

1 **Transverse energy analysis of**
2 **relativistic heavy ion collisions**
3 **through the use of identified particles**
4 **spectra**

5 A Thesis Presented for the
6 Master of Science
7 Degree
8 The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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10 May 2018

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13 Table of Contents

14	1 Introduction	1
15	2 Theoretical Background	3
16	2.1 Quantum Chromodynamics	3
17	2.2 Phase Transitions	4
18	2.3 Quark-Gluon Plasma	5
19	3 Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions	7
20	3.1 RHIC and LHC	7
21	3.2 Collision Energy and Geometry	9
22	3.3 QGP Evolution	11
23	3.4 Detection of Collision Products	12
24	3.5 Detection of QGP Signatures	12
25	3.5.1 Bjorken Energy Density	13
26	3.5.2 Elliptic Flow	14
27	3.5.3 Prompt and Thermal Photons	15
28	3.5.4 Strangeness Enhancement	16
29	3.5.5 Jet Quenching	17
30	3.6 The Beam Energy Scan Program	19
31	4 Measurement of Transverse Energy	21
32	4.1 Definition of Transverse Energy	21
33	4.2 E_T Measurement with Calorimeters	22

34	4.2.1	Calorimeter	22
35	4.2.2	E_T from PHENIX Calorimetry	23
36	4.3	E_T Measurement with Tracking Detectors	24
37	4.3.1	Tracking and Particle Identification	24
38	4.3.2	Calculation of $\frac{dE_T}{d\eta}$ from p_T spectra	25
39	4.3.3	Tracking Detectors in STAR	26
40	5	Data Analysis	28
41	5.1	STAR p_T Spectra	28
42	5.1.1	Corrections and Systematic Uncertainties	29
43	5.2	Extrapolation of Spectra	30
44	5.2.1	Boltzmann-Gibbs Blast Wave	31
45	5.2.2	Fitting Spectra to BGBW	31
46	5.3	Calculations from the Spectra	32
47	5.3.1	Calculation of $\frac{dE_T}{dy}$, $\frac{dE_T}{d\eta}$, $\frac{dN_{ch}}{dy}$, and $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$	32
48	5.3.2	Assumptions, Estimation of Total E_T , and Uncertainties	33
49	5.3.3	Lambdas Centrality Adjustments and E_T Interpolations	34
50	6	Results	35
51	7	Conclusion	41
52	8	Future Work	42
53	8.1	Goodness of Fit	42
54	8.2	Bjorken Energy Density Estimate	42
55	8.3	Asymmetric beams	43
56		Bibliography	44
57		Appendices	81
58	A	Kinematic Variables	82
59	B	Results from BGBW Fits	84

60 List of Tables

61	3.1 Colliding species and associated collision energies at RHIC [41].	10
62	5.1 Isospin states of different identified particles.	33

List of Figures

64	2.1	Schematic of the QCD phase diagram [18].	6
65	3.1	Initial layout of the RHIC [43].	8
66	3.2	An illustration of a mid-central collision of two nuclei traveling in the z	
67		direction. The X-axis is parallel to the line joining the centers of the two	
68		nuclei at the time of collision [27].	11
69	3.3	An illustration of a collision consisting of participants (solid red) and	
70		spectators (open blue) within the colliding nuclei labeled A and B. t_c denotes	
71		the time of maximum overlap of the two nuclei. The apparent narrowing of	
72		the volumes of the nuclei in the z-direction is due to Lorentz contraction [61].	12
73	3.4	Evolution of the QGP represented in a lightcone diagram. τ_0 denotes the	
74		formation time of the QGP. T_c is the critical temperature of the transition	
75		from the QGP to the hadron gas phase. T_{ch} and T_{fo} stand for the temperatures	
76		at, respectively, chemical freeze-out and thermal freeze-out [27].	13
77	3.5	Minimum-bias Au+Au ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200\text{GeV}$) elliptic flow spectra for identified	
78		particles: (a) v_2 vs p_T and (b) v_2 vs KE_T [5].	15
79	3.6	Minimum-bias Au+Au ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200\text{GeV}$) elliptic flow spectra for identified	
80		particles: (a) $\frac{v_2}{n_q}$ vs $\frac{p_T}{n_q}$ and (b) $\frac{v_2}{n_q}$ vs $\frac{KE_T}{n_q}$ [5].	16
81	3.7	Feynman diagram representing the production of photons from quarks and	
82		gluons. (a) and (b) represent annihilation processes, whereas (c) and (d)	
83		represent Compton processes [63].	17

84	3.8	Illustration of jet quenching. Two jets are produced from each of the hard	
85		scatterings occuring at the locations of the solid dots. Jets originating closer	
86		to the initial surface are more probable to propagate outside the medium, as	
87		shown. Jets opposite to them interact with the medium, losing their energy	
88		and resulting in bow front shock waves [58].	18
89	3.9	R_{AA} from PHENIX for direct photons [15], π^0 [7], η [8], ϕ [12], p [11], J/ψ [6],	
90		ω [10], e^\pm from heavy flavor decays [9], and K^\pm [11]. This demonstrates that	
91		colored probes (high- p_T final state hadrons) are suppressed while electroweak	
92		probes (direct photons) are not at RHIC.	19
93	4.1	Energy loss distribution in the STAR TPC for primary and secondary particles	
94		[17].	27
95	5.1	Transverse momentum spectra for π^+ , π^- , K^+ , K^- , p , and \bar{p} at midrapidity	
96		($ y < 0.1$) from 39 GeV Au+Au collisions at RHIC. The fitting curves	
97		on the 0-5% central collision spectra for pions, kaons, and protons/anti-	
98		protons represent, respectively, the Bose-Einstein, m_T -exponential, and	
99		double-exponential functions [2].	29
100	5.2	Midrapidity efficiency \times acceptance as a function of p_T calculated from STAR	
101		TPC Monte Carlo simulation of reconstructing (a) pions, (b) kaons, and (c)	
102		protons for 0-5% central 7.7 GeV Au+Au collisions. The curves represent	
103		functional fits of the form $y \propto \exp -\frac{1}{x}$ [2].	30
104	5.3	Red curve shows the Boltzmann-Gibbs blast wave functional fit on the	
105		preliminary transverse momentum spectrum for lambda particles identified	
106		by the STAR detector for 19.6 GeV Au+Au collisions (10-15% central).	
107		Parameters extracted from the chi-square goodness-of-fit test, as well as other	
108		statistics, are shown in the box on the top right.	32
109	6.1	Parallel coordinates plot for 270 different spectra relating 6 different identified	
110		particles (color-coded) to their respective collision centrality classes, good-fit	
111		parameters, and the transverse energy calculated using said parameters. . . .	35

112	6.2	$(dE_T/d\eta)/0.5N_{part}$ at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ for different central-	
113		ities. The dashed line represents a power-law fit to the 0-5% central data in	
114		the form $y = ax^{2b}$, where x and y are the placeholders for the quantities in	
115		the plot axes. $\chi^2/n.d.f$ for the fit was 1.806, and the good-fit parameters were	
116		$a = 0.4838 \pm 0.0429$ and $b = 0.2005 \pm 0.01466$. The shaded area represents	
117		the uncertainty bounds for the 0-5% central PHENIX data from [4].	36
118	6.3	$(dE_T/d\eta)/(dN_{ch}/d\eta)$ at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ for different	
119		centralities.	37
120	6.4	$(dE_T/d\eta)/0.5N_{part}$ at midrapidity as a function of N_{part} for different collision	
121		energies.	37
122	6.5	$(dE_T/d\eta)/(dN_{ch}/d\eta)$ at midrapidity as a function of N_{part} for different collision	
123		energies.	38
124	6.6	$(dE_T/dy)/0.5N_{part}$ at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ for different centralities.	38
125	6.7	$(dE_T/dy)/(dN_{ch}/dy)$ at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ for different	
126		centralities.	39
127	6.8	$(dE_T/dy)/0.5N_{part}$ at midrapidity as a function of N_{part} for different collision	
128		energies.	39
129	6.9	$(dE_T/dy)/(dN_{ch}/dy)$ at midrapidity as a function of N_{part} for different collision	
130		energies.	40
131	6.10	$\frac{dE_T}{d\eta}/0.5N_{part}$ for 0-5% central collisions at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$.	
132		The PHENIX data are from [4]. The error bars represent the total statistical	
133		and systematic uncertainties.	40

Chapter 1

Introduction

The Big Bang model is based on observational evidence, such as the cosmic microwave background radiation and the cosmological expansion [52, 46], and suggests that at the beginning the universe must have been at a state of extremely high density and temperature. As the universe expanded, it went through several stages of cooling characterized by the formation of matter with different compositions.

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN and the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) at the Brookhaven National Laboratory have the ability to collide heavy nuclei, such as those of gold and uranium, at nearly the speed of light, reaching temperatures of trillions of degrees Celcius. These laboratories have provided evidence of the formation of an exotic state of matter, called the quark-gluon plasma (QGP) [31, 32]. It only exists for a brief amount of time after such collisions and instantly freezes out into a plethora of new particles, which carry the signatures we can use to deduct QGP properties. Its properties suggest that it should be similar to the matter that existed within microseconds of the genesis of the universe, about 13.8 billion years ago [3, 21, 47].

One of the methods to probe the properties of this matter is by analyzing the conversion of the beam-direction energy at the time of collision into transverse energy after the collision. These measurements can be used to estimate the energy density of the QGP. This analysis is generally done by using data from the calorimeters (section 4.2.1) placed around the collision site. In this thesis, I use the data collected by tracking detectors (section 4.3.1), instead of the conventional calorimeters, to calculate the transverse energy.

156 This thesis is structured as follows. Chapter 2 touches on the theoretial background
157 associated with the concept of the quark-gluon plasma. In chapter 3, I summarize the
158 experimental concepts pertaining to relativistic heavy-ion collisions and the production and
159 detection of QGP. Chapter 4 consists of the formalism of the measurement of transverse
160 energy using calorimeters as well as tracking detectors. It also describes what has been done
161 using calorimeters. Chapter 5 describes the data used to perform the analysis in this thesis
162 and notes the relevant details of the analysis. In chapter 6, I present the results and compare
163 them to the ones in literature obtained using a different method. Chapter 7 concludes the
164 thesis and discusses its implications. Finally, in chapter 8, I present arguments on what can
165 be done in the future using the results of and the software developed for this analysis.

Chapter 2

Theoretical Background

2.1 Quantum Chromodynamics

The strong force is one of the four fundamental interactions in physics. At large scales, it is also known as the residual strong force, and it is responsible for binding the nucleons together to give the nucleus its structure. At smaller scales, it is called the fundamental nuclear force, and it binds the fundamental units of subnuclear matter, the quarks, together to form the nucleons. The force carriers of the interaction are the mesons at the former scale and the gluons at the latter. The electrodynamic interaction between charged particles such as protons and electrons is described by quantum electrodynamics (QED) as mediated by photons; the strong interaction, albeit more complicated, is explained under the framework of quantum chromodynamics (QCD) [37, 54]. The quarks and gluons of QCD are collectively known as partons. Gluons are the gauge bosons of the Yang-Mills theory.

The Yang-Mills theory is a non-Abelian gauge theory. It has a Lagrangian with several degrees of freedom, some of which are redundant and need to be gauged. This is done by a mathematical treatment as prescribed under a gauge theory [16]. The gauge theory associated with the Yang-Mills theory is based on the $SU(N)$ group. It is non-Abelian as represented by the non-commutative transformations. QCD is a gauge theory that describes the application of the $SU(3)$ symmetry transformations on color charges, namely red, blue, and green. The electroweak theory, which describes the electromagnetic as well as nuclear

186 weak interactions, can be formalized under the gauge group $SU(2) \times U(1)$. Together, they
187 form the $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times (U(1))$ gauge theory called the standard model.

188 One of the ways QCD is different from QED is the confinement of partons. In QED, the
189 fundamental particles are bound together by the Coulomb potential, which diminishes with
190 distance between the charge-carrying particles, as demonstrated by the relation 2.1:

$$V_C \propto \frac{1}{r} \tag{2.1}$$

191 where V_C is the Coulomb potential, and r is the spatial separation between the particles.
192 This means that bound QED particles can be isolated by increasing their spatial separation.
193 The QCD potential, on the other hand, has an extra linear term in it, which means that
194 the potential increases linearly with distance at large distances, and so an infinite amount of
195 energy is required to separate quarks [19]. Hence, we never observe isolated quarks and they
196 are said to be confined, not just bound, to form composite structures called hadrons [49].
197 A quark and an anti-quark forms a meson and three quarks forms a baryon. In addition to
198 having a color charge, a quark also carries a flavor. There are six different quarks based on
199 the flavors they carry: up, down, top, bottom, beauty, and strange.

200 2.2 Phase Transitions

201 In everyday life, we observe matter existing in four distinct phases: solid, liquid, gas, and
202 plasma. Changes in physical conditions can lead to a transition from one of these phases
203 to another, exemplified by the commonly observed conversion of ice to water. Distinctions
204 among the various phases can be represented in a chart called the phase diagram.

205 The phase diagram consists of thermodynamic observables such as temperature and
206 density on its axes. Curves in the phase diagram represent boundaries of physical conditions
207 separating one phase from another: crossing a boundary represents an abrupt transition from
208 one phase to another. This abruptness is mathematically characterized by the discontinuity
209 in the change of the derivative of the free energy – a thermodynamic variable – with respect
210 to the physical quantities in the axes. Such an abrupt transition is called a first-order phase

transition. Along the boundary represented by the curve, there can be a point beyond which the phase transition is continuous instead of being abrupt, and the distinction between two phases is not clear. This point is called a critical point, and the phase transition that takes place beyond this point is called a crossover.

