

Utilising Bayesian inference in probing nuclear structures at the LHC

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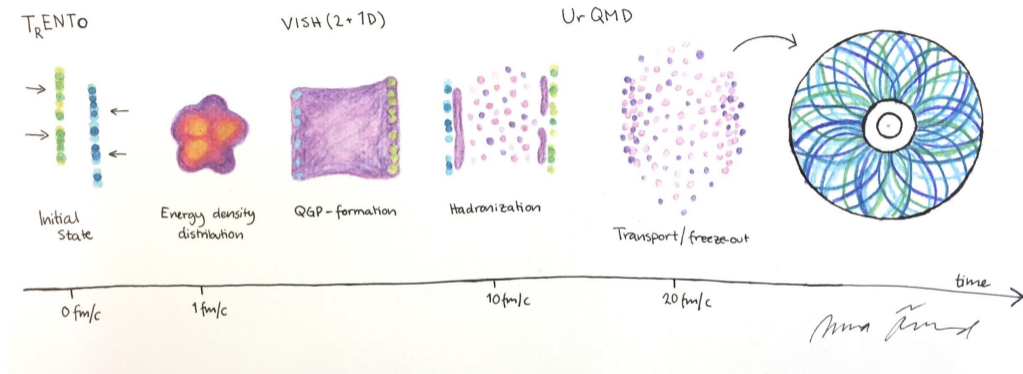
Intersection of nuclear structure and high-energy nuclear collisions
Kyoto, Japan



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF HEAVY-ION COLLISIONS



Credits to Anna Önerstad

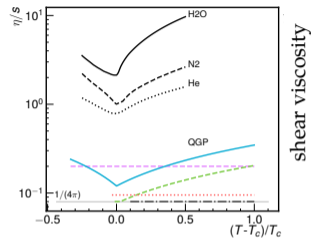
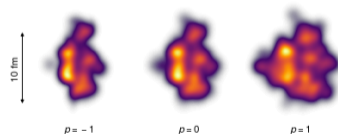
$$T^{\mu\nu} = eu^\mu u^\nu - (P + \Pi)\Delta_{\mu\nu} + \pi^{\mu\nu}, \quad \delta_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

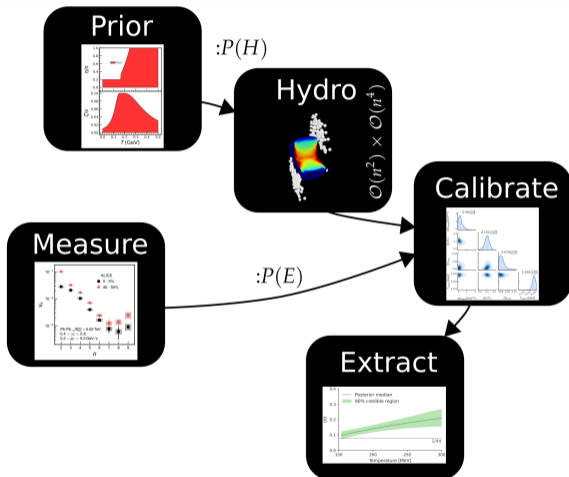
based on <https://github.com/Duke-QCD>

Parameter	Description
T_c	Temperature of const. $\eta/s(T)$, $T < T_c$
$\eta/s(T_c)$	Minimum $\eta/s(T)$
$(\eta/s)_{\text{slope}}$	Slope of $\eta/s(T)$ above T_c
$(\eta/s)_{\text{curve}}$	Curvature of $\eta/s(T)$ above T_c
$(\zeta/s)_{\text{peak}}$	Temperature of $\zeta/s(T)$ maximum
$(\zeta/s)_{\text{max}}$	Maximum $\zeta/s(T)$
$(\zeta/s)_{\text{width}}$	Width of $\zeta/s(T)$ peak
T_{switch}	Switching / particlization temperature
$N(5.02 \text{ TeV})$	Overall normalization (Pb–Pb 5.02 TeV)
$N(5.44 \text{ TeV})$	Overall normalization (Xe–Xe 5.44 TeV)
p	Entropy deposition parameter
w	Nucleon width
σ_k	Std. dev. of nucleon multiplicity fluctuations
d_{min}^3	Minimum volume per nucleon
τ_{fs}	Free-streaming time

