

# PHENIX results on collectivity in small systems

Sylvia Morrow, for the PHENIX collaboration

The logo for the PHENIX experiment. It features the word "PHENIX" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "E" is replaced by a stylized yellow sun with radiating lines. To the right of "PHENIX" is a white, stylized "V" shape that contains a silhouette of a particle detector. A red, curved line arches over the "PHENIX" text.

PHENIX V

PRC 96, 064905 (2017)

PRL 120, 062302 (2018)

arXiv:1710.09736, *accepted PRC*

arXiv:1805.02973, *submitted Nature Physics*

# What is the origin of collectivity in small systems?

If it's quark-gluon plasma we expect to see signatures of a perfect fluid...

Can we turn it off?

Common velocity field?

Geometry-driven flow?

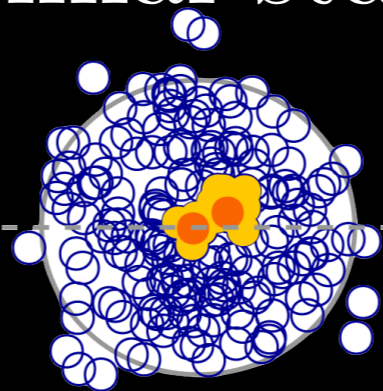
## Multiple measurements to test the flow hypothesis

Can we turn it off?



How long does a quark-gluon plasma droplet have to last to see final state effects?

$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ [GeV]	$d+Au$
200	✓
62.4	✓
39	✓
19.6	✓

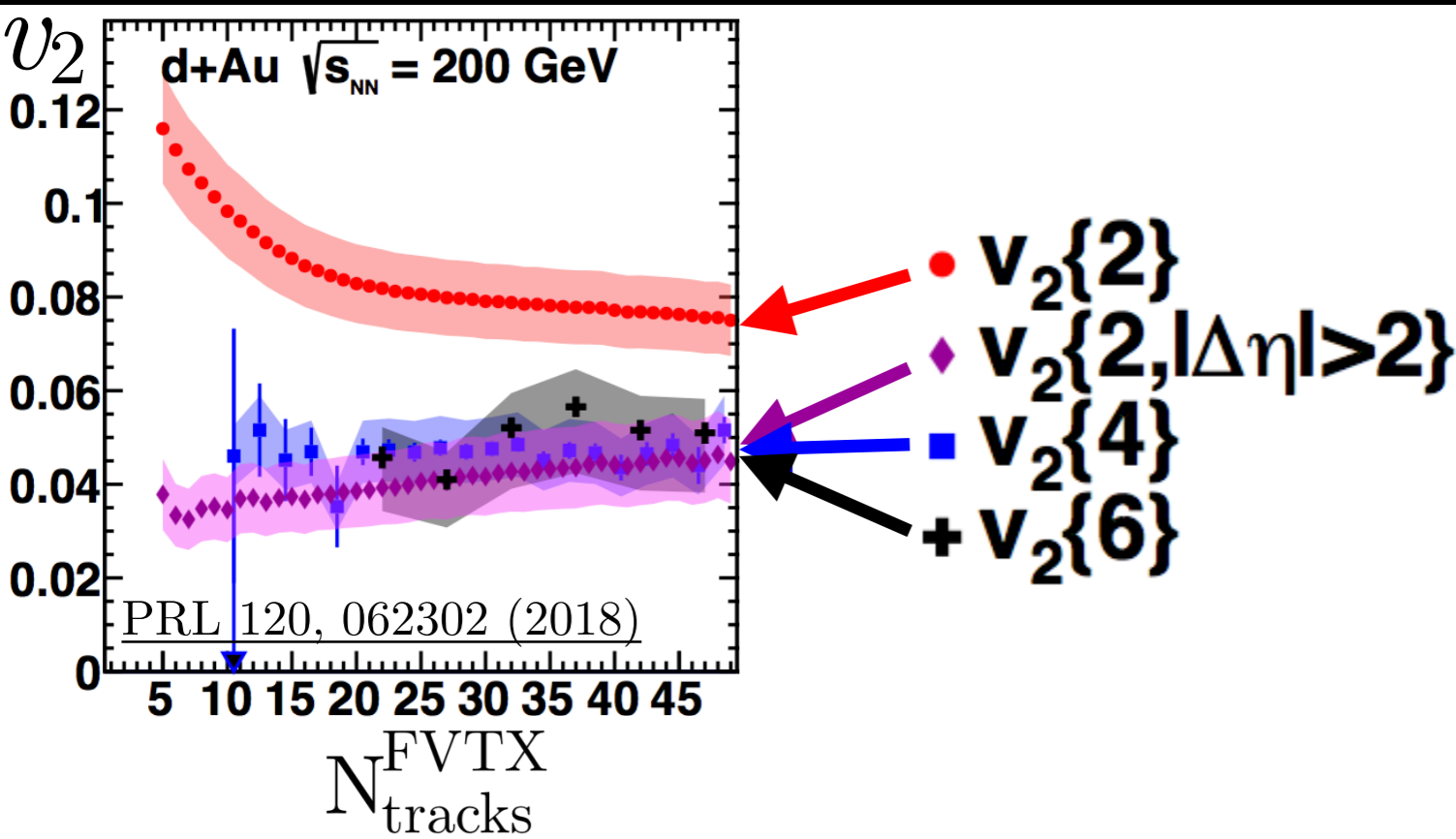


As energy decreases, system spends less time as hot matter



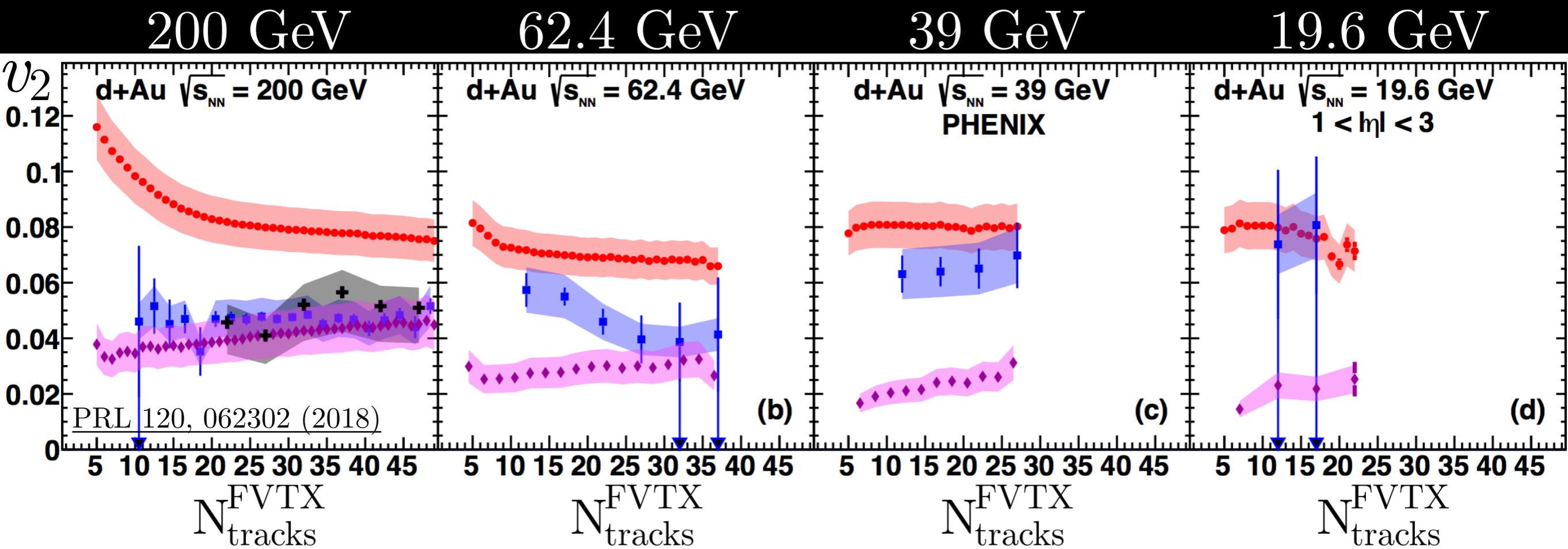
**Lower limit seems to have not been reached in this BES**

200 GeV



- $\eta$  separation reduces non-flow contributions
- Different kinematics

- $v_2\{2\}$  is above  $v_2\{2, |\eta| > 2\}$ ,  $v_2\{4\}$ , and  $v_2\{6\}$
- $v_2\{4\}$  is consistent with  $v_2\{6\}$
- $\therefore v_2\{4\}$  dominated by flow



Real  $v_2\{4\}$  for all energies

Appears to be flow correlations  
down to lowest energy measured  
(19.6 GeV)

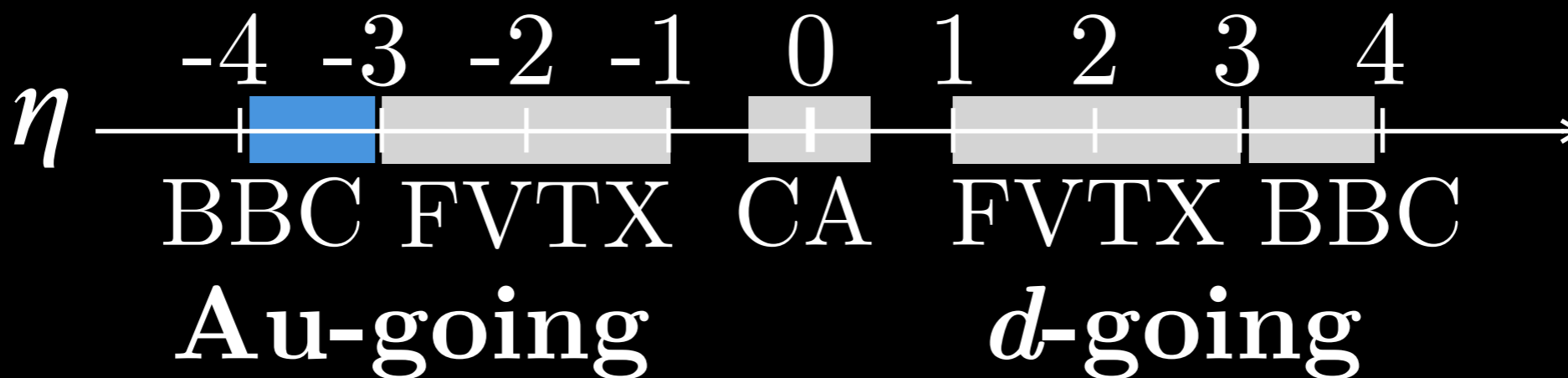
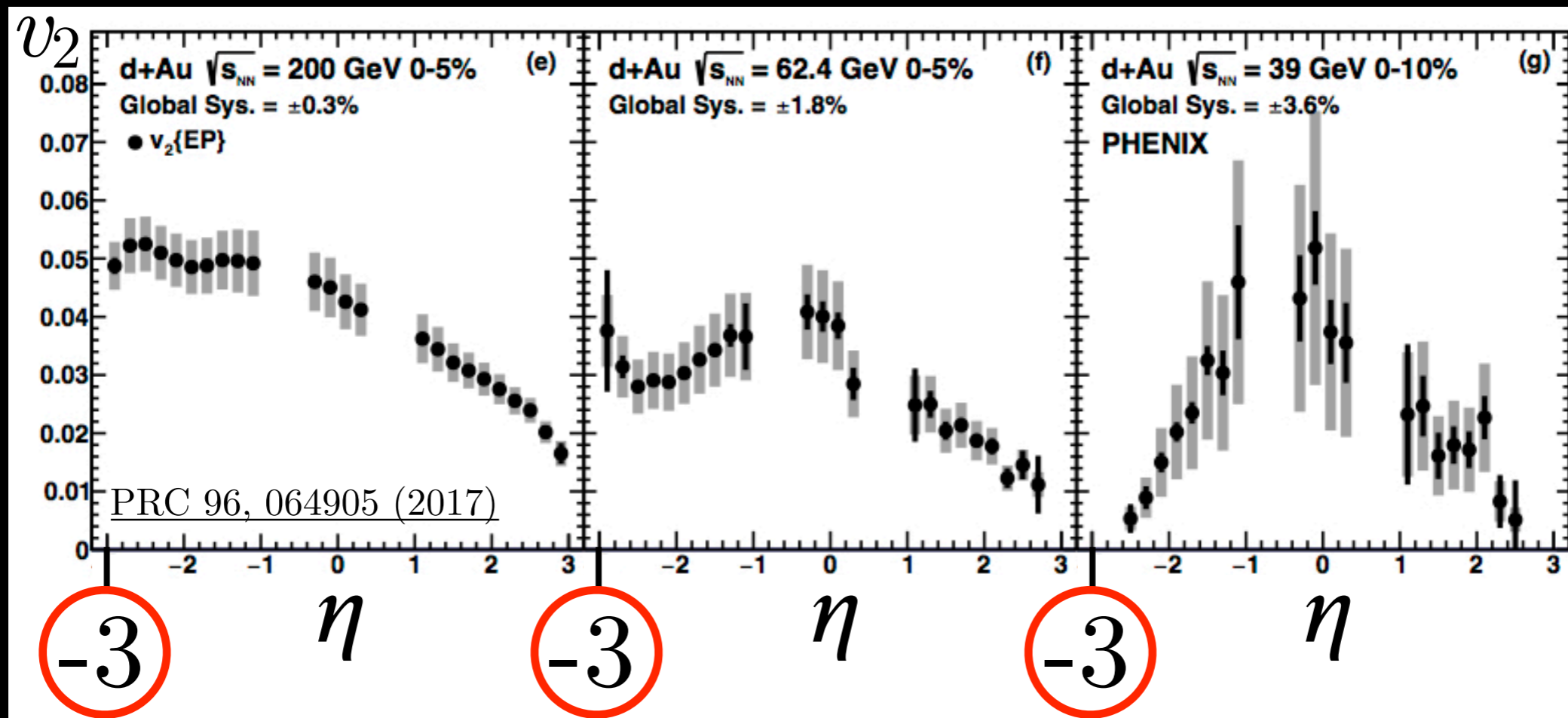
- $v_2\{2\}$
- ◆  $v_2\{2, |\Delta\eta| > 2\}$
- $v_2\{4\}$
- +  $v_2\{6\}$

# $d+Au$ BES $v_2(\eta)$ : data

200 GeV

62.4 GeV

39 GeV

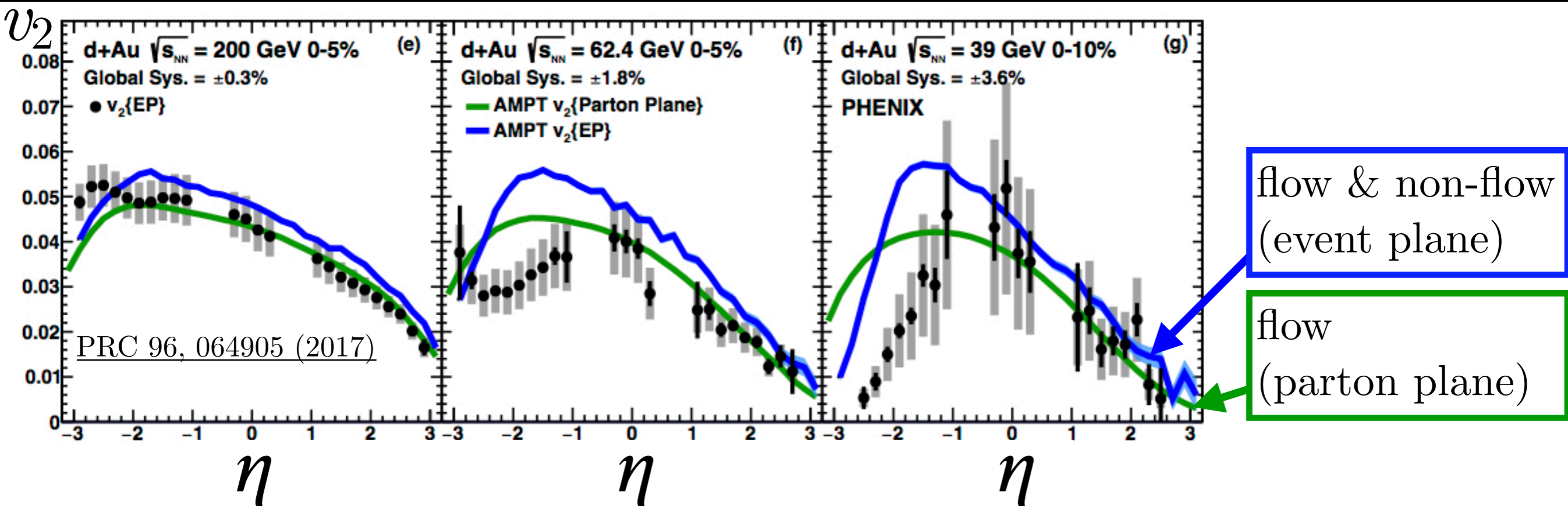


BBCS (Au-going side) used as event plane detector

200 GeV

62.4 GeV

39 GeV



- AMPT replicates asymmetric shape
- For lower energies at  $\eta < 0$ , EP crosses parton plane: non-flow decreases signal magnitude

