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First-Order Event Plane Correlated Directed and Triangular Flow in BES-II Au+Au Collisions at STAR

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In heavy-ion collisions, the measurements of anisotropic flow coefficient (v_n) offer insights into collective hydrodynamic expansion and transport properties of the produced medium at higher collision energies, while they are sensitive to the compressibility of the nuclear matter and nuclear equation of state at lower collision energies. The second phase of the Beam Energy Scan program (BES-II) was carried out at RHIC to focus on the most crucial energy range from $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7$ GeV to 27 GeV in collider mode and $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3$ GeV to 7.7 GeV in fixed-target mode, providing an ideal lever-arm to explore v_n . For such energies, the STAR BES-II upgrades enable us to measure v_n in a wide pseudorapidity (η) range with high precision.

Directed flow (v_1) describes the collective sideward motion of produced particles and nuclear fragments in heavy-ion collisions, and it is sensitive to early non-equilibrium dynamics. The measurement of v_1 in a wide η range allows us to test the phenomenon of limiting fragmentation and provides insights into the baryon-stopping mechanism. On the other hand, triangular flow (v_3) in nuclear collisions is often mentioned as being developed from event-by-event geometrical fluctuations in the participant region which has no correlation to the first-order event plane (Ψ_1). However, recent measurements at lower collision energies show a correlation between v_3 and Ψ_1 .

In this contribution, we will show the measurement of charged particle v_1 over six units of η in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$ and 19.6 GeV and compare with transport and hydrodynamic model calculations. We will also show the results of v_3 in fixed-target mode for identified hadrons and light nuclei with respect to Ψ_1 , comparing with theoretical models to identify the source of nonzero $v_3\{\Psi_1\}$ and to demonstrate its vital connection to the equation of state.

Category

Experiment

Collaboration (if applicable)

STAR

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