Hydrodynamics

Initial conditions

Trento p-value, <http://qcd.phy.duke.edu/trento/>



Bayes' theorem:

$$P(H|E) = \frac{P(E|H) \cdot P(H)}{P(E)}$$

$$P(E) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(E|H_i)P(H_i)$$

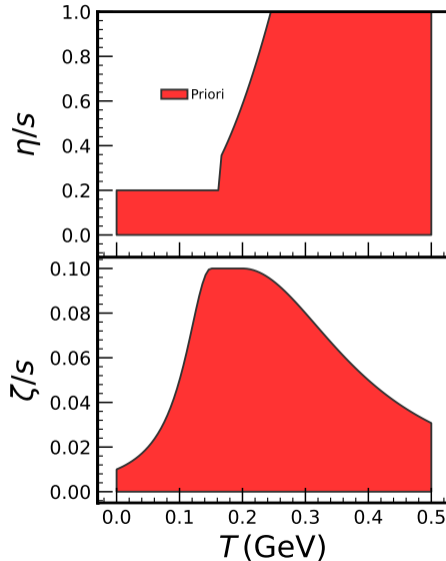
- Find an optimal set of model parameters that best reproduces the experimental data.
- Utilise constraints, such as flow observables, to help narrow down the $\eta/s(T)$ and such.

The prior knowledge is encoded in the model

- Directly via physics assumptions or formulation
- Indirectly via the ranges of parameters
- These cause inevitable bias

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu}(x) = 0$$

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \epsilon u^\mu u^\nu - (P + \Pi)\Delta^{\mu\nu} + \pi^{\mu\nu}$$



The prior knowledge is encoded in the model

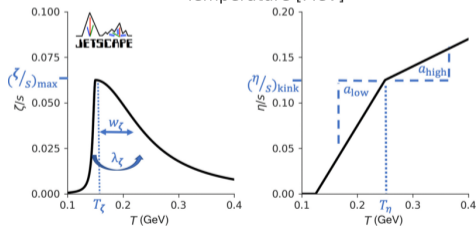
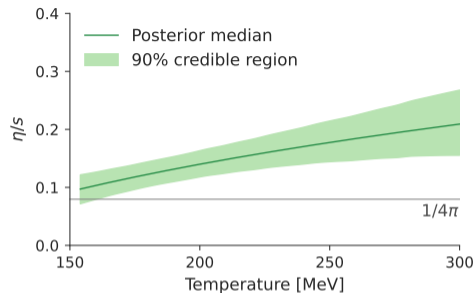
- Directly via physics assumptions or formulation

Jyväskylä/Duke

$$\frac{\eta}{S}(T) = \left(\frac{\eta}{S}\right)_{\min} + \left(\frac{\eta}{S}\right)_{\text{slope}} (T - T_c) \left(\frac{T}{T_c}\right) \left(\frac{\eta}{S}\right)_{\text{crv}}$$

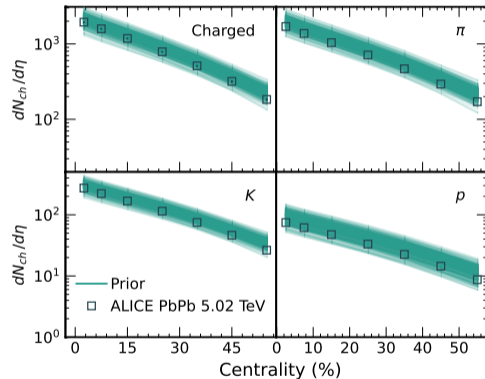
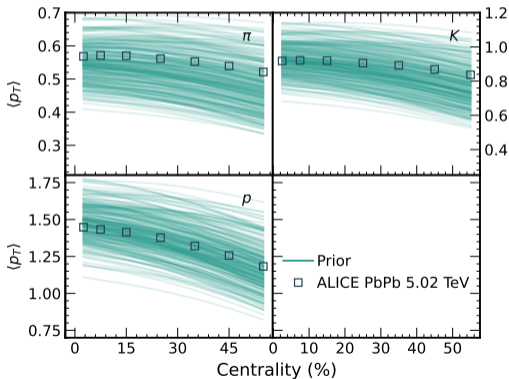
JETSCAPE

$$\frac{\eta}{S}(T) = a_{\text{low}}(T - T_\eta)\Theta(T_\eta - T) + \left(\frac{\eta}{S}\right)_{\text{kink}} + a_{\text{high}}(T_\eta - T)\Theta(T - T_\eta)$$

