

Elliptic Flow of K_S^0 and Λ in O+O Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV

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1. Introduction

2. STAR Experiment

3. Analysis

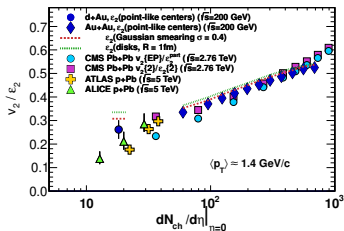
- Datasets, Event and Track Selection
- Particle Identification
- Event Plane Reconstruction
- Signal Extraction

4. Elliptic Flow of K_S^0 and Λ

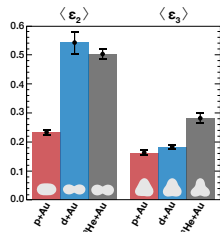
5. Summary

Understanding emergence of collectivity in small systems : p/d³He+A and A+A (e.g. O+O)

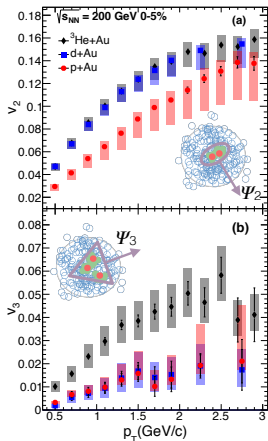
- Small size and short lifetime \Rightarrow Lack of enough time for thermalization.
- Spatial and momentum anisotropy during initial stages will contribute to collectivity.
 - ▶ Initial state models having nucleonic, sub-nucleonic structures and pre-flow needs to be better constrained.



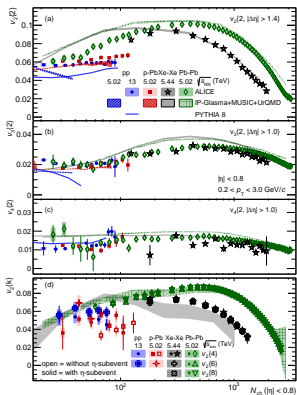
PHENIX, Phys. Rev. Lett. 111, 212301 (2013)



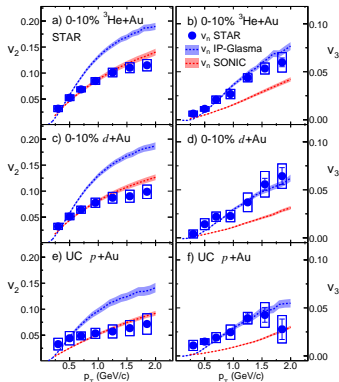
PHENIX, Nature Phys. 15, 214 (2019)



$$v_n \propto \epsilon_n \Rightarrow \begin{cases} v_2^{p+Au} < v_2^{d+Au} \approx v_2^{^3\text{He}+Au} \\ v_3^{p+Au} \approx v_3^{d+Au} < v_3^{^3\text{He}+Au} \end{cases}$$



ALICE, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **123**, 142301 (2019)



STAR, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **130**, 242301 (2023)

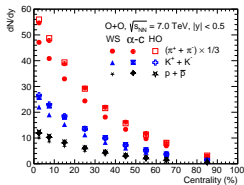
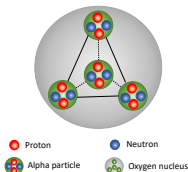
IP-Glasma includes sub-nucleonic fluctuations whereas SONIC uses nucleon Glauber

- At LHC energies, IP-Glasma gives only a qualitative description of data for p+Pb.
- At RHIC energies, IP-Glasma (+pre-flow) overestimates v_2 whereas SONIC underestimates v_3 .

Phenomenological models need to be better constrained to interpret small system collectivity

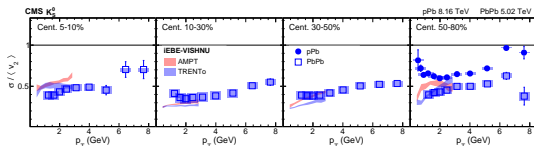
Why O+O? Systematic variation of system size and collision geometry

- System size comparable to d+Au at RHIC and p+Pb at LHC but vastly different geometry.
- Comparison with asymmetric small systems and upcoming LHC measurements



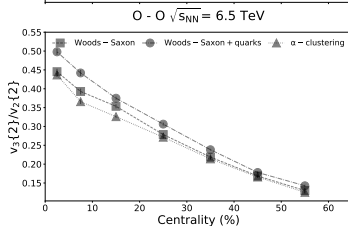
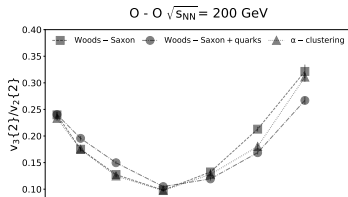
Eur. Phys. J. A **58**, 175 (2022)

AMPT predicts higher yield for α -cluster than Woods-Saxon.



