

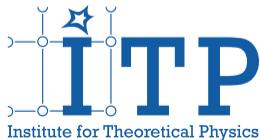
Einführung in die theoretische Kern- und Teilchenphysik 2

Vorlesung 1: Heavy-Ion Overview

Hendrik van Hees

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

14. April 2026



Outline

Introduction: QCD medium created in HICs

Theory toolbox: QFT, Transport, Hydrodynamics

Fluctuations of conserved charges

Electromagnetic Probes

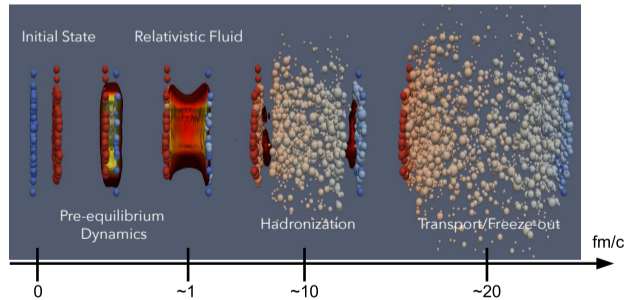
Heavy-quark observables

Conclusion and Outlook

References

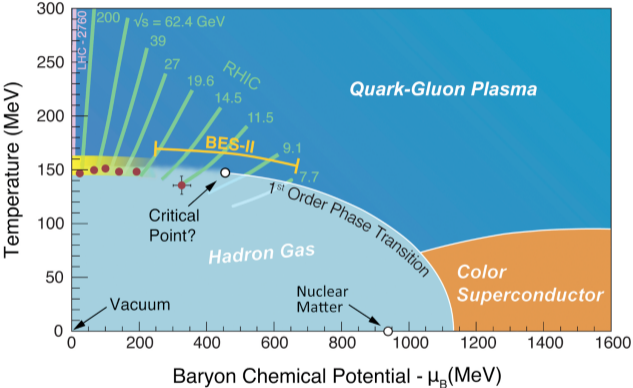
Ultrarelativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions

- ▶ ultra-relativistic collisions of heavy nuclei
- ▶ creates hot and dense fireball behaving like a strongly coupled medium
- ▶ early thermalization, starting in QGP phase
- ▶ rapidly expanding and cooling
- ▶ (cross-over) transition to hadron-resonance gas ($T_{pc} \simeq 150\text{-}160\text{ MeV}$)



from [EM23]

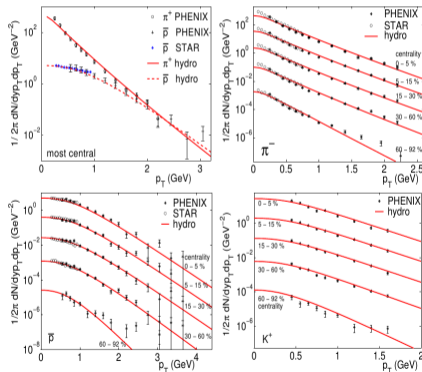
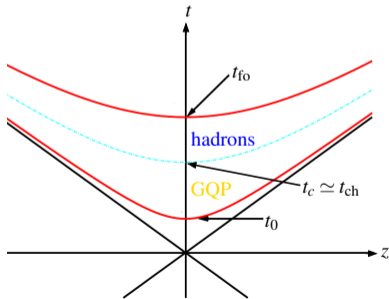
QCD Phase Diagram



[Fig. from A. Aprehmian et al. Reaching for the horizon]

Collective flow of the fireball (Hydrodynamics)

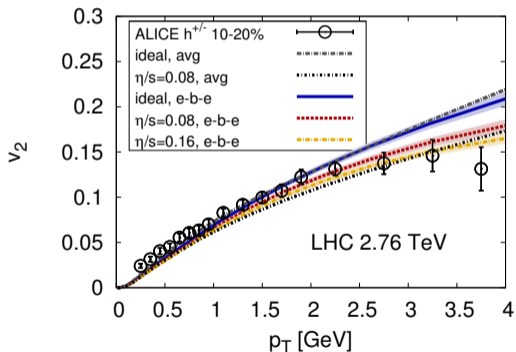
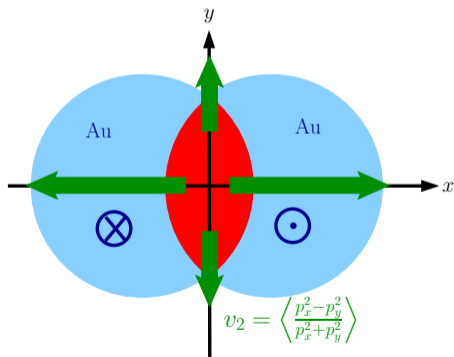
- ▶ **hydrodynamical model** for ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collisions
 - ▶ after short formation time ($t_0 \lesssim 1 \text{ fm}/c$)
 - ▶ **QGP** in **local thermal equilibrium** → **hadronization** at $T_{pc} \simeq 150\text{-}160 \text{ MeV}$
 - ▶ chemical freeze-out: (**inelastic collisions cease**) $T_{ch} \simeq 150\text{-}160 \text{ MeV}$
 - ▶ thermal freeze-out: (**also elastic scatterings cease**) $T \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$



[KH03]

Hydrodynamical Behavior

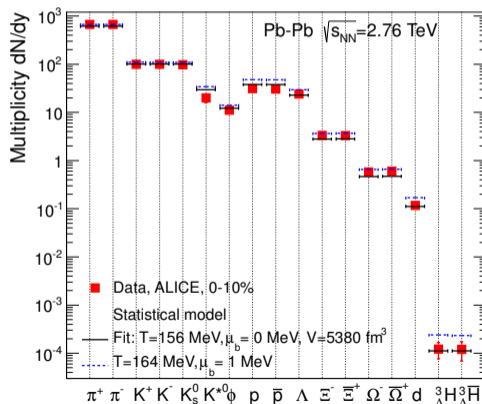
- ▶ particle spectra compatible with collective flow (hydrodynamical expansion)
- ▶ elliptic flow as signature of pressure
- ▶ (nearly) ideal hydrodynamics $\eta/s \simeq 1-2 \times 1/4\pi$



[SJG11]

Chemical freeze-out: Statistical hadronization model

- ▶ hadron abundancies: can be described by
(grand-)canonical hadron-resonance-gas model ($T_{\text{ch}} \simeq T_{\text{pc}}, \mu_{\text{B}} = 0$)
- ▶ even light (anti-hyper-)nuclei follow the systematics!



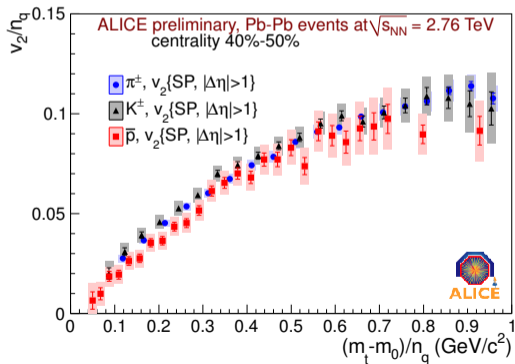
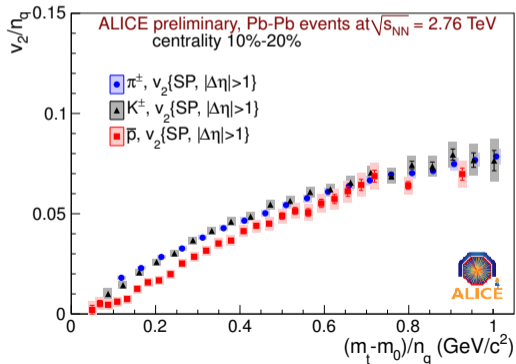
thermal hadronization model: J. Stachel et al [SABMR14]

Constituent-quark-number scaling of v_2

- ▶ v_2 scales with number of constituent quarks

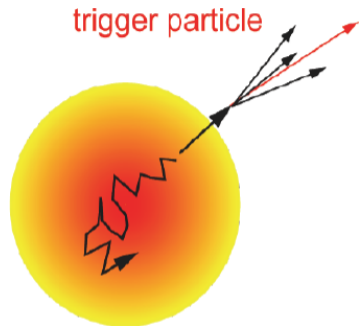
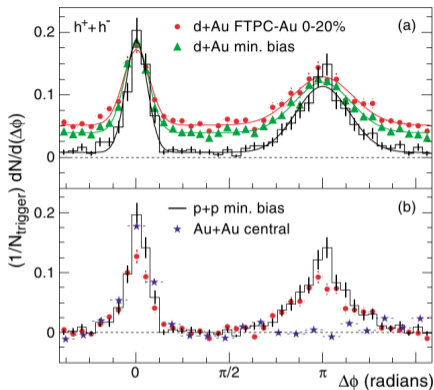
$$v_2^{(\text{had})}(p_T^{(\text{had})}) = n_q v_2^{(q)}(p_T^{(\text{had})}/n_q)$$

- ▶ indicates recombination of quarks in medium around T_{pc}
- ▶ “coalescence” of partonic degrees of freedom!



