Imaging nuclei by smashing them

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²³⁸^U ¹⁹⁷Au ¹²⁹Xe ⁹⁶Zr ¹⁶^O

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Traditional imaging method

$$
\rho(xyz) = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\substack{hkl \ \text{Amplitudes}}}^{+\infty} |F(hkl)| \cdot e^{-2\pi i [hx + ky + lz - \phi(hkl)]}
$$

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$$

$$
\frac{d\sigma^{\gamma^* p \to V p}}{dt} = \frac{1}{16\pi} \left| \left\langle A^{\gamma^* p \to V p} \left(x_p, Q^2, \overrightarrow{\Delta} \right) \right\rangle \right|^2
$$

$$
A \sim \int d^2b \, dz \, d^2r \, \psi^* \psi^V(\vec{r}, z, Q^2) e^{-i(\vec{b} - (\frac{1}{2} - z)\vec{r}) \cdot \vec{\Delta}} N(\vec{r}, x, \vec{b})
$$

Image taken before destruction

Imaging by smashing: some examples

Smashing a deformed droplet on surface

 $F = \nabla P$

strongly-coupled cold atomic gas

$$
\begin{array}{|c|c|}\n\hline\n\text{...} & \text{...} \\
\hline\n\text{...} & \text
$$

 $L_{mfp}=1/\rho\sigma$

Instantaneous stripping of electrons and let atoms explode under mutual coulomb repulsion

Imaging by smashing: some examples

Smashing a deformed droplet on surface

 $F = \nabla P$

strongly-coupled cold atomic gas

 $L_{mfp}=1/\rho\sigma$

$$
\begin{array}{|c|c|}\n\hline\n\text{1} & \text{1} & \text{1} & \text{1} \\
\hline\n\text{0} & \text{0} & \text{2.0} & \text{4.0} \\
\hline\n\text{1} & \text{1} & \text{1} & \text{1}\n\end{array}
$$

Science 298, 2179 (2002) 2179 (2002) $100 \text{ }\mu\text{s}$ $400 \mu s$ Science 298, 800 µs 1500 µs $T_{\mu\nu}(\tau=0) \hspace{1cm} \partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu}=0 \hspace{1cm} T_{\mu\nu}(\tau=\infty)$ snapshot \rightarrow evolution \rightarrow measurement

Coulomb Explosion Imaging in Chemistry

Instantaneous stripping of electrons and let Image inferred after destruction atoms explode under mutual coulomb repulsion

EOS, viscosity…

 $\tau \sim 10 \rm fm/c$

expansion

 $\tau \sim 10^{15}~{\rm fm}/c$ detection

Large entropy production enable a semi-classical description

• Initial condition is a fast snapshot of nuclear structure

 $\tau \sim 2R_0/\Gamma \sim 0.1 {\rm fm}/c$

exposure

- Transformed to the final state via hydrodynamic expansion (EFT)
- Reverse-engineer to get snapshot, aided by large information output Ability to image \leftrightarrow QGP dynamics and properties

Imaging by smashing: high-energy collisions

Preserving the snapshot to the final state

Shape-flow transmutation via pressure-gradient force:

Preserving the snapshot to the final state

seen at single event level ₉

Observables for event-by-event fluctuations

Measure moments of $p(1/R, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3...)$ via $p([p_T], v_2, v_3...)...$

…

\n- \n Mean\n
$$
\langle d_{\perp} \rangle
$$
\n
\n- \n Variance:\n $\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle$,\n $\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle$ \n
\n- \n Skewness\n $\langle \varepsilon_n^2 \delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp} \rangle$,\n $\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^3 \rangle$ \n
\n- \n Kurtosis\n $\langle \varepsilon_n^4 \rangle - 2 \langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle^2$,\n $\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^4 \rangle - 3 \langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle^2$ \n
\n- \n $\langle v_n^2 \delta p_T / p_T \rangle$,\n $\langle (\delta p_T / p_T)^3 \rangle$ \n
\n- \n $\langle \varepsilon_n^4 \rangle - 2 \langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle^2$,\n $\langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^4 \rangle - 3 \langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle^2$ \n
\n

$$
\mathcal{E}_n \equiv \varepsilon_n e^{ni\Phi_n} \propto \int_{\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{r}^n \rho(\mathbf{r}) \hspace{0.5cm} d_\perp \propto - \int_{\mathbf{r}} |\mathbf{r}^2| \rho(\mathbf{r})
$$

