Three Particle Correlations as a Probe of Eccentricity Fluctuations



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Participant Eccentricity

Glauber like fluctuations in the initial state mean that $\psi_{PP} \neq \psi_{RP}$ and, in addition, the eccentricity of the collision overlap zone is not the same as the participant eccentricity

The eccentricity calculation is a random walk with varying step sizes.



Each additional participant adds a step

- The distribution of eccentricity will end up as a 2-D gaussian.
 - The shift in x is the standard eccentricity
 - The number of steps determines the width
 - For odd n, the shift is zero

But participant eccentricity considers the length of the eccentricity vector which is positive definite, even for n=1,3,5,7...

demonstrate that lumpiness in the initial conditions can lead to a finite $\sqrt{\langle v_3^2 \rangle}$ in azimuthal particle production.



Until Recently v_3^2 has Been Overlooked





Ideal Hydro including Glauber Style Initial Conditions Teaney and Yan arXiv:submit/0123932 [nucl-th] 9 Oct 2010 M M - F

$$\begin{split} \left\langle \left\langle \frac{\mathrm{d}N_{\mathrm{pairs},\alpha\beta}}{\mathrm{d}\phi_{\alpha}\mathrm{d}\phi_{\beta}} \right\rangle \right\rangle &\simeq \frac{N_{\alpha}N_{\beta}}{(2\pi)^{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \sum_{n} 2\left(\frac{v_{n\alpha}v_{n\beta}}{\epsilon_{n}^{2}}\right) \left\langle \left\langle \epsilon_{n}^{2}\right\rangle \right\rangle \cos(n\phi_{\alpha} - n\phi_{\beta}) & \text{Tealesty} \\ &+ 2\frac{v_{2\alpha}}{\epsilon_{2}} \left\langle \left\langle \epsilon_{2}\right\rangle \right\rangle \cos(2\phi_{\alpha} - 2\Psi_{PP}) & \text{stylesty} \\ &+ 2\frac{v_{2\alpha}v_{2\beta}}{\epsilon_{2}^{2}} \left\langle \left\langle \epsilon_{2}^{2}\right\rangle \right\rangle \cos(2\phi_{\alpha} + 2\phi_{\beta} - 4\Psi_{PP}) & \text{Dipolesterm} \\ &+ 2\frac{v_{1\alpha}v_{1\beta}}{\epsilon_{1}^{2}} \left\langle \left\langle \epsilon_{1}^{2}\cos(2\psi_{1,3} - 2\Psi_{PP})\right\rangle \right\rangle \cos(\phi_{\alpha} + \phi_{\beta} - 2\Psi_{PP}) & \text{terr} \\ &+ 2\frac{v_{1\alpha}v_{3\beta}}{\epsilon_{1}\epsilon_{3}} \left\langle \left\langle \epsilon_{1}\epsilon_{3}\cos(\psi_{1,3} - 3\psi_{3,3} + 2\Psi_{PP})\right\rangle \right\rangle \cos(\phi_{\alpha} - 3\phi_{\beta} + 2\Psi_{PP}) & \text{exp} \\ &+ \alpha \leftrightarrow \beta \end{bmatrix}. \\ \end{split}$$

Teaney and Yan use a cumulant expansion to include Glauber style initial conditions in an ideal hydrodynamics model. They employ an expansion in terms of cumulants which is mathematically convenient and experimentally easy to measure.

General form of the two particle correlation wrt to the participant plane, ψ_{pp} , averaged over Glauber configurations. α labels a p_t interval and β labels "all" particles.

First term is not sensitive to ψ_{pp} , while the 2nd and 3rd terms are elliptic flow. The new terms have coefficients 1,1,-2 and 1,2,-3. The 1,1,-2 terms is dipole flow out of plane which represents v1 preferentially out of plane due to Glauber fluctuations. STAR has measured this. The 1,2,-3 term represents the correlations between dipole and triangular flow terms. The measurement of this term is shown, below.

Another Consequence of Higher Harmonics



Teaney and Yan simulate spectra using ideal hydro plus the distribution function for a classical massless gas. Once the freezeout temperature has been selected then v_1/ε_1 , v_2/ε_2 , v_3/ε_3 can be calculated, as shown above.

The figure on the right shows the predicted ratio of v_3/v_2 compared to the STAR 2 particle correlation function which was fit by Alver and Roland.





 $\langle\!\langle \cos(\phi_{\alpha} - 3\phi_{\beta} + 2\Psi_{PP})\rangle\!\rangle = \frac{v_1(p_T)v_3}{\epsilon_1} \langle\!\langle \epsilon_1\epsilon_3\cos(\psi_{1,3} - 3\psi_{3,3} + 2\Psi_{PP})\rangle\!\rangle$

We've calculated this for 200 GeV Run IV Au+Au data



- Correlation observed between $\psi_{1,3}$, $\psi_{3,3}$, and $\psi_{2,2}$
- Data are smaller than ideal hydro predictions
- p_T dependence consistent with expectations for $v_1(p_T)$
- Correlation becomes negative for central events?

Conclusions

Hydrodynamics, together with geometric fluctuations of the Glauber model make specific predictions for a dipole and triangle terms in the observed azimuthal distribution of particles

Preliminary results on the v₁v₃ correlator are presented for 11.5 M 200 GeV Au+Au collisions

Data were compared to an ideal hydro calculation by Teaney and Yan. The results agree in sign and shape but are generally smaller in magnitude.

This may be due to fact that the ideal hydro model uses a simple EOS, does not include viscosity, nor resonance decays. Shear viscosity, for example, is expected to dampen the higher harmonic modes and thus reduce the correlation strength.

The primary conclusion is that the correlator is non-zero and is suggestive of a finite value for v_3

Strong evidence for the hydrodynamic and geometric interpretation of two particle correlations at RHIC. Better theory is possible and desirable.