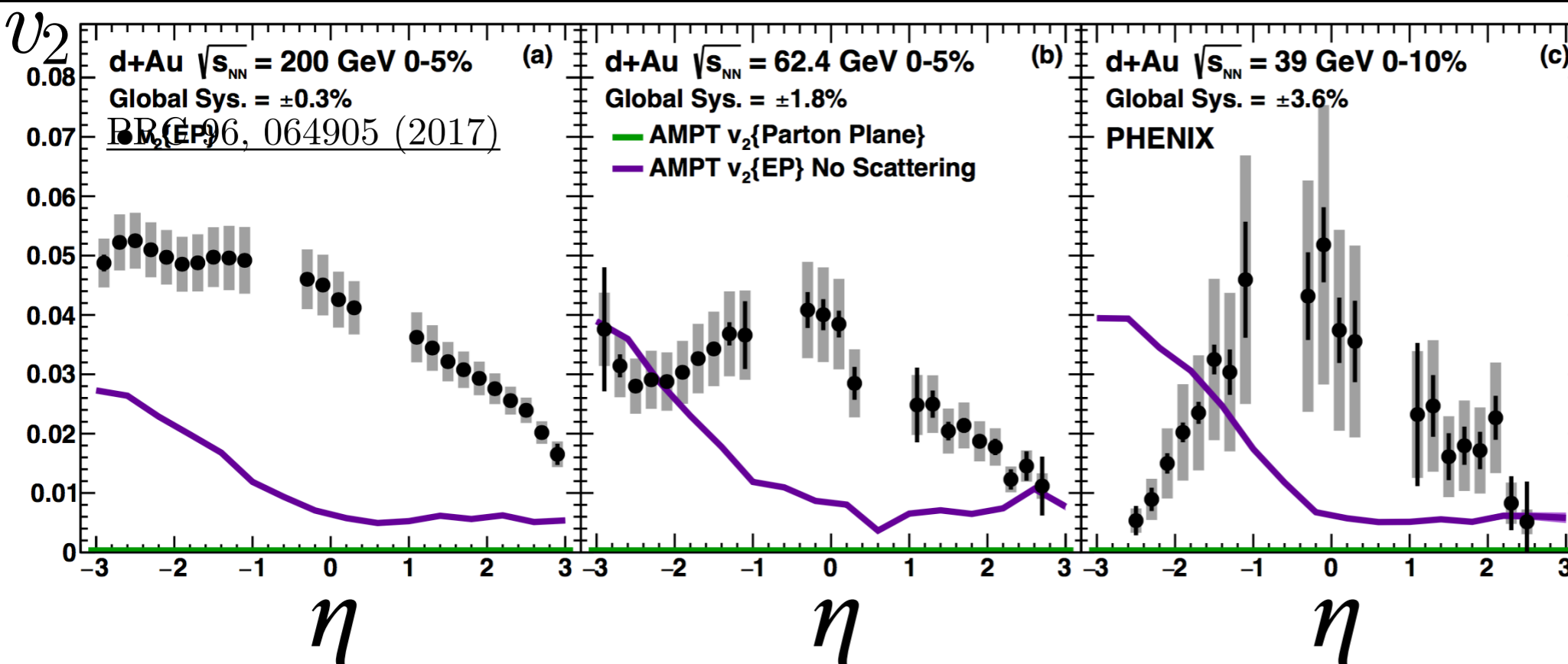
parton cross section: 0.75 mb



200 GeV

62.4 GeV

39 GeV



No partonic or hadronic scattering

event plane

parton plane

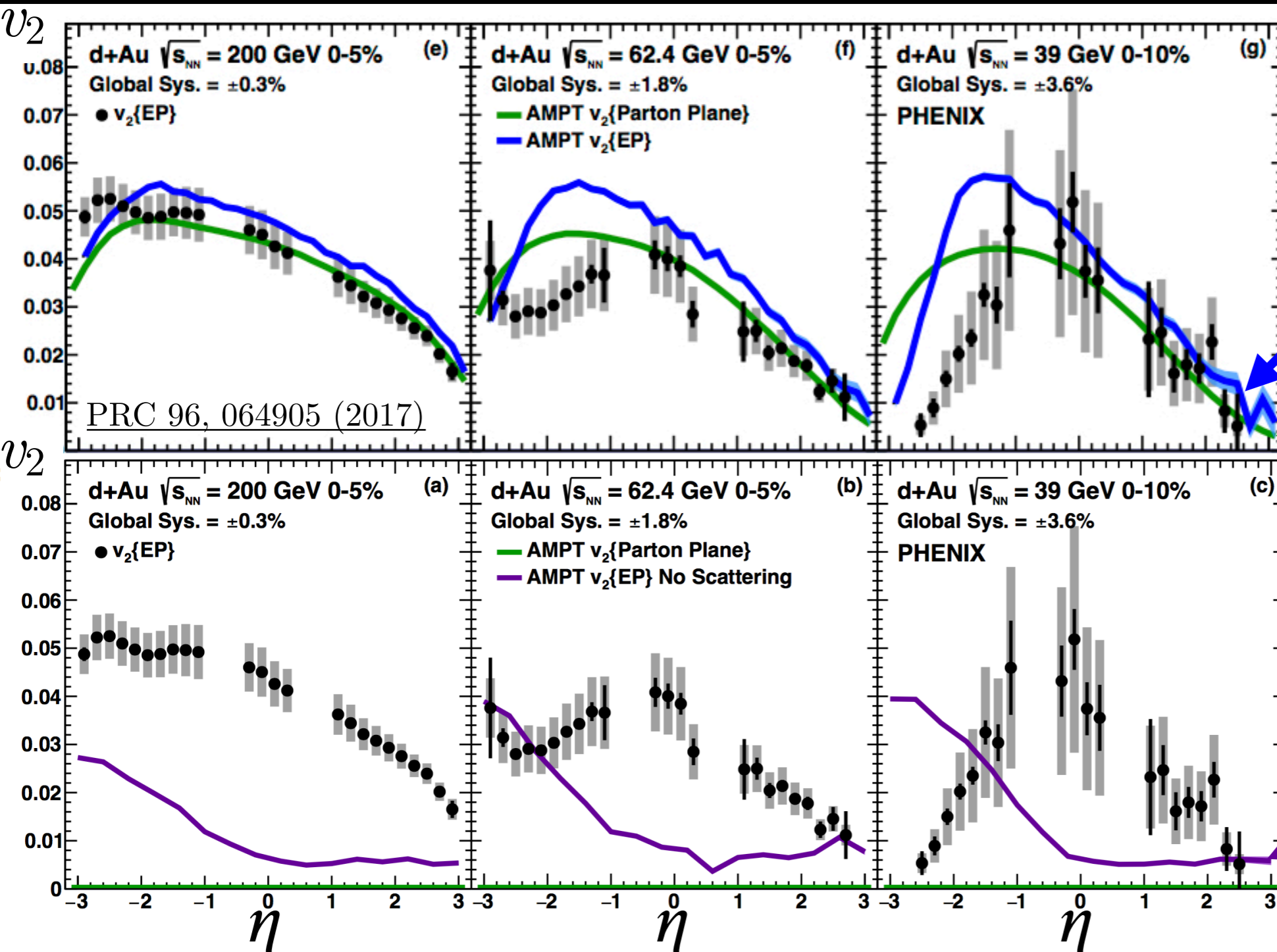
- Parton plane gives  $v_2 = 0$ , consistent with expectations
- Event plane has signal (larger for  $\eta < 0$ )

# $d+Au$ BES $v_2(\eta)$ : role of nonflow

200 GeV

62.4 GeV

39 GeV



with scattering

flow & nonflow  
(event plane)

flow  
(parton plane)

without scattering

nonflow  
(event plane)

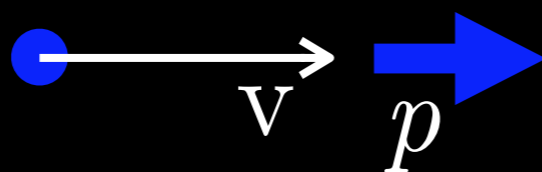
Can't simply add flow (**green**) and non-flow (**purple**)  
to get flow & non-flow combination (**blue**)

# Common velocity field?



Is there a mass ordering due to a common velocity field?

$$\pi^\pm \text{ mass} = 140 \text{ MeV}/c$$



$$p \text{ mass} = 938 \text{ MeV}/c$$



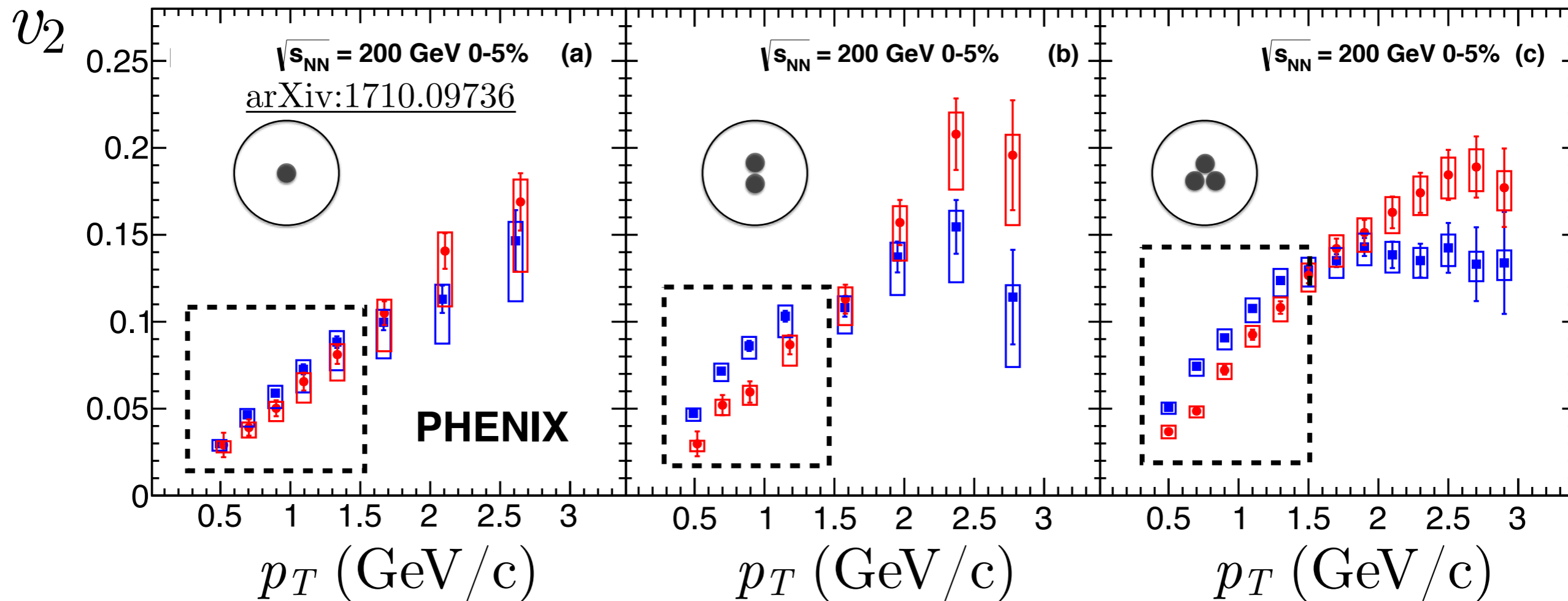
Perhaps — alternative explanations exist

# $\pi$ and $p$ $v_2(p_T)$ : data

$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



$p_T \text{ [GeV/c]} < 1.5$

$v_2$  ordering  $\pi > p$

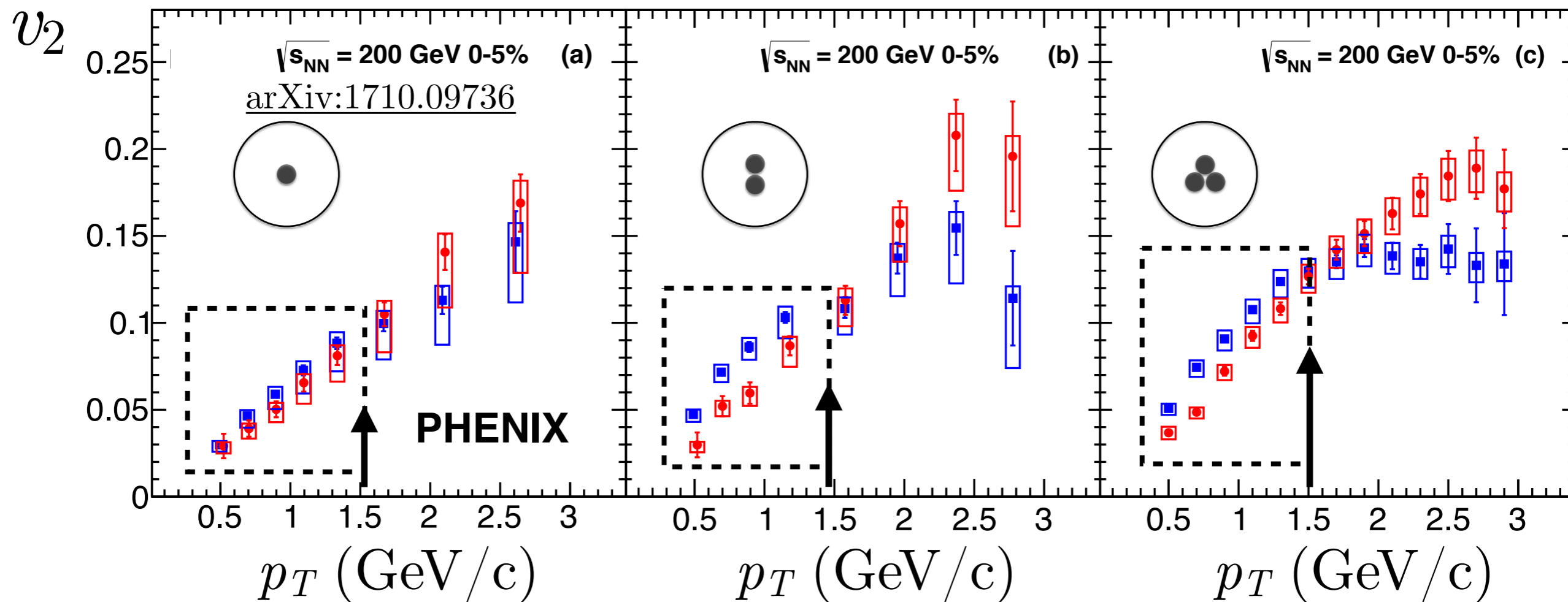
—■—  $\pi^+ + \pi^-$  Data  
—●—  $p + \bar{p}$  Data