One of the main focuses of current experimental and theoretical nuclear physics research is the study of the phase diagram of strongly interacting matter at a range of temperatures and baryon chemical potentials. In experiments involving the collisions of heavy ions at high and low energies, different regions of the phase diagram can be probed by varying the collision energy [4]. For instance, the high-baryon chemical potential regime corresponds to lower beam energies and higher temperatures correspond to higher beam energies. The results of these experiments and model calculations can be used to study the possibilities and signatures of transitions in the QCD phase diagram.

A schematic representing the QCD phase diagram as a function of the temperature (T) and quark chemical potential (μ) is shown in Figure 2.1 [18]. A crossover is predicted at low baryon chemical potentials (close to baryon-antibaryon symmetry) and high temperatures reminiscent of the early universe. Methods to study this region of the phase space will be explored in this thesis. At low temperatures and high net baryon densities, loose predictions have been made regarding the existence of exotic phases of high density matter, and programs, such as the Compressed Baryonic Matter experiment at the Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research in Germany, are being designed to study this region of the phase diagram [33].

2.3 Quark-Gluon Plasma

The confinement of quarks into the hadronic phase of QCD matter, as described in section 2.1, has its limitations. At very high densities, when the wave function of a single hadron overlaps with the spatial regions covered by multiple such hadrons, it is impossible to classify which pair or triplet of quarks belongs to which meson or baryon. As long as a particular quark is close enough to the other quarks in the volume, it is deconfined in such a way that it can freely move anywhere in the volume [49]. QCD predicts such phase transition, at

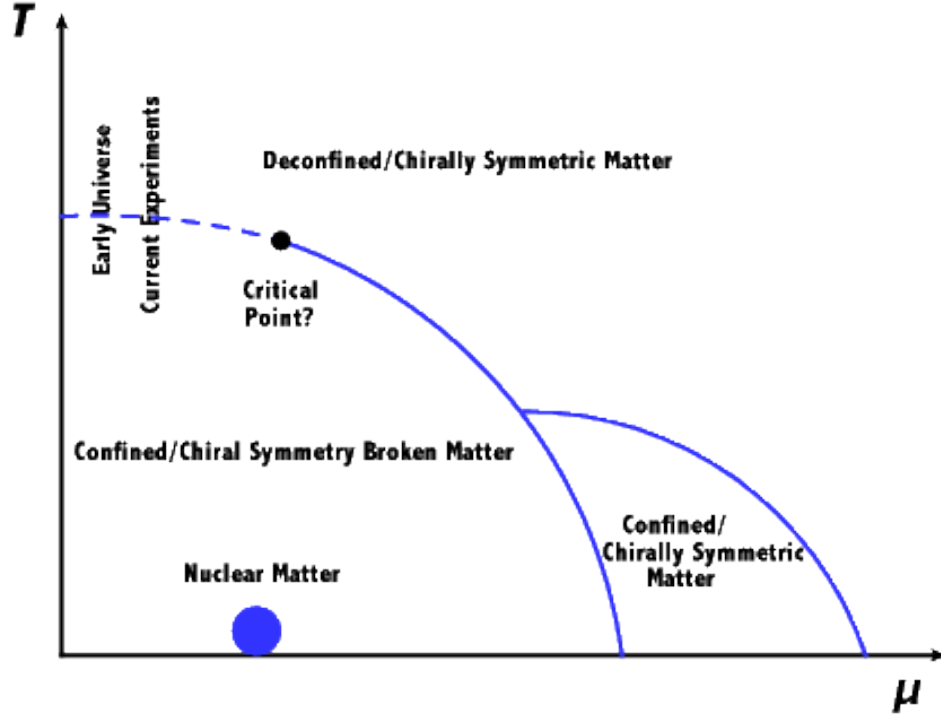


Figure 2.1: Schematic of the QCD phase diagram [18].

239 energy densities above $0.2\text{--}1 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3$ [1] and around a critical temperature of about 160
 240 MeV [30], of strongly interacting matter to a phase with quarks and gluons in thermal and
 241 chemical equilibrium representing the relevant degrees of freedom. This deconfined state
 242 of quarks and gluons is termed the quark-gluon plasma (QGP) in analogy to the quantum
 243 electrodynamical plasma phase of matter. The QGP has been found to behave like an almost
 244 perfect fluid [25]

Chapter 3

Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions

The experimental evidence for the QGP comes from the collisions of heavy nuclei. Some of its signatures are described in section 3.5. Physicists proposed the existence of such matter since as far back as 1984, when nuclei were accelerated and collided with stationary targets [32]. They were able to agree on a conclusive discovery of this matter during the 2000s, after colliding accelerated nuclei with other such nuclei or smaller species (protons, deuterons) at unprecedented energies and with improved detection schemes [56]. With further increases in collision energies and enhancements in detector technology, modern accelerator facilities provided additional evidence and estimates of some of the properties as well as the dynamics of the evolution of the QGP. The following sections describe two such facilities, the physics of the collisions, and what happens after the collisions.

3.1 RHIC and LHC

The Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) is located in Upton, New York in the premises of the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). Its construction started in 1991 and was completed in 1999. Figure 3.1 shows the layout, at the time of construction, of the collider along with the Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (AGS) complex and the locations of the original four detectors: Solenoidal Tracker At RHIC (STAR), Pioneering High Energy Nuclear Interaction eXperiment (PHENIX), Phobos, and BRAHMS (Broad Range Hadron Magnetic Spectrometers). Phobos, BRAHMS, and PHENIX were decommissioned after the

265 completion of their science objectives, but STAR is still operational. The AGS was part
 266 of BNL before the construction of the RHIC, and its capabilities were augmented with the
 construction of the AGS Booster in 1991.

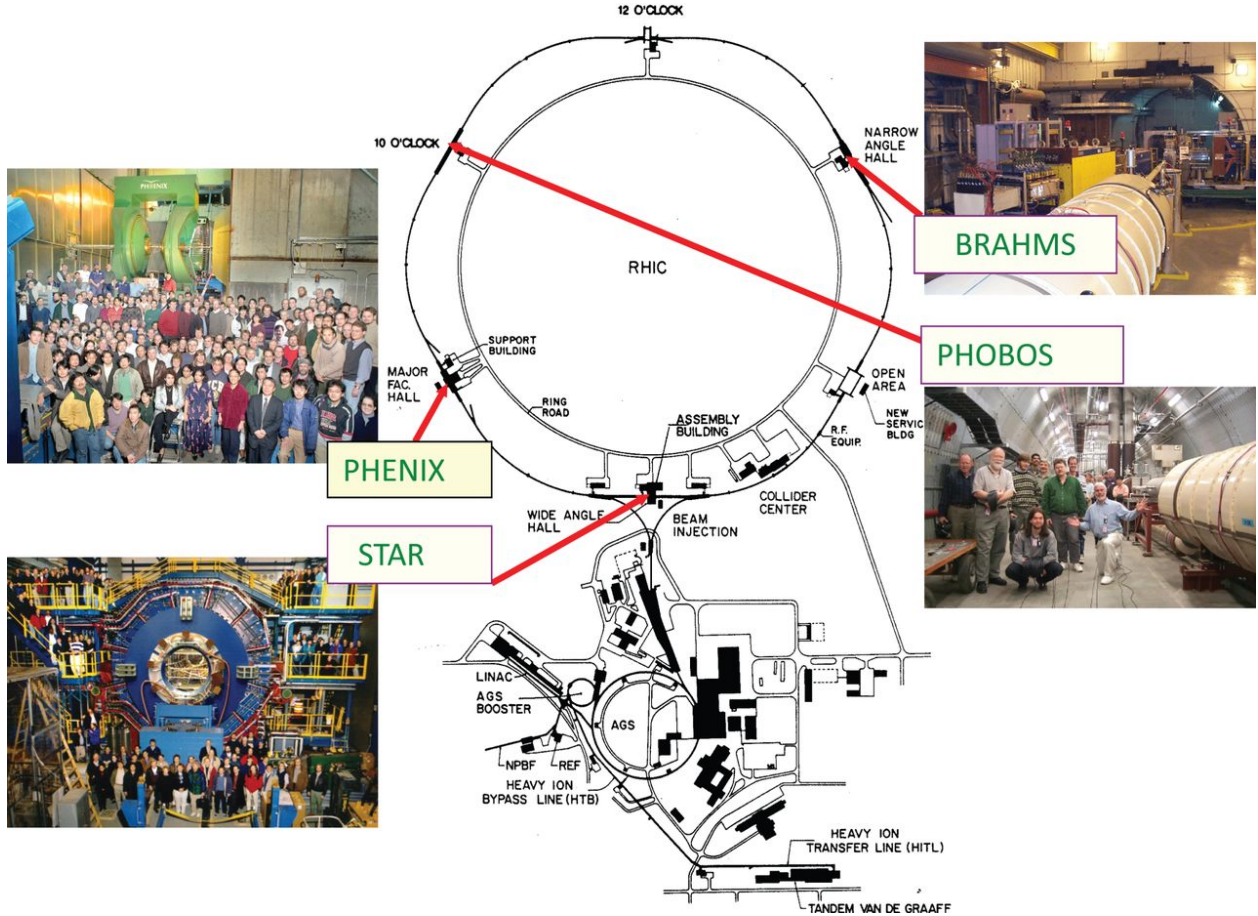


Figure 3.1: Initial layout of the RHIC [43].

267
 268 Heavy ion beams in RHIC are created in a series of steps before collision. In case of gold
 269 ions, a pulsed sputter source produces negatively charged ions, which are stripped of some of
 270 their electrons with a foil on the positive end of the high-voltage Tandem Van de Graaff. The
 271 ions are now positively charged and are accelerated to 1MeV/u toward the negative terminal
 272 of the Tandem. Upon exiting it, some more stripping takes place. The bending magnets then
 273 selectively deliver +32 charge states of the ions to the Booster Synchrotron, which accelerates
 274 them to 95MeV/u and strips them to a +77 charge state before injecting them to the AGS.
 275 The AGS accelerates them to 10.8 GeV/u and strips them of the remaining two electrons at
 276 the exit. The gold ions are then injected through the AGS-to-RHIC Beam Transfer Line to

the two RHIC rings. These rings carry beams moving in opposite directions and intersect at six symmetric locations in the 3.8 km circumference. The original four detectors are located in four of these six locations where the beams undergo head-on collisions.

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is located underground (between 45m and 170m) beneath the France-Switzerland border near the city of Geneva. The two rings of the collider were constructed between 1998 and 2008 by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in the 26.7 km circular tunnel originally housing CERN's Large Electron-Positron collider. Analogous to the RHIC, the LHC gets its beams prepared by a series of machines in the CERN accelerator complex. The collisions occur at the locations of the four big LHC experiments: Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS), A Toroidal LHC ApparatuS (ATLAS), Large Hadron Collider beauty (LHCb) experiment, and A Large Ion Collider Experiment (ALICE). ALICE is dedicated to the study of heavy-ion collisions [29].

3.2 Collision Energy and Geometry

What happens in the aftermath of a collision depends on how much energy is available at the time of the collision as well as the geometry of the collision. The collision energy is determined by the collider configuration. The geometry of the collision is deduced as the collision *centrality*, as described later in this section, through the estimation of the charged particle multiplicities (N_{ch}) resulting from the collisions.

In collision experiments, it is convenient to use a reference frame in which the net momentum of the pair of colliding species is zero. This frame is called the center-of-mass frame. In this frame, the total energy of the species in the two beams is a function of the number of nucleons and the center-of-mass energy per nucleon. The collision energy is reported as the center-of-mass energy per nucleon pair, $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$.

RHIC has the unique capability of colliding species at a range of energies spanning almost two orders of magnitude. Table 3.1 lists the collision energies produced so far at RHIC for various collision systems. The LHC boasts the highest amount of collision energy for any collider on earth. It collided species (p+p, p+A, Pb+Pb) at a center of mass energy up to

304 2.76 TeV per nucleon pair at the end of 2010. At the end of 2015, 5.02 TeV Pb+Pb and 13
305 TeV p+p collisions were successfully completed [31].

Collision system	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}(GeV)$
p+p	200, 510
d+Au	19.6, 39, 62.4, 200
Cu+Cu	62.4
Cu+Au	200
p+Au	200
$^3\text{He}+\text{Au}$	200
Au+Au	7, 7.7, 9, 20, 62, 130, 200

Table 3.1: Colliding species and associated collision energies at RHIC [41].

306 In general, any collision between two nuclei is not perfectly head-on. Some collisions are
307 close to being head-on and are called central collisions. Some are glancing and are called
308 peripheral collisions. By convention, 0% is the centrality of a perfectly head-on collision and
309 100% is that of the least head-on, i.e., the most peripheral collision. More central collisions
310 generally produce more particles [27].

311 The centrality is estimated through a model-based correlation between N_{ch} and the
312 impact parameter, defined as the distance between the centers of the two nuclei at the
313 time of their maximum overlap. The Monte Carlo based model, for instance, assumes that
314 all nucleons travel in straight lines along the beam direction [38] and that they collide if they
315 overlap [40]. N_{ch} is assumed to scale with the number of participants and the number of
316 binary collisions. The distribution of this quantity is then fit to the data and the fraction of
317 the overlap is estimated from the observed N_{ch} value. 5% of all collisions with the highest
318 N_{ch} values, for example, are then referred to as being 0-5% central [27].

319 Figure 3.2 illustrates the aftermath of a mid-central collision, i.e, a collision in which
320 about half of the volume of each of the nuclei intersects the other.

321 The collision of two nuclei can be modeled as collisions of the constituents that make
322 up the nuclei. The nucleons that take part in the collisions and are called participants.
323 The rest of the nucleons are known as spectators. Figure 3.3 illustrates the distribution of
324 participants and spectators in two colliding nuclei.

