Proton number fluctuations in Au+Au investigated with HADES





Fluctuations probe features of QCD phase diagram



Prominent features of the QCD phase-diagram (phase boundaries, CEP) are expected to result in:

- → diverging susceptibilities & correlation lengths
- → "extra" fluctuations of conserved quantities (e.g. baryon nb, charge, strangeness)
- → observable discontinuities of the higher moments of particle number distributions, visible in a HIC beam energy scan!

(see e.g. B. Friman et al, EPJC 71 (2011) 1694)



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T. GeV

M. Stephanov CPOD2014

OGP

 κ_4/κ_2

→ Needs high-statistics data sets acquired under well controlled experimental conditions!

The HADES detector at GSI

High Acceptance DiElectron Spectrometer



Proton distributions in Au+Au at $\sqrt{s} = 2.41 \ GeV$



At 1.23 GeV/u $y_{cm} = 0.74$

HADES $y - p_t$ coverage for protons



Proton mt & y spectra



Proton multiplicity distributions



Fluctuation analysis

is based on $50 \cdot 10^6$ Au+Au evts divided into four 10% wide centrality classes:

30-40%, 20-30%, 10-20%, & 0-10%

(I) Efficiency corrections



Note that efficiency = acc x det. eff x rec. eff !

1. Correct the cumulants

A. Bzdak & V. Koch, PRC 86 (2012); X. Luo, PRC 91 (2015); M. Kitasawa, PRC 93 (2016)

2. Correct measured distributions (bayesian unfolding) Garg et al., J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 40 (2013)

- ➔ we have investigated both methods
 - 1. in simulations based on UrQMD evts filtered with full HADES response
 - 2. in real Au+Au data

Hades efficiencies vs. p_t, y, centrality & N_{track}/sector





Efficiency drops by up to 15% with occupancy, need to do a dynamic efficiency correction!

And $\epsilon = \epsilon(N_{track} sector)$ to correct evt-by-evt!

We verified this correction scheme in full detector simulations using 24, 54 or 96 separate acc. bins $(\Delta \mathbf{y} \times \Delta p_t \times sector).$

14

Method 1: Evt-by-evt efficiency correction of κ_n

Efficiency depends on particle, centrality, pt & y...

correct by phase-space bin and evt-wise !

Bzdak & Koch, PRC 91 (2015) Tang & Wang, PRC 88 (2013) Xiaofeng Luo, PRC 91 (2015) Masakiyo Kitasawa, PRC 93 (2016)

$$\begin{split} F_{i,k}(N_p, N_{\bar{p}}) &= \left\langle \frac{N_p!}{(N_p - i)!} \frac{N_{\bar{p}}!}{(N_{\bar{p}} - k)!} \right\rangle = \sum_{N_p = i}^{\infty} \sum_{N_{\bar{p}} = k}^{\infty} P(N_p, N_{\bar{p}}) \frac{N_p!}{(N_p - i)!} \frac{N_{\bar{p}}!}{(N_{\bar{p}} - k)!} \\ f_{i,k}(n_p, n_{\bar{p}}) &= \left\langle \frac{n_p!}{(n_p - i)!} \frac{n_{\bar{p}}!}{(n_{\bar{p}} - k)!} \right\rangle = \sum_{n_p = i}^{\infty} \sum_{n_{\bar{p}} = k}^{\infty} p(n_p, n_{\bar{p}}) \frac{n_p!}{(n_p - i)!} \frac{n_{\bar{p}}!}{(n_{\bar{p}} - k)!} \end{split}$$

(1)

(3)

$$F_{i,k}(N_p, N_{\bar{p}}) = \frac{f_{i,k}(n_p, n_{\bar{p}})}{(\varepsilon_p)^i (\varepsilon_{\bar{p}})^k}$$

