

# **The Chiral Magnetic Effect in Hot QCD and The Isobar run in 2018**

**Jim Thomas** Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory 1/24/2018

# **What are we doing in the 2018 Run?**



**STAR is proposing to run <sup>96</sup>Zr + <sup>96</sup>Zr collisions and <sup>96</sup>Ru + <sup>96</sup>Ru collisions at RHIC in 2018. 3 weeks each. Zr and Ru are isobars.**

**Isobars are nuclei with the same mass, nearly the same shape, but with different number of protons** 

**There exist 4 stable isobaric systems where the change in Z is large**



# **Charges in motion**





**Charges in motion create strong magnetic fields**



# **The**  $B_{FM}$  **field – 10<sup>18</sup> gauss at the peak**

- **The B field is strong and short duration due to the velocity of the passing ions**
	- **MRI uses 10<sup>4</sup> gauss**
	- **1000x MagnetoStar**
- **Magneto hydrodynamic effects in the QGP extend the lifetime of the B field**
	- **aka Lenz's Law**
	- **Finite conductivity**
- **Recent calculations suggest the lifetime is extended in a plasma but the magnitude is reduced x50 from the peak at the relevant time scale**



**L. McLerran, V. Skokov, Nucl.Phys. A929 (2014) 814-190** 



- **The Nucleus is a laboratory to study fundamental physics**
	- **Strong BEM fields do useful work**







- **The "Force Law" for quarks and gluons depends on whether the quarks are found in isolation or in a dense environment**
	- **In isolation: stretch a flux tube and it will get longer and eventually break. The longer the tube, the more energetic (massive) the system.**
	- **In a dense environment, short distance interactions become important. These short range interactions dissolve the flux tubes into a soup of q and g interactions: a quark gluon plasma**
	- **Quarks become "free" particles in a QGP and they also become (nearly) massless in a QGP due to Chiral symmetry restoration**
	- **This "freedom" is what makes Ultra Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions interesting to the experimentalist and calculations possible for the theorist**

# **Chiral Symmetry**



- **We expect Chiral symmetry restoration in a QGP**
	- **There is no direct experimental evidence for this, but it is not a controversial expectation**
- **What is Chiral Symmetry: Vector gauge theories with massless Dirac fermion fields**  $\Psi$  **exhibit chiral symmetry** 
	- **Rotating the left-handed and the right-handed components of the wave function, independently, makes no difference to the theory**

$$
\Psi_L \rightarrow e^{i\theta_L} \Psi_L \quad and \quad \Psi_R \rightarrow \Psi_R
$$

**or**

 $\Psi_L \rightarrow \Psi_L$  and  $\Psi_R \rightarrow e^{i\theta_R} \Psi_R$ 

- **Massive fermions do not exhibit chiral symmetry, since the mass term in the**  Lagrangian,  $m \Psi \Psi$ , breaks chiral symmetry explicitly
- **Helicity is identical to Chirality for massless particles**
	- $-$  A particle has right handed helicity when the  $\overline{p}$  vector is parallel to the spin
	- $-$  A particle has left handed helicity when the  $\bar{p}$  vector is anti-parallel to spin
	- **For a massive particle, there is always a Lorentz frame moving closer to the**  speed of light so that the  $\bar{p}$  vector appears reversed in the new frame



- **Complex gluon field configurations are common in a QGP**
	- **Examples include: Links, knots, and** *anti***-screening due to gluon loops**
	- **QCD supports many topologically distinct vacuum states**
		- **And some of these topologically distinct states violate P and CP** 
			- **What? Doesn't the strong interaction conserve Parity?**
			- **Parity is conserved in the strong interaction … but only in cold QCD.**

# **Hot QCD allows for metastable states … lots of them**

QCD has an infinite number of vacua which can distinguished by a winding number  $v=0, \pm 1, \pm 2, ...$ 



In chiral limit (m=0): 
$$
[N_L - N_R]_{t=\infty} - [N_L - N_R]_{t=-\infty} = 2 N_f Q_w
$$

- **Moving from one vacuum state to another is the result of changing the topological charge of the system**
- **Topological charge flips helicity and thus counts the difference between the number of right and left handed quarks**
- **Topological charge changing transitions also violate local P and CP conservation**
- **What every experimentalist likes to see in a theory publication …**
	- **"The consequences and magnitude of these effects are subject to experimental study and verification"**
		- **Kharzeev, McLerran, and Warringa arXiv:0711.0950 and Nucl. Phys. A803 (2008) 227.**

