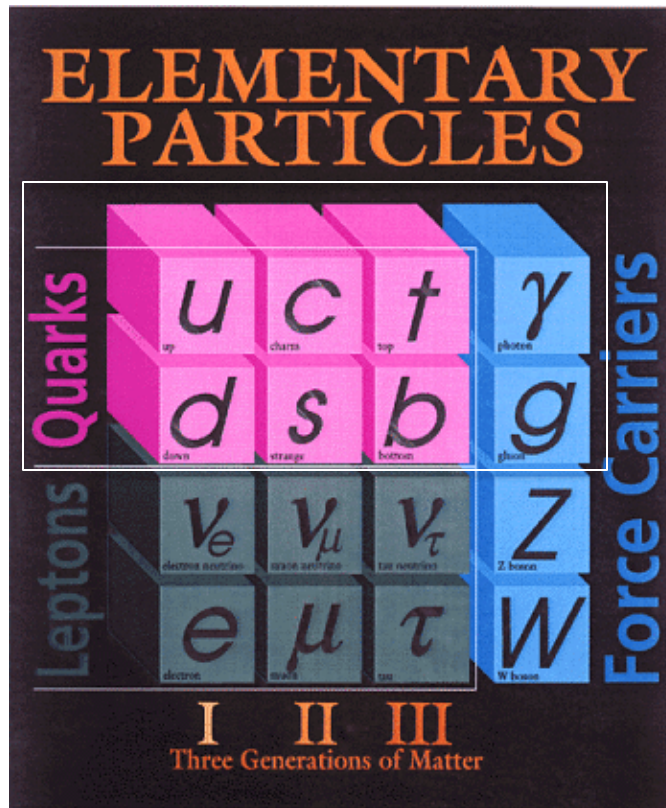
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*(2) Nuclear Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, USA*



***Many Thanks to the Organizers!***

# Quantum ChromoDynamics



- 1) QCD is the basic theory for strong interaction. Its degrees of freedom, are well defined at short distance.
- 2) Little is known regarding the dynamical structures of matter that made from  $q, g$ . E.g. the confinement, nucleon spin, the **QCD phase structure**... Large  $\alpha_s$  and strong coupling – QCD at long distance.

# What Is the Problem ?

## - The confinement:

Quarks are the basic building blocks of matter.

No free quarks are seen, confined within hadron:

$$\Delta v_0 \sim 1 \text{ fm}^3, \quad \rho_0 \sim 0.16 \text{ fm}^{-3}, \quad \varepsilon_0 \sim 0.15 \text{ GeV/fm}^3$$

## - Heavy ion collisions: Large, hot and dense system phase structure

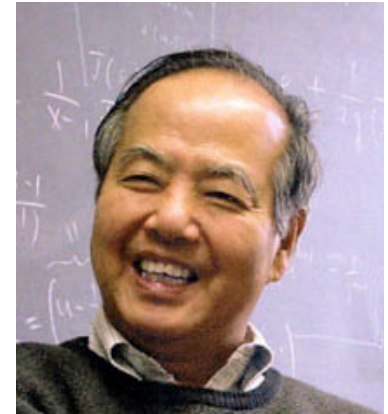
$$\Delta v \sim 1000 \text{ fm}^3 = 1000 v_0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &\gg 3 \text{ fm}^{-3} \sim 20 \rho_0 \\ \varepsilon &\gg 3 \text{ GeV/fm}^3 \sim 20 \varepsilon_0 \end{aligned} \Rightarrow \text{Quark Gluon Plasma (QGP)}$$

Quarks and gluons are 'freely' moving in a large volume  
New form of *matter with partonic degrees of freedom*

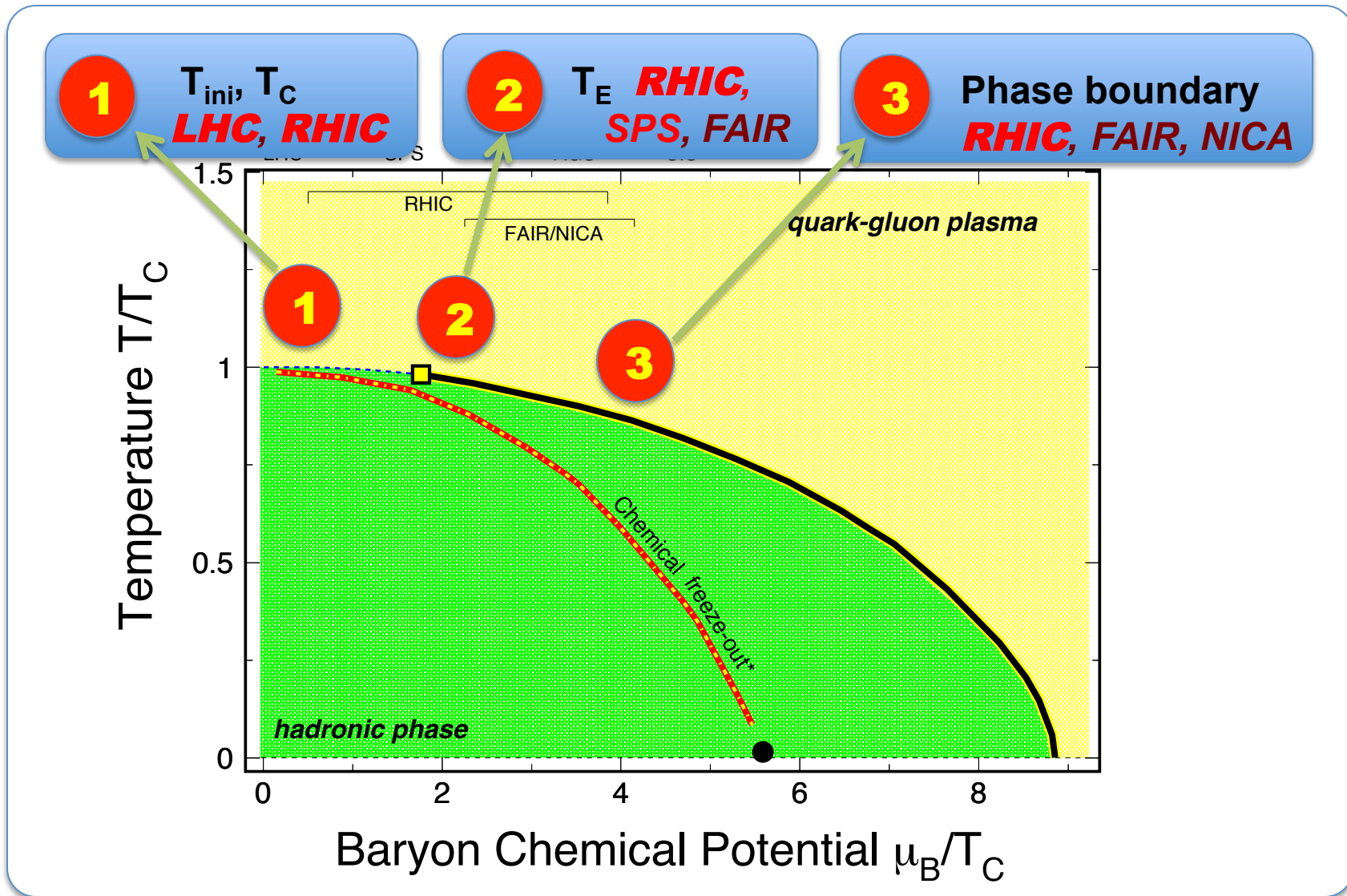
## - Connection with other fields

cosmology, origin of the universe, evolution of the universe,  
quantum statistics with partons, ...



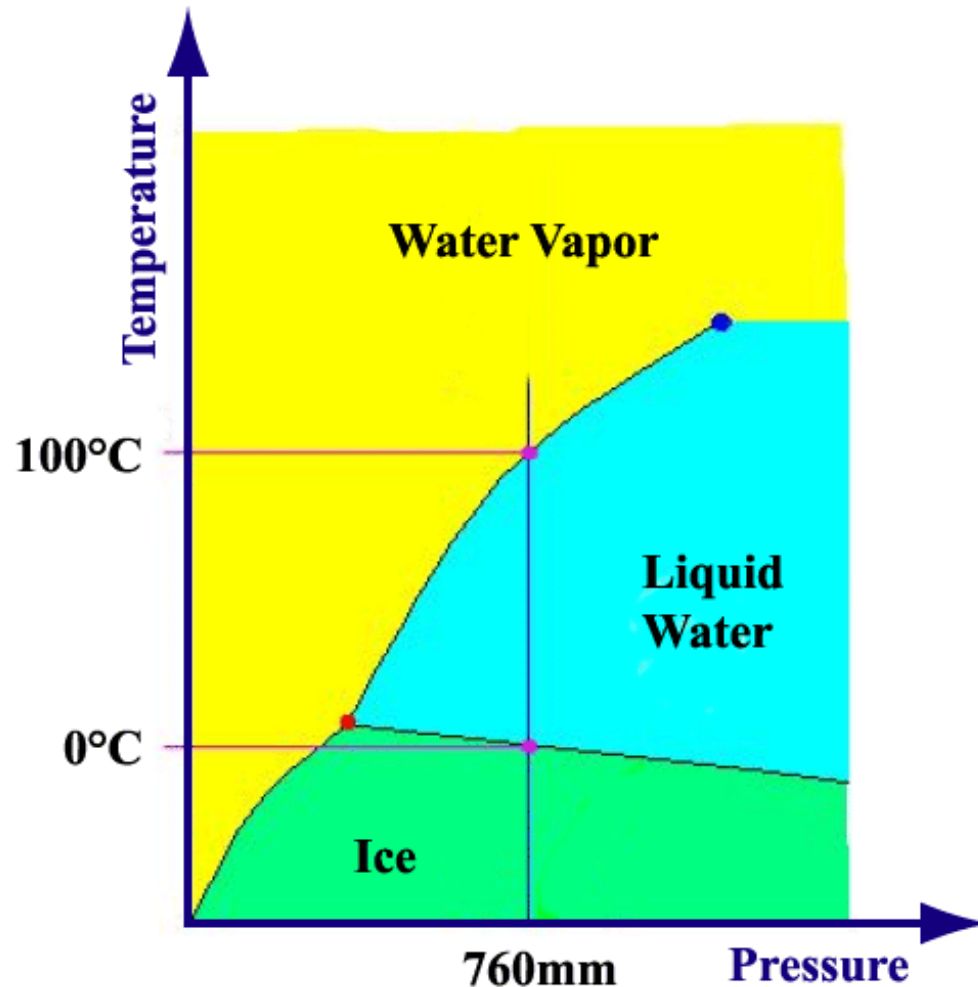
T.D Lee, 1970

# The QCD Phase Diagram and High-Energy Nuclear Collisions





# Phase Diagram: Water



**Phase diagram:** A map shows that, at given degrees of freedom, how matter organize itself under external conditions.

**Water:**  $H_2O$

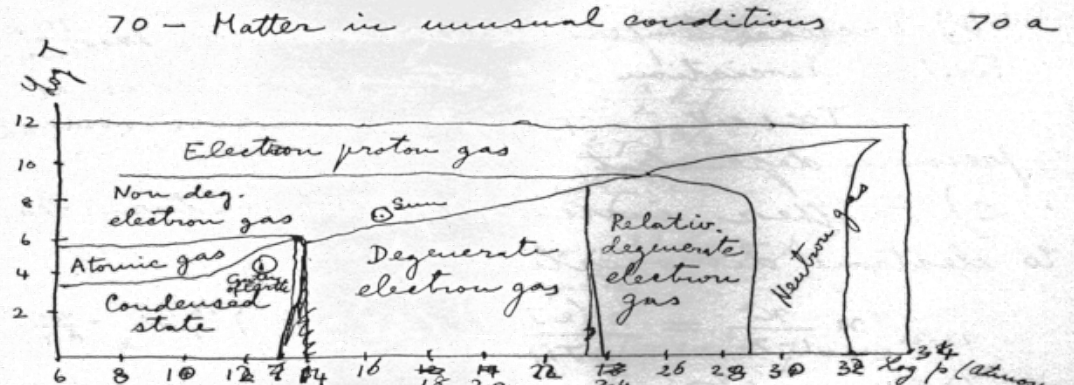
**The QCD phase diagram:** structure of matter with quark- and gluon-degrees (color degrees) of freedom.

