

RHIC program started in 2000 – Two decades later ...



Relativistic fluid description: $T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^{\mu}u^{\nu} - Pg^{\mu\nu}$

Equation of state from lattice QCD

Fluid is viscous (η/s , ζ/s , ...)

[HoTQCD collaboration, PRD **90** (2014) 094503] [Romatschke & Romatschke, arXiv:1712.05815]



•
$$\operatorname{var}([p_t]) = \left\langle \frac{\sum_{i \neq j} (p_i - \langle [p_t]_{ev} \rangle)(p_j - \langle [p_t]_{ev} \rangle)}{N_{ch,ev}(N_{ch,ev} - 1)} \right\rangle_{ev}$$

• $v_n \{2\}^2 \equiv \langle V_n V_n^* \rangle_{ev} = \left\langle \frac{\sum_{i \neq j} e^{in(\phi_i - \phi_j)}}{N_{ch,ev}(N_{ch,ev} - 1)} \right\rangle_{ev}$ $\langle v_n^4 \rangle = \left\langle e^{n(\phi_1 + \phi_2 - \phi_3 - \phi_4)} \right\rangle_{ev}$
• $\left\langle V_2^2 V_4^* \right\rangle = \left\langle e^{2(\phi_1 + \phi_2) - 4\phi_3} \right\rangle_{ev}$ $\langle V_2 V_3 V_5^* \rangle = \left\langle e^{2\phi_1 + 3\phi_2 - 5\phi_3} \right\rangle_{ev}$

3 particles

 $\langle v_2 v_3 v_5 \rangle - \langle c \rangle$ 3 particles $/_{\rm ev}$

•
$$\operatorname{cov}([p_t], v_n^2) = \left\langle \frac{\sum_{i \neq j \neq k} (p_i - \langle [p_t]_{ev} \rangle) e^{in(\phi_j - \phi_k)}}{N_{ch, ev} (N_{ch, ev} - 1) (N_{ch, ev} - 2)} \right\rangle_{ev}$$

3 particles

2-3-4 particle correlations ... Bayesian analyses for quantitative studies





Origin of multi-particle correlations?



Initial-state fluctuations and correlations due to the random nucleon positions

[Alver, Roland, PRC 81 (2010) 054905]



FIG. 3. Fermionic systems in real and momentum space. We image a system of 6 spin up and 6 spin down atoms (black/white dots) in real (a,b) and momentum (c,d) space, both in the strongly interacting (a,c) and the noninteracting regime (b,d). The two dimensional histograms show the density distribution, obtained from averaging over many experimental realizations of the same quantum state. The black and white dots show a single, randomly chosen snapshot of the wave-function. The size of the dots represents the resolution. The dashed circles show the Thomas Fermi radius (a,b) and the Fermi momentum (c,d) calculated from the non-interacting system. The lines connecting atoms of opposite spin and momentum in c) serve as a guide to the eye to highlight the opposite momentum correlations.

Resolution $\approx 300 \text{ nm}$

Imaging finite quantum systems

[Brandstetter et al., arXiv:2308.09699 arXiv:2409.18954]



Figure 2.3: Transverse plane projection of a collision between ²⁰⁸Pb nuclei in the Glauber Monte Carlo model. The two nuclei are shown as circles of radius $R_A = 6.62$ fm, and are shifted by $\pm b/2$, with b = 8 fm, along the x direction. There is a total of 416 nucleons, depicted as circles, and colored respectively in green or in red depending of their parent nucleus. The nuclei collide at $\sqrt{s_{\rm NN}} = 5.02$ TeV, corresponding to $\sigma_{\rm NN} = 7$ fm². Therefore, a green(red) nucleon is tagged as a participant nucleon whenever its distance from at least one red(green) nucleon is lower than D = 1.5 fm, which corresponds in fact to the diameters of the small circles in the figure. Participant nucleons are highlighted as full symbols.

