Polarization in relativistic nuclear collisions: recent measurements and open questions

Sergei A. Voloshin

Outline:

- Introduction
- P_y : BES II, $\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}$, ϕ_H dependence; average/global vs $P_{y,0}$
- P_z : BES II, LHC: higher harmonics, hydro, BW, SIP.
- BES II, LHC: Ω, Ξ

Discussion:

- P_{ϕ} , spin-spin correlations, hypertriton polarization
- Cooper Frye
- spin alignment accounting for detector effects.







Recent review

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Polarization phenomenon in heavy-ion collisions

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Discussion of the physics at a qualitative level, include technical details of the measurements

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Brief history (~20 years in 60 seconds) part l

1987...

+E 896, NA57

2003 first ideas/discussions (STAR meeting in Prague)

2004 Idea goes "on-shell" first publications

2007 Fist measurements

First ideas on local vorticity

2013 ALICE Physics Week in Padova idea of thermodynamical equilibrium

2017 STAR measurements in BES first "non-zero" measurements M. Jacob, J. Rafelski: Phys. Lett. 190 B (1987) 173 LONGITUDINAL $\overline{\Lambda}$ POLARIZATION, $\overline{\Xi}$ ABUNDANCE AND QUARK-GLUON PLASMA FORMATION

Authors: Sergei A. Voloshin (Submitted on 21 Oct 2004)

B. I. Abelev et al. (STAR Collaboration), Global polarization measurement in Au+Au collisions, Phys. Rev. C 76, 024915 (2007); **95**, 039906(E) (2017).

GeV", Phys. Rev. C 77, 061902 (2008), arXiv:0801.1729.

(2007).

thermodynamical equilibrium, Annals Phys. 338, 32 (2013).





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Brief history (~20 years in 60 seconds) part II (as of summer 2024)

2017 - 2023 SQM: anisotropic flow -> polarization along the beam direction

Global polarization at different energies

Polarization of Ξ and Ω hyperons

Polarization due to anisotropic flow including higher harmonics

Vector meson spin alignment measurements

arXiv:1805.04400 [nucl-ex] no. 13, (2019), arXiv:1905.11917 [nucl-ex]. arXiv:1909.01281 [nucl-ex]. Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}^{"}$, Phys. Rev. Lett **126** (4, 2021), arXiv:2012.13601 [nucl-ex]. **128**, no. 17, 172005 (2022), arXiv:2107.11183. arXiv:2108.00044.

STAR Collaboration, M. Abdulhamid *et al.*, "Hyperon Polarization along the Beam Direction Relative to the Second and Third Harmonic Event Planes in Isobar Collisions at sNN=200 GeV", Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, no. 20, 202301 (2023), STAR Collaboration, M. Abdulhamid et al., "Hyperon Polarization along the Beam Direction Relative to the Second and Third Harmonic Event Planes in Isobar Collisions at sNN=200 GeV", Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, no. 20, 202301 (2023), arXiv:2303.09074.

ALICE Collaboration, S. Acharya et al., "Evidence of Spin-Orbital Angular Momentum Interactions in Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions", Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, no. 1, 012301 (2020), arXiv:1910.14408.

STAR Collaboration, M. S. Abdallah *et al.*, "Pattern of global spin alignment of ϕ and K^{*0} mesons in heavy-ion collisions", Nature 614, no. 7947, 244–248 (2023),

S. A. Voloshin, "Vorticity and particle polarization in heavy ion collisions (experimental perspective)", EPJ Web Conf. 171 (2018), arXiv:1710.08934 **STAR** Collaboration, J. Adam *et al.*, "Global polarization of Λ hyperons in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}^{"}$, Phys. Rev. C 98 (2018),

STAR Collaboration, J. Adam *et al.*, "Polarization of Λ (Λ) hyperons along the beam direction in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV", Phys. Rev. Lett. 123

ALICE Collaboration, S. Acharya *et al.*, "Global polarization of $\Lambda\Lambda$ hyperons in Pb-Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ and 5.02 TeV", *Phys. Rev.* C **101** no. 4, (2020),

STAR Collaboration, J. Adam *et al.*, "Global polarization of Ξ and Ω hyperons in

ALICE Collaboration, S. Acharya *et al.*, "Polarization of Λ and $\overline{\Lambda}$ Hyperons along the Beam Direction in Pb-Pb Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=5.02$ TeV", Phys. Rev. Lett.