[Krz11]

Jet Quenching



- ▶ high p_T : jets going through medium suppressed
- ▶ **high-density medium** $\Rightarrow \rho > \rho_{\text{krit}}$
- ▶ energy loss due to elastic scattering and gluon bremsstrahlung
- ▶ more on heavy-ion phenomenology: [FHK⁺11]

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \mathcal{L}_{\psi, A_\mu} + \mathcal{L}_G := \sum_{i \in \{u, d, s, c, b, t\}} \bar{\psi}_{i,j} \left(i\gamma^\mu (D_\mu)^j_k - m_i \delta_k^j \right) \psi_i^k - \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G_a^{\mu\nu}, \quad \hat{D}_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig \hat{T}^a A_\mu^a(x)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\psi, A_\mu} = \sum_{i \in \{u, d\}} \left[\bar{\psi}_{i,R} (i\gamma^\mu D_\mu) \psi_{i,R} + \bar{\psi}_{i,L} (i\gamma^\mu D_\mu) \psi_{i,L} \right] - \sum_{i \in \{u, d\}} m_i \left[\bar{\psi}_{i,R} \psi_{i,L} + \bar{\psi}_{i,L} \psi_{i,R} \right]$$

- ▶ asymptotic freedom: “running coupling” small at high energy scales
- ▶ non-perturbative at low energy scales
- ▶ confinement: only color-neutral objects observable (hadrons: mesons, baryons,...)
- ▶ lattice-QCD: Euclidean QCD, equilibrium many-body properties
- ▶ to describe dynamics: effective models based on “accidental” symmetries of QCD
- ▶ light-quark sector (u+d quarks): approximate chiral symmetry $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$

Quark-Meson linear- σ Model

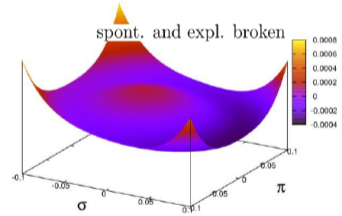
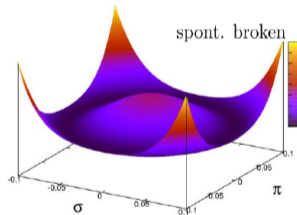
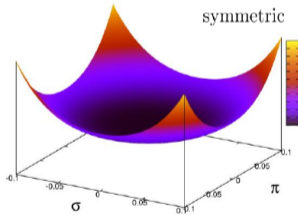
- ▶ from Meistrenko (PhD Thesis): [MHG21]
- ▶ $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ linear- σ model
- ▶ mesons: σ , $\vec{\pi}$, quarks: $\psi = (u, d)$

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} \left[i \not{\partial} - g (\sigma + i \gamma_5 \vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{\tau}) \right] \psi + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \sigma \partial^\mu \sigma + \partial_\mu \vec{\pi} \partial^\mu \vec{\pi}) - \frac{\lambda}{4} (\sigma^2 + \vec{\pi}^2 - v^2)^2 + f_\pi m_\pi^2 \sigma + U_0$$

parameter	value	description
λ	20	coupling constant for σ and $\vec{\pi}$
g	2–5	coupling constant between σ , $\vec{\pi}$ and ψ
f_π	93 MeV	pion decay constant
m_π	138 MeV	pion mass
v^2	$f_\pi^2 - m_\pi^2 / \lambda$	field shift term
U_0	$m_\pi^4 / (4\lambda) - f_\pi^2 m_\pi^2$	ground state

Quark-Meson linear- σ Model: meson potential

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} \left[i \not{\partial} - g (\sigma + i \gamma_5 \vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{\tau}) \right] \psi + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \sigma \partial^\mu \sigma + \partial_\mu \vec{\pi} \partial^\mu \vec{\pi}) - \frac{\lambda}{4} (\sigma^2 + \vec{\pi}^2 - v^2)^2 + f_\pi m_\pi^2 \sigma + U_0$$



Quark-Meson linear- σ Model: 2PI action

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} \left[i \not{\partial} - g (\sigma + i \gamma_5 \vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{\tau}) \right] \psi + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \sigma \partial^\mu \sigma + \partial_\mu \vec{\pi} \partial^\mu \vec{\pi}) - \frac{\lambda}{4} (\sigma^2 + \vec{\pi}^2 - v^2)^2 + f_\pi m_\pi^2 \sigma$$

$$\Gamma[\sigma, \vec{\pi}, G, D] = S[\sigma, \vec{\pi}] + \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} \ln G^{-1} + \frac{i}{2} G_0^{-1} G - i \text{Tr} \ln D^{-1} - i \text{Tr} D_0^{-1} D + \Gamma_2[\sigma, \vec{\pi}, G, D]$$

$$\Gamma_2 \sim \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\sigma\sigma}^2 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\pi_i\pi_i}^2 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\sigma\sigma} G_{\pi_i\pi_i} + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\pi_i\pi_i} G_{\pi_j\pi_j}$$

$$+ \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\sigma\sigma}^4 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\pi_i\pi_i}^4 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\sigma\sigma}^2 G_{\pi_i\pi_i}^2 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\pi_i\pi_i}^2 G_{\pi_j\pi_j}^2$$

$$+ \int_{\mathcal{C}} \phi G_{\sigma\sigma}^3 \phi + \int_{\mathcal{C}} \phi G_{\sigma\sigma} G_{\pi_i\pi_i}^2 \phi + \int_{\mathcal{C}} D^2 G_{\sigma\sigma} + \int_{\mathcal{C}} D^2 G_{\pi_i\pi_i}$$

Equations of motion: Kadanoff-Baym equations for Green's functions + mean-field equations

$$\frac{\delta \Gamma}{\delta \sigma} = \frac{\delta \Gamma}{\delta \vec{\pi}} = \frac{\delta \Gamma}{\delta G} = \frac{\delta \Gamma}{\delta D} = 0.$$

Quark-Meson linear- σ Model: off-equilibrium equations

- ▶ real-time Keldysh contour \Rightarrow 2PI/Kadanoff Baym \Rightarrow transport equation (spatially homogeneous)
- ▶ Mean-field equation

$$\partial_t^2 \phi + D(t) + J(t) = 0, J(t) := \lambda \left(\phi^2 - v^2 + 3G_{\sigma\sigma}^{11} + \sum_i G_{\pi_i\pi_i}^{11} \right) \phi - f_\pi m_\pi^2 + g \langle \bar{\psi} \psi \rangle$$