**From a humble experimentalist's point of view … these theories appear to be fully vetted; CP and P violating domains almost certainly occur in ultra-relativistic HI collisions. The question is whether the effects are large enough to be observed …**

## **The Chiral Magnetic Effect (CME)**

- **Now that we have our tools in place, lets start discussing the Chiral Magnetic Effect**
	- **Theorists call it the Chiral Magnetic Effect. I am an experimentalist so call it Chiral Magnetic Engineering**
- **Three things must come together, simultaneously, to make the Chiral Magnetic Effect work**
	- **Strong magnetic fields (10<sup>15</sup> - 10<sup>18</sup> gauss!)**
	- **Chiral Symmetry restoration**
	- **Topological Charge changing transitions in hot QCD**



# **A collision has Angular Momentum and a B field <b>Contains**



- **Quarks interact with the magnetic field via their spin and magnetic moment**
- **Quarks will align themselves parallel or anti-parallel to the B field direction**
- **The B field is a long range phenomena; it affects every quark in the de-confined system … every quark is spin-aligned**

**Jim Thomas 12 momentum parallel to the B field axis (1000** ℏ**)Strong fields, but also large amounts of angular** 

• **Electromagnetic charges in motion create an E&M magnetic field (not a color magnetic field)**



• **The magnetic fields can reach 10<sup>18</sup>gauss. Stronger than on the surface of a neutron star.**



# **restoration**

• **Assume: quark masses drop to ~0 after chiral symmetry** 

• **Assume: chiral symmetry is restored in a QGP**

In chiral limit:

**Particles/Antiparticles** with right-handed helicity

have spin and momentum parallel

have spin and momentum anti-parallel

- **Chirality and helicity are the same for massless particles … so in the limit of zero mass, it is easy to define chirality (not so easy for non-zero mass)**
- **The QCD Lagrangian is chirally symmetric for massless particles**
	- **The pion is the Goldstone boson for Chiral symmetry**
	- **Chiral symmetry is spontaneously broken & gives mass to hadrons**

In chiral limit:

**Particles/Antiparticles** 

with left-handed helicity





# **How does the B field affect the Quarks?**



A magnetic field will align the spins, depending on their electric charge



The momenta of the quarks align along the magnetic field A quark with right-handed helicity will have momentum opposite to a left-handed one In this way the magnetic field can distinguish between right and left **Jim Thomas 14**

**H. Warringa**

# **Topological Charge flips chirality: L to R**

A magnetic field will align the spins, depending on their electric charge

No Magnetic Field: No polarization

**Magnetic field: Polarization** 

Positively charged particles move parallel the magnetic field

Negatively charged particles move to antiparallel to magnetic field

<u>An electromagnetic current is created along the magnetic field</u>





R

# **Separation of Charge wrt the reaction plane**



- **The signal is manifestly parity odd**   $x \Rightarrow -x$ ,  $p \Rightarrow -p$ **but the observable will be even ++ + - - - + <sup>+</sup> + - - -**
- **The charge-flow asymmetry is too small to be seen in a single event but may be observable with correlation techniques**

• **If a chirally restored bubble is created in a heavy ion collision, the positively charged quarks will go up … then hadronize … and yield an excess of positive pions above the plane**

• **Unfortunately, it could be just the opposite in the next event depending on the topological charge in the bubble**







- **Theoretical Expectations** 
	- **The Chiral Magnetic Effect will cause a separation of charge, above and below the reaction plane** 
		- **If the CME effect occurs in HI collisions, then it would be evidence for local P and CP violation in the strong interaction**
		- **If observed, it is the smoking gun for chiral symmetry restoration**
- **The Null Hypothesis**
	- **Heavy Ion reactions do not cause a separation of charge, above and below the reaction plane**



#### Anisotropic flow  $v_n$

$$
E\frac{d^{3}N}{d^{3}\vec{p}} = \frac{dN}{p_{T}dp_{T}d\varphi dy} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{dN}{p_{T}dp_{T}dy} \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2v_{n}(p_{T}, y) \cos(n\varphi)\right]
$$

Sine terms vanish because of the symmetry  $\Phi \rightarrow -\Phi$  in A+A collisions



