



Light flavors



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Universe «phase diagram»







Universe «phase diagram»









QCD phase diagram



Fig. 1. Schematic phase diagram of hadronic matter. ρ_B is the density of baryonic number. Quarks are confined in phase I and unconfined in phase II.

Cabibbo Parisi, Physics Letters 59B (1975) 67



QCD phase diagram





QCD phase diagram



To be mapped out QUANTITATIVELY



Baryon Chemical Potential (μ_B)



https://arxiv.org/abs/1404.3294

Quark-gluon plasma (QGP)



It is only a transient state:

 $\tau \sim 10^{-23} s$

No quarks or gluons will be released!

 \rightarrow no external probe can be used. A hard parton produced internally is used.

The bulk of the particles emerging from a nuclear collision are hadrons with transverse momenta of order \sim 1 GeV.

Has QGP actually been produced?



Two recipes for preparing dense hadronic matter







Acta Phys.Polon.B29:3711,1998 https://arxiv.org/abs/nucl-th/9905005



Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions

Relevant parameter is the **energy-per-nucleon**

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Colliding systems

- $pp \rightarrow$ non-perturbative (low- Q^2) and perturbative QCD (high- Q^2); parton fragmentation in the *vacuum*. Reference system for other colliding systems.
- $pPb \rightarrow cold$ nuclear matter effects might influence the particle production at low and high p_T ; search for collective phenomena or final state effects
- \circ *PbPb* \rightarrow characterize the Quark-Gluon Plasma.

Low- p_T : collective flow Intermediate- p_T : quark recombination (coalencence) High- p_T : jet quenching and parton fragmentation in a hot and dense medium









Observables based on Light Flavors

Nuclear modification factor

- \circ QGP can be characterized by the measurement of high- p_T particles produced by the hadronization of hard scattered partons in the early stage of the collsions
- Partons lose energy in the hot and dense
 QCD matter
- $\circ \rightarrow$ suppression of high- p_T particles

$$R_{AA} = \frac{dN^{AA}/dp_{T}}{\langle N_{coll} \rangle dN^{pp}/dp_{T}}$$
$$= \frac{dN^{AA}/dp_{T}}{\langle T_{AA} \rangle d\sigma^{pp}/dp_{T}}$$



 (T_{AA}) from Phys. Rev. C 97, 054910 (2018)





PbPb spectra@Alice

 p_T shape varies with centrality c

 \rightarrow peripheral collisions closer to *pp*, *pPb* shape

With increasing c, depletion in PbPbfor $p_T > 5 \text{ GeV/c}$



 $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76 \text{ TeV}$









Ratios at different energies







Quantifying *in-medium* modifications: nuclear modification factors



$$R_{AA} = \frac{dN^{AA}/dp_{T}}{\langle N_{coll} \rangle dN^{pp}/dp_{T}}$$
$$= \frac{dN^{AA}/dp_{T}}{\langle T_{AA} \rangle d\sigma^{pp}/dp_{T}}$$

○ $\langle N_{Coll} \rangle$ → average number of nucleon-nucleon collisions for a given centrality interval

Less suppression for peripheral collisions





Quantifying *in-medium* modifications: nuclear modification factors



 $SCET_G \rightarrow$ extended softcollinear effective theory for inclusive particle production and suppression in QGP: pQCDbased hard cross-sections and QGP medium evolved FF + CNM effects

Bianchi *et al.* → pQCD + hydrodynamical expansion, trasport coefficient







PbPb R_{AA}@CMS



JHEP 04 (2017) 039



Disentangle possible *cold-nuclearmatter* effects









PbPb spectra@CMS





ALICE 276 Te

PbPb R_{AA} @CMS

Characteristic pattern with local maxima ($p_T \sim 2$ GeV) and minima ($p_T \sim 7$ GeV)

Features stronger in central collisions \rightarrow competition between nuclear parton distribution function effects, radial flow, parton energy loss, Cronin

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p_ (GeV) 27.4 pb⁻¹ (5.02 TeV pp) + 404 µb⁻¹ (5.02 TeV and lumi uncertain p_ (GeV)