# QCD Diagram (1953)

E. Fermi: "Notes on Thermodynamics and Statistics" (1953)



E. Fermi



Start from ordinary condensed matter with ~~Lamirac~~ equation of state controlled by ordinary chemical forces.

a) Increase pressure at  $T < 1000$  until deg. electron energies exceeds 20 eV —

Condition  $\bar{w} = \frac{3}{40} \left( \frac{6}{\pi} \right)^{2/3} \frac{h^2 n^{2/3}}{2^{2/3} m}$   $p = \frac{2}{3} \bar{w} n$

$\bar{w} = 3.6 \times 10^{-27} n^{2/3} = 3.2 \times 10^{-11}$   
 $n \approx 10^{24}$   $p = \frac{2}{3} 3.2 \times 10^{-11} \times 10^{24} \approx 2 \times 10^{13}$   
 $\approx 2 \times 10^7 \text{ atm}$

As pressure increases beyond this point

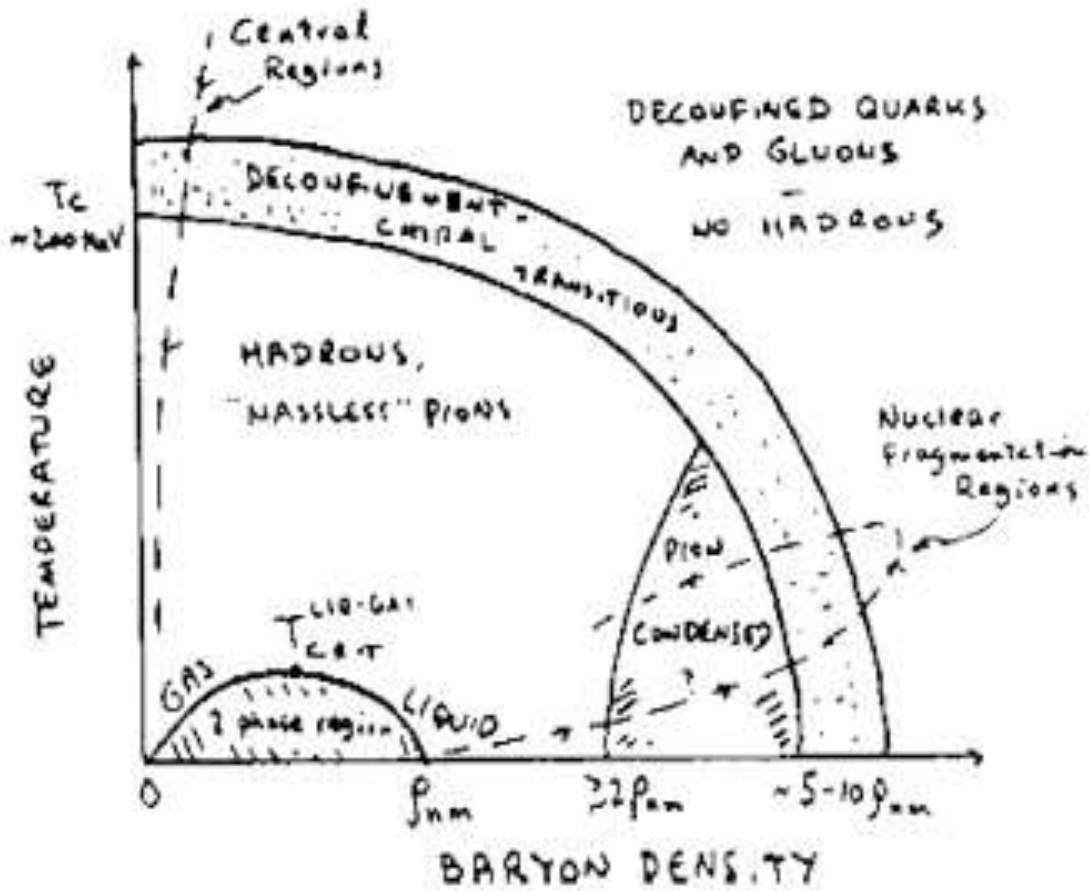
$p = 3.6 \times 10^{-27} n^{2/3} \quad n \times \frac{2}{3} = 2.4 \times 10^{-27} n^{5/3}$   
 $n = 6 \times 10^{23} \frac{\rho}{A} \quad p = 10^{13.01} \left( \frac{\rho Z}{A} \right)^{5/3} \approx 3.2 \times 10^{12} \rho^{5/3}$

# QCD Diagram (1983)



Gordon Baym

1983 US Long Range Plan - by Gordon Baym

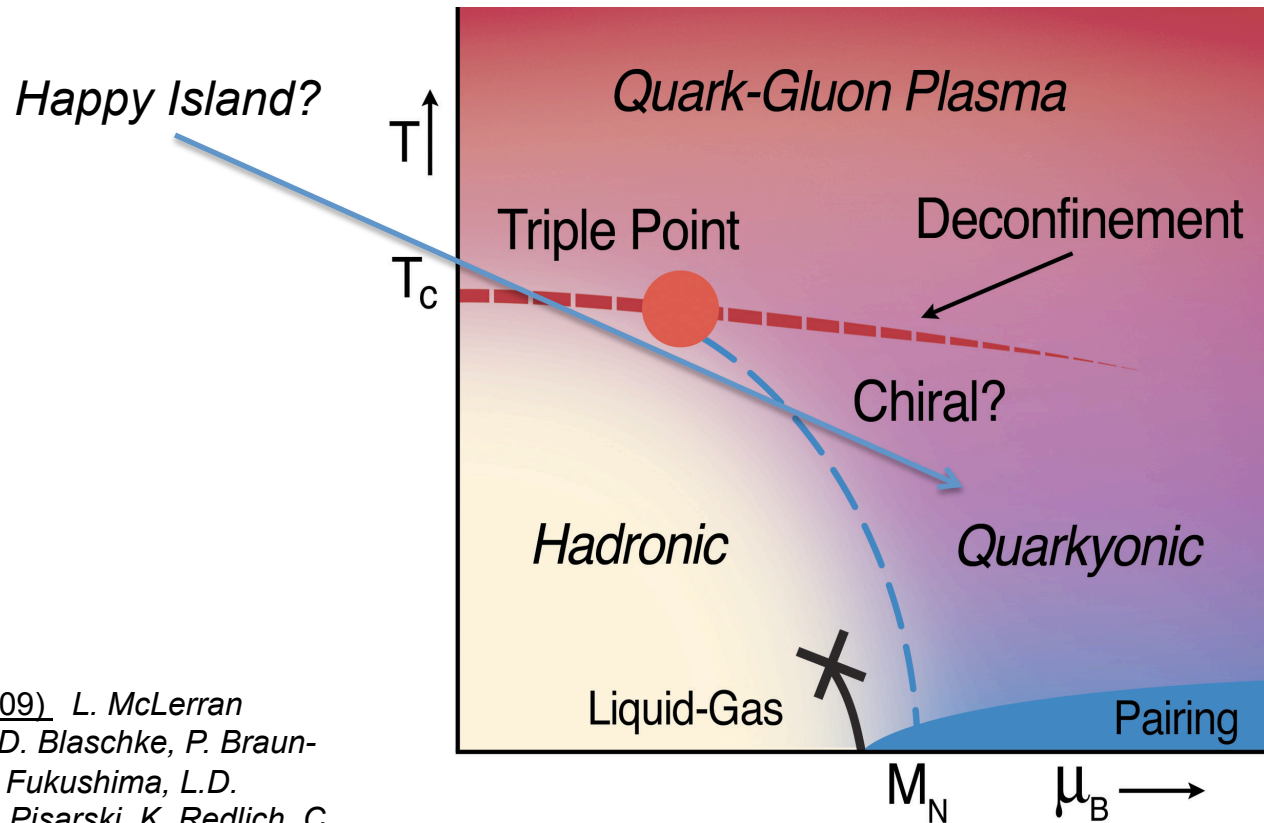


# QCD Diagram (2009)



Larry McLerran

nucl-th: 0907.4489, NPA830,709(09) L. McLerran  
nucl-th 0911.4806: A. Andronic, D. Blaschke, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Cleymans, K. Fukushima, L.D. McLerran, H. Oeschler, R.D. Pisarski, K. Redlich, C. Sasaki, H. Satz, and J. Stach



**Systematic experimental measurements vs.  $(E_{beam}, A_{size})$ :  
extract numbers that related to the QCD phase diagram!**

# Outline

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(1) Introduction

(2) Recent results from RHIC

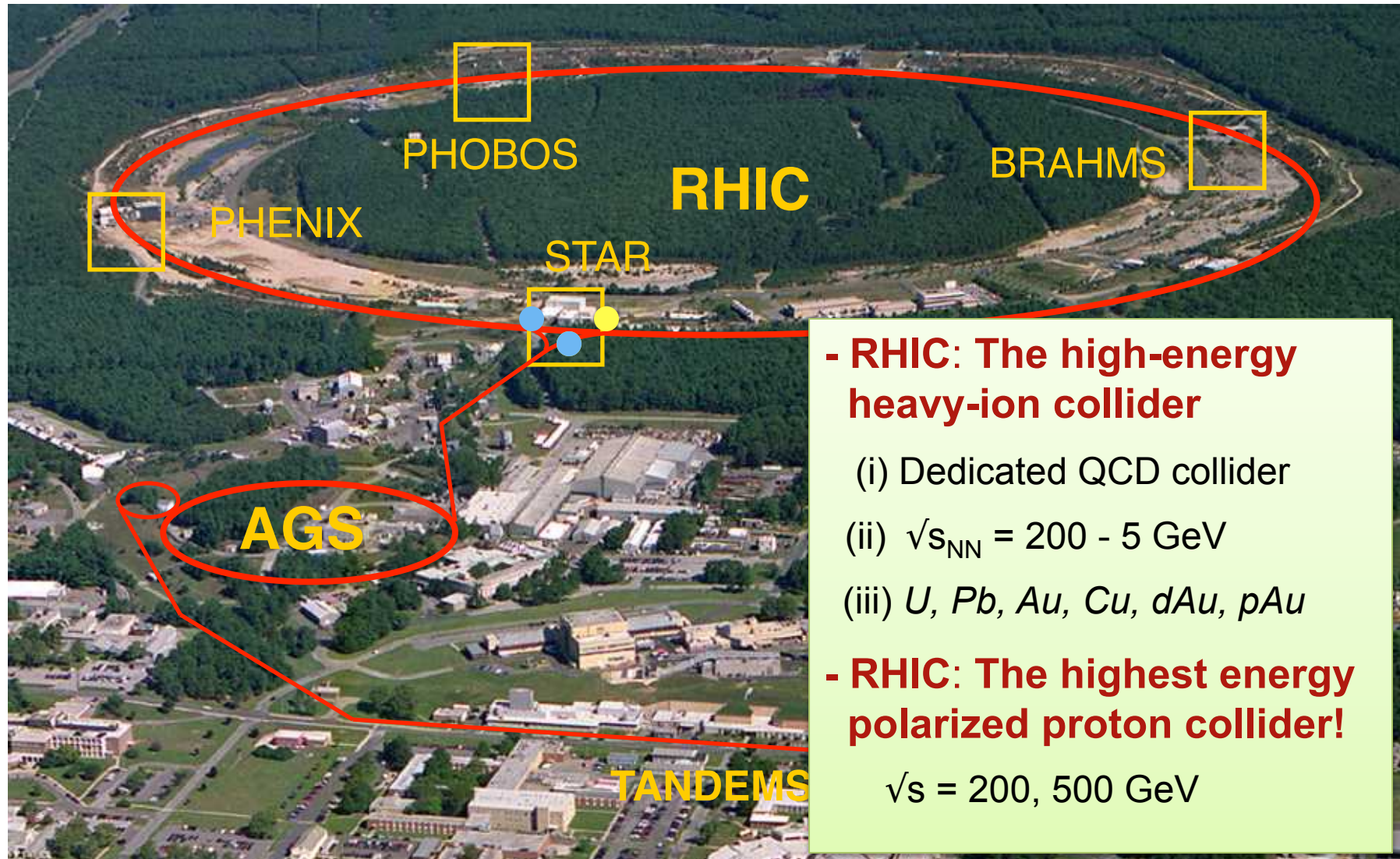
(3) RHIC Beam Energy Scan

(4) Summary



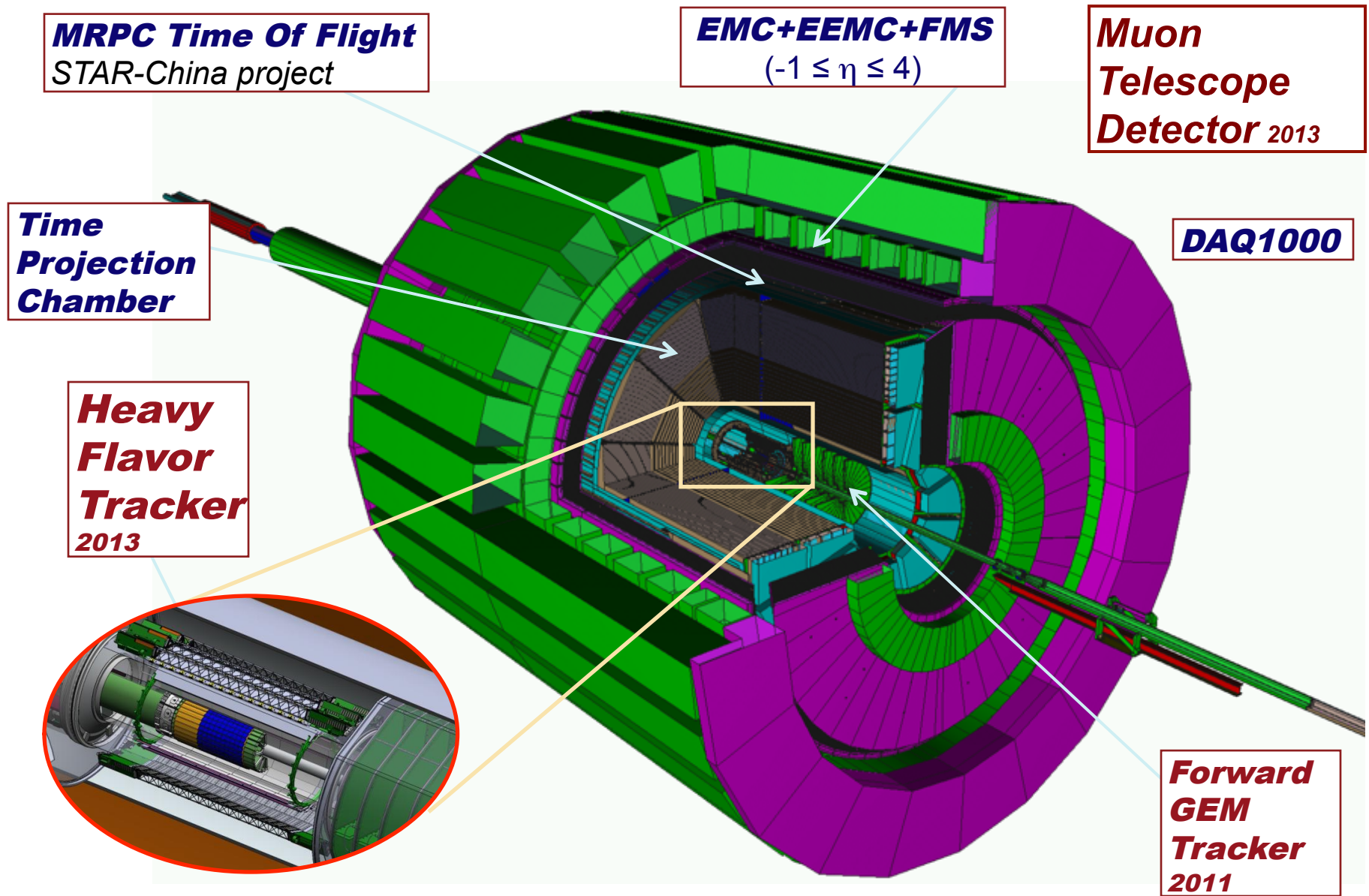
# Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC)

Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Upton, NY

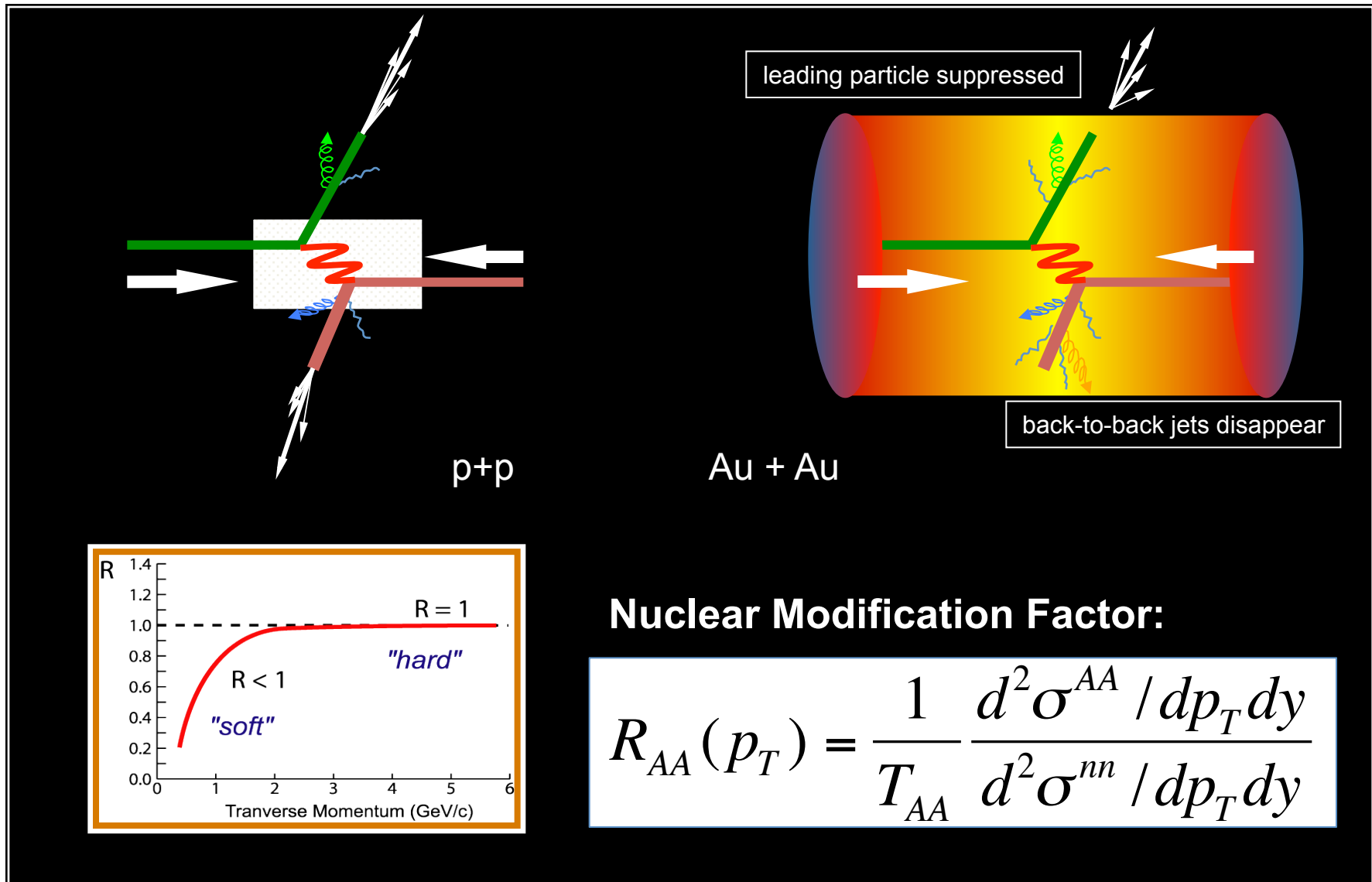


Animation M. Lisa

# STAR Detectors *Fast and Full azimuthal particle identification*

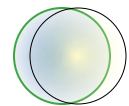
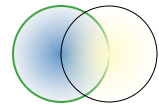
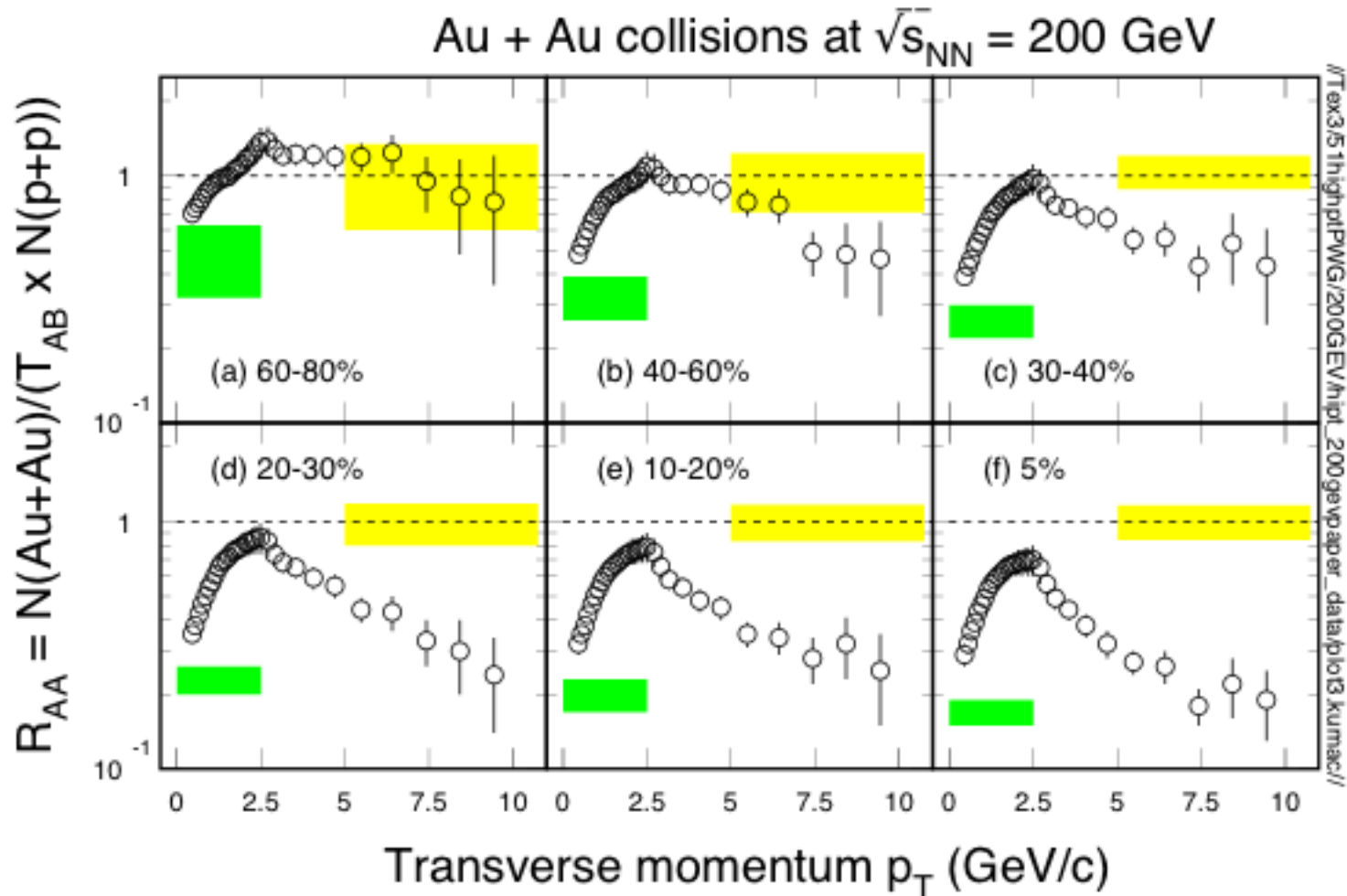


# Energy Loss in A+A Collisions





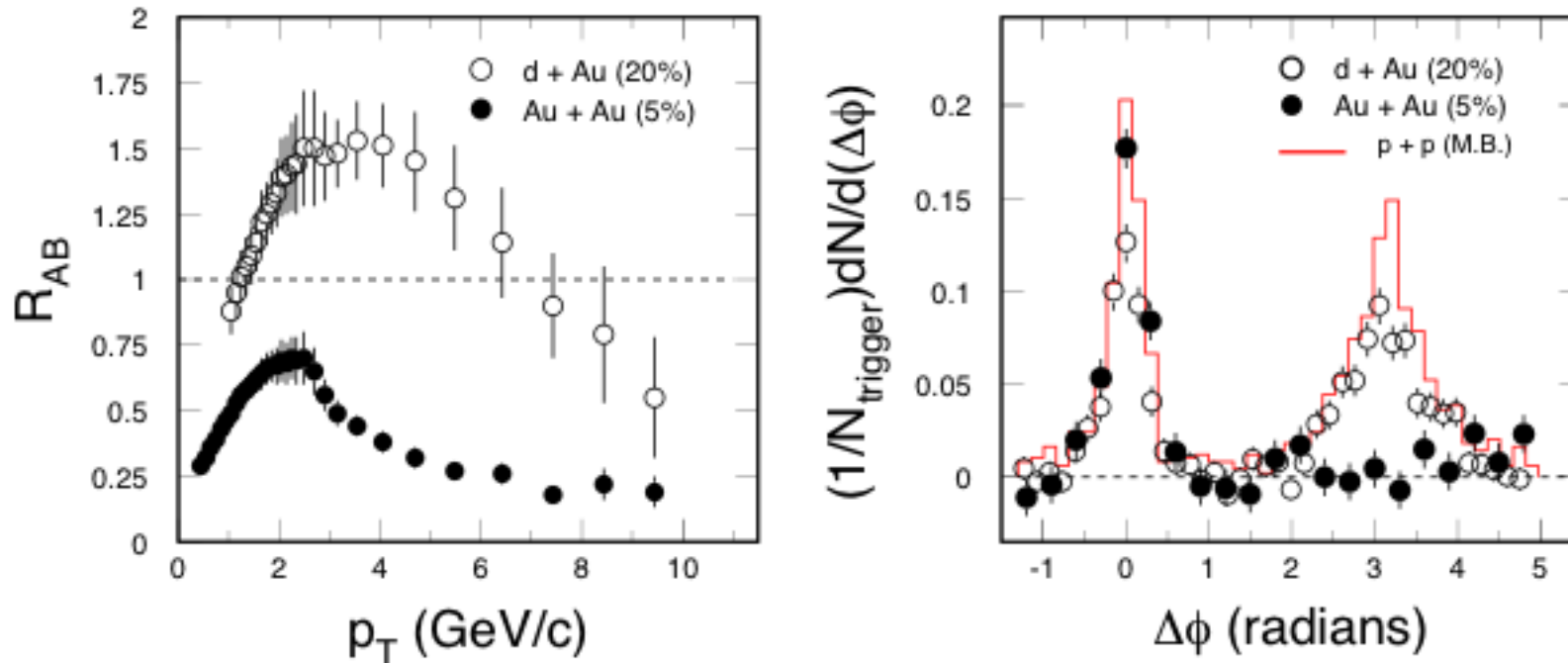
# Hadron Suppression at RHIC



**Hadron suppression in more central Au+Au collisions!**

# Partonic Energy Loss at RHIC

STAR: Nucl. Phys. **A757**, 102(2005).



Central Au+Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV: light quark hadrons and the away-side jet in back-to-back ‘jets’ are suppressed. Major difference from p+p and d+Au collisions.