- ▶ transport equations for meson- and quark-phase-space-distribution functions

$$\partial_t f^\sigma(t, \vec{p}_1) = \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\sigma \leftrightarrow \sigma\sigma}^{b.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\pi_i \leftrightarrow \sigma\pi_i}^{b.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\sigma \leftrightarrow \pi_i\pi_i}^{b.} + \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\phi \leftrightarrow \sigma\sigma}^{b.s.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\phi \leftrightarrow \pi_i\pi_i}^{b.s.} + \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\psi \leftrightarrow \psi\bar{\psi}}^{f.s.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t f^{\pi_i}(t, \vec{p}_1) = & \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\pi_i \leftrightarrow \pi_i\pi_i}^{b.} + \sum_{j \neq i} \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\pi_j \leftrightarrow \pi_i\pi_j}^{b.} + \sum_{j \neq i} \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\pi_i \leftrightarrow \pi_j\pi_j}^{b.} + \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\sigma \leftrightarrow \pi_i\sigma}^{b.} + \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\pi_i \leftrightarrow \sigma\sigma}^{b.} \\ & + \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\phi \leftrightarrow \pi_i\sigma}^{b.s.} + \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i \leftrightarrow \psi\bar{\psi}}^{f.s.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\partial_t f^\psi(t, \vec{p}_1) = \mathcal{C}_{\psi\bar{\psi} \leftrightarrow \sigma}^{f.s.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\psi\bar{\psi} \leftrightarrow \pi_i}^{f.s.}$$

$$\partial_t f^{\bar{\psi}}(t, \vec{p}_1) = \mathcal{C}_{\bar{\psi}\psi \leftrightarrow \sigma}^{f.s.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\bar{\psi}\psi \leftrightarrow \pi_i}^{f.s.},$$

Hydrodynamics

- ▶ ideal hydrodynamics: local thermal equilibrium

$$f^{(0)}(x, p) = g \exp[-\beta(x)u(x) \cdot p + \beta(x)\mu(x)]$$

- ▶ $u^\mu(x)$ with $u_\mu u^\mu \equiv 1$: fluid four-velocity, $\beta(x)$: inverse temperature, $\mu(x)$: chemical potential, $p^0 = \sqrt{m^2 + \vec{p}^2}$
- ▶ Boltzmann equation (collision term vanishes) \Rightarrow conservation of energy, momentum, and conserved charges

$$T^{\mu\nu}(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3 p^0} p^\mu p^\nu f(x, p) = u^\mu u^\nu [\epsilon(x) + P(x)] - \eta^{\mu\nu} P(x),$$

$$N^\mu = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3 p^0} p^\mu f(x, p) = n(x) u^\mu(x),$$

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0, \quad \partial_\mu N^\mu = 0.$$

- ▶ to close system: equation of state $p = p(\epsilon, n)$
- ▶ extended to dissipative hydrodynamics: systematic expansion via moments of f
more on hydro: [\[DR21\]](#)

Cumulants of net-baryon number fluctuations

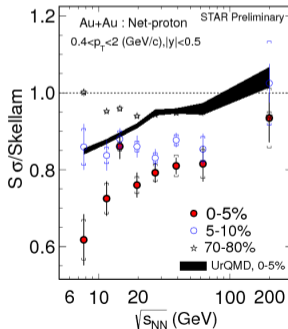
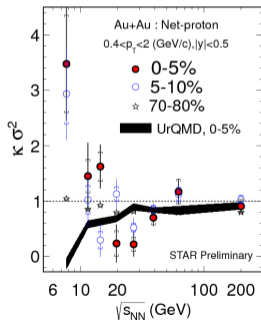
Quark-number susceptibilities

$$c_1 = \frac{N_{q,\text{net}}}{VT^3}, \quad c_2 = \frac{1}{VT^3} \left\langle (N_{q,\text{net}} - \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle)^2 \right\rangle \equiv \frac{1}{VT^3} \sigma_{q,\text{net}}^2$$

$$c_3 = \frac{1}{VT^3} \left\langle (N_{q,\text{net}} - \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle)^3 \right\rangle, \quad c_4 = \frac{1}{VT^3} \left[\left\langle (N_{q,\text{net}} - \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle)^4 \right\rangle - 3\sigma_{q,\text{net}}^4 \right],$$

$$\kappa \sigma^2 = c_4 / c_2$$

$$S \sigma = c_3 / c_2$$



[Luo16]

Quark-Meson linear- σ Model: 2PI action (A. Meistrenko et al)

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} \left[i \not{\partial} - g (\sigma + i \gamma_5 \vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{\tau}) \right] \psi + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \sigma \partial^\mu \sigma + \partial_\mu \vec{\pi} \partial^\mu \vec{\pi}) - \frac{\lambda}{4} (\sigma^2 + \vec{\pi}^2 - v^2)^2 + f_\pi m_\pi^2 \sigma$$

$$\Gamma[\sigma, \vec{\pi}, G, D] = S[\sigma, \vec{\pi}] + \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} \ln G^{-1} + \frac{i}{2} G_0^{-1} G - i \text{Tr} \ln D^{-1} - i \text{Tr} D_0^{-1} D + \Gamma_2[\sigma, \vec{\pi}, G, D]$$

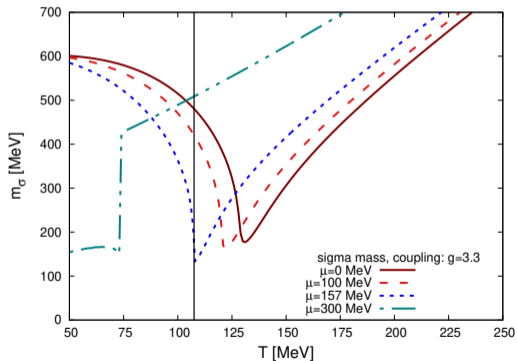
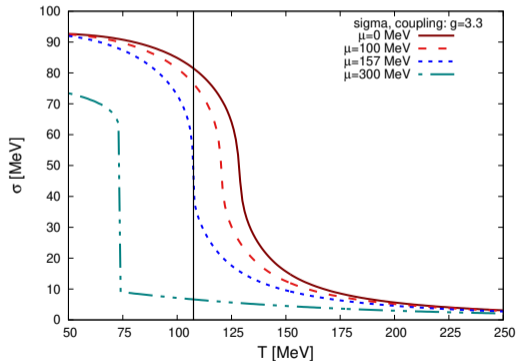
$$\Gamma_2 \sim \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\sigma\sigma}^2 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\pi_i \pi_i}^2 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\sigma\sigma} G_{\pi_i \pi_i} + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\pi_i \pi_i} G_{\pi_j \pi_j} + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\sigma\sigma}^4 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\pi_i \pi_i}^4 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\sigma\sigma}^2 G_{\pi_i \pi_i}^2 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} G_{\pi_i \pi_i}^2 G_{\pi_j \pi_j}^2 + \int_{\mathcal{C}} \phi G_{\sigma\sigma}^3 \phi + \int_{\mathcal{C}} \phi G_{\sigma\sigma} G_{\pi_i \pi_i}^2 \phi + \int_{\mathcal{C}} D^2 G_{\sigma\sigma} + \int_{\mathcal{C}} D^2 G_{\pi_i \pi_i}$$

Equations of motion:

$$\frac{\delta \Gamma}{\delta \sigma} = \frac{\delta \Gamma}{\delta \vec{\pi}} = \frac{\delta \Gamma}{\delta G} = \frac{\delta \Gamma}{\delta D} = 0.$$

Quark-Meson linear- σ Model: equilibrium order parameter

$$\Omega_{\text{eff}}[\sigma, \vec{\pi}, G, D] = -\frac{1}{\beta V} \text{i}\Gamma[\sigma, \vec{\pi}, G, D], \quad \frac{\partial \Omega_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \sigma} \stackrel{!}{=} 0, \quad M_{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\partial^2 \Omega_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \sigma^2}, \quad M_{\pi}^2 = \frac{\partial^2 \Omega_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \pi_i^2}$$



Quark-Meson linear- σ Model: off-equilibrium equations

- ▶ real-time Keldysh contour \Rightarrow 2PI/Kadanoff Baym \Rightarrow transport equation (spatially homogeneous)
- ▶ Mean-field equation

$$\partial_t^2 \phi + D(t) + J(t) = 0, J(t) := \lambda \left(\phi^2 - v^2 + 3G_{\sigma\sigma}^{11} + \sum_i G_{\pi_i\pi_i}^{11} \right) \phi - f_\pi m_\pi^2 + g \langle \bar{\psi} \psi \rangle$$

