

# Anomalous chiral transports in heavy-ion collisions

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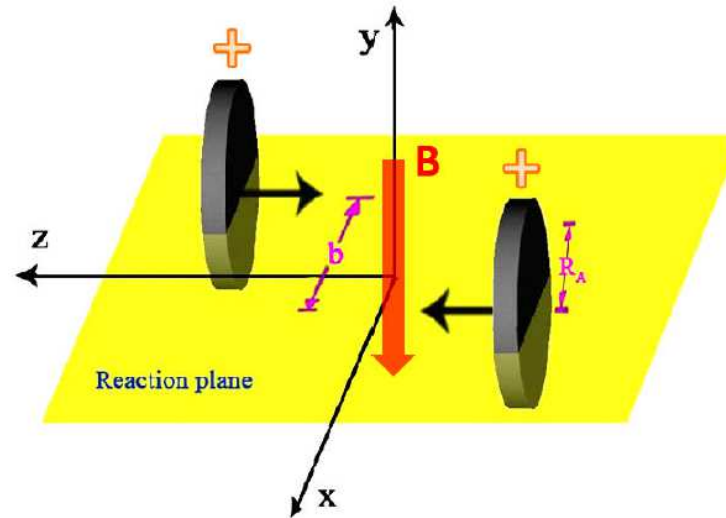
# Outline

- **Magnetic field and vorticity in heavy-ion collisions**
- **Chiral anomaly and anomalous chiral transports (ACTs)**
- **Search of ACTs in heavy-ion collisions**
- **Isobar collisions**
- **Summary**

# **Magnetic field and vorticity**

# Electromagnetic fields in HIC

- Non-central collision generates magnetic field



- How strong is the B field?

- ▶ RHIC Au+Au collision,  $Z = 79$ ,  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV ( $\Rightarrow v_z \simeq 0.99995c$ ), impact parameter  $b = 5$  fm
- ▶ The B field at the colliding time,  $t = 0$ . Biot-Savart law

$$eB_y \sim 2 \times \gamma \frac{e^2}{4\pi} Z v_z (2/b)^2 \approx 40 m_\pi^2 \sim 10^{19} \text{ Gauss}$$

# Electromagnetic fields in HIC

## Comparison of magnetic fields



The Earth's magnetic field 0.6 Gauss

A common, hand-held magnet 100 Gauss



The strongest steady magnetic fields achieved so far in the laboratory  $4.5 \times 10^5$  Gauss

The strongest man-made fields ever achieved, if only briefly  $10^7$  Gauss



Typical surface, polar magnetic fields of radio pulsars  $10^{13}$  Gauss

Surface field of Magnetars  $10^{15}$  Gauss

<http://solomon.as.utexas.edu/~duncan/magnetar.html>



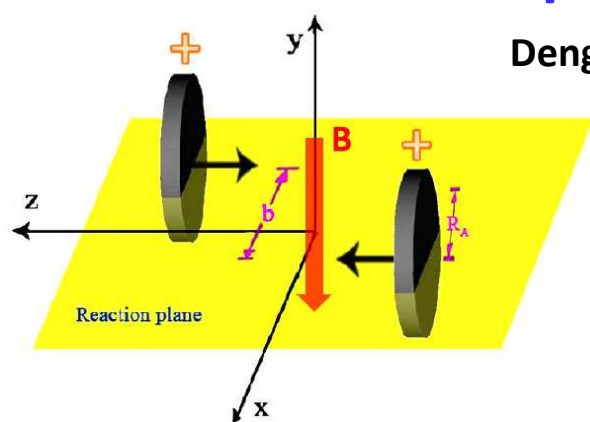
**Heavy ion collisions: the strongest magnetic field ever achieved in the laboratory**

Off central Gold-Gold Collisions at 100 GeV per nucleon

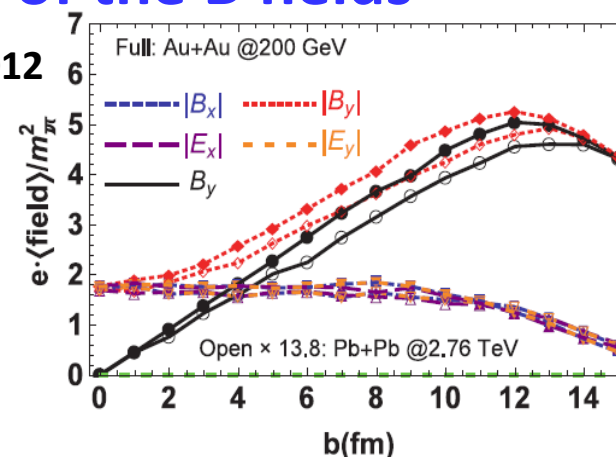
$e B(\tau=0) \sim 10^{19}$  Gauss

# Electromagnetic fields in HIC

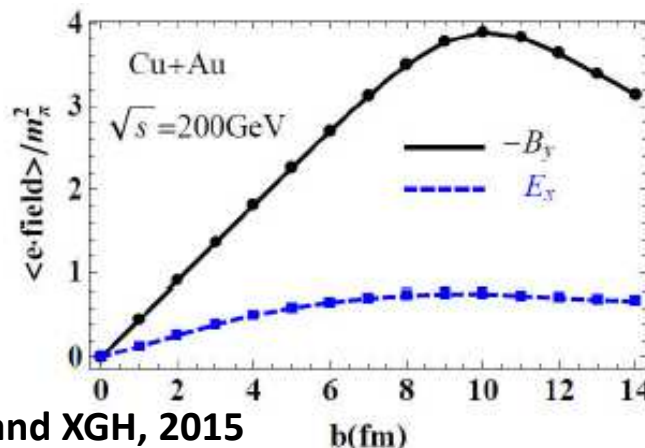
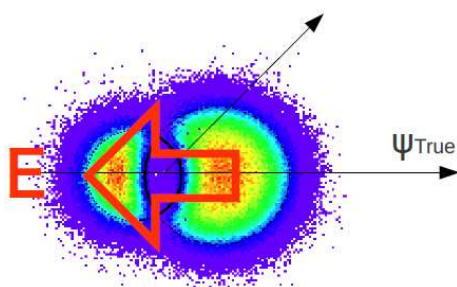
- More realistic computations of the B fields



Deng and XGH 2012

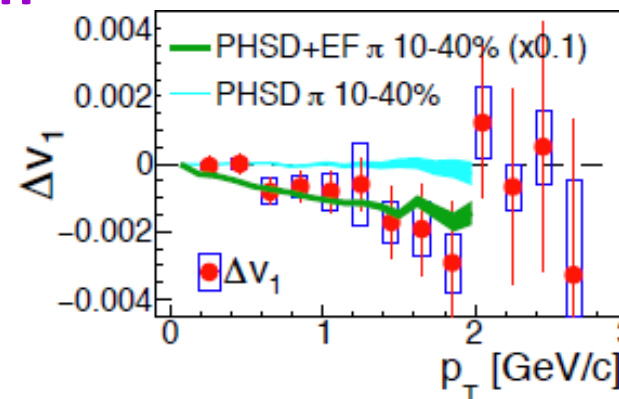


- Strongest B fields we have known in current universe:  $eB \sim 10^{18}$  G (RHIC)-  $10^{20}$  G (LHC)
- Strong Electric field in Cu+Au collision



Deng and XGH, 2015

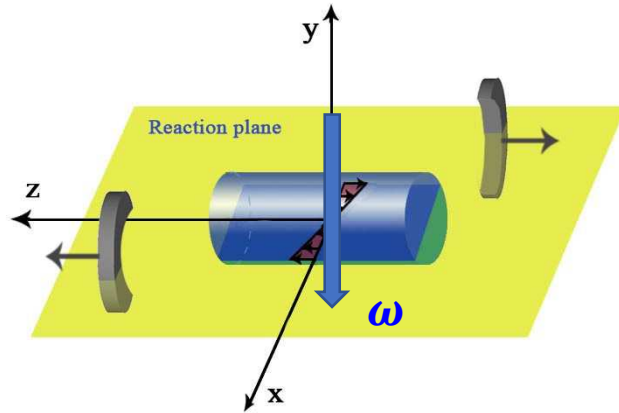
Hirono and Hirano, 2012, STAR 2015



Charge dependence of  $v_1$

# Flow vorticity in HIC

- Non-central collision generates flow vorticity



**Finite angular momentum (AM)**



**Manifested as flow shear**



**Finite vorticity(local rotation)**

- How strong is the vorticity?

$$\vec{\omega} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}$$

Total angular momentum:  $J_0 \sim Ab\sqrt{s}/2$

The angular momentum:  $J \sim \int d^3x I(x) \omega(x)$

The moment of inertial:  $I(x) \sim [x^2 - (x \cdot \hat{\omega})^2] \epsilon(x)$

Total moment of inertial  $\int d^3x I(x) \sim \sqrt{s}b^2$ , Thus ( $b=10$  fm)

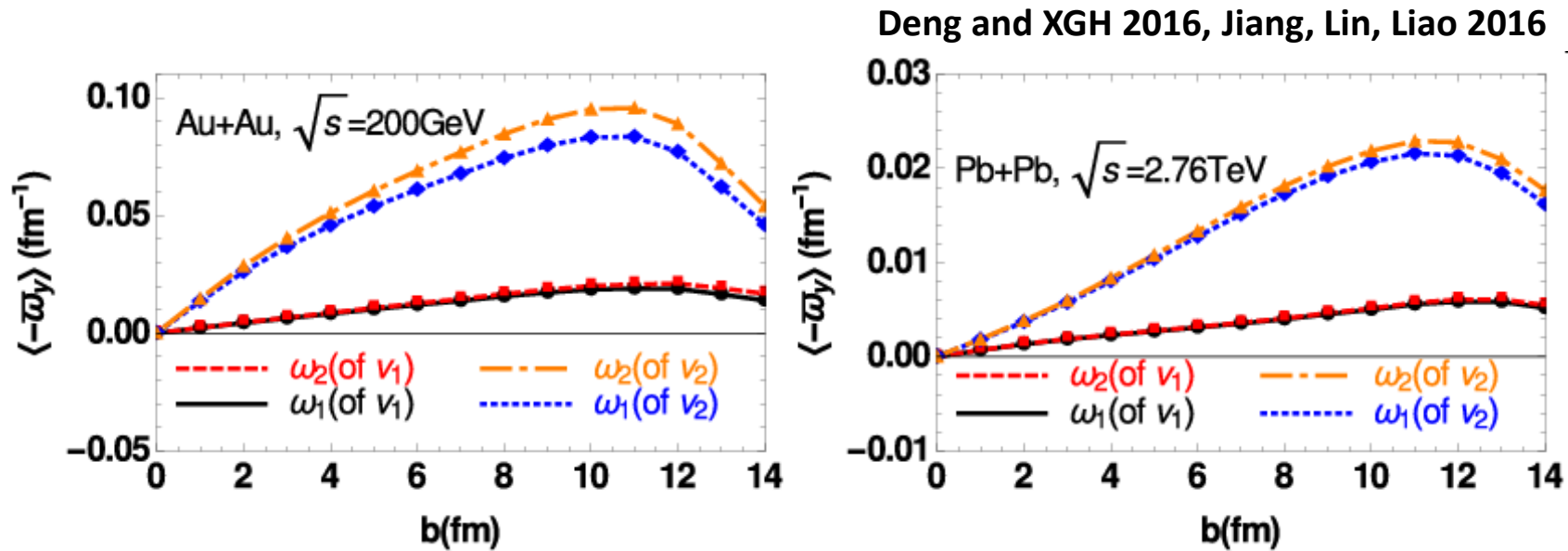
$$\omega \sim A/b \sim 10^{24} s^{-1}$$

- A very fast local rotation.