"Resolution" in the transverse plane is the inverse typical momentum transfer, \approx Gev \approx 0.1 fm

Initial-state properties seen through final-state observables





Analytical insights

- Initial spatial anisotropy:

$$\mathcal{E}_n = -\frac{\int_{\mathbf{x}} \epsilon(\mathbf{x}) \ |\mathbf{x}|^n e^{in\phi_x}}{\int_{\mathbf{x}} \epsilon(\mathbf{x}) \ |\mathbf{x}|^n}$$





– Perturbative expansion:

$$\epsilon(\mathbf{x}) = \langle \epsilon(\mathbf{x}) \rangle + \delta \epsilon(\mathbf{x})$$



[Blaizot, Broniowski, Ollitrault, PLB 738 (2014) 166-171]

Analytical insights

With: $\epsilon(\mathbf{x}, \tau = 0^{+}) \propto t_{A}(\mathbf{x})t_{B}(\mathbf{x}) \quad t(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{A} g(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}_{i}, w)$ NUCLEON STRUCTURE

Correlation functions:

$$\langle \epsilon(\mathbf{x}) \rangle_{\text{ev}} = A^2 \left(\int_{\mathbf{r}_1} \rho^{(1)}(\mathbf{r}_1) g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}_{1\perp}) \right)^2$$

$$\langle \epsilon(\mathbf{x})\epsilon(\mathbf{y}) \rangle_{\text{ev}} = \left(A \int_{\mathbf{r}_1} \rho^{(1)}(\mathbf{r}_1) g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}_{1\perp}) g(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{r}_{1\perp}) \right)$$

Energy density

$$+ (A^2 - A) \int_{\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2} \frac{\rho^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}_{1\perp}) g(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{r}_{2\perp})}{\sum_{\substack{\mathbf{NUCLEAR}\\\mathbf{STRUCTURE}}} \rho^{(2)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}_{1\perp}) g(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{r}_{2\perp})} \right)^2$$





[Giacalone, EPJA 59 (2023) 12, 297]

nuclear *n*-body density:
$$\rho^{(n)}(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_n) = \sum_{s,t} \int_{\mathbf{r}_{n+1},\dots,\mathbf{r}_A} |\Psi_A|^2$$
 Ground State

Origin of multi-particle correlations?

$$\begin{split} & \underset{\mathsf{ELLIPTIC FLOW}{\mathsf{FLATOR}}{\mathsf{V}_n \{2\}^2 \equiv \langle V_n V_n^* \rangle_{ev} = \left\langle \frac{\sum_{i \neq j} e^{in(\phi_i - \phi_j)}}{N_{\mathrm{ch,ev}}(N_{\mathrm{ch,ev}} - 1)} \right\rangle_{ev}^{\mathsf{PPCORRELATOR}} \\ & \underset{\mathsf{ECCENTRICITY}}{\mathsf{MEAN SQUARED}} \ \langle \mathcal{E}_n \mathcal{E}_n^* \rangle_{ev} = \frac{\int_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} |\mathbf{x}|^n |\mathbf{y}|^n e^{in(\phi_x - \phi_y)} \langle \epsilon(\mathbf{x}) \epsilon(\mathbf{y}) \rangle_{ev}}{\left(\int_{\mathbf{x}} \langle \epsilon(\mathbf{x}) \rangle |\mathbf{x}|^n\right)^2} \\ & \underset{\mathsf{CCCENTRICITY}}{\langle \epsilon(\mathbf{x}) \epsilon(\mathbf{y}) \rangle_{ev}} = \left(A \int_{\mathbf{r}_1} \rho^{(1)}(\mathbf{r}_1) \ g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}_{1\perp})g(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{r}_{1\perp}) \\ & \underset{\mathsf{PRERGY DENSITY}}{\mathsf{PPCORRELATOR}} \\ & + (A^2 - A) \int_{\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2} \rho^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2)g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}_{1\perp})g(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{r}_{2\perp}) \right)^2 \end{split}$$