STAR Collaboration, M. S. Abdallah et al., "Global A-hyperon polarization in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3 \text{ GeV}^{"}$, *Phys. Rev. C* **104**, no. 6, L061901 (2021), SQM 2017

T. Niida, S.V,

T. Niida, S.V.

M. Konyushikhin, S.V.

T. Niida, S.V.

D. Sarkar, S.V

T. Niida, S.V., & Shandong U. group

ALICE Collaboration, S. Acharya *et al.*, "Measurement of the J/ψ Polarization with Respect to the Event Plane in Pb-Pb Collisions at the LHC", Phys. Rev. Lett. **131**, no. 4, 042303 (2023), arXiv:2204.10171.

ALICE Collaboration, S. Acharya et al., "First measurement of prompt and non-prompt D*+ vector meson spin alignment in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV", Phys. Lett. B 846, 137920 (2023), arXiv:2212.06588.



Statistical mechanics/thermodynamics

F. Becattini, V. Chandra, L. Del Zanna, and E. Grossi, Annals Phys. 338, 32 (2013), 1303.3431 Ren-hong Fang,¹ Long-gang Pang,² Qun Wang,¹ and Xin-nian Wang^{3,4} arXiv:1604.04036v1

$$\Pi_{\mu}(p) = \epsilon_{\mu\rho\sigma\tau} \frac{p^{\tau}}{8m} \frac{\int d\Sigma_{\lambda} p^{\lambda} n_{F} (1 - n_{F}) \partial^{\rho} \beta^{\sigma}}{\int d\Sigma_{\lambda} p^{\lambda} n_{F}}$$

$$\Pi_{\mu} = W_{\mu}/m = -\frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{\mu\rho\sigma\tau} S^{\rho\sigma} \frac{p^{\tau}}{m}$$

$$\mathcal{W}_{\mu} - \text{Pauli-Lubanski pseudovector}$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} [\partial_{\nu}(n_{F})]$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} [\partial_{\nu}(n_{F})]$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} [\partial_{\nu}(n_{F})]$$

F. Becattini, I. Karpenko, M. Lisa, I. Upsal, and S. Voloshin, "Global hyperon polarization at local thermodynamic equilibrium with vorticity, magnetic field and feed-down", Phys. Rev. C95 no. 5, (2017) 054902, arXiv:1610.02506 [nucl-th].

Nonrelativistic statistical mechanics (applicable for any spin)

$$p(T, \mu_i, \mathbf{B}, \boldsymbol{\omega}) \propto \exp[(-E + \mu_i Q_i + \boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \mathbf{S})/T]$$

 $\mathbf{S} \approx \frac{S(S+1)}{3}$

 $\mathbf{S} \approx \frac{\boldsymbol{\omega}}{4T}$ for s=1/2

- [28] L. D. Landau and E. M. Lifshits, *Statistical Physics*, 2nd Ed., Pergamon Press, 1969.
- [29] A. Vilenkin, "Quantum Field Theory At Finite Temperature In A Rotating System," Phys. Rev. D 21, 2260 (1980). doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.21.2260





 $oldsymbol{\omega} = rac{1}{2}
abla imes \mathbf{v}$







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Global polarization: centrality, system size dependence







$P^{\Lambda} - P^{\Lambda}$: Magnetic field at freeze-out



where $\mu_{\Lambda} = -\mu_{\bar{\Lambda}} = -0.613 \mu_N$ with μ_N being the nuclear magneton. Thus, one arrives at the upper limit on the magnitude of the magnetic field $B \lesssim 10^{13}$ T assuming the temperature T = 150 MeV and ignoring the feed-down contributions

 $\frac{eB}{m_{\pi}^2} \approx \frac{T}{m_{\pi}} \frac{m_P}{0.613m\pi} \Delta P_{\Lambda} \approx 10 \,\Delta P_{\Lambda}$

!!! The splitting could be also due to other effects, e.g. baryon chemical potential

L. McLerran, V. Skokov / Nuclear Physics A 929 (2014) 184–190



Fig. 1. Magnetic field for static medium with Ohmic conductivity, σ_{Ohm} .

Significant limits on the magnetic field at freeze-out $(time \sim 10 - 15 \text{ fm}?)$

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SQM2017

 y_{\uparrow}

 \mathcal{X}

S. A. Voloshin, "Vorticity and particle polarization in heavy ion collisions (experimental perspective)", arXiv:1710.08934 [nucl-ex]. [EPJ Web Conf.17,10700(2018)].

