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Dense strongly interacting matter: Lessons from RHIC and expectations for LHC

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Main results at RHIC

- Multiplicities much lower than pre-RHIC predictions indicating strong coherence in particle production mechanisms.
- Observed elliptic flow is in agreement with hydrodynamics of (almost) ideal liquid indicating creation of dense strongly coupled matter
- New structures in the near-side (ridge) and away-side (Cherenkov/Mach cones) angular correlations
- Significant reduction in the yield of particles with large transverse momentum (jet quenching)



Basis of coherence in particle production: growth of gluon density at small Bjorken x at fixed Q^2 :



 $x = \frac{k^+}{P^+}$

"Phase diagram" in the x - Q^2 plane:



$$x = rac{k^+}{P^+}$$
 $\delta S_\perp \sim rac{1}{Q^2}$

Immediately after collisions there form longitudinal chromoelectric and chromomagnetic fields - glasma :



$$E^{z} = ig \left[A^{i}_{(1)}, A^{i}_{(2)}\right]$$
$$B^{z} = ig \epsilon^{ij} \left[A^{i}_{(1)}, A^{j}_{(2)}\right]$$

Temporal evolution of longitudinal and transverse fields:



Initial multiplicity and energy density

$$\frac{dN}{d\eta}|_{\eta=0} = c_N \frac{\pi R_A^2 Q_S^2}{\alpha_s}$$

$$rac{d E_{\perp}}{d \eta}|_{\eta=0} = c_{\mathsf{E}} rac{\pi R_{\mathsf{A}}^2 Q_{\mathsf{S}}^3}{lpha_{\mathsf{s}}}$$

HERA
$$\Rightarrow Q_5^2 \simeq 1.2 \,\text{GeV} \Rightarrow \frac{dN}{d\eta}|_{\eta=0} \simeq 1100$$

Instabilities of the boost-invariant solution

 Rapidity-dependent configurations generate explisively growing transverse fields

 $|E_{\perp}|, |B_{\perp}| \sim e^{\sqrt{Q_s \tau}}$

- New mechanism of energy losses
- Turbulent isotropisation?
- Quantum corrections to the glasma picture: GLV BK JIMWLK equations

Glauber geometry



Classification in centrality



Scaling in N_{part}



Elliptic flow



Elliptic flow: some definitions

• Directed and elliptic flow v_1 and v_2

$$rac{N}{dp_{\perp}^2 dy d(\phi-\Psi)} = rac{dN}{dp_{\perp}^2 dy} \left[1+2v_1\cos{(\phi-\Psi)}+2v_2\cos{(2(\phi-\Psi))}+\cdots
ight]$$

- Ψ : a reaction plane angle
- Spatial anisotropy ϵ_x and elliptic flow

$$\epsilon_x = \frac{\langle y^2 - x^2 \rangle}{\langle y^2 + x^2 \rangle}; \quad v_2 \sim \epsilon_x \frac{1}{S_{\text{overlap}}} \left. \frac{dN}{dy} \right|_{y=0}$$

• Momentum anisotropy ϵ_p

$$\epsilon_{\rm x} = rac{T_{\rm xx} - T_{\rm yy}}{\langle T_{\rm xx} + T_{\rm yy}
angle}; \quad v_2 \sim \epsilon_p/2$$

Elliptic flow: experimental data



Elliptic flow: experimental data



Elliptic flow: theory

- Measured elliptic flow at small transverse momenta agrees with predictions of hydrodynamics of almost ideal (low viscosity) liquid
- Quantitative description requires full three-dimensional viscous hydro taking into account fluctuations of initial conditions
- Exciting theoretical developments: physics of sQGP as conformal relativistic hydrodynamics, etc.
- Exciting perspectives for theoretical development: turbulence in sQGP

Two-particle correlations: Ridge



Two-particle correlations: Ridge

- Experimental situation is not very clear
- ▶ Theoretical explanations are not precise and not convicing

Experimental data on two-particle azimuthal correlations



Theory of two-particle azimuthal correlations

- Two possible explanations: Cherenkov gluons and Mach cones
- Description in terms of Cherenkov gluons possible. Its validity depends on the validity of quasiparticle approach to sQGP.
- Description in terms of Mach cones possible for special initial conditions. Difficult to get transverse momentum dependence of the away-side structure.

Jet quenching

$$R^{h}_{AB}\left(p_{\perp},y|\operatorname{centrality}
ight) = rac{rac{dN^{AB
ightarrow h}}{dp_{\perp}dy}}{\langle N^{AB}_{\mathrm{coll}}(\mathit{centrality})
angle rac{dN^{
hop
ightarrow h}}{dp_{\perp}dy}}$$











Jet quenching: theory

- Quenching of heavy quarks not understood
- Charmonium quenching not understood
- Models with calculation energy loss still not too realistic
- Expected progress: accurate treatment of coherence length
- Expected progress: Energy loss in ADS/CFT. Drastic prediction: limiting value for the energy loss.

In-medium QCD cascade



In-medium QCD cascade: models

- Two types of QCD cascades:
 - Cascade driven by degradation of virtuality (DGLAP)
 - Cascade driven by medium-induced particle production (similar to electromagnetic showers in matter)
- Rigorous description combining both effects is currently not available. Medium effects are taken into account by phenomenological "deformations" of one of the two basic alternatives
- Most studies "deform" the DGLAP evolution.

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS ON JET STRUCTURE AT RHIC

Ratio of fragmentation functions in AA and pp collisions



Current conclusions on the experimental situation:

- Observed fragmentation functions in AA collisions are the same as in pp ones.
- Natural explanation: jet finding procedures bias the ensemble in such a way that only jets coming from the surface of the hot fireball are detected.
- Prospects of improving the situation unclear.

Predictions for

LHC: multiplicity



Predictions for LHC : R_{AA}



Predictions for LHC : conservative expectations

- Coherence effects in multiparticle production stronger than at RHIC
- Elliptic flow less or similar than at RHIC
- Jet quenching similar at intermediate transverse momenta, weaker at large
- In general: more intense and longer living sQGP, similar hadronization
- ► We'll learn some of it by the end of 2010. First heavy ion run at LHC: November 2010

Unique window of opportunities for QCD-based research of multiparticle production!

- Heavy ion collision became big science:
- Astonishingly diverse and accurate experimental data
- Possibility of testing deepest aspects of high-energy high-density QCD through using most advanced methods from QFT, gravity and string theory