# $\pi$ and $p$ $v_2(p_T)$ : data

$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



$p_T \text{ [GeV/c]}$

$< 1.5$

$\approx 1.5$

$v_2$  ordering

$\pi > p$

$\pi = p$

$\pi^+ + \pi^-$  Data

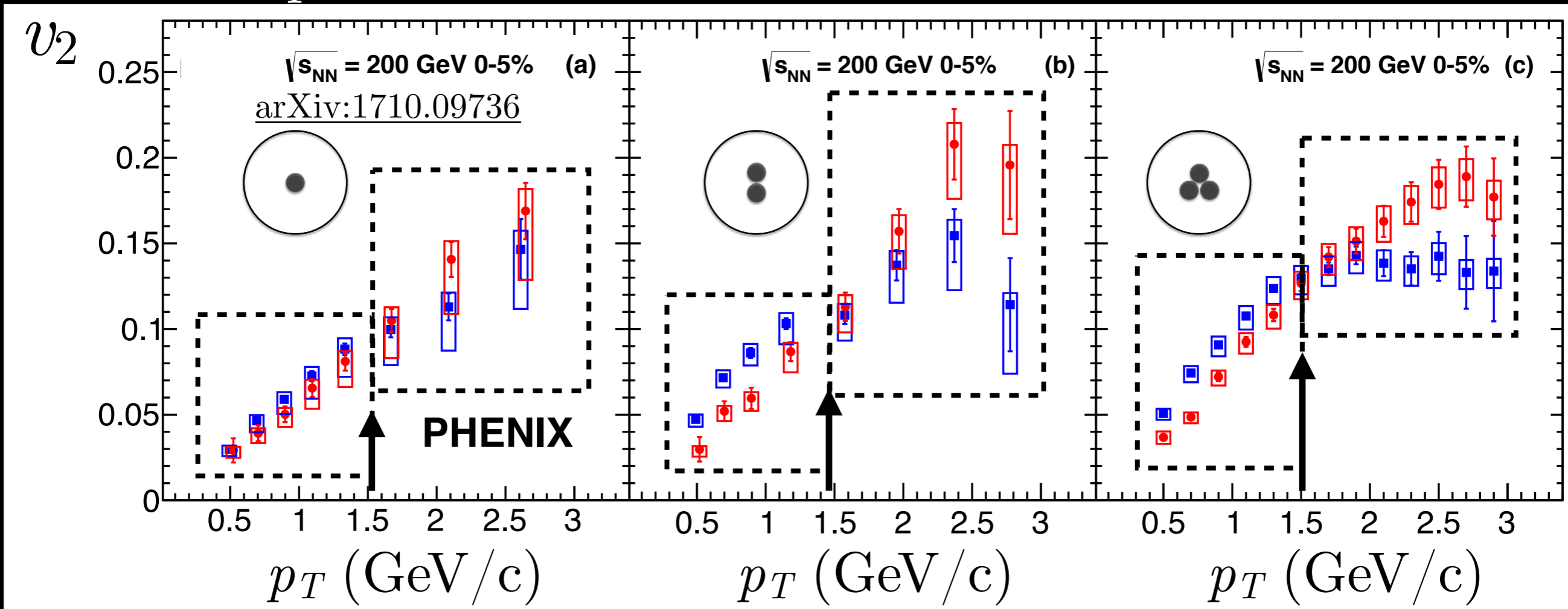
$p + \bar{p}$  Data

# $\pi$ and $p$ $v_2(p_T)$ : data

$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



$p_T \text{ [GeV/c]}$

$< 1.5$

$\approx 1.5$

$> 1.5$

$v_2$  ordering

$\pi > p$

$\pi = p$

$\pi < p$

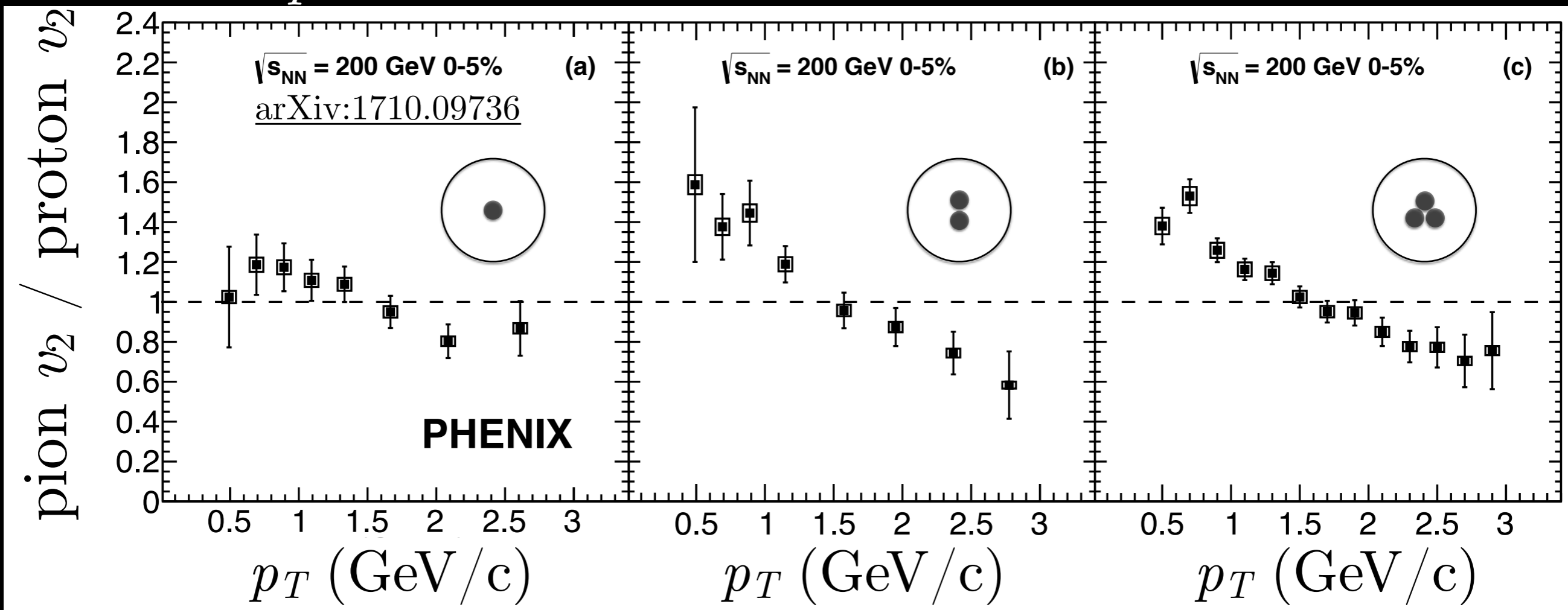
—■—  $\pi^+ + \pi^-$  Data

—●—  $p + \bar{p}$  Data

$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



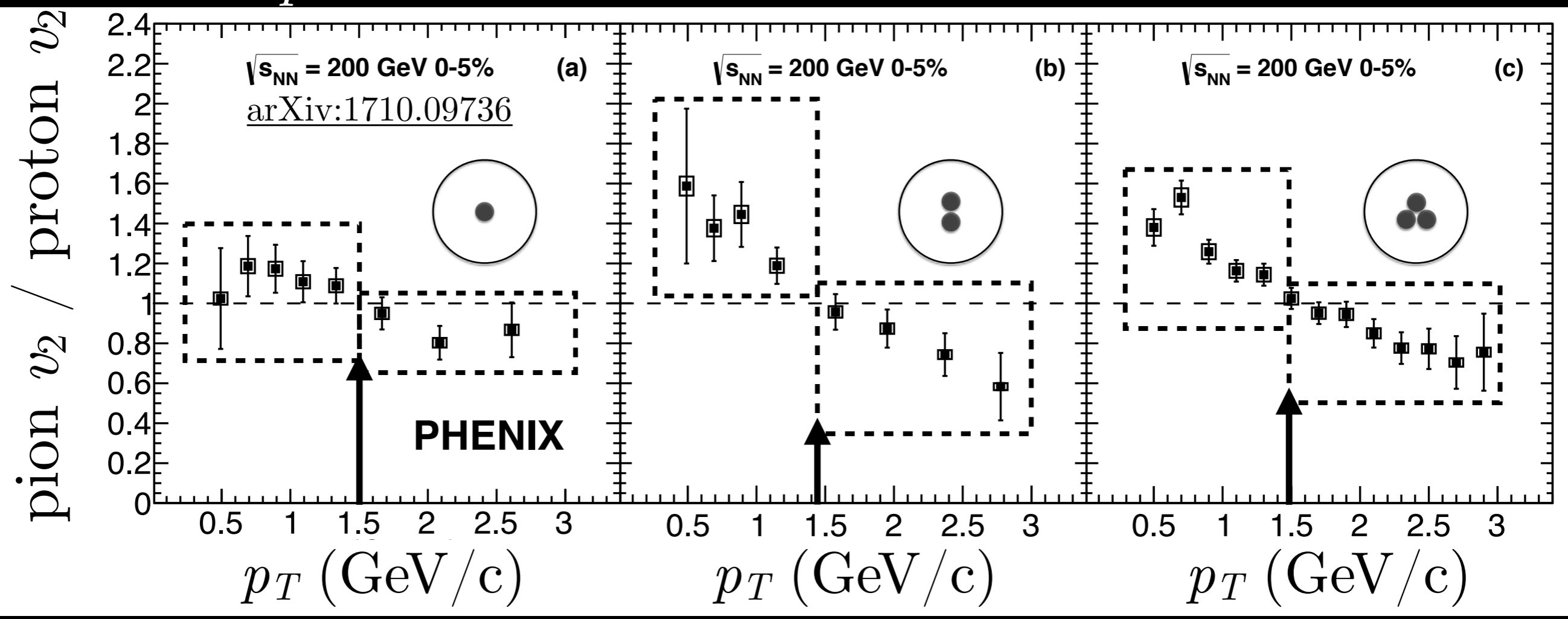
Ratio of pion  $v_2(p_T)$  to proton  $v_2(p_T)$  —  
 some uncertainty cancels



$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$

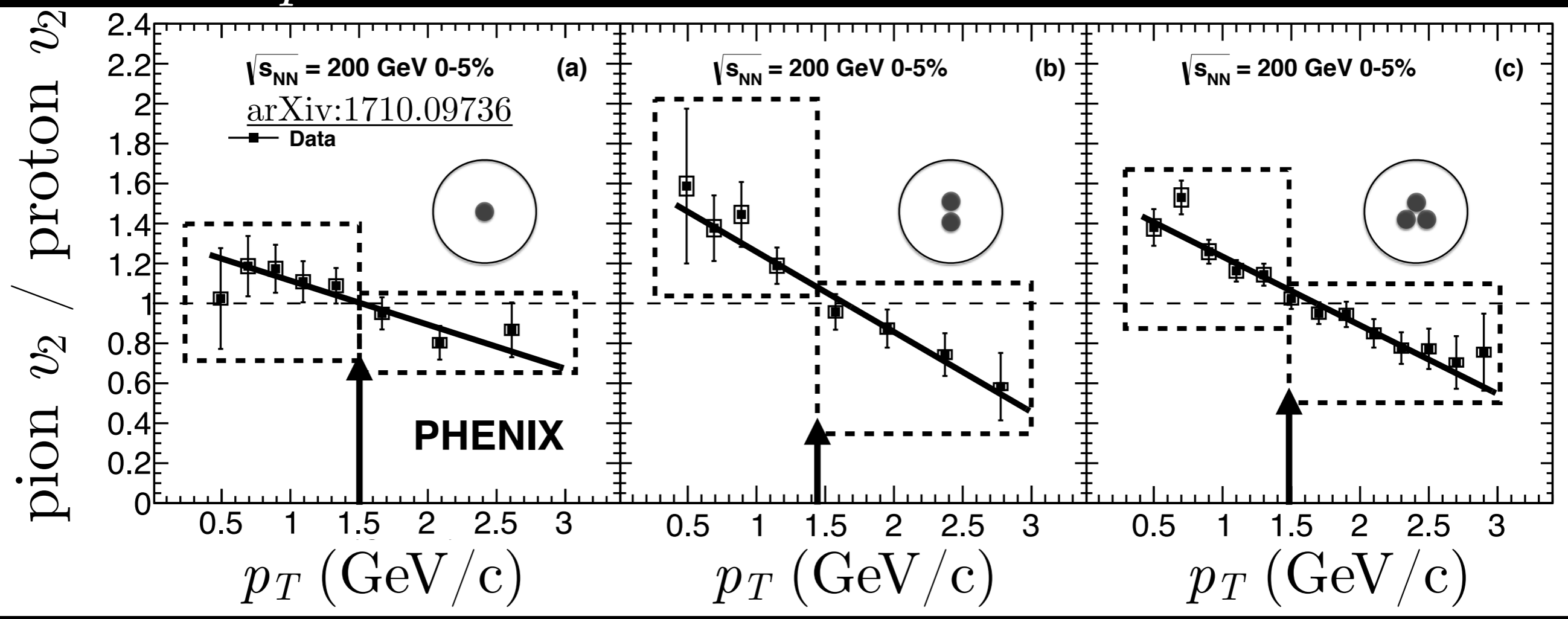


$p_T$ [GeV/c]	$< 1.5$	$\approx 1.5$	$> 1.5$
$v_2$ ordering	$\pi > p$	$\pi = p$	$\pi < p$
ratio	$> 1$	$1$	$< 1$

$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



Slope quantifies amplitude of mass splitting

$p_T$ [GeV/c]	$< 1.5$	$\approx 1.5$	$> 1.5$
$v_2$ ordering	$\pi > p$	$\pi = p$	$\pi < p$
ratio	$> 1$	$1$	$< 1$

# Two model formalisms

## Hydrodynamic

## Parton transport

### SONIC

### AMPT

Initial conditions

MC Glauber

MC Glauber

Particle production

N/A

String melting

Expansion

Viscous hydrodynamics

Parton scattering

Hadronization

Cooper-Frye

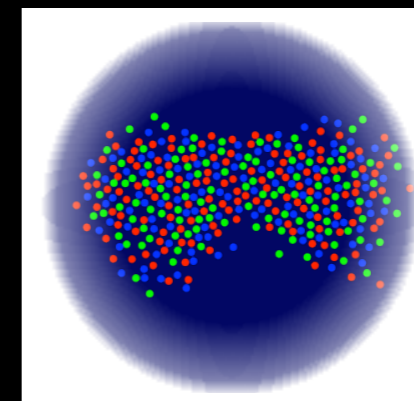
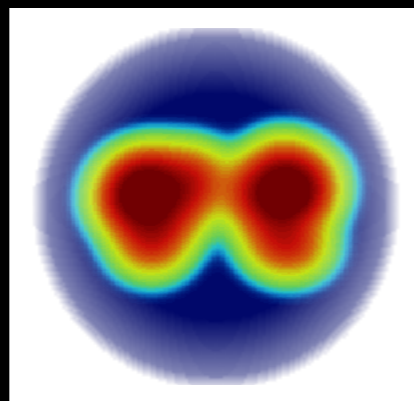
Spatial coalescence/  
quark recombination

Final stage

Hadron cascade

Hadron cascade

Macroscopic



Microscopic

# Two model formalisms

## Hydrodynamic

## Parton transport

### SONIC

### AMPT

Initial conditions

MC Glauber

MC Glauber

Particle production

N/A

String melting

Expansion

Viscous  
hydrodynamics

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Hadronization

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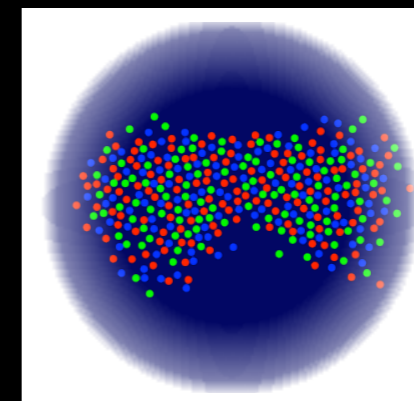
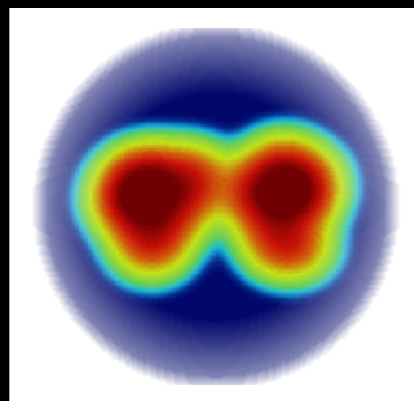
Spatial coalescence/  
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Hadron cascade

