Cluster formation near mid rapidity — can the mechanism be identified experimentally?

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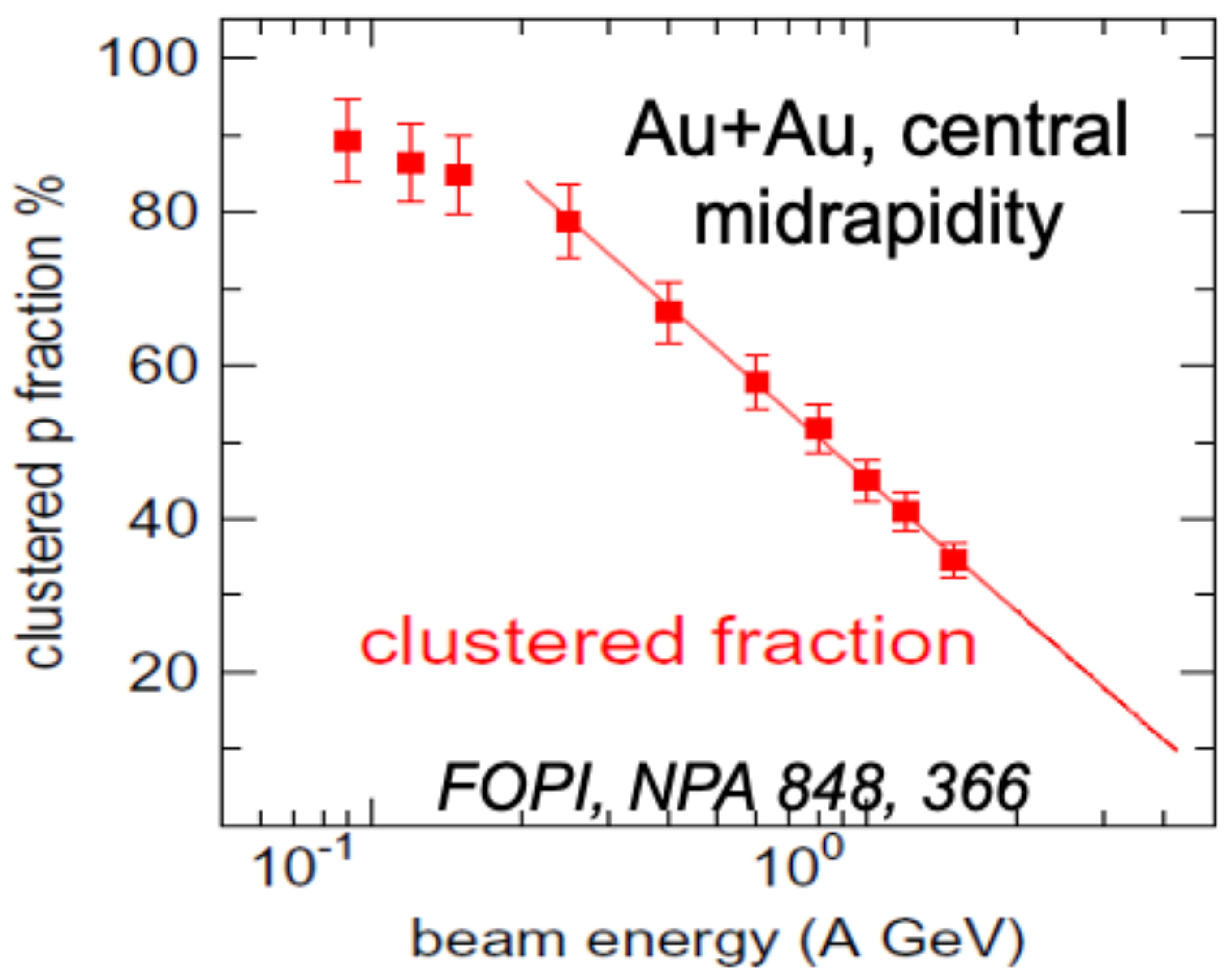
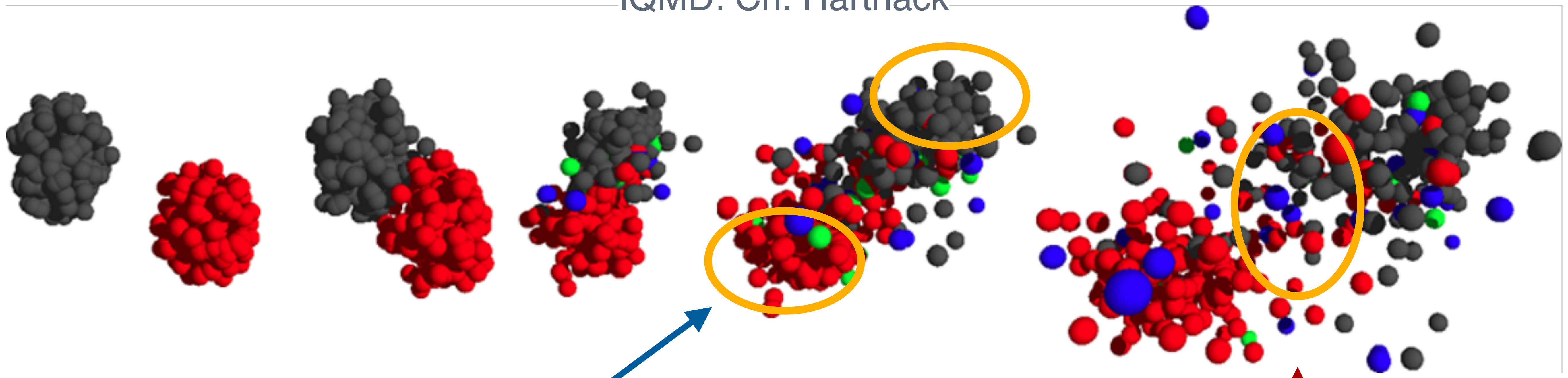
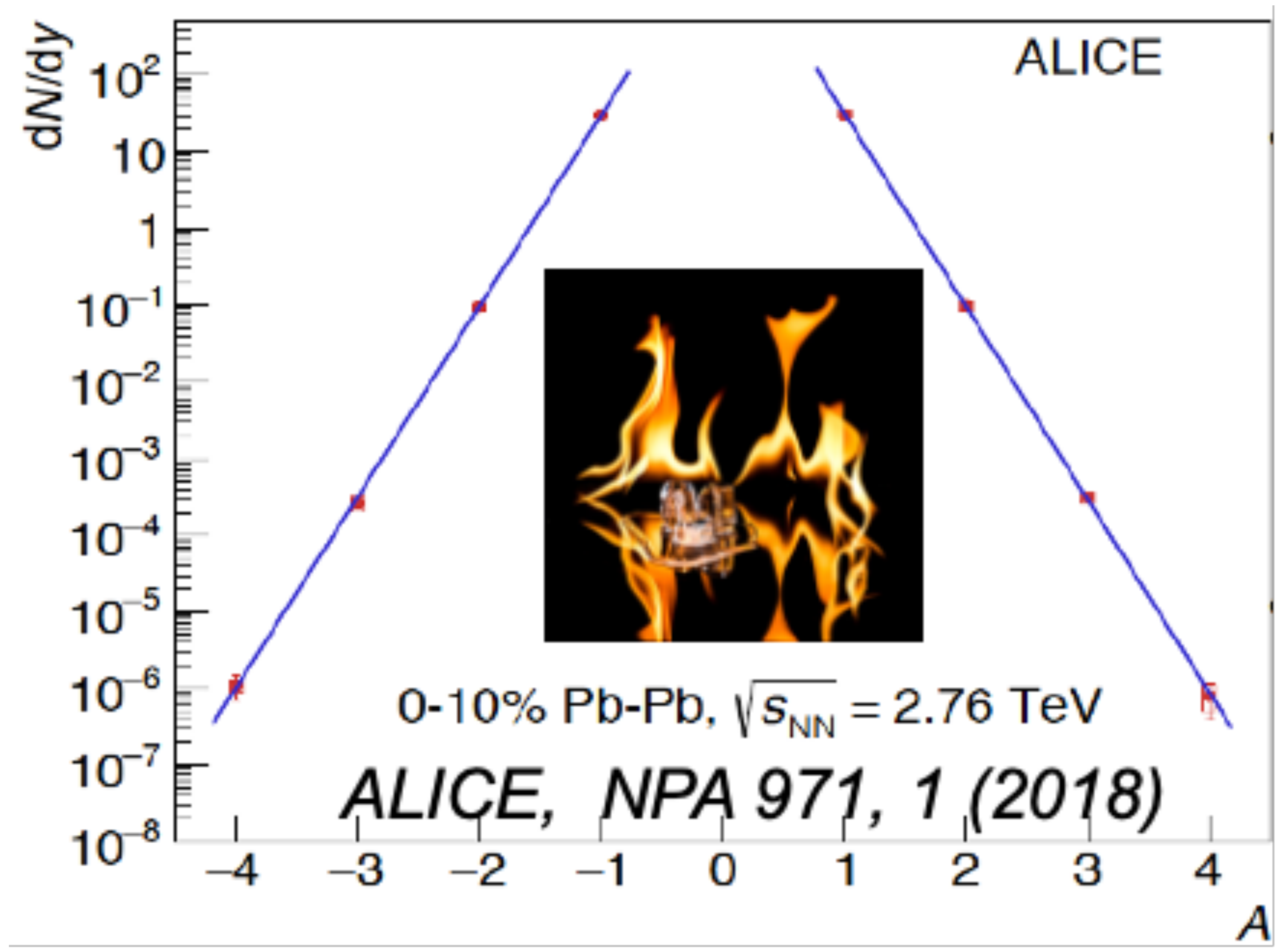
Cluster formation in heavy-ion collisions




IQMD: Ch. Hartnack

Projectile/target spectators: heavy cluster formation

Midrapidity: light clusters



(Anti)hypernuclei production:

at mid-rapidity by Λ coalescence during expansion

at projectile/target rapidity by re-scattering/absorption of Λ by spectators

«Ice in a fire» puzzle: how the weakly bound objects can be formed and survive in a hot environment?