A plethora of measurements

■ Single particle distribution Flow vector:

$$
\frac{d^2N}{d\phi dp_{\rm T}} = N(p_{\rm T}) \left[1 + 2 \sum_{n} v_{\rm n}(p_{\rm T}) \cos n(\phi - \Psi_n(p_{\rm T})) \right]
$$
\n
$$
= N(p_{\rm T}) \left[\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} V_{\rm n}(p_{\rm T}) e^{in\phi} \right]
$$
\nRealial flow

\nAnisotropic flow

Two-particle correlation function

$$
\left\langle \frac{d^2N_1}{d\phi dp_{\rm T}} \frac{d^2N_2}{d\phi dp_{\rm T}} \right\rangle \quad \ \ \rhd \quad \ \langle \bm{V}_n(p_{T1}) \bm{V}^*_n(p_{T2}) \rangle \quad \ n-n=0
$$

Multi-particle correlation function

$$
\left\langle [p_\mathrm{T}]^k \frac{d^2N_1}{d\phi dp_\mathrm{T}} \ldots \frac{d^2N_m}{d\phi dp_\mathrm{T}} \right\rangle \Rightarrow \left\langle [p_\mathrm{T}]^k \boldsymbol{V}_{n_1} \boldsymbol{V}_{n_2} \ldots \boldsymbol{V}_{n_m} \right\rangle \\ p([p_\mathrm{T}], \boldsymbol{V}_2, \boldsymbol{V}_3 \ldots) = \frac{1}{N_\mathrm{evts}} \frac{\downarrow}{d[p_\mathrm{T}] d\boldsymbol{V}_2 d\boldsymbol{V}_3 \ldots}
$$

EbyE fluctuations of size and shape

E-by-E flow amplitude distribution $p(v_n)$

Event-plane correlation $p(\Psi_n, \Psi_m, \Psi_k)$

 v_n amplitude correlation $p(v_n,v_m)$

illed Symbo

 $\sqrt{s_{_{NN}}}$ (GeV)

 $-30 - 40%$

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Open Symbols ALICE Pb+Pb Seems we can infer the initial condition of QGP which carries imprints of the colliding nuclei.

But what kinds of images do we expect to get?

Intro to atomic nuclei at low energy

Many-body quantum systems, govern by short-range strong nuclear force Emergent properties in between discrete nucleon and bulk nuclear matter, like quantum dot. Configuration is one that minimizes E, which is often deformed away from magic numbers

Cluster of nucleons Cluster of atoms

Magic numbers: 2 8 20 28 50 82 126

Na cluster

1021/acs.inorgchem.6b02340 **13**

Atomic nuclei and their shapes

Many-body quantum systems, govern by short-range strong nuclear force Emergent properties in between bulk nuclear matter and discrete nucleon, like quantum doc. Configuration is one that minimizes E, which is often deformed away from magic numbers

Nuclear shapes at low energy: long exposure

Each DOF has zero-point fluctuations within certain timescale.

Spectroscopic methods probe a superposition of these fluctuations

Instantaneous shapes not directly seen \rightarrow intrinsic shape not observable at low E Infer shape from model comparison to energy-transition-lifetime measurements.

Nuclear shape at high-energy: smashing experiment

To see event-by-event shape directly, one must have access to instantaneous many-body correlations $\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2 \dots)$

We will see all DOFs longer than this timescale: $\tau > \tau_{\rm expo}$ Nucleons, hadrons, quark, gluons, gluon saturations

Concept of shape is collision energy dependent

Spherical Woods-saxon Sampled with A nucleons

 $7_{\rm expo}$

Smashing experiment and nuclear structure

Impact of deformation: head-on collisions

Collision geometry depends on the orientations: head-on collisions has two extremes body-body or tip-tip collisions

Body-body: large eccentricity large size

 v_2 ^{\wedge} p_T Tip-tip : small eccentricity small size

 v_2 ² p_T

Compare to collision of near spherical ¹⁹⁷Au,

- Deformation enhances the fluctuations of v_2 and $[p_T]$.
- and leads to anti-correlation between v_2 and $[p_T]$.

Compare two systems to disentangle global deformation and quantum fluctuation!