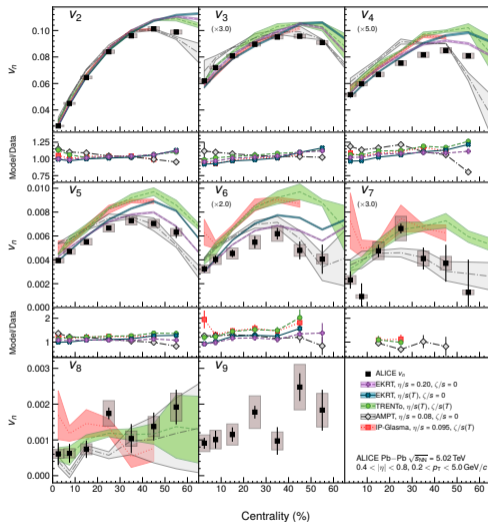
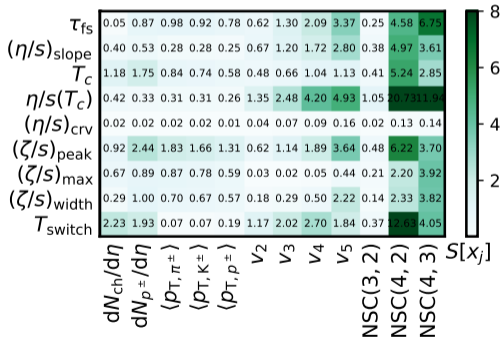


JETSCAPE, *Phys. Rev. C* **103**, 054904

- Parameters on their own are not comparable with the experiment
- Evaluate different observables from the hydrodynamic simulations



- Experimental measurements define the "truth"
- More observables of different kinds needed for a full picture



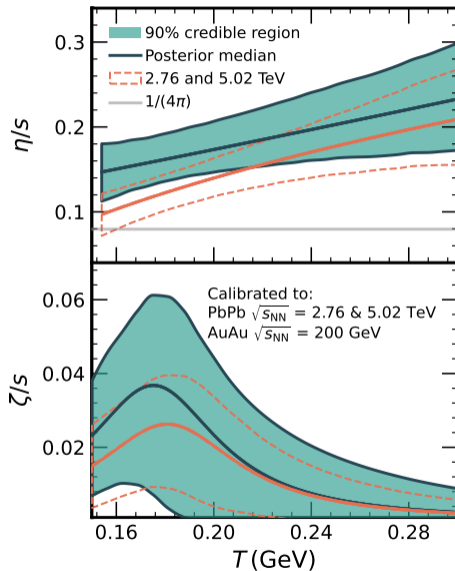
ALICE, JHEP05 (2020) 085

Updating prior information with measured data

- Output is a probability distribution
- Dependence on **model** chosen
- Dependence on **observables** used

Interpretation

Probability of a parameter lying in a certain interval **given the measured data for the model used**