Modelling of cluster formation in HIC

Statistical models

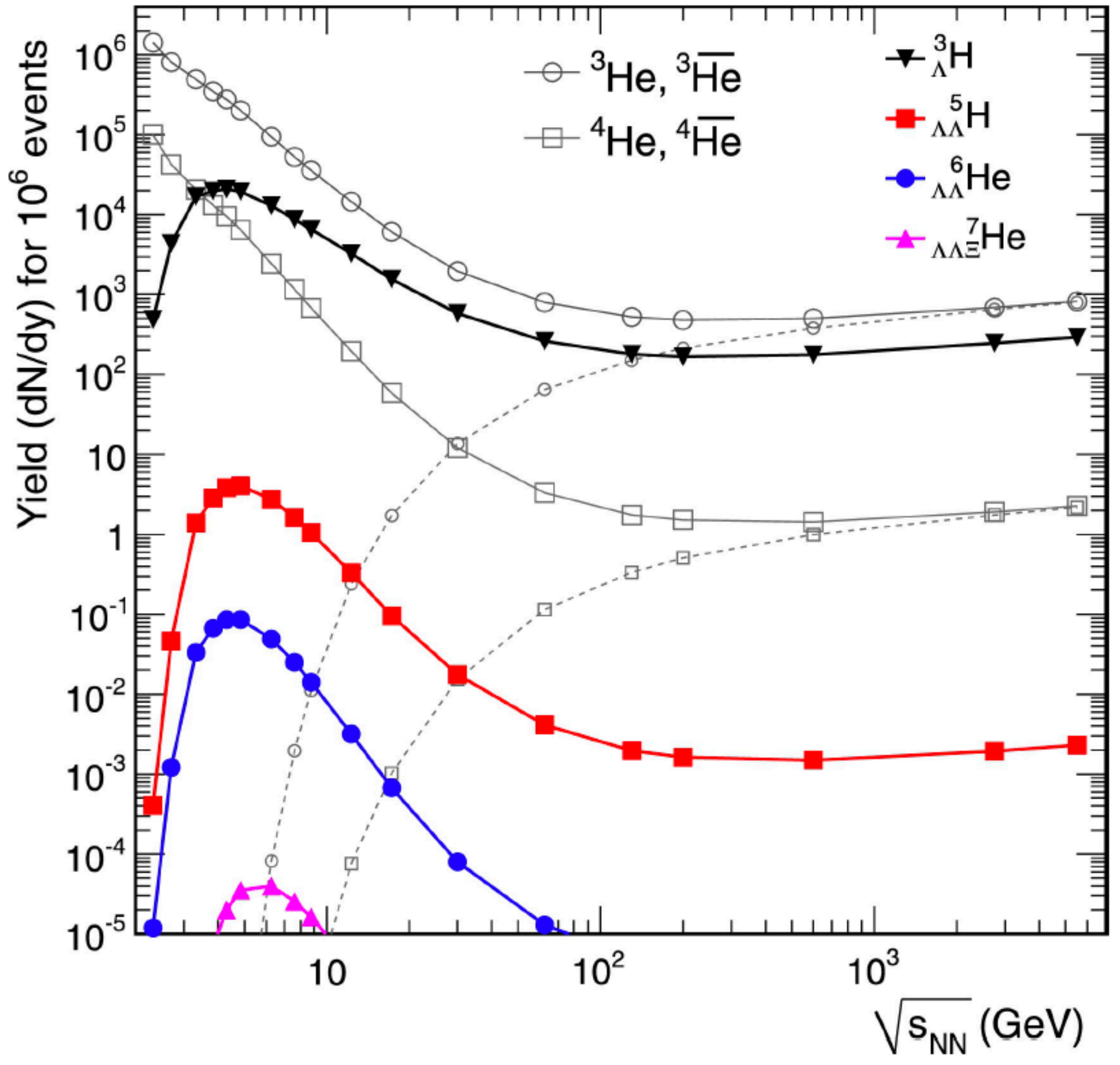
- Production of nuclei depending on T and μ_B at chemical freeze-out & particle mass

Coalescence models

- Formation of nuclei by nucleons & hyperons that are close in coordinate and momentum spaces at freeze-out time

=> no dynamical cluster formation during time evolution

=> no information on the dynamics of clusters formation & microscopic origin



A. Andronic et al., Phys. Lett. B697 (2011) 203-207.

In order to understand the microscopic **origin of cluster formation** one needs a realistic model for the **dynamical time evolution** of the HIC

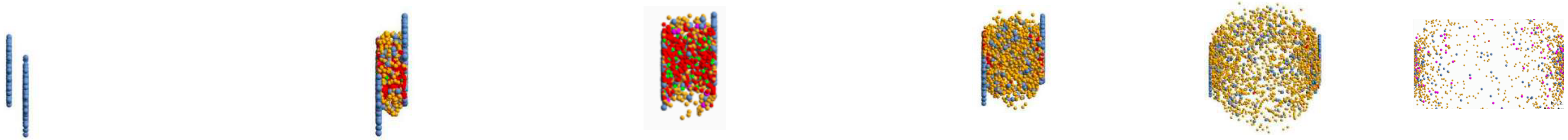
Transport models — dynamical modelling of cluster formation based on interactions:
via potential interaction – **‘potential‘ mechanism**
by scattering – **‘kinetic‘ mechanism**

Parton-Hadron-Quantum-Molecular Dynamics

= n-body microscopic transport approach for the description of heavy-ion dynamics with dynamical cluster formation from low to ultra-relativistic energies

Relativistic considerations + Correlations between nucleons + Cluster recognition

Initial A+A collisions — Formation of QGP — Partonic phase — Hadronization — Hadronic phase



QMD Initialization nuclei — propagation of baryons

local $\varepsilon > \varepsilon_c$ dissolution of pre-hadrons

propagation of partons

PHSD Primary collisions pre-hadronic states

interactions of partons
interactions of hadrons
collision integral

propagation of mesons

Cluster recognition — MST or SACA

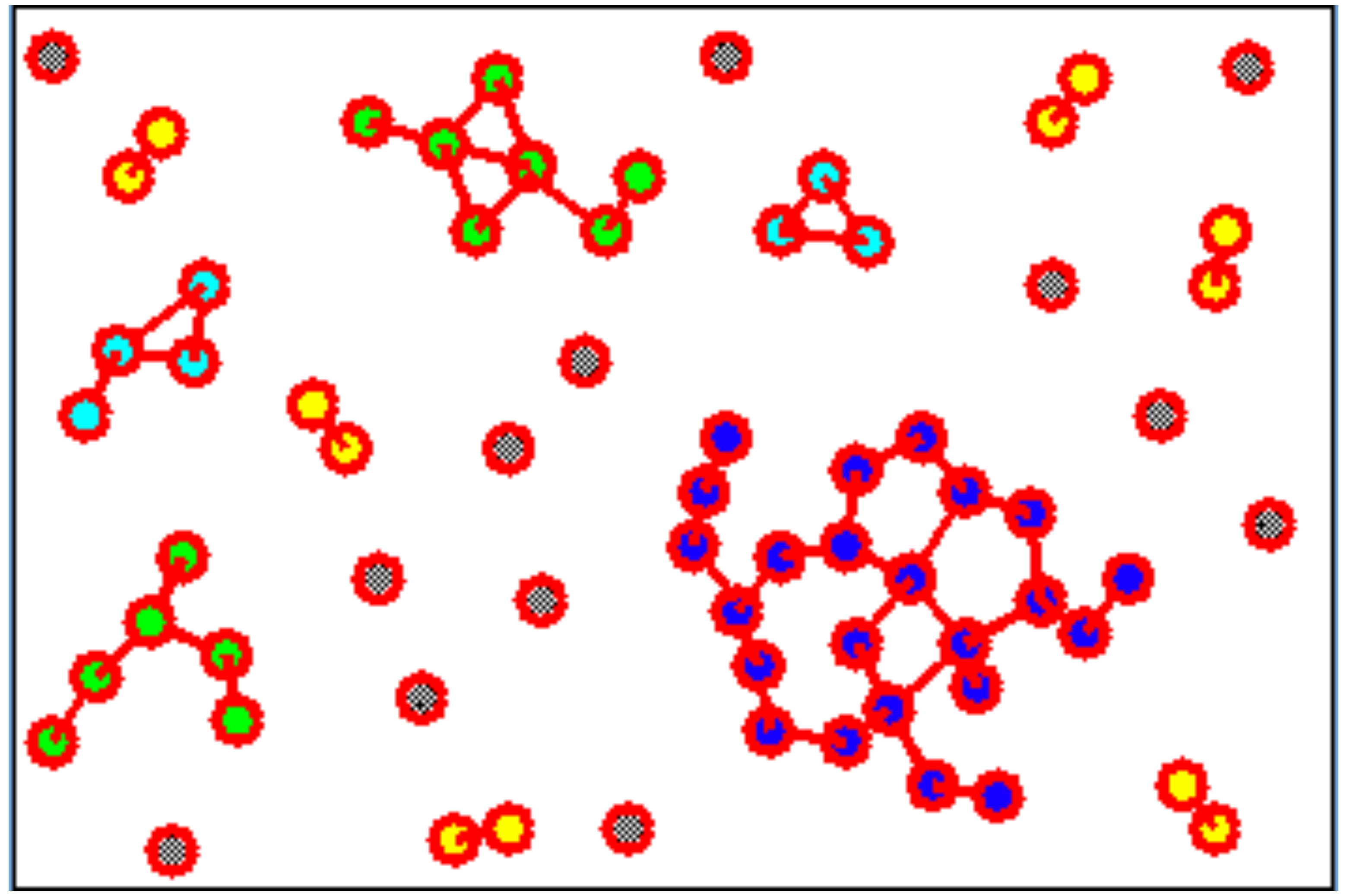
J. Aichelinet al., PRC 101 (2020) 044905

PHSD: W. Cassing, E. Bratkovskaya, PRC 78 (2008) 034919; NPA831 (2009) 215; W. Cassing, EPJ ST 168(2009)

Minimum Spanning Tree (MST)

Cluster criterion: distance of nuclei

Algorithm: search for accumulations of particles in coordinate space



1. Two particles i & j are bound if:

   $|r_i - r_j| < 4.0$ fm

2. Particle is bound to cluster if bound with at least one particle of cluster

Remark: additional momentum cuts lead to a small changes: particles with large relative momentum are mostly not at the same position (**V. Kireyeu, Phys.Rev.C 103 (2021) 5, 054905**).

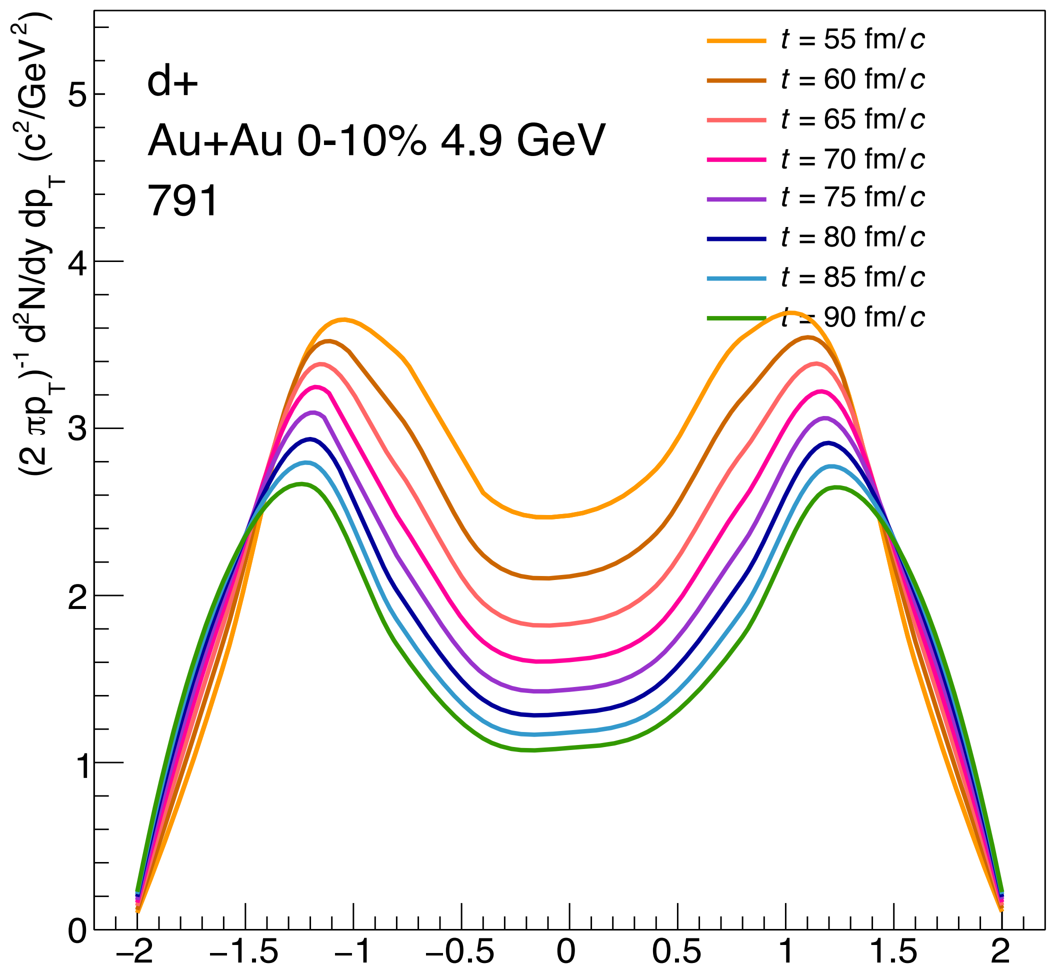
Cluster stability over time

QMD can not describe clusters as ‘quantum objects’

the cluster **quantum ground state** has to respect a minimal average kinetic energy of the nucleons while **the semi-classical** (QMD) ground state - not!