Impact of deformation: head-on collisions

Seen directly by comparing ²³⁸U+²³⁸U with near-spherical ¹⁹⁷Au+¹⁹⁷Au

Near-spherical \rightarrow flat ρ_2 vs centrality Strongly prolate \rightarrow decreasing of ρ_2 vs centrality

Ratios cancel final state effects and isolate the effects of initial state/nuclear structures!

U deformation dominates the ultra-central collisions (UCC) \rightarrow 50%-70% impact on <(δ p_T)²> and <v₂²>, 300% for <v₂² δ p_T>

More smooth centrality dependence for $\langle \delta p_T |^2 \rangle$ than $\langle v_2 |^2 \rangle$ \rightarrow v₂ is dominated by v₂^{RP} (unaffected by deformation), having residual impact in UCC

Compared to hydrodynamic models

Compare with state-of-the-art ipglasma+music+UrQMD hydro model.

The <(δ p $_{\rm T})^2$ > and <v $_2$ ² δ p $_{\rm T}$ > data seems prefers value closer to $\beta_{\rm 2U}$ =0.28 and a small $\gamma_{\rm U}.$

 $<$ v₂²> prefer a smaller β_{2} _U value

Ratios cancel final state effects

- Vary the shear/bulk viscosity in Music hydro model
	- Flow signal change by more than factor of 2, yet the ratio unchanged.

Sensitivity to other structure parameters

 R_0 , a_0 , higher-order deformation, nucleon separation

In ultra-central collisions, ratios are mainly controlled by $\beta_{2\text{U}}$ and γ_{U} . In non-central collisions, v_2 ratio is also sensitive to nuclear skin Focus on 0-5% most central collisions to constrain the Uranium shape

Constraining the U238 shape

Confirming these relations, including strong sensitivity to triaxiality focus on $\langle (\delta p_T)^2 \rangle$, $\langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle$

$$
\langle v_2^2 \rangle = a_1 + b_1 \beta_2^2 ,
$$

$$
\langle (\delta p_\text{T})^2 \rangle = a_2 + b_2 \beta_2^2 ,
$$

$$
\langle v_2^2 \delta p_\text{T} \rangle = a_3 - b_3 \beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma)
$$

Results

26

 y_{shift} + $\ln(\sqrt{s}/\sqrt{s})$

High energy

Low energy

nature | Last updated Published on Nov 6 2024

Imaging shapes of atomic nuclei in highenergy nuclear collisions

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nature > news & views > article *<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-03466-3>*

NEWS AND VIEWS | 06 November 2024

Rare snapshots of a kiwi-shaped atomic nucleus

Smashing uranium-238 ions together proves to be a reliable way of imaging their nuclei. High-energy collision experiments reveal nuclear shapes that are strongly elongated and have no symmetry around their longest axis.

<https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=122119>

NEWS | 06 November 2024

Smashing atomic nuclei together reveals their elusive shapes

A method to take snapshots of exploding nuclei could hold clues about the fundamental properties of gold, uranium and other elements.

By Elizabeth Gibney

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-03633-6>

Flow observable = $\mathbf{k} \otimes$ initial condition (structure) QGP response, a smooth function of N+Z Structure of colliding nuclei, non-monotonic function of N and Z A general strategy for nuclear shape imaging

Compare two systems X and Y of same mass but different structure

$$
R_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{\textrm{X+X}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\textrm{Y+Y}}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a^{-\textrm{arXiv: 2111.15559}}
$$

Deviation from unity depends only on their structural differences c_1 - c_4 directly probes energy deposition mechanism in the initial condition!

Isobar ⁹⁶Ru+⁹⁶Ru and ⁹⁶Zr+⁹⁶Zr collisions at RHIC 200 GeV

$$
^{96}Ru = 44 p + 52 n
$$

$$
^{96}Zr = 40 p + 56 n
$$

Originally designed to search for exotic magnetic effects

Isobar ⁹⁶Ru+⁹⁶Ru and ⁹⁶Zr+⁹⁶Zr collisions at RHIC 200 GeV

QM2022 poster, Chunjian Zhang

 $R_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Ru}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Zr}}}$

Structure influences everywhere

Opportunity for precision structure study

Nuclear structure via v_2 -ratio and v_3 -ratio

$$
R_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv \frac{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Ru}}}{\mathcal{O}_{\text{Zr}}} \approx 1 + c_1 \Delta \beta_2^2 + c_2 \Delta \beta_3^2 + c_3 \Delta R_0 + c_4 \Delta a
$$
 2109.00131