**Che-Ming Ko, Texas A&M University** 



### **Interpreting Flow – order by order**

#### **n=1: Directed Flow has a period of**   $2\pi$  (only one maximum)

– **v<sup>1</sup> measures whether the flow goes to the left or right – whether the momentum goes with or against a billiard ball like bounce. For collisions of identical nuclei, symmetry forces v<sup>1</sup> to be an odd function of** 

#### n=2: Elliptic flow has a period of  $\pi$ **(two maximums)**

– **v<sup>2</sup> represents the elliptical shape of the momentum distribution. It is an even function of**  $\eta$  **for identical nuclei** 



$$
E \frac{dN^3}{d^3 p} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d^2 N}{p_T dp_T dy} \left(1 + 2a_1 \sin(\Delta\phi) + 2v_1 \cos(\Delta\phi) + 2v_2 \cos(2\Delta\phi) + 2v_4 \cos(4\Delta\phi) + K\right)
$$
  
isotropic parity  
non-conserving  
non-conserving

# **The Experimental Observable**



• **The coefficients for the Fourier expansion of the invariant yield are**

$$
v_n \equiv \langle \cos(n(\phi - \Psi_R)) \rangle \qquad \text{or} \qquad v_n^2 = \langle \cos(n(\phi_i - \phi_j)) \rangle
$$

- $-$  where the average is taken over all particles in the event and  $\psi_R$  is the known **reaction plane angle (e.g. from a forward detector if we are using TPC data)**
- **The second method is a true two particle correlation (many details left out)**
- **A clever observable: cos (<sup>i</sup> + <sup>j</sup> - 2 <sup>k</sup> ) … a triple correlation**
	- Mixed Harmonics:  $\big\langle \cos(\phi_i \phi_k) \, \cos(\phi_j \phi_k) \, \, \sin(\phi_i \phi_k) \, \sin(\phi_j \phi_k) \, \big\rangle = (\mathrm{v}_1^2 a_1^2) \, \mathrm{v}_2$ 2 1  $\cos(\phi_i - \phi_k) \cos(\phi_j - \phi_k) - \sin(\phi_i - \phi_k) \sin(\phi_j - \phi_k) \rangle = (v_1^2 - a_1^2) v_1$
	- **Measure (v<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> – a<sup>1</sup> 2 ) \* v2 because v<sup>2</sup> is large and it amplifies the parity nonconserving signal, a<sup>1</sup> , while preserving reasonable statistical errors.**
	- **The signal is parity odd, but the observable (v<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> – a<sup>1</sup> 2 ) \* v<sup>2</sup> is even. Best way to measure charge sensitive flow because**  $v_1 \Rightarrow 0$  **and**  $(v_1^2 - a_1^2) \cdot v_2 \Rightarrow -a_1^2 \cdot v_2$
- **Under certain assumptions v1 is directed flow**
	- **Note that a 'normal' v<sup>1</sup> measurement for pions in a Au-Au reaction has an intrinsic symmetry that suggests weighting by sign()**
	- **Don't do this for CME work: We are looking for charge flow that goes up/down so choose to do the sum without sign(n) weighting and thus the 'normal'**  $v_1$  **will cancel out. (See next bullet). This assumes symmetric acceptance.**



# **Like Sign and Opposite Sign Correlations**



- **A charge separation signal appears in the data; independent of how we**  determine the reaction plane with different estimates of  $\Psi_{\mathsf{R}}^{\mathsf{}}$  (i.e.  $\phi_{c}^{\mathsf{}}$  )
	- $-$  Signal is present if  $\Psi_{\rm R}$  is found with the TPC, FTPC, or even ZDC.
	- $-$  Systematic errors in panel II, above, cover the range introduced by using **v**<sub>2</sub>{2} **or v<sup>2</sup> {4} in the calculation**
- $\langle \cos(\phi_i + \phi_j 2\phi_k) \rangle / v_{2,c} \approx -1 * \langle a_{1,\alpha} a_{1,\beta} \rangle$  and so is a candidate CME signal Same sign  $a_{1,\gamma}$  flow is negative … Opposite sign  $a_{1,\gamma}$  flow is positive
	- $-$  Same sign  $\boldsymbol{a}_{\mathsf{i},\gamma}$  flow is negative … Opposite sign  $\boldsymbol{a}_{\mathsf{i},\gamma}$