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Macroscopic

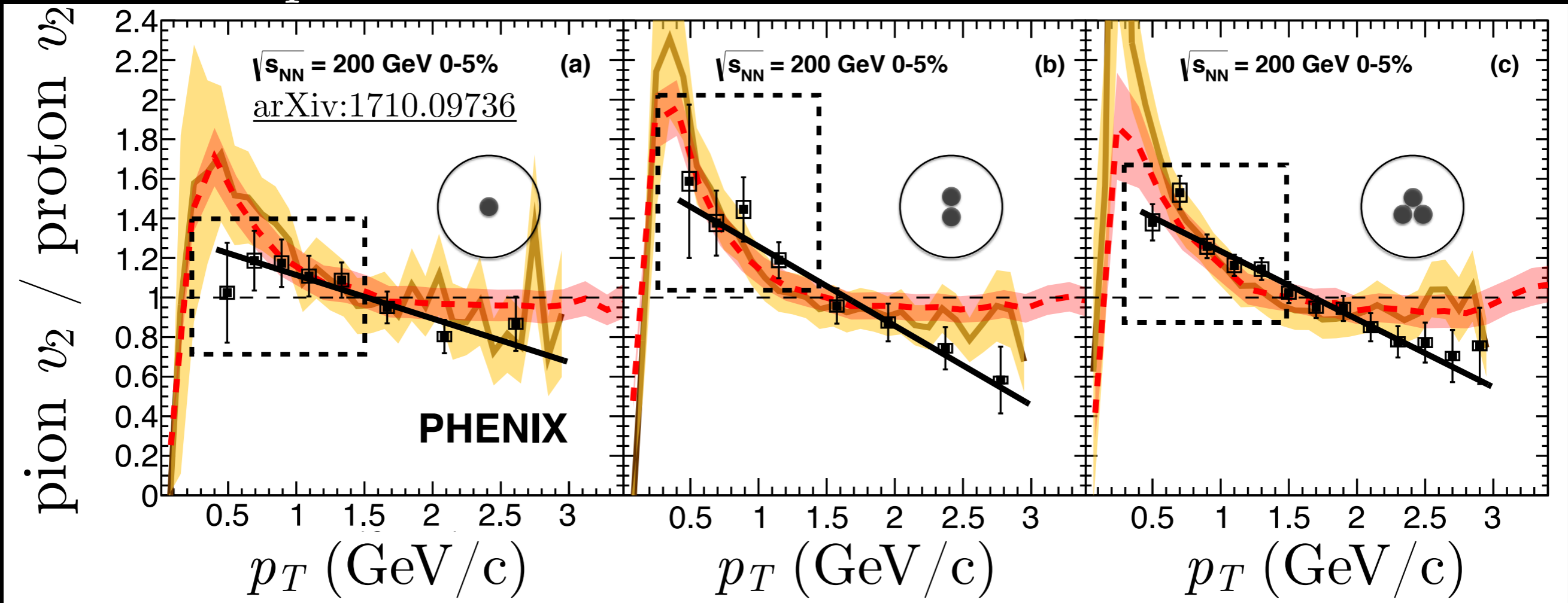


Microscopic

$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



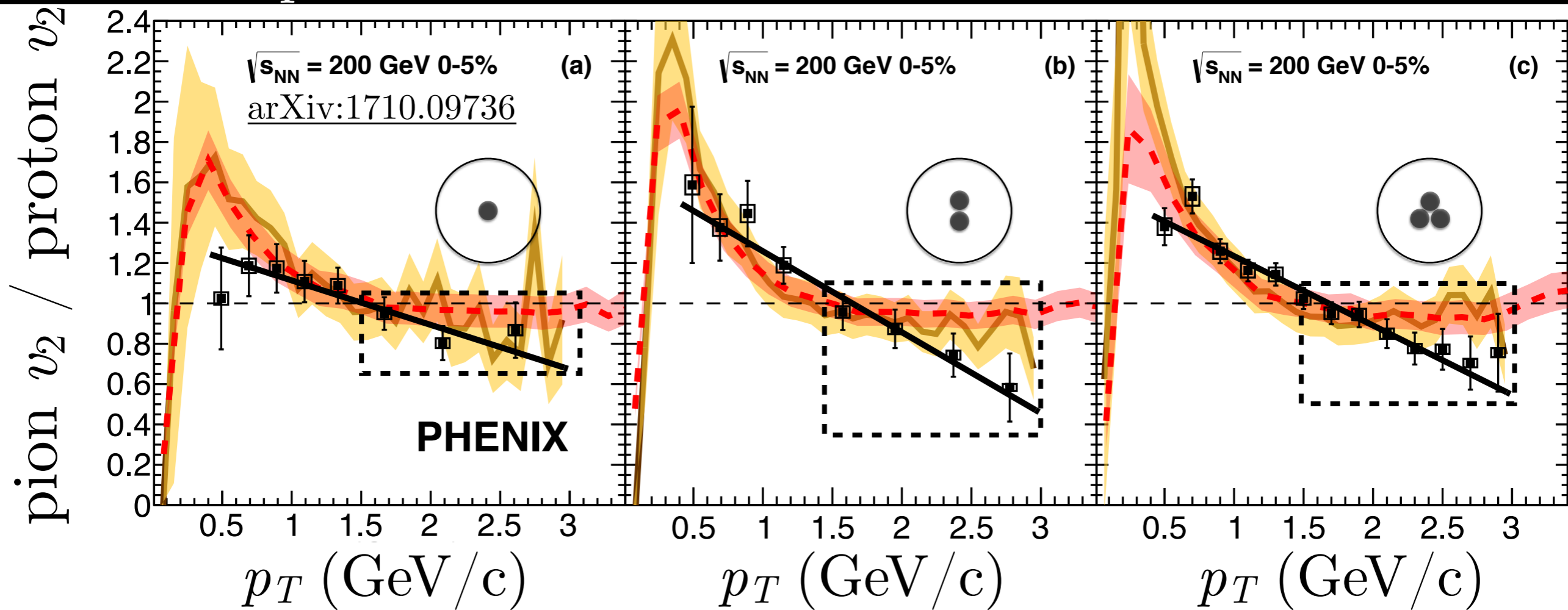
Low  $p_T$  is well-described



$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



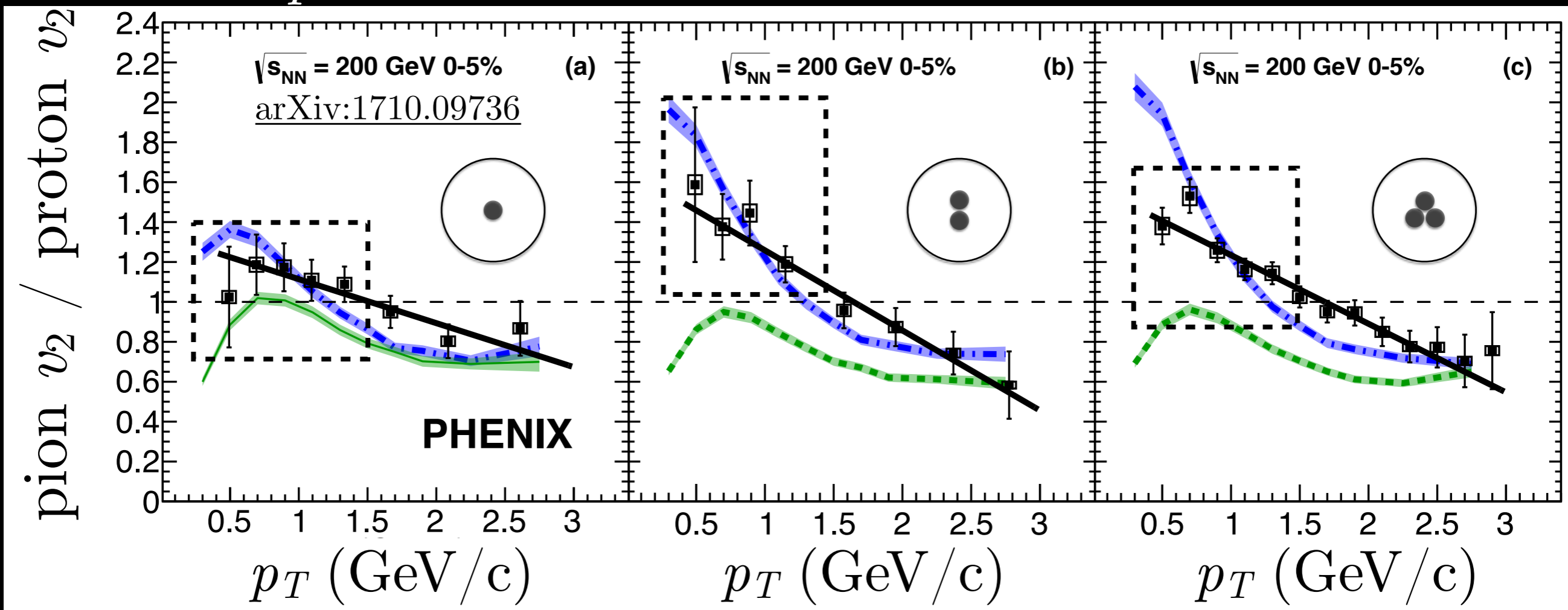
Low  $p_T$  is well-described  
Misses slope at high  $p_T$



$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



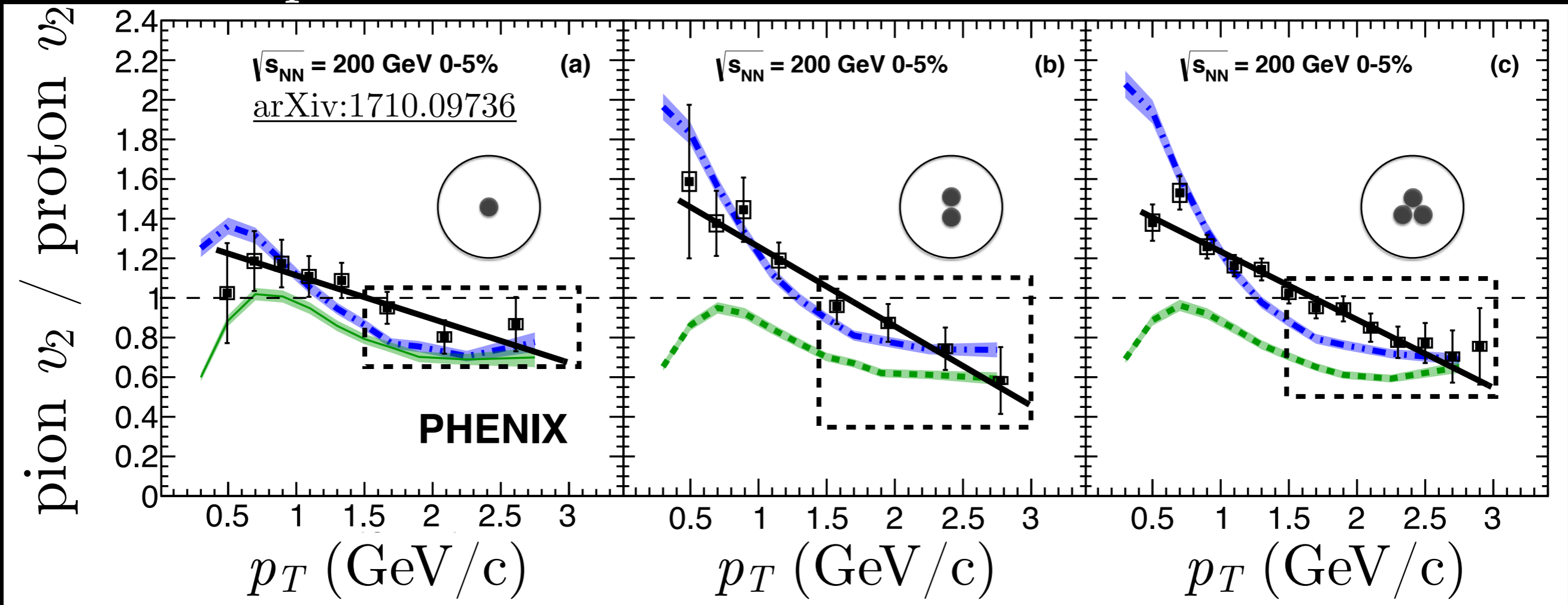
- AMPT relies on hadronic rescattering at low  $p_T$



$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



- AMPT relies on hadronic rescattering at low  $p_T$
- High  $p_T$  mass splitting from quark recombination

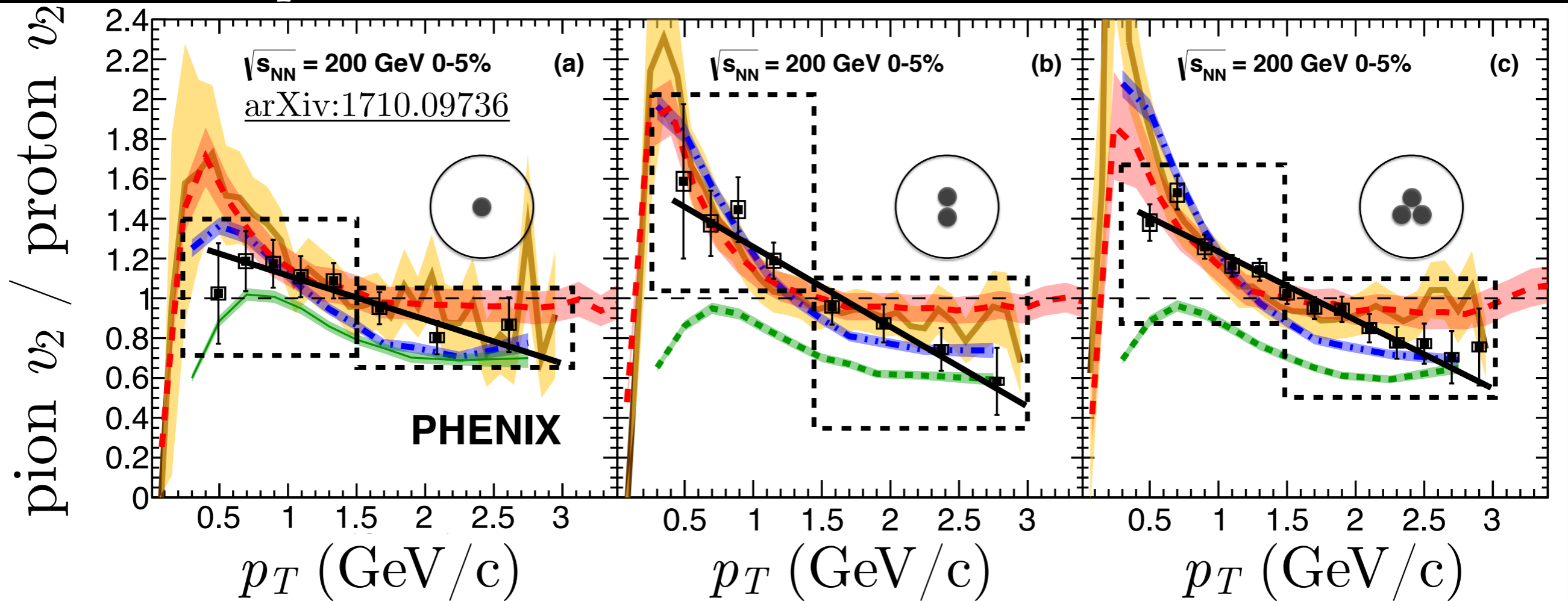




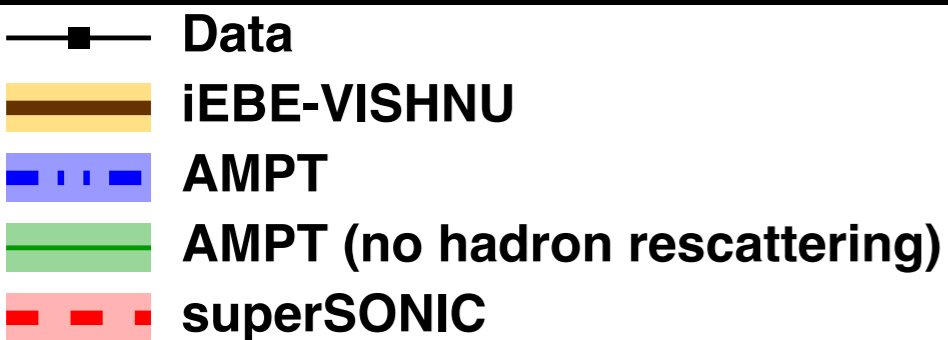
$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



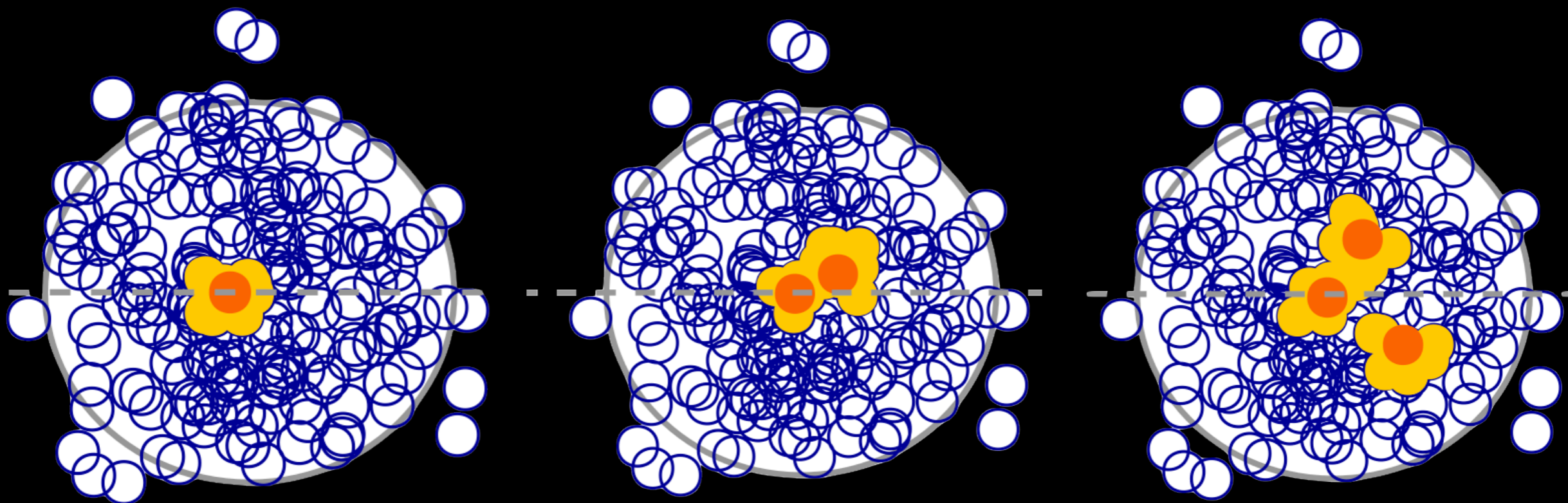
**Mass-dependent  $v_2(p_T)$  is consistent with hydrodynamics**, though alternative explanations exist



# Geometry-driven flow?



Are final state momentum correlations driven by initial state geometry?

