


# RHIC Experimental Overview: What we have (not) learned

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## Outline

- Pre-history
  - Early efforts to understand hadronic *matter*
  - pre-RHIC murky experiments (not covered)
- RHIC as a revolution
  - Dedicated machine
  - Dedicated experiments
  - Access to perturbative phenomena
- RHIC as a discovery machine
  - Thermal hadronic matter
  - Hydrodynamic behavior
  - Precision via perturbative probes
- What remains

17-Nov-04

# RHIC experimental overview: What we have (not) learned



## Pre-History I

- **Fermi (1950)**
  - “High Energy Nuclear Events”, *Prog. Theor. Phys.* 5, 570 (1950)
  - Lays groundwork for statistical approach to particle production in strong interactions:
    - ◆ “Since the interactions of the pion field are strong, we may expect that rapidly this energy will be distributed among the various degrees of freedom present in this volume according to statistical laws.”

790 241. - High Energy Nuclear Events

241.

HIGH ENERGY NUCLEAR EVENTS

\* *Prog. Theor. Theoret. Phys.* 5, 570-583 (1950).


ABSTRACT

A statistical method for computing high energy collisions of protons with multiple production of particles is discussed. The method consists in assuming that as a result of fairly strong interactions between nucleons and mesons the probabilities of formation of the various possible numbers of particles are determined essentially by the statistical weights of the various possibilities.

1. INTRODUCTION.

The meson theory has been a dominant factor in the development of physics since it was announced fifteen years ago by Yukawa. One of its outstanding achievements has been the prediction that mesons should be produced in high energy nuclear collisions. At relatively low energies only one meson can be emitted. At higher energies multiple emission becomes possible. In this paper an attempt will be made to develop a crude theoretical approach for calculating the outcome of nuclear collisions with very great energy. In particular, phenomena in which two colliding nucleons may give rise to several  $\pi$ -mesons, briefly called hereafter pions, and perhaps also to some anti-nucleons, will be discussed. In treating this type of processes the conventional perturbation theory solution of the production and destruction of pions breaks down entirely. Indeed, the large value of the interaction constant leads quite commonly to situations in which higher approximations yield larger results than do lower approximations. For this reason it is proposed to explore the possibilities of a method that makes use of this fact. The general idea is the following: When two nucleons collide with very great energy in their center of mass system this energy will be suddenly released in a small volume surrounding the two nucleons. We may think pictorially of the event as of a collision in which the nucleons with their surrounding retinue of pions hit against each other so that all the portion of space occupied by the nucleons and by their surrounding pion field will be suddenly loaded with a very great amount of energy. Since the interactions of the pion field are strong we may expect that rapidly this energy will be distributed among the various degrees of freedom present in this volume according to statistical laws. One can then compute statistically the probability that in this tiny volume a certain number of pions will be created with a given energy distribution. It is then assumed that the

17-Nov-04



## Pre-History II

- **Landau (1955) significant extension of Fermi's approach**
- **Considers fundamental roles of**
  - hydrodynamic evolution
  - entropy
  - ◆ “The defects of Fermi's theory arise mainly because the expansion of the compound system is not correctly taken into account...(The) expansion of the system can be considered on the basis of relativistic hydrodynamics.”

88. A HYDRODYNAMIC THEORY OF  
MULTIPLE FORMATION OF PARTICLES

1. INTRODUCTION

Experiment shows that in collisions of very fast particles a large number of new particles are formed in multi-prong stars. The energy of the particles which produce such stars is of the order of  $10^{12}$  eV or more. A characteristic feature is that such collisions occur not only between a nucleon and a nucleus but also between two nucleons. For example, the formation of two mesons in neutron-proton collisions has been observed at comparatively low energies, of the order of  $10^9$  eV, in cosmotron experiments.<sup>1</sup> Fermi<sup>2,3</sup> originated the ingenious idea of considering the collision process at very high energies by the use of thermodynamic methods. The main points of his theory are as follows.

(1) It is assumed that, when two nucleons of very high energy collide, energy is released in a very small volume  $V$  in their centre of mass system. Since the nuclear interaction is very strong and the volume is small, the distribution of energy will be determined by statistical laws. The collision of high-energy particles may therefore be treated without recourse to any specific theories of nuclear interaction.

(2) The volume  $V$  in which energy is released is determined by the dimensions of the meson cloud around the nucleons, whose radius is  $\hbar/\mu c$ ,  $\mu$  being the mass of the pion. But since the nucleons are moving at very high speeds, the meson cloud surrounding them will undergo a Lorentz contraction in the direction of motion. Thus the volume  $V$  will be, in order of magnitude,


$$V = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left( \frac{\hbar}{\mu c} \right)^3 \frac{2M c^2}{E'} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $M$  is the mass of a nucleon and  $E'$  the nucleon energy in the centre of mass system.

(3) Fermi assumes that particles are formed, in accordance with the laws of statistical equilibrium, in the volume  $V$  at the instant of collision. The particles formed do not interact further with one another, but leave the volume in a "frozen" state.

С. З. Белевский и Л. Д. Ландау, Гидродинамическая теория множественного образования частиц, *Ученые Записки Харь.* 66, 309 (1955).  
S. Z. Belenkiĭ and L. D. Landau, Hydrodynamic theory of multiple production of particles, *Nuovo Cimento, Supplement*, 8, 16 (1959).

17-Nov-04



## Pre-History III

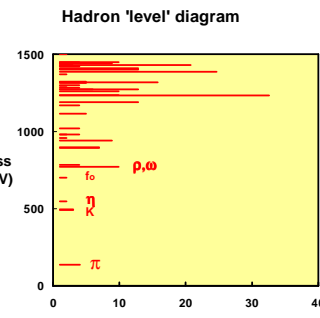
- Hagedorn (~1968) : An ultimate temperature?
- The very rapid increase of hadron levels with mass  
~ equivalent to an exponential level density

$$\equiv \text{---}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \text{---}$$

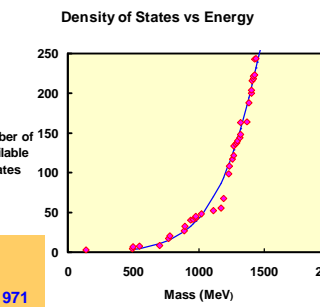
- and would thus imply a "limiting temperature"  
 $T_H \sim 170 \text{ MeV}$

Hagedorn,  
1968,  
Phys.Rev.D3:2821-2834,1971




Hadron 'level' diagram

17-Nov-04




Density of States vs Energy




## Puzzles from pre-History

- Huang and Weinberg (1970):
  - Ultimate Temperature and the Early Universe, Phys. Rev. Lett. 25, 896 (1970)
  - Difficulties in constructing a consistent theory of the early universe with a limiting temperature
  - Its own fine-tuning problem(s)
    - ◆ "A curious tentative view of cosmic history emerges from these considerations...at earlier times ( $T > T_0$ ),  $\rho$  was, once again, dominated by non-relativistic baryons!"

17-Nov-04



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## History!

- 1973: “Puzzles” resolved
- Gross, Politzer, Wilczek
- Miraculous year, Miraculous theory

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 26      PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS      25 JUNE 1973

<sup>1</sup>Y. Nambu and G. Jona-Lasinio, *Phys. Rev.* **122**, 945 (1961); S. Coleman and E. Weinberg, *Phys. Rev. D* **2**, 1888 (1972).  
<sup>2</sup>See, Synnash (to be published) has recently suggested that one consider a  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory with a negative  $\lambda$  to achieve UV stability at  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ . However, one can show, using the renormalization-group equations, that in such theory the ground-state energy is unbounded from below (S. Coleman, private communication).  
<sup>3</sup>W. A. Bardeen, H. Fritzsch, and M. Gell-Mann, CERN Report No. CERN-TH.1528, 1972 (to be published).  
<sup>4</sup>H. Georgi and S. L. Glashow, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **28**, 1494 (1972); S. Weinberg, *Phys. Rev. D* **5**, 1962 (1972).  
<sup>5</sup>For a review of this program, see S. L. Adler, in *Proceedings of the Sixteenth International Conference on High Energy Physics*, National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois, 1972 (to be published).

Reliable Perturbative Results for Strong Interactions?<sup>6\*</sup>

H. David Politzer  
*Jefferson Physical Laboratories, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138*  
(Received 3 May 1973)

An explicit calculation shows perturbation theory to be arbitrarily good for the deep Euclidean Green's functions of any Yang-Mills theory and of many Yang-Mills theories with fermions. Under the hypothesis that spontaneous symmetry breakdown is of dynamical origin, these symmetric Green's functions are the asymptotic forms of the physically significant spontaneously broken solution, whose coupling could be strong.

Renormalization-group techniques hold great promise for studying short-distance and strong-coupling problems in field theory.<sup>7,8</sup> Symmetries<sup>9</sup> goes to zero, compensating for the fact that there are more and more of them. But the large- $\beta^2$  divergence represents a real breakdown of


PHYSICAL REVIEW D      VOLUME 8, NUMBER 10      15 NOVEMBER 1973

Asymptotically Free Gauge Theories. I<sup>\*</sup>

David J. Gross<sup>1</sup>  
*National Accelerator Laboratory, P. O. Box 500, Batavia, Illinois 60510*  
*and Joseph Henry Laboratories, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08540*

Frank Wilczek<sup>2</sup>  
*Joseph Henry Laboratories, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08540*  
(Received 23 July 1973)

Asymptotically free gauge theories of the strong interactions are constructed and analyzed. The reasons for doing this are recounted, including a review of renormalization-group techniques and their application to scaling phenomena. The renormalization-group equations are derived for Yang-Mills theories. The parameters that enter into the equations are calculated to lowest order and it is shown that these theories are asymptotically free. More specifically the effective coupling constant, which determines the ultraviolet behavior of the theory, vanishes for large spacelike momenta. Fermions are incorporated and the construction of realistic models is discussed. We propose that the strong interactions be mediated by a "color" gauge group which commutes with  $SU(3) \times SU(3)$ . The problem of symmetry breaking is discussed. It appears likely that this would have a dynamical origin. It is suggested that the gauge symmetry might not be broken and that the severe infrared singularities prevent the occurrence of noncolor singlet physical states. The deep-inelastic structure functions, as well as the electron-positron total annihilation cross section are analyzed. Scaling obtains up to calculable logarithmic corrections, and the naive light-cone or parton-model results follow. The problems of incorporating scalar mesons and breaking the symmetry by the Higgs mechanism are explained in detail.



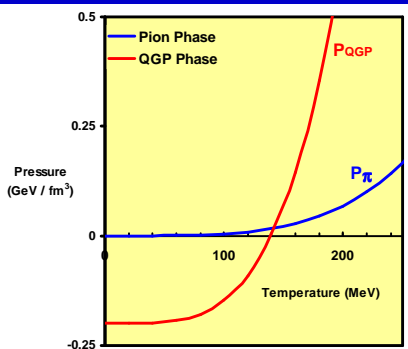
## Hagedorn Temperature → QCD Phase Transition

- Compare

$$P_\pi = 3 \frac{\pi^2}{90} T^4$$
**Pressure of “pure” pion gas at temperature T**

$$P_{QGP} = g \frac{\pi^2}{90} T^4 - B, \quad g = 37$$
**Pressure in plasma phase with “Bag constant” B ~ 0.2 GeV / fm<sup>3</sup>**


- **Select system with higher pressure:**



→ **Phase transition at T ~ 140 MeV with latent heat ~0.8 GeV / fm<sup>3</sup>**

Compare to best estimates (Karsch, QM01) from lattice calculations:  
**T ~ 150-170 MeV**  
**latent heat ~ 0.7±0.3 GeV / fm<sup>3</sup>**

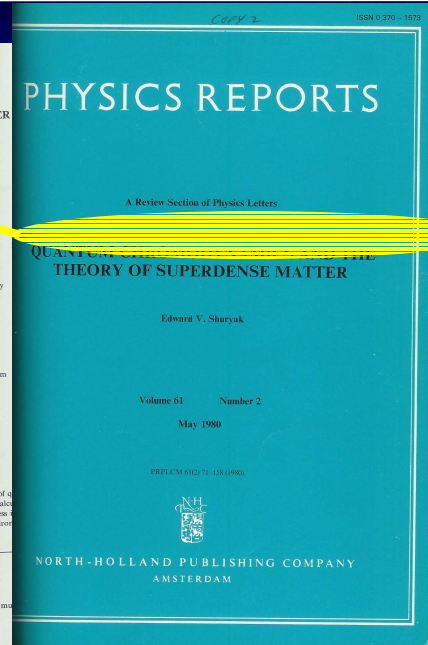
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## Shuryak 1980

- Shuryak publishes first “review” of thermal QCD- and coins a phrase:
  - “Because of the apparent analogy with similar phenomena in atomic physics, we may call this phase of matter the QCD (or quark-gluon) plasma.”

