### Understanding properties of the QGP on the basis of correlation and fluctuation measurements at RHIC and LHC







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# Overcoming the strong force using compressed matter at

relativistic energies

QCD phase transition (deconfinement, chiral symmetry restored)



LHC: max. energy = max. T = max. transparency = min. density RHIC: reduced energy and T = stopping = finite density

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### Evolution of a RHIC heavy ion collision (as a function of temperature and time)



# The cooling of the hot QCD vacuum and the hot QCD medium



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#### Ongoing analyses: Analogy to early universe - evolution of fluctuations & correlations



#### **Correlation Measurements**

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# **Smooth initial conditions ?**

If a static thermalized system is formed, the emissions would be • isotropic



- Equal probability for each particle in any direction of emission
- In high energy nuclear and particle physics we expect specific ۲ correlation effects Jet fragmentation **Anisotropic flow** 
  - Resonance decay
  - Radial flow
  - Anisotropic flow (geometry)
  - Jet fragmentation







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### Quantifying anisotropy and collectivity



Hydrodynamics: strong coupling, small mean free path: many interactions NOT plasma-like system behaves liquid-like.



Hydro measures level of viscosity/entropy ratio ( $\eta$ /s) The smaller, the more ideal the liquid is (quantum limit = 1/4 $\pi$  = 0.08)

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#### Number correlations in coordinate space as a f(centrality)

## Lots of structure in emissions



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#### Lesson from RHIC – a near perfect Quark Soup ?



#### Higher harmonics of initial energy density fluctuations



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#### Example: Residual & fit decomposition for 30 – 40% centrality



### Heavy Ion Flow at the LHC



Significant precision to high pT and for higher order harmonics

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# Initial State determines flow strength



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14

#### Flow measurements validate hydrodynamic modeling

#### Recent theory development: a hybrid approach with hydro and IC IP-Glasma IC and viscous hydro (MUSIC) (McGill+BNL, PRL 110,012302 (2013)



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### Resolving the sub-nucleonic quantum structure: From the largest to the smallest systems



IP-Glasma more consistent with U+U data than Glauber

Initial State fluctuations occur at parton level

Can we resolve the number of sub-nucleonic scattering centers in small systems?



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# Multi-particle correlations in small systems (pPb, dAu, even pp?)



- v2 in p-Pb is smaller than v2 in Pb-Pb at comparable multiplicities
- v3 in p-Pb is similar to v3 in Pb-Pb at comparable multiplicities
- Multi-particle v2 is a strong hint of collectivity

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# The dagger in the heart for non-flow explanations ?



This is a mass dependent multi-particle correlation,

i.e. it must be a collective phenomenon ? Multi-gluon interactions can explain two-particle correlations (Gyulassy)

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0.0

0.5

1.0

1.5

2.0

p\_(GeV/c)

2.5

3.0

3.5

3.5

#### Flow measurements constrain initial conditions



• LHC fit to  $v_n$ 's yields  $\eta$ /s = 0.20, RHIC fit yields  $\eta$ /s = 0.12

• Different  $\eta$ /s indicates temperature dependence of viscosity ?

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#### A power spectrum for QGP = analog to the WMAP

#### An acoustic horizon in fluid dynamics (e.g. arXiv:1101.1926)









Gaussian width can be related to length scales like mean free path, acoustic horizon,  $1/(2\pi T)$ ...

How much more does the full harmonics spectrum constrain the medium parameters (e.g  $\eta$ /s) ?

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# Experimental confirmation of QCD EoS

Using multi-variate analysis on RHIC & LHC data

(from latest climate/cosmology techniques)

S. Pratt et al. PRL 114 (2015)



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# What happens at lower energies ?



From LHC energies down to 39 GeV v2 stays almost constant. Below these energies the system does not follow 'ideal' hydro anymore.



This coincides with a sign change in v1. Softest point ? Changing EOS.





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#### **Fluctuation Measurements**



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# The critical point (theoretical approach)

For a Gaussian distribution: skewness and kurtosis are zero.
Look for non-Gaussian distribution near critical point
Baseline for net-quantitites: Skellam (folded Poissonians)
Fluctuations depend on correlation length

#### Theories / Models: PNJL, Dyson Schwinger, Lattice, NLSM



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# The critical point (experimental approach): measure net-distributions and calculate moments



STAR distributions: the means shift towards zero from low to high energy Then: calculate moments (c1-c4: mean, variance, skewness, kurtosis)

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## Theory: key predictions

•The sigma field is isospin blind and its coupling can be applied to each particle species (net-baryon = net-proton = proton distribution)

•The coupling strength depends on the particle mass, i.e. proton should show the strongest fluctuations, pions should not show much fluctuations (net-charge might be flat, net-protons need to show fluctuations)

The higher the moment, the stronger the fluctuations. Kurtosis changes its sign near critical point



# Searching for the critical point

Measuring higher moments of net-charged and net-protons (STAR)



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### The latest (preliminary) RHIC results



Minima in v1 slope and kurtosis fluctuations coincide. Latest STAR kurtosis results over extended momentum range show rise in fluctuations at higher mB (caution: rapidity dependence not well understood)

> BES-II runs in 2019/2020 at RHIC deliver necessary statistics





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## Chemical freeze-out parameters at RHIC & LHC: The 'proton or strange quark anomaly ?'