**Energy density at RHIC:  $\varepsilon > 5 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3 \sim 30\varepsilon_0$**

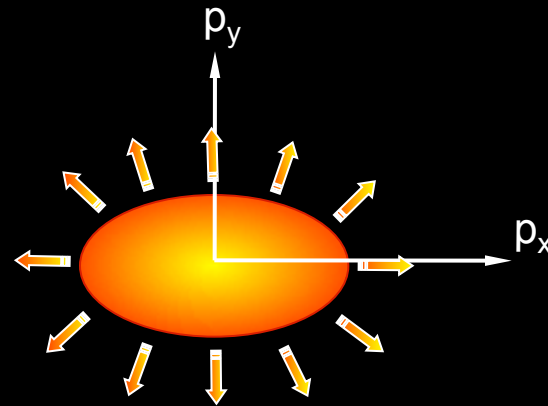
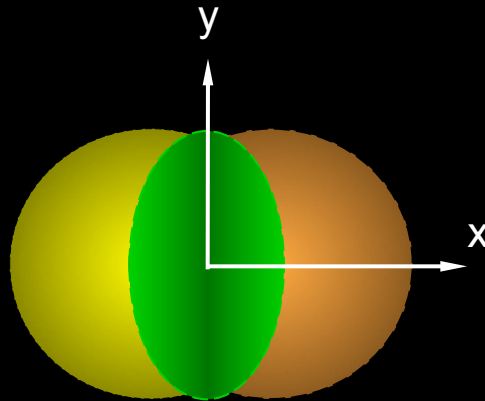


# Anisotropy Parameter $v_2$

coordinate-space-anisotropy



momentum-space-anisotropy

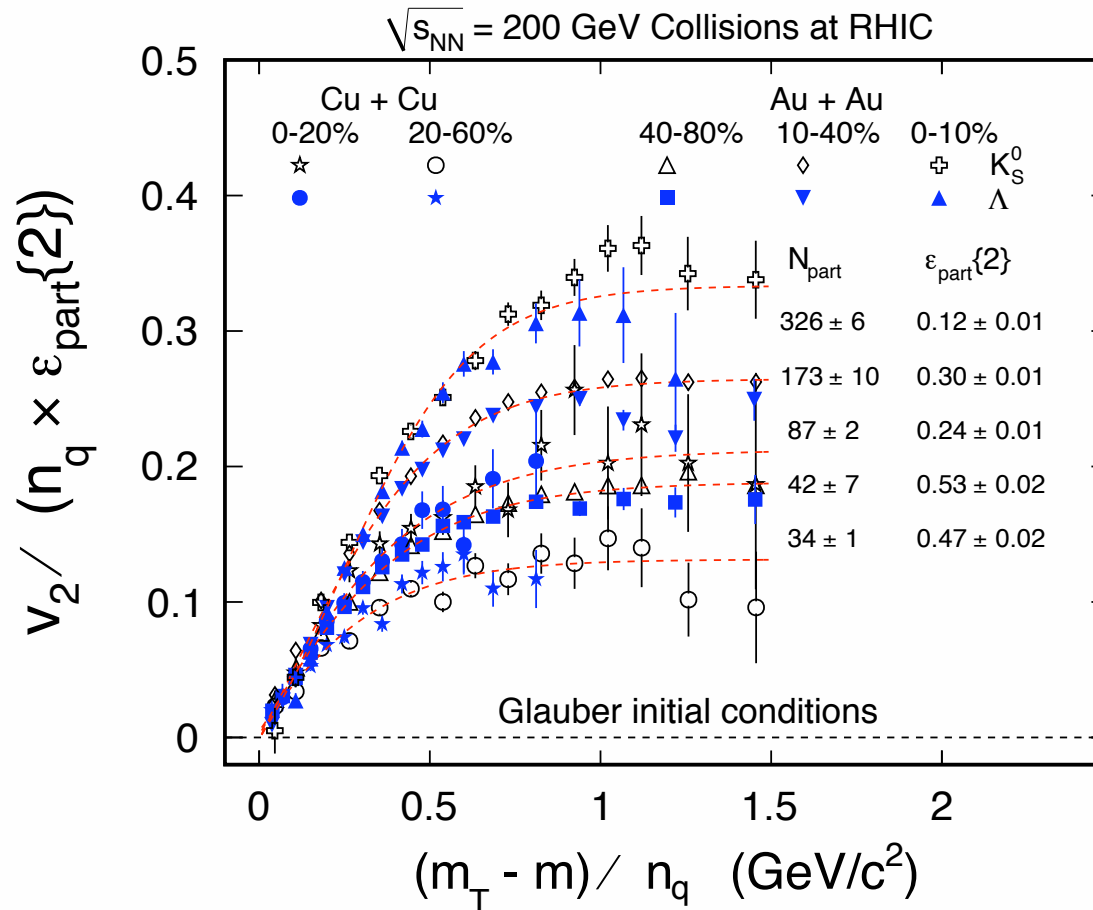


$$\varepsilon = \frac{\langle y^2 - x^2 \rangle}{\langle y^2 + x^2 \rangle}$$

$$v_2 = \langle \cos 2\varphi \rangle, \quad \varphi = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{p_y}{p_x}\right)$$

**Initial/final conditions, EoS, degrees of freedom**

# System Size Driven Collectivity

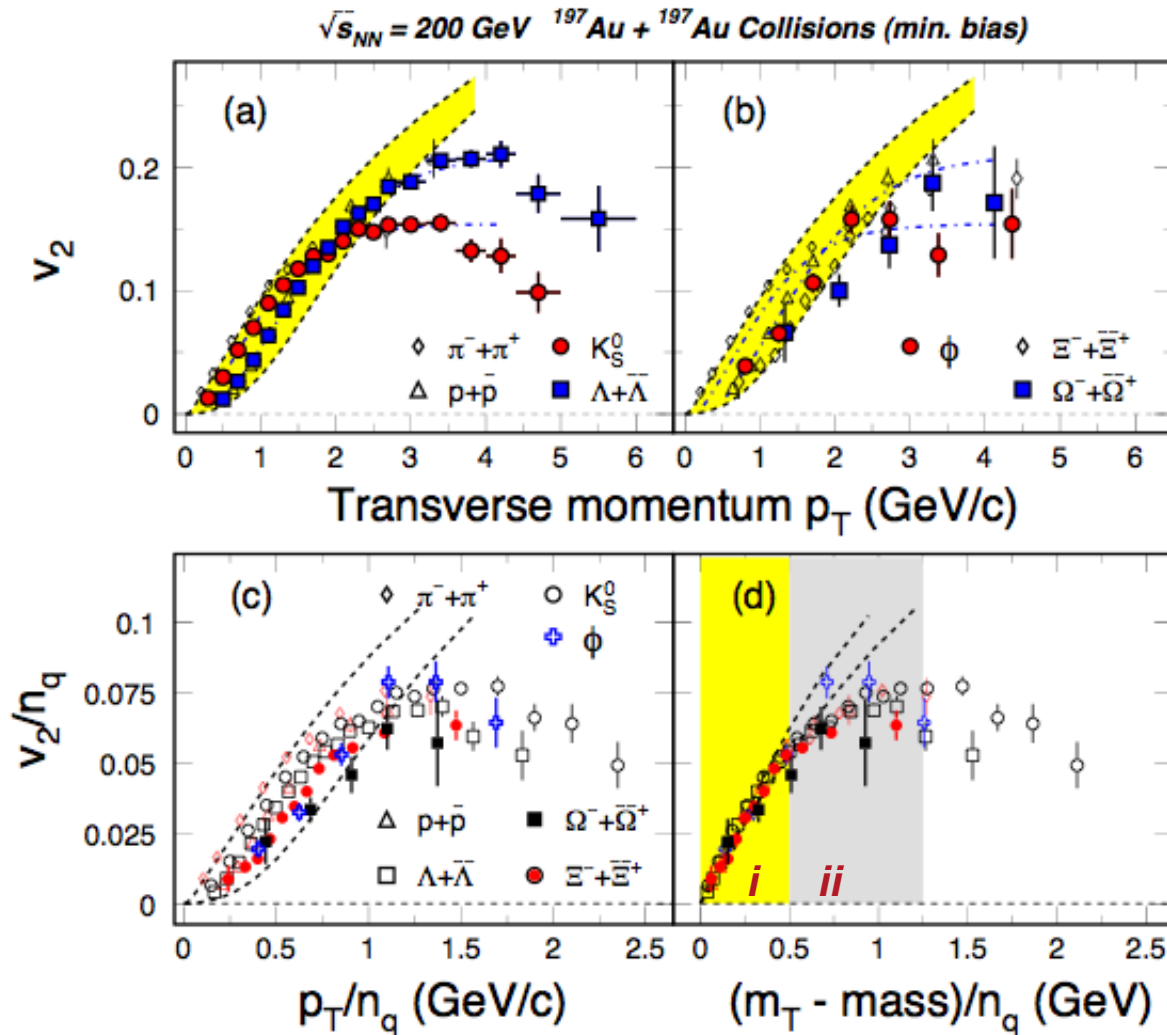


STAR: *PRC81*, 44902(10)

**Collectivity:** Driven by number of participants

**More Analysis:** How and when local equilibrium reached

# Collectivity, De-confinement at RHIC



- $v_2$  of light hadrons and multi-strange hadrons
- scaling by the number of quarks

At RHIC:

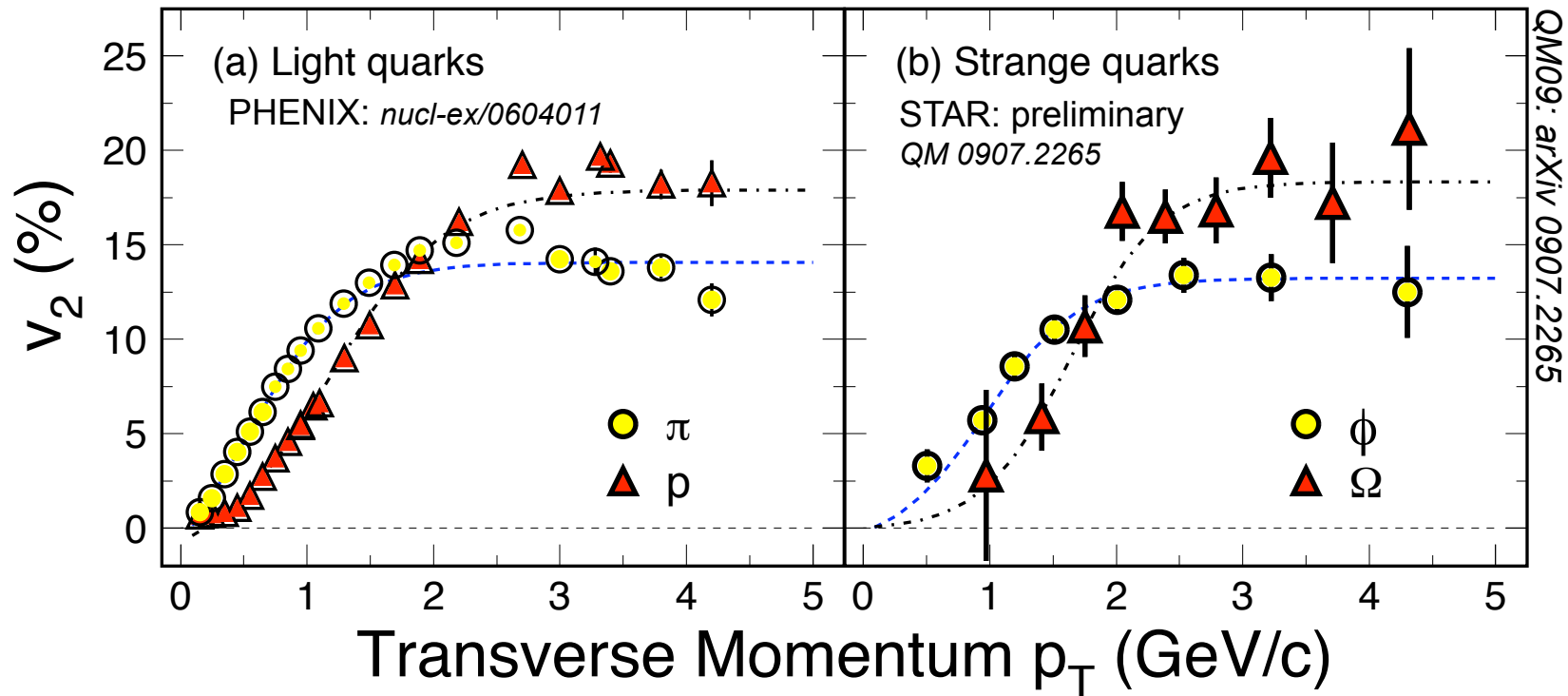
- ⇒  **$n_q$ -scaling**  
novel hadronization process
- ⇒ **Partonic flow**  
De-confinement

*PHENIX*: PRL**91**, 182301(03)  
*STAR*: PRL**92**, 052302(04), **95**, 122301(05)  
 nucl-ex/0405022, QM05

S. Voloshin, NPA715, 379(03)  
 Models: Greco et al, PRC**68**, 034904(03)  
 Chen, Ko, nucl-th/0602025  
 Nonaka et al. **PLB583**, 73(04)  
 X. Dong, et al., Phys. Lett. **B597**, 328(04).  
 ....