Anisotropic flow $\Rightarrow \omega_{\tau}$



Blast Wave:





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$\langle P_7 \sin[2(\phi_H - \Psi_n)] \rangle$ centrality and p_T dependence



$$\begin{split} \langle \omega_z \sin(2\phi) \rangle &= \frac{\int d\phi_s \int r dr \, I_2(\alpha_t) K_1(\beta_t) \omega_z \sin(2\phi_b)}{\int d\phi_s \int r dr \, I_0(\alpha_t) K_1(\beta_t)} \\ \omega_z &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial y} \right), \end{split}$$

STAR Collaboration, J. Adam *et al.*, "Polarization of Λ (Λ) hyperons along the beam direction in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV", Phys. Rev. Lett. 123 no. 13, (2019), arXiv:1905.11917 [nucl-ex]

BW parameters obtained with fits to spectra and HBT: STAR, PRC71.044906 (2005) !!!



Shear induced polarization (SIP)



Neither sign nor magnitude of P_z could not be reproduced by models based on thermal vorticity - "spin sign puzzle". SIP?



S. Alzhrani, S. Ryu, and C. Shen, " Λ spin polarization in event-by-event relativistic heavy-ion collisions", Phys. Rev. C 106 no. 1, (2022), arXiv:2203.15718 [nucl-th].

$$S_i^{(\text{shear})} \approx \frac{1}{4mTE} \epsilon_{ikj} p_k p_m \frac{1}{2} (\partial_j v_m + \partial_m v_j)$$



+ LHC measurements



ALICE Collaboration, S. Acharya *et al.*, "Polarization of Λ and $\overline{\Lambda}$ hyperons along the beam direction in Pb-Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}$ ", **arXiv:2107.11183**

HYDRO, AMPT: It was noticed that the "kinematic non-relativistic vorticity" fits data well, but is (much) smaller than that including contributions from acceleration and temperature gradients

- F. Becattini and I. Karpenko, PRL.120.012302 (2018)
- X. Xia et al., PRC98.024905 (2018)
- Y. Sun and C.-M. Ko, PRC99, 011903(R) (2019)
- Y. Xie, D. Wang, and L. P. Csernai, Eur. Phys. J. C (2020) 80:39
- W. Florkowski et al., Phys. Rev. C 100, 054907 (2019)
- H.-Z. Wu et al., Phys. Rev. Research 1, 033058 (2019)



 $P_{z,s2} \equiv \langle P_z \sin[2(\phi_H - \Psi_n)] \rangle$

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ALICE (Run 3)



- x20 size of the data sample ($\sim 6 \times 10^9$ collisions)



• $P_{z,s2}$ increases with decreasing centrality due to increasing system anisotropy, and mildly increases with increasing p_T Run 3 results are compatible with Run 2 ones and have smaller statistical and systematic uncertainties, thanks to the



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$\langle P_z \sin[2(\phi_H - \Psi_n)] \rangle$ Centrality, size dependence



 $r_{max} = R(1 - a\cos(2\phi_s))]$ $\rho_{\approx}\rho_{t,max}[r/r_{max}(\phi_s)][1 + b\cos(2\phi_s)]$

 $\omega_z \approx (\rho_{t,max}/R) \sin(n\phi_s) [b_n - a_n]$



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p-Pb



CMS Physics Analysis Summary

Contact: cms-pag-conveners-heavyions@cern.ch

2024/06/02

Azimuthal dependence of hyperon polarization along the beam direction in pPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{_{NN}}} = 8.16 \text{ TeV}$

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BES II: P_7



Spin Hall effect:

 $S_i^{(\text{SHE})} \approx \frac{1}{4mE} \epsilon_{ikj} p_k \partial_j (\mu/T).$



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$$S_i^{(\text{shear})} \approx \frac{1}{4mTE} \epsilon_{ikj} p_k p_m \frac{1}{2} (\partial_j v_m + \partial_m v_j)$$



P_v : SIP vs vorticity

SIP:

SAHR ALZHRANI, SANGWOOK RYU, AND CHUN SHEN



Results from different calculations under the same conditions differ!

