Recent Results from STAR



Brookhaven National Laboratory

9/11/2009

John Cramer Celebration

STAR: The Beginning



STAR: A Correlation Machine



Correlations



- WMAP: 10⁻⁵ level
 - One sample
 - Only photons
 - Well-defined separation of sources

- RHIC: 10⁻¹ to 10⁻³ level
 - Multiple samples
 - Multiple probes
 - Separation of sources still under active investigation

Hanbury-Brown Twiss Correlations



- 25 years of study have led to smooth systematics
- Smoothness still extremely "puzzling"
 - Competition of many small factors? Pratt

Distorted Wave Emission Functions? Cramer and Miller, nucl-th/0507004
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1st order: HBT vs Reaction Plane



The Promise of Jet Tomography





- Simplest way to establish the properties of a system
 - Calibrated probe
 - Calibrated interaction
 - Suppression pattern tells about density profile
- Heavy ion collisions
 - Hard processes serve as calibrated probe
 - Suppression provides density measure



Application to Heavy Ion Collisions: Initial Results



Binary collision scaling p+p reference

Strong suppression in Au+Au collisions, no suppression in d+Au:

Effect is due to interactions between the probe and the medium Established use as a probe of the density of the medium

Conclusion (at the time): medium is dense (50-100x nuclear matter density)

Where does the energy go?



The Ridge: Dh-Df Correlations

 $\Delta \eta \mathbf{0}$

 $2 < p_T(assoc) < p_T(trig)$



- Seen in multiple analyses •
 - Number correlations at low p_T
 - PRC73 (2006) 064907
 - P_T correlations at low p_T, for multiple energies
 - Major source of p_τ fluctuations
 - J. Phys. G 32, L37 (2006)
 - J. Phys. G 34, 451 (2007)
 - Number correlations at intermediate p_{τ}
 - PRC 75, 034901 (2007)
 - Number correlations with trigger particles up to 8 GeV/c ArXiv:0909.0191v1

Physical origin still not definitively established 3 < p_T(trig) < 6 GeV



mid-central Au+Au

 $p_t < 2 \text{ GeV}$

Phys. Rev. C73 (2006) 064907

Dr/Vr_{ref}

 $0.8 < p_t < 4 \text{ GeV}$ STAR PRC 75(2007) 034901



Γ



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Luminosity progression to the fb⁻¹ era



Stochastic cooling: order of magnitude increase in luminosity for rare probes

Mechanisms for Energy Loss



- QED: different momenta, different mechanisms
- Just beginning the exploration of this space in QCD

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g-Jet: Golden Probe of QCD Energy Loss



- g emerges unscathed from the medium
 - Probes deeply into the medium: different surface bias from hadron, dihadron
 - Fully reconstructed kinematics: measure real fragmentation function D(z)

γ -Jet: RHIC is clean



γ-Hadron Correlations: First Peek



Both STAR and PHENIX have made first measurements in both Au+Au and p+p

γ -Hadron Correlations: need for precision



- Higher precision needed
- Major progress possible in coming years with RHIC II



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Jets



Jet reconstruction: another way to constrain hard kinematics Positive: large cross-section, so large p_T reach Negative: large backgrounds, limited E resolution 9/11/2009 John Cramer Celebration

Jets in Au+Au: Results so Far

PHENIX, Quark Matter 2009

Run 150513, event 277518 19–20% centrality 24.3 GeV/*c* and 10.3 GeV/*c* dijet Au+Au 0-20% prec tjet ~ 21 GeV

STAR, Quark Matter 2009

Beginning results from 2007 indicative, but in no way final word
Beginning application of FastJet... to handle large background
Orders of magnitude more luminosity available by Run 14
Issue: effective triggers to sample luminosity w/o physics bias

Quarkonium: Upsilon



Sequential dissociation of quarkonia to measure energy density of plasma Both STAR and PHENIX have made first measurements PHENIX: (1S+2S+3S) R_{AA}<0.64 at 90% CL; need to separate states

Quarkonium in the fb⁻¹ era: Upsilon



Sequential dissociation of quarkonia to measure energy density of plasma Good start, but needs full luminosity of RHIC II to be definitive

Summary

- STAR has evolved into the best machine in the world for correlation studies in heavy ion collisions
- Unresolved issues and opportunities in correlations
 - Is there a probe-able region that has a 1st order Phase Transition?
 - Hanbury-Brown Twiss correlations vs Reaction Plane and the Energy Scan
 - More in the next talk..
 - What is the physical origin of the ridge?
 - Particle Identification with TOF
 - What is the detailed mechanism for energy loss?
 - γ-hadron correlations, full jet reconstruction, and heavy flavor with luminosity and detector upgrades