**Fastest man-made rotation via laser light  $\sim 10^7 s^{-1}$  (Arita et al Nat.Comm. 2013)**

# Flow vorticity in HIC

- More realistic numerical simulations

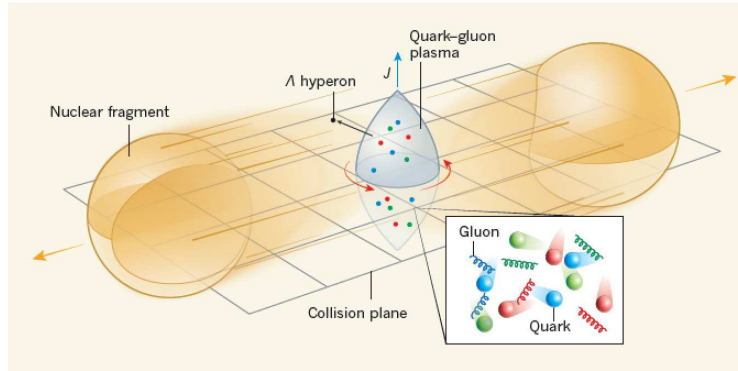


- Vorticity in Au+Au@RHIC at  $b = 10$  fm is  $10^{21} s^{-1}$
- At RHIC,  $T \sim 300$  MeV,  $T\omega \sim 10^4$  MeV<sup>2</sup> which is comparable to  $eB \sim 10^4$  MeV<sup>2</sup>. But at LHC,  $T\omega$  is much smaller than  $eB$



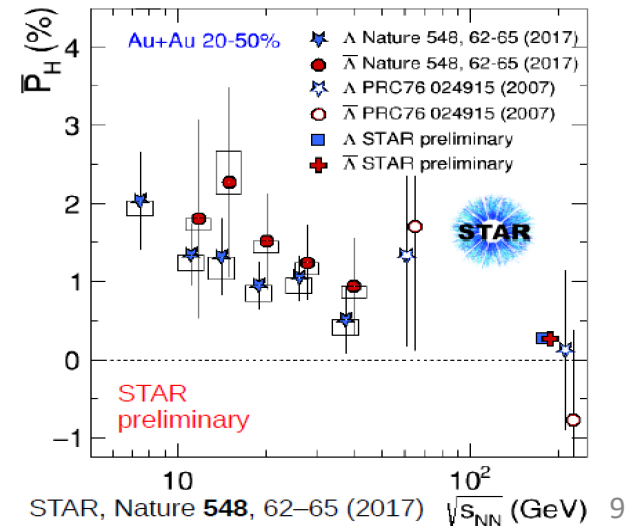
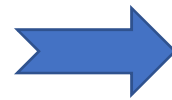
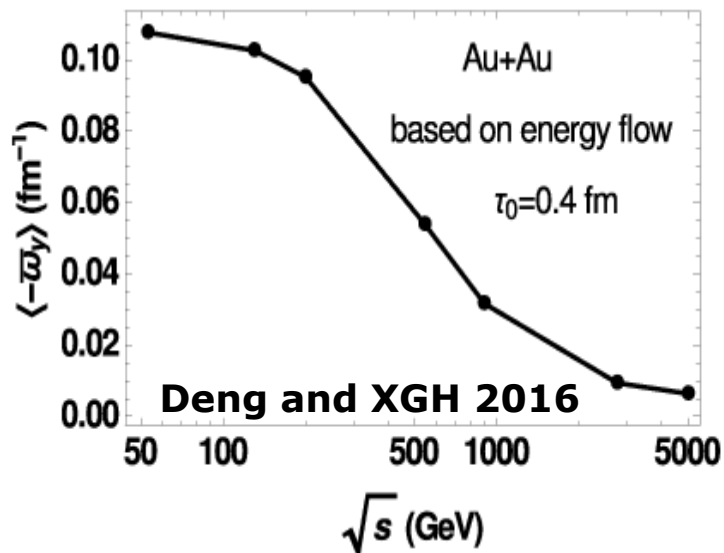
# Flow vorticity in HIC

- Experimental measurement of vorticity:  $\Lambda$  polarization

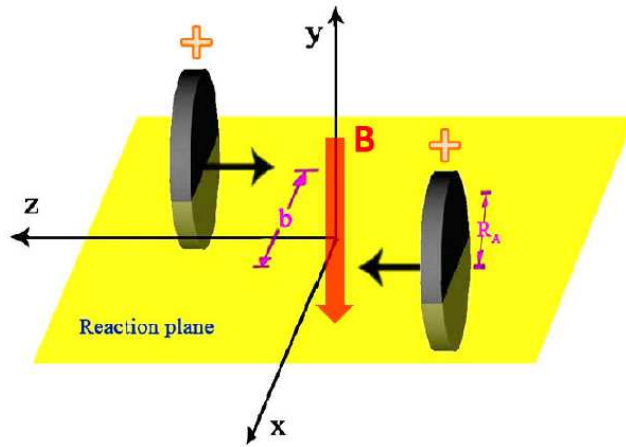


Global spin polarization of  $\Lambda$  hyperon due to spin-vorticity coupling (Liang, Wang 2005)

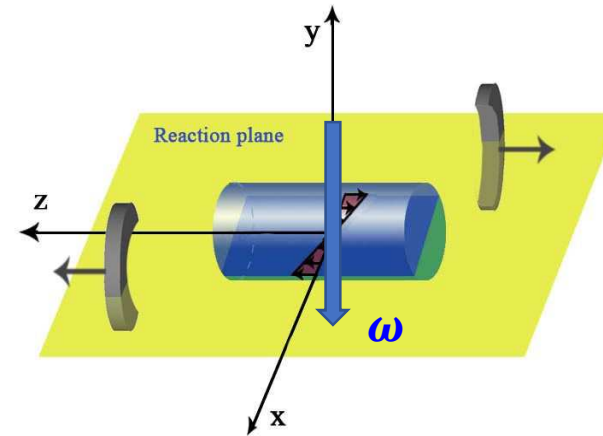
- Averaged  $\omega \approx (9 \pm 1) \times 10^{21} s^{-1}$  “Most vortical fluid!”



- Heavy-ion collisions can generate



Strongest EM fields



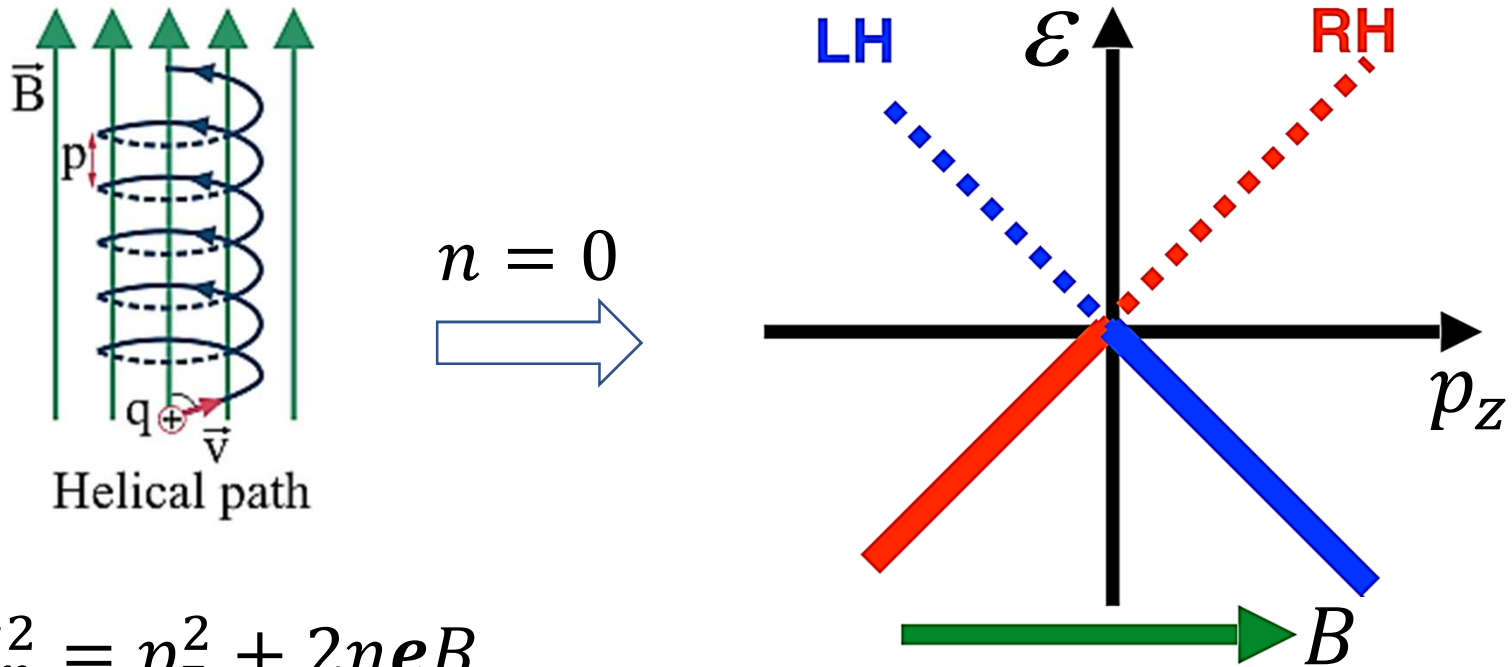
Largest local vorticity

**What are the novel effects to the QGP?  
Anomalous chiral transports**

# **Anomalous chiral transports (ACTs)**

# Chiral anomaly

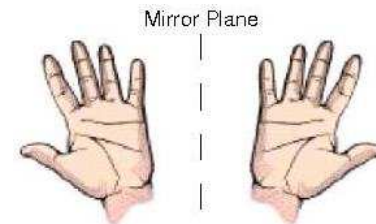
- Lowest Landau level of massless fermion in B



$$E_n^2 = p_z^2 + 2neB$$

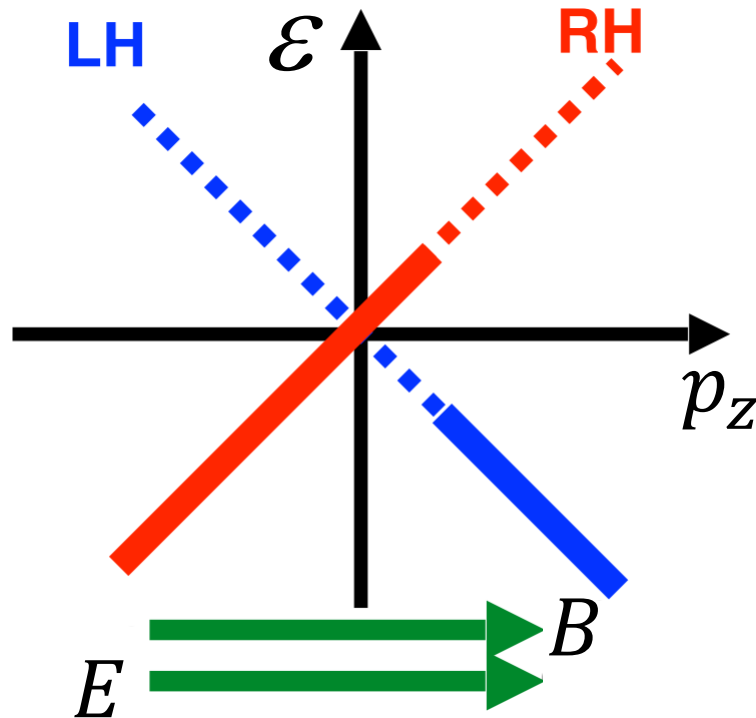
- Two conserved currents with left- and right-chirality

$$J_R^\mu = \bar{\psi}_R \gamma^\mu \psi_R \text{ and } J_L^\mu = \bar{\psi}_L \gamma^\mu \psi_L$$



# Chiral anomaly

- Lowest Landau level of massless fermion

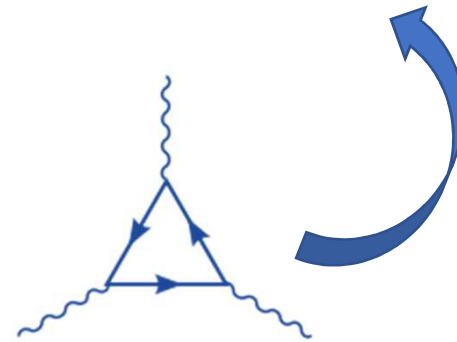


- One conserved current

$$J_V^\mu = J_R^\mu + J_L^\mu = \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi$$

$J_A^\mu = J_R^\mu - J_L^\mu = \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \psi$   
is no longer conserved:

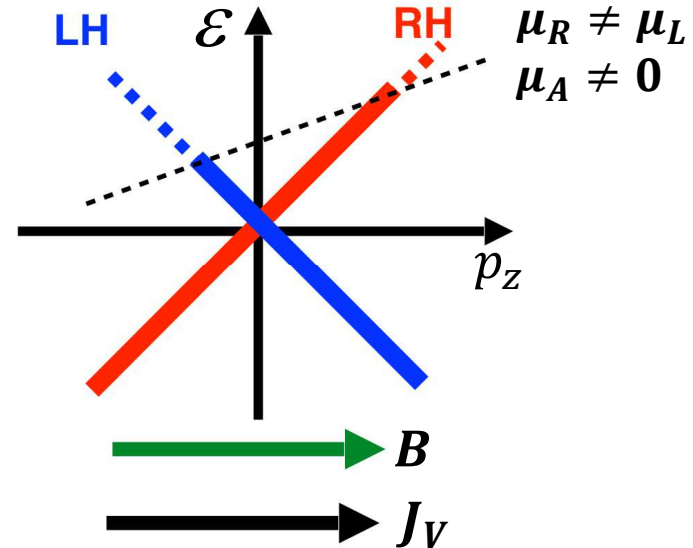
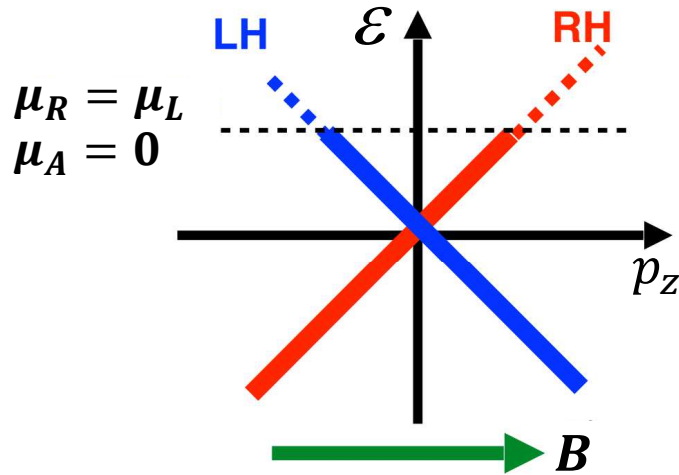
$$\begin{aligned} \triangleright N_{R/L} &= V \frac{p_F^{R/L} eB}{2\pi} \\ \triangleright \frac{d}{dt} N_A &= \frac{d}{dt} (N_R - N_L) \\ &= V \frac{\dot{p}_F^R - \dot{p}_F^L}{2\pi} \frac{eB}{2\pi} = V \frac{eE}{\pi} \frac{eB}{2\pi} \\ \Rightarrow \partial_\mu J_A^\mu &= \frac{e^2}{2\pi^2} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \end{aligned}$$



Adler 1969, Bell and Jackiw 1969

# Chiral magnetic effect (CME)

- Remove the E field



$$J_R = en_R$$

$$J_L = -en_L$$

$$n_{R/L} \equiv \frac{d^3 N_{R/L}}{dx dy dz} = \frac{eB p_F^{R/L}}{2\pi \cdot 2\pi}$$

$$J_V = J_R + J_L = \frac{e^2 B}{4\pi^2} (p_F^R - p_F^L)$$

$$= \frac{e^2 B}{2\pi^2} \mu_A \quad \text{CME current}$$

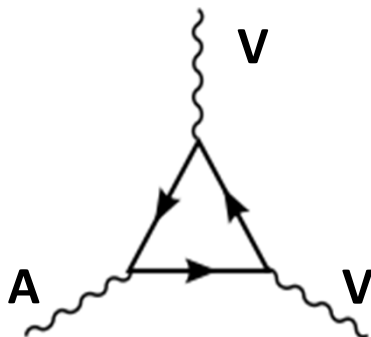
Kharzeev et al 2004-2008,  
Vilenkin 1980, .....

# Chiral magnetic effect (CME)

- CME: **vector current** induced by **B** in matter with  $\mu_A$

$$J_V = \frac{e^2 \mu_A}{2\pi^2} B$$

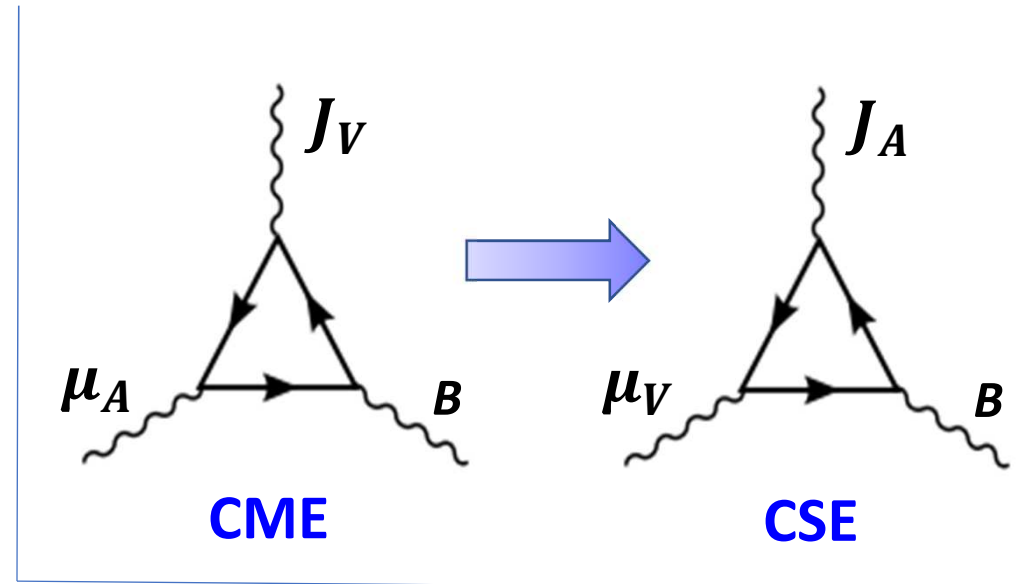
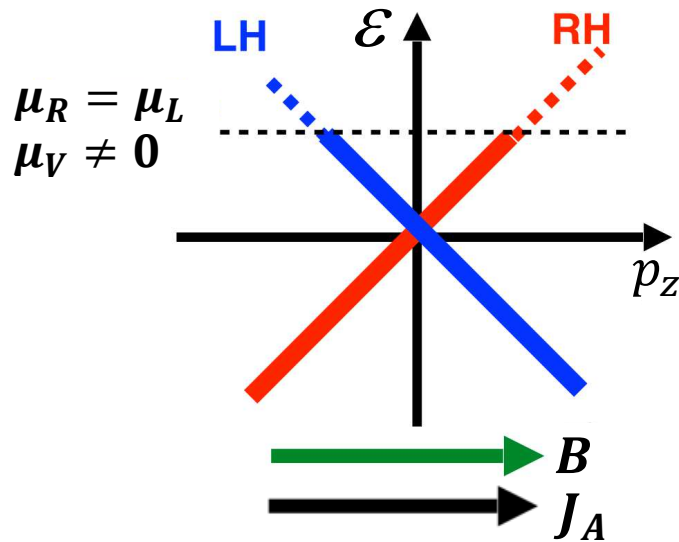
- Macroscopic quantum phenomenon
- P- and CP-odd transport
- Time-reversal even, no dissipation
- Fixed by anomaly coefficient, universal



To realize CME, we need:  
**environmental parity violation ( $\mu_A$ )** and  
**external magnetic field (B)**

# Chiral separation effect (CSE)

- A dual effect to the CME: **axial current induced by B** in matter with  $\mu_V$



$$J_R = en_R$$

$$J_L = -en_L$$

$$n_{R/L} \equiv \frac{d^3 N_{R/L}}{dx dy dz} = \frac{eB p_F^{R/L}}{2\pi \cdot 2\pi}$$

$$J_A = J_R - J_L = \frac{e^2 B}{4\pi^2} (p_F^R + p_F^L)$$

$$= \frac{e^2 B}{2\pi^2} \mu_V \quad \text{CSE current}$$

Son and Zhitnitsky 2004 .....



# Chiral vortical effect (CVE)

- Charged particle in magnetic field and in rotation

In magnetic field, Lorentz force:

$$\mathbf{F} = e(\dot{\mathbf{x}} \times \mathbf{B})$$

In rotating frame, Coriolis force:

$$\mathbf{F} = 2\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\dot{\mathbf{x}} \times \boldsymbol{\omega}) + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2)$$

Larmor theorem:  $e\mathbf{B} \sim 2\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}\boldsymbol{\omega}$

- “Lowest Landau level” (omit centrifugal force  $\mathcal{O}(\omega^2)$ )

$$J_R = en_R$$

$$J_L = -en_L$$

$$n_{R/L} = \frac{p_F^{R/L} \omega}{2\pi} \frac{p_F^{R/L}}{2\pi}$$

$$J_V = \frac{e\omega}{4\pi^2} ((p_F^R)^2 - (p_F^L)^2) = \frac{e\omega}{\pi^2} \mu_V \mu_A$$

$$J_A = \frac{e\omega}{4\pi^2} ((p_F^R)^2 + (p_F^L)^2) = \frac{e\omega}{2\pi^2} (\mu_V^2 + \mu_A^2)$$

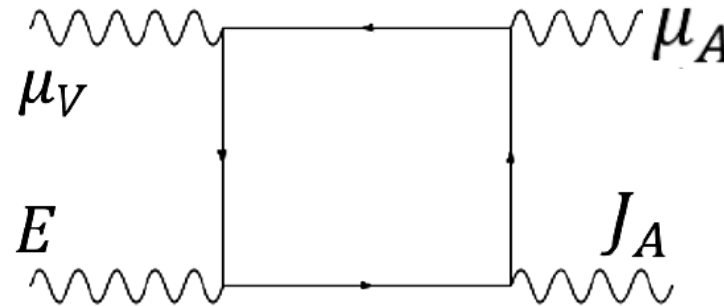
## CVE currents

More rigorous calculation shows a  $(T^2/6)e\omega$  term in  $J_A$  related to gravitational anomaly. (Landsteiner etal 2011)

Erdmenger etal 2008, Banerjee etal 2008, Son and Surowka 2009 .....

# Chiral electric separation effect (CESE)

- Electric field induced anomalous transport



$$\mathbf{J}_A \approx 14.5163 \text{Tr}_f(Q_e Q_A) \frac{\mu_V \mu_A}{T^2} \frac{e^2 T}{g^4 \ln(1/g)} \mathbf{E}$$

- P-odd, C-odd, T-odd transport (may be dissipative)
- Non-universal (receive perturbative correction)

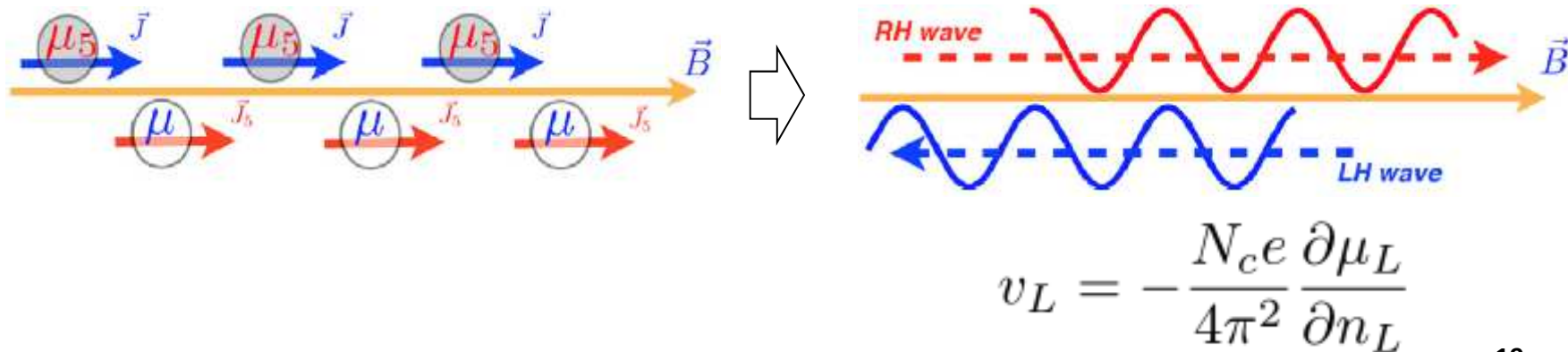
# Chiral magnetic wave

Look at the CME and CSE

$$J_V = \frac{e^2 \mu_A}{2\pi^2} B$$

$$J_A = \frac{e^2 \mu_V}{2\pi^2} B$$

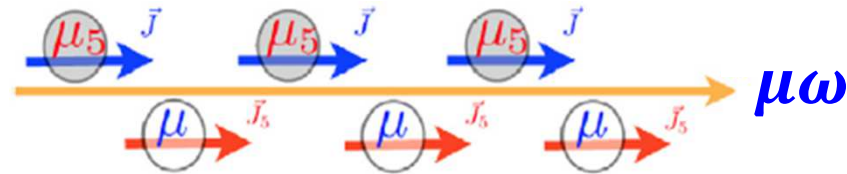
**CME + CSE give gapless wave modes: chiral magnetic wave**  
(Kharzeev and Yee 2010)



# Chiral vortical wave

The vortical analogue of chiral magnetic wave

$$J_A = \frac{T^2}{6} + \frac{\mu_V^2 + \mu_A^2}{2\pi^2} \omega, \quad J_V = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \mu_V \mu_A \omega,$$



- To reveal its dispersion we use continuity eq.