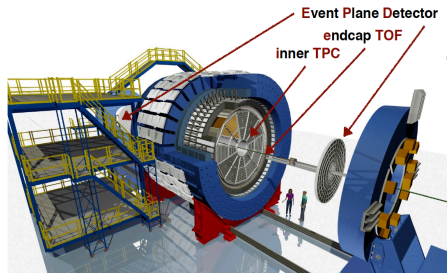
CMS, JHEP **05**, 007 (2023)

(Multi-)Strange hadrons are good probes for initial dynamics



Phys. Rev. C **104**, L041901 (2021)

Hydrodynamics with NLEFT derived initial state predicts suppression of $v_3\{2\}/v_2\{2\}$ in contrast to sub-nucleonic structure



Nucl. Phys. A **956**, 75 (2016)

Current detector setup includes

- inner Time Projection Chamber (iTPC)
 - ▶ Larger acceptance : $|\eta| < 1.5$ (was $|\eta| < 1$).
 - ▶ Better dE/dx and momentum resolution.
- Event Plane Detector (EPD)
 - ▶ Improved capability for event plane (esp. 1st order) reconstruction.

Solenoid Tracker At RHIC (STAR) detector has significant particle identification (PID) capabilities at high energy collisions combining

- Ionization energy loss (dE/dx) of charged particles from Time Projection Chamber (TPC)
- Velocity ($\Delta L/\Delta t$) from Time of Flight (ToF) detector
- Momentum (\mathbf{p}) measured from curvature of path under strong magnetic field.

Datasets, Event and Track Selection

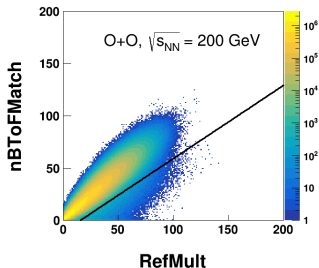
System	Production Tag	Trigger ID	Events
O+O $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV	production_00_200GeV_2021 production_ps_00_200GeV_2021 production_FF_00_200GeV_2021	860001, 860011 860002, 860012	625M (325M)

$ V_z $	≤ 30 cm
V_r	≤ 2 cm
$ V_{z, VPD} - V_{z, TPC} $	≤ 3 cm

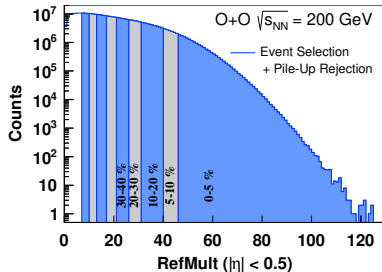
Event Selection

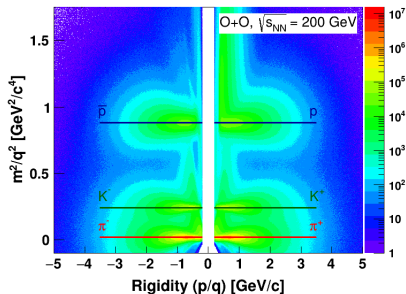
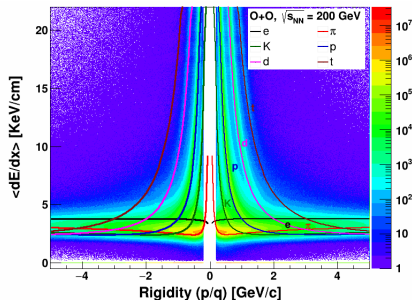
nHitsFit	≥ 15
nHitsdEdx	≥ 15
nHitsRatio	≥ 0.52
$ \eta $	≤ 1.5