- ▶ transport equations for meson- and quark-phase-space-distribution functions

$$\partial_t f^\sigma(t, \vec{p}_1) = \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\sigma \leftrightarrow \sigma\sigma}^{b.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\pi_i \leftrightarrow \sigma\pi_i}^{b.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\sigma \leftrightarrow \pi_i\pi_i}^{b.} + \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\phi \leftrightarrow \sigma\sigma}^{b.s.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\phi \leftrightarrow \pi_i\pi_i}^{b.s.} + \mathcal{C}_{\sigma\psi \leftrightarrow \psi\bar{\psi}}^{f.s.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t f^{\pi_i}(t, \vec{p}_1) = & \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\pi_i \leftrightarrow \pi_i\pi_i}^{b.} + \sum_{j \neq i} \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\pi_j \leftrightarrow \pi_i\pi_j}^{b.} + \sum_{j \neq i} \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\pi_i \leftrightarrow \pi_j\pi_j}^{b.} + \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\sigma \leftrightarrow \pi_i\sigma}^{b.} + \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\pi_i \leftrightarrow \sigma\sigma}^{b.} \\ & + \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i\phi \leftrightarrow \pi_i\sigma}^{b.s.} + \mathcal{C}_{\pi_i \leftrightarrow \psi\bar{\psi}}^{f.s.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\partial_t f^\psi(t, \vec{p}_1) = \mathcal{C}_{\psi\bar{\psi} \leftrightarrow \sigma}^{f.s.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\psi\bar{\psi} \leftrightarrow \pi_i}^{f.s.}$$

$$\partial_t f^{\bar{\psi}}(t, \vec{p}_1) = \mathcal{C}_{\bar{\psi}\psi \leftrightarrow \sigma}^{f.s.} + \sum_i \mathcal{C}_{\bar{\psi}\psi \leftrightarrow \pi_i}^{f.s.},$$

Quark-Meson linear- σ Model: collision terms

collision integral	diagram	collision integral	diagram
$C_{\sigma\sigma\leftrightarrow\sigma\sigma}^b.$		$C_{\pi_i\pi_i\leftrightarrow\pi_i\pi_i}^b.$	
$C_{\sigma\pi_i\leftrightarrow\sigma\pi_i}^b.$		$C_{\pi_i\pi_j\leftrightarrow\pi_i\pi_j}^b.$	
$C_{\sigma\sigma\leftrightarrow\pi_i\pi_i}^b.$		$C_{\pi_i\sigma\leftrightarrow\pi_i\sigma}^b.$	
$C_{\sigma\phi\leftrightarrow\sigma\sigma}^{b.s.}$		$C_{\pi_i\pi_i\leftrightarrow\pi_j\pi_j}^b.$	
$C_{\sigma\phi\leftrightarrow\pi_i\pi_i}^{b.s.}$		$C_{\pi_i\pi_i\leftrightarrow\sigma\sigma}^b.$	
$C_{\sigma\leftrightarrow\psi\bar{\psi}}^{f.s.}$		$C_{\pi_i\phi\leftrightarrow\pi_i\sigma}^{b.s.}$	
$C_{\psi\bar{\psi}\leftrightarrow\sigma}^{f.s.}$		$C_{\pi_i\leftrightarrow\psi\bar{\psi}}^{f.s.}$	
$C_{\psi\bar{\psi}\leftrightarrow\sigma}^{f.s.}$		$C_{\psi\bar{\psi}\leftrightarrow\pi_i}^{f.s.}$	
		$C_{\psi\bar{\psi}\leftrightarrow\pi_i}^{f.s.}$	

Quark-Meson linear- σ Model: expanding-fireball geometry

- ▶ Friedmann-Lemaître-Robertson-Walker metric (spatially flat)

$$ds^2 = dt^2 - a^2(t)(dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 + dx_3^2), \quad H = \dot{a}/a$$

- ▶ expanding fireball with radius $R(t) = R_0 + v_e t$, $\dot{a}/a = \dot{R}/R$
- ▶ mean-field equation

$$\partial_t^2 \phi + 3H \partial_t \phi + D(t) + J(t) = 0$$

- ▶ Boltzmann equation

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} - Hp \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \right) f = \mathcal{I}$$

Initialization of net-quark numbers

- ▶ goal: time-evolution of net-quark number fluctuations
- ▶ ensembles with fluctuating initial conditions

- ▶ mean net-quark number

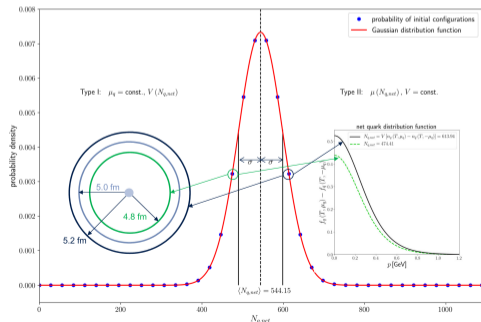
$$\langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle = \frac{4\pi}{3} R_0^2 \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} [f_q(T, \mu_q) - f_q(T, -\mu_q)]$$

- ▶ standard deviation:

$$\sigma_{q,\text{net}} = \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle / 10$$

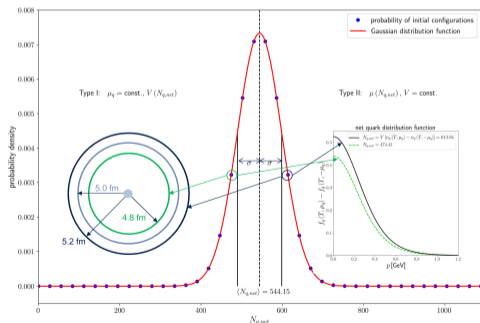
- ▶ choose $M = 200-1000$ values for $N_{q,\text{net}}$

- ▶ initialize type I or type II for each $N_{q,\text{net}}$



Observables

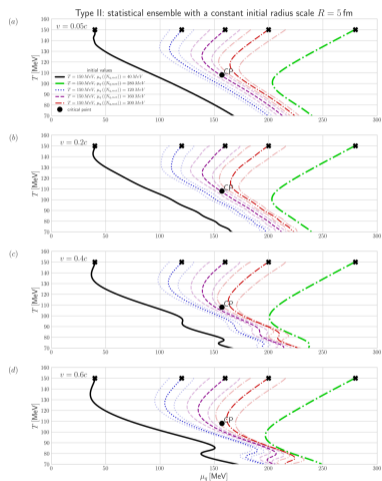
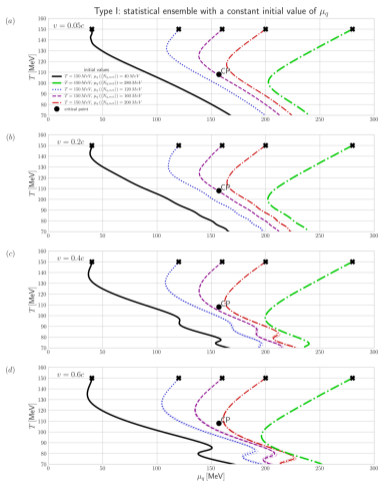
- ▶ goal: time-evolution of net-quark number fluctuations
- ▶ ensembles with fluctuating initial conditions
- ▶ ensembles with fluctuating initial conditions



$$\langle O \rangle = \frac{p_0 O_0 + p_M O_M}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{M-1} p_k O_k$$