# Partonic Collectivity at RHIC

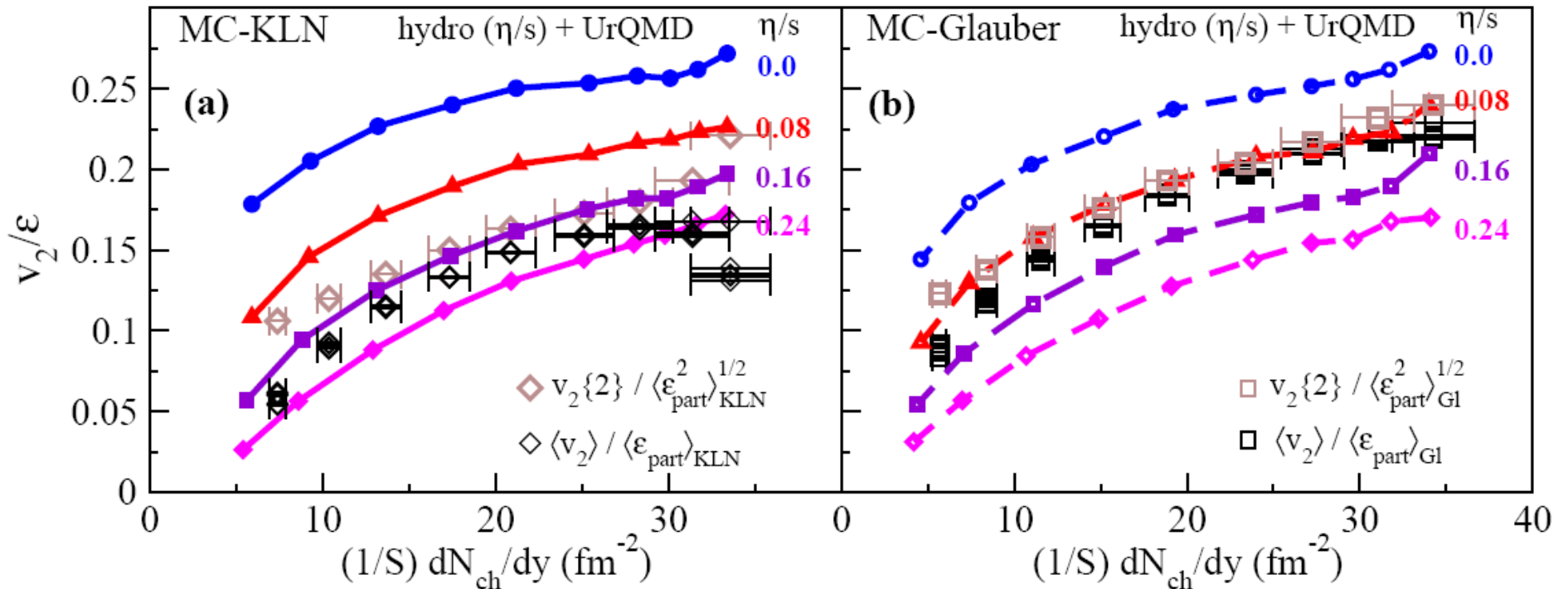
$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV } ^{197}\text{Au} + ^{197}\text{Au}$  Collisions at RHIC



Low  $p_T$  ( $\leq 2 \text{ GeV/c}$ ): hydrodynamic mass ordering  
 High  $p_T$  ( $> 2 \text{ GeV/c}$ ): **number of quarks ordering**

- Collectivity developed at partonic stage!**
- De-confinement in Au+Au collisions at RHIC!**

# Hydrodynamic Model Comparison



- Small value of specific viscosity over entropy  $\eta/s$
- Model uncertainty dominated by initial eccentricity  $\epsilon$

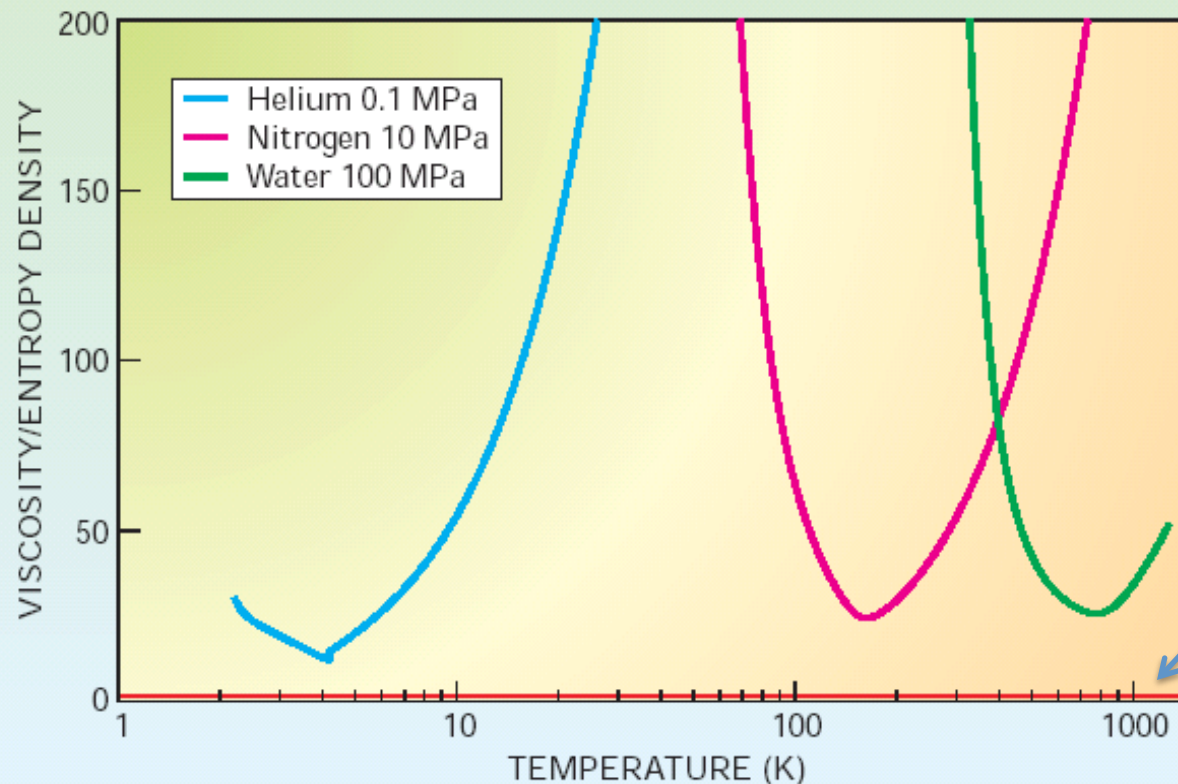
Model: Song *et al.* arXiv:1011.2783



# Low $\eta/s$ at RHIC: “Perfect Liquid”

Physics Today, May 2005

P. K. Kovtun, D. T. Son, A. O. Starinets, Phys. Rev. Lett. 94 111601 (2005).



RHIC results

- 1) Nuclear matter: the viscosity/entropy ratio  $\leq 1/4\pi$ , the **quantum limit**.
- 2) “Strongly interaction matter, small  $\eta/s$  - *Perfect liquid*” at RHIC.

# Antimatter Discoveries at RHIC

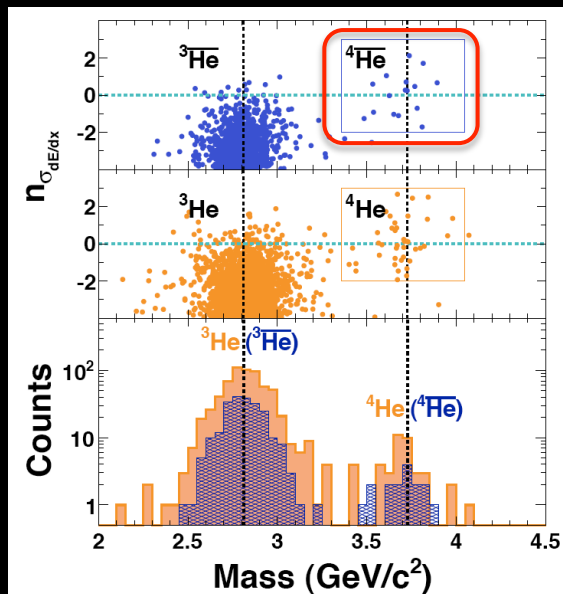
**nature**

April, 2011

**“Observation of the Antimatter Helium-4 Nucleus”**

by STAR Collaboration

*Nature*, 473, 353(2011).



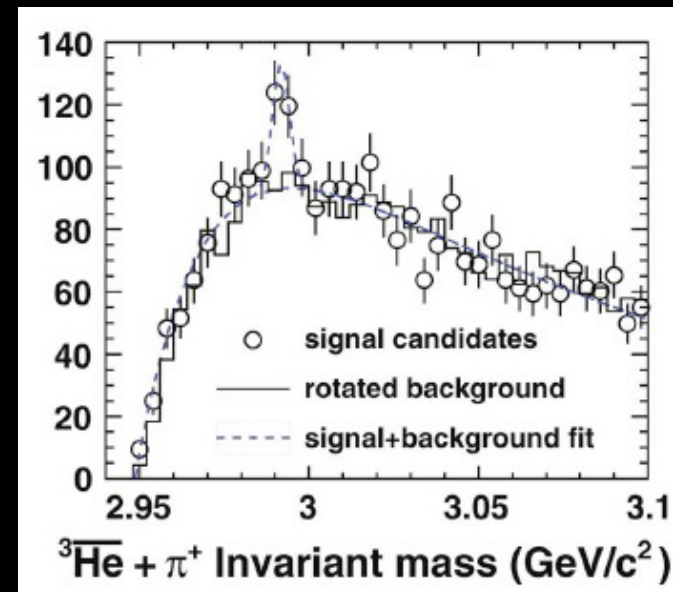
**Science**

March, 2010

**“Observation of an Antimatter Hypernucleus”**

by STAR Collaboration

*Science*, 328, 58(2010).



# Summary I

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- (1) In high-energy nuclear collisions, hot and dense ***matter***, with **partonic degrees of freedom** and **collectivity**, is formed
- (2) The matter behavior like a ***quantum liquid*** with very small  $\eta/s$
- (3) Partonic matter  $\rightarrow$  antimatter:  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\bar{He}, {}^4\bar{He}$

