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PHENIX results on flow observables in asymmetric Cu+Au collisions

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Asymmetric collisions of large nuclei at high energy offer a unique window into many aspects of excited medium formation and evolution. Unlike symmetric collisions, an asymmetric system can have non-zero odd-order moments in its average transverse distribution of participants, and the pattern of participants from the two nuclei can have different shapes on average. In 2012, PHENIX measured particle production in Cu+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV, and we report measurements of the azimuthal anisotropies v_1, v_2, and v_3 (directed, elliptic, and triangular flow) for inclusive and identified charged hadrons produced at midrapidity. Implications for a variety of unique initial-state geometry effects will be discussed.

On behalf of collaboration:

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