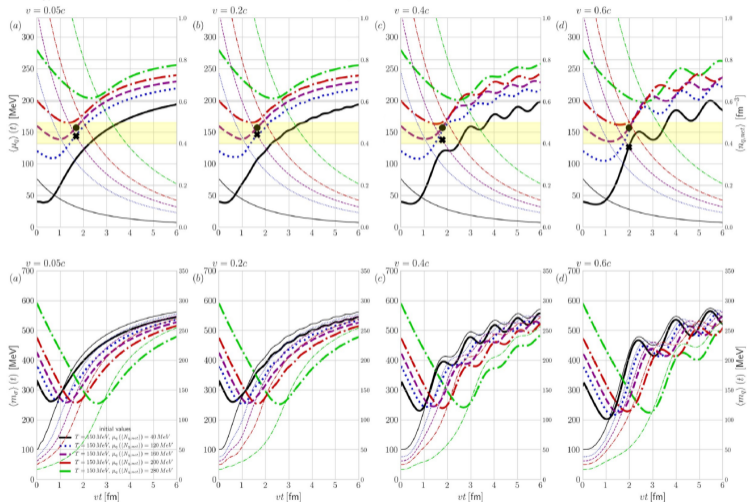
- ▶ cumulant ratios $R_{3,1} = c_3/c_1$,
 $R_{4,2} = c_4/c_2 = \kappa \sigma^2$,
 $c_1 = \langle m \rangle$,
 $c_2 = \tilde{m}_2 = \sigma^2$,
 $c_3 = \tilde{m}_3$,
 $c_4 = \tilde{m}_4 - 3\tilde{m}_2^2$

“Trajectories” in phase diagram



“Trajectories” in phase diagram

Type II: statistical ensemble with a constant initial radius scale $R = 5$ fm



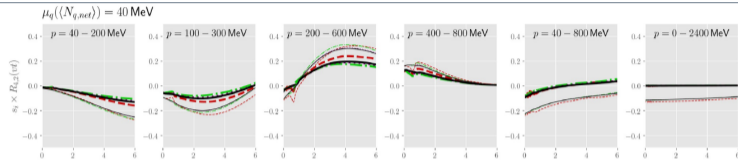
“Trajectories” in phase diagram

$$T_{\text{ini}} = 160 \text{ MeV}$$

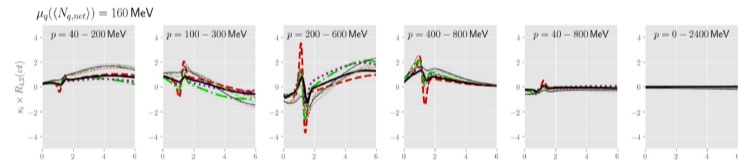
$$\langle N \rangle_{q,\text{net}} =$$

123, 544, 1158

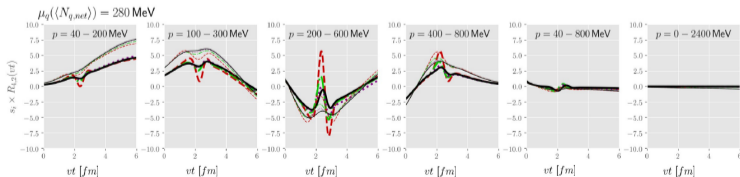
cross over



2nd order



1st order



- $s_1 = 10^2 / \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle^2, \sigma_{q,\text{net}} = \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle / 10, v = 0.05$
- $s_1 = 10^2 / \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle^2, \sigma_{q,\text{net}} = \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle / 10, v = 0.2$
- ▲— $s_1 = 10^2 / \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle^2, \sigma_{q,\text{net}} = \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle / 10, v = 0.4$
- $s_1 = 10^2 / \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle^2, \sigma_{q,\text{net}} = \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle / 10, v = 0.6$
- $s_2 = 10^4 / \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle^2, \sigma_{q,\text{net}} = \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle / 5, v = 0.05$
- ▲— $s_2 = 10^4 / \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle^2, \sigma_{q,\text{net}} = \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle / 5, v = 0.2$
- $s_2 = 10^4 / \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle^2, \sigma_{q,\text{net}} = \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle / 5, v = 0.4$
- $s_2 = 10^4 / \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle^2, \sigma_{q,\text{net}} = \langle N_{q,\text{net}} \rangle / 5, v = 0.6$

Electromagnetic probes in heavy-ion collisions

- ▶ γ, l^\pm : no strong interactions
- ▶ reflect whole “history” of collision:
 - ▶ from **pre-equilibrium phase**
 - ▶ from thermalized medium
QGP and hot hadron gas
 - ▶ from VM decays **after thermal freezeout**

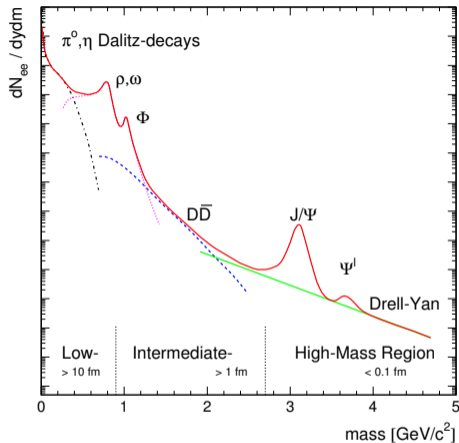
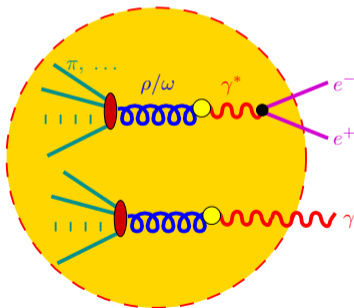


Fig. by A. Drees

Electromagnetic probes from thermal source

- ▶ retarded electromagnetic-current-correlation function

$$\Pi_{\text{em},i}^{\mu\nu} = i \int d^4x \exp(iqx) \Theta(x^0) \langle [j_{\text{em},i}^\mu(x), j_{\text{em},i}^\nu(0)] \rangle$$

- ▶ McLerran-Toimela formula [MT85, GK91]

$$q_0 \frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4x d^3\vec{q}} = -\frac{\alpha_{\text{em}}}{2\pi^2} g^{\mu\nu} \text{Im} \Pi_{\mu\nu}^{(\text{ret})}(q, u) \Big|_{q_0=|\vec{q}|} f_B(q \cdot u)$$

$$\frac{dN_{e^+e^-}}{d^4x d^4q} = -g^{\mu\nu} \frac{\alpha^2}{3q^2\pi^3} \text{Im} \Pi_{\mu\nu}^{(\text{ret})}(q, u) \Big|_{q^2=M_{e^+e^-}^2} f_B(q \cdot u)$$

- ▶ Lorentz covariant (**dependent on four-velocity of fluid cell, u**)
- ▶ $q \cdot u = E_{\text{cm}}$: **Doppler blue shift** of q_T spectra!
- ▶ to lowest order in α : $4\pi\alpha\Pi_{\mu\nu} \simeq \Sigma_{\mu\nu}^{(\gamma)}$
- ▶ **vector-meson dominance** model:

$$\Sigma_{\mu\nu}^{\gamma} = \text{---} \overset{G_\rho}{\text{---}} \text{---}$$

- ▶ $\ell^+\ell^-$ -inv.-mass spectra \Rightarrow **in-med. spectral functions of vector mesons (ρ, ω, ϕ)!**

Radiation from thermal QGP: $q\bar{q}$ annihilation

- ▶ General: **McLerran-Toimela formula**

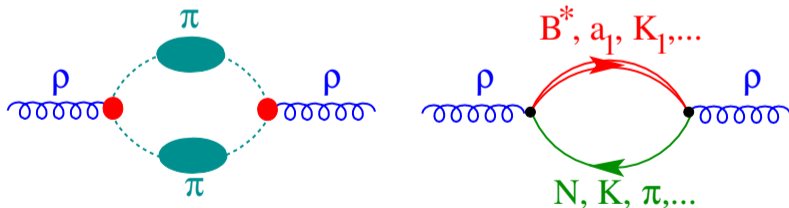
$$\frac{dN_{l+l-}^{(\text{MT})}}{d^4x d^4q} = -\frac{\alpha^2}{3\pi^3} \frac{L(M^2)}{M^2} g_{\mu\nu} \text{Im} \sum_i \Pi_{\text{em},i}^{\mu\nu}(M, \vec{q}) f_B(q \cdot u)$$