# **ALICE, STAR and the Beam Energy Scan**



- **Significant charge separation observed at all but the lowest energies**
- $\gamma_{\rm sc}$  < 0 and  $\gamma_{\rm oc}$  > 0 as expected
- **The data demonstrates importance of background contributions**
- **CME - suppression of signal at low energies due to a short lifetime for the QGP or perhaps even a phase transition**





- **Charge separation in HI collisions has definitely been observed. This falsifies the null hypothesis and is consistent with the expectations for the CME over a wide range of conditions**
- **Background Hypothesis: The observed charge separation is due to non-CME background effects**
	- **If a comprehensive background model can be found that explains all the data then this would rule out the CME**
	- **This needs to be investigated but is much harder to falsify**
- **Many investigations have been started and the literature is full of proposed models that explain some of the data**
	- **But to the best of my knowledge, no model has been proposed that can accurately explain all of the charges separated data**



• **Structure of correlator allows control of a wide class of backgrounds**

 $\left( \left( {\rm v}_1^2 + B_{_{in}} \right) - \left( a_1^2 + B_{_{out}} \right) \right) \, {\rm v}_2$ 1  $\langle \cos(\phi_i - \phi_k) \cos(\phi_j - \phi_k) \rangle - \langle \sin(\phi_i - \phi_k) \sin(\phi_j - \phi_k) \rangle = (\sqrt{v_1^2 + B_{in}}) - (a_1^2 + B_{out}) \rangle$ 

- **As previously noted, the magnitude of v<sup>1</sup> is small and the directed flow terms sum to zero due to our choice to \*not\* weight the sum by sign()**
- **The correlator represents the difference between correlations projected onto an axis in the reaction plan and onto an axis perpendicular to the reaction plane**
	- **This removes correlations among particles that are not related to the reaction plane orientation**
- **A source of background that may persist in the data are particles from a cluster (resonance decay or jet) where the cluster is flowing with respect to the reaction plane**

**Flow boost collimates pairs more strongly in-plane than out-of-plane; potentially leading to false correlations.**



# **Serious Challenges to the CME interpretation**



- **Two particle decays, such as resonance decays, are background**
	- **Back to back decays look like charge separated events, but not correlated to the reaction plane. The** *γ* **observable should take care of most of the resonance decays … but perhaps not all of them**
	- **Charge and momentum conservation, which are required in each event, can be thought of as 2 particle decays that separate charges in each event. Unfortunately, suitable tuning of hydro models can describe the charge separated data for**  $(\gamma_{oc} - \gamma_{sc})$  **but not for**  $\gamma_{oc}$  **and/or**  $\gamma_{sc}$ **, separately.**
- The signal  $(\gamma_{oc} \gamma_{sc})$  should be independent of  $v_2$ . It isn't.
	- $-$  The experimentally observed signal decreases linearly as  $v_2 \Rightarrow 0$
	- $-$  Understanding this observation is difficult because **v<sub>2</sub>** is a positive definite **quantity and it does not average to zero for central collisions w/ fluctuations**
- **The most recent challenge comes from CMS**
	- **In an about to published paper, they report Pb-Pb and p-Pb data that shows similar results for both datasets**
	- **Expect to extinguish the QGP in p-Pb**
	- **Expect to disorient the direction of the B field in p-Pb**



**Jim Thomas** S. Schlichting, S. Pratt, 1009.4283



- **Adjusting the B field in these collisions, in a controlled way, is a way to distinguish signal from background**
- **If we can control the B field, but hold all other parameters constant, then we could see if the signal changes with as the B field changes**
- **Fortunately, this is possible with nuclear isobars**
	- **Compare two identical systems but with different atomic number (Z)**

## **RHIC will run Isobaric Beams in 2018**





arXiv:1608.00982v1 [nucl-th] 2 Aug 2016

We have [...] investigated the case for colliding nuclear isobars [...] and find the case compelling. We recommend that a program of nuclear isobar collisions to isolate the chiral magnetic effect from background sources be placed as a high priority item in the strategy for completing the RHIC mission.