(QGP)



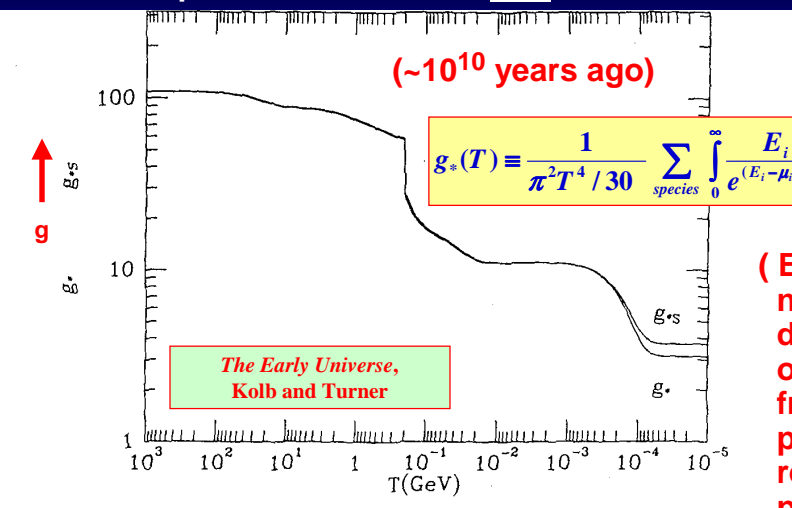
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## Previous Attempts

First attempt at QGP formation was successful

(~10<sup>10</sup> years ago)



( Effective number of degrees-of-freedom per relativistic particle )

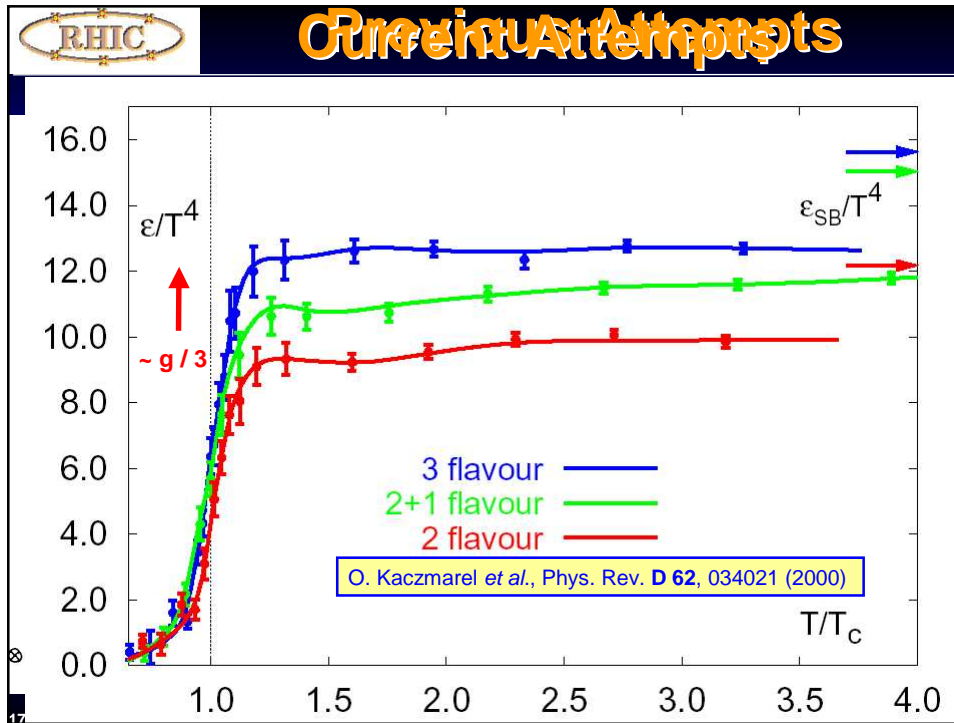
The Early Universe, Kolb and Turner

$$g_*(T) \equiv \frac{1}{\pi^2 T^4 / 30} \sum_{\text{species}} \int_0^\infty \frac{E_i(p)}{e^{(E_i - \mu_i)/T_i} \pm 1} \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3}$$

Fig. 3.5: The evolution of  $g_*(T)$  as a function of temperature in the  $SU(3)_C \otimes SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$  theory.

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**RHIC Experimental History**

- Also dates back to 1974
- Long interregnum:
  - LBNL Bevalac
  - BNL AGS
  - CERN SPS
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - **RHIC**

Report of the Workshop on  
BEV/NUCLEON COLLISIONS OF HEAVY IONS - HOW AND WHY


NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
AND  
NEVIS LABORATORIES, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 1974  
BEAR MOUNTAIN, NEW YORK

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# RHIC experimental overview: What we have (not) learned

## RHIC Specifications


- 3.83 km circumference
- Two independent rings
  - 120 bunches/ring
  - 106 ns crossing time
- Capable of colliding
  - ~any nuclear species on
  - ~any other species
- Energy:
  - 500 GeV for p-p
  - 200 GeV for Au-Au (per N-N collision)
- Luminosity
  - Au-Au:  $2 \times 10^{26} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
  - p-p :  $2 \times 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (polarized)



## RHIC's Experiments




17-Nov-04



## RHIC Achievements to Date

- **Machine :**
  - **Runs 1-4 (Calendar Years 2000-2004):**
    - ◆ Au+Au: operation at 4 energies (19, 62, 130, 200 GeV)
    - ◆ d+Au comparison run (200 GeV)
    - ◆ p+p baseline (200 GeV)
  - Routine operation in excess of twice design luminosity !
  - First polarized hadron collider !
- **Experimental Operations:**
  - Routine collection, analysis of 100 Tb datasets
  - >50 publications in Physical Review Letters
  - Excellent control of systematics and inter-experiment comparisons
- **Experimental Results:**
  - Record densities created ~100 times normal nuclear density
  - New phenomena clearly observed (“jet” quenching)
  - Strong suggestions of a new state of matter

17-Nov-04




## RHIC Data to Date

- What have the four RHIC experiments (BRAHMS, PHENIX, PHOBOS, STAR) measured in the first 4 RHIC runs?
- “Only”
  - $\gamma$ 's,  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $\pi^0$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $K^{*0}(892)$ ,  $K_s^0$ ,  $\eta$ , p, d,  $\rho^0$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\Delta$ ,  $\Lambda$ ,  $\Sigma^*(1385)$ ,  $\Lambda^*(1520)$ ,  $\Xi^\pm$ ,  $\Omega$ ,  $D^0$ ,  $D^\pm$ ,  $J/\Psi$ 's, (+ anti-particles) ...
- How to characterize this embarrassment of riches?

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## Summary

- The experiments work
- The **initial nuclear geometry** is determined event-by-event
  - Impact parameter
  - Reaction plane
- Multiplicities are “low”
- Abundances are thermal
- Motion is hydrodynamic
- New phenomena observed
- Evidence for partonic recombination
- Hints of the extraordinary

} Essentially all signals studied as function of  $N_{\text{participants}}$  and  $N_{\text{collisions}}$

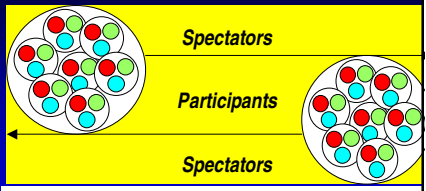
} “jet” quenching, baryon/pion “anomaly”

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## Determining the Initial Geometry

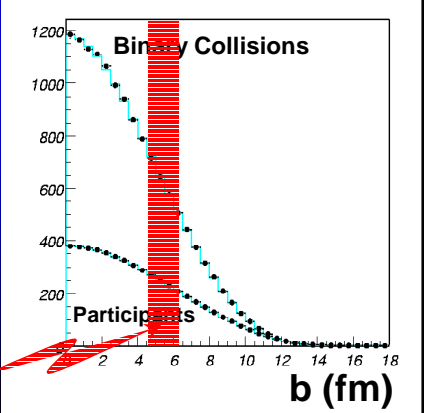
- All four RHIC experiments have carefully developed techniques for determining
  - the number of participating nucleons  $N_{\text{PART}}$  in each collision (and thus the impact parameter)
  - The number of binary nucleon-nucleon collisions  $N_{\text{COLL}}$  as a function of impact parameter
- This effort has been essential in making the QCD connection
  - Soft physics  $\sim N_{\text{PART}}$
  - Hard physics  $\sim N_{\text{COLL}}$
- Often express impact parameter  $b$  in terms of “centrality”, e.g., **10-20%** most central collisions



Spectators

Participants

Spectators




**Binary Collisions**

**Participants**

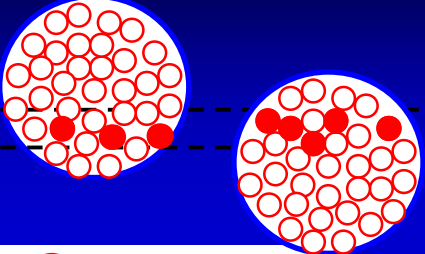
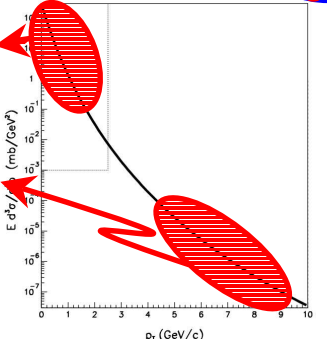
**b (fm)**

17-Nov-04




## Predicting $p_T$ Distributions at RHIC

- Focus on some slice of collision:
  - Assume 3 nucleons struck in A and 5 in B
  - Do we weight this contribution as
    - ◆  $N_{part} (= 3 + 5) ?$
    - ◆  $N_{coll} (= 3 \times 5) ?$
- Answer is a function of  $p_T$  :
  - Low  $p_T \rightarrow$  large cross sections
    - ➔ yield  $\sim N_{part}$
    - ◆ Soft, non-perturbative, "wounded nucleons", ...
  - High  $p_T \rightarrow$  small cross sections
    - ➔ yield  $\sim N_{coll}$
    - ◆ Hard, perturbative, "binary scaling", point-like,  $A \cdot B$ , ...