$$\partial_t n_{L,R} + \nabla \cdot \vec{J}_{L,R} = 0$$

- Substitute CVE currents. Obtain Burgers wave equation which is linearized to normal wave equation

$$\partial_t n_{L,R} = \pm \frac{\omega \alpha^2}{\pi^2} \partial_x (n_{L,R}^2) \implies \pm \frac{2\omega \alpha^2}{\pi^2} n_0 \partial_x (n_{L,R})$$

$\alpha = \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial n} \sim$  inverse baryon susceptibility

CVW velocity

# Table of anomalous chiral transports

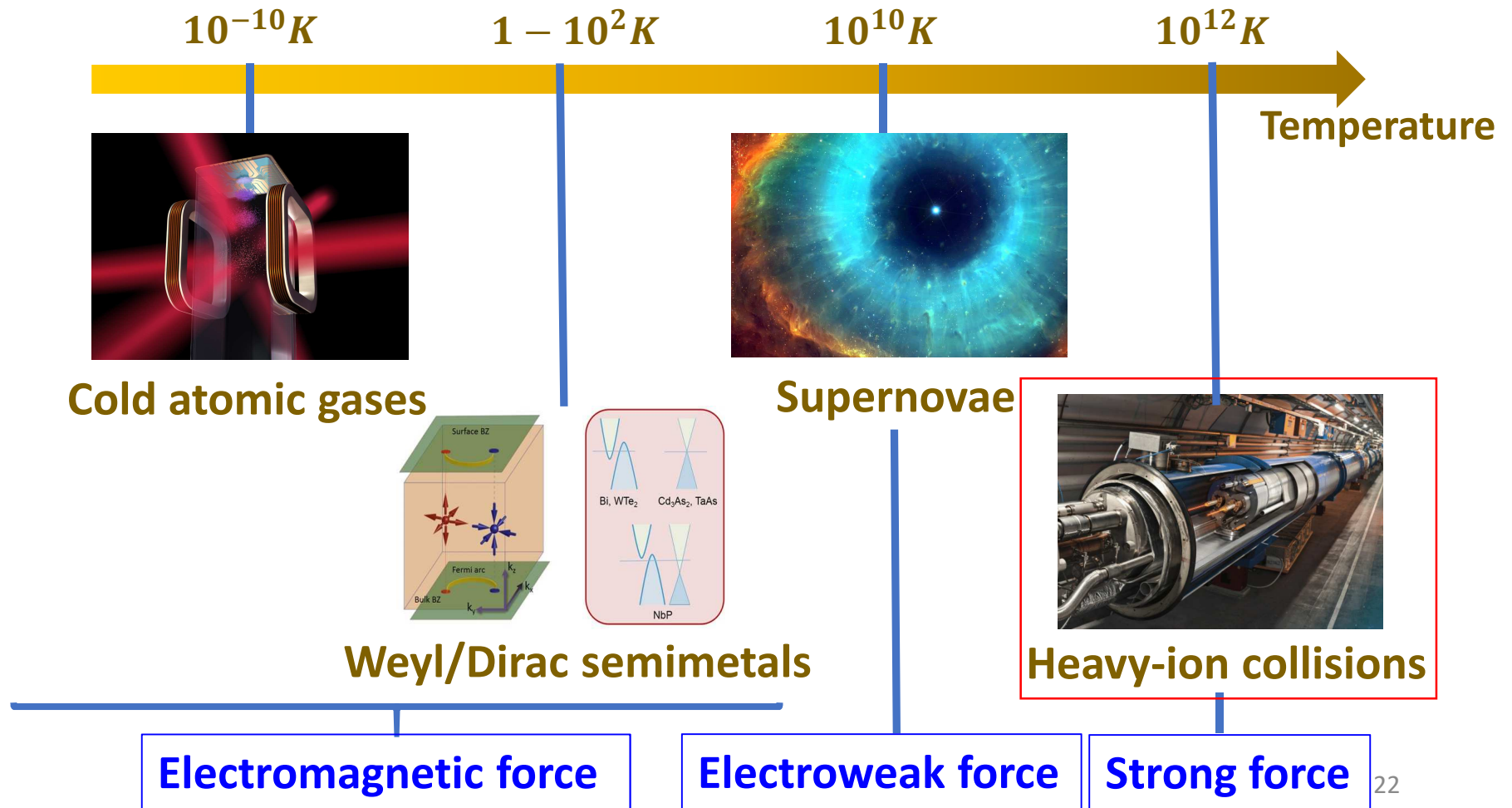
- Transport phenomena closely related to **chirality** and **quantum anomalies**.

	$E$	$B$	$\omega$
$J_V$	$\sigma$ Ohm's law	$\frac{e^2}{2\pi^2} \mu_A$ Chiral magnetic effect	$\frac{e}{\pi^2} \mu_V \mu_A$ Vector chiral vortical effect
$J_A$	$\propto \frac{\mu_V \mu_A}{T^2} \sigma$ Chiral electric separation effect	$\frac{e^2}{2\pi^2} \mu_V$ Chiral separation effect	$e \left( \frac{T^2}{6} + \frac{\mu_V^2 + \mu_A^2}{2\pi^2} \right)$ Axial chiral vortical effect

And the collective waves (chiral magnetic wave, chiral vortical wave, chiral electric wave, etc)

# Where are anomalous chiral transports?

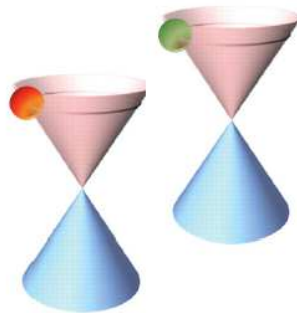
- Universal phenomena that may happen across a very broad hierarchy of scales.



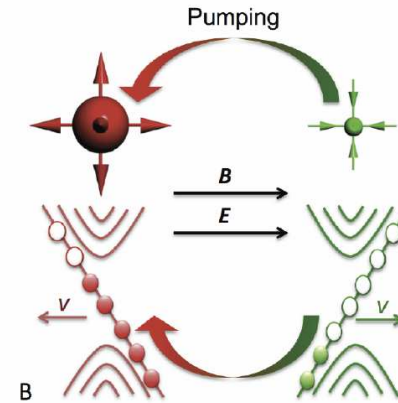
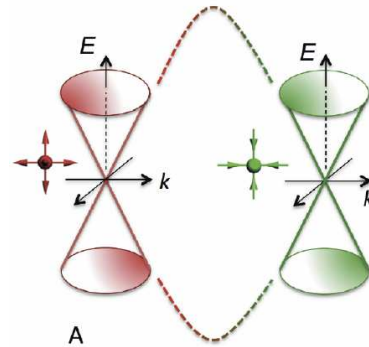
# CME on desktop

- Chiral fermions in 3D semimetals

## Weyl semimetal (non-degenerated bands)

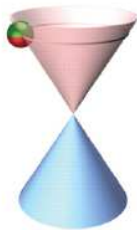


TaAs  
NbAs  
NbP  
TaP

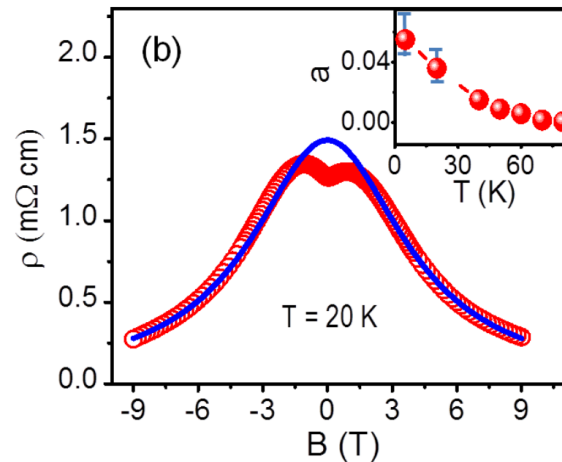


$$\partial_\mu J_5^\mu = C_A \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}$$

## Dirac semimetal (doubly degenerated bands)



ZrTe<sub>5</sub>  
Na<sub>3</sub>Bi,  
Cd<sub>3</sub>As<sub>2</sub>



$$J_{\text{CME}}^i = \sigma_{\text{CME}}^{ik} E^k$$

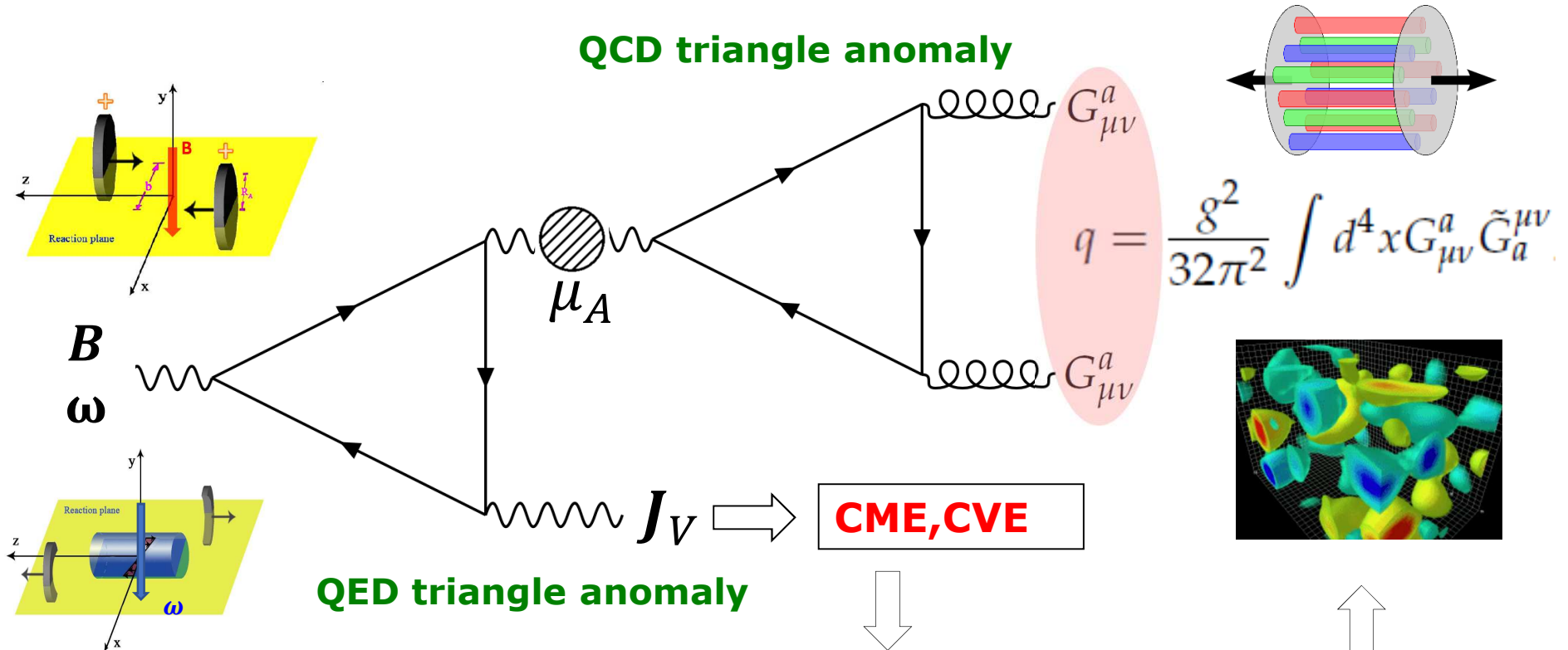
$$\sigma_{\text{CME}}^{zz} = \frac{e^2}{\pi \hbar} \frac{3 e^2}{8 \hbar c} \frac{v^3}{\pi^3} \frac{\tau_V}{T^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{\pi^2}} B^2$$

Li et al 2015, ... ..