NUCLEAR STRUCTURE

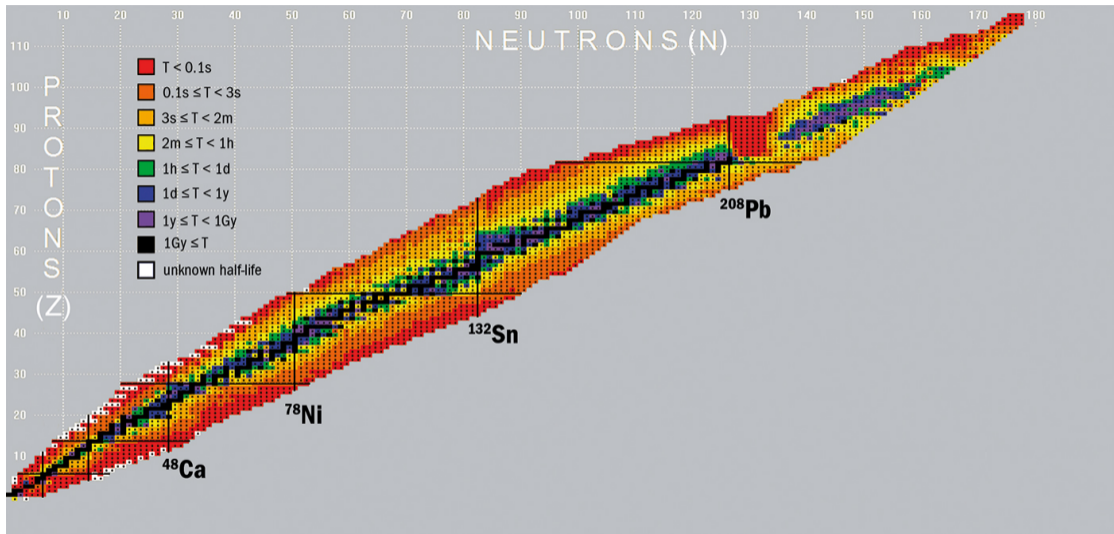
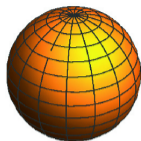


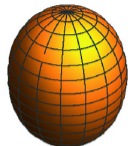
Figure from CERN Courier: <https://cerncourier.com/a/exploring-nuclei-at-the-limits/>

(a) Spherical



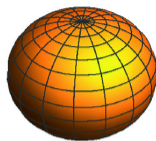
$$\beta = 0$$

(b) Prolate



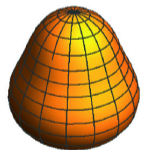
$$\beta_2 > 0, \gamma = 0^\circ$$

(c) Oblate



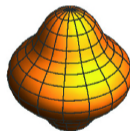
$$\beta_2 > 0, \gamma = 60^\circ$$

(d) Octupole



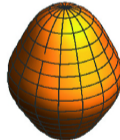
$$\beta_3 > 0$$

(e) Hexadecapole



$$\beta_4 > 0$$

(f) $\beta_2 + \beta_4$

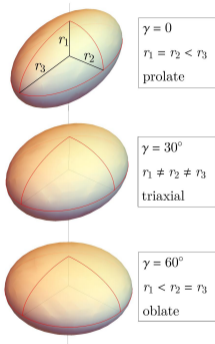


$$\beta_2 > 0, \beta_4 > 0$$

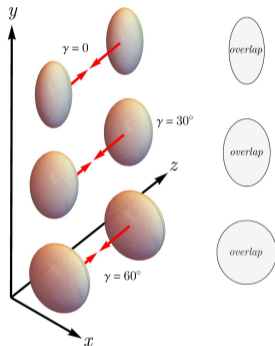
$$R(\theta, \phi) = R_0 \left(1 + \sum_{l,m} \beta_{l,m} Y_{l,m} \right)$$

Figure from: Kota, V.K.B. (2020). Introduction. In: SU(3) Symmetry in Atomic Nuclei. Springer

(a) deformed nucleus ($\beta > 0$)



(b) collisions at low $\langle p_t \rangle$

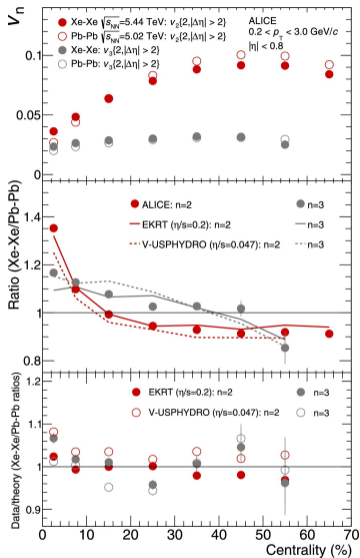


$$R(\theta, \phi) = R_0 [1 + \beta_2 (\cos \gamma Y_{2,0} + \sin \gamma Y_{2,2})]$$