**What is the structure of the matter?**

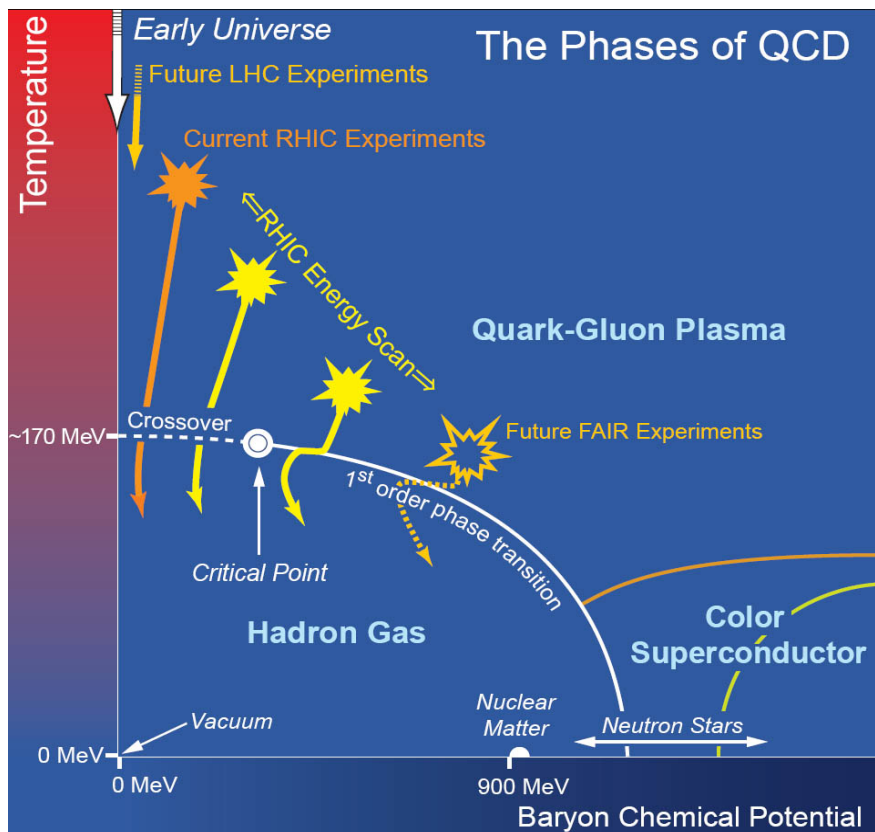
# Beam Energy Scan at RHIC

**Motivations:** Study QCD phase structure

- Signals of phase boundary
- Signals for critical point

**Observations:**

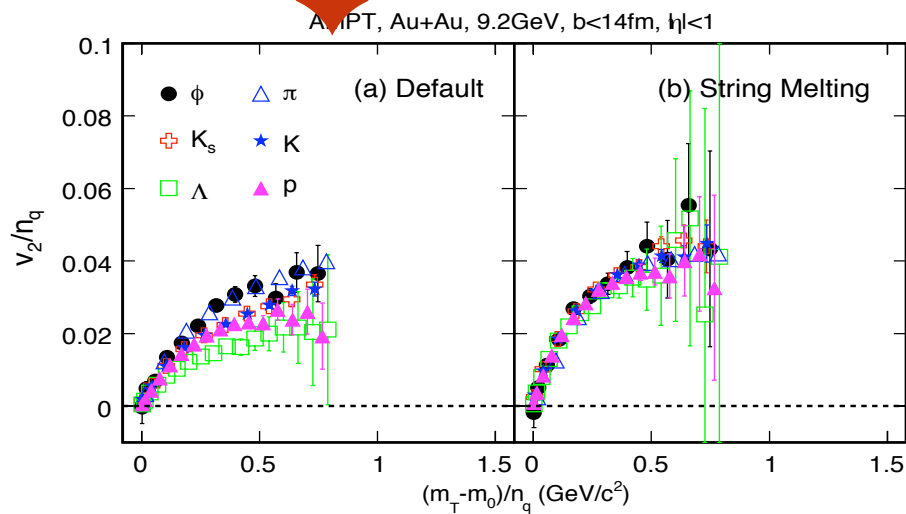
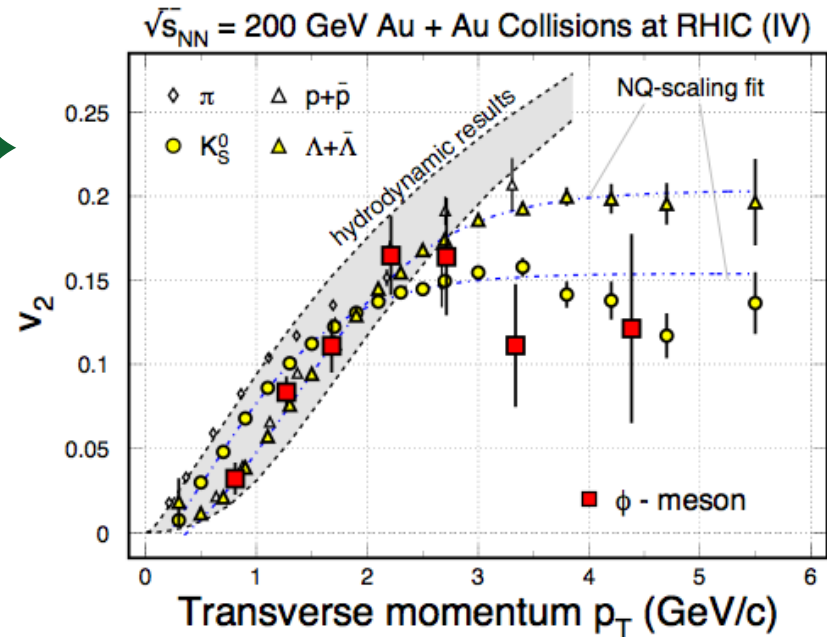
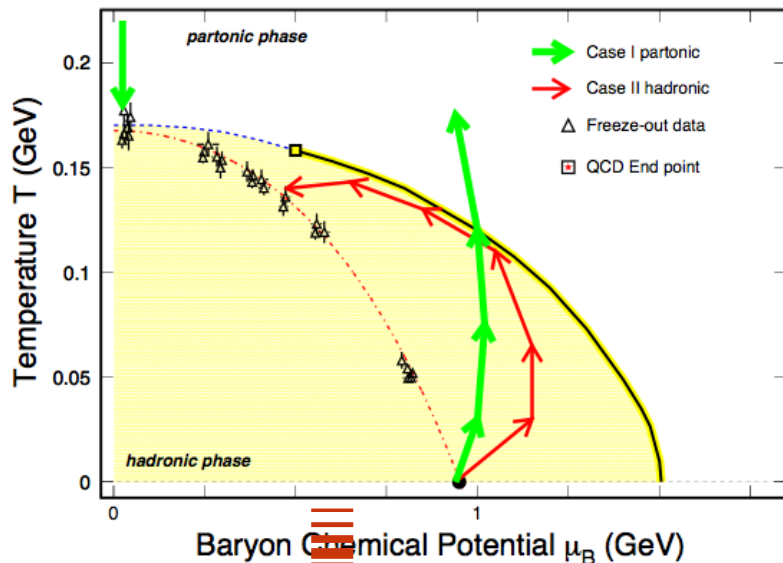
- (1)  $v_2$  - **NCQ scaling:**  
partonic vs. hadronic dof
- (2) **Dynamical correlations:**  
partonic vs. hadronic dof
- (3) **Azimuthally HBT:**  
1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition
- (4) **Fluctuations:**  
Critical point, correl. length
- (5) **Directed flow  $v_1$**   
1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition



- <http://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/public/sn0493>

- arXiv:1007.2613

# Observable\*: NCQ Scaling in $v_2$



AMPT, Au+Au, 9.2GeV,  $b < 14$ fm,  $|\eta| < 1$

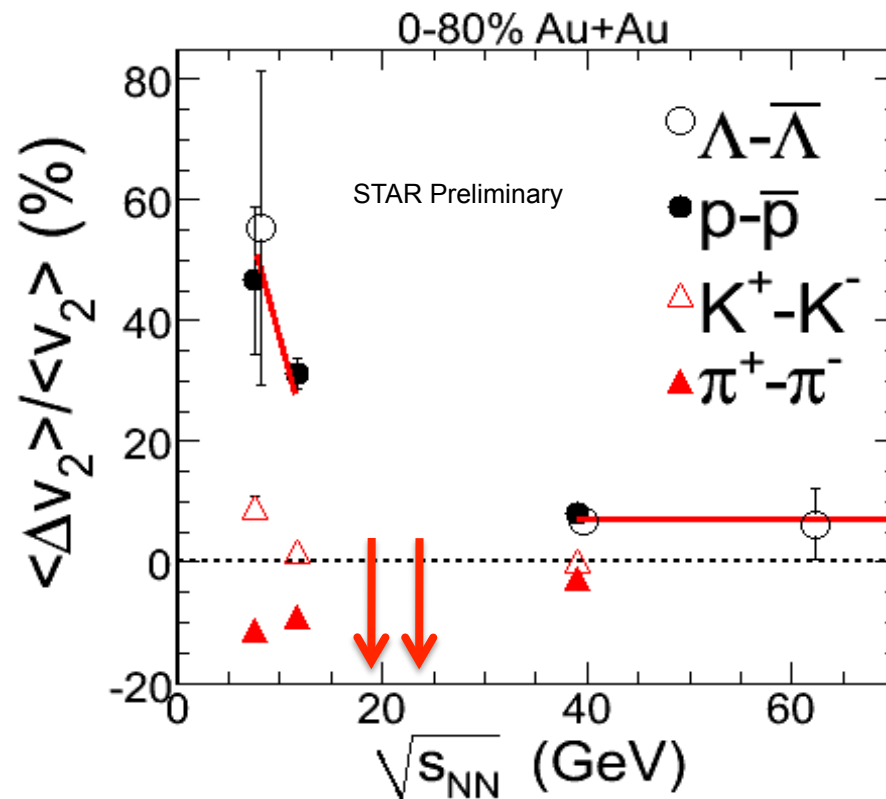
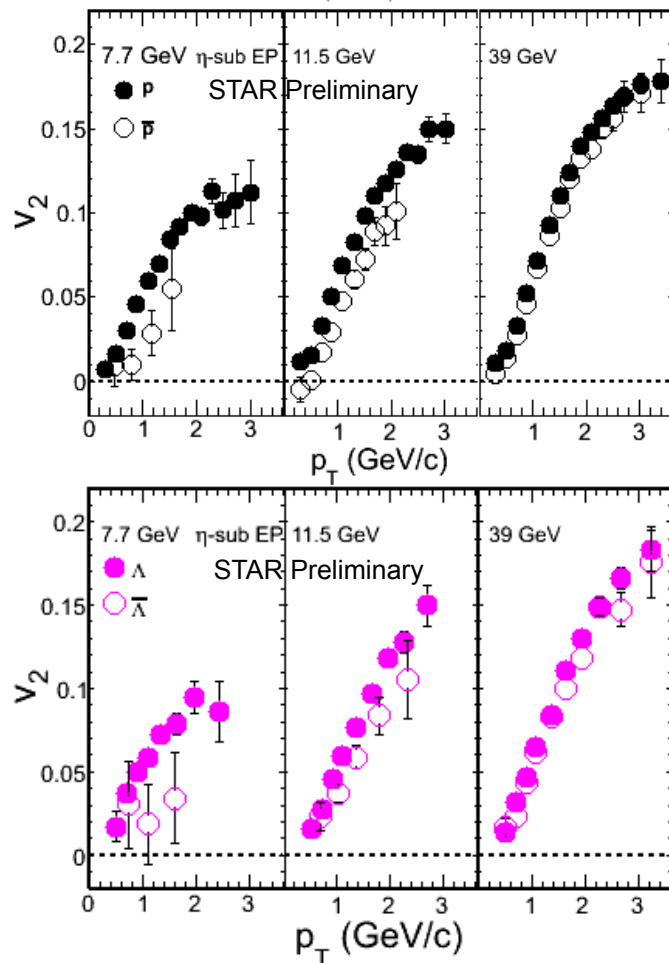
Disappearance of the  $v_2$ -NCQ scaling:  
*In the hadronic case, no number of quark scaling and the value of  $v_2$  of  $\phi$  will be small.*

**\* Thermalization is assumed!**

STAR Collaboration: F. Liu, S.S. Shi, K.J. Wu et al.



# Particle and Anti-Particle $v_2$ vs. $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$

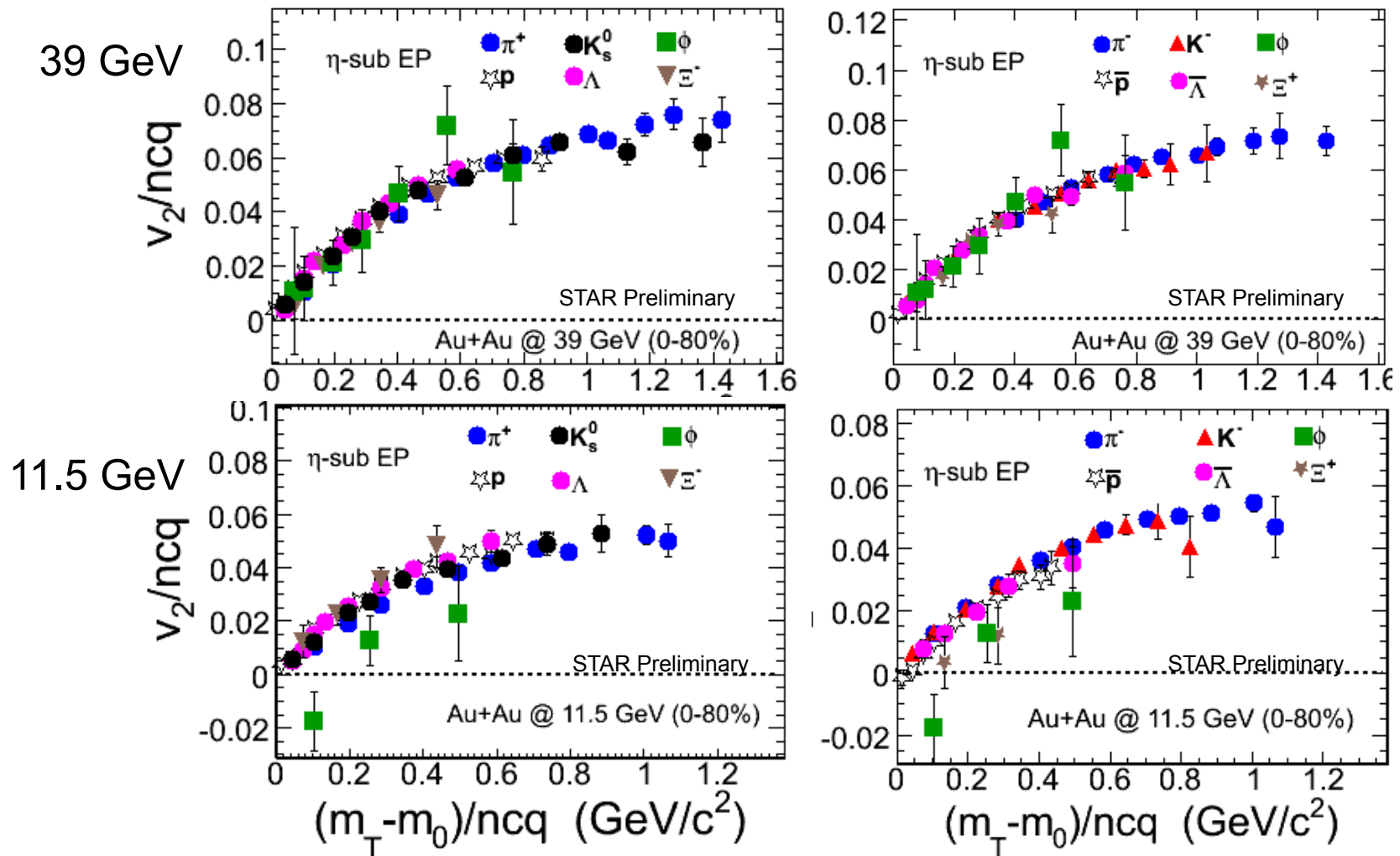


STAR: QM2011

Below  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 11.5$  GeV:

$v_2(\text{baryon}) > v_2(\text{anti-baryon})$  and  $v_2(\pi^+) < v_2(\pi^-)$

# $v_2$ Scaling vs. Beam Energy



The  $\phi$   $v_2$  falls off trend from other hadrons at 11.5 GeV

STAR: QM2011

# Summary II: $v_2$ -NCQ-Scaling

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1) Partonic collectivity in 200 GeV collisions

2) At  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 11.5$  GeV

-  $v_2(\text{baryon}) > v_2(\text{anti-baryon})$

-  $v_2(\phi) < v_2(\text{hadron})$

→  $v_2$ -NCQ-scaling broken

→ [*hadronic*]  $< \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 11.5$  GeV

$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 39$  GeV  $< [partonic]$

## Where is the critical point?

# Susceptibilities and Moments

Thermodynamic function:

$$\frac{p}{T^4} = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \sum_i d_i (m_i / T)^2 K_2(m_i / T) \cosh[(B_i \mu_B + S_i \mu_S + Q_i \mu_Q) / T]$$

The susceptibility:  $T^{n-4} \chi_q^{(n)} = \frac{1}{T^4} \frac{\partial^n}{\partial (\mu_q / T)^n} P \left( \frac{T}{T_C}, \frac{\mu_q}{T} \right) \Big|_{T/T_C}, \quad q = B, Q, S$

$$\chi_q^{(1)} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \langle \delta N_q \rangle$$

$$\chi_q^{(2)} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \langle (\delta N_q)^2 \rangle$$

$$\chi_q^{(3)} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \langle (\delta N_q)^3 \rangle$$

$$\chi_q^{(4)} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \left( \langle (\delta N_q)^4 \rangle - 3 \langle (\delta N_q)^2 \rangle^2 \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} T^2 \frac{\chi_q^{(4)}}{\chi_q^{(2)}} &= \kappa \sigma^2 \\ T \frac{\chi_q^{(3)}}{\chi_q^{(2)}} &= S \sigma \end{aligned}$$

Thermodynamic function  $\Leftrightarrow$  Susceptibility  $\Leftrightarrow$  Moments, Observable  
**Model calculations, e.g. LGT, HRG  $\Leftrightarrow$  Measurements**

# Correlations, Susceptibilities Higher Moments

$$\delta N = N - \langle N \rangle$$

$$\langle (\delta N)^2 \rangle \approx \xi^2, \quad \langle (\delta N)^3 \rangle \approx \xi^{4.5}$$

$$\langle (\delta N)^4 \rangle - 3\langle (\delta N)^2 \rangle^2 \approx \xi^7$$

M. A. Stephanov, PRL. **102**, 032301 (09)

$$S = \frac{\langle (\delta N)^3 \rangle}{\langle (\delta N)^2 \rangle^{3/2}}$$

$$K = \frac{\langle (\delta N)^4 \rangle - 3\langle (\delta N)^2 \rangle^2}{\langle (\delta N)^2 \rangle^2}$$

R.V. Gavai and S. Gupta: 1001.2796.