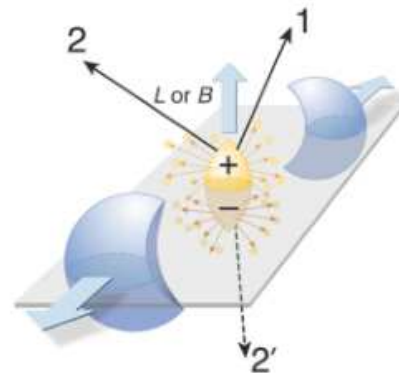
# **ACTs in heavy ion collisions**



# Chirality generation and CME,CVE

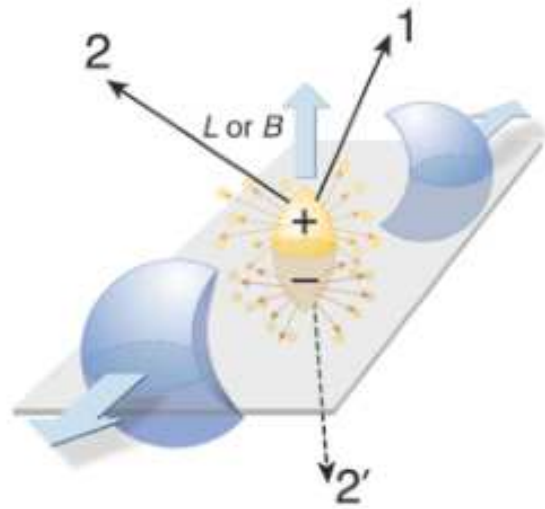


**A probe of nontrivial topology of QCD using B field and vorticity!**

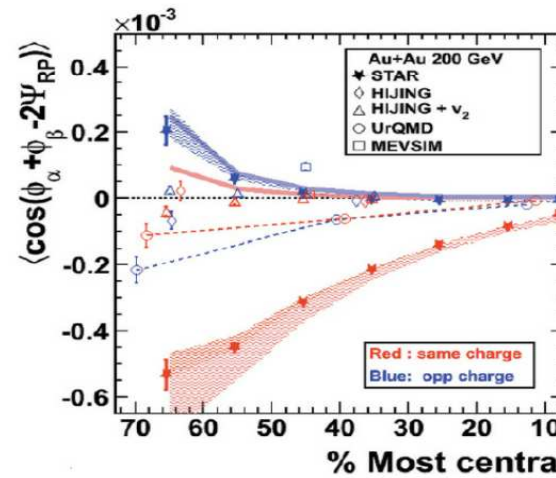


# Experimental test of CME

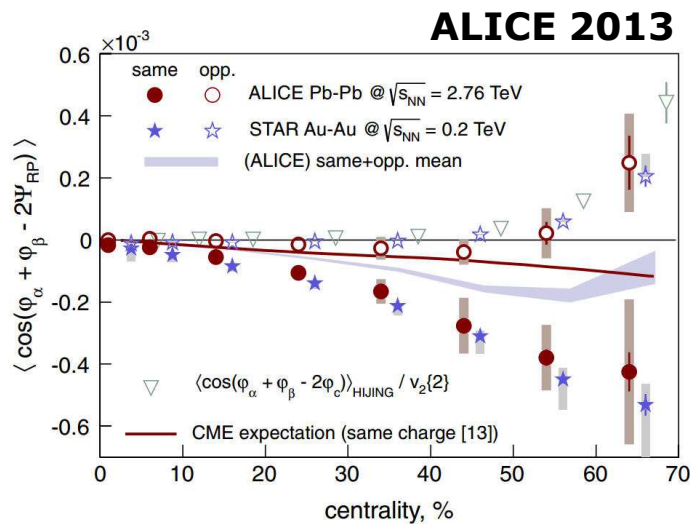
## Event-by-event charge separation wrt. reaction plane



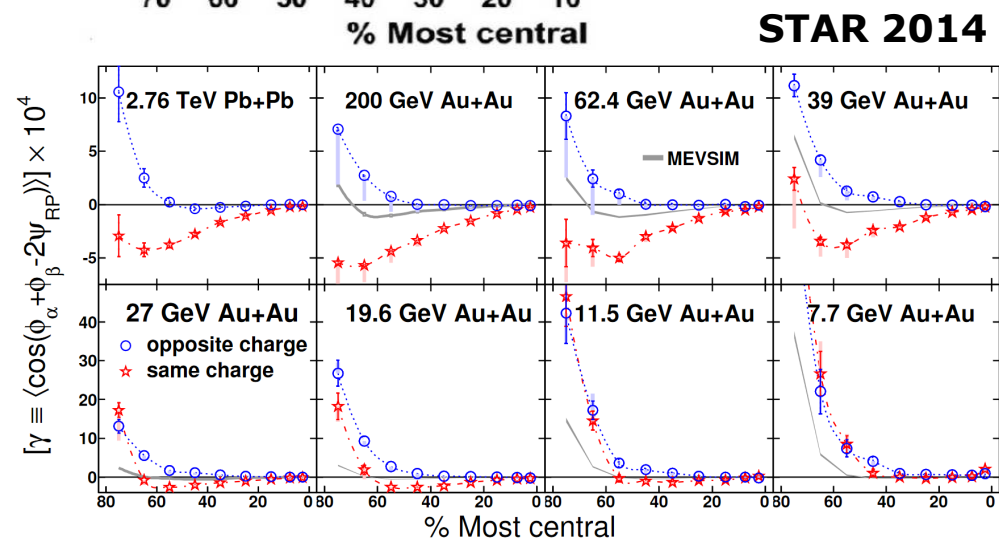
The observable:  
The gamma correlator (Voloshin 2004)



STAR 2009



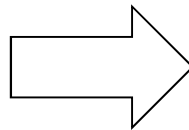
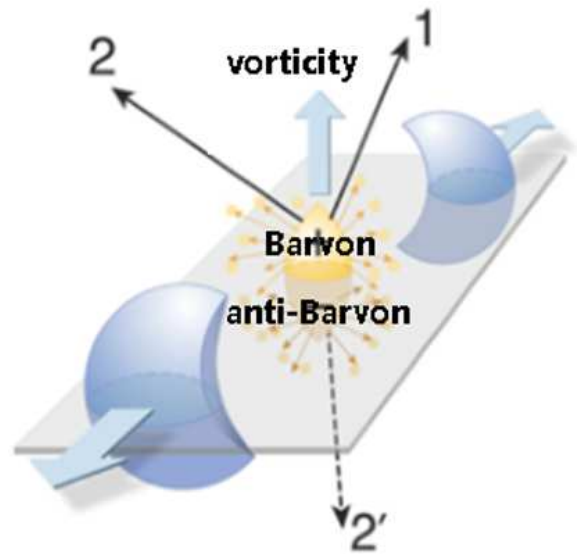
ALICE 2013



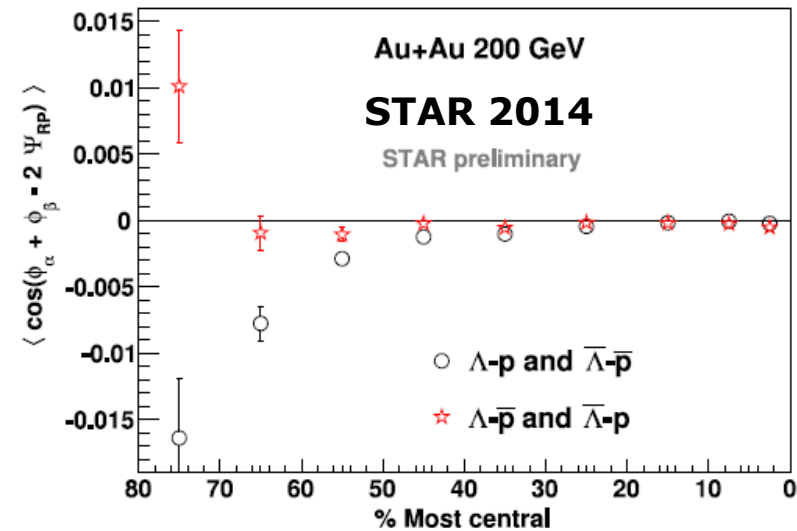
STAR 2014

# Experimental test of CVE

Event-by-event baryon separation wrt. reaction plane



## The vortical gamma correlator

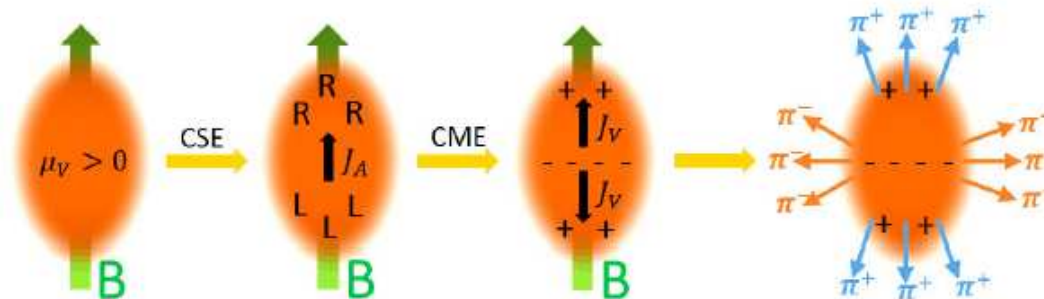


- Positive opposite-sign correlation, negative same-sign correlation
- Increase with centrality = vorticity increases with centrality

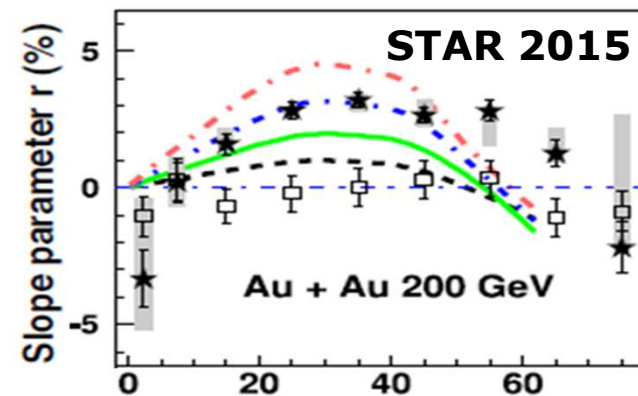
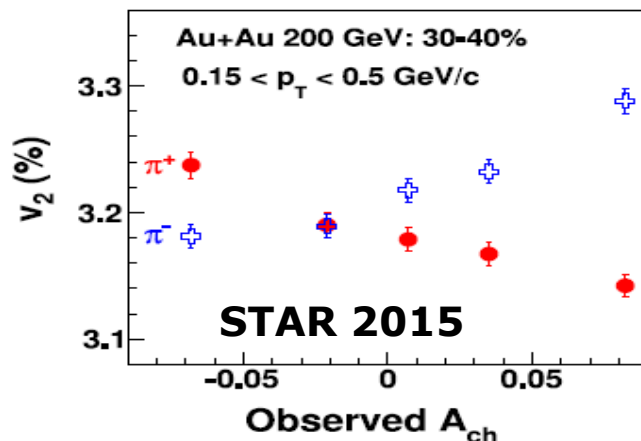
# Experimental test of CMW

Phenomenology of CMW in heavy-ion collisions:  
**Elliptic flow splitting of charged pions** (Burnier, Kharzeev, Liao, Yee 2011)

## Intuitive picture

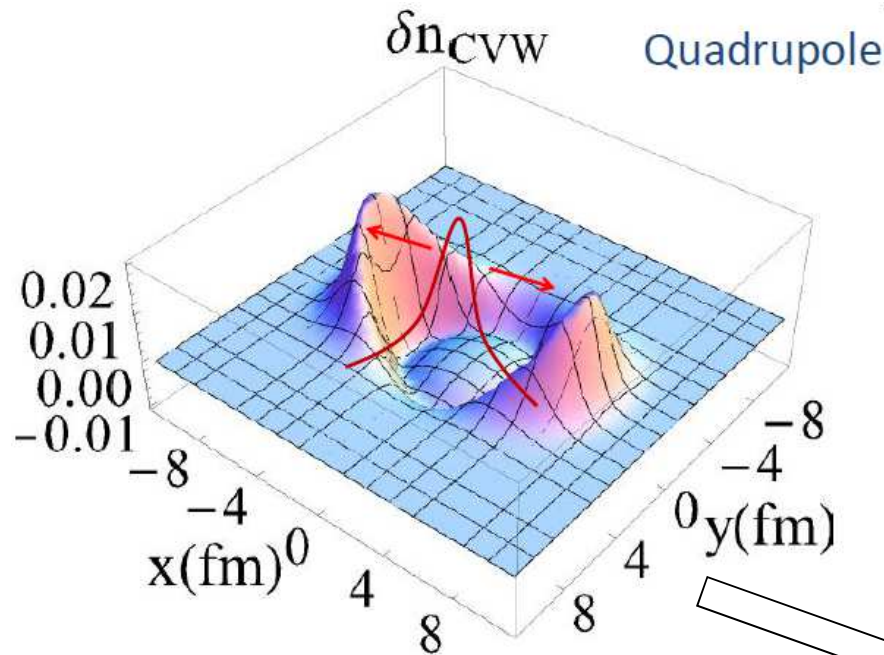


- ▶ CMW  $\Rightarrow v_2(\pi^-) \neq v_2(\pi^+)$ :  $v_2(\pi^-) - v_2(\pi^+) \approx r A_{\pm}$ : linear approx. in net charge asymmetry  $A_{\pm} = (N_+ - N_-)/(N_+ + N_-)$