Track Selection



$$\text{nBToFMatch} > -11 + 0.7 \times \text{RefMult}$$





- Particles are identified using $\langle dE/dx \rangle$ information from Time Projection Chamber (TPC)

$$n\sigma_i = \frac{1}{R_i} \ln \frac{\langle dE/dx \rangle^{\text{measured}}}{\langle dE/dx \rangle_i^{\text{Bichsel}}}$$

R_i is the TPC resolution for particle species i . Theoretical curves are from Bichsel function.¹

- Time of Flight (ToF) information is also used when available

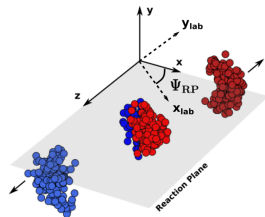
$$m^2 = p^2 \left[\frac{1}{\beta^2} - 1 \right] \quad \text{where} \quad \beta = \frac{1}{c} \left(\frac{\Delta L}{\Delta t_{\text{ToF}}} \right)$$

¹H. Bichsel, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A **562**, 154 (2006)

Fourier decomposition of azimuthal distribution of particles

$$\frac{dN}{d\phi} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left\{ 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} v_n \cos [n(\phi - \Psi_{RP})] \right\}$$

$$v_n = \langle \cos [n(\phi - \Psi_{RP})] \rangle$$



Event-by-event estimate of Ψ_{RP} from finite multiplicity of each event : Ψ_n

$$\mathbf{Q}_{n,raw} = Q_{n,raw} e^{in\Psi_{n,raw}} = \sum_{k \in \text{tracks}} w_k e^{in\phi_k} \quad \text{where } w = p_T \times w_\phi$$

- ➊ **Recentering** : $\mathbf{Q}_{n,raw}$ is re-centered to the origin event-by-event

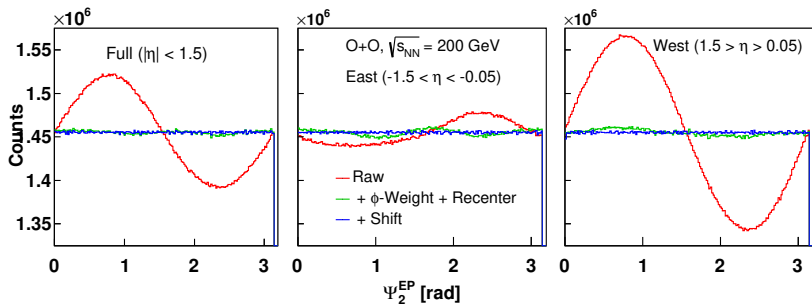
$$\mathbf{Q}_{n,raw} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}_{n,rec} = \mathbf{Q}_{n,raw} - \langle \mathbf{Q}_{n,raw} \rangle_{\text{event}}$$

- ➋ **Shift** : Event-by-event shifting by means of Fourier expansion

$$\Psi_n = \Psi_{n,rec} + \Delta\Psi_{n,shift}$$

$$\Delta\Psi_{n,shift} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \left(\frac{2}{nk} \right) \left[-\langle \sin(nk\Psi_{n,rec}) \rangle \cos(nk\Psi_{n,rec}) + \langle \cos(nk\Psi_{n,rec}) \rangle \sin(nk\Psi_{n,rec}) \right]$$

Event Plane Reconstruction



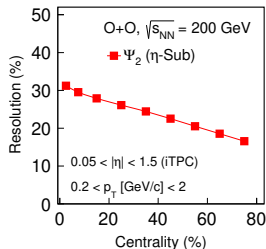
nHitsFit	≥ 15
nHitsdEdx	≥ 15
nHitsRatio	≥ 0.52
DCA	≤ 2 cm
p_T [GeV/c]	[0.2, 2]
$ \eta $	≤ 1.5

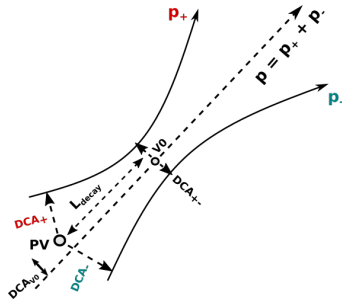
Track Selection for Ψ_2^{EP}

Ψ_n resolution from η -sub events

$$R_n = \sqrt{\cos [n (\Psi_n^{\text{west}} - \Psi_n^{\text{east}})]}$$

East	$-1.5 < \eta < -0.05$
West	$1.5 > \eta > 0.05$





V0 Decay Topology

Yield :