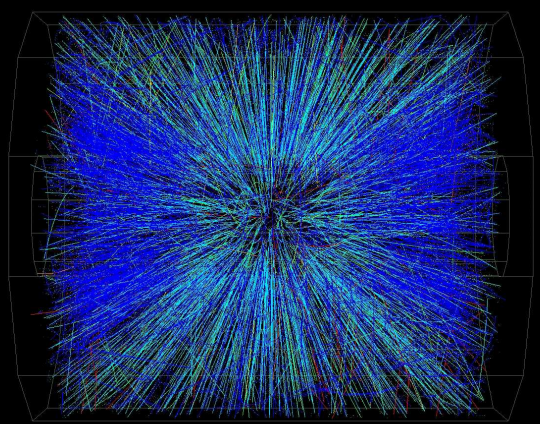
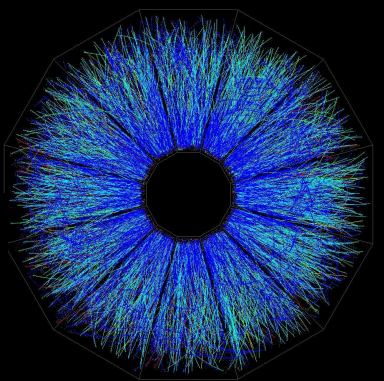



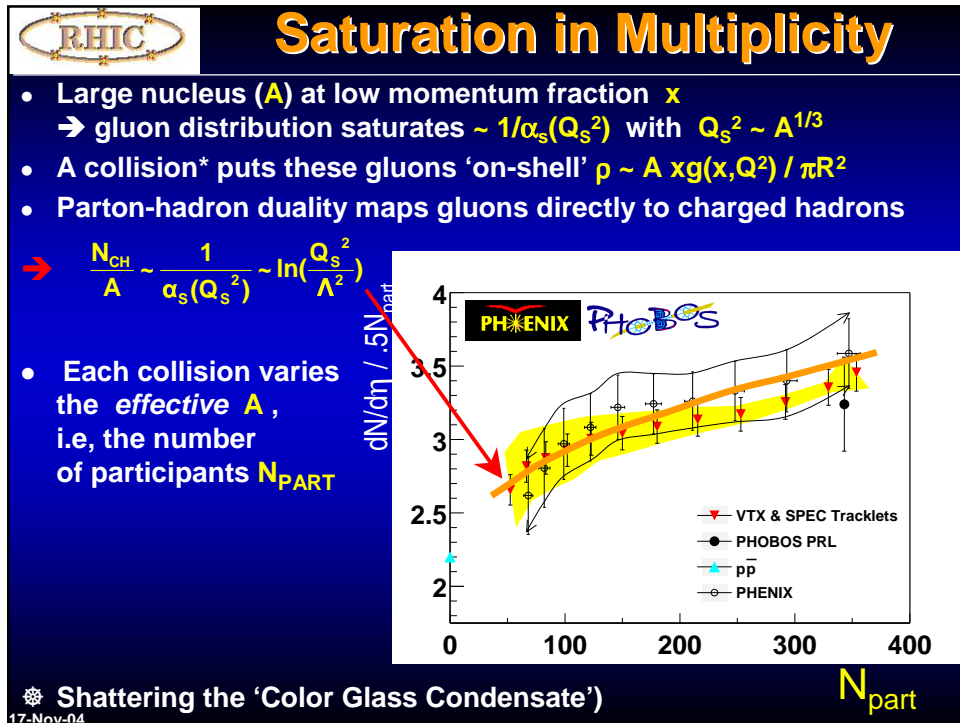
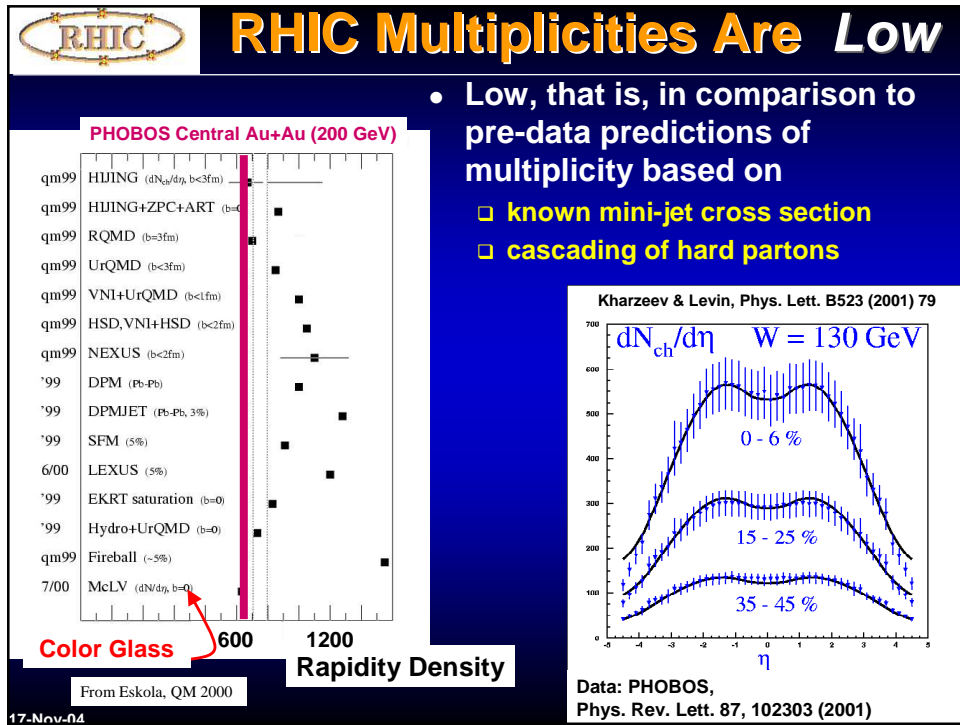
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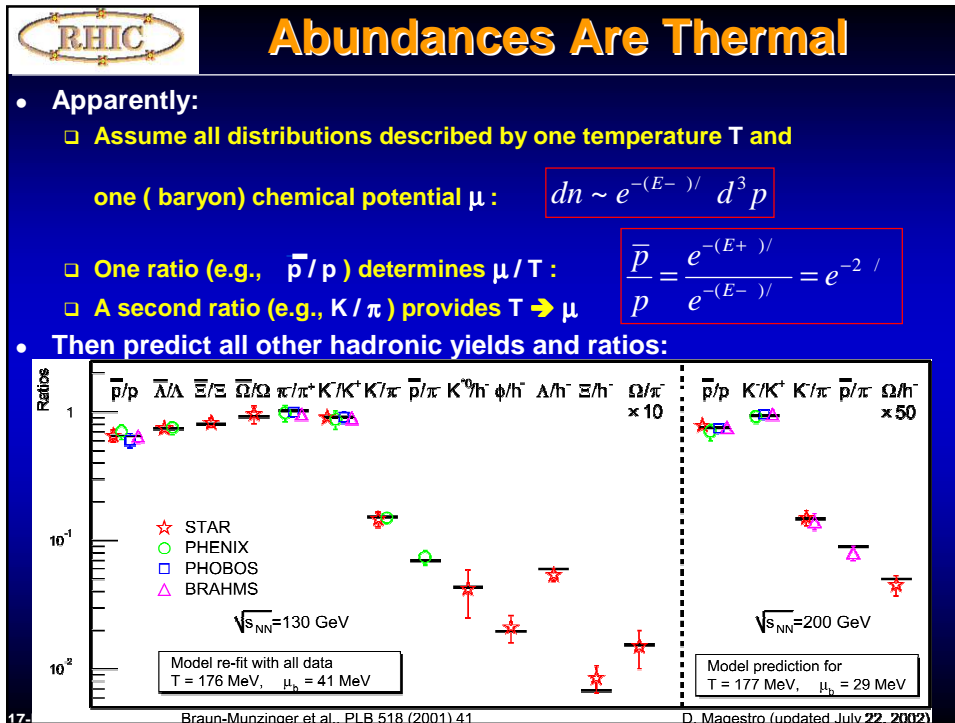
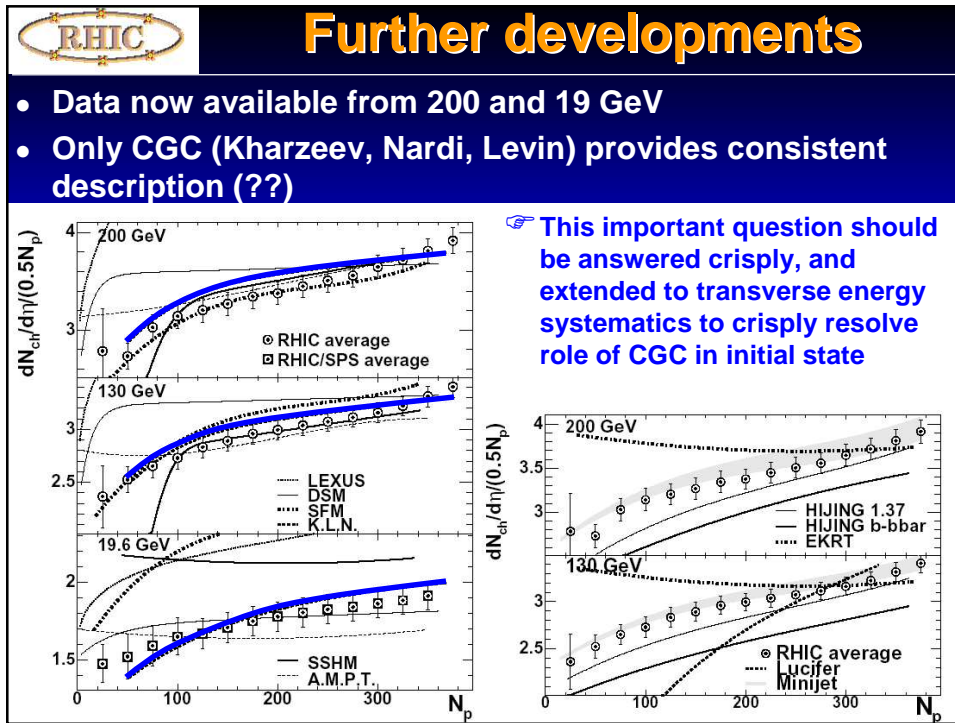


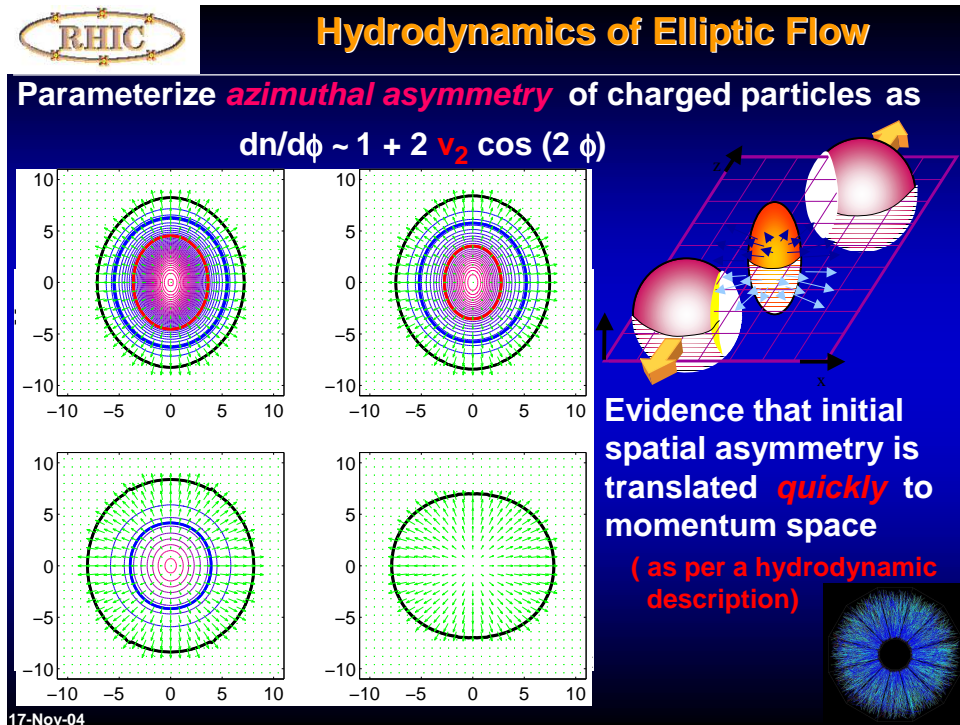
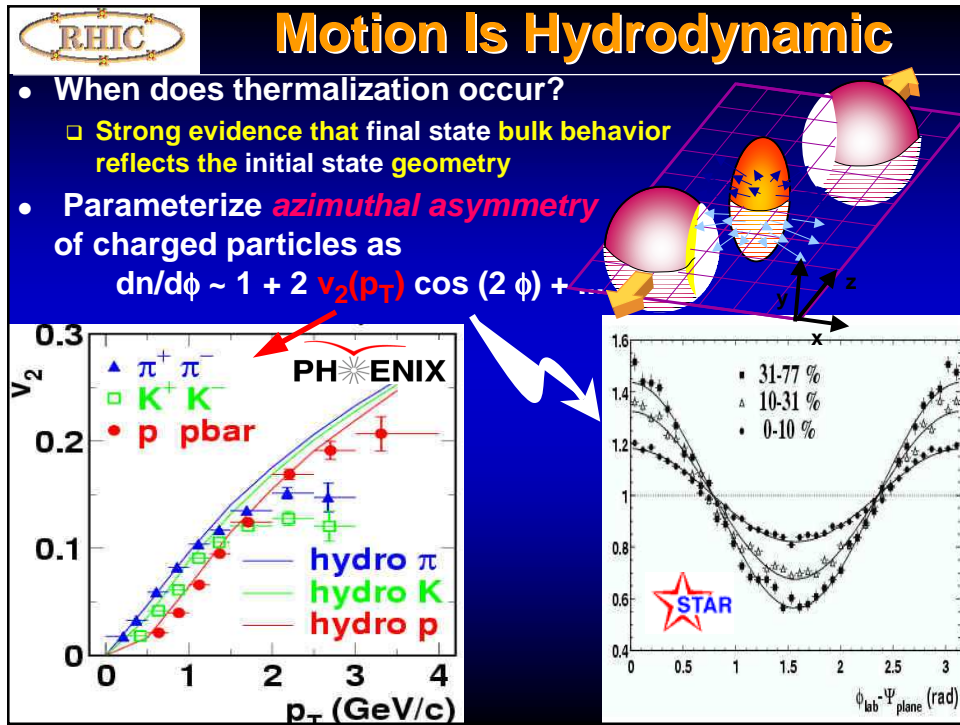
## Multiplicities Are "Low" ?