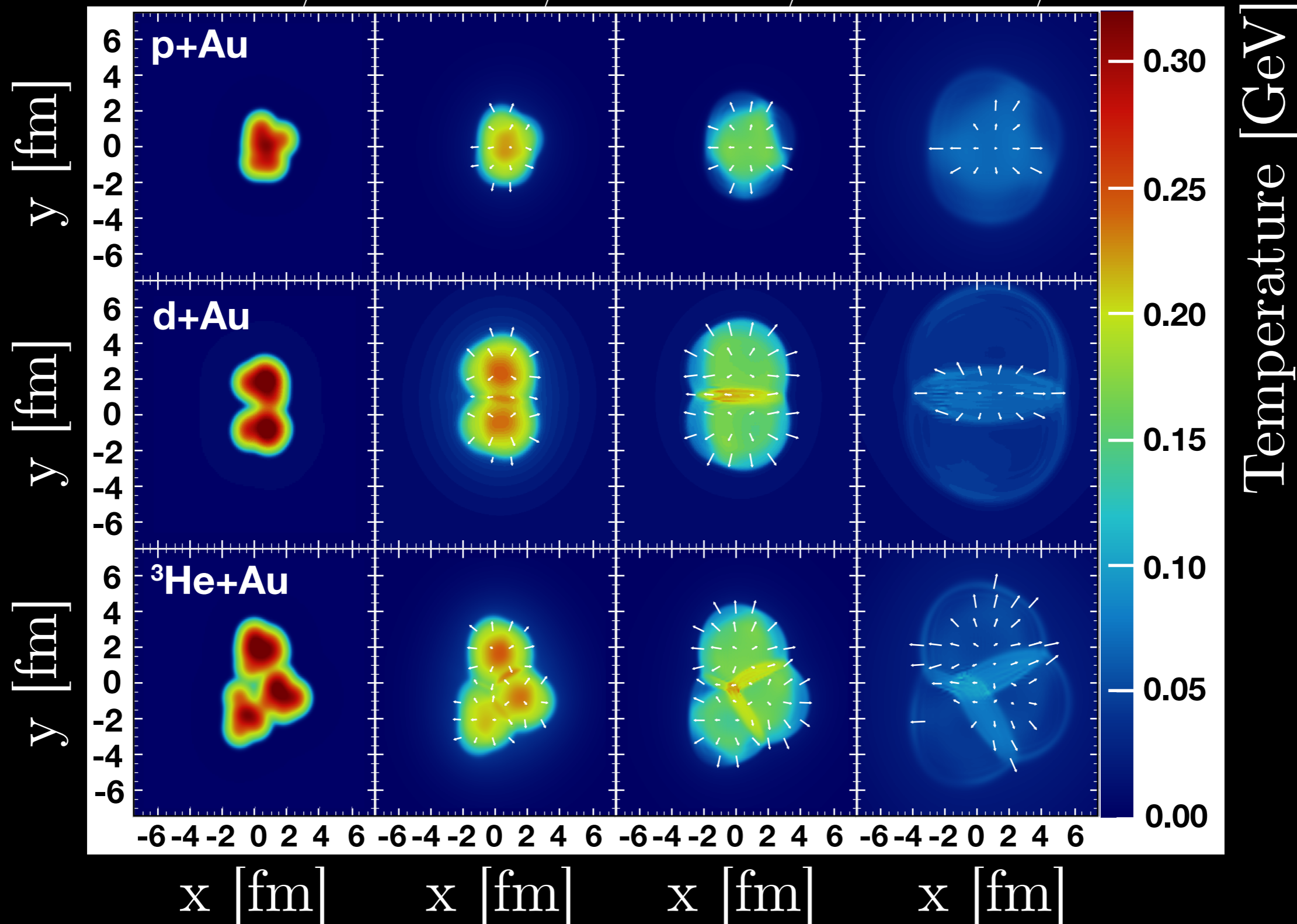


**Strong evidence indicating YES!**

# Hydrodynamic description

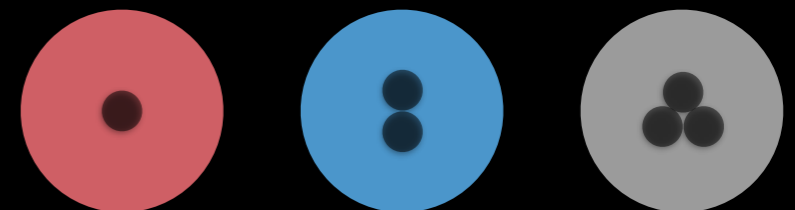
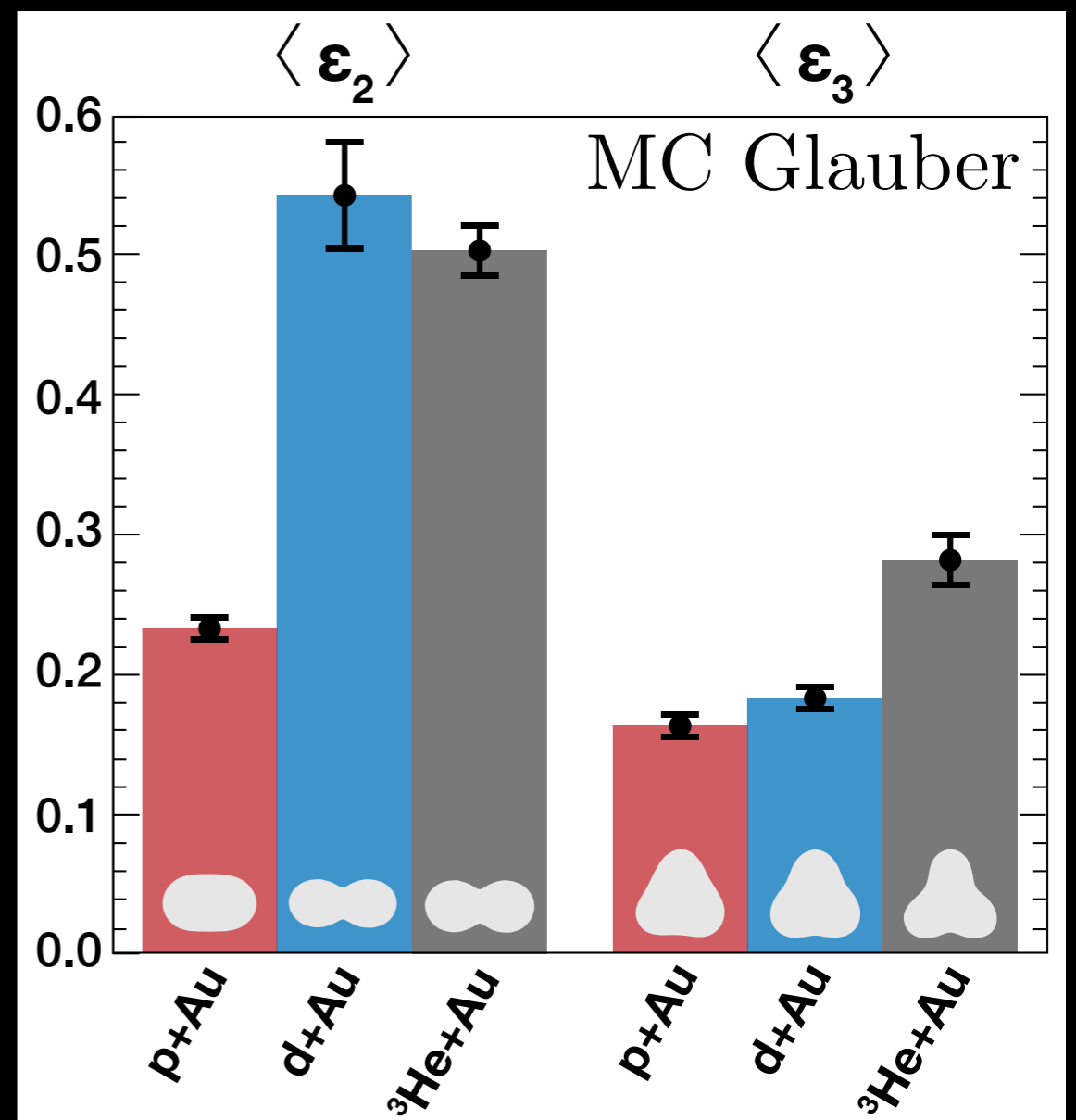
SONIC evolution

$t = 1.0 \text{ fm}/c \quad 1.7 \text{ fm}/c \quad 3.2 \text{ fm}/c \quad 4.5 \text{ fm}/c$

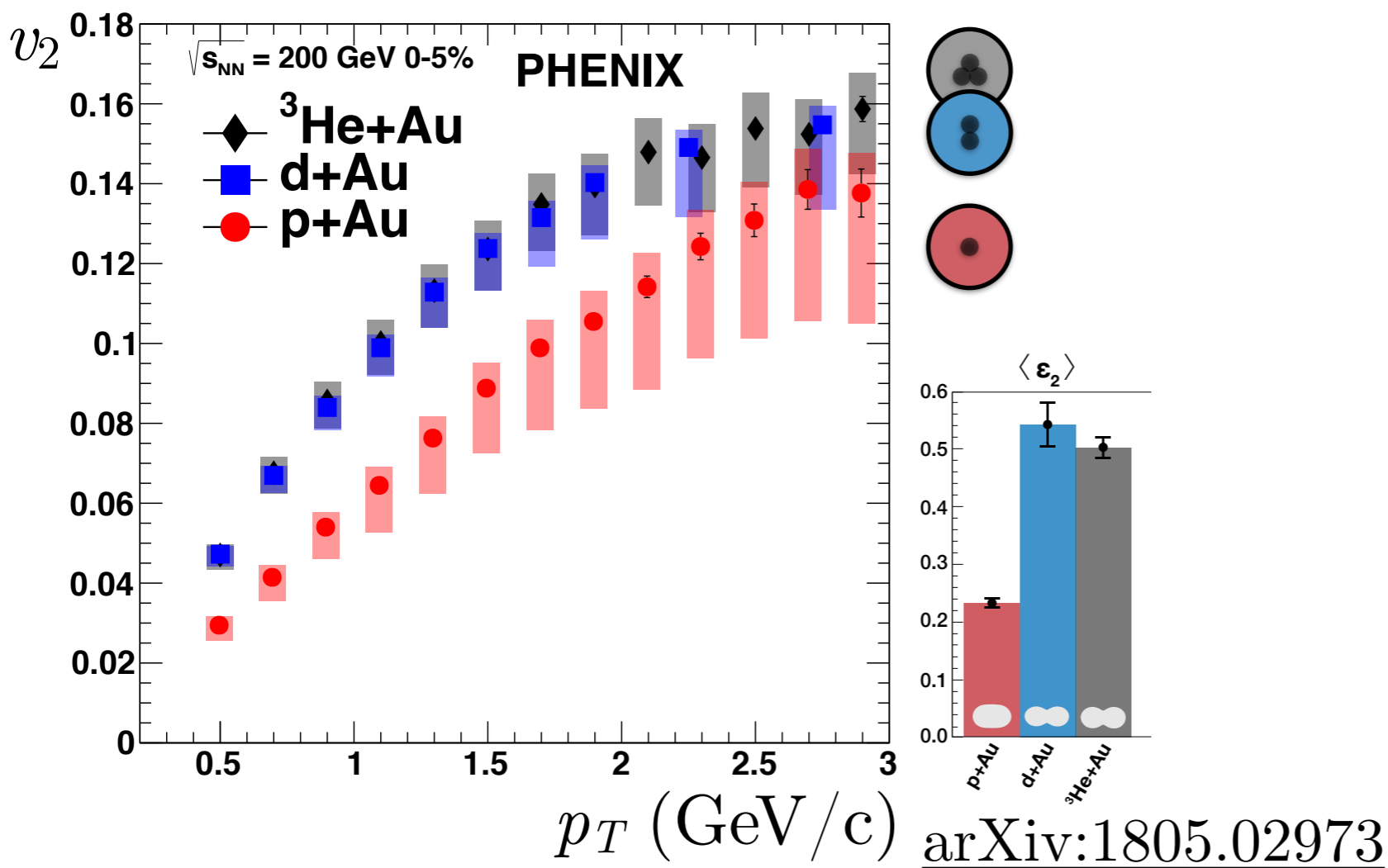


# Eccentricities

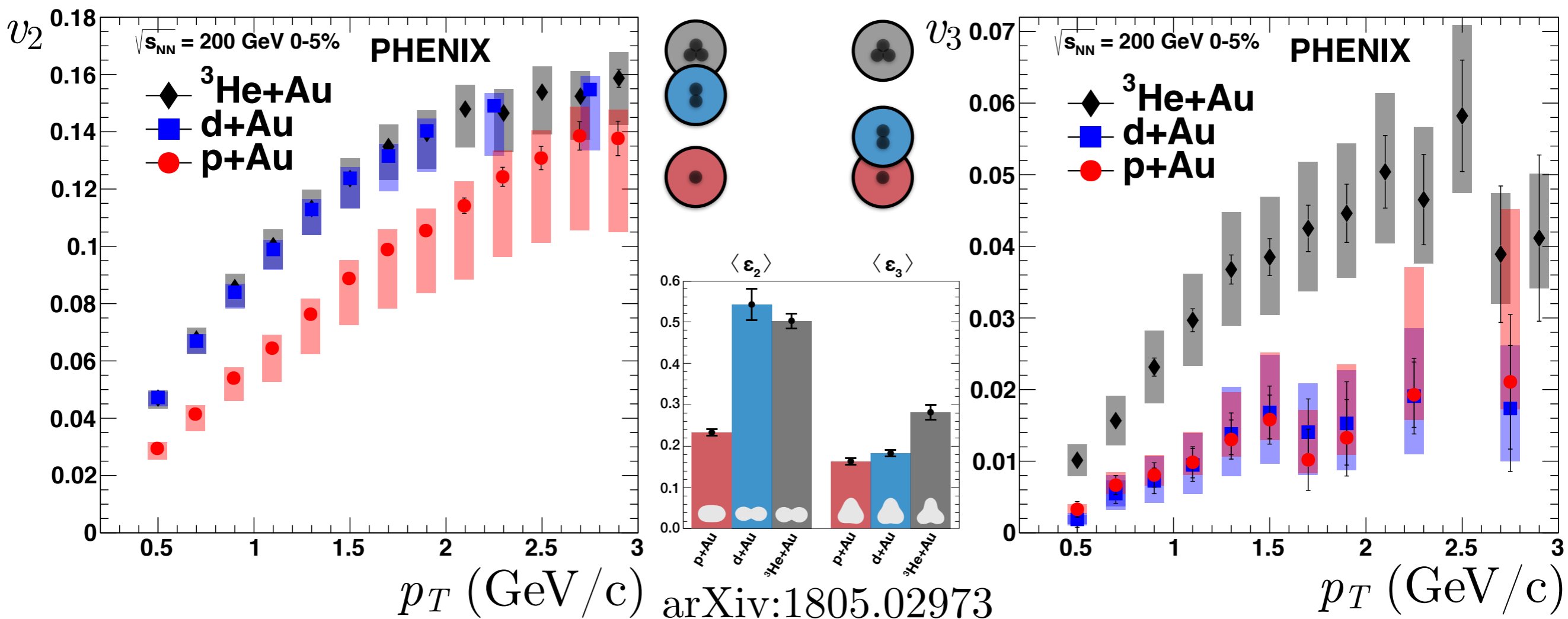
$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_2^{p+Au} &< \epsilon_2^{d+Au} \approx \epsilon_2^{^3\text{He}+Au} \\ \epsilon_3^{p+Au} &\approx \epsilon_3^{d+Au} < \epsilon_3^{^3\text{He}+Au} \end{aligned}$$



arXiv:1805.02973



$$v_2^{p+\text{Au}} < v_2^{d+\text{Au}} \approx v_2^{^3\text{He+Au}}$$



$$v_2^{p+Au} < v_2^{d+Au} \approx v_2^{^3\text{He+Au}}$$

$$v_3^{p+Au} \approx v_3^{d+Au} < v_3^{^3\text{He+Au}}$$

**Confirms flow as geometric in origin**

## Hydrodynamics

initial spatial  
correlation



$v_n^{\text{system}}$

## Initial state momentum correlation model

initial momentum  
correlation



$v_n^{\text{system}}$

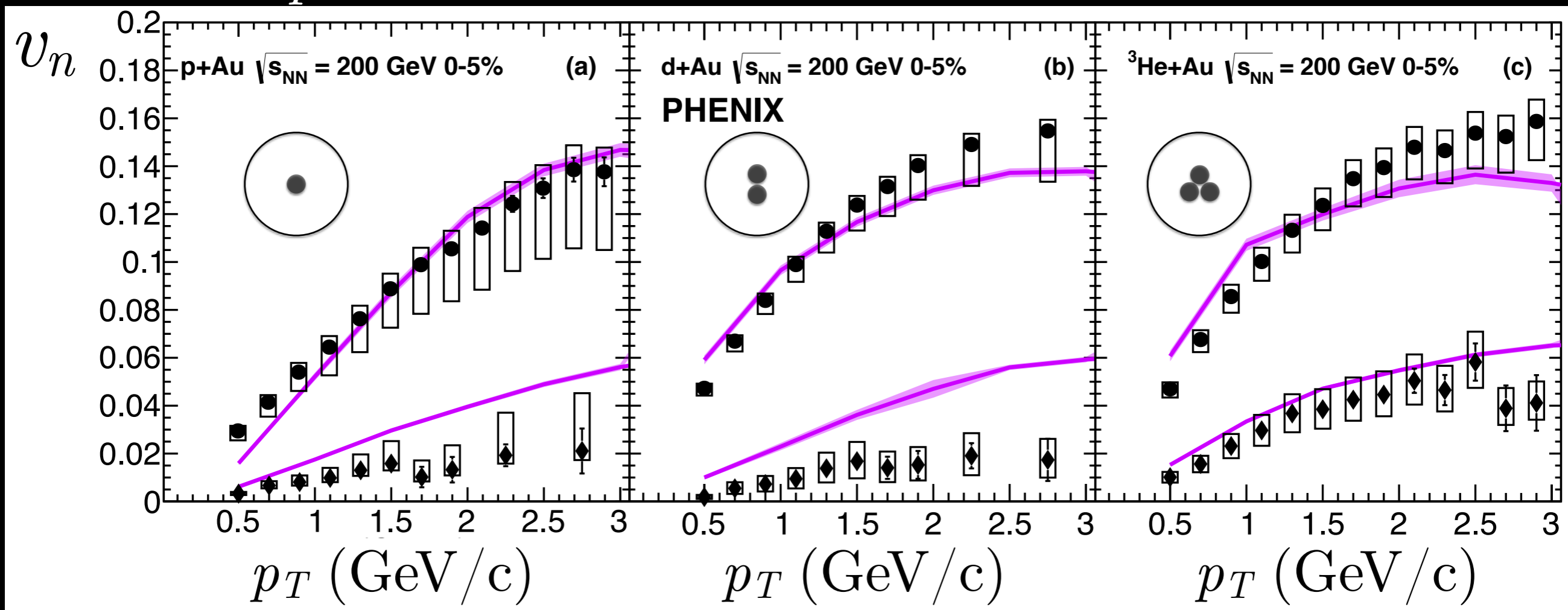


# Alternative? A CGC postdiction

$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3\text{He} + Au$



Reasonable description of  $v_2(p_T)$ , but misses strong geometry dependence in  $v_3(p_T)$