$$M_{\text{inv}}^2 = (E_+ + E_-)^2 - (\mathbf{p}_+ + \mathbf{p}_-)^2$$

$$\frac{d^3 N}{dM_{\text{inv}} dp_T d(\phi - \Psi_n)}$$

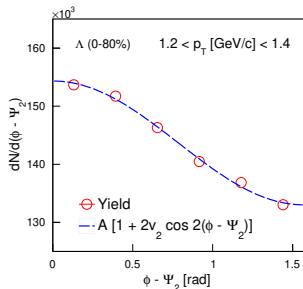
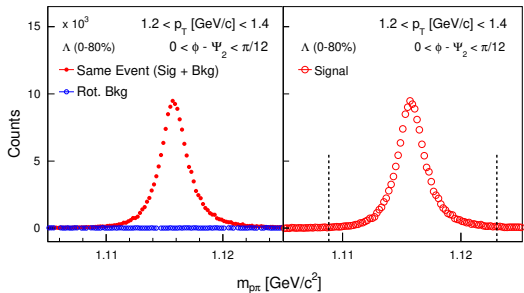
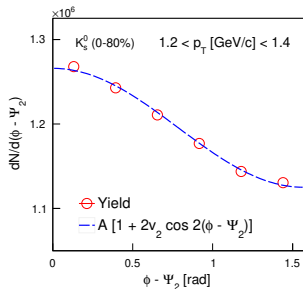
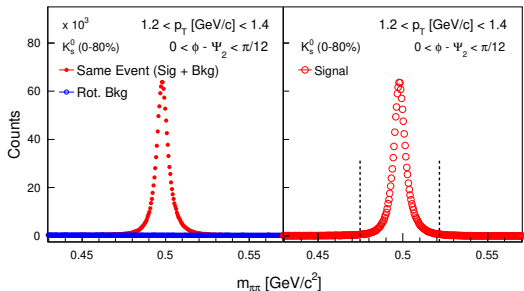
Background :

$$(\mathbf{p}_T, p_z) \longrightarrow (-\mathbf{p}_T, p_z)$$

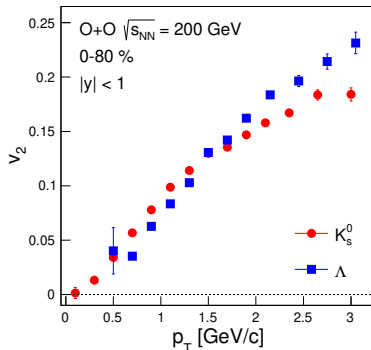
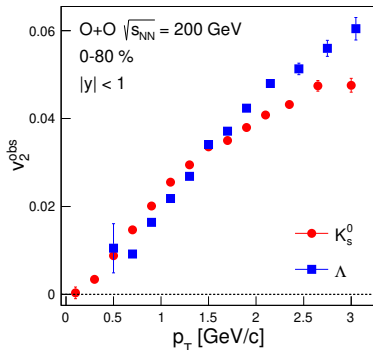
Decay Channel	$K_S^0 \longrightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^-$
Decay Length	> 3 cm
π^+ DCA to PV	> 0.7 cm
π^- DCA to PV	> 0.7 cm
$\pi^+ \pi^-$ DCA	< 1 cm
K_S^0 DCA to PV	< 0.8 cm

Decay Channel	$\Lambda \longrightarrow p + \pi^-$
Decay Length	> 3 cm
p DCA to PV	> 0.6 cm
π^- DCA to PV	> 1.2 cm
$p \pi^-$ DCA	< 1 cm
Λ DCA to PV	< 0.7 cm

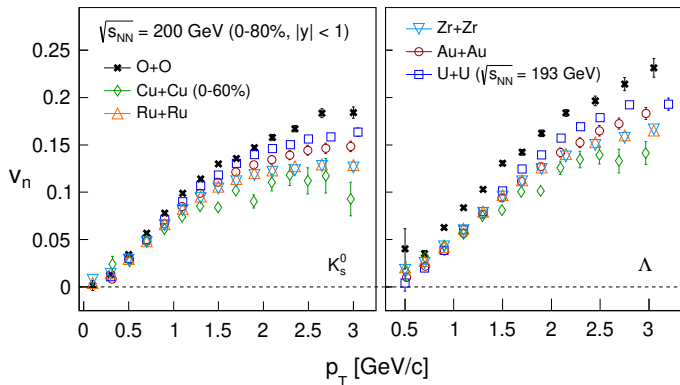
V0 Topological Cuts



$$v_n = \frac{v_n^{\text{obs}}}{\langle R_n \rangle} \quad \text{where } \langle R_n \rangle \text{ is yield-weighted average}$$



- Mass ordering at low p_T ($\lesssim 1.5$ GeV/c) \iff Hydrodynamic behaviour at low p_T .
- $v_2^{\text{Baryon}} > v_2^{\text{Meson}}$ at intermediate p_T \iff Collectivity originates at partonic phase.