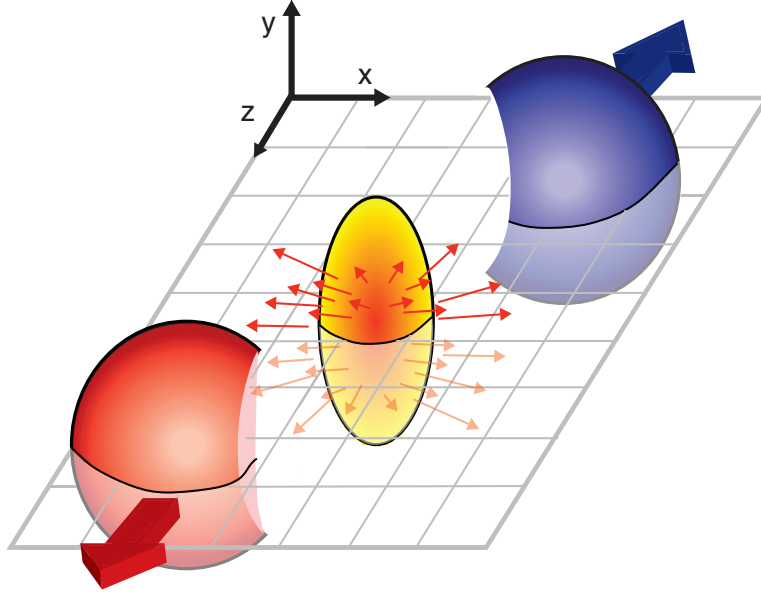


Figure 3.2: An illustration of a mid-central collision of two nuclei traveling in the z direction. The X -axis is parallel to the line joining the centers of the two nuclei at the time of collision [27].

3.3 QGP Evolution

The evolution of the QGP is shown in a lightcone diagram in figure 3.4 [27]. The initial state of the colliding nuclei is not precisely known and is the topic of research for upcoming experiments. During the collision, the participants scatter off of each other while the spectators keep traveling almost unperturbed in their original direction. The immediate aftermath of a central collision of heavy ions at RHIC and LHC energies is the formation of a hot fireball. This fireball evolves in time to form a liquid-like medium of quarks and gluons. This medium attains a local equilibrium and remains in such a state, depending on the collision energy, for about 1-10 fm/c. This equilibrium is broken as the liquid QGP evolves by expanding and cooling to attain a density and temperature at which the medium undergoes hadronization followed by a chemical freeze-out to form a hadron gas. The particle ratios are fixed after the chemical freeze-out. Collisions between the constituents of this gas become scant as it evolves with further expansion and cooling, and the hadrons undergo a thermal freeze-out to attain their final energies and momenta [27].

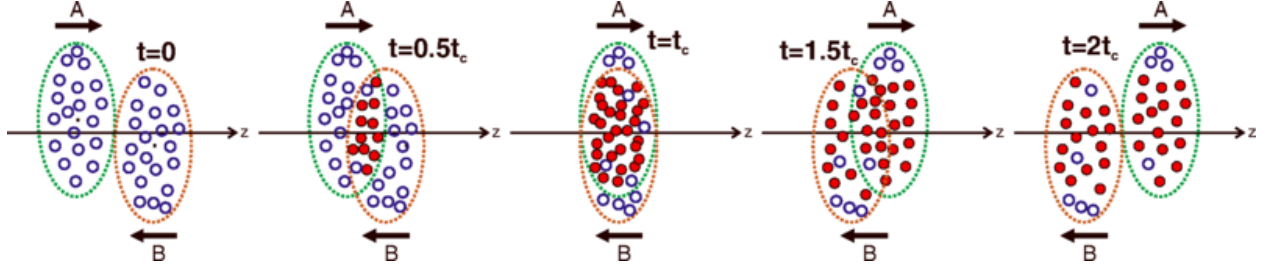


Figure 3.3: An illustration of a collision consisting of participants (solid red) and spectators (open blue) within the colliding nuclei labeled A and B. t_c denotes the time of maximum overlap of the two nuclei. The apparent narrowing of the volumes of the nuclei in the z -direction is due to Lorentz contraction [61].

3.4 Detection of Collision Products

Detectors are placed around the collision site to perform measurements on the final state particles emitting from the thermal freeze-out of the medium. These measurements typically include the reconstruction of the particle tracks, estimation of the types of particles, and the momenta and energies they carry.

Generally, a tracking detector surrounds the collision site, and there are particle identifiers followed by calorimeters around it. A magnetic field is applied parallel to the beam direction around the collision site. Due to this orientation of the magnetic field, the spectators traveling parallel to it move roughly undeflected and the final state charged particles with components of velocity transverse to the beam axis get deflected around the beam axis with radius given by

$$r = \frac{p_T}{qB}, \quad (3.1)$$

where p_T is the transverse momentum of the particle, q is its electric charge, and B is the applied magnetic field. Two kinds of detectors most relevant to this thesis, tracking detectors and calorimeters, are described in chapter 4.

3.5 Detection of QGP Signatures

The existence and properties of the QGP in the aftermath of high-energy heavy-ion collisions can be probed using different techniques relevant to several theoretical characteristics of the

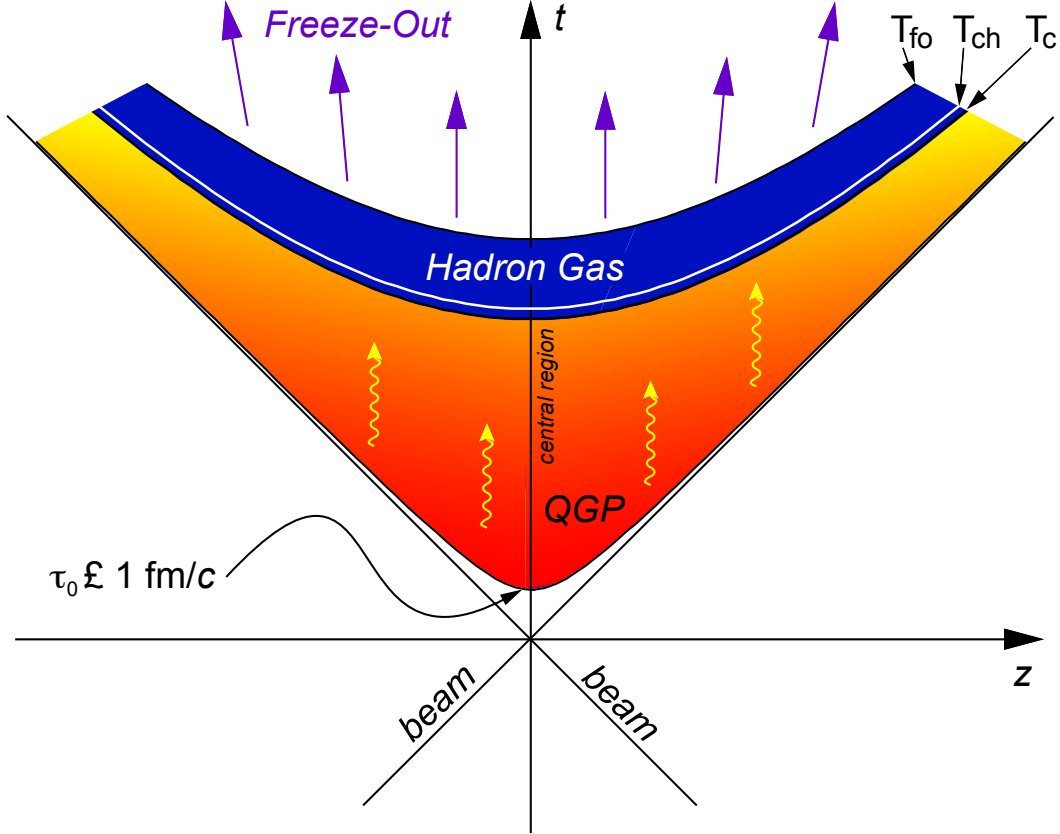


Figure 3.4: Evolution of the QGP represented in a lightcone diagram. τ_0 denotes the formation time of the QGP. T_c is the critical temperature of the transition from the QGP to the hadron gas phase. T_{ch} and T_{fo} stand for the temperatures at, respectively, chemical freeze-out and thermal freeze-out [27].

medium. No signature can alone be used to claim the production of the QGP, and some of the probes, which should be interpreted together, are described below.

3.5.1 Bjorken Energy Density

In 1983, J.D. Bjorken[23] prescribed a formula to use the final state particles to estimate the initial energy density, ϵ_0 , in a nucleus-nucleus collision. With slight changes in the original formula, the energy density is estimated by:

$$\epsilon_0 = \frac{1}{\tau_0 A_T} \left\langle \frac{dE_T}{dy} \right\rangle, \quad (3.2)$$

362 where τ_0 is the formation time of the QGP, A_T is the transverse area of the intersection
 363 of the two nuclei, and $\langle \frac{dE_T}{dy} \rangle$ is the mean transverse energy per unit rapidity. τ_0 is model-
 364 dependent and is normally estimated to be $1fm/c$. A_T depends on the centrality of the
 365 collision and can be estimated using the Glauber model discussed earlier. $\langle \frac{dE_T}{dy} \rangle$ is found
 366 from the measurement of the transverse energy carried by the final state particles from the
 367 collision and is the central theme of this thesis. Details about it are in the following chapters.
 368 The estimate of the initial energy density from the Bjorken formula is an underestimate of
 369 the maximum energy density because the measured dE_T/dy is an average over the system
 370 as it undergoes expansion and cooling. It can be compared with the QCD prediction of the
 371 critical energy density [1] to check if the results from a collision imply the achievement of
 372 the critical physical condition required for the phase transition [36]. Experiments show that
 373 ultra-relativistic heavy ion collisions are capable of producing energy densities comfortably
 374 higher than those predicted by QCD [1].

375 **3.5.2 Elliptic Flow**

376 The evolution of the medium produced in relativistic heavy ion collisions can be well
 377 described under the framework of relativistic hydrodynamics [51, 57]. This description
 378 indicates the presence of a collective flow of a locally thermalized liquid. The angular
 379 distribution of the momenta of the final state particles emitted out of the collectively flowing
 380 system can be decomposed into a Fourier expansion in its azimuthal components. The
 381 second harmonic coefficient, $\nu_2(y, p_T)$, of this decomposition characterizes what is known as
 382 the elliptic flow [35]. The magnitude of the elliptic flow from a non-central collision represents
 383 the anisotropy in azimuthal momentum space of the thermalized post-collision system [55].
 384 The elliptic flow of the medium, as a function of the momentum or the kinetic energy in the
 385 transverse direction, points towards quarks, rather than hadrons, being the relevant degrees
 386 of freedom in the QGP. Figure 3.5 shows v_2 as a function of the transverse momentum
 387 and the transverse kinetic energy for identified particles. The spectra scale consistently at
 388 lower values of both p_T and KE_T . However, they branch out as mesons and baryons at
 389 higher values: $p_T \gtrsim 2GeV/c$ and $KE_T \gtrsim 1GeV$. Figure 3.6, on the other hand, is similar to
 390 figure 3.5, with the exception that both the axes have quantities that are normalized by the

number of quarks, n_q . In this case, the KE_T spectra strongly exhibits a scaling which is more comprehensively consistent with the number of quarks than in case of figure 3.5. This universal quark-number scaling can be interpreted as the degrees of freedom of the system being quark-like [5].

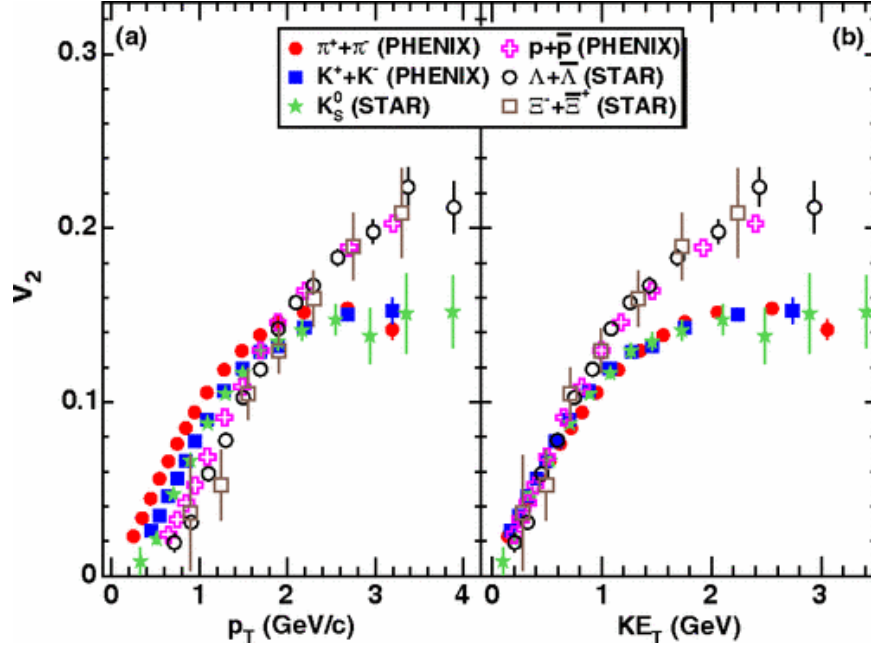


Figure 3.5: Minimum-bias Au+Au ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200\text{GeV}$) elliptic flow spectra for identified particles: (a) v_2 vs p_T and (b) v_2 vs KE_T [5].

3.5.3 Prompt and Thermal Photons

Most of the photons observed after relativistic heavy ion collisions are the results of the decay of the neutral pion into two gammas. When these photons are subtracted from the observations, the remaining photons are called direct photons [44]. These direct photons are produced within the fireball via different mechanisms as discussed below.