## **Summary**



- **STAR & ALICE see clear evidence for charge separation in Au-Au, Pb-Pb, Cu-Cu and U-U collisions at 27, 39, 62.4, 200 GeV/A and 2.76 TeV/A**
	- **The signal is not so small … |a| ~ 10-2 , and is accessible with standard tools**
	- **The signal goes away at energies below 19.6 GeV/A**
- **Charge separation may be an indicator of the Chiral Magnetic Effect . It could also be due to background effects.**
- **The Chiral Magnetic Effect, if it has been observed,**
	- **Provides for the study of topologically complex gluon configurations**
	- **Strong magnetic fields**
	- **and Chiral Symmetry restoration**
- **However, there are poorly understood backgrounds that could mimic or mask the expected signal**
	- **The result is of such fundamental importance that more controlled experiments are justified and required**
- **RHIC will be running <sup>96</sup>Zr and <sup>96</sup>Ru beams in 2018 to try to sort this out**
	- **Approximately 500 M events, each, and/or about 3 weeks each**



**Backup Slides**

# **<sup>96</sup>Zr + <sup>96</sup>Zr and <sup>96</sup>Ru + <sup>96</sup>Ru collisions**



- **Isobaric collisions allow us to compare two colliding systems with**
	- **the same mass**
	- **(nearly) the same shape and geometry**
	- **but different number of protons (and thus different E and B fields)**
- **Study phenomena as a function of the neutron/proton ratio**
	- **Fundamental physics with excellent control over background effects**
- **Flow, specifically directed flow v<sup>1</sup> , has been shown to have a strong n/p ratio dependence at 55 MeV / nucleon**
	- **Due to larger cross section for n-p collisions compare to n-n or p-p**
	- **Pak, Benenson, et al., PRL 78 (1997) 1022 (hadronic dof, non-QGP)**
- **What happens at 200 GeV/nucleon? (QGP dof)**
	- **Sensitivity to the equation of state (EOS)**
	- **Advances in relativistic hydrodynamics**
	- **Study of phenomena that are sensitive to the strong electric and magnetic fields that are created when two nuclei collide – such as CME, Lamdba Polarization, perhaps even ultra-peripheral collisions**

# **The early Universe**







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- **The Universe was filled with hot and dense matter at the earliest times**
- **Nanoseconds – the Inflation epoc w/ topologically complex gluon fields**
- **Microseconds – a Quark Gluon Plasma; flux tubes decay and form quarks**
- 
- Seconds first Nuclei are formed. Atoms come 380,000 years later.



- **Where does the energy come from to drive inflation?**
- **We don't know.**
- **We presume that the early Universe is filled with topologically complex gauge fields (perhaps in 3 dimensions) that look a lot like gluon fields**
	- **This promises to lead to the discovery of lots of interesting phenomenology**



- **QCD is a non-abelian gauge theory that is filled with fascinating phenomenology**
- **Heavy Ion Colliders make some of this phenomenology accessible to the experimentalist**
- **It is important to understand non-abelian gauge theories (in all dimensions) because you can only have knots in 3 spatial dimensions and perhaps that is why we live in a 3D world**

**"We suggest a structure for the vacuum comprised of a network of tightly knotted/linked flux tubes formed in a QCD-like cosmological phase transition and show that such a network can drive cosmological inflation. As the network can be topologically stable only in three space dimensions, this scenario provides a dynamical explanation for the existence of exactly three large spatial dimensions in our Universe."**

**Berera et al. arXiv:1508.01458 [hep-ph]**





$$
f(\phi) = \frac{b'_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a'_n \sin(n\phi) + b'_n \cos(n\phi))
$$

where

$$
a'_{n} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(\phi) \sin(n\phi) d\phi \quad \text{for} \quad n = 1, 2, ...
$$
  

$$
b'_{n} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(\phi) \cos(n\phi) d\phi \quad \text{for} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, ...
$$

#### **If we want to test if parity is conserved then we should keep the extra terms**

$$
E\frac{dN^3}{d^3p} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d^2N}{p_r dp_r dy} (1 + 2a_1 \sin(\Delta\phi) + 2b_1 \cos(\Delta\phi) + 2a_2 \sin(2\Delta\phi) + 2b_2 \cos(2\Delta\phi) + \text{K})
$$

where

$$
a_n = \pi a'_n = \sum_i \sin(n(\phi_i - \Psi_R)) , \qquad b_n = \pi b'_n = \sum_i \cos(n(\phi_i - \Psi_R))
$$

The standard HI flow analysis assumes  $a = 0$  and assigns  $b_n \equiv v_n$ 

### **Analysis Uses Standard Flow Tools**





• **The line between the centers of the nuclei and the beam axis define the reaction plane – perpendicular to angular momentum vector and B field** 

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