

Understanding of the QCD phase structure at RHIC

Kenstike Homma Hiroshima University

Phase transitions and QCD phase diagrams RHIC landmarks Experimental approaches to critical phenomena Plan for RHIC low energy runs (PHENIX)

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Phase transitions in the early universe



Understanding of QCD phase structure



Landmarks at RHIC

RHIC Specifications

- 3.83 km circumference
- Two independent rings
 - 120 bunches/ring
 - 106 ns bunch crossing time
- Can collide
 ~any nuclear species
 on
 - ~any other species
- Top Energy: $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \approx \frac{Z}{A} (500 \,\text{GeV})$ $\Rightarrow 500 \,\text{GeV} \text{ for p-p}$ $\Rightarrow 200 \,\text{GeV} \text{ for Au-Au}$
- Luminosity
 - Au-Au: 2 x 10²⁶ cm⁻² s⁻¹
 - p-p : 2 x 10³² cm⁻² s⁻¹
 (*polarized*)



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RHIC's Experiments



Number of participants, Np and Centrality





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Is initial temperature high enough?



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Is bulk collective motion seen?



Any partonic degree of freedom?





KE_T=m(γ_T-1)=m_T-m

Experimental approaches to critical phenomena

- <u><qq-bar>:</u>
- J/ψ suppression (deconfinment)
- low mass vector mesons and dilepton continum (chiral)
- Bulk collective observables:
- Density-density correlation in longitudinal space (critical temperature for any order)
- Isothermal compressibility (2nd order)
- Heat capacity (2nd order)
- Sound velocity via eccentricity scaling of v2 (1st order)
- Viscosity to entropy ratio with v2 and R_{AA} (CEP?)

What is the critical behavior ?



Large fluctuations of correlation sizes on order parameters:
 critical temperature (focus of this talk)

• Universality (power law behavior) around Tc reflecting basic symmetries and dimensions of the underlying system:

critical exponent (future study after finding Tc)

Density-density correlation in longitudinal space

Longitudinal space coordinate z can be transformed into rapidity coordinate in each proper frame of sub element characterized by a formation time τ where dominant density fluctuations are embedded.

 $z = \tau \sinh(y)$

 $t = \tau \cosh(y)$

 $dz = \tau \cosh(y) dy$

Due to relatively rapid expansion in y, analysis in y would have an advantage to extract initial fluctuations compared to analysis in transverse plane in high energy collision.

$$g(T,\phi,h) - g_0 = \int_{\delta y} dy \int_{\mathcal{S}\perp} d^2 x_{\perp}$$

$$\left[\frac{1}{2\tau^2 \cosh(y)} \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}\right)^2 + \cosh(y) \left(\frac{1}{2} (\nabla_{\perp} \phi)^2 + U(\phi)\right)\right]$$

In narrow midrapidity region like PHENIX, cosh(y)~1 and y~η.

Longitudinal multiplicity density fluctuation from the mean density can be an order parameter: $\phi(\eta) = \rho(\eta) - \langle \rho \rangle$

Direct observable for Tc determination

GL free energy density g with $\phi \sim 0$ from high temperature side is insensitive to transition order, but it can be sensitive to Tc

$$g(T,\phi,h) = g_0 - \frac{1}{2}A(T)(\nabla\phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2}a(T)\phi^2 + \frac{1}{4}b\phi^4 + \frac{1}{6}c\phi^6 \dots - h\phi$$

spatial correlation ϕ disappears at Tc $\rightarrow a(T) = a_0(T - T_c)$

Fourier analysis on $G_2(y) = \langle \phi(0)\phi(y) \rangle$

$$\left\langle \left| \phi_{k} \right|^{2} \right\rangle = Y \int G_{2}(y) e^{-ik(y)} dy$$

 $\left\langle \left| \phi_{k} \right|^{2} \right\rangle = \frac{NT}{Y} \frac{1}{a(T) + A(T)k^{2}}$

Susceptibility

$$\chi_{k} = \frac{\partial \phi_{k}}{\partial h} \propto \left(\frac{\partial^{2}(g - g_{0})}{\partial \phi_{k}^{2}}\right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{a_{0}(T - T_{c})(1 + k^{2}\xi^{2})}$$

Susceptibility in long wavelength limit

1-D two point correlation function

$$G_{2}(y) = \frac{NT}{2Y^{2}A(T)}\xi(T)e^{-|y|/\xi(T)}$$

Correlation length

$$\xi(T)^2 \equiv \frac{A(T)}{a_0(T - T_c)}$$

$$\chi_{k=0} = \frac{1}{a_0(T - T_c)} \propto \frac{\xi}{T} G_2(0)$$

Product between correlation length and amplitude can also be a good indicator for T~Tc

Intuitive observable: blob intensity α x blob size ξ

Order parameter $\phi(\eta)=\rho(\eta)-\langle \rho(\eta) \rangle$ $\phi <<1$ in T>>Tc, Ginzburg-Landau(GL) free energy up to 2^{nd} order term

At RHIC

Two point correlation $\langle \phi(\eta_1)\phi(\eta_2) \rangle$ in 1-D longitudinal space

 $\begin{vmatrix} C_{2} \propto \alpha \exp(-|\eta_{1} - \eta_{2}|/\xi) \\ \alpha \xi \propto \chi_{k=0} T < \rho >^{-2} \propto <\rho >^{-2} \frac{1}{1 - T_{c}/T} \end{vmatrix}$

T=Tc

Non monotonic increase of αξ indicates T~Tc w.r.t. monotonically decreasing baseline as mean density increases.