- Xenon nucleus has mostly quadrupole deformation
- Probe the nuclear structure, quadrupole deformation magnitude β_2 and triaxiality angle γ

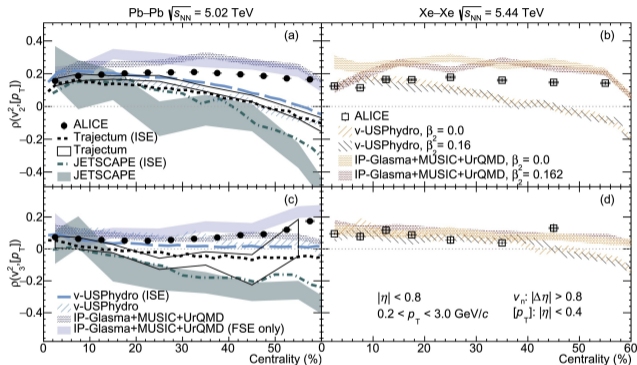
$$\beta_2 = \sqrt{\beta_{2,0}^2 + 2\beta_{2,2}^2}, \quad \gamma = \text{atan}(\sqrt{2}\beta_{2,2}/\beta_{2,0})$$

B. Bally *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 128 (2022), 082301



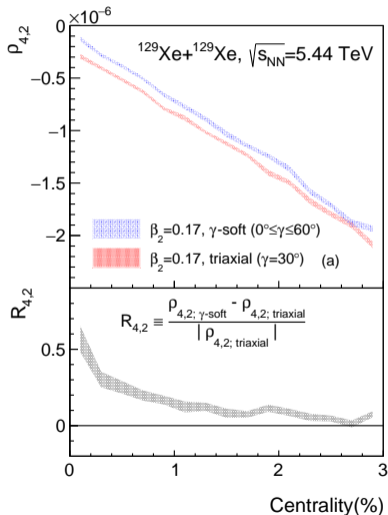
ALICE, *Phys. Lett. B* 784 (2018), 82-95

ALICE, *Phys. Lett. B* 834 (2022), 137393

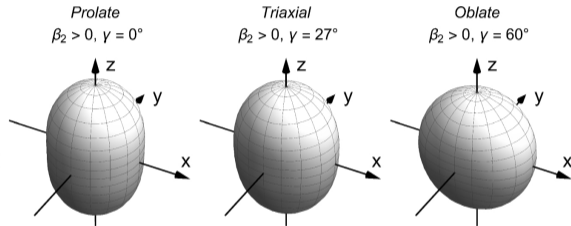


- Deformation of the nucleus affects the collision geometry
- β_2 requires two-particle correlation, while γ needs three-particle correlation
- $\rho(v_2^2, \delta p_T)$ is defined as the Pearson correlation between v_2^2 and δp_T

S. Zhao *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 133 (2024), 192301



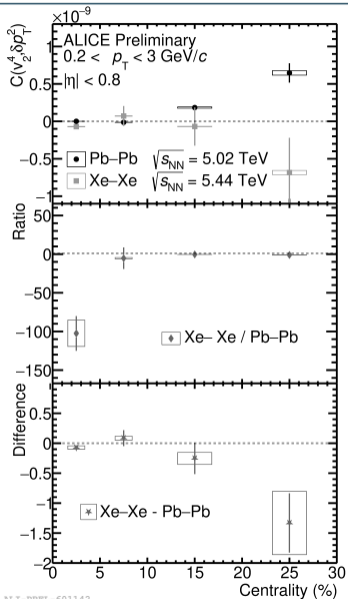
E. Nielsen *et al.*, *Eur.Phys.J.A* 60 (2024) 2, 38



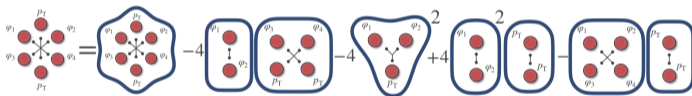
- γ requires a three-particle correlation
→ γ fluctuations need six-particle correlation
- New 6-particle correlation between flow harmonics and mean- p_T , $C(v_2^4, \delta p_T^2)$
- $\rho_{4,2}$ is the corresponding initial-state observable

