





Hunting the Quark Gluon Plasma

BNL -73847-2005 Formal Report

Hunting the Quark Gluon Plasma

RESULTS FROM THE FIRST 3 YEARS AT RHIC

Assessments by the experimental collaborations

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• Strong collective motion (elliptic flow)

 sQGP and nearly perfect liquid



New State of Matter Is 'Nearly Perfect' Liquid

Physicists working at Brookhaven National Laboratory announced today that they have created what appears to be a new state of matter out of the building blocks of atomic nuclei, quarks and gluons. The researchers unveiled their findings--which could provide new insight into the composition of the universe just moments after the big bang--today in Florida at a meeting of the American Physical Society.

There are four collaborations, dubbed BRAHMS, PHENIX, PHOBOS and STAR, working at

PHENIX, PHOBOS and STAR, working at Brookhaven's Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC). All of them study what happens when two interacting beams of gold ions smash into one

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another at great velocities, resulting in thousands of subatomic collisions every second. When the researchers analyzed the patterns of the atoms' trajectories after these collisions, they found that the particles produced in the collisions tended to move collectively, much like a school of fish does. Brookhaven's associate laboratory director for high energy and nuclear physics, Sam Aronson, remarks that "the degree of collective interaction, rapid thermalization and extremely low viscosity of the matter being formed at RHIC make this the most nearly perfect liquid ever observed."





Image: BNL



$$\left\langle e^{in(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)} \right\rangle = \left\langle e^{in(\varphi_1 - \psi_r)} e^{in(\psi_r - \varphi_2)} \right\rangle \approx \left\langle e^{in(\varphi_1 - \psi_r)} \right\rangle \left\langle e^{in(\psi_r - \varphi_2)} \right\rangle = \left(v_n \{2\} \right)^2$$

Assumption all correlations between particles due to flow, similar to $v_n \{ EP_m \}$ Non flow correlation contribute order (1/N), problem if $v_n \approx 1/\sqrt{N}$

$$\left\langle e^{in(\varphi_1+\varphi_2-\varphi_3-\varphi_4)} \right\rangle - \left\langle e^{in(\varphi_1-\varphi_2)} \right\rangle \left\langle e^{in(\varphi_3-\varphi_4)} \right\rangle - \left\langle e^{in(\varphi_1-\varphi_4)} \right\rangle \left\langle e^{in(\varphi_3-\varphi_2)} \right\rangle \approx -(v_n \{4\})^4$$

Non flow correlation contribute order (1/N³), problem if $v_n \approx 1/N^{\frac{3}{4}}$

Can be conveniently calculated using generating functions, extended to $v_n \{\infty\}$ using Lee-Yang zeros, reliable $v_n > 1/N$

N. Borghini, P.M. Dinh and J.-Y Ollitrault, Phys. Rev. C63 (2001) 054906



The first RHIC v₂{EP} results





- Magnitude, p_t and mass dependence
- A strongly interacting, more thermalized system which is for more central collisions behaves consistent with ideal fluid behavior!
- Hydro studies show that the system needs to thermalize early (~1 fm/c)
- Best description by QGP EoS!?



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Can we test the EoS (the effect of the phase transition)?



Pasi Huovinen, arXiv:nucl-th/0505036



F. Karsch and E. Laermann, arXiv:hep-lat/0305025

Test the effect of four different EoS; qp is lattice inspired, Q has first order phase transition, H is hadron gas with no phase transition and T a smooth parameterization between hadron and QGP phase



Dependence on the EoS!

Pasi Huovinen, arXiv:nucl-th/0505036



- EoS Q and EoS T (both have significant softening) do provide the best description of the magnitude of the mass scaling in v₂(p_t)
 The lattice inspired EoS
- The lattice inspired EoS (EoS qp) in ideal hydro does as poorly as a hadron gas EoS!

Detailed agreement between ideal hydro and measured $v_2(mass,p_t)$ an accident? (Hirano and Gyulassy arXiv:nucl-th/0506049).

Before we can make a connection to the EoS using $v_2(p_t,mass)$ much more work needed in theory (test different EoS, viscosity, hadronic phase)

Higher harmonics





STAR, PRL 92 (2004) 062301

- Higher harmonics are expected to be present, for smooth azimuthal distributions the higher harmonics will be small v_n ~ v₂^{n/2}
- Data follows the smooth scaling



v₄ as function of centrality







What do we learn from v₄?