Non-flow contribution in $v_2(p_T)$ is evident small collisions system e.g. O+O at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$.

- Event plane method for estimating flow is susceptible to other sources of correlations.

Cu+Cu : STAR, [Phys. Rev. C **81**, 044902 \(2010\)](#)

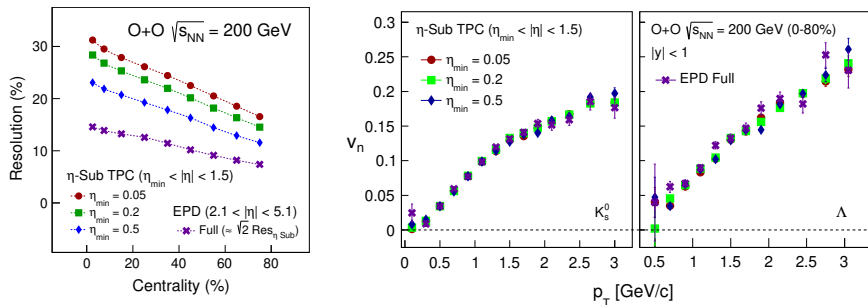
Au+Au : STAR, [Phys. Rev. C **103**, 064907 \(2021\)](#)

U+U : STAR, [Phys. Rev. C **88**, 014902 \(2013\)](#)

Ru+Ru, Zr+Zr : Priyanshi's Analysis

Further checks for non-flow reduction

- Increasing η -gap between the sub-events : $\Delta\eta = |\eta_{\text{west}} - \eta_{\text{east}}|$
- Using forward detectors for Ψ_n reconstruction : Event Plane Detector (EPD)















Increasing η gap within sub-events is not sufficient to suppress non-flow

- Elliptic flow of K_S^0 and Λ using event plane method were presented for minimum bias O+O collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV.
- Effect of increasing η gap between sub-events and usage of forward detectors in event plane reconstruction were checked for non-flow reduction.

Outlook

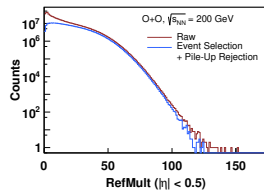
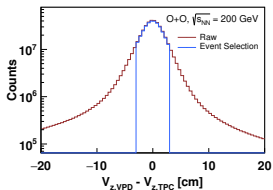
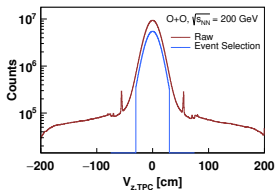
- Optimization of different topological cuts.
- Determination of elliptic flow centrality-wise.
- Extend analysis for other strange hadrons and higher harmonics.

References

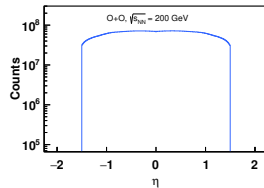
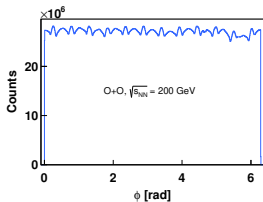
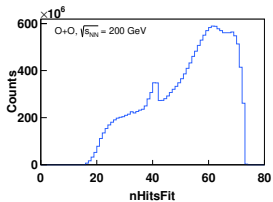
-  PHENIX, Phys. Rev. Lett. **111**, 212301 (2013).
-  PHENIX, Nature Phys. **15**, 214 (2019).
-  ALICE, Phys. Rev. Lett. **123**, 142301 (2019).
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-  STAR, Phys. Rev. C **103**, 064907 (2021).
-  STAR, Phys. Rev. C **88**, 014902 (2013).

Thank You

Event QA



Track QA



After Event + Track selection cuts

$\Delta\eta$ Check