$$A_{i,k}(x_{1},...,x_{i};\bar{x}_{1},...,\bar{x}_{k}) = \langle N(x_{1})[N(x_{2}) - \delta_{x_{1},x_{2}}] \dots [N(x_{i}) - \delta_{x_{1},x_{i}} - ... - \delta_{x_{i-1},x_{i}}] \\ \bar{N}(\bar{x}_{1})[\bar{N}(\bar{x}_{2}) - \delta_{\bar{x}_{1},\bar{x}_{2}}] \dots [\bar{N}(\bar{x}_{k}) - \delta_{\bar{x}_{1},\bar{x}_{k}} - ... - \delta_{\bar{x}_{k-1},\bar{x}_{k}}] \rangle \quad \text{,local factorial} \\ a_{i,k}(x_{1},...,x_{i};\bar{x}_{1},...,\bar{x}_{k}) = \langle n(x_{1})[n(x_{2}) - \delta_{x_{1},x_{2}}] \dots [n(x_{i}) - \delta_{x_{1},x_{i}} - ... - \delta_{\bar{x}_{i-1},x_{i}}] \quad \text{,moments}^{"} \\ \bar{n}(\bar{x}_{1})[\bar{n}(\bar{x}_{2}) - \delta_{\bar{x}_{1},\bar{x}_{2}}] \dots [\bar{n}(\bar{x}_{k}) - \delta_{\bar{x}_{1},\bar{x}_{k}} - ... - \delta_{\bar{x}_{k-1},\bar{x}_{k}}] \rangle.$$

$$F_{i,k} = \sum_{x_1,\dots,x_i} \sum_{\bar{x}_1,\dots,\bar{x}_k} A_{i,k} (x_1,\dots,x_i;\bar{x}_1,\dots,\bar{x}_k)$$

$$f_{i,k} = \sum_{x_1,\dots,x_i} \sum_{\bar{x}_1,\dots,\bar{x}_k} a_{i,k} (x_1,\dots,x_i;\bar{x}_1,\dots,\bar{x}_k)$$

$$F_{i,k} = \sum_{x_1,\dots,x_i} \sum_{\bar{x}_1,\dots,\bar{x}_k} \frac{a_{i,k} (x_1,\dots,x_i;\bar{x}_1,\dots,\bar{x}_k)}{\epsilon(x_1)\dots\epsilon(x_i)\bar{\epsilon}(\bar{x}_1)\dots\bar{\epsilon}(\bar{x}_k)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{ correct evt-by-evt}$$
with dynamics of (1)

with dynamic $\epsilon = \epsilon(N)$ \rightarrow as well EP effects ...

Method 2: Unfold the multiplicity distribution



Tested on simulated proton spectra accepted in HADES.

All moments reproduced within statistical error bars!



Unfolding in a nutshell: regularize A

Literature: ALICE Collaboration, Eur. Phys. J. C 68 (2010) 89; Eur. Phys. J. C 77 (2017) 33. S. Schmitt, J. Instr. 7 (2012) T10003. P. Garg et al., J. Phys. G 40 (2013) 055103.

Problem:

 $y = A \cdot x$ x = true signal, A = response matrix, y = measured signal

Knowing **y** and **A**, find **x**.

Unfortunately, A is often quasi-singular and can not be inverted (ill-conditioned problem!).

Solution:

Minimize via least-squares procedure the "Lagrangian" $L(x,\lambda)$:

$$\mathcal{L}(x,\lambda) = \mathcal{L}_1 + \mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3$$
 minimization

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = (\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x})^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{V}_{\boldsymbol{y}\boldsymbol{y}}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x}),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = (\tau^2) (\boldsymbol{x} - f_b \boldsymbol{x}_o)^{\mathsf{T}} (\boldsymbol{L}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{L}) (\boldsymbol{x} - f_b \boldsymbol{x}_o),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = \lambda (Y - \boldsymbol{e}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{x})$$
Tikhonov
regularization
area constraint

ROOT implementation:

TUnfold, TUnfoldSys, TUnfoldDensity

But, choice of T can be probematic!