- ▶ in **QGP** phase: $q\bar{q}$ annihilation
- ▶ hard-thermal-loop improved em. current-current correlator

$$-i\Pi_{\text{em},\text{QGP}} = \text{Diagram}$$

Hadronic many-body theory

- ▶ hadronic many-body theory (HMBT) for vector mesons
[Ko et al, Chanfray et al, Herrmann et al, Rapp et al, ...]
- ▶ $\pi\pi$ interactions and **baryonic excitations**
- ▶ effective hadronic models, implementing symmetries
- ▶ parameters fixed from phenomenology (photon absorption at nucleons and nuclei, $\pi N \rightarrow \rho N$)
- ▶ evaluated at **finite temperature and density**
- ▶ self-energies \Rightarrow **mass shift and broadening** in the medium



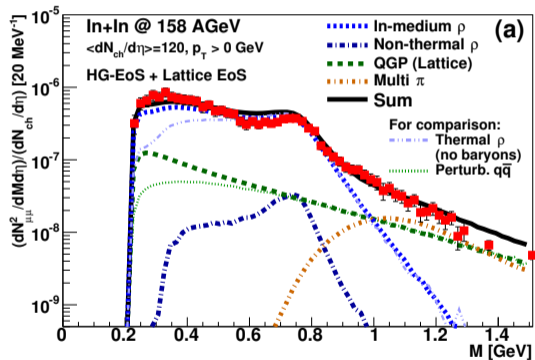
- ▶ **Baryons** important, even at low **net** baryon density $n_B - n_{\bar{B}}$
- ▶ reason: $n_B + n_{\bar{B}}$ relevant (CP inv. of strong interactions)

Bulk evolution with transport and coarse graining

- ▶ established transport models for **bulk evolution**
 - ▶ e.g., **UrQMD**, GiBUU, BAMPS, (p)HSD,...
 - ▶ solve **Boltzmann equation** for hadrons and/or partons
- ▶ dilemma: need medium-modified **dilepton/photon emission rates**
- ▶ usually available only in **equilibrium QFT calculations**
- ▶ ways out:
 - ▶ **(ideal) hydrodynamics** \Rightarrow local thermal equilibrium \Rightarrow use equilibrium rates
 - ▶ transport-hydro hybrid model: treat early stage with transport, then **coarse grain** \Rightarrow switch to hydro \Rightarrow switch back to transport (**Cooper-Frye “particlization”**)
- ▶ here: **UrQMD transport** for entire bulk evolution
 \Rightarrow use **coarse graining** in space-time cells \Rightarrow extract $T, \mu_B, \mu_\pi, \dots \Rightarrow$ use equilibrium rates locally

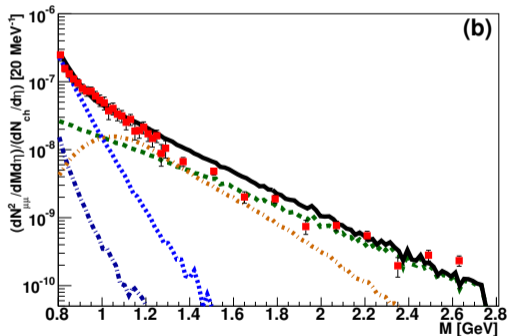
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- ▶ dimuon spectra from In + In(158 AGeV) $\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- ▶ min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)



CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- ▶ dimuon spectra from In + In(158 AGeV) $\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- ▶ min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- ▶ higher IMR: provides **averaged true temperature**
 $\langle T \rangle_{1.5 \text{ GeV} \lesssim M \lesssim 2.4 \text{ GeV}} = 205\text{-}230 \text{ MeV}$
- ▶ clearly above $T_c \simeq 150\text{-}160 \text{ MeV}$ (no blueshifts in the **invariant-mass** spectra!)



- ▶ more on electromagnetic probes: [RW00, RWH10]

Heavy-Quark Observables

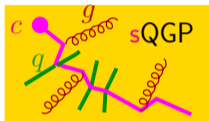
- ▶ heavy quarks (charm, bottom) produced in **early hard collisions**
- ▶ suffer whole **history of fireball evolution**
- ▶ **open charm/bottom flow** (via non-photonic single electrons@RHIC)
 - ▶ **drag of heavy quarks** with thermalized **QGP** (light quarks + gluons)
 - ▶ **extract transport properties** of **QGP**!?
 - ▶ **theoretical challenges**: describe motion of heavy quarks in **QGP** + hadronization to open-charm/bottom mesons
- ▶ **Heavy quarkonia** (e.g., J/ψ , Υ , ...)
 - ▶ **" J/ψ " suppression** (beyond cold-nuclear matter effects): "classical" prediction as **QGP** signal [T. Matsui, H. Satz, PLB **178**, 416 (1986)]
 - ▶ **probes in-medium properties of strong force** (deconfinement \Rightarrow less binding!)
 - ▶ "observation" in IQCD: heavy quarkonia may "survive" above T_c
 - ▶ dissociation/melting vs. regeneration of heavy quarkonia in **QGP**
 - ▶ **theoretical challenges**: in-medium **bound-state problem** (potential @ $T, \mu > 0$?)
 - ▶ describe dissociation/melting + regeneration processes
 - ▶ evaluate (take out) "cold-nuclear matter effects" (shadowing, Cronin effect,...)

Heavy Quarks in Heavy-Ion collisions

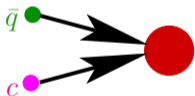


c, b quark

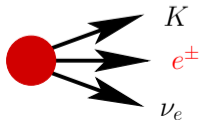
hard production of HQs
described by PDF's + pQCD (PYTHIA)



HQ rescattering in QGP: Langevin simulation
drag and diffusion coefficients from
microscopic model for HQ interactions in the sQGP



Hadronization to D, B mesons via
quark coalescence + fragmentation



semileptonic decay \Rightarrow
"non-photonic" electron observables
 $R_{AA}^{e^+e^-}(p_T), v_2^{e^+e^-}(p_T)$

Relativistic Langevin process

- ▶ **Langevin process: friction force** + **Gaussian random force**
- ▶ in the (local) rest frame of the heat bath

$$d\vec{x} = \frac{\vec{p}}{E_p} dt,$$

$$d\vec{p} = -A\vec{p} dt + \sqrt{2dt}[\sqrt{B_0}P_\perp + \sqrt{B_1}P_\parallel]\vec{w}$$

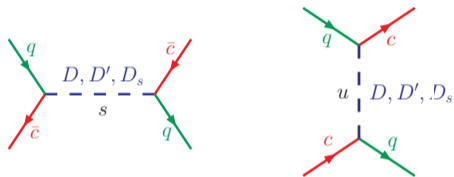
- ▶ \vec{w} : normal-distributed random variable
- ▶ A : friction (drag) coefficient
- ▶ $B_{0,1}$: diffusion coefficients
- ▶ Einstein dissipation-fluctuation relation $B_1 = E_p T A$.
- ▶ flow via Lorentz boosts between “heat-bath frame” and “lab frame”
- ▶ A and B_0 from **microscopic models for qQ , gQ scattering**
- ▶ **background medium**: UrQMD \rightarrow hydro \rightarrow UrQMD

[R. Rapp, HvH, R. C. Hwa and X. N. Wang (eds.), Quark-Gluon Plasma Vol. IV, World Scientific (2010), arXiv: 0903.1096 [hep-ph]; M. He, HvH, P. B. Gossiaux, R. J.