OBSERVABLES

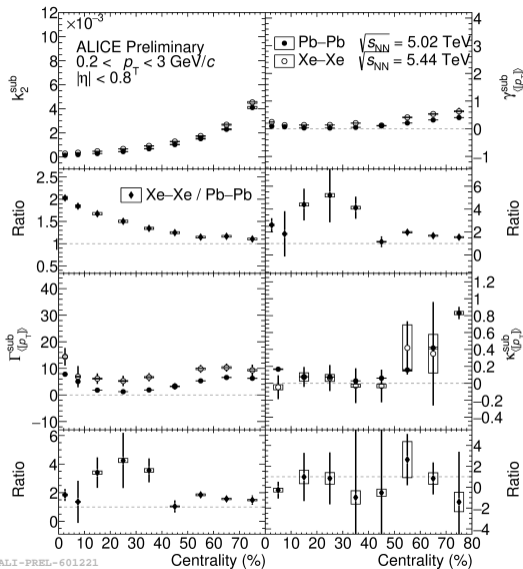
THE SIX-PARTICLE CORRELATION $C(v_2^4, \delta p_T^2)$



$$C(v_2^4, \delta p_T^2) = \langle \langle v_2^4 \delta p_T^2 \rangle \rangle - 4 \langle \langle v_2^2 \rangle \rangle \langle \langle v_2^2 \delta p_T^2 \rangle \rangle - 4 \langle \langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle \rangle^2 + 4 \langle \langle v_2^2 \rangle \rangle^2 \langle \langle \delta p_T^2 \rangle \rangle - \langle \langle v_2^4 \rangle \rangle \langle \langle \delta p_T^2 \rangle \rangle$$



- Measured for the first time in Pb–Pb and Xe–Xe collisions
- The difference between the systems is used due to fluctuations around zero



ALI-PREL-601221

Spherical nuclei



Deformed nuclei



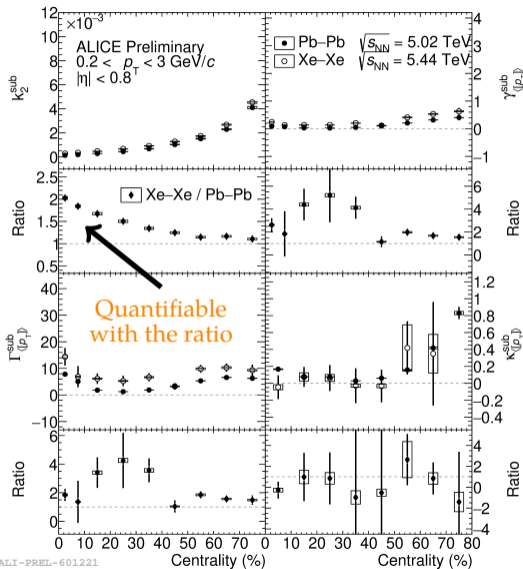
$$k_2^{\text{sub}} = \frac{c_2^{\text{sub}}}{[p_T]_A [p_T]_B}$$

$$\gamma_{[p_T]}^{\text{sub}} = \frac{c_3^{\text{sub}}}{(c_2^{\text{sub}})^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$\Gamma_{[p_T]}^{\text{sub}} = \frac{[p_T] c_3^{\text{sub}}}{(c_2^{\text{sub}})^2}$$

$$\kappa_{[p_T]}^{\text{sub}} = \frac{c_4^{\text{sub}}}{(c_2^{\text{sub}})^2}$$

- Event-by-event meant- p_T fluctuations are measured
- Larger fluctuations for deformed nuclei
- Additional constraints for the initial conditions