Data Taken June 25, 2000.  
Pictures from STAR Level 3 online display.



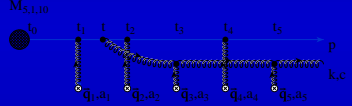






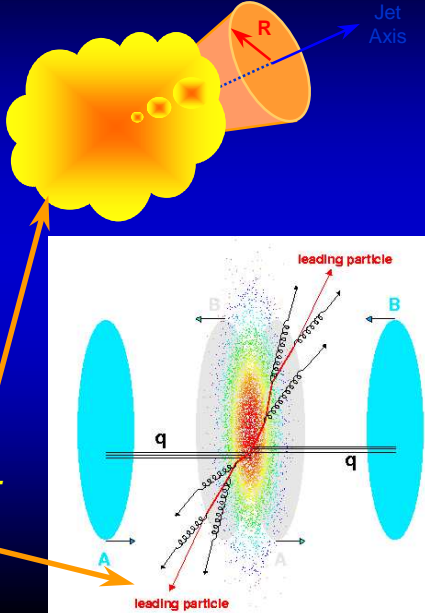
## ‘Jets’ at RHIC

- Tremendous interest in hard scattering (and subsequent energy loss in QGP) at RHIC
  - Production rate calculable in pQCD
    - ➔ a superb probe of *density*
  - But strong reduction predicted due to  $dE/dx \sim \text{path-length}$  (due to non-Abelian nature of medium)




- However:
  - “Traditional” jet methodology very difficult at RHIC
  - Dominated by the soft background

➔ Investigate by (systematics of) *high- $p_T$  single particles*



17-Nov-04



## High $p_T$ Particle Production in A+A

(Slide courtesy of K. Filimonov)

$$\frac{dN_{AB}^h}{dy d^2 p_T} = K \sum_{abcd} \int dx_a dx_b \int d^2 \mathbf{k}_a d^2 \mathbf{k}_b$$

$\times f_{a/A}(x_a, Q^2) f_{b/B}(x_b, Q^2)$ 

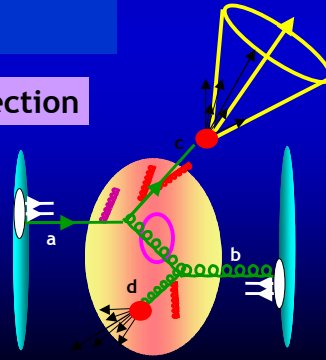
Parton Distribution Functions

$$\times \frac{d\sigma}{d\hat{t}}(ab \rightarrow cd)$$

Hard-scattering cross-section


$$\frac{D_{h/c}^0(z_c^*, Q_c^2)}{\pi z_c}$$

Fragmentation Function



17-Nov-04

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## Access to Perturbative Phenomena?

- Consider measurement of  $\pi^0$ 's in p+p collisions at RHIC.
- Compare to pQCD calculation

$$d\sigma = f_{a/A}(x_a, \mu^2) \otimes f_{b/B}(x_b, \mu^2)$$

- parton distribution functions, for partons a and b
- measured in DIS, universality

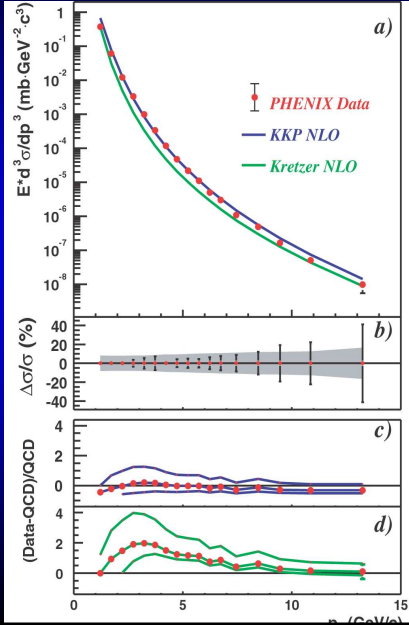
$$\hat{\otimes} d\sigma(a+b \rightarrow c+d)$$

- perturbative cross-section (NLO)
- requires hard scale
- factorization between pdf and cross section


$$\hat{\otimes} D_{h/c}(z_h, \mu^2)$$

- fragmentation function
- measured in e+e-

- [Phys. Rev. Lett. 91, 241803 \(2003\)](#)

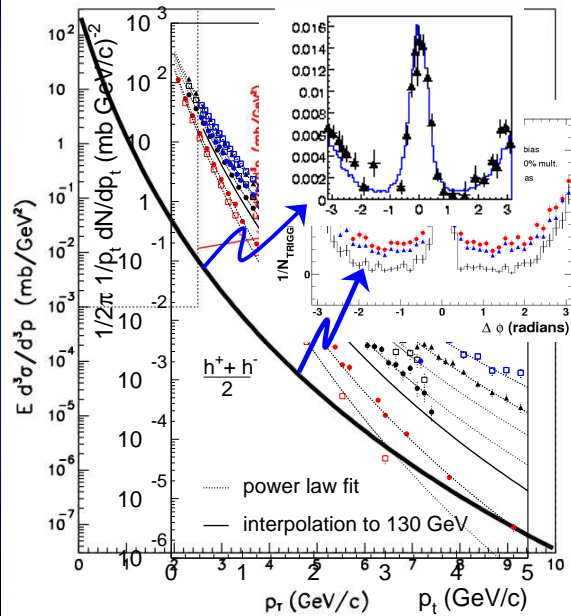


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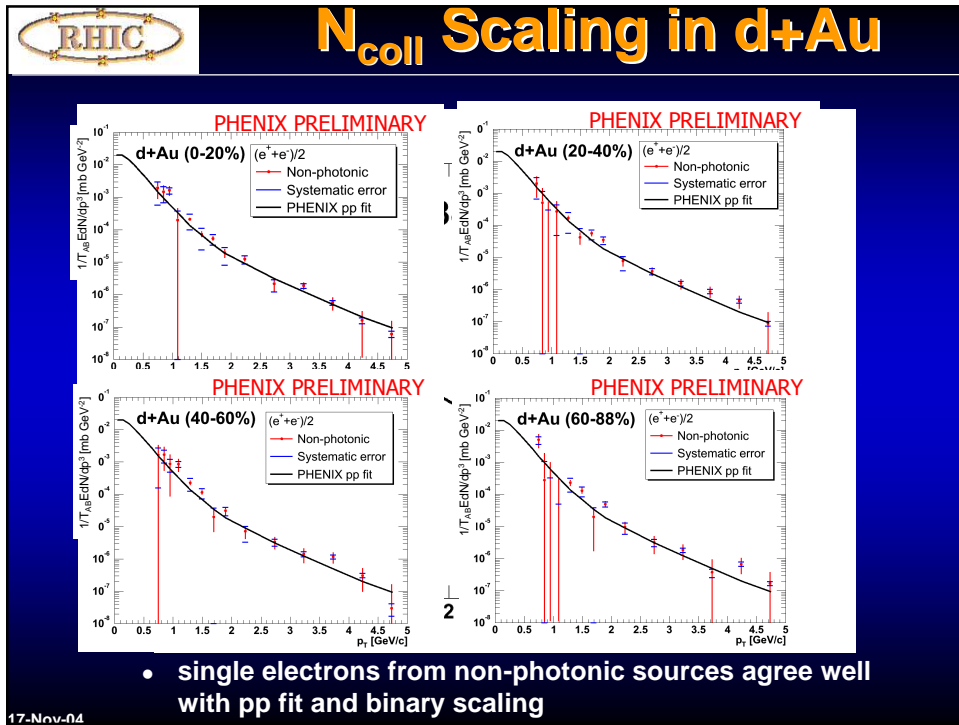
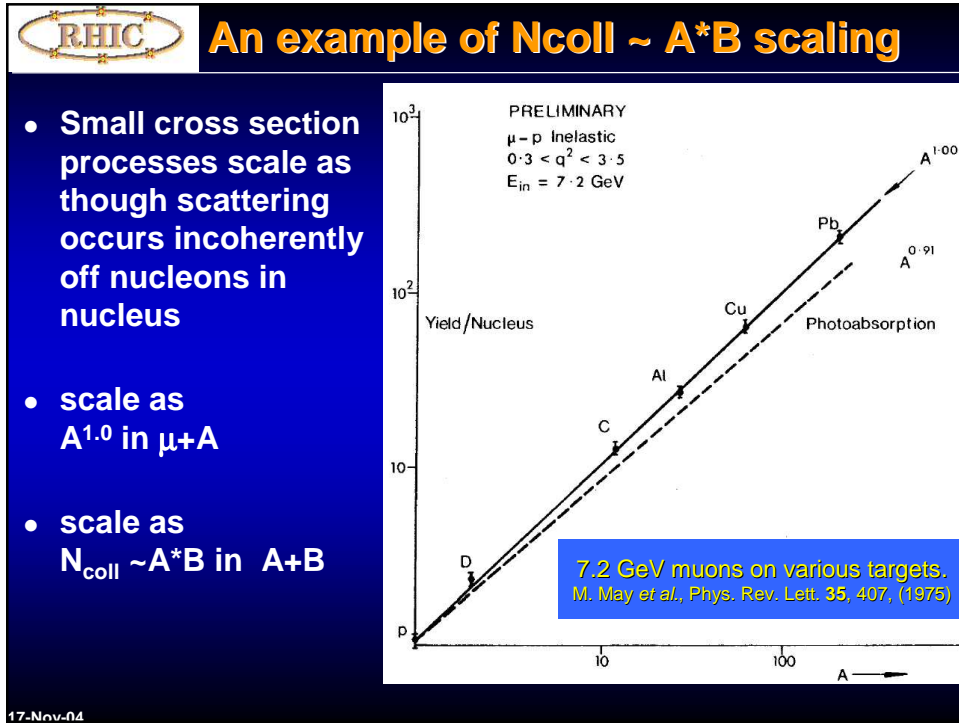
## Transverse Dynamics

- The ability to access “jet” physics also clearly anticipated in RHIC design manual
  - (vintage: ISAJET)
  - a new perturbative probe of the colliding matter
- Most studies to date have focused on single-particle “high  $p_T$ ” spectra
  - Please keep in mind: “High  $p_T$ ” is lower than you think