●  $v_2$  Data

◆  $v_3$  Data

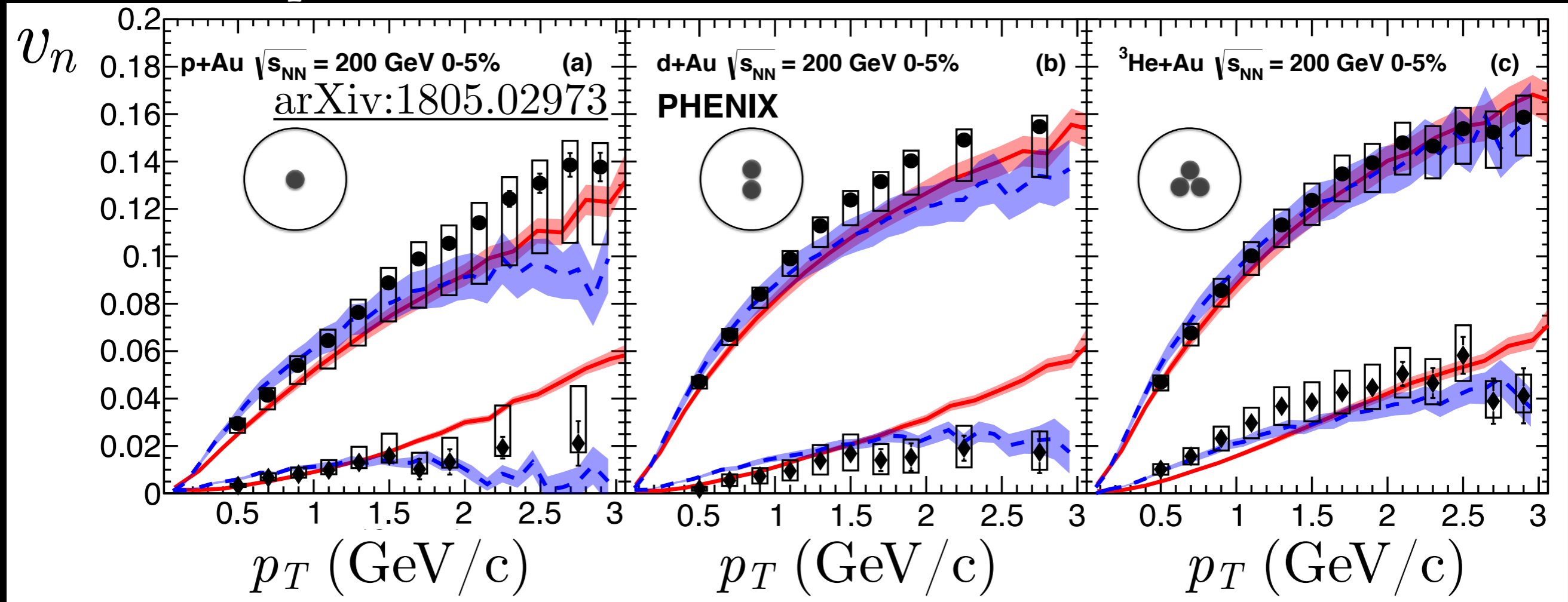
■  $v_n$  CGC postdiction  
[arXiv:1805.09342](https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.09342)

- Systematic uncertainty not quantified
- Assumes  $Q_s$  (deuteron)  $>$   $Q_s$  (proton) and that domains not resolved individually ( $Q_s = \text{saturation scale}$ )

$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



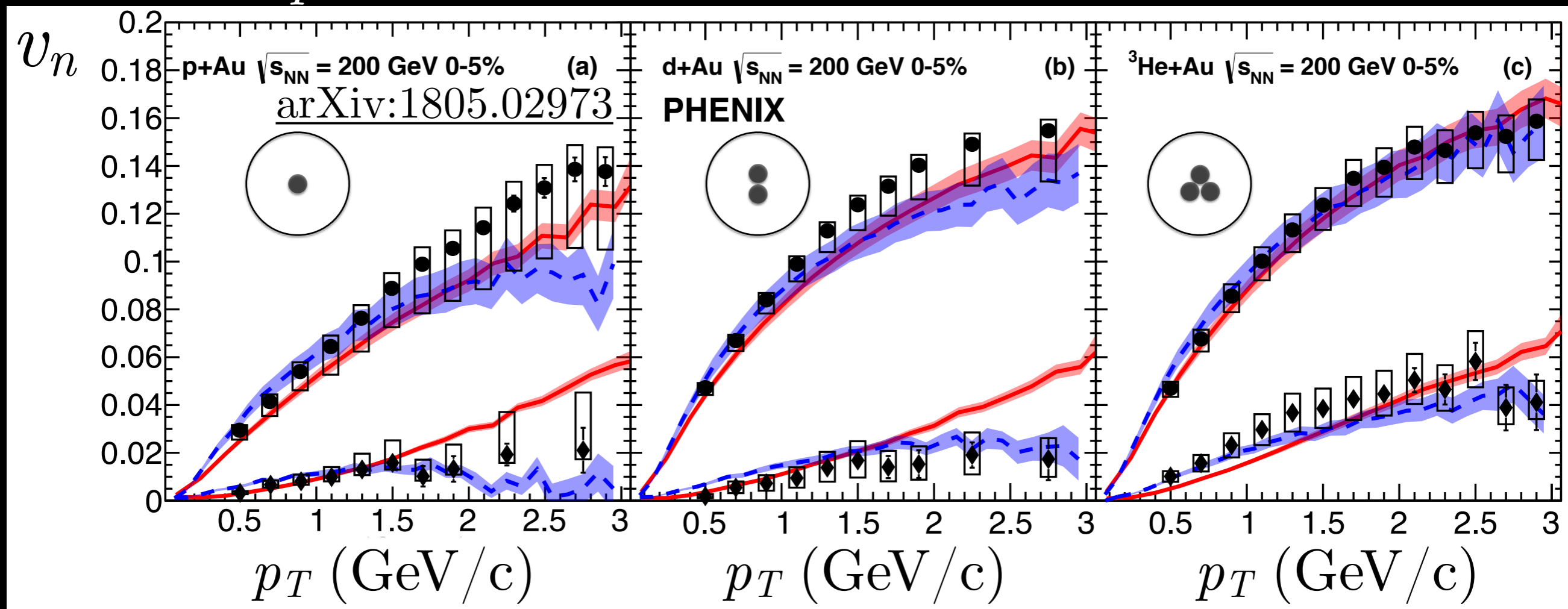
- Both use  $\eta/s=0.08$ , MC Glauber initial conditions, 2+1D viscous hydrodynamic evolution
- Different hadronic rescattering packages

- $v_2$  Data
- ◆  $v_3$  Data
- $v_n$  SONIC [Eur. Phys. J. C 75, 15 \(2015\)](#)
- -  $v_n$  iEBE-VISHNU [PRC 95, 014906 \(2017\)](#)

$p + Au$

$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$



Unprecedented model discrimination: model predictions describe six measurements simultaneously

●  $v_2$  Data

◆  $v_3$  Data

—  $v_n$  SONIC Eur. Phys. J. C 75, 15 (2015)

- -  $v_n$  iEBE-VISHNU PRC 95, 014906 (2017)

**Presence of QGP droplet best describes measurement**

# Conclusion

Final state correlations at all BES energies

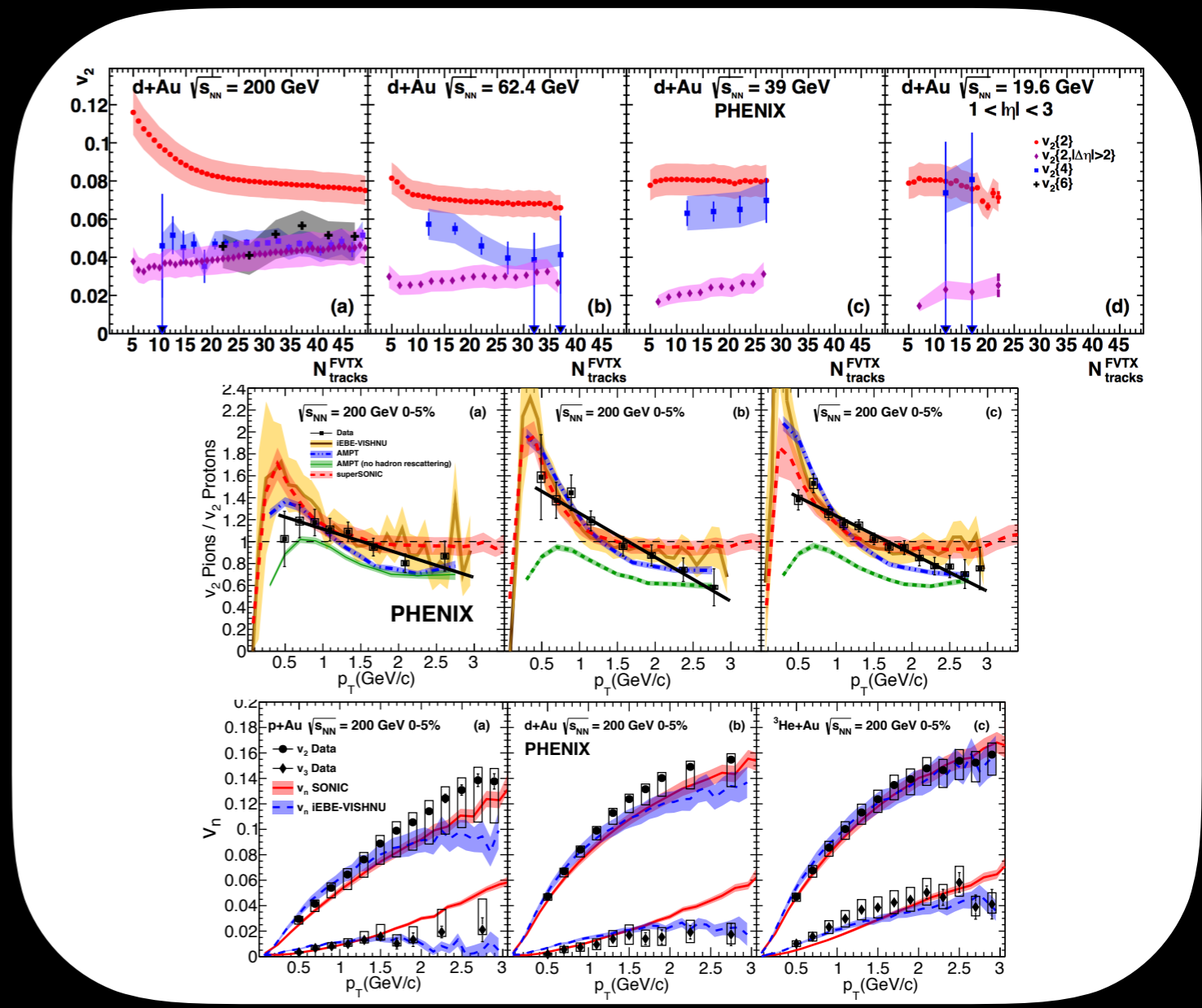
[PRC 96, 064905 \(2017\)](#) and [PRL 120, 062302 \(2018\)](#)

Mass ordering consistent with common velocity field

[arXiv:1710.09736](#)

Flow is geometric

[arXiv:1805.02973](#)



- The collection of measurements is best described by hydro which includes QGP
- **Strong evidence for QGP in small systems**

# Backup

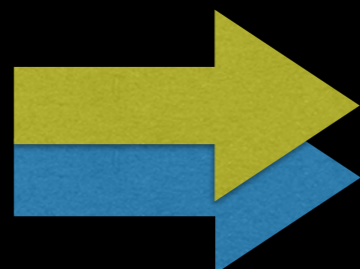
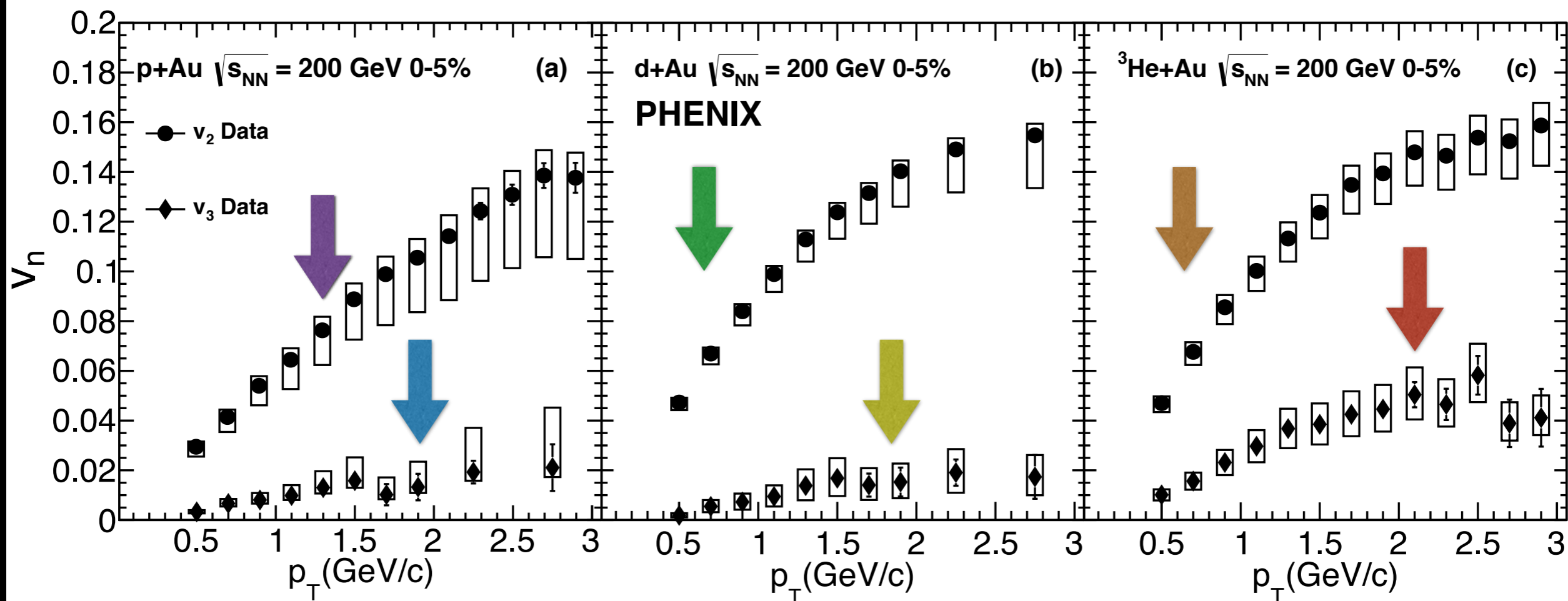
- Creating small circular, elliptical, and triangular droplets of quark-gluon plasma [arXiv:1805.02973](https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.02973), submitted *Nature Physics*
- Measurement of mass-dependent azimuthal anisotropy in central  $p+Au$ ,  $d+Au$ , and  $^3He+Au$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV [arXiv:1710.09736](https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.09736), accepted *PRC*
- Measurements of multiparticle correlations in  $d+Au$  collisions at 200, 62.4, 39, and 19.6 GeV and  $p+Au$  collisions at 200 GeV and implications for collective behavior [PRL 120, 062302 \(2018\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1806.02302)
- Measurements of azimuthal anisotropy and charged-particle multiplicity in  $d+Au$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200, 62.4, 39, \text{ and } 19.6$  GeV [PRC 96, 064905 \(2017\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.06490)
- Measurement of long-range angular correlations and azimuthal anisotropies in high multiplicity  $p+Au$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV [PRC 95, 034910 \(2017\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1703.03491)
- Measurements of elliptic and triangular flow in high-multiplicity  $^3He+Au$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV [PRL 115, 142301 \(2015\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1511.14230)
- Quadrupole anisotropy in dihadron azimuthal correlations in central  $d+Au$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV [PRL 111, 212301 \(2013\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1311.2123)
- Measurement of long-range angular correlation and quadrupole anisotropy of pions and (anti)protons in central  $d+Au$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV [PRL 114, 192301 \(2015\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1505.19230)