In the QGP, a quark and an antiquark can annihilate to produce a photon and a gluon. It is also possible for the pair to annihilate and produce two photons, but the probability of this process is smaller than the former by about two orders of magnitude. Furthermore, a quark (or an antiquark) can interact with a gluon to produce an antiquark (or a quark) and a photon, a process analogous to Compton scattering in QED. The photons produced from the hard scattering processes between the partons are called prompt photons, and

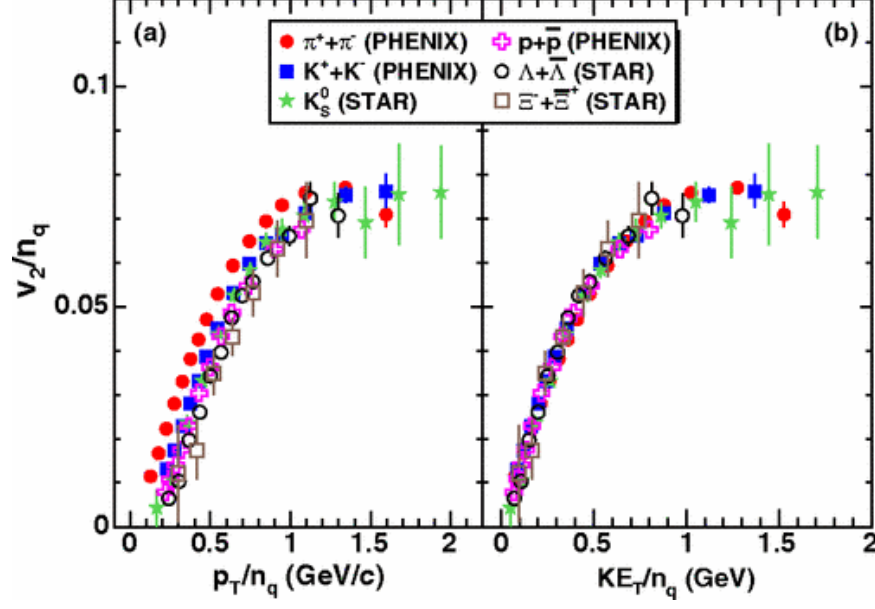


Figure 3.6: Minimum-bias Au+Au ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200\text{GeV}$) elliptic flow spectra for identified particles: (a) $\frac{v_2}{n_q}$ vs $\frac{p_T}{n_q}$ and (b) $\frac{v_2}{n_q}$ vs $\frac{KE_T}{n_q}$ [5].

406 their multiplicity scales with the number of binary collisions. Photons can also be produced
 407 due to scatterings of partons within the thermalized medium, and these photons are called
 408 thermal photons. The nature of the p_T distribution is different in this case as the emission
 409 process mimics blackbody radiation. This difference helps distinguish these photons from
 410 the direct photons produced by partonic interactions. Just like the leptons described in
 411 the previous section, the photons produced in the QGP can only interact with the medium
 412 electromagnetically. Therefore, they undergo minimal scattering before being detected, and
 413 hence can be used to probe the thermodynamical state of the medium at the time of their
 414 creation [63, 44, 62].

415 3.5.4 Strangeness Enhancement

416 The interacting nuclei carry no net strangeness before colliding, and so an observation of
 417 strange and multi-strange particles after the collision can be used to probe the properties of
 418 the post-collision medium [28]. Strangeness can also be produced in hadron-hadron collisions.
 419 However, it is enhanced in nucleus-nucleus collisions [20]. This is interesting because it
 420 possibly indicates a restoration of chiral symmetry, which is a topic of ongoing research:

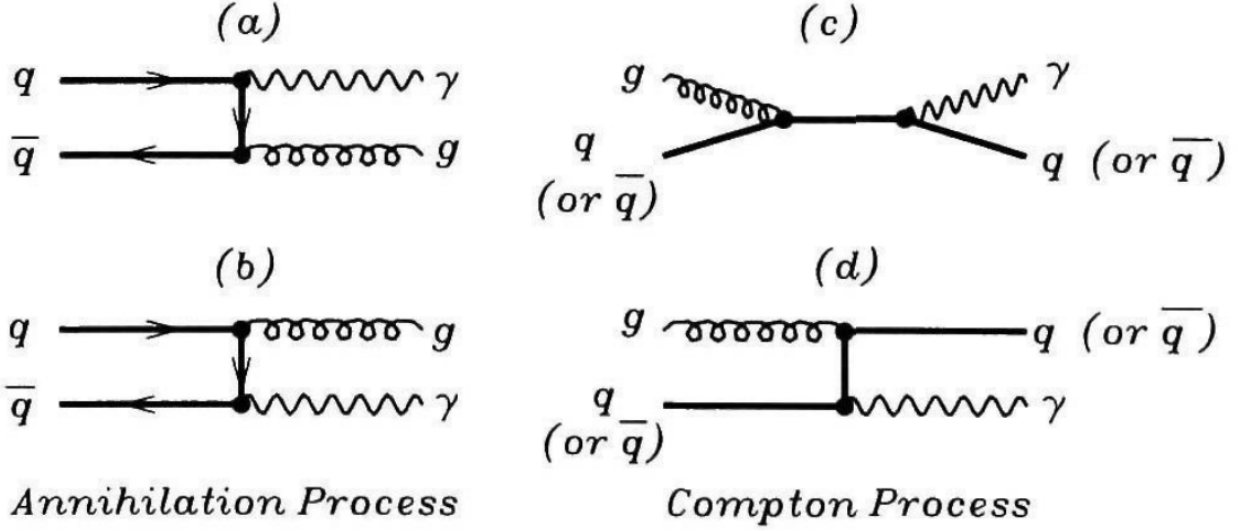


Figure 3.7: Feynman diagram representing the production of photons from quarks and gluons. (a) and (b) represent annihilation processes, whereas (c) and (d) represent Compton processes [63].

421 in the zero baryon chemical potential limit, lattice QCD calculations reveal a transition
 422 of QCD matter between a phase with broken and one with restored chiral symmetry [24].
 423 Chiral symmetry restoration has the implication of all the flavors of quarks losing their
 424 masses [50]. Hence, when chiral symmetry is restored, it is more feasible to produce strange
 425 quarks, for instance, which have higher masses than the light quarks, up and down, in a
 426 state of broken chiral symmetry. Chiral symmetry restoration is not the only possible reason
 427 for the production of many strange quarks. It is also feasible to produce strange quarks
 428 as long as the temperature of the system is above the strange flavor mass scale, and so it
 429 carries effects of the system temperature. This is exemplified by the ratio of the production
 430 of the strange kaons to that of the non-strange pions, which are the most abundant hadrons
 431 produced from nucleus-nucleus collisions: kaon yield increases more rapidly than pion yield
 432 does as the temperature increases [63].

433 3.5.5 Jet Quenching

434 A scattering event in which the participants transfer a large amount of their original momenta
 435 is called hard scattering. The products of the scatterings are called jets. In heavy-ion
 436 collisions, most hard scatterings are the results of two partons from the opposite nuclei

437 scattering off each other. These partons can lose their momenta by strongly interacting
 438 with the enhanced gluon fields in a QGP medium. Therefore, the properties of the jets, as
 439 carried by the final state hadrons, should be different for collisions that produce the QGP
 440 as compared to those that do not, and hence they can be used as signatures and probes of
 441 QGP. Figure 3.8 illustrates the quenching of jets that have to travel long distances in the
 medium.

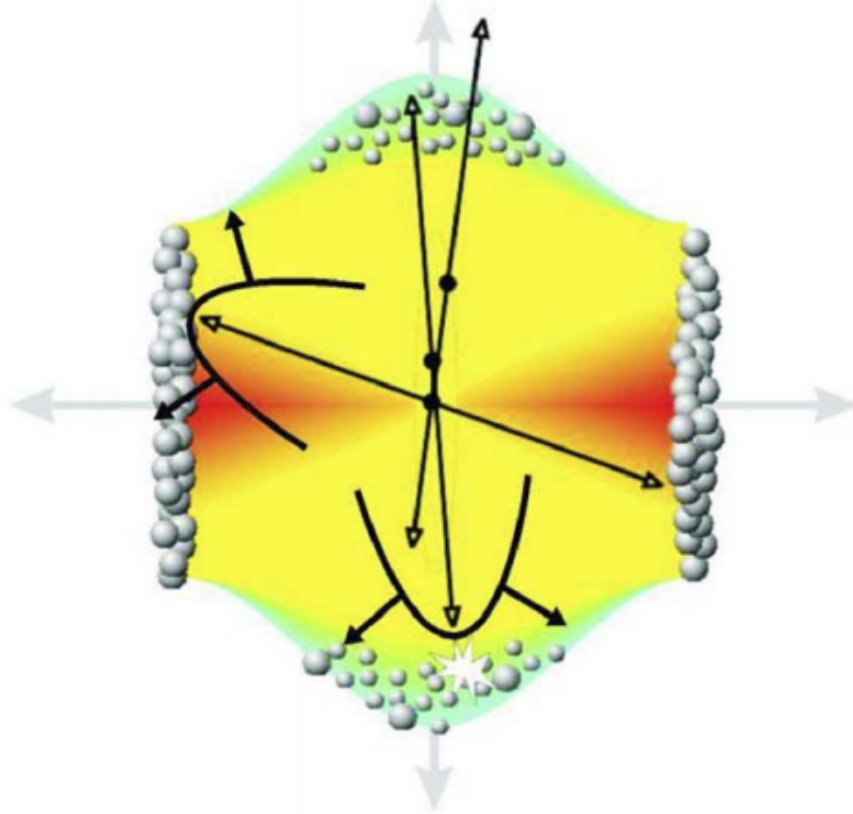


Figure 3.8: Illustration of jet quenching. Two jets are produced from each of the hard scatterings occurring at the locations of the solid dots. Jets originating closer to the initial surface are more probable to propagate outside the medium, as shown. Jets opposite to them interact with the medium, losing their energy and resulting in bow front shock waves [58].

442

443 The nuclear modification factor, R_{AA} , is the ratio of the cross section for particle
 444 production in nucleus-nucleus collisions scaled by the number of binary nucleon-nucleon
 445 collisions divided by the cross section in proton-proton collisions. It is shown in Fig. 3.9 for
 446 several different particle species, demonstrating substantial suppression of high momentum
 447 particles. This shows that the medium is nearly opaque to colored probes.

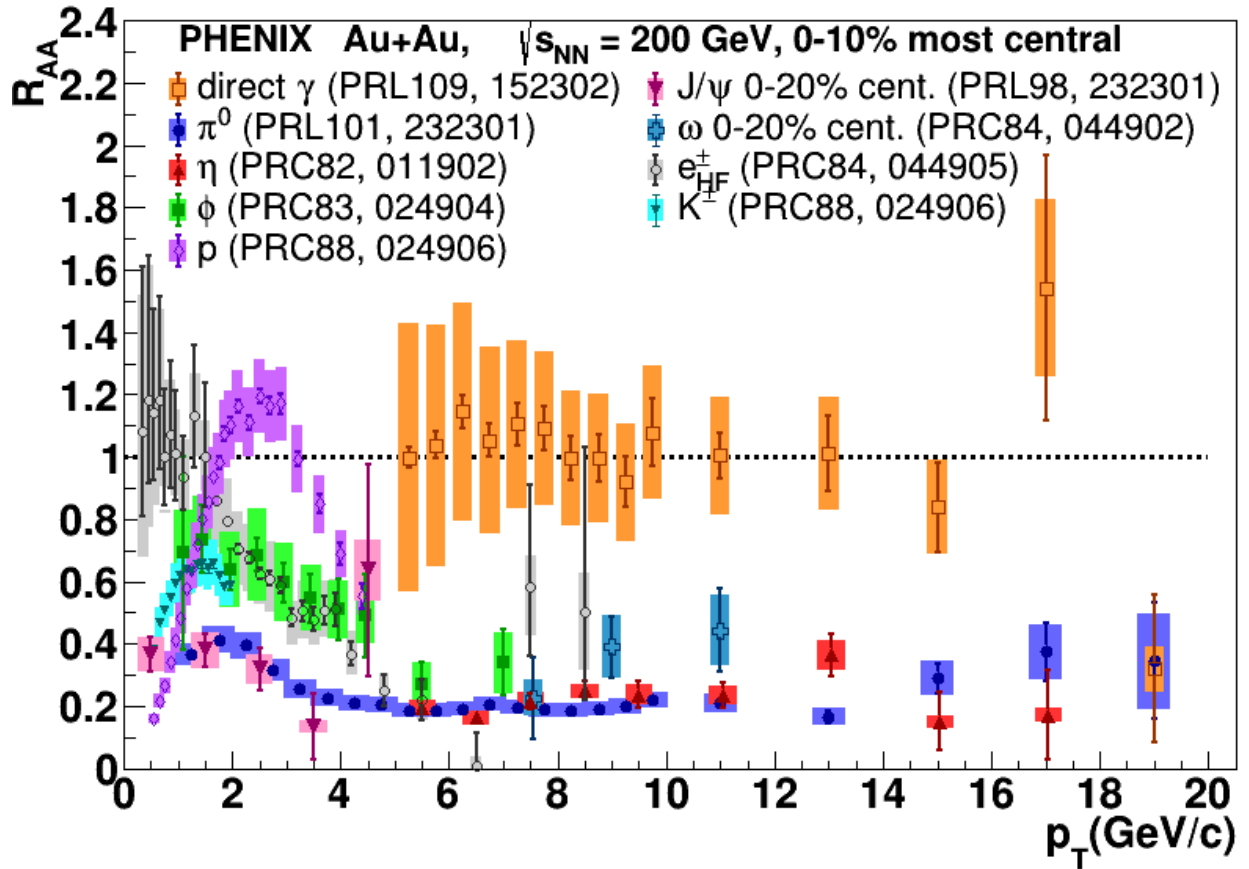


Figure 3.9: R_{AA} from PHENIX for direct photons [15], π^0 [7], η [8], ϕ [12], p [11], J/ψ [6], ω [10], e^\pm from heavy flavor decays [9], and K^\pm [11]. This demonstrates that colored probes (high- p_T final state hadrons) are suppressed while electroweak probes (direct photons) are not at RHIC.