F. Karsch and K. Redlich, arXiv:1007.2581

**S**kewness: Symmetry of the correlation function.

**K**urtosis: Peakness of the correlation function. *Connection to thermodynamics,  $\chi_x$ .*

Higher order correlations are correspond to higher power of the correlation length of the system: **more sensitive to critical phenomena.**

**S** & **K** observables:  
total charge, total protons,  
net-p, net-Q

# Non-Gaussian Fluctuations

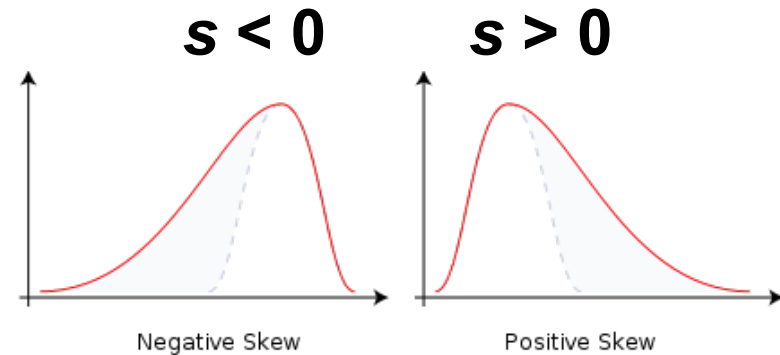
$N$ : event by event multiplicity distribution

$$m = \langle N \rangle$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle}$$

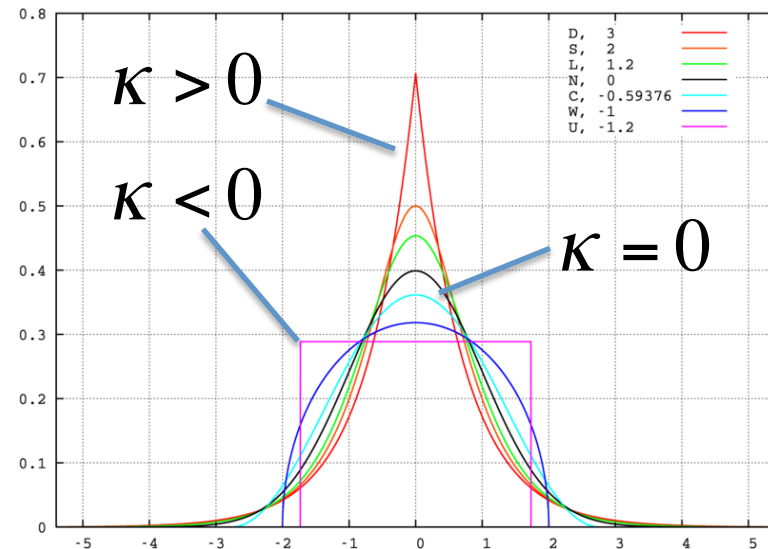
$$s = \frac{\langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^3 \rangle}{\sigma^3}$$

$$\kappa = \frac{\langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^4 \rangle}{\sigma^4} - 3$$



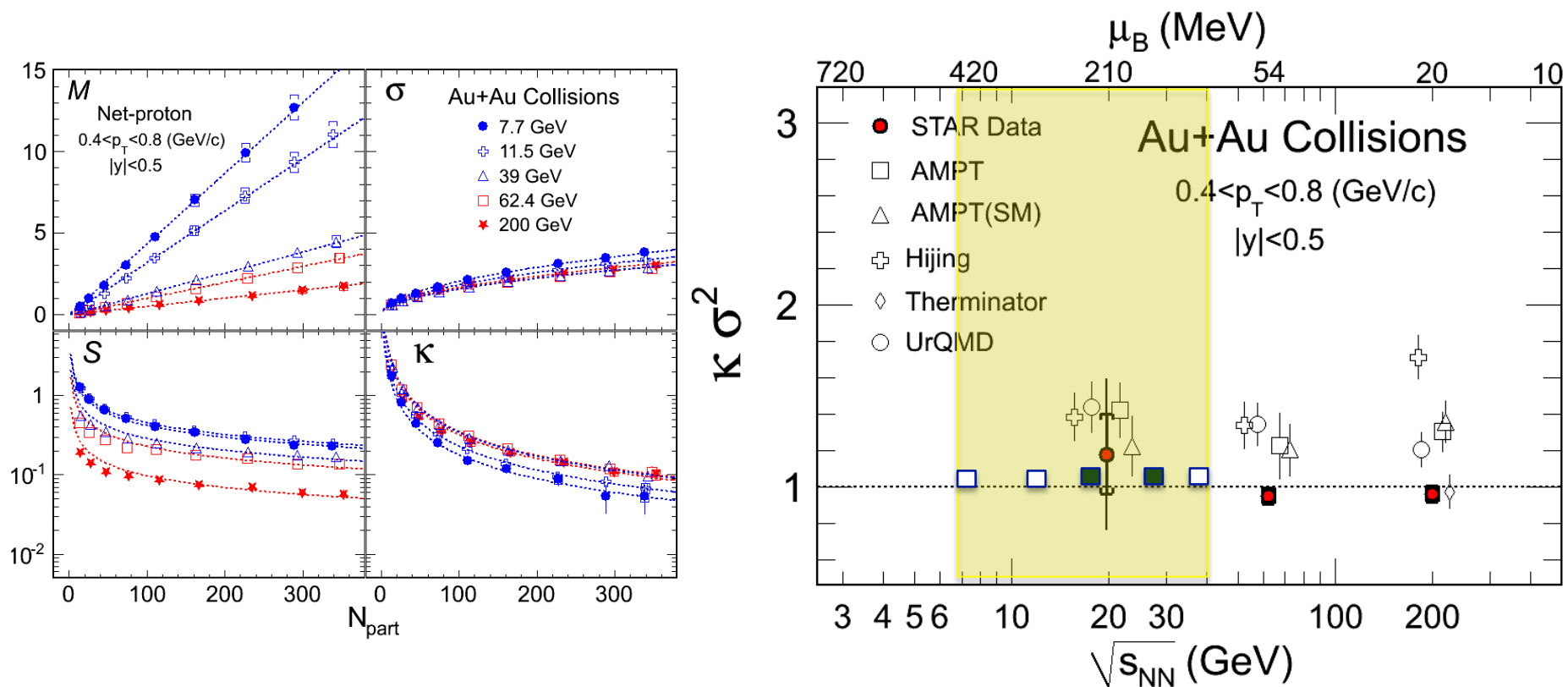
For a Gaussian distribution, the *skewness* and *kurtosis* are all zero.

***Ideal probe of the non-Gaussian fluctuations at critical point.***



# Net-proton Higher Moments

STAR: 1004.4959, PRL105, 22303(2010)



**Energy Scan in Au+Au collision :**

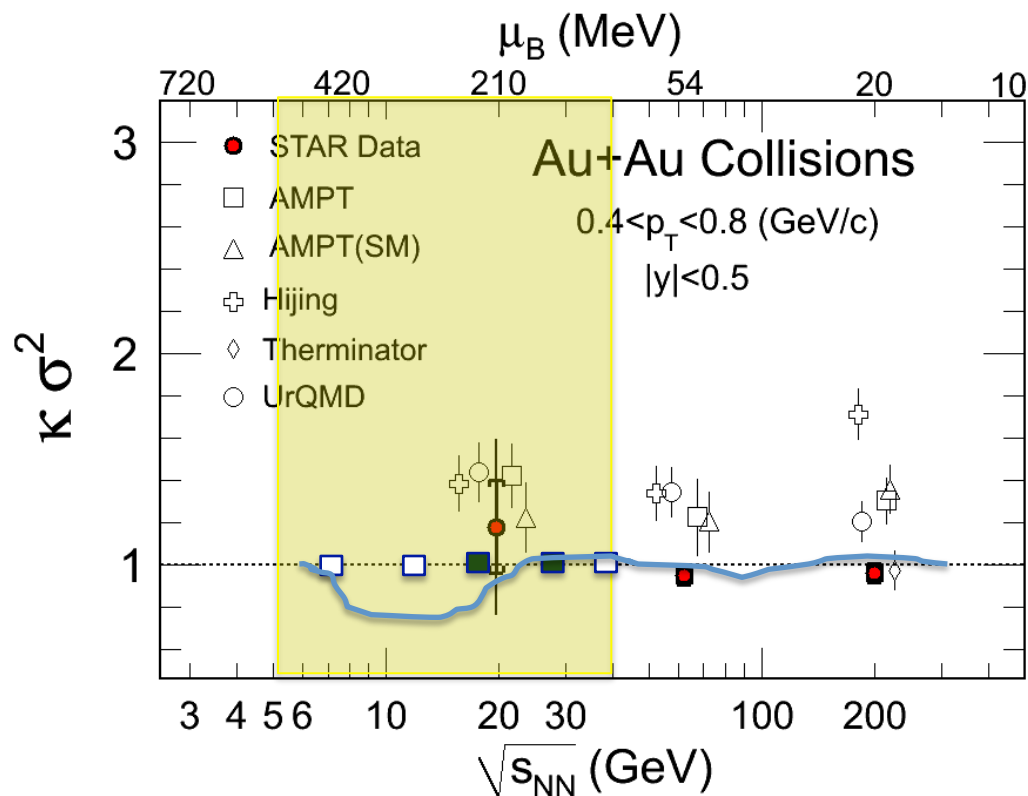
Run 10: 7.7, 11.5, 39 GeV

Run 11: 19.6, 27 GeV



# Few Remarks

STAR: PRL105,22302(2010)



**Energy scan in Au+Au collision :**

□ Run 10: 7.7, 11.5, 39 GeV

■ Run 11: 19.6, 27 GeV

- 1) The data is from centrality averaged events. In this analysis, effects of volume and detecting efficiencies are all canceled out.
- 2) ALL transport model results values are higher than unity, except the Theminator result at 200GeV. LGT predicted values around 0.8-0.9, due to finite chemical potential effect.
- 3) Test of thermalization with higher moments.
- 4) Critical point effect: non-monotonical dependence on collision energy.

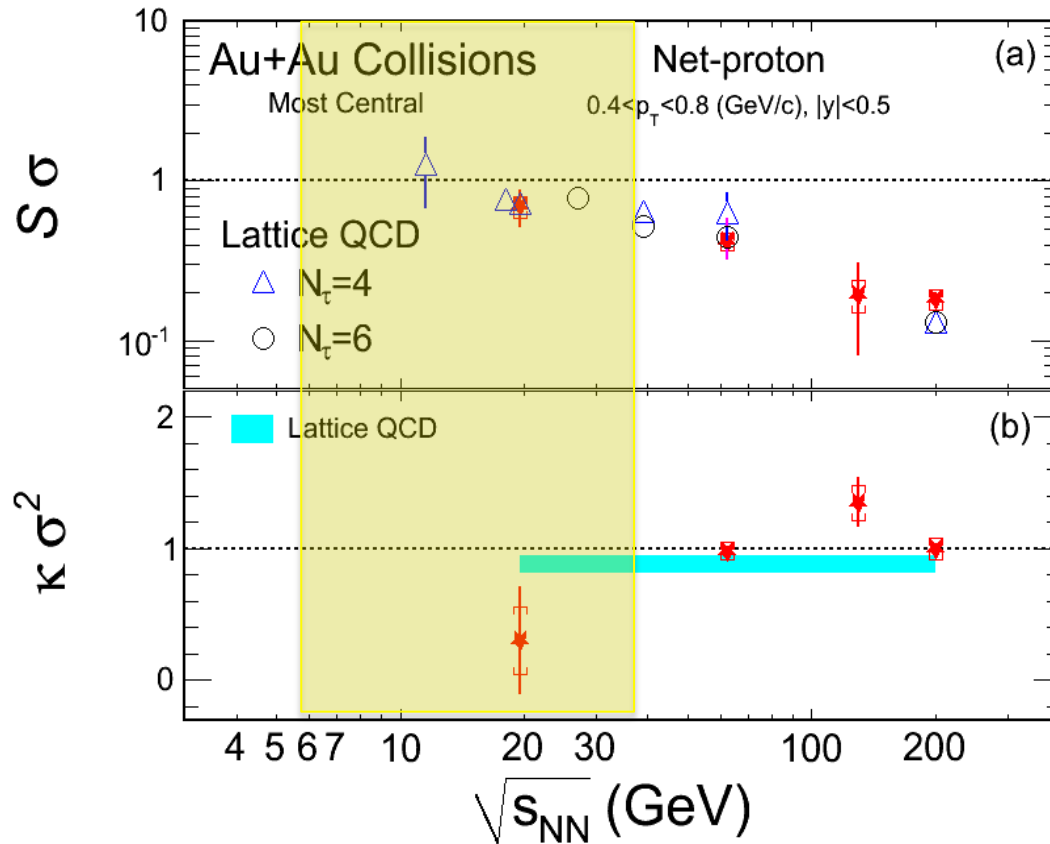
- STAR: PRL105, 22302(2010).
- F. Karsch and K. Redlich, arXiv:1007.2581

# Thermalization in HI Collisions?

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All HI results from are consistent with the thermal model predictions, except the elementary p+p collisions.