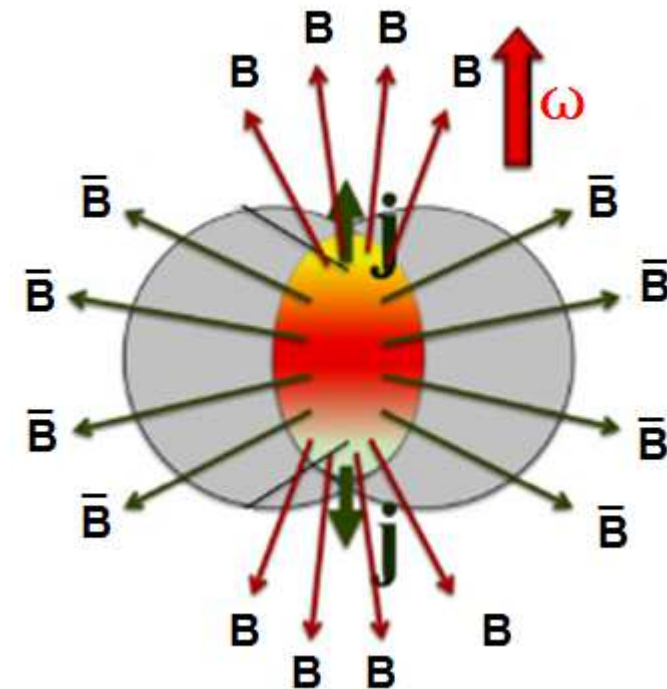
# Potential experimental test of CVW

## Experimental implication: baryon charge quadrupole



- More baryon charges at the tips of the fireball, more antibaryon charges at the center

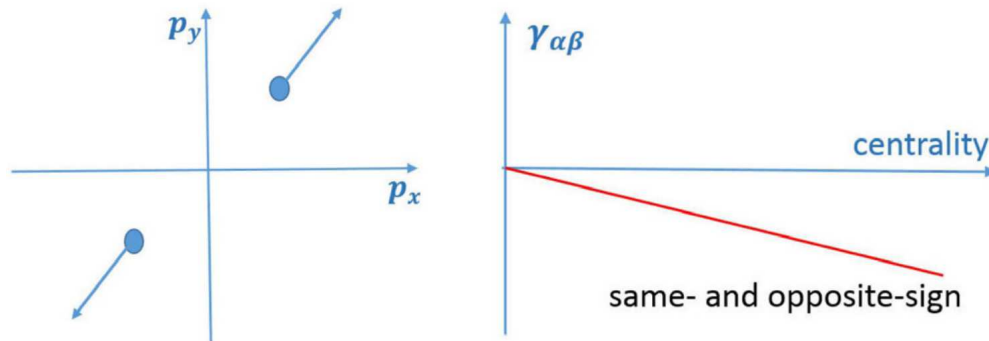
- Stronger in-plane radial expansion lets antibaryons get larger elliptic flow than baryons



# Back-ground contributions to CME

## Back-ground contributions to gamma correlator

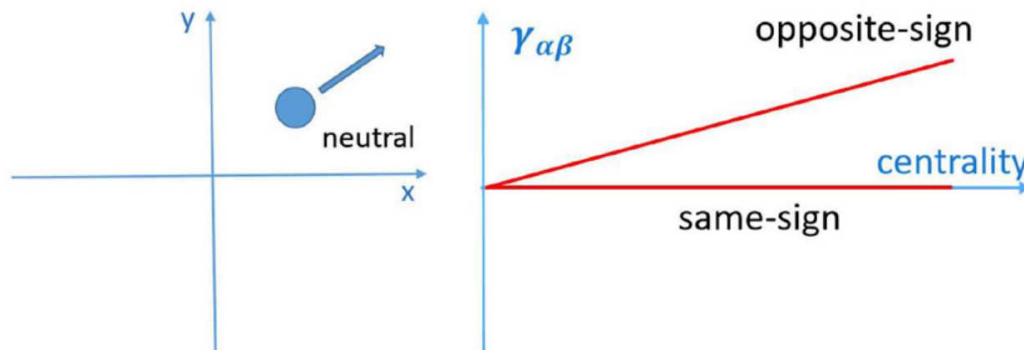
**Transverse momentum conservation**(Pratt 2010; Liao, Bzdak, Koch 2011):



- Charge blind
- $\gamma \propto -v_2/N$
- Can be subtracted in  

$$\Delta\gamma = \gamma_{OS} - \gamma_{SS}$$

**Local charge conservation**(Pratt, Schlichting 2011) or **neutral resonance decay** (Wang 2010) :



$$\gamma_{OS} \propto v_2/N, \gamma_{SS} \sim 0$$

**Main challenge: how to separate the background effects?**

# Theoretical uncertainties

Quantify the CME signal from theoretical calculations. But now there are still many uncertainties.

- 1) The time evolution of the magnetic field.  
(coupled Maxwell + hydro or kinetic equations)
- 2) Modeling the production of initial axial charge.  
(Real time simulation of sphaleron transition)
- 3) Pre-hydro evolution of CME, very early stage.  
(CME current far from equilibrium)
- 4) Frequency and momentum dependent CME coeff.  
(The B field is neither static nor homogeneous)
- 5) Finite mass effect, finite response time, high-order corrections.  
(New theoretical calculations)
- 6) Modeling background contributions, new observables.  
(LCC, Resonance decays, .....

**Challenges but also opportunities for theorists!**

# Chiral kinetic theory

- Kinetic theory with chiral anomaly encoded

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \dot{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \dot{\mathbf{p}} = C[f]$$

with

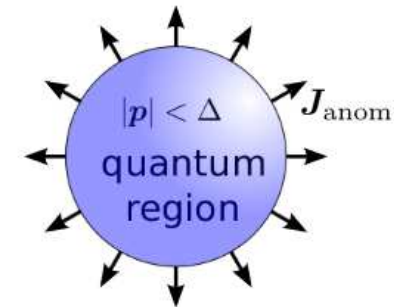
$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{p}} + \mathbf{b} \times \dot{\mathbf{p}} = 0$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}} + \mathbf{B} \times \dot{\mathbf{x}} = 0$$

and the Berry monopole

$$\mathbf{b} = \frac{\mathbf{p}}{2|\mathbf{p}|^3}.$$

phase space is  $\sqrt{G}$  where  $G = (1 + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B})^2$



- Provide a basis for quantitative description of ACTs in the early and parton stages of HICs
- Accurate at  $\hbar$  order and valid for weak fields
- Fast developing (higher order, strong fields, rotation, ...)

Son-Yamamoto 2012, Stephanov-Yin 2012, Gao-Liang-Pu-Wang-Wang 2012 ... ..



# Anomalous hydrodynamics

- Hydrodynamics with anomalous currents

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} &= eF^\nu{}_\lambda j_e^\lambda, & j_e^\mu &= nu^\mu + \kappa_B B^\mu + \kappa_\omega \omega^\mu \\ \partial_\mu j_e^\mu &= 0, & j_5^\mu &= n_5 u^\mu + \xi_B B^\mu + \xi_\omega \omega^\mu \\ \partial_\mu j_5^\mu &= -CE^\mu B_\mu.\end{aligned}$$

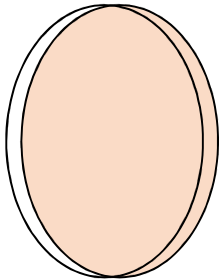
- Anomalous coefficients are self-determined via second law of thermodynamics (Son Surowka 2009)
- Provide a basis for quantitative description of ACTs in the hydro stage of HICs
- Fast developing
- related developments: hydrodynamics with strong magnetic field, with spin d.o.f, ... ..

Hirono-Hirano-Kharzeev 2014, Shi-Jiang-Liao 2017, Guo-XGH-Deng-Hirono-Kharzeev 2017, ... ..

# Experimental methods

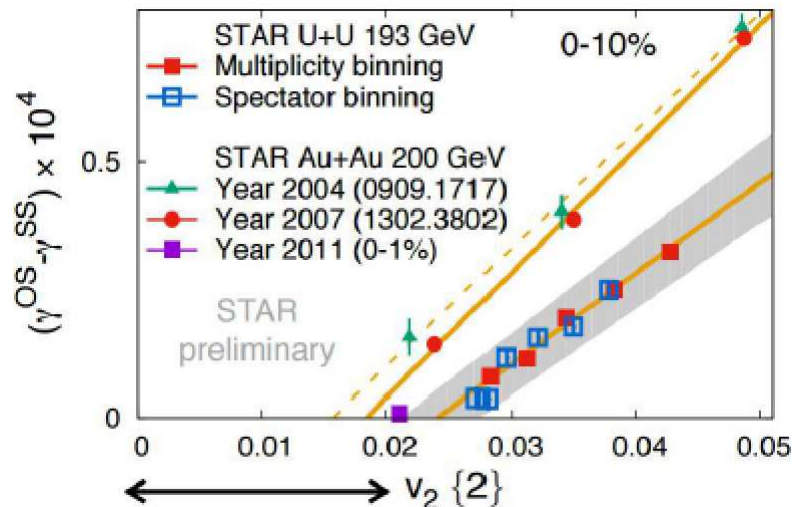
**Recall the challenge:** How to separate the CME signal from the elliptic flow induced backgrounds?

**Way 1:** Fix the magnetic field, but vary the flow: central U + U collisions or event shape engineering



**U nucleus is deformed,  
Very central body-body:  
 $B=0$  while  $v_2 \neq 0$**

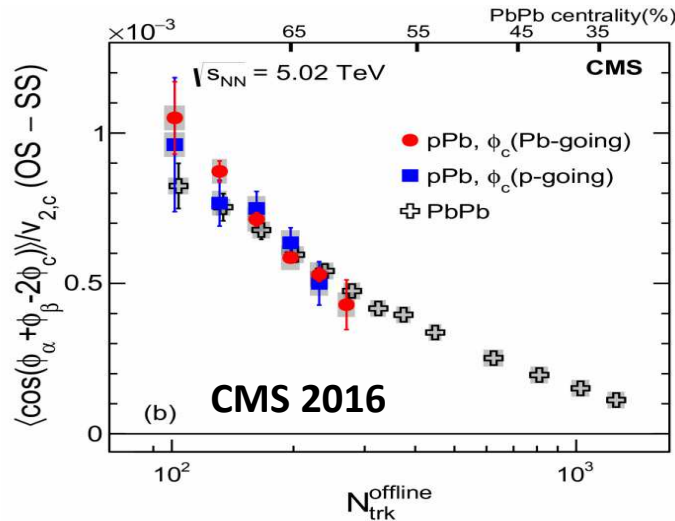
Voloshin 2010



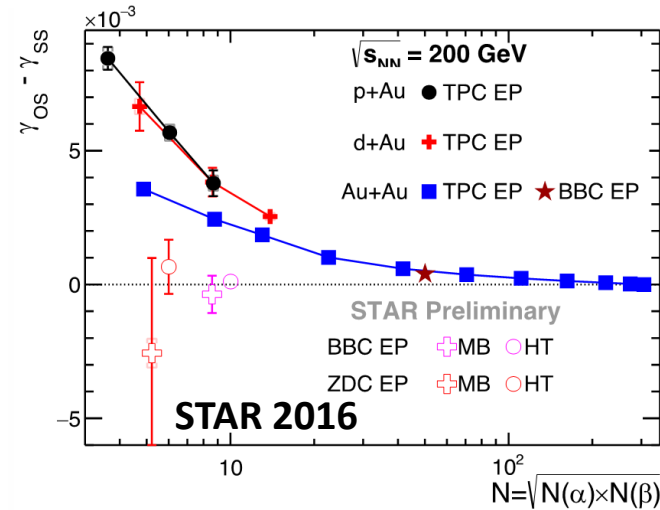
Wang 2012  
Tribedy 2017

# Experimental methods

**Way 1.1: Turn off (?) the magnetic field: high multiplicity p+A, d+A**



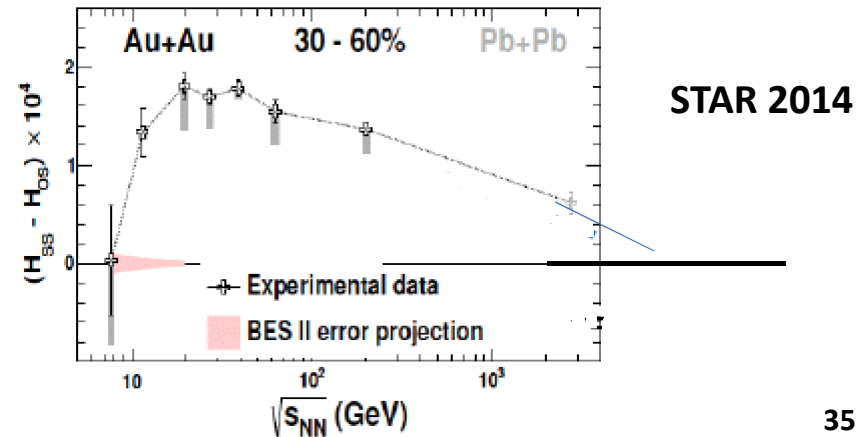
$\gamma$  in p+Pb  $\sim$  in Pb+Pb at LHC



$\Delta\gamma$  in p+Au and d+Au zero at RHIC

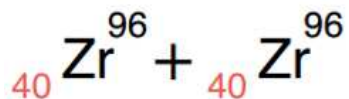
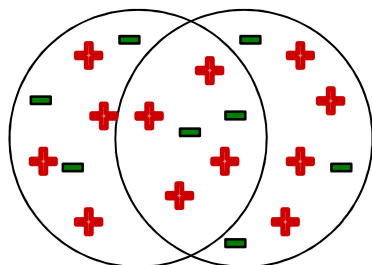
**High energy: Purely background? (B lifetime too short; no correlation to reaction plane)**

**Strong energy dependence of the signal**

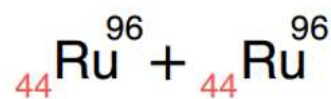
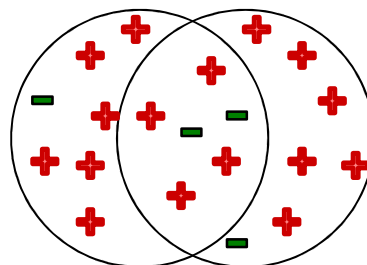


# Experimental methods

Way 2: Fix the flow, but vary the magnetic field: isobar collisions



Vs

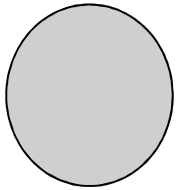


At same energy, same centrality, they would have equal elliptic flow but 10% difference in magnetic field.