Vorticity



Will be difficult to separate the two contributions

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BES II: $P_v(\phi)$



$P_{H}\left(\phi_{H} - \Psi_{\text{RP}}, p_{t}^{H}, \eta^{H}\right) = P_{0}\left(p_{t}^{H}, \eta^{H}\right) + 2P_{2}\left(p_{t}^{H}, \eta^{H}\right)\cos\{2[\phi_{H} - \Psi_{\text{RP}}]\}$



Shear induced polarization (SIP)



Would higher harmonics measurements help to observe the SIP contribution? Note that SIP contribution comes mostly (?) from dv_z/dx



Neither sign nor magnitude of P_z could not be reproduced by models based on thermal vorticity - "spin sign puzzle"



S. Alzhrani, S. Ryu, and C. Shen, "A spin polarization in event-by-event relativistic heavy-ion collisions", Phys. Rev. C 106 no. 1, (2022), arXiv:2203.15718 [nucl-th].



$P_{z,sn} = \langle P_z \sin[n(\phi - \Psi_n)] \rangle$







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 P_{τ} in isobar collisions, + third harmonic

STAR Collaboration, "Hyperon polarization along the beam direction relative to the second and third harmonic event planes in isobar collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV", arXiv:2303.09074 [nucl-ex]. ~4B events



Model

calc's:

S. Alzhrani, S. Ryu, and C. Shen, " Λ spin polarization in event-by-event relativistic heavy-ion collisions", Phys. Rev. C 106 no. 1, (2022), arXiv:2203.15718 [nucl-th].







p_T dependece, + fourth harmonic





ALICE, Run 3



• The polarization induced by the triangular flow is measured for the first time at the LHC energies \rightarrow it helps **identify the contribution from SIP**, which is expected to be different for different harmonics









6

p_T (GeV/*c*)

5

• The third-order polarization $P_{Z,S3}$ is compatible with the second-order polarization, despite the triangular flow With 2024 and 2025 data, the measurement of polarization induced by **higher harmonic flow** will be possible



Measuring Ξ and Ω polarization

P. A. Zyla et al. (Particle Data Group), Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys. 2020, 083C01 (2020)

	Mass (GeV/c²)	cτ (cm)	decay mode	decay parameter	magnetic moment (μ _N)	sp
Λ (uds)	1.115683	7.89	Λ->πp (63.9%)	0.732 ± 0.014	-0.613	1,
∃- (dss)	1.32171	4.91	Ξ⁻->Λπ⁻ (99.887%)	-0.401 ± 0.010	-0.6507	1,
Ω⁻ (sss)	1.67245	2.46	Ω⁻->ΛК⁻ (67.8%)	0.0157 ± 0.002	-2.02	3,

Different spin, magnetic moments, quark structure

- Less feed-down in Ξ and Ω compared to Λ
- Freeze-out at different time?

 $\alpha_{\Omega} \approx 0.02$ make it impractical to measure the polarization of Ω via $\Omega \to \Lambda + K^-$ decay

$$\frac{dN}{d\Omega^*} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left(1 + \alpha_H \mathbf{P}_H^* \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_B^* \right)$$
Smaller α , more difficult to measure P

$$\frac{dN}{d\Omega^*} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left(1 + \alpha_H \mathbf{P}_H^* \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_B^* \right)$$
T.D. Lee and C.N. Yang, Phys. Rev.108.164

$$\mathbf{P}_A^* = \frac{(\alpha_{\Xi} + \mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^* \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_A^*) \hat{\mathbf{p}}_A^* + \beta_{\Xi} \mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^* \times \hat{\mathbf{p}}_A^* + \gamma_{\Xi} \hat{\mathbf{p}}_A^* \times (\mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^*)}{1 + \alpha_{\Xi} \mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^* \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_A^*} \times (\mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^*)$$

$$\frac{\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 = 1}{\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2} = 1$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{P}_A^* = C_{\Xi^- \Lambda} \mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^* = \frac{1}{3} (1 + 2\gamma_{\Xi}) \mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^*}{C_{\Xi^- \Lambda} = \frac{1}{3} (2 \times 0.89 + 1) = +0.927}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_A^* = C_{\Omega^- \Lambda} \mathbf{P}_\Omega^* = \frac{1}{5} (1 + 4\gamma_{\Omega}) \mathbf{P}_\Omega^*$$

$$C_{\Omega^- \Lambda} \approx 1 \text{ or } C_{\Omega^- \Lambda} \approx -0.6$$

$$\frac{\alpha_{\Xi^+} + \alpha_{\Xi^+} + \alpha_{\Xi$$

Possibility to determine γ_{Ω} under assumption of the global polarization

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Ξ and Ω global polarization



STAR Collaboration, J. Adam *et al.*, "Global polarization of Ξ and Ω hypered Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$ ", *Phys. Rev. Lett* **126** (4, 2021), arXiv:2012.13601 [nucl-ex].