# $v_n(p_T)$ measurement in small systems

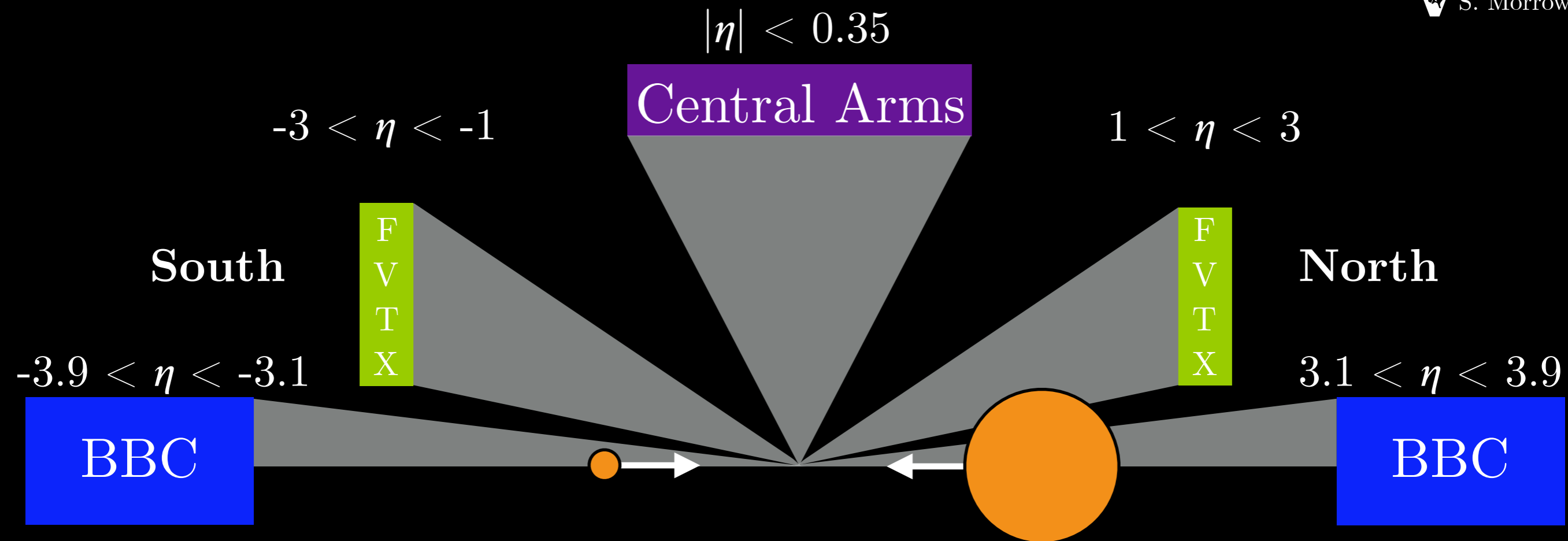
→ PRC 95, 034910 (2017)

→ PRC 96, 064905 (2017)  
new nonflow estimate

→ PRL 115, 142301 (2015)



brand new in arXiv:1805.02973



- Event plane measured in south BBC (beam-beam counter) and/or south FVTX (forward vertex detector)
- Particle tracks measured in the central arms
- Measure in south (Au-going side) because multiplicity is greater

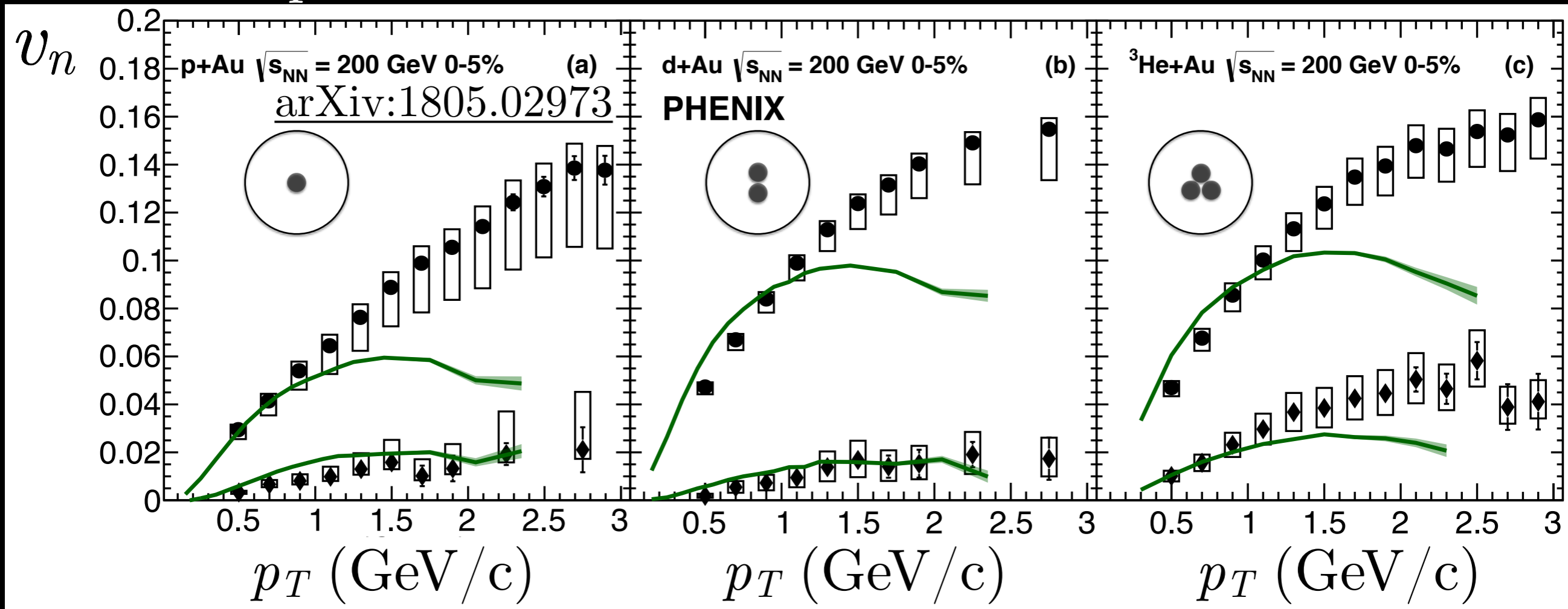


# $v_n(p_T)$ from AMPT and data

$p + Au$

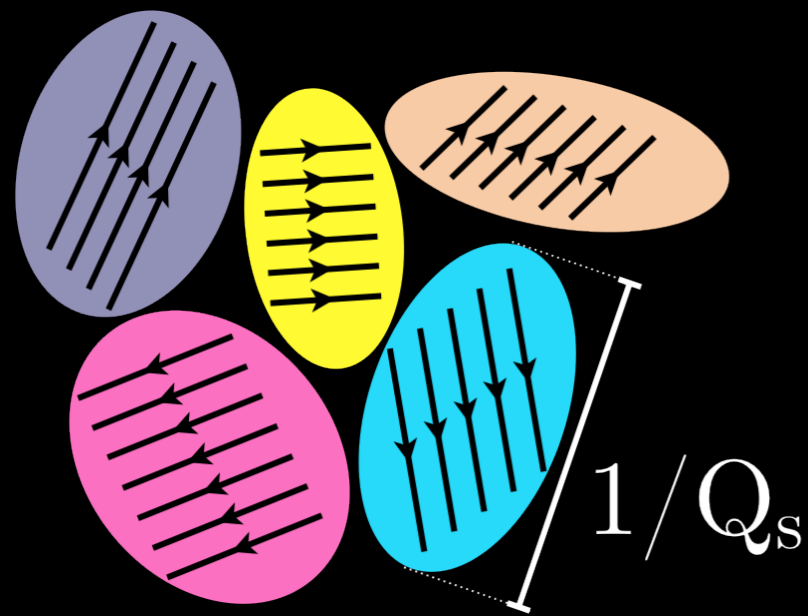
$d + Au$

$^3He + Au$

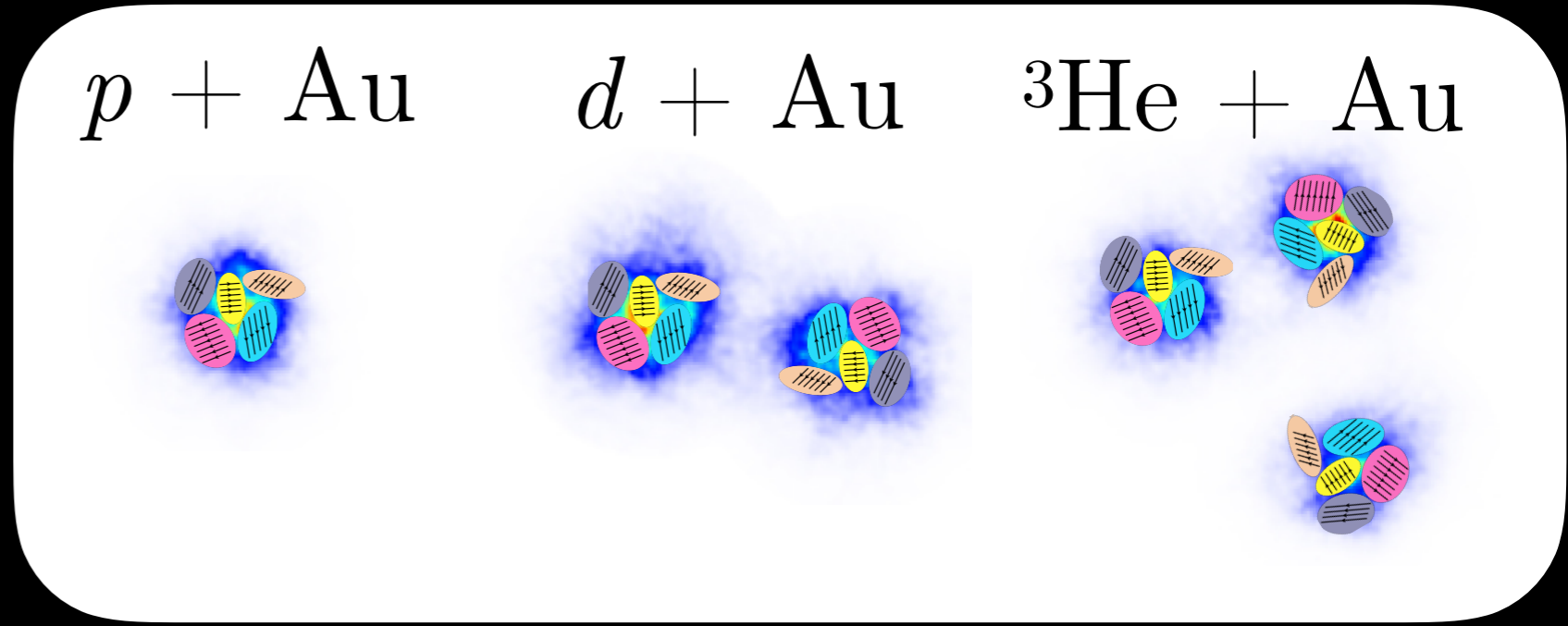


- Parton transport model with the same parameters for all systems (above) doesn't well-describe all measurements simultaneously
- Not clear that AMPT can describe small and large systems with a common set of parameters
- Calculated using parton plane  $\therefore$  doesn't include nonflow

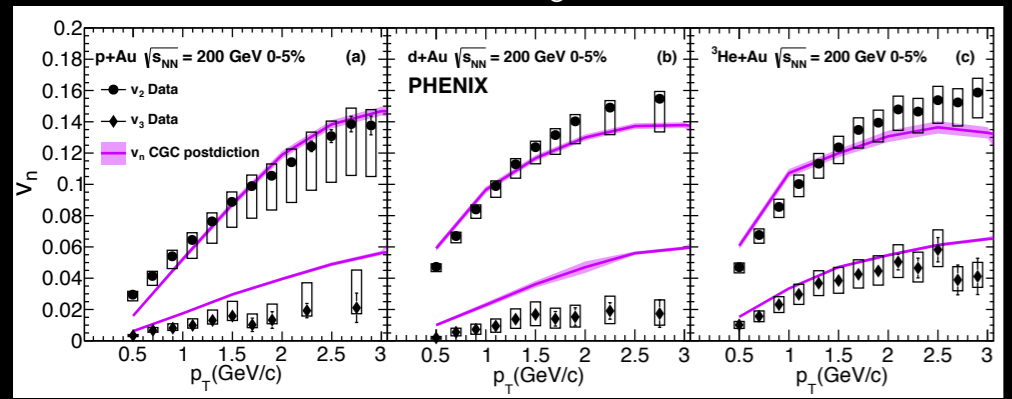
●  $v_2$  Data  
◆  $v_3$  Data  
—  $v_n$  AMPT



- Uncorrelated momentum domains in a nucleon
- $Q_s =$  saturation scale



If each nucleon creates a well-separated (individually resolved) hot spot, uncorrelated nucleon momenta dilute overall initial state momentum correlations which, if translated to final state momentum correlations, suggests:  $v_n^{p+Au} > v_n^{d+Au} > v_n^{3He+Au}$  which is clearly not the case in the data



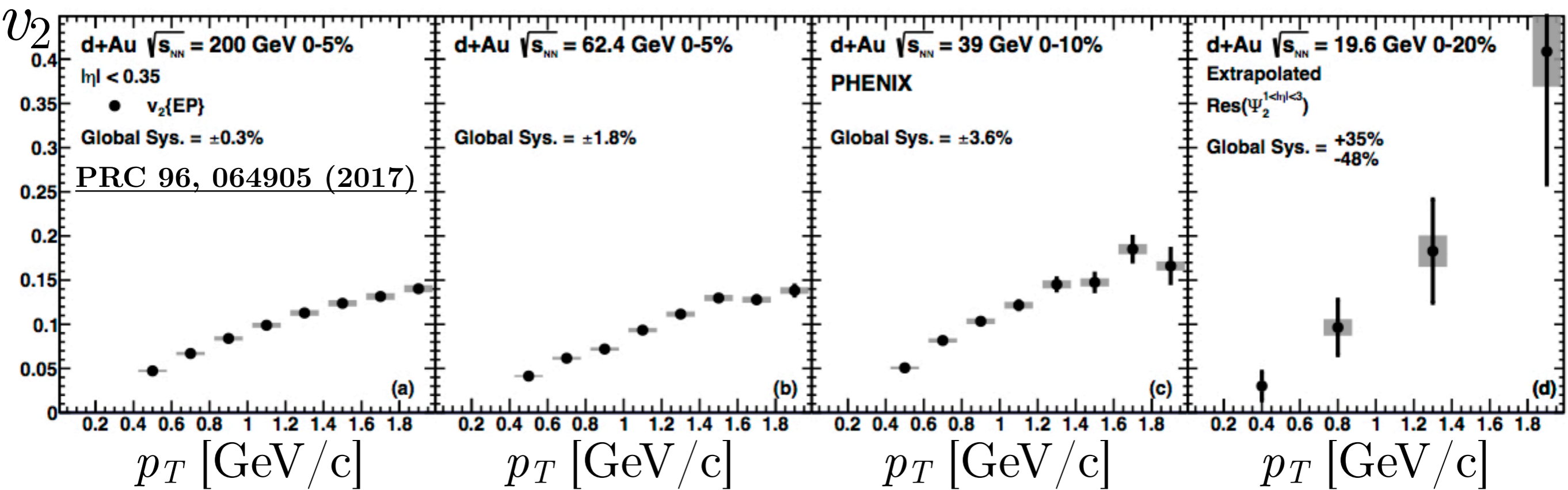
CGC calculation on slide 25 assumes  $Q_s$  (deuteron)  $>$   $Q_s$  (proton) and that domains not resolved individually in this  $p_T$  range

200 GeV

62.4 GeV

39 GeV

19.6 GeV



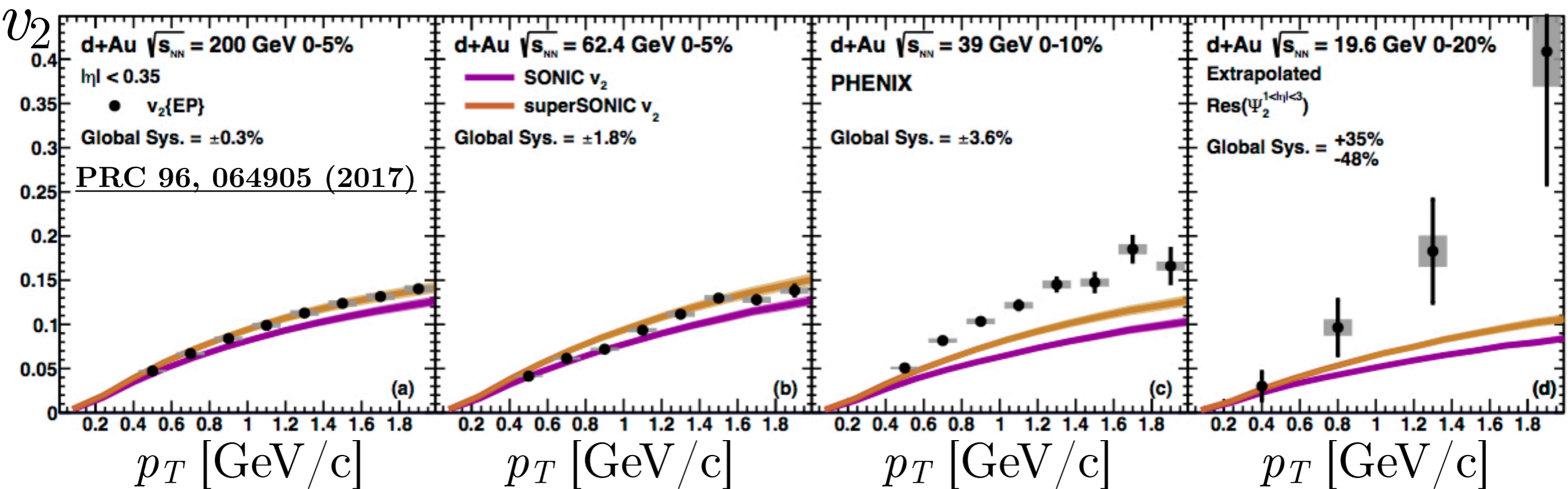
- Measured signal at all energies (similar magnitude)
- Flow & non-flow

