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Investigate the possible physics mechanisms of the CMW-like flow signals

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The interplay between the chiral magnetic effect and the chiral separation effect can lead to a collective excitation, a phenomenon called Chiral Magnetic Wave (CMW). Previous measurement of a positive slope for the charge asymmetry (A_{ch}) dependence of the π^+ and π^- flow difference $\Delta v_2(A_{ch}) \equiv v_2^{\pi^-}(A_{ch}) - v_2^{\pi^+}(A_{ch})$, indicated effects that are consistent with the CMW, but firm conclusions have not been established because of possible background contaminations in those measurements. In this work, we study the effects of resonance decays (local charge conservation) and find strong sensitivities of the $\Delta v_2(A_{ch})$ slope parameter on kinematics. We then study several main sources of pions in relativistic heavy ion collisions, and find that the competitions among the different π sources can yield another linear A_{ch} term due to their multiplicity fluctuations and different v_2 values. This linear A_{ch} term does not require any A_{ch} dependence in the pion v_2 from each individual source. We discuss the implications of our findings on the experimental search for the CMW.

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