Simultaneously constrain four structure parameters

Nuclear structure via v_2 -ratio and v_3 -ratio

- \blacksquare β_{2Ru} ~ 0.16 increase v_2 , no influence on v_3 ratio
- \blacksquare β_{3Zr} ~ 0.2 decrease v_2 and v_3 ratio
- Δa_0 = -0.06 fm increase v_2 mid-central,
- **Radius** $\Delta R_0 = 0.07$ **fm slightly affects** v_2 **and** v_3 **ratio.**

Is 96Zr octupole deformed?

Simultaneously constrain four structure parameters

Currently available collision systems 33

What other species to consider & what questions do they answer?

Future opportunities

High-energy: fast snapshot of nucleon distribution for any collision species. Low-energy: complexity & interpretation depends on location in nuclide chart

Odd N or Z nuclei

nuclear shape is often presumed to be similar to adjacent even-even nuclei.

their spectroscopic data are more complex due to the coupling of the single unpaired nucleon with the nuclear core.

by comparing the flow observables of odd-mass nuclei to selected even-even neighbors with established shapes, the high-energy approach avoids this complication.

Higher-order deformations β_3 and β_4

Ratio of v_n in UCC region are mainly sensitive to β_n

Order of v_3 reversed by considering non-zero $\beta_{3\mathsf{U}}\,\beta_{4\mathsf{U}}$ v_2 ratio is mostly affected by β_{2U} , but also β_{3U} $\beta_{\mathcal{4}\mathsf{U}}$ constrained using v_4 ratio in central region

Shape fluctuation and coexistence

Same nuclei can have several low-lying states with different intrinsic shapes

High-energy collisions are sensitive only to ground state shape, avoid shape variations during transitions

HI collision to probe shape entanglement!

186Pb

Shape fluctuations via high-order correlations. $\langle (\delta p_T)^2 \rangle = a_2 + b_2 \beta_2^2$, $\left<\beta_2^2\right> = \bar{\beta}_2^2 + \sigma_{\beta_2}^2 \qquad \left<\cos(3\gamma)^2\right> = \overline{\cos(3\gamma)}^2 + \sigma_{\cos(3\gamma)^2}$ (v^{OPT}) / - $a_2 + b_2p_2$,
 $\langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle = a_3 - b_3\beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma)$

two- or three-particle correlations can't distinguish between static β_2 , γ from their fluctuations.

Equal mix of prolate and oblate looks like triaxial

STAR U238 measurement doesn't distinguish between static γ or γ fluctuations

Shape fluctuations via high-order correlations. $\langle (\delta p_T)^2 \rangle = a_2 + b_2 \beta_2^2$, $\langle \beta_2^2\rangle = \bar{\beta}_2^2 + \sigma_{\beta_2}^2 \qquad \langle \cos(3\gamma)^2\rangle = \overline{\cos(3\gamma)}^2 + \sigma_{\cos(3\gamma)^2}$ $\langle v_2^2 \delta p_T \rangle = a_3 - b_3 \beta_2^3 \cos(3\gamma)$

two- or three-particle correlations can't distinguish between static β_2 , γ from their fluctuations.

Neutrinoless double-beta decay

Need to model the overlap of nuclear wavefunction between **initial nuclei and its final isobar nuclei**.

Uncertainty in matrix element leads to x10 change in lifetime

Isobar collisions allow us to determine their shape differences, thus could help reduce the uncertainty of NME.

Imaging the radial structure: $\rho(\vec{r}) =$

■ Radial parameters R_0 , a_0 are properties of one-body distribution $\to \textsf{S}$ _{**P_T>,** \textsf{S} **_{ch}>,** v_2 **^{RP}~** v_2 **{4},** σ_{tot} **,**}

 $\frac{1}{1+e^{(r-R_0(1+\sum_n\beta_nY_n^0(\theta,\phi))/a_0}}$

Summary

- Imaging-by-smashing is a discovery tool for low- and high-energy nuclear physics.
- Low- and high-energy techniques together enable study of evolution of nuclear structure across energy and time scales.
- [◼] Future research should conduct collider experiments with selected isobaric pairs

2102.08158

Shape Coexistence Workshop - 2023