Atomic nuclei – Collective spatial correlations of nucleons

Random rotation of an intrinsic deformed object

[STAR collaboration, arXiv:2401.06625, to appear in Nature (2024)]

$$\rho(r,\theta,\phi) \propto \frac{1}{1+\exp\left(\left[r-R(\theta,\phi)\right]/a\right)} , R(\theta,\phi) = R_0 \left[1+\frac{\beta_2}{\cos\gamma Y_{20}(\theta)}+\frac{\sin\gamma Y_{22}(\theta,\phi)}{\sin\gamma Y_{22}(\theta,\phi)}\right] + \frac{\beta_3 Y_{30}(\theta)}{\beta_3 Y_{30}(\theta)} + \frac{\beta_4 Y_{40}(\theta)}{\beta_4 Y_{40}(\theta)} \right]$$

e.g. Woods-Saxon

Best example – New "classical" phenomenon in nuclear physics



[STAR collaboration, arXiv:2401.06625, to appear in Nature (2024)]

If elliptic flow increases ... then average pT decreases!



"Seeing" the deformation of ²³⁸U

tip-tip

1280

0.651

0.027



How do we extract quantitative information on the nuclei? The "isobar" strategy – Ratio observables to cancel uncertainties

The idea. We exploit the seemingly uninteresting fact that a large number of stable nuclides belong to pairs of isobars, i.e., that for a given nuclide X one can often find a different nuclide Y that contains the same number of nucleons. This feature has an important implication for high-energy collisions. If X and Y are isobars, then X+X collisions produce a system which has the same properties (volume, density) as that produced in Y+Y collisions. As a consequence, X+X and Y+Y systems present the same geometry, the same dynamical evolution, and thus the same elliptic flow in the final state.

This leads us to our main point. Given two isobars, X and Y, we ask the following:

 $\frac{\mathcal{O}_{X+X}}{\mathcal{O}_{V+V}} \stackrel{?}{=} 1$

[Giacalone, Jia, Somà, PRC 104 (2021) 4, L041903]



Cancellation of systematics is highly effective ... even without isobars!

Neat probes of nuclear geometry (129Xe vs 208Pb) $\langle v_2^2 \rangle = a + b\beta^2$



[Mäntysaari, Schenke, Shen, Zhao, arXiv:2409.19064]

Actual isobar collisions (⁹⁶Ru+⁹⁶Ru vs ⁹⁶Zr+⁹⁶Zr)



Isobar ratio and Taylor expand around unity:

$$\frac{\langle v_n^2 \rangle_{\rm Ru+Ru}}{\langle v_n^2 \rangle_{\rm Zr+Zr}} = 1 + c \left(\beta_{n,\rm Ru}^2 - \beta_{n,\rm Zr}^2\right)$$
positive coeff

Low-energy nuclear physics: $\beta_{2,Ru}^2 \gg \beta_{2,Zr}^2$

RHIC data:
$$\beta_{2,\mathrm{Ru}}^2 \gg \beta_{2,\mathrm{Zr}}^2$$
 $\beta_{3,\mathrm{Zr}}^2 \gg \beta_{3,\mathrm{Ru}}^2$

[Giacalone, Jia, Zhang, PRL **127** (2021) 24, 242301] [Jia, PRC **105** (2022) 1, 014905]



Different observables access different features of the incoming shapes



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 $\left\langle \left(\delta p_T\right)^2 \right\rangle = a_0 + a_1 \beta_2^2,$ $\left\langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \right\rangle = a'_0 - a'_1 \beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma)$

[Jia, PRC 105 (2022) 4, 044905]

 $\gamma_{_{
m U}}pprox 8^{
m o}$

Energy density functional theory: ¹²⁹Xe is triaxial in the ground state

[Bally *et al.*, PRL **128** (2022) 8, 082301] [Bally, Giacalone, Bender, EPJA **58** (2022) 9, 187]

Consistent with high-energy observations



In summary, we image atomic nuclei in their ground states Some implications:

- Triaxiality of well-deformed nuclei

- Skin of nuclei



[Giacalone, Nijs, van der Schee, PRL **131** (2023) 20, 20]



What else?