# The isobar collision

# Isobar collisions

## Nucleus shape, Wood-Saxon distribution



$$\rho(r, \theta) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp [(r - R_0 - \beta_2 R_0 Y_2^0(\theta))/a]}$$

### Current experimental data for the parameters:

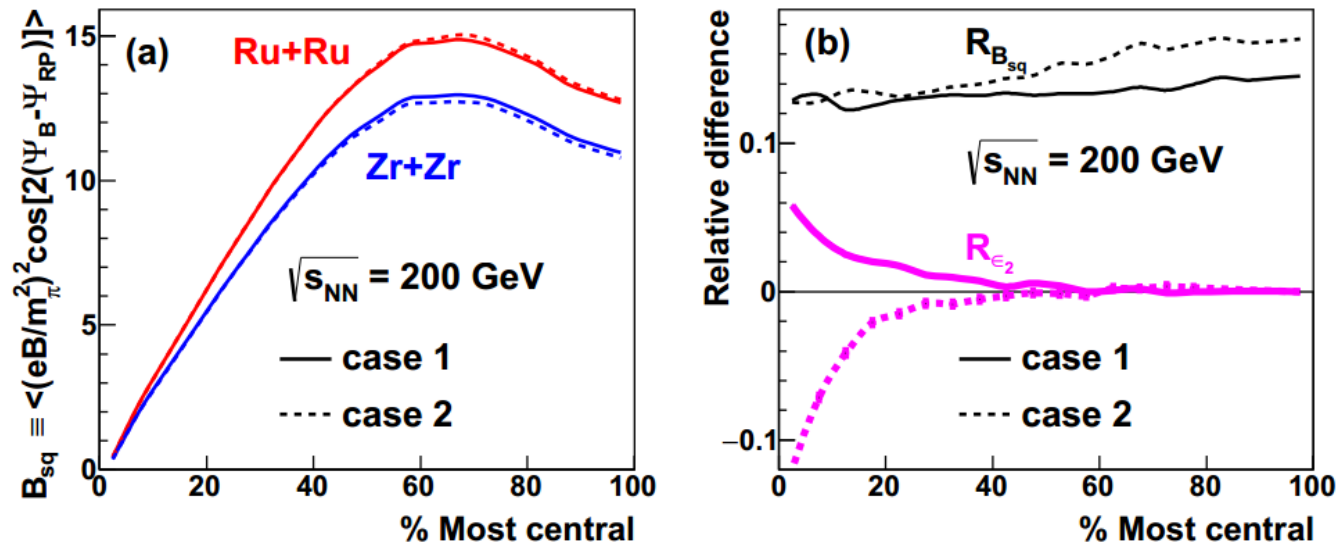
**Case 1: e-A scattering experiments (nucl. Data tab. 2001)**

**Case 2: comprehensive model deductions (nucl. Data tab. 2001)**

		$R_0$ (fm)	$a$ (fm)	$\beta_2$
Case 1	Ru	5.085	0.46	0.158
	Zr	5.02	0.46	0.08
Case 2	Ru	5.085	0.46	0.053
	Zr	5.02	0.46	0.217

# Isobar collisions

## Initial magnetic field and initial eccentricity



Deng, XGH, Ma,  
and Wang, 2016

$B_{sq}$  quantifies magnetic-field fluctuation (Blozynski, XGH, Zhang, and Liao, 2013)

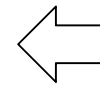
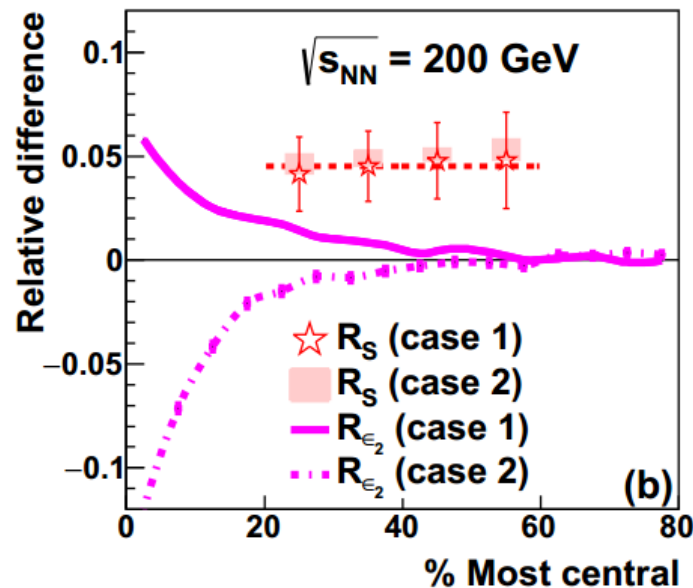
R is the relative difference:  $2(RuRu - ZrZr) / (RuRu + ZrZr)$

Centrality 20-60%: sizable difference in B ( $R_{B_{sq}} \sim 10 - 20\%$ ) but small difference in eccentricity ( $R_{\epsilon_2} < 2\%$ )

# Isobar collisions

**Gamma correlator  $S \equiv N_{\text{part}}\Delta\gamma$ , here  $N_{\text{part}}$  compensates dilution effect, as both CME and v2 background  $\propto 1/N_{\text{part}}$**

**As  $R_{B_{sq}}$  and  $R_{\epsilon_2}$  are small, we do perturbative expansion:  
 $R_S = (1 - bg)R_{B_{sq}} + bg \cdot R_{\epsilon_2}$  with  $bg$  the background level**



**bg=2/3  
 400M events  
 5 $\sigma$  signal**

**If bg=4/5  
 1.2B events  
 5 $\sigma$  signal**

Deng, XGH, Ma, and Wang, 2016

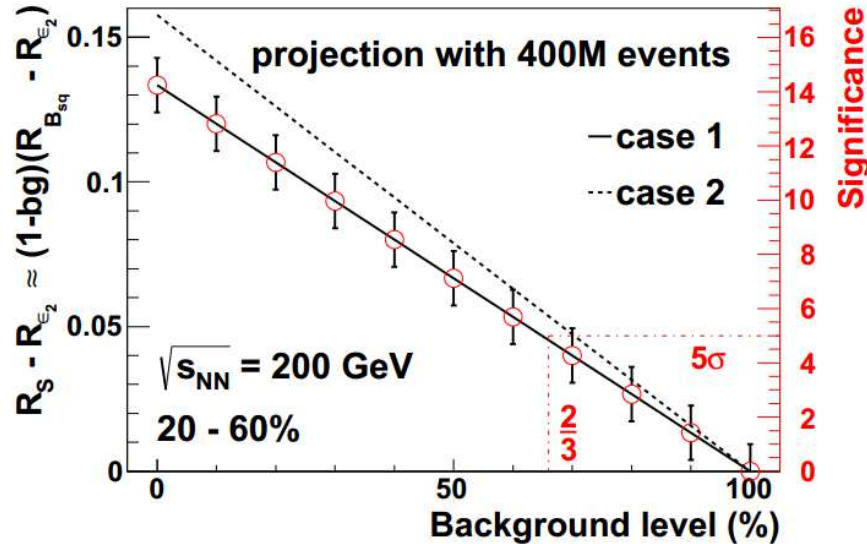
**Centrality 20-60%: clear difference between CME=1/3 and CME=0 if 400M events.**

**Very promising to disentangle CME from v2 backgrounds**



# Isobar collisions

May also determine the background level



First run: 2018 @ RHIC  
STAR BUR for 7 weeks

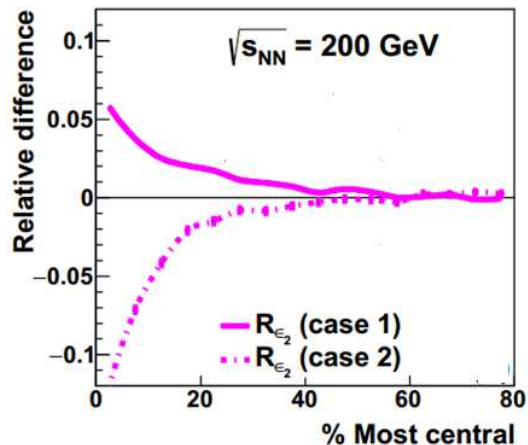
Other anomalous transports:

Observable	${}_{44}^{96}\text{Ru} + {}_{44}^{96}\text{Ru}$ vs. ${}_{40}^{96}\text{Zr} + {}_{40}^{96}\text{Zr}$
flow	$\approx$
CME	$>$
CMW	$>$
CVE	$\approx$

# Isobar collisions: by-product 1

By product 1: which nucleus is more deformed, Zr or Ru?

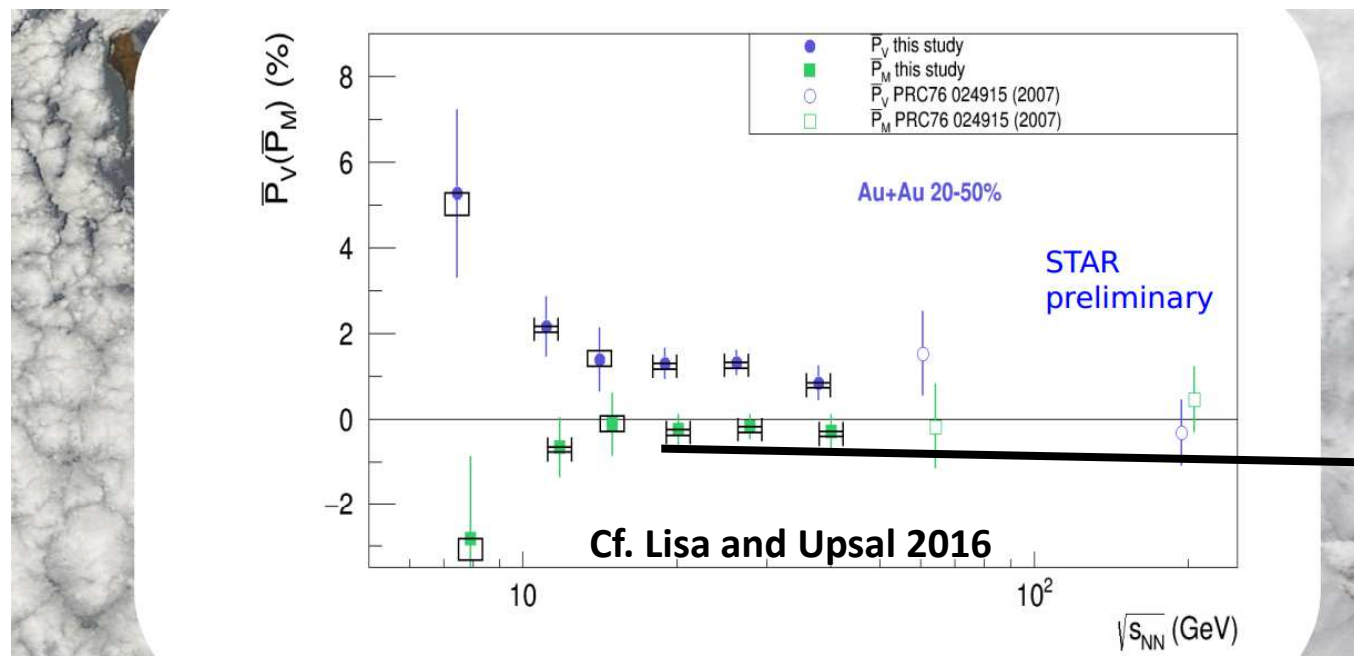
		$R_0(\text{fm})$	$a(\text{fm})$	$\beta_2$
Case 1	Ru	5.085	0.46	0.158
	Zr	5.02	0.46	0.08
Case 2	Ru	5.085	0.46	0.053
	Zr	5.02	0.46	0.217