$$\mathbf{P}_{\Lambda}^{*} = \frac{(\alpha_{\Xi} + \mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^{*} \cdot \hat{p}_{\Lambda}^{*})\hat{p}_{\Lambda}^{*} + \beta_{\Xi}\mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^{*} \times \hat{p}_{\Lambda}^{*} + \gamma_{\Xi}\hat{p}_{\Lambda}^{*} \times (\mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^{*})}{1 + \alpha_{\Xi}\mathbf{P}_{\Xi}^{*} \cdot \hat{p}_{\Lambda}^{*}}$$

$$\alpha^{2} + \beta^{2} + \gamma^{2} = \mathbf{P}_{\Lambda}^{*} = C_{\Omega^{-}\Lambda}\mathbf{P}_{\Omega}^{*} = \frac{1}{5}(1 + 4\gamma_{\Omega})$$
A way to measure the decay parameter γ_{Λ}^{*}

$$\Xi, \text{ spin 1/2} \quad \Omega, \text{ spin 3/2}, \gamma \text{ not known } \gamma_{\Omega} \approx \Xi$$

$$\Xi \text{ polarization might be slightly larger than that of } \Lambda$$

$$\Omega \text{ polarization results favor } \gamma_{\Omega} = +1$$

$$\mathsf{Expectation } P_{\Omega} \approx \frac{5}{3}P_{\Lambda}$$





Model calculation: H. Li, X. Xia et al Phys. Lett. B 827, 136971 (2022)





07/07/2025

Chiara De Martin – EPS 2025



The first measurement of **E** longitudinal polarization in Pb–Pb collisions was performed using a sample of $\sim 6 \times 10^9$ Pb–Pb collisions collected during the LHC Run 3 in 2023

The **E** longitudinal polarization shows a hint of increase with decreasing centrality and is compatible with Λ one, confirming the **spin hierarchy** $(s_{\Lambda} = s_{\Xi} = 1/2)$



Contributions to polarization

fluid rest frame $u^{\mu} = (1, 0, 0, 0)$ $\omega^{\mu} = (0, \boldsymbol{\omega})$

$$S^{0}(x,p) = \frac{1}{8m}(1-n_{F})\frac{\boldsymbol{\omega}\cdot\mathbf{p}}{T},$$
$$\mathbf{S}(x,p) = \frac{1}{8m}(1-n_{F})\left(-\frac{\mathbf{p}\times\boldsymbol{\nabla}T}{T^{2}}+2\frac{E\,\boldsymbol{\omega}}{T}+\right)$$

Contributions due to ∇T and A should be small in nonrelativistic limit!

Similarly for SIP

$$S_i^{(\text{vort})} \approx \frac{E}{8mT} \epsilon_{ikj} \frac{1}{2} (\partial_k v_j - \partial_j v_k)$$
$$S_i^{(\text{shear})} \approx \frac{1}{4mTE} \epsilon_{ikj} p_k p_m \frac{1}{2} (\partial_j v_m + \partial_m v_j)$$

Momentum in the rest frame of the fluid - averaging over the production volume should further suppress such contributions.





 $\mathbf{S}^* = \mathbf{S} - \frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{S}}{E(E+m)}\mathbf{p}.$

Contribution from dv_{z}/dx :

 $S_x \propto p_x p_y \propto \sin(2\phi)$ $S_y \propto p_z^2 - p_x^2 \propto \sim 1 + \cos(2\phi)$ $S_z \propto p_v p_z \propto \sin(2\theta) \sin(\phi)$

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P_{ϕ} in asymmetric collisions



Calculations:

M. A. Lisa, J. a. G. P. Barbon, D. D. Chinellato, W. M. Serenone, C. Shen, J. Takahashi, and G. Torrieri, "Vortex rings from high energy central p+A collisions", Phys. Rev. C 104, no. 1, 011901 (2021), arXiv:2101.10872.