ALI-PREL-601221

Spherical nuclei



Deformed nuclei



$$k_2^{\text{sub}} = \frac{c_2^{\text{sub}}}{[p_T]_A [p_T]_B}$$

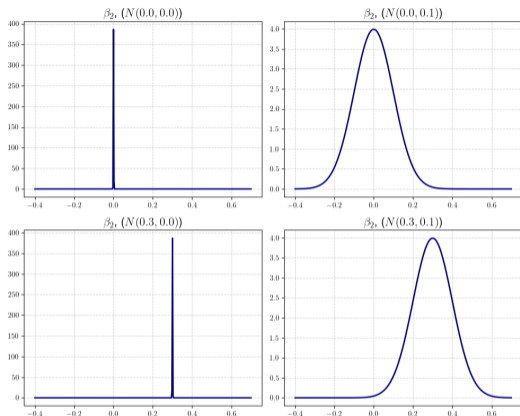
$$\gamma_{[p_T]}^{\text{sub}} = \frac{c_3^{\text{sub}}}{(c_2^{\text{sub}})^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$\Gamma_{[p_T]}^{\text{sub}} = \frac{[p_T] c_3^{\text{sub}}}{(c_2^{\text{sub}})^2}$$

$$\kappa_{[p_T]}^{\text{sub}} = \frac{c_4^{\text{sub}}}{(c_2^{\text{sub}})^2}$$

- Event-by-event meant- p_T fluctuations are measured
- Larger fluctuations for deformed nuclei
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MODEL CALCULATIONS



Hydrodynamic model

T_RENTo + VISH(2+1)+UrQMD

Variable	Prior range
$\overline{\beta_2}$	[0.0, 0.3]
σ_{β_2}	[0.0, 0.1]
$\overline{\gamma}$	[0.0, $\pi/3$]
σ_{γ}	[0.0, $\pi/9$]

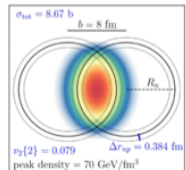
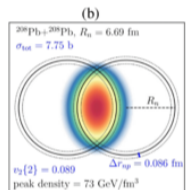
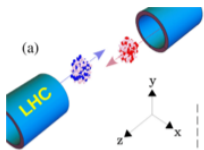
- β_2 and γ are drawn from Gaussian distributions
- Four new parameters describing the magnitude and fluctuations of the nuclear structure parameters

Model setup is similar to those in [J. Bernhard *et al.*, *Nat. Phys.* 15, 1113–1117 \(2019\)](#),

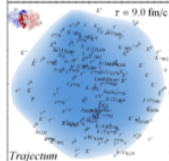
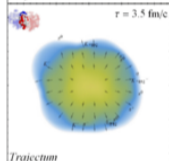
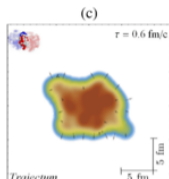
[J. Parkkila *et al.*, *Phys. Lett. B* 835 \(2022\) 137485](#) and [M. Virta *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. C* 111, 044903](#)

Recent and future possibilities

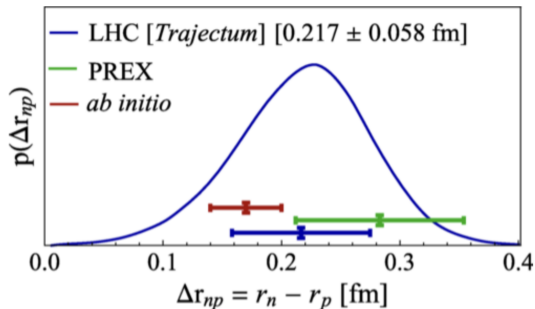
NEUTRON SKIN EXTRACTION



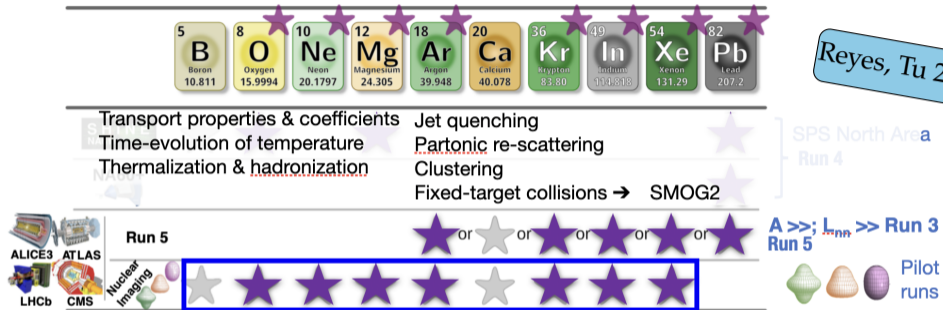
Average $\epsilon(x_{\perp}, \tau = 0.6$ fm/c) (GeV/fm³)