200 GeV

62.4 GeV

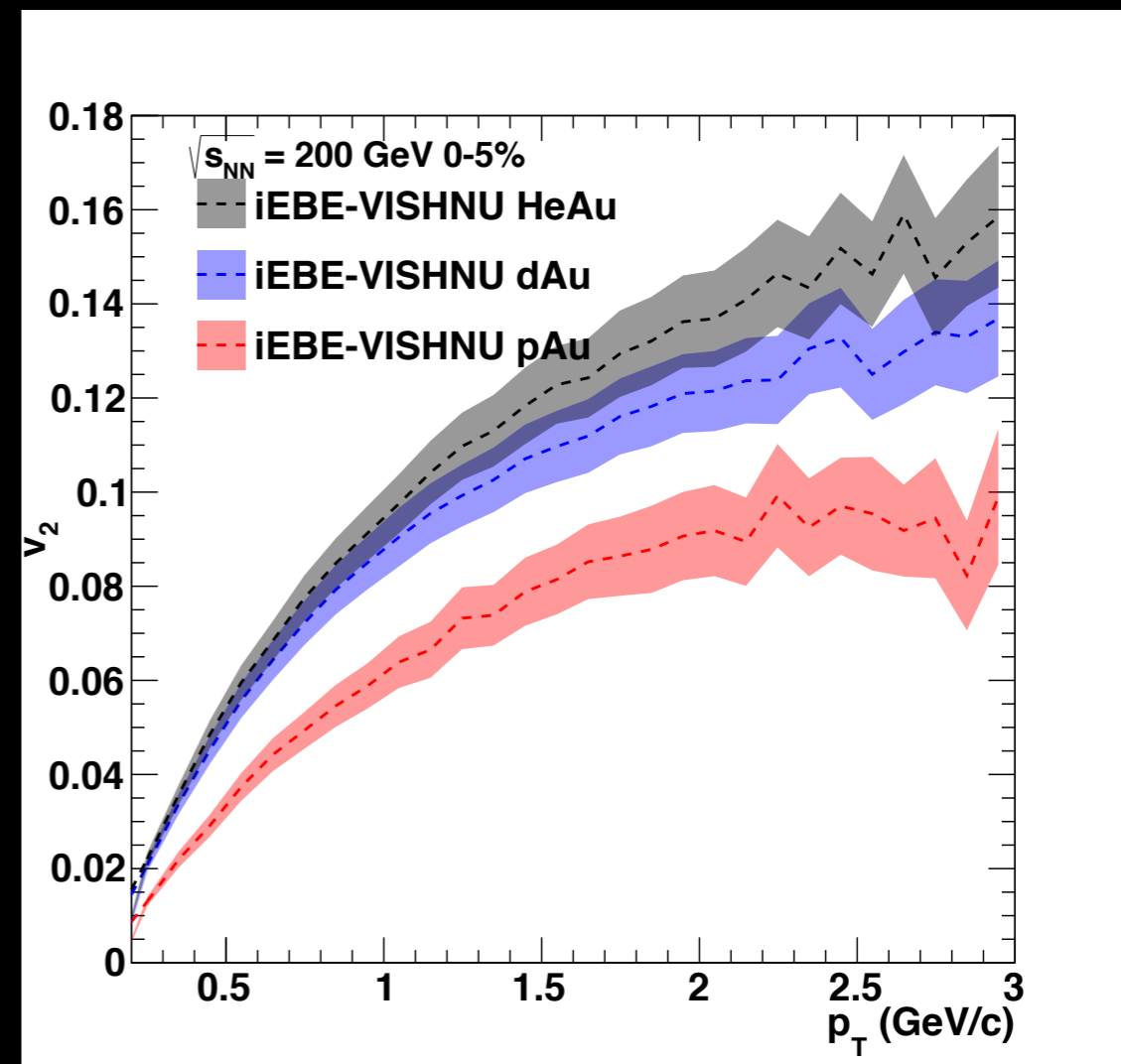
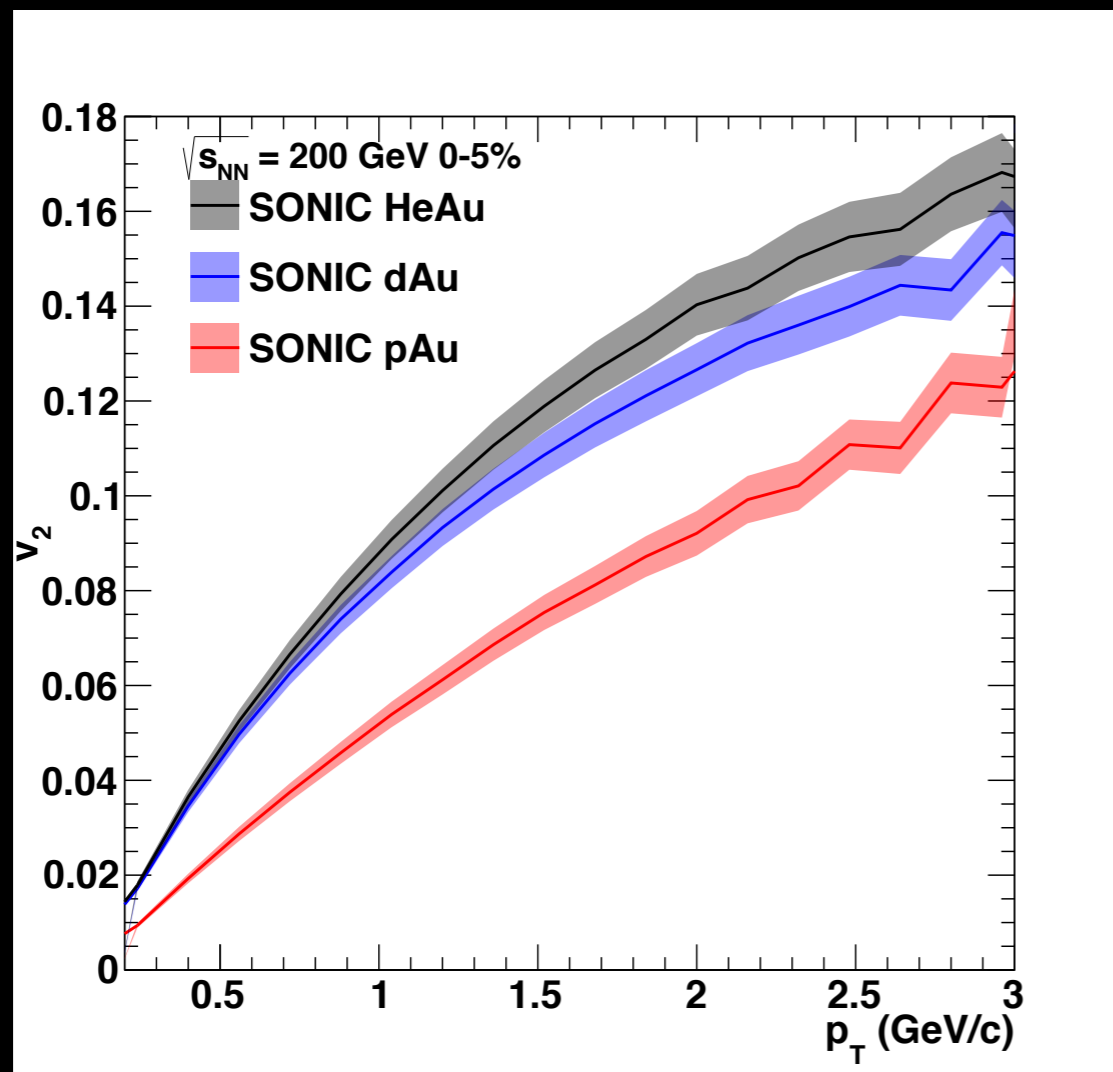
39 GeV

19.6 GeV

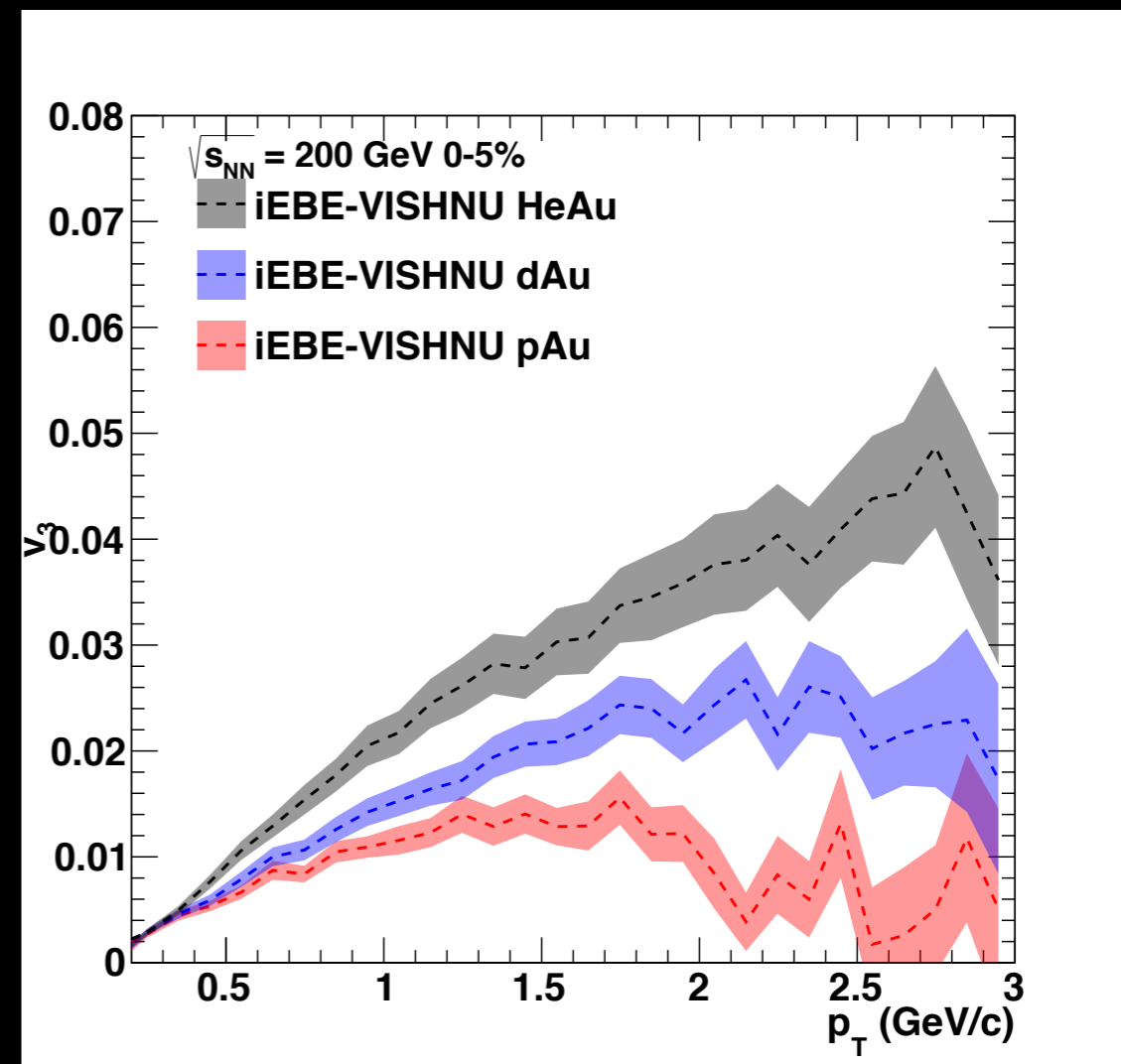
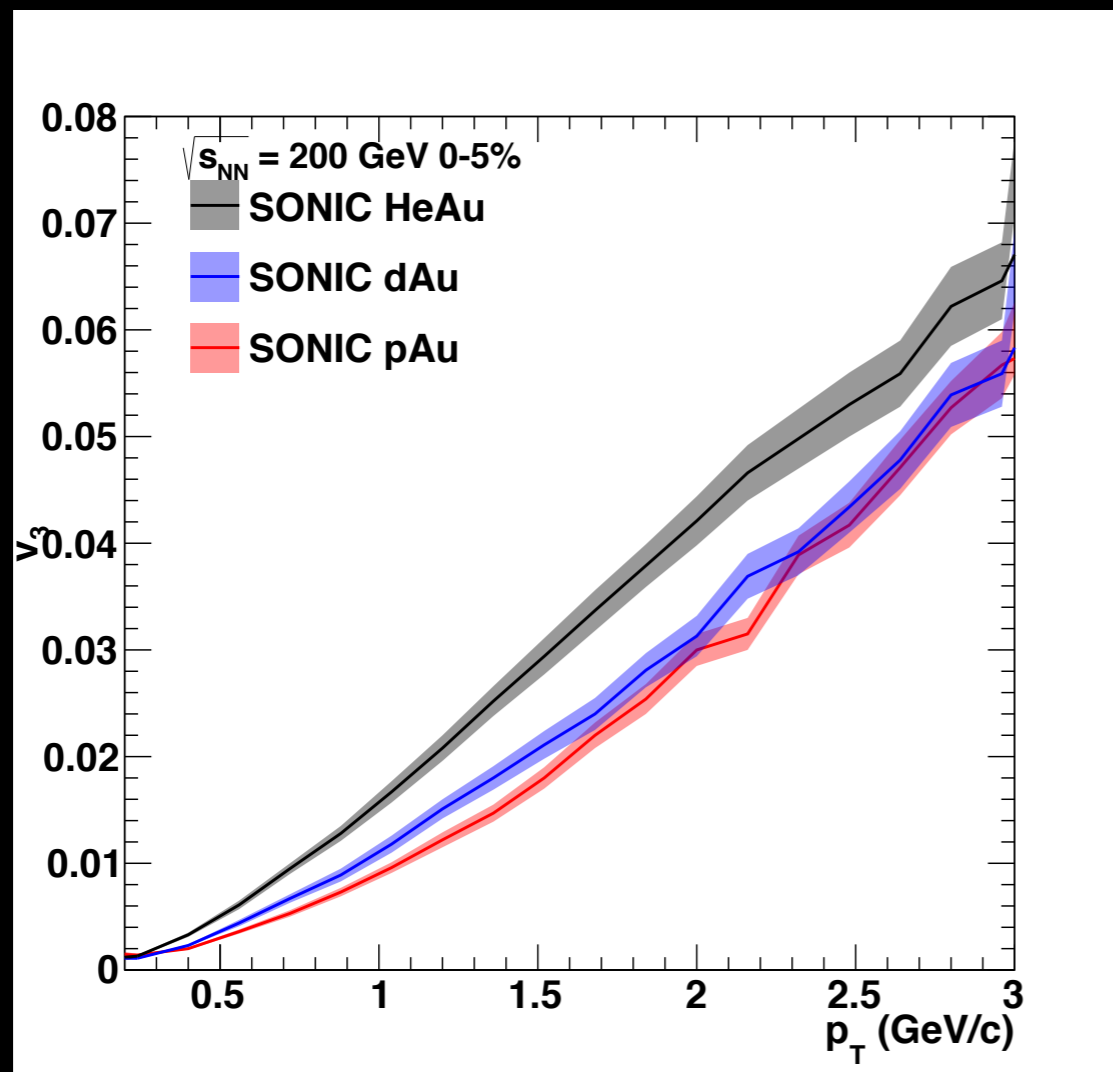


## Macroscopic models (flow)

- Describe measured signal at high energies
- Underestimate measure signal at low energies



- Both hydrodynamic models predict flow ordering that matches eccentricity ordering:  $v_2^{p+\text{Au}} < v_2^{d+\text{Au}} \approx v_2^{{}^3\text{He}+\text{Au}}$



- SONIC flow ordering matches eccentricity ordering:

$$v_3^{p+\text{Au}} \approx v_3^{d+\text{Au}} < v_3^{{}^3\text{He}+\text{Au}}$$

- iEBE-VISHNU does not predict:  $v_3^{p+\text{Au}} \approx v_3^{d+\text{Au}}$

To answer the question of how small a system can be while still exhibiting collective behavior, the PHENIX experiment has used RHIC's extraordinary versatility to design a set of experiments controlling the initial geometry of the collisions by selecting different colliding species,  $p/d/{}^3\text{He}+\text{Au}$ . In addition, a beam energy scan with  $d+\text{Au}$  collisions was done to vary the lifetime of the system while keeping the initial geometry constant.

In this talk we show PHENIX measurements of elliptic and triangular flow of charged hadrons and elliptic flow of identified hadrons at midrapidity as a function of transverse momentum in  $p/d/{}^3\text{He}+\text{Au}$  collisions at 200 GeV per nucleon center-of-mass energy. Measurements of elliptic flow of charged hadrons in  $d+\text{Au}$  collisions at 200, 62.4, 39, and 19.6 GeV per nucleon center-of-mass energy will also be presented as a function of transverse momentum and pseudorapidity.

In order to assess the origin of collectivity in the smallest systems, these results are compared with several theoretical models that produce azimuthal particle correlations based on initial and/or final state effects. Hydrodynamical models which include a droplet of quark gluon plasma provide the best simultaneous description of our observations.