 \mathcal{X}

Vorticity and particle polarization in heavy ion collisions (experimental perspective)

Sergei A. Voloshin^{1,*}

SQM 2017

EPJ Web of Conferences 171, 07002 (2018)

Finally, we mention another very interesting possibility for vorticity studies in asymmetric nuclear collisions such as Cu+Au. For relatively central collisions, when during the collision a smaller nucleus is fully "absorbed" by the larger one (e.g. such collisions can be selected by requiring no signal in the zero degree calorimeter in the lighter nucleus beam direction), one can easily imagine a configuration with toroidal velocity field, and as a consequence, a vorticity field in the form of a circle. The direction of the polarization in such a case would be given by $\hat{\mathbf{p}}_T \times \hat{\mathbf{z}}$, where $\hat{\mathbf{p}}_T$ and $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ are the unit vectors along the particle transverse momentum and the (lighter nucleus) beam direction.

One of the analyses, where the results *directly* depends on the correction: the effect — nonzero results can be *faked* by "slightly off" acceptance/efficiency correction. In that, it is very different from the global or P_{τ} analyses, where "wrong correction", could lead only to a relatively small difference in the *magnitude* of the effect.

> Probability to reconstruct decay on the left is different from that on the right

This is one of the reasons for many years Cu-Au analysis is still "in progress". Requires running with opposite polarity magnetic field

But fluctuations/correlations should be possible to measure!

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Simle estimate of the effect





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Summary

Vorticity is an important piece in the picture of heavy ion collisions Very rich and extremely interesting results and future

 P_z measurements surprisingly (or not?) well agree with the BW expectations

It is not clear how/why $\nabla_{\mu}T$ and A_{μ} and SIP contributions appear to be large/significant A specific predictions for SIP, SHE, etc. are needed

- Measuring P_x to complete all the components of polarization and compare the data to the Glauber estimates and full hydrodynamical calculations. cles with larger magnitude of the magnetic moment such as Ω . It will further • Circular polarization P_{ϕ} to search for toroidal vortex structures constrain the magnetic field time evolution and its strength at freeze-out, • The particle-antiparticle difference in the polarization dependence on azand the electric conductivity of quark-gluon plasma. imuthal angle at lower collision energies testing the Spin-Hall Effect. • Understanding of the vector meson spin alignment measurements including ticle species dependence and confirm the vorticity-based picture of polarnew results with corrections of different detector effects. ization. Measurement with Ω will also constrain unknown decay parameter γ_{Ω} . • Measurement of the hyperon polarization correlations to access the scale • Precise differential measurements of the azimuthal angle and rapidity deof vorticity fluctuations. pendence of P_J (P_{-y}). • Measurement of the hyperon polarization in pp collisions to estab-• Detailed measurement of P_z induced by elliptic and higher harmonic flow. lish/disprove possible relation to the single spin asymmetry effect. In particular this study could help to identify the contribution from SIP, which is expected to be different for different harmonics. T. Niida and S. A. Voloshin, Polarization phenomenon in • Application of the event-shape-engineering technique¹²⁶ testing the relaheavy-ion collisions, (2024), arXiv:2404.11042 [nucl-ex].
- Polarization splitting between particles and antiparticles, including parti-• Precise measurements of multistrange hyperon polarization to study par-

- tionship between anisotropic flow and polarization.

A tool to study hadron spin structure?

Is the "Cooper-Frye" prescription good for polarization calculations?

Spin alignment: a thorough review and understanding of the detector effects are needed



EXTRA SLIDES



The Cooper-Frye prescription

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Single-particle distribution in the hydrodynamic and statistical thermodynamic models of multiparticle production

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In both models, one assumes that the collision process yields a distribution of collective motions. In Hagedorn's approach these collective motions are called fireballs; in Landau's approach the collective motions are that of the hadronic fluid

Milekhin's⁶ version of Landau's model, in which dN/d^3v is proportional to the distribution of entropy in the fluid. In a notation explained below see Eq. (18), Milekhin's expression is

$$\frac{dN}{d^3v} = \overline{n}(\vec{\mathbf{v}})u^{\mu}\frac{\partial\sigma_{\mu}}{\partial^3v}.$$
(4)

Equations (1) and (4) can be combined to give

$$E\frac{dN}{d^{3}p} \stackrel{?}{=} \int_{\sigma} g(\overline{E}, \, \overline{T}(\mathbf{\bar{v}})) \overline{E} u^{\mu} d\sigma_{\mu} \,. \tag{5}$$