Measurement of the  $v_2$  at central collision can tell us about the deformation of the nuclei

# Isobar collisions: by-product 2

By product 2: **difference between Lambda and anti-Lambda polarizations, Magnetic field or others?**



Expect 10% difference between Zr+Zr and Ru+Ru, if it is due to magnetic field. **Need beam energy scan**

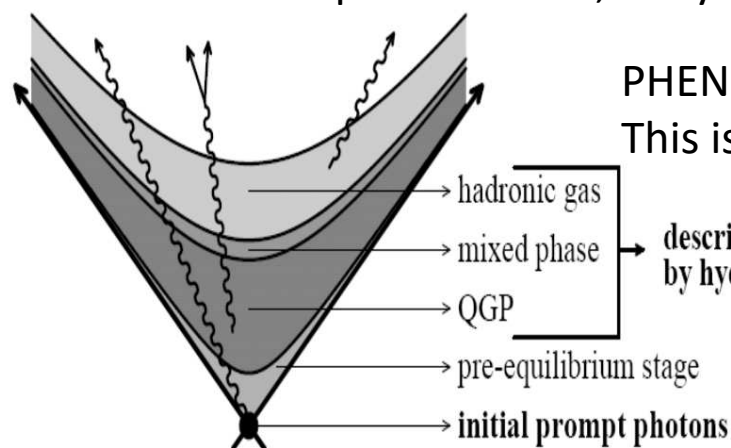
Decomposition into vortical and magnetic

$$P_{\text{Vortical}} = \frac{1}{2}(P_{\Lambda} + P_{\bar{\Lambda}}) \quad P_{\text{Magnetic}} = \frac{1}{2}(P_{\Lambda} - P_{\bar{\Lambda}})$$

# Isobar collisions: by-product 3

**By product 3: is magnetic field responsible to the PHENIX direct photon puzzle?**

When do direct photons emit, early stage or late stage?



PHENIX@QM2012: direct photon has high yield and large  $v_2$ . This is puzzling.

*“high yield -> early emission, high anisotropy -> late emission”*

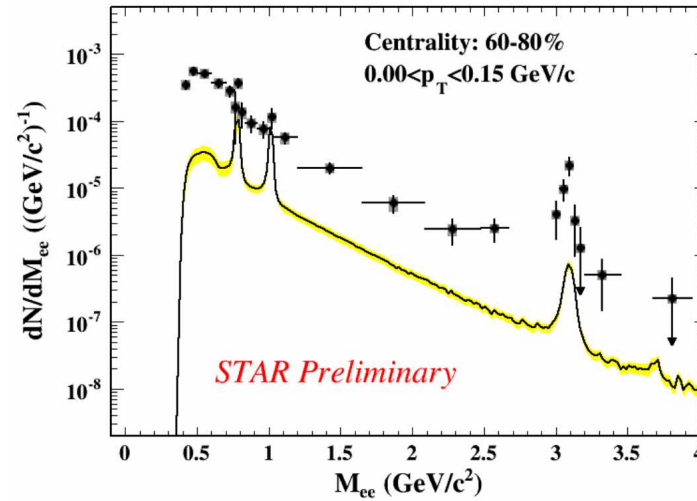
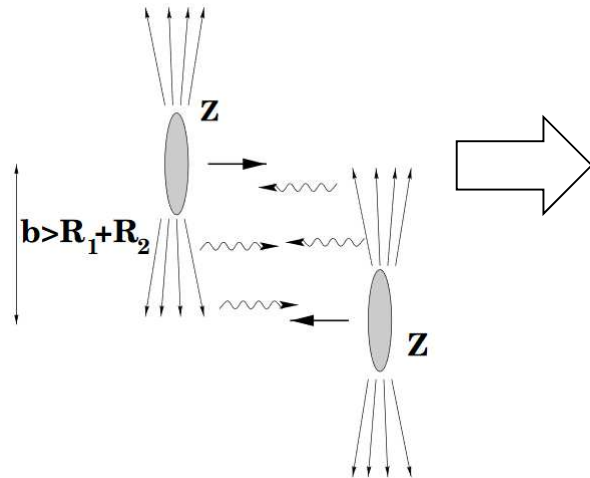
One possible solution: anisotropy in the early stage, like the magnetic field.

(Basar, Skokov, Kharzeev 2012, Tuchin 2012, Muller, Wang, Yang 2013, Yee 2013, ...)

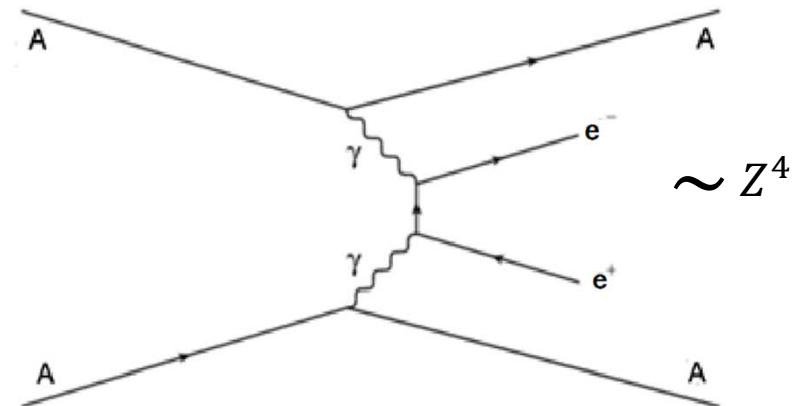
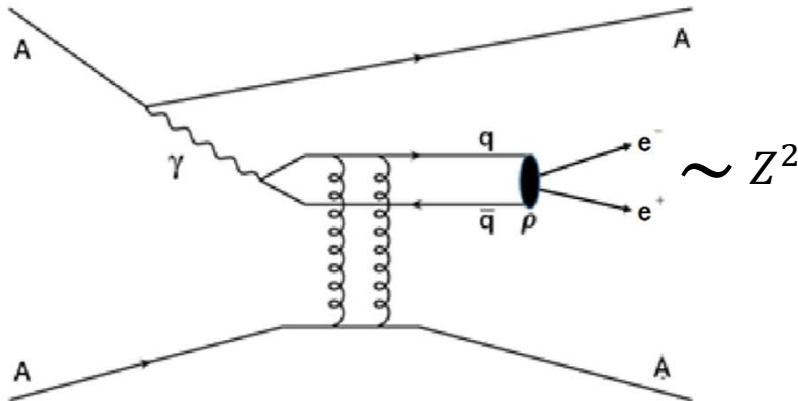
**Anisotropy is proportional to  $B^2$ , thus can be tested in isobar collisions**

# Isobar collisions: by-product 4

By product 4: enhanced dilepton production in very peripheral collisions?



Scenario 1: photonuclear interaction



# A Way Out



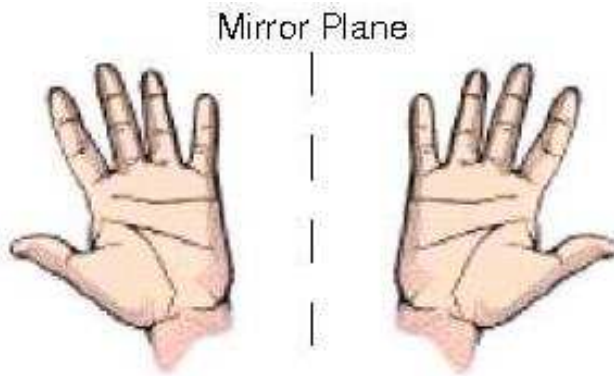
# Summary

- **Anomalous chiral transports are universal macroscopic quantum phenomena**
- **They provides a probe to topological sector of QCD in heavy-ion collisions**
- **Experimental signal suffers from strong backgrounds**
- **Isobar collisions run in 2018 are very looked forward**
- **A number of theoretical challenges need to be considered**

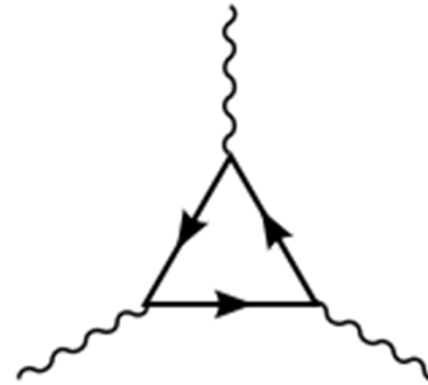
Thank you!

# What are anomalous chiral transports?

- Transport phenomena closely related to **chiral anomalies**: chiral magnetic/vortical effects, etc.
- Usually need environmental violation of parity or charge-parity symmetries



**Chirality**

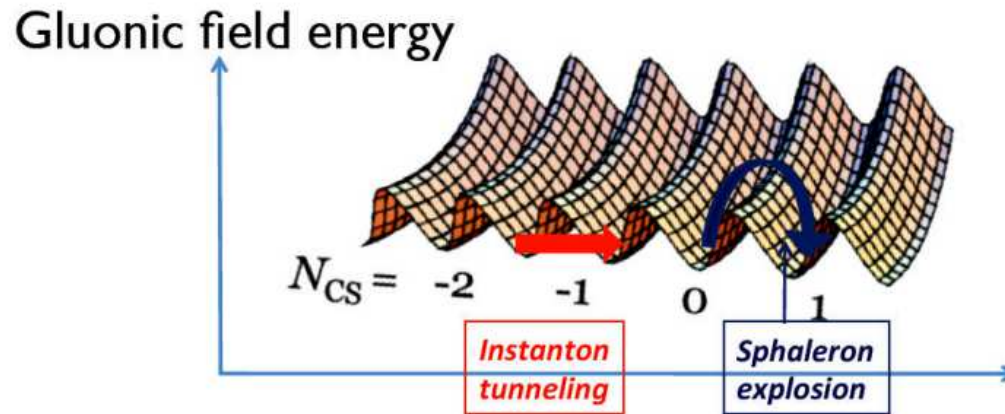


**Triangle anomaly**



# Topological sector of QCD

- QCD can have nontrivial vacuum: The theta vacuum



$$N_{CS} = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \int d^3x \varepsilon^{ijk} \text{tr}[(U^{-1}\partial_i U)(U^{-1}\partial_j U)(U^{-1}\partial_k U)], U \in SU(3)$$

- Transition between 2 vacua is topological (e.g., Instanton, sphaleron)

$$Q = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}_a^{\mu\nu} = N_{CS}(t = \infty) - N_{CS}(t = -\infty)$$

--- P and CP odd transition

# Topological sector of QCD

- Topological transition is equally possible for each direction
- Thus we expect to observe only its fluctuation

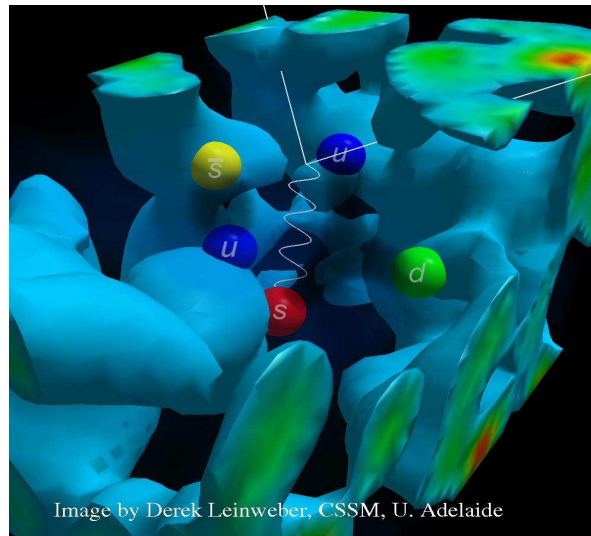


Image by Derek Leinweber, CSSM, U. Adelaide

- If observed, fundamental importance: 1) local Strong P and CP violation; 2) topological sector of QCD vacuum structure
- **How to probe it?**