3.6 The Beam Energy Scan Program

The RHIC, in 2010, started a multi-phase Beam Energy Scan (BES) program to study the QCD phase diagram. Between 2010 and 2011, during the exploratory phase I of the BES program, the collider provided Au+Au collisions at 7.7, 11.5 (not completed in PHENIX), 19.6, 27, and 39 GeV. Together with the data formerly collected by the RHIC at higher collision energies, BES phase I data can scan the interval from 450 MeV to 20 MeV in μ_B space [42, 39]. One of the things that can be studied with the data associated with this region of the phase space is the possibility of a “turn-off of new phenomena already established at higher RHIC energies” [42]. Results corresponding to the high- μ_B region might provide evidence of a first order phase transition, and possibly the critical point [39].

458 The manifestation of such phenomena might be in terms of the fluctuations or other
459 properties of the post-collision system. One can, for instance, study the scaling of the energy
460 density after the collision with the longitudinal energy at the time of the collision, $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$,
461 for which one needs to measure the transverse energy. This can be done in multiple ways
462 using a detector like STAR or PHENIX that is made up of sub-systems such as the Time
463 Of Flight (TOF) detectors, Time Projection Chambers (TPCs)/Time Expansion Chambers,
464 and calorimeters. The next chapter describes the measurement of transverse energy using
465 BES data from PHENIX calorimeters. Also, the next chapter and the ones after it contain
466 the procedures and the results of the analysis of the BES data from STAR using the identified
467 particle spectra.

Chapter 4

Measurement of Transverse Energy

This chapter introduces the definitions of transverse energy, ways to measure it using different detectors, and particular examples for the detectors at the RHIC.

4.1 Definition of Transverse Energy

The transverse energy, E_T , from a collision can be defined as the sum of the transverse masses, m_T , of all the particles produced in the collision, i.e.,

$$E_T \equiv \sum_i m_{T,i} \quad (4.1)$$

with

$$m_T \equiv \sqrt{p_T^2 + m^2} \quad (4.2)$$

where m is the rest mass of the particle and p_T is its transverse momentum. Using this definition to calculate the E_T requires perfect identification of all the particles. It has not been possible to do so in experiments, and so a more feasible, operational definition of E_T is used. A commonly accepted definition in the case of calorimetric measurements is [13, 25]:

$$E_T = \sum_i E_i \sin \theta_i, \quad (4.3)$$

480

$$\frac{dE_T}{d\eta} = \sin\theta \frac{dE}{d\eta}, \quad (4.4)$$

481 where the index i runs over all the particles going into a fixed solid angle for each event,
 482 θ is the polar angle, i.e, the angle with respect to the beam axis, η is the pseudorapidity
 483 defined as

$$\eta \equiv -\ln \tan \frac{\theta}{2}, \quad (4.5)$$

484 and E_i is the energy deposited in the calorimeter by the i^{th} particle. E_i is considered to be,
 485 by convention [14], the following

$$E_i = \begin{cases} E_i^{tot} - m_0 & \text{for baryons} \\ E_i^{tot} + m_0 & \text{for anti-baryons} \\ E_i^{tot} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (4.6)$$

486 where E_i^{tot} is the total energy of the i^{th} particle defined canonically as

$$E^{tot} \equiv \sqrt{p^2 + m_0^2} \quad (4.7)$$

487 and m_0 is the particle's rest mass.

488 E_i given by equation 4.6 is what would be observed by a calorimeter. In order to
 489 account for the portion of the emitted transverse energy not detected or overestimated by
 490 the calorimeters, corrections are made based on simulations.

491 **4.2 E_T Measurement with Calorimeters**

492 **4.2.1 Calorimeter**

493 A calorimeter in a particle or nuclear physics experiment is a device used to measure the
 494 energy carried by a particle by analyzing the signal generated by the shower of particles
 495 produced by the interaction of the incoming particle with the material of the device [45].
 496 In theory, a single calorimeter can be made to measure the energy deposited by different

497 kinds of particles. However, it makes more sense to have two different kinds of calorimeters:
 498 one optimized to measure the energy deposited by particles like electrons (or positrons)
 499 and photons, called an electromagnetic calorimeter (EMCal), and the other optimized to
 500 measure the energy deposited by hadronic particles, called a hadronic calorimeter (HCal).
 501 This is because of the difference in the particle showers that these two categories of particles
 502 generate. Electrons and photons mostly lose their energies in the calorimeter material via
 503 bremsstrahlung, Compton scattering and pair production. They generate particle showers
 504 made of electrons and photons which cannot travel much farther into the medium before
 505 losing all their energies in a series of interactions producing an avalanche of sequential
 506 showers. However, hadrons can interact inelastically with the nucleus generating a shower of
 507 hadrons. These secondary hadrons have much larger masses than the secondary electrons in
 508 the shower generated by the electrons and photons. This means they are not deflected nearly
 509 as much by the electric forces in the material and travel much farther into the calorimeter.
 510 For this reason, EMCals are comparably smaller in depth and are placed before the HCals
 511 in a detector assembly.

512 **4.2.2 E_T from PHENIX Calorimetry**

513 Adare et al. [4] uses electromagnetic calorimetry in PHENIX to analyze the transverse energy
 514 corresponding to several different pairs of species colliding at a range of energies. It uses the
 515 raw transverse energy measured by the EMCAL, E_{TEMC} , to obtain the total E_T by making
 516 corrections in three different steps.

517 They first scale the data by a constant factor, 4.188, calculated to account for the fiducial
 518 acceptance in azimuth and pseudorapidity. The second factor is calculated to adjust for the
 519 effects of the calorimeter towers that are disabled. The third factor, k , is the ratio of E_T
 520 and E_{TEMC} and is computed as follows:

$$k = k_{response} \times k_{inflow} \times k_{losses} \quad (4.8)$$

521 where $k_{response}$ corresponds to hadronic particles only depositing a fraction of their total
 522 energy while passing through the EMCAL, k_{inflow} is attributable to the energy deposited

by particles coming from outside the EMCal's fiducial aperture, and k_{losses} accounts for the energy not registered in the EMCal due to energy thresholds, edge effects, and more importantly due to the particles that make it into the fiducial aperture but decay into products outside the aperture.

$k_{response}$ is estimated using simulations of event generation and particle detection. With 75% of the incident energy measured by the EMCal in the simulation, $k_{response} = 1/(0.75) = 1.33$. 24% of the energy measured by the EMCal is found to be associated with the 'inflow' particles, and so $k_{inflow} = 1 - 0.24 = 0.76$. 22% of the energy is lost due to aforementioned reasons (10% + 6% + 6%), and so $k_{losses} = 1/(1 - 0.22) = 1.282$. From equation 4.8, then, $k = 1.30$, and this factor was found to vary for all the data sets by less than 1%.

The systematic uncertainties due to several contributions (listed in Table II in [4]) are added in quadrature to obtain the total systematic uncertainties in $dE_T/d\eta$. The uncertainty is low for the correction related to the acceptance (2%) as compared to that for the k factor: 3% for losses and inflow and 4.5%-4.7% for the energy response.

4.3 E_T Measurement with Tracking Detectors

Transverse energy analysis can be done using tracking detectors as well if they are able to produce measurements of other physical quantities that implicitly contain information about the transverse energy. Specifically, the charged particle multiplicity distributions with respect to the transverse momenta can be used, with assumptions involving particle ratios (section 5.3.2) and mean p_T , to calculate the particle's transverse energy. Since the corrections related to the tracking detectors are very different from those related to the calorimeters, results from the two different methods can be used to test the assumptions involved in each.

4.3.1 Tracking and Particle Identification

The tracking detectors in experiments such as the STAR (Solenoidal Tracker At RHIC) experiment and ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment) at CERN include Time Projection Chambers (TPCs) and Time-of-Flight (TOF) detectors that can be used to measure the p_T spectra, yields, and particle ratios of the identified charged hadrons [48, 2]. The TPCs provide

550 measurements of particle trajectories that can be used to determine the momenta for low-
551 momentum particles. They also provide measurements of their specific energy loss, $\frac{dE}{dx}$, which
552 can be used in combination with the momenta to identify particles using the Bethe-Bloch
553 formula [22]. The particle identification (PID) capabilities of STAR are discussed in section
554 4.3.3. TOF detectors cover the high-momentum part of the measurements. In ALICE, the
555 combination of the measurements of the TPC with those of the Inner Tracking System (ITS)
556 effectively adds the tracking length, thereby improving the resolution of the measured p_T
557 spectrum. Details about the PID and momentum determination capabilities of the detectors
558 in ALICE can be found in [26].

559 The p_T spectra, reported as $\frac{d^2N}{dydp_T}$ as a function of p_T , can be used to calculate $\frac{dE_T}{d\eta}$ as
560 formulated in the following section.

561 4.3.2 Calculation of $\frac{dE_T}{d\eta}$ from p_T spectra

562 In relativistic heavy ion collisions, rapidity (y) is defined as follows:

$$y \equiv \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{E + p_z}{E - p_z}, \quad (4.9)$$

563 where E is given by equation 4.7 and p_z is the component of the momentum parallel to the
564 beam axis. Pseudorapidity, η , is just y with $m_0 = 0$, which leads to equation 4.5. Taking
565 the exponential of both sides of the equation 4.5 and using Euler's formula, we get:

$$\sin \theta = \frac{1}{\cosh \eta}. \quad (4.10)$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \frac{p_T}{\sin \theta} \\ &= p_T \cosh \eta, \end{aligned}$$

566 and so we have

$$E_T = E \sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{p_T^2 \cosh^2 \eta + m_0^2}}{\cosh \eta} \quad (4.11)$$

The Jacobian for the transformation from y -space to η -space is derived to be:

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial \eta} = \frac{p_T \cosh \eta}{\sqrt{m_0^2 + p_T^2 \cosh^2 \eta}} \quad (4.12)$$

From equations 4.11 and 4.12, we can see that the product of E_T with the Jacobian is equal to p_T . That leads to a formulation of $\frac{dE_T}{d\eta}$ as a function of only η and p_T :

$$\frac{dE_T}{d\eta} = \frac{1}{2a} \int_0^{10 \text{ GeV}/c} \int_{-a}^a p_T \frac{d^2 N}{dy dp_T} d\eta dp_T \quad (4.13)$$

where a and $-a$ are the bounds for η . The estimate for the upper limit of p_T makes sense in accordance with the mean p_T of the spectra being comfortably an order of magnitude less than 10 GeV/c as discussed in chapter 5. More details on the kinematic variables y and η are in appendix A.

4.3.3 Tracking Detectors in STAR

In the STAR experiment, the TPC is the primary tracking detector. It is 4.2 m long and it cylindrically encloses the accelerator beam pipe from its outside, with an inner diameter of 1 m and an outer diameter of 4 m [41]. It covers a pseudorapidity range of $|y| < 1.8$ in all of azimuth for charged particles. It can identify particles with momenta over 100 MeV/c up to about 1 GeV/c as well as measure their momenta from 100 MeV/c to 30 GeV/c [17]. Figure 4.1 shows the PID capability of the STAR TPC for very high-multiplicity events [34]. Separation of pions from protons is demonstrated up to a little more than 1 GeV/c. At higher momenta, separating particles is more difficult because their energy loss has lower dependence on the rest mass [17]. The TOF system in STAR, with a time resolution of $\lesssim 100$ ps, aids PID at higher momenta. However, at intermediate p_T , between ≈ 2.0 and 4.0 GeV/c, the TPC by itself cannot distinguish between pions and protons and the TOF by itself cannot separate pions from kaons. This problem is resolved by utilizing the fact that the dependence of the particle velocity on p_T – in case of the TPC – is different from that of the energy loss on p_T in case of the TPC; combining the results from the two, hence, makes PID feasible in this p_T range [53].



Figure 4.1: Energy loss distribution in the STAR TPC for primary and secondary particles [17].

Chapter 5

Data Analysis

This thesis details the method of transverse energy analysis through the use of p_T spectra from the STAR BES data. As described in section 4.3.3, the TPCs and TOF detectors in STAR can identify particles as well as their trajectories and ultimately measure their multiplicity distributions with respect to the momenta. The available distributions were extrapolated to calculate the transverse energies and charged particle multiplicities. Details follow.

5.1 STAR p_T Spectra

Adamczyk et al. [2] reports the results for the midrapidity ($|y| < 0.1$) p_T spectra for six different identified hadrons, π^+ , π^- , K^+ , K^- , p , and \bar{p} , from the STAR experiment. The spectra come from $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7$, 11.5, and 39 GeV Au+Au collisions data taken in the year 2010, and from $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 19.6$ and 27 GeV Au+Au collisions data taken in 2011, both as part of the BES Program. Figure 5.1 [2] shows the spectra corresponding to 39 GeV collisions categorized into seven different collision centrality classes. Additionally, preliminary spectra were available from the STAR experiment for identified lambdas and anti-lambdas [Ye]. All of these spectra were used to calculate the total transverse energy per event per particle species. This result was then used to estimate the total transverse energy due to all the collision products. The corrections applied by Adamczyk et al. [2] to the raw data to obtain the spectra and the reported systematic uncertainties in their results are discussed below.