Temperature, $T(x_{\perp}, \tau)$ (MeV)



- Trajectory study on extracting the neutron utilising Bayesian inference
- Various flow observables included
- Yields similar results with other extractions and calculations



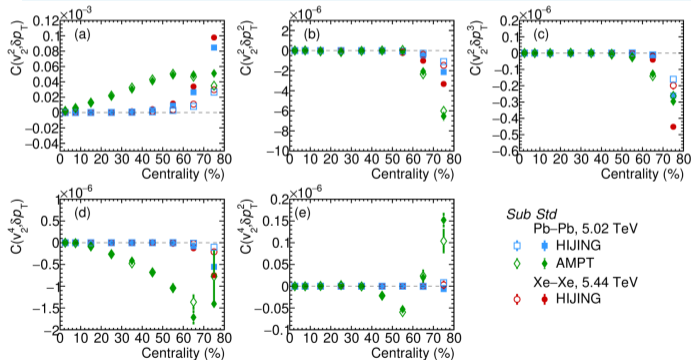
Reyes, Tu 23.4.

- New collision system proposals for the future at the LHC
- Looks promising for the nuclear imaging
- Lots of data remains to be analysed

THANK YOU!

BACKUP

$$\langle v_2^m \delta p_T^k \rangle = \frac{\sum_{i_1 \neq \dots \neq i_m \neq i_{m+1} \neq \dots \neq i_k} \omega_{i_1} \dots \omega_{i_m} \omega_{i_{m+1}} \dots \omega_{i_k} e^{in(\Delta\varphi_{i_1} + \dots + \Delta\varphi_{i_m/2})} \delta p_{T,i_{m+1}} \dots \delta p_{T,i_k}}{\sum_{i_1 \neq \dots \neq i_m \neq i_{m+1} \neq \dots \neq i_k} \omega_{i_1} \dots \omega_{i_m} \omega_{i_{m+1}} \dots \omega_{i_k}}$$

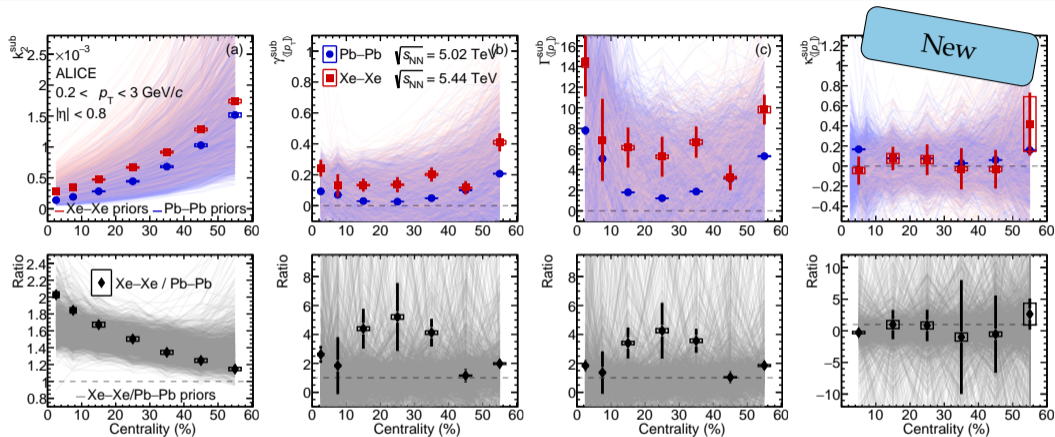


- Correlations between v_2^2 (v_2^4) and different orders of δp_T

- Cumulants are extracted in terms of the moments
- Calculated using the Unified Algorithm
- Evaluated with the two-sub event method

E. Nielsen *et al.*, *arXiv:2504.03044*

E. Nielsen *et al.*, *arXiv:2504.03044*



- 1 500 design points used for each collision system
- Priors cover the measurements nicely
- Ratio or difference of Xe-Xe and Pb-Pb are used to be more sensitive to Xe nuclear structure