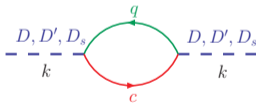
Fries, R. Rapp, Phys. Rev. E **88**, 032138 (2013)]

Non-perturbative interactions: Resonance Scattering

- ▶ General idea: Survival of D - and B -meson like **resonances** above T_c
- ▶ model based on chiral symmetry (light quarks) HQ-effective theory
- ▶ **elastic heavy**-light-(anti-)quark scattering



- ▶ D - and B -meson like resonances in sQGP

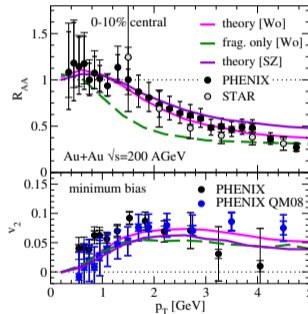
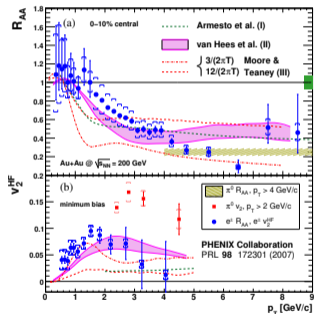


- ▶ parameters
 - ▶ $m_D = 2 \text{ GeV}, \Gamma_D = 0.4 \dots 0.75 \text{ GeV}$
 - ▶ $m_B = 5 \text{ GeV}, \Gamma_B = 0.4 \dots 0.75 \text{ GeV}$

[HvH, R. Rapp, Phys. Rev. C 71, 034907 (2005); HvH, V. Greco, R. Rapp, Phys. Rev. C 73, 034913 (2006)]

Open-Charm/Bottom Observables

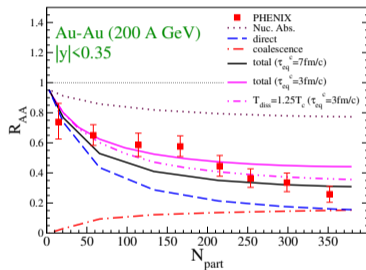
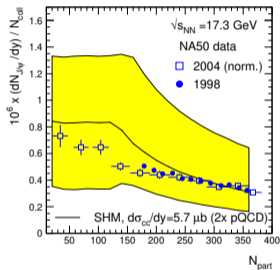
- ▶ “Non-photonic single electron” spectra at RHIC
- ▶ come from decay of **D** and **B** mesons ($\bar{q}Q$ - and $\bar{Q}q$ -bound states)
- ▶ p_T spectra ($R_{AA}(p_T)$): energy loss/degree of thermalization
- ▶ $v_2(p_T)$: participation of heavy quarks in (anisotropic) flow



- ▶ surprisingly large suppression and $v_2 \Rightarrow$ **strongly interacting QGP (sQGP)**
 - ▶ microscopic energy-loss mechanism?
 - ▶ pQCD vs. non-perturbative interactions
 - ▶ elastic vs. (gluo-)radiative energy loss

Heavy quarkonia in hot and dense matter

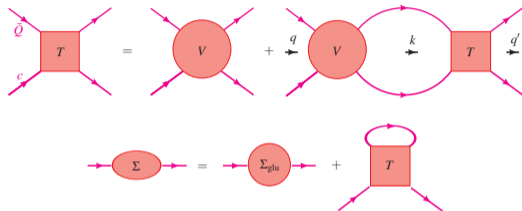
- ▶ J/ψ yields in AA compared to pp and pA collisions
- ▶ already suppression in pA (initial- and final-state effects)
- ▶ understanding of pA crucial to determine QGP effects



- ▶ J/ψ suppression **the same at SPS and RHIC**
 - ▶ **in-medium color screening** (Mott-like transition)?
 - ▶ **microscopic dissociation processes?**
 - ▶ **J/ψ survive** phase transition \Rightarrow **regeneration of J/ψ in QGP**
- ▶ connections between results from **heavy quarkonia** and **HQ diffusion?**

T-matrix approach for quarkonium-bound-state problem

- ▶ **T-matrix Brückner approach** for heavy quarkonia as for HQ diffusion
- ▶ consistency between HQ diffusion and $\bar{Q}Q$ suppression!



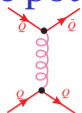
- ▶ 4D **Bethe-Salpeter equation** \rightarrow 3D **Lippmann-Schwinger equation**
- ▶ relativistic interaction \rightarrow **static heavy-quark potential** (lQCD)

$$T_{\alpha}(E; q', q) = V_{\alpha}(q', q) + \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} dk k^2 V_{\alpha}(q', k) G_{Q\bar{Q}}(E; k) T_{\alpha}(E; k, q) \\ \times \{1 - n_F[\omega_1(\vec{k})] - n_F[\omega_2(k)]\}$$

- ▶ q, q', k relative 3-momentum of initial, final, intermediate $\bar{Q}Q$ state

[F. Riek, R. Rapp, arXiv:1005.0769 [hep-ph]]

The potential fit to lattice data



- ▶ non-perturbative static **gluon** propagator

$$D_{00}(\vec{k}) = 1/(\vec{k}^2 + \mu_D^2) + m_G^2/(\vec{k}^2 + \tilde{m}_D^2)^2$$

- ▶ **finite-T HQ color-singlet-free energy** from Polyakov loops

$$\begin{aligned} \exp[-F_1(r, T)/T] &= \langle \text{Tr}[\Omega(x)\Omega^\dagger(y)]/N_c \rangle \\ &= \exp\left[\frac{g^2}{2N_c T^2} \langle A_{0,\alpha}(x)A_{0,\alpha}(y) - A_{0,\alpha}^2(x) \rangle\right] + \mathcal{O}(g^6) \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ identify $\langle A_{0,\alpha}(x)A_{0,\alpha}(y) \rangle = D_{00}(x-y)$
- ▶ **color-singlet free energy**

$$F_1(r, T) = -\frac{4}{3} \alpha_s \left\{ \frac{\exp(-m_D r)}{r} + \frac{m_G^2}{2\tilde{m}_D} [\exp(-\tilde{m}_D r) - 1] + m_D \right\}$$

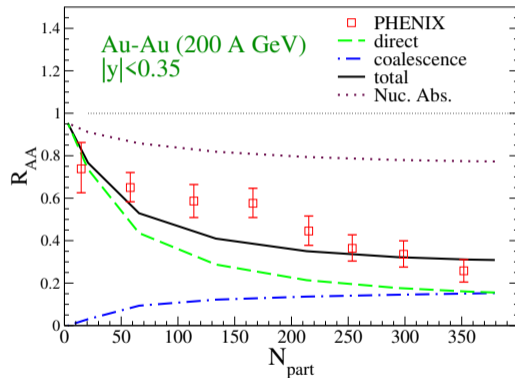
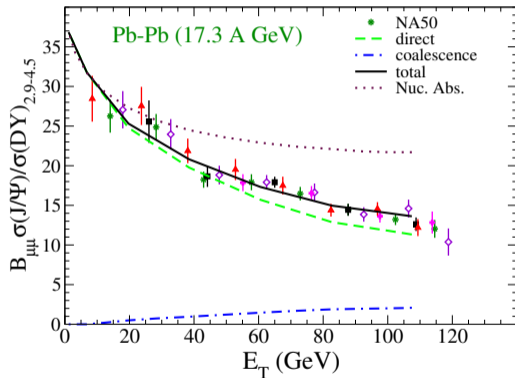
- ▶ in vacuo $m_D, \tilde{m}_D \rightarrow 0$

$$F_1(r) = -\frac{4}{3} \frac{\alpha_s}{r} + \sigma r, \quad \sigma = \frac{2\alpha_s m_G^2}{3}$$

[F. Riek, R. Rapp, arXiv:1005.0769 [hep-ph]]