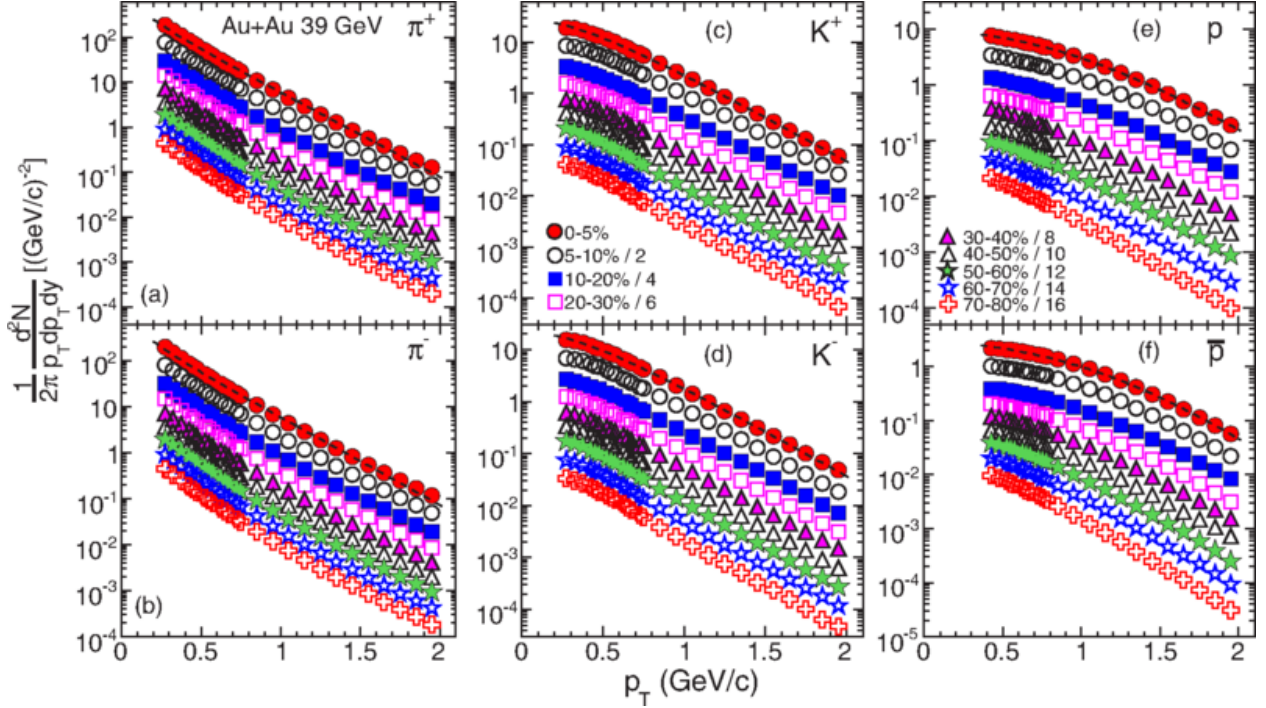


Figure 5.1: Transverse momentum spectra for π^+ , π^- , K^+ , K^- , p , and \bar{p} at midrapidity ($|y| < 0.1$) from 39 GeV Au+Au collisions at RHIC. The fitting curves on the 0-5% central collision spectra for pions, kaons, and protons/anti-protons represent, respectively, the Bose-Einstein, m_T -exponential, and double-exponential functions [2].

5.1.1 Corrections and Systematic Uncertainties

Detector acceptance and efficiency of reconstructing particle tracks account for most of the correction applied to the raw spectra. The efficiency \times acceptance correction factor is obtained as the ratio of the distribution of the reconstructed tracks from the experiment and the tracks simulated using the GEANT model of STAR. The inverse of this factor is used to scale the raw spectra. Figure 5.2 shows typical efficiency \times acceptance factors as functions of p_T for 0-5% central 7.7 GeV collisions.

Not all tracks formed in the TPC propagate to the TOF. A correction, called the TOF matching efficiency, is applied to the spectra obtained from the TOF. This correction is defined as the ratio of the number of tracks obtained from the TOF to the total number of tracks obtained from the TPC within the same acceptance. The inverse of the TOF matching efficiency is used to scale the TOF raw yields.

The algorithm used by STAR for track reconstruction assumes that each particle is a pion. A third correction is applied using a Monte Carlo simulation to account for the presence of the proton and the kaon tracks apart from the pion tracks. Two other corrections are obtained to subtract the backgrounds of secondary pions and protons produced from the interactions with the detector materials and those of the pions attributable to muon contamination and feed-down contribution from weak decays.

The systematic uncertainties are obtained by varying the analysis cuts and by estimating the tracking efficiencies for each of the identified particles. The former source contributes 4%, 3%, and 6% respectively and the latter 5% each for pions, kaons, and protons. Furthermore, the aforementioned energy loss correction contributes 3% and 5% systematic uncertainties for kaons and protons, respectively.

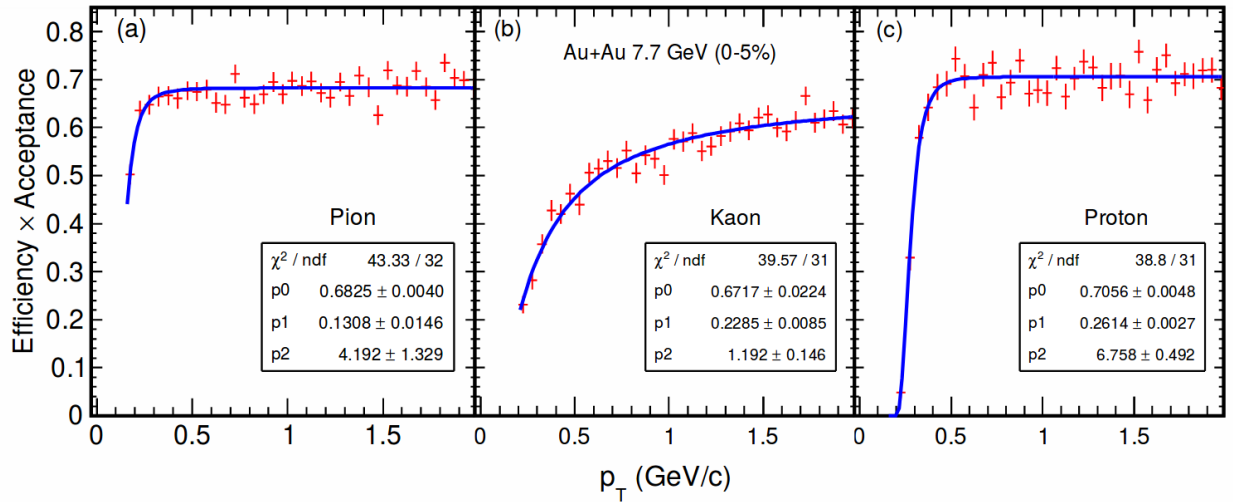


Figure 5.2: Midrapidity efficiency \times acceptance as a function of p_T calculated from STAR TPC Monte Carlo simulation of reconstructing (a) pions, (b) kaons, and (c) protons for 0-5% central 7.7 GeV Au+Au collisions. The curves represent functional fits of the form $y \propto \exp -\frac{1}{x}$ [2].

5.2 Extrapolation of Spectra

The available spectra were limited to a range of transverse momenta from around 0.25 GeV/c to around 2 GeV/c (for pions). At higher momenta, with model-dependent values, the p_T spectra may be dominated by hard-scattering processes. To account for the transverse energy

corresponding to the momenta for which there were no available data, an extrapolation had to be used. The model used for the extrapolation and the associated statistics are discussed below.

5.2.1 Boltzmann-Gibbs Blast Wave

The blast wave is a common model used in the analysis of particle momentum distributions [59, 60, 2]. The specific model used in this thesis is the Boltzmann-Gibbs blast wave (BGBW). This model assumes local thermal equilibrium at the kinetic freeze-out temperature for the applicability of a Boltzmann distribution. It also assumes a radially increasing velocity that attains a maximum value at the surface of the expanding fireball [60]. The BGBW is represented by the equation:

$$\frac{dN}{dp_T} \approx \int_0^R r dr p_T m_T I_0\left(\frac{p_T \sinh \rho}{T}\right) K_1\left(\frac{m_T \cosh \rho}{T}\right), \quad (5.1)$$

where $\rho = \tanh^{-1} \beta$ is the flow profile, $\beta = \beta_{max}(\frac{r}{R})^n$ is the flow velocity, n is the flow velocity profile exponent, r is the radial distance from the collision vertex, R is the distance of the expanding medium surface from the collision vertex, m_T is the transverse mass given by Eq. 4.2, T is the thermal freeze-out temperature, and $I_0(x)$ and $K_1(x)$ (x being the placeholder for the function arguments) are the modified Bessel functions of the first and second kind.

5.2.2 Fitting Spectra to BGBW

Figure 5.3 presents an example of a BGBW fit on one of the individual particle spectra with χ^2/ndf as well as other statistics and the associated uncertainties. The fitting is done in the ROOT software framework which is widely used in high energy physics data analysis. T , β , and n are treated as free parameters, while m is fixed. The results of the fits for each of the spectra are tabulated in appendix B

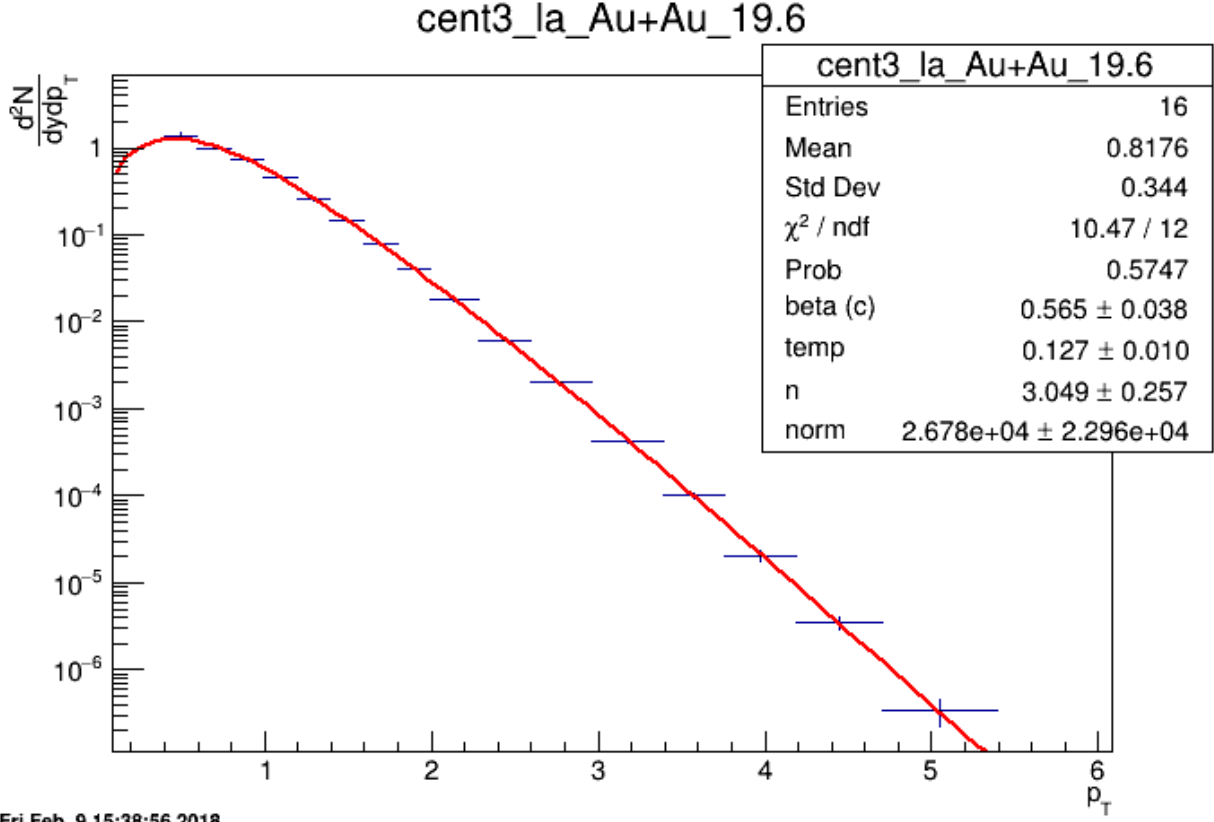


Figure 5.3: Red curve shows the Boltzmann-Gibbs blast wave functional fit on the preliminary transverse momentum spectrum for lambda particles identified by the STAR detector for 19.6 GeV Au+Au collisions (10-15% central). Parameters extracted from the chi-square goodness-of-fit test, as well as other statistics, are shown in the box on the top right.

5.3 Calculations from the Spectra

5.3.1 Calculation of $\frac{dE_T}{dy}$, $\frac{dE_T}{d\eta}$, $\frac{dN_{ch}}{dy}$, and $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$

The available multiplicity distribution for the p_T range, $p_{T,low}$ to $p_{T,high}$, of a spectrum divided the total spectrum into three different regions: (i) region where the experimental data is available, i.e., $p_{T,low}$ to $p_{T,high}$, (ii) extrapolation region from $p_T = 0$ GeV/c to $p_T = p_{T,low}$, and (iii) extrapolation region from $p_T = p_{T,high}$ to $p_T = 10$ GeV/c. Following the methods and the Jacobian transformation described in section 4.3.2, $\frac{dE_T}{dy}$, $\frac{dE_T}{d\eta}$, $\frac{dN_{ch}}{dy}$, and $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$ the spectra were calculated by adding said quantities corresponding to the three different regions in the distribution.

5.3.2 Assumptions, Estimation of Total E_T , and Uncertainties

It is assumed that most of the E_T is attributable to the contributions from pions, kaons, protons and neutrons. Contributions from heavier particles are assumed to be negligible, and there are some particles which are light but decay very rapidly into $\pi/K/p$ which are included in the spectra. It is also reasonable to assume that, at high energies, there should be roughly the same multiplicity of all the isospin states and anti-particles of a final state particle. This assumption was partially tested by comparing the E_T values calculated for the identified charged particles with those independently calculated for their anti-particles for the same values of collision energy and centrality. The comparisons revealed the E_T values of the particles being almost exactly equal to those of the anti-particles. This assumption is used to account for the energies of the isospin states of the pions, kaons and protons that were not identified.