nucleons may still be emitted from the QMD clusters while in the corresponding quantum system this is not possible

thus, a cluster which is “bound” at time t can **spontaneously** dissolve at t + Δt



= **QMD clusters are not fully stable over time**:

the multiplicity of clusters is time dependent

the form of the final rapidity, pT distribution and ratio of particles do not change with time

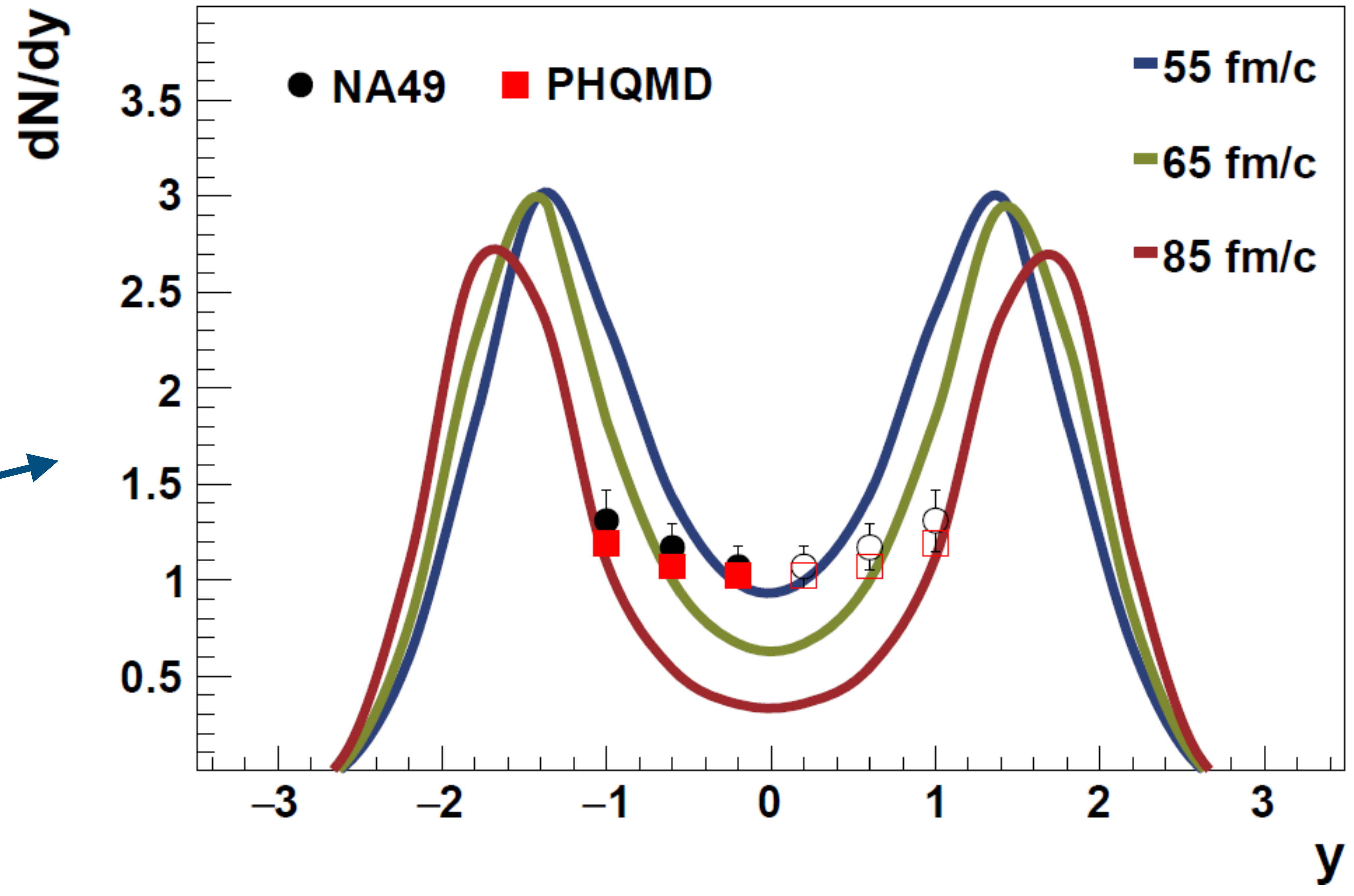
How to stabilize QMD clusters?

Scenario 1: **S. Gläßel et al., PRC 105 (2022) 1, 014908**

PHQMD results are taken at **‘physical time’** :

$$t = t_0 cosh(y)$$

where t_0 is the time selected as a best description of the cluster multiplicity at y=0

