Exploring Hot Dense Matter at RHIC and LHC

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Lecture 2 Initial conditions: partonic structure and global observables

Recap from yesterday: Measuring collision geometry I

Nuclei are "macroscopic"

 \rightarrow characterize collisions by impact parameter



Measuring collision geometry II



- Order events by centrality metric
- Classify into percentile bins of "centrality"

HI jargon: "0-5% central"

Connect to Glauber theory via particle production model:

- N_{bin}: effective number of binary nucleon collisions (~5-10% precision)
- N_{part}: number of (inelastically scattered) "participating" nucleons

Kinematics: Mandelstam variables

$$E\frac{d^{3}\sigma}{dp^{3}} \propto f_{a/A}(x_{a},Q^{2}) \otimes f_{b/B}(x_{b},Q^{2}) \otimes \underbrace{\frac{d\hat{\sigma}^{ab \to cd}}{dt}} \otimes D_{h/c}(z_{c},Q^{2})$$



$$s + t + u = \sum_{i=1}^{4} m_i^2$$

Total collision energy in CM system = \sqrt{s}

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Now back to our regularly scheduled program...



Very simple question: can we understand the total number of particles generated in a heavy ion collision (a.k.a. "multiplicity")?



Let's start with the "initial state": what is the role of the partonic structure of the projectiles?





Multiple interactions drive the collision dynamics →we need to understand the initial (incoming) state...



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Perturbative QCD factorization in hadronic collisions



Q² evolution of Parton Distribution and Fragmentation Functions

$$E\frac{d^{3}\sigma}{dp^{3}} \propto f_{a/A}\left(x_{a}\left(Q^{2}\right) \otimes f_{b/B}\left(x_{b},Q^{2}\right) \otimes \frac{d\hat{\sigma}^{ab \to cd}}{dt} \otimes D_{h/c}\left(z_{c}\left(Q^{2}\right) \otimes \frac{d\hat{\sigma}^{ab \to cd}}{dt}\right) \otimes D_{h/c}\left(z_{c}\left(Q^{2}\right) \otimes \frac{d\hat{\sigma}^{ab \to cd}}{dt} \otimes D_{h/c}\left(z_{c}\left(Q^{2}\right) \otimes \frac{d\hat{\sigma}^{ab \to cd}}{dt}\right) \otimes D_{h/c}\left(z_{c}\left(Q^{2}\right) \otimes \frac{d\hat{\sigma}^{ab \to cd}}{dt}\right)$$

Parton Distribution Fucntions (PDFs) and fragmentation functions are not calculable *ab initio* in pQCD

They are essentially non-perturbative in origin (soft, long distance physics) and must be extracted from data at some scale Q_0^2

pQCD then specifies how PDFs and fragmentation functions evolve from Q_0^2 to any other scale Q² (DGLAP evolution equations)

Q² evolution



Simpler case: deep inelastic scattering (DIS) of e+p

NC: $e^{\pm} + p \rightarrow e^{\pm} + X$, CC: $e^{\pm} + p \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{a}(\nu_{a}) + X$







 $Q^{**2} = 21475$ y = 0.55 M = 198





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DIS kinematics



proton in "∞" momentum frame



No transverse momentum

 $0 \le x \le 1$

x = fractional longitudinal momentum carried by the struck parton

√s = ep cms energy Q²=-q²= 4-momentum transfer squared (or virtuality of the "photon")

Probing the structure of the proton with DIS

Define a new quantity F₂:

parton density for flavor *i*



If a proton were made up of 3 quarks, each carrying 1/3 of proton's momentum:



•If partons are point-like and incoherent then Q^2 shouldn't matter •Bjorken scaling: F_2 has no Q^2 dependence

Measurement of proton F₂



Tour de force for perturbative QCD:

Q² does matter!

- Partons are not point-like and incoherent.
- Hadronic structure depends on the scale at which you probe it!

Spectacular agreement with DGLAP evolution

Parton Distribution Function in the proton



Low Q²: valence structure



Gluon saturation at low *x*

Fix Q^2 and consider what happens as x is decreased...



Problem: low x gluon density cannot increase without limit (unitarity bound) Solution:

- •gluons carry color charge
- •if packed at high enough density they will recombine
 - →gluon density is self-limiting
 - →gluon saturation !

Gluon recombination in nuclei

Uncertainty principle: wave fn. for very low momentum (low x) gluons extends over entire depth of nucleus

Define gluon density per unit area in nucleus of mass A:

$$\rho \sim \frac{xG_A\left(x,Q^2\right)}{\pi R_A^2}; \ G_A\left(x,Q^2\right) \sim A \cdot G_N\left(x,Q^2\right)$$

Gluon recombination cross section:

 $\sigma_{gg \to g} \sim \frac{\alpha_S}{O^2}$

Recombination occurs if:

 $R \sim A^{1/3}$

$$\rho \cdot \sigma_{gg \to g} > 1$$

Saturation momentum scale Q_{sat}^2 satisfies self-consistent condition:



Gluon recombination for $Q^2 < Q_{sat}^2$

Saturation scale vs nuclear mass







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Summary thus far

QCD is remarkably successful in describing the partonic stucture of the proton over a vast kinematic range

There are good reasons to expect significant modification of this structure in heavy nuclei \rightarrow saturation

Experimental evidence in favor of saturation in forward d+Au correlations

Does any of this play a role in high energy nuclear collisions Let's go back to our original question: what generates all the particles?



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Multiplicity measurements

Count the number of charged particles per unit pseudo-rapidity

Simplest "bulk" observable that characterizes the collision







LHC

Charged particle multiplicity



$dN_{ch}/d\eta$: model comparisons

PRL, 105, 252301 (2010), arXiv:1011.3916

 $V_{S_{NN}}=2.76 \text{ TeV Pb+Pb}, 0-5\% \text{ central}, |\eta|<0.5$



dNch/dn: Centrality dependence

PRL, 106, 032301 (2011), arXiv:1012.1657



_{6/20/11} Striking centrality-independent scaling RHIC → LHC

Does saturation play a role?



dN_{ch}/dη vs. centrality: models PRL, 106, 032301 (2011), arXiv:1012.1657



Summary of Lecture 2

Initial state: approaching quantitative control

Final charged multiplicity closely related to initial gluon multiplicity:

$$\frac{dN^{ch}}{d\eta} \sim \frac{2}{3} \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \frac{dN^g}{d\eta}$$

Good evidence that gluon saturation in nuclei plays a role

Smooth evolution of multiplicity with collision energy and system size



Why is any of this surprising? How could it be different?

Thermalized system: massive reinteractions, generation of large numbers of particles and softening of momentum spectra

expect stronger dependence on energy and system size...?

Apparently not the case

Next lecture: the good news about equilibration.