# Comparing with LGT Results



## References:

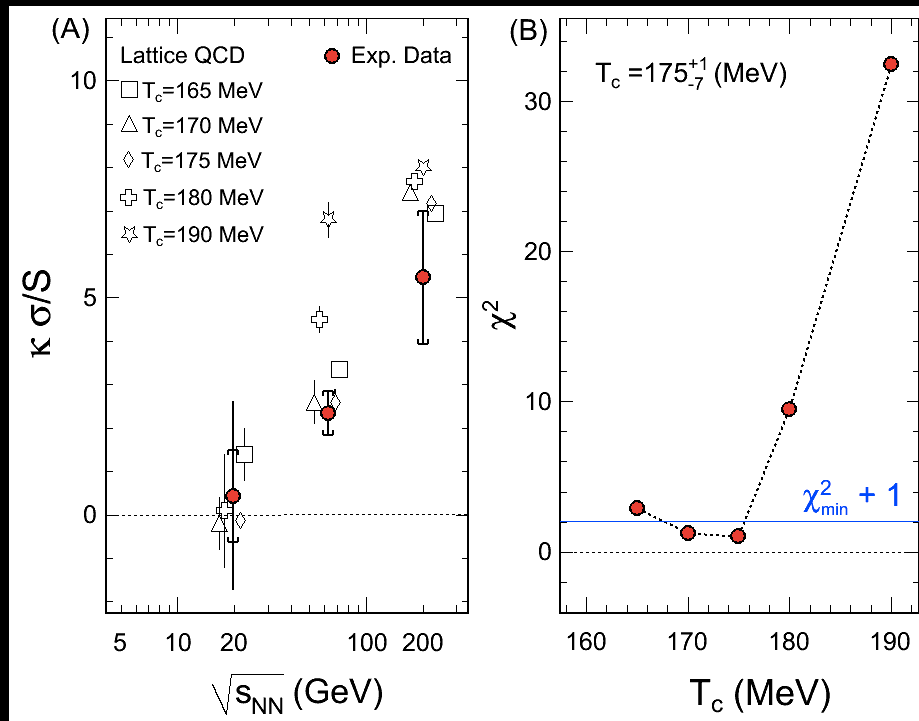
- STAR, *PRL*105, 22303(10)
- F. Karsch and K. Redlich, *PLB*695, 136(11)
- R.V. Gavai and S. Gupta: *PLB*696, 459(11)

## Assumptions:

- Freeze-out temperature is close to LGT  $T_C$
- Thermal equilibrium reached in central collisions
- Taylor expansions, at  $\mu_B \neq 0$ , on LGT results are valid

→ Lattice results are consistent with data for  $60 < \sqrt{s_{NN}} < 200$  GeV

# Scale of Hot/Dense Matter on LGT



June, 2011

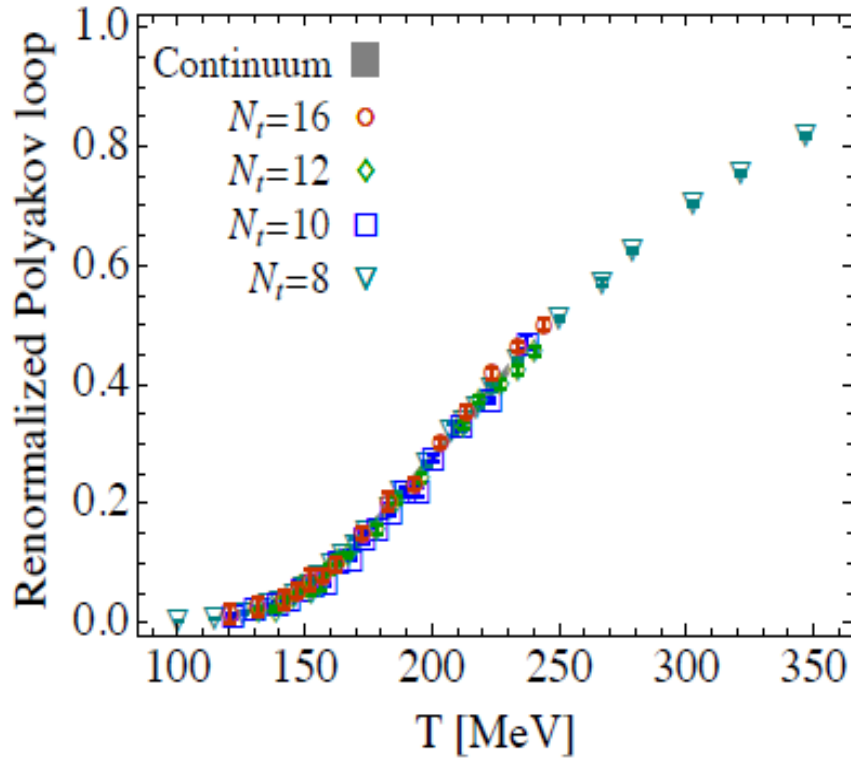
“Scale for the  
Phase Diagram of  
Quantum  
Chromodynamics”

*Science*, 332, 1525(2011)

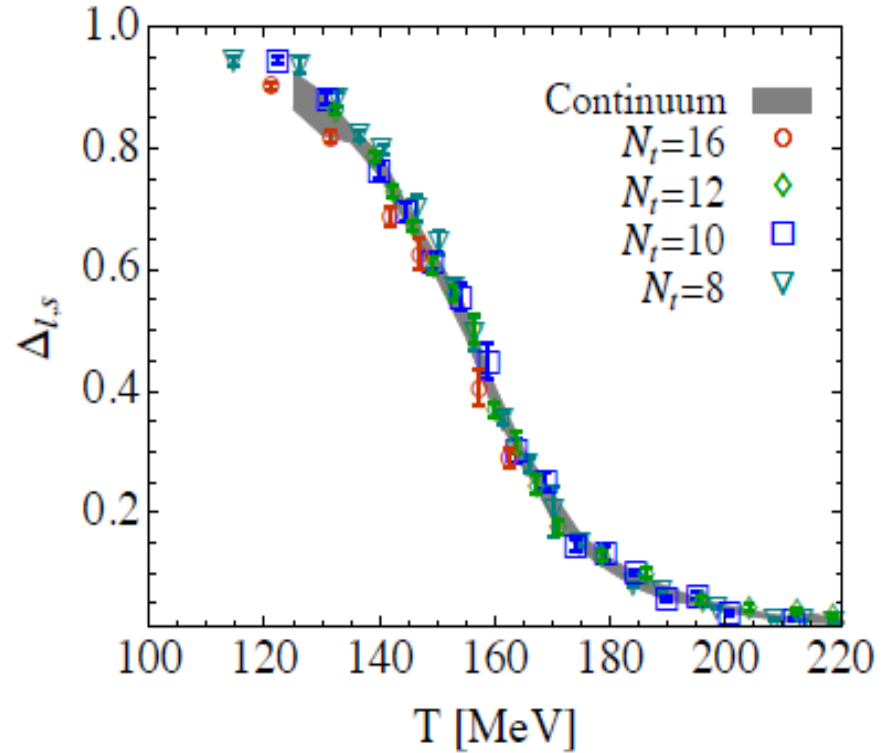
- 1) In central collisions at RHIC, the high moments measurements are consistent with thermal equilibrium assumption
- 2) Scale of LGT, determined with the data, is:  $T_c=175+1-7$  (MeV)

STAR, *PRL*105, 22303(2010); F. Karsch and K. Redlich, *PLB*695, 136(2011); R.V. Gavai and S. Gupta: *PLB*696, 459(2011); S. Gupta, X.F. Luo, B. Mohanty, H.G. Ritter, NX, *Science*, 332, 1525(2011)

# Lattice-QCD: Phase Transitions



$T_c^{\text{conf}} \sim 170 \text{ MeV}$



$T_c^{\text{chiral}} \sim 150 \text{ MeV}$

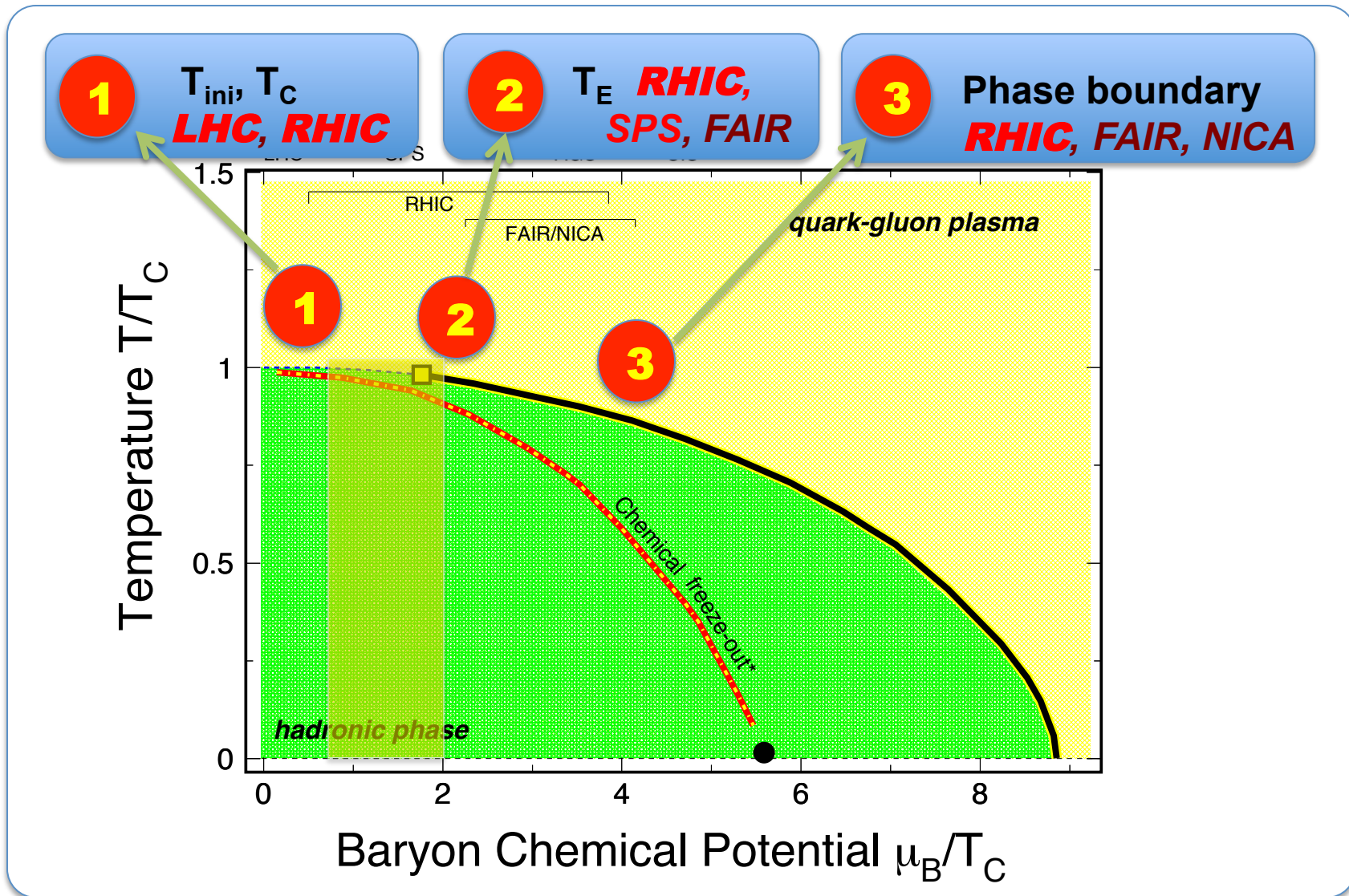
# Summary

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- (1) In high-energy nuclear collisions, hot and dense *matter*, with **partonic degrees of freedom** and **collectivity**, is formed
- (2) The matter behavior like a *quantum liquid* with very small  $\eta/s$
- (3) Partonic matter  $\rightarrow$  antimatter:  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\bar{He}, {}^4\bar{He}$
- (4) [**partonic**]  $< \mu_B \sim 110\text{--}320$  (MeV)  $<$  [**hadronic**]
- (5) Net-proton distributions are consistent with LGT results. QCD Scale:  $T_c = 175^{+1}_{-7}$  (MeV)



# Summary & Outlook



***Many Thanks to the  
Organizers!***



# STAR Collaboration

