



Contribution ID: 347

Type: Oral

Exploring electromagnetic field effects and constraining transport parameters of QGP using STAR BES II data

Wednesday 6 September 2023 17:10 (20 minutes)

Constraining the initial strong electromagnetic field effects, three-dimensional structure of the initial state, and the transport properties of the Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP) at different temperatures (T), and baryon chemical potentials (μ_B) are critical objectives of the heavy-ion program at RHIC. The dominance of Faraday+Coulomb effect during the initial stages of non-central heavy ion collisions is predicted to result in a negative Δv_1 , defined by the difference in rapidity-odd directed flow (v_1) between positively and negatively charged particles. With the large dataset accumulated in the Beam Energy Scan (BES) phase II of STAR, we probe the beam energy dependence of Δv_1 for charged pions, kaons, and protons as a function of rapidity, transverse momentum (p_T), and centrality at midrapidity in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 19.6 - 7.7$ GeV. Our results support the notion of stronger Δv_1 at lower collision energies, expected due to the longer lifetime of the electromagnetic field and shorter lifetime of the fireball and a stronger effect with increasing p_T .

The flow angular decorrelations ($r_n(\eta)$) are sensitive to the 3D initial state, and new observables such as the transverse momentum correlator $G_2(\Delta\eta, \Delta\varphi)$ and flow-magnitude and flow angular correlations are sensitive to the viscous attenuation in the final state transport parameters of the evolution. We present new measurements of the beam energy dependence of higher-order flow-angular de-correlations $r_n(\eta)$ ($n = 2, 3$), the transverse momentum correlator $G_2(\Delta\eta, \Delta\varphi)$, higher-order flow-angular correlation $\langle \cos(a_1 n_1 \Psi_{n1} + \dots + a_k n_k \Psi_{nk}) \rangle$ and higher-order flow-magnitude correlations $SC(n, m)\{4\}$ and $SC(n, m)\{6\}$ for various event-shape and centrality selections of Au+Au collisions in different BES energies ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 - 11.5$ GeV) at RHIC. We observe a non-monotonic behavior in the longitudinal width of $G_2(\Delta\eta, \Delta\varphi)$ with the collision energy, which is expected to be proportional to η/s according to the ansatz proposed by S. Gavin et. al. [1]. Through these measurements we aim to gain insights into the role of electromagnetic fields and transport parameters of the QGP by disentangling the initial and final state effects.

[1] S. Gavin and M. Abdel-Aziz, Phys. Rev. Lett. 97, 162302 (2006)

Category

Experiment

Collaboration (if applicable)

STAR Collaboration

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Session Classification: Initial State

Track Classification: Initial state