Recall: we access structure differences of isobars directly in ground states

$$\rho(r,\theta,\phi) \propto \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\left[r - R(\theta,\phi)\right]/a\right)} \quad \text{, } \quad R(\theta,\phi) = \underline{R_0} \left[1 + \underline{\beta_2} \left(\cos\gamma Y_{20}(\theta) + \sin\gamma Y_{22}(\theta,\phi)\right) + \underline{\beta_3} Y_{30}(\theta) + \beta_4 Y_{40}(\theta)\right) + \underline{\beta_3} Y_{30}(\theta) + \underline{\beta_4} Y_{40}(\theta) + \underline{\beta_4} Y$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{Ru}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{Zr}}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a$$

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[Zhang, Jia, PRL **128** (2022) 2, 022301] [Zhang, Jia, PRC **107** (2023) 2, L021901]



$$\Delta \beta_n^2 = \beta_{n,\mathrm{Ru}}^2 - \beta_{n,\mathrm{Zr}}^2$$
$$\Delta a = a_{\mathrm{Ru}} - a_{\mathrm{Zr}}$$

Natural application – Search for neutrinoless double beta decay

[Engel, Menéndez, Rept.Prog.Phys. 80 (2017) 4, 046301]

$$(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e^{-1} \quad (0\nu\beta\beta)$$

Rate involves nuclear matrix element – Structure of initial and final nuclei

$$[T_{1/2}^{0\nu}]^{-1} = G_{0\nu}(Q,Z) \frac{|M_{0\nu}|^2}{2} m_{\beta\beta}^2 m_{\beta$$

Issue for interpretation of rate data is knowledge of the NME

New experiments to benchmark theoretical models? High-energy collisions?

Bayesian analysis and emulators in energy density functional theory



NME strongly correlated with nuclear size and the "deformation" [B(E2) values]

[Zhang et al., arXiv:2408.13209]

Eccentricities of the QGP and related observables are correlated with the NME

WORK I





Similar result in *ab initio* theory

Delta-full EFT with 17 LECs

Deformation (R42~3.33) has strong sensitivity to C150 constant

[Ekström et al., arXiv:2305.06955]

NME strongly sensitive to C150

[Belley et al., arXiv:2408.02169]

Heavy-ion observables will be strongly correlated with the NME





[Work in progress with Charles Gale, Sangyong Jeon, et al.]

How about small nuclei? Big LHC discovery: Small system collectivity

[Wiedemann, Grosse-Oetringhaus, arXiv:2407.7484]

A hydrodynamic description is not justified based on "standard criteria"

[Ambrus, Schlichting, Werthmann, PRL **130** (2023) 15, 152301] [Kurkela, Wiedemann, Wu, EPJC **79** (2019) 11, 965]

Triggered vast program on thermalization and out-of-equilibrium dynamics

[Berges, Heller, Mazeliauskas, Venugopalan, RMP 93 (2021) 3, 035003]



Light ion collisions at the LHC

Location: 4/3-006, CERN Website: cern.ch/lightions Date: Nov. 11-15, 2024



Topics covered in relation to small systems: Experimental highlights and projections Heavy flavour Hydrodynamics Initial conditions Jets Ultraperipheral collisions Nuclear parton distribution functions

Nuclear parton distribution funct Nuclear structure LHC accelerator opportunities Organisers: Reyes Alemany Fernandez Giuliano Giacalone Qipeng Hu Govert Hugo Nijs Saverio Mariani Wilke van der Schee Huichao Song Jing Wang Urs Wiedemann

You Zhou

[can be followed on zoom, registration is open]

Conclusion



A new method for precision imaging of nuclear ground states via high-energy collisions

New constraints on $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay NMEs for potentially all candidate isotopes?

Collisions of light ions to shed light on small system collectivity