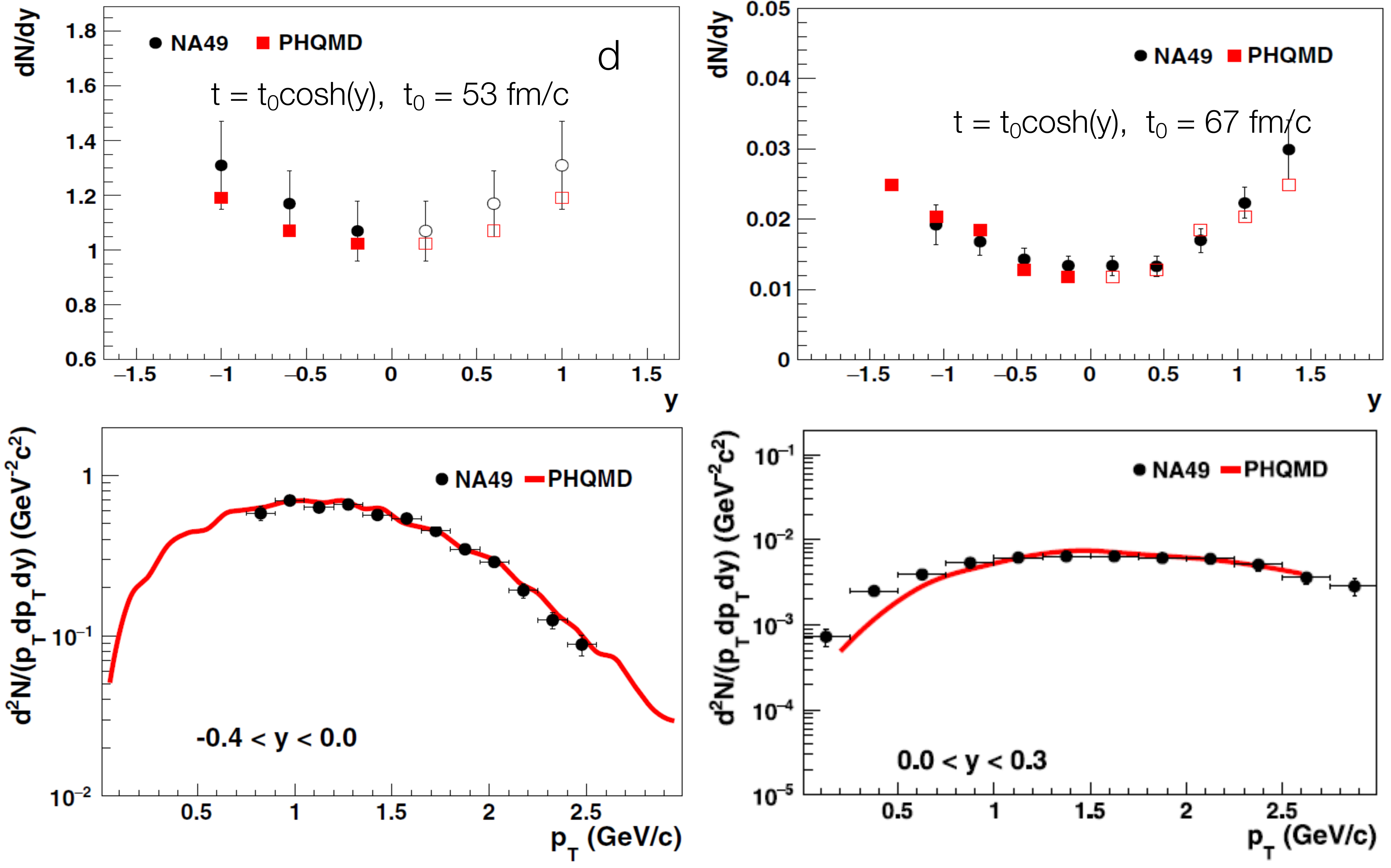


Cluster stability over time

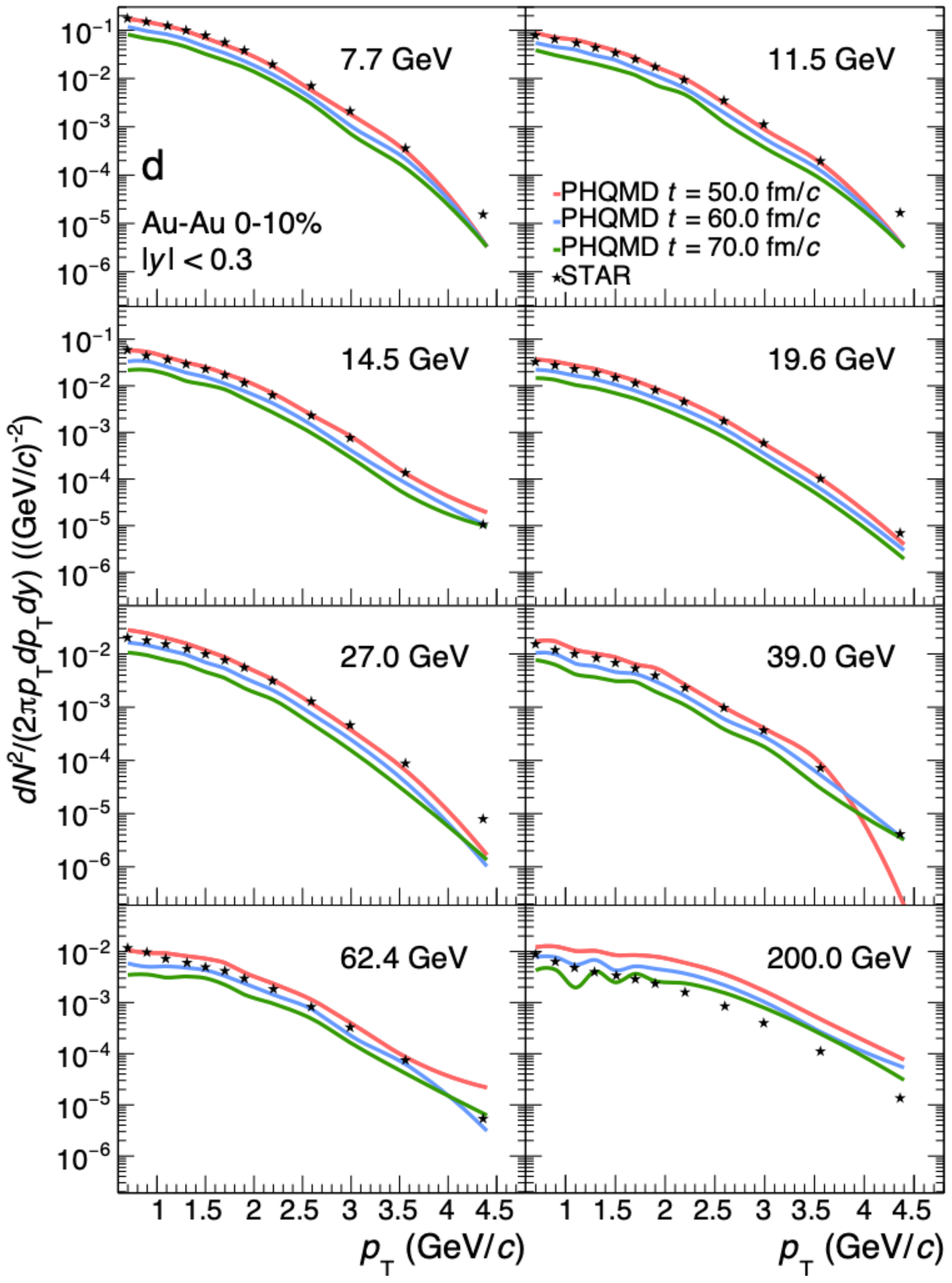
NA49 $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 8.8 GeV

deuterons

^{3}He



STAR $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$= 7.7 GeV – 200 GeV



=> The PHQMD results for d and ^{3}He agree with NA49 and STAR data.

S. Gläßel et al., PRC 105 (2022) 1, 014908

T. Anticic et al. (NA49), Phys. Rev. C 94, 044906 (2016) J. Adam et al. (STAR), Phys. Rev. C 99, 064905 (2019)

Cluster stability over time

Scenario 2:
G. Coci et al., PRC 108 (2023) 1, 014902

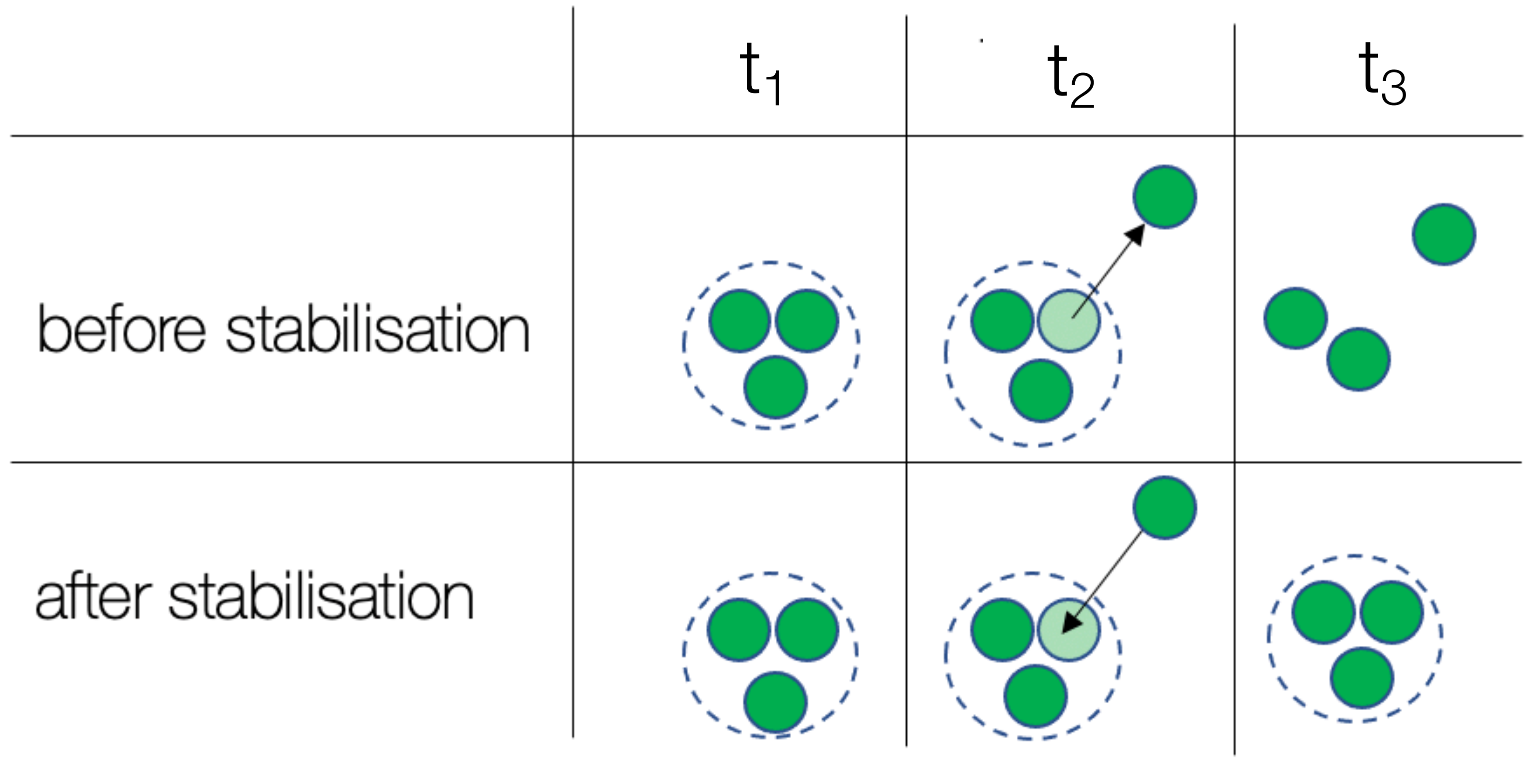
Stabilisation Procedure:

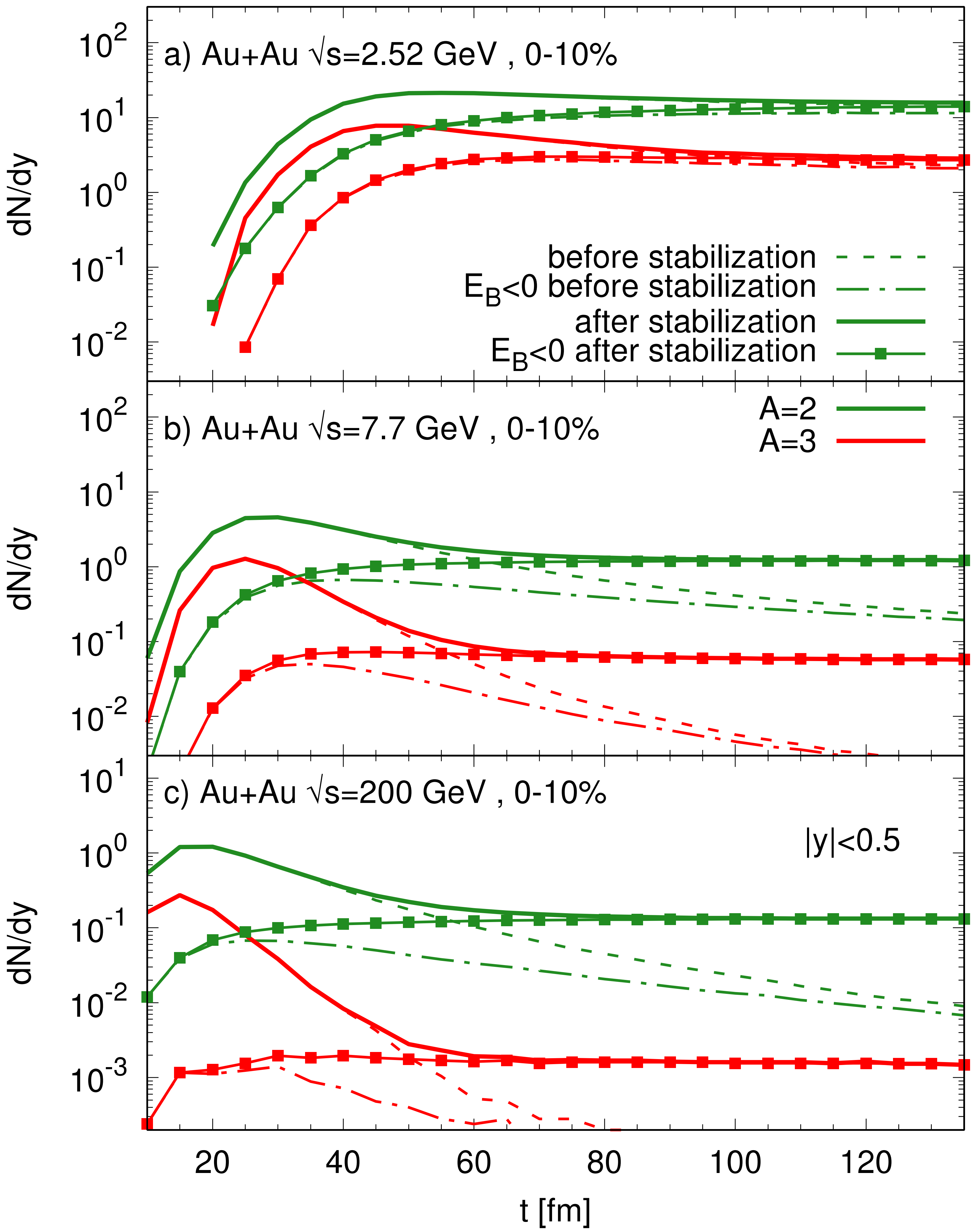
- consider asymptotic state: clusters and free nucleons

- For each nucleon in MST track the **freezout-time** = time at which the last collision occurred

- Recombine nucleons into clusters with **$E_B < 0$** if time of cluster disintegration is larger than nucleon freeze-out time