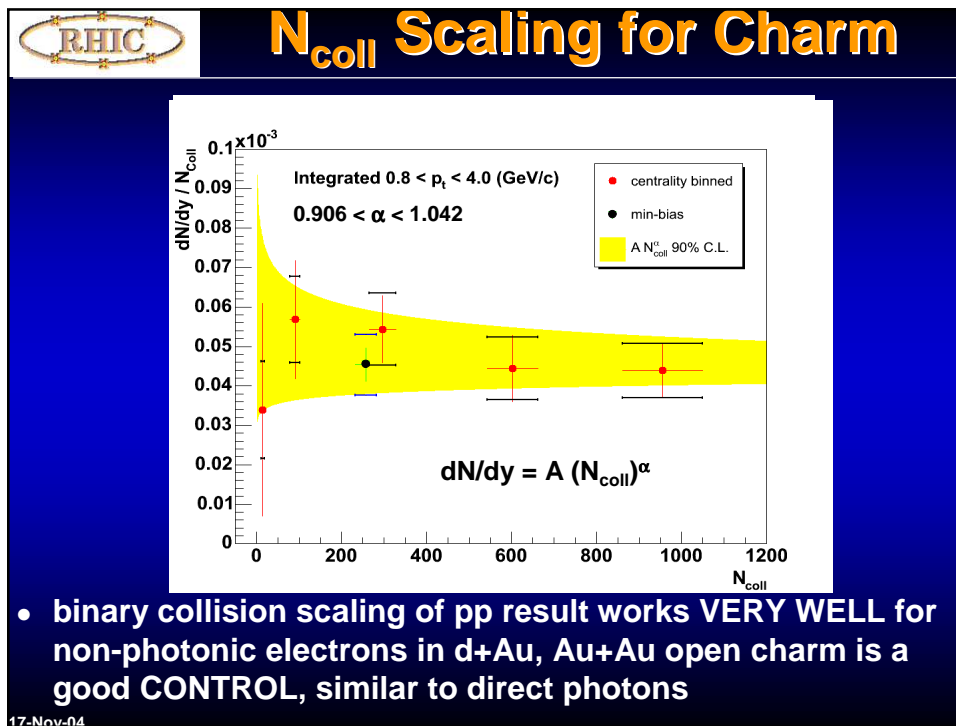
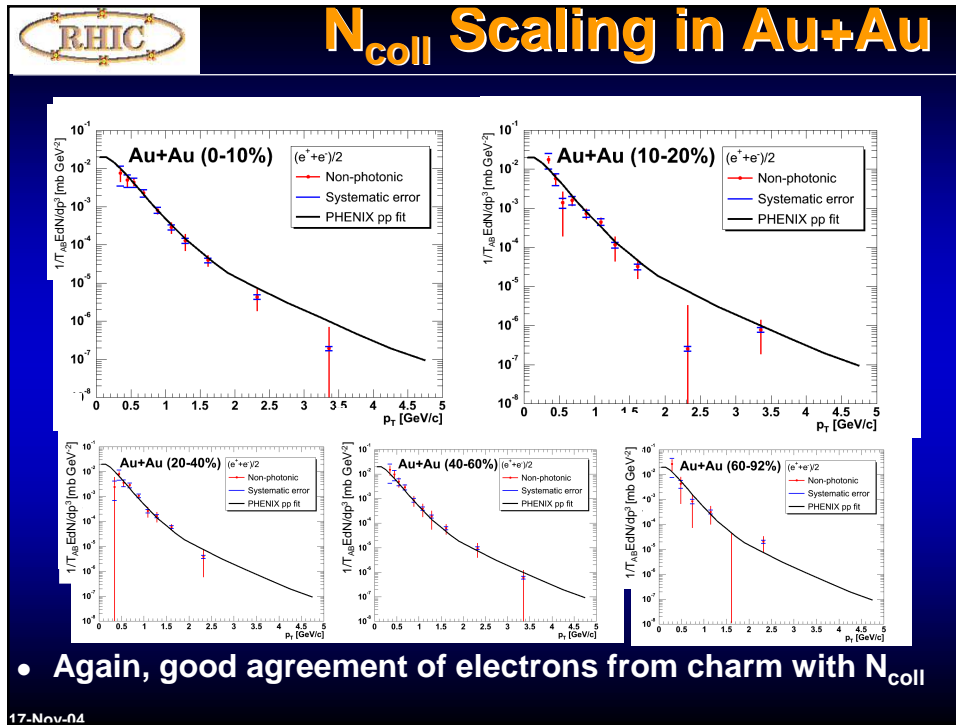
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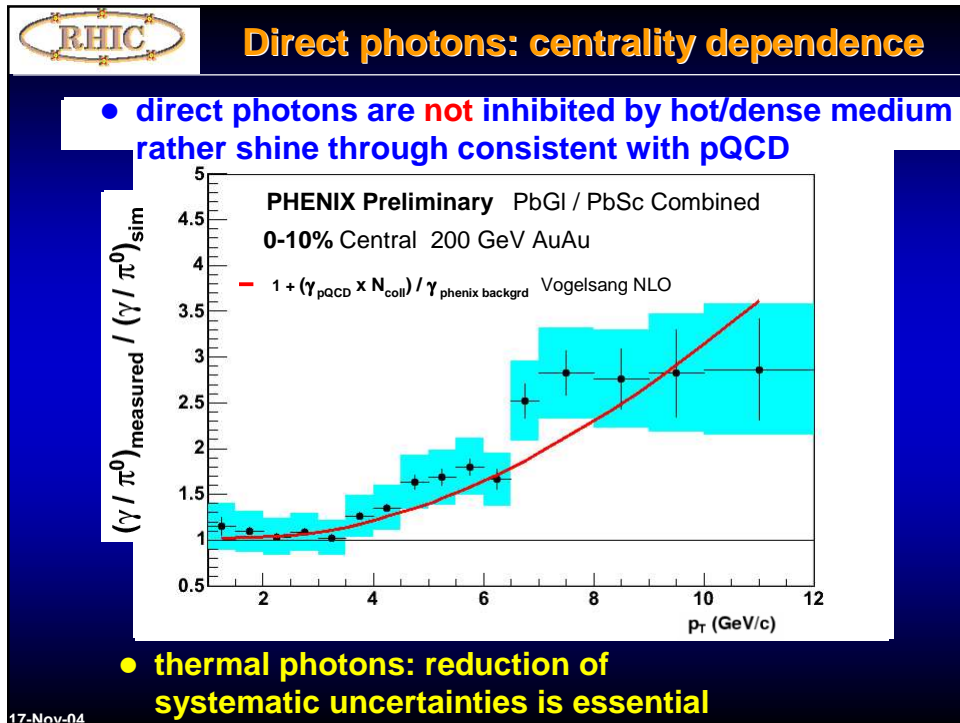
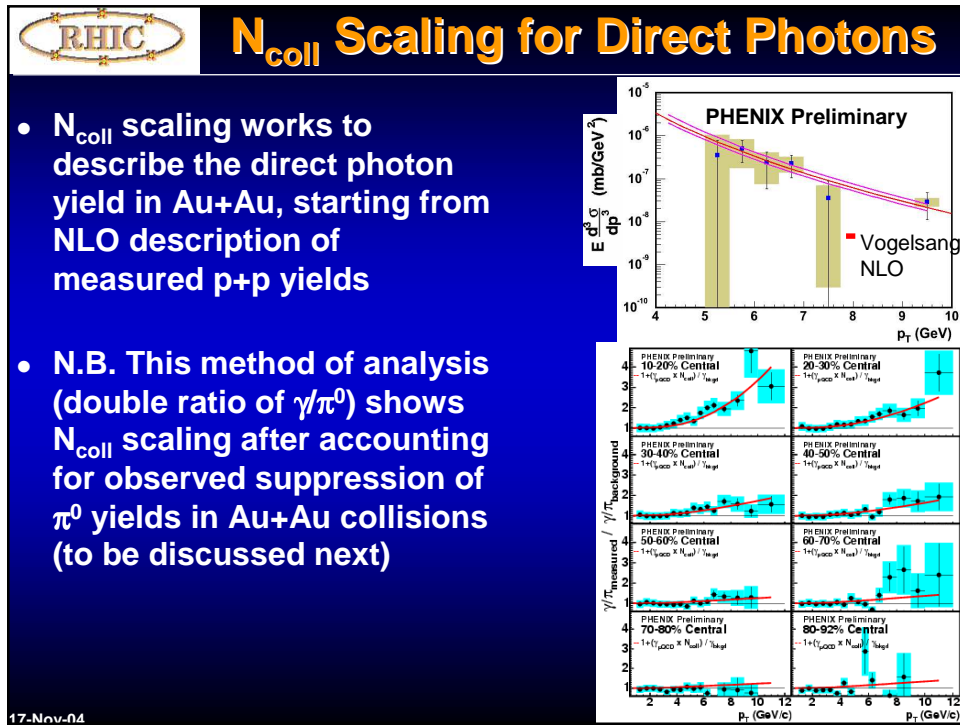
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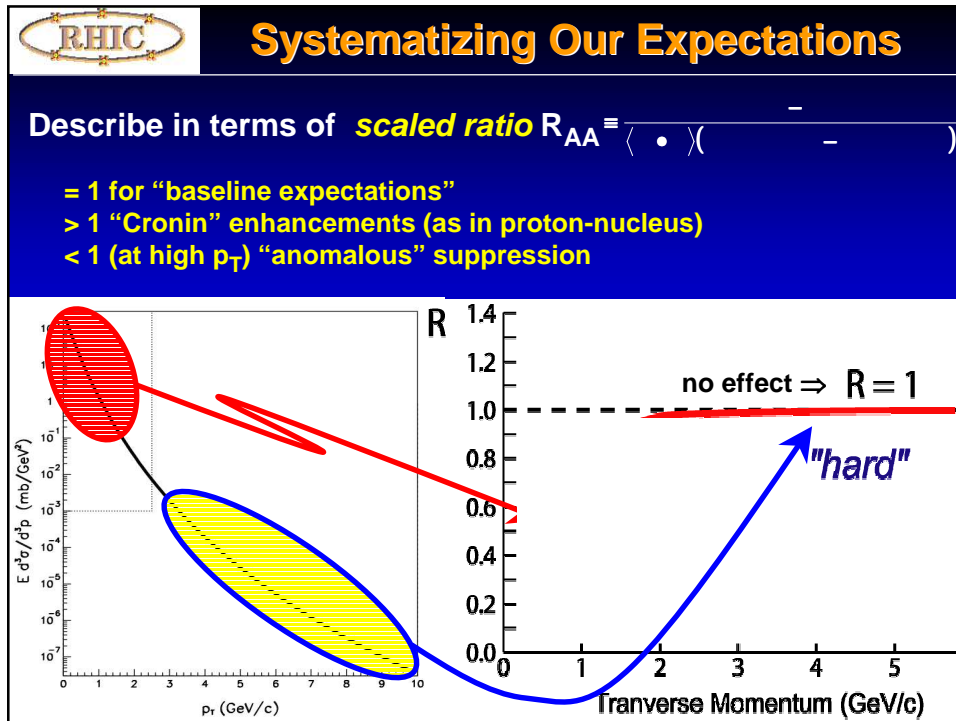
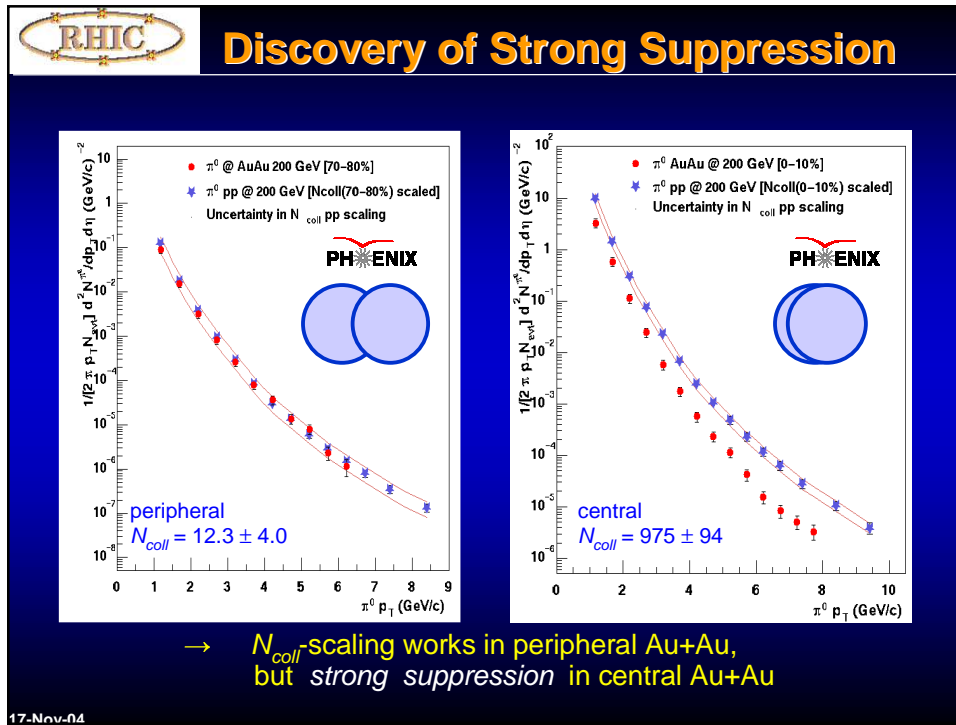