This looks like a good fit, but it is not

 $\chi^2$ /NDF improves from 2 to 1 when pions and protons are excluded.

Fit to pions and protons alone yield a temperature of 148 MeV.

<u>Several alternate explanations:</u> •<u>Different T<sub>ch</sub> for light and strange</u> •Inclusion of Hagedorn states •Non-equilibrium fits •Baryon annihilation

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### A novel fluctuation analysis

Use different higher moments ratios to determine the chemical freeze-out parameters  $(T, \mu_B)$  from first principle lattice QCD and compare to HRG

(Karsch:1202.4173): 
$$\kappa_B \sigma_B^2 \equiv \frac{\chi_{4,\mu}^B}{\chi_{2,\mu}^B} = \frac{\chi_4^B(T)}{\chi_2^B(T)} \left[ \frac{1 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\chi_6^B(T)}{\chi_4^B(T)} (\mu_B/T)^2 + \dots}{1 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\chi_4^B(T)}{\chi_2^B(T)} (\mu_B/T)^2 + \dots} \right]$$



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### Consistency between data, HRG, and lattice



Higher moments are more sensitive to freeze-out conditions than particle yields. Proton and charge fluctuations, which are dominated by light quarks show lower chemical freeze-out temperature.

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### **Conclusions – Discussion points**

 particle correlation measurements at RHIC and LHC establish the collectivity of the QCD phase of matter.

- viscosity at LHC is slightly larger than at RHIC, but still close to the quantum limit, which is in agreement with strong coupling expectations.

 small system show collective effects which can be described by hydrodynamics, whereas the description via multi parton interactions is difficult for multi-particle correlation measurements (v2(4) and above, v3)

- the precise multi-particle measurements enable insight into the density distribution in the sub-nucleonic structure of the smallest and largest systems.

- measurements at lower energies establish a QCD transition point.

- is this point a critical point ? The results are suggestive but still inconclusive.
- fluctuations also allow us to determine freeze-out surfaces from first principle and might hint at a *intriguing flavor hierarchy during the QCD transition*.

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### Backup

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### How small is too small ?



#### Buzz of the month:

multi-parton interactions = color reconnection = pomeron ladders = partonic cascade ?

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### What goes down must come up....



The lack of structure in the net-charge compared to the net-protons can be understood by the different coupling of specific species to the sigma field

But the negatvie kurtosis that might cause the dip near 20 GeV needs to be followed by a strong enhancement (positive kurtosis) at lower energies. The trends in the 14.5 GeV data provide a crucial test.







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# The softest point (changing EOS)

Measuring directed flow  $(v_1)$  and HBT in BES (STAR, PHENIX)



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#### Topics I plan to address

#### Correlation Measurements at RHIC and the LHC

The softest point (flow and HBT measurements at RHIC)
 Critical point searches at RHIC
 Chemical freeze-out parameters
 Low mass diletpons

#### •Fluctuation Measurements at RHIC and the LHC

Critical point searches at RHIC
Thermalization of charm
NCQ scaling and recombination

#### •Small systems - hot or not ?

Flow and particle production in pp and pPb
 Color reconnection – is it interesting ?

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### The model descriptions

#### From Initial State to Initial Conditions

Weakly coupled, strongly interacting system = high gluon density = CGC ? multi-parton interactions = color reconnection = pomeron ladders

#### The evolution

Transport: multi-parton interactions = partonic cascade ? (BAMPS, EPOS, AMPT)

Or

Hydrodynamics

(hybrid codes, IP-Glasma, Echo-QGP, VISHNU)

#### Hadronization

Cooper-Frye, lattice QCD, SHM-HRG

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# An exciting prospect for the future: Event engineering

• The e-by-e statistics at the LHC enable event classification on the basis of harmonics measurements. (PLB 719 (2013) 394)



Future studies: explore PID dependent dynamic fluctuations and multiplicity distributions e-by-e.

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### System size evolution of kinematics and source



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# Where does it all begin / end ? Energy dependence of QCD matter



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# Rapidity dependence of STAR net-proton kurtosis fluctuations