- Ratio v₄/v₂² is sensitive to degree of thermalization (Borghini and Ollitrault nucl-th/0506045)
 - $v_4(p_t)/v_2(p_t)^2$ is 1/2 for ideal hydro (more accurate for increasing values of p_t),
 - Observed integrated ratio is larger than unity
 - incomplete thermalization (but how much)
- Do we have intuitive test if the ratio is related to the degree of thermalization?
 - ratio v_4/v_2^2 expected to decrease as the collisions become more central
 - ratio v₄/v₂² expected to increase as function of transverse momenta



Difference between v_2 {2} and v_2 {4}



 In more central Au+Au collisions the difference between v₂{2} and v₂{4} increases from 10% at low-p_t to about 40-50% at intermediate-p_t



Centrality dependence of v_2 {EP) and v_2 {4} (year 4 data)





 At intermediate-p_t the centrality dependence can even change order!

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Ratio $v_4/(v_2{4})^2$



- Ratio larger than unity and for more peripheral collisions increasing fast as function of transverse momentum
- Need theory input how this would look in microscopic model



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Energy Dependence



- Elliptic flow in hydro sensitive to EoS (C_s)
- Elliptic flow in LDL sensitive to density and transport cross sections of the constituents
 - Data shows rather smooth dependence consistent with LDL



RHIC, the (s)QGP, according to Hirano





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Villasimius



At the LHC the main contribution to v₂ is from the QGP phase!



- (black line) QGP contribution to the v₂, increases with colliding energy
- (red dots) total observed signal: QGP + hadron phase
- At the LHC about 80% of the integrated flow signal is generated in the QGP phase!
- Magnitude is large which makes the measurement easier



Non-flow at the LHC (HIJING)





HIJING events with v₂ =0 For low multiplicity events v₂{EP} goes up to 0.6!



First RHIC non-flow estimates



- The non-flow component in HIJING is approximately centrality independent and at LHC energies 0.08 for random subevents, 0.04 for eta subevents, and can be reduced to 0.02 for eta subevents with large rapidity gap (> 1 unit model dependent statement, we know that HIJING does not describe the correlations at RHIC)
- 0.04 is similar to what was observed at RHIC, therefore at midcentral events the true flow correlations is expected to dominate by an order of magnitude (both M and v_2 are expected to be larger)!



Flow from RHIC to the LHC $\sqrt{s_{TAR}}$

At RHIC

- Strong collective behavior
 - Strongly interacting partonic matter
- Theory:
 - microscopic picture still missing
 - connection to the EoS needs more work
- Experiment: more detailed probes become available
 - can v₄ tell us in more detail about the degree of thermalization?

At the LHC

- Current expectations are that we can easily measure anisotropic flow
- The QGP phase is expected to dominate the flow signals
 - better access to the EoS above $\rm T_{c}$



M. Lisa: the v₂ puzzle



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Inner Tracking System

low mass: 7 % X₀

6 layers		R	• r <i>≯</i>	• Z
Layer 1	pixels	4 cm	12 Om	100 Om
Layer 2	pixels	8 cm	12 Om	100 Om
Layer 3	drift	15 cm	38 Om	28 Om
Layer 4	drift	24 cm	38 Om	28 Om
Layer 5	double sided strip	38 cm	17 Om	800 Om
Layer 6	double sided strip	43 cm	17 Om	800 Om





•The ITS is the center of the ALICE tracking system

–needed to get reasonable momentum resolution at higher \mathbf{p}_{t}

- -needed to reconstruct secondary vertices
- -needed to track low momentum particles



ITS + TPC





σ [μ **m**] 600 550 500 450 р κ 400 350 π е 300 κ 250 200 π 150 100 50 0 10⁻¹ 10 p, [Gev/c] Impact parameter resolution is crucial

for the detection of short-lived particles - charm and beauty mesons and baryons

At least one component has to be better than 100 \bigcirc m (c for D⁰ meson is 123 \bigcirc m)

650

p



Completed SSD Ladder

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Alice TDIODT

ALICE Flow preparations





- ALICE various detectors enable reaction plane determination (ITS + TPC, PMD,FMD, ZDC)
- First theory prediction of charged particle flow (and the QGP EoS) can be tested with just one day of data taking
- More stringent tests will come from measuring jet correlation versus the reaction plane and the flow of heavy quarks (dead cone in radiative energy loss, more sensitive to collisional energy loss)



How ideal is nearly perfect?

- How well is the system created in heavy-ion collisions at RHIC described as an ideal fluid? What can we say about the EoS (theorist claimed perfect fluid behavior with QGP EoS)?
 - Elliptic flow (v₂)
 - Centrality dependence
 - Mass and p_t dependence (T and β_0)
 - Energy dependence
 - v_4 / v_2^2