# RHIC experimental overview: What we have (not) learned

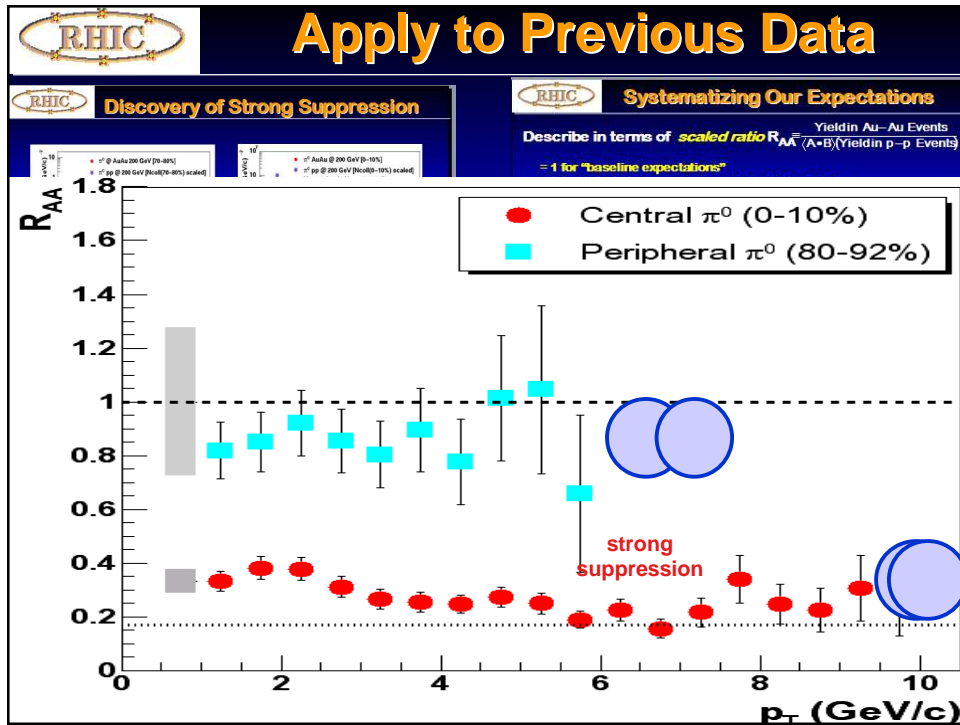




# RHIC experimental overview: What we have (not) learned



# RHIC experimental overview: What we have (not) learned



**RHIC Unique to Heavy Ion Collisions?**

- YES!
- Run-3: a cr...

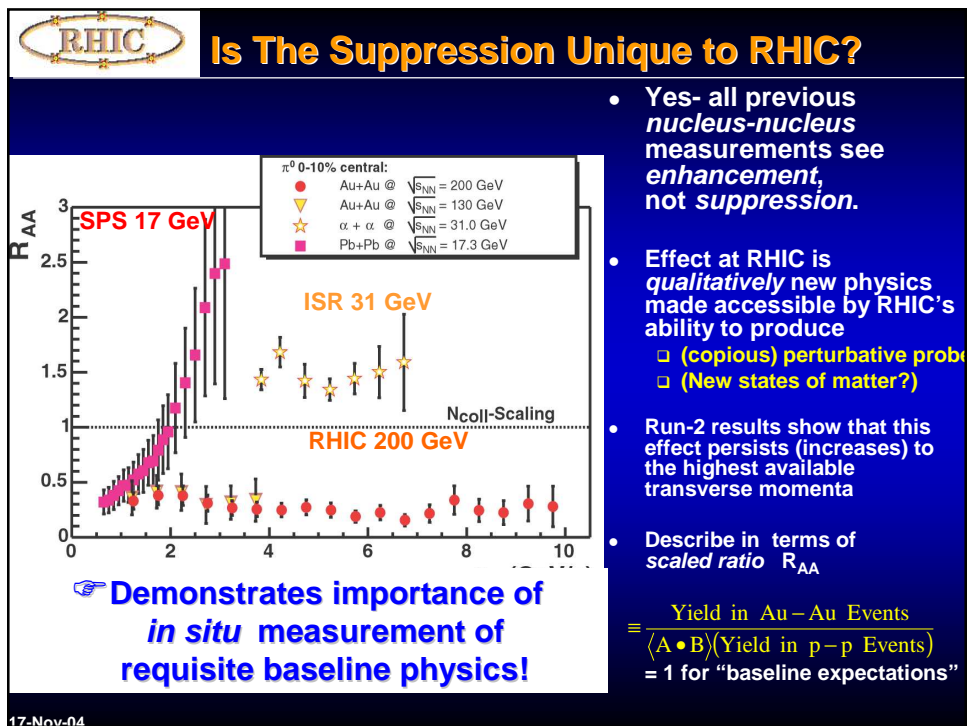
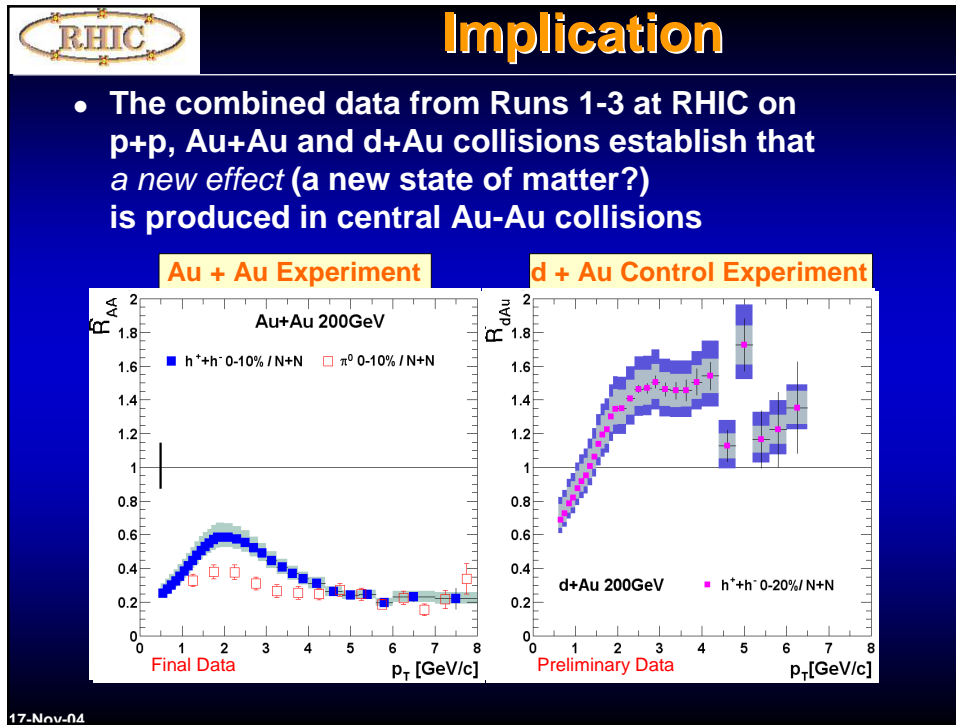
**PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS**  
 Articles published week ending 15 AUGUST 2003  
 Volume 91, Number 7

PHENIX, PHOBOS, BRAHMS, STAR


**collisions**  
 $p_T$  (GeV/c)  
 $\eta=0$   
 BRAHMS

17-Nov-04

# RHIC experimental overview: What we have (not) learned




# RHIC experimental overview: What we have (not) learned



## Energy Loss of Fast Partons

- Many approaches
  - ❑ 1983: Bjorken
  - ❑ 1991: Thoma and Gyulassy
  - ❑ 1993: Brodsky and Hoyer (1)
  - ❑ 1997: BDMPS- depends on
  - ❑ 1998: BDMS
- Numerical values range fr
  - ❑ ~ 0.1 GeV / fm (Bj, elast
  - ❑ ~several GeV / fm (BDMPS,



Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

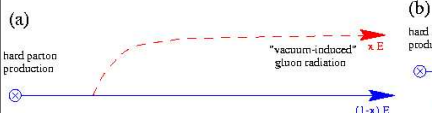
FERMILAB-Pub-82/59-THY  
August, 1982


Energy Loss of Energetic Partons in Quark-Gluon Plasma:  
Possible Extinction of High  $p_T$  Jets in Hadron-Hadron Collisions.

J. D. BJORKEN  
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory  
P.O. Box 500, Batavia, Illinois 60510

Abstract

High energy quarks and gluons propagating through quark-gluon plasma suffer differential energy loss via elastic scattering from quanta in the plasma. This mechanism is very similar in structure to ionization loss of charged particles in ordinary matter. The  $dE/dx$  is roughly proportional to the square of the plasma temperature. For hadron-hadron collisions with high associated multiplicity and with transverse energy  $dE_T/dy$  in excess of 10 GeV per unit rapidity, it is possible that quark-gluon plasma is produced in the collision. If so, a produced secondary high- $p_T$  quark or gluon might lose tens of GeV of its initial transverse momentum while plowing through quark-gluon plasma produced in its local environment. High energy hadron jet experiments should be analysed as function of associated multiplicity to search for this effect. An interesting signature may be events in which the hard collision occurs near the edge of the overlap region, with one jet escaping without absorption and the other fully absorbed.





## Are the Au+Au and d+Au Trends Understood?

**Both**

- ❑ Au+Au suppression (I. Vitev and M. Gyulassy, hep-ph/0208108)
- ❑ d+Au enhancement (I. Vitev, nucl-th/0302002 )

understood in an approach that combines multiple scattering with absorption in *a dense partonic medium*

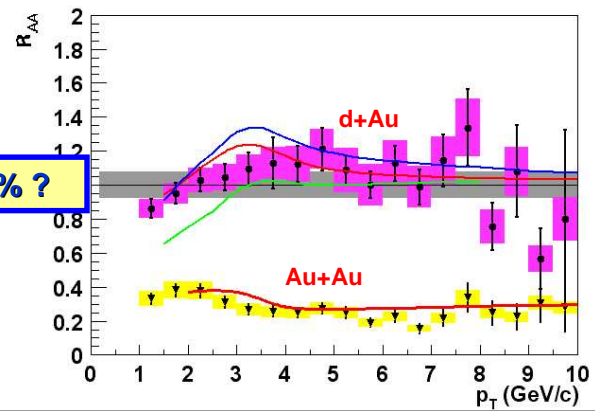
➔ Our high  $p_T$  probes have been calibrated