Allows to recover most of “lost” clusters





Kinetic mechanism for deuteron formation

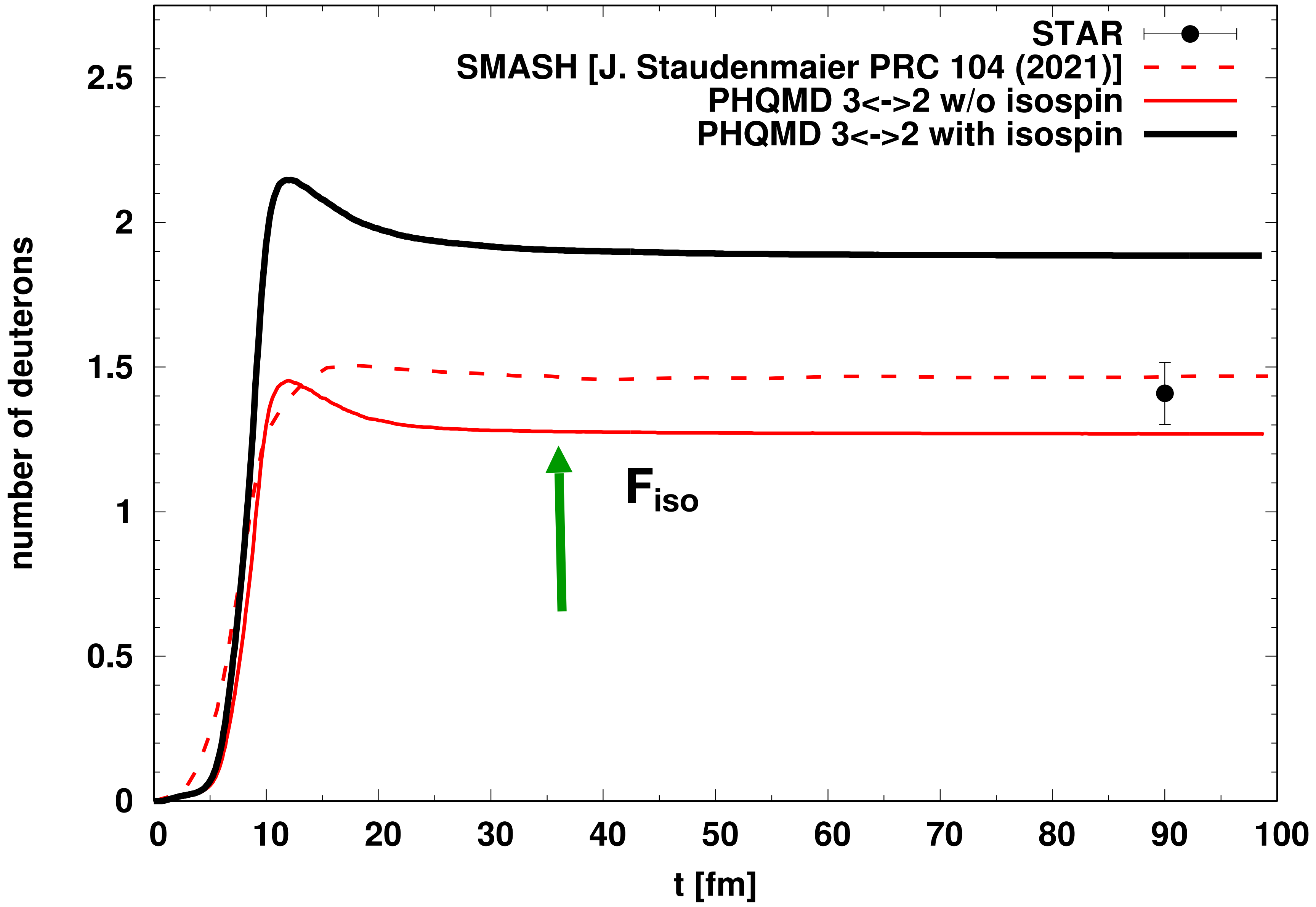
G. Coci et al., PRC 108 (2023) 1, 014902

N+N+π inclusion of all possible channels allowed by total isospin T conservation:

$$\pi^{\pm,0} + p + n \leftrightarrow \pi^{\pm,0} + d$$
$$\pi^- + p + p \leftrightarrow \pi^0 + d$$
$$\pi^+ + n + n \leftrightarrow \pi^0 + d$$
$$\pi^0 + p + p \leftrightarrow \pi^+ + d$$
$$\pi^0 + n + n \leftrightarrow \pi^- + d$$

RHIC BES energy √s = 7.7 GeV:

- **Hierarchy due to large π abundance**
  π+N+N -> π+d >> N+p+n -> N+d
- **Inclusion of all isospin channels enhances deuteron yield ~ 50%.**
- **p_T slope is not affected**



GSI SIS energy √s < 3GeV :

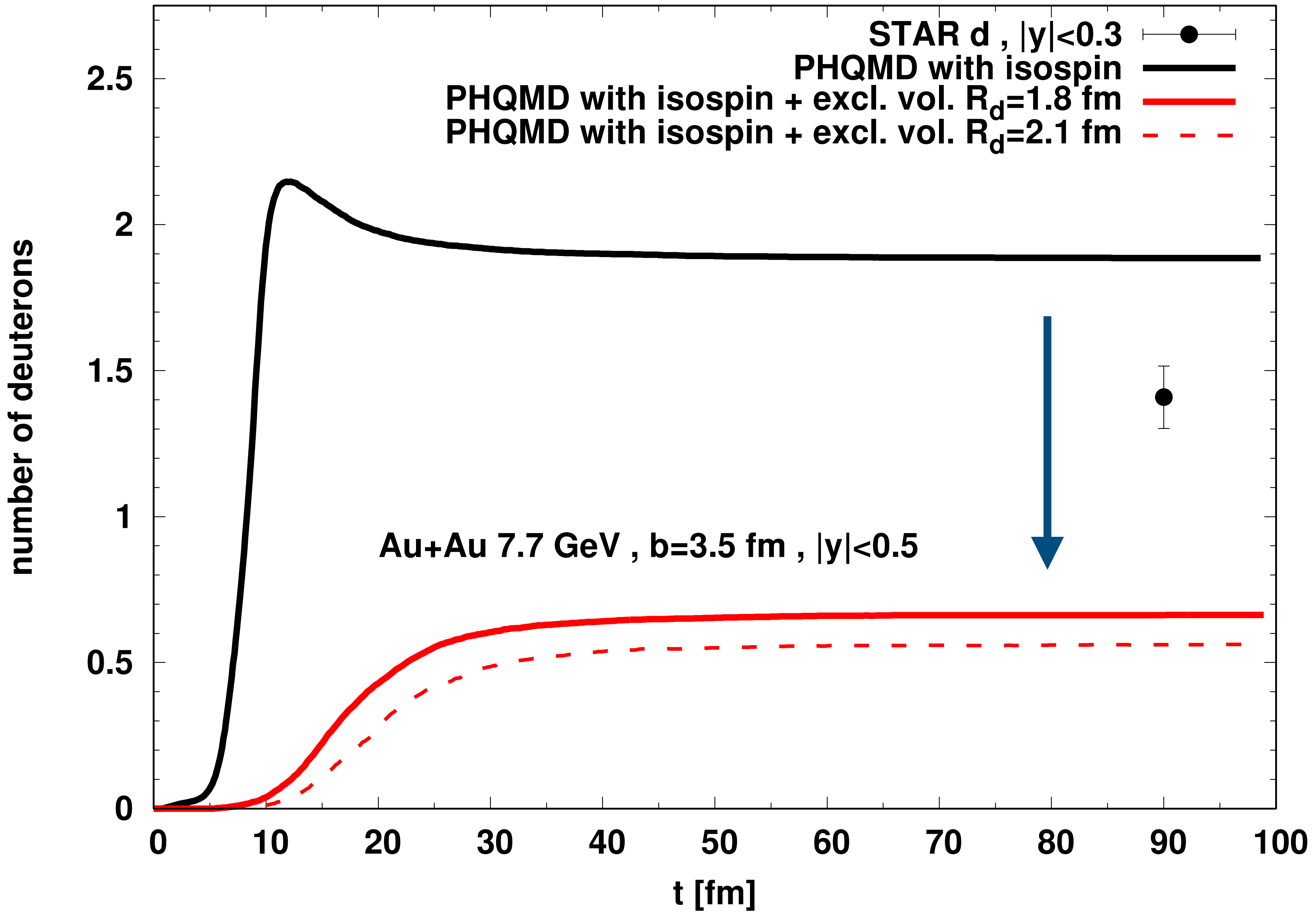
- **Baryon dominated matter**
- **Enhancement due to inclusion of isospin π+N+N channels is negligible**

Kinetic mechanism for deuteron formation

G. Coci et al., PRC 108 (2023) 1, 014902

1) the finite-size of *d* in the **coordinate space** (*d* is not a point-like particle) – for in-medium *d* production: assume that a deuteron can not be formed in a high density region, i.e. if there are other particles (hadrons or partons) inside the 'excluded volume'.

Excluded volume condition: $\vec{r}(i)^* - \vec{r}(d)^* \quad < R_d$

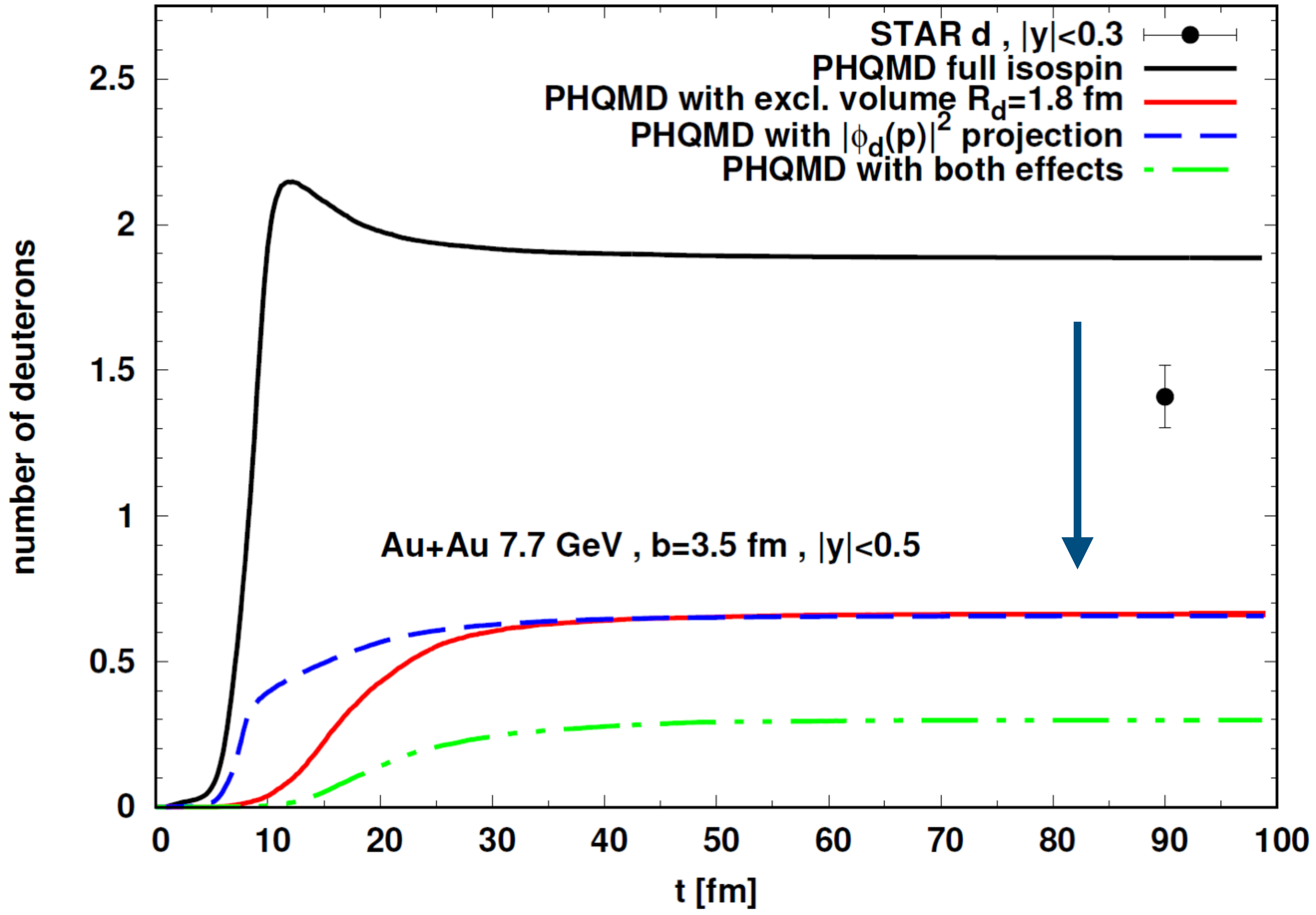


Strong reduction of *d* production

p_T slope is not affected by excluded volume condition

2) the **momentum correlations** of *p* and *n* inside *d*: QM properties of deuteron must be also in momentum space -> **momentum correlations of pn-pair**