GL with higher order terms

Many length scales appear (a typical ϕ_k disappears)

Density measurement: inclusive $dN_{ch}/d\eta$

Negative Binomial Distribution (NBD) perfectly describes multiplicities in all collision





Two point correlation via NBD



Differential multiplicity measurements



Zero magnetic field to enhance low pt statistics per collision event.



Extraction of $\alpha\xi$ product



$\alpha \xi$, β vs. Npart

Dominantly Npart fluctuations and possibly correlation in azimuth 0.08 a) 0.07 5% 0.06 O10% 0.05 \mathfrak{O} 0.04 0.03 0.02 0.01 0 400 300 350 N_{part} Au+Au@200GeV _{ച്}0.0014 b) 0.0012 5% 0.001 O10% 4 n 0.0008 3 0.0006 0.0004 0.0002 °ò 50 300 350 100 150 200 250 400 Npart Phys. Rev. C 76, 034903 (2007)

 β is systematically shift to lower values as the centrality bin width becomes smaller from 10% to 5%. This is understood as fluctuations of Npart for given bin widths

 $\alpha \notin$ product, which is monotonically related with $\chi_{k=0}$ indicates the non-monotonic behavior around Npart ~ 90.

$$\alpha \xi = \chi_{k=0} T / \overline{\rho_1}^2 \propto \overline{\rho_1}^{-2} \frac{T}{|T - T_c|}$$

Significance with Power + Gaussian: 3.98 σ (5%), 3.21 σ (10%) Significance with Line + Gaussian: 1.24 σ (5%), 1.69 σ (10%)

Comparison of three collision systems



Are there symptoms in other observables at around the same Npart?

Deviation from scaling at low KE_T region ?



In lower KE_T , there seems to be different behaviors between baryon and mesons. The transition is at Npart~90.

Low mass sigma field may repulse pion and attract proton?

Meson-meson and baryon-meson fluctuations



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How about <cc>> suppression?



Plan for lower energy runs (readiness of PHENIX)

PHENIX 2007

- Increase statistical & systematic precision of rare signals in AuAu, e.g. J/ψ, jet correlations, etc
- Increase reach in p_T, especially with PID from new TOF-West detector (p_T > 8 GeV/c)
 - Identified particle spectra
 - Identified leading particles in jets
- Factor of three or more improvement in Reaction Plane resolution valuable to many signals
 - v₂ for J/ψ, γ , electrons, ^{ZDC South} hadrons will be extended
- Low-mass lepton pairs with the Hadron Blind Detector



VTX, FVTX, and NCC for future runs

Central Vertex detector (VTX)

Strip pixel



Nose Cone Calorimeter Forward VTX (FVTX) (NCC)

PHENIX can extend both rapidity and azimuthal coverage

In/out of relevant detectors



Accessible observables in PHENIX

Signature	Required	Note
	# of events	
Differential <nch> fluctuations</nch>	100 M	B = 0
Integral <n<sub>ch> fluctuations</n<sub>	1 M	
<p_t> fluctuations</p_t>	1 M	
$< k/\pi >$ fluctuations	1 B	
Minimum bias PID spectra	0.5 M	p _T < 2 GeV/c, EMCAL (would like
		more at higher collision energies)
Centrality binned PID spectra	5 M	p _T < 2 GeV/c, EMCAL (would like
		more at higher collision energies)
Minimum bias v ₂	5 M	p _T < 2 GeV/c, EMCAL (would like
		more at higher collision energies)
Centrality binned v ₂	50 M	p _T < 2 GeV/c, EMCAL (would like
		more at higher collision energies)
$R_{AA} \pi^0$	100 M	Full centrality dependence
R _{AA} e	2 B	Full centrality dependence
Di-hadrons	100 M	
HBT ("Basic")	100 M	
HBT ("Advanced")	2B	
Di-electrons	50 M	

Choice of collision energies



PRC73,034905 (2006)

PHENIX preference

Summary

- 1. RHIC created strongly coupled high temperature & opaque state with partonic d.o.f. This is the very beginning of the scientific program on quantitative understanding of the QCD phase structure.
- 2. Correlation function derived from GL free energy density up to 2nd order term in the high temperature limit is consistent with what was observed in NBD k vs $\delta\eta$ in three collision systems. This provides a way to directly determine transition points without tunable model parameters with relatively fewer event statistics.
- 3. The product of susceptibility and temperature, $\alpha\xi$ as a function of Npart indicates a possible non monotonic increase at Npart~90. The corresponding Bjorken energy density is 2.4GeV/fm³ with τ =1.0 fm/c and the transverse area=60fm² The trends of $\alpha\xi$ in smaller system in the same collision energy and in the same system size in lower collision energy as a function of mean multiplicity are similar to that of Au+Au at 200GeV except the region where the possible non monotonicity is seen.
- 4. Combining other symptoms in the same multiplicity region, we hope to understand possibly interesting behaviors.
- 5. Lower energy runs will surely take place at RHIC. However, actual colliding energies are still under discussion between collaborations.