Equation (5) yields the correct number of particles, but it is inconsistent with energy conservation [see Eq. (20)], so we are led to consider how one determines $EdN/d^{3}p$ for the simplest system, an expanding ideal gas.

t if we choose $d\sigma_{\mu} = (d^3x, \vec{0})$. The invariant singleparticle distribution in momentum space, of those particles on σ , is

$$E\frac{dN}{d^{3}p} = \int_{\sigma} f(x,p)p^{\mu}d\sigma_{\mu}.$$
 (9)

Equation (9) is to be compared with Eq. (5) under the assumption that the fluid is locally in thermodynamic equilibrium,

$$f(x, p) = g(\overline{E}(v(x)), T(x)).$$
(10)

The contrast between Eqs. (5) and (9) is that p^{μ} has been replaced by $\overline{E}u^{\mu}$ in Eq. (5). To choose

Is the Blast Wave model "closer" to Milekhin's prescription?

Note that the polarization observables are sensitive to the gradients of the fields, unlike most (all?) of the observables used so far. This bring new important information to the picture of the freeze-out stage.

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Spin alignment in vector meson decays
$$\Delta \rho = \rho_{00} - 1/3$$
Strong decays of vector mesons into two
(pseudo)scalar particles $\Delta \rho \approx (\omega/T)^2/3 \approx 4P_H^2/3$. Thermal expression $K^{*0} \rightarrow \pi + K$
 $\phi \rightarrow K^- + K^ dN = (1 - \rho_{00}) + (3\rho_{00} - 1)\cos^2 \theta^*$ $\frac{dN}{d\cos\theta^*} \propto w_0 |Y_{1,0}|^2 + w_{+1}|Y_{1,1}|^2 + w_{-1}|Y_{1,-1}|^2 \propto w_0 \cos^2 \theta^* + (w_{+1} + w_{-1})\sin^2 \theta^*/2$ $\Delta \rho = \frac{5}{2} \left(\langle \cos^2 \theta^* \rangle - \frac{1}{3} \right)$ Theta* method $\Delta \rho = -\frac{4}{3} \langle \cos[2(\phi^* - \Psi_{\rm RP})] \rangle$ Phi* method $V \rightarrow l^+l^ V \rightarrow l^+l^-$

$$\frac{V \to l^+ l^-}{W(\theta, \phi)} \propto \frac{1}{3 + \lambda_{\theta}} \left(1 + \lambda_{\theta} \cos^2 \theta + \lambda_{\phi} \sin^2 \theta\right)$$

$$\lambda_{\theta} = \frac{1 - 3\,\rho_{00}}{1 + \rho_{00}}$$

 $0\cos 2\phi + \lambda_{\theta\phi}\sin 2\theta\cos\phi)$

Unlike $K^{0^*} \to K\pi$ and $\phi \to K^+ K^-$, the daughters in $J/\psi \to l^+ l^-$ have spin 1/2





Spin-alignment: STAR



RHIC: Mean field of φ meson plays a role? Does it change from RHIC to LHC?

X. Sheng, L. Oliva, and Q. Wang, PRD101.096005(2020) X. Sheng, Q.Wang, and X. Wang, PRD102.056013 (2020)

If it is related to the vorticity, it must depend on the direction. In mean field approach (as well as any others) -

what are the predictions for $\rho_{1,1}$ and $\rho_{-1,-1}$?

One possibility for noticeable spin alignment might be strong, fluctuating in direction, polarization, e.g vorticity, (the mechanism discussed by B. Mueller). This possibility might be checked with $\Lambda\Lambda$ correlations

Observation of Global Spin Alignment of ϕ **and** K^{*0} **Vector Mesons in Nuclear Collisions** (STAR Collaboration)

Helicity conservation and heavy resonance decays into vector mesons?



rapidity dependence of ρ_{00}



Fig. 5: The spin density matrix element ρ_{00} of prompt D^{*+} mesons as a function of $p_{\rm T}$ in the rapidity interval 0.3 < |y| < 0.8 compared to that of inclusive J/ ψ mesons in the rapidity interval 2.5 < y < 4 measured in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV in the 30–50% centrality class. The bottom panel shows the deviation of the measurements from the null hypothesis ($\rho_{00} = 1/3$) in units of the total uncertainties $\sigma_{\rho_{00}}$.