- For a "candidate" deuteron calculate the relative momentum p of the interacting pn-pair in the deuteron rest frame
- The probability of the pn-pair to bind into a final deuteron with momentum p is given by the projection on DWF



Strong reduction of *d* production by projection on DWF

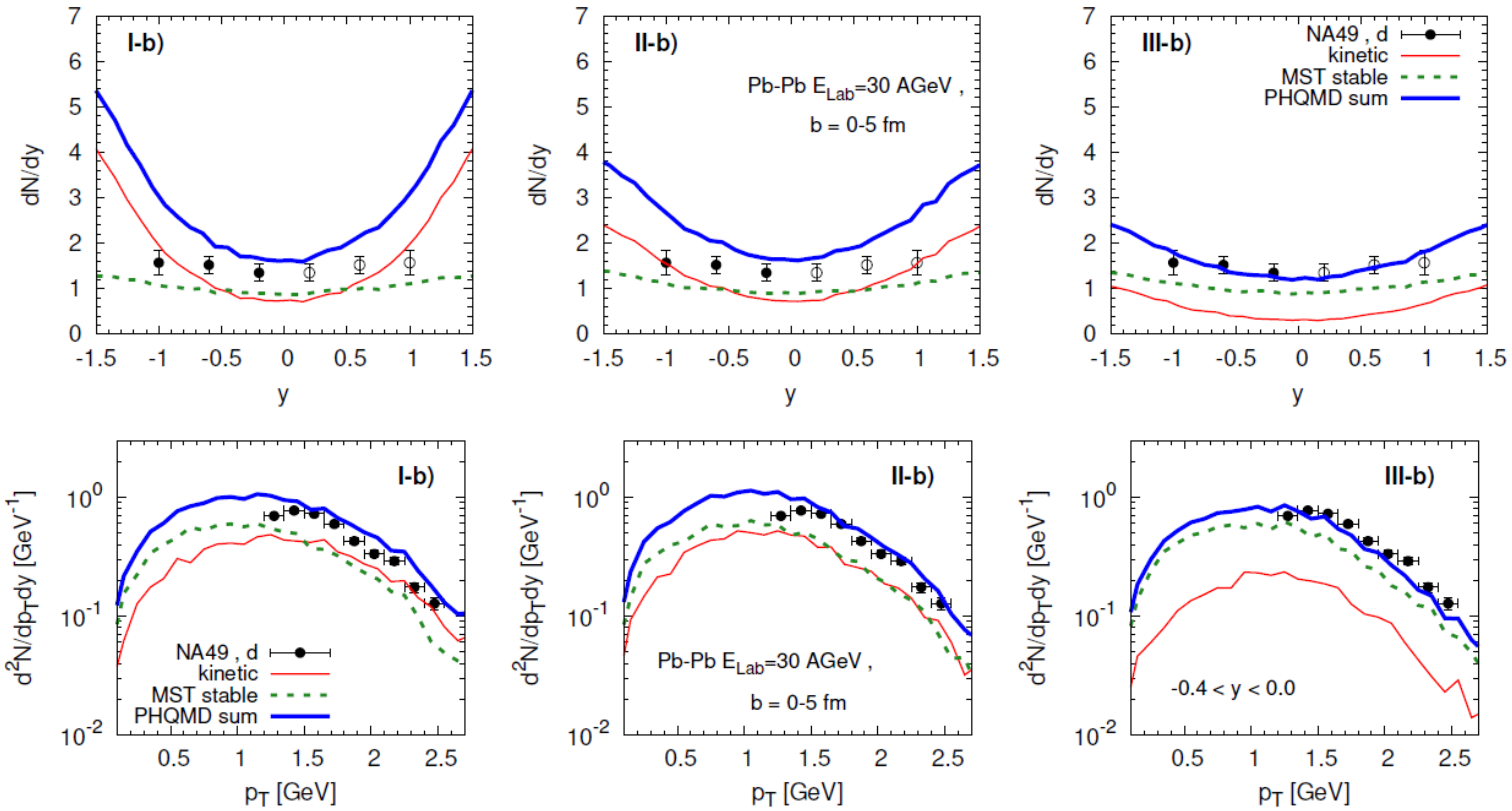
Kinetic mechanism for deuteron formation

G. Coci et al., PRC 108 (2023) 1, 014902

Total deuteron production = **Kinetic mechanism with finite-size effects**
+ **MST (with stabilization)** identification of deuterons (“stable” bound (E_B<0) A=2, Z=1 clusters)

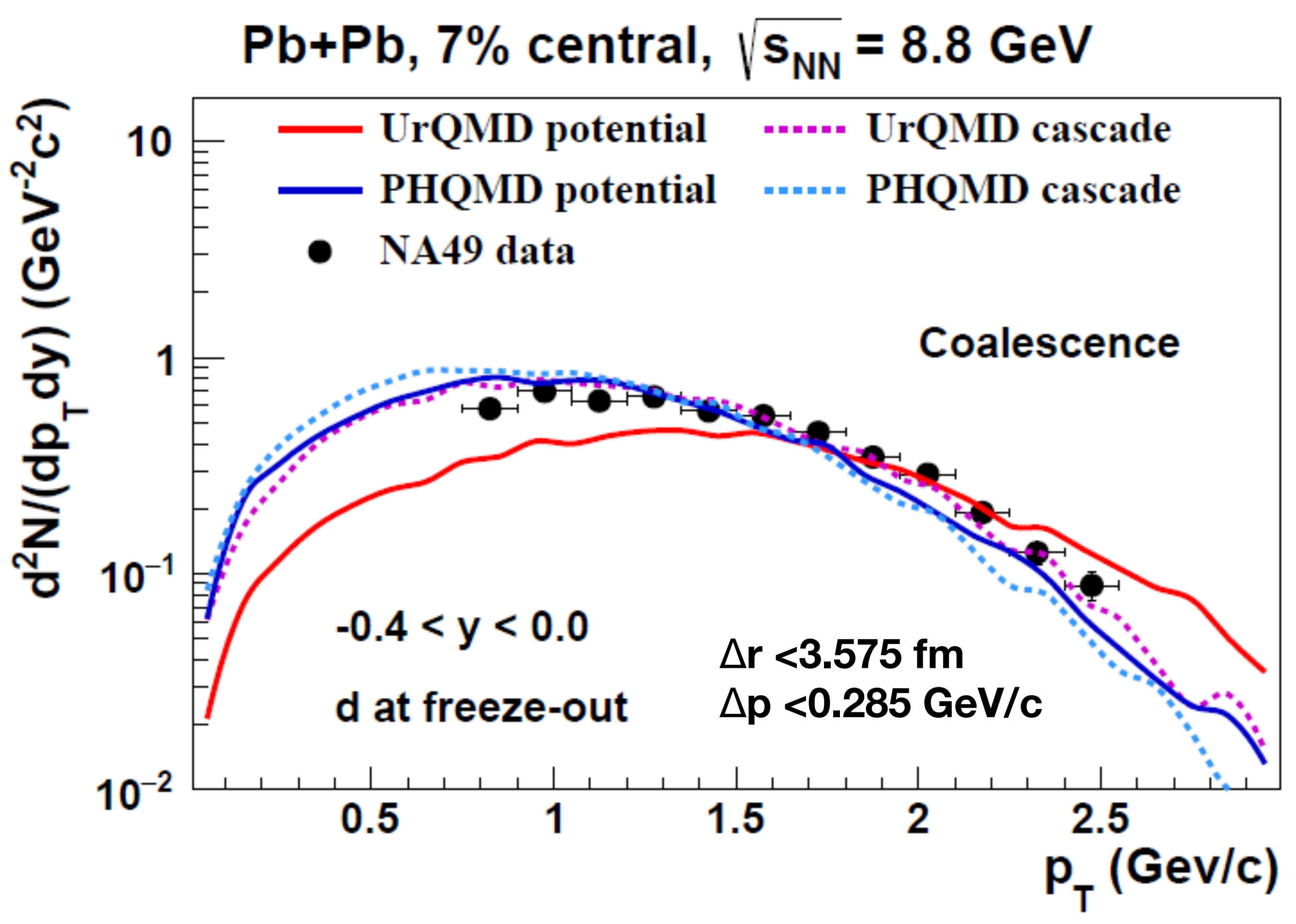
Finite-size effects for kinetic deuterons:

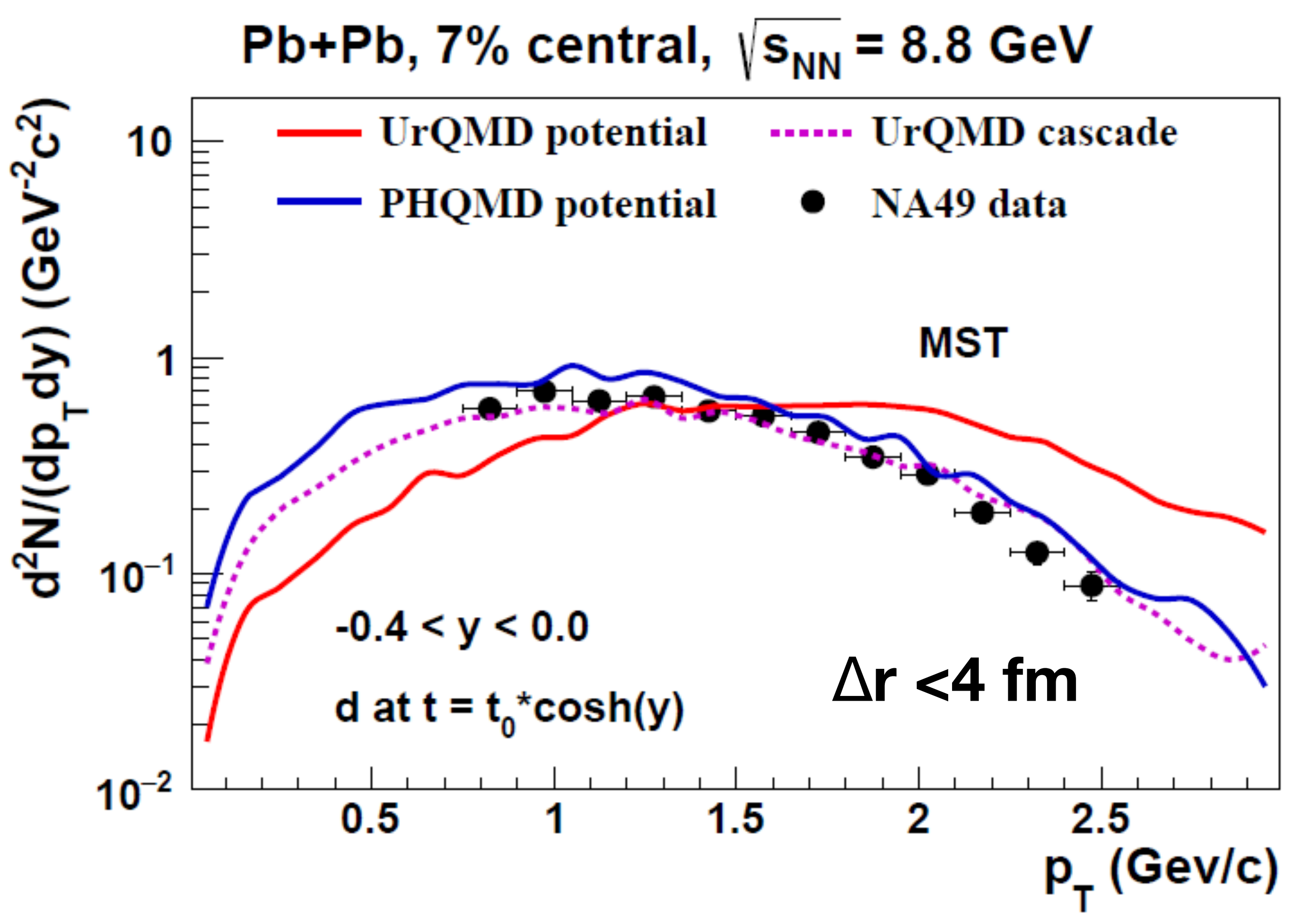
1) excluded-volume 2) Momentum projection 3) both effects