Table 5.1 lists the isospin states and the anti-particles associated with the pion, the kaon, the proton, and the lambda particles.

Particle	Isospin multiplets
pion	π^+, π^0, π^-
kaon	K^+, K^0, K^-, \bar{K}^0
proton	p, n, \bar{p}, \bar{n}
lambda	$\Lambda, \bar{\Lambda}$

Table 5.1: Isospin states of different identified particles.

The total E_T for all the particles would then be:

$$E_T = \frac{3}{2}(E_T^{\pi^+} + E_T^{\pi^-}) + 2(E_T^{K^+} + E_T^{K^-}) + 2(E_T^p + E_T^{\bar{p}}) + E_T^\Lambda + E_T^{\bar{\Lambda}} \quad (5.2)$$

There are three major sources of systematic uncertainties: (i) uncertainties in the spectra available from [2], (ii) assumptions involved in the fitting function which mainly affects the extrapolation toward lower p_T values, and (iii) assumption regarding particle ratios and that most of the E_T is only carried by the particles listed in table 5.1. Uncertainties from the first source are propagated in the parameter uncertainties in the best-fit function, which are then propagated using the covariance matrices of the parameters to the E_T and N_{ch}

688 results. Uncertainties from the second source can be calculated by using several models,
 689 apart from the BGBW, to perform the extrapolations. Each of the models would have
 690 different assumptions involved in it, and the variation in the E_T results from the different
 691 models can give an estimate of the systematic uncertainties arising from the difference in
 692 the assumptions. Due to the time constraint for the completion of this thesis, calculation
 693 of these uncertainties are left for future work. Uncertainties from the third source result
 694 from the assumption of the calculation and would not be quantified. The uncertainties are
 695 assumed to be 100% correlated point to point, and uncorrelated between different particles.

696 **5.3.3 Lambdas Centrality Adjustments and E_T Interpolations**

697 The centrality bins corresponding to the lambdas spectra were slightly different from those
 698 corresponding to the rest of the particles. The centralities were binned the same way from 0%
 699 to 40%. However, the peripheral centralities for the lambdas were binned into 40-60% and
 700 60-80% bins, whereas, for the rest of the particles, the peripheral centralities were binned into
 701 40-50%, 50-60%, 60-70%, and 70-80% bins. For consistency, the lambdas E_T calculations
 702 were interpolated to the centralities corresponding to $\pi/K/p$ using the *Eval()* method of the
 703 *TGraph* class in the ROOT framework.

Chapter 6

Results

Present results and comparisons to Adare et al....

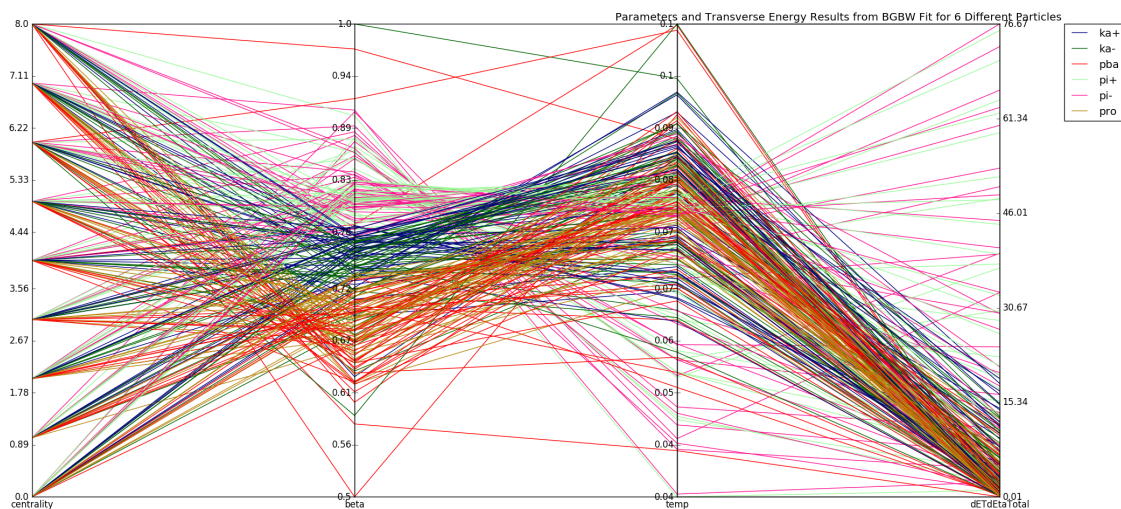


Figure 6.1: Parallel coordinates plot for 270 different spectra relating 6 different identified particles (color-coded) to their respective collision centrality classes, good-fit parameters, and the transverse energy calculated using said parameters.

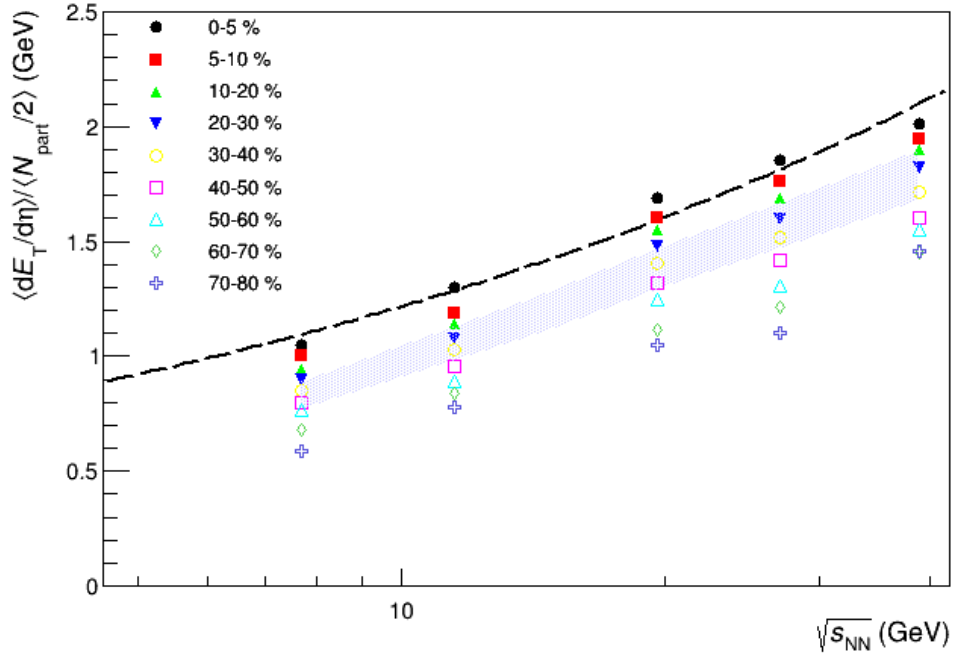


Figure 6.2: $(dE_T/d\eta)/0.5N_{part}$ at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ for different centralities. The dashed line represents a power-law fit to the 0-5% central data in the form $y = ax^{2b}$, where x and y are the placeholders for the quantities in the plot axes. $\chi^2/n.d.f$ for the fit was 1.806, and the good-fit parameters were $a = 0.4838 \pm 0.0429$ and $b = 0.2005 \pm 0.01466$. The shaded area represents the uncertainty bounds for the 0-5% central PHENIX data from [4].

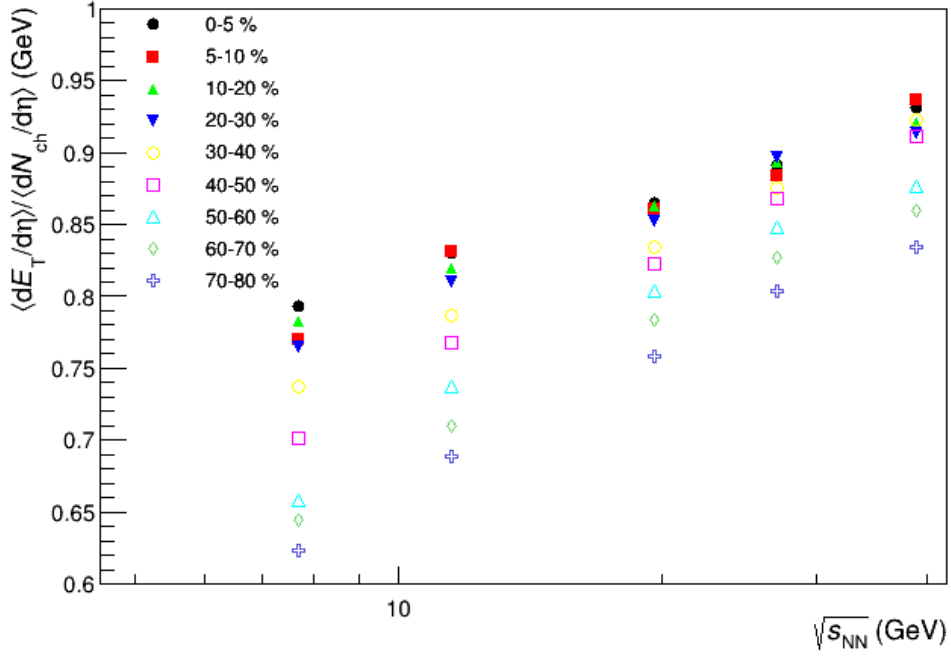


Figure 6.3: $\langle dE_T/d\eta \rangle / \langle dN_{ch}/d\eta \rangle$ at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ for different centralities.

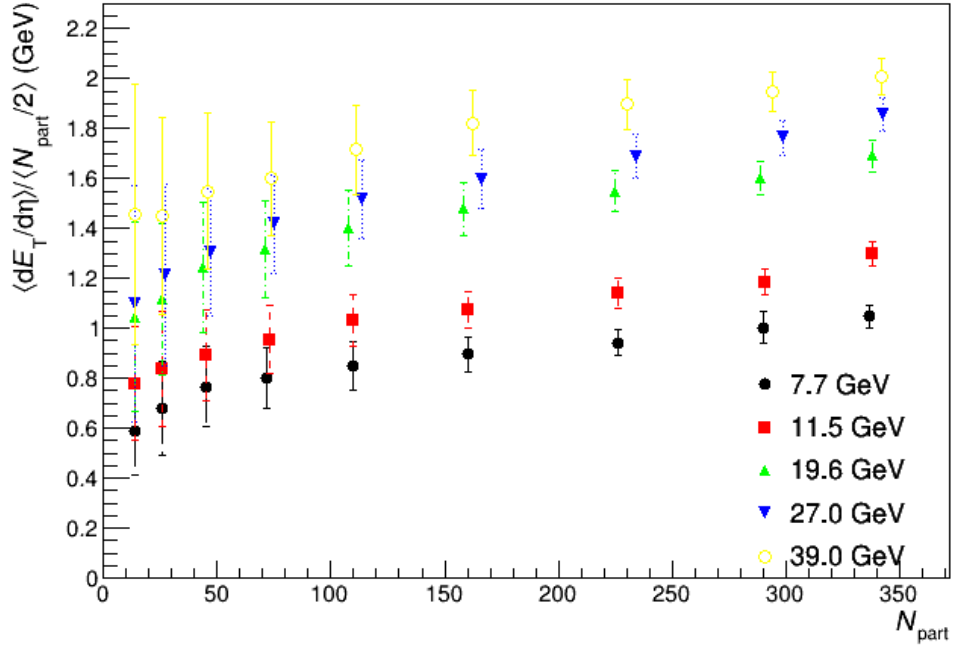


Figure 6.4: $\langle dE_T/d\eta \rangle / 0.5N_{part}$ at midrapidity as a function of N_{part} for different collision energies.

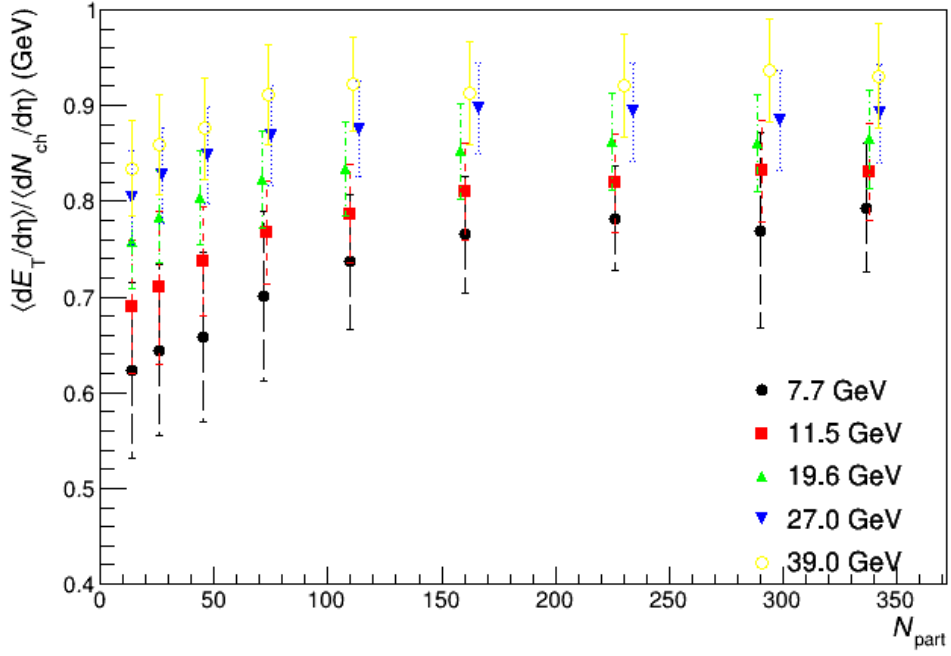


Figure 6.5: $\langle dE_T/d\eta \rangle / \langle dN_{ch}/d\eta \rangle$ at midrapidity as a function of N_{part} for different collision energies.