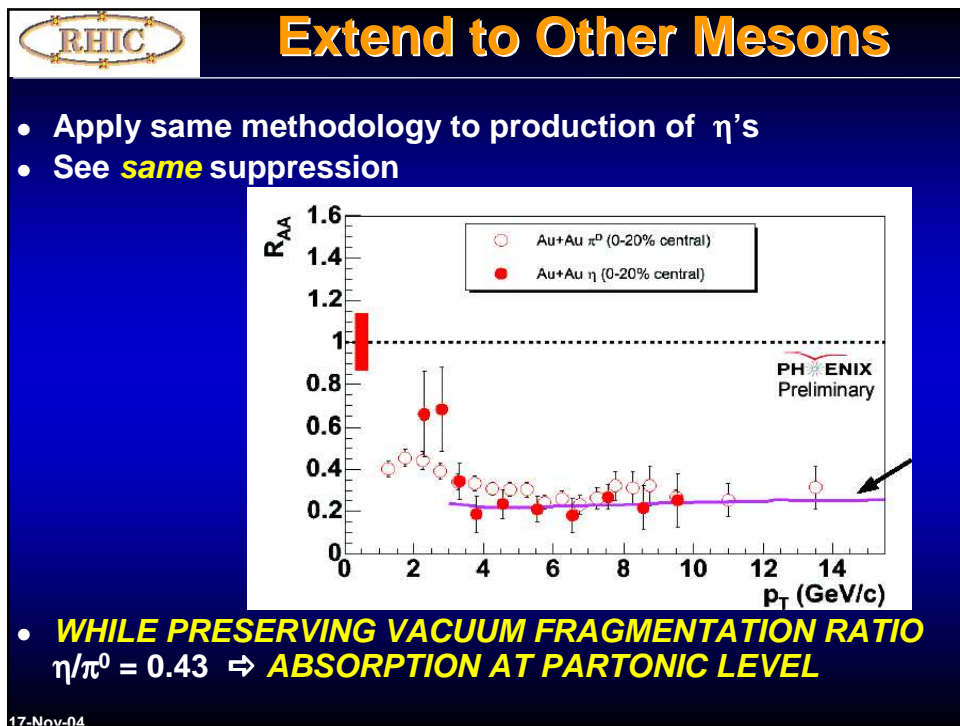
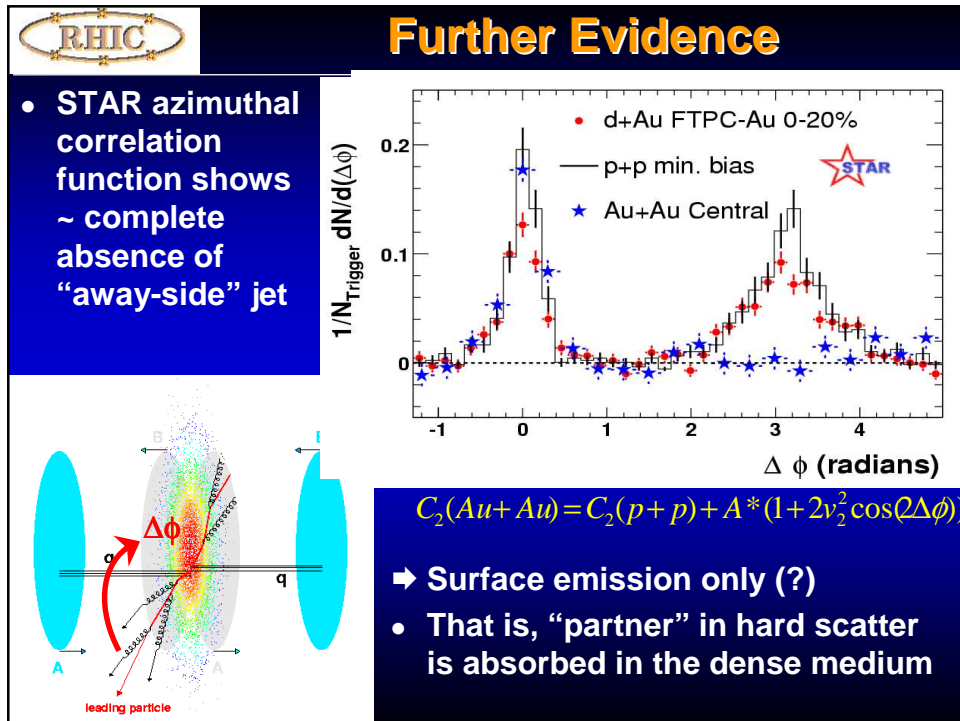
±50% ?

$dN_g/dy \sim 1100$

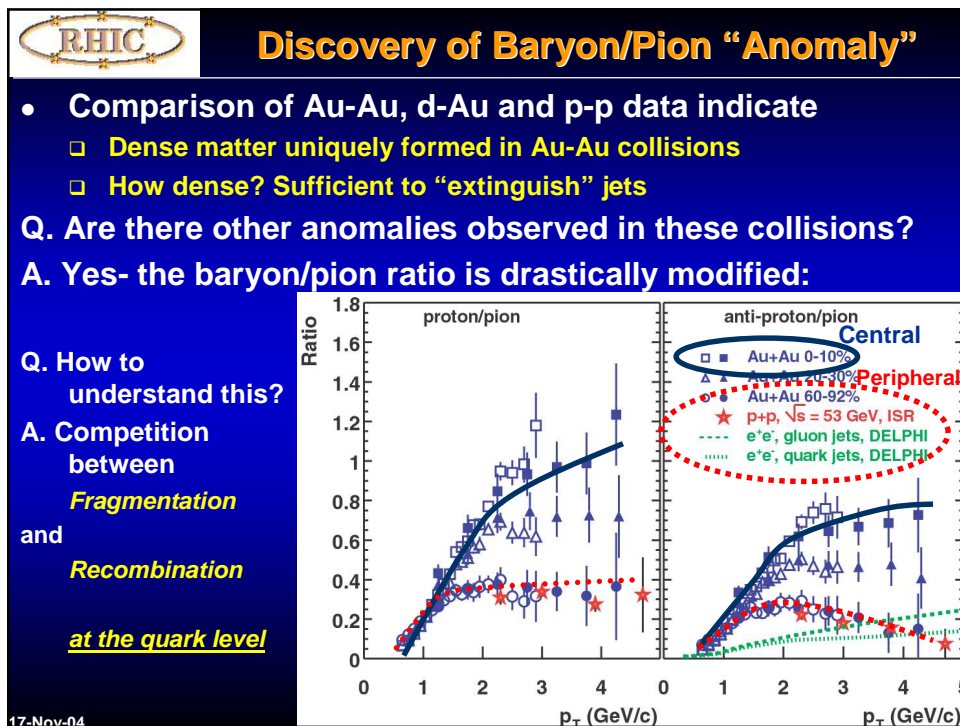
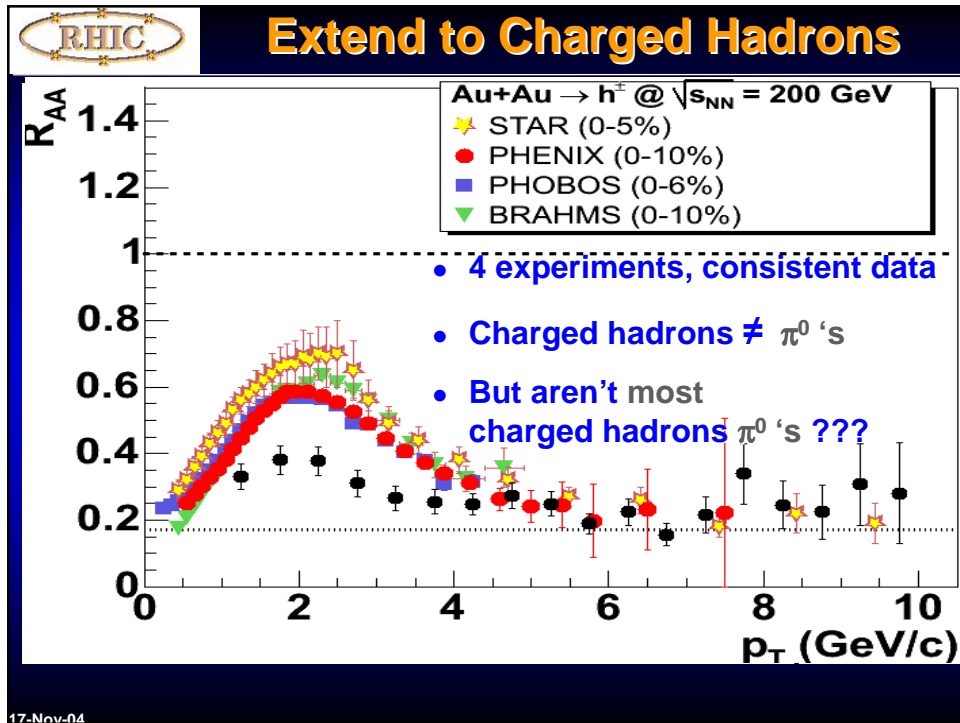
$\epsilon > 100 \epsilon_0$  (!)

17-Nov-04






RHIC experimental overview: What we have (not) learned

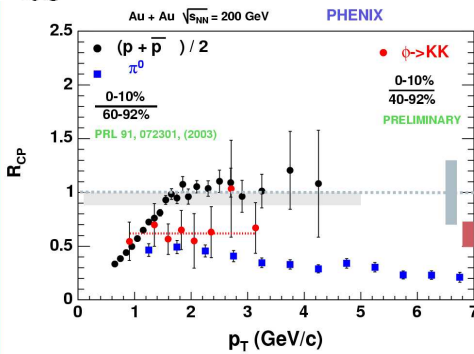


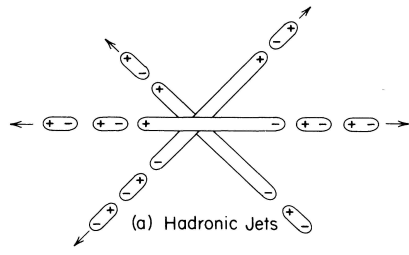




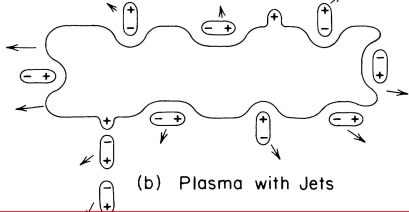
## Recombination

- The (normal) *in vacuo* fragmentation of a high momentum quark to produce hadrons competes with the (new) *in medium* recombination of lower momentum quarks to produce hadrons






(a) Hadronic Jets



(b) Plasma with Jets

...requires the assumption of a thermalized parton phase... (which) may be appropriately called a quark-gluon plasma