(II) Volume fluctuations effects



Effect of volume fluctuations due to centrality selection on (reduced) cumulants of the net baryon number discussed by Skokov, Friman & Redlich in PRC 88 (2013):

 $c_{1} = \kappa_{1},$ $c_{2} = \kappa_{2} + \kappa_{1}^{2} v_{2},$ $c_{3} = \kappa_{3} + 3\kappa_{2}\kappa_{1}v_{2} + \kappa_{1}^{3}v_{3},$ $c_{4} = \kappa_{4} + (4\kappa_{3}\kappa_{1} + 3\kappa_{2}^{2})v_{2} + 6\kappa_{2}\kappa_{1}^{2}v_{3} + \kappa_{1}^{4}v_{4},$

k_n proton number cumulants
 c_n volume affected cumulants
 v_n volume fluctuations cumulants



- → Take volume fluctuations v_n from a model, e.g. **Glauber** or **transport** adjusted to the observable used to define centrality in a given experiment, and correct the data.
 - ➔ Effect of centrality selection investigated with UrQMD simul by G. Westfall in PRC 92 (2015)
- ➔ Discussed in more detail by PBM, Rustamov & Stachel NPA 960 (2017) 114

Volume fluctuation effects on cumulants

Glauber simul of N_{wounded} + Negative Binomial model of particle production at RHIC & LHC Braun-Munzinger, Rustamov & Stachel, Nucl. Phys. A 960 (2017) 114



HADES centrality selection in IQMD simulations



Proton cumulants $\kappa_n vs N_{part}$ in 1.23 GeV/u Au+Au

Volume-corrected proton cumulants: (model = Glauber or IQMD+clusterizer)



Choice of phase-space bite for fluctuation analysis



- → Select a phase-space bite
 - avoid spectator matter
 - avoid baryon nb conservation
 - cover relevant correlations
 - stay within detector acceptance

2000 [Me//c] 1800 L 45.0° 25.0 10⁵ 10^{4} 10^{3} 1600 10² 500 MeV 10 1400 1250 MeV 1200 15.0° 1000 Me 1000 800 750 MeV 600 400 200 0.2 0.6 -0.20.4 0.8 -0.4 0 1 y-y_{cm}

HADES $y - p_t$ coverage for protons

phase-space bite used in fluctuation analysis:

 $y = y_0 \pm 0.2$ and $p_t = 0.4 - 1.6$ GeV/c

Checking the Poisson limit: κ_n vs. Δy

- → Expect to approach **Poisson limit** for narrow enough phase-space bin!
- \rightarrow Shown here for our Au+Au proton data with volume corrections:



phase-space bin: $y_{acc} = y_0 \pm \Delta y$ $p_t = 0.4 - 1.6 \ GeV/c$

$$S \cdot \sigma \to 1 \text{ and } \kappa \cdot \sigma^2 \to 1 \text{ for } \Delta y \to 0$$

Fully corrected scaled moments vs. centrality

HADES 1.23 GeV/u Au+Au proton moments:



Error bands correspond to 5% systematic error on proton efficiencies.

- → Scaled cumulants deviate from Poisson with \uparrow N_{part}
- → Volume corrections on κ_4/κ_2 smallest for most central

Comparison with STAR BES-I



red/black = unfolding of proton dist. + vol. flucs. corr.

green = evt-by-evt eff correction of factorial moments + vol. flucs. corr.

Cumulants & multi-particle correlators

Ling & Stephanov, PRC 93, 034915 (2016)

The cumulants κ_k hold information on multi-particle correlators C_k :

$$\kappa_{3} = \langle N \rangle + 3C_{2} + C_{3}$$

$$\kappa_{4} = \langle N \rangle + 7C_{2} + 6C_{3} + C_{4}$$

$$\kappa_{4} = \langle N \rangle + 7C_{2} + 6C_{3} + C_{4}$$

$$\kappa_{4} = \langle N \rangle + 7C_{2} + 6C_{3} + C_{4}$$

Bzdak, Koch & Strodthoff, PRC 95, 054906 (2017) \leftarrow based on STAR data (X. Luo et al., CPOD2014)

Propose C_k vs. N_{part} (& Δy) as a better approach to isolate critical fluctuations:



Proton n-particle correlations: $C_n vs N_{part}$

HADES \rightarrow from cumulants κ_n to correlations C_n :

Volume-corrected proton correlations: (model = Glauber or IQMD+clusterizer)



→ Non-trivial evolution of C_n with proton number $N_p \propto N_{part}$!

N_{part} dependance of proton correlations

Proton correlation functions vs. centrality in 1.23 GeV/u Au+Au: Contributions to $\kappa_4 = \langle N \rangle + 7 C_2 + 6 C_3 + C_4$



→ The increase of C_n with N_{part} is even stronger at low \sqrt{s} !