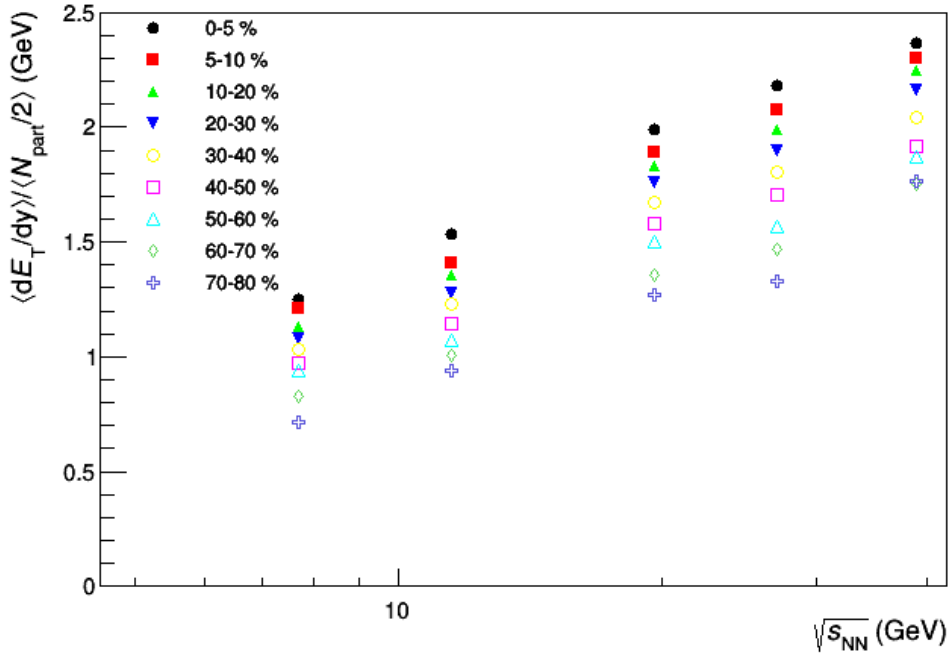


Figure 6.6: $\langle dE_T/dy \rangle / 0.5N_{part}$ at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ for different centralities.

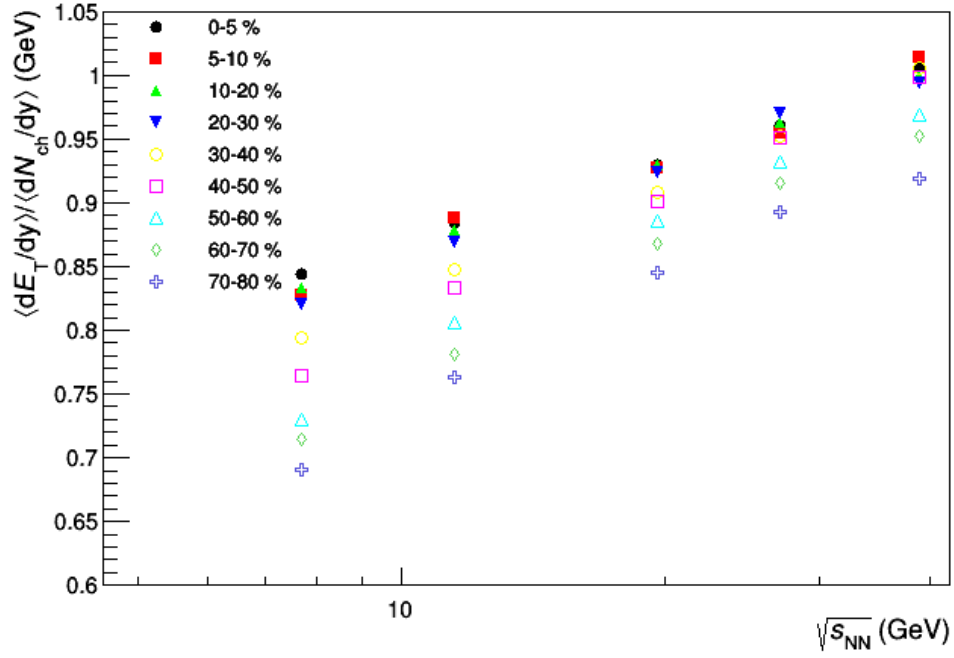


Figure 6.7: $\langle dE_T/dy \rangle / \langle dN_{ch}/dy \rangle$ at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ for different centralities.

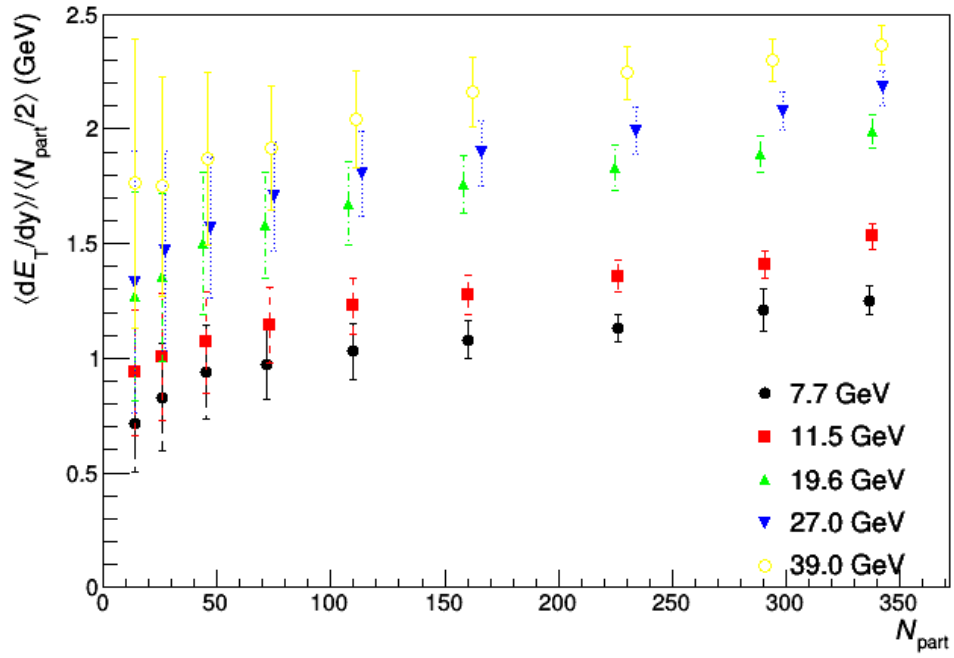


Figure 6.8: $\langle dE_T/dy \rangle / 0.5N_{part}$ at midrapidity as a function of N_{part} for different collision energies.

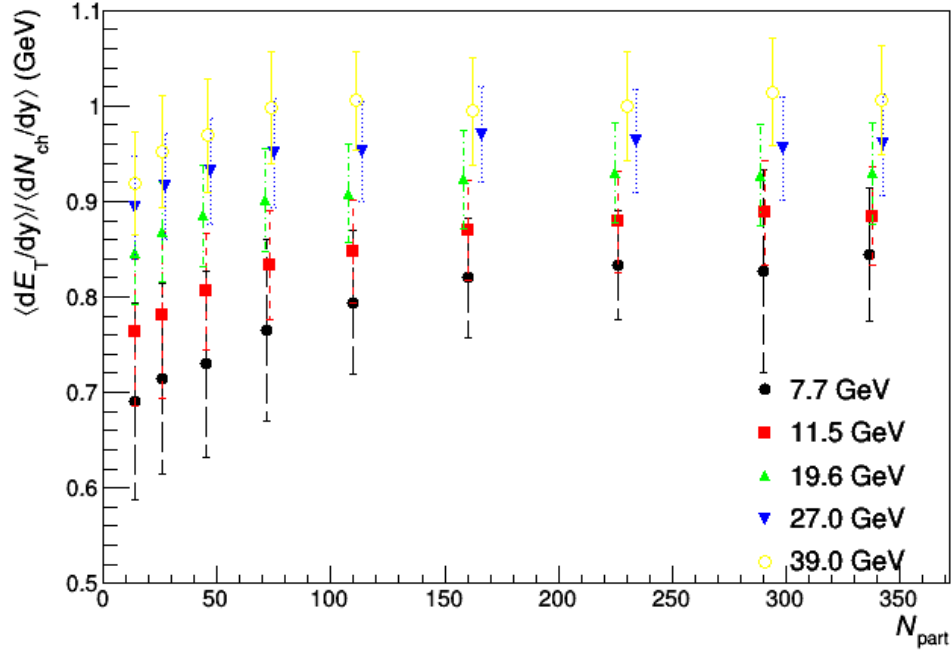


Figure 6.9: $\langle dE_T/dy \rangle / \langle dN_{ch}/dy \rangle$ at midrapidity as a function of N_{part} for different collision energies.

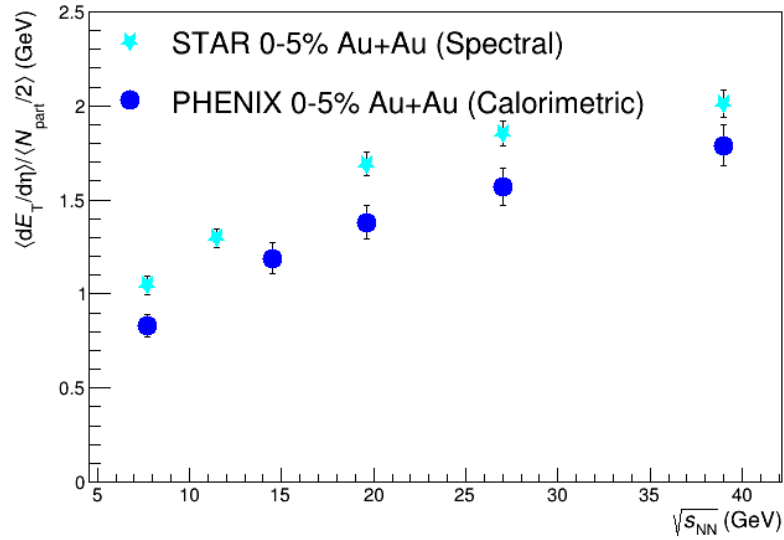


Figure 6.10: $\frac{dE_T}{d\eta} / 0.5N_{part}$ for 0-5% central collisions at midrapidity as a function of $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$. The PHENIX data are from [4]. The error bars represent the total statistical and systematic uncertainties.

707 **Chapter 7**

708 **Conclusion**

709 Summary and implications

Chapter 8

Future Work

8.1 Goodness of Fit

A maximum likelihood? fit method can be adopted to compare the results with those using the chi-squared fits.

8.2 Bjorken Energy Density Estimate

Apart from the transverse energy, the calculation of the initial energy density, ϵ , as given by the Bjorken formula in eq. 3.2, requires the estimate of other physical quantities. Adare et al.[4] use the Glauber model to determine A_T , the area of the intersection of the two nuclei in the transverse plane. Since the results in this thesis are cross-checked with those in [4], it would be reasonable to use the same model in the future work pertaining to this thesis. τ_0 , the proper time at the moment of QGP equilibration, also depends on the model of the collision. However, the product of ϵ and τ_0 is often used instead of just ϵ to study how the energy density scales with the collision energy and the number of participants.

724 **8.3 Asymmetric beams**

725 The codes in the repository can be used to analyze more data. In fact, since there is more
726 data available on collisions of asymmetric systems such as d+Au?, we can expect it to be a
727 test to tell if the assumptions? used in this analysis scale to such domains?

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Appendices

A Kinematic Variables

The description of the collision physics and the interpretation of its results are aided by the construction of variables that undergo simple transformations under a change of reference frame. Two such variables, rapidity and pseudorapidity, are described in this section.

The rapidity, y , of a particle is defined as:

$$y \equiv \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{p_0 + p_z}{p_0 - p_z} \quad (1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{E + p_z}{E - p_z}, \quad (2)$$

where p_0 and p_z are the components of its contravariant four-momentum $p = (p_0, p_x, p_y, p_z)$ with $p_0 = \frac{E}{c}$, E being the relativistic energy of the particle and c , the speed of light, being equal to 1 in natural units.

The rapidity of a particle is used as a relativistic description of its velocity. Unlike the canonical velocity of a particle, its rapidity transforms simply additively under a Lorentz boost of the frame of reference. For example, suppose a particle has a rapidity y in the laboratory frame. Let y' denote its rapidity as measured in a frame that is Lorentz boosted with a velocity β in the z -direction with respect to the laboratory frame. Then the relationship between the rapidities in the two different frames is simply

$$y' = y - y_\beta \quad (3)$$

Here,

$$y_\beta = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{1 + \beta}{1 - \beta} \quad (4)$$

is the rapidity the particle would have in the laboratory frame if it were moving with a velocity β in the z -direction with respect to the laboratory frame, as can be verified from equation 1 with $p_0 = \gamma m$ and $p_z = \gamma \beta m$, γ being the Lorentz factor $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$ [63].

The convenience provided by this construct comes with a cost. As evident from equation 1, the calculation of the rapidity of a particle requires the measurement of two different

1793 observables associated with it, such as the energy and the z -direction momentum. However,
1794 experimental constraints may sometimes only facilitate the measurement of the direction of
1795 the detected particle with respect to the beam axis. What's more convenient in such a case
1796 is the use of another variable construct called pseudorapidity, η , defined as:

$$\eta \equiv -\ln \tan \frac{\theta}{2}, \quad (5)$$

1797 where θ is the angle the particle's momentum vector, \mathbf{p} , makes with the z -direction. The
1798 above equation can also be written in terms of the momentum as:

$$\eta = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{|\mathbf{p}| + p_z}{|\mathbf{p}| - p_z} \quad (6)$$

1799 From equations 1 and 6, it is evident that $\eta \approx y$ when $|\mathbf{p}| \approx p_0$, i.e., when the momentum
1800 is large compared to the rest mass. The transformation of the particle distribution from the
1801 y -space to the η -space is discussed in section 4.3.2.

¹⁸⁰² B Results from BGBW Fits