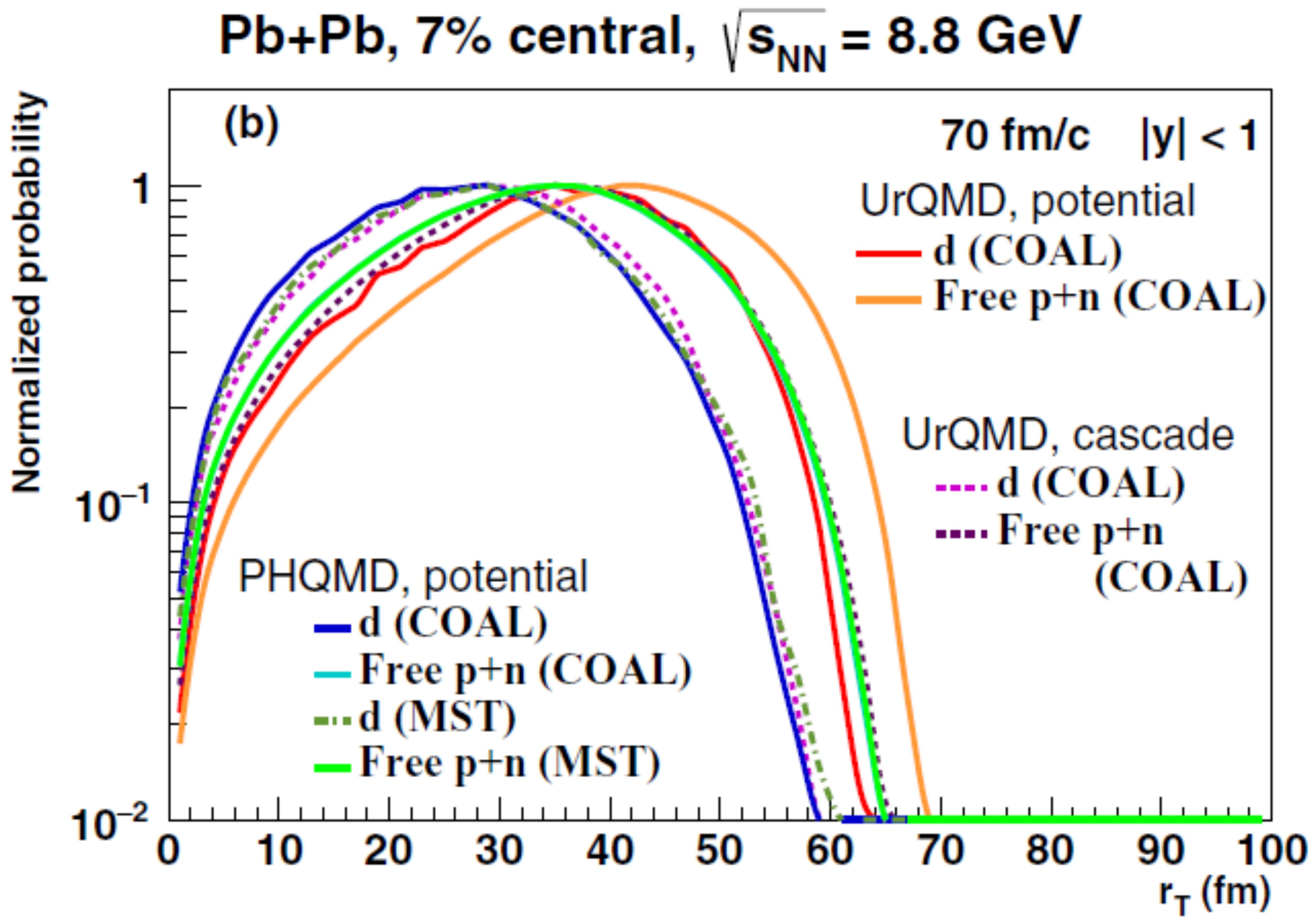


NA49 data [PRC 94 (2016) 04490699]

Where clusters are formed?







- **Coalescence and MST** give very similar multiplicities and y- and pT –distributions
- PHQMD and UrQMD results in the cascade mode are very similar
- Deuteron production is sensitive to the realization of potential in transport approaches

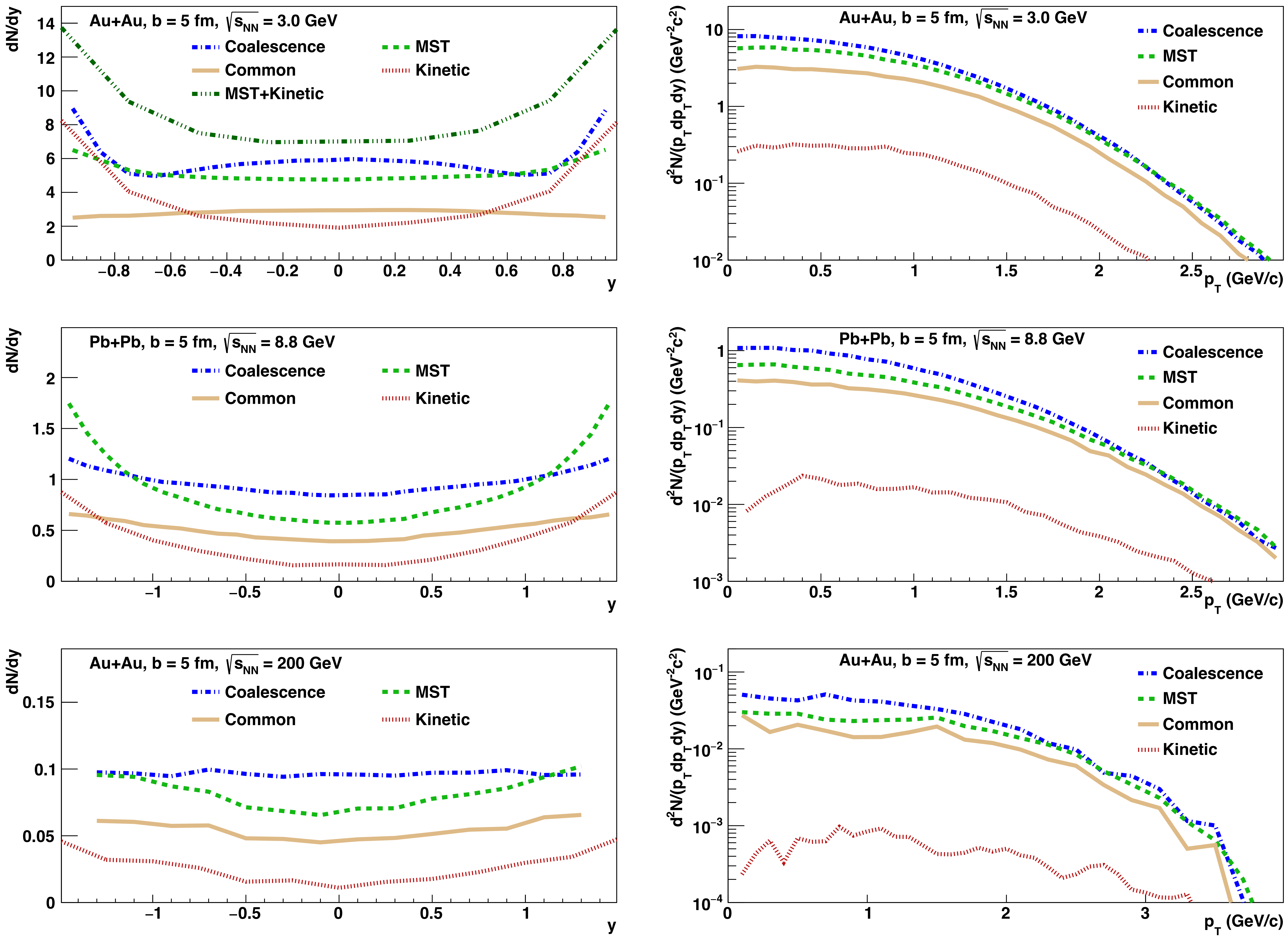
Coalescence as well as the MST procedure show that the **deuterons remain in transverse direction closer to the center** of the heavy-ion collision than free nucleons

Deuterons are behind the fast nucleons.

V. Kireyeu et al., PRC 105 (2022) 044909

Can the deuteron formation mechanism be identified experimentally?