Figure 5. Rapidity dependenc of ρ_{00} measured by STAR [18] and ALICE [17].

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static medium calculations

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Holographic spin alignment for vector mesons

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FIG. 3. The global spin alignment for J/ψ mesons with transverse momentum $p_T = 2$ GeV and rapidity Y = 0 (red solid line) or Y = 1 (blue dashed line), as functions of the meson's azimuthal angle φ .

where the superscripts h and y label different choices for ϵ_0 . The global spin alignment is then calculated using Eqs. (11) and (12). It is straightforward to show that

$$\rho_{00}^{y}(x,\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{3\rho_{00}^{h}(x,\mathbf{p}) - 1}{3|\mathbf{p}|^{2}} \left(p_{y}^{2} - \frac{p_{x}^{2} + p_{z}^{2}}{2}\right), \quad (32)$$

which qualitatively agrees with the prediction of the quark coalescence model [19]. We plot in Fig. 3 ρ_{00}^{y} as functions of the meson's azimuthal angle, where the thermal background is assumed to be static while the meson's transverse momentum is fixed to $p_T = 2$ GeV and the longitudinal momentum is determined by the rapidity Y as $p_z = \sqrt{M^2 + p_T^2} \sinh(Y)$. We also fix the temperature as T = 150 MeV. For mesons at center rapidity Y = 0, the



Heavy-Ion Collisions

S. Acharya et al.*



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Spin alignment and efficiency, momentum resolution

Unlike the hyperon polarization case, the spin alignment non-zero result might be totally due "wrong" acceptance correction value.

Different approaches and methods and different correction procedures should lead to the same result.

Using theta* / using phi* Invariant mass, / signal+background Yield vs phi / moments of the distribution Understanding momentum resolution effects Efficiency from data / Monte-Carlo



spin alignment: momentum resolution effect



18 Feb 2025 lata-an] phy Xiv:2502.06576

Impact of Tracking Resolutions on ϕ -Meson Spin Alignment Measurement





 $\langle \cos^2 \theta^* \rangle$ for true ϕ -mesons. The effect of momentum smearing is insignificant compared to those of angular smearing.



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P_{x} : SIP vs vorticity



 $S_i^{(\xi)} \approx \frac{1}{4T} \frac{1}{mE} \epsilon_{ikj} p_k p_m \frac{1}{2} (\partial_j u_m + \partial_m q_k)$

 $S_i^{(\omega)} \approx \frac{1}{8T} \epsilon_{ikj} \frac{1}{2} (\partial_k u_j - \partial_j u_k)$

Vorticity





$$(u_j)$$

$$\propto \sin[2(\phi_h^* - \Psi_2)]$$

 u_i - fluid velocity

Star denotes the value in the rest frame of fluid element

 $\propto \sin[2(\phi_h - \Psi_2)]$

"Microcanonical" approach

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$$N \text{ spin 1/2 particles in a cyli}$$

$$S_{z} + L_{z} = J_{z} = \text{const}$$

$$E = \text{const}$$

$$S_{z} - ?$$

$$S_{z} + b_{z} = \text{const}$$

$$+ G_{L}$$

$$O_{L} = \sigma_{0} \left(E - \frac{L^{2}}{2T}\right)$$

$$= N h N - V h U - D h D$$

$$S_{L} = \sigma_{0} \left(E - \frac{L^{2}}{2T}\right)$$

$$= \frac{N}{2} - S_{z}$$

$$P = \frac{N}{2} + \frac{4}{N} = 0$$

$$= \frac{2}{2} + \frac{4}{N} = 0$$

$$= \frac{2}{N} + \frac{4}{N} = 0$$

$$= \frac{3}{N} = \frac{2}{N} + \frac{4}{N} = 0$$

Global polarization, rapidity dependence

Global polarization, p_T dependence

07/07/2025

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 The SIP contribution competes with thermal vorticity effects

 SIP contribution prevails in the scenario that Λ inherits the strange quark spin polarisation at the hadronisation stage
 → qualitative agreement with data (correct polarization sign)

B. Fu et al. PRL 127, 142301 (2021)

Chiara De Martin – EPS 2025

Global polarization, P_v

 v_z is calculated as velocity of the center of mass

gradients are calculated with rapidity (e.g. in the "fluid" rest frame)

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