Proton correlations: $C_n/N_p vs N_{part}$

Scaled proton correlations: (model = Glauber or IQMD+clusterizer)



All C_n/N_p vary strongly with $N_p \propto N_{part}!$ \rightarrow large correlations

Comparison with STAR: scaled C_n

Data: X. Luo et al., PoS CPOD2014, 019 (2015) **Theory**: Bzdak, Koch & Strodhhoff, PRC 95, 054906 (2017)



Interpretation of such strong correlations not clear at all.

Bzdak, Koch & Skokov e.g. argue in EPJC 77 (2017) 288 that stopping of nucleons may produce mult-particle "clusters".

What about bound protons ?





 \rightarrow Sizeable fraction of protons are bound in fragments: d, t, He, etc.

- How do they contribute to baryon-number fluctuations ?
- How should they be taken into account ?
- ➔ Deuteron nb. fluctuations in Au+Au

Fully corrected scaled moments of N_p + N_d

HADES 1.23 GeV/u Au+Au proton+deuteron moments:



- efficiency corr. evt-by-evt (assuming $\epsilon_d = \epsilon_p$)
- volume flucs. corr.
- error bands = $\pm 5\%$ uncertainty on particle eff.

Summary and Outlook

- Analyzed proton nb fluctuations in hi-stat Au+Au evt sample at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.41 \ GeV$
- → 1st time this kind of analysis has been done at low energies
- Systematic study of experimental & instrumental effects:
 - use of fine grained y-pt bins for eff. corr.
 - evt-by-evt changes of efficiency
 - Iarge volume fluctuations due to centrality selection in HADES forward wall
 - contribution of bound protons (to be investigated further)
- Very large multi-particle correlation effects observed in HADES Au+Au data
- → interpretation of these results (also w.r.t. STAR data) needs more input
- → Program to be continued at FAIR phase 0 (2018+ w. HADES) and beyond (2025+ w. CBM)

The HADES Collaboration

20 institutions 100+ members

Cyprus Department of Physics, University of Cyprus

fluct. anal. done by Melanie Szala

Czech Republic: Nuclear Physics Institute, Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic

France: IPN Orsay, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Sud

Germany:

GSI, Darmstadt TU Darmstadt FZ Dresden-Rossendorf IKF, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt II.PI, Justus Liebig Universität Giessen PD E12, Technische Universität München Bergische Universität Wuppertal FZ Jälich 017 February 6 - 11, 2017

Italy:

Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Laboratori Nazionali del Sud

Poland:

Smoluchowski Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University of Cracow

Portugal:

LIP-Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas Russia: INR, Moscow JINR, Dubna ITEP, Moscow

<u>Spain:</u>

Departamento de Física de Partículas, University of Santiago de Compostela Instituto de Física Corpuscular, Universidad de Valencia-CSIC

<u>Slovakia:</u> Bratislava Univ. Thrift Shop

Particle ID in HADES

Velocity vs. p



MDC & TOF dE/dx dE/dx vs. p



Hadron ID based on

- ToF
- Momentum
- dE/dx



Centrality selection in HADES



4x4, 8x8, 16x16 cm² tiles

Average proton mult vs event-plane angle



N_{part} from Glauber fits to hit/track observables

adjusted to hit distribution in TOF & RPC:

Npart {MultTOF+MultRPC<587&&MultTOF+MultRPC>=0}



4 centrality bins used within HADES LVL1 trigger

adjusted to track distribution in MDC:

Npart {MultSelectTracks>1&&MultSelectTracks<160}



→ used as estimate for FW selection

N_{part} fluctuations, also called volume fluctuations, must be corrected for in the data!

Volume corrections (evt-by-evt vs. unfolding)



Proton cumulants $\kappa_n vs N_{part}$ in 1.23 GeV/u Au+Au



Proton cumulants from unfolding + volume corrections

Centrality dependance of proton correlations

Proton correlation functions vs. centrality in 1.23 GeV/u Au+Au: contributions to $\kappa_4 = \langle N \rangle + 7 C_2 + 6 C_3 + C_4$