Centrality dependence of J/ψ in AA collisions

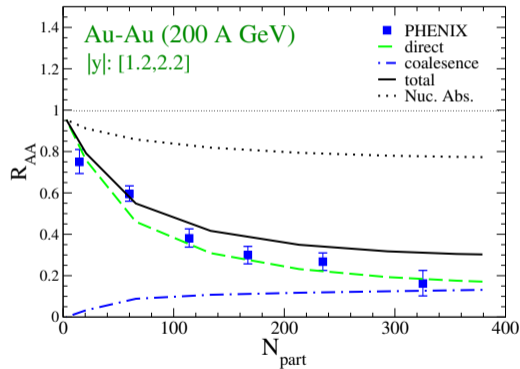
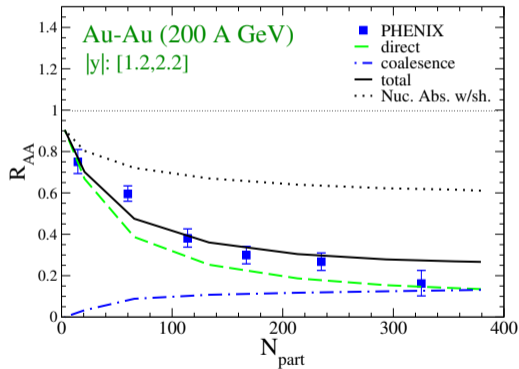
► mid rapidity



[X. Zhao, R. Rapp, EPC 62, 109 (2009)]

Centrality dependence of J/ψ in AA collisions

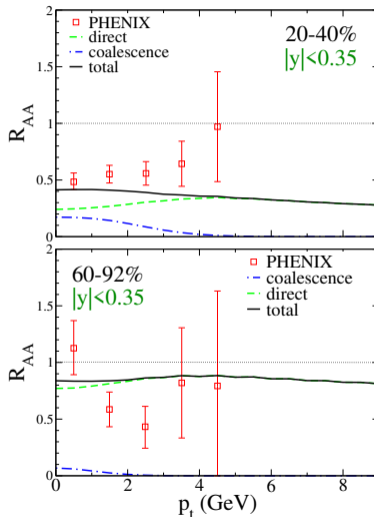
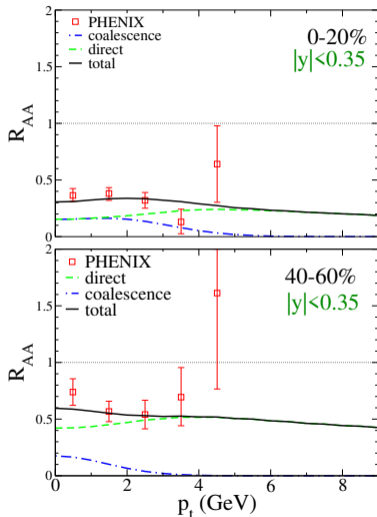
- ▶ forward rapidity
- ▶ with and without shadowing



[X. Zhao, R. Rapp, EPC 62, 109 (2009)]

p_T dependence of J/ψ R_{AA}

► mid rapidity



[X. Zhao, R. Rapp, EPC 62, 109 (2009)]

Conclusion

- ▶ QCD medium created in heavy-ion collisions \Rightarrow can be described as collectively moving fluid
 - ▶ p_T spectra, anisotropic flow, v_2
 - ▶ high-density medium: jet quenching
 - ▶ at highest beam energies: particle/light (anti-) nuclei \leftrightarrow chemical freeze-out close to T_{pc}
 - ▶ electromagnetic probes: medium modifications of hadrons
 - ▶ heavy quarks: interaction strength \leftrightarrow transport coefficients; quarkonia: screening, dissociation vs. regeneration
- ▶ Theory toolbox
 - ▶ fundamental level: QCD \leftrightarrow effective (hadronic) QFT models (chiral symmetry,...)
 - ▶ many-body QFT: equilibrium \Rightarrow “imaginary time”/Matsubara formalism/lQCD/hadronic many-body calculations; non-equilibrium \Rightarrow “real-time”/Schwinger-Keldysh/2PI/Kadanoff-Baym equations
 - ▶ coarse graining I: gradient (\hbar) expansion \Rightarrow transport models (on- and off-shell)

Conclusion

- ▶ coarse graining II: expansion around local thermal equilibrium/method of moments
⇒ derivation of transport coefficients (shear+bulk viscosity, electric conductivity, diffusion constants,...)
- ▶ Further “applications”
 - ▶ nuclear astro physics: neutron stars, neutron-star mergers/kilonovae

Outlook

- ▶ many open questions
 - ▶ phase diagram: is there a confinement-deconfinement 1st-order phasetransition line with critical endpoint? \Rightarrow kinetics of “grand-canonical fluctuations” of conserved charges?
 - ▶ equation of state? \Rightarrow neutron stars/kilonovae?
 - ▶ do we understand hadronization? \Rightarrow kinetic theory vs. “naive coalescence”?
 - ▶ “spin transport/hydro”? \Leftrightarrow polarization measurements (Λ , ϕ mesons at RHIC?)
 - ▶ initial state? early “off-equilibrium” phase of “fireball evolution”?

Bibliography

- [DR21] G. S. Denicol, D. H. Rischke, *Microscopic Foundations of Relativistic Fluid Dynamics*, Springer, Cham (2021).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82077-0>
- [EHWB15] S. Endres, H. van Hees, J. Weil, M. Bleicher, Dilepton production and reaction dynamics in heavy-ion collisions at SIS energies from coarse-grained transport simulations, *Phys. Rev. C* **92**, 014911 (2015).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.92.014911>
- [EM23] H. Elfner, B. Müller, The exploration of hot and dense nuclear matter: introduction to relativistic heavy-ion physics, *J. Phys. G* **50**, 103001 (2023).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6471/ace824>
- [FHK⁺11] B. Friman, et al., The CBM physics book: Compressed baryonic matter in laboratory experiments, *Lect.Notes Phys.* **814**, pp. 980 (2011).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-13293-3>

Bibliography

- [GK91] C. Gale, J. I. Kapusta, Vector dominance model at finite temperature, Nucl. Phys. B **357**, 65 (1991).
URL [https://doi.org/10.1016/0550-3213\(91\)90459-B](https://doi.org/10.1016/0550-3213(91)90459-B)
- [KH03] P. F. Kolb, U. Heinz, Hydrodynamic description of ultrarelativistic heavy ion collisions (2003), published in R. C. Hwa, X.-N. Wang (Ed.), Quark Gluon Plasma 3, World Scientific.
URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/nucl-th/0305084>
- [Krz11] M. Krzewicki, Elliptic and triangular flow of identified particles at ALICE, J. Phys. G **38**, 124047 (2011).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1088/0954-3899/38/12/124047>
- [Luo16] X. Luo, Exploring the QCD Phase Structure with Beam Energy Scan in Heavy-ion Collisions, Nucl. Phys. A **956**, 75 (2016).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nuclphysa.2016.03.025>

Bibliography

- [MHG21] A. Meistrenko, H. van Hees, C. Greiner, Kinetics of the chiral phase transition in a quark–meson σ -model, *Annals Phys.* **431**, 168555 (2021).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aop.2021.168555>
- [MT85] L. D. McLerran, T. Toimela, Photon and Dilepton Emission from the Quark-Gluon Plasma: Some General Considerations, *Phys. Rev. D* **31**, 545 (1985).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.31.545>
- [RW00] R. Rapp, J. Wambach, Chiral symmetry restoration and dileptons in relativistic heavy ion collisions, *Adv. Nucl. Phys.* **25**, 1 (2000).
URL https://doi.org/10.1007/0-306-47101-9_1
- [RWH10] R. Rapp, J. Wambach, H. van Hees, The Chiral Restoration Transition of QCD and Low Mass Dileptons, *Landolt-Börnstein* **23**, 134 (2010).
URL https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-01539-7_6

Bibliography

- [SABMR14] J. Stachel, A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, K. Redlich, Confronting LHC data with the statistical hadronization model, J. Phys. Conf. Ser. **509**, 012019 (2014).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/509/1/012019>
- [SJG11] B. Schenke, S. Jeon, C. Gale, Anisotropic flow in $\sqrt{s} = 2.76$ TeV Pb+Pb collisions at the LHC, Phys. Lett. B **702**, 59 (2011).
URL <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2011.06.065>