V. Kireyeu et. al, arxiv:2304.12019



- **At mid-rapidity only ~50%** of coalescence deuterons (at freeze-out) are found by MST.
- **Rapidity distribution** has a different shape.
- **Transverse momentum** distributions has different slope at low p_T

Summary

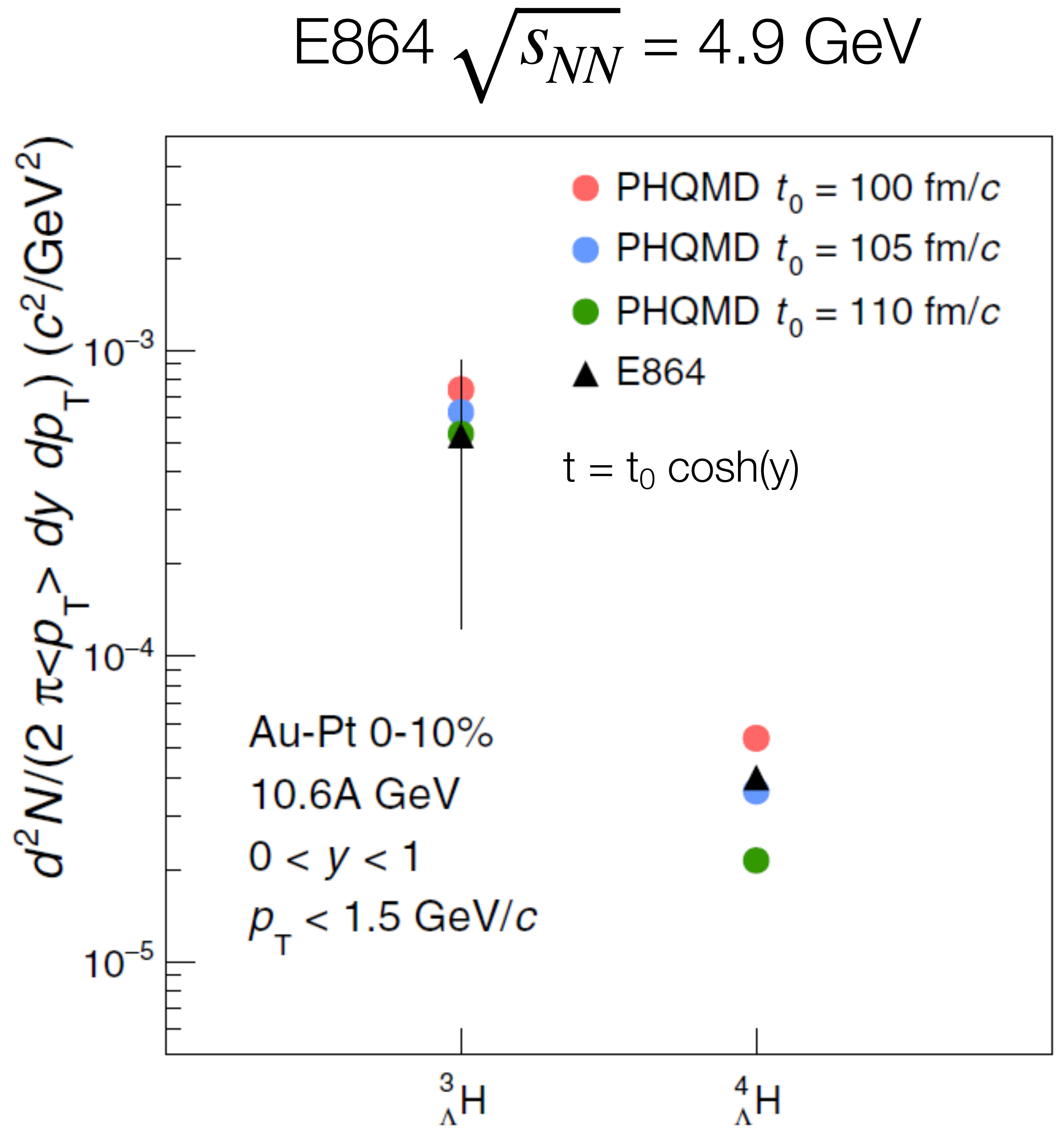
- **The PHQMD** is a microscopic n-body transport approach for the description of heavy-ion dynamics and cluster and hypernuclei formation
- Clusters are formed **dynamically by potential interactions** among nucleons and hyperons and identified by Minimum Spanning Tree model
- **Kinetic mechanism** for deuteron production is implemented in the PHQMD with inclusion of full isospin decomposition for hadronic reactions which enhances d production
- However, **accounting for the quantum properties** of the deuteron, modelled by the finite-size excluded volume effect in coordinate space and projection of relative momentum of the interacting pair of nucleons on the deuteron wave-function in momentum space, leads to a strong reduction of d production, especially at target/projectile rapidities
- The PHQMD reproduces cluster and hypernuclei data on dN/dy and dN/dp$_T$ as well as ratios d/p and $\bar{d}/\bar{p}$ for heavy-ion collisions from AGS to top RHIC energies
- A detailed analysis reveals that **stable clusters are formed**:
  - shortly after elastic and inelastic collisions have ceased
  - behind the front of the expanding energetic hadrons
  - **since the ‘fire’ is not at the same place as the ‘ice’, cluster can survive**
- PHQMD and UrQMD give very **similar coalescence and MST distributions of deuterons**
- Shape of y-and p$_T$- distributions depends on a **production mechanism ➔ possibility to distinguish between production mechanisms experimentally!**

Thank you for your attention!
Thanks to the Organisers!

https://phqmd.gitlab.io/

Hypernuclei production at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 3.0 and 4.9 GeV

S. Gläßel et al., PRC 105 (2022) 1, 014908

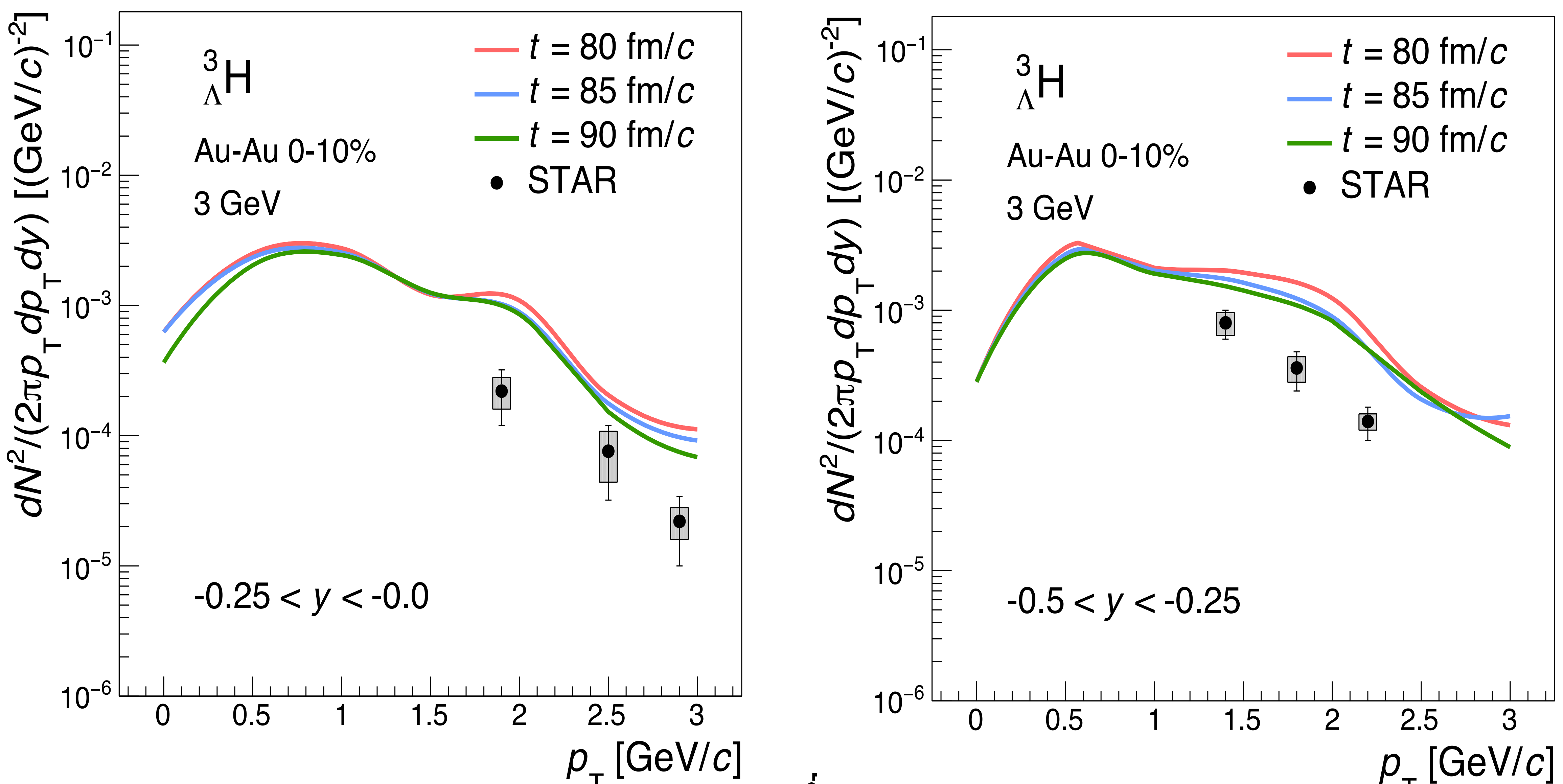


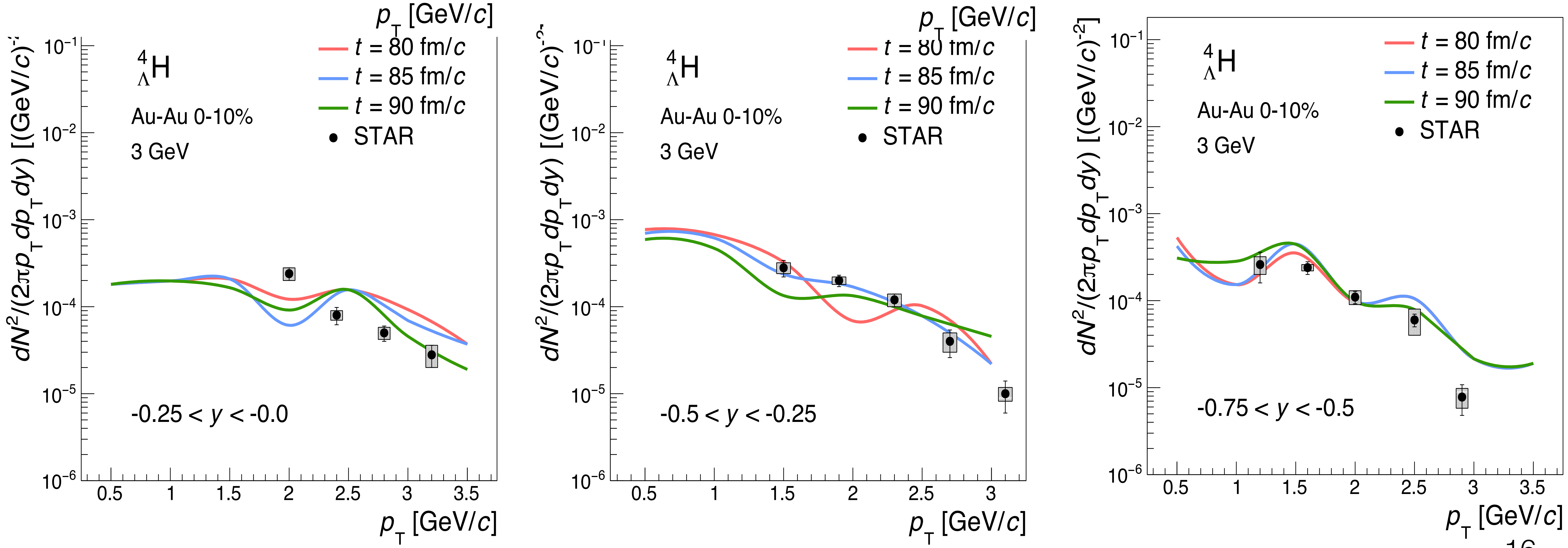
Assumption for nucleon-hyperon potential: V_{NL} = 2/3 V_{NN}

=> trend of the experimental STAR* & p_T-spectra at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ =3 is produced well

=> yields are slightly overpredicted

STAR $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 3.0 GeV





=> Reasonable description of hypernuclei production at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 3.0 GeV

*Yue-Hang Leung: First results of H3L & H4L (dN/dy, c_T, v_1) from 3 GeV Au+Au collisions with the STAR detector (CPOD2021)