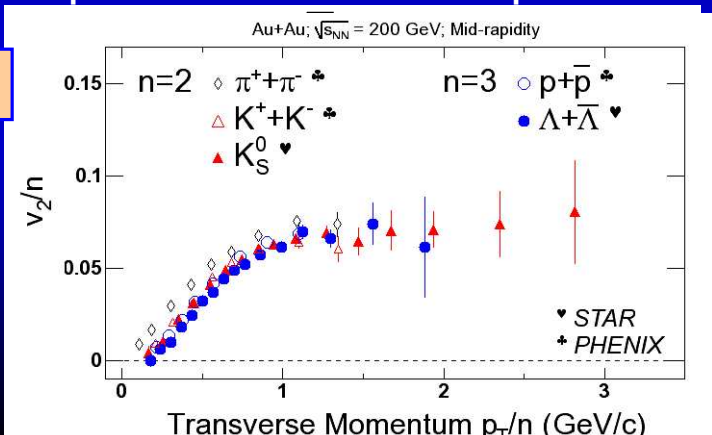
Fries et al., nucl-th/0301087



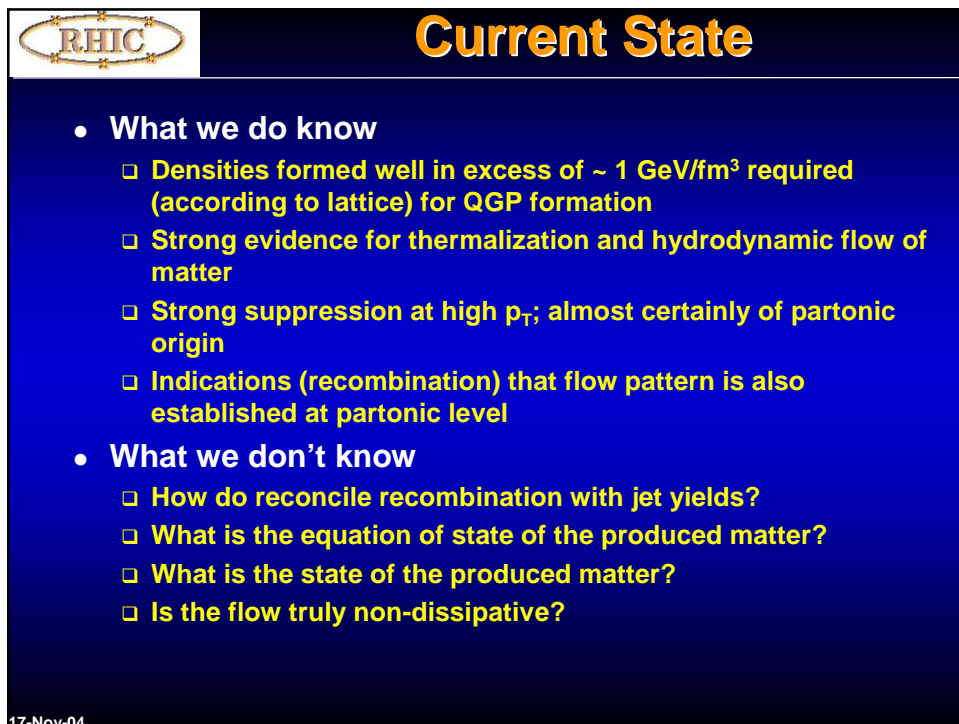
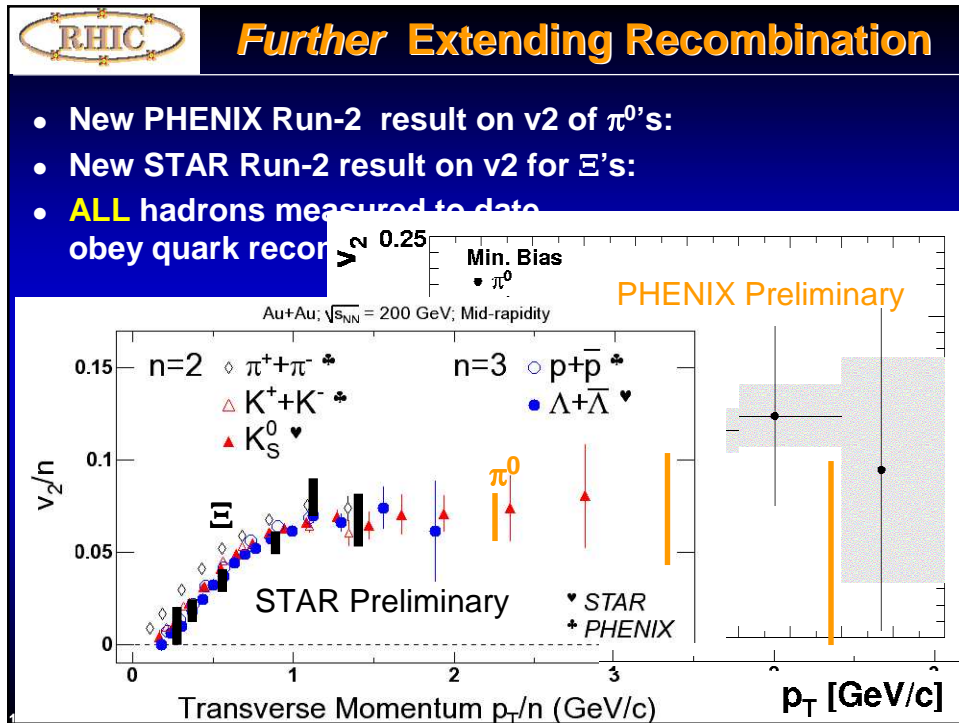
## Recombination Extended


The *complicated* observed flow pattern in  $v_2(p_T)$  for hadrons  $d^2n/dp_T d\phi \sim 1 + 2 v_2(p_T) \cos(2\phi)$  is predicted to be *simple* at the quark level under  $p_T \rightarrow p_T/n$ ,  $v_2 \rightarrow v_2/n$ ,  $n = (2, 3)$  for (meson, baryon) *if* the flow pattern is established at the quark level

Compilation courtesy of H. Huang



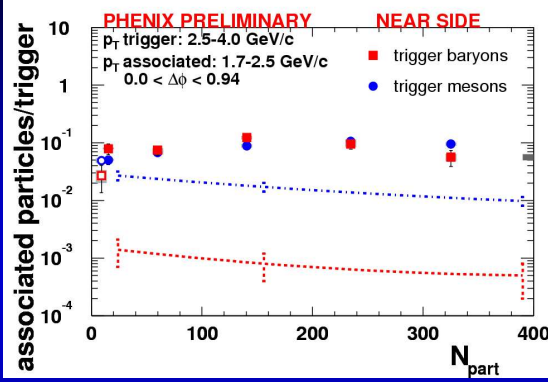
17-Nov-04






## Recombination Challenged

- **Successes:**
  - Accounts for  $p_T$  dependence of baryon/meson yields
  - Unifies description of  $v_2(p_T)$  for baryons and mesons
- **Challenged by**
  - "Associated emission" at high  $p_T$  (there shouldn't be any in a pure thermal model of recombination)
  - Can the simple appeal of Thermal-Thermal correlations survive extension to Jet-Thermal ?

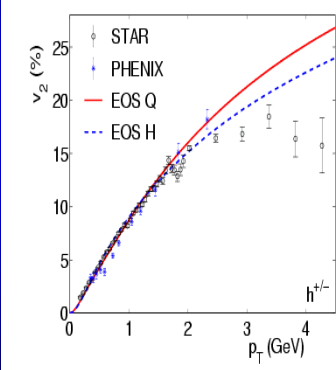
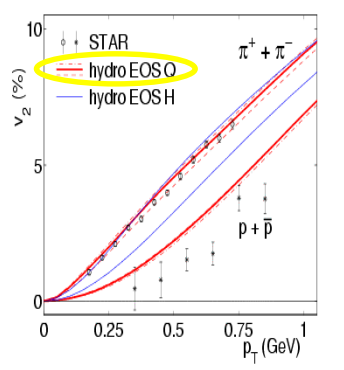


17-Nov-04



## State of Matter

- The systematics of the flow pattern can be tested for various equations of state (EOS)
- At RHIC, the **QGP** EOS for P(T) is preferred:





STAR Coll., PRL 86 (2001) 402; 87 (2001) 182301; PHENIX Coll., nucl-ex/020400512 and QM 2001

- How to move from this qualitative to quantitative understanding?

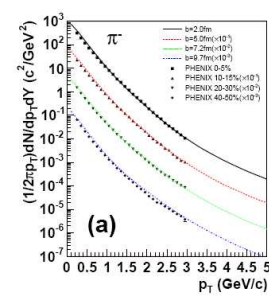
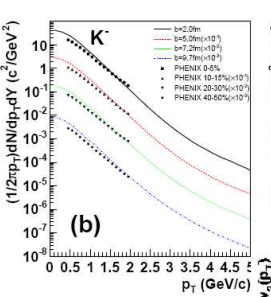
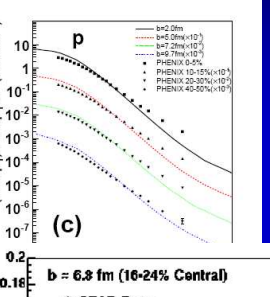
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# RHIC experimental overview: What we have (not) learned



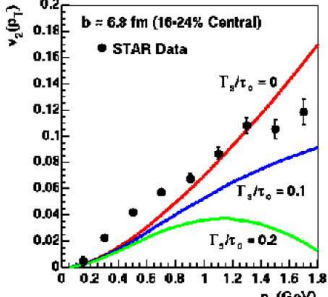
## Extending Hydrodynamic Calculations

- T. Hirano and Y. Nara, nucl-th/0404039:  
3D hydro with CGC initial conditions and parton energy loss (!)






- Still to do: “Measure” (bound) viscosity of this fluid!
- (D. Teaney, nucl-th/0301099) →

$$\frac{\text{viscosity}}{\text{entropy density}} = \frac{\eta}{s} \leq \sim 0.1??$$



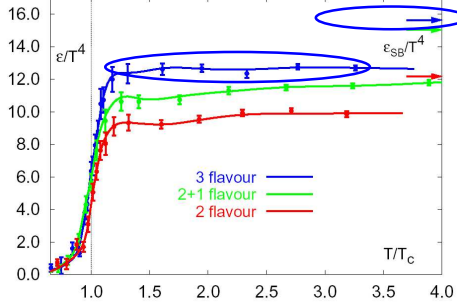
17-Nov-04

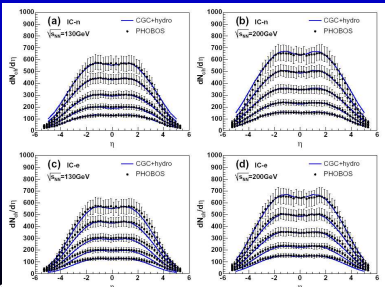
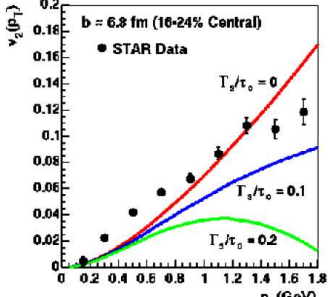


## Spooky Connection at a Distance


- We've yet to understand the discrepancy between lattice results and Stefan-Boltzmann limit:
- The success of naïve hydrodynamics requires very low viscosities

$$\frac{\text{viscosity}}{\text{entropy density}} = \frac{\eta}{s} \leq \sim 0.1(??)$$



17-Nov-04




## Strongly Coupled Plasmas

- Recently, much interest in the “strongly interacting” (i.e., non-ideal) behavior of the matter produced at RHIC
- This property has been known long enough to be forgotten several times:
  - **1982: Gordon Baym, proceedings of Quark Matter '82:**
    - ◆ A hint of trouble can be seen from the first order result for the entropy density ( $N_f = 3$ )
 
$$s(T) = \frac{19\pi^2}{9} \left( 1 - \frac{54}{19\pi} \alpha_s(T) + \dots \right) T^4$$
 which turns negative for  $\alpha_s > 1.1$
  - **1992: Berndt Mueller, Proc. of NATO Advanced Study Institute**
    - ◆ For plasma conditions realistically obtainable in the nuclear collisions ( $T \sim 250$  MeV,  $g = \sqrt{4\pi\alpha_s} = 2$ ) the effective gluon mass  $m_g^* \sim 300$  MeV. We must conclude, therefore, that the notion of almost free gluons (and quarks) in the high temperature phase of QCD is quite far from the truth. Certainly one has  $m_g^* \ll T$  when  $g \ll 1$ , but this condition is never really satisfied in QCD, because  $g \sim 1/2$  even at the Planck scale ( $10^{19}$  GeV), and  $g < 1$  only at energies above 100 GeV.
  - **2002: Ulrich Heinz, Proceedings of PANIC conference:**
    - ◆ Perturbative mechanisms seem unable to explain the phenomenologically required very short thermalization time scale, pointing to strong non-perturbative dynamics in the QGP even at or above  $2T_c$ ... The quark-hadron phase transition is arguably the most strongly coupled regime of QCD.
  - **Atomic plasmas:**
    - ◆ Strongly coupled  $\Rightarrow \Gamma \equiv \langle \text{Coulomb} \rangle / \langle \text{Kinetic} \rangle > 1$

$$\Gamma = \langle \alpha_s(T)/r \rangle / 3T \sim \alpha_s(T) n^{1/3} / 3T \sim \alpha_s(T) [5T^3]^{1/3} / 3T = 0.6\alpha_s(T) \sim 1$$

17-Nov-04



## The Strongly Coupled Plasma

- **Classical coupling parameter**

$$\Gamma \equiv \frac{\text{Potential Energy}}{\text{Kinetic Energy}}$$
  - **Strongly coupled when  $\Gamma > 1$**
  - **Naïve estimate on previous slide**

$$\Gamma = \frac{\langle \alpha_s(T)/r \rangle}{3T} = 0.6\alpha_s(T) \sim 1$$
  - **Better (screening, Debye masses)**

$$\Gamma \sim \frac{gT}{3T} \sim 1$$
- **My personal view:**
  - **We should not be surprised by the strongly coupled nature of the QGP- it is an *intrinsic* property of *the* QCD plasma (for any accessible T)**

17-Nov-04



## Summary

- The experiments *work*
- The *initial nuclear geometry* is determined event-by-event
- Multiplicities are “low”
- Abundances are thermal
- Motion is hydrodynamic
- New phenomena observed
- Evidence for partonic recombination
- Hints of the extraordinary
- *Much more to do, and much more to come*

17-Nov-04