Conclusions



- Light flavor based observables represent a strategic tool also in high-energy physics
- Many hints on the hadron formation can be guessed by their properties
- Comparing different collision system allows to disentangle pure
 QGP-related effects to the cold nuclear matter induced ones
- Light flavour measurements give the possibility to test and tune thermal and hydro models and to study the particles production and energy loss mechanisms





backup



Alice









Alice Inner-Tracking System (ITS)





| Analysis | π | K | р |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ITS stand-alone | 0.10-0.60 | 0.20-0.50 | 0.30–0.60 |
| TPC/TOF | 0.20-1.20 | 0.25-1.20 | 0.45–1.80 |
| TOF fits | 0.50-3.00 | 0.45-3.00 | 0.50–4.60 |



Alice Time-Projection Chamber





| Analysis | π | K | р |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ITS stand-alone | 0.10-0.60 | 0.20-0.50 | 0.30–0.60 |
| TPC/TOF | 0.20-1.20 | 0.25-1.20 | 0.45–1.80 |
| TOF fits | 0.50-3.00 | 0.45-3.00 | 0.50–4.60 |



Alice Time-Of-Flight



CENTRO FERMINE Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro Studi e Ricerche Enrico Fermi

| Analysis | π | K | р |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ITS stand-alone | 0.10-0.60 | 0.20-0.50 | 0.30–0.60 |
| TPC/TOF | 0.20-1.20 | 0.25-1.20 | 0.45–1.80 |
| TOF fits | 0.50-3.00 | 0.45-3.00 | 0.50–4.60 |

Comparisons







Evolution of a heavy-ion collision



- 1. Colliding nuclei: coherent could of partons (color-glass condensate plate)
- 2. A significant fraction of E_{kin} deposited in the central region \rightarrow high-energydensity fireball (Glasma, non-equilibrium state) – still a coherent state
- 3. Subsequent collisions among partons leads to thermalized QGP. It happens at 1fm/c



AuAu spectra@RHIC

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First indication of strong medium effects







CPHI, Yerevan - Sept. 25, 2018

Soft probes





- HERMI Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro Studi e Ricerche Enrico Fermi

CPHI, Yerevan - Sept. 25, 2018



Soft probes





Eur. Phys. J. Plus (2016) 131: 52



Testing generation models in pp







Yield / (N part relative to pp/p-Be

10



Among the first signature for QGP production Phys. Rev. Lett. 48. 1066 (1982)

\rightarrow easier to produce strangeness at the quarkgluon than hadron level

Effect seen at SPS, RHIC, LHC

Increase with strangeness content and with centrality, the latter up to saturation \rightarrow hadron resonance gas in thermal equilibrium







Among the first signature for QGP production Phys. Rev. Lett. 48. 1066 (1982)

 \rightarrow easier to produce strangeness at the quark-gluon than hadron level

Effect seen at SPS, RHIC, LHC

Decrease with $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \rightarrow \text{strangeness}$ production increase in pp with $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$, while appears to be saturated in PbPb

Phys. Lett. B 728 (2014) 216









Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro Studi e Ricerche Enrico Fermi Nature Physics 13 (2017) 535

Strange-to-non-strange ratio in *pp*, *pPb*, *PbPb*

- 1. Ratio is enhanced from *pp* to central *PbPb* collisions
- 2. Saturated in central *PbPb* for all the particles
- PYTHIA8 (color reconnection) underestimates the effect
- DIPSY (color ropes) qualitatively good; underestimates Ω/π and overstimates p/π
- EPOS LHC (core-corona approach) only quantitatively describes the trend



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Why light flavor spectra



Primary charged particles produced in the collisions and their decay products (except for particles from weak decays of strange hadrons)

- Spectra are the earlier observable that can be addressed
- Light flavors containing *u*, *d*, *s* quarks represent the main constituents of the particles produced
- Mandatory for a detailed understanding of the collision mechanism
- pPb data \Rightarrow important chance to test the emergence of possible initial state effects
- Spectra to be compared to previous pp and Pb Pb data in a wide transverse momentum range



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